

COMPREHENSION

A Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you think it takes to become a professional musician?
- 2 What do you think the main challenges of this profession are?

B Watch an interview with violinist Charlie Siem. Put the following topics in the order they are discussed.

- ___ rewarding experiences and motivation
- ___ establishing a personal connection
- ___ the physical and mental challenges
- ___ impressing a future tutor
- ___ an introduction to the violin



Glossary

caprice (n) a short, lively piece of classical music

C Watch the interview again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1 Charlie first performed on the radio when he was just three years old. | T/F |
| 2 Itzak Rashkovsky was amazed that someone so young could play such difficult pieces. | T/F |
| 3 Itzak says that, unlike humans, violins consistently behave the same way. | T/F |
| 4 Charlie chooses music that allows him to communicate his thoughts and feelings. | T/F |
| 5 He says that, like professional sports stars, musicians have to cope with huge amounts of pressure. | T/F |
| 6 Although he's performed to huge audiences, Charlie would like to start playing in smaller venues again. | T/F |

D Work in groups. Read the extracts below. What do you think Charlie means?

- 1 Yeah, every note makes your heart tingle.
- 2 [When playing the violin, you] go into yourself ...

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the interview. Why do you think the speaker says *sort of*?

Erm, so you have to, sort of, overcome that athletic side of playing ...

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

sort of

Sort of is used in informal spoken English to mean 'in some way' or 'to some degree'. It indicates that what we're talking about is difficult to describe, so we cannot be exact.

As a musician, you have to, sort of, find something deep within yourself and put this into what you're playing.

Sort of is also commonly used to help us describe something unusual by comparing it to something similar we think the listener will know or understand.

The shamisen is a Japanese instrument that's sort of like a guitar but has no body and only three strings. (= it isn't the same but is similar enough to help the listener form an understanding of what it looks like)

C Brainstorm a list of the following, making notes to help you describe each:

- 1 something unusual you've eaten on vacation
- 2 a traditional game or sport from your country
- 3 a band or musician you like that isn't very famous

D Work in pairs. Take turns describing the things on your list. Use *sort of* to help you make comparisons.

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Charlie's experience when he was very young inspired him to become a musician. Did anything in your childhood have such a big impact on your life?

COMPREHENSION

A Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you know about Airbnb?
- 2 What do you think the main differences are between staying in an Airbnb property and staying in a hotel?

B ▶ 00:00–02:02 Watch the first part of a video about two Airbnb guests. What is unusual about the way they use this service?

C ▶ 00:00–02:02 Watch the first part of the video again and answer the questions.

- 1 How long have David and Elaine been living in Airbnb properties?
- 2 Why did they choose to live this kind of lifestyle?
- 3 Do David and Elaine have a lot of possessions?
- 4 What does Elaine like about the home they're living in at the moment?
- 5 How does Vicky Richardson describe 'home'?

D Work in pairs. Do you agree with Vicky's definition of a home? Why/Why not?

E ▶ 02:03–03:25 Watch the second part of the video. What advantages of living permanently in Airbnb homes do David and Elaine mention?

F ▶ 02:03–03:25 Watch the second part again. Complete the sentences with no more than three words from the video.

- 1 David says that New York is unique because it's made up of a diverse range of _____.
- 2 David says that moving from place to place like this makes you look at neighborhoods in a _____.
- 3 Elaine says that _____ encourages her to get stuff done.
- 4 According to Vicky, the _____ we live in makes the world a smaller place.



AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the video. Why do you think the speaker says *right*?

*We're like, oh yeah, that was our pizza place, **right**?*

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

right

Right is often used as a question tag in informal spoken English to confirm what has been stated in the sentence.

*We're going away next weekend, **right**?*

(= the speaker thinks they're going away but wants to check)

C Work in pairs. Take turns using the prompts to make sentences with *right*.

- 1 You want to check with a friend that you're still going to the movie theater tomorrow.
- 2 You hope that a colleague is going to finish a report by 5 pm but want to make sure.
- 3 You're not sure if it's OK to bring a friend to a party.
- 4 You think your friend has been to Tokyo before.
- 5 You want to check that someone is going to drive you to the airport.

