



English for Learners Worldwide



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**T**he British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We call this work cultural relations.

We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries bringing international opportunity to life, every day. Each year we work with millions of people, connecting them with the United Kingdom, sharing our cultures and the UK's most attractive assets: English, the Arts, Education and our ways of living and organising society. We have over 75 years' experience of doing this. In line with our Royal Charter, we aim to bring high quality English materials to every learner or teacher who wants them around the world. We work with governments to transform whole education systems to increase opportunity and employability through English. We also deliver English teaching and train teachers by radio, web and broadcast in developing and post conflict countries.

The British Council's high profile work in English, the Arts and Education & Society helps hundreds of millions of people worldwide to learn about and experience creativity and excellence from the UK. Millions of talented people of all ages – but particularly younger people – engage face-to-face and online with us learning English, developing new skills, experiencing life and study in the UK and earning UK qualifications.

# Welcome to the British Council!

With over 75 years' experience, and with 80 teaching centres in 49 countries around the world, the British Council is committed to providing the best possible teaching and learning environment, and to building and maintaining mutual respect between cultures. Whether you are studying for fun, for work, or for an exam, our courses, teachers and materials are here to help you make real progress in the most effective and enjoyable way.

In this booklet, you will find a series of 12 exciting topics from the British government's GREAT campaign – Shopping in the UK, British Music, British Literature, Innovations in the UK, Famous Entrepreneurs, Sport in the UK, History of the English Language, Famous Universities in the UK, How green is the UK? , British Heritage, British Countryside and Creativity.

Each article has a series of 7 activities where you can practice:

- your reading comprehension
- build your vocabulary
- test your grammar knowledge.

In section 2, you will find a reference section with lots of tips on learning English – improve your Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing and Pronunciation. There is also a complete reference section on the phonemic chart as well as a comprehensive list of free apps which you can download for free so you can continue your learning journey anytime, anywhere.

Hope you enjoy the booklet and good luck with your English Journey.

## Activity 1

Match the word with a definition.

1. breathtaking	2. cliff	3. coastline
4. landscape	5. outdoors	6. wildlife

- animals and plants in their natural state
- large area of land which is visually special
- outside a building, in the open air
- steep, high rock face
- very beautiful
- the part of the land that's next to the sea

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about the British countryside. Try and guess which of the following topics will be mentioned?

mountains	shooting	writers
languages	dinosaurs	a giant

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Countryside

### Not just London

Many visitors to the UK go straight to London and never venture outside the capital – which is a pity, for there is a huge variety of landscape only a few hours away, in any one of Britain's largest areas of protected countryside, its national parks.

### The Cairngorms

The biggest is the Cairngorms in northern Scotland, with some of the country's highest mountains and the best place for skiing. Pony-trekking, climbing and fishing are also popular, along with Scotland's national game, golf. Wildlife enthusiasts are well rewarded – this is the home of the red deer, red squirrel and golden eagle.

### The Lake District

Over the border in England is the Lake District, originally made famous by local Romantic poet William Wordsworth two hundred years ago. People have been travelling here en masse since 1847 when a railway was built to its biggest lake, Windermere. Children's writers have found inspiration here too, and the mountains make for excellent walking, with breathtaking views.

### Snowdonia

Wales also has its fair share of spectacular landscape – Snowdonia was one of the first national parks to be created, in 1951. You will find the road signs in two languages and hear Welsh spoken in the local shops. If mountain climbing is not your thing, try visiting a castle built by a 13th-century prince, or check out the nearby beaches.

### The English coast

The coastline of England is just as amazing. On some Dorset beaches you can still find fossils dating back to the Jurassic era – the first marine dinosaur remains were found in the cliffs here in the early 19th century.

### The Giant's Causeway

For the strangest coastal scenery of all, cross the Irish Sea to the Giant's Causeway, a set of basalt columns formed by volcanic activity sixty million years ago – or, as legend has it, built by warrior giant Finn McCool to walk from Northern Ireland to fight his enemy in Scotland. The stone 'steps' are not complete because the giant fell asleep – something you'll probably want to do yourself at the end of an invigorating day in the great British outdoors.

## Activity 3

Are the following true or false?

- It is possible to ski in Britain.
- Some children's books were inspired by the British countryside.
- The national parks in Britain are hundreds of years old.
- People still discover fossils on some beaches.
- The Giant's Causeway was created by recent geological activity.

## Activity 4

Complete the gap with a passive form of the verb in brackets.

- National parks are areas of land which ..... (protect) by law.

- The Lake District ..... (make) famous by the poet William Wordsworth.
- A railway ..... (build) to Lake Windermere in 1847.
- In Wales the road signs ..... (write) in two languages, Welsh and English.
- In Dorset, dinosaur remains ..... (discover) in the 19th century.

## Activity 5: Discussion topics

How many national parks/protected areas are there in your country?

Which national parks in your country are most interesting? Why?

## 10 largest UK national parks

Name	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	When did it become a national park?	Highest point (metres)	Visitors per year (million)
Cairngorms	4,528	2003	Ben Macdui – 1,309	4.15
Lake District	2,292	1951	Scafell Pike – 978	15.8
Snowdonia	2,176	1951	Snowdon – 1,085	4.27
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs	1,865	2002	Ben More – 1,174	4
Yorkshire Dales	1,769	1954	Wharfedale – 736	9.5
South Downs	1,624	2010	Blackdown – 280	Not available
Peak District	1,437	1951	Kinder Scout – 636	8.4
North York Moors	1,434	1952	Urra Moor – 454	7
Brecon Beacons	1,344	1957	Peny Fan – 886	4.15
Northumberland	1,048	1956	The Cheviot – 815	1.5

Source: UK Association of National Park Authorities ([www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk)). Data extracted in 2012.

## Activity 6

Are the following true or false?

1. The Lake District National Park is as old as Snowdonia.
2. The Cairngorms and Loch Lomond receive over eight million visitors a year.
3. The highest point in Snowdonia is Kinder Scout.
4. The Cairngorms is larger than the combined area of Snowdonia and the Lake District.
5. The South Downs is one of the oldest national parks in Britain.

## Activity 7

Complete the gap with the correct comparative or superlative form of the **adjective** in brackets.

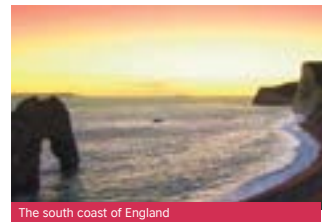
1. The Yorkshire Dales National Park is ..... than the Brecon Beacons. (large)
2. Snowdon is ..... than Scafell Pike. (high)
3. The Cairngorms is ..... national park in Britain. (big)
4. The Lake District is ..... than any other national park. (popular)
5. The North York Moors is one of ..... national parks in Britain. (old)



The Cairngorms National Park in Scotland



Visiting a national park by bicycle



The south coast of England

## Useful links &gt;

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great>  
UK Association of National Park Authorities: [www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk)

**Activity 2**  
1. e; 2. d; 3. f; 4. b; 5. c; 6. a  
mountains, writers, languages,  
dinosaurs, a giant

**Activity 3**  
1. True (T); 2. T; 3. False (F); 4. T; 5. F

**Activity 4**  
1. are protected; 2. was made; 3. was built; 4. are  
written; 5. were discovered

**Activity 5**  
1. True (T); 2. T; 3. False (F); 4. T; 5. F  
popular; 5. the oldest  
larger; 2. higher; 3. the biggest; 4. more

## Activity 1

Match the word with a definition.

1. abroad	2. controversial	3. pioneer
4. plenty	5. shot	6. trained

- filmed
- not in your country
- someone who does something new
- taught how to do something
- causing argument and disagreement
- a lot of

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about creativity. See if you can match a word on the left with one on the right, and then decide which one is **different**.

1. art	a. End
2. city	b. galleries
3. regional	c. Raider
4. Shepperton	d. streets
5. Tomb	e. Studios
6. West	f. theatres

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Creativity

## Creative nation

Britain seems to have plenty of creativity in the performing and visual arts. Perhaps this is because of a large population in such a small geographical area. Certainly British people have been going to see films and plays for many generations.

## Theatrical tradition

Theatres in Britain date back to the 16th century and the country's most famous writer and actor, William Shakespeare. Performers often gain experience in regional theatres and London has a strong tradition of showing plays and musicals in the 'West End'. These attract audiences in their millions from home and abroad. One theatre has put on the same play for 60 years!

## Film stars

The early days of film-making were influenced by creative talents like Charlie Chaplin. Born in London's poor East End, he went from being a child entertainer to a pioneer of silent movies in Hollywood. British actors after him were classically trained, but soon appeared on cinema screens too – Laurence Olivier, Richard Burton and Alec Guinness became world-famous, along with Audrey Hepburn and Julie Andrews. The next generation, actors like Sean Connery, Anthony Hopkins, Judy Dench and Maggie Smith, are still familiar names today.

## Behind the camera

There are several well-known British directors and producers. Alfred Hitchcock created a whole genre, while David Puttnam has made movies about the Olympic Games (*Chariots of Fire*) and genocide in Cambodia (*The Killing Fields*). The two major studios in the UK are Shepperton, near London, where films such as *Gandhi* and *Alien* were shot, and Pinewood, the home of James Bond.

## Visual expression

The visual arts also display Britain's creative spirit, from Romantic Age painters like Turner and Constable to groups such as the Pre-Raphaelites. The works of today's artists – Damien Hirst or Tracey Emin – are often shocking and controversial and sell for high prices. In contrast, many major art galleries are free for everyone, and in city streets graffiti is recently becoming both an art form and a tourist attraction.

## Hidden talents

Today's cheap software means that creativity is present in much computer games design. The success of *Tomb Raider* shows how developers have become the latest examples of Britain's creative genius.

## Activity 3

Match the answers from the box to the questions.

a. Shepperton Studios	b. The West End	c. Tracey Emin
d. Pinewood Studios	e. The East End	

- Where can you find a sixty-year-old play?
- Where was *Charlie Chaplin* born?
- Where was James Bond made?
- Where was *Alien* filmed?
- Who is a modern painter?

