

# Listening

## 1 A))

**Ben** Great party.  
**Sandra** Yes, it is.  
**Ben** Sorry...hi...my name's Ben.  
**Sandra** I'm Sandra.  
**Ben** What do you do, Sandra.  
**Sandra** I'm a nurse. How about you?  
**Ben** Me? Oh, I'm a student.  
**Sandra** A student? Really? What university do you go to?  
**Ben** Manchester. I go to Manchester University. I'm in my second year of medicine.  
**Sandra** Do you like it?  
**Ben** Yes, I do. I like it very much...  
**Ben** What do you think of the music, Sandra? Do you like it?  
**Sandra** No, not really.  
**Ben** What kind of music do you listen to?  
**Sandra** I like rock music.  
**Ben** Do you? Who's your favourite band?  
**Sandra** Muse. I really like Muse.  
**Ben** Me, too. Did you go to the concert last month?  
**Sandra** No, I didn't. Was it good?  
**Ben** Yes, it was excellent. I'm sorry you missed it.  
**Ben** Do you do any sport or exercise, Sandra?  
**Sandra** Yes, I play tennis.  
**Ben** Ah, nice. I play rugby. I'm in the university team.  
**Sandra** Are you?  
**Ben** Yes, I am. But I play tennis, too. Perhaps we can play together one day.  
**Sandra** Maybe. But I usually play with my boyfriend.  
**Ben** Your boyfriend?  
**Sandra** Yes, here he is. Wayne, this is Ben. Ben, Wayne.  
**Wayne** Hello. Nice to meet you.  
**Ben** Hi. Um, look at the time. Um, must go – some friends are waiting for me. Um, bye Sandra.  
**Sandra** Bye.

## 1 B))

**Presenter** Hello and welcome to *Love Online*. Today, we'd like you, the listeners, to call in and tell us about your experiences of online relationships. And – oh my! – that's quick! – we already have our first caller. Hello!  
**Alan** Hi, my name's Alan.  
**Presenter** Hello, Alan. Can you tell us about your experience of internet dating?  
**Alan** Yes, of course. I'm quite shy, you see, and I'm not very good at talking to girls I don't know. So one day, I registered on an online dating agency and I met Susan.  
**Presenter** And what happened?  
**Alan** We got on really well. In fact, after four months, we bought a house together. And now we've got a beautiful little boy called Sam.  
**Presenter** Congratulations, Alan! Thanks for calling. Now, I think we have another caller. Hello!  
**Kate** Hi, I'm Kate.  
**Presenter** Hello, Kate. What can you tell us about love online?  
**Kate** Well, I decided to try a dating site because I work long hours and I don't have time to meet new people.  
**Presenter** So what happened?  
**Kate** Well, I met some guys, and then I met Craig.  
**Presenter** Who's Craig?  
**Kate** Well, now, he's my husband. And we're very happy together.  
**Presenter** That's great news, Kate! It looks as if it is possible to find love online. Now, who's our next caller.  
**Paolo** Paolo.

**Presenter** Hi, Paolo. Did you marry someone you met on the internet?

**Paolo** Yes, I did, but it was the worst thing I ever did.

**Presenter** Oh. Why's that?

**Paolo** Because she didn't really love me.

**Presenter** How do you know that?

**Paolo** It was in the newspaper. There was an article about a woman who contacted men online, married them, and then left with all their money. And there was a photo of my wife next to the article, with her ex-husband.

**Presenter** Oh, I'm sorry to hear that, Paolo. And I'm afraid that's all we've got time for today. Join me next week for another edition of *Love Online*...

## 1 C))

And now for the latest news in the art world. If you're in Paris this weekend, you might like to visit the new David Hockney exhibition called *Fresh Flowers*. As the name suggests, most of the pictures depict flowers. However, these are no ordinary flower pictures, because Hockney uses his iPhone or his iPad to draw them.

Hockney started painting on his iPhone during the winter of 2008. At the time, he was staying at his home in the North of England where he has a beautiful view out of his bedroom window. One morning, he picked up his iPhone, and used his fingers to paint the sunrise. He was very pleased with the result, and started experimenting with other pictures. Now, he sends his friends a different flower picture every morning. They love it!

*Fresh Flowers* is on at the Fondation Pierre Bergé, Yves Saint Laurent in Paris until January 30th. The exhibition shows the drawings Hockney made on an iPhone, and the pictures he drew on an iPad. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday, and admission costs €5. Don't miss this show; it will be a bright moment in your day.

## 2 A))

**Speaker 1** When I was 17, I went on holiday with my parents to Brittany, in France. My parents rented a lovely house on the beach, and the weather was great. We went for a delicious meal for my birthday, but I was miserable. I wanted to be with my friends and I didn't smile once in two weeks!

**Speaker 2** A few years ago, I went to visit an old school friend, but I didn't enjoy the weekend at all. At school we got on really well, but now she has two small children so she didn't want to go out. I spent a very boring two days in her house watching TV. I don't think I'm going to visit her again.

**Speaker 3** It's really hot where we live, so we always try to go on vacation where it's cool. Last year, we booked a vacation in Sweden, but we arrived in the middle of a heat wave. It was awful because there was no air-conditioning anywhere. We just sat in cafés and argued all day. We can do that at home!

**Speaker 4** When I finished university, I went on a cruise around the Mediterranean with some friends from my course. We wanted to celebrate the end of our exams. As soon as we left the port, I started feeling seasick. I spent the whole week in bed, and I hated every minute of the cruise.

**Speaker 5** Three years ago, I broke up with my boyfriend, so I decided to go on an expensive vacation on my own to the Seychelles. Unfortunately, the travel agent didn't tell me that the islands were popular with couples on their honeymoon. Everywhere I looked, there were people holding hands and I felt very lonely.

## 2 B))

**Jenny** What shall we do this afternoon, Matt?

**Matt** I know! Let's have a look at that box of photos my aunt gave me yesterday...Here it is...Oh, look at that!

**Jenny** Who's that?

**Matt** That's my grandfather. And that's my grandmother behind him on the right. She's the one in the flowery dress. It was just after they got married, but before they had any children. My aunt told me all about this photo a few years ago.

**Jenny** So, where are they?

**Matt** Well, as you know my dad is Spanish. My grandparents lived in the centre of Madrid, and this photo was taken in the district where they lived.

**Jenny** What's going on exactly?

**Matt** Well, there's a festival there called 'La Paloma'. It takes place in the middle of August every year, and it still happens now. There are lots of stalls selling food and also stalls where you can win a prize.

**Jenny** So, what was your grandfather trying to win?

**Matt** He was trying to win a bracelet for my grandmother. He was shooting at a target on the stall and all those people were watching him.

