

1A Questions and answers

1 READING & SPEAKING

- a Look at the photos of Benedict Cumberbatch and Elisabeth Moss and read their biographical info. Have you seen any of the TV series or films that they have been in? What did you think of them?

- b Now read the interviews and match questions A–G with their answers.

- A **How do you relax?**
B **What don't you like about your appearance?**
C **What's your earliest memory?**
D **What makes you unhappy?**
E **If you could edit your past, what do you think you would change?**
F **What was your most embarrassing moment?**
G **Who would you most like to say sorry to?**

- c Read the interviews again using the glossary to help you. Answer the questions with **BC** (Benedict Cumberbatch) or **EM** (Elisabeth Moss).

Who...?

- 1 ☐ had an embarrassing experience as a child
- 2 ☐ finds it hard to make decisions
- 3 ☐ avoids answering one of the questions
- 4 ☐ had a dangerous experience when they were travelling abroad
- 5 ☐ had a dangerous experience when they were young
- 6 ☐ often hesitates when they're speaking
- 7 ☐ was fond of a kind of flower when they were a child
- 8 ☐ has a favourite decade

- d Which of the questions in the interviews do you think is...?

- the most interesting
- the most boring
- too personal to ask a person who you don't know well

- e Choose six questions from Q&A to ask your partner.



Every week the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, chooses people who have been in the news recently, and publishes a short interview with them called Q&A.

The actor **Benedict Cumberbatch** was born in London in 1976. He has starred in many successful TV series and films, including *Sherlock*, *War Horse*, *Star Trek*, and *The Hobbit*.

1 What's one of your happiest memories?

Sitting with the sun on my face and a beer in my hand, the morning after I had been in a car-jacking in South Africa.

2

When I was six, I got stung by a wasp in a Greek market. A woman pulled down my pants and rubbed an onion on my bottom.

3 What don't you like about your personality?

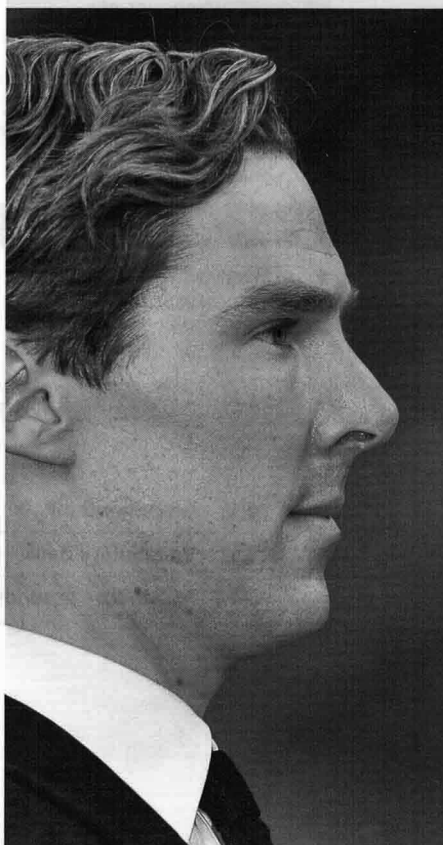
I'm impatient, but also indecisive.

4 What is your greatest fear?

Forgetting people's names.

5

The size and shape of my head. People say I look like Sid from *Ice Age*.



6 What costume would you wear to a fancy dress party?

I rather enjoyed wearing bandages round my face as the Invisible Man at the last one I went to. People got to know me without recognizing me.

7 Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I say "Erm..." too much.

8 What one thing would improve the quality of your life?

Better time management.

9

I might not have called Trevor Nunn, the famous director, 'Adrian' at my first audition for him.



The actress **Elisabeth Moss** was born in California in 1982. She has been in several very successful US TV dramas, including *The West Wing* and *Mad Men* for which she won an Emmy award.

- 1 _____
Going out into the backyard of my home in LA and pretending to build a vegetable garden with sticks and rocks. I must have been five.
- 2 **Which living person do you most admire?**
This is kind of cheesy, but my mum.
- 3 **Which living person do you most despise, and why?**
I won't say his name.
- 4 _____
Not getting enough sleep.
- 5 **What is your favourite smell?**
Jasmine. I grew up in Los Angeles, in the hills, and there was always jasmine growing.
- 6 _____
To a really good girlfriend with whom I lost touch when I was little. I would love to see her again.
- 7 **If you could go back in time, where would you go?**
To a 1930s jazz club in New York City. I love the art deco period – the jewellery, the clothes, the music.
- 8 _____
I am big fan of getting a box set and watching the entire show in two or three weeks. I'm watching *The Sopranos* at the moment, because I missed it when it first came out.
- 9 **What has been your most frightening experience?**
When I was little, I was on a lake in the US and got caught underneath a rowing boat. That was pretty scary.

Glossary

car-jacking the crime of forcing the driver of a car to take you somewhere or give you their car
Emmy a US award similar to the Oscars, but for TV
backyard **AmE** back garden
cheesy informal too emotional or romantic in a way that is embarrassing, e.g. a cheesy love song

Adapted from The Guardian

2 GRAMMAR question formation

- a Now read the questions in **1b** again and answer the questions below with a partner.
- 1 Which questions are examples of...?
 - a subject question, where there is no auxiliary verb
 - a question which ends with a preposition
 - a question which uses a negative auxiliary verb
 - 2 What happens to the word order in the question *What would you change?* when you add *do you think* after *what*?
- b ► **p.132 Grammar Bank 1A.** Learn more about question formation, and practise it.

3 PRONUNCIATION

friendly intonation, showing interest

- a **1 4))** Listen to some people asking questions 1–5. Who sounds friendlier and more interested each time, **a** or **b**?
- 1 Do you **have** a big family?
 - 2 **What don't** you **like** about the place where you **live**?
 - 3 **What sports** or **games** are you good at?
 - 4 Do you **think** you **have** a healthy diet?
 - 5 **What makes** you **feel** happy?
- b **1 5))** Listen and repeat the questions with friendly intonation. Focus on sentence stress and linking.



Reacting to what someone says

When you ask someone a question and they answer, it is normal to show interest by saying, e.g. *Really?* or *Oh yes?* with a friendly intonation, or by asking a question.

- c **1 6))** Now listen to the questions in a conversation. Complete the expressions or questions that the man or woman use to react to the answers.
- 1 Wow ! That's a huge family.
 - 2 _____? What's wrong with them?
 - 3 _____! We could have a game one day.
 - 4 _____! How long have you been a vegan?
 - 5 _____? I can't think of anything worse!
- d **1 7))** Listen and repeat the responses. Copy the intonation.
- e Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Use friendly intonation, and react to your partner's answers.

4 READING & VOCABULARY

- a Look at the photo with the article. What do you think is happening? Do you think the question is one which someone might really ask in this situation? Why (not)?
- b Read the article once and find out. How would *you* answer the question?



Guessing the meaning of new words and phrases

When you are reading and find a word or phrase you don't know:

- 1 Try to guess the meaning from the context (i.e. the other words around it). Think also about what part of speech the unknown word is (e.g. a verb, an adjective, etc.), whether it is similar to another English word you know, or whether it is similar to a word in your language.
- 2 If you still can't work out what the word or phrase means, either ignore it and carry on reading or use a dictionary (or glossary if there is one) to help you.

HOME / NEWS / UK NEWS / SOCIETY

Extreme interviews

WHAT sort of dinosaur are you? If you answered *Tyrannosaurus rex*, then the bad news is that you probably won't get the job you're applying for.

