

# Civic Participation

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## OBJECTIVES

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In this episode you will:

- *Learn about special types of pronouns: object and indefinite pronouns.*
- *Learn about civic participation.*

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## INTRODUCTION

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### Video Script

WIZARD

*The WIZARD stands in front of a news station.*


Today, I am very sad. Rosalinda went on vacation with her parents. Oh, but never mind. Let's get back to learning English. Today you will learn about special types of pronouns. Object pronouns such as ME, HIM, HER, IT, US, YOU and THEM. And indefinite pronouns such as someone, anyone, everyone and no one.

You will also learn about civic participation. How can you participate in your community? How can you make changes in your neighborhood? Let's watch.


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## VOCABULARY

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 Read and learn these words

Do one's shopping	Podium
Illegal	Work out
Do drugs	Stands
Police Chief	Faint
Vegetables	Story
Goods	Cool off
Approach	Storefront
Ridiculous	Cause
Petitions	Fire Marshall
Sidewalk	Community support

 Put these words in alphabetical order. Use numbers 1-20.

1. Do one's shopping		11. Podium	
2. Illegal		12. Work out	
3. Do drugs		13. Stands	
4. Police Chief		14. Faint	
5. Vegetables		15. Story	
6. Goods		16. Cool off	
7. Approach	1	17. Storefront	
8. Ridiculous		18. Cause	
9. Petitions		19. Fire Marshall	
10. Sidewalk		20. Community support	

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## COMPREHENSION

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### Video Script

#### PAT SPRINGDALE'S OFFICE

*Pat Springdale sits behind her desk. In front of her is a very nervous Joe.*

JOE Thank you for seeing me, Pat -- Miss Springdale.

PAT SPRINGDALE Oh, Pat's fine. Thank you.

JOE Thank you for seeing me, Pat.

PAT SPRINGDALE How can I help you?

JOE You know we are street vendors, right?

PAT SPRINGDALE Yes.

JOE Well, there are some people who want to shut us down.

PAT SPRINGDALE Shut you down?

JOE Yes. They say we make the neighborhood dangerous.

PAT SPRINGDALE That's crazy.

JOE I know.

PAT SPRINGDALE But I don't understand. What can I do to help?

JOE You are a reporter. Right, Pat?

PAT SPRINGDALE Yes, I am.

#### MARKET STREET SIDEWALK

JOE Come up and sign the petitions. Street vendors need your help. Please support your local street vendors. Thank you very much.

*Joe and Silvia collect signatures from random people on the street. Next to Joe a CAMERA MAN cues PAT SPRINGDALE.*

CAMERA MAN Rolling!

PAT SPRINGDALE Market Street has long been a place where people go to do their shopping. They buy their flowers, their jewelry, even that cold glass of lemonade. But today, it's a street where vendors are asking people to sign petitions.

TSHOMBE Sign the petition. Thank you very much for supporting us.

SILVIA What have the merchants been doing to you?

They want to shut down our stands. And they say that we're a problem to the community. And we've never had a problem with anyone.

PAT SPRINGDALE How do you feel about all of this?

BOB Who is this Mrs. Vargas? Someone should tell her she's wrong. She doesn't even know us.

#### MRS. VARGAS' STOREFRONT

*Mrs. Vargas, Anna, Tshombe and a few other vendors stand in front of the storefront.*

PAT SPRINGDALE Some of the store owners complain that you're doing illegal things. What do you have to say about that?

TSHOMBE We are doing nothing illegal and no one has ever complained to us. All we want to do is sell our goods.

PAT SPRINGDALE *(asking Anna)* Have the vendors been a problem?

*Anna isn't sure whether she should answer or not. Finally Ms. Vargas grabs*

*the microphone.*

MRS. VARGAS They are a HUGE problem. They're loud and they even sell drugs. We merchants just want a safe place to do business.

TSHOMBE We don't sell drugs. That's a lie. Plus, the street does not belong to you. It belongs to all of us.

MRS. VARGAS *(indicating with her hands)* The sidewalk in front of my store belongs to me.

TSHOMBE *(to camera)* It's not hers.

