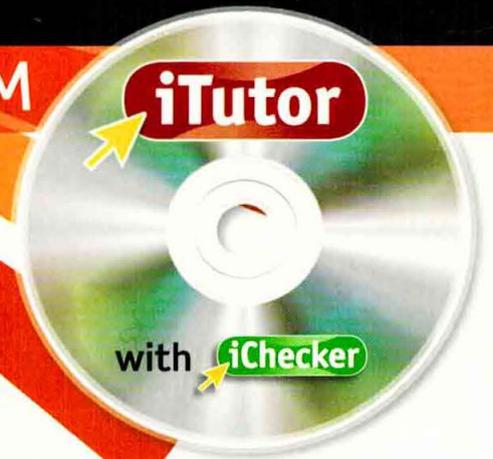


**third**  
edition

# ENGLISH FILE

Upper-intermediate Student's Book

with DVD-ROM



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OXFORD

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# 1A Questions and answers

## 1 READING & SPEAKING

- a Look at the photos of Benedict Cumberbatch and Elisabeth Moss and read their biographical info. Have you seen any of the TV series or films that they have been in? What did you think of them?
- b Now read the interviews and match questions A–G with their answers.
- A **How do you relax?**  
 B **What don't you like about your appearance?**  
 C **What's your earliest memory?**  
 D **What makes you unhappy?**  
 E **If you could edit your past, what do you think you would change?**  
 F **What was your most embarrassing moment?**  
 G **Who would you most like to say sorry to?**
- c Read the interviews again using the glossary to help you. Answer the questions with **BC** (Benedict Cumberbatch) or **EM** (Elisabeth Moss).

### Who...?

- 1  had an embarrassing experience as a child
  - 2  finds it hard to make decisions
  - 3  avoids answering one of the questions
  - 4  had a dangerous experience when they were travelling abroad
  - 5  had a dangerous experience when they were young
  - 6  often hesitates when they're speaking
  - 7  was fond of a kind of flower when they were a child
  - 8  has a favourite decade
- d Which of the questions in the interviews do you think is...?
- the most interesting
  - the most boring
  - too personal to ask a person who you don't know well
- e Choose six questions from Q&A to ask your partner.



Every week the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, chooses people who have been in the news recently, and publishes a short interview with them called Q&A.

The actor **Benedict Cumberbatch** was born in London in 1976. He has starred in many successful TV series and films, including *Sherlock*, *War Horse*, *Star Trek*, and *The Hobbit*.

### 1 What's one of your happiest memories?

Sitting with the sun on my face and a beer in my hand, the morning after I had been in a car-jacking in South Africa.

2

When I was six, I got stung by a wasp in a Greek market. A woman pulled down my pants and rubbed an onion on my bottom.

### 3 What don't you like about your personality?

I'm impatient, but also indecisive.

### 4 What is your greatest fear?

Forgetting people's names.

5

The size and shape of my head. People say I look like Sid from *Ice Age*.

### 6 What costume would you wear to a fancy dress party?

I rather enjoyed wearing bandages round my face as the Invisible Man at the last one I went to. People got to know me without recognizing me.

### 7 Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

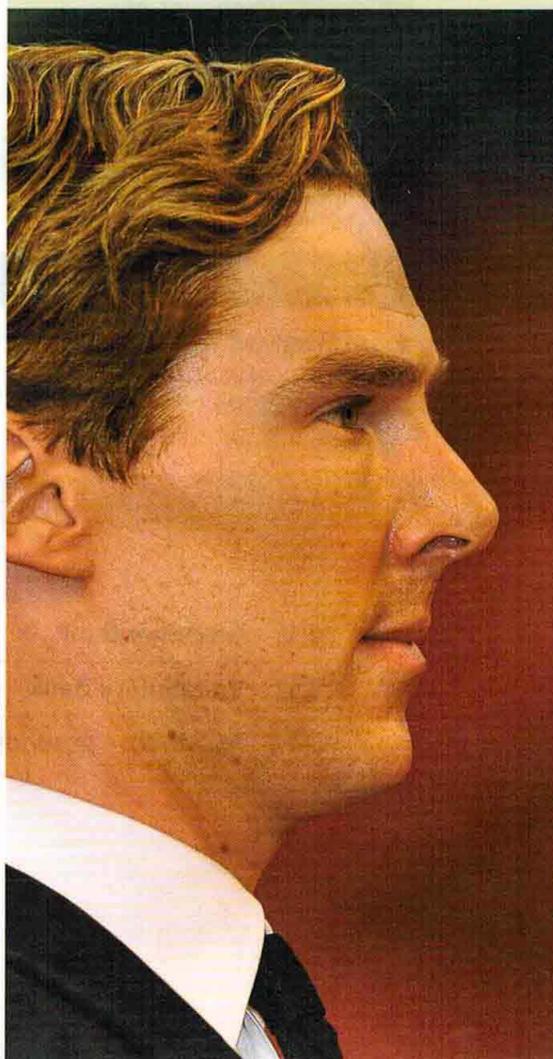
I say "Erm..." too much.

