

Audioscript

Unit 1 Audioscript

Listening

- A: I like that photograph. Who's it of?
B: It's of my mother. I think she's about four in the photo. She's standing outside the family home in Auckland with her pet dog.
A: Is your family from New Zealand? I didn't know.
B: My mother's side of the family is from New Zealand. My father's parents were from Scotland.
A: So why did your mother's parents leave New Zealand?
B: I don't know. And, to be honest, I don't think my mother knows either. My grandparents were both amateur musicians. They met when they were playing in an orchestra. Then he came over to Ireland and started a business. The rest of the family followed.
A: Oh. Does your mother miss New Zealand?
B: She was quite young when she left but I think there's a part of her that wishes she could still be there. She often talks about it.
A: Do you have any family there?
B: Not really. Maybe some distant relations I don't know about.
A: Have you ever thought of going there to trace your family roots?
B: Yes, I have but it's so far away.
A: You should go. And take your mother.
B: I don't know. It's a long journey and maybe the place has changed. Maybe we'll go and find the family home has been turned into an office block.
A: Don't be so pessimistic. Do you have any other family photographs?
B: I have a whole album. Do you want to see it?

Pronunciation

- 1 A: You can't speak English.
B: I can speak English.
- 2 A: He lives with his girlfriend.
B: He doesn't live with his girlfriend.
- 3 A: They're not from Italy.
B: They are from Italy.
- 4 A: You didn't phone me last night.
B: I did phone you last night.
- 5 A: They were here earlier.
B: They weren't here earlier.
- 6 A: She's been to London.
B: She's never been to London.

Unit 2 Audioscript

Listening

People often complain about radio and television presenters' misuse of English. They become angry when they hear people talking about *less* people instead of *fewer* people. Mispronouncing names, especially names in other languages, is another problem area especially for newsreaders. Of course many city names have English versions. You won't hear a newsreader call Florence *Firenze* or Paris *Par-ee*. But how does the newsreader know how to pronounce the name of a small town in a distant country that is suddenly the focus of a news story or the name of a politician who has just won an election? The BBC Pronunciation Research Unit aims to ensure that pronunciation used on BBC radio and television is accurate and consistent. The unit was created in 1926 as the Advisory Committee on Spoken English. News presenters can phone the unit, send an email or check pronunciation online. The unit adds about 100 new pronunciations each week and tries to anticipate what names will be in the news. There's a daily list of topical names and, if a story breaks during the day, the unit can add names to the list almost instantly. The unit's database contains more than 200,000 entries which have been added over the years. And if the unit needs to check the pronunciation of a word, it can always contact the BBC World Service which employs people from around the world, providing instant access to hundreds of different languages. Of course, there's still the chance that someone will mispronounce something. When they do, a member of the public is certain to spot the mistake.

Pronunciation

- 1 The words aren't very clear and it's easy to mishear them.
- 2 When are you going to tell me the answers?
- 3 Have you listened to the lyrics on his latest song?
- 4 It was one of the funniest things I heard.
- 5 You'll find lots of examples on the internet.
- 6 They won the award for best new artist.
- 7 The idea is that people hear what they want to.
- 8 What was the last CD you bought?

Unit 3 Audioscript

Listening

- A: I'm in the heart of Scotland, standing on top of a mountain about 10 miles north of Pitlochry. I'm here with John Adams. So how long have you been living here, John?
- B: For about eight years.
- A: What is it about living here that you like so much?
- B: I've always loved the rolling hills and the mountains in this part of the country. We used to come here on holiday when I was a child so it holds a lot of good memories.
- A: You moved here from Edinburgh which is about 90 minutes south of here. It must have been quite a dramatic change moving from the city to the country.
- B: Yes, it was. I had a well-paid job in advertising in Edinburgh. I had a beautiful home, a car ...
- A: So what happened? Why did you decide to give it all up, leave your job and your home to live in the country and live off the land.
- B: It wasn't a sudden decision. I thought about it carefully. I think I just grew tired of living life for my job. I know it sounds selfish but I wanted to have more time to appreciate life. In the past, when I wasn't working I was always on the computer, on the internet, watching TV. I felt kind of ... as if I was spending my whole life looking at a screen, and in the end I began to feel divorced from the person I wanted to be. Now I can look at this.
- A: The view is amazing. And, apart from the view, what has changed?
- B: Well, I've learned to live without electricity which hasn't been easy. And I've become relatively self-sufficient.
- A: Yes. I can see you've been growing some vegetables over here.
- B: Come and take a look.

