

enjoy my job more when I go abroad. I like seeing new places and meeting different people. But you can't choose where you want to go and you never know, right up to the last minute. Sometimes it can be risky, it can even be life-threatening-but that's part of the job -you either accept it or you resign! How else would people get to know what's going on in the world?

Interviewer: On today's show we have Scot Chimes, a rather unfortunate holiday maker. He's come along to the studio to warn you against cowboy outfits and to tell you how to avoid falling into the same traps as he did. Hello, Scot. Would you like to tell us just what happened?

Hi there. Well, I wanted to plan my holiday, so I went along to my local travel agent and picked up some brochures. My wife and I spent evening after evening going through all the different offers available and finally decided on a holiday in the Caribbean.

Interviewer: Whereabouts in the Caribbean?

Santo Domingo. Anyway we went back to the travel agent and started making all the necessary arrangements for the hotel and the flights. The strange thing was that when I asked him for more details concerning the hotel he was somewhat vague and said that his colleague was the one who usually dealt with the Dominican Republic. Then, when I asked him if I could see a picture of the hotel, he pointed to one in the brochure and said "It looks like that".

Interviewer: And did it?

Not a bit! It was still being built! I don't just mean the finishing touches by the way! The part of the building I was staying in still had to have all its railings fitted on the balconies!

Interviewer: Are you serious? That was a bit dangerous, wasn't it?

Quite! And the noise was unbearable - hammering and drilling from morning to night!

Interviewer: How awful! What did you do?

Oh, we only stayed there the first couple of days because we didn't have anywhere else to go, but then we found another hotel right on the sea-front. It was gorgeous.

Interviewer: So you ended up paying for two hotels.

No way! While I was there I phoned my lawyer and she advised me to write a letter to the tour operator and include some photos showing the state the hotel was in, threatening to sue them if they didn't reimburse the cost of all the holiday - flights and all!

Interviewer: And did they?

Scot: They certainly did. There was a cheque waiting for me on the doorstep when I got home.

Interviewer: And what advice do you have for our listeners?

Scot: Don't be as gullible as I was! If you ask your travel agent for some details and he doesn't give them to you straight, then something's wrong. Make sure you always read the small print at the back of the brochure before signing anything.

Interviewer: Well, thanks Scot. It's been quite an eye-opener!

Student's CD Workbook

UNIT 5

Lesson 2

1.

Male teenager: Hi Terry. What are you up to?

Female teenager: Well...Guess what! I'm training for the local marathon!

Male teenager: You're kidding!

Female teenager: No! I ran into my old coach last week and he asked me if I was interested in taking part.

Male teenager: Didn't you win the athletics competition last summer?

Female teenager: No. Katie Hudson beat me, but I did get a medal for coming second in the kick-boxing.

Male teenager: Nice one!

2.

Woman: Good morning everyone. I have an announcement to make. I'm afraid this afternoon's tennis match between MacKenner and Williams has been called off due to last night's heavy rainfall. The court is, unfortunately, water-logged and I fear will remain so for several days even if the weather does seem to be improving. You can find out which matches are still taking place by consulting the notice board opposite the entrance as you come into the grounds. We realise how frustrating this is for you all and do apologise for the inconvenience caused.

3.

A coach: That's it! My mind's made up. We're going for Gold and I'm not letting anyone beat us to it this time. I'm going to make you work out all day, everyday until you drop and we're never going to stop! All the support we had four years ago got us the bronze medal and we certainly aren't afraid of a challenge, are we? We're dedicated sportsmen setting an example to all those young people out there. Right now, it's Italy holding the world record... but they won't be for long... when we win it off them!

Listening Transcripts

4.

Young Woman 1: You'll never guess what I got up to this weekend... I went parachuting!

Young Woman 2: What?! Are you serious? I can't understand anyone wanting to throw themselves out of a plane! What was it like?

Young Woman 1: It was just great! I felt so alive. It's something I've always wanted to do, but I've never had the nerve. Anyway, I got to the airfield just as the instructor was turning up and asked if I could have a go. We went through the basics like learning how to fall and so on and then once he'd checked all the equipment up we went. I thought I'd be really scared but I wasn't. It was the most amazing feeling, it certainly helps to build your self-confidence. I can't really describe it, you'll just have to try it for yourself. I'm going back next Saturday if you want to come!

5.

Interviewer: So Paula, would you mind telling us how it all started?

Paula: Well, I learnt to swim at school and was put in the school team. After taking part in a few competitions and winning several prizes for the school I became captain of the team. But the person I really have to thank is my coach. He's the one who encouraged me to swim in national competitions and has supported me all the way to these Olympic Games and I'm absolutely thrilled.

6.

Woman: You've got to believe in yourself! Be more self-confident! It's the best way to keep yourself motivated and thinking positively about the future. Set yourself little goals and when you reach them, give yourself a little prize. You can't be on your personal best all day, everyday. You need to switch off and take a break, your muscles need to recover and grow stronger. Spend some free time with friends. Last but not least, eat a balanced diet and by balanced I mean fruit, vegetables, carbohydrates, fish and dairy products. And make sure you get plenty of sleep!

7.

Young woman: Hi! Could I have some information about the sort of sports you offer?

Young man: Sure. There's sailing, surfing and canoeing for those keen on water sports or there's rock climbing, archery, athletics ...

Young woman: Archery. That sounds interesting. How long does the course last?

Young man: Four weeks. Lessons are twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 pm to 5 pm. Hang on a second... yes... we've got one starting next week!

Young woman: And how much is it?

Young man: It's £150.

Young woman: Right. Well, I'll come back and enrol tomorrow then, thanks.

Young man: Ok. See you tomorrow!

8.

Young man 1: That was great! I feel so much better after our game.

Young man 2: Yeah! I know what you mean. It certainly gets rid of all that stress!

Young man 1: Talking of stress, how's work these days, then?

Young man 2: Oh! Don't ask! You know what it's like. The boss is still just as awful. He's always making an issue out of everything and you hardly ever get any support from your colleagues.

Young man 1: So nothing's changed then. All I can say is I'm glad I left when I did.

Young man 2: Yes, your dad certainly gave you the right advice there. I wish mine would do the same!

UNIT 2

Lesson 2

Reporter: Good afternoon and welcome to "Dare Devils", the programme that gives you the chance to hear all about the dangerous and dare I say it, sometimes foolish feats, some people get up to. Today in our studio we have Kim Jones, who just happens to love spending her free time swimming around in the sea with a shoal of your friendly neighbourhood sharks!

Kim: Yes, you're quite right! But I didn't just wake up one morning and think "Hey, I think I'll go swimming with some sharks today!"

Reporter: I certainly hope not! That wouldn't exactly be setting an example for our younger listeners. How did it all happen?