**Jenny** Who do you know any of the other people in the photo?

**Matt** No, I don't. But I think they all lived near my grandfather.

**Jenny** Who took the photo?

**Matt** The man on the stall. The photo was included in the price. You had three chances to hit the target and you got the photo for free.

**Jenny** It's a lovely photo. I think your granddad was very good-looking!

**Matt** That's what everyone says!

## 2 C))

**Presenter** Hello, and welcome to the programme.

Today, we're looking at lucky escapes, and Nick Williams from the news desk is here to tell us some amazing stories. Nick?

**Nick** Hi Gloria. Well, my first story is about a tourist who fell into a volcano. Maureen Evason was walking at the top of the Teide volcano in Tenerife, when she tripped and fell. She fell 27 metres until she hit a tree, which stopped her fall and saved her life. The rescue operation took nearly four hours, and after that Maureen spent two months in hospital before she could go home.

**Presenter** Lucky Maureen! What else have you got for us?

**Nick** Joseph Rabadue had a lucky escape when he was at home watching TV. Joseph was sitting on the floor, so his dad told him to go and sit on the sofa. Five minutes later, a lorry crashed into their living room, and threw the family television into the air. The TV then landed on the exact spot where Joseph had been on the floor before.

**Presenter** What a lucky escape! Do you have any more?

**Nick** Yes, just one more for now. One Saturday morning, Barry McRoy was leaving a café when two men came in. The men were fighting, and one of them had a gun. The man fired, and the bullet hit Barry in the chest. Luckily, he had a DVD in the pocket of his jacket at the time, and the DVD stopped the bullet. Barry McRoy is a very lucky man.

**Presenter** Absolutely! So, now it's time for you, the listeners, to call in and tell us about your own experiences. And here's our first caller.

### 3 A))

#### Dialogue 1

Woman John!

Man Hi, Jane. You look well.

Woman You, too. How was your flight?

Man We took off a bit late, but it was fine.

Woman 1 Are you hungry?

Man 1 No, I had a sandwich on the plane.

Woman 1 Well, let's go and find the car. It isn't far.

Man 1 Great!

#### Dialogue 2

Ground staff Hello. Where are you flying to?

Passenger To Bristol.

Ground staff Can I see your passport, please?

Passenger Here you are.

Ground staff Thanks. Can I see your hand luggage?

Passenger Yes, just this bag.

Ground staff OK. Here's your boarding pass. The flight is boarding at 16.50 from Gate B28. You're in Group B.

Passenger Thanks a lot.

Ground staff Enjoy your flight.

#### Dialogue 3

Immigration Officer Can I see your passport please, sir?

Passenger Here you are.

Immigration Officer What is the purpose of your visit, Mr Green?

Passenger I'm going to stay with a friend.

Immigration Officer And how long are you going to stay in San Francisco?

Passenger For three weeks.

Immigration Officer Can I have a contact telephone number, please?

Passenger Yes. My friend's number is 415 673 702.

Immigration Officer Thank you, Mr Green. Enjoy your stay.

#### Dialogue 4

Woman 2 Look! There's a grey case. Is it ours?

Man 2 No, it's too big. Ours is much smaller.

Woman 2 It's taking a long time to come out...

Man 2 Yes. The first one came out really quickly.

Woman 2 Look! There it is! At last!

Man 2 You stay here with the other bags. I'm going to get it.

Woman 2 OK. I'll wait for you here.

#### Dialogue 5

Customs Officer Excuse me, madam. Can you come this way, please?

Passenger Yes, of course.

Customs Officer Have you got anything to declare?

Passenger No, I don't think so. I bought some chocolate in the Duty Free Shop, but that's all.

Customs Officer Can I check your bag, please?

Passenger Sure. Go ahead.

Customs Officer OK...That's fine. You can go on through.

Passenger Thank you.

### 3 B))

Chris Hi, Dawn. I hear you're going to be on holiday next week.

Dawn Yes, I am. And I'm really looking forward to it.

Chris What are you going to do?

Dawn I'm going Interrailing with a friend.

Chris Interrailing? I did that when I was a student. I travelled around Europe with very little money, not much food, and no sleep. It was fun, but I don't want to do it again.

Dawn Ah, but you see Interrailing as an adult is very different.

Chris Really? In what way?

Dawn Well, you can travel first class now, and you don't have to go for a whole month.

Chris How long are you going for?

Dawn I wanted to go for two weeks, but work's so busy at the moment... so just a week.

Chris And which countries are you visiting?

Dawn Italy and France. We're starting in Venice, then we're going to Verona, and then Milan. We're stopping off in Paris on the way back, because I want to visit the Louvre.

Chris What about sleeping arrangements? Are you sleeping on the train like all the students do?

Dawn No, only on the night train from Paris to Venice. We have a two-bed sleeping compartment. And we're having dinner in the dining car of the train. Apart from that, we're sleeping in hotels. They're already booked.

Chris Well, it sounds like a different kind of trip to the one we went on as students.

Dawn Absolutely. It's going to be different, but I'm sure we're going to have lots of fun.

### 3 C))

Presenter Hello and welcome to *The World of Words*.

Today, we're going to look at word games, so let's start with the most popular of them all: *Scrabble*. Ricky Jones from the National Scrabble Association is here to tell us all about it. Ricky, who actually invented the game?

Ricky Well, it was an American called Alfred Moshier Butts. Butts was an unemployed architect, and in his free time he did a lot of crosswords. These crosswords gave him the idea for a game which he called *Lexico*. The game had the same letter tiles as *Scrabble*, but no board. Players used the letter tiles to make words. They scored by adding up the points on each of the letter tiles. Later, Butts introduced a board, and a set of rules and changed the name to *Crisis-Cross Words*.

Presenter How did Butts decide how many points to give each letter?

Ricky He counted how many times each letter appeared on the front page of the *New York Times*. Then, depending on the frequency of each letter, he gave it between one and ten points. The most common letters, like the vowels, got only one point because they are easier to use. There are more of these letters in the game. There was only one tile for each of the least common letters, for example Q and Z, which got ten points.

Presenter So, when did Butts' original game become the modern game of *Scrabble*?

Ricky Well, in 1948, Butts met a businessman called James Brunot, who designed a new board and changed the name of the game to *Scrabble*. Then in 1952, the president of Macy's, the famous New York department store, discovered the game on holiday, and loved it so much he placed a large order. Butts and Brunot knew they couldn't produce enough *Scrabble* sets for Macy's, and so they sold the rights to the game to another manufacturer. Today, *Scrabble* is sold in 121 countries in 29 different languages.

Presenter What a story, Ricky! Thank you for sharing it with us.

Ricky My pleasure.

### 4 A))

Speaker 1 Housework? Me? No, that's my mum's job. She only goes to work two days a week, so she has enough time to cook and clean and things like that. I go to school and then I see my friends, so I'm too busy to do housework. My dad goes out to work every day, so he doesn't have time either.

