

Track 01

Exercise 1

Announcer: Listen to Clara, a Human Resources Director, talking about the importance of communication skills in maintaining good relationships between management and employees.

Interviewer: So, joining me this week is Human Resources Director, Clara Baines, and this week on our *Job Focus Slot*, we're talking about the importance of communication skills. Clara, just how important are communication skills in the grand scheme of things in the modern-day workplace?

Clara: Well, in a word, EXTREMELY! And especially when it comes to bosses and managers communicating with staff further down the chain. It's crucial that senior managers master the art of communication, and I can't emphasise that enough. When someone in authority consistently fails to communicate effectively with staff, then surely that staff member cannot be expected to do their job to the best of their ability. At best, this puts the employer-employee relationship at risk and at worst, it harms the employee's professional self-esteem. Bosses and managers need to be explicit in their instructions regarding how to carry out tasks, establishing deadlines and so forth. If this communication is poor, then the employee will probably perform poorly. Of course, staff can always ask their boss to clarify, but to my mind, they shouldn't have to do that. Bosses and managers need to bring their A-game when it comes to communication. After all, who wants to work with a boss who's got hopeless communication skills?

Interviewer: Thanks Clara, that makes a lot of sense, actually.

Track 02

Exercise 3

Announcer: Listen to a psychologist talking about modern families.

Psychologist: The last 20 years or so have seen a huge change in the family dynamic. As the number of divorces has increased, there are more single-parent households than ever before, and by 'single-parent household' I mean a child or children who live with and are being raised by one parent only, and seldom, if ever, see the other parent. This shouldn't be confused with a 'single-person household', which basically means one person living by themselves, whether that's in a shared house or in a single unit like a studio apartment. Marriage in many countries seems to be going out of fashion, and divorced parents, rather than choosing to make their relationship official when they meet someone new, often just move in with their new partners. The resulting new household of adults and the children of those adults is known as a blended family. Interestingly, research has revealed that young people find it extremely tricky to adjust to this new environment – they may be missing the absent parent's parenting style and find it hard to establish a close bond with their new siblings, though they're not siblings in the true sense of the word, of course, as they're not biologically related. They can end up becoming defensive and having arguments about this and that until things settle down and they get used to sharing the living space. In time, of course, the relationships among the family members evolve and a new 'norm' follows. We also mustn't overlook the extended family and its value. In many cultural groups, the extended family prevails and this works very well for all involved. Ageing or ill family members are taken care of and grandparents who are no longer working can be relied on to provide childcare. This goes a long way in strengthening ties and promoting tolerance and understanding between the generations.

Track 03

Exercise 4

Announcer: You are going to listen to a student podcast in which Jana and Ravi talk about communication skills, and their importance as a life skill. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each question (1–6). Put a cross (☒) in the correct box. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Jana: So Ravi, in today's podcast, shall we talk about communication skills, as we've been focusing on those in our seminars?

Ravi: Let's do that, Jana. We've had lots of discussions about communication skills, haven't we? ... Well, I suppose we should clarify what we actually mean by communication skills!

Jana: Exactly! I'm sure many listeners think that communicating means having a two-way conversation ... but it's not necessarily only about chatting. There's a lot more to it than just expressing yourself or paying attention to what someone's saying. Things like body language, tone and pitch of voice and gestures all come into it too, and help us to get our message across and anticipate what's coming next. And communication skills, unlike 'hard skills' like having qualifications or being able to speak foreign languages, are just as important for success in life.

Ravi: That's right. I read an interesting article about the importance of good communication skills at work. I mean we've all heard lots about the key characteristics that appeal to employers, like being able to work with others, having adaptability, being able to speculate and think critically and so on. But a recent LinkedIn survey showed that communication's actually the most sought-after one. It makes sense, because, how can a business thrive if it can't effectively sell its products or services, right? Obviously, there are other considerations too.

Jana: Yeah, sure. So, when we're looking for jobs after we graduate, we really have to be mindful of how we communicate.

