

# 4B Are you a risk taker?

## 1 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a Talk to a partner.
- 1 Imagine that you had a dream where you were standing on the edge of a precipice. What sort of dream would it be for you?
    - a an exciting one
    - b a nightmare
    - c an interesting one, which you might try to interpret
  - 2 What do you think your answer says about your attitude to risk?
- b (238)) Listen to six people answering the question *Are you a risk taker?* How many of the speakers consider themselves risk takers?
- c Listen again. Who...?
- says that some activities are enjoyable because they are a bit risky
  - thinks that his / her attitude to risk is different from what it was before
  - thinks that taking risks means losing control
  - had to pay some money because of his / her risky behaviour
  - worries about his / her personal safety
  - does something which most people think of as very risky, but which he / she says is not
- d Listen again for more detail. What examples of risks do the speakers say they would take, or have taken? What things wouldn't they do? Do you identify with any of the speakers? Why?
- e Work with a partner. **A** interview **B** with the questions in the red circles. For each circle, write **R** if you think that in that area **B** is prepared to take risks. Then **B** interview **A** with the blue circles.
- f Look at what you have written in the circles. In which areas of his / her life would you say your partner was a risk taker? Does he / she agree? Which of you is the bigger risk taker?

### Sports and activities

Have you ever done any dangerous sports or activities? Did you enjoy them? Would you do them again?

Would you do a parachute jump or a bungee jump for charity?

### Appearance

Have you ever done something dramatically different to your appearance, e.g. had a very different hairstyle or hair colour, a tattoo, or a piercing? How did you feel immediately afterwards? Did you regret it later?

### On the road

Do you normally cross the road at a traffic light or zebra crossing, or just anywhere?

Do you cycle in your town or city? How safe do you feel?

Do you walk by yourself late at night or get late night taxis?

Do you drive a car or ride a motorbike? Do you ever go really fast and break the speed limit?

### Health

Do you have any habits that you know are not good for your health? Have you ever tried to give up the habits? Do you worry about them?

### Shopping

Do you ever buy things online? Have you ever had a bad experience?

Do you buy clothes online? Are there any kinds of clothes you wouldn't buy online?

Would you ever buy a second-hand car or bike on eBay (or a similar website)?

## 2 GRAMMAR conditionals and future time clauses

a Match the sentence halves.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> If my dad <b>finds out</b> I've been hitchhiking, | A you'll <b>have lost</b> ten kilos by Christmas. |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> When <b>you're crossing</b> the road in the UK,   | B he'll <b>be</b> furious.                        |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as <b>I've passed</b> my driving test,    | C <b>I'm going to buy</b> a car.                  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> If <b>it's still raining</b> this afternoon,      | D <b>make sure</b> you look right and then left.  |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> When <b>I've booked</b> the flights,              | E she'll <b>have forgotten</b> she borrowed it.   |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> If <b>you don't ask her</b> to pay you back,      | F we <b>can start</b> looking for hotels.         |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> If <b>I'm not feeling</b> better tomorrow,        | G we're <b>calling off</b> the match.             |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> If you <b>carry on</b> with the diet,             | H I <b>won't be going</b> to work.                |

b Look at the **highlighted** verbs. In first conditional sentences and future time clauses, what forms or tenses can you use a) after *if, when*, etc. (1–8) b) in the main clause (A–H)?

c Now look at two more conditional sentences. Do the main clauses refer to a) something which might be a consequence of the *if*-clause, or b) something which is always a consequence of the *if*-clause?

If people drive when they are tired, they often have accidents.  
If roads are wet or icy, the number of accidents goes up.

d ➤ **p.139 Grammar Bank 4B.** Learn more about conditionals and future time clauses, and practise them.

e In pairs, complete each sentence in your own words.

- 1 Don't let children play near a swimming pool unless...
- 2 Never leave a dog locked up in a car if...
- 3 Keep a first aid kit in your house in case...
- 4 Children shouldn't be left alone in the house until...
- 5 Always unplug electrical appliances (e.g. a hairdryer) as soon as...
- 6 Always keep medicines in a safe place in case...
- 7 Don't allow strangers into your house unless...
- 8 If you are frying something and the oil catches fire,...

