

American Empower Intermediate Student's Book Audioscripts

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Unit 1

Track 01.05

Chris It all started with this online game about Vikings. Nicolas and I ended up on the same team, and after each game, there was this chat session. Well, Nicolas wrote these really funny comments about the teams and the other players, and he made me laugh. I'd write replies to his comments, and he'd come back with another joke, and, you know, it was a lot of fun. Then we sort of started messaging each other when we weren't gaming. Like me, Nicolas is crazy about anything to do with Vikings – like, he's read all the history and just knows so much. We've never met up because he lives in Bogotá, in Colombia, so it's not like we're neighbors or anything. And that's the other amazing thing about him. Like, he's never left Colombia, but his English is almost perfect. We've spoken online – I don't know how his English got to be so good. I have so much more in common with Nicolas than I do with the friends I see every day.

Alex Sarah and I met on this fan website for The Hunger Games. We both think this is one of the most amazing series of books we've ever read. But we both really enjoy other science fiction, as well. A lot of people on the fan site just wanted to talk about The Hunger Games and nothing else, but Sarah was like me and wanted to read other writers – like, some of the classic writers of science fiction – Frank Herbert, Ursula K. Le Guin, Philip K. Dick – people like that. So, for a while we would decide together what book to read, and after every chapter we'd discuss what had happened and guess what might happen next. I really enjoyed this way of reading. It kind of made it more interesting. And then I had this idea that we could set up a book club online and, you know, include a few more people. But Sarah wasn't too interested in that. I could sort of feel her pulling away. She didn't text so often, and suddenly she didn't have time to read a book together – that sort of thing. That's fine. I enjoyed having an online

friend, but I didn't want to have just one friend – I wanted more. In fact, now I've got a lot more – I set up the book club anyway.

Kelly

I joined a discussion board called "Greenie," and I could see immediately that Joe was the guy with the best ideas. There were always a lot of comments about how bad things are, and how the environment is suffering, and all that. But Joe was practical and would always ask, "OK, so what are we going to do about it?" and then he would suggest something – small and simple things, but practical things. You know, like, "Everyone turn off your air conditioning and open the windows – sweat it out for the planet!" I like people who do stuff and don't just talk about it. Then I figured out that Joe and I live in the same town. So, we messaged a little and agreed to meet up. Together with some online friends and some face-to-face friends, we've set up a local action group. We got the city council to set aside some green areas and we're raising money to buy trees to plant there. And we've set up a website to show everyone what we're doing, and we're attracting more friends who want to join in. That's the thing with online friendships – sometimes they carry over into the real world, and you can do some amazing things.

Track 01.08

1

A Are you OK, James?

B No, I'm not. I'm absolutely exhausted! I've been speaking Spanish all day!

2

C Hi, Linda. Are you learning Russian?

D I'm trying to, but this book's useless! It teaches you how to say "my uncle's black pants," but not how to say "hello"!

3

E Hey, guess what? I just read about this girl who's only 10, but she's fluent in several different languages.

F That's fantastic, Tony. I can only speak one language – English.

4

G Listen, Olivier: squirrel.

H Squi ... Squill ... It's impossible! I'll never get it right!

G No, it's not impossible, just difficult. You need to practice. Try again. Listen: Squirrel.

H Squi ... rrel ...

G Good job!

Track 01.12

PART 1

Kristen Good morning. Beautiful Blooms Florist. Hello, Mrs. Smith. I'm sorry ... It's going to be impossible to get your flowers done this morning, but you can pick them up any time this afternoon. Yes. Yes, that's right. Thank you. See you then. Oh, hello. Sorry about that. Feel free to take a look around. Let me know if you need any help – I'm just preparing some flowers for a delivery.

Randi I could use some help, actually. I need something for the host of a dinner party tonight.

Kristen OK. What kinds of flowers do they like?

Randi Oh, I don't know. I haven't met her yet. She's the wife of a friend.

Kristen OK, well, in my opinion, roses are always a good option.

Randi Uh, aren't they a little romantic?

Kristen Yes, I know what you mean. I guess something like tulips might be better.

Randi Tulips are okay, but maybe a little plain.

Kristen Well, if you ask me, you can't go wrong with irises. They're my personal favorite.

Randi Yes, they're beautiful. Irises it is. Could I get a bouquet with a dozen?

Kristen Sure thing! It'll take me about five minutes.

Randi Perfect. I'm just going to stop by the kitchen supply store next door.

Track 01.13

PART 2

Randi Wow, those look great.

Kristen You're all set. Did you get what you needed at the kitchen supply store?

Randi I found a few things for work – I have a little restaurant downtown.

Kristen You're a chef?

Randi I am.

Kristen Oh, that's great. Actually, could I ask you a question?

Randi Sure, go ahead.

Kristen See, I'm a little worried. I'm cooking for some people I've never met tonight, and I don't know what kind of food they'll like.

Randi Yeah, I don't like cooking for people I don't know.

Kristen Me neither. But you're a chef. You cook for people you don't know every night!

Randi True, but they get to order what they like.

Kristen Yes, I suppose so. I wish I knew what my guests liked. I still have no idea.

Randi Well, if you ask me, I don't think you can go wrong with a simple roast chicken.

Kristen Doesn't that seem too plain?

Randi Try adding some roasted onions, carrots, lemon, herbs, and spices.

Kristen That sounds terrific.

Randi When it's done right, a roast chicken is my very favorite meal. I love it!

Kristen Me too, now that I think about it. Thank you!

Randi Good luck tonight. And thanks for the flowers! Oh ... how much do I owe you for them?

Track 01.20

PART 3

Kristen Hi, come on in. I'm Kristen – wait a second, don't I know you? Yes, from the flower shop today!

Randi What?! Oh, wow! Yes. Hi again! I'm Randi.

Kristen Honey, Randi's here! That's funny. When my husband told me his friend "Randy" was coming for dinner, I thought he meant a man.

Randi I get that a lot! These are, well, for you!

Kristen Irises – my favorite!

Randi It smells wonderful in here – roast chicken?

Kristen Yes! It's almost done.

Randi Do you need a hand in the kitchen getting things ready?

Kristen From a professional chef? I won't say no to that.

Track 01.21

Maria How's your studying going?

Gilberto Not so good. I think I can remember most of the grammar, but remembering vocabulary's a little harder, for me anyway.

Maria Yes, there are a lot of words to remember.

Gilberto What about you?

Maria For me, it's probably the opposite – I find the grammar hard to get my head around, but the vocabulary is a lot easier. I've been testing myself at home, and I'm doing OK.

Gilberto How do you manage to remember all the words? What's your secret?

Maria Well, it's no secret! I have this kind of system for learning words that seems to make it easy ...

Gilberto OK, what?

Maria Well, when I get home from class, I record all the new words I've learned onto my phone. And then I do something like go for a run, and I listen to them while I'm running. And I make up sentences with the words and say them to myself.

Gilberto As you're running?

Maria Yes, as I'm running – I just say the sentences quietly to myself.

Gilberto Do you remember what the words mean?

Maria Most of the time. If I forget, I check in my notebook. And sometimes I play the words and write them down. I think the most important thing is to keep repeating them. I don't know why, but remembering the sounds of the words is important for me. Like, last week I learned the word "shine" – you know, like "the sun is shining." And that "sh" sound at the beginning of the word makes me think of light that's getting brighter and brighter.

Gilberto Interesting. But I don't know if it would work for me. I need to see things written down. I need to look at the word.

Maria Right – my sister's like that, too. She used to use vocabulary cards. Have you tried that?

Gilberto No. How does that work?

Maria She had these small cards, and she wrote each new word on a card with a picture, or a definition and an example – sometimes a translation, too. It worked really well ... for a while.

Gilberto For a while? Why? What happened?

Maria She left all the cards on a train.

Gilberto Oh, no. That's probably what I would do!

Maria I felt so sorry for her – after all that work.

Gilberto It sounds like a good idea, but I guess you have to be really organized to have a card system.

Maria Yes, that's true.

Gilberto And, to be honest, I think maybe I'm too lazy to write all those cards and keep them with me wherever I go!

Unit 2

Track 02.06

You have good grades, and you've been on a lot of interviews, but no one's offered you a job yet. Why? Is it because your knowledge and practical skills aren't right for the job? Well, according to one career expert, Nancy Maynard, it's probably because you just don't have the "likeability factor."

Likeability is the ability to work well with people. It isn't something you can learn easily at school, but employers want it, and they're quick to see it in candidates during an interview. Without likeability, Maynard believes, good grades and practical skills are worth very little. In the first 18 months at a job, most of an employee's success is linked to their likeability, not to how well they do the job.

Likeability is much more important than other abilities, and anyone who's looking for a job should be trying their hardest to improve their own by spending time with other people. Advice for job hunters goes like this: apply for the jobs that you want, even if you don't have the right qualifications.

If you get an interview, then impress the interviewers with your "soft skills." Soft skills are your personal skills – your friendly personality, your positive attitude toward work, your ability to communicate with people, and your problem-solving skills.

