

Task 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You will hear each extract two times.

1

Now if you're planning on making a quick getaway this weekend, you may want to rearrange your plans. As if it wasn't difficult enough last weekend with the train strike and the fog delaying flights midweek, there are a number of motorway repairs being carried out over the next few days which are bound to affect journey times, so for more detailed information phone the travel hot-line on...

2

A: It's a number of years now, Lionel, since you brought out your illustrated book on garden plants but I know you are very busy with another project.

B: Yes, I am. When I was researching the book of flowers, I became quite interested in butterflies and my publisher suggested I should make them the subject of my next book. But I wasn't that keen.

A: So?

B: Well, I think it was wandering through the woods looking for plants when I first noticed how fascinating life on the floor of the woodland is. Quite amazing, another world in fact. All kinds of tiny creatures crawling around.

3

I mean, you know I wasn't looking forward to that meeting with the boss. He goes on and on and never knows when to stop, he never seems to realise that people get really bored when he starts lecturing them. Added to which of course, I was worrying over how I was going to explain that mistake I'd made. And then, would you believe, his secretary rings to say he's been delayed and he's decided not to go ahead after all so I can forget my appointment.

4

Following on from last month's successful family concert which was a sell-out, National Promotions are pleased to announce their new series of concerts beginning in the autumn with a really exciting offer. Whatever price of ticket you purchase, we will match it with a free ticket at the same price. So bring along a friend or one of the family and enjoy a concert for half the normal price. Don't forget to book early if you want to enjoy a candle-lit supper before or after the concert in one of our restaurants. For further details, contact our booking office on...

5

A: Can I help you, sir? Would you like the porter to take your suitcase to your room?

B: No, thank you. I'm afraid I can't get my case unlocked. I usually carry two keys but I can't find either at the moment, so I wonder if you have one. It's a standard lock, nothing special. I've tried to break it with my penknife without success even though it's only small. I suppose I could just cut into the top of it as it's fairly soft material but then I'll have ruined it and have to buy another one.

A: I'll see what I can do for you, sir, I know we have some. Just wait a few minutes and I'll have a look.

6

It's always exciting when a new exhibition opens. Especially one where you know some or your own work is hanging. There's also the opportunity to buy some of the work on display. I'm not so keen on meeting new people but I do like gossiping with friends about the new artists and what they're up to. No more painting in oils for this generation, they are far more adventurous, I love looking at those huge canvases covered with sand, bits of glass and metal, things that in my day we would've considered to be rubbish!

7

Hi, Celia, it's me. Yes, I'm at the airport. No, no, I've got my passport – unlike last time when I forgot it. Look, I'm afraid I've left my diary. No, not the big desk one, the one I keep in my handbag – it's on top of my laptop computer. I know, I was going to bring my laptop but I just couldn't carry anything else. Well, if it's not there, it'll be in the top drawer of my desk. Yes? Brilliant. Can you get here in the next hour? I'll wait at check in – and thank you!

8

Hello. My name is Birch, Alan Birch, that's right, yes, from the studio. Yes, my usual please, no, hang on, I think I'd like a different topping. Can I have mushrooms instead of onion? I'm sorry this is bad line, I can hardly hear you, it's breaking up. What? I'm in my car, yes, stuck in a traffic jam. I'm absolutely starving. Look, can you get the boy to go round to my office – opposite the studio – and I'll pick it up from here? Sure, I'll be in my car. If he waits on the pavement outside, I'll pay him when I get there. Great. Thank a lot.

Task 2

You will hear five different people talking about the importance of modern inventions. Match the speaker with the statement. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1. I used to think television was the most brilliant invention because you could sit in an armchair and have a window on the world. But in the last couple of years I've changed my mind. For me now the best thing ever is the mobile phone. I mean they used to be so heavy and not that attractive to carry around. But now they're tiny and light – I never go anywhere without mine. And you can buy personalised covers and even change the covers to match what you're wearing. Some of my friends are so cool – they dye their hair to match their phones and their watch straps as well. I mean how amazing is that?!
2. There are so many things that I think I couldn't live without. My mum moans at me because I can't be bothered to cook. But I mean who needs to cook when there are so many takeaway places. Nor can I imagine life without radio and TV, but if there's one thing that's made a big difference to my life it's the cash

machine. I can relax about getting money and not rush around trying to get to a bank before it closes. I was always running out of cash but now at any time of day or night I can turn up at a hole in the wall, put my card in and magic – there's the money! No hassle.

