

# 4A Sounds interesting

## 1 VOCABULARY & WRITING

sounds and the human voice

- a Try to sit for one minute in complete silence, listening carefully. Write down everything you hear. Then compare with a partner. Did you hear the same things?
- b **p.164 Vocabulary Bank** *Sounds and the human voice.*
- c **225**) Listen to the sounds and make a note of what they are. Then write three paragraphs based on the sounds. Begin your paragraphs as follows:
- 1 It was 12.30 at night and Mike had just fallen asleep...
  - 2 Amanda was walking down Park Street...
  - 3 It was a cold winter night...

## 2 PRONUNCIATION consonant clusters

**Fine-tuning your pronunciation: consonant clusters**  
 Combinations of two or three consonant sounds, e.g. *clothes, spring*, can be difficult to pronounce, especially if the combination of sounds is not common in your language.  
 Three-consonant clusters at the beginning of words always begin with *s*, e.g. *scream*.  
 Three-consonant clusters at the end of words are often either plurals (*months*), third person singular verbs (*wants*), or regular past tenses (*asked*).

- a **226**) Listen to the words below. Then practise saying them.

### At the beginning of a word

#### two sounds

click  
 slam  
 crash  
 slurp  
 drip  
 snore  
 stammer

#### three sounds

screech  
 scream  
 splash

### At the end of a word

#### two sounds

shouts  
 sniffs  
 yelled  
 hummed

#### three sounds

crunched  
 mumble  
 crisps  
 rattled

- b **227**) Listen and repeat the sentences.

- 1 She **screamed** when her **friend** **splashed** her in the **swimming pool**.
- 2 The **brakes screeched** and then there was a **tremendous crash**.
- 3 I hate the **crunching** of someone eating **crisps**.

- c Write three sentences of your own, using two words from **a** in each sentence. Give them to your partner to say.

## 3 READING

- a Read the headline and the introduction to the article on page 35. With a partner, say how you think the following aspects of Vicky's life have been affected by her phobia.

- university studies
- relationships
- work
- where she lives

- b Read the article and check.

- c What is each paragraph about? With a partner, match paragraphs 1–7 to summaries A–H. There is one summary that you don't need.

- A  how her phobia caused her to underachieve  
 B  the physical effects of her phobia  
 C  what she considers to be the most damaging effect of her phobia  
 D  the effect of her phobia on where she works and lives  
 E  her eventual diagnosis  
 F  how therapy has helped her  
 G  her ambivalent attitude to sounds  
 H  how her problems originated

### LEXIS IN CONTEXT

- d Look at the **highlighted** adverbs and adverbial phrases and work out the meaning of any that you don't know. Check with your dictionary.
- e How sympathetic are you to Vicky's phobia? Do you know anyone with a phobia that seriously affects their life?





## Life & style Experience

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# I have a phobia of sound

For the last 30 years, I have had violent physical reactions to certain noises. Everyday sounds, like someone chewing or a pen being clicked, make me want to hide, scream, and put my fingers in my ears.

- 1 I feel unreasonable complaining to people about these **seemingly** harmless sounds, but for me they are threatening. My body reacts in the same way as it would under attack: I am flooded with adrenaline. It is as if I were in the same room as a huge, fierce dog. I am unable to focus on anything but my terror. I often have to hang up on phone calls **abruptly**, leave my seat and walk around the room, trying to block out the noise.
- 2 My phobia began when I was 19 and started work in a busy office. The noise of a colleague next to me who chewed gum **incessantly** became unbearable. My ears tuned in to every sound until they filled my head, and I couldn't focus on my work. This cacophony was added to by another colleague who **continually** whistled, until I was forced to leave.
- 3 The path of my life has been dictated by the sounds around me. I have changed jobs numerous times, searching for the perfect quiet office. I have moved house, too, away from loud music or arguing neighbours. **Strangely**, I'd love to live near a motorway: the constant hum of traffic would be soothing to me.
- 4 My phobia has affected my ability to get on in life. During my final examinations at university, I was doing really well, translating Greek **with ease**, until the scratching of a pen against paper filtered into my consciousness, bringing me to a halt. During another exam, a nearby pub had a delivery and the sound of barrels being rolled along by whistling delivery men destroyed any chance of concentration. I discovered afterwards that I was two marks off a first.
- 5 My biggest regret is that it has prevented me from having a long-term relationship and children. The longest I have been with someone is two years, until the sound of their eating, breathing, just existing **in proximity** to me became intolerable. I would sneak off to the spare room in the night to try to get some sleep, but it would be interpreted as a rejection of them. It's hard to stay with someone who doesn't want to eat or sleep with you. I haven't ruled out love yet, though. I'm sure there is someone who could accept my limitations.
- 6 It took me 30 years to realize that what I have has a name: misophonia, or hatred of sound. When I recently discovered a support forum dedicated to it, I cried for two hours. I felt so relieved to know that other people – 900 of them on this one site – felt like I did. I wasn't the only one.
- 7 It also gave me perspective. Some sufferers wish they were deaf, but I don't. I love many, many sounds: the sea, wind in the trees, music, the human voice. Time and experience have taught me that being able to hear is a beautiful thing, too important to sacrifice. I would never wish that away.

