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### While you listen

Download the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast. You'll find all the details on this page: <http://www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/elementary-podcasts>

While you listen, read and answer the questions below.

#### Section 1

1. What do you know about Ravi and Tess? Tick all the phrases you think are true. There may be more than one right answer.

- a) Ravi came to the studio by bus today
- b) Ravi can drive
- c) Tess can drive
- d) Tess's cat is called Oscar

#### Section 2

2. What does Vanessa say about Frida Kahlo? Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) She had a serious accident
- b) Her paintings show the story of her life
- c) She painted pictures of her children
- d) Her paintings are worth a lot of money today

#### Section 3

3. How many points does Will get in the quiz? Tick the ONE correct number.

- a) none
- b) one
- c) two
- d) three

#### Section 4

4. What does Rebecca say about Kazakhstan? Tick all the phrases you think are true. Remember there may be more than one right answer.

- a) Kazakhstan is bigger than Western Europe
- b) Kazakhstan has more people than Western Europe
- c) Kazakhstan has 20% of the world's oil supply
- d) The capital city is very modern

#### Section 5

5. How many people say that they recycle things? Tick the correct number.

- a) one
- b) two
- c) three
- d) four

#### Section 6

6. Which student club does Carolina join today? Tick the ONE correct answer.

- a) the Basketball Club
- b) the International Students Society
- c) the Conservation Society
- d) the Environmental Science Society

7. What do you know about Carolina? Tick all the phrases you think are true. Remember there may be more than one correct answer.

- a) Her name is Carolina del Barco
- b) Her email address is carodelb88@readynet.vz
- c) Her phone number is 0347461037
- d) She studies in the Environmental Science department

#### Section 7

8. What does the rabbit want to buy?

- a) nails
- b) carrots
- c) a hammer
- d) meat

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

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## Section 1: “I've had a *nightmare* journey” – arriving late

Tess: Hello again and welcome to LearnEnglish Elementary podcast number six. I'm Tess – from London. And he's Ravi, from Manchester.

Ravi: Hello.

Tess: And I have to say to the listeners, Ravi has *just* arrived. What happened Ravi? Oversleep?

Ravi: Oh, I've had a *nightmare* journey. The underground was closed for some reason so I had to get a bus and of course the bus was absolutely packed because the underground was closed and the traffic was awful. What a nightmare. Still, I got here. Just in time. What about you? Was your journey OK?

Tess: Well, I came in the car this morning. It was busy, but not too bad, you know.

Ravi: Ah well, you see. I was nearly late but you know – I use public transport because I care about the planet and the environment, but if you want to take your car ..

Tess: You use public transport because you haven't got a driving licence. You won't want a lift home then in my terrible car, will you?

Ravi: Oh, very kind, thanks – that'll be lovely. Hey – I know what I wanted to ask you – your cat – has it got a name yet?

Tess: Yes. Yes, he has. He's called Oscar.

Ravi: Oscar? Hmm. I quite like that. Why Oscar?

Tess: I don't know, to be honest. He just looks like an Oscar. He's so cute Ravi.

Ravi: Hmm. I still think you should have called him Gordon. How are you today Gordon?

Gordon: Fine, thanks Ravi.

Ravi: Gordon's our producer - and king of the terrible jokes. We'll hear from him again later. But now, on with the show. Tess, what have we got?

Tess: We've got all sorts. We've got the quiz, we've got Kazakhstan, we've got Carolina's new flatmates and we've got I'd Like to Meet. Do you want to tell us about it?

### Tom's tip

When we describe nightmare journeys, we are often answering a friend's question. They often make a joke that you're late:

- Good afternoon!
- Glad you could make it!
- Nice of you to come in today!

Then they ask you what happened

- What happened? Oversleep?
- Good party last night?
- Forget to set the alarm clock?

You then tell the story. This is often is a series of events: causes and results:

- First, so, then, because, so, then, finally...

So, a structure might look like this:

A: Jokey greeting	Good afternoon! Glad you could make it! Nice of you to come in today!
A: Question	What happened? Oversleep? Good party last night? Forget to set the alarm clock?
B: Response	Oh, I've had a <i>nightmare</i> journey. God. What a (series of) disaster(s) that was I thought I'd never get here

B: Problem 1 -	The underground was closed for some reason The train /bus was late / delayed / cancelled My car / The train / bus broke down
B: so...	so I had to get a bus / train / taxi so I had to wait hours / ages for another one
B: and (problem 2)...	and of course the train / bus was absolutely packed. and the traffic was awful. and it was boiling hot / freezing cold.
B: comment	What a nightmare. Still, I got here. Just in time. It was awful. But I got here – eventually. But I made it. Just.
B: ask about A	What about you? Was your journey OK? Didn't you have any problems? I suppose you didn't have any problems

### Section 1 - Exercise 1

Use the phrases in the boxes to fill the gaps in the text below. (See 'Answer Page' for answers)

Didn't you have any problems with the traffic?	I've had a terrible morning.	Good afternoon!
it was really cold this morning too	managed to get one there	Good party last night?
Finally I paid the taxi and walked	Still, I got here in the end.	I decided to get a taxi
Then I waited for ages for the bus	I couldn't find my keys	the traffic was terrible

Dave: Well hello! \_\_\_\_\_

Paul: I'm not that late! It's only half past nine.

Dave: Only half past nine! So what happened to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul: Ha ha - very funny. Well if you want to know, \_\_\_\_\_

Dave: What happened?

Paul: Well, first of all, \_\_\_\_\_ so I was late leaving the house.

Dave: Did you find them?

Paul: Yeah, yeah, I've got them now. \_\_\_\_\_, and then when it finally came it was full, so I couldn't get on it. And \_\_\_\_\_ – absolutely freezing. So then \_\_\_\_\_ but they were all full

Dave: Monday morning's a bad time for taxis.

Paul: You're telling me! So I walked down to the main road and \_\_\_\_\_. Then of course, when we got to Hillman Road, \_\_\_\_\_. We were just stuck in this huge traffic jam for half an hour without moving. And I was watching the taxi meter going up and up and getting more and more stressed.

Dave: Why didn't you walk? Hillman Road isn't far.

Paul: Well, that's what I did. \_\_\_\_\_ – ran - all the way here. And now I'm really hot  
What a nightmare! \_\_\_\_\_. What about you? \_\_\_\_\_.

Dave: No, Hillman Road was fine when I came through. Maybe you should get up a bit earlier.

Paul: Well thanks for the sympathy! Anyway, where's that report that you wanted me to read yesterday?

