

Tapescripts

1.

Presenter: One. You hear an expert giving advice about meeting people for the first time.

Dr Bazey: When you meet people for the first time, there's a general belief that it's the words you use that count most, so people tend to spend lots of time preparing how they're going to start a conversation – you know, their opening gambit, so to speak. However, research shows that before we've even opened our mouths people've already made up their minds about us just from our appearance alone. Then after that, it's things like our intonation and the tone of our voice. Our choice of words actually counts for very little. So, time spent in front of the mirror is probably time well spent! *Presenter:* Two. You hear a man and a woman talking about a successful relationship.

Mandy: So, Rob, congratulations! Still happily together after 25 years! What's the secret?

Rob: No secret, really. A bit of give and take and consideration for each other. I mean, even if we don't get on with all of each other's friends, at least we put up with them and don't show it. We don't take each other for granted, and we have lots of things in common – I'd say that's vital – things we enjoy doing together. Not that we're too alike in terms of character. I mean, I'm rather outgoing and dominating and I tend to go to extremes, while Liz is the more sensitive, cautious type. But that probably helps because I think we complement each other quite well.

2.

Presenter: Three. You hear a psychologist in the UK talking about intelligence.

Psychologist: Psychology's quite a young science, which means psychologists haven't had time to measure how or whether our minds are evolving, or whether in fact we're getting cleverer. It's hard to prove that our intelligence is actually increasing, even if young people nowadays tend to get higher marks in intelligence tests than they did 50 or 60 years ago. There are a variety of factors which could have an impact on this: better diets, our minds are stimulated more, or just getting more practice in tests of this type. At the same time, many people think that while exam results have been improving across the country, that's because the exams themselves aren't as demanding as they used to be.

Presenter: Four. You overhear a boy calling a friend on his mobile phone. *Jess:* Hi, Ade.

Ade: Oh hi there, Jess.

Jess: Um, Ade. I was (yawns) ... Sorry, I'm just so tired.

Ade: Oh, me too – who wouldn't be after all those midyear tests we've been doing!

Jess: Yeah, I've been up studying most nights, so sorry if I haven't been all that friendly.

Ade: No problem. Anyway, you weren't irritable with me, so I don't mind. Look, can we meet up some day next week instead of tomorrow, 'cos my mum's just told me I've got a dentist's appointment? *Jess:* Poor you. Have you got a toothache or something?

Ade: No, just my annual check-up.

Jess: Oh, that's all right, then. Let's catch up at school, shall we?

Ade: OK, see you then. Bye.

Presenter: Five. You overhear a man talking about things which frighten people.

Man: Oh, yeah, you know, I'll do anything to avoid them.

Woman: Including going up several flights of stairs?

Man: Oh, yes. I mean, I just won't go in them, so I sometimes arrive at places a bit breathless.

Woman: I bet!

Man: I think I must have got the problem when I got trapped in one as a kid. I can't have been there for more than ten minutes, but I was trembling when I came out. It's totally irrational, because we all know that they're completely safe. I suppose it's like planes – I mean they terrify lots of people, though statistically they're very safe.

Woman: Well, see you upstairs, then!

Presenter: Six. You hear a girl talking to a boy about a dream.

Boy: Have you ever had a recurring dream – you know, one of those dreams which repeats itself from time to time?

Girl: Yeah, I have, actually. I'm in one of those high places, a mountain top or the top of a building, and suddenly, for no reason, I'm falling. It's terrifying because I fall for some time, but then suddenly I wake up.

Boy: Wow, that's weird. Do you think it means anything?

Girl: Well, the interpretation I've read is that it's some sort of fear of failure. You know, there are all sorts of interpretations for other dreams. For example, that you could find something subconsciously threatening and your dream might be sort of pointing that out to you.

Presenter: Seven. You overhear two students talking about a classmate.

Rob: Cathy's been behaving a bit strangely lately, hasn't she? I mean, she's been very quiet and not talking much.

Ellie: Yes, she looks pretty stressed out and I guess it's been giving her bad nights. Rob: What's the problem, do you know? Is it to do with her exams or something? Ellie: Well, she had a maths exam last week, so she must have studied hard for it. But she's always been pretty hard-working, so she can't have got stressed by that. Anyway, she finds math easy.

Rob: Lucky her! Hey, do you think she might've had a row with her boyfriend? He can be a bit difficult sometimes, don't you think?

Ellie: Yeah, it must be something like that. Now you come to mention it, I haven't seen him around recently. Perhaps we'd better ask her about him.

Rob: And try and cheer her up.

Presenter: Eight. You hear a boy and a girl talking about the boy's free-time activities.

Boy: I read this thing on the Internet that says your free time activities say lots about you. If you like sport, you probably like being with other people. On the other hand, I'm someone who prefers doing things on his own, like playing computer games, and that probably shows the opposite, you know, that I'd rather be by myself.

Girl: And you don't feel so comfortable with other people, you mean?

Boy: Hmm, could be. Then again, people who enjoy travelling are often people who like taking risks, doing new things, if you see what I mean.

Girl: Well, you're obviously a stay-at-home type.

Boy: I sure am

3

2 lectures talking about the influence of black culture in Britain.

a)

Steve Redhead:

Black youth culture in Britain has a kind of similar history to white youth sub-cultures. You could say that all the way through from the 1950s, white youth culture was borrowing from black, particularly in places like Jamaica, America. And in the case of British black youth culture you actually had a whole series of sub-cultures, you had Rastas, you had some home boys etc and you can sketch in that history in terms of decades : 1960s,1970s, 1980s. But I think by the end of the 1980s what you got was black youth culture infused into all sorts of aspects of youth culture. A lot of white youth culture now, rave culture's a good example, is a borrowing from black music. House music from black gay clubs in Chicago and New York, that's where house music comes from. Black sub-cultures are still in existence, whereas white sub-cultures are a lot more fragmented. What you have now is really sub-cultures in the black community around music, around musical styles, hip-hop, reggae and so on. As for modern trends...

b)

Angela McRobbie talking about how ragamuffins look.

Angela McRobbie:

West Indian or Afro-Caribbean black youth culture remains on the cutting edge of style and music in Britain. Ragga, for example, in a style which continues to kind of break style rules and remains very visible on the street. Everything in ragga is kind of exaggerated, it combines very very baggy

trousers, sometimes falling right down well below the waist, very very subtle and interesting use of colours, a lot of label stuff, very very exclusive label jackets, very exclusive trainers, very very sharp haircuts and still an interest in sports clothes, and that combines with a fairly kind of slack presentation, both slack and provocative presentation of self. The idea of being on the outside, which Rasta and ragga represented, has given way to asserting defiantly that you are black and British, emphasizing the importance of actually taking on a British identity as well as black one. Black people continue to be....

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