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### While you listen

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While you listen, read and answer the questions below.

#### Section 1

1. What do you know about Ravi? Tick all the phrases you think are true. There may be more than one right answer.

- a) he has had his hair cut
- b) he's going to his father's birthday party
- c) he's got one sister and two brothers
- d) he is the youngest brother

#### Section 2

2. What does Muhammed say about Dr Yunus? Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006
- b) he comes from Chittagong in Bangladesh
- c) he's a professor of economics
- d) he started a bank in the United States

#### Section 3

3. How many points does Nikki get in the quiz? Tick the correct number.

- a) none
- b) one
- c) two
- d) three

#### Section 4

4. What does Susan say about taxis in Cairo? Tick all the phrases you think are true. Remember there may be more than one right answer.

- a) they're black and white
- b) they're cheap
- c) they don't have meters to tell you the price
- d) there are special taxis for tourists

#### Section 5

5. Which forms of transport do the people talk about? Tick all the right answers.

- a) plane
- b) underground
- c) bus
- d) train

#### Section 6

6. What do you know about Carolina? Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) she's constipated
- b) she's got a bad cold
- c) she made a mistake with her English
- d) she went to her 10 o'clock class

7. What do you know about Carolina? Tick all the phrases you think are true.

- a) she has an allergy
- b) she's got a sore throat
- c) she's got a temperature
- d) she buys some medicine for her cold

#### Section 7

8. Who understands what 'Woof' means? Tick the correct answer.

- a) the assistant
- b) the dog
- c) both of them
- d) neither of them

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

## Section 1: "Your mum and dad live in Brighton now, don't they?" – Talking about family

Tess: ... What's the party?

Ravi: It's my dad's fiftieth birthday. My mum's organised a surprise party for him.

Tess: Oh, brilliant. What a nice idea. Your mum and dad live in Brighton now, don't they?

Ravi: Yes. They moved down there a couple of years ago. My big sister's still in Manchester though.

Tess: How many brothers and sisters have you got again? I can never remember.

Ravi: I've got one older sister and two younger brothers. Hang on a sec. That's them there.

Tess: You keep a picture of your family in your wallet? How sweet.

Ravi: Yeah. Course I do. That's Asha, my big sister, there. She's 3 years older than me.

Tess: She's really pretty. It's a shame our listeners can't see this. You do realise that Ravi, don't you.

Ravi: I know I know – but it'll only take a minute. That one's Deepak – he's at university in Bristol and that's Vikram. He's still at school.

Tess: Hey, your brothers are both really good-looking. What happened to you?

Ravi: I knew you were going to say that.

Tess: Only joking Ravi. Anyway, we'd better move on – we've got a lot to get through.

### Talking about family

Tess: How many brothers and sisters have you got again? I can never remember.

Ravi: I've got one older sister and two younger brothers. Hang on a sec. That's them there.

Ravi: Asha's my big sister. She's 3 years older than me.

Ravi: Deepak's my middle brother – he's at university in Bristol.

Ravi: Vikram's my little brother. He's still at school.

### These are words we can use to talk about our brothers and sisters:

if you have <b>one</b> brother or sister, you can say	if you have <b>two or more</b> brothers or sisters, you can also say	if you have <b>no</b> brothers or sisters, you can say
(informal → formal) big – older – elder little – younger	(informal → formal) big – oldest – eldest middle – older - younger little – youngest other sister/brother	I haven't got any brothers or sisters  I'm an only child

#### Tom's tip

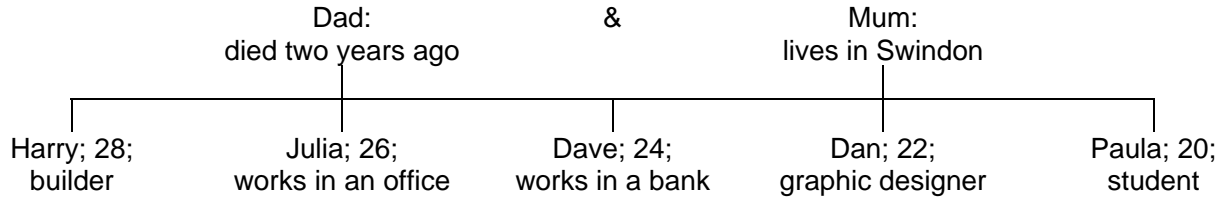
Tom's tip: We can use 'elder' and 'eldest' when we are talking about people in families. 'Elder' means the same as 'older' and 'eldest' means the same as 'oldest'. We use 'elder' and 'eldest' in more formal situations.

### These are words we can use to talk about our parents:

My mother and father live in London My mum and dad live in Scotland	My parents are separated My parents don't live together	My mother/father/mum/dad died a few years ago* My mother/father/mum/dad died when I was (eight)*
<b>Tom's tip:</b> 'mum' and 'dad' are informal words for 'mother' and 'father'. If you say both together, you always say 'My mum and dad' and <b>not</b> 'My dad and mum'. The same is true for 'mother and father'.		<b>*Tom's tip:</b> You should always respond with 'I'm sorry to hear that' in a sympathetic but not emotional way

**Section 1 - Exercise 1**

Look at the family, complete the conversations.



1. Dave telling a friend about his family: *(use informal words)*

Dave: My \_\_\_\_\_'s name is Harry. He's \_\_\_\_\_ older than me. He \_\_\_\_\_ builder. Julia's my \_\_\_\_\_. She works in an office. Dan's \_\_\_\_\_ brother. He \_\_\_\_\_. And finally there's Paula, my \_\_\_\_\_. She's a student.

2. Dan talking about his family in an interview: *(use more formal words)*

Interviewer: Tell us about your family.

Dan: Well, my \_\_\_\_\_ died two years ago, but my \_\_\_\_\_ still lives in Swindon. My \_\_\_\_\_ is a builder and my \_\_\_\_\_, Dave, works in a bank. I have \_\_\_\_\_, Julia and a \_\_\_\_\_, Paula, who's still at university.

3. Paula telling a friend about her family:

Paula: Well, I've got \_\_\_\_\_ brothers and \_\_\_\_\_. My \_\_\_\_\_, Harry, works in the building trade. My \_\_\_\_\_, Dave, works in banking and my \_\_\_\_\_, Dan, is a bit of an artist. I've got \_\_\_\_\_, Julia, who's an office worker. My \_\_\_\_\_ lives in Swindon, but my \_\_\_\_\_ died a couple of years ago.

Friend: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

*Compare your answers with the texts on the answer page.*

**Section 1 – Exercise 2**

1. Now describe your family to a friend:

2. Now describe your family in a more formal situation:

**Section 2: I’d like to meet**

You listened to Muhammed talking about Dr. Muhammed Yunus, the Nobel Prize winner.

Can you think of a Nobel Prize winner that you’d like to meet? Or you could tell us about a famous person from your home town or city.

