

Learning English podcasts... from the
Hellenic American Union©

Level: Lower Intermediate

Lesson: 4

Title: "Harley Davidson"

Summary:

Vanessa and Lisa talk about the history of Harley Davidson

In this broadcast Vanessa and Lisa are in the middle of a live show in a radio studio. Listen to their conversation and answer the question that follows about the main idea.

Dialogue:

Vanessa: In tonight's show Lisa and I will be reporting on the history of Harley Davidson's. So Lisa, could you tell our listeners how Harley's started?



Lisa: Well, many people believe it was a family business but it wasn't!

Vanessa: What do you mean it wasn't? Wasn't it Arthur and Walter Davidson's idea?



Lisa: No, not really. Do you really **wanna** know how it got started? ...

Vanessa: Yeah, **fill us in.**

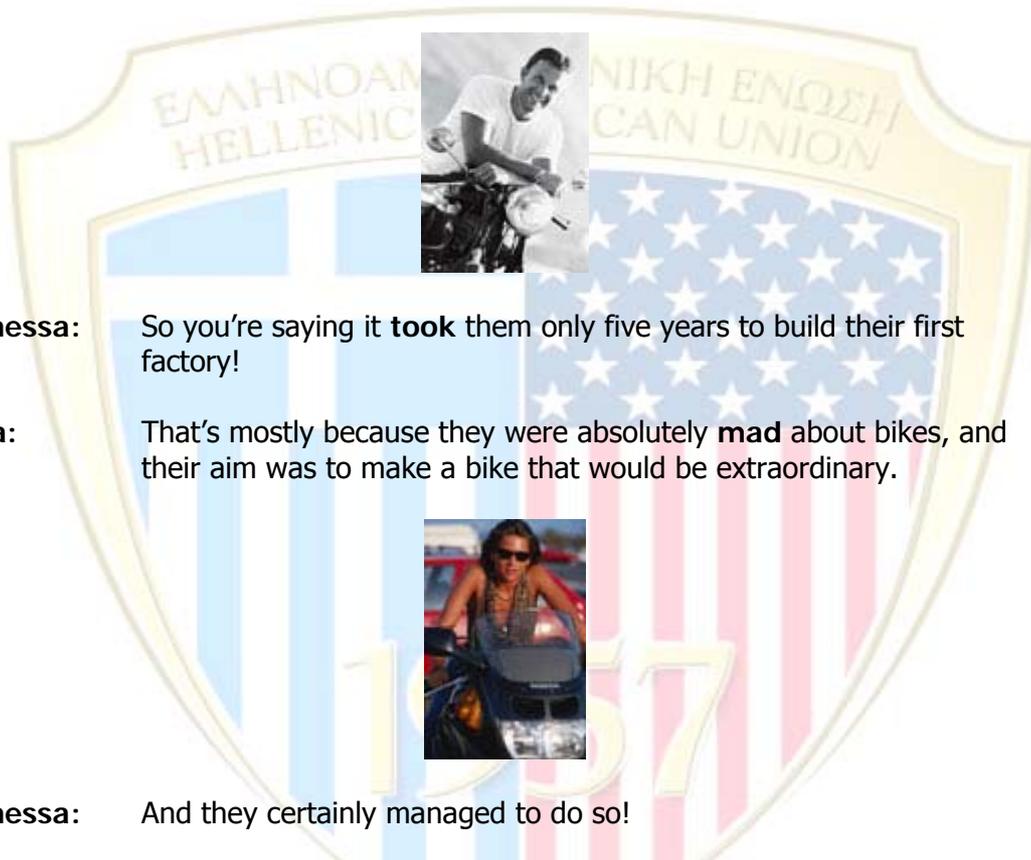


Lisa: It all started in 1901 when Arthur Davidson and his friend William Harley were experimenting on their motor-bicycle. Harley, who was studying to be a mechanic, had drawn up plans for a small engine that would be used in a regular pedal-bicycle frame.



Vanessa: I see. But when **did** Walter Davidson **come into the picture**?

