

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 12

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. Carolina and Jamie are walking by the river in Newcastle.
2. The river is called the Wear.
3. Carolina thinks English spelling is difficult.
4. Jamie and Carolina go on the river in a rowing boat.
5. Carolina is worried about the future.
6. Jamie has decided to stay in Newcastle next year.
7. Jamie's band is going to play another concert.
8. Jamie's band is called The Electrons.

Activity 2

Match the questions and the answers.

- a) 'Tomorrow'
- b) It's a regular verb – add 'ed'.
- c) Pay money to use it for an hour or two.
- d) The 's' is silent.
- e) They're 'oars'.
- f) They both mean the same thing.
- g) With double 'm'.

1. How do you spell 'swimming'?
2. How do you say 'mañana' in English?
3. How do you pronounce 'island'?
4. What does 'hire a boat' mean?
5. What's the past tense of 'listen'?
6. What do you call the things you use to row a boat?
7. What's the difference between 'someone' and 'somebody'?

Activity 3

Can you remember the questions? Don't look back at activity 2!

1. A: How _____
'swimming'?
B: With double 'm'.
2. A: How _____
'mañana' in English?
B: 'Tomorrow'
3. A: How _____
'island'?
B: The 's' is silent.
4. A: What _____ 'hire a boat'

B: Pay money to use it for an hour or two.
5. A: What's the _____
'listen'?
B: It's a regular verb – add 'ed'.
6. A: What _____ the
things you use to row a boat?
B: They're 'oars'.

7. A: What's the _____
'someone' and 'somebody'?
B: They both mean the same thing.

Activity 4

Write the missing prepositions.

1. The river _____ Newcastle is called the Tyne.
2. Carolina and Jamie are in a boat _____ the river.
3. Carolina's worried _____ what's going to happen to them.
4. Jamie wants a job connected _____ the environment.
5. The Electrons saw Jamie's video _____ YouTube.
6. The Electrons are coming _____ Newcastle.
7. It's a fantastic opportunity _____ Jamie.
8. Carolina is very pleased _____ Jamie.

Activity 5

Match the verb to the form of transport.

drive (x3)

fly (x2)

paddle

row

sail

1. _____ a boat
2. _____ a bus

3. _____ a canoe
4. _____ a car
5. _____ a helicopter
6. _____ a plane
7. _____ a ship
8. _____ a train

Activity 6

Words that sound the same but have different spelling. Can you think of a word with the same pronunciation as the word in **bold**? You can look at the clues below for help.

1. Would you like coffee **or** tea?

2. I usually go to work **by** bus.

3. We're having pizza **for** dinner.

4. Did you **see** Jane yesterday?

5. **There** aren't any trains after midnight.

6. Would you like another **piece** of cake?

7. It's **too** difficult for me. _____
8. Nobody **knows** the answer.

9. I didn't know the answer so I **guessed**.

10. I've got a **new** car. _____

Clues:

1. What Carolina and Jamie used to make the boat move.
2. What you can do in a shop.
3. It's a number.
4. Where you can go swimming.
5. Something that belongs to 'them'.
6. It's the opposite of war.
7. It's a number.
8. You've got one in the middle of your face.
9. Someone that you invite to your home.
10. It's the past of the verb 'know'.

Activity 7

Words with the same spelling but different meanings. Choose the word that can complete both sentence a) and sentence b).

1. a) I read a really good _____ last week.
b) Shall we _____ a table in our usual restaurant?
2. a) She's a very _____ person – she always helps people.
b) What _____ of job are you looking for exactly?
3. a) Do I turn right or _____ at the traffic lights?
b) I _____ work early because I had a dentist's appointment.

4. a) The first _____ of the English alphabet is 'A'.
b) It's difficult for me to write a formal _____ in English.
5. a) Shall we go for a walk and feed the ducks in the _____?
b) I'm not sure where we can _____ the car.
6. a) I usually stay home and _____ TV on Friday night.
b) My _____ is broken – I don't know what time it is.
7. a) We can _____ the world if we all work together.
b) I need some _____ for the drinks machine – have you got two fives for a ten?
8. a) You can get from Paris to London by _____ nowadays.
b) The players have to _____ for four hours a day.

Activity 8

Pronunciation. Look at the words in bold. Do they rhyme? Are the vowel sounds the same or different?

Example 1:

- a) Shall we go to the pub for a **beer**?
- b) **Dear** John, I'm writing to ...

Answer: The same. Both words are pronounced with a long 'eee' sound, like 'tea'.

Example 2:

- a) Shall we go to the pub for a **beer**?
- b) There are **bears** in the forest – be careful if you go camping.

Answer: Different. 'Bear' is pronounced like 'air'.

1. a) There are **bears** in the forest – be careful if you go camping.
b) My grandfather has a long black **beard**.
Same or different?
2. a) The boat didn't have an engine so we had to **row**.
b) I had a terrible **row** with my parents last night.
Same or different?
3. a) The Eiffel **Tower** is a famous landmark in Paris.
b) The exam lasted an **hour**.
Same or different?
4. a) The cat came in **through** the kitchen window.
b) Is it a **true** story?
Same or different?
5. a) Would you like **some** cake?
b) I think it's time for me to go **home**.
Same or different?
6. a) We're going to do grammar for the first **part** of the lesson.
b) My mother has to take pills for her **heart** condition.

Same or different?

7. a) You **should** visit York if you go to Britain – it's beautiful.
b) That's a **good** idea.

Same or different?

8. a) Have you **ever** been to Morocco?
b) She's not well – she's got a high **fever**.

Same or different?

9. a) A centaur is half **horse** and half man.
b) Oh no! The weather's going to get **worse** next week.

Same or different?

10. a) Coffee **break** is at 10.30.

b) I'd like my **steak** cooked medium rare, please.

Same or different?

Activity 9 – Leave a comment

What about you – what's difficult for you in English? Do you agree with Carolina that English spelling and pronunciation 'is impossible'? And what's easy for you? Do you agree with Jo's students when they say that verbs are easy but prepositions are horrible? Leave a comment on <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts/series-04-episode-12> and we'll discuss your answers in the next podcast.

Answers

Activity 1

True: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

False: 1, 6, 8

Activity 2

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

Activity 3

1. How do you spell 'swimming'?
2. How do you say 'mañana' in English?
3. How do you pronounce 'island'?
4. What does 'hire a boat' mean?
5. What's the past tense of 'listen'?
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7. What's the difference between 'someone' and 'somebody'?

Activity 4

1. in, 2. on, 3. about, 4. with, 5. on, 6. to, 7. for, 8. for

Activity 5

1. row a boat
2. drive a bus
3. paddle a canoe
4. drive a car
5. fly a helicopter
6. fly a plane
7. sail a ship
8. drive a train

Activity 6

1. oar, 2. buy, 3. four, 4. sea, 5. their, 6. peace, 7. two, 8. nose, 9. guest, 10. knew

Activity 7

1. book, 2. kind, 3. left, 4. letter, 5. park, 6. watch, 7. change, 8. train

Activity 8

1. different, 2. different, 3. same, 4. same, 5. different, 6. same, 7. same, 8. different, 9. different, 10. same