LISTENING & READING PRACTICE UNIT 1

You are going to listen to a conversation between two friends – Jenny and Martin. They are applying for places at university and they discuss whether it's better to go to university in your home town or somewhere different.

Track 2 **Read the multiple-choice questions carefully. Then listen to the recording and choose the correct options. Only ONE option is correct.**

1 Jenny wants to go to the University of Durham because

a) it's difficult to get in.
b) the university has a really good reputation.
c) both the city and university have a good reputation.
d) she's heard that it's a lovely city.

2 Which one of these statements is true about Martin?

a) He hasn't decided where to study yet.
b) He has decided to go to the local college.
c) He wants to study in a different town.
d) He doesn't know anyone at the local college.

3 What does Jenny say to Martin about the local college?

a) He won't know many people there.
b) It's got quite a good reputation.
c) He will make a lot of new friends there.
d) He won't meet many new people there.

4 Martin likes the idea of going to the local college because

a) he doesn't want to lose contact with his old friends.
b) he doesn't like travelling or socialising.
c) he doesn't like meeting people.
d) he likes staying at home.

5 Jenny says that

a) it doesn't matter if you lose touch with your old friends.
b) Martin doesn't have much in common with his old school friends.
c) Martin won't have anything to talk about with his friends at the local college.
d) it's important to have new experiences and make new friends at university.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Tests

END-OF-UNIT TEST **A**

6 Jenny thinks that Kevin Sampson

a) is a bad influence on Martin.
b) has a lot in common with Martin.
c) has a really amazing life.
d) is cool and funny.

7 Why does Martin think that Kevin is popular?

a) Because he posts incredible pictures on Facebook.
b) Because he has a lot of Facebook friends.
c) Because he's funny and interesting.
d) Because he's funny, cool and a nice person.

8 Why did Jenny stop going out with Kevin?

a) They fell out.
b) He was too childish and immature.
c) They had different interests.
d) They didn't have a very good relationship.

READING

Self Images

As you get ready to go out, you check your look in the mirror. Everything looks good. The hairstyle is right, your complexion is tanned and your smile could make George Clooney jealous. Later in the evening, you are happy for your friends to take photos of you. The next day, however, when the photos are uploaded to the Internet, you are taken aback. You don't recognise yourself. It can't be you! Your facial features are all wrong, your skin is too pale and your hair is horrific. Why do we look different in photos to how we imagine ourselves to be?

There isn't just one reason. Firstly, people often look better early in the evening than later on. You have probably just come out of the shower, brushed your hair and put on your elegant clothes. If something is wrong with your appearance, you do something about it and then admire yourself again. However, when the photos are taken, you may be tired or perhaps full after a good meal. Your hair may not look quite so good as it did before. Often, when you get home and look in the mirror, you think: "I look terrible". But you don't usually mind because you're at home and alone.

Another reason is to do with angles. In the mirror, we see our nose, mouth and chin from above. This is more flattering than looking up from below. We also turn slightly and smile to try to get the best look possible. Unfortunately, our friends probably aren't as careful. They take photos of us when we aren't ready and from the wrong position. You could watch carefully to see when someone is going to take a photo and pose for it but, although the photos might look better, your evening won't be very relaxing.

Finally, there is the comparison with the people around you. Why do they all look so good in photos compared to you? Even those who aren't as attractive or slim as you? The reason is that you know exactly how they looked all evening because you could see them. There are no surprises. However, you aren't comparing yourself to how you really looked, but to an image of yourself that was in your head. In that image, your complexion was clearer, your eyes were bigger and your clothes were more stylish.

So what can we do about it? On the one hand, for all the reasons above, we don't usually like photos of ourselves. That's the reason why many celebrities try hard not to be photographed in

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Tests

END-OF-UNIT TEST **A**

public. On the other hand, you should remember that your friends feel exactly the same. So, when they look at photos of you, they will be as jealous of you as you are of them. Take comfort from that, but you should also avoid looking at photos taken of you on other people's social network pages.

1 Find words or phrases in the text that mean: (_ / 5)

1 prepare (paragraph 1) .....
2 skin colouring (paragraph 1) .....
3 disconcerted (paragraph 1) .....
4 complimentary or favourable (paragraph 3) .....
5 infrequently (paragraph 5) .....

2 Read the text and answer the questions in your own words. (_ / 8)

1 Why do people often look better early in the evening?

.....

.....

2 How do we usually look at ourselves in the mirror?

.....

.....

3 Why do we think our friends look better than us in photos?

.....

.....

4 How do our friends usually feel about photos of themselves?

.....

3 Circle the correct option. (_ / 3)

1 The article says that people are shocked when they
A find out that their photos are online.
B see people they don't know in photographs.
C realise what they looked like the night before.
D look in the mirror before they go out.

2 The writer says that
A most people look better before they go out.
B this problem only affects George Clooney.
C you should be careful who you go out with.
D we are always pleased when we see our reflections.

3 The writer claims that people
A often think they are less attractive than their friends.
B don't usually like photos of their friends.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C are often surprised by photos of their friends.

D often imagine that they look better than they really do.

4 Say whether these statements are true or false. Justify your answers. (_ / 4)

1 The article explains why we often don't like photos of ourselves.

.....

2 One way to look better in photographs is to make sure you look up at the photographer.

.....

3 The writer says that we often don't like our appearance at the end of an evening out.

.....

4 The writer advises us to look at photos of ourselves on social networks.

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS