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CURRENT

**AUDIO
TRANSCRIPT****TRACK LIST**

Welcome to the transcript for
CURRENT CD 1 2009/2010.

The symbol  in the
magazine means there is audio
material on this topic.

You can find listening activities
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CURRENT SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009

Track 1: INTRODUCTION

Ben: Current: September/October 2009. Welcome to Current Radio! Hi, I'm Ben.

Nicky: And I'm Nicky.

Ben: We have some fascinating stories today on the programme – on the issues that matter to you.

Nicky: That's right, Ben. First, we're talking to university graduates, to learn how the recession has changed their plans.

Ben: Then, we're going straight to India, for a special report on the biggest hit movie in years: *Slumdog Millionaire*. How has the film changed the lives of the kids in the slums of Mumbai? – We'll find out.

Nicky: And finally we're going to see which English expressions drive teens nuts.

Ben: Well, let's get started!

Track 2: REALITY CHECK

Nicky: You don't have to turn on the TV to see we're living in tough times. Just walk down any British high street. Some stores are shut. Others have only a few customers milling around in them ...

Ben: And then there are the job centres – they're full! Over two million Britons have lost their jobs. And if you're a university graduate about to enter the job market, no one has to tell you that it's a killer out there.

Nicky: Let's get the lowdown from two grads on the front line. First on the phone is Ruth Payne, a British graduate from the University of East Anglia. Hi, Ruth!

Ruth: Hi, guys.

Nicky: Ruth, what did you hope to do after university?

Ruth: I studied English and philosophy, and I'd only really planned to get an office job. But to tell the truth, Nicky, this was not my long-term career plan.

Nicky: What do you mean?

Ruth: Well, I expected to work for about six months – and save enough cash so I could go travelling. I thought travelling would give me some time to decide on a career path.

Nicky: So has the economic crisis changed that plan?

Ruth: Definitely! I couldn't even find a job in the small town where I live! There aren't many jobs here even at the best of times. When the crash hit, employers just stopped taking people on, and those that do have vacancies, they have become even more particular.

Nicky: Ruth, can you explain that a little?

Ruth: Nicky, a university degree isn't enough in a recession. You need to have practical knowledge in the job area you want to pursue. There are so many graduates competing for so few jobs now – so employers can really pick and choose who they want. And they want graduates who can show practical experience and a real passion for their field.

Nicky: I see. So you need to get some proper experience under your belt now – before you start in an industry.

Ruth: I think so. Say you want to work in the fashion industry. It would really help to work in a clothing store – even unpaid – to gain some experience. Or you could intern for free in an office where their work matches your interests. That's practical knowledge!

Nicky: Good advice for our listeners, Ruth. So what are you doing now?

Ruth: I've had to speed up my decision and take a part-time job as a teaching assistant in a school – because I'm going back to uni to do a teaching degree. I just want some job security.

Nicky: That's good advice, Ruth. In other words, think about what you want to do in the future, and figure out a strategy to make it happen! Thanks very much, and good luck.

Ruth: Thanks. Bye.

Ben: Next on the phone: Seb Blake. Hi, Seb.

Seb: Hi.

Ben: Seb, what did you hope to do after university?

Seb: In normal times I'd have used my degree in environmental science to work in that field. I wanted to work for a company that consults with industries on, say, issues like climate change.

Ben: Has the recession changed your plans?

Seb: I'm afraid so, Ben. One company I wrote to replied to me saying: "We are laying off staff, so will not be recruiting for the foreseeable future." Environmental companies have stopped employing graduates due to a lack of work. After four years of study, it's really got me down.

Ben: That sounds tough, Seb. What steps will you take now?

Seb: Well, like your first caller, I've gone back to uni. I'm doing a master's course in environmental management. I'm also applying for jobs in local councils. These aren't my first choice, but I did some research and there are still opportunities in the public sector –

Ben: Sorry to interrupt, but that's a good point, Seb. You may not be able to get the job of your choice, and it pays to do some research to find out the sectors that are taking people on.

Seb: Exactly, Ben. I think that any job in which your employer is the Government is more secure. I think that's what graduates want now. It's not about making fast money – it's all about job security.

Ben: Again, good advice, Seb. Thanks for talking to Current Radio today.

Seb: Cheers, Ben. Bye.

Ben: You know, Nicky, it may be tough times, but these grads are finding strategies to cope.

Nicky: Yes, and check out the new issue of CURRENT to learn how teens in the U.S. are also thriving in tough times. It's good to see everyone pulling together to make the best of a difficult situation.

Track 3: THE BUZZ

Ben: Nicky, have you seen the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*?

Nicky: Only three times!

Ben: Three times? Why are you such a big fan?

Nicky: Well, it's such a heart-warming tale. It's about a poor kid from the slums of Mumbai who wins the TV game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*? Those rags-to-riches stories get me every time...

Ben: I know! I liked the scary scenes, like when –

Nicky: Hold it! Don't give the story away to our listeners! Many haven't seen the movie yet – I know they're going to want to check it out on DVD.

