

Units 10–11

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Unit 10 I must have one of those!**CD 1 Track 10** (*American; South African*)

Presenter: Hidden behind the successful global economy, there are many other economies at work. One of them is the garbage economy. All over the world, people earn a living by recycling other people's garbage. Two of our reporters have been to see the reality of the garbage economy. First of all, Morgan Curtis reports from Brazil.

Morgan Curtis: I'm standing on the edge of a huge garbage dump situated less than 20 kilometers from the center of the nation's capital, Brasilia. Here, more than 3,000 people live off what the city throws away. Garbage trucks bring tons of waste every day and, as soon as the trucks arrive, the scavengers start work. They have to work quickly, before the trucks come back and bury today's garbage. The scavengers look for anything they can recycle – plastic bottles, computer components and other electronic items, for example. They are always hoping to find things they can sell like clothes, shoes and even working watches and cell phones. Astonishingly, the scavenging is well organized, and people have to register with an association if they want to work at the dump. The city authority set up the association to control the number of workers and to avoid fights between them. Scavengers, who work up to 15 hours a day, can earn as much as \$60 a week. The average income from scavenging is, however, less than \$20 a week.

Presenter: And now, Seymour Groves reports from South Africa.

Seymour Groves: Every day, grandmother Mapule Mohokare walks 12 kilometres from her one-room shack near the township of Soweto to join a thousand other people scavenging on the Goudkoppies rubbish dump. The massive dump is 15 kilometres from the centre of Johannesburg, the financial capital of South Africa. The smell is foul and never-ending. Mohokare's 23-year-old son works with her. He has a brother of 36, and a twin sister with a nine-year-old daughter. The whole family lives on what they can make at the dump. Mapule works seven days a week. She collects white paper and clear plastic. Once she made 250 Rand in a week, that's about \$40. She's always hoping to do it again, but usually it's only \$25 a week. To earn this small amount of money, she risks injury and disease. Amongst other things, the dump has large amounts of medical waste, such

as used syringes. She and the other scavengers also face illness from breathing in the toxic fumes from rotting meat and chemicals.

Unit 11 Globesity**CD 1, Track 11** (*British*)

Monday: Oh dear! I was late for work this morning because I couldn't find anything to wear – none of my clothes fit. I wore a dress that makes me look like a baby elephant. This week of ALL weeks! The thing is ... there's a gorgeous guy who's just started working in my office. His name's Craig and he sits at the desk next to me. He hasn't said a word to me. He obviously thinks I'm enormous. I had much too much to eat today. Spaghetti bolognese for lunch, snacks all day, pizza for supper, chocolate cake, ice cream. Not good. So that's it. I'm going on a diet, starting tomorrow. In a month, Craig will be mine. Well, that's the plan, anyway.

Tuesday: Because I ate too much yesterday, I went without breakfast and lunch. By three o'clock in the afternoon, I was really hungry and felt terrible. A colleague gave me a bar of chocolate. Not a good way to start a diet. Still, in the evening all I had was salad with a bit of ham, even though I was very hungry. Well done me! I feel thinner already!

Wednesday: I was very good until this evening. I had breakfast cereal without sugar and a glass of orange juice. For lunch I had a chicken salad and an apple. Then a friend rang and invited me for dinner. She's one of the best cooks I know. There was cheese, cream, chocolate – all the things that make life worth living. Mmmm.

Thursday: Oh no! I've put on a kilo since Monday! This was not in the plan. But one wonderful thing – Craig actually spoke to me today. He seems to like me! I must get thin – fast! I've kept to the diet all day (though I did have a chocolate biscuit before I went to bed – but only a small one!)

Friday: Craig has asked me out for tomorrow night! I can't believe it! A friend's lent me a dress that makes me look – well, not exactly skinny, but slimmer. I must try and lose at least four kilos as soon as possible.

Saturday: It's late at night. Craig and I had a wonderful evening – we went to a bar, saw a movie and then went to his favourite Italian restaurant. I had spaghetti bolognese again, but who cares? He wants to see me again tomorrow.

