
ANSWER KEY

Unit 10**A**

Ed

pretty major: having a kidney removed – one of Emma’s friends had one removed recently

amazing: the fact that we can function without one kidney (or other organs)

horrible / disgusting (Ugh!): chopping up a kidney and sucking it out through a tube (keyhole surgery)

nasty (Ooph!): the massive scar that the operation left

Emma

horrible: the film, Marathon Man, in which a dentist tortures someone

not a good thing: Ed having to have five times the normal dose of anaesthetic – there had previously been only one person like him in the dentist’s experience!

D

- 1 carried out all these tests
- 2 Makes you wonder
- 3 I kind of wish
- 4 as long to recover from
- 5 donated it to medical science
- 6 compete with that story
- 7 the nerve in your tooth
- 8 It must’ve damaged
- 9 administer the anaesthetic

VIDEO SCRIPT

- Ed I feel a bit weird asking if you've had any medical or surgical experiences! It's a bit personal, isn't it?
- Emma I guess so, but don't worry. I won't tell you anything I don't want to talk about!
- Ed So go on, then? Anything major to tell me about?
- Emma Not actually personally, no, but one of my oldest friends had a kidney removed recently.
- Ed Really? Wow! That sounds pretty major. Why did he have to have that done?
- Emma It's quite a long story, but he used to work in west Africa, in Sierra Leone, and while he was there he got really ill and the company he was working for ended up sending him home and once he got back he went to his regular doctor and they carried out all these tests on him and he was diagnosed with some kind of kidney disease or something. No, actually, wait a minute ... I think they just said one of his kidneys just wasn't functioning, like it hadn't been working for ages.
- Ed Wow! OK. I'm just amazed at how the body can keep going with all of these things going wrong, you know.
- Emma Yeah. It's amazing, isn't it? There are all these bits inside us that we can kind of cope perfectly well without. Makes you wonder why they put them there in the first place, really!
- Ed In case one goes wrong, I suppose.
- Emma Yeah, maybe. Anyway, the worst part was that he was supposed to have keyhole surgery ...
- Ed Whoa! Wait a second. How can you get a kidney out through some kind of little keyhole?
- Emma I think they kind of chop it up somehow and then somehow suck out all the pieces.
- Ed Ugh! OK. I kind of wish I'd never asked.
- Emma Yeah, so he wanted keyhole, but when he got into hospital they said they were really, really busy and they'd just have to do normal surgery, which takes about half the time, but which takes twice as long to recover from.
- Ed Seriously?
- Emma Yeah, and in the end, he was left with this really huge great big scar as well.
- Ed Ooph! And what happens to the kidney in this kind of situation? Do you know?
- Emma Well, apparently, he donated it to medical science, so they can study it and see exactly what went wrong with it and stuff. Anyway, what about you?
- Ed Well, I'm not sure I can compete with that story, but I did have a root canal last year.
- Emma What's that? It's something to do with teeth, right?
- Ed Yeah, it's where they kill the nerve in your tooth because it's all got infected and then they in fill in the place where the nerve lived, like the canal part.
- Emma OK. I hate dentists, so I find this kind of story really hard to listen to. I had a bad experience as a kid and then I watched 'Marathon Man'. Do you know this movie?
- Ed No. Never heard of it. What is it?
- Emma Oh, it's old, starring Dustin Hoffman. And he gets tortured by a mad dentist. It's horrible. Really. It must've damaged dentists' reputations so much!
- Ed They get paid enough, so they shouldn't worry!
- Emma So, carry on anyway. Sorry.
- Ed Well, there's not much else to tell apart from the really crazy bit when they tried to administer the anaesthetic. My mouth just would not go numb. So they gave me another injection, and still nothing. In the end, they gave me five times the normal dose. He said he'd only ever seen one person like me in his life!
- Emma I'm not sure that's a good thing!