LISTENING SCRIPT

Exercise 1 & 2

Maria: How was the lecture on innovation in e-learning?

Damien: It was interesting. We looked at the latest developments in online and distance learning and how more students are using mobile apps to support college and university study.

Maria: Did it give you any solid ideas for your project?

Damien: Yes. There was a discussion about using apps during lectures, which in theory sounded great. But there's the speed of the speaker to consider. And, whilst many of the existing apps can record, they can't really help with writing down notes.

Maria: Yes, I can see that. I can hardly keep up myself!

Damien: I think it's something we'll see more of in the future, along with an innovative development that supports learning by automatically changing lectures from one language to another. But I'll have finished my course by then. I think I'm going to focus on designing an app to support student autonomy. It's important to learn by making your own decisions, isn't it?

Exercise 3:

Tutor: Hello, Amie. How's your project going?

Amie: OK, but I really need to talk to you about the deadline.

Tutor: Right, OK. You're designing a new mobile app, aren't you? One for creating videos and podcasts. I thought it was going really well the last time we spoke. You'll have been working on it for almost six weeks by the end of today, and I remember you said you were all set to finish before the agreed eight weeks.

Amie: I thought so, too. I was certain I was going to finish it in seven weeks, but I'm having a few problems and so I'm going to need some more time. I just don't think I'll have finished it by the time we agreed. Can we extend the time a little, to ten weeks?

Tutor: Well, I'm not sure, Amie. That's two weeks after the deadline. I was hoping you'd have finished it within seven weeks, to be honest, or if that wasn't possible, then at least on time. If you'd come to see me before, we might've been able to extend the deadline, but it's highly unlikely at this stage, I'm afraid.

Amie: Oh, I see. I'm almost there but doubt I will have it finished. Could we perhaps extend the deadline by a week? I don't think I'll need much more time than that, but anything less could be an issue.

Tutor: Look, why don't we go through the problems you're having and stick to the original deadline for now. We're meeting again in just over seven days, aren't we?

Amie: Well, nine, to be exact.

Tutor: Right, well, you'll have had time to do some more work on it by then and if you're still having difficulties, we'll discuss it further. But for now, I'd like to leave things as they are. How does that sound?

Amie: OK, I guess so. Maybe if you can help me with this problem …

Exercise 4:

Damien: Hi, Maria, what do you think of the assignment we were given today? It looks challenging, doesn't it?

Maria: Absolutely, Damien. I've been thinking about how we're going to get everything done in time.

Damien: Why don't we make a flow-chart? It might help us plan better.

Maria: Great idea. Where shall we start?

Damien: Right, well, initially I thought we ought to look at how the assignment is being assessed, but I'm not so sure now. I think it'd be better if, first, we scheduled a meeting with the tutor. He can give us a lot of information, which I'm certain will save us time later.

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Maria: That's a good idea. Seeing the tutor will help us understand just how much work's involved. What next?

Damien: Well, next, I think we need to make sure we're happy we know the main aspects that make up the assessment. We need to recognise those before we can do anything else.

Maria: Yes, I can see that makes sense. And then, we can put together a schedule for the activities we need to do. It doesn't need to be exact at that stage, does it?

Damien: I totally agree. Once that's completed, we need to calculate the possibility of something bad happening. There's always something that goes wrong, isn't there? So, we should make an evaluation.

Maria: Right! And finally, we'll need some sort of plan. You know, in case something does go wrong.

Damien: A contingency plan – that's a good idea. OK, so where's the phone? I need to call the tutor before we forget.

Exercise 5:

Tutor: Hello, Damien. It's good to see you. You wanted to talk about your assignment, 'Blogs and Their Impact on Society'.

Damien: Yes, that's right. I thought it would be better to discuss it with you first, just to make sure I'm going in the right direction.

Tutor: OK. And you're happy with your choice of subject? I've always wanted to do a bit of blogging myself, but I've just never found the time.

Damien: Really? That's not the case for me. I've never been into it, to be honest. I'm interested as it fits well with the other things I'm researching.

Tutor: Well, you never know, you might have become a great fan of it by the end of the assignment. Now, what would you like to discuss?

Damien: Right, well, as you know, I'm focusing on some of the major impacts that blogging has had on our way of life. I mean, I don't really agree with the idea that it's made society any more open and honest than in the past.

Tutor: Don't you? I would say there are fewer secrets these days, especially in industry.

Damien: I get what you're saying. I guess that's something I could look into if I get the opportunity, but I think it's more about giving people confidence to exchange views on things they hold different opinions about – especially issues that often create disagreement.

