

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 8 Lesson 1

Podcasts Series 3: Episode 15

While you listen

Elementary Podcasts are suitable for learners with different levels of English. Here are some ways to make them easier (if you have a lower level of English) or more difficult (if you have a higher level of English). You can choose one or two of these suggestions - you don't have to do all of them!

Making it easier

- Read all the exercises before you listen to the podcast.
- Look up the words in the exercises that you don't know in a dictionary.
- Play the podcast as many times as you need.
- Play each part of the podcast separately.
- Read the transcript after you have listened to the podcast.

Making it harder

- Listen to the podcast before you read the exercises.
- Only play the podcast once before answering the questions.
- Play the whole podcast without a break.
- Don't read the transcript.

Activity 1 – Choose all of the sentences that are true according to the podcast.

1. Big Ben is a big clock in London.
2. Big Ben is a symbol of London.
3. You can hear the Big Ben bell on BBC radio.
4. Buckingham Palace was built in the twentieth century.
5. The Queen lives in Buckingham Palace all the time.
6. Tess often visits Buckingham Palace.
7. People think the royal family is typically British.
8. Tess and Ravi are going to talk about more things in London in the next podcast.

Activity 2 – Put the words in order to make sentences from the podcast.

1. Big Ben / it is / of the bell / every hour / is really / to tell you / what time / the name / that rings
2. What / people / in London? / talk about / did / other places
3. Buckingham Palace / people / mentioned / another place / is / lots of
4. Do you know / Buckingham Palace? / when / the flag / what it means / flying above / you see
5. When / to / you went / the last time / Buckingham Palace? / was
6. The royal family / list / thing / is / another / our / on
7. What other things / say were / in London / did people / typically British?
8. I think / come back / another time / have to / to this one / we might

Activity 3 – Choose the right way to say these dates.

1. It was finished in 1859.
 - a) one thousand, eight hundred and fifty nine
 - b) eighteen fifty nine
 - c) eighteen hundred and fifty nine
2. It was built in 1705.
 - a) one thousand, seven hundred and five
 - b) seventeen and five
 - c) seventeen oh five
3. It was started in 1900.
 - a) nineteen hundred
 - b) one thousand, nine hundred
 - c) nineteen oh oh
4. It happened in 1066.
 - a) one thousand and sixty six
 - b) ten sixty six
 - c) one oh sixty six
5. He died in 1966.
 - a) nineteen and sixty six
 - b) nineteen sixty six
 - c) one thousand, nine, six, six
6. She was born in 1901.
 - a) nineteen and one
 - b) nineteen oh one
 - c) one thousand, nine hundred and one
7. It was built in 1800.
 - a) eighteen hundred
 - b) one thousand, eight hundred
 - c) eighteen oh oh
8. The London Olympics are in 2012.
 - a) two oh twelve
 - b) twenty hundred and twelve
 - c) twenty twelve

Activity 4 –Put the words in the right places.

bridge	cathedral	monument
mosque	museum	opera house
palace	statue	temple
tower	bridge	cathedral
monument		

1. 'David' is a famous _____ by Michelangelo.
2. Paris has a famous _____ built by Gustave Eiffel.
3. A _____ is a place where kings, queens or emperors live or lived.
4. A _____ is an important Christian church. St. Paul's is a famous one in London.
5. You can go to an _____ to hear music. There is a very famous one in Sydney, Australia.
6. Sio se Pol is a beautiful _____ across the Zayandeh River in Isfahan, Iran.
7. The Taj Mahal is a famous _____ in Agra, India.
8. Moslems go to a _____ to pray. There's a famous one in Istanbul, Turkey.
9. You go to a _____ to learn about the past and see beautiful things. The Victoria and Albert is a famous one in London.
10. Hindus and Buddhists go to a _____ to pray. There's a famous one at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Activity 5 – Match the answers (below) with the questions.

1. How heavy is the Big Ben bell?
2. How tall is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai?
3. How big is Buckingham Palace?
4. How long is the Great Wall of China?
5. How wide is the Grand Canyon in Arizona?
6. How old is Angkor Wat in Cambodia?

- 829.84 metres from top to bottom.
- Approximately 1,000 years.
- Experts say about 5,500 miles (8,850km).
- It's got 775 rooms.
- It varies from 4 to 13 miles across (6.4-21km).
- It weighs 13.5 tons.

