

# ENGLISCH **3**

Schularbeits-Trainer

Kompetent  
AUFSTEIGEN ...

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Tapescripts

**TAPESCRIPTS**  
**Kompetent AUFSTEIGEN Englisch 3**  
**Schularbeits-Trainer**  
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**Test 1: Strange Coincidences**

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The first story is about a car that landed on a roof. In a scene you would expect in an action movie a stolen car landed on the roof of a house in California. Police say the car was going too fast and hit a rock and then a tree stump. The car went up into the air and landed on a roof. The driver of the car ran away but was arrested soon after at his girlfriend's home. There were people in the house when the car landed on it, but no one was hurt. They had to use a crane to get the car down from the roof.

The next story is a funny story that happened in England. Mrs Molly Peters found a little tortoise in her garden. The little tortoise was so cute that Mrs Peters took it into the house and tried to feed it. Mrs Peters' daughter even brought some lettuce but the animal didn't want to eat anything. Mrs Peters called the Wildlife Rescue Centre for advice. They sent a nice lady who picked up the tortoise and immediately knew what the problem was. She said, "When I arrived I thought it was a baby tortoise. It was sitting there in an old shoe box, on a bed of lettuce. Then I put on my glasses and saw the words Made in Taiwan. I started laughing really hard because the tortoise was just a toy!"

This following story happened to a student in Austria. Together with 14 other students Chris Farmer went on a school trip to Chicago. At the airport the group checked in and got their boarding passes. Finally it was time to board the plane. When Chris Farmer went up to his seat he noticed that somebody else was already sitting there. He was confused and went to one of the flight attendants. They figured out the problem. The man sitting in Chris Farmer's seat was also called Chris Farmer!

That was why the people at the check-in had given him the same seat. They had not realized that there were two Chris Farmers on that flight.

The last story is about the car of a former actor, James Dean, who was killed in a terrible car accident when he was still very young. After the accident the car, it was a Porsche sports car, was seen as very unlucky. Why? Well, when the car was removed from the scene of the accident and taken to a garage the engine fell out. It fell onto a mechanic and badly hurt both his legs.

Later the engine was bought by a doctor, who put it into his racing car. The doctor was killed shortly afterwards during a race. When James Dean's Porsche was later repaired, the garage it was in was destroyed by a fire. Finally, in 1959, the car mysteriously broke into 11 pieces while it was sitting on steel supports.

## Test 2: Filmmaking – Interview with Steven Spielberg

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**I = Interviewer, SS = Steven Spielberg**

**I:** Mr Spielberg, you are one of Hollywood's best known directors. Can you remember the first movie you ever saw?

**SS:** Well, I saw my first film when I was about five years old. It was called "The Greatest Show On Earth". What I remember most about it are the elephants and the train crash. I don't really remember the characters very well. I guess as a child you don't care so much about the personalities.

**I:** Did you go to a lot of movies during your childhood?

**SS:** Not a lot. I was only allowed to go to films that today would be considered G-rated, which means harmless entertainment. My parents were very strict about my media intake, so they didn't let me watch too much television between the ages of one and twelve. They chose the movies I was allowed to see. I think I was the only kid on the block who wasn't allowed to see violent movies, so I would sneak out with friends and see them. So until I was twelve or thirteen, when I began making my own movies, I was not allowed to see anything that was not suitable for families.

**I:** I heard that before Universal Studios hired you, you just went on the lot in a suit carrying a briefcase and used an office.

**SS:** That's right, I did.

**I:** What made you do that?

**SS:** I don't know. I wanted to be a moviemaker really bad, I would have done anything, well, except kill anybody. I just wanted to be on that lot. Once I was there, it was like being at Disneyland. Once you are on the lot, you can do anything you want as long as you have an "E" coupon – that's a kind of identity card. I was able to observe dubbing and editing. I spent most of my time in the editing rooms.

**I:** Didn't anyone ask you who you were and what you were doing there?

**SS:** They always asked who I was. I told the people I got to know really well that I was just some kid hanging around. I kept my identity a mystery to those people I didn't know very well. I only wore the suit the first three days to get on the lot. Once they knew me, I wore regular clothes.

**I:** You were only twenty-one when you started directing for Universal. How did people react to your age?

- SS:** It was very, very hard at the beginning. People did not really respect me. It took some time before they began to accept me as a director. Then, of course, the reputation grows and people say, "Well, he's a kid, but he's okay." The best thing was that I was getting older.
- I:** What qualities do you think make a good director?
- SS:** What makes a good director, more than anything else, is having a good imagination. If you have a good imagination and you like to tell stories, and you feel you can turn around and communicate these thoughts to a lot of strangers, then perhaps you should write or start making movies.