Ben: Well I don't think I'm giving anything away if I say it was really amazing to see those slums close up. And to see what life is really like for the people who live there.

Nicky: Our reporter Zara is in Mumbai. She's going to tell us how *Slumdog* has changed the lives of two kids in the slums. Zara, can you hear us?

Zara: I can hear you loud and clear.

Ben: Where are you, Zara?

Zara: I'm standing just on the edge of a slum called Dharavi. More than one million people in Mumbai live here.

Nicky: Paint a picture for us, Zara – what's it like?

Zara: It's so crowded, Nicky! Everything is crammed together. The smell is overpowering!

Ben: What is the smell?

Zara: Well it's pretty gross – there's no sewage system and there's rubbish everywhere, so you can imagine... Though there's also the lovely smell of incense and spicy foods ...

Ben: What's the traffic like?

Zara: The streets are too narrow for cars, Ben. You have to walk along tiny alleys. People are making clothes, biscuits, soap ... This really is an amazing place to see.

Nicky: We know that the two stars of the movie – Dev Patel and Freida Pinto – are now flooded with offers for new roles. But what about those kids who starred in the movie? Two of them were from the slums, weren't they?

Zara: Yes. That's the *real* life rags-to-riches tale. There's a girl called Rubina, who's about nine. And a ten-year-old boy, who's called Azharuddin.

Ben: What was life like for them before the film?

Zara: Pretty tough. Neither child ever went to school. Rubina lived just a few metres from an open sewer. Her father hadn't worked for months because he broke his leg.

Nicky: What about the boy?

Zara: Azharuddin's story was even sadder. He was living with his family under a plastic sheet, because the council knocked down his hut. His father had tuberculosis and his mother was blind in one eye.

Nicky: Awful. But then the film came out...

Zara: Yes. Life changed overnight for those two kids. One minute they were in the slums – the next they were in Hollywood, walking the red carpet at the Oscars!

Ben: I heard they went to Disneyland.

Zara: Yes, Ben, and when they returned to India they were national heroes. They were carried on people's shoulders through the slums with everyone cheering.

Nicky: Where do they live now?

Zara: They still live in the slums – but all that's going to change soon. The city of Mumbai is giving each of their families a new house with running water, electricity and toilets. And the film company is paying for them to go to school every day.

Nicky: Sounds like a fairy tale!

Zara: Well, not quite, Nicky. These kids are superstars now, and they're attracting some people who want to cash in on their fame.

Ben: What do you mean, Zara?

Zara: Well, there are always photographers hanging around, trying to get a picture of them. And there are journalists trying to dig up some dirt to sell a story to the newspapers.

Nicky: So the kids are really being used?

Zara: Yes. They've swapped one problem – being poor – for an entirely different kind of worry. Still, their lives are much better than before, that's for sure.

Ben: Thanks very much for that special report, Zara. Good talking to you!

Nicky: Wow. I guess real life rags-to-riches tales are more complicated than the ones in films, aren't they?

Ben: That's how it seems! And you can find out more about the *Slumdog* effect in CURRENT this month.

Track 4: TRUE TUBE

Nicky: Oxford University has published the ten most irritating every day expressions in English. The research came from a student poll. Ben, is there an English expression that really irritates you?

Ben: An expression that really annoys me? Yes! The other day a friend I hadn't talked to in a while called me on my mobile. He said, "I just want to touch base." "Touch base"?! My friend works for a big company and clearly he was trying to say, "I want to say hello." But it really got me – I can't stand that kind of office-talk.

Nicky: I hate that one too! The word that really bugs me is the use of 'like.' Have you noticed how many people overuse it? "It was, like, so cool" ... "and I was, like ..." Urrgggh! Well today we have a teen panel in our studio who are going to share the expressions they find most irritating. Hi, everyone!

Teens in studio: Hi! Hi!

Nicky: So let's open up the discussion. First, tell us briefly, one expression that really annoys you. And then why.

Ben: Alex, what really bugs you?

Alex: The expression that really bugs me is 'innit'. I mean, why don't you just say 'isn't it'? It's not that much longer, is it?

Nicky: James, is there an expression that bugs you?

James: Like Ben's friend, I did some work experience in an office and we had to do some 'blue sky thinking' to 'move something forward'. I'm still not sure what it means but I think it was office talk. It's annoying, why they don't just explain what they mean?

Nicky: Yeah, I completely agree, James. I've no idea what that means either!

Ben: And finally, Holly, what about you?

Holly: It really annoys me when people say ‘bruv’, as in ‘you alright, bruv?’ We’re not all related, Ben!

Ben: Good point, Holly! I totally agree with you! I’ve just thought of another one that really *really* annoys me, and that’s the expression ‘at the end of the day’. People use it all the time and it really, really winds me up! Anyway, thanks, guys! From now on, I’m really going to have to watch what I say.

Nicky: Ha ha! Well, that’s all we have time for in today’s CURRENT. Goodbye!

CURRENT NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009

Track 5: INTRODUCTION

Ben: Current: November/December 2009. Welcome to Current Radio – for the November/December issue of CURRENT magazine!

