

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 8 Lesson 3

Podcasts

In this practice you will learn

B1 ENGLISH CHAPTER 8 Lesson 3 <i>Podcasts Series 4: Episode 1-3</i>		Completed <i>Yes No</i>	Your Score
❖ Podcasts Series 4: Episode 1		☐ ☐	/
❖ Podcasts Series 4: Episode 2		☐ ☐	/
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B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 8 Lesson 3

Podcasts Series 4: Episode 01

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 1

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 follow 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.

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Choose all the sentences that are true according to the podcast.

1. Tess has a brother called Oscar.
2. British people have a lot of pets.
3. Some countries have more pets than Britain.
4. Dogs are the most popular pets in Britain.
5. Tess would like to have a spider as a pet.
6. The RSPCA is an organisation to help animals.
7. In the nineteenth century, the RSPCA helped children too.
8. British people give a lot of money to the RSPCA.

Activity 2

Put the words in the right order to make sentences from the podcast.

1. pet / of / We're / lovers / often / a nation / called
2. than / more / anyone else? / we have / pets / Do
3. love / sure / I'm / I could / a spider / not
4. you / want / Do / interesting? / something / to know

5. in the / Life / really / century / hard / nineteenth / was
6. tell / You'll / go / have to / Oscar / home and

Activity 3

Put the words from the podcast in the right spaces.

- a) charity
 - b) common
 - c) count
 - d) crazy about
 - e) member
 - f) protects
 - g) reptiles
 - h) unusual
1. A lot of people believe that the British are _____ animals.
 2. It depends what you _____ as a pet.
 3. Tess says her cat is a _____ of her family.
 4. The RSPCA is an organisation that _____ animals.
 5. The RSPCA is a _____ – people give money to it.
 6. A lot of British people have _____ like snakes as pets.
 7. Millions of homes in Europe have pets, so Britain isn't really _____.
 8. Cats and dogs are the most _____ pets in Britain.

Activity 4

Match the pets with the descriptions.

- a) A cat
- b) A dog
- c) A goldfish
- d) A hamster
- e) A parrot
- f) A rabbit
- g) A snake
- h) A spider

1. _____ sleeps a lot, is very clean and likes eating fish.
2. _____ likes going for walks and playing with a ball.
3. _____ has eight legs and a lot of people are afraid of it.
4. _____ lives in a cage and can learn to talk.
5. _____ lives in a cage and likes to run round and round in a wheel.
6. _____ has big ears and eats vegetables, especially carrots.
7. _____ is orange and lives in water.
8. _____ is long and thin and hasn't got any legs.

Activity 5

Match the fractions to the percentages.

- a) 25%
- b) 27%
- c) 31%

- d) 33%
- e) 48%
- f) 50%
- g) 66%
- h) 75%

1. a half
2. a third
3. just over a quarter
4. a quarter
5. two-thirds
6. three-quarters
7. nearly half
8. just under a third

Activity 6

Match the two parts of the sentences.

- a) ... many pets as Britain.
- b) ... money if they have a dog.
- c) ... popular pets in Britain?
- d) ... than people in other countries?
- e) ... more than people?
- f) ... most common pets in Britain.

1. Do people in Britain have more pets ...
2. A lot of other countries have as ...
3. Are cats and dogs the most ...
4. Is it true that the British like animals ...
5. People on the street get more ...
6. Nowadays, reptiles are the ...

Activity 7

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

- a) as many
- b) more
- c) more than
- d) most
- e) than
- f) the most

1. Do people in Britain have more pets _____ people in other countries?
2. A lot of other countries have _____ pets as Britain.
3. Are cats and dogs the _____ popular pets in Britain?
4. Is it true that the British like animals _____ people?
5. People on the street get _____ money if they have a dog.
6. Nowadays, reptiles are _____ common pets in Britain.

Activity 8

Choose the right answer.

1. She says she's poor but I know she has _____ than me.
 - a) more money
 - b) most money
 - c) much money
2. I like this job _____ the last one I had.
 - a) more

- b) more than
c) most than
3. India is _____ interesting country I've ever visited.
- a) most
b) the more
c) the most
4. It's your birthday so you can have _____ chocolates as you want!
- a) more
b) as many
c) the most
5. Football is a more popular sport _____ tennis.
- a) than
b) as
c) much
6. Football is probably _____ sport in the world.
- a) as popular
b) more popular
c) the most popular
7. The restaurant is very good value – you can eat as _____ you want for fifteen pounds.
- a) much as

- b) more than
c) most
8. Did you know that '123456' is the _____ password in the world?
- a) more common
b) most common
c) as common
9. My company has _____ three hundred offices all over the world.
- a) more than
b) the most
c) as much

Activity 9 – Leave a comment

How do you feel about animals? If you've been to Britain, do you think what Tess and Ravi said is true – are the British pet lovers?

