



Landry, 14

What have you been doing this week?

Well, school every day, and then after school my friend drives me home and normally* I go to her house and we do our homework together, and then I go home after that and eat dinner with my family.

Did you do anything extra or different this week?

Also this week I was driving with the driver education teacher to get my learner's permit.

Please tell what a learner's permit is.

It's for driving a car. First I had to take three weeks of classes, four hours a day, four days a week, to study for the book test. Then the big written test is 200 questions. Then you have to drive for six hours with an instructor. Then when you're fifteen years old, you can have a learner's permit.

What can you do with a learner's permit?

You can drive anytime during the day until 9:00 pm with an adult in the car with you. The adult has to have a driving license for five years. Then when you are sixteen years old, you can get your driving license.

What do you do on weekends?

Sunday I go to church and youth group.*
On Friday nights I normally have a sleepover with friends.

What is a sleepover?

I go over to a friend's house and stay there the night. We talk girl talk. We eat popcorn, watch movies, and talk about boys. Pretty much* what every girl does.

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Just "Hey,"* I guess.

A Few Words

Normally: This is a synonym for "usually."

Youth group: In the U.S., churches, temples, and mosques often have a meeting once a week that is just for young people.

Pretty much: In this sentence, "pretty much" means "about the same as."

Hey: In the southern part of the United States, people often say "hey" instead of "hi." People speak English in slightly different ways in different parts of the U.S.

Discussion Questions

1. In the U.S., getting a driver's license is a very important and exciting event for young people. It means that they are beginning to be adults and that they can have a little more freedom and independence than children have. Are there special events in a teenager's life in your culture that show you are becoming an adult? What are they?
2. In the U.S., girls often stay all night at the home of their girlfriends on Friday or Saturday night. Their mothers supervise them. Where do young people in your country get together to talk with their friends? Who supervises them? (*Supervise* means watch and be sure nothing bad happens.)