

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 the sentences that are true.

1. Tess and Ravi's 'little conversation' in the café shows how British people really speak.
2. The British say "please" and "thank you" a lot.
3. Tess always says "please" when she asks for something in a shop.
4. Ravi thinks that people are impolite in London.
5. Ravi is from London.
6. The British use a lot of polite language.
7. Ravi thinks the British are more polite than people in other countries.
8. Tess thinks the British are more polite than people in other countries.

Activity 2 – Being polite. Choose the best answer.

1. Someone is standing at the door of the bus and you want to get past. What do you say?
 - a) Excuse me, please.
 - b) Pardon.
 - c) Please move.
2. A man is standing next to you at the airport and you put your suitcase on his foot. What do you say?
 - a) Pardon!
 - b) Forgive me!
 - c) I'm sorry!
3. You are outside the supermarket. An old woman has some very heavy bags of shopping. She says "Could you help me carry these bags to my car?" What do you say?
 - a) Not at all.
 - b) Of course.
 - c) You're welcome.
4. The old woman is very grateful for your help

and says “Thank you. That’s very kind of you”.
What do you say?

- a) You’re welcome.
- b) Of course.
- c) Certainly.

5. You’re on a train. The woman sitting opposite says “Do you mind if I open the window?” What do you say?

- a) You’re welcome.
- b) Not at all.
- c) Of course.

6. You’re walking along the street. A driver stops and asks you the way to the motorway. You don’t know. What do you say?

- a) Pardon, I don’t know.
- b) Excuse me, I don’t know.
- c) I’m sorry, I don’t know.

Activity 3 – Polite language. Match the halves of the sentences.

1. Would you mind
2. Do you mind if
3. Do you think you could
4. Could I possibly have
5. I wonder if I
6. I’m sorry to bother you,

- a) another cup of tea?
- b) but I need some help.
- c) helping me with this?
- d) I open the window?
- e) could take one of these chairs?
- f) tell me where the tourist office is?

Activity 4 – Polite language. Put the words in the right order. Don’t look back at Activity 3!

1. some I’m to you but I sorry need help. bother

2. could take if I one of chairs. wonder these I
3. you me this? mind with Would helping
4. if mind I the Do window? you open
5. Do tell office could you me where think the you tourist is?
6. have cup I another Could tea? possibly of

Activity 5 – Which prefix do we use to make these adjectives negative? Put the words into the right group.

<i>im</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>un</i>

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| polite | expensive | moral |
| pleasant | experienced | grateful |
| mature | happy | important |
| convenient | patient | correct |
| popular | possible | complete |

Activity 6 – Write the negative prefix – im, un or in.

1. She never says “please” or “thank you”. It’s so ____polite.
2. I haven’t got much money. I need to find something ____expensive for my mother’s birthday.
3. I’m sure he won’t get the job. He’s too ____experienced.
4. I don’t want to be ____grateful, but I really hated the handbag that Mike gave me for

Christmas.

5. You're behaving like a child! Don't be so ___mature!

6. If you're so ___happy in your job then you need to find another one.

7. A really good friend will help you even when it's ___convenient for her.

8. Just wait a minute. Don't be so ___patient!

9. Nobody likes Mrs Fishington. She's the most ___popular teacher in the school.

10. I can't finish this report in two hours. It's ___possible.

11. Just remember the main points – don't worry about the ___important information.

12. I didn't have time to finish the exam, so my last two answers were ___complete.

Activity 7 – Opposites: Match the opposites with the words below. There are two opposites for each word.

1. polite
2. modern
3. serious
4. simple
5. unusual
6. happy

- a) amusing
- b) complicated
- c) old-fashioned
- d) funny
- e) impolite
- f) normal

- g) difficult
- h) out-of-date
- i) rude
- j) sad
- k) typical
- l) unhappy

Activity 8 – Put the words in the right places.

complicated	funny	old-fashioned
rude	sad	serious
typical	unusual	

1. Don't be _____. I'm sure your cat will come home tomorrow.
2. All her clothes are from the 1980s. She's so _____.
3. My favourite comedy film's on TV tonight. You'll love it - it's really _____.
4. You can't tell your teacher to 'shut up' – it's _____!
5. A _____ British summer isn't very hot.
6. What an _____ flower! I've never seen one like that before.
7. Don't smile when I'm talking to you – I'm being _____.
8. Look at this form from the tax office! Sixteen pages! Why is it so _____?

Activity 9 – Leave a comment.

Do you enjoy going to the cinema? What sort of films do you like watching? How about films from your country? Are there any you'd recommend to other podcast listeners?

Leave a comment on

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/elementary-podcasts/series-03-episode-13> and we'll discuss your answers in the next podcast.

Answers**Activity 1**

True: 2, 3, 4, 6,

False: 1, 5, 7, 8,

Activity 2

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

Activity 3

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

Activity 4

1. I'm sorry to bother you but I need some help.
2. I wonder if I could take one of these chairs.
3. Would you mind helping me with this?
4. Do you mind if I open the window?
5. Do you think you could tell me where the tourist office is?
6. Could I possibly have another cup of tea?

Activity 5

im: polite / possible / patient / moral / mature
in: complete / convenient / experienced / correct / expensive
un: popular / pleasant / important / grateful / happy

Activity 6

1.im, 2.in, 3.in, 4.un, 5.im, 6.un, 7.in, 8.im, 9.un, 10.im, 11.un,
12.in

Activity 7

1.e,i, 2.c,h, 3.a,d, 4.b,g, 5.f,k, 6.j,l

Activity 8

1.sad, 2.old-fashioned, 3.funny, 4.rude, 5.typical, 6.unusual,
7.serious, 8.complicated