

## Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 13

### 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. People on the BBC speak an old kind of English.
2. The BBC World Service is on the radio.
3. The BBC gets its money from big companies.
4. People in Britain pay money every year if they have a TV.
5. The money they pay goes to the government.
6. Tess likes BBC news.
7. Ravi watches BBC comedy programmes.
8. Ravi gets his news from the BBC website.

### Activity 2

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

1. when / think about / What / the BBC? / do people / they think / about
2. listen / radio all / BBC World Service / You can / to the / on the / over the world
3. gives / money / The government / to pay for / the BBC World Service

4. The government / says or / decide what / doesn't / the BBC / does
5. website is / in the world / one of / The BBC / the / biggest sites
6. don't / at the / very often / I / look / news pages

### Activity 3

Put the words in the right spaces.

- a) advertising
- b) clear
- c) famous for
- d) independent
- e) licence
- f) proud of
- g) stands for
- h) trust

1. BBC English is usually very \_\_\_\_\_ and easy to understand.
2. BBC \_\_\_\_\_ British Broadcasting Corporation.
3. The BBC is probably most \_\_\_\_\_ its news reports.
4. The BBC is \_\_\_\_\_ – the government doesn't tell it what to say.
5. People \_\_\_\_\_ the BBC to tell the truth.
6. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ on the BBC in Britain.
7. Everyone who has a television in Britain has to buy a TV \_\_\_\_\_ every year.

8. Tess thinks that British people should be \_\_\_\_\_ the BBC.

### Activity 4

Match the types of TV programme to the definitions.

- a cartoon
- a comedy
- a cookery programme
- a documentary
- a drama
- a game show
- a makeover show
- a reality show

1. It's funny and makes you laugh.  
Example: Big Bang Theory
2. It's educational and gives you real-life information. Example: Life on Earth
3. It's serious fiction with actors.  
Example: Downton Abbey
4. It shows real people doing things.  
Example: Big Brother
5. It has animated characters. It's often (but not always) for children. Example: The Simpsons
6. It's a competition. People do things to win prizes. Example: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?
7. A programme that helps people to change their clothes and the way they look. Example: What Not to Wear

8. It's a programme about preparing food.  
Example: Jamie's 30-minute Meals

**Activity 5**

Words that end with 's' – are they singular or plural? Match the halves of the sentences.

- a) available in the city.
- b) favourite subject at school.
- c) London is the train.
- d) on TV last night? It was very good.
- e) the American ones in my opinion.
- f) the news. It's always depressing.
- g) won't cut anything.
- h) you seen them?
- i) fit me any more.

1. Did you see that new comedy series
2. Economics is my
3. The scissors aren't very sharp. They
4. I can't find my glasses. Have
5. I don't want to watch
6. The fastest means of transport to
7. The best TV series are
8. There are several means of transport
9. Those old jeans don't

**Activity 6**

Now put the phrases in the right category.  
Look back at Activity 5 to help you.

news  
TV series  
means (of transport)  
scissors  
jeans/shorts/trousers  
glasses (for your eyes)  
economics/maths/physics (school subjects)

Is always singular: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is always plural: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can be singular or plural: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 7**

Now can you remember the missing words from Activity 6?

1. Did you see that new comedy series on TV last night? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ very good.
2. Economics \_\_\_\_\_ my favourite subject at school.
3. The scissors \_\_\_\_\_ very sharp.  
\_\_\_\_\_ won't cut anything.
4. I can't find my glasses. Have you seen \_\_\_\_\_?
5. I don't want to watch the news – \_\_\_\_\_ always depressing.
6. The fastest means of transport to London \_\_\_\_\_ the train.

7. The best TV series \_\_\_\_\_ the American \_\_\_\_\_ in my opinion.
8. There \_\_\_\_\_ several means of transport available in the city.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ old jeans \_\_\_\_\_ fit me any more.

### Activity 8

Choose the right words.

1. Maths at university \_\_\_\_\_ much more difficult than maths at school.
- a) was  
b) were
2. Do you like my new jeans? I got \_\_\_\_\_ in the sales.
- a) it  
b) them
3. The bicycle is a very cheap \_\_\_\_\_ of transport.
- a) mean  
b) means
4. I'm sorry but the news \_\_\_\_\_ very good.
- a) isn't  
b) aren't
5. My favourite series at the moment \_\_\_\_\_ Breaking Bad. I love it.

- a) is  
b) are
6. Economics \_\_\_\_\_ a very interesting subject.
- a) is  
b) are
7. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ for you! I'm getting married.
- a) a new  
b) some news
8. The most expensive means of transport \_\_\_\_\_ probably a private jet!
- a) is  
b) are

### Activity 9 – Leave a comment

What do you think about the BBC? Can you watch BBC programmes where you live? Or get BBC radio? What are your favourite programmes? Do you use the BBC website? Leave a comment on <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts/series-04-episode-13> and we'll discuss your answers in the next podcast.

## Answers

### Activity 1

True: 2, 4, 6, 7

False: 1, 3, 5, 8

**Activity 2**

1. What do people think about when they think about the BBC?
2. You can listen to the BBC World Service on the radio all over the world.
3. The government gives money to pay for the BBC World Service.
4. The government doesn't decide what the BBC says or does.
5. The BBC website is one of the biggest sites in the world.
6. I don't look at the news pages very often.

**Activity 3**

- 1.clear, 2.stands for, 3.famous for, 4.independent, 5.trust, 6.advertising, 7.licence, 8.proud of

**Activity 4**

- 1.a comedy, 2.a documentary, 3.a drama, 4.a reality show, 5.a cartoon, 6.a game show, 7.a makeover show, 8.a cookery programme

**Activity 5**

- 1.d, 2.b, 3.g, 4.h, 5.f, 6.c, 7.e, 8.a, 9.i

**Activity 6**

Is always singular: news, economics/maths/physics (school subjects)

Is always plural: scissors, jeans/shorts/trousers, glasses (for your eyes)

Can be singular or plural: TV series, means (of transport)

**Activity 7**

- 1.It was, 2.is(was), 3.aren't/They, 4.them, 5.it's, 6.is, 7.are/ones, 8. are, 9.Those(These)/don't

**Activity 8**

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