

3.12 Lesson 10A, Exercises 3 and 4

Extract 1

English, then, is now the global lingua franca. It is the language of international business, science, technology, aviation and diplomacy. While there are benefits of having a single language in which the majority of the world's population can communicate, the dominance of English may not be such good news for a large number of minority languages. As we have seen, it is likely that many of these languages will cease to exist over the next century or so.

Please join us again next week in *Language Matters*, when we will be looking at the different varieties of English spoken around the world and asking if it still makes sense to talk of 'standard English'. Till then, goodbye.

Extract 2

Interviewer Finally, I'd like to just talk about your qualifications. You have four A levels and you've just completed a degree in mechanical engineering, is that right?

Interviewee Yes. I took my final exams in the summer, and the results are due out in a week or so. I'll send you a copy of the results as soon as I get them.

Interviewer That would be great. Now, do you have any questions?

Interviewee Um, no, I don't think so. You've addressed all my queries.

Interviewer Well, thank you very much for coming in. We'll be in touch shortly to let you know if we'd like you to come back for a second interview.

Interviewee Thank you. It was a pleasure to meet you.

Interviewer And you. Goodbye.

Interviewee Goodbye.

Extract 3

Interviewer So the research was carried out at the hospital?

Scientist That's right. We have a big team of researchers working there.

Interviewer And this research culminated in the discovery of the gene responsible for a rare form of bone cancer.

Scientist That's right. Hopefully it will lead to a cure for this disease.

Interviewer Indeed. Thank you, Professor Jones, for coming in and talking to us about your work.

Scientist Thank you.

Extract 4

The train about to depart from platform 4 is the 18.05 service to Edinburgh. Owing to engineering works at Berwick, this service will terminate at Newcastle. There will be a bus service from Newcastle to Dunbar. Network Rail would like to apologise for any inconvenience that this causes to passengers. That's platform 4 for the 18.05 service to Edinburgh.

Extract 5

The score was nil-nil at the break after a disappointing first half in which both teams squandered opportunities to score. United took the lead early in the second half, but City were level within minutes when Andy Hodgson scored from the penalty spot. United dominated in the final quarter, but Ryan Jones wrapped it up for City with a goal in extra time.

Extract 6

Groom And now I'd just like to conclude this rather long speech by thanking the bridesmaids for looking after Karen today. Don't they all look lovely? So, ladies and gentlemen, will you all join me now in drinking the toast to: 'the Bridesmaids'.

All The bridesmaids.

Extract 7

Businessman So, I think we're all agreed, then.

Businesswoman Yes, it only remains for us to finalise the precise terms of the agreement. And I think we can leave that to another day.

Businessman Indeed. It's been a pleasure to do business with you, Connie.

Businesswoman Yes, and with you. Now perhaps you and your colleagues would like to join us for lunch?

Businessman We'd be delighted.

Extract 8

Boy You're not leaving already are you, Jane?

Girl Yes, I really must be going.

Boy But it's only ten o'clock. The party doesn't wind up till eleven.

Girl I know, but I've got to get up at the crack of dawn tomorrow.

Boy Why? What are you doing?

Girl We're driving up to Scotland to see my grandparents. My dad says we've got to make a really early start to beat the holiday traffic.

Boy Can't you just stay a bit longer?

Girl No, I'd better not.

Boy Shall I order you a taxi?

Girl No, it's OK, thanks. My dad'll come and pick me up. I'll give him a ring now.

Boy Oh, well, have a good time in Scotland.

Girl Thanks, Daniel. I will. You have a good weekend too.

Boy Bye now. Take care.

Girl Bye. See you soon.

Extract 9

Compere Let's hear a big round of applause for Annette Curtain! That's the last of our acts for tonight's show. If you'd like to see Annette in next week's final, ring 0408 99 88 05. The phone lines are now open and they close at nine o'clock. Here's a quick reminder of the numbers for all the contestants. For Hazel ring 0408 99 88 01, for Doug add 02, for Sue it's 03, for Tom 04 and for Annette 05. Be sure to join us again at 10.30 when we'll reveal which acts you have chosen to go through to the grand final!

