

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 11

Jo and Adam – Welcome back!

Adam: Hello and welcome to Episode 11 of Series 4 of LearnEnglish Elementary Podcasts. My name is Adam and, as usual, my colleague Jo will be joining me later to talk about some of the language that you're going to hear in the podcast.

If you remember, last episode, Carolina, Jamie and Emily were having a meal in an Indian restaurant, and everything was going very well ... until Emily asked Jamie about his plans for the future. Jamie said that he'd applied for jobs in places like Borneo and Antarctica, and Carolina didn't know anything about it! And she was not very happy about the idea!

It's a difficult decision for Jamie – should he follow his dream even though Carolina doesn't want him to go? And Carolina – should she support him whatever he decides to do? It's a decision that could change both their lives. We asked you to write in and tell us what you think.

Well, a lot of people wrote in to say that it's important to follow your dreams. Reza Saadati from Iran wrote to say that he is following his dream to be a physicist; he wants to study in England and he says he isn't going to let any 'Carolinas' stop him! Good luck, Reza!

Englishlover2015 from Yemen and Pincopanco from Italy both agree. People (like Jamie) should follow their dreams, even if your goals are hard to achieve. And the person who is with you has to

understand that and encourage you in the things you want to do. That's true, but what about their dreams?

Crisloren from Brazil says we have to think about the consequences of following our dreams: 'I have a dream of living in another country, but that dream will involve another person – my daughter – who doesn't have the same dream'. Crisloren asks 'Do I have the right to do that?' That's a good question, Crisloren. When there are people you love, you have to consider them in your decisions.

Dimadmitriev, from Russia, thinks that if Carolina really loves Jamie, she'll either wait for him or go with him, and Lucas Souza from Brazil thinks that Jamie should go because careers are more important than relationships. I'm not sure about that, Lucas – I think it's a personal judgement.

And, to finish, Nada Ghannoum from Syria has a very ... well, practical approach to the problem. Nada says 'I think Jamie should follow his dream, because if he abandons his dream for her, Carolina will spend her life listening to him whine about what he could have done without her'.

Thanks for all your interesting comments, including all the ones I didn't have time to read out. Please, keep sending them in – and keep listening to the podcast. Remember the Elementary Podcasts app – you can download it from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store, or follow the link on the LearnEnglish website. It has a lot of helpful features, including some exercises for you to test your understanding and, if you want, you can read the script and listen at the same time. And, of course,

there's loads of exercises on the LearnEnglish website.

Now it's time to hear what 'typically British' thing Tess and Ravi are going to talk about today. We've heard about pets, red buses, the British personality, shopping in London and the British pub. What next? Do you want to know a secret? OK, from me to you, they're going to talk about some famous people – four famous men.

Tess and Ravi

Ravi: Hello again, I'm Ravi.

Tess: And I'm Tess.

Ravi: And we're here again to talk about something you think you know about Britain. We asked our listeners to tell us what they think is typically British. They said things like 'politeness', 'drinking tea', 'big red buses' and ... 'In the town where I was born, lived a man who sailed to sea'...

Tess: The Beatles?

Ravi: Yep. Well, the Beatles and pop music in general – lots of people said that they really liked music by British groups.

Tess: OK – did they mention the names of other groups?

Ravi: Yeah, people mentioned the Rolling Stones, of course – and lots of other bands – the Sex Pistols, Queen, Radiohead, The Stone Roses, Oasis – lots of different bands, but I think we should start with the Beatles – they're probably the most famous British band ever, don't you think?

Tess: Yeah. Are you a fan?

Ravi: I think everyone's a bit of a Beatles fan. Everyone knows some songs, at least – Yesterday, Yellow Submarine, Strawberry Fields, She Loves You yeah yeah yeah ...

Tess: OK – don't get carried away. Why do you think the Beatles are so popular?

Ravi: Well, they wrote a lot of great songs, obviously, and they came along at the start of the nineteen sixties as rock and roll had become really popular in America and around the world. I think they were in the right place at the right time – but most of all, it's the great songs.

Tess: Great songs in English.

Ravi: Yeah, you're right. I think that's important too. Pop music in English is popular all over the world. It's strange – almost anywhere in the world, you'll go to, say, a market in a small town somewhere and you'll hear people singing songs in English.

Tess: Yeah, I know what you mean. I wonder why that is.

Ravi: I think it's not just British groups. American music is really popular all over the world – but songs in English, yeah.

Tess: Well, I guess people learn English all over the world, so they can understand the words of the songs.

Ravi: And some of the Beatles songs are really quite easy to understand – especially the early ones from the sixties – 'I want to hold your hand', 'She loves you' ... do you know the song 'Hello Goodbye'? That's really easy to understand ... 'You say yes, I say no, you say stop and I say go go go'.

Tess: OK, Ravi, OK – but some of the other groups you mentioned – Radiohead, say, or Queen – their songs aren't always easy to understand.

Ravi: No, I know. Lots of people use pop music to help them learn English – it's usually quite easy to find the lyrics – the words of the song – on the internet, but they don't always make sense though.

Tess: I listened to some Spanish songs to help me learn Spanish, but I guess most of the music I listen to is in English.

Ravi: I listen to all kinds of music from all over the world – there's some Swedish music I really like. In fact it's much easier these days to hear music from other countries and in other languages, but for a long time English really was the language of pop music – and the Beatles took British pop music all over the world.

Tess: OK.

Ravi: Right. Time for one last song, don't you think? Yesterday – all my troubles seemed so far away ...

Tess: Aaagh!

Jo and Adam

Adam: And let's say hello to Jo. Welcome back.

Jo: Hi. Thank you.

Adam: Do you like the Beatles, Jo?

Jo: I do. Do you know, my mum saw them in concert in the sixties in London.

Adam: I love the Beatles. Early Beatles, late Beatles, I love it all. I think they still

sound exciting today. Do you ever listen to music in a language you are learning, Jo?

Jo: Good question. Well, I studied Portuguese and Spanish at university and when I discovered Brazilian music, which I loved, it really made me want to learn a lot more Portuguese so that I could understand the lyrics. And what about you? Which British singers or bands are your favourites?

Adam: And do songs help you learn English? Write and tell us what you think. The address is www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish. And now let's look at some of the language that you heard in the podcast.

Jo: My students sometimes confuse the verbs 'listen' and 'hear'. Tess and Ravi use both of them in the podcast.

Tess: *I listened to some Spanish songs to help me learn Spanish, but I guess most of the music I listen to is in English.*

Ravi: *I listen to all kinds of music from all over the world – there's some Swedish music I really like.*

Jo: Tess listens to English music and Ravi listens to music from all over the world. Don't forget to use 'to'. 'Listen to music'.

Adam: Or 'listen to the radio', or 'listen to the teacher'.

Jo: When you listen to something – or someone – you pay attention. Now listen to Ravi using 'hear'.

Ravi: *... it's much easier these days to hear music from other countries and in other languages ...*

Jo: 'Hear' is different. You can hear things when you aren't paying attention.

Adam: For example, last night I was listening to the radio. I could hear a dog barking in the street, I could hear my neighbours talking in the garden, I could hear cars going past – but I was listening to the radio.

Jo: We often use 'hear' with 'can' or 'could'. 'My grandfather's very old – he can't hear very well'.

Adam: And I think that's all for this time. There are exercises on the website to help you with 'listen' and 'hear' and other language from the podcast.

Jo: And listen to some songs in English! It can be a good way to learn. See you next time.

Adam/Jo: Bye!