Comment Print

1 Welcome to the strange world of 'extreme interviewing', the latest trend from America in which interviewers throw bizarre questions at candidates to see how they react.

5 It may seem like a game, but extreme interviewing is deadly serious. The idea is to see how quickly job-seekers think on their feet and, at a time when 25% of recent graduates are unemployed, it offers employers a new way of separating the brilliant candidates from the merely very good.

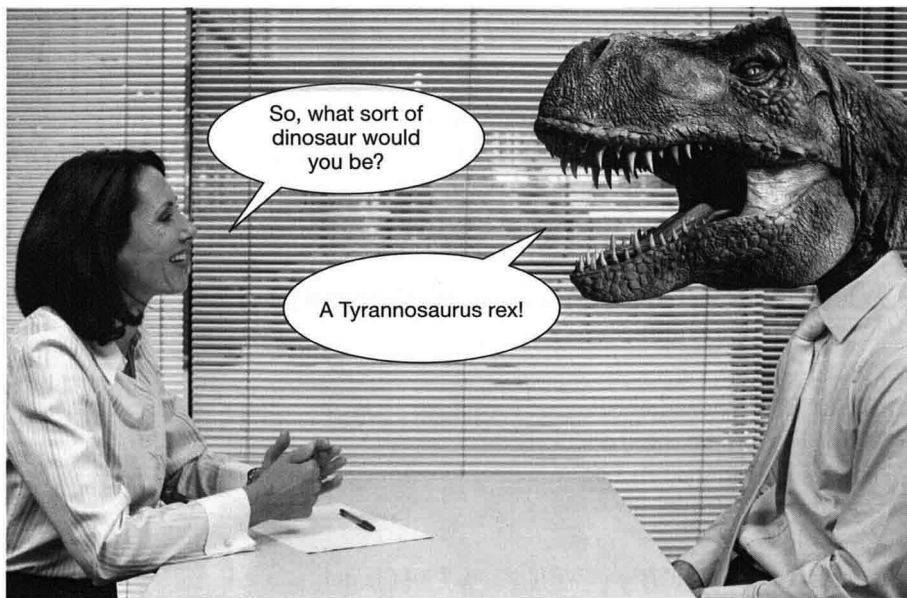
This new approach to selecting candidates comes from Silicon Valley in California — where else? Google, famous for its demanding interview process, asked a recent candidate: 'You are stranded on a desert island. You have 60 seconds to choose people of 10 professions to come with you. Who do you choose? Go!'

One of the early pioneers of extreme interviewing was Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, who could be famously cruel with job seekers. Faced once with a candidate he considered boring, Jobs suddenly pretended to be a chicken, flapping his arms and making clucking noises round the unfortunate applicant, waiting to see what he would do. In fact, the secret to extreme interviewing is neither in the question nor the answer. It is in the candidate's reaction.

David Moyle, a headhunter with the recruitment agency Eximius Group in London, who admits to using the dinosaur question when selecting candidates, said: 'Essentially, that kind of interviewing is used by us to give someone an opportunity to show they are smart and not easily flustered.'

'Most candidates actually get something out of it, it's not about trying to crush them. We are trying to give them an opportunity to show their personality, rather than just showing how they perform in an interview.'

Of course, getting the job is just the start. In the modern business world, survival will depend on what sort of dinosaur you really are.



Glossary

Silicon Valley the informal name for the region in northern California where many of the world's largest technology corporations are based

headhunter a person whose job it is to find people with the necessary skills to work for a company (often in executive posts), and to persuade them to join that company

c Read the article again carefully. With a partner, try to work out what the highlighted words and phrases might mean, and how you think they are pronounced.

d Now match the words and phrases with 1–10.

- 1 _____ *adj* needing a lot of effort and skill
- 2 _____ *adj* nervous and confused, especially because you have been given a lot to do or are in a hurry
- 3 _____ *adj* very strange or unusual
- 4 _____ **IDM** to be able to think and react to things very quickly without any preparation
- 5 _____ *noun* a way of doing or thinking about something
- 6 _____ *phrase* instead of
- 7 _____ *verb* to destroy somebody's confidence
- 8 _____ *noun* a specialist company which finds and interviews candidates to fill job vacancies in other companies
- 9 _____ *noun* people who are looking for a job
- 10 _____ *verb* moving sth quickly up and down, e.g. wings

e **18**) Listen and check. Underline the stressed syllables.

f Using your own words, answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What are extreme interviews?
- 2 What kind of companies first started using them?
- 3 Why do some people think that they are better than normal interviews?

g Do you think extreme interviews are a good way of choosing candidates? Which of the questions below (used in real interviews) do you think would work well? Why?

On a scale of 1–10, how weird are you?

Which TV character are you most like?

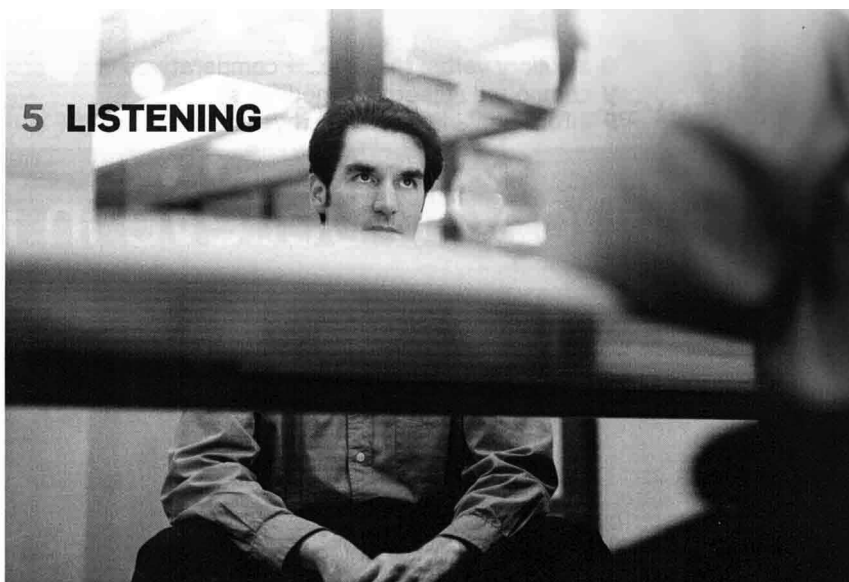
Room, desk, or car – which do you clean first?

Does life fascinate you?

If you were a car, what car would you be?

Can you name three Lady Gaga songs?

5 LISTENING



a Have you ever been for a job interview? What kind of questions did they ask you? Did you get the job?

b **19**) Listen to five people talking about a strange question they were asked in job interviews. Complete the questions in the first column.

| What strange question were they asked? | How did they answer? | What happened in the end? |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Do you still _____? | | |
| 2 What would make you _____ a _____? | | |
| 3 _____ are you? How much _____ you _____? | | |
| 4 _____ would you like to be reincarnated as? | | |
| 5 Are you planning to _____? | | |

c Listen again and make notes in the rest of the chart.

d Which of the questions did you think were good or bad to ask at an interview?

