Listening 1

**Answer the following questions.**

1. What is the Christmas jars tradition?
2. How can people still have the Christmas jars if they don’t start it at the beginning of the year?

**Key**

1. You take an empty jar and dedicate your spare change to it each and every day. Eventually you accumulate a small sum of money to give away to someone anonymously on Christmas Eve.
2. Yes, they can still have the jar. Cheat a little bit if you have to. Go to the bank and get twenty dollars or some.

**Script**

**Christmas Jars**

**Host：**I want to talk to you about the Christmas Jars Reunion, and author Jason Wright is here. The Christmas jars tradition is what exactly?

**Guest**：Very simple, you take an empty jar, pickle jar or mayonnaise jar, doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter how big it is. And you just dedicate your spare change to it each and every day. You don’t need to write a really big check. You don’t need to drop a hundred dollar bill in it; it’s your spare change. That little act of daily sacrifice, every day filling up that jar, eventually accumulates into a pretty tidy sum of money to give away to someone anonymously on Christmas Eve.

**Host:** Now I do it. We all have one in our house. I have one in my closet, it really has a Christmas jar. We filled it up; and then we go and put it on somebody’s doorstep the week of Christmas anonymously. We just, you know, it is great fun for the kids to be able to try to sneak it up to the house and leave it there.

If anybody, you haven't started you jar at the beginning of the year. I think people would say, well, OK, that will be a good tradition to start next year.

**Guest:** That’s right. I hear that a lot; and that's not true. Go right now as soon as the program is over. Find a jar, fill it up. Between now and Christmas, what do we got, still four or five weeks? Cheat a little bit if you have to. Go to the bank and get twenty dollars for the quarters. To the right family in need, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty dollars may not seem like a lot of money to you; but to a family who just have been, maybe dad’s been laid off, maybe it’s a single mom with a couple of kids has no idea how she’s gonna to afford to be able to put even one thing under the tree for Christmas, let alone some extravagant kind of Christmas that they don’t need. But one thing with their name on it, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty dollars in a Christmas jar given anonymously to them could change their Christmas, could in fact change their life and they will pay off for it.

Listening 2

**Spot Dictation**

**Listen to the audio clip, and then fill in the blanks with the exact word(s) you heard.**

Millions of Americans return from long-distance trips by air, but their luggage doesn’t always come home with them.

***S1***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can come loose. Amazingly, some people never pick up their luggage at airport baggage-claim carousels (传送带).

And passengers leave all kinds of things on planes. The airlines collect the items and, for 90 days, attempt to find their owners. If they have no luck, they don’t keep them, since they’re not ***S2***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And by law, they cannot sell the bags, because the airlines might be tempted to ***S3***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

So once insurance companies have paid for lost bags and their contents, a unique store in the little town of Scottsboro, Alabama, buys them -- sight unseen.

It’s called the “Unclaimed Baggage Center,” and it is so popular that this building, ***S4***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, is the number-one tourist attraction in all of Alabama.

Each day, clerks bring out 7,000 new items, and ***S5***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rush to paw (抓) over them. You can find everything from precious jewels to hockey sticks, leather jackets, surfboards, even half-used tubes of toothpaste. That’s right -- used toothpaste.

The Unclaimed Baggage Center has found guns, illegal drugs -- even a live rattlesnake -- inside bags.

The store has a little museum where some of the ***S6***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have been preserved. They include highland bagpipes, ***S7***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from an Egyptian pharaoh’s tomb, and ***S8***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Less than one-half of one percent of luggage checked on U.S. carriers is ***S9***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Still, that’s a lot of toothpaste and wedding dresses that ***S10***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Key**

S1 Airline identification tags

S2 in the warehouse business

S3 deliberately misplace luggage

S4 set up like a department store

S5 veteran shoppers

S6most unusual acquisitions

S7a burial mask

S8a medieval suit of armor

S9permanently lost and available to the store

S10 never made it home

**Script**

**Lost Luggage Ends Up Here**

Millions of Americans return from long-distance trips by air, but their luggage doesn’t always come home with them.

Airline identification tags can come loose. Amazingly, some people never pick up their luggage at airport baggage-claim carousels.

And passengers leave all kinds of things on planes. The airlines collect the items and, for 90 days, attempt to find their owners. If they have no luck, they don’t keep them, since they’re not in the warehouse business. And by law, they cannot sell the bags, because the airlines might be tempted to deliberately misplace luggage.

So once insurance companies have paid for lost bags and their contents, a unique store in the little town of Scottsboro, Alabama, buys them - sight unseen.

It’s called the “Unclaimed Baggage Center,” and it is so popular that this building, set up like a department store, is the number-one tourist attraction in all of Alabama.

Each day, clerks bring out 7,000 new items, and veteran shoppers rush to paw over them. You can find everything from precious jewels to hockey sticks, leather jackets, surfboards, even half-used tubes of toothpaste. That’s right - used toothpaste.

The Unclaimed Baggage Center has found guns, illegal drugs - even a live rattlesnake - inside bags.

The store has a little museum where of its most unusual acquisitions have been preserved. They include highland bagpipes, a burial mask from an Egyptian pharaoh’s tomb, and a medieval suit of armor.

Less than one-half of one percent of luggage checked on U.S. carriers ispermanently lost and available to the store. Still, that’s a lot of toothpaste and wedding dresses that never made it home.