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.

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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

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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

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