

# February 2nd-8th



# English

## Level 4

### Small Talk

What's up? Having a good day?

Eaten?

Did you see the news this morning?

### Conversation

What 3 questions would you ask God if you met him/her?

'The best things in life are free'. Do you agree?

Who is the smartest person you know? Who is the most idiotic?

### Grammar: Review

present perfect + already/yet/just/still

What have you already done today?

What have you not done yet?

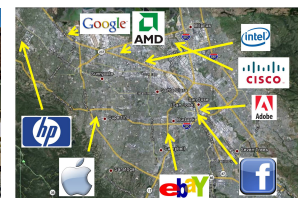
What have you just done?

What have you still not done?



### Notes:

- More resources: [www.ab51.org](http://www.ab51.org)
- Speaking practice can be arranged: [djamiewills@gmail.com](mailto:djamiewills@gmail.com)
- Delicious Wednesday English Corner: wechat group 美味周三英语角



## Vocabulary: Positive Personalities

modest  
easy-going  
disciplined  
considerate  
generous  
responsible  
sincere

## Idioms (review)

Use these idioms:

across the board  
acid test  
a little bird told me

## Booking Flights (review and reading)

### Previous Phrases

next Tuesday  
the following Wednesday  
via  
local time  
that sounds fine  
includes tax  
I need the next flight out of here  
fully booked  
Any chance....?  
stand-by

### Reading

Nobody likes the middle seat on a plane. Sitting on a **long-haul flight**, stuck in the middle seat, is like being in the middle of a **people sandwich** for half a day. There isn't the view **one** gets from the window seat, and there isn't the freedom to move given by the aisle seat. You can't lean against the wall and sleep, and you can't **stretch your legs**. For the whole flight your elbows hit against people on both sides. **It sucks**.

## Structural Phrases

### That said

but, however, on the other hand

*"He really has studied well this term. That said, I think his behaviour could be better."*

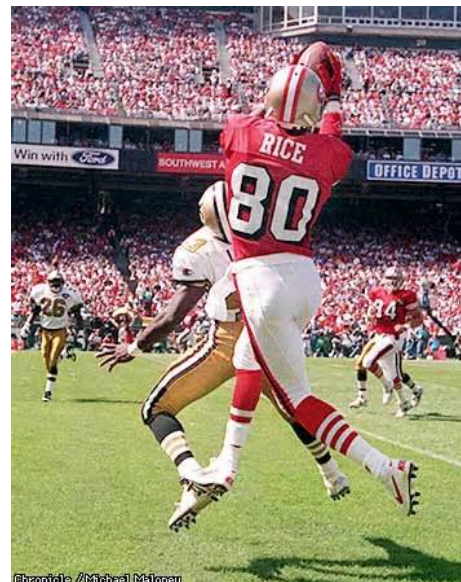
*"They have been playing well. That said, I don't think they will win."*

### Instead of

not this idea, but another idea; rejecting one idea in favour of another

*When she heard he was a vegetarian, she decided to cook pasta instead of chicken.*

*I wanted to stay in bed instead of going to work, but I had no choice.*



# Western Culture: John Lennon

## When did he live?

John Lennon was born on October 9th 1940 in Liverpool. He was killed on December 8th 1980 in New York.

## Why was he famous?

Lennon was a member of The Beatles, one of the most successful bands in history. Together with Paul McCartney he wrote numerous famous songs and albums, many of which are named in 'Best' lists.

After The Beatles split Lennon had a successful solo career.

He was a noted anti-war activist.

Lennon was made an MBE in 1964, but gave it back in 1969.

His murder by Mark Chapman in 1980 made news around the world.

## What is his mark on history?

Many of the songs Lennon wrote, both with McCartney and on his own, remain famous to this day.

'Beatlemania', the name given to the huge popularity the Beatles received in the 1960s, was a major part of pop and rock'n'roll wave that moved music into the 'modern' era.

The changes in style The Beatles went through during their career, from rock'n'roll to 'hippy' psychedelica, remains a blueprint for many bands shifting their styles as they age.

In 2002 Lennon was voted the 8th Greatest Briton of all time by a nationwide poll in the UK.

## Notes

Lennon's family life, both as a child and an adult, were messy. His father, a merchant seaman, left the family but later returned, causing strife in his family (his mother had become pregnant with another man by the time his father returned). Lennon also lived with aunt for a while, and his mum was killed by a car when he was 17. Lennon himself married Cynthia Powell in 1962 after she became pregnant with his child, only to dump her for Yoko Ono in 1968.

The relationship with Yoko Ono, and Paul McCartney's own marriage issues, resulted in The Beatles breaking up. Ono is often labelled 'the woman who broke up The Beatles'.

Lennon moved to Manhattan in 1971. His popularity and anti-war stance made President Richard Nixon keen to have him deported.

John Lennon was a terrible student. He failed all his O-levels and got thrown out of college for failing exams. He was also seen as a troublemaker, so much so that Paul McCartney's parents didn't want Paul socializing with Lennon.

His aunt, Mimi, once told a young Lennon 'The guitar is all very well, John, but you'll never make a living out of it.'

*For Chinese translation: <http://ab51.org/?p=6015&lang=zh>*