

## 4C

## Master your listening

- ▶ **Goal:** understand a group discussion
- ▶ **Focus:** recognising references to common expressions



## 1 Work in pairs and answer the questions.

- 1 What do you think is happening in the photo? Why?
- 2 Have you ever been in total darkness? If so, give details about where you were and how it felt. If not, imagine how it might feel.
- 3 How long do you think you could spend in total darkness and isolation without suffering ill effects?

2  4.9 Listen to a discussion about a woman who spent a long time in total darkness as a challenge. Complete the sentences.

- 1 The woman spent the entire time in a ...
- 2 In terms of the outside world, she was not allowed ...
- 3 In total, she was in there for ...

## 3 a Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What did the problem with the power help the female speaker to understand?
- 2 Why do they suspect the woman took on the challenge to live in darkness?
- 3 Why were meals delivered at odd times?
- 4 How did she stay calm and happy?
- 5 What two tricks did her mind play on her?
- 6 Why did the woman not stay in for the whole month?

## b Work in pairs and compare your answers.

## 4 Work in pairs. Read extracts 1–6 and guess the meaning of the phrases in bold.

- 1 a **pitch black** bathroom
- 2 ... they created this set of rules that she had to **abide by** ...
- 3 ... she wasn't allowed any contact from outside **whatsoever**.
- 4 He admitted defeat and said that she **may as well** come out.
- 5 Did she **stick it out** for a month?
- 6 I'm **not remotely** surprised.

## 5 a Look at the extract below. What do you think Speaker B means?

**A:** ... I was about to say that!

**B:** Great minds!

## b Read the Focus box and check your answers.

## Recognising references to common expressions

The better speakers know each other, the more likely they are to reference a common expression to summarise a situation. The expression is often shortened.

**A:** ... I was about to say that!

**B:** Great minds!

Here the *Great minds* refers to the expression *Great minds think alike*. The speaker is humorously suggesting that they both have great minds because they both had the same thought.

Referencing common expressions can be confusing to a listener who doesn't know the expressions, but knowing the expressions and recognising references to them can help to understand all kinds of discussions.

## Common expressions that are often shortened

*A fool and his money ... (A fool and his money are soon parted.)*

It's easy to con a fool out of his money.

*If the cap fits ... (If the cap fits, wear it.)*

If a particular description fits you, accept it.

*Accidents will happen (in the best regulated families.)*

Not every accident can be prevented.

*The more things change ... (The more things change, the more they stay the same.)*

It looks like things are changing but actually nothing has changed.

*When in Rome ... (When in Rome, do as the Romans do.)*

When you are in a new place, behave in the same way as the people who live there.

6 a  4.10 Listen to four extracts. Note four common shortened versions of expressions.

## b Work in pairs and answer the questions. Listen again if necessary.

- 1 What is the meaning of each expression?
- 2 Why does the speaker use the expression in this situation?

## 7 Work in pairs. Which of these things do you think you could do? Which would be hardest?

- Stay in bed for a week.
- Eat pizza every day for a year.
- Stay silent for a full day.
- Stay offline for a week.

## 4A

## Master your reading

- ▶ **Goal:** understand a narrative or biography
- ▶ **Focus:** recognising foreshadowing of events



## Remarkable letters

The blog devoted to the lost art of letter writing.

### Nobel Prize winner Richard Feynman's extraordinary letter to his wife.

- 1 In October 1946 Richard Feynman penned an extraordinary letter to his wife, Arline. In it, he wrote:
- 2 *It is such a terribly long time since I last wrote to you — almost two years but I know you'll excuse me because you understand how I am, stubborn and realistic; and I thought there was no sense to writing. But now I know my darling wife that it is right to do what I have delayed in doing, and that I have done so much in the past. I want to tell you I love you. I want to love you. I always will love you.*
- 3 The letter was extraordinary for two reasons. The first is that it was written by Richard Feynman, one of the most influential theoretical physicists in history. He revolutionised the fields of quantum mechanics and superfluidity and was a pioneer in quantum computing and nanotechnology. In 1965 he won the Nobel Prize for Physics and was voted by other eminent scientists as one of the ten greatest physicists of all time. Such a romantic letter from such a scientific mind is remarkable in itself, but the letter was extraordinary for another reason, too.

