

# Video scripts

## Unit 1

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### Lesson B

*Lorraine* In class this week, we discussed the claim that young people don't read literature anymore. So I'm interviewing students to find out if that's true. Hi, Sydney.

*Sydney* Hi!

*Lorraine* Sydney, do you read literature?

*Sydney* I do!

*Lorraine* Good! So who's your favorite author?

*Sydney* Well, let's see. . . . I love Isabel Allende's novels. Her best one was . . . oh, wait. It's on the tip of my tongue, um, . . . *The Stories of Eva Luna*. I would love to write like her, but I'll never be able to. She's so talented, and she tells these amazing, magical stories. I've read every book she's ever written. I hope she writes a new one soon.

*Lorraine* What classic literature have you read?

*Sydney* I enjoy reading Shakespeare. We had to read his plays in high school – well, we were supposed to – but they were too difficult, and I couldn't make heads or tails of them. It can be hard to get your head around the language. But actually, once you come to grips with it, you can see how the plots and characters are still relevant today.

*Lorraine* What's your favorite piece of literature?

*Patricio* Interestingly enough, it's actually a poem. It's one I learned by heart when I was a kid. It's about cats, and I can still recite the whole thing. I can't remember who wrote it, though. As kids we used to love reading poems out loud. I still like to, actually.

*Lorraine* So, what about books? What did you read most recently?

*Patricio* Off the top of my head, I can't think of anything. Um, let's think. No, nothing comes to mind. I don't read a lot of books, but the ones I like tend to be things like biographies, um, nonfiction, where you learn something and get something out of it. I don't see the point of reading stories that are just made up.

*Lorraine* Is it important to read classic literature?

*Ashley* Not really. It's beyond me why people think you should read the classics. You don't have to. I know I probably shouldn't read trashy novels, and I try not to, but some of my favorite books are just cheap romance novels by unknown authors. They're the ones that stick in my mind.

*Lorraine* What are you reading right now?

*Ashley* Actually, to tell the truth, I don't read much nowadays. I used to. In fact, I was an avid reader; I used to read a lot, but these days I prefer not to. I listen to the radio more, or podcasts, because with, um, sorry . . . I lost my train of thought. Um, yeah.

### Lesson C

*Professor* Not long ago, they were predicting that because of the increase in phone and computer use, people would stop reading and writing. But we haven't. In fact, we're reading and writing more than we did. So, are there implications of this for literature? And if so, what?

*Lorraine* Yes, well, it does seem that with social media everybody's writing something these days, like blogs and check-ins and status updates. I know I am.

*Sydney* Which is a good thing. I mean, I do like the fact that anyone can write a blog. It makes writing, well, . . . more democratic somehow.

*Professor* I do think, though, that it gives the impression that anybody can be a writer. But doesn't it take talent to be a good writer? And if not, then does that mean anything goes?

*Richard* Yes, nowadays anyone can publish a novel online, but how do you know if it's any good? How do we evaluate it?

*Lorraine* Do you need to, though? I think the real problem is with nonfiction. I mean, how do you determine what information you read on the Internet is accurate and reliable?

*Professor* Yes, indeed. That's just as important, if not more important.

## Unit 2

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### Lesson A

*Professor* In the college debate next week, the subject to be discussed is changing attitudes toward privacy. Do you think privacy has a different meaning nowadays?

*Sydney* Yes, definitely. I mean, people put pictures online and share intimate details with hundreds of so-called friends on social networks. You can watch videos of absolutely

anything, you know, people brushing their teeth – all kinds of things that were once considered private.

*Richard* Right. And every few minutes, they post updates saying what they're doing. "The cat just bit me," or "Gonna wash my hair." We don't need to know things like that.

*Lorraine* True. You can get to know more about people on the other side of the world than about someone next door or the guy upstairs. But I guess it's pretty harmless.

*Sydney* Maybe, but what about real invasions of privacy? Like online stores bombard you with ads offering personal recommendations because they know what you've searched for. And applications programmed to monitor your email, then on your screen you get those pop-up ads based on what you've just written? They're the ones I find creepy.

