

## British English: Listening Comprehension

### Home Movie



(5: 02)

There isn't a lesson to accompany these videos—only some comprehension questions and a note about British usage of the word “*right*”. (You will hear that word a lot.) Watch the whole video, and then answer the questions.

- 1) What job does each housemate have?

David:	Helen:	Matt:
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- 2) Below is a transcript of the video from 0:22 to 0:37. Listen again and fill in the missing words.

Helen: What's this?

Jane: It's a video film, about my new house and my new \_\_\_\_\_. It's for my sister, Allison.

Helen: Oh. \_\_\_\_\_.

Jane: Is it OK?

Helen: Yeah. \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3) How does each housemate feel about being recorded?

David:	Helen:	Matt:
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- 4) What mistake did Matthew make? (Respond in a full sentence in English.)

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- 5) Describe the kitchen. (Respond in full sentences in English.)

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## Now, a note on the British use of the word “right”...

The British use the word “*right*” like Americans use the word “OK”. You will hear it a lot. Look at the chart below, which lists and explains the many uses of the word.

Usage	British Example	Comparison to American
It is used at the beginning of a sentence to get people’s attention or start an action.	“Right, let’s get started.”	“OK, let’s get started.”
It is used at the end of a conversation to signal that a person is leaving or to close the conversation.	“Right, I’m must go.” “Right. It was good seeing you.”	“OK, I have to go now.” “Well, it was nice to see you.”
It is used to signal comprehension (often with a pause to ensure the listener understands what is being said) or to express agreement.	“Right.” (= “I understand.”) “Right?” (= “Do you understand?”) “Right.” (= “I agree.”) “Right?” (= “Do you agree?”)	“OK.” (= “I understand.”) “OK?” (= “Do you agree?”) “Yes.” (= “I agree.”)
It is used as an intensifier like “very” or “absolute”.	“I’m right pleased with your progress.” “He’s a right idiot.” *	“I’m very pleased...” “He’s a total idiot.”
It is used to change the topic of conversation.	“Right. What do you...” (usually followed by a question or statement to change the topic)	“So, what do you...”
It is used as a synonym for “correct” or “proper”.	“Right.” (= “That’s correct.”)	“That’s right.” (= “That’s correct.”)

\* The word “*idiot*” is a false cognate. It is a very strong insult in Spanish, but in English, it doesn’t have the same weight. English speakers use “*idiot*” to say that someone is foolish (*tonto*) or unintelligent.

Here is a sample monologue showing the many uses of the word “*right*” in British English:

Right, let’s get started. So the word “*right*” is a word that implies action or understanding,  
 → signals the start (= “OK”)

right? We Brits use it often; it’s a right common word. If you’re talking to a Brit, right, or an  
 → intensifies the word “common” (= “very”) ← establishes understanding of what was said (= “Do you understand?”)

Australian, right, you may hear “*right*” 100 times a day. Most foreigners don’t use the  
 → in the adverb form (= “correctly” or to use the preferred British synonym, “properly”)

word right. Right, what do you say we have some tea and biscuits. ... Oh. You’re busy?  
 → changes the subject (= “so”)

Right, I’ll be off then.  
 → ends the conversation (= “OK” or “so”)