How do people view animals where you live? How common is it for people to have pets in your country? Do you have one? What kind?

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 1

Jo and Adam – Welcome back!

Adam: Hello! I'm Adam and I'm happy to say 'Welcome' to Episode 1 of the new series of LearnEnglish Elementary Podcasts. Yes, that's right – we're back! With all your favourites, too – Tess and Ravi, Carolina and her friends – and, of course, more of your comments to share. But first, let me introduce you to someone. This is Jo.

Jo: Hello everyone!

Adam: Jo's going to be helping me with this series of Elementary Podcasts. She's an English teacher, like me, and together we're going to talk to you about some of the language that you hear in the podcasts.

Jo: That's right. And I'm quite excited about it! I've been reading all your comments from the last series, and I think I'm going to enjoy working with you all.

Adam: Great to have you here, Jo. Now, if you remember the last episode of Series 3, Carolina, Emily and Jamie visited a city farm and had fun making animal noises. And Emily told them that she's going on a first date with Jamie's friend Cameron. So we asked you what noises animals make in your country and, also, where you think Emily and Cameron should go for a first date. Let's start with a few animal noises! And I hope I get the pronunciation of these right!

Tanya Klimova from Russia said 'A dog barks "gaf-gaf", the sheep bleats "beeee", a pig says "hru-hru".'

Jo: (laughs) That's a funny one!

Adam: Chihirochan89 from Vietnam says 'In my country, dogs usually say "go go", goats say "be be", cows say "muz muz".' And in Turkey, according to M Nur, 'dogs say "hav hav", donkeys say "ai ai", and sheep say "meee meee" '.

Jo: So dogs can say 'woof woof' or 'gaf gaf' or 'hav hav' – they're all quite similar. But then in Vietnam they say 'go go' – that's completely different. In Spain, where I live, they go 'guau guau'.

Adam: 'Guau, guau'! And where to go for a first date? Most of you said a restaurant or the cinema. Hassan from Egypt would choose a restaurant because you can't talk in the cinema, but if you are shy you can always talk about the food in a restaurant. Fred09 from Brazil thinks a restaurant is 'too fancy for a first date' and would choose the cinema. Yenson from Venezuela went to the cinema for his first date with his wife, but unfortunately it was a horror film and she was so scared that she dropped her popcorn! But she married you, Yenson, so it wasn't a complete disaster!

Jo: That's a good story!

Adam: And a lot of you left comments about how much you like the podcasts and how much they help you with your English and how much you wanted to hear Series 4. It's important for us to hear that you like what we're doing, so thank you very much to everyone.

Now it's time to hear from Tess and Ravi. If you're new to Elementary Podcasts, let me explain that Tess and Ravi always talk about something that people think is typically British – like the Royal Family or drinking tea, or even the Loch Ness Monster. Let's hear what it is this time.

Tess and Ravi

Tess: Hello again, everyone. My name's Tess.

Ravi: And I'm Ravi.

Tess: And, as usual, we're here to talk about Britain. The things that you know about it ...

Ravi: ... and the things you think you know. We've already talked about a lot of different topics – things that you think are typically British. And today we've got something nice. Tess, how's Oscar?

Tess: He's fine, thanks. Why?

Ravi: I'm introducing the topic, Tess. Pets.

Tess: Ahh. Very clever.

Ravi: Oscar is Tess's cat.

Tess: And a member of the family.

Ravi: Hmm ... A lot of people believe that the British are crazy about animals. We're often called 'a nation of pet lovers'. But is it true? To begin with – do we have more pets than anyone else? So I did a bit of research. And yes, a lot of people in Britain have pets – 49 per cent of British homes – that's nearly half – have an animal.

Tess: Is that a lot?

Ravi: That's nearly 30 million pets – cats, dogs, rabbits, hamsters, parrots – but not including fish! That's a lot of pets. But there are a lot of other places with as many pets as Britain, or even more ... the USA, New Zealand, some countries in Europe – 62 million homes in Europe have pets. Britain isn't that unusual.

Tess: And it depends what you count as a pet.

Ravi: Well, yes, that's true.

Tess: Cats and dogs are the most common pets in Britain, right?

Ravi: Well, actually, they now think that the most popular pets in Britain are ...?

Tess: Well, if it isn't dogs or cats ... um ... I don't know. Rabbits?

