

Empower Second Edition

Digital Workbook B1+ Audioscript

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Unit 1 Lesson C

Listening: I know exactly what you mean

Marina: Hi, Jasmine. Thanks for taking the time to meet for coffee. I thought of you as soon as I was offered the job in Bristol.

Jasmine: Hi, Marina. I'm glad you reached out. And congratulations on your job offer! I can't believe that it's in my hometown.

Marina: Thanks! I don't know if I should accept it or not. It's so far away from London. here's a lot to think about.

Jasmine: I know exactly what you mean. After all, I moved here from Bristol. Moving to a new city helped me become independent. And I had a lot of support from my family. I'm sure you do, too.

Marina: I'm not so sure about that. My parents think I should live with them for a few more years to save some money. But I like the idea of trying something new, and I also like small cities.

Jasmine: Me too. As much as I love London, I hope to move back to Bristol someday. As far as I'm concerned, it's the most charming place in the world. They have an absolutely fantastic art scene, too. I don't think you need to live in a big city for interesting cultural experiences.

Marina: Me neither. In fact, I researched Bristol, and the art scene is one reason why I want to move there. Even though I work in technology, I also want to be an artist – just as a hobby. I think it would be a good way to meet people, too.

Jasmine: Definitely! The people in Bristol are friendly. The cost of living is low, too. Buying a home is very affordable. But I guess I should mention that it gets much colder in the winter than it does in London. That might bother you.

Marina: I see where you're coming from, but weather isn't everything. I think a friendly, creative community is more important.

Jasmine: Me too. I'd be happy to introduce you to some of my friends. I know a lot of young people who still live in Bristol.

Marina: That would be great! I want to take art classes and meet new people, and then I want to buy a house, and then ... This is all if I accept the job, of course.

Jasmine: Well, if you ask me, you should accept the job! But feel free to get in touch if you have any more questions.

Unit 2 Lesson C

Listening: Party problems

- Theo:** Hi, Bernice. I want to invite you to a party for Alice Richardson. She's retiring after 40 years.
- Bernice:** How wonderful, Theo! I'd love to come. Where's the party?
- Theo:** Well, first I planned to have it at the Red River Inn, but they suddenly cancelled my reservation. I'm not really sure what to do now.
- Bernice:** What about having it at your place? Do you ever have big parties?
- Theo:** Well, not usually. I like to have dinner parties, but I don't usually invite more than ten people. I've invited about 50 people to the retirement party.
- Bernice:** Fifty?! Yes, that's a little different than ten. Could you ask your guests to bring the food? Each person could bring a different dish.
- Theo:** That's worth a try. But I went to a party like that once, and no one brought the dish they signed up for. We ended up with a lot of snacks and seven different cakes!
- Bernice:** Oh, no! How terrible.
- Theo:** Well, everyone ate the food, so I guess they liked it. But we really needed more main dishes.
- Bernice:** Maybe you could call a party planner. They can help you with the menu and the entertainment. I'm sure they could recommend a good band.
- Theo:** That sounds a little expensive.
- Bernice:** It's probably cheaper than the Red River Inn. A good party planner can actually help you save money. They can predict how much food you need for 50 people and recommend a company who can make it for you.
- Theo:** That's a good suggestion, thanks. Alice is the best boss I've ever had. I really want to throw her a fantastic party.
- Bernice:** How nice of you to do that. I'm looking forward to it.

Unit 3 Lesson C

Listening: Well, that's a funny story

Matthew: Hi, Antonio. How's the new flat?

Antonio: Hey, Matthew. It's OK, but I'm still looking for a flatmate. How did you find yours?

Matthew: Well, that's a funny story. I answered an ad in the newspaper and then one day, we realised that we had already met.

Antonio: Really?

Matthew: Yeah. A couple of months after I moved in, he made a chocolate and coconut cake for dessert. The strange thing was that my mother used to make exactly the same cake every year on my birthday. She always said it was a secret recipe from her mother. Anyway, my flatmate's cake tasted exactly like my birthday cake.

Antonio: No way!

Matthew: Mm-hmm. So, I asked him where he got the recipe and he said his mother used to make it for his birthday.

Antonio: Wow! But where did his mother get the recipe?

Matthew: Well, he had to call her and ask her.

Antonio: OK.

