

## Unit 1

### 1.1

- 1 This day marks the birthday of the United States of America, and its independence from British rule. It's a national holiday and celebrates everything that's good about the United States. In cities and towns across America, there are parades with patriotic music. A lot of people wear something red, white and blue, and wave the American flag.
- 2 Every year, there's a special winter festival in north-east China. It's one of the best exhibitions of ice sculptures in the world. You can see massive ice sculptures of figures and buildings all over the city. At night, colourful lights make the sculptures look really beautiful. It's a great time to visit them, but it's very, very cold.
- 3 This international festival celebrates folk traditions from different parts of the world. At the start of the festival, groups of dancers parade through the streets in colourful national costumes. The group you can see in the photo is from Colombia. Later in the day, there are displays of dancing in the main square. It's really interesting to see the different costumes and styles of music and dancing.
- 4 This is a special family holiday in Canada. Today, people celebrate the festival to give thanks for the good things in life. At Thanksgiving, Canadians often visit family or friends, or invite them to their own homes. A lot of people eat a traditional meal of turkey and pumpkin pie. An invitation to a Canadian home for Thanksgiving is a big honour.
- 5 The New Year starts with a spectacular fireworks display. Over a million people, locals and visitors, gather downtown to see this amazing display of fireworks, lasers and lights. I always go to The Palace Beach on Al Sufouh Road to watch the fireworks. You get a perfect view of the fireworks against the Burj Khalifa. It's spectacular.

### 1.2

#### Soft c

city, cycle, celebrate

#### Hard c

America, spectacular, costumes

### 1.3

- a 25<sup>th</sup> December
- b 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- c 22<sup>nd</sup> August
- d 18<sup>th</sup> June
- e 5<sup>th</sup> April
- f 1<sup>st</sup> January
- g 9<sup>th</sup> May
- h 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- i 30<sup>th</sup> September

### 1.4

- Interviewer** What do you do, Pete?  
**Pete** I'm an event planner.  
**Interviewer** And who do you work for?  
**Pete** A company called Kasima.

- Interviewer** What kind of events does the company organize?  
**Pete** It specializes in private events, such as weddings, birthday parties and music festivals. It doesn't have any big corporate clients.

- Interviewer** Do you spend a lot of time out of the office?  
**Pete** No, I don't. I work in the office most of the time. My team develops the concept and ideas for the decorations, music, and so on. I also have a lot of meetings with the clients to discuss their needs.

- Interviewer** Do you work long hours?  
**Pete** Yes, I do. Just before an event I often work a 14-hour day, but I don't mind. I'm lucky my company pays me to organize parties, and I love parties.

- Interviewer** And what qualities do you need to work in event planning?  
**Pete** Well, you need to be creative, and also very organized, with a good eye for detail.

- Interviewer** And like parties!  
**Pete** Exactly.

### 1.5

Does he work on his own or in a team?  
 What tasks do you think he does in his job?  
 Does he spend most of his time at events?

### 1.6

- a Who do you work for?
- b How many hours do you work a day?
- c Which is your busiest day?
- d How do you start a typical day?
- e What do you like about the job?

### 1.7

- 1 **Interviewer** So, Marta. Why is the *Falles* Festival important for Valencia?

**Marta** For me, the *Falles* are all about local community. In the 12 months before the festival, local people work together to plan and organize the celebrations for their neighbourhood. It's great. Everybody helps each other. Through the *Falles* Festival, we get to know our neighbours and we make new friends.

**Interviewer** So the *Falles* make local Valencian communities strong?

**Marta** Exactly. It brings our communities together.

- 2 **Interviewer** Josep, you're a local businessman. How important are the *Falles* for you?  
**Josep** Very important. The festival brings lots of visitors to the city and that's good for the hotels, good for the restaurants, and good for shops. The festival also helps small artisan businesses. My wife is a dressmaker. She's busy all year making the traditional dresses for the parades. The *Falles* also helps the craftsmen – the painters, decorators and the carpenters. They have a lot of work because of the *Falles*.

# Transcripts

- 3 Interviewer** So, Arturo. Why do you think the *Falles* are important for Valencia?
- Arturo** For me, the *Falles* are all about traditions. The festival keeps our traditions alive – for example, the traditional Valencian costumes and hairstyles, the traditional foods we eat, the tradition of fireworks. These traditions are passed from one generation to the next generation, from the parents to the children.
- Interviewer** So the festival is important for keeping Valencian culture alive?
- Arturo** That's right. And it makes Valencians proud of their city, and proud of their Valencian culture.

## Unit 2

### 2.1

- Sally** OK. So, let's start. OK. So we need lots of ideas for a community event in June. OK. So can you give me your ideas?
- Ali** I think we need an event that's good for all age groups. My idea is to have a quiz night.
- Ben** Great. And we can have prizes for the winners. I have another idea. Maybe we could have a video games tournament – you know, lots of teams playing the same video game.
- Sally** I like the idea. So a quiz and a video games tournament. Let me write them on the board. OK. Any other ideas?
- Gemma** Well, the weather's good in June. So why don't we have a picnic in the park?
- Ben** Yes, and we could organize games for the children.
- Sally** OK. A picnic in the park and games for children. What about you, Sue? Do you have a suggestion?
- Sue** Yes. How about organizing a photographic exhibition? Would that work?
- Ali** Sorry, what's a photographic exhibition?
- Sue** We could invite local people to bring interesting photographs.
- Sally** Great idea, Sue. Just a minute. I need to write that down. OK. We've got four great ideas. What else could we do?

