

# **QSE**

**QUICK SMART ENGLISH**

**Intermediate**

**WORKBOOK**

**Audio texts**

**Unit 1 Mr and Ms Right****Track 1** (*British English*)

**Jason:** OK, this is the midnight phone-in, *Planet Lonely*. And you're with me, Jason Lynch. Next caller, please – Michelle from Birmingham.

**Michelle:** Hello? Hello?

**Jason:** Hi, go ahead Michelle, you're on air.

**Michelle:** Oh, hello...er, hi. My name's Michelle.

**Jason:** Hi, Michelle. What do you want to talk about?

**Michelle:** I want to ask your advice.

**Jason:** OK, that's what we're here for! Go ahead.

**Michelle:** Well, I'm 28 and I'm quite attractive and I'd like to get married and have children. But I just can't find the right man. He isn't out there.

**Jason:** Do you have a picture in your head of Mr Right?

**Michelle:** Yes, I do. He needs to be quite attractive physically – you know, quite fit, tall, slim and to have a good sense of humour. And he needs to be interesting and considerate. Oh, and have similar ideas to me. That's not asking too much, is it? I mean, I'm not asking for a superhero.

**Jason:** No, I don't think you asking for too much. In fact, I think he sounds rather like me.

**Michelle:** Oh .... Mmmm .....The problem is, none of the men I meet are at all like that. I'm a very sociable person and I meet a lot of people. But the really nice guys are all taken.

**Jason:** I know, I know.

**Michelle:** The single guys all have something wrong with them. For example, they talk too loudly, or they have nasty habits like not washing often enough.

**Jason:** Eugh!

**Michelle:** And other men just go on – forever – about sport. They get this kind of light in their eyes and shout at you as if they're at a football match.

**Jason:** I do know what you mean.

**Michelle:** Or if they're the kind, sensitive type, they're probably gay. Or if they're really attractive, you can be sure they're going out with three women at once.

**Jason:** I can see that could be a problem.

**Michelle:** Or else, they can't make conversation. They just stare into their drinks and look miserable.

**Jason:** Yes, terrible, isn't it!

**Michelle:** Yes! Yes, you've got it! You seem to know what I'm talking about. How do you know?

**Jason:** Some of us know just what you're talking about, darling.

**Unit 2 Bright lights, big city****Track 2** (*British English*)**Interview 1**

**Interviewer:** Hi, can you tell us your name?

**Sarah:** Yes, I'm Sarah Dunn.

**Interviewer:** Sarah, what are your views about

immigration? Do you think we allow more people to come into this country than we should?

**Sarah:** Not at all! In fact, I think we should allow even more immigrants to come than we do at the moment. I think it's right that we should share what we have with other people. We live in a multi-cultural society and we should help people who are in danger in their own countries - you know, political refugees.

**Interviewer:** So you don't worry that immigrants are taking our jobs?

**Sarah:** No, we need them. In some areas, immigrants do jobs that no one else wants to do.

**Interviewer:** OK, well, thanks for talking to us.

**Unit 2: Interview 2** (*British English*)

**Interviewer:** Hello, do you mind if I ask you a few questions?

**Craig:** No, not at all.

**Interviewer:** What's your name?

**Craig:** Craig Gale.

**Interviewer:** How do you feel about immigration, Craig?

**Craig:** How do I feel about immigration? Well ..... Let's see .... I think we should help political refugees, although I think a lot of immigrants just want a better life in a richer country – they're economic migrants. But there's nothing wrong with that. ...Um, ... Although, yeah – there is a problem, right? - Ethnic minorities often live in their own communities and they don't mix with people from other groups. You know, maybe they should try and mix more and then they would be more welcome.

**Interviewer:** Thanks a lot for that, Craig.

**Unit 2: Interview 3** (*British English*)

**Interviewer:** Hello, what's your name?

**Mike:** Mike Rainer.

**Interviewer:** Mike, can you tell us your views on immigration?

**Mike:** I certainly can. I think they should all go back to their own country.

**Interviewer:** Who?

**Mike:** Immigrants.

**Interviewer:** Do you mean economic migrants, or political refugees as well?

**Mike:** All of them! There are more foreigners here than we can take. This country should be for our people – we've got as many problems as they have.

**Interviewer:** Don't you think that foreign workers help our economy?

**Mike:** Rubbish, they just take our jobs. There are far too many unemployed at the moment. They take our houses, send their children to our schools, and they can't even speak the language!

**Interviewer:** Well, I can see you feel quite strongly about the subject. Thanks, Mike.

### Unit 3 Fame and fortune

#### Track 3 (British English)

**Interviewer:** Hello, this is Steve Bennett and welcome to the *Chart Newcomers* show! Tonight in the studio with me I have two members of *Dark Star*. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome drummer Dave Bolton and singer-songwriter Sharon Maguire! Welcome to the show.

**Sharon:** Thanks.

**Dave:** Yeah, hello.

**Interviewer:** So, your first single went straight into the charts at number 26.

**Dave:** Yeah ... cool.

**Sharon:** We're very pleased. We want to thank all the fans who bought it. WE LOVE YOU! Come to our next gig on Saturday.

