

BASELINE TEST A, LISTENING 1

Fernanda: Hi Josh. I'm at the airport.

Josh: Great! How was your flight from Mexico?

Fernanda: I slept for most of it. I had to get up at four o'clock this morning to catch my flight at seven o'clock. It was freezing when I left my house. What time is it now? Oh, one o'clock! Lunchtime! What's the best way to get to my hotel?

Josh: Why don't you take a taxi? It's the quickest and the easiest way too.

Fernanda: That might be a problem. I haven't had time to change my Pesos into dollars. I have a credit card, but sometimes you can't pay by credit card in a taxi. What other transportation options are there?

Josh: Well, the cheapest way is the local bus. But they only go every 45 minutes, and they don't take a direct route. Maybe the best option is to take the airport bus. The fare is more expensive than a local bus but much cheaper than a taxi. And you can pay using your credit card.

Fernanda: Perfect. Where do I catch it?

Josh: You have to go outside the terminal. The bus leaves from there.

Fernanda: Great. Where should I get off?

Josh: Don't stay on until the last stop. That takes you downtown, and your hotel isn't downtown. Get off one stop before the last stop. Ask the driver for the North Main Street stop.

Fernanda: Can I walk from there?

Josh: Well, you could, but why don't you call me when you're on the bus. It will take about twenty minutes. I'll meet you there, and we can go together. Are you hungry?

Fernanda: Yes, I'm starving!

Josh: OK. We can go to the hotel first. Then, I know a terrific Italian restaurant we can go to for lunch. I'll make a reservation now.

Fernanda: Perfect! See you soon!

BASELINE TEST A, LISTENING 2

Emma: On today's podcast we have Dean Roberts. Dean collects old computers. Welcome to the podcast!

Dean: Thanks, Emma.

Emma: Now, Dean, most people want to buy the newest computer, so why do you collect old computers? *[surprised tone]*

Dean: Well, nobody in my family likes throwing things away, and I looked at my old computers and they each had a special memory for me. I couldn't throw them away. Then, a couple of years ago, one of my friends told me that he was going to throw his away, and he asked me if I wanted it. Since then, my collection has gotten bigger and bigger!

Emma: And how many do you have in total?

Dean: I have eighteen complete machines, but I also have a lot of parts from other computers. I also have about thirteen printers and lots of books of instructions!

Emma: And do they work? I mean, can you actually use them?

Dean: Yes, you can. Every year I test them to make sure they work. Some of them are quite valuable.

Emma: Really?

Dean: Yes, my oldest computer is an original Apple Macintosh from 1984. I could sell it for 1,000 dollars, but I don't want to sell it.

Emma: Seriously! A thousand dollars! Can I ask how much you paid for it?

Dean: Uh ... let's just say it was a lot more than 1,000 dollars! But the others I have paid for have cost between 200 and 500 dollars. The Mac was a special one!

Emma: And where do you keep all your computers?

Dean: You're not going to believe this, but I keep them all in the house in different rooms. I love showing them to guests. Personally, I think they are beautiful to look at, although not everyone agrees! *[laughs]*

Emma: Well, thanks for talking to us – and good luck with the collection. Next week ... *[fade]*