

Audio scripts

Unit 1

01

- A** OK, well, I'm at college and still living at home, so, yeah, I see my mum and dad and my little sister all the time – too much, maybe! No, just joking – they're cool. We don't have a big extended family but my grandparents live nearby, so I go round theirs once or twice a week. But there's one close relative I don't see at the moment – although we often chat online – and it really upsets me. That's my twin brother, Mark. He's studying in Canada for a year. I miss him loads. He's really enjoying his time away – but I'm not. I can't wait until he comes home in June. Big celebration time!
- B** I know a lot of people get pen friends from other countries when they're at school and some of them stay in touch for years and years. My sister-in-law is in her thirties and she still meets up with her French pen friend once a year! And another of my friends is engaged to her Italian pen friend! Other people find friends in other countries online – you know, they sign up for international student magazines and things. But for me, I think it's good to meet people face to face. It's the best way to get to know each other properly, don't you agree? So, I like to keep in touch with people I meet on holiday.
- C** Oh, it's so hard these days. So, the truth is, not often at all! You see, I've got a two-year-old daughter so, sadly, I've lost touch with most of my old friends – the ones who don't have kids and still work. Their lifestyles are so different to mine now and we rarely see each other. But I've got a few new friends: new mums I've met through our children. So, a couple of times a week we get together during the day and have a coffee or go for walks. I really miss my old friends though. But hey, that's life.
- D** Well, when you're young, of course, it's easy – there's school and clubs and places like that. And then when you're working, well, there are your colleagues. But it's when you get to my age – I'm retired and divorced – it gets harder to know quite how to make new friends. That's why a lot of older people get really lonely. Me personally? I'm OK. I belong to a drama club and I'm always meeting new people there. I would say that throughout life, people make friends because they've got similar interests.

02

N = Narrator B = Boy

1

- N:** You hear a boy talking about his family.
- B:** OK, well, I'm at college and still living at home, so, yeah, I see my mum and dad and my little sister all the time – too much, maybe! No, just joking – they're cool. We don't have a big, extended family but my grandparents live nearby, so I go round theirs once or twice a week. But there's one close relative I don't see at the moment – although we often

chat online – and it really upsets me. That's my twin brother, Mark. He's studying in Canada for a year. I miss him loads. He's really enjoying his time away – but I'm not. I can't wait until he comes home in June. Big celebration time!

03

N = Narrator W = Woman M = Man

2

- N:** You hear a woman talking about friends from other countries.
- W:** I know a lot of people get pen friends from other countries when they're at school and some of them stay in touch for years and years. My sister-in-law is in her thirties and she still meets up with her French pen friend once a year! And another of my friends is engaged to her Italian pen friend! Other people find friends in other countries online – you know, they sign up for international student magazines and things. But for me, I think it's good to meet people face to face. It's the best way to get to know each other properly, don't you agree? So, I like to keep in touch with people I meet on holiday.

3

- N:** You hear a woman talking about meeting friends.
- W:** Oh, it's so hard these days. So, the truth is, not often at all! You see, I've got a two-year-old daughter so, sadly, I've lost touch with most of my old friends – the ones who don't have kids and still work. Their lifestyles are so different to mine now and we rarely see each other. But I've got a few new friends: new mums I've met through our children. So, a couple of times a week we get together during the day and have a coffee or go for walks. I really miss my old friends though. But hey, that's life.

4

- N:** You hear a man talking about making friends.
- M:** Well, when you're young, of course, it's easy – there's school and clubs and places like that. And then when you're working, well, there are your colleagues. But it's when you get to my age – I'm retired and divorced – it gets harder to know quite how to make new friends. That's why a lot of older people get really lonely. Me personally? I'm OK. I belong to a drama club and I'm always meeting new people there. I would say that throughout life, people make friends because they've got similar interests.

05

E = Examiner M = Marcos A = Adriana

- E:** Good morning, my name is Heather Morgan and this is my colleague, Steve Jones. And your names are?
- M:** I'm Marcos.
- A:** And my name's Adriana.
- E:** Can I have your mark sheets? Thank you. First of all, we'd like to know something about you. Where are you from, Marcos?

- M:** I'm from Spain – from Mataro. It is on the coast, about thirty kilometres north of Barcelona.
- E:** And you?
- A:** I'm from Aquila. It's a town north of Rome in the centre of Italy.
- E:** What do you like about living in Mataro, Marcos?
- M:** Well, it is a very nice place to live. It is also easy to get to Barcelona.
- E:** And what about you, Adriana?
- A:** Well, it is cool nearly all the year because it is in the mountains. It is also a lovely historic town with many old buildings. But unfortunately, we sometimes have serious earthquakes.
- E:** What do you enjoy doing in your free time, Marcos?
- M:** Well, I like playing beach volleyball in the summer, and in the winter I go skiing.
- E:** Are you interested in sport, Adriana?
- A:** Well, I am a keen tennis player. I train two evenings a week. And at the weekend I usually have a match.
- E:** And, Marcos, could you tell us something about your family?
- M:** Well, I have a big family and we get together every few weeks – uncles and aunts, my cousins. Or else I contact them on a social networking site.
- E:** And, Adriana, do you prefer to see people in person or chat to them online?
- A:** For me, I prefer to see people face to face. But I have some friends who live a long way away, so the internet is a good way of keeping in touch.

Unit 2

06

These pictures show people who are trying to look different. I'd like you to compare the pictures and say how the people are feeling.

07

- A** Well, in the first photograph I can see a woman – she's at a hairdresser's. A girl has started to do something to her hair. I think she's changing the colour. The hairdresser is wearing dark clothes and she's concentrating on the woman's hair. She's lifting bits of hair up. She needs to be very careful. In the second photograph, we can see four girls. It looks like a fancy dress party or something like that. They are dressed up in pretty clothes – perhaps it's a party or a competition. The girls are different ages and behind them are some trees. I like the second picture best because I went to lots of parties like this when I was young. It was good fun.
- B** Let's see. Well, the first photograph shows a woman at the hairdresser's. Someone's doing something to her hair – like changing the colour. The second one is of a group of girls; they're dressed up in pretty white and pink costumes. They are probably at a party or in a competition. In both pictures, the people want to look different but the main difference between them is that in the first picture the woman wants

to change her appearance permanently, to feel better about herself, whereas in the second the children are pretending to be a different person – just for fun! However, they all want to look good! As for how they are feeling, well, the woman at the hairdresser's looks a bit bored or tired – perhaps it's taking a long time! The children at the party, on the other hand, look very happy and excited. They're laughing. Perhaps they want to be in the photo! I would say that they're all having a good time!

08

I work for Saivon, the car company. Unfortunately, the company has had a lot of ups and downs over the years. It was popular in Eastern Europe but in the West people didn't like the cars very much. They had a bad reputation and people liked to make jokes about them – and not particularly good ones either – though that was before my time. One of them was: 'Question: Why do Saivons have heated rear windows? Answer: So you can keep your hands warm when you push them!' People used to laugh at that! But things have changed a lot now.

You see, Saivon was originally a Polish company which started in 1935 but it joined Clarenti in 2016, and now the cars they produce are really good, classy cars. But at the beginning, Clarenti had to change what people thought about Saivons. And what they did was very clever. They didn't try to hide the past, which would have been ineffective. They had an advertising campaign in 2017 that reminded people of Saivon's poor reputation and made it funny. The advertisements worked very well and really helped improve people's opinions of the cars and, importantly, our sales! Saivon cars were suddenly fashionable and people started buying them. Now they have forgotten all about their poor image. It shows the difference good advertising can make.

