

Audioscript
Listening comprehension

*For items 1–10, listen to a psychologist speaking on British radio on the subject of astrology and decide whether the statements 1–10 are TRUE according to the text you hear, or FALSE, or the information on the statement is NOT STATED in the text. You will hear the text **twice**. You have **20 seconds** to look through the statements.*

PAUSE 20 SECONDS

Now we begin.

*Introducer: We have with us today the psychologist Simon Calvin who has recently created quite a stir with some rather unlikely claims about Astrology. Simon, are you indeed claiming that our lives are ruled by the stars?

Simon: No, not at all. I would not for one minute say that all of our lives are affected by the movements of stars in the heavens. My research really concerns things that are far more down to earth. But, before I start, I should just say that by no means do the majority of people in general totally disbelieve the value of astrology. An incredible 62% of British adults say that their stars are of some interest to them although only 3.5% would use them to choose a husband or wife, and only 2.9% of people would refer to them in making business decisions. But anyway, coming back to what I said before, I'm not so interested in the stars themselves, as I am in the time of year somebody is born. Psychologists now widely agree that both early life experiences and time of birth are a great influence on the development of a person's character. Of course, this does not make the whole of a person's character, but rather the foundation or base on which later changes are made. However, these later changes in character are not connected with the person's time of birth. So the question is, then, after all these personality changes have happened, can we look at an adult and see any of this foundation or base as part of their psychological make-up? The technique I have been using to do just this is a very simple one, but I believe, very effective. I have simply made a statistical comparison between people's choice of career and their zodiac sign. Where somebody has made a strong choice in favour of a particular kind of career, I

believe that this indicates something very important in their character. If you look at a particular profession, say entertainers for example, and find that more than 15% of them were born in a certain short period of the year, it suggests that their choice of that profession is in some way connected with their birth at that particular time of the year. And this is, in fact, the case. An astonishing 20% of artists and entertainers were born in the period between the 12th of July and the 20th of August. This, in fact, is the most positive connection we have found so far. But there have been others although they have been less obvious. We looked at keen sports players participating more than five times a week and found a sizable number were born in the winter months of January and February. Another group of people we looked at were frequent travellers, who we discovered were more likely to have been born in early spring while accountants, bankers, executives and people generally in financial professions more frequently have birthdays in the late spring. Now, so far, we haven't found any professions containing large percentages of one particular star sign, which is a little disappointing, but this is, no doubt, because our modern technological world has removed us further and further from the effects of nature. If, as was the case in the past, many people lived closer to nature, we could be seeing percentages as high as 40 or 50 or even more. This of course would mean that we would have ... FADE

You have 20 seconds to check your answers.

PAUSE 20 SECONDS

Now listen to the text again.

TEXT REPEATED

This is the end of the listening comprehension task.