



FRANK SMITH

You are going to listen to a recording about a man called Frank Smith. Complete the exercises below. Try not to read the text until you have completed the exercises. Remember, you can listen as many times as you need to, so don't worry if it seems difficult to understand when you listen for the first time.

I. BEFORE YOU LISTEN.

Match the words in A with the definitions in B. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

A

gets on well with

trade union

hearings

unfair dismissal

unemployed

unemployment benefit

barely

B

illegally sacking someone from their job

without a job although able to work

has a good relationship with; likes

organization of workers which exists to protect their interests

only just but with difficulty

official meetings to decide what action to take

money paid by the government to the unemployed



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2. LISTEN TO THE RECORDING.

Decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
a) Frank enjoys his job.	—	—
b) He has a good relationship with his colleagues.	—	—
c) Frank is very active in his local trade union.	—	—
d) Susan hasn't had a job for a year and a half.	—	—
e) Susan doesn't mind doing the household chores.	—	—



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3. LISTEN AGAIN.

Answer the questions below.

a) What two reasons are given for Frank and Susan's money problems?

b) How old is Jack?

c) Give four examples of things Frank and Susan can't afford to do or buy.

d) What two things do Frank and Susan do if they have any spare money at the end of the month?



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4. LISTEN AND READ.

Listen again to the recording and read the text to check your answers the questions above.

FRANK SMITH

Frank Smith has a job in a small factory. He doesn't like his job very much but he gets on well with his colleagues, and has a good relationship with his employer. He's been working at the same factory for more than twenty years, so you could say that he has a lot of experience. He belongs to a trade union. In fact, Frank works very hard helping to organize the work of the local branch of his union. He's involved in negotiating pay increases with the factory's management team and he represents his colleagues in disciplinary hearings, cases of unfair dismissal and so on.

His wife, Susan, has been unemployed for the last eighteen months. She stays at home and looks after the house. She likes being at home but gets bored of doing the housework. She particularly dislikes ironing and doing the washing up. She wants Frank to buy her a dishwasher but Frank doesn't think it's a very good idea. You see, money is a big problem for Frank and Susan. Frank doesn't earn a very good salary at the factory and Susan receives very little unemployment benefit. They have a twelve-year-old son called Jack who needs books for school and new clothes and all the other things a twelve-year-old boy needs these days. Frank and Susan's income is barely enough for three people to live on, so they have to be very careful about what they spend. They can't afford to go abroad for a holiday. And Frank and Susan have none of the latest gadgets they see advertised on the television – ipods, flat screen televisions and wireless Internet access. They're very worried about their old age and if they do have any spare money at the end of the month they put it towards their pension, or they put it towards helping Jack with his studies. Frank and Susan want Jack to have every opportunity to get a good job when he's older. To do something where he can earn enough money to live a better life than his parents.