#### 1 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 When was the last time that you wrote a letter on paper (if ever)? Explain the circumstances.
- 2 Compare and contrast the experience of receiving a letter versus receiving an email.
- 3 Why is letter writing sometimes called 'a lost art'?

#### 2 a Work in pairs. Read the first two paragraphs of the blog post and discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think it had been two years since Feynman last wrote?
- 2 Why might there be 'no sense in writing'?

#### b Quickly read the whole blog post and put the events in the correct order (1–5).

- a \_\_\_\_\_ Arline became ill.
- b \_\_\_\_\_ Richard won a Nobel Prize.
- c \_\_\_\_\_ Richard married Arline.
- d \_\_\_\_\_ Richard met Arline.
- e \_\_\_\_\_ Richard proposed to Arline.

#### 3 Read the blog post again. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)? Which phrase or sentence supports your answer?

- 1 Richard changed how scientists understand certain subjects.
- 2 He grew up in New York.
- 3 From the moment she fell ill, Arline got steadily worse.
- 4 When Arline was diagnosed with TB, she was expected to remain seriously ill or die.
- 5 From 1600 to 1900, TB killed more people than all other illnesses combined.
- 6 For a while Richard told Arline that she would recover.
- 7 They married with the support of Richard's university.

#### 4 Find words or phrases in the text with these meanings:

- 1 wrote (paragraph 1)
- 2 changed radically (paragraph 3)
- 3 someone who leads the way for others (paragraph 3)
- 4 well-known and respected (paragraph 3)
- 5 experienced or felt by two people towards each other (paragraph 4)
- 6 the likely outcome of a medical condition (paragraph 5)
- 7 convinced not to do something (paragraph 6)
- 8 failed to resist – or died – as a result of something negative happening to you (paragraph 8)

4 Richard met Arline in the 1930s at Far Rockway in his native New York. While he was a passionate scientist, she was a passionate philosopher and artist. At first suspicious of each other, they soon grew closer and their mutual respect grew too and while still a teenager he proposed to her and she accepted. They decided to wait to marry. As a brilliant young couple they appeared to have an incredibly bright future ahead of them, **but it was not to be.**

5 As World War II broke out, Arline suddenly fell ill. She experienced a variety of symptoms including swellings in her neck that came and went, violent fevers and a bad cough. She was hospitalised and began to recover but her recovery was short-lived and her symptoms returned. In 1941, at the age of twenty-one, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The **prognosis was bleak.**

6 Even today in the twenty-first century, tuberculosis (TB) still kills around 1.5 million people every year but it is easy to forget how much worse it used to be. From the beginning of the seventeenth century to the end of the nineteenth, TB killed more people than any other illness and took the lives of more people than all wars combined. In 1941 it was still incurable (there were no antibiotics at that time) and Richard realised that Arline's disease was probably fatal. Although he wanted to be open and honest with her, he was talked out of it by her parents and against his better judgement he agreed to tell her it was only a mild illness. **The deception couldn't last** and when Arline overheard her mother crying, Richard told her the truth. At the same moment he asked her again to marry him.

7 Getting married was not easy. Richard's parents were set against it and his university, where he was doing a PhD, threatened to withdraw his funding because they felt he should focus on his studies. Arline's health also deteriorated and she was moved to a sanatorium<sup>1</sup>. The couple, however, could not be dissuaded and in 1942, as war raged, they married. They asked two strangers to be their witnesses and no family or friends were present. Richard could only kiss Arline on the cheek for fear of infection. **Their marriage would not last long.**

8 Richard began working on a top secret military project but just as the war came to an end, Arline finally succumbed to her illness. She was just twenty-five years old. And that brings us to the second reason that the letter was so extraordinary ...

<sup>1</sup> sanatorium – a place to care for the long-term ill, often patients with tuberculosis



5 a Work in pairs. What do you think is the second reason that the letter is extraordinary?

b Go to page 190 and read the last part of the blog post. Was your answer to Exercise 5a correct?

6 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Why do you think Richard needed to write the letter?
- 2 Do you agree with the strapline of the blog that letter writing is 'a lost art'? Why/Why not?

7 a Look at the sentences and phrases in bold in the blog post. What do they have in common? What is their purpose?

b Read the Focus box and check your answers to Exercise 7a.

### Recognising foreshadowing of events

When we read a text, we are constantly making guesses about what is going to happen. Writers often help readers in this process by foreshadowing future events. They refer to future events without giving details about exactly what happened and how. This makes the reader wonder what exactly happened, why it happened, how it happened and so on.

