

Unit 1 How we behave is who we are

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

P = Pasha; W1 = Woman 1, etc.; M1 = Man 1, etc.

Part 1

P: Hello. City life can be quite impersonal, so I try to smile at people and thank them whenever they behave kindly, but some forms of anti-social behavior really do get on my nerves. Today I'm talking to people about good and bad behavior. What kind of behavior in public places gets on your nerves?

Part 2

W1: I think what mostly gets on my nerves is when people listen to their music really loudly on a stereo when you're on the train, or in a lift. I think that's a bit antisocial.

M1: Um, probably noise more than anything actually. Um, I suppose it's one of those sorts of things you see in effect in towns, areas now get louder and louder – probably later into the night as well.

W2: Well, screaming babies, in, like shops and just generally around and the parents, kind of standing there and not really, just kind of ignoring the child and you just want to, just, tell the baby to just "shut up" but, obviously, you can't.

M2: Loud noise: people with loud voices. Er, people, er, bad manners.

W3: When you're on public transport, like on a train, and couples start kissing in front of you.

M3: Smoking within the vicinity. Um, as someone who personally doesn't smoke, er, I find it, it can, er ... it can get on my nerves at times.

Part 3

P: Give a recent example of when you experienced good or bad manners.

M3: The other day, just as an example, um, recent lack of manners I think, was in a ... a local park and er, there was a rubbish bin nearby, but that person instead of taking the extra effort to just simply walk over and drop it in, decided carelessly to just drop their rubbish on the ground where they were.

M1: I travel a lot on the trains and things like that, so I find, increasingly, the actual noise on trains from people using mobile phones, things like that really.

W1: Well, recently, it's ... I've seen it a few times, you know, when, when you're shopping or when you're in a restaurant and you're trying to ... and you're speaking to the person that's serving you and maybe somebody's, they're on their phone, or they're not really paying attention. You see that quite a lot, I think, in London particularly.

W3: On the bus this morning, when an old gentleman got on and someone got up to give him a seat.

Part 4

P: Do you think our attitude towards behavior changes as we get older?

W1: Yeah, I think it does. I think as you get older, you become, probably, a bit more intolerant of certain, sort of, anti-social behavior and, as, when you're younger you're probably not as aware of it.

M2: I think the older people, er, definitely appreciate manners, good behavior and a good attitude.

M1: I suppose so. I suppose we learn how to be more tolerant of it. Um, we can be, probably, more short-tempered of it because we've probably had it all of our lives and we want it to, sort of, come to an end, but I think we learn how to, sort of, either walk away from it or ignore it, that sort of things.

W2: Yeah, definitely.

W4: It becomes more important as you get older. You have to impress more people, therefore, be more polite.

W2: Yeah, and you gain a conscience as you get older as well. As kids, like, you just say whatever you want to each other, kids, but you kind of realize what you can and can't say as you get older.

Listening

Scripts

I = Interviewer; S1 = Speaker 1, etc.

Part 1

I: Now I've always thought it has to do with what time of day you're born. I arrived at 10 o'clock at night and consequently I'm an owl – coming to life late in the evening and capable of dancing till dawn – which is a pity really because this job requires that I am a lark, getting up every morning at 5:30. Well, which are you and why?

Part 2

S1: I am up usually between five and half past most mornings. I'm bright and breezy. I sing in the morning. I'm wide awake. I love watching the sunrise. Whenever we go on holiday, my husband thinks I'm mad because quite often I get up with a camera, and I'm out there at half past four, five o'clock in the morning watching the sunrise and taking photographs. And I just love it. It is just so peaceful and so beautiful. It's a lovely part of the day.

S2: Definitely not a morning person. Evening, without a doubt. I despise getting up with a passion. There is a real, real sense of dread, and, oh no, and there's sort of lots of denial about ... no, it didn't really go off. And I sort of set it again for five minutes later, then I set it again for another five minutes later, and I stay there until the absolute last second.

S3: If I'm groggily out at nine or 10 in the morning, I do look at other people walking their dogs, or, walking along with a bounce in their step and I just think, "Where does it come from? How can you do that? Should I just eat more vegetables or more fruit or should I get up earlier to be more awake?" None of it works.

S4: My father and my mother are very much sort of early birds, and so when I was a teenager I'd sleep in and I'd have comments all the time like, "You ... you're sleeping your life away", "You've wasted the best part of the day", and it's taken me until very, very recently actually to be able to stop the guilt at getting up late ...

S5: Late evening is best for me to be focusing rather than partying. That's when I'm really

thinking straight. Everyone's going to sleep at home here when I'm really mentally becoming most awake. That's when I really feel at my sharpest.

S6: At the end of the day, nine o'clock, 10 o'clock, I'm exhausted, and so I want to go to bed. Anybody mentions "party" to me and I cringe.

S7: David and I always joked before we had children that it would be great because he would be great in the mornings and I would be great in the evenings, and to a certain extent that's true, but finding time in the middle just to talk to one another is trickier.

I: What are you, lark or owl? And what are the effects? Do let us know on the message board on the website.

Viewing

Scripts

Desmond Morris:

Back in the late 1960s, I was sitting in this very restaurant on the island of Malta talking to my publisher. I drew his attention to the fact that, over the other side of the road there were two men who were gesticulating in a particular way. The way they were holding their palms to one side was fascinating me, and he said, "You know, you look at people the way that a bird-watcher looks at birds," and I said, "Yeah, I suppose you could call me a 'man watcher'."

As soon as I said it, it was as if I'd fired a starting gun on a major new project, one that was to engross me for many years to come and take me to over 60 different countries. I was going to do for actions what dictionary makers had done for words. I began making huge charts naming every facial expression, every gesticulation, every movement, every posture. I kept at it for month after month.

One of the first problems I encountered was that even the simplest human action, such as the handshake, has countless variations.

Sometimes it's reduced to a mere palm touch, as with these Masai elders in East Africa. But in other countries it becomes more elaborate. In Mali in West Africa the handshaker briefly touches his own forearm as the palms clasp.

In Morocco the handshakers kiss one another's hands at the same time as clasping them. And in Turkey, these Kurdish farmers have taken this simple action and converted it into what amounts to a minor ritual. It's the local rule that they can't start bargaining until they're shaking hands, and they have to keep on doing so until the deal is struck.

The essential feature of handshaking is that it's an egalitarian act. Regardless of their social standing, the two people involved are momentarily performing identical actions.

Despite their variations, all these greetings have one thing in common: They're all fine-tuned to the precise context in which they occur.

Because a single message is given in a different way in different countries. The crazy sign: How do you say to somebody, "You're crazy"? Well, here in Rome you do this, but, in England I would probably do this – the temple screw, saying he's got a screw loose – or I might say his brain is going round and round, or I might, tap my head saying, "What does he think he's got inside his skull?"

In some countries you do it with two hands; it varies from place to place and, if you go to Japan you have to be careful because if you do it this way it means he's intelligent; you have to do

it in an anticlockwise direction in Japan if you want to say that somebody is crazy. So, all over the world the same message is given in a slightly different way.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

J = Jim; L = Liz

J: Here's your coffee.

L: Ah, thanks, Jim. Oh, I needed that.

J: No problem. Hey, Liz, there's something I've been meaning to talk to you about.

L: Oh yeah?

J: It's just that ... well ... you know you borrowed some money from me last week?

L: Oh, right. It was 10 euros, wasn't it? I don't actually have that on me at the moment.

J: It's not that, it's ... I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but, um ...

L: Right.

J: ... it's just that this isn't the first time I've lent you money and er, well, you haven't paid it back. I, I mean, I know it's not a lot, just small amounts each time but it kind of adds up quite quickly ... I, I dunno. Do you know what I mean?

L: Yeah. Sorry. I didn't realize. I know I'm terrible with money. I, I just forget. Look, I promise I'll give it back, but ... could you wait a week until I get paid?

J: Well, actually, you've said that once before. I, I don't want you to get the wrong idea, but ... it, you know, never happened. And it makes things slightly awkward. I mean, it makes me feel just a bit annoyed. Do you see where I'm coming from?

L: Oh. Yeah. I suppose so.

J: Look, I've got a suggestion. I'd feel better if we could work out how much is owed and then you could pay me back a little each week, you know, however much you can afford. How does that sound?

L: Yeah, yeah. That sounds reasonable.

J: OK, great. So well, why don't we start ...?

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

W: The only thing I can do at night is to lie in bed and read, preferably while also eating a snack. I never have time for exercising.

M: Don't think it's worth exercising only if you can run five miles or if you can bike for an hour. Even going for a 10-minute walk is worthwhile.

Q: What advice does the man give to the woman?

Conversation 2

W: Hi, Mark, I've gained quite some weight recently. So, how can I eat healthily at social events?

M: Well, drink a full glass of water before you go. Focus mainly on fresh fruit and vegetables or bread with whole grains. These will help you stay feeling full.

Q: What can we know about the woman?

Conversation 3

W: I heard that in South Africa smoking is banned in all enclosed public spaces.

M: Yes, that's right. But pubs and bars with separate, enclosed smoking rooms are excluded from the ban, and most restaurants provide smoking sections, either indoor areas with good air circulation or outdoor open areas.

Q: What can we learn about the smoking rules in South Africa?

Conversation 4

M: So, your research shows that even when children are not direct targets of violence in the home, they can be harmed by witnessing its occurrence?

W: Yes, that's right. For example, they can suffer immediate and permanent physical harm. They can also experience short- and long-term emotional and behavioral problems.

Q: What are the two speakers talking about?

Conversation 5

W: Skipping breakfast is common among people who are trying to lose weight, but it doesn't seem to be a successful strategy.

M: No, it isn't. While any breakfast may be better than no breakfast, a healthy breakfast can be something simple like a hard-boiled egg, a piece of 100 percent wholegrain toast along with a cup of 100 percent fruit juice.

Q: What is recommended for a healthy breakfast?

Long conversation

Scripts

M: I love working out!

W: Ugh! You're sweating all over the floor ...

M: I just ran five miles! A friend told me about this great park on Jefferson Street. I love exploring new parks!

W: I try running at the gym three days a week, but it's so boring looking at the TV monitor or the wall in front of me for an hour.

M: You should run outside! Being in nature, enjoying the beautiful flowers and the trees, I feel my mind relax and the stress just falls away.

W: It is nice outside. My mom loves t'ai chi and a nearby t'ai chi group meets every morning at 6 a.m. I've tried going, but it's too early for me to get out of bed ...

M: T'ai chi is really good. You need some kind of exercise. It's unhealthy for you to sit in front of your computer all day, every day!

W: Well, I recently spend my weekends away from my computer.

M: Oh really? And what have you done recently that didn't involve a computer or TV screen?

W: Pandas! I just went to the San Diego Zoo with my sister on Saturday! They have one of the

best panda exhibits in the US. The mother panda is from Wolong, China, and had had six baby pandas by 2012 since arriving at the San Diego Zoo in September of 1996.

M: Oh, I bet baby pandas are amazing! Hey! Maybe you should get a zoo membership and go jogging in the zoo!

W: A zoo membership! Now that's a great idea! I love the San Diego Zoo. It's near my house, I can get good exercise and I can watch the baby pandas grow up!

Q1: What has made the man sweat all over the floor?

Q2: Why doesn't the woman go to practice t'ai chi with her mom?

Q3: What does the woman normally do on weekends?

Q4: Why does the man suggest the woman get a zoo membership?

Passage 1

Scripts

Have you ever felt you don't have enough hours in the day? Or that you'd give anything for a whole day to catch up with yourself? Well, here are some ideas that work for me.

First of all, make a to-do list every day and set clear priorities. The trick here isn't making the list; that's the easy part. The trick is making the priorities. I look at my list and put a star next to anything that is really urgent. Then I put the number "2" next to anything that will just take a couple of minutes. I actually do these quick tasks before I get on with the urgent ones; it's a bit like clearing off the top of your desk before sitting down to write that important letter.

Second, know when is the most productive time of day for you and do your work or study then. One of the shocking discoveries I made about myself is that if I get up at 5 a.m., I can do a day's work and even fit breakfast in before half past nine. Of course, if you are an early bird, it can be difficult to accomplish tasks that involve phoning "night owls", but that's what email's for!

Finally, do not let your inbox run your life. I just realized recently how frequently I interrupted my real work to check my inbox and respond to the most trivial of emails. So, now I only open it when absolutely necessary and this saves me hours. If your work depends on you being constantly accessible by email, then you can't do this; but be honest and ask yourself, "Am I an email addict?"

With these simple, practical techniques, you will become more efficient, less stressed and be able to win some "me-time" for yourself.

Q1: What tasks does the speaker tend to do first every day?

Q2: How to work more efficiently according to the speaker?

Q3: How does the speaker deal with emails now?

Q4: What is the purpose of the talk?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

In a perfect world, we would all avoid too much credit card debt and would never have to deal with the trouble of being unable to meet our credit card payment obligations. But this is not a

perfect world, and unfortunately, these 1) distressing situations are the norm for many people.

If you find yourself in this position, or heading there, you should cut your spending now. Don't wait until your situation is so 2) desperate that you have few options available to you.

Facing the factors that give you the 3) urge to spend money carelessly can be uncomfortable, but if you don't face them, how will you control your debt and 4) acquire the things you truly want?

One negative aspect of using credit cards instead of cash is that you 5) are totally unaware of the fact that you're spending real money. The pleasant feelings you experience when you purchase the item 6) are isolated from the unpleasant feelings of making the payment when you get the credit card statement.

Studies 7) affirm that most people are much less likely to buy when paying with cash as opposed to credit cards. So, try leaving your credit cards at home, and pay with cash or check.

To really control your spending and your credit card debt, you need to examine what money means to you. Make an effort to notice how you 8) interact with money and what beliefs and attitudes you have about money. Studies also show that people with low self-esteem engage themselves in more 9) impulse spending and buying things they don't need. Remind yourself daily that your worth as a person has nothing to do with how much money you have. Once you 10) are convinced of this, you will break the psychological barriers that were keeping you from handling your money wisely.

Unit 2 Getting older, getting wiser?

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

P = Pasha; M1 = Man 1, etc.; W1 = Woman 1, etc.

Part 1

P: Hi. I'm really excited about the next few months. I'm DJing on the banks of the River Thames in the heart of London and I'm playing some beach parties. Today I've come to Covent Garden to find out how people feel about their lives. What are you looking forward to in the future?

Part 2

M1: Er, I'm looking forward to having a family: I don't have a family right now. Er, I'm looking forward to buying a house – er, I actually live in the United States right now and I haven't bought a house there, so I'm looking forward to that. And I guess I'm looking forward to um, more travel.

W1: Finding a job that I'm really passionate about.

M2: Er, near future, I'm looking forward to a holiday next year. I'm going to Vegas with a family that I haven't been away with um, for about five or six years now.

W2: Getting a good job, and finishing university.

M3: Nothing really. I kind of enjoy my life at the moment. Um, I ... I live in Australia now, and I've got things the way we like them at home, and life's good.

M4: Starting a new job next summer.

Part 3

P: Is there anything you aren't looking forward to?

W1: No, no, there's nothing I can think about that I'm not looking forward to in the future.

M2: The one thing that I'd have thought most people say is dying. Quite serious, but, other than that, no – I kind of embrace life to the full; look forward to most things.

W3: Um, I have to say, the premise of getting older, and with getting older you have more responsibilities, so that's one thing I won't ... I'm not looking forward to.

M1: Well, I'm not looking forward to retiring: Um, I like my job and I like working, and I think I'll be a little bored when I retire.

W2: It's quite stressful looking for jobs and going to job interviews, so I do get nervous about that.

M3: Getting older. Your body's starting to fall to bits. Not looking forward to that, but it'll happen.

Part 4

P: People say that your schooldays are the best days of your life. Do you think that's true?

W1: Absolutely. I do, yes, because you're, the world is your oyster. You have so much hope, so many dreams, and you believe, you believe you can achieve anything. So yeah, definitely, I think so, yeah.

