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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-06>

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) Ravi has hurt his arm.
- b) Ravi hurt himself playing football.
- c) Ravi has been to see a doctor.
- d) Tess doesn't speak French.

Section 2

2. Listen to Steve talking about Zaha Hadid. Tick all the phrases you think are true. There may be more than one right answer.

- a) Zaha Hadid was born in Iraq.
- b) She won the Nobel Prize in 2004.
- c) The Dancing Towers will be built in Dubai.
- d) Zaha Hadid only designs buildings.

Section 3

3. Listen to the quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question.

- a) Which is longer?
the Nile OR the Yangtze
- b) Which has more people?
Russia OR Canada
- c) Which is taller?
the Empire State Building OR
Petronas Towers.

- d) Which is further north?
London OR Moscow
- e) Which is faster?
a horse OR an elephant

Section 4

4. How many people say they NEVER complain when they get bad service? Tick the correct number.

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

Section 5

5. Listen to Carolina and Emily at the hairdressers. What kind of haircut does Carolina want?

- a) highlights
- b) lowlights
- c) cut and colour
- d) just a trim

6. What does Emily think about her new haircut?

- a) She loves it.
- b) She hates it.

Section 6

7. Listen to the joke. Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) A man is lost in the desert.
- b) He buys a tie.
- c) He sees a luxury hotel.
- d) He can't go into the hotel.

what I spend. I'll just have to pay it.		okay and there's no problem
⁹ Don't be ridiculous, Mo. You can't spend your life avoiding a cat. Have a word with Sandra tonight when you get home	⁹ Look Deano, you're being daft. We'll go to the dentists as soon as we finish this job.	⁹ Don't be so stupid Sue! You have to check it out. If you don't want to phone, then go and speak to them. You can go at lunchtime.
¹⁰ Yes, I suppose you're right. But I promised John I'd buy him lunch today.	¹⁰ Do you think so? I don't want to annoy her	¹⁰ Well, if you think it's that important. But I don't like people's fingers in my mouth...
¹¹ Would you like me to be there? We could say I came round to borrow a DVD	¹¹ I'll come with you, if you're a bit nervous. I don't mind waiting	¹¹ I'll buy John a packet of sandwiches – don't worry. Your money is more important.
¹² Thanks, Sally. But I can go by myself. I'm not that scared	¹² Well thanks Sam. Are you sure? I can always go tomorrow.	¹² Thanks, Julie. But it's okay – I'll have a word with her
¹³ Do it today! It's absolutely no problem for me.	¹³ Who said you were? But seriously, I don't mind at all.	¹³ I don't mind coming. I enjoy watching a difficult conversation
A ^{A14} Yeah, great. I think not...	B ^{B14} OK. That's really kind of you. Thanks.	C ^{C14} Thanks Sally.

Section 2 – Would like to talk about

In this section, you heard Steve talking about Zaha Hadid, an architect that he admires.

Is there an architect or designer that you really admire? Write a paragraph about the person explaining why you admire him or her.

Then, if you want, you can add your paragraph to the comments on the website.

Here are some phrases that might help you:

The reason I like him/her is ...

I like/admire/respect him/her because...

What I like most about him/her is

There's something about him/her that I love

He/she was born in

He/she started designing / got interested in designing/first got famous.....

He was the first man to

She was the first woman to.....

He/she won [a prize/award] for.....

My favourite building/design is

You should look at his/her designs for

It's/they're amazing/incredible/fantastic/crazy/cool/complicated/beautiful/

You can see his/her designs all over the world

Section 3 – Quiz – Exercise 1

The quiz today was about comparing things. When we compare things, we need to use adjectives to describe them. Look at these adjectives we can use to describe the things in the quiz. One adjective is NOT possible for each thing – which one?

