

**Track 1****Way in, p. 3, ex. 3**

**Radio host:** Hi, welcome to our show where we talk to people who have just moved to the US. Today we have Ben. Hi Ben, welcome to the show.

**Ben:** Thank you!

**Radio host:** So Ben, tell us more about yourself.

**Ben:** I'm Canadian and I moved to the US about four months ago because of my job. I come from Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

**Radio host:** I have to say, even though our countries are neighbours, I don't know that much about Canada and Canadians. Are Canadians any different from people in the US?

**Ben:** Um, it's hard to say what Canadians are like because just like in the US there are lots of different kinds of people. But I'll try anyway. I'll start with a joke. Question: How do you get 50 Canadians out of a swimming pool? Answer: You say, "Please get out of the swimming pool."

**Ben:** So what I'm trying to say is that Canadians are usually very polite. Being polite includes being friendly, helpful and happy.

Always remember: Canada is not the US. And the US is not America. You and I, we all live in America. Just like the Mexicans, too. So we don't think it's fair that you use the name "America" just for your country. But, hey, we're too polite to make a big problem out of it.

**Radio host:** OK, so we're not only neighbours. The US is also Canada's biggest trading partner, right?

**Ben:** Yes, and the US has a lot of influence on Canada.

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**Radio host:** That's interesting... And what about the Canadian wilderness?

**Ben:** Most of us live in cities, but yes Canada also has a lot of wilderness and we like the outdoors and care about the environment. And yes, there are places with more polar bears than people, but there are also Canadians who have never seen a polar bear in the wild.

The stereotype that all Canadians play hockey and ski is... almost true. I can say that I don't know anyone who doesn't do at least one of these sports! I do both!

Another thing that most Canadians can say about themselves is that they are the descendants of immigrants –Scottish, Irish, English, French, German and Asian. Unfortunately, there are not very many indigenous people in Canada anymore. The Canadian government wasn't really fair to them. They can live on the land and control some of the government offices, but they don't own the natural resources. So that's something that Canada and the US share – how we treated and treat our indigenous people.

And the way we talk is a mixture of American and British English. Like the word "either". Some people say it "either" and some "either". Both are correct in Canada and neither (or neither) is wrong.

**Radio host:** That was really interesting, Ben. Thank you for being with us today!

## Track 2

### Station 1, p. 4, ex. 3

- Narrator:**
1.  
Come on, let's go!
  2.  
Of course you can. I have a lot of motivation.
  3.  
I always do my best. I love a challenge.
  4.  
Look, I want to play and discipline is important to me.
  5.  
I prefer individual sports.
  6.  
Well, I'm looking forward to trying parkour.

**Track 3****Station 1, p. 5, ex. 4****Narrator:** 1.

Have you already skied on every mountain in Canada? Are you looking for a challenge? At Hank's Helicopters we can offer skiing at its best.

We will take you by helicopter to the top of a mountain. Get out and ski down, then you can fly back up again. On an average day you will ski down the mountain eight to twelve times. Book your trip today at [www.hankshelicopters.com](http://www.hankshelicopters.com) or call - 1 366 434 1652.

2.

If a young bear has lost its parents or is hurt by environmental problems, there is a safe place for them at the Toronto Polar Bear Nature Reserve and you can visit them here and even swim with them. While the bears are enjoying a swim in their cold pool, you can swim in a warm pool next to them with only a glass wall between you and the bears. The nature reserve is in Cochrane, Ontario just eight hours north of Toronto. See you soon!

3.

You don't have to go to the Caribbean for some great diving. Instead of a long, expensive flight, stay in Canada and go ice diving in Banff National Park in Alberta. In the winter! If you are good at diving, you should have no trouble with ice diving. And Lake Minnewanka is the place for you. In the lake you can even see a town from 1912. That's right – as the lake got bigger, it covered the town so it is now in the lake. You can rent cold-water diving equipment in Calgary. So come on – the water's fine!

