

Kompetent
AUFSTEIGEN ...

3. Klasse AHS-NMS

Tapescripts

TAPESCRIPTS
Kompetent AUFSTEIGEN Englisch 3
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Listening Comprehension 1: Music

- Interviewer:** Today I'm happy to welcome psychologist Dr Paul Miller, an expert on teenage behaviour, to our show. Good morning, Dr Miller.
- Miller:** Good morning, it's a pleasure to be here.
- Interviewer:** Dr Miller, again and again, when a young person commits a brutal crime, there are people who say that they did it because of the music they had been listening to, heavy metal or death metal in most cases.
- Miller:** Yes, one of the most well-known examples where music was blamed for a crime committed by teenagers is the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Two teenage boys, who were heavy metal fans, went into their high school and started shooting students and teachers. In the end 12 people were killed and the two boys killed themselves.
- Interviewer:** How terrible!
- Miller:** After that incident many people blamed heavy metal music for what had happened at Columbine. They said that listening to this kind of music made young people aggressive and gave them the idea of acting out their aggression by killing others.
- Interviewer:** Interesting, do you also believe that?
- Miller:** Well, not really. After all, music is just music. There are so many people and things that influence teenagers, their parents, their friends and family....
- Interviewer:** So I need not be worried when I discover my son listening to heavy metal music?
- Miller:** (laughs) No! Actually I think that music can help people express themselves and their feelings. When you are happy you listen to different types of music than when you are sad. Music can also make you more open-minded if you listen to music from different parts of the world. People who play an instrument or sing in a choir say that it helps them to relax and to feel less stressed.
- Interviewer:** So maybe I should get out my old guitar again, even if I haven't played for years...?
- Miller:** Definitely, it's never too late. I'm sure, after a long day of work, you will feel how playing some of your favourite music will relax you.
- Interviewer:** I'll give it a try. Thank you for being with us today, Dr Miller.
- Miller:** It's been a pleasure.

Listening Comprehension 2: Strange stories and coincidences

Boy: Emma, I need your help!

Girl: What's the problem?

Boy: Well, our English teacher has asked us to find some strange stories. Have you heard of any strange coincidences?

Girl: Well, let me think. I once read this story about a woman who was flying from Manchester to Florida for her daughter's wedding in November 2003. During the transatlantic flight she had a heart attack. Well, you know, a plane is the worst place to have a heart attack. The flight attendants immediately asked if there were any doctors on board who could help. Well, you won't believe what happened. 15 people came rushing down the aircraft towards the woman. They were cardiologists, that means heart specialists, on their way to a conference in Florida.

They were able to keep the woman stable while the plane was redirected to North Carolina. The woman even made it to her daughter's wedding.

Boy: Wow, that's a really interesting story. Do you know of any other strange coincidences?

Girl: Yes, but this story is really weird. It also happened in Florida. There was this woman who worked in a bank. On May 13 she greeted a customer she had known for quite some time with congratulations. She said she had seen the article about his daughter's engagement in the Sunday paper of May 9. She even mentioned the lovely photo of his daughter that was printed alongside the article.

Boy: What's strange about this story?

Girl: Well, there was no such article. Not yet. The article did not actually appear in the paper until May 23! But the woman was able to describe the man's daughter exactly from the photo she had seen (she said she had not even known he had a daughter until she had seen the article). She also knew where in the paper she had read the article. The strange thing is that the article and the photo were not published until ten days later, on May 23!

Boy: Do you think this story really happened? It sounds like somebody made it up!

Girl: There are many unexplained phenomena. Think of the Bermuda Triangle. Why do planes and ships disappear there? There are also some unsolved mysteries, take Bigfoot, for example. Does Bigfoot exist? Or do aliens visit us from space, as some people believe? The list goes on and on.

Boy: You are right. Thanks for your help!

