

Tapescripts

1B Listening exercise 2 1.1

J = Jayne H = Harry D = Dave

- H: So, are you ready for the big day, then?
When are you going? Tomorrow, isn't it?
 D: Yeah, that's right ...
 J: What's happening tomorrow then?
 H: Dave's got his paintball championship finals.
 J: Paintball championship? I didn't know such a thing existed ...
 H: Yeah, Dave's three time national champion ...
 J: National champion? You, Dave? You dark horse! **How long have you been doing that then?**
 D: Er, well, I haven't been doing it for that long really, I started a couple of summers ago.
 J: So, paintballing eh? I didn't know you were into war games ...
 D: It isn't a war game.
 J: Uh-oh - **have I touched a raw nerve there?** Are you a bit sensitive about it?
 D: No, I don't think so, not especially, it's just that it's always the same - you mention paintballing and people think you're Rambo or something ...
 J: And it isn't true? I mean, isn't the whole point of it to dress up and play soldiers? You know, shooting each other with paint, re-enacting famous battle scenes and all that? Sounds like a war game to me.
 D: No, it doesn't have to be. It's no more a war game than chess - or draughts.
 J: Sorry, you've lost me there. What are you saying?
 D: It's a game of strategy. You have to think ahead and plan how best to eliminate the other side.
 H: Yeah, and don't loads of companies use it now for team building and stuff like that?
 D: Yeah, that's how I got into it actually. We went on a team building weekend, you know, getting to know each other better ... it was great fun.
 J: What - shooting at each other? I can think of better ways of getting to know your workmates! I mean come on - those are real guns you're using out there. They may be gas-powered and they may be shooting paint pellets, but they're real and the whole purpose of the game is to shoot and kill, or sorry, should I say 'eliminate' other players. I mean, **who started it off? Wasn't it designed for training soldiers?**
 D: No, it wasn't actually. The paint markers were designed for branding cattle, if you must know.
 H: Really? I didn't know that.
 D: Yeah, they used them in the States to shoot paint at the cattle.
 H: Not what you'd call a military action, eh Jayne?
 J: Possibly not, but it doesn't really matter what their original use was - they're being used now to shoot at people. I mean, you must have heard that story about the

madman driving around shooting people out of his car!

- H: Oh yeah, in um Barry or somewhere wasn't it? **What happened? Did anyone get hurt?**
 J: No, luckily enough, he was only shooting paint at them ... but that's pretty frightening - I mean they thought they were being shot at by a real gun ... and it can be dangerous. Those paintballs can hurt.
 D: **So what are you saying? Are you suggesting the sport should be banned** because there are a few nutters out there who take things too far?
 J: Yes, I am, I do think it should be banned. I think it's dangerous, paintguns are dangerous weapons. They are not toys. What happens if someone gets killed one day?
 D: So, would you call for a ban on baseball in the same way because some people use baseball bats in fights?
 J: Yeah, but baseball bats are supposed to be used for hitting balls - not people - unlike paintguns. Paintballing is not a sport, it's violent, it's dangerous and it glorifies ...
 H: Hey, Jayne, don't you think you're going a bit too far? Dave doesn't strike me as being a blood-crazed maniac. He's just a normal sort of bloke who likes to let off steam at the weekend. He's not about to go out and shoot somebody, is he?
 J: OK, OK, sorry Dave, I got a bit carried away. I didn't mean to get personal.
 H: Maybe you should give it a go sometime. I heard Bill's arranging a trip for his 30th birthday. You should sign up. You might change your mind!
 J: No way! You must be joking! I think I'll just get him a card instead!

1D Listening exercises 1 & 2

1.3-1.7

- 1: I've always had a thing about football, not that I'm any good at it, mind, and at school we used to hang around in the playground every day, and everyone would have their pile and we'd go through them, 'got, got, got, need, got, got, need' and so on, and then we'd do swaps and try to collect the whole set. And then when I left school, I just sort of carried on because I still had some missing, and what I couldn't bear was, just, you know, giving up without getting the whole set. I don't know why really, **it's just one of those things**, I've got all the World Cups since 1990 in Italy - those are the ones I'm most proud of. If I ever have a kid myself, I know he'll enjoy looking at my collection in years to come.
- 2: My friends like to joke that my husband is the star attraction in my collection because he's got these bulging eyes. I don't mean that in a nasty way, but it's true that he does look a bit like one. What he doesn't

know is that they call him Kermit, you know, from *The Muppet Show*. But, um, let me see, I've got about a thousand altogether, we always buy a few when we go on holiday. Slovenia's good, we've been there twice, because they're very popular there, little clay models painted green, but there are some beautiful ones in the Far East, made of precious stones. **It's a good thing we've got quite a big house** because I wouldn't know where to put them all otherwise.

- 3: We all used to wear them at university, but **it's a thing of the past** now. I mean, you do get some kids wearing them, but it's not like it used to be. In those days, you used to get market stalls, shops even, that sold nothing else. Anyway, I kept all mine and one day I got them out and I found them, I don't know, I just found them really interesting. And then, I started buying a few more and discovered that there are loads of people out there who are into it. Most of them collect the old enamel or metal ones from before the war, but not me. I prefer stuff from the 1970s. What I like best are the political ones with anti-nuclear slogans, 'No more war' and stuff like that.
- 4: It started off as a bit of a joke, really. I just wanted something to liven up the garden and I bought my first one at a car boot sale. And then I really got attached to it, I gave him a name, actually I give them all names now, and then I thought he was looking a bit lonely out there on the lawn all on his own, and that's when a gentleman friend of mine gave me another, and then, well, **one thing led to another**, and before I knew it I had about thirty of them, all different. What I didn't realize at first was how many different kinds there are, but now I only really get special ones, because they can be quite expensive, so I don't buy as many these days.
- 5: I read the other day that **Bratz are the in-thing these days**. They've been voted 'People's Choice Toy of the Year' three years running in America, but what people see in them is beyond me. **They're just plain ugly for one thing**. I guess we didn't have much choice, although some girls had Sindys. I was lucky because I had two sisters so when we played together, we had an incredible wardrobe and hundreds of accessories. Our parents used to disapprove, I never quite knew why, but it was all those hours dressing and undressing them that probably made me decide to be a fashion designer. And now, well obviously I don't play with them any more, but you can learn a lot from looking at them. Did you know that there are versions designed by Versace and Armani? Some of them are worth a fortune. I'd love to be invited to design an outfit for her myself one day.

2B Listening exercises 3 & 4

1.11

P = Presenter J = Jean T = Tom

P: Following the arrest yesterday of four urban fox lovers on the steps of the town hall, in today's *Face to face* we will be finding out more about the urban fox problem. In the studio with us this morning, we have Jean Baker, chairperson of the Residents' Association which is calling for action against the growing numbers of foxes plaguing our town, and Tom MacFaerne, spokesperson and founder member of Urban Fox Lovers, the organization responsible for the protest outside the town hall. Jean, if I could turn to you first. Following a series of attacks on household pets your association is calling for a cull on urban foxes in your area. Could you tell us more about why you think this is necessary?

T: Sorry, could I just clear up one thing before we start? I don't know who the four people who were arrested were, but I'm absolutely certain they were not members of Urban Fox Lovers. They had nothing to do with us. I just wanted to make that clear from the start.

P: Jean?

J: Yes, thank you. The fight outside the town hall was certainly very unfortunate, but if you ask me, what we need to do now is put it behind us, sit down calmly and discuss what can be done to tackle the growing problem of urban foxes. And, let's face it, they are a serious nuisance. Quite simply, there are too many of them, 35,000 at the last count. To be perfectly honest, we think it's about time we did something to control their numbers.

T: Kill them, you mean.

P: Tom, please, we'll turn to you in a moment. Jean, you were saying?

J: Yes, well, although we respect the views of the Urban Fox Lovers, we are absolutely convinced that measures need to be taken to control all fox numbers. There are a number of reasons for what we're saying. In our area alone, we have had a large number of attacks on domestic animals. We know that a hungry fox will break into hutches and eat pet rabbits and guinea pigs. We also have reason to believe that foxes are also attacking cats and small dogs. Personally, this is what upsets me – and many other people I know – the most. On top of that, there are minor irritations, like the problems with rubbish bins, for example. Foxes are forever turning over the bins to look for food, which is both messy and extremely unhygienic, and they keep digging holes in gardens round here to bury their half-eaten food.

T: I'm sorry, but I really must butt in here. Frankly, this is absolutely ridiculous. Cats will rip open rubbish bags more often than foxes and dogs are always digging holes everywhere. Do you want to control their numbers, too?

J: True, but the difference is that people choose to have dogs and cats and they don't choose to have foxes. Foxes are pests, like rats or mice, and all we are asking is for the local council to take steps to control them like other pests.

P: OK, I see your point. Tom?

T: Sorry, but foxes are not pests. They actually help keep down pests – they kill and eat rats, and mice, too. Our cities would actually be much dirtier if it wasn't for the foxes. And, on top of that, there are a lot of people who like seeing foxes in their gardens. People who will actually put food out for the foxes, you know, to encourage them to come into the garden.

P: Yes, but I really don't think everyone agrees with you there, Tom. I may be wrong, but not everyone actually wants foxes in their gardens ...

T: Well, if they don't want them to come in, they can always keep them out! There's no need to kill them to keep them out! There's all sorts of things you can do instead, put special chemicals down on the grass, put up foxproof fences, that sort of thing, I mean, it's not difficult.

J: And what about the attacks on other animals? Or children?

T: Oh, come on! You don't really believe that, do you? I don't believe for a minute that foxes will attack children. It's totally absurd! Foxes do everything they can to keep out of people's way. But in any case, you miss the point completely. The whole idea of a cull is a waste of time. Foxes control their own numbers and if you start killing them, other foxes will just move in to take the places of the ones you kill, and you'll end up having to kill them too. So, it's not only cruel, it's pointless. So, I'm sorry, but Jean's marvellous plan to kill all the foxes just doesn't add up.

J: We are not suggesting that we get rid of foxes altogether – and you know that. All we are saying is that their numbers have got out of hand, and that because there are so many of them, it's because there are so many of them that they are becoming more aggressive and we need to do something about it. We've got to draw a line somewhere.

T: But what you're suggesting just won't work!

J: I'm sorry Tom, but basically we think it's time to do something about this problem, and it is a problem, even you must see that ...

T: No, I don't see it. As far as I'm concerned there is no problem.

J: We can't just allow their numbers to keep on growing. We're animal lovers, too, but when we are constantly seeing our pets attacked, it's simply time that something was done about it.

