British English: Listening Comprehension 10

Dinner for Two

(5:46)

In this video, David has another date with Julia. What I would like you to focus on as you listen to this video is how words in English are linked. In the exercises, *when you fill in the blanks, you will always have to write 2 words* that, when spoken, are linked.

But before we get to the questions, let's review some of the rules for linking in English speech rhythm...

- As you know, when a word ends in a consonant sound and the following word begins with a vowel sound, the two words are linked, for example: "send it" sounds like / sĕn dĭt /.
- In an earlier lesson, we saw that when a word ends in [d] or [t] and the following word begins with a /y/, these sounds combine to form a new sound. The combination of /d/ + /y/ sounds like the sound of the letter [j], for example: "could you" sounds like /cuju/ or /cudju/. The combination of /t/ + /y/ sounds like /ch/, for example: "want you" sounds like /wanchu/ or /wancha/.
- The next rule brings us back to the use of the [r] in British English. As you know, the British typically do not pronounce the [r], except when followed by a vowel, for example: "car park" sounds like /cä päk/ and "car is" sounds like /cä rĭz/. This occurs when the letter [r] is written. However, the British sometimes pronounce the /r/ when one isn't there. This is called the intrusive [r]. When a word ends in one of several vowel sounds—the schwa (as in *sofa*), the "aw" sound (as in *draw*), or the "ah" sound (as in *spa*)—and the following sound is another vowel, the British add an /r/ between the vowels sounds—even though the [r] is not written. Here are some examples with audio:
    - "The sofa is blue" sounds like /the sofa (r) is blue/
    - "I saw a film" sounds like /I saw (r) a film/.
    - "The spa is closed" sounds like /the spa (r) is closed/
- The next rule—in fact the next two rules—is similar to the previous one: a sound will be added between two vowel sounds. This time, the first vowel sound will be /ō/ or /ū/—as in *go* or *you*—

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and the second is any other vowel sound. The sound injected between them is /w/, for example: "do it" sounds like /du wit/ and "How are you?" sounds like /how wahr you/.

- Finally, when the long /ē/ or the diphthong /ai/ comes before another vowel sound, the /y/ is inserted between them, for example: "my office" sounds like /mai yah fis/ and "tea and biscuits" sounds like /tee yan bis kits/.

Again, it is not necessary—nor do I (pronounced /du wai/) advise it—to try to change your pronunciation to sound more British. This info is (pronounced /info wiz/) presented to help you understand the Brits when you travel to England.

Watch the video and answer the following questions. Then try the linking exercises.

1) What was David preparing for dinner? _____

2) Why couldn't he serve that? _____

3) What does "hot" mean in the context of this video?

_____

4) What ingredients does Jane ask for?

_____

5) Below is a transcript of the video. Listen again—just the audio below—and fill in the blanks. Remember: you will always write 2 words.

Helen (voice over): David's preparing a romantic dinner for his girlfriend Julia. Unfortunately, _____ the world's most confident cook.
Helen: What is it?
David: It's Thai chicken with chili.
Matt: Mmm, I like Thai food.
David: Look, Julia will be here soon. _____ going out?
Matt: It's not very hot.
David: What do you mean? I put lots of chili _____.
Helen: Here, let me.
Matt: I'll get that.
Helen: Matt's right. It needs more chili powder.
Matt: David, it's Julia.
David: Hold on.
Matt: Julia's _____ the station. She's early.
Helen: Matt, no!
David: Hey, give that to me.
Helen: David, don't!
David: What's wrong?
Helen: I put some more chili powder in.
Matt: So did I. ... Too hot?
David: Of course it's too hot. Julia can't eat this and she'll be here in a _____ an hour.
Helen: I can't cook anything in 15 minutes.
Matt: Jane can! She's a fantastic cook.
David: Matt, Jane isn't here.
Matt: Then phone her.

[They call Jane, who is in yoga class.]

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Jane: Sorry. Sorry. ... Hello?
Helen: Jane, it's Helen. We need your help.
Jane: What's wrong?
Helen: Julie is coming to dinner, and Matt ruined David's delicious Thai chicken.
Jane: Oh dear.
Helen: Well, can you think of something?
Jane: Is there any _____ the cupboard?
Helen: Pasta, pasta, yes, there's some pasta.
Jane: How much is there?
Helen: Half a kilo.
Jane: That's plenty. What about tuna?
Helen: There are two small tins. ... Matt, are there any mushrooms and onions?
Matt: Yes, _____.
Helen: We've got everything. ... OK, Matt, boil some water.
David: Can I do anything? ... It can't be her. It's only ten _____.
Helen: Don't worry, we can do this. ... What next? ... David, go!

[Julia arrives.]

Julia: This is nice.
David: Here, sit down. ... Would you like some wine?
Julia: Yes, please. ... Why _____ sit down?
David: I can't. First course.
Julia: Oh good, I'm really hungry.

[Scene cuts to Helen in the kitchen for just a moment.]

Helen: Fry the onions, yep.

Julia: That was delicious. What's the main course? I can't wait.
David: It's a surprise. Have some more wine.
Julia: Thank you. ... I had a really busy day today. Didn't have time for lunch. It's lovely to be here and have a quiet dinner and simply relax.
David: I'll just get the main course.
Julia: Great.
David: Here _____.
Julia: Thank you so much.

[Scene cuts to Helen in the kitchen.]

Helen: Thank Jane.
David: Jane?
Jane: Hi.
David: Jane, you're wonderful.
Jane: No problem. ... Thanks. Thanks.

[and back to the date.]

David: Ta-da!
Julia: How exciting!
David: What is it? It's called *pasta alla Giulia*.
Julia: Smells very good.
David: Oh, _____. I forgot the salad.
Julia: This is much nicer than a restaurant. It's more romantic.
David: And is the food better, too?
Julia: Possibly. Thanks. ... David, this is absolutely delicious. Can you give me the recipe?
David: The recipe? I can, but...
Julia: But what?
David: It's a family secret.
Julia: Oh, David, really?
Helen (voice over): Matt, Jane and I did a good job for David. Maybe we could open a restaurant.

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Here are more examples of linked speech. Write what you hear.

1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____
5) _____
6) _____
7) _____
8) _____
9) _____
10) _____
11) _____
12) _____
13) _____
14) _____
15) _____
16) _____
17) _____
18) _____
19) _____
20) _____
21) _____
22) _____
23) _____
24) _____
25) _____

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