*Compare your answers with the text on the answer page.*

**Section 1 – Exercise 2**

Here are three stories about arriving late. Can you follow each story from top to bottom? The answers are on the Answer page

	<b>Story 1</b>	<b>Story 2</b>	<b>Story 3</b>
<b>A</b>	Good afternoon! What happened? Oversleep?	Glad you could make it! Forget to set the alarm clock?	Nice of you to come in today! Good party last night?
	↓	↓	↓
<b>B:</b>	Oh, I've had a <i>nightmare</i> journey  The underground was closed for some reason...  <i>1: what's next? a, b or c?</i>	God. What a series of disasters that was  My usual train was cancelled ...  <i>2: what's next? a, b or c?</i>	I thought I'd never get here  My car broke down...  <i>3: what's next? a, b or c?</i>
	↓	↓	↓
	a) so I had to wait ages for the next one...  <i>4: what's next? d, e or f?</i>	b) so I had to phone the garage...  <i>5: what's next? d, e or f?</i>	c) so I had to get a bus...  <i>6: what's next? d, e or f?</i>
	↓	↓	↓
	d) and it took them an hour and a half to get to my house...  <i>7: what's next? g, h or i?</i>	e) and the traffic was absolutely awful...  <i>8: what's next? g, h or i?</i>	f) which had hundreds of people on it ...  <i>9: what's next? g, h or i?</i>
	↓	↓	↓
	g) so I had to stand all the way and they didn't make any announcements...  <i>10: what's next? j, k or l?</i>	h) and they told me I had a problem with my starter motor...  <i>11: what's next? j, k or l?</i>	i) It took 30 minutes to get to the next stop...  <i>12: what's next? j, k or l?</i>
	↓	↓	↓
	j) so I decided to get off there and walk ...  <i>13: what's next? m, n or o?</i>	k) Then it stopped for ten minutes just outside the station...  <i>14: what's next? m, n or o?</i>	l) so they changed it but it cost a fortune...  <i>15: what's next? m, n or o?</i>
	↓	↓	↓
	m) I think I'll use public transport from now on.	n) and now I'm really hot.	o) and eventually we arrived 40 minutes late.
	↓	↓	↓
	What a nightmare. Still, I got here. Just in time.	But I made it. Just.	It was awful. But I got here – eventually.
	What about you? Was your journey OK?	Didn't you have any problems?	I suppose you didn't have any problems

## Section 2: I'd like to meet

You listened to Vanessa talking about Frida Kahlo.

Is there a famous artist that you can write about? If you can think of someone, make some notes to answer these questions:

- What's his/her name?
- Where is he/she from?
- What kind of art does he/she produce? Painting? Sculpture? Photography?
- Is he/she very famous?
- Is his/her art very expensive to buy?
- Why do you like him/her?
- Which work is your personal favourite?
- What do you know about his/her life?

Now put your notes together to write a paragraph about the person and why you'd like to meet him or her. If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). You can read the transcript below.

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### Transcript

Ravi: OK. In this part of the podcast we ask people a simple question – which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet? And we ask them to explain why. So let's say hello to this week's guest, Vanessa, from Cambridge.

Tess and Ravi: Hi Vanessa.

Vanessa: Hello. It's great to meet you both.

[...]

Tess: Now it's time to answer the question. So Vanessa, which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet?

Vanessa: Frida Kahlo, the painter.

Ravi: OK. I've heard the name – there was a film wasn't there? But I don't know anything about her.

Vanessa: Yeah, it was a good film – with Salma Hayek – she was Frida.

Tess: Yeah, great film. Loved it.

Vanessa: Frida Kahlo was Mexican, she was born at the beginning of the century and she died in the 1950s. When she was nineteen she was in a horrible bus accident. She had terrible injuries – I won't describe them all, but she had to have a lot of operations, and she was in bed for a long time. She liked painting, so her mother

bought a mirror and put it over her bed. So she started painting pictures of herself – self portraits. And she never stopped painting after that.

Tess: The pictures are a bit strange though aren't they. I'm not sure I'd like one in my living room.

Vanessa: Well yes ... and no. Some people think that she was a surrealist, like Salvador Dali – that she painted dreams – but that isn't true. She painted her life – all the things that happened to her. And her life was a bit strange – or let's say 'unusual' – so the pictures are 'unusual' too. They're her life – her paintings tell her story. Because of the accident she couldn't have children – and you see that in her pictures too. I love her. Madonna collects her paintings – she once said that she couldn't be friends with anyone who doesn't like Frida Kahlo. She's incredibly famous now – one of her paintings – 'Roots' I think it was – was sold in 2006 for five and a half million dollars.

Ravi: Five and a half million dollars! I wouldn't mind that in *my* living room.

Vanessa: Well yes – I think Frida would be very surprised too. That's what I'd like to tell her if I could meet her – how famous she is now, and how much people – especially women – love her work.

Tess: She'd probably like to see the film too.

Vanessa: Yes – that's true. It would be really interesting to hear what she thinks of it.

Ravi: I think I'm going to look at some of her pictures on the internet. You've got me interested now.

Vanessa: And try and see the film if you get the chance – it's called "Frida".

Ravi: I will. Thanks a lot for that Vanessa – and good luck with your law course.

Vanessa: It was a pleasure. Thanks a lot.

Tess: Yes, thanks Vanessa. That was great. And don't forget that we'd like to hear from you. Why not write and tell us about who you'd like to meet? You can send your own or you can look at what other people have sent in by checking out our website.

### Section 3: Quiz

#### Exercise 1

The quiz in this podcast was called 'Beginning with...' – for example, 'think of an animal beginning with 'G' – the answer could be 'gorilla' or 'goat' – there are lots of possibilities. Fill in the names of things beginning with different letters in the table below.

	T...	P...	B....	C....
transport				
fruit				
colour				
animal				
country				
sport				
vegetable				

There are lots of possible answers, but you can find some possibilities on the Answer Page at the end of this document.

**Section 4: Our person in...**

You listened to Rebecca talking about Kazakhstan. She talks about the geography of the country and its capital city. She also talks about a traditional occupation – the *berkutchy*.

Can you say something about the geography of your country? And its capital city? Is there a traditional occupation that you can talk about?

Think about these questions:

- Where is your country? Which countries does it have borders with?
- How big is it?
- What's the population?
- Does it have mountains? Rivers? Lakes? Deserts? Where are they?
- Does it produce oil? Valuable metals? Diamonds? Anything else?
- What's the capital city called? Where is it? How old is it?
- Is there an occupation that is traditional in your country? What's it called? What do the people do?

Now put your ideas together to write a paragraph about your country. If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org)

[www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish)

**Transcript**

Our Woman in Kazakhstan.

Rebecca: On a cold winter's morning, with thick snow on the ground around us, I watched the magnificent golden eagle fly high into the sky above us before returning to the arm of the *berkutchy* and sit on his thick leather glove.

I had travelled for over 6 hours on difficult roads to meet this man – the name *berkutchy* means 'the eagle king'. The journey gave me an idea of just how big – and how empty – Kazakhstan is. It is the ninth biggest country in



the world, bigger than all of western Europe, yet it has a population of only fifteen million so most of the country is almost empty. And this empty countryside has everything; a major mountain range on the border with China, great lakes and rivers, deserts and plains. Most importantly for Kazakhstan, it also has oil – perhaps twenty per cent of the world's supply – and many valuable metals can be found here.

Over ten years ago, Kazakhstan moved its capital city. The new capital, Astana, is full of new buildings designed by famous international architects – a thoroughly modern city. Yet it is out here on the empty plains watching the golden eagle fly that you get a true feeling of this little known country.

The oil and valuable metals will bring changes to Kazakhstan in the years to come but you feel – and hope – that the *berkutchy* will continue to fly his eagles in this wonderful, lonely space.

