**Cambridge English B for the IB Diploma: Teacher resource**

**Audio scripts**

**Audio track 9**

**Host:** For today’s edition of ‘Culture Wars’, I have the woman known as ‘ProPrankster’ in the studio. You may know her from her popular YouTube channel, where you can see all of her videos. For those who don’t know her, ProPrankster has a tendency to expose ‘interesting’ human behaviour. Her short videos include undercover reporting, pranks, stunts and human-interest stories. Her latest video, which has gone viral, is called *Ike Anderson and the Art World*. It has upset quite a few dealers and galleries in the art establishment. She has asked that we call her by her *nom du plume*. Welcome to ‘Culture Wars’, ProPrankster.

**ProPrankster:** Thank you for having me.

**Host:** But in your latest video, you don’t go by that name, do you?

**ProPrankster:** No, I call myself Leanne DuClerc. She’s part of the act. Well, actually, she *is* the act.

**Host:** She’s the leading character?

**ProPrankster:** Yes, she puts on this satirical performance that I created to expose the hypocrisies of the art world.

**Host:** And she claims to be a Belgian art connoisseur?

**ProPrankster:** Yes that’s right. She is this ostensibly well-connected art collector, connoisseur and entrepreneur. I first created a fake website for her, had photos taken of her in Dolce and Gabbana dresses in art galleries, drinking Champagne with bright red lipstick and thick-framed glasses. She is quite the character. I’ve been told that her accent is all over the place: not quite French, not quite Flemish.

**Host:** But you managed to fool the art dealers with her, didn’t you?

**ProPrankster:** Oh, easily!

**Host:** For those who haven’t seen the video, can you give a quick synopsis? How did Leanne DuClerc fool the dealers?

**ProPrankster:** Sure. So, after creating a CV, website and business cards, I tested this persona on the dealers in London. At first I ask, ‘Have you heard the latest on this?’ and ‘Have you seen the latest that?’ And then I subtly dropped the word ‘street art’ and their ears perked right up. I said I couldn’t come by a ‘Space Invader’ or ‘Banksy’, but if they were interested, I could acquire an authentic Ike Anderson for them. Never mind that they had never heard of him. I showed them a few snapshots of his work on my tablet. Of course I was secretly filming everything on this tablet, you understand.

**Host:** Yes, I understand the dealers were not too happy with your hidden camera in the end.

**ProPrankster:** No, of course not, but I wanted to capture their response first hand, you see.

**Host:** And what was the response that you captured?

**ProPrankster:** Well at first they looked a bit bewildered, because Ike’s work is not easy to ‘deconstruct’.

**Host:** But Ike’s work is not Ike’s work, is it?

**ProPrankster:** Well no, it’s Howard Mankoff’s. But nobody has heard of him. And you don’t have to be a genius to figure out where Ike Anderson gets his name. A leading furniture store sells Howard Mankoff prints in their art department for ten quid each.

**Host:** So just to be clear, you were selling prints from a furniture store to high-end art dealers in London, claiming to be someone you’re not and filming the whole thing without permission?

**ProPrankster:** Well... yeah! And what’s more, they bought the prints for thousands and the video went viral. That’s what makes the whole thing so brilliant.

**Host:** And also illegal, I believe.

**ProPrankster:** Well, there’s that. But we gave them the money back in the end. We had to.

**Host:** Who is ‘we’?

**ProPrankster:** Oh didn’t I mention that? The furniture store, of course. They sponsored the whole thing. It was what they call ‘guerilla marketing’.

**Host:** Just to get this straight: a furniture store *paid* you to make this film?

**ProPrankster:** That’s right, they thought it would spread brand awareness. But I think of it as art. The video, I mean. It’s one of my best pieces, if not my best work. Like you said, it’s stirred up the establishment.

**Host:** It certainly has. But haven’t the dealers asked you to take the video down? I mean, it’s defamation of their galleries, isn’t it?

**ProPrankster:** Oh we took it down ages ago. But by then, pirated versions were popping up all over the Net. And we can’t be held responsible for that, can we?

**Host:** Wait, this seems like an upside-down world, if you don’t mind me saying so. You almost sound amused that your video, or ‘work of art’ as you call it, has been pirated. Isn’t that what most artists *don’t* want?

**ProPrankster:** Oh the idea is *soooo* last century. People can copy my work all they want. I think of them as my fans. And besides, I’ll just keep creating new content.

**Host:** And Howard Mankoff’s work? I assume he was paid for his role in this video of yours? He created the artwork that you were selling, after all.

**ProPrankster:** Oh, we gave him credit at the end of the film. That was the agreement I had with the furniture store. And from what I understand, his prints are selling well these days. He’ll be fine.

**Host:** OK... You mentioned earlier that your video has exposed the hypocrisies of the art world. How are the dealers acting hypocritically in your eyes?

**ProPrankster:** Well first of all, we’re talking about middlemen earning millions on other people’s art. And the artists hardly receive a penny. Secondly, they claim to know the value of art, when in fact they have no clue, as my video showed.

**Host:** Yes, but I’m not sure that’s hypocritical behaviour, technically speaking.

It sounds to me like the dealers in your video were simply ill informed, because... well... they were lied to – to put it bluntly.

**ProPrankster:** I just exposed them for who they are: charlatans. The whole system of dealers and galleries and auctions is corrupt.

**Host:** And your video aims to counter that corruption?

**ProPrankster:** Exactly, that’s what ProPrankster does, she counters corruption with YouTube and social media. Power to the people, baby!

**Host:** Well that sounds quite noble of you. Can I ask you, what is your real name?

**ProPrankster:** Ha ha, nice try. Sorry but my identity is my own. I’m not going to give that up so easily to you or the rest of the establishment.

**Host:** OK, I understand. I hadn’t thought of myself as ‘the establishment’. I was just curious. Look, this has been most enlightening. But I think it’s time to take a few calls from listeners.

**ProPrankster:** Sure, I’m all ears.