3.13 Lesson 10B, Exercises 3 and 5**Speaker 1****Sarah**

Whichever way you look at it, global warming is a very real threat and one that really needs to be addressed. I believe that collectively we have a duty to try and combat climate change – everybody should do their bit and make an effort, however small. Governments need to invest in renewable sources of energy, hydroelectric, solar and wind power, which may be expensive in the short term, but will be economical in the long term. We also need to develop an alternative to the internal combustion engine which for the last hundred years or so has powered all the cars and lorries on the roads, and is a major source of carbon dioxide emissions. On a more personal level we should try to rely less on our cars, use public transport more, try to use less energy in our homes by turning off lights, insulating our roofs, that kind of thing. However, I have the feeling it's probably too late to reverse climate change, and our energy would be better spent thinking of ways to live with it and adapt to it.

Speaker 2**Chris**

One threat that has surfaced in recent years is, um, global viruses such as bird flu – the idea of global viruses is pretty frightening, and in the past viruses have killed tens of millions of people – uh, there was an epidemic of flu after the First World War which actually killed more people than died in the entire war itself ... which is pretty scary. The problem is that it's very difficult for

the average person to assess the risk, you know, to know how seriously to treat the threat. Whenever the media hear about an outbreak of bird flu, they always blow it out of proportion – scare stories start appearing in the press and on TV and before you know it everybody's in a panic. And however much the government scientists try to reassure us, nobody really believes them. Personally I don't think about it too much and I think the chances of a global virus significantly affecting large numbers of people are quite small – but that's just my opinion – it isn't based on any, uh, scientific analysis or anything. But I think you have to trust in science and scientists can develop and stockpile vaccines for viruses like bird flu.

Speaker 3**Clare**

I think a nuclear war is still one of the biggest threats to civilisation. I know the Cold War between the East and the West ended about twenty years ago, but very few countries have decommissioned their nuclear weapons, so the threat of a nuclear holocaust still hangs over our heads. Ultimately though I think it's a problem that could be solved if only there was the political will. I think we in the UK should bring in measures to gradually get rid of our nuclear arsenal – but realistically I don't think there's any chance whatever of that happening in the foreseeable future. Um, I think the main problem is the danger of nuclear proliferation, and I think that whatever we do with our own nuclear weapons, we have to prevent other countries from developing their own. I know it sounds hypocritical, but if countries which are politically very

unstable, countries which are run by dictators, get their hands on atomic weapons, I think there's a strong chance they would use them. So I think we have to be hard-headed about it. The other danger with nuclear weapons links in with another serious global threat, and that's terrorism. I think there are some terrorist groups who would really like to get hold of nuclear weapons, or even weapons-grade nuclear materials that they could turn into a so-called 'dirty bomb', and turn them on their enemies – and in most cases, that's us in the West. Maybe if we can defeat international terrorism governments will be more willing to decommission their nuclear arsenals.

3.14 Lesson 10C, Exercises 2 and 3

When was the last time you walked out of a movie theatre and thought: Wow, what a great ending! It's an all-too-rare experience. Hollywood movies are expert at starting with a bang, but by the final reel, inspiration is often replaced by rote – or the smell of fear, as the corporate suits strong-arm their filmmakers to come up with a finale that desperately tries to please everyone but ultimately satisfies no one.

Every summer, we can expect a deluge of blockbuster films with happy endings. But how many of these upbeat finales fill us with real joy, the way that the rousing rock-and-roll finale of the original *Shrek* left us with a big childlike grin on our faces? Constructing these extravaganzas, the studios often think that throwing millions of dollars of special effects in our faces is a reasonable substitute for a dramatically coherent ending, as if the sheer noise and spectacle will convince us that we're having a thumping good time. You needed an air-traffic controller to sort out all the colliding flying heroes and villains in the overstuffed finale of *Spider-Man 3*. Let's not even talk about that interminable 30-minute fight scene near the end of the last *Pirates of the Caribbean*, a fight in which nothing was at stake because everybody was already dead – including, apparently, the screenwriters.

Special effects have become the crutch of lazy dramatists, and they've probably damaged more endings than they've helped. *Enchanted* was purring along just fine until someone decided it needed a big, tacky computer-generated dragon to liven up the climax – a jarring shift of tone that threatened to undo the movie's genuine enchantment.

Hollywood has convinced itself, against considerable evidence, that audiences insist on happy endings. How, then, can you account for two of the most popular movies ever: *Titanic* and *Gone With the Wind*, and, of course, the *Godfather* movies? Frankly, my dear, we don't give a damn if the ending is happy or sad, as long as it's right. Great endings come in many forms. There are movies that have great last lines: look no further than 'Nobody's perfect' from *Some Like It Hot*.

