

Listening 23: Lesson 7A, Exercise 23

Presenter We're interrupting the programme for a news flash. Let's go direct to our correspondent in Abalomu, Daniel Jenkins. Dan, what have you got for us?

Daniel Jenkins I have some important breaking news. There are reports that the government has been overthrown and the army has taken over the country. Eye-witness accounts speak of tanks on the streets, and troops are reported to have surrounded the presidential palace and government buildings. You can probably hear the sound of gunfire behind me.

Presenter Yes, and we can see smoke rising in the distance. Any news of the President's whereabouts?

Daniel Jenkins We've heard nothing from his press office but there've been unconfirmed sightings of government vehicles leaving the palace. The last we heard ... seen travelling west ... the mountains ... another unconfirmed sighting ...

Presenter We seem to be having technical problems – with Dan's satellite phone, I think. Apologies for that ... it's one of the hazards of live broadcasts. We'll get back to Dan as soon as we can re-establish contact. Now, let's have a look at the stories on tomorrow's front pages. Here to discuss the first editions of tomorrow's newspapers with me is Mervin Ball of *The Times*. Welcome, Mervin.

Daniel Jenkins Thank you.

Presenter So, shall we look at the tabloids first?

Mervin Ball Yes, well, most of the tabloids lead with the story of England's 5–0 defeat at the hands of Germany earlier this evening. So in one tabloid the headline is 'Don't mention the score' and we have 'England surrender to the Germans' in another.

Presenter They always manage to refer to the war, don't they?!

Mervin Ball Yes, typical tabloid headlines. The joke's wearing a bit thin now, though, over 60 years on. And *The Mirror* leads with a human-interest story – an account of a lottery winner's journey from riches to rags.

Presenter What about the broadsheets?

Mervin Ball *The Times* leads with the government's latest education reforms, and is very critical of them in an editorial on the inside pages. *The Guardian* leads with the same story, but welcomes the reforms in its editorial.

Presenter And *The Independent* has a front-page article on the latest banking scandal ...

Mervin Ball Yes, that's right: 'Government to regulate banking'. And finally, *The Telegraph* has an interesting article about leaked plans to introduce Internet censorship laws. They're worried about the amount of racist material on the Internet.

Presenter OK. Thank you, Mervin. Now I think we are able to rejoin Dan Jenkins in Abalomu ... Dan, can you hear me?

Listening 24: Lesson 7B, Exercise 4

- Interviewer** I'm carrying out a survey about newspapers. Do you have a spare minute to answer some questions?
- Man** Sure. Fire away.
- Interviewer** Do you read newspapers?
- Man** Yes, I read the newspaper every day.
- Interviewer** How many papers have you bought in the last week?
- Man** I've bought a paper every day.
- Interviewer** Which is your favourite newspaper?
- Man** I like *The Times*.
- Interviewer** Why do you like it?
- Man** There's a good mix of serious news and human-interest stories.
- Interviewer** How could it be made even better?
- Man** There should be more sport.
- Interviewer** Finally, do you trust newspaper journalists to tell the truth?
- Man** Yes, I do. Most of the time.

Listening 25: Lesson 7C, Exercise 2

A

The Flaming Lips are celebrating today – not the sales of their latest album, massive though they are, but the fact that they are now in Guinness World Records. The band has just received an award for performing the most live shows in different cities in 24 hours. They appeared eight times across America as part of MTV's O Music Awards show. Frontman Wayne Coyne said, 'As the day went, everywhere we would go, they'd give us energy – now I feel I could go another 24 hours.'

B

The Prime Minister said that the management of Finlays' Bank faced some serious questions after the institution was fined £290 million. Some of its employees illegally fixed the lending rate between city banks. However, Bob Emerald, the head of Finlays' today refused to resign. Instead he condemned the behaviour of a small number of personnel who had tried to make profits for their own benefit. Government ministers said the bank had stolen from the public.

C

Police said that Rufus, a pet hawk, was taken with his cage from a vehicle outside the All-England Tennis Club at Wimbledon this morning. The bird was in a car parked on a private drive in Dunstall Road, with the rear window open for ventilation. Police said the working bird of prey frightens other birds away from the roof of the tennis courts. Its owner, Imogen Davies, is said to be very distressed. She said, 'We just want to know he's OK.'

D

The government is set to announce details of how the army will be restructured as it loses a fifth of its personnel over the next few years. The review will see troops cut from over 100,000 to nearer 80,000 by 2020. Senior army leaders opposed to the changes said that the army would no longer be able to fight in two countries at the same time. The Defence Secretary said that there was no way to avoid difficult decisions as the army gets smaller.

E

Over three million people have been left without electricity after violent storms hit the US capital last night. Winds of up to 130 kilometres an hour hit Washington, D.C. and left many householders without air conditioning in the hottest summer on record, with temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius. Users of Twitter reported spectacular displays of lightning. A state of emergency was declared, with twelve deaths being linked to the storm.

Listening 26: Lesson 7F, Exercise 1

- 1 You do this when you're using a phone with a touch screen. It means 'move your finger across the screen'.
- 2 I'm not sure how to say it in English. It's a person who works for a newspaper or TV channel and they report the news from a particular place.
- 3 What's it called in English? It's when everyone in the country votes for a new government.
- 4 The word I'm looking for, it's another way of saying somebody is 'mean'. It has the same meaning, but it's informal.
- 5 He's always ... how do you say it in English? He's always talking about his own achievements and saying how good he is.
- 6 She's really ... I mean, she always thinks of herself, always puts herself first. In other words, she's the opposite of considerate.
- 7 The bacon I ordered in the café was very ... I'm not sure how to say it in English. It means covered in oil or fat.
- 8 I had a ... what's it called? It's something that you have when you are ill. The doctor or nurse puts a needle into your arm. It usually stings a bit.