**Interviewer:** So, what are your immediate future plans?

**Dave:** Er, I'm not sure. What plans have we got, Sharon?

**Sharon:** Well, Steve, we have a tour in the autumn and at the moment, we're writing material for an album.

**Interviewer:** Where will the tour be?

**Sharon:** We've got dates in London, Birmingham and Manchester, and we may do one or two more. And we may go to Scandinavia and Germany.

**Interviewer:** Terrific. Dave, when will the new album come out?

**Dave:** Er, I don't know, Steve. Sharon? When's the album coming out?

**Sharon:** Well, we're not completely sure yet. We may go into the studio in June or July. So it may come out in the autumn.

**Interviewer:** Cool ... Sharon, I understand that you have ambitions to be an actress.

**Dave:** What's that?

**Sharon:** Actor, Steve, not actress. Serious women actors don't call themselves actresses any more.

**Interviewer:** Oh, sorry.

**Dave:** You want to be an actress?

**Sharon:** Yeah, well. I've been asked to appear in *The People Next Door*.

**Interviewer:** *The People Next Door*?

**Sharon:** Yes – that's right.

**Interviewer:** That's my favourite TV show. Are you going to do it?

**Sharon:** I don't know. I might. I haven't decided yet.

**Interviewer:** So Sharon Maguire may be the new star of *The People Next Door*. Well, you heard it here first. What about you, Dave, what are your plans?

**Dave:** I don't know. I may go down the pub.

**Interviewer:** Well, that's all tonight from *The Chart Newcomer Show*. Thanks for listening.

### Unit 4 Animal Passions

#### Track 4 (British; American)

**Interviewer:** Good evening, and welcome to *What's Your Opinion?* In the studio with me tonight are Tony Cavell, an animal rights activist, and Dr Carla Robinson, a medical scientist who uses animals in her research. Tony, Carla, good evening.

**Tony Cavell:** Hello.

**Carla Robinson:** Good evening.

**Interviewer:** Tony, can you explain to listeners why animal rights are so important to you?

**Tony Cavell:** Certainly. Animals have many of the same feelings or emotions that we do. They feel pleasure, pain and grief. You have to remember that some animals have extremely sophisticated behaviour. They can recognise themselves in mirrors.

Chimpanzees can actually feel embarrassment. They are primates – a class of mammals which includes man. They are our closest relations.

**Interviewer:** OK. Animals have the same feelings as us. Carla, what's your opinion about that?

**Carla Robinson:** Only mammals have these emotions. Mosquitoes don't feel pleasure or grief and they certainly don't feel embarrassment.

**Tony Cavell:** This is a typical scientist's answer, I think. I'm talking about research on mammals, such as apes and dolphins.

**Carla Robinson:** Scientists don't need to experiment on apes and dolphins.

**Tony Cavell:** No, but the animals which you do experiment on DO feel pain! It's wrong and it's cruel. Animals should have rights, in the same way that people have rights.

**Interviewer:** I can see what you are saying, but what kind of rights?

**Tony Cavell:** The right to life and freedom. As far as I'm concerned, we shouldn't experiment on animals and we shouldn't put them in zoos.

**Carla Robinson:** I don't agree with you at all. Zoos are very important. They often save endangered species from extinction.

**Tony Cavell:** Then they shouldn't resemble prisons. And then there's vivisection. Using live animals for experiments, and even cutting them up, must stop. It's not necessary and it doesn't work.

**Carla Robinson:** I don't practise vivisection myself, but I do believe that it is sometimes necessary.

**Interviewer:** Why do you think that?

**Carla Robinson:** Because we need to be sure that medicines are safe. To do this, we need to test them on animals that are similar to humans, for example, mice, rabbits and pigs.

**Tony Cavell:** Animals feel pain in the same way we do. It's just not right to do experiments on them.

**Carla Robinson:** Oh come on! Human lives are more important than animal lives. Do you want people to die

because we haven't tested our medicines properly? Do you want old people to suffer Alzheimer's disease because we can't find a cure without experiments on primates?

**Tony Cavell:** No, but I don't want animals to suffer and die either. Especially for non-essential research like cosmetics, or just to make more money for drug companies.

## Unit 5 Did It really happen?

**Track 5 (British)**

**Julie:** Did you work before you got married, Mary?

**Mary:** I certainly did. I started work as a housemaid when I was 14.

**Julie:** Oh, so you were a servant?

**Mary:** Yes. Remember, it was 1928 when I started work in domestic service. There were not many other jobs for young girls before they got married.

**Julie:** Was it very hard?

**Mary:** Er ... well, it depended on the job. I worked in ... oh I can't remember ... five different houses, I think. They were all, how shall I say, great houses – stately homes – with lots of servants.

**Julie:** U-huh ... How much were you paid?

**Mary:** For my first job, I was paid ... um, let me see, I THINK it was eighteen pounds a year.

**Julie:** A YEAR?

**Mary:** Yes. But I had, you know, my own room – it was small – you could say it was tiny, but it was still my room and I'd never had a room of my own before. There was even a bathroom specially for us girls. There were ten of us.