- Ravi: You mean, we've got to show off our communication skills when we're applying for roles?
- Jana: Well, software often filters through job applications, you know, by looking for key words that the applicant's written, so I'd say it's more important to get it right when we're at the interview stage ... in front of the panel. Assuming we get that far of course! And, obviously, once we're in our new position, we should continue to showcase those skills.
- Ravi: Definitely! You hear a lot about poor communication skills and the problems that arise because of this.
- Jana: Yep, and especially in the workplace! I suppose it's because people have different communication styles. Some are more animated and I guess that could be open to misinterpretation.
- Ravi: Correct. And then some people choose to put everything in writing and this can come across as quite formal or negative, when all they really had to do was stop by the person's desk and have a quick word with them.
- Jana: Exactly! And that kind of thing goes a long way to reducing bad feeling amongst colleagues.
- Ravi: Hmm. ... Of course, it's not just in the workplace where good communication's important. What about in relationships?
- Jana: Sure ... a relationship obviously needs good communication to survive.
- Ravi: Huh-huh. I read a great piece today in a psychology magazine about the differences in how males and females communicate and the problems this causes in heterosexual relationships.
- Jana: Yeah, so, theoretically, communication should be less of an issue between same-sex couples?
- Ravi: Well, you'd think so, wouldn't you? In fact, a survey among same-sex couples revealed more dissatisfaction regarding how arguments are resolved between them than heterosexual couples.
- Jana: Interesting. Ultimately though, I'd say the reason most couples break up is down to poor communication. And that's sad, really, because it's something that can be rectified if both partners have the will to do so and don't overlook its importance.
- Ravi: Absolutely! That's the case with my sister, Priya, and her partner, Suki. They're in a long-distance relationship because Priya's away for work for six

months, and Suki's here. They were having some problems before Priya left and were on the verge of splitting up, but they vowed to sort it out.

Jana: So, for them then, communication's more important than ever when the relationship's a long-distance one. That's the thing that keeps the bond between people in that situation strong. And it's not about relying on ten WhatsApp messages a day, it's more about nurturing the feelings already there. And it should be effortless too.

Ravi: Yeah, you're right. They seem to be doing well now, though. My sister says they have a close bond.

Jana: Good. When push comes to shove, good communication comes down to being clear about what you want, and not sending mixed messages.

Ravi: And not just between couples, either! This applies in all walks of life – work and family relationships, friendships and romance!

Jana: You're right, Ravi. Though I'd say that in certain business transactions it's crucial that people are crystal clear about what they mean.

Ravi: Hmm, so what are your thoughts on how people like politicians communicate? I just find it tedious. I mean ...

Track 04

Exercises 2, 3, 4

Announcer: Listen to a conversation between two students talking about their experience of moving out of the family home.

Tina: Hi Paul, I haven't seen you in ages! How's uni going for you?

Paul: Hi Tina. So good to see you again! Yeah, not bad, thanks. Are you still living at home with your parents?

Tina: No, my living arrangements have changed. I moved out earlier this year, and I'm renting my own place.

Paul: Good for you! What's it like?

Tina: Nothing fancy ... With what I earn in my job as a shop assistant, I could only afford a very small place. It's very compact indeed! *(laughs)*

Paul: You mean everything's in one room?

Tina: Exactly! It's a decent-sized, fully-furnished room, with a small kitchenette and an ensuite bathroom too, which is great as I wouldn't fancy having to share a bathroom.

Paul: Was it hard getting used to living on your own?

Tina: In some ways, yes. I suppose the trickiest thing's been having to do my own laundry as my mum used to always take care of that. It's the only household chore that I can't stand. I'm fine with doing the other stuff, as I used to do my share of everything at home before I left. So, how's your place at uni?

Paul: Well, I'm in a hall of residence. I was thrilled to get a place there but you can imagine what it's like sharing with loads of other students!

Tina: Do you enjoy it?

Paul: I wouldn't say I enjoy it, no. It's a necessity for the moment. The thought of having to share facilities didn't faze me at all, but what's really disappointing is that they're so childish.

Tina: How so, for example?

Paul: How so? Well, the downside is that you get people coming in at all hours making loads of noise and waking everyone else up, which is really not on when you have to get up early to go to lectures.

