

FILE 1

Listening 1

Dave So, what are you doing this weekend, Ella?

Ella It's my son Tom's 18th birthday on Saturday, so his grandparents, my sister and brother-in-law, and my niece are coming over for coffee and cake. Then we're going out for dinner in the evening.

Dave Are you all going?

Ella No, dinner is just with Tom's brother Joe, his stepfather, and me.

Dave And where are you going?

Ella Do you know that new place, Giorgio's, in the center of town?

Dave Wow. That's pretty expensive, isn't it?

Ella Well, actually it's OK and the food is delicious. I really like it because it's so relaxed and informal, but it feels special and the staff is really friendly.

Dave Sounds perfect. What are you going to give Tom for his birthday?

Ella I've bought him a camera. And as it's a special birthday, I'm going to use my video camera to make a little film of his life. I've asked some of the extended family to tell a few stories about Tom when he was little. His friends are going to record special messages, too.

Dave What a great idea!

Ella My family is very talkative, so I hope he won't find it too embarrassing!

Dave Oh, I'm sure he'll be really pleased. Is he going to see his dad, too?

Ella Yes, Paul is taking him to a football game in Chicago on Sunday afternoon. They get along much better now that Tom is older. Oh, *and* Tom's having a party with his friends on Friday night!

Dave A party? That's generous of you! How many people are coming?

Ella Well, luckily, his friend Lucy is going to be 18 this weekend too, so they're having a party together at her house! And, actually, they're both pretty sensible, so I think it'll be OK ...

FILE 1

Listening 2

1

James Do you want to go out to get some lunch?

Lisa Sorry, I brought a boring egg sandwich and low-fat yogurt today! Tomorrow?

James I'm afraid I'm meeting my sister tomorrow. What about Friday?

Lisa Yes, Friday's good. We could try that new café down the road. I hear the food's great!

2

Server Can I take your order?

Customer Yes, I'll have the chicken, please.

Server It comes with roasted potatoes. Do you want any other vegetables with it, too?

Customer Um ... could I have some cabbage and peas, please?

Server Yes, of course. And what would you like to drink with that ...?

3

Customer Excuse me. Do you have any canned tuna?

Shop assistant Yes, it's just over there on the left, next to the salmon.

Customer OK, thank you. And where can I find the eggs?

Shop assistant Do you want to follow me? I'll show you.

Customer Thanks.

4

Mom Dinner will be ready in half an hour. We're having your favorite – pasta with eggplant.

Harry But I'm really hungry now.

Mom Well, have an apple then.

Harry An apple? That won't help! Can I have a cookie?

Mom Oh, OK. But don't eat more than one.

5

Vendor How about some tasty raspberries? You won't find a better price!

Customer Um ... do you have any grapes?

Vendor Yes, we do, ma'am. Would you like red or green? They're both very sweet.

Customer Can I have half a pound of the red ones, please?

Vendor There you go.

FILE 2

Listening 1

- Interviewer** In this week's edition of *Life Changes*, I'm talking to Helen Johnson. Helen, can you start by telling us about where you now live? Your cottage is absolutely beautiful.
- Helen** Thank you. We've been living here for ten years now, but the cottage didn't look anything like this when we first moved in. As you can see from this photo, it was very small and dark. And that first winter was absolutely freezing! We've done a lot to the house and the garden since then.
- Interviewer** Have you always lived in the country?
- Helen** Actually, no. I saw this tiny cottage for sale and just fell in love with it. My husband and I left our jobs with good salaries and our warm house in the city, and moved down here. We worked incredibly hard that first year. Here's another photo of us after a long day, in our filthy clothes, looking absolutely exhausted.
- Interviewer** It was definitely worth it. I understand you now have your own business. Can you tell us something about that?
- Helen** Well, when we first came here we decided to grow vegetables, and we sold them to our friends and neighbors. Then, since we had lots of apple trees, we started a small business making apple juice. It was hard at first, but luckily, my parents were able to help. They invested some of their savings into the business, and my husband inherited some money from his grandfather. We've been making apple juice and selling it in farmers' markets for five years now and we've slowly built up the business. People won't buy it if you charge too much, so we haven't made a great profit yet, but everyone says it's delicious.
- Interviewer** And are you able to live on the income you make?
- Helen** As you can probably imagine, we don't earn very much, and we still owe the bank a lot of money, but it's a fantastic life in many ways. We haven't been able to afford expensive vacations, but I'm positive our children have had a very happy childhood here.