**Julie:** Were they incredibly rich, this family?

**Mary:** They certainly were.

**Julie:** Was the guy, like, a film star or something?

**Mary:** No, he wasn't – film stars weren't very rich in those days! But a few of them did come to stay. No, the owner was a lord – Lord Denton. He owned lots of land and his wife, Lady Dorothy Denton, inherited a big company from her father.

**Julie:** Did you have to work long hours?

**Mary:** Yes, I used to start work at six every morning. Let me think ... I'd have to clean all the stairs and passages. And I had to light the fires in the main rooms and put clean sheets on the beds. That was really difficult, because I was small and the beds were huge. Often we worked until the last guests went to bed after midnight.

**Julie:** It sounds awful, Mary!

**Mary:** Well, we didn't have time to go out! But it was interesting because there used to be so many visitors, so there were always new people to meet. In fact, that's how I met my husband.

**Julie:** Really? How?

**Mary:** He was the chauffeur of one of Lord Denton's friends. He used to drive a big Rolls Royce.

**Julie:** Your husband used to drive a Rolls Royce!

**Mary:** Yes, but it wasn't his, of course.

**Julie:** So you enjoyed your work really?

**Mary:** In many ways, I did, you know.

## Unit 6 You are being watched

**Track 6 (American)**

**Announcer:** Good morning. Welcome to *Consumer Watch*, the program which reports on important consumer issues. Here's technology consultant Martin Brown with a question: Cheap goods or expensive privacy - which do you want?

**Martin Brown:** Thank you, Jeremy. Yes, a big change is taking place in the technology of shopping. Very soon, almost everything we buy will contain a tiny microchip called an RFID chip, or smart tag. It could mean that someone somewhere knows where you are because of the things you buy.

Picture this: You go to a store and buy a pair of jeans or a CD. Inside every item is an RFID tag. It sends out a constant radio signal to computers that are linked to the internet. Each signal is unique and is easily identified. Why use these RFID tags? One important reason is that they can prevent shoplifting. When you pay for an item, the shop assistant can kill the tag, so that it no longer sends out a signal. If, however, you don't pay, the signal from the smart tag will trigger the security system when you walk out of the store. This will make it very easy to catch shoplifters.

However, it may be that in future, we will pay for items, and the tag signal will NOT be killed at checkout. So every time you wear the jeans or listen to the CD, the manufacturer will know exactly where it is. RFID tags have enormous advantages for shops and businesses. When an item with an RFID tag is bought from a shop, a computer can recognize this and quickly order another one from the manufacturer. This will keep prices down. RFID tags can do other jobs, too, like follow your airline baggage around the world so that it never gets lost again. However, 78% of consumers say they don't like the idea of RFID tags. They hate the idea of someone knowing where they are at any time of day. "We're already watched by CCTV cameras in the street and in the store," said one shopper. "And now I'm going to have a camera in my clothes as well? No, thank you! And who's going to use this information? The police? My boss?"

Of course, the main result will be cheaper goods and more efficient services. But are we ready to accept constant surveillance in return for this?

**Announcer:** Thanks, Martin. That's one to think about.

## Unit 7 Oil crisis

**Track 7 (Australian; Malaysian)**

**Tony:** Hello, I'm Tony Forbes. I'm visiting the Advanced Engineering Centre in Malaysia. You must be Professor Sopian.

**Professor:** Hello! Welcome to the Solar-Hydrogen Eco-house!

**Tony:** So this is it ... I must say, it's a very ... um ... interesting-looking house.

**Professor:** Yes, it's the house of the future, but when we designed it, we used a traditional Malaysian house design as well as modern technology.

**Tony:** If you could explain how it works, I am sure our listeners will be very interested.

**Professor:** Sure. This is the first house in the world to run on hydrogen.

**Tony:** Ah, right. What are those ... things ... up there on the roof?

**Professor:** They're solar panels. When the sunlight hits them, the sun's energy is converted into electricity.

**Tony:** Wonderful. And what happens if it rains?

**Professor:** We collect the rainwater. It runs down that pipe into a big water tank in the garden. Then we use the electricity we make from the sun to convert the water into hydrogen and oxygen.

**Tony:** Brilliant! You can make oxygen as well?

**Professor:** Yes, but it's the hydrogen we want. We keep it a tank outside the house.

**Tony:** Why? Is it dangerous?

**Professor:** No, actually it's quite safe. Come and see the hydrogen gas tank. If you come this way, OK, ah...here it is. And that's the gas pipe that takes the hydrogen into the house.

**Tony:** What do you use the hydrogen for?

**Professor:** To power everything in the house – the cooking stove, the hot water.

**Tony:** That's pretty good.

**Professor:** Unless it's cold, or we are doing a lot of cooking, we don't use all the electricity we make with the solar panels.

