

TAPESCRIPT

Narrator: Listening Test

Language Change

Section 2

You will hear two students, Fiona and Garret, discussing their ideas for their homework about the English language.

The recording will be played twice. Do as much as you can the first time and answer all the questions the second time.

You have 30 seconds to look at your questions.

[30 sec music]

Listen and answer the questions.

Fiona: Have you started your research about the English language, Garret?

Garret: Yeah, Fiona. Have you?

Fiona: Yeah.

Garret: What have you found?

Fiona: You know how in America and the UK they use different terms for certain things?

Garret: Like in the UK they say “biscuit” but in the US they say “cookie”.

Fiona: Exactly. Well, I found out that sometimes new words from America slowly enter the British vocabulary despite the fact that British people are often initially reluctant to use them.

Garret: Such as?

Fiona: “Awesome” and “movie”. People in the UK never used to use these words. They were thought to be “Americanisms”.

Garret: Do all American words move to the UK?

Fiona: I don't think so. For example, in the US “jelly” is something you put on your bread, whereas in the UK it's something children often eat with ice cream. British people put “jam” on their bread, not “jelly”.

TAPESCRIPT

Garret: Interesting. I've found something about words like "policeman" and "mankind".

Fiona: Are they new words?

Garret: Well, no. They're old words and they both use the word "man" to mean "all people" – including women. Nowadays, many people are averse to it and say it is unfair to women and it is inappropriate. They suggest we use alternatives, such as "police officer" or "police person" for "policeman" and "humankind" or "people" for "mankind".

Fiona: I see. Do people use the new suggestions?

Garret: I think so. I think the trouble is people agreeing on which word they should actually use.

Fiona: Let's talk to Mr Hall about our ideas to see if they are fine.

Garret: Good idea.

Narrator: Now listen to the recording again.

[repeat recording]

You have 30 seconds to check your answers.

[30 sec music]

This is the end of Section 2.