

Script (9-11 классы) **Task 1**

You will hear an interview with Monica Darcey, who has written a bestselling book about gardening. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Interviewer: Monica, welcome to the programme. Your book *Make your garden unique* has been a great success. But why would people want to buy a book about gardening instead of just buying some plants and putting them in the ground?

Monica Darcey: Hello! Well, yes, I think that's what most people do when they move into a place, there's often little time to think. Lots of readers have written to me saying that's what they'd done, gone to a garden centre, spent a lot of money on seeds and plants, with not very good results. In fact I think people with that sort of experience make up the majority of my readers!

Interviewer: So, how did your interest in gardening start? Were your parents keen gardeners?

Monica Darcey: Well, people imagine I must come from a family of gardeners. In fact, my parents would have much rather seen me developing an interest in sport, as they were both water sports teachers. But I was forever catching colds and that put me off. Seeing me spending hours in the garden, showing little interest in the world outside plants was a cause for concern rather than pride for them though.

Interviewer: And how did you go from gardener to writer?

Monica Darcey: Well, I did win a short-story prize at school, and enjoyed writing essays at college, but I had no real passion for writing then. I was making a good living looking after gardens. Then one day I was working in a nature reserve and I had to write about my day at work for an environmental project. It gave me such a feeling of achievement that when I saw an advert for a gardening journalist on a magazine, I

applied, thinking I could do it in my spare time when I wasn't gardening.

Interviewer: And you got the job?

Monica Darcey: I did, but after a while they made me an editor, which was a kind of promotion, but editors tend to find themselves doing everything but writing, and I'm happiest when being creative, so I decided it was time for a change. My bosses weren't very happy about it, I must say. So I went back to working all hours planting trees and flowers.

Interviewer: And that's when you starting writing your book, is that right?

Monica Darcey: Yes, and I've never looked back, really. I'm now writing my second book, about gardens around the world.

Interviewer: So, what makes your gardening books so special for readers?

Monica Darcey: It takes years of experience to learn to write attractively. It must flow perfectly when you read it, as if it had required no effort at all. But to answer your question, I suppose it's the fact that I'm not merely providing information, because that would make a jolly dull piece of writing – I don't assume everyone's fascinated by gardening, and I include some interviews, the kind of personal experience that may amuse the reader. Of course the information is all correct, and well researched, but that has to be the case with any serious writer.

Interviewer: Do you choose the photographs for your books?

Monica Darcey: I do. The quality of photography is excellent now of course. It's been a fantastic development in that it's brought many more people into gardening. Magazines and books devote a lot of space to photography, and quite rightly. But the pictures often show how things might be, rather than how they are, that's my only criticism. The writing's still the important part though, readers don't just buy beautiful pictures.

Interviewer: Finally, we've heard you've been asked to take part in a TV programme.

Monica Darcey: I have, and I'm still thinking about it. The idea is that I'd interview people who've designed some of the most amazing gardens in Europe – it would get me away from my writing routine which does get a bit too much at times, and it would give me plenty of ideas. It's also true that such

a programme can make you into a kind of celebrity, and I'm not sure I'm ready for that, you know, you start being recognised in the street. Although my publisher says that that's something I should be really happy about!

Task 2

You will hear a radio programme about a day in the life of a television researcher. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

Hi. My name's Rita Lewis and I've come along today to tell you about my work. I'm a researcher on a television programme and I'm going to tell you about a typical working day in my job. Well, quite an exciting day actually.

1. But first of all, I should explain that I work on a wildlife programme. I've always been interested in the sciences and animals in particular, and I did my first degree in biology before going on to specialise in zoology in my second degree. My degree subjects are invaluable in my job as they help me to plan things like deciding which animals to film, where to find them and how to approach them. But I also did a post-graduate course in what's known as media studies that prepared me specifically for the television work, and it was the combination of the two things that really got me the job.

The job has taken me to a variety of countries including South Africa and Australia, but the day I'm going to tell you about was last winter, when I was in Costa Rica. I was in the jungle doing some filming for the programme.

I woke up at five-thirty in my room at the Corcovado National Park research centre. Before setting off we had to pack up our filming gear, which weighs fifty kilos, and head out to the first location. Fortunately there are twelve of us in the team, including three cameramen and a local guide. So we could share the load between us.

For this particular TV series the presenter, who's called Jamie, had to complete a variety of difficult wildlife challenges. You know the sort of thing, communicating with wild monkeys, eating insects, etc. Anyway, that morning he had to photograph a

poisonous type of frog, and that meant getting pretty close. The animals are not that hard to find, and fortunately our guide found one very quickly. I had to hold it very carefully, though, while Jamie got his camera ready. For me this is the best part of the job, when I get to interact with the animals.

Our first location was on top of a thirty-metre high waterfall. First of all we wanted to film Jamie abseiling over the edge. Next we needed to get a shot of the same action from below. We can't risk sending the camera down on ropes, so we have to walk for an hour-and-a-half hike through heavy jungle to the pools beneath.

By the time we'd done that it was lunchtime. Some of the crew tucked into chicken legs and cheese sandwiches, but I'd got tuna in mine, which was fine for me. I ate them on a completely empty, beautiful beach, and they tasted like the best sandwiches ever.

After lunch, the team relaxed for the afternoon, before the evening's filming. Jamie's next challenge was to cross a river where crocodiles live. The river is near the sea, so we had to wait for the right tides. You need to use a torch to spot the crocodiles' red eyes glowing in the dark and make sure they're not too close before you set out across the river.

We found a safe place to film and set up our lights. We were using what we call a 'Sun Gun' light, which is used to film in large areas at night. Jamie was just about to step into the water when the light went out. Fortunately we had a smaller standby light, so we taped that onto the camera. We shone the new light over where Jamie was about to step. There, right in front of him was a 3-metre-long crocodile. It must have come up from under the water while we were changing our equipment. That was close.

We moved upstream where the water was lower. Jamie finally crossed, but when you see the programme, you'll see he looks genuinely scared on screen, which is unusual for him as he's usually really calm and relaxed on camera, whatever he's doing. So it was an exciting day. For me, getting out in the wild is the best part of the job.