Matthew: You'll never believe this. When he was about three years old, his family lived in another town. His mother's best friend was a neighbour who loved to bake. My flatmate remembers that he and the neighbour's son got on really well.

Antonio: What? I think I see where this is going.

Matthew: Right. The neighbour also had a three-year-old and the children played together. The interesting thing is that when he told me this, I had a strong childhood memory of playing with a little boy. It turned out that it was him!

Antonio: Wow! What a coincidence.

Matthew: Yeah. But in the end, both of our families moved away. Our mothers exchanged their favourite recipes before we all left.

Antonio: But why didn't you realise that you had lived in the same town?

Matthew: Well, we don't really remember it. Our mothers didn't keep in touch. I guess we never had a reason to talk about it.

Antonio: Until he made the cake.

Matthew: Right! And you'll never believe what I did next. I got the recipe from him and made the cake for my mother. She said it was even better than hers and it gave her good memories.

Antonio: I think I need to taste this cake for myself.

Matthew: I'll make it for you sometime.

Antonio: Sounds good.

Unit 4 Lesson C

Listening: Is there anything I can do?

Jess: Oh, hi. You're moving in today, aren't you? We're neighbours. I'm Jess.

Carolyn: Nice to meet you, Jess. I'm Carolyn. You live across the street, don't you?

Jess: Yes, in the blue house. It looks like you still have a lot of boxes to move inside. Is there anything I can do to help you?

Carolyn: Well, my friends should be here soon. They can help me carry these boxes. But I'm afraid it's about to rain. Can you give me a hand getting this chair inside?

Jess: It's not too heavy, is it? My arm is a little sore.

Carolyn: Not at all. It's just really big so it's hard to carry. I don't think I can manage to move it on my own. Thanks so much.

Jess: No problem. Could I ask you a favour in return?

Carolyn: Sure.

Jess: Can I have your boxes when you're finished? I'm painting some rooms in my house and I have to pack some things away.

Carolyn: Sure. Would you like me to bring them over when I'm finished with them?

Jess: That would be great. And I'll make some coffee for us.

Carolyn: Perfect. I'd love to see the rooms you've painted. I move a lot because of my job, so I've painted a lot of flat walls.

Jess: Really? I love to paint my rooms every couple of years, but I'm not sure which colours to choose this time. Can you do something for me?

Carolyn: Sure.

Jess: Well, I'm not sure what colour to paint my living room and bedroom. I read a blog that said colour can change a person's mood. I want to choose calm, peaceful colours.

Carolyn: Oh. Well, I'm afraid I don't know anything about that. But would you like me to take a look and just give you my opinion?

Jess: Yes, that's really all I need – a second opinion.

Carolyn: Got it! Now if you could just grab the other arm of this chair ...

Unit 5 Lesson C

Listening: What are you going to do with your time?

Sofie: Congratulations, Amir. What are you going to do with your time, now that you no longer have to work?

Amir: Thanks, Sofie. That's a good question. I don't think I'll have a lot of free time, actually. I have a lot of plans.

Sofie: Like what?

Amir: Let me see. I'd love to learn a new skill or two.

Sofie: Such as?

Amir: Well, I've always wanted to learn Italian. I'm interested in words that can't be translated into English. For instance, the Italian word 'abbiocco' describes the feeling of wanting to sleep after you've eaten a big meal.

Sofie: Just a second. This happens in Turkish, too. When I lived in Turkey, I learned the word 'yakamoz'. That's when the light from the moon shines on the water.

Amir: Ah, you see? As a result of knowing more interesting words, we can describe things more precisely.

Sofie: Speaking of languages, do you plan to travel?

Amir: I'm not sure yet. Right now, I'm looking forward to spending time with my children and my grandchildren.

Sofie: Do you think you'll miss working?

Amir: Well, there are some things I'll miss about being a lawyer, like my colleagues. And the feeling that every day brings a new adventure.

Sofie: What do you mean?

Amir: Well, for example, some days I worked with people who needed help with their taxes or with buying a home. Sometimes I had to travel. Every day was a little different. What about you? Are you going to retire anytime soon?

Sofie: Now that's a good question! Every year, I say it will be my last year of teaching. And then somehow, I go back again for just one more year. I guess I just really love teaching.

Amir: Well, enjoy it then. Retire when you're ready.

