

This is a summary of part of the dialogue between Dave and Stella.

1	Dave asks Stella a question about her weekend:	Dave	Good weekend?
2	Stella answers	Stella	I went away
3	Dave makes a comment and then asks a question	Dave	Lucky you! Where did you go?
4	Stella answers	Stella	I went to Bath
5	Dave makes a comment and then asks another question	Dave	It's a fantastic place Did you go with Pete?
6	Stella answers	Stella	I went with my sister
7	Dave makes a comment and asks another question	Dave	You went with Amy? That's nice Why did you choose Bath?
8	Stella answers	Stella	Amy wanted to go – she's really into old buildings.
9	Dave makes a comment and asks another question :	Dave	Yes, I went there a few years ago. I remember the Roman Baths – and of course, all of the old city's beautiful. There's a lot of stuff to see. Where did you stay?

Now look at the rest of the dialogue. Notice how it continues in the same way. Every time Stella answers a question, Dave makes a comment before he asks another question. He makes a comment to show that he's interested in what Stella is saying. Then he asks another question to move the conversation forward. This is a good way to make a conversation work.

Tom's tip

If we know something about the person we're talking to, and the place they visited, we can either ask a **general question**: *What did you do?* Or we can show that we're interested by asking a **more specific question**: *'Did you go to that wonderful museum?'*

Exercise 2

Match the specific questions in the box to the general questions below.

Did you try the local sausages?	Did it rain a lot?	Did you go with Pete?
Did you go to that fantastic beach?	Did you stay at the Rialto?	Did you take your car?

- Who did you go with?
- How did you travel?
- Where did you stay?
- What did you eat?
- What was the weather like?
- What did you do?

Exercise 3

Imagine you are talking to a friend. Practise the following:

You: Hi [name] _____! Good weekend?

Friend: Yes, I went away

You: Where did you go? Anywhere interesting?

Friend: Yes, I went to [place] _____.

You: I know [place] _____.

It's [describe the place] _____.
[Ask another question] _____ ?
Friend: _____
You: [Make a comment] _____.
[Ask another question] _____ ?
Friend: _____
You: [Make a comment] _____.
[Ask another question] _____ ?
Friend: _____
You: [Make a comment] _____.
[Ask another question] _____ ?
Friend: _____
You: [Make a comment] _____.
[Ask another question] _____ ?
Friend: And what about you. Did you manage to get away?
You: Yes, I went to _____.
Friend: [Make a comment] _____.
[Ask another question] _____ ?

Now continue the dialogue.

Why not practise this dialogue with a friend?

Section 2: I'd like to meet

You listened to Yasmin talking about why she would like to meet Shakira.

Is there a famous female singer – alive or dead - that you'd like to meet? If you can think of someone, make some notes to answer these questions:

- What's her name?
- What nationality is she?
- If she isn't alive now, when did she live?
- What are some of her most famous songs?
- Which of her songs are your favourites?
- Is she famous for other things too?
- Why do you like her?
- Do you admire her? Why?
- What would you like to talk to her about?
- What questions would you like to ask her?

Now put your notes together to write a paragraph about the person and why you'd like to meet her. If you want, you can send your paragraph to learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org

Transcript

Yasmin: Oh, I'd like to meet Shakira.

Ravi: Shakira. This'll be interesting. Can you tell us something about her?

Yasmin: Sure. She's a singer – and a dancer too – she's from Colombia and she sings in Spanish and English.

Tess: And why did you choose Shakira to talk about today?

Yasmin: Erm, for quite a lot of reasons. First, I think she's a fantastic singer. I just fell in love with her voice the first time I heard her sing. It's so different. And then, ... she writes her own songs – she wrote her first song when she was only eight I think. I love singing and I write my own songs too, so I understand how difficult it is – and I'd love to sit down with her and write a song together. I'm sure she could teach me a lot.

Tess: Can you play any musical instruments?

Yasmin: The guitar and the piano. In the beginning she wrote songs and sang in Spanish, and she was very famous in Latin America, but she didn't speak English, so she had to learn it. And I think she learnt it really well. I admire her because she didn't just translate her old songs from Spanish to English – she wrote *new* ones in English. It isn't easy to write songs in a foreign language, but her words are great I think. She still sings in Spanish too – she records two versions of her songs, one in English and one in Spanish. Another reason I like her is because she's a mixture of different cultures, and that makes her music interesting. Her mother is from Colombia but her father is Lebanese, so there's a lot of Arabic influence in her music – and not only Arabic – there's Indian, Brazilian, Iranian - she's interested in all sorts of music. And I think she's a nice person too. Her videos are very, well you know, *sexy*, but I don't think she's really like that – she's got four dogs and she likes working in her garden, and she doesn't drink alcohol and she doesn't smoke.

Ravi: Thanks Yasmin. Erm, one more question. What would you like to talk to Shakira about, if you could meet her?

Yasmin: Oh, lots of things. Like I said before, I'd like to ask her about how she writes her songs. And I'd like her to teach me how to dance. She's an incredible dancer.

Tess: She certainly is!