## Activity 4

Find the spelling or punctuation mistake in the following sentences and correct it.

- Alec Guinness apeared on the stage and in films.
- Charlie Chaplin was one of film's early talent's.
- The Pre-Raphaelites were a group of panthers.
- Theatres in britain date back to the 16th century.
- Chariots of fire* was a popular film.

## Activity 5: Discussion topic

Do you have a favourite classic film? Why do you like it?

## British Film Institute Top 5 British films\*

Name	Plot summary	When made	Director	Main actors	Trivia
The Third Man	Writer Holly Martins travels to Vienna, then has to investigate the mysterious death of an old friend, Harry Lime.	1949	Carol Reed	Joseph Cotten, Alida Valli	Screenplay by Graham Greene
Brief Encounter	When she meets a stranger in a railway station, a woman is tempted to cheat on her husband.	1945	David Lean	Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard	Screenplay by Noël Coward
Lawrence of Arabia	An epic film about a controversial British military figure and his personal conflicts during wartime.	1962	David Lean	Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif	Steven Spielberg's favourite film
The 39 Steps	A man in London tries to help a spy. But the agent is killed and he is accused. He must go on the run to save himself and stop a spy ring trying to steal top secret information.	1935	Alfred Hitchcock	Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll	Near the beginning of the film you can see Hitchcock walking past a bus.
Great Expectations	An orphan becomes a gentleman with the help of someone he doesn't know.	1946	David Lean	John Mills, Jean Simmons	First of two films that Lean directed which were based on Dickens' novels; the other was <i>Oliver Twist</i> .

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BFI\\_Top\\_100\\_British\\_films](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BFI_Top_100_British_films)

\*In 1999 the British Film Institute asked 1,000 film and TV people to produce the BFI 100 list of the greatest British films of the 20th century. They had to choose 100 films that were 'culturally British'. Some of the films were totally or partly produced by non-UK companies, or made with filmmakers born outside the UK, but they still had an important British connection.

## Activity 6

Decide if the following are true or false.

1. *The Third Man* is about a writer who murders a friend in Vienna.
2. *Brief Encounter* is a love story that takes place on a cruise ship.
3. *Lawrence of Arabia* is one film director's favourite movie.
4. The director of the film appears in *The 39 Steps*.
5. David Lean took the story of *Great Expectations* from a work of literature.

## Activity 7

Match the film words with a definition below.

1. director	2. plot	3. setting
4. actors	5. screenplay	

- a. the story of the film
- b. the person who is in control of filming
- c. the place where the action of the film happens
- d. the script and instructions for a film
- e. people who play parts in a film

## Useful links &gt;

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great>

British Film Institute: <http://www.bfi.org.uk/>

- Activity 1**  
1. b; 2. e; 3. c; 4. f; 5. a; 6. d
- Activity 2**  
1. b; 2. d; 3. f; 4. e; 5. c; 6. a
- Which one is different? *Tomb Raider* – the rest are all real places where you can find examples of British creativity.
- Activity 3**  
1. b; 2. e; 3. d; 4. a; 5. c
- Activity 4**  
1. Alec Guinness appeared on the stage and in films.  
2. Charlie Chaplin was one of film's early talents.  
3. The Pre-Raphaelites were a group of painters.  
4. Theatres in Britain date back to the 16th century.  
5. *Charlots of Fire* was a popular film.
- Activity 5**  
1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. e; 5. d
- Activity 6**  
1. False (F); 2. F; 3. True (T); 4. T; 5. T
- Activity 7**  
1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. e; 5. d

## Activity 1

Match the word or phrase with a definition.

1. agree	2. air-traffic controllers	3. flexible
4. gender	5. replace	6. stored

- (in a language) change according to number or gender
- kept for future use
- people who direct planes from the ground
- substitute
- that can adapt or change easily
- the way a noun is categorised as masculine or feminine

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text that contains the following information. Can you guess which numbers complete the sentences, before you read?

25,000	250 million	some
200,000	50	

- At least ..... people have English as their second language.
  - ..... per cent of the world population may speak English by the middle of this century.
  - There are about ..... commonly used words in English.
  - In ..... ways English grammar is simpler than other languages.
  - There are ..... new English words every year.
- Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## English

### World language

Once people dreamed of a language that everybody in the world could understand. Now, for the first time in human history, perhaps there is one – English. It is the official language in more than 50 countries and 250–300 million speak it as a second language. Some say that half the world will be speaking it in the year 2050.

### Difficult to master?

English is not the easiest language to learn – most of its common verbs are irregular and it has a large vocabulary – at least 200,000 words are in common use. Its pronunciation and written form are also very different.

### User-friendly

But some things make it easy – nouns don't have gender and verbs are less complicated than other languages. There is only one form to speak to someone directly – 'you'. Adjectives don't agree with nouns, and many nouns are often also verbs.

### Making it their own

English is very flexible – many different varieties have developed over the centuries in different parts of the world, such as the USA, Australia or Ireland. There are also different versions of English in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

### English is everywhere

Some other languages may have more speakers, like Spanish or Mandarin. But English is used in many different areas. It is the language of transport: most airline pilots and air-traffic controllers use it. At sea a simple form of English is the international language of communication.

### English for progress

It is also the first language of science, technology and education – an estimated 80 per cent of the information stored on the Internet is in English and 90 per cent of schoolchildren in European countries study it as their first foreign language.

### New words

Around 25,000 new words and expressions enter the English language every year. Do you know what a helicopter parent is? – a mother or father too involved in the life of their child. And what about a boomerang child? – a young adult who returns to live with their parents for financial reasons.

### The future of English

What is the future of English as a global language? Will another language ever replace it? Many think not – it is already too popular.

## Activity 3

Which of the following sentences are true, according to the text?

- Half the world speaks English.
- English has a vocabulary of 200,000 words.
- You can't always guess the pronunciation of a word when you read it.
- Irish English is the same as British English.
- Spanish has more speakers than English does.
- A ship's captain has to speak some English.
- Ninety per cent of children around the world study English at school.
- English vocabulary increases every year.

## Activity 4

Use the correct form of the word in brackets to complete the sentence.

- I can speak English quite well, but I have problems with ..... (pronounce)
- English words are often pronounced differently from how they are ..... (write)
- I never knew there were so many ..... of English. (vary)
- English is the language of international ..... (communicate)
- Will there ever be another ..... language? (globe)

## Unusual English words, phrases and facts

Name	Plot summary
'Receive'	An American study showed this to be the word that is most commonly spelled wrongly. Many people spell it 'recieve'.
'Of'	This is the only commonly used word in English in which 'f' is pronounced like a 'v'.
'Dreamt'	This is the only common word in English ending in the letters '-mt'.
'OMG'	This expression, meaning 'Oh! My God!' was not invented recently. In 1917 Admiral John Arbuthnot Fisher used it when writing to Winston Churchill.
'Clothes', 'pants', 'scissors', 'shorts' and 'trousers'	None of these words has a singular form.
'Rhythms'	This word, which means 'regular sounds or movements', has seven letters but does not contain any of the five vowels (a, e, i, o, u).
'Facetious'	This word, which means 'not serious about a serious subject', contains all five vowels, each used only one time, and in the same order as they appear in the alphabet.
'Waitress' = 'A stew, sir?'	This is an example of a true anagram. An anagram is a word or phrase made by using the letters of another word or phrase in a different order. A true anagram is one that explains or describes the word that it is made from.
'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.'	This is an example of a pangram, a sentence that uses every letter of the alphabet at least once. This pangram contains 35 letters and is often used for practice by people who are learning to type.
'A man, a plan, a canal – Panama'	This is an example of a palindrome, a word or group of words that is the same if you read it forwards from the start to the end, or backwards from the end to the start.
Source: A Collection of Word Oddities and Trivia <a href="http://jeff560.tripod.com/words.html">http://jeff560.tripod.com/words.html</a>	

### Activity 5: Discussion topic

What is the best way to learn another language?

- There are no words in English that end in 'mt'.
- Some words in English can contain all five vowels.

### Activity 6

Are the statements true or false?

- OMG (meaning 'Oh my God') was invented by teenagers to use in text messages.
- There are some words in English that have no vowels.
- Some words in English are only plural.

### Activity 7

Match the example with the definition.

- Amazingly few discotheques provide jukeboxes.
- Behaviour
- Madam I'm Adam.
- Cry
- The eyes – they see



Some of the 150 million items in The British Library



Learning more about English



Foreign students in the UK

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> British Council – English: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/english>

## Activity 1

Match the word or phrase with a definition.

1. dive right in	2. meet a need	3. on his own terms
4. schemes	5. talented	6. trust

- a. get involved immediately
- b. having a special ability
- c. have confidence in
- d. in the way he wants
- e. satisfy a want or demand
- f. plans of action

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about entrepreneurs. Match a beginning and an ending to find out what entrepreneurs do.

1. break	a. a good idea
2. do	b. people
3. have	c. risks
4. inspire	d. rules
5. take	e. something they love

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Entrepreneurs

### Bad business

In Britain's current economic climate, many people don't trust big financial institutions. Surprisingly, however, one of the country's most admired figures is an entrepreneur.

### Enterprising hero

Sir Richard Branson is the popular face of business. His personal image is sometimes more like a rock star than an executive. He likes to break the rules and do things on his own terms.

### His brilliant career

Many people are familiar with his story – he started a student magazine, then a record shop. He turned this into an innovative record company, and eventually an airline. He has also created a radio station, a phone network and a train service. One of his latest schemes is space tourism.

### Individual attributes

Branson seems to possess many of the personal characteristics of successful entrepreneurs – he likes taking risks and is good at exploiting opportunities, for example.

### The magic ingredients

If you want to start a business, you also need a good idea for a product or service, something that will meet a need. You should see things differently and believe in an idea when others don't. But it is also important to do something you love.

### You win some, you lose some

You must be prepared to lose money as well as make it. Richard Branson's clothing, cosmetics, and car companies were less successful. So you need plenty of self-belief and expect to make mistakes. As one young social networking entrepreneur says: 'I find it best to dive right in and learn the hard way.'