Listening Comprehension 3: Spending a year abroad

- Interviewer:** Today we are talking to Ashley Baldwin who spent a year in Iceland. Ashley, how would you sum up your year in Iceland?
- Ashley:** Whenever people ask me what it was like to live in Iceland for a year, I tell them: “It was the best year of my life”.
- Interviewer:** What made you decide to go to Iceland?
- Ashley:** I first visited Iceland with my family when I was 16, and fell in love with the country. I was sure I wanted to return. When I was at university they offered a year abroad in Iceland! I worked hard, and finally my dream came true: I moved to Reykjavik for one academic year studying Earth Science at the University of Iceland.
- Interviewer:** What is Reykjavik like?
- Ashley:** Reykjavik is a wonderful city. It has everything a capital city should offer, you know, theatres, cinemas, museums, concerts, but with a lot less people. Public transport is great, and in general, everything just works in Reykjavik. No place is ‘far’ to get to. Iceland also has many immigrants, which gives it an international atmosphere.
- Interviewer:** What did you do in Iceland?
- Ashley:** I was there to study and I studied volcanoes, which are an important feature of the Icelandic landscape. At least 30 Icelandic volcanoes are active!
- Interviewer:** But I guess you did not only study. What else is there to do in Iceland?
- Ashley:** During my year, I had countless adventures. I went camping, I bathed in some of the hot springs, and I walked behind a waterfall. I also watched whales, I experienced a whiteout – that is a type of snowstorm in which blowing or falling snow and clouds make it very difficult to see – and I hiked in lava fields. And I did all this on a student budget!
- Interviewer:** What about the darkness? Isn’t it depressing in the winter?
- Ashley:** The lack of winter daylight didn’t depress any of the people I got to know, but people are less active in winter. It is not always dark, though. The winter light, when it is around is just beautiful, a constant dawn/dusk. In the summer, the light is constant, and you feel full of energy. In June and July the sun rises at 3 a.m. and sets around midnight! You have almost 21 hours of daylight. It’s incredible.
- Interviewer:** A lot of people believe it’s quite cold in Iceland, even in summer.

- Ashley:** Well, it can be cold but not as much as you might expect. After all, it is still under the influence of warm oceanic currents. The coldest I experienced was -15°C in winter.
- Interviewer:** Did you learn any Icelandic?
- Ashley:** Er, well, not really. A few basic phrases yes, but to be honest it was really easy to get along without it. Of course, learning the language is a bonus – the local people love it if you can speak a few words of Icelandic – but all the courses I took at the university were taught in English.
- Interviewer:** Did you try any unusual food?
- Ashley:** I tried a couple of “delicacies” such as boiled sheep’s head and whale burger.
- Interviewer:** Do you want to go back to Iceland one day?
- Ashley:** I’ve returned to Iceland twice since that year and I am sure I will go back again and again.
- Interviewer:** Thanks for talking to us, Ashley.
- Ashley:** You’re welcome.

Listening Comprehension 4: London

My name is Molly and this is the story of my trip to London. During the Easter holidays my parents took me to London for a few days. It was really exciting.

For my birthday in February I got a London guidebook, so I could read about the most important sights and decide which ones I wanted to see.

Of course, I wanted to see **Madame Tussaud’s**, the famous wax museum. We pre-booked our tickets at home, so we didn’t have to queue to get in.

In the museum you can see wax figures of famous actors and actresses, politicians, singers, sports men and women and, of course, members of the Royal family. I loved the Chamber of Horrors and Scream but to be honest, I was a bit scared!

On the second day it was sunny, so we went to **Hyde Park**. It’s a huge park which has been open to the public since 1637. Before that it was owned by kings for deer hunting and so on. As we were walking around in Hyde Park we saw lots of big squirrels. In one area people were relaxing in deckchairs or sitting in the grass. Then we got to Speakers’ Corner. It’s a place where people can speak on any subject they like, and you can say whatever you like without being arrested.

After lunch we went to the **Tower of London**. We were in a little bit of a hurry to get there in time for our guided tour through the Tower. The guides were beefeaters and they told us a lot about the history of the castle. It's almost one thousand years old!

It was very exciting to listen to the horror stories about executions at the castle. Of course, we also saw the Crown Jewels which are kept at the Tower.

Close to the Tower of London, there is **Tower Bridge**. The view from the bridge was one of the most beautiful I had ever seen. I could almost see the whole city of London.

In the evening we went to a nice restaurant to eat Fish and Chips. It was delicious!

The next day we went to **Oxford Street**. Oxford Street is a well-known shopping street, and some people believe it is the busiest street in Europe. It has got hundreds of shops and big department stores. Some of the best-known are Selfridges and John Lewis. The biggest department stores are about seven floors high. The street begins at Marble Arch and ends at Tottenham Court Road. On Oxford Street you can find all kinds of shops. It's the major shopping street in central London, but it's not the most expensive or fashionable one. I bought a lot of presents for my friends there.

In the afternoon we decided to take a ride on the **London Eye**. The famous London Eye is a huge Ferris wheel, it is the largest Ferris wheel in Europe. It's about 135 meters high. It has got thirty-two cabins and for superstitious reasons they are numbered 1–33. For good luck number 13 is left out!