*Lorraine* Well, you can just ignore ads. What worries me is the information demanded from you if you just want a username for a website – sometimes they want your mailing address, cell phone number, date of birth . . . everything. There must be a lot of people happy to give away all this information, but they have no idea of how it'll be used. They get taken in by websites eager to make money by selling their databases to other companies.

*Professor* Privacy is not an easy concept to define. So let's see if we can come up with a definition of privacy.

## Unit 3

### Lesson A

*Sonia* Growing up, I was always branded a rebel, which is a little unfair. I guess, though, that I've never really conformed to social norms, being single and not having had any children at the ripe old age of 30! I just never met anyone, working as hard as I do. But having built up a successful career, I'm happy with my life choices. People say, "Oh, you'll regret it when you're old and lonely." But looking around, I see plenty of elderly people with families who are still lonely.

*Victor* I recently decided to get out of the rat race, having been in it most of my adult life. I'd been thinking about doing something different, but then I got laid off and was offered a generous severance package. So, presented with a golden opportunity to change my life, I bought a small restaurant here. Working in the PR industry, people are under enormous pressure, you know, to look good, have the right clothes, and be "perfect," which is really stressful. Not to mention the work hours. I got out. I'm earning less now, running this place, but I just know I'll be a lot happier going forward.

*Alba* Thinking about it, this is probably going to sound silly, but I feel tremendous pressure to have an active social life. I don't have that many friends

### Lesson C

*Ned* All these people with headphones on – working, emailing, messaging . . . I couldn't possibly do that.

*Tara* Me neither.

*Ned* I mean, multitasking is supposedly an essential skill these days, and theoretically, you can pack 12 hours into an 8-hour day, but I'm skeptical. You can't possibly concentrate on more than one thing.

*Tara* Well, I was reading about this recently, and evidently, if you're multitasking, you're either doing things badly or not at all.

*Ned* So there's been research on this, presumably?

*Tara* Yeah. Apparently, they gave people these tasks to do and found that "high multitaskers" weren't just slower; they had poor memories and couldn't switch tasks easily, either. So being able to multitask is really a myth and might even be harmful.

*Ned* Sounds like there's a lot to be said for doing one thing at a time.

*Tara* Well, it's almost invariably more efficient. And ironically, the people who said they were bad at multitasking performed better than those who said they were good at it, and vice versa.

*Ned* Maybe I'd be better at it than I thought, then.

compared to my co-workers, or so it seems. I dread Fridays, when they ask if I'm going out with friends on the weekend. And speaking of friends, with social networking, you're supposed to have hundreds of them, and I don't. I mean, not wanting to be rude or anything, I can't see how you can have that many friends, really.

### Lesson C

*Carol* I do think life was a lot easier when I was your age — for young people, I mean.

*Ashley* You do? In what way?

*Carol* Well, there wasn't all this peer pressure to have the latest fashions and cell phones and that sort of thing. But having said that, there were other pressures.

*Ashley* Like what?

*Carol* Oh, back in the day, women were expected to stay home and raise a family. I mean, some women worked, but even so, their options were limited.

*Ashley* Well, I guess that's changed, which is good. But then again, they say women still do more of the household chores.

*Carol* True.

*Ashley* I think the worst thing now is like pressure to get good grades. You can study and study, but even then, you're not guaranteed a good job at the end of it.

*Carol* Yes, there's so much competition for jobs nowadays. But then, I suppose there always was.

## Unit 4

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### Lesson B

Deserts are, for lack of a better description, among some of the most fascinating and diverse landscapes on earth. They cover approximately one-third of the earth's land surface and stretch across all continents. But what is a desert? Most people think of them as hot, sandy places thanks to photographs of sand dunes in the Sahara desert. But in fact, only about 10 percent of the world's deserts are covered with sand dunes, including the Sahara. In line with United States Geological Survey definitions, a desert is an area that has less than 250 millimeters (10 inches) of rain per year. So Antarctica is a desert, apart from being one of the coldest places on earth. And in addition to cold deserts, there are also mountainous deserts.

