

DR GREGORY HOUSE, the main character in the hit TV series *House M.D.*, is famous for being a pessimist. But it is not only Dr House who is a pessimist. Hugh Laurie, the actor who plays him, is a pessimist too.

Laurie never thought that *House M.D.* was going to be a success. Even after seven series he still feels pessimistic about it. He said in a recent interview, "If we do a bad show next week, they'll say, 'That's it. No more.' It'll just stop. I am of course someone who is constantly expecting a plane to drop on my head, if not today then tomorrow."

Like Dr House, Laurie is also a talented musician and is passionate about the blues. He recently went to New Orleans to record an album in which he plays 15 of his favourite songs. But of course he doesn't think that people will like it.

When he was asked on a TV show why he was so pessimistic about life, Laurie said it was because he is Scottish. 'I definitely think that's where it comes from.'

Because of his reputation as a pessimist, people always talk to him about positive thinking. He says that complete strangers come up to him in the street and say 'Cheer up, mate, it'll never happen!'

6A: Are you a pessimist?

Activity 1:

Read an article about the actor Hugh Laurie.

What **two things** do Hugh Laurie and Dr House have in common?



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Activity 2:

Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Say why.

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Hugh Laurie always thinks the worst will happen. | _____ |
| 2 | He thinks they will make many more series of House M.D. | _____ |
| 3 | He doesn't think his album will be successful. | _____ |
| 4 | He thinks that Scottish people are optimistic. | _____ |
| 5 | People often try to make him feel happier. | _____ |



Work in pair. Discuss these questions

Do you think ...

- you'll have a nice weekend?
- you'll pass your next English exam?
- you'll get a good (or better) job in the future?
- you'll get an interesting email or message from someone tonight?
- you'll meet some new friends on your next holiday?
- you'll live to be 100?
- you'll get to the end of this book?

