

## MODULE 1A

## Listening p.8

2

1 B; 2 C; 3 C; 4 A; 5 A; 6 C

## Audio script

W = Woman; M = Man

1

Cars in general have never been a real passion for me. However, my own car is another matter. I have three children under six, their toys, buggies and bikes to ferry round, plus an enormous supermarket shop to load into the boot every week. I may wave my husband off on month-long overseas business trips without a second thought, but when my car goes into the garage for an afternoon, I'm lost.

2

I've always loved music, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as a career, so I did a one-year course in music technology. At first, I still wasn't convinced it was for me, but once I realised I would eventually be able to put my own music together, I really started loving it. The course is a part-time one, so once I'd mastered the basics of how to use the microphones and mixing desk, I was able to get casual work in a recording studio. That was really useful and I haven't looked back. I love doing what I do and I wouldn't swap it for anything.

3

Some people say that shopping is a mindless kind of activity. Well, I love shopping, not for the things I buy, but just for the fun of it. So I was pleased to read that shopping is actually good for your brain. When scientists measured activity in the brains of shoppers, they found a lot of activity in the important back part of the brain in the two-and-a-half seconds that it took them to choose a product. In other words, it fires up the part of the brain used in making decisions. So it can't be mindless, can it?

4

W1: Do you wish you could learn a language or take up a new hobby, but it's too expensive or there isn't a class nearby? A new trend known as 'talent swapping' could be the answer. On today's programme, two listeners reveal how it worked for them.

M: A neighbour told me she was having problems filling in her tax forms, so I offered to help. In return she made me a lovely meal and now she's teaching me to cook.

W2: A friend was helping children at a local school with their reading and encouraged me to go too. I love it because I get a real buzz from seeing them improving.

5

I went to university with quite a few false ideas about how much living on my own and being a student in London would cost. Before I started, I gave myself a budget for food, rent, etc. and tried to stick to it, but it didn't work out, I'm afraid. I realised that I'm quite fussy about things, like having the right kind of shampoo and eating well, and so it was difficult to economise. I ended up keeping a careful record of everything I spent, which made my friends laugh. You see, my mum's an accountant and I had always complained when she suggested doing that!

6

Travelling regularly in Europe and North America for my work means that I spend relatively little time at home. There's a lot of hard work involved, but one of the compensations of my job is staying in five-star hotels where the furnishings are cool and modern and the bathroom's out of this world. But you can get tired of all that. So when it came to my own place, I knew exactly what I wanted it to look like. I decided to try and create the opposite of twenty-first century five-star hotel living.