

1.02 Lesson 1A, Exercises 6 and 7

Speaker 1 I definitely respect people who don't need to be told what to do, who work things out for themselves and then just get on and do it. I think being self-motivated is a great quality. I mean, it's really useful in life, especially at school or at work. It means you're in control of your life. I hope I've got it too, a little bit. But I need to improve! It's definitely the best one to have.

Speaker 2 What you really want from somebody you spend a lot of time with is somebody who cares about you, who wants to do the right thing, even if they don't always get it right! So for me, the most important quality is to be well-meaning. You can't expect anyone to be perfect; we all have our faults, don't we? But basically, they have to be a nice person, and if that's what they're really like inside, then I can forgive a few other faults. Those aren't important.

Speaker 3 It's fine to have strong opinions of your own, but you need to listen to other people too and be a bit, you know, open to things. Some people don't even listen to what other people have got to say. It's like, 'I'm right, this is how it is, and why should I listen to anyone else's point of view?' But that's really negative and ... er ... I just don't know why anybody wants to be so narrow-minded. It makes me angry sometimes.

Speaker 4 There are a few things about myself that I wish I could change. Like, I wish I didn't get angry so easily. I'm so quick-tempered! It's not something I want to do, or mean to do – it just happens. I mean, I don't get angry for no reason, of course – there's always something that sparks it off. Like when somebody pushes in front of me in the queue for the bus – I mean, how dare they? Who do they think they are? Arrgh! That makes me really angry ... but I wish it didn't.

Speaker 5 I'm terrible if people say things about me, even if they don't really mean to be rude! I get upset very easily. It's not their fault, really, it's mine; I take everything so personally. I'm just not very thick-skinned. I definitely think it would be better if I could ignore criticisms or unkind comments, and just think, OK, that's interesting, that's your opinion ... but it isn't going to upset me. That's how I'd really want to react – yes.

Speaker 6 I think lots of different personality qualities might be important, but basically, you have to really care about money! If you're really mean, and never spend the money you get, you'll probably end up with lots of it. Sometimes you hear people say things like, 'That guy's got so much money – why is he so penny-pinching? Why doesn't he buy somebody a drink every now and then?' Well, you know, that's why he's got so much money – because he's careful with it! Most of my friends are really generous with their money, but they've never got much.

1.03 Lesson 1C, Exercises 2 and 3

Most novelists are hungry for publicity. However, a minority of authors have appeared to hate the attention which their success has brought. Among these are two of the best-known American novelists of the twentieth century: J.D. Salinger and Harper Lee.

Jerome David Salinger – known as J.D. Salinger – was born in New York in 1919. He grew up in a Jewish family and, at the age of thirteen, went to a private school in Manhattan. Overall, his education was not a success. He was asked to leave school after a series of poor grades, and he dropped out of New York University after studying there for less than a year.

Salinger's passion was writing, and in the 1940s, during and after World War Two, Salinger sent many stories and poems to the magazine *The New Yorker*. They rejected them all. But then his luck changed, and in 1951, Salinger published his first novel: *The Catcher in the Rye*. It was an immediate success, particularly among younger readers, who, for the first time, had an honest portrayal of the stress and confusion of adolescence. Because of its honesty, the novel was controversial: *The Catcher in the Rye* is not only on the list of books that are most often taught in American schools, but also on the list of books that are most often banned.

The success of *The Catcher in the Rye* made Salinger famous, but he did not react well to fame. He moved from New York to a remote house in the country and gradually became more and more reclusive. He experimented with various different religions; converting first to Buddhism, then to Hinduism, and later to a form of Christianity called Christian Science. Eventually, he abandoned them all. From 1965 until his death in 2010, Salinger published nothing. And for the last thirty years of his life, refused all requests for an interview. Few people even saw or spoke to him.

In a strange way, Salinger's single-minded determination to stay out of the public eye made him even more famous. He was famous for not liking fame! The same can be said of another great writer from the twentieth century, Harper Lee. She was born in Alabama in 1926, worked hard at school and went on to university where she got a degree in English Literature.

