

Week 10 – Unit 11 – World – Making the world a better place – Introductory video – Video script

Markéta: Hi.

Šárka: Hi Markéta. Do you know that this week there is a conference on global issues being held in the university auditorium. Various speakers are giving presentations on problems that affect the population in the whole world. Would you be interested in attending any of the lectures?

Markéta: Yes, of course. Would you recommend anything? What are the topics actually?

Šárka: Look. There are different sections of the programme, for example the environment, of course. There is an interesting talk on waste produced by the textile industry. I've even, I've even read about it. Can you imagine that unsold clothes are put on a landfill in Atacama desert in Chile?

Markéta: Really?

Šárka: Yeah, yeah. Can you believe that all the jeans and T-shirts are piled up there.

Markéta: That's horrible.

Šárka: Yeah, it's very toxic.

Markéta: Yes and ... but actually, I'd be interested in hearing the solution for this.

Šárka: Yeah, yeah. It's horrible, really, but it affects the nature around there. And the solution... I believe that if people bought fewer garments, fewer clothes, fewer items and reused the old ones, the amount of waste would decrease and remember our grandmothers used to have five dresses, for example, and now we have fifteen.

Markéta: Yes, that's crazy.

Šárka: Yeah. And I... or another solution could be to upcycle clothes. I've heard it from some students.

Makréta: Upcycle?

Šárka: Yeah, that they upcycle clothes.

Markéta: What is that? To upcycle clothes.

Šárka: It means that they repair or change different parts of clothes, for example they cut off the collar or sleeves, they change it somehow and then they wear it much longer.

Markéta: OK, good, good. Well, definitely we could buy, we could buy fewer clothes, or we could buy less, because we definitely buy more than what we really need or... actually I'm not really that sure that, you know, buying less would help. Maybe if the companies stop overproducing because they produce so much that they even are not able to sell it in the end, so maybe that could be also the solution.

Šárka: Yeah. Do you think that if they stopped making the clothes, it would help, it would help the environment?

Markéta: Yes, yes, yes.

Šárka: I agree. We need to find a solution soon. Hopefully, some technology will be invented to tackle this problem.

Markéta: Well, actually. I can see that, you know, advances in science and technology... that's another section of the programme. Do you think they will speak about space travel?

Šárka: Space travel?

Markéta: Yes, because this is something I'd like to hear, you know, more details about. Imagine, five hundred years ago some people didn't even leave their towns and in a few years we might travel to the universe. I'd be interested in that as well.

Šárka: I find it scary but sure, it's amazing what people can invent, of course. So you'll go to room 5 and ... to listen to the newest discoveries in science and technology and I'll find something else, let's see... oh, Health and Well-being, I like this topic. I've recently discussed a case with my colleagues from the department of psychology, a case about a student who had a nervous breakdown and my colleagues or our colleagues, the psychologists believe if he took better care of himself, for example if he took breaks between studying, or if he did some exercise, he would feel much better, so I'd be interested in hearing more about mental health and some techniques for it.

Markéta: Hmm, that sounds actually interesting, well so let's go together to room 9, because I'll join you there.

Šárka: Yeah, let's go.

Markéta: OK.