6 SPEAKING

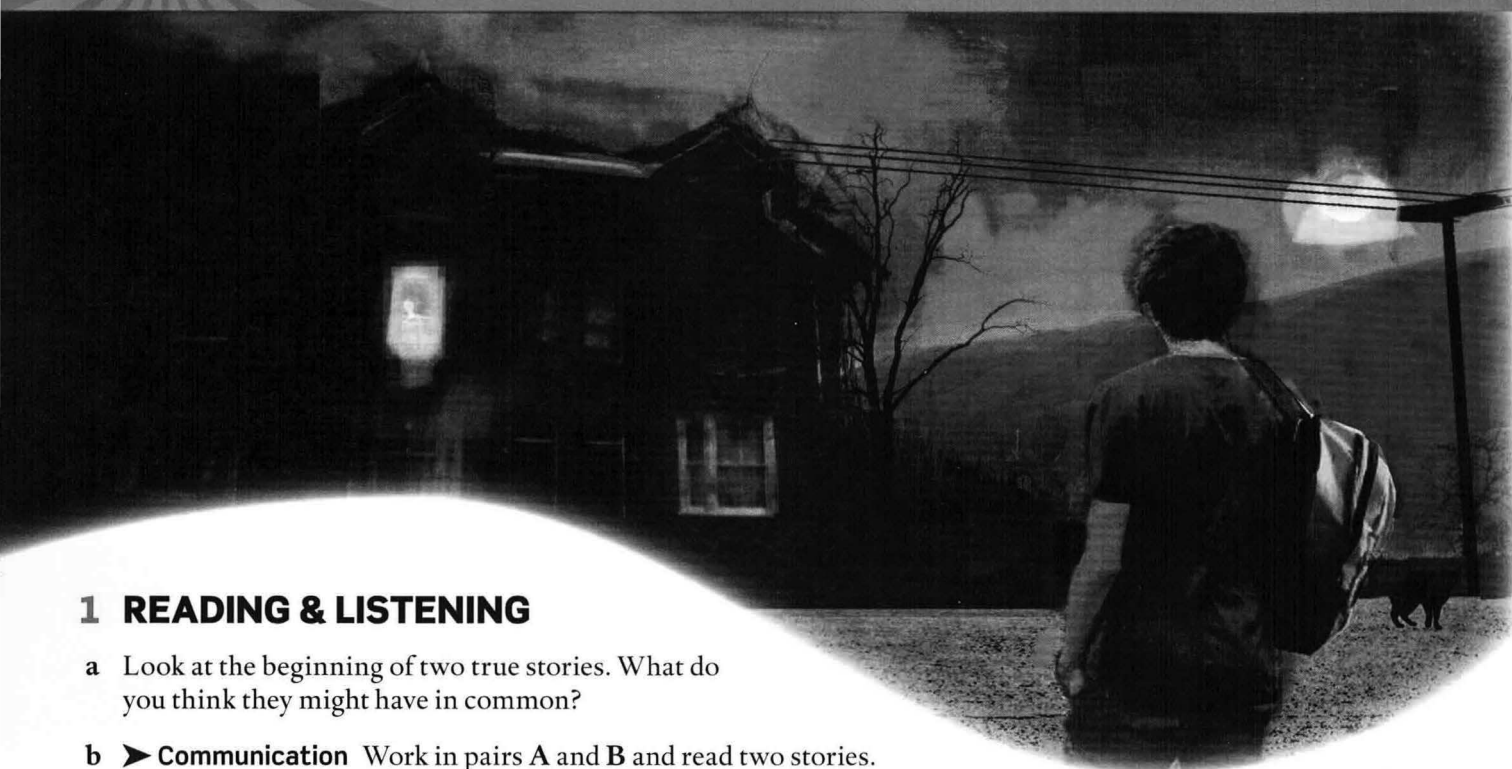
a **► Communication** *Extreme interviews A p.104 B p.108.* Ask your partner 'extreme interview' questions.

b Write three extreme interview questions of your own, which you think might tell you something interesting about another person.

c Ask your questions to as many other students as possible and answer theirs.

d Which questions did you think were the most interesting? Why?

1B Do you believe in it?



1 READING & LISTENING

- a Look at the beginning of two true stories. What do you think they might have in common?
- b ► **Communication** Work in pairs **A** and **B** and read two stories.
A read *Noises in the Night* on p.104. B go to p.109 and read *The Strange Object on the Hill*.

HARD TO BELIEVE? BUT IT HAPPENED TO ME...

Have you ever experienced a paranormal happening? Write and tell us about it.

NOISES IN THE NIGHT

About six months ago, my husband Russ and I moved into a house in the country. Our house is the middle one of three terraced houses and it's more than a hundred years old. A young couple live in the house on our right, but the house on our left was empty and for sale.

THE STRANGE OBJECT ON THE HILL

This happened when I was 16, and I can still remember it vividly. It was a clear morning, sunny but with a breeze. I was going to meet a school friend to go walking in the hills where there were some wonderful views. I'd agreed to meet him at the top of one of the hills.

- c Now read the beginning of another true story. Would you have been happy for Fatos to read *your* coffee cup? Why (not)?

THE COFFEE CUP READING

I went to Turkey a few years ago with a colleague called Chris. We'd been sent there by the British Council to train secondary school teachers in a school on the outskirts of Istanbul. While I was there I decided to go and see an old friend of mine, a young Turkish woman called Fatos, who I hadn't seen for several years. I called her and we agreed to meet in a hotel in the centre of Istanbul. Chris came too, and the three of us had a very pleasant dinner together. After dinner we ordered Turkish coffee and we chatted for a while, until Fatos suddenly asked me, 'Would you like me to read your coffee cup?' I refused politely because, to be honest, I don't really believe in clairvoyants and fortune-telling. But Chris immediately said he would be happy for her to read his coffee cup... Adam, London



d 110 Listen to the rest of *The Coffee Cup Reading* and answer the questions.

- 1 What were the first two things Fatos saw in Chris's coffee cup? Were they accurate?
- 2 What was the third thing she saw?
- 3 How did Chris and Adam react to this?
- 4 Who did Chris's mother live with?
- 5 Where did Chris go the next morning?
- 6 Who called Adam? Why?
- 7 What was the bad news?
- 8 How did Fatos react to what had happened?
- 9 How does Adam feel about the experience?

e 111 Listen to some extracts from the story and complete the missing words. Try to work out what they mean.

- 1 Well, Carla, Chris's girlfriend at the time, was blonde, so that was _____, too.
- 2 But Chris is quite a _____ sort of person and he didn't seem to be too worried by what she'd said.
- 3 It was a slightly _____ end to what *had* been a very enjoyable evening.
- 4 So, was it just a _____...
- 5 I always used to be very _____ about fortune-telling...

2 SPEAKING

Talk in small groups.

Which of the three stories do you find the spookiest?

Can you think of any possible explanation for what happened in each story?

Have you (or anybody you know)...

- seen or heard something which can't be explained, e.g. a UFO or a ghost
- visited a fortune-teller, psychic, or faith healer
- had a surprising coincidence



Reacting to a story about something strange

When somebody talks about something strange or difficult to explain we often react with these phrases.

How / That's strange; bizarre; odd; weird; spooky

3 GRAMMAR auxiliary verbs

a Look at the dialogues and try to complete the gaps with a \oplus or \ominus auxiliary (*do, did, is, was, etc.*).

- 1 A I heard a noise in the middle of the night.
B ¹_____ you? What kind of noise?
- 2 A You don't believe in ghosts, ²_____ you?
B No, I don't.
- 3 A I don't believe you really saw a UFO.
B I ³_____ see one! It couldn't have been anything else.
- 4 A I've never been to a fortune-teller.
B Neither ⁴_____ I.
C I ⁵_____. It was really interesting.

b 112 Listen and check. In pairs, decide which auxiliary (1–5) is used...

- A ☐ to add emphasis
B ☐ to say that you are different
C ☐ to check information
D ☐ to show surprise
E ☐ to say that you are the same

c ► p.133 Grammar Bank 1B. Learn more about using auxiliary verbs, and practise them.

