



Everyday English

Exaggeration and understatement

1 Which nationalities have a reputation for being passionate, spontaneous and temperamental? Which nationalities are more controlled and reserved?

2 Which of these declarations of love are exaggerated? Which are understated?

I adore you and I can't live without you.

I'm really rather fond of you.

I'm absolutely crazy about you.

We get on pretty well, don't you think?

I worship the ground you walk on.

I quite fancy you, you know.



3 Match a line in A to a line in B. Use a dictionary to look up new words.

A	B
1 They are obviously madly in love.	a You're not kidding. He was totally out of order!
2 I think Tony was a bit rude last night.	b Well, yes, I was a bit upset.
3 His family are pretty well off, aren't they?	c I suppose it is a bit chilly.
4 I can't stand the sight of him!	d Yes, it was a nice little break.
5 I'm knackered. Can we stop for a rest?	e You can say that again! They're absolutely loaded!
6 I'm absolutely dying for a drink!	f Yeah, they do seem to get on quite well.
7 She isn't very bright, is she?	g Yes, my throat's a bit dry, I must say.
8 I bet you hit the roof when she crashed your car!	h Too right! She's as thick as two short planks.
9 I'm fed up with this weather! It's freezing.	i OK. I feel a bit out of breath, too.
10 Well, that was a fantastic holiday!	j I must admit, I'm not too keen on him either.

4 **7.13** Listen and check your answers. Pay attention to stress and intonation. Underline the examples of exaggeration. Circle the understatements. Practise the conversations with a partner.

5 Work with a partner. Take turns to read aloud these understated remarks and give an exaggerated reply.

1 These shoes are rather nice, aren't they?

These shoes are rather nice, aren't they?

They're absolutely fabulous! I want them!

2 Is that a new watch? I bet that cost a bit.

3 It's a bit chilly in here, don't you think?

4 Can we stop at the next service station? I could do with something to eat.

5 I think those two like each other, don't you?

6 I bet you were a bit upset when your team lost.

7.14 Listen and compare.

