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### While you listen

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While you listen, read and answer the questions below.

#### Section 1

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

- a) He's got a new flat
- b) He's moving to the new flat on Saturday
- c) His new flat is very cheap
- d) He's going to make dinner for Tess on Saturday.

#### Section 2

2. What do Megan and Ravi say about David Attenborough? Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) He's a television presenter
- b) He's over eighty years old
- c) He's made a lot of programmes about nature and wildlife
- d) He's made a lot of TV advertisements

#### Section 3

3. How many correct answers do Amy and Brandon get in the quiz? Tick the correct number.

- a) 5
- b) 4
- c) 3
- d) 2

#### Section 4

4. What does Bill Steadman say about Christmas in Prague? Tick all the phrases you think are true. Remember, there may be more than one right answer.

- a) People eat fish at Christmas
- b) They buy the fish from supermarkets
- c) They keep the fish in the bath at home
- d) The children give the fish a name

#### Section 5

5. Which of these programmes do people say are the best things on TV? Tick all the correct answers.

- a) sport
- b) reality TV
- c) documentaries
- d) films

#### Section 6

6. What is 'a round'? Tick the correct answer.

- a) a special drink
- b) a table
- c) a snack
- d) a drink for everyone at the table

7. What does Carolina have to drink? Tick the correct answer.

- a) a Newcastle Brown
- b) a lager
- c) a pineapple juice
- d) a mango juice

#### Section 7

8. Why is the man trying to remember the word 'rose'? Tick the correct answer.

- a) He wants to give his wife a rose on Valentine's Day
- b) 'Rose' is his wife's name
- c) Roses are his favourite flowers
- d) 'Rose' is the name of a good Indian restaurant.

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

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## Section 1 – “I wanted to ask you something” – asking for a favour

Tess: Hello again and welcome to the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast number eight. I'm Tess, from London.

Ravi: And I'm Ravi, from Manchester. You're looking great as usual Tess, how are you?

Tess: Thanks, Ravi. I'm very well thanks. How are you?

Ravi: I'm fine thanks. Actually, I'm very well. You know I told you I was looking for a new flat?

Tess: Yes.

Ravi: Well, I found a new place over on Carswell Road – near the swimming pool. It's really nice. Much bigger than the one I'm in now.

Tess: What's the rent like?

Ravi: Well, it is quite expensive, quite a bit more than I pay now. But it's a lot nicer.

Tess: Great. When are you moving?

Ravi: Well, I wanted to ask you about that. What are you doing on Saturday?

Tess: Nothing special? Why?

Ravi: Well, do you think you could help me move some stuff to my new place? Can you spare two or three hours in the afternoon?

Tess: Yeah, I suppose so.

Ravi: You can say 'no' if you want to you know.

Tess: No, it's OK, I don't mind.

Ravi: That's brilliant. Thank you. I'll tell you what, I'll make dinner for you at the new flat after we've moved my things. Does that sound OK?

Tess: Ooh. That'll be lovely, thanks.

Ravi: Great. Have a think about what you want to eat. Right. Well, we'd better get on.

### Section 1 - Exercise 1

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

anything on Friday	I don't think so	that sounds great
do me a favour	I need to take	You don't have to
do you think you could	No problem	you've got time
don't be silly	Thanks a million	

Stella: I wonder if you could \_\_\_\_\_ ? Are you doing \_\_\_\_\_ after work?

Dave: Let me think. Friday? No, \_\_\_\_\_. Why?

Stella: Well, \_\_\_\_\_ a box of books home for the weekend, and my car's in the garage at the moment, and they're really heavy. So, \_\_\_\_\_ give me a lift?

Dave: Sure. \_\_\_\_\_.

Stella: \_\_\_\_\_, I can get a taxi.

Dave: No, \_\_\_\_\_. You'll never get a taxi on a Friday evening. I'll take you. I'm going in your direction anyway.

Stella: \_\_\_\_\_. You can come in for a coffee or something if \_\_\_\_\_ . You've never seen my flat have you?

Dave: No, never, but I'd like to. I've heard a lot about it. OK, \_\_\_\_\_. It's a date.

<p><b>Tom's tip</b>          Asking for a favour:          Sometimes we need help, and we need to ask another person to help us. We know that the other person doesn't <i>have</i> to help us, and that we are using their time and effort, but we still need their help. This is called 'asking for a favour'.          British people normally don't ask for help directly. Look at the table below. The dialogue between Stella and Dave is a very good example of how to ask for a favour.</p>		
1. Person A sends a signal that he/she is going to ask for help – this gives Person B some time to prepare what he/she is going to say	Stella:	I wonder if you could do me a favour?
2. Person A then says when he/she needs the favour...		Are you doing anything on Friday after work?
3. ...this again allows Person B to say he/she is busy, or can't help	Dave:	Let me think. Friday? No, I don't think so. Why?
4. Person A then explains what help he/she needs, and asks if Person B will help	Stella:	Well, I need to take a box of books home for the weekend, and my car's in the garage at the moment, and they're really heavy. So, do you think you could give me a lift?
5. Person B says yes or no	Dave:	Sure. No problem.
6. Person A then gives Person B another opportunity to 'escape' – to say no.	Stella:	You don't have to, I can get a taxi.
7. Person B says again that he/she will help	Dave:	No, don't be silly. You'll never get a taxi on a Friday evening. I'll take you. I'm going in your direction anyway.
8. Person A thanks Person B...	Stella:	Thanks a million.
9. ... and sometimes offers a 'reward' - something that Person B will enjoy...		You can come in for a coffee or something if you've got time. You've never seen my flat have you?
10. ... and asks Person B to agree		Would that be OK?
11. Person B agrees	Dave:	OK, that sounds great. It's a date.

## Section 1 – Exercise 2

Now look at the tapescript for section 1. Ravi is asking Tess to do him a favour. Does the dialogue follow the same structure as the dialogue between Stella and Dave?

Put the phrases that Ravi and Tess use in the right places in the table below. The answers are on the answer page at the end of this document.

Ravi: Well, I wanted to ask you about that. What are you doing on Saturday?

Tess: Nothing special. Why?

Ravi: Well, do you think you could help me move some stuff to my new place? Can you spare two or three hours in the afternoon?

Tess: Yeah, I suppose so.

Ravi: You can say 'no' if you want to you know.

Tess: No, it's OK, I don't mind.

Ravi: That's brilliant. Thank you. I'll tell you what, I'll make dinner for you at the new flat after we've moved my things. Does that sound OK?