## 3 PRONUNCIATION sentence rhythm

a (2 42)) Listen and write six sentences in the dialogues.

- 1 A If we rent a house in the mountains, will you come skiing with us?  
B <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. How much do you think it'll cost?  
A <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
B Well, I'll have to check my dates first.  
A OK, but <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 A How will I find you at the theatre?  
B <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
A <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_? I don't finish work until 7.00.  
B I'll wait for you until 7.20 and then I'll go to my seat.  
A <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

b (2 43)) Listen to both dialogues and underline the stressed words you have written.

c In pairs, practise the dialogues. Try to say the sentences smoothly with a natural rhythm.

### Travel

Have you ever travelled somewhere without having booked somewhere to stay in advance?

Do you normally take out insurance when you travel?

If you are travelling somewhere, do you normally get to the station or airport with plenty of time or at the last minute?

Would you go on holiday abroad on your own?

### Relationships

Do you think you would go out with...?

- a) someone from another country
- b) someone you had met online

Do you think you would go out with someone who was much older (or much younger) than you?

### Work and study

Would you take a job (with a two-year contract) in an English-speaking country, e.g. the US or the UK?

Have you ever cheated in an exam? Were you worried about getting caught? Would you ever cheat in a very important exam?

Do you normally start revising for an exam in good time, or do you leave it until the last minute?

## 4 READING

- a Have you ever travelled very fast in a car or on a motorbike? Do you know how fast you were going? How did you feel?
- b Look at the article. Can you explain the title? Read the article once and answer the questions.
- 1 What two alternatives are offered to speedaholics if they are caught?
  - 2 What's the main thing that participants learn on the course?
  - 3 Do you think the course will make John Earl go more slowly?
- c Read the article again and complete the gaps with A–E.
- A the speeders are asked to explain why they were stopped and to give details of any accidents they've had
- B so before leaving, each of them is given a metal key ring engraved with a cross-section of a head inside a helmet
- C programmes used to treat alcoholics and drug addicts
- D although other people get injured and even die, 'It's not going to happen to me'
- E the class to write down their worst experience on the road, their potential risk areas, and what they need to remember to keep themselves alive
- d Look at the **highlighted** phrases. With a partner, use your own words to say what they mean.
- e Which of the two punishments for speeding (doing the course or getting points on your licence) do you think would be more effective in your country? Why?

### Glossary

**speed** *noun* the rate at which something moves or travels  
**speed** *noun (informal)* an illegal amphetamine drug  
**points on your licence** in the UK (and many other countries) if you commit a driving offence you may get penalty points on your licence. If you get more than 12 points in three years, you can be banned from driving.  
**Valentino Rossi** an Italian motorcyclist who has won nine Grand Prix World Championships



## I'M JOHN, I'M A SPEEDAHOLIC

ADDICTION THERAPY IS THE NEW WAY TO STOP SPEEDING BIKERS AND CAR DRIVERS.

John Earl is 25 and addicted to speed. Not the drug, but a mixture that is just as powerful – an intoxicating combination of high-powered engines, testosterone and youth. 'It's not the speed exactly,' he says. 'It's the adrenaline. It's **the buzz you get** when you go fast.'

But if you regularly drive at 120mph (190kph) on a public road, sooner or later you're going to get caught, and today John is one of a dozen speeders attending a new programme designed to cure them of their need for speed. It is similar to <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. At the beginning of the course the participants are asked to introduce themselves and admit that they have a problem. 'Hello, my name's John, and I'm a speedaholic.'

The speedaholics course is for serious and **habitual offenders**, and is offered as an alternative to getting points on your licence. 'It is based on research into the attitudes of young drivers and bikers,' says Chris Burgess, a psychology lecturer at Exeter University, who created the programme. There are courses for both car drivers and motorcyclists. 'There is an element of addiction in this sort of behaviour,' says Burgess. 'It's sensation-seeking, it's taking risks, looking for that buzz, but ignoring the **potentially fatal consequences**. They all have the feeling that <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.'