It's simple. Or is it? Is likeability really more important than knowledge and experience? We took to the streets and asked some people for their opinions.

Track 02.07

- 1** People don't realize how important likeability is because employers don't like to talk about it, so they usually give other reasons for not offering someone a job. But let's be honest, if you're paying someone to do a job, you want them to work well with the people around them.
- 2** Yes, soft skills and likeability are much more important than specific job skills – like being able to use a computer – for the employer and for yourself, too.

There's no such thing as "a job for life" any more. Develop your soft skills – be good at working with other people – and you'll always be able to get work.

3 I've been a doctor since I graduated from medical school. I've worked at this hospital for 18 years. My practical skills and my knowledge are all that matters. Without those, I couldn't do my job. I listen to my patients, but I certainly don't believe that I need to be charming and sociable all the time. I've never believed that.

4 I'm afraid it's true, and it makes me angry. I'm 23, and I haven't worked since I finished college. The only way to develop soft skills is to work with people, but the only way to get work is to have soft skills. It's a no-win situation.

5 When people talk like this, it makes education and hard work sound second best, and that's simply not true. Yes, you need to be able to make a good first impression, but come on, what really matters is that you can offer practical skills and experience to an organization, not just a friendly face.

Track 02.10

PART 1

Javier Hi, is anyone sitting here?

Paula Nope. It's all yours.

Javier Thanks! Oh, aren't you Mike's colleague, Paula? I've seen you around the office.

Paula Yes, that's right. It's Javier, isn't it? Let me get that chair for y – oops.

Javier Oh, no! My coffee!

Paula It's all over your phone. Here's a napkin. I'm so sorry!

Javier Don't worry about it!

Paula At least let me get you another coffee!

Javier That's okay. I've had plenty already.

Track 02.11

PART 2

Paula How's the phone?

Javier Not good. The screen's frozen.

Paula Oh, no! Maybe you could try turning it off and on again.

Javier I was just doing that, but still nothing.

Paula What about taking the SIM card out and drying it?

Javier That's worth a try. Thank you. I hope I didn't lose all the numbers in my contacts. I haven't saved them anywhere else.

Paula Oh no, that's terrible! Could you take it back to the store?

Javier Oh, I don't think they'll do anything. I bought it over a year ago.

Paula Will your insurance cover it?

Javier I don't have any. It just ran out. A week ago!

Paula How annoying! I know – the other day I read about this trick for fixing phones when they get wet.

Javier Really?

Paula They said you put the phone in a bag of rice, and apparently it dries it out. You could try that.

Javier That sounds a little weird.

Paula I know, but there were a lot of comments from people saying that it had worked.

Javier OK, I'll give it a try. What do I have to lose? It's cheaper than buying a new phone.

Paula If it doesn't work, I'll cover the cost to fix it. It was my fault.

Javier That's so nice of you.

Track 02.12

PART 3

Javier Hello.

Paula Hi Javier, it's Paula. From the coffee shop? Where I spilled your coffee? I got your number from Mike. I hope you don't mind.

Javier Oh, hi Paula! How are you?

Paula I'm good, thanks. You?

Javier I'm good, and guess what? My phone's working! Obviously. That rice trick really worked.

Paula That's great! I'm really glad to hear that. So, you don't need me to pay for repairs?

Javier No! But I would like to return the favor. I was wondering if you'd let me buy you dinner sometime. You know, as a thank you.

Paula Actually, I had the same idea, sort of. I wanted to buy you dinner to say I'm sorry.

Javier OK. Dinner it is, then!

Paula Yes, dinner it is. But I'm paying. It's the least I can do after all the trouble I caused.

Javier Well ... sure. That's really kind of you.

Track 02.16

Lin Hi, Tania. What's up?

Tania Hi, Lin. Not much.

Lin Have you done that presentation yet? The one for your bosses?

Tania Yeah, I did it yesterday.

Lin How did it go?

Tania Well, you know, the usual thing: I presented my ideas, everyone smiled and thanked me, and then said nothing.

Lin So they didn't even give their opinion?

Tania No, but I could see they didn't like the idea. The problem with the company I work for is that they're continuing to use the same ideas and aren't thinking enough about new markets. They're not thinking enough about the mobile app market at all.

Lin Isn't that why they hired you?

Tania That's what I thought. I mean, I've been working there for just over a year now, and they haven't said yes to any of my ideas. When they offered me the job, they said things like, "Oh yes, we're very interested in your creative thinking and your problem-solving skills," but do they really want to use them? I get the feeling they don't.

Lin That must be very disappointing.

Tania I think I've more or less decided I'm going to look for a new job.

Lin Really?

Tania Yeah, it's getting hard to keep having a positive attitude.

Lin I can understand that. And I thought your app idea was a really good one.

Tania Thanks. So what do you think about me moving to Singapore?

Lin Singapore?

Tania Sure, I'm thinking about making a big change.

Lin Yeah, but coming to live in Singapore? Are you sure?

Tania Yeah, well, you came here to study, why can't I go there to work?

Lin No reason, I guess. That would be amazing!

Tania I want to travel more, and I'm really interested in Asian culture – I'd love to find out more about it.

Lin Well, yes, and there are plenty of IT jobs in Singapore, but it's kind of a busy city. Are you sure you could handle it?

Tania Absolutely. It would be fun!

Lin Great! Go for it, then!

Unit 3

Track 03.07

- Martina** I remember in elementary school, Mom used to dress us in the same clothes.
- Bianca** No, she didn't. We used to wear different clothes.
- Martina** So, how did we exchange classes and fool the teachers?
- Bianca** We used to change our clothes before class.
- Martina** Did we? I don't remember that. I thought our clothes were always the same.
- Bianca** Anyway, I liked the fact that you were always there. I always had a friend – someone to talk to.
- Martina** Yeah, but we didn't use to talk that much.
- Bianca** Yes, we did.
- Martina** No, no. We used to play together all the time, but we were quiet. Mom says so – she says it was like we knew what each other was thinking.
- Bianca** That's very true! I mean, I usually know what you think about things.
- Martina** Well, yeah.
- Bianca** Do you remember when we were in high school?
- Martina** Sure – I used to hate being asked the same question all the time: "Are you Bianca's twin?"
- Bianca** That's when you started wearing black – only black, and nothing else.
- Martina** I looked good in black. And I remember what you used to wear.
- Bianca** They were just dresses and skirts with flowers on them.
- Martina** Oh, yeah – and they were pretty bad.
- Bianca** They weren't that bad. Anyway, I was trying to be different from you!
- Martina** But the thing that really annoyed me when we were growing up was when people tried to compare us.
- Bianca** Right, like when they used to ask things like, "Are you the one who's a little slimmer?"
- Martina** Or "Are you the forgetful one?"

Bianca I never used to answer those questions honestly.

Martina Me neither. And I usually felt that people wanted us to compete all the time.

Bianca Yeah, especially with grades.

Martina Like my teacher would say, “Bianca’s math grade is better than yours.”

Bianca And I’d get, “Martina wrote a very good essay – you could learn from her.”

Martina But Mom and Dad never did that.

Bianca No, never – they brought us up well.

Track 03.10

PART 1

Matt Terrell!

Terrell Hey, Matt!

Matt We’re still meeting at 10, right?

Terrell Yes, we are. We’re in meeting room three, I think. I’ll be there in a minute.

Matt What are you doing?

Terrell I’m shopping for a car.

Matt Online? Are you planning to see it in person before you buy it?

Terrell I am, but why do you ask?

Matt Well ... you won’t believe what I did. It was so stupid!

Terrell What?

Matt Remember I told you I wanted a desk for my home office? And I was going to buy one online?

Terrell Yeah?

Matt Well, I found one. It looked perfect, exactly what I was looking for. It was a fantastic price, too. Way cheaper than in the store.

Terrell Sounds good.

Matt Exactly, so I ordered it.

Terrell Great!

Matt And it arrived on Saturday. But the funny thing is, it was really, really small.

Terrell How small?
Matt It only came up to my knees!
Terrell What?!
Matt It turned out I'd ordered a desk for a child.
Terrell No way!
Matt Mm-hmm! I forgot to check the measurements on the website!
Terrell Oh, man. Well, I'll definitely check the measurements of my car before I buy it.
Matt I don't know – you'd look good in a little toy sports car!

Track 03.11

PART 2

Terrell So, what did you do? About the desk?
Matt Well, I called the company to explain, and luckily they agreed to give me a refund.
Terrell Really? That was nice of them.
Matt Yeah, it was. But anyway, I still had to find a desk. I was looking everywhere, but I couldn't find anything. In the end, my wife suggested I try one of those "freecycling" websites.
Terrell Freecycling? What's that?
Matt It's where people get rid of stuff they don't want any more. I'd never heard of it either. But there are a couple of websites for this area. I found the perfect desk in just a few minutes – and the best thing is, it's free.
Terrell It's free?
Matt Yeah, I think the owner doesn't have enough space for it, so he's just giving it away. All I have to do is go and pick it up.
Terrell Wow! That's good. And you're sure it's the right size this time?
Matt Ha-ha. Yeah, I double-checked the measurements this time.
Terrell I wish they gave away cars on this "freecycling" website of yours.
Matt Oh, but they do. Really! I saw a car or two on there yesterday.

