

Taking a medical history

Mr Davis continues to interview Ted Margolis.

Pre-watching

- 1 Based on what you learnt about Ted Margolis in the previous clip, how forthcoming do you think he will be regarding questions about his family and social history? Explain your answer.
- 2 Look at some of the colloquial expressions used in the clip and their meanings. How many of them are you familiar with?

DIY = Do It Yourself (home improvements, etc.)
he brought it on himself = it's his own fault
cabbie = someone who drives a taxi
the Mrs = slightly derogatory term for one's own / someone else's wife
goodness knows = I really don't know

Global observations

- 3a Watch the whole clip and take notes on general information that might help the doctor understand more about the patient as a person (employment status, leisure time, hobbies, etc.).
- 3b Share your findings with the rest of the group.
- 3c As a non-native speaker, think about how easy it would be for *you* to understand Ted. Compare strategies you might use to better understand your patient.

Watching for detail

Part 1: from Start to *Tuesday, you know. OK, alright.* (00:00>01:52)

- 4a Watch Part 1 of the clip. As you watch, number the components of the PMH (Past Medical History) as you hear them. Mr Davis does not cover all of the components.

- ☐ Past illnesses
- ☐ Immunisations
- ☐ Accidents and injuries
- ☐ Pregnancies
- ☐ Childhood illnesses
- ☐ Surgical procedures
- ☐ Allergies
- ☐ Medication

- 4b Discuss the rationale for the exclusion of certain components of the PMH.

- 4c Watch Part 1 again and complete the Patient Note for this section of the interview.

PMH

DH (Drug History)

Allergies

- 4d What evidence is there of Mr Davis' active listening skills during this section of the interview?
- 4e Mr Davis asks several leading questions. Look at these examples and rewrite them so that they no longer lead the patient.

- 1 But you've not had any major illnesses, accidents, that sort of thing?
- 2 So you've not had any operations, anything like that, have you?

Part 2: from *And if I can just ask a little about your family ... to ... my own, you know, drinking.* (01:52>02:26)

- 5a Watch Part 2 of the clip. Which of the following is Ted susceptible to and why?
- 1 Lung cancer
 - 2 Heart disease
 - 3 Alcoholism
- 5b What does Ted really think about his brother's death? How do you know? How has this affected Ted and his lifestyle?

Part 3: from *Can I just ask you about that?* to *Thank you very much.* (02:26>03:10)

- 6a** Watch Part 3 of the clip and complete the dialogue.

Doctor: Can I just ask you a bit about that?

Do you _____
_____ at all?

Ted: Well, I do, but I got to be careful,
of course, cos of, with driving,
you know. So I can only drink if I
know _____
_____ the next day, you know.

Doctor: OK, so how much alcohol
_____ in a, in an average week,
do you think?

Ted: Oh, probably about _____
_____, I should think.

- 6b** Look at the exchange above. What two questions does the doctor use to ask Ted about his drinking habits? Why does he phrase them in this way?

Part 4: from *Thank you very much* to End
(03:10>03:40)

- 7a** Before you watch Part 4, predict the points you expect Mr Davis to mention in his summary of Ted's PMH, family and social history.
- 7b** Listen to Part 4 and check your answers to Exercise 6a.
- 7c** Write down the question the doctor asks to check the accuracy of the summary. What is the significance of this question?

Post-watching

- 8** Imagine you have just been shadowing Mr Davis. What would *you* take away from this particular experience? Consider both positive and negative points.

Over to you

You are going to role-play a section of the interview (PMH, family and social history) with a patient who is very different in character from Ted. This person is not so ready to disclose information about his/her family and social history, although volunteers information about their PMH without too much persuasion.

Before you do the role-play, in pairs :

- plot the Pedigree Diagram for this patient (it could be a case you have worked on in the past or someone you know well);
- write a short description of the patient's character and their current concerns about their health. Include any other points you wish in order to give a rounder picture of the patient.

As a follow up, the doctors should evaluate their own performance, and patients should evaluate the way in which they were treated during the interview. Compare your ideas.