

Connectivity 4

Assessments Test 2 Audio Script

Unit 1 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

- Angela:** Well, that was rude! Did you see that customer storm out of the store, Tina? She was yelling at the clerk because they stopped carrying her favorite brand of yogurt. Isn't that ridiculous?
- Tina:** That was a bit over the top, Angela. But I can understand why the woman was frustrated. A lot of things are out of stock. I can't find half the things on my grocery list.
- Angela:** Okay, but she didn't have to be so mean. The clerks in this store are always so friendly! Blowing up like that was so selfish and unnecessary.
- Tina:** She was definitely out of line. But maybe she was having a bad day.
- Angela:** Oh, come on! That clerk is what—16? He makes minimum wage! Why didn't she at least scream at the manager?
- Marco:** Who cares? She's gone and she said she's never coming back. Good riddance!
- Tina:** Well, Marco, I agree that the woman was rude, but we don't know what's going on in her life. Maybe she lost her job today or her kid is in the hospital or something.
- Angela:** You are way too tolerant. No one is ever at fault! Just because someone is having a bad day, doesn't mean they get a pass to make everyone else miserable. If I worked in the store, I'd march her back inside and make her apologize.
- Marco:** I still think you're making a big deal over nothing. Rude customers are part of the job. Welcome to real life!
- Tina:** Well, I do see Angela's point. I do feel bad for the staff. They're being paid to stock shelves and ring up purchases, not to get yelled at by angry customers.
- Marco:** Anyway, she's gone now and she's never coming back. So, she's some other store's problem now!
- Angela:** Did you notice what she was wearing? Those colors were so garish. Did she get dressed in the dark this morning?
- Marco:** Really, Angela? Now you're criticizing her fashion sense?! Who cares what she's wearing? She actually isn't the worst customer I've seen here. Last week a guy grabbed a case of razor blade cartridges and walked right out the door without paying!
- Angela:** Don't get me started on shoplifters. Grocery stores operate on a 1-percent profit margin. That means for every dollar that gets stolen, the store must sell a hundred dollars just to make that up. And who do you think ends up paying for that? Us!

- Tina:** The cost of groceries has really gone up in the past year. What if the shoplifter was hungry and couldn't afford food?
- Marco:** Or maybe he just really needed a shave!
- Angela:** I don't know, Tina. You always make excuses for people. I think shoplifting is wrong no matter who does it.
- Tina:** I don't know. There's truth in what you're saying, but I'm not sure it's as simple as that. Life isn't always so black and white, you know?

Unit 2 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

- Stephanie:** Welcome back. This is Business Insider, and I'm Stephanie Sloan. My next guest is Alan Green, an expert on creativity in the workplace. How are you, Alan?
- Alan:** I'm great. Thanks for having me.
- Stephanie:** Alan, we have lots of business leaders on this show and one thing I hear a lot about is the value companies place on creative thinking.
- Alan:** That's true. Polls show that about 60% of CEOs cite creativity as the most essential employee quality—that's higher than integrity, which surprisingly only polls at 52%. They want people who can think outside the box and come up with fresh ideas. 84% of executives considered their future success to be extremely dependent on innovation. They know that one great idea can launch a whole new industry, as we've seen with many highly successful start-ups in recent years.
- Stephanie:** Absolutely. But you've also written that, despite how much they may value creativity, many companies are stuck in a workplace culture that actually stifles original thinking.
- Alan:** Yes. Even though executives say they want innovation, many tend to fall back on a mentality of "this is how we've always done things." But that's a dangerous way to think. Technology is changing so rapidly that if company leaders aren't finding new ways to help their products reach customers, they're doomed to failure.
- Stephanie:** Innovate or die. I hear that a lot.
- Alan:** Exactly. And this attitude doesn't just apply to how products are sold. Many workplaces are governed by rigid workflows and procedures. If you're not giving employees space to invent new ways of working that could be better and more efficient, then you're stifling your employees' creativity.
- Stephanie:** What are some other ways that workplace culture discourages creativity?
- Alan:** Well, I think it's important to point out that most people, even executives, are famously resistant to change. They don't like to leave their comfort zone. Executives are quick to shoot down new ideas or even to listen to what their employees are saying. Many managers are also risk averse and, even though they say they want fresh ideas, they're reluctant to approve anything if they think there's even a small chance of failure. If an employee has their ideas rejected enough times, they'll stop volunteering new ones.