If you can think of someone, make some notes to answer these questions:

- What’s his name?
- Where is he from?
- Why is he famous?
- If he won the Nobel Prize, when was it? What was it for?
- If he isn’t alive now, when did he live?
- What do you know about his life?
- Why do you like him?
- Is he famous for other things too?
- Do you admire him? Why?
- What would you like to talk to him about?
- What questions would you like to ask him?

Now put your notes together to write a paragraph about the person and why you’d like to meet him/her. If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

You can read the transcript on the next page.

[www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish)

**Transcript**

Tess: OK. In this part of the podcast we ask people a simple question – which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet? And we ask them to explain why. So let’s say hello to this week’s guest, Muhammed from Manchester. Hi Muhammed. Welcome to ‘I’d like to meet’.

Muhammed: Hi Tess and Ravi

Ravi: Hi Muhammed. [...]

Tess: OK. Now, who are you going to talk about today Muhammed – who’s the person that you’d like to meet – if you had the chance?

Muhammed: I want to talk about Muhammed Yunus.

Tess: OK. Off you go.

Muhammed: Well, he’s from Bangladesh – from Chittagong actually – that’s where my dad’s family came from – we’ve still got relations living there. And I think everyone knows his name now – since he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 – well he won it with his bank.

Ravi: A bank won the Nobel peace prize?

Muhammed: Yes. The Grameen Bank? Microcredit?

Ravi: Well, yeah, it sounds familiar.

Muhammed: It's a bank for poor people.

Tess: Perhaps you'd better explain how it works Muhammed.

Muhammed: Well, it all started when he - Dr Yunus - he's a professor of economics - he visited a village outside Chittagong, and he talked to a very poor woman - and he realised that she only needed a small amount of money - just a couple of dollars - and then she could buy materials to make things and sell them and earn money. She couldn't borrow money from the bank because they didn't believe that she would pay it back. He found more people in the same situation - think it was forty-two people in the village - and all of them together only needed twenty-seven dollars -- that's all they needed to be able to start making money for themselves. So he lent them the money - and they all paid it back to him later. Then he went to other villages and did the same thing. So he started his own bank - the Grameen Bank - to lend small amounts of money to poor people, mostly women actually. That's what microcredit means.

Tess: What kinds of things do they use the money for?

Muhammed: Well, a woman can buy a cow, and then she can sell the milk and pay to send her children to school. Or she could buy a mobile phone - the villages don't have telephones - and then people can pay to use her phone. They aren't expensive things - it just means that poor people can start to earn money. And now the Grameen Bank lends millions and millions of dollars to people.

Ravi: And they all pay it back?

Muhammed: Most of them yes - something like 99 per cent. And now countries like the United States and Britain are using the idea too, it's all over the world - so - well, I think he's brilliant - a real hero. That's what I'd like to say to him.

Tess: Well thank you Muhammed. That was really interesting.

Muhammed: Thanks.

Ravi: There's an old joke isn't there - something about 'a bank will only lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it'.

Tess: Well yes - it's true isn't it! I'd never really thought about it before.

Ravi: No, nor me.

### Section 3: Quiz

#### Exercise 1

The quiz in this podcast was called 'Beginning with...' - for example, 'think of a sport beginning with 'B' - the answer could be 'baseball' or 'basketball' for example - there are lots of possibilities. Playing this game is a good way to revise and learn new vocabulary. Put the words in the correct box.

	Clothes	Jobs	Animals
B...			
J...			
S...			
T...			

baboon	bra	journalist	shirt	surgeon	tracksuit
bear	buffalo	judge	shorts	taxi driver	trainers
beautician	builder	jumper	skirt	teacher	translator
beaver	butcher	sailor	snake	tie	travel agent
belt	jackal	scarf	social worker	tiger	trousers
bison	jacket	seal	soldier	tights	turtle
blouse	jaguar	secretary	stockbroker	top	
bodyguard	jeans	sheep	suit	tortoise	

Compare your answers with the answer page.

## Exercise 2

You can play 'Beginning with...' by yourself, or with a friend. Here are some ideas:

- |              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| • sports     | • jobs   | • things you can see in the street/at the beach |
| • animals    | • things in the kitchen/bedroom/living room/classroom/office | • things that you can see at this moment        |
| • fruit      | • transport  |   |
| • vegetables | • countries/nationalities                                    |   |
| • food       | • colours  |   |
| • drink      |  |   |
| • clothes    |  |   |

Now write some letters of the alphabet on a piece of paper, and play the game.

## Section 4: Our person in...

You listened to Susan Harold talking about the taxis in Cairo.

Can you tell people about the transport in your city or town? Maybe your city has trams, or ferry boats across a river, or a more unusual form of transport.

Think about these questions:

- What forms of transport do you have in your city?
- Describe the transport. Is it cheap? Expensive? Fast? Slow? Modern? Traditional?
- How do you usually travel?
- How do most people get to work? By train? By taxi? On bicycles?
- If you have tourists in your city, how do they travel?
- What are the taxis like in your city? How do people pay?

Now write a paragraph about the transport in your city or town. If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org) The transcript is on the next page.

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**Transcript****Our Woman in Egypt.**

Susan: When I first arrived in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, 10 years ago, I was working as a teacher. I had lessons in different parts of the city and I had to take a lot of taxis – the underground in Cairo doesn't cover many areas of this huge city. Black and white taxis are a familiar sight here and it's a cheap way to travel but I found it very difficult.

The big question was – how much do I have to pay? I watched my Egyptian friends in taxis. They didn't ask the driver "how much?" at the start of the journey, there was no meter in the car to say how much and they didn't ask 'how much?' at the end of the journey – they just handed over the correct amount of money and walked away. "But how do you know how much to pay?" I would ask. A shrug of the shoulders, "We just know."

Gradually, over the years, I have started to understand the payment system in Cairo taxis. There are several things to think about. How far are you going? How long will you spend in the car? What time of day is it? How many people are in the car? My Egyptian friends can make all the calculations and *know* exactly how much to pay without a word being spoken.

Unfortunately, the rules can be different for tourists. You might have to pay more if you travel to or from one of the big international hotels in the city. In fact, you might have to pay a little bit just because you're a tourist. But don't let that stop you taking taxis in Cairo. In my opinion, there's no better way to really see the life of this amazing city.

**Section 5: Your turn**

In Your Turn you heard 5 people answer this question: **'What's the best way to travel?'**  
What do you think? What's your favourite way of travelling?

Here are the things people talked about:

- flying
- travelling by train
- riding a bicycle
- driving
- going by underground
- walking

Maybe you agree with one of them, or maybe you can think of something different. Write down your opinion and try to explain why it's the best way to travel.

If you want, you can send your paragraph to [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org)

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## Transcript

**Tess:** It's time for Your Turn when we go out into the street to find out what people think. And the question this time was 'What's the best way to travel?'

**Ravi:** Actually, that's quite a difficult question. Erm .. I think I'd say flying. Except it's really bad for the planet.