Tess: Ooh. That'll be lovely, thanks.

Ravi: Great. Have a think about what you want to eat.

1. Person A sends a signal that he/she is going to ask for help – this gives Person B some time to prepare what he/she is going to say	1:
2. Person A then says when he/she needs the favour...	2:
3. ...this again allows Person B to say he/she is busy, or can't help	3:
4. Person A then explains what help he/she needs, and asks if Person B will help	4:
5. Person B says yes or no	5:
6. Person A then gives Person B another opportunity to 'escape' – to say no.	6:
7. Person B says again that he/she will help	7:
8. Person A thanks Person B...	8:
9. ... and sometimes offers a 'reward' - something that Person B will enjoy...	9:
10. ... and asks Person B to agree	10:
11. Person B agrees	11:

See 'Answer Page' for answers

### Section 1 – Exercise 2

Now add these phrases to the table above. You can write the phrases or just write the letters of the phrases in the correct box. There are 2 phrases to add to each box.

a) Ah, yes – I wanted to ask you something b) Are you busy this evening? c) Great idea! d) I can always ask somebody else. e) I haven't got any plans. Why? f) I'd like to buy some plants but I can't carry them home on the bus. Could you give me a lift? g) I'll buy you a drink afterwards h) Is that alright for you? i) It's really no trouble at all. j) It's no problem if you're too busy k) Let me take you out for dinner as a thank-you	l) I wonder if you could do me a favour? m) No, don't worry, that's fine. n) Not much. Why? o) Of course I will. p) Oh thank you so much q) That's really kind of you, thanks. r) Well, I'm going to paint my living room, and I'd really like some help s) What are you up to on Sunday? t) What do you say? u) Yeah, okay. That's fine. v) You're on! I'd like that.
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See 'Answer Page' for answers

## Section 2: I'd like to meet

You listened to Megan talking about David Attenborough.

Is there a TV presenter that you can write about? It could be someone that you like, or someone that you don't like!

Make some notes to answer these questions:

- What's his/her name?
- Where is he/she from?
- What kind of programmes does he/she present? Reality TV shows? Documentaries? News programmes? A quiz? A talk show?
- Do you like the programmes? Why / why not?
- Is he/she very popular in your country? And in the rest of the world?
- Why do you like or dislike him/her?
- What do you know about his/her personal life?

Now put your notes together to write a paragraph. If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). You can read the transcript on the next page.

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### Transcript

Ravi: And joining us today is Megan. Hello Megan. [...] OK then Megan, tell us, who would you like to meet?

Megan: I'd like to meet David Attenborough.

Ravi: Great choice. I know who David Attenborough is – I think anyone who watches television in Britain will know who he is – but maybe you can explain to people who *don't* watch television in Britain who David Attenborough is and what he's well known for.

Megan: Well actually Ravi, David Attenborough's wildlife programmes have been seen by more than one *billion* people all over the world so I think people *will* know who he is. They might not know his name but I think they'll recognise him. Erm, he's a TV presenter and he makes programmes about nature and wildlife and the natural world and they are just *fantastic*. Erm .. I'll say the names of some of the programmes in case anyone recognises them, erm, there was Life on Earth, the Life of Birds, the Blue Planet, Planet Earth – there's been so many of them.

Ravi: And what is it about David Attenborough that you like?

Megan: Oh, everything. He's getting quite old now – he's over 80 now, but he looks great – he's got really white hair. And I love his voice – he just sounds so interested in the animals that he's talking about and sometimes he gets really close to them and he's almost whispering but you can just see how interested and excited he is. I

think the programmes are brilliant. But the other thing is that the programmes are always about the *animals* not about him. Y' know some presenters just talk about themselves all the time. I think his programmes are the best things on TV.

Ravi: So, you like animals then Megan?

Megan: I love them. I want to be a vet.

Ravi: And what would you say to David Attenborough if you met him?

Megan: Well, I'd like to say "thank you" I think for his programmes and tell him that I think they've been really important in telling people about climate change and global warming and the real things that are happening to animals because of what *people* do. I think his programmes have made a lot of people realise the problems animals have to face. And I'd like to ask him what he thinks will happen in the future, y'know, if it's too late to save the planet, kind of thing.

Ravi: Y'know. I think I'd really like to meet David Attenborough as well. I really love those programmes. Do you know what he said about TV advertisements Megan?

Megan: No?

Ravi: He said he will never do an advertisement on TV. He says if people know you will take money to say you like something then they can't trust you anymore or believe what you say.

Megan: Yeah. You really do trust him when you listen to him.

Ravi: Well, thanks Megan – that was great.

### Section 3: Quiz

#### Exercise 1

You heard Amy and Brandon playing a numbers quiz. All of the questions were connected with time. Can you remember the answers?

1. There are seven d\_\_\_\_\_ in a w\_\_\_\_\_
2. There are twelve m\_\_\_\_\_ in a y\_\_\_\_\_
3. There are twenty-four h\_\_\_\_\_ in a d\_\_\_\_\_
4. There are sixty s\_\_\_\_\_ in an h\_\_\_\_\_
5. There are thirty or thirty-one d\_\_\_\_\_ in a m\_\_\_\_\_
6. There are sixty m\_\_\_\_\_ in an h\_\_\_\_\_

See 'Answer Page' for answers

#### Exercise 2

Now fill in the names of the months and the days in the diagram. See 'Answer Page' for answers

Days of the week:	Months of the year:	
M _____	J _____	J _____
T _____	F _____	A _____
W _____	M _____	S _____
T _____	A _____	O _____
F _____	M _____	N _____
S _____	J _____	D _____
S _____		

## Section 4: Our person in...

You listened to Bill talking about a Christmas tradition in Prague. Can you say something about Christmas traditions in your country? Or maybe a different celebration that happens in your culture or religion? Or you could write about traditions in another country or place that you've visited.

Think about these questions:

- What is the celebration?
- When is it? Does it happen at the same time every year?
- Is it a family celebration?
- What do people do before the celebration? What do they buy?
- What do people do on the day(s) of the celebration?
- What do people do after the celebration?
- What do people eat?
- Is there anything that you think is unusual or interesting about what happens?

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

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### Transcript

Bill Steadman is our man in Prague.

Bill: When the huge fish tanks appear outside supermarkets here in Prague you know that it must be almost Christmas. The tanks are full of carp – the fish traditionally eaten at Christmas here in the Czech Republic and in other central European countries.

