

British English: Listening Comprehension 9

An Old Friend



(5:48)

This video presents an awkward¹ situation. To understand the video, you need to know the meaning of the word fiancée (or fiancé). Both words—the former referring to a female and the latter a male—mean “prometido/a”. Watch the video and answer the questions below. This time, I’d like you to practice creating somewhat longer answers.

Answer the questions.

- 1) Where are Matt and Jane at the beginning? _____ What word do Brits use when they toast (*brindar*)? _____
- 2) What is Matt’s problem and how did Jane help him? (Answer in complete sentences.)

- 3) Why did Jane’s solution cause problems later? (Answer in a complete sentence.)

- 4) You have seen several videos with the same cast. Describe each main character, both physically and in terms of personality.

Character	Physical Description	Description of Personality
Helen		
David		
Jane		
Matt		

¹ **awkward**: clumsy (*torpe*) and/or uncomfortable (*incomodo*)

5) Below is a transcript of the video. Listen again—just the audio below—and fill in the blanks.

Helen (voice over): Our favorite bar is Freud's. We go there a lot, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Jane: Thanks, Matt.

Matt: _____.

Jane: What time are Helen and David coming?

Matt: Half past eight.

Jane: Right. ... Hey, _____ what? I saw Simon last week.

Matt: Really? That isn't very strange. He lives next door.

Jane: Oh, ha ha. Very funny. No, I saw him in here. He has very good taste. ... You know, I think he really likes...

Matt: Oh no.

Jane: What's wrong?

Matt: At the bar. Don't look.

Deb (in the distance): Hi Danny! How are you?

Man (in the distance): I'm fine, Deb.

Jane: Who is she, Matt?

Matt: She was my girlfriend.

Jane: Really?

Matt: Really.

Deb (in the distance): I love this shirt.

Jane: How long were you _____?

Matt: A month.

Jane: Only a month?

Matt: It was a very long month.

Jane: Right. When did you last see her?

Matt: About three years ago. She moved to London. But she sometimes _____ me at work.

Jane: So, she still likes you?

Matt: Unfortunately, yes.

Deb: Matt!

Matt: Oh, Jane. Help!

Deb: Mattie, how _____!

Matt: Deb.

Deb: How long is it? Three years. You still have beautiful eyes. You are happy to see me, _____, Mattie?

Jane: Hello. My name's Jane.

Deb: Sorry?

Matt: Jane is my...

Jane: Fiancée. Pleased to meet you.

Deb: Fiancée? ... I didn't know you were _____.

Matt: Didn't you?

Deb: When did you get engaged?

Jane (at the same time as Matt): About six months ago.

Matt (at the same time as Jane): ... six weeks ago. ... months ago.

Deb: Where did you meet?

Jane (at the same time as Matt): On the internet.

Matt (at the same time as Jane): At a club.

Jane: We met in a _____ room on the internet, and then we met face-to-face at a club.

Matt: Yeah, right. ... Yes, that's right. It was at a club.

Jane: And we fell in love, didn't we Matt?

Matt: Yes, we did. I was very _____ at first, but Matt was wonderful.

Deb: And when did you get engaged?

Jane: On the 18th of March.

Matt: Er, no, it was on the 19th. Don't you remember?

Jane: Oh yes, you're right, darling.

Deb: Where's the _____?

Matt: Sorry?

Deb: Didn't you buy an engagement ring? For Jane?

Jane: He did!

Matt: I did? I did!

Jane: But I don't _____ it. Because it's a secret.

Matt: Nobody knows we're engaged!

Jane: Now, who wants a drink?

Deb: No, thank you.

Matt: Same again, please. Darling.

Deb: Matt, I can't believe it. You're engaged. I thought...

Matt: Yeah, sorry about that, Deb. Don't tell anybody about Jane. It is a secret.

[Helen and David arrive.]

Helen: Oh, no.

David: What is it?

Helen: Look at Matt.

David: He's with Deb.

Helen: Poor Matt. He really didn't want to see her again.

David: Yeah, poor Matt.

Helen: Come on, let's go and help him. ... David? He needs our help. ... Hello Deb, how are you?

Deb: Hello, uh, Helen?

David: Hi.

Deb: Hi.

Helen: Did you tell Deb our _____?

Matt: What news?

Helen: Matt, really? Matt and I are engaged. ... What is it?

Jane: Hi everybody. What's the _____? ... Is something wrong, darling?

Deb: So, you're engaged to Matt? And Jane is...

David: Jane's with me.

Deb: But I thought...

Matt: Would anyone like a drink?

Helen (voice over): Jane and I told Matt it's okay to have two fiancées, but he can only _____ one of us.