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He says he likes me just as I am. I'm not obsessed with diets. In fact, who needs diets? Now where's that box of chocolates?

Unit 12 Cities of the future

CD 1, Track 12 (*American*)

Presenter: Good evening, and welcome to *The Science Show*. We have heard a lot recently about extreme engineering and one of the most amazing and astonishing ideas is a rail tunnel under the Atlantic Ocean, linking New York and London.

With me in the studio to discuss this, is Professor Martha Long. Welcome to the program, Professor.

Martha Long: Thank you.

Presenter: So, first question. How would a trans-Atlantic tunnel be built?

Martha Long: Well, it will be built in pre-constructed sections.

Presenter: Pre-constructed sections?

Martha Long: Yes. They would be made on land and then put together under the sea.

Presenter: How many of them?

Martha Long: 54,000.

Presenter: How many?

Martha Long: 54,000. They will be held in place by giant anchors, which will be fixed to the bottom of the ocean. The tunnel will float 200 meters under the surface.

Presenter: Amazing. Now, as I understand it, the train which would run through this tunnel would be a magnetically levitated train. Is that right?

Martha Long: Yes.

Presenter: So, the next question is: What is a magnetically levitated train?

Martha Long: Magnetically levitated trains, or Maglevs, aren't like normal trains. They don't have wheels and don't travel on rails. They travel in a vacuum between two magnets.

Presenter: And do these trains exist?

Martha Long: Oh yes! The first one open to the public started operating in Shanghai in 2004. But the idea is quite an old one – invented in Germany over 70 years ago.

Presenter: And how fast do they travel?

Martha Long: At the moment, Maglev trains can travel at about 500 kilometers per hour. However, it will be possible for them to travel at 6,000 kilometers per hour.

Presenter: Six thousand kilometers an hour? Are you serious?

Martha Long: Yes. The journey from New York to London, which is a distance of about 5,000

kilometers, will take 54 minutes.

Presenter: How is this possible?

Martha Long: Well, ordinary trains travel on rails and they can only reach speeds of around 300 kilometers per hour. They are also very noisy. Maglev trains don't use rails, so there's no noise. There's no pollution. The trains would be fast, comfortable and quiet. The disadvantage is that the tracks have to be specially built and they are very expensive indeed. The Maglev track in China is only 30km long but it cost 1.2 billion dollars.

Presenter: And will the trans-Atlantic tunnel be safe?

Martha Long: Well, safety is the big problem. The ocean is very powerful and the tunnel could bend or crack. Also, a passing submarine or a drifting iceberg could hit the tunnel.

Presenter: Ahh.

Unit 13 Call of the wild

CD 1 Track 13 (*Australian*)

Intro: Good evening. Welcome to the Geographical Society. This evening's illustrated lecture is by Robert Philpotts, who has spent many years in the Russian Far East.

Philpotts: Good evening. Tonight I want to talk about my recent visit to the Kamchatka Peninsula. Kamchatka has a population density of less than one person per square kilometre. For comparison, Bangladesh has 949 people per square kilometre and Hong Kong has 6,571. And, because 90% of the Kamchatkan population live in one city, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the density for the rest of the peninsula is much, much lower. By the way, you'll be pleased to hear that the city is usually just called P-K.

The region has numerous deposits of gold, copper and nickel, but at the moment it is not economical to mine them. Tourism is almost non-existent, and – as you can see from this picture – not particularly comfortable. Most Kamchatkan villages are like this one, Kluchi. There are no normal jobs. Instead, people here depend on the wilderness to survive. Hunting isn't just a sporting pastime – the villagers hunt for food. They hunt to survive. Their main targets are brown bears, which are hunted in the spring and then again in the autumn. A single bear can provide two or three hundred kilos of meat, which is salted in giant barrels to provide food for the winter. Preparing bear meat is a time-consuming task. First the meat must be soaked for 24-36

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hours in fresh water. Then it is boiled for five hours in order to make it safe (and soft enough) to eat. Salmon also provide the villagers with food and large quantities of valuable red caviar, which they can sell. Salmon fishing takes place in late spring and early summer. The start of the salmon fishing season is an extremely important event. It ends with a huge festival called Fish Day. On Fish Day, there are fish-cleaning competitions, as you can see in this photograph, and wrestling matches and horse races.

