<Student book 3>

M: Track 1
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M: Track 2 <1 second pause>
M1: Good morning, listeners. This is Ramon Solano, and welcome to *About Town*. As many of our listeners know, the cost of living in the world today can be very high.
For young people, this can make it hard to plan for the future. On today's show, we're going to talk to some local young people about their plans. Let's start with you, Phillipa. What are your plans?
W1: Hi, Ramon. I'm studying computer programming at the local university.
M1: That's a good field to work in. What about you, Sonya? What are you doing?
W2: Well, Ramon, I'm not sure what I want to do. I'm working as a nanny in France for 6 months, and then I'm travelling for another six months. I'm going to think about my plans while I travel.
M1: That sounds exciting. Yaser, what do you think about taking time to travel?
M2: I'm not thinking of travelling, Ramon. I'm working on my parents' farm for the year, and then I'm going to apply to university. I hope to get a scholarship so that I don't need a loan.
M1: What are you thinking of studying?
M2: Business, so that I can help run the farm.
M1: Well, you all have very different plans for the future. I hope everything goes well for you. Thanks for joining me today.

M: Track 3 <1 second pause>
W: Hey, Malak. You look really worried! What's the matter?
M: I decided to go to university next year, but I don't know what course to choose.
W: Oh, that's a tough one. What do you like to do?
M: Well, I really enjoy being outdoors. I don't want an office job because I can't stand sitting down all day. But my parents think I should study IT. That's why I'm stressed.
W: Hmm. I can understand that. But your parents can't make this kind of decision for you. What other things do you like doing?
M: I'm not sure. I need to think about that because my parents want to discuss my decision this week.
W: The recreation leader programme at the local college might be interesting. What do you think about that?
M: Sounds cool. I'll look into it. Thanks, Elisa.

M: Track 4 <1 second pause>
M: One.
W: I don't know what to do. I borrowed my friend's camera, and I broke it! She loves that camera.
M: Two.
M: You guys should go to dinner without me. I don't think I can eat anything right now.
M: Three.
W: Sorry, but I can't come to your party tonight. My mum is sick, and I think I should stay with her.

M: Track 5 <1 second pause>
M: Laura, congratulations. I heard you're going to medical school.
W: Thanks. Yeah, I found out yesterday.
M: Well, I'll call you when I'm sick.
W: I'll be a student for a long time. For the near future, you'll need to find another doctor.
M: You'll be great. I'm really happy for you. But I don't think I'll tell my mum about it.
W: Why not?
M: She'll be upset. She wants me to be a doctor, but I want to be a chef. I think I want to go to culinary college.
W: Do you know any good restaurants, then? Let's have dinner to celebrate.

M: Track 6 <1 second pause>
M: One.
W: Architect - Architecture.
M: Two.
M: Doctor - Medicine.
M: Three.
M: Teacher – Education.
M: Four.
M: Actor - Drama
M: Five.
W: Chef - Culinary arts.
M: Six.
W: Carpenter – Trades.

M: Track 7 <1 second pause>
M: Hi, Sophie. What's the matter? Why do you look upset?
W: I'm not upset. I'm just tired of looking at these brochures from different universities. I have to decide soon, so I'm researching a lot of universities and programmes.
M: I'm ready for a break, too. I just finished cleaning up my house. I was cat-sitting for a friend, so there was hair everywhere! I'm tired of scrubbing and vacuuming. Let's get some coffee and complain.
W: Coffee sounds great. I'll meet you at the coffee shop in half an hour.
M: All right, I'll see you then.

M: Track 8 <1 second pause>
W: Why do you look so angry this morning, Jared?
M: I'm just tired of waiting for the bus. It's never on time, so I'm always late!
W: Maybe you should walk to the station instead of waiting here. There are more buses there. Or you could try riding your bike to the station.
M: That's not a bad idea! I take the bus so that I don't arrive at work too tired, but I arrive angry. So maybe it's a good idea to exercise instead! Thanks!

