

UNIT 10

Track 53

Bader: Good morning and welcome to the Breakfast Show. This morning we're talking to Maitha Al Falahi who has recently started a campaign in her local neighbourhood to raise awareness regarding individual carbon footprints and our personal impact on the environment. Welcome Maitha.

Maitha: Good morning, Bader.

Bader: Good morning. So, Maitha, tell us about your campaign and how it started.

Maitha: Well, Bader, it actually started at school.

Bader: Oh really?

Maitha: Yes, I was in a science class, I think, and we were studying climate change. I remember sitting in class and learning about the changes that have happened to our environment in really, very recent years. There are many animals that are now endangered due to the changes in global temperatures, ice caps are melting and there's been a huge increase in extreme weather events. Lots of people all over the world are suffering as well as animals because of these changes, and I remember thinking how awful it all is, and how huge a problem it is. I mean, it affects so many people and animals all over the world.

Bader: Mhmm, that's true. It's a big problem.

Maitha: It is. And of course, we learnt about how it's all caused, you know, greenhouse gas emissions, like carbon dioxide, which are caused by pollution from industries and people of course; the use of non-renewable energy sources, such as fossil fuels. The reduced capacity of our planet to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen as a result of deforestation. And, the amount of waste we create that cannot be recycled or is not recycled, but ends up in our seas and oceans or a landfill. But, it all felt like such a huge problem and so far away, I mean, I haven't really been affected by any of these changes in the UAE. Why should I care what is happening to people I don't know in other countries? I mean, it's out of my hands anyway, right?

Bader: There are many that would agree with you there, I'm sure, Maitha.

Maitha: Well, I sympathise with them, because it is very easy to just shrug your shoulders, hold up your hands and say "What can I do? I am one person."

Bader: But how can we change this mindset?

Maitha: Hmm what can I say? I guess what we have to do is bring people's attention to the large impact these changes are having on people and animals, I mean, it's really devastating. And, encourage people to look at climate change on a personal level, like, what contribution am I personally making to this problem.

Bader: Mhmm, but how do we do that? How do we make people see this on a personal and individual level?

Maitha: Well, something that I did, which worked for me, was to complete one of those questionnaires that calculate your personal carbon footprint.

Bader: Oh yes, I've heard of them. And what was your result?

Maitha: Err, I'm embarrassed to say! I was really quite shocked by the result. It's amazing that our habits and routines can result in a large carbon footprint, but by making some very small changes, we can reduce our contribution quite considerably.

Bader: So, Maitha, would you say that individual changes are more important than those made by governments and big businesses?

Maitha: Hmm that's an interesting question, Bader. In a way, yes, I think individual changes are more important, because if we, the people, begin to change our thinking on the environment and make more sustainable choices, this will ultimately lead to changes in government policy and decision making. It will cause the big change we want, if we want it enough and are prepared to work hard for it.

Bader: Thank you, Maitha. After the break we'll be taking calls from you, our listeners, regarding this issue. Stay tuned.

Track 54

Maitha: Yes, I was in a science class, I think, and we were studying climate change. I remember sitting in class and learning about the changes that have happened to our environment in really, very recent years. There are many animals that are now endangered due to the changes in global temperatures, ice caps are melting and there's been a huge increase in extreme weather events. Lots of people all over the world are suffering as well as animals because of these changes, and I remember thinking how awful it all is, and how huge a problem it is. I mean, it affects so many people and animals all over the world.

Bader: Mhmm, that's true. It's a big problem.

Maitha: It is. And of course, we learnt about how it's all caused, you know, greenhouse gas emissions, like carbon dioxide, which are caused by pollution from industries and people of course; the use of non-renewable energy sources, such as fossil fuels. The reduced capacity of our planet to convert carbon dioxide into oxygen as a result of deforestation. And, the amount of waste we create that cannot be recycled or is not recycled, but ends up in our seas and oceans or a landfill. But, it all felt like such a huge problem and so far away, I mean, I haven't really been affected by any of these changes in the UAE. Why should I care what is happening to people I don't know in other countries? I mean, it's out of my hands anyway, right?

Bader: There are many that would agree with you there, I'm sure, Maitha.

Maitha: Well, I sympathise with them, because it is very easy to just shrug your shoulders, hold up your hands and say “What can I do? I am one person.”

Track 55

Interviewer: Good afternoon listeners, we have a special programme for you today. With me is one of our frequent guests, Hassan of the East Gulf Conservation Council based in Umm al Quwain. For those of you who do not recall, the EGCC is an organisation that conducts research on the ecosystems of the Eastern Gulf region, specifically in the UAE and Oman, and works to raise awareness about how to conserve these important places.

