P friendly intonation, showing interest

Harrison Ford, US actor

1A Questions and answers

1 READING & SPEAKING

a Look at the photos of Benedict Cumberbatch and Elisabeth Moss and read their biographical info. Have you seen any of the TV series or films that they have been in? What did you think of them?

b Now read the interviews and match questions A–G with their answers.

A **How do you relax?**
B **What don't you like about your appearance?**
C **What's your earliest memory?**
D **What makes you unhappy?**
E **If you could edit your past, what do you think you would change?**
F **What was your most embarrassing moment?**
G **Who would you most like to say sorry to?**

c Read the interviews again using the glossary to help you. Answer the questions with **BC** (Benedict Cumberbatch) or **EM** (Elisabeth Moss).

Who...?

1 ☐ had an embarrassing experience as a child
2 ☐ finds it hard to make decisions
3 ☐ avoids answering one of the questions
4 ☐ had a dangerous experience when they were travelling abroad
5 ☐ had a dangerous experience when they were young
6 ☐ often hesitates when they're speaking
7 ☐ was fond of a kind of flower when they were a child
8 ☐ has a favourite decade

d Which of the questions in the interviews do you think is...?

- the most interesting
- the most boring
- too personal to ask a person who you don't know well

e Choose six questions from *Q&A* to ask your partner.

Q&A Every week the British newspaper, The Guardian, chooses people who have been in the news recently, and publishes a short interview with them called Q&A.

The actor **Benedict Cumberbatch** was born in London in 1976. He has starred in many successful TV series and films, including *Sherlock*, *War Horse*, *Star Trek*, and *The Hobbit*.

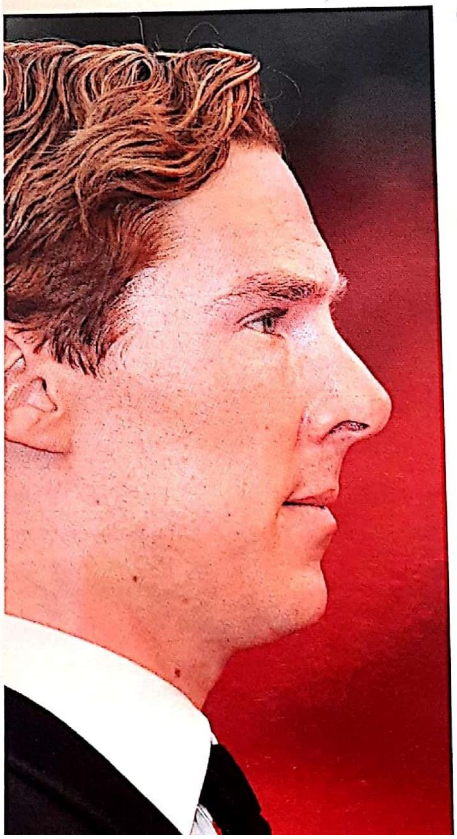
1 What's one of your happiest memories?
Sitting with the sun on my face and a beer in my hand, the morning after I had been in a car-jacking in South Africa.

2 _____
When I was six, I got stung by a wasp in a Greek market. A woman pulled down my pants and rubbed an onion on my bottom.

3 What don't you like about your personality?
I'm impatient, but also indecisive.

4 What is your greatest fear?
Forgetting people's names.

5 _____
The size and shape of my head. People say I look like Sid from *Ice Age*.



6 What costume would you wear to a fancy dress party?
I rather enjoyed wearing bandages round my face as the Invisible Man at the last one I went to. People got to know me without recognizing me.

7 Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
I say "Erm..." too much.

8 What one thing would improve the quality of your life?
Better time management.

9 _____
I might not have called Trevor Nunn, the famous director, 'Adrian' at my first audition for him.

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The actress **Elisabeth Moss** was born in California in 1982. She has been in several very successful US TV dramas, including *The West Wing* and *Mad Men* for which she won an Emmy award.

1 _____

Going out into the backyard of my home in LA and pretending to build a vegetable garden with sticks and rocks. I must have been five.

2 Which living person do you most admire?
This is kind of cheesy, but my mum.

3 Which living person do you most despise, and why?
I won't say his name.

4 _____

Not getting enough sleep.

5 What is your favourite smell?
Jasmine. I grew up in Los Angeles, in the hills, and there was always jasmine growing.

6 _____

To a really good girlfriend with whom I lost touch when I was little. I would love to see her again.

7 If you could go back in time, where would you go?
To a 1930s jazz club in New York City. I love the art deco period – the jewellery, the clothes, the music.

8 _____

I am big fan of getting a box set and watching the entire show in two or three weeks. I'm watching *The Sopranos* at the moment, because I missed it when it first came out.

9 What has been your most frightening experience?
When I was little, I was on a lake in the US and got caught underneath a rowing boat. That was pretty scary.

