



### Segment 1 (Units 1–4)

#### *Would you buy this toy?*

Genre: Comedy show

Viewing Time: 1:22

#### Background Information

This segment shows a humorous view of the “man-on-the-street” section of many news programs. Like the hidden camera shows, in which viewers are faced with unusual situations, people are asked to give their opinion about a supposedly new toy. Their reactions range from disbelief to open criticism.

#### Cultural Information

Companies usually test potential customers’ reactions to a new product before they send the item to stores. Field-testing of new products is usually done through focus groups, in which a group of people discuss a new product, or by offering free samples and asking people to complete a questionnaire. This segment uses a make-believe reporter who pretends to be field-testing a new toy.

#### Vocabulary for Comprehension

*Preview the vocabulary with your students.*

dumb: *stupid*

prior: *from before*

silly: *absurd, doesn't make sense*

strap: *a strong band of cloth or leather that is attached to a bag, shoe, etc. so it doesn't fall down or off*

#### Answer Key

*Previewing* (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. They're looking at a toy: a ball with a screw that holds a strap.
2. They are on a street in New York.
3. Some of the people are confused, some are annoyed, some are amused, some are pleased.
4. They are talking about what they think of the toy.

#### *In-Depth Viewing*

1. c    2. b    3. b    4. a



### Video Script

**Reporter:** Would you buy this toy?

- 1:** You wear it around your neck? What is it? Oh, it's one of those things you wrap around your ankle and you swing it around and around. And you jump over it, right?
- 2:** This is a pretty ridiculous idea. It just seems kind of dumb to throw one of these things. And, you know, why don't you get a friend and, you know, throw with them?
- 3:** I think you've got what—what is a very good toy—a ball, and you've ruined it. I think also maybe he's got the strap attached to the wrong hand.
- 4:** Sometimes at home when I'm trying to throw the ball, and it goes out, and I have to go run for it, I think it would be easier.
- 5:** I'm guessing it's one of those things that you just kind of throw and it comes back to you. And, um, I don't know if you'd want this coming back to you very fast.
- 6:** It's a hard ball. Maybe if it were a softer ball. But it's—that's a hard baseball. You might lose a tooth or something. I think that's a very silly idea. It looks really kind of dangerous.
- 7:** I'm hoping that whoever would use it would have some sort of prior experience with baseballs, or whatnot.
- 8:** I think it's going to get a little repetitive.
- 9:** I like this toy already!