### You can't do it alone

One more important personal characteristic is the ability to manage – by building teams and inspiring people. It is best to have talented people around you, to trust others and give them responsibility.

### Future entrepreneurs

Today, younger people are not content with a safe job in a traditional profession. They are setting up their own companies – in 2010 there was a 15 per cent rise in 16–24-year-old entrepreneurs compared to two years before. It seems Britain still has entrepreneurial spirit.

## Activity 3

Choose the best answer according to the text.

- Which of these sentences is true about Richard Branson?
  - He is popular with British people.
  - He is an executive.
  - He likes to do things his way.
  - All of these sentences are true.
- Which things has Richard Branson been involved in?
  - the music industry
  - the communications industry
  - the transport industry
  - He has been involved with all of these things.

- If you want to start a business you must ...
  - ... make people believe your idea.
  - ... love what you do.
  - ... be careful not to make mistakes.
  - ... do all of these things
- The people in your business should ...
  - ... be young.
  - ... be talented.
  - ... be traditional.
  - ... be all of these things.
- A good manager should ...
  - ... encourage teamwork.
  - ... choose talented people.
  - ... give people responsibility.
  - ... do all of these things.

## 5 great British entrepreneurs

Name	Birth-death	Famous for	Education	Trivia	Quote
Matthew Boulton	1728–1809	Boulton & Watt steam engines, Royal Mint	Left school at age 15	His image appears alongside James Watt on the Bank of England £50 note.	'I sell here, Sir, what all the world desires to have – power.'
Dame Anita Roddick	1942–2007	The Body Shop	Bath College of Higher Education (Teaching)	She worked for the United Nations.	'If you do things well, do them better. Be daring, be first, be different, be just.'
Alan Michael Sugar, Baron Sugar	1947–	Amstrad, Tottenham Hotspur football club, The Apprentice TV programme	Left school at age 16	He collects classic Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars.	'Once you decide to work for yourself, you never go back to work for somebody else.'
Sir Richard Branson	1950–	Virgin Group (more than 400 companies)	Left school at age 15	Virgin Records' first album was Tubular Bells, by Mike Oldfield.	'You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.'
Simon Fuller	1960–	Artist manager (David and Victoria Beckham) and television producer (Pop Idol)	Attended school where his father was headmaster	He has had a role in more than 100 No. 1 hit songs in the UK.	'You've got to get in there while it's hot and get out before it's cold.'
Source: Wikipedia					

### Activity 4

Fill in the gap with a suitable word or phrase from the table.

a. believe in	b. content with	c. familiar with
d. prepared to	e. set up	f. turn into

- Are you ..... how to use this new software?
- We want the company to ..... a success story.
- We ..... your product so we are going to invest in it.
- Are you ..... work hard to advance your career?
- They were not ..... the service so they complained.
- It is not easy to ..... your own business.

### Activity 5: Discussion topic

How do people learn about starting a business in your country?

### Activity 6

Which two entrepreneurs ...

- ... are involved in television?
  - ... have been involved in the music industry?
  - ... left school at 15?
  - ... were born in the 1940s?
  - ... had a connection to teaching?
- a. Matthew Boulton  
b. Anita Roddick  
c. Alan Sugar  
d. Richard Branson  
e. Simon Fuller

### Activity 7

Choose the right preposition.

- It's better to be your own boss than work (at/for/on) someone else.
- British children can leave school (at/on/with) the age of 16.
- There's a picture of Charles Darwin (in/at/on) the British £10 note.
- You can't learn to ride a bicycle (with/by/for) reading about it - you have to do it.
- If your business isn't going well then get (out/off/up) before it's too late.
- He was sent to prison because of his role (on/in/at) the bank robbery.

#### Useful link >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great>

## Activity 1

Match the word or phrase with a definition.

1. recycle	2. renewable energies	3. resources
4. sustainable	5. waste	6. wind farm

- valuable possessions of a country – land, minerals, etc.
- natural power sources that cannot run out
- group of turbines producing electricity
- anything unwanted or useless
- collect and use again
- maintained without problems

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about being green. Can you guess which of the following topics will be mentioned?

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. food        | 4. transport |
| 2. recycling   | 5. buildings |
| 3. investments | 6. energy    |

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Green

### Green progress

The year 2012 is the 20th anniversary of the Rio Summit. World leaders discussed many subjects: how to develop modern economies without finishing the world's resources; how to save tropical forests and the diversity of life on Earth; and what to do about changes in climate. So what has happened in Britain since 1992? How 'green' is the UK today?

### Green goods and services

Britain now makes components for renewable energies such as wave power. The geography of the country makes it good for wind power. The second biggest wind farm in Europe is in Scotland, and the world's largest offshore facility will soon supply electricity to 750,000 homes. Wind power provided 4.7 per cent of Britain's total energy needs in 2011.

### Eco-homes

The UK is also experimenting with green buildings. One project is to make a house only out of waste materials. In Wales, two eco-houses use special heating to make fuel bills cheaper in winter. Many older buildings now use less energy after improving their insulation.

### Green transport

What about sustainable transport? There is a national cycle network in the UK – on many routes only bicycles are allowed. In London you can hire a bike in the street. Car drivers have to pay to enter the centre of the capital on weekdays. Now 30 per cent fewer people use cars and take public transport instead.

### Recycling

British homes now recycle about 40 per cent of their waste, including paper, glass and aluminium. Many people do not separate the items, however. Another 12 per cent of UK waste is burnt at special facilities to produce electricity.

### Green and pleasant land?

In 2011, people spent £1.67 billion on organic food, and over four per cent of UK farmland is now organic. A recent report shows that there is double the amount of forest in the UK than a hundred years ago – this is ten per cent of the total land area. One charity wants to plant 20 million more trees in the next 50 years.

Britain may not be green yet, but it's going in the right direction.

## Activity 3

Select the best answer to each question, according to the text.

- What did the Rio Summit discuss?
  - how to finish the world's resources
  - how to save the diversity of life on Earth
  - how to change the climate
- Which sentence is true about renewable energies?
  - The biggest European wind farm is in Scotland.
  - The largest offshore wind farm is sending electricity to 75,000 homes.
  - Just under five per cent of Britain's energy is from wind power.
- What is it more expensive to do in central London during the week?
  - drive
  - cycle
  - use public transport
- What does the average home do with more than a third of its rubbish?
  - burn it
  - separate it
  - recycle it

- Which sentence is not true?
  - One tenth of Britain is covered in trees.
  - One tenth of British farmland is organic.
  - One fifth of Britain was covered in trees a century ago.

## Activity 4

There are lots of compound nouns in the text. Match a beginning and an ending.

1. car	2. cycle	3. fuel	4. waste	5. wind
a. bills	b. drivers	c. materials	d. network	e. power

## Activity 5: Discussion topic

How much household rubbish is recycled in your country?

## 8 facts about the green economy in the UK

1. The green economy was worth £122 billion (bn) in 2011, 9.3 per cent of the economy.
2. The green goods and services sector employed 939,600 people in 2010–11, many more than the car industry with 518,400 employees.
3. Green infrastructure projects for 2012–13 are worth £23bn, non-green projects only £3.1bn.
4. The UK exported green goods and services to 52 countries in 2010–11, totalling £11.8bn.
5. Exports to the UK's largest six trade partners reached £2.4bn, while imports only totalled £1.4bn.
6. Green exports to China were £794 million, while green imports totalled only £464m.
7. Scotland continues to lead the UK in renewable energy, investing £325.54 per person, compared to just £85.38 in England.
8. Scots also get 22 per cent of their electricity from renewable sources. The English get just five per cent.
Source: <a href="http://www.businessgreen.com/">http://www.businessgreen.com/</a>

### Activity 6

Match a beginning and an ending to make a true sentence.

- Almost one tenth of the UK economy
- Green infrastructure projects are
- Green goods and services
- Britain exported many more
- Over one fifth of Scotland's electricity
  - are worth over £10 billion.
  - green goods to China than it imported.
  - is from renewable energy.
  - is green.
  - seven times the value of non-green ones.

### Activity 7

Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

- There were over 900,000 people employed in green goods and services ..... 2010–11.
- The UK exported green goods and services ..... 52 countries.
- Scotland invests much more in renewable energy per person compared ..... England.
- Scotland gets a fifth of its electricity ..... renewable sources.
- Half a million people are employed ..... car companies in the UK.



The 2012 Olympic Stadium, built on the site of an old factory



Capturing the energy of the sun with solar panels

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great>  
Renewable energy in the UK: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable\\_energy\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy_in_the_United_Kingdom)

## Activity 1

Match the word with a definition.

1. destroyed	2. drawbridge	3. exhibition
4. extinct	5. mosaics	6. origins

- a. bridge that can be raised
- b. pictures made from small pieces of stone
- c. how something was made or began
- d. a show of objects or art for the public to see
- e. ruined
- f. a volcano that will no longer erupt

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about Britain's heritage. Can you guess the significance of these names?

1. Anne	2. Arthur	3. Ben
4. Charles	5. Dolly	6. Paul

- a. a famous sheep
- b. the first name of a famous naturalist
- c. the first name of one of King Henry VIII's wives
- d. someone who has a 'seat' named after him
- e. the name of a big clock
- f. a saint who has a cathedral named after him

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Heritage

## What people come to see

Thirty million people come to the UK every year to see Britain's heritage – palaces, cathedrals, castles and museums. So what do they visit?

## Bird's eye view

London is usually the first destination. You can get a great view from a giant wheel, the London Eye. Across the river you will see the Houses of Parliament and famous clock tower, Big Ben. Looking east you can't miss St Paul's Cathedral. It was built after the original church was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666.

## The Tower and museums

A boat trip on the Thames takes you to the Tower of London. Several famous people were imprisoned here before their execution – including one of King Henry VIII's wives, Anne Boleyn. The Natural History Museum has dinosaur skeletons, a model of a blue whale and a statue of Charles Darwin, a scientist famous for his theory of evolution. The Science Museum next door has exhibitions on Britain's industrial revolution, the history of flight and the exploration of space.

## A 'dangerous' castle

One of the most spectacular examples of heritage outside London is Warwick Castle. Be careful as you

enter across the drawbridge. There are 'murder holes' which soldiers used to drop hot oil on the enemy, and under the castle are dungeons for prisoners.