P: Jean, sorry, but I think it's time now to hand things over to our listeners. We have our first caller on the line from ...

2B Pronunciation exercises 1 & 2

1.12

Frankly, it's about time Tom faced facts. // Urban foxes are not only a nuisance // they're a real menace! // The authorities need to do something now, // before homeowners start taking the law // into their own hands!

2D Listening exercise 2

1.14

P = Presenter B = Beth

P: In today's *On the job* we're looking at working with animals. Later on in the programme we'll be paying a visit to London Zoo to talk to some of the keepers there, but first of all we're going to be talking to a dog trainer from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to find out what it takes to become a guide dog trainer. Good morning Beth, thanks for joining us this morning.

B: It's a pleasure to be here.

P: So, Beth, how did you first get involved in training guide dogs?

B: Well, first of all, I got interested in the puppy walking side of things, 'cos there was someone I knew who did it.

P: Puppy walking?

B: Yes, a neighbour of mine used to take in pups for the Guide Dog Association. She had the job of doing basic training with the pups, getting them used to walking on a lead, to noisy and crowded places, that kind of thing. It's important that when they start their guide dog training they're already used to busy roads and traffic and don't get scared by loud noises. So, anyway, we got talking and I volunteered to take on a pup and it all just grew from there. About a year later I was training as a guide dog trainer.

P: So, what did you do before?

B: I used to be a postwoman – ironically – as some dogs really hate postmen!

P: So, is life very different as a dog trainer?

B: Yes, it definitely is! I don't think it could be more different really.

P: What's the most rewarding part of the job?

B: I think training the people rather than the dogs. Sometimes it's hard work. But when it works out it's great. I once trained a man with quite severe mental problems who didn't actually speak to me for about two weeks!

P: That must have been difficult!

B: Yes, but then the bubble burst and from then on we got on fine ... he really benefited from getting a guide dog.

P: What's the most difficult part of the job?

B: Well, sometimes partnerships just don't work out, for whatever reason. Maybe the dog and the owner just don't get along and a change has to be made. We train about 750–800 people a year and it's inevitable that things don't always work out, but I still hate to see a partnership falling apart.

P: So, what advice would you give someone who wants to become a trainer?

- B:** Well, find out what it's all about first – and remember it's not just about dogs, it's about people too. It took me some time to get used to that side of things.
- P:** Do the owners need to have had previous experience of owning a dog?
- B:** It isn't essential, but it helps. No, it's actually far more important that the owners are already mobile to some degree, that they're used to getting around with a white stick, for example, and that they have a realistic idea of what a dog can do for them. A dog can't replace their eyes, but they can be an enormous help in making day-to-day life much easier and happier.
- P:** How long does it take for the dogs to get used to their owners and their new homes?
- B:** It depends, but it's usually very quick ... two or three days. Some partnerships hit it off straight away, others take longer to get to know each other. All the dogs need a breaking-in period, when they get used to their owners' daily routines, the routes they usually take, the walks they usually go on. Dogs pick things up very quickly, but I always feel that a dog and owner REALLY gel together after two years ... when the dog is about four years old.
- P:** What's the hardest thing for the dogs to learn?
- B:** To deal with traffic, especially bicycles – they can be pretty unpredictable.
- P:** I've seen people out and about with their guide dogs and I'm always amazed at how quickly and smoothly they get around ...
- B:** Um, yes, one of the basic things the dogs need to be able to do is judge their owner's size and to match that with possible obstacles. They need to be able to decide if, for example, an overhanging branch is too low for their owner's head, or a gap in the crowd is too narrow. It's amazing to see how they get so good at it, and how quickly the two of them get used to picking their way through a crowd, whether it's on the street or in a crowded shop. Going back to one of your earlier questions, maybe that's the most rewarding thing – seeing a dog and its owner working as a team and feeling that they really don't need me anymore. That my job's over and the two of them can just get on with it. That's a great feeling – a feeling of a job well done.
- P:** Well, thank you for joining us today and good luck to you and your guide dogs. And if you want to know more about becoming a guide dog trainer, get in touch with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association on www.guidedogs.org.uk

3B Listening exercises 1 & 2

1.15–1.16

W = Woman M = Man

- 1**
- W:** Are you going to get changed for this evening?
- M:** Yeah. In a minute.
- W:** You could try to look your best for once. It is their anniversary after all.

- M:** I really don't think your parents are terribly bothered what I look like. You're the only one who gets upset about it.
- W:** I don't get upset. I just don't like the looks we get when we're in a posh restaurant and you're wearing that dirty old fleece.
- M:** What? The one you gave me for my birthday?
- W:** Yes, that horrible old grey thing. The one I gave you about five years ago. Although by the look of it, it could have been about ten years ago. In fact, the next time I see it, I'm going to chuck it in the bin.
- M:** I like it. I'm very attached to it. And don't you dare throw it in the bin.
- W:** Oh, come on, Philip, be reasonable. Here, I got this catalogue from Next. There are some really nice jackets in here. It'll only take a minute to look through. There's bound to be something that you like.
- M:** If I really must.
- W:** Here, what about this, for example? That would suit you.
- M:** Yeah, OK.
- W:** You like it?
- M:** 'S all right, I suppose.
- W:** Or something a bit more modern-looking, perhaps. What about this one?
- M:** Both jackets look exactly the same to me, except that one's brown, which is probably my least favourite colour. I prefer the black one.
- W:** Do you want to order it?
- M:** If you want.
- W:** Right. Decided. Now, what are you going to wear this evening?
- M:** This evening? Well, after what you just said, I think I'd better wear my fleece tonight. Which is probably the last chance I'll get to wear it.
- W:** You know, I had a funny feeling you'd say that.

2

- M:** Bren?
- W:** Yeah?
- M:** You got any plans for tomorrow?
- W:** No, nothing special. Why?
- M:** Oh, I just thought you might like to go and do a bit of shopping. You know, see what they've got in the sales.
- W:** What? With you, you mean?
- M:** Yeah, why not?
- W:** Well, it's just the first time you've ever wanted to go shopping with me.
- M:** Just a thought. Thought we might get you something to wear for that dinner tomorrow night.
- W:** Oh well, if you're offering. Come to think of it, I was having a look in the window of Next the other day. There was a pair of black linen trousers that would go well with my white jacket. Nice. Quite cheap, too.
- M:** Oh right. Trousers. Um, I was thinking maybe, I mean, you've got loads of trousers, haven't you?
- W:** Yes. And?
- M:** No, well, it was just that maybe, you know, you could wear something a bit more feminine-looking, maybe.

- W:** You mean a little black skirt like all the other wives that are going to be there? You want me to go for the *Desperate Housewives* look?
- M:** No, I don't mean that. But, I mean, you know, you've got great legs. What's wrong with a skirt?
- W:** Nothing wrong with skirts. Just I feel more comfortable in trousers, that's all.
- M:** Well, it was just a thought. Look, forget I said it.
- W:** But you can still buy me the trousers I liked, if you want.
- M:** Only if you promise to see what they've got in the way of skirts and stuff. Maybe try one or two on?
- W:** You know what? I think perhaps I might just go to the shops tomorrow with Petra. But it was sweet of you to offer.

3D Listening exercises 2 & 3

1.17

- 1:** Because I met a photographer, who was a friend, and he was always taking pictures, and I was eighteen and I had just arrived in New York. I'd left high school and I'd come to New York to go through college, and he took pictures of everyone, of me, and one day he said 'Oh, you're really photogenic', you could be a model, and I'd never thought of, about it before, and then he sent some of my photos to an agency, and they said they'd like to meet me, so I had an appointment to meet the people at the agency, and they took some more photos, because you have to put a book together, you know, a book of photos, with photos, and they send the book to the clients, and, you know, it just sort of started from there.
- 2:** I started with some photo shoots, and then I did a few catwalk jobs, really, really not my kind of thing. I'm too shy, I just don't have the right kind of mentality, you have to be psyched up for that work, and besides I'm not tall enough, you have to be a lot taller than me, and you have to be not only relaxed, but also kind of like an actress, but I did a few and realized it wasn't my kind of thing, so I was offered a few jobs, the first one was for a hair spray, and then, yeah, the hair spray and, oh, I nearly forgot, I did an advertisement for brandy, and then quite quickly, I got more work, and they sent me to Milan, in Italy, and Greece, other trips to Europe, as well as work in New York and the west coast, but in Greece, there was an agency that was interested in me, so I was in Greece for a month, and they worked me really hard, work every day, mostly magazines.
- 3:** Erm, most of all, the travel, I had a lot of work with foreign agencies, a month in Italy, a month in London, and I liked that, and they give you an apartment and money to live on, and, in addition, you live well and I had an independence I didn't have at home, you know, living as a student. What else? The money, the money was good, I could make two or three

grand in one week, you work hard but the money's good, but I used to blow all the money, so I lived well for a week or two, do the things I wanna do.

4: The biggest drag is you have to be so passive, you can't show any initiative, you have to do exactly what the photographer and the client want you to, the less you exist as a person, as a human being, the better it is, you can't have any personality, you have to be able to obey, it's really passive. And, on top of that, some of the photographers, you know, they really want you to know who's the boss, and you can have a rough time if you don't do exactly what they want. One time, this guy wanted me to, this was in New York, and this photographer, a real big mouth, he wanted me to bite a necklace, a pearl necklace, and I thought it was so dumb and I just said 'Hey, I'm not gonna do that' and he went nuts, so you have to keep your cool. In fact, yeah, the biggest, the worst were the photographers, frustrated artists who'd prefer, who don't want to be doing advertisements, they can be a real drag.

5: Not in my private life, no, yeah, there was a curiosity, a lot of people thought that it was a weird world, everyone took drugs, yeah a lot of people had a lot of fantasies about what it was like to be a model, so there was a curiosity and people asked a lot of questions, but maybe it was mostly, it was people from back home, from Indiana where I grew up. They kinda looked at me like I was from another planet, sometimes, I guess. And then, some people treated me like an airhead 'cos I was a model, like, you know, as if, so you're a model, so you have to be real dumb.

6: I felt bad, half the time I'd arrive at a job and I thought they'd send me home, 'she's not what we're looking for,' I never had much confidence, I thought they wouldn't want me. I remember one time I was feeling very low, and I hadn't had time to wash my hair, and I was feeling beat because we'd been working non-stop for weeks, no, I've never really liked the way I look.

4B Listening exercises 1 & 2

1.26

K = Kay J = Jay

K: Hi Jan, how are you doing?

J: Fine thanks. Kay. And you?