Stephanie: That's a great point. You can't say you want your employees to be creative without listening to their ideas. Are there other issues businesses should be aware of?

Alan: Micromanaging can also be a huge problem, with managers tightly controlling every tiny detail of a project. That kind of control doesn't give employees any room to come up with their own creative ideas. It also kills morale and lowers self-confidence, because employees feel that their managers don't trust them to get the job done correctly.

Stephanie: Interesting! My guest is Alan Green, and we'll be talking more about creativity in the workplace after the break.

Unit 3 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

Austin: Hey Jake, what are you up to?

Jake: Hi, Austin. I'm just boxing up some things to take to the Art Cycle Center.

Sarah: What's that?

Jake: Hi, Sarah. Art Cycle is a cool nonprofit in town that runs artist studios and classes for kids and adults. You can donate stuff you aren't using anymore, and the artists reuse the materials in their projects. I'm donating some craft supplies I don't need. And my mom gave me some fabric she's not using.

Austin: So, your old stuff gets upcycled into new art—what a great idea! Hey—I have some old CDs and computer parts. Do you think they could use those?

Sarah: Hold on. I'm on their website. Yup—they can. It says that they accept old computers, electronic devices, and CDs. They take all kinds of stuff.

Jake: I guess anything can be repurposed and made into art!

Sarah: They take toys and jewelry, too. I've got a bunch of old toys that are just taking up space in my attic.

Jake: Art Cycle has a store where they sell the supplies that have been donated. They also have studio space they use for classes. They even have open studio hours a few times a week when you can just drop in and make anything you like.

Sarah: Their website says they've received almost 20,000 pounds of donated materials. Most of this stuff isn't biodegradable and repurposing it into art keeps it from just being dumped in a landfill.

Austin: That's incredible! Hey, their classes are a super good deal. I guess they can keep the costs down because they don't have to buy new materials.

Jake: Yeah. And I like the classes there. I'm not a great artist, but my sister and I took a class and made a sculpture with blocks, bottle caps, and buttons that turned out really nice.

Sarah: It says on the website that some volunteers sold their crafts at an art fair last month and raised a few hundred dollars for charity. It's neat that so much good can come out of donated junk.

- Austin:** You know, I bet there's all kinds of stuff I could donate that other people would find useful.
- Sarah:** Me, too. Hey, let's make a day of it. We can all box up our stuff and head over to the Art Cycle Center together!
- Jake:** Sounds great! Let's do it.

Unit 4 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

I'm reporting live from the Express Yourself Fashion Show downtown! It's a bright, sunny day, and we're about to see some amazing clothes. Directly behind me is the stage where the models will soon be showcasing some incredible new looks. But today, this fashion show is going to be a little different. Instead of professional models, kids from the neighborhood are walking the runway! Not only that, but they're showing off outfits they helped design and sew over the past six months. This show is part of a new program in the city schools that encourages students to get creative and make things. The program is intended to bolster the students' self-esteem and creative expression, especially related to their appearance. It sounds like the show is about to get underway. As you can hear, the crowd can't wait to check out the fabulous creations of these young fashion stars!

OK, and here they come! Our first model is Mikaela. She's modeling a classic short-sleeve black dress. It's simple but elegant. Very chic. She looks great in it, and she's stepping down the runway like she feels great, too. Next up is Chloe. She's wearing a casual plaid dress. The colors are loud and proud! The print is a blue, purple, and green plaid. I love it, and the crowd does, too. Next is Shayla, who is wearing a jacket that was made using pages from old newspapers and comic books. The shape is trendy, like a motorcycle jacket made of paper. It's a beautiful piece. It's amazing that they could make something that looks so professional out of paper! Our next model is Horatio. He's wearing a subdued gray shirt and pants. It's a formal look, and he's walking like he's a movie star on the red carpet. I have to say, I'm very impressed by the skills that went into making these clothes. Everything looks amazing. Jake is our next model. He's wearing a beautiful handknit turtleneck sweater. It's beige and appropriate for the cool weather we're having. And finally, we have Michelle. She's wearing a formal evening gown. The gown is bright pink, and the students have sewn silk flowers around the skirt. It's gorgeous. What a fantastic piece to highlight for the finale!

