

1 Worksheet on Video-Based Listening Comprehension – Answer Key

“The Ingratitude of Sitcom Actors”, from Düwel/Grün, *The Media*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), pp. 35 ff.

B VIDEO-BASED LISTENING – SAMANTHA HAS BREAST CANCER

TRANSCRIPTS

a) Choosing a wedding gift (7:35 – 9:28)

The only thing harder than choosing a spot for a wedding when you hate weddings ...

What about a guestbook?

... is choosing a wedding gift for a friend who hates weddings.

Sweetie, there's gonna be like 8 of us there. There's no one to keep track of.

Can't believe Miranda's getting married.

I know.

This is pretty.

She'll hate that. Too domestic.

And too bridy.

Yeah. Let's try not to piss her off.

Well maybe we should just buy her a stapler and wrap it in brown paper and just smear just dog poo on it. You think she'd be comfortable with that?

Fine. We'll get the dish.

Ladies. I have something to tell you. And you're not going to like it.

If you get married and leave me all alone, I will kill you.

As you know I have always loved my body just the way it is. My legs are fantastic, I have killer abs. My ass is perfection.

Is this the part we're not gonna like?

But I have decided after careful consideration that I might be ready for bigger boobs.

Since when?

Since I had a cold hard dose of reality. From this. Look.

You're in 'In Touch' magazine?

And that's your source of reality?

Yes. They named Smith Jarred the number one hot guy to watch. They followed him all over town for a week. I'm in half the pictures. See. There are my boobs on Wednesday. See how small they are? There they are again on Thursday. Teeny tiny. And there they are having lunch. You can barely see them.

I should have brought my loupe.

I can't believe you would actually consider having a boob job.
I can't believe you went to Planet Hollywood.
You are a confident, intelligent woman.
Why would you wanna look like a bimbo.
I wouldn't be getting the watermelon freak show kind. I'd get something tasteful. Something like... - yours. Yours are good.
Mine?
What's wrong with mine? - They're not bad either. Let's see.
Okay. All right. Get hers.
No.

b) In the cab (20:29 – 22:13)

By Miranda's wedding day, I felt the whole world have gone romantic when Samantha insisted on picking me up in a cab.

What has come over you? This is a hundred blocks out of your way.
Now we're going to 10th and 6th avenue please.
Boy you look nice.
So do you.
Thank you.
So I had my breast consultation with a plastic surgeon.
Please tell me you've changed your mind.
Well not exactly. He found a lump.
And I had it biopsied, and it turns out I have cancer.
You what? When?
Well I had it biopsied on Wednesday and I found out yesterday.
I'm going to give you all the information and I don't want you to get upset or start worrying and the only reason I'm telling you now and not later is I didn't want to accidentally blurt out 'I have cancer' in the middle of Miranda's wedding. - Could you please take 5th? Broadway's a disaster.
Okay. I'm listening.
And please don't tell Charlotte and Miranda. I don't want to ruin their days too.
Of course, whatever you say.
So. What exactly do you know?
Just that there are cancer cells and I had it monogrammed and they think it's small which is a good sign.
And I won't know anything else until they take the fucker out next week. So there, now you know everything and we can talk about something else.
So do you like my skunk?
Well, thank you for telling me.
Sure.
I'm sorry to put a big cloud over the whole day.
Samantha.
I know I'm gonna be fine. I know that.
It's just... I don't wanna lose my breasts. They're fabulous.
They are.

c) At the wedding (24:45 – 26:10)

Oh my god. I am legally bound to Steve's mother.

Hi again.

Congratulations.

What? Why are you being weird?

We're not being weird.

No, we're just talking.

About me, right? You think I'm an asshole, that I've become one of them. That I'm a Stepford bride.

No.

Then tell me what you were talking about.

I'll tell you tomorrow. I don't wanna ruin your special day.

Forget about my special fucking day and be normal, please. I beg of you.

I have breast cancer.

What?

See? Now it's my special fucking day.

You have breast cancer?

Hey, no tears. Miranda, I expected more from you.

See, this is what we were afraid of. Go back to your people. We'll talk about this later.

You are my people and we'll talk about it now.

Now start at the beginning.

You are the bossiest bride in the world.

Yes, I am and you have to do everything I say.

Oh.

Now start talking.

Okay.

ON "CHOOSING A WEDDING GIFT"

1. Carrie thinks that it's really difficult

- to find a gift for a wedding when you hate weddings
- to find a spot for a wedding gift
- to find a present for a woman who doesn't like weddings
- to find a guestbook for a friend's wedding.

2. Looking at the magazine pictures, Samantha says:

- "I should have brought my loupe." (*loupe* is another word for *magnifying glass*, cp. German "Lupe")
- "I should have brought a hula-hoop."
- "I should have bought my loop."
- "I should have bought my loup."

3. Why do you think that there are photographs of Samantha in "In Touch"?

- She's probably Smith Jarred's manager.
- Perhaps she's Smith Jarred's girlfriend.
- Because she followed Smith Jarred all over town for a week.
- Because she's the number one to watch.

4. Why is the guestbook probably not a good idea?

The guestbook is not a good idea as it will be a very small wedding with only eight guests. Samantha knows that "there is no one to keep track of".

5. Explain the joke about Planet Hollywood.

In this scene Samantha is showing some pictures in "In Touch" magazine to her friends to explain why she's "ready for bigger boobs". When Charlotte says that she can't believe that Samantha is thinking about a breast enlargement ("I can't believe you would actually consider having a boob job."), fashionista Carrie says that she can't believe Samantha and her boyfriend went to Planet Hollywood, a chain restaurant. This bar is definitely not the place to be for trendy New Yorkers.

ON “IN THE CAB”

1. What does Samantha say? Fill in the blanks.

Well I had it **biopsied** on Wednesday and I found out yesterday. I'm going to give you all the information and I don't want you to **get upset** or **start worrying** and the only reason I'm telling you now and not later is I didn't want to **accidentally** blurt out 'I have cancer' in the middle of **Miranda's** wedding. - Could you please take 5th? Broadway's a **disaster**.

2. Complete the short summary.

A **biopsy** on Wednesday showed that Samantha has **breast cancer**. She tells Carrie about it and asks her **not to worry**. Samantha had a mammography and so she knows that **the lump is small** which is good.

ON “AT THE WEDDING”

1. What is a “Stepford bride”?

“The Stepford Wives” is a novel by Ira Levin, written in 1972 (film versions in 1975 and 2004). The housewives in this Connecticut neighbourhood are perfect-wive-robots created by their husbands. So the term "Stepford bride" refers to a submissive and obedient bride.

2. Explain Miranda's sentence: “You are my people.”

Samantha doesn't want to ruin Miranda's special day and so Charlotte asks Miranda to go back to her family (“Go back to your people.”). However, Miranda answers that her friends are her family.

IN GENERAL

Judging from these three scenes, why was “Sex and The City” so popular? (Give proof from the scenes.)

One reason why “Sex and the City” was and is so popular is because it shows that female friendships are more important than anything else (“You are my people.”). The women talk about their relationships (here Smith Jarred and Samantha), their hopes, their fears (“I don’t wanna lose my breasts. They’re fabulous.”). The sitcom is hilariously funny (“My ass is perfection”), but it also covers serious topics women in their 30s/ 40s really talk about or have to face (e.g. breast cancer). Plus, a show that gives this sort of self-belief to single women is simply refreshing.

(Daniela Pröls)