Pronunciation 1

- 1 Didja see what happened yesterday?
- 2 Aren't you gonna help me?
- 3 I was hoping you'd gimme more time.
- 4 It's kinda too late. They've already gone.
- 5 You gotta smile, haven't you.
- 6 Dontcha love it when there's some good news?

Pronunciation 2

- /i:/ - sea, feel, key
/aʊ/ - allowed, loud, now
/aɪ/ - cry, guide, night
/eɪ/ - day, grey, take
/ɪə/ - fear, here, pier

Unit 4 Audioscript

Listening

In recent years, Northern Ireland has become a popular tourist destination. Situated in the north-east of the island of Ireland, it is part of the United Kingdom. The capital city is Belfast and the population is approximately 1,775,000. That's between a quarter and a third of the island's total population.

There are lots of magical places to visit in Northern Ireland. One of the most famous is the Giant's Causeway on the north coast. The causeway consists of around 40,000 columns formed by ancient volcanic eruptions. There's a legend that the Causeway might have been built by Finn McCool, a giant who was the commander of the king of Ireland's armies. It is said that he built the causeway in order to walk across the sea to Scotland. Northern Ireland is famous for its legends and storytellers. The writer CS Lewis was born there. Near his East Belfast birthplace there's a life-size sculpture showing a figure stepping through the magic wardrobe into Lewis's Kingdom of Narnia. Nobel Laureate poet and author Seamus Heaney was born on a farm near Bellaghy, and writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett both lived in the town of Enniskillen as schoolboys.

Another of Northern Ireland's claims to fame is its history of shipbuilding. The world's most famous ship, the Titanic, was built here in 1911. You can take a trip to see where the ship was created or walk the Titanic Trail around Belfast. While the euro is the currency in the rest of Ireland, the British pound is used in Northern Ireland. Most large shops accept the euro as well, but it's best to ask first.

Pronunciation

- 1 Who do you think it could've been?
- 2 Things had been going wrong for quite some time.
- 3 You must've known what was happening.
- 4 He had never understood what was wrong.
- 5 They could've waited a little bit longer.
- 6 Who'd been waiting for the right opportunity?

Unit 5 Audioscript

Listening

I think we often believe that everything was better when we were young, but it's not always true. Some people say we used to have a healthier diet in the past and that modern diets do us no good. But is that true? I'm old enough to remember when the first supermarkets appeared in the 1950s and 60s. Until then the food we used to eat was produced nationally. We had three meals a day and we usually ate the same food each week. As more people started to travel in the 1970s people became more interested in food from other countries. Suddenly we could eat pizzas, fresh pasta, French bread and American ice cream. In the 80s, more people were living alone so the supermarkets started selling more ready-cooked frozen meals. People didn't want to spend time cooking. It was the decade of the microwave meal. The 90s was the decade in which breakfast almost disappeared. Although it's often called the most important meal of the day, nearly one in three adults would stop having breakfast at home.

In the first decade of the twenty-first century we stopped buying so much frozen food but bought more freshly prepared meals to eat while we watched cookery programmes on television. Today fewer people have three meals a day. More and more people have snacks throughout the day: a sandwich, a chocolate bar, some crisps. We're also less active than we used to be. When you take these factors into account, I think our diet today is probably just as healthy, or rather, just as unhealthy today as it was in the 1950s.

Pronunciation 1

- 1 He won't be late. So stop worrying.
- 2 You just **won't** listen to me and it's really annoying.
- 3 Li Yui **will** talk back to his parents.
- 4 Samantha will help you if you want.
- 5 They **will** ignore what's good for them.
- 6 Children these days just **won't** pay attention.

