CURRENT LISTENING ACTIVITIES

Name: Class: Date:

CURRENT SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013

Track 1: REALITY CHECK

A. Listen to shoppers being interviewed in a shopping centre. Read the statements and write T (true) or F (false):

1. More than half the population of the UK shop online. ☐
2. You can go ice skating at Westfield Shopping Centre. ☐
3. A sales assistant advised the man about vacuum cleaners. ☐
4. One of the girls is planning to buy make-up. ☐
5. One of the girls often sends back the shoes she buys online. ☐
6. One of the girls feels bad about her shopping habits. ☐
7. The woman is in a rush. ☐
8. The woman was sent the wrong T-shirts. ☐

B. Try to fill in the missing expressions (the meaning is given in brackets). Then listen again and check:

1. It's h_____ people are pouring in and out of the shops! (= extremely busy)
2. It's a new vacuum cleaner. My old one p_____ _____ last week. (= stopped working)
3. I wanted to see the models for myself, you know, t_____ them _____ see how heavy each one was. (= test)
4. He helped me compare the different makes and the p_____ and c_____ of each one ... (= advantages and disadvantages)
5. ... so that kind of info was worth the h_____ of coming here. (= trouble)
6. We're just h_____ _____ _____. (= relaxing together, doing nothing in particular)
7. We're just w_____ a_____. (= looking at things in shops without intending to buy anything)
8. It's easier than t_____ _____ _____ the shops. (= going from place to place until you are tired)
9. Isn't buying clothes online a bit t_____? (= difficult)
10. Yes, it's a bit of a p_____ sending them back to be honest ... (= nuisance)
11. I do feel a bit guilty – but I'm on a really t_____ b_____? (= to have very little money to spend)

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Track 2: THE BUZZ

A. Listen to the discussion about soap operas. Which of these soap operas do you hear in this track? Tick ☑ the boxes:

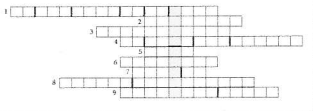
Emmerdale ☐
Coronation Street ☐
Dallas ☐
Downton Abbey ☐
Hollyoaks ☐
EastEnders ☐
Neighbours ☐

Who is it? Listen to Track 2 and write *B* for Ben, *P* for Phil, and *R* for Rachel. Who ...

1. ... is crazy about soap operas? ____
2. ... has a favourite character who is very good-looking? ____
3. ... has a favourite character who was a horrible person? ____
4. ... enjoys the humour of their favourite soap? ____
5. ... especially admires an actor who is no longer young? ____
6. ... loves the clothes worn in a particular soap? ____
7. ... likes storylines where you don't know who the killer is? ____
8. ... isn't particularly keen on soaps? ____

C. Listen again and find the words and phrases 1-8. What is the word in grey? Cheer

1. tense with excitement when watching
2. a story where you don't know who the killer is
3. a story that finishes with suspense
4. I won't say
5. a famous person who people admire
6. tense and exciting
7. to watch a programme
8. plots that are realistic, and sometimes unpleasant
9. a person who people like, even though he behaves badly



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Track 3: FLASHPOINT

A. Listen to Alex Werner talking about the 'Jack the Ripper' case, and underline the correct information. Example: 'Jack the Ripper' killed women in *central / the East End of* London.

1. You can *visit* the area of the murders on a *guided bus tour / walk*.
2. Details of the murders were published to *get people to buy more papers / help find the killer*.
3. Police suspected a *Jewish doctor / a madman from Poland*.
4. Police at the time used to *close off / clean up* the scene of violent crimes.
5. The killer was certainly *skilful / a trained butcher*.
6. A lot of Jewish people came to London in those days to *find good jobs / escape danger*.
7. Many people in Whitechapel *paid for a bed each night / slept on the streets*.
8. Local people were *grateful to / criticized* the police for their efforts.
9. Many people *stayed indoors / helped search for the killer* at night.

B. Try to complete this section of the interview with the missing verbs, then listen again and check.

This period did see the first inclinations that you could s_____[1] murders through l_____[2] very, very closely at the crime scene. But it wasn't like today where we would s_____ o_____[3] the area of a murder and s_____[4] everything in minute detail. In the late 1880s, the police really w_____[5] to, you know, w_____ a_____[6] where the crime scene was. They didn't w_____[7] to see pools of blood on the streets because the public would be very shocked by it. So they actually c_____[8] the site and actually d_____[9] all the evidence.

