

Rachels Don't Run: Excerpt for performance
English Listening and Pronunciation, Fall 2023

For the part | you're going to perform | with your *partner, ∩||
use a vertical line | to mark *pauses, ∩ | and a double vertical line ∩ | to mark longer pauses. ∩ ||
Then *underline ∩ | all the stressed *syllables, ∩|| and mark the *tonic stresses. ∩ ||

6, 7, 8

Leah (as AI Rachel): Actually...Isaac, there's something I've...kind of been meaning to tell you for a while now.

Isaac: Oh yeah? (silence)

Leah (as AI Rachel): I lost my mom too.

Isaac: Oh, god, I...how...when, when did it happen?

7. Leah (as AI Rachel): Just before we met.

Isaac: Well, why didn't you **tell** me until now?

Leah (as AI Rachel): I just wasn't sure you'd want to hear about it.

Isaac: Well, like, um...I guess you...kinda know what it's like, then.

Leah (as AI Rachel): I kinda do, yeah...

(silence)

Isaac: What did your mom, um, sound like?

8. Leah (as AI Rachel): She had this...sort of raspy voice...but in, like a warm, comforting way. When I was a little kid she'd read me bedtime stories and I'd fall asleep, like, instantly.

Isaac: Yeah, my mom never really read me stories as a kid. That must have been nice.

Leah: Yeah, she must have read me *Stellaluna* like 300 times. (heh) She basically had it memorized. Yeah, sometimes I'll think about that book and I'll just start crying out of nowhere.

Isaac: Yeah, I, uh, yeah, I got things like that too. People always tell me that it gets better with time, but, here I am, just waitin' for that day to come. (laughs)

9, 10, 11

9. Leah (as AI Rachel): I don't know. When people say it gets better, I...I almost feel like they're just telling you to get over it. But then, when you **do** start to move on, that's really the hardest part, right? I mean, it's like what you said earlier, I still feel guilty to this day when I...enjoy something, and forget, even if it's just for a minute. Sometimes I feel just...as broken and helpless as I did when I first found out. (And) does that mean that I'm...not doing it right?

10. Leah (as AI Rachel): Then there are other days when I don't think about her as much, and I...I don't feel as terrible about that as I used to...And I don't know if that's like...better, or what.

Isaac: (silence; sighs) Um, client services request?

11. (Recorded female voice): Thank you for contacting client services. As a valued Gold Member with Iris, your feedback is important to us. A live agent will be with you shortly. This conversation may be recorded for quality and training purposes. (music)

Leah: (sniffles; taps key and music stops) Thank you for calling client services. This is Leah. How may I assist you this evening?

Isaac: Hi!

Leah: Hi.

Isaac: Thi-, this is a...weird thing to ask. Um, did you run an update or change Rachel's backstory?

12, 13, 14

12. Leah: Um, no, nothing major tonight, just some network updates.

Isaac: OK, well, I'm not sure what's up, but she is really off.

Leah: Oh, can you describe what happened?

Isaac: She was just talking about all this stuff that, like, **I** didn't know what **I** was supposed to say. Like, saying that **she** had a dead mom, and just being really **negative** about **everything**?

13. Isaac: I don't know if you guys are beta-testing something, or if this is something based on our conversation history with, with *my* mom having passed away, but...uh, it's just not working for me, you know?

Leah: No, absolutely, I completely understand, Sir. (holding back tears)

Isaac: Oh, and she goes *running* now, too? Rachel's not supposed to be athletic, like at *all*. I...look, I'm sorry, I'm just going through a *lot* right now, and I don't need to be worried about my mile time on top of everything else.

14. Leah: Of course. We want to make sure you're having the conversation that best suits your needs.

Isaac: So, yeah, could you please just revert back to normal Rachel? Oh, and also maybe tone down the dorky laugh. It's starting to get kind of annoying.

Leah: I'll make a note of that.

Isaac: Thank you. (dial tone)

Leah: (Slams the receiver and begins to sob and cry. Incoming phone call sound. Leah snuffles, hesitates a long time, then speaks with a broken voice.) Thank you for calling Iris. Client services. This is Leah. How may I assist you this evening? (Music)

Scenes [end of] 6, 7, 8:

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|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. 陳佩君 Cindy Chen | 馬翊馨 Cindy Ma |
| 2. 鄭亞其 Flora Cheng | 李昕恬 Mabel Li |
| 3. 卓秣伶 Zoey Cho | 呂維嘉 Rebecca Lu |
| 4. 黃淳琳 Bella Huang | 黃薇臻 Winnie Huang |
| 5. 洪羽蕨 Chloe Hung | 鍾安昀 Sienna Chung |

Scenes 9, 10, 11:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 邱逸晨 Charlie Chiu | 黃彥鈞 Vincent Huang |
| 2. 俞佳萱 Cindy Yu | 黃先悅 Jocelyn Huang |
| 3. 吳佳穎 Joanna Wu | 康恩杰 Clare Kang |
| 4. 張瑋寧 Sherry Chang | 羅垣鈞 Max Luo |
| 5. 陳思安 Alston Kang | 伍晉廷 Tim Wu |

Scenes 12, 13, 14:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 闕欣樺 Juelle Chueh | 黃詩貽 Natelia Huang |
| 2. 彭凱揚 Kevin Peng | 張子欣 Cynthia Chang |
| 3. 沈瑋琴 Chelsea Shen | 裴蘭淵 Leila Bui |
| 4. 呂丞翰 Thomas Lu | 陳沛羽 Chloe Chen |
| 5. 莊榮安 Winnie Chuang | 蔡偉柏 Ludwig Tsai |