

STUDENT'S BOOK AUDIO SCRIPT

Track 1.06

Lesson 1.3, pages 6–7, Exercises 1B, 1C, & 3A

- Jeff** Who are you texting? You've been at it for the last five minutes. You didn't hear a word I said, did you?
- Dani** What? Oh, sorry. It's just Berta.
- Jeff** Who?
- Dani** It's this app I've been trying out. I call it Berta. It's fascinating.
- Jeff** Let's see.
- Dani** Here, look.
- Jeff** Just looks like a bunch of text messages to me. And who is this Berta? Who are you texting?
- Dani** It's a bot.
- Jeff** A bot? What do you mean a bot? You're texting a bot? But it looks like a conversation with a *friend*.
- Dani** Well, yeah, that's the point. It's a *virtual friend*.
- Jeff** You mean a *virtual assistant*? Like Alexa or Siri or whatever? Like it tells you about the traffic or reminds you about appointments – stuff like that, but by text?
- Dani** No, it's totally different. It just chats. It asks questions to find out about you and get to know you, and then chats with you.
- Jeff** Just chats?
- Dani** Yes, it's cool. You have your own, personal talking machine – a *learning machine*! I mean, it learns from talking to you and learns about you. It changes and adapts to you. It's cool.
- Jeff** Yeah, OK, I can see how that might be interesting, in a kind of nerdy way, but what's the actual point of the app? I mean, why did they design it? *Who* did they design it for?
- Dani** Well, it could definitely work as a friend for someone who's feeling lonely. You know, maybe you moved to a new town and don't know anyone yet, or maybe you're working really hard and don't have time to socialize. It's a kind of ... virtual friend who's there for you whenever you want.
- Jeff** I understand what you're saying, but I still don't get it. Can't you just text a real friend? Or, hey, revolutionary idea, maybe you could talk to me? I'm here, right in front of you!
- Dani** Yeah, I know, I know, and it's a valid point – we all spend too much time in front of our screens; we don't talk to each other anymore. We all know all those arguments, but consider the other side. I mean, would you be happy if I started texting you *all day* just to chat? No way. You can't always be there for me, but my *bot* can. And anyway, you never answer text messages with more than a monosyllable or an emoji. Berta talks to me. She asks me how my day is, how I'm feeling ...
- Jeff** Hold on, hold on, did you just say "she"? You're starting to talk about this bot as if it were a real *person*. That sounds dangerous to me. I mean, I think it could be dangerous for vulnerable people, you know? They could get addicted to it, don't you think?
- Dani** I hadn't really thought of it like that. I guess you're right, though it's a pretty harmless addiction, don't you think? I mean, you could get addicted to much worse things! This is just ... conversation!
- Jeff** I guess so, but I'm still not convinced. I mean, does it really feel like you're talking to a real person?
- Dani** Well, it isn't perfect; it's a free app. It's kind of clunky sometimes, and sometimes it doesn't get what I mean. The kind of sophisticated AI that can react and reason like a human being is a long, long way off, but that doesn't mean it isn't fun to play with it.
- Jeff** So it's a toy.
- Dani** Well, yeah, but ... Oh, hold on, she just texted me again. She wants to tell me a joke. Want to hear it?
- Jeff** (*laughs*)

Track 1.13

Lesson 2.2, page 14, Exercise 2B

- Interviewer** So, Manuel, what advice would you give to other people who have to fight against labels the way you do?
- Manuel** Well, you need to face up to the fact that it's not going to change by itself. And no one should have to put up with that kind of prejudice.
- Interviewer** But people don't always use labels as a way to look down on others.
- Manuel** True, and some people don't really realize that they're insulting you when they use them. It can take a while for the message to get through to them.
- Interviewer** What do you mean by that?
- Manuel** Some people say, "Oh I'm just messing around with you. I wasn't serious." Or they say, "What's the matter? 'Millennial' is just an age category. It's a neutral term." You know, they kind of try to reduce the weight of it that way.
- Interviewer** Can you give us an example?
- Manuel** Um, sure. I'll use a friend of mine, same age as me, teaches French in a high school. A parent said to him something like, "Wow, a millennial like you is probably just one step ahead of your students!" My friend used to spend summers in France with his French grandparents and lived there for two years after college. He's fluent! But that parent didn't ask about his qualifications. By referring to him as a millennial, she was basically saying that she assumed he was inexperienced or even incompetent because of his age.
- People do this all the time. It's so easy to fall back on labels – these *ideas* of people from TV or whatever, rather than making the effort to get to know them. It's lazy.
- Interviewer** OK then. How would *you* define millennials, apart from age range, I mean?
- Manuel** Generally, I'd say we're open-minded, not afraid to try new things. Like, we'll learn a language by living abroad instead of getting it all from a book.