Lisa: Walter came in two years later when he helped them finish off building their first bike.



Vanessa: So you're saying it **took** them only five years to build their first factory!

Lisa: That's mostly because they were absolutely **mad** about bikes, and their aim was to make a bike that would be extraordinary.



Vanessa: And they certainly managed to do so!



Now answer the following question . . .

What are Vanessa and Lisa talking about?

They're talking about the history of Harley Davidson Bikes.

Now listen again to the dialogue in parts. After each part there will be 3 to 4 questions on the details . . .

Part 1

Vanessa: In tonight's show Lisa and I will be reporting on the history of Harley Davidson's. So Lisa, could you tell our listeners how Harley's started?

Lisa: Well, many people believe it was a family business but it wasn't!

Vanessa: What do you mean it wasn't? Wasn't it Arthur and Walter Davidson's idea?

Lisa: No, not really. Do you really **wanna** know how it got started? ...

Vanessa: Yeah, **fill us in**.

Now answer some questions . . .

1. Lisa says: "Do you really **wanna** know how it got started?" What does "wanna" mean?

"Wanna" is the short form of "want to" and is used in informal spoken English.

2. Vanessa says: "**fill us in**" What does "fill someone in" mean?

"Fill someone in" means inform someone.

Now listen to the second part of the dialogue . . .

Part 2

Lisa: It all started in 1901 when Arthur Davidson and his friend William Harley were experimenting on their motor-bicycle. Harley, who was studying to be a mechanic, had drawn up plans for a small engine that would be used in a regular pedal-bicycle frame.

Vanessa: I see. But when **did** Walter Davidson **come into the picture**?

Lisa: Walter came in two years later when he helped them finish off building their first bike.

Vanessa: So you're saying it **took** them only five years to build their first factory!

Lisa: That's mostly because they were absolutely **mad about** bikes, and their aim was to make a bike that would be extraordinary.

Vanessa: And they certainly managed to do so!

Now answer some questions . . .

1. Vanessa says: "But when **did** Walter Davidson **come into the picture**?"
What does "come into the picture" mean?

"Come into the picture" here means become a part of their plan.

2. Vanessa says: "It **took** them only five years to build their first factory!" What does "take" mean?

"Take" here means "last"; so Vanessa is saying that they needed only five years to build their first factory.

3. Lisa says: "...they were absolutely **mad** about bikes" What does "mad" mean here?

"Mad" here means enthusiastic about and is used in informal spoken English.

Please visit our site at www.hau.gr to find the transcripts, explanations and activities.



GLOSSARY

Draw up (verb): to list, plan or prepare a document.

e.g. The manager drew up a formal agreement when he bought the new company

Engine (noun): a machine that uses energy to produce power or movement.

e.g. Under the hood of a car there is an engine.

Experiment (verb): to do a scientific test in order to discover what happens in particular conditions.

e.g. Scientists have experimented on animals for many years

Extraordinary (adjective): very special; better or greater than usual.

e.g. Maria Callas was an extraordinary woman.

Family business (noun): a business which is managed by members of a family.

e.g. Body Shop used to be a family business. All the members of the family managed it.

Fill someone in (verb): to give more details or information.

e.g. I'll fill you in on the report as soon as I can.

Pedal (noun): the two parts of a bicycle that you push with your feet in order to make the bicycle move.

e.g. The little girl put her feet on the pedals and began to cycle as fast as she could.

