
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Real Easy English

Childhood



This is a transcript of a spoken conversation and is not a word-for-word script.

Neil

Hello and welcome to Real Easy English, the podcast where we have real conversations in easy English to help you learn. I'm Neil.

Beth

And I'm Beth. You can find a video of this podcast and find a worksheet to help you learn on our website bbclearningenglish.com.

Neil

Hello, Beth, how are you?

Beth

I'm very well, thank you. How are you, Neil?

Neil

I'm very happy. The Sun is shining today.

Beth

It is. It's a beautiful day.

Neil

What are we talking about?

Beth

Today we're talking about our **childhoods**. So we'll talk about life, how it was. What, what our lives were like when we were children.

Neil

How interesting. Let's get started.

Beth

So, Neil, what do you remember most about your **childhood**?

Neil

Well, it was such a long time ago, but I can remember things, obviously, quite clearly. I lived in a different country when I was a child.

Beth

Where did you live?

Neil

I lived in Canada until I was ten years old. So I can remember, very hot, humid summers, but very long and very cold and snowy winters.

Beth

So you always, like, made snowmen, I guess, and had snowball fights?

Neil

Yes. We always had a white Christmas, which is great. And I don't think I've ever had a white Christmas in England. Not in the south of England.

Beth

Well, I moved house, or my family moved house, when I was ten, so I feel like a slightly similar thing where all of my **childhood memories** really are in this house and playing with my friends that lived in that village and went to my primary school when I lived in that house. Having friends over for tea. That's a lot of, yeah, strong memories of, of my **childhood**.

Neil

And what kind of things did you do when you were a child? What kind of hobbies and interests did you have?

Beth

Well, my friends and I **used to** always put on shows. We **would** do gymnastics shows in the garden. We'd say, 'Mum, Dad, come and watch my gymnastics show with my friend'. We **used to** do singing concerts. We wrote our own songs. Once, my friend and I recorded onto a tape. Do you remember tapes?

Neil

Of course I remember tapes.

Beth

We recorded our own song onto a tape, and we sent it to a recording studio in the hope that they would sign us.

Neil

Is it a good song?

Beth

It's great.

Neil

I think we need to hear it.

Beth

Maybe at the end of the show. What about you? What sort of hobbies did you have when you were a child?

Neil

I just remember playing outside a lot with my friends and having adventures and also doing lots and lots of sport. So I always liked football and cricket and I played when I was in Canada, I played ice hockey.

Beth

That's cool. Can you still ice skate?

Neil

I'm OK. I'd say I'm better than most British people. Because you grow up in Canada skating.

Beth

Yeah.

Neil

But I'm not brilliant.

Beth

How do you think the world has changed since you were a child?

Neil

The world is really different from when I was a child. Because when I was growing up, we didn't have the internet or mobile phones. And I think they've made such a difference to the way people communicate with each other. And it drives me mad

sometimes because my son will try to arrange to go out with his friends just to go to the park in a group chat, and then nothing ever happens. And I just say, 'just go there'.

Beth

Yeah.

Neil

It's 100 metres down the road. Knock the door. But I don't think that happens any more.

Beth

No, I think for me, like, something that's really changed is like I was saying about tapes, like the idea of playing a tape or putting a CD in a CD player. Like, **brings back amazing memories**. I **used to** have a CD that I **would** play, and then I'd sing really loudly, and I **would** imagine that then suddenly the band would be in the garden and they **would** and they'd be there singing with me. But I think those physical music devices even like having a video or a DVD, like they **bring back loads of memories** for me.

Neil

Let's recap the language we heard in our conversation about **childhood**, starting with **childhood**, which is the period of time when you are a child.

Beth

We had **memory**. A **memory** is something that you can remember from the past.

Neil

We can say that something **brings back memories**, which just means that it reminds you of something that happened in the past.

Beth

And when we talk about things in the past, we often use the past simple. For example, I said that I played in the street with my friends.

Neil

And we also heard **used to** and **would**, which is used when we talk about things that happened a number of times in the past. So for example, I **used to** play ice hockey. It means I played ice hockey a lot and now I don't any more.

Beth

And that's it for this episode of Real Easy English. Why not test what you've learnt with the worksheets on our website bbclearningenglish.com.

Neil

Join us next time when we'll be talking about days out. Thanks for joining us and goodbye.

Beth

Bye.