

Unit 2 Audio script**Listening 7: Lesson 2C, Exercises 3 and 4**

It all started in 1980, in a pub in Wales. Two men were having an argument about an unusual topic: one of them was saying that humans were faster than horses over a long distance, in a cross-country race. The other man was insisting that horses were much faster than humans. Who was right? They couldn't agree. Well, the owner of the pub – a man called Gordon Green – heard the argument and decided to find out the answer ... by organising a race between people and horses!

The first race took place in the same year – 1980 – and the 'man versus horse marathon' became a regular yearly event. (In fact, the course is only 35 km long, so it isn't actually a marathon.) The competitors were men, women ... and horses. For the first few years, a horse always won the race.

In 1985, a new rule allowed cyclists to take part as well, and although a horse won the race that year too, it only just beat Jacquie Phelan, a champion cyclist from the USA. In 1989, British cyclist Tim Gould beat the first horse by three minutes. This was the first time that a human won the event.

The first human to win the race on foot was Huw Lobb. In 2004, he completed the course in 2 hours, 5 minutes and 19 seconds. He won £25,000. That year there were 500 human competitors and 40 horses. The only other year a human won was in 2007. It seems that horses are faster than people after all.

Listening 8: Lesson 2F, *Challenge!*

- 1 I went to the cinema.
- 2 I went away for the weekend.
- 3 I cooked dinner.
- 4 I saw a show.
- 5 I went bowling.

Listening 9: Lesson 2F, Exercise 4

Lenny Did you have a good weekend?

Jane Yes, I did.

Lenny What did you do on Saturday?

Jane I went shopping in London.

Lenny Did you buy anything?

Jane Yes, I did – a new coat.

Lenny What did you get up to on Sunday?

Jane I went out for dinner.

Lenny What did you have?

Jane Pizza and salad.

Listening 10: Get Ready for your Exam 1, Listening

Interviewer Hello and good morning. Welcome to *Sports Today*. We have with us in the studio a young lady who is making a name for herself in the cold and icy world of figure-skating. Her name is Britney Spence. Hello, Britney, and welcome.

Britney Thank you. Pleased to be here.

Interviewer Britney, could you tell us how you came to be interested in ice skating?

Britney Well, I started when I was very young. My friends all went to ballet classes, but I wasn't interested in that. When I was four I watched the ice skating world championships on TV and loved all the fantastic moves the dancers performed. I begged my mum to take me to the local ice rink. I tried ice skating and I loved it. I fell over but I didn't care. I just got up again. So I started having lessons.

Interviewer And the rest, as they say, is history ... But when did you realise that you wanted to ice skate competitively?

Britney Well, my teacher encouraged me to enter small competitions from the very beginning but my parents were not very happy about it. My teacher talked to them and finally they agreed. I had the right kind of personality for it. I was never a shy child. I was usually confident and a bit impatient, to be honest. I loved competing though.

Interviewer When did you decide that doubles figure-skating was for you?

Britney When I was twelve a boy joined our classes. He was very quiet but I could see he was good. Our teacher put us together and it worked well. We entered a doubles competition soon after and we won it. It was amazing!

Interviewer And that was Matt Bridges, your skating partner?

Britney Yes, Matt and I have been partners since we were 12. We train together five times a week. He's very hard-working. I can't be lazy when I'm with him!

Interviewer And you're training hard at the moment, aren't you?

Britney Yes, the junior world championships are coming up and we really want to do well.

Interviewer The best of luck and we will all be watching you.

Britney Thank you.