- M3: No. Schooldays were hell on earth for me. It was (They were) the worst days of my life.
- W2: Um, they're quite stressful because you have exams, but I do think they're fun: being able to be with your friends every day. So I do think that schooldays are ... are good days in your life.
- M1: Looking back on it, I had a great time at school. I'm sure at the time it seemed a little difficult, um, you know, trying to fit in, but now when I look back on it, they were fun days and, you know, I ... I ... I look at them very fondly.
- M4: For me, personally, my, er ... my schooldays were my favorite because I've still got friends from, going back 20-odd years.
- W3: That's when I've created most ... the most valuable relationships I have in my life.
- M2: For most people, yes, but when I left school at 16, I was a fulltime footballer at Ipswich Town Football Club for two years. So, living away from home with friends and doing, kind of, the best thing I could do in my life, were the best two years of my life.

Listening

Scripts

Part 1

OK ... so ... I've got the date ... "Thursday, the 20th of May, 2004. Dear the future me, I hope this letter has found its way to you / me. As I write this, I am 16 in Year 11; and as I read it, I am 20. Wow! I will have changed so much. I can only guess what I will be like at 20. I envisage to myself at Oxford Uni, sitting ..." oh, this is embarrassing ... "sitting under a tree by the river in the college grounds. I think I'll be wearing something floaty and a bit indie, but I bet when I get this, it'll, it'll be raining."

"As I read this, I'll have already remembered that I fancied Tom Squires ..." there you go, Tom ... I'm looking at him now. "I wonder if I'll ever have the guts to tell him. ... I know, I'm a romantic. I hope that hasn't changed. My plans for myself in the following years are to find a man, someone good-looking, romantic and intelligent, who, who shares my interests – or just Tom. Either way, um, I hope I'll have someone." I don't remember this, "... and then I think I'll have three children with long brown hair and green eyes."

"Well, I'll stop now even though I want to write everything I can down, but I'm running out of time. I hope I'm happy in 2008, and I hope this letter makes me feel good about who I was, or am, as I write this. Keep smiling, and while I can't really say bye, but good luck for the future and keep dreaming. Don't change too much, and be happy with who you are – I like who I am now more than any other time. Love, Laura."

Part 2

It all seems very shallow looking back and reading what I thought I'd be doing or hoped I'd be doing. I think my 16-year-old self might have been disappointed with where I am, but because I as my 20-year-old self have sort of grown up and matured, I'm absolutely ecstatic with the way where I am, and it doesn't have to be this perfect sitting-by-a-lake kind of image.

Viewing

Scripts

N = Narrator; B = Dr. Bradley Willcox

- N: The remote island of Okinawa is home to one of the longest-living communities in the world. In a population of only one million, there are 900 centenarians, a percentage that's over four times higher than Britain and America. It's a place where age has a different meaning ... where people like Mr. Miyagi can expect to live way beyond his 92nd year. Unaware of the latest diet or lifestyle fad, Mr. Miyagi has developed his own way of defying the aging process.
- B: They're not thinking about "Gee, if I do this, I'm not gonna live as long, if I ... I have one extra drink or if I eat this food or ..." – they're not thinking about that at all. Most of them couldn't care less what the scientists think. They just go about their business and live. They just happen to live a very long time.
- N: The explanation for this extraordinary phenomenon begins in the most ordinary of places. Like every town in Okinawa, the fruit and vegetable shop in Ogimi lies at the heart of village life. It's here that Bradley and Craig believe the source of the Okinawa miracle can be traced. For the past 20 years, Bradley and Craig have been analyzing the life-enhancing Okinawan ingredients.
- B: Got reds here in the tomatoes, the peppers. You've got green peppers here.
- N: They've identified a number of crucial properties that guard the Okinawans from disease, from the antioxidant rich vegetables that protect against cell damage, to the high quantities of soya proteins. In Ogimi, 100-year-old Matsu is preparing a traditional Okinawan dish using all the vital ingredients. It's only after the food is served that the most significant Okinawan tradition can be observed.
- B: The Okinawans developed also cultural habits over the years that appear to have health protective properties. They have a saying called "harahachibu" – eat until you're only 80 percent full.
- N: In a typical day, Matsu only consumes around 1,200 calories, about 20 percent less than most people in Britain and America.
- B: In the West we're very much focused on getting more for our money, and one of the most popular things is all these all-you-can-eat restaurants. You go and you load up at the, at the er, the all-you-can-eat restaurant, and you, you walk away with this bloated feeling and you ... you may have got your money's worth, but you probably didn't get your, your health's worth, because what you're doing is just digging yourself into an early grave.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

P = Presenter; V = Vince; J = Julia; D = Dan; Z = Zara

- P: And up next, it's time for *Just Tell Me I'm Wrong*. Today's topic: How young is too young or, perhaps more accurately, how old is old enough? We've received hundreds of emails and text messages about the right age for a child to have a mobile phone, stay home alone, wear make-up, get their ears pierced, babysit for younger kids ... and we've got our first caller, Vince. Go ahead, Vince. You're on.
- V: Hi. My situation is that my nine-year-old kept asking me to get her a mobile, so I bought her

one a few months ago. Then, last week, I got a bill for over two hundred pounds, so I warned her I'd take the phone away from her if it happened again.

P: So I gather your point is whether she's too young to have a mobile?

V: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

P: Er, surely it's the parents' responsibility to set some sort of guidelines ahead of time.

V: So what you're saying is I should have given her some rules?

P: Basically, yes, when she first got the phone. OK, thanks Vince. Next caller is Julia. What's your question, Julia?

J: About the mobile phone thing. I've got an eight-year-old, and I worry about him all the time if I can't reach him. You know ... anything could happen ...

P: So in other words, you want him to have a mobile.

J: And have it on at all times. But he doesn't want one.

P: Fair enough. Let me ask you a question. When you were eight years old and there were no mobile phones, what did your mother do? I bet you were allowed to go out on your own. Isn't that an important part of growing up and developing a sense of independence and responsibility?

J: So what you're getting at is that I'm being overprotective?

P: You could say that.

J: Yeah, but don't you agree that the world used to be a safer place?

P: Surely that's what every generation says. Anyway, thanks for your question, Julia. Let's go to our next caller. Dan, you're on.

D: Hi, my question's also about technology.

P: OK. Go ahead.

D: Well, my son, Seth, he's 12 and, up till recently, he was a normal 12-year-old, you know, he used to go out with his friends, play football with me, you know ... we had a great relationship.

P: So, Dan, from what you're saying, I'm guessing he doesn't want to spend so much time with you now, and you feel ...

D: Oh no, it's not that. It's just that he spends all his time on the computer now.

P: Isn't that just normal nowadays?

D: It's hard to say. Sometimes at the weekend he spends all day in his bedroom on the computer, on social networking sites or playing games. I don't think it's right. I mean for one thing, he never gets any exercise.

P: Don't you think it's just a stage he's going through? I used to spend hours in my bedroom listening to music when I was that age.

D: You mean I should just relax and let him get on with it?

P: Yeah, he'll grow out of it. And you can't force him to go and play football if he doesn't want to.

D: I guess not. Thanks.

P: OK, our next caller is Zara. You're on.

Z: Um, I was wondering how you would deal with a 13-year-old wanting to get pierced ears?

P: Thirteen years old? Doesn't she simply want to be like her friends? I imagine a lot of them have pierced ears.

Z: Well ... that's it. I'm not talking about a she.

P: Oh, if I've got it right, you're upset because your 13-year-old son wants to get his ears pierced.

Z: That's right.

P: Ah ... so it's because he's a boy rather than his age?

Z: I suppose so.

P: Well, what's he like socially? Does he have friends who've got their ears ...

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

W: So this is your last year in college. Have you ever thought about what you'd like to do after graduation?

M: Well, I really don't know. The job market seems to be improving, so I may look for a job somewhere. But I am also interested in applying for graduate school.

Q: What are the two speakers talking about?

Conversation 2

M: Do you remember Linda we met a while ago at Susan's birthday party?

W: Linda? Do you mean the lady who you said was a nurse in the community hospital before her retirement? Yeah, I remember. She looks very young for her age.

Q: What does the woman think of Linda?

Conversation 3

M: I wish I could retire tomorrow. Then I would not need to worry about work.

W: I don't look forward to retirement. I'm afraid of getting old – my body will slow down, and my children will be away. I dread losing independence and living in loneliness.

Q: What makes the woman afraid of getting old?

Conversation 4

W: I consider my early 20s to be the prime time of my life. How about you?

M: I couldn't agree with you more. That's no doubt the golden period. You are young and energetic. You are free to pursue your passion. The best thing is that you have a wealth of opportunities to explore.

Q: What does the man like best about being in his early 20s?

Conversation 5

W: Hi, John. You are taking Law 201 this semester, right? How do you like it?

M: Yeah, it's a great class. We've looked at several cases of age discrimination at work. Such cases are very interesting because they are rarely clear-cut and court decisions can be rather controversial.

Q: What does the man say about age discrimination cases?

Long conversation

Scripts

M: Nancy, time to make a birthday wish!

W: I wish ... hmm. OK! I want a high-paying job, a husband with a perfect face and body, and a big house ... with a swimming pool!

M: Wow, Nancy! Those are your three wishes?

W: Of course! If I have those three things, I'll be happy!

M: Now, Nancy. Let me tell you my story, and you may see things differently.

W: "See things differently?" What do you mean, Uncle Charlie?

M: Here is what I once experienced in life. When I married, 32 years ago, we had a happy marriage, a beautiful house, two expensive cars, and \$200,000 in the bank!

W: See, just like now!

M: Wait! I would suggest three different wishes!

W: Well ... What would you wish for? You're older and wiser!

M: What happens if you lose your job, lose your house, and your husband becomes sick? I suggest these three wishes: patience, courage and love!

W: Patience, courage and love?

M: Yes! If you have patience and courage, you and your husband will have good jobs and a nice house. And if you have true love, you and your husband will be beautiful to each other no matter how old you become together.

W: This is good.

M: Within six years of our marriage, we had three beautiful children, but we lost our jobs, our house, all our money, and then I got really sick for nine years. But we didn't lose anything truly valuable, because we always said: "Wherever the five of us are together, we are at home!" And, little by little things did improve, and I finally got well. Patience, courage and love! These are what make life full, strong and happy!

W: Hmm, I will remember. Patience, courage and love! Thanks, Uncle Charlie!

Q1: What are the two speakers talking about?

Q2: According to the man, why is true love important for a happy life?

Q3: What difficulties did the man experience in his life?

Q4: What is the man doing in the talk?

Passage 1

Scripts

If you think that you have to live up a remote mountain in order to live a long and healthy life, a religious community in Loma Linda, California, may prove you wrong. Its members are a group of Christians known as the Seventh-day Adventists. The Adventists enjoy a much higher life expectancy than average Californians. Adventist men can expect to live about seven years longer than other Californian men. Adventist women are likely to live around four years longer than other Californian women. The Adventists also act much younger than they are and see doctors much less than ordinary people.

So what's the secret of the Adventists' longevity? It is not all in their genes. Nor is their good health a mere accident. The Adventists live longer partly because they have a vegetable-based diet. Around 35 percent of them are vegetarian, and around one half eat meat only rarely. Tobacco and

alcohol consumptions are discouraged. So are rich or spicy foods, meat, and drinks containing caffeine. The Adventist diet is high in fruit and vegetables. It also includes plenty of whole grains, nuts, seeds and beans, and water is the drink of choice.

The longevity of the Adventists is also related to their lifestyle and natural environment. They believe in having regular exercise, helping others, and maintaining strong social and familial ties. They live in a mild climate with warm summers and cool winters. Interestingly, the air quality of Loma Linda, however, is not as good as in other longevity hot spots. This should give us all hope, as it suggests that we don't have to have every single factor in place in order to achieve excellent health. Despite this, the Adventists' good health certainly provides strong evidence that diet and lifestyle choices have a great impact on health and longevity.

Q1: In what way are the Adventists different from ordinary people?

Q2: How much longer do Adventist women expect to live than other Californian women?

Q3: What is characteristic of the Adventists' diet?

Q4: What is the main idea of the passage?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

Of all the threats to human society, including war, disease and natural disaster, one outranks all others. It is the aging of the human population. The 1) proportion of people aged 60-plus around the world is 2) estimated to more than double in 2050. By 2047, for the first time in human history, the number of old people is projected to exceed that of children on the planet.

This change will 3) have profound impacts on human society. One problem concerns the ratio of the number of people of working age to the number of older people, which is known as the "4) potential support ratio". This index has fallen from 12 in 1950 to 8 in 2013 and is expected to drop to 4 in 2050. Its decline means that the burden on the young, 5) economically and socially, will rise accordingly. This is because older people rely on the young, not only for care and support but also for the economic productivity that ensures 6) pensions can be paid and health and social costs met.

A variety of issues in other areas such as family composition, the transfer of property, taxation and housing may 7) originate from the population "age-quake", too. For instance, family ties have been weakened by increased mobility and rising divorce, and hence the demand for 8) residential and nursing homes will increase since more older people will need to live in an institution or elder care center.

No matter what the future reality will be, the aging of the human population certainly 9) poses a challenge to policy makers, economists and health care specialists around the world. This suggests that the human society will need to 10) be transformed into a structure that has the ability and resources to address the diverse needs of older people.

Unit 3 Discovering your niche holiday

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

P = Pasha; M1 = Man 1, etc.; W1 = Woman 1, etc.

Part 1

P: Hi. I enjoy doing a lot of different things in my free time. Most of them are to do with music: I DJ both in London and internationally, and I try to go to concerts and festivals whenever I can. How about you? How do you spend your free time?

Part 2

M1: My free time, when I have any, is playing golf. I ... I discovered golf eight years ago and I'm ... I'm addicted: Whenever I can, I'll get out on a golf course.

W1: Photography; I like to watch films; um ... really into music.

W2: In my free time I'm an amateur opera singer and I also run an amateur opera company.

M2: I spend my free time shopping, cooking, uh, going to exhibitions, traveling, going to the theater.

W3: I exercise a lot: I spend a lot of time walking, running and boxing.

M3: I play football, I play table tennis, I go bowling. Um, I also do a radio show at my university.

W4: Well, during my free time I read, I, um, watch the news online, um, and watch TV series and go out with my friends.

W5: Er, I spend most of my free time with my friends and, just getting together and watching films, listening to music. I like to read a lot and I like to draw and make clothes.

Part 3

P: How would you spend your free time differently if you had more time or money or opportunity?

M1: I'd travel more. I'd take my children to see more things around the world. They've traveled a little bit, I've traveled quite a lot, but I'd like to take them to see some of the things that the world has to offer.

W5: If I had more free time, I think I'd be able to develop my own creativity.

M3: Finding, maybe, a bit more about my, er, my heritage. I ... I'm quite interested in that, and speaking to my parents about how they grew up and their parents and things like that.

W2: I would spend more time practicing music.

W3: If I had more time, I would travel more.

W4: If I had more free time, I'd see more of my friends and people that I don't get to see enough. And I'd probably relax and go to the park a lot.

Part 4

P: What are the benefits to society of giving people more downtime or more holidays?

W1: I think if you had more time off you'd be able to do, you'd be able to explore your mind a lot more and you ... people (would) become more educated, more intelligent and more aware of

what's going on in the world.

W5: If we all had more free time, I think we'd all be able to let ourselves be more creative, as opposed to just work, work, work all the time.

W4: I think that today when people don't work from nine to five so much anymore, I think that more free time would do everyone a lot of good, um, as long as you have something to do with it, and you have, kind of, hobbies or friends to see.

W3: They would be less stressed, I believe, because I, I think that people are very, very stressed nowadays.

M2: I think society benefits from giving people more free time because it enables them to lead less stressed lives, reduces the pressures on them, and also increases interests, and I think that a society that has a broad range of interests, a broad range of things they like doing, is generally beneficial.