In my opinion, a good advertisement must be memorable and that can be because of pictures or humour, like in the Saivon adverts. But for me, it's the music that can make all the difference to an advertising campaign. Also, using celebrities can sometimes help increase sales. Not always, I have to say – I remember an actor was used to advertise a chocolate bar a few years ago and sales actually went down! But do you remember the adverts for Yum yoghurt last year? Usually, adverts for yoghurts can be pretty boring but Yum yoghurt had a footballer eating it in an advert and dancing! Suddenly, yoghurt became number one on people's shopping lists. So, it appears that good advertising can change the image of anything – from yoghurts to cars!

Unit 3

10

- 1** Well, I'm really into acting. In fact, I just like being on stage, full stop! It could be singing, acting, dancing – I think I've always wanted to be a performer and I know that somehow that's what I'll end up doing. It's amazing to be in front of an audience and make them laugh or cry! So, I've joined as many groups as I can to get a lot of experience. It would be so good to have a career that is my hobby, too. I know it's not going to be easy but I can't imagine doing anything else.

- 2 Well, I got into the sport when my family came back to Ireland, when I was a teenager. I've always been fascinated by Irish culture and keen on sport, so it was brilliant to find something that combined these things. It's an incredibly fast-moving game, and I became totally hooked on it. We play hard but players never deliberately hurt each other, like they do in football. And I think this is what really got me into the club – the fact that I could be in a team where it's all about playing by the rules, being fair. And, of course, it's never about the money – we play for the love of the game.
- 3 It's funny really, because I've never been that interested in working with my hands, but for some reason, I absolutely love doing this and being able to make my own designs is amazing. I realise it's important for me to do something that's not just practical – like everything else I do! I'm doing a course to learn the basics but it takes a lifetime to become really good at it. I'm always phoning up my teacher for some advice. I make a lot of presents for my family and friends in my spare time.
- 4 I spend my days in a lawyer's office, dealing with very serious matters, but once a week I go to my class and can really let go. I love the music and the chance to dance. It was quite tough at first because the steps are difficult but if you stick with it, then you can learn enough to have fun and not make a fool of yourself. The people in my group are really great, and from different walks of life, and I don't know how well we'd get on outside class. But for that hour, we're in a different world and passionate about what we're doing.

▶ 11

I love the Centre and I use it for a lot of activities. I go swimming there at least once a week and they've got a chess club too, so I play chess after school on Thursdays. They've got a great bowling alley and I sometimes go bowling there with my friends at the weekend. My mum wants to speak Italian when we go to Italy on holiday, so she's doing an evening class on that at the Centre and my little sister does karate there on Fridays. She's getting really good at it.

▶ 12

- A:** OK, let's begin with this one. I think it's great to enjoy reading. You can learn a lot about different people's lives and how they think. It's good to escape into another world. Do you agree?
- B:** Absolutely. As you say, it's good for learning about other people's lives. But the downside is when you read all the time. Some people read on their own in their rooms and never go out. And sometimes they get isolated. Don't you think?
- A:** That's a really good point. I completely agree. Also, sometimes people read to escape their problems when they should really do something about them. Let's go on to competing. What do you think about this?
- B:** Yes, the good thing about competing is that it gives people an aim, doesn't it? Something to focus on.
- A:** What you say about having an aim is really important, I think. Like everything, it's good to have something you are working towards. However, in my opinion, ...

▶ 13

Let's go on to competing. What do you think about this?

Unit 4

▶ 16

Both pictures show people doing different activities on holiday. They're probably having a good time. I imagine both activities are interesting for different reasons. In the first picture the people are on a boat, going down a fast river – it might be in their own country or another one – and they're wearing jackets and hard hats to keep them safe because I guess it can be dangerous. In the second picture, however, the people are on a beautiful beach and they are lying in the sunshine. Some people are standing in the water. It looks as if it's very hot there because the sky is blue and there are beach umbrellas to protect the people. The people in the boat are probably enjoying the speed and working together to go fast. The people on the beach are sunbathing or swimming because they want to relax and not do anything energetic. They might have busy jobs and this is a good way to relax for them. They might also like it because they can get a tan!

▶ 17–18

Hi, everyone. It's really good to be back here at school talking to you all! I was so happy when Miss Barnes, my old geography teacher here, invited me to come and tell you about my exciting year. I suppose you could call it my big adventure! Both she and Mr Green – I'm sure you all know him from his amazing maths classes – were in touch with me all through the year, giving me lots of homework to do!

It's tricky to know where to start, so I think I'll just begin at the very beginning. That was when my dad decided to take our family – that's my mum, me, my brother Matthew and my little sister Ella – on a trip around the world. It wasn't exactly a sudden decision, you know. He started planning it last January, but we didn't leave until July, after my exams in June. My dad wanted to give us first-hand experience of things you can't get from books or TV programmes – you know, things like the amazing smells coming from the Indian street food markets or the incredible light you get in the desert. They were right. In the Sahara it was amazing! And the real experience of meeting and making friends with people from different cultures – that sort of thing.

Getting around was fun. My dad had planned to take a camper van but in the end, we thought it would be more practical to fly between major destinations. So we went by plane. Then we used different kinds of public transport to get around within each country. In some places it was cheap, overloaded buses and once it was camels. Mum panicked a bit on her camel, but I thought it was great fun!

There were so many wonderful experiences that it's hard to choose a particular highlight. I know that Matthew's dream was to swim with dolphins and he loved that, whereas Ella just adored riding elephants in Thailand!

There were some bad moments too. You can't go all round the world without any problems! One of the worst was in New Zealand. I tripped and hurt my ankle quite badly when

we were doing some climbing and Matthew had a really close shave when we went sailing. We were travelling really fast and he fell into the water! Mum was screaming and dad nearly jumped into the water to go after him. Luckily, a friend of ours was in the boat behind us and he picked Matthew up. He was very lucky that we weren't close to any big rocks. Matthew was quite thrilled by the incident. He tells everyone about his narrow escape now!

Some people don't think it was a good idea for my parents to take us out of school for a year. I know what they mean but I think it was a wonderful opportunity. Every day we read about the places we were going to visit and we had classes with mum and dad every week to keep up to date with maths and stuff – thanks again, Miss Barnes and Mr Green! What we learnt during that year will definitely help us in the future and stay with us all forever. One of the most important things in my opinion was that we made lots of friends all over the world. When we were in China, I met a girl, Eva, and we email almost every day. Matthew met a boy from Mexico and he phones him at least once a week. It's great to have contacts in all those countries. Travelling is the best thing, and I hope you all have the chance to do a lot too.

Unit 5

▶ 21

- 1 There's this new shopping mall that's just opened in West Street and my best friend Kathy and I went there last Saturday, hoping to find lots of bargains in the shops. It's really well designed – lots of glass everywhere, which makes it feel very open. But the shops we went in were very expensive and there were no offers at all. As you can imagine, it was also very crowded on a Saturday morning and so it took a long time to get into the shops we wanted to see. We went home with empty bags and very tired!
- 2 I'd heard a lot about people buying things on online auctions but I'd never tried it myself. I mean, I buy things online a lot – it's useful and convenient, and you can get things very cheaply if you look carefully. But last week my daughter showed me how to buy something on an auction and it wasn't as difficult as I'd thought! Last night I went on an auction site and tried to buy a lovely old table. It was very cheap! I got quite excited but then, at the last minute, someone offered more money and I didn't get it. I got really disappointed!
- 3 My friends and I nearly always do our shopping in the malls in town or online, but once a month there's an outdoor market in the town centre. It's full of little stalls that sell fresh fruit and vegetables, and my mum loves to get food there. I've found a place there that sells amazing cheap hats and bags. Well, I *thought* they were amazing until I tried to take back a bag I bought because it had a hole in it – and they refused to give me my money back! I think I'll stick to buying things in shopping centres in the future.
- 4 I've just started sharing a flat with two friends and I needed a new light for my bedroom. So on Saturday we went to this store that sells everything for the house. It's really big and you can get lost in it! Well, we found the lighting section and I couldn't believe how many lights there were to choose

from! I was there for an hour trying to decide which one to get. In the end I got the first one I'd looked at an hour before! At the exit they sold burgers. Sitting in the car with a beef burger was definitely the best part of the afternoon!

