

Listening script

Ready for Listening

Section 1



(R = receptionist; C = Clara)

- R: Good morning. How can I help you?
- C: Hi. Mmm ... I'm not registered as a patient here at the moment as I moved to the north of the city, and I was wondering if it was possible to register again now and make an appointment as well.
- R: Yes, I can register you today, but all the appointments for today are taken, unless it's an emergency.
- C: No, I can't say it's an emergency.
- R: OK, so I can register you. Is it just for yourself?
- C: No it's for the whole family, myself, my husband and my daughter as well.
- R: I can check on the system to see if your details are still on here.
- C: I moved to another doctor about four and a half years ago, so ...
- R: Well I can have a look.
- C: OK.
- R: Can you tell me your name and date of birth? And I can check using both.
- C: My name's Clara Wight.
- R: Is that W-H-I-T-E?
- C: No. It's W-I-G-H-T.
- R: Right. Mmm and your date of birth?
- C: 23rd October 1990.
- R: OK ... let's see. ... Was your address before 72 Crocket Street?
- C: Yes. That's it! That was my old address.
- R: We have basic details, but no records. They were all transferred to the other health centre you registered at when you moved. Mmm ... and your present address?
- C: It's 88 Palace Avenue.
- R: And the postcode?
- C: It's ZE24 2TP.
- R: If you fill in this form for yourself and your family, then we can input the details.
- C: OK. But do I need to bring any proof of identity?
- R: I need proof of your address from a utility bill, etc.
- C: I've not got any bills, but I've got letters saying we're connected for the gas and electricity and of course I've got a letter showing the tenancy agreement with our name and the address on it.
- R: That should be OK.

- R: The first available appointment I have is on Thursday at three o'clock with Dr Jackson.
- C: Mmm that's a bit awkward as I've got to pick up my daughter from school. Have you got anything later?
- R: I've got an appointment with Dr Barker at 4 pm on Friday ...
- C: Yeah that's OK.
- R: But it's at our other health centre.
- C: Where's that?
- R: It's not that far. It's less than 10 minutes' walk from here on North Street. Do you know where the cinema is on North Street?
- C: Yes.
- R: Well it's on the same side of the road between the cinema and the pharmacy on the opposite side of the road from the bank.
- C: Yes I know it. There's a small park just further along on the same side of the road on the other side of New Street, where the bus stops.
- R: Yes. That's it. We will send you a text to confirm – can I just confirm your mobile number's 07700 900807?
- C: Yes, that's correct. Thanks for your help.
- R: Bye.

Section 2



Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the official opening of the Glitz Theatre, an exciting new development on this side of the city. The renovation of the theatre has taken nearly three years of painstaking restoration work and the results of the effort that has gone into it all are clearly visible. Before we proceed to the opening ceremony, I'd like to say a few words about the transformation of the theatre.

The venue has changed from being a rundown building to what can only be described as a modern theatrical experience, and for me it's wonderful to see so many of the original features of the building still intact, especially on the façade, where all the dirt has been removed. There is now multi-coloured glass panelling on the façade, so the entrance looks really welcoming.

The auditorium, which was not particularly welcoming in the past, has had a complete makeover to create something modern and up-to-date. And we now have a concert venue for a wide range of uses, where we can hold not just plays, but concerts for pop and classical music and for conferences.

For the latter, we also have a new extension with rooms for meetings and educational purposes all fitted out with the latest technology along with an area for mingling and entertaining.

The foyer of the theatre here, as you can see, has been made bigger with a much larger ticket office and machines for collecting tickets that have been booked in advance. And where there was only a machine serving coffee and cold drinks and a few stools and high tables there's now a proper coffee shop selling a wide range of light refreshments, which looks rather inviting. The roof terrace, which used to be closed, is now accessible, with a landscaped garden and a restaurant open to the public all year round.

The basement, which leads out into a garden at the back, has been converted into a members' room with a café for light refreshments and an area for art displays or stalls. The theatre shop is no longer beside the ticket office; it is now next to the entrance to the basement café. It doesn't just sell sweets, as it did before, but also theatre-related memorabilia, including programmes and books, DVDs, CDs, posters ...

And in the information pack you all have you may notice that there is a programme of events for the summer months, mmm ... As it's during the school holidays, there'll be a wide range of special events aimed at children. For the matinee performance each day, the theatre is offering free tickets to 200 children up to 16 years of age. And there'll be special rates for theatre-goers who book a meal in the roof-terrace restaurant as well. And we'll be having special evenings where there'll be concerts and plays by local groups. And also every Wednesday tickets will be half-price for members of the theatre. The membership is only £70 a year and gives members and a guest access to member-only events and to previews and access to the members' restaurant in the basement.

And another innovation at the theatre is the monthly programme of lectures and master classes delivered by actors, producers and writers, on various aspects of the theatre. This is certainly a major development, which will definitely pull in many theatre enthusiasts, and hopefully revitalise the area.

I'd now like the Mayor to say a few words before opening ...

