

Unit Test 1

01

Speaker A: I've known my best friend since we started primary school together at the age of five. No, I tell a lie – it was before that – we went to a playgroup together when we were three. Our mums were good friends. Apparently, I used to be really nasty to Amy, that's my friend, and I used to take all her toys off her. I suppose I was a bit of a baby bully! We get on fine these days and spend most of our free time together. We're not inseparable, but I still can't imagine life without her.

Speaker B: Jim and I got friendly when we were at college. We were both on the same football team and used to have a laugh after practice every Thursday evening. Now we're definitely best mates and, among other things, we go to matches together every Saturday. We hang out in the evenings sometimes too.

Speaker C: My best friend is my mum! I know that sounds a bit odd, but it's true. She's a wonderful person. She's always busy, running the home as well as doing a full time job, but she's also always got time for me and my brothers. Whenever I've got something on my mind, she makes time to sit down and talk it through. And she never talks down to me – you know, like I'm only a kid – she talks to me like I'm grown up, with my own opinions and things.

Speaker D: It's odd, but I can't say that I've actually got a best friend. I tend to have two or three really good friends, but not one that I go around with all the time. I like cheerful people around me because I think it's important to laugh a lot and not think too seriously about life! My friends at the moment are all in the same class as me at school, so we've got a lot in common – we're interested in similar things. I'm quite sporty and so are they.

Unit Test 2

02

- Mark:** Hi, Anna! I love your car!
- Anna:** Thanks. Dad gave it to me when I passed my test last month.
- Mark:** Congratulations! Did you know my brother Kev has just started driving lessons?
- Anna:** But Kev is only 14. Surely that's illegal?
- Mark:** It's a new driving school and they teach kids as young as 11, but they don't spend any time on public roads. It's all done on private land.
- Anna:** I don't know that there's a lot of point in that, is there? Surely one of the most important things is learning how to cope with traffic, isn't it? You don't get that when you're on a car park or in a private field.
- Mark:** I know what you mean. I thought it was a bit of a crazy idea at first. But I think there are some real advantages to it. If youngsters know how to control the car well before they actually go out on the roads, that's got to be a good thing. I agree that they need to learn to drive in traffic too, but it's a start. The idea is that it could reduce accidents a lot.
- Anna:** Yeah – you're right. Anything that can cut accidents has got my vote. But there may be another problem with learning how to drive early. We're all a bit over-confident when we're young, aren't we? I know I used to think I could do just about anything! Don't you think that learning to drive that young could make kids a bit too confident when they can actually go out on the roads?
- Mark:** You've got a point! Kevin is certainly being really arrogant about it at the moment! He says he can drive better than the rest of us in the family!
- Anna:** But then again, I suppose there are some advantages too. At Kevin's age you learn things really quickly. And there's not so much pressure. It's more like a sport or hobby than something scary. I remember I was scared stiff when I started learning to drive because I went onto the roads so quickly!
- Mark:** Don't I remember! Yeah – the instructors sometimes push you much too quickly. I'd have liked to be a bit more confident with driving before meeting my first bus in heavy traffic! The trouble is it's so expensive. I don't know about you, but it took me ages to pass my test. I had to take it several times and it cost my dad a fortune.
- Anna:** I passed first time – no problem!
- Mark:** OK, OK!

Unit Test 3

03

Boy: Hi! Where have you been? I've been trying to contact you all week. There's a party at Mike's on Saturday. D'you fancy going?

Girl: Sounds good. You'll never guess what I've been doing. I've been back to Winchester, the city where I grew up. You know, this is the first time I've been back since Mum and Dad moved to Devon.

Boy: Wow! I bet you noticed quite a few changes.

Girl: I didn't recognise the town centre! It's completely car-free and there are loads of new shops. Of course, all the important places are still there – the museums, the square and that big old statue of King Alfred! And the theatre hasn't changed – it still needs some paint! But they've pulled down my old primary school and built a high rise block of flats there!

Boy: Were you upset to see how it's changed?