The villagers don't have much variety of things to eat because of the short summers, but they make some creative food combinations! For breakfast, we had bread, bright pink salmon roe, tomatoes and cucumbers. Sometimes, we also had salami made from bear meat.

Unit 14 Fantasy worlds

CD 1, Track 14 (American)

Dave: OK, what are we going to watch? I vote for the horror movie.

Tom: You mean, *My Boyfriend was a Vampire*? Yeah, me too.

Nancy: Oh God, I can't stand horror movies. I hate violence, and the idea of witches and vampires terrifies me.

Tom: Good, good! That's the whole point of a horror movie. You want it to terrify you. Come on, let's put it on.

Nancy: Can't we watch something less scary? There's a really good thriller on channel 7.

Tom: Nance, you're not telling me you believe in vampires? They're just a joke. This is meant to be one of the best horror movies ever made. Come on, you'll enjoy it. Sit down and eat your chips.

Nancy: Oh, you two are a nightmare. I really don't want to watch it.

Dave: Well, I'm turning it on ...

Tom: The suspense is killing me! Ahhhh... Look at his mouth ...Ugh. He looks soooo evil.

Dave: That's it, he's going to ...

Nancy: Oooooohhh. This is awful. I can't watch.

Dave: Don't be such a baby.

Dave: Ugh! That was really gross!

Tom: Ugh! Yeah, great, what an effect!

Nancy: How could he have done that? How could you enjoy this awful stuff? I'm leaving. I'm going to get some drinks.

Dave: Wow! This is entertainment at its best!

Tom: Yeah, I'm feeling really, really frightened.

Dave: Yeah, real horror!

Dave: Oh man! That was bad! He shouldn't have done that.

Tom: No, he shouldn't have. Horrible.

Nancy: Drinks, guys!

Dave/Tom: Ahhhhhh.

Dave: Don't give us a fright like that.

Tom: I think I'm going to be sick.

Nancy: What a relief that's over. I can see you're both happy now you've watched your stupid movie. You see? You don't like horror movies either. They're much too ... horrifying. They'll give you bad dreams.

Tom: Hey, Dave, the sequel's on next week – *My Boyfriend was a Vampire 2*.

Dave: Cool, man. I think that must totally be seen.

Unit 15 Think big!

CD 1, Track 15 (British)

Interview 1

Interviewer 1: Good morning ... Make yourself comfortable.

Candidate 1: Thank you.

Interviewer 1: Welcome to Hall International. Thanks for coming to see us.

Candidate 1: No problem.

Interviewer 1: Now, as you know, Hall International specialises in building hospitals in developing parts of the world. Why would you like to work for us?

Candidate 1: Well, I studied engineering at university.

Interviewer 1: Umm. Go on ...

Candidate 1: And you advertised for engineers.

Interviewer 1: Yes, you're quite right. But is there anything about the work we do that specially attracts you?

Candidate 1: I suppose so. Is there any travel involved?

Interviewer 1: Oh yes, there certainly is. We plan to send the successful candidate to places where we have building projects.

Candidate 1: Where would that be?

Interviewer 1: India, mainly, but possibly also Latin America.

Candidate 1: Really? India? That sounds OK.

Interviewer 1: Well, yes it's interesting. But of course you're not going as a tourist.

Candidate 1: No, of course not.

Interviewer 1: Right. OK. Tell me something about yourself. What special qualities do you have

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that would be useful to us?

Candidate 1: Special qualities? I don't know. But I am the right person for the job.

Interviewer 1: Really? And what makes you think that?

Candidate 1: Because I have just graduated from the Engineering Department at London University with a first class degree.

Interviewer 1: Ah, yes, I saw that from your CV.