Speaker 2 Well, I try and help my mum when I can. I make my bed when I get up in the morning and I always lay the table for dinner. I usually tidy my room, but my mum is the one that cleans it. Apart from that, I'm not at home very much, so I don't do anything else.

Speaker 3 Oh yes, everyone in my family helps with the housework. There are four of us and we're all very busy. During the week, my mum or my dad cook the dinner, and my brother and I do the washing up. We do the cleaning together on Saturday mornings.

Speaker 4 It's true - I don't do much housework, but I love cooking. I don't have time to cook during the week, but I do all the cooking at the weekends. My mum does all the cleaning, though. She says she doesn't mind it.

Speaker 5 We have a cleaning lady who comes in every day and she does all our housework. She makes the beds, cleans the floors, and tidies our rooms - she even does the ironing! I'm not sure who does the shopping, but the fridge is always full. That's the important thing!

### 4 B))

Presenter Those listeners who enjoy going shopping will be interested to hear our next news story. It's taken six years and 1.45 billion pounds to build, but at last the Westfield shopping centre has opened in Stratford, in East London. We sent our reporter, Juliet Redditch, over to take a look at what is now Europe's largest urban shopping centre. Juliet, what's it like in Westfield right now?

Juliet Well, Terry, there are crowds of people everywhere, especially outside the stores which have special opening offers. Some shops have called security staff to help them control the queues.

Presenter Just how big is Westfield, Juliet?

Juliet Oh, it's really very big! There are two enormous department stores, a huge supermarket, and 300 smaller shops. You can spend all day here if you want to. I haven't decided where I'm going to have lunch, but there are 70 different places to eat - it's amazing!

Presenter What effect has the shopping centre had on the local area, Juliet?

Juliet Well, this is an area where there are many people out of work. The shopping centre has created 10,000 new jobs, so it has really helped.

Presenter How did you get to Westfield today?

Juliet I came by car. There's an enormous car park with space for 5,000 cars. But you can also get here by bus, train, and by the underground - it's the best connected shopping centre in the country.

Presenter Now, Juliet, the big question is... have you bought anything yet?

Juliet No, I haven't. I was just looking around, really. I saw some trousers I liked, but I didn't buy them. There were too many people in the changing rooms to try them on!

Presenter OK, thanks Juliet, and now onto a news story of a different kind...

### 4 C))

Speaker 1 Last weekend was really awful. My boyfriend and I went camping in the Lake District with some friends, and it rained the whole time. It was really depressing. We had to stay in the tent and play cards all day, which was OK to begin with, but then my boyfriend got bored. He started complaining about the weather, then about our friends, and finally about me! We had a terrible argument, and in the end we came home on Saturday night. I'm never going camping again!

Speaker 2 My weekend was fantastic. I took my wife to Paris, which is somewhere she has wanted to visit her whole life. We stayed in a wonderful hotel, in a beautiful old building overlooking the river. The view was incredible. We ate some really great food, and although it was quite cold, we had a very nice walk around the city. The best bit was that it was a surprise for my wife: I met her after work on Friday and we drove straight to the airport. She had no idea where we were going!

Speaker 3 I haven't got much money at the moment, so I didn't do anything special this weekend. But actually I had a really good time! I visited a local museum with some friends. All the museums here are free, and they have some interesting exhibitions about places like Egypt, Rome, and India. We then watched two of my favourite DVDs on Saturday night, and on Sunday I invited my parents to my flat and I cooked dinner for them. Not a bad weekend, really.

Speaker 4 My brother and his wife stayed with us this weekend. They have three children, and we spent the whole time playing with them. We took them swimming, we went to the zoo, and on Sunday we

went to the park. They have so much energy! And they're really noisy – especially in the morning when they wake up, which is usually around 6 o'clock. I was completely exhausted by Sunday night, but it was lovely to see them.

### 5 A))

**Speaker 1** Well, I haven't been here long, so I haven't had time to make many friends yet. After I get home from work, I spend most of the evening online chatting with friends and family back home. Twice a week, I have classes to try and learn the language. Most of my colleagues speak really good English, but I haven't been out with them yet.

**Speaker 2** I guess you could say I'm a bit depressed at the moment. Time goes really slowly when you've got nothing to do. I spend more time sleeping now, and I have a lot of time to do the housework. It doesn't take all day to make the bed and clean my room, so I get quite bored. I hope I find another job soon because I really need the money.

**Speaker 3** My life has changed a lot now that I don't have to leave the house to go to work. Things aren't so stressful first thing in the morning now. I just get up, make a cup of tea, and switch on my computer. It's strange communicating with colleagues online and not seeing them face-to-face. Sometimes it gets a bit lonely.

**Speaker 4** Oh no, I never get bored. There's always so much to do! I like to get up early and read the newspaper while I'm having breakfast. Then I like to go for a walk and do a bit of shopping. After lunch, I go and pick up my grandchildren from school. We spend an hour in the park until their mum comes to get them. I'm really enjoying life right now.

**Speaker 5** This is the best thing that has ever happened to me! She's so beautiful that I seem to spend all day looking at her! I don't have time to see friends now, so I keep in touch with everybody by phone or online when she's asleep. We go shopping together and I do more housework and cooking, but I don't get much sleep anymore!

### 5 B))

**Presenter** Hello and welcome to *The Travel Programme*. Now, one of the most popular tourist destinations these days is the Republic of Croatia in the Balkans. Paula Wilcox from the National Tourist Board is here to tell us all about it. Paula, what's so special about Croatia?

**Paula** Oh, there's just so much to see and do there. First of all, there are historic cities like Zagreb – the capital – and Dubrovnik to visit.

**Presenter** Let's start with Zagreb. What is there to see there?

**Paula** Well, Zagreb is in the north of the country on the River Sava. It's both an old city and a modern one at the same time. There are lots of elegant restaurants and fashionable shops there, and the city has lots of museums – the most important one is the Archaeological Museum.

**Presenter** What about Dubrovnik?

**Paula** Dubrovnik is much smaller than Zagreb – the population is only about 43,000. It's in the south of Croatia on the Adriatic coast. Inside the old city walls there are palaces, churches, and a Baroque cathedral to visit. In my opinion, Dubrovnik is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

**Presenter** Apart from the cities, what else would you recommend?

**Paula** The beaches and the islands. There are wonderful beaches on the Adriatic Sea – Croatia's coast is very long – and it has more than a thousand islands.

**Presenter** How can you get to the islands?

**Paula** Well, the best place to get a ferry is Split, another city on the coast which is larger than Dubrovnik, but also has some wonderful monuments. There are a number of ferries, which take you to many different islands, where you can do water sports or just relax on the beach.