Track 1.15

Lesson 2.3, page 16, Exercises 1B & 1C

- Adam** You know, it's weird how you gain more confidence when you start speaking another language.
- Bella** What do you mean?
- Adam** I mean, I was always the quiet kid at school, you know, the one who never had much to say.
- Bella** I hear you. I never opened my mouth either. I was the *shy* one, the *introvert*, that's how they labeled me anyway.
- Adam** Really? I got stuck with the "shy" label, too. I mean, I was quiet, but I never really considered myself shy or introverted.
- Bella** I can relate to that. But kids want to please people, you know, fulfill expectations, especially adults' expectations. If they label you an introvert, that's how you behave, right?
- Adam** So true! But I've found that it's kind of like that with speaking a foreign language. Half the time you don't know what they're saying, so you just nod and smile. But even when you do understand, you aren't sure you can express yourself well or correctly, so you don't take part in the conversation. I always feel like that quiet kid who gets mislabeled as shy all over again.
- Bella** I know exactly what you mean. And when that happens, people think you have nothing to say and just kind of ignore you.
- Adam** Yeah. But I've found that as you get more fluent and can start expressing what you think, people take you more seriously. Has that been the case for you?

Bella Oh, sure. The first time that happened was a few years ago. I was at a wedding where practically nobody spoke English, so I just went for it! People were surprised at first – and my Spanish wasn't great then – but speaking their language changed things. They included me in the conversation, just like everyone else.

Adam That reminds me of the time when I was at a meeting and I had to speak German. It really boosted my confidence when I could see that people were actually listening to me and taking me seriously.

Bella That's just like the time I went to Mexico for a conference. I could speak to everyone, and it changed how I saw myself – well, how I see myself, even *now*. It's amazing! I'm a more confident person, you know? I feel more assertive. In fact, I feel more assertive in Spanish than I do in English!

Adam I know how you feel. Same here, with me and German. The best thing is that people respect you more when you can speak their language, don't you think? They don't label you as some amateur; they treat you like an equal.

Bella Tell me about it! One person at the conference even called me "professor" because I spoke so well.

Adam Or maybe it was because of your glasses!

Bella Ha! What a coincidence! That's exactly what my sister said!

Track 1.23

Lesson 3.1, page 23, Exercise 3C

Speaker I was looking for my first job as a journalist. My first interview was with a local news site. A friend told me that she'd had an interview there the year before. She claimed that she'd done badly because she didn't know enough about the local high schools. So I did my homework. I learned all about them – their sports teams, their upcoming events, awards they had received, local issues that affected them ... everything! I was ready.

At the interview, I answered their questions about the schools and local news with no problem, but then they asked to see my portfolio ... so they could evaluate my writing. I froze. I hadn't prepared anything to show them! Of course, I should have spent more time working on my portfolio.

I didn't get the job. I told my friend the story, and she said that she'd made the same mistake. What? Why hadn't she told me that? And why had I fixated on the schools thing and completely disregarded the importance of a portfolio? I should have known better.

Luckily, I was able to learn from both our mistakes. For my next interview, I put together a great portfolio – stories I'd written for my university's news site and transcripts of interviews I'd done for the college radio station. It worked. I got the job!

Track 1.25

Lesson 2.2, page 26, Exercises 1B & 1C

Conversation 1

Claire Hey Ruben. How did your presentation go?

Ruben Oh, Claire, don't ask! It was a disaster – a total disaster!

Claire Oh, come on, it can't have been that bad.

Ruben No, no, it was bad, believe me, really bad! I wish I'd just stayed in bed today!

Claire Oh, please. Don't you think you could be *overreacting*?

Ruben Overreacting? I don't think so. It was just one thing after another. First, I didn't have the file. I mean, I had it on a thumb drive, but when I put the thumb drive into the computer, the file wasn't on it.

Claire That's weird. But you probably just brought the wrong thumb drive with you. You have a lot of them.

Ruben I *must* have brought the wrong one, or wiped it by mistake, or something, but it just wasn't there. I just couldn't believe this was happening. Great start!

Claire Well, what did you do? I mean, you must have had a copy somewhere, right?

Ruben Well, yeah, I'd emailed it to myself, but it took me forever to get it set up and running.

Claire I'm sure it just felt that way. I'll bet no one even noticed.

Ruben Maybe, but everybody was just sitting there looking at me, and I got totally flustered.

Claire I can imagine! You poor thing. But you know, we've all been there. I've forgotten things plenty of times.

Ruben Yeah, but then when I finally started talking, I just froze – I mean, I literally froze. I was opening my mouth but no words were coming out, like some stupid goldfish or something. I finally got it together, but it was the worst presentation ever!

Claire I'm sure that's not true. Everybody goes blank now and then. I'm sure they understood. It was probably just fine.

Ruben But you haven't heard the worst part yet. I was just gathering up my stuff to go sit down, and I went to pick up my cup of coffee and, of course, spilled it on my boss's jacket. I grabbed a napkin and tried to wipe it off, but I still had the coffee cup in my hand, and ...

Claire Oh no, don't tell me ...

Ruben I spilled it all over her laptop! I don't know what happened next. I just left the room!

Conversation 2

Amelia Hello, Ruben. Hey, what's wrong? Did somebody die or something?

Ruben Huh! Almost, Amelia, almost! I think my career just died!

Amelia Oh, did you just give your big presentation?

