

# The Road Less Travelled

## Episode 8: The answerphone

### The story so far:

Katie has spent all night thinking about the incident with the police that spoiled an otherwise fantastic date with Michael. She wants to clear the air with Michael, so gives him a call.



## Listening

1. Listen to the episode. How many messages does Katie leave? How does Katie feel about talking to answerphones?
2. Now listen again. This time listen carefully to decide which of the following sentences are true (T) and which are false (F). Correct the false ones.
  - a) Katie thinks Michael may have misunderstood her first message.
  - b) Katie's number is 804 555 3271.
  - c) Katie leaves a message every time she calls.
  - d) Katie would really like Michael to call her back or send her a message soon.

## Language

Which of the following things do you do when you reach an answerphone? Mark them with an **A** for *always*, an **S** for *sometimes* and an **N** for *never* then compare your answers with a partner.

- Hang up immediately.
- Try a mobile number if it's a land line and vice versa.
- Leave your name.
- Say what time and day it is.
- Leave your phone number.
- Tell the person briefly why you're calling.
- Ask the person to call you back.
- Tell the person you'll call back later.
- Leave a message that's really too long!

Now prepare a message to leave on your friend's answerphone for one of the following situations, then practise saying it:

- You are going to be late to meet your friend this afternoon.
- You want to invite your friend to the cinema this evening.
- You want to ask your friend for some advice.
- You have some really exciting news to tell your friend.

## Discussion

- When was the last time you left a message on somebody's phone?
- Do you like leaving messages? Why / why not?
- Do you think Katie left too many messages for Michael?
- Why do you think Michael didn't answer Katie's calls?
- What do you think will happen next between Katie and Michael?

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### Transcript

MM: Hello. This is Michael Mensah's cell phone. I can't take your call right now, so please leave a message and I'll call you back.

KATIE: Hi Michael, it's Katie. Um, I just wanted to say thanks for a great evening ... well, I mean, most of the evening was great, apart from the incident ... total nightmare. I couldn't believe it! I can't stop thinking about how horrid they were to you. Anyway, I um, I hate speaking to answerphones, so um, yeah, bye!



MM: Hello. This is Michael Mensah's cell phone. I can't take your call right now, so please leave a message and I'll call you back.

KATIE: Hi Michael, it's me again... Katie. I guess you're busy. Anyway, I just wanted to say I didn't mean the evening was a total nightmare. Not at all. I meant to say it was great, and well, you know I wondered if you wanted to go out again one day? So, uh, just let me know. I think you've got my number? So, um, have a nice day! Have a nice day???  
Did I really say that? What an idiot! Oh, I hate answerphones!

MM: Hello. This is Michael Mensah's cell phone. I can't take your call right now, so please leave a message and I'll call you back.

KATIE: Hi again, it's me. Now I think about it, maybe you haven't got my number? Well, just in case it's 804 555 3261. Oh, of course you've got my number it'll be recorded on your mobile, won't it? Sorry ... Yeah, um ... sorry for bothering you again!

MM: Hello. This is Michael Mensah's cell phone. I can't take your call right now, so please leave a message and I'll call you back.

KATIE: Oh, not again!

MM: Hello. This is Michael Mensah's cell phone. I can't take your call right now, so please leave a message and I'll call you back.

KATIE: Hi. Yes, it's Katie again. Listen, are you all right? I'm a bit worried about you. You normally pick up your messages really quickly. Anyway, could you give me a ring and just let me know that everything is okay? Or, send me a quick text message? I'm a bit of a worrier. Sorry!

### Answer key

#### Listening

1. She leaves four messages. Katie hates talking to answerphones.
2. a) T  
b) F – her number is 804 555 3261.  
c) F – she doesn't leave a message the fourth time.  
d) T



#### Language

Students' own answers.