Ravi: Nope ... Give up? ... Reptiles. Snakes and lizards and iguanas and things. And insects – spiders are really popular now.

Tess: Yeuk. I'm not sure I could love a spider.

Ravi: Nor me.

Tess: Do you want to know something interesting?

Ravi: Erm, yes.

Tess: Well, Britain was the first country to have an organisation to look after animals. The RSPCA. That's the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It was started in the nineteenth century when things were bad for animals in Britain – for horses, dogs, all of them. So some people started the RSPCA. But – and this is the important thing – there were no organisations or charities at that time to protect children or babies or people at all.

And life was really hard in the nineteenth century.

Ravi: Wow.

Tess: So people started to say that the British care about animals more than people.

Ravi: But don't you sometimes think it's true? That the British like animals more than people? We give more money to animal charities, like the RSPCA, than to charities for people. That's a fact. And there are lots of programmes about animals on television and stories in the newspapers.

Tess: I know. It's true. And do you know, people who ask for money on the street, well, if they have a dog with them, then they get more money.

Ravi: Ha! Is that true? Money for the dog, but not for the person?

Tess: Yep.

Ravi: So we are crazy about animals. It's true. You'll have to go home and tell Oscar.

Tess: I think he already knows.

Jo and Adam

Adam: Do you have any pets, Jo?

Jo: We've just got some goldfish. Have you got any pets, Adam?

Adam: No, I don't. We had dogs when I was living with my parents, but not any more. I'd like to in the future, but I think it's a lot of work to care for a dog properly.

Jo: Yeah, I live in the country now, so it's fine to have some dogs around. But when I lived in a big city, the dogs used to annoy

me a bit. I don't think that big cities are good places for dogs to live.

Adam: What about where you live? Are people kind to animals? Do people keep pets? Write and tell us. The address is www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish. And now it's time to talk about some of the language that you heard in the podcast.

Jo: That's right. Today we're talking about ways of saying how things are the same or different. Listen to Ravi. What does he want to know?

Ravi: *A lot of people believe that the British are crazy about animals. We're often called 'a nation of pet lovers'. But is it true? To begin with – do we have more pets than anyone else?*

Jo: He's asking about the number of pets the British have compared to other countries. Listen again. What's the question?

Ravi: *A lot of people believe that the British are crazy about animals. We're often called 'a nation of pet lovers'. But is it true? To begin with – do we have more pets than anyone else?*

Jo: He said 'Do we have more pets than anyone else?' 'More than'.

Adam: You can say 'He's got more money than me', or 'I like London more than New York'.

Jo: Now listen to the next comparison. British people have a lot of pets ...

Ravi: *But there are a lot of other places with as many pets as Britain.*

Jo: 'There are other places with as many pets as Britain'. 'As many as'. Britain has a

lot of pets – but other countries have the same number. We use ‘as many as’ when the thing we’re comparing is countable – pets. But we use ‘as much as’ when we’re comparing something uncountable.

Adam: For example ‘I want to have as much money as Bill Gates’ – I want the same money!

Jo: Now listen to the last way of comparing things.

Tess: *Cats and dogs are the most common pets in Britain, right?*

Ravi: *Well, actually, they now think that the most popular pets in Britain are ...?*

Jo: Yes – ‘the most common’, ‘the most popular’, ‘the most’. Cats are popular, dogs are popular, but reptiles are more popular than cats and dogs – so reptiles are the most popular pets in Britain.

Adam: There are exercises on the website to give you practice with this, and other things, too. And please send us your comments about animals in your country.

Jo: And about your pets.

Adam: We’ll read some of them out on the next podcast. See you then! Goodbye!

Jo: Bye!

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CHAPTER 8 Lesson 3

Podcasts Series 4: Episode 02

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 2

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Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Choose the sentences that are true according to the podcast.

1. There are a lot of people in the shop.
2. Carolina is enjoying her day shopping.
3. Emily buys some jeans.
4. Carolina doesn't want to spend a lot of money.
5. Carolina buys some T-shirts.
6. They go into a lot of shops.
7. Cameron is Emily's new boyfriend.
8. Cameron is a musician in a band.

Activity 2

Put the words in the right order to make sentences from the podcast.

1. do / What / you / to / ? / want / get
2. my / I'm / careful / money / being / with
3. could / four T-shirts / buy / two coffees / You / for the price of
4. think / day / of the sales / I don't / the first / I like
5. shop! / one / only / We've / in / been
6. things / How / your exciting / going in / are / new love life?
7. in / busy / He's / bookshop / working / the

8. he's going / says / to / a song / He /
write / for me

Activity 3

Modal verbs. Put the sentences in the right group.