- Tina: That'd drive me mad! It's so selfish and inconsiderate, isn't it?
- Paul: Yeah! One of the things I was most looking forward to when I moved away from my parents' place was having some privacy – that's really important to me. But with two younger sisters at home and my older sister and her baby, I never had any. I was also looking forward to sleeping in at weekends. Guess what though ... I haven't been able to get either of these things!
- Tina: Poor you! So how are the facilities in your accommodation? Are they good at least?
- Paul: Not too bad, I suppose. The showers are good and always nice and clean, but I really don't enjoy having to use the communal kitchen. It's always in a complete state. Some people are just so messy!
- Tina: Oh well, look at this way ... it's a temporary thing. And maybe if you find a part-time job, you'll be able to move into a shared house which might be better.
- Paul: Hmm (*glumly*) Maybe.
- Tina: I'm glad I moved out and am independent now but there are disadvantages of course! And the main one for me is the lower standard of living I now have. Ordering takeaways has now become a luxury for me, but we used to do that about twice a week at home.
- Paul: I hear you I don't have any luxuries either. Not anymore.
- Tina: We should go back home and visit our folks more often then! (*laughs*)
- Paul: Well that's easy for you You still live in the same town! I'm miles away at uni.
- Tina: Oh yeah ... of course you are! Sorry. (*laughs*) I forgot!

Track 05

Exercise 8

Announcer: You are going to listen to a talk by an architect about homes of the future. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Architect: Good morning everyone, and thanks for attending today's talk on the homes of the future. So, what will our living spaces be like 20 to 30 years from now? Well, a recent report published by the National Housing Foundation states that homes of the future will increasingly tap into neighbourhood energy systems, feature flexible layouts and use improved technology to make automatic decisions about heating, security and even postal deliveries. The report also suggests that demographic changes, such as the rapid increase in the number of elderly people and the worsening issue of young people unable to afford to leave home, will really push up demand for multi-generational accommodation. More and more homes will be designed with flexible layouts to suit different generations, which can be adapted as families' needs change, such as the need to care for aging grandparents, for instance.

Inspired by the need for more urban housing in already densely populated areas, future design will produce spacious homes with smaller footprints but with more storeys, using balcony and roof space to provide outdoor space. Architects like myself may draw inspiration from good compact design, such as in boats or caravans, to produce more so-called 'micro-living' options for single people.

More innovation will be used when designing 'third age' homes that are suitable for people over 65, reflecting demand for accommodation with facilities such as lifts, level access and communal activities, while still retaining privacy and a sense of ownership.

By 2050, technology will transform our homes into collectors and storers of energy, with electricity generated by non-fossil fuel most likely to be used to

heat homes and hot water. Electric cars will be much more common than they are now, with sockets where cars can be plugged in to charge installed at every property. The future home will manage its energy use from a centralised platform, combining heating, electrical consumption, ventilation and vehicle charging. All in all, homes will be more environmentally friendly.

Energy efficiency is becoming more and more important, so ideas that are currently mostly only used in the workplace will become standard in homes – things like allowing non-essential equipment to automatically power down when electricity is at its most expensive. And frankly, as energy and other utility bills continue to become more costly, I think that'll become a necessity. Another key prediction in the report is that letter boxes will be replaced by smart delivery boxes ... basically special containers that can receive registered deliveries that require a signature, and store valuable parcels safely instead of them being left on the doorstep.

As climate change makes its presence more felt, homes of the future will have to adapt accordingly. This means that they'll have to have improved responsive central heating and cooling techniques, like air conditioning, to keep people feeling comfortable during periods of extreme temperature.

Smart homes could also monitor health and activity, and this could be particularly beneficial for elderly people. For example, the smart house could remind the home dweller to take their medicine, or warn them about water that's too hot, or a bath that's about to overflow. All sorts of problems and accidents could be prevented.

Homes in urban areas will access neighbourhood heating and energy networks via a district energy centre which may produce heat from household waste or from a ground source. Rural homes will continue to enjoy more space and will therefore have more opportunities to generate solar power, using integrated technology, which means that the roof covering itself would become the solar collector, rather than, as now, a panel fixed to the roof.

In the next 30 years or so, we'll certainly witness considerable change to our home lives through technological advancement in response to societal, demographic and climate changes. As far as I'm concerned, we need to start thinking ahead now about how we'll accommodate those demands and not leave it until it's too late. We need to ensure that people a few decades from

now are not taken by surprise! And overall, I think the future of architecture looks very exciting! So, watch this space!

Track 06

Exercise 2

Announcer: Listen to a man leaving a voice message about a holiday in the Caribbean.