Section 3: Quiz

Here are some of the clues that Ben used in the Hot Seat game. Put the words and phrases in the correct column. Can you remember the word that each clue refers to?

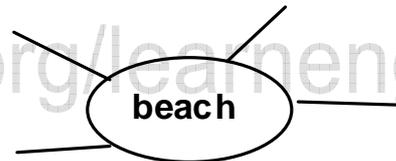
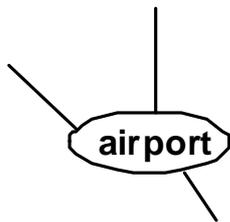
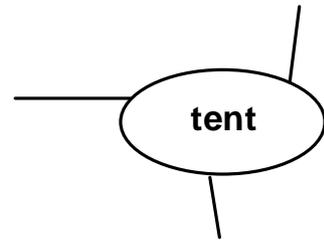
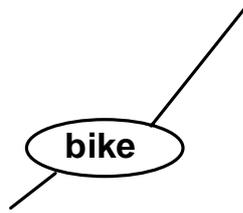
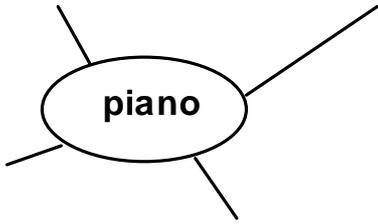
animal	four wheels	use it in school	make sandwiches with it	drive it
big shop	on the wall	buy food there	hit the ball over the net	sport
two hands	pet	tells the time	do all the shopping there	yellow
eat it	says "Woof"	write in it	fruit	

It's a /an...	It's ...	It's got...	It...	You...

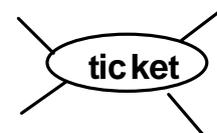
Exercise 2

Now, add these clues/phrases to the spidergram.

you ride it	it's in the sky	you sleep in it	it's a musical instrument	it's got two wheels
it shines	it's got keys	you see it at night	you go there to travel	it's black and white
it's a place	you play it	you can swim there	it comes from Argentina	it's near the sea
it's a dance	it's got sand	you see planes there	you carry it with you	it's in a campsite
		it's very famous	it's good in the summer	



Can you think of some clues for these words?
Add them...



Now use these cards to play Hot Seat with a friend. Or you can ask someone to make some cards for you with different words.

banana	car	bread
exercise book	supermarket	tennis

Transcript

Voice 1: I prefer songs in English because I watch MTV all the time and the songs I like are always in English. Russian songs – I come from Russia – are not as good to dance to as songs in English. And it can help me learn English too!

Voice 2: I like some songs in English and some songs in Japanese but I think I like songs in Japanese best because the words are very important to me. In English songs you can't always hear all the words or you don't understand some words but when I listen to Japanese songs I can really understand the meaning of the song.

Voice 3: I really like rap music so I listen to a lot of music in English – mostly American music. There are some singers in Germany who rap in German but it doesn't sound very good to me. I don't think German is a good language for rapping. I learn some new English words from rap music but I think some of them are words I can't say in the classroom!

Voice 4: I come from Mexico and I like songs in Spanish best because I think a lot of the songs I hear in English are a bit stupid ... I mean it's only "I love you, baby", or "I wanna dance with you baby". The songs I listen to in Spanish are better because the words are about real things and feelings.

Voice 5: Well, I think it's a strange question. It's too difficult to answer. It depends. Sometimes I like to listen to songs in English and I study the words and learn some new things but sometimes I just listen to songs in Greek where I understand all the words. I like some songs in English and some songs in Greek. If the music's good – I like it!

Ravi: Interesting. What sort of music do you like, Tess?

Tess: Oh, I listen to all kinds of music, but I love music I can dance to.

Ravi: And always in English?

Tess: Usually, yeah.

Section 6: Carolina

Section 6 - Exercise 1

Put the conversations in the right order. You can either cut them up and arrange them, or write the number in the space on the left. Check your answers: see the transcript at the end of this section.

	Lost luggage clerk:	And you're sure that your bag isn't on the carousel?
	Carolina:	From Venezuela. Caracas.
	Carolina:	Excuse me. Can you tell me where the Lost Luggage Office is please?
	Lost luggage clerk:	OK. Where have you arrived from?
	Lost luggage clerk:	OK. We'll need to fill in a report. Can I have your name please?
	Airport worker:	It's over there. That desk over there, near the exit.
	Carolina:	Hello. Erm.. My bag hasn't arrived. What do I have to do?
	Carolina:	Thank you.
	Carolina:	It's Carolina. And my surname is....
	Carolina:	I'm sure. I've waited for an hour. All the other people on my flight have gone. There are no more bags coming out.

Section 6 - Exercise 2

Look at these conversations that Carolina had in the airport. Put the expressions in the right places.

where the Lost Luggage Office is please?		It's a black suitcase. Quite big.
What do I have to do?	Anything else?	No. I think that's everything.
I'm sure. I've waited for an hour.	Yes, I think so.	It's Carolina. And my surname is....