We're still going to the movie theater tomorrow, right?

D Work in pairs. Make a list of five things you think you know about your partner. Then, ask questions with *right* to check if you are correct.

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Would you like to move between Airbnb properties instead of renting or buying a home? Why/Why not?

COMPREHENSION

A Work in groups. Do you think space exploration is important to humanity? Why/Why not?

B ▶ 00:00–01:06 Watch the first part of a video about the Mars One project and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the aim of the project?
- 2 How many places are there on the spaceship?
- 3 When will the participants return?

C ▶ 01:07–04:08 Watch the second part of the video. Match the speakers (1–3) to the reasons they give for applying (a–c).

- 1 Ryan, UK
 - 2 Dina, US
 - 3 Jeremias, Mozambique
- a to make a better civilization on an untouched planet
 - b to be remembered for making a contribution to history
 - c no clear reason given

D ▶ 01:07–04:08 Watch the second part of the video again.

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1 Ryan believes that the best way for him to leave a legacy is to raise a family. | T/F |
| 2 Dina thinks colonizing Mars won't be any different to starting a new life in the US. | T/F |
| 3 Jeremias believes that humanity has the capability to overcome the issues it currently faces. | T/F |
| 4 Dina still believes she will experience love in her lifetime. | T/F |
| 5 Jeremias isn't afraid of dying on the mission to Mars. | T/F |
| 6 Ryan says that knowing he is doing something important will make it easier when conditions are difficult. | T/F |



Glossary

colonize (v) to send people to live and govern a place (e.g. a country, planet, etc)

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the video. Why do you think the speaker says *something like that*?

... if I'm on Mars and there's a dust storm raging or **something like that** ...

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

something like that

Speakers use phrases like *something like that* to avoid having to give further examples of what they're talking about. Often this is because the examples are obvious or won't add anything more to the main idea.

We can also use *something like that* when we aren't sure about the exact details of something.

She works as a designer or something like that. (= we aren't sure exactly what she does but know it's similar to a designer)

C Work in pairs. Take turns rephrasing the sentences with *something like that*.

- 1 The town really needs a gym, a recreational center or some tennis courts, so young people have more to do.
- 2 When I finish college, I'd like to be an economist, a bank manager or an accountant.
- 3 I'm not sure, but I think he's an engineer.
- 4 We could go to the movie theater, the theater or out for dinner – I don't really mind.
- 5 I'm absolutely starving; I'd love a sandwich, a hamburger or a hotdog.

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Discuss the biggest challenges you have ever faced and whether you would have done anything differently.

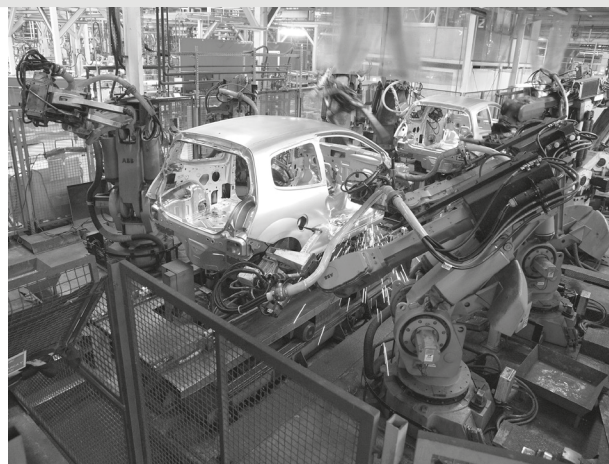
COMPREHENSION

A Work in groups. You are going to watch a video titled *Could a robot do your job?* Which jobs do you think might be performed by robots in the future? Why?

B ► Watch the video and check your ideas from Exercise A. Were you surprised by any of the jobs mentioned? Why?

C ► Watch the video again. Complete the sentences with no more than three words from the video.

- 1 According to the report, _____ jobs are most at risk of automation in the future.
- 2 In the restaurant industry, _____ are already starting to be replaced by robots.
- 3 To help cope with the _____, Japanese nursing homes are increasingly relying on robotics.
- 4 According to a recent study, an estimated _____ of American jobs may be automated over the next few decades.
- 5 Computers are able to make calculations at _____, which has affected trading at the stock exchange.
- 6 Robots are also _____ at tasks that require complex spatial awareness, dexterity and coordination.