## Roman remains

When the Romans invaded, they built roads, towns and walls. In Bath you can still see the original Roman bathing complex, with its heating system and mosaics. In York, the Jorvik museum is dedicated to the Vikings, who came from Scandinavia and captured the city in the 9th century. The Minster and medieval streets make it a popular destination.

## Edinburgh's delights

Across the border in Edinburgh is the Museum of Scotland. It contains some exquisite 12th century chess pieces and the remains of Dolly the Sheep, the world's first cloned animal. Thousands of people come here in August for the International Festival. If you climb an extinct volcano, Arthur's Seat, you get the best view over the city.

## Stonehenge secrets

For one of the earliest man-made structures in Britain, you shouldn't miss Stonehenge. This ancient stone circle attracts visitors from all over the world, but its origins remain a mystery.

## Activity 3

Reorder the words to make a correct sentence.

- as a / prison / The / Tower of London / used / was once
- about flight / and space / exploration / has exhibitions / Science Museum / The
- evidence of / in Britain / roads and baths / Roman / still find / You can
- in York's / like to walk / medieval / streets / Visitors
- and an / Edinburgh / extinct volcano / festival / has a famous

## Activity 4

Put capital letters where necessary.

- Representatives discuss new laws in the houses of parliament.
- Much of the centre of the capital was destroyed by the great fire of london.
- The natural history museum is one of the biggest in the country.
- The river thames is nearly 350km long.
- The romans occupied the country for over 400 years.
- Many people go to edinburgh in august to see theatre, music and dance.

## Activity 5: Discussion topic

Which museums or monuments in your country would you recommend?

## 5 UNESCO World Heritage sites in the UK

The castles of Beaumaris, Harlech, Caernarfon and Conwy are located in Gwynedd, in North Wales. These extremely well-preserved monuments are examples of the defence works carried out in the reign of Edward I (1272–1307).

Durham Cathedral was built in the late 11th and early 12th centuries. It is the largest and finest example of Norman architecture in England. Behind the cathedral is the castle, an ancient Norman fortress.

Blenheim Palace, near Oxford, lies in a romantic park created by the famous landscape gardener 'Capability' Brown. It was presented to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, after his victory in 1704 over French and Bavarian armies. It was built between 1705 and 1722 and is a perfect example of an 18th-century aristocratic home.

Westminster Palace was rebuilt in 1840 on the site of important medieval remains. It is a fine example of neo-Gothic architecture. It is also the site of Westminster Abbey, where all British kings and queens have been crowned since the 11th century.

Canterbury's Christ Church Cathedral is a mixture of Romanesque and Perpendicular Gothic architectural styles. Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered here in 1170. Canterbury's other important monuments include the modest Church of St Martin, the oldest church in England.

Source: <http://whc.unesco.org/>

### Activity 6

Match an answer to each question.

- Where is the oldest church in England?
  - Where are all British coronations held?
  - Where can you see castles in good condition?
  - Where can you see a duke's present for winning in war?
  - Where is there a fortress and cathedral next to each other?
- Blenheim
  - Canterbury
  - Durham
  - North Wales
  - Westminster Abbey



A beautiful cathedral window

### Activity 7

Complete the sentence with a time phrase.

- Four Welsh castles were built ..... Edward I.
  - Durham cathedral was finished .....
  - Blenheim Palace took ..... to build.
  - Westminster Palace was rebuilt .....
  - Canterbury Cathedral was the scene of a murder .....
- in the 1200s
  - in the second half of the 12th century
  - during the time of
  - in the first half of the 19th century
  - over 15 years



A historic British castle

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> The National Trust: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>

#### Activity 1

1. c, 2. a, 3. d, 4. f, 5.

b, c

Activity 2

1. c, 2. d, 3. e, 4. b,

5. a, b, f

Activity 3

1. The / Tower of London / was

once / used / as a / prison.

2. The / Science Museum / has

exhibitions / about flight /

and space / exploration.

3. You can / still find / evidence

of / Roman / roads and baths

/ in Britain.

4. Visitors / like to walk /

in York's / medieval /

streets.

5. Edinburgh / has a

famous / festival / and

an / extinct volcano.

Activity 4

1. Representatives discuss new laws

in the Houses of Parliament.

2. Much of the centre of the capital

was destroyed by the Great Fire of

London.

3. The Natural History Museum is one

of the biggest in the country.

4. The River Thames is nearly

350km long.

5. The Romans occupied the

country for over 400 years.

6. Many people go to

Edinburgh in August to see

theatre, music and dance.

Activity 7

1. c, 2. a, 3. e, 4.

d, 5. b

## Activity 1

Match the word or phrase with a definition.

1. crossword puzzle	2. fire extinguisher	3. fizzy
4. smallpox	5. textiles	6. traffic lights

- a. a grid completed with words from clues
- b. coloured signals to control vehicles
- c. contagious disease causing fever and spots
- d. manual device to put out a fire
- e. materials or fabrics
- f. with bubbles in

- 1. What do you call the thing in the wall of a bank that gives you money?  
a. bank teller b. cash machine c. cash flow
- 2. What do you call the machine you use to cut grass?  
a. grass cutter b. grass machine c. lawn mower
- 3. What do you call the process of putting blood into someone's body?  
a. transfusion b. dissection c. incision
- 4. Which of these sports is not British in origin?  
a. rugby b. tennis c. basketball
- 5. What do you call the reflectors in the middle of the road?  
a. cat's eyes b. traffic lights c. indicators

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about British innovations. Can you guess the answers to the following before you read?

### Innovation

#### Industrial Revolution

In Britain every student learns about the important advances in steam power, textiles and ironmaking during the world's first industrial revolution. But the list of UK innovations is much longer.

#### Essential innovations

Who has not used a bicycle or stopped at traffic lights? The smallpox vaccine, blood transfusion and penicillin have saved many lives. Imagine daily life without the telephone, the cash machine or the worldwide web. And how many people enjoy football, rugby, golf or tennis?

#### The little things

Everyday objects like the lawn mower, pram and fire extinguisher are also British inventions. So is the raincoat and the crossword puzzle. But who are the innovators behind them?

#### Brilliant young mathematician

Ada Lovelace was the daughter of the poet Lord Byron. She designed a flying machine when she was only 13, and became friends with a mathematics professor at Cambridge University, Charles Babbage. While she was writing notes about his design for an 'Analytical Machine' – an early mechanical computer – she saw its potential. She wrote the world's first computer program and there is now even a programming language named after her.

#### Driving safely

Percy Shaw was coming home in the fog when his car lights were reflected in the eyes of a cat. This gave him the idea of putting reflectors in the middle of the road for drivers to see at night – 'cat's eyes'. He started his own factory, sold millions of the devices and became a wealthy man.

#### Radio with a difference

Trevor Baylis was watching a television programme about the AIDS crisis in Africa. He realised that people needed a way to find out about the disease quickly and cheaply. He produced a design for a wind-up radio. He combined a normal radio, a toy motor and the mechanism from a music box. No batteries were necessary.

#### Another young inventor

While still at school, Emily Cummins designed a device to make it easier for her grandfather to get toothpaste from the tube – he was suffering from arthritis. At 17, she thought of a water container for African countries which people could pull easily instead of carrying.

So next time you use a piece of technology, remember – it could be British.

## Activity 3

Choose the correct option according to the text.

- 1. Smallpox/Penicillin has saved many lives.
- 2. Ada Lovelace wrote one of the first crossword puzzles/computer programs.
- 3. Percy Shaw is the inventor of cat's eyes/fog lights.
- 4. Trevor Baylis designed a wind-up battery/radio.
- 5. Emily Cummins developed a water/toothpaste container that you can pull.

## 5 great British inventions and inventors

Invention	Specifics	When invented	What came before	Inventor	Trivia about invention
Postage stamp	Penny Black, showing a picture of the young Queen Victoria	1840	Before this, ink and hand-stamps were used.	Rowland Hill	Ten others say they invented the postage stamp.
Television	A scanned image of the head of a ventriloquist's dummy	1925	In 1884 there was an electromechanical television system.	John Logie Baird	From 1929 to 1932 the BBC broadcast TV programmes using Baird's system.
Tin can	Based on work by the French inventor Nicholas Appert	1810	Drying, salting and pickling were used to preserve food before this.	Peter Durand	Members of 1845 Arctic expedition suffered poisoning after eating canned dog meat for three years.
The modern flush toilet	The Ajax ("a jakes"; jakes is an old slang word for toilet)	1596	It was the result of a long development.	Sir John Harington	26th century BC: a type of flush toilet was used in the Indus Valley Civilization.
Machine tool technology	A machine that mass-produced identical screws	1797	Before this, screws were made by hand. No two were identical.	Henry Maudslay	The inventor of the steam hammer trained with Maudslay.

Source: Wikipedia

### Activity 4

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the past simple or continuous.

1. Ada Lovelace ..... (realise) the potential for Babbage's machine while she ..... (write) notes about it.
2. While he ..... (drive) home in the fog, Percy Shaw ..... (get) the idea for road reflectors.
3. Trevor Baylis first ..... (think of) making the first wind-up radio while he ..... (watch) a programme about AIDS.
4. Emily Cummins ..... (make) a device for getting toothpaste out of the tube while her grandfather ..... (suffer) from arthritis.
5. While I ..... (listen) to my portable music player, I ..... (remember) it was designed by a Brit.

### Activity 5: Discussion topic

What do you think are the top five innovations of the last 100 years?

### Activity 6

Reorder the words and phrases to make correct sentences.

1. had the head / it / of Queen Victoria / on / stamp / The first
2. a ventriloquist's / dummy / showed / The first / the head of / TV picture
3. Arctic explorers / for three / meat / on canned / survived / years.
4. ago / centuries / flush toilets / There were / 28
5. identical screws / Machine tool / made / technology / the first

### Activity 7

Match each of the words with a definition.

