

Episode 1: Preparations

The story so far:

A couple of years have passed since Katie and Michael left LA and set up home together in New York. Katie's acting career has gone from strength to strength and Michael's poetry has led him into the theatre world of New York. Meanwhile, back in LA, things aren't going half as well for Sal and Rich.



Listening

- Listen to the episode, then read the sentences below. Who said each sentence? Write *K* for Katie and *M* for Michael. Write *KM* if they both said it.**
 - We spent the whole morning working on one scene.
 - I've just confirmed our tickets to the UK ...
 - It took some convincing, but yes!
 - Don't say any more, you'll bring us bad luck.
 - He sold it in the end?
 - ... I'm also so excited to show you around!
- Work with a partner. Look at the sentences in exercise 1 and use them to help you retell the story of the episode. What are Katie and Michael going to do? What has happened to Sal and Rich? Listen to the recording again and check.**

Language

- Look at the phrases from the episode and choose the best explanation.**
 - It took some convincing.
 - It was easy to convince them.
 - It was difficult to convince them.
 - It didn't convince them.
 - They bought the business for hardly anything.
 - The business was sold cheaply.
 - The business was sold at a high price.
 - It was hard for them to buy the business.
 - He's pretty much waiting tables.
 - He's waiting tables most of the time.
 - He's only waiting tables.
 - He's good at waiting tables.
 - They'll find a way.
 - Things will get better for them.
 - Things won't get better for them.
 - They are going to leave.

4. Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- I know hardly anything about ...
- It would take some convincing for me to ...
- I would like to find a way to ...
- In ... our English course will be pretty much over.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Discussion

5. Talk together and answer the following questions.

- The economic crisis in the United States affected Sal and Rich very badly, but doesn't seem to have affected Katie and Michael that much. Which people were affected most by the economic crisis in your country?
- Sal says that waiting on tables has completely changed Rich. In what way, do you think?
- Why might Michael be nervous about meeting Katie's parents?
- What do you think will happen next?



Transcript

MICHAEL: Hello Katie! I'm back.

KATIE: Hi. How did it go?

MICHAEL: Oh, you know. The usual. We spent the whole morning working on one scene. I still think I'm better at poetry writing than writing for the theatre.

KATIE: I know, Michael, but do you know how many people would love to be in your position; helping writers for plays on Broadway, in New York?

MICHAEL: And how many people would be jealous of you and your acting career here? We're very lucky.

KATIE: Ok, well, don't say any more, you'll bring us bad luck. There. I've just confirmed our tickets to the UK for Christmas this year.

MICHAEL: That's great. Are Sal and Rich coming?

KATIE: It took some convincing, but yes! She just sent me a Facebook message. It's going to be great to see each other again!

MICHAEL: I'm glad. That was very generous of you, to buy her the tickets.

KATIE: Well, it's been so *terrible* for her and Rich recently. I mean, they're about to lose the house. They can't make any more payments on the mortgage. And then Rich had to sell the club ...

MICHAEL: He sold it in the end?

KATIE: Yes, I didn't tell you? A larger company bought the whole business for hardly anything. Rich asked to stay on as manager but in the end he's pretty much just waiting tables. Sal says it has completely changed him.

MICHAEL: I'm sure they'll find a way. These are difficult times for everyone.

KATIE: Well, not everyone ...

MICHAEL: Don't say any more, you'll bring us bad luck.

KATIE: Ok, ok. Anyway, we'll all be able to catch up in England. And I'm also so excited to show you around!

MICHAEL: Yes ... yes.

KATIE: What's wrong?

MICHAEL: It's just, I'm a bit nervous, that's all. About meeting your parents.

KATIE: Oh, don't worry. Everything is going to be *just fine*.



Answer key

Listening

1. a. M
b. K
c. K
d. KM
e. M
f. K



Language

3. 1. b
2. a
3. a
4. a