New Headway Pre-Intermediate (fourth edition) Exam Practice (Slovak edition)

Tapescripts

**EXAM PRACTICE UNIT 1**

**T 1**

Presenter: Welcome to Lifestyle South West. Today I have the pleasure of interviewing Eve Whittaker, who celebrated her ninetieth birthday last Tuesday. Amazingly, Eve is still working. And we’re sitting in the lovely bookshop that Eve has worked in for nearly 60 years.

Eve: Thank you, dear. Well, you’ve just given away my secret – I still work. Work keeps my mind and body active and keeps me in contact with people. I opened my little bookshop here in Salisbury in the fifties with my late husband. It has been my life’s work.

Presenter: So at the age of 90, do you still work full-time at your bookshop?

Eve: Oh no, not full-time. As you get older, you see, you slow down a bit. But I do a few hours at the shop every day. I spend a lot of time reading books in my comfy armchair by the shop counter, too! Books are my great passion and I read for at least five hours a day.

Presenter: What sorts of things do you do at the shop?

Eve: I help out a bit, answer customer enquiries. My niece Barbara deals with the manager-owner, was it difficult to hand over the management of the shop to your niece?

Presenter: After so many years of being the manager-owner, was it difficult to hand over the management of the shop to your niece?

Eve: Not really. I have a good relationship with Barbara and I’ve read enough to know that you have to let go, and let the younger generation learn. You learn from mistakes, of course, not that Barbara seems to make any!

Presenter: When did you decide to take on a smaller role in the shop? And why didn’t you just retire?

Eve: I think it was in 1986 that I decided to retire. I’ve always been a very active person and I love books. The thought of growing old at home and not seeing people on a regular basis wasn’t very tempting. So, I decided to continue to help out at the shop, and give control of the business to Barbara. It’s worked out very well.

Presenter: What type of books do you like reading?

Eve: Just about everything, from the classics to modern fiction. I read medical and legal manuals, business management books, philosophy … I am what’s called a ‘serial reader’.

**T 3**

Narrator: News item 0, example

The government is to announce plans to raise the age of retirement later this morning. This is in line with similar initiatives proposed in other EU countries. The retirement age for men is expected to be raised to 66, with the retirement age for women being raised later this year.

Narrator: News item 1

Heavy rain is still causing problems in much of central Europe. Hundreds of people have abandoned or lost their homes due to widespread flooding. Areas of Poland and Germany have been affected especially badly. The heavy rain is forecast to continue for the rest of this week.

Narrator: News item 2

The former boyfriend of the missing Lancashire woman Jodie Barker, has been charged in connection with her disappearance. Barker was first reported missing last May. The relationship between Barker and her former partner has been described as ‘turbulent’.

Narrator: News item 3

The Office of National Statistics has warned that we may be heading for a shortage of primary school places in England and Scotland. The number of primary school-aged students will rise by eight per cent over the next four years. With the Government’s new plans to cut funding, schools may not be able to cope.

Narrator: News item 4

Hospitals in the north west are to carry out a survey to measure patients’ satisfaction with their services and treatments. This follows a recent increase of complaints about the National Health Service in the region.

Narrator: News item 5

England’s three-nil win against Germany today takes them through to the next round of the World Cup. The England captain has given a statement, saying that he is confident that the team will go all the way. England will play Spain in the quarter-finals next Saturday.

**EXAM PRACTICE UNIT 5**

**T 5**

Narrator: Speaker 0, example

Elizabeth John: I’ve just been on holiday actually. Last year I stayed in the UK, but this year I went back to Spain with a big group of friends. It’s got more expensive but we loved it. We hired a villa and lazied around reading. In the evening we cooked delicious meals with the local produce.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Thomas Reeves: We’re off to the Caribbean island of Antigua. I can’t wait. I’ll be staying at a luxury resort, and sipping cocktails on the beach under the coconut trees. I won’t check my emails or my answering phone for a whole two weeks! That’s what I call the high life.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Joan Berry: We’re very predictable. We’re going to Austria again. It’s got everything we like: lovely food, beautiful mountains and lakes. Of course, being music teachers, we always go to the Salzburg summer music festival. We’ve been going every year for the past decade.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Phil Brooke: I haven’t booked anything yet. I’d like to go on one of those guided tours of a whole country, where you see a bit of everything. I thought of maybe Peru, so that I could see a bit of rainforest, Lima, Lake Titicaca, and of course climb Machu Picchu.

Narrator: Speaker 4

Karen Lawrence: This year’s going to be very special. Both my husband and I have recently retired and we’ve decided to go on a cruise around the world. It’s a once in a lifetime experience. We’re doing the lot: New Zealand, Cuba, China, India … it’s going to be wonderful.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Ian Biffle: Well, with four young kids and badly paid jobs, we don’t have much money. We’re going to stay here in the UK, but we’ll probably go camping for a few days. I’m thinking of Devon or Cornwall, or even up to Scotland, but that’s a long drive.

**EXAM PRACTICE UNIT 6**

**T 6**

Britain is quite a small island but it’s got a lot of traffic. There are over 300,000 kilometres of roads in the UK and there are 33 million cars on the roads. Every year, around 270,000 people are hurt in road accidents. In many cities, the air pollution is quite bad and it’s difficult to travel around because there are so many traffic jams. People are worried that in the future, the pollution and traffic will get worse if more people use cars. So attempts are being made to try and change how people travel in Britain.