Deserts are also commonly believed to be wastelands, on account of their harsh living conditions for wildlife and plants. But far from being barren, deserts are often very rich in plant life. Death Valley in the United States has over 1,000 plant species in spite of the fact that it has some of the most extreme conditions. And many species of animals can also survive in a desert climate by virtue of having adapted to the environment. Some, like the camel, can go up to eight days without drinking. As for smaller mammals, many have adapted by means of living underground or by hunting only at night.

One problem with deserts is that they expand and encroach on arable land. In fact, there is great concern in many parts of the world about this process, known as "desertification." Take for example the Gobi desert, which has spread, in part due to the fact that agricultural practices have changed from those in use prior to the 1950s.

China was faced with increasing areas of arid land in place of its valuable grasslands. And, as a result of

experiencing increasingly severe dust storms, China has started planting trees with the aim of halting desertification. By the end of the planned 70-year project, they will have planted more than 4,500 kilometers (approximately 2,800 miles) of trees.

### Lesson C

*Patricio* Well, the biggest issue seems to have been overfishing. Something like three-quarters of the world's fish species have been completely exploited. It's only a matter of time before the fishing industry collapses completely.

*Lorraine* Not to mention all the other industries that depend on it. So who or what's responsible for it all?

*Patricio* Well, the international community has been increasing fishing capacity, for one thing . . .

*Ashley* And additionally, governments give subsidies, so large-scale fishing operations took over. And big commercial fleets are much more efficient at finding fish as well.

*Lorraine* And on top of that, I guess consumers got used to having a wide variety of fish available, so the demand was there. Also, fish became much more affordable. But I don't know if they need teachers, really.

*Ashley* What's more, the public has, to a large extent, been pretty apathetic. And then industry has been slow to respond to concerns. In any case, apathy has contributed to the problem.

## Unit 5

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### Lesson A

The most rudimentary instrument that has been widely used for centuries to find direction is the magnetic compass. It was probably invented by the Chinese and was based on the metal lodestone, which had long been admired for its ability to point toward north. Countless lives have undoubtedly been saved over the centuries on land and at sea thanks to the compass, which functions equally well in daylight, darkness, or thick fog.

Even in our electronic age, magnetic compasses are still being made, and their basic design has not changed for centuries. They are compact, functional, and portable.

Toward the end of the twentieth century, alternatives to the compass were being intensively developed, and significant advances were made — thanks to satellite technology.

GPS is now an integral part of our daily lives, making moving maps, communicating with smartphones, and offering handheld location devices. It had originally been developed for military purposes, but it soon became part of everyday technology, and innovative ways to use GPS — from tracking migrating birds to helping golfers judge their shots — are continually being found through ongoing research.

The system has already been incorporated into aircraft and ship design as standard, and many other technologies also derive considerable benefit from it.

But what about the humble compass? Is it obsolete now? Has it been completely forgotten? What do you think?

## Lesson C

*Alba* I see another rocket's just been launched. All this money that's being wasted on going into space. Just think what could have been done with those billions of dollars!

*Jack* Yes, . . . but one way to look at it is that all kinds of things have been discovered through space exploration.

*Alba* Like what?

*Jack* Well, satellite technology, more accurate weather forecasting — they've both come from space programs. And you can't say that we don't need those things.

*Alba* Absolutely not. But I look at it this way: there are other things we could spend the money on. Don't you think it would have been better spent on things like schools?

*Jack* Not necessarily. But anyway, things like the space program encourage kids to go into science and engineering. It makes it exciting. I mean, life would be very limited if we never looked beyond our immediate environment.

*Alba* Well, let me put it another way: maybe we should explore space but not till we've made our own world a better place.

*Jack* Maybe. Maybe not.

## Unit 6

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### Lesson B

How do you lure people into a retail store? Lower prices will tempt some people, and some will be attracted by special offers, but others know they can probably get what they want cheaper online. In most developed economies, online shopping has grown steadily by about 20 percent a year, while in-store shopping has more or less remained stagnant. To compete, retail stores need to find other ways to persuade customers to leave their computers, and convince them that there's a better shopping experience in store.

