

Transcript

- Meter reader:** Hello, I'm from City Electricity Services. I'd like to look at your electricity meter please, if that's alright.
- Wife:** I'm sorry, I don't understand.
- Meter reader:** I need to take the reading of your electricity for the bill.
- Wife:** Oh, I see, the electricity bill. Yes, sorry, how much is it?
- Meter reader:** No, no, no. You don't understand. I'm not here to take the money.
- Wife:** Oh, I see, there isn't a bill?
- Meter reader:** No, not yet... You're not from this country are you?
- Wife:** No, we've just moved here from India... just last month.
- Meter reader:** Welcome to London then! Let me explain how it works. In your home, you've got a meter -
- Wife:** One metre?
- Meter reader:** No, it's like a little machine with numbers. I think that's it, just there.
- Wife:** Oh, I see.
- Meter reader:** The numbers show how much electricity you've used. I need to take the reading... I need to read the meter and write down the numbers. And then we'll send you a bill in the post.
- Wife:** Oh right.
- Meter reader:** But no-one will come to collect the money. If someone calls saying they're collecting money, they're probably not genuine.
- Wife:** Not.. genuine?
- Meter reader:** Not real... not who they say they are. You pay, through your bank. Or you can use the internet.
- Wife:** Oh right. I see. Could I see some ID please?
- Meter reader:** Yes, of course. *(The meter reader shows her a photo-ID card.)* This is me when I was younger and better-looking!
- Wife:** Come in.
- Meter reader:** Thank you.

(The meter reader goes in, looks at the electricity meter, and writes down the numbers)

Meter reader: Right, thanks, I've got your reading now. So you'll get your next bill in the post soon.

Wife: Thanks.

Meter reader: And you know you've got your gas meter out there? And also your water meter.

Wife: Yes, I know. Well, I didn't know. But I know now! Thank you for your help.

Meter reader: My pleasure. And if you want, you can read the meters yourself.

Wife: Really?

Meter reader: Yeah. Simple. You just write down the numbers on the meter. And then you can phone and tell us. Or you can do it on the internet. Same with your gas and water.

Wife: Oh, well it's useful to know that. Thank you.

Meter reader: At least you know the bill is always right. Anyway, that's it! You have a good day now!

Wife: Thank you very much. Bye.

Wife: Bye bye.

(later that day)

Wife: Gas 37591

Husband: What are you doing?

Wife: Reading the gas meter.

Husband: What?

Wife: So that we get the right bill.

Husband: Why?

Wife: Don't you know anything!?