See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

1. a river	long	deep	tall	wide	clean
2. a country	short	big	rich	hot	expensive
3. a building	tall	modern	old	beautiful	fast
4. a city	dangerous	exciting	busy	deep	dirty
5. an animal	fast	small	rich	dangerous	intelligent

Section 3 – Quiz – Exercise 2

Match these adjectives to their opposites in the numbered phrases. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack.

boring	cheap	dirty	friendly	hot	narrow
new	poor	quiet	safe	shallow	short
short	slow	small	traditional	ugly	young

No.	Phrase	Opposite
1	A big city	small
2	A long road	
3	A tall person	
4	A fast car	
5	A cold day	
6	A modern building	
7	A deep swimming pool	
8	A wide street	
9	A rich man	
10	An old dog	
11	An old bicycle	
12	An exciting story	
13	A busy city	
14	A dangerous place	
15	A dangerous dog	
16	An expensive restaurant	
17	A clean city	
18	A beautiful building	

Section 3 – Quiz – Exercise 3

Now you can practice! See how many adjectives you can add to the diagram. They don't have to be words from these exercises.

expensive

beautiful

quiet



old

friendly

safe

modern

long



fashionable

comfortable

boring

cheap

Section 4 – Your turn

In 'Your Turn' this time the question was "Do you complain when you get bad service? For example, in a restaurant, or in a shop, when something is wrong, do you complain?"

What about you? Do you complain or just keep quiet? Or does it depend on the situation? Do you agree with what any of the people said in the podcast?

We'd like you to tell us *your* opinion. Add your paragraph to the comments on the website.

Here is some vocabulary that might help you to express your ideas:

<p>your room is noisy/dirty/small/doesn't have a view</p> <p>the television/hairdryer/heater/air conditioner doesn't work</p> <p>in a restaurant:</p>	<p>doesn't work</p> <p>is broken</p> <p>is past its 'sell-by' date</p> <p>in a shop:</p>
<p>the food is cold</p> <p>the service is slow</p> <p>the waiter is rude</p> <p>the food isn't what you ordered</p> <p>the bill is wrong</p>	<p>the shop assistant ignores you</p> <p>the shop assistant is rude</p> <p>the shop assistant is unfriendly</p>

Things that you can do:	
complain (about something/to somebody)	keep calm
shout (at somebody)	be polite
get angry (with somebody)	ask to speak to the manager
have an argument with somebody	write a letter
be rude	sign the complaints book
get upset about something	

Section 5 – Carolina – Exercise 1

Look at some parts of Carolina's and Emily's conversations at the hairdresser's. Put the expressions in the right places. See *Answers* at the end of this support pack

How long	It looks nice
I just want a trim please	it's lovely
I think so	it's the first time
I'm having	my English isn't very good
I've got an appointment	Oh, yes, OK

1	<i>Hairdresser:</i> Good morning. <i>Emily:</i> Good morning. _____ for eleven thirty. My name's Emily Granger.
2	<i>Hairdresser:</i> Emily Granger – cut and colour – is that right? <i>Emily:</i> Yes. _____ lowlights
3	<i>Hairdresser:</i> Have you been here before? <i>Emily:</i> No, _____.
4	<i>Hairdresser:</i> If you'd like to come with me, I'll wash your hair. <i>Carolina:</i> _____.
5	<i>Hairdresser:</i> Comfortable? Now what can I do for you today? <i>Carolina:</i> _____.
6	<i>Hairdresser:</i> What about a few layers? <i>Carolina:</i> Layers? I'm sorry – _____.

7	<i>Hairdresser:</i> Right. There you are. I'll just get a mirror and show you the back. OK? <i>Carolina:</i> Yes, _____ . Thank you very much.
8	<i>Hairdresser:</i> Are you going to wait for your friend? <i>Carolina:</i> _____.
9	<i>Carolina:</i> _____ is she going to be? <i>Hairdresser:</i> About half an hour.
10	<i>Carolina:</i> What's the matter? <i>Emily:</i> Look at me! <i>Carolina:</i> _____. It's a bit short but....

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. *Hairdresser:* Good morning.

Emily: Good morning. _____ for eleven thirty. My name's Emily Granger.

- a) I come
- b) My appointment's
- c) I am marked
- d) I've got an appointment

2. *Hairdresser:* Emily Granger – cut and colour – is that right?

Emily: Yes. _____ lowlights

- a) I want
- b) I'm having
- c) I'd like
- d) I'm making

3. *Hairdresser:* Have you been here before?

Emily: No, _____.

- a) never before
- b) I haven't
- c) I wasn't
- d) it's the first time

4. *Hairdresser:* If you'd like to come with me, I'll wash your hair.