Terrell What?!

Matt There was this one car that was just perfect for a six-year old – I think you’d love it.

Track 03.14

Bryan It’s a shame we don’t know much about our great-grandfather, isn’t it? Mom used to love talking about him and Great-grandma. She always used to tell so many interesting stories about them. But I have no idea where or when they met.

Susie Yeah. Well, I know he was born in England.

Bryan Who, Great-grandpa? That’s right. And he wanted to go out and see the world, didn’t he? That’s why he went to train as a chef – so he could get work on a ship.

Susie What kind of ship?

Bryan A cruise ship. And that was before the war. Sometime in the 1930s.

Susie Oh, right.

Bryan He loved traveling, and working on a ship was the best way to see the world if you didn’t have a lot of money back then.

Susie So, how did he meet Great-grandma? She was a nurse, wasn’t she? And how did they both end up in Canada?

Bryan I ... I don’t know. I guess we’ll have to do some research!

Unit 4

Track 04.01

Presenter That was Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee, a piece that was performed for a live audience on TV by a six-year-old boy named Tsung Tsung. Tsung Tsung could play the piano when he was three. When he was five, an internet clip of him playing the piano made him famous. He said his dream was to be able to play like Mozart. Our question today is: Do we have to start young to succeed? We've all heard about kids like Tsung Tsung, bright kids who have a particular ability in, say, music, math, or science. But do they grow up to be successful adults? And if you're over 30 and you haven't achieved your goals yet, is it too late? Ed Bickley's been looking into it for us. Ed, what have you found out?

Ed OK, well, clearly some talented children go on to do very well as adults. Take Lionel Messi. He started playing soccer on the street at the age of five. Soon, he was playing against much older boys – and they couldn't get the ball away from him. He was so good that he was able to join the Barcelona junior team when he was 11, and he achieved international success at 20. Now he's one of the greatest players in the world!

Presenter A real success story!

Ed Yes. But what's surprising is that most of these talented children, when they grow up, don't actually achieve much more than other adults. A recent study followed a group of talented children from 1974 until now. Less than 5% managed to become very successful adults.

Presenter That does seem surprising.

Ed And now for the good news! If you haven't achieved your goals by the time you're 30, don't give up! Plenty of people have found success much later in life. British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood's first job was in teaching. She always wanted to be a designer, but her successful fashion career didn't begin

until she was 30 when she started making clothes for a store in London called “Let it Rock.” Then there’s Andrea Bocelli. He’s been able to sing well since he was a child, but he didn’t become a famous classical singer until he was 36. At 41, his album became the most successful classical album by a solo artist of all time, with five million copies sold around the world.

Presenter So to do well at something, we don’t have to be good at it at a young age?

Ed That’s right. In most cases, talent develops with experience. You need to practice, make mistakes, get frustrated, learn from your mistakes, practice some more ... it’s hard work. You need a lot of patience, a lot of determination. Confidence and a positive attitude help, too. Say to yourself: “I can do it!” And just maybe you will! And don’t worry if your 10-year-old child can’t play the piano. Maybe she’ll be able to do it when she’s a little older.

Presenter Ed, you’ve given us all hope! Thank you very much.

Track 04.05

Kate Well, my friends would probably say I’m an extrovert, because I’m pretty sociable. In social situations like a party or something I’m usually really outgoing, you know, talkative – and I like to have a lot of fun, and I usually joke around with people, and so on. I don’t mind being on my own if it’s not for too long, but after a time I start feeling bored – I definitely need people to talk to. But, on the other hand, I definitely have my introverted side, too, you know. I think I’m basically a pretty shy person. I certainly worry a lot about what people think of me; maybe that’s why I cover it up by talking a lot! And I’m really scared of speaking to an audience. I hate it if I have to give a presentation in class or give a speech; that makes me feel really nervous, feeling like everyone’s looking at me. I don’t like that.

Alex Oh, I’m definitely an introvert. I’m definitely a little reserved with people I don’t know well. I don’t really give myself away much, except with very close friends – then I can sometimes be pretty lively and fun to be with ... people say I’m very

good at telling jokes, actually! Um ... I don't enjoy parties much, I don't really know what to say to people. I'd much rather be doing something on my own, maybe reading a book or going for a long walk, or maybe just going out with a couple of friends. It probably sounds really boring – but I guess I'm basically a serious person, and I'm also pretty sensitive. I'd rather have an interesting conversation with someone, not just make small talk, and I guess maybe that puts people off sometimes.

Track 04.07

PART 1

- Olivia** Hi, Akiko, here's your croissant and coffee. What's that you're looking at? Oh, nice. Are those the photos from your vacation?
- Akiko** Thank you. Yes. You haven't seen these photos yet, have you?
- Olivia** No, I haven't. Oh, wow! That's a great photo. That's the hotel you stayed in, isn't it?
- Akiko** Yes. And there's the beach. It was just a short walk from the hotel.
- Olivia** Wow, these are really good.
- Akiko** Thanks. I enjoyed taking them.
- Olivia** They're amazing. Actually, can I ask a big favor? You know I'm making a new website for the bakery, don't you? Well, I need some photos for it – you know, of pastries and people sitting at tables eating them.
- Akiko** Like me right now?
- Olivia** Do you think you could take them?
- Akiko** Hmm, I'm not sure. I'm not a professional photographer. It's just a hobby.
- Olivia** But I really love your pictures. Will you do it?
- Akiko** Well, if you're sure. OK! I'd love to.
- Olivia** Great! How about tomorrow?
- Akiko** Tomorrow? Uh, why not? But could I ask you a favor in return, Olivia?
- Olivia** Yes, of course. Just name it.

Akiko Could I have another croissant? These are amazing!

Track 04.11

PART 2

Olivia Thanks so much for agreeing to take these photos, Akiko.

Akiko Happy to do it! Where should we start?

Olivia It would be nice to get some pictures of the cakes, wouldn't it?

Akiko Absolutely.

Olivia Would you like me to put a slice on a plate? Or is a photo of the whole cake better?

Akiko Let's do both. The cakes are decorated so beautifully, but everyone wants to see what's inside, don't they?

Olivia And I think it would be great to have some shots of people drinking coffee, don't you?

Akiko That would be great. And then we need some pictures of you!

Olivia Really? You don't think that's too much, do you?

Akiko Of course not. It's your bakery! Plus, you look really good in photos.

Olivia Do I? We could take those last, couldn't we? So I can clean up a little? I have flour all over my hands from baking bread.

Akiko I like the flour! Look at me – smile!

Olivia Wait, wait – I'm not ready! How's my hair – it's not too messy, is it?

Akiko You look absolutely perfect – just like your cakes!

Track 04.13

Sheena Last year, I had some free time and some money to spend. I'd always wanted to go walking and climbing in the Himalayas, but I didn't want to go on my own, and none of my friends wanted to go. So I found a website called Travel Groups, where you can contact other people who want to go to the same places as you, and you can join up and go together as a group. Anyway, I found three other

people to go with, and we all met in Delhi in northern India and we traveled together. It worked out really well. I think websites like this are a good idea because a lot of people don't want to travel on their own, and it works as long as everyone's reasonably sociable. I'm very self-confident and I think I'm an extrovert, so I'm pretty good at getting along with people and making friends.

Alya

I had a few months off after college, so I looked on the Internet for volunteer work and found a really good website for last-minute volunteer jobs called the Volunteer Community Project. It was good because you can arrange things right away and they pay your airfare, and you get basic accommodation and food. You don't earn money, but you don't really spend much, either. I went to London and worked there with young children from problem families. I didn't have any experience, but that didn't matter. They were just looking for someone who could get along with kids and understand what they need. I never realized it before, but actually, it seems like I've got a natural talent for teaching children. So, it was a really great experience, and now I've decided to train as a school teacher.

Brad

I really needed to earn some money, and I couldn't get a full-time job. Someone told me about this website called Short Work, where people offer short-term jobs for a few days or a couple of weeks to people who like helping out with things or fixing things for people. I'm pretty good at things like that, and I know a little about electricity and plumbing. I found this ad for a family who had a large house and needed someone to do some basic work on it. So I went over and talked to them, and they gave me the job. I think they could see that I was really serious about it, and I was determined to work hard. It was really good – I was only there for two weeks, but in that time I managed to clear their garden, mend their garden fence, paint three rooms, and get their kitchen light working. So, not bad for two weeks' work!