1. mass-produced	2. hand-made	3. canned
4. slang	5. dried	

- a. 'Loo' and 'John' are ..... words for 'toilet'.
- b. Shall we just have some ..... soup for lunch?
- c. The furniture is ..... in factories – that's why it's so cheap.
- d. .... fish is a popular dish in some countries. You soak it in water ..... before you cook it.
- e. I bought her some ..... chocolates for her birthday.

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> British inventions: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists\\_of\\_British\\_inventions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_British_inventions)

## Activity 1

Match the word with a definition.

1. academic	2. data	3. departments
4. postgraduate	5. research	6. undergraduates

- connected to university or study
- information you can measure
- people studying for a first degree
- specialised parts of the university
- study after a first degree
- the study of something in detail

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about knowledge. Match a beginning and an ending to find some of the phrases mentioned in the text.

1. academic	2. educational	3. growing
4. health	5. human	6. postgraduate
a. body	b. economies	c. institutions
d. issues	e. research	f. success

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Knowledge

### Centres of knowledge

Oxford and Cambridge are Britain's oldest universities. Their academic traditions go back nine hundred years. They are among the top educational institutions in the world.

### Famous names

Oxford has educated many of Britain's politicians, writers and actors. Cambridge has produced some of the best minds in science, including Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton. Both universities do important research and publish books.

### Secrets of success

Their academic success may be because the universities have separate colleges – where students live, sleep and work. Undergraduates prepare and discuss topics every week in small groups, known as tutorials. Recently, over 90 per cent of students said they were satisfied with their course.

### Important discoveries

How have the two universities contributed to human knowledge? Henry Cavendish, the discoverer of oxygen, was educated at Cambridge. Francis Crick and James Watson, who first described the structure of DNA, also worked there. Oxford University educated Thomas Hobbes, the philosopher, and Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of the World Wide Web.

### Research activity

What about current research? Oxford has 3,800 staff in 70 departments specialising in everything from African economies to vaccination. One institute is following 12,000 children in four countries over 15 years to study the effects of poverty. There is a unit which is investigating how the human body can combat cancer. The Department of Tropical Medicine is using mobile phones in the fight against malaria.

### Warmer climate, stronger bridges

Geographers at Cambridge are coordinating data on climate change – and how it affects vegetation and the spread of disease. Engineering scientists are using technology to monitor bridges and tunnels so that they don't collapse.

### Going global

UK universities have become more international. Oxford is involved in several programmes to study global health issues. A Cambridge department is studying the growing economies of Brazil and India. Nearly two-thirds of students doing postgraduate research come from outside the UK, many from the USA, China and Hong Kong. Who knows, maybe someone reading this will also be a student at one of the UK's universities in the near future?

## Activity 3

True or false?

- Oxford University and Cambridge University are more than five hundred years old.
- Crick and Watson studied at Oxford University.
- The majority of students are happy with their studies.
- Important advances in medicine happened at Cambridge University.
- Some studies use new technology to fight disease.
- Most advanced students at universities in the UK are British.

## Activity 4

Past or present? Put the correct form of the verb in brackets according to the information in the text.

- Henry Cavendish ..... (discover) oxygen.
- An Oxford Institute ..... (study) child poverty in four different countries.
- Sixty per cent of Oxford postgraduates ..... (come) from outside Britain.
- Tim Berners-Lee ..... (create) the World Wide Web.
- Scientists ..... (use) mobile phones to fight malaria.

## 5 great British thinkers

Name	Born–died	Areas of learning	Famous for	Trivia
Francis Bacon	1561–1626	Philosopher, statesman, scientist and essayist	He established and popularised the scientific method.	He died from pneumonia while putting snow in a chicken to preserve it.
Isaac Newton	1642–1727	Physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist and theologian	Described universal gravitation and the three laws of motion	His mother wanted him to be a farmer.
Adam Smith	1723–1790	Economist and philosopher	Being a pioneer of political economy	He was the first Scotsman to be on an English banknote.
Alan Turing	1912–1954	Mathematician and cryptographer	One of the fathers of computer science and artificial intelligence	More than 20 universities have buildings or computer labs named after him.
Stephen Hawking	1942–	Theoretical physicist and author	Hawking radiation (the theoretical prediction that black holes should emit radiation)	His voice was used on parts of the Pink Floyd song 'Keep Talking'.

Source: Wikipedia

### Activity 5: Discussion topic

Which areas of knowledge are universities in your country famous for?

### Activity 6

Match an academic with a description.

1. Adam Smith	2. Alan Turing	3. Francis Bacon
4. Isaac Newton	5. Stephen Hawking	

- He didn't live over 50.
- He died doing an experiment.
- He is on a pop song.
- He was not born in England.
- His mother wanted him to go into agriculture.

### Activity 7

Fill the gaps with a word from the text.

- Someone who studies physics is a/an .....
- The first person to do something is a/an .....
- Someone who works with mathematics is a/an .....
- Someone who writes books is a/an .....
- Someone who studies planets and stars is a/an .....



One of the colleges at Oxford University



A view of Oxford University from the air



Part of Oxford University's famous Bodleian Library

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> Education UK: <http://www.educationuk.org/>

## Activity 1

Match the word with a definition.

1. chapter	2. characters	3. fiction
4. novel	5. published	

- long story with imaginary people and events
- people represented in a book
- produced and sold a book
- part of a book
- stories written from the imagination

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about literature. Can you match a name to an author?

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. David Copperfield   | a. Agatha Christie    |
| 2. Hercule Poirot      | b. Arthur Conan Doyle |
| 3. <i>Oliver Twist</i> | c. Charles Dickens    |
| 4. Sherlock Holmes     | d. Charles Dickens    |
| 5. The Hobbit          | e. JRR Tolkien        |

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Literature

### The power of the written word

More books are published per person in the UK than in any other country – 229 million were bought in Britain in 2011. That year's favourite sold nearly one million copies – and it was a novel.

### Classic fiction

British readers prefer fiction to any other type of book. Some authors are as successful today as when they were alive. Take Charles Dickens; *A Tale of Two Cities* has sold 200 million copies since 1859. His books have been made into films, television series and even musicals. So why is he still so popular?

### Watching people

Dickens was an expert in observing human beings – Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* or Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*, for example. His characters are often based on real people. Like Dickens' own father, Mr Micawber in *David Copperfield* went to prison for debt.

### Watching places

Dickens cared about poverty and injustice – think of the story of *Oliver Twist*. He also describes London well, where he lived most of his life. There is a memorable description of fog at the beginning of *Bleak House*. Interestingly, Dickens wrote and

published many of his novels in parts – people read a new chapter of the story every week.

### A world of his own

Another master of language was JRR Tolkien. He was professor of Old English and used it for the names of his characters. He created a whole world from his study of Germanic mythology, first in *The Hobbit* and then in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. You can see his influence in modern fantasy books and computer games.

### Crime novels

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about Sherlock Holmes are famous, but the most successful writer of crime novels was Agatha Christie. Her best-loved character was Hercule Poirot. Christie worked in a pharmacy for a time – this gave her a useful knowledge of poisons. Several books were set in the Middle East after she travelled there with her husband, an archaeologist. She was good at creating suspense – people always wanted to read more.

### Characters that live longer than their inventors

Dickens died in 1870. JRR Tolkien and Agatha Christie passed away in the 1970s. But Marley's Ghost, Bilbo Baggins and Miss Marple live on.

## Activity 3

Choose the best answer according to the text.

- British people ...
  - ... bought 229 million novels in 2011.
  - ... like Charles Dickens more than any other writer.
  - ... like novels more than true stories.
- Charles Dickens ...
  - ... lived many years in London.
  - ... died in 1859.
  - ... wrote musical versions of his books.
- Charles Dickens ...
  - ... based Mr Micawber on someone he knew.
  - ... wrote a lot about nature and the countryside.
  - ... wasn't interested in how poor people lived.
- JRR Tolkien ...
  - ... was a teacher of German.
  - ... used his knowledge of language in his books.
  - ... designed an early computer game.

- Agatha Christie ...
  - ... used her life experiences in her books.
  - ... was a trained scientist.
  - ... worked as an archaeologist for a while.

## Activity 4

Passive or active? Choose the correct form of the verb.

- Dickens was lived/lived in London.
- Many of Dickens' books made/were made into films.
- Mr Micawber based/was based on Dickens' father.
- Tolkien's book influenced/were influenced other writers.
- Some of Agatha Christie's novels set/were set in the Middle East.

## Activity 5: Discussion topic

Which do you prefer – reading the original book or watching the film version?

## 5 British books that changed the world

Name of book	Published	Author	Topic	Importance
Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy	1687	Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727)	Describes universal gravitation and the three laws of motion	It lays the foundations for the physical laws of motion.
The Rights of Man	1791	Thomas Paine (1737–1809)	The purpose of government is to protect the rights of human beings.	Strongly influenced democracy
A Vindication of the Rights of Women	1792	Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–1797)	Women are not inferior to men, and deserve to have an education.	One of the earliest works of feminist philosophy
Experimental Research in Electricity	1855	Michael Faraday (1791–1867)	Description of his many experiments with electricity	Electricity could now be used in technology.
On the Origin of Species	1859	Charles Darwin (1809–1882)	How species evolve, through natural selection	A fundamental work in the area of evolutionary biology

Source: Wikipedia

### Activity 6

Complete the questions with a name from the box. Whose book ...

1. ... argued that women and men were equal?
2. ... showed how living things change naturally?
3. ... described three important laws of physics?
4. ... had electric results?
5. ... proposed the idea of human rights?

a. Charles Darwin	b. Isaac Newton	c. Mary Wollstonecraft
d. Michael Faraday	e. Thomas Paine	

### Activity 7

Change the nouns below into adjectives – they are all in the text.

1. mathematics
2. feminism
3. experiment
4. evolution
5. inferiority



A bookshop window



Some of Agatha Christie's many novels

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> British literature: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_literature)

## Activity 1

Match a word or phrase with a definition.

1. album	2. band	3. gigs
4. go on tour	5. speakers	6. turntable

- a. circular platform that turns to play a record
- b. collection of songs on one or more records/CDs
- c. concerts (informal)
- d. equipment that sound comes out of
- e. group of musicians
- f. play at a series of different places

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about music. Do you know what or who these are?