The ride goes on for about 30 minutes. The view from the top of the wheel was fantastic. I could see some of London's other sightseeing spots like Big Ben and Buckingham Palace.

On our last day we visited **St. Paul's Cathedral** which was designed by Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Christopher Wren is also buried in the cathedral. Of course, I tried out the Whispering Gallery – when you whisper or murmur against its wall people at any other point around the gallery can hear you if they put their ear to the wall.

Our last stop that day was the **Globe Theatre**. It's a reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We took a tour of the theatre as plays are only performed between May and October. The tour was very interesting and I know during my next visit to London I definitely want to see a play at the Globe!

Listening Comprehension 5: Superstitions

- John:** Hi Sally, how are you?
- Sally:** Hi, not so good. I'm so nervous because of our maths test tomorrow.
- John:** But why? You are very good at maths:
- Sally:** I know, but tomorrow is Friday 13th!!
- John:** So what?
- Sally:** John! That's an unlucky day, everybody knows that!
- John:** You are superstitious – I don't believe it!
- Sally:** Well, not really, but Friday 13th is an unlucky day. Some people even don't leave their home because they are afraid that something bad might happen to them.
- John:** Rubbish! That's just because they don't know the origin of this belief.
- Sally:** And you do?
- John:** Actually yes, I do. There was a show on TV where they explained it.
- Sally:** So, where does it come from?
- John:** Well, you know, many hundred years ago, in the Middle Ages, there was a group of knights called the Templars. They were very rich and owned a lot of land. Thousands of people worked on their farms. The Templars even started an international banking system.
- Sally:** Wow, they sound pretty interesting. But what about Friday 13th?
- John:** Wait and listen! With the money that rich people gave them to look after, the Templars sometimes helped to finance wars. Once the French king borrowed a lot of money because he needed it for a war against England. But he lost the war and could not pay back the money he had borrowed from the Templars.
- Sally:** So what did he do?
- John:** On October 13th, 1307, a Friday, he ordered his soldiers to arrest all the Templars and to take all the money and the land they had.
- Sally:** So that Friday 13th was a very bad day for the Templars.
- John:** Exactly. And that is why we still believe that Friday 13th is an unlucky day.
- Sally:** So you think I need not be afraid of the test tomorrow?
- John:** Definitely not!
- Sally:** Thanks John, I already feel a lot better now.
- John:** No problem, see you tomorrow.
- Sally:** See you!

Listening Comprehension 6: Natural disasters

Interviewer: After this summer's heat wave many people wonder if we will have to cope with natural disasters caused by the climate change. Welcome to our programme "Life today", Dr Anderson.

Anderson: Good evening.

Interviewer: Dr. Anderson, you are an expert on natural disasters. Let me ask you: What is a natural disaster?

Anderson: That's simply any catastrophic event caused by nature and natural processes of the earth. A natural disaster means that people are killed and buildings are destroyed. If an earthquake happens on an island where nobody lives, it is no disaster. But if the same thing happens in a city, we call it a disaster because people's lives, homes or the city's public transportation are destroyed.

Interviewer: So we are talking about floods, avalanches, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, landslides or tsunamis.

Anderson: Exactly, and of course about droughts or wildfires which we are facing in California at the moment

Interviewer: Many people say that there are more natural disasters today than 60 or 70 years ago.

Anderson: This is true. There are now more earthquakes, heat waves or mega storms. We all know that the earth's climate is changing. And obviously this means that we will have to deal with such extreme events even more often in the future. And we must not forget that we are better informed. We watch the news and see pictures of a tsunami in Thailand or a volcano eruption in South America. 50 years ago many people living in Europe never heard about such events.

Interviewer: What can we do against natural disasters?

Anderson: Well, first of all we must try to protect the environment and to slow down the climate change. And at the same time scientists work hard to find better ways of predicting, for instance, earthquakes or tsunamis. If we can warn people before such an event happens, they can protect themselves and many lives can be saved.

Interviewer: Dr Anderson, thank you for joining our programme.

Anderson: Thank you.

Listening Comprehension 7: California

Interviewer: Today we are talking to Eve, an Austrian girl, who moved to California with her parents two years ago.

Hi Eve! What's life in California like for you?

Eve: Well, before I moved to California I did not know a lot about it. Of course, I had heard about Los Angeles, San Francisco, Disneyland and Hollywood but there is so much more to California! What I particularly like is the fact that there is so much space. Everything seems to be so much bigger than in Austria. The scenery is awesome too.

Interviewer: Can you tell us about some of your favourite places?

