

British English: Listening Comprehension 12

A Long Weekend



(5:22)

This is the final video at the Elementary level. Perhaps you've noticed the housemates are starting to speak more rapidly and that they are beginning to use more linking. For example, the intrusive /r/ is becoming more evident—as when Helen says, “I went to Barcelona (r) about three years ago”—as well as the palatalization when Matt asks “Who did you go with?” As we continue, the speech in the videos will become progressively more rapid and natural.

Watch the video and answer the following questions.

- 1) What are “the papers”? _____
- 2) How much did a weekend in Barcelona cost? _____ In Paris? _____
- 3) What does “four-star” mean? _____
- 4) What does “go abroad” mean? _____
- 5) What is Matt’s flight number? _____ What day does he leave? _____
- 6) How does Matt feel about the trip? _____
- 7) How did he feel about the trip when it was over? _____
- 8) What mistake did Matt make? _____
- 9) Below is a transcript of the video. Listen again—just the audio below—and fill in the blanks.

Helen (voice over): On Sunday mornings we usually just sit around and read the papers. It's so relaxing after a _____ week.

Jane: This is good. A weekend in Barcelona including flights and hotel, £120.

David: That's cheap.

Helen: I went to Barcelona about three years _____.

Jane: Did you have a good time?

Helen: It was brilliant. The food was wonderful, and the nightlife...

David: How long did you stay?

Helen: For a week. We stayed in a four-star hotel.

Matt: We? Who did you go with?

Helen: A friend.

David: Have you _____ been to Barcelona?

Matt: No, I haven't.

Jane: Here's another one. Paris, 190 pounds.

David: Paris is fantastic. I went there when I was a student.

Helen: I went when I was at school.

Jane: So romantic.

Matt: So, you've been to Paris too then?

Jane: Of course I have.

Matt: Where _____ have you been?

Jane: Rome. Prague.

Helen: I love Prague.

Jane: New York.

David: New York's great.

Jane: What about you? Where have you _____, Matt?

Matt: Well, nowhere.

David: Nowhere?

Matt: I've been to Scotland.

David: That's astonishing. Do you mean to say you've never been abroad?

Matt: Only Scotland.

Helen: You _____ thing.

Jane: Why don't you go to Barcelona? It's really cheap.

Helen: And you haven't had a holiday this year.

Matt: No, I went home to Birmingham.

David: Birmingham's not exactly exotic. Why don't you go?

Matt: No reason.

Jane: How about next weekend?

Matt: I could do, I _____.

Jane: Come on. Let's book your ticket.

Matt: All right. ... How?

Jane: On the internet, of course.

[Jane and Matt book the tickets online.]

Jane: There. Flight JM514 to Barcelona, Friday the 23rd of May, at 9 o'clock in the evening. Check-in at _____.

Matt: What do I do between half past seven and nine o'clock?

Jane: You get your boarding pass and you wait in the departure lounge. ... Hang on. Haven't you ever flown before?

Matt: No, I've never been on an aeroplane. Actually, I'm a bit...

Jane: Nervous?

Matt: Terrified.

Jane: Oh, Matt. Don't be silly. Flying's really exciting.

[David and Matt look at his passport.]

Matt: What about this one?

David: That was a holiday in LA. I had a girlfriend there.

Matt: How long...

David: We were together for about six months.

Matt: No, I _____, how long did the flight take?

David: About ten hours.

Matt: Ten hours? ... What did you do for ten hours?

David: Watched films, ate, slept. Anyway, your flight's only two hours. ... Have you _____ yet?

Matt: No, I haven't.

David: It might be a good idea.

Matt: Oh, right.

[Matt packs his bags.]

David: Have you packed everything?

Matt: Yes, I have.

Helen: Passport?

Matt: Yes.

David: Sun tan _____?

Matt: Yes.

Helen: Your toothbrush?

Matt: I've packed everything.

Jane: Have you phoned for a taxi yet?

Matt: I did it 15 minutes ago.

David: That's it.

Helen: Well, go on.

[Matt goes to the taxi.]

Simon: Where are you off to?

Matt: Barcelona.

Simon: Oh, have fun.

Jane: Have a great time, Matt.

Matt: Thanks.

Helen: Bye.

David: *Adios.*

Jane: Bye.

Simon: *Hasta la vista.*

Jane: _____ journey.

[Matt receives a call on his mobile in the taxi.]

Matt: Hello? ... No, I haven't. ... That's impossible. I've just taken it out of my pocket. ... I've got it here.
... Oh, no. I've taken yours.

Jane: Have a lovely time!

Helen (voice over): Matt had a wonderful time in Barcelona. And the flight? He loved it. In fact, he's thinking about taking flying _____.