▶ 22

- A:** Everyone's buying books online these days. Obviously, it's affecting our sales. People still like to have copies and I think we'll always have bookshops, but we need to look at ways of getting people to come into the shop. We can't cut our prices, but maybe there are other things we can do.
- B:** OK, let's brainstorm some ideas. How about having a kids' corner – you know, where children can play while their parents are browsing?
- A:** I like it. We could also have some books for young readers that the children could look at.
- B:** Why not? And what do you think about having visits from some authors to talk about their new books?
- A:** Cool! People love seeing famous writers – and they could sign their books too.
- B:** And why don't we have a loyalty card – so people who shop with us a lot can get lower prices.
- A:** Excellent! And how about starting a small coffee bar so that people can take a break from shopping?
- B:** I'm not too sure about that. Do you really think we've got enough space?
- A:** Hmm ... maybe you're right. It might be better to stick with the other suggestions. Now, you were saying that ...

▶ 23

- A:** How long have you lived in London, Jacky?
- B:** My dad changed jobs last year and we moved here from a small village on the coast, Garthen.
- A:** I imagine it was difficult to get used to living in a big city!
- B:** At the beginning it was really difficult. It took a while to get used to all the noise and the traffic, and getting buses and the underground everywhere. Because in Garthen we walked everywhere! But, of course, one of the biggest differences is the shops!
- A:** Is that a good or a bad difference?
- B:** Definitely good – for me, that is. There's so much choice! Now I'm used to seeing loads of different types of shops on one street and shopping in big shopping centres. But in Garthen we had a couple of small shops and no big shopping centres or even supermarkets at all. It's the price of things that I can't get used to. You can get clothes very cheaply but food is really expensive! My mum isn't used to paying so much for vegetables in particular. Also, I'm not used to the crowds you get in shops here. Is everybody in the city really rich?! And another thing I'm not used to: how long the shops stay open. Some of them are open late into the night and sometimes all night!
- A:** Yes, a lot of shop assistants in London are used to working late and all weekend too. People often like to go shopping after work because they're very busy, so the shops stay open. You'll get used to it all in time!

Unit 6

▶ 24

employ, employer, employee, employment, unemployment, unemployed, employable

▶ 25

M = Maria A = Antonio

M: So, let's think about earning money, shall we?

A: Fine. I think that's an important reason for doing a part-time job. Students need money, don't they?

M: Oh yes, because they don't have a salary. With a part-time job, like in the evenings or at the weekend, they can buy things like books or clothes, or pay for their phones.

A: That's a good point. Phones can be very expensive!

▶ 26

M = Maria A = Antonio E = Examiner

A: Right. Now, getting experience is another thing to consider.

M: Yes, I think that it's important too. You learn lots of things about work. Like, you learn to be on time and to have responsibility.

A: Exactly. And it can also help you get a job in the future.

M: Yes, and this next point is very important as well. You can meet new people when you've got a job. And that's good for your social life.

A: But what do you think about time? Students need time to study, don't they? If they work too much, they'll be too tired to do their homework.

M: I don't think so. It depends on the job and how many hours they work. They need to be careful.

A: Yes, I agree. And not greedy for more money! Sometimes students get more interested in money than their homework.

M: That's a good point. One of my friends had a part time job at a leisure centre. He left college because he wanted to work there full time to earn a lot of money!

E: Thank you. Now you have about a minute to decide which point is the most important for students to think about when deciding whether to get a part-time job.

M: Right. Well, I guess they're all important, aren't they? What do you think?

A: I agree with you. You have to think about lots of things like these before you decide to get a part-time job. Which is most important though? Mmm ... for me, I think getting experience is the most important. Employers want people who have lots of experience. They don't only want people with certificates!

M: You're right. But in my opinion, time is very important. If you don't have time to study, you don't pass exams. And that's important for a job too.

A: OK. We've got different opinions, but that's alright!

▶ 27

M = Maria A = Antonio E = Examiner

M: That's an interesting question. To be honest, I've never thought about it before. But I suppose it isn't really a good idea. In my house everyone does a few jobs but we don't get pocket money for doing them. It's a part of living with other people – everyone helps out.

E: What do you think, Antonio?

A: Well, it all depends. If you're helping out in a big way – like spending a lot of time helping your dad do some building work in the house – then I suppose you should get paid for it. But in general, I agree with Maria – it's part of being a family, isn't it? Have you ever been paid for doing any jobs, Maria?

M: Come to think of it, yes – once! I helped mum clear the garden and I got some money for that. But in my country young people get weekly pocket money from their parents and nothing extra for chores around the house.

▶ 28

A: Well, that was interesting. Three very different candidates. My feeling is that Cameron has the best qualifications, and he's obviously the most experienced. But I felt he wasn't as enthusiastic as the others. What do you think?

B: Yes, I agree. My guess is that he's looking for a bigger practice – you know, with a wider range of challenges. He didn't seem very keen.

A: That's probably the reason. How about Karine?

B: She's the youngest and the least experienced. She only finished her training a year ago, but she seemed the most enthusiastic. She also seems to have much more interest in dealing with large animals. She has specific qualifications and I noted that she has lived on a farm for most of her life. However, she's less confident than the others.

A: Yes, I see what you mean. And finally, Hector.

B: Mm ... He's only a little older than Karine but he expects a higher salary. His qualifications aren't as good as Cameron's, and I felt he was the least reliable of the three. He's probably the worst candidate we saw. So, decision time!

▶ 29

A: Well, I think I've made up my mind. I think Karine is the best candidate for the job.

B: Yes, I agree. And I'm sure she'll become more confident as she gets more experience.

▶ 30

Hello, everyone. I'm Jenny and, as you know, I'm here to talk to you about being an actress. I've been in the business for a long time and during my career I've appeared in a lot of plays and TV dramas – some successful, some not so successful! I'm currently working on a film called *Three Bridges*, which I hope is going to be really good. However, most of you might recognise me from *Blackfield Road*, the soap opera.

▶ 31

People often ask me whether I was well prepared for a career in acting. I think it's difficult to be prepared for any job, really. Your working life is so different from school or college – it's a real shock to the system! You go from having very few responsibilities to a life which is well-organised and people have more expectations of you. Most people have a fixed day and they have to be punctual – you can't just have a lie-in when you feel like it!

I knew quite a bit about acting before I started because my dad is an actor, so I'd been to some of his rehearsals and knew about the hard work acting involves. People think it's a glamorous job and yes, it's fun to dress up and put on make-up and, of course, getting out on stage is great – but it's very hard too.

At school we had this scheme where students in their last year spent two weeks getting work experience in a real work environment. One of my friends wanted to be a primary school teacher and she spent two weeks helping in a class of nine-year-olds. Another wanted to work in the media and so worked in a newspaper office. During my work experience I got to spend time in a theatre. It's an excellent system because you get to see what the reality of the job is – the practical side.

I was lucky because the actors were putting on a production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and I spent two weeks with them while they were getting ready to perform. I helped out a lot backstage! I learnt all about how they built the set and how the costumes were made, but the most thrilling part was working with the lighting – that was new for me.