Carolina: Excuse me. [1] Can you tell me _____

Airport worker: It's over there. That desk over there, near the exit.

Carolina: Thank you.

...

Carolina: Hello. Erm.. My bag hasn't arrived. [2] _____

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Where have you arrived from?

Carolina: From Venezuela. Caracas.

Lost luggage clerk: And you're sure that your bag isn't on the carousel?

Carolina: [3] _____ .All the other people on my flight have gone. There are no more bags coming out.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. We'll need to fill in a report. Can I have your name please?

Carolina: [4] _____

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Now we need a description of the bag. Can you tell me what it looks like?

Carolina: [5] _____
Lost luggage clerk: Look at these pictures. Which one looks most like your suitcase?
Carolina: This one, I think.
Lost luggage clerk: The biggest one?
Carolina: [6] _____
Lost luggage clerk: And is it all black? The handle as well?
Carolina: Yes, everything. A black suitcase and a black handle.
Lost luggage clerk: OK. [7] _____
Carolina: Yes. There was a label on it. With my name. And there's a little white star on the top, next to the handle. So I can see that it's mine.
Lost luggage clerk: little ..white ...star. OK. Anything else?
Carolina: [8] _____
Lost luggage clerk: OK. Don't worry. I'm sure we'll find it. Can you wait a few minutes while I make some calls?
Carolina: OK. Thank you.

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

Section 6 - Exercise 3

Look again at some conversations in the airport.

Choose all the phrases the people can say – there is always more than one correct answer.

1. Excuse me. _____ please?
 - a) Where is the lost luggage office
 - b) Can you tell me where the lost luggage office is
 - c) Can you tell me the way to the lost luggage office
 - d) How do I get to the lost luggage office
2. Hello. My bag hasn't arrived. _____ ?
 - a) What shall I do?
 - b) What do I have to do?
 - c) What should I do?
 - d) What will I do?
3. And you're sure that your bag isn't on the carousel?
_____. I've waited for an hour.
 - a) Yes I have
 - b) I'm sure
 - c) Yes I am
 - d) It isn't there
4. Now we need a description of the bag. _____ ?
It's a black suitcase. Quite big.
 - a) Can you tell me what it looks like?
 - b) How is it like?
 - c) How is it?
 - d) What does it look like?
5. Which one looks most like your suitcase? The biggest one?
 - a) Yes I think so
 - b) Yes, the biggest one
 - c) Yes, that one
 - d) Yes, that's right

6. A: OK. Anything else?
B: _____
a) No. I think that's everything
b) I don't think so
c) Yes, I think so
d) No, nothing else

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

Section 6 - Exercise 4

Now complete the conversation giving your own answers. Imagine you are in Heathrow Airport in London and you've lost your bag. Give answers that are true for you. You can practise the conversation with a friend.

A: _____ ?

B: The lost luggage office? It's over there, near the exit.

A: _____

...

A: Hello. My bag hasn't arrived. _____ ?

C: OK. Where have you arrived from?

A: _____

C: And you're sure your bag isn't on the carousel?

A: _____

C: OK. We'll need to fill in a report. Can I have your name please?

A: _____

C: OK. Can you tell me what the bag looks like?

A: _____

C: Anything else?

A: _____

C: OK. Don't worry. I'm sure we'll find it.

A: _____

Transcript

Carolina: Oh. Excuse me. Can you tell me where the Lost Luggage Office is please?

Airport worker: It's over there. That desk over there, near the exit.

Carolina: Thank you.

Carolina: Hello. Erm.. My bag hasn't arrived. What do I have to do?

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Where have you arrived from?

Carolina: From Venezuela. Caracas.

Lost luggage clerk: And you're sure that your bag isn't on the carousel?

Carolina: I'm sure. I've waited for an hour. All the other people on my flight have gone. There are no more bags coming out.

Lost luggage clerk: Hmm. OK. We'll need to fill in a report. Can I have your name please?

Carolina: It's Carolina. And my surname is....

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Now we need a description of the bag. Can you tell me what it looks like?

Carolina: Erm, it's a black suitcase. Quite big.

Lost luggage clerk: Look at these pictures. Which one looks most like your suitcase?

Carolina: Erm, this one, I think.

Lost luggage clerk: The biggest one?

Carolina: Yes, I think so.

Lost luggage clerk: And is it all black? The handle as well?

Carolina: Yes, everything. A black suitcase and a black handle.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Anything else?

Carolina: Yes. There was a label on it. With my name. And there's a little white star on the top, next to the handle. So I can see that it's mine.

Lost luggage clerk: Little ..white ...star. OK. Anything else?

Carolina: No. I think that's everything.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Don't worry. I'm sure we'll find it. Can you wait a few minutes while I make some calls?

Carolina: OK. Thank you.

Section 7 - The joke

Exercise 1

Read the sentences below, and put them in the right order. You can either cut them up and arrange them, or write the number in the space on the left. For answers, see the Answer Page transcript.