Listening

Scripts

K = Katie Derham; A = Alison Rice; C = Charlie Connolly

K: The buzzword de jour is "niche travel". Rather than the usual beach flopout, we're turning instead to a growing band of small tour operators offering Thai cooking weeks, trips to Sri Lanka for tea lovers, the ultimate trekking or trekkie experience or poignant visits to obscure battlefields. Well, I'm joined here in the studio by Alison Rice, who's been a travel writer for many years and Charlie Connolly, author and broadcaster, who among other things has traveled the globe in search of the legacy of Elvis Presley. Welcome to you both. Alison, let's start by turning to you first. This definition of niche travel these days, what does it mean to you?

A: I think some people would say we're just talking about activity holidays where, instead of just lying on a beach you follow a particular interest or hobby with like-minded people. Walking holidays, gardening, cookery, painting, yoga, bird-watching – you remember when bird-watching was just for geeks? There's (There're) masses of bird-watching holidays. Battlefields, music, theater festivals – these are all pegs around which we can build a holiday.

C: I do believe in going to a place for a reason and rather than just cos there's a nice view or something. I'm a big believer in people. I think people make a place and the atmosphere of a place.

K: What would your favorite niche holidays (be) if you've come across recently?

A: Oh, for me, it's definitely singing. If you google "singing holidays", you'll find 416,000 entries. Whole choirs go on holiday now, or if you want to just join a choir, you can join a holiday where you learn a piece, rehearse it through the holiday, sailing down the Nile, there is one in Malta next year where you'll be singing the *Messiah* ... and then the holiday ends where you put on a concert for the locals.

C: There is a, a tour you can do of Chernobyl. Um, it's, it's a one day tour from Kiev and you get to view reactor number four from a hundred meters away, and you get to visit the dead town of Pripyat, which is, there are schoolbooks still in the school and posters up on the wall, and calendars. And they do say it's a hundred percent safe if you're tested for radiation levels when you, when you go and when you come back.

K: Well, The Traveler's Tree message board has been littered with postings on this subject. We've heard about fair-trade holidays in Cuba and southern India, Inca treks. One from a contributor called Portly, who thoroughly enjoyed the historical cruise on the Black Sea. But thank you also to Dilly Gaffe who said, "Never mind niche. Give me a five-star luxury hotel any time!"

Viewing

Scripts

P = Presenter; HC = Helen Child; AT = Andy Thomas; W = Woman; RO = Rebecca Over;

KE = Kyle Emert; DF = Dave Farris; NB = Nick Bryant; NBr = Nick Brans;

LR = Lucia Rushton; AW = Alan Woods; KS = Katie Siddals

P: At number 38 it's husky sledding. I've come to Saariselkä in Finland for a test drive. Absolutely beautiful here, the snow is just like ... it's got little bits of crystal all over it and you can really take it in because the dogs are doing all the hard work.

HC: Just the sound of the snow and the dogs panting with all the silence around, I think that would be fantastic.

AT: Totally silent apart from the sound of the sleds and the dogs' paws. Incredible.

W: Are you ready?

P: As I'll ever be. This is much, much more exhilarating than just sitting in the sled. Actually, having the dogs work for you and feeling like you're in or out of control is definitely where it's at. Meet Rebecca Over, an estate buyer from Surrey, who like hundreds of you crazy people, wanted nothing more than to be strapped to the outside of a plane and take part in your very own wing-walking display. The craze started when World War One pilots would strap their poor girlfriends to the outside of their planes to entertain the crowds at air shows. We sent Rebecca off to Rendcomb in Gloucestershire.

RO: I'm feeling excited, a little bit nervous, can't wait, raring to go.

P: So buckled and braced, our daredevil is ready to go.

RO: The wind is really, really strong, and it's really hard to do the waving. It's been wonderful, an amazing day.

P: Still in America now and time to go west on the legendary Route 66: 2,400 miles, eight states, three time zones, one incredible journey.

KE: Once upon a time it was the kind of the thing to do.

P: The famous route from Chicago to Los Angeles was used by thousands of Americans attempting to flee the hard times of the Great Depression, and for many it's remembered as the road to opportunity.

DF: I'd love to experience what they did – traveling over two and a half thousand miles, and experience that wonderful feeling of getting somewhere which is better.

P: Next up something you've let get as high as 17 on this list. You're crazy; it's bungee jumping.

NB: The feeling you get when you jump off, fall off, dive off, or whatever, is just awesome.

NBr: Just to fly like that and just sort of end up being stretched and bounced back up, great fun.

P: Throughout history they've intrigued mankind with tales of their mystical powers and super intelligence; their legendary curiosity and playfulness have enchanted us for generations. Thousands and thousands of you have bombarded us with emails and calls to say the number one thing to do before you die is to go swimming with dolphins.

LR: They're absolutely amazing animals. They're so gentle; they're so, um, sensitive.

AW: Once you swim with them, you don't want to ... you don't want to leave them.

KS: A one-off, magical experience.

P: And it was incredible. It's ... it's amazing because, um, they're so responsive and they have um, they feel fantastic, don't you? You feel wonderful; you feel so lovely. And they, they're so huge and so powerful and yet so playful and, I'm really, really lucky to be here with them.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

W = Woman; M = Man

W: Oh, you must have seen it.

M: No, I, I've never even heard of it. How's (How does) it work?

W: Well, it sounds really stupid, but I'll try to describe it. The way it works is that there are two teams, with two celebs on each team.

M: Two what?

W: Celebs. Celebrities.

M: Oh, right.

W: So anyway, there's a studio with a swimming pool and, at the end, about 20 meters from the pool, there's a wall, actually a giant wall covered by another "wall", or maybe a sort of curtain.

M: Er, I don't get it. A wall covered by a wall?

W: Yeah, but it's really like a single wall.

M: OK.

W: And the two people from the first team stand at the edge of the pool facing the wall. Then what happens is that the host says, "Bring on the wall!"

M: He does what?

W: He says, "Bring on the wall!" Like that, very dramatically. Then the wall starts moving quite fast towards the two people.

M: ... who are in front of the pool.

W: Yeah and after a few seconds, the curtain lifts off the wall, and there's a funny-shaped hole, and they have to get through it.

M: They have to get through where?

W: Get through the hole.

M: Oh.

W: They have about five seconds to get themselves into the same position as the shape in the hole so that it goes past them and they don't get knocked into the pool.

M: Uh-huh.

W: Yeah, and that's the best part because nobody knows what shape the hole will be until the last moment. It could be anything person-shaped, and

M: What do you mean, person-shaped?

W: Well, maybe bent over or maybe with one foot in front of the other and one arm up at an angle, like this.

M: So, what's the point?

W: Well, basically the point is not to get knocked into the pool. If they don't stand exactly in the shape of the hole, the wall will knock them into the pool. The teams take it in turns to have a go and the winning team is the one who gets through the most shapes.

M: Um, it sounds pretty stupid to me.

W: You sort of have to see it to get it. It's incredibly popular.

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

W: I really need a holiday, so I'm going camping with some friends. What are you doing over the semester break?

M: I haven't got any plans yet. I don't really have enough money to fly home. I suppose I could get a part-time job and earn some money, or maybe I could start studying for next semester.

Q: What is the woman going to do over the semester break?

Conversation 2

M: I heard that you quit your swimming lessons. But you have paid \$120 for them.

W: Ah, it's all these yoga sessions. I just couldn't fit them all in. What's more, I got the majority of my fees back because I quit immediately after the first day.

Q: Why did the woman quit her swimming lessons?

Conversation 3

M: Shall we spend our weekend in Singapore? We can leave Friday afternoon so as to have dinner next to the river and enjoy fireworks at the shore!

W: I'd rather go on Saturday. My aunt will drop in on Friday evening. We haven't seen each other for a couple of years.

Q: Why doesn't the woman want to leave on Friday?

Conversation 4

M: What do I need to bring for our camping trip to the national park?

W: Well, we've bought the food and rented a van. It's a camping vehicle with a fridge and cooking equipment. I think you will need a warm sweater or jacket for the evenings.

Q: What does the woman suggest the man bring for the camping trip to the park?

Conversation 5

M: Have you confirmed your booking at the hotel in Sydney? With only three days left before our trip, I hope everyone is as ready as I am!

W: Not yet. But I'd better call them before we start our vacation. During this time of year they always get quite busy.

Q: What will the woman probably do before the vacation?

Long conversation

Scripts

M: Rebecca, I just learned of an amazing park right here near our city!

W: Really? Is it a nature park or an entertainment park?

M: It's a beautiful nature park, located 15 miles from our home.

W: What's it called?

M: It is called Big Sky Park and has nice walking trails and camping sites!

W: Bill, this is perfect! We can have a vacation and still keep saving money to visit my family sometime. But, can we get to Big Sky Park without a car?

M: Yes, easily. We just take the No. 32 bus that goes right to the park. The only problem will be getting all of our camping stuff with us on the bus.

W: Well, I did just buy that new cart to help carry groceries home on the bus, plus we have your big backpack. Together, I think we will be fine. All of our camping equipment should easily fit on the bus.

M: Good. Good! I know we can make it a really special weekend. I have longed for a time when we could walk alone together in the quiet beauty of nature. I'm so, so happy to have this chance to be with you at the park.

W: I know me too! I know what I'll do! I'll pack all of our favorite food, and I'll bake a small chocolate cake. Your favorite! Then we can drink tea and eat the chocolate cake around a campfire. I'm so happy you found Big Sky Park. I can't wait, just two more days for the weekend to come!

M: I'm so happy as well. Big Sky Park will be wonderful. The fire, the dinner and spending time with you make me such a happy, happy man, Rebecca!

Q1: What makes Big Sky Park a nice vacation place for the couple?

Q2: How can the couple get all their camping stuff on the bus?

Q3: What will the woman probably do before their trip?

Q4: What does the couple long to do at the park?

Passage 1

Scripts

A new museum entirely dedicated to laziness has opened in the capital city of Colombia. But you have to hurry if you want to see the exhibits and find out about being lazy because the exhibition lasts only for one week. The unusual show displays a whole range of things such as sofas, beds and anything that makes you feel like taking a rest. There are also plenty of televisions for those visiting couch potatoes to watch as they move around relaxingly in the museum.

It is no coincidence but rather an intentional decision for the museum to have opened right after the holiday season. The idea is for people to think about laziness, and perhaps change their behavior and lifestyle throughout the rest of the year. It offers a practical experience to make us think about laziness in our high-speed, fast-paced societies.

The museum's founder Marcela Arrieta said she wanted people to rethink about laziness and decide whether it really is a bad thing. She told the media that people today always think about

laziness as an enemy of work. For example, they may feel guilty if they sleep late, or they may feel they are wasting time after taking a nap or having a holiday.

Ms. Arrieta may not be proposing that we should have a shorter working week, but she could have a point in that we do need more leisure time than our jobs allow us, and change our lifestyle to a type that is more relaxing. Besides, according to scientists, avoiding the pressure and stress of work can make us healthier and live longer. So, why not try out Ms. Arrieta's advice for yourself, slow down, and think about being lazy?

Q1: Why should visitors be hurried if they want to see the exhibits in the new museum in Colombia's capital?

Q2: What are exhibited in the new museum?

Q3: What is the purpose of the exhibition?

Q4: What did the museum's founder advise us to do?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

A solution may be at hand for holidaymakers who are struggling to find quiet, out-of-the-way places to go. For those who really want to get away from the crowded and much-traveled 1) resorts, they now find it possible because a new holiday destination has 2) sprung up – Antarctica. However, this new hotspot, or freezing zone, might only be for those who are fabulously rich if a new policy gets under way. Tourism on Antarctica has been increasing 3) dramatically, from a few thousand people in 1985 to more than 40,000 in 2007. The growing numbers are 4) having an adverse effect on the untouched environment of the South Pole. To 5) combat this, researchers from Holland's Maastricht University have come up with a sensible solution: Limit the number of tourists allowed to visit and hawk the vacations to those who are determined to go and are willing to offer higher amounts of money than others for the trip.

Many environmental protection agencies agree that there is a need to protect the frozen 6) wilderness from the damage created by modern tourism. Antarctica is the last 7) unspoiled place on earth. It has a very delicate ecosystem that could be easily upset by 8) streams of tourists landing in airplanes and using skimobiles. A difficulty exists because Antarctica is not a country and therefore has no government to pass laws or 9) guidelines to control the number of visitors. The Maastricht University team's proposal to 10) auction off a fixed number of tourist places seems a workable solution. It would limit the number of visitors and therefore contain the amount of environmental damage, and the money would be used to protect Antarctica's future.

Unit 4 Solving problems & seeking happiness

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

V = Val; M1 = Man 1, etc.; W1 = Woman 1, etc.

Part 1

V: Hi. I'm Val and I work as a producer for the BBC here in London. I like living in London, but it can be quite expensive. Today I'm talking to people about money and happiness. Do you think money makes you happy?

Part 2

M1: No. Money can enhance happiness, but happiness is about family, friends, enjoyment, and money can only help that – it doesn't make you happy.

W1: I don't think that money makes you happy, but it can enable you to do more things which could make you a happier person.

M2: I think that lack of money makes people unhappy, and I think that people need money in order to get the things that make them happy, but money itself I don't think makes people happy.

W2: I think money wouldn't make you happy, er, won't give you happiness directly, but I think it could give you a little help, sometimes, to do things that you like. Yes.

W3: I think money can't make you happy at the end of the day if you don't have family and friends to share your money with and to have a good time with.

W4: Um, money would probably contribute to my happiness, but certainly not make me fully happy.

M3: Er, money makes a huge difference as to how happy you can be, er, but fundamentally happiness doesn't come from just having money: Happiness comes from being able to do the things that content you.

Part 3

V: What things are more important than money?

M1: Family. I believe family is more important than money. Family can enhance your life: your parents, your siblings, your children. Hearing your child laugh on a bad day will brighten your mood: It does for me. My, my sons' laughing together makes me feel wonderful.

W1: Love is more important than money. I think family is really important and, and having, like, a nurturing environment to grow up in.

M2: Security, er, having a stable family, feeling at ease with yourself, feeling at ease with other people.

W4: I believe that health is much more important than money.

M3: Being able to er, enjoy your particular set of circumstances: Feel contentment. Er, if you're a family man, being able to spend time with the family: Er, money is there, but it's the family itself that makes the difference.

W3: Your family, your friends, having good health and feeling satisfied with what you're doing in

your life and I think money can't give you that.

Part 4

V: Should wealthy people be taxed more to support the poor?

M1: Um, depending on how rich they are: I think the richer they are, the more they should pay.

M2: Yes, undoubtedly. Ah, I'm a strong believer in a progressive system of taxation.

W3: I think that some people just come from a much more disadvantaged background and they need an extra push and some extra money to be able to get ahead.

M3: Whether the poor could do anything for themselves is, is the crucial question. And if the poor can't do er, anything for themselves, then finding a way in which er, the other end of the spectrum can help them is important, yes. I would stop short at saying, "Yes, you should tax the rich," though "to pay for the poor."

W2: I think, yes, there is a big difference in between the rich and the poor, and I think, if, if it's possible, the rich are supposed to give a little bit more for the poor and then perhaps we can have a more equal world.

Listening

Scripts

S1 = Speaker 1, etc.

S1: I really can't see the problem. The first thing I did when it all began was I tried to find my house on the website but they hadn't brought the camera van down our road yet, so I was quite disappointed. For me, it's great because it means I can go and look at things like hotels or even cities before I go on holiday ... and anyway if someone wanted to look at my house, they could just drive past it or walk past it, so I can't see the problem.

S2: It's obvious, isn't it? I mean, they're (they've) nothing to do with safety. They're just used by the government to make money. I mean, look at the statistics. In the last year, in my area four cameras have been placed along one stretch of road, and you know what, the number of accidents has doubled. So they obviously don't work as a deterrent. And now your car number plate can be logged so that they can keep track of you wherever you go. I hate it – I hate being watched like that. It's just another example of our surveillance society.

