Video Script

Practical English Episode 1

Introduction

Jenny My name's Jenny Zielinski. And New York is my city. I live here and I work for a magazine, *New York 24seven*.

Rob My name's Rob Walker. I'm a writer on *NewYork 24seven*. You can probably tell from my accent that I'm not actually from New York. I'm British, and I came over to the States a few months ago.

Jenny I met Rob in London when I was visiting the UK on a work trip. He was writing for the London edition of *24seven*. We got along well right away. I really liked him.

Rob So why am I in New York? Because of Jenny, of course. When they gave me the opportunity to work here for a month, I took it immediately. It gave us the chance to get to know each other better. When they offered me a permanent job I couldn't believe it!

Jenny I helped Rob find an apartment. And now here we are. Together in New York. I'm so happy. I just hope Rob's happy here, too.

Rob I really loved living in London. A lot of my friends and family are there so of course I still miss it. But New York's a fantastic city. I've got a great job and Jenny's here too.

Jenny Things are changing pretty fast in the office. We have a new boss, Don Taylor.

Jenny And things are changing in my personal life, too. This evening's kind of important. I'm taking Rob to meet my parents for the very first time. I just hope it goes well!

Reacting to what people say

Jenny I can't believe we got here so late.

Rob I'm sorry, Jenny. I had to finish that article for Don.

Jenny Don't forget the chocolates.

Rob OK. Oh no!

Jenny I don't believe it. Don't tell me you forgot them?

Rob I think they're still on my desk.

Jenny You're kidding.

Rob You know what my desk's like.

Jenny Yeah, it's a complete mess. Why don't you ever tidy it?

Rob We could go and buy some more.

Jenny How can we get some more? We're already late!

Jenny Hi there!

Harry You made it!

Jenny Sorry we're late. So, this is my mom and dad, Harry and Sally. And this, of course, is Rob.

Rob Hello.

Sally It's so nice to meet you at last.

Harry Yes, Jenny's finally decided to introduce you to us.

Sally Come in, come in!

Jenny Mom, I'm really sorry – we bought you some chocolates, but we left them at the office.

Sally What a pity. Never mind.

Harry Yeah, don't worry about it. We know what a busy young woman you are. And your mom has made way too much food for this evening anyway.

Sally Oh, Harry.

Jenny But I also have some good news.

Sally Really? What's that?

Jenny Well, you know we have a new boss? He's still new to the job and needs support, so today he made me the Managing Editor of the magazine.

Sally So you've got a promotion? How fantastic!

Harry That's great news! Hey, does that mean Jenny's going to be your boss, Rob?

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Rob Uh... yes, I guess so.

Jenny Well, not exactly. I'm a manager, but I'm not Rob's manager.

Sally Let's go and have dinner.

Jenny What a great idea!

Reacting to what people say − listen and check

1

Jenny Don't forget the chocolates.

Rob OK. Oh no!

Jenny I don't believe it. Don't tell me you forgot them?

Rob I think they're still on my desk.

Jenny You're kidding.

2

Jenny Mom, I'm really sorry – we bought you some chocolates but we left them at the office.

Sally What a pity. Never mind.

3

Jenny But I also have some good news.

Sally Really? What's that?

4

Sally So you've got a promotion? How fantastic!

Harry That's great news!

5

Sally Let's go and have dinner.

Jenny What a great idea!

Reacting to what people say − listen and repeat

Jenny You're kidding.

Jenny I don't believe it.

Sally Really?

Sally How fantastic!

Harry That's great news!

Jenny What a great idea!

Rob Oh no!

Sally What a pity.

Sally Never mind.

Harry finds out more about Rob

Harry You know, our Jenny has done incredibly well, Rob. She's the first member of our family to study at Harvard. She's a very capable and ambitious young woman.

Jenny Oh, Dad.

Rob No, it's true, Jenny.

Harry But what about you, Rob? How do you see your career? Do you see yourself going into management?

Rob Me? No. Not really. I'm more of a... a writer.

Harry Really? What kind of things do you write?

Rob Oh... you know, interviews, reviews... things like that... and I'm doing a lot of work for the online magazine.

Jenny Rob's a very talented writer, Dad. He's very creative.

Harry That's great, but being creative doesn't always pay the bills.

Jenny You know, my Dad's a very keen photographer. He took all of these photos.

Harry Oh, Rob won't be interested in them.

Rob But I am interested. I mean, I like photography. And I think I recognize some of these people…

Harry That's because most of them are of Jenny.

Rob But there are some great jazz musicians, too. That's Miles Davis... and isn't that John Coltrane? And that's Wynton Marsalis.

Harry You know about Wynton Marsalis?

Rob Know about him? I've interviewed him!

Harry How incredible! I love that guy. He's a hero of mine.

Rob Well, he's a really nice guy. I spent a whole day with him, chatting and watching him rehearse.

Harry Really? I want to hear all about it.

Sally Have a cookie, Rob.

Harry Go ahead, son! Sally makes the best cookies in New York!

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2B Video Listening

The Great OUP Bake Sale

Narrator People do many different things to raise money for charity. These runners are doing the New York Marathon. Every year, the race raises about $40 million.
And these people are doing a sponsored skydive.
There are also ways to raise money without exercising or jumping out of an airplane.
These people are bringing cakes to a charity bake sale.
The popularity of bake sales has increased dramatically over the last decade, thanks in part at least to the popularity of *The Great British Baking Show*.
This show, which began in 2010, has encouraged people of all abilities to bake, especially when it's for charity.
Today's sale – at Oxford University Press – will raise money for two charities: MacMillan Cancer Support and Adelante Africa, a charity that supports education and other projects in a rural area of Uganda.
But this bake sale is different – it's also a competition and will be judged by Daisy Watt and Emma Collen, who are chefs and professional bakers.
And from the minute the posters appeared, people have tried to persuade their colleagues to join in.
Emma is going to make Viennese Whirls – cookies with buttercream and jam.

Emma I bake quite often, probably once or twice a month. It's one of my main hobbies that enjoy – um, kind of a stress-reliever for me, just being in the kitchen by myself, with some music on, just enjoying baking. Um, and it's just an added bonus to do it for charity as well, combining one of my hobbies with raising some money for some really great causes. It's not the first time I've taken part in a bake sale. I've done several different kinds of bake sales for work and other things.

Narrator James is going to make a sponge cake with blueberries.

James I bake not that often, maybe about, I don't know, once a month or something I might bake. Um, when I, when I do, it's usually baking with my kids, I suppose, so, um, you know, we make something really easy like cookies or something like that. The cake that I've baked today – I have baked that one in the past before. And so I'm quite confident, that it's going to be OK at least, but, you know, I couldn't say that it's actually a speciality. I don't bake often enough to have a speciality to be honest. I mean, I'm baking now, because it's for a charity, right, so, so I wouldn't say I have a speciality.