But coaxing people to come in and buy is not so easy. Some retailers have found that an effective way of wooing customers is to create a store that combines conventional décor and layout with high-tech facilities. Such an environment may look very traditional but also offers facilities like self-service checkouts. Another store might have terminals with self-service ordering for home delivery. Yet another might entice customers by creating a social space — a so-called “third place” between work and home — where people can enjoy coffee or read in a relaxed setting without feeling pressured into buying things they don't need. Any store that makes people feel at ease will probably generate more business.

No store wants to scare people off or discourage them from buying products by creating a cold, unfriendly atmosphere. Some evidence points to the fact that in-store music relaxes customers. Other evidence suggests it can actually irritate people. Equally, no store wants to be so overwhelming that it puts people off or even alienates them. There's a fine balance between deterring customers and drawing them in.

The atmosphere needs to appeal to you, be like your home – not some other unfamiliar place. And since most

people don't live in homes the size of aircraft hangars, a store with a small footprint will be less likely to intimidate. The superstores of the late twentieth century may well have had their day. Such places were good for browsing a vast range of goods, but we can now browse the whole shopping world online. So in retail, small may prove to be beautiful after all.

### Lesson C

*Ned* Have you heard that expression “to boycott”?

*Dion* Not sure. What is it?

*Ned* It's when you buy a company's products because you support its corporate policies. Like if they support a cause you believe in, or if they do business ethically. It's like the opposite of boycott.

*Dion* Oh, right. Does it work? I mean, consumers don't have that much influence, do they?

*Ned* But don't you think companies should listen to their customers?

*Dion* Well, to some extent, maybe.

*Ned* I think people want businesses to give something back to the community and to have ethical practices. It makes sense for any corporation to do that, doesn't it?

*Dion* Well, granted the notion of corporate social responsibility is very popular. It's fine in theory. In practice it's more complex than that, isn't it? And in any event, don't companies only do what's good for their bottom line?

## Unit 7

### Lesson B

*Amy* Hello and welcome to *Smart Talk*, our advice show on lifestyle and relationships. Today's topic is about getting married. So you've met the man or woman of your dreams and decided to become husband and wife. You're probably sick and tired of reading the divorce statistics, but they're not encouraging. In many Western countries, around 40 percent of marriages end in divorce. Why divorce rates are so high is not clear. But what many couples fail to do is to discuss the important issues before the wedding. So, stop and think now – you'll save yourself time and energy and maybe avoid a lot of pain and suffering. Let's take some calls! Our first caller is Diane. Hi, Diane.

*Diane* Hi, Amy! I'm getting married in a few months and just wanted to ask: what do you think is the most important issue to discuss before you get married?

*Amy* Thanks, Diane. A lot of people enter marriage without knowing the complete financial situation of the person they're marrying. For example, is how you spend money a problem right now?

*Diane* For me? Not really. I'm not really sure if it's a problem for him.

*Amy* Well, make sure to answer that question first because, when you're married, it'll likely become a problem sooner or later. You should agree now on how much you will spend – for example, on rent, vacations, entertainment, etc. – and what your financial goals are. Do you know if you'll keep separate bank accounts?

*Diane* Oh, we haven't really talked about it.

*Amy* Give it some thought. You'll be much better off addressing any financial issues before you walk down the aisle.

*Diane* We will definitely do that. Thanks!

*Amy* And thank you, Diane. Our next caller is Jason. Hi!

*Jason* Hi, Amy! My fiancée works like about 60 hours a week, and I'm worried that I'll always feel like I'm competing with her job when we're married.

*Amy* Yes, how many hours a week your partner works can be an issue. You both need to set your expectations and tell each other now if you intend to work above and beyond a normal workweek; otherwise, slowly but surely those long hours will cause resentment. And, Jason, make sure you discuss not just your time commitments, but also other ways that your careers might affect each

other's lives: For example, you should discuss whether or not you would both move to another city because of work, and also talk about how you would feel were your partner to work away from home and commute back and forth on weekends.

*Jason* Thank you. I guess I'm just a little worried that she'll take it as criticism. And I don't want us to argue about it.

