MID-TERM TEST 1B AUDIO SCRIPT

Listening 1 Exercise A

Ramon I was wondering … Why do some things go viral and others don't?

Julie Hmm. That's an interesting question. I think it tends to depend on what type of thing we're talking about. The reason a video goes viral isn't the same as the reason a picture or a meme does.

Ramon Yes, I guess that's true. Is it something to do with how satisfying it is to watch a video, for example? I mean some videos I watch on social media show people doing very impressive things, like skydiving or mountain-climbing.

Julie Yeah, probably. I'll always look for videos that show people doing something I wouldn't do myself. I used to watch literally hundreds of videos of people climbing tall buildings, but I'm actually terrified of heights.

Ramon Do you remember the video of Nora the piano cat? That got something crazy like 30 million hits on YouTube, didn't it? Maybe things go viral when they're surprising.

Julie Yes, I think you could be right. Nobody expects a cat to play the piano, after all, so it's both surprising and newsworthy. Do you know that Nora now has her own merchandise – like buttons, and T-shirts, and calendars? It's amazing. I wish I had a cat that wanted to seek fame! I might make a lot of money!

Ramon Some of those videos are such a waste of time, but they're entertaining. That's why people like them so much. I also think videos go viral when they make people feel happy. I was studying last night when a friend emailed me a video about a firefighter who saved a kitten that was stuck in a tree. It just made me feel happy because there are a lot of good people in the world doing good, kind things.

Julie Well, yes, and it's much more entertaining to watch a video than to study!

MID-TERM TEST 1B AUDIO SCRIPT

Listening 2 Exercise B

Do you tend to put off exercising because it's too time-consuming? Do you panic about going to the gym because it takes too long to get there, change, exercise, change again, and then get to work? Do you occasionally feel tense and uneasy because you know you should exercise but you can't find the time? If this sounds a little like you, why not consider joining our fantastic "Seven and Seven" class? As long as you enjoy the company of other people, we promise you're going to love our classes!

What's a "Seven and Seven" class? Well, if you've never come across this idea before, it's very simple. We meet at seven a.m. and seven p.m. every day of the week. Our classes take place in Bryant Park, out in the fresh air. You choose the time that suits you best – either before your work day begins, or after it ends. We offer a wide range of activities, from breathing techniques and quiet meditation to high intensity interval training, which enables you to regain control of your overall health and fitness.

We welcome new members of all ages and you don't have to be fit to join! We can help you assess your strengths and weaknesses. We will weigh the pros and cons of each activity type for your specific fitness level and age. To give you an example, we have members who find it hard to operate gym equipment, so they do yoga and meditation classes with us instead. We also have members who used to be scared to run because of their health issues, but we have coached them and helped them overcome their fears. We are famous for getting people off the couch and into the park! No one is ever left out and it's a great chance to interact with people from all walks of life. Our trainers are highly qualified and will take great care of you.

Check out our website sevenandseven.net to find out more. We look forward to meeting you soon!