Hassan: Good afternoon Saif, I appreciate you inviting me back to your programme. I am thrilled to be able to talk to your audience about the different ecosystems we have been researching. I also want to update you on some of our important projects which we will have finished by the end of this year!

Interviewer: Great! Well, to start with, why don't you remind our audience what an ecosystem is?

Hassan: Certainly. Ecosystems are everywhere, in fact your home, work or school could all be considered ecosystems. Basically, an ecosystem is an area where all the things that live in it are connected to each other in some way ...

Track 56

Interviewer: Thank you, I am sure our listeners really appreciate that definition. Could you speak to us about what you are working on at the moment?

Hassan: Good question. Okay, that sounds good. Well, right now we are currently doing research aimed at reintroducing the Arabian leopard back into ecosystems in the UAE and parts of Oman. Arabian leopards are very hard to see in the wild. In fact, in the UAE the leopard is considered to be extinct, which means that it is no longer found in the wild. If they had been protected earlier, they might still be in all of the Arabian Peninsula. However, if you go to Oman, you can visit the Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve on the southern coast. There you can still see leopards in their natural habitat. While there, I recommend you visit another fascinating site, the Salalah ecosystem.

Interviewer: Tell us some more about these leopards.

Hassan: Umm ... sure. the Arabian leopard is a big cat, much bigger than a house cat. They are usually pale to dark yellow with black spots, though the males can weigh up to 30 kilos, and females a little smaller at 20 kilos.

Interviewer: Wow, what do they eat to get so big?

Hassan: They are carnivores, which means that they only eat meat. They mainly eat Arabian gazelles, porcupines and small rodents. They are also nocturnal, which means that they are mainly active at night.

Interviewer: They sound fascinating! So, if you want to see one of these big cats in the wild, you have to go to ... I think you said Salalah? I have heard of Salalah, isn't that a city in Oman?

Hassan: Yes, it is a city, but it is also a fascinating ecosystem as well. While most of the Arabian Peninsula has an arid desert ecosystem, for three months of the year this region in southern Oman turns into a tropical rainforest! The monsoon season, called the Khareef season, lasts from July to September and brings around 55 mm of rain, or nearly half the annual rainfall of the region. When the rain falls, the brown desert blooms into a beautiful, green, lush rainforest. Right now, the Khareef season is over. But, if you had gone there two weeks ago, then you may still be there today! It is very hard to leave.

Interviewer: Amazing! I am sure our listeners want to know more! What can you tell us about the different species of flora and fauna in the region?

Hassan: As for fauna, we already talked about the Arabian leopard that lives on the nature reserve. Some domestic animals like camels live there as well. Another animal that we think at one point must have roamed all over the Arabian peninsula throughout the Arabian Peninsula but is now limited to a small area is the Arabian oryx.

Interviewer: What is a oryx?

Hassan: The Arabian oryx is a medium sized antelope with long horns. It is an herbivore, meaning that it only eats plants, unlike the Arabian leopard that we talked about earlier. They live in herds of up to 100 oryx, though most live in herds of around 10.

Interviewer: So, is Oman the only place where these animals are found?

Hassan: Thankfully no! Over the past several decades, the Arabian oryx has been introduced to the UAE and Qatar. There is even a current effort to reintroduce them to the island country of Bahrain. In fact, if the project had started earlier, then there might be more than 1000 oryx in Bahrain today! But as it is there are over 100 right now.

Interviewer: That sounds like a very important project! How about the flora in Salalah?

Hassan: Well perhaps the most famous tree that grows in the region is the *Boswellia sacra* tree, more commonly known as the frankincense tree. This small, shrub-like tree, which grows on the slopes of the mountains in southern Oman, is probably most famous for its resin. The dry sap from the frankincense tree is harvested and turned into an aromatic resin that is used in perfumes and incense.

Interviewer: Ahhh ... that must be the beautiful smell that you often come across in the malls in the UAE!

Hassan: Exactly, though this has come at a cost. The tree currently is under threat due to overexploitation. Thankfully, however, 20 years ago we knew that if we continued to commercialise the trees, we very well might not have been able to see them in the future.

Interviewer: That is awful, it will really make me think the next time I smell that fragrant aroma! Well, we are almost out of time. Is there anything that you would like to add?...

Track 57

Dr. Rashed: Good Afternoon, and welcome to our panel on Recycling and the Environment. We would like to welcome Dr. Asma from the Dubai Institute of Environmental Research.