M: Track 9 <1 second pause>

M: You study so that you'll have a better future. As a student, you're thinking about your future and planning for it. Many students at our university don't know about the Careers Centre and the help we can give you as you make your plans. In fact, only around forty percent of students come to see us. We'd like to change that number. The Careers Centre is open six days a week from 8 am to 6 pm. You can make an appointment by calling 887-2323. Our careers advisors can help you find job areas that interest you, or talk to you about the training you will need. There are also volunteers who can help you write a strong CV and practise your interview skills. It sounds great, doesn't it? Think about it, and then give the Careers Centre a call. You'll be happy you did.

M: Track 10 <1 second pause>
W: I'm so excited about studying English abroad.
M: Well, I'm jealous. I'd love to travel overseas.
W: You could come too!
M: Maybe. But I'll definitely have to wait until I save some money. So, where are you going?
W: I really want to go to England, but choosing a specific destination is pretty difficult.
M: London would be fantastic. Lots of people, history, entertainment. Why not study there?
W: Well, it is a huge city with lots to see and do. But it might be too crowded for me.
Living in a tiny rural area with friendly residents would be more my style.
M: That sounds a bit boring. Maybe you could live in a bigger town near the sea.
W: Actually, I read about an English school located in a town called St. Ives. The shops, art galleries, and scenery looked quite nice in the brochure, and the school's teachers and homestay families seemed great.

M: Track 11 <1 second pause>
W: There's an interesting new report from a group of universities. The topic is how universities are choosing students for graduate programmes. The writers of the report did research on 50 universities over 20 years. So, what did they find?

First, a student's academic history is still the most important thing. Applicants must have excellent exam and course marks. In most graduate programmes today, applicants must have grades of 85 – 100% on their transcripts. Twenty years ago, these numbers were lower – between 75 and 95%. Also, today, universities really want students with experience working in the academic field. Many successful applicants worked as interns or as teaching assistants. Without a CV like this, a student will probably have quite a challenging experience.

Third, to get into a good graduate programme, you have to have strong reference letters from employers or professors. Finally, interviews are now quite important. At their interviews, students must show they are interesting, motivated, and self-directed. What can we learn from this? Admission to graduate programmes is becoming quite difficult, so applicants need to use every skill they have to be successful.

M: Track 12 <1 second pause>
M: Hello. May I speak to Mariana Gonzales, please?
W: This is Mariana.

M: Hello, Mariana. My name is Ben King, and I'm calling from Jackson Industries. We went over your application for employment, and we'd like to invite you to come in for an interview.
W: Wonderful! Thank you very much.
M: You're welcome. We advertised two positions: one in administration and one in human resources. Which one would you prefer to interview for?
W: I think I'd like the administration position.
M: Great. We think your strengths suit that position as well. When would you prefer to come for an interview? I can meet you at any time on Thursday or Friday.
W: I'd prefer to do the interview before noon on Thursday, if possible.
M: How's Thursday at 10 a.m?
W: Sounds great. I look forward to meeting you.

M: Track 13 <1 second pause>
M: Hey Jenny, guess what. I have a job interview tomorrow!
W: Oh, congratulations!
M: Yeah, but I'm a bit nervous. Do you have any advice for me?
W: Well, you should research the company before an interview. You should also ask a few questions toward the end. That shows you're really interested in the job.
M: Should I bring an extra copy of my CV?
W: That's a good idea. I'd also suggest arriving early. And choose your outfit carefully— first impressions are important.
M: Thanks for the tips, Jenny.
W: One more thing—don't forget to get plenty of sleep the night before.

M: Track 14 <1 second pause>
W: Thank you for coming in today. Your CV is outstanding. Let's talk about the position. First of all, what do you know about our company?
M: I know Jon Benny established it ten years ago, and now it supplies paper to a lot of companies around the country.
W: That's right. I know you have a lot of experience selling paper, so that could be very helpful to us. Next, I want to ask you: Why did you decide to leave Paul's Paper?
M: Well, I hope to have a long career in the industry. I don't think that Paul's Paper could give me that. I know that Benny's Paper Supply offers professional development. That sounds really interesting to me.
W: Yes, we do. Okay, let's talk about some of the details of the position.

M: Track 15 <1 second pause>
W: Helpful, Outstanding, Supply, Professional development, Establish, Hope

M: Track 16 <1 second pause>
W: You're interviewing to be a graphic designer here. Let me give you a job description for that position.
M: Please.