Narrator The finalists in this competition bake sale are a Baklava Cake, a Neapolitan Cake, Emma's Viennese Whirls, a loaf cake, and a chocolate cake. Although this isn't *The Great British Baking Show*, Daisy is looking for certain criteria in the cakes.

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Daisy There are a few things I was looking for – refinement. It sounds harsh, but there were good cakes out there, so it was really important to choose the cakes that looked like someone had put real effort into the decoration and you can see the ones that put the effort in.

Narrator And it's now time to judge the five finalists.

Daisy That's fantastic! Very clever and you've even done the different-colored icing in between – a labor of love. Really good sponge. The chocolate sponge is delicious. It's not over chocolatey, it's just…

Narrator And then to choose the winner.

Daisy So I've conferred enough, because it is really close, but there is one winner, who has obviously put so much effort, not just in the decoration, but also her sponge is technically brilliant. So, are you going to come up here?

Narrator And now the only thing left to do is to eat the cake – and give money to the two charities.

Laura Obviously really happy that my cake was chosen and it's really nice to bake for such a great cause as well.

Emma They were really complimentary about my bake, which was great. But a biscuit, I don't think, is going to stand up to those beautifully-iced cakes that we had, so the standard was really high.

James I mean I'm not the best baker in the world. I know that, but you know, as I say, it came out really well and it raised loads of money for the charities, so no, I'm really pleased I did it, yeah.

Narrator The cake sale raised over £270 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Adelante Africa.

Review and Check

Can you understand these people? 1&2

1 Philomena

Interviewer What do you eat to cheer yourself up when you're feeling sad?

Philomena I love roast potatoes, baked potatoes. They're warm, buttery, nice olive oil. They make me feel good.

Interviewer Does it make you feel better?

Philomena Yeah, usually it does. I think they're quite refreshing, warm. When you're feeling down, I think they're the perfect remedy.

2 Mark

Interviewer How often do you eat out?

Mark Well, my wife would probably like me to eat out a little bit less, but probably about 2-3 times a week.

Interviewer What kind of places do you go to?

Mark You know, it always kind of depends. I think people like to eat in 3 or 4 different restaurants in their town no matter what, and it's usually one of those three or four, usually pizza, Mexican, or Asian.

Interviewer Why do you like these kinds of restaurants?

Mark I guess part of it is it's the type of food that you can't normally prepare at home, so it's something a little bit different. Otherwise it's just tasty.

3 Ross

Interviewer Do you have brothers and sisters?

Ross I have step brothers and sisters. Two

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stepsisters and one stepbrother.

Interviewer Do you get along with them well?

Ross Yes, we didn't grow up together, but we're now all adults and we get on really well.

4 Coleen

Interviewer Have you ever won any money, for example in a lottery?

Tyler No, I haven't...ah well ...actually I've won like five dollars just from a scratch off lottery thing.

Interviewer What did you do with it?

Tyler I'm pretty sure I went to MacDonald's and treated myself.

5 Richard

Interviewer Have you ever taken part in a charity event?

Richard I have, yes. I ran the London Marathon, I think about eight years ago now. For Cancer Research.

Interviewer How much money did you raise?

Richard About six and a half thousand pounds.

Practical English Episode 2

Rob's interview

Kerri You work hard but your money's all spent
Haven't got enough to pay the rent
You know it's not right and it makes no sense
To go chasing, chasing those dollars and cents
Chasing, chasing those dollars and cents

Rob That was great, Kerri.

Kerri Thanks.

Rob Kerri, you used to be in a band, now you play solo. Why did you change?

Kerri What happened with the band is private. I've already said I don't want to talk about it in interviews. All I'll say is that I have a lot more freedom this way. I can play – and say – what I want.

Rob Did your relationship with the band's lead guitarist affect the break up?

Kerri No comment. I never talk about my private life.

Rob Your dad was in a famous punk band and your mum's a classical pianist. Have they influenced your music?

Kerri Of course they have – what do you think? Isn't everyone influenced by their parents?

Rob When did you start playing?

Kerri I started playing the guitar when I was about four.

Rob Four? That's pretty young.

Kerri Yeah, the guitar was nearly as big as me!

Rob I think that your new album is your best yet. It's a lot quieter and more experimental than your earlier albums.

Kerri Thank you! I think it's my best work.

Rob So what have you been doing recently?

Kerri Well, I've been writing and recording some new songs. And I've played at some of the summer festivals in the UK.

Rob And what are you doing while you're in the States?

Kerri I'm going to play at some clubs here in New York, then I'm doing some small gigs in other places. I just want to get to know the country and the people. It's all very new to me.

Jenny Good job, Rob. She isn't the easiest person to interview.

Rob She's OK. And this video clip will work great online.

Don Well, thank you for coming in today, Kerri. Now I suggest we have some lunch. Rob, could you call a taxi?

Rob Uh, sure.

Giving opinions

Don So when will you be coming back to New York, Kerri?

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Kerri Oh, I don't know.

Waitress Hi guys, is everything OK?

Don Yes, it's delicious, thank you.

Waitress That's great!

Kerri New York waiters never leave you alone! I really don't like all this, "Hi guys! Is everything OK?" stuff.

Don What? You mean waiters aren't friendly in London?

Rob Oh, they're very friendly!

Kerri Yes, they're friendly, but not too friendly. They don't bother you all the time.

Waitress Can I get you anything else? More drinks, maybe?

Don No, thanks. We're fine.

Waitress Fantastic.

Kerri See what I mean? Personally, I think people in London are a lot more easy-going. London's just not as hectic as New York.

Don Sure, we all like peace and quiet. But in my opinion, New York is possibly... well, no, is definitely the greatest city in the world. Don't you agree?

Kerri To be honest, I definitely prefer London.

Don Come on, Rob. You've lived in both. What do you think?

Rob Oh, well, I have to say, London's very special. It's more relaxed, it's got great parks, and you can cycle everywhere. It's dangerous to cycle in New York!

Don Why would you cycle when you can drive a car?

Kerri You can't be serious.

Don OK, I agree London has its own peculiar charm. But if you ask me, nothing compares with a city like New York. The whole world is here!

Kerri But that's the problem. It's too big. There are too many people. Everybody's so stressed out. And nobody has any time for you.

Jenny I don't think that's right, Kerri. New Yorkers are very friendly…

Kerri Oh sure, they can sound friendly with all that "Have a nice day" stuff. But I always think it's a little bit... fake.

Don You've got to be kidding me!

Rob I'm sorry. I'll just have to take this...

Rob Hello?... Yes... You're who?... The taxi driver?... What did she leave? ... Her cellphone... right. OK. Yes, we're still at the restaurant. See you in about five minutes.

Giving opinions − listen and check

1

Kerri Personally, I think people in London are a lot more easy-going. London's just not as hectic as New York.

Don Sure, we all like peace and quiet. But in my opinion, New York is possibly... well, no, is definitely the greatest city in the world. Don't you agree?

Kerri To be honest, I definitely prefer London.

Don Come on, Rob. You've lived in both. What do you think?