1. Coldcut	2. Glastonbury	3. King Tut's
4. The Hacienda	5. Reg Dwight	

- a. a festival
- b. a music venue
- c. nightclub
- d. a singer
- e. DJs

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Music

## Shared passion

One day two teenagers met on the way to college. One had some blues records under his arm. They began talking about the music. Later in a club, a guitarist asked them to join his band. They found a place to practice, started playing gigs and attracting fans. Then they made an album and had their first number one; in five years they were millionaires.

## Popular pastime

This is the story of the Rolling Stones, but it could be many others'. Music-making has always been a very popular activity. Britain is now the third biggest producer of music in the world.

## Musical cities

Groups are proud of where they come from. Cities often have a particular sound or style. Liverpool in the 1960s had the Cavern Club, where many groups played, like the Beatles. Manchester created its own scene in the 1980s at the Hacienda club.

## Innovation

Several musical styles started in the UK. Punk gave people the idea that anyone could start a band – musical ability wasn't so important. Dance DJs like

Coldcut didn't need instruments – just a turntable and some speakers.

## Improving yourself

Some singers got into music to do better than their parents. Tom Jones was the son of a coal miner, and Annie Lennox's father worked in the shipyards. Others changed their names. Reginald Dwight and Florian Cloud de Bouneville O'Malley Armstrong didn't sell any records – Elton John and Dido sold millions.

## Places to play, places to listen

These days you can download music for free, so bands go on tour to make money. There are lots of places for live performances in the UK. Brixton Academy is an old-style dancehall. King Tut's in Glasgow only has room for 300 people. But there are also many big arenas with modern seating and acoustics.

## Music festivals

In summer the best places for live music are festivals. Glastonbury is one of the oldest. It attracts big stars for five days every June. There are plenty of free events too, like the Strawberry Fair in Cambridge, which welcomes families.

## Activity 3

Choose the correct option according to the text.

- The Rolling Stones formed in a club/college.
- The Beatles used to play at the Hacienda/Cavern Club.
- Punk bands didn't always have musical ability/instruments.
- Tom Jones' father worked in a coal mine/shipyard.
- You have to pay to get in to Strawberry Fair/Glastonbury.

## Activity 4

Find the spelling mistake in the following sentences

- They asked him to join the banned.
- The Cavern was a club were many groups played.
- Manchester had a good music seen in the 1980s.
- Tom Jones was a coal miner's sun.
- Glastonbury is a festival witch happens every June.

## Activity 5: Discussion topic

How often do you see live music?

## 5 great British bands

Name	Origin	Dates	Main band members	Famous song/album	Honours
The Beatles	Liverpool	1960–70	John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr	The Beatles (The White Album)	Best-selling band in history
The Rolling Stones	London	1962–present	Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts, Ronnie Wood, Bill Wyman	It's Only Rock 'n Roll	4th on '100 Greatest Artists of All Time' list (Rolling Stone magazine)
The Who	London	1964–82, 1985, 1988–89, 1996–present	Pete Townshend, Roger Daltrey, John Entwistle, Keith Moon, Kenney Jones	My Generation	Have seven albums on Rolling Stone magazine's '500 Greatest Albums of All Time'
Led Zeppelin	London	1968–80 (reunions: 1985, 1988, 1995, 2007)	John Bonham, John Paul Jones, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant	Stairway to Heaven	Second best-selling band ever in the USA
Pink Floyd	London	1965–1995, (one-off reunion: 2005)	Syd Barrett, Roger Waters, Richard Wright, Nick Mason, David Gilmour	The Dark Side of the Moon	Sold more than 250 million albums worldwide

Source: Wikipedia

### Activity 6

True or false?

1. The Beatles were together for about 10 years.
2. The Rolling Stones have been together for over 50 years.
3. Led Zeppelin were the most successful group in the USA.
4. Pink Floyd are still together.
5. The Who made more than six albums.

### Activity 7

Complete with the correct preposition.

1. The Who came ..... London.
2. The Rolling Stones formed ..... 1962.
3. Led Zeppelin were together from 1968 ..... 1980.
4. The Beatles are the most successful group ..... all time.
5. Pink Floyd played together ..... 30 years.

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> UK Music: <http://www.ukmusic.org/>

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

Activity 2

1. e; 2. a; 3. c; 4. b; 5. d

Activity 3

1. The Rolling Stones formed in a club.  
2. The Beatles used to play at the Cavern Club.

Activity 4

1. They asked him to join the band.

3. Punk bands didn't always have musical ability.

4. Tom Jones' father worked in a coal mine.

5. You have to pay to get in to Glastonbury.

Activity 6

1. True (T); 2. T; 3. False (F); 4. F; 5. T

Activity 7

1. from; 2. in; 3. to; 4. of; 5. for

4. Tom Jones was a coal miner's son.  
5. Glastonbury is a festival which happens every June.

## Activity 1

Match the word or phrase with a definition.

1. accessories	2. browsing	3. currency
4. department store	5. handicrafts	6. quarter

- area of town
- big shop with different parts selling different things
- things like hats, belts and gloves
- looking casually around a shop
- money used in a particular country
- traditional objects

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about shopping. Which of the following topics do you think will be mentioned?

Topic

- toys
- pet food
- antiques
- cheese
- gifts
- farmers

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Shopping

### Europe's busiest shopping street

London is a shopper's paradise, and one of the best places to go is Oxford Street. Selfridges, one of the world's first department stores, is here. There are at least four other major stores and Europe's largest music shop. In December the Christmas lights are always switched on by a famous person.

### Kids' heaven

Nearby in Regent Street is Hamleys. This is the biggest toy store in the world, opened in 1881. There are seven floors, so kids can always find something they haven't got.

### All things for all people

A fashionable area for shopping is Kensington High Street. You can buy clothes, cosmetics and accessories here and there's an organic food supermarket. Harrods in Knightsbridge has 330 different departments and sells absolutely everything, from electronic goods and jewellery to pet food and furniture. The food hall is spectacular and if you feel hungry, you can choose from 32 different restaurants.

### Markets

You can't leave London without visiting a market. One of the oldest is Borough market. Walk around and look at the fresh fish, bakeries, and fruit and vegetable sellers. You can also buy specialist food, like cheeses, pork pies and chutney. For antiques, jewellery or collector's items go to Portobello Road on a Saturday. You never know what you will find. If you like browsing for jewellery and gifts, there is nothing better than Covent Garden market. There are lots of cafés here and always some kind of street entertainment.

### Back in time

If you are in the north of England, why not explore York's picturesque medieval quarter, known as The Shambles. The narrow streets are always filled with shoppers. The old wooden buildings are so close they almost touch each other.

### Outside the city

Tired of city life? Most medium-sized towns in Britain have regular farmers' markets. Here local producers sell their food, drink and handicrafts – they will usually let you try the bread, cakes or wine before you buy. One market town called Totnes even introduced its own currency. Now seventy local businesses accept it.

## Activity 3

Are the following statements true or false?

- Selfridges is the only large store in Oxford Street.
- Hamleys is about fifty years old.
- Harrods has hundreds of different sections.
- Portobello Road is the best place to buy cheese.
- At farmers' markets you can taste the products before buying.

## Activity 4

Use the correct form of the word to complete the sentence.

- Everyone's going to the new Moroccan restaurant – it's very ..... (fashion).

- If you want to buy fresh bread it's best to go to a ..... (bake).
- If you can't afford to go out at the weekend, then TV is often the only ..... (entertain).
- The town has changed – there are many new ..... (build).
- These vegetables are grown by local ..... (produce).

## Activity 5: Discussion topic

What do you spend your money on?

## 5 famous British shops

Name	Type of shop	When founded	Number of locations	Employees	Trivia
Hamleys	Toyshop	1760 (High Holborn) 1881 (Regent Street)	17 (including small shops in airports)	Not available	During the Second World War, the Regent Street store was bombed five times.
Waterstones	Bookshop	1982	296 stores (2011)	4,500	It is the largest bookshop in Europe, and the third largest in the world.
Boots	Chemist	1849 (Boots) 2006 (Alliance Boots)	3,200	115,500	In 1920, Jesse Boot sold the company to the American United Drug Company. In 1933 his grandson, John Boot, bought it back again.
Harrods	Department store (luxury)	1834	1 (+ Harrods Buenos Aires to reopen in 2013)	5,000	It the biggest department store in Europe (90,000 m2).
Tesco	Supermarket	1919	6,351 stores (As of April 2012)	520,035	It is the third-largest retailer in the world (after Walmart and Carrefour).

Source: Wikipedia

## Activity 6

Match a description to a shop.

1. It has been in two different London streets. a. Boots
2. It has half a million employees. b. Hamleys
3. It has nearly 300 stores. c. Harrods
4. It is going to open in Argentina. d. Tesco
5. It was sold to a US company. e. Waterstones



Harrods Food Hall - a selection of luxury food

## Activity 7

Complete the sentences using the passive, e.g. (make) = was made.

1. Hamleys ..... (bomb) during WWII.
2. Waterstones ..... (open) in 1982.
3. Boots ..... (sell) in 1920.
4. Harrods ..... (found) in 1834.
5. Tesco ..... (start) in 1919.



The Burberry store in Bond Street, London

## Useful links &gt;

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> UK Shopping: <http://uk.shopping.com/>

## Activity 1

Match the word with a definition.

1. captain	2. competitiveness	3. impressive
4. mention	5. tournament	6. track

- course for races
- leader of a sports team
- respected because it is important or very big
- series of games
- speak briefly about
- wanting to be better than someone else

## Activity 2

You are going to read a text about sport. Which sport(s) do you think did not originally come from the UK?

- rugby
- tennis
- golf
- cricket
- cycling

Now read the text and find out if you were correct.

## Sport

### Organising games

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games brought the world's attention to sport like never before. It was impressive to see a small nation like the UK organise the Olympics for the third time in modern history.

### Inventing games

Britain probably invented quite a few modern sports. One is cricket, which is now played at international level in a dozen countries. Tennis also first became popular here and Wimbledon is one of four big tournaments every year. Golf is supposed to be Scottish in origin, rugby from a school of the same name.

