

Lesson 04: The Chance of a Lifetime

Jenkins is telling David about a “great opportunity” – but should David invest in it? Listen to their conversation and answer the comprehension questions below:

Listening Comprehension

- 1. Jenkins wants David to invest...**
 - a. \$4,000
 - b. \$14,000
 - c. \$40,000
- 2. What's the relationship between the two men?**
 - a. childhood friends
 - b. cousins
 - c. co-workers
- 3. The last bad investment David made was in...**
 - a. a failed company
 - b. a house
 - c. a car
- 4. Jenkins is excited about a company in the area of...**
 - a. agriculture
 - b. manufacturing
 - c. technology
- 5. David doesn't want to risk his money because...**
 - a. he's saving for a house
 - b. his son will go to college soon
 - c. he'd like to take a vacation with his wife
- 6. Jenkins found out about this opportunity from...**
 - a. hearing about it in the news
 - b. researching on the internet
 - c. a man who came into his shop

Conversation Text

David: No way... uh-uh... not my **hard-earned dollars**.

Jenkins: It's the chance of a lifetime, Dave. **Lighten up**, man.

David: Jenkins, you're **nuts** if you think I'm going to invest four thousand dollars into a **stock** that I know nothing about.

Jenkins: Dave, I'm your best friend. We've known each other since the second grade. You can trust me, man. Would I **lead you astray**?

David: Yes, you would. Remember the time you **talked me into** buying that 1967 convertible Volkswagen? The chance of a lifetime you told me... that **clunker** cost me more in repairs than I care to remember.

Jenkins: Okay...okay...so I was wrong about that. No one's perfect. But this is different, Dave. Ocean Tech is going to **take the world by surprise**. Do you know that Ocean Tech is developing a new **sonar** technology that the Navy is interested in buying? Dave, if we invest now we'll be millionaires! Ocean Tech stocks are **dirt cheap** right now.

Vocabulary

hard-earned dollars = money that required a lot of work to earn

lighten up = don't be so serious

nuts = a slang word for "crazy"

stock = a piece of ownership of a company

lead you astray = deceive you, take you in the wrong direction

talked me into = convinced me

clunker = a slang word for an old car that tends to break down

take the world by surprise = surprise and amaze the world

sonar = technology for making scans underwater

dirt cheap = extremely inexpensive

David: I've never even heard of Ocean Tech, Jenkins, and I work for the Department of Defense. If a deal involving the Navy was **in the works**, I would be aware of it.

Jenkins: Dude – I'm your **pal**, I'm offering you a chance of a lifetime and all you do is **give me the third degree**.

David: Jenkins, I have eight thousand dollars in savings. Mandy and I are getting married in four months. I still have to save up another seven thousand dollars to make the **down payment** for the house I want to buy Mandy. **I ain't** about to **gamble** with my money.

Jenkins: But just think... if you buy four thousand dollars' worth of Ocean Tech stocks at twenty dollars a stock... and then Ocean Tech sells the stocks for eighty-dollars, you'll **make a fortune**.

David: Nothing in life is that easy, Jenkins... sounds to me like this Ocean Tech company is a **scam**. And man, do you **fall for** scams. Let me guess... some **smooth-talking** guy in a fancy suit driving a fancy car came into your coffee shop and told you about Ocean Tech... maybe even showed you some papers... charts and graphs?

Vocabulary

in the works = in progress, or being planned

pal = an informal word for "friend"

give me the third degree = ask a lot of aggressive questions

down payment = the initial payment for a house

I ain't = a very informal way to say **I'm not**

gamble = take risks with money, which could result in losing it

make a fortune = get a LOT of money

scam = fake opportunity

fall for = believe in something that isn't true

smooth-talking = someone who speaks well and can convince people

Jenkins: Uh...well...okay, sure...Mr. Rogers showed me some papers. But the papers he showed me were well researched.

David: And he used a lot of business **lingo**, right?

Jenkins: He spoke with intelligent understanding of the business world.

David: Uh, huh, sure. I bet you even gave him **complimentary** coffee?

Jenkins: I... didn't charge him for his cappuccino, if that's what you mean.

David: So your coffee shop didn't even make a profit on this guy. And **on top of that**, you gave him a four thousand dollar check.

Jenkins: Hey, Dave, what's with you? This guy was **legit**. He was driving a Porsche **for crying out loud**.

David: Jenkins, did you even take the time to research and see if Ocean Tech was a real company?

Jenkins: I...uh...no...oh man, **I was taken**, wasn't I?

David: You were taken, but I won't be. I'll see you later.

Vocabulary

lingo = specialized vocabulary in a certain area

complimentary = free

on top of that = in addition

legit = legitimate, real

for crying out loud = an informal expression used to express annoyance

I was taken = an informal way to say I was cheated/deceived

Vocabulary Quiz

Complete each sentence with the right word. Two words are not used.

complimentary
dirt cheap
gambling

in the works
legit
lighten up

making a fortune
nuts
on top of that

pals
stocks
talk me into

1. After _____ in the diamond market, the Johnsons made numerous donations to charity.
2. At the library's annual book sale, the books were _____ - it was 10 for a dollar!
3. Chris has already founded two companies, and in an interview he said a third was _____ - to be launched next month.
4. Every time you buy a pair of shoes at that store, you get a _____ pair of extra shoelaces.
5. He lost all his money by _____ on sports games and horse races.
6. I've already made my decision. Please don't try to _____ changing my mind.
7. My son and his _____ stayed up all night playing video games.
8. She's _____ if she thinks she can run a marathon with zero training. There's no way she'll make it.
9. That job opportunity sounds too good to be true. Are you sure it's _____?
10. Why do you always have to take things so personally? I wish you'd _____; I was just joking.

Speaking Task

Jenkins is more impulsive (acts spontaneously without thinking) and David is more cautious (slow to act, wants to analyze the situation first). Which one are you? Would you describe yourself as a risk-taker (someone who likes to take risks) or as risk-averse (someone who prefers to avoid risks)? Also, talk about a time when you have taken some sort of risk – it doesn't have to be financially – and what happened as a result. Record your answer at www.speakpipe.com/espressoenglish or record and MP3 and sent it to me at shayna@espressoenglish.net

Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. a
2. a
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. c

Vocabulary Quiz

1. making a fortune
2. dirt cheap
3. in the works
4. complimentary
5. gambling
6. talk me into
7. pals
8. nuts
9. legit
10. lighten up