Glossary
car-jacking the crime of forcing the driver of a car to take you somewhere or give you their car
Emmy a US award similar to the Oscars, but for TV
backyard *AmE* back garden
cheesy *informal* too emotional or romantic in a way that is embarrassing, e.g. a cheesy love song

Adapted from The Guardian

2 GRAMMAR question formation

a Now read the questions in **1b** again and answer the questions below with a partner.

1 Which questions are examples of...?
- a subject question, where there is no auxiliary verb
- a question which ends with a preposition
- a question which uses a negative auxiliary verb

2 What happens to the word order in the question *What would you change?* when you add *do you think* after *what?*

b ➤ p.132 Grammar Bank 1A. Learn more about question formation, and practise it.

3 PRONUNCIATION
friendly intonation, showing interest

a (1)4)) Listen to some people asking questions 1–5. Who sounds friendlier and more interested each time, **a** or **b**?

1 Do you have a big family?
2 What don't you like about the place where you live?
3 What sports or games are you good at?
4 Do you think you have a healthy diet?
5 What makes you feel happy?

b (1)5)) Listen and repeat the questions with friendly intonation. Focus on sentence stress and linking.

Reacting to what someone says
When you ask someone a question and they answer, it is normal to show interest by saying, e.g. *Really?* or *Oh yes?* with a friendly intonation, or by asking a question.

c (1)6)) Now listen to the questions in a conversation. Complete the expressions or questions that the man or woman use to react to the answers.

1 *Wow* ____! That's a huge family.
2 _____? What's wrong with them?
3 _____! We could have a game one day.
4 _____! How long have you been a vegan?
5 _____? I can't think of anything worse!

d (1)7)) Listen and repeat the responses. Copy the intonation.

e Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Use friendly intonation, and react to your partner's answers.

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4 READING & VOCABULARY

a Look at the photo with the article. What do you think is happening? Do you think the question is one which someone might really ask in this situation? Why (not)?

b Read the article once and find out. How would *you* answer the question?

Guessing the meaning of new words and phrases
When you are reading and find a word or phrase you don't know:
1 Try to guess the meaning from the context (i.e. the other words around it). Think also about what part of speech the unknown word is (e.g. a verb, an adjective, etc.), whether it is similar to another English word you know, or whether it is similar to a word in your language.
2 If you still can't work out what the word or phrase means, either ignore it and carry on reading or use a dictionary (or glossary if there is one) to help you.

HOME / NEWS / UK NEWS / SOCIETY

Extreme interviews

WHAT sort of dinosaur are you? If you answered Tyrannosaurus rex, then the bad news is that you probably won't get the job you're applying for.

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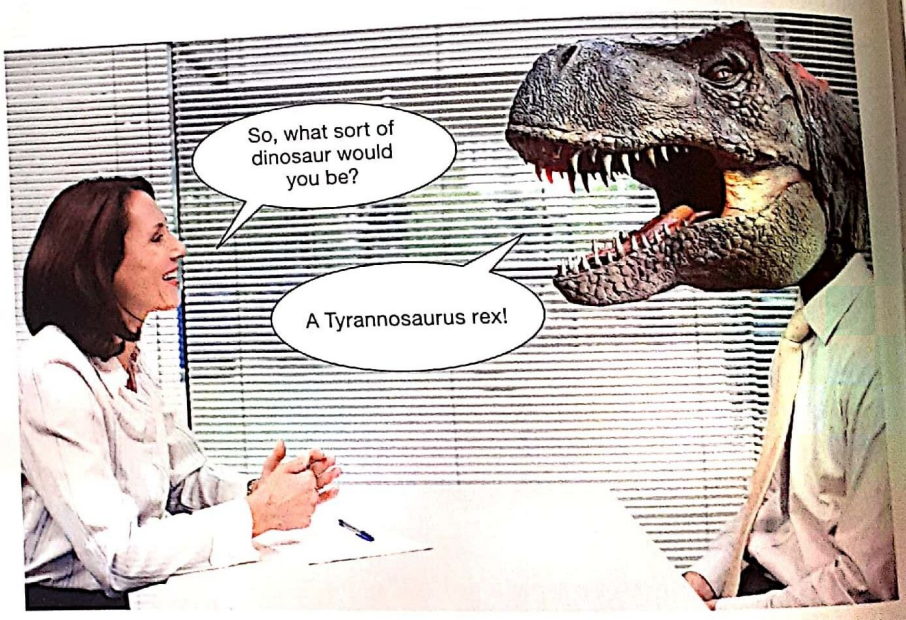

Welcome to the strange world of 'extreme interviewing', the latest trend from America in which interviewers throw bizarre questions at candidates to see how they react.

It may seem like a game, but extreme interviewing is deadly serious. The idea is to see how quickly job-seekers think on their feet and, at a time when 25% of recent graduates are unemployed, it offers employers a new way of separating the brilliant candidates from the merely very good.

This new approach to selecting candidates comes from Silicon Valley in California — where else? Google, famous for its demanding interview process, asked a recent candidate: 'You are stranded on a desert island. You have 60 seconds to choose people of 10 professions to come with you. Who do you choose? Go!'