Dr. Asma: Thank you, Dr. Rashed. Scientists and environmentalists have described a vast patch of floating rubbish in the Pacific Ocean. A large proportion of waste ends up in the oceans. The North Pacific gyre, a current, accumulates this rubbish and deposits it into a massive area known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Plastic makes up the majority as it is cheap to produce and durable. The problem is it does not biodegrade. Instead, it simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, and turns parts of the ocean into a murky soup.

Drs. Lynott & Turner from the Irish Environmental Academic Council suggest that as the population expands and more rubbish is dumped into our oceans, this problem is going to get bigger and microplastic will begin to enter the human food chain. This could potentially be catastrophic for peoples' health.

As I mentioned earlier, the term 'soup' has often been floated to describe microplastic pollution. This dense cloud in the water prevents light from penetrating to the deeper levels of the ocean, which in turn prevents plankton and algae growth. Plankton is a major source of food for small marine life and it is on these that larger fish such as tuna depend. So, the potential for damage to the entire marine food web is high.

The situation is further compounded by the question of who is responsible for the rubbish patch. No one country is willing to take on that responsibility. Therefore, it is left to environmental organisations to investigate and address this. By all accounts it cannot be cleaned up as it is almost 70 years of rubbish, and microplastic is tiny and it is dispersed over a large remote area.

Track 58

News reporter: ... and in other news, Dubai Municipality has introduced new regulations regarding noise pollution in response to complaints received from residents across the emirate. Many residents living in neighbourhoods close to airports have long complained about the noise levels of low-flying planes coming in to land or taking off, suffering from many nights' disrupted sleep due to the noise pollution caused. Residents in other areas have complained of noisy construction work, often starting early in the morning and taking place over the weekends. Further complaints were received from residents in busy areas with a lot of traffic and thoroughfare late at night, causing disrupted sleep due to the high level of noise and bright lights.

The municipality decided to take action due to the volume of complaints received and concerns over residents' health. Research has shown that light and noise pollution can cause stress, anxiety and depression, amongst other ailments. In addition, sleep deprivation has serious safety implications, particularly for road users and those working in jobs requiring high concentration levels.

Which brings us on to our next news item regarding the upcoming Earth Hour. There will be participation across the UAE in this global environmental movement, which occurs this Friday, so be prepared for the emirates to go dark. For those who haven't heard of Earth Hour before, it takes place every year when people around the world show their support for environmental protection by switching off. Switching off their lights, TVs, computers – anything that consumes power – for an hour. This year's Earth Hour is this Friday evening from 7:30 until 8.30.

Track 59

Mona: Did you hear the news today?

Asma: No, what happened?

Mona: The government has set some new regulations about light and noise pollution, so hopefully, I'll finally be able to have a good night's sleep!

Asma: Oh that's good! Yeah, the construction work going on near my house really bothers me, especially at the weekend.

Mona: Yeah, exactly. They also said that light and noise pollution is really bad for our health.

Asma: Oh really? That's bad. My sleep is often disturbed.

Mona: Yes, it's quite concerning actually. They explained that light and noise pollution can cause stress, anxiety, and ... oh I can't remember the word, it's like when you feel really down and sad ... ?

Asma: Ohhh, depression?

Mona: Yes! That's it.

Asma: Oh gosh, that's terrible, I didn't know that.

Mona: I know, I mean it's always been annoying, but yeah I had no idea it had that much of an effect.

Asma: True.

Mona: Anyway, they also talked about something else that interested me, it's something to do with the environment, when everyone switches off their lights. Have you heard of it?

Asma: Yeahhh, I know what you're talking about. Earth Hour, right?

Mona: Yes! That's it! Are you going to do it?

Asma: No, I don't think so. What's the point? You switch your lights off for an hour ... How does that really help the environment?

Mona: I know what you mean, but it's more than that. I thought that too but I've been reading about it online.

Asma: OK, what did you find out?

Mona: Well, yes, they do the Earth Hour every year, but that's more to get people's attention.

Asma: Oh I see, it's a kind of advert ... ?

Mona: Yes! It's similar to a marketing campaign.

Asma: Oh, okay.

Mona: Yes, and really they're sending a message to people to switch off more often, not just for Earth Hour, and highlighting that we need to think about the environment. And, not just that but how it affects us and our health now, not only in the future.

Asma: Ah like what they were saying about light and noise pollution?

Mona: Exactly!

Asma: Oh, OK. I think I might do it then.

Mona: Oh good! They're on social media as well, so rather than ... oh what's the word?

Asma: I don't know. What word?

Mona: It's a thing that you give to charity.

Asma: Oh, a donation?

Mona: Yes, right. So rather than donating money, you can donate your social media page or feed to help spread the word.

Asma: Ah, I like that idea. OK, let's do it.