W: You'll be in charge of a project, and you'll need to know the client very well. Our department head, Robert, can explain the project to you. You will also need to know the brand you'll be working with. Are you familiar with brand research?
M: Yes, definitely.
W: Great. In order to get you started as soon as possible, you need to schedule meetings with your project team members. You'll need to work closely with them at the beginning.
M: Great. I'm looking forward to it.

M: Track 17 <1 second pause>
W: Hello, may I speak with Tom Fisher, please?
M: This is Tom.
W: Hello, Tom. My name is Veronica Morgan, and I'm calling from the ANNEX Corporation. We received your CV and job application.
M: Hello. It's nice to hear from you.
W: We're quite happy with your CV. We'd like to invite you to come in for an interview next week.
M: Great! I'm very interested in the position.
W: Did you read the job description for this communications director position?
M: Yes, I did. I think my skills suit the position very well.
W: Definitely, yes. What day and time are you available next week?
M: Any time, but the best time might be Monday, in the afternoon.
W: Okay. How about 3.00 p.m. on Monday? Does that work for you?
M: That's perfect. Thank you.
W: Great. We'll see you then, Tom.
M: I'm looking forward to it. Bye.
W: Goodbye.

M: Track 18 <1 second pause>
[M: Interviewer, W: Interviewee]
M: You were a writer for a fashion magazine. Describe that job. What was it like?
W: It was a great entry-level position. I learned a lot about fashion. I had to do a lot of research about current trends and come up with ideas for articles.
M: Sounds interesting. How many people were there on your team?
W: There were eight of us. Everyone had a different background. But that wasn't a problem. They were all very easy-going and encouraging.
M: That's great. Were there any challenges while working there?
W: There weren't a lot of challenges. But if I had to name one, it would probably be the long hours. Some days we had to work a lot of overtime in order to meet a deadline.
M: That can be tough. But you seem like you liked the job. What did you enjoy most about it?
W: I enjoyed the teamwork. I was also happy to get experience and develop my creative writing skills.

M: Track 19 <1 second pause>
[W: Interviewer, M: Interviewee]
W: Could you please describe your education?

M: Sure. I graduated two years ago with a BA. Then last year, I got a certificate in project management at another university. I thought I should have some more practical skills.
W: What is your degree in?
M: English literature, but I'm also really interested in history. I love learning about past societies.
W: Did your studies benefit you in your last position?
M: Yes, I think so. I wrote a lot of company correspondence, so I needed good writing skills. I also managed the planning phase of many projects, so my certificate was useful.
W: And what did you learn from your previous position?
M: I realised that teamwork is more than just working together. It's also about understanding the other team members' strengths and weaknesses.

M: Track 20 <1 second pause>
W: Tips on Interviewing.
Your job interview is tomorrow, and you're a bit anxious. You wonder what questions the interviewer will ask. Unfortunately, there may be some difficult questions. The interviewer might ask about your biggest strength and biggest weakness, why you left your previous job, or how you are different from other applicants. Thinking about and practising your answers to these questions will help give you confidence. There are also some things you should not do at an interview. First, don't lie! Be honest about your experience and education. Second, don't ask about salary or say what salary you're seeking. Wait for the interviewer to bring up that topic. Finally, do not say bad things about your previous job. Employers don't want to hire a person with a negative attitude.

M: Track 21 <1 second pause>
[M: Interviewer, W: Interviewee]
M: What was your biggest weakness when you were at your previous job?
W: Well, unfortunately, I wasn't familiar with some of my duties. So I didn't have much confidence at first. I had to ask my colleagues a lot of questions. But I also tend to learn things very quickly, so it wasn't such a big problem.
M: That's good to know. And what do you think are your biggest strengths as an employee?
W: Well, as I said, I learn fast. But I also work hard and always try to get better at my job. I think a positive attitude is very important.
M: I agree. It's very important. So, why did you leave your previous position?
W: One reason is that I felt that there wouldn't be much room for professional development in that position. Also, when a great company offered my husband a position in the city, we decided to relocate here.

M: Track 22 <1 second pause>
M: Where do you see yourself in five years?
W: Well, when I find a permanent position, I'll work on becoming a manager. I hope to run my own department someday.
M: That's great. We're looking for someone long-term. Well, that's it for today. Before we wrap up, do you have any other questions about the position?
W: No, I can't come up with anything at the moment. Wait. Actually, yes. What is the starting date for this position?

