

- 3 **Sebastian** I love working in such a fast-moving environment and in a big city – I'm excited by it. It suits me because I've always been fascinated by numbers, making money disappear and reappear is thrilling to me. I'm a workaholic, I work 16 hours a day. The downside is living in fear of losing your job – it can happen at any time. Lots of my friends have. That's why we deserve the money we earn.
- 4 **Mansel** I'm about to retire. Not long ago we could retire at 55 or 60, but now it's 65. I think people believe it's a more glamorous job than it actually is. You go all over the world, but you don't really know anywhere. The greatest thrill in my career was when I flew Concorde – I did the London/Barbados run. Now my wife and I are going to have a proper holiday there.

3.9 Our work-life balance

Lucinda Free time – what's that?! Balancing work and ... er life – I don't think I do that very well. I run an advertising agency – and what with my family and the daily commute to work, life is pretty full on. I am trying to do more non-work stuff, so I've just started tennis lessons. I go to the local tennis club on Sunday mornings, but, to be honest, some Sundays I find it too difficult to get up ... I can't drag myself out of bed. I've bought all the kit – expensive racket, shorts and trainers and stuff, so I do try to make the effort – 'specially when my son starts shouting at me to get up. Actually that's what happens most Sundays. Oh ... and I do yoga occasionally – every few weeks when I start feeling really stressed – all that meditation helps a lot.

Barney It's not fair ... we get so much homework – every night and weekends and the bit of the weekend that's free I have tennis lessons. I've been having tennis lessons forever, every Saturday morning. I know I'm good at tennis and I kind of like it ... only thing is it's not what I like most. I like football ... I like it a lot. I play for a local club for 9 to 12 year olds. We're called the Berko Raiders and ... er well ... we're rubbish really, I mean really rubbish, we never win! But I still like it more than tennis. It's just not fair ... mum has tennis lessons too, but most times she misses it 'cos she's still asleep.

Actually, for me, absolutely best of all are my computer games, football ones of course – I play FIFA and a fantastic American football game called Madden 16, oh ... and d'you know Forza? That's not football, it's a racing car game. It's really my dad's. He loves it and he can play it when he wants, but they, my mum and dad, only let me use my iPad after I've done my homework. It's not fair.

Justin We're a busy, busy family. I'm a marketing manager, I'm well paid, but I've reached a stage in my life where I've realized work isn't everything – you know, 'work to live' don't 'live to work'. Er, I have a health app on my phone – it shows me how many steps I walk and how many flights of stairs I climb in a day. You have to aim for at least 10,000 steps – I'm your classic London commuter, but I never use escalators or lifts on the way to work, I walk as much as I can – but still, sometimes, at the end of the day I have to walk up and down the stairs at home to get my 10,000 steps. I do other things too – I play squash on a Tuesday evening and I go running on a Sunday before I take Barney to his football (sigh) and watch miserably as his team loses again. He doesn't seem to mind – football is king to him in whatever form. I don't much like the football games on the computer, but I do like a racing car game, er Forza,

it's called, but my fave is a game called 'Elite' – I think it's because it's, it's like a game I played when I was ten – it's basically like Star Trek. I always find time for that. Oh yes ... and, er, once a year, in September, I go on a walking tour with three other guys, in the Alps – it's exhausting, but I love the feeling after you've done it. I can even face the commute.

3.12 Listen and compare

- A** Who do you work for?
B Siemens. I've been with them for four years. They're a good company. How about you?
- A** Do you enjoy your work?
B Yes, I do. It's quite hard, very challenging, but I like the challenge. What about you? Do you like your job?
- A** Where do you come from?
B I was born in Montreal, and I've lived there all my life near my parents. I'd like to live abroad some time.
- A** Have you been to Chicago?
B No, I haven't, but I'd love to. I've heard it's one of the most amazing cities in the world. Have you been there?
- A** This town's very exciting, isn't it?
B Really? Do you think so? There isn't very much to do. I get so bored here. What do you find to do?
- A** What do you do when you're not working?
B Well, I like horse riding, and I play squash. And I love music, so I often go to concerts. What about you?
- A** The weather's amazing at the moment, isn't it?
B Yes, it's so mild. We haven't had any really cold weather at all. Have you heard the weather forecast for the weekend? It's supposed to be good, isn't it?
- A** Are you having a holiday this year?
B Yes, I'm going to Mexico with some friends. I haven't been there before, so I'm really looking forward to it. Are you going away?
- A** What's your favourite TV programme?
B I like a lot – documentaries, quiz shows, and the news. I suppose I like everything. I'm quite a TV addict. Do you watch much TV?