Track 60

- They explained that light and noise pollution can cause stress, anxiety, and ... oh I can't remember the word, it's like when you feel really down and sad.
- Anyway, they also talked about something else that interested me, it's something to do with the environment, when everyone switches off their lights.
- Oh I see, it's a kind of advert?
- Yes! It's similar to a marketing campaign.
- It's a thing that you give to charity.

UNIT 11

Track 61

Interviewer: Hi, welcome. Please have a seat.

Salem: Thank you.

Interviewer: So, Salem, let's begin by getting to know you a bit more. Tell me, how would you describe yourself?

Salem: Well, I would describe myself as someone who is ambitious, hardworking and motivated. I've applied these qualities throughout my school career, which has helped me to progress well in my studies, and it's my intention to continue this throughout my university studies.

Interviewer: Great. I can see here that you've applied to study Civil Engineering with us.

Salem: Yes, that's right.

Interviewer: Could you tell me why you chose this subject?

Salem: I've always been fascinated by how things work and how they are put together. I enjoy studying Maths and Physics, and luckily, I'm also good at them, so I've been interested in studying Engineering for a long time.

Interviewer: What do you think you might struggle with?

Salem: Of course, I don't expect university to be easy. And, while I'm confident that I have the skills to complete the course, I think I could struggle with making new friends because I can be a bit reserved at times.

Interviewer: Oh, well, not everybody can be outgoing.

Salem: Mmm true.

Interviewer: So, Salem, I can see from your application that your home is quite far away from this university. Why did you choose this university?

Salem: Well, there are a number of reasons. Firstly, I've researched this university and it's one of the top performing universities for Civil Engineering in the region. Also, while I can be reserved, I'm rather independent, so I'm looking forward to living away from home and managing on my own.

Interviewer: Ok, that makes sense. As you said, this is a high ranking university for Engineering, which means we expect a lot from our students. Will you apply yourself to the course fully?

Salem: Oh completely. As I said before, I'm very hardworking and motivated. Also, I'm highly interested in the subject I want to study, and the career I hope it will lead to.

Interviewer: And, how do you handle pressure?

Salem: I cope with pressure very well, in fact, I think it makes me more productive. If I know there is a deadline for a piece of work, it focuses me to complete it and to complete it well.

Interviewer: Very good. I know we've talked generally about Engineering as a career, but what do you see yourself doing when you complete your degree?

Salem: I see myself specialising in construction and possibly completing a postgraduate certificate.

Interviewer: Interesting. OK and final question, Salem. Why should we offer you a place?

Salem: Ermm. I think you should offer me a place because I'm interested in and enthusiastic about the subject I wish to study. Not only do I enjoy the subject, but I'm also good at it, as shown by my school results. I can handle pressure and tight deadlines. And, my ambition is to have a career in Civil Engineering, so I'm motivated and I'll work hard.

Interviewer: Thank you Salem. It was a pleasure to meet you. We'll let you know our decision by the end of the week.

Salem: Thank you.

Track 62

Interviewer: Interesting. OK and final question, Salem. Why should we offer you a place?

Salem: Ermm. I think you should offer me a place because I'm interested in and enthusiastic about the subject I wish to study. Not only do I enjoy the subject, but I'm also good at it, as shown by my school results. I can handle pressure and tight deadlines. And, my ambition is to have a career in Civil Engineering, so I'm motivated and I'll work hard.

Interviewer: Thank you Salem. It was a pleasure to meet you. We'll let you know our decision by the end of the week.

Salem: Thank you.

Track 63

M: How was your university entrance interview today?

D: I don't think that it went very well, I don't think that I'll be admitted to the school.

M: Why? What happened?

D: They didn't look very impressed when I left. In fact, they all had frowns on their faces. I must have given them a poor initial impression.

M: Why do you think that? Did you smile when you walked in the door?

D: Of course! Though it may have been more of a silly grin rather than a normal smile.

M: Hmm ... Okay, well, did you remember to keep your hands out of your pockets?

D: Well ... I started to feel nervous, and I might have forgotten to take them out ... I must have looked so uncomfortable!

M: I am sure you are just being too critical of yourself, I am sure that you did very well.

D: No, I just know that I won't be able to go to my dream university! What will I do?

M: Well, just before you came home, I received a call from the university admissions office ... They thought you were brilliant! Congratulations, they accepted you!

Track 64

Khodija: Hello Professor Asma, I am so sorry that we were late. Our English lecture ran a little longer than we thought it would. We are both really nervous about our behavioral psychology exam next Wednesday and are grateful that you could make some time for us.

Professor: Hello Khodija, Hello Huola, it's good to see you. That is no problem at all, I am always happy to help my students. Please come in and take a seat, I will be only a moment. Alright, so what questions do you have for me?