Activity 6 – Put the words in the right spaces. Don't look back at Activity 5!

big	tall	long
wide	old	heavy

- How _____ is the Big Ben bell?
It weighs 13.5 tons.
- How _____ is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai?
829.84 metres from top to bottom.
- How _____ is Buckingham Palace?
It has 775 rooms.
- How _____ is the Great Wall of China?
Experts say about 5,500 miles (8,850km).
- How _____ is the Grand Canyon in Arizona?
It varies from 4 to 13 miles across (6.4-21km).
- How _____ is Angkor Wat in Cambodia?
Approximately 1,000 years.

Activity 7 – All about Big Ben. Put the verbs in the right places.

aren't allowed	is called
was built	was finished
was destroyed	was rung
aren't allowed	is called
was built	was finished
is made	is made
was designed	was designed
were designed	were designed

The first clock tower at the palace of Westminster (1)_____ in 1288. Unfortunately, everything (2)_____ by a terrible fire in 1834. The new palace and tower (3)_____ by Charles Barry and the clock (4)_____ by Edward Denison. The tower took 36 years to build and (5)_____ in 1859. The bottom part of the tower (6)_____ of bricks and stones and the top part is cast iron. The bell of the clock (7)_____ Big Ben. The bell (8)_____ for the first time on 11th July 1859. Nowadays it's a famous tourist attraction, but visitors (9)_____ inside the tower.

Activity 8 – What does 'really' mean? Choose the right answer.

- London's a really popular place for tourists to visit.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- Big Ben is really the name of the bell, not the tower.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- I can't believe you really did that!
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- It was really cold yesterday.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- I want to speak English really well.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality

6. She isn't really unfriendly – she's shy, that's all.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

7. You need to see things as they really are.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

8. I really love pizza.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

9. She's really angry with me.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

10. But is that story really true?

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

Adam and Rob

Rob and Adam: Hello!

Adam: Welcome to Episode 15 of the LearnEnglish Elementary Podcast. I'm Adam.

Rob: And I'm Rob and it's nice to be back here with you.

Adam: We're going to hear from Tess & Ravi today; they'll be talking about a city – the biggest and most famous city in Britain – I'm sure you know where we're talking about.

Rob: First though, as usual, we'll look at some of your comments on the last podcast. In that podcast we talked about social networking and online friends. We asked you to tell us about your online friends and how you feel about social networking and, as usual, you gave us some very interesting answers.

Adam: The first thing that interested me was how many of you live in different countries – not the country that you're from. So, for example, Ladna is from Somalia, but she lives in Alaska in America. And Mariami is from Georgia but she lives in Germany. Or Tonya – she's Russian but she lives in Germany too. I'm interested in what takes you to other countries. Are you working? Studying? Something else? If you're living in a different country, why not write and tell us what you're doing there.

Rob: Anyway, someone else who lives in a country that isn't where she's from is Umi, who's from Indonesia but lives in Hong Kong, and she had a lot to say this time about social networking. She's not a fan. She says:

Firstly, since we can make new friends very easily on networking sites, it makes us lazy about making an effort to socialise in real life. Secondly, we spend extra time on the computer and it eventually leads to a lack of movement, which also leads to obesity.

Adam: Umi also mentions risks to our relationships and our privacy. Some of you disagreed with Umi and some of you agreed. It was a really interesting discussion and we enjoyed reading it.

Rob: Now, we've already mentioned Tonya from Russia who lives in Germany. She says:

There are not so many Russian people in Germany I can communicate with. I talk online with my internet friends, some of them I've known for many years and these friends know me better than some of my real friends in Germany. With some of my internet friends I have an intense relationship and we write almost every week.

Adam: So, online friends can help you when you're away from home. And they can help you get in touch with people all over the world – Amanda Clemente from Brazil has friends "from Argentina to Kazakhstan. It's awesome how knowledge of other languages, especially English, can connect you to different people."

Rob: That's true. Some of you did mention that you have online friends that you don't know in real life. Laia in Spain (whose username is 'ahappylearner' - nice user name, Laia!) says "I have lots of 'friends' on Facebook, but I don't even know half of them. I know most of them only by sight, I see them around high school but at the most we say hello, how's it going and bye! And then with some of them on Facebook we talk for hours, but face to face we only greet each other!"

Adam: That's strange, isn't it? In real life you just say 'hello, how are you?', but online you chat like old friends. Maybe it's a difference between younger people and older people.

Rob: Anyway, thanks for all your great comments. Sorry we don't have time to read out more of them. It's always good to hear what you think so remember you can write to us at www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish.

Adam: I also noticed this week that we have a listener called... Ravi!