Nicky: Today we’re going hear from teens about Facebook, the world’s most popular online social networking site. Ben, some kids now call it Fake-book.

Ben: *Fake-book?* Why is that, Nicky?

Nicky: I don’t want to spoil this surprise report for our listeners. But wait till you hear what these teens have to say.

Ben: I can’t wait. We also have a special report on Pakistan.

Nicky: And finally, we’re going to find out how Reality TV has become a star factory – and what teens think of these new stars.

Ben: On with the show!

Track 6: REALITY CHECK

Nicky: Ben, are you on Facebook?

Ben: Facebook? I’m the wrong person to ask, Nicky. I don’t have the time – I hear everybody talking about it, but I’ve never been on!

Nicky: What? Ben, what planet are you living on? Facebook accounts for one third of all online social networking in the world. Two hundred million users log on each month.

Ben: Wow! That's incredible, Nicky. I must be the only person not on Facebook! What am I missing?

Nicky: Well, maybe not much. Our reporter Jamie is outside an Internet café in central London. Are you there, Jamie?

Jamie: Yes, I am, thank you, Nicky. And I've got Lance here with me. He *was* a Facebook user.

Nicky: Was – are you using the past tense?

Jamie: Yes, Nicky. He is among a growing group of young people who are turning away from Facebook. First, Lance has quite a – er, difficult – story to share. I really appreciate that you're willing to talk about it.

Lance: Yeah – well, it's not easy. I was dumped by my girlfriend on Facebook!

Jamie: Dumped? On Facebook? How did that happen?

Lance: Well, I was on holiday last summer, visiting Prague. I took my laptop and so in the evening I logged on to Facebook. I saw that my girlfriend Vikki had updated her status: It said: 'Vikki is recovering after her big night!'

Jamie: Her 'big night'?

Lance: Yeah, I also wondered what her 'big night' was ... Then I saw some comments from her mates on her wall.

Jamie: What did they say?

Lance: They said things like: "OMG! (That's 'Oh my God') What did you do?" And then: "Can't believe it". Naturally, I was intrigued – and felt a bit weird too. But worse was to come. I saw that Vikki had been tagged in a photo.

Jamie: So somebody had posted a photo of her online?

Lance: Yes – of the big night. And then it was all clear. There she was in this bar – and let's just say she looked very friendly with this guy – a friend of ours.

Jamie: Friendly?

Lance: Oh, you know, they were all over each other. I almost retched. I felt sick to the stomach. I just turned off the laptop – I had to get out.

Jamie: That's awful. I'm sorry, mate.

Lance: Thanks. It freaked me out ... there I was in a strange city ... and I walked the streets thinking about everything. And then I said to myself: That's it! I'm quitting Facebook. And I committed Facebook-suicide that day!

Jamie: Why's that?

Lance: Because if this is what the world is coming to – where people broadcast their private stuff

online, and everyone can see it and read it – I don't want to be a part of that scene.

Jamie: Didn't you want to log on to your own page? To see if she'd written to you or –

Lance: No way. I never wanted to see my Facebook page again! I didn't want to read anybody's comments either – you know, my mates saying how sorry they were for me, or that I was better off. It's so public, so humiliating.

Jamie: So you 'dumped' Facebook.

Lance: Definitely. Facebook has become a substitute for people communicating face to face!

Jamie: Thanks very much for talking to us so honestly, Lance. And good luck in the future! Back to you in the studio, Nicky and Ben.

Nicky: Thank you, Jamie, for that interview. Now let's talk to two teens here in our London studio today and get their reactions to some questions about Facebook.

Ben: First, we have Howard. Hi, Howard, are you a Facebook user?

Howard: I am a Facebook user, yes.

Ben: And what do you like best or dislike most about Facebook?

Howard: Um, I really enjoy the application concerning the 'Friends Finder', people in which you haven't seen for ages, maybe from your primary school or nursery, um, end up adding you on Facebook and you end up having conversations about what they've been doing for the past ten, 12, years or so, sometimes you end up meeting up with them as well which is quite fun.

Nicky: Great, and Lola, is there anything you dislike about Facebook?

Lola: Uh, yeah, recently, uh, my friend tagged me in some photos, um, from a night out where I'm completely wasted, I'm just asleep on chairs and stuff. It's very embarrassing!

Ben: And what are your thoughts about privacy and people having access to your Facebook page? Howard?

Howard: Um, I feel there's not much to worry about in that respect, due to the fact that you can control the amount of information in which you want to display on your profile, so in that case a lot of people shouldn't worry about displaying all their information, I mean, you can choose whether to put your email up or your phone number.

Ben: And Lola, what about you?

Lola: I agree with Howard, you choose whether you want to put your phone number up there and your address and stuff. If you do it and something goes wrong, it's your own fault!

Ben: Great! Well, thanks very much to the both of you. And that's the end of our Facebook report!

Track 7: THE REPORT

Ben: It's interesting to hear about online social networking – because a lot of adults think that's how teens spend most of their time. But many students are passionately concerned about what's going on in the world.

Nicky: Which brings us to Pakistan – a country that's very much in the news. We're going to hear about a civil war that's tearing the country in two.