Listening script

Section 3



06

(Z = Zahra; T = Thomas)

- Z:** Hi Thomas.
- T:** Zahra, hi. So, have you decided yet what you're going to do your seminar paper on?
- Z:** Yes, I have. Mmm ... it's all at an early stage so far, but it's on the impact of smartphone technology on our lives, but I'll probably restrict it to just the field of studying at university.
- T:** Well, that sounds very topical. If you think of it, smartphones only started to become popular around 2008 and look how quickly they've changed everything.
- Z:** Yes, of course. Things're happening so fast, ... I love new technology, but it's all too much at times. It'll be interesting to research. At least, I think it will.
- T:** Yes, I do too. And how're you going to do the research for your seminar paper?
- Z:** Well, mmm, I thought of interviewing people in the student body and members of the public – I want a wide range of ages and backgrounds, but I haven't narrowed it down yet.
- T:** Any minimum age?
- Z:** 16/17 minimum perhaps, but as for an upper age limit, not really.
- T:** Mmm ... and what're you setting out to show?
- Z:** I'm not sure at this stage either, but something along the lines of ... mmm ... the idea that we are allowing smartphone technology to control the way we do things too much, but I haven't made up my mind yet. I'm just thinking on my feet here. I haven't really thought it right through to the end, to be honest.
- T:** What about your questionnaire?
- Z:** Mmm ... , yes that's another thing. What I'm not really decided about is the length the questionnaire should be.
- T:** The best thing is to keep it short.
- Z:** Maybe. But I'll finalise the length when I sit down to type it up.

- Z:** I need to find someone to try out my questions on. I've got some already written.
- T:** I can be your guinea pig if you want.
- Z:** Great!
- T:** Fire away!

- Z:** Let's see, Let's start with this one ... which electronic device do you use most frequently?
- T:** Mm, I love my tablet, but actually, I'd have to say it's probably my smartphone.
- Z:** What do you use it for generally?
- T:** Mmm ... apart from communication like video-phoning my family and friends at home and social media, and listening to and downloading music, I use it for practically everything, but probably less and less for texting.
- Z:** On a scale of 1–10, where 1 is least useful and 10 most useful, how useful do you find your smartphone is for communication?
- T:** Very useful, so 8. Without it, I'd be totally lost.
- Z:** And what about studying? Do you use it in your studying?
- T:** All the time. I use it for mmm ... for searching on the net, and I also use it for downloading documents and for writing or dictating notes or bits of assignments on my mobile ...
- Z:** Mhmm ...
- T:** ... and recording lectures or parts of them when I can't be bothered taking notes on my mobile and then it transfers to my laptop automatically when I switch it on.
- Z:** And I thought I used my mobile a lot!
- T:** ... but in the main I use it for studying more and more, rather than just browsing the internet.
- Z:** Using the same scale, what about using the mobile for studying then?
- T:** Well, let's see It's more essential than communicating for me, and so it's a score of ... 9.
- Z:** What about entertainment?
- T:** I can use it for music and music videos and films and TV shows.
- Z:** What score would you give it for usefulness?
- T:** Mmm ... well, for that, I'd give a score of 7.
- Z:** What else do you use it for?
- T:** For many different things like the news, the weather, health checks, as my wallet, train tickets and as a TV remote control. I can't wait to get it connected up to more things at home. I think I'll end up using it for organising my entire home life.
- Z:** Do you think so? And the score for these other things?
- T:** A definite 8.
- Z:** OK thanks, that's really helpful ...

Section 4



07

Good morning everyone. The topic of my talk this week is a rather unusual method of bringing water to drought-ridden regions of the world. The methods people most think of, or read about in newspapers and/or see on TV, er ... are preventing deforestation and encouraging reforestation to prevent water run-off from barren land, and hence to stop flooding. Another method is ... er ... drilling bore holes to bring water from aquifers deep in the ground to irrigate the land.

But the method I'd like to talk about today is the production of rain through seeding clouds. For those of you who are not familiar with this practice, it is basically a process where nature is coaxed, as it were, to produce rain. In many places in the world, attempts have been made throughout history to produce rain in times of drought through magic, but from the latter part of the last century scientists've been endeavouring to come to the rescue by chemical means.

And at times they've been trying not just to produce rain, but also to divert it so that it does not rain on special days, such as national or international ceremonies. Cloud seeding has been carried out since the middle of the last century, but no scientist can confirm that the practice is actually responsible for rain, and not nature itself. Because who can confirm that the clouds would not let loose a deluge anyway?

Having said that, I am aware there is some evidence that seeding clouds to produce rain can lead to a 15% increase in rainfall. But what would happen, for example, if the actions of cloud seeding in one place led to a disastrous deluge in another? It would also be tricky to prove that any damage was the responsibility of cloud seeders. Some people are understandably against the practice of cloud seeding, as we don't really know the consequences of interfering with nature.

Cloud seeding has apparently been used by Californian officials to replenish reservoirs. In other parts of the US, electricity utility companies are especially fond of seeding to bring more water to hydroelectric plants.

With national budgets devoted to agriculture running into the tens of millions, if not billions of dollars in some cases, the interest in attempts to

Listening script

control the weather is not surprising and deserves attention.

.....

Last year the agricultural and meteorology departments at the university were given a 20 million dollar grant, funded in part by the government and various companies in the food and agricultural industry, to conduct research into cloud seeding to increase precipitation. While the research is aimed primarily at the US, it is hoped that the benefits accrued will have far-reaching consequences for other drought-ridden regions of the planet.

Now ... let's see, mmm ... if we look at this diagram here, we can see how cloud seeding works. There are two basic methods: from the air and from the ground. Looking first at seeding from the air, we can see that an aeroplane flies above the clouds from where it fires silver iodide into clouds by dropping chemical flares in order to increase precipitation. Silver iodide crystals then attach themselves to water droplets, which makes the water freeze and fall as rain or snow over high ground. If we now look at the diagram showing cloud seeding from the ground, we can see that there is a ground seeding generator here on the right, which has a tall chimney, and er ... next to this on the left is, mmm ... a fuel tank containing propane. Heat generated from the burning of the propane lifts the silver iodide crystals up to cloud level again leading to precipitation.

So let's now ...