

Learning English podcasts ... from the
Hellenic American Union©

Level: Upper Intermediate
Lesson: 30
Title: "Going Over"

Summary:

Nick and Lisa are talking on the phone about meeting at Nick's house.

Nick and Lisa are talking on the phone. Listen to their conversation and answer the question that follows about the main idea.

Dialogue:

Nick: I've been trying to reach you all day! Where've you been?

Lisa: I was running some errands and forgot my cell phone at home. What's up?



Nick: I wanted to see if we're still on for tonight?

Lisa: Of course we are! I'm just going to jump in the shower, and I'll be over in a jiffy.



Nick: Ok! Oh yeah, don't take Hope Street. I heard there's been a terrible accident and the traffic has come to a standstill.



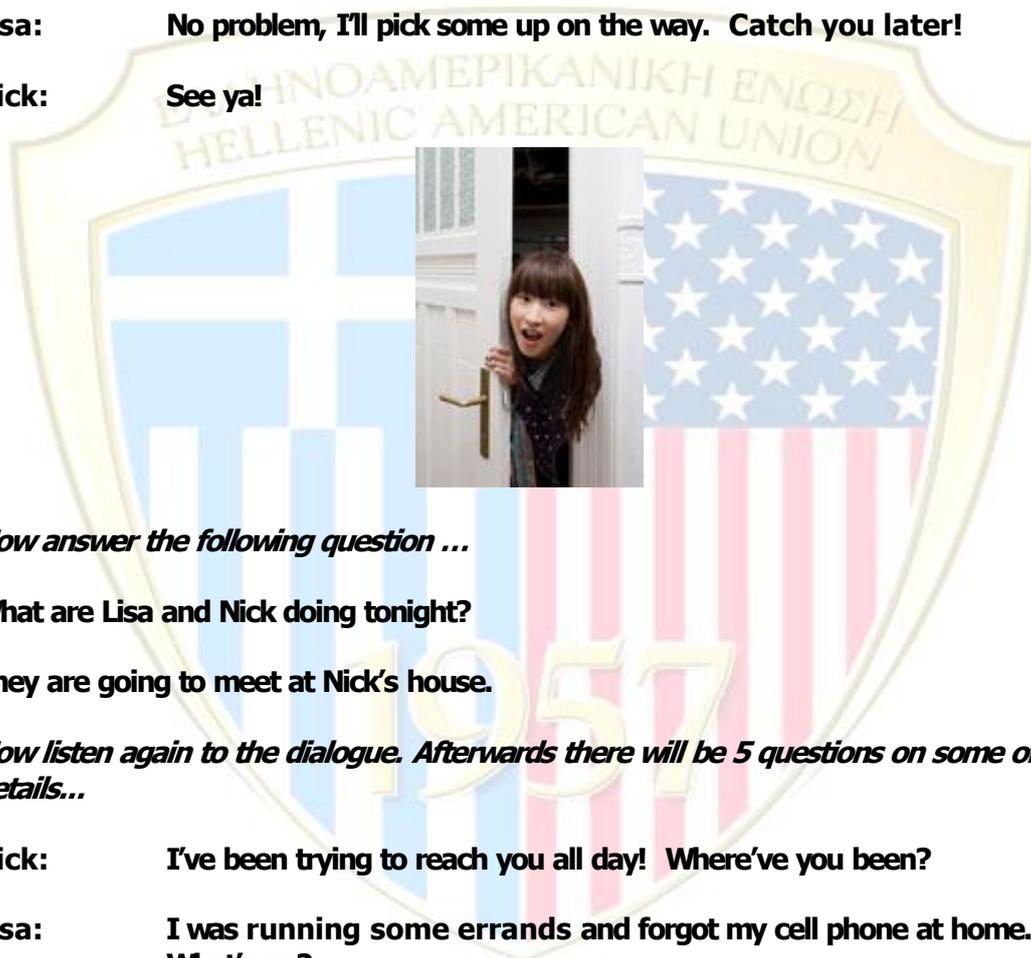
Lisa: Thanks for the warning! I'll take the beltway which should save me some time. By the way, do you need me to bring anything?

Nick: Actually, now that you mention it, we could use some more popcorn.



Lisa: No problem, I'll pick some up on the way. Catch you later!

Nick: See ya!



Now answer the following question ...

What are Lisa and Nick doing tonight?

They are going to meet at Nick's house.

Now listen again to the dialogue. Afterwards there will be 5 questions on some of the details...

Nick: I've been trying to reach you all day! Where've you been?

Lisa: I was running some errands and forgot my cell phone at home. What's up?

Nick: I wanted to see if we're still on for tonight?

Lisa: Of course we are! I'm just going to jump in the shower, and I'll be over in a jiffy.

Nick: Ok! Oh yeah, don't take Hope Street. I heard there's been a terrible accident and the traffic has come to a standstill.

Lisa: Thanks for the warning! I'll take the beltway which should save me some time. By the way, do you need me to bring anything?

Nick: Actually, now that you mention it, we could use some more popcorn.

Lisa: No problem, I'll pick some up on the way. Catch you later!

Nick: See ya!

Now get ready to answer some questions...

1. Lisa says, "I was running some errands."
What do we do when we run errands?

We do certain tasks outside the home like pay bills, go to the bank, go to the supermarket..

2. Nick says, "I wanted to see if we're still on for tonight?"
What does he mean?

He wants to know if the plans they had made to meet are still the same.

3. Lisa says, "I'll be over in a jiffy."
What does she mean?

She'll be at Nick's very quickly.

4. Nick says, "Traffic has come to a standstill."
What happens when traffic comes to a standstill?

Cars stop moving on the streets because of too much traffic.