Rob: Welcome Ravi, and now let's listen to the original Ravi, along with Tess, talking about a special British city.

London

Tess: Hello again, everyone. I'm Tess.

Ravi: And I'm Ravi.

Tess: And we're here again to talk about the things you think you know about Britain and the things that you think are very British.

Ravi: We've talked about British food, British weather, drinking tea – and lots of other things, but today is a little bit different. We noticed that lots of you, when you talked about British things, talked about places in London – places you've visited or would like to visit or just places that you think are very British – and we're going to take a look at some of them. What do you think people chose, Tess?

Tess: Big Ben?

Ravi: Good guess. Yep, the first one was Big Ben. If you don't know it, Big Ben is the name given to the really big clock tower right in the centre of London – next to the Houses of Parliament. It was finished in 18...

Tess: How do you know that? Have you been studying?

Ravi: Research, Tess, research. It was finished in 1859 and it's over ninety-six metres high. Actually, Big Ben is really the name of the bell that rings every hour to tell you what time it is, but everyone says Big Ben for the clock and the tower as well.

Tess: Why do you think it's so famous?

Ravi: Well, it's sort of the symbol of London, isn't it? New York has the Statue of Liberty, Paris has the Eiffel Tower... and London has Big Ben.

Tess: It's nice, isn't it, when you hear the bells ringing for the hour, because you hear them on TV or the radio, on the BBC? What other places did people talk about in London?

Ravi: Well, Buckingham Palace is another place lots of people mentioned.

Tess: Ah, the Queen's home. Yeah, that's a really popular place for tourists to visit and see the changing of the guard and things. What have you learned about Buckingham Palace? How old is it?

Ravi: The oldest part was built in 1705, but new bits were added after that. It's got two hundred and forty bedrooms, I think, and seventy eight bathrooms and ..

Tess: Do you know what it means when you see the flag flying above Buckingham Palace? It means that the Queen is there, in the palace. She's got lots of different homes, hasn't she?

Ravi: Hmm. Are you sure, Tess? I don't think it does. I think the flag is flying all the time these days. Anyway, when was the last time you went to Buckingham Palace?

Tess: Inside the palace? Never. Actually, it's a real tourist attraction, isn't it? Lots of tourists go there, but if you live in Britain you don't go there very often.

Ravi: No, not really. There's always a big crowd there though for big royal events, like a wedding in the royal family or Princess Diana's funeral, isn't there?

Tess: Yeah. It's sort of a *symbol*, isn't it? A symbol of the royal family.

Ravi: Yeah. Actually, the royal family is another thing on our list – another thing that people said is typical of Britain. Let's talk about that next time.

Tess: OK. What other things in London did people say were typically British?

Ravi: Let's have a look. The London Eye, shopping in Oxford Street, the Houses of Parliament, the London underground... I think we might have to come back to this one another time, OK?

Tess: OK, then, let's do that.

Adam and Rob

Adam: It's true that Big Ben is sort of a symbol of London, isn't it? Ravi said that 'Paris has the Eiffel Tower, New York has the statue of liberty and London has Big Ben.' How about you Rob - do you have a favourite sight in London? Or somewhere you take visitors when you're there?

Rob: I do like Big Ben, I think it's a great symbol for London. But when I go there with friends, I usually take them to a place called 'Borough Market'. It's just in the centre, south of the river.

Adam: Why do you like it?

Rob: Well, it's a really authentic place with lots of great, great food from all over the world. And you can have something to eat, you can have something to drink; it's just got a really good atmosphere.

Adam: Sounds great. I'll have to go there next time I'm in London. How about you, listeners? Have you been to London? Did you like it? Write and tell us what you know or think about London. We love hearing from you and you can contact us at www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish.

Rob: Right, that's almost all we've got time for. But first, we'll remind you about the exercises you'll find on our website. As usual, there are some useful tips to help you with your English. Listen to this:

Ravi: It was finished in 18...

Tess: How do you know that? Have you been studying?

Ravi: Research, Tess, research. It was finished in 1859 and it's over 96 metres high.

Adam: Ravi gave two years: 1850 and 1859. If you ever have problems saying the year in English, then the exercises on the LearnEnglish site will help.

Rob: You'll also find exercises on the different kinds of sights you can see in cities, on passive sentences, heights, weights and measures and lots, lots more.

Adam: Do go to the website and try the exercises and write and tell us what you think. We're going to meet our LearnEnglish colleagues in London next week, so we'll be back in three weeks with more from Carolina. Until then...