Man: Hey, it's me. So, I had half an hour to kill at lunchtime and I started doing some research for our holiday. I think we said we'd try to jet off somewhere exotic later this year and have a break from it all, no expense spared, right? Well, I think I've found just the place! An all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean, Barbados to be precise. I have to admit that I find the idea of a 5-star vacation in Barbados very tempting indeed! Especially with totally unlimited food and drinks! And I know you will too. I recall that place being on your bucket list. Don't panic though (*laughs*) ... I'm not booking it just yet! I have to run the whole thing by you first. And something else occurred to me while I was looking. As we haven't been abroad in ages, we should check that our passports are still valid. Anyway, hope this message lifts your mood ... see you this evening!

Track 07

Exercise 9

Announcer: You are going to listen to two friends talking about armchair travel. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, complete the sentences (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Ryan: Hi Mel! Are you jetting off on your holidays soon?

Mel: Hey Ryan, no. I'm not going anywhere this year.

Ryan: What?! How come?

Mel: A couple of reasons, actually. Life took a surprise turn for me earlier this year ... I was made redundant, so money's a bit scarce. I've had to cut down on luxuries like holidays. Besides, I'm conscious of my carbon footprint. I want to be more of a responsible citizen and do my bit to try and reduce it.

Ryan: Sorry to hear about you losing your job.

Mel: Thanks! But don't worry! I'm still going to have a holiday, well a holiday of sorts!

Ryan: What do you mean?

Mel: Have you heard of armchair travel? I'm going to try that out.

Ryan: Tell me more ...

Mel: Basically, the term armchair travel's been around for a while but its focus used to be on sensory travel experiences for, say, the elderly, or people who have mobility challenges. But since the COVID pandemic, it's taken on a far broader meaning.

Ryan: Right ...

Mel: So, with people travelling less than before for a whole range of reasons ... restrictions, climate change, and financial challenges ... many are seeking ways to have worldly experiences through other means. And that's where armchair travel comes in! It's all about discovering the world without actually going anywhere, whether that's through virtual experiences or bringing the

world into your own home. Probably its main selling point is that it really lifts your mood.

Ryan: Oh? Could that be through just reading a travel book?

Mel: Yeah, you can totally lose yourself there. A book I'm planning to read is *In Patagonia* ... it's a travel book that takes the reader on a 24-hour bus journey through the region, and apparently the vivid descriptions and anecdotes make you feel like you're really there!

Ryan: So, what else does armchair travel involve?

Mel: Well, you can always just sit back on the sofa and watch a film that's set in stunning surroundings ... you're practically there! I'm going to watch *In Bruges* this weekend. I've always wanted to visit the city, but this'll be a more affordable way of doing it. And no unpleasant airport delays to cope with either!

Ryan: Bruges?

Mel: Yeah, it's a beautiful medieval city in Belgium ... famous for lace and chocolate!

Ryan: Oh, right! My parents adore it!

Mel: Huh-huh ... and another of my favourite things to do is to dip in and out of a podcast. I can listen to an episode when I'm working out or doing house chores. It's so convenient!

Ryan: So, are there any travel podcasts that you'd recommend?

Mel: *World Nomads Travel Podcast* is my go-to podcast ... hands down! Each episode takes you to a new destination and features reviews by seasoned travellers and local experts. You know that I'm really into Japan and Japanese culture, right? Well this podcast's by an author called Susan Spann, who decided to tackle 100 of Japan's highest mountains. Her aim was two-fold – to overcome her fear of heights and improve her health in the process. So inspirational!

Ryan: Sounds fascinating! So, do you ever use *YouTube* for armchair travel?

Mel: Not yet, but I HAVE drawn up a list of places around the world that I intend to visit over the summer. You should do the same Just search for '360 virtual travel tours' and you'll find an extensive supply of panoramic videos to explore the most iconic landmarks and cities around the world. I'll be doing a tour a week.

- Ryan: Cool! So where are you off to first?
- Mel: Machu Picchu in Peru! Can't wait! *(laughs)* And the week after that, I'm visiting Angel Falls in Venezuela!
- Ryan: *(laughs)* Well, you'll be really well-travelled by the end of summer, then!
- Mel: Yeah! ... And hopefully my mind will have been broadened considerably too! Have you heard of *Google Arts and Culture*?
- Ryan: Go on ...
- Mel: Well, they've partnered with museums everywhere to make their displays accessible through virtual tours and exhibitions. You can tour the Louvre from the comfort of your kitchen! Imagine! These tours are becoming increasingly prevalent, and obviously armchair travellers are a real boost for museums as well.
- Ryan: That's amazing. I definitely need to look into this.
- Mel: You should! You're bound to come across some really cool stuff.
- Ryan: Thanks for the tip, Mel!
- Mel: No worries!