**Presenter** So, when is the best time to visit Croatia, Paula?

**Paula** The main tourist areas are very crowded in July and August, so it's better to go in May or June, when it isn't as busy.

**Presenter** Thank you for that, Paula. Croatia certainly sounds like a very interesting holiday destination. Now, let's look at a different type of holiday ...

### 5 C))

**Dave** Hey Alice. Let's do this quiz. It says you can find out your body age.

**Alice** Body age? OK.

**Dave** You first. So...we start with your real age, which is 35...

**Alice** Don't tell everyone.

**Dave** Sorry...then we add or subtract years depending on your answers to the questions. Got that?

**Alice** Yes.

**Dave** Right. First question. How much do you walk a day?

**Alice** Well, I always go for a walk at lunch time. So ... quite a lot.

**Dave** Quite a lot. OK, so we subtract one year, which leaves us with 34. Next question. How much sport and exercise do you do?

**Alice** Oh I hate sport. And I don't do any exercise. I guess that means none.

**Dave** No sport or exercise. Add two years. That makes 36. How much fast food do you eat?

**Alice** None. I don't eat any.

**Dave** Great! Subtract a year. We're back on 35 again. How many portions of fruit and vegetables do you eat?

**Alice** A lot. I have more than five every day.

**Dave** A lot. Subtract two years. That's 33. Next one. How would you describe yourself mentally?

**Alice** Um, what do you mean?

**Dave** Well, are you a positive person, or a negative person?

**Alice** Oh, right. Um, I think I'm a very positive person.

**Dave** OK. Subtract three years... Now you're on 30. Next question. How would you describe your stress level?

**Alice** Mmm, I would say I'm a little stressed...but it's under control.

**Dave** OK, so we don't have to add or subtract anything. You're still on 30. How many close friends do you see regularly?

**Alice** Mmm. A few. I don't have much time.

**Dave** Right...we don't add or subtract anything again. Last question. How much time do you have for yourself?

**Alice** Not enough. I'm always really busy.

**Dave** Add a year...That makes 31. Which means that you are 35 but your body is only 31. What do you think of that?

**Alice** 31? That's great news! Now it's your turn...

### 6 A))

**Matt** What are you reading?

**Amy** Nothing. Just my horoscope.

**Matt** Really? What star sign are you?

**Amy** Virgo. My birthday's on September 15th.

**Matt** So, what does it say?

**Amy** It says that people will talk about me next week because of something I've done.

**Matt** But you don't really believe that, do you?

**Amy** Well, actually I do. Because I have done something that will make people talk about me.

**Matt** Oh. What have you done?

**Amy** I sent an email to my boss yesterday complaining about my new colleague. She's really lazy and she never does any work.

**Matt** Did you?

**Amy** Yes. So my boss will ask the other people in my office about this new person and he'll probably ask about me, too. So, my horoscope is right. People will definitely talk about me next week.

**Matt** Well, don't worry about it. I'm sure everything will be alright.

**Amy** I hope so.

**Matt** Anyway, what about me? What does my horoscope say?

**Amy** Let me have a look. Your birthday's January 5th, so that makes you...Capricorn.

**Matt** That's right...So, what does it say?

**Amy** It says...oh! Listen to this! It says you'll be lucky with money next week.

**Matt** Really? Perhaps I should go out and buy a lottery ticket!

**Amy** No, wait a minute. Let's think about this. You've got a meeting with your boss tomorrow, haven't you?

**Matt** Yes. Why?

**Amy** Perhaps she'll give you a pay rise!

**Matt** Oh, Amy! Really! You're taking this far too seriously! I don't believe a word of it!

**Amy** Well, I do. I think your boss will put up your salary tomorrow. Perhaps she'll offer you a better job!

**Matt** Amy, you're being far too optimistic. It's only a horoscope, for goodness' sake!

### 6 B))

**Speaker 1** I was on holiday, and I was looking round a famous palace, when a man came up to me and asked me to take a photo of him. He gave me his camera, but it wasn't working properly. When I gave it back to him, he dropped it on the floor and it broke. I picked it up and went to give it to the man, but he was gone. Then I discovered my wallet was missing.

**Speaker 2** When I went abroad last year for a business trip, I didn't have time to get any local money before I left. So after I landed, I went straight to the bank to get three hundred euros. I was in a hurry because I had a train to catch. The cashier slowly counted out the notes and when he stopped, I picked them up. When I got to the train station I realized later that I only had a hundred euros.

**Speaker 3** When we were on holiday, two men knocked on the door of our apartment. They were wearing uniforms and they said they were police inspectors. One of them came in to look around while the other stayed by the door. Unfortunately, while we were talking to the first man, the second man took our wallets and cameras from the bedroom.

**Speaker 4** I was having a problem using the ticket machine in the metro, when someone came up to help me. He told me how much money I needed and then offered to put it in the machine for me. I counted out the money, but he said it wasn't enough. I gave him some more money and I got my ticket. Unfortunately, I paid ten times the price for it!

**Speaker 5** I was waiting at a bus stop, when this beautiful woman came up to me. We got chatting, and she invited me to go to a club with her. We had a few drinks together and then the waiter brought me an incredibly expensive bill. I started to complain but then I noticed four big men at the door who were looking at me. Of course I paid the bill.

### 6 C))

**Presenter** Hello and welcome to the programme. Do you ever have the same dream night after night? These dreams are called 'recurring dreams', and psychologist Dr William Harris is in the studio today to tell us all about them. Good morning, Dr Harris.

**Dr Harris** Hello.

**Presenter** Dr Harris, which is the most common recurring dream?

**Dr Harris** Well, top of the list is the dream where someone or something is running after you. Either it's a person or a dangerous animal, like a bull or a lion. The dream means that there is something in your life that you don't want to face. It can be a feeling, a conflict or a memory, for example, but whatever it is, it's something that you don't want to deal with.

**Presenter** Right. What's the next dream on the list?

**Dr Harris** It's the one where you are falling for what seems like a very long time. Falling is a definite sign

that you are out of control. You have lost direction in your life and you don't know what to do.

**Presenter** Yes, I've had that dream before. Not recently, though. Anyway, what other recurring dreams are there?

**Dr Harris** This is another fairly common dream.

You're trying to get somewhere but you get lost on the way, and you don't know where you are. People often have this dream when they're going through a period of change. It shows that they don't want to accept the new situation.

**Presenter** OK, Dr Harris. Have you got any more recurring dreams for us?

**Dr Harris** Yes, there are two. The first dream is a good one. Some people have a recurring dream that they are flying through the air. They are enjoying it, and enjoying looking down on the world below. This shows that they are feeling free, possibly because they have solved a problem they had, or they have escaped from a difficult situation in their life.