FILE 2

Listening 2

- 1**
- Jake** Alice, have you ever inherited any money?
- Alice** Yes, I once got a little money from a great-uncle, but a friend of mine has just inherited a house!
- Jake** A house!
- Alice** Yes. Her grandmother died a few months ago and she left her house to my friend, Carla. She's already sold it and is investing the money to pay her tuition.
- Jake** Lucky her.
- 2**
- Dave** How long have you been working as a volunteer with WaterAid, Lisa?
- Lisa** For about two years now.
- Dave** And what's your role in the organization?
- Lisa** Well, I started by helping to organize events to raise money, but since April I've been traveling around the country giving presentations about the charity. I was terrified about speaking in public at the beginning, but it's been a fantastic experience.
- Dave** Sounds like fascinating work.
- Lisa** Yes, it is. I love it.
- 3**
- Wendy** Hi, Kate. What are you doing?
- Kate** Oh, hi! I've been waiting for my bus for ages, but it hasn't shown up yet, and I'm freezing! I can't even get a taxi because I don't have enough money, and the ATM is broken.
- Wendy** Poor you! Look, my car's parked just over there. I'll give you a ride, and if you want, I can lend you some money, too.
- Kate** Thanks so much, Wendy!
- 4**
- Gavin** Hi, Rachel. Have you found any bargains so far?
- Rachel** Actually, yes. I've just bought these amazing boots. I love markets. What about you? Have you spent any money yet?
- Gavin** Well, ... I bought these DVDs. But to be honest, I think they've charged me more than the movies usually cost new in the store!
- Rachel** You're too nice. You need to be more aggressive ... like me!
- 5**
- Diana** Chris, what's the most life-changing thing that has happened to you?
- Chris** Um, probably leaving my job and going abroad for a year.
- Diana** When did you do that?
- Chris** I was 25 at the time.
- Diana** And how did it change you?
- Chris** I suppose, um, living in another culture really opened my eyes. I was probably a bit immature before I went, and now I think I'm much more independent and more open to other ideas.

FILE 3

Listening 1

- Presenter** There's been a lot of publicity in the media about young people recently. Most of it is negative. We read that the twenty-somethings of today are getting lazier and more selfish, and they depend on their parents for everything. But just how fair is that? Today, I'm interviewing Megan Roberts, who is 21 and has just graduated from college.
- Megan** Megan, do young people deserve this reputation? Well, I think it depends on the individual. One of the biggest problems is that we're treated as if we're all the same. Of course, some young people may just sit around updating their Facebook page, but I think many people in their twenties are working or studying harder than ever before. It's just that we do things differently from our parents.
- Presenter** So you don't think that things are "easier" for young people?
- Megan** Not really. I think this is a really difficult time to be young. Sure, we have more material stuff, and more opportunities to travel ... but there are also fewer jobs, and there's more competition for everything.
- Presenter** Well, you've certainly grown up in a difficult economic climate. But is it fair to say that the youth of today are more selfish?
- Megan** No, I don't think it is. I think we care about things just as much as older people. Lots of my friends do volunteer work, for example. I read that twice as many people volunteer as when my parents were young! Young people are maybe more self-confident these days, and they want to do what they believe in. Is that being selfish?
- Presenter** But what about the argument that young people don't want to grow up?
- Megan** Maybe old people are just jealous of us because we're having fun! So we spend our money on clothes and entertainment, but isn't that what young people have always done?
- Presenter** Thank you, Megan. It's been very interesting talking to you. It's probably true that the older generation have always thought that they work harder and have better values than their children's generation. Well, Megan will get her chance to complain about the younger generation in a few years!

