

### Transcript for **Boy bands**

**Presenter:** The internet is full of articles about what makes a good boy band. But many bands appear and disappear without a trace. Alana, it can't be as easy as following a formula, can it?

**Alana:** No, I don't think so. The traditional formula is that you have four or five good-looking young guys with some musical ability and the ability to dance – the choreographed dancing was very important to boy bands in the past. They tended to wear the same, or very similar, clothes when they performed, so you had to decide on a 'look' for the group. The most important element, however, was said to be that the band members had different and very distinct personalities.

**Presenter:** Right, the cute one, the rebel, the joker, the shy one, mysterious one ...

**Alana:** Yeah, although sometimes they all just seem to like the cute one! The idea is that different boys appeal to different girls, so you can have a bigger fan base. There's someone in the band for everyone.

**Presenter:** So, do you think this all still holds true? Or have things changed in the 21st century?

**Alana:** Yeah, I guess things have changed for several reasons – partly just because we needed a change, but mainly because of changes in the media and with new technology. Take One Direction ...

**Presenter:** Ah, I've been counting the seconds before you mentioned One Direction!

**Alana:** Well, we have to talk about them because they're the biggest thing at the moment, although who knows how long they will last.

**Presenter:** Oh, ages and ages ...

**Alana:** We'll see. Anyway, One Direction, as you know, came to fame through the X Factor, a reality show, and that was a great way to start. You had loads of people watching them every week and wanting them to win. They felt as if they had a personal stake in their story as they voted for them every week.

**Presenter:** What age group does One Direction appeal to exactly?

**Alana:** That's another clever thing. They seem very unthreatening, so they appeal to very young girls, they are cute so teenage girls really like them, but they also have a laddish, slightly naughty side to appeal to the mums! The teenage girls and the mums are the ones who will spend money. The lyrics to the songs are calculated to appeal to girls who feel a bit insecure about themselves, like most teenage girls. "You don't know you're beautiful, that's what makes you beautiful", that kind of thing. Lots of girls want to feel wanted, but not scared, and that's traditionally what boy bands do. They present this image of a clean-cut, reliable boyfriend. Actually, One Direction's clothes also help here: chinos and clean casual shirts and canvas shoes. You'll have noticed that they don't wear the same clothes. Their stylists have been instructed to keep them looking individual, but despite that they all have this attractive but unthreatening look. No tattoos, or piercings, or black leather, or make-up or anything.

**Presenter:** You make them seem very cold and calculating. Remember that they've been nominated for loads of music awards and they've won dozens, so they're regarded as serious musicians.

**Alana:** OK, if you don't want to believe they're calculating you can blame their management. They're nice boys who are fantastic musicians.

**Presenter:** They are! And they keep proving their critics wrong. A lot of people said they wouldn't make the leap from the UK to the US market, but they did very quickly.

**Alana:** Yes, and that's all down to their clever use of social media, or rather their management's clever use of social media. One Direction are all over Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr. That's how they made it in the States so quickly. In the past it was a lot more difficult and took a lot longer. Bands had to try and get air-time on local radio stations and that was really hard. But they've by-passed all that. Social media has become the new radio, as their manager said.

**Presenter:** Their first record, Up All Night, went to number one in the US, didn't it?

**Alana:** Sure did! They achieved a world record as the first British band in history to reach number one in America with a debut album. It sold 176,000 copies in the US in a single week.

**Presenter:** Amazing. And the boys are all rich from the merchandising too.

**Alana:** Yes, well, the boys and their management company. There are One Direction phones, toys and games. Dolls, even. I think that's another 21st-century thing – companies are cashing in on success in all possible ways as quickly as possible.

**Presenter:** May they all enjoy it while it lasts.

Transcript for **High-achieving teenagers**

- Presenter:** Next on the programme we have an interview with someone who has been writing a book about high-achieving teenagers. Welcome, Louise Hardy.
- Louise:** Hi, it's lovely to be here.
- Presenter:** Louise, many of these teenagers who have achieved success and fame early on have done so through using new technology, haven't they? Through blogging or using YouTube or Twitter?
- Louise:** Absolutely, and the greatest example of this is Justin Bieber. As I think everyone on the planet knows, he started off by posting videos on YouTube at the age of 14 and was spotted by a talent scout who worked with the R&B singer Usher. After that he very rapidly became a worldwide sensation.
- Presenter:** I heard that last year he was said to be more influential than Obama!
- Louise:** *(laughs)* Yes, that was because he is number one on Twitter. He has over 35 million followers. There's a new one every two seconds. A company that analyses social media called Klout said that he is the most influential person in the world because of that. But whether he's really more influential than Obama, well ...
- Presenter:** Mmmm. All this exposure has negative consequences for young people too, doesn't it?
- Louise:** Yes. Although millions adore Justin, a lot of people don't. One of his videos was the most disliked ever. And he has a big problem with privacy. He's followed everywhere by the paparazzi, and that's bad for anyone, never mind a teenager.
- Presenter:** OK, let's turn to a very different teenager. Tavi Gevinson was even younger when she began, wasn't she?
- Louise:** Yes, she was only eleven years old when she started a fashion blog called Style Rookie. By the way, for British listeners, 'Rookie' is an American word used for a person who is new to something.
- Presenter:** Thanks.
- Louise:** On her blog she posted photos of herself wearing unusual combinations of clothes and wrote about them.
- Presenter:** Some of them were quite weird.
- Louise:** Well, yes, I suppose a lot of high fashion is weird. Anyway, she quickly built up a huge following, up to 300,000 readers per day, and many of them were adults. Serious fashion magazines interviewed her and sent her to fashion shows in Europe and to meet top designers, like Karl Lagerfeld.
- Presenter:** Some people didn't believe she was as young as she was, did they?
- Louise:** No. One magazine printed an article saying the writer didn't believe Tavi was only 12, and that upset her. But she bounced back and continued blogging. Then, as she grew older, Tavi became interested in other things besides fashion. In 2011, when she was 15, she started Rookie Magazine, an online magazine for teenagers. In less than a week it had one million readers.
- Presenter:** I've seen it. It's very impressive, isn't it? All teenage girls listening, check out Rookie Magazine.
- Louise:** Yes, I think it's fantastic and Lady Gaga called Tavi 'the future of journalism'! She employs about 50 writers and photographers – both adults and teenagers – on Rookie, but she is the editor with overall control.
- Presenter:** And all this time she's continued to lead a normal life, hasn't she?
- Louise:** Oh yes. She lives a very normal life in a small town and goes to school and so on. She's not even twenty yet. But I think writing and editing are very different from being a performing artist. There's a lot less pressure from fans and the press. Although some actors, like Emma Watson, seem to manage a private life and getting a normal education.
- Presenter:** Yes, Emma Watson is now in her twenties, of course, but ...