2

Don OK, I agree. London has its own peculiar charm. But if you ask me, nothing compares with a city like New York. The whole world is here!

Kerri But that's the problem. It's too big. There are too many people. Everybody's so stressed out. And nobody has any time for you.

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Kerri Oh sure, they can sound friendly with all that "Have a nice day" stuff.

Giving opinions − listen and repeat

1

Kerri Personally, I think…

Don But in my opinion…

Don Don't you agree?

Kerri To be honest…

Don What do you think?

2

Don OK, I agree.

Don But if you ask me…

Jenny I don't think that's right.

Kerri Oh sure.

A surprise for Kerri

Kerri Thank you for a nice lunch, Don.

Don You're welcome.

Waitress Thanks for coming, guys! Have a nice day.

Don See? Nice, friendly service.

Kerri Maybe. But I think she saw the big tip you left on the table!

Jenny Did you mean what you said in the restaurant, Rob?

Rob Did I mean what?

Jenny About missing London?

Rob Sure, I miss it, Jenny.

Jenny Really?

Rob But hey, not that much! It's just that moving to a new place is always difficult.

Jenny But you don't regret coming here, do you?

Rob No … no … not at all.

Jenny It's just that you seemed so homesick in there. For the parks, cycling...

Rob Well, there are some things I miss, but – oh, hang on a minute. Look over there. Our taxi's come back.

Taxi driver Excuse me, ma'am.

Kerri Who me? What is it?

Taxi driver I believe this is your cell phone. You left it in my cab.

Kerri What?... Oh, wow... thank you!

Taxi driver Have a nice day!

Kerri That was so kind of him!

Don See? New Yorkers are really friendly people.

4B Video Listening

An interview with Alex Rawlings − Part 1

Alex Rawlings became "Britain's most multilingual student" in 2012, when he won a national competition which tested his fluency in 11 different languages. At the time, he was studying German and Russian at Oxford University. Originally from London, Alex has lived in Germany, Russia, Hungary, and Spain, and he has gone on to learn more languages since he graduated.

An interview with Alex Rawlings − Part 2

I've learned so many languages because I'm hooked basically on learning languages. I think every new language to me is like a new world, it's a completely new adventure and you meet totally different people, you have totally different experiences. I often say when, when you visit a country when you speak the language, you really get to know that country, you really get to explore it for yourself. But when you visit a country and you don't speak the local language, you're relying on other people to explain what's happening to you. They're kind of, they're showing you their version of the country, but you can't really see it for yourself.

All of the languages that I speak are fun. I think that's why I've stuck with them and enjoy speaking them. I think I have the, the deepest emotional connection with Greek because my grandmother was from

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Greece and so we use Greek in my family as well and I've heard it ever since I was a child. But I also really like speaking German.

There are so many languages that I would love to learn in the future. As I said, I'm hooked so… I'm, I'm very interested in Chinese at the moment. I work with someone from China who's teaching me little bits. And I think it's really cool when I hear her speaking to her family or friends on the phone in Chinese and think, "Wow! Wouldn't it be really awesome to speak that." I also, I organize an international conference for polyglots every year, which moves country, so last year it was in Iceland and this year it's going to be in Slovenia. So I'd like to learn some Slovene as well before we go there for the weekend.

I always feel a little bit guilty that I'm from the UK but I've never really learned any of our local languages here. So I've never learned Welsh, I've never learned Irish, I've never learnt Scottish Gaelic. And I went to Wales recently and loved that we had everything in two languages. You walk into the supermarket and you see all these languages everywhere. And I thought, "I think it would be really cool to learn a language which is very close to where I live that I could use." So I'd love to learn Welsh one day too.

The biggest challenge for me with learning a new language was with Russian. There were a number of things that I wasn't expecting to be hard that were. For example, there's a whole new alphabet, which, it's not too different to English – you get used to it – but when you're trying to learn a word, it's just an extra barrier to memorizing that word. First having to read it and understand what all of the letters mean and then having to actually memorize it. So there's that extra layer there.

Technology has been an amazing resource for me, especially when I was growing up actually, with YouTube and things like that, I was able to sort of come home from school and immediately immerse myself in this world of another language. I could just watch videos in different languages all evening and it was like I was there, it was like I was living in the country. So the internet has brought all of those cultures much closer to me and made them much more accessible. And since then I think there's now a lot of technology out there to help you learn vocabulary or to teach you grammar.

An interview with Alex Rawlings − Part 3

Host As well as learning languages himself, Alex has also taught intensive language courses. He also appears in the media and regularly posts about language on Twitter and The Memrise Blog. He has also written a book, *How to Speak Any Language Fluently*.

Alex Yeah, it's a good question. So, put it, put it this way. I've never met anyone who couldn't learn a language, you know, I mean, if they had the right motivation, the right time allocation, the right resources, and the right expectations, I've never met anyone who's had all of those things in place and still failed. But many of us fail to learn languages because one of those things is not there. We don't have enough time, we're not doing it for the right reasons, or we expect it to be a lot easier than it actually is.

Alex Well, the easiest language for me to learn was definitely Afrikaans because the grammar's very, very simple, so there are almost no irregular verbs, there's only three real tenses you have to worry about, and a lot of the vocabulary in Afrikaans is very similar to vocabulary in English. So for example, there's this sentence which is "My pen is in my hand and my hand is in warm water," which in Afrikaans is "my pen is en my hand and my hand is in warm water," which, you know is very, very easy for English-speakers to learn. So the easiest

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languages to learn are the languages which are most similar to the one you speak natively because you don't have to learn so many new concepts and maybe you can already understand a lot of the vocabulary because it's similar to what you already know.

Alex I think British and American people think that they're not very good at languages. I think we don't have much confidence. Because when we go abroad to other countries, we, we expect people to speak English, people expect us to speak English, so we never get a chance to practice the little bits of other languages that we might know…

Alex I think the most important thing for someone who wants to learn a new language to remember is that nothing happens overnight. Learning languages is a lifelong activity. And you basically, you never finish, you never get to that finishing line where you think, "Right, what should I do next?" When you learn a new language you need to accept the fact that there will always be more to learn, no matter how much you learn. And so the best approach is to just start doing it in little steps, just doing say 10-15 minutes a day, whenever you can find time around your routine. And then building that up over a year or two years before you really start to feel very confident using that language.

Review and Check

Can you understand these people? 3&4

1 Lewis

Interviewer How do you get to work?

Lewis Um, I get to work by taking the bus or the subway.

Interviewer How long does it take?

Lewis Usually about an hour...yeah.

Interviewer What do you think is the best way to get around London?

Lewis I definitely think the best way to get around New York is the subway.

2 Butterfly

Interviewer Do you think women are better than men with young children, or do you think that's just a stereotype?

Butterfly I think that, um, it is definitely a stereotype that women are just better with children than men are. I believe that both sexes provide children with valuable, equally valuable, experiences, um, so I definitely trust either sex to raise children and love children, you know, with the same styles and the same quality and, you know, respect and love.

