

LISTENING (SCRIPT)

You will hear an interview with a woman called Rachel who is talking about the shows she puts on for children. For each question, put a tick in the correct box. You now have 45 seconds to look at the questions for Part 2. [pause]

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

Man: Rachel, tell us how your shows for children started. You studied art at college, didn't you?

Woman: That's right. But I gave up my career as an artist when my twin daughters were born. Painting took up too much time when I was looking after them. I thought about teaching art classes part-time, but instead I started making dolls for my daughters. I love acting, so I often invented little plays for the dolls, doing the voices myself.

Man: And when did you start doing shows for other people?

Woman: When our daughters were five, my husband suggested using the dolls to entertain the children at their birthday party. I wrote a little show and he built a dolls' theatre. My daughters and their friends loved it. As a result, other parents asked me to come and do the show at their children's parties. That's how it all began.

Man: It must be a lot of work for you?

Woman: Yes. I love making the dolls, but I decided that I needed someone to help me with the shows. Luckily my neighbour, Lena, was keen to perform with me. Her husband records the music to go with the shows. It would be impossible to do everything on my own.

Man: Have you ever had any problems?

Woman: Only once. I did a show for a group of three-year-olds, and I'd written a story about a lion. Unfortunately, the children were really afraid of the lion and started crying. I was worried the parents might complain, but luckily they were all able to laugh about it afterwards.

Man: And what did you learn from that?

Woman: The experience taught me that I had to find out beforehand just what children enjoy. Like me, Lena has two daughters, so whenever we've invented a new story, we show it to our four girls first. They always tell us exactly what they think of it. And sometimes I take new dolls to the local primary school to check that children like them.

Man: And the shows continue to be successful?

Woman: They do. I have a range of different shows for five to nine-year-olds. In fact, the shows have become so successful I could do one every day, but I don't want to do that. The reason the shows have become popular, I think, is because I love every minute of every show, and so other people love them too. I certainly didn't realise when I organised that birthday party for my daughters all those years ago that it would change my life so much!