UNIT 11 QUIZ A AUDIO SCRIPT

Listening 1 Exercise A

Host Welcome back to *Fact or Fiction*. Today's topic is urban legends. With me is Thea MacIntyre, an investigative journalist. Hi, Thea.

Thea Hi Ray, great to be here.

Host So you've chosen a few popular urban legends that you're going to tell us about …

Thea That's right. The first one dates back to the 1920s and took place in the US. It involved alligators living in the sewer system – the underground tunnels – in New York City. The legend spread for years through books, TV shows, and movies. Apparently, the alligators were large and aggressive and would eat rats and the garbage they found down there.

Host But this was definitely an urban legend, right? I live in New York – should I be worried?!

Thea Yes, don't worry, you're safe! It was suggested that the rumor was a result of interviews with the Commissioner of Sewers at the time, a man called Teddy May. But what's funny, is that there have actually been real alligators living in sewers – just not in New York. Alligators are occasionally seen in the sewers in Florida. A 2024 study showed that 35 species of animals were living in the sewers, including alligators. Because there are lots of storms in Florida, the alligators sometimes use the sewers as shelter.

Host So fiction has become fact!

Thea Indeed!

Host And what's the other urban legend you've chosen to talk about?

Thea This one is more modern and concerns technology. It was rumored in the UK that if a phone had low battery, calling 911 – or 999 as it is in the UK – would charge your phone. Obviously, this was a hoax – it didn't work – but people still tried it. A regional police force actually had to tell people via the media to stop trying it as for every silent 999 call the emergency services received, the operators had to call the person back to make sure there wasn't in fact an emergency.

Host Interesting! Well, thank you, Thea for …