3 Coleen

Interviewer Are there any stereotypes about men and women that you think are true?

Coleen I think women do think differently to men, um, and I think conversations tend to be different as well. Women are much more into, um, "what did you say and what did he say, and what did you feel" and all the rest of it, and men are far more pragmatic and, you know, just want to know the score, as it were.

4 Jenny

Interviewer How many languages do you speak?

Jenny I speak English and I also speak Afrikaans.

Interviewer Is there a language you'd like to be able to speak?

Jenny I would very much like to be able to speak Spanish.

Interviewer Why Spanish?

Jenny Because Spanish is spoken all over

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	the world and I feel it's, it would be, it's important to be able to communicate with more people.
5 Linwood	
Interviewer	Is there anything that people do with their phones that really annoys you?
Tyler	It annoys me when people...like you're trying to have a conversation and they're just sitting there texting somebody else or having a conversation with people that aren't, you know, in front of them.

Practical English Episode 3

Jenny has coffee with a friend

Jenny	Monica!
Monica	Jenny!
Jenny	Wow! How are you? You look great!
Monica	Thanks, Jenny! You look really good, too.
Jenny	Hey, why don't we get some coffee?
Monica	I'd love to, but I'm on the way to meet... oh, come on. Five minutes!
Jenny	So, how is everything?
Monica	Oh, great. Things couldn't be better actually. Scott and I … we're getting married!
Jenny	You're what? Congratulations!
Monica	Thank you!
Jenny	When did you get engaged?
Monica	Only a few days ago. I'm glad I saw you actually. I was going to call you. We've only told family so far.
Jenny	I can't believe it. Monica the wife! And to think you used to go clubbing every night!
Monica	Well, that was a few years ago! All I want to do now is stay in and read wedding magazines.
Jenny	And how are the plans coming along?
Monica	I haven't done anything yet. My mom and Scott's mom want to organize the whole thing themselves!
Jenny	That's what mothers are for!
Monica	True. But what about you? You look fantastic.
Jenny	Well, I guess I'm kind of happy, too.
Monica	Uh huh. What's his name?
Jenny	Rob.
Monica	You've been keeping him very quiet! Is it serious?
Jenny	It's kind of, you know...
Monica	So it is!
Jenny	It's still early. We haven't been together for long. He only moved here a few months ago from London.
Monica	What? He's British? And you think you can persuade him to stay in New York? That won't be easy!
Jenny	I think he likes it here. You know how guys are, you never know what they're thinking.
Monica	When can I meet him?
Jenny	Uh... that's him now.

Permissions and requests

Rob	Do you mind if I join you?
Monica	Of course not. Come on, sit down.
Rob	Thank you.
Monica	I have to leave in a minute anyway.
Rob	Could I have a large latte, please?
Waiter	Of course.
Jenny	Rob, this is Monica.
Monica	Nice to meet you, Rob.
Rob	You too, Monica. You know, Jenny talks about you a lot. And I've seen college photos of you two together. At Jenny's parents' house.
Jenny	Of course you have. My dad's photos.

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Rob You've hardly changed at all.

Monica What a nice man! I can see why you like him, Jenny. The perfect English gentleman.

Waiter Your latte.

Rob Oh, thanks. Can you pass the sugar?

Jenny Sure.

Monica Sorry guys, but I have to go.

Rob You're sure I haven't interrupted anything?

Monica Not at all. It's just that I have to meet someone. But let's get together very soon.

Jenny We will!

Monica Bye, Rob. Nice meeting you.

Rob Bye.

Jenny Bye. Talk soon.

Rob She seems like a happy person.

Jenny She is, especially right now – she's getting married.

Rob That's fantastic news!

Jenny Yeah, it is. I guess we're at that age now. When most of our friends are settling down and getting married.

Rob Yeah... Oh, speaking of friends, I want to ask you a favor. Is it OK if we change our plans a bit this week?

Jenny Uh... sure. What's up?

Rob I've just had a call from an old friend of mine, Paul. I haven't seen him since we were at university and he's travelling around the States at the moment. Anyway, he's arriving in New York this evening and ... I've invited him to stay for the week.

Jenny Cool! It'll be fun to meet one of your old friends! What's he like?

Rob Oh, Paul's a laugh. He used to be a bit wild, but that was a long time ago. He's probably changed completely.

Jenny Well, I'm looking forward to meeting him.

Rob Just one other thing. Could you do me a big favor? I have to work late this evening, so...would you mind meeting him at the airport?

Jenny Not at all. I'd like to meet him.

Rob And do you think you could take him to my flat? I'll give you the keys.

Jenny No problem, Rob.

Rob Thanks so much, Jenny. You're a real star.

Permissions and requests − listen and check

1

Rob Do you mind if I join you?

Monica Of course not. Come on, sit down.

2

Rob Is it OK if we change our plans a bit this week?

Jenny Uh... sure.

3

Rob Can you pass the sugar?

Jenny Sure.

4

Rob Could you do me a big favor? I have to work late this evening, so...would you mind meeting him at the airport?

Jenny Not at all. I'd like to meet him.

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Rob And do you think you could take him to my flat? I'll give you the keys.

Jenny No problem, Rob.

Permissions and requests − listen and repeat

1

Rob Do you mind if I join you?

Monica Of course not.

2

Rob Is it OK if…

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Jenny Uh… sure.

3

Rob Can you pass the sugar?

Jenny Sure.

4

Rob Could you do me a big favor?

Rob ...would you mind meeting him…?

Jenny Not at all.

5

Rob And do you think you could take him…?

Jenny No problem.

Paul arrives

Paul Hey man!

Rob Paul!

Paul It's great to see you, mate.

Rob You too, Paul. It's been years. You haven't changed at all.

Paul Just got better looking!

Rob How come you're so late?

Jenny Paul's flight from LA was delayed. And then the traffic coming back was just awful.

Paul But that gave us time to get to know each other.

Jenny Yeah. Paul told me all about his travels. Every detail.

Paul And look at this. Your own New York flat. How cool is that?

Rob It's good. Really good. But – do you want something to eat? I got some things on my way home.

Paul Stay in? It's my first night in the Big Apple! Let's go out and have a pizza or something.

Rob I thought you'd be tired after the flight.

Paul No way, man! I'm ready for action.

Rob Great! I'll get my jacket…

Jenny Rob, I think I'll go home if you don't mind. I, uh, I'm exhausted.

Rob Oh, OK then.

Paul So it's a boys' night out!

Rob Just like the old days!

Paul And after the pizza we can go on somewhere else. Rob, we've got a lot to talk about!

6B Video Listening

A day with a personal stylist − Part 1

Narrator Sam Alexander is an actor. He lives in London. Today he's going to visit a personal stylist, Elin Mai, at the Westfield Shopping Mall in Shepherd's Bush.

Sam I thought my wardrobe was getting quite boring and I dress up a lot for my job as an actor. Sometimes I don't give any thought to my own wardrobe, so I was keen to sort of refresh things a bit and get a new opinion.