**Presenter** And the last dream?

**Dr Harris** This one isn't so good. It's a feeling of being trapped. Maybe you are in a lift that is trapped between floors and you can't get out. This dream means that there is something in your life that is making you feel unhappy, and you feel that you cannot change it.

**Presenter** Dr Harris, that was very interesting. Thank you for talking to us.

**Dr Harris** You're welcome.

### 7 A))

**Dave** Oh, that's ridiculous!

**Jane** What is it?

**Dave** They've decided to ban jokes about mothers-in-law!

**Jane** Who has?

**Dave** The council, of all people. They've written a leaflet for workers who have to deal with the public, and it says that mother-in-law jokes are 'offensive'.

**Jane** Well, I suppose they are, really. I mean, there are a lot of mothers-in-law out there, and the jokes are about them.

**Dave** No, but it's just a bit of fun, isn't it? I mean, I think it's really important to have a sense of humour. It's good for you – it makes you feel better.

**Jane** That's easy for you to say, isn't it? You're a man, so you'll never be a mother-in-law. I will, one day.

**Dave** Yes, but you won't be my mother-in-law, will you? Sorry, I was only joking!

**Jane** Ha ha... Does it say anything else about the jokes?

**Dave** Yes. It says they show 'disrespect for parents'.

**Jane** OK. Well, maybe they do. Young people are healthy, fit, and attractive. It's easy for them to laugh at older people, don't you think?

**Dave** Oh, come on! These jokes about mothers-in-law have been around since Roman times.

**Jane** Where did you get that idea from?

**Dave** It says here that there's a Roman writer called – hang on a minute – called 'Juvenal' who said in the first century A.D. – wait, listen to this – 'it's impossible to be happy when one's mother-in-law is still alive'. Ha ha! That's classic!

**Jane** Um.

**Dave** And all the best comedians tell jokes about mothers-in-law, too. I think they're funny.

**Jane** Like I said, that's because you're a man. And the comedians you're talking about are also men. It's just another example of the sexist world we live in. I mean, there aren't many jokes about fathers-in-law, are there?

**Dave** Oh, for goodness' sake!

### 7 B))

**Speaker** I like singing while I'm having a shower. The bathroom is a great place to sing because nobody can hear you – at least, I hope nobody can hear, because I sing really loudly! I usually sing very old classic songs, which I'd never sing in public!

**Speaker 2** I always feel like singing when I'm alone in my car on a summer's day. I turn up the radio, open

the window, and sing along to whatever comes on. I don't do this in the middle of town, of course; only if I'm driving through the country, but I must say I find it really relaxing.

**Speaker 3** I've always really enjoyed singing with the kids I teach – I'm a primary school teacher. Young children love singing, and they like it even more if the songs have actions. It's amazing how much they learn from songs – there are alphabet songs, counting songs, and all sorts. We always have lots of fun when we're singing together.

**Speaker 4** Actually, I can't sing very well at all, so I'm always really embarrassed if I have to sing in public. When I was at secondary school, I had to be in the school choir, but I never actually sang. I just mouthed the words and pretended to sing.

**Speaker 5** When I'm out with my friends, we sometimes go to a karaoke in the centre of town. It's one of my favourite places, as we always have a good time. We spend most of the evening singing together and nobody seems to mind if we do it badly. In fact, it's better if we do sing badly as it makes everybody laugh.

### 7 C))

**Presenter** ...And here's some good news for one of the world's endangered languages. There are nearly six thousand languages in the world today, and experts say that nearly half of them are dying out. That means that around three thousand languages will disappear in the next century or so. One language in danger of dying out is the Cherokee language, spoken by the Cherokee people of North America. Or at least it was in danger until the leaders of the tribe decided to do something about it. They got worried when they realized that only 8,000 of the 290,000 Cherokee people in the world today actually spoke the language and they came up with a plan. They got in touch with the electronics company, Apple, and asked them to include Cherokee on the official list of languages used on their products.

At first, it seemed impossible that Apple would take any notice of the Cherokee, as their products already had fifty languages on them. The big surprise came in September 2006, when the Apple iOS 4.1 operating system was released with Cherokee on the official list of languages. Since then, the Cherokee people have been able to use their language on all Mac computers, iPhones, the iPod touch, and the iPad. These devices were popular with the younger members of the tribe from the start, but now the older members are taking an interest, too – especially those who use mobile phones. So, it looks as if the Cherokee language won't die out just yet after all. And if the language stays alive, the culture will stay alive, too, something that the leaders of the tribe will be very happy about.

### 8 A))

**Speaker 1** I don't usually talk about my problems, but if something's going wrong, I sometimes mention it to Phil. He's on my basketball team, and we get along OK. In fact, he's the one who introduced me to the girl I'm dating at the moment.

**Speaker 2** The person who I talk to most is my sister. We don't look like each other at all, but we both have very similar personalities. She's a really good listener, and she always gives me good advice. She sometimes tells me her problems too, and I try to help her.

**Speaker 3** My friend Jenny is on my course at university, and I tell her absolutely everything. We're quite different, which means we often think in different ways. Sometimes we argue, but we're never angry with each other for long – just until one of us apologizes.

**Speaker 4** The person who understands me most is my friend John, who lives next door. We've grown up together, so he knows me very well. My main problem at the moment is my job, which I hate. John thinks I should look for a new one, and he's probably right.

**Speaker 5** My gran lives with us, and I spend a lot of time talking to her. Although she's older than me, she's

always interested in what I have to say. We've got quite a lot in common, and some things that have happened to me also happened to her when she was young.

### 8 B))

**Presenter** Now, everyone loves travelling, and we all enjoy telling stories about the places we've been to.

But what happens if there's an earthquake while you're away? Travel expert, Monica Fields, is here in the studio with us today to give us some tips on what to do in a natural disaster. First of all, Monica, is it possible to avoid them?

**Monica** Well, no, actually, it isn't. Nobody really knows exactly when a disaster like a forest fire or a blizzard will happen, so you can't really avoid them. What you can do, however, is be prepared.

**Presenter** How can you do that?

**Monica** Well, first of all, if you plan to visit a region where there are natural disasters at certain times of the year, try not to go at that time. For example, there are often bad storms, hurricanes, or cyclones in the Caribbean in May and June, so don't go there then.

**Presenter** That sounds sensible. What else can you do?

**Monica** It's really important to buy travel insurance before you go. This will pay for extra nights in a hotel, for example, if you can't fly home and have to stay in your resort longer than you had planned. I never understand why some people don't take out travel insurance.

**Presenter** Right. So, what should you do if a natural disaster actually happens while you're abroad?

**Monica** The first thing you should do is to stay calm and be patient.

**Presenter** That sounds easy, Monica, but natural disasters can be very frightening, can't they?

**Monica** Yes, of course, but if you panic, things will only get worse. Secondly, you need to contact your family and friends at home as soon as possible. If they hear about the disaster on the news, they'll be incredibly worried.