K: Not too bad, can I get you a coffee?

J: Yeah, thanks.

K: How's Suzi getting on? Have you heard from her recently? Has she picked up an Italian boyfriend yet?

J: Not that she's mentioned! But yeah, she seems to be getting on fine. She phoned last night and said she's really enjoying it.

K: How long has she been out there now?

J: Almost three months. She's got another three months to go on her contract, but she's talking about extending.

K: Have you been out to see her yet? Here you go Jan, here's your coffee.

J: Ooh, Thanks, Kay. No, I haven't been out there yet, but I'm planning to go next month for a week or so, I haven't been before, I'm really looking forward to it.

K: Oh, you'll love it.

J: Have you been then?

K: Yeah, a couple of times. Rome's beautiful, it really is.

J: Yeah, so I've heard, Suzi raves about it.

K: Bet she's got a long list of places to take you to when you go over ...

J: Yeah, and you're not going to believe it, but she's got me fixed up to do a gladiator course.

K: A gladiator course? Did I hear that right?

J: Yes you did: female gladiators, it's the latest thing, apparently.

K: That's so Suzi, but I can't believe she's roped you in too, sounds a bit scary to me.

J: Yeah, me too! But I think that's the whole point, you know, confront your fears and all that.

K: Yeah, I suppose once you've faced a real live gladiator in the ring there's not much that can frighten you ... I still think it's a bit extreme though.

J: Yeah, well it's supposed to be the latest thing in stress-busting and confidence boosting ...

K: So what is it then, a whole week's course?

J: No, no, not that bad ... just a weekend - a two day intensive course, you learn about sword fighting and dress up in Roman costumes, eat Roman food and stuff and apparently you get to fight in a proper ancient Roman arena at the end of it - a kind of mini coliseum.

K: Where you 'face your fears and come out stronger' I suppose?

J: Yeah, that kind of thing ...

K: But why? I mean, surely there are better things to do in Rome? You know, see the sights, enjoy the food, do some shopping ...

J: Yeah, but I can do all of that during the week ... and well, Suzi fancies it and it's something different.

K: You can say that again!

J: Suzi's really into it. She's doing a course at the moment, two nights a week. She loves it. She said the first time she actually fought in front of an audience was fantastic. A real adrenaline buzz. And she reckons it's done loads of good to her confidence.

K: Does she need it? She's never struck me as being particularly shy. In fact I've always thought she was Miss Confident.

J: Not in Italy, it seems! They've got a totally different concept of shy over there! In fact it was her boss over there that suggested she go. Said she was a bit too quiet, a bit too timid and needed to be a bit more assertive, stand up for herself a bit more. So she signed up two months ago, and she's been really happy with it from the word go.

K: And has it worked?

J: I don't know. I'll have to see when I go out there. But it sounds fun. And Suzi says she's made loads of friends through it.

K: Suzi always makes loads of friends!

J: Yeah, well, I think the main reason she's invited me to go is that she's got to take her final test when I go out. She's got to fight the resident Amazon - she's already fought her a couple of times and she lost on both occasions, apparently this woman walked all over her. She's got to win this time or she won't pass the course. I think she wants some moral support.

K: Yeah, I can understand that, but can't you go as a spectator? I mean, do you really want to do the whole gladiator bit? Sounds a bit violent to me.

J: Yeah, I do actually. It's something different and anyway, I need a bit of confidence building tool! Especially after today ...

K: Hum, why's that?

J: Haven't I told you? I've just heard that I've got to give a big presentation at work - you know, in front of everyone? I've never done anything like that before and the thought absolutely terrifies me!

K: It would me too!

J: Thanks, that's a lot of help.

K: No, I mean, I'm sure you'll be fine, but it is pretty daunting! So gladiator school, hey? Well, remember to take plenty of photos - I'd love to see the two of you dressed up in your togas ...

J: You never know, once you've seen all the photos and heard all the stories, you might be the next one signing up for the course.

K: No way! I'd rather not have my confidence boosted thank you very much. I'm happy enough as I am!

4D Listening exercises 3 & 4

1.27

P = Presenter C = Chick
K = Kathryn

P: In recent weeks we've been exploring the weird and wonderful world of America's Deep South, and our journey has taken us through Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Today we travel to the very heart of Texas, and discover the terrifying world of rattlesnake round-ups and rattlesnake sacking. Later in the programme, I'll be meeting a real-life rattlesnake mama from the town of Sweetwater, home of the 'World's Largest Rattlesnake Round-up', and we'll visit the Rattlesnake Sacking Championships in the town of Taylor. But first, I spoke to herpetologist, Chick Ferragamo, who introduced me to my first rattler.

C: This one that you're looking at right now is the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, 'Crotalus atrox', and this is the one that you'll see at the rattlesnake shows. He's about two foot in length, so he's still young ... The rattle on the end of the tail is a warning signal, but he's not gonna bite.

Don't move and he'll stay still, too. In principle anyway! You're too big to go in his mouth. They generally swallow their prey whole.

He sure doesn't like you! You see that little drop of yellow on the fang? That's the venom, and if that gets into your blood, you have about thirty, say forty, minutes to get medical help. And that's our work here in this lab, we keep the rattlers here to collect their venom, and the venom is then, we use the venom to manufacture the antivenin. But there are many small, small differences between the venoms of different snakes and we need to ensure that we give people the right antidote. We've been studying rattlers here for nearly fifteen years, and we still haven't identified all the variations.

- P:** Feeling better informed, but not particularly reassured, it was time to move on to Sweetwater, American City, a small town of about 12,000 people. This is agricultural land, cotton and cattle, rodeos and cookouts, but we're here because, as the publicity proudly announces, 'This city has been organizing the "World's Largest Rattlesnake Round-Up since 1959." My guide for the day is Kathryn Rogers - or *Rattlesnake Mama* as she calls herself. Kathryn took me to the Nolan County Coliseum, the main venue for the event.
- K:** This is the Nolan County Coliseum and this is where all the main action is happening. Folks can watch the snake handling shows throughout the day, or you can join a guided rattlesnake hunt at the registration desk over there. Then we have food stalls serving deep-fried rattlesnake meat. Come on, I'll treat you.
- P:** Mmm, it's, it's quite - nice. A bit like chicken. Mmm. Thanks.
- K:** You're welcome. Now, if you're ready, let's go to the weigh-in.
- P:** Hunters have been bringing in snakes since the show opened yesterday morning, and although we're only half-way through the three-day event, the guys here have already weighed over seven hundreds kilos of rattlesnake.
- K:** The round-up started way back when a group of farmers and ranchers from the County wanted to do something about the number of rattlers. But the show has grown and tens of thousands of people from all over the world come every year. It's organized by the Jaycees, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the proceeds all go to good causes - the boy and girl scouts, the Red Cross, the homeless.
- P:** My day at the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup ended with a visit to the Gun, Knife and Coin Show. Guns and knives I could understand, but coins? I'm on my way to Taylor, in Williamson County and the moment I've been waiting for. We've been driving round Texas for over a month and we've done hundreds and hundreds of miles, but finally here we are: the National Rattlesnake Sacking Championship in Taylor, Texas, and I have to say - it's something of a disappointment. In many ways, this is no

different from what we saw in Sweetwater: snake handlers bring in their rattlers for the round-up, an arts and crafts fair - no guns, knives and coins this time, but plenty of stalls selling fried rattlesnake, rattlesnake kebabs, barbecued rattler, or just plain baked rattlesnake. You could have a three-course meal and eat nothing but snake. I don't know what I'd been expecting, but I've been surprised by the simplicity of the sacking. Two people stand inside a sort of glass box with ten rattlesnakes. One of them holds a sack, and the other has a kind of stick. The idea is to pick up the snake in your bare hands and throw it in the sack. You have to do it as quickly as possible, and the fastest time wins. That's it. The world record of seventeen seconds is held by Jackie Bibby, who also holds records for sitting in a bathtub with 81 rattlesnakes and holding nine rattlesnakes in his mouth. It takes all sorts, I guess. But for me, I have to say that I'm getting tired of the whole thing, tired of the show and thinking that, just maybe, there was something about the burger I had for lunch that didn't agree with me.

5B Listening exercises 2 & 3

1.30

P = Presenter L = Lucy

- P:** The world of art hit the front pages this week with the news that a London hospital has appointed an arts curator on a salary of £42,000 a year. The curator's job will be to arrange art exhibitions and other events at University College Hospital to 'improve patients' experience in hospital'. The new appointment follows the installation last month of a £70,000 stone sculpture outside the hospital's main entrance. The unveiling of the sculpture was greeted with disbelief by the popular press and some patients' groups, who described it as 'a load of rubbish' and 'a complete waste of money', and the appointment of the new curator has fuelled the debate. According to a statement from the management of the hospital, an artistic environment is a positive factor in attracting and keeping staff, as well as helping in quicker recovery rates for the patients. Critics of the hospital's policy, however, were unimpressed. I spoke to Lucy Haddon-Peters, an independent art consultant and a curator herself, for an expert opinion on this controversy.
- P:** Lucy, thank you very much for coming along today ...
- L:** You're welcome.
- P:** We're standing outside University College Hospital on the busy Euston Road with the controversial stone sculpture by artist John Aiken just in front of us. Lucy, could I ask you first of all your opinion of the sculpture? Is it a masterpiece or is it, as some have said, a load of rubbish?

L: Well, erm, it has a, it has a certain organic charm, um, and it, er, it fits, I think it looks quite nice, but, erm, but ...

P: You're not convinced?

L: No, no. I think that, I think, whatever you think of it, I don't think that anybody would say it's a masterpiece.

P: Worth £70,000?

L: Well, it certainly sounds a lot of money, but I don't think it's overly expensive for a work of this kind. But I'd just like to say, if I may, that, erm, I read in one of the papers this morning, one of the papers that was very anti, very critical, that the hospital should have, that they should have spent the money on more staff, more doctors and nurses and so on. That they shouldn't be wasting money on paying for an arts curator and so on, but the money actually comes from charitable donations, from money that er, that people have given.

P: Why is that more and more public institutions, hospitals for example, and, er, private companies, local governments, etcetera are spending money on art projects?

L: Yes, I agree that this seems rather new, but in some ways, this country is simply catching up with other countries, like France, for example, in fact, erm, wherever you go in France, you see large public arts projects all around you, everywhere, and many of these are very popular, so it's not really new as such, although the idea is still new to some people here, here in England.

P: And the reasons?