Unit 5

Track 05.03

- Phil** Are they environmentally friendly in Costa Rica? Do they protect their rainforests and animals?
- Masha** Well, yes, they do. The government is doing a lot, but it takes a long time for forests to recover if they've already been cut down. They'll probably get better, but not immediately.
- Phil** Are you going to work in the rainforests?
- Masha** No, no I'm not. I'll be by the sea. I'm going to work on a project that takes care of turtles.
- Phil** Turtles? That's very cool. But how do you take care of turtles? I mean, what do you do?
- Masha** Well, to be honest – I don't really know! Tomorrow, I'm meeting someone who has worked on the project, and she's going to tell me about the kinds of things I'm going to do.
- Phil** So, who else works on the project? Just people from overseas or local people, too?
- Masha** I'm not sure about that either. Maybe I'll work with local people, too.
- Phil** So, you're off to save the world. I think that's great.
- Masha** Don't know about saving the world, but I'll definitely be able to save some turtles! And I'm going to make the most of my time in Costa Rica and learn some Spanish, too.
- Phil** Let me know how things go.
- Masha** Sure. Actually, I'm going to keep a blog, so I'll write regular updates on the blog and you can follow that.
- Phil** Good idea. I'm sure you'll have a great time.
- Masha** Yeah, so am I.

Track 05.07

- Presenter** I visited biologist Andrew Parker to find out more about how the natural world has inspired everyday objects. Andrew, hello! What's this little animal you've got here?
- Andrew** It's a thorny dragon lizard from the Australian desert. As you can see, it's pretty small, about 20 cm long. But it's an amazing animal. You see, what I'm really interested in is what this little creature can teach us about collecting water.
- Presenter** OK.
- Andrew** So, as I said, this lizard lives in the desert in Australia. And, as you know, it's an incredibly dry place. But this lizard manages to live there very successfully. And we've discovered one of the reasons for this. If the lizard puts a foot somewhere wet – even just a tiny, tiny bit wet – its skin pulls the water up and over its whole body. When the water reaches the lizard's mouth, it drinks it.
- Presenter** That's pretty amazing!
- Andrew** Yes. On the lizard's skin, well, in fact, in the skin, we discovered there's, like, a system of very, very small pipes. So the skin collects the water and these pipes pull it toward the lizard's mouth.
- Presenter** That sounds really efficient.
- Andrew** Well, yeah. So, you see, we want to copy that system and use it in a device that collects water. If we're successful, the device will provide water for people who live in very dry environments.
- Presenter** That's fantastic. And what other ideas have we taken from nature?
- Andrew** Engineers are doing a lot with robots these days. For example, there's the rescue robot. It's just like a spider because it moves on eight legs. And it can move very quickly and make itself very small. So these rescue robots will be able to help people who are stuck in small spaces, or who are trapped in buildings, for example, if there's an earthquake.
- Presenter** So they'll be able to help save lives.

Andrew Exactly. And then we're looking at seashells, which are very strong, but at the same time, they're very light – they don't weigh much at all. Scientists have discovered that seashells are made of a lot of tiny blocks that fit together, but this makes them really hard to break. The plan is to copy this material to make safety equipment such as gloves and helmets.

Presenter So this material will protect people like a shell protects a turtle.

Andrew That's right. And again, this could help save lives.

Track 05.13

PART 1

Mara Hi, Christina.

Christina Hi, Mara. What brings you here?

Mara Oh, I was just passing by. And there was something I wanted to ask you about.

Christina OK. Well, I was just getting ready to take the dog for a walk. Do you want to come with us?

Mara Sure! I love dogs.

Christina Great! This is Charlie. Just a second, let me get his leash on ...

Mara Good boy, Charlie. Can I walk him?

Christina Of course!

Mara He looks so beautiful.

Christina That's because of my husband. He spent the morning brushing and cleaning him up.

Mara Well, he did a great job.

Christina So what did you want to talk to me about? Something about work?

Mara Well, about your work, actually.

Christina At my store? Sure, what do you want to know?

Mara I'm curious – why did you decide to open your own business? And why did you choose a clothing store?

Christina Those are good questions. My father was a tailor and my mother was a dressmaker. As a result, I've always loved clothing, ever since I was a little girl. So opening a clothing store seemed like the natural thing for me to do. I think it's really important that you do something you enjoy.

Mara Yeah, it must be nice to have a job like yours – the freedom you have, and you can be creative, and be your own boss.

Christina You sound like you don't enjoy your job.

Mara No, not at the moment. Not for a while, actually.

Christina Really? What's wrong with it?

Mara Oh, a lot of things. For instance, all I seem to do is deal with other people's problems, like issues with their pay or vacation days. And I hate being stuck inside an office all day, staring at the clock.

Christina That does sound depressing!

Mara I wish I had a job where I could be outside, work at my own pace, and be free!

Christina Such as?

Mara I'm not sure. I guess that's the problem. Any ideas?

Track 05.15

PART 2

Christina What other kinds of jobs have you had?

Mara Let me see. Before this job in finance, I was a server. But that was back in college. During high school, I had a lot of jobs. For example, I was a babysitter – and a dishwasher at a restaurant. I worked in a pet store once, too.

Christina That's why you like dogs so much!

Mara Exactly.

Christina Charlie really likes you, too.

Mara He's a great dog.

Christina Since you like dogs so much, how about becoming a professional dog walker? You're really good at this!

Mara You mean owning my own business, like you?

Christina Sure. I could help you figure out how to get things started.

Mara I like that idea. What do you think, Charlie?

Christina Look at that tail wagging! I think he likes that idea, too.

Track 05.20

Liz I'm on my way to Lane Cove, where between 20 and 30 whales have come ashore and can't get back out to sea again. When I get to Lane Cove, I'm going to meet Sam Collins from the Marine Life Service. I'm going to help Sam and a team of local people try to save these whales. OK, I just arrived and talked to Sam. It's pretty cold, so I think I'll change into my wetsuit before going onto the beach to work with other people who've come here to help these whales. So far about 50 people have showed up, and more are coming. If more people come, we'll have a chance of succeeding. So, I'm on the beach in a team of four people, and we're taking care of just one poor whale. Sam says it's a female, and what we've done is we've covered her with wet towels and we're pouring buckets of water over her to keep her cool. We have to be careful where we put the towels. If we cover her blowhole, she won't be able to breathe. Sam says our whale's in good condition and he thinks she'll survive. The tide's coming in soon. I'm going to help dig up sand around the whale to make a hole. When the water comes in, it'll fill up the hole. Better get going. Yes! Success! The tide came in, and our whale floated again. There were about five of us. We pushed and pushed and she fought back a little, then she took off. What a great feeling! She's swimming back out into the ocean. I think she's going to be OK.

Unit 6

Track 06.02

1 Kim from Canada

Kim Well, I've been living in Ecuador now for a long time, and my friends here always say that there's real time and then there's Ecuadorian time, and I think it's true in a way – there is Ecuadorian time, and it moves a bit more slowly. So if a meeting starts at 10 o'clock, you don't have to be there at 10. You can come maybe fifteen or twenty minutes later, and that's fine. Or if people invite you for a party at seven, you definitely shouldn't arrive at seven 'cause you'll be too early and no one will be there. You should arrive maybe half an hour, or even an hour, later. Some friends of mine here are from North America, and they grew up with the idea that you always have to be punctual – so they sometimes find it pretty difficult when people don't show up on time. But I really like it; it's so much more relaxed, and I think people have more time for each other, and that's really important. The funny thing is that because I'm from Canada and people know that Canadians are supposed to be punctual, they expect me to come on time and they always say, "You must not be late, you must come on time" – even though they're often late themselves. We always laugh about that.

2 Will from the U.S.

Will I remember when I was working in Nigeria, there were a few things I had to get used to. Like, for example, if you're talking to someone you don't know well, you shouldn't look right at them or look them in the eye; instead you look down slightly. When I was first there I found that really strange. I thought, "Well, don't people like me or what?" But in fact it's a sign that you respect the other person, so I had to get used to that. Actually, it's the opposite from the U.S. In the U.S., you should definitely look the other person in the eye when you talk – people think that shows you're honest, but in West Africa people think that

seems aggressive, and it's polite to look away slightly. But I have to say, I never really got used to it. I always wanted people to look at me ... that's my culture, I guess!

3 Daniel from Brazil

Daniel I've been in the U.S. for a couple of years now, so everything seems pretty normal to me, but one thing I still find a little strange is attitudes toward children, especially bedtimes. Like, if you're getting together in the evening and there are adults and children, at a certain time, maybe seven or eight, all the children have to go to bed and after that it's just adults. And for me that seems really strange, because in Brazil children can usually stay up as long as they want if there's a party going on or a family get-together, you know, they don't have to go to bed at a fixed time. If they feel tired, they can just lie down for a bit. My American friends tell me it's important, that kids have to sleep because they have school the next day and so on, and I do get that. I can see it's very sensible, and their children probably learn better, but I think children should join in the life of the family – and it's a pity if they can't be part of it, you know? That seems more important to me.