Today's course, which is for motorcyclists, is led by Inspector Robin Derges, a police officer who is a senior investigator of road deaths and a keen biker himself. After introducing themselves, <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. They range in age from 18 to mid-forties and most were caught doing at least 20mph (36kph) over the speed limit. Derges **gets straight to the point**. 'Motorcyclists make up just 1% of all the vehicles on the road, but 33% of all deaths and serious injuries happen to motorcyclists. Unless something changes, if we meet up here in a year's time, one of you will be dead.'

Says Derges 'We want to give them **a sense of their own vulnerability**, their human limitations, and to help them make a realistic assessment of the risks involved. It's not about stopping people from enjoying riding, it's about preventing deaths.' Towards the end of the day he asks <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. 'The problem is that people get on their bikes and suddenly think they're Valentino Rossi,' says John.

Standing in the car park at the end of the course, the bikers seem to have **taken** everything they have heard **very seriously**. John admits 'It's certainly made me more aware. I know I sometimes behave like an idiot. But that's not to say I won't forget all about it in a few weeks' time.' Burgess knows this, <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. It is to remind them of a part of the course that explained what can happen to the brain in a collision.

'The idea is that they will see the key ring when they are riding and it will make them think twice,' says Burgess.



## 5 LISTENING

- a You are going to listen to an expert talking about the risks of driving. Before you listen, choose which you think is the right option, a, b, or c. Compare with a partner and give reasons for your choice.
- The most dangerous thing to be on the road is....  
a a pedestrian b a driver c a motorcyclist
  - Most fatal accidents happen because drivers....  
a fall asleep at the wheel b are drunk c drive too fast
  - Driving at night is ... as dangerous as driving during the day.  
a three times b four times c ten times
  - You're most likely to have an accident on a....  
a Monday morning  
b Friday afternoon  
c Saturday night
  - Most accidents happen....  
a on long-distance journeys  
b in the city centre  
c very near your house
  - The worst roads for fatal accidents are....  
a motorways b urban roads c country roads
  - Mile for mile, women have more...than men.  
a minor accidents  
b serious accidents  
c fatal accidents
  - The age at which a driver is at most risk is....  
a over 25 b between 21 and 26 c under 25

b (244)) Listen once and check your answers.

c Listen for more details for each question in a.

d Talk to a partner.

- Would these statistics probably be similar in your country?
- Do you think the age limit for having a driving licence should be raised?
- Do you think punishments for dangerous driving should be more severe?
- What else do you think would help to reduce accidents in your country?
- Do *you* or does anybody you know often drive too fast?

## 6 VOCABULARY expressions with take

- a Look at three sentences from the lesson. What do the **highlighted** phrases with *take* mean? Which one is a phrasal verb?

Do you normally **take out insurance** when you travel?

It's sensation-seeking, it's **taking risks**...

...we need to **take** the risks involved in driving **very seriously**

- b Match some more expressions and phrasal verbs with *take* to their meanings.

### Expressions with take

- take care of
- take advantage of
- take part in
- take place
- take (your) time
- take into account

- A  look after  
B  begin a new activity  
C  participate in  
D  happen  
E  1 (*for planes*) leave the ground; 2 (*for clothes*) remove  
F  do sth slowly, not in a hurry  
G  be similar to sb  
H  make use of an opportunity  
I  think about sb / sth when you are making a decision

### Phrasal verbs with take

- take after
- take off
- take up

- c Complete the questions with a phrasal verb or expression from b. Then ask and answer with a partner. Give examples to explain your answers.

- Who do you take \_\_\_\_\_ more, your father or your mother?
- Do you worry about your health? Do you take \_\_\_\_\_ yourself?
- Do you get up very quickly in the morning or do you take \_\_\_\_\_?
- Have you ever not taken \_\_\_\_\_ a good opportunity (and regretted it)?
- Have you ever taken \_\_\_\_\_ a demonstration?
- Have you taken \_\_\_\_\_ a new sport or hobby recently?
- Has any big sporting event ever taken \_\_\_\_\_ in your (nearest big) city?
- If you were thinking of buying a new computer or mobile phone, what factors would you take \_\_\_\_\_?

### Giving examples

We often use *for example* or *for instance* to give examples.

*I take after my mother, for example / for instance we both have the same sense of humour.*

## 7 WRITING

- p.115 Writing *For and against*. Write a blog post.