Girl: In a way – yes. It was sad to see that the old school has gone. But life moves on, and a lot of the changes have made the place better. It seems a lot cleaner now, and there are more trees and parks than there were before. Dad was quite upset, though. His favourite café has gone, and with the new one-way road system into town he got lost several times!

Boy: Did you use to live in the centre?

Girl: No, we had a bungalow in the suburbs, and I used to commute into the centre every day by bus. We went back to see our old bungalow too, and they've built another house in the back garden! The garden was one of the best things about the house and now it's gone. I guess that's sad as well.

Boy: It's not always a good idea to go back.

Girl: You're right – so let's look forward. What's this about a party on Saturday?

Review Test 1, Units 1–3

04**1**

Boy: Did you see that film about the big motorway accident in 2009?

Girl: The one where a doctor loses his memory after the crash? He can't remember anything – not even his own children. It's one of my favourite films!

Boy: Mine too. He has an operation, but it still takes a year for him to remember things. And even then he can't remember his wife!

Girl: And the guy who causes the accident is an escaped prisoner. Kyle Martin plays him – he's brilliant. In the end, he helps the doctor to remember the crash and then he gets better.

2

Hi! It's Gary. I've just been on the phone to the airport, and it seems that our flight to Athens, which was due to take off at 2.30, has been delayed because of bad weather conditions, so it's going to be an hour later. That means we don't have to rush so much, so I'll pick you up at 11.30 instead of 10.30, and that should give us plenty of time. I hope that's OK. If not, give me a ring on this number. I'll be here until 11.00. See you later – I'm really getting excited now!

3

Boy 1: So, you're back! Did you have a great time?

Boy 2: It was dreadful. Don't ask!

Boy 1: But the weather was brilliant for camping. What went wrong?

Boy 2: Yeah. Apart from a little rain on the Friday, we were lucky with the weather. At least the campsite was dry. And the site itself was very good – loads of facilities such as shops, cafés and things for the kids to do. But unfortunately we put our tent next to a caravan and the people in it were a nightmare! They had seven children who never stopped running around and they played music loudly until 3 o'clock every morning!

Boy 1: But couldn't the owners of the campsite do anything?

Boy 2: They tried, but nothing worked. I'm so tired – I need another holiday to recover!

4

Boy: I hear you've moved. Where are you living now?

Girl: It's quite close to you, actually. We've got a fourth floor flat in Kennet Road.

Boy: Oh, I know it. It's a small block next to the post office.

- Girl:** You're thinking of Danwell Gardens. We're opposite, just by the park. It would be fantastic, but the lift doesn't work, so we have to use the stairs all the time!
- Boy:** Well, that's good exercise. It's better than paying a fortune to use the gym at the leisure centre!
- Girl:** That's true!

Unit Test 4

► 05

- 1**
- Boy:** How did you celebrate your birthday last week? Did you go to the cinema?
- Girl:** Well, I wanted to go out for a big meal with everyone, but my best friends were on holiday in Paris, so I went out with the family to the theatre to see a new play and we all went for a quick meal afterwards.
- Boy:** Maybe you can have a big celebration when your friends get back.
- Girl:** Yep! A double celebration would be good!

2

- Girl:** Are you going to watch the new cookery programme on Channel 5 tonight?
- Boy:** I'm not sure. I like cooking and learning new recipes, but I don't really enjoy all those competition shows that are on those days.
- Girl:** I know what you mean. Celebrities competing to see who can please the judges most is probably going to be a bit boring.
- Boy:** I'd like to see more programmes about cooking dishes from other countries. I think that would be really popular. I'd definitely watch something like that.

3

- Boy:** Hi! Have you heard? Jack's got a job in that new restaurant that's opening next to the supermarket in the High Street.
- Girl:** That's great news. I know he's been looking for part-time work for ages. It should be interesting.
- Boy:** Yes. I think it's going to be quite hard work and he'll finish late, but he'll earn more than he did when he was working in the clothes shop.

4

- Megan:** Hi, Emily, how are things? Are you feeling better now?
- Emily:** Hi, Megan, yes, I feel fine now, thanks.