	Doctor Watson says, "Well, OK. There are millions and millions of stars in the sky."
	And Sherlock Holmes says, "Watson, you idiot!"
	No-one knows exactly how many.
	"The question we have to ask is "WHERE IS OUR TENT?"
	Late at night, Holmes and Watson are lying on their backs looking up at all the stars in the sky. Sherlock Holmes says, "Doctor Watson, look at all the stars and tell me what important question we have to ask."
	I think the question we have to ask is, "Is there life in another part of our universe?"
	There are planets out there that no-one has seen with a telescope.
	Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are on a camping trip in the countryside.
	Maybe there is a planet somewhere that is just like Earth.

Section 7 - Exercise 2

Now try to tell the joke yourself. Use these words to help you. When you see a slash (/) it means that one or more words are missing. Then check your answers – the transcript is on the Answer page at the end of this document

- Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson / camping / countryside
- / night / Holmes and Watson / their backs / stars / sky
- Sherlock Holmes / "Doctor Watson / look / stars / tell me / important question / ask"
- Doctor Watson / "Well, OK. / millions and millions / stars / sky
- No-one / exactly how many
- / planets / no-one has seen / a telescope
- Maybe / somewhere / planet that / Earth
- I / the question / ask / "life / another part / universe?"
- Sherlock Holmes / "idiot!"
- "The question we / ask is / "TENT?"

See the Answers page for the complete transcript

Tom the teacher - Exercise 1

Questions: Put the words in each question in the correct order.

Notice the difference between a normal question and a question that begins with 'can you tell me?'.

1. is lost where luggage office the ?

_____?

2. you me tell the where luggage can is office lost ?

_____?

3. what bag like does look the ?

_____?

4. what like tell me you bag looks can the ?

_____?

5. do like why Shakira you ?

_____?

6. why Shakira like tell can me you you ?

_____?

7. today have from where arrived you ?

_____?

8. where can me you have today you tell arrived from ?

_____?

Exercise 2

We use 'can you tell me?' when we want to make a question more polite. Remember, 'can you tell me?' is already a question, so the rest of the sentence is just like a normal, positive sentence. We don't use 'do' or 'does' or 'did', and we don't change the word order. Now make these questions more polite.

1. Where is the nearest supermarket?

Can you tell me where _____?

2. What time is it?

Can you tell me what _____?

3. Where can I buy a ticket?

Can you tell me where _____?

4. How do I get to the station?

Can you tell me how _____?

5. What do I have to do?

Can you tell me what _____?

6. What time does the train leave?

Can you tell me what time _____?

7. What does 'lost luggage' mean?

Can you tell me what _____?

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

Exercise 3

Fill in the spaces in these dialogues with 'anything', 'anyone' or 'anywhere'.

1 A: Two coffees please.

B: Certainly sir. And _____ else?

A: No, that's all thank you.

2 A: So how was your weekend away?

B: It was fantastic.

A: Did you stay in Bath all the time, or did you go _____ else?

3 A: I've invited Susan, Emma, Nick, Chris and Rachel to dinner.

B: Really? And _____ else?

A: And Caroline too.

4 A: So you went away for the weekend! Did you go _____ nice?

B: Paris actually!

A: Wow! Lucky you!

5 A: Did you have a good time at the party?

B: It was great.

A: Did you meet _____ interesting?

B: Yes, a very nice girl from Venezuela was there.

6 A: Thank you so much for all your help

B: Not at all. Is there _____ else I can do?

A: No, really, everything's fine now.

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

Answers

While you listen – Answers

1) a,c,d 2) a,c,d 3) a,b,d 4) a 5) a,b,d 6) a 7) a,c,e 8) a,b,d 9) d

Section 1 - "Where did you go?" – a weekend away

Dave: Good morning Stella. **Good weekend?**

Stella: Great thanks. I went away.

Dave: Lucky you! **Where did you go?** Anywhere nice?

Stella: I went to Bath. You know, near Bristol, in the South West.

Dave: **Yes, I know Bath.** It's a fantastic place. **Did you go with Pete?**

Stella: No, Pete was working so I went with my sister.

Dave: You went with Amy? That's nice. Why did you choose Bath?

Stella: Amy wanted to go – she's really into old buildings.

Dave: Yes, **I went there a few years ago.** I remember the Roman Baths – and of course, all of the old city's beautiful. There's a lot of stuff to see. **Where did you stay?**

Stella: In a hotel – not a very expensive one, but it was nice. The people were really friendly. And it was near the city centre so we could walk everywhere. It was great. Really relaxing.

Dave: Well, walking's OK if it isn't raining. **Was the weather good?**

Stella: It was OK. Not fantastic, but OK. It was a bit cold but it was sunny.

Dave: Perfect for walking! **It sounds great.**

Stella: Yes, it was. I'd like to go back again – maybe for a week or two.

Dave: You should take Pete next time. **He'd love it.**

Section 1: Exercise 2

Who did you go with? – Did you go with Pete?

- How did you travel? - Did you take your car?
- Where did you stay? - Did you stay at the Rialto?
- What did you eat? - Did you try the local sausages?
- What was the weather like? - Did it rain a lot?
- What did you do? - Did you go to that fantastic beach?