Listen to that crowd! They're really loving this. What a marvelous show! Anyone would look great in these clothes. It's not possible to be overdressed here! Ticket sales and donations have already brought in close to five thousand dollars to help bring this program to other schools in the city. This was the first show of its kind, but I think it's safe to say it won't be the last! I can't wait for the next one.

Unit 5 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

- Chair:** The Community Board meeting will come to order. Next, we'll hear public comments. Our first commenter is Mrs. Oliva Sanchez.

- Olivia:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to propose that the community board and the city invest more money in public parks and other recreational facilities. The only real amenity this neighborhood has is the playground on Fifth Street, which is so neglected it's not safe for children. Fixing that playground is a good first step. There are also empty lots in the neighborhood that the city could buy to convert into parks or green space. We could also follow the lead of other cities and convert old buildings like the Armory on Baker Street into sports facilities that offer affordable fitness classes to children and adults. Facilities like this could attract new residents in the neighborhood and be a great benefit to the people already living here. Regular exercise is important for health, and we can help make the community healthier! Thank you.
- Chair:** Great, thank you for your suggestions. The Board will consider it. Next up is Mr. Alan McDowd. Please step up to the microphone.
- Alan:** Thank you, members of the Community Board. I own a shop on Main Street where we've recently experienced a wave of thefts and vandalism. Groups of shoplifters are stealing merchandise. They just run into a store, grab items in our front displays, and run out. And my shop window has been spray painted with graffiti twice this month. The police presence is almost nonexistent, and when we call, they are slow to respond. The Board should consider having a discussion with the local police precinct about whether they have adequate resources, and how those resources are being distributed. I know many of the other business owners downtown would like to see more of a police presence during the day to help deter some of these crimes. Thank you.
- Chair:** Thank you for this information, Mr. McDowd. We've received reports about the uptick in crime downtown, and we'll certainly be in discussion with the police department. Next up, Mrs. Janice Moyer.
- Janice:** Yes, hello. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking of police presence, we need more of it on my block as well. I know the city has laws about noise after ten o'clock at night, but no one is enforcing them. I live on Baker Street, and there's a bar there that's been a nuisance. Every night at midnight, when it closes, patrons spill out onto the street. They're extremely loud and often loiter on the sidewalk, drinking and yelling. Last week a huge fight broke out. When I call the police, they disperse the crowds, but then the next night it's the same thing all over again. We need better solutions to this problem. Thank you.
- Chair:** Yes, thank you for raising this concern, Mrs. Moyer. The Community Board will take all these issues into consideration and provide an update at our next meeting. Thank you all for attending.

Unit 6 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

Can you imagine coming face-to-face with a bear standing as tall as a one-story house? A bear that huge doesn't exist anymore, but it did once. Giant mammals roamed the

earth alongside humans thousands of years ago. This included 90-kilogram beavers, a 6-meter-long sloth, a tiger with 20-centimeter-long teeth, and armadillos as big as a car with armored shells and spiked tails. Fossil evidence shows that, 11,000 years ago, the average mass of a non-human mammal was about 90 kilograms. Today, it's about 7 kilograms. It's not that mammals have shrunk, exactly. Starting about 100,000 years ago, and accelerating at about 12,000 years ago, those big animals simply died off.

Why did this happen? It's difficult to prove the cause of animal extinctions definitively, and multiple factors, including climate change, may have contributed. However, scientists have strong evidence that the most likely explanation is us. That is, early humans hunted these giant species to extinction. Today, we have many ways to get food, but none of those methods existed thousands of years ago. Humans obtained their food from hunting animals or gathering plants. They didn't live in one place, but rather moved around as nomads in search of food. Large animals provided the biggest meals in exchange for the least amount of effort, which made them attractive targets for hunters. As the largest mammals died off, humans moved on to hunt the next biggest animals until they also disappeared. According to researchers who have examined the fossil record, these size-based extinctions coincided with the movement of humans. As humans migrated to new places, starting in Africa and then up through Europe, Asia, and over time to the Western Hemisphere, big animals in those regions began to die out shortly thereafter. Clearly, humans had a massive negative impact on large mammal populations.

