

Listening 29: Lesson 8A, Exercise 3

Becky Right, I've booked our hotel in Paris. All we have to do now is to find a cheap flight and then we're fine.

Ian What do you mean, find a flight? I thought we were going by train?

Becky Oh no. Travelling by plane is much safer than going by train. I'd much rather fly.

Ian OK, but trains are quite safe, too. And they're a lot more reliable. Trains usually leave on time, but planes are often delayed.

Becky Yes, but flying is much more relaxing. Once you've checked in your luggage, you're free to do whatever you want. I love the duty-free shops in the departure lounge, and I always have something to eat before my flight takes off.

Ian But don't forget that there's usually a buffet car on the train, so you can eat something there. Trains are more comfortable too, because you can stand up and walk around. On a plane you have to stay in your seat with the seat belt fastened.

Becky I know, but it's much faster going by plane. The flight only takes an hour!

Ian Actually, I think you'll find it's quicker by train. You don't have to hang around for so long before you board, and when you arrive you've got your suitcase with you, so you don't have to go to baggage reclaim. The train is more convenient too, as it takes you right to the centre of the city. Airports are usually a long way out of town and it can take you another hour to get to your hotel.

Becky Umm. I suppose you're right. I know! Let's do whatever is the cheapest.

Ian I think the price is more or less the same.

Becky Really? OK, you've convinced me. Let's take the train for a change.

Listening 30: Lesson 8C, Exercise 4

Interviewer Rob, you went on an adventure cruise last year, didn't you?

Rob Yes, I did.

Interviewer Can you tell us something about it?

Rob Yes. Well, the cruise was similar to the original trip done by Captain Scott. We set off from the island of Tasmania and we sailed to Cape Evans, where Scott camped, nearly 1,300 kilometres from the South Pole.

Interviewer Wow! That sounds exciting! How long did the trip take you?

Rob We were at sea for 21 days, which was quite an adventure in itself! Sometimes the waves were over 12 metres high, and one day the engines stopped when we were thousands of kilometres from land. The captain managed to solve the problem though, so we were able to carry on.

Interviewer So, was your journey exactly the same as Captain Scott's journey?

Rob Not really. We followed the same route, more or less, except that we stopped at Macquarie Island where we came across lots of penguins. And that's where the similarity ends really. Scott took 30 days to reach the camp, while we took only nine, and conditions on board were very different, too. We had comfortable cabins, shops, a sauna and five-star meals, but Scott and his team had none of these facilities

Interviewer What did you find when you reached Cape Evans?

Rob Well, the main attraction of Cape Evans is Captain Scott's hut where the team camped. It looked quite sad and lonely in so much snow and ice. Inside, we saw the long table where Scott celebrated his 43rd birthday dinner before leaving for the Pole. On the shelves there were tins of food which they had taken with them, and scientific instruments and newspapers dating back to the time the men had left them. Scott's sealskin blanket still lies on his bed, and a photo of his wife is still on the wall. Seeing the hut makes you feel real respect for this man and his team, who went so far with so few resources.

Listening 31: Lesson 8F, Exercise 2

1

Guest Excuse me. I want to complain about my room.

Receptionist I'm sorry to hear there's a problem. What's the matter with it?

Guest It's very uncomfortable because the air conditioning isn't working.

Receptionist Well, I'll see what I can do.

Guest I'm sorry, it's just not good enough. This is a 5-star hotel!

Receptionist I must apologise. I'll sort it out immediately.

Guest Thank you. I appreciate that.

2

Guest Excuse me. I'd like to make a complaint.

Receptionist I'm very sorry to hear that. What seems to be the problem?

Guest I didn't sleep all last night. The music from the disco kept me awake.

Receptionist That's really beyond our control, I'm afraid. The disco doesn't belong to the hotel.

Guest But I can't sleep with all that noise! Can't I have a different room?

Receptionist There's really nothing I can do about it. The hotel is completely full.

Guest Well, I'm really not happy about this.

Listening 32: Lesson 8F, Exercise 4

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Listening 33: Get Ready for your Exam 4

Presenter And now for the highlights on this week's television.

1 First of all, on Monday night there's *Changing Rooms*. In this home makeover show, two groups of friends swap homes. They then choose one of the rooms in their friends' home and redesign the room, painting it or putting up wallpaper and new curtains and so on. Finally, the couples meet up again to show each other the new rooms.

2 If you're into gardening, you won't want to miss *Ground Force* on Tuesday. In this show, a team of gardeners redesign the garden of a person who has been nominated by their family or friends. While the person is away, the team work on the garden for two days and surprise the person when they return home.

3 For those fashion addicts out there, on Thursday there's *What Not To Wear*. A member of the public is secretly filmed to find out what they usually wear. The show's presenters then visit the person and offer them £5,000 to throw away their old clothes and buy some new ones. At the end of the show, the person shows everyone their new look.

4 Now, if you're getting married soon, you may or may not want to watch *Don't tell the Bride* on Friday. In this show, a couple are given £12,000 to spend on their wedding. However, the bride – that's the woman – and the groom – the man – must have no contact for three weeks and it's the groom who has to organize everything, including the wedding dress!

5 Finally, for those of you who are keen on cooking, there's *MasterChef* on Sunday afternoon. Six contestants are given a selection of ingredients and they have to invent a dish. They have fifty minutes to cook the dish and present it to the judges. The winner goes through to the Grand Final at the end of the series.

Presenter Well, that's all we've got time for, I'm afraid. Happy viewing!