

## Further Listening Unit 4

### Conversation:

#### 1. What is the man's problem?

- A He has difficulty writing personal stories.
- B He thinks the creative writing class is boring.
- C He doesn't know what to write for his fictional writing assignment.
- D He finds it challenging to write three creative stories in two months.

#### 2 How does the woman usually find inspiration for her new paintings?

- A She goes to the train station.
- B She goes for long walks in nature.
- C She engages in conversations with artists.
- D She observes dramatic goodbyes and romantic reunions.

#### 3 What does the man think of the woman's way of finding inspiration?

- A It's a useless old trick.
- B It's a pretty good method.
- C It might not work for him.
- D It only works for artists and writers.

#### 4 What does the woman advise the man to do at the train station?

- A Listen to others' conversations.
- B Sit in the lobby and watch others.
- C Talk with strangers to learn their stories.
- D Share the plot of his story with passers-by.

### Scripts:

M: Alas! This creative writing class is too much! I have to write a five-page short story by October 8, and I have no idea what to write about.

W: We're already two months into the semester. You must have written stories before this. What did you write about last time?

M: That's just it – we've only had to write true stories so far, funny little things that happened to us or our families. My first three stories were about hunting or fishing with my childhood dog, Brownie, and visiting my grandmother during the summers when I was in high school. This time, it has to be fictional. Hey! You're an artist. How do you get your ideas?

W: Well, I'm not sure painting and writing are exactly the same. When I'm going to start a new painting, I usually go for long walks along the beach or out in the woods. I find most of my inspiration in nature.

M: Hmm ... I don't think that would really work for me. I need characters and a plot.

W: You could try hanging out at the train station. There are always interesting people coming and going, dramatic goodbyes, and romantic reunions. Just sit in the lobby for an hour

or two and watch everyone. Try to imagine who they are, where they're going, and why they're in such a hurry.

M: The train station? That's actually a pretty good idea! How did you come up with such a great idea?

W: I'm glad you like it, but I can't take any credit. It's an old trick I learned from many artists and writers. You just need something new and exciting to get those creative ideas flowing.

### **Passage:**

#### **1 What do people disagree about regarding scientific research?**

- A Whether research should be conducted for its immediate benefits.
- B Whether research should continue even without financial support.
- C Whether the government should distribute funds for research equally.
- D Whether the government should support research with less immediate value.

#### **2 Why should we value research with unknown benefits?**

- A Such research is also aimed at discovering truths.
- B Much of such research has proven beneficial to society.
- C Such research can have a long-term impact on our society.
- D Failure to support such research hinders the discovery of new knowledge.

#### **3 What does the speaker say about computer research?**

- A Computer research was given priority even in the face of opposition.
- B Computer research was not well-received at first but has proven beneficial.
- C People have always been aware of the practical benefits of computer research.
- D The progress of computer research was slow at first due to insufficient funding.

### **Scripts:**

Scientific research is intended to improve the overall quality of our lives. The government should provide financial and policy support for research that is likely to produce significant benefits for the public. However, opinions vary regarding government support for scientific research that lacks immediate practical uses. Nevertheless, many believe that the government should allocate sufficient funds for all scientific research aimed at improving public welfare, regardless of its short-term practical uses.

Certain scientific research, whose social benefits are immediate, predictable, and profound, should continue to receive support. For example, biotechnology research has provided new methods for disease treatment and prevention; studies in information technology have made education more accessible; and research in communication technology has facilitated exchanges among people.

However, this does not imply that research with less clear or immediate benefits should be given a lower priority. It is difficult to predict which research will ultimately contribute most to society. A reluctance to fund such research could hinder the exploration of new knowledge. This has been notably true in the field of computer science. For instance, some people initially opposed heavy investment in computer research due to its seemingly unknown applications.

However, computers have transformed the way we live and proven to be of great benefit in the long run across diverse fields including medicine, aviation, and education.

Therefore, we should never dismiss any scientific research with unknown outcomes as unworthy. After all, the primary objective of any research is to discover truths, whatever they might be.

## **Lectures:**

### Lecture 1

#### **1 Why is daydreaming often criticized?**

- A People often get lost in daydreams.
- B Too many people indulge in daydreaming.
- C Daydreaming indicates a lack of productivity.
- D People are taught that focus is the key to success.

#### **2 What is the benefit of daydreaming, according to the lecture?**

- A It makes our brains more active.
- B It helps us generate original ideas.
- C It creates endless possibilities for success.
- D It helps us understand the people around us.