Around the time that the big mammals disappeared, humans began to develop agriculture. Some scientists have theorized that the extinctions of big animals forced humans to find more efficient and reliable ways to get food. At this time, humans stopped roaming and settled down to cultivate crops and to domesticate animals as pets, food, and sources of labor. Instead of roaming the countryside following game and collecting edible plants, humans began to grow their own food in nearby fields and raise livestock like goats, sheep, pigs, cattle, and chickens. Eventually, this change in lifestyle led to the agricultural revolution and the development of towns and cities.

Unit 7 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

Mike: Welcome to the show. I'm Mike Romero. I'm with veteran advertising executives Barbara Sullivan and Chris Stevens to talk about the effectiveness of ads. What works? What doesn't? Let's start with Barbara.

Barbara: Thanks, Mike. Well, if we look at the year's most memorable ad campaigns, they often relied on one technique: humor. And there's a reason for that—people are far more interested in being entertained than in hearing a sales pitch! Studies show that humorous advertising is much more effective in capturing the viewer's attention and in overcoming their resistance to listening to a sales message.

Mike: I believe that.

Barbara: The thing is, if an ad makes you laugh, you're more likely to remember it. And because it's appealing to your emotions, there's a greater likelihood that you'll be persuaded to buy the product.

- Mike:** Is there an ad that you find particularly compelling?
- Barbara:** My favorite is a laundry detergent commercial. It's set up as a horror movie parody, only the monsters are grape juice and coffee stains. The ad is so funny you forget you're being sold a product. And the sales message—that the detergent will remove any stain—is just prominent enough to have an impact without turning people off.
- Mike:** Chris, how about you? What's another technique that sells?
- Chris:** I hate to admit it, but snob appeal always does well. It's even used to sell luxury pet food! There's this long-running campaign with cats eating from fancy china saucers! The technique here is to showcase the product's exclusivity. These ads imply that the product is better than others, and the people—and er, cats—who use it are, too.
- Mike:** So, they're playing off people's need to feel superior to the ordinary person.
- Chris:** Exactly. Let's face it, some people have a strong desire to be admired. If a product's reputation helps them feel more intelligent, or that they belong to a higher social class, they'll be more inclined to buy it.
- Mike:** True. Now, what are some techniques that you feel miss the mark?
- Barbara:** To be honest, I don't think celebrity testimonials offer a good return on investment. You're paying huge fees to famous people to endorse your product, and frankly, I don't think they're effective.
- Chris:** I agree. There's this basketball player who endorses over fifty products. I mean, come on! Does anyone believe he uses all this stuff? Why should I trust an athlete to recommend dishwashing liquid? I'll bet he hasn't washed his own dishes in thirty years!
- Barbara:** Right. Another technique I dislike is when ads play on hidden fears. They imply you'll face some kind of danger if you don't use the product. You see this often because fear is a big motivator. Home security companies show thieves stealing people's valuables and deodorant brands show people facing rejection because they don't smell nice. Honestly, I think people tune these messages out. Who wants to engage with something that puts you in scary situations?
- Mike:** Interesting! I see that's all the time we have for today. Thanks to both of you for an interesting discussion.

Unit 8 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

Hello, I'm your host, Daniel Martin and this is *Immigrant Experience*. Each week I read a different letter submitted by a listener. Our family story today came to us all the way from New Zealand. Here's Matthew Williams's story:

My grandmother was born near Rotterdam in 1911. In the years after World War II, life was difficult in the Netherlands and there were few jobs. My dad had immigrated to New Zealand, where there was a shortage of workers. So, in 1954, at the age of 43, my grandmother joined him. She struggled to learn English and my dad says she always gave the impression of being a displaced person. But she carved out a new life in her

adopted country. She returned to the Netherlands only once and found that she felt out of place. She missed New Zealand's rugged mountains and sandy beaches.

