

3.13 Lesson 9A, Exercises 3 and 4

Speaker 1 So I had this ticket to go and see Lady Gaga performing live and I mentioned it to my cousin, Claire. It turned out she just loves Lady Gaga – she’s her favourite singer. She tried to book a ticket for herself, but they were sold out. So I gave her my ticket. Well, I do like Lady Gaga, but I wouldn’t say I’m her biggest fan. And Claire was really grateful, so that was nice.

Speaker 2 I’ve been chief executive of the company for three years now. When I arrived, there was a lot of work to do. Some of the employees just weren’t trying. So I called everyone into a meeting and told them that half of them were going to lose their jobs. And I was going to make that decision after four weeks, so they’d better impress me! They did work harder after that! And four weeks later, the 50% who weren’t performing as well as the others lost their jobs.

Speaker 3 I bought him as a puppy, when he was only a few weeks old. I really wanted a dog. I know I live in a small flat, but I love pets – dogs, especially. Well, what I didn’t think about was how big that puppy was going to grow! He’s huge! Look at him! Yes, we are talking about you, aren’t we? Anyway, he’s wrecked the flat, of course. It isn’t his fault – he’s just too big. I didn’t think about that when I got him.

Speaker 4 I got so angry with my dad last week – I can’t remember why. I think he told me not to spend so much time on the computer. Anyway, I was cross. So do you know what I did? When he went to work, I went outside and dug up all the roses in his flower bed. He loves his roses. He loves them more than he loves his children – that’s what I think sometimes. So I dug them up! He went crazy when he found out.

Speaker 5 My parents gave me the name Edward – which is OK. Lots of people my age are called Edward. But I don’t like being the same as lots of people. So I decided to change my name. I changed it to Eduardo. It’s similar to Edward, but it’s got more style. It’s more exotic, more interesting, more exciting. I think it’s a better reflection of my personality. Eduardo. Sounds good, doesn’t it? I’ve started wearing sunglasses a lot more too.

Speaker 6 I wanted to get something special for my boyfriend last Valentine’s Day, but I didn’t have any money to buy a present. I thought about it for a while, and then I decided to write a song for him. I’m quite musical. So anyway, I wrote it and then I recorded it on my computer – singing and playing the guitar. I gave it to him on a CD. He loved it! Well, he said he did ...

3.14 Lesson 9B, Exercise 1

Boy You shouldn't have invited Ava to your party.

I only split up with her two weeks ago.

I didn't want to see her again so soon.

Girl But you know she's a close friend of mine.

I didn't want to take sides. I had to invite both of you.

Boy But you could have told me she was coming!

Girl She asked me not to. Maybe it was a mistake, but I promised her that I wouldn't tell you.

Boy Well, you might have given me a hint. If you'd warned me, I'd have stayed at home.

Girl But it was nice to see her, wasn't it? I mean, you got on fine. You needn't have been so worried about seeing her!

Boy True. But still ... you should have warned me.

3.15 Lesson 9C, Exercise 2

Parents of boys at a Sydney private school have been urged to monitor their sons' use of Facebook, with a warning that any mistakes made in teenage years could be permanently recorded on the Internet and catch up with them later in life.

The headmaster, Timothy Wright, wrote to parents on Thursday, explaining that younger boys were too immature to fully gauge the possible consequences of disclosing private information on social networking sites. 'We now know that those parts of the brain that deal with decision-making are still developing in a man in his 20s,' he said. 'But mistakes made at fifteen may be still retrievable by an employer ten years later.'

'Modern technology means that a careless word, a slanderous comment or an inappropriate photograph are on permanent record and freely available to anyone who has access. Stupidities that were once forgotten now last, spread and damage in ways unknown before this decade.'

Dr Wright said that harsh words spoken in the playground could be more easily forgotten, but those captured on the Internet or on mobile phone text messages could have far more lasting and more hurtful consequences.

He said there was widespread use of Facebook by students, including those of primary school age, which was against the site's guidelines for use.