**Track 3****Station 1, p. 5, ex. 4****Narrator:** 4.

What does Canada have a lot of in the winter? That's right – ice! So bring your car down to the ice car races! We used to have the races on frozen lakes and rivers, but since the 1970s we've had our own track in Minden, Ontario. The sport is not very expensive and between January and March almost anyone can take part. You just need a driver's license. You don't need an expensive car, but you do need good tyres. And make sure you have a helmet and a safety belt in your car. Check our website for details. See you at the race track!

5.

Ice climbing is full of action for everyone – for all ages and levels. Our climbing season goes from November to March or later if the ice is still there. We offer half- or full-day introduction lessons. After two days of lessons you'll be ready for a real ice climb! If you climb correctly, it really just feels like you are climbing a ladder! So come to Canmore, Alberta because here you can do more!

**Track 4****Station 2, p. 8, ex. 4**

**Reporter:** Hi Tom. Thanks for taking the time to talk to us today.

**Tom:** Sure, no problem.

**Reporter:** Tom, I want to talk to you about fracking in your hometown of Castle Rock. How has fracking in Castle Rock affected you?

**Tom:** Well, in lots of ways. I moved here with my family five years ago because my parents wanted a smaller, quieter town and for the first four years it was exactly what my parents had wanted.

**Reporter:** What happened after those first four years?

**Tom:** Um, that's when the fracking company moved in and became our new neighbour. One morning we woke up and there they were! Nobody knew anything about it.

There used to be this big, open field with a little lake behind our house. All of the kids from our street met there and we played baseball in the summer or hockey in the winter. But now we can't do that anymore because there are huge holes there now and all kinds of equipment standing around there.

**Reporter:** That's too bad. Anything else?

**Tom:** Yeah, I mean, the field is just part of the problem. Nobody asked or even told the people who live here about it. Not the city government, not the company. They simply ignored us and started using the land.

**Reporter:** So you feel angry?

**Tom:** Yeah, we do. I know the land doesn't belong to us, but we live here. They should have told us.

**Track 4****Station 2, p. 8, ex. 4**

**Tom:** Every day there are 30, 40 trucks bringing things in and out. You can still smell the exhaust fumes at night! They're poisoning our air. And all the trucks and the equipment are super loud. You can never keep your doors and windows open. Not even in the summer. But that's not the worst of it. There are always terrible smells from the chemicals they use. It's simply horrible.

**Reporter:** And these chemicals cause problems too, right?

**Tom:** Oh yeah, they do! If there are any fracking fans listening to this, I want to invite them to live here for a week. They can have my room – and my headaches and my stomach aches. My little sister's nose bleeds all the time. My mom's eyes are always dry.

We have no idea what kinds of chemicals they are using and nobody tells us. I'm going to write about all this on my blog.

**Reporter:** I can see that you're very worried about this. What about fracking and the environment?

**Tom:** Well, did you know that there are now more earthquakes in this area? Ever since the fracking started. At school we practice what to do if there's an earthquake. Nobody can tell me that these earthquakes aren't connected to the fracking.

The Canadian government is allowing these companies to destroy our land, our water just so they can get more natural gas. Instead they should be spending money on renewable energy sources.

**Reporter:** Thanks for telling us about your experiences with fracking, Tom. Good luck!

**Track 5****Test Practice, p. 18, ex. 1-2**

- Host:** Welcome to the CBC Radio One morning programme. I'm Wesley Jackson. Our topic this whole week is "Canada – how we live". Today I want to introduce you to a teenager from Quebec. Welcome to the morning show, Matthieu.
- Matthieu:** Thanks. Good morning.
- Host:** Matthieu, can you tell us something about the Quebec culture?
- Matthieu:** Yes, the Quebec culture is very important to me. And the French language. So, we can start at the beginning with a few important dates. Quebec City was founded by the French in 1608 and it is the oldest city in Canada. A lot of people from France moved to the new colony but in 1760 the French lost the colony to the British in a war.
- Host:** Quebec has a population of a little more than eight million people – second only to Ontario. There are more than 10 First Nations and Inuit groups and they make up about 3% of the population. Like most Quebecois, the Aboriginal people also mostly live in the south of Quebec.
- Matthieu:** Yes, Quebec is very big – the largest province – but the north is very cold. Montreal and Quebec City in the south are the biggest cities. Quebec City is the capital, but Montreal is the largest and the most important city in the province for business.
- Host:** Let's get back to language and culture. Why are the French language and the Quebecois culture so important to you?



