

GRADE 12 — FIRST SESSION (2007/ 08)

LISTENING 1

- Woman* Good evening, listeners, and welcome to ‘What’s Your Problem?’ My name is Asma Al-Kindi, and I’m here to help you. (*pause*) Ah, our first caller’s on the line! It’s Ahmed from Salalah. Yes, Ahmed. What’s your problem?
- Boy* Actually, my name’s Hamad, not Ahmed.
- Woman* Oh, sorry, Hamad. Anyway, go ahead. I’m listening.
- Boy* Well, I just moved here from Muscat three months ago and I’m finding it difficult to make friends.
- Woman* I see. How old are you, Hamad?
- Boy* Sixteen. I’m in Grade Eleven.
- Woman:* And your parents — what do they do?
- Boy* My father’s a businessman and my mother works in a bank.
- Woman* What about brothers and sisters?
- Boy* No, I haven’t got any brothers and sisters.
- Woman* I see. Anyway, about your problem. When you say that it’s ‘difficult’ for you to make friends, what do you mean exactly? Could you tell me a bit more?
- Boy* Well, it’s simple really. I don’t have any friends at my new school.
- Woman* Have you tried to get to know anybody? Your classmates, for example?
- Boy* Oh yes, but they don’t seem very interested in talking to me. Maybe it’s because I’m not very good at sport and that kind of thing.
- Woman* What about the teachers?
- Boy* Oh, they’re OK. I always get good marks.
- Woman* Have you talked to your parents about this problem?
- Boy* Well, not really. They’re never at home. They’re always working.
- Woman* Mmm. Now, you say that *nobody* wants to talk to you. Is that really true?
- Boy* Well, there is one boy. He’s not in my class — I met him at the Computer Club.
- Woman:* So why don’t you invite him to your house?
- Boy* Yes... I suppose I could. My parents have just bought me some new computer games. He could try them out. I think he’d like that.
- Woman* Yes, that would be a start, wouldn’t it? You have to take the first step.
- Boy* Yes, you’re right. OK. Thanks. I’ll do that.
- Woman* Glad to be of help. Anyway, good luck! (*pause*) Now, who’s our next caller? Ah, yes...

LISTENING 2

Hello. My name's Mikhail Kuznetsov and I'm from Russia. I've worked as a cook in a big hotel for many years now, but I've always dreamed of opening my own restaurant. But I want it to be different, not just the same old boring Russian food. So last year I had this idea: why not open an Indian restaurant? The problem was that I don't know very much about food from that part of the world. So I made a decision: I would go there and find out for myself. Two weeks later, I was in Mumbai, ready to start my research. I'm rather old-fashioned and I don't really like using computers. So I bought a huge notebook where I could write down everything that I learnt about Indian food — recipes, ingredients, cooking methods, and so on. I spent three months travelling around the whole of India, mostly by train, and I took this notebook with me everywhere I went, recording everything that I saw, heard and tasted. Finally, it was time to go home. I left my hotel and got a taxi to the airport. The traffic was terrible, so to pass the time I took the notebook out of my briefcase and read some of it. By the time we arrived at the airport, it was getting late, so I had to run to catch my plane. It was only when we were flying over the Indian Ocean that I realized — I'd left my notebook in the taxi. What a disaster! All my research was lost! Anyway, back in Russia, I told a friend what had happened, and he was very helpful. He showed me how to use the Internet — I was amazed at the amount of information I could get! So, in the end, I was able to do my research and open my Indian restaurant!

LISTENING 3

1. "Thousands of homes were destroyed at the weekend when forest fires swept across parts of southern California. The cause of the fires is not yet known." (F)
2. "Doctors are becoming more and more worried about the number of middle-aged women suffering from heart disease. They say that the main cause is poor diet and lack of exercise." (F)
3. "'Pirates of the Pacific', which is believed to be the most expensive film ever made, opened in New York last night. Thousands of cheering fans came out to greet their favourite stars." (F)
4. "Finally, good news for those of you who are tired of the usual kind of holiday. From next year, it will be possible to book a seat on a flight to the Moon. The cost of a return ticket? Five million dollars!" (F)
