

Listening Scripts

FILE 1

Listening 1

Speaker 1 I would hate to be a salesman of any kind, the idea terrifies me. I think a lot of your time is spent pressurizing people, lying to them, potentially, I am not saying all salesmen do this, but I think a lot of the time you do have to sell things that you don't necessarily believe in. I don't like that as a concept. A few of my friends, my school friends, they're salesmen, they love it, they've got the gift of the gab, they can, you know, talk the hind legs off a donkey, but, just, there is a feeling I get that is a little bit unsavoury at times, I know, this is a huge sweeping generalization, but I just wouldn't like to do it.

Speaker 2 The job I would hate to do is probably a bit obvious, but I don't think I'd like to be a bin man, because I think that, well, it would obviously smell a lot and also – I don't agree with it – but I think that there is possibly, maybe a bit of stigma attached to the job and people, I don't know, might look down at you even though I don't agree with that. I do know some guys who are bin men and they are fabulous and they have an amazing camaraderie with each other, they actually really enjoy their job and they finish fairly early, they work pretty good hours, and they are not stuck in an office every day, so they are out and about. I've never been a bin man, but when I worked in a bar I had to go round picking up cigarette butts off the floor and picking up everyone's rubbish, and sort of clearing up after people, I didn't mind it, but it's not that pleasant.

Speaker 3 I think a job I'd really like to do is be a professional actor. It must be great just going to, going filming in exotic locations and appearing on the West End stage. I used to be in school plays when I was a kid, so I think I've got what it takes. My brother-in-law used to be an extra in TV films and TV programmes like *EastEnders*, so he told me all about it – what goes on and that. I can't really think of any downsides in this job – maybe the fact that you are unemployed a lot, maybe that's a bit of a downside, but other than that I think it would be great.

Speaker 4 Well, I would love to be a midwife. I think it would be a wonderful thing to do, I think it would be rewarding, challenging and I would love to do it. My friend Annie is a midwife, she's an independent midwife and loves it. And I think the drawbacks to it, for her, are that, of course, you are on call all the time and you can be in the middle of a film and suddenly get a bleep on your phone but you have to go and deliver a baby, so you couldn't really, you know, plan your life around anything other than that. And I suppose one of the reasons I think I might be good at it is that, having had two children myself, I do have first-hand experience of the kind of things that you would need, and I think I've got an understanding of what, you know, a woman might, might need to know and the encouragement you might need when you're in labour.

Speaker 5 A job I would absolutely hate would be to work in a call centre. I think it would be one of the worst jobs in the world because you are in the middle, I think you get a terrible time from both sides, from the people who are your bosses and from the people who call the call centre who are usually cross about something and have a problem. I did telesales once a long time ago, part-time, so that was a slight experience of it and I hated it and never want to do it again and I think the only positive side to the job that I can see is that it is a job and you get paid.

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FILE 1

Listening 2

- Dave** This is an interesting article I'm reading here. It's about different personality types and I'm trying to work out which one I am.
- Sue** Oh, yeah?
- Dave** I think I might be what they call a 'Go-getter'. This kind of person is inventive, good at problem-solving, and loves life. 'Other people find their optimistic attitude and enthusiasm appealing,' it says.
- Sue** Mmm, I'm not sure that's you, exactly.
- Dave** Maybe not. But this is. Apparently, if they're under pressure, go-getters get overwhelmed by thinking about all the things that could go wrong. Oh and they forget important dates, like birthdays.
- Sue** Ha, that last bit sounds more like you. But the rest of it doesn't really.
- Dave** OK, well, maybe I fit into the category of 'Leader', then. Leaders are good at planning ahead and foreseeing problems. They're good organizers, but they prefer sorting out what other people are going to do than doing the detailed things themselves.
- Sue** Ah, that's definitely you! You're always telling other people what to do!
- Dave** That's not fair. I always do my share! But I think this sounds like me: 'Leaders like discussing serious issues and they like challenging other people's views to get a serious debate going. They like people who can argue strongly to back up their beliefs.'
- Sue** Yeah, I'd say that describes you pretty well. You certainly enjoy a good argument.
- Dave** But what about this bit? It says that leaders start to lose confidence in their own abilities if people refuse to go along with their instructions. I think that's true of me, actually, I do tend to question myself if that happens.
- Sue** Yes, I'd say that's right. So you're a leader, then.
- Dave** OK, now what about you? Let's have a look. Ah, yes, this one, I reckon you're a 'Performer'.
- Sue** What?
- Dave** Yes, listen to this: 'Performers are fun-loving and may forget about commitments because they're enjoying themselves so much.' That's you, all right!
- Sue** Mm, maybe. What else?
- Dave** Well, they don't believe in making plans, they prefer to just deal with things when they come up. People like them because they're outgoing and they're focused on enjoying life. They think they can do things efficiently and have fun at the same time by not being tied to rules and routines.
- Sue** I guess you could say that all of that is a fair description of me. Sounds pretty good, too.
- Dave** Yes, it does. Oh, and performers are good at motivating people because they're sensitive to how they're feeling and how to get the best out of them.
- Sue** And the downside?
- Dave** Well, they tend to take criticism very personally, and this stops them from getting on with things.
- Sue** I guess that's true of me. So I'm a performer.
- Dave** Yes, and when you read these descriptions, I wish I was, too!