## Track 5

### Test Practice, p. 18, ex. 1-2

**Matthieu:** Well, we are like an island in English-speaking Canada. We have to fight to keep our French identity. It is part of our history and we don't want to give it up.

**Host:** And has Quebec been successful?

**Matthieu:** Yes, I think so. About 80% of the people in Quebec speak French as their first language. It is the only official language in Quebec and so that's the language in school and in the government.

But almost all of the young people in Quebec are bilingual – they speak both French and English. We learn English at school and we need it in the job world.

**Host:** Is it true that there's a "language police" in Quebec?

**Matthieu:** Yes, it's called "Office québécois de la langue française". If a citizen thinks that a sign from a shop, for example, should be in French and not in English, they can report it.

**Host:** So before we end, what do you want to tell our listeners about how you live?

**Matthieu:** We are all Canadians. Instead of worrying about how we are different, our goal should be to learn from each other.

**Host:** Thank you, Matthieu. I think we can all agree with that!

**Track 6****Station 1, p. 25, ex. 2**

**Jan:** Hi, everyone. As most of you know, I've just come back from a month in India. A friend and I decided to spend four weeks in the summer doing some volunteer work abroad and we found jobs in Goa, India. Goa is in the west of India. There was a school in a village in the countryside that was damaged in a storm and we went there with some workers to help repair it.

First we flew to Mumbai and there we got on a plane to Goa. We were met at the airport by Dev, who works for the volunteer organization, and he drove us to the school, which was about an hour away. And, I mean, phew – India is hot! Really hot. That was the first thing I noticed.

We were introduced to Geeta, a teacher who worked at the school. We stayed in a room in her house. It was in a beautiful area, next to a forest. We went for a walk and saw so many birds and tropical plants; it was amazing.

The house was really busy. Geeta lived with her husband, their two children, her husband's mum and dad and her husband's sister and her three children. So twelve people including us! There were three bedrooms: we had one, there was a family in each of the other rooms and the grandparents slept in the living room. The first night, we had the most delicious coconut fish curry for dinner. But that night my friend and I had bad stomach aches! And it was so hot that we didn't sleep much.

The next day we met Harpreet, who was the builder on the project, to repair the school roof. He didn't speak much English but he showed us what to do. The children there thought we were very interesting, and at lunchtime they wanted to play football with us!

**Track 6****Station 1, p. 25, ex. 2**

**Jan:** Then, on the third day, there was an accident. My friend was working on the roof when he somehow fell off! They called an ambulance and he was taken to hospital in the nearest city. Unfortunately his leg was broken. He was sent home as soon as he was well enough to fly back. He was really sad to leave. Dev asked me if I wanted to go home, too. I decided to stay because I had come to help. I also liked the people I had met in the village and wanted to show them that I took my work there seriously.

So Harpreet and I worked hard for the next three weeks to finish the roof. However, the best thing was that I had two days off every week. Some days I just relaxed; sometimes I walked in the forest and a couple of times I took a bus to the beach or the nearest city.

Harpreet and Geeta and her family became really good friends of mine. They were such beautiful people who took good care of me. But it was much too hot for me, and the work was so hard that my body hurt every day. Also the insects were really awful! I'm not sure I would go back except for a holiday! It was an experience I'll remember for the rest of my life.

**Track 7****Station 2, p. 28, ex. 4**

**Interviewer:** Today on 'Successful India' I'm joined by Rakha Vijay from Mumbai. Rakha has just won a prize for best new website at a ceremony to celebrate young business people in India – and she is only 17! Congratulations, Rakha!

**Rakha:** Thank you so much.

**Interviewer:** What's the name of the website you've created?

**Rakha:** The website is called 'Artists at Work'.

**Interviewer:** And what do you sell on your website?

**Rakha:** We sell traditional Indian souvenirs which come directly from the artists who make them. The website tries to support traditional artists by paying them a fair wage for their work.

