

LESSON 51

Listening and Understanding

Listen to the recording, and then answer this question: Why was their disguise 'too perfect'?

An ancient bus stopped by a dry river bed, and a party of famous actors and actresses got off. Dressed in dark glasses and old clothes, they had taken special precautions so that no one should recognise them.



1

- 5 But as they soon discovered, disguises can sometimes be too perfect.

'This is a wonderful place for a picnic,' said Gloria Gleam.

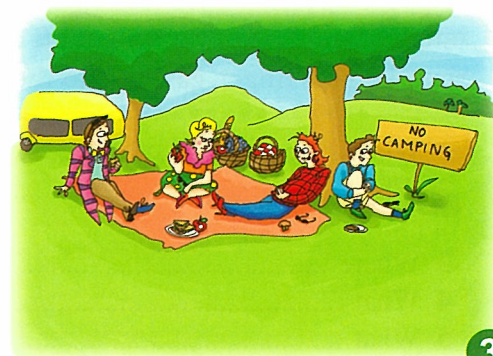
'It couldn't be better, Gloria,' Brinksley Meers agreed.

- 10 'No newspaper men, no film fans! Why don't we come more often?'



2

Meanwhile, two other actors, Rockwall Slinger and Merlin Greeves, had carried two large food baskets to a shady spot under some trees.



3

- 15 When they had all made themselves comfortable, a stranger appeared. He looked very angry. 'Now you get out of here, all of you!' he shouted. 'I'm sheriff here. Do you see that notice? It says "No Camping" — in case you can't read!'
- 20 'Look, sheriff,' said Rockwall, 'don't be too hard on us. I'm Rockwall Slinger and this is Merlin Greeves.' 'Oh, is it?' said the sheriff with a sneer. 'Well, I'm Brinksley Meers, and my other name is Gloria Gleam. Now you get out of here fast!'



4

Guided Conversation

1 Answer questions about the text.

Example: Where did the bus stop? By a dry river bed.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Was it a new one? | 8 What were its advantages? |
| 2 Who got off? | 9 What had Rockwall Slinger and Merlin Greeves done during this conversation? |
| 3 How were they dressed? | 10 When did the sheriff appear? |
| 4 Why had they dressed like this? | 11 What did he point out to them? |
| 5 What did they soon discover? | 12 Did Rockwall expect the sheriff to recognise him? |
| 6 Did Gloria Gleam approve of their picnicking place? | |
| 7 Did Brinksley Meers agree with her? | |

2 Ask questions about the text.

Example: An ancient bus stopped by a dry river bed. (What kind of?)

i) Did an ancient bus stop by a dry river bed?

ii) What kind of bus stopped by a river bed?

- 1 A party of famous actors and actresses got off. (Who?) (When?)
- 2 They were dressed in dark glasses and old clothes. (How?) (Why?) (Who?)
- 3 They'd come for a picnic. (What?) (Why?)
- 4 They had taken special precautions so that no one should recognise them. (Why?)
- 5 Disguises can sometimes be too perfect. (What?) (Why?)
- 6 It was a wonderful place for a picnic. (What kind of?)
- 7 They got out their food. (What?)

3 Tell the story, using these key words.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 bus — river bed — party of — got off | 6 other actors — food — shady spot |
| 2 dressed in — precautions — recognise | 7 comfortable — stranger — angry |
| 3 discovered — sometimes — too perfect | 8 sheriff — notice — No Camping |
| 4 Gloria Gleam — wonderful place — picnic | 9 Rockwall told — who they were |
| 5 Brinksley Meers — no newspaper men — fans | 10 didn't believe — ordered — get out |

4 Guided summary. In not more than 80 words, describe what happened. Write two different paragraphs using the points and connections given below.

CONNECTIONS	POINTS	CONNECTIONS
<i>After</i>	[1 Bus stopped — river bed.]	<i>A party of</i>
	[2 Film stars descended.]	
<i>so as not to</i>	[3 Dressed — glasses, clothes.]	<i>in order that</i>
	[4 Recognise.]	
<i>and</i>	[5 Picnic things, shady spot.]	<i>Everyone had</i>
<i>Just then</i>	[6 Sat down.]	
<i>because</i>	[7 Sheriff, rudely — must leave.]	<i>when</i>
<i>Even when</i>	[8 Camping not allowed.]	<i>as</i>
	[9 Told him who they were.]	<i>but</i>
	[10 Did not believe them.]	

5 Talk about you.

- 1 When would a pop star find it inconvenient to be recognised? Give some examples.
- 2 Would you like to be famous? If so, what would you like to be famous for?
- 3 Does fame bring happiness, do you think? Why? / Why not?