Like Salinger, Lee had a passion for writing fiction but did not achieve immediate success. In 1949, at the age of 23, she moved to New York to become a writer – but ten years later, she was still struggling and unknown. Fortunately for her, a friend of hers, who was a successful songwriter, gave her an amazing Christmas present: a whole year's salary in one go! With the money was a note which read: 'You have one year off from your job to write whatever you please. Merry Christmas.' Harper Lee left her job and wrote her first novel: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It was an immediate success, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961 and selling millions of copies.

After the success of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the literary world was waiting for Harper Lee's next publication. It never came. Although she worked for a while on a second novel, she never finished it. On the rare occasions when she agreed to appear in public, she always refused to make a speech.

Both novels – *The Catcher in the Rye* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* – were published more than half a century ago, but both continue to sell hundreds of thousands of copies every year. Perhaps it is surprising that the authors of two such popular books about the human condition were so keen to avoid contact with their fellow humans.

1.04 Lesson 1C, Exercise 5

'Put my bag in the front bedroom, Calpurnia,' was the first thing Aunt Alexandra said. 'Jean Louise, stop scratching your head,' was the second thing she said.

Calpurnia picked up Aunty's heavy suitcase and opened the door. 'I'll take it,' said Jem, and took it. I heard the suitcase hit the bedroom floor with a thump. The sound had a dull permanence about it.

'Have you come for a visit, Aunty?' I asked. Aunt Alexandra's visits from the Landing were rare, and she travelled in state. She owned a bright green square Buick and a black chauffeur, both kept in an unhealthy state of tidiness, but today they were nowhere to be seen.

'Didn't your father tell you?' she asked.

Jem and I shook our heads.

'Probably he forgot. He's not in yet, is he?'

'None, he doesn't usually get back till late afternoon,' said Jem.

'Well, your father and I decided it was time I came to stay with you for a while.'

'For a while' in Maycomb meant anything from three days to thirty years. Jem and I exchanged glances.

'Jem's growing up now and you are too,' she said to me. 'We decided that it would be best for you to have some feminine influence. It won't be many years, Jean Louise, before you become interested in clothes and boys.'

I could have made several answers to this: Cal's a girl; it would be many years before I would be interested in boys; I would never be interested in clothes ... but I kept quiet.

1.05 Lesson 1D, Exercise 2

High maths abilities, bad school lives

Teachers first noticed Cameron Thompson's talent for numbers when he was four years old and at pre-school. Throughout primary school, Cameron Thompson's best subject was maths. Then, when he was eleven, he took a maths test prior to entering secondary school. The test was out of 140; Cameron scored 141. 'I broke the system,' he recalls.

Since then, he has continued to progress quickly. He passed two GCSEs (maths and further maths) at the age of eleven, and then got the highest grade in his maths A-level before the end of that same academic year. He is now fourteen years old and studying for a degree in maths; a remarkable achievement bearing in mind his age.

But his academic achievements have not always been matched by social success. 'I have the social ability of a talking potato,' he admits. In other words, he feels more at ease with numbers than among other teenagers. 'Most people my age do despise me. I've been like this for years.'

Communication is not one of Cameron's strong points and, aside from the problems this causes socially, it is now beginning to affect his marks in mathematics. This is because at undergraduate level, he is expected to give reasons for his answers alongside the answers themselves. Cameron's difficulty is that he often doesn't know how he has arrived at the answers, even though the answers are usually correct.

Cameron and his family have recently moved house and Cameron is due to start at a new school. He regards it as a chance to make a fresh start and make some friends. But his mother, Alison, has a few worries concerning his lack of social skills. While she describes Cameron as 'very sensitive', she also acknowledges that he is socially naive and often oblivious to signals from other people.

The new school specialises in dealing with students who, like Cameron, excel academically but find it difficult to relate to other students. And indeed, on his first day, Cameron did make a new friend – a boy called Tim – mainly owing to a shared dislike of Justin Bieber's music.

