

Listening

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Task1

Listen to the dialogue and decide to whom – John (A), Sarah (B) or to both of them (C) refer the statements 1-10 in your booklet. You'll hear the dialogue twice.

Sarah: John, I've just had some good news. Susan has had her baby.

John: Do you know when she had it?

Sarah: Yesterday. The tenth of August.

John: Oh, my father was born on August the tenth. Give me the details and I'll make a note for everyone at work.

Sarah: OK.

John: Well, was it a boy or a girl?

Sarah: It's a boy.

John: And what are they going to call him?

Sarah: Tom. Tom Lightfoot. It sounds quite good, don't you think?

John: Yes, that has quite a good ring to it.

Sarah: You know he's quite a big baby. He weighed four and a quarter kilos when he was born.

John: That does sound big, four and a quarter kilos.

Sarah: And he's long too, forty-six centimeters.

John: Mmmmm. Tall parents. He'll grow up to be over two meters. I'd say.

Sarah: With masses of black hair, curly black hair. You know, we should go and visit them in hospital. What about tomorrow afternoon at around 1 pm?

John: Yes, OK.

Sarah: Where should we meet? ... Ah, I could come and pick you up at your house if you like.

John: Yes, that would be wonderful. My car is still off the road.

Sarah: Just refresh my memory. What's the address again?

John: It's 15 Chesterfield Road, Paddington.

Sarah: It's next to the library, isn't it?

John: Not exactly. It's next to a bank. The State Bank actually. The library is opposite us, on the corner.

Sarah: That's right, and there's a garage on the other street corner. I remember now.

John: So, you'll pick me up at a quarter to one and we'll be there at one easily.

Sarah: Now what should we take? We must take them something.

John: I always think flowers are good to take to someone in hospital, don't you?

Sarah: Well, not really. Everyone always brings flowers and they don't last. I think it's much better to take a pot plant, so she can take it home with her.

John: Yes, but then she has to remember to water it. What about a big box of chocolates?

Sarah: OK, chocolates sound fine. We should get something for the baby too. What do you think?

John: Yes, you're right. What do you think of something like baby shampoo or talcum powder?

Sarah: Or we could get a little hat, or something like that.

John: We don't know the size, or the right colour, do we?

Sarah: I think we should get something they wouldn't normally buy. What about a soft toy of some sort?

John: Yes, a soft toy.

Sarah: What about a teddy bear?

John: I could get one early tomorrow at the market and I could probably get the chocolates there too.

Sarah: Good.

John: So you'll pick me up at a quarter to one at my place and I'll make sure that I've got the presents.

Sarah: You must remember how much you paid for the gifts, so I can pay you back for the half. If they're going to be from both of us, I would like to go shares.

John: OK. I'd say the chocolates would be about \$15 for something nice and not too small and the toy would be around \$35 or so, I'd think.

Sarah: Good, that'll be fine. About \$25 each then. Good, I'll pick you up then on Sunday at twelve forty-five.

John: OK.

Sarah: See you then. Bye.

<Pause 20 seconds>

Listen to the text again.

<Text repeated>

<Pause 30 seconds>

Task 2

Listen to a part of a lecture and decide whether the statements 11-20 in your booklet are True (A) or False (B). You'll hear the text twice.

The subject of today's lecture is Culture Shock – Group Pressure in Action.

Culture shock, as you know, is the term used to describe the experience many people have when they travel to another country, and it can be seen as a manifestation of group pressure in action.

It's a good example of group pressure, because it shows what happens when an individual suddenly experiences different cultural rules – the rules of another cultural group.

Now culture shock is a complex phenomenon, but I'm going to focus on three main ideas in this lecture. First of all, we will consider the reasons why people experience culture shock. Secondly, I will describe the different stages of this experience. Finally, I'll mention some possible applications of this research because although you might think that culture shock affects, say, only travelers, that is not the case. In fact, cross-cultural studies have immense practical value for modern society.

First, then, why do people experience culture shock? Think about this for a minute. When you grow up in a particular set of surroundings, naturally you get used to the rules and guidelines that govern the behavior of the people around you. In a sense, you become totally dependent on the rules of your social group. You tend not to question them; you just accept them without thinking. These rules are often not clearly articulated, and therefore, you're not aware of their impact. In other words, you are not necessarily conscious of them. They only become important when, for example, you go to another country or a different environment that's governed by a different set of rules. In fact, this experience can be so shocking that it has been compared to having a bucket

of cold water thrown over you. Culture shock happens precisely because you cannot use your own culture as a map to guide your own behavior and your own understanding of what surrounds you. You're totally out of control, just as if you were driving along a highway in the dark, without a road map. And because of this, people often behave irrationally. It's a highly stressful experience, and there are different symptoms in different stages.

<Pause 20 seconds>

Listen to the text again.

<Text repeated>

<Pause 30 seconds>

Listening comprehension part is over. Transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet!