

1

You hear a teenager talking to a friend about becoming a firefighter.

Boy: So how come you're still working in the supermarket? I thought you were going to apply to be a firefighter. Aren't you tall enough or something?

Girl: Cheeky thing! I'm not *that* short. And anyway, it doesn't matter how tall or short you are, as long as you pass the fitness tests. No, I've still got to wait another six months – till my eighteenth. I'll be old enough to start training then.

Boy: And what about your glasses? You never see firefighters wearing specs, do you?

Girl: Yeah, I was a bit worried about that. But I checked it out on their webpage, and I don't think it'll be a problem. You can be a firefighter with worse vision than I have.

- A. She can't until she turns 18.
- B. She has problems with her sight but that's not a deterrent.
- C. She says she's not 'that' (so) short. She might not be very tall, but tall enough to become a firefighter.

Language:

- How come: *com és... ?, ¿Y eso?*
- Specs: anteojos (outdated)

1 You hear a teenager talking to a friend about becoming a firefighter.

What has prevented her from making an application?

- A her age
- B her eyesight
- C her height

2

You hear a wildlife cameraman talking on the radio about his work.

Man: Obviously, there's an element of risk involved. I often spend long periods on my own in some very isolated places, and if I'm attacked by a bear or bitten by a snake there's no one there to help me. But I value my personal safety and take precautions to prevent that kind of thing happening. Actually, to be honest, it's a rather dull and monotonous existence much of the time. Last year I spent six weeks alone in a Himalayan hut for just five minutes' footage of snow leopards. Next month I'll be trying to film pumas in the Andes.

Of course, I may not succeed, but that's the attraction for me. Never knowing if you'll get what you want. Because when you do, it's priceless.

- A. He says there's an element of risk, but it's not a highlight.
- B. He says he spends long periods on his own in isolated places, but that's not a highlight.
- C. He considers it priceless not knowing if he'll be successful in his attempt to film pumas, and that unpredictability is recurrent in his job.**

Language:

- Bear /'bɛəʳ/
- Priceless: *que no té preu de tan valuós com és*

2 You hear a wildlife cameraman talking on the radio about his work.

What aspect of his work does he particularly enjoy?

- A the solitude
- B the danger
- C the unpredictability

3

You hear a woman talking about a walking holiday she is going on soon with some friends.

Woman: We're spending another week in the Lake District next month. Just a small group of us. I have to say I'm looking forward to not having someone telling me what to do every day. We had a guide the last two times we went. Steve his name was. Nice chap – very competent. Not like these guides you hear about that get lost or make you walk further than you really want to. In fact, he phoned Julie up to see if we'd be needing him again. But we're going to do it without him this year. We'll be able to get up when we decide and we can plan our own walks. It should be fun.

- A. He says he's looking forward to that moment when no one will tell her what to do.
- B. He phoned to offer himself as a guide, but they decided they wouldn't hire him.
- C. The opposite: Nice chap, very competent.

Language:

- Look forward to (preposition) + -ING
- Priceless: *que no té preu de tan valuós com és*

3 You hear a woman talking about a walking holiday she is going on soon with some friends.

Why are they going without a guide?

- A They will have more freedom to do what they want.
- B They cannot find a guide for the place they are going to.
- C They have had a bad experience with a guide in the past.

You hear a commercial fisherman being interviewed on the radio.

Interviewer: Is it hard being away from home for so long?

Fisherman: It would be really tough if I was married and had kids, like some of the other guys. But in my case I guess you could say the crew is my family. We live, work, eat and breathe together for weeks on end.

Interviewer: Do you ever get fed up with each other?

Fisherman: Sure, we have arguments from time to time, just like families do. But we talk together and sort things out. You have to. The thing is

that living conditions are cramped, even on the larger boats, and it's difficult to get away from each other. Sometimes I'd do anything for a bit of space to myself.

- A. He doesn't have a spouse or kids, the crew is his family.
- B. Living conditions are cramped, busy, overcrowded and sometimes he wishes she had a bit of space to himself only.**
- C. Although they do have arguments occasionally, they sort things out.

Language:

- Get on with: *dur-se bé*
- Sort out: to solve

4 You hear a commercial fisherman being interviewed on the radio.

How does he feel about life at sea?