There are movies that have indelible last shots, like that long (wordless) walk that Alida Valli takes past Joseph Cotten at the end of *The Third Man*, a shot that has echoed through movie history. Twist endings are in a special category: like walking a tightrope without a net, they run the risk of total disaster. But when they work – as *The Sixth Sense* did, spectacularly – they make you rewind the entire movie in your mind, and want to see it again.

Stanley Kubrick knew a thing or two about endings: can anybody forget the mystical and mystifying conclusion to *2001: A Space Odyssey*, an image of cosmic rebirth that has been parsed and probed for decades. There's much to be said for a conclusion that leaves us with a question, not an answer. The lack of closure makes it impossible to stop thinking about what you've just seen. The right riddle ending extends the life of the movie far beyond its running time. When someone does come up with an original ending, everyone apes it. Brian de Palma freaked us out at the end of *Carrie* with that final, unexpected jolt from beyond the grave – you thought the movie was over, but it wasn't. The trick was so inspired, it was immediately imitated by every horror movie, until it curdled into an annoying cliché.

My own favourite recent romantic happy ending comes at the end of *Before Sunset*, in a scene between Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, two former lovers who meet again after a life-changing separation. The screen goes blank a moment before we expect it to – before the clinch – on a thrilling note of suspended romantic expectation so artfully timed it takes your breath away. Far more common, alas, is the egregious happy ending in which the lovers declare their passion for each other in a public place, surrounded by strangers who burst into wild applause as they kiss. Martin Scorsese may have been the last director to get away with this (just barely) in *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* in 1974, but it has become a self-congratulatory staple of some of the worst movies in recent memory – and even some not-so-bad romantic comedies such as *Love Actually*. Is it too much to hope that not a single summer movie this year will feature this shameless spectacle at its climax? That would be a very happy ending indeed.

3.15 Lesson 10F, Exercises 2 and 3

Speaker 1 One of the main problems is that they import food from all over the world. Often, a simple packet of green beans has flown halfway around the world before it reaches the shelf. Think of the effect this has on air pollution. Consumers have become so used to seeing perfect produce on shelves that they have forgotten what 'real' food looks like. They want apples that have been polished. They want lemons that have been made artificially shiny by adding a layer of ... er ... the word has just slipped my mind, but it's the stuff you make candles out of! So, for the average consumer, natural food now looks inadequate. The problem with this is that ...

Speaker 2 Although the decisions are always made by the leaders of a country, it's usually the ordinary civilians – including innocent children – who suffer as a consequence. And the suffering continues for years, or even decades – especially when certain forms of weapon are used. Hundreds of children in Cambodia are killed or injured every year when they accidentally step on ... er ... one of those small bombs that soldiers bury in the ground. The correct word escapes me for the moment. But it's clear in my mind that this particular kind of weapon should be banned. The victims are often nothing to do with the conflict.

Speaker 3 Part of the problem is that they are not a good test of a student's knowledge or ability – they merely test how good that student is at performing under pressure. There are many reasons why a clever, well-prepared student might do badly under those circumstances. He or she might not be feeling 100 per cent that day – or may be suffering from a headache. Is it right that the whole academic future of that person should be decided on one afternoon? A friend of mine suffers from ... oh, I can't quite remember what it's called, but it's a kind of allergy that's caused by plants and flowers – particular in the spring and summer, during exam season! She gets a headache, a runny nose, itchy eyes – and finds it impossible to concentrate! And yet she's one of the cleverest people I know ...

Speaker 4 There are two main reasons why I would like to put an end to it. Firstly, because of the mess it creates. When people get bored with it, they often spit it out onto the pavement where it gets trodden into the paving stones. It's almost impossible to clean off, and so, gradually, the pavements in our cities get more and more covered with ugly, dark blotches. The other thing I can't stand is the way it looks when people are chewing it. Maybe I'm a bit of a snob, but I think it looks really uncouth. The worst thing is when people blow ... er ... what are those things you can blow with it? The word is on the tip of my tongue. No, sorry, I can't remember. Anyway, it looks bad. I also think ...