Transcript for **How to improve your memory**

- Mary:** I'd like to welcome Charles Long to the studio today. Charles has just published an article in *New Science* journal about memorisation. It's all about how to make our memory function better.
- Charles, exam time is looming and there'll be lots of teenagers tuning in today. Can you give us some advice about improving our ability to memorise?
- Charles:** Hello! Yes, of course. I'd like to start by talking about the process of memorisation. It's vital that we understand the process if we want to make adjustments to the way we function. We all use memory in the same way. It doesn't matter whether you're a student revising for your finals or an adult standing in the aisle of a supermarket, trying to recall a particular item from a grocery list.
- Mary:** Ha ha! That's me. I always forget to take my list.
- Charles:** You and thousands of other people too, Mary. We learn to use our memory when we are still at nursery school. Young children are naturally very good at working out how to remember things. The tips I'm going to share today are based on the things we used to do to help us remember when we were children. The process of memorisation occurs in two distinct forms. Do you know what they are?
- Mary:** Are they 'long-term memory' and 'short-term memory'?
- Charles:** That's right! But these aren't completely separate concepts. We use a combination of both types of memory when we want to formulate our thoughts and recall information, whether we're trying to remember something from a decade ago or just an hour earlier.
- Mary:** So what tips have you got for improving the quality of our memory?
- Charles:** Right. Let's start with 'association'.
- Mary:** Association?
- Charles:** Yes. We can use word association to remember an idea or a concept. This means choosing a word or phrase you associate with what you are trying to remember. The word needs to be something familiar, that you come into contact with on a daily basis. So, for example, you can use the name of your pet dog to remember a scientific equation. Try it! Read the equation a few times and then say your dog's name again and again. Later, in your science exam, just recall the name and the whole equation should come back to you.
- Mary:** It sounds too good to be true! What else, Charles?
- Charles:** Visualisation is another trick we can use. So you have to visualise an image that is connected to the thing you need to remember. For example, if you want to remember the date that the Berlin Wall came down, you might visualise a picture of a wall with the date written on it in graffiti. The image of the wall becomes an important part of what you will remember. You can use several images in a row to remember things like information in a text or a list of ingredients for a recipe.
- Mary:** Yes, that makes sense.
- Charles:** Singing can help with memorisation too.
- Mary:** Singing?

## Listening skills practice: How to improve your memory – transcript

- Charles:** Yeah. So instead of reading a text aloud, you sing it. Singing is one of most effective and earliest memory tricks that are used for learning new concepts. I used to 'sing' lists of historical facts and dates. It works.
- Mary:** And did you have to sing aloud in your history exams?
- Charles:** Not aloud! But I did used to sing in my head. And I always got good marks for history.
- Mary:** Any more tips, Charles?
- Charles:** Yes! I've saved the best one till last. It's particularly relevant for any students who have tuned in. 'Teach it'.
- Mary:** Teach it? Teach 'what'?
- Charles:** Teach whatever it is that you want to remember. So, if you're studying for an English exam, teach the concepts to someone else. It can be a real person – a friend in a study group is ideal – or it can be a 'pretend' person. You can just imagine someone is listening to you as you teach. Better still, record yourself 'teaching' and then play back the video to revise the material further.
- Mary:** That sounds like a great tip ... or 'trick'.
- Charles:** Yes, it really works because in order to teach something you need to understand it. Teaching reinforces the understanding. And although these sound like 'tricks', they aren't really.
- Mary:** No?
- Charles:** No. They are just simple ways that we can train our brains to be more effective. By getting into the habit of using word association, visualisation, singing and teaching, our brains develop and work better for us. And of course that has a knock-on effect on our memory and our abilities to recall all kinds of data.
- Mary:** Thank you, Charles. Now, I think we've got time for a couple of questions from our listeners.

## Listening skills practice: How to study – transcript

### Transcript for **How to study**

Good morning. Today I'm going to talk about how to study. Now, you probably think you know all about that, right? You've been studying for years. And I expect some of you are fantastic at studying, really organised and good at concentrating. But there's always room for improvement, and your exams aren't far away, so these tips are for all of you.