Section 3: Quiz – Answers

Exercise 1 - It's a /an: animal, big shop, fruit, pet, sport. **It's:** on the wall, yellow. **It's got:** four wheels, two hands. **It:** says "Woof", tells the time. **You:** buy food there, do all the shopping there, drive it, eat it, hit the ball over the net, make sandwiches with it, use it in school, write in it.

Exercise 2 – piano: it's a musical instrument, you play it, it's black and white, it's got keys. **bike:** it's got two wheels, you ride it. **tent:** you sleep in it, it's in a campsite, you carry it with you. **star:** it's in the sky, it shines, you see it at night. **airport:** it's a place, you see planes there, you go there to travel. **beach:** it's

near the sea, it's got sand, you can swim there, it's good in the summer. **tango:** it's a dance, it comes from Argentina, it's very famous.

Section 6: Carolina - Exercise 2 - Answers

- where the Lost Luggage Office is please?
- What do I have to do?
- I'm sure. I've waited for an hour.
- It's Carolina. And my surname is....
- It's a black suitcase. Quite big.
- Yes, I think so.
- Anything else?
- No. I think that's everything.

Section 6: Carolina - Exercise 3 - Answers

- a,b,c,d, 2. a,b,c, 3. b,c,d, 4. a,d, 5. a,b,c,d
- a,b,d

Section 7: the Joke: transcript

Well, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are on a camping trip in the countryside. Late at night, Holmes and Watson are lying on their backs looking up at all the stars in the sky. Sherlock Holmes says, "Doctor Watson, look at all the stars and tell me what important question we have to ask." Doctor Watson says, "Well, OK. There are millions and millions of stars in the sky. No-one knows exactly how many. There are planets out there that no-one has seen with a telescope. Maybe there is a planet somewhere that is just like Earth. I think the question we have to ask is, "Is there life in another part of our universe?" And Sherlock Holmes says, "Watson, you idiot! The question we have to ask is "WHERE IS OUR TENT?"

Tom the teacher - Exercise 1 - Answers

- Where is the lost luggage office?
- Can you tell me where the lost luggage office is?
- What does the bag look like?
- Can you tell me what the bag looks like?
- Why do you like Shakira?
- Can you tell me why you like Shakira?
- Where have you arrived from today?
- Can you tell me where you have arrived from today?

Tom the teacher – Exercise 2 - Answers

- the nearest supermarket is?
- time it is?
- I can buy a ticket?
- I get to the station?
- I have to do?
- the train leaves?
- 'lost luggage' means?

Tom the teacher - Exercise 3 - Answers

- anything
- anywhere
- anyone
- anywhere
- anyone
- anything

Transcript

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. .
. .
. .

Section 1 - "Where did you go?" – a weekend away

Tess: Hello and welcome to LearnEnglish Elementary podcast number two. I'm Tess.
Ravi: And I'm Ravi. We're the presenters and we're here in the studio with our producer, Gordon. Hi Gordon!
Gordon: Hello!
Ravi: And he'll be back later with another one of his erm, jokes. Now, last week I told you that Tess loved riding her mountain bike and you've been away riding your bike this week, haven't you.
Tess: I have, yes.
Ravi: Where did you go?
Tess: We went to the Lake District, in the North West.
Ravi: Oh. Beautiful. For our listeners who don't know, the Lake District is in the north west of England and it's a really beautiful part of the country. I went there last year, you know. It's a difficult place to ride a bike though – lots of hills.
Tess: I like riding up hills!
Ravi: I prefer riding down them. Did you stay in hotels?
Tess: No, we were camping. We took two small tents with us and at the end of every day we just put the tents up on a camp site. It was great. Really relaxing.
Ravi: What was the weather like? Camping's great when the weather's OK but when it's raining it's horrible.
Tess: Yeah, we were really lucky. It was really sunny. Well, it rained one day but that was OK.
Ravi: Sounds great – I need a holiday! But, well, I think I prefer to spend my holidays on the beach. It sounds like a lot of hard work Tess.
Tess: I love it! I'm going again next year. I can't wait! But it's time to move on to the rest of the show – I know we've got lots of interesting people to hear from.

Section 2: I'd like to meet

Ravi: So, let's start with our 'I'd like to meet' section. In this part of the show we ask people a simple question – which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet? And of course, we ask them to explain why. Our guest today on 'I'd

like to meet' is Yasmin from Cardiff. Hello Yasmin and welcome to the show.

Yasmin: Hello. It's nice to be here.

Tess: Hello Yasmin. Can you tell us something about yourself?

Yasmin: Well, erm, my name's Yasmin, I'm 18 years old, I live in Cardiff - that's in Wales - and I'm training to be a beauty therapist.

Tess: Hmm. A beauty therapist! That's a great job. Now I'm going to ask the question. So Yasmin, which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet?

Yasmin: Oh, I'd like to meet Shakira.

Ravi: Shakira. This'll be interesting. Can you tell us something about her?

Yasmin: Sure. She's a singer – and a dancer too – she's from Colombia and she sings in Spanish and English.

Tess: And why did you choose Shakira to talk about today?