**Tony:** Um... could we go inside now? It's pretty hot out here in the sun.

**Professor:** Certainly. If we go inside, I can show you how well the air conditioning works. Through here...

**Tony:** .... And it's pretty cold in here. Could you turn the air conditioning down a bit?

**Professor:** That's a bit of a problem!

**Tony:** Why? You mean – your system isn't working?

**Professor:** Not at all! It works too well. You see the traditional design of the house uses the wind that flows through to cool it. So, if you're cold, we could turn the hydrogen-powered heating on!

## Unit 8 Exam pressure

### Track 8 (American)

**Yana:** Hey, Emiko, what did you think of the exam?

**Emiko:** I think I've passed, but I wish I'd done more revision.

**Yana:** Yeah, me too. At least I answered all the questions this time. Hey, Lufti, what's the matter with you? Why are you so quiet?

**Lufti:** I'm sure I've failed.

**Yana:** Oh, come on. You can't be sure of anything with exams like these.

**Lufti:** I said I'm sure I failed! Will you leave me alone?

**Emiko:** Hey, Lufti, calm down ...

**Lufti:** Calm down? Why should I calm down? I hate this course and I hate this college and all the people in it.

**Yana:** I think you're feeling a bit stressed.

**Lufti:** A bit stressed! I'm very stressed. I've been stressed since the day I arrived here.

**Yana:** Really? You always seem so happy.

**Lufti:** I was happy – before I came to America. Anyway, I've made my decision. I'm going home. And I'm not coming back in September.

**Yana:** Woah!

**Emiko:** Hey, take it easy, Lufti.

**Yana:** You know, I feel that way sometimes. I miss home so much, I sometimes want to leave, too. But I always change my mind.

**Lufti:** I'm definitely leaving.

**Yana:** Lufti, be sensible. You've only got one more year, then you'll have a degree from a top American university. Think of the job opportunities. It would be stupid to leave now.

**Lufti:** OK. I'm stupid.

**Yana:** Oh come on, you're almost bilingual in English. That's a huge advantage in the job market.

**Emiko:** Yeah, seriously, I mean, the facilities are fantastic here! If you walked away from all this, you'd really regret it.

**Lufti:** Don't you think I don't know all this? The thing is, I've actually been thinking about leaving for ages. You know, I've got problems. My English isn't fluent – that's why I have such difficulties with my studies. And I'm still homesick after all this time. You two are great, but I haven't made any American friends here – not one. If you're not American, it's hard to make friends.

**Yana:** I've got some American friends.

**Lufti:** Yeah? How many?

**Yana:** A few. It's true most of my friends are international students. But I've had a great time here, just because it's so international.

**Emiko:** I agree. Listen, why don't you talk to someone about this?

**Lufti:** Like who?

**Emiko:** Well .... you could see a counsellor. I'm sure that would help.

**Lufti:** Well, I might do that. But I'm still not coming back in September.

## Unit 9 Give peace a chance

### Track 9 (British)

**Radio host:** Good afternoon, I'm George Jennings and this is *Peace News*. First of all, we have a report from Norah Casey in the Palestinian Territories about the work of international peace activists there.

**Norah Casey:** Two tragic incidents took place here in

Rafah last year. The incidents have seriously affected the work for peace. On the 16th of March, a 23-year-old American woman called Rachel Corrie and seven other volunteers were trying to stop Israeli soldiers from knocking down Palestinian homes. For two hours, the activists stood in front of two bulldozers. Then Rachel was run over and killed by one of the bulldozers. A month later, on the 11th of April, also here in Rafah, British peace activist Tom Hurndall was shot in the head. He was trying to take Palestinian children away from a dangerous area. Tom, who was a 22-year-old university student, died several months later from his injuries.

**Radio host:** It's very difficult to find peaceful solutions after events like this. However, there are people on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict who are doing their best to encourage peace. Here's Aron Edinger from Tel Aviv.

**Aron Edinger:** Recently, 27 Israeli Defence Force pilots refused to attack civilian targets in Palestine. They said that they would refuse to follow "immoral and illegal orders" that would cause the death of civilians. They also criticised the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. The air force has a special importance for Israeli people. As a result, the statement by the 27 pilots has had a great effect.

**Radio host:** That was Aron Edinger from Tel Aviv. Here in Europe, there have also been demonstrations in favour of peace. Here's Jane Smith to tell us about the demonstrations.

**Jane Smith:** On February 15th, over a million people in London took part in the biggest public demonstration ever seen in Britain. It was a protest against the war in Iraq. On the same day, in Rome, many Italians demonstrated for peace – about two million people marched through the capital. However, RAI, the Italian television service, decided not to show the demonstration, saying it would not be helpful to politicians.

**Radio host:** Thanks Jane. That concludes our programme. Have a peaceful evening.

## Unit 10 I must have one of those!

**Track 10** (*American; South African*)

**Presenter:** Hidden behind the successful global economy, there are many other economies at work. One of them is the garbage economy. All over the world, people earn a living by recycling other people's garbage. Two of our reporters have been to see the reality of the garbage economy. First of all, Morgan Curtis reports from Brazil.