Unit 6 Lesson C

Listening: Do you think that's a good idea?

Narrator: Part One

Emily: Hi, Rosalind. What are you doing here?

Rosalind: Hey, Emily. I'm looking for a gift for Angelo. Our anniversary is next weekend.

Emily: That's nice. What are you planning to get him?

Rosalind: I'm not sure. I might just buy him a gift card for his favourite shop. Do you think that's a good idea?

Emily: Uh ... that sounds a bit boring.

Rosalind: Oh, Emily, you're right. What would you suggest? You're so good at choosing presents. I wear the gorgeous scarf you gave me all the time.

Emily: Well, I do love giving gifts. How long have you and Angelo been married?

Rosalind: Twenty-five years.

Emily: Wow! That's amazing! Let's see, the custom for the 25th anniversary gift is something made of silver. You could get him a picture frame.

Rosalind: That doesn't sound like anything he would like.

Emily: How about dinner at a romantic restaurant? You can't go wrong with good food.

Rosalind: You can with us! We both prefer such different types of food that we usually eat all of our meals at home. It's probably worth thinking this through a little more.

Emily: If I were you, I'd figure this out today so you don't have to worry about it. How about a weekend trip?

Rosalind: Hmm ... that's not a bad idea. Where would you recommend?

Emily: Well, last year, my best friend surprised me with a trip to Dover. We stayed at a small hotel on the beach, ate the best seafood and relaxed all weekend.

Rosalind: Wow! That sounds like the perfect anniversary gift. I knew you could help me. Can you give me the name of the hotel?

Narrator: Part Two

Rosalind: Happy anniversary, Angelo!

Angelo: Happy anniversary to you, too, Rosalind! Can you believe it's been 25 years?!

Rosalind: Twenty-five incredible years. Here, I got you this to celebrate.

Angelo: A trip to Dover! Wow!

Rosalind: For next weekend!

Angelo: No way! I've always wanted to go there. I'm going to start packing right away. Oh, wait. I forgot to give you your gift. Here ...

Rosalind: Oh, a silver picture frame. It's beautiful.

Angelo: Well, silver is the usual 25th anniversary gift, after all.

Unit 7 Lesson C

Listening: Do you think you could give me a hand later?

- Lucy:** Hi, Shawna. Sorry I'm late. I got lost, and my mobile phone doesn't work way out here.
- Shawna:** Hello, Lucy, and welcome! I'm just happy you're here. You must be exhausted after that long drive.
- Lucy:** Not too bad, actually.
- Shawna:** Well, come in. Let me get you something cold to drink.
- Lucy:** That would be wonderful, thank you. And your house is gorgeous! It must be exciting to finally be living here.
- Shawna:** Very. I had wanted to buy a house in the country for years. Would you like me to show you around?
- Lucy:** Absolutely. Before you do, can I borrow your mobile phone? My mother was worried about the long drive, and I want her to know I arrived safely.
- Shawna:** Actually, it doesn't work out here in the woods. There's no internet service either.
- Lucy:** Oh. Um, how do you get in touch with people?
- Shawna:** I use my regular telephone, not my mobile phone. And I drive into town and meet friends at the library or the café.
- Lucy:** Do you mind if I use your regular phone to call my mother?
- Shawna:** Not at all.
- Lucy:** Thanks. And I was wondering something else. Do you ever want to move back to the city? I'm not sure I could live so far away from everything.
- Shawna:** No, never. I love the woods, and my garden and the stars at night. Oh, speaking of my garden, do you think you could give me a hand later? We can pick vegetables and make a salad to go with our dinner.
- Lucy:** That sounds like fun. I'd love to.
- Shawna:** Great. Let me show you where the telephone is.

Unit 8 Lesson C

Listening: I typically read about ...

Stefan: Hi, Carmen. What are you reading?

Carmen: Hey, Stefan. I'm reading about the history of jazz music in North America.

Stefan: Sounds interesting. Although I don't usually read stuff like that.

Carmen: I don't either, but I'm learning a lot about jazz musicians. So, what kind of things do you like to read about?

Stefan: Well, if I read fiction, I typically read about crimes and mysteries. If I read nonfiction, I read biographies about famous actors and artists. I just finished a great book about Frida Kahlo.

Carmen: Oh, I love her art, but I haven't read any books about her. I have read about the lives of a few other artists, though.

