

# **British English Listening Practice**

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Content Introduction	<p>This book offers practical suggestions for learning British English through cultural background and native pronunciation. There are 32 chapters listening classes in this book. All the contents are written in several paragraphs including Wimbledon, Sherlock Homes and Shakespeare. The book introduces all the fairs about British routine lives. If you want to know more about British culture and learn British English, this book is the best choice.</p>

### **Abstract**

This book offers practical suggestions for learning British English through cultural background and native pronunciation. From this book, readers can find out that there are 32 chapters via listening classes to know more about British English. All the contents are written in several paragraphs including Wimbledon, Sherlock Homes and Shakespeare, agent 007- James Bond.

The book introduces British cultures and all the fairs about British routine lives. Through each topic, readers can not only know the background of each meaning, but also know why it becomes so famous. If you are the one who would like to go traveling to British recently, or you like Harry Potter or Shakespeare very much, you should definitely have to read the book.

## British English Listening Practice

If you want to learn one language well, you should know more about the culture of the country first. As we know, all of us learn American English since we were a child. Now, there are more and more British English in the examinations that we take like TOEIC, TOEFL, or GEPT. Moreover, we all know that American English and British English are different no matter the characters or the pronunciation. Due to this, I would like to choose this book to know more about British English culture. I believe it would help me a lot in my English teaching.

In this book, there are several advantages for learners. First, the book has MP3. That means that learners can learn both the pronunciation and contents. The speed from MP3 is not very fast, at least 100 words a minute. The learners can keep on listening and reading the book. They can get used to listen to the British English speaking anytime and anywhere. It not only can help them to easily prepare for the examination, but also catch the point about the pronunciation.

Second, in this book, all the contents are written about British English cultures and local well-known events. The readers can gain a lot of relative background information and have more interest in learning British English.

The most important part is that the book offers suggestions about how to learn British English well through this book. It wrote the steps for the beginning learners to follow and gave some tips for them to avoid the mistakes. The book is written in an easy and clear way for learners. All the contents are written in British English style and with the Chinese transcription on another page. In the same page, the learner can read with both British English and Chinese. Therefore, it is the best part that I think for the learners to know not only the meaning of the contents, but also the sentences structures of the articles. Through this book, I gained a lot of knowledge about British English and learn how to speak native British English. I would like to introduce about the most impressive chapters of this book.

### I. Afternoon tea 下午茶

First of all, the afternoon tea, since we all know the afternoon tea is from British. But there only a few people, I believe, know how it came from and why it took place. We know the afternoon tea is taken placed at three o'clock in the afternoon, just before the dinner. Originally, it was common for people, in 1840, to eat dinner at

approximately eight o'clock in the evening. The Duchess of Bedford, the founder, asked for a tray containing small sandwiches, cakes and a pot of tea to be served to her at four o'clock. Since she enjoyed this so much that she began to invite her friends to join her, and then the world spread soon. Since people in Taiwan eat dinner at 6 o'clock, there still a lot of people have tea time in their work-time. Especially in holidays, there are more and more restaurants promote the tea time discount for those who don't get up early in holidays.

## II. Sandwich 三明治

The second impressive part I would like to share is sandwich. Nowadays, there are more and more people have breakfast with a cup of coffee or tea and a sandwich. For us, it looks like there is nothing special to eat a normal breakfast with a sandwich. However, do you know the "sandwich" which we usually eat for breakfast is an eponym? That was invented by the 4th Earl of Sandwich, John Montagu. He enjoyed playing marathon gambling sessions and hated to interrupt the game just because everyone has to eat. Therefore, he ordered someone to prepare the meat which is placed between two slices of bread for him during his card games. Other players thought that was a great idea and began to order "the same as Sandwich." Finally, a new word had entered and appeared in the English language. In this busy society we live, people all like to have instant food which is quick made but nutritious. So, sandwich has become so popular that no matter children or adults would have at breakfast.

## III. Wimbledon 溫布頓

Next, I would like to introduce the synonym of the tennis, Wimbledon. At the beginning, it just started in a private croquet club, in 1868. Now, The Wimbledon Championships remain extremely traditional and have several rules that are typically British. All players have to dress almost entirely in white. Also, all players must be called as Mr., Mrs., or Miss. In 1986, the traditional white balls were changed to the present-day yellow balls. The reason is that the yellow balls are more easily visible on television than white. If you are a tennis fans, you would never miss the game of Wimbledon.

## IV. Football 足球

Football, as we call soccer in America, is the most exciting activity in British. Some people even can't live without football. Football began in 12 century, but the exact time to be the world sport was in 20 century. In years, the rules of football differed from different areas, and a standard set of rules was established in 1863 by the

Football Association. The first association was set up in 1888 and included 12 teams. Since then, the game of 22 men kicking a ball in a field has captured the hearts of people and its popularity has spread from all over the world. Just like Olympic game or world tournament, when the game comes to the people of the country, everyone would become one heart, and support their team.

## V. Shakespeare 莎士比亞

Once we talk about the literature in British, we would think of a big name, Shakespeare, who is as the most famous symbols of Great Britain. One of his great works which we all known is Romeo and Juliet. Because of his well-known reputation, many details about Shakespeare's life and works have been detailed on paper thousands of time throughout the four centuries since his death. In Shakespeare's age, he still felt that there were not enough words available for him to express himself in the way that he wished. Thus, he made up his own words about 1700 like "hurry", "lonely" or "housekeeping", which did not exist in the English language until he used them.

## VI. Sherlock Holmes 福爾摩斯

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most famous private detectives known to the world. Since he was so popular, no one believes that he actually lived. One of the features that made Sherlock Holmes so popular was his ability to think logically. He worked under the theory that once everything impossible has been eliminated, whatever was left must be the truth. This method is so effective that from 2007, Britain's MI5 and MI6 are training their agents in the art of Sherlockian Deduction. Afterwards, there are a lot of books or stories about detectives, all of the structures of the stories are from Sherlock Homes. From the Sherlockian Deduction, we learned to think logically and applied in our lives.

## VII. Agent 007 007 情報員

Everybody knows that agent 007 is the most popular British movie in the world. There are definitely more than half of the people in the world have seen at least one James Bond movie. He is a unique spy, who is not standing on street corners in the pouring rain when doing the job, but drinking martinis in expensive hotels in the company of beautiful women. Because of him, Britain's MI6 is famous throughout the world. In this book, we know that Great Britain has two organizations to protect the security of the country. One is MI5, which collects information on threats that exist within the country, and the other one is MI6, which collects information from overseas sources for the purpose of protecting the UK from external attack.

If you want to go abroad in English country, go traveling or know more about English cultures, I highly recommend this book. Reading this book thoroughly, you could not only learn the British English pronunciation, but also the background information.

Moreover, it can develop your listening and reading skill at the same time. Since English listening test is more and more important in Taiwan education, students should have more chances to practice different accent from various countries. In addition, British English is really common in many English tests, students need to be prepared for them. Follow the steps and work hard on it; I believe everyone who has motivation of learning English would have a great improvement.