

# Happy Birthday, Eric!

## Action video note

Instruct Ss to make their own birthday video for a family member or a friend.

## Write the script

- **Preview the activity:** Tell Ss they will make a birthday video for a family member or friend. Explain that the video can be a simple slide show in which Ss describe pictures or objects related to the birthday person. The video may also contain an interview. Point out that the purpose of the video is to pay tribute to the person and to practice descriptions.
- **Write the script:** Tell Ss to write a script for the birthday video. Tell them to choose four to five pictures or objects to talk about in the video that will help them describe the birthday person's appearance, personality, interests, or special memories with him or her. Review descriptive terms used in the video. Go over the sample topics below with the class.

### Sample topics

Appearance: height, hair color, clothing  
 Personality traits: e.g., creative, hard-working, serious  
 Interests: e.g., plays the piano  
 Memories: events, trips taken

- **Option:** If Ss have family members or friends who speak English well, they may want to create an interview video in addition to or instead of a slide show. In this case, Ss can write descriptions or general topics for their interviewees to discuss.
- **Check the script:** Have Ss rehearse their scripts. Go around the room and give help as needed.

## Make the video

- **Plan the video:** Tell Ss to plan how they will make their slide shows. Explain that Ss can arrange all the photos they will use in order and film them in a documentary style, by zooming in and out of photos and moving across them.
- **Option:** If Ss are making an interview video, they can ask questions from off-screen or set up the camera so both people are on-screen.
- **Make the video:** Have Ss make their videos.
- **Option:** If Ss enjoy working with video, explain that they may wish to include captions in their slide shows, showing people's names and other information.

## Share the video

- Ss share their videos with the class.
- **Option:** Have a group or class discussion about the videos. Invite Ss to make descriptions about the people they saw.