LISTENING LANGUAGE PRACTICE

4.3

It and the *-ing* form as the subject of a sentence • life events

1 Complete sentences 1–4 with the words in brackets in the correct order.

Extract from Students' Book recording 2.19

Sara: The most important life event for a young person is leaving home. (is / life event / The / leaving home. / for a young person / most important) The best age is about eighteen or nineteen. Some people only leave home when they get married. But I think [1] _____ (it / your own / a younger age. / is important / decisions / from / to make) I'm seventeen now and I don't want to go to university. When I leave school, I want to get a job and earn money. Then I can leave home. I want to buy my own flat one day [...]

Mike: I think [2] _____ (most / to drive. / is learning / important / the / life event) Now my parents fetch me from my friends' houses – but they come at ten o'clock. I'm sixteen – I want to stay out later! I can't wait until next year when I can learn to drive!
A driver's licence can also help you get a better job. I think falling in love or buying your first flat are important ... but for me, at the moment, all that is less important than learning to drive.

Grace: For me, [3] _____ (is / going / important. / first date / really / on your) It's that first step in romance. And I think [4] _____ (falling / life event. / is / in love / most important / the), just like your first date. This doesn't mean I want to get married now. I'm only fifteen! I want to do a lot of things before I get married – study, travel, get my first job. Anyway, I think it's better to get married when you're older ... so not eighteen but around thirty or later.

REMEMBER THIS

In English, a sentence must have a subject. There are a number of situations where the pronoun **It** is used as a subject, e.g. *It's cold, It's eight (o'clock), It's dark, It's Wednesday, It's important to..., It rains/'s raining.*

2 Read REMEMBER THIS. Rewrite the sentences correctly.

Is raining. It is raining.
1 Isn't fair! _____
2 Is so hot. _____
3 Is a nice day. _____
4 Is time for bed? _____
5 Is five o'clock. _____

3 Complete the second sentence in each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one.

The most important life event is getting a job.
Getting a job is the most important life event.
1 It is important to study hard at school.
Studying _____ important.
2 Saving money for the future is important.
It _____ future.
3 The most important thing in life is being happy.
Being _____ life.
4 Getting married is the most important life event.
The _____ married.
5 It is important to learn how to cook before you leave home.
Learning _____ important.
6 The best way to learn a foreign language is to live in a foreign country.
Living _____ foreign language.
7 It's fun to look at old photos.
Looking _____ fun.
8 Getting up early is difficult in the winter.
It's _____ winter.

WORD STORE 4D | Life events

4 Match verbs 1–6 with the correct endings a–f to make collocations. Then complete the sentences with the collocations. One collocation is used twice.

	learn	g	a	married
1	go on		b	a flat
2	fall in		c	job
3	buy		d	a date
4	get a		e	love
5	get		f	home
6	leave		g	to drive

I'd like to learn to drive but the lessons cost a lot of money.
7 Ali is getting ready to _____ with Dave. They're going to a restaurant.
8 I'm going to _____ after my exams and earn enough money for a really good summer holiday.
9 I don't want to _____ . I like my bedroom and my dad's cooking.
10 I want to _____ when I start working. Then, when I get older, I can sell it and have some money for a house.
11 I'd like to _____ when I'm about 30 – if I meet the right person, of course.
12 I hope you won't _____ with Jamie. He's not right for you and you won't be happy.
13 We can _____ with two bedrooms and live there together. Think of the parties we can have!

LIVEWORKSHEETS