Kim: Well, you see, I've always had this passion for marine life. It all started with a visit to an aquarium on a school trip when I was in my early teens. I particularly took a liking to the sharks – they didn't scare me at all, I just thought they were terrific. My school mates all thought I was going nuts.

Reporter: Well, you couldn't exactly call sharks cute!

Kim: Oh... I don't know. Anyhow, then I started reading up on sharks and collecting everything I could lay my hands on just to know more and more about them.

Reporter: Are all sharks really as dangerous and terrifying as we think?

Kim: Some can be pretty nasty. I mean, take the Great White Sharks for instance, they're the real killers but the ones in the Caribbean aren't. They're really quite harmless.

Reporter: And that's where you went, didn't you? The Caribbean?

Kim: Yes. I saw this documentary on TV. People were actually swimming with sharks in the sea and I was amazed. So, when I left school I went to work in an aquarium and here they taught me how to scuba dive and by the end of the summer I was swimming in the larger pool with the dolphins.

Reporter: How did you get to the Caribbean?

Kim: I asked my boss at the aquarium if he'd sponsor me. I told him it'd be great publicity for the aquarium and that we could even make a video and sell it to the public. I must admit I was really surprised when he accepted. So, I flew out to the Bahamas with a cameraman and a biologist and the following day we set off in a boat to Walker's Cay where we knew we would find quite a few sharks.

Reporter: Weren't you scared or at least a little worried?

Kim: No, not really. Most people probably think I'm out of my mind but I was excited. I mean, I'd been waiting for this moment for as long as I could remember. I just got all my scuba gear on and fell off the edge of the boat backwards into the... deep... blue ... sea.

Reporter: What?! Didn't you go down in a cage or something?

Kim: Oh no! I wanted to get as close as I could to the sharks, to touch them and feed them.

Reporter: And did you manage to feed them?

Kim: Oh yes! It was the most fantastic experience ever. Absolutely terrific!

Reporter: Well, thanks very much for coming into see us Kim. I'm afraid that's all we've got time for today, but we'll be back next week with some more terrifying tales!

UNIT 3

Lesson 2

Young boy 1: It says here that if your handwriting slants backwards you like being in charge, you're determined and somewhat spoiled. Well, I write with some of the letters slanting backwards, but that certainly doesn't sound like me. I don't think I'm determined, I tend to let others take over where any sort of responsibility is concerned because I'm so shy. You certainly can't say I've been spoiled. I mean it'd have been different if I'd been an only child rather than the eldest of three.

Young boy 2: Mm, I suppose so. Let's have a look! What about this bit here? It says that people who don't cross their "Ts" are easy-going, relaxed and willing and that they cope well under pressure and are always cheerful. Well, that's true! It fits you perfectly dad and you don't cross your Ts! There might be some truth in this after all. I mean

you're always around when we need you helping us deal with our problems and not expecting us to do well all the time, just our best.

Man: Thanks son. What does it say about people with large loopy handwriting like your mother's? Ah ah! Well according to this you're supposed to be bossy – especially when you insist on my getting up early on a Sunday morning – and stubborn. You like to keep yourself busy... and the rest of us, too – "Jim! That lawn needs mowing!" Apparently you're a bit of a perfectionist. Hmm... I don't know about that – it doesn't sound much like the woman I married.

Woman: Huh! Very funny! That's not me! People with handwriting like mine have got loads of self-confidence and they're usually extremely creative because they're so talented, well multi-talented actually – that's why they're always busy. They try to do as much as they can and they don't give up until everything's absolutely perfect. The trouble is they expect too much of themselves, they're too hard on themselves and they should remember nobody's perfect and you can only do your best! That's what I'm like! I read it somewhere in another one of those stupid articles, but it's all just a load of nonsense.

Young girl: Oh, come off it, mum. You're just annoyed that it says you're bossy! Instead with my tidy handwriting I'm ambitious and outgoing, a bit of an artistic type and really quite competitive. I'm much more mature than other girls my age and I like to hang out with people older than myself. I suppose being the youngest child explains that! Well, I certainly agree with everything the article says, it sounds just like me!

TOWARDS CERTIFICATION UNITS 1-3

Tom: Well, Jane, it's nice to have you back in the studio once again. And I must say you're looking great.

Jane: Thanks, Tom. It's great to be back.

Tom: I gather you've just come back from Lake Victoria where you took a group of teenagers white water rafting.

Jane: That's right. We were in Uganda all last month. The trip was organised by a local sports centre and they asked me if I was interested in accompanying the group.

Tom: Well, you don't seem terribly happy when you say that. What went wrong?

Jane: To start with I was worried because not everyone in the group could swim and some had only just turned thirteen.

Tom: You're kidding! Were the organizers out of their minds?

Jane: Well, it did cross my mind. Anyway there were six kids in the group and me. When we arrived we went to the rafting centre and signed in. We picked up all our equipment and set off towards our hut. What a nightmare!

Listening Transcripts

Tom: Why? What was up with the place?

Jane: It was horrible – in a right mess!

Tom: Oh! I see what you mean.

Jane: So, I told the kids we'd just have to clean it up. A couple of them looked at me in amazement and just stubbornly refused. They said they weren't going to be bossed around by me and stormed off.

Tom: Oh dear!

Jane: To make matters worse, when we got down to the lake the more confident swimmers started making fun of the others and two of them actually started fighting.

Tom: Are you serious?

Jane: Yeah! Some kids just don't appreciate anything – far too spoiled. Anyway, I soon put a stop to it by telling them I wouldn't take them on board the raft. For the first couple of weeks they seemed to calm down a bit and thank goodness. You can't imagine what it's like to have that sort of responsibility.

Tom: Rather you than me!

Jane: Anyway, on the third week we had ventured further along the river when disaster struck! We hit the rapids and two of the kids started to panic, they pushed each other and one of them ended up overboard in the water... and she couldn't swim. The current was so strong that it just carried her off down the river.

Tom: How awful! What did you do?

Jane: Well, I managed to steer the raft to the riverbank and told the others to wait for me there. I was terrified I wouldn't find the girl. I dived into the water and let the current take me downstream. After a while I caught sight of Penny hanging on to a rock in the water. I managed to reach her and drag her out of the water onto the river bank. She'd swallowed loads of water and had a nasty cut on her arm.

Tom: How did you get back to the raft.

Jane: We walked along the river bank which was nearly as risky as swimming in the river itself because it was so steep and narrow. But after a couple of hours we got back to the raft absolutely exhausted, but safe. I radioed for help and a rescue team came and picked us up. And here I am!

Tom: Goodness me! I bet you won't be volunteering to take any more groups white water rafting for a while.

Jane: Oh, I don't know. That sort of thing hardly ever happens. I guess I was just unlucky. Next year I would like to take a group...