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CURRENT NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

Track 4: REALITY CHECK

Listen again, and choose the correct words for the sentences:

1. **David Cameron was previously _____ of UKIP.**
   a. an admirer
   b. dismissive
   c. a member
2. **In the local election in Boston, UKIP got _____ of the votes.**
   a. 10,000
   b. a quarter
   c. 97%
3. **A lot of the immigrants in Boston _____.**
   a. work in pharmacies
   b. work with animals
   c. work in farming
4. **UKIP wants _____.**
   a. to stop immigration
   b. the UK to leave the EU
   c. to reduce the EU's say in UK affairs
5. **According to Carrie, most people who voted for UKIP _____.**
   a. are prejudiced against foreigners
   b. are in favour of testing foreigners' English
   c. just wanted to let the government know their feelings
6. **According to Vic, the main parties _____.**
   a. need to pay attention to voters' concerns
   b. think all immigrants should speak English well
   c. are more right-wing than Nigel Farage
7. **Vic says that _____.**
   a. people think he dislikes foreigners
   b. some of his friends are racist
   c. he is different from most people in the town
8. **According to Carrie, UKIP _____.**
   a. exaggerates the effects of immigration
   b. should be made illegal
   c. does not express its true views
9. **Vic says that _____.**
   a. Boston's schools are not very good
   b. immigrants should not get free housing
   c. the health service is in crisis

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Track 5: THE QUESTION

A. Listen to the report about the tragedy in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Read the statements and write T (true) or F (false):

1. Almost 100 people died in the disaster. ____
2. People noticed problems with the building the previous day. ____
3. The minimum monthly wage of Bangladeshi garment makers is €40 a month. ____
4. Only one country exports more clothing than Bangladesh. ____
5. Natalie says we should stop buying clothes made in Bangladesh. ____
6. If we do what Natalie suggests, the price of clothes will go up. ____

B. Try to complete this section of the interview with the missing nouns, then listen and check.

Nicky: Now, we all like to find a _____[1] when we go shopping: whether it's a great new _____[2] for a party or just a casual _____[3] of jeans to throw on at the weekend.

Ben: But a recent _____[4] in Bangladesh has thrown the spotlight on the clothing _____[5].

It's forcing _____[6] to ask: are we paying enough for our clothes?

Nicky: Our reporter Natalie is here in the studio. She's been following the story. Natalie, firstly, can you set the _____[7] for us? What happened in Bangladesh?

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Track 6: CULTURE UNCOVERED

This track talks about traditional British foods. Tick ☑ the dishes you hear:

Beans on toast ☐
Fish and chips ☐
Toad in the hole ☐
Roast Dinner ☐
Full English Breakfast ☐
Cornish pasty ☐
Custard ☐
Cream tea ☐

B. Listen again, and underline the correct information.

1. Marcel has *completely changed his opinion of / still doesn't enjoy* beans on toast.
2. He was surprised at *how much tea people drink / how people drink* tea in the UK.
3. At first, he hated the *idea / taste* of a 'cream tea'.
4. He got a surprise when he chose / saw Yorkshire pudding on the menu.
5. Now he *loves / avoids* Yorkshire pudding.
6. The *taste / translation* of 'toad in the hole' surprised him.
7. Marcel's friends *couldn't believe it / revealed their joke* when he asked if a haggis was a bird.
8. He *doesn't really like / can't stand* haggis.
9. Marcel and Ben are both keen on *steamed pudding / custard*.

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CURRENT JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014

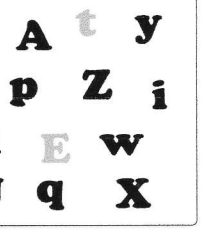
Track 7: REALITY CHECK

A. Listen to Dr John Rack talking about dyslexia. Read the statements and write T (true) or F (false):

1. Dyslexia affects ten per cent of the population. ____
2. If one of your parents has dyslexia, you're more likely to have it too. ____
3. Most people first notice there's something wrong when they start to read at school. ____
4. Dyslexia can cause Spanish speakers to use the wrong word when writing. ____
5. English-speaking dyslexics often have problems matching sounds and spellings. ____
6. Dyslexia affects speaking as well as writing. ____
7. Dyslexics are confident in their abilities. ____
8. It's helpful to give dyslexics ways to express themselves in other ways than writing. ____
9. Exams are a useful test of knowledge if you're dyslexic. ____
10. People with dyslexia are usually naturally good at organizing their time. ____

B. Here are four common collocations. Do you know what they are?

1. to r_____ families
2. a barrier to s_____
3. a source of f_____
4. don't make too much f_____



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Track 8: CULTURE UNCOVERED

A. Before you listen. Discuss and answer this question: What is class?

B. Listen and answer these comprehension questions:

1. How many people did this survey? _____
2. What was the problem with the traditional way to define class? _____
3. How many classes are there in the new definition? _____
4. What's Lorna's reaction to her new class? _____
5. How does Andrew describe British people's attitude to class? _____
6. According to Sam, where have the biggest changes to class system been? _____
7. What does Sam think the main lesson of the survey is? _____

C. Listen again. Who is it? Read the statements below and decide whose opinion each statement matches. Write *L* for Lorna, *S* for Sam, and *A* for Andrew.

