

British English: Listening Comprehension 11

Change of a Dress



(5:22)

There is no additional lesson to accompany this video, but there is some vocabulary to review—some words, but in particular expressions, that may be new to you.

Vocabulary

- “You’re joking” —used to express incredulity about someone's claims; *¡No me digas!*
- gosh—used to express surprise or give emphasis; *caramba*
- get a move on—means to hurry; *date prisa*
- “I have no idea.”—a stronger, more emphatic alternative to “I don't know”; *ni idea*
- “Watch (out)!” —used as a warning to immediately avoid a danger or problem; *ten cuidado*
- “I’m afraid.” —used to express polite or formal apology or regret; *me temo que*
- label—a small piece of paper or fabric attached to an object and giving information about it; *etiqueta*
- “Nevermind.”— used to tell someone not to worry, that something doesn't matter, or to disregard a previous statement; *no importa*
- “Hang on.” —wait for a short time; *espera un momento*
- try on—put on an item of clothing to see if it fits or suits one; *probarse algo*
- “(I’m) sorry.”—(in the context of the video) a respectful way to ask for clarification; *perdon*
- changing room—a small room or cubicle in a clothes shop where customers can try on clothes before deciding whether to purchase them; *vestuario*
- “What’s wrong?”— used to ask about a problem or source of distress; *¿Qué pasa?*
- second-hand—having had a previous owner / not new; *de segunda mano*
- charity shop—a shop where second-hand goods are sold to raise money for a charity; *tienda de segunda mano*
- head for—to move in a specific direction or toward a destination, often with purpose or urgency; *dirigirse a*

Watch the video and answer the following questions.

- 1) Who is Allison? _____
- 2) Why is she visiting the housemates? _____
- 3) Where will the party be? _____
- 4) What happened to the dress? _____
- 5) How much did Helen pay for the dress? _____ How much did Allison pay? _____
- 6) Summarize—in several complete sentences—the events in the video.

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

Helen: So where are we having the party?

Allison: On a _____.

Jane: You're joking!

Helen (voice over): Jane's sister, Alison, is staying for the weekend. She's going to an engagement party for Tom and Zoe, two old friends of hers.

Jane: _____ like fun. What are you going to wear?

Allison: I bought a new dress. It's really lovely.

Helen: Can we see it?

Allison: Sure.

Helen: Oh, that's beautiful.

Allison: Do you really think so?

Jane: You're going to look fantastic.

Allison: Oh, thanks. ... Oh gosh, I've got to get a move on.

Jane: Where are you going?

Allison: I'm going into town to buy a present for Tom and Zoe.

Jane: What are you going to get them?

Allison: I've no idea. Something romantic. See you later.

Jane: Bye.

Helen: Bye.

Jane: What are you doing?

Helen: Nothing.

Matt: Hi.

David: Is that another new dress?

Helen: It's not mine.

David: _____ is it?

Jane: It's Alison's.

Matt: It's quite nice.

Helen: Quite nice? It's wonderful.

Matt: What's it made of?

Helen: Watch that ball! Ah, no!

[Jane tries washing the dress.]

Jane: It's no good, I'm afraid. The stain's not _____ out.

Helen: What am I going to do? Alison's going to be really upset.

David: Buy another dress.

Helen: What does the label say?

Jane: New York, Paris, Milan. I think it's very expensive.

Matt: Why?

David: Never mind.

Helen: OK, let's go and get another dress.

Matt: All of us?

Helen: This is an emergency, Matt.

[The group is on the street to go shopping.]

Helen: Okay, Jane, you go with Matt, take the shops on the left. I'll go with David; we'll _____ the shops on the right. Have you got all the details?

Allison: Hi, everyone.

Helen: Alison. Oh, hi.

What's she doing?

Helen: We're planning our shopping.

Allison: Okay.

Helen: See you _____ at the house.

Allison: Yeah, right. Bye.

Helen: Have you got your mobiles? ... Good luck.

[Helen and David are in a shop.]

Helen: Any news from Jane and Matt?

David: No.

Helen: This is hopeless.

David: What about this one?

Helen: It's too small.

David: This one looks bigger.

Helen: It's the wrong kind of white.

David: The wrong kind of white?

Helen: David, look. That dress is almost exactly the same as Alison's.

Woman in shop: Excuse me.

Helen: Oh, no. She's going to buy it.

David: Hang on.

Shop Assistant: Can I help you?

Woman in shop: Yes. Can I try this on, please?

David: Excuse me. I don't think it's white _____.

Woman in shop: I'm sorry.

David: I think this one's much better.

Woman in shop: Oh, really?

David: Yeah, really. It's very nice. Can she try it on? Yes. The changing room's up there.

Helen: I'll take it. _____ the others.

David: OK.

Helen: How much is it?

Shop Assistant: £250.

Helen: Can I pay by American Express?

Shop Assistant: Of course.

David: Jane, we got one. ... Yes, we're going home now. See you later.

[The group is back at the house.]

Jane: Wow, that's perfect.

Matt: How much was it?

David: £250.

Matt: £250?

Jane: It's Alison.

Allison: Hi. What's wrong?

Helen: Er, I had an _____ with your dress, so I bought another one for you for tonight.

Allison: Oh, thank you.

Helen: It's almost the same as yours.

Allison: Oh, this dress is much more beautiful. It's gorgeous. The other one only cost £10.

David: £10?

Allison: Yes. I got it second-hand from a charity shop.

Helen (voice over): Next time, Helen, forget Paris, Milan and New York. Head _____ for a charity shop.