FILE 3

Listening 2

- 1**
- Zoe** What's the best way to get to Silicon Valley from the airport?
- Mike** Well, you can get the train into San Jose, and then take another train, or you can get a bus from the airport.
- Zoe** Which is quicker?
- Mike** The bus is direct, but it only runs every two hours. The train option is more complicated, but it will probably end up taking less time.
- 2**
- Zoe** How do I get to your house from the station, Mike? Isn't there a bus?
- Mike** Yes, but I can pick you up. It only takes about 15 minutes to get there by car.
- Zoe** Thanks, that's great. Should I call you when I'm on the train?
- Mike** Yeah, sure. See you soon.
- 3**
- Mark** Carol, what's the worst trip you've ever taken?
- Carol** I think the slowest was probably last summer when we got stuck in a traffic jam on our way to a music festival. It took five hours to go about sixty miles. But the most stressful thing was that I was also running out of gas. Fortunately, we just made it.
- 4**
- Jo** Sam, you're an engineer so you'll probably know the answer to this question – "What's the safest form of transportation?"
- Sam** Well, statistically, flying's the safest, although it's also the form of transportation that people are most afraid of. A recent survey also showed that people think that cars and buses are safer than trains.
- Jo** So, is it flying or traveling by train that's safer?
- Sam** Oh, definitely flying.
- 5**
- Matt** What's your favorite city, Tess?
- Tess** Well, one of the most relaxed places I've been to is Copenhagen.
- Matt** I haven't been there. Isn't it famous for good food?
- Tess** It does have amazing restaurants. It's also one of the best cities for biking in the world. There are bike lanes everywhere. The most surprising thing is that at rush hour, it's more crowded in the bike lanes than on the roads.

FILE 4

Listening 1

- Ian** Is that *your* trumpet? I didn't know you played. Isn't it hard?
- Kate** Well, it was really frustrating at the beginning – I couldn't make any sounds at all, but my teacher says I'm getting better now. What about you? Can you play a musical instrument?
- Ian** Well, I used to play the violin when I was younger, but I was never very good. I still remember my music teacher writing "Ian could make a more pleasing sound!" She said I should practice thirty minutes a day, but I found it so boring!
- Kate** So, what happened?
- Ian** Oh, I played in the school orchestra for a while, but I was pretty embarrassed about it – it just wasn't cool to play in the school orchestra when I was 14.
- Kate** So, did you give up?
- Ian** Yes, I did. Mom was disappointed because she thinks everyone should learn a musical instrument. But I took up the drums when I was 16, and I played in a band for a while. That was exciting – we wrote our own songs, did quite a few concerts, but in the end we were just too busy with other things. How about you? Do you play in a band?
- Kate** Actually, I've recently joined a jazz band. That's where I'm going now.
- Ian** Really? That sounds much more exciting than the school orchestra!
- Kate** It's great. Some of the older musicians are amazing. I don't know if I'll ever be able to play like they do. They make it sound so easy. We're doing a concert next month. You should come and hear us.
- Ian** I'd love to.
- Kate** Hey, I have an idea ... our drummer has just left ... do you still play?
- Ian** I haven't practiced for a while so I might not be able to play very well, but I guess I could try.
- Kate** You don't have to be anything special. We just need someone to help us keep a basic rhythm. Why don't you come along next week?
- Ian** OK, cool. I'll give it a try! Text me on Monday to remind me.

FILE 4

Listening 2

- 1**
- Paul** Helen, should you say "Sorry" in the U.S. if you walk into someone?
- Helen** Oh, definitely. Actually, we often say "Sorry" even when someone walks into us! But if you just want to get past, you need to say "Excuse me."
- Paul** OK ... And what should I say when someone says "Sorry"?
- Helen** Well, it depends on the situation, really. We usually just say "Sorry" back, especially for a small thing. When someone is really apologizing for something – say they stand on your toe and hurt you – then you can say, "That's all right" or "Don't worry."
- 2**
- Kasia** If I'm invited for dinner, do I have to arrive exactly on time?
- David** Well, if you're eating at someone's house I think it's OK to arrive about 10 or 15 minutes late. In fact, some people would say that's polite. But if you're meeting in a restaurant, you really should be punctual, especially if the other person is on their own.
- Kasia** Thanks. And should I take a present if I'm invited to dinner at someone's house?
- David** Well, you should probably take something, maybe a box of chocolates or a bunch of flowers.
- 3**
- Paul** What about tipping in restaurants in the U.S., Helen? Do people always leave something?
- Helen** Well, it's common to leave at least 15% in a restaurant, but you should always check to see whether it's included in the bill, or you can ask the waiter. If it's in the bill, you don't need to leave any extra, but you can leave a little bit more if you want to.
- Paul** Do people tip in any other situations?
- Helen** You should probably tip a taxi driver 15% too, and it's also normal to tip a hairdresser.
- 4**
- Rick** Hello, can I speak to Janet Miller, please?
- Receptionist** Just a moment ... I'm afraid her line is busy. Do you want to hold, or can I take a message?
- Rick** Can I leave a message? Could you tell her Rick Arnold called and that I'm calling about Friday's meeting? We need to discuss the agenda before Thursday, but she doesn't have to call back. In fact, I'm in meetings most of today, so I'll call her first thing tomorrow morning.
- 5**
- Pete** Who are you texting, Amy?
- Amy** Liam. I just called him and he hung up on me.
- Pete** That's rude! Why did he do that?
- Amy** I don't know. I left him a voicemail yesterday and he didn't call back then either. I've already sent him a Facebook message this morning, but he isn't replying. Oh, I'm so depressed!
- Pete** I'm not surprised. I wonder what the problem is.
- Amy** I have no idea.

