

### Listening 32: Lesson 9A, Exercise 2

1

When I was a child I used to burst into tears at the slightest thing. Like if someone said something nasty or I thought one of my friends was ignoring me. Or worse still, if I lost a game of football or a board game, it seemed like the end of the world! I think my parents found it very difficult to cope with me!

2

I was late for work and I had an important meeting first thing. I drove well over the speed limit and I even jumped a red light. Well, it was probably still amber – just. But I didn't think about the other road users or pedestrians. It wasn't very sensible at all.

3

A few years ago I had to sack a number of people at work. Business wasn't going well and to be honest, they weren't particularly good at their jobs. What I should have done is called them into my office and explained the situation. But I just sent them emails on Friday afternoon, so that I wouldn't have to tell them face-to-face.

4

At the supermarket the other day, there were really long queues at all the checkouts and people were getting very irritable. I realised that they would have to bring more staff onto the tills, so instead of joining a queue and then getting stuck, I hung back and kept an eye out for shop assistants who looked like they were going to open a till. Then I quickly nipped in and was first in the queue!

5

The girl was clearly out of her depth and didn't have the strength to swim back to the shore. The current was carrying her towards the rocks, so I dived in and swam out to her, and helped her back in. I didn't stop to think. I reckon anyone would have done the same in that situation.

6

I wanted to make her feel at home. She was an exchange student from France on her first trip abroad and probably feeling quite homesick, as you often do at that age. So I cooked a nice meal for her, and sat down with her after dinner and I asked her all about her family and her home town. And I made sure that the heating was on in her room and that she had everything she needed.

## Listening 33: Lesson 9C, Exercises 4 and 5

**Girl** When people find out that I have been researching my family history, they usually ask, ‘Have you found out anything interesting?’ The answer is, of course, yes. But the most fascinating part of my hobby is solving historical puzzles.

I first became interested in my family’s history when I was a teenager and my grandmother Patricia died. She had saved everything. My mother spent weeks going through old papers, letters, photos, toys and all sorts. I helped her. We went through all the photos and identified people and started to draw up a family tree.

The first puzzle I needed to solve emerged fairly soon. There was no documentation about my mother’s grandfather at all. He would be my great-grandfather. My mother remembers her mother – my grandmother Patricia – saying that no one ever talked about her father at all, but Patricia never knew why this was. Had he done something terrible? What if he’d been a criminal, a murderer or something? I had to find out.

First of all, I researched my great-grandmother’s marriage. For all the papers that had been saved by the family, this marriage certificate was not among them. So I wrote to request a copy. My great-grandmother’s name was Mildred and she married a young man called Warren Hill, my grandmother’s father. They had married very young. Mildred was 18 and Warren was 22. Then I requested a copy of Warren Hill’s death certificate. He had died very young, when my grandmother was only five years old. Warren had joined the army and fought in the First World War. It was no wonder that my grandmother didn’t remember her father. But I couldn’t find out any more information about him. It was puzzling and really annoying.

I continued going through the papers, photos and letters, and I eventually found a photo tucked away in an old envelope. It was of Mildred, Warren and baby Patricia. They looked happy. I was thrilled. I looked hard at Warren’s face. He didn’t seem like a murderer or anything – just an ordinary, pleasant-looking sort of man. I showed it to my mother. She was amazed. She had never seen a picture of her grandfather before.

Months later, I found a letter written by Mildred’s much older sister, Eva. Eva had looked after Mildred ever since their mother had died. Eva was writing to her fiancé Ross, and the date was three weeks after Mildred’s wedding to Warren. Eva wrote about how worried she was. She thought that Mildred had made a big mistake, that she had married too quickly and was too young. Eva thought that Warren wouldn’t make a good husband for Mildred, as he came from a much poorer family.

So that was Warren’s crime. He wasn’t considered good enough for Mildred! I tried to find out what Mildred thought about this. Did she come to regret having married Warren? Eventually, after a great deal of reading and re-reading of old letters, I found a letter written to Mildred, and signed ‘Mother’. But, of course, Mildred’s own mother – her name was Nancy – had died when Mildred was only three. I looked at the letter again. It was kind and affectionate and asked about young Patricia. I researched the address on the envelope and found out that it was Warren’s mother, Johanna Hill, who had written the letter. And the date on the letter was two years after Warren’s death. This meant that Mildred had kept in touch with her mother-in-law, but Patricia never knew she had a grandmother and never met her. Johanna died a year after the date of the letter.

This is what I think: I think that Mildred was devoted to Warren and was heartbroken when he died. However, she knew that her family didn't approve of him, and so she never talked about him after his death and she kept her continuing contact with his mother a secret. What I do know for sure is that after Warren's death Mildred never married again. I hope it was because she never found anybody that she loved as much as she had loved Warren.

## Listening 34: Lesson 9F, Exercises 4 and 5

**Student A** I'm really sorry that I forgot your birthday. My mum's been a bit ill this week and we've all been very busy looking after her.

**Examiner** That's OK.

**Student A** Actually, I saw something you'd like when I was shopping about a month ago. I was intending to go back to the shop and buy it, but it slipped my mind. I wish I'd bought it when I saw it!

**Examiner** Don't worry.

**Student A** Well, I'm going to get it for you this afternoon. But I'm not going to tell you what it is. It'll be a surprise.

**Examiner** That's sweet of you, but there's really no need.

**Student A** No, no. I want to. Anyway, how did the party go?

**Examiner** It was great, thanks.

**Student A** Were there a lot of people there?

**Examiner** About ten.

**Student A** If only I'd saved the date of the party in my phone! I wouldn't have forgotten then. What did you do? Listen to music? Watch a film?

**Examiner** We just had some food and drink and listened to music.

**Student A** Well, I'm sorry I missed it. Shall we go out together this Friday?

**Examiner** I'm afraid I can't make Friday. I've got something else on.

**Student A** How about Saturday night?

**Examiner** I'm going to see the new Anne Hathaway film with Jake. Why don't you come along?

**Student A** OK, that'd be great. What time does the film start?

**Examiner** At 8.00. We're meeting at the cinema at 7.45.

**Student A** OK, see you there.

**Student B** I've just realised it was your birthday on Saturday. I'm so sorry that I forgot it. I'd even bought a card for you and written it. It's still in my schoolbag. If only I'd remembered to give it to you!

**Examiner** Well, never mind. You don't usually forget birthdays!

**Student B** No, it's because I've been so busy recently. I had to catch up on lots of school work last week, and then I was away with my family over the weekend. But I wish I'd been at your party instead.

**Examiner** Yes, we missed you. It was great fun.

**Student B** Well, anyway, I'm going to get you a present to make up for forgetting your birthday. I'm going to get the latest Lady Gaga CD. It's just out.

**Examiner** Oh, you don't have to.

**Student B** You like Lady Gaga, don't you?

**Examiner** Yes, I do. I love her.

**Student B** Good. That's settled then. And we really ought to meet up.

**Examiner** Yes, good idea.

**Student B** What are you up to this weekend?

**Examiner** I'm going ice skating with Rob on Saturday morning, but I'm free in the afternoon.

**Student B** What do you fancy doing?

**Examiner** We could go for a coffee.

**Student B** That would be great. Let's meet at 2.30 at the bus station.

**Examiner** OK, see you then.