I spent three years at a drama school, which I'm very glad to have done. But after all that, my first job wasn't very glamorous at all. I had hoped to be given a part in a film, but instead it was a small part in a TV commercial – not for anything nice like chocolate, but cheese! I was working on a farm and they filmed me walking across a muddy field to feed the cows. Oh, and I was singing a silly song at the same time. Since then I've been lucky and had better opportunities. Also, I've just had some exciting news that I'd like to share! I'm rehearsing at the moment for another Shakespeare play in February. It's *King Lear* and I'm really looking forward to working on stage in a theatre again. It's great to have a real audience! But after that, in July, I'm in a series for Channel 5, called *The Suspects*. It's six parts and I think everyone is going to love it!

Unit 7

▶ 32

F = Felicia C = Carlos E = Examiner

F: Well, let me see. This is a very interesting pair of photographs. They both show people with their possessions – things that are important to them. Both women are in their rooms and both have *lots* of possessions. The woman on the left has lots of clothes, while the woman on the right has lots of books. Her bedroom wall is full of shelves and the shelves are full of books! It looks as though they've both spent a lot of money on their possessions. The woman with the clothes seems to be pleased – perhaps she's just bought a new outfit! Her bed is a little untidy too. The woman on

the right looks very relaxed and thoughtful. Perhaps she's reading an interesting book. I think the two women have very different interests. One is interested in her appearance whereas the other is interested in reading. I'm sure she likes studying too. The clothes are important because they make the woman look good, I think – or maybe she likes collecting pretty things. The books are important because the woman likes reading and also she likes to keep books after she reads them. Perhaps she wants to read them again and again!

E: Thank you. Carlos, what's your favourite possession?

C: A book of old family photographs. My grandmother gave it to me. I love it!

▶ 34

- 1** Well, a rugby player I know told me how it helped him get over his injuries more quickly, so I thought I'd give it a try. So you have to take off all your clothes, except for a pair of shorts and a mask. Unless you wear a mask, your face will get frostbite! Then you go into this incredibly cold room. My first session just lasted three minutes. Five minutes is safe provided you get out quickly. If you stayed another three or four minutes, you'd be dead! It has helped my knees a lot but I know it won't last for ever. You should have regular sessions otherwise the pain comes back.
- 2** I had tried so many things to help with the pain in my back but nothing seemed to work until I went to the clinic. I wasn't really a believer – in fact, I thought it was nonsense, but I was ready to try anything as the doctors couldn't find what's wrong with me. It was strange lying there as someone stuck needles in different parts of my body. I noticed a big difference after one session, and after the third one the pain had disappeared. This doesn't mean that I am a convert to any alternative treatment, but this really worked for me.
- 3** Well, the theory is that any kind of weakness or injury appears directly in the iris. It has an interesting history: a Hungarian doctor noticed that when a bird – an owl, I think – hurt itself, a black mark immediately appeared in its iris. Of course, this was easy to see as owls have such large eyes. As the bird got better, the mark went away. The doctor then developed a map of the iris that related to different parts of the body to help with diagnosis. This is all very well, in theory, but a couple of recent experiments showed that the technique was only reliable half the time. This is a shame because it sounded a really interesting theory.
- 4** It's based on the idea, you know, that an illness can be cured if you take – in a medicine or tablet – a little bit of what caused it – like if someone is allergic to something. The trouble is, I just don't see how this works in practice. I mean, they use such tiny amounts that it's a bit like putting a spoonful of salt in the Atlantic Ocean! It's an interesting idea, and I'd like to believe it, but common sense tells me that this can't possibly be true. All the same, there are loads of people who think the treatment really works and believe that it has cured them – but maybe they would have got better anyway. We just don't know.

Unit 8

▶ 35

I = Interviewer C = Cathy

- I:** We all know that the reflectors we find in the middle of roads are called 'cats' eyes' because the inventor was inspired by the way cats' eyes reflect light in the dark. So, have we borrowed any other ideas from nature? Cathy Burrows has made a documentary about the topic and she's here with us today in the studio. Cathy, why did you decide to make a documentary about this subject?
- C:** Well, my friend and I were down by the river and we were admiring the dragonflies. My friend told me that the way they use their wings was the inspiration for the helicopter. It made me want to find out more about other ways the animal world has influenced different inventions. And the more I learnt, the more I wanted to pass this knowledge on to other people. I learnt so many interesting things that I decided to let other people know about them too – through a documentary.
- I:** I see. What sort of inventions do you cover in the documentary?
- C:** Animals have had an enormous influence on many things that man has invented or created – from transport and car design to architecture. For instance, scientists at Mercedes Benz wanted to find a shape for their new energy-saving car and decided to copy a tropical fish called the box fish. It has unusual scales and a strange square shape, but it can move round very efficiently. For a car, this means it uses far less fuel.
- I:** You also show how Japanese designers used the owl as an inspiration. Tell us more about that.
- C:** As you know, Japan is where the high-speed bullet train was invented. Japanese scientists have copied nature for the design of the latest version. One of the difficulties they had was to reduce the noise the train makes at high speed. So, what they did was copy the way an owl's feathers are arranged on their bodies. Apparently, they are arranged so that they make as little noise as possible when they attack their prey. They also borrowed the shape of the kingfisher's beak for the train's nose because it is aerodynamic and beautiful to look at too.
- I:** That's very interesting. By the way, what's the story behind these new swimming costumes – the ones that record breakers wear?
- C:** Oh yes, we look at that in the programme too. Basically, designers created swimming costumes from a material that copied the scales you find on shark skin. The problem is that it has been too successful! Loads of records have been broken by swimmers wearing them. Now they are banned because they give some swimmers too much of an advantage.
- I:** Right. Also in the documentary you talk about architecture. What sort of influence has nature had on architecture?
- C:** Well, a good example is the Eastgate Centre in Harare, in Zimbabwe. It copies the way giant ants control the

temperature of their towers – where they live. Even in the hottest weather, giant ants keep the temperature the same by opening and closing holes. So the architects who designed the Eastgate centre copied this idea for a natural method of air-conditioning. Because of this and the new type of paints and materials they used when constructing it, the building only uses a tenth of the amount of energy that most buildings of its size would need and that, to me, is really important.

- I:** And finally, did anything that you found out really surprise you?
- C:** Apparently, scientists have developed a very small spy plane that is used for surveillance – a bit like CCTV. It films and collects lots of information and though I found its use is pretty predictable, the fact that its wings are shaped just like a bat's was not! It's there in the air and we don't see or hear it.
- I:** Well, this is fascinating but I'm afraid that's all we've got time for, Cathy. However, if listeners want to find out more, then make sure you watch the documentary *Nature Study* at eight tonight.

▶ 36

S1 = Student 1 S2 = Student 2 E = Examiner

- S1:** OK, shall we start with this one?
- S2:** Put animals in zoos – yes, I think that's a good way. The animals are safe there, and they can have babies so they don't become extinct.
- S1:** Yes, you're right. But it depends on the zoo, I think.
- S2:** What do you mean exactly?
- S1:** Well, some zoos are very good and the animals have a lot of space but some zoos are small and I don't like to see the animals in small cages. But it's a way to protect them, I suppose.
- S2:** Absolutely! Shall we look at this one – about hunting?
- S1:** Oh, this is very important. People hunt animals for lots of things – food, fur, medicines. They must make laws to protect the endangered ones.
- S2:** I completely agree. The problem is, laws don't always work, do they?
- S1:** Sorry, could you say that again?
- S2:** Laws don't always work – people don't always obey laws.
- S1:** Yes, that's true. Well, they must make *strong* laws.
- S2:** When you say 'strong laws', do you mean heavy fines for people who don't obey?
- S1:** Yes, or even prison! OK, so what about this one – about building? Lots of animals are disappearing because we build houses where they live. It's a good way, but I don't think it's possible.
- S2:** Sorry, I don't follow.
- S1:** I mean, we can't stop building. People need homes.
- S2:** OK, true. But builders can be more careful where they build. It might be more expensive to find another place to build – but we mustn't be selfish.
- S1:** What do you mean?