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

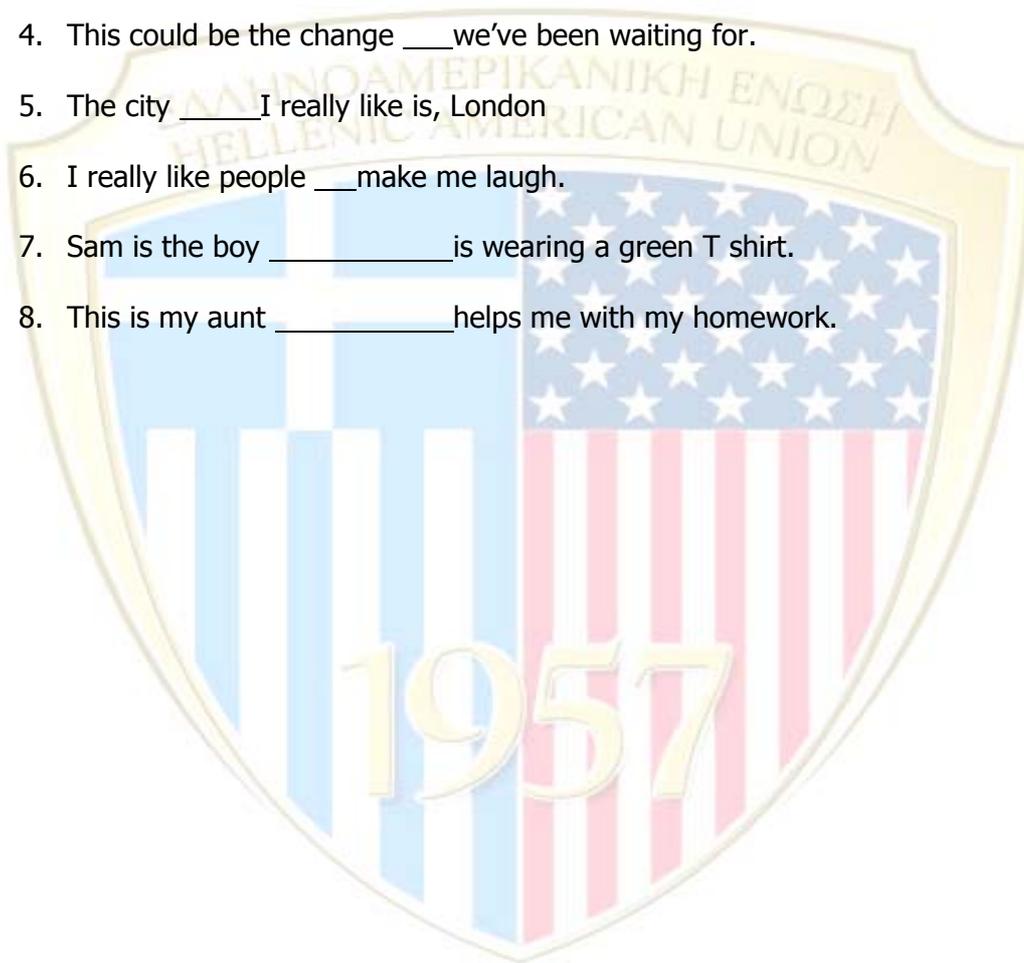
Practice using the words in the glossary. Choose the most appropriate word from the words on the right.

1. I've _____ a list of candidates I would like to interview for the new position.	A. fill me in
2. He stood up on the _____ of his bike to get extra power as he cycled up the hill.	B. pedals
3. He told us a(n) _____ story of how he escaped from the soldiers in Vietnam.	C. a family business
4. _____ on animals can help scientists understand diseases in humans.	D. engine
5. Did you know that the Ford Factory was _____	E. extraordinary
6. Hey Kathy, can you _____ on the latest gossip ?	F. experimenting
7. This is our new RX model bike with a super powerful _____	G. drawn up

Activity 2

Complete the sentences with **who** or **which**.

1. A penguin is a bird ___ lives in the Antarctic.
2. Joe is the boy _____ lives next door.
3. A waiter is someone _____ works in a restaurant.
4. This could be the change ___ we've been waiting for.
5. The city _____ I really like is, London
6. I really like people ___ make me laugh.
7. Sam is the boy _____ is wearing a green T shirt.
8. This is my aunt _____ helps me with my homework.



KEY TO ACTIVITIES

Activity 1. 1. g. 2. b. 3. e. 4. f. 5. c. 6. a. 7. d.

Activity 2. 1. which 2. who 3. who 4. which 5. which 6. who 7. who 8. who