**Tess:** Well, let's hear what our people said.

**Voice 1:** Oh, by train. Definitely. You know, you can get up and walk around and you can't really do that in a plane or a car. And you can just sit and watch the world go by. Not too fast, not too slow. Just right.

**Voice 2:** Well, I shouldn't really say this but I love driving. It gives you that feeling of independence that you don't get with any other transport. You can just go wherever you want. The world's your oyster. I'd love to drive all the way across America one day.

**Voice 3:** I know lots of people don't like it but I really like flying. I still think it's amazing that we can do it. When you stop to think about it, it's incredible. And I love the view from up there. Mind you, it's really bad for the planet, I suppose.

**Voice 4:** Well I've travelled on the underground today but if I had to say what the best way to travel is I'd say bicycle. I think it's the satisfaction of getting around by your own effort. And it's good for you.

**Voice 5:** I'd probably say 'on foot', really. I mean, it depends. I love walking in the countryside – it's not so much fun in the city, I guess. I'll tell you what *isn't* the best way to travel. Flying. I hate it. I'm terrified.

**Ravi:** Nah, I disagree, I really like flying. What about you Tess?

**Tess:** I'm surprised that nobody said 'boat'. I love travelling by boat. We went on a boat holiday when I was a kid – I loved it.

## Section 6: Carolina

### Section 6 - Exercise 1

Look at some parts of Carolina's conversation at the chemist's. Put the words and phrases in the right places.

And how much is that for the medicines?	How often do I have to take it?	I've only been here a few weeks.
and my head hurts too.	I don't think so.	Should I take anything else?
Have you got anything I can take?	I hope so.	What's that?

Chemist: Good morning. Can I help you?

Carolina: Yes please. I can't stop sneezing. (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Is it a cold or an allergy?

Carolina: It's a cold. I don't have any allergies, at least (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Have you got any other symptoms? A sore throat? A headache? A cough?

Carolina: Yes, my throat hurts – it hurts when I eat or drink, (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Have you got a temperature?

Carolina: A temperature? (4) \_\_\_\_\_ I'm sorry, my English is terrible today.

Chemist: Are you allergic to any medicines?

Carolina: No, no I'm not. (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Two spoonfuls, four times a day.

Carolina: (6) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Vitamin C will help. Here you are.

Chemist: Where are you from, if you don't mind me asking?

Carolina: Venezuela. (7) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Ah. Venezuela. I expect our English weather is a bit too cold for you then. Spend the rest of the day in bed and keep warm. You'll feel a lot better tomorrow.

Carolina: (8) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: If you still feel terrible in two or three days then you should go and see a doctor.

Carolina: Thank you very much. (9) \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document*



**Section 6 - Exercise 2**

Look again at Carolina's conversations. Choose all the phrases that people can say – there is always more than one correct answer.

1. Chemist: Good morning. Can I help you?  
Carolina: Yes please. I can't stop sneezing. \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a) Have you got anything I can take?
  - b) Do you have anything I can take?
  - c) What should I take?
  - d) What will I take?
  
2. Chemist: Is it a cold or an allergy?  
Carolina: It's a cold. I don't have any allergies, at least \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) I don't think I have.
  - b) I think that no
  - c) I don't think so
  - d) I think I don't have
  
3. Chemist: Have you got any other symptoms? A sore throat? A headache? A cough?  
Carolina: Yes, my throat hurts – it hurts when I eat or drink, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) I've got a headache too
  - b) my head aches too
  - c) I've got a sore head too
  - d) my head hurts too
  
4. Chemist: Have you got a temperature?  
Carolina: A temperature? \_\_\_\_\_? I'm sorry, my English is terrible today.
  - a) What's that?
  - b) What do you say?
  - c) What does 'temperature' mean?
  - d) What do you mean?
  
5. Chemist: OK. It sounds like a bad cold. Let's see ... this should help. Are you allergic to any medicines?  
Carolina: No, no I'm not. \_\_\_\_\_?  
Chemist: Two spoonfuls, four times a day. The instructions are on the bottle.
  - a) What should I take?
  - b) How often do I have to take it?
  - c) How much should I take?
  - d) When should I take it?
  
6. Chemist: Don't take it if you're driving, it might make you sleepy.  
Carolina: That's OK. I just want to go to bed. \_\_\_\_\_?  
Chemist: Vitamin C will help. Here you are.
  - a) Should I take anything else?
  - b) Is there anything else I should take?
  - c) What more should I take?
  - d) What else should I take?
  
7. Chemist: Where are you from, if you don't mind me asking?  
Carolina: Venezuela. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) I've only been here a few weeks
  - b) I haven't been here very long
  - c) I'm here a few weeks
  - d) I was here a few weeks

8. Chemist: Spend the rest of the day in bed and keep warm. You'll feel a lot better tomorrow.

Carolina: \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a) I hope so
- b) I hope yes
- c) I hope I will
- d) I hope it

9. Chemist: If you still feel terrible in two or three days then you should go and see a doctor.

Carolina: Thank you very much. And \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- a) How much is that for the medicines?
- b) How much are the medicines?
- c) What is the cost for the medicines?
- d) How much do the medicines cost?

*Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document*

### Section 6 - Exercise 3

Imagine that you are in the UK, and you aren't feeling very well. Maybe you've got a bad cold like Carolina. Talk to the chemist. Then why not practise the dialogue with a friend?

Chemist: Good morning. Can I help you?

You: Yes, I hope so. (tell the chemist what's wrong) \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Have you got a sore throat? A headache? A cough?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: And have you got a temperature?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Have you got any allergies?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: OK. Well, this should help.

You: \_\_\_\_\_?

Chemist: Two spoonfuls, four times a day. The instructions are on the bottle. Don't take it if you're driving, it might make you sleepy.

You: \_\_\_\_\_?

Chemist: Vitamin C will help. Here you are. Take one of these three times a day. And drink plenty of water.

Where are you from, if you don't mind me asking?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Chemist: Ah. That's a nice place. Have you been in Britain long?

You: \_\_\_\_\_

Spend the rest of the day in bed. You'll feel a lot better tomorrow.

You: \_\_\_\_\_.

Chemist: If you still feel terrible in two or three days then you should go and see a doctor.

You: \_\_\_\_\_?

Chemist: That's £9.50 please

You: \_\_\_\_\_

**Transcript**

Tess: OK. Time now to find out how Carolina's getting on in Newcastle. Carolina, you might remember, is a student from Venezuela who's come to Britain to live, study and have fun. Last time we listened, Carolina joined some societies at the university but this time she's not feeling too well.

**In the shared residence kitchen**

Carolina: Hi Emily.

Emily: Hi. What are you doing here? I thought you had a seminar at 10 o'clock.

Carolina: I did, but I'm not feeling very well. (*she sneezes*)

Emily: Bless you! You sound terrible. You'd better go to bed. Did you tell your tutor that you were ill?

