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The audition

Teacher's notes

Summary

This DVD programme can be used as support to materials in Unit 7 of the Student's Book after *Useful phrases* on page 66. It is a drama about an actor who is trying to get to an audition.

Language focus

Grammar: offers and requests

Vocabulary and expressions: *Can I call you back?, Can you speak up?, Could I speak to ...?, Hold on a minute ... , I'm afraid ... , I'm calling from ... , You've got the wrong number ...*

Background information

An audition is an interview for a role in a play or a film. Actors, singers and dancers perform in front of the director and casting director. Actors can be asked to perform some of the dialogue from the production to see if they are suitable for the part.

Steven Spielberg is the film director of some of the most successful films ever made. His films include: *AI, Catch me if you can, ET, Jurassic Park, the Indiana Jones trilogy, Minority Report, and Schindler's List.*

Procedure

Before you watch

- 1 Put the students into groups and tell them to discuss the questions.

While you watch

- 2 Ask the students if they have heard about Steven Spielberg. Have a short discussion about his films. Ask them how they think an actor would feel if he were asked to act in a Spielberg film. Tell the students that they are going to see a short drama. Go through the sentences with the students. Then play the programme and ask the students to circle the correct options.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a) Alex King | e) happy; excited |
| b) an actor | f) depressed |
| c) Ealing Studios | g) doesn't |
| d) an audition | |

- 3 Put the students into pairs. Ask them to read through the parts of the story and put them in order. Tell them to use a pencil so they can correct their answers if they change their minds.
- 4 Ask the students to say what order they think is correct. Allow the class to debate the parts of the story if they disagree. Put the suggested order on the board. Play the programme again and ask the students to check their answers.

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| a) 2 | b) 6 | c) 3 | d) 8 |
| e) 7 | f) 4 | g) 5 | h) 1 |

If there is time, let the students watch the complete programme at the end so they can enjoy the whole film.

After you watch

- 5 Ask the students to complete the phone conversations from the programme using the words in the box. Play the programme again for them to check if necessary.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| a) speak | f) it's |
| b) sorry | g) afraid |
| c) ringing | h) breaking |
| d) wondering | i) hear |
| e) I'll | j) saying |

- 6 Ask the students to work in pairs. Tell them to take a few minutes to choose two situations and write two telephone conversations. Then ask them to practise saying their conversations. If necessary, provide them with some prompts. For example: *Hello. Could I speak to ... ?; Hello. I'd like to book a cab.; I'm afraid you've got the wrong number.*

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The audition

DVD script (05:24)

(A = Alex King; S = Sarah; W1 = Woman 1; W2 = Woman 2; D = David; M = Man; Sp = Mr Spielberg)

A: It's a fantastic opportunity. A really big film. A blockbuster.

S: And is he going to be there?

A: Oh yeah. Steven Spielberg, the man himself. He's at the studios now.

S: That's amazing.

A: Listen, can you call me back? I've just got to call a cab.

S: Sure, go ahead.

W1: 123 Taxis.

A: Hello. Can I have a cab for ... Belsize Park, please? I'm outside the delicatessen.

W1: What name, please?

A: King. Alex King.

W1: And where are you going?

A: To Ealing Studios.

W1: Is that the film studios?

A: That's right.

W1: And when would you like it?

A: As soon as you can. I've got a very important appointment.

W1: OK, I'll just check to see if we have any cabs in your area.

W1: Mr King?

A: Yeah?

W1: It'll be five minutes. Moscow 205.

A: OK, but don't be late, I don't have much ... time.

A: Hello, Sarah.

S: So you're really going to meet Steven Spielberg?

A: Uh huh. He's attending all the auditions. I'm in the running for the main character.

S: When's your audition?

A: In ... an hour.

S: Where are you now?

A: Don't worry. It only takes 45 minutes to get there. Hold on, I've got another call. I'll get back to you. Hello?

D: Could I speak to Alex Keen, please?

A: King.

D: I'm sorry?

A: It's King. Alex King. You said Keen.

D: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr King. My name's David Antonucci. I'm ringing from Ealing Studios on behalf of Mr Spielberg.

A: Oh, right.

D: I was wondering if you could be here a quarter of an hour earlier? Mr Spielberg has another engagement and then he has to leave immediately for the airport.

A: No problem. I'll be there. I wouldn't miss this for the world.

D: Thank you very much. We'll see you soon then. Goodbye.

A: Bye.

A: Come on, come on.

M: Hello?

A: 123 Taxis?

M: Er, no. I'm afraid you've got the wrong number.

A: Right.

W1: 123 Taxis.

A: Hello, it's Alex King. I booked a cab over ten minutes ago.

W1: We're doing all we can, Sir, but I'm afraid we're rather busy this afternoon. A cab should be with you ...

A: Can you speak up? I can't ...

W1: ... the cab should ... in about ...

A: Hold on, you're breaking up. Hello?

W1: Can you hear me now?

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

W1: I was just saying that the cab should be with you any minute now.

A: You're sure? This is very urgent.

W1: We're doing everything we can, Sir.

A: Wait a minute!

W2: Ever Ready Cabs?

A: Hello, could I have a cab for Belsize Park, please, it's urgent.

W2: No problem, Sir. We can have a car with you in just ... fifteen minutes.

D: Hello?
A: Hello, David, this is ...
D: This is David Antonucci. I can't take your call at the moment. Please leave your name and number and speak after the beep.
A: Hello, David? This is Alex King. Could you possibly call me back? Please? Thank you.

A: Hello.
D: Alex, hi. I got your message. I think it would be better if you spoke to Mr Spielberg directly.
A: Directly?
D: In person. Is that OK?
A: Oh yes, absolutely. That's ... cool.
D: Excellent. Mr Spielberg?
Sp: Hello?
A: Mr Spielberg?
Sp: Yeah?
A: This is Alex ... Alex King.