5. Lisa says, "Catch you later!"
What does she mean?

We use the expression at the end of conversations to mean we'll see you later.

Please visit our site at www.hau.gr to find the transcripts, explanations and activities.

GLOSSARY

Beltway (noun) a main road that goes around the edge of a town, allowing traffic to avoid the town centre

(e.g. The cars on the beltway came to a standstill because of too much traffic.)

Bring / Come to a standstill is a situation in which all movement or activity has stopped

(e.g. The runaway bus eventually came to a standstill when it rolled into a muddy field.)

in a jiffy (expression) We use the phrase in a jiffy to say that something will be done very quickly.

(e.g. Don't leave, I'll be there in a jiffy!)

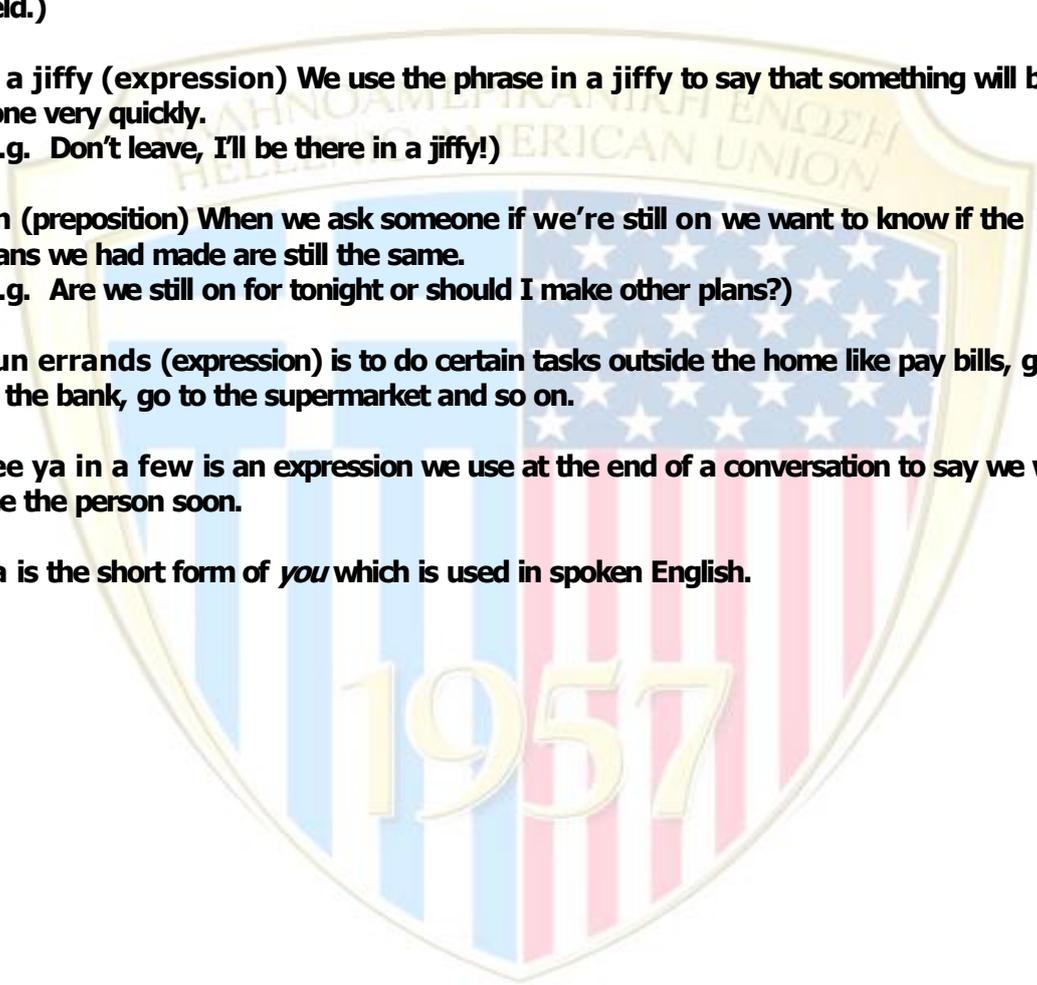
On (preposition) When we ask someone if we're still on we want to know if the plans we had made are still the same.

(e.g. Are we still on for tonight or should I make other plans?)

Run errands (expression) is to do certain tasks outside the home like pay bills, go to the bank, go to the supermarket and so on.

See ya in a few is an expression we use at the end of a conversation to say we will see the person soon.

Ya is the short form of *you* which is used in spoken English.



ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the words from the glossary.

1. Take the.....in order to avoid traffic and you'll get here.....
2. A: Hi, I was just calling to see if we.....for dinner tonight.
B: Definitely!
3. I hateEspecially when I have to wait in lines at the bank!
4. Normal life hasin the city after the strikes and fuel shortages.

Activity 2

Grammar Note

The *present perfect progressive* (have/has + been + past participle) focuses on the duration of an activity that began in the past and continues to the present. (e.g. I've been trying to reach you all day.)

Note: stative verbs such as *know / believe / own / understand* cannot be used in their progressive form. In this case the present perfect is used.

Fill in the gaps with the *present perfect* or the *present perfect continuous*.

1. I.....(know) Jasper for 10 years.
2. Where.....you.....(be)? I.....(wait) for 45 minutes.
3. A: Where's Harold?
B: He's still sleeping.
A: That's incredible! He.....(sleep) for 12 hours.
4. This course is so difficult! I.....(not understand) anything!
5. She's so tired because.....(study) all day.

KEY TO ACTIVITIES

Activity 1:

1. beltway / in a jiffy
2. are still on
3. running errands
4. come to a standstill

Activity 2:

1. have known
2. have....been / have been waiting
3. has been sleeping
4. haven't understood
5. has been studying