Track 06.09

Presenter Japan has by far the highest number of vending machines per person in the world. In fact, it has 5.6 million – that's one vending machine for every 20 people. These machines sell all sorts of things, from coffee to bananas, flowers, and umbrellas. In a busy society, they play an important role. It's much cheaper for sellers to run a vending machine than a store. And customers can buy things more quickly and easily from a machine than in a store. And we're not talking just about drinks and cold snacks. Japan also has vending machines that serve hot food, like instant noodles. Japanese students love curry and rice, it's one of the most popular meals there, and, sure enough, you can get it from a machine. The meal comes out of the machine hot and ready to eat. It's more convenient

than cooking at home. But is curry and rice from a machine as good as curry and rice from a restaurant? Our reporter Luke Spencer went to central Tokyo to find out.

Luke OK, I've just put my 300 yen into the vending machine and I'm waiting for my curry and rice to appear. Hmm, it's taking a little longer than I imagined. OK, so my meal is here. I just have to open the packet of steamed rice. Hmm ... the curry smells, well, it smells OK, like a lot of instant curries. OK, let me go and find somewhere to sit down and try it. OK, this will do. Well, this is pretty good. It's actually much better than I expected. What can I say? I think it might be the best vending machine meal I've ever eaten – just not the best curry I've ever eaten! For 300 yen – that's less than three dollars – I can't really complain. But I think next time I'll spend a bit more and go to a real restaurant!

Track 06.12

PART 1

Vanessa Hi, am I late?

Michael No, you're right on time.

Vanessa Great! So, are you ready to go shopping?

Michael Oh, yeah! You know how much I love shopping.

Vanessa Come on. It's Julia's birthday! What are you going to get her? Still looking at jewelry?

Michael Well, I've been thinking about that.

Vanessa Oh, no! Don't tell me you've changed your mind!

Michael I just don't know what kind of jewelry to get her.

Vanessa That's why I'm here. Come on.

Michael I was thinking of getting her a book instead.

Vanessa A book? Who buys their wife a book for her birthday?

Michael She loves books! Well, what would you recommend?

Vanessa Books are great, but do you think that's enough? I mean, that sounds kind of boring. It's probably worth thinking this through a little more. Don't you want to get her something special?

Michael Uh, yes! What about a new video game? Do you think that's a good idea?

Vanessa I'm not sure. Is it what Julia would really like?

Michael Uh, she likes to play games with me sometimes, but I just don't know. What do you suggest?

Vanessa Well, if I were you, I'd go with jewelry. A necklace, or a pair of earrings. Look, these are gorgeous.

Michael Really? They're so ... plain. I think that pair with spikes looks cooler.

Vanessa I ... guess they're cool, but it's much better to buy something that's her style.

Michael Argh, this is so hard. Do you think I should just ask her what kind of earrings she likes?

Vanessa No! That's not a good idea. I think she would rather you chose something. You can't go wrong with these earrings.

Michael The plain ones?

Vanessa They're not plain – they're classic. Elegant. She'll love them. Trust me.

Michael OK.

Track 06.13

PART 2

Michael Happy Birthday, Julia!

Julia Thank you!

Michael I got this for you.

Julia Should I open it now?

Michael Sure! I hope you like it.

Julia Earrings! I don't believe it! Wow, these are gorgeous!

Michael Seriously? You like them?

Julia I love them! They're exactly my style! How did you know?

Michael Well ...

Julia I'm so impressed – you really understand my taste.

Michael I do? I mean, yes, I think I do.

Julia Can I tell you something funny? I was sure you were just going to get me a book. And that would have been fine, but these earrings, wow!

Michael A book? You're kidding! Come on, who buys his wife a book for her birthday?

Julia Yeah!

Track 06.16

Jeff I like eating out, but I don't really like expensive restaurants. It's not the money so much as the atmosphere. The waiters are often unfriendly, and you feel you have to talk quietly, or I do anyway. No one seems to be very relaxed. And the food can be good, but you don't often get much on your plate. I'd rather go someplace where the food's good and you don't have to pay so much.

Fabio I love going to cafés, either with friends or on my own. I sometimes take a book or a newspaper to read, or I just order coffee and sit there. Sometimes, I start talking to other people; in fact, I have a good friend that I met in a café. We started talking and then found out we both liked the same kind of music. I like sidewalk cafés best. You don't have to think about anything; you can just sit and watch the world go by. It's a great way to pass time, I think – very relaxing!

Carla I really love dancing, so I often go out with a group of friends to a club in the evening. It's such a good way to spend the evening. We usually order some food, maybe just some appetizers and some grilled meat, and something to drink, and then we start dancing. A favorite place of mine has live music, and we all dance Latin American dances like the salsa or merengue. It's really cheap. You have to pay something to get in, but not much, and it's always full of people, maybe 200 people all dancing. It has an amazing atmosphere.

Unit 7

Track 07.01

- 1** Well, it's very small, so it can't belong to a big family, maybe a small family or an older couple who live on their own. Where is it? It's somewhere dry and sunny, so it could be Mexico, maybe, or Spain.
- 2** There can't be much space in there, so I think it must belong to a single person or a couple. And where is it? It could be on the outskirts of any big city, I think. It might be somewhere like Tokyo, where land's expensive so you can't build big houses. It might not be a house; it might be two separate apartments. No, they can't be apartments, the one on the first floor is too small, so it must be a house.
- 3** This apartment looks really cool and modern, so I think it must be somewhere like Dubai or another modern city. Whoever lives there can't have children, as it's much too neat. It might be someone who works a lot, or someone who doesn't spend much time there.
- 4** It's a huge house, so a very big family must live there, or maybe two or three different families. Or it might be a vacation home because it's in the mountains. It could be in Switzerland or Austria, or perhaps Slovenia. Somewhere in Europe.

Track 07.08

- Tim** What are you reading?
- Kate** Nadia just sent me the link to this list of five reasons why small towns are better than cities.
- Tim** Ha-ha!
- Kate** What are you laughing at? Small towns are better than cities.
- Tim** Yes, if you want to have nothing to do and never meet anyone new!

Kate Well, I loved growing up in a small town. There's a real sense of community. People care about you. It's like you belong to one big family.

Tim Yes, I know you liked that. But I've always been a city boy. I love being in the center of things – there's so much going on here. Movie theaters, restaurants, museums. And there are so many more work opportunities in big cities than in small towns.

Kate But there's also more crime. Life's more dangerous here.

Tim Actually, research has shown that it's safer to live in a city.

Kate Really? I find that hard to believe.

Tim Yes, some researchers did a study in the U.S. that compared the number of accidents in cities and rural areas. And in the country there was a much higher number of accidents than in the city. Car accidents, mainly, because people drive more in the country.

Kate That makes sense if you think about it. And hospitals are nearer, I suppose, so you get help quicker in the city.

Tim Exactly. So it's actually safer to live in the city. And it's better for the environment.

Kate Really? Why do you think so?

Tim Well, you can't rely on public transportation in the country like you can in the city, so you have to drive more. It's been proven that if you live in the city, you actually have a smaller carbon footprint, especially if you live somewhere with good public transportation.

Kate I've definitely noticed that I walk more now that I live in the city. Everything's closer, I guess. And it is nice not to have to get into the car just to go to a supermarket.

Tim You see? There are a lot of advantages to living in a city. You can't argue with that.

Kate No, I can't – there are definitely advantages. But I still miss my little hometown.

PART 1

- Bradley** Are you sure your parents don't mind my staying for spring break? I mean, they've never met me.
- Fausto** Of course not. Look, I know you're a little nervous, but you have nothing to worry about. They're always saying they'd like to meet some of my college buddies. And they enjoy having guests.
- Bradley** I know, but for a whole week? What if they don't like me?
- Fausto** My parents like everyone! You'll be fine, honestly.
- Bradley** Do I look OK? I haven't changed clothes since I left Toronto – and that was 12 hours ago!
- Fausto** Seriously? Come on, you don't have to impress anyone. Oh look, here they are now. Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad! Uh, this is Bradley.
- David** Hello, Bradley. I'm David. It's very nice to meet you.
- Bradley** Nice to meet you, too.
- Fausto** And this is my mom, Alicia.
- Alicia** Hello! It's great to meet you, Bradley. Fausto has told us so much about you.
- Bradley** It's nice to meet you, too, Mrs. Bianchi.
- Alicia** Oh, Alicia, please. Mrs. Bianchi makes me feel so old! Now, I'm sure you're hungry after such a long trip.
- Fausto** I could eat.
- Alicia** Fausto! I was asking your friend.
- Bradley** Well, actually ... I'm pretty hungry, thanks. I didn't have much to eat on the bus. Oh, I nearly forgot. I brought these flowers for you.
- Alicia** Tulips! Thank you.
- Bradley** Fausto said they're your favorite.
- Fausto** Actually, roses are her favorite.
- Bradley** Oh, I'm sorry, I must have misheard.
- Alicia** Don't worry, dear, they're beautiful.

David Come in and have a seat, Bradley.

Bradley Oh, thank you.