He urged parents to set ground rules for use of mobile phones and the Internet, and in particular to set boundaries on taking and sending images that may be used to bully others. 'Parents who are paying for the Internet service have an unquestionable right to insist they are a friend on Facebook. I would certainly insist on this until at least the end of year 10 if not later,' he wrote.

3.16 Lesson 9C, Exercises 5 and 6

It was a classmate who first told Rebecca Black about a company called Ark Music Factory. For a fee of \$4,000, you could have a song recorded, complete with music video. The company even provided the music and lyrics. For Rebecca, who was a thirteen-year-old student with a passion for music and drama, it seemed like a fantastic opportunity. Her mother agreed to pay the \$4,000 and Rebecca recorded a song called *Friday*.

As soon as the music video was ready, Rebecca uploaded it to YouTube. In the first month, a few hundred people watched it. But nothing could prepare her for what would happen next. Thanks to a few mentions on the social networking service Twitter, the video went viral. Within three months, more than 167 million people had viewed the video. And more than three million of those viewers clicked 'dislike' – the most negative reaction a video on YouTube had ever received. The record was previously held by Justin Bieber's song *Baby*.

Rebecca Black's single was suddenly famous all around the world – for being the worst song in the world ... ever. Black told The Daily Beast website that the negative attention the song received shocked and hurt her. She appeared on The Tonight Show on American TV and reiterated the idea, saying she cried when she first read the negative comments on her video.

So was it a mistake to put it on YouTube, where it's so easy for people to make unkind comments – sometimes just for fun? The song was removed in June, four months after first being posted, partly because of all the negative publicity it was creating. After all, Rebecca was still just a young teenager, about to turn fourteen. How could she cope with negative feedback from three million people?

But there's an old saying in show business – that there's no such thing as bad publicity. Suddenly, Rebecca Black was famous! And people at the top of the music business wanted to meet her. Simon Cowell, music boss and inventor of The X Factor and other talent shows, said: 'Whatever she's done has worked. Whether you like her or not, she's the most talked-about artist in America right now.'

She put the video of *Friday* back on YouTube and the song entered the music charts in six different countries. Since then, she has formed her own record company, released an album, appeared in one of Katy Perry's music videos and travelled to Australia to promote a mobile phone network. Some people think it was a mistake for Rebecca to put *Friday* on YouTube, because it received such negative and hurtful comments – but in reality, that 'mistake' has given her a chance of success. Whether she makes the most of it or not is up to her.

3.17 Lesson 9D, Exercise 2

Hospital mix-up

Two Russian families are united by a terrible event that took place more than a decade ago. Their newborn daughters were accidentally mixed up in the maternity hospital and grew up with the ‘wrong’ parents.

In a tiny flat in the Ural Mountains, Yulia Belyaeva and her twelve-year-old daughter Irina are looking through family photos.

One of the pictures shows Irina as a newborn baby wrapped in a blanket. It was taken the day mother and daughter left hospital. But twelve years on, Yulia Belyaeva has discovered that the baby she’d taken home – the daughter she’d thought she’d given birth to – is not her child.

‘I found this out when my ex-husband refused to pay maintenance,’ says Yulia. ‘I took him to court to prove that he was Irina’s father. We did all the DNA tests. But the results were a total surprise. Not only does my ex-husband have no biological link to Irina – neither do I.’

Police believe that on 17 December 1998, there was a terrible mix-up at the local maternity hospital. Two babies were given the wrong name tags – and the wrong parents.

‘At first I thought it was a joke,’ recalls Yulia. ‘Then I couldn’t stop crying. My whole world had turned upside down. I kept worrying what Irina would say. And I kept thinking about my real daughter. Maybe she’d been abandoned or put in an orphanage. Or perhaps she was begging on the streets.’

Desperate to find her, Yulia went to the police and they launched a search for her biological daughter. Within weeks they had found her.

In a village half an hour’s drive from Yulia Belyaeva’s flat lives twelve-year-old Anya Iskanderova. In a meadow opposite her house, she shows me her favourite cow, April. Anya is the girl Yulia had given birth to. She is the spitting image of her biological mother.