Track 08

Exercise 4

Announcer: You are going to listen to a young businesswoman called Scarlett talking about her decision to leave school at the age of 16.

Scarlett: To be honest, I've never really been a model student and was always getting in trouble for being distracted in class, undermining my teachers' authority and generally being a bit of a clown. I couldn't leave until I'd done my GCSEs, though. When I turned 16 and did my exams, I asked myself if doing another two years at school followed by university to do a degree would work for me. I thought long and hard about it and the conclusion I came to was no! I wanted to work for myself and have my own business. At that point, I didn't think I could manage another five or six years of books. I've always been hugely determined and the thing about my character is that I don't give up when things get tough, and this particular attitude has worked for me. Of course I still had a few concerns about my ability to make it. However, I didn't carry on thinking negatively after I'd made my first 10,000, and I've never looked back since!

Track 09

Exercises 6–9

Announcer: Listen to three teenagers talking about school.

Speaker 1 – Harry.

Harry: I'm enjoying school, well for the moment anyway. Things could well change next year when we start our two-year exam course. I reckon our tutors will be setting us quite a bit of work to do so that'll eat into my free time. Oh well, people always say a good education sets us up for life, so I suppose everyone, regardless of age, should appreciate the value of their educational opportunities more. I guess it's just something we have to get through! There'll be plenty of time for having fun and partying once we get a degree from one of the best universities under our belt. Well, let's hope so – I don't wanna lose out now for nothing! (*laughs*)

Announcer: Speaker 2 – Billie.

Billie: I know that if I want to gain admission to any of the top universities, like Harvard for instance, I'm gonna have to bring my A-game to my studies and totally apply myself to my exams. There's no other way, right? I mean everyone knows that having a solid education is the pathway to achievement when we're older, right? I totally get that. Obviously then, people, no matter how old they are when they start to study, kinda need to take it seriously! I'm not having too many sleepovers with my girl friends this year, and I'm finding it difficult not being able to spend as much time with my besties as I'd like, but my school work's gotta take priority. I suppose you could say I'm giving myself some tough love!

Announcer: Speaker 3 – Logan.

Logan: I have to confess that I'm still not sure what line of study I want to pursue, possibly engineering, but then again I'm drawn to business studies too. One thing I remind myself of over and over is that it's vital for me to do well at school and leave with good exam results. After that, I can choose my own path but if I don't excel in my exams, it'll be tough for me in the future. Sadly though, too many young people underestimate their education when they're at school and don't realise what a strong foundation good schooling gives us. This is a big mistake!

Track 10

Exercise 10

Announcer: You are going to listen to four young people talking about how decisions they made have had a big impact on their lives. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, match the speakers with their statements (A–J). There are two extra statements that you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Announcer: Speaker 1 – Katuta.

Katuta: My early schooling was in my native country in Zambia, in Africa, and I moved to the UK for my tertiary education. I was lucky enough to have amazing parental guidance ... both my parents were academics, you see, and taught at one of the top universities in Zambia. They fostered a lifelong love of learning in me, and I look back fondly at my childhood there. They advised me to work hard and try to get a scholarship to one of the top universities in the UK, just as they had. And this turned out to be the best advice I've ever received. I followed through on what they said, was fortunate enough to gain admission to the London School of Economics, and not having to pay tuition fees was an enormous help because the cost of living in London is so high compared with my home country. My first degree is a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Investment, and I also have a Master's degree in Global Economic Modelling. My Master's thesis examined strategies used in international finance and budgets, and the implications of this for African countries.

Announcer: Speaker 2 – Eleni.

Eleni: My teachers and parents helped me to make an informed decision about my future, though obviously I had the main say. The academic field I went into was computer science, applied computer science in fact. As a teenager, I was fascinated by computers and there was nothing I loved more than taking my laptop apart and putting it together again. Doing that repeatedly deepened my understanding of how these machines worked. My parents never had to nag me to do my homework for computer studies because I just loved that subject. I

vowed to myself back then that I'd do a degree in this field and later, after graduation and some professional growth, I'd start my own company. And that's exactly what I did! I've never once looked back and thought 'what if' because I've followed my dreams. My reasoning's always been, if other people can achieve great things through hard work, then so can I. I've learned a few tricks along the way, like learning how to manage different types of people and how to make the best use of my time.