### Opportunity for all

Every town in Britain has a football, rugby or cricket club (sometimes all three) and at least one swimming pool. Schools often have a gymnasium and playing fields with a running track. As Britain is an island, there are lots of opportunities for practising water sports as well.

### Get qualified

Nowadays you often need qualifications, and common sports courses include Master's Degrees in Sports Science or Sports Management, diplomas in training or coaching, and certificates in anything from aikido to women's boxing.

### Sporting monuments

The bigger sports venues have become famous. Think of Silverstone for motor racing, Ascot for horse racing or Wembley for football. Mention the names Old Trafford, Stamford Bridge or Anfield to most people between the ages of 8 and 80 and they know instantly what you are talking about.

### Who's your favourite?

So who do the British think are their best sportsmen and women? In the 1960s it was the England football captain, Bobby Moore. Ten years later, tennis player Virginia Wade or athlete Mary Peters were stars. In the 1980s, it was the turn of cricketer Ian Botham or Olympic decathlete Daley Thompson. Today the marathon runner Paula Radcliffe is very popular.

### It doesn't matter if you win, it's how you play the game.

'Fair play' in British society is as important as winning or losing. Teamwork is also necessary in many areas of professional life. Even so, individualism and competitiveness make sporting champions.

### You can do it

Steve Redgrave, winner of gold at five Olympic Games, says: 'Self-belief is probably the most crucial factor in sporting success ... It is the iron in the mind, not the supplements, that wins medals.'

## Activity 3

Reorder the words to make a correct sentence.

- Games / in the / Olympic / The 2012 / United / Kingdom / were held
- in Britain / many clubs / and sports / There are / facilities
- a sports / is possible / It / qualification / to do / to Master's level
- and women / are / as famous as / Sports venues / sportsmen
- are / common / in everyday / life / Sporting attitudes

## Activity 4

Fill in the gap with a suitable word from the text.

a. origin	b. qualifications	c. champion
d. winner	e. factor	f. supplements

- A good trainer is an important ..... in an athlete's success.
- A lot of people take vitamin and mineral .....
- If you train hard you might be a world ..... one day.
- In the Olympics, the ..... of an event gets the gold medal.
- Nobody is sure of the ..... of the word 'OK'.
- She has all of the right ..... for the job.

## 5 great British sportswomen

Name/title	Birth-death	Sport	Achievement (1)	Achievement (2)	Achievement (3)
Lottie Dod	1871–1960	Tennis, golf, hockey and archery	Five-time Wimbledon champion	British amateur golf champion	Won silver medal in archery at 1908 Olympics
Tanni Grey-Thompson (Baroness Grey-Thompson)	1969–	Wheelchair racing	16 Paralympic medals, including 11 golds	Held over 30 world records	Won London Marathon six times
Paula Radcliffe	1973–	Long-distance running	World record holder in the marathon	World champion in the marathon, half marathon and cross country	Three-time winner of the London Marathon
Dame Ellen MacArthur	1976–	Sailing	World record for the fastest solo circumnavigation of the globe	Second in the Vendée Globe solo round-the-world sailing race	Failed to break the west-east transatlantic crossing time by just 75 minutes
Chrissie Wellington	1977–	Ironman Triathlon	Four-time Ironman Triathlon World Champion	Holder of all three world and championship records relating to ironman-distance triathlon races	Undefeated over the ironman distance

Source: Wikipedia

### Activity 5: Discussion topic

Do you prefer to watch or play sports?

### Activity 6

Order the words to make correct sentences.

1. archery champion / golf and / Lottie Dod / tennis, / was a
2. has won / Marathon / six / times / Tanni Grey-Thompson / the London
3. champion / events / in three different / is / long-distance / Paula Radcliffe / the world
4. around the world / Ellen MacArthur / fastest / has sailed / in the / time ever
5. Chrissie Wellington / four times / has been / Ironman Triathlon / World Champion

### Activity 7

Write out the correct number, e.g. Paula Radcliffe has won the London Marathon three times.

1. Lottie Dod died in n .....
2. Tanni Grey-Thompson won s ..... Paralympic medals.
3. Paula Radcliffe was born in n .....
4. Ellen MacArthur failed to break the transatlantic crossing time by just s ..... minutes.
5. Tanni Grey-Thompson has over t ..... world records.

#### Useful links >

This content on video: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/britain-great> UK Sport: <http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/>

#### Answers

##### Activity 1

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

##### Activity 2

##### Cycling

##### Activity 3

1. The 2012 / Olympic / Games / were held / in the / United / Kingdom.
2. There are / many clubs / and sports facilities / in Britain.

##### Activity 4

3. It / is possible / to do / a sports / qualification / to Master's level.
4. Sports venues / are / as famous as / sportsmen / and women.
5. Sporting attitudes / are / common / in everyday / life.

##### Activity 6

1. Lottie Dod / was a / tennis, / golf and / archery champion.
2. Tanni Grey-Thompson / has won / the London / Marathon / six / times.
3. Paula Radcliffe / is / the world / long-distance / events.
4. Ellen MacArthur / has sailed / around the world / in the / fastest / time ever.

##### Activity 7

1. nineteen sixty; 2. sixteen; 3. nineteen seventy-three; 4. seventy-five; 5. thirty

5. Chrissie Wellington / has been / Ironman Triathlon / World Champion / four times.

# Speaking Tips

- ✓ Become aware of how native speakers behave and copy them.
- ✓ Watch a native English speaker's mouth on television. Note what shapes they make and try to copy them. Listen out for characteristic "English" sounds and copy them too. What noises do they make when they are thinking? How do they take turns to speak? What happens to their voices when they get angry or embarrassed? Do they only smile in certain situations or with certain people? All these things are just as important as the words they use.
- ✓ Ask a native speaker you know to help you with English you don't understand.
- ✓ Keep your questions simple and don't expect your friend to know their English grammar as well as you do.
- ✓ Talk to yourself in the mirror.
- ✓ Sing your favourite songs in English to copy the native speaker sounds. Have a set of general topics to choose from and take a new one each day.
- ✓ Try to think in English.
- ✓ Ask yourself: How would I say that in English? How could I explain that idea to an English speaker?
- ✓ Set up a conversation group.
- ✓ Meet regularly to talk in English. If you are preparing for an oral exam/interview, ask one friend to practise the interview with you and another to listen and give you constructive feedback on your performance. Then swap roles. Keep your conversations on topics you are familiar with. If you don't know what to say, change the subject or keep quiet until you feel you can contribute easily again.
- ✓ Write familiar conversation topics on cards.
- ✓ Take a card and speak about the topic for two minutes. Record yourself and then listen, checking for things you could improve. Next time you take the same card, can you speak more confidently?
- ✓ Learn some English: sentences which you need again and again.
- ✓ Practise so that you can say them in conversation without having to worry.

# Vocabulary Tips

- ✓ Learn five words a day.
- ✓ Note them in a small diary, five words for each day. In this way you quickly build up a large set of vocabulary. If you keep the diary in your pocket, it is easy to review it on the bus or in a queue or why not record them at the back of this booklet.
- ✓ Create a personal dictionary.
- ✓ Use a notebook to organise your vocabulary. Decide how you want to sort out the words:
  - parts of speech (eg all the adjectives together)
  - topic area (eg food, crime)
  - function of the language (eg suggesting, complaining)
- ✓ If you use an address book with A-Z dividers, you could make an alphabetical sequence.
- ✓ Keep a scrapbook of headlines, articles and advertisements.
- ✓ Include vocabulary that interests or amuses you. Write down phrases you hear on television or read and note the context they were in.
- ✓ Use pictures to record idioms.
- ✓ Draw a cartoon picture to make each expression more memorable: eg “a storm in a teacup”.
- ✓ Use the idioms to label a poster of your favourite singer or actor. Put “He pulled her leg” next to the leg, “She has no heart!” next to the heart, “She didn’t believe her eyes” next to the eyes, and so on. This may help you remember them better.
- ✓ Make vocabulary cards.
- ✓ Write the English word on one side and the translation in your language on the other. Prepare the cards with new vocabulary and then use the cards to test yourself. Look at the English word and try to remember the translation.
- ✓ You could also try to explain the meaning of the word (How would a dictionary define it?) or think of a sentence including the word. This is another activity which is easy to do when you have a few minutes of free time if you keep the cards in your pocket or bag.

# Grammar Tips

- ✓ Read & listen to English every day.
- ✓ Reading and listening to natural English will expose you to a lot of new grammar in a natural context.
- ✓ Find magazines that interest you, watch films in English and read simplified readers with tapes, or do the crossword in the newspaper.
- ✓ Try to work rules out for yourself.
- ✓ Try and work out rules for yourself before checking in a reference book. If you try to work things out for yourself first, this will help you remember it better. It's also good practice as you won't have a reference book with you all the time, so you'll often have to guess the meaning of unknown words.
- ✓ Keep a notebook.
- ✓ Have a separate notebook for grammar. When you come across sentences or paragraphs with good, clear examples of structure and grammar, write them in your notebook. Grammar rules need good examples to help you to better understand.
- ✓ Don't just learn the translation. Practise using the grammar and vocabulary in the right context in written and spoken sentences.
- ✓ As well as writing in a notebook, try to stick what you've learned in a place where you often see it. For example, you could stick it next to your mirror in the bathroom. While you're brushing your teeth, read through the list and try to remember them. You could stick words on the walls or beside your computer.
- ✓ Learn words in groups or phrases.
- ✓ There are many words in English that go together. Try to learn words together with their partners and not words on their own, e.g. phrases (brush up your English), adjectives or verbs with prepositions (interested in, listen to, verb and noun collocations - do your homework).

