

# The Road Less Travelled

## Episode 11: The hen night

### The story so far:

Sal is going to marry Rich next week and Katie, as her bridesmaid, has organized her a surprise hen party.



## Listening

1. Listen to the episode and imagine what Katie and the girls are making Sal wear. What do you think it is?
2. Now listen again and put the events in order.
  - a) Sal suspects there is something Katie hasn't told her about Rich.
  - b) Sal notices that Katie really doesn't approve of Rich, by the tone of her voice.
  - c) Sal suggests she and Katie go to the bathroom to talk.
  - d) Katie makes a little speech.
  - e) Katie and the girls give Sal something special to wear for her hen night.

## Language: Apologizing

The American girls call the 'hen night' a 'bridal shower'. It's important to be able to recognize vocabulary in different varieties of English. Below are some of the most common words that are different in British and American English. Can you match the words?

British English	American English
mobile phone	cookies
car park	garbage
toilet	truck
pavement	parking lot
biscuits	closet
petrol	sidewalk
motorway	gas
lorry	store
post code	cell phone
rubbish	bathroom / rest room
wardrobe	highway / freeway
shop	zip code

Now write a short dialogue with your partner; one of you is British and one of you is American. Try and use at least five of the words from the activity above.

## Discussion

- Do you think Katie is right to tell Sal about what happened with Rich? What would you do in Katie's situation?
- How do you think Sal is going to react?
- Do people have special parties before they get married in your country? If so, what are these parties like?
- How do you think Rich is going to celebrate his stag night?

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### Transcript

(GROUP OF GIRLS, hereafter GG)

GG: Go Sal! Go Sal! Go Sal! Go Sal! Go Sal!

SAL: I can't wear this! You're all so mean! You mean I really have to put this on? For the whole evening?

KATIE: Come on Sal, it could be a lot worse than that! Remember what you made Claire wear on her hen night? This is nothing, come on, put it on!

SAL: Okay, okay. There we are. How do I look?

GIRL 1: Oooh, Sal, you look ... uh ... great!

GIRL 2: Is this what they do at bridal showers in England? Crazy stuff!

KATIE: Okay, before the evening really begins I'd like to say a few words. So, this time next week my cousin Sal will be a married woman! I just want to say that I think Rich is a very ... very ... very lucky man! So, to 'Sal and Rich'.

GG: Sal and Rich!

SAL: Thanks Katie, that was sweet of you.

KATIE: I mean it Sal, Rich is really lucky to be marrying you. Really lucky.

SAL: Why do you say it like that Katie? It sounds like you don't think he's good enough for me.

KATIE: Well ... no, I've never said that Sal.

SAL: You didn't have to say it.

KATIE: What?

SAL: Come on, what's bugging you Katie? Tell me. I know there's something.

KATIE: Oh Sal, don't be silly. Come on, this is your hen night. We're out to have a good time!

SAL: Rich told me that you quit your job at the club.

KATIE: That I ... what?

SAL: I can't believe you didn't tell me already. Rich is so upset about the whole thing. What's going on?

KATIE: Well, there was something I wanted to tell you Sal, but I don't think this is the time or the place.

SAL: Well I suggest we take a visit to the bathroom, right now Katie!

KATIE: Fine.

SAL: We'll be right back girls!



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### Answer key

#### Listening

1. Students' own answers. (In the UK, 'hens' tend to get given bridal veils, car 'L plates' or some ridiculous items of clothing to wear for the party.)
2. e, d, b, a, c



#### Language

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