For my first Christmas in the Czech Republic I found this tradition a little strange. Carp isn't usually eaten in Britain – it's a fish that is often full of small bones and the flavour is a little, well, *different*. But what I found really strange about the Czech habit of eating carp at Christmas is *how* they do it.

People usually buy the fish from tanks outside supermarkets and take them home– *alive* – and put them in the bath. Spending a few days in clean bath water cleans the carp and makes it taste better when it is eaten on Christmas Eve. A friend of mine told me that when her son was four years old he asked why they were keeping the carp in the bath. "To clean it" she told him. Later that day my friend went to look at the carp in the bath and



saw, to her horror, a bath full of bubbles. Her helpful son had added a generous handful of soap powder to the bath to make sure their carp was lovely and clean. That was one family that didn't eat carp that year.

All my friends with children tell me that there is one golden rule – never give your carp a name. When Christmas Eve arrives you'll find it very difficult to explain to your children why their pet has suddenly disappeared.

### Section 5: Your turn

In Your Turn you heard 5 people answer this question: **'What are the best - and worst – things on TV?'** What about you? What do you think about TV programmes? Do you have strong opinions about programmes that you like and programmes that you hate? Here are the things that people talked about:

- sport
- soap operas
- nature documentaries
- action programmes
- reality shows
- the weather forecast
- films

and here are some more ideas:

- quiz shows
- the news
- comedy programmes
- historical drama
- talk shows
- the weather forecast
- police/crime series

... and there are lots of other programmes that you can talk think about too!

So, write down what you think are the best – and worst – things on TV . And explain why. 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

**Tess:** Now, let's move on to Your Turn, the part of our podcast when we find out what *you* think. This time round we asked a two part question – what are the best – and worst – things on TV. Let's hear some answers.

**Voice 1:** Best thing – sport. I know people complain about it but it's all I watch, really. Worst thing – reality TV shows – definitely. There are *hundreds* of them and they are all *completely* stupid.

**Voice 2:** Well, I like soap operas. I watch two or three of them, you know. You really feel like you know the characters. I've watched them for years. What do I always switch off? Probably the weather forecast. It's never right so what's the point in watching it?

**Voice 3:** I don't watch much TV but I do like the nature documentaries. I saw one about whales and it was just amazing. I don't know how they do it. But apart from that, I don't know. There's too much sport on television. I just turn it off straight away.

**Voice 4:** I can't really go to the cinema very often now I've got children so I like to watch films on TV. They don't have the most recent films but, you know, it's OK. That's what I watch mostly. I can't stand all the sport on TV though. It never ends!

**Voice 5:** Erm.. what do I like? Have you seen *Silver Fox*? I love action programmes like that, you know, exciting things. It's better than the news and the political programmes and that. Bo-ring!

**Tess:** How about you Ravi. What would you say?

**Ravi:** Sport, I'm afraid. That's pretty much all I watch on TV. I watch DVDs most of the time. Let us know what you think – what are the best – and worst – things on TV?

## 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.

Here you are.	I'm having Newcastle Brown	What other fruit juices have you got?
I'll buy a round later.	No, it's the first time.	
I'll have a fruit juice	So, same again everybody?	You can give me a hand with the drinks.
I'll take the lagers	What are you drinking?	

1. Jamie: Haven't you ever been to a pub before?

Carolina: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jamie: You don't have to buy a round, not if you don't want to.

Carolina: Oh... no, that's OK. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jake: \_\_\_\_\_

All: yes, yes please, yep, same again, same for me please.

4. Jake: Carolina? \_\_\_\_\_

Carolina: Oh dear I don't know. What is everyone else having?

5. Carolina: Oh dear I don't know. What is everyone else having?

Jamie: \_\_\_\_\_. It's a really good beer. From Newcastle of course.

6. Jamie: We call it lager. Would you like one?

Carolina: No, I don't think so. \_\_\_\_\_ – what have they got?

7. Jake: Well, pineapple – that's what Helen's drinking, but besides that, I'm not sure. Come up to the bar with me and we'll ask. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Jake: \_\_\_\_\_

Barman: Pineapple, cranberry, mango, apple, and orange.

9. Barman: That's eleven pounds fifty please.

Jake: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Barman: And that's eight fifty change.

Jake: Thanks. OK, let's get these back to the table. \_\_\_\_\_ – if you can bring the .....

**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.

1. Jamie: Haven't you ever been to a pub before?  
Carolina: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) No I haven't
  - b) No, never
  - c) No, it's the first time.
  - d) No, I wasn't
  
2. Jamie: You don't have to buy a round, not if you don't want to.  
Carolina: Oh... no, that's OK. \_\_\_\_\_ a round later.
  - a) I can buy
  - b) I'll buy
  - c) I'm buying
  - d) I'll get
  
3. Jake: So, \_\_\_\_\_  
All: yes, yes please, yep, same again, same for me please.
  - a) same again everybody?
  - b) does everyone want the same again?
  - c) do you all want the same again?
  - d) one more for all?
  
4. Jake: Carolina? \_\_\_\_\_  
Carolina: Oh dear I don't know. What is everyone else having?
  - a) What are you drinking?
  - b) What would you like to drink?
  - c) What do you want to drink?
  - d) What will you drink?
  
5. Carolina: Oh dear I don't know. What is everyone else having?  
Jamie: \_\_\_\_\_ Newcastle Brown. It's a really good beer. From  
Newcastle of course.
  - a) I'm drinking
  - b) I'm having
  - c) I'm taking
  - d) I'm with
  
6. Jamie: We call it lager. Would you like one?  
Carolina: No, I don't think so. \_\_\_\_\_ a fruit juice – what have they got?
  - a) I'd like
  - b) I'll have
  - c) I have
  - d) I'd prefer
  
7. Jake: Well, pineapple – that's what Helen's drinking, but besides that, I'm not sure. Come up to the bar with me and we'll ask. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) You can help me with the drinks
  - b) You can give me a hand with the drinks.
  - c) You can carry some of the drinks
  - d) You can assist me with the drinks
  
8. Jake: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barman: Pineapple, cranberry, mango, apple, and orange.

- a) What other fruit juices are there?
- b) What other fruit juices have you got?
- c) What other fruit juices do you have?
- d) What more fruit juices can I have?

9. Barman: That's eleven pounds fifty please.

Jake: \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Here you are
- b) There it is
- c) Take this
- d) Here's twelve pounds

10. Barman: And that's eight fifty change.

Jake: Thanks. OK, let's get these back to the table. \_\_\_\_\_ the lagers –if you can bring the .....