UNIT 4

Lesson 2

1.

Male teenager: Did you know Sean's name's been put down for head boy this year as well as Simon's?

Female teenager: No, I didn't. Tom certainly did a good job

last year and I'm sure Simon can do just as well.

Male teenager: He's got to win after all the time and effort he puts in helping other students, especially the new ones.

Female teenager: Yes. Everyone's very fond of him.

Male teenager: That's true, but he'll need a lot of votes because quite a lot of students are keen on Sean, too.

Female teenager: I really can't see why. I can't stand him. He's such a big head.

Male teenager: Uhm... He certainly thinks a lot of himself.

Female teenager: Well, let's just keep our fingers crossed and hope Simon wins.

2.

Man: As you all know Mr Keating retired last year and so you'll be having a new Drama teacher this year, Miss Dickson. By the end of the month the builders will have finished restoring our theatre and it will be ready for our opening ceremony on the 1st October. In the meantime, lessons are going to be held in the gym rather than the dance hall you used last year.

3.

Man: You've been very quiet recently. Is anything bothering you?

Boy: Yes. I really need to do well in my exams this year and I'm worried I won't.

Man: But you've been studying a lot, so I don't see why not. You'll be fine.

Boy: I'm afraid I'll be sitting there and my mind 'll go blank. You know, like it did in my last exam.

Man: If that does happen, just take a deep breath, relax and go on to the next question. Just try and do your best, son and you'll have finished in no time.

Boy: Right. Thanks dad.

4.

Girl 1: I'm so fed up with school. I'm just sick and tired of all the rules and regulations.

Girl 2: Yes, I know what you mean. At my school you mustn't be late for lessons otherwise they won't let you in all morning. You have to hand your homework in on time or you get detention! You need to study all the time because the teachers are always giving us surprise tests and if you don't pass you get extra homework...

Girl 1: Goodness me! My school's not that bad. I'm glad I don't go to yours.

5.

Interviewer: How come students seem to pass their exams so easily today? I mean, if you look at the statistics there's a 97% pass rate in schools all over Britain! Are today's students just that much brighter than in the past?

Professor: Huh! Not at all! Those statistics don't fool me. Exams are far too easy today and then with all the cheating that goes on, what do you expect? It's so easy nowadays, what with all the technology...

6.

Woman 1: What's your job like in that new school, then?

Woman 2: Not bad. I'm pretty impressed with the quality of teaching. Everyone seems so keen to make the school a success. I was so fed up working with people who just weren't interested in their jobs. In the end, I was dis-gusted by their selfish attitude. I just couldn't make it out and I'll never forget it. I really felt like a change. I really think I've made the right decision. I've really settled in!

7.

Girl: Did you ask your brother to lend us his stereo for the party on Saturday?

Boy: Oh, no. It slipped my mind. I'll ask him tonight.

Girl: What about Carol? Have you spoken to her yet?

Boy: I don't think much of Carol's cooking. I'm going to ask my mum if she'll do the food for us.

Girl: You've got a point there! I hope John'll be up for it by Saturday. He looked awful yesterday. I don't want us to get stuck without a DJ!

Boy: Yeah, yeah! What if he can't make it? I'm going to give Gary a ring just in case. You never know!

Girl: Yeah! We've got to have a DJ!

8.

Old man: Well... things were very different in my day. You had to really behave yourself at school. You didn't dare answer back like the kids do today. The teachers were much stricter. You didn't have to do quite so much homework but you did need to study just as hard for your exams. We didn't have any of the opportunities you have today and we didn't understand how precious school was. Goodness! Is that the time? I really must be off! I've got to go and pick my grandson up, he'll be coming out of school any minute now!

UNIT 5

Lesson 2

Young woman:

For a weekend of relaxation, which we all need now and then, why not head for the Norwegian Fjords where you can spend your time boating or walking through the most fascinating of landscapes. After flying into Bergen, the guide will take you on a short trip to Sognefjord, the largest and deepest fjord in the world, surround-ed by emerald-green mountains with enchanted waterfalls. Hotels such as the cosy, family run Walaker Hotel in nearby Slavorn are warm, welcoming and make the most of the landscape with stunning views from your room. The sun sets and rises within a couple of hours in summer so you can enjoy a drink outside in the garden, looking out over the fjord where it

stays light until midnight. Once your batteries are recharged you can go glacier hiking, walking or cycling. You'll be amazed to know that the flight from London Stansted to Bergan will set you back a mere £35 one way and that's including taxes. An overnight stay at the Walaker Hotel costs £53 per person sharing a double room and includes breakfast. If you would like more information on holidays in the fjord region, visit www.visitnorway.com.

For those of you wanting to remain slightly closer to home and who can't keep out of the shops, then we have just the break for you! So, shopaholics, listen up! Glasgow has a large number of stores, more than any other UK city outside of London. It's a must if you fancy spoiling yourself! If you're not too exhausted after your shopping spree, why not show off your purchases at a chic cocktail bar – we were delighted to find the Blue Day on West George Street. It was just perfect. Then dance the night away at the Arches, the city's most popular club houses in an old Victorian railway station. Your hotel, the Best Western Milton Hotel, is just 5 minutes from the city centre and offers stunning suites, a 50ft pool, a sauna and a gym. One night at this hotel costs £169 for a suite for two with breakfast. To book call 0845 3300100 or visit www.bestwestern.co.uk.

Then again if it's the sun you're after then how about our sunny break in Ibiza? It's definitely one of the trendiest weekend destinations and it's really easy to get there thanks to new flights jetting out 5 days a week. San Antonio is the place to go for the night life. However, if you'd rather get away from it all, then we discovered Hotel Hacienda in the north west of the island. It's the ideal place, set among pine forests, high above crystal clear seas. All 69 rooms have breath-taking sea views from balconies or terraces. A double room costs around £130 a night and the flight from Gatwick airport is £69 return.

So what's it going to be? Glacier hiking in the Fjords, shopping in Glasgow or nightclubbing in Ibiza?

Next week we'll be taking you to the tropics, so don't miss...

UNIT 6

Lesson 2

Male: What can be done to prevent global warming? Well, for one thing, if we all started using our cars less and our legs a bit more, we'd reduce the amount of pollution in the atmosphere caused by exhaust fumes, and we'd be a whole lot fitter. I've started riding a bike to work in the mornings and a lot of my colleagues have decided to follow suit. Mind you, the

Listening Transcripts

traffic's so bad that you have to wear a mask to avoid breathing all those

fumes. If we didn't, we'd probably pass out before we got half way!

Female: The harm factory pollution can do is terrifying. Apart from polluting the atmosphere, it also effects our water, and by water I mean, rivers, lakes and seas. If our water was less polluted, fewer animals would be killed and there wouldn't be as much disease as there is today. Most of our wildlife is gradually dying out because the ground and therefore the soil has been polluted by so much chemical waste. Something has to be done to put a stop to all this!