- Megan:** Listen I'm just calling to say that I think it would be better to meet *inside* the restaurant, if that's OK with you.
- Emily:** Yes, of course that would be fine. Why the change?
- Megan:** Well, I'm not a hundred percent sure of the exact time that Ben finishes football practice and I don't want you waiting around outside if we're a bit late. It will be more comfortable for you if you wait for us inside.
- Emily:** Yes, no problem, Megan. Sounds like a good idea. I'm really looking forward to it.
- Megan:** Great, bye then.
- Emily:** Bye, Megan.

5

- Rob:** Hi, Vanessa. Did you read that amazing article about high tech restaurants? Mind-blowing.
- Vanessa:** Oh, hi, Rob. Do you mean that programme last night? I heard Max talking about it earlier. I thought it was quite freaky!
- Rob:** Ha ha! Max always exaggerates. No, I didn't see that. Apparently it was on the radio too.
- Vanessa:** OK, you mean in the student mag? No, I haven't read that yet.

Unit Test 5

► 06

- Speaker A:** In some countries, kids start official school as young as four! I think that's crazy. At that age, children should be learning how to play, not spending the day sitting in a classroom. It doesn't make much difference when children start to learn to read and write, because after a few years they're all usually at the same stage whenever they started, so I don't think there's an academic advantage at all! They're only children for a short time, so let them enjoy it! They've got their whole lives to take exams!
- Speaker B:** A friend of mine sends her three-year-old boy to a nursery school, and he loves it. It's like a big party every day! They don't sit the children in rows and teach them reading and writing – although he *can* write his name, and he's very proud of that. Most of the time they play and do painting and sports. He's an only child, so it's good for him to meet and mix with other children. Learning how to socialise is just as important as learning to read, in my opinion!
- Speaker C:** I think parents who send their children to a nursery school where they can start learning to read at an early age have got it right. Children are so keen to learn and they learn so quickly, why

not take advantage of it? If they learn to read when they are young, it's the gateway to all learning, isn't it? I remember how proud I was when I read my first book and since then I've never stopped! It's a pity that not all countries provide early education free for children under five.

Speaker D: There are a couple of problems I can see with children going to a nursery school and learning how to read and write before they go on to proper primary school. Their new teacher has to start all the children in her class at the same point, and those who can already read are going to get bored, aren't they? That can cause all sorts of problems. Some parents want to push their children to be the best, but is that really a good thing for the children?

Unit Test 6

► 07

Speaker A: We had to do science subjects at school until we were 15 and then we were allowed to choose to study another language or another arts subject like drama instead. I have to say that I really hated my science lessons. It wasn't because we had bad teachers or that I couldn't understand it – it was just that I much prefer books and stories and things like that. I'm not that interested in finding out how and why things work!

Speaker B: When I studied science at school, I don't think the teachers made it interesting enough for us. I look at the science books my daughter brings home today, and it all looks so exciting! But when I was at school, it was boring and nobody really liked it much. I think I missed more lessons than I went to!

Speaker C: From my first lesson, I fell in love with science! I think all my friends thought I was crazy! But I was just fascinated by all the experiments – it was like magic to me. I even invented my own camera when I was eight! To me, it's the most important thing in the world and I know I'm going to work with science somehow when I leave school. Maybe I'll be an inventor and make clever gadgets!

Speaker D: We had some great science teachers when I started science lessons, and I really liked all science subjects, especially biology. My ambition at the age of 11 was to be a science teacher – not many people can say that, can they? But later on, I started to find it really difficult. I got some bad marks in exams and decided that maybe science wasn't for me. Pity really. Maybe, if I'd tried harder ... who knows?

Speaker E: My memories of science lessons when I was at school are very good, but for the wrong reasons! I was so naughty in science classes and I used to encourage the other students to be naughty too. One day we nearly set the whole laboratory on fire when we experimented with the wrong chemicals. We thought it was great fun, but I don't think the teachers did! I'm an IT teacher myself now and I know what it's like to have students like me in their class!