*... an incredibly bright future ahead of them, but it was not to be.*

*In 1941, at the age of twenty-one she was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The prognosis was bleak.*

When reading, look out for foreshadowing and notice how it builds suspense and keeps you engaged with the story.

8 a Work in pairs. Read the extracts from a different blog post about Richard Feynman. What future events do you think the sections in bold foreshadow?

1 Feynman spoke with a thick Brooklyn accent and loved storytelling. He, more than anyone, was responsible for making physics popular, cool even, **something that was reflected after his death in Apple's Think Different advertising campaign.**

2 As a child, Feynman was curious and restless and also a bit of a troublemaker. He hated formality and boredom, and showed himself to be an independent mind who refused to bow before tradition, **a fact exemplified years later by his last words.**

b Go to page 182 to check your ideas.

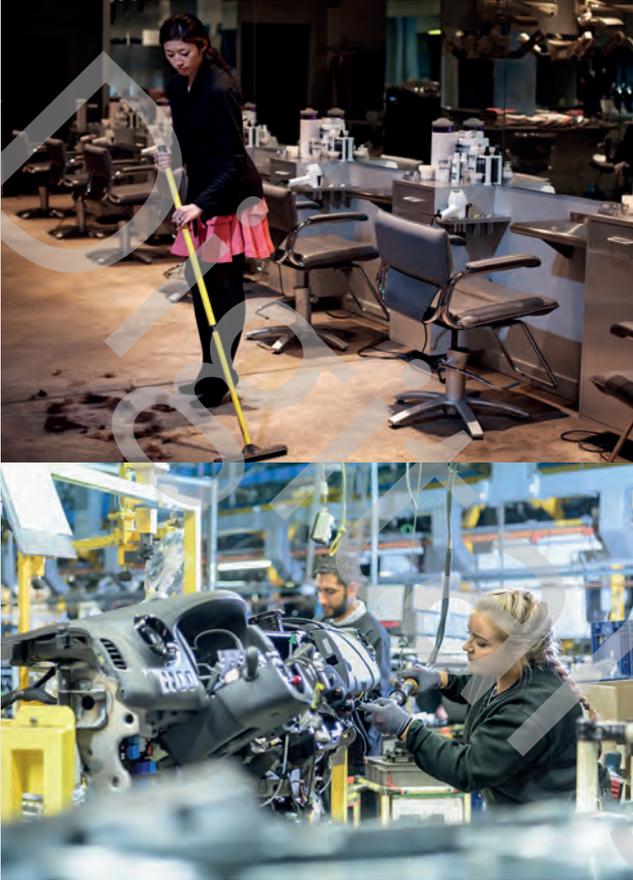
9 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- 1 Have you read any biographies or autobiographies of well-known people? If so, which ones? What did you think of them?
- 2 Which famous people would you like to read about? Why?
- 3 If someone were to write a biography about you, how would it begin?

# 4B

## Master your writing

- › **Goal:** write a letter of application for an internship
- › **Focus:** putting a positive spin on limited experience and skills



- 1 Work in pairs. Look at the photos and discuss the questions.**
  - 1 What is the difference between an internship and a normal job?
  - 2 What are the possible advantages and disadvantages for both sides?
- 2 Read the advertisement for an internship. Would it appeal to you? Why/Why not?**

### NEW CULTURE GENERATION

We are a leading TV channel and website for the late teen/early 20s market. Our goal is to showcase the most interesting and inspiring cultural events going on today. We aim to appeal to and represent a new generation which is culturally curious and determined to make the most of life's opportunities.

We are seeking a young and very enthusiastic intern with experience of cultural events and/or organisations for a nine-month placement in our marketing team. Punctuality is a must!

Salary: no salary but all travel and expenses are paid  
 Duties: helping with all the latest digital marketing techniques  
 Duration: 9 months  
 Contact: Mr Jenkins  
 Application: Piotr.Jenkins@newculturegeneration.com  
 Send email – no CV required

### 3 a Read Rachel's email. Do you think she's a good candidate for the job? Why/Why not?

Mailbox   Inbox ▾   VIPs ▾   Drafts ▾

**1** I would like to **1apply for** the marketing internship that was listed on internhunt.net. I believe that my academic achievements and extra-curricular experience mean that I am the **2right person for** this exciting internship opportunity.