Tutor: Yes, I can see that, of course, but these types of discussions can easily offend people, can't they? This can cause huge problems for certain sectors of society.

Damien: I'm not convinced. I know there are some people who think bloggers spread stories that don't have a lot of truth, and I can see how some people might get upset, but I don't really see that as an issue, to be honest. There is a threat of it becoming an addiction though, and that's an angle I want to explore.

Tutor: Hmmm, I think you may be missing something, Damien, but let's not talk about that now. So, what's the future of blogging, as you see it? I assume you're going to cover that?

Damien: Absolutely! I certainly don't think we're going to see the end of this way of communicating. By the time I'm retired, I expect other methods of sharing information simply won't exist anymore. There'll be no more newspapers, for example. Like it or not, we'll all have been blogging for years!

Tutor: I'm not so sure. Scientific discoveries are happening all the time. I wouldn't be surprised if something more modern hadn't taken its place by then. In fact, I'm quite sure something will have.

Damien: I'm not sure I agree, but I guess we'll see. OK, so I'm happy so far, but I do think I'm going to face a few obstacles, and there's one I'm particularly worried about.

Tutor: Yes, I expect you'll find it hard to stick to the main points. Especially if you haven't blogged before.

Damien: Well, I admit I do find it really difficult only giving factual information, but I'm confident I'm going to overcome that with practice, so I don't envisage that will be a problem.

Tutor: What about the need to blog regularly?

Damien: Well, I don't update my social media status daily – it's really hard as I don't know what to say, but that's different, isn't it? No, I guess it's the first time I'll have really had to think about what I'm saying and, well, I just don't want to come across as dull!

Tutor: I'm sure that won't be the case. In fact, I have a few ideas about how you could …

Exercise 6 :

Tutor: OK, so as you've never written a blog before, would you like to go through the procedure you're going to use?

Damien: Absolutely! I've done a bit of investigating and put together this flow-chart. So, the first thing I need to do is make sure I'm clear about what I'm being asked to do. It's not simply about writing a blog – I need to remember this is an assessment, don't I?

Tutor: That's correct. Initially, you need to look at the information I've given you about the blog assignment and how it needs to be done.

Damien: Good. That's what I thought. Next, I'm going to consider the principles for the blog and draw up a plan. I think that's important as it's part of the framework. Of course, at this stage, I'm going to include my ideas too.

Tutor: I agree. Well, I don't have any specific feedback so far. Would you like to continue?

Damien: OK, so, after that, I want to put together a draft. I don't think it needs to have any details though. It'd be a waste of time. Do you agree?

Tutor: Yes, I do. If you only include the main facts here, it will save time later.

Damien: Then, I'm going write and post the blog.

Tutor: Hmmm, and what will you do after it's been posted? Do you have something in mind?

Damien: Oh yes, I certainly do. I'm going to ask my peers to provide me with their evaluation of the blog.

Tutor: That's a necessary part of this type of procedure. Does that include me?

Damien: Yes, of course. Your evaluation will be invaluable. Once I've got that together, I need to look at enhancing the process, so it's better next time.

Tutor: Splendid! I think you've got everything under control. When would you like to meet again?

SPEAKING Exercise 5:

OK then. What I am going to talk about is Steam, which is both a website and a piece of software. So, how did I find out about it? I was buying a game a few years back – I think it was Batman or something similar – and I had to install Steam onto my computer so I could install the game. And I have been using it ever since. And this is also the answer to the question, what do I use it for. I mean, it's mainly for downloading and installing games. But that's not all. Steam also has a number of features, such as forums for gamers, where you can get advice and tips on how to do certain games, and also special offers on other games. It has its own online store as well from which you can buy games directly.

So, how often do I use it? Well, more or less every time I play a game on my computer it is through Steam, so I suppose the answer is a lot. Having said that, I don't play games every day. I do have to study as well.

So finally, what do I think of Steam? Well, I use it a lot, as I said, so I obviously like it. What I like most is the fact that any game I have on Steam updates automatically. This means that any changes or patches needed to repair problems with games are downloaded and installed automatically. At the same time though, this is also

one thing I don't like about it. Every time I start my computer, it searches for Steam updates, which means it takes longer before I can use it. I have to wait for an extra few minutes, which can be really annoying. Also, I cannot play some games unless I use Steam, and you usually need to be online to use it. So, if I lose internet connection, I won't be able to play.

But overall, I like it. It's a very useful platform for gamers like me. If it didn't exist, someone would need to invent it.

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