# Reading Tips

- ✓ Remember that there are different ways of reading.
- ✓ Think about the process of reading. When you skim read, you just get a general idea about the content. If you are looking for something particular, for example the name of your team on the sports pages, you scan the text for more detail.
- ✓ Read actively.
  - ✓ When you do any reading, predict what the text is going to be about from the title or the pictures. After you have read the text, do something with the new information you have, think about these questions:
    - Who is the article about?
    - Where and when is the article talking about?
    - What are the main points of the article?
    - What kind of people would find the article interesting to read?
    - What is your opinion of/reaction to the article?
- ✓ Share your understanding.
  - ✓ If someone you know has read the same article, talk about it with them. What do they think? Do you agree with them?
- ✓ Read the same material in English as you would in your language.
  - ✓ If you enjoy reading about fashion in your language, read about fashion in English too. You will already understand some of the vocabulary and ideas and have a good background knowledge. Conversely, if you hate films and never go to the cinema, reading an English-language film review will probably not be a useful exercise for you because you won't enjoy it.
- ✓ If you have access to the same material in your language and in English, compare the two versions. How has the translator expressed the same idea in the new language? Is it a good translation? What would you change? Are the texts exactly the same?
- ✓ Set yourself a reading target.
- ✓ Reading one article every day is better than reading a whole paper only once a fortnight. Ask your teacher to recommend suitable materials.

# Listening Tips

- ✓ Listen to the radio news or watch a television news programme at the same time every day. How many stories are there? Note down what each story is about (think: when, where, who, what).
- ✓ If you can, record the programme and listen to/watch it again to check details from the first time. You cannot do this in “real life” but it is very useful practice and it means you find out what you got right the first time and this will boost your confidence.
- ✓ Alternatively, record a news programme without listening to/watching it. Then play only the headlines. Stop the tape and predict what the stories will be about. Then listen to check your predictions. Use one of the stories as a dictation text. Listen several times and write down what you hear.
- ✓ Don't force yourself to listen for too long. Set yourself realistic goals. For example, when listening to the weather forecast, just listen for the temperature and weather conditions for your city/area for the next day. Don't worry about information which won't affect you.
- ✓ If there are similar programmes in your language and in English, compare them. Is the content exactly the same? Are the opinions given similar? What are the differences?
- ✓ Native listeners don't often listen to or understand 100% of what they hear. Non-native listeners shouldn't try to either. Work on strategies to find out what people are talking about – listen for clues about the topic, the speakers' opinions/feelings and the type of relationship they have (eg boss and employee, colleagues, wife and husband). Practise on the bus by eavesdropping on (secretly listening to) other people's conversations. Or, try to work out what a tv/radio programme is about when you've missed the beginning.
- ✓ If you are watching an English-language film with subtitles in your language, listen to check if the subtitles are accurate. Are they a direct translation or just a summary of what is said? If you hear a bilingual announcement, is the grammar exactly the same? Notice the differences and the similarities.
- ✓ Watch a television soap opera every day so you get to know the story and characters. Knowing the background and context makes listening easier.
- ✓ Enjoy listening. Use an English-language workout video and “kill two birds with one stone”. Listen to songs in English and learn your favourite lyrics.

# Writing Tips

- ✓ Find a penfriend and write letters to him or her. Penfriends can be a relative or someone you've never met in another country or simply a classmate you keep in touch with by letter as well as see in class. Use e-mail as a quick way to keep in touch.
- ✓ Keep a diary of your thoughts and ideas. Write down how you are feeling and what is on your mind at the moment. Write freely and don't worry about making mistakes. You need to balance accuracy and fluency in your written work as well as in your spoken English. You can use these personal reflections and ideas in more structured writing (e.g. essays) later on.
- ✓ Also write down what you have been doing to practise English. Note anything that strikes you about how you learn. You can look back through these notes to see what helped you and what didn't. The better you understand how you learn, the more effectively you can plan your learning.
- ✓ Brainstorm ideas when deciding what to write. This means putting every idea you have on to paper in note form. Once you have a lot of ideas, you can sort out the good from the not so good, but initially it is useful just to get as wide a variety of ideas as possible.
- ✓ When preparing to write a letter or an essay, don't forget that you need to plan first. What points do you think you need to make? What order should you put them in for the best effect? Thinking about these things before you start: then you can concentrate more on getting the grammar and vocabulary correct when you are writing.
- ✓ Keep your own writing file of authentic examples of different text types (business and personal letters you receive, postcards, advertisements and instructions, etc). When you have to write something similar, you can then copy ideas for layout, organisation and content from a real example.
- ✓ When you have a piece of writing checked by a teacher, make a note of the mistakes you have made. We all have particular, "personal" errors we frequently make. Write up a checklist of these mistakes so that you can go through your next piece of writing before you hand it in to make sure you haven't made the same mistakes again. For example: good at (not in), occasion (not ocassion)
- ✓ Record yourself reading a short text aloud and then use this later as a dictation ie write down what you hear.

# Pronunciation Tips

One area which causes many pronunciation problems in East Asia is stress. Do you know what stress is? No, not that kind of stress!!! Word stress! So, what does this mean?

Every word is made up of syllables. Some words have only one syllable.

For example,

<b>Book</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Fast</b>	<b>Well</b>
-------------	--------------	-------------	-------------

Most words, however, have more than one syllable. For example,

Ta-ble has 2 syllables

A-gen-da has 3 syllables

In-tro-duc-tion has 4 syllables

Con-grat-u-la-tions has 5 syllables

In-ter-con-ti-nen-tal has 6 syllables.

In every English word of more than one syllable, one of the syllables is stressed. This means we say it louder and stronger than the other syllables. Putting the stress on the wrong syllable can make it difficult for your listener to understand you. Why not test yourself or even test your friends or parents? Have a go! First try to count how many syllables the words have, and then try to say which syllable is stressed. Ready? Ok.

<b>Purchase</b>	<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Vegetable</b>	<b>Modem</b>	<b>Poem</b>
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So, how did you do? Let's start with number one:

**Purchase** Did you say a) PURchase or b) purCHASE? If you guessed b) I'm afraid you're wrong! This is a word you often hear mispronounced in East Asia. In standard English the stress should be on the 1st syllable PUR chase.

**Calendar** Did you say a) caLENdAr or b) CALendAr? If you guessed b) you're correct! This is another word you often hear mispronounced in East Asia. In Standard English the stress should be on the 1st syllable CALendAr.

**Vegetable** This word has 4 parts – veg/e/ta/ble – right? Wrong. It looks like 4 parts but in standard English, this word has only 3 parts. It's pronounced as VEG/ta/ble – the middle part is silent.

**Modem** In East Asia, with computers everywhere, we often hear this word as moDEM. But in standard English, we actually pronounce the word as MODem - MO rhyming with so.

Another reason it's very important to know word stress is many words in English can be both nouns and verbs. For example, let's look at the word **record**.

Could you **record** American Idol on Channel 5 for me tonight?

In this sentence, **re**cord**** is a verb and the stress is on the 2nd syllable.

We have no **re**cord**** of your application.

In this sentence, **re**cord**** is a noun and the stress is on the first syllable.

Why not test yourself! Can you choose the correct word? Where is the stress?

Present	Object	Import
---------	--------	--------

1. It's my sister's birthday. I need to buy her a a) PRE-sent or b) pre-SENT. (noun)
2. The president is going to a) pre SENT or b) PRE sent him with a medal of honour. ( verb)
3. The teachers a) OB ject or b) ob JECT to students using their mobile phones in class. ( verb)
4. The a) OB ject or b) ob JECT of the game is to win as many card as you can. (noun)
5. a) IM ports or b) im PORTS of oil have risen dramatically in recent years. (noun)
6. Singapore a) IM ports or b) im PORTS a lot of dairy products from Australia. (verb)

Did you get them correct? 1 – a, 2 – a, 3 – b, 4 – a, 5 – a, 6 – b. So, can you work out any rule from these examples.

- If the word is a noun, we stress the first syllable
- If the word is a verb, we stress the second syllable

So, watch out for these words in future and look at the context to work out if it a noun or a verb.

# Irregular verbs

## Irregular Verbs

Infinitive	Simple Past	Past Participle
be	was/were	been
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
buy	bought	bought
can	could	(been able)
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamt	dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed

Infinitive	Simple Past	Past Participle
find	found	found
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone (been)
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
spell	spelt	spelt
spend	spent	spent
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
think	thought	thought
understand	understood	understood
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written

# Sounds and phonemic chart

## CONSONANTS

sound	key word	pronunciation
/p/	peach	/pi:t /
/b/	beach	/bi:t /
/t/	tear	/ti /
/d/	deer	/di /
/ /	cheap	/ i:p/
/ /	jeep	/ i:p/
/k/	cap	/kæp/
/g/	gap	/gæp/
/f/	fan	/fæn/
/v/	van	/væn/
/θ/	thin	/θin/
/ð/	this	/ðis/
/s/	sea	/si:/
/z/	zoo	/zu:/
/ /	shoe	/ u:/
/ /	vision	/ vi n/
/m/	mice	/mais/
/n/	nice	/nais/
/ŋ/	sing	/sin/
/h/	hello	/he l /
/l/	like	/laik/
/r/	red	/red/
/w/	window	/ wind /
/j/	yes	/jes/

## VOWELS

sound	key word	pronunciation
/i:/	sheep	/ i:p/
/h/	ship	/ ip/
/u:/	blue	/blu:/
/ /	book	/b k/
/ :/	horse	/h :s/
/ /	hot	/h t/
/ :/	hurt	/h :t/
/ :/	heart	/h :t/
/e/	bed	/bed/
/æ/	bad	/bæd/
/ /	bud	/b d/
/ /	banana	/b n :n /

## DIPHTHONGS

sound	key word	pronunciation
/ɪ /	ear	/ɪ /
/ /	tour	/t /
/e /	hair	/he /
/ei/	stay	/stei/
/ ɪ/	boy	/b ɪ/
/ai/	eye	/ai/
/ /	go	/g /
/a /	now	/na /

# Phonemic chart

i:	ɪ		u:	ɪ	eɪ				p	b	t	d			k	g
e		:	:		ɪ	e			f	v	θ	ð	s	z		
æ		:		e	ɪ				m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j

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- take a break from their studies and use their English at the same time with blogs, videos, games and puzzles.

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



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Perfect your grammar through thousands of questions in this interactive grammar workbook! Questions range from Beginner to Advanced level. This app uses British English.



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### LearnEnglish Kids: Phonics Stories



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- [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids) **Fun with English**
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