**Morgan Curtis:** I'm standing on the edge of a huge garbage dump situated less than 20 kilometers from the center of the nation's capital, Brasilia. Here, more than 3,000 people live off what the city throws away. Garbage trucks bring tons of waste every day and, as

soon as the trucks arrive, the scavengers start work. They have to work quickly, before the trucks come back and bury today's garbage. The scavengers look for anything they can recycle – plastic bottles, computer components and other electronic items, for example. They are always hoping to find things they can sell like clothes, shoes and even working watches and cell phones. Astonishingly, the scavenging is well organized, and people have to register with an association if they want to work at the dump. The city authority set up the association to control the number of workers and to avoid fights between them. Scavengers, who work up to 15 hours a day, can earn as much as \$60 a week. The average income from scavenging is, however, less than \$20 a week.

**Presenter:** And now, Seymour Groves reports from South Africa.

**Seymour Groves:** Every day, grandmother Mapule Mohokare walks 12 kilometres from her one-room shack near the township of Soweto to join a thousand other people scavenging on the Goudkoppies rubbish dump. The massive dump is 15 kilometres from the centre of Johannesburg, the financial capital of South Africa. The smell is foul and never-ending. Mohokare's 23-year-old son works with her. He has a brother of 36, and a twin sister with a nine-year-old daughter. The whole family lives on what they can make at the dump. Mapule works seven days a week. She collects white paper and clear plastic. Once she made 250 Rand in a week, that's about \$40. She's always hoping to do it again, but usually it's only \$25 a week.

To earn this small amount of money, she risks injury and disease. Amongst other things, the dump has large amounts of medical waste, such as used syringes. She and the other scavengers also face illness from breathing in the toxic fumes from rotting meat and chemicals.

## Unit 11 Globesity

**Track 11** (*British*)

**Monday:** Oh dear! I was late for work this morning because I couldn't find anything to wear – none of my clothes fit. I wore a dress that makes me look like a baby elephant. This week of ALL weeks! The thing is ... there's a gorgeous guy who's just started working in my office. His name's Craig and he sits at the desk next to me. He hasn't said a word to me. He obviously thinks I'm enormous. I had much too much to eat today. Spaghetti bolognese for lunch, snacks all day, pizza for supper, chocolate cake, ice cream. Not good. So that's it. I'm going on a diet, starting tomorrow. In a month, Craig will be mine. Well, that's the plan, anyway.

**Tuesday:** Because I ate too much yesterday, I went without breakfast and lunch. By three o'clock in the afternoon, I was really hungry and felt terrible. A

colleague gave me a bar of chocolate. Not a good way to start a diet. Still, in the evening all I had was salad with a bit of ham, even though I was very hungry. Well done me! I feel thinner already!

**Wednesday:** I was very good until this evening. I had breakfast cereal without sugar and a glass of orange juice. For lunch I had a chicken salad and an apple. Then a friend rang and invited me for dinner. She's one of the best cooks I know. There was cheese, cream, chocolate – all the things that make life worth living. Mmmm.

**Thursday:** Oh no! I've put on a kilo since Monday! This was not in the plan. But one wonderful thing – Craig actually spoke to me today. He seems to like me! I must get thin – fast! I've kept to the diet all day (though I did have a chocolate biscuit before I went to bed - but only a small one!)

**Friday:** Craig has asked me out for tomorrow night! I can't believe it! A friend's lent me a dress that makes me look – well, not exactly skinny, but slimmer. I must try and lose at least four kilos as soon as possible.

**Saturday:** It's late at night. Craig and I had a wonderful evening – we went to a bar, saw a movie and then went to his favourite Italian restaurant. I had spaghetti bolognese again, but who cares? He wants to see me again tomorrow. He says he likes me just as I am. I'm not obsessed with diets. In fact, who needs diets? Now where's that box of chocolates?

## Unit 12 Cities of the future

### Track 12 (American)

**Presenter:** Good evening, and welcome to *The Science Show*. We have heard a lot recently about extreme engineering and one of the most amazing and astonishing ideas is a rail tunnel under the Atlantic Ocean, linking New York and London. With me in the studio to discuss this, is Professor Martha Long.

Welcome to the program, Professor.

**Martha Long:** Thank you.

**Presenter:** So, first question. How would a trans-Atlantic tunnel be built?

**Martha Long:** Well, it will be built in pre-constructed sections.

**Presenter:** Pre-constructed sections?

**Martha Long:** Yes. They would be made on land and then put together under the sea.

**Presenter:** How many of them?

**Martha Long:** 54,000.

**Presenter:** How many?

**Martha Long:** 54,000. They will be held in place by giant anchors, which will be fixed to the bottom of the ocean. The tunnel will float 200 meters under the surface.

**Presenter:** Amazing. Now, as I understand it, the train which would run through this tunnel would be a magnetically levitated train. Is that right?

**Martha Long:** Yes.

**Presenter:** So, the next question is: What is a magnetically levitated train?

**Martha Long:** Magnetically levitated trains, or Maglevs, aren't like normal trains. They don't have wheels and don't travel on rails. They travel in a vacuum between two magnets.