Huola: Well, we have quite a few, actually. We're really worried about Chapter 17. You know, the one on body language and how it can affect the way someone views

you. I think the first question we have is about facial expressions.

Professor: Of course. That can be a tricky subject. Well, what do you remember about the different facial expressions?

Khodija: I think I might ... Wait! Okay, if I remember correctly, one theory on facial expressions claims that there were six main emotions conveyed by facial expressions: surprise, sadness, disgust, happiness, fear and anger. And to get facial expressions, emotional stimuli tells your facial muscles to communicate an emotion.

Track 65

Professor: Great! That is one of the main theories we discussed this term. And how about practical examples. For example, if you were going into an interview, what type of expressions should you avoid?

Khodija: Umm ... Well, I know that you definitely want to smile and look positive and confident.

Professor: Okay, but what type of smiles should you avoid?

Khodija: Well, I know that smirking at any questions that they ask is not a good thing at all. It might convey smugness or arrogance, right?

Professor: Exactly. An interviewer, or even a new acquaintance, might be put off by that. What else?

Huola: Well, a tight-lipped smile is also not a pleasant expression. It can tell the person a lot. If I remember correctly, one of the things that it shows is that you're doing something that you don't want to do. Like when your parents want to take a photograph of you on holiday and you're not in the mood! I always remember that one because I can easily relate to it. My parents always want me to take pictures on holiday when I've just woken up early in the morning! So, basically it's a dishonest smile, used to try and be polite. But it can also come from stress or uneasiness.

Professor: Very good. It is also the most common smile that people use when greeting someone they don't know very well on the street.

Khodija: Okay, well, I feel quite a bit better about that. I feel pretty good about expressions like scowling and frowning. They are the easiest questions on the exam. They just mean that you are upset or frustrated with someone or something.

Professor: Excellent!

Huola: Okay. Well how about body language? I just know that there'll be questions about hand gestures on the test.

Professor: Well, I can't tell you anything too specific, but how about we review what you know. That should give you a good review.

Khodija: That sounds like a good idea. I know that hand gestures are really important when doing public speaking. They can really help to get your point across. For example, if you want to show that you're sincere,

you should hold your hand up to your heart. I guess that would say that I am speaking from my heart.

Professor: That is correct. Though remember it doesn't necessarily mean that you actually are being honest. It just means that you want your audience to think that you are being honest.

Huola: Haha, that is a really good point. If I remember correctly, you can pound the podium or desk with your fist when you really want to emphasise a point.

Professor: Great! And what do you want to avoid if you want to convey confidence?

Huola: Well, you definitely want to avoid putting your hands in your pocket. That shows that you are nervous. You also want to be sure to look your audience in the eyes. By doing that, it shows that you really know what you are talking about. It's not good if you lower your eyes, or have your head down. *Definitely* do not just read off a script.

Professor: It really sounds like you girls have been studying this section hard. I am quite impressed! You should be able to do very well. Now how about any other questions?

Khodija: Well, we were wondering if we could also talk about Chapter 18, the one covering body language from around the world ... ?

Track 66

Boss: So tell me about the next candidate. Farhad, was it?

Man 1: Yes, Farhad. I was very impressed with this young man.

Man 2: I agree. He had a great personality. He really stood out!

Boss: Oh, what do you mean?

Man 2: Well, what I noticed first was his confidence.

Boss: How did you notice that?

Man 2: When he walked in, he looked us both in the eyes and had a confident smile on his face.

Boss: Hmm.

Man 1: He also shook my hand before sitting down.

Woman: Many of the other younger candidates didn't shake hands.

Boss: So he had some confidence. That's a good start. What else?

Man 1: He came across as very approachable and friendly.

Boss: Approachable? How so?

Man 1: Farhad wasn't too serious, but also not too relaxed. He had a way of putting us at ease and made us feel comfortable.

Man 2: And we were the ones interviewing him! (laugh)

Boss: Interesting.

Man 2: He really gave the impression that he would work well in our team. He came across as very approachable and friendly. Does that make sense?

Boss: Yes, yes, I understand. So he's confident and approachable. That definitely puts him ahead of some of the other candidates. What else did you notice?

Man 2: He was receptive.

Boss: Receptive? What does that mean?

Man 2: You know, someone who listens to what we had to say and let us finish before speaking.

Man 1: I noticed that as well. I felt like he was really listening and not just waiting for his turn to talk ... Do you follow me?

Boss: Sure.

Man: Also, he asked very good questions about the position and the company.

Man 2: That shows that he was very proactive. He was actively listening and wasn't afraid to ask for a clarification if he didn't understand.

Boss: I see. Confident. Approachable. Receptive. Seems like a real person.