## Section 5: Your turn

In Your Turn you heard 5 people answer this question: **'How green are you?'**

What about you? What do you do to help the environment? Do you do a lot? Or do you think that you should do more? Or maybe you think that being green is a waste of time.

Here are some things that people talked about:

- public transport
- plastic bags
- recycling
- flying
- pollution
- factories
- growing vegetables
- buying local food

... and there are lots of other things that you can do too!

Write a list of all the things that you do (or don't do) to help the environment - and why. Then make your list into a paragraph.

If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org)

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**Transcript**

Tess: Now it's time for Your Turn. Your Turn is when we go out in the street to find out what people think. This time the question was ..... "How green are you?"

Ravi: Nice one. "How green are you?" – what do *you* do to help save the planet? Like use public transport.

Tess: OK. Let's hear what people said.

Voice 1: What do I do to help save the planet? Not enough. I hate to say it, but it's true, I mean, I always try to remember not to use plastic bags or recycle or whatever but I always forget. I really have to try to do more.

Voice 2: Well, we recycle pretty much everything we can, you know, bottles, cans, newspapers and all that but to be honest we don't do much else.

Voice 3: I do as much as I can. You have to, you know? We all have to. I don't take short-haul flights anymore – I used to fly down to London quite a lot – and of course I recycle and everything else I can.

Voice 4: I know I'm not going to make myself popular saying this but I don't really do very much. Look – there are factories all over the world putting out loads and loads of pollution every single day and I don't see how saving your old newspapers is going to help apart from making people feel good about themselves.

Voice 5: I'll tell you the greenest thing I do – I grow almost all my own vegetables. I've really started thinking about where my food comes from and the food miles and that – you know, like I won't buy food that's been flown here from Australia or something.

Tess: They make me feel a bit guilty. Some people do so much. I feel like the first woman who said she didn't do enough. I don't think I do enough. I *do* recycle things though.

Ravi: Me too. It's difficult though, isn't it?

**Section 6: Carolina**

**Section 6 - Exercise 1**

Look at some parts of Carolina's conversation with her new flatmates. Put the expressions in the right places.

Can you tell me a bit about it?	Can you spell that for me?	all one word.	capital
What do I have to do to join?	I haven't learnt it yet.	double three	At
Is it one word or two words?	What's your surname?	No, not yet.	dot
You just have to fill in this form.	Do you want me to spell it?		

Carolina: Hi. I'm not quite sure what the Conservation Society is. (1)\_\_\_\_\_

Student: Definitely. We go out into the countryside and we do things to help the environment.

Jamie: Are you going to join? Remember I was telling you about the countryside in Northumbria? North of Newcastle. It's really beautiful. You should join and come and see it with us. I'm sure it's a bit different from Venezuela.

Carolina: OK. You've persuaded me. (2)\_\_\_\_\_

Jamie: Excellent. (3)\_\_\_\_\_ I'll fill it in for you. Carolina.

(4)\_\_\_\_\_

Carolina: Del Barco. (5)\_\_\_\_\_

Jamie Yeah, please. (6)\_\_\_\_\_

- Carolina: Two words. d-e-l .. small 'd' , then (7)\_\_\_\_\_ B, a-r-c-o
- Jamie: And have you got your email address yet?
- Carolina: My university email? (8)\_\_\_\_\_ But you can use another address. It's caro del b eighty eight @ ready net .V-Z.
- Jamie: (9)\_\_\_\_\_
- Carolina: OK. It's Caro del B – c-a-r-o-d-e-l-b – (10)\_\_\_\_\_ Eighty eight.  
(11)\_\_\_\_\_. Ready Net – r-e-a-d-y-n-e-t  
(12)\_\_\_\_\_ v-z.
- Jamie: OK, great. And have you got a mobile number yet?
- Carolina: Yes. Oh, just a moment, I'll have to look at my phone. (13)\_\_\_\_\_  
Here it is. Oh (14)\_\_\_\_\_ four seven four six one oh three seven.

*Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document*

## Section 6 - Exercise 2

Look again at Carolina's conversations. Choose all the phrases that people can say – there is always more than one correct answer.

- Carolina: Hi. I'm not quite sure what the Conservation Society is. \_\_\_\_\_  
Student: Definitely. We go out into the countryside and we do things to help the environment.
  - Can you tell me what you do?
  - Can you explain it to me?
  - Can you tell me a bit about it?
  - Can you say me something about it?
- Jamie: Are you going to join? Remember I was telling you about the countryside in Northumbria? North of Newcastle. It's really beautiful.  
Carolina: OK. You've persuaded me. \_\_\_\_\_
  - What do I have to do to join?
  - How must I join?
  - How do I join?
  - Can I join now?
- Jamie: Excellent. \_\_\_\_\_
  - You just have to fill up this form
  - You just have to fill this form
  - You just have to fill in this form
  - You just have to fill out this form
- Jamie: I'll fill it in for you. Carolina. \_\_\_\_\_
  - What's your surname?
  - What's your last name?
  - What's your full name?
  - What's your name?
- Carolina: Del Barco. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie: Yeah, please. Is it one word or two words?
  - Can I spell it?
  - Do you want me to spell it?
  - Shall I spell it for you?
  - Will I spell it?

6. Jamie: And have you got your email address yet?  
Carolina: My university email? \_\_\_\_\_ But you can use another address.
- No, I haven't.
  - No, I don't.
  - No, not yet.
  - No, I didn't
7. Jamie: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carolina: It's Caro del B – c-a-r-o-d-e-l-b – all one word. Eighty eight. At. Ready Net – r-e-a-d-y-n-e-t dot v-z.
- Can you spell that for me?
  - How do you spell that?
  - How do I write that?
  - Can you tell me the letters?
8. Jamie: OK, great. And have you got a mobile number yet?  
Carolina: Yes. Oh, just a moment, I'll have to look at my phone. \_\_\_\_\_
- I can't remember it.
  - I don't know it yet.
  - I didn't know it.
  - I haven't learnt it yet

*Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document*

### Section 6 - Exercise 3

Now complete this conversation with your own answers. Imagine that you're at a university Societies Bazaar – and you want to join the International Student Society. You can practise the conversation with a friend.

Student: International Student Society – just five pounds membership! Come and join us now!

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: We organise evenings out, lots of social activities. It's a great way to meet a lot of people. Are you going to join?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: You just fill in a form – I can do it for you. What's your first name?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: And your surname?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: How do you spell that?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: Thanks. And where are you from?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: OK. And can you tell me your email address?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: Can you spell it for me?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: Have you got a mobile number?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: And I'll send you some more information – what department are you in?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: OK, great. We're going to the pub together on Saturday, if you'd like to come.

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: OK, well, nice to meet you. See you soon I hope.

You: \_\_\_\_\_

### Transcript

*Caroline goes to the university 'Societies Bazaar', where all the first year students come and choose the different clubs and interest groups they want to join.*

Carolina: ... and it starts on Friday afternoon. Anyway, thank you Emily – that would have been really difficult without you.

Emily: No problem. Are you coming to the Societies Bazaar?

Carolina: The what?

