

SÈRIE 1

Reading Comprehension

What the au pair saw

Part 1: Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. The book called 'Au Pair' is about...

- a. the way Slovakian au pairs look after their own children.
- b. how Slovakian families should raise their children.
- c. what Slovakian au pairs think about British families.**
- d. the way Slovakian girls can get a job in England.

2. After reading the text, the 'Having it all' culture could be explained as...

- a. British women's aim of working out instead of being mothers.
- b. the idea of bringing up children and working at the same time.**
- c. the difficult choice between having a family and working at the same time.
- d. the idea of having an au pair at home to look after the children.

3. According to the text, the British idea of a modern woman...

- a. is not shared by Slovakian au pairs.**
- b. is generally accepted by au pairs.
- c. is never criticised by au pairs.
- d. has become a model for Slovakian au pairs.

4. According to Ms. Burikova's book, some British families contract au pairs because...

- a. they think it is the cheapest way of educating their children.
- b. they can't survive without the au pair's help.
- c. they can't afford to raise their children on their own.
- d. they don't care enough about their children.**

5. Darinka thinks that most English mothers...

- a. do their best to look after their children.
- b. do not spend enough time with their children.**
- c. prefer their careers to their children.
- d. play their role successfully.

6. By saying that 'food is a particularly tricky issue' Ms Burikova suggests that parents...

- a. don't feed their children healthily.**
- b. only care about what their children eat.
- c. do not care about their health problems.
- d. believe their children are healthy enough.

7. Tina's experience as an au pair was,

- a. terrible.
- b. wonderful.**
- c. depressing.
- d. unbelievable.

8. Most Slovakian au pairs apply for the job mainly because...

- a. they want to travel abroad to get a well-paid job.
- b. it's a good opportunity to leave their homes and relatives.
- c. their love relationships are broken and they want to meet new people.
- d. it's a way of learning a language and earning some money.**

Listening Comprehension**Lost...or maybe not.**

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean

crew: equip / equipo

sequel: continuació / continuación

clue: pista

source: font / fuente

huge: enorme

stage: etapa

thread: fil / hilo

to wrap up: concloure / concluir

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

Since **Lost**, one of the most successful TV shows in recent times, came to a dramatic finish at the end of the sixth season, many fans have been wondering whether the last episode could have possibly left any options for a sequel. In the following interview, Pat Lawson chats with Matthew Fox, Dr. Jack Shepard in the show, and tries to find out how truly final the end was.

Pat Lawson: Hellow, Matthew, thank you very much for accepting to chat with us about a TV show that has already become a legend for a lot of people.

Matthew Fox: Thank you, Pat, for inviting me and for giving me the opportunity to chat with your listeners about *Lost*, even though I think the word *legend* is probably a little too much.

Pat Lawson: Well, I don't know about that, Matthew. If we look at the number of websites and forums that even now stay active talking about the show, I think it is truly amazing.

Matthew Fox: That is true. I can't believe it myself! After the show finished I thought people would lose interest very quickly and move on to other shows, but it's been months now since the last episode aired and there's still a lot of speculation going on among the fans.

Pat Lawson: Tell us a little bit about these speculations. What do fans talk about?

Matthew Fox: All sorts of things, actually. Some people were really happy with the end while others were terribly disappointed. A lot of fans are trying to find hidden clues in the last episode about the possibility for a sequel. There are even some people who are convinced that the entire show was a secret message from extraterrestrials!

Pat Lawson: Well, I don't imagine that's true...or is it?

Matthew Fox: Ha-ha! No, no, it isn't true, unless the entire crew was abducted by aliens but we never knew it! It is just fascinating to see that something you have been a part of and helped create has become such a source of discussion for so many people.

Pat Lawson: So, if there was a sequel, would you be happy to participate in it?

Matthew Fox: First of all, there is NOT going to be a sequel. And I know that anything I say here will be the object of much discussion and speculation as soon as it's published, but, even if there was one, I don't think I'd be part of it.

