

Workbook Listening Scripts

Unit 1, page 17

Tara: Welcome to our podcast, *Fashion Freaks*. We're talking to James. You always look very stylish, James. Are you interested in fashion?

James: Thanks for the compliment, Tara. I didn't use to be, but I am now.

Tara: Why?

James: Well, I think it's important to make a good impression on people – and clothes help you do that.

Tara: I agree. But it takes a lot of time and money to look good.

James: Not really. It doesn't take much effort.

Tara: No?

James: No. Look, I'm just wearing ripped jeans and a hoodie today.

Tara: But somehow, you still look stylish!

James: That's because I buy the best brands. I always feel and look good in them.

Tara: So that's your secret! But what about the price tags? Buying the best brands is expensive.

James: That's true. But I don't buy a lot. I used to buy lots of clothes, but now I only purchase a few really nice items! I choose them very carefully... and then wear them in different combinations.

Tara: What a good idea, James! Having fewer clothes, but many options...

James: Right.

Tara: I usually buy lots of cheap items. I've got at least 10 pairs of boots. See these? I bought them last month. They only cost me €15, but they already have holes in them.

James: So now you have to buy new boots! You know, better brands usually last longer. My boots cost €150, but I bought them three years ago and they're still in one piece.

Tara: Wow. Maybe I should also try buying fewer - but better - items!

Unit 2, page 27

Ryan: Welcome to my podcast, *Back in Time*. Today's special guest is Dr. Linda Matthews. Linda is a historian and her focus is the history of Romania. Welcome, Linda!

Linda: Thanks, Ryan.

Ryan: Linda, we were just talking about your recent trip to Romania. Can you tell our listeners about it?

Linda: Of course. I visited Transylvania, a very famous region in central Romania. The history of Transylvania dates back to the 4th century BC. The region is famous for its mountains and fantastic castles from the Middle Ages.

Ryan: Wow! It sounds amazing. Are the castles in good condition?

Linda: Well, they didn't use to be. Some of the castles were collapsing. But the Romanian government decided to restore the castles, so now they're in good condition.

Ryan: I'd love to see them. Dracula the vampire was from Transylvania. Did he live in one of the castles?

Linda: Well, the truth is there were no vampires in Transylvania, and Dracula wasn't a real person. However, the story isn't totally false. A real man called Vlad III inspired the story.

Ryan: Really? How?

Linda: Vlad III was a strong military leader in Transylvania in the 15th century. His full name was Vlad III Dracula. That means 'son of the dragon'. While he was torturing his enemies, he got a reputation for being extremely scary. But in Romania, people think he's a hero. They believe he fought for freedom and protected his people.

Ryan: That's interesting!

Linda: It is, but it's not the only interesting story. The region is famous for supernatural legends! I recommend visiting it.

Unit 3, page 37

Ted: When there's a storm, most people get inside quickly. But my next guest – Professor Wendy Nichols – gets as close to the centre of a storm as possible. So, Professor Nichols, how long have you been a storm chaser?

Prof Nichols: Hi, Ted. I've never liked the name 'storm chaser'! It sounds like I go out and look for dangerous situations!

Ted: Ha, ha! Sorry. What should I call you?

Prof Nichols: A scientist! My team and I study storms to learn more about them.

Ted: But why do you have to get close to the storm?

Prof Nichols: We need data about it. Getting close to storms is the only way to get this information.

Ted: Why is it so important to understand storms?



Prof Nichols: So we can help with weather forecasts. We have predicted most of the recent storms on the East coast ...

Ted: But you haven't succeeded in predicting all of them.

Prof Nichols: That's true. Last week's storm hit so suddenly. There was no warning at all.

Ted: It was a really big storm. I've never seen such strong winds! Tell me, do you find it frightening to study storms up close? Or is it exciting?

Prof Nichols: Some people love the excitement. But for me, it's quite frightening when my car moves from side to side in a big storm.

Ted: Wow! That **does** sound frightening.

Prof Nichols: But most of the time, it's actually very boring! I've spent many hours sitting in a freezing cold car waiting for a big storm. Sometimes it doesn't even come!

Ted: Not as exciting as I thought! Well, thank you for coming to speak to us today, Professor Nichols.

Unit 4, page 47

Tony: Hi, Tabitha.

Tabitha: Hey, Tony.

Tony: How is your broken leg?

Tabitha: Much better, but I still have to lie in bed all the time.

Tony: Sounds boring!

Tabitha: Well, it was at first. I missed my friends at school. I felt angry because I couldn't do the things I wanted to do, like playing football and tennis. So I watched films instead. And one of them really changed my attitude.

Tony: Really? What's the name of the film?

Tabitha: My Left Foot.

Tony: My Left Foot? I haven't seen it. What's it about?

Tabitha: You must watch it! It's the story of Christy Brown. Christy suffered from an illness called cerebral palsy. It affected his whole body, so he could only move his left foot. But he used that foot to do all kinds of things, and he became an amazing artist and author.

Tony: That's incredible. Is it a true story?

Tabitha: Yes. He grew up in the 1930s. His family was very poor, and his mother had 12 other children, but she still supported him.

Tony: Wow! So, how did this film influence you?



Tabitha: Well, I'm lying here with a broken leg, but I can still use my arms and my other leg - and I can talk. Christy Brown couldn't speak and he could only move one foot. But he didn't let it stop him.

Tony: What do you mean?

Tabitha: He struggled with everyday life, but he still achieved incredible things. That inspired me to practise the guitar and do some painting every day.