Ben: In the studio today are two students who are studying history and politics at secondary school. They've been researching Pakistan for their upcoming final exams – called A-levels – next spring. Hello to Richard and Meg. Thanks for stopping by.

Richard, Meg: Hi, Ben. Hi, Nicky.

Richard: I just want to say that we're glad to be here. Events in Pakistan are happening so fast, that by the time your listeners hear this report, the situation may have totally changed.

Ben: In other words, Richard, the situation in Pakistan is unpredictable. Can you give us a brief background on the country?

Richard: Pakistan became an independent Muslim country only in 1947. Its land area is about one and a half times larger than France. But it has a very large population – 165 million people. The country has faced some terrible problems for years – like rival Muslim groups, and many corrupt governments.

Nicky: Meg, how did the conflict in Pakistan start?

Meg: It started a couple of years ago, Nicky. A group of Taliban troops took control of what is called the Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan.

Nicky: Who are the Taliban?

Meg: The Taliban are a very strict Muslim group. They believe in what's called the Sharia Law. The law includes stoning women for sexual offences – while men can take several wives, women are considered inferior. They can only have a limited education. And if you steal something, watch out: the law says that you can have your hand cut off!

Nicky: Whoa! And they run the Swat Valley? How did a group just take over a region?

Meg: Well, the local government in the Swat Valley signed a peace agreement with the Taliban – to avoid conflict and bloodshed.

Nicky: What happened then?

Meg: Last spring, the Taliban took over a neighbouring area called the Buner province. It's very close to Pakistan's capital city, Islamabad.

Nicky: And was this peaceful?

Meg: Not at all. Taliban troops looted local government offices. They captured vehicles belonging to international aid organizations.

Richard: And they closed the shrine of a local Muslim saint who's honoured all over the country. But the Taliban say that worshipping at such shrines goes against the true teachings of Islam. Now the Taliban patrol the streets of the region.

Meg: The army of the Pakistani Government are fighting the Taliban. But many experts think the Pakistani Government is weak. One expert wrote on the British Broadcasting Corporation's website: "Even though most Pakistanis agree that the Taliban pose the biggest threat to the Pakistani state, both the army and the government appear to be in denial of reality."

Nicky: What do you think is the reality, Meg?

Meg: This is just my opinion, Nicky, But there's a good chance that by the time your listeners hear this report, Pakistan will be in the middle of a very bloody civil war – between the Government forces and the Taliban fighters.

Ben: If the Taliban win, what would it mean for the Pakistani population, Richard?

Richard: The Taliban will impose Sharia Law, turning Pakistan into a fundamentalist Muslim country. And millions of people will flee.

Nicky: Is it true that Pakistan has nuclear weapons? What happens if the Taliban get hold of them?

Richard: That's the big question alarming every country in the world. If the Taliban get their hands on these weapons, no one knows what might happen. For now, the Pakistani Government insist the weapons are hidden in safe, remote sites, but –

Meg: With Pakistan so unstable, no one knows what the future holds.

Nicky: Wow, we're out of time, but this is fascinating stuff – and scary. Thanks very much to both of you!

Track 8: THE BUZZ

Nicky: On a much lighter note, what's your favourite kind of TV programme, Ben?

Ben: Umm, you know I love sport. So I guess it has to be football. Especially when Manchester United are playing.

Nicky: That's so typical.

Ben: So what do you watch?

Nicky: I LOVE reality TV shows – especially ones where they're looking for a great performer. You

know, like *The X Factor*, or *Britain's Got Talent*.

Ben: What? Where they get a load of wannabes in front of the camera? Why on earth do you like those programmes?

Nicky: That's *exactly* why I like them, Ben. There's no script. Anything can happen! And the people are just like people you know.

Ben: But aren't those people simply hungry for fame? They want to be rich, but they don't want to work hard.

Nicky: These are some amazing people – with extraordinary talent. And they've been working on their singing, or dancing, or whatever – for many years! But they've just never had the chance to show the world how talented they are.

Ben: Like who?

Nicky: Like Will Young, Alexandra Burke and Leona Lewis. Leona is huge in the U.S. now. And then there's Susan Boyle. Have you heard of Susan Boyle?

Ben: Oh yeah!! I saw her on a YouTube video.

Nicky: So did the whole world. One day she was a totally unknown 47-year-old woman in a Scottish village. She lived a quiet life with her cat. She wasn't glamorous at all – she's a bit overweight, greyish hair, she even says she's never been kissed! But after one audition for *Britain's Got Talent* last spring, she became an international sensation overnight!

Ben: Well, her voice *is* incredible. One of the judges even cried.

Nicky: Now more than 100 million people have watched her performance on the Internet. I mean, the population of Mexico is 100 million! And then there was that 12-year-old boy from Wales on *Britain's Got Talent*.

Ben: Who's that?

Nicky: His name is Shaheen. He sings like Michael Jackson. I just KNOW he's going to be a star one day.