### 2.2

- Kim** Are your parents coming to your graduation?
- Rosa** Yes, they are. They're flying in from Bogotá tomorrow evening.
- Kim** Great. How long are they staying?
- Rosa** My father's going back on Sunday, but my mother isn't going back until Tuesday.
- Kim** What about your brother, Carlos?
- Rosa** He isn't coming. He's much too busy with work.
- Kim** That's a pity. And are you going to the graduation party?
- Rosa** No, I'm not. After the ceremony, I'm having dinner with my parents.

### 2.3

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| thin | thing | think |
| sin  | sing  | sink  |
| win  | wing  | wink  |

### 2.4

- 1 Fatima** A group of us are going to Tom's flat for a pizza later. Would you like to come?
- Jack** Yeah. That's a great idea. What time?
- Fatima** About 7.00. Tom's ordering the pizzas and I'm doing some salads.
- Jack** Sounds good. See you there.
- 2 Sam** Are you doing anything after class?
- Olga** Just taking some books back to the library. Why?
- Sam** Well, I'm going to Café Coco with Maria. Would you like to come?
- Olga** Yeah. I'd love to. What time?
- Sam** We're going straight after class, so around five.
- Olga** OK. See you then.
- 3 Dave** Have you any plans for Sunday, Chen?
- Chen** Nothing special. Why?
- Dave** Would you like to go to the cinema? There's a new Brad Pitt film. The reviews are very good.
- Chen** That sounds great, but I can't. I've a chemistry test on Monday and I need to prepare for it. Sorry. Maybe another evening?
- 4 Tom** Are you busy next weekend, Fatima?
- Fatima** Yeah, quite busy. Why?
- Tom** Well, it's Chen's birthday on Saturday and I'm organizing a barbecue for him in the evening. Would you like to come?
- Fatima** Well, I'd love to, but I can't. I'm going to a music festival with some friends.

## Slideshow – Get into character

- Host** In the last thirty years, fan conventions have become very popular, all over the world. The first conventions focused on science fiction books, films and TV series. But these days, it's not just sci-fi fans. Fans of horror, fantasy, animation, collectible card games, video games and comics love to get together at conventions. Comic-Con is the biggest fan convention anywhere in the world. At the event you can find question-and-answer panels, seminars, video-gaming areas, exhibitions, shops, book signings and live performances. And it's a great place to meet like-minded people from around the world. You don't have to come in a costume, but a lot of people do! So, today's Top Chat podcast comes from the Comic-Con International at the San Diego Convention Center. This year, there are more than 160,000 attendees. It's pretty busy in here! Let's have a walk around. Look ... it's Pikachu! Wow, great costume. Hello! Can we have a quick chat?
- Alice** Yes, sure.
- Host** So, tell us about yourself ... what's your name? Where are you from?

# Transcripts

**Alice** I'm Alice and I'm from London.

**Host** And you're dressed as Pikachu from the Pokémon series. Why Pikachu?

**Alice** Pikachu's my favourite character! I think he's really cool! He looks really cute and friendly, but he can shoot electricity from his paws! He has lightning power!

**Host** So you're a big Pokémon fan then?

**Alice** I'm a huge fan of the video games and the TV series. And the collector's cards. I have over 1,000 cards!

**Host** Very impressive! So, are you enjoying the event?

**Alice** Yeah! I love the atmosphere here. It's great to meet Pokémon fans from around the world. I know lots of Pokémon fans online, but it's much better to meet in real life.

**Host** So, are you planning any lightning storms this weekend?

**Alice** I don't think so, but you never know!

**Host** Great stuff. Well, thank you for talking to us! Now ... who's this?

**Atronach** I'm a Flame Atronach from the video game Skyrim.

**Host** Skyrim?

**Atronach** Yeah, it's a role-playing game. It's one of my favourites.

**Host** Uh huh. And what about the costume? It's pretty fiery!

**Atronach** I made it myself. It was easier than I thought. I bought the red material at my local market. I think it works really well.

**Host** It really does! And where are you from?

**Atronach** I'm from Norway. I've travelled more than 8,000 kilometres to be here! I've been to many different conventions all over Europe, but this is my first time at Comic-Con. It's bigger than conventions in Europe. But I do the same things – I meet people I've talked to online, go to talks and go shopping.

**Host** Great! And what made you come to San Diego this year?

**Atronach** Brandon Sanderson is doing a book signing! I'm so excited!

**Host** Brandon Sanderson?

**Atronach** Yeah. He's my favourite author. Do you know the Mistborn books?

**Host** No ...

**Atronach** They're really complex fantasy novels. So exciting. And they always have really good endings.

**Host** Cool! Thanks for the tip! And enjoy the rest of the event ... Now, I can see Spiderman. Let's have a chat ... hello, sir. Is this your young family?

**Spiderman** Yes, yes.

**Host** Hello ladies!

**Children** Hello!

**Host** Now, sir, why Spiderman?

**Spiderman** Well, what can I say about Spiderman? He's a very interesting character. That said, I haven't had many nice comments about my costume. I find

that rather disappointing. I suppose people can't see it. It's very crowded in here. In fact, I'm a little bit worried about fire safety. I'll have a friendly word with the organizers. I'm a health and safety officer, you see. Everywhere I go, I take careful notes. People ask if it spoils my fun. Not at all! I love to help out when I can.