My grandmother's name was Bente, which means "brave" in Dutch. Bravery was a quality that she personified in life. I admire the courage it must have taken to relocate 20,000 km to a new country where she didn't know the customs or language. Her first sight after stepping off the train was of a man on a horse riding down the main street. She imagined she'd been transported to a Wild West cowboy movie! There's a funny story she used to tell—when she first arrived, she noticed her neighbors went around barefoot, even outdoors. Wanting to fit in, she tried imitating them. After a week of this, her feet—soft from a lifetime of wearing shoes—were so sore she could barely walk!

My grandmother never learned to speak English fluently. She understood what was said well enough, but people struggled to understand her thick accent. My dad joked that people often assumed she was speaking Dutch! Culturally, she clung to her heritage. My dad said that wherever Bente went, the Netherlands came with her. Her Dutch manner of speaking—direct, straight to the point—sometimes offended shopkeepers and neighbors. Even as she adapted to a new lifestyle, she surrounded herself with traditions imported from the old country. She decorated her home with needlepoint pictures and hand-painted pottery brought from Rotterdam and her flower garden was filled with bright tulips.

My parents integrated into Kiwi society more quickly, becoming the "invisible immigrant" generation. They said that, growing up, holding on to Dutch customs was frowned upon. Many of their generation felt it their duty to assimilate, since they'd chosen to live in New Zealand. But they carried over some Dutch values—hard work and saving money. My parents bought a run-down farm and were so successful that they eventually bought out two neighboring properties. And they were devoted to family. My father never understood how a man could prefer to spend his evenings drinking in a pub instead of enjoying time at home.

My own generation placed more importance on tradition. My sister and I joined a Dutch cultural center, where we learned traditional songs and folk dances. I even studied Dutch at Auckland University. Like my parents, we're careful with money and value family ties. But I think my generation is less focused on work. Unlike earlier generations, we try to create a better work-life balance.

Unit 9 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

- A:** You know the singer, Jennifer Keyes? You've got to check out her prank video!
- B:** Oh, yeah? Is it good?
- A:** So they set up a hidden camera in a restaurant and had Jennifer Keyes working as a waitress to see who would recognize her. Nobody did! And get this: one customer actually said, "Has anyone ever told you that you look a little bit like Jennifer Keyes?" [laughs] When people had finished eating, Keyes handed out their checks while belting out that hit song of hers— "You Don't Know Me". When they announced her real identity, everyone was shocked! The dumbstruck looks on their faces were hilarious.

- B:** That's pretty funny. I love seeing the reactions of people getting pranked. I saw this one where there was a guy in his house with an earpiece. A woman was upstairs talking into a microphone and the guy had to do whatever she told him to do. They had a pizza delivered and the guy opened the door and started following her instructions. The woman had him squawking like a chicken and talking with these weird accents. The confused look on the pizza guy's face was priceless.
- A:** That's great. That reminds me of another good one. Have you seen the fake chair prank? They set up this metal frame under a man's clothing that supports his weight. It makes it look like he's sitting in an invisible chair, just floating in the air. Just like a magic trick! So many people stopped on the sidewalk and were completely confused how he did it. They'd wave their hands above his head looking for some kind of support wires!
- B:** Oh, yeah, I saw that one! The same group did another prank where they had a young girl playing piano in a public park. She was incredible! A bunch of people walking in the park stopped to watch her play, and then the pranksters started booing. People in the audience got so angry with them for being unkind. I actually thought they were going to get beaten up!
- A:** Wow! I saw a creepy one. A little girl left a doll on a table and asked strangers to watch it. The doll was facing away from the strangers, but as soon as the girl was gone, someone used remote control to make the doll's head spin around. The doll had this horrible, scary face! All the people watching the doll jumped up and screamed!
- B:** Some people are so gullible. I'd never fall for tricks like those.
- A:** I don't know. I think that doll prank would scare me.
- B:** Really? It seems pretty silly.
- A:** If you're just going about your day, you don't expect anything weird to happen. So your guard is down. I think anyone would be surprised.