Emily: Oh, sorry, the Societies Bazaar. The meeting for all the different student clubs at the university.

Carolina: Oh, yes, I know. I read about it. It's a bit different from universities at home but I think I understand. All the different clubs come to this – 'bazaar' – is that right? – and all the first year students join the clubs they want to.

Emily: But remember that the first year students are called 'freshers' – all of this is important Carolina!

Carolina: Freshers! That's right. Because we're fresh, I suppose. Can you join as many clubs as you like?

Emily: Yeah, as many as you want. But you have to pay, remember. It's in there – over there. It looks quite crowded. Shall we go in?

Emily: ... I don't know really – it's a bit too crowded for me. Listen, I'm going to go and join the queue for the basketball club. Do you want to meet back here in about 20 minutes?

Carolina: OK. I want to join the International Students Society but the queue is too big. I'm going to have a look round and wait for the queue to get smaller.

Emily: OK. I'll see you back here, yeah? In about 20 minutes?

Carolina: OK. See you later.

Student: ... Conservation Society – just five pounds membership. Come and join us.

Carolina: Erm, hi. Erm. I'm not quite sure what the Conservation Society is. Can you tell me a bit about it?

Student: Definitely. We go out into the countryside and we do things to help the environment – sort of countryside management – you know, erm ... looking after forests erm .. making the countryside better for animals and birds and things ... erm.. it's quite hard to explain really. Ah, look, here comes the society president. I'm sure he can tell you about it better than me.

Carolina: Jamie. Hi. We met on the train, remember?

Jamie: Carolina! Hi. How are you? Did you find your room OK and everything?

Carolina: Yes. Thank you. And you're the president of the Conservation Society? Your friend was telling me about it.

Jamie: Yes. Are you going to join? Remember I was telling you about the countryside in Northumbria? North of Newcastle. It's really beautiful. You should join and come and see it with us. I'm sure it's a bit different from Venezuela.

Carolina: OK. You've persuaded me. What do I have to do to join?

Jamie: Excellent. You just have to fill in this form. I'll fill it in for you. Carolina. What's your surname?

Carolina: Del Barco Do you want me to spell it?

Jamie: Yeah, please. Is it one word or two words?

Carolina: Two words. d-e-l .. small 'd' , then capital B, a-r-c-o

Jamie: And have you got your email address yet?

Carolina: My university email? No, not yet. But you can use another address. It's caro del b eighty eight @ ready net .V-Z.

Jamie: Can you spell that for me?

Carolina: OK. It's Caro del B – c-a-r-o-d-e-l-b – all one word. Eighty eight. At. Ready Net – r-e-a-d-y-n-e-t dot v-z.

Jamie: ... net dot v z. OK, great. And have you got a mobile number yet?

Carolina: Yes. Oh, just a moment, I'll have to look at my phone. I haven't learnt it yet. Here it is. Oh double three four seven four six one oh three seven.

Jamie: Oh double three...

Carolina: Oh double three four seven four six one oh three seven.

Jamie: ...four seven four six one oh three seven. Right. Thanks. What department are you in Carolina? I can send you our booklet. I haven't finished writing it yet.

Carolina: Environmental Science. In the Daish building. Can you send it there?

Jamie: Yeah. No problem. The booklet's got all the information in it. We usually meet on Sundays and talk about what we're going to do and things. We're all going out to the pub this Thursday, if you want to come. I'll give you a ring and let you know where we're going, if that's OK?

Carolina: Yeah. Great.

Jamie: Right. That's everything. Actually, there's one more thing. I seem to remember that you said you'd take me to lunch. Do you want to go and get a sandwich somewhere?

Carolina: Yes, I did, didn't I? OK. Erm ... I just need to talk to my friend...

## Section 7 - The joke

### Exercise 1

Read the sentences below, and put them in the right order. You can either cut them up and arrange them, or write the number in the space on the left. For answers, see the Answer Page transcript.

	An hour later, the rabbit comes back. "Have you got any carrots?" And the butcher says "No, I told you, this is a butcher's shop – we haven't got any carrots".
	An hour later – it happens again, and an hour after that, it happens again. Well, the butcher's getting really annoyed.
	So, the rabbit goes away. But, guess what, an hour later, the rabbit comes back and walks into the shop. "Have you got any nails?" "No" says the butcher.
	Next time the rabbit comes in – "Have you got any carrots?" the butcher says "Look, I've told you – we don't have any carrots here.
	And the butcher says "No. This is a butcher's shop – we don't sell carrots," and the rabbit says "OK" and goes out of the shop.
	"Have you got any carrots?"
	A rabbit walks into a butcher's shop and says "Have you got any carrots?".
	If you come back to this shop one more time I'm going to take a hammer, take some nails and I'm going to nail your ears to the floor! OK?"

### Section 7 - Exercise 2

Now try to tell the joke yourself. Use these words to help you. When you see a slash (/) it means that one or more words are missing. Then check your answers – the transcript is on the Answer page at the end of this document.

- A rabbit / a butcher's shop and says " / any carrots?"
- And the butcher / "No. / a butcher's shop. We / carrots" and the rabbit / "OK" and / out of the shop.
- An hour / the rabbit / back. " / any carrots?" And the butcher / "No, I / you, this is / shop – we / any carrots.
- An hour later – it / again, and an hour after that, / again. Well, the butcher / really annoyed.
- Next time / comes in – " / any carrots?" the butcher / "Look, I've / you – we don't / carrots here. If you / to this shop one more time I'm / take a hammer, / nails and I'm / nail your ears to the floor! OK?"
- So, the rabbit / away. But, guess what, an hour /, the rabbit comes back and / the shop.
- " any nails?" "No" says the butcher.
- " / carrots"

**Tom the teacher - Exercise 1**

Look at these questions and decide if 'like' is a verb or a preposition. Put them in the right column.

Did you like the present?	What's your cat like?
Do you like your new job?	What's your new job like?
Does your father like football?	What was the weather like in London?
What are your parents like?	Which teacher did you like best at school?
What was the hotel like?	Why didn't you like the hotel?
What was the party like?	Why don't you like cats?
What were your teachers like?	Would you like to come to my party?
What would you like to drink?	

Verb	Preposition

For answers, see the Answer Page

**Tom the teacher - Exercise 2 - Multiple choice**

Choose the **best** sentence to complete these short dialogues.

- A: What's your teacher like?**  
**B:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 a) She's good. She makes us work very hard.  
 b) She likes classical music  
 c) She's very well thanks.
- A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 a) Do you like parties?  
 b) What was the party like?  
 c) Would you like to come to my party?

**B: I'd love to. Thanks.**
- A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 a) Did you like the present?  
 b) What was the present like?  
 c) Would you like a present?

**B: Yes thanks. I loved it.**

4. **A: Do you like your new job?**  
**B:** \_\_\_\_\_  
a) It's in London, in a big office.  
b) No, not much. It's a bit boring.  
c) No thank you.
5. **A: What's your cat like?**  
**B:** \_\_\_\_\_  
a) Fish. She loves fish.  
b) She's black with green eyes  
c) She's fine
6. **A: What's your brother's new car like?**  
**B:** \_\_\_\_\_  
a) It's a Honda – a big black one.  
b) No, not much  
c) Yes he does. He talks about it all the time.