Sam Hi, Elin.

Elin Hello, Sam! Welcome!

Sam Thank you very much. Nice to meet you.

Elin Nice to meet you too. Welcome to the Fashion Lounge.

Elin I think having your unique personal style is something that's incredibly important to each and every individual. And everyone should ideally try and find their own personal style as well.

Narrator Before this session, Sam has filled out a questionnaire with everything from his sizes to his dress sense.

Elin OK, tell me how today came about…

Elin With every session, we sit down at the beginning and we have a chat about their questionnaire, so we go into a bit more depth. And then we would ask them more questions about their lifestyle as well.

Video Script

Elin When you're actually working, how many days a week are you actually at work?

Sam Well, the thing about being an actor is that you don't have any routine, so sometimes I'm in a play, in which case I work six days a week and I'd have a routine. But then that stops suddenly and then I might be between jobs, in which case I'm at home a lot or I might be doing filming, which means fewer days but very long hours.

Elin Now the consultation usually lasts, you know, fifteen to twenty minutes, but the consultation actually continues throughout the session as well.

Elin So those little questions about their lifestyle – and I find out things about what they like and what they dislike and about the shops that they've gone to in the past and about their relationship with clothes.

Narrator After Sam and Elin have visited a few stores, they return to the Fashion Lounge and Elin divides the clothes into four outfits.

Elin Ready, Sam? Wow!

Sam Here we are. Number one.

Elin OK! This looks fantastic. How do you feel?

Sam I really like it. It is quite bold – the shirt – but yeah.

Elin How do the jeans fit?

Sam Great. Jeans that stretch. They feel very comfy.

Elin What I wanted to show you now as well is actually how useful this outfit's going to be, so I want you to put this smart blazer on just to show you that you can elevate this outfit and make it look smart by putting a blue blazer on top. Yeah, really, really nice. Have a look at yourself here then as well. What do you think?

Sam That's very nice. Yeah, I really like it - very smart.

Narrator Sam likes the second outfit too.

Elin Let's see this next one. Wow! Oh my goodness! Give me a twirl in this one as well. Fabulous. How do you feel?

Sam Yeah really good. This is not something I would dare to go for normally, but I really, I really like it. I love it.

Elin OK, fantastic, so what I really like about it as well is the fact that none of the colors are actually matching, but they all work in harmony with each other really nicely.

Narrator Sam then tries on outfit 3.

Elin Oh wow, another completely different outfit.

Sam I really like this one.

Elin You like this one?

Sam Absolutely. It's a very good idea, putting trainers with smarter trousers. I wouldn't think to do that.

Narrator And finally he tries on outfit 4.

Elin Wow! What another entrance!

Sam So this is a staple – everyone should have one of these.

Elin Everyone should have a denim shirt.

Sam See I haven't. Brilliant.

Narrator But which outfit does Sam like best?

Narrator Outfit 1…Outfit 2…Outfit 3…Outfit 4

Sam I think outfit two really, because it was quite bold. I felt very smart in it

Video Script

and I wouldn't have worn those kind of things.

A day with a personal stylist − Part 2

Narrator So what are Elin's golden rules?

Elin I would say my golden rules would be to look at you own wardrobe to begin with before even going shopping, because without knowing what you've got, you can't go out and buy the right things.

Elin OK, fantastic!

Elin I think a lot of the mistakes that people make are, they're not staying true to themselves when they actually go out shopping. So perhaps they've seen kind of a lot of different things in magazines and online. And sometimes that can be really confusing. I truly believe that it doesn't matter how much money you've got you can look good. It's about where you shop and how you put things together.

Narrator Is there one item that Elin thinks everyone should have?

Elin I do think that everyone should have a good pair of jeans in their wardrobe that fits them perfectly, that makes them feel good about themselves.

Elin Did you enjoy today?

Sam I did. It was absolutely brilliant. It exceeded my expectations. It was really great fun.

Narrator Although not everyone needs Elin's help, for Sam the day with a personal stylist has clearly changed his wardrobe and his attitude to it.

Elin No problem.

Sam Bye.

Elin Bye!

Review and Check

Can you understand these people? 5&6

1 Philomena

Interviewer Do you prefer doing sport or watching them?

Philomena Probably doing it. I find watching it really boring.

Interviewer What sport do you play?

Philomena Uh, I don't do a lot. I'd say I don't mind tennis, swimming in variation, depends on the weather.

Interviewer What sports do you like watching the most?

Philomena If I had to watch one, I like the rhythmic gymnastics or the diving, like for example at the Games, when they're on TV.

Interviewer Why do you like them?

Philomena I think because they're kind of like a dance, it's like a routine, it's very graceful. It's not as rough a sport.

2 Rachel

Interviewer Do you know anyone who has gone out with someone they met online?

Rachel I know lots of people who've gone out with people they've met online.

Interviewer How did it work out?

Rachel A couple of people are married, for some of them they're still with the other person, and for a lot of them it didn't work out.

3 Gina

Interviewer Have you ever cheated on an exam?

Gina I have definitely cheated on an exam.

Interviewer How did you cheat?

Gina I had friends with me or I would write it on a piece of paper or on my hand.

Video Script

Interviewer Were you caught?

Gina I have never gotten caught cheating on an exam.

4 Tyler

Interviewer What's your favorite movie of all time?

Tyler My favorite movie of all time is *John Wick*.

Interviewer How many times have you seen it?

Tyler I have seen it at least ten times.

Interviewer Why do you like it so much?

Tyler A lot of action. A lot of blood. Just good fights.

5 Miranda

Interviewer Do you have a profile photo?

Miranda Yes, I have a profile photo on my Facebook, and Instagram, and Twitters.

Interviewer What is it?

Miranda The photo, the profile photo on my Facebook page is of me and my husband in Las Vegas on our anniversary.

Interviewer Why did you choose it?

Miranda Um, my makeup looked good.

Practical English Episode 4

Rob and Paul catch up

Paul Bad luck, mate.

Rob Nice shot.

Paul I've had years of practice.

Rob You used to play pool a lot at university.

Paul You did, too.

Rob Yeah. I don't really have the time anymore.

Paul Or anybody to play with.

Paul So what do you do in your free time?

Rob The magazine keeps me pretty busy. And when I'm free, I'm usually with Jenny...

Paul Tch. Your turn. Don't blow it.

Rob What is it?

Paul I was just thinking about you.

Rob What about me?

Paul Do you remember the great times we had at uni? You had such crazy hair – last time I saw you it was blond!

Rob Don't remind me.

Paul Those were the days. Look at you now with your girlfriend and your nine to five job. If you don't come back to London soon, you'll become an all-American boy!

Rob Come off it.

Paul It's true! I mean, just look at that shirt.

Rob What's wrong with my shirt?

Paul You look like a businessman! Did you buy it?

Rob Me? No. It was... it was a present from Jenny.

Paul I thought so.

Rob What does that mean?