Unit 4

4.2 I didn't do much

- Chris** I didn't do much – just made myself something to eat, watched telly for a bit, and then bed by ten – I had an early night. I was asleep by eleven. BOR-ing!
- Sarah** I went to my yoga class – it does me good after a day's work – then some of us went for a drink. I got home about nine and did a bit of online shopping ... er just supermarket stuff, and that was it.
- Jane** I went to see a film with a couple of friends, the latest James Bond ... er it wasn't really my kind of thing – I liked the previous one better. Then I missed my train, so I didn't get home till after midnight. Not the best of nights for me!
- Tom** Well – that's easy – what I do every night – studied 'til after midnight. I even took my laptop to bed. I've got a major exam coming up. Oh boy! I'm going to be out every night when it's all over.

4.3 How Shakespeare caused an air crash

On October 4, 1960, a Lockheed Electra plane was taking off from Boston Airport in the US when a flock of about 20,000 starlings suddenly flew into its path.

The plane crashed into the sea and 62 people were killed. The birds had choked the engines of the plane and brought it down. Tragically, only 19 people survived.

So ... what is the link to Shakespeare?

The starling is not a species of bird that's native to North America. Starlings were introduced in 1890 by a New Yorker called Eugene Schieffelin. Schieffelin was not only interested in birds, he was obsessed with Shakespeare. He'd made a list of all the songbirds mentioned in Shakespeare's plays and poetry and he wanted to introduce these birds to Central Park in New York. This he did, but some birds, such as thrushes and blackbirds, found it difficult to survive. Others, however, particularly the starlings thrived, and by the 1940s they had spread across America from California to Alaska. They formed gigantic flocks of up to a million birds and many native species, such as bluebirds and woodpeckers, were driven out. Schieffelin's romantic gesture not only caused an air crash, but an ecological disaster, too.

So where does Shakespeare mention starlings?

In all of his 37 plays and 154 poems there is only one brief reference, and that's in Henry IV Part One.

4.11 Once upon a time ...

I = Ian R = Richard

- I** Why is this your favourite story?
R I think it's because I saw it on stage first. I was seven and it was the first time I'd been to the theatre. I was fascinated by the flying and the magic. And it was frightening too, I was terrified of the pirates and Captain Hook ... but I was at that age when you love being scared!
- I** But Captain Hook was funny, he wasn't scary.
R Well, he was scary to me ... I really believed his hand was a hook.
- I** Hadn't his hand been eaten by a crocodile?
R Yes, ... and the crocodile had swallowed a clock, so before you saw it you heard this tick-tock, tick-tock ... and all the kids in the audience screamed to Captain Hook: 'He's behind you!' 'He's behind you!' ... brilliant stuff!
- I** Was Captain Hook your favourite character?
R Oh no, no! Peter was, of course. I loved the idea of never growing up. It's brilliant ... and being able to fly ... just opening your bedroom window and soaring over London to a country called Neverland – magical.
- I** I think a lot of people dream of flying. Er ... didn't Peter have this really naughty fairy? What was her name again?
R Tinkerbell ... I liked her. She was so cheeky, really rude, and she hated Wendy ... remember Wendy? Tinkerbell was jealous because Peter loved Wendy. Actually I wasn't too keen on Wendy either ... or her brothers
- I** John and Michael.
R Yeah, that's right. I thought being able to fly to Neverland was wasted on them and Wendy. ... she was a bit sappy.
- I** And the dog ... what about the dog?
R Nana! Oh I loved Nana! Poor dog. She was looking after the children when Peter taught them to fly and took them away. D'you know, I read the story now to my own kids and they love it just as much as I did. Actually, I think I understand it more as a grown up.
- I** Why's that?
R Well, I think growing up is quite a scary thing to do. Childhood is safe ... no responsibility, being