Yasmin: Erm, for quite a lot of reasons. First, I think she's a fantastic singer. I just fell in love with her voice the first time I heard her sing. It's so different. And then, ... she writes her own songs – she wrote her first song when she was only 8 I think. I love singing and I write my own songs too, so I understand how difficult it is – and I'd love to sit down with her and write a song together. I'm sure she could teach me a lot.

Tess: Can you play any musical instruments?

Yasmin: The guitar and the piano. In the beginning she wrote songs and sang in Spanish, and she was very famous in Latin America, but she didn't speak English, so she had to learn it. And I think she learnt it really well. I admire her because she didn't just translate her old songs from Spanish to English – she wrote *new* ones in English. It isn't easy to write songs in a foreign language, but her words are great I think. She still sings in Spanish too – she records two versions of her songs, one in English and one in Spanish. Another reason I like her is because she's a mixture of different cultures, and that makes her music interesting. Her mother is from Colombia but her father is Lebanese, so there's a lot of Arabic influence in her music – and not only Arabic – there's Indian, Brazilian, Iranian - she's interested in all sorts of music. And I think she's a nice person too. Her videos are very, well you know, *sexy*, but I don't think she's really like that – she's got four dogs and she likes working in her garden, and she doesn't drink alcohol and she doesn't smoke.

Ravi: Thanks Yasmin. Erm, one more question.

What would you like to talk to Shakira about, if you could meet her?

Yasmin: Oh, lots of things. Like I said before, I'd like to ask her about how she writes her songs. And I'd like her to teach me how to dance. She's an incredible dancer.

Tess: She certainly is!

Ravi: Thanks Yasmin, that was great. I think I'd really like to meet Shakira too.

Tess: Mmm. I'm sure you would, Ravi. Have you ever met anyone famous?

Ravi: No, I don't think so. Only you, Tess.

Tess: Right, listeners, remember that we'd like to hear from *you*. Which famous person, dead or alive, would *you* like to meet? And why? Email us at 'learnenglishpodcastATbritishcouncilDOT org, that's learnenglishpodcast - all one word - at-britishcouncil - all one word DOT org, that's o-r-g. Let us know which famous person *you* would like to meet and you could appear on the programme.

Section 3: Quiz

Ravi: OK, now it's quiz time. This week we're going to play Hot Seat, and here to play are Ben and Poppy. Hi!

Ben & Poppy: Hello.

Ravi: You're brother and sister, aren't you? Who's the oldest?

Ben: I am. I'm 15.

Poppy: And I'm 14.

Ravi: OK, great. Now, I'll explain how to play Hot Seat and then we can start. OK? These cards have all got words on. One of you has to explain the words and the other one has to guess them, but remember, you can't use the word on the card. You have to guess as many words as you can in one minute. OK? So, who's going to be in the Hot Seat?

Poppy: I am. I'll guess and Ben will explain the words.

Ravi: OK. You've got one minute. Are you ready Ben?

Ben: Ready

Ravi: Ready Poppy?

Poppy: Ready

Ravi: Go!

Ben: It's yellow, it's a fruit.

Poppy: Banana

Ben: Erm. It's got four wheels. You drive it.

Poppy: Car?

Ben: Yes. Erm. You eat it. You make sandwiches with it.

Poppy: Bread!

Ben: You write in it.

Poppy: Diary

Ben: No, you use it in school and you write in it.

Poppy: Is it 'exercise book'?

Ben: Yes! It's a sport.

Poppy: Football

Ben: No. You hit the ball over the net. Wimbledon!

Poppy: Tennis!

Ben: It tells the time. It's got two hands.

Poppy: A watch

Ben: No. It's on the wall.

Poppy: A clock.

Ben: A big shop. You do all the shopping there. You buy food there.

Poppy: Supermarket

Ben: Yes! It's an animal. It's a pet. It says "Woof!"

Poppy: Dog!

Ben: It's green. It ...

Ravi: Stop! Wow! Well done. Let's count them. How many was that? I think it was eight. Yes – eight. Well done you two.

Tess: Well done. And if any of you listening have a good game we can play in quiz time, write to us and let us know. The address is learnenglishpodcastATbritishcouncilDOT org. We'd love to hear your ideas for games we can play.

Section 4: Our person in...

Ravi: OK, now it's time for 'Our Person In'. This is the part of the show where we hear from people in different countries around the world. This week we're going to listen to Rachel Glover – Rachel is *Our Woman in Argentina*.

Rachel: I came to live in Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, in 1998. On my first night in this beautiful city I went for a walk in the streets near my new flat. In a small square, close to my home, I heard music. I went to have a look, and for the first time I saw people dancing the tango. The tango is a dance that Argentina gave to the world – but no-one knows exactly when or where people first danced the tango – or even where the word 'tango' comes from. At the start of the twentieth century the population of Buenos Aires got much bigger as people arrived from all over the world to start a new life in South America. More than a million people came from Africa and from Europe – Spain, Italy, France, Russia, Poland. The tango began around this time. For me, the dance shows both the sadness of these people who had said goodbye to their homes and also the hope of new start in Argentina. An Argentinian friend told me that you have to learn the tango if you want to understand Argentina. I decided to learn this beautiful dance.

