

Listening Sample Script

Listening Analysis - Family Traditions

Speaker A: Every year on my birthday, my family wakes me up with the “Happy Birthday” song in Spanish, German, and English. It goes back to when they were trying to find the song on YouTube years ago and kept finding it in different languages. Anyway, then my mom makes pancakes shaped like my age, and my dad makes me give a speech before I can eat. I know it might sound silly, but it means a lot to me. But now that I’m getting older and busier, it’s harder to get together. We’ve started doing video calls instead, which is sweet, but not the same.

Speaker B: Every summer, my family spends a whole week at this tiny cabin on a lake. My dad loves grilling and gets way too serious about making “the perfect hamburger.” My sister sits in the pool for hours. At night we tell stories and play songs on an old guitar. The best part is how it’s a breather from our crazy schedules. But now, even though I still live at home, it’s harder to find time, and we have kept it going, but just for a weekend. It’s still nice to keep the tradition alive, even if it is the reduced version.

Speaker C: The Saturday after Thanksgiving in early December, we always have what we call the “Decorating Party.” We put on Christmas music and decorate the whole house together. The temperature outside is really low this time of year, so my older brother gets us sweaters and I’m in charge of making hot chocolate. It’s something I really look forward to because it kicks off the holiday season. But now my brother has moved out, and sometimes he can’t come that weekend. Hopefully we’ll be able to keep doing it, but we’ll see.

-END-