

Try not to look at this until you've done all the exercises that go with the listening.

### **A Garden Bench**

- Jackie: For this week's podcastsinenglish.com, we're talking about a woodworking project.
- Richard: Yes. A garden bench.
- Jackie: Um... you're looking very chuffed with yourself, Richard. The bench looks wonderful.
- Richard: Well, I'm certainly not a carpenter. I've never really made anything before. So it was actually a big project for me.
- Jackie: Where did you get the plan from?
- Richard: Well, I wanted something really simple so I trawled the web, the internet, and I got a very simple plan and basically just followed that.
- Jackie: But there were some hitches along the way.
- Richard: Er yes. The website was American, it had imperial measures, feet and inches so I had to convert everything into metric where we are here and also the sizes of the wood, is a little bit different so I had to do a few conversions. But um... I got the wood anyway, so that wasn't too bad.
- Jackie: I remember you saying that you thought it all looked bigger and heavier than what was on the plan.
- Richard: Yes, the American sizes, they say it's four by four er... four inches by four inches but they mean the actual finished size is a bit smaller than that. Anyway, technicalities but um... yes, it was very big wood and I only had a handsaw so it was quite difficult to... to saw a lot of the wood.
- Jackie: Right. You said you had a problem with the saw. I remember you complaining about the drill as well. What was the problem there?
- Richard: Well, once I'd sawed the pieces and I had to bolt them together um... and my drill, the drill bit, the bit that makes the holes, wasn't long enough to go through the wood. The wood was so thick I couldn't get through it with the drill bit.

- Jackie: So you had to buy another, an extra long bit.
- Richard: Had to get an extra long bit and that was quite difficult to use as well and of course you have to drill the holes very straight through the wood.
- Jackie: So it turned out quite chunky hasn't it?
- Richard: Very chunky... very heavy to move the pieces of wood. I don't have a workbench, so I had to... I've got a truck so I just had to... put the pieces of wood on the back of the truck and sawed them using that, so a little bit awkward.
- Jackie: How easy was it to follow the plan? Were the instructions clear?
- Richard: Yes. I chose specifically a very simple plan. Um... I had a couple of joints which were a little bit difficult um... but I managed to get those not too bad. And it's got two legs er... and I went... followed the plan perfectly but it ended up both of the legs were the same.
- Jackie: So you did two left legs.
- Richard: Two left legs [laughs] but actually in the end of the day it doesn't really matter.
- Jackie: So perhaps not as symmetrical as it should be.
- Richard: Doesn't look completely symmetrical but you can't really notice it actually; it's not too bad.
- Jackie: Well, I think it looks wonderful. Is it actually finished now?
- Richard: Um... I just need to sand it down because the wood is still a bit rough and then a lick of paint and then we're ready to go.
- Jackie: We just have to decide where it's going to go, Richard.
- Richard: Yes. That'll be more difficult than making it.
- Jackie: Well, carrying it.
- Richard: [laughs] That's true.