

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 3

While you listen

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

Making it easier

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

Making it harder

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

Exercises

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 1

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

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

Activity 2

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

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

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

Activity 3

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

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

Activity 4

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

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

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

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

Activity 5

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

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

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

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

Activity 6

Choose the right preposition.

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

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

Activity 7

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

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

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

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

Activity 8

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

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

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

Activity 9 – Leave a comment

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

Leave a comment

on <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts/series-04-episode-03> and we'll discuss your answers in the next podcast.

Answers

Activity 1

True: a, b, c, f, g

False: d, e, h

Activity 2

1.e, 2.c, 3.f, 4.d, 5.a, 6.b

Activity 3

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

Activity 4

1.h, 2.d, 3.a, 4.c, 5.f, 6.i/e, 7.b, 8.g

Activity 5

1.d, 2.b, 3.f, 4.a, 5.c, 6.e

Activity 6

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

Activity 7

1. arrive/ reach a place: b, c, f
2. become: e, g, h
3. buy: a, j, l
4. receive: d, i, k

Activity 8

1.c, 2.d, 3.h, 4.b, 5.a, 6.f, 7.e, 8.g