I went to a tango school in the centre of Buenos Aires and joined a class. I was very surprised to find that my teacher was not Argentinian but Scottish. Her name was Claire Flanagan – she came to Buenos Aires 15 years ago – because of her love for tango. “I fell in love with the tango and now I’ve fallen in love with Buenos Aires” she says.
Ravi: Great. Can you dance the tango, Tess?
Tess: No I can’t. I’d love to learn.
Ravi: We can learn together.

Section 5: Your turn

Tess: OK then. And don’t forget that you can write in and tell us something interesting about your city or town. You can send it to us at learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org.
Right. Earlier, we listened to Yasmin talking about Shakira. Remember Yasmin told us that Shakira records two versions of her songs – one in Spanish and one in English. For this week’s Your Turn we asked some students in London this question – ‘What do you prefer – songs in English or songs in your language?’
Ravi: Good one. Songs in English or songs in your own language. Let’s hear what they said.

Voice 1: I prefer songs in English because I watch MTV all the time and the songs I like are always in English. Russian songs – I come from Russia – are not as good to dance to as songs in English. And it can help me learn English too!

Voice 2: I like some songs in English and some songs in Japanese but I think I like songs in Japanese best because the words are very important to me. In English songs you can’t always hear all the words or you don’t understand some words but when I listen to Japanese songs I can really understand the meaning of the song.

Voice 3: I really like rap music so I listen to a lot of music in English – mostly American music. There are some singers in Germany who rap in German but it doesn’t sound very good to me. I don’t think German is a good language for rapping. I learn some new English words from rap music but I think some of them are words I can’t say in the classroom!

Voice 4: I come from Mexico and I like songs in Spanish best because I think a lot of the songs I hear in English are a bit stupid ... I mean it’s only “I love you, baby”, or “I wanna dance with you baby”. The songs I listen to in Spanish are better because the words are about real things and feelings.

Voice 5: Well, I think it’s a strange question. It’s too difficult to answer. It depends. Sometimes I like to listen to songs in English and I study the words and learn some new things but sometimes I just listen to songs in Greek where I understand all the words. I like some songs in English and some songs in Greek. If the music’s good – I like it!

Ravi: Interesting. What sort of music do you like, Tess?

Tess: Oh, I listen to all kinds of music, but I love music I can dance to.

Ravi: And always in English?

Tess: Usually, yeah.

Ravi: How about you, listeners? Do you prefer songs in English or songs in your own language? Why not send us an email and let us know? You can send your emails to us at learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org - we’d love to hear from you.

Section 6: Carolina

Tess: Right, now it’s time to meet Carolina again. Remember that Carolina is from Venezuela. She’s come to Britain to live, study and, she hopes, have a good time – and we’re going with her!
Ravi: She speaks very good English, but this is her first visit to Britain, so some things are very strange for her. Last time we heard Carolina at the immigration desk at the airport where they checked her passport. Next, Carolina went to collect her suitcase but, unfortunately, her suitcase didn’t appear.

Carolina: Oh. Excuse me. Can you tell me where the Lost Luggage Office is please?

Airport worker: It’s over there. That desk over there, near the exit.

Carolina: Thank you.

Carolina: Hello. Erm.. My bag hasn’t arrived. What do I have to do?

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Where have you arrived from?

Carolina: From Venezuela. Caracas.

Lost luggage clerk: And you’re sure that your bag isn’t on the carousel?

Carolina: I’m sure. I’ve waited for an hour. All the other people on my flight have gone. There are no more bags coming out.

Lost luggage clerk: Hmm. OK. We’ll need to fill in a report. Can I have your name please?

Carolina: It’s Carolina. And my surname is....

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Now we need a description of the bag. Can you tell me what it looks like?

Carolina: Erm, it's a black suitcase. Quite big.

Lost luggage clerk: Look at these pictures. Which one looks most like your suitcase?

Carolina: Erm, this one, I think.

Lost luggage clerk: The biggest one?

Carolina: Yes, I think so.

Lost luggage clerk: And is it all black? The handle as well?

Carolina: Yes, everything. A black suitcase and a black handle.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Anything else?

Carolina: Yes. There was a label on it. With my name. And there's a little white star on the top, next to the handle. So I can see that it's mine.

Lost luggage clerk: Little ..white ...star. OK. Anything else?

Carolina: No. I think that's everything.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Don't worry. I'm sure we'll find it. Can you wait a few minutes while I make some calls?

Carolina: OK. Thank you.

Tess: Oh! Poor Carolina. I hope they found her bag.

Ravi: Me too.

Section 7 - The joke

Ravi: We'll hear more next time but that's almost everything for today before we listen to Tom, our English teacher.

Tess: Just time for one more thing. *(raises voice)* Gordon!

Gordon: Yes, here I am.

Ravi: OK then Gordon, let's hear your joke for today.

Gordon: OK. It's a camping joke. Tess, you'll love it.

