

Support materials

Download the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast. You'll find all the details on this page: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/elementary-podcasts/series-02-episode-02>

While you listen

While you listen, read and answer the questions below. Remember that there may be more than one correct answer. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

Section 1

1. Listen to Tess and Ravi. Tick all the phrases you think are true. There may be more than one right answer.

- a) Tess went to a French restaurant on her birthday
- b) Ravi decides to go to the same French restaurant
- c) Ravi had a bad meal in the Italian restaurant
- d) Ravi often goes to Japanese restaurants

Section 2

2. Listen to Liam talking about Einstein. Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) Liam is going to be a science teacher
- b) Liam thinks that Einstein is a good example for children
- c) Liam says that Einstein worked very hard at school
- d) Liam explains that time isn't the same everywhere in the universe

Section 3

3. Listen to Eva doing the quiz. Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) Eva lives in Slovakia
- b) Eva gets nine answers right
- c) Eva is still at school
- d) Eva says the quiz was easy

Section 4

4. How many people say that they never enjoy shopping? Tick the right number.

- a) one
- b) two
- c) three
- d) four

Section 5

5. Listen to Carolina talking to Emily. Tick all the phrases you think are true. Remember there may be more than one right answer.

- a) Carolina got 55% for her first essay
- b) Carolina thinks that 55% is a very bad mark
- c) Emily agrees with Carolina
- d) Carolina thinks the British system is different from Venezuela

Section 6

6. Listen to Carolina talking to her tutor, Helen Stanford. Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) Helen Stanford says Carolina's essay was very bad
- b) Carolina is upset after talking to Helen Stanford
- c) Helen Stanford asks Carolina about her life outside the university
- d) Carolina says she's unhappy about living in Britain

Section 7

7. Tick the phrases you think are true. Remember there may be more than one right answer.

- a) The duck can talk
- b) The barman knows lots of ducks that can talk
- c) The barman thinks the circus might want a talking duck
- d) The duck is a computer programmer

Section 1: "That restaurant you went to – was it any good?"

Exercise 1: "I think it's a bit..."

Look at this mini dialogue.

A: *What about the French bistro?*

B: *Oh, that place. I think it's a bit expensive. Don't you know anywhere a bit cheaper?*

We often do this when people give us suggestions that we don't like very much. We say "Hmm, it's a bit [*negative thing we don't like*]. Don't you know anywhere [*positive thing we want*]."

Match a line from Column A with a line from column B to make "It's a bit..." phrases. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

Column A
Oh, that place. I think...
1. ...it's a bit dead...
2. ...it's a bit expensive...
3. ...the food's a bit boring.
4. ...it's a bit old-fashioned.
5. ...it's a bit posh.
6. ...it's a bit like a café.
7. ...the décor's a bit dark.
8. ...it's always so crowded.

Column B
Don't you know anywhere...
a. ...a bit 'different'?
b. ...a bit brighter?
c. ...a bit cheaper?
d. ...a bit classier?
e. ...a bit cooler?
f. ...a bit livelier?
g. ...a bit more informal?
h. ...a bit quieter?

2) "It's okay" – a balanced opinion

Look at what we say when we think a restaurant is OK, but nothing special. We try to give a balanced opinion. We often say one bad thing about the place, but then say a good thing, to show that the place isn't terrible, or fantastic – just OK.

"It's okay. The food's expensive but the service is excellent."

"It's not bad. There's not much atmosphere but the food's interesting."

"It's all right. It's expensive but the desserts are fantastic."

Can you make similar sentences?

decor:	bright and cheerful / dark and depressing
service:	slow / excellent
waiters:	rude / very friendly
food:	boring / interesting / expensive / cheap / delicious / a bit "different"
atmosphere:	a bit dead / lively
the place:	old fashioned / trendy / cool /crowded / quiet / posh / informal

3) Double positive/negative

Look at these examples of what you can say if a restaurant is really bad.

Here, the speaker gives two reasons why it's bad, and then gives an **example** of the second reason.

- *"The food's expensive and the service is terrible! I waited for hours and when the food arrived it was cold!"*
- *"It's always really crowded and it gets incredibly hot. They haven't got any air conditioning!"*

We can use the same structure when we want to say that a restaurant is very good – give two reasons why it's good, and give an example of the second reason.