Man 1: Exactly! An extrovert like him would do well on our team.

Boss: Well, I've decided. Call him up and invite him in for the next round of interviews. Okay, onto the next application ...

UNIT 12

Track 67

Asma: Hi Noora.

Noora: Hi Asma. Nice to see you at last!

Asma: I know; life is really busy at the moment.

Noora: Likewise, my workload is through the roof at the moment. I have so much marking to do. I can't wait for the summer to come!

Asma: Ah I'm so jealous of your summer break! I wish my holidays were as long as yours.

Noora: Yes, the holidays are a real perk, but we do have to earn it Asma. I'm in work from 7 am and some days I'm still marking or planning for the next day up until 10 at night, and when we have inspections it's even worse!

Asma: I know; I know you work hard. And your work is so much more energetic than mine. I don't know how you have the energy actually. One thing I like about my job is that I mostly work on my own and I don't really have to interact with that many people. Well, there's the co-pilot of course and the rest of the team, and air traffic control, but it's nowhere near as many as you. And you have to be so energetic to keep the kids interested, I couldn't do that.

Noora: That's true, but I don't know how you work the hours you do, and weekends! I mean, I work weekends, but that's marking or planning at home, whereas you spend whole weekends away from home.

Asma: I know, the shifts can be tough, particularly on my home and social life, but it's ok. I like that my routine changes, at least I don't get bored!

Noora: Haha yes I guess.

Asma: Although, it does make it difficult to plan things.

Noora: Yes! I think it took us about two weeks just to plan this coffee!

Asma: Haha true. Oh here's Hanan.

Hanan: Hi ladies!

Asma: What have you got there Hanan?

Hanan: Oh, these? They're the plans for the current project I'm working on. It's taking over my life at the moment!

Noora: Oh you poor thing! Things must be crazy for you when you have a big project on, it's nice of you to find time to catch up with us.

Hanan: It's the only way I can stay sane! But yes, it is usually a bit quieter than it is at the moment. However, when a project is nearing a deadline, it's far more difficult to see friends and make time for myself. Similarly, if the client changes their mind about something or we find out that there's a planning restriction on what we want to build, it can mean that we have to change things very quickly and work longer hours to get the project finished by the deadline. So, yes, it can be stressful, but on the other hand it's also very rewarding; when you see the building finished and the happiness on the clients' faces, it makes it all worthwhile.

Noora: That's so true Hanan. While my job can be stressful at times, this is my vocation and I love what I do. This is definitely the best job for me.

Asma: Me too!

Track 68

Ali: Hello listeners, welcome. We have three guests who want to tell you about their unusual jobs.

First, we have Salem. Salem, welcome to the show! Could you please tell our audience what you do for a living?

Salem: Well I am a flavourist.

Ali: A flavourist? What is that?

Salem: Well, I work with different chemicals and natural flavours to try to improve the food we eat.

Ali: Fascinating! Tell our listeners how you found your start in this career?

Salem: Sure. Even before I started studying at university, I was always fascinated with taste and flavour. I would often prepare meals for my family at age six. I loved trying out different spices and seeing how they would interact.

Ali: What did you have to study at university to prepare you to become a flavourist?

Salem: I studied chemistry as an undergraduate. I also received a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering. While it is a very rewarding job, it also requires a lot of late nights doing research! But we need the knowledge to avoid mixing chemicals that are toxic when combined.

Ali: Wow, that is something that hadn't thought about.

Ali: Thanks Salem, that was some great insight into one of the more unusual jobs! Next, if you live and breathe colour, we might have a job for you! I am pleased to welcome Houla onto our programme.

Houra: Thanks Ali, and yes, I DO love colour! I love colour so much that I have become a colour expert.

Ali: A colour expert? So does that mean you create new colours?

Houra: Haha, not quite, Ali. What I do is assist people in selecting colours for their homes or offices. Sometimes I am even consulted to help find colour schemes for an entire hotel!

Ali: Wow, that is impressive! So how did you become a colour expert?

Houra: I have always had an affinity for colour. When I was six years old, my family moved into a new villa. I remember walking around with my parents telling them what colour each room should be.

Ali: And did your parents listen to you?

Houra: Believe it or not, they did listen to some of my advice. And years later, they still say that I chose the best colours in the entire house! From then on, I studied interior design, which led me to where I am today.

Ali: Incredible. So, if I hired you, you would come and pick out the colours for every room in my house?

Houra: Hmm ... well, it's not quite that simple. I don't simply choose colours, I work with my clients to help them find what's best for them. Otherwise I would have the same colours in each of my clients' houses.

Ali: So, last question. What is your favourite colour right now?

