

Oxford *Living* GRAMMAR

intermediate listening scripts

Unit 1

- A Hi, you're Anna aren't you? I'm Sarah. Do you live near here?
B Yes, I'm sharing a flat with friends.
A And whereabouts is that?
B Quite near. Do you know Argyle Road?
A Oh, so you live in Argyle Road?
B Sort of. You turn right at the end. It's on the corner.
A Yes, I know it. Look, I'm just going for a coffee. Do you want to come?
B Sure.
A There's a good place that's just opened in the square.
B I think it's raining. Let's go to the café here.

Unit 2

- A How did you enjoy your holiday in Greece?
B It was great. I saw so many interesting things.
A Such as what?
B As we were driving away from the village on the second day, we saw a lovely little chapel.
A What was so special about it?
B There were some gorgeous mosaics just outside. They were really well-preserved.
A How old were they?
B I don't know. I couldn't find any information on them.
A It's lucky that you happened to see them, then!
B I know. Marina only noticed them because she was jumping in amongst the weeds.

Unit 3

- A I wasn't expecting you to speak English.
B This place used to be owned by a guy called Jose Pedro. Has he left?
A Yes, I've been working here for a year.
B I've been coming to this place for years. I work over here during the summer months.
A What do you do?
B I run an agency for holiday homes and second homes. British people have been coming over to Spain on holiday for years, and a lot of them have actually moved here.
A Yes that's right. It used to be just older people who wanted to live somewhere warmer.
B People who've retired and decided to live in the sun.
A But there do seem to be a lot of younger people with families that are here all year round.
B That's been increasing steadily, and will probably continue.

Unit 4

- A Have you seen any good jobs recently?
B Yes, I saw an interesting one in the paper last week.
A Have you applied for it?
B No, I haven't.
A Why not?
B I don't have enough experience.
A But you've done so many things.
B Well, I've only ever had one job I really liked.
A What went wrong?
B Everything!
A Well, not all jobs are like that.

Unit 5

- A I hear that you've just bought that lovely old house in the village.
B Yes, that's right. Jane and I are going to move in some time over the summer.
A But it's almost a ruin!
B I like a challenge! Anyway, I've got lots of plans.
A Like what?
B I'm going to build an office in the garden.
A And I bet you'll spend all your time looking at the garden rather than working.
B No, I'm determined to make a success of working from home.
A You could try speaking to other people in the same situation.
B Yes, I'll do that.

Unit 6

- A Everything on the menu looks great, doesn't it?
B Yes, it does. I can't decide what to order.
A OK. Two minutes' silence for menu reading.
B Are you going to have a dessert?
A If I can manage one!
B I don't think I'll be able to manage one if we have starters too.
A We can always share a dessert.
B Good idea. What shall we have to drink?
A What would you prefer?
B Well, I mainly drink mineral water these days.

Unit 7

- A** It's ages since we had a picnic. Let's have one on Saturday.
- B** OK, should I invite the usual crowd?
- A** Sure. We need to check that they are free this weekend.
- B** Most of them probably will be, but I'll phone around and see.
- A** OK, let's assume that it's going ahead. They've never let us down before.
- B** Right. Let's write a list. Can you pass me that pen?
- A** Here you are. We could ask everyone to bring something to eat and drink.
- B** Good idea. Pam does a great Spanish omelette. I could ask her to bring one along.
- A** Are you sure? I thought she was a terrible cook.
- B** Well don't have any of her omelette then!

Unit 8

- A** I'm worried about a situation at work. A new person has joined the company, and I'm finding her very difficult to work with.
- B** Is she in a higher position than you?
- A** She's not my boss, but she is on a slightly higher level, yes.
- B** That's quite tricky. You mustn't make things worse.
- A** I know. Perhaps I should meet up with her for a coffee?
- B** Yes, you ought to try to see each other as people rather than as colleagues.
- A** She might be a really nice person outside of the working environment.
- B** And you'll feel good that it was you who made the effort.
- A** Yes, that's true.
- B** That in itself will give you more confidence.

Unit 9

- A** Hello, Fiona. It's lovely to see you again. Shall we find a table?
- B** Sure. You look really well. It's quite a while since we last saw each other, isn't it?
- A** Too long. Are you still enjoying working at Harrison's?
- B** For now, yes. But I want to find a new job.
- A** Why? I thought you were really happy there?
- B** The people are lovely, but I've worked there for 7 years now. I've begun to get bored.
- A** Yes, I suppose so. But you plan to stay in London, don't you?
- B** Definitely. We've just bought a new house. We're moving in next week, so I'd love to invite you and Tim over as soon as we're settled.
- A** Fantastic. I'm looking forward to it already. Actually Tim and I aren't together any more.
- B** I'm really sorry to hear that. Especially as it was me that encouraged you to ask him out.

