Dear Ellen

Level 1 - A1/A2 Starter (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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Chapter One

Ellen Smith sits down on the sofa in her living room. She opens a bottle of wine and pours some wine into her glass. She looks around the room. There are many boxes. She wants to unpack the boxes, but she is very tired, and it is late.

My new home, she thinks.

Ellen is from Sydney. She finished university three years ago. She got a job working for a newspaper in Sydney. She is a newspaper reporter. The newspaper has an office in the central business district in Perth. Ellen's father is from Perth, so she wanted to work there for a year or two.

The boss in the Sydney office was very nice. He said, "Sure! You can work in the Perth office."

So, Ellen moved to Perth. The newspaper company found her a house in South Perth. The area is very nice and quiet. There is a park opposite the house. It is only a short walk to Swan River from the house. It is not so far from her house to the central business district. Ellen thinks, *I will be very happy here. It is a very pretty place.*

She drinks her glass of wine and decides to go to bed. She will start unpacking early tomorrow morning.

On Sunday morning, she unpacks the boxes. On Sunday afternoon, the doorbell rings.

Who is that? thinks Ellen,

Ellen opens the door. There is a woman standing at the door. She is around thirty years old.

"Hi, I'm Barbara!" she says. "I live in the house next door."

"I'm Ellen, nice to meet you."

They shake hands and talk for a while.

"If you need any help or information, just ask me," says Barbara.

"That's very kind of you, thanks," says Ellen. Barbara goes home and Ellen closes the door.

She's nice, thinks Ellen.

On Sunday evening, the house looks great.

Tomorrow, Ellen will start work at the office. She is a little nervous, but she is also excited.

I hope everyone is nice and friendly, she thinks.

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It is January, so it is very hot. She can't sleep. She opens the window a little. Soon, she falls asleep.

Chapter Two

Ellen gets up at 6:00am. She is still tired, but she has to get ready for work. She has egg on toast and two cups of coffee for breakfast. She puts her best suit on. The suit is grey. It is very smart. Ellen bought it in a sale in a department store in Sydney. She brushes her long blonde hair and ties it back. She puts on her make-up. She picks up her briefcase, her iPad and her handbag, and then she goes out. It is a very sunny day.

She gets into her car. The car is new. Ellen bought it last week. She starts the engine and switches the air conditioner on. She drives past the park. It is very big and green. She drives through the streets. There are some big houses. They have swimming pools and big gardens. Ellen's house doesn't have a swimming pool. It is small a small house.

Ellen drives on the bridge across the river. She turns the air conditioner off and winds the windows down. The wind from the river is very refreshing. Soon, the traffic starts to get heavier. She is in the business district. The buildings shine in the morning sun.

"Good morning Perth!" she says. "I hope we have a good day!" She turns the radio on and sings with the radio.

Ellen parks her car at the company car park. She looks up at the building. It is a very tall building. She takes the elevator up to the twelfth floor. She steps out of the elevator.

A man is standing next to the door. He is tall and he has red hair. He has a nice smile. He holds out his hand and says, "Hi, I'm Dean Farnham. Nice to meet you."

"Good morning, Mr Farnham," says Ellen.

"No no! Call me Dean! Everyone calls me Dean! We use first names here!"

"I see. Nice to meet you, Dean. I'm Ellen."

"Coffee?" asks Dean.

"I'd love a coffee," says Ellen.

"OK, just a moment!" says Dean.

"Are you Ellen?" asks a woman.

"Yes, I am," says Ellen. "And you are..."

"I'm Mai Kawanaka. It's good to meet you."

"You too," says Ellen.

They shake hands.

"Your desk is next to mine. Come on, I'll show you," says Mai.

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