- S2:** I mean we mustn't only think about ourselves. Animals were here before us. They are part of our world.
- S1:** Yes – and they will probably be here after us too!
- E:** Thank you. Now you have about a minute to decide which you think would be the best way to protect endangered animals.
- S2:** Sorry, would you mind repeating that, please?
- E:** You have about a minute to decide which you think would be the best way to protect endangered animals.
- S1:** So, we have to decide which is the best way. I don't think we can stop people building, can we?
- S2:** You're right, I'm afraid. And I'm not too sure about hunting either. We didn't talk about pollution, but I think that's really important. Think about the polar bears, *and* how deserts are getting bigger.
- S1:** So, are you saying that you think that's the best way? Controlling pollution?
- S2:** I think it's a good way but it's very hard, isn't it? It's going to take ages.
- S1:** Sorry, I didn't catch that.
- S2:** It's going to take ages – a really long time.
- S1:** Yes, perhaps national parks and nature reserves are a better way at the moment. For me, they're better than zoos because the animals are still wild.
- S2:** I completely agree with you. Let's go for that one then.

Unit 9

▶ 38

Last weekend I went to see the Science Museum's living robot exhibition, Robotville, and I really enjoyed it. It was a collection of some extremely clever robots that have been made all over Europe. There are six zones you can visit, each showing different types of robots that have been designed to do different sorts of things. In total, there are twenty robots from many different countries – many of them have just left their laboratories for the first time! You could see each robot in the place it might work in in the future – you know, like a classroom or a doctor's surgery.

And next to each robot was their inventor, so you could ask them all sorts of questions and they were happy to answer them. They really enjoyed talking about the problems that they'd had and how they were going to improve the robots in the coming years. As well as seeing how new robots are being developed, you could also find out a bit about the history of robotics. I didn't know that the word *robot* was first used in the 1920s, not by a scientist, but in a play by a writer from Czechoslovakia, as it was called then.

Something else that was surprising was the variety of robots they had on display. They were so different. I mean, when you talk about robots, most people think about a machine that looks a bit like a human being but moves in an awkward way and says things in an odd, metallic sort of voice. At least that's what I think of! Well, at the exhibition there were so many different types. There was a robot fish, which I didn't expect to see at all – I mean, a robot fish?! And there was also a robot cat

and a robot dog, which I thought was unusual because, surely, we want robots to help us with things like housework and stuff, not to give us extra work looking after them! But they say that in the future we'll want robots to keep us company as well as work for us. Apparently, the thing that older people complain about most isn't bad health but *loneliness* – and maybe robot pets can help with that; or, who knows, maybe even human-like companions! Wow!

I think this exhibition is really important. It makes us aware of how our lives might change dramatically in the next decade or two. Robots will definitely have a place in our houses – doing lots of different jobs. Cleaning is what people usually think of – you know, cleaning the carpets and so on, but I didn't realise they would be able to do more complicated things like cooking as well. Also, looking maybe a bit further ahead, they'll do routine jobs such as taking the dog for a walk or picking children up from school. We may even see them in our classrooms as teachers! It sounds like science fiction but robots are already used in many places that we're not aware of. If you've seen any hospital dramas on TV, you've probably seen robots doing small operations, and we know that they are also used by the army to look for bombs or to bring injured people away from dangerous places.

This is really an exhibition that you mustn't miss – especially if you're interested in how our world is going to look in the future. It's open until six every day except Thursday, when it stays open until half past seven, but it won't be running next week. In fact, it closes this Friday. Take my advice and get down to the Science Museum soon.

▶ 40

- 1 We'll still be catching colds.
- 2 We'll still be suffering from heart attacks.
- 3 They'll have found cures for most of them by then.

▶ 41

Well, both pictures show people in situations where they are learning new skills. In the first picture there's a young girl in a car. She's got her hands on the ... sorry, I don't know the word – it's what you use to control a car. I think it's her dad beside her and he's ... what do you call it when you change the position of something? He's doing that to the car mirror; there's a special word for it – the mirror which lets you see the back? Anyway, I guess she's learning to drive and he's teaching her. She's probably seventeen or eighteen, whereas the people learning in the second picture are really young, maybe three or four, and they're at – I don't know the exact word for it – it's a school for very young children before they go to real school. They're listening to a teacher and she's showing them something in a book and saying something too. I think they're learning how to read. About how useful the skills will be in the future, well, I think, obviously, reading will still be important for everyone for a long time but driving, I don't know, maybe soon we'll have – oh, what's the word? Sorry, it's gone – a car with no driver? Then the skill of driving may disappear!

Unit 10

▶ 43

I think it depends on what it is. I prefer to look at sculpture or art on my own. Then I can stand in front of something for as long as I want. For instance, last week I went to a Monet exhibition and I spent half an hour in front of one painting! But I like going to the theatre with other people. You can talk about it afterwards.

▶ 44

N = Narrator W = Woman M = Man

1

N: You hear two friends discussing a remake of a film they have both seen.

W: What did you think of it then?

M: Well, normally I don't like romantic films, especially old ones, but as this was filmed locally, I thought I'd watch it. And I was pleasantly surprised – it actually made me cry!

W: I still prefer the original – it's a classic, and the main actors were just brilliant – much more believable than in this new version.

M: But this one uses excellent special effects and the music is beautiful, even if the acting wasn't up to scratch. And I love all those scenes filmed on the beach.

W: Just because there are familiar places in a film, that shouldn't influence your reaction to it!

▶ 45

N = Narrator W = Woman M = Man

2

N: You hear a woman talking about a favourite dish.

W: It's an ordinary and traditional recipe, but it's really tasty as well. It's called the King Fainted because the first time the king tasted it, he passed out with pleasure. I've never had that reaction! But I must admit it's one of my favourites. Anyway, there is no great mystery about making it; what you need are a couple of large aubergines – you know, eggplants – two or three peppers – any colour will do – a couple of onions and some garlic. Parsley is good if you have some in your garden. You then cut everything up finely and fry it gently in olive oil. You'll love it, just like the king.

3

N: You hear a man talking about a package holiday he and his wife went on.

W: How was Cuba?

M: Marvellous!

W: What was it like?

M: Well, our room was first class. The hotel had everything you can imagine, from dance classes to sporting activities, but we were happiest just sitting by the pool and chilling out in the sun. No stress – wonderful!

W: Did you go out at all?

M: Well, we did think of going into Havana on our own, but I didn't want to be walking around in the heat, so

we decided to stay in the resort. I wanted to go on an excursion to a cigar factory, but Julie didn't want to be left on her own.

4

N: You hear a man talking about a place of natural beauty.

M: Well, it's an outstanding natural site and attracts a lot of tourists every year. There are these enormous columns of rock that come out of the sea – quite unbelievable, really. There's a legend that tries to explain it. It says that the columns are part of a road made by an Irish giant called Finn MacCool. Of course, the real story is that the rocks are the result of volcanic activity. I still like the story about Finn, though.

5

N: You hear a tour guide talking about the Charles Bridge in Prague.

W: When I take people to see the Charles Bridge, I mention the usual stuff – how it was built, its length and so on. This is all so well-known people start falling asleep. So then I like to point out details that aren't that obvious. For instance, that one of the towers has the carving of a servant woman. She was just an ordinary servant, but she helped King Wenceslas IV escape from prison. Or I'll point to the exact spot on the bridge where the people of Prague beat back an enemy army. Stories like this make people wake up and feel that the tour is special.