They continue to argue.

PAT SPRINGDALE Tomorrow, the future of these street vendors will be decided. When both sides present their cases to the City Council. I'm Pat Springdale reporting live from Market Street.

TSHOMBE Support the street vendors. Sign our petition. Thank you, sir. Support the street vendors. Sign our petition. Support the street vendors...

JOE Thank you very, very much. That's five hundred signatures. JOE takes a completed signature sheet from the clipboard and replaces it with an empty sheet. He puts the completed sheet in a folder. Anna approaches.

ANNA Hi.

JOE Hi

ANNA Can I sign the petition?

JOE You want to sign the petition?

ANNA Yeah...

JOE Great! Here you go.

*Joe hands her the clipboard – Mrs. Vargas makes a loud noise and faints. People crowd around. JOE runs to Mrs. Vargas leaving Anna holding the petition clipboard.*

JOE What was that? Stay right here. I'll be right back. (TO MRS. VARGAS) Mrs. Vargas, are you all right?

TSHOMBE Are you okay? Are you okay?

JOE Are you okay, Mrs. Vargas?

TSHOMBE Are you okay?

JOE Mrs. Vargas...

MRS. VARGAS Yes! Yes, I'm fine. Get away from me.

Joe gets up and looks in Anna's direction. She's gone with the petitions.

#### **CITY HALL - WAITING AREA**

*Outside the meeting hall, Tshombe and Silvia wait. They are upset.*

TSHOMBE I can't believe this. No one is here. Where are the people from the community? Did you tell them to come?


BOB I told them. Everyone will be here.

TSHOMBE Where is Sylvia and the rest of the vendors?

BOB They're already inside.

TSHOMBE Okay. What about the petitions? Where are they? We need them. If we don't have them, we don't have a case.

BOB Joe has them. Don't worry.

 Next to the number, write Y for a correct statement , N for incorrect.

- Y 1. Joe goes to see Pat Springdale to get help.  
\_\_\_ 2. Joe tells Pat that the police want them out.  
\_\_\_ 3. Market Street is where people do their shopping.  
\_\_\_ 4. The chief of police told the vendors people are complaining about the noise and the crime.  
\_\_\_ 5. Mrs. Vargas said she bought the sidewalk in front of her store.  
\_\_\_ 6. Joe is collecting signatures from supporters.  
\_\_\_ 7. Pat Springdale helps Mrs. Vargas.  
\_\_\_ 8. Ana wants to sign the vendor's petition.  
\_\_\_ 9. Pat Springdale helps the vendors.  
\_\_\_ 10. The vendors go to City Hall.

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## LIFE SKILLS

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 Video Script

### CITY HALL

Mrs. Vargas and Anna sit off in a corner. Anna looks uncomfortable. a lawyer stand slightly away from them.

ANNA I don't know. This isn't right.  
MRS. VARGAS It will be fine. Just say what I told you to say.  
ANNA I can't lie to them.  
MRS. VARGAS If you want to keep your job at the store, you'll tell them our little story.

*City Councilman Jones interrupts.*  
MR. JONES Clara, are you all right? I heard you fainted.  
MRS. VARGAS I'm fine, Charlie. Thank you for asking. This is my niece, Anna. Anna, this is City Councilman Jones.  
ANNA Hi.  
MRS. VARGAS And this is my lawyer, Sam Powers. Mr. Jones is on the City Council.  
SAM POWERS Pleasure to meet you, Councilman Jones.  
MR. JONES The pleasure is mine. I've heard about you. Clara, I think you're in good hands. Excuse me. I'll see you inside.  
TSHOMBE Look at her. She is ready. Look at him. He looks so important. Look at us. We don't have a chance.

*Joe comes running up to Bob and Tshombe.*  
JOE (out of breath) Hi.  
TSHOMBE What's happening? Where is everyone?  
JOE They're on their way.

TSHOMBE                   What about the petitions? Where are they?

Joe doesn't know how to break it to them.

JOE                         Tshombe, someone took them.

TSHOMBE                 Someone took them?