By Vicky Rhodes in The Guardian

### Glossary

**a first** the top qualification in UK university degrees

## 4 LISTENING & SPEAKING

a (28) Listen to five people talking about noises they don't like.

- 1 What noise does each person describe?
- 2 How much do you think it affects their daily life?

b Listen again. Who...?

- 1  feels that a sound represents a negative emotion
- 2  wishes he'd / she'd complained about a noise sooner
- 3  is annoyed because he's / she's powerless to stop a sound
- 4  has to make a sound stop before he / she can relax
- 5  describes sounds that other people clearly like

c Talk to a partner.

• **Are there any noises that really annoy you?**

Are you affected by them in your daily life?

Is there anything you can do to avoid or stop them?

• **Are there any sounds that you really love or that make you feel good?**

• **Do you prefer music or silence in these situations? Why?**

– in bars and restaurants

– in a supermarket

– in a gym

– when a plane is taking off or landing

– when you're put on hold on the phone

If you prefer music, what kind?



## 5 GRAMMAR speculation and deduction

a Look at this picture and answer the questions.



Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, on a zip wire.

- 1 When and where **could** the photo have been taken?
  - 2 Why do you think Boris **might have been** on a zip wire?
  - 3 What do you think **might have just happened**?
  - 4 How do you think he **must have been feeling** while he was hanging there?
- b ➤ **Communication** *Boris left hanging p.106*. Find out what really happened.
- c ➤ **p.146 Grammar Bank 4A**. Learn more about speculation and deduction, and practise them.
- d Look at these photos taken in London and make speculations and deductions about them.



## 6 LISTENING

- a Have you had an interesting conversation with a stranger recently? Where? What about?
- b Read about an organization called 'Talk to me London'. What do they aim to achieve? Does 'Talk to me London' sound like a good idea to you?

# TALK TO ME LONDON



What's the idea?

Why talk?

Stories

Get started!

**Talk to me London** is all about finding ways for people to talk to each other. We know that talking brings about many benefits, from a greater sense of well-being to friendlier communities, and increased opportunities. Think about it – just one conversation can inspire us, reassure us, or brighten up our day. Our vision is to build a friendlier city through encouraging small conversations between strangers.

### Note-taking

A good way of taking notes when you are listening to a talk, a lecture, or an interview is to try to write down the key words that you hear. These are the 'content' words (usually nouns or verbs) that will help you remember the important information.

- c (29) Listen to an interview with Polly Akhurst, one of the founders of 'Talk to me London'. Make notes under these headings.

The 'Talk to me London' badge  
How Polly has benefited from talking to strangers

Mediterranean countries and Madrid

Her reaction to negative media coverage

What she would say to people who don't want to talk



- d Compare your notes with a partner and agree the main points under each heading. Then listen again. Can you add anything to consolidate your notes?



Talking is something most of us like to do.



We spend hours talking to our friends – at the pub, over dinner, or on the phone.



But we don't often talk to people we don't know.



And whilst this may not sound so bad, it's having a big negative impact.



London is now becoming viewed as one of the most unfriendly cities in the world.

UNFRIENDLY

In a recent TripAdvisor study, London was voted second to last for the friendliness of its locals.

- e (230) Listen to four true stories from the 'Talk to me London' website. Who started a conversation, and who was approached by someone else?

James   Anneka   Philippa   Alise

- f Now listen again and match the four people to the information about the conversations. Write **Al**, **An**, **Ja**, or **Ph**.