FILE 5

Listening 1

- Interviewer** Irene, I understand you took part in the Ironman triathlon last year. Can you tell us about this extremely difficult race?
- Irene** Yes. It involves swimming almost two and a half miles, biking 112 miles, and finally running a marathon (26.2 miles). You have to finish it in 17 hours.
- Interviewer** And had you done a lot of sports before the race?
- Irene** Well, I used to do a lot of sports in school, but I hadn't taken part in anything for a long time when I decided to do the race. Before I started training, I hadn't even been swimming for years, apart from on vacation! Anyway, with the help of a coach I began a strict training program to get fit over several months.
- Interviewer** Didn't you have a break in that time?
- Irene** Oh, yes. After every fourth week I took things easier. And when I had rest days, I made sure I didn't do anything physically demanding.
- Interviewer** Very sensible. And so what about the race itself? Did you manage to complete it?
- Irene** Well, the night before the race, I dreamt I would finish in 12 hours 16 minutes, which I knew wasn't very likely. But I was ready. The start of the swim was quite disorganized as there were so many people trying to get into the water and swimmers were knocking into each other. I just tried to concentrate and stay calm. Gradually, the lake became less crowded and I made good time. Then, I was on to the cycling stage. Spectators were cheering and waving as I passed on my bike and it stopped me thinking about how exhausted I felt. I remembered what my coach had said about drinking liquids, and the food I was carrying helped too. I even gave some of my chocolate to another competitor who had dropped his and was running out of energy.
- Interviewer** That was kind of you. And what about the final part of the race?
- Irene** Running the marathon was where things became really tough for me. Towards the end my legs felt as if they were made of stone! Several people had given up because they were injured, but I was determined to keep going. Seeing my husband and son shouting my name allowed me to do those last few miles and cross the finish line at ... guess what? 12 hours, 16 minutes!
- Interviewer** A fantastic achievement. Well done!

FILE 5

Listening 2

- 1**
- Rachel** Dan, did you know that Clare and Tom are going out now?
- Dan** Clare and Tom from your department? Really? But I didn't think they used to get along!
- Rachel** Well, they both started going to the gym at lunchtime, and they obviously became friends!
- Dan** I can't imagine Tom doing any kind of exercise! How long have they been together?
- Rachel** About a month, I think.
- 2**
- Karen** Hi, Stuart. How was the game?
- Stuart** Hi, Karen. It was great, thanks. We won! The students beat the teachers.
- Karen** That's great! What was the score?
- Stuart** One-nothing. And I scored the only goal! Unfortunately, Dan was sent off in the second half for committing a foul against his old gym teacher.
- 3**
- Mandy** Hi, Fran. I think I saw your ex yesterday. Didn't you and Connor use to be a couple a long time ago?
- Fran** Connor? Yes, I've completely lost touch with him. How was he?
- Mandy** He was fine. And he looked pretty good, too – looks like he works out a lot.
- Fran** Oh.
- 4**
- Julie** Hi, Mom. I have some news! Nick and I have just gotten engaged!
- Mom** Oh, Julie, that's wonderful! Congratulations! How did he, you know, propose?
- Julie** Well, he invited me to go for a walk this evening. We were in the park and suddenly he got down on one knee!
- Mom** Ah! I didn't think modern men were usually so romantic. Nick's obviously different!
- 5**
- Josh** Hi, could I book a basketball court for Friday morning?
- Receptionist** Certainly. What time would you like?
- Josh** Is it free at 10:30?
- Receptionist** Yes, it is.
- Josh** Is the pool open then, too?
- Receptionist** It's usually open on Fridays, but I'm afraid a school is using it for a competition this week.
- Josh** OK, I'll just book the court then.
- Receptionist** And can I take your name please?
- Josh** Yes, it's Josh Brown.