JOE                         I don't know what happened. After Mrs. Vargas fainted, I went back to the stand.  
And the folder with the signatures was gone.

TSHOMBE                 Who took them?

JOE                         I don't know. I'll bet Mrs. Vargas is responsible.

*Tshombe, Bob and Joe look over at Mrs. Vargas, who flashes them a smile.  
Anna looks down, ashamed of her involvement.*

SILVIA                     We can't prove that.

TSHOMBE                 (defeated) What are we going to do?

BOB                         Come on, guys. It's time to go.

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The board of nine city councilmen sit behind a semi-circular desk. They face out into an audience, where a lone microphone is positioned.

MR. JONES                The Presiding Chair of the meeting, Mr. Jones bangs his gavel.  
This meeting is now called to order.

JANET                     Tshombe, Silvia, and JOE sit across from Mrs. Vargas.  
The first issue on the agenda is street vending on Market Street. Representing the merchants is Clara Vargas.

MRS. VARGAS            *Mrs. Vargas at the microphone.*  
My name is Clara Vargas. One of the stores on Market Street is mine. But I speak for the other merchants on the street. Street vending hurts our businesses. It causes too much noise and traffic.

TSHOMBE                 Tshombe leans over to whisper to Silvia. Silvia tries to quiet him.  
*(to Silvia)* She's lying.

SILVIA                     Tshombe, calm down. If you get angry, no one's going to listen to us.

MRS. VARGAS            It is also not fair. I pay more taxes. I pay rent. They don't.

TSHOMBE                 (louder to Silvia) I pay taxes.

MR. JONES                Please, sir. You'll have your turn to speak. Right now, it's Mrs. Vargas' turn.

MRS. VARGAS            Thank you. But most of all, I care about the community. I saw street vendors taking drugs and selling stolen property

*The board notices Tshombe is being disruptive.*

TSHOMBE                 What a liar!

MR. JONES                Please, sir. Calm down. You'll have to leave if you don't wait your turn. Go on, Mrs. Vargas.

MR. JONES                Please, go on, Mrs. Vargas.

MRS. VARGAS            I think I'm done.

MR. JONES                And now we'll hear from the street vendors. Representing the street vendors is Tschombe Gabriel. Please come forward.

SILVIA *A fuming Tshombe just stares at Mrs. Vargas.*  
 Just take control of yourself, okay?

JOE Stay calm.

MR. JONES Mr. Gabriel, do you have something to say? I think I've had enough of these street vendors.

MR. JONES I think I've heard enough about these street vendors.

JANET Mr. Gabriel, do you have anything to say?

TSHOMBE Yes, I do.

*Joe's worried Tshombe is just going to lose it.*

Wizard And Freeze

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 Read and understand

## Civic Participation

Civic participation is essential to good citizenry. The effective use of rights and responsibilities in our society needs our commitment, our beliefs, and skills. Our values express our belief about the purpose of government. Our skills express our abilities to work as a group and make our civic principles work. There are many things you can do to participate in the community. In situations where time is critical and your participation may make a difference. Give the issues all of your attention and try to gather as much support as possible. Identify the problem completely and create a strategy to solve the problems in your neighborhood and community. Write letters to politicians that can help you with your cause. Contact the media, the newspapers, radio stations, etc. Your future may be at stake, so present your case calmly and try not to lose your temper. Stand up for what you believe but do it in a civilized manner. And most of all, adopt a disposition of tolerance, fairness, respect for the opinion of others and commitment to the truth. Work together with your neighbors.

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Next to the number, write T for a true statement , F for false.

- F 1. Your participation in society is not important.
- 2. To be an effective citizen you must be committed to civic participation.
- 3. Our abilities have little value.
- 4. Our abilities to work as a group make our civic principles work.
- 5. There is nothing you can do to participate in the community.
- 6. Communities don't have problems.
- 7. Your participation makes a difference.
- 8. Don't contact the media. They won't listen.
- 9. Do not lose your temper when presenting your case.
- 10. Be tolerant, respectful, fair, and committed to the truth.

