









#### **Preview**

In Episode 8, Kate goes on her first date with Jason. They go out for coffee in his lemon of a car. Kate tells Jason about the difficulty of balancing school work with working at the restaurant. In Episode 9, Kate talks to a counsellor about her grades. Her marks have slipped and she's worried about majoring in English.

#### Did you Know?

The word "major" can be used as a noun or a verb.

Kate is majoring in English Literature. Her major is English Lit.

To ask Kate what she is taking at school, you would say: "What's your major?" OR "What are you majoring in?". You can major in one subject and minor in another subject.

### Pre-reading Vocabulary List **N**

Word	Definition	Notes / Translation
a waste of money	not a good way to spend money; not worth the cost	
at this rate	if this continues in the same way (at this speed)	
to stand in the way	to block or prevent	
to count	to be included in a score	
grade point average	measurement of overall academic achievement during post secondary school	Often shortened to GPA (usually 1.0-4.0)
to show up	to appear	
the classics	ancient literature of Greece and Rome	
social media	information that is shared freely online	Example: via Facebook and Twitter
to be up one's alley	to be aligned with one's interests	
the bread and butter	the main element	often refers to the element that brings financial support
first and foremost	the most important thing; the first thing to think about or consider	





# FIRST YEAR 🔌



Episode 9: Kate's Marks are Slipping

### Dialogue

Fill in the blanks with words from the vocabulary list.

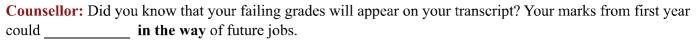
Kate: Thanks for making time to see me so quickly. I'm really worried about my marks.

Counsellor: As you should be. You're close to failing three of your four courses, Kate.

Kate: I bombed my midterm exams. My parents are going to kill me if I fail those classes. What a \_\_\_\_\_ of money.

**Counsellor:** Not to mention *time*. **At this** you'll have to repeat your whole first year. That is, if you decide to come back next year.

Kate: I'm not going to drop out if that's what you mean.



**Kate:** What if I take the courses again? Does the first grade still **count**?

**Counsellor:** The best mark counts towards your **grade** \_\_\_\_\_ average. The lower one will still show up on your transcript, though.

Kate: Great. Speaking of programs, I'm wondering if I'm in the wrong program altogether. I've always liked reading, but I'm not that interested in the classics.

**Counsellor:** Do you have any other subjects in mind? It's not too late to change your major for next year.

Kate: I'm interested in taking some media courses, if there is such a thing.

Counsellor: We offer lots of marketing and communications programs. Maybe that's more up

**Kate:** Is there a lot of reading and essay writing?

Counsellor: Yes, Kate. Reading and essay writing are the **bread and** of most university courses.

**Kate:** It just feels like I don't have enough time in the day. Maybe I could concentrate more if I was enjoying school.

**Counsellor:** First and \_\_\_\_\_ you need to work on pulling up your marks. Next year you can focus on choosing courses that interest you.

### **Comprehension Questions I**

- 1 Does the counsellor think Kate has a reason to be concerned? Why or why not?
- 2. Why will Kate's parents be upset if she does poorly on her exams?
- 3. True or False? Kate is thinking about dropping out next year.
- 4. Why does Kate think she might be in the wrong program?
- **5.** What type of course does Kate want to try?
- **6.** Why can't Kate concentrate?
- **7.** What priority does Kate need to have?





# FIRST YEAR



Episode 9: Kate's Marks are Slipping

### **Pair Activity**

### **Vocabulary Correction (Spot the error)**

Read the sentence out loud. Ask your partner to listen for an error. Correct the error together.

#### Student A

- 1. First and fore, let's get the laundry started.
- 2. Bottled water is a trash of money.
- 3. At this range you'll be 50 by the time you finish school.
- 4. Only the top 4 essay marks number towards your final grade.
- 5. What was your grade pin average last year?

#### Student B

- 6. I don't want to stand in the wing of you getting your studying done.
- 7. Talking to customers is the bread and milk of this job.
- 8. Working in a bank is right up my galley.
- 9. The lost key will probably show in as soon as I get a new one cut.
- 10. I had to read a lot of the classic when I was in university.

### My Life ☑

Discuss these questions with a partner or write your responses in a journal entry.

- 1. What have you failed or come close to failing in the past? Why did you have trouble with this?
- **2.** Have you ever wasted your money on something? Describe the experience.
- 3. What was the best mark you ever received in a course? Why did you succeed?
- 4. Which subjects are right up your alley? What do you like about them?
- **5.** First and foremost, what do you need to do to learn English?

### Matching N

Match the word or phrase on the left to the definition on the right.

- 1. first and foremost
- 2. up one's alley
- 3. social media
- 4. bread and butter
- 5. a waste of money

- a. most importantly
- b. not worth it
- c. the main aspect
- d. in line with one's interests
- e. sharing information publicly online





# FIRST YEAR 🔍



## Episode 9: Kate's Marks are Slipping



### Vocabulary Gap **N**

I	Jse	the	fol1	owing	words	to	comp	lete	the	senter	ice

showed up counts *GPA* at this rate up my alley

1. I need to improve my change my major.	if I want to
2. The quiz	_toward your final grade

3. \_\_\_\_\_ we won't get there until Sunday. 4. A kitten just \_\_\_\_\_ on my doorstep.

5. The classics are boring. Poetry is more

### **Group Discussion** $\square$

Create a chart on the board or in a small group. Brainstorm the importance of each of the following during the first year of a post-secondary school program. Take a class vote to decide which is the most important.

Grade Point Average	A Subject that Interests You	A Part-Time job to Pay for School
		110
		ed: Episode #10
		Stay Tuned: Episode #10  Stay Tuned: Episode, Kate lectures Jas  In the next episode, Kate lectures Jas  about the importance of school.
		avt episodo, ace of sche