Glossary

algorithm (n) a set of rules for solving problems or doing calculations, especially rules that a computer uses

unstable (adj) an unstable system, situation or relationship often has serious problems

D Work in pairs. What kind of jobs do you think involve 'complex spatial awareness' that could not be automated?

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the video. Why do you think the ideas are listed in threes? What do you notice about the type of words used in the list?

Carmaking robots are more precise, less grumpy and take fewer sick days than humans.

B Read the information in the box. Check your ideas from Exercise A.

Three-part lists

A common way to make arguments sound more persuasive in informal spoken English is to list ideas in groups of three.

All items in a three-part list should be the same part of speech, verb pattern, type of clause, etc.

What helped me stay motivated when learning Spanish was thinking about why I'd started in the first place, how far I'd come and what I'd be able to achieve in the future.

C Work in pairs. Complete the prompts with three-part lists and your own ideas.

- 1 Studying another language can be ...
- 2 It's important to teach children to ...
- 3 When buying a phone, I always think about ...
- 4 I think that social media makes us ...
- 5 The most important things in life are ...

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What are the advantages and disadvantages of automated systems replacing human workers?
- 2 Do you think a robot could do your job or the one you want to have in the future? Why/Why not?

COMPREHENSION

A Work in pairs. Look at the picture from the video. Which form of renewable energy is shown? What others can you name?

B Watch a video about a renewable energy project in Australia. Choose the best summary (1–2).

- 1 The video focuses on community solar farms being built in Canberra, Australia. The project gives local residents the opportunity to build solar power plants on their own properties at an affordable price.
- 2 The video focuses on a community solar farm being built in Canberra, Australia. The project gives local residents the opportunity to co-own a solar power plant and offers a low-risk investment at an affordable price.

C Watch again. Complete the sentences with no more than three words or a number from the video.

- 1 The solar farm at Mount Majura Vineyard will be able to generate up to _____ megawatts of energy.
- 2 Energy Minister Shane Rattenbury says many locals are _____ because they cannot install solar panels on their own properties.
- 3 SolarShare was inspired by similar projects, like the community-owned wind farms in _____.
- 4 Local resident David Osmondlin says you can make fairly accurate predictions about _____ a farm like this will generate.
- 5 Shane Rattenbury says he's proud that his area is listening to _____ by investing in renewables.



AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the video. What do you think the phrase in bold means?

*I'm a **big fan of** renewables and I'm keen to invest in community renewable projects in the Canberra region.*

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

Colloquial ways to say *like* and *dislike*

In informal spoken English, we use many different expressions to say that we like or dislike something. In their positive form, these expressions are often used to mean 'love' or 'really like'.

*My brother-in-law is **really into** science and technology.*

In their negative form, they can help the speaker sound less direct and are generally used to mean 'didn't really like'.

*I **wasn't a big fan of** science at school, but now I'm an engineer!*

Some expressions can only be used in their negative form and come at the end of a sentence.

*To be honest, science documentaries **aren't really my thing**.*

C Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first, using the words in parentheses.

- 1 I don't really like video games.
Video games _____. (*thing*)
- 2 My wife has been watching a lot of horror movies recently.
My wife _____ at the moment. (*into*)
- 3 I've never really liked spicy food.
I've never really _____ spicy food. (*fan*)

D Work in pairs. Take turns talking about things you like and dislike, using phrases from the skills box.

SPEAKING

Work in groups. What kind of community-owned renewable project would work well in your area? Why?

COMPREHENSION

A Work in pairs. Look at the picture. What do you think these people are doing? Where are they?

B ▶ 00:00–01:37 Watch the first part of the video and check your answers to Exercise A.

C ▶ 00:00–01:37 Watch the first part of the video again and answer the questions.

- 1 What is Speech and Debate?
- 2 According to speech coach Lou Cardenas, how are the winners chosen?
- 3 According to the presenter, what does Speech and Debate offer the students at Democracy Prep school?