- met someone she knew who she hadn't seen for a long time.
- talked to someone who had recently come to London.
- was surprised that the other person was happy to talk.
- was unexpectedly given something.
- talked to four different people one after another.
- didn't expect anyone to talk to her.
- was given a suggestion about how to make the most of travelling time.
- ended up chatting to a whole group of people.

- g If you were visiting London, would you wear a 'Talk to me London' badge? Why (not)?

## 7 SPEAKING

- a Read some online comments about 'Talk to me London'. How do you think each person feels about the project?

say [hello@talktomelondon](#)

Posts Top / All



**Alex** I only lived in London for three months, but I experienced my fair share of conversations with people on random benches or at Tube stations late at night, etc. If you want unfriendly, try Vienna. Honestly, I've lived here for nearly a decade, but it still drives me insane. You could spend all day, every day, in the same café and you'd die, decades later, before any of the other regulars even acknowledged your presence! #talktomelondon



**Mark** London is no different from most cities in this respect. It's an unwritten rule, you don't talk to strangers and they don't talk to you. I can imagine few things worse than someone trying to engage me in small talk on my morning commute. You keep to your private bubble and I'll keep to mine. That's how we like it. #talktomelondon



**Bella** I just don't get this – London unfriendly, nobody talks to a stranger? Rubbish. Maybe those who find London unfriendly are in fact the ones who are unfriendly, and unwilling to initiate a conversation. No problem for many of us. #talktomelondon

- b (231) Look at some useful phrases for giving your opinion in English. Underline the words that you think have extra stress. Listen and check.

### Emphasizing that something is your own opinion

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 I'd say that...             | 6 In my view,...               |
| 2 If you ask me,...           | 7 I feel that...               |
| 3 Personally, I think that... | 8 My feeling is that...        |
| 4 Personally speaking, ...    | 9 As far as I'm concerned, ... |
| 5 In my opinion, ...          |                                |

- c Answer these questions in small groups. Try to use the language from the box to express your opinions.
- Do people in your town or city tend to chat to complete strangers, or would it be considered odd?
  - Which cities or regions in your country have a reputation for being friendly or unfriendly? Do you agree?
  - Have you ever been to a city or country that struck you as particularly friendly or unfriendly?
  - 'You keep to your private bubble and I'll keep to mine.' Do you think this is a good approach to city life?



## 4A BORIS LEFT HANGING

Students A + B

### Boris left hanging

By Hannah Furness  
1:58PM BST 01 Aug 2012



Boris Johnson was featuring as a special guest in Victoria Park, east London, during the 2012 Olympics, to ride the 1,050ft (320m) zip wire, wearing a hard hat and waving two Union Jack flags as he attempted to sail down. Instead, he came to a halt about 65ft (20m) before the end of the wire, and was left dangling inelegantly in front of a watching crowd. The Mayor spent around five minutes hanging comically from the line, as spectators took video footage and photographs of his misfortune. When one asked how he was feeling, he replied 'Very, very well, thank you', before shouting: 'Get me a rope, get me a ladder'.

◀ p.36

## 5A THE TIMEX SURVEY Students A + B

### Survey Results

	Length of time
for a blind date to arrive	26 minutes
for a bus / train	20 minutes
for a car in front of you to start moving when the light turns green	5 seconds
for a table in a restaurant	15 minutes
for people to stop talking during a film at the cinema	2 minutes
for the doctor	32 minutes
for your partner to get ready to go out	21 minutes
in a queue at a coffee shop	7 minutes

◀ p.46

## 3A BLIND DATE Students A + B

### Life & style Blind date

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Stef and Graham on their wedding day

◀ p.26



# 4A speculation and deduction

modal verbs: *must, may, might, can't, should, ought*

- 1 They **must be** very well off – they've got a huge house.  
You **must have seen** him – he was standing right in front of you!
- 2 They **can't be playing** very well – they're losing 0–3.  
You **can't / couldn't have spent** very long on this essay – you've only written 100 words.
- 3 I haven't seen the Sales Manager today. He **may / might / could be** off sick.  
The keys of the store cupboard have disappeared. Do you think someone **may / might / could have taken** them?  
He **may / might not have heard** the message I left.
- 4 If I post the letter today, it **should / ought to arrive** on Friday.  
I posted the letter a week ago. It **should / ought to have arrived** by now.