Alicia Would you excuse me for a moment? I just need to check on the food.

Bradley Of course. Is there anything we can do to help?

Alicia Oh no, it's all under control!

Bradley So, David. You must be excited about the soccer game this afternoon. Fausto tells me you're a big fan.

David I'm not really into soccer, to be honest.

Bradley Oh!

Fausto Dad's a big fan of golf.

Bradley Oh, I see. Sorry.

Alicia Fausto, do you think you could give me a hand in here?

Fausto Sure.

David So, do you play golf?

Bradley Uh, no. I don't know anything about it, really. Uh, so you're an accountant?

David An architect, actually.

Bradley Oh! I imagine that's very interesting.

Fausto Here's dinner.

Bradley Oh, this looks delicious.

Alicia It's my own recipe.

Bradley Ooh. What's in it?

Alicia Chicken and mushrooms.

Bradley Oh. Uh ...

David Is something wrong?

Fausto Bradley's a vegetarian!

Bradley And I'm allergic to mushrooms, too. I'm so sorry.

Alicia What? Fausto, why didn't you tell us?

Fausto I told you last week. I can't believe you forgot!

Alicia Oh, that's right. It must have slipped my mind. I'm really sorry, Bradley. Let me make you a salad or something.

Bradley A salad would be great. Thanks.

Track 07.16

PART 2

Fausto Are you OK? You look a little upset.

Bradley I'm all right. I just feel bad about today.

Fausto What do you mean?

Bradley Well, I kept getting everything wrong. The flowers. Your dad's job. Golf! And I couldn't even eat the food your mom made. They must think I'm so rude.

Fausto Oh, don't worry about that. None of it was your fault. And my parents really liked you.

Bradley You think so?

Fausto Yeah. They said they were happy I had such nice friends in Toronto.

Bradley Really? Oh, that's a relief. I thought I'd made a pretty bad impression. I was thinking of getting a hotel in town.

Fausto Don't be silly. They'll love having you stay here for spring break.

Bradley Oh, good. Thanks.

Fausto Anyway, the soccer match is about to kick off. Do you want to come downstairs and watch it?

Bradley Is your dad watching, too? I feel a little embarrassed after what I said.

Fausto Dad? No. He went out to play golf!

Track 07.20

Jon So you're going to Florida, Rosanna. Lucky you! It must be nice and warm – not like here.

Rossana Yes, it's about 30°C, I think.

Jon I'm so jealous! Where are you staying? In a hotel?

Rossana No, we have an apartment near Miami Beach, with a swimming pool. It actually belongs to my cousin, but she's going to Europe so she said we could use it while she's away. And her car.

Jon And her car? Wow, she must like you a lot!

Rossana Well, yes, it's really generous of her. It means we're just paying for the flight. We couldn't afford it otherwise, not with the four of us.

Jon So, what are you going to do? Are you going to travel around?

Rossana Well, it depends on the weather. It's hurricane season so it might be really windy. But we'll probably go to the beach for a start – we all like swimming. Lisa, my daughter, she's really into wildlife. She wants to go to the Everglades and see the alligators, so we'll definitely do that. And of course we're going to have to go to Disney World for a day. I don't really want to, but Mark – that's my son – he wants to go there, and he wants to go on all the rides.

Jon Oh, come on, it might be fun. You'll enjoy it.

Rossana Maybe so.

Jon Sounds like you're going to be busy, anyway.

Rossana Yeah. Oh, and my husband says we have to go to Cape Canaveral – he wants to see the Apollo rockets, so I guess we'll spend a couple of days doing that. I don't really want to go there. It's so far away; I'm not sure I can cope with so much driving. But there's no point in arguing with him about it. Once he gets an idea in his head ...

Jon So, you're doing everything your family wants to do. What about you? What do you want to do?

Rossana Me? Oh, I'd just like to relax and do nothing – sit by the pool and read a few books.

Jon Well, it sounds like you're going to be too busy. You won't have time for that.

Rossana No ... probably not.

Unit 8

Track 08.01

Interviewer Welcome to Pod-on-Pod – the podcast about podcasts. Today we’re talking to a fan from New York. Hey, Andrea.

Andrea Hey!

Interviewer So, when you got in touch, you said you listened to a lot of podcasts. So how did you start?

Andrea Well, I guess you could say that the worst part of my day used to be my commute between home and work – 45 minutes each way on the subway. And trying to make the commute more pleasant is how I got into podcasts. I mean, they’d been around for a while and I think I’d listened to a few podcasts about cooking at home on my computer. And I knew that you could download them on to your cell phone, but I had never really bothered.

Interviewer So, why did you suddenly start downloading?

Andrea One day a couple of years ago, I was bored with all my music – nothing I wanted to listen to ...

Interviewer Know the feeling.

Andrea So anyway, I checked out the available podcasts on my way to the subway station and downloaded a half-hour comedy episode. It was really funny and it was really difficult not to laugh out loud on the subway – people were giving me such strange looks.

Interviewer Like, who’s the crazy woman?

Andrea Yeah. But the trip to work took no time at all.

Interviewer ‘Cause you were entertained.

Andrea Yeah, that’s the thing ... When I got home that night, I took a really good look at the kinds of things that are available and discovered there’s ... well ... just about anything you could want. So, each day, as I’m walking to the subway station, I

listen to a news podcast – it's easier to concentrate on the day's news once I'm out of the house.

Interviewer Is that all you listen to in the morning?

Andrea Well, no. After the news it kind of depends on my mood. If I'm having one of those days when the idea of going to work isn't a good one, then I listen to comedy to cheer me up. But other days I might listen to a current events podcast. One of my hobbies is baking bread – it's something I love to do on weekends. There are a whole lot of podcasts on baking bread with different ideas and recipes – they're really interesting.

Interviewer Do you listen to any podcast series?

Andrea Oh, yeah, I love them – like some of those crime stories. And every day you're waiting for the next episode to be uploaded. You can get really addicted to a podcast series!

Interviewer Anything else you listen to?

Andrea Well, one other thing – podcasts can be useful for my job. I've worked for a charity organization for the past four years. We raise funds for the developing world. And there are also podcasts about that – different projects, different ways of raising money, things like that. I've picked up some really helpful ideas by listening to podcasts.

Interviewer Thanks for sharing, Andrea – and keep listening!

Track 08.07

Presenter If we're not sure where to eat, what laptop to buy, or where to stay on vacation, most of us read customer reviews. Recent research has shown that 90% of customers read online reviews and that for nearly 70% a positive review will make them more likely to buy a product. But can we trust online reviews? And how do we know if they are real or fake? We asked John Higgins, Professor of Digital Marketing at the University of Wisconsin. John, are most reviews genuine?

John Well, maybe 80% of the time, yes, they are, but I wouldn't say 100%. I mean if you think about it – you're running a café or a small hotel. If you can get a lot of positive reviews, you're going to get more customers, and not only that, you're going to get more hits when people look on review sites. So, you can ask customers to give you a good review ...

Presenter Nothing wrong with that, is there?

John No, not at all ... But that may not be very effective, because customers usually promise to write a good review and then they forget all about it. And of course, you can't really persuade a customer to write a review for you – it's up to them. So, what often happens is that small companies get their employees to write reviews, or friends and members of their family. Or they may even pay people to write fake reviews – this is known as "opinion spam" and, of course, that is against the law. But it certainly happens. In one study in Australia, they found websites that were offering to write 10 positive reviews for \$85, and they also found ads put out by restaurants that were trying to improve their ratings on review sites.

Presenter What, offering money for positive reviews?

John Yes, some restaurants have said quite openly that they want to get good ratings, and they'll pay money for them.

Presenter Incredible. But companies must be fighting that.

John Oh yes, they are. Companies like Amazon are very active in catching fake reviewers.

Presenter But can they do anything?

John Well, they can warn them not to continue, and they can threaten to take them to court. In some cases, Amazon has actually taken fake reviewers to court, and they've had to pay a fine. And websites like TripAdvisor and Yelp have tracking systems that can filter out false reviewers.

Presenter How does that work?

John Well, their system analyzes the information that's coming in. Then if anything's suspicious, they have a team of experts who look at it more closely. It's a bit like the way a bank checks security – and TripAdvisor claims that it works really well.

Presenter So, we can still trust online reviews?

John I would say so, yes, but maybe not too much! I would certainly recommend reading both the good and the bad reviews, not just the good ones. And I'd also advise people to read the review carefully to see what they really say. Do they just say, "The staff are very friendly," or do they say something more personal, like, "We arrived late in the evening, but they gave us something to eat"?

Presenter So a personal, detailed comment is more likely to be genuine?

John Yes, exactly.

Track 08.09

PART 1

Tom Today's the big interview, right?

Laura That's right! I'm just going over my résumé and portfolio one last time.

Tom Do you get nervous for these kinds of things?

Laura Not usually, but I really want this position. Writing for an online news organization like WorldwideNews is my dream job.

Tom I hope it goes well.

