

Unit 8 Here is a darker side of society.

II. Basic Listening Practice

1. Script

W: Are those cigarettes yours? I thought you quit. If you go back to it, your teeth and fingers will be nicotine-stained; your breath and clothes will smell smoky.

M: I didn't. I swear. Ads showing diseased lungs kept me from starting again. Believe me, I'll never again be a slave to smoking.

Q: Why wouldn't the man go back to smoking?

2. Script

M: What's that noise? It's really loud! Sounds like gunshots!

W: It's the local youth throwing firecrackers. Don't go out. They're likely to throw one at you or put one into your letterbox if you bother them.

Q: What may the young people do?

3. Script

M: I wish I had left my wallet at home. But I'm sure I put it in my back pocket.

W: Oh no. It's so easy for a pickpocket to take it from there. You should have put your wallet in your breast pocket.

Q: What should the man have done?

4. Script

M: I hate that subway station. Whenever you come out, you're always plagued by beggars.

W: I know, but the kids really get to me. I can't help but feel sorry for them. They look so miserable.

Q: What do the man and the woman think about the young beggars?

5. Script

M: The bank called me today. They wanted to know if I spent 3,000 dollars in a furniture shop this morning! Of course I didn't!

W: Someone must have made a copy of your credit card. It's easily done. You'll have to cancel it at once and get a new one. Hopefully, the bank will cover the damage.

Q: What does the woman advise the man to do?

Key: 1.C 2.C 3.B 4.A 5.D

III. Listening In

Task 1: Internet safety for youngsters

Script

The increasing popularity of social networking sites and mobile phone texting has presented society with problems in how to protect children online. More and more youngsters are becoming victims of Internet bullies. Parents are finding it more difficult to ensure their kids are safe online. Gone are the days when mom and dad could keep an eye on their children's surfing on the Internet. Today's new mobile and

networked world poses new and dangerous threats to online kids. About one-third of all teenagers who use the Internet say they have been targets of a range of annoying and potentially menacing online activities--such as receiving threatening messages; having their private e-mails or text messages forwarded without consent; having an embarrassing picture posted without permission; or having rumors about them spread online. However, the most common complaint from online teens is not direct threats or physical violence, but rather it is about the private information being shared.

Two recent initiatives aim to teach children about cyber-safety. Internet safety will soon be taught in high schools. In Indiana, parents will attend an Internet Social Networking conference. The school authorities are launching a program aimed at educating students on how to use the Internet safely and avoid suspicious websites. A government official said: "Advances in instant communication media, including Twitter, Facebook, and other instant messaging services, are affecting our modern society. Parents, brothers, sisters, teachers, and children alike will need to understand the dangers the connected world presents." The Indiana conference will explore topics like cyber-bullying, sexting, and online child exploitation. A local lawyer said: "The No. 1 way to keep children safe is for them to be skeptical. If they do not believe automatically what people tell them, they will be safer.

Questions and key

1. According to the passage, what is true of parents when their children are surfing on the Internet?
2. Which of the following is the most common complaint from online teens?
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a topic the Indiana conference will explore?
4. According to the local lawyer, what is the most important thing for children to be safe online?
5. What is the passage mainly about?

1. B 2. A 3. C 4. C 5. D

Task 2: Nursing home abuse

Script

In the United States, families turn to nursing homes to give the elderly care and attention, but many nursing homes have been cited for abuse. According to a review of state inspection records requested by Republican Henry Waxman, some 5,283 nursing homes were cited for abuse violations. These homes were cited for nearly 9,000 abuse violations in the past two years.

"We found examples of residents being punched, choked, or kicked by staff members or other residents," Waxman said.

The story of Helen Smith reported by CBS News last year is a shocking reality for thousands of old Americans. She was attacked by a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home, who was angered because she'd soiled herself. "He choked me and broke my wrist," said Smith.

Helen Smith died two days after her interview. That nurse assistant got a year in the

country jail and a CBS News investigation found that three other employees at the same nursing home had been fined for abuse, which should have barred them from nursing home work.

The nursing home industry agrees on the need for stiffer background checks, but disagrees abuse is widespread. " Abuse is not the norm in nursing homes, and many staff members deserve praise," said Carol Sellers, vice president of Washing Home, a nearly 200-bed center in the District of Columbia.

"The great majority of long-term care in our nation is excellent. There're people every day that are working very hard to provide that care," said Charles Roadman, president of the American Health Care Association. To deal with nursing home abuse, Bruce Brown, spokesman for the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging said, " We strongly believe nursing homes that exhibit consistently poor performance should either clean up their act or be put out of business."

