

In episode 17, Robert gets an important phone call and Mei's boss speaks with her. What do you think they talk about?

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. a good listener
2. to swear
3. to brainstorm
4. an app
5. to be short for something
6. exhausted

Definition

- a. to use bad or rude language
- b. an application; a program for a phone or computer
- c. very tired
- d. to be a shorter version of a long name
- e. to think up new ideas
- f. someone who listens to you carefully, especially when you are talking about a problem

Tasks

Task 1

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

Chico	Mei	Mei's boss
Milton	Milton's mother	Robert

1. is a good listener.
2. agrees with Mei about not using the word 'guys' in the office.
3. needs to think up some new ideas.
4. has been looking for Robert and is coming to London soon.
5. returns home.
6. is unwell.

Task 2

Match the sentences (a–j) with the speaker (1 or 2).

Speaker

1. Mei
.....
2. Robert
.....

Sentences

- a. What's a swear box?
- b. Do you mind if I answer it?
- c. You haven't forgotten your keys, have you?
- d. Hello? Yes, speaking.
- e. I can't believe it!
- f. Bye for now.
- g. I think I helped him with some things.
- h. Things here are going much better.
- i. Who's Francisco?
- j. He remembers me too!

Discussion

Have you ever heard from a friend after a long time apart?

Transcript

Mei: Hi, Jiang. How are things with you? I'm really happy to say things here are going much better. I've seen Robert quite a lot. We have dinner sometimes when he's free. And we go to the cinema together too. I really like him. He's a good listener and we can help each other with our problems. He helped me at work and I think I helped him with some things. Things are much better at work now – I speak more now and people listen to me ...

Steve (boss): Good morning, Mei.

Mei: Good morning.

Steve (boss): Have you got a minute?

Mei: Yes. Of course.

Steve (boss): Um, I've been thinking about what you said, about using the word 'guys'.

Mei: Oh.

Steve (boss): And I think you're right.

Mei: Do you?

Steve (boss): Yeah. I thought about it and you're right. If I say 'I had dinner with the guys from work', then people think I'm talking about men, not women. You're right – we use it here all the time without thinking. So – I've got this.

Mei: What is it?

Steve (boss): Look.

Mei: It says 'Guy box'. What's that?

Steve (boss): Have you ever heard of a swear box?

Mei: No. What's a swear box?

Steve (boss): Every time someone uses a bad word – a swear word – they have to put some money in the box. But this box is for every time someone says 'guys'.

Mei: If they say 'guys', they have to put money in the box?

Steve (boss): Yep. And it's already got money in it. Listen.

Mei: OK. Thanks, Steve.

Steve (boss): Not at all. Oh, just a minute, Mei. Um, we're having an ideas session next week, to brainstorm some ideas for new apps, things we can design and produce. I'd like you to be there. I'm interested in your opinions.

Mei: Oh. Yes. Of course, Steve.

Mei: So I'm going to the meeting. And now I've got to get some ideas for new apps – start thinking, Jiang. What apps would you like to have? Ones that don't exist yet ... I'll ask Robert and Milton too. Ah! You remember Robert told me the story about his friend Chico and how he wants to find him again? Well ...

Mei: So I think Milton is coming back soon. He said he would try and get a flight today or tomorrow.

Robert: I don't know the number ... Sorry, Mei, do you mind if I answer it? I get nervous when I don't know the number ...

Mei: Of course. Answer it.

Robert: Hello? Yes, speaking. Who? Francisco? It can't be! Chico? I can't believe ... When? Really!? Of course – I ... I'll text you my address – the hotel, I mean. I work in a hotel – I live there. How did you ...? OK, OK. Yes, yes, of course. Bye for now.

Mei: So? Who's Francisco?

Robert: Chico. It was Chico. The one I told you about. Chico is short for Francisco. It was him, Mei! It was Chico! And he's coming to London. He's got a job here. Starting next month. He's been trying to find me for a long time – he remembers me too! Oh my lord! I can't believe it ...

Mei: So that was a surprise for Robert! And for me too. We're going to meet Chico – someone from Robert's past. And Milton's home too. I was home last night, just about to go to bed ...

Mei: Who is it?

Milton: It's me. Milton.

Mei: Milton! Oh, it's nice to see you.

Milton: You too.

Mei: You haven't forgotten your keys, have you?

Milton: No. I just wanted to say 'hi'.

Mei: Hi. How's your mother?

Milton: Not good. It's late – we'll talk tomorrow, Mei. I need to get some sleep now. I'm exhausted. I'll see you tomorrow. Let's have dinner or something ...

Mei: So I'll see Milton tonight – and Robert too, I hope, and find out all the news! I'll let you know what's happening, Jiang – and don't forget to think of some ideas for apps for me. Speak to you soon.

Answers

Preparation task

1. f
2. a
3. e
4. b
5. d
6. c

Task 1

1. Robert
2. Mei's boss
3. Mei
4. Chico
5. Milton
6. Milton's mother

Task 2

1. a, c, g, h, i
2. b, d, e, f, j