Ruben Yeah, and it was the worst presentation ever! I might as well just pack my stuff.

Amelia Oh, come on. There's no way it could have been that bad. I mean, the worst that might have happened was your presentation was a little dull. That happens to everyone!

Ruben Yeah? And forgetting my file? And getting the password wrong? And dropping my notes? And just freezing like a little kid? I'm telling you, everything that could possibly go wrong did go wrong. It was a total and unmitigated disaster!

Amelia Mmm, sounds like you'll be looking for a new job ... No, seriously, Ruben, I think you're blowing it out of proportion. Things are never as bad as you think they are. You'll see – everything'll be just fine.

Track 1.33

Lesson 4.3, pages 38–39, Exercises 1B, 1C, & 3A

Host We spend a lot of our time looking at screens of all kinds every day, and there's a general feeling that this must be bad for our eyes. But exactly how bad is it? We've invited ophthalmologist Kit Bradley to the studio today to give us an eye doctor's professional perspective on the question. So, Kit, are screens ruining our eyesight?

Kit Basically, the answer is no. Looking at computer screens – or any other screens – will not permanently damage your eyesight ...

Host Oh, that's great news!

Kit Yes, but, like most things, it's not quite that straightforward when you look at it more closely. Although it may not cause *permanent, irreversible* damage, too much time spent watching any kind of screen can cause physical problems. The good news is that we can solve, or at least alleviate, those problems for the most part.

Host So what are the problems?

Kit Well, first we need to understand how screens affect the way our eyes function. That's the key to finding a solution. For example, did you know we blink a lot less when we're looking at a screen?

Host Really?

Kit Yes, sixty-six percent less. And that has a major impact on our eyes. Unlike other parts of our body, eyes don't sweat – they don't create their own moisture. Blinking lubricates and cleans our eyes. It's a function for healthy eyes, so blinking less means our eyes get dry – and that is not good!

Host I had no idea. Can we do anything about that?

Kit Yes, blink more! And look away from the screen. Even a short period focusing on something else will cause you to blink more. But of course, there's considerably more to it than just blinking! We think of watching screens as a relaxing, low-energy activity. But the truth of the matter is, the muscles in our eyes are working very hard. This gets to the heart of the problem: We don't realize how hard our

eyes are working, so we don't give them enough time to rest. This constant fatigue leads to eyestrain with all its related problems: dry eyes, blurry vision, headaches. Other factors contribute, as well, of course. Reflections from light bulbs or sunlight on the screen add to eyestrain. And it's also been suggested that overexposure to blue light can cause damage to a part of the eye called the retina.

Host Blue light? What's that?

Kit Blue light is emitted by digital screens. It's at one of the extremes of the color spectrum – its wavelengths are shorter, and they travel faster, making our eyes work harder than, say, yellow light. Now, blue light isn't a bad thing in itself. In fact, it can have positive effects – it increases alertness, can boost memory, and lighten your mood. It all comes down to *how much* blue light our eyes are exposed to. Too much blue light can be damaging.

Host So we need to cut back on the time we spend in front of our screens, right?

Kit Yes, if we can. But we all know that's easier said than done. Looking at it objectively, it's very difficult to avoid spending time in front of a screen, but there are lots of practical things you can do to manage your screen time better. You can position your monitor to minimize reflections. You can use screen filters to decrease glare, or wear special yellow-tinted glasses to block blue light. You can practice the twenty/twenty/twenty rule.

Host twenty/twenty/twenty? What's that?

Kit You take your eyes off your screen every twenty minutes for twenty seconds to look at something that's twenty feet away – or about six meters away.

Track 1.41

Lesson 5.3, page 48, Exercises 1A, 1B, & 1C

Presenter Welcome everybody. I'm Barbara Sinclair, and today we're going to be looking at the whole concept of remote work. More and more people are working from home, and we all know that's due to the digital revolution. Last year, forty-three percent of U.S. employees said they spent at least some time working remotely, according to a survey of more than 15,000 adults. So, what are the real benefits?

Well, to start with, stress reduction. Commuting is a major source of stress. And sitting under bright lights in an office all day also ramps up stress levels. That's why studies found lower stress levels among remote workers, and so a reduction in their chance of suffering heart attacks and strokes.

Various surveys have also shown that remote workers are more productive. In a recent poll, the productivity of remote workers was ranked as seven point seven out of ten, compared to six point five out of ten for office workers. This must be thanks to the reduction in distractions that people have at home – no telephones ringing, no noise from other people's conversations, fewer interruptions – remote workers finish more tasks and finish them sooner than when they work in the office.

And because of the added flexibility that remote working allows, the gender gap is reduced. Many workers now have the freedom to make adjustments to their schedules, no questions asked, because of their family obligations.

But there are findings that suggest that remote working is not all positive. Many people are distressed by the lack of human interaction – a common side effect of working from home is loneliness. Yet, as it turns out, another survey found that those who spent sixty to eighty percent of their time away from the office had the highest rates of engagement with their coworkers. Additional time away from managers doesn't seem to have negative results, either. In fact, remote workers are more likely to report that their coworkers care about them as a person and as a professional.