Right, so, what's the best way to study? Well, first of all, it's a good idea to have some kind of plan or timetable. This could be for the week or a longer revision timetable for an exam, from one month to six months. Yes, if you're studying for an important exam it's important to think long term. Draw up a timetable, but revise it often. If it's not going to plan, you may have to rethink it.

Next, think about your environment. Make sure the place where you are going to study is comfortable with enough light, air, etc. Not too hot, not too cold. Make sure there are no distracting noises around, such as television. If you think you concentrate better listening to music, experiment and see if it's really true. Some people really do seem to work better with music in the background, especially classical music, but for many people it spoils their concentration. However, if you have to work near a TV, you might have to use headphones to play music to drown out the sound of the TV. In this case, find out what kind of music works best for you, maybe something without words. By the way, you might think you work fine with the TV on, but, again, experiment. You might be surprised at how much better you work away from a TV. Oh, and the other thing is the internet, text messages, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Forget about all of that while you're studying. No, really, you can ignore it for an hour or so; it won't be the end of the world if you don't reply to a message immediately.

Right, planning breaks. Plan your study periods in chunks with regular breaks. Many people recommend half an hour of concentrated study, then a ten-minute break. But you can adjust this to suit you. If you study for too long at a stretch your mind will work less effectively, so be careful. In your short break, you can give yourself a treat, such as a cup of green tea. I wouldn't advise a chocolate bar as a treat – a sugar rush is not great for concentration.

OK, so next let's think about what you do when you're studying. Some people just read through their notes or textbooks and underline in pencil or highlight important bits. If this works for you, fine, but I'd suggest that it's better to write notes of some kind, so your mind is processing the information more. This way you are also producing material which will be useful for last-minute revision. I don't recommend very last-minute revision, by the way, but we'll come back to that later.

Have a look at these examples of student notes. Which do you think are best? The first person has written important phrases at random, the next has a table with clear headings and boxes with notes, the next has summaries, and the last one has mind maps: you've got the main topic in the circle, then lines coming off the circle attached to subcategories, then more lines to further details. Mind maps are great for showing the connections between different bits of information. They seem to work in the same way the brain works. So what do you think? To me, the first one wouldn't be very useful to come back to and use in the future. But the others are all fine – it depends on your personal preference. Mine is for mind maps. I would suggest using colours, though, and even little drawings. They can make things much more memorable.

Obviously, when you are studying, the first thing to think about is whether you understand the information, and the second thing is how you are going to remember it. Let's look at some more ways of making information more memorable ...

## Listening skills practice: My hero - transcript

### Transcript for **My hero**

- A (Girl 1):** My hero isn't very famous, but she ought to be. She's Mary Anning, who was only 12 years old and from a poor family when she made an amazing discovery. She found the first dinosaur skeleton, that of an ichthyosaur, on the cliffs of Lyme Regis in the south of England. That was in 1811, and until then people had thought that it was impossible for an animal to become extinct. Because she was a woman and didn't have enough money for a proper education, she wasn't able to take part properly in the scientific community of the time. But she read as much scientific literature as she could and continued to search for fossils, often risking her own life to get them by climbing dangerous cliffs. She once nearly died in a landslide which killed her dog. Although she didn't write famous books about fossils, her contribution to paleontology, the study of fossils, is said to be enormous. I admire her because she kept on trying to make new discoveries at a time when usually only men, and men with money, were allowed to be scientists. After her death the writer Charles Dickens said that 'the carpenter's daughter has won a name for herself, and has deserved to win it'.
- B (Boy 1):** My hero is Kailash Satyarthi, who has been campaigning against child slavery for years. He is from India and first became aware of the problem of children working when he was 6 and noticed that a boy younger than himself had to spend all day polishing shoes and was unable to go to school. When he was 11, he began to collect money to help buy textbooks for other children, and when he was 26 he gave up his job as an electrical engineer to fight child slavery in India, by doing things like raiding factories where children were forced to work, making rugs or glass bottles. He introduced a programme first called RugMark, now known as Goodweave, which puts tags on child-labour-free rugs made in factories. He has saved many thousands of children, over 80,000, from a terrible life of enforced labour in South Asia and helped them to get an education. He has often been physically attacked for helping children, for example for trying to free Nepalese children forced to work in a circus. He regularly risks his life to fight injustice; two of his colleagues have been murdered. I believe that the best thing he has done is to change how people think about child slavery and to make it an international issue.
- C (Boy 2):** I'm really interested in ecology and my hero, or heroine, is Rachel Carson because she first got people thinking about the way we humans are causing permanent damage to the Earth's ecosystems. She began as a biologist, specialising in writing about the sea, but she gradually became aware of the danger of using pesticides like DDT and the way they can harm the whole of the food chain, from the worm to humans! She wrote her classic book *Silent Spring* in 1962 to explain this to the general public, to explain how humans and nature are interdependent. The title of *Silent Spring* refers to the fact that one day all the birds might be dead so they won't be able to sing in the springtime. The agricultural and chemical industries reacted very badly to the book and said she was unprofessional. But further research by other scientists proved that she was right about the dangers of chemicals used to kill insects. Nowadays there is a growing movement for organic food production, but unfortunately things in general are still getting worse, rather than better. We still need to read Rachel Carson's book and think about its message.



