

Script 1

Professor: OK, class, let's continue our discussion of those great explorers who opened the doors to the New World. One of the most important was the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, whose expedition completed the first voyage around the world to find a western spice route to Asia. As you know, the famous explorer Christopher Columbus had tried to find a route from the west in 1492, but Magellan's expedition was the first to take this route and reach what was known as the Spice Islands ... uh, actually the Maluku Islands, which are part of present-day Indonesia. Uh, OK ... let me stop here for a second and remind you that spices, particularly cloves and cinnamon, were considered very valuable at that time ... and the Maluku Islands were the most significant source of these spices. And, as you'll recall, the rulers of European countries usually had to both approve and fund these costly expeditions to the Spice Islands. It was in their best interest, of course, since the countries that discovered and controlled certain routes could gain great power and wealth. So, there was a great deal of competition between countries like Spain and Portugal for establishing new sea routes to the Islands. In fact, the Portuguese even sent out ships to stop Magellan, but he was able to find a way around them ... uh, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

So, how did Magellan's journey begin? Well, after asking and being denied permission to sail to the Spice Islands in 1513 by King Manuel of Portugal - um, Magellan wasn't on good terms with him - anyway, Magellan sailed for Spain in 1518 and was able to convince the king of that country ... um... King Charles, to sponsor his voyage. Anyway, getting back to Magellan, so, by 1519, Magellan was finally ready for the voyage. With a crew of 241 men and a fleet of five ships—named Trinidad, San Antonio, Concepcion, Victoria, and Santiago uh, with these ships, the expedition sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to South America. Uh, that is, of course, after Magellan escaped from the Portuguese, as I mentioned earlier. By 1520, they had set up camp for the winter at Puerto San Julian in what is now southern Argentina. However, an unsuccessful rebellion broke out among the crew members shortly after they set up their winter quarters, and a severe storm destroyed the Santiago while it was on a scouting expedition down the coast. In spite of these difficulties, they resumed their voyage south about eight months later and were finally able to find a narrow passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean ... urn, it's now called the Strait of Magellan. But, again, there was trouble. While they were sailing through the strait at the tip of South America, the captain of the San Antonio abandoned the mission and returned to Spain. This left three ships to enter the Pacific Ocean. Nonetheless, Magellan and his crew became the first Europeans to sail across the enormous and unknown expanse of the Pacific. However, while that was an extraordinary achievement, it didn't happen without incredible hardship. As they sailed

day after day, hoping to see land, the members of the expedition eventually used up all their food supplies and had little water ... urn ... under these dire circumstances, some of the crew members died. Fortunately, after nearly a hundred days, Magellan and his ships did manage to reach the Pacific island of Guam in February of 1521 and were able to restock some of their supplies. From there, they went on to the Philippines, where, unfortunately, they got involved in a battle and lost more than a hundred men, including Magellan. He was killed during a battle in April 1521 between two local groups on the Philippine island of Mactan. After the battle, there was not enough of the crew left to sail all of the remaining ships, so they burned the Concepcion. The journey continued and the Trinidad and Victoria finally reached the Maluku Spice Islands in November 1521, and the crew filled their ships with precious spices for the journey back. In the process of trying to sail home, the Trinidad was captured by the Portuguese. Finally, however, the Victoria returned to Spain in 1522 with only eighteen survivors. And here, I really should mention someone you've probably never heard of: Juan Sebastian Elcano. Poor guy! It seems like history ignores him sometimes, and it's just not fair. Anyway, he's actually the one who took over command of the remaining ship and delivered the spices to the King of Spain. So, to sum it up, although Magellan didn't make it back, the real significance of the expedition's voyage around the globe is that it revealed, for the first time, how large the world truly is.

Key to listening 1:

1) Portugal 2) Christopher Columbus 3) King Charles 4)E 5)D 6)A 7)C 8)B 9) 241
10) 18 11) Nearly 100 days 12) D 13) A 14) C 15)F 16) B 17) H 18) E 19) G 20) A

Judy: Hi Graham. How you doing?

Graham: Hi Judy. I'm fine, thanks. And thanks for popping round. I was hoping I could pick your brains about transferring to another course.

J: Yes, I remember you saying you wanted to do something else. Are you planning on staying here, or are you looking to go to a different university?

G: No, I'm happy to stay here. I just feel I need to do something else. How did you go about your transfer? You did History of Art originally, didn't you?

J: That was the course I initially wanted to transfer to. I'd studied Art at college and wanted to continue but my parents persuaded me that English would be more useful, so I took their advice. But I really didn't enjoy it and tried to transfer to History of Art but the course was full. Anyway, I spoke with the course tutors and they told me about the Fine Art programme. They thought I had the talent to do it, so that was that.

G: I see. How did your parents take the news?

J: They were OK about it, really. They just want me to do what I enjoy, so everything's fine there. So, you're hoping to transfer as well, then?

G: Yes, I think I've given the German course a good try but I'm not really happy. Most of the other students on the course seem to have at least one German parent or they've spent a great deal of time in Germany, so their German is much better than mine. We get huge novels to read and I'm still struggling with the first chapter while they're already finished and writing their assignments. I thought about doing a combined degree, German with another course, as the workload would be less but in the end I feel a complete change would be best. One of my other subjects at school was History and I realise now I'm actually more interested in that. One of my housemates is doing History and it sounds like a great degree, so I've decided to focus on that.

J: Well, people do transfer, so it's not out of the ordinary. But won't you miss the opportunity to study abroad for a year? You spend Year 3 in Germany, don't you?

G: I know. Not only Germany, actually. You have a choice of Germany, Switzerland or Austria. That would be exciting, I know, but that's really the only thing I like about the course and I can always do some travelling after I've finished my studies. I still don't know what I want to do as far as a career is concerned, so I think it's best I study something I enjoy, first and foremost. Anyway, I thought I'd ask you about how you went about your transfer before taking it any further.

J: Well, the first thing you have to do is make sure you're clear in your own mind why you want to transfer. You'll need to persuade people that it's a good idea, so get your arguments clear. Then ... I'm sure you've already done this, but check what the entry requirements are for History and whether you've got the necessary qualifications. They might be more flexible now you're actually here but you need to show them you'd be able to keep up with your studies.

G: Well I've got History qualifications, so I'm hoping that won't be a problem. Who do I have to speak to?

J: Well, they always tell you to speak with your course tutor first in case there's a way of making the course you're on more appealing to you. But it sounds like you've definitely decided to get out, so I'd go to the Careers Service next, just to make sure there aren't any restrictions on transferring.

It shouldn't be a problem but it's best to check first. And then there's your funding. I'm no expert but I would imagine this won't be a problem; German's a four-year course and History's three, so you could just start from Year 1 next September. If the Careers Service think it's OK and there are no funding problems. go and speak to the Admissions Tutor in the History Department. just to see if they're happy with your qualifications - and if there are places.

G: OK. Well, I'm hoping it'll be OK. I'm planning to transfer at the beginning of next year rather than half-way through this year.

J: Yes, hopefully it'll be alright. If they accept you, it's pretty straightforward after that. It's not like you're going to another university. You just have to complete a form - I think it's called an internal transfer form. Your current Head of Department and the one for the course you're transferring to have to add their signature as well. And that's it.

G: Well, thanks for that, Judy. I'd better start making my case for transferring, I suppose.

Key to listening 2:

1 B

2 C

3 A

4, 5 & 6 IN ANY ORDER

A C F

7 qualifications/ entry requirements

8 funding

9 internal transfer

10 Head of Department