S3: The way I see it, it's an invasion of privacy. It means whenever I go to the supermarket, it's recorded on a chip somewhere and they can find out exactly what I've bought. Why should people have the right to know what kind of food I eat? Or get my details and then send me junk mail? I certainly don't want to be sent adverts from companies I don't know. And this is just the start ... I expect next thing you know, the technology will be used to tell us what we can and can't eat.

S4: Me, I'm glad they're there. A few months ago I was robbed by two men at a bus stop not far from where I live, but thanks to CCTV, the people who did it were all arrested. Um, it was a bad experience, but at least they didn't get away with it. And you see it in the news all the time – that more crimes are being solved because of CCTV cameras. I think we should have more of them. Most people are law-abiding anyway so they've got no need to worry.

S5: I actually think it's an important development. There was a case recently, where there was this big demonstration and lots of people took photos and these were sent to the media. So it

means that demonstrators and the police – everyone has to be more careful because their photos might be sent to the newspapers or posted online. So in general, yeah, I feel it's a good thing.

Viewing

Scripts

M = Mark Easton; K = Professor Kahneman; I = Interviewee; T = Professor Tim Jackson

M: We work, we buy, consume, and die. We don't know why. The science of happiness says the answer is to rethink everything. The rat race: Give it up. The rich: Tax them. Holidays: Take more. In short, transform the way we live. New York City, capital of the consumerist world where status has a designer label sewn inside, but does happiness come in a gift-wrapped box? And if it doesn't, what on earth are we all doing?

K: It's a fundamental fact in the happiness research: The standard of living has increased dramatically and, ah, happiness has increased not at all, and in some cases has diminished slightly. I mean there is a lot of evidence that, ah, being richer hasn't made us, that isn't making us happier at least in the Western world, so we clearly need something else.

M: It's a huge claim. Put simply, the science shows that once average incomes are more than 10,000 pounds a year, extra riches don't make a country any happier. We are stuck on a treadmill. In our search for happiness we work longer, commute further, to get richer, to buy more. And yet the science of happiness suggests we should do exactly the opposite.

I: If only we could learn as a society to slow down we might all be able to become happier if we could all take more leisure together.

T: The, the assumption that economic growth delivers happiness is suspect. The assumption that consumer goods can fulfill all these tasks for us – social, psychological tasks, a sense of the meaning of my life through material possessions, is deeply suspect, and if we want to make progress in human terms, if we want to approach happiness in any degree, then it is these assumptions that we have to re-examine.

M: It is starting to happen. Politicians are realizing that making people happy is as important as making people rich. The next task, though, is working out how to convince us all to change the way we live.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

Conversation 1

W: Do you think you would ever have cosmetic surgery?

M: Me? No, I don't think so. I'm really against it. Actually, I think it's stu (stupid).

W: Really, why?

M: What? It can be quite dangerous – some of the implants you can have, from.

W: Yeah, I know what you mean.

M: Well, take the case of Mike's girlfriend. She actually had some Botox injections in her forehead.

W: Did she?

M: Yeah, and she couldn't, you know she couldn't.

W: Couldn't move her face?

M: Yeah, she couldn't smile or frown – her face was just frozen solid.

W: Hmm, although if someone's really, really overweight and it becomes a health problem, do you think maybe then they should have some kind of surgery, you know, such as liposuction to get rid of fat?

M: Oh I see, for health reasons maybe, yes, I suppose so. I, I mean you've got a point there, but I still don't like the sound of it. I wouldn't do it myself.

W: Hmm, I might, if it was to do with my health.

Conversation 2

W: Do you ever download music for free?

M: What? You mean illegally? No, I think I'm probably one of the few people that don't do it. I've always paid whether it's the track price or the album price.

W: Why? I mean nobody I know pays.

M: Yeah, well, the way I see it, it's just theft, isn't it? I mean.

W: Oh, I totally disagree.

M: I mean, artists have copyright on their songs, so you're stealing from them. It's as simple as that.

W: But it's a well-known fact that musicians get very little money from CD sales anyway. So they don't lose out. I mean, they want people to hear their music.

M: Hmm. I'm not so sure about that. If people share the music without paying, how can musicians make any money?

W: Well, the famous ones, they don't need more money and for newer groups, file sharing is the way they get known, so they don't have to spend a fortune, you know, on things like record companies and managers and ...

M: What? Yeah, but ...

W: ... anyway, nowadays singers and groups make most of their money from concerts.

M: Hmm. I'm still not convinced. Are, aren't you worried about being found out? For instance, what about that woman in America? Because of the hundreds of tracks she downloaded illegally, she got fined something like two million dollars.

W: Two million dollars? Ouch!

M: Yeah, so maybe you'd better think again.

W: Hmm.

Conversation 3

M: Have you seen this plan in the local paper for changes to the city center?

W: Um, oh, you mean the idea to ban cars from the center?

M: Yes, and only allowing buses. What do you think of the idea?

W: Oh, I'm in favor of it. I think it'd be really good for the environment, you know for cutting down pollution.

M: Hmm. Well, I don't know, apparently it's been shown that buses are more polluting than cars.

W: How can they be? But, well, even if they are at the moment, it seems to me that they're bound

to get better, you know, they'll get replaced with electric buses or something like that.

M: Hmm, maybe.

W: Does that mean you're against it?

M: Yes, on balance, I think I am. I mean, according to the article, when they did a trial in another town, there was a reduction in shop sales – apparently almost 10 percent.

W: That doesn't sound right, if more people came in on buses. I suppose the main thing is to put money into making sure you have a good public transport system.

M: OK, I mean I agree to some extent, but actually, I think the town center works perfectly fine as it is.

W: But it's clogged up. You know, you can't move; it's polluted.

M: It's a bit clogged up, but if you're patient you eventually find somewhere to park.

W: Ah, I just hope they decide soon.

M: Yeah.

Group discussion

Scripts

W = Woman; M = Man

W: Excuse me. Hello, sorry to bother you. Have you got a minute?

M: Ah, yeah sure.

W: Um, do you mind if I ask you some questions? I'm just doing a survey on happiness.

M: Right.

W: I'll read out the questions to you, and you can just tell me what you think if that's OK.

M: Yeah, fine.

W: Great. Um, could you look at this list of five things, so you've got, ah, number one car, then two is friendship, three good food, four money, and five free time. So which two of these would you find it (find) the most difficult to live without?

M: Um, which two, the most difficult to live without?

W: Yes.

M: Ah, well I couldn't live without friendship. I'm, I'm a very social animal. I need, um, family and friends around me, so it can't be that one. Um – oh no sorry that is, to live without ... yes ...

W: That's one.

M: That is one, so ...

W: Then we just need one more.

M: ... friendship is definitely one of them. Ah ...

W: Yes, number two, OK.

M: Oh, that's difficult. Free time, I don't have any anyway. Ah, I could lose the car. I think that wouldn't be a problem. Um, do you know what ...

W: How about money?

M: ... sad as it is, it's probably money, because money actually ...

W: Money, yeah, most people ...

M: ... you know leads to happiness in, in indirect ways I think.

W: OK, so I'm gonna put number two and number four for that one. And also how happy would

you say you are, on a scale of one to five, five being very happy?

M: Today or just generally?

W: I think generally.

M: Oh generally OK, um, oh, ah, three or four, um – three and a half.

W: Ah.

M: Can I have half?

W: No.

M: Oh, OK. Um, well you've made me laugh. I'll have four.

W: Oh, lovely. I'll put you down for four. And what would you say is missing from your life, so what would make you happier?

M: Ah, probably, ah, working nearer to home?

W: OK.

M: That's, I think you know ... just generally the time that would give me ...

W: Right.

M: ... with family.

W: So maybe it's free time then ...

M: Yeah, yeah.

W: ... more of that. OK that's lovely. Thank you ever so much for taking part. Really do appreciate it.

M: You're welcome.

W: OK, bye-bye.

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

M: I think the government could provide some money for homeless people to build their own homes. Homeless people would find it easier to get jobs if they had an address.

W: It's not a bad idea. But I wonder where the money will come from.

Q: What does the man think the government could do?

Conversation 2

W: You see, some colleagues are not as active and efficient as usual and few have made any progress in their business recently.

M: Why don't we organize some social activities, such as a baseball match? Our colleagues can learn to help and cooperate with one another.

Q: What does the man suggest to change the situation?

Conversation 3

W: I need to go across town, but the traffic is so heavy at this time of day.

M: When you take the subway, you don't have to deal with traffic. I never drive home. Driving at this time may be slower than walking.

Q: What does the man suggest the woman do?

Conversation 4

W: Have you heard? Kate quit her job and went to Africa to work as a volunteer!

M: Really? I really admire her courage. I think we should all extend an arm of help, love and compassion to help poor people become self-reliant financially and psychologically.

Q: What does the man think we all should do?

Conversation 5

W: You know there are many creative ways to reuse items. For example, old shoe boxes can be used for storage and plastic containers can be used for growing plants.

M: I never realized that we could be so green. I just learned to recycle glass bottles.

Q: What are the two speakers talking about?

Long conversation

Scripts

W: Hey, John! Everything OK? You look upset.

M: Oh, hi Kate. I was in the cafeteria eating alone. James from accounting walked by, sat down to eat at the table right next to me – didn't say a single word to me. I wondered why.

W: Is that the main thing stressing you out, John?

M: No, I was silly to feel bad about that. What I am stressed about is my workload. My manager, Steven, is a great guy. He always counts on me to get the work done. But I have five meetings this week and two big projects to complete by next Monday. I don't see how I can finish. I'm really worried I'll let my team down.

W: I have some free time on Friday and over the weekend. I can help you with your extra work if you'd like. I know that feeling of being overwhelmed with work. It's awful. I'd like to help.

M: Really? You'd do that for me?

W: Of course I will! John, a lot of us really admire your work. Some of us have asked to work on your team. You're a great example to us, John. You shouldn't doubt yourself. I'm glad to help out.

M: Wow, Kate. Thanks!

W: We could ... discuss it over dinner on Thursday. My treat!

M: Wow. No ... I mean I get to buy dinner, Kate! How about the new restaurant on 6th Street, 365? It's called 365 because it offers local, seasonal foods – fall, winter, spring, and summer – healthy choices with wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables. Let's meet at 7 p.m.

W: Sounds wonderful! Thursday, 7 p.m. at the new restaurant 365 on 6th Street. Perfect!

Q1: Why does the man look upset?

Q2: How does the woman say she can help the man?

Q3: What advice does the woman give to the man?

Q4: Why is the restaurant called 365?

Passage 1

Scripts

More than half of working Americans are dissatisfied with their jobs, according to a survey. That's bad news for employers because workers' discontent can hurt productivity and hinder innovation.

Lynn Franco, co-author of the report, says Americans' job satisfaction is at its lowest level in more than two decades: Only 45.3 percent of workers say they are satisfied with their jobs compared with 61 percent in 1987.

The report was produced by the Conference Board, a non-profit organization that helps businesses strengthen their performance. It is based on a survey of 5,000 US households. It shows a drop in satisfaction in many aspects of an employee's work life, including interest in the job, dealing with co-workers and bosses, commuting and job security. As a group, neither young people who are just entering the workforce nor employees who are about to retire, Franco says, are happy with what they do.

Only about 36 percent of workers under the age of 25 say they are currently satisfied with their jobs. And it's not much better among baby boomers. Twenty years ago, more than 50 percent of baby boomers were satisfied. Today, that's down to 46 percent.

The most satisfied group of workers in the survey was those aged 25 to 34. Franco suggests that they may see some opportunities for upward mobility as baby boomers retire.

The Conference Board survey also asked about the reasons behind job dissatisfaction. There are economic reasons such as wages, promotion policy and bonus policy that are sort of adding to this level of dissatisfaction. In addition, workers are also dissatisfied with the benefits: vacation policy, family-related leave time, work schedule flexibility, and a variety of other factors as well.

Q1: What negative effect can be caused by workers' discontent?

Q2: What percentage of American workers are satisfied with their jobs as found by the survey?

Q3: Why is it that people aged 25 to 34 are most satisfied with their jobs?

Q4: What can we conclude about the reasons behind job dissatisfaction?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

In recent years, doctors have focused on the growing rate of diabetes among children and young people. But the most common kind of diabetes, type II, is more 1) prevalent as people grow older and gain more weight. Before you know it, there is more fat around the waist and hips than you remembered. The statistics are 2) scary enough to make you want to stop eating immediately.

The World Health Organization says by 2015, more than two billion adults will be overweight and 700 million will 3) be classified as obese. Being overweight or obese is an expanding problem in many countries. Less physical activity and foods high in fat and sugar are considered as causes for this global 4) epidemic.

Some researchers studied how body composition, the 5) ratio of lean tissue to fat, and increased weight affected the risk of diabetes in more than 4,000 adults, aged 65 and older.

At the beginning of the study, none of the participants had been 6) diagnosed with diabetes. Researchers assess the relationship between being overweight and the disease through 7) keeping track of their body mass index.

According to researchers, even among adults over the age of 75, having a higher body mass

index 8) was still associated with a considerably higher risk of diabetes. Men who were obese had a five and a half times higher risk of diabetes than those who were just overweight. For women, the risk was about three and a half times higher.

As hard as it might be, making sure your weight stays at a healthy level is the only way to keep the risk of diabetes down. The results 9) affirm the importance of weight control during the middle and later stages of life 10) in terms of reducing diabetes risks. The study has sent a warning signal to those who don't think that there is much connection between their waists and their health.

Unit 5 Art expands horizons

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

V = Val; M1 = Man 1, etc.; W1 = Woman 1, etc.

Part 1

V: Hi. I enjoy lots of areas of the arts, particularly photography and dance. I go to a lot of art and photography exhibitions, and I like the small, intimate ones the most. Today, I'm at Tate Modern in central London asking people about the arts. What areas of the arts do you enjoy?

Part 2

M1: Um, I particularly like painting, sculpture and dance.

W1: Well, I very much enjoy theater and reading and when I get the opportunity, to go and see some pictures.

W2: I really enjoy photography. Er, I studied that at college.

W3: I enjoy all sorts of art, but at, at the moment I am doing a Master of Arts in contemporary art.

M2: Particularly I like literature; I like books. But I enjoy most areas of the music, too.

M3: I like drawing, actually: er, sketches of people's faces, I love that. And, and sculpture: anything in wood and stone, I enjoy that.

W4: I'm, I'm an illustration student, so I enjoy er, contemporary graphic art and, um, illustration and drawing.

M4: All, all kinds, I mean, I'm a graphic designer by profession: er, but visual arts, all kinds of visual arts. Um, also, illustration, websites, I mean it's, it's art everywhere now; it's kind of ubiquitous.

Part 3

V: Tell us about a recent exhibition or performance you went to.

M1: Er, yeah, I went to see Michael Clark at the Sadler's Wells which was um, a sort of, yeah, a mixture of modern dance and ballet with, kind of, contemporary music and lots of, kind of, mad costumes.

W1: It was a performance of *Oh! What a Wonderful War (Oh! What a Lovely War)* um, by a company whose name I can't remember and er, which I didn't enjoy very much.

W3: I've just been to the Saatchi Gallery and I saw some Indian art, some contemporary Indian art which was extremely interesting.

M4: I saw the Dieter Rams exhibition recently—that was at the Design Museum.

W4: A print show at Somerset House, which is a collection of um, illustration collectives and printmakers.

M3: Well, the last thing I went to see was Spy monkey, who are a physical theater kind, kind of improvisation comedy group, and they were doing their version of *Moby Dick* at one of the London theaters, and it was fantastic 'cause I was only second row – right bang in the middle, second row. So, great performance, great night.

Part 4

V: Do you think the arts are important?

W1: Very much so, yes, they're part of our culture. We all need art, need arts to enrich ourselves spiritually, really. And to expand our horizons: to learn about other people, other cultures ... Terribly important.