Announcer: Speaker 3 – Matteo.

Matteo: My area of study is physics. When I say that, I mean my Master's degree is in physics and I was incredibly lucky to get accepted onto the course because my first degree isn't actually in this subject. The weird thing is that I wasn't at all into physics when I was in high school. In fact, I hated it with a vengeance! My educators were highly skilled at teaching the subject, but no amount of trying seemed to foster a passion for that subject in me. I was more into maths and chemistry at school. If you want the truth, and this might sound a bit bizarre, it was the hit show *Big Bang Theory* that got me into studying physics. Me and my flatmates used to watch it as undergraduates and found it hysterical. We'd mock each other about being similar to the characters! Fast forward seven years, and I've just taken up a research position in astrophysics at a university in Bulgaria. I cannot wait to tackle some of the big questions around Black Holes and the cosmos!

Announcer: Speaker 4 – Carmen.

Carmen: My degree's in politics and international relations, and I did it at the University of Lima, which is a centre of excellence for this course. I've made good progress in my career since graduating eight years ago. I stopped short of studying for a Master's because I just wanted to get into the workplace and start earning. I didn't have an option, to be fair. The tuition fees and cost of living during my four years as an undergrad were crippling, and I'm still, to this very day, in the process of paying back a huge student loan. Imagine that! Many people think that doing a Master's in a particular area of study gives someone a financial advantage, but that's not necessarily the case. In fact, the findings of studies recently carried out show that there's very little inconsistency between the salaries of civil servants in my country who hold Bachelor's and Master's degrees. One thing's for sure, though ... I've always been super lucky with the teachers I've had. They've been inspirational, and one of the most valuable skills I've acquired's been critical thinking.

Track 11

Exercise 5

Announcer: Listen to a city mayor in the UK talking about plans to improve the city.

City mayor: Welcome to tonight's talk on plans to improve the city of York. First of all, I'd like to run through the plans with you, if I may, and then I'll open the floor to questions.

The first exciting new proposal is for a number of commercial developments. These will largely be in the city centre, but there are one or two smaller projects lined up for the outskirts of the city. The commercial developments will include a new shopping centre to replace the existing Riverside Retail Park, a new hospital, a luxury hotel and some residential developments that will contain a certain percentage of affordable housing for key workers and a retirement village for the elderly. And I'm pleased to say that planning for all of these has been approved. Work will commence in the next few years, certainly by 2025, but the buildings are unlikely to be completed within the next 20 years. Large projects such as these take time, I'm afraid.

In the next few months, we'll be introducing new 'smart' wheelie bins. I say 'smart' wheelie bins because each bin will be fitted with a chip that links it to an individual property, and once it's put on the waste collection truck, it will be able to tell us how much domestic waste is being produced by the people at that particular address. This will, in turn, inform how much council tax should be paid by each address, which will of course be a much fairer way of doing things. The average over a 12-month period will be calculated.

As far as public safety's concerned, we've been working closely with law enforcement officers who've informed us of a number of crimes that have been committed in certain areas. With that in mind, a decision has been taken to install new or additional street lights and surveillance cameras in these areas. The roll out of this is to be initiated immediately, and lights and cameras will be added in various places over the course of this year. We hope these will bring more peace of mind to the citizens of York, and act as a deterrent to anyone contemplating committing a crime.

A number of people proposed that the city parks be...

Track 12

Exercise 7

Announcer: You are going to listen to a radio discussion about gun ownership laws around the world. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, match the beginnings of the sentences (1–7) with the sentence endings (A–J). There are two extra sentence endings that you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Sonia: Welcome back to *Talking Point*, where I'm now joined by the Minister for Home Security, Mr Richard Barker. Welcome!

Mr Barker: Good afternoon, Sonia!

Sonia: Today's subject of gun ownership is sadly a topical one after the recent troubling events in Liverpool. Mr Barker, isn't it time, once and for all, that the government reviewed the legislation surrounding gun ownership in the UK? Things can't go on as they are with civilians living in fear. People need to be kept from harm and they deserve peace of mind as they go about their daily business.

Mr Barker: I can assure you, Sonia, that public safety has been and always will be our number one priority. We take gun crime very seriously indeed and in fact, as we speak, many of my colleagues in government are meeting with senior law enforcement officers to see what can be done.