## Listening skills practice: My hero - transcript

**D (Girl 2):** My choice of hero isn't very original, I'm afraid, but he's the person I would most like to have met: John Lennon. He died a long time before I was born, and his most famous songs were written long before that, but when I listen to his music I really feel as if he's speaking to me personally. I love the whole range of the Beatles' music, from the early pop songs to the very experimental music at the end of their time as a group. John Lennon was the most innovative writer in the Beatles and he continued to create exciting music when he left and went solo. But although I love his music, what I admire about him is his dedication to universal peace. It's amazing that the song Imagine, written in 1971, is still incredibly popular after all this time. It's about a world where everyone can be equal, a world with no wars, no divisions between countries, no greed, no hunger, no material possessions ... I'd like to meet him because he was a lifelong rebel, and although he could be a difficult person, he was original, clever and funny. It was awful that he was killed in 1980 when he was only 40. I wonder what he would be doing if he was alive now.

## Listening skills practice: New inventions – transcript

### Transcript for **New inventions**

**Presenter:** Welcome to 'Tech-Today!' This week it's National Science & Engineering Week, so to celebrate we asked Jed our science correspondent to give us a round-up of new inventions.

**Jed:** Hi, yes, I've got some very interesting things to tell you about today, starting with a fun one. Wing-suits, those suits that look like bats and allow people to fly, or glide, at least. They're the ultimate in cool.

**Presenter:** But, they're not very new, are they?

**Jed:** Well, no, but the modern ones are better than ever and last October was the first ever world championship in China. The price is coming down, too. Now you can buy one for 600 to 2,000 dollars. It's still too expensive for me, but I suppose it'll keep coming down.

**Presenter:** OK, what about useful new inventions?

**Jed:** There are lots of those. There's a new solar water distiller created by Gabriele Diamanti aimed at parts of the world where it's hard to get clean drinking water. You pour in salty water and let the sun do the work for a few hours. Then, hey presto! You have clean water! It's a very simple device and fairly cheap to produce.

**Presenter:** Can I hear some doubt in your voice?

**Jed:** Well, they still need help with investment to start producing the distiller properly. So if anyone out there has money to invest in a great product ...?

**Presenter:** Absolutely. Get in touch with the designers.

**Jed:** Another useful invention which it would be good to see in production are "enable talk gloves". These were invented by some Ukrainian students to allow people with speech and hearing impairments to communicate with people who don't understand sign language. The gloves use sensors to translate sign language into text, then into spoken language using a smartphone. A brilliant invention!

**Presenter:** Yes, that could benefit thousands of people.

**Jed:** Another useful invention comes from a surprising source, James Cameron, the film director.

**Presenter:** The 'Titanic' director?

**Jed:** The very same. Cameron was part of a team, headed by engineer Ron Allum, which designed the Deepsea Challenger Submarine, capable of descending to the lowest parts of the sea, 10km down. Last year Cameron went down to the bottom of Challenger Deep, the deepest part of the sea in the world. He was the first person to do a solo dive there, and he stayed for three hours, the longest time so far.

**Presenter:** That sounds impressive!

**Jed:** Yes. We know so little about what's at the bottom of the ocean, and it's important to find out more. OK, so now for something useful in a different way. You know that feeling when you're trying to get tomato ketchup out of a bottle and it won't come out, but you're sure there's lots more in there?

**Presenter:** Yeah, of course. It's really annoying.

**Jed:** Well, a team of students at MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have come up with a new product that you use to coat a glass or plastic bottle, and then what's inside, hair gel or mustard, or whatever, comes out really easily.

**Presenter:** So, it saves hours of frustration trying to get stuff out of bottles?

**Jed:** Exactly. Right, now for my favourite invention. This is really silly, but I love it. It's a way of producing clouds indoors.

**Presenter:** Clouds?

**Jed:** Yes. A Dutch artist has come up with a way of forming perfect, small, white clouds inside. They're just beautiful. I don't think you can do it yourself at home yet, though.

**Presenter:** I don't think I'd want to.

**Jed:** Oh, you would if you'd seen the photos. They're amazing.

**Presenter:** OK, Jed, thanks for that. We'll leave you with your head in the clouds and see you again next week!



## Listening skills practice: Sports interviews – transcript

### Transcript for Sports interviews

**Presenter:** Now, the 2020 Olympics might seem a long way away to you, but people are already talking about what new sports might be included. Today I'm going to talk to two people who are hoping their sport might be included. The first is Jonny Mills whose sport is wakeboarding. Jonny, can you tell us what wakeboarding is? Is it like surfboarding?

**Jonny:** Well, a bit. It started in California because people wanted to surf but didn't have waves ... It's also a bit like waterskiing in that the rider is towed behind a specially built speedboat.

**Presenter:** How fast does the boat go?

**Jonny:** Usually at about 25mph, or a bit less. The rider uses the wake the board produces in the water to launch into the air.

**Presenter:** And then you do a lot of complicated things in the air?

**Jonny:** That's right, spins of up to 1260 degrees, things like that.

**Presenter:** 1260 degrees, that's impossible, isn't it?

**Jonny:** Oh no, but it's pretty crazy. You spin round three and a half times in the air.

**Presenter:** And then you have to land again without falling over.

**Jonny:** You'll have to come and watch some wakeboarding if you haven't seen any. Come to Wakestock in July if you can.

**Presenter:** That's in Wales, isn't it?

**Jonny:** Yep, Abersoch in North Wales. It's a really popular wakeboarding and music festival. It's right by the beach. It's not quite the same as California, but it's cool. It attracts a lot of great riders.

**Presenter:** Who does wakeboarding?

**Jonny:** They reckon about 3 million people all over the world. More guys do it, but there are increasing numbers of girls too. The people who compete are usually in their teens or twenties, but anyone can do it. There's a lot of crossover with other board sports like surfing and skateboarding. The tricks people pull are similar and the names for things are often the same.