M3: I think it was, was Einstein who said that imagination is more important than intellect. So, in a world without arts, where's the imagination?

W2: I think they are 'cause it's a way of expressing yourself or expressing who you are. And you can do it in all different ways—it doesn't have to be in one specific way.

W3: Very much so. Absolutely. Children learn through art more than anything else I think.

W4: It's an important way for people to understand er, all aspects of life, I think.

M2: It's what makes me feel most alive, and what, what um, what inspires me most: Be it a good book or, eh, or a performance or ... anything that really moves me. Yeah, for this reason: to feel intense emotions.

Listening

Scripts

S = Sarah; T = Tim; N = Nigel

S: Right, well, we have our shortlist for the new feature that we're going to put into the town center, which one gets your vote, Tim?

T: Um, I'm really in favor of the, the state-of-the-art multiplex cinema. I think that it would be most useful and beneficial for the community. I think it will be used a great deal. I think it would bring jobs to the area, um, and I think it would provide entertainment and activities for young people.

N: Hmm, the only thing that would concern me though is that, that's gonna be very, very expensive.

T: Unh-unh.

S: I mean I personally would prefer the botanical garden.

T: Oh.

S: Because I think that that will satisfy the needs of many different age groups. I think it ...

T: But not ...

S: ... would be very good for er, wheelchairs, for ... for blind people, for people with disabilities; there would be areas that would be excellent for young people, a lot of learning opportunities in the education center. And we know from experience, past experience that the older age group certainly enjoy gardens.

T: The only thing that would concern me on that is that you, you mentioned youth, but I don't think that you're going to get as many young people involved in a botanical garden. I think if it was interactive then it would be ... but just as a thing that was showing, I'm, I'm not so sure.

N: Well, I don't want to harp on about costs again, but we have to consider the maintenance of this botanical garden. There are very high maintenance costs involved.

S: Oh so, um, Nigel, what, what would you prefer?

N: Well, my vote would go to the theater workshop space for young people. And I know we said we don't want to discriminate against any ... we don't leave out certain members of our society,

but I think we've got a problem in this town about kids getting bored, hanging around on street corners. They need something to do.

T: And I agree with that.

N: ... and a theater workshop space is gonna get them ... er, it's gonna give them a routine; it's going to give them a motivation, and then when they do their shows, they're bringing along their grandparents, their parents; I feel it's very inclusive.

T: Can you see the older generation, um, wanting it, liking it?

N: I think the older generation want (wants) to be sure that kids aren't hanging about the streets with nothing to do.

S: And could, could that um, theater workshop space be used for other things as well?

N: Absolutely.

S: Could it be used for meetings, for other, other sections of society?

N: ... Aerobics ... 'cause there's gonna be a sprung wooden floor, so there'll be dance classes, yoga, Pilates, multipurpose ...

Viewing

Scripts

A1 = Anchor 1, etc.; CB = Cerrie Burnell;
 KB = Kate Brindley; SM = Councilor Spud Murphy;
 W1 = Woman 1, etc.; M1 = Man 1, etc.

Part 1

A1: Depending on who you ask, graffiti is either vandalism, pure and simple or, ah, as valid an art form as any other.

A2: As Cerrie Burnell's discovered, nowhere does the debate rage harder than in Bristol, where the work of the most famous graffiti artist of them all has gone on show.

CB: One of the pioneers of modern graffiti art is the mysterious artist known only as Banksy. His work started on street corners and sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds. And with a brand new Banksy exhibition just opened here in his native Bristol, has graffiti art officially gone mainstream?

KB: Oh it's been really popular. We've been astounded by the numbers of people coming through the door and queuing down the street. Five and a half thousand, six thousand a day and it's attracting everyone. Lots of different people from lots of different communities, but also from all over the country—people that don't necessarily come to museums are coming to see the show.

CB: Do you ever worry that you might be encouraging vandalism by having this kind of show at your gallery?

KB: I don't see us as encouraging vandalism—the spray-painting work is onto canvas, and so it's actually addressing his work in a different way.

CB: But what about all those defaced trains and bus stops? Bristol is also home to a very busy anti-graffiti task force.

SM: Graffiti is vandalism; art is art. Well it, it spoils lots of people's lives. I mean, people that try to look after their property and paint their houses and walls and things like that, somebody that comes along in the middle of the night and paints on there all kinds of rubbish, and you

can't have the laws for one and not for the other; you can't say that Banksy's OK to do it because he paints a nice picture, but a kiddy that does a stupid thing on the side of a thing, he can't do it because it's stupid. That wall that they're just doing now will be clean when they leave, but I bet you by the end of the week somebody will have painted something on it. People coming in from all over the world see this and think, "What a dump!" And it's a beautiful place, Bristol.

Part 2

CB: So has graffiti really become a credible and accepted art form, or is it seen by most as just vandalism? Let's find out what the people of Bristol really think.

W1: I think art.

M1: Just makes a mess of everywhere.

M2: I definitely think it's art.

W2: I think it's quite exciting sometimes.

CB: And how do you feel when you see it on the streets?

W3: Horrifies (Horrified).

M3: Sometimes it can be a bit messy.

M4: If it's a ... a nice picture ... some kind of mural on the side of a tube train, that could be considered to be art. I don't find that particularly offensive.

M1: I think it's untidy ... and defacing public buildings. I just think it's so wrong.

M3: Very, very artistic, very pleasing to the eye and sometimes it has a good message, too: very positive message maybe about peace or love or about the environment or whatever the case may be.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

W = Woman; M = Man

Part 1

W: So here we are in Greenwich Village.

M: Er, it looks very different from the rest of New York.

W: Yeah, the streets are quite narrow, and the buildings aren't as high.

M: It does look quite village-like.

W: Yeah, but it's quite big. It extends out west that way to the Hudson River, north above Washington Square. We'll go up there in a bit.

M: And you lived here?

W: When I first came to New York, yeah. In an apartment just around the corner, on West Third Street. Actually, you can see the building over there.

M: Er, near The Blue Note Jazz Club?

W: Yeah.

M: I've heard of The Blue Note.

W: It's pretty famous. There are some great jazz clubs around the neighborhood, and that's one of the best. We can see a show there one night if you want.

M: Um, that'd be great.

W: Now up here on the left is the Caffè Reggìo. It's where I used to hang out and read when I wasn't working.

M: Looks good.

W: Their cappuccino is great. The story goes that the original owner brought cappuccino to America. You can see the original cappuccino machine inside.

M: Cool. We could stop and have a coffee.

W: Maybe a bit later? Let's head over to Washington Square Park and then circle back.

M: OK—lead the way!

Part 2

W: A lot of these clubs we're walking by have a real history. As I'm sure you know, Greenwich Village has always been a center of artistic life—very bohemian. It's always attracted famous writers, dancers and poets. And in the 60s, it was a big part of the folk music scene: Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, you know.

M: Er ... before my time! Now what's this?

W: This is Washington Square Park. We'll walk into the park on this side. Can you play chess?

M: A bit, yeah.

W: Any of these guys here would be happy to challenge you to a game of chess. They're here all day, every day.

M: Maybe next time—I'm, I'm not that good! Er, what's the arch over there? It looks like the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

W: Well it should, that's the Washington Square Arch. It was modeled on the Arc de Triomphe and built in 1889 to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as president.

M: Oh, could we sit down a second? Er, I need a break.

W: Why don't we retrace our steps and go back to the Caffè Reggìo?

M: Sounds good. I could really do with a coffee. Oh, and I have to see that coffee machine ...

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

W: I've read a lot about this young singer in the music press. She's certainly creating a stir. Is she really that good?

M: She's absolutely brilliant. Each of her performances has been a sell-out. Her mix of rap and folk music is unique and awesome.

Q: What does the man say about the singer?

Conversation 2

M: So here we are in Rome, Italy. In the next four days, we are going to have a full schedule.

W: I'm so excited. Rome has been my dream city. I can't wait to see the historical buildings, visit the art galleries and eat real Italian pizza. By the way, shall we start with the famous Capitoline

Museums tomorrow?

Q: What are the two speakers mainly talking about?

Conversation 3

W: Besides modern opera, which you are studying now, are there any other areas of the arts you enjoy?

M: All sorts. I like pop music, and I very much enjoy pencil drawing. But what interests me most is poetry, especially American poetry in the early 20th century.

Q: What's the man's area of study?

Conversation 4

M: Hi. I am calling to inquire about the exhibit of ancient Greek sculptures you are now hosting. Could you please tell me the admission fee and the opening times?

W: Sure. Admission is free. The opening hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Q: How long does the exhibit open on Saturdays?

Conversation 5

W: Darling, let's check out the reviews of this movie online. If it's good, we should watch it.

M: I think we should. To watch a silent movie is certainly not something common in modern days. The actors must have superb skills to attract the audience if they do not say anything.

Q: What is special about the movie?

Long conversation

Scripts

W: This feels like a dream ... The last time I was in San Francisco was 30 years ago, when I was your age, 15 years old. So much has changed in the city—but you know—many of the sites are just the same.

M: Wow! San Francisco is as beautiful as a picture! I can't believe it! Let's get going! Let's look at the map and take the streetcar to the Golden Gate Bridge.

W: Yes, of course. But, wait—let's just take a moment to look at the Golden Gate Bridge from here—up high on the hill. See how amazing the sun looks, shining on the bridge there high above the water? Sometimes the best way to really enjoy something is to see it from different angles and perspectives.

M: Yes! Just beautiful from here! OK! Let's get going! Wait! You know what, Aunt Lucy, I'm really, really hungry! May we eat before we head out to see the Golden Gate Bridge?

W: Yes, of course we can. We're already here in Chinatown and near my favorite Chinese restaurant. Even after 30 years have passed since I last visited, it's still busy and active.

M: That's great, Aunt Lucy!

W: And, it's right here!

M: Wow! This is amazing! The man inside the window is making noodles by hand—just by pulling on the flour dough. I've never seen anything like it before. How?

W: Yes, I know. It's amazing, right? And the food is delicious, too! Sometimes the best way to

enjoy culture is to simply slow down and truly experience it. We have five full days here in San Francisco. Let's go slowly and enjoy every moment!

Q1: What is the woman's impression of San Francisco when visiting this time?

Q2: What does the woman suggest they do before going to the Golden Gate Bridge?

Q3: What does the man want to do?

Q4: What does the woman consider to be the best way to enjoy culture?

Passage 1

Scripts

The *Mona Lisa* is probably the most famous painting in the world. It was created by Leonardo da Vinci, the famous Italian artist, between around 1503 and 1506. The subject is the wife of a wealthy silk merchant of Italy. The woman's husband requested Da Vinci to portray her as a celebration of their home's completion and the birth of their second son. What is it about this painting that has created such a lasting impact on the artistic world?

One factor is the artist himself. Leonardo da Vinci was not only an artist, but also a scientist, an architect and an engineer. His knowledge of the human form came from the study of actual human bodies, so he was able to draw and paint it more accurately.

Another factor is the material used for the painting. The *Mona Lisa* is an oil painting, but unlike other paintings, which are usually created on canvas, the *Mona Lisa* has a wood panel as the surface. The use of a wood panel makes it possible for the work to have survived for centuries.

Lastly, the style and techniques used for the painting make the *Mona Lisa* a masterpiece. Da Vinci presented precise details in the subject's hands and face. He applied a shadowing technique at the corners of her lips and her eyes, which gives her an unbelievably lifelike appearance. He also created a background with aerial views and a beautiful landscape. His remarkable skills left behind no visible brush marks at all.

All these factors—Da Vinci's talent, the medium used for the painting, the style and techniques applied in the work—contribute to the lasting and mysterious beauty of the *Mona Lisa*.

Q1: Who is the person painted in the *Mona Lisa*?

Q2: What made it possible for the *Mona Lisa* to survive for centuries?

Q3: What is mentioned as one of the techniques used for painting the *Mona Lisa*?

Q4: What does the passage mainly discuss?

Passage 2

Scripts

Each January, the entertainment community and film fans around the world turn their attention to the Academy Awards, which are officially known as the Oscars. Interest and 1) anticipation builds to a fevered pitch leading up to the Oscar telecast in February, when hundreds of millions of film lovers tune in to watch the 2) glamorous ceremony and learn whom the highest honors in filmmaking will 3) be conferred upon.

The Oscars reward the greatest cinema achievements of the previous year. There are up to 25

categories of awards for outstanding individual or 4) collective efforts. In each category, there are as many as five nominees determined by members of the relevant Academy branch. For instance, only film editors may 5) nominate for the Achievement in Film Editing Award. There are two categories standing as 6) exceptions to this rule, namely the Best Picture category, for which nominees are selected by the entire membership, and the Best Foreign Language films, which are chosen by a committee of members drawn from all branches.

The members of the Academy are some of the world's most 7) accomplished motion picture artists and professionals. There are roughly 6,000 members, who vote for the Oscars using secret ballots. The results of the vote are kept in 8) absolute secrecy until the TV presenters open the envelopes and reveal the 9) recipients on live television. In addition to the regular annual awards presented by the membership, the Board of Governors, which is the governing body of the Academy, 10) is entitled to grant Scientific and Technical Awards, Special Achievement Awards and some other honors.

As one of the highest honors in the film industry, the Oscars acknowledge excellence in filmmaking and carry great significance in the world of film.

Unit 6 Mass media: 24 / 7 coverage

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

V = Val; W1 = Woman 1, etc.; M1 = Man 1, etc.

Part 1

V: Hi. I start work quite late, so in the mornings I normally read the papers or go on news websites: It's important for me to find out what's going on in the world. Today, I'm interviewing people about the media and the news. How do you usually get your news?

Part 2

W1: I read my news on the Internet mainly because I don't have a television at the moment.

M1: I usually get my news by watching the TV news when I get home.

W2: I don't actually live in Britain, so um, I like to read the news in English and I get it all on the Internet.

M2: Well, I often listen to the radio: I find that actually much better than the television.

W3: I watch the news every morning, um, and I read *The Guardian* newspaper. Um, maybe two or three times a week I buy the paper.

M3: I usually get my news from the Internet, um, or from newspapers.

Part 3

V: What kind of news stories interest you the most?

W1: Well, I study conflict and development, so I'm interested in world affairs.

M1: Er, a variety, really. Um, I like to read about politics, of course, and what's happening in the country, but I also like to hear about what's happening in other countries of the world.

W2: Um, I like all sorts of news stories, um, about what's going on, and I especially like things about new technology, um, but I also like a bit of trashy news—I like a bit of celebrity gossip, er, just to break up the day.

M3: Well, I certainly don't like celebrity news, but I do like sports.

M2: I work as a doctor and, therefore, er, it's very important to know what the health stories are.

W3: I don't enjoy, er, the sort of, more popular culture news stories. I think there's a different place for that: I don't think they should be included in the main news.

Part 4

V: How has modern technology and new media changed our relationship with the news?

M1: On my laptop I can go on the Internet and I can just see what the latest headlines are. I can see news developments as, as they happen, almost in real time.

M2: There are many different sources, and therefore you often compare and contrast what different media are saying.

M3: Er, often you don't have to pay, so you don't have to, er, it doesn't discriminate against people who don't have money.

W2: We used to rely on, um, the messages from TV, from different outlets, and now with er,

things like Twitter people can spread the news, but it does run the risk that it's not always um, correct.

Part 5

V: In your opinion, does the media use its power responsibly?

M1: Er, I think, in general, yes, but I think there are occasions when I think it's irresponsible. I think, for example, um, when, er, when they hound er, celebrities, for example, I, I don't think that's very responsible news. I don't even think it's very good news.

W1: I think the media has a lot of power and it doesn't always appreciate er, the extent to which it can affect things.

W2: I think in this country it does. I think it certainly doesn't in some other countries.

M2: In my area – I'm especially interested in the area of health—often you get these health sto ... stories about immunization or about some latest scare about cancer, and this causes a great deal of anxiety, and yet when you go down to the real truth, it's often based on very flimsy foundations. So, I think the media do have a, a duty to use their power responsibly.