Pronunciation 2a

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1 flexible | 5 truths |
| 2 strong | 6 attempt |
| 3 depth | 7 creative |
| 4 throughout | 8 lengths |

Pronunciation 2b

- 1 That's got such a strong taste.
- 2 My favourite number is four.
- 3 Try not to swim out of your depth.
- 4 I'm just not sure what she said.
- 5 I didn't know Joan was deaf.
- 6 There were some nasty rumours spread.
- 7 He was born on the fourth of July.
- 8 Do you like this song?

Unit 6 Audioscript

Listening

- A: My name's Andrea. I'm from Argentina and this is the first car boot sale I've been to. It's quite strange ... the idea of selling things you don't need anymore from the boot of your car. So I saw the posters advertising the sale and I thought I'd come to see what it's like. Maybe I'll buy something. You never know. I like that lamp over there. And I saw some books I'd quite like to read.
- B: My name's Josh Hartley. This is the fifth car boot sale I've come to. It's a bit of a lottery. If the sun's shining, you get quite a lot of people ... The weather's quite good today so I'm feeling optimistic. Today I've brought some old computer bits and pieces to sell, and some garden furniture I don't need anymore. I like car boot sales because you get to meet other people and have a good time. It's a social event.
- C: I'm Harry. Everyone knows me here. I collect old vinyl records: LPs and singles. It's a passion of mine. I go to as many car boot sales as I can. A lot of people had a record collection in the past that was replaced by CDs and downloads. Needless to say, a lot of those records were put in the attic or shut away in a cupboard. And they often appear in places like this. So today I've found a copy of The Beatles' White album in perfect condition. It was released in 1968 and the first copies had a serial number. It cost me £5, but it's worth a small fortune.

Pronunciation

- 1 The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes. It is very easy to say yes.
Tony Blair
- 2 Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names.
John F. Kennedy
- 3 Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another.
Nelson Mandela
- 4 I am not interested in power for power's sake, but I'm interested in power that is moral, that is right and that is good.
Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 5 Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.
Margaret Thatcher

Unit 7 Audioscript

Listening

- A: We're talking with Mandy Draper about the greatest fictional detectives ever. Now, Mandy, you went out on the streets to ask people about their choices.
- B: Yes, that's right. I wondered if everyone would say Sherlock Holmes, Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot were the greatest detectives ever, or if they'd have some more unusual choices.
- A: What did you discover?
- B: Well, to be honest, most people did choose Sherlock Holmes. When I asked them why, they all said it was because of his powers of deduction and his unusual character.
- A: What other detectives did they choose?
- B: Detective Inspector Rebus was a popular choice. As you know, he was created by the Scottish author Ian Rankin.
- A: That's interesting. Any female detectives?
- B: A few people mentioned Lisbeth Salander from Stieg Larsson's best-selling Millennium Trilogy. She specialises in investigating people and has a photographic memory.
- A: Who's your favourite detective, Mandy?
- B: Well, I'm a big fan of Inspector Wallander who's also from Sweden. The character was created by the Swedish crime writer Henning Mankell.
- A: How did you become a fan?
- B: I saw the Swedish TV series and became hooked. Since then I've read all the books. He's such a strange character. He doesn't have many friends, drinks a lot and eats too much junk food.
- A: Thanks, Mandy.

Pronunciation

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | here | hear |
| 2 | sits | eats |
| 3 | right | write |
| 4 | hour | our |
| 5 | not | note |
| 6 | stare | stair |
| 7 | wear | were |
| 8 | brake | break |
| 9 | hair | hear |
| 10 | way | weigh |