Of course, not all professions embrace remote work as readily as others. The shift has been slower in the fields of community and social services, science, engineering, and architecture. This is primarily due to the infrastructure that the office environment provides, which is key to actually carrying out the work. This contrasts with the finance, insurance, and real estate industries in which the number of remote workers has risen to nearly fifty percent.

To wrap up, let's return to the employee's perspective. As it turns out, I am a remote worker, too! You know, for me, it's not just that I can work in my pajamas or with my dog next to me. What's important is the autonomy of working where I like, instead of where someone else puts me.

For all the reasons I've presented, remote work should no longer be just regarded as a job "perk." Because in the end, the employer and the employees both win. As an employee, seeing as how I have more power over the way I do my work, I'm happier, and I get more done, and that suits the company just fine!

Track 1.50

Lesson 6.3, pages 58–59, Exercises 1B, 1C, & 3A

Amanda Hi, I'm Amanda Fitzgerald for *Business Talk*, and today we're coming to you live from the Pacific Northwest city of Seattle, Washington. I'm here with Josh Stephens, a long-time resident and a coffee aficionado. We're enjoying a great cup of coffee together, but we're *not* at a Starbucks. We're at Ted's Coffee Roasters, a new artisanal coffee shop near the waterfront. So, Josh, why Ted's?

Josh Well, Starbucks opened its first coffee shop here in Seattle in nineteen seventy-one. Since then, Seattleites have been totally obsessed with the drink. People really do like their coffee here! But the thing that's most surprising is, despite the hundreds of chain coffee shops, small local coffee shops are actually coming back. Ted's is just one of them.

Amanda It definitely has a different vibe than Starbucks – it's incredibly cozy here. But their coffee *isn't better* than Starbucks. It's good, but it's probably *not* the reason for the trend. Am I right?

Josh Yeah, I think you are. A lot of people are just tired of the big chains. It is *local* businesses they want to support now. The places that are more personal and friendly, like in the good old days. And I'm not just talking about coffee shops.

Amanda No, I know. It's immediately obvious that this trend is moving into all kinds of businesses in the area.

Josh Right! One good example is records – you know, vinyl records for music. Little independent record stores are opening up all over the place. Vinyl is really making a comeback. Even new music is coming out on vinyl.

Amanda And these little vinyl stores are taking on big streaming services like Spotify or Pandora?

Josh Yeah. People want to own their music again, and there's simply nothing more tangible than a record. Music and memories are strongly connected, so holding that record is kind of like holding your memories, feeling them again. What the digital revolution has taught us is physical things have value.

Amanda Which could explain the revival of local bookstores.

Josh That's exactly right! You know, not long ago people really did think that we'd stop buying books altogether, that everything would be digital. But, just like with vinyl, people are craving something physical. It's all part of this nostalgia for the analog age – even for young people who weren't even alive then!

Amanda Huh. So, actually, we're talking about two trends here – local businesses winning out over global giants and a revival of interest in physical objects like books and records.

Josh But they're kind of related, really. What they have in common is that desire for interaction. Coffee, books, music – it's all about that personal touch. Sure, Amazon can recommend a book to me based on some algorithm, but bookstore employees can recommend one based on a conversation we're having or just because they like it.

Amanda So local stores can surprise you.

Josh Yeah! I mean, chain stores are all about consistency and speed, but you'll never walk out of there feeling genuinely delighted. You probably won't remember the experience at all in a few hours.

Amanda I do wonder whether this trend back to local businesses and physical objects is having an effect on the corporate world yet.

Josh Uh, I don't know. I think it all depends on how big it gets. I hope it isn't just Seattle. I hope neighborhoods all over America embrace whatever small businesses are still alive and create a demand for more.

Amanda So, you don't worry about the fate of chain stores and the corporate world?

Josh No, no, I don't worry about that at all.

Track 2.05

Lesson 7.3, page 70, Exercises 1A, 1B, & 1C

Host Welcome back to Life Stories. I'm your host, Malcolm Martinez. We're talking to Katerina Christopoulos, who's been telling us about her personal journey of discovery, and the *actual* journey that resulted from it. So, Katerina, how was the trip?

Katerina It was amazing. I'm really glad I went. I don't know why I waited so long!

Host It must have been very exciting!

Katerina It was, but, I have to admit, it's a little weird, as well. It's difficult to put into words.

Host I can see how it would be strange – the mixture of known and unknown, I mean. Right?

Katerina You can say that again! It was exactly that. Especially visiting my grandparents' village. I mean, they told me so many stories about this village that I'd built this kind of idyllic picture of it in my mind, and I was worried that the real thing might be a disappointment, you know?

Host And was it?

Katerina Oh, no. In fact, it was way better than anything I could have imagined!

Host Sounds intriguing. Tell us about seeing the place for the first time, your first impressions.