Candidate 1: There were 70 students in the class and I came top.

Interviewer 1: That's very interesting ...

Unit 15 : Interview 2

Interviewer 2: Good afternoon. Take a seat.

Candidate 2: Thank you. This is a very nice office.

Interviewer 2: Yes.

Candidate 2: It must be nice working in an office like this.

Interviewer 2: Yes. Now, do you know anything about Hall International?

Candidate 2: Yes, indeed I do. And I'm very interested in what you do.

Interviewer 2: What DO we do?

Candidate 2: The organisation was set up to build hospitals in the developing world. I was reading your website and I found that at the moment, you're building hospitals in India, Peru and Brazil.

Interviewer 2: Yes.

Candidate 2: Well, I really want to do work like that. I feel very strongly that the developed world must help the developing world in any way possible.

Interviewer 2: Yes. Well, let's have a look at your application form ...mmm, second class degree in Civil Engineering from Imperial College, London.

Candidate 2: That's right.

Interviewer 2: Good university, but not a very good degree.

Candidate 2: Well, it's a very difficult course. I worked extremely hard and I'm very enthusiastic about all aspects of the subject.

Interviewer 2: Really??

Candidate 2: Tell me something.

Interviewer 2: What?

Candidate 2: Do you like your job?

Interviewer 2: Excuse me?

Candidate 2: Do you like working in Human Resources? I mean, you don't seem very

interested in the work you're doing.

Interviewer 2: Yes, of course I'm interested in it.

Candidate 2: Good. I hope I find my job just as interesting.

Unit 16 Throw away the key

CD 1, Track 16 (American)

Presenter: In 1993, a 12-year-old girl was kidnapped in Petaluma, California, and murdered. A man was convicted of her murder. He had already been convicted twice for kidnapping and was on parole after serving eight years of a 16-year prison sentence. This case caused a lot of anger in California. People were angry that a man who had committed so many crimes could be free. They demanded action to keep repeat offenders in prison and off the streets. The following year, the Three-Strikes Law was passed by the California State Legislature. The law states that anyone convicted of three criminal offenses would go to prison for life. Now, many years after the law came into force, opinions are sharply divided on the issue.

Carl Brewer: My name is Carl Brewer, and I'm totally in favor of the Three Strikes Law. Why? Easy! Over the last ten years, California's crime rate is down 32%. In the nation as a whole, it's only down 13%. Much more important - in the first ten years of this law, it has been proved that two million Californians have been saved from pain and suffering. Why? Because they have NOT been victims of crime. Also, the state didn't have to build any more prisons. These are the reasons why I fully approve of the Three Strikes Law.

Kelly McGuire: Hello, my name is Kelly McGuire, I'm an officer at the Los Angeles Police Department and I'm against the Three Strikes Law. I'm in favor of putting violent people away for a LONG time, but because of the Three Strikes Law, sometimes the wrong people are put away. More than half of the people who go to jail under the Three Strikes Law are non-violent offenders. Violent crime has decreased in California, but non-violent crime has decreased even more. And, in fact, violent crime went down MUCH MORE in other States which DON'T HAVE Three Strikes Laws.

Presenter: So ... there are arguments for and against the Three Strikes Law. In the first three years, violent crime in California fell by more

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than 40% (twice the national average). But now more and more young men are going to prison for minor offenses, such as shoplifting or even stealing a car tire. If an offender stays in prison for 25 years, that costs the state about \$1.5 million dollars.

Unit 17 Surviving disaster

CD 1, Track 17 (*Scottish; English*)

Intro: Three University students, Rory McLean, Alison Thompson and Michael Mackenzie, decided to climb a hill called Arthur's Seat, which is near the city of Edinburgh and only 250 metres high.

Rory: It was a sunny April day and quite warm, really. Normally, it's quite an easy climb but I should have warned the other two about a few things. For example, Alison was wearing a T-shirt and jeans, and Michael was wearing shorts. Because I'm an experienced hiker, I was wearing a pullover and some boots.