L: Well, there's no doubt that many environments could be improved, made more attractive, more interesting with well-chosen works of art as a, as a focal point, a point of interest, and people often feel more positive, they feel proud of where they live or where they work, and I think that art can also help to bring people together, to, er, encourage people to talk about, to react to the art and share their views, whether they like it or not, and so on. In fact, in all the companies I've worked for, yes, all of them, in fact, whenever we unveil a work of art, people always get together and talk about it, so, yes, I think there are many reasons, why public art projects can be very exciting for everyone.

P: But only if they like what they see, I suppose?

L: Well, yes, obviously, and I think it also depends on why a company invests in an art project. There was one company, a paint factory it was which wanted art for their office buildings, where I acted as a consultant to help them in selecting and buying the work, and then we worked together to decide the best way to exhibit the work in the offices, but the place was absolutely awful, coffee stains on the carpets, broken-down vending machines everywhere, no redeeming features at all. And the smell of paint, the smell was so strong, so overpowering, I got the commission because they wanted

to smarten the place up, make it look nice, you know, but the smell of paint was really, that a couple of prints on the walls or a nice sculpture or whatever simply wasn't going to make the slightest difference, I mean, really, who was going to think, for a second, that because they had an extremely valuable painting on the walls, that they were a decent, respectable company. Which they clearly weren't. It turned out that they were breaking every regulation in the book. They should really have spent the money on smartening the whole place up.

5B Speaking exercise 4

1.32

There is no record of an artist with the name of Charles Andrews, although a man of that name was recently arrested by police in the south of Spain. It is possible that the dealer who is selling this pile of bricks is dishonest. There is a well-known artist called Carl André, who makes sculptures from bricks, but he has no connection to the bricks in the photograph. The sculpture of a horse is made of imitation brass and has been painted green so that it looks old. It was bought in a souvenir shop in Volterra and is absolutely worthless. Diocletus the Etruscan is an invented name. The most valuable work of art in this collection – in fact, the only object here that is worth anything at all – is undoubtedly the glass sculpture, 'Hanging Spirit' by Stephen Knapp. Stephen Knapp has been commissioned to create sculptures and other work for many public buildings in the US, and his work is exhibited in many galleries.

5D Listening exercises 1 & 2

1.34

P = Presenter J = Juliet

P: In this week's *Book Corner*, we turn our attention to the winner of the National Book Foundation's 50th anniversary gold medal. Voted one of the most influential people of the twentieth century by *Time Magazine* and named by *Forbes Magazine* as the world's most powerful celebrity, she became the first-ever African-American woman billionaire and was honoured in the Hall of Fame of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. A tireless campaigner against child abuse, she fought for the National Child Protection Act which became law in 1993, and was named after her. Nominated for an Oscar for her role in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple*, she is also the co-founder of a successful cable TV network. Her own TV talk show is the most successful in television history and is watched by over thirty million viewers in more than one hundred countries around the world. The show won so many Emmy awards that she asked for it not to be considered any more. In case you hadn't guessed, we're talking about Oprah Winfrey. Juliet Evans looks into the background.

J:

Oprah was a talented child but no one thought her life would turn out such a success. Born in Mississippi, Oprah Winfrey was brought up by her grandmother on a farm, before she joined her mother in Milwaukee. The victim of abuse, Oprah ran away from her home and, at the age of thirteen, was sent to a juvenile detention centre. The centre, however, was full and Oprah was turned away. With nowhere else to go, Oprah went to live with her father in Nashville. Her father, Vernon, was strict, but, according to Oprah, he saved her life. As part of the regime, Oprah had to learn five new words every day, and each week she had to read a book and write a report on it.

After studying at Tennessee State University, Oprah worked as a TV reporter and newsreader, before taking over a Chicago talk show. The public took to her immediately and Oprah's career took off. Within two years, her show was broadcast nationally and Oprah received the first of her many Emmy awards. In the mid 1990s, Oprah came up with the idea of a book club, of introducing a regular book slot on her show. Her idea was to encourage Americans to read more, but even she must have been surprised at its success. As part of the show, Oprah put forward a book which she had read and enjoyed and discussed it on the programme. She chose only contemporary writers and the media coverage that these novels received turned them into best-sellers overnight. For the publishing world, it was a godsend, but the writers were less impressed when Oprah suspended her book club in 2002, because, she said, not enough contemporary novels lived up to her expectations. A year later, Oprah's book club returned, but this time with the classics. After describing Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* as 'one of the greatest love stories of our time', Oprah told viewers that the book's 837 pages shouldn't put them off. Such is the trust that she inspired in her viewers, *Anna Karenina* shot to number one in the *New York Times* bestsellers list. The Oprah Winfrey Book Club logo on the front cover of a novel is now enough to ensure huge sales for even the most unlikely of titles, such as a boxed set of three of William Faulkner's novels.

Oprah Winfrey's influence on the world of books would be colossal if it stopped there, but the book club phenomenon just grew and grew. Other chat show hosts, such as Britain's Richard and Judy, have taken up where Oprah left off. Inspired by Oprah's example, hundreds of thousands of people, mostly women it has to be said, have joined or set up their own reading groups, and meet up on a regular basis to discuss their book of the month. The craze has even inspired writers to use the idea of a book club for the plot of their novels. *The Jane Austen Book Club* and *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons*, to name but two works of contemporary fiction, follow the lives of groups of women who belong to reading groups.

Not everyone has been impressed by the Oprah Winfrey book club phenomenon. One novelist, Jonathan Franzen, turned down the chance to have his book, *The Corrections*, featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. Franzen was afraid that it might affect his reputation in literary circles, but he quickly regretted the comments he made. Franzen's comments came across as pretentious and elitist, and his reputation nosedived anyway.

P:

In the studio with me here, my guest is the author, Matthew Jones, whose latest novel will be published next week. I asked Matthew to evaluate the books on Oprah Winfrey's list. A superstar she may be, but is Oprah any judge of books? Matthew?

6B Listening exercises 1 & 2

1.35

P = Presenter

P:

The world has come a long way since Grover Cleveland, the twenty-second president of the United States, said, in 1905, that 'sensible and responsible women do not want to vote' and added that the positions of men and women in society had been determined by God. Cleveland would be horrified to know that, only one hundred years later, women not only had the right to vote but had been elected to the highest positions of power around the world. With the recent election of the first woman president in Africa, there are now few parts of the world where women have not been heads of state.

However, despite the progress, women remain extremely unrepresented in politics. Ninety-one per cent of the members of national parliaments worldwide are men. Even in countries like Sweden, with a very high proportion of women in politics, men still hold over fifty per cent of the parliamentary seats.

In order to tackle the problem, many political parties and some national governments have introduced or are considering the introduction of quota systems. These systems vary, but the basic idea is simple. When political parties prepare their lists of candidates for elections, they include a balance of the sexes. Some parties, such as the Greens in Germany, have lists that are fifty per cent men and fifty per cent women, although a lower figure of between twenty and forty per cent is more common. In Argentina and Belgium, for example, every third person on candidate lists for elections must be a woman.

But the quota system, sometimes referred to as 'positive discrimination', is not popular with everyone, and it's not only men who are arguing against it. Later in the programme we'll be asking you for your opinions, but first we'll be hearing the views of two women, both members of the ...

6B Listening exercises 1, 2 & 3

1.35-1.36

W = woman

W1:

Can I say first of all that what I want to see, what I think we all agree we need, is to see, to have more women in politics. I don't think there's really much disagreement about this. I think that probably all the major political parties wish they had more women standing, representing them. The more women we have, the more political parties can represent the electorate, and let's not forget that there are more women out there than men, and some of the things that matter to me, some of the big issues like equal pay and childcare and health, for example, will get more attention if we have more women Members of Parliament. So we're not really arguing about the end, the outcome, it's about how we get there, and er, positive discrimination, the quota system, is clearly not the way to go about it. First of all, I'd like to say that, as a woman, I find the idea of quotas, as a woman, condescending and offensive. I think it was Oprah Winfrey who said that excellence is the best way to fight discrimination, and I think she was absolutely right. How would you feel if you were appointed to your job simply because you were a woman, or because you were black or whatever? That you got the job, not because you were the right person for the job, but simply because you were a woman. And, how would you feel, as a man, let's say a man who had been doing a job for a long time, and doing it very well, if you had to step aside, if you were to lose your position just because your party or the government or whoever decides that it ought to be a woman in the job? Or as a voter and there's someone you'd really like to vote for, and you find yourself saying if only he wasn't a man! It simply doesn't make any sense and quotas will simply alienate an awful lot of people. What we need, and when I say 'we', I mean both men and women, is to have people in positions of responsibility who are good at what they do. Excellence. And let's face it, many politicians are bad enough as it is, without replacing them with people who are even less competent. We all want to see the end of discrimination but the quota system is just another kind of discrimination, and even if we call it 'positive discrimination'; it's still discrimination. Two wrongs do not make a right and this is not the way to make progress.

W2:

People say that the quota system, a quota system that makes it possible for women to be elected to national or regional parliaments, people object to this system because they say that it is another form of discrimination, that we are replacing one kind of discrimination with another. You know, they say that we'll be replacing a good man in a job with a stupid woman, but, I mean, really, there are so many stupid men in politics that if we have one or two stupid women, I really don't think it's any big deal. Is it? But seriously, I think this is missing the point and, in any case, I don't

think we should be using the term 'positive discrimination' anyway. 'Positive action' is a much better way of describing the quota system. It doesn't discriminate against men - it simply gives women a fairer chance. And that is what this is all about. Quotas may not be perfect, they may not be ideal, and I can understand it when people say if only there were some other way of achieving equality. But the fact is that there isn't. Nobody has suggested anything else that will work, and we know from experience, from quite a lot of experience now, that quotas for women bring results. If you look at countries where there are large numbers of women in parliament, places like Denmark or Sweden, it is because the political parties there introduced a quota system. I mean, if you ask yourself why the Germans elected a woman Chancellor, it's because the political parties there also have a quota system. This is the only way we know to get more women into politics. We can't go back now. The world of politics is changing because there are more women in it, and there are more women in politics because quotas have made this possible. I only wish that we'd introduced the system a hundred years ago when women got the vote.

6D Listening exercises 2

1.40

A = Anne D = Di

A: Hi Di, heard the news?

D: What news?

A: Frank's been given the sack

D: The sack? Really? Are you sure? But he's been with us forever.

A: Yes, well, and he's been a pain forever too. I'm surprised they didn't get rid of him sooner.

D: What do you mean?

A: Well, he's hardly Mr Popular is he? Especially with the new boss.

D: Yes, you've got a point, what with all his sexist jokes and all that laddish banter all the time.

