Unit 1 Live and learn

Synopsis

The video includes interviews with a range of college students about their experiences. First, we meet an overseas student studying English, then a student of law, an English literature student and a Film studies student. The students talk about what they are studying, what they enjoy or don't enjoy about the course, and their plans and intentions for the future.

Target Language

Grammar: present perfect + *yet/already/just*, present perfect continuous
Vocabulary: *take, make, do* and the learning process
Language points: talking about life experiences

Procedural Notes

Before you watch

1 **As a class.** Put the names of the different subjects on the board and check the students know what each one means.
In pairs or small groups. Ask the students to talk about which of the subjects they would or would not like to study at college (university). Encourage them to give reasons for their choices.

2 **As a class.** Play the video all the way through and ask the students to identify which of the subjects the students are studying. This is quite a straightforward task to get them engaged with the content of the video. Check as a class.

Answer key:
Student 1 is studying **English language**.
Student 2 is studying **Law**.
Student 3 is studying **English literature**.
Student 4 is studying **Film studies**.

While you watch

1 **Individuals.** Ask the students to look at the statements. Check they understand the terms *work experience* and *semester*. Play the video and ask them to match the statements with the speakers.
In pairs. Let them check their answers, and explain why each statement is true. (This extension exercise will provide a greater level of challenge for the stronger students.)
As a class. Check answers, and elicit more detailed explanations from stronger students as appropriate.

Answer key:
1 d 2 b 3 a 4 c

2 **Individuals.** Ask the students to look at the extracts and choose the most appropriate word. Note that in some cases (5, and to a lesser degree 1 and 2) more than one answer is grammatically possible, but highlight that the students should write the correct answers as they heard them on the video.
As a class. Play the video again and ask the students to listen and check their answers. As you go through the answers, acknowledge that some variation is possible (see above).

Answer key:
1 just 2 already 3 yet 4 yet 5 just

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After you watch

Individuals. Tell the students that this is an extract from the letter Student 2 wrote to the law firms. Ask the students to read the extract and try to complete it using present perfect simple or present perfect continuous.
In pairs. Check answers in pairs.
As a class. Go through the answers as a class and clarify any confusion.

Answer key:

1. have been studying (could also be 'have studied', but the continuous form gives the sense that it is still in progress)
2. have been looking (I'm still looking)
3. have heard (complete action)
4. have been (complete action, also state verb)
5. have just heard (complete action)
6. haven't finished (complete action that will soon happen)

Over to you

1. **As a class.** Ask the students to complete the sentences in ways that are true for them, using present perfect continuous. You might want to give some examples from your own life, as a model.
   Individuals. The students complete the sentences. Monitor for accuracy.
2. **In pairs.** Use a strong pair of students to model the exercise and establish that you want the partners to ask suitable follow-up questions or make comments.

Video script

College can be a very important time. Not only can you study subjects you are passionate about, you also have a chance to meet new people, get a fresh view of the world around you and start to plan for your future. We asked some college students to share their experiences with us.

Student 1: I'm here to study English for the second semester only, so I've just arrived. Everything is still very new for me, but I've already met a lot of really friendly, interesting people. I'm starting my classes next week and I've been spending a lot of time preparing for them … mostly speaking with people in English, which I really enjoy anyway. I also do judo, so I've been thinking about joining the judo club.

Student 2: I'm a law student here. The courses are great, but I really want to put what I've been learning into practice. So, I've been thinking about what I can do this summer, after the semester finishes. Last year, I went back home and just sat and watched TV all day. I don't want to waste my time again this year, so I've been looking for a summer job at a law firm. I want to be a lawyer in the future, and I think this could be really good experience for me. It will definitely be out of my comfort zone! None of the law firms have replied to me yet, but I won't give up!

Student 3: I'm studying English literature – I love reading and talking about the books I've read – but to be honest I haven't been studying very hard. I spent last year having too much fun with my friends, instead of working. I regret that now! I'm going to take some extra classes this semester. They haven't started yet, but I hope I can catch up on what I missed last year.

Student 4: I've been taking a course in Film studies, and I've really been enjoying it. In the future, I want to be a film director, so this course is perfect for me. Each week, we watch two or three films – usually films by the same director, or of the same genre – and then we take time in the class to discuss the films. We talk about themes, camera angles, lighting … everything! We've just started looking at horror movies from the 1990s – scary, but still really interesting!

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