Alison: We set out at about midday. It was really warm, so I didn't take a coat. Arthur's Seat looks so small when you start. We didn't even tell anyone else we were going there.

Michael: I always think that I'm quite fit, so I thought – this will be easy. I was wearing shorts and a pair of trainers.

Rory: The first part is quite easy, and you get a brilliant view of the city when you start to go up. I must say I was a bit surprised by how unfit Michael seemed to be. Alison seemed to have no trouble, but even in the sunshine, she complained that it was a bit cold.

Alison: The first part of the climb was great – really easy. Michael was complaining a bit, but I told him to stop behaving like a baby, so he shut up. I think he would have preferred to go back down.

Michael: After a few minutes, I was gasping for breath. I wanted to go back down, but Alison persuaded me to continue.

Rory: When we reached the top, I noticed these black clouds for the first time. Suddenly, it turned cold and then it started snowing. We tried to go back down, but Alison fell and hurt her foot, so we sheltered behind a boulder and waited for the snow to stop. But it didn't stop. It was incredible. Snow like that in April! I've lived in Edinburgh all my life and I've never seen snow like that in April.

Alison: When it started snowing, I just laughed

and said we'd better go down. But then I slipped and hurt my foot. At first, the boys tried to carry me, but it was dangerous. They slipped as well, so we had to stop.

Rory: The snow just went on and on. Alison was shivering so I offered her my pullover, but she said no. Eventually, I could see that there was no way we were going to get down. I really thought we were going to be very lucky to get out of this alive.

Alison: It was so cold I thought I was going to pass out. I wasn't frightened, just annoyed with myself for being so stupid.

Michael: I was the only one who had brought a mobile phone with me. I suppose it's just as well that I didn't go down the hill when I was tired. I rang a friend and she said she would try to help. The next thing you know – I heard the sound of a helicopter! It hovered directly above us. I don't know what happened in the helicopter. When I woke up, I was in hospital.

Unit 18 Alone in space?

CD 1, Track 18 (*American*)

Interviewer: We have with us in the studio today Simon Hanworth, an astronomer with an organization called SETIL. Simon, can you tell us something about it?

Simon: Yes, of course. The name SETIL stands for Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence and Life. We're a scientific organization that started in 1959 to search for radio signals from intelligent life in space.

Interviewer: So presumably you believe that there is intelligent life in space.

Simon: No, I wouldn't say that I believe that. But there may be intelligent life out there. It's certainly possible. The universe is so vast. Our Sun is just one star among billions. And it's a fact that many stars have their own planets orbiting round them.

Interviewer: Really? I didn't know that.

Simon: No, we've only recently discovered that.

Interviewer: So why are you searching for radio signals?

Simon: Because the distances in space are so great that it's unlikely that other life forms will ever visit us. If they exist, we are more likely to know from their radio signals.

Interviewer: So you don't believe all those stories about aliens visiting our planet?

Simon: I'm afraid I don't. There's just no real

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evidence. But that doesn't mean there isn't other life in the universe.

Interviewer: If there is life, what might it be like?

Simon: Well, it's hard to say. It might not have a form that we recognize. For example, on a planet where gravity is very strong, all life forms could be the size of microbes.

Interviewer: Really? Fascinating!

Simon: And even if we can't find intelligent life on distant stars, we might find simple forms of life in our own Solar System. For example, we think there is ice on Mars. And where there's water, there's a possibility of life.

Interviewer: That would be exciting. But what about these radio signals? Have you found anything interesting?

Simon: I can't say we have. But we're going to keep looking.

Interviewer: One final question that I've always wanted to ask an astronomer. Scientists now believe that the universe must have started with what's called The Big Bang.

Simon: Well, we're not 100 per cent certain. But yes, we think that the universe could have begun with a huge explosion about 12 billion years ago.

Interviewer: What I've always wanted to know is this: What began the Big Bang? How did it start?

Simon: Are you asking me if I believe in God? We don't know how the Big Bang started. We just don't know.