Laura I'm heading out – wish me luck!

Tom Good luck!

Track 08.10

PART 2

Susanne And finally, what kinds of stories do you enjoy writing the most? You have a couple of features about children with learning disabilities in your portfolio.

Laura I'm really proud of those pieces, thanks. I find writing features about people can be really rewarding, especially if the story helps bring them more recognition. But I think, on the whole, I prefer writing about current events – politics and that sort of thing. It's so satisfying when you manage to get a story that no one has written about yet – a scoop!

Susanne Of course. Well, that's all the questions I have. Do you have any questions for me?

Laura Actually, yes. I do. The job description mentions opportunities for career development. Could you tell me a little more about that?

Susanne Of course. As a rule, for example, our newest political writers tend to write about either city politics or state politics first, moving up to national politics eventually. It generally takes a couple of years of writing at the local level before we'll put someone on a national story.

Laura OK. And there's some travel involved in the job, isn't there?

Susanne Yes, typically our writers take turns covering stories around the country – we sent writers to Washington and L.A. last week. In Washington, the writer even had a private question and answer session with the President.

Laura That sounds fantastic.

Susanne Well, if you have no more questions, it was very nice to meet you, Ms. Menendez.

Laura Thank you so much for taking the time to interview me. I'm very interested, and I hope you'll consider me.

Susanne Thank you. We'll be in touch soon.

Track 08.12

PART 3

Tom So, how did it go?

Laura Pretty well I think, on the whole. But it was much more difficult than I thought it was going to be. I was there for around two hours.

Tom Wow! That long?

Laura Yeah. There was one question I didn't know how to answer, but otherwise, yeah, I think it went pretty well.

Tom What was the question?

Laura Oh, it was something about my opinion of some famous journalists – what I thought of their style. I'm not very good at stuff like that.

Tom Did you find out much about the job?

Laura Yeah, she told me quite a lot about it. It sounds great. There's some travel, and the atmosphere in the office seems really nice.

Tom When will you find out if you get the job?

Laura Well, they don't usually tell you during the interview, but ... hang on, I just got an email.

Tom Is it from WorldwideNews? What does it say?

Laura Just a second. Uh ... "Dear Ms. Menendez, we would like to inform you that ..."
Yes! I got it! I got it! I'm the newest WorldwideNews employee!

Tom Wow, that's fantastic. I knew they would hire you!

Laura Oh, I'm so excited, I can't wait to start.

Track 08.17

People were commenting online recently about an 11-year-old boy from Manchester in England, who flew to Rome on his own. He was out shopping with his mother at a shopping center near Manchester Airport, and while she was busy looking at something, he slipped away and walked into the airport.

Of course he had no money or anything, he was only 11 years old, but he followed a family who was going on vacation and no one noticed him – everyone thought he was part of that family. Incredibly, he managed to get through security. It seems that no one noticed he didn't have a boarding pass, and they even let him get on the plane.

Normally, of course, they check your boarding pass when you get on, but I guess they just thought he was with the family. Anyway, they let him on and he found an empty seat

somewhere. They normally count the passengers to make sure they have the right number, but it seems either they didn't do it this time or they didn't do it correctly, so the plane took off and he flew to Rome. Then luckily, when he got to Rome, they found out he was on his own without a passport and they put him on the next flight back to Manchester. Naturally, his mother was extremely worried about him, and she complained about it.

Both the airline and the airport admitted it was their fault immediately, and they promised to look at their security. And they even offered her a free flight. It's incredible that he managed to get through security without anyone noticing. But apparently, it happens often, and it's almost always boys of about that age, between 11 and 14, who want to go on a plane.

Unit 9

Track 09.01

- Ava** I watched this true crime show last night – it was really disappointing.
- Lucas** What was it called?
- Ava** It was so bad I've forgotten the name of it. Thing is – the trailer for it made it look really good.
- Lucas** Yeah, that's so often the case.
- Ava** Some of those trailers really hook you in. They make TV shows and movies look a lot more interesting than they are.
- Lucas** Well, they spend a lot of time and money making trailers.
- Ava** Really? I thought they just took a few scenes from movies and kind of edited them together.
- Lucas** No, it's much more technical than that. I read an article about it.
- Ava** So what do they do?
- Lucas** Well, some researchers did an experiment. They used software to follow the facial expressions of a group of people who watched trailers, then these people were asked which of the movies they'd like to see. So, from the facial expressions, they could figure out whether the people were amused or fascinated or bored, and then they used this information to predict whether people would like to see the movie or not.
- Ava** But that's just research, isn't it?
- Lucas** Yeah, but it also meant movie companies could use the information to come up with a model for making really motivating trailers.
- Ava** So how does that work?
- Lucas** Well, I can only tell you what I read. But the most important things are the way the trailer starts a bit slowly and then builds to some kind of climax. And if you're going to have a longer scene in the trailer, that should be at the end of it.
- Ava** So they've got it all worked out?

Lucas Looks like it.

Ava It's kind of depressing – more algorithms to make us do things.

Lucas Doesn't have to be. I mean, you can always read reviews. And I'm always interested in finding out about the latest marketing trick. That way you aren't fooled by it!

Track 09.05

Annie Well, my music experience sort of started when I was seven. It was my grandmother who started it. She gave me a CD of samba music. I loved the rhythms. I played it constantly. My mother says I was always dancing to it. Samba music is Brazilian music with African rhythms and it's very loud, very energetic. Eventually, I decided I wanted to play the music, not just listen to it, so I saved up and bought a drum. It was an atabaque ... it's a drum you play with your hands. I taught myself to play it. And this year, I played in my first street carnival. We were playing in the street, and people around us were dancing, and it was like my whole body was part of the rhythm. It was incredible, the best thing I've ever done! So now I've decided that I want to be a music teacher!

Jeff Yeah, well, my music experience was going to the opera. I was traveling through Italy with a group from my university. We got to Verona, and there was an outdoor opera festival. I wasn't really interested in opera, but my friends persuaded me to go. To be honest, it was kind of boring at first. But then it started to get dark. It was a clear night, and you could see the stars. I was sitting next to one of the people in my group, Laura, and it was, you know, romantic, sitting under the stars, listening to this amazing music. And, well, we've been together ever since! We even went back to Verona for our honeymoon, although we didn't go to the opera!

Erica Some of my friends ask why I like hip-hop, because they're into really different kinds of music – you know, more pop, R & B, kind of more romantic. But I really

like hip-hop. I think it started when I was about 16. I remember I was in a car with my brother and his friend Rick. They were older than me, about 18 – and we were listening to Jay-Z, I think it was, and Rick was singing along. And I started noticing the words, how they were really different from the songs I normally listened to. They were all about the place where he grew up and the tough times he had, things like that... really different things from the songs I knew, which were all about falling in love and stuff. And I got so interested in it and Rick, that was my brother's friend, he lent me some of his favorite albums, and I've listened to hip-hop ever since. And Rick, well we're actually married now. So I guess you could say, we met through hip-hop.

Track 09.09

PART 1

Renata So, what are you doing this weekend, Amanda? Anything fun?

Amanda Actually, yeah. Milo and I were thinking about going to hear a jazz band tomorrow night. You and Caleb should come, too!

Renata Oh, that's a great idea. Let me just text him and see if he'd like that.

Amanda Tell him the band is supposed to be excellent.

Renata Where are they playing?

Amanda At the new jazz club in town. They have live music every Friday, and it's supposed to be really nice. I think you'd love it.

Renata It sounds really interesting. Wait a sec, Caleb's texting me back ... Ah, sorry. He says he doesn't like jazz that much. Why don't we go to the classical music festival at the university? It's supposed to be really good.

Amanda I'm not a big fan of classical music. I'm sure Milo would like it, but not me. Hang on. Milo's texting me now ... just a sec. OK, he says, "We could go hear that local band, The Snowmen. They're playing at the Empire tomorrow night. They have great reviews."

Renata Yeah, that sounds cool, but I'm not sure Caleb would be interested. What kind of music do they play?

Amanda Hang on.

Renata You'd think it would be easier to find something we all like to do.

Amanda I know, right? Milo says they play rock, but it's kind of retro 1980s, so Caleb should like it, right?

Renata Just a second. Let me check with him. I doubt he would be interested, though. He hasn't gone to a rock concert in about 10 years.

Amanda Wow!

Renata Whoops, I'm wrong. He says, "Why not? Something different. Let's do it!"

Amanda Great! I'll let Milo know.

Renata So what time does it start?

Amanda Hang on a minute.

Renata Caleb says we should all wear crazy '80s outfits!

Amanda No way! Tell him to wear something cool. Okay, Milo says it starts at eight, so should we meet outside at 7:30?

Renata Great. See you there.

Track 09.13

PART 2

Amanda Hi, Renata – it's Amanda. What's Caleb wearing tonight?

Renata You don't want to know.

Amanda That bad, huh? Well, Milo wants to know so he won't look out of place.

Renata What's Milo wearing?