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 3

Match a neutral word in column A to an informal word in column B. For answers, see Answer page at the end of this document

**A: Neutral**

children  
good morning  
mother  
father  
a lot  
things  
photograph  
television  
all right  
yes  
very good  
thank you very much  
man

**B: Informal**

dad  
great  
guy  
hi  
kids  
loads  
mum  
OK  
photo  
stuff  
thanks  
TV  
yeah



## Answers

### While you listen – Answers

1) a, c, d; 2) a, b, d; 3) c; 4) a, c, d; 5) c; 6) c; 7) a, b, d; 8) b.

### Section 1 - "I've had a *nightmare* journey" – arriving late

Dave: Well hello! **Good afternoon!**

Paul: I'm not that late! It's only half past nine.

Dave: Only half past nine! So what happened to you?

**Good party last night?**

Paul: Ha ha - very funny. Well if you want to know, **I've had a terrible morning.**

Dave: What happened?

Paul: Well, first of all, **I couldn't find my keys**, so I was late leaving the house.

Dave: Did you find them?

Paul: Yeah, yeah, I've got them now. **Then I waited for ages for the bus**, and then when it finally came it was full, so I couldn't get on it. And **it was really cold this morning too** – absolutely freezing. So then **I decided to get a taxi** but they were all full

Dave: Monday morning's a bad time for taxis.

Paul: You're telling me! So I walked down to the main road and **managed to get one there**. Then of course, when we got to Hillman Road, **the traffic was terrible**. We were just stuck in this huge traffic jam for half an hour without moving. And I was watching the taxi meter going up and up and getting more and more stressed.

Dave: Why didn't you walk? Hillman Road isn't far.

Paul: Well, that's what I did. **Finally I paid the taxi and walked** – ran - all the way here. And now I'm really hot!

What a nightmare! **Still, I got here in the end**. What about you? **Didn't you have any problems with the traffic?**

Dave: No, Hillman Road was fine when I came through.

Maybe you should get up a bit earlier.

Paul: Well thanks a lot for the sympathy! Anyway, where's that report that you wanted me to read yesterday?

### Section 1: Exercise 2

1-c; 2-a; 3-b; 4-f; 5-d; 6-e; 7-h; 8-i; 9-g; 10-k; 11-l; 12-j; 13-n; 14-o; 15-m

### Section 3: Quiz – Exercise 1

Some possible answers: **transport**: train, taxi; plane; bus, bicycle; coach. **fruit**: tangerine; pomegranate, pear; banana; cherry. **colour**: turquoise; pink, purple; brown, black, blue, beige; cream. **animal**: tiger; puma, pig, polar bear; cow, cat, camel, chimpanzee; bear, bat, bison. **country**: Thailand, Turkey, Tajikistan; Panama, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal; Belgium, Benin, Bangladesh; China, Chile, Cameroon. **sport**: tennis; polo, paragliding; baseball, badminton, basketball; cricket. **vegetable**: turnip; peas, pepper; beetroot, beans; cabbage, cauliflower.

### Section 6: Carolina - Exercise 1 - Answers

1. Can you tell me a bit about it? 2. What do I have to do to join? 3. You just have to fill in this form. 4. What's your surname? 5. Do you want me to spell it? 6. Is it one word or

two words? 7. capital 8. No, not yet. 9. Can you spell that for me? 10. all one word. 11. At 12. dot 13. I haven't learnt it yet. 14. double three

### Section 6: Carolina - Exercise 2 - Answers

1. a,b,c; 2. a,c,d; 3. c,d; 4. a,b,c; 5. b,c; 6. a,c; 7. a,b,c; 8. a,b,d

### Section 7: the Joke: transcript

Gordon: Anyway, a rabbit walks into a butcher's shop and says "Have you got any carrots?". And the butcher says "No. This is a butcher's shop – we don't sell carrots," and the rabbit says "OK" and goes out of the shop. An hour later, the rabbit comes back. "Have you got any carrots?" And the butcher says "No, I told you, this is a butcher's shop – we haven't got any carrots".

An hour later – it happens again, and an hour after that, it happens again. Well, the butcher's getting really annoyed. Next time the rabbit comes in – "Have you got any carrots?" the butcher says "Look, I've told you – we don't have any carrots here. If you come back to this shop one more time I'm going to take a hammer, take some nails and I'm going to nail your ears to the floor! OK?"

So, the rabbit goes away. But, guess what, an hour later, the rabbit comes back and walks into the shop. "Have you got any nails?" "No" says the butcher. "Have you got any carrots?"

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 1 - Answers

**Verb**: Do you like your new job?; What would you like to drink?; Why didn't you like the hotel?; Does your father like football?; Did you like the present?; Would you like to come to my party?; Why don't you like cats?; Which teacher did you like best at school? **Preposition**: What's your cat like?; What are your parents like?; What was the hotel like?; What were your teachers like?; What's your new job like?; What was the party like?; What was the weather like in London?

### Tom the teacher – Exercise 2 - Answers

1-a; 2-c; 3-a; 4-b; 5-b; 6-a

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 3 - Answers

children – kids; good morning – hi; mother - mum; father – dad; a lot – loads; things – stuff; photograph – photo; television – TV; all right – OK; yes – yeah; very good – great; thank you very much – thanks; man - guy

## Transcript

Download the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast. You'll find all the details on this page: <http://www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/elementary-podcasts>

### Section 1 – “I've had a *nightmare* journey” – arriving late

Tess: Hello again and welcome to LearnEnglish Elementary podcast number six. I'm Tess – from London. And he's Ravi, from Manchester.

Ravi: Hello.

Tess: And I have to say to the listeners, Ravi has *just* arrived. What happened Ravi? Oversleep?

Ravi: Oh, I've had a *nightmare* journey. The underground was closed for some reason so I had to get a bus and of course the bus was absolutely packed because the underground was closed and the traffic was awful. What a nightmare. Still, I got here. Just in time. What about you? Was your journey OK?

Tess: Well, I came in the car this morning. It was busy, but not too bad, you know.

Ravi: Ah well, you see. I was nearly late but you know – I use public transport because I care about the planet and the environment, but if you want to take your car ..

Tess: You use public transport because you haven't got a driving licence. You won't want a lift home then in my terrible car, will you?

Ravi: Oh, very kind, thanks – that'll be lovely. Hey – I know what I wanted to ask you – your cat – has it got a name yet?

Tess: Yes. Yes, he has. He's called Oscar.

Ravi: Oscar? Hmm. I quite like that. Why Oscar?

Tess: I don't know, to be honest. He just looks like an Oscar. He's so cute Ravi.

Ravi: Hmm. I still think you should have called him Gordon. How are you today Gordon?

Gordon: Fine, thanks Ravi.

Ravi: Gordon's our producer - and king of the terrible jokes. We'll hear from him again later. But now, on with the show. Tess, what have we got?

Tess: We've got all sorts. We've got the quiz, we've got Kazakhstan, we've got Carolina's new flatmates and we've got I'd Like to Meet. Do you want to tell us about it?