Rob and Adam: Bye!

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Activity 1 – Choose all the answers that are true according to the podcast.

1. Carolina is working in the shop.
2. She has a problem with a customer in the shop.
3. The customer says her English is bad.
4. Carolina has an essay to write.
5. Her professor will accept late essays.
6. Carolina goes to the post office.
7. She doesn't have any identification with her.
8. She tells Emily about her day.
9. Carolina is upset because she's had a bad day.

Activity 2 - Put the words in order to make sentences from the podcast. Don't look at Activity 3 yet!

1. Why / English / don't / speak / you / learn to / ?
2. The / deadline for / morning / the essay / Monday / is
3. I will / that time / not / any essays / accept / after
4. I did / her last / course / year / a / with
5. I / want / a / to / parcel / collect
6. You / need to / me / identification / show / some
7. I'm / don't / very / but I / understand / sorry
8. I'm / straight / bed / going / to go / to

Activity 3 - Put the words in the right spaces to make sentences from the podcast. Don't look back at Activity 2!

course	identification
deadline	speak
essays	straight
parcel	understand

1. Why don't you learn to _____ English?
2. The _____ for the essay is Monday morning.
3. I will not accept any _____ after that time.
4. I did a _____ with her last year.
5. I want to collect a _____.
6. You need to show me some _____.
7. I'm very sorry but I don't _____.
8. I'm going to go _____ to bed.

Activity 4 – 'Cat' is a one-syllable word. 'Window' has two syllables. 'Exciting' has three. How many syllables do these words have? Put them in the right group.

afternoon	magazine	television
British	necessary	theatre
communication	nine	things
eight	nineteen	tomorrow
electricity	ninety	university
hotel	politician	unusual
impossible	quiet	video
congratulations	school	know

one syllable: *cat*

two syllables: *window*

three syllables: *exciting*

four syllables:

five syllables:

Activity 5 – Words with two syllables. Do we say 'window' (••), or window' (••)? Which syllable is stressed in these words? Put the words in the right group.

between	mistake	question
British	nineteen	quiet
depend	ninety	relax
football	office	repeat
hotel	problem	today
	husband	

•• : British

•• : between

Activity 6 – Words with three syllables. Which syllable is stressed? Put the words in the right group.

advantage	manager	seventy
afternoon	possible	theatre
computer	probably	tomorrow
engineer	employee	understand
important	seventeen	video

••• : manager

••• : advantage

••• : afternoon

Activity 7 – Which syllable is stressed?

Choose the right one.

1. I'm not going to work today.

- a) today
- b) today

2. We stayed in a small hotel.

- a) hotel
- b) hotel

3. I've got a serious problem.

- a) problem
- b) problem

4. Can I see your photographs?

- a) photographs
- b) photographs
- c) photographs

5. I'd like to speak to the manager.

- a) maanager
- b) manager
- c) manager

6. It'll probably rain tomorrow.

- a) probably
- b) probably
- c) probably

7. I'd like to be a politician.

- a) politician
- b) politician
- c) politician

8. My father is a businessman.

- a) businessman
- b) businessman
- c) businessman

9. I want to learn more vocabulary.

- a) vocabulary
- b) vocabulary
- c) vocabulary

10. I must pay my electricity bill today.

- a) electricity
- b) electricity
- c) electricity

Activity 8 - Saying you don't understand.

Put the words in the right places.

again good understand
 sorry slowly

1. I'm very _____ but I don't understand.

2. Could you speak more _____ please?

3. Can you say that _____ please?

4. I'm sorry - my English isn't very _____.

5. I'm afraid I didn't _____ what you said.

Adam

Welcome to episode 16 of the Learn English Elementary Podcast. I'm Adam.

Rob is on a business trip at the moment, but it's nice to be back. First of all, I'd like to say sorry that there hasn't been a podcast for a while. Rob and I both had to travel for work this month and we haven't been around. But one of us is back now with another great podcast for you.

Later on, we'll be catching up with Carolina and I'm afraid she isn't very happy this week.

But first, let's have a look at some of your comments on the last podcast, when we asked you for your thoughts on London.

Tess and Ravi talked about Big Ben and Buckingham Palace but you, listeners, mentioned *loads* of other things in London: Tower Bridge, Madame Tussauds, the British Museum, Hyde Park, Camden Market, the Changing of the Guards, Trafalgar Square... even those of you who haven't been to London seem to know a lot about it.