**Presenter:** And looking at you, I'd say the fashion was similar too.

**Jonny:** Yeah, the clothes and the lifestyle are similar.

**Presenter:** Right, now I'd like to ask Jules Russell about her sport. She's a skater in a roller derby team. Tell us about that, Jules. Is it a popular sport?

**Jules:** Yes, it's becoming really popular in the UK. There are about 60 leagues in England and 1,200 throughout the world. In the US and Canada, of course, and places like Scandinavia and Australia, but lots of other countries too.

**Presenter:** The sport began in the States, didn't it?

**Jules:** Yes, in the 1930s, but it was more for entertainment than sport and it died out by the 1970s. Then there was a revival in Texas in 2001 and from then on it's just been growing and growing.

**Presenter:** So how do you play it?

**Jules:** Well, you have two teams of five people on roller skates, of course, and they go round an oval track in the same direction. Each team has a "jammer" who scores points by passing members of the opposing team. They do whatever they can to stop her, within reason. The team with the most points at the end of the match wins.

**Presenter:** It sounds a bit rough!

**Jules:** Well, it's a contact sport, so there's bound to be a lot of pushing and falling over. It's all good fun, though; people don't often get hurt. If you try and trip someone up you get penalised. You do try and frighten the other team a bit though.

**Presenter:** That's right. You have frightening clothes and special names.

**Jules:** People used to have incredible costumes a couple of years ago. Now the sport is changing and becoming more professional. Lots of the teams train three or four times a week, and spend a lot of time in the gym. You have to be really dedicated and fit. We still have nicknames, though. I'm "The Julifier".

**Presenter:** And is the sport all female?

**Jules:** There are a few men who do it, but it's mostly female and amateur at the moment. Things are

changing fast though, so who knows what the future will bring. It would be fantastic to be an Olympic sport.

**Presenter:** What do you think about roller derby, Jonny?

**Jonny:** It's wild! Those ladies scare me to death! Good luck to them with the Olympics thing though. And good luck to us too.

**Presenter:** Good luck to you both.

## Listening skills practice: The best job in the world – transcript

### Transcript for **The best job in the world**

Once again the organisation which promotes Australia, Tourism Australia, is advertising the best job in the world. But this year, they have six jobs going, all for six months, with a great salary and extra spending money. If you think one of these is your dream job, you have to make a 30-second video explaining why you are the best person for the role. But – be warned. Thousands of people will be competing for each post.

The job of “outback adventurer” is for someone with a passion for outdoor life, and in the Northern Territory there are plenty of wide-open spaces. The job is for someone to find out the best adventures and jobs for young people on working holidays. You’d be getting close to wildlife, sleeping under the stars in a bush camp and flying over stunningly beautiful landscape in a hot air balloon. Your duties will include getting to know about aboriginal culture and eating traditional bushfoods, maybe including the famous witchetty grubs – insect larvae.

Like the idea of 200 days of sunshine every year? Job number two is a park ranger in tropical Queensland. It’s a wonderful state with ancient rainforests, the world’s largest sand island and the awesome Great Barrier Reef. Here your duties would include protecting and promoting native plants and animals, spectacular waterfalls, dinosaur fossils, untouched beaches and indigenous culture. You’d get paid to patrol the beaches of Lizard Island and live a life most people can only dream about. Another island job is as ‘wildlife caretaker’ on Kangaroo Island in South Australia. If you love all kinds of animals, this is the job for you. The advert says you’ll be able to talk to wallabies (a kind of small kangaroo), play with dolphins, cuddle koalas and sunbathe with seals on the unspoilt beach at Seal Bay. You would get about the island on foot, by bicycle, kayak or boat, taking photos and leaving only footprints. There is one potential drawback, though. You’d need to be pretty brave since you might come face to face with great white sharks.

Maybe you are not quite so keen on the great outdoors and your talents are more journalistic. If you fancy feature writing, photography and making videos, you can apply for the position of lifestyle photojournalist for *Time Out* in Melbourne. You would be required to photograph and write about the city’s coolest cafés and musical events. But you’d also cover tourist activities in the whole state of Victoria, including surfing on the Great Ocean Road, skiing at Mount Hotham or watching the little penguins at Phillip Island. Are you a foodie? Do you know about food, as well as love eating it? If the answer’s yes, you can apply for the role of ‘taste master’ in Western Australia. Your job would be to promote the best restaurants, pubs, wineries and breweries. You’d also catch fresh seafood off the beautiful coast and learn all about making wine and beer.

Finally, a fantastic job in Sydney. We’ve all seen those amazing firework displays in Sydney Harbour. Well, you could be one of the people making that happen next year. New South Wales is looking for a ‘chief funster’, who would be based in Sydney while travelling around the state and tweeting about the coolest things going on. This job would appeal to someone interested in everything: sports, the arts, entertainment, food. You’d also be involved in making the Sydney Festival, Mardi Gras and Vivid Festival as spectacular, and as fun, as possible.

**Transcript for The Filter Bubble – part one**

Good morning, everyone. Have you ever noticed that when you log on to the internet, you nearly always see adverts for things that you are interested in? If you were looking for a new pair of trainers last week, suddenly you'll see adverts for trainers all over the place. Well, this isn't random. The internet browsers and websites and apps that we use know a lot about us because they monitor how we use their site or app. This way they can work out what we like and don't like. You've probably heard of cookies? When you visit some sites for the first time a cookie is downloaded onto your computer that keeps a track on how you travel around the site and exactly what you do. The next time you use the same site again your computer will check the cookies and adapt, depending on the information it stored from your last visit. So, without even thinking about it, we give out a lot of information that can then be used to personalise our online experience.