Paul It's Jenny's taste.

Rob Yes, and I really like it.

Paul Jenny seems to know what she wants – and she probably gets it.

Rob That's one of the things I like about her.

Rob Terrible.

Paul You said it.

Rob Sorry, Paul. We've got to go.

Paul Oh, come on, Rob. We haven't even finished the game.

Rob Another time. Jenny's waiting for us.

Paul Jenny. Right.

Making suggestions

Paul Oh, yeah. That was good. … So! What shall we do now?

Rob What do you want to do?

Paul Well... I haven't been on a dance floor for weeks now. I've got to move my body. Let's go dancing!

Jenny I'm going running in the morning. Why don't you join me?

Paul No, thanks. I'm not very keen on

Video Script

running. But I've read about this place called Deep Space, where they play great music. We could go there.

Jenny A club?

Paul Don't you feel like dancing?

Jenny Not on a Wednesday night. What about going to the late show at MOMA?

Paul MOMA? What's that?

Jenny MOMA. It's the Museum of Modern Art. There's a Kandinsky exhibition.

Paul That isn't exactly my idea of a great night out.

Jenny What about staying in and watching a movie on TV?

Paul I'm in New York. I can watch TV anywhere.

Jenny Who's that?

Rob It's a text from Kerri. She's doing a gig at the Bowery Ballroom.

Paul Kerri who?

Rob Kerri Johnson. I interviewed her last week.

Paul Kerri Johnson? I've seen her play live. She's cool. Do you like her Jenny?

Jenny I have to admit I'm not crazy about her music...or her for that matter.

Paul I didn't think so. So shall we go there?

Rob Why not? Actually Kerri's staying very near here and she doesn't know New York very well. We could meet her outside and go together.

Paul That's a great idea!

Rob I'll send her a text.

Jenny I think I might have an early night. You two can go on your own.

Rob Are you sure you don't mind?

Paul Of course she doesn't mind!

Jenny No, Rob, it's fine. I have another busy day tomorrow. You do too, actually.

Rob I know, we're meeting Don. I haven't forgotten.

Rob It's Kerri. She's on her way now.

Paul What are we waiting for? Let's go!

Monica Hello?

Jenny Hi Monica – it's not too late to call is it?

Monica Jenny! No, why? Are you OK?

Jenny I need to talk.

Monica Can you come over? Why don't you take a cab?

Jenny OK, thanks.

Making suggestions − listen and check

1

Paul What shall we do now?

Rob What do you want to do?

Paul Well... I haven't been on a dance floor for weeks now. I've got to move my body. Let's go dancing!

2

Jenny I'm going running in the morning. Why don't you join me?

Paul No thanks. I'm not very keen on running. But I've read about this place called Deep Space, where they play great music. We could go there.

3

Jenny What about going to the late show at MOMA?

Paul MOMA? What's that?

4

Jenny What about staying in and watching a movie on TV?

Paul I'm in New York. I can watch TV anywhere.

5

Paul I didn't think so. So shall we go there?

Video Script

Rob Why not?

6

Rob We could meet her outside and go together.

Paul That's a great idea!

Making suggestions − listen and repeat

1

Paul What shall we do now?

Paul Let's go dancing!

2

Jenny Why don't you join me?

Paul No thanks. I'm not very keen on running.

Paul We could go there.

3 How about going to the late show…?

4 What about staying in…?

5

Paul Shall we go there?

Rob Why not?

6

Rob We could meet her outside.

Paul That's a great idea!

The morning after the night before

Jenny Rob?

Rob Hi, Jenny.

Jenny Are you OK? Where are you anyway?

Rob I'm at home. I'm feeling terrible. We got back really late last night.

Jenny Why doesn't that surprise me? You know, you're not a student anymore.

Rob I know. There was a party after the gig – Kerri invited us – and of course Paul said yes.

Jenny And this morning's meeting? In...ten minutes?

Rob That's why I'm calling. I'm not going to make it. I'm really sorry.

Jenny Rob! It's a very important meeting! I'll cover for you this time, but I won't be able to do it again.

Rob It won't happen again, I promise. Anyway, Paul's leaving.

Jenny He's leaving?

Rob That's right. He's off to Boston this afternoon.

Jenny Maybe that's a good thing. I mean, it's not that I don't like Paul, but...

Rob I know, I know...

Jenny I have to go. Talk to you later.

Don Jenny, have you seen Rob? I wanted to have a word with him before the meeting and he isn't even here.

Jenny I know. He just called to say he can't make it.

Don He what?

Jenny I was with him last night. He wasn't feeling very well. But it's OK. He told me everything I need to know for the meeting.

Don Oh. OK then.

Jenny You know Rob. He's such a professional.

8B Video Listening

How to complain − Part 1

Hello, and welcome to Ten-Minute Travel for all your travel tips, news, and reviews. Many of us travel a lot, on vacation or for work, and that often means staying in a hotel. So today we're looking at hotel problems, and what we should do when things go wrong. The hotel industry is a competitive one, and hotels really do want you to enjoy your stay, especially in this digital age, where guests can leave good or bad reviews instantly. But sometimes things go wrong. Let's start by looking at the top five complaints.

Air-conditioning is at the top of the list, with nearly a quarter of all the complaints. At number 2, is wi-fi, with fourteen percent of people complaining that the hotel wi-fi is too slow or that they can't connect. Eleven percent of hotel guests have had problems with noise, either from the street outside or from neighboring rooms. And a similar number have complained about their room not being clean enough. And finally, in fifth place--service. Nine percent of

Video Script

guests have suffered from slow or bad service, especially with hotel breakfasts or room service.

So what should you do if you have one of these problems?

How to complain − Part 2

Joanne So what should you do if you have one of these problems? What's the best way to complain? Let's look at three examples of how not to do it. Here's Phil, a hotel guest who's on a work trip.

Maid Oh, sorry, sir! I'll come back later.
Phil No, it's fine, go ahead. It's so hot in here, I couldn't sleep. I can't get the air-conditioning to work. Can you see if you can fix it?
Maid I'm sorry, sir, I don't really know about the air-conditioning.
Phil Well, I'm afraid I don't know about it either.
Maid I'll tell reception later.
Joanne So, what did Phil do wrong? The first rule of complaining is to complain to the right person. The cleaning staff can't fix Phil's air-conditioning and it isn't her job to get it fixed. Phil needs to go down and complain to reception--it's always better to complain in person, rather than just calling. So, let's take a look at how Phil should have complained.
Receptionist Good morning, sir.
Phil Good morning. I think there's a problem with the air-conditioning in my room -- Room 42. It's very hot and I can't get it cooler. Could you ask someone to take a look at it before this evening?
Receptionist Of course, sir. I'll do it right away.

