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### **Milestones**

Jackie: Last week we put up our 500<sup>th</sup> podcast: a great milestone in the life of pie.

Richard: Yes. So for this week's podcastsineenglish.com we're talking about milestones in our own lives.

Jackie: So Richard, what was an important event for you?

Richard: I think one of the most important events for me was going to university.

Jackie: Okay, so why was that so special?

Richard: Well, as you know I grew up on a small island and it was the first time I'd gone away from home to live but also I was the first person in my family to actually qualify to go to university.

Jackie: So it was a big thing for your family as well then.

Richard: A big thing for my family and a big thing for me, yes, first time away from home.

Jackie: Wow

Richard: So Jackie, what about you, what was your important milestone event?

Jackie: Well, there have been lots of course but I do remember passing my driving test. [Richard laughs] I know but, you know, that was... that was a big thing.

Richard: So what was so special about passing your driving test?

Jackie: I think because I paid for it all myself and it was very expensive. It was quite difficult. I was living in London at the time and... and as you know London has a lot of traffic, so it was a very difficult thing for me to do, but having passed it I felt really, really independent.

Richard: And a great sense of achievement.

Jackie: Absolutely, yes.

Richard: Free at last

Jackie: Something else for you, Richard.

Richard: Um... yes: moving abroad.

- Jackie: Okay, you've lived in lots of places, so...
- Richard: Yes, the first time I... I... I left... When I was a child I used to love reading encyclopedias, atlases, reading about different civilizations all over the world. [Jackie: Right] And so this was my chance to actually go out there and be my own explorer and I um... I got a one way ticket to Hong Kong.
- Jackie: One way ticket, wow, so that was a very big thing to do.
- Richard: It was, I didn't come back to the UK for another three years but I think I've been travelling ever since.
- Jackie: Wow, yes, certainly a milestone.
- Richard: So that's my number two, what about your number two big milestone event?
- Jackie: Well, some people will think this is quite funny really, but I do think that the time I got my very first computer.
- Richard: Yes, I can see that.
- Jackie: Right, because I think nowadays most people have computers but when we were first working, Richard, they didn't have computers. I remember starting to use a computer at work but when I bought my very first computer to use at home that was just great.
- Richard: Yes, well, well I remember using a computer at work for the first time, it was more just like a glorified typewriter but they've certainly come a long way since then. So... so what was so special then about having your computer at home?
- Jackie: I think it was because I was living away from home and it was a really fantastic way of keeping in touch. Email was such a fantastic new thing at the time and also just having the Internet, having access to all that information. It was just fantastic.
- Richard: I think it's something that's changed a lot of people's lives, yes.
- Jackie: Yes, so um... yes, so... some, lots of other milestones, Richard, but those two stand out for me.
- Richard: Indeed, yes, so nevermind us, what about you, the listener, what are your milestones that have happened in your lives?
- Jackie: Yes, we'd love to hear about them.