Questions and key

1. According to a review of state inspection records, how many nursing homes were cited for abuse in the U.S. ?
2. What did the certified nursing assistant at a nursing home do to Helen Smith?
3. How many employees had been fined for abuse at the nursing home where Helen Smith lived?
4. What did the nursing home industry say about abuse?
5. What did the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging say about the nursing homes with poor records?

1. C 2. D 3. C 4. B 5. C

Task 3: Battling poverty

Script

Today I'll be presenting a report on our findings on the condition of the world's population. It may be a surprise to you that half the people in the world live on less than two dollars a day, and a billion people live on less than one dollar a day.

I'm going to look at poverty and its relationship to population issues. We must work fast if we hope to reduce poverty by half, by the year 2015.

Our survey shows that the first step should be to improve health care systems. In the world's poorest countries, people are expected to live just 49 years. One in 10 children doesn't reach his or her first birthday. According to our study, poor health and poverty are linked. Women are affected most by poor health care systems, especially pregnant women.

The second job we have to do, as many of you can guess, is to reduce birth rates. We have found that when given a choice, poor people in developing countries have fewer children than their parents did. A possible reason for this is probably that smaller families have fewer expenses and more chances of increasing their earnings and savings. Since the 1970s, developing countries with lower birth rates have had faster economic growth. They have had higher productivity, more savings and more investments. Obviously we must encourage family planning and lower birth rates.

Now, here is the third measure we must take: Promote education in developing

countries. Investing in education, especially for women, can reduce poverty. Educated women have more opportunities to work and a chance to live better. Moreover, they tend to send their children to good schools so that they can climb the social ladder. Well, any questions? None? OK. Now I'll talk about the fourth step we need to take...

Measures to Take in Developing Countries	Problems and Reasons for Taking the Measures
1.To improve health care systems	<p>In the poorest countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People are expected to live just <u>49</u> years. 2. One in 10 children doesn't reach his or her <u>first birthday</u>. 3. Women are affected most by poor <u>health care systems</u>, especially pregnant women.
2.To <u>reduce</u> birth rates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smaller families have fewer <u>expenses</u> and more chance of <u>increasing</u> their earnings and savings. 2. Countries with <u>lower</u> birth rates have had <u>faster</u> economic growth.
3. To promote <u>education</u>	<p>Investing in education, especially for women, can <u>reduce poverty</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educated women have <u>more opportunities</u> to work and a chance to <u>live better</u>. 2. They are more likely to send their children to good schools so that the children will climb the <u>social ladder</u>.

V. Let's talk Rise in older people using drugs

Script and key

Voice-over: Barbara is 55. She's been using heroin for 30 years.

Barbara: I met this guy and he introduced me to heroin. And he gave me my first fix of heroin.

Voice-over: She was in Manchester for the heroin boom in the 80s. Now she's in Yorkshire and away from the drug scene. But trying to get off heroin hasn't got (1)easier as life's gone on. Instead the difficulties of growing older like (2)loneliness and bereavement have been the triggers which have put her back to drugs.

Barbara: My mum passed, (3)passed away last year. So that's left a big hole in this life. You really mind, certainly.

Interviewer: Are there triggers that can, can keep you taking it as you get older?

Barbara: Yeah, I would think so, yeah, definitely. I mean, me personally, the boredom, boredom is what triggers me. I'm a person needs some, something feeding my

(4)brain and I haven't got that.

Voice-over: Thousands of aging heroin addicts have chronic (5)health problems, but unlike (6)younger addicts they are less likely to overdose, so they don't appear on anyone's radar. And when Barbara first asked the (7)doctor for help, she came up against the (8)assumption that pensioners don't do drugs.

Barbara: Nobody seemed to know what to do with me really. I mean I went to the pain clinic, as soon as they saw the (9)history, it was out of the door, you know. So they, they, I think (10) attitudes certainly need to change.

VI. Further Listening and Speaking

Task 1: How to Solve Unemployment Problem

Script

M: I have a meeting with my accountant tomorrow morning. She's preparing my income tax return, and I need to go over some of the receipts with her.

W: Income tax return! Don't you think the government just squanders our hard-earned tax on some unnecessary projects?

M: Sure, sometimes they do, but we are living pretty well and, to be honest, I don't mind paying taxes. If I'm paying income tax, it means I'm earning money. I'd rather be earning money than living on charity.

W: If the poor would just get jobs, our taxes would be much lower.

M: Most people would rather work than receive charity, but the situation is complex: Sometimes there are no jobs that they are trained for.

W: Then they should take the needed training—upgrade their skills and knowledge to become more employable.

M: Training costs money. Some government tax dollars are directed to programs that help the poor get jobs.

