
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

How important is politeness?



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/4k8zuRz>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

- 1) Which idiom is used to remind someone they should be especially polite in a certain situation?
 - a) mind your As and Bs
 - b) mind your Ps and Qs
 - c) mind your Xs and Ys

- 2) Which informal word might be used if you have forgotten someone's or something's name?
 - a) thingy
 - b) whoey
 - c) whaty

- 3) How do you feel about a person you are 'well disposed to'?
 - a) you don't know them
 - b) you hate them
 - c) you like them

- 4) What is the slang word 'innit' short for?
 - a) isn't she
 - b) isn't it
 - c) in it

- 5) Which idiom describes 'various unspecified things'?
 - a) take that
 - b) all that
 - c) this and that

- 6) What does the adjective 'insulting' mean?
 - a) rude or offensive
 - b) polite
 - c) supportive

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. thingy – (informal) used if you can't remember someone's or something's name
- b. innit – (slang) short form of 'isn't it' which can be used at the end of a statement for emphasis
- c. insulting – rude or offensive
- d. well disposed to (someone) – like or approve (of someone)
- e. make excuses for (someone) – explain the reasons for someone else's (negative) behaviour
- f. this and that – (idiom) various unspecified things

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

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet, and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.