Carolina: _____.

- a) Oh yes, OK
- b) I'll come
- c) Yes please
- d) Yes, of course

5. *Hairdresser:* Comfortable? Now what can I do for you today?

Carolina: _____.

- a) Do me a trim please
- b) I'd like a trim please
- c) I just want a trim please
- d) Just a trim please

6. *Hairdresser:* What about a few layers?

Carolina: Layers? I'm sorry – _____.

- a) how do you say?
- b) my English isn't very good
- c) I don't understand
- d) what do you mean?

7. *Hairdresser:* Right. There you are. I'll just get a mirror and show you the back. OK?

Carolina: Yes, _____. Thank you very much.

- a) I like it
- b) very well
- c) it's lovely
- d) it looks great

8. *Hairdresser:* Are you going to wait for your friend?

Carolina: _____.

- a) I think so
- b) Yes I am
- c) Yes I go
- d) Probably

talked about. I want to see the Dancing Towers.

Ravi: And the shoes. I want to see the shoes.

Steve: Sure. I'll give you some links. There's loads of stuff.

Tess: That'd be great. Thanks again, and bye.

Steve: Bye.

Ravi: Bye. ... Do you think she does men's shoes?

Tess: I don't know Ravi. Interested?

Ravi: You bet. Imagine telling people your shoes were designed by a famous architect. Cool or what?

Tess: You're such a fashion victim, Ravi.

Ravi: I know, I know. But, really, remember to put those sites up on our blog. I *really* want to see the shoes.

Tess: OK. I will, I will. ... And if you're listening, why don't you tell us what you think about architecture or what you'd like to tell us about. You can write something or record something – in audio or video - and send it to us at learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org, that's learnenglishpodcast - all one word – at - britishcouncil – all one word DOT org, that's o-r-g. Send it to us and we'll put the most interesting ones on the site. Right, that's that.

Section 3 – Quiz

Tess: Now it's quiz time so let me introduce Natalie. Natalie?

Natalie: Hi Tess.

Tess: Hi Natalie. Where are you calling from?

Natalie: I'm in Buxton.

Ravi: Oh, in the Peak district? You know, I've never been to Buxton. It's daft because it's quite close to Manchester, really. Oh, I'm Ravi, by the way.

Natalie: Hi Ravi

Ravi: So, is it nice, Buxton?

Natalie: Well, it's a bit quiet for me but, yeah, the countryside's nice.

Ravi: Yeah, I've heard that. It's a spa town isn't it? People go there to drink the water and get better when they're ill, right?

Natalie: Well, it was, a long time ago. Not really any more.

Tess: Maybe you can go there for your leg, Ravi.

Ravi: That's not how it works, Tess. Anyway, Natalie, what do you do?

Natalie: Not much, really, I'm having a year out before I go to university.

Tess: A gap year?

Natalie: Yeah.

Tess: I thought people usually went abroad or travelled round the world in their gap year.

Natalie: Well, I want to go travelling – but I need to get some money together first.

Tess: OK – well, good luck with that. And good luck with our quiz. Are you ready to play?

Natalie: Yep.

Tess: OK then. We're going to try a new one this time. How's your general knowledge, Natalie?

Natalie: Erm .. it's OK, I suppose.

Tess: Because the quiz this time is a comparatives quiz. I'm going to ask you five questions. All you have to do is choose the right answer.

Natalie: OK

Tess: I'll give you an example. What's bigger – a cow or a sheep?

Natalie: A cow!

Tess: Right. That was an easy one – the real questions are a bit tougher than that. Shall we start?

Natalie: OK then.

Tess: First question then. What's longer – the River Nile or the Yangtze River?

Natalie: Oh god. I don't know. The Yangtse?

Tess: The Nile. Number two. Which has more people – Russia or Canada?

Natalie: It must be Russia. Russia.

Tess: Yes, Russia. Number three. Which is taller – the Empire State Building in New York or the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur?

Natalie: Erm. I think that must be the second one. The Petro...

Tess: Petronas. Yes. Two out of three. Number four. Which is further north – London or Moscow?

Natalie: Erm .. Moscow, I think.

