4 READING

a Read the story.

The fisherman and the banker

An American banker was on holiday abroad. He was walking on a beautiful beach near a small village. He saw a fisherman in his boat with a few fish in it.

'Great fish!' he said. 'How long did it take you to catch them?'

'Not very long,' answered the fisherman.

'Why didn’t you stay at sea longer to catch some more?' asked the banker.

'There are just enough fish here to feed my family,' answered the fisherman.

Then the American asked, 'But what do you do the rest of the time?'

'I sleep late, I fish a little, I play with my kids, and I relax. In the evening, I go to see my friends in the village. We drink wine and play the guitar. I'm busier than you think. Life here isn't as...'

The American interrupted him. 'I have an MBA from Harvard University and I can help you. You're not fishing as much as you can. If you start fishing for longer periods of time, you'll get enough money from selling the fish to buy a bigger boat. Then with the money you'll get from catching and selling more fish, you could buy a second boat, and then a third one, and so on. Then instead of selling your fish to shops, you could sell them directly to a fish factory, or even open your own factory. Then you'll be able to leave your little village for the city, and finally move to New York, where you could direct the company.'

'How long will that take?' asked the fisherman.

'About 15 to 20 years,' answered the banker.

'And then?'

'Then it gets more interesting,' said the American, smiling and talking more quickly. 'When the moment comes, you can put your company on the stock market and you will make millions.'

'Millions? But then what?'

'Then you can retire, live in a small village by the sea, go to the beach, sleep late, play with your kids...'

b Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

1 The fisherman needed to catch more fish. F
2 The American thought he was very busy. _
3 The American wanted him to work harder. _
4 He told the fisherman to buy more boats. _
5 The American said that he couldn’t live in New York. _
6 The American promised the fisherman a lot of money. _

5 LISTENING

a [eBook] Listen to five speakers talk about how their lives have changed. Who...?

1 has just started working from home _
2 has had a baby _
3 has lost his / her job _
4 has moved to a different country J
5 has retired _

b Listen again. Which two people are happiest about the changes?

Who is the least happy?

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

abbreviations /əbriˈvɪʃənz/
characters /ˈkærəktərz/
nowadays /ˌnaʊədeɪz/
story /ˈstɔːri/
irritable /ˌɪrɪtəbl/ patient (opp impatient) /pəˈʃɛnt/ queue /kjuː/ stressed /ˈstresd/ stressful /ˈstresfl/ tips /ˈtɪps/