W: But even when jobs are available, some of the unemployed don't want to work. They would rather have a handout.

M: These people have to be educated to realize how much fuller their life would be if they were not dependent on charity.

W: I think the government should attack unemployment by reducing the tax rate. That would put more money into people's pockets, then they would spend more, and the spending would create more jobs for the poor.

M: Many people would agree with you.

Questions and key

1. What can we infer from the man's words about his income tax return?
2. What are the attitudes of the man and the woman toward poor, unemployed people?
3. What does paying income tax mean to the man?
4. What does the woman think is useful to help the unemployed get jobs?
5. What do the man and the woman think about the tax rate?

1. B 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. C

Task 2 Why do you buy lottery tickets?

Script

Charles: Did you hear? Next week's lottery will be 28 million dollars! You got your ticket yet?

Joan: I don't buy lottery tickets, and I don't gamble in other ways, either. Lottery tickets are just another way of taxing the poor.

Charles: What do you mean by that?

Joan: Many of the big spenders on lottery tickets are poor. They are spending money they can't afford to spend.

Charles: I just buy lottery tickets for fun. You know.. the first prize is a huge amount, and if I won, it would be exciting.

Joan: You don't need the money to enjoy life, so for you it's a game. But when the poor buy lottery tickets, it is often out of desperation.

Charles: If they can't afford it, they shouldn't buy the tickets.

Joan: But the thrill of a win, of something for nothing, is also addictive, and many people are addicted to gambling.

Charles: You must be right. Casinos are opening everywhere, and many people go on gambling on holidays—you can even take a gambling cruise.

Joan: Imagine being on an ocean cruise and spending all your time indoors bent over a card table or a roulette wheel.

Charles: Maybe there should be some programs to help people overcome their gambling addictions, something similar to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Joan: There's indeed an online program that can help. But nobody can force gamblers to join it. They must first want to be cured themselves.

Key

1. She thinks many of the big spenders on lottery tickets are poor; they spend money they can't afford to spend.
2. He just buys lottery tickets for fun. He thinks if he won a huge amount, it would be exciting.
3. They buy lottery tickets out of desperation. Also the thrill of a win, of something for nothing is addictive.
4. Casinos are opening everywhere, many people go on gambling on holidays, and one can even take a gambling cruise.
5. It will be helpful for habitual gamblers only when they want to be cured themselves.

Task 3: Held Back Because I Speak Spanish

Script

I was raised speaking English, but I also spoke Spanish at home. When I went to school for the first time, I was enrolled in ESL classes—classes of English as a Second Language. I was also put in the Limited English Proficiency Program. In all those classes, I always got the highest grades. I was the best reader and speaker. There was no reason for me to be in any of those classes.

When my parents discovered that I was in those classes instead of in regular classes with other English-speaking students, they went to the school administration to

complain about the discrimination. The school had nothing to say. My parents tried to get me out of the ESL classes, but the school fought very hard to keep me there. And then we found out why—for every student the school had in the ESL and Limited English Proficiency Program, they would receive \$400. This was pretty devastating. The school's only excuse for keeping me there was because I lived in a Spanish-speaking household, and that I was influenced by the way my parents spoke. My parents were outraged, but I remained in the ESL and Limited English Proficiency Program until I was in the fifth grade.

Then my parents transferred me to another school where they had friends. The new school gave me an English proficiency test. I aced it. So I didn't have to attend those programs for non-native English speakers. I was finally on the right track and back at the head of the class. The first school I had attended would have never let me out of those programs or even let me take the test. I was too "Spanish" for them.

Questions and key

1. What kind of class does the speaker think he should attend?
2. What was the real reason the speaker was placed in ESL classes?
3. What was the excuse of the school to put the speaker in a Limited English Proficiency Program?
4. How did the speaker perform in the regular English class?
5. What was the speaker's impression of his first school?

Key: 1.C 2.D 3.A 4.B 5.A

Viewing and speaking Humanity is indivisible

Script and key

[Kofi Annan, former Secretary-general of the United Nations]

Peace must be sought above all because it is a (1)condition for every member of the human family to live a life of (2)dignity and security.

We have entered the third millennium through a gate of (3)fire. If today, after the horror of 11 September, we see better and we see (4)further, we will realize that humanity is indivisible.

New threats make no (5)distinction between races, nations, or regions. A new insecurity has entered every mind, regardless of wealth or (6)status. A deeper awareness of the bonds that bind us all, in pain and in (7)prosperity, has gripped young and old... because beneath the surface of states and nations, ideas and language, lies the (8)fate of individual human beings in need. (9)Answering their needs will be the (10)mission of the United Nations in the century to come. Thank you very much.