Unit 10

- A** Do you still go to the gym, Paul?
- B** No, I gave it up ages ago. I've taken up running.
- A** Really? Isn't that supposed to be bad for your bones and muscles?
- B** Well, I only go running twice a month. Actually, it's probably not worth doing it at all.
- A** There's a running club in Marston. You could go regularly with them.
- B** Thanks, but I'd prefer to be flexible. Sometimes I just can't be bothered.
- A** Your heart's not in it, is it?
- B** It's just that I'm not keen on making a fixed commitment.
- A** I know what you mean. We're all so busy now, aren't we?
- B** We could always go jogging together occasionally. What do you think?

Unit 11

- A** Good morning, sir. How can I help you?
- B** Good morning. My name's Mr Benson. I've got an enquiry about a delivery. The order number is 7760.
- A** Ah yes. John Benson. What can I do for you?
- B** I've arranged to have a dining table delivered today.
- A** Yes, that's right.
- B** I'm wondering if it's possible for the delivery date to be changed to tomorrow?
- A** Well, it's very short notice. Let me check.
- B** You see, my hospital appointment has been brought forward to this afternoon.
- A** It's actually been dispatched and is on its way now.
- B** Well, I'll be in all morning, so let's hope it arrives before lunch.

Unit 12

- A** You students seem to have a lot of coursework to do. Don't they have exams at college these days?
- B** Yes, we do, but the final mark is made up of 75% coursework and 25% from the end-of-year exam.
- A** Isn't it easier to cheat with coursework?
- B** I suppose so. I ran into John's brother Tim recently. He was almost proud about cheating.
- A** He would be. John and Tim are as bad as each other.
- B** Tim's always looked up to his brother, so it's not surprising.
- A** But it's not fair. Getting away with cheating, I mean.
- B** Of course not, but that's preparation for life.
- A** People are laughing at the system.
- B** I agree with you there. Teachers and students need to look into more ways of stopping cheating.

Unit 13

- A** Did that wardrobe you ordered ever arrive, John?
- B** Don't ask. I'm never going to order anything from that company ever again.
- A** Why, what happened?
- B** I waited at home on three separate occasions. You remember, I've had to take quite a lot of time off for this?
- A** Yes, that's right.
- B** The first time, the wardrobe they brought was broken, so I told them to take it back immediately.
- A** That's bad enough.
- B** The second time, they brought a bookcase. I asked them how I was supposed to hang my clothes in that.
- A** So when did you finally get your wardrobe?
- B** Nearly a month after I first ordered it.

Unit 14

- A** The company I work for is sending me on a public speaking course. Have you ever been on one of those?
- B** Yes, but it was quite a while ago. I seem to remember that it was useful, though.
- A** So what was it like?
- B** Hard work, but very useful. I've found the techniques helpful in a number of situations.
- A** Was it a full one-day course, or just a half-day?
- B** A full day. In the morning, they explained the theory, and in the afternoon we performed our presentations.
- A** So how did you do?
- B** Not all that well, but when I had to do a real presentation I found it easier.
- A** So did they give any relaxation techniques?
- B** Yes, there are lots of things you can do with your breathing that will help you focus.

Unit 15

- A** It says in this article that most people would rather be rich than good-looking, if they had to choose.
- B** I suppose it depends on whether you're already rich or good-looking.
- A** Yes, or even both. What do you think?
- B** It's not an easy question. If you're born rich then having money is something you're already comfortable with.
- A** So you wouldn't want to win the lottery then?
- B** Not really. I think it's harder to deal with a lot of money if you suddenly win it.
- A** Why? You'd suddenly have lots of friends.
- B** That's exactly what I mean. How would you know if they were real friends or just people who wanted your money?
- A** I think there'd be a few clues.
- B** Yes, for example if you're introduced to them as 'Joe who won the lottery', and they want to buy you a drink!

Unit 16

- A** It's Jill's birthday next Monday, isn't it?
- B** Yes, have you bought her anything yet?
- A** No, I was going to ask you for some suggestions.
- B** We could always buy a bigger present between us, rather than individual gifts.
- B** Yes. Now we just need to think of one present rather than two!
- A** How about something like a writing desk?
- A** That's not a bad idea. We might not be able to afford one from an antique shop, but we could try the market.
- B** Yes, and we might see lots of other possible gifts.
- A** We might see things we want to buy for ourselves.
- B** I'd better take a couple of shopping bags, just in case.

