ANSWER KEY

Unit 12

A

Students do not have to use exactly the same words, though you may correct errors as you listen. Expected answers:

1 He was *cycling* through the town where he lives – and he hit a *hole* in the road – and fell off and broke his *arm* – he said he could see parts of the *bone* sticking out of his arm (though he may have been exaggerating) – he then got back on his bike and *wobbled* his way to the hospital – when he *checked himself in*, the people in the hospital said he must be *mad*.

2 When he was younger, he used to be a *sailor* – one day a wire *snapped* – and *sliced* three of his fingers off – there was blood *pouring* out of the wound – to stop the bleeding, he *burned* the ends of the fingers with a cigarette *lighter*.

3 He was in the *navy* – and saw active service during the *war* – a *bomb* went off and he got some *metal* from it in his *legs* – and then they gave him a *pension* and he left.

D

1 strong-willed and independent
2 whether he was exaggerating
3 Spare me the details
4 he just shrugged and said
5 was serving with them
6 or just plain stupid
7 saw active service
8 put it behind him
9 his own piece of land
10 gets up at dawn

VIDEO SCRIPT

Julia	I'm not sure my story is really incredible or anything, but it's all I could think of.
Alexander	OK. Go on. Who have you gone for?
Julia	My grandfather. He's 83 now, but he's really strong-willed and independent, and he's really tough physically. He's had quite a hard life, but it's made him as hard as nails himself.
Alexander	In what ways?
Julia	Well, I'll give you one example, OK, to show you what he's like. A few years ago, he was cycling through the town where he lives and he hit a hole in the road and fell off and broke his arm quite badly. He said – and I don't know if it's true or not or whether he was exaggerating – that he could see parts of the bone sticking out.
Alexander	Oh! Please! Spare me the details.
Julia	Yeah, sorry. But the crazy thing was he picked himself up, got back on the bike, which had a twisted wheel and somehow wobbled his way all the way to the hospital. And when he got there to check himself in, they just couldn't believe it. They thought he must be mad, but he just shrugged and said 'It's nothing to worry about', and that worse things had happened to him before!
Julia	God! Like what?
Alexander	Well, when he was younger he used to be a sailor. He started out as a fisherman when he was really young, like maybe 15 or 16, with his father, on the boats off the north coast, in quite dangerous waters, and then later on he joined the merchant navy and when he was serving with them, he lost three fingers. A wire snapped and somehow came back and sliced them straight off. I remember him telling me this story when I was a kid. He said there was blood pouring out of them, like a river …
Alexander	Urgh!
Julia	And to stop the bleeding, he burned the ends of his fingers with a cigarette lighter or something.
Alexander	Oh! Stop! I'm not sure if that's heroic or just plain stupid! So what happened to him after the navy? Did the lack of fingers make it hard for him to work?
Julia	Well, he only left the navy because he got injured. He saw active service during the war and he got some metal from a bomb in his legs and they gave him a pension and he left.
Alexander	That must've been horrendous.
Julia	I'm sure it was, but to be honest, he never really talked about it. I think he saw – maybe even did – some bad things and he just wanted to forget about it and put it behind him.
Alexander	I'm not surprised.
Julia	Then, after that he did all kinds of different jobs: factory work, he worked on the railways, he did all kinds and then in the end he became a farmer, with his own piece of land and everything.
Alexander	And now he's retired, I guess, yeah?
Julia	No, no. He's always said he wants to work till he dies, and he still gets up at dawn every day and goes out and looks after his land. He's very proud of it.
Alexander	And so he should be! He sounds amazing!