I saw a great presentation last week by the internet activist Eli Parisier and I want to tell you a little bit about it. He wrote a book a few years ago called 'The Filter Bubble' and I think it's something that we should all know about. Here's the book, we have it in the school library if you want to borrow it. In this talk I'm just going to give you a taster. He likens 'the filter bubble' to an ecosystem and he claims it is something we should all be worried about. After reading his book and watching his talk, I think it's something you should all know about too.

So, let me try to explain using a simple example. Imagine, I support a political party ... to keep this really simple let's call it the Yellow party. OK, so let's say I have lots of friends who also support the Yellows but some of my friends support the Reds. Now, on my favourite social media site I want to see the posts from all my friends but I tend to click more on the links that are posted by my friends who support the Yellows, like me. Even so, I do want to see what the Reds are posting about. Now, a few months ago, just before the big elections I noticed something weird happening on my newsfeed. I noticed that my friends who support the Red party had almost disappeared from the site and I was only being shown the posts from my Yellow friends! I wondered if all my Red friends had left this social media space and moved somewhere else, but when I clicked on their profiles to check, I could see that they had been busy posting links and talking to people, but their posts were being hidden from me. Now I understand why. I know it's because I hardly ever clicked on their posts and I didn't interact so much with them. The social media site itself had decided for me that I wasn't interested in their posts, so they decided not to show them to me. Now, this is an example of what Eli Parisier means by the 'Filter Bubble' – it's when the websites and apps choose what information we can and can't see. Does that make sense?

### Transcript for **The Filter Bubble – part two**

OK. So, moving on, so if the social media sites can personalise the user experience, to block out things they think we don't want to see, well, begs the question, what else is being hidden from us? Well, in his talk Eli Pariser gives another example. Did you know that if two people type the same word into some of the most popular search engines, the results might be totally different?

I know. Crazy, huh? Well, maybe you can try it one time with a friend. The example that Eli gave in his talk was two of his friends who have very different interests. They both typed the word 'Egypt' into a search engine. One got results from news websites about recent events in Egypt and the other got mainly travel guides. The results were totally different and this is because some search engines record information about what we usually look at, what we like and what our interests are.

Some sites are now starting to personalise what an individual user sees. Now, sometimes, of course, it can be really helpful to have information personalised for us. It can save us time searching and often actually we do want to see the information that we are more interested in. It can make online shopping easier and it helps us to connect with like-minded people. But let's stop for a second and think. Do we really want the internet to offer us only what the internet thinks we want to see? Aren't we going to miss out on a lot of really interesting and fresh information?

Well, whatever you think about the filter bubble, I think we all need to be aware that this is happening. By controlling the flow of information each individual receives, these 'algorithms' mean we don't have access to all the information that is out there. So, aren't we missing out on a lot of really useful stuff?

The question is what can we do? Well, I have to say, I agree with Eli Pariser. I think we need to try and step outside of our filter bubbles from time to time and try to get our information from other sources, as well as the internet. And actually you can look for alternative search engines that don't filter the content in the same way. They exist too. There are also ways to 'depersonalise' searches, but I will tell you more about that another day. For now, just try to make sure that you keep your eyes and ears open and learn as much as you can about how the internet actually works. Things change very quickly, but we should all try and keep up to date and learn more about how the wonderful worldwide web works. Thank you very much.

## Listening skills practice: The Maasai and the lions - transcript

Transcript for **The Maasai and the lions**.

For thousands of years the Maasai people in Kenya had no doubts about their relationship with the lions who shared the land with them. They were enemies. The lions wanted to kill the tribe's livestock and the Maasai had to protect the animals. It was even part of the coming-of-age ritual of young warriors to kill a lion.

But now things have changed and the Maasai are part of a new East African scheme to protect lions, called the Lion Guardians. The aim is for local people to be trained to manage and protect the lions without involvement from outsiders after the period of initial training. The Lion Guardians are taught basic literacy, how to manage data, how to deal with conflict between humans and lions, GPS and telemetry tracking of radio-collared lions. Some of them also learn how to speak in public and how to blog.

The Lion Guardians monitor the lions and other carnivores and inform cattle herders when to avoid the areas where there are lions. They also help improve the livestock enclosures and educate people about wildlife. Helping find lost livestock is another important job. In the past these would often have been killed by carnivores.

If anyone is about to carry out a lion hunt, the Lion Guardians try and persuade them not to. Since many of the Guardians have killed lions in the past and are very experienced, they are highly respected in the community and are listened to by their age-mates, or peers, and often by their elders. They explain the importance of the lions to culture and tourism and how they can now be arrested for killing protected animals.

One such Lion Guardian is Olubi Lairumbe. He has killed seven lions in his lifetime. The last one was a lioness who was pregnant with five cubs. He regretted killing her very much, had a massive change of heart and volunteered to become a Lion Guardian. Olubi's father used to hate lions and encouraged his sons to hunt them, but since Olubi became a Guardian, he has been advising them not to kill carnivores. Olubi was recently interviewed by Sir David Attenborough and appeared on the Africa documentary series.

