

UNIT 13 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Gabrielle: What a terrible movie!

Johan: Haha, I didn't think it was so bad. I mean, it was just your typical action movie.

Gabrielle: Yea, but Alexandra Steers was in it! She's been in so many good films. I thought it was going to be a lot better.

Johan: Yea, I guess. But she's usually best in more serious, dramatic roles. I didn't expect her to be that good in this, and as it turns out, I just thought she and the movie were OK.

Gabrielle: Yea, I guess I went into it expecting a bit more.

Johan: Huh, it's like a sort of reverse placebo effect.

Gabrielle: What do you mean?

Johan: Well, placebos are the drugs researchers give to control groups in experimental studies. They are really just sugar pills, but the patients that receive them *think* that they are real. A lot of times, those who receive placebos, tend to feel the effects of the drugs even though they don't have any active ingredients in them. It's their expectation of the benefits of medicine that make them feel better.

Gabrielle: So, my knowing that Alexandra Steers was going to be in the film was like a placebo?

Johan: Yea, but it had the opposite effect. You thought the movie would be good because of the actress, but it turns out you were more disappointed when your expectations weren't met. Me, I didn't have very high expectations for the movie to begin with, so I wasn't as disappointed with the film as you were. Think about it: We rarely disagree on the quality of films we watch. That's why we always go to the movies together.

Gabrielle: Hmm. I think you've got a pretty weak theory on this one, Johan. We do disagree *sometimes*. You might be overanalyzing the whole thing. Seems like you're trying to find a reason for this one atypical instance.

Johan: Yea, that's a real possibility. (pause) So, what should we do for dinner?

Gabrielle: Let's try that new Greek place on Orchard Street. It's only a five-minute walk from here.

- Johan:** Yea, that sounds great. I've heard it's really good.
- Gabrielle:** Be careful, Johan. Don't set your expectations too high or you might fall victim to that reverse placebo effect of yours.
- Johan:** Yea, good point Gabrielle. I'm not going to think about the quality of food at all before I go there. I'll decide if it's good or bad *after* I'm done eating.
- Gabrielle:** Yea, OK. Then I guess we'll have to disregard all the negative or positive reviews to avoid having biased expectations, huh?
- Johan:** Eh... Let's just go get some high-quality Greek cuisine at our favorite restaurant.
- Gabrielle:** Sounds good to me!