**Presenter:** And do these trains exist?

**Martha Long:** Oh yes! The first one open to the public started operating in Shanghai in 2004. But the idea is quite an old one – invented in Germany over 70 years ago.

**Presenter:** And how fast do they travel?

**Martha Long:** At the moment, Maglev trains can travel at about 500 kilometers per hour. However, it will be possible for them to travel at 6,000 kilometers per hour.

**Presenter:** Six thousand kilometers an hour? Are you serious?

**Martha Long:** Yes. The journey from New York to London, which is a distance of about 5,000 kilometers, will take 54 minutes.

**Presenter:** How is this possible?

**Martha Long:** Well, ordinary trains travel on rails and they can only reach speeds of around 300 kilometers per hour. They are also very noisy. Maglev trains don't use rails, so there's no noise. There's no pollution. The trains would be fast, comfortable and quiet. The disadvantage is that the tracks have to be specially built and they are very expensive indeed. The Maglev track in China is only 30km long but it cost 1.2 billion dollars.

**Presenter:** And will the trans-Atlantic tunnel be safe?

**Martha Long:** Well, safety is the big problem. The ocean is very powerful and the tunnel could bend or crack. Also, a passing submarine or a drifting iceberg could hit the tunnel.

**Presenter:** Ahh.

## Unit 13 Call of the wild

### Track 13 (Australian)

**Intro:** Good evening. Welcome to the Geographical Society. This evening's illustrated lecture is by Robert Philpotts, who has spent many years in the Russian Far East.

**Philpotts:** Good evening. Tonight I want to talk about my recent visit to the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Kamchatka has a population density of less than one person per square kilometre. For comparison, Bangladesh has 949 people per square kilometre and Hong Kong has 6,571. And, because 90% of the Kamchatkan population live in one city, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the density for the rest of the peninsula is much, much lower. By the way, you'll be pleased to hear that the city is usually just called P-K.

The region has numerous deposits of gold, copper and

nickel, but at the moment it is not economical to mine them. Tourism is almost non-existent, and – as you can see from this picture – not particularly comfortable. Most Kamchatkan villages are like this one, Kluchi. There are no normal jobs. Instead, people here depend on the wilderness to survive. Hunting isn't just a sporting pastime – the villagers hunt for food. They hunt to survive. Their main targets are brown bears, which are hunted in the spring and then again in the autumn. A single bear can provide two or three hundred kilos of meat, which is salted in giant barrels to provide food for the winter. Preparing bear meat is a time-consuming task. First the meat must be soaked for 24–36 hours in fresh water. Then it is boiled for five hours in order to make it safe (and soft enough) to eat. Salmon also provide the villagers with food and large quantities of valuable red caviar, which they can sell. Salmon fishing takes place in late spring and early summer. The start of the salmon fishing season is an extremely important event. It ends with a huge festival called Fish Day. On Fish Day, there are fish-cleaning competitions, as you can see in this photograph, and wrestling matches and horse races. The villagers don't have much variety of things to eat because of the short summers, but they make some creative food combinations! For breakfast, we had bread, bright pink salmon roe, tomatoes and cucumbers. Sometimes, we also had salami made from bear meat.

## Unit 14 Fantasy worlds

### Track 14 (American)

**Dave:** OK, what are we going to watch? I vote for the horror movie.

**Tom:** You mean, *My Boyfriend was a Vampire*? Yeah, me too.

**Nancy:** Oh God, I can't stand horror movies. I hate violence, and the idea of witches and vampires terrifies me.

**Tom:** Good, good! That's the whole point of a horror movie. You want it to terrify you. Come on, let's put it on.

**Nancy:** Can't we watch something less scary? There's a really good thriller on channel 7.

**Tom:** Nance, you're not telling me you believe in vampires? They're just a joke. This is meant to be one of the best horror movies ever made. Come on, you'll enjoy it. Sit down and eat your chips.

**Nancy:** Oh, you two are a nightmare. I really don't want to watch it.

**Dave:** Well, I'm turning it on ...

**Tom:** The suspense is killing me! Ahhhh... Look at his mouth ... Ugh. He looks soooo evil.

**Dave:** That's it, he's going to ...

**Nancy:** Oooooohh. This is awful. I can't watch.

**Dave:** Don't be such a baby.

**Dave:** Ugh! That was really gross!

**Tom:** Ugh! Yeah, great, what an effect!

**Nancy:** How could he have done that? How could you enjoy this awful stuff? I'm leaving. I'm going to get some drinks.

**Dave:** Wow! This is entertainment at its best!

**Tom:** Yeah, I'm feeling really, really frightened.

**Dave:** Yeah, real horror!

**Dave:** Oh man! That was bad! He shouldn't have done that.

**Tom:** No, he shouldn't have. Horrible.

**Nancy:** Drinks, guys!

**Dave/Tom:** Ahhhhhh.

**Dave:** Don't give us a fright like that.

**Tom:** I think I'm going to be sick.

**Nancy:** What a relief that's over. I can see you're both happy now you've watched your stupid movie. You see? You don't like horror movies either. They're much too ... horrifying. They'll give you bad dreams.