Review Test 2, Units 4–6

► 08

Girl: Hi! I hear you've got a new laptop. I thought you'd only bought your last one six months ago. Has it crashed already?

Boy: No! It's absolutely fine, but I really didn't make the right choice six months ago. My old computer had stopped working and I panicked and bought the first computer I saw in the shop!

Girl: Oh, I remember. You lost a lot of work on that old computer, didn't you?

Boy: Yeah. I was right in the middle of an important project when it died and I lost everything I'd done. It's my own fault because I didn't save my files regularly. I'll know better in future! Anyway, there was no point in getting it repaired because that was far too expensive and the computer was very old. So I bought a new one and now I realise that I can't do everything I want. Also, the screen is much too small.

Girl: So, what are you going to do with that one? Are you going to sell it?

Boy: Yes. I mean, it's only six months old and it's a good computer. There's nothing wrong with it. Why? Are you looking for another computer yourself?

Girl: Yes. My old computer's getting very slow now and it keeps shutting down. So, I'll be needing a new one, but not immediately. I can't afford it!

Boy: Well, I think mine would be perfect for you. It's up-to-date and it's great for what you need.

Girl: It sounds just right. I'm not like you – I don't need it for work, just for general use. Oh yes, and computer games, of course!

Boy: OK. Well, if you're serious, I won't advertise it just yet. And when you're ready, you can have it.

Girl: Thanks a million! It'll probably only be a couple of weeks. Oh, by the way, I haven't asked you how much you want for it.

- Boy:** As you're such a good friend, let's say £300. Is that OK?
- Girl:** No, that's too cheap. I'll give you three fifty. It's worth at least five.
- Boy:** Well, if you're sure, then that's a deal. And you can have my old printer for another 20, if you like. I've also bought a brand new top-of-the range printer!
- Girl:** Thanks. You should be a salesman!

Unit Test 7

▶ 09

- Girl:** You know, I've been practising and practising, but I'm never going to get much better at tennis. I just haven't got the skill! I'm not going to win this match this evening.
- Boy:** That's rubbish! If you put your mind to it, anyone can do anything!
- Girl:** So, you're saying that skill isn't important? That's crazy! Look at Nadal. He's not an ordinary tennis player who just practised a lot – he's ... he's ... special.
- Boy:** OK. He's got a lot of talent, but that's only half the battle. He's got the right attitude. He wants to win. He believes he can win and so he wins.
- Girl:** So, if I sit here saying "I'm going to win", I will?
- Boy:** You've got to believe it, silly! And to get to the very top like Nadal, you have to spend every minute on the tennis court.
- Girl:** I just can't believe that desire can get you everything. There are thousands of kids playing tennis all around the world who desperately want to get to the top, but they won't because it's not possible. Only one person can get to the top, however much all the others want it and however long they practise!
- Boy:** OK, OK. There is something else that's important.
- Girl:** And what's that? Apart from talent?
- Boy:** It's something that's really important to anyone who becomes successful. It's luck. You need to be in the right place at the right time.
- Girl:** And to know the right people.
- Boy:** That helps too! If you meet the right people, they can help with your career. If you happen to have an amazing coach when you're at school, you get a better start than a lot of others.

- Girl:** And you need to have a lot of money so that you can buy the latest equipment – like tennis racquets – and pay for the best coaches.
- Boy:** True. Top players also need to travel a lot to all the best tournaments to play against other good players. That takes money.
- Girl:** And you need to be good! So, my tennis coach isn't brilliant, my racquet is very cheap, I don't get the time to practise very much and tonight I'm playing the best player in this part of the country – somehow I don't think I've got much of a chance, do you?
- Boy:** OK. I see your point. Why don't you borrow my lucky tennis ball – I think you might need it!