One of the early pioneers of extreme interviewing was Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, who could be famously cruel with job seekers. Faced once with a candidate he considered boring, Jobs suddenly pretended to be a chicken, flapping his arms and making clucking noises round the unfortunate applicant, waiting to see what he would do. In fact, the secret to extreme interviewing is neither in the question nor the answer. It is in the candidate's reaction.

David Moyle, a headhunter with the recruitment agency Eximius Group in London, who admits to using the dinosaur question when selecting candidates, said: 'Essentially, that kind of interviewing is used by us to give someone an opportunity to show they are smart and not easily flustered.'

'Most candidates actually get something out of it, it's not about trying to crush them. We are trying to give them an opportunity to show their personality, rather than just showing how they perform in an interview.'

Of course, getting the job is just the start. In the modern business world, survival will depend on what sort of dinosaur you really are.

Glossary
Silicon Valley the informal name for the region in northern California where many of the world's largest technology corporations are based
headhunter a person whose job it is to find people with the necessary skills to work for a company (often in executive posts), and to persuade them to join that company

Adapted from The Sunday Times

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c Read the article again carefully. With a partner, try to work out what the highlighted words and phrases might mean, and how you think they are pronounced.

d Now match the words and phrases with 1–10.

1 _____ *adj* needing a lot of effort and skill
2 _____ *adj* nervous and confused, especially because you have been given a lot to do or are in a hurry
3 _____ *adj* very strange or unusual
4 _____ IDM to be able to think and react to things very quickly without any preparation
5 _____ *noun* a way of doing or thinking about something
6 _____ *phrase* instead of
7 _____ *verb* to destroy somebody's confidence
8 _____ *noun* a specialist company which finds and interviews candidates to fill job vacancies in other companies
9 _____ *noun* people who are looking for a job
10 _____ *verb* moving sth quickly up and down, e.g. wings

e 1.8 Listen and check. Underline the stressed syllables.

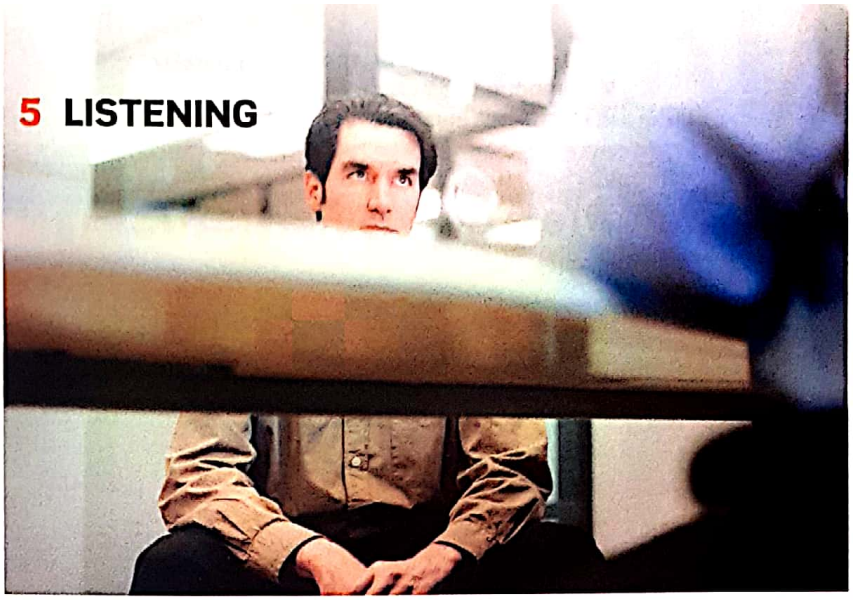
f Using your own words, answer the questions with a partner.

1 What are extreme interviews?
2 What kind of companies first started using them?
3 Why do some people think that they are better than normal interviews?

g Do you think extreme interviews are a good way of choosing candidates? Which of the questions below (used in real interviews) do you think would work well? Why?

On a scale of 1–10, how weird are you?
Which TV character are you most like?
Room, desk, or car – which do you clean first?
Does life fascinate you?
If you were a car, what car would you be?
Can you name three Lady Gaga songs?

5 LISTENING



a Have you ever been for a job interview? What kind of questions did they ask you? Did you get the job?

b 1.9 Listen to five people talking about a strange question they were asked in job interviews. Complete the questions in the first column.

What strange question were they asked?	How did they answer?	What happened in the end?
1 Do you still _____ _____?		
2 What would make you _____ a _____?		
3 _____ _____ are you? How much _____ you _____?		
4 _____ _____ would you like to be reincarnated as?		
5 Are you planning to _____ _____?		

c Listen again and make notes in the rest of the chart.

d Which of the questions did you think were good or bad to ask at an interview?

6 SPEAKING

a ➤ **Communication** *Extreme interviews* **A** *p.104* **B** *p.106*. Ask your partner 'extreme interview' questions.

b Write three extreme interview questions of your own, which you think might tell you something interesting about another person.

c Ask your questions to as many other students as possible and answer theirs.

d Which questions did you think were the most interesting? Why?

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