Male: Acid rain is responsible for the destruction of most of our trees today and that means that we're the guilty ones. Man is the main source of pollution!

If there were less cars and factories then we wouldn't produce so many

chemical gases. They couldn't enter our atmosphere and mix with the

water only to fall back to earth and harm not only the trees, but us too! It's about time we did something about it!

Female: The destruction of the rain forest is due to industrial growth. It has increased at an alarming rate in the last thirty years. So many trees have been cut down to make way for farms, buildings and roads that soon there will be no more trees left. If we carry on destroying the rainforest like this wildlife will become extinct because it will have nowhere to live and nowhere to find its food.

Male: If we want to reduce the amount of pollution in the atmosphere we should find alternative sources of energy. Why not take advantage of our natural resources, the wind, the water and the sun, rather than coal, gas and oil. Solar energy is becoming more and more popular today and is just as effective when it comes to heating your house.

TOWARDS CERTIFICATION UNIT 40

James: Which school do you go to?

Lucy: Lord William's High.

James: What's it like?

David: It's awful! I can't stand it!

Lucy: Oh come off it! It's not that bad.

David: Not bad? A place where you have to study all day long?

Lucy: What on earth are you going on about? We don't study all day at all.

James: Hey! Calm down! Let's not make an issue out of this.

Lucy: Sorry! You see, I'm really quite fond of my school and the teachers are great.

James: Are they strict?

David: Too right they are! I'm really fed up with my History teacher, who also happens to be my Maths teacher,

because she's far too strict.

Lucy: If you studied a bit more, you'd make more progress and then she wouldn't seem so strict.

James: Do they give you much homework?

Lucy: Yes, they do actually. At least a couple of hours everyday and even more at the weekends.

David: I'm sick of spending every weekend stuck in my bedroom studying for exams.

James: What sort of exams do you have to take?

Lucy: We'll be taking our end of term exam next week and this one's especially important. You need to study a lot because if you don't pass it you have to repeat the whole year!

James: Goodness me! That is strict!

David: You call that strict. Last year one of my classmates got caught cheating in one of the exams and was expelled.

Lucy: Yes! His parents were furious.

James: Really?

Lucy: Why don't you try and look on the positive side for once. By this time next week we'll have finished all our exams and we'll be leaving for our holiday!

David: Yes, I'm really looking forward to it. We're going to have a great time.

James: Where are you going to go?

David: We're going to visit a nature reserve in South Africa.

James: Wow! I'd love to see all that wildlife. You're not pulling my leg, are you?

Lucy: No, of course not! It'll be fantastic. We're going to go on a safari. I can't wait!

David: It's a treat from our parents for studying so hard all year! That's why I must do well in my exam.

James: Oh. I see what you mean. Well, keep up with the studying, it's not long now. Tell me a bit more about the trip.

Lucy: Well, we're going to hire a jeep and go on a tour with a guide. We'll be travelling a certain number of miles each day and camping out at night.

James: How many of you are going?

David: Just us and mum and dad.

James: Isn't that a bit risky? I mean what with all those wild animals out there, especially at night?

David: Not really. The guide will be carrying a rifle at all times and dad knows how to use one, too.

Lucy: I hope we come across some baby elephants. They're so cute.

David: It won't be like at the zoo, Lucy. You won't be able to go up and stroke one.

Lucy: I know! I know!

James: Well, I'm sure you'll have a great time. Let me know when you get back. I want to hear all about your adventures.

UNIT 7**Lesson 2**

1.

Woman: Hello, John. How are you? I haven't seen you for ages! What have you been up to?

Man: Hi, Cathy. I've just come back from a holiday in Scotland, actually.

Woman: Where did you stay?

Man: In an old castle. It was really spooky.

Woman: Was it? Oh do carry on! I love spooky stories.

Man: Well, on the first night, I had just dropped off to sleep when I was woken up by this creaking noise. So I got up and went to check the window. Someone had opened it slightly.

Woman: No! Weren't you scared? What did you do?

Man: I couldn't figure it out. So I just went back to bed thinking maybe I'd left it open, but the following morning I saw a large handprint on the glass where someone had tried to push it open.

Woman: How awful! Rather you than me!

2.

Man: I think this is the best one he's ever written. It was just full of suspense from beginning to end. It was really difficult to make out what was going to happen next. I just didn't have a clue, the acting was superb and the stage lighting was really effective, too! It was so popular that in no time at all the tickets had all been sold out! If you want to go and see it in London, make sure you book early and remember to pick your tickets up an hour before the show.

3.

Interviewer: And what sort of explanation can you give for these strange happenings?

Woman: Well, at first we need to make up our mind whether they really happened at all. A lot of people's imaginations tend to run away with them. You can't put everything down to the supernatural just because it doesn't make sense or is difficult to explain. There has to be some sort of logical explanation. We've got to remember there was a storm that night. I really think he was influenced by the atmosphere in the old house and the stories he'd been hearing all week.

4.

Woman 1: How did it happen? Had you been drinking?

Woman 2: Of course, not! You know I don't drink, especially if I've got to drive. Anyway, I'd just left the party when it started to rain rather heavily. It got so bad that I could hardly see the road. I had just gone round the corner when all of a sudden I saw a boy hitch-hiking in the middle of the road. I had to swerve to miss him and the car ran off the road and into a ditch. The strange thing was that by the time I got out of the car the boy had gone, he'd disappeared into thin air.

5.

Boy 1: Are you going to Chris's Halloween party this year, then?

Boy 2: Oh yeah! I wouldn't miss it for the world. I thought I might go as Frankenstein!

Boy 1: What? Again? You can't wear the same costume two years running!

Boy 2: I had intended going as Dracula but mum's gone and lent it to my cousin... she didn't even bother to ask me if I minded.

Boy 1: I tell you what! I've got a skeleton costume at home. You can have that. You'll look great!

6.

Woman: And this, ladies and gentlemen, is the oldest part of the castle. It dates back to mid-fifteenth century. Rumour has it that one of the servants murdered his master in this very room. He had been trying to steal some gold when his master caught him. A fight broke out and the thief stabbed him! His ghost is said to walk the house every year on the anniversary of his murder which just happens to be today.

7.

Woman 1: I saw the first in a new series of "Midsummer Murders" last night.

Woman 2: Did you? What was it like? I used to love watching those.

Woman 1: Yes... me, too. Well, to be honest I had to make an effort to stay awake. It wasn't as good as last year's and the actor who's replaced the detective was pretty ugly-looking.

Woman 2: Oh! What a shame!

Woman 1: Yes. As soon as I had heard him acting I knew it wasn't going to be any good!