- *"The decor is really cool and the food's amazing! I had the most delicious chocolate cake I've ever eaten in my life!"*
- *"The waiters are friendly and it's very cheap. We only paid £25 for two people."*

4) Practice dialogue

The conversation		Notes
A	I've got a friend coming to visit and I want to take them out. Do you know any good restaurants?	Context: A explains why he is asking, and then asks for a recommendation
B	What sort of food does your friend like?	B asks a question to limit the number of possibilities. B might say 'Which part of town?', or 'Any particular nationality?'
A	Oh, anything, really.	A doesn't help
B	Well, there's a nice Italian one in the High Street.	B chooses nationality as a way to help
A	Oh, no. I've been there and it's a bit boring. Don't you know any interesting places?	A does a "It's a bit..." (see above)
B	Well, there's the Vietnamese...	B gives another possibility
A	Oh, no. A friend of mine went there and said that the food was a bit greasy and the wine was really expensive. The house wine was twenty-five pounds a bottle!	A gives a double negative: two negatives and an example (see above)
B	Well, what about the Armenian one, then? It's got a lovely atmosphere and the food is interesting. It's a bit different.	B gives another possibility
A	Good idea. I don't think I've eaten Armenian food before. Perhaps I'll take her there.	1) A accepts the recommendation 2) A explains why 3) A says he 'might possibly' go there, but doesn't make a decision.
B	"Her"? Who's "her"?	B moves the conversation on to a subject he thinks is interesting
A	Oh, never mind....	

Practice this dialogue with a friend.

Now write a similar dialogue of your own.

Section 2 – Would like to talk about

In this section, you heard Liam talking about Albert Einstein and his theories of relativity.

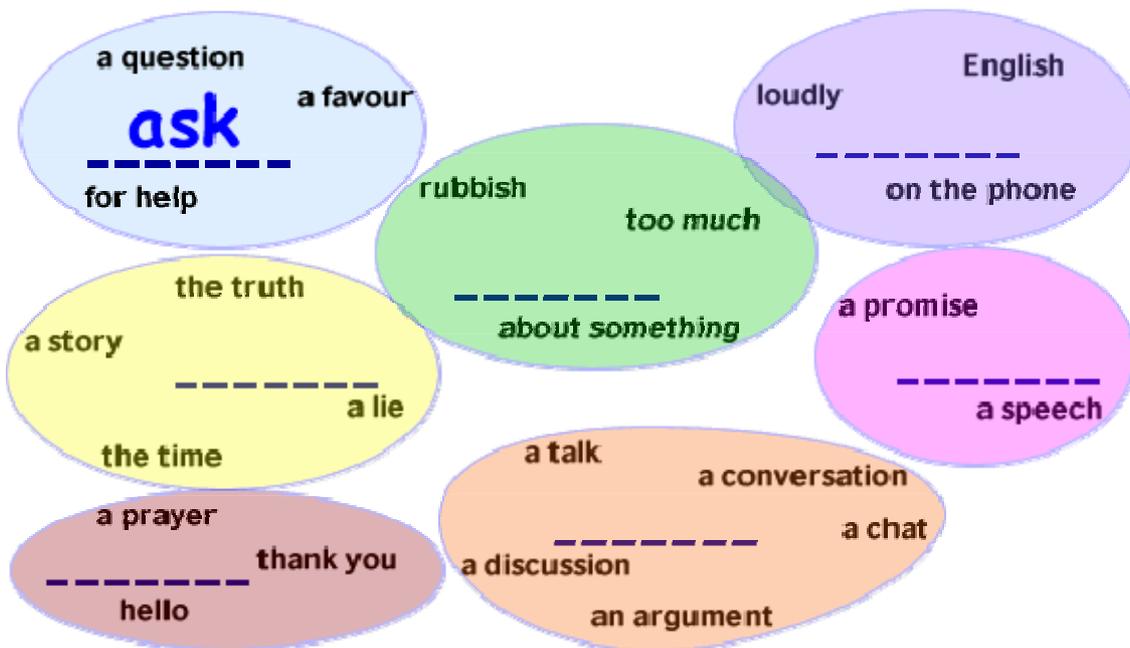
Here is a paragraph about Einstein that Liam wrote after the podcast. Read the text and see what information Liam has added or taken out.

"I want to be a physics teacher and Einstein **is my favourite scientist because** he shows children that science isn't boring. **One interesting fact about him** is that he hated school because he thought that they didn't teach him anything. **He made his most important discoveries when** he was young – in his twenties. **He published** his General Theory of relativity in 1915, and **was awarded** the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921. **The most interesting thing for me about** Einstein's theories is that **he proved that** time is relative. **This means that** time goes faster or slower in different places in the universe. And his formula $E=mc^2$ is the **most famous in the world** – even if people don't really understand it. Einstein **showed that science is about** using your imagination and being creative. **That's why I admire him.**"

Do you have a favourite scientist that you would like to tell us about? Write a paragraph about him or her – the phrases in **bold** in Liam's paragraph may help you. Then, if you want, you can send your paragraph to learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org.