Ben: So what you're saying, Nicky, is that love it or loathe it, reality TV is here to stay. So let's hear what four teens have to say about this phenomenon. We've got them in the studio, and they are Kyle, Lucy, Abby and Craig. Hi, guys!

Kyle, Lucy, and Abby: Hi!

Ben: Right, let's start with you, Kyle. Apparently, you have pretty strong views about this subject.

Kyle: Yes, Ben. I can't stand them! I think they humiliate people, they occasionally find somebody who's ok at what they do, but the vast majority is just laughing at people who make a fool of themselves. I don't like them.

Ben: Some people say that it's a bit like, um, circus shows in days gone by. Would you agree with that?

Kyle: Yeah! It is a bit, kind of, 'laugh at the freak'. Um, and, and it it's really sad that that this is what we watch on TV now.

Nicky: Great! Thanks, Kyle. Lucy, um, do you watch any reality TV programmes?

Lucy: Well, I hate reality TV shows such as *Big Brother*, I think that's just people wanting to be famous, just going on TV for no reason, to sit in a house all day. But I LOVE *Britain's Got Talent* and *The X Factor*, because I think you do find real, amazing talent.

Ben: Craig, if you had the chance, would you perform on a reality TV show? For example, would you like to be on *The Apprentice*?

Craig: Well, Ben, I'd love to be on *The Apprentice*, purely based on the fact to, uh, meet Alan Sugar. I like watching *The Apprentice* and how I would interpret doing the specific jobs in which he asks people to do. As for *The X Factor* or *Britain's Got Talent*, I probably wouldn't as I don't have an abundance of it.

Nicky: Well, thanks, everybody! So that's it. I'm going to get my hairbrush and practise singing in front of the mirror. I could be the next Leona Lewis.

Ben: Nicky, if you're the next Leona Lewis, I'm the next Ronaldo!

CURRENT JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010

Track 9: INTRODUCTION

Ben: Current 3: January/February 2010. Welcome to Current Radio – for the January/ February issue of CURRENT magazine! I'm Ben.

Nicky: And I'm Nicky.

Ben: First, we have a shocking story on Britain's young fathers – the so-called 'Boy Dads'.

Nicky: Then we're going to talk about salaries! How much do some people earn in their jobs – and how much *should* they earn? Let's go!

Track 10: REALITY CHECK

Ben: Last year a news story rocked Britain and the British media. It was the story of a baby-faced boy called Alfie.

Nicky: Yes, *everybody* was talking about it. Alfie Patten is a 13-year-old boy from Eastbourne, England, who looks like he's eight years old. Take a look at his photo in this month's CURRENT – he really is baby-faced!

Ben: Here's the shocker: last year Alfie reportedly became one of Britain's 'Boy Dads'. His girlfriend Chantelle – who is only 15 years old herself – gave birth to a baby girl named Maisie.

Nicky: Alfie said he thought it would be good to have a baby. He didn't think about how much it would cost. "I don't really get pocket money," said Alfie. "My dad sometimes gives me ten pounds." Alfie didn't even know how much nappies cost!

Ben: Nicky, when I was 13 I didn't know how much nappies cost either! All I wanted to do was play football. And Alfie doesn't seem so different – he loves computer games, boxing and Manchester United.

Nicky: The story sparked a lot of debate. How 'young' is 'too young' to be a dad? When is a teen old enough to get married and be a parent? And what about schools and parents? Are they educating young people on the issue properly?

Ben: For more on this controversial story, let's go to our CURRENT reporter, Zac. He's outside a secondary school in London. Hi, Zac.

Zac: Hi, Ben! Hi, Nic! I'm standing outside an average-looking secondary school in South London. It's midday, and the pupils are on their way out to lunch. It's hard to imagine any of them becoming parents, but some of them will. And why? Because Britain has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Western Europe.

Ben: Can you give us some figures, Zac?

Zac: Yes, forty out of every thousand girls become pregnant each year. And in the last ten years, nearly 400 girls under the age of 14 have become young mothers.

Nicky: That's a scary statistic!

Zac: But I've got something even more shocking.

Nicky: Go on –

Zac: Nicky, in recent years, four 11-year-old boys have become fathers!

Nicky: That IS shocking.

Zac: Yes, and the British Government is really worried. They're running sex and ethics education courses in schools, but the courses are clearly not working!

Nicky: They're not working well enough, anyway.

Zac: Some politicians think this shows the breakdown of traditional society. But nobody seems to have a solution yet. So I'm going to ask some of the teens here what *they* think about Boy Dads. I'm here with a student just outside of the school. Hello, what's your name?

Sarah: My name's Sarah.

Zac: And how old are you?

Sarah: I'm 17.

Zac: So, Sarah, what is your reaction to the Alfie Patten story?

Sarah: I couldn't believe it when I saw it in the newspapers! I mean, I know he's 12 or 13, but the boy only looks about eight! I mean, it's unbelievable! I'm 17 and there's no way I'd think about having a baby now, it's way too young!

Zac: So, do you think the story reflects a crisis in social values, and if so, why?

Sarah: I, I definitely think it does, I mean, look at today, if people are having children at this age, what's the world gonna be like when we get older? I mean, are our grandchildren gonna be having kids even younger? I just can't even imagine it!