Another Guardian, Mingati Makarot, is very good at tracking lions using his traditional skills and has a great knowledge of the area that acts as a refuge to many wildlife species. Mingati is a past lion killer but has completely converted to being one of its ardent protectors. His name, Mingati, is a 'lion name' given to him meaning one who is fast and doesn't lag behind.

In the past, a moran (a Maasai warrior) received a lion name after spearing a lion. In Maasai culture the name represents the characteristics of both the warrior and the lion he has killed. A warrior with a lion name feels that he has achieved something great. When the successful warrior brings the lion's mane and tail back to his manyatta (his home in the community) to be put on display, he is treated as a hero.



## Listening skills practice: The Maasai and the lions - transcript

Other young men who don't yet have their lion names are called by the general name of 'morán'. They long to have recognition and dream about the day that it will be their turn to bring home the lion trophy.

Now, this naming tradition is changing. The Lion Guardians experimented by giving lion names to boys who had not killed lions and it worked. Other young people called them by the lion names, then the older people did so too. There were still some boys who wanted to do something to prove their bravery, and they were assigned conservation tasks to do. Now young men can earn respect by protecting lions, rather than killing them.

Another change is that the lions are now given Maasai names and each has a card explaining who the lion is related to and which lions they keep company with. Personalising the lions helps them to be seen as individuals by the community.

Since the programme began in 2007, no lions have been killed in the area patrolled by Lion Guardians. Compare that to a similar neighbouring area without Guardians, where 63 have been killed, and you can see just how successful the scheme is. The Maasai have managed to successfully adapt their culture to changing times without giving up their identity.

## Listening skills practice: Unusual British festivals – transcript

### Transcript for **Unusual British festivals**

Hello. I'm going to talk about British festivals. I'm sure you've heard about the Notting Hill Carnival in London and the Edinburgh Festival, but today we're going to look at a lot more that you might not know about. Actually, a lot of these are not exactly festivals, but strange races or competitions. Some of them are ancient and some are modern.

So, let's start in January in the north of Scotland with the Burning of the Clavie. This is a whisky barrel which is set alight then carried through the streets as a bonfire. It's an ancient tradition which always takes place on 11th of January, the first day of the year, according to an older form of the calendar. The bonfire brings good luck for the coming year and people used to keep bits of burnt wood as protection against evil spirits. At the end of January, even further north, in the Shetland Islands, there's another fire festival, the Up Helly Aa. This seems like an ancient festival, but has actually only been going for about 130 years – well, it is fairly old, I suppose. People carry fire-lit torches and a Viking boat through the streets, then set fire to the boat. There's lots of dancing; it's good fun.

Now to the north of England. On Shrove Tuesday in February, otherwise known as Pancake Day, a special Pancake Bell is rung in Scarborough. Everyone goes down to the road next to the beach where they skip – yep, they jump over long ropes, up to fifteen people to one rope. And they have pancake races. This is quite common in the UK – running with a frying pan and tossing a pancake at the same time.

Another kind of race takes place in spring – cheese rolling. In Gloucestershire, in the south-west of England, round cheeses in round boxes are sent rolling down a hill and people run after them and try and catch them. The hill is very steep, so people often fall over – if you take part in this you need to be very fit and wear your oldest jeans. Nowadays this strange custom attracts visitors from all over the world, but the people from the local village are usually the ones who catch the cheese.

From people-racing, to animals, very tiny animals. World Championship Snail Racing takes place in a village in Norfolk. The snails have to race from an inner circle to an outer circle and the winner gets a lot of lettuce. There's a party and barbecue for the snail owners and observers. This custom began in the 1960s after a local man saw something similar in France. In the UK we don't eat snails, by the way.

More fun, in my opinion, are the onion-eating contest, also in Gloucestershire – a race to finish eating a raw onion – and the Black Pudding Throwing Championship, in Lancashire. Black puddings are like big sausages made mainly from dried blood. Contestants bowl three black puddings each at 21 Yorkshire puddings set on a six-metre platform; the winner is the one who knocks down the most. Another fun contest takes place in September at the Egremont Crab Fair in Cumbria in the north of England. The World Gurning Championship is a competition to pull the ugliest face. It sounds ridiculous but this is an ancient British tradition and the Crab Fair itself dates back to 1267. The man who won the title of best gurner the most in recent years had all his teeth taken out so he could make terrible faces more easily.

Finally, let's go back to the south of England. In Brighton there's a Burning the Clocks Festival to celebrate the winter solstice on December 21st. This custom started twenty years ago and is very popular. People make clock lanterns and time-themed figures of paper and wood, then walk through the town to the beach where the sculptures are set on fire and there's a massive firework display.

So, that's just a taste of a few of our old and more modern traditions. Would you like to take part in any of them?

## Listening: What kind of student are you? – transcript

Transcript for **What kind of student are you?**

**Teacher:**

Are you all sitting comfortably? We're going to do a short quiz called 'What kind of student are you?' I want you to listen carefully and think about your responses. Then I want you to write your answers in your notebook. Please be sincere! Nobody is going to look at your answers. When we complete the quiz I'll read out the results and you can think about them carefully for a few minutes in private. You need a pen and a blank page in your notebook. OK, pay attention, please.

One. When do you usually get to school?

- a) Early, you like to have extra time 'just in case' something crops up.
- b) You always turn up just in time, as the bell rings.
- c) You often get to school late, out of breath from rushing.

Two. When do you usually do your homework?

- a) As soon as you get it. The same evening.
- b) A day or two before you have to hand it in.
- c) The same day you hand it in. Sometimes it's late.

Three. What is your average mark in tests?