**Tom:** Hey, Dave, the sequel's on next week – *My Boyfriend was a Vampire 2*.

**Dave:** Cool, man. I think that must totally be seen.

## Unit 15 Think big!

### Track 15 (British)

#### Interview 1

**Interviewer 1:** Good morning ... Make yourself comfortable.

**Candidate 1:** Thank you.

**Interviewer 1:** Welcome to Hall International. Thanks for coming to see us.

**Candidate 1:** No problem.

**Interviewer 1:** Now, as you know, Hall International specialises in building hospitals in developing parts of the world. Why would you like to work for us?

**Candidate 1:** Well, I studied engineering at university.

**Interviewer 1:** Umm. Go on ...

**Candidate 1:** And you advertised for engineers.

**Interviewer 1:** Yes, you're quite right. But is there anything about the work we do that specially attracts you?

**Candidate 1:** I suppose so. Is there any travel involved?

**Interviewer 1:** Oh yes, there certainly is. We plan to send the successful candidate to places where we have building projects.

**Candidate 1:** Where would that be?

**Interviewer 1:** India, mainly, but possibly also Latin America.

**Candidate 1:** Really? India? That sounds OK.

**Interviewer 1:** Well, yes it's interesting. But of course you're not going as a tourist.

**Candidate 1:** No, of course not.

**Interviewer 1:** Right. OK. Tell me something about yourself. What special qualities do you have that would be useful to us?

**Candidate 1:** Special qualities? I don't know. But I am the right person for the job.

**Interviewer 1:** Really? And what makes you think that?

**Candidate 1:** Because I have just graduated from the Engineering Department at London University with a first class degree.

**Interviewer 1:** Ah, yes, I saw that from your CV.

**Candidate 1:** There were 70 students in the class and I came top.

**Interviewer 1:** That's very interesting ...

## Unit 15: Interview 2

**Interviewer 2:** Good afternoon. Take a seat.

**Candidate 2:** Thank you. This is a very nice office.

**Interviewer 2:** Yes.

**Candidate 2:** It must be nice working in an office like this.

**Interviewer 2:** Yes. Now, do you know anything about Hall International?

**Candidate 2:** Yes, indeed I do. And I'm very interested in what you do.

**Interviewer 2:** What DO we do?

**Candidate 2:** The organisation was set up to build hospitals in the developing world. I was reading your website and I found that at the moment, you're building hospitals in India, Peru and Brazil.

**Interviewer 2:** Yes.

**Candidate 2:** Well, I really want to do work like that. I feel very strongly that the developed world must help the developing world in any way possible.

**Interviewer 2:** Yes. Well, let's have a look at your application form ...mmm, second class degree in Civil Engineering from Imperial College, London.

**Candidate 2:** That's right.

**Interviewer 2:** Good university, but not a very good degree.

**Candidate 2:** Well, it's a very difficult course. I worked extremely hard and I'm very enthusiastic about all aspects of the subject.

**Interviewer 2:** Really??

**Candidate 2:** Tell me something.

**Interviewer 2:** What?

**Candidate 2:** Do you like your job?

**Interviewer 2:** Excuse me?

**Candidate 2:** Do you like working in Human Resources? I mean, you don't seem very interested in the work you're doing.

**Interviewer 2:** Yes, of course I'm interested in it.

**Candidate 2:** Good. I hope I find my job just as interesting.

## Unit 16 Throw away the key

**Track 16** (*American*)

**Presenter:** In 1993, a 12-year-old girl was kidnapped in Petaluma, California, and murdered. A man was convicted of her murder. He had already

been convicted twice for kidnapping and was on parole after serving eight years of a 16-year prison sentence. This case caused a lot of anger in California. People were angry that a man who had committed so many crimes could be free. They demanded action to keep repeat offenders in prison and off the streets. The following year, the Three-Strikes Law was passed by the California State Legislature. The law states that anyone convicted of three criminal offenses would go to prison for life. Now, many years after the law came into force, opinions are sharply divided on the issue.

**Carl Brewer:** My name is Carl Brewer, and I'm totally in favor of the Three Strikes Law. Why? Easy! Over the last ten years, California's crime rate is down 32%. In the nation as a whole, it's only down 13%. Much more important - in the first ten years of this law, it has been proved that two million Californians have been saved from pain and suffering. Why? Because they have NOT been victims of crime. Also, the state didn't have to build any more prisons. These are the reasons why I fully approve of the Three Strikes Law.

**Kelly McGuire:** Hello, my name is Kelly McGuire, I'm an officer at the Los Angeles Police Department and I'm against the Three Strikes Law. I'm in favor of putting violent people away for a LONG time, but because of the Three Strikes Law, sometimes the wrong people are put away. More than half of the people who go to jail under the Three Strikes Law are non-violent offenders. Violent crime has decreased in California, but non-violent crime has decreased even more. And, in fact, violent crime went down MUCH MORE in other States which DON'T HAVE Three Strikes Laws.

