

Listening A  [Track 14]

1.

Newscaster: A storm is threatening to cover much of the state in heavy snow this weekend. Temperatures below freezing are predicted. Other parts of the country are also having severe weather. In California, strong winds and heavy rains have caused trees to crash into houses and cars. Many people have left their homes. . . .

2.

Newscaster: *Integrator Three*, an action movie based on a best-selling computer game, was the most popular movie in theaters for the second week in a row. The movie was directed by Harry Stevenson and stars . . .

3.

Newscaster: The presidents and prime ministers of 15 of the world's largest countries have agreed to attend a conference in London next month. The leaders will discuss a number of topics that concern people all over the world, including a rescue plan for . . .

4.

Newscaster: A survey of local college students showed that eating a balanced diet can help you at school. The survey showed that students who ate well got better grades and were less stressed out before exams than those who ate more junk food. The survey also showed that . . .

Listening B  [Track 15]

Ellen: Hi, Adam. What's up?

Adam: Hey, Ellen. Long time no see! I've started a new job. I'm teaching kindergarten at Water School.

Ellen: Congratulations! Is it fun?

Adam: Well, yes and no. I stand most of the time, I'm always busy, and I don't get many breaks. It takes a lot of energy to do this job well.

Ellen: I bet it does. You really have to keep your students busy.

Adam: That's right. I have to come up with new ideas all the time to keep them interested . . . and entertained.

Ellen: That sounds challenging. So, what do you like about the job?

Adam: It makes me feel really good when I see children learning and making progress. It makes me think I can make the world a better place, you know?

Ellen: I can see what you mean.

Adam: How about you? What have *you* been doing these days?

Ellen: Well, right now I'm working as a designer for an advertising agency.

Adam: Oh, cool. You've always been so creative.

Ellen: Yeah, but it's hard work.

Adam: Really? What's so difficult about it?

Ellen: Well, I work in an office, and there are so many rules. . . . And you know me – I was never good at following rules!

Adam: No, you never were, especially at school.

Ellen: I enjoy the job, but I think I'd prefer to work on my own. . . . You know, I think I need to start working from home as a freelance designer.

Adam: Hmm, I see your point. That might be better for you. You're always the happiest when you do things your own way.