Tess: That's right. Three out of four. Last one now. Which can run faster – a horse or an elephant?

Natalie: Oh. ... Is it a trick question? I'm going to say 'elephant'.

Tess: No, it was horse. Elephants *are* faster than you think – but they're not *that* fast. ...

Three out of five, Natalie. Not bad.

Natalie: Yeah.

Tess: Thanks for playing though. We'll send you some bits and pieces very soon.

Ravi: Yep, bye Natalie.

Natalie: Bye.

Tess: OK. We'll have a little break but don't go away – we've got 'your turn' and we've got Carolina, straight after this.

Section 4: Your turn

Ravi: Right. Time for Your Turn. This is when we ask some of our listeners to tell us what they think. Now, in the last podcast, we heard Carolina take a jacket back to a shop because the zip was broken, so, for this time's Your Turn we asked you "Do you complain when you get bad service?" For example, in a restaurant, or in a shop, when something is wrong. Do you complain? Or just keep quiet? Let's hear what people said.

Voice 1: If I get bad service in a restaurant or a shop I often get angry but I rarely complain because I don't like getting into situations where I might have an argument with somebody. Usually, if I have a bad service experience I just don't go back to the same restaurant or the same shop in the future.

Voice 2: I complain if I get bad service when the service is rude or unfriendly ...but when the service is just bad or slow in general, I usually find it quite funny and I don't really complain. I might never go back to the restaurant again, but unless the person is actually rude to me I don't really bother about it.

Voice 3: Always! Because I hate having bad service and people should be told when they're not doing their job properly ...

Voice 4: Um, I don't complain, I don't shout or get angry but I probably ... I'll make a noise to show that I'm waiting ... I'll clear my throat or I'll say "Excuse me!", but I won't get really angry, I won't complain as such.

Voice 5: Ah, yeah, this is a new thing for me ... especially being British we're not very good at complaining, but since I've lived in Italy I've become braver and yes, I don't hesitate now to complain.

Ravi: What about you Tess? I bet you complain if you get bad service.

Tess: You know me, Ravi.

Ravi: Hmm. Right. ... What about you, listeners? Do you complain when you get bad service? Write in and let us know – and we'll put the best ones on the website.

Section 5: Carolina

Tess: OK. Let's go straight to Carolina.
Remember that Carolina is a student from Venezuela who's come to England to study at university in Newcastle. We've been following her on the podcast. And today she's with her best friend, Emily – and they're going to ... the hairdresser's!

Ravi: Let's see how they get on.

{at the hairdresser's}

Hairdresser 1: Good morning.

Emily: Good morning. I've got an appointment for eleven thirty. My name's Emily Granger.

Carolina: And I'm Carolina del Barco. Eleven thirty too.

Hairdresser 1: Emily Granger – cut and colour – is that right?

Emily: Yes. I'm having lowlights

Hairdresser 1: Have you been here before?

Emily: No, it's the first time.

Hairdresser 1: And Carolina del Barco.... cut, no colour.

Carolina: That's right, just a cut.

Hairdresser 1: Just take a seat for a few minutes please.

Carolina and Emily: OK.

Carolina: What did you ask for Emily?
Lowlights? What's that?

Emily: Lowlights are like highlights but a different colour.

Carolina: What?

Emily: Highlights are blonde, you know little blonde bits in your hair, and lowlights are any other colour - like red or brown. Just little bits of colour.

Carolina: OK. Oh dear, I'm a bit nervous. I hope I understand what they say to me. I don't know the vocabulary for hair and hairdressers.

Emily: Well what do you want? A new style?

Carolina: Oh no. I want to keep it the same – just a bit shorter.

Emily: So you say you just want a trim.

Carolina: A trim? A trim. I want a trim. I just want a trim please.

Emily: Very good. ... How's Jamie?

Carolina: He's OK. Why?

Emily: Well, he used to come round all the time to see you, but recently, well, I haven't seen him. You used to be together all the time. Is everything OK?

Carolina: Yes, it's fine. ... Oh I don't know Emily. I mean – I really like Jamie – and I think, well that he really likes *me* – or I *thought*. But, recently, well, he's always busy. I know he's got other friends – of course. But I didn't see him at all last week.

Emily: Perhaps he's studying.