Unit Test 8

▶ 10

- Girl:** Hi! I know you were really worried about your first night. I was thinking of you! How did it go?
- Boy:** You weren't there? I thought you were coming with Peter.
- Girl:** No, I'm really sorry. Thursdays after school is Arts Club, and it finished really late yesterday. We were doing some sculpture and needed to get them finished. By the time we'd had something to eat, it was too late. But don't worry – we'll be there tonight!
- Boy:** Actually – it's probably a good thing you didn't come last night – so many things went wrong!
- Girl:** First nights are always like that! I remember when I was in a play in my second year. We all forgot our lines and one of the cast was so frightened she couldn't go on the stage. It was a nightmare.
- Boy:** Amazingly, I didn't forget my words, but Harry did – right in the middle of his big speech at the end of the play! It was so embarrassing.
- Girl:** So, what happened?
- Boy:** Well, luckily I knew his lines too, so I told him – very quietly – and then he was OK and we got to the end all right. But that wasn't the only thing – Mark fell over a chair and nearly went into the audience. Everyone laughed – and it was supposed to be a sad bit! Oh, and you won't believe this – the lights all went off – just when Romeo was talking to Juliet on the balcony! It was so funny, they had to act the whole scene in darkness. Apparently, Fred turned off the wrong switch in the lighting box. Our teacher Mr Timms, was furious!
- Girl:** I'm not surprised! Were there lots of people there?

- Boy:** Oh yes, it was completely full! Mainly parents I think, and family. And I think, in spite of everything, they enjoyed it. Well, they cheered a lot at the end.
- Girl:** I'm really looking forward to coming tonight. Don't worry, after last night's problems, everything will be fine.
- Boy:** I hope so.
- Girl:** Good luck, then!
- Boy:** No, you're supposed to say 'break a leg' – it's an acting superstition!
- Girl:** After your problems last night, I don't think that's a good idea!

Unit Test 9

► 11

- Speaker A:** I could vote this year if I wanted to, but there's no way that I'm going to! I know people say we're lucky to have a vote and we should use it, but quite honestly I can't see much difference between all the main parties, so how can I decide who to choose? It's a bit of a waste of time really because in the end they all do the same silly things.
- Speaker B:** I have pretty strong political views, but I know I won't be voting in this election because the party I support never gets many votes. Everyone knows who's going to win, so there's not a lot of point in voting really, is there? We need a change in the voting system to really reflect the population's opinions, and that's not going to happen soon.
- Speaker C:** Politics bores me. It's all about a lot of people talking and talking about the economy and transport and international affairs – all things that don't really affect me, at least it seems like that to me. It's all pretty boring, if you ask me. Maybe I'll vote when I'm older, but definitely not in this election.
- Speaker D:** I can't vote because basically I have no idea what all the parties are saying. It seems really complicated, and I don't think people should make decisions without knowing all the facts – and I don't. I think it's interesting, but I don't have the time to try to understand all the little differences between the parties. One day, hopefully.
- Speaker E:** My family has always been quite right-wing, but my ideas and opinions are a bit different. My mum and dad always vote and I think it's a duty really – everyone who can, should vote in an election. After all, it's our future we're talking about here, isn't it? I'm looking forward to voting when I'm the right age. I just don't understand those young people who say they aren't going to vote because their vote isn't important. That's just ridiculous!