M: Oh. The starting date is on the first of next month, so in about three weeks. When we finish interviewing all the candidates, we'll make a decision, and you'll hear from us by the end of the week.
W: Sounds good.
M: Excellent. I'll be in touch, Anna. Thank you.
W: Thank you very much. Goodbye.

M: Track 23 <1 second pause>
W: It's nice to finally meet you, James. Thank you for coming in for the interview.
M: It's great to meet you, too. I'm a bit anxious, but I'm very excited about this position. When I graduated last year, I wanted to work for this company.
W: That's great to hear. You certainly seem like an excellent candidate for this position.
I see on your CV you have many practical skills. What did you study when you were at university?
M: I studied computer science. I taught myself a lot about computers when I was at school, but I learned a lot at university, too.
W: Well, the position we have is entry-level. It is a position with long-term opportunities. The department is always growing, so we are opening up new offices in several locations.
M: That sounds interesting.
W: If we decided to hire you, would you mind relocating to a new area?
M: No, I wouldn't mind that at all.
W: Great. Can you tell me a little more about yourself?
M: Well, I enjoy challenges and I can deal with unexpected situations very well.
W: That all sounds good. When we wrap up the interviews, I will be in touch. Take care, James.
M: Thank you. You too.

M: Track 24 <1 second pause>
M: Students Face Challenges When Choosing Courses.
For many students today, the most difficult decision is not whether to go to university—it's what to study when they get there. If a student becomes unhappy after choosing a course, that student has another difficult decision to make: "Should I stay in my current programme, or should I spend more time and money to start again?" Changing courses is quite common, but it can be difficult. If you want to avoid this situation, it's best to ask yourself some important questions before making a choice: What are your interests? Does a specific course offer good career opportunities? Which course is more difficult or competitive? And, finally, which factor is most important to you? If you ask yourself these questions and answer honestly, you can avoid more difficult, more expensive decisions later.

M: Track 25 <1 second pause>
M: I want to change courses. I think I made a mistake when I chose medicine. Help me decide on a subject.
W: What are you good at?
M: I'm good at science. I just don't like it. I want to study something I'm good at, but something I like.
W: So what else are you good at?
M: I'm good at speaking, I think. Arguing. I'm good at persuading people, and I like discussing ideas.
W: Then what about something like law?

M: No, thank you! I don't want to spend hours studying boring legal texts. I want to motivate people and help them work well together, but I don't want to spend a lot of time arguing details of the law.
W: Maybe you should think about business—advertising or management. You could even work at a medical company. Then you could use your knowledge and your passion!

M: Track 26 <1 second pause>
W: I have to choose my course by the end of this term, and I still don't know what's best for me.
M: Aren't you doing well in your maths classes?
W: I am, but I do better in engineering.
M: Then you should study engineering. You'd be able to get a really good job after university.
W: It sounds like a good idea, but I'm not sure. Would I rather study mechanical engineering or computer science?
M: Computer science? Are you thinking of that too?
W: Yeah. I had to do some programming for my laboratory work. I learned it quickly, and I really liked it. But if I choose that, I have to study for another term to catch up with the students in the computer science department.

M: Track 27 <1 second pause>
W: I'm glad you like your new roommate. What else is happening with you?
M: Actually, I have some big news about university. I finally made the decision to switch to another course—from psychology to music therapy.
W: What?
M: I know. It's surprising, right?
W: Why the change? You chose psychology two years ago. I thought you wanted to be a counsellor. Isn't music just a hobby?
M: I'm interested in both counselling and music. And they're related—both are ways to get people to express themselves. But music therapists can get jobs more easily than psychology students, so it's a practical choice.
W: Jeremy…
M: And their work often pays better. But most importantly, I love music. That can motivate me to work harder at becoming a great music therapist.
W: I guess… if it's something you love, you should do it.
M: You don't seem happy about this, but it's generous of you to support me anyway.
Trust me—this is a good choice.