6

N: You hear two friends talking about a competition.

M: So what was the cheese-rolling race like? Sounds amazing!

W: It was great fun! The competitors go to the top of the hill, which is really steep. Then the organisers roll an enormous cheese down the hill and everyone chases after it. It's really quite dangerous and one boy broke his arm. I didn't see it – I was just happy to get to the bottom without hurting myself.

M: It's surprising that there aren't more accidents!

W: A few years ago the cheese went into the crowd of spectators and hurt a lot of people. Imagine telling the doctor that you were hit by a cheese!

7

N: You hear a woman talking about her visit to San Francisco.

W: I'll always remember my trip to San Francisco. I really hate graffiti and tagging – I can't see the point of it – but the Mission Quarter has street art with a difference – not like mindless graffiti you normally see in cities. The area is full of fantastic murals that show people's everyday lives and the hopes and fears of the communities who live there. Of course, it was great to see the Golden Gate Bridge – it's such an icon – but the murals were a wonderful surprise, part of the actual culture of the place.

8

N: You hear a woman talking about her trip to a festival in Canada.

W: Well, it was quite an experience. It was a long way to go for three or four short performances – and there are hundreds of other people trying to get noticed too. I saw some really good shows but, obviously, I was there to

demonstrate what I could do. You have a few minutes to make an impression and if you can't get a laugh out of your audience in the first few seconds, then your confidence goes. Anyway, it went OK and I survived, and I made a couple of useful contacts as well – with agents and club owners. I just hope I get some bookings.

Unit 11

47

- Well, my uncle had one years ago, but the engines were really basic and they weren't very comfortable. It didn't stop them from becoming an icon, did it? The new model is great and I like the way it has kept the fun of the original while bringing it entirely up-to-date. There are comfortable leather seats and loads of options that you can add. I just don't understand why someone would want to drive around in the original model – they must enjoy being uncomfortable or maybe it takes them back to when they were young.
- Let's have a look, shall we? How much did you say you paid for them? Forty euros? Oh dear! Well, they can't possibly be real at that price. Look at the quality – it simply isn't there. There's no real protection for your eyes. They're just cheap plastic fakes. I know you're probably quite happy with them, because they look like the real thing, but it makes me really cross. The people who sell these shouldn't pretend that they're something they aren't.
- I'm into gaming and I spend a lot of my time playing online. My favourite game is *The Sword of Evil*. When I first started playing at school years ago, the expressions of the characters were artificial and their movements were very unnatural, but my friends and I had a great time playing it. I was really looking forward to the latest version and it's true that the characters on the screen are, you know, virtual. They look very realistic and their expressions are so convincing too – just like real actors. The sad thing, though, is that it just can't recreate the excitement I felt when I first played ten years ago. I must be getting old!
- We had a really brilliant time! We dressed up in seventies clothes and danced to music from that period. It was great! I found a lovely old green velvet evening dress that my mum had bought in France. Once upon a time, it was the height of fashion. I wore a pair of ridiculous-looking shoes in rainbow colours with stupidly high heels! Being fashionable must have been lots of fun back then and I think people were more adventurous. Nowadays, everyone is scared of looking different. It's a shame. I think that people knew how to have fun and life was a lot simpler in the seventies.
- Usually I really hate the fashion for reality shows like this. Everything is done for the cameras, and you get all these awful people who are only interested in becoming famous – you know, becoming a celebrity – even though they have no talent for anything. It's hard to believe some of the things they do just to get noticed. It's pathetic! I don't know why people are so addicted to shows like this. But anyway, as I was saying, this one I saw was actually quite good. In the show, they made a typical family live the way people used to live a hundred years ago. It was interesting to see how they coped. Life must have been so much harder in those days.

48

- A:** Have you seen the photos Jenny's posted of her new flat? It looks amazing! She must be really happy.
- B:** Yes. She's been looking for the right place for ages. Do you know where it is?
- A:** No. But you can see a park through one of the windows. It might be on South Street, near Victoria Gardens? It can't be the place she was looking at in the centre. That one had a view of an office block.
- B:** You're right. Is she renting?
- A:** No, she's bought it.
- B:** Lucky her! It must have been expensive! It's a lovely area, South Street.
- A:** I think her parents might have given her some money.
- B:** Oh yes. She can't have paid for it all by herself – not on her salary. I love the way she's furnished it. That's a great style, mixing the old and the new. But she must have had some help – it looks very professional.
- A:** Yes, I agree. I think her brother might have helped with that – he's a designer.
- B:** I'd love to see it. Do you think she'll have a house warming party?

51

Yes, as you say, both photos show students in classrooms but they're very different classrooms. There are a lot more students in the first photo – whereas in the second photo there are only a few. The students in the first photo are at desks and sitting close to each other. Some of them are writing, so they could be doing an exercise or taking notes. In the second photo the students are at tables in a circle, with computers in front of them. The teacher is helping the students individually. I imagine the students in the first photo are a bit tired or bored. It must be a long lesson. They might not remember the lesson tomorrow! However, the students in the second photo look interested. It's a small group, so the teacher can help them. I would say that they're learning very well.

Unit 12

52

I married a Frenchman.
Together we won a Nobel Prize.
I also won a Nobel Prize for my work on chemistry.
I named a chemical element after my original country.

53

- I wish they'd invented smartphones when I was younger. They would have been really useful when I was at school. There's so much useful stuff you can find out using smartphones – the kids today are really lucky.
- For me, I wish we'd had faster trains when I was going to school. It took ages travelling every day. I had to get up really early and I never got home in time to watch my favourite TV shows.

- 3 I wish they hadn't invented e-books! I think it's terrible that soon we may never see books on shelves again! The advantage is that with e-books you can take lots of books on holiday – but I don't think it's that important.
- 4 I wish my grandmother's generation had had better cameras. I'd love to have more pictures or even short films of her when she was young. We've only got a few black and white photos. It's a shame.
- 5 I know my children say I'm a grumpy old woman, but I wish they'd never invented mobile phones! Yes, it's important to get in touch with people quickly, but is it really necessary to talk for half an hour to your friend on the train, with everyone in the carriage listening to the details of how you spent your weekend?

54

I = Interviewer T = Tina

- I:** For those of you who don't know, the Big Bang Fair is a science fair that takes place in a different location in the UK every year. Our science reporter Tina Bradley went to this year's event. So, Tina, just why is the Big Bang Fair so popular?
- T:** Well, it's an amazing opportunity for young people to see how exciting science and engineering can really be. A lot of young people think of scientists as boring people in white coats; or they think that engineers spend their time repairing water pipes or underneath cars! The Big Bang Fair has loads of demonstrations, films and exhibitions to show what scientists and engineers can really do.
- I:** So, it's all about watching experiments and seeing how scientists do things?
- T:** That's part of it. There are some fantastic demonstrations and talks, but it's not all about watching and listening. It's about taking part too. When people experience things for themselves, they learn a lot more. For example, there's a stand which tells kids about animated films and then they can actually create a short animated film themselves.
- I:** So it's not all about chemistry and physics?
- T:** Not at all – although those subjects are obviously at the heart of many science projects. It's more about how science is behind everything we use and do in the real world. There are even demonstrations about the design of scary rides in theme parks! I think it's remarkable how the fair takes science out of the laboratory. I learnt a huge amount!
- I:** I imagine it's useful for teachers and parents too?
- T:** Absolutely. There are lots of ideas for teachers on how to bring science lessons right up-to-date and make their teaching relevant for students. These young people are the scientists of tomorrow and we need more of them to make the world safer and a better place to live. They need to be inspired by good teachers and encouraged by parents.
- I:** I was interested in the winners of the prizes that they give at the fair. They're young but they invented some amazing things!
- T:** You're right. Every year students can enter a competition to become Young Scientist or Young Engineer of the Year. One winner of Young Engineer was a student who'd

invented this incredible search and rescue robot. It's a small robot that can be used after earthquakes to look for people who are trapped in buildings that have collapsed. He wanted to invent something small enough to go into places where rescuers couldn't – or where it was too dangerous for people to go. Cost was important because usually these types of machines are very expensive, especially for poorer countries.