And it wasn't just London. You also mentioned Oxford University and Stonehenge and the city of Bath – other places you'd like to visit in England. A few of you are fans of English football – like Mohammed in Jordan who really wants to visit Wembley Stadium.

Sora from Korea is lucky; she's going to study in London in September. Write and tell us how you find it, Sora.

And there's good news too for Tanya in Russia and Angelo in Italy. Tanya mentioned Sherlock Holmes and Angelo talked about seeing the famous double-decker buses in London. Well, both of those things will be in a future podcast – so keep listening out!

So many great comments, as usual – too many to read out all the good ones – but I do want to look at just one more. It's from Raviha in Pakistan and it says 'Rob, I love your Word on the Street series'.

Now, if you don't know, Word on the Street is a TV programme made by the BBC and the British Council and you can find it on the LearnEnglish website. Go to:

learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/word-street

And that's almost the same address to send your comments to. We love hearing from you, so keep the comments coming to www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish

Right, time now to catch up with Carolina again. Carolina is from Venezuela and is studying at Newcastle University. We've been following her life. Last time there was good news for Carolina's friend Emily, but this time things aren't going too well for Carolina...

Carolina

At the shop

Carolina: That's four pounds, please. Thank you. Would you like a bag? OK. Who's next?

Man: I am.

Carolina: Oh, yes. OK, that's two pounds nineteen, please.

Man: How much?

Carolina: Two pounds nineteen.

Man: Ninety or nineteen? I can't understand you.

Carolina: Nineteen. Two pounds nineteen pence.

Man: "Two pounds nineteen pence". Why don't you learn to speak English?

Carolina: I... I do... I... I'm sorry...

At University

Mrs Greenwood: So that's it for today. I'll see you next week. If anyone wants to talk about their essay, I'll be in my office from two to five tomorrow afternoon. And don't forget, the deadline for the essay is Monday morning. And that's the absolute final deadline. I will not accept any essays after that time. Is that understood?

Students: Yes, Mrs Greenwood.

Mrs Greenwood: I'm looking forward to reading them. Right, OK. Have a good week.

Students: Thank you, Mrs Greenwood / Bye, Mrs Greenwood.

Carolina: Oh no!

Student: What's up?

Carolina: The deadline. Monday morning. Is she really serious? She really won't accept any essays after Monday?

Student: Oh yes, she's serious. I did a course with her last year. Two people failed because they didn't do their essays on time.

Carolina: Oh, God!

At the Post Office

Voice through microphone: Cashier number five, please.

Carolina: Good morning.

Clerk: Good morning.

Carolina: I want to collect a parcel. It's from Venezuela, for Carolina del Barco. Here's the card.

Clerk: Can I see some identification?

Carolina: I'm sorry?

Clerk: You need to show me some identification.

Carolina: I need to...?

Clerk: I'm sorry, but I can't give you the parcel if you don't show me some identification.

Carolina: I'm very sorry but I don't understand. Can you speak more slowly?

Clerk: I-den-ti-fi-ca-tion. Pass-port.

Carolina: Oh... yes... identification, passport... yes, of course. I'm sorry. Here you are.

At home

Carolina: It's me, Emily. I'm tired. I'm going to go straight to bed.

Emily: OK. Night. See you tomorrow.

Carolina: Goodnight. Hola mamá. I... oh...

Adam

Oh dear! Carolina sounds really miserable, really homesick.

It happens sometimes when you're a long way from home. It just takes a few small things to go wrong, and it can make you feel really unhappy. I remember the first time I went to church camp. My parents weren't there, and I was ten, but I was OK until I put ten pence in the payphone and heard my parents' voices. Then I ran away to cry where the other boys couldn't see me.

How about you, listeners? A lot of you don't live at home or you lived away from home in the past. Do you ever feel homesick? If you do, what do you do to make yourself feel better? Even if you've never felt homesick, what advice would you give to Carolina to make herself feel better?

Write and tell us what you think at:
www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish

Now, one thing that went wrong for poor Carolina was making a mistake with her English – listen to this bit again:

Carolina: Oh, yes. OK, that's two pounds nineteen, please.

Man: How much?

Carolina: Two pounds nineteen.

Man: Ninety or nineteen? I can't understand you.

Carolina: Nineteen. Two pounds nineteen pence.

Man: "Two pounds nineteen pence". Why don't you learn to speak English?

Carolina: I... I do... I... I'm sorry...

Carolina got confused about the stress of **nineteen** and **ninety** – it's an easy mistake to make. In 'nineteen' we stress the second syllable – 'teen' – and in 'ninety' we stress the first syllable – 'nine'. It makes a big difference.