- Can I get you something to drink?
- Can I leave early today, please?
- Can you tell me the way to the museum?
- You shouldn't work so hard – you're always tired.
- How many languages can you speak?
- I can speak English but I can't write very well.
- What do you think I should do?
- You can't smoke in this restaurant.
- Can I carry those bags for you?
- Can we have two coffees, please?

- asking someone to do something
- talking/asking about if it's OK to do something
- giving/asking for advice
- talking about ability
- offering to help

Activity 4

Complete the sentences.

- can I borrow
should buy
can my friend come
shouldn't give

- can help
can't read
can't swim
should tell

- My eyes are terrible. I _____ the newspaper without my glasses.
- _____ your pencil sharpener, please? I've lost mine.
- You _____ that jacket – it looks really good on you.
- I _____ you organise the party if you like.
- Do you think I _____ her the truth?
- _____ to the party too?
- I love the sea but I _____. I never learned.
- You _____ your plants too much water – it's bad for them.

Activity 5

Put the verbs in the right places.

- do you want
- doesn't see
- don't pay
- fell over
- make
- pushed
- thought
- told

- 'I _____ the British were polite!'

2. A woman _____ Carolina out of the way, and Carolina nearly _____.
3. 'Well, I've got my jeans. What's next? What _____ to get?'
4. Emily _____ Cameron very often because he's busy.
5. Jamie _____ Carolina about the T-shirt shop.
6. The T-shirts are cheap because they _____ the workers enough money.
7. They _____ them work long hours in terrible conditions.

Activity 6

Can you remember the verb forms? Don't look back at Activity 5!

1. 'I _____ the British were polite!' (think)
2. A woman _____ Carolina out of the way, and Carolina nearly _____ over. (push/fall over)
3. 'Well, I've got my jeans. What's next? What _____ to get?' (you/want)
4. Emily _____ Cameron very often because he's busy. (not/see)
5. Jamie _____ Carolina about the T-shirt shop. (tell)
6. The T-shirts are cheap because they _____ the workers enough money. (not/pay)
7. They _____ them work long hours in terrible conditions. (make)

Activity 7

Shopping vocabulary. Put the words in the right spaces.

- a) bargains
- b) cheap
- c) discount
- d) each
- e) free
- f) price
- g) reduced
- h) sales

1. Lots of shops have _____ in January.
2. Look! Two T-shirts for the _____ of one!
3. Special offer this week! Buy one, get one _____!
4. Let's go in here – they've got some very _____ shoes.
5. The jeans are _____ from twenty pounds to fifteen.
6. They're only two pounds _____. I'm going to buy three!
7. I hope we can find some good _____ today.
8. They'll give you a 10% _____ if you're a regular customer.

Activity 8

Shopping vocabulary. Can you remember the words? Don't look back at Activity 7!

1. Lots of shops have _____ in January.

2. Look! Two T-shirts for the _____ of one!
3. Special offer this week! Buy one, get one _____!
4. Let's go in here – they've got some very _____ shoes.
5. The jeans are _____ from twenty pounds to fifteen.
6. They're only two pounds _____. I'm going to buy three!
7. I hope we can find some good _____ today.

8. They'll give you a 10% _____ if you're a regular customer.

Activity 9 – Leave a comment

How do you feel about the sales – do you love them or hate them? What is it that you enjoy, or don't enjoy? What's the most popular time for sales in your country?

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 02

Jo and Adam

Adam: Hello! And welcome to Episode 2 of Series 4 of LearnEnglish Elementary Podcasts. My name's Adam and my colleague Jo will be joining us later on to talk about some of the language in the podcast.

It was great to start reading all your comments again. A lot of comments were from old friends of the podcast from Series 3, 2 or even Series 1. Zara from Venezuela sent her greetings, and both Shnider from Egypt and Saulo from Brazil said 'welcome back'. Predkambrij from Slovenia and Dilshadcan from Iraq told us how the podcasts helped with their English. If you want to get the most out of the podcasts, remember to do the exercises as well as listening to the audio.

And thank you to everyone, like Andeo from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who welcomed Jo to the podcast team. We're both really looking forward to working with you over the rest of the podcasts, whether you listen to them on the website or via our mobile app. You can find the LearnEnglish Elementary Podcasts app by searching the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store and there's also a link on the LearnEnglish website.

I'm sure you remember the last episode was about the British and pets – and we asked you to tell us about your pets and the most popular pets in your country. And what a variety of pets you told us about!

