

Listening 34: Lesson 9A, Exercise 3

- Speaker 1** I quite like the sales, actually, and I always go shopping a couple of times when they're on. I like the idea of trying to find a bargain ... it's really exciting. Sometimes I'm lucky and sometimes I'm not, but I do enjoy looking through all the cheaper stuff. The best thing I've ever found was a purple, leather jacket – it was only £30!
- Speaker 2** I normally hate going shopping, but it's even worse in the sales. There are always so many people shouting and pushing – it's really horrible. People are so aggressive. I think the shops use the sales to sell all the rubbish they have in stock. The clothes are always in a right mess, too – you can never find what you're looking for.
- Speaker 3** I really look forward to the sales because it's the only time I can really buy anything! I don't particularly enjoy shopping at this time because of all the people, so I usually go when the shops are quiet – often first thing in the morning. The changing rooms aren't so busy then either, so you can take your time to try things on.
- Speaker 4** Actually, I had a really bad time at the sales last year. I found these great combat trousers and they were very cheap. I didn't try them on because I knew they were the right size. When I got them home, I discovered a hole in one of the trouser legs. The shop wouldn't change them because I'd bought them in the sales.
- Speaker 5** My favourite time of year is when the sales are on. My friends and I spend all day looking at the special offers – some shops have fantastic reductions! I always limit myself on how much money I take so that I don't spend too much. It's easy to buy a lot of clothes that you're never going to wear.

Listening 35: Lesson 9C, Exercise 3

- Presenter** Hello, and welcome to this week's edition of *Beat the Brands*. Today, we've got Rick Davis in the studio with us to give us some ideas about how to get the most out of games consoles. Rick?
- Rick Davis** Yes, well, as everyone knows, the manufacturers of games consoles want to keep the prices of their products as high as possible. The consoles get to their real, natural price about six months after they come out on the market – this is a reduction of more or less 25%. After a year, they can fall to about half their original price. So, if you want to buy a new games console, it's better to wait until the prices come down.
- Presenter** Right. Any other tips?
- Rick Davis** Well, another problem is that the new console might not actually be successful with the public. If this happens, software companies will stop making games for it, and you could have a nice new console, but no games to play on it. I suggest you wait for a year after the console is out on the market. That way, you'll be able to decide if it is a good product to buy or not, and if it is, you'll get it at a much better price.
- Presenter** And what about new games?
- Rick Davis** It's the same issue. Software companies invest a lot of money in advertising new games and they are much more expensive when they first come out. If you wait for a while, you can read people's reviews on the Internet or in your favourite games magazines, to see if the game is really as good as the advert says it is.
- Presenter** Is it better to buy used games, then?
- Rick Davis** I would say yes. The price is often less than half the price of the new game. You can also sell your own games once you've finished with them to help you pay for a new one. My advice is to sell as fast as possible to get the best price for your games.
- Presenter** Thanks, Rick.

Listening 36: Lesson 9F, Exercise 1

Interviewer Why do you think the woman is giving the girl some money?

Student I can't be sure, but I guess the woman is the girl's mother. I think she's giving her a €20 note – it certainly looks like a €20 note. I'm pretty sure she's giving her the note because it's her pocket money. Um, another possibility is that she's giving her the money so that she can go out. It could be that she's going to the cinema or something like that. It's difficult to say.

Interviewer Do you and your friends take a lot of money with you when you go out? Why? If not, why not?

Student No, I wouldn't say I take a lot of money with me when I go out. For example, I usually take about €10 with me. Actually, I've got €10 in my pocket right now! I haven't got much money, so I have to be very careful with it. As for my friends, I'd say that they probably take the same amount with them as I do. In fact, I'm pretty sure that no one takes a lot of money with them. I think it's much safer if you don't carry a lot of money around.

Interviewer Tell me about the last time you went out with your friends.

Student The last time I went out with my friends was on Saturday. One of the boys in our group, Andy, had told us about a basketball match in the evening, so we decided to go and watch it. I hadn't seen Andy play before so I didn't know he was so good – he scored twelve points while we were watching! In the end, Andy's team won, so we all had dinner together to celebrate. We all had a great time and I got home at about midnight.

Listening 37: Lesson 9F, Exercise 2

I can't be sure, but I guess the woman is the girl's mother. I think she's giving her a €20 note – it certainly looks like a €20 note. I'm pretty sure that she's giving her the note because it's her pocket money. Um, another possibility is that she's giving her the money so that she can go out. It could be that she's going to the cinema or something like that. It's difficult to say.

Listening 38: Lesson 9F, Exercise 4

The last time I went out with my friends was on Saturday. One of the boys in our group, Andy, had told us about a basketball match in the evening, so we decided to go and watch it. I hadn't seen Andy play before so I didn't know he was so good – he scored twelve points while we were watching! In the end, Andy's team won, so we all had dinner together to celebrate. We all had a great time and I got home at about midnight.