However, if we are giving a date, like **nineteen** eighty-nine, we stress the first syllable of nineteen. English can be really difficult sometimes!

If you want help with syllables and stress we've put some exercises on the website for you. They'll help you recognise how many syllables you hear and which syllables are stressed.

You'll find lots of other exercises there too so do go and look at the website, and send us your comments – it's always great to hear from you.

We'll be back next time with more from Tess and Ravi, talking about a famous British family... who could that be?

That's all for now. See you next time – bye!

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Activity 1 - Comprehension. Choose the sentences that are true according to what you heard in the podcast.

1. Elizabeth became queen in 1952.
2. The Queen is married to a Greek man.
3. The Queen has four children.
4. Princess Anne is her oldest child.
5. Prince Charles will be the next king.
6. Charles and Camilla have two children.
7. The Queen has more political power than the Prime Minister.
8. Ravi would like to be a prince.

Activity 2 - Comprehension. Match the names to the descriptions, according to what you heard in the podcast.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| a) Prince Andrew | e) Prince Philip |
| b) Prince Charles | f) Prince William |
| c) Prince Edward | g) Princess Anne |
| d) Prince Harry | h) Princess Diana |
| | i) Queen Elizabeth |

1. Her father died when she was twenty-six.
2. His title is the Duke of Edinburgh.
3. He's married to the Duchess of Cornwall.
4. Her title is the Princess Royal.
5. He used to be married to Sarah Ferguson.
6. He's the youngest of the Queen's children.
7. He's married to Kate Middleton.
8. He's William's younger brother.
9. She was William and Harry's mother.

Activity 3 - We write the names of kings and queens with Roman numerals (I, V, X for 1, 5, 10) but we use 'ordinal numbers' (e.g. first, fifth, tenth) when we say them. Put the ordinal numbers in the spaces.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a) the First | e) the Fifth |
| b) the Second | f) the Sixth |
| c) the Third | g) the Seventh |
| d) the Fourth | h) the Eighth |

- William I became king in 1066. We say 'William _____'.
- Henry VIII had six wives. We say 'Henry _____'.
- William IV was king before Victoria was queen. We say 'William _____'.
- Edward VII was Queen Victoria's son. We say 'Edward _____'.
- George VI was Elizabeth's father. We say 'George _____'.
- Elizabeth II is queen today. We say 'Elizabeth _____'.
- Prince Charles will be Charles III. We say 'Charles _____'.
- Prince William will be William V. We say 'William _____'.

Activity 4 - Put the words in the right spaces.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| fell | met |
| got divorced | to start |
| got engaged | went out |
| | get married |

John and Sally _____ at university. They were in the same study group and they _____ in love at first sight! They _____ together for two years, then John asked Sally to marry him and they _____. They waited until they finished university to _____. Two years later, when they both had good jobs they decided _____ a family and they had two children. Unfortunately, things didn't go very well and they _____ after seven years of marriage.

Activity 5 - Family vocabulary. Read these sentences about Emily and Roy's family and put the words in the spaces.

aunt	nephew
brother-in-law	niece
cousins	sister-in-law
daughter	son
daughter-in-law	stepdaughter
grandchildren	stepfather
grandparents	uncle
husband	wife
	mother-in-law

- Emily is married to Roy. Roy is her _____. Emily is Roy's _____.
- Emily and Roy have two children - one _____, John, and one _____, Victoria. John is Victoria's _____ and Victoria is John's _____. Emily and Roy's parents are John and Victoria's _____. John and Victoria are their _____.
- Roy has a brother, Duncan. Duncan is Emily's _____. Emily is Duncan's _____. Roy's mother is Emily's _____. Emily is her _____.
- Emily's mother has a brother, Jim. Jim is Emily's _____. His wife, Bertha, is Emily's _____. Jim and Bertha have five children. The children are Emily's _____.
- Emily's father died when she was young and her mother married Mick. Mick is Emily's _____. Emily is Mick's _____.
- Emily has a sister. The sister has a son and a daughter. The son is Emily's _____ and the daughter is Emily's _____.

Activity 6 - A logic problem. Read the information and the clues and type the names in the spaces.

David is on holiday with some of his family - his father, his mother, his brother, his sister, his aunt and his cousin.

Their names are Peter, John and Luke (male) and Pamela, Janine and Linda (female).

Clues:

Peter isn't David's cousin.

Linda isn't his aunt.

Luke isn't David's brother.

David's sister's name starts with a P.