Unit 8 Audioscript

Listening

- When we are young we are taught that it's wrong to lie and we should always tell the truth. Unfortunately, most children lie even if they're told not to. Research carried out at the Institute of Child Study at Toronto University has revealed that this might not be such a bad thing.
- Apparently, children who tell convincing lies when they're two years old have a good chance of becoming successful adults.
- According to the survey, at the age of two, 20 per cent of children lie. At the age of three, 50 per cent lie, and at four almost 90 per cent lie. By the age of 12 almost every child tells lies.
- Lying involves multiple brain processes, and the better the lie, the more work the brain has to do. By training the brain early, researchers believe children will be able to think more clearly when they are adults.
- Another recent survey, commissioned by the Science Museum in London, has revealed some interesting facts about the way we lie as adults. According to a survey, the average British man tells three lies every day, that's over 1,000 lies a year. However, the average woman only lies twice a day.
- A majority of people think women are better liars than men in spite of the fact that they tell fewer lies. Popular women's lies include 'Nothing's wrong, I'm fine', 'I don't know where it is, I haven't touched it', and 'It wasn't that expensive'.
- Some people say you can lie as long as it's a white lie. A white lie is a lie told to avoid making someone upset. One of the most common lies for both men and women is 'It's just what I've always wanted', said after opening a present from their partner.

Pronunciation

- 1 You don't have to lie to distort reality.
- 2 How do you know if something is the real thing or a fake?
- 3 Documentaries are about the real world.
- 4 In reality, there's no such thing as absolute truth.
- 5 I can't believe that this is for real.
- 6 Sometimes things seem to bear no relation to what we already know.

Unit 9 Audioscript

Listening

- A: It can often take a long time to build a new building. The Reichstag in Germany took nine years to rebuild and the Sydney Opera House took 14 years to complete. But what about this building? Work started on it in 1882 and it still isn't finished. When do you think the Sagrada Família will be finished, Jordi?
- B: I don't know. Some people say 2017 and others say 2026, which is a special year because it will be 100 years since the death of its architect.
- A: It is an amazing building. Can you tell us something about it?
- B: Yes, of course. It's the creation of the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí although he didn't actually start it. He began working on the building from 1883 until his death in 1926.
- A: Is it true that his original plans for the building were destroyed?
- B: Yes. A lot of Gaudí's models and papers were destroyed during the Civil War. The work you see today is based on existing plans and the work of the architects who have been involved in the project over the years. This is one of the reasons why the building is so controversial.
- A: A lot of people think the building should have been left unfinished, is that right?
- B: Yes. As a tribute to Gaudí. I think one of the reasons the building is so popular is because it is a work in progress. When you visit the building you can see the construction process.
- A: It attracts around 2 million visitors each year.
- B: That's right. It's an important symbol and one of Spain's top tourist attractions. And of course the money the visitors pay to visit the building has helped to construct it. The building of the Sagrada Família is not supported by any government or official church sources.
- A: Thanks, Jordi.

Pronunciation

symbol	symbolic
region	regional
prosperity	prosperous
comparison	comparable
inspiration	inspirational
ingenuity	ingenious
possibility	possible

Unit 10 Audioscript

Listening

The Actors' Studio was founded in 1947 by the directors Elia Kazan, Cheryl Crawford, and Robert Lewis. The following year, Lee Strasberg was asked to join the Studio as one of its teachers and in 1951 he became its Artistic Director, a position he held until his death in 1982.

The Studio was originally created to help develop the work of professional actors, directors and playwrights. It isn't a school but rather a place where members can practise their art. To become a member you must pass a series of auditions and then be invited to join. It is perhaps best known for its work in the area of method acting, a technique in which actors use their own emotions and memories to help them become the character they are playing instead of 'acting' the part. Marlon Brando and James Dean, who were both members of the Actors' Studio, helped make method acting (or 'the method' as it's often called) popular in films such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Rebel Without a Cause*. In later years, Robert De Niro continued this tradition. When he had to play the part of the boxer Jake LaMotta in the film *Raging Bull*, he gained 60 pounds (27 kilograms) and learned how to box. He worked as a taxi driver for three months while preparing to make the film *Taxi Driver*. Today the Actors' Studio can be found in a former church building at 432 West 44th Street, in the Clinton area of Manhattan in New York City, a building it has occupied since 1955.

Pronunciation

- 1 What many people don't realise is that chimpanzees and other apes also laugh.
- 2 It is laughter that helps people relax.
- 3 The thing that surprises most people is how contagious laughter is.
- 4 What was most interesting about the survey was the number of people who claimed not to have laughed recently.
- 5 It was Darwin who first noticed that apes laugh.
- 6 What often declines as we get older is how frequently we laugh.