M: Track 28 <1 second pause>
M: I recently spoke to many students across the country, and I learned a lot about the courses at successful universities. Business is popular, and it attracts many students.
Students who start out in other departments often switch to business. Business students also switch to other courses or leave university without graduating. Business and finance departments do well in universities that have options for students who change their minds. Now there are few students enrolling on arts courses such as painting, dance, and music, but those students don't change courses often, so they often stay until they graduate. More nursing students quit after the first year than any other course. Nursing brings in many students, and universities can make a lot of money, but many

students are not graduating and classes become small. By comparison, psychology students study longer. However, when they graduate, they often find it hard to get jobs.

M: Track 29 <1 second pause>
M: Hi, Martina. How are your classes?
W: I'm really not happy here. I'm thinking of changing universities.
M: That's a big decision. Why aren't you happy?
W: They offer limited programmes here – mostly law or the arts. I'm just not interested.
It's so hard to stay motivated, and I don't want to fail. I want to study physical therapy.
M: Well, you'd better do some research on other universities.
W: It's so intense—I get stressed out. I don't know where to start!
M: That's okay. I can help you. Let's have a look at some websites together.
W: Thanks so much, Leo. You are such a good friend. But right now you'd better get to class. You've already had a few warnings about being late, right? Let's meet in the library after lunch.
M: I'll see you then.

M: Track 30 <1 second pause>
[pronounce words carefully with stress on bold parts]
W: Sta**tis**tics, **TE**SOL, Environ**men**tal **sci**ence, **Phy**sical **the**rapy, **War**ning, **Fa**il, In**ten**se, **Li**mited

M: Track 31 <1 second pause>
M: Hi, Cecile. How's it going? Did you decide on a new university?
W: No, not yet. I browsed a load of websites, but I'm still not sure what to do. Maybe it's not a good idea to transfer to a new university. What do you think I should do?
M: How about visiting some campuses? Then you can see the universities for yourself.
Maybe you can sit in on some classes, too, if you want to.
W: That's a great idea. I can't wait to explore some of the facilities, too. How about coming with me?
M: That sounds like fun. Let's make a list of three or four universities to visit and start planning.

M: Track 32 <1 second pause>
M: I'm not happy with any of the universities I looked at. I think I'll just keep going to this one.
W: Why not take a term off? It'll give you some time to think about what you want to do.
M: I'd like to travel, but I'd probably better finish my studies.
W: Why don't you combine those ideas? Go abroad to study for a term. There are lots of good exchange programmes. You could learn a new language and culture, and still finish your studies.
M: That's not a bad idea. But it means I have to continue researching and thinking about a budget.
W: I'll talk to my cousin in London. He studied in Canada, so he might have some suggestions.
M: The Canadian embassy is near my place, too. Maybe I'll go in and ask some questions about visas and insurance and stuff.

M: Track 33 <1 second pause>
M: The US Department of education has new research. It says that only 60 percent of students seeking an undergraduate degree at an American university finish their programme of study within six years.

The report looks only at full-time students enrolling in a university for the first time in 2008. According to the researchers, 60 percent of these students completed their degree programme by 2014.

Why do many students keep failing to graduate? It might be because they have limited chances to change their courses. Some universities allow students to change or combine their courses, while others don't allow this. Some researchers think that if changing courses becomes easier, more students will graduate. In other words, if students can find satisfaction with their subject, they will continue studying. Also, some students change universities during their studies. If their new university doesn't let them transfer credits from their old university, they will take longer to graduate and may not finish.

M: Track 34 <1 second pause>
W: Have you decided on a university to transfer to yet?
M: No, I haven't. I've read a lot of brochures, university websites, and blogs, but I still haven't found a programme I like.
W: Well, have you considered taking a term off? You know, to think about what programme is right for you?
M: No, I've never thought about that. What could I do if I took time off?
W: Why not do some volunteer work or go travelling? My cousin volunteered at a shelter for the homeless last year, and one of my friends went backpacking in Thailand.
M: Thailand? I've never been to Asia. Hmm. Maybe. But if I take time off, I'll waste a whole term. My parents might not like that.
W: Then you could stay in town and look for a job. You could earn some money and figure out your plans at the same time.
M: That's a possibility, too. I guess every option has pros and cons. I'll need to think about it some more.