Review Test 3, Units 7–9

► 12

- Speaker A:** I fell in love with the sea at a very early age. My family had a boat and my dad taught me to sail when I was just five. I've hardly spent one weekend away from a sailing boat since then! Now that I'm spending all week under people's cars, I really value being out in the open air at the weekend. I know the sport costs a lot in terms of equipment and sports gear, but for me it's definitely worth it!
- Speaker B:** We get a lot of bad publicity. People say that we earn far too much money, but really, that's only for the footballers at the very top. My salary is nothing like the crazy figures you read in the newspapers! If only! I just love my sport and I feel very lucky that I can get paid for doing it. There's a lot more pressure, though, because you know that your career depends on how well you play and if you hurt yourself, it can affect your future.
- Speaker C:** I've been a snowboarding fanatic since I was 13 and I must admit I'm quite good at it now. I just love the thrill and excitement and I suppose the danger a bit too! I get fed up that I can't practise more often. I suppose if we lived in Norway or Switzerland, I'd be on the slopes all the time, but I can't persuade Mum and Dad to move, so I have to wait for the holidays.
- Speaker D:** I've been lucky because my parents have always encouraged me and used to get up at five every morning to take me to swimming practice before school. I must admit, that's one of the things I don't enjoy about my sport, but if you want to swim competitively, you have to train very hard and very long hours. When I won at the Olympics last year, it seemed that all that hard work had been worth it.
- Speaker E:** I think the reason I started weightlifting was the same as for a lot of guys. When I was younger, I was a bit overweight and I got bullied a bit at school, so I thought I'd work out and get some muscles. I found I really enjoyed the weights and so focused on that. I do some competitions, but I'm not top class. I'm not that keen on watching my diet all the time, so I don't think I'll ever get to the very top. But I'm happy with my day job, which is teaching kids to swim and play different sports at our leisure centre.

Unit Test 10

► 13

Speaker A: I usually go shopping with friends and I must admit, I never take my husband with me because I'm definitely an impulse buyer, particularly with clothes. I don't go shopping with an idea of what I want. If I see something I like, I buy it! After all, sometimes you can spend ages looking for something specific and never find it. So, if something catches my eye, that's it! And I don't regret it later – well, not usually!

Speaker B: I wouldn't say I spend a lot of money shopping. For me, the fun is more in the experience of shopping, rather than the actual buying. Most of my free time is spent training for competitions, so the time I get to spend walking around the shops is really precious. I also think I'm quite good at buying what I've set out to buy and I don't get persuaded by discounts or special bargains.

Speaker C: Yes, I spend a lot of time in the shops as I'm continually looking for smart clothes that don't cost a fortune. I have to be quite fashionable as I'm standing in front of a class every day! But I'm quite careful about what I spend as I don't earn a lot, so I do a lot of price comparing.

Speaker D: I don't actually enjoy shopping very much, particularly clothes shopping. I don't like crowds, and a lot of the shops play really loud music, which I don't like either. My kids love that sort of thing, but not me. I'd rather do my shopping online. I know there are problems with that, but it saves me a lot of time and means I don't have to suffer in the town centre!

End of Year Test

► 14

Presenter: We recently carried out an experiment with several teenagers to see how much they relied on their mobile phones and how they would feel if they didn't have them for a while. The teenagers had to try living for a week without their phones. We're going to hear from Grant and Marian about what the week was like for them.

So, Grant, it must have been a difficult week for you. Tell us about it.

Grant: Well, when I agreed to take part I knew it was going to be tough. I mean, my phone goes everywhere with me and I'm, like, on it all the time! So the thought of a whole week without it was dead scary! And to be honest it was a total nightmare! I knew I didn't have it on me, but I couldn't stop checking my pockets. Everywhere I went, my hand went into my pocket! And at night, you won't believe it, but I actually had hallucinations! I like to check my emails and messages if I wake up in the night – of course, this week I couldn't, but the phone kept waking me up. I clearly remember it ringing loudly a couple of times in the night. I leant over to answer it and – no phone. Crazy or what? Oh, it was great to have it finally back at the end of the week. I feel a whole person again! If I didn't have a phone, I think my life would be impossible!

Presenter: What about you, Marian? Was your experience the same?

Marian: You know, before the week started, I was convinced I was an addict. The thought of being without the phone made me feel sick. And the first few days were a real struggle. I felt completely lost, as though I had no identity. Without it, I felt totally out of touch. I was moody, I couldn't concentrate on anything and I must have been a pain to be with! But then I really surprised myself. I sort of accepted not having it. By the middle of the week, I found I wasn't missing texting or calling friends and I actually started going round to see them instead! What I did notice was that without the phone I completely lost track of time. I don't have a watch and I realise now that I rely on my phone for a lot more than just calling or texting. But I got through the week and it's good to know that I'm *not* an addict! I quite honestly don't know if I really want it back, but if anyone had told me that last week, I'd never have believed them!