In the house is Naimat Iskanderov – the man Anya thought was her father. Naimat is from Tajikistan. He had married a Russian woman, but they had divorced. It was Naimat who brought up Anya and his other children as devout Muslims. When police told him about the mistake at the maternity hospital and that Anya was not his daughter, to begin with he refused to believe it.

‘Then the detective showed me a photo of the other girl, Irina, the one they said was my real daughter,’ Naimat tells me. ‘When I saw her face, it was like seeing myself. My arms and legs began shaking. It was awful to think that my child had grown up with another family and that I had brought up someone else’s daughter.’

The two families meet regularly now. But the parents admit there is tension between them.

‘It is difficult,’ concedes Naimat. ‘One family is Christian, the other is Muslim. We have different traditions. What I fear most is that the daughter I’ve raised will start going drinking in bars, that she will stop praying and working. I’m worried she will lose her religion.’

‘There is tension between the adults,’ says Yulia. ‘Naimat doesn’t like some things that go on in our family, I don’t like some things in their home. Both of us are used to life as it has been, not as it is now. Now it is a nightmare.’

More than anything, Yulia fears that both children will desert her. She can see that the daughter she brought up is keen to spend time now with her biological father. And the child she actually gave birth to is like a stranger.

‘I try to show Anya motherly love,’ Yulia says, ‘But she doesn’t accept it. She’s been brought up differently. She’s not used to tenderness. We don’t really understand each other. When your own daughter looks at you like a stranger, that’s so painful.’

Both families are suing the Kopeysk Maternity Hospital for more than \$300,000 in damages. Its chief doctor went on Russian TV to apologise for the mistake, but argued the hospital could not afford to settle such a claim. Prosecutors are considering bringing criminal charges against the hospital staff responsible for the mix-up – although that seems unlikely, considering so many years have passed.

For now, the two girls say they do not want to swap parents. They are just glad to have found each other.

‘To begin with we were a bit shy,’ Irina tells me, ‘but now we’ve become the best of friends.’

‘What I’d like,’ says Anya, ‘is for all of us to live in one big house.’

Irina and Anya were born fifteen minutes apart. Now the truth about what happened in hospital has brought them together.

3.18 Lesson 9D, Exercise 8

Same Mistake

Saw the world turning in my sheets and once again I
cannot sleep.

Walk out the door and up the street; look at the
stars beneath my feet.

Remember rights that I did wrong, so here I go.

I'm not calling for a second chance,

I'm screaming at the top of my voice.

Give me reason but don't give me choice.

'Cause I'll just make the same mistake again.

And maybe someday we will meet, and maybe talk
and not just speak.

Don't buy the promises 'cause, there are no
promises I keep.

And my reflection troubles me, so here I go.

I'm not calling for a second chance,

I'm screaming at the top of my voice.

Give me reason but don't give me choice.

'Cause I'll just make the same mistake.

I'm not calling for a second chance,

I'm screaming at the top of my voice.

Give me reason but don't give me choice.

'Cause I'll just make the same mistake again.

Saw the world turning in my sheets and once again
I cannot sleep.

Walk out the door and up the street; look at the
stars.

Look at the stars fall down,

And wonder, where did I go wrong?

3.19 Lesson 9E, Exercise 2

'Mistakes are the portals for discovery,' wrote the Irish novelist James Joyce, and it's true that certain mistakes in history have turned out to be lucky for the people who made them. Many familiar items would not exist if their inventors hadn't made lucky mistakes. In 1886, a pharmacist's assistant used fizzy water by mistake to mix a new medicine. The result? Coca-Cola.

Around 1940, a scientist called Dr Percy Spencer was doing military research with microwaves when he discovered that a chocolate bar in his pocket had melted. As a result, he realised that microwave radiation could be used for cooking. If he hadn't had that candy bar, microwave ovens probably wouldn't exist today!

