

Listening Scripts

FILE 3

Listening 1

- Olivia** Hey, Grandpa. We have to do some research for a history project at school. Could you help me out if you have time?
- Grandpa** Sure Olivia, what do you need to know?
- Olivia** Um, OK, tell me about your social life when you were a teenager. What kind of things did you get up to in the holidays?
- Grandpa** Well, let me think ... there were no such things as youth clubs or holiday clubs back then, so we had to find our own fun. I remember in summer I would leave home in the morning, and then my friends and I used to go off on our bikes and stay out until evening. We'd ride through the woods or stay down by the river, those sorts of places.
- Olivia** Mum never lets me do that!
- Grandpa** Things are different nowadays – we had our bikes, but we didn't have any other toys or games. And do you know what? We were happy just as we were. We invented our own games – we just used whatever we found outside, like bits of wood, for example. If you ask me, kids nowadays have too many expensive toys and spend far too long in front of the TV!
- Olivia** Hmm, so what about school? Did you work hard?
- Grandpa** Yes, I did – I had to. We had no choice! My teachers were great and I liked ... well, about 50% of my lessons anyway. We had quite a bit of homework to do and funnily enough, I usually enjoyed doing that. For some projects, I used to sit for hours reading the encyclopaedias we had at home. They were big books with information about everything under the sun – we had no internet then, you see.
- Olivia** Cool! I'd like to see those books some time if you still have them.
- Grandpa** I've got them all. Now then, what else do you need to know?
- Olivia** Er ... did you like music when you were younger, Grandpa?
- Grandpa** Oh yes, I loved it! I had a little radio in my room and I used to get new batteries for it every week. It was like another best friend to me. Back then, I had a few records too. I showed them to you once. Do you remember? And when I was about 19 years old, I saw my first band – The Bruce Brothers – in the local community hall. I went there with your Great Uncle Jack. I remember it well.
- Olivia** Wow! Were they good?
- Grandpa** The best. They were my favourite band.
- Olivia** What about food, Grandpa? What did you eat when you were younger?
- Grandpa** Well, I was very lucky because my mother, your great-grandmother, was a wonderful cook. We had our own eggs from the chickens she kept and obviously we had their meat sometimes as well. And there was every kind of vegetable you could think of growing in the back garden. She baked bread every day, too. In fact, she didn't need to go to the shops for much at all, just things like fish, for example. Ah, she was so good in the kitchen, Olivia.
- Olivia** Grandpa, I have to stop now because I must finish my homework. But it was really good to hear all about the old days. Will you tell me more some other time?
- Grandpa** Of course I will, any time.
- Olivia** Cool! See you later then.

FILE 3

Listening 2

- 1 I've got lots of great photos, but probably the one that's most important to me is the one of my grandma. She got married when she was very young, and in this photo of her on her wedding day, she's only about 18 years old. My grandpa died last year, so she lives with us now.
- 2 I've got the cutest little kitten. She's only a few months old and she loves to sleep in strange places. Once I found her in the vegetable basket on top of the potatoes and carrots – I had to get a photo of that! The one I love most is of her curled up on a towel in the bathroom beside the heater. She looks so comfortable.
- 3 We've got so many photos of the children that it's really impossible to pick a favourite. But as a hobby, I'm quite into landscape photography and I got some pretty impressive shots recently. There's one in a forest in New England in autumn – the shades of red and yellow are amazing as you can imagine. Probably that's the best one.
- 4 I work as a food photographer, so I spend my life taking photos of all sorts of yummy-looking food – you know, cakes, chocolate desserts, and so on. I've got an amazing one of a strawberry cake. But because it's all work those pictures don't mean so much to me. One photo I do love, though, is a black and white one of my nephew that my sister gave me. It was taken when he was about a half a day old and he looks so sweet.
- 5 It was taken ages ago in our final year at university, on the day of our last exam actually. We all got dressed up and went out to celebrate afterwards, and it was a fantastic evening. Now, years later, even though we're all married and have our own families, we still talk about it.