**Interviewer:** And what gave you the idea to start the website?

**Rakha:** Well, my grandparents live in the country in the state of Madhya Pradesh, and when I was there on a visit once, my grandmother told me all about the beautiful jewellery and clothes that are made in her village, but the artists were all poor. But in the city, in Mumbai, I saw that the same traditional goods are sold for lots of money.

**Interviewer:** Yes, they are very expensive to buy here, aren't they?

**Rakha:** Yes, very. I discovered that villagers sold the things they made cheaply to people who then took them to the city and sold them to the shops. The people in the shops made a lot of money, but the artists in the villages stayed poor. I really wanted to help the artists, so I thought the best thing to do would be for the artists to sell directly to customers. And the best way to do that is on the internet where they can reach the whole world! But, of course, as most of these artists are from the older generation, they don't all use computers or the internet.

**Track 7****Station 2, p. 28, ex. 4**

- Interviewer:** So that is where you can help.
- Rakha:** Exactly! I've always been good with computers and designing websites.
- Interviewer:** Is it true that the website was created for a school project?
- Rakha:** Yes, that is true! It wasn't going to be a real website; it was just an idea for a school project. But then the more I thought about it, the more I thought, what would happen if I actually did this? So, I went back to my grandparents' village, showed them my ideas and talked to some artists. Everyone was really interested so we decided to give it a try!
- Interviewer:** And it worked!
- Rakha:** It did! And new technology is used to support these very old skills.
- Interviewer:** And what is sold on the site now?
- Rakha:** At the moment it's jewellery and clothes, and all of the products are made in Madhya Pradesh.
- Interviewer:** And tell me what winning the prize at the ceremony meant to you?
- Rakha:** Oh, it was an amazing surprise! I took my grandmother to the ceremony and she was so excited! She has helped me a lot with the local links, it was amazing to win. It was also a great promotion for the website and has provided us with more customers so now even more artists can be paid fairly.
- Interviewer:** Thank you for being with us today, Rakha.

**Track 8****Test Practice, p. 38, ex. 1-2**

**Unnati:** My name is Unnati and I live in Ahmedabad, which is the biggest city in Gujurat state. I am in my last year of high school here and after that I hope to go to university to become an engineer. I speak three languages. Gujurati is my first language; it is what I speak at home. I also speak Hindi and English. We learn these two languages at school because Hindi is used as an official language and most universities only teach courses in English.

My father is a teacher at the University in Ahmedabad. He comes from a rich family with traditional values but his marriage to my mum was not arranged. They met and fell in love. It was a big problem because my mother comes from a poor family, and my father's family didn't accept her at first. I want to get married to some day, but I want to concentrate on my career first.

**Sahir:** Hello, I'm Sahir. I come from the Northern Indian state of Bihar, which is near the border with Nepal. My family and I are Muslims and I go to a Muslim school here. We learn about Islam, maths and science, but my favourite subject is English! I hope I can travel to the UK one day, maybe even to the USA!

**Track 8****Test Practice, p. 38, ex. 1-2**

**Sahir:** My family has a farm. The land in Bihar is very rich; fruit, for example, grows very well here. After school I help on the farm with my sister and older brother. It's hard work. Sometimes, I can't go to school because there is too much work to do. I hope that I can go to college when I finish school, but maybe I will need to stay on the farm to help my family. I also worry about going to a college with a large number of Hindu students. I've heard many don't like Muslims and some even call us terrorists. Of course, I have friends in my town who are Hindu. I play cricket with them at the weekend and we don't have any problems with each other. There are many great Muslims in India: three presidents have been Muslim as well as some of the most famous actors. I don't know why we can't all live together in peace.

**Kanchan:** I'm Kanchan. I come from a village in Madhya Pradesh. My father works as a builder and my mother makes clothes. I help in the house with cooking and cleaning and I look after my younger brothers and sisters – I'm the oldest of seven children. I left school when I was 12 because my parents did not want me to walk to the local high school three miles away. They were worried about my safety, and also needed me to help my mother because my father often works away from home. There aren't many work opportunities for a girl like me anyway. Next year my parents are going to arrange a marriage for me. I trust them to find me a good husband who will treat me well.