Pat Lawson: Could you explain why?

Matthew Fox: Well, as you can imagine, *Lost* has been a turning point in my acting career and in my life in general. None of the people who participated in the show could ever have imagined that it would become as huge as it did. But I also think about it as a completed stage of my life. And I think most of the actors who were part of the show feel the same way.

Pat Lawson: Certainly a sequel of *Lost* without Dr. Shepard or Hurley, for example, wouldn't be the same.

Matthew Fox: Exactly, and that's why I don't think there will be a sequel. What we created with *Lost* was a really unique thing, not just the show itself, but all the interest it generated, the discussion forums, the theories about the island, the serious interest in aspects like time travel. I am afraid a sequel would ruin all of that.

Pat Lawson: You mentioned before that there were opposing opinions about the resolution of the show, in the last episode. How do you feel about that?

Matthew Fox: Personally I find the last episode very appropriate. The progress in the story line had become so very complicated that there was no easy way to finish all the open threads in one final episode. So, while it is true that many

questions remained unanswered, the idea that the characters had crossed the line between life and death seemed like a good way to wrap it all up.

Pat Lawson: That's actually one of the things a lot of people criticized, isn't it? The fact that the end was not very, how shall I say, realistic.

Matthew Fox: It's true, but then again, what's realistic about a tropical island inhabited by polar bears, smoke monsters and people who live hundreds of years? There was always an element of unreality in the show and that's why I think the end was in line with that.

Pat Lawson: Exactly! And that's why some of us liked it so much! Well, Matthew, it's been a pleasure talking to you about *Lost*. Even though you've made it quite clear that there will not be a continuation, we will keep our fingers crossed and hope that we get some more episodes of *Lost* in the future and, of course, we expect Dr. Shepard to be in it!

Matthew Fox: Thank you, Pat. It's been great to be here and talk to you about *Lost*. As I said, I don't think there will be any more Dr. Shepard, but who knows...

Choose the most appropriate answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.

1. Matthew Fox is surprised that...

- people have lost interest in the show so soon.
- so many people are still interested in the show.**
- people's interests have moved to other shows.
- speculation about the show lasted for one month.

2. About the show's end,

- everybody was happy with it.
- everybody was disappointed with it.
- people were neither happy nor disappointed.
- some people liked it a lot, some didn't like it at all.**

3. What are some fans looking for in the last episode?

- Hidden secrets about the last episode.
- The presence of a hidden message.
- Hidden cues about the possibility for a sequel.**
- Evidence of extraterrestrials.

4. Matthew Fox finds it fascinating that...

- they were all abducted by aliens but didn't know it.
- the show was a source of aliens.
- so many people discussed the show.**
- the aliens helped to create the source of discussion.

5. How does Matthew Fox feel about the possibility of a sequel?

- He will know if there will be one as soon as the interview is published.
- He's convinced that there will not be one.**
- He thinks the other actors disagree with him.
- He thinks a sequel would be a turning point in his career.

6. A sequel without Dr. Shepard or Hurley wouldn't be the same because...

- these characters did not generate a lot of interest in the forums.
- Lost was a unique thing that can't be repeated.**
- they weren't interested in serious time travel.
- it would ruin the theories about the island.

7. According to Matthew Fox, the last episode is...

- appropriate because it is so complicated.
- appropriate because it concludes a very complicated story line.**
- inappropriate because it finished all the open threads.
- inappropriate because all questions were answered.

8. Was *Lost* a realistic show?

- Yes, because the people in the island lived for hundreds of years.
- No, because polar bears and smoke monsters don't live hundreds of years.
- Yes, because tropical islands are usually inhabited by polar bears.
- No, because it showed a tropical island inhabited by polar bears and smoke monsters.**

SÈRIE 4.