- a) I can take
- b) I'll take
- c) I'll carry
- d) I take

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

### Transcript

*Carolina is from Venezuela and she's come to England to live, study and have fun. She wasn't having much fun last time because she had a really bad cold but she's feeling better now and she's going out to the pub with some friends.*

#### *In the pub*

Jamie: Carolina! Hi! We're over here!

Carolina: Oh hi! I couldn't see you!

Voice: ... And the man says "I know. It is amazing. He *hated* the book".

Jamie: Come and sit down. There's a space next to Henry.

Carolina: Excuse me, sorry. Hello Henry.

Henry: Hi.

Jamie: And this is Helen, and Nigel, and Gemma and Jake.

All: hi, hello, hi Carolina etc

Carolina: Hello everybody.

Jake: Right. It's my round.

Carolina: Round? I don't understand.

Jamie: Haven't you ever been to a pub before?

Carolina: No, it's the first time.

Jamie: We take it in turns to buy a round – that's what you do in a pub. Everyone buys a round.

Carolina: But is a round a drink?

Jamie: No. One person buys a drink for everyone at the table – that's called a round. Then next time someone else buys one. Henry bought the first one and now Jake's buying the next one, so it's his round. But you don't have to.... not if you don't want to....if you don't want a drink or something.

Carolina: Oh... no, that's OK. I'll buy a round later.

Jake: So, same again everybody?

All: yes, yes please, yep, same again, same for me please.

Jake: Carolina? What are you drinking?

Carolina: Oh dear I don't know. What is everyone else having?

Jamie: I'm having Newcastle Brown. It's a really good beer. From Newcastle of course.

Carolina: Ugh! It doesn't look like the beer I know. It's very dark!

Jamie: No, probably not. You probably drink lager – that's the pale beer, you know the light coloured one. We call it lager. Would you like one?

Carolina: No, I don't think so. I'll have a fruit juice – what have they got?

Jake: Well, pineapple – that's what Helen's drinking, but besides that, I'm not sure. Come up to the bar with me and we'll ask. You can give me a hand with the drinks. OK, so that's two bottles of Newcastle Brown, a pint of lager, a half of lager, a Diet Coke, a pineapple juice – and whatever Carolina wants.

#### *At the bar*

Jake: So, are you enjoying Newcastle?

Carolina: Yes I am. I haven't seen much of it yet. I've just started classes and I had a really bad cold for a few days. But I like what I've seen.

Barman: Y' being served?

Jake: No. Um, two bottles of Newcastle Brown, a pint and a half of lager, a Diet Coke and a pineapple juice please. And what other fruit juices have you got?

Barman: Pineapple, cranberry, mango, apple, and orange.

Carolina: Um, mango please.

Jake: And a packet of crisps please – cheese and onion.

Barman: Right you are.

Jake: And how long have you known Jamie?

Carolina: We met on the train coming up from London.

Jake: Well he seems to like you.

Carolina: Oh, does he?, Well I ....

Barman: That's eleven pounds fifty please.

Jake: Here you are.

Barman: And that's eight fifty change.

Jake: Thanks. OK, let's get these back to the table. I'll take the lagers –if you can bring the .....

Tess: Oooh. Jamie seems to like Carolina. Well, well.

Ravi: I knew you'd say that. Do you buy rounds if you go to the pub, Tess?

Tess: I don't usually. It can be really expensive, can't it? Anyway, at least Carolina knows what a round is now. I don't really go to the pub much anyway. I prefer to be outdoors.

## 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.

	"A rose" says the other man.
	"It's red – smells nice. Romantic – you give it to people you love on Valentine's Day. What do you call it?"
	"Now, let me think for a minute. You know that flower?"
	"Rose! What was the name of the Indian restaurant we went to last Saturday?"
	"The best Indian food I've had in ages. Excellent. And really cheap too".
	"Yes! That's it!" and he shouts into the living room
	after dinner the two men were in the kitchen doing the washing up and chatting and
	and one couple invited the other for dinner one night.
	And the first man says, "Oh gosh. My memory's terrible."
	And the other man says "Sounds great. I love Indian food. What was the restaurant called?"
	One of the men says to the other, "We went to a great restaurant last week – had a fantastic meal.
	the two women were in the living room, having a chat.
	There were two married couples
	They had a lovely meal and

### 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.

- There / two married couples and one couple / the other / dinner one night.
- They / meal and after dinner the two men / kitchen doing the washing up and chatting and the two women / living room, / a chat.
- One of the men / the other, "We / restaurant last week – / a fantastic meal. The best Indian food I / in ages. Excellent. And really cheap too".
- And the other man says "Sounds great. I / Indian food. What / called?"
- And the first man says, "Oh gosh. My / terrible. Now, / think for a minute. You know that flower? It's red – / nice. Romantic – you / people you / Valentine's Day. What / call it?"
- "A rose" says the other man.
- "Yes! That's /!" and he / into the living room, "Rose! What / name / Indian restaurant we / Saturday?"

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 1

Can you remember which prepositions we use with these time phrases? Put the phrases in the right column. Choose from: 'in', 'on', 'at' or 'no preposition'.

Christmas	last summer	Saturday	the weekend	tomorrow	
Christmas Day	my birthday	the afternoon	this weekend	yesterday	
December	next Monday	the summer	three o'clock	the 5 <sup>th</sup> April	1990

in	on	at	- (no preposition)

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

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

Now put the right preposition in the spaces. Choose from 'at', 'in', 'on', or ' - ' (no preposition)

- I'm going to have a holiday \_\_\_\_\_ September this year.
- Jane's coming round for dinner \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow.
- We always go out to an expensive restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ my birthday.
- Families often get together \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas.
- What are you doing \_\_\_\_\_ next Sunday?
- My sister's birthday is \_\_\_\_\_ the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.
- I was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1983
- I always do my yoga exercises \_\_\_\_\_ the morning.
- I've got an important exam \_\_\_\_\_ Monday.
- A lot of people get ill \_\_\_\_\_ the winter.

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 3

You heard Jamie talk about 'pints' in the pub with Carolina. British people use the metric system of litres and kilograms, but they often use old British measurements too. Here are some British measurements that you might need to understand. Read the definitions and put the words in the right spaces.

a foot (ft or ')	a pint (pt)	a stone(st)	an inch (in or ")
a mile (m)	a pound (lb)	a yard (yd)	

- People use this for measuring liquids. It's equal to about half a litre (0.57l). It's \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is used to measure distances. It's equal to 1,609 metres. It's \_\_\_\_\_.

