

British Tea Time: The Art of Politeness



Listening

1. Look at the vocabulary.

Objects & Ingredients

Kettle: A container for boiling water.

Scones: Classic British tea cakes.

Clotted Cream: Thick, rich dairy cream.

Jam: Fruit preserve (strawberry or raspberry).

A drop of milk: A tiny amount of milk.

Actions & Expressions

To join: To come and spend time with someone.

To pass: To give something to another person.

To bake: To cook food in the oven.

Overcooked: Cooked for too long (burnt).

To make it: To be able to attend or go to a



2. Listen to Diana and David's conversation.



Making Requests :

"I was wondering if..." / "You couldrit..., could you?"

Softening Opinions:

"I reckon..." / "It seems to be..."

Using Vague Language:

"Sort of..." / "A little bit..." / "I'm not sure..."



Note:

In British culture, being direct can sound rude. We use "softeners" (like *I reckon* or *sort of*) to be more polite and avoid conflict.

3. Complete the interactive activities below.

ACTIVITY 1: The "Gap-Fill"

Listen to the audio and fill in the missing softeners.



David: Hi! I (1) _____ if I could join you?

Diana: Of course! I (2) _____ the water is still hot.

David: Just a (3) _____ milk, please.

Diana: You couldn't pass the scones, (4) _____?

David: They (5) _____ to be (6) _____ hard.

ACTIVITY 2: Understanding Intent

Listen and select the correct option.



1. Why does David use "was wondering"?

☐ To ask about the past.

☐ To be extra polite.



2. "Sort of hard" means:

- [] The scones are a bit overcooked.
- [] David is being rude.

3. "I'm not sure if I can make it" means:

- [] She is definitely going.
- [] She is politely saying "no".

Well done! Now you are ready for a real British Tea Party. Cheers!

