**English Conversation Group – Meet the Neighbors  
  
Introductions:  
Work as a group and make a list of words and phrases that have to with neighbors.**

**Read aloud:**  
When meeting people for the first time, it is customary to shake hands. When you are introduced, you say, “Pleased to meet you,” or “Nice to meet you.” In more formal situations, you might also hear, “How do you do?”

**Dialogue: Find a partner and practice the dialogues, then switch partners and do it again.**Ernesto: Hi. I’m Ernesto.  
Keiko: Nice to meet you, Ernesto. I’m Keiko.  
Ernesto: Sorry. Is that Keiko?  
Keiko: Yes, that’s right. Keiko.  
Ernesto: Nice to meet you, too, Keiko.

Maria: Hello. My name’s Maria.  
Tom: Nice to meet you Maria. I’m Tom.  
Maria: Hi Don. Nice to meet you.  
Tom: No, it’s not Don. It’s Tom.  
Maria: Oh, sorry. Nice to meet you, Tom.  
  
**Vocabulary:**suburbs – neighborhoods outside the city  
yards – lawn and gardens around a house  
privacy - the state of being able to be alone, and not seen or heard by other people:  
barbeque – an outside party where food is cooked on a grill  
change your mind – make a different decision than your first one

burgers and dogs – hamburgers and hot dogs (commonly served at a barbeque)

**Read aloud:**Although Americans are friendly, they are also rather private. You may be surprised to know that very often people don’t even know their neighbors. In a big city, it’s very possible that people living in the same apartment building won’t know the people next door to them. In the suburbs, it’s not unusual for neighbors to wave from their car or to say “Hi” across their yards, but do not know their neighbor’s names. Have you noticed how many houses have fences around them? It may seem strange, but it’s really just an example of how much American’s value privacy, especially at home. Friendly, but private.

**Dialogue: Find a partner and practice the dialogues, then switch partners and do it again.**  
Sarah: Hi. I’m Sarah, I live three houses down from you. We’re having a barbeque next Saturday and we’d like you to come. We’re inviting all the neighbors on the street so we can get to know each other.

Alan: It’s nice to meet you, Sarah. I’d like to come, but I’ll be working all weekend on a project for my job.  
Sarah: Well, if you change your mind, come on over.   
Alan: Thanks. By the way, I’ve been meaning to ask one of my neighbors if my dog is barking during the day when I’m at work.

Sarah: Actually, your dog barks all day while you’re away.  
Alan: I’m really sorry! I wish someone had told me. I’ll keep the dog in the house when I’m gone.  
Sarah: Thanks. I hope you’re able to come over for some burgers and dogs next Saturday!

**Comprehension Questions: Answer as a group**Why is Sarah hosting a barbeque?  
What food is Sarah planning to serve at her barbeque?  
Where does Sarah live?  
What has Alan’s dog been doing while he’s at work?  
Can you use the phrase, “change your mind” in a sentence?  
 **Discussion Questions: find a partner and ask each other the following questions**.  
What do you think of your neighbors where you live now?  
What did you think of your neighbors in your home country?  
Is there anything that your neighbors do that annoys you?  
Did you play with children who were your neighbors when you were a child?   
Do you think that neighbors were friendlier to each other in the past or are they friendlier now? Is this a good or bad thing?  
Have you ever asked to borrow something from your neighbor? Has your neighbor ever borrowed anything from you?  
What kind of person would be the perfect neighbor? Name at least three characteristics.  
How are countries that border each other similar to neighbors?  
Do you trust your neighbors? Would you leave them a key to your house?

**Idioms about neighbors**  
**“Good fences make good neighbors.”  
What do you think it means? Do you agree?**

**“Keeping up with the Joneses.”**To act or make [purchases](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/purchase) for [status](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/status) or [image](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/image) rather than out of [need](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/need), especially for the purpose of [competing](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/compete) with friends or [neighbors](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/neighbor).

*Do you really need a fancy new car or are you just trying to****keep up with the Joneses****?*

**Alphabet Adjective Game: Work as a group and go through the letters of the alphabet to think of adjectives to finish this sentence:   
  
*“My neighbor’s cat is…”*  
  
A. adorable  
B. busy  
C. clean  
D.  
E.**  
etc…