David's father's name is John.

- _____ is David's mother.
- _____ is David's father.
- _____ is David's sister.
- _____ is David's brother.
- _____ is David's aunt.
- _____ is David's cousin.

Activity 7 – Put the words in the right spaces.

older	second youngest
oldest	the youngest
second oldest	younger

There are four children in the Thomas family, two girls and two boys. Jane is ten, Ruben is eight, John is six, and Melanie is two.

1. Jane is the _____ child.
2. Ruben is the _____.
3. Ruben is _____ than John.
4. John is the _____.
5. Melanie is _____ than John.
6. Melanie is the _____.

Activity 8 – Write the missing words in the spaces. Use 'older', 'oldest', 'younger' or 'youngest'.

There are five children in the Smith family, three boys and two girls. Charles is sixteen, Maria is thirteen, Elizabeth is eleven, Michael is eight, and William is four.

1. Charles is the _____ child in the family.
2. Maria is _____ than Charles.
3. Maria is the second _____ child in the family.
4. Maria is the _____ girl in the family.
5. Maria is _____ than Elizabeth.
6. Elizabeth is the _____ girl in the family.
7. Elizabeth is _____ than Michael.
8. Michael is the second _____ child in the family.
9. William is _____ than Michael.
10. William is the _____ child in the family.

Activity 9 – Leave a comment.

Do you live in a country which has a king or queen? Did you have to learn the names of kings and queens in history at school? Are the names for family members more specific in your language than in English? And do tell us about your family!

Leave a comment on <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts/series-03-episode-17> and we'll discuss your answers in the next podcast.

Adam

Hello! Welcome to Episode 17 of the LearnEnglish Elementary Podcast. I'm Adam. Rob is on another business trip this week. I think I'm going to have to find a new presenter if he's never here!

Today we're going to hear from Tess & Ravi again and, as usual, they'll be talking about something British - a famous British family - and I'm sure you've got a pretty good idea who that's going to be.

But first, let's talk about some of your comments on the last podcast. We're following the story of Carolina, a student from Venezuela who's studying in Newcastle in Britain. And in the last podcast Carolina had a very bad day - so we asked you to tell us about your experiences of being homesick and what you did to make yourself feel better. A lot of you felt very sorry for Carolina and talked about times when you feel (or felt) the same. And you had a lot of good advice for Carolina and other people in the same situation.

Elaheh, who is from Iran but studying in Germany, says she feels very homesick, especially when the weather is cold and rainy! But she can make herself feel better by listening to Persian music, watching Persian films or going to a Persian restaurant. I like Persian restaurants, too.

And our friend Umi, who has lived away from home since she was thirteen, has a lot of suggestions. For example, she says *"explore a new place... visit some interesting places in your second home... go out if you feel a bit down"*. She also talks about how easy it is to keep in touch with your family and friends at home with modern technology, like mobile phones, Skype or sites like Facebook.

And Ahmed from Algeria says Carolina

should talk to a friend - *"ideally someone who's going through the same experience - she might feel better when she can cheer up someone else"*. That's good advice.

Some of you are feeling a bit nervous about going abroad in the future, like ewcielinka from Poland and D-life from Turkey. And the good news is that most of you said that feelings of sadness and being homesick don't last for ever. Aigerim from Kazakhstan says she cried a lot when she first left home, but she says *"this world is not without kind people and they helped me"*.

And some of you told Carolina not to worry about her English. Julia from Hong Kong said *"It's natural for you to have difficulty speaking English fluently."* Julia told Carolina to remember that *she* can speak in English, but the rude man in the shop probably doesn't speak any Spanish at all.

And to really cheer Carolina up, both Johnny from Brazil and Manasset from Cameroon said how much they liked her voice and her Venezuelan accent.

A big thanks to everyone who wrote in with comments and suggestions. There might be a lot of people around the world feeling homesick and sad, and your messages can be a great help - so keep them coming at www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish or look for us on Facebook.

We'll be finding out how Carolina's getting on next time. But now it's time to hear from Tess and Ravi, talking about that famous British family.

Tess and Ravi

Ravi: Hello there, we're back again to talk about the things you think you know about Britain. I'm Ravi.

Tess: And I'm Tess. And today's topic from the things you chose is... the royal family. We're going to tell you something about the Queen and her family – the British royal family. What could be more British than that?

Ravi: Let's take turns, Tess. I'll start with the Queen. Well, she's Queen Elizabeth the Second and she's been queen for a really long time, since 1952. Her father was King George VI and he died when she was 26, so she was quite young when she became Queen and she's quite old now. She's married to... Tess?