4 PRONUNCIATION

intonation and sentence rhythm

a 114 Listen to the dialogues. Notice the stressed auxiliary verbs.

A I **dreamt** that I **saw** a ghost last night.

B **Did** you? **So** did I. **How** spooky!

A I **don't believe** in fortune-telling.

B **Don't** you? I **do**.

b Repeat the dialogues with a partner, copying the rhythm and intonation.

c Complete sentences 1–8 so that they are true for you.

- 1 I'm not very good at _____. (activity)
- 2 I'm going to _____ tonight. (verb phrase)
- 3 I love _____. (a kind of music)
- 4 I don't like _____. (a kind of food)
- 5 I've never read _____. (a famous book)
- 6 I'd love to live in _____. (a town or country)
- 7 I was very _____ as a child. (adj of personality)
- 8 I didn't _____ last night. (verb phrase)

d Work in pairs A and B. A read your sentences to B.

B respond with a reply question and then say whether you are the same or different. Then swap roles.

e 115 Listen to another dialogue. Is *do* stressed in the highlighted phrases?

- A You **don't** like horror films, do you?
B I **do** like them. It's just that sometimes they're too scary!

f Repeat the dialogue with a partner, copying the rhythm and intonation.

g ► **Communication** You're psychic, aren't you? A p.105 B p.109. Make guesses about your partner.

5 116 SONG Unbelievable

6 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- On a piece of paper write the sentence *I look forward to hearing from you*. Then sign your name underneath and give the piece of paper to your partner.
- Look at the signatures of some famous people. Can you identify any of them? Do you know anything about these people's personalities?
- Read an extract from a book about graphology. Do you believe that our signature might say something about our personality?

What your *signature* says about you

Your signature is the part of your handwriting that says the most about your personality. It is quite common for your signature to change during your life because it reflects how you develop and evolve as a person. You may have more than one signature, for example a more formal signature (name and surname) when you sign a credit card or your passport, and an informal signature (just your first name) when you sign a birthday card.

Our signature is very much part of the way in which we present ourselves to the world, so it can give some important clues about the kind of person we are and how we feel about ourselves.

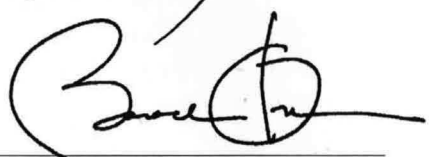
- 17, 18, 19, 20**) Listen to an expert in graphology talking about how to interpret somebody's personality from their signature. Complete the notes on the right.

Taking notes

We often need to take notes when we are listening, for example to somebody giving a lecture. If you need to take notes when you are listening to someone speaking in English, try to write down key words or phrases because you won't have time to write complete sentences. Afterwards you could expand your notes into full sentences.

- In pairs, interpret the signatures of the famous people. Do any of the interpretations coincide with what you already thought?
- Now look at your partner's signature and try to interpret it. Do you agree with your partner's interpretation of *your* signature?
- Do you believe that you can learn anything about someone's personality by...?
 - analysing their handwriting (graphology)
 - looking at their hands (palmistry)
 - analysing the position of the sun, moon, and planets at the exact time of their birth (astrology)
 - another similar method

Leo Tolstoy



17) What's in your signature?

Your name = *your private self*

Your surname =

You use only initials either for your first name or your surname =

There is a space between your name and surname =



18) The size of your signature

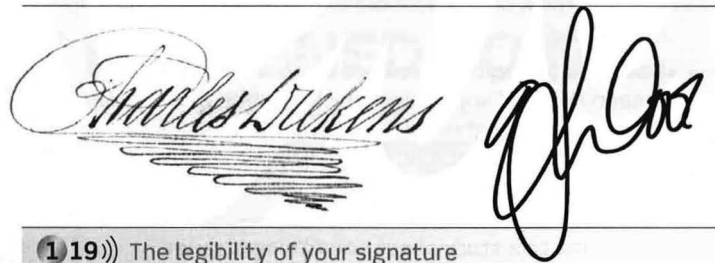
Your first name is bigger than your surname =

Your surname is bigger than your first name =

Your whole signature is big =

You sign in capital letters =

Your signature is small =



19) The legibility of your signature

Your signature is legible =

Your signature is illegible =

The more illegible your signature is...



20) The angle of your signature

A rising signature =

A descending signature =

A horizontal signature =

The angle of a signature may change depending on...

7 MINI GRAMMAR

the...the... + comparatives

The more space there is between your name and surname, the more you wish to keep separate these two parts of your personality.

The more illegible your signature is, the less assertive you probably are as a person.

Use *the* + comparative adjective or adverb to show that one thing depends on another, e.g.

- *The sooner we start, the earlier we'll finish.* = how soon we will finish depends on when we start.
- *The colder it is, the more clothes you need to wear to keep warm.* = how many clothes you need to wear depends on how cold it is.

a Rewrite the sentences using *the...the* + comparative.

- 1 If you study a lot, you learn a lot.
The _____, the _____.
- 2 If we leave soon, we'll get there earlier.
The _____, the _____.
- 3 If you have a lot of time, you do things slowly.
The _____, the _____.
- 4 If you are fit, you feel good.
The _____, the _____.

b Complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 The more money you have,...
- 2 The sooner you start your homework,...
- 3 The faster I speak in English,...
- 4 The less you sleep,...

8 VOCABULARY compound adjectives

a Look at some extracts from the listening in 6. Can you remember what the gapped words were?

- 1 Some people actually sign in capital letters, which suggests that they may be big-_____ or even arrogant.
- 2 A descending signature...suggests that you are the kind of person who gets disheartened or depressed when you are faced with problems, perhaps because you are not very self-_____.
- 3 A horizontal signature usually indicates a person who is well-_____ and emotionally stable.

b 121)) Listen and check. Do the compound adjectives have a positive or negative meaning?

Compound adjectives

Compound adjectives are adjectives that have two parts. The second part often ends in *-ed* or *-ing*, e.g. *well-behaved*, *hard-working*. The words are normally linked by hyphens. The main stress is on the second word.

c With a partner, look at some more compound adjectives to describe a person's character. Use the two parts of the word to try to work out their meaning, and say if they are positive or negative characteristics.

bad-tempered good-tempered open-minded
narrow-minded absent-minded easy-going laid-back
tight-fisted two-faced strong-willed self-centred

I think bad-tempered means somebody who gets angry very easily...

d 122)) Listen and repeat the compound adjectives in c.

e Read the information on adjective modifiers.



Modifiers

We often use modifiers with adjectives of personality.

With positive characteristics

My mum is quite / pretty
very good-tempered
really / incredibly

With negative characteristics

My sister is a bit
quite / rather / pretty bad-tempered
very
really / incredibly

I SAID, 'DON'T TALK TO ME!'



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f Tell the partner about people with the characteristics below. Give examples of their behaviour.

Do you know somebody who is...?

rather bad-tempered a bit two-faced
extremely absent-minded very good-tempered
a bit tight-fisted incredibly strong-willed
pretty laid-back quite self-centred

One of my cousins is a bit two-faced. She says one thing to me, and then I find out she said the exact opposite to somebody else in the family...

1

Colloquial English

Talking about...

1 VIDEO THE INTERVIEW Part 1

- a Read the biographical information about Ryan Judd. What do you think the HR department of a company does?

Ryan Judd was born in 1976. He has been working as a recruitment advisor in the HR (Human Resources) department at Oxford University Press since 2010.



- b 123)) Watch or listen to **Part 1** of an interview with him. Tick (✓) the things he says candidates for a job interview should do.