D ▶ 01:38–03:03 Watch the second part of the video. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 Dieynaba is hoping that she will earn a college scholarship through Speech and Debate classes. | T/F |
| 2 Emmanuel says that Speech gives him the opportunity to escape his normal life. | T/F |
| 3 Rosie worked at some of the finest schools in the world before starting at Democracy Prep. | T/F |

E ▶ 03:04–04:12 Watch the third part of the video and complete the sentences with no more than three words.

- 1 The first competition of the year is being held at Yale University and lasts for _____.
- 2 Rosie reminds the class that they need to be _____ as they're representing the South Bronx.
- 3 Dieynaba is one of the few students in the group that progressed through to the _____.



Glossary

scholarship (n) an amount of money an organization gives to a student so that they can study at a school or college

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the video. Why do you think the speaker says *like*?

*I'm **like**, 'I have Speech.' And they're just **like**, 'Why do you still do that?' And I'm just **like**, 'Dude, **like**, I don't want to pay for college'.*

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

like

Younger English speakers often use the word *like* when they are reporting a conversation. This is particularly common in American English. It is very informal and as such is generally not well received in more formal contexts (e.g. a job interview, a business meeting, etc) or by older generations.

C Work in pairs. Rewrite the sentences to make them less informal. Use more appropriate reporting verbs where necessary.

- 1 'I had a meeting with my boss today, and I didn't really understand this new project so I was like, "What are you talking about?"'
- 2 'I went to that new restaurant last night and had to wait forever for my food. So I called the waiter over, and I was like, "This service is unacceptable."'.
- 3 'So I spoke to the doctor and she was like, "We have to do more tests", so obviously I was like, "OK."'.
- 4 'My boss was like, "Do you want to work on Saturday and Sunday?" And I was like, "No way!"'

I had a meeting with my boss today and was so confused about the new project that I had to ask her to explain it to me.

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Do you think debate should form an important part of education in your country? Why/Why not?

COMPREHENSION

A Work in pairs. Look at the picture from the video. What do you think the man is doing?

B ▶ 00:00–02:25 Watch the first part of the video and check your answer to Exercise A.

C ▶ 00:00–02:25 Watch the first part of the video again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

- Like workers in the service industry, Tyler supplements his hourly wage with tips. T/F
- Christopher was the first person to dress up as a famous character on Hollywood Boulevard. T/F
- He decided to dress up for money when he was served by a waiter who looked like Superman. T/F
- Over the years, Christopher has built an extensive superman collection worth about \$100,000. T/F
- When he ran out of space in his house, he had to rent a storage unit for his collection. T/F

D ▶ 02:26–04:04 Watch the second part of the video and answer the questions.

- What happened to Christopher's first Superman costume?
- How did he get a new Superman costume?
- Why does Tyler like dressing up as The Joker?
- How has dressing up as Superman changed Christopher's outlook?



Glossary

motor home (n) a large vehicle designed for living in while traveling

panhandling (n) begging from people who pass in the street
tow (v) to pull a vehicle by attaching it to the back of another vehicle

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read what Christopher says about becoming homeless. Why do you think he says *you know*?

*It makes me grateful for the things I've got, **you know**.*

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

you know

In informal spoken English, we use *you know*:

- To show that what you are referring to is known or understood by the listener.
*Wear the blue shirt, **you know**, the one I bought for you.*
- To give yourself time to think about what to say next.
*She's kind and, **you know**, sensitive.*
- To emphasize what you're saying.
*I just feel like I don't fit in anymore, **you know**?*

C Match the sentences (1–3) to the uses in the box (a–c).

- Would you like to, you know, go out to eat sometime?
- Anna lives on the other side of town. You know, by the college.
- Wear a coat! It's freezing outside, you know.

D Work in pairs. Take turns finishing the prompts with your own ideas.

- What's the name of that movie? You know, the one ...
- You know, it's not easy being ...
- Maybe you should, you know, ...

SPEAKING

Work in pairs. Discuss what you would do if you were in Tyler or Christopher's shoes.