### **Test 3: Animals**

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When people think of chimpanzees, many of them will also think of Jane Goodall, the world's most famous expert on chimpanzees. Jane, who is an old lady now, was born in England and has been interested in animals since when she was a little girl. For over 45 years now she has been studying the life of wild chimpanzees in Africa. By watching these animals and their family life closely she found out that not all chimpanzees are the same. Every animal has its own personality, just like human beings.

Jane Goodall knows that chimpanzees can feel joy and sadness and she found out that they sometimes use tools like sticks and stones. Because of Jane's work we know today that chimpanzees are more like humans than we thought. At the beginning of her time with the chimpanzees Jane thought that the animals lived together very peacefully and were much nicer than human beings. But then she found out that they could be aggressive and brutal just like we are.

### **Test 5: Superstitions**

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Many people believe that breaking a mirror brings seven years of bad luck. But why do they think so?

This is a very old superstition. In former times mirrors were expensive and very often of poor quality. So it was easy to break them. To make people treat mirrors carefully the Romans began telling the story that breaking a mirror brought seven years of bad luck. It was just a way of scaring people.

Another superstition we find for example in India, is the belief that opening an umbrella inside the house brings bad luck. Well, years ago it was quite clever not to open your umbrella indoors. Because in those days umbrellas were built with hard metal parts and they could be quite dangerous to open. If you were standing next to a person they could easily be hurt. Inside a house people were usually standing closer together than outdoors. So they could easily get hurt. So opening an umbrella indoors was a dangerous thing to do and seen as bringing bad luck.

### **Test 7: Favourite Film Star**

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I really like films. I've got lots of DVDs and I love going to the cinema. – Especially when they show a film with my favourite actor David Griss. He is just wonderful, such a good actor and sooo cute! I think he is the best actor in the world!

David is 28 years old and he is American. He is tall, has dark hair and the most beautiful blue eyes. He's just awesome! He started acting when he was 12 years old. Since then he has been in lots of films, most of them action films like "Green Diamond" or "The incredible story of Sarah Blank". In these films he is always the clever and strong detective or an explorer who travels to faraway countries looking for hidden treasures.

But my favourite film is completely different. It is the only romantic film he made. It's called "Now and Forever". It's about this handsome young farmer who one night drives home to his farm and sees a young woman on the road, whose car has broken down. He stops to help her and they like each other at once. It's love at first sight. This scene, when they meet for the first time is sooo romantic. Well, then lots of things happen, she has a boy-friend who doesn't want to let her go, and in the end ..... Oops, I won't tell you the ending. Go and see for yourself. I'm sure you will like "Now and forever", especially if you are a teenage girl. But actually you should go and see all of David's films. I think there is no better actor than him!

## Test 9: A Trip to San Francisco

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**Interviewer:** Matt, you've been to San Francisco several times. What would you tell somebody who wanted to visit San Francisco for the first time?

**Matt:** Well, San Francisco is one of the most fascinating cities in the United States. It's home to liberals, hippies, hipsters, immigrants, yuppies, it has one of the oldest gay scenes in the States, there's the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, delicious Chinese food, seafood, and well, food in general. To me, it's a magical place. There's always something new and exciting going on.

San Francisco has a lot of things to do, attractions to see, and delicious food to eat. There's so much to see and do here that I think a four or five-day visit will give you a more complete picture of San Francisco than just a short stay.

**I:** What places or attractions are a MUST for a first time visitor to San Francisco?

**Matt:** I think the Golden Gate Bridge is definitely a must. The Golden Gate Bridge is one of San Francisco's most famous landmarks as well as a piece of engineering art. You can walk across the bridge if you want, visit the visitor's center to learn about the history of the park, or just stare at it from every angle and take a stupid amount of pictures - like I did.

**I:** What else would you recommend?

**Matt:** I would also recommend a tour of Alcatraz. This former prison on Alcatraz Island was home to some of the worst criminals in the US. It was shut down in the 1970s and has since become a tourist attraction. You don't have to pay to visit the island, but you'll have to pay for the boat there. I'd suggest taking a tour during your visit so the rangers – as the guides are called – can give you some historical background information. Be sure to book the ferry to the island early if you're going in the summer, as it gets very full.

**I:** What about Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39?

**Matt:** Fisherman's Wharf covers numerous blocks along the waterfront and is one of the most popular touristy things to do in the city. There are street performers, souvenir shops, and a lot of overpriced restaurants. It is a good place to walk around but don't eat here. The food is extremely expensive and, to be honest, not that good. If you want to try some of the great seafood that San Francisco is famous for, go somewhere else.