Stefan: Why are you reading about the history of jazz?

Carmen: It was actually a birthday gift. Personally, I tend to be more interested in books about the future and robots and things like that. I like to think about how much the world will change in a hundred years.

Stefan: Cool. If you're a fan of science fiction, you should join my book club. We read that sort of thing all the time.

Carmen: Wow! Crimes, mysteries, artists *and* science fiction? You certainly have a lot of interests.

Stefan: That's true, I do! Generally, I read whenever I have free time. But let me tell you about my book club. We typically meet every month for a couple of hours. We usually discuss one book each month.

Carmen: The discussions aren't too serious, are they? I don't want anything that's stressful. I have work and university for that!

Stefan: Well, normally, we prefer it if everyone has finished the book by the time we meet. Otherwise, it's not serious at all. We usually meet at a restaurant and discuss the book over dinner. Then we decide on a book for the next meeting.

Carmen: Sounds like a great reason to get together. Sign me up!

Unit 9 Lesson C

Listening: I think you'd love it

- Marcus:** I'm so glad our term is over! We should go out to dinner tonight.
- Hannah:** That's a great idea. I'm really happy we're finished, too. Where should we go?
- Marcus:** How about that new steak restaurant? I've been wanting to eat there since they opened last summer. I heard it was excellent.
- Hannah:** Oh, yeah. You can grill your own meat at your table. It sounds really interesting.
- Marcus:** Just a second. Let me look at their reviews.
- Hannah:** Oh, Victor is texting me. He wants to know what we're doing right now. He says he doesn't have anything to do now that the exams are over.
- Marcus:** Tell him to come and eat with us. Hang on, Alexandra is texting. I'll invite her, too.
- Hannah:** OK. I doubt she would be interested, though. She's a vegetarian.
- Marcus:** I forgot about that. Wait a minute. Here's her text. You're right. She's not coming.
- Hannah:** Victor says he'd love to join us. He read about the steak restaurant and said they have great reviews.
- Marcus:** OK. And Alexandra wants to meet us after we eat. They're showing an art film at the museum. She said it was highly recommended by several film review websites.
- Hannah:** I would do that. But Victor's not a big fan of art films. He needs things to blow up in the films he watches!
- Marcus:** Why don't we all go to the Sweet Dream Café later, then? They have amazing ice cream. I think you'd love it.
- Hannah:** Perfect! If there's one thing we can all agree on, it's ice cream! Hang on. Victor just texted again. Oh, no! He has to cancel tonight. His mother's car broke down, and she needs a lift to work.
- Marcus:** That's too bad. But can we still have ice cream later?

Unit 10 Lesson C

Listening: What if they don't think I'm right for the job?

- Hector:** Are you still trying to finish your presentation for the airline? Jun, you really have to stop worrying. You'll be fine.
- Jun:** I know, Hector. It's just ... every time I practise, I find ways to change it. I'm still worried that it's not lively enough.
- Hector:** They're not looking for someone lively. They asked you to give a presentation because you design the best websites. You have nothing to worry about.
- Jun:** Are you sure? Because I'm not the only one giving a presentation. They invited another web designer, too. What if they don't think I'm right for the job?
- Hector:** They will. You're the best and you're also the hardest worker I know.
- Jun:** Thanks, Hector. If they like me, I'll be in charge of totally changing their company website. That's a huge job for a small business like mine.
- Hector:** That reminds me. My friend Savana is looking for a job. Do you still need another employee?
- Jun:** I will if I get this job. Has she got any experience designing websites?
- Hector:** Oh, yeah. A lot.
- Jun:** By the way, what should I wear tomorrow?
- Hector:** Don't worry about that. The airline wants your web design skills, not your ability to match a shirt and tie. As I was saying, Savana has been designing websites for years. She recently started her own business, like you. It's just taking her time to make money, and she needs extra work right now.
- Jun:** Well, maybe I can meet with her tomorrow, after my presentation.
- Hector:** Oh, wait. I know she's got some big appointment tomorrow. She was just telling me how nervous she was about ... Oh.
- Jun:** Hector? Is your friend Savana the other person giving the presentation to the airline?
- Hector:** I think so, Jun. Sorry. I didn't realise until now. But don't worry. I'm sure it'll be OK.