

Listening script

Task 1

Aaron: That was a great Japanese lesson today!

Sophia: Yeah! I enjoyed trying to write the characters, though I haven't found a system for remembering them yet. It's challenging to study a language that is so different from your own, isn't it?

Aaron: You need a bit of brain power sometimes, yeah. Personally, I don't think I'll ever speak any language other than English perfectly. But so many people speak English around the world that it doesn't matter if you can't speak anything else.

Sophia: I think that being able to use at least a few words when you travel abroad is a really positive thing to do. It helps you create better relationships with people from other countries.

Aaron: Well I learn languages because I enjoy doing it. I don't really travel a lot.

Sophia: Anyway, you've got a much better memory than I have for learning new words. How do you do that?

Aaron: I don't know. It just seems to happen. I don't make a lot of effort to remember things – they just seem to stay in my head.

Sophia: Lucky you! You know what I love most about learning languages?

Aaron: Go on.

Sophia: When someone who speaks the language you're learning actually understands what you're saying in it. Of course, I don't always understand what they're saying back to me, but never mind. You can ask people to repeat what they've said or use a dictionary to help.

Aaron: I don't seem to have too many problems with listening. I'd say speaking is probably my strongest skill, but putting things down on paper is where I have most problems. It helps if you read a lot, though. Then you know how things are spelled, that kind of thing.

Sophia: I know. I don't think getting things wrong is actually something we should try to avoid. That's the way you learn!

Aaron: 'Cause you're more likely to remember something if someone has to correct you. Yeah, I'd agree with you there.

Task 2

Welcome to you all! I'm sure you're going to have a great time with us here at Westford College – and maybe you might even learn a little English while you're here! I'm just going to say a few words about practical aspects of the college. OK, classes: now, you'll be in class every morning during the week. Classes begin at quarter past nine and go straight through till one, although they stop at twelve o'clock on Fridays, to help the weekend get going. You're expected to do more than just study in class, of course, and it's important to make use of the Self-Access Centre, which is available from eight thirty in the morning until nine p.m. There's a wealth of materials and resources there for you to take advantage of. All the computers have access to our network of English-learning software. Demand is high for the web-

linked ones, and you need to reserve time on one of those at Reception. If you're desperate to email home, you might find a spare computer in the Common Room. Right, London: we organise a trip up to London during the course. We're going on Tuesday July the tenth, and you must book your place no later than Thursday the fifth of July. The trip's always very popular, so don't forget to sign up early! Another date for your diaries is the Food and Drink Festival, where you can try and hopefully enjoy all kinds of exotic food and drink from just about every country on the planet. It does get busy, and some of the food's a little expensive but the good news is that it's free to get in, and it's worth going along just to look. Talking of money, you can get money off all sorts of things in Westford, from cinema tickets to books to drinks in cafes, if you're a student. Take your passport along to the office so that they can issue you with a student discount card. Well, I think that's it for now. Are there any questions?