

LISTENING SCRIPT

Exercise 2.

Announcer: You hear a conversation about a new library.

Jim: Hello, Mary. How are you?

Mary: Good, thanks. I haven't seen you for a while.

Jim: No, I've been busy at work. But I was having a look at the local newspaper and I saw that the new library had finally been opened. And I really wanted to come and see it and have a look around, and of course, I'm hoping to take some books home with me. It looks fantastic. Much better than the old library that was here before.

Mary: Yes, we're very pleased with the design. It's a lot more open and we have a good view of the park outside now.

Jim: And I can see that there's a lot more technology in the library now.

Mary: Yes. We've got a lot more screens here for people to use. But people also bring in their own laptops and tablets and things so they can do some work or study and use the wi-fi.

Jim: Great. So I guess your job has changed quite a bit.

Mary: That's right. When I started, I was just checking books in and out for people. But now I'm responsible for many different services. I have to say, though, what I like best is ordering new books and recommending them to people.

Jim: Well, what would you recommend to me? I've got my library card with me. I'm interested in science fiction mainly.

Exercise 3.

Announcer: You hear a conversation about some services that a library offers.

Mary: I wonder if you know about all of the services that are available at the library.

Jim: Um, well, I know about some of them. I saw a notice on the wall over there about an art class. That's something my wife would really be interested in.

Mary: Oh, good! But I'm afraid that's an activity that we're only going to run in a month or two. We just need to get one of our rooms ready first.

Jim: Alright, well, I'll tell my wife about it anyway. Oh, yes, I was just thinking about my daughter. She's only five years old and I know that other libraries organize a time when younger children can come in and listen to one of the librarians tell them stories and fairy tales. Does that happen here?

Mary: On Tuesday and Friday mornings, yes. It's a very popular event. The librarian chooses either an old favorite or a new book to read to the children. But the parents seem to enjoy it as well!

Jim: Well, that would certainly suit my daughter. And are you still offering Spanish lessons? I might be interested in those.

Mary: Oh, we used to, but I'm afraid the teacher left.

Jim: I see. That's a pity. What about my son? He's 14 years old, so do you have anything for him?

Mary: Is he into gaming? If he is, he might be interested in coming along on Wednesday afternoons. The library is open late on Wednesdays, so we open one of our meeting rooms

for the kids from five o'clock. Lots of kids his age come along with their tablets and they all play 'Tower Builders' or some other game like that.

Jim: Really? Libraries have certainly changed since I was a kid!

Exercise 4.

Announcer: You will hear a library assistant giving a man information about the library website.

Jim: So what's on the library website? Can you tell me a bit about it? For example, you were talking before about books that you recommended to people. Is there some kind of list on the website where I can find out what the top ten books are?

Mary: Well, that's an interesting idea. At the moment, we display the most popular books on a special shelf – near the information desk. But one thing that you can do online – after you've read a book – is you can post your own review if you like. You know, tell other library users whether it's worth reading. Then they can read about it on the website before they come in.

Jim: I see. And I suppose that helps people make up their minds whether to order a copy for themselves or not.

Mary: Right.

Jim: And I'm afraid that my son can't find his library membership card. Can we use the website to get another one and replace it? Or do we have to be here at the library to do that?

Mary: No, you don't have to come in. We have an online form that he can fill in with his name, date of birth – that kind of thing. It'll save him some time if he does it like that, hopefully. And then, when your son comes into the library, he can pick the card up from the information desk. But if you've moved house recently, so you're living somewhere different, you'll need to bring us a copy of an electricity bill or a bank statement – something with your street number on it. We need that information for our records and so that can't be done online.

Jim: And what if I've forgotten to bring a book back before the due date, and there's a charge for it because I've gone past the deadline? Can I pay online?

Mary: You'll have to come in if you owe us any money, I'm afraid. But we do send out email reminders a few days before you have to return a book. So hopefully you can bring the books back in time.