Unit 10 Review Test

Section 1: Listening

- Marta:** Hey, Julia.
- Julia:** Hi, Marta. What are you reading?
- Marta:** It's this interesting article about personality types. It says everyone has a T personality type. It's a spectrum ranging from Big T to Little T.
- Julia:** Big T and Little T?
- Marta:** Yeah. Big T people like taking risks and trying new things. Little T people are risk-averse and avoid thrills. Where would you say you are?
- Julia:** Oh, I'm a Big T, definitely. I love a thrill.
- Marta:** Really? I didn't picture you as a thrill-seeker! What kind of dangerous stuff do you do?
- Julia:** Well, I love mountain climbing. I got my start climbing walls in a gym but give me a real mountain face to climb! I also love to go whitewater kayaking. Nothing beats a really great run down a wild river.
- Marta:** What drew you to adventure sports like that?

- Julia:** I come from an outdoorsy family. My parents took my brother and me on lots of vacations where we camped and hiked. It gave me a real appreciation for the outdoors. Our house was pretty deep in the woods, too.
- Marta:** That sounds nice.
- Julia:** It was. My brother and I used to dare each other to try risky stunts. Who could jump over the creek without landing in the water? Who could climb higher in the big tree? That kind of thing. We scared our parents half to death but had so much fun.
- Marta:** It sounds like you've been a risk-taker from an early age.
- Julia:** Absolutely. I was smaller than my brother and a little nimbler, so I usually won our tree climbing contests. Then I'd sit on a branch and look around the yard and feel so amazed by it all.
- Marta:** You weren't scared?
- Julia:** No, never. I loved it.
- Marta:** So, you think there's something to this T personality type idea.
- Julia:** I definitely agree that people have different tolerances for risk. I mean, I'm not reckless. If I go climbing, I always bring my safety equipment. I've got hooks and harnesses and I try to be as safe as possible. I wear a life jacket if I do anything in water.
- Marta:** Then you're not on the very end of the big T spectrum.
- Julia:** Right. But there's definitely an element of risk to what I do. I'm farther down the spectrum than, say, someone who's into riding rollercoasters. I like rollercoasters, too, but it's a very controlled kind of thrill, you know? There's a very small amount of risk. You're strapped in, the speed is closely regulated... It's not the same kind of thrill for me.
- Marta:** I've never liked rollercoasters. I like my feet to be planted firmly on the ground!
- Julia:** I guess you aren't a thrill seeker, then?
- Marta:** Nope, not at all. I'm terrified of heights. If I ever watch a scary movie, I have to sleep with the bedroom light on for a week. If the T personality is a spectrum, I'm definitely all the way on the side of little T!

Units 1-5 Review Test

Section 1: Listening Part A

- Host:** It is an honor to present our next candidate, Mr. William Winston. He has been working in law enforcement for many years and now he hopes to become a member of our city council. During his time as part of the police department, he's been working to reduce crime and fight corruption. He's passionate about the work he does, and he thinks this city has a bright future. He's done a lot for our city, but he's a modest man so he doesn't talk a lot about his accomplishments.
- William:** Hi everyone and thanks for coming. I'm very hopeful about our city's future. I think we can find creative ways to reach both our short-term

and long-term goals and that we can stay within our budget at the same time. That's what we did in the police department, where, in the last five years, we've been working to take criminals off the streets, especially the pickpockets and purse snatchers, who are a threat to tourism. We've been able to stick to our budgets while making sure that the police department has the resources it needs to reach its goals. And we've been pretty successful in those efforts. I agree we need to be more careful with spending, but we also need to worry about making our city's quality of life as attractive as possible for the people who live here. We also need a long-term plan to improve the economy of our city. So spending money on making our city parks more beautiful is neither irresponsible nor impractical. Actually, I'm confident that efforts like these will attract more tourists to our city. I hope you will consider voting for me and for the city's future in next week's election.

Host: Thank you to both candidates for those statements. What I really love about this city is that the people who live here are really interested in what's going on. Now, I'm sure you have plenty of questions. The candidates will take a few questions from the audience now before we move to an informal reception upstairs. If you have a question, please step up to the microphone so everyone can hear you. If we don't have time for your question now, remember that the candidates will be available at the reception. And don't forget to vote next week!

Units 1-5 Review Test

Section 1: Listening Part B

Margaret: Paul? Is that you?

Paul: Hey, Margaret! What's up?

Margaret: I almost didn't recognize you. Your clothes! You look completely different!

Paul: I know. They're new. Do you like them?