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## GRAMMAR

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### Read and understand

WIZARD	This doesn't look good for Tschombe and the street vendors. What do you think Tschombe will do? Will he tell his story or not? Hmm. We'll find out in just a moment. But first, let's learn about pronouns. The words 'ME,' 'HIM,' 'HER,' 'IT,' 'US,' 'YOU' and 'THEM' are object pronouns.
TSHOMBE	What about the petitions? We need them. If we don't have <u>them</u> , we don't have a case.
SILVIA	Joe has <u>them</u> . Don't worry.
MRS VARGAS	One of the stores on Market Street belongs to <u>me</u> .
TSHOMBE	The street does not belong to <u>you</u> . It belongs to all of <u>us</u> .
TSHOMBE	Look at <u>her</u> . She is ready. Look at <u>him</u> . He looks so important. Look at <u>us</u> . We don't have a chance.
WIZARD	We also looked at indefinite pronouns. Indefinite pronouns are words that don't refer to a specific person. Like ANYONE, SOMEONE, NO ONE, EVERYONE. Let's watch.
TSHOMBE	<u>No one</u> is here. Where are all the people from the community? Did you tell them to come?
BOB	I told them. <u>Everyone</u> will be here
TSHOMBE	What about the petitions? Where are they?
JOE	<u>Someone</u> took them.

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### Read, understand and practice

## Pronouns

Every personal pronoun has a corresponding object pronoun. Object pronouns are used as direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions.

Personal Pronouns	Object Pronouns
I	Me
You	You
He	Him
She	Her
It	Its
We	Us
They	Them



Examples: He knows **me** well. Direct object  
I gave **him** the letter. Indirect Object  
We told the story to **her**. Object of the preposition

### Indefinite Pronouns: Someone, Anyone, Everyone, No one

Use someone and everyone in affirmative sentences. Use no one and anyone in negative sentences. One can also use anyone, someone and everyone in questions.

Examples in context:


**Someone** took the petitions.

Did **anyone** see JOE?

Don't worry. **Everyone** will be here.

We are doing nothing illegal and **no one** has ever complained to us.

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 Choose the correct answer

- c 1. Don't lend money to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) I                                      b) He                                      c) him
- \_\_\_ 2. JOE explained it to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) me                                      b) I                                      c) my
- \_\_\_ 3. My neighbor helped \_\_\_\_\_ fix the shower.  
a) we                                      b) they                                      c) us
- \_\_\_ 4. Tshombe likes \_\_\_\_\_ very much.  
a) she                                      b) she's                                      c) her
- \_\_\_ 5. Please explain the law to \_\_\_\_\_ again.  
a) me                                      b) my                                      c) I
- \_\_\_ 6. Does \_\_\_\_\_ know the law?  
a) no one                                      b) you                                      c) anyone
- \_\_\_ 7. I sat next to \_\_\_\_\_ at the city council meeting.  
a) her                                      b) he                                      c) she
- \_\_\_ 8. It was great! \_\_\_\_\_ was there to support us.  
a) no                                      b) one                                      c) everyone

- \_\_\_9. Ana sees \_\_\_\_\_ on the bus every day.  
a) he                      b) she                      c) him
- \_\_\_10. \_\_\_\_\_ knows where the petitions are.  
a) Some                      b) Every                      c) No one
- \_\_\_11. We often see \_\_\_\_\_ on Market Street.  
a) they                      b) the                      c) them
- \_\_\_12. Someone came asking for \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) the                      b) they                      c) them
- \_\_\_13. Don't go with \_\_\_\_\_ to the market.  
a) them                      b) they                      c) they're
- \_\_\_14. I understand \_\_\_\_\_ now that you have explained it.  
a) its                      b) it                      c) it's
- \_\_\_15. Could \_\_\_\_\_ gather the signatures?  
a) anyone                      b) any                      c) one

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## SPECIAL SKILLS

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 Video script.

WIZARD                      That was easy, right? Now let's watch and find out what happens to Tshombe.  
And Action!

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANET                      *Tshombe doesn't move.*  
Mr. Gabriel, do you have anything to say?  
TSHOMBE                      Yes, I do.  
MR. JONES                      Mr. Gabriel, please tell us your side of the story.