*Amy* Just remember, Jason, that every relationship has its ups and downs, but in this day and age, marriage is all about give-and-take. How you resolve differences can be critical and may predict the success or failure of a marriage. For example, can you agree without arguing how often your in-laws can visit?

*Jason* Well, I hope so! Thanks so much, Amy.

*Amy* Thank you, Jason. And thank you to my listeners for tuning in. We'll be back after this commercial break.

### Lesson C

*Tara* Did I tell you I'm going out on a date tonight?

*Alba* No. Who with?

*Tara* This guy I met on an Internet dating site.

*Alba* Is that . . . all right?

*Tara* Oh, yeah. Talk to anybody these days, and you'll probably find they're using dating sites.

*Alba* So you think it's OK, then?

*Tara* I do. Really and truly. It's just like being at a party. You see somebody you like, you arrange to meet and –

*Alba* But you don't really know who they are. I mean, when all's said and done, surely it's better to get to know them a little first.

*Tara* Well, you do. You email or call. It's so convenient. And in the end, you don't waste time on people you're not interested in.

*Alba* I guess.

*Tara* You know, all the time I spend working, I'll never meet anybody otherwise.

*Alba* Well, in that case, do you have time to date? I mean, at the end of the day, if you're always working, you probably don't have time for a boyfriend.

## Unit 8

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### Lesson A

- Nate* For me it would definitely be Leonardo da Vinci. I'd love to have met him; he was such a creative genius and not just an artist. He seems to have foreseen a number of inventions that only came about hundreds of years later, like flying machines and types of weapons. I'd like to tell him he really did see the future.
- Ashley* I'd choose Cleopatra – the last pharaoh of ancient Egypt. She is thought to have been very beautiful and is generally considered to have formed some extremely effective political alliances. Not many women were that influential in ancient times. I'd like to have seen how she did it.
- Patricio* I'm Latin American, so I would nominate Simón Bolívar as the person I would like to have known. He's supposed to have been a very charismatic, courageous leader and is acknowledged to have helped achieve independence for several countries in Latin America in the nineteenth century.
- Lorraine* I studied philosophy, so I would like to have spoken face-to-face with the Chinese philosopher Confucius. I'd like to have discussed with him his political philosophy and his ideas about family values. He seems to have had a lot of respect for older people, and even though he lived more than a thousand years ago, his beliefs are still relevant.

## Unit 9

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### Lesson A

- Host* So you're thinking of a career in engineering. Wherever you look, you'll see the work of a talented engineer who has designed, tested, and improved the objects around you. Whatever goes wrong or whenever there is a problem to be solved, however complex, one can rely on engineers to apply their knowledge of math and science – along with some creativity – to come up with a solution. So, what do engineers do? We asked Jack Sandoval, the head of the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Here's what he said.
- Jack* Whenever you wash your jeans, remember it was a chemical engineer that developed the fade-resistant dye. Pick up any game console – that scratchproof plastic was made by these engineers. Chemical engineers also help produce medicines and cosmetics, and find solutions to damage caused by harmful chemicals.
- Engineers in this field work with materials such as ceramics, plastics, and metals. Their work is central to engineering as a whole. Materials science engineers process, design, and test whatever materials are used in all other branches of engineering.

### Lesson C

- Ned* You know, I never did like history in school. It just wasn't a subject I enjoyed, remembering all those dates. I didn't see the point.
- Tara* Well, I guess it's not just about learning dates. It's about trying to understand why people did things or what society was like through the ages.
- Ned* But I mean, so often the facts get distorted, like what happened in the last war. But don't get me started on that.
- Tara* Well, yeah. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to find out the truth and then learn from it so we don't repeat the same mistakes.
- Ned* But that's what I'm saying. We don't learn, do we? I mean, look at what's happening around the world today. We seem to have learned absolutely nothing. It's like history repeating itself. But that's another story.
- Tara* Yeah, but even if we still have disputes, maybe we'll deal with them in a different way. I mean, engage in dialog . . . negotiate.
- Ned* But most of the time, talks just break down and don't go anywhere. But anyway, let's not get into politics.