**Host** Wh ...

**Spiderman** Most people think that superheroes don't think about health and safety. They do all kinds of dangerous things! I disagree. Superheroes can't take too many risks. Watch the Spiderman movies carefully – he always has a plan to keep everyone safe. Himself included. He's a very clever young man. Cautious. I like that about him.

**Host** Well, that's a very interesting angle. Thank you. Enjoy the rest of the convention. And there we go. You learn all kinds of things at these huge events. And that's all from this week's podcast. Thanks for listening, and tune in next week for some more top chat!

## Unit 3

### 3.1

- a Amir** Everybody needs one of these. I always have it with me when I go out and use my smartphone a lot. I really like this model because it's very compact and slim. It means I can carry it in my laptop bag, or even in my jacket pocket. It works with all Android and Windows phones. I really like the design and the way the charging cable fits into the body of the charger. I think it's a really useful gadget.
- b Marti** It's very fast and it's very responsive. When I'm surfing the internet, pages download in seconds. I love the look of it, too. I think it's very stylish. It goes everywhere with me, and it's so small I can fit it in my jacket pocket. It takes great photos, and the sound quality for calls is very good, too. I also use it for getting onto Facebook and my Twitter account. It's really very versatile. I use it for everything. I can't live without it.
- c Bo** I mainly use these when I'm travelling to work on the bus. They're great when I don't want to hear other people's music and conversations. They certainly aren't very stylish, but these ones are very light and comfortable to wear. And for the price, I think the sound quality is great. I also use them in the evening when my flatmates are watching TV and I want to listen to music. They block out the noise of the TV really well.
- d Jodi** I love this gadget. It's very easy to use. I just put it on and forget about it all week. I can sleep with it on, and it's waterproof so I don't take it off when I shower. It has a long battery life so I only need to charge it once a week. It comes in two sizes, small

and large. The small size is perfect for my wrist. I mainly use it for tracking my activities during the workday. My goal is 10,000 steps every day. I like it because it's good motivation for me to be more active.

- e **Rachel** It's very easy to use and it's small so I can carry it in a beach bag or in my rucksack. You can drop it and it doesn't break. And it's also waterproof to 35 metres, so it's perfect for when I'm snorkelling or doing other water sports. For me, it's just what I need, a simple 'point and shoot' device that takes great underwater shots, and isn't expensive. I always take this with me when I go on beach holidays.

## 3.2

waterproof, school, room

good, book, look

## 3.3

- a **Ryan** How much do you pay for a really good laptop in Korea?  
**Rachel** It depends where you go. In places like the Yongsan Electronics Mall, you can find a really good HP laptop for around 460,000 won, and they'll probably give you a laptop bag for that price, too.  
**Ryan** Really! 460,000 won. About \$400. That's a really good price.
- b **Hassan** What's the cost of a flash drive here?  
**Jan** A flash drive?  
**Hassan** Yes, you know, a memory stick.  
**Jan** Yeah, I know. They don't cost much. You can order them on a website like Amazon UK. I think you pay around £3.50 for eight gigabytes, and £7.50 for 32 gigabytes.
- c **Pierre** I'm thinking of buying a folding keyboard, something really small that I can use with my iPad when I'm travelling.  
**Jack** Sounds like a good idea.  
**Pierre** I may get one when I'm in New York next week. Do you know what they cost?  
**Jack** I'm not sure. Let me check on Best Buys. Right. Here we are. There's a really nice one for \$39.90, and it has good reviews.  
**Pierre** OK. About \$40. That's quite expensive. I think I need to do a bit of research first.
- d **Stefan** I need a small colour printer for my home office.  
**Milly** What kind of printer?  
**Stefan** A small laser printer. I don't have a lot of space in the office. Any idea how much they cost?  
**Milly** I have an HP Colour LaserJet Pro. It's a great little printer. It only cost £150.  
**Stefan** Wow! A hundred and fifty for a colour laser printer. That's very good value.

## 3.4

- a cheaper  
 b smaller  
 c better

- d heavier  
 e nicer  
 f sharper

## 3.5

### Conversation 1

- Interviewer** So, Stephen, how do you like to shop?  
**Stephen** Well, I like a lot of information before I decide what to buy, especially when I'm buying something expensive. I do a lot of research before I decide what to buy. For example, if I want to buy a really good camera, first, I check out some blogs. I also post on Facebook for advice from friends and family about the brands they like. And I read a lot of customers' reviews, too.
- Interviewer** Do you buy online then?  
**Stephen** No, actually I prefer to buy in a local shop if I can. I do a price comparison check to see which shop has the best price, and I go there to buy it. But for me, it's not just about price, I also want good quality and service. When I buy in a store, I don't have to worry about deliveries or returning the product if there's a problem. I can see what I'm buying. I pay for it and take it home. It's easier and it's more convenient.

