

**S P E A K I N G – R O L E P L A Y**

**Student**

During your stay at an American college, you spent more time working in the local fast-food restaurant than studying. You wanted to earn money to take home as your parents deserve it, spending so much on your studies. However, you have failed a final examination and will not be given your diploma. You cannot imagine travelling home without having graduated. You have decided to visit the president of the college to explain your situation and convince them to give you another chance.



**S P E A K I N G – R O L E P L A Y**

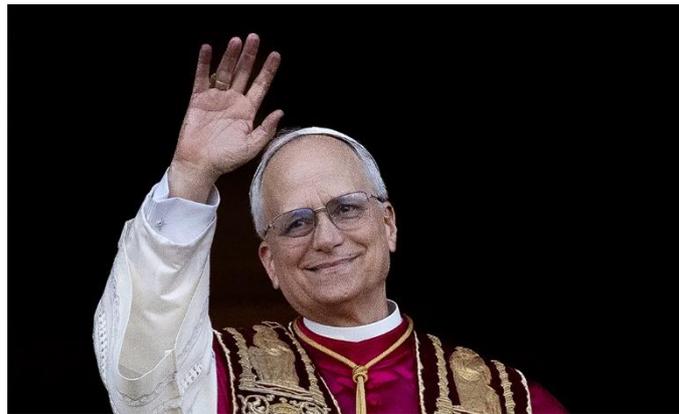
**Teacher – President of the college**

One of your foreign students spent more time working in the local fast-food restaurant than studying their chosen study programme. They have failed the final examination and will not be given their diploma. You have decided to teach this student a lesson, although you understand their situation.

**S P E A K I N G   -   P I C T U R E S**

Look at the pictures related to five famous personalities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Discuss all the pictures, focusing on:

- the position of the person in society and people's expectations from them
- advantages and disadvantages of being in their positions.
- Finally, share your opinion on the quote "We all want to be famous people, but the moment we want to be something, we are no longer free." (Jiddu Krishnamurti)



**L I S T E N I N G   T A P E   S C R I P T**

**(Please read once.)**

**You will hear a text about Los Angeles. For questions 01-05, complete the gaps using the number of the words given. You will score 1 point for each correct answer. You will hear the text only once.**

**Postcards from L.A.**

Since the mid-1900s, Los Angeles city and county, have developed into a massive sprawl, shaped by economic, political, social, and natural forces in positive and negative ways. L.A.'s Mediterranean-like climate makes it a popular destination, while natural disasters, such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake and the wildfires in January 2025, have caused widespread destruction.

Today, many 'Angelenos', as the city's locals are known, are trying to preserve and restore L.A. in the face of such forces. They're rebuilding the neighbourhoods that were destroyed by the wildfires, for example, while protecting other areas against gentrification and unwanted development.

For her part, Valerie Hanley is trying to help keep Olvera Street the way it's been for almost 100 years. She says several of its historic stores have shut down recently because of a decline in visitors and 'brick-and-mortar' shopping (which means shopping in stores with a physical presence in a building).

As the treasurer of the Olvera Street Merchants Association Foundation, she is asking the city of L.A., which manages the street, to invest in organising events to attract more visitors. 'Brick-and-mortar everywhere is closing down,' she says. 'So, it's extremely difficult to keep something like this alive. The problem is that if you lose these businesses, you also lose the history behind them.'

L.A.'s modern history began in 1781, when 44 settlers established a 'pueblo' (town) on land that had been lived on by the indigenous Tongva people for many centuries. The land was owned by the Kingdom of Spain at the time, and the settlers called the town 'El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles' (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of Angels). Buildings and monuments from the original town still stand in what is today Downtown Los Angeles.

In 1821, after the Mexican War of Independence, the land came under Mexican rule, and the town became a city called Los Angeles. In 1850, California joined the Union as a state and Los Angeles officially became American.

The city's population exploded in the late 1800s as people arrived on the new railroads from other U.S. states and other countries. At the same time, L.A.'s first electric streetcar (tram) started operating, and new cities began springing up across L.A. County.

By the 1950s, the car had replaced the streetcar as the main mode of transport, and farmland was being developed for residential and industrial use. Former Beverly Hills mayor Joe Tilem (aged 97) moved to L.A. in 1948 and remembers the San Fernando Valley to the north as being 'very sparsely occupied'.

'You'd drive out there and you'd buy fresh corn from the corn stand or fresh tomatoes from the tomato stand, because there were gardens and fields of things growing,' says Tilem. 'Now, nothing grows in San Fernando Valley. The orange groves that were there are all gone and all the agriculture is no more.'

Today, L.A. County has 88 cities and almost ten million people, making it the most populous county in the U.S. Angelenos use the term 'neighbourhood' to refer to cities and areas within cities. And each neighbourhood has its own story and vibe.

**A N S W E R   K E Y**

**GRAMMAR – 15pts**

01 had been   02 had left   03 being   04 was/were captured   05 would be mentioned  
06 had/'d started   07 should have made   08 is going to strike   09 will never survive  
10 had/'d gone   11 to do   12 have/'ve been doing   13 will save   14 rises   15 would back

**VOCABULARY – 10pts (SPELLING COUNTS!) - 0.5 for each**

01 retirement   02 endlessly   03 anxious   04 environmental   05 minutiae   06 unemptied  
07 skyrocketing   08 imploding   09 everyone   10 deprivation   11 distinguish   12 harvester  
13 stressy/stressful   14 autumnal   15 invariably   16 without   17 joyless  
18 determination   19 significant   20 Scottish

**READING COMPREHENSION – 10pts**

01 C   02 L   03 I   04 E   05 B   06 K   07 G   08 D   09 J   10 F

**VOCABULARY – PROGRESSIVE TEST**

e.g. hold up = delay/rob  
hold off = delay starting/resist  
hold in = restrain emotion

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5pts**

01 wildfires   02 historic stores/shops   03 history behind them  
04 Spanish (through) Mexican (to) American   05 stories (and) vibes/vibes (and) stories

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