

Listening (Script)

Speaker one

I've just been to something I'm sure I'll remember all my life. It was one of my favourite bands of all time playing in front of the National Gallery. It was just the perfect setting – a square surrounded by elegant historic buildings. Quite a severe location in some ways but that suited their style. The bit I'll personally always treasure was how taken my son was by it all. Usually he's a bit dismissive of my tastes in songs but he agreed to let me drag him along and it was clear from his face that he found it spellbinding. I've now agreed to go along to watch a cricket match with him and hope I'll be equally surprised to find it enjoyable.

Speaker two

It was an absolutely extraordinary evening, well worth the long rail journey I'd had to make to get there. The speakers were excellent – managing to be both moving and witting in a way that seemed totally appropriate given the nature of the occasion. A hundred years since the halls that had housed such a major national exhibition had burnt down. But I remember the event also for personal reasons. I bumped into a friend I hadn't seen for good ten years, a guy I used to play football with before we both headed off to university. I'd thought about him often hadn't managed find out where he was living or what he was doing now – despite googling him every now and then.

Speaker three

When you think back over the memorable events in your life I think sometimes it's relatively ordinary ones that can stand out more than the big public occasions. My grandfather becoming eighty, for example, had a surprisingly significant impact on my life. A famous actor who'd been to school with Grandpa gave a very toughing speech about the importance of roots and it came to me with total clarity that I really did want to move back to the town where I grew up. I'd ben turning the idea

over my mind for quiet some time but might never have got round to doing anything about it had it not been for that speech.

Speaker four

I met Fiona we were both on a train going to the airport last month and we started talking about where we were heading. Fiona told me she was going back to the island where she'd spent many happy holidays as a child - but this time because she had to attend a conference in connection with her work as an architect. I explained that I was off to the city where I'd had the luck as a child to go to the opening ceremony of the winter Olympics. The thing that struck me most then were the fireworks over the snowy mountains. I don't think I've ever seen anything more stunning in the twenty years since.

Speaker five

I was a bit late coming home last night because I'd had to hand in a piece of lost property. I'd found a purse on the floor of the auditorium. You remember I was going to see one of my favorite plays. It was an excellent performance but I think I'll remember the evening most because of that purse. When I looked inside it the credit card had the name of a really famous political figure on it. Do you think they might ask to meet me when they learn their purse has been handed in? They should be very grateful because there was a lot of money in there. And I mean a lot! Enough to buy a new car!