Listening

Scripts

M = Man; W = Woman

M: Did you hear this story in the news about this guy that swapped a paper clip for a house?

W: No.

M: It sounds a bit out there, but apparently what happened was he started ... He, he was at his desk looking for a job or, or phoning up about jobs ...

W: Yeah.

M: ... and, um, he saw a paper clip on his desk, and he thought, I wonder what I can do with this paper clip – whether I can swap it for something.

W: Oh.

M: Anyway, so he got onto the Internet and he made this website, er, I think it's called the-red-paper-clip.com.

W: Right.

M: And he put this, this on the Internet, photographs (photographed) it, puts (put) it on, and sees (saw) if anyone wants (wanted) to swap something with him.

W: And did, did anything happen?

M: Er, yeah, so er, first of all, I don't remember all the details, but as I recall two Vancouver women, um, took up the first challenge and they swapped the paper clip with, I think it was a pen shaped like a fish they had found ...

W: Random.

M: Yeah – they had found on a camping trip, yeah random. But he meets (met) up with all these people. He doesn't (didn't) just send the things. And so then from that, I believe, this guy in Seattle wanted the pen and, swapped it for a door knob. And the door knob was swapped for something to do with camping.

W: Oh, so he kept trading up each time.

M: Yeah, yeah, he kept trading, trading up so, and then that was swapped for a beer keg I think.

Apparently what happened was all these people were ... the same sort of thought patterns as him and they wanted to sort of meet up and it was about a social event as well.

W: Ah.

M: Anyway, the next thing he got was a snow globe and, according to the report, it said a film director wanted it and said he'd swap it for a part in his film. And then this town decided, they had this house in this town, and that they would swap the house for a part in this film.

W: No! So he went all the way from the red paper clip to getting a house.

M: ... a house. And my impression was that he, he was just crazy at the beginning, but he ended up having this—well, I'm not sure how good the house was but, well, yeah.

W: Well, better than a paper clip.

M: Yeah, I know basically that's what happened.

W: Wow!

Viewing

Scripts

M1 = Man 1, etc.; W1 = Woman 1, etc.; R1 = Rob; R2 = Riz; CA = Clive Anderson;

NO = Nicholas Owen; I1 = Interviewer 1, etc.; WG1 = Wrong guest 1, etc.;

GG = Guy Goma; KB = Kevin Bakhurst

M1: Good evening. If the autocue was working, I could now read you something, but as it isn't, I can't.

W1: And there'll be live coverage on the BBC of the Democratic convention in New York in just in ... under 10 minutes, that's in about, 10 minutes.

R1: And that is all the business news for the moment. Riz.

R2: Thank you very much, Rob. I'm back with a look at the, ah, headweather ... with the headlines after a look at the weather with Rob McElweather.

CA: News. Everybody's got an opinion about it: There's too much of it; it's on at the wrong time; it's too serious; it's too fluffy; it's too short; it's too tall.

NO: It's one of the few things on television these days that really is live. So if it starts going wrong, you're gonna see it, and probably enjoy it at the same time.

M2: And finally, my thanks to Hugh Smith of Holt and Kay Coulson of Fordham Heath, Colchester for sending me these little and large bottles with, ah, impossible nails and screws through pieces of wood to further tantalize my brain on how they did it ... oh ... ah!

W2: The thing about rolling news is that you have to fill an awful lot of time, and things are changing around you and you won't necessarily be that clear about, you know, you know you've got to interview about three or four guests, the order of them might change, you're not quite sure who it's gonna be ...

CA: And 24-hour rolling news has created a new category. The right interview with the wrong guest.

I1: ... higher quality. Managing Director of Internet at NTL, Jerry Rust joins me now. What's gone wrong? What's gone wrong in, ah, in your offer?

WG1: I'm afraid this is not what I'm talking about, I'm not ...

I1: I'm afraid we obviously have the wrong guest here. That's, ah, deeply embarrassing for us.

- I2: The Head of the NUT's Education Department is John Bangs. He's in our ...
- WG2: Ah you've got the wrong ...
- I2: ... Central London Studio ... he was in our Central London Studio, but he seems to have disappeared, so hopefully we shall go back to him later on?
- CA: But the undisputed champion of the Wrong Guest division is the BBC *News 24* incident involving the charming but inappropriate Guy Goma.
- I3: So what does this all mean for the industry and the growth of music online?
Well Guy Kewney is the editor of the technology website, ah, NewsWireless. Hello, good morning to you.
- GG: Good morning.
- I3: Were you surprised by this, ah, verdict today?
- GG: I'm very surprised to see this verdict to ... to come on, on me, because I wasn't expecting that.
- KB: It was an item in one of the business slots on *News 24*, and the Business Producer went downstairs to reception and said, ah ... "Is Guy here for BBC News?", and Guy Goma put his hand up ... there were two Guys there, ah, but the wrong Guy put his hand up first and came upstairs, and as you know he was here for a, he was here for an interview, but it wasn't for an interview for *News 24*, it was an interview for a job.
- I4: *The Sun* headline is "Big Bluffer". We find the Beeb news ... Beeb news show's accidental "expert". Yeah, ...
- CA: And for a while, Guy Goma found himself living the celebrity lifestyle. But anyway, it goes to show just how much the public love a good news blunder.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

Conversation 1

- A: Can you believe those people who won the lottery?
- B: Sorry?
- A: Those people who won 43 million euros each.
- B: Huh. Lucky them! That must be one of the biggest prizes ever.
- A: Yeah, but the amazing thing is the two winners are from the same town.
- B: So?
- A: And they've won separately.
- B: What, you mean they didn't do it together?
- A: No, they don't know each other.
- B: You're kidding. That's absolutely incredible! I mean ...
- A: Yeah, it's such an amazing coincidence. They're saying that they're going to ...

Conversation 2

- A: Hi.
- B: Hi. Have you seen this picture? Look.
- A: No.

B: What do you think it is?
 A: It's difficult to say, but I gather it's some sort of painting. It's quite pretty. It looks like one of those done by a child, or I guess it could be a computer image.
 B: Wrong! It's actually a photo of some bacteria they found on the moon.
 A: Really? There's no way I would have guessed that. Let me see again. I suppose it does look like bacteria now I come to think about it.
 B: Mind you, I don't believe it. I think it's a tabloid ...

Conversation 3

A: Did you see that story about the kid in Ethiopia?
 B: No.
 A: It was on the breakfast news this morning. It was about this girl who was being chased by some men. And three lions came out and chased away the men and then stayed and protected her.
 B: That is incredible. Why on earth would they do that?
 A: What, the lions?
 B: Yeah.
 A: Maybe they heard her crying. You know, and thought she was a cub.
 B: Um, perhaps ... but it sounds a bit weird. Why didn't they just eat her?
 A: Good question. Er, maybe ...
 B: That reminds me of a story that I heard ...

Conversation 4

A: He looks in a bad mood.
 B: Let's look. What happened?
 A: He's got to pay a fine. Apparently he left his car in the wrong place.
 B: He's got to pay a fine!
 A: Yeah.
 B: And he's the one who's always talking about reducing car use and taking public transport.
 A: Yeah. That's so hypocritical.
 B: I thought you liked him.
 A: Yeah, well, sometimes he can be such an idiot, but he's actually all right, you know ...

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

M: There is not much worth in reading the newspapers these days. They have more pages but fewer words that really matter.
 W: You said it! All you find in them are advertisements and celebrity gossip. I wish they could direct more attention to issues that are more important to society.
 Q: What does the man think of today's newspapers?

Conversation 2

W: Hello. Today on *Business Focus* I am talking about knowledge management with Mr. Adam Johnson, the Human Resources Manager of a multinational company. Mr. Johnson, how has knowledge management changed the way your company works?

M: In lots of ways. The most significant change occurs in how we manage the process of our project development ...

Q: What is the woman probably doing?

Conversation 3

W: Recently, reality television has swept across almost all channels: matchmaking, job hunting, and talent shows. I don't know why people are so crazy about it!

M: In my view, some people watch reality TV because it makes them feel they're better than others. They may also enjoy seeing other people get embarrassed.

Q: What does the man say about reality TV?

Conversation 4

W: I think teenagers today experience a different social reality from what we had before.

M: Exactly. When we were kids, we would hang out with friends, chatting, or going to movies. That's our experience, but what we see now is that young people are choosing to live online.

Q: How do young people socialize today according to the man?

Conversation 5

W: Much has been said about how anti-social the Internet and mobile phones are, but I think communications technology is bringing people closer.

M: Yes, I'd go along with you on that. With these modern tools, there's a new kind of connection being built within families.

Q: What does the man think of modern communications technology?

Long conversation

Scripts

W: Hey Billy! It's 7:30 p.m.! Turn off your TV and computer. Come down to dinner. It seems your father is finishing his conference call with his team in China.

M: OK Mom. Coming. But why is Dad on his computer while I can't be on mine!

W: Billy, your father is working. But you are chatting with your friends about celebrities! So your father needs to be on his computer. And you don't!

M: OK. Sorry, Mom. What are we having for dinner? Pizza?

W: Pizza?! I've made us a nice dinner of roast chicken, mushroom soup and vegetable salad. I even made chocolate cake for dessert – and you want pizza!

M: Just kidding Mom! I love your cooking! Mmm I'm hungry, and it smells delicious!

W: Billy! I told you to shut down all electronics!

M: Mom! This isn't fair. You told me to turn off my computer and my TV – you didn't say all electronics – and you didn't mention my cell phone! I have to check the news! My favorite golf player just got in trouble for drunk driving! Please Mom! I have to find out!

W: You can't go five minutes without having your eyes on a screen! Hand me your phone. Now! I am turning it off so we can have a nice dinner.

M: OK Mom. Fine! Here's my phone.

W: Now, where is your father?

M: Will you make Dad do the same? We never have family dinner anymore without Dad being on electronics!

W: Hmm, you know, Billy, you have a very good point. I think it's time we had family dinner without any electronics. Here's our new rule: Just for 45 minutes over dinner, no electronics!

Q1: Why is the son required to turn off his computer while his father is not?

Q2: Why doesn't the son want to turn off his cell phone?

Q3: What rule does the mother decide to set for the family?

Q4: What can we learn from the conversation?

Passage 1

Scripts

We as a society have intense interest in the celebrity news prevalent in our media. One of the key reasons is that in a world of constant death and disasters, celebrity news allows us to escape from the "real news". After all, the job of celebrities is to entertain us, so it's only natural that news about them would be a source of entertainment as well.

Of course the world isn't always a depressing place filled with death, danger and sad events. But the media presents a dominant coverage of them. Watching hours of that news makes you depressed and want something different. This is why celebrity news fills that need for "happy news" or "light news".

Celebrities also tend to live life on the edge and overdo everything they are engaged in. They long for attention and will do whatever to get it. We watch them with fascination as they party, do drugs, escape the law, get caught by the law, get married or divorced, and so forth.

Many people became attracted by the lifestyle of celebrities because they more or less wish they had the same lives as the stars. Celebrity news fuels people's desire to look like the stars, dress like the stars, and even name children after the stars. It can be a source of making every life decision for some people. Although this may not be a healthy thing to do, it does boost the celebrity news business.

In a word, celebrity news gives us a well-needed break from the depressing and harsh news stories that we are flooded with daily. But as viewers and readers we need to keep in mind that celebrities are still common people, and that their lives are in many ways similar to ours, not merely to be shown for entertainment only.

Q1: Why is celebrity news prevalent in our media?

Q2: What can we learn about celebrities from the conversation?

Q3: Why are celebrities' lifestyles attractive to people?

Q4: What should we keep in mind when watching or reading celebrity news?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

British tabloids provide their readers with an exciting mixture of gossip, entertainment and news. They 1) differentiate themselves from mainstream broadsheets by giving prominence to celebrities, sports and crime stories.

No matter how many people 2) frown upon tabloid newspapers, it is a fact that the tabloids are popular and successful. The public has a demand for 3) concise news dose with minimum text and eye-catching pictures, and the tabloids are giving the readers just that. Here are some of the reasons why the British tabloids continue to enjoy popularity and success.

First of all, the British tabloids 4) combat the new media wisely. Print media all over the world is facing 5) severe competition from the new media, be it the Internet or television, and no one 6) is geared up for the competition better than the tabloids. Most of the British tabloids have 7) embraced the new media instead of competing with them and hence have created e-versions or online editions of their daily tabloid editions.

Second, the British tabloids are getting the format right. They have maintained a 8) compact format, which is rather convenient for the reader to pick up, read and carry. The text is short and 9) is supplemented with eye-catching pictures. The entire format stresses more on the visual appeal rather than the textual content.

The British tabloids are proud of being what they are and accept that they are profit driven and aim for good business. The readers want 10) sensational news, and the tabloids have it. They do not compete with the serious newspapers, but rather carve a special market for themselves. In this way, they have earned a readership segment that is large enough to keep them going in the business.

Unit 7 Trouble in modern times

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

P = Pasha; W1 = Woman 1, etc.; M1 = Man 1, etc.

Part 1

P: Hi. Like many people, I do have some minor fears and phobias: Some things worry me but there's nothing really that affects my life. How about you? Do you have any fears or phobias?

Part 2

W1: Yeah, I don't, I don't really like very crowded places, like when the tube is really busy.

W2: Um, I think for me the biggest one is being scared of heights, which I find really illogical, um, and it's something that's developed as I've got older – I wasn't scared of heights when I was little.

M1: I have er, a real fear of height and, or flying even as well.

W3: Um, I don't know if it's strange, I do have a slight fear of flying.

M2: I don't like spiders ... from childhood.

W4: I'm scared of rats. And when I walked from college to my flat, er, there's (there're) lots of bins and lots of rats – that was pretty scary.

M3: I'd say that, probably, a phobia that a lot of people have today is, that I share, is er, committing: er, potentially looking at getting married er, at a young age; looking to have a family.

M4: One in particular is um, dogs. I had a scary experience with a dog years and years ago.

W5: I have a very strange fear of pencils: blunt pencils and the noise they'd make on paper.

Part 3

P: How do your fears or phobias interfere with your life?

W6: I'll never get a bargain in a sale because there's (there're) too many people.

W2: That's true. I agree.

W1: I guess I avoid really crowded places if it's possible.

W3: If I could avoid flying, then I probably would.

W5: At school it was a big problem. I had to use a pen instead of a pencil. Er, and even someone sitting next to me using a pencil would make me cringe.

M1: I don't like height, so, and being in high places, so I went on a balloon ride a few years ago. Someone had invited me to go and I thought it was an opportunity not to be missed, so I went on it anyway and thoroughly loved it. You know, I think most of the time we make up the phobia in our head to be worse than it actually is.

Part 4

P: What fear or phobia would be the most troublesome in the modern world?

M1: I suppose not being liked or loved.

M4: I would have thought it's something like agoraphobia, er, because er, it would just keep

people in their homes and not being able to, sort of, integrate with society in any way.

W3: Perhaps, claustrophobia, perhaps, especially in London because you are so “closed in” a lot of the time, so things like lifts and ... and also transport, so flying perhaps and ... and using trains, tubes: I think that would probably get in the way quite a lot.

M2: People like to move and like their freedom, and I think to be trapped in a small space is quite scary for a lot of people.

Listening

Scripts

W = Woman; M = Man

Conversation 1

W: So what happened was, I was sitting in a café and this young couple – they looked like tourists – asked me to take a photo of them. And I took their photo, and they thanked me and left, and then I looked at my seat and realized my handbag had gone, with my mobile, wallet, credit card, keys, everything.

M: No! What did you do?

W: Well, there was a guy on the next table and he saw I was really upset, and I explained about the bag, and he asked me which bank I was with, and he said he worked for that bank and gave me a phone number and let me use his mobile to phone them and stop my credit card.

M: And you believed him?