Andeo talked about his dog Žučo, whose name means 'yellow'. Fabimuc from Colombia has a dog called Tango, who's

only three months old. Aww! Jamir is also from Colombia and he used to fight with his siblings because they all wanted their cats in their beds at night!

Lam Tran from Vietnam said that, although dogs and cats are the most popular pets in his country, rabbits and hamsters have become more popular recently.

You told us about keeping cats, turtles, birds – like canaries or pigeons – sheep and even a frog! But you aren't all pet lovers! Lisa-chriki's husband had three rabbits as pets but Lisa didn't like the smell so he couldn't keep them. It's important to think carefully before you get a pet because it can be a lot harder to give a pet away than to get one.

A lot of people made the point that keeping a pet, or not, depends on the culture of your country and the standard of living. Chocolar said that, in his part of West Africa, only a few people have money to look after pets – it's more important to look after people. In some places it's unusual to keep pets like dogs or cats, but people take good care of their cows, sheep and goats.

Thank you to everyone who left a comment – we really enjoy reading them and hearing what you think. It's really interesting to read different answers to our questions from users all over the world.

Now it's time to hear from another old friend – Carolina. Carolina is from Venezuela, but she's living and studying in Newcastle in the north-east of England at the moment. She has a best friend called Emily and a boyfriend called Jamie. Let's see what she's doing today.

Carolina – At the shopping centre

Carolina: Oh. What a lot of people!

Emily: Well, yes. It's the first day of the sales. People go crazy. Let's go in here. I like their jeans.

Carolina: So do I. Oh, it's very crowded.

Emily: Come on. The jeans are over here.

Carolina: Excuse me ... Um ... Excuse me, please ... excuse me.

Emily: What are you doing?

Carolina: Trying to get past the people.

Emily: You can't just say 'Excuse me, excuse me'. You have to push. Like this. Look. Excuse me! Follow me!

Emily: These jackets are nice.

Carolina: Yes.

Woman: Excuse me. Excuse me.

Carolina: Aaargh!

Emily: Are you OK?

Carolina: That woman pushed me into the jackets. I nearly fell over. I thought the British were polite!

Emily: Not in the sales. Come on. The jeans are over there.

Emily: Well, I've got my jeans. What's next? What do you want to get?

Carolina: Well, you know. I'm being careful with my money.

Emily: I know – that's why we're here – at the sales. You can buy something. Oh, let's go in here. They've got really, really cheap T-shirts. Like two pounds each.

Carolina: No, I don't think so.

Emily: Why not? Look. Special sales offer. Two T-shirts for the price of one. Come on.

Carolina: Jamie told me about this shop.

Emily: Told you what?

Carolina: It isn't ethical. We shouldn't buy things there.

Emily: Oh, lord! What do you mean, it isn't ethical?

Carolina: The T-shirts are very cheap because they don't pay the workers enough money. They make them work long hours in terrible conditions.

Emily: Oh.

Carolina: Let's go for a coffee. I'll pay.

Emily: OK. You know you could buy four T-shirts for the price of two coffees, don't you? I mean, I understand what you mean, but ...

Waitress: Here you are. Two coffees.

Carolina and Emily: Thanks.

Carolina: I don't think I like the first day of the sales.

Emily: We've only been in one shop!

Carolina: I know. Anyway, how are things going in your exciting new love life? With Cameron.

Emily: 'Exciting new love life'? It's going quite well.

Carolina: Only 'quite' well?

Emily: Oh, OK. It's going very well. I really like him. I don't see him very often – he's busy working in the bookshop, and

practising with the band – but it's good. I'm happy.

Carolina: I'm sooo glad, Emily.

Emily: He says he's going to write a song for me.

Carolina: No!

Emily: Can you imagine?

Carolina: Not really. 'Oh Emily, with your lovely blue eyes, and your yellow hair' – dang dang dang.

Emily: Blonde hair, please, Carolina. Not yellow.

Carolina: I can't wait to hear the song.

Jo and Adam

Adam: Phew! I don't like crowds, but I love finding a bargain, something cheaper than usual. Jo is here with us again today – do you like the sales, Jo?

Jo: I do. But the January sales are a really big thing in Britain, aren't they?

Adam: That's right. Some people queue outside the big shops all night. They sleep in the streets waiting for the shops to open in the morning.

Jo: Oh, I've never done that. That's crazy! Sleeping on the streets just to get a bargain?

Adam: Absolutely. But now let's talk about some of the language from the podcast. Jo?

Jo: Well, I want to talk about two common verbs – 'can' and 'should'. 'Can' and 'should' are both modal verbs. And modal verbs are different from verbs like 'go' or 'like'. Listen to Emily. What form of the verb follows 'can'?