Eve: Well, I'm a nature lover. California has a number of National Parks that are worth visiting. Last year I visited Yosemite National Park. Yosemite National Park in Northern California is one of the United States' most scenic and famous national parks. The mountains, valleys, rivers and huge waterfalls are very popular with tourists from all over the world. One of the most famous sites in the park is the rock face of El Capitán but I'm not really into climbing. Something that really fascinated me were the giant redwood trees. You also find them in the Sequoia National Park where the largest known redwood, the famous General Sherman Tree, is located. It's about 3,000 years old, and it is one of the oldest living trees on earth.

Interviewer: Have you been to any other natural attractions in California?

Eve: Yes, sure. In spring we went on a tour of Death Valley. It is a desert area with salt fields, sand dunes and mountains. The landscape there is really unique. In summer it is extremely hot in the valley, that's why we went there in spring. If you are into mountain biking, hiking, or boating Lake Tahoe is a great place to go. It's also great for skiing in winter.

During the summer we once drove along this beautiful stretch of coastline on Highway 1 that is called Big Sur. The view of the coast is really breathtaking!

Interviewer: Have you had time to visit any of the big cities or popular tourist attractions too?

Eve: When we moved to California we first lived in Azusa, a city in Los Angeles County. Of course we had to see Disneyland and the Universal Studios in Hollywood! Disneyland is located in Anaheim and it is a huge amusement park with all kinds of rides, games, shows, and lots of entertainment. You can imagine how much we loved it! The problem at the Universal Studios was that there were long lines and sometimes the wait was up to 90 minutes! I really liked the Studio Tour, though, because you go behind the scenes of a real working movie studio. The Shrek 4D experience was great too and my brother loved the Jurassic Park Ride. The Special Effects Stage was my favourite because there you learn about the secrets behind the making of movies.

Interviewer: What part of California are you going to explore next?

Eve: In the summer my parents want to take us to San Francisco and Napa Valley for a week. I definitely want to see the Golden Gate Bridge and I would like to see Alcatraz, the famous prison. My parents want to go to a winery in Napa Valley and learn about the differences between Austrian and American wine.

Interviewer: Eve, thanks for talking to us.

Eve: You're welcome.

Listening Comprehension 8: An unusual trip

Interviewer: Hi Sophie. Welcome to our programme "Into the Wild". Sophie, what gave you the idea for your trip to Africa?

Sophie: Well, years ago, my friend David backpacked from Cape Town, South Africa to Cairo, Egypt. He just had a small backpack and nothing else. He hitchhiked, rode in the back of buses and trucks, slept in very cheap accommodation and ate only local food. I was fascinated by the stories he told me of his adventures. Africa is always seen as a scary place to travel alone. But there are a lot of people who travel the continent alone. That's why I decided to give it a try.

Interviewer: How did you plan your trip?

Sophie: First I did as much research as I could and decided on a basic route. Then I booked a few things so I had a basic structure, especially for the first part of my trip. Once you've started your trip things tend to get a bit easier.

Interviewer: Where did you go on your trip?

Sophie: I started with a volunteering project in Zambia. I spent a month there, before moving on to Tanzania, where I spent a month volunteering for an orphanage. After that I took the bus up north to climb Kilimanjaro. After that I travelled through Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and down to South Africa.

Interviewer: What made you decide to explore Africa?

Sophie: I think Africa is a fascinating continent. The reports about Africa are often quite negative but the history of Africa is really interesting, so I wanted to go and see it for myself. I also love wildlife and sunsets, so Africa seemed the best choice.

Interviewer: Was it difficult to travel around Africa as a woman?

Sophie: No, not really. People have strange ideas about what travelling in Africa is like, and about Africa in general. But it's not that scary at all. Don't get me wrong, there are places that I would not go to, but that's not because I'm a woman. It has more to do with the fact that in some areas the political situation is unstable and makes travelling there dangerous. There are many ways to travel safely and easily as a woman, though.

Interviewer: What advice would you give to people who want to explore Africa the way you did?