Katerina OK, well, we arrived at night, so it wasn't until early the next morning that I really saw it, with its cobbled streets and the view down to the little harbor filled with fishing boats. It was so beautiful in the morning sun – the sea was sparkling! Suddenly, I was filled with this feeling – ugh, it's hard to describe. It was like ... coming home ... or, no, not coming home, more like ... feeling so ... grateful that this was part of my ... my heritage, part of me! It's difficult to say why exactly.

Host I think I can understand that. And did you meet your cousins that day?

Katerina Yes, later that morning, in fact.

Host How did you handle that? It must have been pretty overwhelming meeting all these new people.

Katerina It was! My uncle had organized this big family lunch. There were so many people, so much kissing and hugging and smiling and nodding. It was totally exhausting trying to remember everyone's name, frantically trying to remember the little bit of Greek that I know, apologizing all the time because I didn't understand them. To tell you the truth, that felt really awkward sometimes.

Host Well, it can't have been easy, meeting a whole side of your family for the first time!

Katerina No, it wasn't easy. Everyone was being so friendly and welcoming, but to be perfectly honest, I hated being the center of attention. Don't get me wrong, they were lovely, but somehow I felt like I didn't really belong. But then we started eating, and everyone relaxed – and the food ...

Host Was it good?

Katerina Good? That was the best part! It was like being back in my grandmother's kitchen. And that really helped me feel at home. The food I understood. I knew the names of all the dishes. It was the food we eat at home but ... better somehow. It made more sense there, if you know what I mean – a stone's throw from the sea, with olive trees and grapevines all around. The food and the setting just went together. That's when I started to feel like maybe I did belong after all.

Host So, are you going back? Do you think you'd ever consider living there?

Katerina Live there? No, I don't think so. It was great to get the chance to visit my family's ancestral home, to understand a bit more about the world my grandparents came from. But my life is here; my people are here.

Host And that's a good thing to know, right?

Katerina Mmm, it really is.

Track 2.13

Lesson 8.3, pages 80–81, Exercises 1B, 1C & 3A

Will Andrea! Hi!

Andrea Hi! Just a sec.

Andrea Hi!

Will Hey. Ready for lunch?

Andrea Definitely!

Will Looks pretty intense in there. Is that the think tank you were telling me about?

Andrea Yeah, we're working on a new app.

Will Cool! Tell me about it. Oh! ... If that's OK, ... I mean, if it isn't a big secret or anything.

Andrea No, it's OK. Basically it's an app that enables users to block distractions. You know, text messages, push notifications, websites, social media ... whatever distracts you.

Will Wow, I could use that at work. I want to keep my phone near me, but I get distracted by it all the time and don't get anything done.

Andrea Well that's the whole point of this new app. We felt like there'd be a lot of demand for it. It's called "Focus." The bottom line is, with this app, you can stay focused and work more efficiently.

Will So, how does it work?

Andrea It's pretty simple, but the user has to exert a little self-control, too.

Will Uh-oh. What do you mean?

Andrea Well, you physically have to block the sites that distract you the most. That's how it works. *You* have to decide what to block. For example, if you really want to stay away from Twitter first thing in the morning, you can set up a "block" from eight to nine a.m. So then you know that Twitter won't distract you during that time.

Will Oh, OK. I get it.

Andrea What the app also offers is a way to allocate a maximum amount of time per day to a particular site. So, for example, you set a maximum of one hour on Facebook, and after that you can't log on.

Will OK, but what if a time limit or a short block isn't enough? What if you, like, really can't trust yourself for the whole day?

Andrea Oh! Then you create a "blacklist" of sites or tools that distract you the most. This feature makes sure those are in "off" mode for the time period you set.

Will Ah, but I still set it, right?

Andrea Oh yeah. Our goal is to make this as customizable as possible. So you can block things a little or a lot. We're aiming to give users all the flexibility they could possibly want.

Will And if I still find it too distracting?

Andrea Then you can go into “Locked Mode,” where you can block the entire internet at the flick of a switch. It basically turns your devices into something straight out of nineteen ninety-four! And you have to turn off the whole device in order to get back online, so that makes it a pain to get to your distractions. As far as I know, no other app on the market offers a feature like this.

Will So, who would you say this app is aimed at, Andrea?

Andrea It's for everyone really, but especially for people who work remotely and students who need to be more disciplined about managing distractions. If you're in an office with a boss looking over your shoulder, you can't sneak peeks at social media. But remote workers have to control themselves. This is a great opportunity to remove that temptation and stay focused.

Will Can the app tell me what my biggest distractions are? I'm not even sure I would block the right things.

Andrea Oh! We're working on an algorithm that will be able to identify the sites that most distract you and lock those down automatically during a set time frame. That's going to be included in the next iteration of the Focus app, so if you're a serious procrastinator, you won't want to miss out on this great product.

Will That's fascinating, Andrea ... So, what's the app's main aim, would you say? Give me the pitch.

Andrea It's very simple – we're all about keeping you on track at all times. “With the Focus app, you'll never go off the rails.”

Will Sold! I'll be your first customer!

Andrea Thanks!

