

# Tourists

## Live from Edinburgh podcasts

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<b>Level:</b> Upper-intermediate
<b>Age:</b> Teenagers / adults
<b>Time needed:</b> 30 – 40 minutes
<b>Language and skills:</b> Listening for gist, listening for specific details, 'grammaring' (adding grammar to words to construct a complex sentence)

### Warmer

Start the class by writing *Scotland* on the board. Tell students to brainstorm as many different things that they can about Scotland. Write these on the board as they come up (things that students might say are: *kilt, castle, tartan...*). Try to elicit names of places or cities in Scotland. If no one says it, write up *Edinburgh*. Explain that Edinburgh is one of the most popular destinations for tourists in Scotland.

### Vocabulary

1. You could distribute the material at this point, or you could write the word snake in exercise 1 across the board (like a snake) and ask students to come up and mark the beginning and endings of the words.

**Answers:** *castle, dungeon, festival, architecture, university, scenery, nightlife, church, park*

2. Go over the pronunciation of these words (especially the silent letters in *castle, architecture* and *scenery*) and then ask students to do the collocation exercise that follows.

**Answers:** a) *castle*; b) *festival*; c) *architecture*; d) *nightlife*; e) *park*; f) *scenery*

### Listening

1. Before students listen, direct them to the first exercise which covers some of the more cultural terms and expressions that come up. Tell them to do the exercise in pairs, then feedback as a whole group.

**Answers:** 1. c); 2. d); 3. e); 4. a); 5. f); 6. b)

2. Play the whole recording through once and tell students just to listen. Once they have heard it the first time, put them into pairs and give them the task. They



should listen and make notes of each of the speakers assigned to them.

3. Play the recording again, pausing after each speaker.

4. At the end, let students compare their notes. Offer to help with any questions or difficulties they may have had. If you like, at this point you could give them a copy of the transcript to compare their notes with.

**Note:** In the audio, the last person mentions *Greyfriars Bobby*. Here is the story behind this:

*In 1858, a man named John Gray died and was buried in old Greyfriars Churchyard. For 14 years the dead man's faithful dog kept constant watch and guard over the grave until his own death in 1872.*

There is now a statue of the dog near the graveyard. You can find out more at the following website:  
<http://www.greyfriarsbobby.co.uk/story.html>

### Language

1. If students have got the transcript, get them to put it away at this point. Tell them they are going to 'put the grammar back' into some sentences from the audio. Do the first example with them, then let them do the others.

**Answers:**

1. *A lot of people come up to Edinburgh for the Edinburgh Festival in August.*

2. *You've got Edinburgh University, so you have students from all over the country and all over the world as well.*

3. *It's different from other cities in that every other city in Britain tends to look the same.*

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4. *You could almost be somewhere abroad whenever you come to Edinburgh because it doesn't look like a British city.*

5. *I know I came for a hen do before my friend's wedding about six months ago.*

### Speaking

Put students into groups of three. Tell each group to assign a secretary and to choose one of the Top Five lists to work on. Circulate and help. At the end, ask each group to present its list and the reasons behind their choices to another group.



### Transcript

#### Introduction

Welcome to onestopenglish's Live from Edinburgh podcasts. In Live from Edinburgh we go to different parts of Edinburgh to ask locals and visitors questions about their daily lives. Today we asked people the question, 'Why do you think Edinburgh is so popular with tourists?'



#### Speaker 1 (female, Scottish)

Uh, well, I think it's popular with tourists because it sells a kind of gimmicky version of Scotland; tourist tat, tartan and that kind of image. And I think especially American tourists love that kind of stuff.

#### Speaker 2 (female, British)

I think Edinburgh is popular with tourists because it's a very typically Scottish place – there's lots of culture and history. Um, people like to hear the bagpipes being played and there's a lot of that around the Edinburgh castle. I hear the dungeons are quite scary, so that's, that's a very good, uh, tourist attraction. And a lot of people come up to Edinburgh for the Edinburgh Festival in August.

