

In episode 19, Robert gets good news, but is confused. What do you think he's confused about?

## Before listening

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

### Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

#### Vocabulary

1. ..... to transfer
2. ..... a vacancy
3. ..... Rio de Janeiro
4. ..... to take over
5. ..... sudden
6. ..... Borneo
7. ..... conservation
8. ..... to rent

#### Definition

- a. a place or a job that is available
- b. protection of animals and plants
- c. a large city in Brazil
- d. quick and unexpected
- e. to start doing something that someone else was doing before
- f. to move from one place to another
- g. to pay (or receive) money every month, week, day, etc. for the use of something
- h. a large island in South-East Asia

## Tasks

### Task 1

Write a number (1–6) to put the events in the order they are mentioned.

\_\_\_\_\_ The hotel manager tells Robert he should leave by the end of next month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Milton says that Carolina's flat is available.

\_\_\_\_\_ The hotel manager offers Robert a transfer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chico tells Robert he's coming to London very soon.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chico says he wants to find a place to live.

\_\_\_\_\_ The hotel manager tells Robert to take a Portuguese test.

**Task 2**

Circle the best answer.

1. There is a vacancy in ..... .
  - a. a small hotel in Rio de Janeiro
  - b. a large hotel in Rio de Janeiro
  - c. a large hotel in Borneo
2. There is a vacancy because ..... .
  - a. the hotel is new
  - b. the hotel is expanding
  - c. the current manager is retiring
3. When he hears the news, Robert is ..... .
  - a. shocked
  - b. excited
  - c. calm
4. Robert needs to have an ..... level of Portuguese.
  - a. intermediate
  - b. upper intermediate
  - c. advanced
5. Chico is coming to London ..... .
  - a. at the weekend
  - b. next week
  - c. next month
6. .... suggests sharing a flat.
  - a. Robert
  - b. Milton
  - c. Chico
7. Robert goes for ..... with Milton and Mei.
  - a. a drink
  - b. dinner
  - c. a walk
8. Carolina isn't coming back to her flat soon because ..... .
  - a. she's starting work on a conservation project in Borneo
  - b. she wants to find a cheaper one
  - c. she's going to Borneo to be with Jamie

**Discussion**

Do your friends live near you?

## Transcript

**Robert:** Hello, Jessie. Too much is happening in my life! I think I'm going mad! After that incredible phone call from Chico that I told you about, I got some more 'big' news. My boss Mr Rowlands asked me to go and see him today – and what do you think he said ...?

**Mr Rowlands:** Hello, Robert. How are things going with you?

**Robert:** Very well, thank you, Mr Rowlands. I hope you're well too ...?

**Mr Rowlands:** Very well, thank you, Robert. Now, Robert, I've got some good news for you.

**Robert:** Oh yes?

**Mr Rowlands:** You wanted to transfer to Brazil when you finished your training – and I'm pleased to tell you we have a vacancy in one of our smaller hotels in Rio de Janeiro.

**Robert:** Rio de Janeiro!

**Mr Rowlands:** Yes. A nice surprise, no? The manager has been ill and has decided to retire – well, unfortunately for him, but fortunately for you. We'd like you to take over.

**Robert:** Take over?

**Mr Rowlands:** Yes, as manager. The job's got your name on it. I'm very happy with the work you've done here and I'm confident you will do a good job in Brazil.

**Robert:** Oh, good heavens! Manager of a hotel in Rio de Janeiro!

**Mr Rowlands:** You look shocked, Robert. It is what you wanted, isn't it?

**Robert:** Oh yes, yes, yes, of course – it's what I've wanted for a long time. It's just a bit sudden – for it to happen *now*.

**Mr Rowlands:** Well, you'd better start getting organised. You'll need to take a language test – you've been learning Portuguese, haven't you?

**Robert:** Um, yes, I've been having some lessons ...

**Mr Rowlands:** You'll need to be a B2 level for the job.

**Robert:** What does that mean?

**Mr Rowlands:** The level is 'upper intermediate' – it means you can speak Portuguese quite well. Remember, a lot of your staff will be Brazilian – you have to speak the language confidently.

**Robert:** Yes, yes, of course. Confidently.

**Mr Rowlands:** So get the language test done and we'll start organising the visa and travel arrangements – you should be leaving ...

**Robert:** He said I should think about leaving at the end of next month – at the latest! Oh Jessie! Why does everything happen at the same time! I went back to work after the

conversation with Mr Rowlands, but I couldn't concentrate on anything. And then I got another phone call. Guess who from ...

**Robert:** Hello? Chico! Yes, yes, I'm fine. Yes – and I can't wait to see you. So when are you coming to London? When can we meet? Next week?! That's fantastic! Well, no, you can't really stay with me, I'm afraid. I live at the hotel. I can try and find you a room for a few nights, but it's expensive. I'll see if I ... You want to find a flat? Well, yes – I'd love to share a flat with you – yes, of course, it would be lovely, but I ...

**Robert:** So, Chico's coming to London next week to try and find a flat. What do you think of that, Jessie? I get my dream job in Brazil, and Chico is coming to live in London. And he asked if I would like to share a flat with him! What game is the universe playing with me?! And then I went for a drink with Mei and Milton.

**Milton:** So, I got a phone call from Carolina this morning.

**Robert:** Carolina?

**Mei:** His friend who lives downstairs. She's in France at the moment.

**Milton:** Well, she isn't staying in France. She's off to Borneo.

**Robert:** Borneo! I thought Brazil was unusual!

**Milton:** It sounds weird, but it isn't. Her boyfriend – or friend, I'm not sure any more – his name's Jamie. Well, he's living in Borneo. He's doing some work with orangutans – it's a conservation project. And Carolina's going to join him there.

**Robert:** Wow.

**Mei:** But what about her flat?

**Milton:** She wants to rent it – quite cheaply. She asked me to see if I can find someone who'd like to rent it for nine months or a year. (*Robert makes a sudden sound.*)

**Milton:** You OK, Robert?

**Robert:** Fine. There's a flat to rent in your building?

**Milton:** That's right. It's a shame you're going to Brazil, Robert. We could all live in the same building ...

**Robert:** So there you are, Jessie. A flat for Chico – or even for Chico and me ... Oh! What in the world am I going to do?

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. f
2. a
3. c
4. e
5. d
6. h
7. b
8. g

### Task 1

- 3 The hotel manager tells Robert he should leave by the end of next month.
- 6 Milton says that Carolina's flat is available.
- 1 The hotel manager offers Robert a transfer.
- 4 Chico tells Robert he's coming to London very soon.
- 5 Chico says he wants to find a place to live.
- 2 The hotel manager tells Robert to take a Portuguese test.

### Task 2

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. b
5. b
6. c
7. a
8. c