

## Episode 1: Camden

**Level:** Intermediate / Upper intermediate

**Age:** Young adults / Adults

**Aims:** In this lesson the students will:

1. learn about Camden Town;
2. practise listening for gist and reconstructing audio stories from memory using comprehensive questions as prompts;
3. compare and contrast standard forms of English with more common colloquial expressions;
4. practise these expressions in a personalized speaking task;
5. prepare personalized anecdotes about a favourite concert or club night, including a focus on phrases to describe such an experience.

**Materials:** One copy of the worksheet per student; full transcript for Episode 1 (with all key vocabulary highlighted in red for reference); Track 1 (full audio for Episode 1); Track 2 (conversation); Track 3 (Lord Jeffrey's 'punk gig' anecdote) – all downloaded from onestopenglish

**Summary:** Follow Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London, as he takes you from your classroom out onto the streets of London in the pouring rain. Share an umbrella, a thrilling taxi ride and, when the sun finally comes out, a walk around Camden Town. Learn about Camden's extraordinary fashion trends and hear an exciting anecdote about a punk gig from Lord Jeffrey's past.

### Warmer activities

**Aim:** to engage students with the theme of Camden; to introduce Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London; to pre-teach a few key pieces of vocabulary; to practise listening for gist

1. Write *Camden Town* on the board and discuss what students know about this area of London. What is it famous for? Has anyone been there before?

Here are just a few ideas to share with your students:

- It's well known for music and as a hangout for famous musicians (e.g. Amy Winehouse, Pete Doherty, Blur, Oasis, etc.).
- It's home to some famous music venues, like the Roundhouse where Pink Floyd and The Doors performed in the 1960s.
- You'll see lots of different fashions and youth movements, e.g. 'punks' and 'ravers'.
- It has the biggest flea market in London.

2. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a special guide to Camden Town.

Read this to the class:

*Your guide is Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London, who is hundreds of years old. He's seen London change so much during this time and has been there to experience it all – from the Great Fire of London in 1666, to the explosion of music and fashion on the King's Road in the 1960s. He's the perfect person to show you around. He can choose to either be in human form or ghost form at any time and, as you'll hear, he often changes his form to scare people who try to cheat him!*

3. Pre-teach the following vocabulary: *plague, geezer, goth, indie kid, raver, punk rocker, to mosh (v)*. Here are some definitions and notes on culture to help you:

**plague** – a serious disease that spreads quickly to a lot of people and usually ends in death  
The Great Plague (1664-1666) killed over 100,000 Londoners, around a fifth of London's population at the time.

**geezer** – (informal, colloquial) a man  
The cab driver says 'Allo geezer, which basically means 'hello mate'.

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**goth** – someone who wears Goth fashion and listens to Goth music

Goth is a type of fashion that was first popular in the 1980s, in which people have black clothes, black hair, very white make-up and dark lipstick.

**indie kid** – someone who listens to indie music and wears indie clothing

'Indie' is short for 'independent', so indie music traditionally means music that is developed by small independent record companies. Indie music now describes a type of alternative rock music, first made famous in the 1990s by bands like *Blur* and *Oasis*.

**raver** – someone who likes to go to large dance parties called 'raves'

Raves originated in the late 1980s and were often illegal parties held in abandoned warehouses. Ravers today might be characterized by their love for electronic music and fluorescent clothing.

**punk rocker** – a person who likes punk music, and who often has brightly-coloured hair, and wears torn clothing with a lot of chains and pins

Punk rock is a type of music that developed in the 1970s from rock and roll, consisting of simple tunes played quickly and loudly on electronic instruments and words that often express anger against society.

**to mosh** – (verb) to dance to rock music in a way that involves using a lot of movement and energy

If you are *moshing* at a rock concert, you are likely to be in the *mosh pit*, which is the area directly in front of the stage and as close to the band as possible.

4. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to Lord Jeffrey's guide to Camden. Dictate these three questions:

- What does he share with you?
- What problems occur on your journey?
- What story from his past does he tell you?