**Presenter** Yes, I can see that. What else should you do?

**Monica** Well, it's always a good idea to know what your airline will do if there's a natural disaster. If you are flying to a country where natural disasters are frequent, you should ask your airline when you book your ticket if they will change your ticket if you need to leave the country quickly, or if you have to stay longer because there is a natural disaster.

**Presenter** Thank you for joining us, Monica, and thanks for your useful advice.

### 8 C))

**Ewan** Did you watch TV last night, Helen?

**Helen** No, I didn't. What was on?

**Ewan** There was a really interesting cooking programme on after dinner.

**Helen** Was there? What made it so good?

**Ewan** Well, it was a sort of experiment, really. They were trying to answer the question: do men and women cook differently?

**Helen** Really? So what did they do to try to find the answer?

**Ewan** They invited a male cook and a female cook to prepare five different courses of a meal. Both cooks had to use the same main ingredient for each course, but they didn't have to make the same dish. Then, they served the dishes to a panel of judges, who tasted them, and decided if they were made by the man or the woman.

**Helen** Who were the judges?

**Ewan** Well, there were two men and two women. They were all food experts – either chefs themselves or restaurant critics.

**Helen** What about the cooks? Were they professionals, too?

**Ewan** Yes. They were from two of the best restaurants in the country.

**Helen** And what sort of things did they cook?

**Ewan** All kinds of things really, but the only ones I remember are a meat dish with garlic and a bright pink dessert.

**Helen** What was so special about those two dishes?  
**Ewan** I remember them because the judges had real problems in deciding if they were made by the male chef or the female chef. In the end, they all got it wrong!  
**Helen** So, did they manage to answer the question, then? Do men cook differently from women?  
**Ewan** Not really. The only conclusion they came to was that it was impossible to tell if a particular dish was made by a man or a woman. That's all, really.  
**Helen** So, it was a bit of a waste of time then, really.  
**Ewan** No, it wasn't! I really enjoyed the programme, even if they didn't answer the question!

### 9 A))

**Newsreader** And our final story on tonight's programme is about an Australian diver who has survived a shark attack. 46-year-old Eric Nerhus was fishing off the coast of Cape Howe, New South Wales, when a great white shark attacked him. He was under the water at the time, and he didn't see the animal swimming towards him. Mr Nerhus's head, shoulders, and one of his arms ended up in the shark's mouth, but, fortunately, he was wearing a heavy metal vest. When the shark tried to bite the man in half, its teeth hit the vest and not his body. Mr Nerhus knew he had to do something, so he felt for the shark's eye with the hand of his other arm. When he found it, he surprised the animal by pressing his fingers into its eye. The shark reacted by opening its mouth, giving Mr Nerhus a chance to escape. Despite his injuries, Eric managed to swim up to the surface of the water. His son pulled him onto his boat, and took him quickly to the shore. Meanwhile, another friend called the emergency services. Mr Nerhus was flown to hospital by helicopter. He had deep cuts all over his body and a broken nose, but he was very lucky to be alive. Attacks by great white sharks usually result in death because of their size and strength. The shark that attacked Mr Nerhus was over three metres long.

### 9 B))

**Presenter** Hello, and welcome to the programme. Today, we've got psychologist, Dr Chris Hopper, in the studio with us to answer your questions about phobias. Hello, Chris.  
**Chris** Good morning.  
**Presenter** And our first caller is Cynthia Sharp from Dundee. What's your question, Cynthia?  
**Cynthia** Um, hello, Dr Hopper. Um, my question is actually about our son, James. He's six years old, and he had a bad experience with a dog last night.  
**Chris** I'm sorry to hear that, Cynthia. What exactly happened?  
**Cynthia** Well, we were outside a neighbour's house, and, um, I was chatting with the mum when one of their dogs ran out. It was a big dog, um, and it came running out of the house barking. James panicked, and tried to hide behind me, but the dog jumped on him and bit him. It wasn't a serious injury, but we're very worried that he'll be afraid of dogs now. We don't want him to get a phobia. What should we do?  
**Chris** Well, Cynthia, you're quite right to be worried about this incident because, cynophobia, that is, a fear of dogs, is often caused by a bad experience with a dog as a child. The best thing you can do is to give your son a positive experience with a different dog as soon as possible. If you have any friends who have a quiet and friendly dog, go and visit them. Let your son touch the dog if he wants to and don't remind him about his bad experience.  
**Presenter** That sounds like good advice, Chris. And our next caller is Marion Williams from Cardiff. Marion?

### 9 C))

**Presenter** Hello and welcome to those of you who just joined us. Continuing on our theme of celebrity families, the focus of today's programme is actress and singer, Judy Garland, and her daughter, Liza Minnelli.

Now, Judy Garland's real name was Frances Ethel Gumm, and she was born on June 10th, 1922 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Her parents ran a theatre and Judy first appeared on stage singing a Christmas song with her two older sisters when she was two years old. When she was 13, Judy joined the film company Metro Goldwyn Mayer and at the age of 16, she played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. The film was extremely successful, and she won a children's Oscar for her performance. Metro Goldwyn Mayer terminated her contract in 1950 because of her problems with alcohol and drugs. However, she continued to perform, and in 1964 she did a series of concerts at the London Palladium. In fact, it was in London where Judy Garland was found dead after she took a drug overdose in 1969. Judy got married five times and had three children. One of these children was Liza Minnelli who was 23 when her mother died.

Liza was born in Hollywood, California, on March 12th, 1946. She grew up in film studios, and, like her mother, made her first stage appearance at the age of two. She was only five when her parents got divorced. After performing successfully with her mother at the London Palladium in 1964, Liza became a professional nightclub singer. She made several albums, and later starred as a singer in the 1972 film, *Cabaret*, a role for which she won an Oscar. Despite her successful singing and acting career, Liza has had similar problems to her mother. She has been to rehab clinics several times because of her addiction to drugs and alcohol. She has also been married four times, but, unlike her mother, she never had children. Today, Liza Minnelli is in her sixties, but she still makes occasional television appearances.