We are Hindus and our family prays three times a day in our home. On festival days everyone in the village goes to give thanks to the gods. Traditions are very important in village life. I would like to move to the city one day and have a more modern life. I hope my future husband will share my dream.

**Track 9****Station 1, p. 45, ex. 3**

- Jack:** Hey Danny, how's things? I heard that you're leaving us and moving to Wellington?
- Danny:** Hi Jack, hi Kyle, I'm good and yes, it's true. There are no jobs here, are there? I got an apprenticeship in a hotel restaurant up in Wellington.
- Kyle:** Congratulations, that's great! You've always wanted to be a chef, haven't you?
- Danny:** It's my dream, yes! I can't wait really. I'm going to learn so much working in a professional kitchen.
- Jack:** How does Clara feel about you moving away?
- Danny:** Hmm, well, she's not happy. She's not talking to me at the moment. We argued and she cried...
- Jack:** Oh no, really?
- Danny:** Yes, she's angry that I didn't tell her that I was applying for jobs that weren't in Christchurch. But, you know how it is. I applied for 23 jobs here and nothing, not even an interview! So, I just started applying for things all over the country, I didn't really think I would be successful to be honest after so many places said no.
- Jack:** Oh, she'll be alright, don't worry about it. She knows you need a job and that this is your dream. It's not like you are moving to another country, you'll be back to visit, won't you?
- Danny:** Yes, of course. How's your job search going, Kyle?
- Kyle:** Not good. I've applied for so many jobs too, but there's nothing... maybe I should start looking further away like you?
- Jack:** Or maybe you should go back to school and work a bit harder this time?
- Danny:** Yeah Kyle, what were your grades again?
- Kyle:** They were bad, really bad. School wasn't for me. But do you really need to know about science or literature to work in a shop or build a building?



**Track 9****Station 1, p. 45, ex. 3**

**Jack:** That's not the point though. Like you said, there are lots of people looking for jobs so they're going to choose people with good grades. You have no experience, no qualifications...what do you expect?

**Kyle:** It's easy for you to say. You're going to go to university and you'll get a really good job later. I'd hate to go back to school though. I just need to get an apprenticeship like you, Danny. I'll work hard if I get a chance.

**Jack:** I've heard that there are free courses here in Christchurch where you can learn some skills. It's not like school and your chances to find a job might be better then.

**Kyle:** I'll think about it. I can't stay home forever, can I? My parents are sick of having me around the house and I have no money. When are you going to Wellington, Danny?

**Danny:** Next month, but I'm going for a visit this weekend to find a place to stay and have a look around. My parents are coming up with me, I think they're a bit worried about me moving away but they are happy for me too. It's going to be a new start, and hopefully once I have some qualifications and some experience I'll be able to find a job back here in a few years.

**Kyle:** Don't come back! There's nothing in this town, Wellington will be much cooler!

**Danny:** Well, we'll see what happens! And I'll have to talk to Clara again soon.

**Jack:** Ah, good luck Danny! I'm sure it'll all work out ok.

**Danny:** Thanks, I hope so.

**Kyle:** And let us know when your leaving party is!

**Danny:** Don't worry - I will! See you!

**Track 10**  
**Station 2, p. 48, ex. 3**

**Emily:** Our family was lucky. None of us lost our life. My uncle broke a leg when some rubble fell on him but mostly we were OK. We were also lucky not to have been at home when the earthquake happened because our beautiful old house collapsed. I thought we had lost my cat or that she had died, but one day, about a week later maybe, we were trying to collect what we could from the house and there she was.

Covered in dust but very much alive. I cried and cried. It was the first time I remember really crying because of what happened, I think I had been in too much shock until then.

We went to live with my grandparents. They live in a modern apartment that wasn't damaged in the earthquake. Their apartment was small though, there was one bedroom for me and my two brothers, and my parents had to sleep in the living room.

We thought it would just be for a few months, while the insurance company arranged the money for us to build a new house. But we were at Grandma and Grandad's for nearly four years.

One of the hardest things to deal with were the other small earthquakes which followed the big one. Every time things started shaking again, I started to panic. Everywhere I went I thought about where would be the safest place to go if there was an earthquake again. I just felt so nervous all the time, I couldn't relax. We had some counselling at school but it wasn't enough and lots of my friends were struggling too. None of us did as well as we had hoped in our exams the next year. A lot of my friends and my two brothers have moved away now, there are no jobs here and just lots of things that make you remember the earthquake.