Waiter Here you are, sir. Eggs, toast, and an espresso.
Phil I think I asked for wheat toast. And a cappuccino, not an espresso.
Waiter Wheat toast and a cappuccino? I'm very sorry, sir. The order must have gotten mixed up.
Phil Never mind. I'm in a hurry. I'll have the espresso.
Waiter And the toast? I can bring you some wheat toast in a few minutes.
Phil OK then. Oh, it doesn't matter. White toast will be OK.
Waiter Thank you, sir.
Joanne Here Phil complains to the right person, but there's no point complaining if you don't want somebody to do something about it. If you want to complain successfully, you need to know what your ideal solution is and make it clear. So, let's take a look at how Phil should have complained.

Waiter Here are eggs, toast, and an espresso.
Phil I think I asked for wheat toast. And a cappuccino, not an espresso.
Waiter Wheat toast and a cappuccino? I'm very sorry, sir. The kitchen must have made a mistake.
Phil If you could change them that would be great. And as quickly as you can, please. I don't have much time.
Waiter Of course, sir. I'll be right back.

Receptionist Good morning, sir. Can I help you?
Phil Yes, I'd like to check out, please.

Video Script

Receptionist Of course, sir. I hope you enjoyed your stay.

Phil No, I didn't enjoy it at all. My room was noisy and the wi-fi was slow. It was impossible to get any work done. I certainly won't be recommending this hotel; you can be sure of that.

Receptionist I'm very sorry to hear that, sir.

Joanne Why complain about your room and the wi-fi when you're checking out? You should always complain as soon as you notice a problem. If you wait till later, the hotel might not have the chance to make the problem right. Above all, and this is probably the most important tip, never be rude or aggressive. If you complain politely, you're far more likely to be successful. A smile will always make people want to help you. So, let's take a look at how Phil should have complained.

Receptionist Hello again, sir. Can I help you?

Phil Yes, I've been trying to do some work in my room, and there's a lot of traffic noise from the street. Would it be possible to move to a different room, maybe at the back of the hotel?

Receptionist I'll see what we have. Yes, we do have a room free…overlooking the garden.

Phil That sounds perfect. I also noticed the wi-fi seems to be very slow. It's like being at home.

Receptionist I'll get someone to look at that right away, sir. Here's your new room key. Just let me know if you're still having problems with the wi-fi in ten minutes.

Phil Thanks very much.

Joanne Finally, remember that if you're staying in a good hotel, they'll always want the chance to make things right. But they can't help you if they don't know there's a problem, so you should always complain. And now you know how!

Review and Check

Can you understand these people? 7&8

1 Philomena

Interviewer What was your favorite subject when you were in school?

Philomena History, predominantly modern history. That's the main reason, my history teacher is the reason why I became a teacher. She was really inspiring and she made the subject come alive.

Interviewer Were there any subjects you hated?

Philomena Maths, again due to bad teachers, and predominantly I just don't have a mathematical brain, so I found it very difficult.

2 Adina

Interviewer What kind of things do you often buy online?

Adina I buy online clothes, food to get delivered to home, um, and also a lot of beauty products as well.

Interviewer Is there anything you would never buy online?

Adina I don't think there is anymore, I don't think there is anything anymore that I wouldn't buy online.

3 Daniel

Interviewer Have you ever had really bad

Video Script

customer service?

Daniel Yes, I have had very bad customer service before.

Interviewer What happened?

Daniel Um, I've had a waiter be very rude to me and sort of drop the plate on the table when they served the dish

Interviewer What did you do?

Daniel I did not tip that waiter.

4 Julie

Interviewer If you could change one thing about your home, what would it be?

Julie I would probably change my home's location. I really love my house, but it's very isolated. We live in the forest and there's no sidewalks. So, I'd probably put it in a slighty more urban setting.

5 Shrenik

Interviewer What's more important to you about a job, having a good salary or doing something you really enjoy?

Shrenik Doing something you...you really enjoy, um, is something that I prioritize, when looking for a job or working a job. And also having a good work to life balance.

Interviewer Why do you think that's important?

Shrenik Because a job isn't everything. You have to have time for yourself and your life and do things that you love and you're passionate about...or else you'll never grow.

Practical English Episode 5

Jenny gets a surprise

Paul Yeah?

Jenny Hi there. It's me. Should I come up?

Jenny Paul!

Paul That's right.

Jenny Hi.

Paul Hi. Are you OK?

Jenny Yes, fine thanks. It's just that I erm...

Paul What?

Jenny I wasn't expecting to see you.

Paul Really? Well, as you can see, I'm still here. It seems Rob just can't live without me.

Paul Yeah, he's going to miss me when I'm gone. But not for long. We'll meet up again when he goes back to London.

Jenny Goes back...?

Paul Yeah, he told me last night he was planning to leave New York pretty soon.

Jenny He what?

Rob Hi, Jenny. Do you want some breakfast? I've got bagels.

Jenny No thank you, Rob. Why don't you two enjoy them?

Rob What's wrong?

Paul No idea. I just said you were planning to leave New York soon and she...

Rob You what? I didn't say that!

Paul You didn't have to. This New York life isn't you, Rob, and you know it.

Rob No, I don't! I like New York and Jenny's here.

Paul Oh come on! What's the big deal? It's not like you want to marry her.

Rob Well...

Paul What? You do?!

Rob Look Paul. I'm serious about New York and I'm serious about Jenny. And I want you to leave. Today.

Paul You're joking, mate.

Rob No, I'm not. I'll even buy the ticket.

Indirect questions

Rob Hi, Jenny.

Jenny Rob.

Rob Paul told me what he said to you and it's not true. I'm not planning to leave New York.

Jenny Oh, really? Could you tell me why Paul is still

Video Script

in your apartment?

Rob Well, he couldn't get a ticket to Boston.

Jenny But you told me he was going a few days ago. Or was that another lie?

Rob No, of course it wasn't! He couldn't get a ticket. The buses to Boston were all full.

Jenny So do you know if he's got one now?

Rob I bought it! He's leaving this evening. But that isn't really the issue here, is it? You have to believe me – I don't want to leave New York!

Jenny How can I believe you? I know you're missing London because you said the same thing to Kerri at the restaurant. Look Rob, I'd like to know what you really want.

Rob What do you mean?

Jenny When you and Paul were together, it was like you were a different person.

Rob You know what Paul's like. What was I meant to do? But that isn't the kind of life I want anymore. I'm not like that.

Jenny I know you're not, but I wonder if you really want to be here. I wonder if...

Rob Jenny, what is it?

Jenny Forget it.

Rob Jenny, what are you worrying about?

Jenny I don't know if this is going to work out.

Rob You're not serious.

Jenny I just…I'm just not sure if we want the same things anymore.

Rob That's crazy!

Don Jenny – oh, good morning, Rob.

Rob Don.

Don I need a word. Can you tell me what you decided at the last meeting?

Jenny Right away, Don. Rob was just leaving.

Indirect questions − listen and check

1

Jenny Could you tell me why Paul is still in your apartment?

Rob Well, he couldn't get a ticket to Boston…

2

Jenny Do you know if he's got one now?

Rob I bought it! He's leaving this evening.