Carolina: Well, you know. I'm being careful with my money.

Emily: I know – that's why we're here – at the sales. You can buy something.

Adam: 'You can buy something.'

Jo: That's right. 'Can buy', not 'can to buy'. We use the infinitive form of the verb but without 'to'. Now listen to Carolina.

Carolina: I can't wait to hear the song.

Jo: The negative of 'can' is 'can't'. 'I can't wait'.

Adam: Or 'I can't decide what to have for dinner tonight'.

Jo: And 'should' is the same. After 'should' we use a verb without 'to'.

Adam: And the negative is 'shouldn't'.

Jo: Listen to Carolina.

Carolina: It isn't ethical. We shouldn't buy things there.

Jo: Notice the pronunciation of 'should' and 'shouldn't'. It's spelt with an L – 'S-H-O-U-L-D', but the L is silent – we don't say it.

Adam: One more thing about modal verbs – we make a question by changing the word order – we don't use 'do' or 'did' to make a question. For example, 'Can you help me?'

Jo: Or 'What make of computer should I buy?'

Adam: Why don't you write and tell us what you think about sales? Do you love them or hate them? When's the most popular time for sales in your country? The address is www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish.

Jo: And there are exercises on the website to help you with the language from the podcast – including 'can' and 'should'.

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CHAPTER 8 Lesson 3

Podcasts Series 4: Episode 03

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- Play the whole podcast without a break.
- Don't read the transcript.

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

Choose all the sentences that are true according to the podcast.

1. Buses in London are usually red.
2. Ravi travelled on buses when he was a child.
3. Tess doesn't travel on buses very much.
4. Buses in London are all the same.
5. There are a lot of Routemaster buses in London.
6. Tourists like Routemaster buses.
7. The new buses are more comfortable than the old buses.
8. Ravi walked to the studio today.

Activity 2

Match the definitions to the things, according to the podcast.

- a) something that you can use to travel on all kinds of London transport
- b) very long single-decker buses
- c) buses that have two levels
- d) the person who collects the money from the passengers
- e) buses that have only one level
- f) an old kind of double-decker bus that's open at the back

1. single-decker buses
2. double-decker buses
3. Routemaster buses
4. bus conductor
5. an Oyster card
6. bendy buses

Activity 3

Put the words in order to make sentences from the podcast.

1. is a / A red / typical / double-decker / London sight / bus
2. have / any more / We / conductors / don't really / bus
3. are / Buses nowadays / mostly new / double-deckers
4. like / buses / I / bendy/ those / don't
5. onto / buses / much / to get / the bendy / easier / It's
6. travel / new buses / It's / on the / better to / probably
7. is a / see London / Walking / to / way / great /
8. to get / me / this morning / It took / here / ages

Activity 4

Vocabulary. Put the words in the right places to make sentences from the podcast.

- a) dangerous
- b) old-fashioned
- c) passengers

- d) pretend
- e) pushchairs
- f) routes
- g) traffic jams
- h) upstairs
- i) wheelchairs

1. The _____ seat right at the front, above the bus driver – that's the best one.
2. I always used to sit there when I was a kid and _____ I was driving the bus.
3. And you could just jump on or off the bus? Bit _____!
4. The conductor was inside the bus to collect the money for busfares from the _____.
5. We do still have them on one or two bus _____ right in the centre of London.
6. But they're much easier to get on – for people in _____ or mums with babies in _____.
7. So people like to seethe _____ Routemaster buses.
8. There are so many _____ in London that it's probably quicker to walk.

Activity 5

Talking about your journey to work. Match the answers to the questions.

- a) About twenty-five miles.
- b) About forty-five minutes door to door.

- c) At quarter to eight.
- d) By train.
- e) I get off at Tipton station and walk down Marley Street.
- f) Seven pounds return with a student card.

1. How do you get to work?
2. How long does it take?
3. How much does it cost?
4. How far is it?
5. What time do you leave home?
6. Which way do you come?

Activity 6

Choose the right preposition.

1. Tourists often travel _____ Routemaster buses in London.
 - a) on
 - b) in
2. I watched a good film _____ the plane.
 - a) on
 - b) in
3. 'I'm _____ a taxi – I'll be there in five minutes.'
 - a) on
 - b) in
4. I usually read _____ the train.
 - a) on
 - b) in

5. Get _____ the train at Bidlington station and we'll be there to meet you.
 - a) off
 - b) out
6. My car is very small. It's difficult for my grandmother to get _____.
 - a) on and off
 - b) in and out
7. The police told the driver to get _____ of the car and put his hands up.
 - a) off
 - b) out
8. You can ask the bus driver to tell you when to get _____.
 - a) off
 - b) out

Activity 7

What does 'get' mean in these sentences? Put them in the right group.