FILE 6

Listening 1

Presenter Tonight we're talking about the film recently voted the most popular movie of all time. It was made back in the 1950s, in 1958 to be precise. So, what's the film and why is it so popular today? Well it's a classic thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, and it is of course, *Vertigo*.

The film stars James Stewart as "Scottie," an ex-detective, who has been forced to retire because of health problems (including vertigo). In the movie, he's hired as a private detective to follow a woman, played by Kim Novak, who's been behaving strangely.

The thriller, based on a novel written by a French crime writer, is set in San Francisco and is beautifully filmed partly on location, as the hero follows the woman through the streets of the city.

The plot of *Vertigo* was described by Hitchcock as "boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy meets girl again, boy loses girl again," but in fact it's a very complex film which needs to be watched several times to be fully understood. If you haven't seen it, I don't want to tell you too much about what happens, but let's just say there's some romance and there are a couple of murders. One of the most famous scenes takes place on top of a church tower.

The film is shot using a special camera effect (now known as the "Vertigo effect") which creates a confusion between fantasy and reality, and which reflects Scottie's mental state. The powerful soundtrack, written by Bernard Herrman, also adds to the strange atmosphere. Although it received some negative reviews when it was first released, the film has since become more popular among critics than perhaps any other of Hitchcock's films.

Like many thousands of people who chose this as their favorite film, I believe that Hitchcock has never been beaten as the greatest creator of suspense and mystery.

FILE 6

Listening 2

1

Chloe Have you seen this quiz about movies? In the first part, you have to recognize the actors by the part of the body.

Lars Let me see ... oh, that one's easy. I think that must be Daniel Craig's neck and shoulders. What about this close-up of someone's mouth?

Chloe Well, it's obviously a woman ... and someone with perfect teeth.

Lars Ah! I recognize that smile. It must be Julia Roberts.

2

Chloe Do you know anything about this movie?

Lars No, but from the picture it might be a horror film because that man has scary eyes! Or it may be an action movie because several people are running around with guns. It definitely looks violent.

Chloe Yes, but it can't be a serious horror film. It just looks too silly to me. I think it's probably a comedy.

3

Lars Can you remember who made the *Star Wars* movies?

Chloe Wasn't it Steven Spielberg?

Lars No, the only science-fiction movie he's ever made was *E.T.*

Chloe But didn't he make *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*?

Lars Oh, yeah. You're right.

Chloe I know. It was George Lucas.

4

Chloe What nationality is this actor?

Lars Well, the previous actor who played Zorro was Antonio Banderas. It might be another Spanish actor.

Chloe No, I think it's Gael García Bernal, the Mexican actor.

Lars Oh, yes, he's excellent.

5

Chloe Do you know where *The English Patient* was filmed?

Lars I know the story's set in Italy and Egypt, and I think they shot it in both places, although I heard they filmed some of the Egyptian scenes in Italy! For example, I think they used a hotel in Venice to represent the hotel in Cairo.

Chloe That's probably true. Apparently, the old Cairo hotel was destroyed in the 1950s!

FILE 7

Listening 1

- Presenter** Wouldn't it be great if we all had beautiful, big homes with high ceilings and wood floors? Well, today we're going to look at ways you can make your home look spacious, even if you live in a tiny, one-bedroom apartment. Lydia White's job is to advise people on how to do just this, and she's here to give us some tips. Hello, Lydia.
- Lydia** Hello.
- Presenter** So Lydia, how can we make our small rooms look bigger?
- Lydia** Well, what I always say to my clients is that if you follow a few simple design rules, even the smallest apartment can feel spacious! If you told me your home's too small, the first thing I would probably say is "Throw away things you don't need!"
- Presenter** Yes, sensible advice ... And how important is light?
- Lydia** Very important. But there are ways you can make even a basement apartment look lighter. For example, as soon as you hang two mirrors opposite each other you'll instantly make a room look bigger and brighter.
- Presenter** And should we paint everything white?
- Lydia** Funnily enough, it's not necessarily a good idea to use white. Using a darker color on the walls actually makes the corners of the room disappear. And interestingly, you can make a low ceiling look higher when you paint it a bright color.
- Presenter** That's surprising! And I guess furniture shouldn't be too big?
- Lydia** Well, no, if I were you, I would choose a few attractive larger items as this will make a room feel more spacious than having lots of little things.
- Presenter** Fantastic advice, thank you. Any final tips?
- Lydia** Well, remember that less is more! Don't use lots of different colors and designs together unless you want the room to look really crowded. And plain wood is useful – it goes well with all colors.
- Presenter** Thank you, Lydia. Lots of great ideas to think about. And coming up, have you ever wondered ...