Tony: That's great. You must show me your paintings!

Tabitha: I might, but they're not nearly as good as Christy Brown's!

Unit 5, page 57

Harry: Today, on our programme about healthy eating, I'm interviewing Jenny. She's just opened an organic food shop on Park Street. Jenny, your shop looks really lovely.

Jenny: Thank you, Harry.

Harry: Let's begin by talking about the price of organic food. Some people don't buy it because of the cost. Is organic food really more expensive than ordinary food?

Jenny: It does cost a bit more, yes. But I think it's worth it.

Harry: Why?

Jenny: Well, for one thing, it's healthier. Chemicals aren't used to grow it or to keep it fresh.

Harry: Right. I've heard that chemicals have become a big problem.

Jenny: It's true - and it really worries me. Chemicals are put onto crops, they go into the soil and then into rivers. They end up polluting the water and affecting wildlife.

Harry: I understand the issue. I'd like to buy more organic food, but I can't really afford it.

Jenny: Try looking at it in another way. Because organic food is more expensive, you'll probably make sure to eat it all and not to waste any of it! So much food is wasted in this country - it's terrible!

Harry: Good point. We shouldn't throw away food.

Jenny: And another thing.... you don't have to buy the organic version of everything. You can start by just buying organic milk.

Harry: Milk? Why?

Jenny: Organic milk stays fresh longer than ordinary milk.

Harry: Really? I didn't know that.

Jenny: Yeah! So you'll probably waste less - and save money that way.

Harry: Thanks, Jenny. You've given us something to think about. I hope your new shop is a success.

Unit 6, page 67

Emily: Hey, Gideon.

Gideon: Hello, Emily. Where are you going?

Emily: I'm meeting Claire. We're going to the museum, then to the theatre and then to a Mexican restaurant. We're lucky to live in this amazing city with so many entertainment facilities.

Gideon: What would you do if you lived in the countryside? (*laughs*)

Emily: I've never thought about it.

Gideon: I don't really like living in the city. I prefer green trees, fields and fresh air to high-rise buildings, concrete and pollution. That's why I spend a lot of my free time in the countryside.

Emily: I prefer the city. Every time I go to the countryside, I have a horrible time. Last year, I went camping with my family and a fox ate our food. The next morning, I woke up next to a large lizard. It was so frightening that I screamed!

Gideon: Well, there are lots of animals in the countryside. You're clearly afraid of them. But most animals won't attack you if you don't bother them. They're actually afraid of you!

Emily: Really? I didn't know that. So what will happen if I walk through a field with a herd of cows?

Gideon: They won't hurt you. Like most animals, cows won't bother you unless you approach their young. If you do that, they'll try to protect them.

Emily: I see.... But I'm also worried about the deadly spiders and snakes in the countryside.

Gideon: There aren't any deadly spiders or snakes in this country!

Emily: How can you be so sure?

Gideon: OK... (*laughs*) If I were you, I would stay in the city!

Emily: Oh, I'm definitely going to stay in the city!

Unit 7, page 77

Steve: Hello, Anne. How was your trip to Tokyo?

Anne: It was great, thanks, Steve. Japan is a beautiful country – and the architecture, the people and the language are wonderful! I took advantage of my trip to learn about Japan's culture and to study Japanese.

Steve: That sounds exciting! Was there anything that was hard for you?

Anne: The grammar was a bit difficult. So was reading – they have three different alphabets! But for me, learning the culture was the hardest part.

Steve: Really? Why?

Anne: I'll give you an example. The way that they move their body to say hello to people is quite different to anything that I know! There are so many rules about how to move when you meet someone. It's hard to remember them all!

Steve: That's very strange!

Anne: I don't really think of it as strange – it's just different. I'm aware of these cultural differences when I'm travelling in other countries. I try not to call a culture 'strange' because to the people who are part of that culture, everything they do is completely normal.

Steve: I guess you're right. It all depends on your background. I mean, if you've always seen people saying "hello" in a specific way, it will seem normal to you.

Anne: Exactly. As we grow up, we learn things about our own culture without realising it. Children copy things they see their parents and other people do. It's the same in every culture. We all have a lot more in common than we think!

Steve: Wow! I see you learned a lot about culture in Japan.

Unit 8, page 87

Colette: Hi, Stephen. Have you got any plans for the weekend?

Stephen: Hi, Colette. Nothing on Saturday, then volunteering at Hillside Park on Sunday. I help out with a sports programme for local kids.

Colette: Good for you. I know it's selfish of me, but at the weekend, I like to do things for myself.

Stephen: Don't feel bad! To be honest, my reasons for volunteering were selfish.

Colette: Really? How?

Stephen: Well, I want to be a PE teacher in the future, so I asked the careers advisor at school, Miss Sheehan, for some tips on how to achieve my goal. She said that getting some practical experience of teaching sport would help me.

Colette: That's good advice. I mean, I know you're a gifted athlete, but not everyone is suited to a teaching career.

Stephen: Exactly. Miss Sheehan said that in her experience, a lot of people started studying to be a PE teacher because they thought it would be easy. She also said that some of them gave up when they found out that it was actually a lot of hard work!

Colette: So, do you think you have what it takes to be a sports teacher?

Stephen: I think so. I'm really enjoying teaching.

Colette: What do you like about it?



Stephen: I'm an only child, but I've always said it would be great to have a little brother or sister. Now, it's like I've got lots of younger siblings!

Colette: Trying to deal with lots of small children running around isn't my idea of fun!

Stephen: You should try it. You might find you've got a hidden talent for it!