W: Yeah, I mean I was in a real panic. I was really grateful for his help. Anyway, I phoned the number and talked to a woman from “the bank” and gave her my name and address and my account number.

M: Um, she sounded genuine?

W: Yeah, completely. I could hear the sounds of the call center behind her. And she asked me to key in my PIN on the phone, and she said they’d stop my card.

M: Wow. So it was a double scam. They got your bag and your bank account details?

W: Yeah, unfortunately. Of course, the guy could get my PIN from his phone.

M: So who actually took your bag?

W: Well, it must have been stolen when I wasn’t looking.

M: Right.

W: So it can’t have been the young couple because I was looking at them all the time I was taking the photo. Their job was just to distract me.

M: Was it the guy at the next table, then?

W: Um, I think so. He must have taken my bag when I wasn’t looking. Then he could have hidden it in his case, or he, he might have given it to another member of the gang.

M: And then he gave you a fake number.

W: Yeah, and they must have used a recording of a call center so that it sounded like the real bank.

Conversation 2

M: I was badly tricked a few years ago when I was working in a jewelry shop.

W: Oh, you never told me about that. What happened?

M: Well, this woman came in and was looking at necklaces. She was young, attractive, well

dressed, and then a guy came in shortly afterwards and he was just looking around. But then the woman went to pay for a very expensive necklace that she'd picked out, and when she was counting out the money onto the counter, the guy grabbed her, flashed his police ID and said he was arresting her for paying with counterfeit money.

W: No! Wow!

M: So he took the cash and the necklace as evidence, wrote down his contact details, and promised me he'd bring the necklace back by the end of the day. I didn't suspect anything. Then he took the woman away, presumably to book her at the police station.

W: And he didn't come back?

M: No, and stupid me, I didn't even begin to suspect anything until it was closing time, so then I phoned the police and they had no idea what I was talking about. That was it, end of story.

W: Oh, how much was the necklace worth?

M: £ 600. And my boss took it out of my salary. That's why I quit.

W: Oh, so the police ID must have been a fake.

M: That's right. I just didn't check it.

W: And wait a second, was the woman a real customer?

M: No, the woman must have been working with the guy. She couldn't have been a real customer, or she wouldn't have gone with him.

W: But she might have had fake money.

M: I really don't think so.

W: Woo, talk about an ingenious scam ...

M: Yeah.

Viewing

Scripts

MB = Michael Buerk; MH = Moss Hills; PW = Paul Whiley

MB: Tonight on 999: holiday hell on a sinking cruise liner: one man's incredible story. The sea can be a dangerous place but when you go on a big ship, a ferry or a cruise liner, you hardly expect it simply to sink underneath your feet. But that's exactly what happened to the 581 passengers and crew on the cruise ship *Oceanos* that went down off South Africa in 1991. Husband and wife singers Moss and Tracy Hills felt at home on board the *Oceanos*. So as the entertainment staff got things ready for the opening night's party, no one worried about the storm that was battering South Africa's east coast.

MH: There was a great atmosphere when we set sail. It's kind of typical ... There's always ... people are partying ... It's the whole sail away party. It's one of the highlights of a cruise. I went upstairs to go and check on our musical equipment, and on my way up there I saw three security guards running down the passageway, so I followed them, and saw crew members packing their bags, and everyone was in a real state of panic. I knew something was wrong, I then went up to the lounge, then suddenly the power went off.

MB: Unbelievably the senior crew had already jumped ship.

MH: And next thing we just sort of started running everything. It was myself and Julian and the Cruise Director, my wife Tracy, and we were getting people and just loading them into lifeboats.

MB: By 4 a.m., 350 people, including the crew, had got off, leaving the entertainers in charge of the frightened passengers.

MH: There were just over 200 people still left on board, and nowhere to get off; we had no more lifeboats.

MB: Water continued to pour through the hull but the gravity of the situation was kept from the passengers to avoid panic.

MH: I'm an entertainer. We're used to dealing with people. Everyone just looked to us to ... to see the whole thing through. So I went on and I filled my pockets with sweets, and then I'd, I'd give people – adults and everyone – I would give them sweets.

MB: Eight hours had passed since the lights went out, and still there was no sign of help. Each wave tore deeper into the ship's damaged hull, but the Captain's early mayday had been heard, and as the ship wallowed in the boiling ocean, the largest air-sea rescue in history was about to begin ... Swinging uncontrollably in gale force winds, two Navy divers were dropped on board the ship to assist with the rescue.

PW: Once I was on deck I went up with the first passenger just to show everybody once, and from then on everyone was on their own – we sent two people in the harnesses at a time.

MB: Paul organized the airlift of passengers from one end of the ship with Moss at the other.

MH: As soon as I had two in the harness and ready to go, I'd signal the chopper guys and they'd get ... the harness to go up ... and then should send the next two out. We had 12 passengers left: myself, Tracy, and we had, um, Robin was on the bridge, so there were 15 people left on board, and they disappeared to go and drop those passengers off. We're waiting, and we wait (waited), and we wait (waited), and then they didn't come back.

MB: After 40 minutes there was still no sign of a helicopter.

MH: Turns out they'd run out of fuel and ... and there was no fuel available there.

PW: Yes, time was passing and there was less and less space on the boat, um, and everyone was just, ah, waiting, waiting for ... for choppers.

MB: Having refueled, the helicopters returned just as Moss was giving up any hope of being rescued.

PW: As we got into the harness and I looked down on the vessel, I was sad to the point where, you know, I was ... I was emotional. I had a bump in my throat – I was really ... you look at the vessel and you think that, ah, so much has happens (happened) in such a short time, you know, and there's nothing more we could do – there's just no way of saving it, there's no way.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

P = Police officer; A = Alain Girard

P: Hello, police. Can I help you?

A: Y, yes, I'd like to report a crime. I've been robbed.

P: I'm very sorry to hear that, sir. Er, OK, I'll need to take a statement.

A: A statement?

P: Er, to write down some details, if that's all right.

A: Yes, sure.

P: Er, could you give me your name please, sir?

A: Alain Girard.

P: Right. That's G, Girard with a J?

A: Er, no, G, and it's Alain spelled A-l-a-i-n.

P: Right, er, Mr. Girard. Could you tell me exactly when the incident happened?

A: Er, just now. About an hour ago.

P: Er, could you be more precise?

A: Excuse me?

P: Could you give me the exact time?

A: I think at 2:50 or 2:55.

P: Er, that's about 2:50 on the 7th of June. And where did it happen?

A: Park Avenue.

P: Can you pinpoint the exact location?

A: Er, pin, pinpoint?

P: Tell me exactly where.

A: Oh. Um, it was near the entrance to the park. Just about 50 meters inside.

P: OK. Could you tell me what happened?

A: I was walking out of the park, and a man was running towards me and he hit into me hard ...

P: He collided with you?

A: Yes, and he said "sorry" and something else, then before I realized what had happened, he had run on. It was only about thirty seconds later that I realized my wallet had gone and that he must have taken it when he hit me, collided with me.

P: Er, but did it cross your mind that it wasn't just an accident?

A: No, it never occurred to me that he'd done it on purpose.

P: Did you run after him?

A: No, my mind just went blank and I stood there not knowing what to do.

P: But you were OK? Not hurt?

A: No, just very shocked.

P: OK. Um ... um ... could you tell me exactly what your wallet looked like and what was in it?

A: It's brown, leather and it has my credit card and about 250 euros and ...

P: Hold on a minute, credit card ... about 250 euros, yes?

A: And a photo of my girlfriend.

P: OK. So you saw the man. Can you give me a description?

A: Um, about 20, white, quite tall. And he was wearing a sweater, grey color with a ... you know ... um ... ah, something you put over your head ...

P: A hood? He was wearing a hoodie?

A: Er, yes, that's the word. So I didn't see his face, not clearly. But he looked as if he was just out jogging, you know, he was wearing some sort of dark trousers, for running or for the gym.

P: Tracksuit bottoms?

A: Yeah. I can't remember anything else. It all happened so quickly.

P: So that's a tall white male, about 20, wearing a grey hoodie and dark tracksuit bottoms?

A: Uh-huh, that's right.

P: And did he have any other distinguishing marks or features?

A: Sorry?

P: Anything special or different from normal? For example, a scar on his face or anything like that?

A: Um, no, he just seemed like a normal guy, out running. Nothing special. Except ...

P: Yes?

A: He reminded me a bit of that actor, Vin Diesel. But younger. Do, do you know who I mean?

P: Vin Diesel, yeah, yeah. I'll put it down. And you said he said something to you.

A: Yeah, but I didn't catch what he said. It was too quick.

P: Right, one last question and then I'll take your contact details. Were there any other people in the vicinity?

A: V, vicinity?

P: In the surrounding area – nearby. Any witnesses who saw what had happened?

A: No, there was no one nearby, in the ... vicinity.

P: Right, er, now I just need to take your contact details, Mr. Girard, and I can also give you a phone number to ring if you need to get in touch ...

Group discussion

Get ideas

Scripts

W1 = Woman 1, etc.; M = Man

W1: So we really need to decide then, what it is we get rid of and what is absolutely essential to keep on the life raft, I think that's probably the most important thing, isn't it?

M: Oh, I'm sure it's easy to get rid of a few things, isn't it?

W2: Like what?

M: Well, I'm not sure about the lighter. I mean, we can't really start a fire on a raft, can we?

W2: No.

W1: I suppose it depends on what the life raft is made out of, doesn't it?

M: Yeah, but it's not exactly top priority to be able to cook a hot meal, you know, when you really just need to survive.

W1: So, no lighter?

M and W2: OK.

W1: OK. So, what do you think is important?

W2: I'd say that a blanket is essential.

W1: Um, interesting choice. What for?

W2: Well, you can use it for a lot of different things. To keep you warm obviously, but you can use a blanket as a towel if you get wet.

W1: If you fall in the water.

W2: ... for example. And a blanket can protect you from the sun.

M: That hadn't occurred to me. OK, I'm convinced. So, what else?

W1: Well, I can't see the point of taking the hand mirror, can you?

M: Actually, I can. Because if you think about ...

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

M: With private cars on the rise, driving becomes an essential skill that must be mastered to compete in society. As a result, driving schools are thriving.

W: Yes, they are. But many problems have also occurred, such as over-charging by some schools and bribes demanded by some instructors.

Q: What is the problem with driving schools?

Conversation 2

W: With rapid population growth and increasing drought in some parts of the world, food security has become topic of widespread international interest.

M: Yes. But according to an official of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, only a small percentage of the world's hungry and ill-nourished people are being reached by food assistance programs.

Q: What can we learn from the conversation?

Conversation 3

W: So, what do you expect your report on old people will achieve?

M: We hope that it will help to change people's feelings about old age. Far too many people believe that old people are poor, sick, lonely, and unhappy. And as a result, we tend to find old people, as a group, unattractive. This is very dangerous to our society.

Q: What does the man expect his report on old people will achieve?

Conversation 4

W: I think the changing climate is a sign that we are causing too much damage to the environment.

M: Yes, you're quite right. Though climate can change naturally over time, human activities are speeding up the change. I wish governments would work together more closely to address the issue.

Q: What can we learn from the man about the issue of climate change?

Conversation 5

M: Hi, Sara, you look quite different from how you used to.

W: Sure. I started exercising regularly two years ago and went from 230 pounds to a healthy 150 pounds. It is the only thing I have not given up on.

Q: What is implied in the woman's words?

Long conversation

Scripts

M: Have you heard? A big storm is coming!

W: Yes! The weatherman says a hurricane is coming! Even though our city is 50 miles from the ocean, we will still be in the path of the hurricane.

M: I heard it on the radio news, too! We need to prepare. There's an Emergency Items list on the refrigerator. I'll get it.

W: OK. Be prepared to be without food, water or electricity.

M: So the list says one gallon of water per person per day. It also says we need to get food that doesn't need refrigeration.

W: How many days of supplies should we get?

M: It says to prepare emergency supplies for 10 days.

W: Well, we have four flashlights already.

M: Yes, but we need batteries for the flashlights.

W: OK, so let's get ready and go to the store. I hope everyone else in town hasn't already bought out the store for their own supplies. Should we bring cash, in case the credit card machines don't work?

M: Yep! I already went by the bank this morning. I have \$1,500 cash on hand. So, scratch off flashlights and cash from our Emergency Items list.

W: Hmm, you know, if we don't use the \$1,500 cash for the storm – I could easily find a use for it shopping at the mall. There's a beautiful new suit and shoes and an amazing long coat and ...

M: Hahaha. Hmm let's see: \$1,500 is \$1,300 more than our budget for clothing expenses per month! Remember that we took this cash from our emergency savings account – my sweet love – so that we would be prepared in an emergency. Shopping in the mall is not an emergency!

Q1: What will the couple do to prepare for the storm?

Q2: What things do they have at home for emergency situations?

Q3: Why does the woman suggest they bring cash with them?

Q4: What's their budget for clothing every month?

Passage 1

Scripts

Shoplifting is a common problem faced by retail businesses that can have a bad effect on their profitability. Retail businesses earn revenue by purchasing goods from wholesalers and manufacturers, and then selling those goods to consumers in retail stores or over the Internet. When a shoplifter steals an item from a retailer, the business can no longer sell that item to consumers to pay for the purchasing cost of it, as well as other expenses like rent and employee wages. Depending on a store's profit margin, it may have to sell dozens of units to make up for the revenue that is lost due to the stolen items. For instance, if a store has a two percent profit margin and a shoplifter steals an item that is worth \$10, then the store will have to sell \$500 worth of goods to recover the loss.

Shoplifting not only causes harm to retailers, but also has a negative effect on customers. Since businesses lose profit due to shoplifting, they may set prices higher than they would otherwise do to compensate for the losses. In a sense, shoplifting acts as a tax on retailers that is ultimately passed on to consumers. Small businesses that raise prices may lose customers to larger

competitors, who are often better equipped to absorb losses and keep their prices low.

Retail businesses can adopt a variety of measures to prevent theft and fight against shoplifting. Common prevention methods include: posting warning signs that shoplifters will be punished, installing security cameras, training employees to be aware of shoplifting, and putting security devices on products. Other measures like locking products away in display cases can also help to prevent shoplifting of valuable items.

Q1: What problem is commonly faced by retail businesses?

Q2: What may retailers do to compensate for the losses caused by shoplifting?

Q3: According to the speaker, who can usually better absorb the losses caused by shoplifting?

Q4: What prevention method against shoplifting is mentioned by the speaker?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

It is common knowledge that drug abuse leads to harmful consequences. Why then do people, particularly youngsters, continue to use drugs? Psychologists claim that there are three basic 1) motivations that influence people to take drugs: curiosity, stress and environmental factors. First, young people take drugs because they are curious, so they simply want to have a try. But the 2) hazard is that they don't know taking seemingly innocent drugs can 3) develop an appetite for stronger drugs later on. Secondly, young people take drugs because they are frustrated due to problems 4) associated with parents, school or the opposite sex. They want to escape from the stress caused by all these problems. Thirdly, the environment can also 5) contribute to drug-taking. If, for instance, a youngster belongs to a community, school, or peer group where other youngsters take drugs, he or she may soon be tempted to 6) follow suit, for fear of exclusion or non-acceptance.

There is a growing 7) consensus among psychologists about the best possible approach to the problem of youngsters' addiction to drugs. They believe that school 8) authorities and social workers should work together to provide young people with much needed education on the dangers of drug abuse. Moreover, parents can do a great job in leading their children away from drugs by showing them attention, concern and love. Parents who always scream at their children and keep talking about their 9) inadequacies are regarded as likely drug pushers. A warm and happy family, where children get maximum encouragement and support, is most powerful against the attack of drugs. It is no 10) exaggeration to say that a happy home is a drug-free home.

Unit 8 Everybody has a story to tell

Listening to the world

Sharing

Scripts

V = Val; M1 = Man 1, etc.; W1 = Woman 1, etc.