Carolina: Mmm.

Hairdresser 2: Emily Granger? Hi. Are you ready? I'll start your colour first, then I'll come back to cut your hair, Miss del Barco.

Emily: Here we go. Wish me luck.

Hairdresser 1: And if *you'd* like to come with *me now*, I'll wash your hair.

Carolina: Oh, yes, OK.

...

Hairdresser 2: Right. Comfortable? Now what can I do for you today?

Carolina: I just want a trim please.

Hairdresser 2: OK. How much d'you want off?

Carolina: Want off?

Hairdresser 2: How much hair shall I cut off?
Half an inch? An inch? Two inches?

Carolina: Oh, um, about an inch I think.

Hairdresser 2: Hmm. Your hair's very thick.

Carolina: Oh. Is that bad?

Hairdresser 2: No, you've just got a lot of hair. Isn't it a bit difficult to control?

Carolina: Well yes, sometimes.

Hairdresser 2: What about a few layers?

Carolina: Layers? I'm sorry – my English isn't very good....

Hairdresser 2: I can cut some bits of it shorter – so it isn't all the same. We call them layers. Maybe just a few ... here..... and here...

Carolina: Well OK then.

Hairdresser 2: And what about the fringe?

Carolina: The fringe? I'm sorry...

Hairdresser 2: This bit here, the part above your eyes. Do you want it long or short?

Carolina: Um, quite long please. Just cut a little bit off – not too much

Hairdresser 2: Right. So where are you from then?

Carolina: Venezuela.

Hairdresser 2: Venezuela. I've got a friend who went to Venezuela once. He said it was lovely. Can't remember where he went. On the coast somewhere I think.

Carolina: Oh yes, the coast is lovely.

Hairdresser 2: And how are you enjoying Newcastle?

Carolina: I like it.

Hairdresser 2: Not too cold for you?

Carolina: Well yes, it's a bit cold, colder than Venezuela anyway. But I'm getting used to it.

Hairdresser 2: Made a lot of friends?

Carolina: Oh yes, some. I share a flat with some people.

Hairdresser 2: Whereabouts?

Carolina: At the university.

Hairdresser 2: Ah, you're a student.

Carolina: Yes that's right.

Hairdresser 2: Just bend your head forward a bit please.

Carolina: Sorry?

Hairdresser 2: Just put your head forward ... down... like this. I want to cut the back. So what are your plans for the holiday? Going

back to Venezuela? Or staying here?

Carolina: Oh, I'm going ...

...

Hairdresser 2: Right. There you are. I'll just get a mirror and show you the back. ... OK?

Carolina: Yes, it's lovely. Thank you very much.

Hairdresser 2: Good. Are you going to wait for your friend?

Carolina: I think so. How long is she going to be?

Hairdresser 2: About half an hour.

Carolina: Oh OK. Yes I'll wait.

...

Emily: Thank you very much. *{whispers to Carolina}* Come on, let's get out of here. Quick.

Carolina: OK.

...

Carolina: What's the matter?

Emily: Look at me!

Carolina: It looks nice. It's a bit short but...

Emily: A bit short!! I look like a ... I don't know .. a baby bird.

Carolina: No, you don't. It looks nice. And anyway, it'll soon grow.

Emily: It'll soon grow! That's OK then. I'll wear a paper bag on my head for a month.

Carolina: Well you could wear a hat ... or a scarf.

Emily: Do you know what Carolina? You're not helping!! ... Oh, come on. Let's go home...

...

Tess: Poor Emily - a disaster at the hairdresser's. Like that time in France for me. Has that ever happened to you Ravi?

Ravi: No thank goodness. But there was once when I was a kid and my mum cut my hair at home. It looked *awful!* I didn't want to leave the house, but she made me go to school and all the other kids laughed at me. It was horrible.

Tess: Poor thing.

Ravi: I know AAAGGH.

Tess: Your leg again? Come on then, let's finish off here and I'll take you to the doctor's.

Ravi: OK.

Section 6: The Joke

Ravi: Hang on though. I've got a joke for you.

Tess: Typical! Come on then.

Ravi: So there's a man and he's lost in the desert.

Tess: Lost in the desert?