3. I know there are all sorts of wonderful inventions and it's easy to take everything for granted. Like electricity – life as we know it would be impossible without it, I mean we depend on it for almost everything. But for me personally it's the car which I think has massively changed people's lives. I know that holidays in space are more or less a reality now, and you can reach any part of the world by plane. But it's the ease of the car, the fact that it offers you such freedom. Like you wake you in the morning and where would I like to go today? And you just do it!
4. I think some inventions are such fun. All these computer games, I really love them. And the fact that they're hand held is great. They help me relax when I'm feeling stressed and take my mind off whatever's worrying me, although I suppose I could live without them if I had to. But there is no way I could live without my e-mail. When we all left school last year, I made sure I had everyone's e-mail address and that means we all keep in touch and get to meet up with each other. And if we can't meet, then at least we know each other's news and what we're all doing.
5. I hate being without my electronic toothbrush, but I know that's silly because most people use an ordinary toothbrush and never think twice about it. But there is one invention which has really saved my life and that's my electronic diary. My girlfriend bought me one because she got so fed up with me forgetting arrangements. I've no excuse now for forgetting anything, even her birthday is programmed into it! They used to be dead expensive but now they've come down in price and I use mine all the time.

Task 3

My guest on today's programme 'What's New in Medicine' is Andrew Taylor. Andrew, welcome to the programme. Now I know there've been some pretty exciting developments recently in your area of work and one, in particular, which is close to your heart is the 'smart pill'.

Andrew Taylor: Well, I guess 'smart pill' is just a convenient term for what I think is going to be a pretty important development in medical technology. But what set us off looking at this in the laboratory is the fact that thousands of people each year are admitted to hospital because they have accidentally taken the wrong medicine or the wrong dose of medicine.

Interviewer: How come? Surely it must be quite difficult to do that?

Andrew Taylor: Not really. There're people who perhaps take quite a lot of medicine, tablets and so on, particularly elderly people, and so it's not difficult for them to pick up the wrong bottle or packet without realising. And then there're people with poor eyesight who can mistake one bottle for another, and for them the

risk of taking the wrong medicine is even higher. People are very sensitive and they worry about getting things wrong and getting into trouble with their doctor.

Interviewer: I see – but it's not their fault.

Andrew Taylor: Of course not. So what we've come up with is a simple system for reading pill labels out loud. And this will be of great benefit to people whose sight is not very good. We've been experimenting with the system and generally speaking most people are both amazed and delighted with it.

Interviewer: How does it work?

Andrew Taylor: Well, the system consists of special labels which contain tiny microchips. The microchip contains all the important information about the medicine for that particular patient. Their name, how many to take – if it's pills – and when to take them, such as before or after meals.

Interviewer: What if people are still unsure about something?

Andrew Taylor: Each microchip also has the name and address of their doctor as well as a phone number which people can ring if they have any questions.

Interviewer: So what is it that speaks out loud? The label?

Andrew Taylor: No, no. It's a thing called a reader. When a patient wants to take their medicine, they press a button on a small thing called a reader. You know the things that check-out assistants use in supermarkets which read the barcodes, the labels on whatever you're buying, well, the readers are like that. The reader sends out a radio signal to the microchip which returns the information recorded on the label. The reader then speaks this out loud.

Interviewer: Don't some people find that rather scary?

Andrew Taylor: A few maybe. Admittedly the voice is electronic and some people are put off by new technology. But once they get used to the voice, which is quite soft – it doesn't shout at them – they become confident that they are taking the right quantity of medicine and at the right time and that's really reassuring. And everyone agrees that without the new technology they could end up in hospital.

You have 15 seconds to complete the task. (Pause 15 seconds.)

Now you will hear the texts again. (Repeat.)

This is the end of the task. You now have 15 seconds to check your answers. (Pause 15 seconds.)