- a) I got him a clock for his birthday.
- b) What time does the train get to Bristol?
- c) Can you tell me how to get to Oxford Street?
- d) Did you get the email I sent yesterday?
- e) He'll get angry if you tell him.
- f) I didn't get home until two o'clock in the morning.
- g) It gets cold in the evenings – you'll need a jacket.
- h) My English is getting a lot better
- i) What did you get for your birthday?

- j) You look great in that jacket – you should get it.
- k) I get extra money if I work on Sundays.
- l) Can you get some milk on the way home?

1. arrive at / reach a place
2. become
3. buy
4. receive

Activity 8

Common phrases with 'get'. Match the two halves of the sentences.

- a) back from lunch.
- b) better soon.
- c) dinner tonight.
- d) lost on the way.
- e) ready for the party.
- f) the bus if it's raining.
- g) a bad cold in the winter.
- h) up late and relax.

1. Dad's in the kitchen – it's his turn to get
2. Don't forget the map. We don't want to get
3. I never work on Sundays, so I can get
4. Sorry to hear you're not well – I hope you get
5. I'll give him the message when he gets
6. I usually walk to work, but I get
7. I spent two hours getting
8. I always get

Activity 9 – Leave a comment

What is your favourite transport? How do you get to work or school or university? Is there a special form of transport that tourists use in your country, like the Routemaster buses in London? Have you ever ridden on the big red buses in London?

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 03

Jo and Adam

Adam: Hello! And welcome to Episode 3 of Series 4 of LearnEnglish Elementary Podcasts. My name's Adam and, like last time, my colleague Jo will be joining us later on to talk about some of the language in the podcast.

We've had messages from lots of people who are new to the podcast and the LearnEnglish site, which is great. If you're new, or even if you've been with us for a while, have a look at our Help page. There's a lot of useful advice about how to use the site to help you improve your English, including speaking.

And for the people who are asking if there are going to be more podcasts, don't worry – there will be a new episode released every two weeks until February of next year. That's not too long to wait and there are plenty more episodes to come!

Also, remember that you can download the LearnEnglish Elementary Podcasts app from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store, and there's also a link to the app on the LearnEnglish website. One useful feature of the app is that you can slow down the speed of the audio if you need a bit more time to understand what you're hearing.

Now, I'm sure you remember, in the last podcast Carolina and Emily went shopping at the sales. Emily had a great time, but Carolina didn't enjoy the experience very much. So we asked you to write in and tell

us about sales in your country, and what you think about them. Are you with Emily or Carolina? Do you love the sales or hate them?

Just as with Carolina and Emily, your opinions were divided. Samba from Mali likes sales very much, and Magnolia57 from Brunei feels happy and relaxed to get things at a cheaper price. Buta from Vietnam loves shopping in the sales because of all the discounts and special offers.

But trener from Poland says 'I don't like the sales because I spend a lot of money on stuff which I don't need'.

And Juhat from Brunei doesn't understand why people are so crazy about sales because now you can buy everything you want online. That's a good point.

Tanni, from Pakistan, doesn't like the sales either, because the streets are crowded with people and traffic and people are rude. That sounds like Carolina's experience! And Amy My from Vietnam doesn't like shopping in the sales period because the clothes are all the wrong sizes and don't fit.

Tanni and Amy My also make the point that some shops are clever. They put very high prices on things at first – higher than the real price – and then say that these things are much cheaper during the sales. Sneaky! So watch out for these kinds of tricks.

But that doesn't happen in all the shops. Kemdehoundja from France is a fan of sales because they're the right time to get good deals. He says 'In 2009 during the winter sales, my girlfriend and I paid 300 euros for a sofa which initially cost 1000 euros.' What a bargain!

Kemdehoundja and N4dia, who's from Italy, mentioned that there are winter sales and summer sales where they live. But BNima and asuma girlish say that in Morocco, there is no special time for sales.

Thanks to everyone who left a comment – we really enjoy reading them and hearing what you think. It's interesting to read different answers to our questions from our users all over the world. So please keep sending them in!

Now it's time to hear from Tess and Ravi again. And, as usual, they're going to talk about something that people think is typically British, like drinking tea for example. Let's see what it is this time.

Tess and Ravi

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

Ravi: And I'm Ravi and we're back to talk about some of the things you think you know about Britain. We've talked about fish and chips and bad weather and drinking tea – typically British things – and today we're going to talk about a typically British way to travel. What do you think it is, Tess?