3. People use this to talk about distance and length. We use this a lot when we talk about how tall someone is. It's equal to about 30 centimetres. It's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. People use this to talk about length and distance too. It's equal to about 2.5 centimetres. It's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. People also use this to talk about distance. It's almost the same as a metre – it's equal to .9 of a meter to be precise. It's \_\_\_\_\_.
6. People use this to talk about how heavy people are - how much they weigh. It's used a lot more than kilograms for people's weight. It's equal to about 6 kilograms (6.3kg). It's \_\_\_\_\_.
7. People use this to talk about how heavy people are too. We often use it for food too. It's equal to about half a kilogram (0.45kg). It's \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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## Answers

### While you listen – Answers

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

### Section 1 – “I wanted to ask you something” – asking for a favour

Stella: I wonder if you could **do me a favour**? Are you doing **anything on Friday** after work?

Dave: Let me think. Friday? No, **I don't think so**. Why?

Stella: Well, **I need to take** a box of books home for the weekend, and my car's in the garage at the moment, and they're really heavy. So, **do you think you could** give me a lift?

Dave: Sure. **No problem**.

Stella: **You don't have to**, I can get a taxi.

Dave: No, **don't be silly**. You'll never get a taxi on a Friday evening. I'll take you. I'm going in your direction anyway.

Stella: **Thanks a million**. You can come in for a coffee or something if **you've got time**. You've never seen my flat have you?

Dave: No, never, but I'd like to. I've heard a lot about it. OK, **that sounds great**. It's a date.

### Section 1: Exercise 2

- 1) Ravi: Well, I wanted to ask you about that.
- 2) Ravi: What are you doing on Saturday?
- 3) Tess: Nothing special? Why?
- 4) Ravi: Well, do you think you could help me move some stuff to my new place? Can you spare two or three hours in the afternoon?
- 5) Tess: Yeah, I suppose so.
- 6) Ravi: You can say 'no' if you want to you know.
- 7) Tess: No, it's OK, I don't mind.
- 8) Ravi: That's brilliant. Thank you.
- 9) Ravi: I'll tell you what, I'll make dinner for you at the new flat after we've moved my things.
- 10) Ravi: Does that sound OK?
- 11) Tess: Ooh. That'll be lovely, thanks.

### Section 1: Exercise 3

**Box 1: a)** Ah, yes – I wanted to ask you something & **I)** I wonder if you could do me a favour? **Box 2: b)** Are you busy this evening? & **s)** What are you up to on Sunday? **Box 3: e)** I haven't got any plans. Why? & **n)** Not much. Why? **Box 4: f)** I'd like to buy some plants but I can't carry them home on the bus. Could you give me a lift? & **r)** Well, I'm going to paint my living room, and I'd really like some help. **Box 5: o)** Of course I will. & **u)** Yeah, okay. That's fine. **Box 6: d)** I can always ask somebody else. & **j)** It's no problem if you're too busy. **Box 7: i)** It's really no trouble at all. & **m)** No, don't worry, that's fine. **Box 8: p)** Oh thank you so much & **q)** That's really kind of you, thanks. **Box 9: g)** I'll buy you a drink afterwards & **k)** Let me take you out for dinner as a thank-you. **Box 10: h)** Is that alright for you? & **t)** What do you say? **Box 11: c)** Great idea! & **v)** You're on! I'd like that.

### Section 3: Quiz – Exercise 1 - Answers

1. There are seven **days** in a **week**.
2. There are twelve **months** in a **year**
3. There are twenty-four **hours** in a **day**
4. There are sixty **seconds** in an **hour**
5. There are thirty or thirty-one **days** in a **month**
6. There are sixty **minutes** in an **hour**

### Section 3: Quiz – Exercise 1 - Answers

**Days:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; Saturday; Sunday. **Months:** January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

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

1) No, it's the first time. 2) I'll buy a round later. 3) So, same again everybody? 4) What are you drinking? 5) I'm having Newcastle Brown 6) I'll have a fruit juice 7) You can give me a hand with the drinks. 8) What other fruit juices have you got? 9) Here you are. 10) I'll take the lagers

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

1) a,b,c; 2) a,b,d; 3) a,b,c; 4) a,b,c; 5) a,b; 6) a,b,d; 7) a,b,c; 8) a,b,c; 9) a,b,d; 10) a,b,c.

### Section 7: the Joke: transcript

Gordon: OK then. There were these two married couples, OK? And one couple invited the other for dinner one night. So, they have a lovely meal and after dinner the two men were in the kitchen doing the washing up and chatting and the two women were in the living room, having a chat. One of the men says to the other, "We went to a great restaurant last week – had a fantastic meal. The best Indian food I've had in ages. Excellent. And really cheap too". And the other man says "Sounds great. I love Indian food. What was the restaurant called?" And the first man says, "Oh gosh. My memory's terrible. Now, let me think for a minute. You know that flower? It's red – smells nice. Romantic – you give it to people you love on Valentine's Day. What do you call it?" "A rose" says the other man. "Yes! That's it!" and he shouts into the living room, "Rose! What was the name of the Indian restaurant we went to last Saturday?"

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 1 - Answers

**in:** December, the summer, 1990, the afternoon. **at:** three o'clock, the weekend, Christmas. **on:** Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> April, my birthday, Christmas Day. **no prep:** tomorrow, yesterday, last summer, next Monday, this weekend.

### Tom the teacher – Exercise 2 - Answers

1) in; 2) –; 3) on; 4) at; 5) –; 6) on; 7) in; 8) in; 9) on; 10) in.

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 3 - Answers

1) a pint; 2) a mile; 3) a foot; 4) an inch; 5) a yard; 6) a stone; 7) a pound.



## 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 wanted to ask you something” – asking for a favour

Tess: Hello again and welcome to the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast number eight. I'm Tess, from London.

Ravi: And I'm Ravi, from Manchester. You're looking great as usual Tess, how are you?

Tess: Thanks, Ravi. I'm very well thanks. How are you?

Ravi: I'm fine thanks. Actually, I'm very well. You know I told you I was looking for a new flat?

Tess: Yes.

Ravi: Well, I found a new place over on Carswell Road – near the swimming pool. It's really nice. Much bigger than the one I'm in now.

Tess: What's the rent like?

Ravi: Well, it is quite expensive, quite a bit more than I pay now. But it's a lot nicer.

Tess: Great. When are you moving?

Ravi: Well, I wanted to ask you about that. What are you doing on Saturday?

Tess: Nothing special. Why?

Ravi: Well, do you think you could help me move some stuff to my new place? Can you spare two or three hours in the afternoon?