#### **3 Why is it necessary to exercise control over daydreaming?**

- A Daydreaming can waste time if it occurs too frequently.
- B Daydreaming may lead to a loss of one's self-awareness.
- C Daydreaming can distract one's attention from the current task.
- D Daydreaming may foster a constant desire to escape from the present.

## **Scripts:**

Are you familiar with the saying, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results"? Many of us may find ourselves trapped in this very cycle, wondering why we aren't achieving better outcomes.

But here's the good news: You can break free from this pattern. The solution lies in taking a step back and allowing your mind to wander freely. Daydreaming, the act of disconnecting from the chaotic world around you, enables your mind to travel, reflect, and piece together information in new and innovative ways.

Actually, we all indulge in daydreaming to some extent. Psychologists point out that people daydream for approximately 47 percent of their waking hours. This is because boredom causes our minds to wander, making daydreaming the brain's spontaneous response to unproductive or unfulfilling time.

Ironically, daydreaming is often criticized. We are often taught in school that focus is the key to success. However, research suggests that the process of daydreaming plays a crucial role in enhancing creativity. It empowers us to generate and communicate original ideas that can lead to new inventions, strategies, and theories.

Daydreaming is also one of the most effective ways to learn about ourselves. It provides us with valuable time for introspection, a period during which we gain a clearer understanding of

our strengths and weaknesses. This is beneficial in promoting both our professional and personal growth.

Moreover, daydreaming helps take our goals and dreams beyond mere thoughts. When we allow ourselves to daydream, we step outside our immediate fears and worries, and instead, we open our minds to endless possibilities. This mental process encourages ambitious planning and helps us embrace a mindset that is beneficial for achieving success.

Of course, it's necessary to exercise control over daydreaming. It can be costly when daydreaming occurs at inappropriate times, like during a board meeting. The ability to focus your attention on the task at hand should never be overlooked.

Sometimes, it's essential to escape from the chaos of the present and discover a new path to success. So, if you feel stuck in a monotonous routine, simply allow yourself to daydream for a while. This can ignite the spark of creativity necessary for your next remarkable achievement.

## **Lecture 2:**

### **1 What can we learn about being artistic from the lecture?**

- A It involves developing skills and talents.
- B It is the ability to think outside the box.
- C It is about doing something that's unknown to others.
- D It means creating for specific listeners, viewers, or users.

### **2 What is creativity, according to the lecture?**

- A It involves the development of new ideas.
- B It involves self-reflection or self-expression.
- C It is about turning imaginative ideas into reality.
- D It is about employing artistic skills to create something.

### **3 What does the speaker say about innovation?**

- A It is more of an imaginative process than a productive one.
- B It represents a spontaneous departure from the mainstream.
- C It often leads to outcomes that can be seen in various forms.
- D It is about creating something new that can bring value to others.

### **4 What is the difference between creativity and innovation?**

- A Innovation is a process; creativity is the final product.
- B Creativity helps generate ideas; innovation applies them.
- C Innovation is linked to science; creativity is linked to art.
- D Creativity is inward-focused; innovation is outward-focused.

## **Scripts:**

Are you creative, innovative, or artistic? These are not interchangeable terms. Today, I will explain how they are related but different.

If you can draw or paint, does that make you creative? If you design a product that is unknown to others, are you being innovative?

Now, you must understand that being able to draw or paint doesn't necessarily make you creative. Artistic ability is essentially about cultivating skills and talents. This can involve creating fine works of art like drawings, paintings, and sculptures. Artists often employ such skills to create works of art to evoke emotional responses.

Creativity, on the other hand, is more about the development of new ideas. It is the ability to think outside the box and combine different elements to form a solution to a particular problem. For example, in a science project, the objective often involves finding solutions that serve a specific purpose. In my view, the only difference between being creative and being artistic lies in the destination. Creative work is mostly outward-focused on the target audience, while art is more inward-focused. Most art we see is some kind of self-reflection or self-expression of the creator.

Another thing we must recognize is that creativity is a necessary precondition for innovation. Innovation is about implementing or creating something new that can bring value to others. The outcome of innovation is often tangible and represents a fundamental shift from the conventional. Therefore, creativity involves generating ideas and envisioning what is possible in the first place, while innovation is about taking action and making those ideas a reality. Simply put, creativity is an imaginative process, whereas innovation is a productive one.

So, as you can see, art is inward-focused and mostly centered on personal expression. Creativity is outward-focused and primarily concerned with imagination or ideation. And innovation is a process – a way of turning ideas into action and bringing creative ideas to life. That's why these terms are somewhat related, yet distinctly different from one another.

#### Keys:

Conversation: C B C B

Passage: D D B

Lecture 1: D B C

Lecture 2: A A D B