

# What news?

## Answers

1.

Suggested answers:

- a) I usually ask something like 'How are you?' or 'How's it going?'
- b) No, I don't. In an informal greeting we don't usually expect specific details about the other person's health or well-being unless we know that they have been sick or have a problem. Then we make it clear through our tone of voice or other words that we are really asking about these things.
- c) Even if I didn't expect such a reply, I would probably still listen and talk more about my friend's problem. If it were a person I met on the street that I didn't know well, such a response would be surprising and unexpected. It would probably make me feel quite awkward.
- d) They probably wouldn't be expecting me to respond in that way. However, as in the previous question, if we were already acquainted then the Indonesian friend would probably still listen to me and talk more about my problems. They might even offer some suggestions or advice.
- e) They might feel surprised because, just as in Australia, simple greetings between friends are not intended to elicit detailed responses but serve as small talk or as signs of friendship.
- f) No, it doesn't. The more we get to know people our own age, the more we can discuss issues with them and so, just as in Australia, what we reveal to others about ourselves depends on how close we are to them.