

UNIT 17 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

- Hana:** So, do you think the Bears have a chance at beating the Wildcats tonight?
- Ethan:** Hana, even if the Wildcats' best player didn't show up, the Bears still couldn't win.
- Hana:** Really? So, why are we even going to the game?
- Ethan:** Because I got free tickets! I wouldn't pay those outrageous prices to go to a Bears game. They just aren't worth it.
- Hana:** Yea, I can understand that. Why *are* pro basketball tickets so expensive though? Not like I'd go if they were much cheaper though...
- Ethan:** Hmm. It could be because professional basketball players get paid millions of dollars. Or maybe since it costs so much to run a basketball arena, they have to sell tickets at high prices. What do you think?
- Hana:** Hmm. I think it's because—Hey, James!
- James:** Hey, guys. Sorry, I'm late. I was stuck in a bit of traffic. You got the tickets, right Ethan? How much were they?
- Ethan:** They were free—I got them from my company.
- James:** Oh, wow thanks, Ethan. I'm glad I've got you, so I don't have to pay those crazy ticket prices.
- Hana:** We were just talking about that. You have any idea why they're so high?
- James:** I was actually just reading about this the other day since I had wanted to buy some tickets this season, but *couldn't* because they were so expensive. While most people think players' salaries are the reason behind the high ticket prices, it's actually because people are willing to pay the high prices that makes them so expensive. It's economics, plain and simple.
- Hana:** That's hard to believe since the three of us aren't willing to pay the high prices.

James: Well, *some* people are willing. Attendance has been increasing over the past decade or so even though prices have gone up. Unless people stop paying for high-priced tickets, team owners have no incentive to lower prices.

Ethan: That's crazy. I refuse to believe that the price increase was the result of a demand increase instead of a cost increase. Players' salaries are *so* high.

James: Yea, well, they apparently haven't risen as fast as ticket prices and attendance. I was shocked when I read about it, too.

Hana: I think both of you could be right. Either way, basketball players get paid too much money.

James: Yea, I guess, but...

Ethan: But what? Twenty million dollars a year isn't enough?

James: Ha, that's not what I was about to say. What I wanted to say was that some star players—take LeBron James for instance—are actually more valuable to their team and the league than their salaries would suggest.

Hana: So you're saying that although they make a huge salary, someone like LeBron James is more valuable to the franchise than that? It makes sense. The three of us are more valuable to our companies than the money we receive. If that weren't the case, then the company wouldn't employ us!

James: Yea, good point. But someone like LeBron is worth like three or four times as much as he's made. And that's a *WHOLE* lot of money—tens of millions of dollars.

Ethan: Yep. More money than we'll ever make. Anyway, why are we standing out here talking about this? Let's head in and get to our seats. The game's about to start.