Tess: Yeah, I suppose so.

Ravi: You can say 'no' if you want to you know.

Tess: No, it's OK, I don't mind.

Ravi: That's brilliant. Thank you. I'll tell you what, I'll make dinner for you at the new flat after we've moved my things. Does that sound OK?

Tess: Ooh. That'll be lovely, thanks.

Ravi: Great. Have a think about what you want to eat. Right. Well, we'd better get on. Lots of things for you, as usual. We've got Gordon – hello Gordon

Gordon: Hello

Ravi: Gordon's our producer and king of the bad jokes. We've got the quiz, we've got fish in the bath we've got good and bad TV but first of all we've got I'd Like to Meet.

### Section 2 – I'd like to meet

Ravi: And joining us today is Megan. Hello Megan.

Megan: Hi Ravi.

Ravi: Where are you today Megan?

Megan: I'm at home. In Reading.

Ravi: Oh yeah, I know it. Do you like it?

Megan: It's OK. I quite like it, yeah.

Ravi: OK then Megan, tell us, who would you like to meet?

Megan: I'd like to meet David Attenborough.

Ravi: Great choice. I know who David Attenborough is – I think anyone who watches television in Britain will know who he is – but maybe you can explain to people who *don't* watch television in Britain who David Attenborough is and what he's well known for.

Megan: Well actually Ravi, David Attenborough's wildlife programmes have been seen by more than one *billion* people all over the world so I think people *will* know who he is. They might not know his name but I think they'll recognise him.

Erm, he's a TV presenter and he makes programmes about nature and wildlife and the natural world and they are just *fantastic*. Erm .. I'll say the names of some of the programmes in case anyone recognises them, erm, there was Life on Earth, the Life of Birds, the Blue Planet, Planet Earth – there's been so many of them.

Ravi: And what is it about David Attenborough that you like?

Megan: Oh, everything. He's getting quite old now – he's over 80 now, but he looks great – he's got really white hair. And I love his voice – he just sounds so interested in the animals that he's talking about and sometimes he gets really close to them and he's almost whispering but you can just see how interested and excited he is. I think the programmes are brilliant. But the other thing is that the programmes are always about the *animals* not about him. Y' know some presenters just talk about themselves all the time. I think his programmes are the best things on TV.

Ravi: So, you like animals then Megan?

Megan: I love them. I want to be a vet.

Ravi: And what would you say to David Attenborough if you met him?

Megan: Well, I'd like to say "thank you" I think for his programmes and tell him that I think they've been really important in telling people about climate change and global warming and the real things that are happening to animals because of what *people* do. I think his programmes have

made a lot of people realise the problems animals have to face. And I'd like to ask him what he thinks will happen in the future, y'know, if it's too late to save the planet, kind of thing.

Ravi: Y'know. I think I'd really like to meet David Attenborough as well. I really love those programmes. Do you know what he said about TV advertisements Megan?

Megan: No?

Ravi: He said he will never do an advertisement on TV. He says if people know you will take money to say you like something then they can't trust you anymore or believe what you say.

Megan: Yeah. You really do trust him when you listen to him.

Ravi: Well, thanks Megan – that was great. And remember that we're always happy to hear from you so if you'd like to tell us about a TV presenter in your country you can send it to us at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org), that's learnenglish - all one word - at- britishcouncil – all one word DOT org, that's o-r-g.

### Section 3 – Quiz

Tess: OK now. It's time for our quiz, as usual.

Our players this time are Amy. Hi Amy.

Amy: *(on phone)* Hello

Tess: And Brandon. Hello Brandon.

Brandon: *(on phone)* Hi Tess.

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

Amy: From Leeds. I'm from Yorkshire.

Tess: And what do you do?

Amy: I'm studying to be a nurse. I've just started.

Tess: Oh. Are you enjoying it?

Amy: Yeah, it's great so far.

Tess: OK. Great. Now how about you Brandon. Where are you calling from?

Brandon: I'm in Penzance in Cornwall.

Tess: Wow – the very tip of the country. I used to go to Cornwall on holiday when I was a kid.

Brandon: We still get loads of holidaymakers every year.

Tess: Well, it's such a beautiful area. Anyway, we've got a new quiz for you this time – a numbers quiz. How are you with numbers Amy?

Amy: Well, I'll do my best.

Tess: OK. Here's what you have to do. You're going to work together to answer some riddles. I'll give you an example. There are 7 D in a W. Can you tell me what the 'D' and the 'W' stand for?

Brandon: Is it 7 days in a week?

Tess: OK, so you get the idea. Now, either of you can answer and if, together, you can get five correct answers, you both win a prize. OK you two?

Brandon & Amy: OK / Yes

Tess: So, here's the first one. There are twelve M in a Y.

Amy: Twelve months in a year?

Tess: Well done! One out of one. Next one.

Twenty-four H in a D.

Brandon: Twenty-four hours in a day.

Tess: That's it. Two out of two. Three more to get. Next one. Sixty S in an M.

Brandon: It's sixty seconds in a minute, isn't it?

Tess: It is. Two more to get. Normally, there are

30 or 31 D in an M.

Amy: Days in a month?

Tess: Right! Four out of four. One more to get.

Sixty M in an H.

Brandon: Sixty minutes in an hour!

Tess: Yes Well done you two! Five out of five.

OK – you've both won a book token and we'll be sending them to you very soon. Thanks for playing – and well done. Ravi – I've got one for you. Eleven P in an F T.

Ravi: Easy. Eleven players in a football team.

Good game though. Remember if you're listening that you can send your ideas for games we can play to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

Good game though. Remember if you're listening that you can send your ideas for games we can play to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

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### Section 4 – Our person in

Ravi:

OK. Time now for Our Person In. At the start of the podcast I promised you fish in the bath – and here they come. Bill Steadman is our man in Prague.

Bill: When the huge fish tanks appear outside supermarkets here in Prague you know that it must be almost Christmas. The tanks are full of carp – the fish traditionally eaten at Christmas here in the Czech Republic and in other central European countries.

For my first Christmas in the Czech Republic I found this tradition a little strange. Carp isn't usually eaten in Britain – it's a fish that is often full of small bones and the flavour is a little, well, *different*. But what I found really strange about the Czech habit of eating carp at Christmas is *how* they do it.