- 1 ☐ Be enthusiastic about the job
- 2 ☐ Call the interviewer by their first name
- 3 ☐ Ask questions about the job
- 4 ☐ Ask questions about the salary
- 5 ☐ Include a photograph on your CV
- 6 ☐ Write a good cover letter
- 7 ☐ Check everything is correct on your CV
- 8 ☐ Dress appropriately
- 9 ☐ Be prepared for the interview
- 10 ☐ Arrive on time

Glossary

CV the abbreviation for Curriculum Vitae, a written record of your education and the jobs you have done that you send when you are applying for a job
cover(ing) letter a letter containing extra information which candidates send with their CV
recruiter /rɪ'kru:tə/ the person who finds new people to join a company
salary banding the level of pay given for certain jobs within a company

- c Now listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What kind of things does he ask candidates about to relax them before the interview?
- 2 What kind of things does he ask candidates at the beginning the interview?
- 3 What information should be given in a covering letter?

VIDEO Part 2

- a 124)) Now watch or listen to **Part 2**. Which three interview situations did he find difficult or surprised him?



- b Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What choice did he have with the first candidate he talks about?
- 2 What explanation for her behaviour did the second candidate give?
- 3 What kind of clothes does he think candidates should wear?
- 4 Why did the third candidate arrive in the wrong kind of clothes? Did he get the job?

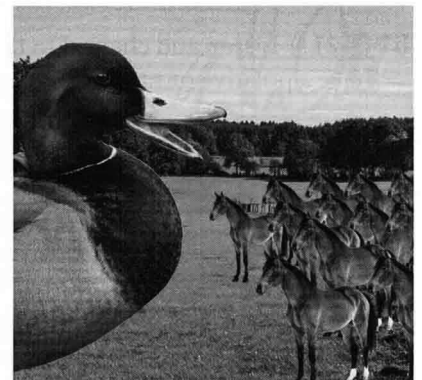
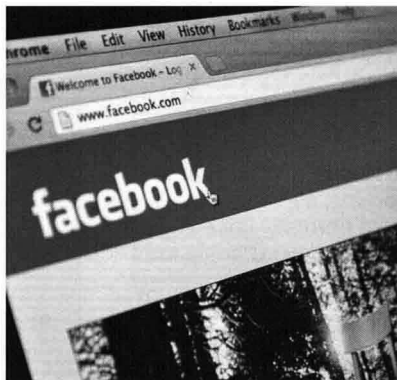
Glossary

A blazer /'bleizə/ a smart jacket which is not worn with matching trousers

VIDEO Part 3

- a 125)) Now watch or listen to **Part 3**. Complete the two 'extreme interview' questions he mentions.

- 1 How would you describe _____ to your _____?
- 2 Would you rather fight a horse-sized _____ or a hundred duck-sized _____?



- b Listen again. Mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false). Say why the **F** ones are false.

- 1 Ryan thinks the purpose of extreme interviewing is to see how candidates react in a strange situation.
- 2 He has used extreme interviewing on several occasions.
- 3 The first 'extreme' question he mentions was asked to see if the candidate had technical and communication skills.
- 4 The second 'extreme' question was asked to see if candidates had leadership potential.
- 5 Ryan thought that was a good question.
- 6 He would have chosen the first option.

interviews

2 LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

Formal language

Ryan often uses more formal words and expressions than would normally be used in conversation, but would often be used in a more formal setting, e.g. a job interview.

1 26)) Listen to some extracts from the interview and replace the highlighted words or phrases with the more formal equivalent used by Ryan.

- 1 '...you're also looking for them to show experience relevant to the position.'
- 2 'During an interview, once it has begun, I will always try to start the interview with some general questions...'
- 3 'First thing is obviously, making mistakes on their application, um, that's always seen negatively...'
- 4 '...but again during the interview when she hadn't said that's why she was doing it, it was a bit of a surprise.'
- 5 '...you would expect, expect to see suitable shoes and the same for a woman as well...'
- 6 'It's not something that I have direct experience of, but I know about some of the techniques that they use...'
- 7 '...I'm not even sure if I would have been able to give an immediate answer...'

3 IN THE STREET

VIDEO

a 1 27)) Watch or listen to five people talking about job interviews. How many of them say they definitely got the job?



Jeanine,
South African



Jo,
English



Ivan,
American



Yasuko,
American



Joost,
Dutch

b Watch or listen again. Who (Je, Jo, I, Y, or Jst)...?

- ☐ didn't get the job because of his / her age
- ☐ had their interview the most recently
- ☐ prepared for the interview by assessing how suitable he / she was for the job
- ☐ took some medicine to help make him / her feel less nervous
- ☐ tried to find out what the company believed in

c 1 28)) Watch or listen and complete the highlighted Colloquial English phrases. What do you think they mean?

- 1 'I just practised every question that they could ask me in my _____.'
- 2 '...and then tried to _____ my experience to the various different points on the job interview...'
- 3 'I think it went well because they _____ up with an email.'
- 4 '... their philosophy, the history and the _____ of the company.'
- 5 'In the end they said I was too young so they didn't _____ me.'

4 SPEAKING

Answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Have you ever been interviewed for a job or a place on a course? What was it for? How did you prepare for it? How did it go?
- 2 Have you ever interviewed another person? What for?
- 3 What do you think is the most important advice to give to someone who is going for a job interview?



Listening

19))

- 1 I was being interviewed for a job with an advertising agency and the interviewer kept checking information on my CV and then asking me about it, and he saw that I'd studied philosophy at university, and he said, 'Oh, I see that you studied Philosophy at university. Do you still practise philosophy?' So I said, 'Well, I still think a lot'. Anyway he obviously liked the answer because I got the job.
- 2 At my job interview to become an editor with a publishing company, there were three people asking questions: two managers, and a woman from Human Resources. All the questions had been pretty normal, they were about my studies and experience, and then suddenly the woman from Human Resources asked me, 'What would make you kick a dog?' I was totally flustered but I managed to answer – I said, 'I'd only kick it if the dog had bad grammar and couldn't punctuate properly'. I thought it was quite a clever answer and, in fact, I got the job!
- 3 When I was applying for a teaching job in Korea, they were doing the interviews by phone because I was in the US. And because of the time difference they were all very early in the morning, which is not my best time. Anyway, the Director of Studies of this particular school asked me, 'How tall are you?' and, 'How much do you weigh?' I answered his questions but after the interview, when I thought about it, I decided that I didn't want to work in a school that would judge me by my height or my weight. So later, when they offered me the job, I turned it down.
- 4 I was being interviewed for a job with a company in Switzerland and the interviewer asked me, 'What animal would you like to be reincarnated as?' So I said a cat, because it was the first thing I thought of and because cats have a good life – well at least in Britain they do. And then the interviewer immediately looked a bit embarrassed and said that he had been told to ask me that question to see how I would react, but that he thought it was a stupid question. In the end I didn't get the job, so maybe the interviewer wasn't very fond of cats...
- 5 I went for a job in a lawyer's office. There were two of us waiting to be interviewed – me and a man about the same age as me – and he was nice so we were chatting before we went in, and we agreed to have a coffee afterwards. Well, I went in first, and they asked me the usual sorts of questions about my previous job. They had all my personal information on my CV and so they knew I was married and suddenly they asked me, 'Are you planning to have children?' I said 'not in the immediate future but maybe one day'. Afterwards when I was having coffee with the other candidate, I asked him if he'd been asked the same question, and he said no, even though he was married, too. In fact we both got offered jobs, but I still think it was a very sexist question to ask.

