

In episode 4, we meet Robert, who is writing to his sister about a meeting with his boss. What do you think they talked 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. ..... fluent
2. ..... a noticeboard
3. ..... a transfer
4. ..... available
5. ..... to take a seat
6. ..... to be in charge of
7. ..... an advert
8. ..... to have your heart set on something

#### Definition

- a. changing to a different job, place of work, etc.
- b. to sit down
- c. to want to do or have something very much
- d. free; possible to have, use or buy
- e. to be responsible for something or someone
- f. being able to speak a language easily, quickly and well
- g. a board on a wall where you can put pieces of paper with information
- h. a sign to offer a service or sell something

## Tasks

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
1. Robert and Jessie are brother and sister.	True	False
2. Robert is currently the manager of a London hotel.	True	False
3. Robert would like to live and work abroad.	True	False
4. Robert wants to go to Brazil because he has a Brazilian girlfriend.	True	False
5. Robert speaks fluent Portuguese.	True	False
6. Robert decides to take Portuguese language classes.	True	False
7. He took a card from the noticeboard.	True	False
8. He hopes to visit Jessie the following month.	True	False

**Task 2**

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

company	language school	adverts	courses
fluent	in charge of	transfer	manager

1. After his training, Robert wants to get a job as ..... of a small hotel.
2. Robert goes to see his boss to ask for a ..... to Brazil.
3. Robert doesn't want to leave his ..... . He is very happy there.
4. Robert's boss says he needs good Portuguese to be ..... a hotel in Brazil.
5. A lot of the managers in Brazil are ..... or native speakers.
6. Robert goes to the language school to get information about .....
7. The ..... doesn't have a Portuguese teacher.
8. There are ..... for language lessons on the noticeboard.

**Discussion**

Do you want to change your job?

## Transcript

**Robert:** Hi there, Jessie. Hope everything's OK with you and the kids. Tell young Callum and Jamie their Uncle Robert sends his love. How's the new job going?

We're really busy here at the hotel – lots of tourists in London at this time of year – but, you know I enjoy it. I've got another three months here as assistant manager and then, if I get a good report from my boss, I'll be able to take a manager's job in a small hotel somewhere. Sooo ... I did what I've wanted to do for ages and went to see him, Mr Rowlands, and asked about the chance of getting a transfer to Brazil. We both know that's something I've wanted to do for a long time. It went quite well, I suppose ...

**Mr Rowlands:** Hello, Robert, come on in. Take a seat.

**Robert:** Good morning. Thank you.

**Mr Rowlands:** Now, what can I do for you? Nothing wrong, I hope?

**Robert:** No, no, not at all. Everything's going very well. I really enjoy the job. I really wanted to talk about what I'm going to do next ...

**Mr Rowlands:** You're not thinking of leaving us, I hope.

**Robert:** No, no, I'm very happy with this company. I want to be a manager of one of your hotels.

**Mr Rowlands:** I'm very glad to hear it.

**Robert:** But I was hoping that I could move to a hotel in a different country – when I finish my training, of course. When I become a manager.

**Mr Rowlands:** Well, we have a lot of hotels worldwide – I'm sure we could arrange something, somewhere fairly small, of course. Were you thinking of Europe? The Middle East?

**Robert:** Well, no. Actually I was thinking of Brazil. I really want to work in Brazil.

**Mr Rowlands:** Brazil, eh? That's not so easy. We could probably find you something in the Middle East ... or China – we've got some new hotels opening there.

**Robert:** Um, no, thank you. I really want to go to Brazil.

**Mr Rowlands:** Got your heart set on Brazil, eh? What's the story? Got yourself a Brazilian lady friend? You want to join her on the beach in Copacabana?

**Robert:** No, nothing like that. It's ... um ... something personal, something connected with my family ... with my past, anyway.

**Mr Rowlands:** All right, Robert. I'll see what's available in Brazil. How's your Portuguese?

**Robert:** Well, not very good, I'm afraid ... but I'm going to have some lessons. Soon. Now.

**Mr Rowlands:** Well, you'll need good Portuguese if you want me to put you in charge of one of our Brazilian hotels. We've got a lot of very good managers in Brazil already, all fluent in the language, or native speakers. It's very ...

**Robert:** So that's good news and bad news, I suppose, Jessie. I don't remember any of the Portuguese we learned when we were kids, do you? Just a few phrases and bits of songs that Chico used to sing. Not enough to manage a hotel, so ...

**Robert:** Excuse me.

**Receptionist:** (*Speaking to a student*) Yes, your class started at seven o'clock – you're twenty minutes late. Quick, quick. In there – room seven. (*Turning to Robert*) I'm sorry, yes, can I help you?

**Robert:** Yes. I'd like some information about your language courses. I want to start Portuguese lessons. Brazilian Portuguese.

**Receptionist:** We don't do Portuguese – we haven't got a teacher. English, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Mostly English, though – most of our students are foreign students in London – they all want English support. (*Speaking to someone else*) Go and talk to that lady over there, in the blue blouse. She'll give you a test to decide your level of English.

**Robert:** So, nothing at all for me? No Portuguese?

**Receptionist:** Have a look on the noticeboard over there – the section on the left-hand side. People put adverts there – people who want lessons and people who give them. Might be a Portuguese teacher there somewhere. Excuse me, sorry ... Hello, Braxton Language School. How can I help you?

**Robert:** Thank you.

**Robert:** So, I left a card. Who knows? There must be Portuguese teachers in London. I'll have a look online later tonight – there must be other schools too. Sooo ... keep your fingers crossed, Jessie. Give Callum and Jamie a kiss for me. And one for yourself, of course. I'll try to come up to Scotland for Callum's birthday next month – I've got a few days' leave to take, but don't say anything to him yet ... just in case it ...

## Answers

### Preparation task

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

### Task 1

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

### Task 2

1. manager
2. transfer
3. company
4. in charge of
5. fluent
6. courses
7. language school
8. adverts