Unit 17

- A** Hello, you've just started here, haven't you?
- B** Yes, I've just joined from Peters Nelson Ford.
- A** That's a very prestigious company. Why did you want to come here?
- B** It wasn't the company, it was the job. My promotion wasn't all I'd hoped.
- A** Well, I hope you've moved a bit nearer. Your old company's quite a way away.
- B** Yes, my wife and I live just outside the city. Now her journey to work is longer than mine.
- A** That's unfortunate, but it's only to be expected.
- B** The children are a bit more concerned. They're missing their friends.
- A** They'll soon make new ones.
- B** That's what we're hoping.

Unit 18

- A** Excuse me, are you the tour guide?
- B** Yes, I am. As we're walking around, please feel free to ask as many questions as you like.
- A** Will we be stopping anywhere along the way for a cup of tea?
- B** I'm afraid we won't really have time during the morning, but look, that's the café where you can have lunch.
- A** Will we be going inside the museum?
- B** No, we're going to go to a bigger and much better one in Millchester later on.
- A** Will we be outside for very long? I'm wondering if I should leave my umbrella here.
- B** I think you'd better bring it with you. Look at that big black cloud.
- A** I'm just waiting for my son. He's gone to get my camera from the hotel.
- B** Well, as long as he brings it soon, we can wait a little while.

Unit 19

- A** Hello. Thanks so much for stopping!
- B** Your sign said 'London', but whereabouts in London?
- A** South London. Quite near to Battersea. Thanks again for stopping for me.
- B** You're welcome. It's no trouble at all for me.
- A** I'm starving. I can't wait to get to London and have a proper meal.
- B** Haven't you eaten anything at all today?
- A** I had half a sandwich for lunch.
- B** I don't really want to stop at a service station, but there's some chocolate in that bag if you want some.
- A** That would be great. Thanks a lot.
- B** I've also got a few apples somewhere.

Unit 20

- A** It's fascinating when you go to a different country and see how different their way of life and customs are.
- B** The farther away you travel from the big cities, the more traditional the people are.
- A** Yes, that's true. Away from the cities and big towns I suppose there's less influence from people like us.
- B** For example, I was in Greece recently.
- A** Was that for a business trip?
- B** No, I was on holiday. It was a fairly short visit, though.
- A** My neighbour's Greek. She's a lovely person.
- B** I think they're the friendliest people in the world.
- A** Well, you find friendly and unfriendly people in every country, surely?
- B** Yes, I know. I'd need to travel more widely before I can make comparisons.

Unit 21

- A** It's incredible to think that there are a lot of people in Britain who have never lived in a city.
- B** I was brought up in the country. What I like about it is that it's a lot less noisy than the city.
- A** Yes, it's certainly a much quieter environment.
- B** Unfortunately, it does mean that you have to drive everywhere.
- A** That doesn't do much for the pollution problem, does it?
- B** Well now, there are far more cars on the road in any city, so let's not blame the countryside for that.
- A** So you have no local public transport?
- B** We do, but the buses don't run frequently enough, or at the times you want them.
- A** You see, I'm used to getting a bus or train to wherever I want to go in London, and until quite late.
- B** Yes, it's the transport system in the country that concerns me most. People just didn't use it enough, so the service was reduced.

Unit 22

- A** So, tell me more about your holiday cottage.
- B** You really must come and see it one day. It's very pretty, and the scenery's wonderfully dramatic.
- A** I'd love to. So does it have a view of the sea?
- B** Not from the downstairs, but as you go upstairs there's a door that opens out onto a balcony.
- A** That must be great to sit out on when the weather's warm.
- B** We haven't found out yet. The weather hasn't been good enough to test it.
- A** You could rent it out to holidaymakers.
- B** Yes, that could work out really well. When we've saved enough money we could then decide to move in ourselves.
- A** I wish I could afford a second home.
- B** My father bought this one over 15 years ago. They very rarely come onto the market these days.

Unit 23

- A** We've had some quite strong candidates for this post.
- B** We wouldn't normally interview so many people, would we?
- A** It's a pity there's only one position available.
- B** Theoretically, we could take on more than one new person.
- A** Yes, that's right. Karen Smale's just handed in her notice, hasn't she?
- B** So has Sam Collins.
- A** I wonder why so many people are leaving at the moment?
- B** There's a lot of uncertainty in the industry. JLT has just cancelled a contract, and so has Lipp Electronics.
- A** It makes you wonder if we can afford to be taking on staff at the moment?
- B** Hopefully, we'll start to see an improvement in the New Year.

