



## IELTS LISTENING S58T3

### OFFICE RENTAL

**LARA:** Hi Tommy I haven't seen you for ages. How have you been?

**TOMMY:** Oh hi Lara I'm great I've just joined a local book club that meets every Wednesday, and I'm really enjoying it. Next week we're discussing the novels of Charles Dickens I'm really looking forward to it, as he's my favorite author.

**LARA:** Yes absolutely, his novels are wonderful. I attended Dickens book club too. Would you like to do a practice session with me in preparation for your meeting?

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**TOMMY:** Sure that sounds great let's start by discussing the main characters in david copperfield. And the ways in which they're affected by the events of the story as it develops. What do you think of Rosie?

**LARA:** I think that she's a really sweet character in the beginning, but as the story progresses **Q21 she becomes bitter**, because of how her relationships had turned out in the past.

**TOMMY:** That's true her sisters all marry and live happily ever after, but she ends up alone. It is very interesting to see how deeply the change in her personality affects her relationships.

**LARA:** What is your opinion of Flory?

**TOMMY:** I find her very manipulative. She seems intent on seeking attention, so whenever she wants something from her family members she persistently **Q22 acts in a very silly manner**, just like a kid. Unfortunately, many people do not realize this and so they give her the attention that she's seeking which only encourages her to continue behaving this way.

**LARA:** Yes Flory is the complete opposite of Lizzy. Lizzy is very sensitive and she has a **Q23 true perceptiveness into how people are feeling** and how they behave, which enables her to act appropriately towards them. She is very kind and generous and cares about how people feel.

**TOMMY:** That's true and I really like her character too. My least favorite character is Estelle because she acts so selfishly and **Q24 gets enjoyment from making others suffer**. Unfortunately, there are many people like her in the world who intend to make others feel like this.

**LARA:** It's interesting how you can associate so many of the characters with people that you know in real life. I think that the reason why Dickens is so good at **Q26 creating deep and believable characters** is because he understands human mentality.

**TOMMY:** Absolutely, what do you think of the literature lectures?

**LARA:** I really look forward to them, they're the highlight of my week. The lecturer is usually late but that gives you time to settle down and get organized before the lecture begins.

**TOMMY:** Do you have a discussion period at the end?

**LARA:** No, I don't think so we're meant to. But since the lectures often begin late this means that **Q25 there is no time left for a conversation about the lecture**. I think this is a real shame because it really helps you to gain a good understanding of the books when you hear other people's opinion of it. What about your lectures?

**TOMMY:** My lecturers have very good organization skills so their lectures are well organized and packed full of information. They always leave enough time at the end for consideration when everyone is really quiet and we reflect on the lecture in our own minds before we open up for discussion. This really helps you to gather your thoughts and absorb the information from the lecture.

**LARA:** Oh, that sounds brilliant.

**TOMMY:** Do you think there is anything that needs to be improved?

**LARA:** My experience of the course overall is really brilliant, but I feel there are many improvements that could be made to it. The IT support staff are great but there are just **Q27 not enough computers** available for the numbers of people that need to use them. Every time that I need to use a computer I have to queue up for at least 15 minutes.

**TOMMY:** I find that the librarians are really helpful and approachable. However, the equipment is just not good enough. Whenever I need to use the photocopying facilities for example most of the **Q28 machines are really old and slow**, which means that you have to wait for ages for them to work. It's really frustrating because I'm often stretched for time.

**LARA:** Perhaps we should start a petition to encourage the university to improve their facilities.

**TOMMY:** That sounds good.

**LARA:** What do you think of the group discussions?

**TOMMY:** I really enjoy them. Since the class groups are so small everyone gets to have their say and contribute thoughts to the conversation, so **Q29 the classes are really effective**. The only issue is that it's very difficult to find an opportunity to meet up since everyone has such busy schedules.

**LARA:** Yes definitely in our class we pass around a ball. And only the person holding the ball is allowed to speak. Each person is only allowed to speak for a minute at a time which helps us to make sure that **Q30 we use the class time fairly** and it also makes the discussion more fun.

**TOMMY:** That's true it's been really great catching up with you. Thanks for your help.

**LARA:** No problem good luck at your class. Bye.

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