### Conversation 2

- Interviewer** Do you use your smartphone when you're shopping, Maria?  
**Maria** Yes, all the time. My smartphone is my money-saving friend. I take it everywhere I go. I use my phone a lot when I'm shopping. I love to go to the shops to see the latest fashions and feel the quality of the materials, but I still want to get the best possible price when I'm shopping in stores. My smartphone helps me with that.
- Interviewer** How does it work?  
**Maria** Well, when I see something in a shop that I like, for example, a handbag, I take out my smartphone. I use a really useful app called FindIt. It scans the barcode and in a few seconds I have all the product information about the handbag. It also searches for the best price for the handbag, online or in another nearby shop.
- Interviewer** So you think smartphone shopping is a good idea?  
**Maria** Yes, it's a really good idea, especially if you want to get a cheap price. I know I save a lot of money shopping this way, and it's very easy to do. All my friends do it.

## 3.6

price  
assistant  
information  
into  
online  
decide

## Unit 4

### 4.1

- A** Can you tell us a little about Design Life?  
**B** Sure. Design Life provides the best furniture for student accommodation. We have branches all over Europe.  
**A** And what is special about Design Life?  
**B** Well, at Design Life, we supply the highest quality furniture at the lowest possible price.  
**A** Can you tell us about the furniture?  
**B** Certainly. All our furniture is made of the most robust materials and lasts for years.  
**A** Great. What styles of furniture do you offer?  
**B** We offer three styles: *Trad*, *Modus* and *Space*. *Modus* is the most popular range. It has the most exciting designs.

### 4.2

- Sally** So, Marcia, what do you think we need in our new study bedrooms?  
**Marcia** Well, I like to work in my room so a big desk and a good office chair are really important.  
**Sally** Anything else?  
**Marcia** I need somewhere to put all my books and course papers, so some kind of bookcase would be useful, too.  
**Sally** OK. So a nice big desk, an office chair and a bookcase?  
**Marcia** Exactly.  
**Sally** Thanks, Marcia. That's really useful. What about you, Hassan?  
**Hassan** I agree with Marcia. A good desk and chair are really important.  
**Sally** Anything else?  
**Hassan** I like furniture that looks modern, so nothing old-fashioned. Oh, and a comfy chair. Then I can relax when I finish work – watch movies on my laptop or just listen to music.  
**Sally** So a modern look, a desk and a comfortable chair for watching films.  
**Hassan** Yes, and a good office chair.  
**Sally** OK. That's great Hassan.

### 4.3

- Sales assistant** Can I help you?  
**Jo** Yes, please. I'd like to try these jeans on.  
**Sales assistant** Certainly. What size are you?  
**Jo** I'm a size 32.  
**Sales assistant** OK. The changing room is over there.  
**Jo** Thanks.  
*(Jo tries on the jeans.)*

- Sales assistant** How are the jeans?  
**Jo** Great. They fit perfectly. How much are they?  
**Sales assistant** They're £49.99.  
**Jo** OK. That's fine. I'll take them.  
**Sales assistant** How would you like to pay?  
**Jo** With my debit card, please.

## Slideshow – How smart is too smart?

Many things in your home can be fitted with sensors and microchips to make them 'smart' – that is, responsive. You can control your windows, lighting, heating, air conditioning, security systems, entertainment systems and household appliances from a device like a smartphone or smartwatch, via a wireless internet connection. As a result, they can respond to changes in the environment, changes in the situation, and to your commands. Every year, technology companies spend a lot of money developing ways to make life more convenient.

But some questions must be asked. Is all this technology really useful? Is it necessary? What happens when it breaks down? Can you think of any other downsides to living with all this technology?

Imagine this. You arrive home after a long day at work. The garage doors open automatically and your car parks itself. In the doorway, you look at a screen. A scanner scans your eye and the alarm switches off. Your front door unlocks and you open it. There is a pleasant breeze in the living room. The windows opened slightly when you arrived.

You walk through into the kitchen. A cup of tea is waiting for you in the tea-maker at the perfect, drinkable temperature – 60 degrees Celsius. You walk back into the living room. 'Play something relaxing,' you say. Some gentle piano music comes on over the stereo. You sink into your favourite armchair. It immediately reclines into your preferred sitting position. Wow, you're tired! As you start to fall asleep, your smartwatch senses that your heart rate is dropping. The lights dim slightly, and the music fades out.

Suddenly, there's a rainstorm outside. The windows close automatically. The outside temperature drops too, so the heating comes on.

Your smartwatch wakes you up. 'What would you like for dinner?' a voice asks. 'One cheese and tomato pizza, and a lemonade, please,' you reply.

Now you're wide awake, so you decide to do some exercise. You check your smartwatch – you need to run six kilometres to meet your daily steps target. So you climb on your treadmill, and start running. The speed adjusts to keep your heart rate at a steady 160 beats per minute. Some more upbeat music comes on the stereo. After six kilometres, the treadmill slows down and stops, and the music switches off.

You need a shower. You say 'bathroom', and all the lights up the stairs and along the landing light up. You arrive at the shower, and the water is running at 42 degrees Celsius – the perfect temperature. After your shower, you grab your towel. It's warm – the towel rail heated it up for you.

Now it's seven o'clock – dinner time. Right on cue, the doorbell rings. It's the pizza delivery man. Perfect timing! After dinner,

# Transcripts

you head up to the bedroom. You feel like watching a movie. 'Play something funny,' you say, and the latest hit comedy comes on the television. It's hilarious! Just what you needed after a long day.

