

In episode 3, Milton tells his brother about Mei. Why do you think he is so impressed with her?

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. a play
2. to put something together
3. furniture
4. an audition
5. a lift
6. to deliver
7. to knock
8. to miss someone

Definition

- a. to feel sad because someone is not here
- b. a short performance you do to get a job as an actor, singer or dancer
- c. to take something (e.g. a letter, a pizza, a newspaper) to somebody
- d. a machine to take people up or down inside a building
- e. chairs, tables, desks, beds and other things that are used in a home
- f. to make something from individual parts
- g. to hit something hard with your closed hand to make a sound
- h. a story that is performed by actors in a theatre

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Carolina is coming back to London soon.	True	False
2. Milton's recent auditions went very well.	True	False
3. Milton has a full-time job delivering pizzas.	True	False
4. Mei has bought some furniture for her flat.	True	False
5. Milton helps Mei carry the furniture up to her flat.	True	False
6. Milton helps Mei put the furniture together.	True	False
7. Milton works in the morning.	True	False
8. Milton thinks Mei is a great neighbour.	True	False

Task 2

Write the phrases in the correct group.

has a part-time job	is an actor	doesn't have any friends in London	is outside his/her country for the first time
misses his/her mother	wants to be more independent this year	bought some furniture	thinks it's easy to put furniture together

Mei	Milton

Discussion

How independent are you?

Transcript

Milton: Hi, Alfredo. How's life for my big brother? Have you heard from Mum recently? Is she happy in Florida? I hope she's happy with Henry. She doesn't email or text – I must call her soon. But I did hear from Carolina yesterday. She says Emily's baby is beautiful and she's having a great time, so won't be back just yet. I really miss her, you know.

Still no luck with the work side of things here. I had two auditions last week. One was for a TV soap opera called *All at Home* and the other was for a film about dinosaurs ...

Audition manager: Thank you, Mr da Silva, but it's a no. I'm afraid you aren't quite what we're looking for for the part of Paul. Who's next?

Stage manager: OK, everybody back on stage, please. Philip Jones and Arthur Primpton come back tomorrow. The rest of you can go home. Thank you for your time.

Milton: But I'm not giving up yet. You know me – 'Mr Positive'. At least I've got my part-time job. OK, it's only delivering pizzas but it helps to pay the bills. I can't take any more money from Mum – or from you. This is the year when I have to stand on my own two feet. Like our new neighbour, Mei. She's amazing. She's never been outside China before, she's here all alone without any friends or family, she's got a really good job and she's incredibly independent ...

Mei: No lift. I have the only flat in London with no lift.

Milton: Hey, Mei. How's it going?

Mei: Going? What's going? I'm bringing boxes in, not out.

Milton: Ha ha! Funny! Oh. You're serious, aren't you? You didn't understand.

Mei: I'm moving heavy boxes and there's no lift – I'm not making jokes.

Milton: 'How's it going?' means 'How are things?', 'How are you?', 'Is everything OK with you?'

Mei: OK. Of course, I knew that – I just wasn't concentrating. I'm fine, thanks. When I get these boxes up the stairs.

Milton: What have you been buying? IKEA, huh?

Mei: Some things for the kitchen and some shelves. And a desk and chair. All in, uh, very heavy boxes.

Milton: Here, let me help. I'll go backwards ... Ow.

Mei: I'll go backwards. Move around – no, the other way – to the right – no, no, to your right – how do you say ... clockwise?

Milton: You need to lift your end higher ...

Mei: OK, that's all of it. Thank you for your help.

Milton: You're welcome. I owe you a favour for letting me climb out of your kitchen window.

Mei: When I thought you were a criminal. A burglar.

Milton: I'm laughing, but I'm sure burglars earn more money than I do. Perhaps I'll change my career. Do you want any help putting that furniture together?

Mei: No, thanks. I'm fine. I've got some things – tools. It's easy. We have IKEA in Beijing, you know.

Milton: Well, come and knock on the door if you need me. I'm going to work at seven thirty.

Mei: You said you work in the evenings. Are you in a play?

Milton: Well, no, not exactly. Not really a play.

Mei: You're an actor, aren't you?

Milton: Yes, yes, that's right. Anyway, I'll let you get on with putting your furniture together. See you later.

Milton: So, you see what I mean, Alfredo. She even knows how to put IKEA furniture together. What a neighbour! Anyway, time for work, so bye for now. Let me know how it's going with you

...

Answers

Preparation task

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

Task 1

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

Task 2

Mei	Milton
doesn't have any friends in London	has a part-time job
is outside her country for the first time	is an actor
bought some furniture	misses his mother
thinks it's easy to put furniture together	wants to be more independent this year