Unit 24

- A** So, what would you like to discuss in this meeting?
- B** My old firm stressed the importance of assessing our work performance on a regular basis.
- A** And how would you assess your first year with our company?
- B** Very positively. It's a bit early to say whether I can make it all the way to the top, though!
- A** I think you're definitely on the right track. I've heard good things about you from several clients.
- B** I'm glad that they're pleased with me.
- A** You must be very proud of your role in winning that important new account last month.
- B** Yes, of course. I'm hoping that might be one of the reasons for promoting me sooner rather than later.
- A** You have your formal appraisal in six weeks' time. I think we should discuss this then.
- B** I'm grateful for any opportunity to show what I can do.

Unit 25

- A** So, tell me about these books you've been reading.
- B** The one I've just finished reading is about a woman who goes to live in Italy.
- A** I don't think I've read that one.
- B** At the beginning, she's only interested in staying there for the summer, but she changes her mind.
- A** Well, that's Italy for you.
- B** Despite the fact that the locals drive her mad, she decides to stay on.
- A** Don't tell me. She marries a tall, dark, handsome stranger.
- B** No, he's quite short, actually.
- A** And are there loads of descriptions of food?
- B** Yes, and in particular, food of the Liguria region.

Unit 26

- A** It's lovely to be here in this hotel!
- B** I do hope you enjoy your stay with us.
- A** I'm sure I will. I've stayed here before with my wife.
- B** We do offer a special discount for guests who have stayed here before.
- A** That's even better. I remember we stayed in a lovely room that had a view right across to the sea.
- B** I was going to give you a room at the back, because it's quieter, but if you'd prefer one with a sea view that's not a problem.
- A** Do you have to pay extra for the view?
- B** No, the way I see it, we don't have to pay for the view, so why should you?
- A** That's very sensible, Mrs Stevens.
- B** Anyway, we haven't got many people staying at the moment, because of the terrible flooding we had last week.

Unit 27

- A** OK, let's see if we can actually arrange to meet this time.
B I don't know what happened last Saturday. I don't know where the misunderstanding came from.
A Like I said, I was waiting exactly where we'd agreed to meet.
B I said we'd meet at the fountain, unless I phoned. And I did phone. What's more, I followed it up with a text.
A Well, as I said, I didn't get your message.
B Strange that, since you've received every other message that I sent after that one.
A Do you think I left you waiting on purpose?
B All right, calm down. I promise I won't mention it again.
A Shall I invite Natasha and Carrie, too?
A Yes, why not? On the other hand, that just might make it more complicated.

Unit 28

- A** Hello madam, can I help you?
B I'd like to speak to the person who's in charge.
A I'm the manager. How can I help?
B Are you the person who advised me to buy a new kettle?
A I think I may be.
B Then you're the man whose advice I didn't follow. This one's broken. I need a new one.
A Do you like anything that you've seen in our catalogue?
B No. They're all silver and white. I only like the colours blue and green.
A You'd have a better choice if you looked at a wider range of colours.
B I've got to go soon. Maybe I'll think about getting someone to mend the kettle I've already got.

Unit 29

- A** So, what's this tooth fairy I keep hearing about?
B It's just a bit of fun for the children, really.
A That's what they say about your Halloween. I couldn't sleep when I heard that.
B Yes, didn't you ask Bob to check in the cupboards and wardrobe before you went to bed?
A Hey! How did you get to hear that?
B They're just traditions. In some countries, people go and sit around the graves of their relatives while having a picnic.
A I actually think that's a nice idea. It's all the dressing up as ghosts and things that I don't like.
B But you do have the 'Trick or Treat' tradition, don't you? In fact, I think you had it in America before we got it over here.
A Probably. I like the idea of 'Trick or Treat', though.
B I suppose it is quite nice to get little presents wherever you go in the neighbourhood.

Unit 30

- A** How's your new au pair getting on?
B She's amazing. I can't believe my luck.
A You've had a lot of problems trying to find an au pair, haven't you?
B Yes, but I think Maria's going to be great.
A Does she speak English?
B She didn't speak much when she arrived, but now she does.
A Has she picked it up from you, then?
B No. The woman next door teaches English for a living.
A That's really convenient.
B Maria would really like to study English at university, but she can't afford to.