Carolina: No, I was early, he wasn't there, but I left a note on the door. I said I was sorry, but I was very constipated.

Emily: Constipated? Why did you tell him you were constipated?

Carolina: Well, because I am. (*she sneezes*) See, I can't stop sneezing.

Emily: You don't sneeze when you're constipated. Constipated means that you can't go to the toilet, you know, you're blocked ..... , you know, you try and try but you can't .... well you know.

Carolina: Oh no! I was thinking in Spanish! In Spanish we say I'm constipada! (*she sneezes*)

Emily: Well in English it's a cold. You say I've got a cold – a bad cold.

Carolina: I knew that! I've got a cold! What a stupid mistake! It's because I'm ill – my head feels like it's full of, I don't know, ..... cake.

Emily: Cake?!

Carolina: And I left a note on the door. Everyone's going to laugh at me.

Emily: No they won't. Don't be silly. Everyone knows English isn't your first language – you made a mistake that's all.

Carolina: But they won't know it's a mistake. (*she sneezes*) They'll think I wanted to tell everyone that I was constipated, that I couldn't go to the toilet. Oh, I want to go home to Venezuela.

Emily: Look, it's not ten o'clock yet. I'll go the room and take the note off the door and explain to.... who?

Carolina: Professor Grogan. Room 102. It'll be too late.

Emily: And you can go to the chemist's and get yourself something to take. Then come back here and go to bed. You look awful. Have some hot lemon and honey – that's what my mother always gives me.

Carolina: (*she sneezes*) OK, thanks a lot Emily.

**At the chemist's**

Chemist: Good morning. Can I help you?

Carolina: (*she sneezes*) Yes please. I can't stop sneezing. (*she sneezes*) Have you got anything I can take?

Chemist: Is it a cold or an allergy?

Carolina: It's a cold. I don't have any allergies, at least I don't think so.

Chemist: Have you got any other symptoms? (*Carolina sneezes*) A sore throat? A headache? A cough?

Carolina: Yes, my throat hurts – it hurts when I eat or drink, and my head hurts too.

Chemist: Have you got a temperature?

Carolina: A temperature? (*she sneezes*) What's that? I'm sorry, my English is terrible today.

Chemist: You know, have you got a high temperature, do you feel hot? Is your face hot?

Carolina: You mean a fever? Yes, yes, I think so, my face is hot but my body feels cold.

Chemist: OK. It sounds like a bad cold. Let's see ... .. this should help. Are you allergic to any medicines?

Carolina: No, no I'm not. How often do I have to take it?

Chemist: Two spoonfuls, four times a day. The instructions are on the bottle. Don't take it if you're driving, it might make you sleepy.

Carolina: That's OK. I just want to go to bed. Should I take anything else?

Chemist: Vitamin C will help. Here you are. Take one of these three times a day. And drink plenty of water. Where are you from, if you don't mind me asking?

Carolina: Venezuela. I've only been here a few weeks.

Chemist: Ah. Venezuela. I expect our English weather is a bit too cold for you then. Spend the rest of the day in bed and keep warm. You'll feel a lot better tomorrow.

Carolina: I hope so.

Chemist: If you still feel terrible in two or three days then you should go and see a doctor.

Carolina: Thank you very much. And how much is that for the medicines?

## 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.

	"That's fine, just fill in your name and address on this form and then write your advert in the box underneath."
	... "Woof, woof, woof. Woof, woof. Woof, woof, woof, woof."
	"OK", says the dog.
	"That wouldn't make any sense at all."
	"Why don't you add another 'woof'?"
	"You can have another one for no extra charge – it's ten words for five pounds."
	"You know you've got nine woofs here."
	A dog goes to put an advert in a newspaper, to find a girlfriend.
	He fills in the form and then he stops to think for a bit and then he writes in the box...
	He gives the paper to the assistant and she has a look at it and says to the dog,
	The assistant at the newspaper says
	The dog looks really confused. "Another woof?"

### 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.

- A dog / an advert / newspaper, to / a girlfriend.
- The assistant at the newspaper /
- "That's fine, just / name and address on this form and then / in the box underneath."
- "OK", / the dog.
- He / the form and then he / for a bit and then he / box
- "Woof, woof, woof. Woof, woof. Woof, woof, woof, woof."
- He / the paper / the assistant and she / at it and / to the dog,
- "You know / nine woofs here."
- "You can have / for no extra charge – it's ten words / five pounds."
- "Why / add another 'woof'?"
- The dog / really confused. "Another woof?"
- "That wouldn't / at all."

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 1 – 'sounds' and 'looks'

Here are some examples of people using 'sounds' and 'looks'. Look at the list of 'first parts'. Which 'second part' follows it? Draw a line from Column A to the right example from Column B.

Column A: First parts...		Column B ...Second parts
You look nice!		because he wanted to look smart for his father's birthday party.
The sky looks very black.		but I promise it's true!
The hotel looked really nice in the picture		but I think she looks a lot older.
Tess has just told me all about her new cat.		but when we got there it was horrible.
She's only sixteen		He looks really cute.
Ravi had his hair cut		He sounded terrible on the phone.
Listen to those people shouting in the street.		He sounds really cute.
Jane talks about her new job all the time.		I think it's going to rain.
I've just seen a photo of Tess's new cat.		Is that a new shirt?
I know my story sounds crazy		It sounds very interesting.
Did you see Sarah at the party?		She looked fantastic in that black dress.
Dave's just phoned to say he's ill and isn't coming to work today.		They sound really angry.

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 2

Fill in the spaces with a word from the box.

look	looks	looks	looked	sounds	sounds
look	looks	looked	sound	sounds	sounded

- You \_\_\_\_\_ nice! Is that a new shirt?
- The sky \_\_\_\_\_ very black. I think it's going to rain.
- The hotel \_\_\_\_\_ really nice in the picture but when we got there it was horrible.
- Tess has just told me all about her new cat. He \_\_\_\_\_ really cute.
- She's only sixteen but I think she \_\_\_\_\_ a lot older.
- Ravi had his hair cut because he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ smart for his father's birthday party.
- Listen to those people shouting in the street. They \_\_\_\_\_ really angry.
- Jane talks about her new job all the time. It \_\_\_\_\_ very interesting.
- I've just seen a photo of Tess's new cat. He \_\_\_\_\_ really cute.
- I know my story \_\_\_\_\_ crazy, but I promise it's true!
- Did you see Sarah at the party? She \_\_\_\_\_ fantastic in that dress.
- Dave's just phoned to say he's ill and isn't coming to work today. He \_\_\_\_\_ terrible on the phone.

Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document

**Tom the teacher - Exercise 3**

Are these words 'false friends' in your language?

Choose the correct word for each sentence.

