

THE BBC PROMS – LISTENING HOMEWORK

Instructions: Listen to the whole audio document again. Complete the gaps with words from the box. There are more words than gaps. You can listen several times.

Word bank

summer • Indian • London • movement • flags • wrong • five pounds • orchestras • traditional • world • slow • violin • 800 • emotional • audience • wider • soloists • Glastonbury • rock • tickets • accessible • piano • pub • band • composers • Prommers • children's • dramatic • stuck-up • fourth • local • concerts • classical • informal • last • years • tonight • decades • millions • commissions • clapping • 120 • festival • standing

Complete the script

Finn: Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Finn...

Neil: ...and I'm Neil. Hello.

Finn: Now, Neil, are you doing anything interesting _____?

Neil: Well, I was thinking of popping down to — that means visiting — my _____ pub to catch a _____. What about you?

Finn: Well, my wife and I have got _____ for the Proms tonight.

Neil: The Proms? You mean that ceremony for high school leavers? I thought you left school _____ ago, Finn.

Finn: Ah yes, very funny, Neil. Actually, yeah, it was almost two decades ago. Anyway, the Proms I'm talking about have nothing to do with that. These Proms, or as they're also known, the BBC Proms, are the biggest _____ music festival in the _____, and they're held in _____ every _____.

Neil: Ah, yes, of course I know the Proms. And I've even watched the _____ Night of the Proms with all those waving _____ and the patriotic singing by the _____. Not really my thing.

Finn: I know what you mean, but you shouldn't judge the Proms by the concert on the last night, Neil. It's not really typical. Although it is watched by _____ of people around the world. And you know, the Proms is also a very old festival... but, how old, Neil? Is it: a) 57 years? b) 84 years? c) 120 years old?

Neil: Well, I don't know, so I'm going to guess and say 84 years.

Finn: OK. Well, we'll find out the answer to that question later.

Neil: OK. So, come on then Finn, sell the Proms to me. What is it that I'm missing?

Finn: Well, rather a lot, actually. It's not _____ — that means a bit superior — in fact, I think there's something for everyone. For example, you might hear something like this...

Music: [Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony]

Neil: Wow! That was pretty _____. It really grips you, doesn't it? What was it?

Finn: Well, that was from the first _____ of Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony. And at the end you would hear the _____ showing their appreciation by cheering and _____.

Neil: Right, so it's almost like _____, then! So that's the point you're making, is it — the Proms make classical music _____ to everyone. But who are these Prommers?

Finn: Ah, well for an answer to that, let's hear from the Director of the BBC Proms, Edward Blakeman.

Edward Blakeman – Director of BBC Proms: So the Prommers are quite literally the people who listen to the concerts while _____. And there is space for about _____ people, right in the middle of the hall. And this is a long tradition, going back through the Proms. And it's wonderful because it costs very little, and it means that almost anyone can afford to come to the Proms. So it is a wonderful place for all sorts of people to meet together, and by the way, it's the best place in the hall to hear the music.

Finn: Now, the hall that he's talking about is the Royal Albert Hall in London — and the Prommers are the people who come and stand as they listen to the music. You know, Neil, it's only _____ a ticket.

Neil: Right, so you stand? That sounds like a proper gig. I think I might just give it a go, Finn. So, you've been trying to persuade me that it's quite _____. But, at the same time you do get all those big, fancy classical music names, don't you?

Finn: You do, absolutely. The top _____ — whether that's on the _____, the _____ or any other instrument, or singing — they all perform at the Proms. As do very big _____.

Neil: And I believe the BBC _____ new works from time to time. I was even told about _____ musicians playing there. Can that be right, Finn?

Finn: Well, yes Neil. That's actually true. The whole range of music is becoming _____ year by year. They also screen concerts to other cities, they hold lunchtime and _____ concerts, they even play _____ classical music, like this type of thing...

Music: [Classical sitar music]

Neil: What, playing sitars (and tablas) at the Proms?

Finn: Yes. But the core of the eight-week festival is devoted to the heavyweight _____ of the last 400 years — names like Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and so on. Let me play you another extract of that Tchaikovsky symphony now, Neil. Tell me what you think of this.

Music: [Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony]

Neil: Now, that was totally different. Much _____ and quite sad.

Finn: Yes, every symphony, concerto, or sonata will have a slow movement and it will often be deeply _____.

Neil: Well, you can't beat live music. So, I must get going.

Finn: Oh yeah? Are you off to see that gig at the pub, Neil?

Neil: Actually, yes. Or, you know what? I might go and catch a Prom after all.

Finn: OK. Well, before you hurry off, I have to give you the answer to the quiz. I asked how many _____ has the BBC Proms been going?

Neil: And I said 84.

Finn: And I'm sorry, Neil. That's the _____ answer.

Neil: Oh no.

Finn: The correct answer was actually _____ years. Well, that brings us to the end of today's 6 Minute English. We hope you enjoyed the programme. Join us again soon. Bye.

Neil: Goodbye.