Sonia: Well, the view on the street is that with government cutbacks, the police appear to have lost control of the streets and we're living in a time of nationwide crisis.

Mr Barker: The police are stretched, that's true. However, they will continue to take all justified measures to bring the perpetrators of gun crime to justice.

Sonia: The public have been protesting for some time now against the current gun control law. Why isn't this movement and a change in the law taken more seriously? Isn't Japan a shining example of a country that's successfully implemented strict laws?

Mr Barker: I know, but it's not that simple ...

Sonia: Isn't it? Japan has a long list of tests that applicants must pass before they can access a very small pool of guns. Look ... If a Japanese citizen wants to own a gun, they must attend an all-day class, pass a written test, and achieve at least 95% accuracy during a shooting-range test. Then they have to pass a mental health evaluation at a hospital, and pass a background check, in which the government looks into their criminal record and interviews friends and family.

Mr Barker: But to be fair, Japan also has ...

Sonia: (*interrupting*) And after all that they can only buy shotguns and air rifles – no handguns – and every three years they must retake the class and initial exam. Why can't we do this in the UK?

Mr Barker: There are huge cultural differences for a start between our two countries and that's one reason that the Japanese system may not work overhere.

Sonia: Well, we've seen the dire consequences of having lenient gun laws in many countries, especially the US, where mass shootings are all too common. And I regret to say that if laws in this country are not tightened, we could well end up with the same kind of statistics here.

Mr Barker: The countries you mention are at opposite ends of the spectrum, Sonia. Gun control in Japan, combined with the prevailing respect for authority, has led to a more harmonious relationship between civilians and the police than in the US. It's something of a chicken-egg problem: The police, in choosing to use sub-lethal force on people, generate less widespread fear among the public. In turn, people therefore feel less of a need to be armed.

Sonia: OK ...

Mr Barker: The US, on the other hand, has a more militarised police force that uses automatic weapons and armoured cars. There is also less widespread trust between people (and between people and institutions). The factors produce a fearful and hostile culture that can seem to always be on edge.

Sonia: The fact is, here in the UK, there is a criminal underworld where trading in weapons is very lucrative indeed, and until the main players are arrested, and tried in a court of law and handed long prison sentences, the arms trade will continue and we'll see gun violence on our streets. The thought of this frightens people, and rightly so! And this is why the public are calling for the government to approach this problem in a different manner.

Mr Barker: As I said, we are going to have a thorough review of the existing gun ownership laws. And I assure you that anyone who violates the new laws will be dealt with.

Sonia: Richard Barker, thank you for your time.

Mr Barker: Thanks, Sonia.

Track 13

Exercise 13

Announcer: Listen to a conversation between two friends who are talking about a music festival in the UK called Glastonbury.

Georgie: Hi Calum, did you go to Glastonbury this year?

Calum: Hey Georgie. No, I didn't. I haven't been to any music festivals for a few years now. To be honest, I'm kinda done with them!

Georgie: Oh? Why's that then?

Calum: A few reasons really ... Tickets are just so ridiculously overpriced for a start, and that really irritates me! I mean, it shouldn't have to cost that much to put on a bit of live entertainment and bring culture to the masses, should it? That's capitalism for you!

Georgie: Well, I do agree that the tickets cost a fortune!

Calum: And they let in way too many people, to the point that it's not comfortable, or safe! It's a miracle that more people aren't injured every year. Well, as far as I'm concerned, anyway! I don't think the festival sites are ever properly set up for those kinds of crowds. Think about the health risks. I mean, the loos are just breeding grounds for germs and infections, and you even see people relieving themselves outside the loos! It's disgusting.

Georgie: *(laughs)* I know what you mean! But come on ... surely these are just some of the quirks of summer festivals, Calum? Anyone going to one of those iconic festivals in the UK knows to expect certain things ... the loos'll be shocking, the weather'll almost certainly be appalling and everyone'll get filthy with mud and so on.

Calum: Exactly! Don't even get me started on the British weather!