1. If you are coughing and sneezing, then you may \_\_\_\_\_  
a) be constipated      b) have a cold
2. If someone gets upset easily we can say that he or she is very \_\_\_\_\_  
a) sensible      b) sensitive
3. If someone is kind and friendly, we can say he or she is \_\_\_\_\_  
a) sympathetic      b) nice
4. Jobs at home, like cleaning and washing the dishes is called \_\_\_\_\_  
a) housework      b) homework
5. The person that you work for is called your \_\_\_\_\_  
a) chief      b) boss
6. A big building with lots of shops is called a \_\_\_\_\_  
a) shopping centre      b) shopping
7. If you are planning to do something, we can say that you \_\_\_\_\_ to do it.  
a) pretend      b) intend
8. A place where you buy books is called a \_\_\_\_\_  
a) library      b) bookshop
9. If you always remember to say 'please' and 'thank you', you are \_\_\_\_\_  
a) polite      b) educated
- 10 Your teachers probably say that you must \_\_\_\_\_ all of the classes if you want to make progress.  
a) assist      b) attend
11. Two hundred years ago, buses and coaches were \_\_\_\_\_ by horses.  
a) pushed      b) pulled
12. A formal man's jacket is called a \_\_\_\_\_  
a) dinner jacket      b) smoking

*Answers: see Answer page at the end of this document*

## Answers

### While you listen – Answers

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

### Section 1 - "Your mum and dad live in Brighton now, don't they?" – Answers

1. Dave: My **big/older brother's** name is Harry. He's **four years** older than me. He's **a builder**. Julia's my **big/older sister**. She works in an office. Dan's **my little/younger brother**. He's **a graphic designer**. And finally there's Paula, my **little/younger sister**. She's a student.

2. Interviewer: Tell us about your family.

Dan: Well, my **father** died two years ago, but my **mother** still lives in Swindon. My **oldest/eldest brother** is a builder and my **older/elder brother**, Dave, works in a bank. I have **an older/elder sister**, Julia and a **younger sister**, Paula, who's still at university.

3. Paula: Well, I've got **three** brothers and **a/one sister**. My **oldest brother**, Harry, works in the building trade. My **middle brother**, Dave, works in banking and my **other/youngest brother**, Dan, is a bit of an artist. I've got **a/an/one big/older sister**, Julia, who's an office worker. My **mum/mother** lives in Swindon, but my **dad/father** died a couple of years ago.

Friend: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

### Section 1: Exercise 2

1-c; 2-a; 3-b; 4-f; 5-d; 6-e; 7-h; 8-l; 9-g; 10-k; 11-l; 12-j; 13-n; 14-o; 15-m

### Section 3: Quiz – Exercise 1 -Answers

**Clothes:** blouse, belt, bra, jeans, jumper, jacket, skirt, suit, shirt, scarf, shorts, trousers, trainers, top, tie, tights, tracksuit. **Jobs:** butcher, builder, beautician, bodyguard, journalist, judge, secretary, social worker, sailor, soldier, surgeon, stockbroker, taxi driver, teacher, travel agent, translator. **Animals:** bear, bison, buffalo, beaver, baboon, jackal, jaguar, sheep, seal, snake, tiger, turtle, tortoise.

### Section 6: Carolina - Exercise 1 - Answers

1. Have you got anything I can take?
2. I don't think so.
3. and my head hurts too.
4. What's that?
5. How often do I have to take it?
6. Should I take anything else?
7. I've only been here a few weeks.
8. I hope so.
9. And how much is that for the medicines?

### Section 6: Carolina - Exercise 2 - Answers

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

### Section 7: the Joke: transcript

A dog goes to put an advert in a newspaper, to find a girlfriend.

The assistant at the newspaper says "That's fine, just fill in your name and address on this form and then write your advert in the box underneath."

"OK", says the dog.

He fills in the form and then he stops to think for a bit and then he writes in the box "Woof, woof, woof. Woof, woof. Woof, woof, woof, woof."

He gives the paper to the assistant and she has a look at it and says to the dog, "You know you've got nine woofs here. You can have another one for no extra charge – it's ten words for five pounds. Why don't you add another 'woof'?" The dog looks really confused. "Another woof? That wouldn't make any sense at all."

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 1 - Answers

1. You look nice! Is that a new shirt?
2. The sky looks very black. I think it's going to rain.
3. The hotel looked really nice in the picture but when we got there it was horrible.
4. Tess has just told me all about her new cat. He sounds really cute.
5. She's only sixteen but I think she looks a lot older.
6. Ravi had his hair cut because he wanted to look smart for his father's birthday party.
7. Listen to those people shouting in the street. They sound really angry.
8. Jane talks about her new job all the time. It sounds very interesting.
9. I've just seen a photo of Tess's new cat. He looks really cute.
10. I know my story sounds crazy, but I promise it's true!
11. Did you see Sarah at the party? She looked fantastic in that dress.
12. Dave's just phoned to say he's ill and isn't coming to work today. He sounded terrible on the phone.

### Tom the teacher – Exercise 2 - Answers

1. look
2. looks
3. looked
4. sounds
5. looks
6. look
7. sound
8. sounds
9. looks
10. sounds
11. looked
12. sounded

### Tom the teacher - Exercise 3 - Answers

1) b; 2) b; 3) b; 4) a; 5) b; 6) a; 7) b; 8) b; 9) a; 10) b; 11) b; 12) a

## Transcript

Download the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast. You'll find all the details on this page:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/elementary-podcast>

### Section 1 – "Your mum and dad live in Brighton now, don't they?" – Talking about family

Ravi: Hello hello and welcome to the LearnEnglish Elementary podcast number seven. I'm Ravi, from Manchester ...

Tess: And I'm Tess, from London. As usual we've got lots of interesting stuff for you to listen to – we've got the quiz, we've got Carolina ... and .. we've got our producer Gordon, as usual. Hello Gordon.

Gordon: Hi Tess. Hi Ravi.

Tess: Hiya. Have you had your hair cut Ravi?

Ravi: I have, yeah, do you like it?

Tess: Yeah, I do, it's nice. It's quite short for you. Shorter than usual. Are you changing your image?

Ravi: No, not really. I just fancied a change, you know. And I've got a big family party this weekend so I thought I'd get my hair cut for that.

Tess: You want to look smart. Fair enough. What's the party?

Ravi: It's my dad's fiftieth birthday. My mum's organised a surprise party for him.

Tess: Oh, brilliant. What a nice idea. Your mum and dad live in Brighton now, don't they?

Ravi: Yes. They moved down there a couple of years ago. My big sister's still in Manchester though.

Tess: How many brothers and sisters have you got again? I can never remember.

Ravi: I've got one older sister and two younger brothers. Hang on a sec. That's them there.

Tess: You keep a picture of your family in your wallet? How sweet.

Ravi: Yeah. Course I do. That's Asha, my big sister, there. She's 3 years older than me.

Tess: She's really pretty. It's a shame our listeners can't see this. You do realise that Ravi, don't you.

Ravi: I know I know – but it'll only take a minute. That one's Deepak – he's at university in Bristol and that's Vikram. He's still at school.