Tess: The London Underground?

Ravi: Nope.

Tess: Erm ... on a horse?

Ravi: On a horse? No. It's on a bus – or, to be exact, on a red double-decker bus.

Tess: Ah, OK. Good one. Double-decker buses are buses that have two levels – an upstairs and a downstairs. You see them in other countries too, but for lots of people a

red double-decker bus is a typical London sight.

Ravi: Where do you like to sit, Tess? Upstairs or downstairs?

Tess: Mm, I don't really take the bus, Ravi, I like to ...

Ravi: For me, the upstairs seat right at the front, above the bus driver – that's the best one. I always used to sit there when I was a kid and pretend I was driving the bus.

Tess: You're still a kid, Ravi. Actually, if you think about a red London bus – the typical London bus that you've seen in films and photographs – you're probably thinking about one special kind of double-decker bus called the Routemaster.

Ravi: Is that the one that's open at the back?

Tess: That's right. You got onto the bus at the back – there wasn't a door, it was open. The driver was shut away in his driver's cabin at the front and another man or woman – the conductor – was inside the bus to collect the money for bus fares from the passengers.

Ravi: And you could just jump on or off the bus? Bit dangerous.

Tess: Yeah, a bit.

Ravi: And you don't see bus conductors on buses any more, do you? You just pay your money to the driver or use your Oyster card ...

Tess: Yeah – An Oyster card is a sort of travel card that you can use on all kinds of London transport – but, yeah, we don't really have bus conductors any more. In

fact, we don't really have that typical red double-decker Routemaster bus any more.

Ravi: Yeah we do – I saw one this morning.

Tess: Well, we do still have them on one or two bus routes right in the centre of London but I think that's sort of a tourist thing, really. Buses nowadays are mostly new double-deckers – they're still red – or the very long single-decker buses – the ones we call bendy buses.

Ravi: Oh, yeah, I don't like those bendy buses.

Tess: But they're much easier to get on – for people in wheelchairs, or mums with babies in pushchairs or old people who can't walk very well – it's much easier to get on to the bendy buses. That was one of the main reasons that they stopped using the Routemaster buses.

Ravi: Oh right, I didn't know that.

Tess: So people like to see the old-fashioned Routemaster buses and tourists like to see them too but it's probably better to travel on the new buses – they're definitely more comfortable.

Ravi: Well, there are so many traffic jams in London that it's probably quicker to walk – it took me ages to get here this morning.

Tess: Actually, you know, walking is a great way to see London.

Ravi: If you like walking, it is ...

Tess: Oh Ravi, don't be lazy, you're always going on about ...

Jo and Adam

Adam: And Jo's here again with me today. Hi Jo.

Jo: Hi Adam.

Adam: And what did you think of that, Jo? Do you take buses?

Jo: I don't. I live in the country, so I usually walk, cycle or take the car or the motorbike. The last bus I took was in London.

Adam: When I'm in London I always take a bus. I love sitting on the top deck, right at the front. Why don't you write and tell us what your favourite transport is? How do you get to work or school or university?

Jo: And is there a special form of transport that tourists use in your country? Like the Routemaster buses in London?

Adam: The address is www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish. Now let's look at some of the language from this podcast. And today it's prepositions. Jo...?

Jo: Prepositions are words like 'on', 'at', 'in' or 'from' – and it can be difficult to know which one to use. Listen to Tess. Which preposition does she use?

Tess: ... *but it's probably better to travel on the new buses – they're definitely more comfortable.*

Jo: She said 'on' – 'it's better to travel on the new buses'. My students always think it's strange that we say 'on the bus' or 'on the train'.

Adam: When someone phones you on your way home you say 'I'm on the train – I'll be there soon'.

Jo: 'On the plane' too. 'I watched a good film on the plane'. But we use 'in' for a car or a taxi.

Adam: 'I'm in a taxi – I'll be there soon'.

Jo: So – you wait for your bus, and when it comes you get on – but what do you do when you get to the bus station? You get ...? Listen to Ravi.

Ravi: *And you could just jump on or off the bus?*

Jo: Yes, you get off the bus when you arrive. You get on and you get off. There are some exercises on the website to practise this. And some exercises to help you with the different meanings of the verb 'get'.

Adam: And there are other exercises too. You can do them online or download the pdf file and print them. So – I think that's all for this time. Please don't forget to send us your comments on transport where you live.

Jo: Or if you've ever ridden on the big red buses in London, tell us about that! See you next time.

Adam/Jo: Bye!