

While you listen

Elementary Podcasts are suitable for learners with different levels of English. Here are some ways to make them easier (if you have a lower level of English) or more difficult (if you have a higher level of English). You can choose one or two of these suggestions - you don't have to do all of them!

Making it easier

- Read all the exercises before you listen to the podcast.
- Look up the words in the exercises that you don't know in a dictionary.
- Play the podcast as many times as you need.
- Play each part of the podcast separately.
- Read the transcript after you have listened to the podcast.

Making it harder

- Listen to the podcast before you read the exercises.
- Only play the podcast once before answering the questions.
- Play the whole podcast without a break.
- Don't read the transcript.

Activity 1 – Choose all of the sentences that are true according to the podcast.

1. Big Ben is a big clock in London.
2. Big Ben is a symbol of London.
3. You can hear the Big Ben bell on BBC radio.
4. Buckingham Palace was built in the twentieth century.
5. The Queen lives in Buckingham Palace all the time.
6. Tess often visits Buckingham Palace.
7. People think the royal family is typically British.
8. Tess and Ravi are going to talk about more things in London in the next podcast.

Activity 2 – Put the words in order to make sentences from the podcast.

1. Big Ben / it is / of the bell / every hour / is really / to tell you / what time / the name / that rings
2. What / people / in London? / talk about / did / other places
3. Buckingham Palace / people / mentioned / another place / is / lots of
4. Do you know / Buckingham Palace? / when / the flag / what it means / flying above / you see
5. When / to / you went / the last time / Buckingham Palace? / was
6. The royal family / list / thing / is / another / our / on
7. What other things / say were / in London / did people / typically British?
8. I think / come back / another time / have to / to this one / we might

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Activity 3 – Choose the right way to say these dates.

- It was finished in 1859.
 - one thousand, eight hundred and fifty nine
 - eighteen fifty nine
 - eighteen hundred and fifty nine
- It was built in 1705.
 - one thousand, seven hundred and five
 - seventeen and five
 - seventeen oh five
- It was started in 1900.
 - nineteen hundred
 - one thousand, nine hundred
 - nineteen oh oh
- It happened in 1066.
 - one thousand and sixty six
 - ten sixty six
 - one oh sixty six
- He died in 1966.
 - nineteen and sixty six
 - nineteen sixty six
 - one thousand, nine, six, six
- She was born in 1901.
 - nineteen and one
 - nineteen oh one
 - one thousand, nine hundred and one
- It was built in 1800.
 - eighteen hundred
 - one thousand, eight hundred
 - eighteen oh oh
- The London Olympics are in 2012.
 - two oh twelve
 - twenty hundred and twelve
 - twenty twelve

Activity 4 – Put the words in the right places.

bridge	cathedral	monument
mosque	museum	opera house
palace	statue	temple
tower	bridge	cathedral
monument		

- 'David' is a famous _____ by Michelangelo.
- Paris has a famous _____ built by Gustave Eiffel.
- A _____ is a place where kings, queens or emperors live or lived.
- A _____ is an important Christian church. St. Paul's is a famous one in London.
- You can go to an _____ to hear music. There is a very famous one in Sydney, Australia.
- Sio se Pol is a beautiful _____ across the Zayandeh River in Isfahan, Iran.
- The Taj Mahal is a famous _____ in Agra, India.
- Moslems go to a _____ to pray. There's a famous one in Istanbul, Turkey.
- You go to a _____ to learn about the past and see beautiful things. The Victoria and Albert is a famous one in London.
- Hindus and Buddhists go to a _____ to pray. There's a famous one at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Activity 5 – Match the answers (below) with the questions.

- How heavy is the Big Ben bell?
- How tall is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai?
- How big is Buckingham Palace?
- How long is the Great Wall of China?
- How wide is the Grand Canyon in Arizona?
- How old is Angkor Wat in Cambodia?

- 829.84 metres from top to bottom.
- Approximately 1,000 years.
- Experts say about 5,500 miles (8,850km).
- It's got 775 rooms.
- It varies from 4 to 13 miles across (6.4-21km).
- It weighs 13.5 tons.

Activity 6 – Put the words in the right spaces. Don't look back at Activity 5!

big	tall	long
wide	old	heavy

- How _____ is the Big Ben bell?
It weighs 13.5 tons.
- How _____ is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai?
829.84 metres from top to bottom.
- How _____ is Buckingham Palace?
It has 775 rooms.
- How _____ is the Great Wall of China?
Experts say about 5,500 miles (8,850km).
- How _____ is the Grand Canyon in Arizona?
It varies from 4 to 13 miles across (6.4-21km).
- How _____ is Angkor Wat in Cambodia?
Approximately 1,000 years.

Activity 7 – All about Big Ben. Put the verbs in the right places.

aren't allowed	is called
was built	was finished
was destroyed	was rung
aren't allowed	is called
was built	was finished
is made	is made
was designed	was designed
were designed	were designed

The first clock tower at the palace of Westminster (1)_____ in 1288. Unfortunately, everything (2)_____ by a terrible fire in 1834. The new palace and tower (3)_____ by Charles Barry and the clock (4)_____ by Edward Denison. The tower took 36 years to build and (5)_____ in 1859. The bottom part of the tower (6)_____ of bricks and stones and the top part is cast iron. The bell of the clock (7)_____ Big Ben. The bell (8)_____ for the first time on 11th July 1859. Nowadays it's a famous tourist attraction, but visitors (9)_____ inside the tower.

Activity 8 – What does 'really' mean? Choose the right answer.

- London's a really popular place for tourists to visit.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- Big Ben is really the name of the bell, not the tower.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- I can't believe you really did that!
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- It was really cold yesterday.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality
- I want to speak English really well.
'Really' means:
a) very/very much
b) in fact/in reality

6. She isn't really unfriendly – she's shy, that's all.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

7. You need to see things as they really are.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

8. I really love pizza.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

9. She's really angry with me.

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

10. But is that story really true?

'Really' means:

- a) very/very much
- b) in fact/in reality

Answers are at the end of this support pack.

Answers**Activity 1**

True: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 False: 4, 5, 6

Activity 2

1. Big Ben is really the name of the bell that rings every hour to tell you what time it is.
2. What other places did people talk about in London?
3. Buckingham Palace is another place lots of people mentioned.
4. Do you know what it means when you see the flag flying above Buckingham Palace?
5. When was the last time you went to Buckingham Palace?
6. The royal family is another thing on our list.
7. What other things in London did people say were typically British?
8. I think we might have to come back to this one another time.

Activity 3

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

Activity 4

1. statue, 2. tower, 3. palace, 4. cathedral, 5. opera house, 6. bridge, 7. monument, 8. mosque, 9. museum, 10. temple

Activity 5

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

Activity 6

1. heavy, 2. tall, 3. big, 4. long, 5. wide, 6. old

Activity 7

1. was built, 2. was destroyed, 3. were designed, 4. was designed, 5. was finished, 6. is made, 7. is called, 8. was rung, 9. aren't allowed

Activity 8

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