Tess: Hey, your brothers are both really good-looking. What happened to you?

Ravi: I knew you were going to say that.

Tess: Only joking Ravi. Anyway, we'd better move on – we've got a lot to get through.

### Section 2 – I'd like to meet

Ravi: Right. So let's start with I'd Like to Meet.

Tess: OK. In this part of the podcast we ask people a simple question – which famous person, dead or alive would you like to meet? And we ask them to explain why. So let's say hello to this week's guest, Muhammed from Manchester. Hi Muhammed.

Welcome to 'I'd like to meet'.

Muhammed: Hi Tess and Ravi

Ravi: Hi Muhammed. So you're a Manchester boy like me. Good football team eh.

Muhammed: Which one?

Ravi: Which one!? No – don't tell me you're a Manchester City supporter! Noooo!

Muhammed: I'm afraid so. Sorry Ravi.

Tess: Ravi can't speak – so I'll continue. What do you do Muhammed?

Muhammed: I'm at college at the moment - but when I finish I want to join the police.

Tess: You want to be a policeman. What made you decide to do that?

Muhammed: My uncle's a policeman. I don't know really – it's just something I've always wanted to do.

Tess: OK. Now, who are you going to talk about today Muhammed – who's the person that you'd like to meet – if you had the chance?

Muhammed: I want to talk about Muhammed Yunus.

Tess: OK. Off you go.

Muhammed: Well, he's from Bangladesh – from Chittagong actually – that's where my dad's family came from – we've still got relations living there.

And I think everyone knows his name now – since he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 – well he won it with his bank.

Ravi: A bank won the Nobel peace prize?

Muhammed: Yes. The Grameen Bank? Microcredit?

Ravi: Well, yeah, it sounds familiar.

Muhammed: It's a bank for poor people.

Tess: Perhaps you'd better explain how it works Muhammed.

Muhammed: Well, it all started when he - Dr Yunus – he's a professor of economics - he visited a village outside Chittagong, and he talked to a very poor woman – and he realised that she only needed a small amount of money – just a couple of dollars – and then she could buy materials to make things and sell them and earn money. She couldn't borrow money from the bank because they didn't believe that she would pay it back. He found more people in the same situation - think it was forty-two people in the village – and all of them together only needed twenty-seven dollars -- that's all they needed to be able to start making money for themselves. So he lent them the money - and they



all paid it back to him later. Then he went to other villages and did the same thing. So he started his own bank – the Grameen Bank – to lend small amounts of money to poor people, mostly women actually. That’s what microcredit means.

Tess: What kinds of things do they use the money for?

Muhammed: Well, a woman can buy a cow, and then she can sell the milk and pay to send her children to school. Or she could buy a mobile phone – the villages don’t have telephones – and then people can pay to use her phone. They aren’t expensive things – it just means that poor people can start to earn money. And now the Grameen Bank lends millions and millions of dollars to people.

Ravi: And they all pay it back?

Muhammed: Most of them yes – something like 99 per cent. And now countries like the United States and Britain are using the idea too, it’s all over the world - so – well, I think he’s brilliant – a real hero. That’s what I’d like to say to him.

Tess: Well thank you Muhammed. That was really interesting.

Muhammed: Thanks.

Ravi: There’s an old joke isn’t there – something about ‘a bank will only lend you money if you can prove that you don’t need it’.

Tess: Well yes – it’s true isn’t it! I’d never really thought about it before.

Ravi: No, nor me.

### Section 3 – Quiz

Ravi: OK. Let’s move on now to quiz time. A little game to make you think. Let’s see who we’ve got on the phone today. Hello?

Niall: *(on phone)* Hi Ravi.

Ravi: Niall? Hello Niall, where are you calling from?

Niall: From Belfast.

Ravi: Ah, Northern Ireland. Lovely. And what do you do Niall?

Niall: Well, I work in a shop but I’m going to university soon.

Ravi: OK. What are you going to study?

Niall: Spanish

Ravi: Ah. Buenos días!

Niall: Buenos días, Ravi

Ravi: Actually, that’s all the Spanish I know. OK, so we’ve got Niall from Belfast and Nikki. Hi Nikki.

Nikki: *(on phone)* Hi Ravi

Ravi: And where are you from Nikki?

Nikki: From Luton. North of London.

Ravi: I know it well. My uncle lives there. And what do you do Nikki?

Nikki: I work in a garden centre.

Ravi: Very nice. Right. We’re going to play ‘Something Beginning with’ again. I’m sure you both know how to play but I’ll explain the rules. I’m going to ask the questions and when you know the answer you press any button on your phone. Let’s hear your buzzer, Niall. *(Niall’s buzzer)*. And yours Nikki *(Nikki’s buzzer)*. Right. I ask the questions and give you a letter. So, I might say for example “A sport beginning with ‘F’” and when you think of a sport beginning with ‘F’ you press your buzzer. Can either of you think of a sport beginning with ‘F’?

*(Niall’s buzzer)*

Niall: Football

Ravi: Exactly. The winner is the first person to get three answers right. Are you both ready?

Niall/Nikki: Ready/OK

Ravi: Then let’s go. Can you tell me a fruit beginning with ‘C’?

*(Nikki’s buzzer)*

Ravi: Nikki

Nikki: Cherry

Ravi: Yes. One nil to Nikki. Can you tell me a means of transport beginning with ‘T’?

*(Niall’s buzzer)*

Ravi: Niall.

Niall: Train.

Ravi: Yes. One one. Next one. Can you tell me an animal beginning with ‘F’?

*(Niall’s buzzer)*

Ravi: Niall.

Niall: Fox.

Ravi: Yes. Two one to Niall. Can you tell me an item of clothing beginning with ‘S’?

*(Nikki’s buzzer)*

Ravi: Nikki.

Nikki: Socks

Ravi: Yes. Two two. So this one is the decider.

Ready? Can you tell me ... a vegetable beginning with ‘C’?

*(Niall’s buzzer)*

Ravi: Niall!

Niall: Cauliflower.

Ravi: Cauliflower. Yes. So Niall is today’s winner.

Well done Niall. Bad luck Nikki. The podcast book token will be on its way to you soon to buy any book you want. You can get a Spanish book.

Niall: I might do that Ravi.

Ravi: OK. Thanks to both of you for playing and the rest of you, remember you can send your ideas for games to us at

learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org.

### Section 4 – Our person in

Tess: Right. Let’s move on now to Our Person In.

This is the part of the podcast when we hear from

different people all over the world. This time, Susan Harold is Our Woman in Egypt.

Susan: When I first arrived in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, 10 years ago, I was working as a teacher. I had lessons in different parts of the city and I had to take a lot of taxis – the underground in Cairo doesn't cover many areas of this huge city. Black and white taxis are a familiar sight here and it's a cheap way to travel but I found it very difficult.