Houra: That's easy! Right now I love turquoise. It really makes everything seem tranquil, and not shocking or jarring like neon green!

Ali: Haha! Thank you Houla! That is a lot of information. Now to our last guest. Rashed. Good morning Rashed, and welcome to the programme. Rashed works as a voiceover actor.

Rashed: Thank you Ali, it is a pleasure to be on the show.

Ali: So Rashed, what can you tell us about what it's like to be a voiceover actor?

Rashed: Well, many people think that all you need to be a voice actor is to have a computer with a microphone, and of course a soothing, audible voice. But it's not that easy. I took years of voice acting classes before I was hired for my first job, as no one wants to hire a voiceover actor with a boring, bland voice.

Ali: What type of voiceover work do you do?

Rashed: Mainly advertisements and some documentaries. I just finished reading for a documentary about the history of the unification of the UAE. So one additional advantage of the job is that I learn a lot!

Ali: So with all the different advertisements, documentaries and other jobs that need voiceover actors, there must be a lot of work.

Rashed: Actually, it's a really competitive industry. Most voiceover actors only do it part-time. In fact, a small group of people do the majority of the work. So, unless you're very dedicated to it and willing to work for a long time without earning a lot of money, it might not be the career for you.

Ali: Huh. That's really interesting. Now I am glad that I already have a job in radio! Unfortunately, that is all the time we have for today. I would like to give our guests a huge thank you for their time.

Track 69

Interviewer: I would like you to describe a school subject that interests you.

Speaker: Well, I would say right now my favourite subject to study is science, especially biology and chemistry. However, that was not always the case.

Track 70

Interviewer: I would like you to describe a school subject that interests you.

Speaker: Well, I would say right now my favourite subject to study is science, especially biology and chemistry. However, that was not always the case.

When I was younger, I really enjoyed art. I loved when my teacher gave us learners a piece of paper and some paint, and I would start drawing all the beautiful pictures that I saw when I was day dreaming. I really liked to draw villages and markets filled with people, animals, and food.

When I started 6th grade, I took my first biology class. I remember that at first I saw all the diagrams of cells and different animals and thought that it looked very difficult. I was worried that I would never remember all the parts of a cell, or the process of osmosis! But slowly over that first year, everything started to become clear. What fascinated me most, and still makes me so interested in it, is understanding how the living world worked. On exams, not only did I recognise the important vocabulary, but I could also label diagrams of complicated biological processes. It was not difficult, it was fascinating! By 8th grade, it was my favourite subject by far, and has continued to be.

Now, when I think about my future, all I want to do is work in science. I could easily see myself spending all day in a laboratory, making new discoveries and getting papers published in famous journals. Or maybe even become a Nobel Prize winner! But what I really want to do right now is use my passion to help other people and to help my country. In my opinion the best way to do that is to become a doctor. So, when I go to university, I want to study medicine.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Track 71

Interviewer: I am going to ask you some questions related to school and careers. First, do you think it is important for learners to decide their future at a young age?

Reem: No, I don't. When I look back at what I wanted to be when I was in 2nd grade, in 6th grade and in 10th grade, everything was different. When I was in 2nd Grade, I wanted to be an astronaut, in 6th grade an artist and finally in 10th grade I knew that I wanted to become a scientist. If I would have decided by 6th grade that I wanted to be an artist, I would have never discovered my passion for science. We all learn new things, and our interests change.

Interviewer: In today's world, what school subjects are important for learners to study?

Reem: Well, if I have to be honest, I would say that every subject we learn in school is very important for our education. Each one helps us grow through knowledge. If I had to choose some subjects that are specific to our modern world, I would say that because technology is becoming more and more important in our, I think that it is very important that learners take classes in science and mathematics. These are the building blocks of the future. In addition, English is very important too. In the UAE, English is one of the main languages of communication, so we must speak good English to communicate with all the different people who live here. Moreover, if we want to work or study internationally, we must know English because it is such a global language.

Interviewer: What type of careers does studying English prepare learners for?

Reem: Well, as I said earlier, it is a very global language. I think that no matter what career you choose to pursue, studying English will have a big benefit. For example, if I want to work in business, then it is important that I can write to different firms around the world and communicate ideas to them, as well as understand their ideas. Or, like myself, I want to work in science, so it will help me to write for English language scientific journals and communicate with other scientists.

Interviewer: For what careers do you need to go to university?

Reem: Well, some careers, like being a doctor, require that you study at a university to learn a foundation in science, and then you have to go to a medical university where you study specific things you need to know to be a doctor. Many careers require extra education, but not necessarily at a university. For example, if you want to become a police officer, you do not need to attend university, but you do need to attend a police academy. Other jobs, like going into business, also do not require university. But it certainly can help.