Zac: Now over to you, uh, what's your name?

Mark: Mark.

Zac: Hi, Mark, and how old are you?

Mark: I'm 16.

Zac: So what is your reaction to the Alfie Patten story?

Mark: Well, I mean, I think he's a bit young, but I think I could be a dad, I mean, I'm 16, I'm grown up now, I kinda know what I'm doing, you know with little 'uns, I think I'd be all right!

Zac: Right... OK, um, do you not think this reflects a crisis in social values?

Mark: Well, no, I mean, you know, at 16 you've left school, you can kind of make your own decisions. I think it would be all right, really.

Zac: So, as a young person, when do you think it's the right age to become a parent?

Mark: Well, I've got a weekend job and I think at 16 I'm earning money, I think about that age is probably all right because I could support the kid, you know.

Zac: What about enjoying life as a young person? Going to parties, going out drinking, having fun with your friends... wouldn't you miss that?

Mark: Well, I mean, you know, I could get, like, a babysitter or something and I could still go out, I mean it wouldn't really change that.

Zac: Well, we've heard some fascinating opinions. I'd love to hear what our listeners think.

Nicky: Thanks very much, Zac – I'm sure your report will get our listeners talking! By the way, Ben, what happened to Alfie?

Ben: Alfie took a DNA test...

Nicky: A DNA test? Why?

Ben: ... he wanted to prove that he was the father.

Nicky: And...? Was he?

Ben: No, he wasn't!

Nicky: Oh my gosh! What a complete mess! I feel so sorry for the baby, but also for Chantelle – she's missing out on being a teenager and growing up too.

Ben: I hope our listeners will check out the article on Boy Dads in this month's issue of CURRENT.

Track 11: SPECIAL REPORT

Ben: Nicky, didn't you tell me you work part-time at the weekend?

Nicky: Yes. I'm saving for a holiday, so I'm a waitress at Pizza Parade. It's really tiring. Most customers are very nice, but a few are SO rude.

Ben: That's bad. How's the pay?

Nicky: Really low.

Ben: Can I ask you what you earn at Pizza Parade? I think our listeners would be very interested to know.

Nicky: I don't mind at all. I earn six pounds an hour, plus tips. I really appreciate it when customers give me a good tip!

Ben: Well, salaries are a really hot topic right now. The newspapers are full of shocking stories – from bankers still being paid huge bonuses, to TV presenters earning seven-figure salaries.

Nicky: Absolutely. So what do some jobs pay – and do people deserve the salaries they get? Let's talk to our Student Panel about job salaries.

Ben: Hello, everyone!

Students: Hi! Hello!

Ben: Please introduce yourselves to our listeners ...

James: Hi, Ben and Nicky! I'm James.

Alex: Hiya! I'm Alex.

Stephen: Hi! I'm Stephen,

Holly: Hi, I'm Holly.

Nicky: Thanks for coming in to the studio today. Let's see if you know the answer to this question: If you were to get a job as a teacher in a British secondary school, what would your starting salary be? Have a guess!

Ben: James?

James: Uh... about 20 thousand pounds a year?

Ben: Twenty thousand pounds... OK, and you, Alex?

Alex: Um, surely a teacher would get more than 20 thousand pounds, I'm gonna say about 25?

Nicky: Twenty-five, OK, um, Holly, what do you think?

Holly: Yeah, I agree with Alex. I've heard teachers get quite good pay.

Ben: So, a figure?

Holly: Twenty-five?

Ben: And finally, Stephen?

Stephen: Um, yeah, I'm going to agree with everyone else on this one, I'm gonna say about 25.

Ben: Well, you're all pretty close because the answer is about 20 to 25 thousand pounds.

Nicky: Next, how much does an experienced nurse in a British hospital earn per year? James.

James: Hmm...nurse, probably around 40 thousand pounds.

Nicky: Forty thousand pounds, great. Alex?

Alex: Um... I think they probably earn about 30 thousand pounds?

Ben: Thirty thousand pounds... Holly?

Holly: Yeah, I agree with Alex, I think about 30 thousand.

Nicky: And Stephen?

Stephen: Um, yeah, I'd probably say something around 20 thousand?

Ben: Well, I can tell you that an experienced nurse earns about 20 thousand pounds a year.

Nicky: Now, at the other end of the scale, how about a TV presenter? One of Britain's most famous TV presenters at the moment is Jonathan Ross. Our listeners may not know him, but he works for the BBC. He has a popular TV chat show on Friday nights, a film programme and his own radio show. What do you think he earns a year? Stephen?

Stephen: I'd say something around the figure of about 1.5 million?

Nicky: Wow! 1.5 million! And Holly, how about you?

Holly: I agree, I think he gets about 1.5 million, if not more!

Ben: Big sums of money! Alex?

Alex: No! I don't think he can earn that much, surely? It must be about five hundred thousand.

Ben: Finally, James?

James: He's really funny! I think probably around about three million.

Nicky: It's actually SIX MILLION POUNDS a year!

