
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Making cities feel quieter



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/4ufAqcs>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. What is the unit for measuring sound?
 - a) volt
 - b) decibel
 - c) lumen
2. What does it mean to say a person likes to dress loud?
 - a) they like to wear clothes with dark colours
 - b) they like to wear expensive clothes
 - c) they like to wear clothes with bright colours
3. Which adjective describes something which makes a high-pitched sound?
 - a) squeaky
 - b) squeamish
 - c) squashy
4. Where did sound artist Charles Montambault create his soundscape art installation?
 - a) Barcelona
 - b) Montreal
 - c) Tokyo
5. Which word means 'happening differently from how you would expect'?
 - a) intuitive
 - b) counterintuitive
 - c) counterclockwise
6. "A customer returned the shoes he bought to the shop, shouted loudly and demanded his money back. The shop manager found him hard to ____."
 - a) cope
 - b) handle
 - c) deal

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. decibel – unit for measuring sound
- b. dress loud – wear clothes with bright colours, large patterns and bold designs
- c. handle (a problem) – deal with something difficult
- d. art installation – artwork designed to create an interactive experience in a specific space
- e. squeaky – making a high-pitched sound
- f. counterintuitive – happening differently from what you would expect

5. 1b, 2c, 3a, 4b, 5b, 6b

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.