COMPREHENSION

A Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think people get wrongfully imprisoned?
- 2 How common do you think it is?

B ▶ 00:00–01:34 Watch the first part of the video and answer the questions.

- 1 How long did Christopher Scott spend in prison?
- 2 What was he wrongfully convicted of?
- 3 When was he exonerated?
- 4 What did he set up when he was freed?

C ▶ 01:35–03:15 Watch the second part of the video and answer the questions.

- 1 Who are the other people in Christopher's team?
- 2 Who does the team approach for help?
- 3 Are they willing to help Christopher and his team?

D ▶ 01:35–03:15 Watch the second part of the video again. Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 The group spends part of their meeting reading letters from people who *are currently imprisoned / want to thank them*.
- 2 Johnnie argues that the letter *provides them with sufficient / doesn't provide them with sufficient* information.
- 3 According to Christopher, the profile that police used to look for was *far too specific / much too general* to be effective.
- 4 Johnnie believes that he was inaccurately identified *by the police / by multiple eyewitnesses*.

E ▶ 03:16–04:49 Watch the third part of the video. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 Christopher Scott was exonerated after the real murderer confessed to the crime. | T/F |
| 2 He has never had the opportunity to confront Alonzo Hardy. | T/F |
| 3 Christopher blames Alonzo Hardy, not the criminal justice system, for his wrongful conviction. | T/F |
| 4 Christopher's team are currently investigating multiple cases in and around Dallas. | T/F |



Glossary

convicted (adj) proved guilty of a crime by a court of law

exonerate (v) to officially state or prove that someone is not guilty of something they have been blamed for

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A Work in pairs. Read the extract from the video. Why do you think the speaker says *kind of*?

We have to **kind of**, like, contemplate if these guys are telling the truth or not.

B Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

kind of

Like *sort of*, we use *kind of* in informal spoken English to mean in some way or to some degree. This allows the speaker to describe or explain something without being exact.

C Rewrite the sentences using *kind of* to be less exact.

- 1 Can you turn the light on? It's dark in here.
- 2 I've lost interest in this series to be honest.
- 3 It was a last-minute decision to go to Thailand.

D Work in pairs. Take turns finishing the prompts with your own ideas.

- 1 To be honest, I've kind of gone off ...
- 2 My favorite movie is ... It's kind of about ...
- 3 It's kind of difficult to ...

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Can you think of any famous cases where people were wrongfully convicted of a crime?

COMPREHENSION

- A** Work in pairs. Do you think you would make a successful entrepreneur? Why/Why not?
- B** ▶ Watch an interview with knife-maker Ben Edmonds. Put the following topics in the order he discusses them.
- ___ the properties of the materials
 - ___ the importance of design
 - ___ a wish for the future
 - ___ Ben's reasons for changing career
 - ___ the focus of the business
- C** ▶ Watch the interview again and answer the questions.
- 1 What did Ben do before he became a knife-maker?
 - 2 Why did he decide to leave that career?
 - 3 What type of knives does Ben make and why?
 - 4 What four aspects of the design did Ben originally struggle with?
 - 5 What type of material does Ben use for the handles?
 - 6 What is the name of Ben's company?
- D** Work in pairs. What do you think Ben means when he says he wanted to do something more 'hands-on'?



Glossary

- burr/burl (n)** a growth on a tree trunk that gives wood an interesting pattern
- grain (n)** the natural direction and pattern of lines in wood, cloth, etc.
- spalted (adj)** used to describe wood that contains irregular black lines

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

- A** Work in pairs. Read the extract from the interview. Why do you think the speaker uses a vague time expression instead of being precise?
- I did it **for about** 12 years **or so** and was just really conscious that I wanted to, you know, get away from the desk ...*
- B** Read the information in the box and check your answer to Exercise A.

Vague time expressions

We use vague time expressions in informal spoken English when we aren't sure of the exact time, date or duration of something, or this information isn't important.