Reading Comprehension

The Camino de Santiago the English Way

Part 1: Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. The writer got lost while he was doing the *Camino*
 - a. and asked the way to a passer-by.
 - b. but he was lucky to find the scallop shell that marks the way.
 - c. **and a man gave him directions even before he asked.**
 - d. and he had to walk a long way back to get on the right track.

2. According to the text, which of the following sentences is FALSE?
 - a. **Pilgrims started to come to Santiago in the 12th century.**
 - b. Pilgrims who take on St James' Way come from many different countries.
 - c. St James is a legendary character who helped win many battles.
 - d. The *Codex Calixtinus* was written as a guide for the pilgrims.

3. The author explains that
 - a. you can stay for free in all the hostels on the route.
 - b. **you just pay a small amount to spend a night in an *albergue*.**
 - c. you must make a donation in all the hostels.
 - d. official hostels are cheap, but unofficial ones are not.

4. In a Holy Year
 - a. the Pope always visits Santiago de Compostela.
 - b. pilgrims cannot get their *compostela*.
 - c. the number of pilgrims always doubles that of a normal year.
 - d. **Pilgrims who take on the *Camino* expect absolute forgiveness.**

5. The English way
 - a. starts in Cornwall and runs through coastal towns.
 - b. must be taken along the seaside by boat.
 - c. was preferred by the English people because it was easier.
 - d. **doesn't take as long to complete as the other routes.**

6. As he was walking, the author felt
 - a. **as if he was in England because the landscape was similar to that of Cornwall.**
 - b. that the eucalyptus and the vineyards he found on the way are typically English.
 - c. that it was just as easy to stay in an *albergue* or in a hotel.
 - d. that staying in rural hotels was what an English pilgrim should do.

7. The author did the *Camino* because
- he had strong religious beliefs, just like many other pilgrims.
 - as a pilgrim, he was looking for absolution.
 - he wanted to experience a cheap walking holiday.**
 - he had never been to Santiago before.
8. When he reached Santiago, he was very pleased because
- he had won his *compostela*.
 - he had to attend Mass in the cathedral.
 - he could see the buskers and beggars in the square.
 - he had completed the *Camino*.**

Listening Comprehension

John Craven: the best-loved presenter on British television

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

missed: va faltar / faltó

apprentice: aprenent / aprendiz

eye-catching: que crida l'atenció / que llama la atención

push the boundaries: portar al límit / llevar al límite

AIDS: SIDA

rewarding: gratificant / gratificante

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

Famous for his jumpers and his relaxed behaviour, John Craven is one of the best-loved presenters on British television. He has been the presenter of the BBC television programmes **Newsround** and **Countryfile** and in 1996 the Royal Television Society made John Craven a member of its Hall of Fame

From a BBC Radio Interview. Adapted.

Mary: John, we are delighted to have you here. Welcome to our programme.

John: Thank you for inviting me. It's a real pleasure.

Mary: Is it true that you only ever missed one episode of **Newsround** and that was because your wife was having a baby?

John: No, that's not exactly true. The first edition I **missed** was in the very early days, in 1972, when my first daughter was born and the newsreader Richard Whitmore took over for me. Later, I did miss two or three editions because of illness and when the programme went daily round the year, every week, I did take some holidays!

Mary: How did you start in the TV business?

John: Well, I left school at 16 and got a job as a commercial **apprentice**. But I was really more interested in writing than in studying to be a company secretary so after three years I became a junior reporter for a local newspaper. Maybe I should have studied harder and tried to get to university, but in those days you didn't need a degree to get into journalism and I had a great time in my early twenties learning my trade.

Mary: What do you think of the way news programmes have developed? What is the impact of computers for example?

John: Computer graphics have changed everything and almost every story seems to need an **eye-catching** graphic. Because television is THE visual medium, I think there can be a tendency for television producers to say: "We've got a great graphic here, now what's the story to go with it?" Some can be extremely helpful in understanding a subject as well as being entertaining to watch, but I often ask myself if some of them are really needed.

