

Elementary Podcasts Series 4 Episode 19

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 have ideas about Britain that aren't always true.
2. Tess and Ravi agree about the British weather.
3. Ravi thinks that British food is terrible.
4. Tess thinks that British football fans always cause trouble.
5. It takes a long time for traditional ideas to change.
6. British people really are polite and reserved.
7. Ravi has contact with lots of different nationalities online.
8. People's ideas about Britain might change in the future.

Activity 2

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

1. of / sounds / None / like / me / this really
2. is / complicated / The truth / than the stereotype / always / more
3. it's actually / easy to eat / food is / People / think British / terrible but / really well here

4. of people / British football / all hooligans / Lots / think / fans are / causing trouble
5. London buses / We / have / any more / don't really / those 'typical'
6. Britain / So do / think people's / change then? / you / ideas about / will
7. the world / from / I / people / all over / online to / chat
8. Britain will / Maybe these / about / the / future / ideas / change in

Activity 3

Are these words 'false friends' in your language? Choose the correct word for each sentence.

1. A place where students go to study and learn is called a _____.
 - a) school
 - b) gymnasium
2. The person that you work for is called your _____.
 - a) chief
 - b) boss
3. A big building with lots of shops is called a _____.
 - a) shopping centre
 - b) shopping
4. A place where you buy books is called a _____.
 - a) library
 - b) bookshop

5. Jobs like cleaning and washing the dishes are called _____.
 - a) housework
 - b) homework
6. If you are talking about something that is happening at the moment, you can say _____.
 - a) nowadays
 - b) actually
7. If you are planning to do something, we can say that you _____ to do it.
 - a) pretend
 - b) intend
8. If someone gets upset easily we can say that they are very _____.
 - a) sensible
 - b) sensitive

Activity 4

Are the words **in bold** used correctly? Look out for the false friends!

1. Some people think Celine Dion is American but she's **actually** Canadian.
2. My brother **pretends** to be a pilot when he finishes school.
3. Her flat is really dirty – she never does any **housework**.
4. Children **nowadays** spend a lot of time on their computers.
5. My **chief** asked me to work late tonight but I said no.

6. I want to buy a good dictionary. Do you know any good **libraries**?
7. I was a very **sensitive** child – I cried when I got an answer wrong at school.
8. There's a big new **shopping** just opened near my house – shall we go there tomorrow?

Activity 5

Ordinal numbers. Match the abbreviations to the words.

1st	2nd	3rd
5th	10th	12th
13th	20th	21st
30th	32nd	50th
53rd	100th	

1. fifth _____
2. fiftieth _____
3. fifty-third _____
4. first _____
5. hundredth _____
6. second _____
7. tenth _____
8. third _____
9. thirteenth _____
10. thirtieth _____
11. thirty-second _____
12. twelfth _____
13. twentieth _____
14. twenty-first _____

Activity 6

Write the ordinal numbers in the spaces.

1. This is Tess and Ravi's _____ podcast about typically British things. (20)
2. Barack Obama is the _____ president of the United States. (44)
3. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is the _____ book in the Harry Potter series. (2)
4. Brazil won the World Cup for the _____ time in 2002. (5)
5. February the _____ is Valentine's Day. (14)
6. Our flat is on the _____ floor. (10)
7. Shakespeare was born in the _____ century. (16)
8. We are now living in the _____ century. (21)
9. The Earth is the _____ planet from the Sun. (3)
10. It's our _____ wedding anniversary this year. (12)

Activity 7

Match the two halves of the sentences.

- a) than the stereotype.
- b) is it really true?
- c) it happened to my uncle.
- d) that people think are true.
- e) the truth or lying?

- f) true or false.
- g) you tell him the truth.
- h) the truth about themselves.

1. Stereotypes are things
2. The truth is more complicated
3. Someone told me you're getting married –
4. I'm sure he'll understand if
5. Some people don't want to hear
6. But is he telling
7. Decide if these sentences are
8. It's a true story –

Activity 8

Write either 'true' or 'truth' in the gaps.
Don't look back at Activity 7!

1. Stereotypes are things that people think are _____.
2. The _____ is more complicated than the stereotype.

3. Someone told me you're getting married – is it really _____?
4. I'm sure he'll understand if you tell him the _____.
5. Some people don't want to hear the _____ about themselves.
6. But is he telling the _____ or lying?
7. Decide if these sentences are _____ or false.
8. It's a _____ story – it happened to my uncle.

Activity 9 – Leave a comment

What were your favourite topics in this series? What topics would you like Tess and Ravi to talk about in the next series? Leave a comment

on <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts/series-04-episode-19> and we'll discuss your answers in the next podcast.

Answers

Activity 1

True: 1, 5, 7, 8

False: 2, 3, 4, 6

Activity 2

1. None of this really sounds like me.
2. The truth is always more complicated than the stereotype.

3. People think British food is terrible but it's actually easy to eat really well here.
4. Lots of people think British football fans are all hooligans causing trouble.
5. We don't really have those 'typical' London buses any more.
6. So do you think people's ideas about Britain will change, then?
7. I chat online to people from all over the world.
8. Maybe these ideas about Britain will change in the future.

Activity 3

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

Activity 4

Correct: 1, 3, 4, 7

Wrong: 2, 5, 6, 8

Activity 5

1.5th, 2.50th, 3.53rd, 4.1st, 5.100th, 6.2nd, 7.10th, 8.3rd, 9.13th, 10.30th, 11.32nd, 12.12th, 13.20th, 14.21st

Activity 6

1.twentieth, 2.forty-fourth, 3.second, 4.fifth, 5.fourteenth, 6.tenth, 7.sixteenth, 8.twenty-first, 9.third, 10.twelfth

Activity 7

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

Activity 8

1.true, 2.truth, 3.true, 4.truth, 5.truth, 6.truth, 7.true, 8.true.