

PROGRESS TEST FILES 4-7

Listening 1

- Simon** Have you heard of Jack the Ripper, Sally?
Sally Of course I have, Simon. Why?
Simon Well, it's just that I've been reading about him.
Sally And?
Simon Well, it's a fascinating story. I bet you know nothing about it.
Sally He killed a couple of women in south London in 1870 or 1880 or whatever. OK?
Simon Well, good guess. Actually, he murdered at least five women in the East End of London in the late 1880s, and he may have murdered many more. The guy who wrote the book I've read reckons he could've killed as many as ten. I suppose we'll never know for sure.
Sally It sounds gruesome to me. And I've heard it all before. To be honest, I don't understand the fascination with horrible criminals from the past. I quite like history, but I'd rather read about somebody who actually did something useful rather than a psychopath.
Simon OK, but the bad guys are much more fun than boring old do-gooders. The book though isn't just about the murders. Otherwise, I'd find it boring. I like reading social history and this one's about the social situation in Victorian London at the time. It wasn't that Jack the Ripper was the worst murderer in history. He was just the first one to get loads of publicity and public attention, especially in the newspapers. Each time there was a murder, the newspapers would wonder whether Jack the Ripper had murdered again. And it didn't matter if it was him or not. Everybody was afraid of him, just like they are today when there is a murderer on the loose. It was the beginning of the media age. Before Jack, nobody really knew what was going on. The fact that they never caught him just made the story more of a legend.
Sally Oh, he was never caught, was he? I thought he was the Prince of Wales, Queen Victoria's idiot son.
Simon Well, that was one theory. Actually, the author of this book says it couldn't have been him. There was a school teacher called Druitt who may have run away to Australia, and an American doctor who also disappeared quite suddenly. The teacher is the book's author's favourite suspect. He explains in detail why the doctor couldn't possibly have been in London at the time. But, let's face it, there isn't any really convincing evidence. We'll just never know for sure who did it.

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Listening 2

- 1**
Daisy I heard you were delayed for six hours at the airport, Chris. It must've been awful.
Chris No kidding. Try entertaining three little kids at an airport with two coffee shops. Fortunately, they slept a bit so we didn't get all that moaning you get when they're exhausted, but it was really boring for them. And for me. Not only that, but there were no announcements, so I was a bit scared we might miss the flight.
- 2**
George I can't find my keys anywhere.
Molly I wish you'd listened to me and put them on the kitchen table when you got out of the car last night.
George Well, I didn't, did I?
Molly OK. Have you looked in your coat? You might've left them there.
George Hang on. I'll have a look. I reckon you're right. Yeah. Here they are. It's because I never wear this leather jacket – I must've slipped them in the pocket as I was getting out of the car.
- 3**
Jamie My CD player doesn't seem to work. I can't think what's wrong with it.
Sue Are you sure it's turned on?
Jamie Very funny. It worked fine before, but it just clicks off every time I press play.
Sue Perhaps you need to put a different CD in. That one might be faulty.
Jamie OK. Hang on. That could well be it. No, wait ... er ... I think I've been pressing the pause button not play. Oh, stupid or what?
- 4**
Jenny How was your holiday in Bangkok, Dave?
Dave Wow! What a place! It's got so much life and energy! Of course, it's really humid which made things uncomfortable, and the pollution is pretty bad, but I loved it. I had thought I'd see more signs of poverty – beggars, homeless people, that kind of thing, instead there were lots of skyscrapers and people were driving large cars.
- 5**
Ron I wish I'd gone to the concert last night, don't you, Claire?
Claire Really? I've gone off him. I haven't thought much of him ever since his third CD. His new songs are terrible. And he doesn't play any of his early stuff any more. I wish he'd play more of the rock music that he used to.