Perhaps the most important accidental discovery was penicillin. If today's doctors didn't have penicillin and other antibiotics, many of the students in your class wouldn't have survived childhood. We have Alexander Fleming to thank for its discovery. Back in 1928, he noticed the drug when it grew by accident in his messy laboratory. This proves another interesting fact: If scientists were always tidy and well organised, they wouldn't have made some of the most important discoveries in history!

3.20 Lesson 9F, Exercises 2 and 3

Man So, you've got an item you didn't pay for.

Woman Yes – this scarf.

Man Oh, right. So, why is it in your bag? Why didn't you pay for it?

Woman I didn't know it was there! My phone rang when I was in the shop. Do you remember?

Man Oh yes.

Woman I think the scarf was in my hand. I probably dropped it into my bag while I was looking for my phone. I wish I hadn't answered it – it was only my brother!

Man Hmm, yes. Oh well. It's only a scarf, I guess. They aren't so expensive.

Woman I know. But I shouldn't have put it in my bag. Basically, I just wasn't thinking. I feel really guilty about it.

Man So what do you want to do?

Woman I think I should take it back to the shop.

Man Really? But you might get into trouble for stealing.

Woman I doubt it. I'll just give back the scarf and explain what happened.

Man OK. Good idea.

Man What's that in your bag? I don't think you paid for it.

Boy It's a sweatshirt. It's from that place in the station. Do you remember?

Man Oh, yes. With the loud music.

Boy Yes, that's right.

Man So, what happened?

Boy Well, I was looking at a few sweatshirts – and then you asked me if I had your ticket. So I started looking for the train tickets in my bag. I must have dropped the sweatshirt in then.

Man I see. So how do you feel about it now?

Boy Annoyed, really. I'm going to have to send it back.

Man Really?

Boy Yes. I can't keep it, can I? I'll post it. It's easier than going back to the shop – and less embarrassing!

Man Yes, I see.

Unit 9 Audio script**3.21 Get Ready for your Exam 9, Exercise 2**

Last summer, our family excitedly set off on holiday. My parents had never booked such an expensive holiday before, and we had certainly never set foot on a Caribbean island!

So it was with eager anticipation that we arrived at the airport with our five suitcases – only to be told that our Unity Airlines flight had been cancelled! We hung around the airport despondently until we were re-routed onto a Sky Eagle flight, but we still missed our connecting flight. So they put us onto another flight to JFK airport, this time with Omega Airlines, and we had to dash like mad through the airport to catch the plane with minutes to spare.

From JFK we boarded our final flight, and it was with some relief that we arrived in St Maarten Island, ready to forget the stresses and strains of actually getting there. However, one vital thing hadn't kept up with us – our luggage.

The laid-back officials in St Maarten airport didn't seem particularly worried about our missing bags. They phoned Omega Airlines, who blamed Sky Eagle because they said that the first flight was responsible for the luggage. Sky Eagle blamed Omega, and they all blamed Unity Airlines for cancelling the original flight.

Meanwhile, through all the accusations, we only had the clothes we stood up in, so Mum took us on a quick shopping trip and bought toothbrushes, swimming stuff, shorts, flip flops and a couple of T-shirts each.

For two days we waited in St Maarten until we joined our five-day cruise. Dad went to the airport twice a day, but each time the baggage staff said nothing had arrived. So we had to go on the cruise without our luggage. My brother, sister and I weren't much bothered, but our parents were. Dad missed his diving equipment, and mum was upset about not being able to wear her new summer wardrobe bought especially for our big holiday. The cruise was fantastic, anyway, even though we had to keep washing our few clothes.

When we got back to the airport to go home, there was a new set of baggage staff who didn't seem to know anything about anything. My dad was so frustrated by this time, he actually sneaked into the storage room and found four of our bags! If he hadn't done that, they might still be sitting there. He just dragged them out without telling anybody, and we went home. When we arrived back in the States, we found our last bag. It hadn't even left the airport! My poor mum and dad are still trying to get some compensation from the airlines.