

Writing home Episode 20

In the final episode of the series, Milton, Mei and Robert have dinner together. What do you think Milton and Robert will decide to do?

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	Definition
 to worry someone a recipe 	a. an expression of good wishes when you hold up a glass of alcohol
3 to follow your heart	b. instructions that tell you how to cook food
4 to point at	c. to show something with your hand or an object
5 to recognise	d. to make someone feel unhappy and frightened
6 a toast	e. to know someone or something because you have seen them or it before
	f. to do what you feel is right for you

Tasks

Task 1

Match the sentences (a–j) with the person who says them (1–3).

Person	Sentence
1. Mei	a. Go to Brazil, you'll love the job.
	b. Go to Florida. Family is the most important.
2. Milton	c. I can go to Brazil and be the manager of a hotel.
	d. I can stay in London and share a flat with Chico.
3. Robert	e. I have the chance of a part in a TV series.
	f. My mother is ill. So do I go to Florida?
	g. Now I'm much happier and I feel more confident.
	h. Stay in London. Follow your heart.
	i. Take the job – it's your dream.
	j. Things were very difficult for me at work at first.



Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

		Answer	
1.	Mei doesn't miss home so much now that she has good friends in	True	False
	London.	True	False
2.	Mei, Robert and Milton go for dinner at a Chinese restaurant.	True	False
3.	Mei and Robert have important decisions to make, but Milton doesn't.	True	False
4.	Robert wanted to go to Brazil to find Chico, but now Chico is in London.	True	False
5.	Robert's idea is an app that recognises famous singers when you're		
	listening to songs.	True	False
6.	Milton's idea is an app that helps people find clean public toilets.	True	False
7.	Mei's idea is an app that helps people if they are lost in London.	True	False
8.	Milton, Mei and Robert all feel positive about the future.		

Discussion

What do you think Milton and Robert should do?



Transcript

Mei: Hi, Mum and Dad. I hope you're both well. I'm fine – things are actually going really well now. I didn't want to worry you before, but things were very difficult for me at work at first. But now I'm much happier and I feel more confident. I've got some good friends now, so I don't miss home quite so much. I've told you all about Milton and Robert before. We go out together quite a lot. Last night they both came around to my house for dinner. I cooked duck and vegetables – with your special rice, Mum.

Milton: Mmm, Mei – this is delicious. How did you cook the duck?

Mei: In the oven. Roasted, for quite a long time, with some Chinese spices.

Robert: I want the recipe.

Mei: It's my mum's recipe. I'll give it to you.

Milton: Mmmm. I love food!

Robert: What do you mean, you love food?

Milton: It helps. I mean, we've all got so many things to think about and worry about, but we sit down and eat this delicious duck and everything's OK.

Mei: Well, you and Robert have to make important decisions, but I don't. I'm quite happy at the moment. I'm not 'maybe going to Brazil' or 'maybe living with Chico' or 'maybe going to Florida' or 'maybe getting a real job as an actor'.

Robert: Well, that's true. You really are the lucky one! So give me some advice. What do you both think? Option A: I can go to Brazil – if I can pass the Portuguese test, of course. I can be the manager of a hotel in Rio de Janeiro. But the person I wanted to find in Brazil, Chico, is now coming here to London. I don't have to go to Brazil to find him. So option B: I can stay in London. I can keep the job I have now and I can share a flat with Chico. And see how things work out. What do you think?

Mei: Go to Brazil. You'll love the job.

Milton: Stay in London. Follow your heart.

Robert: Very helpful! Your turn, Milton.

Milton: OK. Option 1. My mother is ill. She lives in Florida. She has her husband Henry and my brother Alfredo to look after her. Alfredo told me she's getting better – the doctors say she's going to be OK. But she's still ill and I know she'd like to see me – and I'd like to see her. So do I go to Florida? Option 2. My dream is to be an actor – to get a real job as an actor. I have the chance of a part in a TV series. If I take the job, I can't go to Florida. What shall I do?

Mei: Go to Florida. Family is the most important.

Robert: Take the job – it's your dream.

Milton: Thanks!



Mei: So there you are – everything's decided. Now it's my turn.

Robert: But you haven't got a difficult decision to make. Have you?

Mei: Well, no ... but ... I do need some help.

Milton: What?

Mei: If you could invent an app – anything at all – an app that doesn't exist yet, well, what would it be? Tell me about an app that you'd like to have. I need some ideas for a project.

Robert: OK. I'll tell you what I'd like to see. You know when you're watching a film – or a TV series – and you see an actor and you don't remember their name? Well, I'd like to point my phone at the actor and the app will recognise the face and tell me their name and what other things they've appeared in. That might be you one day, Milton! 'Hey, that soldier in *Game of Thrones* looks familiar! Where have I seen him? Let me check with my app! Oh, of course! He won an Oscar last year for best actor! It's Milton da Silva!'

(Mei and Milton laugh.)

Mei: OK. Good idea. Milton?

Milton: Good idea.

Mei: And yours, Milton?

Milton: OK. Toilets.

Mei and Robert: Toilets?

Milton: Yep. Public toilets. When you're out in the street and you really need to, you know, pee. Your app will tell you where the nearest public toilet is and it will tell you how many stars the toilet has!

Robert: Stars?

Mei: Yes! I understand! Is the toilet clean?! People who use the toilet give it stars on the app. Brilliant idea, Milton!

Robert: And you, Mei? Have you got any ideas?

Mei: Well, I've got an idea, but I'm not sure if it's possible. Living in London, there's so much history to see – all the old streets and old houses. I want to point my phone at a street or a house and see all the photographs of how it looked in the past. The people and everything.

Robert: Brilliant idea! I'm sure there are hundreds of old pictures of London – if you could use them.

Milton: It's a really good idea, Mei. I'd buy it.

Robert: So would I. And your toilet app, Milton. There you are, Mei – three brilliant app ideas. Now you just have to choose one. I know! Let's have a toast to the future. We



don't know what's going to happen, what we're going to do or where we'll be this time next year ...

Milton: This time *next* month! But we know that it'll be good!

Robert: Hear, hear! Raise your glasses! The future!

Mei and Milton: The future!

Mei: I'll write to you again soon, but goodbye for now.



Answers

Preparation task

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

Task 1

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

Task 2

- 1. True
- 2. False
- 3. False
- 4. True
- 5. False
- 6. True
- 7. False
- 8. True