Ravi: Come on then.

Gordon: Well, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are on a camping trip in the countryside. Late at night, Holmes and Watson are lying on their backs looking up at all the stars in the sky.

Sherlock Holmes says, "Doctor Watson, look at all the stars and tell me what important question we have to ask." Doctor Watson says, "Well, OK.

There are millions and millions of stars in the sky. No-one knows exactly how many. There are planets out there that no-one has seen with a telescope. Maybe there is a planet somewhere that is just like Earth. I think the question we have to ask is, "Is there life in another part of our universe?" And Sherlock Holmes says, "Watson, you idiot!

The question we have to ask is "WHERE IS OUR TENT?"

Ravi: That's quite good, actually Gordon. Not bad.

Tess: Well that really is all we've got time for. We have to go now but don't go away. After this little break you're going to hear Tom, our studio English teacher. After every podcast, Tom talks about the language you heard and gives you ideas to help you learn. So, don't go away, but we'll say goodbye now. See you next time.

Ravi: Bye! Don't forget to send us your emails! Here's that address one more time. It's learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org.

Tom the teacher

Tom: Hello again. I'm Tom. At the end of every programme I'll talk about some of the language you heard in the programmes and talk about ways to help *you* learn English.

Let's start by looking at something Carolina said. Listen to how she asked for directions.

Carolina: Oh. Excuse me. Can you tell me where the Lost Luggage Office is please?

Airport worker: It's over there. That desk over there, near the exit.

Tom: When she asked for directions Carolina said "Can you tell me where the Lost Luggage Office is, please?". But that isn't the only way to ask for directions. Can you think of other ways? Carolina could also say "Can you tell me the way to the lost luggage office, please?" or "Can you tell me how to get to the lost luggage office, please?". There are different ways to ask for directions – you might know some other ways.

One thing though that's very important is that Carolina asked politely.

Carolina: Excuse me. Can you tell me where the Lost Luggage Office is please?

Tom: Carolina said "Excuse me" and "please" when she asked. In Britain we say 'please' and 'thank you' *a lot*. We're very polite! Some people might not be very happy if you forget to say 'please' and 'thank you' so try to remember it. Now, Carolina used 'Can you tell me' to ask for directions but we heard 'can' in other parts of the programme too. Listen.

Ravi: Great. Can you dance the tango Tess?
Tess: No I can't. I'd love to learn.

Tom: And Tess asked Yasmin...

Tess: Can you play any musical instruments?

Tom: Ravi said "Can you dance the tango?" and Tess asked "Can you play any musical instruments?" In these questions 'can' is used to talk about ability – 'I can swim', 'I can play the piano'. When Carolina asked for directions – 'Can you tell me?', 'can' is used as a request – when you ask someone to do something. We use 'can' to talk about ability and we also use it to make a request. Let's listen again to how Ravi introduced the Hot Seat game.

Ravi: OK, great. Now, I'll explain how to play Hot Seat and then we can start. OK? These cards have all got words on. One of you has to explain the words and the other one has to guess them.

Tom: Ravi had a pile of cards and each card had a word on it. Now maybe you don't have anyone around to play 'hot seat' with but writing words on cards can still be useful. When I learnt Russian I got a pile of cards and I wrote a Russian word on one side of the card and the English translation on the other side. I put the cards in my coat pocket and everyday on the bus to work I read the cards to see how many I remembered. Every time I learnt a new word in my Russian class I made a card for it – so there were always new cards in my pocket. It really helped me remember new words – you should try it. And if you've got a friend to play 'hot seat' with – that's even better!

OK. I want to have a quick look at something else. After every podcast I'll show you something that you can try to use in your own English – an expression or something like that. This week it was something that Carolina heard in the airport. Listen again to Carolina describing her bag to the man. Listen to the questions that the man asks.

Lost luggage clerk: Look at these pictures. Which one looks most like your suitcase?

Carolina: Erm, this one, I think.

Lost luggage clerk: The biggest one?

Carolina: Yes, I think so.

Lost luggage clerk: And is it all black? The handle as well?

Carolina: Yes, everything. A black suitcase and a black handle.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Anything else?

Carolina: Yes. There was a label on it. With my name. And there's a little white star on the top, next to the handle. So I can see that it's mine.

Lost luggage clerk: Little .. white ... star. OK. Anything else?

Carolina: No. I think that's everything.

Lost luggage clerk: OK. Don't worry. I'm sure we'll find it.

Tom: When Carolina described her bag the man said "Anything else?" Carolina said "No, that's everything".

'Anything else' is something you hear quite a lot. You hear it in shops and restaurants – when you ask for something the shop assistant or waiter may say "Anything else?" to check if your order is finished. You can reply "That's everything" or, of course, you can ask for something else! That's why the question is 'Anything else?' Try to use 'Anything else?' before the next podcast! OK. I'm going to stop there. I'll talk to you all again next time. Remember you can send your questions to me at learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org. I'll be happy to answer them.

In a moment you'll hear the address for the website where you can read everything you've heard in this podcast. Right. That's all for this time. Bye for now! See you next time.