5. Play Track 1 (full audio for Episode 1).

**Key:** 1. his umbrella; 2. it's raining / his shoes get soaked through / the cab driver drives very dangerously / the cab driver tries to overcharge Lord Jeffrey; 3. his first punk gig experience

### Memory task

**Aim:** to encourage students to mentally reconstruct something they have listened to; to work collaboratively in groups

1. Hand out the worksheet and refer students to the memory task. Put students into small groups to answer the questions.

**Key:** 1. Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London; 2. Sherlock Holmes, Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare, Dizzee Rascal (a famous London rapper); 3. heavy rain; 4. He feels young.; 5. His shoes are soaked through.; 6. The sun comes out.; 7. punk rockers, goths, indie kids, ravers; 8. a punk gig; 9. people were dressed the same / people felt alive / the crowd surged forward, cheering wildly

### Colloquial language task

**Aims:** to compare and contrast standard forms of English with more natural sounding colloquial equivalents; to focus on the meaning, form and use of these expressions in a collaborative writing and speaking task

1. Refer students to the colloquial language task and the box describing colloquial language.

2. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to the conversation between Jeffrey and the cab driver, which is full of colloquial language, for a second time.

3. Refer students to the instructions of the first task.

4. Play Track 2 (conversation).

5. Refer students to the colloquial phrases in the second task and get them to replace the phrases they have underlined.

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**Key:** 1. *Where would you like to go, friend?* = *Where to, mate?*; 2. *Where exactly in Camden are you going?* = *Whereabouts in Camden are you heading?*; 3. *... what are you doing now?* = *What are you up to?*; 4. *... I'll call you later* = *I'll give you a shout later*; 5. *... I have to go now* = *Gotta fly*; 6. *Great* = *Nice one*; 7. *... the traffic is terrible* = *It's chocker*; 8. *How much is that?* = *What's the damage?*; 9. *That's very expensive!* = *That's a bit steep!*; 10. *I'll pay for it* = *It's on me*

6. Play Track 2 again for students to check their answers.

7. Put students in pairs to write their own dialogues. They should practise together and then perform them to the rest of the class.

### Anecdote task

**Aim:** to include some common phrases used to describe a concert in a personalized speaking task

1. Refer students to the phrases and discuss the meaning of any that the students are unsure of.

2. Play Track 3 (Lord Jeffrey's 'punk gig' anecdote).

3. Refer students to the list of questions and reiterate that they are there to help students to prepare a short talk and that they should use the phrases in 1.

4. Monitor students as they speak, listening out for any errors and examples of good language to write on the board at the end of the lesson.

5. When all the students have completed their anecdotes, have whole-class feedback.

### Extension activities

- Students present their anecdotes to the whole class.
- Students prepare short presentations on Camden or any area like Camden from their own city.
- Continuing with the theme of music, students bring their favourite English song

to the next lesson to play to the class and explain why they like it so much.

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### Memory task

Work together with your partner and see if you can answer these questions from memory.

1. What's your guide's full title?
2. What four voices of London does the ghost mention?
3. What's the weather like as you leave to go outside?
4. How does the ghost feel every time he goes to Camden?
5. Why does the ghost decide to catch a cab?
6. What's the first thing that happens when you arrive in Camden?
7. What four extraordinary fashion styles does the ghost talk about?
8. What kind of concert does the ghost describe?
9. How does he describe the atmosphere at the concert?

### Colloquial language task

**Colloquial expressions** or **colloquialisms** are phrases of spoken or written language appropriate for casual, ordinary, familiar and/or informal use. They are common in all languages and very important in English. Both understanding and using colloquial language will help improve your English, making you sound more fluent and natural.

1. You are going to listen to the conversation in the cab for a second time. Read and listen to the conversation. Underline ten sections of the conversation that are different from what you hear on the recording.

