

## FLEX ENGLISH COMMUNICATION I

### <Lesson 6>

#### Part 1

Thomas the Tank Engine is one of the most famous children's book characters in the world today. His stories are about his adventures with his friends on the Island of Sodor. His book series started in the UK in 1946. Now, his stories are loved by children in more than 160 countries.

Thomas is also the main character of a television show called *Thomas & Friends*<sup>™</sup>. In 2018, in its 22nd series, the show made a big change. Thomas left the Island of Sodor for the first time. He began to travel around the world and meet new friends in India, China, Australia, and other countries. Two new female locomotives also joined Thomas's team.

In that year, the United Nations (UN) began working with a company that makes *Thomas & Friends*<sup>™</sup> and its toys. They decided to introduce some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into several episodes from that series.

#### Part 2

The 17 SDGs were announced by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. These SDGs are what the UN created to help solve some of the most serious problems in the world today. Some examples of these SDGs are making education better for everyone, achieving gender equality, and solving environmental problems. They hope to meet their goals by 2030.

The UN and the company of *Thomas & Friends*<sup>™</sup> understand the importance of the goals. They chose six of the SDGs. The goals were a natural fit with the kinds of stories often seen in the TV show. These are the goals they use in *Thomas & Friends*<sup>™</sup>: Quality Education (Goal 4), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12), and, Life on Land (Goal 15).

#### Part 3

Here are examples of how three of the six goals are brought into the world of Thomas.

For Goal 11, Thomas talks about living in cities. He says that cities need good train, subway, and bus systems to help people get from their homes to school and work. He also says that more people should use these systems instead of their private cars to clean the air.

For Goal 12, Thomas talks about reusing and recycling. In this story, Thomas meets his friend Reg. Reg can reuse and recycle things that cannot be repaired. Once, he even made a Christmas tree from scrap!