Thoroughly entertained, you start to doze off. The television switches off and the lights fade to black. Another perfect day comes to an end.

Would you like to live like this? Do you have any of these gadgets? What new technology would you like?

It makes you think: how far can smart technology go? What gadgets will be next? Perhaps a fork that knows when you've had enough to eat? A coffee machine that knows how tired you are? A bed that tips you out when you've had enough sleep? A robot that dresses you?

Smart technology is cool. And it is often very helpful. But convenience is not the same as happiness. And smart technology is expensive and can be unreliable. So, perhaps, before we fill our homes with smart technology, we should ask: will this really make my life better?

## Unit 5

### 5.1

#### Conversation 1

**Paul** When do students graduate from university in Singapore?

**Connie** Well, it depends. Here in Singapore, students finish their secondary education at 18 or 19. Usually, young women go straight from school to university, so I guess most young women graduate when they're about 21 or 22. It's different for guys. They have to do two years of military service after school, so a lot of young men don't graduate until they are 23 or 24.

#### Conversation 2

**Tom** When do most people learn to drive in the US?

**Claire** Well, it varies. The legal age for driving is 15 or 16, depending on the state. Nearly all young people get their driving licence before they go to college. And I know some people actually get their licence when they're about 17 and still in school, and then they drive to school every day.

### 5.2

/f/	/v/
family	visit
focus	very
few	valuable

### 5.3

<b>Sound 1</b>	/d/	lived, opened
<b>Sound 2</b>	/t/	liked, worked
<b>Sound 3</b>	/ɪd/	started, visited

### 5.4

asked	moved
changed	planned
decided	played
enjoyed	stayed
finished	studied
graduated	watched

### 5.5

**Chen** I think Zaha Hadid's architecture is really impressive. I saw the MAXXI Museum when I was on a visit to Rome. It's that building in the first photo. It's a very striking design. The minute you see it you notice how unusual it is. I know it's a very modern building, but I think it fits in well with all the buildings around it.

**Martine** I'm not sure I like her architecture. Sometimes I don't think her buildings fit with other buildings nearby. For example, the Serpentine Gallery, the building in the second photo, is certainly very interesting, with all its curves, but to me it looks strange next to the old building. They don't really go together.

**Faris** I love her architecture. The designs are so original. They're very different from any other architect I know. I especially like her futuristic buildings like the Cultural Centre in Azerbaijan. You can see it in photo three. It looks just like something from the future. I think she's the most exciting architect today.

### 5.6

**1 Amir** I come from a family of doctors – my grandfather was a doctor, my father's a doctor and so is my older sister. There was a lot of pressure on me to be a doctor, too. I did very well in everything at school. I passed all my exams and got a place at medical school. My parents were delighted, but I wasn't sure it was the right career for me. Then it all went wrong. I failed my first year exams. It changed my life completely. It gave me time to think what I wanted to do. In the end, I left university, and got a job as a reporter on a newspaper. Now, ten years later, I'm the editor of an international business magazine. It's a great job.

**2 Natasha** When I was a child my parents took me to the theatre for the first time in London. We saw an amazing production of a play – it was called the *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekhov, the famous Russian writer. It was a real turning point. I was just 13, but I knew I wanted to be a theatre director. I saw as many plays as I could while I was at school and university. After university, it wasn't easy to get work in a theatre, but I had a lucky break two years ago. I got a job assisting the director for a new play at a big theatre, and it had some good reviews. It changed everything. And I'm now very busy working as a theatre director.



## Unit 6

### 6.1

**a**

thing  
thick  
think  
month  
bath

**b**

them  
their  
there  
they  
then  
other

### 6.2

**Lee** How do you know Sara?

**Jim** We met at university.

**Lee** Oh, yeah? Were you on the same course?

**Jim** No, actually we met through sport. Anyway, what about you? How did you meet Sara?

**Lee** I knew her at primary school.

**Jim** Really?

**Lee** Yeah, we were best friends, but then her family moved and we lost contact.

**Jim** So how did you meet again?

**Lee** We met at a party in the summer. We got on really well – just like before.

**Jim** That's amazing after all those years.

**Lee** Yes, it is. Anyway, what do you do, Jim?

**Jim** Oh, I'm a designer. I work for a company in Abu Dhabi.

### Slideshow – Who really conquered Everest?

Mount Everest is the highest mountain on Earth. It is 8,848 metres, or 29,028 feet, above sea level. It is located in the Mahalangur section of the Himalayas. Half of Everest is in Nepal and half is in China.

There are two main climbing routes: one from the south-east and one from the north. There is a sign for new climbers. The climbers set up a base camp at the bottom of the mountain. They wait for good weather before the climb to the top. Sometimes climbers have to wait weeks.

Everest is very dangerous and difficult to climb. There are a lot of snowstorms. And there are lots of steep and dangerous places. There is very little oxygen and climbers have to take oxygen tanks with them. Climbers suffer from the cold and exhaustion. In the 1920s, people became very interested in mountain climbing. Many people tried to conquer Everest, but there were many failures. In those days, the climbers were not prepared. They had only very basic equipment and clothes. They wore woollen jackets and trousers.

However, if we fast forward to 1953, two climbers were successful. Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary reached the summit. There is no question that they reached the top. They have photos to prove it. Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary

became heroes all over the world. Norgay was from Nepal and Hillary was from New Zealand.