A: Yeah, do you remember the time he asked her to get him a cup of coffee at that first department meeting?

D: Do I remember? She was so angry! She was practically breathing fire! I think we all felt sorry for him then! But what are you saying? That she's got rid of him because of his sexist comments? Has he made one joke too many?

A: He may well have done, and it probably hasn't helped his case, but no, that's not what I'm saying. Apparently it's come from higher up. He's really messed it up big time.

D: So what's he done then?

A: Well, apparently he was asked to write the ad for the new receptionist ... you know, after Fiona left ... so anyway, they asked him to write this advert ...

D: But that isn't really his job, is it?

A: No, I don't know how he came to be writing it, actually ... so anyway, he scribbles something down, he doesn't think to ask anyone to check it ...

D: Well, he wouldn't, would he?

A: It gets sent to the local paper and before anyone's seen it, it's in print and the damage is done. Someone complained to the government organization and they're taking the whole thing very seriously. Sex discrimination ... amongst other things ...

D: What exactly did he put in it? 'Attractive blonde receptionist required, 5 inch heels essential ...'?

A: Almost!

D: So go on, what did it say?

A: Yeah, well, first of all he used the adjective 'young'. 'Suit young graduate' I think it was ...

D: Uh oh - ageist, too. He obviously hadn't read the memos about age discrimination ...

A: ... and then he goes and slips in a completely unnecessary 'she'.

D: What do you mean? I don't follow.

A: Look, here's a copy ... see, here 'she should also be ...'

D: Oh no, the idiot! I bet he didn't even notice. Poor Frank. I mean, it's not as if he did it on purpose ... I feel quite sorry for him actually ...

A: Sorry for him? The man's a liability!

D: Yeah, I know that, but it really is a lot of fuss about nothing.

A: What, the government organization is taking us to court and you call it a lot of fuss about nothing. The company could face massive fines. What are you saying?

D: I know, I know, but what I meant to say was that we all know what he's like, I mean, he's not the most articulate person we know, is he? Whoever asked him to write the ad should really have written it themselves or at the very least they should have asked to see it before it got sent off.

A: So, basically you're saying that he's incompetent? That he can't actually do his job without someone overseeing everything he does. I mean, he's supposed to be a senior manager, he's supposed to be supervising other people's work, not having his work supervised!

D: Now, that's unfair. That's not what I said. He's very good at his job. He's an excellent engineer. He just isn't very good with words, that's all. I mean, yes, it was a big mistake ... and a stupid one too. But it was a mistake and I really don't think he deserves to lose his job over it.

A: I can't believe it! And from you of all people! You're forever complaining about his bad jokes and macho behaviour.

D: Yes, OK, OK, I know, I know. He's sexist. There's no denying it. And something should be done about it, I'm not disputing that. But my point is that I don't think someone should lose their job for making an honest mistake.

A: And what about for being a sexist pig? Or for being totally un-pc?

D: Yeah, well I'm not sure what the unions would say about that. Is it fair grounds for dismissal?

A: Sure as hell should be!

7B Listening exercises 2 & 3

2.1

N = Nell B = Becky
W = Winston

- N: Becky, hi!
- B: Nell, darling! Have I come at a bad time?
- N: No, come in, come in. I'll just move this out of the way. Mind all the dust and rubble and stuff. How're you doing?
- B: Fine, fine. I was just passing and I thought I'd pop in and see how the work's going.
- N: Yes, come in, come in. Do you fancy a drink? Or would you like to have the guided tour first?
- B: The guided tour, I think.
- N: Winston! It's Becky!
- W: What?
- N: I said it's Becky. I don't think he heard.
- B: Wow! It looks like you're taking the whole house to pieces!
- N: Yes, well not exactly. We're putting in solar panels. Winston's just knocking a hole in the wall to get the wiring through.
- B: And you're doing that all by yourselves? Can't you get a man to come in and do it for you?
- N: Winston! Can you shut up for a minute? Ah, that's better. Winston! Where were we? Ah, yes, the panels. You get a grant from the local council. You pay for the panels, they pay for the installation, so if we do the installation ourselves we keep the cash.
- B: Oh right, makes sense. And what else are you doing to this 'green home' of yours? Didn't you say you were putting it in for a competition or something?
- N: Yes. It's called 'Ecohome of the Year'. Winston's got a few weeks' holiday and we're making the most of it to get as much work done as we can.
- B: Well, you're not going to win any ecological competitions with all those old car tyres outside the front door.
- N: Er, actually, we're going to use them to insulate the back wall. It's north-facing and really damp and it'll make a difference to our heating bills. With a bit of luck, we won't need any central heating at all.
- B: And you're living here while all this is going on? You must be completely mad.
- N: Um, it might sound mad to you but if we win they'll pay for all the work we've done, so it's worth giving it a go! The judging doesn't start till next spring and they take plans and work in progress into account as well so I reckon we'll be in with a chance.
- B: So what does it all involve then, apart from the solar panels?
- N: Well, first of all we're stripping the house down to its bare bones: brick walls and bare floorboards. It makes it easier to see what else we want to do. We've done most of it already, but there's still the bathroom left. We're doing that next week. Winston will have some fun smashing up all the tiles with his sledge hammer.
- B: What, you mean you aren't going to recycle them?

- N: Course we are. I'm going to build a mosaic wall in the kitchen!
- B: You are kidding now, aren't you?
- N: No, straight up.
- B: And you and Winston are doing all this on your own?
- N: Most of it, yes. Winston's hired one of those sanding machines, you know, for sanding the floorboards. He enjoys that. But he's going to need help with the wiring and the plumbing.
- B: How long's it going to take, do you think?
- N: You know, to do the whole lot.
- B: We're reckoning on at least seven to eight months. But it could be longer. We don't really know when all the materials and fittings are going to be delivered. We don't know when the greywater tank is coming, for example.
- B: Greywater? What's that?
- N: That is the piece de resistance. We're going to have a special system installed that recycles all the water from the bath, the shower and the washing machine ... that's the greywater. Dirty, but not too dirty ... to flush the toilet.
- B: Charming. So what other delightful features is your 'ecohome' going to have?
- N: Well, we're going to change all the windows. The previous owners put in PVC windows with double glazing, we're going to replace them with wooden windows with triple glazing. And after that ...
- W: Do you know where the first-aid kit is, Nell? I've cut my arm.
- B: You're bleeding!
- N: Oh no, not again.
- W: It's not my fault. There's something wrong with that drill.
- N: Come on, let's all have a cup of tea.

7D Listening exercises 2 & 3

2.3-2.5

1

If the turn of the century was marked by the drive for super sizes, then the next twenty years will be marked by a demand for ever-decreasing sizes. Mini-portions will be more and more fashionable. Even the big fast-food chains will be bringing out their own mini food, things such as mini-burgers and mini-pizzas ... and all at mini-prices! And not only will the portions be smaller, but the food itself will also be fresher. Advances in packaging technology will mean that we will be able to keep food fresh and tasty out of the fridge for much longer. For example, new ultra-light materials will mean that thermos bags and bottles will be lighter, smaller and easier to carry, and we'll be able to take our pocket-sized sushi to work without worrying about it going off. As well as encouraging a taste for smaller portions, the interest in healthier food will also mean that we will be eating more and more organic food - approximately 60% of the food we eat will be organic - and less and less meat. And watch out for a huge increase in the consumption of all kinds of seafood. Seaweed, in particular, will be taking off as the number one health food product and we'll be eating seaweed supplements along with most of our meals.

2

As always there'll be a whole host of new fashion ideas. Teenagers will be buying interactive T-shirts which can screen their favourite movie, and their dads'll be investing in kilts and sarongs as skirts for men become a definite fashion possibility. A whole range of clothes will be developed that can integrate electronics with fabrics. For instance, we'll be able to play our favourite music videos on our T-shirts or read the football results on the palm of our gloves. What's more, we'll be able to make phone calls without needing a phone, it'll be built into our jacket. Heat-sensitive fabrics will also be coming into their own with a hundred and one different uses, beachwear for children which will warn parents to get the kids out of the sun when it's too hot or sweatshirts that will show it's time to put on another layer when it's too cold, to name but a few. Besides being used for clothes, these heat-sensitive fabrics will also find their uses in the house. Soft furnishings, like blankets and cushions, will be particularly useful for the elderly, flashing warning signals to grandma when she needs to turn the heating up in winter, or take a couple of layers off in summer.

3

Virtual reality will have revolutionized spectator sports, combining the joys of TV sports and actually going to the game. VR options will include, among other things, the possibility to change your seat at any time. For example, you want to see the action from behind the goal, just press a button and you're there, or maybe you want to see the players coming out of the tunnel, pay a supplement and you'll be standing there, rubbing shoulders with your sporting heroes. And besides that, and more excitingly, we'll also have the virtual ability to be on the field during the action, to watch the kicks from any angle, and much, much more. And if you're bored of watching the TV, then thanks to your virtual gym you'll have no shortage of fitness options in your own living room. You could take part in a virtual Tour de France on your exercise bike for instance, or run the London marathon. Virtual workouts will be all the rage. We'll still be running to keep fit, but in virtual scenery that our present day dreams are made of. Fancy a run along your favourite beach for example, or a cycle ride over the Pyrenees? It'll all be possible from the comfort of your own gym, thanks to VR helmets and special VR suits. And it won't only be workouts that are given the VR makeover. Virtual reality could also mean the end of traditional telephone calls with conversations being replaced by virtual walks. Imagine you are away from home on business, and your partner is home alone on a wet, winter's day. Thanks to the new virtual phones you could both meet up for a romantic walk on a virtual beach, enjoying the Pacific breeze and a spectacular sunset.

8B Listening exercises 2 & 3

2.6

N = Newsreader S = Sonia

N:

Figures released in America today show that one in seven doctors are now refusing to deliver babies because they cannot afford the insurance policies they need to protect themselves if anything goes wrong. Insurance costs for doctors in the US have risen by up to 75% in the last five years and could rise further. Here in the UK, where doctors work for the National Health Service and do not require private insurance, the government has announced that it is putting aside nearly eight billion pounds to cover compensation claims in the next ten years. Our health correspondent, Sonia Razzaq, reports.

S:

A 30-year-old rugby player, Adrian Bowe, went to his doctor, complaining of headaches and a loss of vision in one eye.

After examining the patient, the doctor decided that he must be suffering from a migraine attack. However, not long after, Mr Bowe collapsed, the victim of a stroke that has left him permanently disabled and requiring a wheelchair to leave his house. Earlier this year, a judge ruled that the doctor was guilty of 'clinical negligence'. With a correct diagnosis of Mr Bowe's condition, the stroke might have been avoided. Mr Bowe is now entitled to compensation and this could run into millions of pounds.

