

A Perfect Day

Live from London podcasts

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Level: Pre-intermediate and above
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Language focus: Ways of saying good

Warm up

Tell students to imagine that, today, they have no classes or school. What's more, they have unlimited money to spend on a 'perfect day out'. What will they do? Ask them to imagine this in their mind's eye for a moment or two. Then tell them to tell a partner what they would do.

Do some feedback on this as a whole class, correcting mistakes as they come up (this will help for activity 6).

Listening

Explain that the students are going to listen to a series of short interviews of people answering the same question. Allow them time to read the exercises first. If students find listening hard, then play the audio and pause after each speaker.

When they have finished exercise 2, allow them to listen a second time and do exercise 3.

Go through the tapescript with them to clarify any vocabulary problems and do exercise 4. Here is some information about the places mentioned in the tapescript:

Hyde Park (*one of the largest parks in central London*)

Tate Modern (*one of London's most famous modern art galleries*)

Scott's in Mayfair (*a famous seafood restaurant*)

Claridges (*a luxury hotel with restaurants and bars*)

The Victoria and Albert museum (*London's famous art and design museum*)

The Porterhouse (*a pub in Covent Garden*)

The South Bank (*a popular area overlooking the river with restaurants, bars, theatres and the London Eye*)

John Lewis and Selfridges on Oxford Street (*two department stores*)

Spitalfields market (*a busy market in East London*)

Wagamama's (*a chain of popular and affordable noodle restaurants*)



Answers:

Exercise 3:

1. go and see (speaker 5) take in
2. going to (speaker 7) hitting
3. relaxing (speaker 8) chilling out

Vocabulary

Go over the pronunciation of these words as you go through the information in the box. Students then complete the sentences individually, choosing appropriate words from the list. Ask them to check in pairs, then do whole class feedback.

Answers:

5. perfect, nice, great, cool

Speaking

Ask students to work in pairs, but with a different student than they worked with in exercise 1. They should read the information and plan the day out. When they are ready, ask one student from each pair to move over to the next pair and try to "sell" their perfect day. Students should continue switching pairs and finally return to the original partner. They then decide which of the perfect days they heard about was the best.

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Transcript

Introduction

Welcome to Onestopenglish's Live from London podcast. In Live from London we go to different parts of London to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today, Live from London is in Green Park. We asked people for their ideas of a perfect day out in London.

Speaker 1 (male, London)

Hi. My perfect day in London would start with breakfast at Brown's followed by a walk in Hyde Park followed by a look around Tate Modern, ... lunch at Scott's in Mayfair ... and then a maybe a tea or something in Claridges, followed off in the end by going to the ballet or the opera.

Speaker 2 (female, USA)

A perfect day in London would be when the sun is shining, there's no rain and there's lots of people everywhere.

Speaker 3 (male, London)

My perfect day out in London would be to go the Victoria and Albert museum, then to the Porterhouse for a pint of beer and then ending with ... Wagamama's for some food.

Speaker 4 (female, British)

My perfect day out would be walking along the South Bank and also going shopping in John Lewis and Selfidges on Oxford Street.

Speaker 5 (male, London)

Well my, my own idea would be a perfect evening out in London, we'd come to have a nice meal, take in a nice show, have a few drinks, go home and ... having had a perfect evening.

Speaker 6 (female, British)

We've come to London this morning. Got the train here, which is ideal instead of driving. We've done a bit of sightseeing, we're going to do a bit of shopping and we're going to the theatre tonight.

Speaker 7 (male, New York)

So my perfect day in London is walking through as many neighbourhoods as I can. Before that, having a great breakfast and then having a cocktail at the Claridges bar. And then in the evening hitting the theatre and then being home by eleven thirty or midnight and getting a good night's sleep and then doing it all over again the next day.

Speaker 8 (female, Northern England)

Spitalfields on a Sunday is pretty cool with lots of like handmade jewellery and handbags and that kind of thing. And then probably just chilling out in a pub for the afternoon.



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Speaking

1. What would be your perfect day out? Make a list of four or five things you would do and tell a partner.

Listening

2. Listen to seven people talk about a perfect day for them in London. Match the beginnings in A with the endings in B.



A

Speaker 1

Hi. My perfect day in London would start with breakfast at Brown's followed by a walk in Hyde Park followed by a look around Tate Modern, ...

Speaker 2

A perfect day in London would be when the sun is shining, ...

Speaker 3

My perfect day out in London would be to go the Victoria and Albert museum, ...

Speaker 4

My perfect day out would be walking along the South Bank and also...

Speaker 5

Well my, my own idea would be a perfect evening out in London, we'd come to have a nice meal, take in a nice show...

Speaker 6

We've come to London this morning. Got the train here, which is ideal instead of driving. ...

Speaker 7

So my perfect day in London is walking through as many neighbourhoods as I can. Before that, having a great breakfast and then having a cocktail at the Claridges bar. ...

Speaker 8

Spitalfields on a Sunday is pretty cool with lots of like handmade jewellery and handbags and that kind of thing. ...

B

... We've done a bit of sightseeing, we're going to do a bit of shopping and we're going to the theatre tonight.

...And then in the evening hitting the theatre and then being home by eleven thirty or midnight and getting a good night's sleep and then doing it all over again the next day.

...And then probably just chilling out in a pub for the afternoon.

...going shopping in John Lewis and Selfridges on Oxford Street.

...have a few drinks, go home and ... having had a perfect evening.

...lunch at Scott's in Mayfair ... and then a maybe a tea or something in Claridges, followed off in the end by going to the ballet or the opera.

...then to the Porterhouse for a pint of beer and then ending with ... Wagamama's for some food.

...there's no rain and there's lots of people everywhere.

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3. Find expressions in the script that mean:

1. *go and see* (speaker 5)
2. *going to* (speaker 7)
3. *relaxing* (speaker 8)



Vocabulary

4. Read the information about different ways of saying *GOOD*. Then replace the underlined words in the sentences.

Good is a very general word. Here are some words with more specific meanings that sound more natural and appropriate in particular situations.

films/books/events	<i>brilliant, excellent, fantastic, great, terrific</i>
food/meals	<i>delicious, wonderful</i>
performance/work	<i>brilliant, excellent, outstanding</i>
people	<i>kind, nice, decent</i>
ideas/suggestions	<i>brilliant, excellent, great, interesting</i>

Language note taken from the Macmillan Essential Dictionary: © Macmillan Publishers Ltd 2003

1. Have you seen the new Harry Potter film? It's really good.
2. That's a good idea. Let's do that.
3. She's a good person and a good teacher.
4. Thanks for dinner. It was very good.
5. I got a very good result on the final exam.

5. Look at the tapescript in exercise 2 again. Are there any other ways of saying good you can find?

Speaking

Work in pairs. You are going to plan a perfect day and try to 'sell' it to others. Think of things to describe in the following categories.

Where to go What to see and do What to eat Who to go with

When you are ready, talk to other students. Who has the best 'perfect day'?

A Perfect Day
for Sale