

ENGLISH FILE 4TH EDITION UPPER INTERMEDIATE AUDIO SCRIPTS

FILE TESTS

END OF COURSE TEST

Listening 1

1

Speaker 1 I think most people associate community with small towns and villages, but I believe the areas of a city can also foster community identity. So ... I've divided my future city into distinct neighbourhoods and I've designed each one around a communal space, which has gardens, water features, and a central square. I imagine these areas will be vibrant and full of people. They will be socialising here, and organising all sorts of interesting cultural events and celebrations throughout the year.

2

Speaker 2 It's inevitable that the cities of the future will be designed with the environment in mind. For this reason, there are no roads for private vehicles in the centre of my city at all. There will be an energy efficient public transport system with electric buses and trains for commuters, but people will be encouraged to walk or cycle as their primary means of travel. The idea is to create a healthy city – one where the air quality is good and people can be more active in their daily lives.

3

Speaker 3 In the future, I hope I'll be living in a city like this. It has technology at the centre of the design. We won't have to worry about shopping for food, emptying bins, or heating our homes, because technology will take care of those things for us. Sensors around the city will monitor things like traffic congestion and the flow of people through the streets. If a particular area becomes overcrowded, you'll receive information telling you how to avoid the busy areas.

4

Speaker 4 I'm very keen on the zero-waste concept, so I've tried to design a zero-waste city. The city centre is full of businesses that are dedicated to providing local products that have minimal impact on the environment. You know, shops and supermarkets will be free from plastic packaging. And there's a city-wide food waste programme which will ensure that waste food from businesses and restaurants is collected and given away or used to create new products.

5

Speaker 5 Tall buildings and high-rise apartment blocks dominate our urban skylines. And I know some people dislike that but I think we'll need to build high in future because space will be even more limited than it is today. The idea behind my design is to have tall buildings but ensure that green spaces are incorporated into them. They'll even have plants and trees on their surface. This will provide habitats for birds and animals, and it'll also prevent the streets from overheating in the summer. So, my city will be densely populated, but also green.

END OF COURSE TEST

Listening 2

Hello, my name's Calum MacIntyre and, as you know, I've been asked here today to talk to you about the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster. So, I'm going to give you a bit of an overview of the content of my book. I'll tell you about Loch Ness, and some of the possible explanations for the 'monster' – or Nessie, as she's known to us locals – and I'll describe some of the recent findings from scientific research of the loch.

So, I've lived near the Loch Ness all my life and that means I've heard just about every story ever told about Nessie. She's become a bit of a legend worldwide since the first ever sighting was reported in 565 AD.

Anyway, Loch Ness is a special place. It has a mystical quality about it. And if you're out in the early morning or evening when it's quiet, it can actually be quite eerie. And it's vast. It isn't wide, but it is long – around 23 miles long. And it's incredibly deep. In fact, it's about a mile deep in places – the perfect place for a monster to hide ...

As a boy, I used to look out over the loch and think, 'Monsters don't exist, do they? But then again, maybe they could in a place like this.' I certainly hoped so ... And I think it's hope that has kept the myth of Nessie alive for so long. There have been numerous sightings over the years, and even some photographic evidence. The most famous is the 'Surgeon's Photograph' from 1934. As you can see, it shows what looks like a large, long-necked creature swimming on the water's surface ... it's pretty convincing. I must say, I've seen a few unexplained things out on the loch myself, but I've never been able to capture them on camera. There are many more examples of Nessie sightings in the book ... too many to mention here ...

So, what is Nessie? The most popular theory is that she's a plesiosaur – a type of dinosaur which for some reason didn't die out along with the others sixty-five million years ago. That's the most exciting explanation in my opinion. But I've been observing the loch for many years and I haven't found any proof that she exists, even though I'd like to believe that she does.

People often ask me, if Nessie doesn't exist, why have there been so many eyewitness accounts of her? Well, it could be due to a psychological phenomenon known as 'expectant attention'. This happens when people expect to see something, or want to see something, and then misinterpret visual cues and think that they really have seen it! Some people think that groups of animals such as seals or otters moving together in the water may look like the curves of a monster's back. I guess that's a likely explanation ... if you don't believe in the monster.

In a recent study, scientists found DNA matches for many land species that you'd expect to see in and around Loch Ness, including humans, dogs, wild animals, and birds. This suggests that if there really was a monster in the loch, they'd have found evidence of it. However, there is some uncertainty. For some reason, seal and otter – two animal species which are known to visit the loch occasionally – weren't detected in the samples, and a large proportion of the DNA that was collected in the loch – twenty percent in fact – was categorised as 'unexplained'. While that's considered normal for this type of DNA study, it means there is some room for doubt. Basically, they can't find evidence that Nessie exists, but they can't prove that she doesn't ... And actually, I like that. Despite all our scientific technology, we can still enjoy the thrill of an unsolved mystery ...