

Baseline test A LISTENING 1

Brian: What are you reading? That looks like nonsense.

Ana: I know, it is! I was working on my essay, but then Clara sent me this quiz about personality types, and I just can't resist them. Then I saw this article about this woman who completely changed her appearance overnight.

Brian: But don't you see that's just clickbait? It's probably not true. They're trying to persuade you to read it.

Ana: I know. It's just a little fun. And a complete waste of time, because I still need to do the essay. I did find something interesting though about bots.

Brian: Bots? What are those?

Ana: They're a social media account that is active automatically. It's a fake account but works like it's a real person on social media.

Brian: OK, so how do we know if it's real or not?

Ana: You need to look at the activity. If it posts things hundreds of times a day, then it's obviously not a real person and is probably a bot.

Brian: And how do they post comments if there is nobody behind it?

Ana: They don't. They just give likes and re-post things. There's never any personal information, like photos on the timeline or comments. That's how you can tell.

Brian: OK, I see. You've been doing your homework!

Ana: But I haven't! I need to get on with that essay. You're distracting me!

Baseline test A LISTENING 2

George: Oh, hi April!

April: Hi, George. How are you?

George: I'm fine, thanks. And you?

April: Yeah, I'm good. I'm calling because I wondered if you wanted to hang out this weekend? What do you think?

George: I'd love to, but I'm not so sure about Saturday.

April: Why not? Do you have plans?

George: Well, I'm not sure yet. It was my mom's birthday last week, and I think my dad might be planning something for Saturday night. He said something about it the other day, but I'm not sure if he's arranged it yet. I should ask him because I might need to lend a helping hand.

April: OK, but what about Saturday during the day?

George: Yeah, that's a possibility. But I have to do some homework. I still haven't finished the essay on the environment. Have you done yours yet?

April: Yes, I finished it last week because I wanted to have a weekend free. You should have done it earlier. We're supposed to hand it in on Monday!

George: I know. I messed up because I was going to do it last night but instead I watched the soccer match on TV, and it went on for hours!

April: I know, but it was a great match though! So, what about meeting up on Sunday. Are you free on Sunday?

George: Yes, Sunday sounds great. What do you want to do?

April: How about going bowling? We haven't been bowling in ages. Or we could go to the movies?

George: Yeah, we could ... but I think it's going to be good weather on Sunday. So why don't we do something outside?

April: Good point. Would you prefer the beach or go for a walk?

George: Well, I haven't had much exercise this week, so I think I prefer to get out into the countryside and go for a walk. We could take food with us and maybe have a picnic. What do you think?

April: Great idea, George. I'm looking forward to it. I'll call you Saturday night about what we need to take and things. I need to look for my hiking boots!