- Sophie:** Africa can be a very safe place to travel, if you take a few basic precautions. First, make sure you have all the necessary travel shots. You should take your malaria medication and get all of the relevant vaccinations. Drink bottled water only, and always wash your hands.
- Most Africans are very friendly and honest but in places where people are very poor you need to be careful with your belongings. Don't carry around large amounts of money. Keep only a small amount of cash in your wallet to pay for basic things. Don't walk around alone after dark, try to stay with a group or take a taxi.
- Interviewer:** Was it hard to get around on local transport?
- Sophie:** Well, local transport is not as good as in other parts of the world but it's still quite easy to get from A to B. There are a number of big bus companies that run between many of the main destinations, but they don't run very often. Local mini buses can also be a good way to get around, but they are usually quite full.
- Interviewer:** You did a lot of volunteer work in Africa. How did you find out about the programmes?
- Sophie:** Well, I checked the Internet and looked for recommendations from bloggers and former volunteers. That's how I found out about most of the projects I volunteered for. I've been really lucky with the companies I volunteered with. They've all been great.
- Interviewer:** What advice would you give people trying to backpack alone around Africa?
- Sophie:** If it's your first trip to Africa, join an overland truck. It's a great way to see the continent. You have less freedom but transport and food is taken care of and there are a lot of opportunities to see the real Africa.
- Interviewer:** Sophie, thank you for joining our programme and have a safe trip to wherever you are going next!
- Sophie:** Thank you!

Listening Comprehension 9: Dangerous animals

Liz: Sarah, have you heard about that terrible accident in Florida, where a shark attacked a man and bit off one of his arms? I spent my holidays in Florida, just imagine, I could have been attacked too!

Sarah: Don't be silly, Liz! Shark attacks don't happen every day! They are actually quite rare. All over the world there are only about 75 attacks every year. And most of these attacks happen in Australia.

Liz: How do you know?

Sarah: I'm writing an article on dangerous animals. And I've been doing a lot of research.

Liz: And, are sharks the most dangerous animals?

Sarah: Not at all, they are not even among the top ten. When we talk about dangerous animals we usually think of sharks, lions, tigers, or grizzly bears. But the most dangerous creatures are often quite small or harmless looking.

Liz: Are you serious?

Sarah: Yes. Just think of the Sea Wasp. It looks quite harmless, like a normal jellyfish, but it is the most poisonous animal on Earth. The venom or poison of one animal can kill up to 60 adults. If you are stung, you might be dead within 4 minutes.

Liz: Wow, where do these Sea Wasps live?

Sarah: Off the coast of Australia, for example.

Liz: Australia again! That seems to be a dangerous place. I'm not sure I want to go swimming there....

Sarah: You're such a coward! But there are dangerous animals in other parts of the world too. Just think of the black mamba, a snake which lives in Africa. This snake moves incredibly fast and is the most dangerous and feared snake in Africa.

Liz: So when people see a black snake they have to be very careful.

Sarah: The thing is that black mambas are not really black, they can be grey or brown. It is the interior of the snake's mouth which is black.

Liz: Well, I don't need any of these creatures.

Sarah: I think they are fascinating. I would like to see them in their natural habitat.

Liz: I definitely wouldn't. I think I'm not the person for an adventure holiday. I'd rather go to Paris or London or some other interesting city and do a lot of sightseeing there.

Sarah: I see. But be careful, humans are definitely among the most dangerous creatures on our planet.

Listening Comprehension 10: Friendship

Ann: Hi, Tina! Good to see you! I must tell you something!

Tina: Hi, Ann, what's the matter?

Ann: It's Mary. I hate her!

Tina: But you are best friends!

Ann: We WERE best friends! I don't want to talk to her ever again!

Tina: What happened?

Ann: I told Mary that I had a crush on Peter and asked her not to tell anybody because I didn't want the others to make fun of me. You know, Peter is 2 years older and he is so cute!

Tina: Yes, he's gorgeous! But doesn't he have a girlfriend?

Ann: Yes, he does. And what did Mary do? She told his girlfriend that I was in love with Peter.

Tina: No, she didn't!

Ann: Yes, she did! And when I came to school there was Rachel, Peter's girl-friend. You know her, she is that pretty dark haired girl from our school band, everybody admires. Well, she just stood there, looked at me and shouted, "So you fancy my boyfriend! Do you really think he is interested in someone as ugly and stupid as you?" In front of all my classmates!

Tina: No!!!

Ann: Yes, it was so embarrassing, I could have died!

Tina: Poor you! And all because of Mary.

Ann: Exactly! And I thought she was my friend!

Tina: Well, now you know better. A true friend would never tell your secrets to anyone.

Ann: No, they wouldn't.

Tina: Forget Mary, you have other good friends. Some friends only accompany us for a certain time. Some friends just come and go, even if we are very close for some time. Still, it is very important to have friends, some of them are even like family members.

Ann: You are right. The fact that Mary disappointed me does not mean that I cannot trust my friends any more.

Tina: That's what I mean. And often it's not the "cool" kids who make the best friends.

Ann: How true! Thanks Tina, talking to you has helped me a lot.

Tina: No problem, see you in class.

Ann: See you, bye!