Mary: Are there any decisions you regret as editor of **Newsround**? Did you ever feel that you went too far with a story, or not far enough?

John: No, I don't regret any editorial decisions I made on **Newsround**. Sometimes we did **push the boundaries**, such as the first time we reported on **AIDS**. It was in the late 1980s, and children were being told they could catch AIDS from toilet seats, from kissing dad, things like that. So we decided to correct all that by devoting a whole edition of **Newsround** to AIDS and putting it into a proper perspective. I thought we might get lots of complaints, but we had only two, and one of them said we had not gone far enough.

Mary: Why did you decide to leave **Newsround** and work on **Countryfile** rather than staying with the news? Was it a difficult decision? Do you have any regrets?

John: I moved to **Countryfile** from **Newsround** because the job was offered to me and, after many years in the daily news business, I thought that presenting a weekly programme about the countryside would be a very pleasant change - and so it has proved to be. I was looking for a new direction. I have always had great affection for the countryside, and my years on **Newsround** had developed my interest in the environment and conservation, so **Countryfile** was for me the perfect choice. I see some of the best bits of Britain on my **Countryfile** travels, which makes the job even more **rewarding**.

Mary: Are there any other jobs in television that you would still like to do?

John: I would love to work on a programme for children and teenagers.

Mary: Children and teenagers are often said to be only interested in quiz shows and pop stars, do you think that is a **fair** criticism?

John: Not in my experience. During my time on **Newsround**, I got thousands of letters from children expressing strong opinions on a huge variety of topics. They have high ideals, they want to prevent the world from destroying itself - the problem has always been in retaining those ideals when they grow up. And anyway, what's wrong with being interested in pop stars?

Mary: I believe that you presented **Newsround** for about 17 years. Do you have any idea how long you'll stay on **Countryfile** and do you think you'll stay in television for the rest of your working life?

John: Yes, I was with **Newsround** for 17 years and I've been with **Countryfile** since 1989 so I have spent almost all my broadcasting years as lead presenter on just two programmes. I am proud to be associated with these programmes. I hate the thought of retiring and hope to keep broadcasting for as long as people will have me.

Mary: Well John, I'm afraid we've run out of time. Thank you very much for being with us, and the best of luck with **Countryfile**!

John: Thank you. It was a real pleasure.

Choose the most appropriate answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.
[0.25 each correct answer]

1. John Craven first missed an episode of Newsround because

- his wife was ill.
- his daughter was born.**
- he was on holiday.
- his daughter was ill.

2. John Craven started out in journalism as a

- commercial apprentice.
- company secretary.
- student of journalism at university.
- reporter on a local newspaper.**

3. John Craven thinks that computer graphics are

- absolutely necessary nowadays on television.
- useless to help the audience understand a story.
- only needed on television if they are really eye-catching.
- changing the way stories are presented on television.**

4. After an edition of Newsround entirely devoted to AIDS, John Craven

- regretted having pushed the boundaries.
- believed he had not gone far enough.
- received lots of complaints.
- did not have any regrets.**

5. John Craven accepted presenting the programme Countryfile because

- he was fed up with the daily news business after 17 years.
- it was the only choice he had after 17 years on Newsround.
- he felt like changing directions and doing something new.**
- he wanted to contribute to the conservation of the environment in Britain.

6. In the future, John Craven would like to present a TV programme

- about travelling in the countryside.
- about the environment and sightseeing.
- for people living in the countryside.
- for teenagers and children in general.**

7. According to John Craven, children and teenagers

- are interested in many different things.**
- have too many problems.
- think adults are destroying the world.
- are only interested in quiz shows and pop stars.

8. John Craven

- has been the lead presenter of Newsround since 1989.
- is very proud of his job in Newsround and Countryfile.**
- has been the lead presenter of Countryfile for 17 years.
- would not mind retiring from the broadcasting business.