8.

Male: Surely you're not thinking of buying this place, are you?

Female: Why shouldn't I?

Male: Well, for one thing it's right opposite the cemetery!

Female: And what's wrong with that? It's near George's office...he'll get to work on time for once!

Male: Well, before you make up your mind perhaps you ought to talk to mum and dad about it. They're not going to like you living in such a spooky place.

Female: Look, it's none of their business where we live!

Male: I just hope you're not making a mistake, that's all!

UNIT 8**Lesson 2**

Interviewer: How can you tell when a teenager's in trouble?

Listening Transcripts

Psychologist: Well... one of the first signs to look out for is restlessness, when a person just can't settle down. They tend to get very irritable. Some teenagers can become quite withdrawn – they shut everyone out, even their friends and that's when my job is especially hard.

Interviewer: And how do you get them to come out of their shells?

Psychologist: One thing you shouldn't do is put pressure on them. It takes time and patience. If you push them too far, too soon you'll regret it and you could end up saying to yourself "I shouldn't have insisted" or "I should have given him more time". If a teenager has done something he isn't proud of, something he knows he shouldn't have done, like taking drugs or stealing something, his feelings of guilt could get so bad that he'll find it really difficult to come clean and admit the truth, especially to an adult. At first, you may be better off getting him to talk to a close friend. Friends, rather than family can sometimes come up with simple solutions to problems that, at the time, may seem more than they can cope with.

Interviewer: What sort of problems do teenagers have to cope with nowadays?

Psychologist: There seems to be a lot of competition around. You've got to be intelligent, good-looking and a bit of a dare devil to be accepted by your peers. A lot of people, not just teenagers, have difficulty accepting their appearance, especially if they're heavily overweight! They lack self-confidence and can be terribly shy. This can lead to depression which in itself can lead to over-eating – so as you see, it's a vicious circle – one that they can find hard to get out of.

Interviewer: Have you ever had to deal with anyone suffering from anorexia?

Psychologist: Yes, I have. The answer here is to bring these people round to loving themselves again, to making them feel good about themselves, to build their self-esteem.

Interviewer: How do people get anorexia in the first place?

Psychologist: Quite simply, really. It all starts with a little dieting and then people go over the top and find they just can't stop. People suffering from bulimia nervosa actually make themselves sick after each meal because they feel so guilty about the amount of food they've eaten. Even the tiniest amount! You should never make fun out of somebody's appearance because, as you can see, it can lead to disastrous consequences.

Interviewer: I take your point.

Psychologist: There's the old saying "You've got to be cruel to be kind" but you've also got to use a little tact!

UNIT 9

Lesson 2

Boy 1: A film only appeals to me when it keeps me glued to the screen. It's got to have suspense running all the way through it; when you know something could happen any minute and you haven't got a clue who the murderer is, but you're thinking 'he must have killed her because...' or 'it can't be her, she's too...'. I like it to have an intriguing plot that gets hold of you as it gets deeper and deeper. You have to figure out each step for yourself and not until the very end do you have the answer.

Girl 1: I'm a rather old fashioned person despite my age. Therefore I rather like films from the sixties. People were different then, the women were much more glamorous than today; so classy, and the men were such gentlemen. Then the cars! They drove those wonderful classic sports cars. There's nothing I love more than to curl up on the sofa in front of the TV and watch one of my favourites. I make sure I've got plenty of tissues with me so I can have a good cry – the sadder the film the better.

Boy 2: I saw this really weird film the other week. It was set in the future and everyone lived in this space city. In spite of everything being suspended in air, the buildings and the roads, everyone lived quite normally. Then, all of a sudden disaster struck, a city was attacked by a group of aliens and completely wiped out, apart from one young boy who managed to get away in the end. I don't know who the director was but apparently it won an award. It might have been for best special effects, I'm not sure.

Girl 2: In spite of the nightmares I might have I still go and see these films. You see I just can't resist them. Those heart pounding scenes where someone's creeping up on their victim or is about to jump out at them in the darkness. You may not have guessed however that I'm a real coward and I spend most of the time looking out from behind something, usually my hand or a cushion if I'm in love. Another thing I adore about these films is the music, that underlying threat the music conveys. Now, that really gets the shivers running down my spine.

Boy 3: I suppose it depends on your sense of humour. Some people find a double act amusing especially if it has that childlike quality and the two characters contrast each other somehow which might be their appearance or their manner. People from different generations have different tastes. I myself have got a very dry sense of humour and so some acts just don't make me laugh, in spite of all the jokes they crack. I mean, the person sitting next to me at the time might be in hysterics and I've actually found myself wondering why.

TOWARDS CERTIFICATION UNITS 7-9

Interviewer: On today's show is Karen Hunt who'll be telling us about dreams and the meanings hidden behind them.

Karen: Hello.

Interviewer: Karen, what can you tell us about people and their dreams?

Karen: Well, it all depends on a person's state of mind. If you've been terribly busy all day, either at home or at work and by the end of the day you're absolutely exhausted, you might find your body drifting off to sleep before your brain. What I'm trying to say is that sometimes your brain is so active that it has difficulty slowing down, that it might take a bit longer than your body and in that case, you may find yourself reliving your day in your dreams.

Interviewer: What if you're worried about something?

Karen: If you've got something on your mind and you don't know what to do about it you may have a very restless night. Some people dream they're walking or running in a wood and that they come across two paths, but they don't know which one to take. Whereas some others might dream they're in a large room with several doors and they're afraid to open the doors because of what they might find on the other side.

Interviewer: I've heard that some dreams can predict future events.

Karen: I don't know... I'm a bit sceptical. Some people believe that certain dreams can predict a birth or a death in the family and others warn you that you could be involved in an accident or that you could fall out with someone.

Interviewer: And what about recurring dreams?

Karen: A lot of people have recurring dreams in their childhood and teens. The most common one is that you're walking down a street and you hear some footsteps behind you, so you start walking a bit quicker, then the footsteps get quicker and you can feel this person getting nearer and nearer, eventually you break out into a run and all of a sudden you wake up.

Interviewer: And what does it mean exactly?

Karen: Well, basically you've got a problem and you can't face up to it, like in the dream, you're too afraid to turn around and see who's following you.

Interviewer: I once met a person who as a child used to dream he could fly.

Karen: Yes, a lot of children do. Most of them dream they've got some sort of super human power, that they can fly or climb up the side of buildings or run really fast. At that age it's easy for their imagination to run away with them. But in some cases these dreams can be dangerous. Take flying for instance. If a child is too young to distinguish between his dreams and reality, you may find him actually attempting to fly by jumping off things – or even worse, out of things like windows.

Interviewer: Goodness me! I hadn't thought of that.

Karen: Any child who has a tendency to sleep walk should be watched very carefully.