Amanda Some leather thing from the 1980s. He looks really silly. How about Caleb?

Renata He's wearing his jacket from high school. I think it's pretty ugly, but he insists that it's cool.

Amanda OK. Well, Milo won't be the only one who looks out of place.

Renata We can sit on the other side of the theater.

Track 09.14

Anna

I got two free tickets to the Kendrick Lamar concert. I mean, I couldn't believe it! Kendrick Lamar, one of the biggest hip-hop stars, for free! So, I invited my friend Camila and she said, "No, thanks." And I said, "What? Are you crazy? It won't cost you anything." But then she tells me she doesn't like live music. She'd prefer to stay at home and listen to music on her computer. I find that very strange because, for me, music is something full of ... full of the singer's feelings, and if you can watch a singer perform, you can see what they're feeling and experience the music much more. But Camila thinks recorded music is better because you can hear everything more clearly. The quality's better, and you don't have crowds around you, and it's just easier to enjoy it. For me, it's more important to see the song come to life when the singer or band connects with the audience. And the other thing I love about concerts is the music is really loud. Anyway, Camila won't be coming with me, but a lot of other people will want to.

Camila

My friend Anna invited me to go to the Kendrick Lamar concert next month. She managed to get ahold of two free tickets – she's very lucky. She asked me to go with her, but I said no. She thinks I must be crazy, saying no to free tickets! I mean, I really like Kendrick Lamar and I have all his albums, but I just don't like going to live concerts. I really prefer listening to music at home or through headphones. In a concert, singers and musicians always make mistakes. The rhythm is a little off, or they play notes that are wrong, or something. And you see, mistakes can be fixed in a recording. Well, that's part of it. The other thing is, but I didn't tell Anna this, I hate the crowds – and there are usually so many people that you can only see the singer on the big screen. So, what's the point? I know a lot of friends who will want the ticket. It was very kind of Anna to ask me, but no.

Unit 10

Track 10.02

- Libby** How was your vacation, Gina?
- Gina** Oh, it was great. Thailand was beautiful. The food was amazing. But, you know, the best part was when we went scuba diving.
- Libby** Scuba diving?
- Gina** Yeah, it was amazing! We went to this gorgeous island called Koh Tao. Everyone there told us how amazing the diving was, so we decided to give it a shot.
- Libby** Wow! So did you have to do some training before you went in the ocean?
- Gina** Yes, we took a three-day course called PADI. We did a few sessions in a classroom and in a pool, but by the second day we were already diving in the open water.
- Libby** Was it scary? I think if I went, I'd be terrified!
- Gina** I was a little worried about it at first. You imagine sharks, and running out of oxygen, and stuff like that! But I relaxed really quickly. There were so many amazing fish to see – the colors were fantastic. On the third day we went to a place called Shark Island. Luckily, the name comes from the shape of the island – it looks like a fin – not the local wildlife! The coral there was just so beautiful – all these gorgeous colors.
- Libby** It sounds perfect to me!
- Gina** It really was. If you get the chance, you should definitely go scuba diving. If you went, you would absolutely love it.
- Libby** OK, well, if I ever go somewhere like Thailand, I might try it.
- Gina** So, how are you? What's been happening here?
- Libby** Not much, really. Oh, but I've just signed up for my first-ever run!
- Gina** Wow, cool! Is it a marathon?
- Libby** No, not quite! It's only five kilometers. I wouldn't do a full marathon – I'm not in good enough shape. This one's not a timed race or anything. It's just for fun,

really. It's called the Color Run, because every kilometer they cover you in colored powder paint. So, by the end, you're all covered in different colors.

Gina Ha-ha! That will be fun!

Libby Yes, I think so. And it'll be a lot more relaxed than a regular race – not quite so competitive, you know. It's popular with a lot of different people, not just athletes. And at the end of the race, there's a big party – with a lot more powder paint.

Gina Cool!

Libby You should do it, too! It would be more fun if there were a big group of us going. Would you like to try it?

Gina Uh, yes, I would, but I don't know. If I were in better shape, I would definitely do it.

Libby Oh, come on! It's not for a couple of months. You've got loads of time to prepare.

Gina Uh, OK, why not? Sure, I'll give it a try!

Track 10.06

1

A How did the match go?

B Oh, I lost 5–1.

A Oh, no.

B Well, I wasn't playing my best. Of course, I would have won easily if I hadn't hurt my arm.

A Oh, of course.

2

C It's no use. I can't start the engine.

D Oh, great. This car's nothing but trouble.

C I know. I wouldn't have bought it if I'd known it was in such bad condition.

D Well, what did you expect for such a cheap price?

3

E Careful! Are you OK?

F Yes, I'm fine. Thank you. If you hadn't pushed me out of the way, that car would have hit me!

E Yes, I know. Some people just don't look.

F Yes. Thank you so much anyway.

E That's all right. You be careful now.

4

G We found out that he was lying all the time. He had a daughter living in Hong Kong, and he was sending her all the money.

H Oh, that explains why his bank account was empty.

G Yes, exactly. I wouldn't have discovered the truth if I hadn't read her letters. I found them in a box in his attic.

H Great work.

Track 10.09

PART 1

Harry Thanks, Noah. So, have you ... ?

Noah Not yet.

Harry Right.

Noah I'm going to see my manager today.

Harry Oh! How do you feel?

Noah A little nervous! How did you feel when you did it?

Track 10.10

PART 2

Harry How did I feel when I asked for a promotion? Uh, fine, I think. You have nothing to worry about. I'm sure it'll be OK.

Noah I wish I had your confidence.

Harry So, do you have an appointment set up with your manager?

Noah No. Do you think I need an appointment?

Harry Absolutely! Look, why don't you meet over lunch, away from the office.

Noah Is that a good idea? To ask for a promotion over lunch?

Harry It would be a more relaxed setting than in the office.

Noah Hmm. I'm still worried that something will go wrong. What if she doesn't think I'm right for the job? Then I'm stuck having lunch with her after she's turned me down.

Harry She's definitely not going to say no. You are perfect for the job.

Noah Hmm, but what if?

Harry All right, enough!

Track 10.13

PART 3

Mrs. Grace Do you know what you want? The spaghetti is amazing here.

Noah I don't know. Maybe just a pizza.

Mrs. Grace So Noah, ever since you started working at Wilson's ...

Noah It's been a long time now, hasn't it?

Mrs. Grace Yes, we actually did our final interview for your position here.

Noah Really? I don't remember that. I thought that was somewhere else. I'm so glad I got the job, though. I really love working here. At Wilson's, I mean, not here, at this restaurant. That reminds me, though – I need to book this place for the office party next month. Let me just make a note of that before I forget.

Mrs. Grace So, anyway, as I was saying, you've really grown in this job ...

Noah Thank you! I think so, too. In fact, I think I'm ready for ...

Server Are you ready to order?

Noah Oh, we haven't even looked at the menus yet! Could you give us a couple more minutes? And do you recommend the spaghetti?

Server Of course! It's our specialty. And yes, I'll come back shortly.

Mrs. Grace Noah, there's something I want to ask you.

Noah Oh yes, me too. But before I ask you, could we talk about the Fitch account? I have some ideas I think you'll really like that could help grow the account by 20% next year. I was thinking ...

Mrs. Grace Listen, Noah. I'm trying to offer you a promotion!

Noah What? Wait. Really? That's so funny – I was just going to ask for one.

Mrs. Grace You've done such good work, and I think you're ready for a bigger challenge. Are you interested?

Noah Hmm, could I think about it for a bit?

Mrs. Grace Oh, sure, of course, take a day or two and let me ...

Noah Okay. I'm done thinking. I will definitely take the job.

Mrs. Grace Wonderful!

Noah And I will definitely take some of that spaghetti!

Track 10.15

Greg I finished studying to be a nurse at the University of Wisconsin, and I was expecting to get a job in a small hospital somewhere. But then a friend told me about NowVolunteer and I decided to apply. I'd always wanted to go to an African country and use my nursing skills to help people, and here was a chance to do that, so I decided to take the opportunity while I could. I had to raise \$500 before I went, but that was really easy – I got two hospitals to sponsor me, and then I borrowed some money from the bank. So, I went to Madagascar and joined a team of people working with a local supervisor. We set up a program where we went to different villages and taught basic ways to improve hygiene and avoid catching diseases. For example, we gave instructions about how to avoid catching malaria and distributed mosquito nets. I think we did some good. I hope so anyway, but I also learned a huge amount from it. I was suddenly in a completely different culture, teaching people who had such a different lifestyle from my own, so I think it made a big difference in the way I

see the world. And I also made some very good friends over there, both local people and other volunteers. We had such a good time together, and we've kept in touch since then. After I came back, I got a job at the university hospital, which is one of the best hospitals in Wisconsin. I'm sure I wouldn't have managed to do that if I hadn't worked in Madagascar and gotten this practical experience. So, I'd recommend NowVolunteer to anyone. I think their programs are great.