Exercise 5.

Woman: Excuse me

Irina: Yes?

W: Before you go through, I wonder if you could help us by answering a few questions for a survey. It won't take long.

I: No problem. We're not in any hurry.

W: Fine, thanks. Now, er, let's look at the questions.

I: OK

W: Here they are. First one. Why are you visiting the exhibition?

I: Well, I want to keep up with the latest developments in electronics, you know – I was recommended by a friend to come here and see what new devices and inventions are coming out and learn a bit. I mean, I don't generally go shopping for new electronics. I'm not the sort of person who goes out and buys all the latest gadgets – the prices are too high when they're new. But it interests me, and I thought also there would be things which would interest my son and he'd enjoy it as well, so that's why we're here.

W: OK... and here's a question to find out what sort of consumer you are. Have you bought any electronics recently?

I: Recently? Sure. I was thinking of buying a new calculator for the office, but I decided it wasn't really necessary because I can do all the calculations just as easily on a computer. Anyway, I got a new laptop recently because, you know, they have so many applications and they don't take up much space either. Better to have lots of things on the same device. I think. The other thing I bought was a present for my husband's birthday. I thought it would be nice to have a record of our holidays, so I bought him a camera and I'm hoping to get him more interested in photography. I'm not very keen on the sort of pictures you can take with a mobile phone, you see. I think it's better to go for higher quality.

W: Right...And here's a question about this building. I know you haven't had a chance to look around a lot yet, but at first sight, what do you think of it?

I: Oh, it looks pretty good to me. It's got lots of natural light, so you don't have to put up with lots of electric lighting, which can be quite tiring on the eyes. It feels very large and spacious, which is great because although it's full of activity and quite noisy, it doesn't feel too crowded. Also, when you look up at the ceiling near the entrance with the design of stars and planets on it, that's something I really like. I'm not so keen on those revolving doors, though. I always feel I'm going to get stuck in one.

W: And did you have any difficulties getting to the exhibition?

I: Well, coming at this time of day the roads weren't too busy, so that was all right... and there were plenty of signposts, so the car park was easy to find. The only problem was it was full when I arrived – I guess I should have come earlier - so I had to find another one quite a long walk away, which was a pity. Then we had to stand outside for quite a long time queuing to get in – this exhibition is pretty popular. That was a bit of a problem, because my son gets impatient, but fortunately it wasn't raining, otherwise we might have gone home.

Exercise 6.

Woman: OK, so we have to choose one of these four people

Man: It's going to be difficult.

W: Well, why don't we agree on some criteria that will help us?

M: Do you mean things like how old they were when they became successful?

W: Yeah - except I'm not sure how old they all were! Um, what about choosing a woman...

M: Is it fair to select someone because of their gender? And look at celebrities – there are lots of women.

W: But it was different in the past.

M: Oh, I see. Yeah. OK, let's pick a woman.

W: Great. Right, well, they're all pretty talented, aren't they? Some have even won awards.

M: Yeah, but maybe their fame won't last for ever.

W: No...so we should pick someone who's done something great on an international level.

M: Yeah, that changed the world...OK, I think that's it. We've got our two criteria. So what do we need to do before we meet again?

W: Well, how much information have we got?

M: Quite a lot of detail about their lives, but not enough about what they did.

W: OK – so before we meet again, let’s both find out as much as we can. It’s always better to have too much information.

M: Yeah, you’re right. What about pictures?

W: Yeah- I don’t even know what this person looks like!

M: OK – well, we might get some from the library – but I can look on the Internet as well.

W: Once we’ve done that, we can get together and talk about the next stage.

M: Yeah – I don’t think we can write the presentation for the seminar yet, do you?

W: No – anyway, it’ll be fun working together.

M: Yeah! It’s been quite an education doing this.

W: Yes - it’s made me think about success and what it really means.

M: It isn’t about money, is it?