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INTRODUCTION

Estimado amigo,

Quiero darle la bienvenida a la nueva reedición de la obra didáctica que más me ha gustado crear: *Vaughan World*. En realidad, esta nueva reedición es más que nada un simple cambio de diseño exterior, ya que los contenidos no necesitan ningún cambio por el momento. Los personajes siguen tan vivos como siempre y su vida y milagros siguen sirviendo para introducir y practicar todas las formas y estructuras importantes del idioma inglés.

Tengo un apego especial a estos personajes... curiosamente especial... ya que todos lograron en su día adquirir vida propia en mi esquema mental. De hecho, una de las mujeres sigue siendo, hoy por hoy, mi amor platónico más patente y perdurable, un amor que renuncié transformar en físico y material con la creación de un personaje secundario, de nacionalidad alemana, hombre serio, sensato y prudente que, al igual que yo, se queda perdidamente prendado de la joven y bella ejecutiva. Como ve, me cuesta renunciar a ella, así que si no la puedo tener yo, que sea un tipo en principio poco fascinante y poco seductor quien posiblemente la consiga.

Siguiendo por la estela de lo romántico, tenemos una sevillana, tan impetuosa como la Carmen de Bizet, cuya furia y viveza se quedan suspendidas, paradas en seco, por la imponente figura de un joven alto y rubio, de acento extraño, cuyo coche ella acaba de desgraciar al saltar un stop. Así de curiosa empieza una relación cuya desenlace incluye un piso en el barrio más bohemio de París.

Después está la mona y revoltosa alemanita que ingenuamente cae bajo la influencia de un americano de oscuros antecedentes. Estudiantes universitarios los dos, en la hermosa ciudad milenaria de Heidelberg, nuestra joven y simpática aspirante a diseñadora se ve obligada a usar todas sus artes para salir indemne del embrollo.

Oscuras intrigas también envuelven la vida y movimientos de un magnate inglés del mundo del espionaje privado, hombre que mientras resuelve casos de homicidios pasionales en Londres, organiza entre bastidores la forma de sacar a su descentrado hijo ligón, con domicilio en Monte Carlo, de una trama peligrosa con la mafia corsa.

Ya con más calma conocemos a la perfecta familia del medio oeste americano, tierra de trigo y maíz, familia de padre banquero, madre decoradora, hijo deportista e hija que transita entre la niñez y la adolescencia. Ahora bien, lo curioso de esta familia, tan convencional, es cómo llega a entrar en sus vidas un hombre de la fama de George Clooney. Entre campeonatos estatales de baloncesto y refinadas estaciones de esquí, esta familia acaba por tener una vida no tan convencional al final.

Otro personaje se ve en la tesitura de llevar a toda su familia desde la perfecta organización de una vida precisa y ordenada en Japón hasta una de las zonas más exóticas de la América profunda, Luisiana. Con hijos pequeños y una esposa de la más tradicional, nuestro ingeniero de calidad japonés tiene que someterse él y toda su familia a un cambio de 180 grados en sus vidas.

Después hay un empresario italiano de asientos de coche, una química rusa con ganas de conocer el mundo, un traductor del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores francés con acceso a documentos de los más secretos y comprometedores y un modesto obrero chino que logra lo imposible: alcanzar un alto dominio del inglés sin gastar casi tiempo ni dinero. Este último es la personificación de mis consejos de cómo aprender inglés por cuenta propia.

A través de las andanzas y peripecias de mis personajes, episodio tras episodio, el lector oye a través de los CDs y lee en las páginas del libro una creciente riqueza de sustantivos, verbos, adjetivos, adverbios, preposiciones y conjunciones, todo dentro de un estilo y una sintaxis cada vez más variados y exigentes. Al fin y al cabo, las historias interesantes de nuestros personajes no son más que un pretexto o, mejor dicho, un truco... una artimaña... para conseguir la atención del estudiante y ganar "cuota de mercado" en el tiempo que dedica a hacerse con el idioma inglés.

67 EPISODES AND THEIR CORRESPONDING QUESTIONS



1. PHILLIP JOHNSON

Phillip Johnson is 39 years old. He's married and has two children. He lives in a nice house in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a businessman and he works in a bank in the center of Lincoln. He is the General Manager of the bank. He goes to work every day at 8:30 in the morning. He gets to the office at 9:00. He parks his car under the bank in the parking garage. In the morning, he usually works from 9:00 to 12:30. He spends a lot of time talking on the telephone and reading financial reports. He usually has lunch near his office. There are many good restaurants in the center of Lincoln. He goes back to the office at 1:30 and stays there until 6:00. After work, he usually goes home, but sometimes he goes to his son's school to watch him play basketball or baseball. He usually gets home from work at 6:30, but when he goes to see his son, he gets home around 8:00. He likes his job because he has a good salary and because he works with a lot of interesting people. He doesn't travel very often in his job, but from time to time he needs to go to Omaha, a city 150 miles from Lincoln. When he goes to Omaha, he usually comes back to Lincoln on the same day, but sometimes he needs to spend the night there. He usually stays at the Omaha Sheraton Hotel, but sometimes he stays in the Holiday Inn. He prefers the Sheraton because it has a breakfast buffet.

