

EVOLVE LEVEL 5 Mid-term Test 2A

LISTENING 2

- Marta:** What's the best thing you've ever done?
- Paula:** Who, me? Um ... let me think. I bought a smartphone the other day. It's great.
- Marta:** No, I mean things you've actually done. You know, experiences, events, big LIFE things.
- Paula:** Oh! I see. OK, it's interesting that you ask that question. Just the other day I was thinking what a rewarding time I had when I volunteered in Puerto Rico after the hurricane. It was good to feel that I was making a small contribution.
- Marta:** Yes, I can understand that. That's like an experience I had when I was seventeen. I went to help out in a nature reserve in Colombia for a few months. We were working to save the Santa Marta parakeet, which is endangered. It was very worthwhile.
- Paula:** What made you ask me that question?
- Marta:** Well, I really value the experiences I've had, so I was kind of shocked when I read an article online about "buyers' regret". It made me realize that a lot of people value things they can buy rather than experiences they can have, that's all.
- Paula:** Yeah, I know what you're saying. An experience makes you who you are. A smartphone really doesn't, right? It just says that you're the kind of person who has a smartphone, and that's fine, but it's not very interesting, is it?
- Marta:** No, it isn't! I have a friend who did an amazing thing a couple of years ago – she swam with a wild dolphin while she was on vacation in Brazil and she claims that it changed her forever.
- Paula:** Really? In what way?
- Marta:** Well, she said that it was such a fabulous, intelligent animal that it made her realize that there were more important things in the world than shopping and movies and commuting to an office. I guess that's obvious, but she might not have thought that ...
- Paula:** ... before the experience?
- Marta:** Yes. Exactly. She swears that if she hadn't swum with that dolphin, she wouldn't have changed her job. She worked in sales and marketing for a car company.
- Paula:** What does she do now?
- Marta:** She's a junior researcher at the Marine Institute. The institute aims to protect all sea life from danger – she just loves what she does now.
- Paula:** That's very cool.