- These engineers are at the heart of urban planning and transportation design. Wherever you go and whatever you do today, you'll encounter their work. The system of pipes that brings water to your shower, the roads you drive on, the bridges you cross, the buildings you occupy – these are all examples of civil engineering work.
- Bringing together the fields of engineering and medicine, biomedical engineers work on whatever needs to be done to improve health care. They design anything from artificial body parts and lifesaving equipment to drug and gene therapies.
- Host* However you look at it, a career in engineering is exciting and rewarding. Whoever you are and whichever field of engineering you choose, you have the potential to design and develop products that will have an enormous impact on society.

### Lesson C

- Sonia* I was just listening to a report on the radio about engineering challenges for the next century.

- Victor* Yeah? Let me guess. Is one of them building a colony on Mars? I mean, it makes no sense whatsoever, but . . .
- Sonia* No, and in view of the fact that it takes about seven months to get there, that's a long way off.
- Victor* Right. OK. Well, let's see, um, considering the price of gas, maybe finding cheaper sources of fuel?
- Sonia* Yeah, there were a couple about energy – like making solar energy economical. But there's one that's kind of surprising, given the weather.

- Victor* Uh-huh. Yeah?
- Sonia* Providing access to clean water.
- Victor* Oh, right. That's pretty basic considering we're in the twenty-first century. But I guess it makes sense in light of the fact that some places got no rain at all last year. I mean, none whatsoever.
- Sonia* Yeah, they were saying one in six people don't have access to clean water for whatever reason.

## Unit 10

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### Lesson A

- Tom* Welcome back to Channel 1 news. Efforts to contain the oil spill on the south coast appear to be working. But the oil giant responsible for the disaster could be facing more difficulties. Local businesses were rumored yesterday to be considering legal action, claiming for loss of income and livelihood. "People are going to be suing people over this," said one fisherman. A spokesperson for the oil company said they are committed to compensating victims affected by the spill.
- Tania* A blast in the downtown area has caused extensive damage. Investigators are not sure what caused the explosion but have not ruled out the possibility that it was a terrorist attack. Three people were reported to have been acting suspiciously in the financial district, and police were said to be searching for a red pickup truck that was seen in the area. A bomb went off in the same area two years ago.
- Tom* Three years after becoming the first female senator from her state, a young politician may be preparing to run for office in the upcoming presidential election. While the senator seems not to be announcing her campaign just yet, an appearance on a Sunday morning talk show has fueled speculation.
- In related news, the President's press secretary announced that the President will be undergoing routine surgery later this week and might not be able to greet a trade delegation of Chinese officials.
- Tania* Investors might have been worrying unnecessarily after the stock market plunged to

an all-time low last month. Stocks are now making a modest recovery as markets are said to have been gaining in confidence over the last two weeks. However, there are still concerns over the state of the economy and the huge deficits. Protesters are said to be planning more demonstrations in the capital. The marches seem to have been going peacefully so far. However, police say that they will be mobilizing riot squads if tensions escalate. More of today's headlines after this commercial break.

### Lesson C

- Jill* Have you noticed how some people seem almost addicted to news? Like, this guy at work, he has all these news apps on his phone, but he never knows what's going on, really.
- Dion* Yeah. My girlfriend, she watches news channels all the time. But I don't think she really listens, you know what I mean? It's just background noise.
- Jill* I know. Those TV channels, they just repeat the same news over and over. It drives me crazy, hearing the same thing all the time.
- Dion* Me too. And those news tickers, they're another thing I hate. It's so distracting, trying to listen with those things going across the screen at the same time.
- Jill* Yeah. Public radio, that's what I like. They have some really interesting in-depth reports, too.
- Dion* Speaking of which, did you hear that report about that huge investment company? It seems to be going under.

## Unit 11

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### Lesson A

A TV documentary that's to air later this week is about families known as "preppers." These are people who are so convinced that life as we know it is to end or that civilization is about to collapse that they are preparing for the day it happens. So they're stockpiling food, water, and survival equipment, which no one is to touch until the day when some unknown disaster occurs – like the failure of

the national grid, a natural disaster, even an asteroid strike – which they say is bound to happen eventually. I have to admit: If society were to collapse tomorrow, or if food and energy supplies were to be threatened, they are certainly better prepared than my family. We have barely three cans of baked beans and a pack of birthday candles between us. If we are to survive a catastrophe, we'd better shape up.

