

LESSON 7 – LISTENING SECTION 3

TAPESCRIPT

TUTOR OK, Jim. You wanted to see me about your _____ project.

Jim That's right. I've been looking at how a range of natural dyes can be used to color fabrics like cotton and wool.

TUTOR Why did you choose that topic?

Jim Well, I got a lot of useful ideas from the museum, you know, at the exhibition of textiles. But I've always been interested in anything to do with color. Years ago, I went to a carpet shop with my parents when we were on holiday in Turkey, and I remember all the amazing colors.

TUTOR They might not all have been natural dyes.

Jim Maybe not, but for the project I decided to follow it up. And I found a great book about botanic garden in California that _____ plants used for dyes.

TUTOR OK. So, in your project, you had to include a practical investigation.

Jim Yeah. At first I couldn't _____ my variables. I was going to just look at one type of fibre for example, like cotton ...

TUTOR ... and see how different types of dyes affected it?

Jim Yes. Then I decided to include others as well, so I looked at cotton and wool and nylon.

TUTOR With just one type of dye?

Jim Various types, including some that weren't natural, for comparison.

TUTOR OK.

Jim So, I did the experiments last week. I used some _____, I found a website which supplied them, they _____ just a few days, but I also made some of my own.

TUTOR That must have taken quite a bit of time.

Jim Yes, I'd thought it'd just be _____ a teaspoon or so of dye, and actually _____ at all. Like I was using one vegetable, beetroot, for a red dye, and I had to chop up a whole pile of it. So it all took longer than I'd expected.

TUTOR One possibility is to use food colorings.

Jim I did use one. That was a yellow dye, an artificial one.

TUTOR Tartrazine?

Jim Yeah. I used it on cotton first. It came out a great color, but when I rinsed the material, the color just washed away. I'd been going to try it out on nylon, but I abandoned that idea.

TUTOR Were you worried about health issues?

Jim I'd thought if it's a legal food coloring, it must be safe.

TUTOR Well, it can occasionally cause _____, I believe.

TUTOR So what natural dyes did you look at?

Jim Well, one was turmeric. The color's great, it's a really strong yellow. It's generally used in dishes like curry.

TUTOR _____ quite good for your health when eaten, but you might find it's not permanent when it's used as a dye – a few washes, and it's gone.

Jim Right. I used beetroot as a dye for wool. When I chop up beetroot to eat I always end up with bright red hands, but the wool ended up just a sort of _____ shade. Disappointing.

TUTOR There's a natural dye called Tyrian purple. Have you heard of that?

Jim Yes. It comes from a shellfish, and it was worn in ancient times but only by important people as it was so rare. I didn't use it.

TUTOR It _____ centuries ago, though one researcher managed to _____ some recently. But that shade of purple can be produced by chemical dyes nowadays. Did you use any black dyes?

Jim Logwood. That was quite complicated. I had to prepare the fabric so the dye would take.

TUTOR I hope you were careful so wear gloves.

Jim Yes. I know _____ that dye.

TUTOR Good. It can be extremely dangerous if it's ingested. Now, presumably you had a look at an insect-based dye? Like cochineal, for example?

Jim Yes, I didn't actually make that, I didn't have time to start crushing up insects to get the red color and anyway they're not available here, but I managed to get the dye quite easily from a website. But it _____. I can see why it's generally just used in cooking and in small quantities.

TUTOR Yes, it's very effective, but that's precisely why it's not used as a dye.

Jim I also read about using metal oxide. Apparently you can allow iron to rust while it's _____ the fabric, and that colors it.

TUTOR Yes, that works well for dyeing cotton. But you have to be careful as the metal can actually affect the fabric and so you can't expect to _____ out of fabrics treated in this way. And the colors are quite subtle, not everyone likes them. Anyway, it looks as if you've done a lot of work.

VOCABULARY

Translate these following expressions into Vietnamese:

- 1 Textile design (n)
- 2 Specialize in (v)
- 3 Decide on (v)
- 4 Ready-made natural dyes
- 5 Come in (v)
- 6 A matter of
- 7 That is (not) the case
- 8 Allergic reaction(s) (n)
- 9 It's meant to V/be
- 10 Watery cream (n)
- 11 Fall out of use (v)
- 12 Get hold of (v)
- 13 The danger with
- 14 Cost a fortune
- 15 Be in contact with
- 16 Get a lot of wear