FILE 7

Listening 2

- 1**
- Patti** Where did you grow up, Bob?
- Bob** Well, I lived by the ocean on Cape Cod in Massachusetts until I was 11 and went to a small town elementary school. But then we moved to Boston, which is a pretty big city. I went to a large public high school on the outskirts of the city.
- Patti** So that was quite a big change!
- Bob** Yes, I found it very difficult until I made some friends. But as a teenager, I enjoyed living in a bigger place.
- 2**
- Fay** If you did something bad at your school, Will, were you punished?
- Will** There was no physical punishment, but they were very strict about cheating. A boy at my school was expelled after he cheated on his exams.
- Fay** What about you?
- Will** Oh, I never got into trouble. I was one of the quiet ones. I just studied and always did my homework. Pretty boring, really!
- 3**
- Lucy** If you could live anywhere you liked, Ted, where would you choose?
- Ted** Oh, I'd like to live in a top-floor apartment with a balcony, overlooking Central Park in New York. How about you?
- Lucy** Hmm, that might appeal to me if I were 20 years younger. But now, I'd love to live in a cozy cottage in the countryside with an open fire. I'd like a little garden gate with a path leading to my front door.
- 4**
- Buyer** How old is the house?
- Real estate agent** Well, it's nearly 100 years old, but as you can see, the roof has been recently replaced and the chimney too. Let's go inside ...
- Buyer** Oh, I like the living room.
- Real estate agent** Yes, the old stone fireplace is original, and if you decided you wanted to buy it, the curtains and carpets would be included. And this is the kitchen, very modern, with a new stove. Shall I show you upstairs?
- 5**
- Katie** Pete, if I wanted to be an architect, what subjects would you advise me to study at school?
- Pete** Well, I wouldn't encourage anyone to study architecture unless they were good at math. So math, definitely. Physics is also important.
- Katie** But what about art?
- Pete** It helps if you enjoy art and design, or even photography, but these days, architects don't do much real drawing. They use sophisticated computer programs, so it's helpful to have good computer skills.

FILE 8

Listening 1

Andy You look sharp, Lynn!

Lynn Thanks, I just had a job interview at Kelly's.

Andy The new department store?

Lynn Yes.

Andy What was the interview for?

Lynn The manager in ladies' fashion.

Andy You'd be great at that. How did it go?

Lynn I don't think I got the job ...

Andy Why? What happened?

Lynn Well, it started OK. The interviewer asked me why I wanted to work there, and I said I was interested in fashion and told him I was looking for a job with more responsibility and the chance of promotion.

Andy Sounds good ...

Lynn He asked me what qualifications I had, and I told him I'd studied design at an art college. He also wanted to know if I'd had any relevant previous experience, and I said I'd worked in a bookstore for two years, so I understood sales and was good at dealing with customers.

Andy OK, then what happened?

Lynn He wanted to know why I'd left my previous job, so I told him I'd been laid off.

Andy But that wasn't your fault!

Lynn No, I explained that bookstores hadn't been doing well recently because of the increase in online shopping. He asked me how I would make sure the same thing didn't happen at Kelly's. I replied that I thought clothes shopping was different because customers preferred to see the clothes. And I said they liked to try things on to make sure that they fit well.

Andy That sounds like a good response. So what went wrong?

Lynn Well ... he asked me where I'd bought the clothes I was wearing, and I admitted that I'd gotten my shoes on eBay, I'd bought my suit online too, and that I'd made my shirt myself! He didn't look very pleased. I think he was worried that I wasn't really serious about the job I'd applied for!

FILE 8

Listening 2

1

Maria Joe, what have you been doing since you finished school?

Joe I was really lucky – I got the first job I applied for. I'm working at the pharmacy on High Street.

Maria Do you like working there?

Joe It's all right. I enjoy working with the people, but it can get a bit boring on a quiet day because I'm only working at the cash register at the moment.