- Georgie: Let's look at the positives, shall we? At least, the food situation's improved and more people are catered to now. A few years ago there wasn't much in the way of non-meat-based fast food at any of them. But now vegetarians and vegans have quite a range of stuff to choose from, which is cool.
- Calum: I'm not convinced there's much that's remarkable about ...
- Georgie: (*interrupting*) Are you sure you're not just in a bad mood today and being ultra-negative about everything? (*laughs*) You're not usually such a grumpy pants!
- Calum: (*laughs*) Well yeah, maybe! ... So, anyway ... how was Glastonbury this year?
- Georgie: Excellent, actually! Really entertaining. I can, hand on heart, say that all the bands we saw were brilliant, with the exception of one, perhaps, and that was Josh Neville. But to be fair, he doesn't have a reputation for putting on memorable live shows ... he's an awesome recording artist, though.
- Calum: I like his stuff, especially since he's crossed genres and mixes it up a bit, you know, a bit jazzy and a bit poppy. It's cool.
- Georgie: Yep, I love it too.

Track 14

Exercise 8

Announcer: You are going to listen to a talk about the well-known British artist Tracey Emin. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Presenter: Hello everyone, and welcome to today's talk on the well-known and controversial British artist, Tracey Emin.

Most art experts say that Emin's career started in earnest in 1993, when she opened a shop in east London with her contemporary, the artist Sarah Lucas. The shop sold works produced by both of them, and T-shirts and ashtrays with photos of fellow artist Damien Hirst stuck on the bottom. Later that year, Emin had her first solo show at a gallery of modern art in London. It was highly autobiographical in that it consisted of personal photos and photos of her destroyed early paintings, as well as some items that most artists wouldn't consider showing in public because they are simply too personal.

Emin was basically unknown by the British public until she appeared on a programme called *Is Painting Dead* in 1997. The show involved a group discussion about that year's Turner Prize. The Turner Prize is awarded to a British artist for an outstanding exhibition or other presentation of their work in the preceding year as determined by a jury. It was broadcast live on Channel 4. Emin admitted to having consumed too much alcohol before the programme, during which she slurred her words and used bad language, before eventually walking out. Two years later, though, Emin herself was actually shortlisted for the prestigious Prize, and exhibited the controversial *My Bed* at the Tate Gallery. There was a lot of media attention regarding the apparently trivial and unhygienic elements of the exhibition, such as filthy bed sheets and empty cigarette packets, which Emin described as an expression of her inner self. In 1999, two years after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and at the height of her Turner Prize fame, Emin created a number of drawings inspired

by the public and private life of the most iconic member of the British royal family. The exhibition, called *Temple of Diana*, was held at The Blue Gallery in London. Some of the drawings referred to the prolific conspiracy theories surrounding the Princess's death. We should bear in mind that at the time there was a huge public appetite for these theories, as Diana was such a popular public figure. Indeed, they've endured to this very day. Emin attached text, complete with her trademark spelling mistakes, to some of her sketches of the Princess.

The British Council announced that they'd chosen Emin to produce a show of new and past works for the British Pavilion at the 2007 Venice Biennale, a huge international cultural exhibition. Emin was only the second woman to ever produce a solo show for the UK at the Biennale. The commissioner for the Pavilion at the time said that the exhibition would allow Emin's work to be viewed in an international context and at a distance from Young Brit Art, the movement through which she came to prominence. Emin named the exhibition *Borrowed Light*, and produced a lot of new work for it using needlework, photography, video, painting, sculpture and neon. Once again Emin didn't disappoint. She lived up to her reputation for producing imaginative, controversial, ground-breaking pieces, some of which showed her lack of morality – well, according to critics anyway. And her artistic endeavours received rave reviews by the culture vultures and art critics alike who visited the exhibition.

Also in 2007, Emin was made a member of London's highly regarded Royal Academy of Arts, and this status entitled her to exhibit up to six works in the annual summer exhibition. Emin is, in fact, one of just two women professors to be appointed at the Academy since it was founded in 1768. Emin has also been named as one of the 100 most powerful women in the UK.

She's described herself as a feminist, but not a feminist artist, and believes that society doesn't sufficiently value female artists. She's famously quoted as saying that "we'll probably need another 200 years" for that to happen.

Whether you love her or loathe her, Emin's impact on the art world has been remarkable. It's common knowledge that she likes to include a shock factor in her work, and she dislikes the idea of keeping things too clinical. In spite of her commercial success, Emin's a very open critic of Britain's tax regime,

allegedly saying that she's "simply not willing to pay tax at 50%" and would consider moving to another country. Emin's also donated money to charity and done a lot of great work in Africa, particularly in Uganda.