Everybody: Oh! Wow!

Nicky: The BBC says it has to pay big money to get big stars.

Ben: Finally, how about Britain's Prime Minister? He's the most important politician in the country. How much is his annual salary?

Nicky: Holly?

Holly: I think he earns a lot. I'm going with two million.

Ben: Two million pounds a year. OK, Alex?

Alex: Hmm... I think this is a hard one, If someone like Jonathan Ross is earning six million, um, maybe it's around two million?

Nicky: Two million, OK...good guess, and Stephen?

Stephen: I'm thinking, due to his job description, I'm gonna go for about 2.5 million.

Ben: These are big sums of money! James?

James: He runs the country, he must be on more than Jonathan Ross! I'll say about eight million pounds a year.

Ben: Well, I can tell you that it's actually a lot less! It's around two hundred thousand pounds, so a lot less than Jonathan Ross.

Everybody: Oh! No way!

Nicky: So who has a fair salary? The teacher? The hospital nurse? The TV presenter or The Prime Minister? James?

James: I didn't realise the Prime Minister gets paid so little for such an important job! No wonder the country is in such a mess!

Nicky: Thank you, James. And Stephen?

Stephen: Um, I feel all of the salaries which we've looked at are very unfair and surely a nurse warrants more than a TV presenter? A TV presenter helps entertain people, but doesn't save lives!

Ben: Very good point there, Stephen. Holly, what do you think?

Holly: I was actually going to say the same as Stephen. I think a nurse should be on a lot more than any of these people. They save lives, they help people every day. A TV presenter just talks on a show once a week!

Ben: And Alex, what do you think?

Alex: I think the fairest salary is probably for the teacher, I mean 25 thousand pounds, that's not too bad. But six million pounds, that's just ridiculous!

Nicky: Thank you, Alex. I have one last question for our panel: What's more important to you? Being rich or job satisfaction? Alex, what do you think on that?

Alex: I definitely think job satisfaction. I mean, it's great if you're earning quite a lot of money, but surely you've got to be doing what you love.

Ben: And you, James?

James: I think being rich! If I was rich I wouldn't need a job!

Ben: Very good point! And finally, Holly.

Holly: I think enjoying your job is good, but it doesn't hurt to have a bit of money, either!

Nicky: No! Good point, Holly! And I don't want to make you too jealous, but listen to this: Simon Cowell – the record label supremo who started reality talent shows like *The X-Factor* – earns about FIFTY MILLION POUNDS a year!

Everybody: Oh! That's so unfair!

Nicky: I know! Now you know, Ben, I think that would be good enough for me.

Ben: Well, we can dream, can't we, Nicky? That's it for today. Thanks to all our listeners for tuning in to Current Radio. Bye for now!

Nicky: Bye, everyone!

Everybody: Bye!

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LISTENING ACTIVITIES



Track 2



Listen to Ruth and Seb, talking about their experiences trying to get a job after university. Read the sentences. Write R if they are true for Ruth and S for Seb:

University Degree

1. I did a degree in English and philosophy.
2. I did a degree in environmental science.

Postgraduate Plans

3. I planned to work for a consultancy company.
4. I planned to go travelling.

The Problem

5. I couldn't even get a job in my local town.
6. I got rejection letters – because there was simply no work.

Advice

7. I'd research the fields that are taking people on and look for job security.

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

8. I'd suggest doing some work experience or an internship.

New plans

9. I'm back at university doing a Master's degree.

10. I'm going back to university to get a teaching qualification.



Track 3

Look at these statements from the extract. Are they true or false?

Write T or F:

1. Over ten million people live in Dharavi.
2. The smell in Dharavi is extremely strong.
3. Cars can't get down the streets.
4. People make clothes, biscuits and soap.
5. Rubina, one of the young actors, broke her leg.
6. Azharuddin's family home fell down in a storm.
7. Everyone in India wanted to know about Rubina and Azharuddin.
8. The children will get an education because the city council is paying.
9. The children are making money by selling photos of themselves.
10. The children's lives have improved.



Track 4 Part 1

Listen and write the expressions that annoys the speakers:

1. Ben: _____ and _____
2. Nicky: _____
3. Alex: _____
4. James: _____
5. Holly: _____

- Now discuss with your classmates what these 6 words and phrases mean.
- Are there any words in your language that you find annoying?

What are they?

Part 2

Listen again. Complete each gap with up to three words.

1. The research came from _____.
2. The other day a friend I hadn't talked to _____ called me _____ mobile.
3. The word _____ me is the use of 'like'.
4. So let's _____ the discussion.
5. I'm still not quite sure _____ but I think it was _____ - _____.
6. I've _____ what that _____.
7. People use it _____ and it really, really _____!
8. I'm really going to have _____ I say.

Track 6 Part 1

Listen to this extract from Lance's story.

Circle the words and phrases that are different:

facebook

Lance: Well, I was on holiday last autumn, visiting Prague. I took my computer and so in the evening I turned on Facebook. I saw that my girlfriend Vikki had changed her status: It said: 'Vikki is recovering after her big fight.'

