

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