

3B

Develop your listening

► **Goal:** understand most of a TV/ radio programme

► **Focus:** ignoring filler phrases



1 Look at the photo. Do you think you could do this job? Why/Why not?

2 a Evan is a world champion living statue. How do you think he will answer the questions?

- 1 How long have you been doing this job?
- 2 How long does it take to do the make-up?
- 3 What character traits do you need to be a successful living statue?
- 4 How long can you stand without moving?
- 5 What is the point of being a living statue?
- 6 What is the secret of being a good living statue?
- 7 Why do you earn more now?

b **3.6** Listen to an interview with Evan. Check your answers to Exercise 2a.

c Did any of the answers surprise you? Work in pairs and compare your ideas.

3 Listen again and complete the sentences with a word or phrase.

- 1 _____, it was in economics!
- 2 _____ no, it hasn't really helped me much.
- 3 And that was, _____, that was a great honour ...
- 4 And then you have to, _____, you have to practise and find the right clothes ...
- 5 And then I'll paint in the faint blue lines, _____, to make it look realistic.
- 6 ... so that I looked like a _____ old, almost falling apart statue.
- 7 We have a lot more inner peace, _____.
- 8 They might as well get a real statue, _____.
- 9 Those tiny movements that are, _____, part of the character.
- 10 If you get hungry you can, _____, start to feel light-headed or dizzy.

4 Read the Focus box. What other phrases from Exercise 3 could you add to the list?

Ignoring filler phrases

Fillers are words and phrases which people use when speaking to give themselves time to think or to soften the meaning of their words.

To understand a whole TV or radio programme, it is important to be able to ignore the fillers and pick out the important information. Common fillers are:

*I would say ... I seem to remember ... You know ...
kind of/sort of Actually, you see like ...*

5 **3.7** Listen to six extracts from the rest of the interview with Evan. Ignore the fillers and write the answers to the questions.

- 1 How much do you spend on make-up?
About ten euros each time I get dressed up
- 2 Can anyone learn to be a living statue?

- 3 If you're paid to perform for an hour, how do you know when your hour is finished?

- 4 What do you do when you need to scratch an itch?

- 5 What do you hate about the work you do?

- 6 What is your goal now that you're a world champion living statue?

6 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Would you like to do this job now that you have listened to Evan?
- 2 If you were a street performer, which of the things in the box would you prefer to do? Why?

sing dance juggle be a living statue do magic
tricks play an instrument

- 3 What are the biggest problems for street performers?