Section 3 – Quiz

The quiz today was about the verb 'tell' – and the words that go with the verb. For example, we can 'tell a story' but we can't 'tell a conversation'. It's very important that you learn which verbs to use with which phrases.



ask	tell	speak	make	talk	have	say
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Look at the list of verbs and the diagram. All of the phrases are connected with speaking in some way. Put the verbs in the correct space in the diagram. The first one has been done for you as an example. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

Section 4 – Your turn

In 'Your Turn' this time the question was "Shopping: Love it? Hate it?' or 'It depends?'"

What about you? What do you think about shopping? Do you agree with what any of the people said in the podcast? Do you always enjoy shopping, or does it depend on what kind of shopping it is?

We'd like you to write to us and tell us *your* opinion.

You can send it to learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org

Here are some ideas to help you:

• verbs that you can use to give your opinion:	
I [really] hate...	...shopping.
I can't stand...	
I [quite / really] like...	
I [quite / really] enjoy...	
I [really] love...	NB. Use the 'ing' form after these verbs.
• different types of shopping that you can love or hate	
I love / hate shopping...	...in the supermarket ...in the market ...in department stores ...in shopping centres ...in busy / quiet places ...in the sales (<i>when shops sell things at a cheaper price</i>) ...online ...for clothes / shoes ...for CDs / computer games / DVDs ...for food / fresh fruit and vegetables / fresh fish ...for things for the house ...for presents for other people
• words you can use to describe shopping for you	
Shopping [for clothes] is...	fun / interesting / my favourite kind of shopping / boring / terrible / the worst kind of shopping / OK / necessary / good <i>with other people</i> or <i>alone</i>

Section 5 – Carolina – Exercise 1

Look at some parts of Carolina's conversations about the problems with her essay. Put the 10 expressions in the right places. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

Can I ask you about something?	Can I come in?
Could I ask you about the essay you sent back to me?	Have you got a minute?
It's a really big help.	Oh, that makes me feel much better!
OK, I will. Thank you.	Thank you very much for your time.
That's really terrible isn't it?	Things are going well.

1	<p>{<i>knock on the door</i>}</p> <p>Emily: Hello?</p> <p>Carolina: Hi, Emily. _____</p>
2	<p>Emily: Yeah, come in, it's open.</p> <p>Carolina: Hi. _____</p> <p>Emily: Of course you can. What's up?</p>
3	<p>Carolina: It's this. You know that essay I did? The environment and land resources one? I just got it back.</p> <p>Emily: OK</p> <p>Carolina: Oh Emily. Fifty five percent. _____ I don't know what I should do.</p>
4	<p>Emily: Yeah, that can be scary, can't it? You think all the others are geniuses, and you're the worst in the group!</p> <p>Carolina: So you feel stupid too? _____</p> <p>Emily: Well, thanks!</p>
5	<p>Helen Stafford: Come in. Ah, Carolina. How are you?</p> <p>Carolina: Fine, thanks. _____</p> <p>Helen Stafford: Yes, sure. Have a seat. What can I do for you?</p>
6	<p>Helen Stafford: Yes, sure. Have a seat. What can I do for you?</p> <p>Carolina: _____</p> <p>Helen Stafford: Ah, OK. You got it? Good. Yes, have you got it there?</p>
7	<p>Helen Stafford: But as it is, it's a good start. You need to think about the other things as well – the bibliography mainly – but I think you're on the right lines with this.</p> <p>Carolina: OK. _____</p>

8	Helen Stafford: That's alright. I hope you feel a bit better about it now. Carolina: I do, thank you. _____
9	Helen Stafford: And how are things in general? Are you settling in okay? Carolina: Well, I was a bit upset this week – about the essay and everything, but I have settled in all right. I've made friends. _____
10	Helen Stafford: Just check on the site to see when I'm here if you need to come and have a chat again. Carolina: _____

Section 5 – Carolina – Exercise 2

Look again at parts of Carolina's conversations. Choose all the phrases that people can say – there is always more than one correct answer. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

1. Emily: Hello?

Carolina: Hi, Emily. _____

- a) Would I come in?
- b) Could I come in?
- c) Can I come in?
- d) May I come in?

2. Emily: Yeah, come in, it's open.

Carolina: Hi. _____

Emily: Of course you can. What's up?

- a) Can I talk to you about something?
- b) Can I ask you about something?
- c) Can I make a question?
- d) Can I ask your opinion?

