

3 Homecoming week

Ralph: Hi there, you must be Amy, the new girl from England.

Amy: Yes, I am.

Ralph: Nice to meet you, Amy. My name is Ralph. How are you doing?

Amy: I'm fine, thanks. Actually, I'm not from England – I'm from Germany, but my mother is English.

Ralph: Oh, I see, that's why you've got such a cool accent. I really like your British pronunciation. Anyway, where are you staying?

Amy: I'm staying with the Schraders. They're an awesome host family, really nice. But unfortunately they live far away from school, so I need to get up quite early to catch the school bus.

Ralph: So do I. It takes me an hour and a half to get here. Do you like our school, Amy?

Amy: It's great, but quite different from my school in Germany. Like having the same classes every day at the same time. At my school we have different schedules every day.

Ralph: That's interesting. Have you joined a school club yet?

Amy: No, I haven't. I was thinking about the drama club. I like theatre, film and acting. I was in the drama club at my German school. – Oh, wait, I've got a question: what exactly is homecoming and why is it such a big deal?

Ralph: Now, that's a good question. To cut a long story short, homecoming is a tradition to welcome back former students to our school. That's why it's called homecoming. The whole event lasts a whole week.

Amy: Wow. That sounds like serious business.

Ralph: Oh no. I mean we take the tradition seriously because homecoming connects the school with its former students. Most of them now have jobs, and they can support our school in many ways. And together with their former teachers and us, the new students, they just share some good memories, you know, the good old times. All of that's really good for the atmosphere at our school. Plus there are games, mainly football – American football that is – parades and competitions. You'll see, it will be a great week. Everything will be bright and cheerful. You'll be amazed how much fun it is.

Amy: Sounds great. Is there anything I'm supposed to do?

Ralph: Not really. Just participate and join the fun. For instance, on Tuesday, we will have Crazy Hair Day, on Wednesday, let me see, ah yeah, it's Superhero Day, and on Friday it will be Everything Pink Day. I'll be wearing my big sister's super bright pink jacket.

Amy: Hm, I don't have a superhero costume nor anything pink to wear.

Ralph: That's no problem. Actually, I can ask around if you like. I'm sure some of my friends can help you out. And for the Everything Pink Day you can just colour your hair.

Amy: Thanks very much. But colouring my hair pink? Ugh. What if the colour stays for longer, like a week or so. I'll look like a joke.

Ralph: There is hair colour that can be washed out easily. Last year I tried it out with bright green, and it worked well. So you don't need to worry about that. Anyway: Are you going to the homecoming dance?

Amy: I don't know. I live quite far away from school ...

Ralph: If the Schraders can't pick you up, I'll ask my dad. He can drive you home. I'm sure he'd love to listen to your British accent.

Amy: Thanks. – I have to go now. I've got science.

Ralph: Me too ... with Mr White?

Amy: Yes ... we're in the same science class. Cool!