# Yes Man

# READING DAMA Mallace 'THE MAN'S A GENIUS' DAVINA MCCALL CONCLITTE WORD CAN Change Your Life...

- 1 a Look at the cover of Yes Man, by Danny Wallace. Do you know or can you guess what it's about?
  - b Read the blurb on the back of the book to check. How do you think Danny's decision could affect his life?
- Read an extract from Danny's book.
  - 1 How does Danny feel?
  - 2 How long does he plan to say 'yes' to everything?
  - 3 Why doesn't he want the doubleglazed windows?

# 14.2 goals

🔊 talk about the future 🧲

describe personal hopes and expectations

# **Danny Wallace**

# Yes Man

Danny Wallace had been staying in. Far too much. Having been dumped by his girlfriend, he was avoiding people. Texting them instead of calling them. Calling them instead of meeting them. That is until one day when a mystery man on a late-night bus told him to ... 'SAY YES MORE'. These three simple words changed Danny's life forever.

Yes Man is the story of what happened when Danny decided to say YES to everything.

I was angry at myself. I had wasted half a year after being dumped. Half a year gone. Thrown away. Swapped for toast, and evenings in front of the telly.

I had to get back out there. I had to start living life, rather than just living.

And it was obvious how.

Say Yes more.

I would say Yes more. Saying Yes more would get me out of this rut. It would rekindle my love for life. It would bring back the old me. I just needed a little kickstart. A little fun. A chance to live in a completely different way. I could treat it like an experiment. A study in my own behaviour. A study in positivity, and opportunity, and chance.

A day. Yes. A day of relentless positivity. What harm could that do? A day of saying Yes. Yes to anything. Anything and everything.

'Hello, can I speak to Mr Wallace, please?'
'Yes!'

'Hello, Mr Wallace, I'm phoning from Mark 1 Double Glazing in London. Would you have a moment to talk about double glazing, sir?'

'Yes!'

'Have you ever thought about having your house or apartment double-glazed at all?'

'Yes!'

'And have you been put off in the past by high prices at all?'

'Yes, I have, Yes.'

'Can I ask you, would you be interested in a free, no-obligation quote for double glazing on your property, Mr Wallace?'

'Yes!'

'Okay ... well, what we can do is, we can certainly send one of our representatives round to your residence. Is there a particular time or day that's good for you?'

'You suggest a time.'

'Right. How are you fixed for Tuesday, Mr Wallace?'

'Yes, Tuesday. Yes.'

'2 pm?'

'Yes. Um ... I should warn you, though ... I am already fully double-glazed.'

'You're what, sorry?'

'I already have double glazing throughout my flat.'

'Well, wait a second ... why would you want a quote?'

'Well, you asked, and -'

'I have to go now, Mr Wallace, okay?'

'Yes.'

And that is how my Yes experiment started.

- Find these expressions in the first part of the extract. Discuss what they could mean, using the context to help you. Then check in a dictionary or ask your teacher.
  - 1 dumped
    - get back out there
  - 3 get out of this rut
- 4 rekindle my love for life
- 5 a little kickstart
- 6 relentless

### **SPEAKING**

# 4 Talk together.

- 1 Would you ever be prepared to try an experiment like Danny's? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Do you know of anyone who got tired of their old life and made a big change? How? What was the result?

# I'll have published ...



Eamonn from Ireland

- Listen to Eamonn and Liliya talking about their lives.
  - Who likes planning things? Whose approach to life is more spontaneous?
  - 2 Who mentions these topics Eamonn, Liliya or both? money work home children flying holidays writing
- (13.33) Eamonn and Liliya each mention three predictions or hopes. Listen again.
  - What are they?
  - 2 What details do they give about each one?



Liliya from Russia

### GRAMMAR

**Future** progressive and future perfect

- a Which of these sentences from the listening describes:
  - a an action finished before a point in the future?
  - b an activity in progress at a point in the future?
    - In about ten years' time, my wife and I will probably be living in Portugal.
  - Hopefully, I'll have published another novel by the end of next year.

## b How do you make the two forms?

- future progressive: will + +
- future perfect: will + \_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_
- You can use expressions other than will in progressive and perfect forms about the future. How do these highlighted expressions differ in meaning from will?
  - In a few years, I may be living abroad.
  - 2 In ten years, I hope to have set up a business.
  - 3 In five years' time, I might have bought a new flat.
  - By 2020, I should be nearing the end of my career.
  - In ten years' time, I expect to have done a doctorate.

**Grammar reference** and practice, p140 5 Look in Eamonn's and Liliya's scripts on pp157-8. Find more sentences where they use progressive and perfect forms to talk about the future.

### **PRONUNCIATION**

Fluent speech 4 - double contractions

a (1334) Listen to Eamonn's sentences. Notice that have is pronounced /əv/, making two contractions in a row: 'll've. Practise saying the sentences.

Hopefully, I'll have published another novel by the end of next year. By that time, I'll have saved up enough money to buy a place with a sea view.

How would you say will not have?

- b Practise saying these sentences with double contractions.
  - She will have got her exam results by then.
  - 2 They will have completed it by the weekend.
  - 3 They will not have decided before tomorrow.
  - 4 It will have stopped raining soon.
  - 5 I will not have started college until September.

You can say double contractions but it's not usual to write them.

### SPEAKING

Tell a partner your predictions, hopes and expectations for your future, and give reasons. Talk about your:

ambitions interests relationships appearance possessions status ...

Use the future progressive and future perfect with suitable time expressions.

I should be/have ... I think I'll be/have ... I hope to be/have ... Ideally, I'd like to be/have ... I might be/have ... I expect to be/have ...

Get into new pairs and tell each other what you learned about your first partner. Would you say their approach to life is more planned or more spontaneous?