**I:** What about a cable car ride, a visit to Lombard Street or Chinatown?

**Matt:** Riding the cable cars is an excellent way to tour the city and see various neighbourhoods in San Francisco. Take the cable cars from Market Street. They're fun to ride and you don't have to walk up and down those hills all the time. While riding the cable cars, make sure to get off at Lombard Street and see the world's most crooked street. It's fun!

As for Chinatown, this is the most famous Chinatown in the United States and it's also the biggest. Chinese immigrants first came to the west coast and settled in San Francisco. Chinatown here has some of the best places to eat.

**I:** Do you have one last recommendation for first time visitors?

**Matt:** Go on a Harbour Tour. Take an afternoon cruise of the bay to see the city from the water. You'll get some good photos, learn about the bay, see some wildlife, and enjoy life on the water. There are many tour companies but a cheap way to see the harbour is to take the public ferries. Same views, cheaper price.

**I:** Thank you, Matt.

**Matt:** You're welcome.

## Test 10: Natural Disasters

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### A Young Man

That morning I was playing soccer with my friends. We ran home after the strong earthquake and after that I heard a really loud noise, like an aeroplane. When I looked at the sea I saw something I had never seen before and I was terrified. My family and I tried to get away in our minivan but the road was full as everyone was trying to escape. The black wave hit our minivan, turning us over several times before I lost consciousness. When I woke up again I was in the water. I held on to a chair and I floated until I landed on a beach. I had no idea where I was and I was really hungry and thirsty. There were bodies everywhere. Under a tree I saw a mattress that had washed up and I started looking for food and bottles of water. After five days I didn't have any water or food left. After 20 days I saw people coming to collect the dead bodies. They saved me and took me to a nearby hospital where I found my father. He told me my mother and sister had died in the tsunami.

### A Woman

I knew I had to escape but my husband had taken the motorbike when he went shopping and I was at home with our five children. I had no idea what to do. I was just thinking that I had to get to the second floor of a house nearby. What I remember was that the wave was really black. At first we weren't sure if it was oil or water. When it came up to us on the second floor I thought my children and I were all going to die. Then my son made a hole in the roof and climbed up. One by one he pulled us up. Up there we saw that a boat had landed on top of the house. From the roof I could also see many people floating in the water. I was worried about my parents and my husband. They all died that day.

### A Woman

My baby was six months old and my first instinct was to grab him. I heard people screaming outside that water was coming and I saw many people running. Then I heard something hit the house and I knew I was not going to be safe on the second floor. My husband and my other children were out so I ran with my baby and my mother. The first wave hit us but we managed to hold on to each other. I was scared but I held on as tight as I could. The water carried us to a police station near my house and a policeman there pulled us out of the water. Then the second very strong wave came. We ran up to the second floor but the water was filling up the whole room. The policeman made a hole in the ceiling so we could climb onto the roof. I was so glad when the water started to go down.

### Test 11: Problems at School

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**Sally:** Hi, Sam.

**Sam:** Hi, Sally. How are things?

**Sally:** Well, not so good.

**Sam:** Why, what's the matter?

**Sally:** I'm having problems with some of the girls in my class.

**Sam:** Problems?

**Sally:** Well, they are making fun of me. They say I look terrible, I dress terribly and I'm the most boring person in the world.

**Sam:** So what? Do you really care what a bunch of silly cows think about you?

**Sally:** I know I shouldn't but I do. They are the most popular girls in my class, you know. Their parents have got lots of money and buy them the most fashionable clothes. And the others in my class want to be friends with them. They listen to what these girls are saying. And they say that I'm a freak.

**Sam:** I see. You are not talking about Kate and her friends, are you?

**Sally:** Exactly. Kate is the worst of them all. She always wears designer clothes and tells everybody how much money her father has. Yesterday when I came to school in my old jeans and my favourite T-shirt, she laughed at me and shouted, "Hey Sally, where did you get those clothes from? The dust bin?" I can't tell you how I felt. Everybody was looking at me.

**Sam:** And what did you do?

**Sally:** I just ran out of the classroom and locked myself in the toilet.

**Sam:** But Sally, you mustn't do that! Kate is such a stupid person. You know her grades. She is really a bad student. The only thing she thinks she can be proud of is her clothes and her father's money. YOU are a clever girl, you have good grades and you have a wonderful family. Kate's father travels all the time because of his job. He is never at home. The only things Kate gets from her father are designer clothes. Your father spends time with you and your siblings, you have fun together. So don't let Kate make you miserable and sad. There is so much you can be happy about. And proud of!

**Sally:** Well, maybe you are right. The next time Kate makes fun of me I'm not going to run away. I'll think of what you just told me and tell her to leave me alone. Thanks Sam, you are a really good friend.

**Sam:** You're welcome. And I'm proud to have a friend like you!