

1

Girl: So you found your mobile phone then ...

Boy: Yeah, I spent most of yesterday evening looking everywhere for it, including in my dad's car. I was sure it'd out of my pocket when he gave me a lift home from school, but I was wrong. Of course, I never thought of checking the pocket of my jacket, which is where I noticed it this morning! I'd begun to think I'd left it in the of my desk and I'd find it when I got to school.

Girl: At least you've got it back.

2

Girl: How much longer is the game on for?

Boy: I thought you liked basketball ...

Girl: I do – love it, but my team's not playing today, and anyway, it's nearly time for Life the Waves – there's a special report on whales.

Boy: Don't you and Dad want to watch that show you like, Ask Me Another? You usually have a competition to see who can get most questions right.

Girl: True, but I'm sure he won't mind missing it for just this time.

Boy: I guess not. OK, what time does it start?

Girl: Now!

3

Boy: How was the zoo?

Girl: I really enjoyed it – there were so many different animals to see. My favourites are usually the penguins. My little brother and I laugh so much when they walk around the pool – they look so funny! It's a that they were all in the water, swimming yesterday – because it was so hot, I So it was the monkeys playing in their tree that were the biggest attraction for me this time, although seeing the baby elephant with its mum came a close second.

4

Girl: Which character are you in the school play?

Boy: I'm the main character's father. I need to look much older than I am, so I have to wear a suit and glasses. The director said my should have long, fair, curly hair, so I have to put that on, too.

Girl: I'm sure your short dark hair would look just as good.

Boy: Maybe, but you have to do what the director says. He tried to make me wear a moustache, but it kept falling off, so we gave up that idea.

5

And now for the weather. A lot of clouds will move in from the west later this morning, bringing heavy rain to all parts of the country by early afternoon. Driving in these will be quite difficult, so take care on the roads. This rain

will be by strong winds, which will stay with us over the next few days, but overnight, any remaining rain will clear away, leaving clear skies everywhere. The sunny weather should stay until the day after tomorrow, when, , the rain returns.

6

Girl: Hi, I was just calling about going clothes shopping together tomorrow. I'm still OK to meet at two, but I think I'd prefer it if we didn't meet at the clock in the town square as we'd – you're always late and there's nothing to do there. So how about seeing each other at the café? At least I can have a snack while I'm waiting. We could just meet at the clothes shop, but I'd probably finish my shopping before you got there – I know what you're like!

7

Girl: Did you get that book you wanted for your music ?

Boy: I did. I went into town after school today and got it then. It was on special offer too, so it was reduced by two pounds from seventeen pounds ninety-nine to fifteen pounds ninety-nine. I know we saw it on the internet for less than that – it was thirteen pounds ninety-nine, I think – but I really need it for my class tomorrow and there's no way it would arrive in time.

Girl: Well, I'm just you found it.

8

Girl: I enjoyed that.

Boy: Me, too. I don't think of them played a wrong note in the whole performance.

Girl: I think I heard a few – they hadn't had enough time to play together before the concert.

Boy: Maybe. I still wish they'd played a little longer, though – maybe a few more songs.

Girl: I thought it was about right as it was. That kind of music sounds so much better in a smaller place – I don't know why they chose to have it there.

Boy: The two guitars are too quiet for somewhere that size.

9

Girl: That was an amazing play.

Boy: It was. Over half the people watching were school students like us.

Girl: I guess that's not so for an afternoon performance. Most adults are working then.

Boy: I wonder what it's like being an actor. They must have to practise so hard.

Girl: The ones in this play had. I found it difficult to believe how realistic they managed to make all of the characters.

Boy: Yes, and I couldn't predict what would happen at the end.

Girl: I studied this play in classes last year, so I already knew what was going to happen.

10

Girl: How was the art course?

Boy: Fantastic – I learned so much.

Girl: So what was the best bit?

Boy: There were so many, but if I could only choose one, I think it'd be how the teacher got us to practise in a number of different ways. I thought I'd spend most of the time drawing or painting, but we did so many other activities, all of which were quite useful for developing our skills.

Girl: Sounds good.

Boy: And I never knew there were so many jokes about artists! Our teacher to know them all, which was great fun.

11

Boy: Are you walking to school with us tomorrow?