Interviewer: Well, Karen, thanks for coming in today. It's been really interesting and next week we'll be talking to...

UNIT 10

Lesson 2

1.

Woman 1: What was it like, then?

Woman 2: Absolutely fabulous! So much nicer than last year's vacation.

Woman 1: Why? Where did you go on holiday last year?

Woman 2: New York. Everyone there lives at such an incredibly fast pace. It almost drove me crazy.

Woman 1: So Ireland's your favourite, then.

Woman 2: I guess so, but I've still got to see Scotland. I'm just dying to visit Edinburgh Castle.

2.

Man: Could I see those pants in the window, please?

Woman: Pants? Oh, you mean trousers! Here you are.

Man: I wonder how much they cost? They look pretty expensive.

Woman: They're £175. They're made in Italy.

Man: Italy! That explains why they're so expensive. I'll take them. Can I pay by credit card?

Woman: I'm afraid we've been having difficulty with our paying-in machines and can only accept cheques or cash.

Man: Oh dear! I haven't got my cheque book on me. Is there a cash point anywhere in this store?

Woman: Yes. There's one just opposite the lift. See?

Man: Lift? Ah, the elevator! Right, thanks.

3.

Woman: I just can't see what made her do it. I mean fancy moving there in the first place! The sidewalks are just laden with garbage and she spends most of her time stuck in her apartment because she's too afraid to come out. Then again, I suppose I'd be terrified if I'd fallen victim to a street mugging, too. It wasn't her fault. She didn't realise the area was so bad and just think she'd only gone out to buy a packet of chips at a store in the mall!

4.

Interviewer: Does anyone ever get nasty after they've been fined?

Traffic Warden: Oh yes! You'd be quite surprised. Some people can be really rude and I've even been threatened!

Interviewer: Really!

Traffic Warden: Yes! I really don't see why people have to park their cars on the pavement when we've got so many parking spaces in this town. I don't care if

Listening Transcripts

it is an emergency and I don't see why they have to jump the traffic lights instead of waiting in the queue like everybody else. It's so dangerous. They deserve to have their licence taken away.

Interviewer: I couldn't agree more.

5.

Woman: It's getting late! Perhaps we ought to pay the cheque and leave. They'll be throwing us out any minute!

Man: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. I didn't realise that was the time. I've still got to go and get some gas before I go back to the office.

Woman: You could've filled the car up on the way to the restaurant.

Man: Yes, I wanted to, but didn't you see the line. I just hate waiting, it's such a waste of time.

Woman: Well, I just hope you won't get into trouble for being late back to work!

6.

Woman: I really must try and get him out of my mind, however much I love him. We all know how hard it is when everything suddenly comes to an end. But after going in search of the truth and finding out how he had behaved, he gave me no choice. I just had to break off our engagement! I must be strong and I mustn't give in even if he does manage to track me down!

7.

Reporter: And the last item today is the amazing story of how two young boys almost ended up in New York! Toby and Jason Fielding happened to be at Heathrow Airport seeing off their grandmother when they disappeared. As they had never been to the United States they decided to try and get on one of the planes headed for New York. Luckily, when they got to passport control, they were stopped and held in custody until their parents came to pick them up! Incredible! Well, that all from me...

8.

Man: What on earth are you doing here?

Woman: Well... as I had a few days off, I thought I'd take a holiday.

Man: What made you come here?

Woman: While I was flicking through the brochure, I came across this place. As I've never been here before, I thought I'd come and visit it and here I am.

Man: How odd!

UNIT 13

Lesson 2

Interviewer: Here in the studio today we have Jenny Tate, an up and coming journalist for Zest. Jenny, how

did you get involved in this career in the first place?

Jenny: Well, I guess I've followed in my grandfather's footsteps and on top of that I've had a gift for writing ever since I can remember. However, I first intended working in television as a TV presenter.

Interviewer: And what put you off?

Jenny: Well, for one thing, it's really hard to get a job in that field and I realised that the monotony would get on my nerves. What I'm trying to say is that there's no point in doing a job if you find it tedious or if it doesn't fulfil all your expectations. They probably would have gotten rid of me in the end. I mean, I probably would have got the sack!

Interviewer: Hmm. I see what you mean.

Jenny: Anyway, my first job after leaving the school of journalism was with a little local paper. It was really hard work and I didn't earn much... I could hardly afford to pay the rent! But they did at least show me the ropes and I gained a lot of experience. Then, after a couple of years I found out that there was a position available for a journalist in a national newspaper and I decided to apply for it. I sent in my CV and was absolutely thrilled when they called and asked me to go in for an interview.

Interviewer: I take it the interview was a success.

Jenny: Yes, but it was pretty tough. I knew I'd really have to sell myself, so while I was getting ready, I kept going over in my mind everything I was going to say, I mean my reasons for wanting the job. It's no use going for an interview if you're not ready for it! And there's no point in sulking if you don't get the job. You've got to learn from your experience – however good or bad.

Interviewer: How long did you work there?

Jenny: Five years, more or less. I was promoted after two years and given my own office and personal secretary. It was great, but something was missing. Then I realised what it was... travel, excitement, change! I wanted to get involved in something more active. I really wanted to travel and that was out of the question in the position I held then. Anyhow, to cut a long story short, I started looking for a new job until I came across an ad for foreign correspondent for Zest.

Interviewer: Goodness me! I bet that meant going off all over, reporting about wars taking place. Weren't you scared?

Jenny: No, not a bit. That certainly wasn't going to put me off. I've reported from so many different locations now that I'm used to it.

Interviewer: What? Tearing off at the last minute? I bet you sleep with a suitcase, permanently packed under your bed!

Jenny: I do as it happens!

Lesson 2

Man 1: I'm so fed up with this so called modern technology. I've had to have all the programmes on my pc updated because they were getting far too slow. It cost me an arm and a leg and I'm still no better off. Do you want to know why? Because I can't make head nor tail of it now! They've gone and installed a completely different system which I'm not familiar with at all. It'll take me ages to work it out. If I could get my hands on the person who invented these things in the first place, I'd....

Girl 1: However popular computers have become, it's surprising the number of people that get cold feet. I think the advantages of computers in our lives today are enormous. They're priceless. I certainly couldn't do without one now. I first purchased one several years ago and the amount of work I'm able to get through is amazing. I carry out all my re-search through the internet. I just log on, download the files I need and store the ones I want to keep. I've also got a special programme which helps me keep an eye on my accounts, so no over spending.

Boy 1: While I was on holiday last summer my camera broke down and I lost most of the pictures I had taken. It was such a shame. Anyway, before going on holiday this year I decided to buy a new camera. I spoke to a shop assistant and was advised to buy a digital camera. I had my doubts because I knew it would set me back quite a lot but in the end I got a really good discount. I can honestly say it's well worth the money. It takes the most fabulous pictures and I get the chance to check them. If they've come out ok I can store them or otherwise I can get rid of them.