- I:** And wasn't there another finalist – a boy who invented something to do with music? An instrument, I think?
- T:** Yes, Aseem Mishra – but that was a few years ago. He was a keen scientist and a passionate drummer, and he designed a set of drums that lit up when they were played. This created a fantastic visual effect for people watching. Aseem's invention was an example of how you can combine a hobby with science to create something remarkable. The following year he made a pair of trousers that produced the sounds of drums and cymbals when you tapped them. It sounds crazy, doesn't it? But I saw him play. He sat on a chair and used his hands to tap his leg. The different places he tapped produced different drum sounds – just like in a band!
- I:** Wow! I imagine all these kids go on to have good careers in science.
- T:** Yes, this year's winners have already been given places at universities, and sponsorship money too. That's another important point about this fair: it's not only about watching or even taking part in experiments; it's about finding out about courses and careers in science. There are also representatives from different companies who can talk to the kids about job opportunities, including science reporters on television and radio!
- I:** You'd better watch your job then, Tina!

57

- A:** Oh yes, doing fun experiments in class is a great way to interest children. They love mixing things in tubes and making things turn different colours. I remember making paper aeroplanes in class and having competitions with them! It's always important to do things in class and not just listen to the teacher. Now let's look at doing tests. I think that ...
- B:** Can I just add something here? Talking about experiments. I agree that fun is important but children also need to ...
- A:** Yes, it's really important when they're very young ... Oh, sorry for interrupting you! Please continue!

Practice test

Listening Part I

58

N = Narrator

- N:** You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1 to 8, choose the best answer, A, B or C. Question 1. You hear a girl leaving a message for her friend about a basketball match.

1

A: Hi, it's Anna. I just want to let you know that I'm leaving home soon to head down to the basketball court. I want to have a go at improving my technique before the others arrive. I'm not sure if I mentioned to you that my mate Julia will be coming with me today – you know, the one who used to be the captain of the junior basketball team and took them through to the championship. She wants to see what's what with us. Anyway, I hope your knee's no longer giving you lots of pain. See you soon!

2

N: You hear two friends talking about a concert they've just been to.

A: So, what did you think of the show then?

B: I enjoyed it, actually, and I'm glad that it wasn't too packed. I thought there wouldn't be a single free seat! I was sort of hoping it would go on until at least ten o'clock though.

A: Hmm ... I know what you mean. Oh well, at least we can't say that it cost us a fortune! I have to say I was surprised too when it finished after an hour and a half. The people next to me said the same thing.

B: Anyway, do you fancy going for a quick coffee now?

3

N: You hear a man leaving a voicemail message for his son.

A: Hi, Zak – dad here. You're probably at the doctor's by now – I think you were supposed to see him around ten this morning, weren't you? Anyway, about today's plan to take your uncle out for a birthday lunch, he's said he's going to be downtown doing some bits and pieces and is happy just to meet us at the restaurant. Um, I don't need to pick him up. And as you're already downtown, you can easily walk to the restaurant too. Oh ... and I've had a think about that issue you're having with your laptop: I think I've worked it out. I'll explain later!

4

N: You hear a woman telling a friend about a holiday she's been on.

A: That was the best holiday I've ever had!

B: Why's that?

A: Well, mostly down to the hotel we stayed in.

B: And was the food there good?

A: To be honest, we only really had breakfast there. We were out for most other meals and that's mainly because it was a bit further out than we'd expected. Once we went into town, we usually just stayed there.

B: I see. Did you have a nice comfortable room?

A: Yes we did, and we couldn't believe our eyes when we saw the brand new gym and pool! We've never seen anything like it! Oh well ... we're back in the real world now.

5

N: You hear part of a talk by an expert on sleep.

A: So, we're always being told of the value of a good night's sleep and it's as much about quality as it is about quantity. What you may not be quite so aware of and what I want to go through with you today is the things that can easily get in the way of you and a good night's rest; doing activities that challenge the brain close to bedtime or physical activity, for example – and there are plenty more, of course. Anyway, more on all that in a minute. First of all, I'd be interested to hear what kinds of things you do to prepare for bedtime.

6

N: You hear two colleagues talking about a new job that was created in their office.

A: Well, the news that Robert got promoted certainly came as a surprise.

B: You can say that again! I'm not at all convinced that he's got what it takes to be a director though. It seems like he's only been with us five minutes!

A: You know, what makes me really mad about this is the fact that hardly anyone knew that job was available. I mean, I would have applied otherwise.

B: Yes, you've got a fair point there. Why don't you say something?

A: I might just do that. Mind you, it's not certain that they would have offered it to me anyway, I suppose.

7

N: You hear a woman leaving a message for her driving instructor.

A: Hi, James. I'm so sorry to have to cancel today's lesson at the last minute. You're probably thinking that it's down to illness. Far from it – in fact, never felt better. No, the thing is, I've actually had a bit of an accident with my glasses. They're in bits and I can't see a thing without them! And I haven't got a spare pair, unfortunately. Anyway, a friend's agreed to drive me into town tomorrow to try and get this sorted out. I'll call you back then so we can reschedule. I need plenty of practice as my driving test's coming up really soon.

8

N: You hear two friends talking about a restaurant.

A: Did you enjoy your evening out at that Italian restaurant?

B: Yeah, it was good, I suppose. I must say though, they could do with giving people a bit more space. We could hear every word the couple next to us were saying! And they were arguing!

A: Hmm ... Hardly ideal when you're out for a meal. So how was the food?

B: Not bad at all. And there's something for everyone, whether you're a fish person or a meat lover or a vegetarian. They have lovely staff too – really welcoming.

A: Maybe I'll give it a try next weekend then. It's my sister's birthday.

N: That is the end of Part 1. Now turn to Part 2.

Listening Part 2



N = Narrator O = Ollie

N: You will hear a man called Ollie Stevenson talking about his hobby, photographing birds. For questions 9 to 18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2.

O: My name's Ollie Stevenson and today I'm going to talk to you about my hobby – photographing birds.

Well, in photography all seasons have something going for them but autumn's my favourite because there's lots happening then. Birds that come to the UK here for the winter start to arrive. Whooper swans, for example, which are well-known for their loud voice, are most photographers' number one choice then. I find ducks far more appealing though, and love photographing them. They're my favourite, actually!

When it comes to locations for taking my shots, I'm always trying to find places that aren't too popular with photographers. I'd much rather get a picture of local birds doing something unusual than hang around the usual crowded places, trying to get a good shot. Everyone does what works for them, of course, at the end of the day.

I have two cameras – an expensive one and a cheap one. The cheap one's certainly nicer to look at. And it easily wins when it comes to weight too: it's not at all heavy, so it's perfect for carrying around when I have no definite plans regarding what I'm going to photograph. As far as the build quality of the photos is concerned though, my EOS-5D – that's the more expensive one – is in a class of its own and it has a good kit as well.

I'd like to say a word now about kit. First, try out a second-hand camera and a low-cost lens to see how you get on. If you really get into photography, then buy the best you can afford. And a strong bag is essential. I still remember a bargain one I picked up somewhere. Well, let's just say that taught me a good lesson as it fell apart after a few months.