3

Jenny Look Rob, I'd like to know what you really want.

Rob What do you mean?

4

Jenny I wonder if you really want to be here. I wonder if…

Rob Jenny, what is it?

5

Don I need a word. Can you tell me what you decided at the last meeting?

Jenny Right away, Don. Rob was just leaving.

Indirect questions − listen and repeat (9.24)

1 Could you tell me why Paul is still in your apartment?

2 Do you know if he's got one now?

3 I'd like to know what you really want.

4 I wonder if you really want to be here.

5 Can you tell me what you decided at the last meeting?

Rob gets serious

Rob But what can I do, Jenny? What can I say to convince you I'm serious?

Jenny I don't know, Rob.

Rob Wait! What Paul said just isn't true.

Jenny It isn't just what Paul said. It's obvious you want to go back.

Rob Of course I miss London, but I love my life here. What proof do you want of my commitment to New York, to you, to everything!

Jenny I don't know.

Rob There must be something I can do.

Jenny Look, we're going to see my parents later. I don't want us to be late.

Rob We won't be late. And I won't forget the

Video Script

chocolates this time either.

Jenny Well, that's a start, I guess.

Rob But Jenny – we need to talk about this.

Jenny We don't have time to discuss it now.

Rob Jenny!

Jenny What is it?

Rob What if I proposed to you?

Jenny Proposed?

Rob That's right. Proposed.

Jenny Like, "Will you marry me?"

Rob Exactly.

Jenny On one knee?

Rob I can do that.

Rob So what would you say?

Jenny Rob, stop it. It's embarrassing.

Rob Tell me.

Jenny Are you for real?

Rob Yes, I am actually. What about you?

Jenny Yes!

10B Video Listening

Queens of Crime

Crime fiction is loved all over the world: from British writers – like Arthur Conan Doyle and Val McDermid – to Americans – like Raymond Chandler and Patricia Highsmith – to Scandinavian and European writers – like Henning Mankel and Georges Simenon. But two British novelists are called "Queens of Crime" – Agatha Christie and Ruth Rendell.

Ruth Grasemann was born in London in 1930. Her father was English and her mother was Danish. After she left school, she became a journalist. She married Don Rendell, who was also a journalist.

In 1964, Rendell published the first Inspector Wexford novel *From Doon with Death*. Wexford, a British police officer, who appeared in twenty-four novels and some short stories, is still Rendell's best-known character, over fifty years after his first appearance.

In 1975, Ruth and Don Rendell got divorced, but they remarried in 1977. Ruth Rendell continued to write and she also started to write under the pseudonym, Barbara Vine. The Barbara Vine novels are also crime novels, but they are much darker and more psychological.

Some of her novels have been made into movies, not only in English, but in other languages, too. The French film, *La Ceremonie*, was adapted from the novel, *Judgement in Stone*, and Pedro Almodóvar's film, *Carne Tremula*, is also based on a Rendell novel, *Live Flesh*.

Ruth Rendell died in 2015. Today she is considered a Queen of Crime, but most people would probably agree that the original Queen of Crime is Agatha Christie.

Agatha Miller was born in Torquay in southwestern England in 1890. Her father was American and her mother British. In 1914, she married Archie Christie, who was an army pilot.

Christie started to write and published her first novel in 1920 *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* in which she created a Belgian private detective, Hercule Poirot.

In December 1926, Christie became the center of her very own mystery, when she suddenly disappeared from the family home in Sunningdale near London. Her disappearance was big news in the UK and in the US. For eleven days, the police and the press searched for her. The police also asked Arthur Conan Doyle – the creator of Sherlock Holmes – for help, but even he couldn't solve the mystery. The police eventually found Christie in Harrogate in northern England. She apparently couldn't remember anything and the mystery of her disappearance was never solved. Soon afterwards, she and Archie divorced.

Agatha Christie continued to write. She also married again – to Max Mallowan, who was an archaeologist. This marriage was happy. She created another detective, Jane Marple. Miss Marple is a little old,

Video Script

English lady. She lives in a small village and solves crimes quietly and often without leaving her armchair. She is totally different from Hercule Poirot, who Christie described as "a complete egoist." She also wrote more personal novels under the pseudonym of Mary Westmacott.

Agatha Christie died in 1976, but her books are still read all over the world, and watched in movies – like *Murder on the Orient Express* – plays – like *The Mousetrap* – and television shows – like the Miss Marple series.

Ruth Rendell and Agatha Christie had many things in common. They were both very successful crime writers, and they both wrote different novels under pseudonyms. They both divorced and remarried. And they're also both strongly associated with the detectives they created.

But their approaches were very different. Rendell was always more interested in characters, while Christie loved plots. And, while Agatha Christie's readers will read to the end to find out who committed the murder, Ruth Rendell's readers will also want to find out why.

Review and Check

Can you understand these people? 9&10

1 Sean

Interviewer Have you ever helped a stranger or been helped by a stranger?

Sean Yes, a few months ago, I was, um, I was catching a train home from work and I went past, um, a little girl with her two grandparents, and she was crying and she was really unhappy and I thought "Oh dear!" but there's nothing I can do, um, so I went into the station and I went up the stairs, over the bridge, um, down the other side, and then on the floor I saw, um, a little toy panda, and immediately I knew that that was the little girl's panda and that's why she was crying. Um, so I ran back up the stairs, over the bridge, um, out of the station and I saw the family in the car park. I could still hear the, the little girl crying, and I ran up and said "Is this yours?", um, and the little girl took it and the grandparents just said "Oh thank you, thank you, thank you" so that was nice.

2 Daniel

Interviewer Do you think we rely too much on technology?

Daniel I think sometimes we rely too much on technology because I do not know any of my family or friends' phones numbers anymore. I used to have all of their phone numbers memorized, but now if I lost my phone, I would not be able to call them.

3 Nick

Interviewer Do you like detective or mystery novels or TV shows?

Nick Yeah, I have done, so I, um, I really like the Nordic noirs that were very popular a few years ago, so like *The Killing* and *The Bridge* especially I found really fascinating.

Interviewer Do you have a favorite author or detective?

Nick Uh, yes but can I remember her name?… It's actually the one in *The Bridge*.

Interviewer Do you usually guess who the murderer is?

Nick Uh, I'll always try. Sometimes I get it, sometimes it's too difficult, yeah.

Video Script

4 Emma

Interviewer Do you have a favorite designer?

Emma I've recently started wedding dress shopping and I really like the dresses by Maggie Sottero.

Interviewer Why do you like her clothes?

Emma Uh, the dresses are quite a vintage style, um, which is really flattering, and when I've tried them on, um, I think they're probably the ones I'm gonna go for.

5 Gina

Interviewer Do you think you are generally a lucky person?

Gina I think I'm a pretty lucky person.

Interviewer Can you think of a time when you've been really lucky?

Gina I think the process of moving to New York City I've been very lucky, um, everything just kind of laid in place, like finding an apartment or, um, getting a job has just kind of laid perfectly.