Woman 1: Wouldn't it be wonderful if we never had to lift a finger when it came to housework! Sooner or later I'm just going to have to invent some sort of gadget that does everything at the push of a button. I lie awake night after night imagining what it would be like and trying to think of something but I'm afraid I've run out of ideas. I guess I'll just have to leave it up to somebody else.

Boy 2: It's amazing what you can do with mobile phones today! When the first one came out all you could do was make phone calls. Then came along the ones giving you the opportunity to text messages, that's what really made them so popular. Just think that apart from texting messages you can send or receive faxes, check your emails and reply to them, log on to the net, do mathematical calculations, play video games, record music and take photographs. The list is endless.

Simon: Julie! I can't believe it! How are you? Goodness! It's ages since we last met!

Julie: Hi. Simon. I know. It must be three or four years, at least! What've you been up to all this time, then?

Simon: Oh, the same old things. You know me Julie, I never was the ambitious type. I've still got the same job and I'm still living in this town. What about you? I bet you're working in some super company.

Julie: Huh. It's funny you should say that but I've been working in the United States for the last three years.

Simon: The United States? Whereabouts?

Julie: New York. My company offered me a job in their New York office and I accepted.

Simon: What's it like working there, then?

Julie: Well, it was pretty difficult at first. You know the American way of life is quite different to the British. You're very much in the fast lane all the time.

Simon: I bet!

Julie: I even had problems with the way they express themselves and for the first couple of weeks there were some misunderstandings.

Simon: Like what?

Julie: Well, they say elevator whereas we say lift, line instead of queue and pants instead of trousers... which was actually quite embarrassing.

Simon: I can imagine! What does your job involve?

Julie: Ah! It's great. It's all very high tech and I had to study quite a bit to be able to use all the new equipment. but as my colleagues helped me, I managed to get used to it quite quickly and had settled in within a month.

Simon: Oh, good for you. Julie. I'm really pleased for you.

Julie: Thanks. You should see the apartment the office has given me. Honestly, it looks like something out of a James Bond film.

Simon: What?

Julie: Yes, it's fully computerized.

Simon: What do you mean?

Julie: What I'm trying to say is that everything is run by computers. All I have to do is give the remote control the right order and the computer carries out. What I do is I speak into the remote control that's got a microphone built in it and I give simple instructions like "Open the door, pull the curtains" or "switch off the lights".

Simon: Hey, that's really cool.

Julie: Mind you, I did have some problems at first because I couldn't remember the instructions and so the computer didn't respond. Then, another time something went wrong with it, I don't know what exactly, it just went out of control. The lights kept coming on and the curtains were opening and closing like crazy.

Simon: Well, you see, modern technology does have its drawbacks!

Julie: Yes, I suppose so.

Listening Transcripts

UNIT 13

Lesson 2

1.

Man: Did you manage to get to the cinema last night?

Woman: Only just. I almost broke my neck trying to get there in time for the beginning of the film, but it wasn't worth it at all. It was a complete and utter waste of time!

Man: Really? When I bumped into Julie last week she said she'd seen it and she thought it was brilliant.

Woman: Are you sure she was talking about the same film?

Man: Yeah. I don't tell fibs! Honest!

Woman: Oh, don't be so silly!

2.

Woman: Hello, Sally? It's me, June. Guess what? I got it! I finally got the part. I just can't believe it! After all that hard work, at least now I know I didn't do it in vain. Start? Well, rehearsals start in two weeks time. So I'll be leaving for London on Monday. Ah ah, you bet I am. I can stop holding my breath now and start breathing again!

3.

Man 1: How much are the tickets for tonight's performance?

Man 2: There's the circle at £54, the stalls at £44 and the balcony at £34.

Man 1: But when I phoned the other day I was told a much lower price for the circle tickets.

Man 2: I do apologise if you were given the wrong prices, but the ones I just stated are, in fact, the right ones.

Man 1: Right. I'll have two tickets for the stalls in that case, then.

Man 2: That's £84 altogether then, please.

4.

Girl 1: Did you see Robbie being interviewed last night?

Girl 2: Oh no! I missed it! Did he come over as a right know-it-all? I bet he did. I've never been a fan of his.

Girl 1: No, he didn't, actually. I was quite surprised. He's had a fair few ups and downs in his life.

Girl 2: Like what?

Girl 1: Well, he said how shocked he was by his former group's attitude. He said how he'd been forced to leave.

Girl 2: Well, maybe they didn't like his attitude.

5.

Man: He really was quite a genius, you know. There have been few people that could make you laugh like he did. And he's been taken off by no end of comedians. One thing very few people know about Charlie Chaplin is that he suffered from depression and even tried to commit suicide. He was an extremely generous person and he never ever lost his patience unless he thought he was being taken advantage of or someone was being selfish.

6.

Girl 1: Oh. I really wish I'd come to the concert with you lot now. Tom told me how good it was. He said he'd never seen anything like it.

Girl 2: Yes, it was fab. Pity it was over so soon.

Girl 1: But Tom told me it went on for over two hours.

Girl 2: Yes, it did, but I could've sat and listened to them forever. Anyway why didn't you come?

Girl 1: I had to stay at home and baby sit my little brother.

Girl 2: Oh well, maybe next time. If you've finished typing those letters you can give me a hand with mine. I've got masses to get through.

Girl 1: You've got a cheek. Are you going to give me half your wage packet, too?

7.

Woman: ...and anyone who hasn't purchased tickets for this year's school play and would like to do so, should consult the school's secretary. She'll be able to tell you how many seats are still available and how much the tickets cost. I've been told that we won't be using the library as our box office like last year, but that you'll be able to pick up your tickets inside the theatre on the night of the show, once you've paid the secretary for them, of course.

8.

Interviewer: How do you cope with being famous? Have you got use to it yet?

Man: No, not really. It's too early. I certainly didn't think I'd get famous overnight. It's all happened so quickly, you know. I've still got to get my feet back on the ground.

Interviewer: What's your next move?

Man: Well, I'm off on a tour next month to promote the new album. It'll be great. We're going to be travelling all over the states. I still can't believe it, though. Sometimes I'm afraid I'm going to wake up and find that it was all just a dream.

Interviewer: Yeah! A dream come true.

UNIT 14

Lesson 2

Interviewer: Here, in the studios today, is Tom Daw, a top reporter and media expert. The media has become so vast, that we need some advice. He'll be telling us how to consult the media, what to look out for and what to ignore.

Tom: Hi.

Interviewer: Well, Tom, we're rather spoilt for choice, don't you think?

