



Jasmine, 15

What have you been doing this week?

Basically, I go to school. After I go to school, I might hang out,* socialize* with my friends at Burger King or McDonald's.* First I study and then I hang with my friends and socialize. On weekends I might go to the movies, go to a party, get my hair did,* or go to the nail shop.*

What did you do last weekend?

I went to a party, and I watched movies on TV every day.

What are you doing in school this week?

I'm studying biology. We're studying the ecosystem. I don't like biology too much. Actually, I hate it. It's my least favorite class.

What classes do you like?

I like dance—that's my favorite subject—and math. I have to do a lot of research in dance.

Dance sounds unusual. Is it a regular subject?

Dance is like any other subject. It's like physical education. We study all kinds of dance: ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop. We do it, and we study about it. I have to do my research on it every day. My teacher gives us a famous dancer like Alvin Ailey. He's dead now, but he founded a famous dance company. I get on the computer and do research on him and his dance company. We have questions like, "What kind of positioning do they use?"; "What kind of energy do they use?"

Do you like living in San Francisco?

Actually, I used to* live in San Francisco, but I moved to Oakland a year ago. San Francisco is a great city, but it's very large. You have to know your way. In Oakland, well you have to avoid some parts of Oakland, but there is less drama* in Oakland. You feel free in Oakland.

Is there anything you want to say to kids in other countries?

Do you want to visit San Francisco? You should think about it, because it's a good city.

A Few Words

Hang, hang with, hang out with: Very informal words that mean "talk to and enjoy being with friends without doing anything special or exciting."

Socialize: An informal way of saying "have fun with other people."

Burger King and McDonald's: Popular hamburger restaurants where food is fast and inexpensive.

Get my hair did: There are different ways of speaking English in the U.S. When a woman goes to a shop to get her hair cut or curled, she usually says, "I'll get my hair done." Young black women like Jasmine, however, often say "get my hair did." It's not a mistake. It's just another way of using English.

Nail shop: A small shop where women can get a manicure or have their fingernails painted.

Used to: If you "used to do" something, it means you did it in the past but don't do it now.

Drama: In this sentence, *drama* means excitement, especially negative excitement.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite class at school, and what is your least favorite class? Why? Are your interests similar to Jasmine's or very different from hers?
2. Do you have a lot of time to hang out with your friends? Where do you go to hang out? Why is that a good place to go?