People usually buy the fish from tanks outside supermarkets and take them home— *alive* — and put them in the bath. Spending a few days in clean bath water cleans the carp and makes it taste better when it is eaten on Christmas Eve. A friend of mine told me that when her son was four years old he asked why they were keeping the carp in the bath. “To clean it” she told him. Later that day my friend went to look at the carp in the bath and saw, to her horror, a bath full of bubbles. Her helpful son had added a generous handful of soap powder to the bath to make sure their carp was lovely and clean. That was one family that didn’t eat carp that year.

All my friends with children tell me that there is one golden rule – never give your carp a name. When Christmas Eve arrives you’ll find it very difficult to explain to your children why their pet has suddenly disappeared.

Tess: Ahh. So the poor children think they’ve got a fish as a pet and then it disappears and they have to eat it for Christmas. Poor things.

Ravi: What I want to know is how do they have a bath when the fish is in the bath? Do they just have a bath with the fish? Very strange. But anyway, if any of you has something interesting to tell us about what you eat at festivals in your country then write and let us know. The address is [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

## Section 5 – Your turn

Tess: Now, let’s move on to Your Turn, the part of our podcast when we find out what *you* think. This time round we asked a two part question – what are the best – and worst – things on TV. Let’s hear some answers.

Voice 1: Best thing – sport. I know people complain about it but it’s all I watch, really. Worst thing – reality TV shows – definitely. There are *hundreds* of them and they are all *completely* stupid.

Voice 2: Well, I like soap operas. I watch two or three of them, you know. You really feel like you know the characters. I’ve watched them for years. What do I always switch off? Probably the weather forecast. It’s never right so what’s the point in watching it?

Voice 3: I don’t watch much TV but I do like the nature documentaries. I saw one about whales and it was just amazing. I don’t know how they do it. But apart from that, I don’t know. There’s too much sport on television. I just turn it off straight away.

Voice 4: I can’t really go to the cinema very often now I’ve got children so I like to watch films on TV. They don’t have the most recent films but, you know, it’s OK. That’s what I watch mostly. I can’t stand all the sport on TV though. It never ends!

Voice 5: Erm.. what do I like? Have you seen *Silver Fox*? I love action programmes like that, you know, exciting things. It’s better than the news and the political programmes and that. Boring!

Tess: How about you Ravi. What would you say?

Ravi: Sport, I’m afraid. That’s pretty much all I watch on TV. I watch DVDs most of the time. Let us know what you think – what are the best – and worst – things on TV? Send your answers to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

## Section 6 – Carolina

Ravi:

OK. It’s time now to catch up with Carolina. Carolina, you’ll remember, is from Venezuela and she’s come to England to live, study and have fun. She wasn’t having much fun last time because she had a really bad cold but she’s feeling better now and she’s going out to the pub with some friends.

*In the pub*

Jamie: Carolina! Hi! We’re over here!

Carolina: Oh hi! I couldn’t see you!

Voice: ... And the man says “I know. It is amazing. He *hated* the book”.

Jamie: Come and sit down. There’s a space next to Henry.

Carolina: Excuse me, sorry. Hello Henry.

Henry: Hi.

Jamie: And this is Helen, and Nigel, and Gemma and Jake.

All: hi, hello, hi Carolina etc

Carolina: Hello everybody.  
Jake: Right. It's my round.  
Carolina: Round? I don't understand.  
Jamie: Haven't you ever been to a pub before?  
Carolina: No, it's the first time.  
Jamie: We take it in turns to buy a round – that's what you do in a pub. Everyone buys a round.  
Carolina: But is a round a drink?  
Jamie: No. One person buys a drink for everyone at the table – that's called a round. Then next time someone else buys one. Henry bought the first one and now Jake's buying the next one, so it's his round. But you don't have to.... not if you don't want to....if you don't want a drink or something.

Carolina: Oh... no, that's OK. I'll buy a round later.

Jake: So, same again everybody?

All: yes, yes please, yep, same again, same for me please.

Jake: Carolina? What are you drinking?

Carolina: Oh dear I don't know. What is everyone else having?

Jamie: I'm having Newcastle Brown. It's a really good beer. From Newcastle of course.

Carolina: Ugh! It doesn't look like the beer I know. It's very dark!

Jamie: No, probably not. You probably drink lager – that's the pale beer, you know the light coloured one. We call it lager. Would you like one?

Carolina: No, I don't think so. I'll have a fruit juice – what have they got?

Jake: Well, pineapple – that's what Helen's drinking, but besides that, I'm not sure. Come up to the bar with me and we'll ask. You can give me a hand with the drinks. OK, so that's two bottles of Newcastle Brown, a pint of lager, a half of lager, a Diet Coke, a pineapple juice – and whatever Carolina wants.

### *At the bar*

Jake: So, are you enjoying Newcastle?

Carolina: Yes I am. I haven't seen much of it yet. I've just started classes and I had a really bad cold for a few days. But I like what I've seen.

Barman: Y' being served?

Jake: No. Um, two bottles of Newcastle Brown, a pint and a half of lager, a Diet Coke and a pineapple juice please. And what other fruit juices have you got?

Barman: Pineapple, cranberry, mango, apple, and orange.

Carolina: Um, mango please.

Jake: And a packet of crisps please – cheese and onion.

Barman: Right you are.

Jake: And how long have you known Jamie?

Carolina: We met on the train coming up from London.

Jake: Well he seems to like you.

Carolina: Oh, does he?, Well I ....

Barman: That's eleven pounds fifty please.

Jake: Here you are.

Barman: And that's eight fifty change.

Jake: Thanks. OK, let's get these back to the table. I'll take the lagers –if you can bring the .....

Tess: Oooh. Jamie seems to like Carolina. Well, well.

Ravi: I knew you'd say that. Do you buy rounds if you go to the pub, Tess?

Tess: I don't usually. It can be really expensive, can't it? Anyway, at least Carolina knows what a round is now. I don't really go to the pub much anyway. I prefer to be outdoors.

Ravi: Gordon. I bet you're often in the pub.

Surrounded by people laughing at your jokes.

Gordon: That's right Ravi.

### **Section 7 – The Joke**

Ravi: Is it time for your joke now? Come on then. I hope it's a good one.

Gordon: They're all good, Ravi. Ready for it?

Ravi: Go on.

Gordon: OK then. There were these two married couples, OK? And one couple invited the other for dinner one night. So, they have a lovely meal and after dinner the two men were in the kitchen doing the washing up and chatting and the two women were in the living room, having a chat.

One of the men says to the other, "We went to a great restaurant last week – had a fantastic meal. The best Indian food I've had in ages. Excellent. And really cheap too".

And the other man says "Sounds great. I love Indian food. What was the restaurant called?"