Margaret: They're ... um ... interesting ...

Paul: What do you really think?

Margaret: Well, they're kind of wild, don't you think?

Paul: When I asked a couple of friends about my new clothes, they thought they were a popular style, not wild.

Margaret: I don't know—I guess I'll get used to the new look. That kind of shirt is in style now, it's true ... but what about the color? Bright green. Do you think it's appropriate? I mean after all, you work in a bank where formality is emphasized. Don't you think your boss will be kind of shocked?

Paul: No, my boss is fashionable. He'll think it's funky.

Margaret: Really? I always thought Fred was a pretty conservative guy.

Paul: Oh he is, but Fred is not my boss anymore. My new boss is Diego. He is much more relaxed about these kinds of things. He always wears casual clothes to work—usually jeans and a stylish shirt. For formal occasions, maybe he'll wear a blazer.

- Margaret:** Oh, OK, well, I sure hope you are right. Maybe the first few days with your new clothing style, you should also wear something that is subdued—something elegant and classic.
- Paul:** Do you mean like a suit jacket? Yuck!
- Margaret:** Well, yeah. Don't the majority of people who work in the bank wear more conservative clothes?
- Paul:** That's true. I suppose you have a point, but there is not as much formality in the workplace as there once was. Diego promotes dressing down and says we need to go for a more stylish look since more and more of our customers are young people at start-up tech companies. It's true the way you look affects the way people perceive you, so we don't want them to think of us as old-fashioned. I think it's the trend at other banks, too.
- Margaret:** I guess that makes sense, especially since you say Diego also wears casual clothes. What colors does he wear?
- Paul:** His look is just like mine—except he likes purple.

Units 6-10 Review Test

Section 1: Listening Part A

Do you check your phone in the middle of the night? Do you constantly monitor your social media? Do your devices make you feel like you're on call for your employer 24/7? A recent study indicated that about 60% of smart phone owners in the United States check their phones at least once an hour, no matter where they are. And we actually think that figure is rather low. Another study suggested that the urge to check social media sites such as Facebook may be even stronger than the desire for cigarettes or alcohol—in other words, an addiction. The need to connect can cause us stress and anxiety. The majority of respondents to a survey of smart phone users in the UK said that they want to switch off but feel they can't. They say if they switch off, they won't be able keep up. They'll just have more work when they switch back on. So, what's a stressed out, tech-savvy consumer supposed to do?

Here at Operation Travel, we have some answers. We've put together a list of tech-free vacations. Today, we'll tell you about one called the Digital Detox plan. You may have tried to do this yourself before. You go on vacation, promising to leave your phone turned off, but by the second day, you're sneaking a peek at your text messages and by the third day, your laptop is out and you're chatting with the office. Well, the Digital Detox plan takes all temptation out of your hands.

Before you arrive, the hotel removes all electronics from your room, and cuts off the Wi-Fi connection. When you check in, you put your phone and other electronic devices in the hotel safe. In return, the hotel gives you an old-fashioned phone that will only work locally—so you can call a cab, make dinner reservations, that kind of thing. After that, it's up to you. A weekend, a week... unplugged and stress-free! We're willing to bet that you'll come back from your detox vacation feeling relaxed and full of energy.

Next week, we'll explore some other digital-free options. Thanks for watching.