1. I'm not at all interested in this research. ____
2. Class is extremely important to people in the UK. ____
3. The new study defines all the different levels of class. ____
4. We shouldn't judge people by their accent, lifestyle, etc. ____
5. People in the UK tend to have friends from their own social class. ____
6. I live in city. I'm well educated and quite cultural, but not well off. ____
7. The classes between middle and working class are hard to define. ____
8. The way a person refers to the evening meal can tell you their class. ____
9. When people get a lot of money, they start socializing with a different class. ____
10. British people tend to draw conclusions about class from someone's accent. ____

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Track 9: EVOLUTION ENGLISH

A. Look at these examples of 'emojis'. What do they mean?

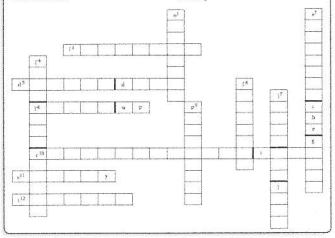
B. Listen to Russell and Ella talking about 'emojis', and underline the correct information:

1. Emojis are becoming *very popular worldwide / less popular now*.
2. Nicky often uses one as *to wish someone good luck / to say 'well done' to someone*.
3. The *Independent* writer asks if *emojis are valuable time-savers / enable people who can't write to save time*.
4. Russell thinks their value is *the way they show your mood / the element of humour they add*.
5. Russell's friend used an emoji to make fun of *Russell's / his own* physique.
6. Ella thought her friend's use of an emoji was *childish / funny*.
7. Ella uses emoji *more / less* than her friends.
8. Russell feels that emojis are *nothing to worry about / a sign that our writing is becoming less intelligent*.
9. Russell occasionally uses an emoji to *a friend who's worried / a girl he likes*.

C. Look at the transcript and solve the crossword clues. All the words and expressions are in track 9:

DOWN
1. used too much
2. becoming very popular worldwide
4. a rare plant that is considered lucky
6. talking playfully with someone you find attractive
7. let people know that you find something funny
9. not at all useful

ACROSS
3. not like an adult
5. deliberately made less intelligent
8. to make something more interesting
10. something that helps you express yourself
11. only
12. boring



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ANSWERS

CURRENT September / October 2013

Track 1
A 1F 2T 3T 4F 5F 6T 7T 8F
B 1 braving 2 packed up 3 try ... out 4 pros and cons 5 hassle 6 hanging out 7 window shopping 8 traipsing around 9 tricky 10 pain 11 on a tight budget

Track 2
A a b c d e f
B 1P 2R 3B 4P 5P 6R 7P 8R
C1 on the edge of my seat 2 whodunit 3 cliffhanger 4 my lips are sealed 5 icon 6 gripping 7 tune in 8 gritty storylines 9 loveable rogue The word in grey is soap opera.

Track 3
A 1 walk 2 get people to buy more papers 3 a madman from Poland 4 clean up 5 skilful 6 escape danger 7 paid for a bed each night 8 criticized 9 stayed indoors
B 1 solve 2 looking 3 shut off 4 analyse 5 wanted 6 wipe away 7 want 8 cleaned 9 destroyed

CURRENT November / December 2013

Track 4
A 1b 2b 3c 4b 5c 6a 7a 8a 9c

Track 5
A 1F 2T 3F 4T 5F 6T
B 1 bargain 2 outfit 3 pair 4 tragedy 5 industry 6 consumers 7 scene

Track 6
A roast dinner beans on toast cream tea toad in the hole custard Full English Breakfast
B 1 still doesn't enjoy 2 how people drink tea 3 idea 4 saw 5 loves 6 translation 7 revealed their joke 8 doesn't really like 9 custard

CURRENT January / February 2014

Track 7
A 1T 2T 3T 4F 5T 6T 7F 8T 9T 10F
B 1 run 2 success 3 frustration 4 floss

Track 8
A
B 1 160,000 2 too simplistic 3 seven 4 she doesn't care 5 obsessed 6 middle class 7 people shouldn't be boxed into any one class, but judged on who they are
C 1L 2A 3S 4S 5A 6L 7S 8A 9L 10A

Track 9
A 1 happy, that's cool 2 joking or flirting 3 sad, unhappy
B 1 becoming very popular worldwide 2 to wish someone good luck 3 enable people who can't write to save time 4 the element of humour they add 5 his own 6 childish 7 less 8 nothing to worry about 9 a girl he likes

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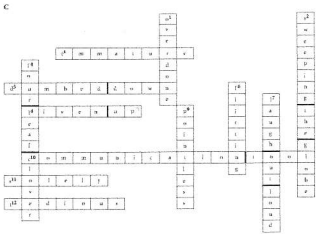
ANSWERS

C



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