- Lord Jeffrey:** ... how about we catch a black cab the rest of the way there? I'll flag one down.
- Cab driver:** Where would you like to go, friend?
- Lord Jeffrey:** Camden, please.
- Cab driver:** Right you are; I know a good short cut. Where exactly in Camden are you going?
- Lord Jeffrey:** We're heading straight to the market, if that's OK? Is it busy up there?
- Cab driver:** Camden's always busy, pal. Hold on a sec.
- Lord Jeffrey:** Ah, I think it's illegal to answer your phone whilst driving ...
- Cab driver:** Yeah, whatever. 'Allo geezer, what are you doing now? Yeah, I'm alright. All good. Listen, got these fellas in the back of the cab, I'll call you later.
- Cab driver:** Oi, get out the road, mate! What? Yeah, she told me, un-be-liev-able. Anyway, I have to go now. Great.
- Cab driver:** Sorry about that, mate. Right, let's cut through here.
- Cab driver:** Oops, that was lucky! Just the mirror, we're nearly there.

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- Cab driver:** Ah, the traffic is terrible. We'll have to go another way.
- Lord Jeffrey:** Ow, my head! Right, that's enough, can you stop please? We'll walk from here. How much is that?
- Cab driver:** 15 quid.
- Lord Jeffrey:** 15 pounds? That's very expensive!
- Cab driver:** It's on the meter, mate.
- Lord Jeffrey:** You never even turned the meter on!
- Cab driver:** Look mate – just give me the money, alright?
- Lord Jeffrey:** You don't know who you're dealing with!
- Cab driver:** Oi! Hang on. Where'd you go? Where are you?
- Lord Jeffrey:** I'm right here. I'm right next to you!
- Cab driver:** What are you?
- Lord Jeffrey:** A GHOST! And one that loves London too much to pay those prices! Don't you ever cheat anyone again!
- Cab driver:** I'm sorry. Please don't hurt me. Don't worry about the money; I'll pay for it. Just get out my cab!
- Cab driver:** Bruv, it's me. Where are you?

### 2. Now replace the ten underlined phrases in 1 with the appropriate colloquial phrase below.

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| That's a bit steep!                    | It's chocker        |
| I'll give you a shout later            | What's the damage?  |
| Whereabouts in Camden are you heading? | It's on me          |
| Gotta fly                              | Where to, mate?     |
| Nice one                               | What are you up to? |

### 3. Listen again to check your answers.

4. Working with a partner, write your own dialogue and include at least six of the above phrases. Try to make the conversation sound as natural as possible. Once you've completed the conversation, rehearse the dialogue to perform to the rest of your class.

### Anecdote task

1. At the end of your visit to Camden, Lord Jeffrey tells a story about the first punk gig that he went to. Look at the following phrases taken from his anecdote below and discuss their meaning with a partner.

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Punk called out to me        | Something special was going on      |
| I felt at one with the music | The place kicked off!               |
| It just hit me               | I was in tune with the music        |
| The people felt alive        | It felt like nothing else on earth! |

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2. Listen again to check meaning.

3. Prepare your own anecdote describing the best concert or club night that you've been to. Here is a list of questions to think about beforehand.

- Where were you?
- How old were you?
- What year was it?
- Who did you go with?
- What was the name of the band / singer / DJ?
- How would you describe the band / singer / DJ?
- How would you describe their performance on stage?
- How would describe the music?
- What was the genre? (punk, house, pop, etc.)
- How would you describe the crowd?
- How would you describe the atmosphere?
- What was the best moment?
- Why was this concert / night so special to you?

**Before you tell your anecdote, consider Lord Jeffrey's phrases. Which ones could you include in your story?**

**Listen carefully to your partner and ask him or her at least one question about their anecdote when they've finished talking!**

**If you come to London, remember to visit Camden. It's a fantastic place!**

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Hello there, traveller! So, you're new to London, then? How exciting! Welcome to the greatest city in the world! Let me introduce myself: I am Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London!

Welcome to a city full of amazing stories, heroic tales of kings and queens, some adored and others executed. Visions of art and buildings that tower into the sky, terrible plagues and burning fires! This city of a thousand voices echoes all around us: Sherlock Holmes, Charles Dickens, William Shakespeare and Dizzee Rascal to name but a few! Today, London is the height of fashion and music and it's a fantastic place! So come with me! Let's head out on the streets together and explore this ... Oh dear! ... Well, it appears to be raining quite heavily. You don't have an umbrella do you? No? Not to worry, you can share mine – we can't let a bit of rain stop us! Right then, let's begin.