But were they really the first to conquer Everest? Or did someone get to the top before them? Could these fine fellows have reached the summit first? This photograph is from 1924, almost 30 years before Hillary and Tenzing's success. The team members included three climbers: Edward Norton, Howard Somervell and George Mallory. Mallory is in the back row, second from the left.

When they arrived in Nepal, the team met the local people. The team started their climb in June 1924. They put up tents on the side of the mountain. First, Mallory and Norton reached 27,000 feet. And Norton reached 28,126 feet on his next climb. He was only 900 feet from the top. Finally, Mallory and another member of the team, Andrew Irvine, tried to climb to the top on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1924. They set out in good weather. Everything was going well. But suddenly things changed.

The weather turned. There was a terrible snowstorm. The rest of the team went looking for their friends, but they couldn't see anything. In those days there were no mobile phones, so they didn't know where to look. So they waited for the climbers to return. The storm passed. The team waited and waited. But Mallory and Irvine did not come back.

It took another 75 years to find Mallory. His body was on the side of Mount Everest at 26,800 feet – very close to the top. Irvine's body has never been found. With Mallory's body there were some pieces of cloth, a matchbox with matches and a tin. But he didn't have a camera, so there are no photos of his climb. Today, there is a sign on the spot where George Mallory died.

Were Mallory and Irvine the first to conquer Everest? Did they beat Norgay and Hillary to the top? It is possible. Sadly, we will never know.

## Unit 7

### 7.1

First of all, Kyle does a training session. I monitor his performance. Sometimes I take a video and sometimes I just watch. At the same time, I record the results. He runs 5,000 metres so I record how long 1,000 metres takes and the total time.

I give him feedback. Usually, I am positive and say good things to him. But I also tell him things that he did wrong, for example, running too fast or too slowly. Then I give him some suggestions on how to improve, for example, the way he moves his arms.

The last thing I do is set a target for his next run. So, for example, his last time was 15 minutes and 11 seconds, so next time his target is 15 minutes and 5 seconds.

Then Kyle thinks about the feedback and target when he runs the next race.

### 7.2

/sh/	/ch/
should	cheat
shots	champion
show	charge

## 7.3

My first point is about targets. In sport, people need to have a target. For example, Usain Bolt is a target for lots of other runners because he is the fastest runner in the world. A time can also be a target. For example, I ran a race in two minutes last week. I want to run my next time in one minute and 50 seconds. My second point is about teamwork. Many successful runners work with a team of professionals, for example, a trainer, a doctor and other runners. With the right team and the right help an athlete can improve their performance and have less injuries.

My third point is about eating and sleeping. The athletes I work with are careful about their diet. Getting the right amount of sleep is important, between eight and ten hours per night when they are training hard. You can't go to late-night parties or go to bed late.

My next point is about learning from your mistakes. Athletes can lose a game or make a bad decision. An athlete needs to learn from their mistakes and do better next time.

This brings me to my final point, the importance of being mentally strong. Winning a race is about physical ability and training hard. It's also about being mentally strong. You should stay calm when you are under pressure.

## 7.4

**Interviewer** Did a lot of international students buy assignments from the MyMaster website?

**Expert** Well, actually, not many. Let me give you an example. The Kenmore Business School was one of the smaller universities involved in the scandal. They only found 15 of their students were cheating, you know, buying assignments or essays from the website and then using them as their own work. Most international students don't cheat. They're bright students and want to get feedback on their ideas and their own work. That's how they learn.

**Interviewer** So what action did the university take to punish the cheats?

**Expert** It varied. They looked at each case individually. Any student who handed in work that wasn't their own automatically failed the assignment. In other words, they got a zero mark for the work. In two more serious cases, where students used a lot of assignments from the MyMaster website, they took very strong action. They expelled both of them so they had to leave the university without a degree.

**Interviewer** Are other companies selling essays and assignments?

**Expert** I think so. Companies like MyMaster can make a lot of money so it's hard to stop them. There are always a few cheats, you know, students who are happy to pay somebody to write their assignments.

**Interviewer** Interesting. So what action are universities taking to stop this type of cheating?

**Expert** Well, there is some very good software now. It can compare the style of two essays, and it

tells us if the same person has written them. This kind of software is improving all the time. Universities are also changing the type of assignments to make it more difficult to cheat.

## Unit 8

### 8.1

- a **A** Hi, Carl.  
**B** Hi. What time is the IT training today?  
**A** It starts at three o'clock.  
**B** That's in five minutes.  
**A** Yup. And it takes ten minutes to get to the training room from here.  
**B** Right.
- b **A** Kyle ran 5,000 metres in 20.05 yesterday.  
**B** That's very good.  
**A** It was a good time, but he was disappointed.  
**B** Why?  
**A** His target was 19.50.
- c **A** So today is June 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**B** Yes.  
**A** And we finished the first stage yesterday.  
**B** Yes, the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**A** When was the deadline?  
**B** July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d **A** Hey, Dimitri. How's it going?  
**B** OK, I guess. Except I've got five assignments this month. The deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>.  
**A** And today's the third.  
**B** Yup. And it takes me at least a week to do one assignment.