### 10 A))

**Presenter** Hello, and welcome to the programme. Today we have scientist, Doug McLeod, in the studio with us. He's going to tell us about some of the everyday things we know and love that were invented by accident. Doug?  
**Doug** Hello, Janet. Well, I'm going to start with the microwave oven. In 1945, an engineer called Percy Spencer was testing some new radar equipment. He had a chocolate bar in his pocket, and while he was standing in front of the machine, it melted. After that, he also tried using the microwaves from the radar equipment to cook popcorn. Percy realized that microwaves could heat and cook food, and so the microwave oven was born.  
**Presenter** How interesting! What else have you got for us, Doug?  
**Doug** Next is something that is found in hospitals all over the world: the X-ray machine. In 1895, a German physicist called Wilhelm Roentgen was experimenting with electrical rays in a dark room. He was directing them through a glass tube covered with black paper. Suddenly, he saw a light on a screen on the wall and he realized that the rays could pass through the glass and the paper. After that, he experimented with his own hand, and found that he could see the bones. The first X-ray ever made was an image of Roentgen's wife's hand – you can even see her wedding ring!  
**Presenter** That's fascinating, Doug. We've got time for one more.  
**Doug** Many different kinds of food were discovered by accident, Janet, and I've chosen something that we call 'crisps', but Americans call 'potato chips'. These were invented by a chef called George Crum, who was working in a restaurant near Saratoga Springs, New York. A customer complained that the chips he was served were too thick. The chef was angry about this, so he fried some very thin potatoes and covered them with salt. The customer loved them, and after that 'Saratoga chips' became popular all over the USA. Eventually, they were produced for people to eat at home.  
**Presenter** That was all very fascinating, Doug. Thanks for joining us.

### 10 B))

**Tony** Amy, did you study foreign languages at secondary school?  
**Amy** Yes, I did. Actually, I used to be quite good at languages.  
**Tony** Which ones did you study?  
**Amy** Well, I did French for five years, then I did German for six years, and I studied Spanish for a year in my lunch break.  
**Tony** And how much French can you remember?  
**Amy** Not much! But I can remember my German, because I did it for my degree at Cambridge. Why all the questions, Tony?  
**Tony** Well, I've just read this article about the state of language learning in schools in the UK, and it isn't looking good. It says that adults only remember about seven words from the languages they studied at school.  
**Amy** Only seven words? That isn't very good, is it? What sort of words do they remember?  
**Tony** Common words, like *Hello, Goodbye, Please, Thank you, beer, one, two and three*, and the question *Do you speak English?*  
**Amy** So, what happens when people are abroad? Do they practise the language?  
**Tony** Not at all. In fact, the article suggests that people often choose not to go on holiday to countries where they have to worry about language problems.  
**Amy** That's probably because they're too lazy to learn a language.  
**Tony** No, it isn't that. The article says it's because they're too embarrassed to try and speak it.  
**Amy** OK. So which languages do pupils study at school today?  
**Tony** Hang on a minute, there's a list here somewhere... Here it is. It says 65% of pupils study French, 25% study German, 22% Spanish, and 2% Italian. Polish is becoming more popular, too.  
**Amy** And what are schools going to do about the problem?  
**Tony** Well, first of all, they're going to introduce language classes for children in primary schools. And then they're going to start offering languages from outside Europe, for example Mandarin Chinese and Urdu.  
**Amy** That sounds quite difficult. Anyway, Tony, which languages did you use to study at school?  
**Tony** Only French. And I was terrible at it!

### 10 C))

**Speaker 1** I made a bad decision once when I was travelling home to Plymouth from university in Manchester, a journey of nearly 450 km. The choice was going by train or by bus, and I opted for the train as it was quicker. Unfortunately, the train broke down on the way, so in the end I took two hours longer than I expected.  
**Speaker 2** The worst decision I ever made was giving my son a skateboard for his tenth birthday. On the morning of his birthday, we went down to the park to try it out. Sadly, he fell off the board as soon as he got on it, and broke his arm. We had to cancel his birthday party, and we spent the whole day in hospital instead.  
**Speaker 3** I had two interviews and both companies offered me a job. In the first job, they offered me more money, but it was a long way from where I live – an hour travelling every day. The second job was less money, but it was very near my house. In the end, I chose the second job instead, and I'm very happy I did, because last month the first company closed down.  
**Speaker 4** On one occasion, I had to decide once between a good friend of mine and a boy I really liked. I was going to a concert with my friend, and then this boy asked me to go to the cinema with him on the same night. In the end, I said no to the boy, and went to the concert with my friend. I found out later that the boy already had a girlfriend, so I think I made the right decision.  
**Speaker 5** You won't believe what happened to me! I used to play the lottery with some colleagues at work. One day, I decided that I was fed up with never

winning, so I stopped playing. My colleagues carried on without me, and just one week later, they had the winning numbers! They won a lot of money, and I didn't get any of it!

### 11A))

**Speaker 1** The worst loser I know is my mum. We often used to play cards together when I was little, and if my mum was losing, it was safer to stop playing. She was always happy when she was winning, but when she was losing, you could see her getting angrier and angrier until she exploded. Sometimes, she used to go out of the room, because she was so upset!

**Speaker 2** I once had a friend who was a bad loser at tennis. In fact, we stopped talking to each other because of a tennis match. We were about twenty at the time, and on this occasion we were arguing over a point. I said the ball was out and she said it was in. In the end, she just threw her racket into the net and left. We've never spoken since.

**Speaker 3** I have to be very careful at work when we're talking about football. I have a colleague who gets really upset when his team loses, and he hates it if you make a joke about it. I tried it once, and he just stood up, walked out, and closed the door with a bang. He didn't speak to me for days after that, so I don't think I'll try it again.

**Speaker 4** My son is a very bad loser, in fact he always has been. He's 12 now, but he still hates losing. We used to play board games together when he was little, but he always used to cry if he didn't win. I had to choose between letting him win all the time, or making him upset if I won. In the end, I stopped playing that kind of game with him.

**Speaker 5** One of the guys who plays basketball with me gets incredibly upset during games, and he spends most of the time shouting at the other players. He's a really nervous person at the best of times, but when we're losing, it really is too much. The referee throws him off the court at least twice a month, and once our coach told him to go home.

### 11B))

**Interviewer** Can I ask you about your job, Graham?

**Graham** Yes, of course. Go ahead.

**Interviewer** What time do you go to bed?

**Graham** Well, I don't often get home before six o'clock in the morning, and it usually takes me a little while to relax. It's probably about seven by the time I go to sleep.

**Interviewer** And what time do you have to get up again?

**Graham** I usually get up at one o'clock, to have lunch with my family. After that, I go back to bed again for an hour or so, until about three o'clock.

**Interviewer** Do you need an alarm clock to wake up?

**Graham** No, I never use one. I wake up the first time when my children come home from school for lunch. The second time, my wife wakes me up. That's when I get up properly.

**Interviewer** How do you feel when you wake up?

**Graham** It depends on the day, really. If I've only worked for a day or two, I'm full of energy, but if it's after the fifth or sixth night in a row, I'm absolutely exhausted. That's when I find it really hard to get out of bed.