M: Track 35 <1 second pause>
M: It's beautiful outside today, isn't it?
W: Yeah! And it's nice to see you in such a good mood.
M: I really am. I've finished my final exams, and soon I'm going home for six months.
W: Oh, I forgot—you're taking a term off, right? You mentioned that a while ago.
M: Yeah, I haven't been to my home town in almost a year. I'm dying to see everyone, especially my little brother. He's 8.
W: That's great. But what are you going to do for six months?
M: I'll be busy. I'm going to teach my brother to play cricket, and I'll work at my parents' restaurant.
W: Will you have any time to relax and be lazy?
M: Sure. I haven't seen my school friends since we finished, so it'll be great to catch up with them, too. We'll spend lots of time at the beach.
W: Sounds like a good plan.

M: Track 36 <1 second pause>
W: Busy, Dying (to), Almost, Especially, Catch up (with), Mention, Beach, Lazy

M: Track 37 <1 second pause>
W: Oh, A.C.— nice to see you! How long have you worked here?
M: Since university finished. So, since December. I'm taking next term off, so I wanted a temporary job.
W: What's it like?
M: Well, the hours and the wages aren't bad, and I like the work so far.
W: You're a friendly guy, so I'm sure you're good at customer service. Have they made you the boss yet?
M: Haha. No, but I get some good tips. And they've made me assistant manager.
W: Congratulations! How long have you had that position?
M: Three weeks. The manager doesn't know much about computers, so I think he chose me for my IT skills.
W: So far, it sounds great. Are you going to quit when you go back to university?
M: I might stay. The company provides chances for advancement, I'm learning about organisation and leadership, Maybe I'll get a higher-level job with this company after graduation.

M: Track 38 <1 second pause>
W: Have you decided on your courses for next term yet?
M: No, I haven't. I'm taking next term off. I don't like my course, so I've been looking for another course. But so far I haven't found one I like. None of them are very interesting.
W: Really? You've never mentioned this. How long have you felt this way?
M: Since the term started, so for almost four months. I've done some research on other possibilities.
W: Great. Have you made up your mind yet?
M: No, I'm still uncertain. I might get a part-time job. Or maybe I'll move back home while I think about my future.
W: Have you ever thought about going travelling? My friend did that last summer. He loved it. He did some backpacking and sightseeing, and helped clean up a beach.
M: No, I've never thought about that. Sounds really interesting. I'll research it during the term break.

M: Track 39 <1 second pause>
W: So, Rick, I'm going to ask you some questions about things you have done—you know, work, travel, volunteering. Maybe we can figure out something for you to do during your term break.
M: Great. Ask me anything.
W: So, have you ever had a job? Part-time, maybe?
M: Yes, I have.
W: Oh, good. Can you tell me more about it?
M: I have good IT skills, so I worked in a computer store part-time last year. I worked there for almost six months, helping customers find things. I really liked it. I learned a lot about customer service, and the pay was good.
W: Do you have a job now?
M: Yes, I do. In a restaurant on campus. But I'm a cook, so I don't talk to customers. I don't like it as much as the other job, and I don't earn much money.
W: Okay. Another possibility is travelling. Have you ever travelled abroad?
M: No. I haven't. I've never even been out of this country!
W: I see. Well, where would you like to visit?

M: To Europe, especially France or Switzerland. I'd love to go backpacking in those countries.

M: Track 40 <1 second pause>
W: What do you think about studying abroad, Albert?
M: I think it's fun to learn about new cultures, people, and food. Why? Are you going?
W: Well, I'm seriously thinking about it. But I'm not sure whether I should go to the UK or the US. I'm considering Manchester and San Diego.And I think both places might be great. What's your opinion about the UK?
M: Well, I don't think you'll like the rain and the cold, dark winters, Anika. I'm sure you would rather be in San Diego, enjoying the sunny beaches.
W: You're right. I don't like the cold. But I'm also not a fan of hot or humid weather.
Also, I'm not sure if I want to go for a year or just a term. A year seems like an extremely long time.
M: I don't agree. You need a year to really get to know a new place. Have you decided if you want to live with a homestay family or in halls? Having a suitable place to live is the main thing.
W: Yeah, I agree. I haven't thought about it.
M: Well, in my opinion, families are great if you want to study, but halls are better for making friends. I think halls are much better. But you should research things thoroughly before you decide.