### Section 2 – I'd like to meet

Ravi: OK. In this part of the podcast we ask people a simple question – which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet? And we ask them to

explain why. So let's say hello to this week's guest, Vanessa, from Cambridge.

Tess and Ravi: Hi Vanessa.

Vanessa: Hello. It's great to meet you both.

Tess: It's nice to meet you too. And what do you do Vanessa?

Vanessa: I'm a student. I study law.

Ravi: Law? So you're going to be a lawyer – that's a good job to have.

Vanessa: Well, yes, I hope so.

Tess: Were you born in Cambridge or do you study there?

Vanessa: Both actually. I've lived there all my life, - and now I study there too.

Ravi: So you live at home with your parents right?

Vanessa: No, I live in university accommodation – I think it's better.

Tess: Well, you probably have a lot more fun.

Vanessa: Yes, it's good.

Tess: Now it's time to answer the question. So Vanessa, which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet?

Vanessa: Frida Kahlo, the painter.

Ravi: OK. I've heard the name – there was a film wasn't there? But I don't know anything about her.

Vanessa: Yeah, It was a good film – with Salma Hayek – she was Frida.

Tess: Yeah, great film. Loved it.

Vanessa: Frida Kahlo was Mexican, she was born at the beginning of the century and she died in the 1950s. When she was nineteen she was in a horrible bus accident. She had terrible injuries – I won't describe them all, but she had to have a lot of operations, and she was in bed for a long time. She liked painting, so her mother bought a mirror and put it over her bed. So she started painting pictures of herself – self portraits. And she never stopped painting after that.

Tess: The pictures are a bit strange though aren't they. I'm not sure I'd like one in my living room.

Vanessa: Well yes ... and no. Some people think that she was a surrealist, like Salvador Dali – that she painted dreams – but that isn't true. She painted her life – all the things that happened to her. And her life was a bit strange – or let's say 'unusual' – so the pictures are 'unusual' too.

They're her life – her paintings tell her story. Because of the accident she couldn't have children – and you see that in her pictures too. I love her. Madonna collects her paintings – she once said that she couldn't be friends with anyone who doesn't like Frida Kahlo. She's incredibly famous now – one of her paintings – 'Roots' I think it was – was sold in 2006 for five and a half million dollars.

Ravi: Five and a half million dollars! I wouldn't mind that in my living room.

Vanessa: Well yes – I think Frida would be very surprised too. That’s what I’d like to tell her if I could meet her – how famous she is now, and how much people – especially women – love her work.  
 Tess: She’d probably like to see the film too.  
 Vanessa: Yes – that’s true. It would be really interesting to hear what she thinks of it.  
 Ravi: I think I’m going to look at some of her pictures on the internet. You’ve got me interested now.  
 Vanessa: And try and see the film if you get the chance – it’s called “Frida”.  
 Ravi: I will. Thanks a lot for that Vanessa – and good luck with your law course.  
 Vanessa: It was a pleasure. Thanks a lot.  
 Tess: Yes, thanks Vanessa. That was great. And don’t forget that we’d like to hear from you. Why not write and tell us about who you’d like to meet? You can send your own or you can look at what other people have sent in by checking out our website.

### Section 3 – Quiz

Ravi: So, as usual, it’s quiz time next. Tess? What have we got?  
 Tess: We’re going to play ‘Beginning With’ again. And, I hope, we’ve got our two players ready on the telephone. Hello? Will?  
 Will: *(on phone)* Hi Tess.  
 Tess: ...and Jodie.  
 Jodie: *(on phone)* Hello  
 Tess: Let’s start with you Jodie. Where are you calling from?  
 Jodie: From Cardiff.  
 Tess: In Wales. Do you like it?  
 Jodie: Yeah, it’s great. It’s a capital city, you know, so there’s quite a lot to do.  
 Tess: And what do you do Jodie?  
 Jodie: I’m still at school. I’m 16 so I’m doing my GCSE exams this year.  
 Tess: OK. Well good luck with them and good luck with the game today. Now, Will. Where are you?  
 Will: In Peterborough.  
 Tess: Ah, OK. I know where that is. And what’s it like?  
 Will: Erm, it’s a bit boring really. Like, there isn’t really anything to do for people my age.  
 Tess: Oh dear. I’m sure it’s not that bad. How old are you?  
 Will: I’m 16 as well. I’m at school, like Jodie.  
 Tess: OK. Well, good luck to you too Will. I know you both know what to do but I’ll quickly remind you. I’ll ask the questions and to answer you press any button on your phone and we’ll hear a buzzer. Let’s hear your buzzers. Will. *(sound of Will’s buzzer)*. OK. Jodie. *(sound of Jodie’s buzzer)*. OK.

The questions tell you what letter the answer starts with. So, I might say ‘A form of transport beginning with ‘T’ – and you can say ‘train’ or ‘tram’ or another transport that begins with ‘T’. OK? Ready?  
 Will / Jodie: Yep.  
 Tess: Then let’s go. Remember it’s first one to three. Fingers on buzzers. Can you name .... a fruit beginning with ‘P’.  
*(Jodie’s buzzer)*  
 Tess: Jodie.  
 Jodie: Pear  
 Tess: Yes. One nil to Jodie. A colour beginning with ‘P’  
*(Will’s buzzer)*  
 Tess: Will.  
 Will: Purple.  
 Tess: Yes. One one. An animal beginning with ‘W’.  
*(Will’s buzzer)*  
 Tess: Will again.  
 Will: Wolf.  
 Tess: Right. Two one to Will. A country beginning with ‘A’.  
*(Will’s buzzer)*  
 Tess: Will.  
 Will: Africa. No. Sorry.  
 Tess: No. A country, not a continent. Jodie?  
 Jodie: Argentina.  
 Tess: Yes. Two two. So the next one is the decider. Ready? A sport beginning with ‘B’ *(Jodie’s buzzer)*  
 Tess: Jodie!  
 Jodie: Badminton  
 Tess: Yes! Well done Jodie. And bad luck Will. Jodie wins this week’s LearnEnglish book token to buy any book you want. What kind of book are you going to buy Jodie?  
 Jodie: Oh, I don’t know. I’ll have to think. Probably like, a novel or something.  
 Tess: OK, well enjoy it, whatever it is – the book token will be in the post on its way to you today. Thank you both for playing and remember, if you’re listening, we’d like to hear your ideas for games we can play. Send them to us at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).  
 Ravi: You know we’d love to hear them.

### Section 4 – Our person in

Ravi: Right. It’s time for Our Person In. I’m looking forward to this. In this part of the podcast we hear from different people around the world and this time, Rebecca Dalton is ... Our Woman in Kazakhstan.

Rebecca: On a cold winter’s morning, with thick snow on the ground around us, I watched the magnificent golden eagle fly high into the sky above

us before returning to the arm of the *berkutchy* and sit on his thick leather glove.

I had travelled for over 6 hours on difficult roads to meet this man – the name *berkutchy* means ‘the eagle king’. The journey gave me an idea of just how big – and how empty – Kazakhstan is. It is the ninth biggest country in the world, bigger than all of western Europe, yet it has a population of only fifteen million so most of the country is almost empty. And this empty countryside has everything; a major mountain range on the border with China, great lakes and rivers, deserts and plains. Most importantly for Kazakhstan, it also has oil – perhaps twenty per cent of the world’s supply – and many valuable metals can be found here.

