

Listening and speaking

The kindness of strangers

Saturday Live is a popular radio programme on **BBC Radio 4**, which includes a feature called **Thank You**. Members of the public call in and say 'thank you' for help that strangers gave them when they were in difficulty – often many years ago. The callers often weren't able to say thank you at the time, and hope that the person might be listening.



Thank You



1 Look at the photos connected with four callers who phoned **Thank You**. What do you think the callers' difficulties were? How do you think people helped?



2 9.5 Listen to the four callers and complete the notes in the chart.

	What were the callers doing when they got into difficulty?	What was the problem?	Who helped them? How?
1	<i>Driving a scooter through a desert in Iran.</i>		
2		<i>She couldn't see when the train came in.</i>	
3			<i>A woman took his son to a police station.</i>
4	<i>We don't know.</i>		

3 9.5 Listen again and answer the questions.

- Why didn't the man have any gloves? Why didn't he thank the man who helped him?
- Why was the Tube so busy? Why did the girls stand on top of something?
- How did the man's wife react? How did the woman take the child to the police station?
- Why did the woman think her daughter's purse wouldn't be returned?

What do you think?

- Which of the acts of kindness do you find most surprising, and heart-warming? Why?
- Why do people love to hear these stories being broadcast by the media?
- Would it be good if the media reported more good news stories? Why/Why not?

SPOKEN ENGLISH *just*

1 Look at the use of *just* in this sentence from the thank yous. What does it mean?

'We were in a clothes shop, just looking around.'

2 *Just* can mean many different things. Write *just* where you think it goes best in these sentences. Choose which of the meanings in the box it has.

absolutely only a short time before by a small amount

- Alice isn't here. She's ^{just} gone. a short time before
- I love your present! It's perfect!
- Abingdon is south of Oxford – it's only eight miles away.
- I've finished reading that book, so you can borrow it.
- I don't want any wine. A glass of water, please.
- Wow, that chocolate cake is amazing!
- 'Who's coming tonight?' 'Me. Clare can't make it.'
- We missed the train – we were only a minute late.

9.6 Listen, check, and repeat.

Say thank you!

Think of a time when someone helped you when you had a problem. It could be a friend, a family member, or a stranger. Write a short 'thank you' like the ones in the radio programme and read it to the class.