M: Track 41 <1 second pause>
W: Oh, wow! You can read the Spanish news on this website free of charge.
M: Really? Great! We can use that for our group project.
W: Yeah. Hmm. You know, it's actually a really convenient website. With this, I think we could finish early and go to the student party tonight. I really want to go.
M: So do I. But we have an exam tomorrow, remember?
W: I know, but I don't want to spend Friday night studying.
M: Well, neither do I. But we have to do well in this class if we want to study in Spain next year. Why don't we study together? You can help me work on my pronunciation, and I can quiz you on vocabulary.
W: Oh, all right. Where do you want to meet?
M: The library has Wi-Fi, so we can download all the class notes and watch the lecture videos with subtitles. Want to meet there at 7.00?
W: Let's meet at 6.00 and grab dinner first.

M: Track 42 <1 second pause>
M: One. USA?
M: Hi, Anne. Thanks for calling me back. I just wanted to ask you about your time in LA.
W1: Sure. Are you thinking about going there to study, too?
M: Yeah. Maybe. But I have a few questions before I decide. How expensive is it to study there?
W1: Well, the university I went to was affordable. It only cost about $6,000 dollars per term.
M: Oh. That's not too bad. Is it difficult to get into that university?
W1: The entry requirements are pretty low. You just need enough money and a good TOEFL score.
M: What's it like living there?

W1: Um… the weather is hot most of the year, and it can become very humid in the summer. The traffic is bad, too.
M: Well, I'm not a fan of humid weather or waiting in traffic. Hmm… maybe I should just go to the UK.
<1 second pause>
M: Two. UK?
M: Hi Diane. This is James. So, when are you going back to study in the UK?
W2: Oh, hi, James. I'm going back after summer vacation.
M: I see. I'm thinking about going to London to study, too.
W2: Really? London's a really magnificent city. I fell in love with it right away. It's a modern city with a lot of friendly locals.
M: Were you ever homesick? I think I would miss my friends and family too much.
W2: At first, I was. But after making new friends, I was fine.
M: That's great. What about the nightlife and the food?
W2: The nightlife is wonderful and there are plenty of awesome restaurants.
M: Speaking of food… Do you want to grab something to eat later?
W2: Sure. I'm extremely hungry!

M: Track 43 <1 second pause>
W: The university is in a gorgeous city near the ocean. It is less crowded and more affordable than universities in other big cities, with good shopping, international restaurants, and a lot of fun activities to do on the weekend. You can go to the beach or visit historic places to learn about the city's past. The temperature is almost always comfortable—usually between 18 and 28 degrees year-round. There are some rainy days, so bring an umbrella.

Our university is a great place to study abroad. We have halls for 100 students to stay in, and a lot of planned group activities, such as sports events, festivals, and city tours. We have 260 students total, with 20 in each class. Our campus is in the city centre near banks and shops. It is small but high-tech, with Wi-Fi and facilities such as a library, café, and study garden. Come and study in the best university in the country—the Sun University!

M: Track 44 <1 second pause>
W: Hi, Alex. How was your time abroad? Has your English improved since the last time I saw you?
M: Of course! I've been overseas for four terms, so my pronunciation and vocabulary have improved a lot.
W: You're so lucky. I was thinking about studying abroad too. I haven't made up my mind yet.
M: Where do you want to go?
W: Well, Canada is a possibility. I've always wanted to go there. I've heard the large cities are modern and high-tech, but the smaller cities are greener and quieter.
M: Canada? I guess if you like freezing temperatures and snow. I prefer hot and humid weather.
W: Well, me too. But I think I can adjust to the cold. And it'd be nice to live in a different place for a while. Anyway, how much does it cost to study for a year?
M: Um…it depends on where you go to study. But the average cost is almost £20,000.

W: Wow. That's so expensive.
M: Yeah, but that includes the cost for staying in the dorm and meals. It can be cheaper if you decide to stay with a homestay family.
W: I see. Well, if it includes everything, I guess it's not too bad.
M: You should research different universities and cities to help you figure it out. That's what I did.
W: Maybe I'll do that tonight. Anyway, it was nice to catch up with you. Thanks for helping out.