Tom: We certainly are, Brian. There's so much out there that people are getting somewhat confused. Just look at the wide range and variety of newspapers and magazines on the market.

There's something for everyone. And it's such a very relaxing way to find out what's going on in the world, that you just can't do without a cup of coffee and a good mag... the perfect morning break.

Interviewer: Do you think people are more inclined to read quality newspapers or scandalous ones?

Tom: That's really hard to say. I'd be forced to tell a lie if I had to give you a figure. It's a question of taste.

Interviewer: Don't you think some newspapers exaggerate the truth? I mean what's the use of it? I wish they didn't distort the truth, but the fact remains that they do!

Tom: Some stories are so exaggerated. I'm afraid they do distort the truth – it makes the story more appealing. That's why you're best off reading different types of newspapers. Anyhow, if you must read the more scandalous ones and you don't want to be taken in, you should learn to read between the lines and separate the news from the gossip.

Interviewer: Easier said than done! I'm more for listening to the radio than reading the newspaper myself.

Tom: People lead such hectic lives today, that they have limited time to sit down and read a paper, most of us keep updated while travelling, whether it be while driving or sitting on a bus or train.

Interviewer: When do most people listen to music?

Tom: I think people listen to the radio at all different times of day. Some people love the sound of music so much that they tune into their favourite radio station as soon as they wake up and stay tuned from the time they get up to when they get to bed. Some people only listen to the radio in the car on their way to work and back home again. I think it also depends on the type of job you do. I mean your job might require such concentration that you can't have a radio blaring out all day!

Interviewer: No, I suppose not. And what about the revolution with internet?

Tom: Well, we've really come a long way. It's just a minefield of information and I think it's time everyone had a pc at home. Mind you, it can sometimes make you feel at a loss. Then again with such marvellous search engines you can find out just about anything. Internet has given people the chance to work in the comfort of their own homes. They can download all the information they need, keep themselves updated and send their work off as attachments in emails. It's called telecommuting and has become so popular that it has proved to be a real time saver.

Interviewer: Is there any advice you'd like to give our listeners?

Tom: Well, it's the same as with the newspapers really. I'd rather people were more selective. It can be

pretty difficult on the net though as you can get lost quite easily.

Interviewer: Well, thanks for coming in today and next week we'll... .

UNIT 15

Lesson 2

Woman: I absolutely adore travelling by plane. Wherever I have to go, I always fly. It's the quickest and most convenient means of transport for me even if it can get rather expensive, especially national flights. I don't mind spending the money, I think it's worth it. I can understand how frustrating it can be when your flight is delayed and I don't blame people for moaning after all the money they've had to pay out. I wish I could've afforded to fly when I was younger. Think of the amount of time I would've saved.

Man: Did I ever tell you about that week's tour I went on of the Greek Islands? What a nightmare! The only way to get from one island to the other is, of course, by boat. Now, you can either get the ferry or you can go on a hovercraft. Travelling by boat's fine as long as the sea's not choppy. Honestly, I've never been so sick in my life. It took me all week to pull through. Of course, if the sea hadn't been so rough I wouldn't have been so ill. I won't be going there again in a hurry!

Woman: When I'm planning my holiday the first thing I look at is where I'm going, how I'm going to get there and what sort of transport I'll need once I'm there. If I'm going to be visiting somewhere in Europe, then I'd rather drive all the way there and back, this way I can stop off on the way. I like the thought of being able to stop and start as I like. What I'm trying to say is that if I see somewhere nice and I want to get a better look at the landscape, all I have to do is park the car. You'd never catch me travelling round Europe on a bus full of people. I can't stand package holidays.

Man: I once rode a bike all over Britain. I was much fitter then, of course. For very long distances I sometimes cheated and got on the train with my bike, but the feeling of freedom was quite unique. I couldn't carry all that much with me, just a few bits and pieces stuffed in an old backpack which I tied to the back of my bike. We rode an average 15 miles a day and stayed in bed and breakfast hotels or in youth hostels. It was very different to the sort of holidays I usually had, but I think I would have enjoyed myself more if we hadn't cycled quite so much during the day – I was exhausted by the time the holiday was over!

Woman: I reckon the best way to travel is by train. It's perfect whether you're going away on holiday or business. I like it because you can sleep and eat when you want, which is great, especially if you're tired after a tedious business trip. And now that you can get from London to Paris in just under 3 hours it's fabulous. Thanks to the channel tunnel. You'd be amazed the amount of people who pop over to Paris for a spot of shopping!

Listening Transcripts

SECTION UNITS 14-15

Chris: Hi, Sam. Did you watch the concert on telly last night? It was great.

Sam: Hi, Chris. Yes I did. John told me it was going to be on. Thank goodness he did because I hadn't seen it advertised anywhere and I'd have missed it. Weren't they brilliant! Did you see them being interviewed afterwards.

Chris: No, I didn't. I turned over and watched the end of some stupid film. Did you?

Sam: Yes, it was quite an eye-opener when they said how long they had been playing together. I was really surprised.

Chris: I wish I'd seen it. I've seen quite a few interviews on MTV – they're pretty good, actually. It's been going for quite a long time, too. About 25 years if I'm not mistaken.

Sam: What do you think made it so popular?

Chris: Well, I guess it was being able to see all those music videos non-stop. There wasn't that much advertising and the comments made by the VJs were good for promoting new artists.

Sam: The what?

Chris: The video jockeys.

Sam: Oh, right.

Chris: Yes. MTV became a sort of launch pad for artists. So much money was made that the videos became much more refined – with dancers, actors and models performing in them. Nowadays, they're used to promote the soundtrack of films. I mean what better way to advertise a film!

Sam: But it's come a long way from just showing videos, concerts and promoting artists.

Chris: Too right! There's such a wide range of programmes now, that you can watch cartoons, comedy shows and rockumentaries.

Sam: Rock you what?

Chris: Rockumentaries. You know, like documentaries.

Sam: Have you ever seen the MTV Music Video Awards?

Chris: Yes! It hosts all the top stars. It's such an important event in the music world that it is viewed by millions of people all over the world, in Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America.

Sam: Goodness. I didn't think it was that big.

Chris: Are you kidding? It's revolutionised the music world!

Sam: Well, what sort of music do you like listening to, then?

Chris: I really like house music. I go to all the parties where it's being played. It's great.

Sam: House! I can't stand it! I hate that continuous drumming sound – it drives me insane. It's so monotonous, so boring!

Chris: Oh, come off it! What do you know about music?

Sam: I know what I like!

Chris: Oh yeah and what's that? That hip pop rubbish?

Sam: So what? At least they can sing?

Chris: I'll tell you what, I'll let you know the next time there's a house music party and you can come along. I bet you'll change your mind! You'll love it so much that you'll wish you never came.

Sam: Right. It's a deal!