Ravi: Yeah. His plane crashed or something – in the desert. And he hasn't got any water. So he's walking and walking, and he's really thirsty. After a while he meets a man who's selling ties.

Tess: Ties?

Ravi: Yes Tess. Ties. The things that men wear round their necks. ... So this man has got hundreds of ties – black ones, pink ones, striped ones. "Do you want to buy a tie sir? Lovely ties, very cheap." So the man who's lost says "No, I don't want a tie – I want water." "Sorry sir, no water, only ties." So the man walks on in the desert. And he's getting more and more thirsty. Then he meets another man. "Want to buy a tie sir? Lovely ties. Special price for you sir." And he says "No!! I don't want a tie. I want water." "Sorry sir – no water, but very beautiful ties". So he walks on again. It's very hot and he's really desperate for water now. And he sees another man "Give me water!" "No water sir. But beautiful ties. Pink ones, red ones, striped ones. Very good price". So the poor man walks on. And then, right in front of him he sees a beautiful luxury hotel in the middle of the desert. He thinks he must be imagining things, but no, it really is a hotel. He goes up to the door, crying with happiness and the man at the door of the hotel says ... " Sorry sir. You can't come in here if you aren't wearing a tie."

Tess: {groans}

Ravi: What? It's funny!

Tess: Let's just say it isn't one of your best Ravi.

Ravi: Well I thought it was AAAGHGHH.

Tess: Come on then, let's get you to the doctor. OK, everyone, thanks for listening. Remember that if you want to send us anything you can send it to learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org. Tom the Teacher will be here in a moment so don't go away – but it's goodbye from me and Ravi. See you next time!

Ravi: Bye!

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Tom the teacher

Tom: Hi, I'm Tom. I'm here at the end of every podcast to talk about some of the language you heard in the programme, and to talk about ways to help you learn English. Today I want to talk about how we *compare* things in English. I'm sure that you know that we often use 'more' to compare things. We can say 'A car is more expensive than a bicycle', or 'A book is more interesting than a film'. But we don't *always* use 'more'. Do you remember the quiz? It was all about comparing things. Listen to Tess explaining the quiz to Natalie. What question does she ask?

Tess: I'm going to ask you five questions. All you have to do is choose the right answer.

Natalie: OK

Tess: I'll give you an example. What's bigger – a cow or a sheep?

Natalie: A cow!

Tom: Yes. The question was "What's bigger –

a cow or a sheep?" But Tess doesn't use 'more'. We don't use 'more' with short adjectives – words like 'hot', 'cold', 'big' or 'small' – adjectives that only have one syllable. We add "-er" to the end of the adjective to make the comparative form. So Tess says "What's *bigger* – a cow or a sheep?" Listen to another question.

Tess: What's longer – the River Nile or the Yangtze River?

Natalie: Oh god. I don't know. The Yangtze?

Tom: Did you hear? "What's *longer* – The River Nile or the Yangtze River?". The adjective 'long' only has one syllable. 'Long'. So the comparative form of 'long' is 'longer'. Listen to one more example.

Tess: Number three. Which is taller – the Empire State Building in New York or the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur?

Natalie: Erm. I think that must be the second one. The Petro...

Tess: Petronas. Yes.

Tom: Yes. "Which is *taller* – the Empire State Building or the Petronas Towers?" The comparative form of 'tall' is 'taller'. 'Big – bigger', 'long' – 'longer', 'tall – taller'. Easy isn't it? ... But some short adjectives are *irregular* – they don't follow the normal rules. Listen to another question from the quiz. What's the comparative form of 'far'?

Tess: Petronas. Yes. Two out of three. Number four. Which is further north – London or Moscow?

Natalie: Erm .. Moscow, I think.

Tom: That's right. "Which is *further* north – London or Moscow?". This one is a bit

different. The comparative form of 'far' is 'further'. Some people say 'farther'. You'll hear both. 'Further' and 'farther' are both comparative forms of 'far'. Now listen to Tess and Ravi talking about his bad leg. What's the comparative form of 'bad'?

Tess: What have you done?

Ravi: I think it was playing football on Saturday. It was OK after the match – well, it hurt a bit but it's getting worse I think.