*OK, I should be out of my meeting by **about** 4:30-**ish**.*
(= it could be a little before or after this time)

*It takes **more or less** three years to build a successful new business.* (= it takes roughly this amount of time)

*Writing a business plan **takes a while**, so allow plenty of time to do it.* (= there isn't an exact time scale, but it isn't quick)

*It **wasn't long ago** that I was sitting at a desk, wishing I was somewhere else.* (= the exact time of the change isn't important, just that it happened recently)

*I've been self-employed for **about** five years **or so** now.*
(= this isn't exact, but gives you an idea of how long)

- C** Work in pairs. Take turns using the prompts below to ask each other questions. Try to avoid giving a specific answer by using vague time expressions from the box.
- 1 What time do you ...
 - 2 How long does it take ...
 - 3 When did you first start ...

SPEAKING

Work in groups. What do you think are the main advantages and disadvantages of working for yourself?

COMPREHENSION

A Work in groups. Discuss the potential issues of the following situations:

- 1 freely sharing a large amount of data online
- 2 following links in emails without checking the source
- 3 living in a smart home that records personal data

B ▶ Watch the video about online privacy. Were any of your ideas from Exercise A mentioned?

C ▶ 00:00–01:12 Watch the first part of the video again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

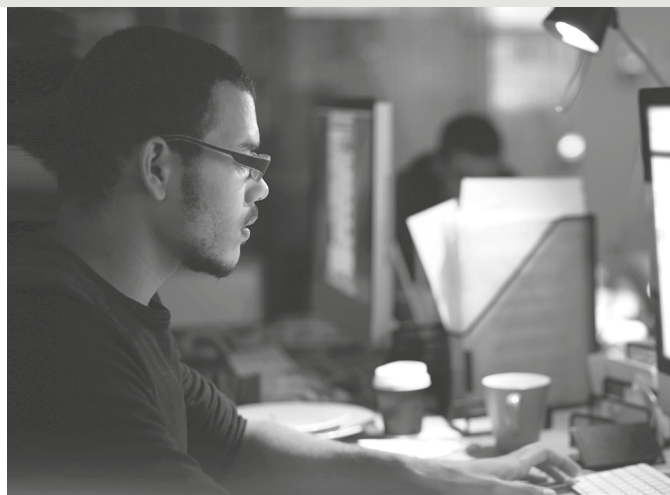
- 1 Digital detectives are employed to protect the online reputation of businesses and celebrities. T/F
- 2 Max was able to gather a huge amount of data about Aleks within a few hours. T/F
- 3 Max says that the majority of Aleks's digital footprint is data she'd intended to keep private. T/F
- 4 Max says that criminals could use your online data to make you do things against your will. T/F

D ▶ 01:13–04:00 Watch the second part of the video again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why does Aleks visit the hacking conference?
- 2 According to Khalil, why is the Middle East behind the US in terms of online data protection?
- 3 How does Khalil hack Aleks's laptop?
- 4 What can Khalil do once he has access?
- 5 According to Khalil, why is it easier to hack a company computer?

E ▶ 04:01–05:46 Watch the third part of the video again. Complete the sentences with no more than three words.

- 1 The Sekisui House uses sensors to gather your _____ as well as network information about the house itself.
- 2 The _____ behind the development of smart homes in Japan is to improve the aging population's quality of life.
- 3 According to William Saito, _____ could use the cameras in a smart home to monitor its residents.



Glossary

clone (v) to create an exact copy of something else

digital footprint (n) information about a person that can be learned by analyzing their internet activities

hacking (n) illegal activity using a computer to access information stored on another computer system or to spread a computer virus

AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

A In the video, when the digital detective opens the box of data he's gathered on Aleks, he says, 'Let's walk you through it.' What do you think this phrasal verb means? Cross out the incorrect definition in the box.

walk someone through something

¹to help someone find their way around somewhere

²to slowly and carefully explain something to someone

My boss **walked me through** the installation of the software.

She asked me to **walk her through** my experience.

B Rewrite the sentences using *walk through* and appropriate pronouns.

- 1 I explained the fire alarm procedure to my students.
- 2 I outlined the details of the document to my colleague.
- 3 My mom asked me to explain the contract to her.
- 4 She explained the basics of employment law to us.
- 5 I showed my friend how to set up his new computer.

SPEAKING

Work in groups. Discuss what kind of information you are happy to share online and why.