**Interviewer** What do you do about meals, Graham?

**Graham** Well, like I said, my first meal of the day is what you would call lunch. Then, I have dinner at about midnight with some other drivers in a café. When I get home in the morning, I have something light, like a ham sandwich or some toast before I go to bed.

**Interviewer** Would you like to change your working hours, Graham?

**Graham** If I changed my working hours, I wouldn't earn as much money! There's a lot more work at night, because people go out for dinner and to the theatre or clubs, and then it's late and they need to get home, and they don't want to drive because they've usually had a drink or two. I quite enjoy my job, really, because I meet lots of interesting people.

### 11C))

**Presenter** And to finish off today's programme, we're going to take a look at some famous twins. Let's start with probably the earliest set of twins in history: Romulus and Remus. Now, the legend says that they were abandoned by their parents, because twins were thought to bring bad luck. Fortunately, they were found by a female wolf, who looked after them when they were babies. According to legend, the boys grew up, and later founded the city of Rome. After some time, they began to argue, and eventually Romulus killed Remus. As Romulus was the only brother alive, the city was called Rome after him.

Let's move on in history to the 1950s, when a set of twins called the Kray Brothers caused a lot of trouble in London's East End. Ronnie and Reggie Kray were both nightclub owners. They had expensive lifestyles, and through their nightclubs they met several American stars like Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland. However, they were also incredibly violent gangsters, and they became the leaders of organized crime in the city. They were involved in many robberies and murders, until they were eventually arrested in 1969. They were both sent to prison for life, and they both died when they were in their sixties.

On a happier note, the youngest twins ever to become famous are the Olsen twins. Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen were given the same role on the American TV series *Full House* when they were only six months old. They played the part of a little girl, and they played the same part for eight years. The producers used both sisters to play the same part, so that they didn't break the law on the number of hours a child could work. The show was very popular with American audiences. Today, the twins have grown up, and they have a fashion business.

And I'm afraid that's all we have time for. Join me, Roy Thompson, at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon for another two hours of *Thompson's Choice*. Bye for now.

### 12A))

**Newsreader** And now it's time for the news.

Police have found the 82-year-old man who went missing last Monday evening. Dennis Leighton was found in his car on the M25 motorway. He had left home on Monday morning to drive to his daughter's house, a distance of about 90 kilometres. However, Mr Leighton had got lost, and he had spent 30 hours driving round in circles trying to find the right exit. Mr Leighton had stopped at several service stations to sleep, but he then carried on driving. After being treated in hospital for hypothermia, he has finally been reunited with his family.

A tourist had a lucky escape yesterday while she was doing a bungee jump off the Victoria Falls in Zambia. Twenty-two-year-old Erin Langworthy fell into the river because her bungee rope had broken when she jumped. She landed in the water with her feet still tied to the broken rope, and then she swam to safety. Ms Langworthy was taken straight to hospital after the accident, but had no serious injuries.

A Swedish woman has found the white gold wedding ring that she lost over 16 years ago. Lena Paahlsson had taken off the ring while she was cooking with her daughters. When she went to put it back on again, it had disappeared. That is, until yesterday, when she was picking vegetables in her garden, and she found the ring around a carrot. The ring doesn't fit Mrs Paahlsson any more, but she is going to have it made bigger.

An Australian woman had a frightening experience last night, when she discovered an adult crocodile in her living room. Forty-two-year-old Jo Dodd got out of bed when she heard her dog barking. When she opened the bedroom door, she saw a crocodile in the middle of the room. Mrs Dodd woke her husband, who called the local Crocodile Management Centre, and a crocodile catcher came to take the animal away. The crocodile had escaped from a nearby crocodile farm earlier in the week.

And that's all for now. I'll be back again at 9 o'clock for the next news bulletin.

### 12B))

**Alan** Who do you think gossips more, Jess? Men or women?

**Jess** Well, I gossip quite a lot with my female colleagues at work, so I suppose that women are the biggest gossips. What do you think?

**Alan** Yes, that's what I thought too, but it says here that it's actually men who are the biggest gossips. That's what the results of this survey say, anyway.

**Jess** What survey?

**Alan** This one here in the newspaper. It says the survey was carried out by a telecommunications company. They wanted to do research into gossiping for a new service they're offering. The aim of the survey was to find out what sort of people enjoy gossiping, and how much time they spend doing it.

**Jess** So what did they find out?

**Alan** Well, they had quite a big surprise. The study showed that a fifth of the men they interviewed said they spent at least three hours a day gossiping.

**Jess** Wow! That's a lot! And where do they usually gossip?

**Alan** Most of them said they usually gossiped at work. Hang on... I can give you the exact figures. Yes, ...55 per cent of the men said they gossiped at work compared to 46 per cent of the women.

**Jess** Goodness! I didn't realize men had so much to say! Did they tell the researchers what they usually talked about?

**Alan** Yes. They said that their main topics of conversation were their women colleagues, and who in the company would get the next promotion.

**Jess** The bit about women colleagues doesn't surprise me in the least. So, what about the women in the survey? Did they say what they talked about?

**Alan** Yes, they did. They told the researchers that they talked about the problems they were having in their families. They also chatted about what was happening in their favourite TV series.

**Jess** OK. So what about you, Alan? Do you ever gossip at work?

**Alan** What? Me? No, never! I wouldn't dream of it!

### 12C))

**Speaker 1** I used to watch a quiz show called *Mastermind*. It was a very serious show, and the quizmaster was Magnus Magnusson. Each of the four contestants had to answer two rounds of questions: firstly, on their specialist subject, for example, Dickens, or the Second World War, and then on general knowledge. The thing I remember most is the quizmaster's catch phrase, 'I've started, so I'll finish.'

**Speaker 2** My favourite quiz show is *A Question of Sport*. It's been on TV for years – since 1968, in fact, and, although I don't watch it any more, it's still very popular. There are two teams with the same captain each time, and all of the guests are sportsmen and women. The teams have to answer questions about sport, and the show is quite amusing, actually.

**Speaker 3** I used to watch *Call my Bluff*; a quiz show about words. There were always two teams made up of a captain and two celebrities. Each team was given a word, a very unusual word, and the three team members had to give a different definition – one was true and the other two were false. The other team had to guess the correct definition. It used to be quite funny.

**Speaker 4** I've always enjoyed the quiz show, *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* It started in the UK in 1998, and it's still on TV today. In each show, one contestant is asked a series of questions, and they have to choose the right answer out of four possible options. It's quite exciting, really, as the contestant can win up to a million pounds if they're good.

**Speaker 5** My favourite quiz show when I was a teenager was *Pop Quiz*. It wasn't on for long – only a couple of years – but I used to love it. There were two teams made up of a captain, who was the same person each time, and some guests, who were all pop stars. The teams had to answer different questions about pop music and musicians, and I used to watch it every week.