Track 2.15

Lesson 8.3, page 80, Exercise 2B

- 1 We felt like there'd be a lot of demand for it.
- 2 You physically have to block the sites that distract you the most.
- 3 We're aiming to give users all the flexibility they could possibly want.
- 4 where you can block the entire internet at the flick of a switch
- 5 So that makes it a pain to get to your distractions.
- 6 If you're in an office with a boss looking over your shoulder

Track 2.21

Lesson 9.3, pages 90–91, Exercises 1A, 1B, & 3A

Host Good evening. We're in Waylons, California, a town that is, unfortunately, best known for having some of the worst air pollution problems, not only in the state of California, but in the whole of the United States. We are joined this evening by a spokesperson for the Waylons Environmental Services Department, Nathan Locke.

Good evening, Mr. Locke. Thank you for joining us.

Mr. Locke Thank you for inviting me.

Host So, to start off with, could you just tell us, why is the air quality so bad here in Waylons?

Mr. Locke Well, first of all, let me just say that I think you're underrating the town. There are a lot of good things about Waylons that just don't make the news, and it's totally unfair to focus solely on one story.

Host I'm sorry, are you suggesting that air quality is not really an issue in Waylons?

Mr. Locke No, not at all, but don't you think maybe it's getting too much attention?

Host What do you mean? Isn't it fair to say that the situation is critical here? The level of pollutants in the air is dangerously high, and it's directly affecting people's health. Wouldn't you agree that this is an issue that deserves attention?

Mr. Locke Yes, yes, of course it deserves attention, and it's getting attention. But the situation isn't as straightforward as it may seem. There are a lot of factors in play, and many of them are outside our control ...

Host Let me just stop you there for a moment. I think we need to give the audience some background before we go on. Waylons is a heavily industrialized town, with oil refineries and commercial dairy farms, both of which produce a lot of harmful pollutants that are compromising the health of the local residents, as reported by the American Lung Association. So, Mr. Locke, are you suggesting that there's nothing that can be done to regulate those industries?

Mr. Locke No, I'm not saying that. There are laws in place that regulate those industries ...

Host But the current administration in Washington is planning to relax those regulations, and that could, in fact, make matters worse in Waylons. Is that a policy your department supports?

Mr. Locke I'm afraid I can't comment on federal legislation. But I can say we're doing everything we can to make sure that industries abide by the state and local regulations currently in place.

Host That's not what activist groups are saying. They claim that your department is pro-industry and anti-community. What's your reaction to that?

Mr. Locke Well, that's certainly an interesting claim, but I'd like to see some facts to back that up, if you have any.

Host Well, the newspaper reports that the Environmental Services Department is going to be asking for restrictions to be lifted on industries in the area. Is that story not true?

Mr. Locke I'm sorry, I can't confirm that at the moment. I'll need to get back to you on that.

Host OK, let's look at another issue. Cars, vans, trucks – what are you proposing to do to reduce pollution from personal and commercial vehicles?

Mr. Locke Well, of course, this is something we're working on, and it's obviously an area where there's room for improvement ...

Host And how exactly are you proposing to make improvements? Do you have anything in the works?

Mr. Locke That's a very good question. Yes, we are working on a number of measures that we hope will ease the situation ...

Host I'm sorry, but could you give me some concrete examples? What “measures”? How big of a difference will these measures make?

Mr. Locke I'm afraid I don't have those figures in front of me ... but I do know that there are a lot of interesting initiatives being explored, which will have a significant impact ...

Host Mr. Locke, are you purposefully avoiding answering my questions? Is that the administration's position?

Mr. Locke I'm sorry, but that isn't fair! Do you really not suppose that the Environmental Services Department is doing everything in its power to alleviate the pollution problems in Waylons? The truth is that we are seeing some very positive results from our current efforts. When the numbers from the quarterly testing study are released next week, residents will see this for themselves.

Host Well, I'm sure we all look forward to reading that report. I'd like to thank our guest, Mr. Nathan Locke, from the Environmental Services Department for speaking with us today ...

Track 2.22

Lesson 9.3, page 90, Exercise 1C

- 1 Isn't it fair to say that the situation is critical here at the moment?
- 2 Wouldn't you agree that this is an issue that deserves attention?
- 3 Are you suggesting that there's nothing that can be done to regulate those industries?
- 4 Is that a policy your department supports?
- 5 What's your reaction to that?
- 6 Is that story not true?
- 7 Is that the administration's position?