10))

Adam

Fatos began to look very carefully at the coffee grounds in Chris' cup and to tell him what she could see. I remember that the first thing she said was that she could see 'sacks of money' – and this was very accurate because Chris had worked in Saudi Arabia for several years and had earned a lot of money there. She also said that she could see 'a blonde lady'. Well, Carla, Chris's girlfriend at that time, was blonde so that was spot on, too. But then Fatos suddenly looked very serious and she said, 'I can see somebody in your family who is ill, very ill, at this moment.'

I remember thinking, 'Oh no! Don't ruin a nice evening!' But Chris is quite a laid-back sort of person and he didn't seem to be too worried by what she'd said. He just said, 'Well, as far as I know the people in my family are OK'. Chris is an only child and his mother lived with her sister in London. They were both in their seventies.

Fatos said one or two more things and then we asked

the waiter for the bill and said our goodbyes. It was a slightly weird end to what had been a very enjoyable evening. I can remember feeling quite relieved that I had said 'no' when Fatos asked me if she could read my coffee cup.

Chris and I got a taxi back to our hotel. The next day Chris had a free morning, because it was my turn to do the teacher training session in the hotel, so he went off early to go sightseeing in Istanbul. Around nine o'clock I got a call on my mobile. It was Chris's girlfriend, Carla, calling from the UK. She told me that she needed to talk to Chris urgently but that he wasn't answering his mobile. I could tell by her voice that she had some very bad news for him and I immediately thought of what Fatos had said the night before and I felt a shiver run down my spine.

I asked Carla what had happened and she told me that Chris's aunt had died suddenly in the night. So, was it just a spooky coincidence, or did Fatos really see what she said she saw in the coffee cup? I spoke to her before I left Istanbul and I told her that Chris's aunt had died the night that we had dinner. She wasn't at all surprised and she just said, 'Yes, I saw in the cup that someone in his family was near to death, but I didn't want to frighten him so I just said that the person was very ill.' All I can say is that I always used to be very sceptical about fortune telling but now, well, I'm not so sure.

17))

What's in your signature?

Our signature is very much part of the way in which we present ourselves to the world, so it can definitely give us some clues about the kind of person we are and how we feel about ourselves.

As you know, a person's signature usually consists of a first name and a surname, or an initial and a surname. Your first name represents your private self – how you are with your family; and your surname represents your public self – the way you are at work or school, and in your social life.

If you use only initials either for your first name or your surname in your signature, this means that you are more secretive and protective about either your private or public self.

Now look at the space between your name and surname. Are the two names very close together, or is there a reasonable space between them? The more space there is between your name and your surname, the more you wish to keep these two parts of your personality separate.

18))

The size of your signature

Now let's look at the size of your signature. If your first name is bigger and more prominent in your signature this normally means that your 'private' self is more important to you than your 'public' self. If your surname is bigger and more prominent, this probably means that your 'public' self is more important to you.

If your whole signature is very big compared with the rest of your writing this normally means that you are quite a self-confident person. Some people actually sign in capital letters, which suggests that they may be big-headed or even arrogant rather than just self-confident. On the other hand, people who sign their name with a very small signature tend to be insecure and have low self-esteem.

19))

The legibility of your signature

Another important factor is how legible your signature is – in other words how easy it is to read. A legible signature tends to mean that you're a person with clear ideas and objectives. On the other hand if your signature is difficult to read this may imply that you're somebody who doesn't think very clearly and that you may be disorganized or indecisive. It can also mean that you're quite secretive.

Generally speaking the more illegible your signature is, the less assertive you probably are as a person.

20))

The angle of your signature

Finally I want to say something about the angle of your signature, that's to say whether your signature is horizontal, or goes up or goes down on the page.

A rising signature, one which goes up, means that you are the kind of person who, when you're faced with problems, will work hard to overcome them. You're a determined person and probably optimistic and ambitious. A descending signature, that is one which goes down, suggests that you're the kind of person who gets disheartened or depressed when you're faced with problems, perhaps because you are not very self-confident. A horizontal signature, one which goes straight across the page, usually indicates a person who is well-balanced and emotionally stable, and someone who is generally satisfied with the way their life is going.

But it's worth bearing in mind that the angle of our signature may change at different times of our lives, depending on how we are feeling.

23))

Part 1

Interviewer What's the first thing you're looking for in a candidate for a job?

Ryan The first thing you're looking for with a job candidate is an enthusiasm for the role, you're also looking for them to demonstrate experience, er, relevant to the position.

Interviewer How do you get candidates to relax in the interview?

Ryan It's important to engage with the candidate straight away, so when you collect them from reception or from the, the front of the building whatever it may be, you want to kind of greet them in a friendly manner, you want to ask them some general questions, just talking about their journey into the interview or, um, the weather or have they been to the city before.

Interviewer And during the interview?

Ryan During an interview, once it has commenced I will always try to start the interview with some general questions, just to allow the candidate to talk about themselves, to talk about their CV, their background, um, and often when a candidate is talking about something they know, which is themselves and that they've been doing, um, they're able to settle down much more quickly and have an element of confidence around, er, what they're talking.

Interviewer Is it important for candidates to ask the interviewer questions and if so what kind of questions should candidates ask?

Ryan Questions can be related to anything, so I personally would encourage candidates to ask questions related to any aspect of employment and most recruiters would welcome that sort of interaction as an opportunity to actually give a little more information about the company.

Interviewer Is it OK for candidates to ask about the money or the salary at the interview?

Ryan Of course, and candidates should be honest and realistic about their expectations too; an interview is an appropriate environment to ask such a question especially if salary or, er, salary banding was not identified in the job advert.

Interviewer How important are CVs and covering letters?

Ryan CVs are very important to a recruiter because it actually provides an overview of a candidate's background, their employment, what they've been doing to date, but a cover letter can actually be more important because that's where a candidate will actually list and identify how they meet the criteria for the post, so it allows a candidate to be very specific about demonstrating what skills and

experience they have that would be relevant and often that skill and experience may be missed on a CV when you're looking at a wider career history.

Interviewer What's the worst thing a job candidate can do when they're applying for a job?

Ryan First thing, is obviously, making mistakes on their application, um, that's always viewed negatively depending on the role they're applying for. Um, also coming to an interview late, coming to an interview unprepared.

124))

Part 2

Interviewer Can you give us an example of some of the more difficult interviews you've been involved in?

Ryan I've been in interviews where candidates haven't been prepared and have not been able to, from the start, answer some of the questions, um, one particular situation was when a candidate actually thought they were being interviewed for something completely different, um, so again you have to actually think how do you deal with that situation, do you stop the interview or do you carry on?

Interviewer Anything else that has surprised you during an interview?

Ryan There was another situation where, er, a candidate actually produced food during the interview, er, in the middle of answering a question, they stopped and rummaged in their bag to pull out a KitKat, um, which took both myself and the interviewing manager by surprise, we did ask and enquire as to what she was doing, er, at which point she actually advised she was a diabetic and just felt at that particular moment, um, that she just needed a little, er, something to eat to calm things, which was absolutely fine, but again during the interview when she hadn't announced that's why she was doing it, it was a bit of a surprise.

Interviewer How important is the way a candidate dresses for an interview?

Ryan A candidate's dress for interview is important because it shows how serious they take the situation. Um, however, I would always recommend that candidates would come to interview, um, in a dress that is appropriate for the role they're applying for. In today's modern, er, recruitment, er, environment it's not always necessary for a, a guy to wear a suit to an interview, however you would expect to see a shirt, you would expect to see a blazer, you would expect, expect to see appropriate footwear and the same for a, a lady as well, um, certain clothes, certain types of footwear would be inappropriate to come into an interview and may set a perception of that candidate which is perhaps incorrect.