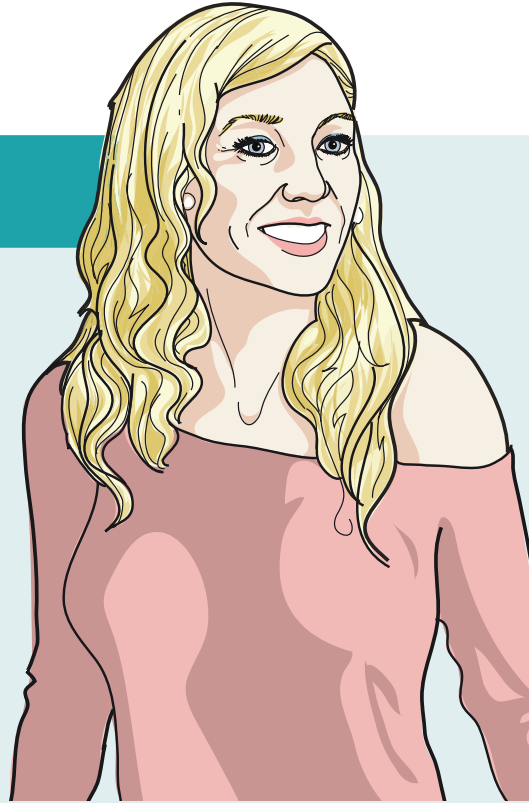


1. PHILLIP JOHNSON

1. How old is Phillip?
2. Is he married or single?
3. Does he have any children?
4. How many children does he have?
5. Does he live in New York?
6. Where does he live?
7. Does he live in a nice house?
8. Is he an actor?
9. What does he do?
10. Does he work in a pharmacy?
11. Where does he work?
12. Is the bank outside of Lincoln?
13. Where is the bank?
14. Does he have an important job?
15. What's his position in the bank?
16. Does he go to work every day?
17. What time does he go to work?
18. Does he get to the office at 8:45?
19. What time does he get to the office?
20. Does he park in the street?
21. Where does he park?
22. How long does he work in the morning?
23. Does he spend a lot of time with customers?
24. What does he spend a lot of time doing?
25. Does he have lunch at home?
26. Where does he usually have lunch?
27. Are there many good restaurants near his office?
28. What time does he go back to the office after lunch?
29. Does he stay at the office until 7 o'clock?
30. How long does he stay at the office?
31. Does he go to a bar with his friends after work?
32. Where does he usually go after work?
33. What time does he usually get home?
34. Does he always go home after work?
35. Where does he sometimes go?
36. Why does he go to his son's school?
37. What time does he get home when he's with his son?
38. Does he like his job?
39. Why does he like it?
40. Does he often travel in his job?
41. Where does he need to go from time to time?
42. How far is Omaha from Lincoln?
43. Does he usually stay in Omaha for several days?
44. How long does he usually stay in Omaha?
45. Does he always spend the night in Omaha?
46. Does he usually stay at the Palace Hotel in Omaha?
47. Where does he usually stay?
48. Where does he sometimes stay?
49. Which hotel does he prefer?
50. Why does he prefer it?

2. NANCY JOHNSON

Nancy Johnson is 38 years old. She is Phillip's wife. She lives with her husband and children in Lincoln, Nebraska. She's from Kansas, the state immediately south of Nebraska. She is an interior decorator. In the morning, she teaches interior design at a technical school 20 miles from Lincoln. She starts her classes every day at 10:00 and finishes at 12:00. She has two classes, each with about 15 students. Then she goes home to have lunch. After lunch, she goes to her husband's bank where she spends about 30 minutes with the woman responsible for expansion. She looks at the plans for the new bank branches and gives recommendations about the interior design and decoration. She doesn't receive a salary for this. She does it because the woman is a good friend of hers. In the afternoon, she works as an independent decorator. Some days, she spends two or three hours visiting different clients and other days she stays at home creating decoration plans or calling people. She decorates offices, restaurants and homes. She doesn't like to decorate offices very much because the companies usually prefer functional decoration and this is boring for her. She doesn't like to decorate restaurants either, because often the owner of the restaurant thinks that he's a professional decorator too. She likes to decorate homes because she is free to make more decisions and to be more creative.



2. NANCY JOHNSON

1. Is Nancy 33 years old?
2. How old is she?
3. Is she Nigel's wife?
4. Whose wife is she?
5. Who does she live with?
6. Where does she live?
7. Is she from Nebraska?
8. Where is she from?
9. Is Kansas far from Nebraska?
10. Is it near Nebraska?
11. Is it north or south of Nebraska?
12. Is Nancy a school teacher?
13. What does she do?
14. Does she teach?
15. What does she teach?
16. Does she teach interior design in the evenings?
17. When does she teach it?
18. Does she teach it at a university?
19. Where does she teach it?
20. Is the technical school in the center of Lincoln?
21. Where is it?
22. How many days a week does she teach?
23. What time does she start her classes?
24. What time does she finish?
25. Does she have three classes?
26. How many classes does she have?
27. Are there 20 students in each class?
28. How many students are there in each class?
29. Does she have lunch near the technical school?
30. Where does she have lunch?
31. Does she stay at home after lunch?
32. Where does she go after lunch?
33. Does she stay at the bank all afternoon?
34. Does she spend an hour there every day?
35. How much time does she spend at the bank?
36. Does she spend this time with her husband?
37. Who does she spend the time with?
38. What is this woman responsible for?
39. Does Nancy help this woman?
40. What kind of plans does she look at?
41. Does she give recommendations?
42. What kind of recommendations does she give?
43. Does she receive a nice salary for this help?
44. How much money does she receive?
45. Does she help the woman because she's bored?
46. Why does she help the woman?
47. What does Nancy do in the afternoon?
48. Does she work in an office?
49. Where does she work when she's not visiting clients?
50. What does she do when she is working at home?
51. Does she visit her clients every day?
52. How often does she visit clients?
53. Does she only decorate homes?
54. What kind of places does she decorate?
55. Does she like to decorate offices?
56. Why not?
57. Does she like to decorate restaurants?
58. Why not?
59. Does she like to decorate homes?
60. Why does she like to decorate homes?