The tragic story of Adrian Bowe is not an isolated case. Each year, Britain's National Health Service considers up to 7,000 claims for compensation where operations have gone wrong or doctors have made errors of judgement. Critics of Britain's under-fire health service fear that the country may soon find itself in a similar situation to the United States where many doctors are refusing to perform certain operations. They point to the increasing pressures that doctors are now working under. Shortages of staff and increased workloads have led to shorter consultation times and, say the critics, more and more errors are inevitable.

It is a suggestion that is rejected by others in the profession. A spokesman for one London hospital said that the increase in compensation claims cannot be the result of more medical errors, because the number of claims is not increasing. Courts are awarding higher compensation payments, but there is no evidence that doctors are making more mistakes. What is happening, he added, is that people seem to be forgetting that medical diagnosis is not an exact science.

He points out that Adrian Bowe's symptoms could have been caused by a migraine and it is impossible for doctors to make the correct diagnosis. Similarly, a patient who is feeling under the weather, stiff and generally run-down, may be going down with the flu, but they might also be showing the first signs of something much more serious. Computerized databases of symptoms and illnesses are

now widely available, and these may result in better diagnoses, but doctors will always need to use their personal judgement and experience. Online databases are also being used by patients who think that their doctor may have made a mistake, but medical experts warn that such websites can lead to people who are in perfectly good shape worrying over nothing. One of these sites, wrong diagnosis dot com, lists 145 illnesses, some of them very serious, which have no symptoms at all. Hypochondriacs may enjoy identifying a hundred possible explanations for why they feel at death's door, but the only sensible course of action remains a visit to your GP.

The government's decision to set aside nearly eight billion pounds for compensation claims may sound extremely high, but this represents less than 1% of the NHS budget. Britain is still a long way from the situation in the United States, and although we can expect to hear about more cases like Mr Bowe, there seems, for the moment at any rate, to be no reason to be alarmed.

8C Grammar exercise 3

2.8

I was bored with my job. Sometimes I had to answer as many as 300 calls a day. I wasn't allowed to leave my desk, not even to stretch my legs. Then the headaches started. One day I was talking to a customer on the phone and she mentioned that she was an acupuncturist. We arranged to meet. That meeting changed my life! She cured my headaches and I didn't have to pay her a penny. But she also saved me from my dead-end job. Now I'm a fully trained acupuncturist. I still have to work long, hard days, but I don't have to ask someone else what I can and can't do. I'm my own boss and it's great! I feel like a new person.

8D Listening exercises 2 & 3

2.9-2.13

1 B = Bob J = Jen

B: By the end of the week? Ooh!

J: You still haven't been to see a doctor, have you?

B: Why? What's the point? He won't be able to do anything to help ...

J: At least he'll be able to prescribe some painkillers ...

B: Listen, I appreciate the concern, but I'd rather just put up with it, OK?

J: How about getting a massage then? I know a really good physiotherapist - he does these special lower back massages - they're great - they really help - a couple of hours a week and you'll be like new. Tom went to him - he says he works miracles.

B: Oh, that reminds me - I need to call Tom. I'd promised I'd get back to him today ...

J: OK, ignore me! But it's for your own good.

B: Look, thanks for the suggestions but I've had this problem for years now - it comes and goes - I just live with it.

J: OK, have it your own way. Anyway, as I was saying, I reckon we can get the report done by the end of the week, or the beginning of next week at the very latest ...

2 M = Mike B = Bob

M: Hi Bob, how's your back?

B: Don't ask!

M: So, no football again this week then?

B: No, sorry mate. You'll have to do your best without me!

M: You really should see someone about it you know. How long have you had it now? It's been weeks since you last played.

B: I know, I know. It'll sort itself out. It always does.

M: Look, I know I've said this before, but I know a really good osteopath. My mother swears by her. She does this spinal manipulation thing ...

B: Sounds painful!

M: It probably is, but it works, I tell you, you really should try ...

B: By the way, how is your mum?

M: Don't change the subject! Look I've got her number here.

B: Who, your mum's?

M: No! Look, phone her. Get yourself an appointment. It'll be worth it, you'll see.

B: Yeah, well, maybe ... but I really don't think it'll work.

M: You are just so stubborn! I don't know how Linda puts up with you!

3 L = Linda B = Bob

L: How long are you going to keep putting it off? It's not fair, you know, you're not the only one who has to put up with it. It makes you irritable and moody - you get tired and snap at the kids ... I'm sick and tired of telling you to see a doctor ... and I'm sick and tired of your bad moods and your moaning and grumbling. I know, I know, it's no fun having a bad back, you've told me that a million times - but it's no fun for us either. There are a hundred things you could do - take some painkillers for a start - buy a new chair for your desk - make an appointment with the osteopath - I know Mike's given you her number.

B: Her number? So it was your idea was it? You put him up to it ...

L: Yes, I did. And what's wrong with that? I thought you might listen to Mike - seeing as you don't listen to me!

B: Ah, yes, come to think of it, Mike did mention you when he gave me the number, I should have known.

L: Bob! I just don't get you. I'm being serious here - and you're not even listening! I have had enough. Do something about your back or ...

B: Or ... ?

L: Or ... I don't know. I'll have to put painkillers in your food or something!

B: Listen, I'm sorry, I really am. You're right, I need to do something about it and I promise I will.

L: Hmm ... I'll believe that when I see it!

B: Come here – you know you look beautiful when you're angry ... so, what's for dinner?

L: Ah, talking of dinner, it's your turn!

B: My turn? Again? Oh, aw, I don't think I can ... I've got a bad back ...

L: Bob Davis, I swear, I'll ...

4 B = Bob A = Ann K = Kate
G = Greg

B: Yeah, and well, she just flew off the handle, I mean she was really, seriously angry with me ...

A: I'm not surprised. You can be really stubborn sometimes you know ...

G: Yeah, and you get pretty tetchy too.

B: I know, I know, I should try and control my temper.

A: And as for what she was saying, well, she's right you know. You do need to do something about it. There's no medal for suffering in silence.

K: Not that you do suffer in silence ... I wish you would!

B: Thank you Kate! But yeah, I know what you're saying – even little Jo was telling me off the other day. 'Dad, can't you be happy sometimes?' he said ...

G: Bright for a three-year-old, your Jo!

B: Yeah, I know, but it's a bit much getting told off by your own son!

A: Well, there you go, as I was saying, you'll have to do something about it, won't you?

5 B = Bob L = Linda

B: Anytime this week, well, really in the evening if possible. I finish work at about 6.30. Thursday, 7.15? Yes, that sounds fine. Thanks great, thanks a lot. Goodbye. I've done it!

L: What have you done?

B: I've made an appointment to see the osteopath.

L: You have! At last!

B: Oh yes, and by the way, have I told you I love you?

9B Listening exercises 2 & 3

2.15

1
And finally, one of the strangest stories to have come our way for a long time. Over the last few days, reports have been coming in of strange things happening in Tunbridge Wells. For those of you not familiar with Tunbridge Wells in the county of Kent, the town is not known for its serious crime, although, like any town of its size, it is not entirely free from minor problems. But Tunbridge now has its very own superhero – a masked man in an orange suit, brown underpants and cape – who patrols the town, sorting out life's little inconveniences. Monkey Man, as he is known, was sighted earlier this week when local resident, Gladis Webb, suddenly became aware of a strange masked man behind her. In a letter to the *Kent and East Sussex Courier*, she explained that the man had tapped her on the shoulder and returned the purse that she had lost earlier. In other reported sightings,

Monkey Man has helped motorists change their tyres, helped old ladies across the street and put rubbish in the rubbish bins. Until yesterday, Monkey Man's acts of goodness had been restricted to the kind of thing that any good citizen is expected to do. But the Tunbridge superhero came to the rescue of a young woman in the town centre. Monkey Man arrived in time to save her from a group of aggressive young men. A spokesman for the local police said they were always sympathetic to acts of good citizenship, but they hoped that Monkey Man would understand that some situations were better left to professional police officers. Their views were repeated by the town's mayor, Stanley Ward, who supported Monkey Man's acts so long as they remained 'community-minded'.

Meanwhile, national newspapers like *The Sun* and *The Daily Express* have picked up on the story and are asking their readers if they know the identity of the mysterious masked Monkey Man. A Polish tourist, Wozzyk Wozzyk, who was visiting the town, was lucky enough to take a photo of the Tunbridge superhero with his mobile phone and sent it to the *Kent and East Sussex Courier*. The *Daily Telegraph* suggested that the masked man might be Darren Hasell, a 35-year-old sports coach with a black belt in karate. But local people do not think he is connected to the man in the orange suit.

9B Listening exercises 5 & 6

2.16

2
And finally, we turn to an update on the story of the Tunbridge Wells superhero. The orange-suited Monkey Man has been involved in a number of incidents that have been reported as far away as Australia and New York. Helping old ladies cross the road, picking up litter and dutifully putting it in the rubbish bins, saving a young lady in danger from a group of aggressive youths, Monkey Man's time has been devoted to improving the day-to-day life of the good citizens of Tunbridge Wells. But it seems that the press has got a lot of egg on its face. We can now reveal that the identity of the caped crusader of Tunbridge Wells is none other than Matt Lees, a 31-year-old hairdresser, who, along with two friends, Chris Shaw and Rachel Bishop, was responsible for the strange series of events. The three friends made everything up from the start. Beginning with a handful of letters to the local newspaper, they were pleased and more than a little surprised when the paper believed the letters. Mr Lees pretended to be Gladis Webb and also dressed up as Monkey Man. Rachel Bishop took photos of him in the street and pretended to be the Polish tourist with the unlikely name when she sent the photo to the *Kent and East Sussex Courier*. National newspapers were so intent on publishing the story that they never checked out the sources. If they had, they would have quickly discovered that none of the witnesses actually existed. Prankster Chris Shaw insisted that it was all a joke but said that it was interesting to see how the press

could be so gullible. 'You wonder what else they print,' observed Mr Shaw.

And now over to Brian Moloney with all the latest sports news ...

9D Listening exercises 1 & 2

2.17

S = Steve A = Amanda

S: Right, so it's back to the studios to take a closer look at today's news stories. So, Amanda, what have you got for us today?

A: Well, Steve, there's a great survey that's just come out to find the UK's top ten most hated professions.

S: Most hated professions?

A: Yes, that's right. Care to guess what comes in at number one?