Recently, a maths professor from Cambridge University has been looking at Cameron's work. His advice to Cameron is perhaps surprising. Professor Imre Leader thinks Cameron should slow down, stop taking maths exams, and wait until he is eighteen before doing a degree. 'There's quite an important distinction,' he explains, 'between taking lots of exams as fast as you can, and relaxing and enjoying the level that you are at – what we call enrichment.' Professor Leader believes Cameron will do better in the long run if he stops trying to progress so quickly. And although Cameron does want to finish his current degree, he isn't making any academic plans beyond that. He goes to a weekly karate class after school. And recently, he went to a computer games convention with some friends from karate.

Since turning fourteen, Cameron's feelings towards girls have changed. As he puts it, 'I started to like them instead of being disgusted by them.' He's even been on a first date – without his parents. And in general, he feels less isolated and unusual than he did before. 'There are other people like me – high maths abilities, bad school lives – I am not alone. Spooky.'

1.06 Lesson 1F, Exercises 3 and 4

This photo shows a boy and a girl. They might be eighteen or nineteen years old – or a bit older. I'd say they're punks. He's got long, spiky black hair, and some of it's red, actually. It's dyed, of course. He's wearing a black and white T-shirt and a black leather jacket. He's got a piercing in his nose. He's wearing an earring. The girl has got a leather jacket too. I can't quite see what she's wearing on her legs. Perhaps she's got black tights and long socks, up to her knees. She's wearing make-up: dark lipstick and probably some eye-liner. They look as if they're in a photographer's studio – I can't see any background behind them. They're both sitting down. The boy has got his arm around the girl's shoulder and they're smiling slightly.

1.07 Lesson 1F, Exercises 7 and 8

Interviewer Do you think the boy in the photo cares about his appearance? Why do you think so?

Girl Yes, I do. I mean, look at his hair. It must take a long time to get it like that – it's amazing! And the clothes are quite unusual compared to, say, jeans and a sweatshirt. So I reckon he's spent quite a lot of time thinking about his outfit.

Interviewer Good, thank you. Now, tell me ... how much can you tell about a teenager's personality just from looking at their appearance?

Girl It depends. Sometimes, you can't tell very much if the teenager is wearing really normal clothes. But if they're dressed like a goth, for example, then you can make some assumptions about their personality. By and large, goths tend to be fairly quiet, and they aren't aggressive at all. In my experience, they're quite creative.

Interviewer OK. Thanks. Now, ...

1.08 Get Ready for your Exam 1, Exercise 2

Speaker 1 Do you find it stressful walking around at night time? If you were attacked or mugged, what would you do? How can a smaller, weaker person defend themselves against a taller, stronger assailant? Which parts of your body are the most vulnerable? How fast can you move? If you don't know the answers to these questions, join our ten-week course on self-defence for students. You will learn basic karate and practise useful techniques with a qualified instructor.

Speaker 2 Everyone thinks they know about karate because they see its fighting techniques showcased in Hollywood films. But would you like to learn about it beyond the basic moves? Understanding the original philosophy and principles behind this most ancient of martial arts can be a deeply spiritual experience. The mind is trained alongside the body – both become stronger and begin to work as one powerful unit. It's a form of meditation and self-defence combined. Try a free class today!

Speaker 3 Our modern-day lives are getting increasingly stressful. We work hard and expect a lot from ourselves, so it's no wonder that even young people are feeling the pressure. We invite you to look at the world differently for an hour a week. During that hour we guarantee your mind and body will become stronger and your powers of concentration will increase. Meditation: you may not have considered it before, but why not give it a try? Join up today!

Speaker 4 Look at the world differently – standing on the water with the wind in your hair! Stand-up paddle boarding – or SUP boarding – is the newest water sport to hit our shores, and it won't take you long to master the basics. Tall, small, weak or strong, anybody can do it. Give your body a complete workout, and give your mind some time out from the stress and pressure of your everyday life. Acquire the basics in just a one-hour introductory session!

Speaker 5 Why not learn to sand yacht this year? Imagine the wind in your hair – travelling at up to 100 miles an hour along the shore! Contrary to popular belief, sand yachting needn't be complicated or expensive. It won't take you very long to master the basics, so that you can swiftly enjoy the very real pleasures of this new and exciting sport. Sign up for one of our 'come and try' sessions at only £16.50 an hour!