**Track 10**  
**Station 2, p. 48, ex. 3**

**Emily:** My dad lost his job soon after the earthquake because the company he worked for closed. He was in the city centre when the earthquake happened, and he saw some terrible things. After the earthquake he wasn't able to go outside any more because every time he did, he started to panic. It was hard for Mum too; she was working full time and trying to get the money from the insurance company. I wanted to go away to university like one of my brothers but I didn't want to leave my parents so I stayed here. I'm going to university in Christchurch and studying to be a counsellor, I hope I can help people affected by disasters because I've seen the problems it can cause.

Things are improving now. My dad still struggles and he still needs medicine, but he is working part-time now and also helping with the building of our new house. We hope to move in by the end of the year. The city is being built again, slowly, but we are starting to see hope now.

**Track 11****Test Practice, p. 58, ex. 1-2**

**Presenter:** Next on Extreme Travel, John Lawson tells us about his bike trip from the very north to the very south of New Zealand. Welcome John.

**John:** Thank you.

**Presenter:** Please tell us about your amazing trip.

**John:** I've been a member of a cycling group here in Wellington for a few years and every year we do a ride and take on a new challenge. Two years ago though, one of our team, Steve, was told he had a serious disease, and he sadly lost his fight six months later. So we decided to do a big ride from the top to the bottom of New Zealand to remember him and to collect money for the organization that helped him when he was sick.

One morning in early spring six of us went up to Cape Reinga, which is the furthest north part of New Zealand, to start our journey. We had a support car with us that was carrying all our equipment, tents and food because we couldn't carry too much on our bikes. The trip is 3,000 km long and we were hoping to do it in just over a month.

The first few days weren't too hard. There are some great bike paths there that are off the roads. We were near the coast, so we could stop for a swim or to have a picnic and we found some great campsites.

We then spent a night in a bed and breakfast in Auckland. It was good to have a real bed to sleep in - we were all getting a bit sore from the cycling and camping!

After Auckland it started to get hillier, we were in volcano country! One day there was an accident between two riders. It was a real disaster! One bike was totally ruined, the other one damaged, and the two riders were hurt and couldn't continue.

**Track 11****Test Practice, p. 58, ex. 1-2**

**John:** The next few days were hard because it was really windy and rainy. But we made it to Lake Taupo. There we could relax in the hot pools that are heated by warm water that comes from the volcanoes. After that we felt much better for our ride towards Wellington.

We were so happy when the city of Wellington came into view – we had made it to the bottom of North Island! After a ferry journey across the Cook Strait we were in the town of Picton, the start of our South Island adventure. We cycled through forests and along and across the Wairau river, and past beautiful waterfalls. The snowy mountains looked amazing and Mount Cook was a spectacular sight, but it was hard to cycle there. Our bodies hurt and we were riding less each day.

The last night we camped near to the Bluff, the most southern part of the island. We had a barbecue and talked about Steve, our friend we were doing this for. We looked up at the stars and talked about our journey. We cried and laughed. Then we got up with the sun and cycled the last couple of kilometres to the Bluff. We had finally made it and it was the toughest and at the same time greatest experience of my life.

**Track 12****UK Test Practice, p. 64, ex. 1-2**

**Gloria:** My name is Gloria and I live in Glasgow. I'm going to finish school this year and I want to go to college then. I'm planning to study information technology, business, maths and French and I want to go to university after that. I'd like to go to Europe to study for a year because I want to work in international business. My grandparents are from the Caribbean and my family have travelled a lot so I think I know a bit about international culture. I've always liked living in the UK, but even though I was born here sometimes I feel like I don't fit in. Anyway, at the moment school is very important to me. I really want to do well in my exams as I think life can be tough and I need to find my own opportunities.