Over ten years ago, Kazakhstan moved its capital city. The new capital, Astana, is full of new buildings designed by famous international architects – a thoroughly modern city. Yet it is out here on the empty plains watching the golden eagle fly that you get a true feeling of this little known country.

The oil and valuable metals will bring changes to Kazakhstan in the years to come but you feel – and hope – that the *berkutchy* will continue to fly his eagles in this wonderful, lonely space.

Tess: It’s amazing isn’t it? Kazakhstan is absolutely huge but most of us don’t know anything at all about it.

Ravi: Yeah. It sounds fantastic though, doesn’t it?

Tess: You say that about everywhere – New Zealand, South Africa ...

Ravi: It’s true, I know. I’d love to travel round the world one day and see all of these places.

Tess: By public transport?

Ravi: OK. But I really do want to travel. But the next best thing, listeners, is hearing about your countries so do remember that you can send your texts to us at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). Tell us something interesting about your city or your country.

Tess: That would be great.

## Section 5 – Your turn

Tess: Now it’s time for Your Turn. Your Turn is when we go out in the street to find out what people think. This time the question was ..... "How green are you?"

Ravi: Nice one. "How green are you?" – what do you do to help save the planet? Like use public transport.

Tess: OK. Let’s hear what people said.

Voice 1: What do I do to help save the planet? Not enough. I hate to say it, but it’s true, I mean, I always try to remember not to use plastic bags or recycle or whatever but I always forget. I really have to try to do more.

Voice 2: Well, we recycle pretty much everything we can, you know, bottles, cans, newspapers and all that but to be honest we don’t do much else.

Voice 3: I do as much as I can. You have to, you know? We all have to. I don’t take short-haul flights anymore – I used to fly down to London quite a lot – and of course I recycle and everything else I can.

Voice 4: I know I’m not going to make myself popular saying this but I don’t really do very much. Look – there are factories all over the world putting out loads and loads of pollution every single day and I don’t see how saving your old newspapers is going to help apart from making people feel good about themselves.

Voice 5: I’ll tell you the greenest thing I do – I grow almost all my own vegetables. I’ve really started thinking about where my food comes from and the food miles and that – you know, like I won’t buy food that’s been flown here from Australia or something.

Tess: They make me feel a bit guilty. Some people do so much. I feel like the first woman who said she didn’t do enough. I don’t think I do enough. I do recycle things though.

Ravi: Me too. It’s difficult though, isn’t it? Anyway, remember, listeners, that we’d love to know what you think. How green are you? What do you do to help save the planet? You can write and tell us at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

## Section 6 – Carolina

Tess: Right. Now it’s time to join Carolina again in Newcastle. Carolina is from Venezuela and she’s come to Britain to live, study and have fun. She’s at Newcastle University in the north east of England, studying Environmental Science. Last time we listened Carolina had just arrived and met her new flatmates at the university. Let’s see where she is this time.



Carolina: ... and it starts on Friday afternoon. Anyway, thank you Emily – that would have been really difficult without you.

Emily: No problem. Are you coming to the Societies Bazaar?

Carolina: The what?

Emily: Oh, sorry, the Societies Bazaar. The meeting for all the different student clubs at the university.

Carolina: Oh, yes, I know. I read about it. It's a bit different from universities at home but I think I understand. All the different clubs come to this – 'bazaar' – is that right? – and all the first year students join the clubs they want to.

Emily: But remember that the first year students are called 'freshers' – all of this is important Carolina!

Carolina: Freshers! That's right. Because we're fresh, I suppose. Can you join as many clubs as you like?

Emily: Yeah, as many as you want. But you have to pay, remember. It's in there – over there. It looks quite crowded. Shall we go in?

Emily: ... I don't know really – it's a bit too crowded for me. Listen, I'm going to go and join the queue for the basketball club. Do you want to meet back here in about 20 minutes?

Carolina: OK. I want to join the International Students Society but the queue is too big. I'm going to have a look round and wait for the queue to get smaller.

Emily: OK. I'll see you back here, yeah? In about 20 minutes?

Carolina: OK. See you later.

Student: ... Conservation Society – just five pounds membership. Come and join us.

Carolina: Erm, hi. Erm. I'm not quite sure what the Conservation Society is. Can you tell me a bit about it?

Student: Definitely. We go out into the countryside and we do things to help the environment – sort of countryside management – you know, erm ... looking after forests erm .. making the countryside better for animals and birds and things ... erm.. it's quite hard to explain really. Ah, look, here comes the society president. I'm sure he can tell you about it better than me.

Carolina: Jamie. Hi. We met on the train, remember?

Jamie: Carolina! Hi. How are you? Did you find your room OK and everything?

Carolina: Yes. Thank you. And you're the president of the Conservation Society? Your friend was telling me about it.

Jamie: Yes. Are you going to join? Remember I was telling you about the countryside in Northumbria? North of Newcastle. It's really beautiful. You should join and come and see it with us. I'm sure it's a bit different from Venezuela.

Carolina: OK. You've persuaded me. What do I have to do to join?

Jamie: Excellent. You just have to fill in this form. I'll fill it in for you. Carolina. What's your surname?

Carolina: Del Barco Do you want me to spell it?

Jamie: Yeah, please. Is it one word or two words?

Carolina: Two words. d-e-l .. small 'd' , then capital B, a-r-c-o

Jamie: And have you got your email address yet?

Carolina: My university email? No, not yet. But you can use another address. It's caro del b eighty eight @ ready net .V-Z.

Jamie: Can you spell that for me?

Carolina: OK. It's Caro del B – c-a-r-o-d-e-l-b – all one word. Eighty eight. At. Ready Net – r-e-a-d-y-n-e-t dot v-z.

Jamie: ... net dot v z. OK, great. And have you got a mobile number yet?

Carolina: Yes. Oh, just a moment, I'll have to look at my phone. I haven't learnt it yet. Here it is. Oh double three four seven four six one oh three seven.

Jamie: Oh double three...

Carolina: Oh double three four seven four six one oh three seven.

Jamie: ...four seven four six one oh three seven. Right. Thanks. What department are you in Carolina? I can send you our booklet. I haven't finished writing it yet.

Carolina: Environmental Science. In the Daish building. Can you send it there?

Jamie: Yeah. No problem. The booklet's got all the information in it. We usually meet on Sundays and talk about what we're going to do and things. We're all going out to the pub this Thursday, if you want to come. I'll give you a ring and let you know where we're going, if that's OK?

Carolina: Yeah. Great.

Jamie: Right. That's everything. Actually, there's one more thing. I seem to remember that you said you'd take me to lunch. Do you want to go and get a sandwich somewhere?

Carolina: Yes, I did, didn't I? OK. Erm ... I just need to talk to my friend...

Ravi: Were you in any societies at university Tess?

Tess: Loads. Well, I joined lots of societies in my first year but I didn't really do a lot. I was in the cycling society. And I used to play volleyball. Anyway, what about Jamie and Carolina going out for lunch, eh?

