MID-TERM TEST 2A AUDIO SCRIPT

Listening 1 Exercise A

Jo Hey, guys. I need your advice. I'm thinking of buying a car. I saw an ad online for a sedan. It's pretty old so it's only $800. What do you think?

Carla Go for it! You commute to work on the train every day, so you wouldn't need to do that anymore, and you're constantly going out somewhere on the weekends, so I think it makes good financial sense. Yes, I would encourage you to buy it.

Jo OK, thanks, Carla. How about you, Steve? What do you think? You look a little doubtful.

Steve I think it's a nice idea, but if you're going to be logical about a purchase like that, you need to remember you live in an apartment and you have nowhere to park the car when you aren't using it. There's nowhere legal to park on the street near you and parking-lot fees are super expensive, so I would worry about what it's all going to cost. Eight hundred dollars is a lot of money and I'd be sad if you regretted the purchase later.

Jo Hmm. You have a point there …

Carla I hadn't thought of that, Steve! Now I have mixed feelings. On the one hand, a used car costs a lot less than a new one, but you don't know exactly what you're buying. It might have been in an accident or it could need some work. Sometimes people post really misleading ads just because they want a quick sale. It could be a real downer if you don't get what you think you're going to get. I'm always a little suspicious of things that seem cheaper than they should be.

Steve Yeah, I agree. And here's the other thing – you know how much I care about the environment, so you might have guessed that I'm not in favor of seeing another car on the road. You won't convince me it's a good idea. People who own cars are just being selfish. They're contributing to greenhouse gases, adding to air pollution in our cities, and spending their hard-earned money on gas. I don't think any of that is particularly sensible.

Jo Hmm. I have some thinking to do. Thanks, guys!

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Listening 2 Exercise B

Marta What's the best thing you've ever done?

I mean things you've actually done. You know, experiences, events, big LIFE things.

Paula 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.

Marta 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.