**Louisa:** I'm Louisa and I live in Sheffield. I have two older sisters and a younger brother and life is sometimes difficult for us. My dad is a builder but lately it has been more and more difficult for him to find work. My mum works as a nurse and has to work a lot because there are never enough nurses at the hospital. My mum says there isn't enough money for the health service so there are fewer nurses and the nurses who still have jobs have to do all the extra work. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a nurse like my mum but now... well, I see how hard she works for such little money that I don't think it's such a good idea. I took my exams last year but I didn't do so well. I was too busy going to parties and spending time with my ex-boyfriend. I'm working in a supermarket at the moment but I'm not sure what I'll do after, because there aren't many opportunities for young people around here.

**Track 12****UK Test Practice, p. 64, ex. 1-2**

**Ali:** I'm Ali and I live in London. Next week is my big audition – for theatre and music school! I'm hoping to go to the same one that Adele and lots of other famous actors and musicians went to. It's free to attend but is really hard to get into. I want to study music, I'm a singer. I hope I get in but if not, my next plan is to audition for a singing competition on TV. My mum supports me but thinks I am a bit mad. She worries what will happen if I don't make it as a singer, but for me that's not an option, it's all I've ever wanted to do. Mum is always worrying about the future. She has lost several jobs in the last few months because the companies closed. I'm sure it will all be fine though, I don't worry too much about the future. I might become famous and make lots of money, you never know. The most important thing is to stay positive.

## Track 13

## USA Test Practice, p. 68, ex. 1-2

- Piper:** Hi, Aaron. How are you? Are you feeling a bit more at home already?
- Aaron:** Hey, Piper. I'm fine thanks. Getting used to living in the middle of nowhere.
- Piper:** Come on. I know you come from the big city but life here in Oklahoma isn't too bad either. What was so great about living in Chicago? Isn't it sometimes stressful to live in such a big city?
- Aaron:** No, Chicago is a great city if you love sports. We have two baseball teams, an American football team and a basketball team called the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls are my favorite team. I play basketball too and I love to watch their games.
- Piper:** Our school basketball team is pretty good too. Did you get on the school team?
- Aaron:** Yes, I did and the first training was good. The team plays really well and the coach is good too. I'm really happy I got in but I just miss going to the big games in the United Center in Chicago.
- Piper:** We don't have a big stadium here in Ponca City, that's true. But there's lots of nature around. I love our ranch, we have over 1,000 cows and the ranch has been in our family for four generations. I'm an only child so one day the farm will be mine so I'm learning how things work. A lot of work is done on horses and I love to work with the cowboys. I got my own horse when I was 12.
- Aaron:** There are real cowboys on your ranch? That's cool. And you really want to be a rancher?
- Piper:** Sure. You must come and visit us on the ranch, I'll teach you how to ride a horse, it's not that difficult.



**Track 13****USA Test Practice, p. 68, ex. 1-2**

- Piper:** I love working on the land although it's hard work and the weather here can be difficult. The summer is very hot and dry and the winters are cold and snowy. Oklahoma is also famous for its weather changing all the time, there is a saying: "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma just wait a minute and it will have changed!" We also have to be careful about fires in the summer because it is so flat and dry here. We had one a couple of years ago but luckily it wasn't so bad.
- Aaron:** I'm more worried about tornadoes, to be honest.
- Piper:** Don't worry. The last big tornado was in 1996 but nobody was hurt.
- Aaron:** OK, that sounds good. But we have lots of snow in Chicago in the winter too. In fact, the winters in Chicago are really cold and the summers get hot too but you can always go to the lake with your friends and swim and cool down. And you know what's great too? The food! There are a lot of immigrants in Chicago which means you can get food from anywhere in the world really.
- Piper:** Well, we have some great restaurants here with homemade food. The only problem with living here is how far we are from everywhere. I have to drive one hour from our ranch to town anyway. I spend nearly two hours a day in my car! And the next big city is several hours away. So everyone gets their own car as soon as possible because you need one. I don't have many friends nearby but I can see them at school and then at church on Sunday.
- Aaron:** Don't get me wrong, there are problems in a big city too. There's poverty in the city; people without a home or a job ... A lot of cities have these problems, don't they? But on the other hand, there are a lot of opportunities there: more jobs, schools and sporting activities. When I finish high school, I want to go to college in Chicago.