**Presenter:** So ... there are arguments for and against the Three Strikes Law. In the first three years, violent crime in California fell by more than 40% (twice the national average). But now more and more young men are going to prison for minor offenses, such as shoplifting or even stealing a car tire. If an offender stays in prison for 25 years, that costs the state about 1.5 million dollars.

## Unit 17 Surviving disaster

**Track 17** (*Scottish; English*)

**Intro:** Three University students, Rory McLean, Alison Thompson and Michael Mackenzie, decided to climb a hill called Arthur's Seat, which is near the city of Edinburgh and only 250 metres high.

**Rory:** It was a sunny April day and quite warm, really. Normally, it's quite an easy climb but I should have warned the other two about a few things. For example, Alison was wearing a T-shirt and jeans, and Michael was wearing shorts. Because I'm an experienced hiker, I was wearing a pullover and some boots.

**Alison:** We set out at about midday. It was really warm, so I didn't take a coat. Arthur's Seat looks so small when you start. We didn't even tell anyone else we were going there.

**Michael:** I always think that I'm quite fit, so I thought – this will be easy. I was wearing shorts and a pair of trainers.

**Rory:** The first part is quite easy, and you get a brilliant view of the city when you start to go up. I must say I was a bit surprised by how unfit Michael seemed to be. Alison seemed to have no trouble, but even in the sunshine, she complained that it was a bit cold.

**Alison:** The first part of the climb was great – really easy. Michael was complaining a bit, but I told him to stop behaving like a baby, so he shut up. I think he would have preferred to go back down.

**Michael:** After a few minutes, I was gasping for breath. I wanted to go back down, but Alison persuaded me to continue.

**Rory:** When we reached the top, I noticed these black clouds for the first time. Suddenly, it turned cold and then it started snowing. We tried to go back down, but Alison fell and hurt her foot, so we sheltered behind a boulder and waited for the snow to stop. But it didn't stop. It was incredible. Snow like that in April! I've lived in Edinburgh all my life and I've never seen snow like that in April.

**Alison:** When it started snowing, I just laughed and said we'd better go down. But then I slipped and hurt my foot. At first, the boys tried to carry me, but it was dangerous. They slipped as well, so we had to stop.

**Rory:** The snow just went on and on. Alison was shivering so I offered her my pullover, but she said no. Eventually, I could see that there was no way we were going to get down. I really thought we were going to be very lucky to get out of this alive.

**Alison:** It was so cold I thought I was going to pass out. I wasn't frightened, just annoyed with myself for being so stupid.

**Michael:** I was the only one who had brought a mobile phone with me. I suppose it's just as well that I didn't go down the hill when I was tired. I rang a friend and she said she would try to help. The next thing you know – I heard the sound of a helicopter! It hovered directly above us. I don't know what happened in the helicopter. When I woke up, I was in hospital.

## Unit 18 Alone in space?

### Track 18 (American)

**Interviewer:** We have with us in the studio today Simon Hanworth, an astronomer with an organization called SETIL. Simon, can you tell us something about it?

**Simon:** Yes, of course. The name SETIL stands for Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence and Life. We're a scientific organization that started in 1959 to search for radio signals from intelligent life in space.

**Interviewer:** So presumably you believe that there is intelligent life in space.

**Simon:** No, I wouldn't say that I believe that. But there may be intelligent life out there. It's certainly possible. The universe is so vast. Our Sun is just one star among billions. And it's a fact that many stars have their own planets orbiting round them.

**Interviewer:** Really? I didn't know that.

**Simon:** No, we've only recently discovered that.

**Interviewer:** So why are you searching for radio signals?

**Simon:** Because the distances in space are so great that it's unlikely that other life forms will ever visit us. If they exist, we are more likely to know from their radio signals.

**Interviewer:** So you don't believe all those stories about aliens visiting our planet?

**Simon:** I'm afraid I don't. There's just no real evidence. But that doesn't mean there isn't other life in the universe.

**Interviewer:** If there is life, what might it be like?

**Simon:** Well, it's hard to say. It might not have a form that we recognize. For example, on a planet where gravity is very strong, all life forms could be the size of microbes.

**Interviewer:** Really? Fascinating!

**Simon:** And even if we can't find intelligent life on distant stars, we might find simple forms of life in our own Solar System. For example, we think there is ice on Mars. And where there's water, there's a possibility of life.

**Interviewer:** That would be exciting. But what about these radio signals? Have you found anything interesting?

**Simon:** I can't say we have. But we're going to keep looking.

**Interviewer:** One final question that I've always wanted to ask an astronomer. Scientists now believe that the universe must have started with what's called The Big Bang.

**Simon:** Well, we're not 100 per cent certain. But yes, we think that the universe could have begun with a huge explosion about 12 billion years ago.

**Interviewer:** What I've always wanted to know is this: What began the Big Bang? How did it start?

**Simon:** Are you asking me if I believe in God? We don't know how the Big Bang started. We just don't know.