Jamie: Her big fight?

Lance: Yeah, I also wondered what her 'big fight' was... Then I saw some comments from her friends on her profile.

Part 2

Listen to Lance's story. Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

1. Lance met Vikki on Facebook.
2. He saw comments from his mates on her wall.
3. Lance saw that Vikki had been tagged in a photo.
4. Lance stayed calm.
5. He decided to stop using Facebook immediately.
6. He thinks that it's brilliant that everyone can see and read your private stuff online.
7. He never wanted to see his Facebook page again.

Track 7

Listen and answer the following questions.

1. When was Pakistan formed? _____
2. How much larger than France is Pakistan? _____
3. What is the population of Pakistan? _____
4. In what area of Pakistan is the Swat Valley? _____
5. What religion are the Taliban? _____
6. Which group of people are inferior under Sharia Law? _____
7. Why did the local government in the Swat Valley sign a treaty with the Taliban? _____
8. Which province did the Taliban take over last spring? _____
9. How do experts describe the Pakistani Government? _____
10. What does Meg believe might happen?



Track 8 Part 1

Who is it? Listen and use these names:

Alan Sugar	Shaheen	Leona Lewis	Susan Boyle
------------	---------	-------------	-------------

Who ...

1. ...sings like Michael Jackson? _____
2. ...has never been kissed? _____
3. ...is the boss in *The Apprentice*? _____
4. ...became an international sensation overnight? _____
5. ...is now huge in the U.S.? _____

Part 2

Now listen again. Listen and make 8 collocations that are used in this track.

Match the words in column A with those in column B:

- | A | B |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. great | a) talent |
| 2. hungry | b) sensation |
| 3. extraordinary | c) views |
| 4. totally | d) performer |
| 5. international | e) majority |
| 6. strong | f) for fame |
| 7. the vast | g) of themselves |
| 8. make a fool | h) unknown |



Track 10

**Listen to the discussion on Boy Dads. Who says it?
Write the names under the correct speech bubbles:**

Ben	Nicky	Zac	Sarah	Mark
-----	-------	-----	-------	------



1. I could get, like, a babysitter or something.

2. Nearly 400 girls under the age of 14 have become mothers.

3. Last year a news story rocked Britain and the British media.

4. What's the world going to be like when we get older?

5. Four 11-year-old boys have become fathers!





6. He really is baby-faced!

7. The boy only looks about eight!

8. I kinda know what I'm doing, you know with little 'uns.

Track II  Part 1

Complete the following table with the correct figures.

Salaries	Stephen	Holly	Alex	James	Correct answer
 Teacher					
 Experienced nurse					
 Jonathan Ross					
 Prime Minister					

Part 2

Who believes the following – Stephen (S), James (J), Holly (H) or Alex (A)?

- A nurse should be paid more than an entertainer.
- A nurse should earn the most.
- Being rich is the best.
- The Prime Minister gets paid too little.
- None of the salaries are fair.
- Enjoying your job is more important than the salary.
- The teacher has the correct salary.

ANSWERS

Track 2: 1. Ruth, 2. Seb, 3. Seb, 4. Ruth, 5. Ruth, 6. Seb, 7. Seb, 8. Ruth, 9. Seb, 10. Ruth.

Track 3: 1. False, 2. True, 3. True, 4. True, 5. False, 6. False, 7. True, 8. False, 9. False, 10. True.

Track 4: Part 1: 1. Touch base, at the end of the day, 2. Like, 3. Innit, 4. Blue sky thinking, to move something forward, 5. Bruv.

Part 2: 1. a student poll, 2. in a while, on my, 3. that really bugs, 4. open up, 5. what it means, office talk, 6. no idea, means either, 7. all the time, winds me up, 8. to watch what.

Track 6: Part 1: Autumn, Computer, Turned on, Changed, Fight, Friends, Profile.

Part 2: 1. False, 2. False, 3. True, 4. False, 5. True, 6. False, 7. True.

Track 7: 1. 1947, 2. 1.5 times larger, 3. 165 million, 4. northwest, 5. Muslim,

6. Women, 7. To avoid conflict and bloodshed, 8. Buner province, 9. Weak, 10. Civil war.

Track 8: Part 1: 1. Shaheen, 2. Susan Boyle, 3. Alan Sugar, 4. Susan Boyle, 5. Leona Lewis.

Part 2: 1-d, 2-f, 3-a, 4-h, 5-b, 6-c, 7-e, 8-g.

Track 10: 1. Mark, 2. Zac, 3. Ben, 4. Sarah, 5. Zac, 6. Nicky, 7. Sarah, 8. Mark.

Track 11: Part 1:

Salaries	Stephen	Holly	Alex	James	Correct answer
Teacher	25,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	20-25,000
Experienced Nurse	20,000	30,000	30,000	40,000	20,000
Jonathan Ross	1.5 million	1.5 million	500,000	3 million	6 million
Prime Minister	2.5 million	2 million	2 million	8 million	200,000

Part 2: 1. Stephen, 2. Holly, 3. James, 4. James, 5. Stephen, 6. Alex, 7. Alex.