Units 6-10 Review Test

Section 1: Listening Part B

- Izzy:** Welcome to The Buzz, where we talk about stories in the news.
- Mel:** Hi Izzy, what's our first story for today?
- Izzy:** Well, Mel, I just heard a piece about a guy in England who speaks ten languages. He's on a speaking tour to promote his latest book.
- Mel:** Ten languages? That seems hard to believe. Where did you hear this story? Was it based on reliable sources?
- Izzy:** There's no question that it's true. I have read about him before in magazines and national newspapers. Maybe you saw the video of him after he learned Icelandic in a week.
- Mel:** No way... I'm not buying that at all. Icelandic is a really hard language to learn.
- Izzy:** Well, maybe it's debatable to say he learned the language. Let's just say that he learned enough to carry on a conversation in front of television cameras.
- Mel:** Ok, but still... a week seems pretty far-fetched. There must have been some sort of trick.
- Izzy:** No trick. He was able to do it because he has an amazing memory. He can also recite thousands of digits in the number pi.
- Mel:** Pi? Isn't that just 3.14?
- Izzy:** Well, that's what you may have learned in school, but it actually goes on forever—3.141592...and so on. This guy recited 22,514 digits! He went on for more than five hours—all from memory.
- Mel:** Wow! That's incredible. Clearly, he's developed some techniques for expanding his memory.
- Izzy:** Yeah, he has to have figured out some special way to do it. He says he is able to create individual pictures of everything in his mind.
- Mel:** Well, I was pretty skeptical at first, but maybe this story is true after all. What else has this guy done?
- Izzy:** Let's see...he's made up his own language, he's written three books, he's started his own company...Shall I go on?
- Mel:** No, it'll just depress me and make me feel as if I have accomplished nothing in my life! What other news stories have you been looking at this week?

Units 1-10 End of Course Test

Section 1: Listening Part A

- Tim:** Today, we'll be discussing recent cuts in arts education, and we'll be hearing from parents in our community. Our first caller is Keith Bahrani, who is an educator and parent with three children in the public schools.

- Keith:** Hi, Tim. Thank you for having me on your show. As a parent, I'm very concerned about the importance of arts education. Every year, there is less and less money for classes in art and music in our schools. These classes are often cut because our leaders think of the arts as something extra, as not really necessary, but today I want to explain to you why this view is absolutely wrong. I've been working in this area for many years, and I can assure you that the arts are a critical part of our children's education at every age.
- Tim:** So, I'm not sure what you mean by "critical." How do the arts actually affect child development?
- Keith:** Well, for small children, art classes can help develop motor skills, as well as visual skills. Today, when we receive so much information visually, it's especially important for our children to start developing these skills early. Classes in the arts can also help young kids to become more creative and imaginative. For older students, the advantages continue. Research has shown that studying the arts can improve language skills, but what's really surprising is that it also improves math and reasoning skills.
- Tim:** Very interesting. I had no idea the arts were so important.
- Keith:** Right, and neither do the people making the cuts. What's more is that these advantages can be seen not only in the classroom but also in test results. Students who are involved in arts education do better on college entrance exams than students who are not. This benefit is even more powerful for students who come from poor backgrounds. These students are far less likely to drop out of school before they graduate if they're involved in the arts. Supporting arts education for our children and in our community is crucial. These classes are not an extra. They are not a luxury. They are an important building block in preparing students for success.
- Tim:** Thank you, Keith, for calling in. OK, our next caller is...

Units 1-10 End of Course Test

Section 1: Listening Part B

- Friend:** Hey Kevin. I know you love alternative music. Did you get the new We_R_U release from Royal Earl?
- Kevin:** Yeah, I got it for my younger brother.
- Friend:** Oh, for Matt? I haven't seen him in ages. How's he doing?
- Kevin:** Much better now, I think. He's finally starting to grow up.
- Friend:** What do you mean?
- Kevin:** Well, I hate to say it, but for a while there, he was really acting out. He wouldn't do anything our parents asked. They tried punishing him, grounding him... but nothing worked. He just hated being forced to obey their rules.
- Friend:** Sounds like maybe he was a little spoiled too.

- Kevin:** Yeah, I suppose he might have been, but his behavior really changed when our mom got sick last year. He suddenly just shaped up. He became helpful and a lot more aware of other people's needs again.
- Friend:** Well, I'm really sorry to hear about your mom getting sick, but I'm happy to hear about the improvement in your brother's behavior.
- Kevin:** It was a difficult time, but my mom is much better now, and Matt's acting more mature and taking more responsibility around the house. So I thought I would buy the new music as a gift for him—as a sort of “thank you.”
- Friend:** Oh, that's so thoughtful of you. He must've been really pleased to get it.
- Kevin:** Actually...no. I wish I'd never bought it. I thought he really liked Royal Earl, but it turns out he hates him. He thinks his music is really dated and overly emotional. So now, he keeps making fun of me and my musical taste!
- Friend:** Oops. Well, look on the bright side. Since We_R_U donates ten percent of their profits to charity, at least some of the money went to a good cause.
- Kevin:** That's true.