And the first man says, "Oh gosh. My memory's terrible. Now, let me think for a minute. You know that flower? It's red – smells nice. Romantic – you give it to people you love on Valentine's Day. What do you call it?"

"A rose" says the other man.

"Yes! That's it!" and he shouts into the living room, "Rose! What was the name of the Indian restaurant we went to last Saturday?"

Tess: My dad's like that. His memory's awful.

Ravi: Yeah, mine too. Actually I forget things as well. Thanks for the joke ...erm ... what's his name again?

Tess: Very funny Ravi. Thanks Gordon. And that's all from us for today but don't go away because our English teacher, Tom, will be here in a little while talking about what you heard and ways to help you learn. So, it's goodbye from me and Ravi ...

Ravi: Bye

Tess: ... but don't go away and keep sending your emails to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). Bye!

## 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.

Today I want to talk about prepositions – words like 'on', 'at' and 'in'. It's very difficult for learners to use these words correctly in English. We use prepositions all the time – in lots of different ways. But today I'm only going to talk about one situation – using prepositions in time phrases – with words like 'Saturday', 'Christmas' or 'December'.

Listen to Ravi. Which preposition does he use before 'Saturday'?

*Ravi*

*Well, I wanted to ask you about that. What are you doing on Saturday?*

Tom: That's right – he uses 'on'. We say 'on Saturday' – or 'on' any other day of the week.

'On Sunday', 'on Monday', 'on Tuesday' – all of the days. Now listen to part of Gordon's joke. The man in the joke is trying to explain what a 'rose' is. Listen to the preposition with 'Valentine's Day'.

*Gordon: Romantic – you give it to people you love on Valentine's Day.*

Tom: He said 'on Valentine's Day'. Valentine's Day isn't a day of the week, but it is a day – a single day. So we use 'on' again. Now listen to one more. This is Bill in Prague talking about the fish that they eat. Listen for the time phrase.

*Bill: Spending a few days in clean bath water cleans the carp and makes it taste better when it is eaten on Christmas Eve.*

Tom: Yes, it was 'on' again. He said "on Christmas Eve". Can you guess why? Christmas Eve is what we call the day before Christmas day – the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. So, Christmas Eve is a single day. So we use 'on'. So – when we're talking about a single day, we use 'on'. We can say "on my birthday" or "on the first of December" or "on the day I met you".

And we use it for dates too – because they're single days – 'on the first of January', 'on the twenty-fifth of April', 'on the tenth of July'. There's just one more thing I need to tell you about using (or not using!) 'on' in time phrases. Listen to this line from Gordon's joke.

*Gordon: What was the name of the Indian restaurant we went to last Saturday?*

Tom: Hmm. He said "last Saturday" – he didn't use 'on'. The reason is simple. We don't use a preposition when we use 'last'. We just say 'last Saturday'. No 'on'. And it's the same with 'next' and 'this'. We just say "What are you doing next Saturday?" or "Let's have dinner this Saturday". No 'on'. So now you know how to use 'on' in time phrases!

In other time phrases we might use 'at' or 'in' – for example we say "at the weekend" or "at Christmas", and we say "in December" or "in the afternoon". It's quite difficult to remember them all. But if you can remember that we use 'on' for single days, it will make life a lot easier for you!

People often make mistakes with prepositions because they aren't thinking in English. They think in their own language and then translate the words into English. And that's when they make mistakes – and not only with prepositions – with lots of different things.

When you're writing you have time to think – you can look at grammar books, or your notebook, for help. But speaking is different – you often don't have time to think. If you want to speak English well – you have to start trying to *think* in English. You can do this with practise. Look at things that you see around you – at home or in the street and say the words in English. You can say them out loud if you're alone – if not just *think* them. Then start trying to say or think sentences – 'I'm going to the kitchen now. I'm going to make my lunch'. Talk to yourself about what you're doing in English – out loud or in your head. Try to do this for a short time at first – then you can increase the time. Try to do it for an hour every day – it will soon get easier. And your brain will learn to think in English. Try it. I'm sure you'll notice the difference after a while.

And now for something different. In this podcast we heard Carolina meeting some people in a pub. She learnt a new word. Listen.

*Carolina: But is a round a drink?*

*Jamie: No. One person buys a drink for everyone at the table – that's called a round. Then next time someone else buys one. Henry bought the first one and now Jake's buying the next one, so it's his round. But you don't have to.... not if you don't want to....if you don't want a drink or something.*

Tom: Pubs are a big part of British culture. British people often go to the pub, and you will often be invited to go too. This doesn't mean that you have to drink alcohol. You can drink lots of different things in a pub – and you can do a lot of different things too. You can have a meal for example. A lot of pubs serve very good food – at lunchtime or in the evening – and it's usually cheaper than eating in a restaurant. A lot of pubs have live music, or maybe karaoke evenings. Another popular thing is a pub quiz. Teams of people try to answer questions to win a prize. That's a good way to practise your English! So,

it's good to know some phrases in English that you need to use in a pub. In this podcast Carolina learnt what 'to buy a round' means. Now listen to Jake. Can you understand all of the drinks that he's going to buy?

*Jake: Come up to the bar with me and we'll ask. You can give me a hand with the drinks. OK, so that's two bottles of Newcastle Brown, a pint of lager, a half of lager, a Diet Coke, a pineapple juice – and whatever Carolina wants.*

Tom: The word 'pint' is probably new for you. Jake is going to buy a pint of lager. 'A pint' is a British measurement – it's a little bit more than half a litre – point five seven of a litre in fact. We use it informally to mean a pint of beer. And 'a half' means *half* a pint of beer – so that's more or less a quarter of a litre. Now one more useful phrase. Listen.

*Jake: So, same again everybody?*

*All: yes, yes please, yep, same again, same for me please*

Tom: You'll hear 'same again' a lot in the pub, especially when people are buying rounds. It means 'another of the same drink that you had before'. If someone says "What would you like to drink?" you can say "Same again please".

Now, just before I go, I noticed a useful phrase that you can try and use this week. It's a phrase that means 'I'm sure'. Listen and see if you can hear it.

*Ravi: Gordon. I bet you're often in the pub.*

*Surrounded by people laughing at your jokes.*

*Gordon: That's right Ravi.*

Tom: The phrase is 'I bet'. We use it informally and it means 'I'm sure'. For example, we can say "I bet it's going to rain tomorrow" or "I bet Ana forgot her homework again". Try and use 'I bet' in your conversations in English.

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! Or write to me about any interesting language that *you* noticed. 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.

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