TSHOMBE                      Tshombe looks up at everyone. He moves toward the podium, but doesn't say  
anything.  
I want to say that she is a liar. But that is not important because she is rich. And  
rich people can buy anything -- including votes from the members of City Council.

*Silvia and Joe shrink in embarrassment and bow their heads. A loud commotion.  
The city council people look indignant. Tshombe walks away from the*

*microphone.*  
MR. JONES Mr. Gabriel, are you saying Mrs. Vargas gave money to the City Council members to buy their votes?  
TSHOMBE I am saying that she is rich. And rich people can get anything they want. And you are all corrupt politicians.

*Tshombe walks by his seat and heads for the exit. Silvia and JOE slump in their chairs. They are defeated. Mrs. Vargas grins triumphantly.*

"Six months later"

SPARE CHANGE STREET

MRS. VARGAS Mrs. Vargas walks down the street arm and arm with Councilman Jones.  
That was such a wonderful lunch. I haven't eaten there in years.  
MR. JONES Thank you.  
MRS. VARGAS Oh, really Charlie.  
MR. JONES That's disgusting.  
MRS. VARGAS These street people are so lazy. Why can't they just find a job? *It's Tshombe holding out a cup for money.*  
MR. JONES I don't know.  
TSHOMBE Do you have any change?  
WIZARD That didn't go well. Tshombe didn't stand up for what he believed in. He didn't defend himself or the other street vendors. Luckily, we can offer Tshombe another chance. Let's see what happens.

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

We are back at the point in time when Tshombe is called to speak. Tshombe doesn't move.  
JANET Mr. Gabriel, do you have anything to say?  
TSHOMBE Yes, I do.  
*Tshombe looks up at everyone. He moves toward the podium, but doesn't say anything. Tshombe gathers himself.*  
TSHOMBE My name is Tschombe. I am a street vendor. But I did not come here to talk about myself. I came to talk about a very important subject. Street vending. The street is not owned by the merchants. They do not belong to them. It doesn't belong to us. The street does not belong to him or her or you. They belong to the city and the people of the city. What do the people want? They want safe streets. Here is a letter from the Fire Marshall. He says there are no fire hazards because of the street vendors. Here is a letter from the Police Chief. There have been no unusual crimes on the street because of street vending. Over one hundred and fifty people wrote letters supporting us. Over two thousand people signed the petition supporting us.  
*Mrs. Vargas stands up and objects.*  
MRS. VARGAS Where are these letters and petitions?  
JANET Excuse me, Ms. Vargas. It's Mr. Gabriel's turn to speak.  
MRS. VARGAS He has no community support.  
MR. JONES Well, Mr. Gabriel, do you have any of those petitions? We'd like to see them.  
Well, do you have them? Well?

TSHOMBE No, sir. Somebody stole them..  
MR. JONES Stole them.  
TSHOMBE Yes, sir. We had a folder full of signatures and petitions and somebody took them from our stand.  
MRS. VARGAS That's ridiculous. No one stole them. They never had any signatures or petitions.  
TSHOMBE Yes, we did.  
MRS. VARGAS Sure, you did.  
MR. JONES Well, Mr. Gabriel, where are those petitions?

*On the verge of defeat, suddenly Anna, stands up.*  
ANNA I took them, Sir.  
MR. JONES Excuse me?  
ANNA Yes. I took them. (pointing at Ms. Vargas) My aunt said I must steal them or she would fire me. I am very ashamed of what I did, and I'm sorry. Street vendors are good for our community. And here is the proof. These are the petitions.

*She reaches into her bag and pulls out the folder with all the letters and signatures. Mrs. Vargas turns and scowls at Anna.*  
MRS. VARGAS You're fired.  
MR. JONES May we see those, please?

*Anna takes the letters to the Presiding Chair.*  
MR. JONES (CONT'D) Well, this does change everything.