Ravi: What about it? Oh, I see what you mean.  
Hmm.

### Section 7 – The Joke

Ravi: Well, that's almost everything for today but a podcast wouldn't be a podcast without a joke from Gordon. Are you ready Gordon?

Gordon: I am, Ravi. Another special one for you today.

Ravi: I'm sure it is Gordon. All of your jokes are 'special'. In their own way. Let's hear it.

Gordon: Anyway, a rabbit walks into a butcher's shop and says "Have you got any carrots?". And the butcher says "No. This is a butcher's shop – we don't sell carrots," and the rabbit says "OK" and goes out of the shop.

An hour later, the rabbit comes back. "Have you got any carrots?" And the butcher says "No, I told you, this is a butcher's shop – we haven't got any carrots".

An hour later – it happens again, and an hour after that, it happens again. Well, the butcher's getting really annoyed. Next time the rabbit comes in – "Have you got any carrots?" the butcher says "Look, I've told you – we don't have any carrots here. If you come back to this shop one more time I'm going to take a hammer, take some nails and I'm going to nail your ears to the floor! OK?"

So, the rabbit goes away. But, guess what, an hour later, the rabbit comes back and walks into the shop. "Have you got any nails?" "No" says the butcher.  
"Have you got any carrots?"

Ravi: Actually Gordon, I think that's the best one so far. You're getting better. Right. We have to go now but don't go away. After this little break you're going to hear Tom, our English teacher. After every show, Tom talks about the language you heard and gives you ideas to help you learn. So, don't go away, but I'll say goodbye now. See you next time.

Tess: Bye! Don't forget to send us your emails! Here's that address one more time. It's [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

### Tom the teacher

Tom: Hi, my name's Tom. At the end of every podcast, I talk about some of the language that you heard, and some ways to help you learn English. The first thing I want to talk about today is the word 'like'. 'Like' can be used in lots of different ways in

English. Listen to Tess talking to Jodie at the beginning of the quiz. Listen for the word 'like'.

*Tess: Let's start with you Jodie. Where are you calling from?*

*Jodie: (on phone) From Cardiff.*

*Tess: In Wales. Do you like it?*

*Jodie: Yeah, it's great. It's a capital city, you know, so there's quite a lot to do.*

Tom: This is the use of 'like' that I'm sure you already know. It's being used as a verb. Tess asks Jodie if she enjoys living in Cardiff. Now listen to Tess again, talking to Will this time. Listen for the word 'like'. Is it a verb here?

*Tess: Now, Will. Where are you?*

*Will: (on phone) In Peterborough.*

*Tess: Ah, OK. I know where that is. And what's it like?*

*Will: Erm, it's a bit boring really.*

Tom: Tess asks Will "What is it like?". She's asking him to *describe* Peterborough. Will could say "It's very big" or "It's very quiet" or "It's got a lot of shops". In the question "What's it like?", 'like' is a preposition, not a verb. The meaning isn't connected to the meaning of 'like' as a verb. It's a very common question in English – when we want someone to describe something to us, we often use "What's it like?". A good example is "What's the weather like in London?". We want the person to tell us if it's raining or sunny, if the weather's good or bad. Or "What's your teacher like?". We want you to describe your teacher. Maybe "She's young" or "She's blonde with blue eyes" or "She's very friendly" or even "She's terrible!" – any answer that *describes* her in some way.

Now listen to Tess and Jodie again. Listen to how Jodie uses 'like'.

*Tess: Yes! Well done Jodie. And bad luck Will.*

*Jodie wins this week's Learn English book token to buy any book you want. What kind of book are you going to buy Jodie?*

*Jodie: Oh, I don't know. I'll have to think. Probably like, a novel or something.*

Tom: Hmm. Jodie's going to buy "probably like, a novel or something". She isn't using 'like' as a verb or a preposition here. She's using it as a 'filler'.

A 'filler' is something that we say to give us more time to think, for example 'erm' or 'uh', or 'I don't know'. You will hear young native English speakers

use 'like' a lot in this way. You'll hear for example "Yeah, it's like, really cool". Remember that this is a very *informal* way to speak. If you want to use 'like' in this way, then only do it with groups of young friends – and not in more formal situations, with your teacher for example. Next time you watch a 'teenage' film in English, listen for 'like' used in this way. I'm sure you'll notice it a lot.

It can be difficult to know which words and phrases are informal in English. You may hear a new phrase in a film or a song and want to use it. But can you be sure that you'll use it in the right situations with the right people? A good learners' dictionary can help you with this. It will tell you when a word is informal. Most dictionaries use the letters *infml*, next to the word. This means 'informal', so then you can make a note in your vocabulary notebook so that you won't forget.

Let me give you an example. The word 'children' isn't formal or informal. You can use 'children' in any situation, with your friends or even if you are talking to the Queen!. It's never wrong. It's what we call a '*neutral*' word. But the word 'kids' – which can mean exactly the same as children – is a lot more informal. It would sound strange to talk about 'kids' at a formal party for example. Check the word 'kids' in your dictionary now and see if it tells you that it's an informal word.

Now let's talk about something different. When someone tells you their phone number or address, it can be difficult to remember it and write it down at the same time. It can be difficult for native speakers, but may be more difficult if English isn't your first language. Of course, you can say "I'm sorry – could you say that again?" or "Could you repeat that please?". But listen to what Jamie does when Carolina tells him *her* phone number.

*Carolina: Here it is. Oh double three four seven four six one oh three seven.*

*Jamie: Oh double three...*

*Carolina: Oh double three four seven four six one oh three seven.*

*Jamie: ...four seven four six one oh three seven. Right. Thanks.*

Tom: Jamie can only remember the first three numbers. So he repeats them "Oh double three" and then he *pauses*. He stops and waits. This shows Carolina that he wants her to repeat the rest of the numbers for him. He doesn't need to ask. We do this a lot in English – maybe you do it in your language too - or maybe not. We do it with

telephone numbers, addresses and even names if someone is spelling them out for us. If your English teacher says, "The homework is workbook, page 65, exercises 1, 3 and 7" – and you can't remember and write it down at the same time, you can say "Workbook page 65.." and stop. Your teacher will then repeat "Exercises 1, 3 and 7".

Here's another thing that I noticed in this podcast. Listen to Will and Jodie introducing themselves at the beginning of the quiz. They're both sixteen years old, so listen to what Jodie says.

*Will: I'm still at school. I'm 16 so I'm doing my GCSE exams this year.*

...

*Jodie: I'm 16 as well.*

Tom: Yes, she says "I'm sixteen *as well*". 'As well' means the same as 'too' in this phrase. You can say "I'm sixteen too" or you can say "I'm sixteen as well".

But be careful. You can say "Me too" but we don't say "Me as well". If your friend says "I'm going to Ana's party tomorrow", you can say, "Me too" or you can say "I'm going too" or you can say "I'm going as well". Try to use 'as well' when you're speaking English this week.

OK. That's all from me today. I'll talk to you all again on the next podcast. Remember you can send your questions to me at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). I'll be happy to answer your questions! In a moment you'll hear the address for the website where you can read everything you've heard in this podcast. So bye for now! See you next time.