Part 1

V: Hi. I read a lot, mostly non-fiction books about history and politics, but I also like some poetry, too. I'm outside the Tate Modern in central London asking people about reading. Do you read much?

M1: I do, yeah. I try to read as much as possible.

W1: Yes, I do. I'm a great reader.

M2: Yes, I do, yes. Er, mostly non-fiction.

W2: Um, I read a lot of mag, fashion magazines.

W3: Er, yeah, I read a fair bit.

M3: Yeah, I read er, a lot of, sort of, art criticism and things, um ... things like that. But I also, um, I read a lot of comic books as well.

Part 2

V: What was the last book you read?

W1: Well, the last book I read was *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen which was a book recommended to me by some friends – I'd never heard of her, or indeed, the book – but I enjoyed it very much. It was a story about a circus in the 1930's America.

M1: The last book I read was a novel called *The Search* by a London author called Geoff Dyer, and it's about, it's ... it's set in the States. It's about a man who's paid to pursue another person and he travels across the land trying to catch him.

W2: The last book I read: *Breaking Dawn*, part of um, *The Twilight Saga* by Stephanie Myers (Stephenie Meyer). I was re-reading it for the third time because I really enjoy the books. They get you quite hooked.

W3: I read a collection of short stories by Sylvia Plath called *Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams*.

M2: Douglas Adams' *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*, um, which was an "easy read", and it was fun, it was humorous. It was a book I, I'd had on my shelf for ages and I just, it took me years to get round to reading it.

Part 3

V: What's your favorite book?

W1: My favorite book of all time is a book called *One Fine Day* by Mollie Pan, Panter- Downes, which is a book about a, a, a housewife, just after the Second World War, and it just traces her, her existence in a day of her life. It's terribly mundane.

M3: Um, probably *The Killing Joke*, which is a Batman graphic novel.

W3: Well, one of them is definitely a book by Jean Cocteau called *Les Enfants Terribles*, which is about, er, two siblings and their kind of twisted relationship.

Part 4

V: Which fictional character would you most like to be, or meet?

M1: I'd most like to meet the fictional character, er, John Self from Martin Amis' novel *Money*, which is the funniest novel I've ever read.

M2: I think that would be the Mad Hatter from *Alice in Wonderland*. Um, just his irrationality, or irrationality to everyone else who looks at him, um, but to him, he's completely normal.

M3: That's quite an easy one: Batman. I'd love to be Batman, and I'd love to meet the Joker.

W3: Um, I think I'd like to meet, um, Humbert Humbert from *Lolita*, which is by Nabokov, um, because he's such a complex character, and in the book you really empathize with him even though he's got such dark and monstrous desires.

W1: Perhaps one of my, the people I'd most like to meet would be Mr. Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice*. And I suppose, by default, that means I'd quite like to be Elizabeth Bennett.

Listening

Scripts

I = Interviewer; L = Larry Smith

I: In the 1920s, Ernest Hemingway bet 10 dollars that he could write a complete story in just six words. He wrote, "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." He won the bet. An American online magazine has now used that to inspire its readers to write their life story in six words, and they've been overwhelmed by the thousands who took up the challenge. They've published the best in a book which they've given the title of one of the submissions: Not quite what I was planning. I asked the editor, Larry Smith, what made him think of the idea.

L: Well, on the site, Smith Magazine, we tell stories in all sorts of different ways. Our whole idea behind the site is that storytelling should be egalitarian, you know, democratic. Everyone has a story. We say that over and over. That's our tag line. But in telling different types of stories since we launched a couple of years ago, we found that you had to give people parameters. So playing off the great literary legend, the Hemingway story, we thought, "Let's ask our readers their six-word life story, a memoir, and see what happened." We really didn't know what would happen.

I: And what did happen?

L: It was incredible. In a couple of months we got 15,000 entries, and I was just blown away. Funny, poignant – I really believe that everyone has a story and most of us aren't gonna write for *The Guardian*, but I was just so inspired by how serious and intense folks took the six-word memoir challenge.

I: OK, but before we look at the examples. There's one thing ... 'cause the Hemingway is a story, but it's not a story of a life. That seems to be a bit of a challenge to fit that need in six words.

L: Well, it's interesting because some folks clearly tried to tell a whole story of a life in six words and you can tell, and, and other times they're telling a moment in their life, right at this moment, something that they're feeling right now. Or perhaps something that's been an er, an evergreen, a, a thread throughout their lives.

I: Well, give us, give us some examples.

L: "Wasn't born a redhead. Fixed that." This woman took life under control. Whether she just always felt that her soul was a redheaded soul or simply at some point in life, she was gonna

make a switch. She could have quit her job. She changed her hair color.

I: But a lot of them are ... quite sad or there's sort of a sense of regret or disappointment in a lot of them.

L: I didn't expect that. I thought people would come back with a lot of funny things, some playful things, plays on words ... but that was a really interesting er, reality. People really told us, "It's tough out there." "Found true love. Married someone else." "Never should have bought that ring."

Viewing

Scripts

L1 = Larry / Lawrence; G = Gerry; L2 = Leslie; M1 = Margot;

M2 = Mother; C = Customs officer; E = Estate agent; S = Spiro

L1: Why do we put up with this climate? I mean, look at us! Gerry can't speak.

G: Uh?

L1: Leslie can't hear.

L2: What?

L1: Margot's got a face like a plate of red porridge.

M1: Shut up!

L1: And mother is beginning to look like an Irish washerwoman.

M2: I am not.

L1: It's August! We need sunshine.

M2: Yes, dear.

L1: I've got a friend. Lives in Greece, Corfu. Says it's wonderful. Why don't we pack up and go?

M2: I can't just go like that. We have a house here.

L1: We'll sell up.

M2: Don't be ridiculous, Lawrence. Gerry needs an education.

G: No, I'll be fine.

M2: We can't just up and leave. That would be madness.

L1: I'm a writer. That one's very good.

C: Good. This, no.

M2: It's bed linen.

C: Merchandise. Tax.

M2: It's our bed linen. You silly man.

M1: Come away, mother. Let's put off annoying people as long as possible.

M2: I'm sorry, but you've shown us 10 houses, and none of them has a bathroom.

G: Oh, not again.

E: Bathroom? What for you (For what do you) want a bathroom? You have the sea.

M2: This is the cradle of civilization. They must have bathrooms. We'll find a place ourselves.

Uh ... no, um, er ... Taxi?

L2: We don't actually speak Greek.

M1: We do plan to learn.

M2: Can't you do something, Larry?

L1: What?

S: Oi!!! You need someone who talks your language? Them's (Have they) been worrying yous (you)?

M2: Ah, ah ... no, no.

S: Hey! ... So, taxi? Where you wants to go (Where do you want to go), eh? You know what? English always wants (want) bathrooms. I got a bathroom in my house. Eight years (For eight years) I was in Chicago, and then I say (I said), "Spiro, you's (you've) made enough money," so I come (came) back. Ah. I bring (brought) this car with me. Best car on the island. I tell you no word of a lie.

M2: Eyes on the road.

S: All the English tourists, they ask for me when they come to the island. Yeah. You know, if I wasn't (weren't) Greek, yeah, I likes (would like) to be English. There. Villa with bathrooms.

G: We'll take it.

Speaking for communication

Role-play

Scripts

C = Carl; A = Amy; B = Barbara

C: So, Amy, when's your flight?

A: Tomorrow at one. It's 12 hours, so I need a good book. Any ideas? Barbara?

B: Well, I've just finished *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and ...

C: Didn't they make a film of that?

B: Yeah, apparently it's really good.

A: I haven't read it. It's a sort of thriller, isn't it?

B: Yeah, it's a kind of mixture between a thriller and a detective story, set in Sweden. Oh, I thought it was great. I mean I'm a big fan of detective novels anyway, but what I really liked about it was the main character, the girl.

C: ... with the dragon tattoo?

B: Yeah. She's really edgy, strange, kind of brilliant but really messed up at the same time.

C: I'm not that keen on detective novels, and the modern ones are usually too violent for me, so I don't think I'd like it.

A: Well, it's definitely a possibility. What would you recommend then?

C: What about *Life of Pi*? Have either of you read it?

A: No.

B: I started it, but I just couldn't get into it ...

C: It's brilliant. It's about this Indian kid who's stuck on a boat in the middle of the ocean with a dangerous tiger, and a zebra and some other animals.

A: Sounds very strange.

C: No, it's actually all about courage and survival. It'd be really good for a long plane journey – you won't be able to put it down for the whole 12 hours. It's so exciting. You'll just want to know what's going to happen next.

A: Uh-huh.

C: But you didn't finish it?

B: No, actually, to be honest, I couldn't stand it, and I gave up after about a quarter of the way

through. Um, I suppose I'm not really into fantasy and ...

C: It's not really fantasy. It's er, what do they call it, um, magic realism.

B: Whatever, I just couldn't get into it. Amy, why not try one of the classics? You know, something like oh, *Pride and Prejudice*. Do you like Jane Austen?

A: Um, I dunno. I mean, I've seen the movie and the TV adaptation and I liked them, but I don't know, she's not exactly an easy read.

B: Oh, you should try it. I've read it about, what, er, 10 times, and it has to be the most romantic story ever written ... The thing I love about it is the writing; the English that she's used is so beautiful.

A: I know what you mean, but it just seems a bit, well, a bit serious for a plane journey.

C: Yeah, I agree. I love it, too, but maybe not for a plane journey.

A: Actually, you know what? I might try the first one you said, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. What's the overall story? You know, without giving too much away?

B: Well, it's about this girl ...

Further practice in listening

Short conversations

Scripts

Conversation 1

W: I always love to read novels. It's a perfect way to pass time. Getting to know the characters and guessing their fate are part of the fun. A good novel enables you to experience different places, and you feel like you're having a great adventure.

M: You are right. But I just can't find time for reading novels.

Q: What does the woman say about good novels?

Conversation 2

M: Hey, Jane. Have you heard of book clubs? Quite a few friends of mine ask me to join one.

W: Yeah. I am also a member of a book club. A book club gives me the chance to get to know people who like to read. Besides, I can make friends while talking about what I've read.

Q: Why does the woman like going to a book club?

Conversation 3

M: When I was growing up in the 1960s and 1970s, we didn't have so many distractions. There was no Internet and no video games; there wasn't much TV either. In those days more people were readers.

W: I couldn't agree more. I wonder how much time modern people spend on reading.

Q: What are the two speakers complaining about?

Conversation 4

M: Do you know reading to your kid has a lot of benefits? A newspaper article says reading out loud to children not only helps strengthen the parent-child relationship but also triggers kids' curiosity about the world and desire for knowledge.

W: Oh, really? In that case, I don't think I'm a qualified mother.

Q: What does the woman imply?

Conversation 5

W: What do you think makes a novel classic?

M: I think a classic novel is one that stands the test of time. People today still read Jane Austen because they relate to the characters, or read Alexandre Dumas because they like the development of the plot, despite the fact that their novels were written over a century ago.

Q: What is an important feature of a classic novel according to the man?

Long conversation

Scripts

M: I love this song, “Starry Starry Night”! I wonder who wrote it.

W: Oh! That’s a song from 1971 by a famous American songwriter, Don McLean. But do you know what it’s about?

M: No. Not really. I just like the words about the starry night.

W: It’s a great story! The song says “Starry Starry Night” because it’s about the famous Dutch painter, Vincent van Gogh, who lived more than 100 years ago.

M: Oh! I’ve always liked Van Gogh’s art work, especially his *Starry Night* painting. But why did Don McLean write the song about Van Gogh over 80 years after Van Gogh died?

W: Well, the songwriter, Don McLean, read a book that told the story of the passionate life of Van Gogh. He loved painting—but people didn’t understand him or his art. Did you know that Van Gogh painted around 2,000 paintings but only sold one of them in his lifetime?

M: Gosh. That is a sad story, especially since his paintings are incredibly popular today. Let’s see ... Wow! A Van Gogh painting today is worth around 100 million dollars!

W: I know. And, listen to this: The songwriter, Don McLean, had 72 attempts to finally get a company who would produce his first music album.

M: What? 72 attempts?

W: Uh-huh. That’s right. All companies said “No, no, no” before one finally said “Yes! We love your music!”

M: That’s amazing. That’s a lot of “No’s!” to get to the one “Yes” he needed!

W: Yeah! I think that’s another reason Don McLean wrote the song about Van Gogh. They both had to work so hard on their art for people to notice them.

M: Wow! All right. Turn up the volume. Let’s listen again.

W: Wonderful ... So, three cheers to the artists that never give up and keep on trying!

Q1: What does the man want to know about the song “Starry Starry Night”?

Q2: Why did Don McLean write the song?

Q3: What can we learn about Van Gogh from the conversation?

Q4: What did Van Gogh and Don Mclean have in common?

Passage 1

Scripts

More than one million schoolchildren in the United States have gone through a program called Reading Recovery. The program is for six-year-olds who are struggling to learn to read. According to the Reading Recovery Council of North America, an association dedicated to literacy education in North America, more than 20 percent of United States public schools are using the program to help their first-grade students, and more than 99 percent of the students in the program passed the state reading examination.

The method used by Reading Recovery calls for a reading teacher to work with children one at a time. The lessons take half an hour each schoolday. The teacher helps students with reading, writing and the study of the alphabet. Reading Recovery lessons last for 12 to 20 weeks. During the lessons, the teacher looks for ways that the child learns best. Then he or she works to help the student develop effective strategies to solve their problems in reading. The idea behind this practice is for students to continue to use and extend these strategies each time they read.

Students participating in the program read many short books. Some of the books are written in a way similar to spoken language. They also read and write stories in their own words. The material gets harder with time. The lessons end when the student's reading ability reaches the average level of the class. The Reading Recovery Council says 80 percent of students who finish the lessons can read and write within their class average.

However, not all schools embrace the Reading Recovery method happily. Some criticize it, saying that the cost of this method is much higher than other types of programs. But supporters say it saves money in the long run. They think it helps prevent the sad results and expense of letting children fail in school.

Q1: What does the program of Reading Recovery intend to do?

Q2: How do teachers in the Reading Recovery program teach?

Q3: When will students stop taking Reading Recovery lessons?

Q4: What is considered by some critics as a disadvantage of the program?

Passage 2

Scripts and answers

Almost forgotten these days, Mollie Panter-Downes' work provides a vivid impression of life in the Second World War.

A Londoner by birth, Mollie Panter-Downes wrote for *The New Yorker* for about 50 years. In the 1930s, she sold the magazine a few poems, some short stories, and a piece about Jewish 1) refugee children coming to England. In 1939, with war approaching, Harold Ross, the editor of the magazine, was 2) desperate to find a London correspondent, and his fiction editor suggested Panter-Downes.

Thereafter, she started to write for *The New Yorker*, specifically for a column 3) entitled "Letter from London". Weekly or fortnightly, Panter-Downes would put together a letter of about 1,500 words and had it cabled to New York. There it needed almost no editing because her writing was always concise.

American readers 4) became informed of the war in England through Panter-Downes' letters. They read of the evacuation of pets as well as children, and the difficulties people 5) are confronted with, not just in terms of losses of ships and territory but also in terms of no food and

hot-water bottles. The British temper found a splendid 6) spokesperson in Panter-Downes. She also desired to give voice to the people of all classes, and her willingness to 7) seek out working-class Londoners was evident in a report about a dustman's family in 1944.

Panter-Downes went on writing "Letter from London" into the 1980s. She wrote reporter pieces and 8) profiles on such subjects as the British Museum and novelist E. M. Forster. Several of her books, for example *Ooty Preserved* (1967) and *At the Pines* (1971), largely appeared in *The New Yorker*. She 9) stayed loyal to the magazine for decades until 1985, not long after it was acquired by Samuel I. Newhouse, Jr. Today Panter-Downes is 10) virtually unknown in Britain. It seems a terrible shame to risk losing a writer who makes accurate yet subtle observations about human beings and how they deal with life.