

## 6.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Start a conversation with a stranger ■ Write a description of data

### Speaking & Listening starting a conversation with a stranger



1 Which do you think are the best/worst places to make new friends? Work with a partner and put the following suggestions in order from best to worst. Explain why.

- at a party
- at work
- online
- on public transport
- playing a sport
- studying together

2 6.6 ))) Listen to three short conversations between strangers. Where do the conversations 1-3 take place?

3a Work with a partner. Look at the conversation starters in the Language for speaking box and tick the ones used in the conversations in exercise 2.

#### LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING starting a conversation with a stranger

*Lovely weather, isn't it?*  
*Are you a friend of (Nicola's)?*  
*I'm sorry to bother you, but ...*  
*Excuse me, is anyone sitting there?*  
*I hope you don't mind me asking, but (haven't we met somewhere before)?*  
*Is it always this busy?*  
*Sorry, but I couldn't help overhearing ...*  
*So, how do you know Jonathan?*  
*Have you lived round here/worked here/been in this class long?*  
*Excuse me, do you mind if I ...?*

- b 6.6 ))) Listen again to check your ideas.
- 4a 6.7 ))) Listen again to each conversation starter and write the reply you hear.
- b How else could you respond to each conversation starter? For each one used in the listening, write a new reply which would help to keep the conversation going.

5 **TASK** Work with a partner. Choose a different conversation starter from the Language for speaking box and write a short conversation.

6 Act out your conversation for the class, or another pair. Can they guess where your conversation is taking place?

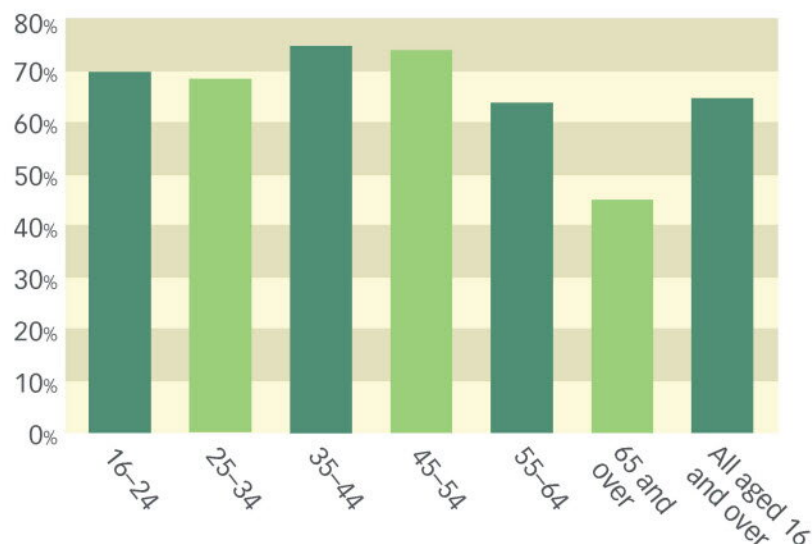
### Reading & Writing describing data

7 Who do you spend time with most days, or every day? Discuss with a partner.

- classmates
- family
- friends
- neighbours
- work colleagues

8a Look at the chart below about people in England. What are the key things you notice?

Spending time most days or every day with family



b Do you think the data would be different in your country? Discuss with a partner.



- 9 Read the following description of the data. One sentence is factually wrong – can you identify which one?

The chart shows what percentage of people in England spend time with their family daily, or almost every day. It is organized by age groups, from 16–65 and over.

On average, looking at all the age groups together, about 65% of people see their family every day, or nearly every day. The age groups which see their relatives most often are those aged 35–44, with about 75% seeing them daily, closely followed by those aged 45–54, with about 74%.

Younger people also meet up quite often with their families, especially those in the 16–24 age bracket. About 60% of these see their family most days. As they get older this percentage drops slightly to about 68%, before rising again at age 35.



Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the data is the fact that people seem to spend less time with their family as they go into middle age and, most strikingly, older age. Fewer than half of those aged over 65 are with their families every day.

- 10 Work with a partner. Decide whether the following pieces of advice for writing a description of data are a good idea or not.

- 1 Always start by saying what the graph or chart shows.
- 2 Use your own words rather than copying the exact words on the chart.
- 3 Describe every single figure shown on the chart.
- 4 Group information together to make paragraphs.
- 5 Give your opinion about why the data is the way it is.

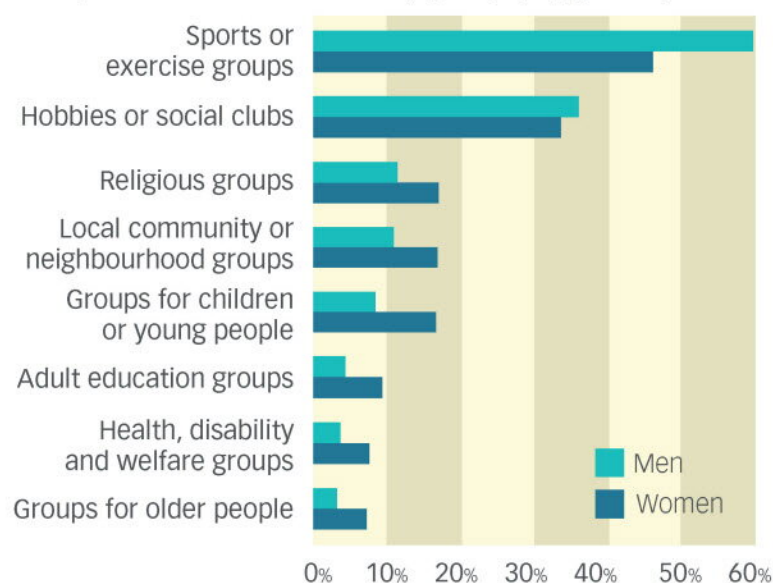
- 11 Look at the following words and phrases in the description in exercise 9. Then look at the whole description and try to find another word or a phrase which is a different way of saying the same thing.

- |                    |                    |             |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 every day        | 3 see their family | 5 age group |
| 2 nearly every day | 4 striking         | 6 45%       |

- 12a **TASK** Look at the following chart. Discuss the questions with a partner.

- 1 What does the chart show? Can you put this in your own words?
- 2 What two different things does the chart compare and contrast?
- 3 What are the most noticeable features of the chart?

Participation in selected activity groups, by gender, 2010–2011



- b How could you group the information to make 4–5 paragraphs?

- c Now write a description of the chart in exercise 12a in about 150 words.

### LANGUAGE FOR WRITING describing data

*The chart/graph shows/demonstrates/illustrates ...*

*In the chart/graph we can see ...*

*It is noticeable/evident/clear that ...*

*The amount of time (uncountable nouns) ...*

*The number of people (countable nouns) ...*

*However, ...*

*In contrast, ...*

*... is much/significantly/noticeably more ... than ...*

*On average, ...*

*Overall, ...*

*By far the most ...*

*Perhaps the most striking/noticeable feature of the data is ...*

*A key feature of the data is ...*

- 13 Read your partner's description and check it against the advice from exercise 10.