- a) You usually do well and get seventy-five per cent or higher.
- b) You usually pass tests but your marks are near to fifty or sixty per cent.
- c) Your marks are often below fifty per cent.

Four. What kind of a relationship do you have with the staff at school?

- a) Great! You get on well with most of the academic staff.
- b) Not bad. You have a good relationship with some members of staff.
- c) Dreadful. In general you don't get on with teachers.

Five. Where do you usually sit in class?

- a) Usually at the front so you can see the board easily.
- b) Somewhere in the middle so you can daydream unnoticed.
- c) Near the back so you can turn on your mobile without being seen.

Six. What do you want to do when you finish school?

- a) Carry on studying at university or college.
- b) You don't know yet. It depends on your exam results.
- c) Look for a job and start earning your own money. You'll be fed up with studying by then.

OK. Now look at your answers and count the number of As, Bs and Cs. Then I'll read out the results. Are you ready?

If you have mostly As, you are an exceptional student. You are mature and you have a superb attitude towards your studies. You definitely grasp the importance of a good education.

If you have mostly Bs, you are an average student, but you are capable of much more and it isn't too late to improve and become an excellent student. You just need to make a few changes to your habits.

If you have mostly Cs, you really need to adjust your outlook. You waste your time and you are at risk of finishing school without any qualifications. Think about your behaviour and consider making some changes before it's too late.

## Listening skills practice: What's in a name? – transcript

Transcript for **What's in a name?**

- Presenter 1:** Today we are going to talk about names, particularly fashions in names, you know, the kind of names famous people use for their children. You've been looking into this recently, haven't you, Finn?
- Presenter 2:** I have indeed and it's a fascinating topic. The US leads here with new names and we in Britain follow sometimes, but we tend to go for the more traditional names. So, the big trend is using nouns as names.
- Presenter 1:** Nouns, what sort of nouns?
- Presenter 2:** Well they can be abstract qualities like Honor or Passion. There's a long tradition of this kind of name, like Faith or Charity, which used to be common names. A new name is Haven, that's growing in popularity. And similar names like Shelter, Harbor and Bay also convey feelings of safety and warmth.
- Presenter 1:** Mmm. I suppose Passion is used to mean 'extreme enthusiasm' nowadays, and people use the word a lot, so maybe it's a good choice for a modern name. Haven has a nice, safe feel to it.
- Presenter 2:** OK, then there are names which come from nature or animals, although with some of these it's hard to know whether they come from nature or a surname – that's another trend. Here we have Frost, Wolf, Fox, Bear, for boys, of course. And a new name: Ridge.
- Presenter 1:** Ridge, like a mountain ridge? The top of a mountain range?
- Presenter 2:** Yes, weird, huh? It's seen as a tough, outdoorsy name for a boy. OK, then there are musical names. Harmony and Melody have been around for ages, but Lyric is a new one.
- Presenter 1:** Lyric, wow!
- Presenter 2:** Yes, it came in at number 325 in the US a couple of years ago. That doesn't sound very popular, but there are so many different names being used at the moment that it means it isn't so unusual. Other noun categories are months – May, June and April are common, but January is uncommon and November very unusual. And then you have colours. Beyoncé and Jay-Z called their daughter Blue Ivy – a very distinctive name, a colour plus the name of a plant. Blue is very popular for girls right now, and Red or Grey for boys.
- Presenter 1:** I've just thought of another category. Food names, like Olive or Clementine.
- Presenter 2:** Yes, that's another one. Flower names are pretty common, but food names are unusual. Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin named their daughter Apple, of course.
- Presenter 1:** Yes, poor child.
- Presenter 2:** Actually, Apple is becoming more and more popular, although people think that's because of the technology connection, not the fruit. New names always seem strange at first, but you quickly get used to them, like all the names from places or jobs. Chelsea and Brooklyn seem like normal names now; they were strange when they were first

## Listening skills practice: What's in a name? – transcript

used. Taylor, Mason, Cooper are all first names from jobs.

**Presenter 1:** And they are also surnames, I think that's how they started.

**Presenter 2:** You're probably right there.

**Presenter 1:** What about the Beckhams' daughter, Harper?

**Presenter 2:** She was named after Harper Lee, the American novelist who wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*. That's another trend, naming children after famous writers, musicians – the British band One Direction have had an effect on names – or fictional characters, like Bella or Edward from the Twilight series, or Hermione from Harry Potter

**Presenter 1:** Sorry, can I just interrupt there. I've just has a message passed on by the producer. A listener has just phoned in with a very strange story about a family in Holland with six children. Their names are all anagrams of the letters: A, E, L and X.

**Presenter 2:** Ah yes, I've heard about this. This family are famous in the world of bloggers on names. Let me see if I remember the names ... Alex and Axel ... and Lexa – they're the easy ones – Xela ('Zela') and Xael ('Zay-el') and the last one is Xael ('Zeal') – I'm guessing about the pronunciations, by the way.

**Presenter 1:** You mean there are names X-E-L-A and X-A-E-L?

**Presenter 2:** Yes, but they are very unusual. I think the Dutch family are stopping at six children, but there are about eighteen more possible anagrams they could use.

**Presenter 1:** Nooo, you're kidding!

**Presenter 2:** All seem horrible to me, but all are possible names. This is similar to another trend of giving children names all starting with the same letter, like the Kardashian family, all beginning with K, Kim, Kourtney and so on.

**Presenter 1:** The Kardashians have had enough publicity, let's not talk about them. What about your name? Finn, that sounds like a good Irish name ...