2

Kara Bill, what would you say has been your greatest achievement in the last few years?

Bill Well, passing my driving test was a big thing for me! I didn't find it easy to learn, but I was determined to get my license.

Kara Why was it so important for you to pass your driving test?

Bill I really wanted a job at the local bakery, and they said they wanted someone who could drive the van as well as bake. So I had to learn really fast!

3

Tom Have you found a job yet, Eva?

Eva Um, no, not yet. I've sent my resume to lots of places but no success yet. I'm getting pretty bored being at home. How's your job going?

Tom Oh, I have the opposite problem, actually. I know I'm lucky to have a salary, so I shouldn't complain, but I'm too busy at the moment. I don't mind working hard, but I don't like the way my boss expects me to do overtime almost every weekend.

4

Elsa Did you understand the teacher's explanation about reported speech?

Jason I think so. She was trying to show how we had to change the tense.

Elsa Yes, I think I got that. The part I found hard to understand was how the other words in the sentence change. For example, I'm not sure if "I'm leaving tomorrow" becomes "She said *she* was leaving *the next day*."

Jason I think you're right!

Elsa Hmm ... well, maybe it's not so different from my language.

5

Oliver I'd like to return this suit, please.

Cashier Do you have the receipt?

Oliver I didn't keep it, I'm afraid. I've decided I don't really like it. I'd also like to return this tie.

Cashier Did you buy both items on sale?

Oliver Well, yes.

Cashier Unfortunately, we aren't able to exchange sale items or items without a receipt.

FILE 9

Listening 1

Matthew Last year I started to worry that I was spending too much on energy bills and not being careful enough about how I was using gas and electricity. So this year I've made a few changes, which I would like to tell you about.

Most of the changes I've made were easy, so I'm hoping that you'll feel encouraged to do the same. For example, like many people, I used to switch off the TV using the remote control, but this only turns off the screen not the TV. When you leave a machine in "standby" mode like this, it's still wasting energy. Research shows that if we all unplugged devices when we weren't using them, we would save 10% of our total energy consumption over a year!

Another thing I used to do was wash my clothes on warm, but now I wash them on cold, which is enough to get most things clean. I've also turned down my central heating a little. If my children complain, I just tell them to put more clothes on!

Many of us use energy-saving light bulbs now, but not many people know that if you fit a special plug to your fridge, it regulates the amount of energy it uses and can save up to 20% in energy costs. Also, we all use too much water every time we make a cup of coffee. I now try to use a cup to measure the exact amount of water I need, saving time as well as money!

One final tip. I listen to a lot of music through my headphones, but now I have a solar-powered media player which means that when I'm away from home I don't need any plugs or adaptors.

Overall, I'm delighted that not only am I saving money but I'm also wasting fewer of the earth's precious resources. My only regret? I could have saved at least \$50 last year if I'd known this sooner!

FILE 9

Listening 2

1

Rafael What's wrong?

Jane I have to give a presentation in 10 minutes, and I can't plug my laptop in.

Rafael What's the problem?

Jane I forgot that the outlets were different in Europe and I didn't bring an adaptor from the U.S.!

Rafael Here, why don't you use my cable? It has a European plug on it.

Jane Thank you so much.

2

Rafael How did the presentation go?

Jane It went well, thanks. Here's your cable. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't met you!

Rafael Glad I could help! Technology isn't as international as we would like it to be, is it? The first time I used an English keyboard, I kept pressing the wrong keys. It was very embarrassing. I had to use my own laptop with a Spanish keyboard for a while because I was making so many mistakes!

3

Store assistant Good morning. How can I help you?

Customer Hello. I bought a computer recently from this store, and I'm having a few problems with it. I didn't realize there were only two USB ports. I need to keep one just for the mouse, so that only leaves one for everything else. If I want to plug in a memory stick and connect to the printer, I have to unplug something else. What would you suggest I do?

Store assistant Well, the simplest thing would be to buy a USB hub which, for just a few dollars, allows you to plug in up to seven devices at once.

4

Dave How was your vacation in Australia, Kate?

Kate It was wonderful. But I must tell you about the most amazing coincidence!

Dave Really? What happened?

Kate I was walking in the Blue Mountains and decided to write a postcard to a friend I hadn't seen for a long time, named Sue. So, I walked into Katoomba, a small local town, to buy a stamp, and I had just come out of the post office when I saw ... Sue ... walking down the street! I couldn't believe it!