### 8.2

- 1 **A** You look busy, Gina.  
**B** Yes, I'm going on holiday next week.  
**A** Great! Are you all ready?  
**B** No, I've got lots to do. I'm going to buy a travel guide tomorrow.  
**A** How about a travel app?  
**B** No, I'm not going to take my smartphone. I don't want to lose it.  
**A** OK.  
**B** Then I'm going to pack my suitcase, which always takes a long time. Oh, I nearly forgot. This afternoon, I'm going to book a hotel.
- 2 **A** Are you moving house next week?  
**B** Yes, we are. We're going to sign the contract very soon.  
**A** Brilliant. Is the house ready to live in?  
**B** Almost. The kitchen is fine, but the living room isn't ready yet. We're going to buy some carpets tomorrow.  
**A** Are you going to have carpets in the living room?  
**B** The living room and bedrooms.  
**A** OK.  
**B** And then we're going to buy some furniture. We need a sofa and some chairs for the living room.  
**A** Sounds like you're going to be busy.  
**B** Yup.



- 3 A Hi, Marcia. How's it going?  
 B Pretty busy. I'm moving to China next month.  
 A I heard. How are the preparations going?  
 B Not bad. Still some things to do. I'm going to learn some Chinese.  
 A Do you know any Chinese?  
 B Not yet.  
 A And have you got a place to live?  
 B Not yet. I'm going to find a place when I get there. I'm staying with friends for the first few weeks.  
 A Sounds good. How about your visa?  
 B I'm going to apply this week. My company just sent all the details.  
 A Good luck.

## 8.3

Did you go to Venice last weekend?

Yes, I did!

So you are from Italy?

Where's the nearest post office?

## 8.4

- a A Jun, could you organize some coffee for the break?  
 B Sure. Shall I get some biscuits, too?  
 A Good idea.  
 b A Hi, Karl. We need some chairs for the meeting.  
 B OK. Shall I get some from next door?  
 A Yes, please. Mike, could you help Karl?  
 C Actually, I can't. I'm helping Warren with the photocopying.  
 A OK.  
 c A Would you like me to make some handouts?  
 B Thanks, Kim. That would be great. Could you make about 20 copies?  
 A No problem.

## 8.5

- a Could you make some sandwiches for the lunch break?  
 b Would you like me to do a presentation?  
 c Could you find another speaker?  
 d Would you like me to book the meeting room?

## Slideshow – Superfamilies

We all know families that seem very lucky. Sometimes, whole families become rich and famous! But why are some families so successful? Here are five reasons.

Reason number one is genetics. Genes are passed from parents to children. They make us who we are. So, if parents are tall and strong, so are their kids.

Venus and Serena Williams are tennis-playing sisters. They are both tall. They are both very strong. And they are both fast. All thanks to their parents! And they're the best in the world! Between them, they have more than a hundred trophies! Reason number two is education. In 1965, a Hungarian teacher called Laszlo Polgar had an idea. He thought, 'Geniuses are made, not born.' So, he decided to teach his three daughters – Susan, Sofia and Judit – to play chess. He wanted to make a genius. Together with his wife Klara, he gave them a special

chess education. They made playing chess seem very easy and natural. And they made the lessons fun. They were brilliant teachers.

And Laszlo was right! He did make a genius! All the sisters were very good, but Judit was the best. When she was only 15, she became an International Grandmaster. Eventually, she reached number eight in the world. In her career, she beat 11 different world champions. And she showed that women can win in a man's world.

Reason number three is environment – the people and things around us. For example, if we grow up with music, we become musical.

This is The Jackson 5. They listened to music all the time – their father played guitar in a band. When they were young, they sang, danced and played instruments together. It was fun! They won many talent shows with their funk and soul music. The Jackson 5 had loads of hits between 1969 and 1972. Two of their songs – 'ABC' and 'I Want You Back' – are in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. And, of course, Michael became an international pop megastar.

Reason number four is skill sharing. Antonio Stradivari was an Italian violin-maker in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. He was a world-famous craftsman. And for many people, he is a hero. His violins make the most beautiful sounds, or 'tones'. When he grew old, Stradivari decided to share his skills with his sons. He wanted them to share his success. So he took them to his workshop and taught them everything. He wanted to know that his family's violins would always be the best. And they are! Today, Stradivari violins are priceless. Some of them are kept in museums!

Reason number five is teamwork. This is Wilbur and Orville Wright. The Wright brothers invented the first aeroplanes. When they were very small, the brothers got a toy helicopter as a Christmas present. They loved it. Later, they learned to make kites and model planes. As they grew up, they built bigger and better planes. They shared their thoughts and ideas. They talked about the problems with the planes, and worked together to make them better. They achieved great things by working as a team.

So – genetics, education, environment, skill sharing and teamwork. Those are five important reasons why some families are so successful. Now, what other reasons can you think of?

## Unit 9

### 9.1

- a A Hello. I bought a car from you last month and it's broken down several times now.  
 B I see. I'll just transfer you to our Customer Service department. One moment, please.  
 b A Hi. This is Leslie Fielding from headquarters. I have a question about how many days' holiday I have.  
 B OK, I'm putting you through to Human Resources. Just a moment, please.  
 c A Good morning. I'm calling from LFC Communications. We're doing some work in the area today and there may be some problems with your internet connection.

