TRANSKRYPCJA TEKSTÓW DO SŁUCHANIA

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Task 1.

This is London News, 97.3 FM. All news all the time. It's midnight going into Sunday the 30th of October and I'm Jenny Kay. Good morning!

Aspiring novelists will compete for the chance to win a lucrative publishing contract in a Pop-Idol style literary talent search. Lit Idol has been organised by London Book Fair to uncover untapped talent in the world of fiction writing. Entrants will be asked to submit up to 10,000 words from the opening chapter of a novel. They will be whittled down to five, whose work will be displayed on the Internet and opened up to a public vote. The winner will secure a deal with a leading agent which will be almost certain to result in a contract.

Nine hundred people employed by the Transport and General Workers Union are going on strike after pay negotiations with the Union broke down. The clerical, cleaning and catering staff who work for the TGWU will stage a 24-hour strike on Thursday. About a third of those affected work in London. A Union spokesman says they'll now try to resolve the dispute by appointing a national officer to represent the workers and a general secretary to represent the Union.

The heavy police presence at the peace rally in central London has come under fire. 2000 police were drafted into the ND (Nuclear Disarmament) event, which was attended by only about 3000 demonstrators. The nuclear disarmament protesters marched from Temple Tube station to rally in Trafalgar Square. Connor Frank, who's policy officer for the NCCL, says the demonstration was peaceful, exactly as he expected.

Psychiatrists are being urged to stop administering electric shock treatment without the patient's consent. Over a hundred thousand people a year are given electroconvulsive therapy, or ECT. The Mental Health Charity MIND says many patients have no say whatsoever as to whether they are treated or not. It's the second time within a week the therapy has been criticised. A well-known human rights organisation recently called for a complete ban on the practice. MIND's policy director, Liz Seigh, says the welfare of patients must come first, given that the professional psychiatry generally recognises both benefits and risks of ECT.

And now the weather forecast. It will be quite dry but windy in London overnight, with temperatures around ten to twelve degrees. Some showers are to be expected around noon and in the afternoon bright or sunny spells.

It's nearly three minutes past midnight, time for a little music.

adapted from London News 1994

Task 2.

Man: *Pardon me? What did you say?*

Woman: Well, darling, at least two, and ideally three.

Man: *Correct me if I'm wrong, but everybody usually keeps only ONE at home.*

Woman: And that's a big mistake. Sometimes you just have to keep one dish away from another. Can't you remember the cake we ate at Grandma's last time? It stank of herring! Yuk, totally uneatable!

Man: *Huh, that's true...*

Woman: See? If Grandma'd only listened to me, she wouldn't have that problem now. You'd better listen, too.

Man: *But honey, don't you think it's a waste of money? How often do we have a cake? You're always on a diet... Besides, the pantry's cool enough for cakes...*

Woman: All right, but what about Bobby's meat? And what about your cheeses? No matter how much tinfoil I use, everything ends up reeking of old socks!

Man: *Well, you've never complained before...*

Woman: I meant to be nice, but why should I if you're so tight-fisted? OK, want to hear more? From now on I won't have your bait next to my baby's food. It's disgusting! Keep your slimy worms somewhere else.

Man: *OK, I will. On condition that you keep your creams and the stuff you put on your nails, ...er... the polish, where they belong. In the bathroom. Each time I reach for the butter, a bottle or two fall out.*

Woman: Oh, YOU want to fall out, do you? No way, I'm not that easy to provoke and... oh my goodness! Just look at this one, isn't it beautiful? Just my shade of pink! Oh, and an ice-cube maker... Come on, give me a hand, I can't open it.

Man: *Here you are... hmm, not bad, there's even a bottle rack...*

Woman: You don't think I'll let you keep your beer here, do you? It's just perfect for my Perrier and for champagne, of course. Hey, where do you think you're going?

Man: *You stay here with your pink nightmare, and I'll look for one that's, let's say, more masculine. I'm sure they have them in grey or silver.*

Woman: See? Didn't I tell you we'd need at least two?

Task 3.

There was a time when only royalty and the very rich owned vacation homes abroad. That's changed. Money still helps, but in the last few years holidaying in your own overseas property has become much more common. There is no doubt that the vacation-home market has recently increased in popularity. Here's why vacation homes are so popular.

People are buying these secondary homes because, well, they can. More and more countries now allow foreigners to own property at relatively affordable prices. Elsewhere, developers now step in to take care of the legalities. And though experts say that most people still buy real estate within a four-hour ride of their primary residence, improved travel routes have opened up new markets, especially in Asia and Europe. Among the hottest new destinations: Sri Lanka, Spain and Hungary.

Families with young children can benefit greatly from owning a vacation home. Take Henrietta Wheatman and her husband. The U. K. residents with three kids under twelve, own holiday houses in France, Italy and Thailand. Wheatman, a former stockbroker, raves about how much more relaxing it is to stay in a place of one's own. It helps kids understand other cultures and gives them a chance to pick up the language.

And did you realize that buying a vacation home can also be a good investment? Wheatman earned $50,000 last year by renting out her Thai villa, more than offsetting the $24,000 it costs annually to maintain and staff the house. All her vacation homes have appreciated up to 100 percent, and practically pay for themselves through rentals brought in by referrals and Web sites.

But be warned: buying holiday homes can be addictive. A few weeks ago, Hong Kong resident Andre Meyer bought his fourth vacation place at Terrace Downs. He already owns property elsewhere in New Zealand and South Africa, and, as he is a golfing enthusiast, they are all close to golf courses. Short-term lets give him a good return. He says he wouldn't do it if it meant throwing money away. The chance to work on his golf game doesn't hurt, either.

Why don't you get a vacation home of your own then? If you're interested, contact MJ Ltd on 601 321 074.

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