3. Carolina: You know that essay I did? The environment and land resources one? I just got it back.

Emily: OK

Carolina: Oh Emily. Fifty-five percent. _____ I don't know what I should do.

- a) I think that's terrible.
- b) Isn't that terrible!
- c) Is terrible!
- d) That's really terrible isn't it?

4. Emily: Yeah, that can be scary, can't it? You think all the others are geniuses, and you're the worst in the group!

Carolina: So you feel stupid too? _____

Emily: Well, thanks!

- a) Oh, now I feel much better!
- b) Oh, that makes me feel much better!
- c) Oh, that's good to know!
- d) Oh, that makes me good!

5. Helen Stafford: Come in. Ah, Carolina. How are you?

Carolina: Fine, thanks. _____

Helen Stafford: Yes, sure. Have a seat. What can I do for you?

- a) Have you got a minute?
- b) Can I ask you about something?
- c) Have you got time for me?
- d) Can I take your time?

6. Helen Stafford: Yes, sure. Have a seat. What can I do for you?

Carolina: _____

Helen Stafford: Ah, OK. You got it? Good. Yes, have you got it there?

- a) Can I ask you about the essay you sent back to me?
- b) I'd like to talk about the essay you sent back to me.
- c) I'm talking about the essay you sent back to me.
- d) Could I ask you about the essay you sent back to me?

7. Helen Stafford: But as it is, it's a good start. You need to think about the other things as well – the bibliography mainly – but I think you're on the right lines with this.

Carolina: OK. _____

- a) Thank you for talking to me.
- b) Thank you for your conversation.
- c) Thank you for your time.
- d) Thank you for the advice.

8. Helen Stafford: That's alright. I hope you feel a bit better about it now.

Carolina: I do, thank you. _____

- a) It's a very good help.
- b) It's very helpful.

- c) It's a really big help.
- d) You've helped me a lot.

9. Helen Stafford: And how are things in general? Are you settling in okay?

Carolina: Well, I was a bit upset this week – about the essay and everything, but I have settled in all right. I've made friends. _____

- a) Things are going well.
- b) Everything's OK.
- c) I'm getting on well.
- d) I'm going on well.

10. Helen Stafford: Just check on the site to see when I'm here if you need to come and have a chat again.

Carolina: _____ Thank you.

- a) OK, I am.
- b) OK, I do.
- c) OK, I'll do that.
- d) OK, I will.

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Section 5 – Carolina – Exercise 3

Now complete this conversation. Imagine that you are a student in Britain and you are having some problems with your academic work. Talk to your tutor about the problem.

You: *{knock on the door}* _____?

Tutor: Yes, of course. Come in.

You: _____?

Tutor: I'm not busy at the moment. Sit down. What can I do for you?

You: *{say what you want to talk about}* _____.

Tutor: OK. But what exactly is the problem?

You: *{explain the problem}* _____.

Tutor: Well, I think you need to.....

..... but I think you're doing well, so don't worry.

You: _____.

Tutor: That's OK. I hope you feel a bit better now.

You: _____.

Tutor: How are things in general? Your social life, living in a new country?

You: _____.

Tutor: OK. Well, please come and talk to me again if you need to.

You: _____.

Section 7 - The joke

Exercise 1

Read the sentences below, and put them in the right order to tell the joke. You can either cut them up and arrange them, or write the number in the space on the left. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

	"Did you know there's a circus in town at the moment?"
	A duck goes into a pub and says "I'd like a pint of beer please."
	and after a few weeks they get quite friendly.
	"Why don't you go and see if they can give you a job?" And the duck says "Well OK. But are you sure they <i>need</i> a computer programmer?"
	but he gives him the beer.
	He chats to the barman every day,
	"I'm sure they'd be very interested".
	So one day the barman says "You know, you really are a very unusual duck."
	The barman is a bit surprised to see a duck that can talk,
	The duck comes into the pub for a beer the next day, and the next day, and the next day.

Section 7 – Tom – Exercise 1

Put the words in the right order to make sentences. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

1. Ravi podcasts to the tell the is jokes in now going

Ravi _____

2. Everybody restaurant very French new is good says the

Everybody _____

3. I to before say James want Emma we and goodbye to leave.

I _____

4. Could to me the station tell the train you way?

Could _____

5. Can be Susan home tell that late I'll you tonight.

Can _____

6. Don't to say 'Happy birthday' today grandmother to forget your.

Don't _____

7. It's to truth the best tell always.

It's _____

8. What teacher us tell the to do did?

What _____

9. The English word this says is that American dictionary.

The _____

10. My sleep story went me always mother told a before I to.

My _____

Section 7 – Tom – Exercise 2

Choose the right word in each sentence. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