**2** Over the last three years at Mortington College, I've completed a great deal of coursework on the latest marketing techniques and best practices, including social media influencer marketing and content marketing. I know that these areas of marketing are a component of the internship so I am confident that I can help your company **3do well** in this area. In addition, much of my coursework has been focused on the young adult market so I believe I have a good understanding of this demographic.

**3** Last summer I spent my holiday period volunteering with a local theatre group. I was instrumental in raising awareness of the group through digital marketing. Being up to date on the latest website building software, I was also able to rebuild their website and **4introduce** a much more active online presence.

**4** As well as studying full time, I have an occasional evening job as a waitress in a café. There, I am not only responsible for serving customers but also for cashing up at the end of the evening shift. This job has taught me the value of good time-keeping.

**5** I believe that I would be **5valuable for** your organisation and this internship would provide me with the ideal opportunity to gain real-world experience in my chosen field of marketing. I hope to schedule an interview with you at the earliest opportunity and I look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,

### b Look at the extracts from Rachel's email. How does each one link back to the internship job advert?

- 1 this exciting internship opportunity  
*We are seeking a young and very enthusiastic intern*
- 2 including social media influencer marketing and content marketing
- 3 much of my coursework has been focused on the young adult market
- 4 I spent my holiday period volunteering with a local theatre group
- 5 raising awareness of the group through digital marketing
- 6 taught me the value of good time-keeping

**4** In which paragraph(s) does Rachel do these things?

- a describe her relevant work experience
- b describe how her studies match the position
- c mention the next step
- d show that she sees things from the company's perspective
- e explain the purpose of the email
- f show enthusiasm
- g describe relevant extra-curricular experience
- h summarise why she is the right person
- i provide specific examples

**5 a** Match phrases 1–5 in the email with the more business-oriented phrases a–e.

- a achieve its goals
- b a big asset to
- c the ideal candidate for
- d put myself forward for
- e kick start

**b** What is the effect of using phrases a–e in a letter of application?

**6 a** Rachel hasn't yet worked in marketing. What phrases does she use to put her academic experience in a positive light?

**b** Read the Focus box and check your answers.

### Putting a positive spin on limited experience and skills

When applying for an internship we are unlikely to have much experience in the job field that we are applying for, so it is important to make the most of our coursework and extra-curricular activities in the application letter. Certain phrases help us to do this.

For subjects that you have studied you can say:

*I have completed a great deal of coursework on the latest marketing techniques.*

For concepts and ideas that you have studied you can say:

*I believe I have a good understanding of this demographic.*

For software and programs that you know how to use you can say:

*I am up to date on/proficient in the latest website building software.*

For principles that you learnt through experience you can say:

*This experience taught me the value of positive customer engagement.*

For goals that you helped achieve in a project you can say:

*I was instrumental in building a strong link to the community.*

**7 a** Rephrase the extracts from an application email using one of the phrases from the Focus box.

- 1 It took three months to finish the project and this experience showed me that patience is important.
- 2 During the project, I helped the team to stage an exhibition in a local theatre.
- 3 Because of my experience in this role, I now know how to design a mobile application.
- 4 During my first year at college I learnt about various aspects of commercial law.
- 5 I know how to use spread sheets.

**b** Write three true sentences about yourself using the vocabulary in the Focus box.

## Prepare

**8 a** You're going to write a letter of application for an internship. Choose the position in the box that interests you most or think of your own job.

digital marketing assistant   junior screenplay writer  
management trainee   trainee cook   trainee teacher  
video game designer

**b** Complete the advert for the internship position. Add the details that suit you.

Selios Regent is a \_\_\_\_\_ company focused on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Our goal is to \_\_\_\_\_. We aim to be number one and we are looking for a keen intern with \_\_\_\_\_ experience to join us for a \_\_\_\_\_-month period.  
Salary: no salary but all travel and expenses are paid  
Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
Application: Sheila.Fitzsimmons@seliosregent.com  
Send email – no CV required

**c** Make notes on the studies, experiences and jobs that you have which match the advert.

## Write

- 9** Write the first draft of your email. Make sure that you put a positive spin on your relevant experience and studies.
- 10 a** Exchange emails with a partner. Use the checklist in Exercise 4 to give your partner feedback on their email.
- b** Read the feedback on your email and write a second draft to improve it.