Britain has got the oldest train system in the world, but travelling by train in the UK can be very expensive. Many towns and cities have got Park and Ride systems. This means you park your car outside the city and catch a bus into the centre. There are special lanes on the
road for buses so they don't have to wait in traffic jams, but there is a better, cheaper, and cleaner way to travel – on a bicycle. With so many cars and buses on the roads, cycling can be dangerous. To help more people cycle safely in the UK, there are special cycle lanes in many places. It's a good idea to always wear bright clothes and a helmet though. It's a great way to get around and there are cycle parks in some towns. You can cycle across the country in 16,000 kilometres of cycle routes. The special cycle route signs can be seen in many places and these routes are easy to follow on a map. In some places, there are even special traffic lights for bicycles. In the future, the UK will be less polluted and safer if more people get on their bikes.

EXAM PRACTICE UNIT 8

T 8

It’s Clive at five on Melbourne FM. It’s a gorgeous day out there and we’ve got a great show for you. This afternoon’s ‘Hot air’ phone-in is about men and women’s habits – shopping habits, to be precise. Got a view on this? Want some air-time to share your thoughts? Give me a ring on 038 522 522.

Now according to a new survey, women are still the main shoppers for household groceries, cosmetics, and clothes. Men are still the main purchasers of cars and electronic goods, though the ladies are catching up: year-on-year they’re buying more and more electronic goods like laptops and phones. The survey also shows that you blokes are smartening yourselves up! Men are buying more clothes and skincare products than ever before – though women still buy up to five times more! And who do you think spends more on entertaining, eating out, and drinks? Yes, the boys. Probably because we chow down so much more than the ladies, eh?…

What do you think of that then? Air your views? Call me live on air now on 038 522 522, or drop me a mail at clive@melbournefm.com.

More from the survey … apparently men spend much more than women on sport. It’s not gyms, classes, or sports equipment, it’s the main purchasers of cars and electronic goods, though the ladies are catching up: year-on-year they’re buying more and more electronic goods like laptops and phones. The survey also shows that you blokes are smartening yourselves up! Men are buying more clothes and skincare products than ever before – though women still buy up to five times more! And who do you think spends more on entertaining, eating out, and drinks? Yes, the boys. Probably because we chow down so much more than the ladies, eh?…

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EXAM PRACTICE UNIT 12

T 12

Presenter: And finally, just a few words from our guests on technology. What invention do you dream of? Stella Finch, you're a comedy writer, what would you put on your technology wish list?

Stella: Erm, a computer programme that could write funny jokes? No, I'm joking. I need a computer so that I can write while I'm travelling. I think laptops are great, but they're a bit heavy, and you're always afraid that someone will steal it, or that the battery will run out. I'd like a lightweight computer, that's as light as paper, and that I could just fold up and put in my bag. It would run on solar power, so I'd never have to charge it.

Anita: I read somewhere that a South Korean company was developing some sort of electronic paper. … I like Stella’s idea, and how about being able to store all of your computer's files inside your wrist watch?

Presenter: Wow, that would certainly make life easier! You’re in the wrong job Anita, have you considered giving up acting to become an inventor?

Anita: I've considered giving up acting many times, but never for that reason!

Presenter: So Anita, what's on your technology wish list?

Anita: Well, now that satellite navigation is so advanced, how about a car that drives you home after you've had a night out on the town?

Stella: Yeah, I'd love that! I spend a fortune on taxis.

Anita: My other idea was for a media centre in your living room that has everything on it – TV, DVD, the Internet – and that responds to voice recognition. So just one machine, and no buttons! You just tell it what function you want, and the machine does the rest. 'Change channel, turn up the volume, block all golf programmes.'

Stella: Anita, I think that's a great idea. Although my husband would be furious if he couldn't watch the golf!
In our second report this lunchtime on The People’s Hour, we return to the topic of men and women, and their roles and image in modern society. Whether the roles of men and women have changed in recent years is a controversial topic. We interviewed five people to get their views.

I think that things have really changed quite a lot, and that girls now don’t feel they have to act like boys, like they did in the nineties. In my opinion we’re much more aware of the harmful nature of some of that behaviour. We’re less likely to go out binge drinking, and now we cover up a bit more than we used to. Most of those awful cheap magazines, that were encouraging us to down pints and behave like blokes, have disappeared. The noughties have changed us a lot, and girls today know that we can get on and have a proper career if we work hard.

There’s a lot of concern about the way women and girls look which has been caused by the so-called ‘celebrity culture’. The media have to shoulder a large part of the blame for this, they only really celebrate thin and fashionable women, who are usually attached to famous men – I think it has a horrible effect on a lady’s self-esteem. There’s just not the same pressure on men to have cosmetic surgery and continue to look unrealistically young, well into middle-age. Men are allowed to grow old gracefully! If roles are to change then more realistic images of women are needed too.

As a headmistress, I worry about how stressed young women can get. I think girls need to be aware that perhaps they can’t have it all, all at once: a high-pressure career and children, straight after they leave university. The pressures on women are enormous and it’d be a good idea if they were educated to be realistic, and weigh up what they really want from life. Women can be quite fulfilled without huge salaries and jobs in banking. A good family life can give them a lot of satisfaction, and it’s not an ‘inferior’ alternative.

I used to hope things’d change, but now I’m quite pessimistic about the roles men and women have to play in society. And I don’t think anything’ll happen until men start thinking more seriously about how they can combine a job and a family. It’s always been women who’ve thought about this – we just assumed that we would have to choose – but now lots of women are having more high powered careers and sometimes earning larger salaries than their partners. Men need to address this, and start to accept that they might not always be the main wage-earner in a family.

Until there is equal pay for equal work, nothing can improve. There’s still a ‘pay gap’, you know. In some ways, the laws designed to protect women at work are making things harder in the long-term: the government needs to think more carefully about laws that will help create equality, not make men and women resent each other. With high unemployment, a lot of people think that men should keep jobs and women should go back into the kitchen. If men still earn more, then that’s the only possibility for lots of families: women at home and men out at work, back to the fifties.