Interviewer Have you ever had an interview with someone who was dressed very inappropriately?

Ryan I had an interview on one occasion where a candidate actually arrived in tennis gear, a white T-shirt and shorts, they'd literally come straight from the tennis court and they had simply forgotten the interview was on that day, had suddenly had the reminder that actually they were due to be at the interview, so they thought they would come anyway as they were, um, I did see the candidate and they were actually very impressive, we just had to move past the, the clothing aspect but actually it was quite funny and allowed a real opportunity to engage with that particular candidate from the start.

Interviewer Did that person get the job?

Ryan No, they didn't.

125))

Part 3

Interviewer What can you tell us about extreme interviewing, that is asking candidates very strange questions like 'What dinosaur would you be'?

Ryan OK, extreme interviewing is a technique used by recruiters to put the candidate in a situation that they may not have been in before, um, or to, put them, give them a scenario where they have to think quickly, where they have to digest information, where they perhaps have to problem solve before giving an answer.

Interviewer Have you used it yourself?

Ryan It's not something that I have direct experience of, but I am aware of some of the techniques that they use and some of the questions that could be used. Um, I was reading recently about, um, extreme interviewing techniques used for an insurance

company, they asked candidates to describe, they asked candidates during the interview how they would describe Facebook to their grandmother? What the recruiter was looking for was for that candidate to display an element of, um, technical skills and technical awareness, also to display communications skills and how they would explain Facebook to an audience or to somebody who doesn't understand modern technology or modern social media.

Interviewer Do you have any others?

Ryan One I was reading about recently was posed to candidates during an interview, er, where they were looking to assess a candidate's ability to multitask. The candidates were asked whether they would want to fight a horse-sized duck or a hundred duck-sized horses. Depending on the answer one or a hundred that would potentially dictate whether that candidate was most comfortable multitasking or dealing with one, er, situation or one objective at a time.

Interviewer What would your answer to that question have been?

Ryan I, when I read it I had to re-read it four times, and that's just me reading it. In an interview I would have had to have asked for that question to be repeated and I'm not even sure if I would have been able to give an immediate response because I would still be trying to understand what exactly they were asking of me. I guess for me personally, when I thought about it, I would have said one horse-sized duck, um, but that would potentially mean that I'm not able to multitask! So...

127))

Interviewer When did you last have an interview for a job or a place on a course?

Jeanine The last time I had an interview for a job was in 2011.

Interviewer How did you prepare for the interview?

Jeanine I took a lot of Rescue Remedy to help my nerves and I, I just practised every question that they could ask me in my head.

Interviewer Did the interview go well?

Jeanine No, it didn't. I didn't get the job.

Interviewer When did you last have an interview for a job or a place on a course?

Jo Err, about two months ago.

Interviewer How did you prepare for the interview?

Jo Well, I looked at the job description and thought about my experience, um, and then tried to match my experience to the various different points on the job interview.

Interviewer Did the interview go well?

Jo It did.

Interviewer How do you know it went well?

Jo Because they offered me the job.

Interviewer When did you last have an interview for a job or a place on a course?

Ivan I last had an interview for a job a few weeks ago, um, that's the last time I had an interview for a job.

Interviewer How did you prepare for the interview?

Ivan To prepare for the job interview I read about the company and learned about what they did and to see if I liked the work that they did.

Interviewer Did the interview go well?

Ivan I think it went well because they followed up with an email, um, to talk about, um, further opportunities at that company.

Interviewer When did you last have an interview for a job or a place on a course?

Yasuko Um, the last interview that I had was for my current company that I work for, and that was about two years ago.

Interviewer How did you prepare for the interview?

Yasuko I prepared for the interview by, um, res... doing a little research on the company, the kind of products that they make, um, the, their philosophy, the history and the background of the company.

Interviewer Did the interview go well?

Yasuko I think the interview went well because it was actually a long interview. I had a lot of good conversation with the managers there, and I also got a few more interviews afterwards, and eventually got the job, so the, the interviews went well.

Interviewer When did you last have an interview for a job or a place on a course?

Joost About three months ago.

Interviewer How did you prepare for the interview?

Joost I read about the company and I knew what the job content was, and I knew everything that I had to know for the interview, I was well-prepared to answer their questions.

Interviewer Did the interview go well?

Joost It went well. In the end they said I was too young, so they didn't hire me, but, yeah, they would have if I was older, they said.

141))

I So, Dr Cannon, Do you meet a lot of cyberchondriacs in your work?

D All the time, I'm afraid. It's very common nowadays for people to look up their symptoms on health websites on the internet and to diagnose themselves with weird or exotic illnesses! For example the other day I had a patient who came in because his back was very red and itchy. He had been looking on internet medical sites and was absolutely convinced that he had an extremely rare skin condition – he even knew the medical name: nodular panniculitis. But, in fact when I examined him and talked to him it turned out that he had spent the weekend gardening in the sun and his back was sunburnt.

I So you would prefer your patients not to check their symptoms on the internet?

D No, don't get me wrong, I'm not anti health websites, I just want people to use them sensibly. The problem is that diagnosis of a condition or an illness doesn't just depend on one specific symptom that you can type into Google. It depends on all sorts of other things like a patient's appearance, their blood pressure, their heart rate, and so on.

I Of course.

D And diagnosis also depends on where you live. For example, if you live in west London and you haven't travelled abroad, it's very unlikely that you have malaria even if you have some of the symptoms.

I What other problems are there when people use health websites?

D Well, you have to check carefully what kind of site it is that you are looking at. Some websites look as if they have been created by health professionals, but in fact they've been set up by commercial companies that are trying to sell you something. Also, some American healthcare sites recommend expensive treatments or medicine that is not available here in the UK.

I Are there any websites which you would recommend?

D Oh yes, absolutely. For example, people with chronic diseases like asthma can get a lot of help and information from online support groups. These websites have forums where you can talk to other people who have the same condition and illness and you can usually get information about the latest research and new treatments. And there are often online support groups for people who have unusual illnesses, too.

I Finally, do you have any tips for all those cyberchondriacs out there?

D Yes, I have three. First, only look online after you've been to the doctor. If you're not feeling well, make a list of the symptoms you have that are worrying you, and go and see your doctor with this list. Then when your doctor has told you what he or she thinks, you could have a look online.

Secondly, make sure you're looking at a reliable and professional medical website. And finally, remember that common symptoms usually have common causes – so if you have diarrhoea, for example, it's much more likely to be food poisoning than the Ebola virus.

I Doctor Cannon, thank you very much.

145))

P Welcome to today's programme in our series on age. The topic is clothes, and the question is, do people nowadays dress their age, and should they? Our guests are both fashion journalists with well-known magazines. Hello, Liza and Adrian.

L + A Hello. Hi!

P Let's start with you, Liza.

L Well, the first thing I'd like to say to all the young people out there is next time you give your granny a warm cardigan and some slippers for her birthday, don't be surprised if she asks for the receipt, because she'll probably want to go out and change them for something more exciting.

1A

question formation

- 1 **Should we** buy her a present? How long **have** **1 2** you been waiting? How many children **does your sister** have?
- 2 Why **didn't you** like the film? **Isn't this** a beautiful place?
- 3 **What** are they talking **about**? **Who** does this bag belong to?
- 4 **Who lives** in that house? **How many people** follow you on Twitter?