S: I reckon number one has got to be tax inspectors.

A: Well, no, actually, you're wrong. In fact, surprising as it may seem, they're not actually in the top ten at all, although you're not going to be at all surprised to find out who the number one most hated profession is.

S: Well if it's not tax inspectors, then I guess it must be traffic wardens?

A: Yes, that's the one. It seems that despite admitting that traffic wardens are a necessary evil, there was still no doubt in people's minds that they are the number one high street villains.

S: I can believe it. I can remember the last time I got a ticket. I was furious. I'd only gone in to the shop for five minutes, and there she was, writing out the ticket, and even though I said I was going to move the car straight away, she still booked me. I couldn't believe it!

A: You and a thousand others like you, Steve! But it seems that the traffic wardens themselves aren't too happy with the results. They claim that they're only trying to keep our town centres free of unwanted traffic, and that, despite all the stories to the contrary, they are not vindictive and often give drivers a second chance if they say they're moving on.

S: I can't say I've ever seen that happen! So, who else is in the list? Lawyers? Journalists? Paparazzi?

A: No, actually, none of those made it to the top ten.

S: None of them? I find that hard to believe! So, who are the people we love to hate?

A: Well, there are quite a few I agree with, and I think you will too: telesales reps, for example. And although I know it's not their fault, and they're only doing their job and all that, I absolutely hate being disturbed at home by cold callers.

S: Yeah, and the phone companies themselves are the worst. I don't answer the phone anymore. Anyone who wants to get hold of me can text me or leave me a message!

A: Yes, and I don't suppose anyone's going to stand up and defend nightclub bouncers or estate agents either.

S: Are they there, then?

- A: Yes, at numbers 2 and 3 respectively. Followed by motorcycle couriers and bus drivers.
- S: There must have been a lot of stressed-out city drivers answering that survey!
- A: Yes, and although I tend to agree with most of what's on the list, there are some surprises too. Footballers, for example? I thought they were everybody's heroes, not one of the top ten villains.
- S: Yeah, well, they're supposed to be heroes aren't they, but in spite of their special hero status and all the perks and privileges of their job, they can be real arrogant, obnoxious thugs at times. I think that's the thing. Despite the fact that they're paid like gods, they often behave like pigs: swearing, spitting, starting fights. Hardly the stuff that heroes are made of.
- A: Yeah, well then you'll agree with the next one too Steve: reality TV show contestants.
- S: Yes! Definitely. Famous for being famous. What kind of a job is that? Not really a job at all. In fact I think I'd put them at number one.
- A: Well they're actually at number ten, after PR people and politicians.
- S: Ah, the professional liars! I'm sorry, is that very cynical of me? So what about the flip side? Do they say anything about the most respected jobs? Radio show host maybe? Disc jockeys?
- A: No, I'm afraid not, despite your own dazzling performance Steve, I think you're going to have to content yourself with not being one of the baddies ... no, the most respected professionals are members of the armed forces, followed by rescue workers, nurses, vets, teachers, ambulance drivers and firefighters.
- S: Hum, just as it should be. Right, all interesting stuff, thanks Amanda. If you've got any comments please drop us a line on somethingtosay@radiotn.com And now for a quick look at the weather. Chris, what have you got in store for us today?

10B Listening exercises 1 & 2

2.20

W = Woman M = Man

- W: An extraordinary thing happened at work today.
- M: What? Moira turned up on time for once?
- W: No - she was the usual fifteen minutes late!
- M: So what happened then?
- W: Well, a few weeks ago, I was giving Moira a hand going through the clothes from the recycling bin as usual, and there was this black leather coat, a man's one, and it was quite nice, much nicer than most of the stuff we get, and Moira said she thought we could probably get three or four hundred pounds for it, so we put it in the window, and, you'll never guess what.
- M: What?
- W: Well, we sold it the same day, after only a couple of hours as a matter of fact, this woman came in, and she said she'd seen it in the window and without asking how

much it was or anything, she said she'd give us five hundred pounds for it.

M: Five hundred quid. That's all right, innit?

W: Yes, not bad at all - but that's not the funny bit about it.

M: Oh? So?

W: Well, the thing is, the next day, this man walked in - smart, good-looking, expensive suit ...

M: Just Moira's type!

W: A City type, merchant banker or something, but he seemed all embarrassed, he sort of gave the impression that he'd rather be anywhere in the world than there, you know, in a second-hand clothes shop. He could probably have bought the whole shop if he'd wanted to. Anyway, after a minute or two, he came up to us and asked if we had any black leather coats. So Moira told him that we'd sold a really nice one just the day before, but we didn't have any others. So then he asked us if we could describe the coat, which we did, and his face sort of lit up. 'That's my coat!' he said.

M: So why had he given it away?

W: Well, Moira asked him the same question. She, she fancied him a bit actually, well, actually, more than a bit, you know Moira, and the man explained that his girlfriend - his ex-girlfriend - had put the coat, which was his favourite coat, in the recycling bin after they'd had an argument. And now he wanted to know if there was any way to get it back. So Moira took his phone number and said she'd give him a call if she saw the woman who bought it again.

M: You're not going to tell me that Moira and this man are, um, ...

W: Hang on, I'm getting to it. Give me a second. Anyway, so, this was, what, I don't know a week or two ago, and we never saw the woman again, and then this morning, me and Moira were going through a new pile of stuff from the recycling bin and Moira was saying how she'd been thinking about the man, the one who wanted his coat back, and how, maybe, she might give him a call, anyway, you know, just to say that we hadn't seen the woman, but then, there, at the bottom of the pile of stuff, there it was.

M: What? The black coat?

W: Yes.

M: The same one?

W: Yes, there it was. The very same black coat. Moira was on the phone in a flash and she told him that we'd found his coat, and that, if he wanted, she'd take it round to him.

M: And did she?

W: Well, yes, I think so, I mean, that's what she said she was going to do ... but I haven't heard from her since lunchtime, because, erm, so we gave the coat a quick clean, got rid of the fluff and stuff, and then I felt that there was something in one of the pockets. There was this envelope and when we opened it - inside there was two thousand pounds in twenty pound notes. Two thousand. Can you imagine? That's more than we make in a week. So then Moira said we, she said it was a bit

risky having that much money in the shop and that she'd take it to the bank on the way to meeting the coat man. I haven't seen her since.

M: What do you mean you haven't seen her since? Wasn't she supposed to come back to the shop?

W: Yes, but well, it wasn't that busy and you ... they might have got talking or whatever, you know ... but anyway, that's not the end of the story, because later on this afternoon, another man came into the shop, and he came straight up to the counter and asked me if we had a black leather coat. I just shook my head and said sorry, no, and he started to give me this long explanation about how his wife had given him this coat, but he really didn't like it and the smell of the leather gave him a headache, bla, bla, bla, so he told her, his wife that it had been stolen from his office, but, in fact, he'd put it in the recycling bin. But then he realized that he'd left some money in the pocket and that's why he wanted to get the coat back.

M: So did you tell him?

W: No, no I didn't ... I took his number and said I'd call him if his coat turned up.

M: But what about the money? I mean, it's his, isn't it? He must be worried sick ...

W: I know, I know, but I was waiting to see what Moira thought. Oh, that must be her now. Hello? Moira?

10D Listening exercises 1, 2 & 3

2.21

I = Interviewer A = Annette

- I: Hello, come in, please sit down.
- A: Thank you.
- I: So, erm ... Annette? Can you tell us something about your work experience to date?
- A: Erm, yes, well, I've been working in the communications sector since I left university. To start with, I worked as a volunteer at a local radio station, covering local news and human interest stories. More recently I've been working as a press officer for a local homeless charity. Um, the job involves attending conferences, giving talks and, most importantly, taking part in the grassroots work of the charity, on the street, coordinating the work of the volunteers and setting up self help groups for the homeless people we work with.
- I: I see, and why are you interested in the post of Communications Coordinator?
- A: Um, well, for several reasons. First of all because it would be the logical next step in my career. In my current job I write press releases for the local press and liaise with local volunteers to develop stories and case studies and I think this post would give me the chance to develop my skills in this area. Um, secondly because I want to keep working in the non-profit sector and I'm particularly interested in the grassroots development work, you know facilitating the local projects, and coordinating the work of the local volunteers. That's an area that I would really like to learn more

11D Listening exercises 1 & 2

2.27

P = Presenter S = Sophie

- P: Hello and welcome to *Talking Pictures*. Today we've got Sophie Matthews in the studio with us. Sophie's a veteran location scout and she's going to let us in on some of the secrets of location hunting. Sophie, what exactly is a location scout?
- S: Well, a location scout is someone who, as the name suggests, finds locations – for films, TV programmes or adverts. And it could be any kind of location: a street, a building, a historic setting, or a particular kind of landscape.
- P: What kind of work do you usually do?
- S: All sorts, I mean it very much depends on the kind of project you're working on. When I was starting out I used to do all sorts – and I used to work as a location manager as well – but that side of the job is just so stressful.
- P: What's the difference?
- S: Well, a scout finds the locations, and a manager makes sure the filming can happen.
- P: Ah ha.
- S: Yeah, you know, finds out who owns the location, gets permission to film there, finds accommodation for everyone, even makes the tea and sandwiches if necessary! It was fine to start with, I mean, I really enjoyed the buzz of it all, you know, meeting the stars and all that, but there's always so much to do and so little time to do it – it's such hard work and everything has to be done so quickly! It gets really exhausting. Now I just do the scouting – the fun bit!
- P: And what kind of locations do you scout for?
- S: I still do all kinds, but I particularly enjoy hunting out natural landscapes.
- P: And what exactly does that involve? A lot of travelling I imagine?
- S: Yes, it does and I really love the travelling. But I also do a lot of the research work from home – surfing the internet, watching travel documentaries, reading photography journals and travel magazines and then once I've got some clear ideas, I start travelling.
- P: Do you work on your own?
- S: Yeah, usually, just me and my camera. I get as much footage as I can of the locations I'm interested in and then take them back to see if they match the image in the director's head. That is definitely the most difficult thing to do. I mean, the script might just say 'rolling green hills' so off you go looking for rolling green hills. You reckon you've found exactly what the director wants, a wide green valley surrounded by wooded hills, and when you take the photos back to the studio, they say, 'where are the corn fields?' or 'I wanted some mountain peaks in the background' and then it's back to the drawing board.
- P: So what are you working on at the moment?

