

Part 1.

Ben: Hello, everyone. Let me introduce myself – my name's Ben and I'd like to tell you about a course you can do on Saturday mornings.

I'm from an organisation called '**Nature**' and we run courses for young people like you to do during the weekends. Now, we know that at school you learn a lot about things like science and maths, but this course is really about giving your youth group the chance to come and find out about **wildlife**. It's an area that tends to get forgotten.

We usually take groups like yours to a wild place that's near their home. Sometimes we go to a beach or a lake, but we've planned for your group to go to a **forest**. That's the closest place for you, and the easiest to get to.

Now, we'd like you to come and do some activities with us. You spend six hours each week with us and the course lasts for **12** weeks, depending on the weather. That might sound like a long time, but we think you'll be sorry when it's over!

Taking part in our activities means you get to do all sorts of things that you wouldn't normally be allowed to do at home. That includes how to safely climb trees, cut wood and build a fire.

While you're with us, we'll also show you how to make things out of different materials. On the last course, everyone designed backpacks which they were very pleased with. This time we thought we'd get you to design and make a **birdhouse**. When it's finished, you can take it home and show your family. We think you'll enjoy doing this.

Now, any questions ...?

Part 2.

Speaker 1

When I started high school, I began getting lots more homework, so I had to find ways to tackle it all. I wasn't sure whether listening to music would help me, even though my friends were doing it – or so they claimed! So I tried studying while listening to pop songs, using headphones so I didn't disturb anyone. The problem was, I'd just start singing along, trying to remember the lyrics. I was getting really distracted so it definitely wasn't working. Then I switched to some calmer classical stuff – and quickly became more focused. It has to be stuff I'm familiar with, though. I just listen to pop when I'm not studying now.

Speaker 2

My mum was really against the idea of me listening to music while I was studying. She thought that background noise would really disturb my concentration. In fact, I've found ways of using music to boost my learning. For instance, I make associations between new words in another language, say, and a piece of music – classical, pop, whatever, so whenever I hear the music, the words come to my mind. I'm going to try it out on some maths problems next – I find it hard to get those into my head. I reckon it will help, even though I'll probably find them just as uninteresting as ever!

Speaker 3

I'm really keen on music, and am usually either playing or listening to it when I'm not at school. My parents have never really minded, as long as I also keep up with schoolwork. However, they did object recently when they found me listening to rock music on headphones while I was writing an essay. They said I'd go deaf if I carried on doing it! I thought it was helping my concentration, but after what they said, I was forced to admit they'd probably got a point. So now my room is always completely quiet, and my results have never been better. In fact, I even complain sometimes about the noise from the TV downstairs!

Speaker 4

I guess there aren't many people my age who don't like listening to music. I play in an orchestra, so although I listen to lots of rock music, classical is my favourite when I want music for a specific purpose, like going running. Some people in the orchestra reckon they can study better with Mozart playing, especially when they're trying to memorise historical dates or something. They say it makes dull tasks that bit more interesting. Nevertheless, I've always known it's not my thing, so I've never been tempted to even give it a try. But I have found it's good to relax and unwind with music in between homework sessions.

Speaker 5

All my family are really into music – to the extent that it's playing all day, every day, or so it seems! But I don't mind that. I come from a big family, so I don't expect to have periods of absolute quiet when I have to get on with something at home. I often take myself off to the city library when I really want to concentrate on something. And that's where my headphones come in. If I've got some music playing softly through those, it doesn't matter what else is going on around me because I just won't notice!

Part 3.

Hello, I'm Andy Richards and I'm here to talk about my recent trip to a tea plantation in the north-east of India, where Assam tea is grown.

My trip to the tea plantation was for my first year university project. If you're not a **business studies** student, you might wonder why I chose that destination – after all, you'd think it would better suit natural sciences or geography students – but luckily I found lots that related to my course and my project.

On the first morning of the visit, we were given a talk by the plantation manager about how the tea's grown. I discovered that the region where it's grown is really hot and experiences high rainfall. The humidity traps the heat in and provides perfect growing conditions – a kind of **natural greenhouse** if you like. It certainly felt like one anyway!

After the talk, we were invited to a tea tasting session. We went along the veranda of the plantation house and into the dining room. On the other side was a separate room called the **gallery** and this was where the tea tasting took place. Awaiting us was a range of fifty-seven different types of tea blends from around the world.

Then, we went on a tour of the plantation and saw the tea pickers who were mainly women. They were amazingly fast and skilful. They used their thumbs and forefingers to pick the **buds** and leaves from the stem of the tea plant. I was surprised because I thought only the leaves would get picked. I got to ask a lot of questions about the commercial aspects of the plantation for my project.

To finish off a fantastic first day, a special afternoon tea complete with elephant ride had been organised. I had a fantastic view from the elephant's back and I was amazed that I was able to catch a glimpse of the **mountains** on the horizon. We wandered along the roads and through the local villages, watching the local people going about their daily lives.

Eventually, we arrived at a neighbouring tea garden where refreshments were waiting for us. We had **sandwiches** that literally melted in your mouth – why don't they taste like that at home? We also tried some curry puffs and some cream cakes ... a speciality of the area apparently. And there was tea too obviously!

After a while, the sun began to go down and we could choose how to get back to the plantation. Some chosen to walk or go by elephant. I decided to ride a vintage motorbike back, which meant driving through the villages on a muddy track. I was OK until I tried to cross a **stream**. The tyres slipped on the stones, but luckily I only got my feet wet!

We were lucky that our two-day visit coincided with the Saturday market in the nearest village. I was surprised at how big it was and I spent several hours wandering down the narrow aisles between the stalls looking at the jewellery, the colourful saris and believe it or not – the **winter jackets**! That was rather puzzling considering the weather!

I had a go at bargaining for the best price for some presents. I was a bit embarrassed to begin with. I started off buying a bag for my older sister. I probably paid too much to be honest but later I bought a **nose ring** for my other sister – and by then I'd really got into it! I think I got a real bargain there!

Everything was larger than life in that market – especially the food ... nothing like shopping in a supermarket back home. The red poppers looked as if they'd been polished, the colourful spices were overflowing out of large sacks and the **carrots** were bright red too, twice the size I'm used to, so I actually bought some of those – tasted amazing.

Now let me move on to the lavish dinner they prepared.