Desert Island Discs

Desert Island Discs is a radio programme broadcast on BBC Radio 4. It was first broadcast on the BBC Forces Programme on 29 January 1942.

Each week a guest, called a 'castaway' during the programme, is asked to choose eight recordings (usually, but not always, music), a book and a luxury item that they would take if they were to be cast away on a desert island, whilst discussing their lives and the reasons for their choices. It was devised and originally presented by Roy Plomley. Since 2018, the programme has been presented by Lauren Laverne.

More than 3,000 episodes have been recorded, with some guests having appeared more than once and some episodes featuring more than one guest. In February 2019, a panel of broadcasting industry experts named *Desert Island Discs* the "greatest radio programme of all time"

Preparation (homework)

Select a Desert Island Disc podcast from the archive below:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5qhJd1byxhTBYbSCFmw580y/desert-island-discs-podcasts

Listen to the programme and make notes on the following:

- What sort of questions did the presenter ask the “castaway”?
- What interesting things did you find out about the life of the guest?
- What did you think about the music choices of the castaway?
- What did the castaway choose as their book and their luxury item?

Making your own Desert Island Discs

1. Think of someone famous you would like to interview. You are going to prepare some interview questions for them, imagining you are the presenter. Think about the following:

- Childhood
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Passions/interests
- Important life events

Prepare **six questions** for your guest.

2. Imagine you have been invited on Desert Island Discs as a Castaway. You need to make your selection:
    - 5 recordings
    - 1 book
    - 1 luxury item (something that cannot be used in a practical way)

Pair work

In pairs you will each do an interview, both as presenter and as the guest. Use the questions you have prepared – you may need to adapt them for your new guest! There is a time limit of 20 minutes per interview, so try not to take too long on each question.