- A He often misses his family.
- B He dislikes the lack of privacy.
- C He doesn't get on with the crew.

5

You hear a British woman talking about travelling to Mongolia.

Woman: The whole reason for going to a place like Mongolia is to experience a different way of life. And to do that you need to be prepared to put up with conditions you might complain about on a holiday at home. Let's face it, you aren't likely to get much of a feel for the country if you stay in a five-star hotel. Spending a week with the nomads on the other hand gives you a wonderful insight into life in Mongolia. OK, so you might not sleep so well in a tent, and maybe some of the food isn't what you would normally choose to eat. But it's a real privilege to spend time in the presence of these warm and fascinating people.

- A. **The conditions are not ideal, not like the ones you would have in your country, probably, so you need to be ready to put up with that.**
- B. The reference to food has to do with that kind of food which might not be of your preference.
- C. Nomads are warm people but nothing is said about them giving gifts.

Language:

- Put up with: *suportar*
- Sort out: to solve

5 You hear a British woman talking about travelling to Mongolia.

What advice does she give to tourists who visit Mongolia?

- A** They should be tolerant of discomfort.
- B** They should avoid some of the local food.
- C** They should take gifts for the nomads.

6

You hear an elderly man talking about retirement.

Man: I'm still very active, so I can't complain. Not like some people I know who've retired. You see it with some of my neighbours – they're grumpy, irritable and they spend half their time moaning. Probably because they never do anything. The couple who live next door to me just sit in front of the telly all day – you never see them. You can't cut yourself off like that – you've got to get out and do things. If I'm not up in the hills walking, I'm in the local library or playing bowls. I never stop. I just get a bit worried now and then that one day I won't have my health and I won't be able to do all the things I do now. I wouldn't like that.

- A. His neighbours do cut themselves off, not him.
- B. His neighbours are grumpy, irritable and often moan, not him.
- C. Anxious, worried, that in the future he won't be in a good shape.**

Language:

- To moan about something: queixar-se
- Telly: short for television
- Cut oneself off: to take distance, to disconnect from what surrounds you

6 You hear an elderly man talking about retirement.

How does he say he sometimes feels now that he has retired?

- A isolated
- B bad-tempered
- C anxious

7

You overhear a woman talking about her husband.

Woman: Jim likes what he does. He seems to get on well with everyone, especially the young lads who are in there for long sentences. Some of the officers act as if they're in the army – they're good at giving orders but they don't talk much to the prisoners. Jim's different, though – he's just naturally friendly. You know, some of the inmates don't get a lot of visits, so they tell him all their problems. He's a really good listener. Actually, next month he'll have been working there for ten years. He's never stayed in a job for as long as that before. He used to be in the police force, of course, but he never really took to it. It was too stressful, so he left after a couple of years.

- A. Some of his workmates act as if they were army officers, not him.
- B. Young lads with long sentences, inmates, are mentioned.**
- C. He used to be one, not any more.

Language:

- Sentences: *sentència*
- Inmates: prisoners
- Take to: start liking

7 You overhear a woman talking about her husband.

What is her husband's job?

- A an army officer
- B a prison officer
- C a police officer

8

You hear an extract from a radio play.

Man: Here's a good job for you – in the hotel business.

Girl: Yeah, I saw that one. I'm not going to apply for it, though.

Man: Why not? You got some decent qualifications at school, and you've had a bit of experience here. I think you've got a good chance.

Girl: There's no point. It says you need *two years'* experience – like every other job that's going. I don't know how people like me are supposed to find work. Age discrimination, my dad calls it.

Man: Bah, don't worry about that. They say that so they don't get millions of applications. I'll write you a good reference. You've been a real help to me working here. I'm just sorry I've got to sell the café.

- A. His father mentions age discrimination, but it's not the one speaking with her now.
- B. She's been of help at his workplace, a café.**
- C. He mentions she has good qualifications, but not that he gave them to her.

Language:

- café /'kæfeɪ/
- Inmates: prisoners
- Take to: start liking

8 You hear an extract from a radio play.

What is the man's relationship with the teenage girl?

- A He is her father.
- B He is her employer.
- C He is one of her teachers.