Speaker 5 I honestly believe that the world would be a much better place if they did not exist – and a much healthier place too, because in biting humans they transfer diseases from one person to another. If they no longer existed, some very serious diseases would disappear overnight. The most obvious of these is ... oh, what's that word? I can't put my finger on it at the moment, but it's a disease which is carried by mosquitoes and infects millions of people in hot countries. It's often fatal. We'd certainly be glad to see the back of mosquitoes – and yet, creatures like that never seem to be endangered. It's always cute, cuddly animals like giant pandas that are in danger ...

3.16 Lesson 10G, Exercise 3

Speaker 1 Yeah, I agree 100 per cent with the proposition. I mean, we now send loads more emails than traditional letters, and kids these days just text or instant message each other. Most of them have never written a letter in their life! OK, so some old people will stick with paper and pen, but there won't be many of them. Also, more and more often we're doing our schoolwork on computers. At some schools they even teach touch-typing, which is great because it's much quicker than writing by hand. So it won't be long before we don't need pen and paper. And then there won't be any point in teaching people to write with a pen. Not only that – I reckon keyboards will even become obsolete. Why? Because computers already accept touch-screen commands and pretty soon they'll all accept voice commands too.

Speaker 2 Sure, I admit that pretty soon they'll develop a computer that you can carry in a pocket. But that doesn't mean to say that we'll stop using pen and paper. Of course, as computers get smaller, email and messaging will become even more popular. But people forget that it's a pleasure to use a pen and paper. Leaving handwritten notes and messages for people may be low-tech – but it's simple and it works! People sometimes even say that handwriting will become obsolete, but I really don't reckon it's at all likely. You simply cannot imagine they won't teach handwriting in schools in the future. Besides, styluses that you

use to write on the screen are already common, and they'll become even more widespread – so we'll still need to know how to write.

3.17 Skills Round-up 1–10, Exercises 3 and 4

Rita So ... why did you want to meet up? You said you had something interesting to tell me. Is there some juicy gossip?

Edgars No, nothing like that. I have a proposition to make.

Rita Really? What kind of proposition?

Edgars A professional one.

Rita Oh, I see. Professional.

Edgars I think it's a great opportunity. Well, it could be. The thing is, the business that I've set up is doing really well. I'm looking for somebody to help me run it.

Rita Go on ...

Edgars I wondered if you might be interested. You don't have to say anything now. I mean, you don't have to decide now. Take some time to think about it. I know you've got a job already. And of course ...

Rita I've just accepted a promotion. I'm so sorry.

Edgars I didn't think you'd be interested. It doesn't matter anyway. I can always advertise.

Rita It's not that I'm not interested. I just can't do it!

Edgars I understand. So, what's this promotion?

Rita I've been offered a job as a senior manager – in their Edinburgh office.

Edgars Edinburgh?

Rita That's right.

Edgars So you're ... moving. To Edinburgh.

Rita That's right! Aren't you going to congratulate me?

Edgars Yes, of course. Congratulations.

...

Tomas Didn't you try and persuade her to change her mind?

Edgars No. How could I? She'd just accepted a promotion. She's moving to Edinburgh.

Tomas But I'm sure she'd rather stay here and work with you.

Edgars What makes you say that?

Tomas It's just ... a feeling I've got.

Edgars Has she said anything to you?

Tomas No, she hasn't said anything to me ... exactly.

Edgars But what?

Tomas But nothing. I didn't say 'but'.

Edgars Tomas! You're hiding something. Tell me!

Tomas I can't. I promised I wouldn't let on.

Edgars You're my friend!

Tomas She's my sister!

Edgars Hmm. Yes, I was forgetting that. But can't you give me a clue?

Tomas No, I can't.

...

Tomas So, here's to your new job!

Rita Thanks. Cheers!

Edgars Good health ... and good luck.

Tomas She'll need it! So, tell me. How did you persuade her not to go to Edinburgh?

Edgars I made her an offer she couldn't refuse!

Tomas Come on, I want to know more than that.

Edgars I'm sorry. It's confidential.

Rita It was a very good offer.

Tomas Hmm. Nobody tells me anything.

Rita Anyway, next Friday is my last day with InterPost.

Tomas How did your boss take it when you told him?

- Rita** Not very well. His face went red and he couldn't speak.
- Edgars** I never liked him.
- Rita** Me neither.
- Tomas** Edgars will make a much nicer boss.
- Rita** Boss? You mean partner!
- Tomas** Yes, sorry.
- Edgars** But boss really.
- Rita** No, you said equal partners. That was the deal.