

# Audioscript

## Unit 1

### 1.6 My favourite things

T = Tom S = Sally

- S So Tom, what's on your list? Griff, that's a strange name! Who's Griff? Why is he important to you?
- T Well, he's my best mate. He was the very first person I met at secondary school, when I was 11. I knew nobody and he knew nobody, so we just fell on each other, became best friends and ... er, well, we still are.
- S And Griff's his real name?
- T No. His name's actually David Griffiths, but there were so many Davids in our class, he was always called Griff. He still is. Everyone calls him that.
- S I see. So now – your favourite city or town? Where's that?
- T That's easy – definitely New York. My grandparents took me and my brother Jack there for four days when I was 14 and Jack was 16. It was the best holiday ever for me – we stayed in a hotel overlooking Central Park. We went ice-skating and we flew over the city in a helicopter. We saw everything – it was amazing. I'd love to work in New York.
- S Yeah, I think New York's a favourite for many people. What about a memorable meal? Where was that?
- T Actually – that was in New York. We went to Michael Jordan's Restaurant in Grand Central Station. Have you heard of it?
- S What? Grand Central? Of cour—
- T No, no – not the station, the restaurant, Michael Jordan's. I think it's quite famous.
- S I don't know it. What kind of restaurant is it?
- T It's a steak house – the steak is just the best. And you sit high up. It's so exciting. You can eat and watch all these New Yorkers rushing to catch their trains.
- S Sounds great! So finally. Do you have a treasured possession?
- T I'm not sure I do have a treasured possession – well there's my iPhone, of course – I certainly couldn't live without that. But other than that ... er, oh, I suppose it's the ship in a bottle that my great grandpa gave me just before he died. He said it was very special to him, but I'm not sure why – he was too old to explain it clearly.
- S Ah that's a shame. Now, do you want to hear about my favourite things?
- T Yeah ...

### 1.7 What are you like?

- Life just becomes more and more complicated. All this new technology – as soon as I get used to something, it changes. What is the world coming to?
- I spent the whole weekend trying to teach my five-year-old nephew how to ride a bike. Bless him! He fell time and time again, but we kept going and finally he was away!
- It's amazing! Richard can never find his wallet when it's his turn to pay!
- You go, I don't really want to. I'm not very good in large groups. I never know what to talk about and pubs are so noisy.
- He has his future all planned out. He says he'll be a millionaire by the time he's 40.

### 1.9 My closest relative

**Tess** I think the person that I'm probably closest to is my sister, Charlotte, or Charlie as everyone calls her. We're very different – she drives me crazy sometimes and we have terrible rows, but I know we'll always be there for each other in the end. Erm, one thing I love about her is her sunny personality. She's so sociable – not shy like me. She's always cheerful and full of fun – people love her, they always want to be her friend. Me, I'm just her boring baby sister. But perhaps what I like best about her is the way she's, so honest about herself – she says her big problem is that she can't sit still. She says she'd like to be like me and be happy just sitting reading or watching a film – just relaxing really. I'm good at that!

**Simon** In my family, I think I'm closest to my granddad. My dad, I don't really get on with. We don't really see eye to eye about anything, but fortunately he's away on business most of the time. I think he'd like me better if I was good at sport, ... er football or rugby or something, any sport – but I'm not. What I like about granddad is that we have the same interests, erm ... we both love wildlife – nature, plants, and animals and things. We often go walking together in the countryside and sometimes in my school holidays we go camping. I love that, even in the rain. I think emotionally I'm closer to him than I am to both my parents, erm ... you see my mum also has a high-powered job and she travels a lot. I'm an only child, so I think I'd be lonely without my granddad. I love him, my friends love him, too. He's always so interested in what they're doing. He's young at heart, my granddad.

**Ellie** The person I'm closest to in my family is definitely my mum. Everyone loves my mum. She's the kind of person you can talk to about anything. She's very understanding, especially now I have a baby of my own. She's a great help with baby George, but doesn't throw too much advice at me – if you know what I mean. At the moment, we spend a lot of time together because I'm not back at work. We go for walks with the baby – we go shopping together, we like the same kind of clothes. She's pretty cool, my mum, not old-fashioned at all. We have our ups and downs of course, ... er a few years ago I had a tattoo, a butterfly, done on my shoulder and she didn't like that at all. She still goes on about it, but most of the time we get on very well indeed.

**Nick** I'm closest to my twin brother, Chris. We're not identical twins, but we have a lot of things in common – we follow the same football team, Arsenal, ... er we like the same sort of music, 'specially house music and we mainly have the same friends. But I suppose there are more differences than similarities – I'm into all things history and politics, and Chris loves adventure and travel. Also our personalities are very different. Er, I'm like my mum – calm and easy-going. Chris, he's like my dad – he can be moody and bad-tempered. Those two, Dad and Chris, often fight like cat and dog. I'm the referee! It's not a role I like. Chris has just gone travelling in south-east Asia. He's in South Korea at the moment, in Seoul. I miss him a lot. I think, as twins, we're closer than most brothers and sisters – we're different, but I trust him like I trust no one else – even my mum.

## Unit 2

### 2.1 Language quiz

- The official UN languages are English, Russian, Spanish, French, Chinese, and Arabic. The majority of member nations prefer to receive correspondence in English.
- Languages are disappearing at the rate of one every two weeks. It's thought that around half of the world's languages will disappear in the next century.
- In Britain, bees go buzz and cats go miaow. They make sum and miau sounds in German, and Japanese bees and cats go bun and nyan.
- Many African languages have developed clicking sounds as consonants, as in [clicking sound]. In other languages, clicks are only used to express emotions, such as disapproval.
- If you are using an ATM in Latin, you must be in Vatican City. The Vatican has its own private bank, but only for priests and Vatican employees.
- Reading silently only became common in the 10th century AD. In the 4th century, reading silently was so unusual that people travelled to Milan to watch a bishop called Ambrose doing it.
- After the Viking's invaded Britain, people spoke Old Norse as well as Old English, which did have gender. As the two languages couldn't agree on gender, people stopped using it altogether.
- Edison was making the first sound recording when he recited 'Mary had a little lamb'. He was astonished when it worked immediately, and said, 'I was always afraid of things that worked the first time'.
- There have been many attempts to simplify English spelling. The Chicago Tribune newspaper got people to accept new spellings of catalog and program, but didn't succeed with the other examples.
- The first recorded use of OMG to show surprise was in a letter from John Fisher, a 75-year-old admiral in the British Royal Navy, to Winston Churchill, in 1917. It became popular among young people when text messaging began.
- On average, a thousand words are added to the Oxford Dictionaries Online each year. Recent additions include hangry, getting angry because you're hungry, and pocket dial, when your phone accidentally calls someone's number.
- 'Vulgar Latin' was spoken by the people of ancient Rome, but intellectuals liked to use Greek. When Caesar was killed, he is reported to have said, 'And you, Brutus?' in Greek.

### 2.2 No, they don't!

- No, they don't speak Spanish! They speak Portuguese!
- No, he doesn't live in Madrid! He lives in Rome, in the Vatican.
- No, you're wrong! He wrote them in English!
- It isn't getting colder, it's getting warmer.
- Yes, they did! Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969!
- No, you've got that wrong. She was leaving the ball when she lost her shoe.
- Yes, it has! The UK has had two female Prime Ministers: Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May.