Tess: She's married to Prince Philip. He's five years older than her and he's Greek; he was part of the Greek royal family. He's also known as the Duke of Edinburgh and he's also known for being quite... down to earth, he speaks his mind...

Ravi: OK, Tess, I know what you mean. The Queen and Prince Philip have got three children...

Tess: Four!

Ravi: Yes – *four* children. The oldest one is Princess Anne...

Tess: No she isn't. Charles is the oldest.

Ravi: Is he? Are you sure?

Tess: Certain.

Ravi: Really? OK then, Princess Anne is the second oldest...

Tess: Yes.

Ravi: And she's also called the Princess Royal. It's tricky this when everyone seems to have two names. Members of the royal family usually have a title, like The Duke of Edinburgh or the Princess Royal. Anyway, Anne's the *second* oldest...

Tess: And the Queen's oldest child is Prince Charles. That means he's the heir to the throne, the next one to be king, after the Queen. His title is the Prince of Wales, so Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, is the heir to the throne. He's married to Camilla.

Ravi: What's her title – Duchess of Cornwall, isn't it?

Tess: That's right.

Ravi: But everyone knows he used to be married to Princess Diana, who died in 1997. Now, Charles and Diana had two children.

Tess: Hang on! We said the Queen and Prince Philip had four children. We haven't done all of them yet. The other two are Andrew and Edward.

Ravi: Oh yeah, that's right. Prince Andrew – he's the Duke of York – used to be married to Sarah Ferguson - and Prince Edward, he's the... erm, Tess?

Tess: The Earl of Wessex. I looked it up.

Ravi: He's the youngest of the Queen's children. Anyway, as I said, Charles and Diana had two children, two boys, Prince William and Prince Harry. William's the oldest, so he'll be king after Prince Charles. Charles will be King Charles the Third and after that William will be King William the... Fifth, won't he?

Tess: Yeah, William the Fifth. He's second in line to the throne after his dad, Prince Charles.

Ravi: And he's just got married to Kate Middleton. Right, I hope you've remembered all that - lots of names and titles! I think it's important to say that the Queen isn't in charge of the country; she doesn't have any real political power. The Prime Minister is the most important person politically in the country but the Queen is important as a sort of symbol, don't you think?

Tess: Yeah. I mean, you know, some people don't think we should have a King or Queen but I think the royal family are quite popular, don't you? People like them.

Ravi: Yeah, I agree. And I wouldn't like to be a member of the royal family. They don't get any privacy – cameras and journalists everywhere! It must be terrible.

Tess: Don't worry Ravi. I don't think you'll ever be a prince.

Ravi: You never know, Tess, I might meet a princess.

Tess: Yes, Ravi.

Adam

It isn't easy to explain all the names and titles for the British Royal family, especially when everyone has two names. At school, it was hard to remember the names of the kings and queens, because so many have the same name! There are 8 Henrys, for example, and you have to remember the number. And to make it worse, you write the number with old Roman numbers, so I is one and V is five – so Henry VIII is actually Henry the Eighth!

Did any of you have to learn kings and queens at school? And how many of you live in countries which still have kings and queens? Write, and let us know.

Another thing is I noticed when I was listening to Tess and Ravi is how difficult it can be to describe your family in English - how people are related to you and to each other, who's the oldest and who's the youngest. It can be especially complicated when people get divorced and then get married again. For example, one of my friends has two mothers, two fathers, and three brothers. His parents got divorced and then they both remarried. So now he has a mother, a father, a stepmother, a stepfather, a brother, and two stepbrothers! That's complicated!

I know in some languages, all the family relationships are very clear. In some Asian languages, you have different words for your uncle on your mother's side and on your father's side, as well as different words for older and younger brothers, sisters, and cousins, but in English, you have to explain everything! Is that true in your language?

There are some exercises on the website to help you with the vocabulary and grammar that you need to talk about families. We've got some exercises to practice the different words for family relationships, and some to

help you explain who is older and younger. There's even a puzzle to test your logic skills! And if you're as confused as Ravi about the British Royal family, don't worry. There are comprehension exercises to help you with that, too.

Don't forget you can do them online or download the pdf file and print them.

Remember to write and tell us about your families – or your Royal families. You know we really like getting to know more about you. The address is www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish. We always enjoy reading your messages.

And, unfortunately, that's all we've got time for today. But we'll be back soon, with more news about Carolina. So see you next time. Bye!