Dave That's extraordinary! So did you give her the postcard?

Kate Yes. If I'd met her five minutes earlier, I could have saved a stamp!

5

Paula Gus, have you ever been helped by a complete stranger?

Gus Yes, when I was a student. I was traveling around Mexico one summer and arrived in a village pretty late. I couldn't find anywhere to stay, and I didn't speak the language, which didn't help.

Paula So what happened?

Gus Well, luckily, I met an old couple and tried to explain that I was looking for a hotel. They were very patient and, when they understood, they just pointed to their house, which was nearby. If I hadn't met them, I might've had to sleep in the park.

Paula How kind of them!

FILE 10 Listening 1

- Fred** You like crime novels, don't you Molly? Which one do you think is your favorite?
- Molly** Mmm. I used to read Agatha Christie a lot – I think my favorite is probably still *Murder on the Orient Express*.
- Fred** I've never read it. Why do you like it so much?
- Molly** I love the setting, which is on a train in Yugoslavia in the 1930s. It's very exotic. Also it has a fascinating mix of characters including a Russian princess, an English colonel, and an American actress.
- Fred** So, what's the plot?
- Molly** Well, there's a snowstorm in the middle of the night, which stops the train, and one of the passengers is found murdered. Poirot, the detective, who happens to be a passenger, realizes the murderer must be on the train because there are no footprints in the snow, so all twelve passengers and the train conductor become suspects.
- Fred** Uh-huh.
- Molly** Poirot finds several pieces of evidence in the victim's cabin, for example a handkerchief, a button, pieces of a letter, which seem to suggest the murderer has just been careless. But he can't prove who did it because at first one person seems guilty and then another until it looks as if it could have been any one of the thirteen.
- Fred** It's very complicated, isn't it?
- Molly** Yes, and we keep finding out more information. For example, Poirot realizes that everything happened an hour earlier than he'd thought because they'd entered a new time zone. So his first theory is that the crime could have been carried out by someone who had left the train before the snow started. But ... it doesn't explain all the facts, does it?
- Fred** Um ...
- Molly** But I don't want to spoil the ending for you. You could just watch the movie – it's perfect for a cold winter's evening.
- Fred** Good idea.

FILE 10 Listening 2

- 1**
- Jill** Andy, what's your favorite building?
- Andy** Oh, for me it would definitely be the Hagia Sofia.
- Jill** That's in Istanbul, isn't it?
- Andy** Yes. It has a beautiful roof and four incredibly tall towers. It's nearly 1,500 years old. It used to be a church, then it became a mosque, but now it's a museum and art gallery.
- 2**
- Ben** You haven't seen my sunglasses, have you?
- Steph** No, where did you last have them?
- Ben** Um, I had them at the football game – I was wearing them there, but then I don't remember seeing them when I got home.
- Steph** You didn't leave them on the bus, did you?
- Ben** Oh no, that's probably what I did.
- 3**
- Javier** What do you think is the most iconic album cover?
- Sophie** Oh, well, it would probably be *Abbey Road*, the one with the famous picture of the Beatles walking on a crosswalk.
- Javier** Yes, everyone knows that picture, don't they? When I went to London, my friends and I tried to take a photo of us in the same place, but it was difficult because there was so much traffic, and we couldn't really stay on the crosswalk long enough to get a good picture!
- Sophie** I can imagine! Perhaps some traffic policemen would have helped.
- Javier** Um, how?
- 4**
- Nigel** As a cook, Bella, what would you say are the most important kitchen inventions?
- Bella** Well, it's difficult to imagine life before the freezer, which has only been around since the middle of the twentieth century. Before that it would have been difficult to run a restaurant.
- Nigel** Yes, I suppose people wasted a lot of food, didn't they?
- 5**
- Mia** Does your city have any particular landmarks, Dan?
- Dan** I come from New York, so the main landmark is the Statue of Liberty. What about where you live?
- Mia** Well, I live in Washington, DC, so of course we have the iconic Washington Monument downtown.
- Dan** Oh, yes. That's certainly impressive.
- Mia** It certainly is. It's 555 feet tall and 55 feet square at the bottom.
- Dan** Um, wasn't it damaged by an earthquake a few years ago?
- Mia** Yes, it was. It's been closed since then for repairs.
- Dan** That must be pretty dangerous.