I'm going to take you to Camden or, as us Londoners call it, Camden Town. It's full of shops and an amazing market – it's a place so full of young people, even I feel young when I go there!

Right, it's a bit of walk and my shoes are soaked through, so how about we catch a black cab the rest of the way there? **I'll flag one down.**

**Cab driver:** **Where to, mate?**

**Lord Jeffrey:** Camden, please.

**Cab driver:** Right you are; I know a good short cut. **Whereabouts in Camden are you heading?**

**Lord Jeffrey:** We're heading straight to the market, if that's OK? Is it busy up there?

**Cab driver:** Camden's always busy, pal. Hold on a sec.

**Lord Jeffrey:** Ah, I think it's illegal to answer your phone whilst driving ...

**Cab driver:** Yeah, whatever. 'Allo **geezer, what are you up to?** Yeah, I'm alright. **All good.** Listen, got these fellas in the back of the cab, **I'll give you a shout later.**

**Cab driver:** Oi, get out the road, mate! What? Yeah, she told me, un-be-liev-able. Anyway, **gotta fly. Nice one.**

**Cab driver:** Sorry about that, mate. Right, let's cut through here.

**Cab driver:** Oops, that was lucky! Just the mirror, we're nearly there.

**Cab driver:** Ah, **it's chocker.** We'll have to go another way.

**Lord Jeffrey:** Ow, my head! Right, that's enough, can you stop please? We'll walk from here. **What's the damage?**

**Cab driver:** 15 quid.

**Lord Jeffrey:** 15 pounds? **That's a bit steep!**

**Cab driver:** It's on the meter, mate.

Track 2

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**Lord Jeffrey:** You never even turned the meter on!

**Cab driver:** Look mate – just give me the money, alright?

**Lord Jeffrey:** You don't know who you're dealing with!

**Cab driver:** Oi! Hang on. Where'd you go? Where are you?

**Lord Jeffrey:** I'm right here. I'm right next to you!

**Cab driver:** What are you?

**Lord Jeffrey:** A GHOST! And one that loves London too much to pay those prices! Don't you ever cheat anyone again!

**Cab driver:** I'm sorry. Please don't hurt me. Don't worry about the money; **it's on me.** Just get out my cab!

**Cab driver:** Bruv, it's me. Where are you?

Ha, that was all a bit much. I do apologize. Ah, at least the sun's come out! Follow me. There's been a market here since 1974. It was originally a small arts and crafts market, but over the years it's grown and grown and it's now one of the biggest tourist attractions in London! Let's wander in and see what we find!

I must say, I've seen some extraordinary music and fashion here ... punk rockers, goths, indie kids, ravers! Everyone is welcome in Camden Town and this venue we're standing next to is a great example; you can come here any night of the week and see some fantastic punk rock bands. In fact, it was here that I saw my first ever punk gig!

Everything about it was exciting. It was 1977 and punk music arrived and changed everything for me. **Punk called out to me** and made me **feel at one with the music.**

I walked into the gig and **it just hit me.** Everyone was dressed the same. The people **felt alive** and we all knew **something special was going on.** The guitarist started playing and the crowd surged forward, cheering wildly. Then the drummer kicked in and **the place kicked off!** I was sweaty and moshing and **in tune with the music. It felt like nothing else on earth!**

And this all happened right here.

You can wear what you want and be who you want to be in Camden – look at me, for example: even though my clothes are hundreds of years old, people don't even look twice. They just assume it's a fashion choice! To them I'm not strange, I'm just normal!

Well, we're running out of time and we should move on as I have many more wonderful things to show you! I do hope you've enjoyed our brief journey around Camden Town.

Oh, what a shame. It appears to be raining again. Never fear! I'll get my umbrella out!

Track 3