

LISTENING AND READING

Gadgets. Phil talks about gadgets and how he uses them in his daily life.

Vocabulary

gadget = a small mechanical apparatus or electronic device.

came into = in the interview 'come into' can be replaced with 'started' or 'became involved with.'

gain confidence = it means that you increase your belief in your own abilities.

main passion = it is the thing that you love the most.

absolutely useless = When you are 'absolutely useless' at something, it means that you cannot do it very well or at all.

keeping in touch = 'Keeping in touch' means that you remain in contact with someone.

A. LISTENING AND READING

Todd: Phil, you said you're a teacher. Did you study education in college?

Phil: No, actually, I studied engineering in college.

Todd: Really. Engineer!

Phil: Yeah, I was an automotive when I was younger.

Todd: Automotive, like cars?

Phil: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Todd: Oh, cool. Wow.

Phil: It was really interesting, a job really exciting but I kind of **came into** teaching to try something different and to maybe **gain confidence** in myself as well.

Todd: So, if you're an engineer then you must like gadgets, right?

Phil: Oh, yeah, I love gadgets. I got many in my room.

Todd: So, what kind of gadgets do you have?

Phil: Well, my favorite has to be my laptop computer of course. I think everyone should have a laptop now because it's complete entertainment. I can watch movies. I can download music from the internet. I can write reports on my students. I can research new games on the internet. I can do anything in the world on my laptop. It's just amazing what you can do.

Todd: So, you talk about downloading things. Like you must have an MP3 player or iPod.

Phil: I've got an iPod as well, yeah. I love my iPod. Every day I listen to music. Music is one of my **main passions** in life and I particularly like rock music and ska punk as well, so I download bands from all over the world on the internet that maybe ten years ago nobody would have been able to find information about, so I think things like iPod have opened up the world of music to everyone.

Todd: Right. Right No, I agree. Actually, I have an MP3 player and an iPod, and I use them all the time.

Phil: Yeah, it's amazing.

Todd: So, you're really into your laptop. You're really into your iPod. Any other gadgets that you really like?

Phil: I suppose I have to say my digital camera. When I was younger, I was absolutely useless at taking photographs - well I still am **absolutely useless** at taking photographs. I always manage to miss the main part of the picture or the thing I'm aiming for. Once I get the lighting composition completely wrong. So with a digital camera, I can choose the photos I want and I can keep retaking them until I know I got the one I actually want, and

then on my computer, back to my laptop again, I can edit the photos until they look exactly like I want them to, so digital camera is amazing for me.

Todd: Yeah, I agree, like I use cameras a lot for the website and I couldn't make it without them.

Phil: Yeah, it's amazing how in the last ten years things have changed so much, like we said with the iPod earlier, I used to have a cassette player when I was younger.

Todd: Right.

Phil: It was huge, and it was like taking a brick with me everywhere I went, and not the iPod just fits in my pocket and I don't even know it's there. It's amazing the difference.

Todd: Yeah, I listen to the podcasts on the way to work and it makes my train commute so much more enjoyable.

Phil: Yeah, yeah, I get the news from the BBC, the British website, so I can listen to the news in the morning and find out what's happened back in my home city. It's like **keeping in touch** with the rest of the world.

Todd: Right, right. OK, thanks a lot Phil.

Phil: OK, thank you.

Answer the following questions about the interview. You can choose more than one option.

1. What does Phil say about himself?

- a. He studied engineering.
- b. He designs video games.
- c. He loves his laptop computer.
- d. He has lots of gadgets.

2. What does Phil say about music?

- a. He has an iPod and an mp3 player.
- b. He loves his iPod.
- c. Music is his passion.
- d. He likes jazz music.

3. What does Phil mention about cameras?

- a. Taking photos
- b. Editing photos
- c. Printing photos
- d. E-mailing photos

4. What older gadgets do they mention?

- a. Video recorder
- b. Typewriter
- c. Cassette player
- d. Instant camera

Now listen to the interview