Interviewer: What reasons are important in choosing a career?

Reem: Hmm ... I guess one of the first things that comes to mind is money. You want to be sure that you can earn a good living and do the things you want to do. But

for me, having a real passion for what I am doing is the most important thing. It would be hard for me to work in a career that I don't love. I want to go to work every day feeling like I am going on holiday!

Track 72

Speaker: A cure for cancer? A colony on the Moon? Our lives have limitless opportunity! Hello everyone, my name is Hassan Al Khaja, and today I want to talk to all of you about my dreams and aspirations. I will be graduating from school very soon, and I have thought quite a bit about my future. And not just my immediate future, but what my aspirations are over the next several years.

Now, I realise that curing cancer or helping to create a colony on the Moon may seem like very lofty goals. But what fun is life without high aspirations? So today I will talk about my immediate plans over the next year, including attending university. Then, I will talk about my long-term goals, like what I want to study at university and my goals and aspirations as well as how my studies will shape my future. So, even if being the first person to set foot on Mars seems ambitious, I am still planning on pushing myself as far as I can to accomplish my dreams.

Track 73

Speaker: To start, I will talk about my short-term goals. My first goal is to be accepted into a great university. I know that it will be a really difficult process, but I feel like I am up to the challenge! Right now, I am preparing by studying for the IELTS exam. I am reading a lot of great classic books with complicated words so that I can improve my reading and vocabulary skills. I am also listening to podcasts in English about topics that I really enjoy. For example, right now I am listening to a fascinating podcast about the Emirates Mars Mission. Not only do the podcasts improve my listening skills, but I am learning so much interesting information about our space programme. So, after all that hard work, hopefully by this time next year, I am hoping to be studying at Khalifa University. This is important for the next stage of my goals.

So, now for my long-term plans. After entering Khalifa University, I am planning to study Aerospace Engineering. Ever since reading about the American Apollo 11 Space Mission to the Moon when I was younger, I dreamed of becoming the first person on Mars. So, when at university, I will have to study physics. It is a difficult subject for me, but it is something that I know that I can master if I put in the effort! Likewise, I will need to have a good understanding of astronomy. I can't really expect to become an astronaut if I don't know anything about space.

Conversely, while I am determined to work in Aerospace Engineering, my best friend, Ahmed, has no idea what he wants to do. One week he is thinking about becoming

a doctor, the next week an English teacher. So, who knows? Maybe I will wake up tomorrow and want to start looking to becoming the next great Emirati poet!

But back to my goals. Finally, after finishing university, I am hoping to get a job with the UAE Space Agency and work at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre in Al Khawaneej. Working for the Space Program, I know that I can be on the cutting-edge of technology. I hope to be a major contributor to the Mission to Mars, and maybe even become one of the astronauts to go!

Track 74

Speaker: So, in conclusion, I have a lot of goals and aspirations for my life. Right now, I need to work hard to get into a great university. Next, I can study Aerospace Engineering so that I finally I can realize my dreams and work for the UAE Space Programme. However, if I don't attempt to fulfil my dreams, then I will never be happy knowing that I never tried.

Track 75

Presenter: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I know that most of you will probably be graduating this year. Congratulations! Graduation is a time to celebrate. After all that hard work and sacrifice, you certainly deserve it. You will hopefully now be ready to embark on the next stage of your life – landing that perfect job. But be warned. This definitely won't be easy. Fear of unemployment and the pressure of finding a job you love will obviously take their toll...unless you prepare yourselves. Don't panic, that's why I am here – to offer you some advice to help you start your professional journey.

I'm sure we all agree that having the technical expertise and experience is great but remember you will undoubtedly be applying for jobs at entry level. So, having the ability to work as part of a team and being a good communicator will certainly be extremely important in persuading future employers to give you the position. Become more self-aware and get feedback from your peers and teachers on how others see you. Also, put yourself in positions where you are communicating face-to-face and not just online.

Don't underestimate the power of technology to make yourself more employable. Potential employers will quite probably use the internet to recruit and research candidates. A strong personalised presence relevant to the position you are looking for will undeniably help you access a wider audience.

Take control of the direction you wish to take. The perfect job certainly won't come to you. You need to be proactive. Go out and search for employers and contact people who already do the job you want. Ask them what it's really like and what they suggest you could do to get on the first rung of the ladder. Most people will invariably be happy to help you ...

Track 76

Don't underestimate the power of technology to make yourself more employable. Potential employers will quite probably use the internet to recruit and research candidates. A strong personalised presence relevant to the position you are looking for will undeniably help you access a wider audience.