

END-OF-COURSE TEST

Listening 1

- Ella** What are you doing this summer?
- Sean** Do you know what? I think we're going to join the thousands who are having a "staycation"!
- Ella** You mean you're staying here?
- Sean** We aren't only staying in this country – we're staying at home!
- Ella** Really? Why is that? Is it because you can't afford to go away this year?
- Sean** No, it's not that. The main reason is that I'm fed up with getting stuck in traffic jams on the highway and wasting time in crowded airports.
- Ella** But don't you love visiting new places?
- Sean** Hmm, maybe I'm getting old, but I've had too many vacations where I've arrived somewhere beautiful or amazing but I'm so exhausted from the trip that I can't really enjoy it.
- Ella** I see. But you aren't just going to stay in your house all day, are you?
- Sean** Why not? I have a beautiful deck with a fantastic view and I never have time to relax on it!
- Ella** It won't be much fun unless it's sunny ... vacations all depend on the weather.
- Sean** I know. But I've thought about that. If it's cold and wet, I'll sit by my nice open fire and read a book! What could be cozier?
- Ella** But you must have some plans!
- Sean** No, not really. The idea is not to have plans! The only thing I've decided is that I'm going to spend some of the money it would have cost if we'd gone abroad on buying something for the living room – maybe some new curtains.
- Ella** Oh, that sounds boring to me! You can do all of that when you retire!
- Sean** Well, sometimes I think we have things the wrong way around. I think I'll have more energy for traveling when I retire than I do now. With this new job, since I've been in charge of the sales department, I've been working long hours and working over the weekends. And I travel enough for work, so I'm looking forward to my quiet vacation at home!
- Ella** Well, better you than me! I'm going somewhere hot where I can sit on the beach, go snorkeling, and eat out in seafood restaurants ...

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Listening 2

- 1**
- Karen** So, tell us about your early life, Oliver.
- Oliver** Well, I was born and brought up in India until I was 11, then I was sent to boarding school in Scotland. I found it very formal and it was difficult to get used to after life in India. And the real problem was the school vacations. I had nowhere to go unless I was invited to a friend's house because my parents could only afford to send me back to India once a year.
- 2**
- Helen** I just watched a great old movie on DVD called *The Shop around the Corner*.
- Adam** What's it about?
- Helen** It's about two people who both work at the same department store but don't get along very well. At the same time they've each been writing to a mystery pen pal, and have fallen in love with them. And you've probably guessed it – they've actually been writing to each other!
- Adam** Ah, sounds romantic. I imagine there's a happy ending ...
- Helen** I'm not going to tell you! You'll have to watch it.
- 3**
- Mel** I've just been reading how the price of property has gone down a lot in the Southeast.
- Theo** I know! I bought an apartment in Charlotte five years ago, and now it's worth almost nothing! I have a huge mortgage and I can't find anyone to rent it.
- Mel** Oh, did I tell you I have a nephew in college there?
- Theo** No, you didn't. He isn't looking for somewhere to live, is he?
- Mel** Well, I think he might be. I'll give you his email address.
- 4**
- Jed** Have you ever been skiing?
- Kay** Um, yes. I went to Italy with my family when I was 18, but I got injured on the second day.
- Jed** Oh, no. What happened?
- Kay** Well, I crashed into another skier and badly hurt my knee. It was exciting in a way – the ski instructor put me on his shoulders and skied with me all the way down the slope. But then I ended up in the hospital for a night.
- Jed** Poor you.
- 5**
- Mia** So do you enjoy cooking, Pete?
- Pete** Yes, I love it and I'm often told that I'm creative. But I probably use too much butter and cream. Come over on Friday and I'll make dinner for you.
- Mia** Well, that would be wonderful. But I'm actually trying to cut down on things like meat and cream at the moment.
- Pete** OK. How about grilled salmon with steamed green vegetables and a nice fruit salad of raspberries and peaches? To be honest, that would be good for me, too.