### MARKET STREET SIDEWALK

*Tshombe and the others are set up on the street. There is a crowd of people surrounding them. Tshombe serves lemonade to his customers.*  
TSHOMBE There you go. Thank you. Hey, Joe. Guess what? If I sell five more glasses of lemonade, I will have enough money to pay my taxes.  
JOE Five more glasses? Congratulations, Tshombe.

*Suddenly a familiar voice interrupts.*  
TSHOMBE There you go. Thank you.  
ANNA (OS) Five large glasses of lemonade, please.  
TSHOMBE Five glasses? (*Tshombe turns around. It's Anna.*) Anna, hi.  
ANNA Hi. I'm really sorry about what happened.  
TSHOMBE Don't be sorry. Thanks to you everything worked out okay.  
ANNA Yes, it did.  
TSHOMBE What's going to happen to the store?  
ANNA Well, after my Grandmother found out about my Aunt, she fired her and asked me if I wanted to manage the store.  
TSHOMBE Really?  
ANNA Yes! So I'm going to be the new store manager.  
TSHOMBE That's wonderful, Anna. Whenever you need some lemonade to cool off, just let me know.  
ANNA Thanks, I'll drink to that. Cheers.

## City Council Meeting Agenda

Date: May 7, 2001


Time: 6 p.m.

Council President: D. Jones

Council Members: A. Jackson, G. Snoonian,  
L. Masters, Dr. S. Pacheco

### Agenda items:

1. Minutes of last meeting - Council Clerk
2. Transportation budget - R. Wheeldeel
3. Market Street vendors - T. Gabriel, M. Vargas
4. Newbury Medical Plaza Proposal - C. Tranza
5. Adjourn

 Read the information above and choose the correct answer.

1.   b   What's this?  
a) A letter                      b) A meeting agenda                      c) A City Council
2.    When is the meeting?  
a) May 7, 2001      b) April 30, 2001                      c) D. Jones
3.    The meeting begins at...  
a) 5 a.m.                      b) 6 a.m.                      c) 6 p.m.
4.    Who is the President of the City Council?  
a) Dr. S. Pacheco      b) D. Jones                      c) M. Vargas
5.    How many members does the Council have?  
a) 5                      b) 7                      c) 6
6.    How many items are on the agenda?  
a) 4                      b) 6                      c) 5

7. \_\_\_Transportation budget is item number...  
a) one                      b) two                      c) three
8. \_\_\_How many people are scheduled to speak on item number three?  
a) Three                      b) Two                      c) One
9. \_\_\_Who will present he Newbury Medical Plaza Proposal?  
a) C. Tranza                      b) T. Gabriel                      c) D. Jones
10. \_\_\_What is the last item on the agenda?  
a) Exit                      b) Go home                      c) Adjourn

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## CONCLUSION

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 Video Script.

WIZARD

Wizard appears.

Isn't that nice? Tschombe and the community were able to make a difference. They worked together and fought for what was right. Now, remember, you can make a difference, too. Learn about your community. Find out what's going on and what you can do to help others. Well, thanks for watching. And remember to practice your English. See you next time on English for All. *(CELL PHONE RINGS)* Hello? Rosalinda? Oh, you're back. Oh, I missed you. What? Dinner? Tonight? Hmm, I'll be over immediately.

He does his magic thing and disappears.

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ANSWERS

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EPISODE TWELVE

VOCABULARY			COMPREHENSION		LIFE SKILLS
1. 6	2. 10		1. Y		1. F
3. 5	4. 13		2. N		2. T
5. 19	6. 9		3. Y		3. F
7. 1	8. 14		4. Y		4. T
9. 11	10. 15		5. N		5. F
11. 12	12. 20		6. Y		6. F
13. 16	14. 7		7. N		7. T
15. 18	16. 4		8. Y		8. F
17. 17	18. 2		9. Y		9. T
19. 8	20. 3		10. Y		10. T

GRAMMAR				SPECIAL SKILLS	
1. c	2. a	3. c		1. b	2. a
4. c	5. a	6. c		3. c	4. b
7. a	8. c	9. c		5. a	6. c
10. c	11. c	12. c		7. b	8. b
13. a	14. b	15. a		9. a	10. c