Girl: I might go on my own, actually. I don't want to be late.

Boy: But you'll enjoy it more if you come with us.

Girl: It's often no different to walking by myself because you all walk slowly along with your on.

Boy: We show each other things on our phones, too.

Girl: That's true, which is great in our free time, but not when it means arriving half an hour later than I would if I was by myself. At least you're enough to move out of the way for other people on the , though.

12

Girl: How's your new house?

Boy: I like it. The colours aren't what I'd ever choose, but my mom says we can easily fix that. My bedroom's much bigger than the one at the old house, which my brother as his is quite small – like the rest of the house.

Girl: I thought people usually moved to be somewhere bigger ...

Boy: Sure, but where it is is important, too, and the new one's much closer to my parents' work and to school, too. I can walk there in five minutes, which means I get to stay longer in bed in the morning.

13

Boy: How was your weekend?

Girl: Good, thanks. We went for a day out by the river.

Boy: The river near here? It's easy to walk to, but it's not like there's lots to do there.

Girl: I know. That's why we went somewhere else, about an hour away in the car. It's for swimming because the river's really deep and wide there, but we've never found a better place to sit and eat. I know you'd probably prefer

somewhere which has lots of activities, but it's really , so we just sit on the grass, enjoy our food and relax.

Boy: Sounds nice.

14 ~ 19

Listen, everyone! I've got some information about this year's school photography competition. As you'll probably remember, last year's asked you to focus on the topic of travel, but photos should have something to do with the environment this time.

As in previous years, there are certain things that we want the photographs to include. We want all the pictures to have wildlife in them, so we're not looking for photos that only show or people.

The head teacher has decided to ask someone from outside the school to judge the competition this year. She was hoping that local artist Sally Graves would be able to the entries, but she's actually away at that time. Writer James McKay has agreed to help us instead. I'm sure many of you have heard of him, as he's quite famous and was born not far away from here, too.

It was felt that most keen photographers already have the photography books or they need, so the organisers have decided that the winner will receive a photography course run by Central College instead. The College was also hoping to have a small photography for winners of all the school photography competitions in the area, but their gallery's too busy putting on other shows, I'm afraid.

The winner of the competition will be on 11th March. If you wish to enter, please make sure we receive your photos by 15th February, as the judging will take place on 19th February.

So if you're interested, send your entry to the school , Mrs Mitchell, not to me or the head teacher. I'll give you her email address – it's k dot Mitchell, that's spelt M-I-T-C-H-E-double-L at school dot com. Good luck!

20 ~ 25

Woman: Callum, you have a popular book review website. How did you learn about a website?

Callum: I first learned to write computer programs when I was eleven. We created in class to control a little robot. My mum works in IT, though, and she showed me how to use similar skills to create my own pages online. There are hundreds of websites about this too, but I found them quite confusing.

Woman: Why did you decide to set up a book review website?

Callum: I'd seen an article about teenagers not reading enough and was wondering about possible to this. My best friend's into video games and writes reviews for various websites. These sites seem to encourage

teenagers to play more games, so I thought it must be possible to do the same with reading. It's nice to see teenagers exchanging about literature, rather than video games!

Woman: How did you feel when your site first went online?

Callum: I was nervous, of course, but I couldn't believe how well it worked. But even when a site looks as good as mine did, you can never be sure that people will like it. And if it not being popular, there's no way you'll achieve what you've set out to do with the site.

Woman: You have school, your website and a social life – what's a day like?

Callum: You'd think I'd never have a chance to relax, wouldn't you, but it's rarely that busy. I certainly don't have many opportunities to get bored, as everything I do throughout each day is so different. I make a plan each evening for what I want to achieve the next day, which I usually

Woman: What would you like to be doing when you're 18?

Callum: Many website designers have to join one of the huge technology businesses based in the USA. I want to stay close to my family in Canada, though. I've thought about studying computer science. However, I learn better by doing than by studying, so I'd prefer to have my own web design company than go to college.

Woman: Tell us about your new website ...

Callum: I wanted to create something about music. When I looked online, I found very little on how music supports people through difficult times and how sharing stories about this benefits others, so that's what I've done. There are so many for uploading your own songs, or for finding out how to play guitar, or whatever, but I wanted something different.

Woman: Thank you, Callum!