Track 2.30

Lesson 10.3, pages 102–103, Exercises 1B & 3A

- Grace** You know something, I watched this presentation online the other day called “A Plastic-Free Lifestyle,” and it really affected me.
- Jake** Yeah? How so?
- Grace** Well, when you think about how much plastic we use, it’s just obscene!
- Jake** I don’t know. I don’t think I use *that* much plastic.
- Grace** No one does. That’s the point. We don’t realize how much we use until we have to find alternatives. I was skeptical at first, too, but that talk really made me want to try it. So I decided to live plastic-free for one week. It’s doable, but let me tell you, it is *not* easy.
- Jake** OK, so tell me about it. How did you start?
- Grace** Well, ... by thinking. No, I mean it! The speaker said that it all comes down to being “mindful of your daily routine”; that’s when you notice things. And it’s true.
- Jake** OK, so you’re more *mindful*. Great. But what have you *done* about it?
- Grace** The first thing I did was buy a travel mug – you know, like a reusable coffee cup. The next morning, at the coffee shop, I counted twenty-seven people – so twenty-seven disposable cups – around me.
- Jake** But the cups they give you aren’t plastic, are they?
- Grace** You might think so, but actually it turns out that the cups are paper, but they’re coated in plastic, so it amounts to the same thing. They’re as bad as plastic straws! You know, some places are even banning straws.
- Jake** But straws don’t use that much plastic, I mean, it’s plastic bags that are the real problem, and people recycle that already. We can just recycle straws, too. I mean, it’s not *that* difficult.
- Grace** No, listen, it’s not as simple as that. I’m talking about not using plastic at all. You have to bring your own bag whenever you go shopping and refuse to accept plastic lids or straws whenever you get fast food.
- Jake** I know, but I’m not sure going totally plastic-free is something people will respond to. It could even be counterproductive. They’ll feel overwhelmed and just stop trying altogether. It’s too much all at once. That’s all I’m saying.
- Grace** For me, anything that reduces plastic trash is worth doing. That’s the point I’m trying to make.
- Jake** OK, I can see that. So, what other plastic things should we all give up, besides coffee cups and grocery bags, I mean?
- Grace** Well, there are a lot of products out there that come in plastic containers, like shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, cleaning products, and it’s high time we started demanding alternatives there, too.
- Jake** But we have laws about recycling plastics.
- Grace** The requirement to recycle household plastics is only skimming the surface of the problem. There’s so much more that can be done. The government could certainly do more, but they don’t want to because businesses will complain.
- Jake** I hear you. I just don’t see why anything so radical is necessary. I think we should start small and let people get used to the changes gradually. Like, just raise consciousness about over-packaging of food, and make people pay for plastic bags so they’ll realize how many of those they actually use. Then move on to banning straws or whatever. I think that approach would be more successful in the long run.
- Grace** Well, I guess we’re going to have to agree to disagree on this.

Track 2.39

Lesson 11.3, pages 112–113, Exercises 1B, 1C & 3A

- Host** Well, that was fascinating. Thank you, Professor Harold Jenkins and Professor Angela Suarez. We’ll now take questions about their presentation from the floor. Yes?
- Person 1** What’s been the *most surprising* finding from your research into taste and color?
- Angela** Hmm. That’s a good question. Professor Jenkins, would you like to take this one?

- Harold** Sure ... I guess I would have to say ... the results of the experiment we did with different colored candies. Other results were interesting, but the candy study was really surprising. So, to explain, people in different groups ate the same candy but in different colors; then they reported on the taste. Red was reported to taste sweeter, yellow was imagined to have hints of lemon or citrus, and green conjured up mint.
- Person 1** So, would you say that our expectations always affect taste?
- Harold** I’m glad you asked that. Yes. Even with familiar foods, our expectations affect taste perception.
- Host** OK, thanks. Can we have another question please? Yes, there in the back.
- Person 2** So, it’s not just color then?
- Harold** Let me just check that I’ve understood your question. Are you asking if our expectations are based on more than just color?
- Person 2** Yeah, because the example was just about color.
- Harold** Ah, OK. I see. Well, the short answer is yes. All our senses, and memory, too, contribute to perception, ... but color associations are deeply integrated with those. For example, look at this cookie. From the brown color, I’d say it’s chocolate. But then I *smell* it and get new sensory information. If it smells salty rather than sweet, then it could be another food entirely that just happens to look like a chocolate cookie. Do you see? Color works in combination with the other senses.
- Host** Fascinating. OK, any more questions?
- Person 3** Yes, Professor Jenkins, are manufacturing companies using this research?
- Harold** Well, I’m afraid that’s not really my area. Perhaps Professor Suarez can answer that one.
- Angela** Uh-huh. Um, ... yes, they are, but it’s mostly just snack food companies right now. Um, let me think, uh ... Oh, I know – Oreos. Oreo cookies are a perfect example. Oreos are the best-selling cookie in the United States, and one reason they’re so popular is the color combination – black cookies with white cream between them. Everybody knows them. But now they’re using that familiarity, that *expectation*, to surprise people and make them see this very familiar product as something new and different. How? By simply changing the color. So, you’ll have a Halloween Oreo with orange filling or springtime Oreos with pastel fillings, that kind of thing. And sales go up every time, even though it’s the same cookie by taste.
- Person 4** So ... it’s also cultural?
- Angela** Sorry, but what do you mean by that exactly?
- Person 4** Well, only some people would associate orange with Halloween, right?
- Angela** Ah, I see what you mean. If you see Oreos with orange cream around the time of Halloween *and you live here in the States*, you’ll make the connection instantly. If you’re from somewhere else, maybe not. It’s the same with the different *flavors* of Oreos, too. I mean, ones with green filling are mint flavored here, but in Japan, they’re green tea flavored. You see what I mean? Manufacturers respect the cultural associations with color and use them to their advantage.
- Host** OK, we’re running out of time, so let’s have one final question, please. OK, yes, go ahead.
- Person 5** I was just wondering, does Professor Jenkins have any anecdotes like that?
- Harold** Uh, ... I’m not sure I understand. Could you rephrase the question, please?
- Person 5** Sure. Can you share an example from your own personal experience that supports your research?
- Harold** Oh, I see. Well, I’ve never really thought about it like that, but now that you ask, yes, I can. Blue corn chips from Mexico, ... you know, nacho chips. The first time I saw a blue corn chip, I assumed it was going to taste really weird, or at least be something totally new. I didn’t know that blue corn existed. But as we all know now, the taste is almost the same as any other corn chip, so I was actually kind of disappointed. ...

