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## Listening scripts (7-8)

## Tasks 1-3

(Amanda)

People closest to me? Well the two people that I'm closest to are my mum, and my boyfriend, Nick. Mum and I have been through some difficult times, especially when I was about 14 to 15, but now that I don't live at home any more we get on much better. I always talk things through with her. I met Nick about a year ago. He's a very affectionate and generous person, and he's also really good fun to be with. The only thing is that I don't see him as often as I want to because he lives about an hour away from me. I spend a lot of time with my friend, Kerri. We see each other at least twice a week. We've known each other since we were 10 and totally share the same sense of humour. She's one of those people that are always cheerful and look on the bright side of life. I used to be quite close to a boy called Adam, who I met at university, but about six months ago he met his girlfriend and now he ignores his old friends and spends all his time with her. When we go out together he tries to phone his girlfriend every five minutes, which is really irritating. My family? Well I've got two sisters, but the age gap between us is so big that I'm not really close to either of them. I see Helen about once every six months, but Laura's very selfish. She only cares about herself and her career. She didn't even call me when I broke my leg and was in hospital for a week! How insensitive is that?

## Task 4

(I = Interviewer; S = Sue)

- I: Sue, you've been writing articles about famous people for the last 20 years. What do you think the advantages of being famous are?
- S: Well, I think the first is a sense of achievement, which is so important to them. They've done it. They've got to the **top of their tree** and so they feel good about themselves. Then, of course famous people usually, but not always, make a lot of money, so they have no financial worries, especially sports people, film stars, fashion designers, singers and others in the entertainment industry. Often famous people don't even have to spend money on clothes as fashion designers give their latest designs to them. When stars are seen wearing a designer's clothes, it's great free advertising. And of course you can always get a table at a restaurant or a ticket for a football match if you're famous.
- I: Anything else?

- S: The famous are always attracted to each other so I suppose you get to meet some interesting people.
- I: What about the downsides?
- S: I think there are several of these. Firstly, you have no privacy. Journalists and photographers follow you everywhere, taking pictures and writing stories about you. Then of course, there's the threat of being followed by crazy people or having your child kidnapped, so security is a big issue. John Lennon is perhaps the most famous example of a star whose security wasn't good enough. Then there's the constant pressure on you to **live up to the expectations of the public** if you're a film star you're expected to appear glamorous and exciting all the time. Finally, they often find it hard to make friends and have a normal relationship with someone. Famous people seem to be getting together and **breaking up** all the time.
- I: So, would you like to be famous yourself?
- S: Oh, let me see ... erm ... I think just for a month to sec what ii feels like I'd probably hate it after that!
- I: Why do you think some people are so desperate to become famous?
- S: That's a very interesting question. I often get this feeling that most of the people I've interviewed for magazines are really trying to compensate for some problems they think they have with their character. They **suffer from low self-esteem**; maybe they feel they weren't really loved by their parents, or they were **bullied at school.** So then there's this big desire to prove themselves and they have this **terrific drive to succeed.**

**WRITING** -

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