#### Speaker 3 (male, Scottish)

Because, erm, of all the beautiful architecture and buildings and because of the history of it all.

#### Speaker 4 (female, British)

You've got, um, Edinburgh University, so you have students coming over from all over, well, the country – the world, as well. So, um, it's very internationally popular. And then obviously you've got the main thing, which is the castle.

#### Speaker 5 (male, Northern Irish)

Um, it's different from other cities in that every other city in Britain tends to look the same. You could be in Glasgow, you could be in Manchester, you could be in Belfast and they're all similar. Edinburgh is a wee bit different. It's got beautiful scenery, beautiful architecture, the bars are great, the atmosphere is brilliant, and, a lot of young people. Um, it just, it all adds up to that, sort of, you know, it's, you're somewhere different. You could almost be somewhere abroad whenever you come to Edinburgh 'cause it doesn't look like a British city.

#### Speaker 6 (male, British)

Well, it's, it's got lovely architecture. There's lots of very nice old churches, cobbled streets and lots of beautiful parks.

#### Speaker 7 (female, British)

I think because it's a really interesting and different city and a lot of people come here for stag dos and hen dos. I know that I came for a hen do for my, before my friend's wedding about six months ago, and it was so different than a normal night out back where we're from at home. Also, I think a lot of people are quite intrigued by the story of Greyfriars Bobby – you know the little dog that sat on his master's grave after he died?

### Vocabulary

1. Find eight features of a city in the word snake.

castle dungeon festival architecture university scenery nightlife church park



2. Complete the gaps with a word from the word snake above. Can you think of any other combinations with the words?

- |                              |        |                                |  |
|------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| a) old<br>medieval<br>grand  | castle | b) summer<br>music<br>drama    | c) gothic<br>beautiful<br>modern         |
| d) great<br>exciting<br>wild |        | e) beautiful<br>city<br>public | f) breathtaking<br>stunning<br>beautiful |

3. Which of these things would make you want to visit a city?

### Listening

1. You're going to hear seven people talk about why they think Edinburgh is so popular with tourists. Before you listen, match the cultural term or expression in A with its definition in B.

#### A

- a wee bit
- bagpipes
- Edinburgh Festival
- hen party
- tartan
- tourist tat

#### B

- a party for a woman who is about to get married
- cheap objects of bad quality for tourists to buy
- a little bit
- a Scottish musical instrument
- a collection of arts and cultural events in Edinburgh every August
- a pattern of colourful lines and squares on cloth that is typical of Scotland

2. Work in pairs, A and B. Listen and make notes of what you hear from different speakers.

As listen and make notes on speakers 1, 3, 5 and 7.

Bs listen and make notes on speakers 2, 4 and 5.

Compare your notes. Then listen again and add anything new you hear.

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### Language: 'grammaring'

1. Look at the following lists of words from the listening. Each list is missing some grammar to make it complete. Put the words together to make a sentence.

**Example:** *I think popular tourists because typically Scottish place.*

I think it's popular with tourists because it's a typically Scottish place.

1. lot people come up Edinburgh Edinburgh Festival August  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. you've got Edinburgh University so have students all over country all over world well  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. different other cities in that every other city Britain tends look same  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. you could almost be somewhere abroad whenever come Edinburgh because not look like British city  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. I know I came hen do before my friend wedding about six months ago  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Speaking

1. Work in groups of three. Choose one of the lists below. Make your list.

- 
-  Top five places for tourists to visit in **YOUR COUNTRY**
  -  Top five cities **YOU** would like to visit
  -  Top five places **YOU'VE VISITED**
  -  Top five things you would recommend in **YOUR CITY** for someone with **HARDLY ANY MONEY**
  -  Top five things you would recommend in **YOUR CITY** for someone with **LOTS OF MONEY**

2. Present your list to a different group. Who has the most interesting list?