### 8 What one thing would improve the quality of your life?

Better time management.

9

I might not have called Trevor Nunn, the famous director, 'Adrian' at my first audition for him.





The actress **Elisabeth Moss** was born in California in 1982. She has been in several very successful US TV dramas, including *The West Wing* and *Mad Men* for which she won an Emmy award.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Going out into the backyard of my home in LA and pretending to build a vegetable garden with sticks and rocks. I must have been five.
- 2 **Which living person do you most admire?**  
This is kind of cheesy, but my mum.
- 3 **Which living person do you most despise, and why?**  
I won't say his name.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Not getting enough sleep.
- 5 **What is your favourite smell?**  
Jasmine. I grew up in Los Angeles, in the hills, and there was always jasmine growing.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
To a really good girlfriend with whom I lost touch when I was little. I would love to see her again.
- 7 **If you could go back in time, where would you go?**  
To a 1930s jazz club in New York City. I love the art deco period – the jewellery, the clothes, the music.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
I am big fan of getting a box set and watching the entire show in two or three weeks. I'm watching *The Sopranos* at the moment, because I missed it when it first came out.

9 **What has been your most frightening experience?**

When I was little, I was on a lake in the US and got caught underneath a rowing boat. That was pretty scary.

**Glossary**  
**car-jacking** the crime of forcing the driver of a car to take you somewhere or give you their car  
**Emmy** a US award similar to the Oscars, but for TV  
**backyard** *AmE* back garden  
**cheesy** *informal* too emotional or romantic in a way that is embarrassing, e.g. a cheesy love song

Adapted from The Guardian

## 2 GRAMMAR question formation

- a Now read the questions in **1b** again and answer the questions below with a partner.
- 1 Which questions are examples of...?
    - a subject question, where there is no auxiliary verb
    - a question which ends with a preposition
    - a question which uses a negative auxiliary verb
  - 2 What happens to the word order in the question *What would you change?* when you add *do you think* after *what*?
- b ► **p.132 Grammar Bank 1A.** Learn more about question formation, and practise it.

## 3 PRONUNCIATION

friendly intonation, showing interest

- a (1 4))) Listen to some people asking questions 1–5. Who sounds friendlier and more interested each time, **a** or **b**?

- 1 Do you **have** a big family?
- 2 **What don't** you like about the place where you live?
- 3 **What sports** or games are you good at?
- 4 Do you **think** you have a healthy diet?
- 5 **What makes** you feel happy?

- b (1 5))) Listen and repeat the questions with friendly intonation. Focus on sentence stress and linking.

### 🔍 Reacting to what someone says

When you ask someone a question and they answer, it is normal to show interest by saying, e.g. *Really?* or *Oh yes?* with a friendly intonation, or by asking a question.

- c (1 6))) Now listen to the questions in a conversation. Complete the expressions or questions that the man or woman use to react to the answers.
- 1 *Wow* \_\_\_\_\_! That's a huge family.
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_? What's wrong with them?
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_! We could have a game one day.
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_! How long have you been a vegan?
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_? I can't think of anything worse!
- d (1 7))) Listen and repeat the responses. Copy the intonation.
- e Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Use friendly intonation, and react to your partner's answers.