The big question was – how much do I have to pay? I watched my Egyptian friends in taxis. They didn't ask the driver "how much?" at the start of the journey, there was no meter in the car to say how much and they didn't ask 'how much?' at the end of the journey – they just handed over the correct amount of money and walked away. "But how do you know how much to pay?" I would ask. A shrug of the shoulders, "We just know."

Gradually, over the years, I have started to understand the payment system in Cairo taxis. There are several things to think about. How far are you going? How long will you spend in the car? What time of day is it? How many people are in the car? My Egyptian friends can make all the calculations and *know* exactly how much to pay without a word being spoken.

Unfortunately, the rules can be different for tourists. You might have to pay more if you travel to or from one of the big international hotels in the city. In fact, you might have to pay a little bit just because you're a tourist. But don't let that stop you taking taxis in Cairo. In my opinion, there's no better way to really see the life of this amazing city.

Ravi: I went to Cairo on holiday a couple of years ago and it was unbelievable. I mean, it's a fantastic city, the pyramids are just incredible and everything but it's just so big and the traffic ...oof!

Tess: Did you take a taxi?

Ravi: I didn't. I was too scared to cross the road most of the time. I'd love to go back though.

Tess: Well, listeners, remember that you have the chance to join in too. This time we'd like to hear about taking a taxi in your country. You can send it to us at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). Actually, taxi might be one of the answers in the next part of the podcast.

## Section 5 – Your turn

Tess: It's time for Your Turn when we go out into the street to find out what people think. And the

question this time was 'What's the best way to travel?'

Ravi: Actually, that's quite a difficult question.

Erm .. I think I'd say flying. Except it's really bad for the planet.

Tess: Well, let's hear what our people said.

Voice 1: Oh, by train. Definitely. You know, you can get up and walk around and you can't really do that in a plane or a car. And you can just sit and watch the world go by. Not too fast, not too slow. Just right.

Voice 2: Well, I shouldn't really say this but I love driving. It gives you that feeling of independence that you don't get with any other transport. You can just go wherever you want. The world's your oyster. I'd *love* to drive all the way across America one day.

Voice 3: I know lots of people don't like it but I really like flying. I still think it's amazing that we can do it. When you stop to think about it, it's incredible. And I love the view from up there. Mind you, it's really bad for the planet, I suppose.

Voice 4: Well I've travelled on the underground today but if I had to say what the best way to travel is I'd say bicycle. I think it's the satisfaction of getting around by your own effort. And it's good for you.

Voice 5: I'd probably say 'on foot', really. I mean, it depends. I *love* walking in the countryside – it's not so much fun in the city, I guess. I'll tell you what *isn't* the best way to travel. Flying. I *hate* it. I'm *terrified*.

Ravi: Nah, I disagree, I really like flying. What about you Tess?

Tess: I'm surprised that nobody said 'boat'. I love travelling by boat. We went on a boat holiday when I was a kid – I loved it.

Ravi: And we'd love to hear what all of you out there think. What do *you* think is the best way to travel? Write and let us know.

[learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).

## Section 6 – Carolina

Tess: OK. Time now to find out how Carolina's getting on in Newcastle. Carolina, you might remember, is a student from Venezuela who's come to Britain to live, study and have fun. Last time we listened, Carolina joined some societies at

the university but this time she's not feeling too well.

### *In the shared residence kitchen*

Carolina: Hi Emily.

Emily: Hi. What are you doing here? I thought you had a seminar at 10 o'clock.

Carolina: I did, but I'm not feeling very well. (*she sneezes*)

Emily: Bless you! You sound terrible. You'd better go to bed. Did you tell your tutor that you were ill?

Carolina: No, I was early, he wasn't there, but I left a note on the door. I said I was sorry, but I was very constipated.

Emily: Constipated? Why did you tell him you were constipated?

Carolina: Well, because I am. (*she sneezes*) See, I can't stop sneezing.

Emily: You don't sneeze when you're constipated. Constipated means that you can't go to the toilet, you know, you're blocked ..... , you know, you try and try but you can't .... well you know.

Carolina: Oh no! I was thinking in Spanish! In Spanish we say I'm constipada! (*she sneezes*)

Emily: Well in English it's a cold. You say I've got a cold – a bad cold.

Carolina: I knew that! I've got a cold! What a stupid mistake! It's because I'm ill – my head feels like it's full of, I don't know, ..... cake.

Emily: Cake?!

Carolina: And I left a note on the door. Everyone's going to laugh at me.

Emily: No they won't. Don't be silly. Everyone knows English isn't your first language – you made a mistake that's all.

Carolina: But they won't know it's a mistake. (*she sneezes*) They'll think I wanted to tell everyone that I was constipated, that I couldn't go to the toilet.

Oh, I want to go home to Venezuela.

Emily: Look, it's not ten o'clock yet. I'll go the room and take the note off the door and explain to.... who?

Carolina: Professor Grogan. Room 102. It'll be too late.

Emily: And you can go to the chemist's and get yourself something to take. Then come back here and go to bed. You look awful. Have some hot lemon and honey – that's what my mother always gives me.

Carolina: (*she sneezes*) OK, thanks a lot Emily.

### *At the chemist's*

Chemist: Good morning. Can I help you?

Carolina: (*she sneezes*) Yes please. I can't stop sneezing. (*she sneezes*) Have you got anything I can take?

Chemist: Is it a cold or an allergy?

Carolina: It's a cold. I don't have any allergies, at least I don't think so.

Chemist: Have you got any other symptoms?

(*Carolina sneezes*) A sore throat? A headache? A cough?

Carolina: Yes, my throat hurts – it hurts when I eat or drink, and my head hurts too.

Chemist: Have you got a temperature?

Carolina: A temperature? (*she sneezes*) What's that? I'm sorry, my English is terrible today.

Chemist: You know, have you got a high temperature, do you feel hot? Is your face hot?

Carolina: You mean a fever? Yes, yes, I think so, my face is hot but my body feels cold.

Chemist: OK. It sounds like a bad cold. Let's see ... .. this should help. Are you allergic to any medicines?

Carolina: No, no I'm not. How often do I have to take it?

Chemist: Two spoonfuls, four times a day. The instructions are on the bottle. Don't take it if you're driving, it might make you sleepy.

Carolina: That's OK. I just want to go to bed.

Should I take anything else?

Chemist: Vitamin C will help. Here you are. Take one of these three times a day. And drink plenty of water. Where are you from, if you don't mind me asking?

Carolina: Venezuela. I've only been here a few weeks.

Chemist: Ah. Venezuela. I expect our English weather is a bit too cold for you then. Spend the rest of the day in bed and keep warm. You'll feel a lot better tomorrow.

Carolina: I hope so.

Chemist: If you still feel terrible in two or three days then you should go and see a doctor.

Carolina: Thank you very much. And how much is that for the medicines?

Tess: Poor Carolina. It's terrible when you feel ill in a foreign country.

Ravi: "I am constipated."

Tess: Oh, stop it Ravi.