1	Ravi is going to _____ the jokes in the podcasts now.	a) say b) tell
2	Everybody _____ the new French restaurant is very good.	a) says b) tells
3	I want to _____ goodbye to James and Emma before we leave	a) say b) tell
4	Could you _____ me the way to the train station?	a) say b) tell
5	Can you _____ Susan that I'll be late home tonight?	a) say b) tell
6	Don't forget to _____ 'Happy birthday' to your grandmother today	a) say b) tell
7	It's always best to _____ the truth.	a) say b) tell
8	What did the teacher _____ us to do?	a) say b) tell
9	The dictionary _____ that this word is American English.	a) says b) tells
10	My mother always _____ me a story before I went to sleep.	a) said b) told

Section 7 – Tom – Exercise 3

Now look at this joke (from Series 1, Podcast 3). Put the correct form of 'say' or 'tell' in each space. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

A man went into a pet shop and [1] _____ "I'd like a parrot that talks". The shop assistant said "I'm sorry to [2] _____ you sir, but *you* have to *teach* your parrot to speak." So the man [3] _____ "OK", bought a parrot and took it home with him. A week later he went back to the pet shop. "My parrot still doesn't [4] _____ anything", he [5] _____. "Oh, really?" [6] _____ the shop assistant. "Well, perhaps he's bored". And he [7] _____ the man to buy a little swimming pool for his parrot. So he bought the swimming pool and went home. The next week the man came back again. "He still isn't [8] _____ anything" he [9] _____. So the shop assistant [10] _____ the man to buy a mirror. "He can look in the mirror and [11] _____ "Hello Beautiful!" to himself". So the man bought the mirror and went away. A week later he came back again and [12] _____ the shop assistant that his parrot was dead. "Oh, dear! I'm very sorry about that, sir – but [13] _____ me, before he died, did he [14] _____ anything?" "Yes he did. But only one word." "Really? What did he [15] _____?" "He [16] _____ "Foouooooood!"

Answers**While you listen – Answers**

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

Section 1 – Exercise 1 – Answers

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

Section 3 – Exercise 1 – Quiz – Answers

ask: a question; a favour; for help

tell: the truth; a story; a lie; the time

speak: English; loudly; on the phone

make: a promise; a speech

talk: rubbish; too much; about something

have: a talk; a chat; a conversation; a discussion; an argument

say : a prayer; hello; thank you

Section 5 – Carolina – Exercise 1 – Answers

1. Can I come in?
2. Can I ask you about something?
3. That's really terrible isn't it?
4. Oh, that makes me feel much better!
5. Have you got a minute?
6. Could I ask you about the essay you sent back to me?
7. Thank you very much for your time.
8. It's a really big help.
9. Things are going well.
10. OK, I will. Thank you.

Section 5 – Carolina – Exercise 2 – Answers

1. b,c,d
2. a,b,d
3. a,b,d
4. a,b,c
5. a,b
6. a,b,d
7. a,c,d
8. b,c,d
9. a,b,c
10. c,d

Section 6 – The Joke – Answers

1. A duck goes into a pub and says "I'd like a pint of beer please."
2. The barman is a bit surprised to see a duck that can talk,
3. but he gives him the beer.
4. The duck comes into the pub for a beer the next day, and the next day, and the next day.
5. He chats to the barman every day,
6. and after a few weeks they get quite friendly.
7. So one day the barman says "You know, you really are a very unusual duck."
8. "Did you know there's a circus in town at the moment?"
9. "Why don't you go and see if they can give you a job?"
10. "I'm sure they'd be very interested".
11. And the duck says "Well OK. But are you sure they *need* a computer programmer?"

Section 7 – Tom – Exercise 1 – Answers

1. Ravi is going to tell the jokes in the podcasts now
2. Everybody says the new French restaurant is very good
3. I want to say goodbye to James and Emma before we leave.
4. Could you tell me the way to the train station?
5. Can you tell Susan that I'll be late home tonight.
6. Don't forget to say 'Happy birthday' to your grandmother today.
7. It's always best to tell the truth.
8. What did the teacher tell us to do?
9. The dictionary says that this word is American English.
10. My mother always told me a story before I went to sleep.

Section 7 – Tom – Exercise 2 – Answers

1. b; 2. a; 3. a; 4. b; 5. b; 6. a; 7. b; 8. b; 9. a; 10. b

Section 7 – Tom – Exercise 3 – Answers

1. said; 2. tell; 3. said; 4. say; 5. said; 6. said; 7. told; 8. saying; 9. said; 10. told; 11. say; 12. told; 13. tell; 14. say; 15. say; 16. said