Now, when watching for birds, you need to build a shelter – a small structure where you can wait for that perfect shot; a hide, as it's called. I usually build my own, and mainly go for natural materials: wood or branches, of which I've got loads in my garden.

Most garden birds get used to shelters pretty quickly. But it could take up to a week or even two weeks for some birds – oyster catchers, for example – or just a day for smaller species like grey wagtails to feel comfortable around shelters. Crows, which are very intelligent, tend to stay away from shelters.

And as you'll be out and about in the woodlands, it doesn't take that long to become familiar with the various calls that birds make. When you're more familiar with these, you'll soon come across nests. Generally, woodland birds move around within very limited areas, so you can be fairly certain that the bird you hear will be just a few metres away.

Autumn's a good time for new photographers to experiment. With all the gorgeous colours, you can get fantastic close-ups of leaves and, come to think of it, nuts

too. Berries can provide you with some really beautiful images – if you get in there on time, that is – and that's something you shouldn't miss.

When it comes to printing out your photos, it's best to experiment a little before hitting the 'Print' button. I usually don't mess around too much with the colour in my pictures or the tone. I do, however, often adjust the light. The more you practise this, the better you'll get at photoshopping.

Finally, printing out your bird photos doesn't have to be the end of it. You can use your pictures for all sorts of things. They make nice gifts when they're put in a photo frame; or you could do what I do, which is build up a collection of pictures over several months and then produce a calendar out of them. That's also a lovely gift for relatives at the end of the year. Or I suppose you could have them printed onto T-shirts.

N: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

That is the end of Part 2. Now turn to Part 3.

Listening Part 3



N = Narrator

N: You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their jobs. For questions 19 to 23, choose from the list, A to H, what each speaker likes most about their job. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

- 1 I'm quite new in my company, so I'm still getting a feel for it all! So far so good though – everyone's been really welcoming and willing to help me when I have questions. They've also told me about the great training that'll be provided once I settle in. That's for the future though, and I'm sure my manager will explain it all to me. For now, what I'm *really* enjoying is working in such a beautiful building. It's very environmentally friendly, has a great fresh design and doesn't really look like a traditional office. It makes going to work each day a pleasure!
- 2 There are so many great things about working for my company. For instance, we get the chance to work from home one day a month if we want to – actually, that's pretty standard practice in lots of places now. Some of us can even go and work in one of the international offices, though that's not something I'm interested in right now as I have a young family to think of. But not having to stick to fixed hours is what's *really* made life a lot easier for me, especially during the school holidays – you know, with childcare arrangements and so on. It means I can start or finish a bit later if I need to.
- 3 I work for a fairly small company. We're sort of like a happy family, really, as there's only a few of us. The company hasn't been in business for long, so there's not a lot of money coming in yet to fund training but, hopefully, we'll be able to do some courses later this year. My boss is really fantastic – always available to help me and answer questions – so I know I'm very lucky in that regard. And I just heard the other day that we may be moving to a brand new building next year, which is bound to be really exciting.
- 4 One of the really great things about my role is that I don't have to stay in one place for too long. I move between branches up and down the country, so that keeps it interesting for me. I seldom get the chance to work from home, but that's not an issue as I'd rather be in the office with my colleagues anyway. It's much more

fun. I've been working a lot recently and I'm feeling tired, so it's been agreed with my manager that I'll take a nice long break next month. I'll probably take about three weeks off and go and visit my family for a bit.

- 5** I hope I'll be with my company for a long time to come as I'm very happy there. We have a nice work environment and even though our offices aren't in the most modern building ever, they're quite cosy. We do something called 'hot desking', which means that two people share a desk – one person uses the desk, for instance, if the other's working at home that day. It's practical. What really makes me feel proud to work for this company is that we do several courses during the year, so we're always increasing our knowledge, and I think that'll help me to get promoted when the time's right.

N: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

That is the end of Part Three. Now turn to Part Four.

Listening Part 4



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N = Narrator I = Interviewer L = Laura

- N:** You will hear an interview with a woman called Laura Cooper, who is talking about working in a summer camp in the USA. For questions 24 to 30, choose the best answer, A, B or C. You now have one minute to look at Part 4.
- I:** Joining us today is Laura Cooper who's going to tell us about her time working in a summer camp in the USA called the ASC. Welcome, Laura. So, tell us why you decided to go and work there.
- L:** It wasn't as much about improving my financial situation – although that certainly helped too – as wanting to spend time with young people, to get a feel for that. I'm doing a teaching qualification at university, you see, so I thought some time at the ASC would give me a useful insight into kids' minds. And, obviously, I knew I'd make some friends along the way too.
- I:** I see. Was there any aspect of the job that you found hard?
- L:** Let me see ... Well, there was a lot of team work, but that wasn't an issue. I think I've always been a natural at fitting in and getting on with people. We had to do some long days there, but I think we all got used to that. Helping kids who were missing their families came as a bit of a challenge though.
- I:** Right. So, tell us a bit about your managers at the ASC.
- L:** I found them very easy to work with, to be honest. The whole thing is run by a group of incredibly motivated young people who know so much despite their age. The only problem was with managing scheduled events for specific groups of children on certain days. Sometimes there were changes to the schedules, which we weren't told about until the last minute – and that caused a few issues. That's something they could look into.
- I:** Uh huh ... So, how were your colleagues?
- L:** Fantastic! Just as I'd expected, there were people who could do all sorts of amazing things. There were some young teachers, some psychology students and even some engineers. What I hadn't expected to find though was workers from over twenty-five countries. For me, it was

fascinating to learn about so many other cultures.

- I:** Yes, that must have been interesting. So, what was your most memorable day at the ASC?
- L:** Well, that's easy. You see, we did a lot of work with disabled kids in the camp and it was so rewarding to see them learning new things and then tackling those things by themselves. Incidentally, I was actually given a prize for my efforts with some of those kids – completely unexpected! Anyway, one day we had a visit from the American director of a famous global charity that does amazing work with kids. It was great to hear him talk about the organisation's achievements – an unforgettable experience. I felt inspired afterwards.
- I:** That's nice! Would you say that it's beneficial for young people to get a summer job then?
- L:** Most definitely! Having a summer job can bring lots of things. For instance, they'll learn things that'd be useful later when they go to university or out into the adult world, like how to manage time or get on with people. And improving their abilities can be exciting too, of course. People who are lacking in confidence may find adjusting to a job hard initially, but I guess that changes in time.
- I:** I see. We're nearly out of time, unfortunately, Laura. So how did you feel at the end of your time at the ASC?
- L:** It wasn't nice saying goodbye to many of the children I'd worked with; we'd become really close during the time I was there and they were upset. They knew we wouldn't see each other again. Mainly, though, I couldn't believe how the six weeks had just flown by. I wish it could have lasted longer. Still, I picked up a few things during my time there which I know will be useful in the future.
- I:** Well, Laura, it's been great talking to you but, unfortunately, we'll have to end it there. Thanks for joining us!
- L:** Thank you!
- N:** Now you will hear Part 4 again.
That is the end of Part 4.

Speaking Part 1



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Where are you from?
Tell me about a person you like to spend your free time with.
What do you most enjoy doing when you're at home?
Who are the most important people in your life?
Who are you most like in your family?
If you need advice about something, who do you talk to? Why?

Speaking Part 4



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Which is the best town or city in your country for people to visit?
Is it good to live in a place which attracts lots of tourists? Why/Why not?
Do you think your area is a good place to live? Why/Why not?
Are there advantages to living in a small town rather than a big city?
Some people say it's better for children to grow up in the countryside. What do you think?
Thank you. That is the end of the Speaking test.