Tom: That's right. Ravi says his leg is getting worse. The comparative form of 'bad' is 'worse'. We don't add "-er" at all. We change the word completely. 'Worse'. And 'good' is irregular too. The comparative form of 'good' is 'better'. Now let's look at how we use a comparative form in a sentence. Listen to Carolina talking to the hairdresser. She compares Newcastle with Venezuela. What does she say?

Hairdresser 2: And how are you enjoying Newcastle?

Carolina: I like it.

Hairdresser 2: Not too cold for you?

Carolina: Well yes, it's a bit cold, colder than Venezuela anyway.

Tom: She says that Newcastle is colder than Venezuela. 'Colder than'. We use 'than' to compare things. So we can say 'a cow is bigger than a sheep' or 'The River Nile is longer than the Yangtze'. 'Ravi's leg is worse now than it was this morning'. Try to notice comparative forms in the English that you hear and read this week.

Now let's talk about telling the time in English. You probably learnt to say "It's four o'clock" or "It's half past six". Yes, that's how we tell the

time in English. But British people don't always say that. Listen to Emily at the hairdresser's. What time is her appointment?

Hairdresser 1: Good morning.

Emily: Good morning. I've got an appointment for eleven thirty. My name's Emily Granger.

Tom: She says "eleven thirty". 'Eleven thirty' is exactly the same as 'half past eleven'. You can say 'My train leaves at half past two' or 'my train leaves at two thirty'. It's the same. It's the same for all the other times too. You can say 'quarter past three' or 'three fifteen'. You can say 'twenty-five past six' or 'six twenty-five'. And 'quarter to four' or 'three forty-five'. Sometimes 'three forty-five' is easier for learners than 'quarter to four' so don't be afraid to say it – British people do!

... Now, last time I talked about practising what you're going to say in English before you say it. Do you remember? It's a good idea. Carolina practised what she was going to say when she took her jacket back to the shop. She does the same thing this time at the hairdresser's. Listen.

Emily: Well what do you want? A new style?

Carolina: Oh no. I want to keep it the same – just a bit shorter.

Emily: So you say you just want a trim.

Carolina: A trim? A trim. I want a trim. I just want a trim please.

Tom: She practises "I just want a trim please". And she says it to the hairdresser. But listen to what happens next.

Hairdresser 2: Now what can I do for you today?

Carolina: I just want a trim please.

Hairdresser 2: OK. How much d'you want off?

Carolina: Want off?

Hairdresser 2: How much hair shall I cut off?

Half an inch? An inch? Two inches?

Tom: Hmm. She says "I just want a trim please" beautifully, but then she doesn't understand what the hairdresser says next. This can happen when you're speaking English. Listen again. What does Carolina do to show that she doesn't understand?

Hairdresser 2: OK. How much d'you want off?

Carolina: Want off?

Hairdresser 2: How much hair shall I cut off?

Half an inch? An inch? Two inches?

Tom: That's right. She just repeats the words that she doesn't understand as a question. "Want off?" And the hairdresser explains. She does the same thing several times at the hairdressers. Listen.

Hairdresser 2: What about a few layers?

Carolina: Layers? I'm sorry – my English isn't very good....

Tom: And again.

Hairdresser 2: And what about the fringe?

Carolina: The fringe? I'm sorry...

Tom: So that's what you can do when you don't understand a word or a phrase - repeat it as a question.

Now let's look at a word that you can use this week. The hairdresser asks Carolina where she lives, but he doesn't use the word 'where?'. Listen. What does he use?

Carolina: I share a flat with some people.

Hairdresser 2: Whereabouts?

Carolina: At the university.

Tom: He says "whereabouts?". He doesn't want to know *exactly* where she lives – he doesn't want to know her address. We use 'whereabouts' when we want to ask *more or less* where – in what area of the city for example. So if someone says "I live in London" you can say "Oh really! Whereabouts?" Try to use 'whereabouts' this week.

OK. I'm going to stop there. I'll talk to you all

again next time. Remember you can write to me about any language that *you* noticed in this podcast. The address is learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org. In a moment you'll hear the address for the website where you can read everything you've heard in this podcast. You can also find some practice exercises to do online and a support pack that you can print. Right. That's all for this time. Bye for now! See you next time.

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