- S: I'm looking at locations for a new big budget adaptation of *Gulliver's Travels*.
- P: Ah, *Gulliver's Travels*?
- S: Yeah, it's going to be an epic – it's going to cover all four voyages – which means a lot of locations to find – and just to add a bit of spice, the studios have asked for them all to be within easy reach of each other!
- P: That sounds like a tall order.
- S: Yes, it is and there are so many factors to take into account: accessibility – film needs to be sent back to the studios for processing every day, so we need to be within easy reach of an airport, accommodation – there are so many people involved in the making of the film – it can be up to 100, 150 people all told and there has to be somewhere for them all to stay. So it's best if the location is within easy reach of a sizeable town. But for a big budget movie like this, it's not too important. The main challenge for us with *Gulliver* is translating the imaginary world into a real one on the screen. It needs to be spectacular enough to make a really strong first impression but spectacular scenery tends to be well known.
- P: Though sometimes it's the film that puts the scenery on the map.
- S: Very true, take Cappadocia in Turkey for example.
- P: Yeah ...
- S: It's an incredible place – a maze of narrow valleys and gorges, full of incredible rock formations and caves. When the *Star Wars* producers first found it it was a quiet little place – now it's a buzzing tourist resort. It was a perfect location, so out of the way, so untouched by the modern world – and that's so important. There were no roads, or power lines or modern buildings in the way. And it's such an incredible place, there's nowhere else like it in the world. That's the scout's challenge: to find somewhere that looks like it only exists in the film.
- P: Like Middle Earth in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy?
- S: That's right. That's another excellent example – all the filming there was done on location in New Zealand – the director's home – and the scenery really is amazing – and so varied too.
- P: And the films have done a lot to boost the tourist industry over there too, haven't they?
- S: Yes, there are so many tour operators offering tours of Middle Earth, it's incredible.
- P: So going back to *Gulliver's Travels* then. Have you come up with anything?
- S: Yeah, we think we have, it's not totally decided yet and things could change but it's looking like it could be the Azores.
- P: The Azores? Why the Azores?
- S: For a number of reasons. First of all, the islands are so remote, so far from everywhere, it feels like a world apart already. Then they've got such a huge variety of scenery and landscapes. They've got golden beaches and gentle rolling hills,

but they've also got dramatic cliff faces and dark, dense rain forest. It's just such a magical place. And more importantly, so few people know it, I mean, so few people visit the islands that they're practically unknown. We had looked at the Canary Islands as another possibility, I mean, the Canary Islands have got the same variety of landscapes – if not more – but they're too well-known – so many people go there on holiday, and there's so much footage of the islands on holiday programmes and friends' photos that they're not such a good choice – when you're creating an imaginary world, it needs to be a world apart, the landscape needs to be out of the ordinary – something you're seeing for the first time – and we think the Azores will give us all that.

P: So, what's the next step?

S: Well, if the director goes for it, then I need to go back again, do some more detailed scouting and match places to scenes in the film, and then it'll be time for me to step back and let the location manager take over from there ... and good luck to her!

P: And what about you? Back to your armchair?

S: No, not at the moment. I haven't got any other projects pending so I'm going to do a bit of non work-related travelling.

P: Anywhere interesting?

S: Yes, the fjords of Norway.

P: Plenty of scope there for more locations ...

S: Yes, one day, you never know.

P: Well, thanks a lot for being with us today Sophie.

S: Thank you.

12A Grammar exercise 3

2.28

A priceless hoard of 3,000 Saxon coins was found yesterday as a woman was digging in her back garden. The coins had been packed into a wooden box which broke as it was being dug out of the ground. The coins are in the care of a local museum where they are being cleaned in a special laboratory. They will then be taken to the museum in York for further examination. A legal expert said that even though the coins were found on Mrs Barrett's property they could still be ruled as the property of the state.

12B Listening exercises 1 & 2

2.29

Ask most people what they know about bounty hunters and they'll probably think of a Clint Eastwood-like hero from a Hollywood cowboy movie. In the wild Wild West of Hollywood fantasy, the bounty hunter is the ultimate macho man, on the trail of a bank robber who is wanted dead or alive. If he manages to catch up with him, the bounty hunter will collect the reward money before identifying another desperado and riding off, once more, into the sunset.

In twenty-first century America, the 'dead or alive' posters have long gone, but it may come as a surprise to learn that bounty hunters are still alive and well.

If you are arrested for many crimes in the US, you can remain free, until the time of your trial, if you pay bail or a sum of money to the court. If you're too hard up to pay the money yourself, you can often borrow it from a 'bail bondsman'. When you appear in court, the money is returned, but if you don't turn up for your court appearance, you lose the money. This is where the bounty hunter comes in. If someone has borrowed money from a bail bondsman and then doesn't appear in court, the bondsman will employ a bounty hunter to find the person and get the money back.

It's an unpleasant job and one that is illegal in most countries. Bounty hunters are tough and cynical and many are ex-criminals themselves. When times are good they have money to burn, but most of their lives are spent on the breadline. It is perhaps the last job in the world where you would expect to find someone like Domino Harvey.

Domino was born in Britain. Her father, Laurence, was a well-known actor and her mother, Pauline Stone, was a model for *Vogue*. From birth, Domino wanted for nothing, living in the lap of luxury, but all the money and the glamour and the privileges could not make up for the loss of her father who died of stomach cancer when she was only four years old. Domino was suddenly worth a fortune and never needed to worry about money again. But, she was said to be a very difficult child. She was described as aggressive and ungirly, preferring to fight with the boys, rather than play with dolls. By the time she was old enough to leave school, she had already been expelled from four of them.

Domino moved into an apartment in west London and worked briefly as a DJ and she designed and sold T-shirts in a market. Friends say that she was relaxed and happy and seemed to be enjoying her life but again boredom set in and she was soon looking for new sources of excitement. It has been reported that she started a career in modelling. She certainly had the looks for it, and her mother had all the necessary contacts. She was said to have worked with the Ford modelling agency, but when questioned, none of the staff there could recall ever having come across anyone with the name of Domino Harvey. It's also believed that she took a course in acting – possibly with the intention of following in her father's footsteps. But, once again, if this is true, there is no firm evidence for it.

In 1989, she moved to the States to join her mother, but instead of joining the Hollywood jet set, she embarked on a series of adventures. She is rumoured to have worked first as a ranch hand in San Diego and then as a volunteer fire fighter on the border of Mexico. It was during this period that she took a two-week course to become a bounty hunter. The instructor on the course, Ed

Martinez, later became her partner. In their time together as bounty hunters, Domino and Ed are known to have caught more than 50 fugitives.

While she was working with Ed Martinez, chasing criminals across California and beyond, news got to journalists in the UK of a beautiful teenage model who had decided to become a bounty hunter. An interview in a Sunday newspaper came to the notice of Tony Scott, a Hollywood producer. He tracked Domino down and persuaded her to sell him her life story. He is said to have paid more than \$300,000 for it.

The film was finally released in 2005 but this was one Hollywood story that was not to have a happy ending. Domino was reported to be feeling unhappy with the way her life had been portrayed in the film. She was thinking of making a documentary to tell the real story, but her time was running out. After a lifetime of excess, she was arrested for possession of drugs. Domino had no problems organizing bail, but she never made it to court. At the age of 35, while she was under house arrest in her luxury home in the Hollywood Hills, Domino Harvey was found dead of a drug overdose.

12D Listening exercises 2 & 3

2.31

Next time you take a dollar bill out of your billfold, the chances are you won't give it a second's thought. Generally speaking, people are thinking more about the coffee they're about to buy than the dirty piece of paper money they're holding in their hand. They see dollar bills every day of their lives but never look at them. They probably don't realize that the paper in their hand isn't actually paper at all. Dollar bills are a mixture of 75% cotton and 25% linen, and if you burn a bill, you'll see that it burns in a different way from paper. That's not to say that I would recommend you begin burning the money in your hand. Burning, damaging or in any way defacing a dollar bill is a federal crime. The maximum penalty is six months in prison and the law is enforced by the American Secret Service. So look out.

Every day, the Federal Reserve prints more than 540 million dollars worth of bills. Most of them are single dollar bills and, they mostly last less than two years before they are replaced. In those two years, they can change hands hundreds of times and they can be folded eight thousand times before they begin to fall apart. If you want to know who had your dollar bill before you, you can check out a website called 'Where's George?'. Users of the site post the serial numbers of dollar bills in their possession. These serial numbers are then used to track a dollar bill from owner to owner across the country.

Regular visitors to the 'Where's George?' website sometimes specialize in particular denominations. Some folks are attracted to the rare two-dollar bill, but the best investment

is anything over 100 dollars. Big bills haven't been printed for over 50 years, and, as a rule, a ten-thousand dollar bill can be sold for more than four times its face value.

The reverse side of a dollar bill shows both sides of the Great Seal of the United States. The bald eagle is our national symbol and the thirteen stars, the thirteen arrows and the thirteen bars on the shield all represent the thirteen original colonies that declared America independent from Britain. On the other side of the seal, at the bottom of the pyramid, you can read the date 1776 in Roman numerals. 1776 – the year of the Declaration of Independence.

George Washington, whose portrait stares out at you from the middle of the bill, was, of course, the commander-in-chief of the revolutionary army that won the War of Independence and later became the country's first president.

It's easy to understand what these symbols are doing on our bills, but what is this broken pyramid and the strange eye in a triangle? It has been suggested that the pyramid and the eye are both symbols of the secret society of Freemasons. Others identify the all-seeing eye as a symbol of the Illuminati – another secret society of powerful men who are waiting for the opportunity to take control of the entire world. How did these secret societies manage to get their symbols on the Great Seal of the United States? Well, the Declaration of Independence was written by a committee of five men, but for the most part, the work was done by Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson, who became the third president of the United States, has his own portrait on the rare two-dollar bill. Jefferson, generally accepted to have been the most brilliant president this country has ever seen, was also accused of being a member of the Illuminati.

By and large, the stories that connect the symbols on the dollar bill to secret societies are more entertaining than probable. A simpler explanation for the pyramid is that it shows that the work of the country is not complete. The all-seeing eye is the Eye of Providence, or the Eye of Fortune, a symbol from ancient Egypt, and it simply means that fortune is smiling on the country. The Latin inscription *Novus Ordo Seclorum* means 'New order of the ages' and *E Pluribus Unum* above the eagle could be translated as 'From many, one'.

Whatever these things mean, just check that what you're holding in your hand is the real thing. The Treasury estimates there to be 70 million counterfeit dollars in circulation. If your bill turns out to be a fake, you can always burn it. Burning a counterfeit bill is not a crime, but check the Secret Service aren't watching you, just to be on the safe side.