# Transcripts

- B Could you hold a moment, please? I'll transfer you to our IT department.
- d A Hello? Hi, I'm calling from the factory in Birmingham. There's a problem with one of the machines.
- B Right, you need to speak to the Production department. One moment, please.
- e A Hi, there! I'm calling on behalf of the Richmond Gazette. We're currently offering advertising space at a reduced rate. Could I talk to someone about advertising, please?
- B Yes, of course. I'll transfer you to our Sales and Marketing department.
- f A Good afternoon. I'm calling from Brightwells Bank. I have a question about a payment I made yesterday. Could you put me through to someone, please?
- B Of course. I'll put you through to our Finance department now.
- g A Hi, there. My company has an idea that we think will interest you. We believe we could work together and improve the quality of your product. Who can I speak to about this?
- B Well, you need to speak to our Research and Development team. I'll transfer you now.
- h A Good afternoon. I'm calling from Hartson and Hartson, the law firm here in New York. I'd like to discuss a copyright issue that has arisen concerning your company.
- B Oh, OK. You'll need to speak to our Legal department. One moment, please.

## 9.2

- a A Good morning. How can I help?
- B I'd like to make a complaint about the tablet I bought here yesterday. The power button doesn't work.
- b A I'd like to request a day off next week.
- B Sure. Just fill in a request form online.
- c A I'm trying to send an email, but nothing is happening.
- B I'm really sorry. There's a problem with the server. We are trying to repair the connection now.
- d A I'd like to buy 450 copies of your new dictionary.
- B OK. We can offer a discount of 10% for 500 copies.
- e A Your invoice shows that you owe \$350.
- B That's strange. I'm sure I made a payment last week.
- f A The results show that a competitor has used some of our designs.
- B I know. We are going to take legal action. It's against the law.
- g A Does the production line ever stop?
- B Yes, the production line stops once a week so that we can maintain the machinery.
- h A The new model of our sports car looks really good.
- B Yes, they have really improved the design. It looks much more modern.

## 9.3

- a I'd like to request a day off next week.
- b There's a problem with the server.
- c Your invoice shows that you owe \$350.
- d Does the production line ever stop?

## 9.4

/eə/  
repair  
there  
chair  
prayer

/ɪə/  
here  
year  
career  
near

## Unit 10

### 10.1

- 1 **David** So, how was the interview?
- Sean** Well, the interview was great. They offered me the job.
- David** That's brilliant. Congratulations!
- Sean** Thanks. I really want this job. But there's a problem. The office is in Manchester.
- David** Oh, that's quite far, isn't it?
- 2 **David** OK, so how long does it take to travel to Manchester?
- Sean** Well, it's two hours by bus.
- David** What about the train?
- Sean** I'm just looking now. There. It's an hour on the train.
- David** Well, that's a lot better.
- Sean** Yeah, but look: it's really expensive.
- 3 **David** So, you want to take the job, but you don't want to spend a lot of money and time travelling.
- Sean** Exactly.
- 4 **David** So, what are your options? You could buy a car.
- Sean** Ha! I can't afford a car! Maybe I just say no to the job. I can look for other jobs.
- David** Well, that's an option, but let's think. You could move house, move to Manchester I mean?
- Sean** Hmm. Yeah, maybe.
- David** Or talk to the boss. Tell her your situation and see what she says.
- Sean** Hmm ...
- 5 **Sean** I don't want to move house. I like living here.
- David** Right ...
- Sean** And buying a car is too expensive ...
- David** So ...
- Sean** I'll talk to the boss, explain the problem and see what she says.
- 6 *(phone ringing)*
- Boss** Hello?
- Sean** Hi, my name is Sean Nolan. I had an interview with you last week.
- Boss** Ah yes, Sean. Hi, how are you?
- Sean** Well, I've got a small problem, actually.
- Boss** Oh?
- Sean** I would really like to take the job, but it's quite far from my home and I thought ...

# Transcripts

- 7 **David** So. Did you speak to her?  
**Sean** Yes. She was really nice about it. She said I can work from home two days a week.  
**David** Great.  
**Sean** And on the other days I can come to work later.  
**David** Brilliant.  
**Sean** So the trains are a lot cheaper at that time of day.  
**David** Well, that's brilliant news.  
**Sean** Thank you so much for all your help.  
**David** No problem.

## 10.2

solution  
action  
option  
situation  
celebration

## 10.3

- Friend** Hey, Malik. It was great to see you on Friday. Thanks for coming.  
**Malik** Yeah, I had a good time. But everything went wrong at the end.  
**Friend** Really? What happened?  
**Malik** Well, I told my boss I was ill. I said I was in bed and I couldn't come to work.  
**Friend** Yes, I know.  
**Malik** But on the way back from your party I saw her in the street.  
**Friend** Oh, no! What happened?  
**Malik** She wasn't very happy. I have a meeting with her tomorrow.

## 10.4

- a **A** There aren't enough towels in our room. You only gave us one.  
**B** I'm sorry. I'll bring you another one.  
b **A** There is too much milk in my tea. Can I have another cup, please?  
**B** Certainly. How much milk would you like?  
c **A** There are too many people here. I can't see any of the paintings.  
**B** Yes, there should be a limit on the number of people.  
d **A** I'm trying to read, but those people are making too much noise.  
**B** Maybe you should say something.  
e **A** You didn't give me enough change. You only gave me two pounds.  
**B** I'm sorry. Here's the other pound.  
f **A** There were too many children in there.  
**B** I know. I couldn't hear the film.