Track 2.47

Lesson 12.3, pages 122–123, Exercises 1B, 1C, 1D, & 3A

- Talia** Hey, Maggy, take a look at this picture.
- Maggy** Oh! Let me see ... What? ... Talia, is that really ... Barack Obama?
- Talia** Fooled you! But he really does look like him, doesn't he? A little younger and not quite as tall, but honestly, they're like twins!
- Maggy** Where did you meet him? I mean, did you just go up to him on the street or something?
- Talia** No. He's actually a friend of Gael's. His name's Sam; he's a sweet guy, hilariously funny! And he is so good at impersonating Obama. He has it all, the voice, the gestures, the facial expressions. I was really impressed. We all were. And I guess we should have been because, turns out, he's a professional impersonator.
- Maggy** A professional Obama impersonator? You mean, like, he does this for a living?
- Talia** Yeah. And he isn't even American. He's British, which is kinda freaky, 'cuz when he's not impersonating Obama, he's got this really thick English accent.
- Maggy** That must be weird – Obama with an English accent! So, how did he get into it?
- Talia** Well, he said he just kind of fell into it. I mean, those were his exact words, he "fell into it." It wasn't like he planned it. It all just happened.
- Maggy** Yeah, OK, but how did it start? Did someone discover him, or did he, I don't know, answer an ad or something?
- Talia** Oh, that's a great story. So funny! I can't tell it the way he does, of course, and the accent makes it even funnier. But OK, ... so ... he was working as a waiter in a hotel in London, and one night some American businessmen came into the restaurant. This was months before the presidential election in two thousand eight.
- Maggy** Oh, so a long time ago ...
- Talia** Yeah, so, anyway, one of the businessmen spotted him and shouted across the room, "Hey, Barack! Guys, look, it's Barack Obama!" Sam didn't even know who Obama was at the time, but he smiled and waved, and these guys went crazy. They took pictures with him, and made him do all these funny poses with them. They finally left, and he forgot about it.
- Maggy** So, then what happened? Did they come back?
- Talia** Well, I don't remember all the details, but it was like months later, Obama had won the election, and it seems one of the businessmen had a friend who was an event planner in London and desperately needed something special for this big corporate event she was planning. So, well, to make a long story short, she had seen her friend's pictures with Sam on social media, so they tracked Sam down, got him on a video call, and he got the gig!
- Maggy** Even with the accent?
- Talia** Yeah, Sam could already do a basic American accent, and the gig was more visual than audio, so she was cool with it.
- Maggy** Huh! So he didn't have to talk much.
- Talia** No, just a few words, but he wanted to do a good job. He didn't tell me how much they were paying him, but I got the feeling it was a lot, and he could see this might be his big break, so he really threw himself into it and just practiced and practiced and practiced. In his own words, he ate, slept, and breathed Barack Obama for three whole days.
- Maggy** And it paid off?
- Talia** Oh yeah! He did the event, and then everything changed. That's what he said. He said it was his moment, the moment when everything changed. He moved to Los Angeles, found an agent who specializes in celebrity impersonators – and the rest, as they say, is history.
- Maggy** Oh, come on. There are agents who only handle impersonators?
- Talia** Yes! I got it straight from the horse's mouth! And not just one or two. This is like, an industry!
- Maggy** I had no idea! But is he still doing it? I mean, Obama isn't president anymore.

- Talia** Yeah, but he still gets called for all kinds of different events, seems to be doing pretty well for himself.
- Maggy** So, is he just going to keep doing this forever? Doesn't he get bored?
- Talia** I ... well, I can't speak for him ... but he seems totally fine just doing the Obama thing for as long as the work lasts. But you can ask him about that yourself.
- Maggy** What? What do you mean? Are you ... ? I mean, is he ... ?
- Talia** We're meeting up for coffee later today. Come with me, and you can ask him to tell the story. Believe me, it's much better the way he tells it. And that accent!

Track 2.49

Lesson 12.3, page 122, Exercise 2B

- 1 Do you wanna meet 'er?
- 2 There're a lotta people who'd disagree.
- 3 It'll hafta be really quick.
- 4 I don wanna go 'cuz it's gonna rain.
- 5 I'm gonna hafta think it over.
- 6 A few of 'em are askin' bout it.
- 7 Wudja like to try?
- 8 That's kina upta you.