- 1 We make questions with modal verbs and with tenses where there is an auxiliary verb (*be, have, etc.*) by inverting the subject and the modal / auxiliary verb. With the present and past simple, we add the auxiliary verb *do / does* or *did* before the subject.
- 2 We often use negative questions to show surprise or when we expect somebody to agree with us.
- 3 If a verb is followed by a preposition, the preposition comes at the end of the question, not at the beginning NOT *About what are you talking?*
 - We often just use the question word and the preposition, e.g. **A** *I'm thinking.* **B** *What about?*
- 4 When *who / what / which, etc.* is the **subject** of the question, we don't use *do / did*, e.g. *Who wrote this?* NOT *Who did write this?*

indirect questions

- Could you tell me **what time the shop next door** **1 3** opens? Do you know if (whether) Mark's coming to the meeting?

We use indirect questions when we want to ask a question in a more polite way, and begin with *Can / Could you tell me...?* or when we introduce a question with, e.g. *Do you know...? Do you remember...?*

Compare

What time does the shop next door open? (direct question), and *Could you tell me what time the shop next door opens?* (indirect question)

- In indirect questions the order is subject + verb. *Can you tell me where **it is**?* NOT *Can you tell me where **is it**?*
- We don't use *do / did* in the second part of the question. *Do you know where he lives?* NOT *where does he live.*
- You can use *if* or *whether* in questions without a question word (*What, How many, etc.*) and after *Can you tell me, Do you know, etc.*



Other expressions followed by the word order of indirect questions

The word order of indirect questions is used after:

I wonder..., e.g. **I wonder** why they didn't come.

I'm not sure..., e.g. **I'm not sure** what time it starts.

I can't remember..., e.g. **I can't remember** where I left my phone.

I want to know..., e.g. **I want to know** what time you're coming home.

Do you have any idea...?, e.g. **Do you have any idea if** (whether) James is on holiday this week?

a Order the words to make questions.



tomorrow can't Why come you ?
Why can't you come tomorrow?

- 1 I Should her tell I feel how ?
- 2 friend known long best have How you your ?
- 3 tell when you train next leaves the Could me ?
- 4 housework family in Who your the does ?
- 5 are What about you thinking ?
- 6 at don't weekend you What doing the like ?
- 7 music to does What Jane kind like listening of ?
- 8 you time film know finishes Do what the ?
- 9 class students yesterday to many came How ?
- 10 you remember is where Do the restaurant ?

b Complete the questions with the words in brackets.

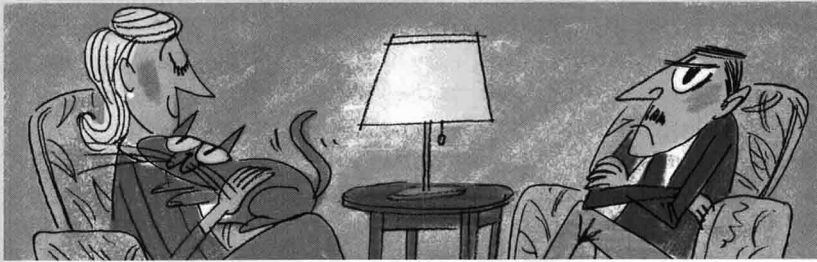
Where did you go on holiday last year? (you / go)

- 1 How often _____ exercise? (you / usually do)
- 2 Who _____ *Oliver Twist*? (write)
- 3 Could you tell me how much _____? (this book / cost)
- 4 I can't remember where _____ my car this morning. (I / park)
- 5 _____ your trip to Paris last weekend? (you / enjoy)
- 6 What kind of work _____? (your sister / do)
- 7 Who _____ the last biscuit? (eat)
- 8 Do you know what time _____ on a Saturday? (the swimming pool / open)
- 9 _____ the present you gave her? (your sister / not like)
- 10 _____ play your music so loud? I can't concentrate. (you / have to)

◀ p.5

1B

auxiliary verbs



- 1 I like cats, but my husband **doesn't**.
Sally's coming tonight, but Angela **isn't**. (1 13))
- 2 A I loved his latest novel.
B **So did I**.
A I haven't finished yet.
B **Neither (Nor) have I**.
Andrew's a doctor and **so is his wife**.
- 3 A I don't like shopping online.
B **I do**. I buy a lot of my clothes online.
- 4 A I went to a psychic yesterday.
B **Did you?**
A I'll make the dinner.
B **Will you?** That's great!
- 5 A You didn't lock the door!
B **I did** lock it, I know I **did**.
A Silvia isn't coming.
B She **is** coming. I've just spoken to her.
- 6 You won't forget, **will** you? She can speak Italian, **can't** she?

GRAMMAR BANK

We use auxiliary verbs (*do, have, etc.*) or modal verbs (*can, must, etc.*):

- to avoid repeating the main verb / verb phrase, e.g. NOT *I like cats but my husband doesn't like cats*.
- with *so* and *neither* to say that someone or something is the same. Use *so* + auxiliary + subject with a positive verb, and *neither* (or *nor*) + auxiliary + subject with a negative verb.
- to say that someone or something is different.
- to make 'reply questions', to show interest or surprise.
- to show emphasis in a positive sentence, often when you want to contradict what somebody says. With the present / past simple, we add *do* / *does* / *did* before the main verb. With other auxiliaries, e.g. *be, have, will* the auxiliary verb is stressed and not contracted.
- to make question tags, usually to check information. We use a positive auxiliary with a negative verb and a negative auxiliary with a positive verb.
 - Question tags are often used simply to ask another person to agree with you, e.g. *It's a nice day, isn't it?* In this case the question tag is said with falling intonation, i.e. the voice goes down.
 - Question tags can also be used to check something you think is true, e.g. *She's a painter, isn't she?* In this case the question tag is said with rising intonation, as in a normal *yes / no* question.

a Complete the mini-dialogues with an auxiliary or modal verb.

- A You didn't remember to buy coffee.
B I did remember. It's in the cupboard.
- 1 A He's booked the flights, _____ he?
B Yes, I think so.
- 2 A It's hot today, _____ it?
B Yes, it's boiling.
- 3 A Why didn't you go to the meeting?
B I _____ go to the meeting, but I left early.
- 4 A I wouldn't like to be a celebrity.
B Neither _____ I.
- 5 A Emma doesn't like me.
B She _____ like you. She just doesn't want to go out with you.
- 6 A Mike's arriving tomorrow!
B _____ he? I thought he was arriving today.
- 7 A What did you think of the film?
B Tom liked it, but I _____. I thought it was awful.
- 8 A Are you a vegetarian?
B Yes, I am and so _____ my boyfriend.
- 9 A You'll remember to call me, _____ you?
B Yes, of course!
- 10 I really want to go to Egypt, but unfortunately my husband _____. He hates the heat.

b Complete the conversation with a suitable auxiliary verb.

- A You're Tom's sister, ¹aren't you?
B Yes, I'm Carla.
- A It's a great club, ²_____ it?
B Well, it's OK. But I don't like the music much.
- A ³_____ you? I love it! I've never been here before.
B Neither ⁴_____. I don't go clubbing very often.
- A Oh ⁵_____? I ⁶_____. In fact, I usually go most weekends.
B ⁷_____ you? I can't afford to go out every weekend.
- A I didn't see you at Tom's birthday party last Saturday. Why ⁸_____ you go?
B I ⁹_____ go but I arrived really late because my car broke down.
- A Oh, that's why I didn't see you. I left early.
B I fancy a drink. I'm really thirsty after all that dancing.
- A So ¹⁰_____ I. Let's go to the bar.

◀ p.9