- 1 As well as using *must* for obligation, we also use *must* + infinitive to say that we are almost sure something is true about the present and *must have* + past participle to say that we are almost sure something was true or happened in the past.
- 2 We use *can't* + infinitive to say that we are almost sure that something isn't true in the present and *can't have / couldn't have* + past participle to say that we are almost sure that something didn't happen / wasn't true in the past.
  - We don't use *mustn't / mustn't have* with this meaning.
- 3 We use *may / might / could* + infinitive and *may have / might have / could have* + past participle to say that we think it's possible that something is true in the present, or was true / happened in the past.
  - We only use *may not* or *might not* to talk about a negative possibility. NOT *couldn't*
- 4 We use *should / ought to* + infinitive to describe a situation we expect to happen. We use *should have / ought to have* + past participle to describe a situation we would expect to have happened in the past.

**Infinitive or continuous infinitive after modals?**  
 He **must work** really hard. He never gets home before 9.00 p.m.  
 (= deduction about a habitual action)  
 There's a light on in his office. He **must still be working**.  
 (= deduction about an action in progress at the moment of speaking)

## adjectives and adverbs for speculation

- 1 He's **bound / sure to** be here in a minute. He left an hour ago.  
She's **sure / bound to** know. She's an expert on the subject.
- 2 I think she's **likely / unlikely to** agree to our proposal.  
It is **likely / unlikely that** the government will raise interest rates this year.
- 3 She'll **definitely pass** the exam. She's worked really hard.  
She **definitely won't** pass the exam. She hasn't done any work at all.  
He'll **probably be** here around 8.00. He usually leaves work at 7.30.  
He **probably won't be** here until about 8.15. He's stuck in a traffic jam.

- 1 *bound* and *sure* are adjectives. We use *be bound* or *be sure* + *to* + infinitive to say that we think something is certain to be true or to happen.
- 2 *likely* and *unlikely* are also adjectives (not adverbs). We can use *subject + be likely / unlikely + to + infinitive*, or *it is likely / unlikely + that + clause*.
- 3 *definitely* and *probably* are adverbs. They go before a main verb and after the auxiliary if there is one in  $\oplus$  sentences and before the auxiliary in  $\ominus$  sentences.
  - With *be* they go after the verb in  $\oplus$  sentences and before the verb in  $\ominus$  sentences, e.g. *He's probably British. The painting definitely isn't genuine.*

- a Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

- 1 Jim didn't leave work until 6.00, so **he won't likely be here** before 7.00. ✗  
*Jim didn't leave work until 6.00, so he isn't likely to be here before 7.00.*
- 1 My glasses aren't in their usual place. **Someone must move them.**
- 2 A Do you know where Ann is?  
 B **She should be in the library.** That's where she said she was going.
- 3 A What's that noise in the garage?  
 B **I think it can be** the neighbour's cat.
- 4 I'm sure Chelsea will win tonight. **They're unlikely to lose** three times in a row.
- 5 I think you should delete that photo of Tina. **She won't definitely like it.**
- 6 **Julian is bound be late** – he always is.
- 7 No one's answering the phone at the shop. **I'd say they've probably gone home.**
- 8 I don't think Marta has gone to bed yet. **I think she must still study.**
- 9 **It's quite likely that the boss will retire** in a year or two.

- b Rewrite the sentences using the **bold** word.
- Perhaps Luke has got lost. He has no sense of direction.  
**might**  
 Luke **might have got lost**. He has no sense of direction.
  - I don't think he'll have time to call in and see us. He has a very tight schedule. **probably**  
 He \_\_\_\_\_ . He has a very tight schedule.
  - I'm not sure she'll ever get over the break-up. **may**  
 She \_\_\_\_\_ the break-up.
  - They will probably have heard the news by now. **ought**  
 They \_\_\_\_\_ now.
  - I didn't leave my credit card in the restaurant. I remember putting it in my wallet. **can't**  
 I \_\_\_\_\_ . I remember putting it in my wallet.
  - I'm sure your sister will like the scarf – it's just her style. **bound**  
 Your sister \_\_\_\_\_ . It's just her style.
  - The company director probably won't resign, despite the disastrous sales figures. **unlikely**  
 The company director \_\_\_\_\_ , despite the disastrous sales figures.
  - I'm sure he was in love with her, otherwise he wouldn't have married her. **must**  
 He \_\_\_\_\_ , otherwise he wouldn't have married her.
  - Are you sure you locked the back door? **definitely**  
 Did \_\_\_\_\_ lock the back door?
  - According to press reports, the couple will probably get divorced soon. **likely**  
 According to press reports, it's \_\_\_\_\_ soon.