If the doomsayers are correct, the world as we know it is to end sooner than we think – which kind of got me thinking about what threats to our lives are real and which are imagined. For example, remember Y2K? At the turn of this century, there was a great panic that computer systems around the world were about to crash because of the way computers recognized dates. The Year 2000, or Y2K, as it became commonly known, was set to be the biggest systems failure the world had ever experienced. It never happened.

Another perceived threat is an asteroid strike. Is one imminent? If so, shouldn't we all be panicking? Didn't the last one wipe out the dinosaurs? Well, according to experts at NASA, earth is not about to be hit by an asteroid. They do say that there's bound to be debris from space falling on us at some point, although given the fact that around 70 percent of the earth's surface is water, there's little chance it's going to fall on me as I head for the supermarket.

There's always some disaster that's about to happen. And it truly is hard to know what's real and what's not. So what's the average family like mine to do? Maybe the next time I go to the supermarket, I'll buy a few more cans of baked beans and some large white regular candles. Just in case.

## Unit 12

### Lesson A

*Tania* In psychology, young people between the ages of 17 and 22 are often characterized as experiencing “early adult transition.” At this age, they might leave home to attend college, get their first job, or think about starting their own family. It's a time when young people start to separate from their family attachments and become truly independent. We asked viewers to tell us about their experiences of becoming independent.

*Nate* Actually, I've always been independent. My parents raised me and my brother that way. They always insisted on us making our own decisions. I guess they were big believers in children being responsible for themselves and their own choices. Like I remember us setting off on a trip one time, and it was snowing, and I wouldn't wear a coat. And I was frozen and sobbing. And I remember my mom saying, “It's your own fault.” She's always hated people complaining about things that are their own fault.

*Dion* Interestingly enough, I didn't find it hard leaving home. I think actually my parents had a much harder time dealing with me becoming independent. But at the time, they encouraged me to leave without me realizing how difficult it was for them. My mom said later that she and my dad dreaded me leaving and hated the thought of them becoming “empty nesters.” But for me, it was all just a big adventure.

*Alba* I left home with little experience of being independent. I'd always depended on my parents

### Lesson C

*Tania* You know, it's interesting. A friend of mine was telling her 12-year-old son about how it's not good to tell lies, and then he caught her telling a lie.

*Tom* He did not.

*Tania* Oh, yeah. They were going into an amusement park, and she told them he was 11 to get the reduced rate. And her son called her on it.

*Tom* Well, yeah. I mean, that doesn't seem right.

*Tania* Yeah. And she's like, “It's just a white lie.” I guess, to her, it was no big deal. But you know, I'm not comfortable with that. To me, it was a lie.

*Tom* Yeah, very much so, but . . . did you tell her that?

*Tania* No. I just laughed it off.

*Tom* See, that doesn't sit quite right with me.

*Tania* But what are you supposed to do? Say, “That's wrong”?

*Tom* Yeah, but I mean, if you don't say anything, that's kind of a lie, too. That would be my concern, anyhow.

being there and doing everything for me.

Leaving home was a big shock to me. I couldn't cook, didn't know how to do laundry. I mean, there's nothing wrong with children relying on their parents. But it's a balance. I wish mine had been more supportive of me doing things by myself.

### Lesson C

*Sydney* We were talking in class today about how much appearance matters in society.

*Nate* Yeah?

*Sydney* Yeah. Apparently, they say that more attractive people do better in job interviews, and they earn more. I mean, it seems unfair – to put it mildly – that the good-looking ones are more likely to get hired and promoted.

*Nate* Well, I suppose if you look at it from an employer's perspective, the people who make an effort to look good are probably the ones who make more of an effort at work.

*Sydney* Possibly. But at the same time, surely your skills and education are more important than how you look.

*Nate* True. They always say, “Never judge a book by its cover.” But equally, shouldn't we try to make ourselves look as good as we can?

*Sydney* I suppose. But to put it bluntly, there's something not right about employers only hiring people that are attractive.