Ravi: Yeah, you're right. It is quite funny though. And she got some medicine so I'm sure she's OK.

### **Section 7 – The Joke**

Ravi: Anyway, that's almost the end of another podcast but, as usual, before we go, we're going to

hear from Gordon with another one of his amazing jokes. Gordon?  
 Gordon: Yep.  
 Ravi: What have you got for us?  
 Gordon: Another dog, Ravi.  
 Ravi: Come on then, let's hear it.  
 Gordon:  
 Right. A dog goes to put an advert in a newspaper. In the lonely hearts column, you know.  
 Ravi: To find a girlfriend?  
 Gordon: Right. Anyway, the assistant at the newspaper says "That's fine, just fill in your name and address on this form and then write your advert in the box underneath." "OK", says the dog.

He fills in the form and then he stops to think for a bit and then he writes in the box – "woof, woof, woof. Woof, woof. Woof, woof, woof, woof." He gives the paper to the assistant and she has a look at it and says to the dog, "You know you've got nine woofs here – you can have an extra one for no extra charge – it's ten words for £5. Why don't you add another 'woof'?"

The dog looks really confused. "Another 'woof'? That wouldn't make any sense at all".

Ravi: I quite like that one. Your dog jokes are the best ones Gordon. You should concentrate on them. What do you think Tess?  
 Tess: *Quite* funny – but don't look for work as a comedian just yet Gordon. Anyway. That's everything from us for this time. After this little break you'll hear from Tom, our English teacher who'll talk about the language you heard and give you ideas to help you learn. So we'll say goodbye but don't go away.  
 Ravi: And remember to keep your emails coming to us at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org).  
 Tess & Ravi: Bye!.

## Tom the teacher

Tom: Hi, my name's Tom. At the end of every podcast, I talk about some of the language that you heard, and some ways to help you learn English. Today I want to look at some verbs that we use to describe things – or to describe the *idea* that we have about them. Listen to Emily and Carolina talking. Remember, Carolina is ill. What phrase does Emily use to describe her?

*Emily: Hi. What are you doing here? I thought you had a seminar at 10 o'clock.*  
*Carolina: I did, but I'm not feeling very well. (she sneezes)*  
*Emily: Bless you! You sound terrible.*

Tom: Emily says "You sound terrible!" We use the verb 'sound' when we are talking about something we can hear. Emily can hear that Carolina is ill from her voice, and also from her sneezes. So she uses 'sound'. If your friend tells you all about her new boyfriend, but you haven't met him yet, you can say "He sounds nice." You have the idea that he is nice from what she has said about him, from what you've *heard*. So you can use 'sound'. Now listen to Emily again. How does she describe Carolina this time?

*Emily: And you can go to the chemist's and get yourself something to take. Then come back here and go to bed. You look awful. Have some hot lemon and honey – that's what my mother always gives me.*

Tom: This time Emily says "You look awful". This time, she can see that Carolina is ill - it isn't just her voice now. Her eyes are probably red, and she might be very pale. So this time Emily says "You *look* awful". If your friend shows you a photograph of her new boyfriend, and you haven't met him yet, you can say "He looks nice". You have the idea that he is nice from the photo – from what you can *see*. So you can use 'look'. A lot of languages use words that translate as 'seem' or 'appear' in all of these situations, so using 'look' and 'sound' might be a bit strange for you. Try to notice people using 'look' and 'sound' in the English that you read and hear, and try to use those phrases yourself.

Now I want to talk about something that's very important when you learn a new language. Do you remember Carolina's problem with the word 'constipated'?

*Emily: Constipated? Why did you tell him you were constipated?*  
*Carolina: Well, because I am. (she sneezes) See, I can't stop sneezing.*  
*Emily: You don't sneeze when you're constipated. Constipated means that you can't go to the toilet, you know, you're blocked ..... , you know, you try and try but you can't .... well you know.*  
*Carolina: Oh no! I was thinking in Spanish! In Spanish we say I'm constipada! (she sneezes)*

This is a very common problem. It depends what language you speak, but sometimes there are words in your language that are very similar to a word in English. And very often they have the same meaning too. For example, 'arriver' in French is similar to 'arrive' in English, and the meaning is the same. These words can help you a lot.

But be careful! As we just heard with Carolina, sometimes the words don't have the same meaning at all! The word 'constipada' in Spanish looks and sounds the same as the English word 'constipated'. But the meaning is completely different. We call these words 'false friends'. They look or sound the same as a word in another language – so you think they are 'friends' - but they don't have the same meaning. The German word for 'poison' sounds the same as the English word 'gift' – which means 'a present'. In Finnish, the word for 'cat' can sound like the English word 'kiss'. False friends can be very dangerous!

When you hear a word in English that sounds or looks the same as a word in your language, the first thing to do is notice the *context* – the situation where you heard or saw the word, what the people were talking about. This will help you to understand the meaning of the word. Then, if you're still not sure, check the word in your English learners' dictionary. And finally, if it is a false friend, then make a note of it on a special page in your vocabulary notebook and make a really special effort to learn it – and remember it. It isn't easy - even people who speak English very well still make mistakes with false friends – just like Carolina did – when they're tired or not concentrating.

Now let's look at a useful phrase that we use in English when we want to ask a personal question. Listen to Carolina and the chemist. What phrase does he use when he asks her a personal question?

*Chemist: Vitamin C will help. Here you are. Take one of these three times a day. And drink plenty of water. Where are you from, if you don't mind me asking?*

*Carolina: Venezuela. I've only been here a few weeks.*

Tom: He says "Where are you from, *if you don't mind me asking?*" Of course, in a different situation, with your new classmates for example, "Where are you from?" isn't a very personal question, but the chemist doesn't know Carolina, and in *this* situation – Carolina is buying some medicine for her cold –

Carolina might be offended – she might think the question isn't appropriate. So he adds "if you don't mind me asking". This makes the question more polite. If you want to ask someone a question but you aren't sure if it's polite to ask, then use "if you don't mind me asking".

Just before I go, let me give you a phrase from the podcast that you can use. Listen to what we say in English when someone sneezes – *atchoo!*

*Emily: Hi. What are you doing here? I thought you had a seminar at 10 o'clock.*

*Carolina: I did, but I'm not feeling very well. (she sneezes)*

*Emily: Bless you! You sound terrible. You'd better go to bed. Did you tell your professor that you were ill?*

Tom: Yes, we say "Bless you!". Some learners think that we say "God bless you" – well maybe that was the original phrase that people used a long time ago, but nowadays it's just "Bless you!". Use it the next time someone sneezes near you!

OK. That's all from me today. I'll talk to you all again on the next podcast. Remember you can send your questions to me at [learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglishpodcast@britishcouncil.org). I'll be happy to answer your questions! Or write to me about any interesting language that *you* noticed. In a moment you'll hear the address for the website where you can read everything you've heard in this podcast. So bye for now! See you next time.