

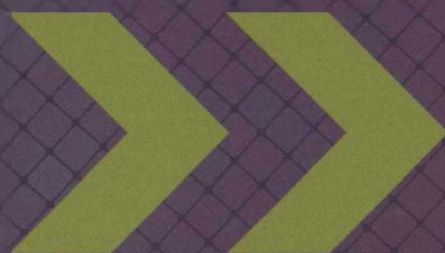
Collins

English for Life



B1+ Intermediate

Listening



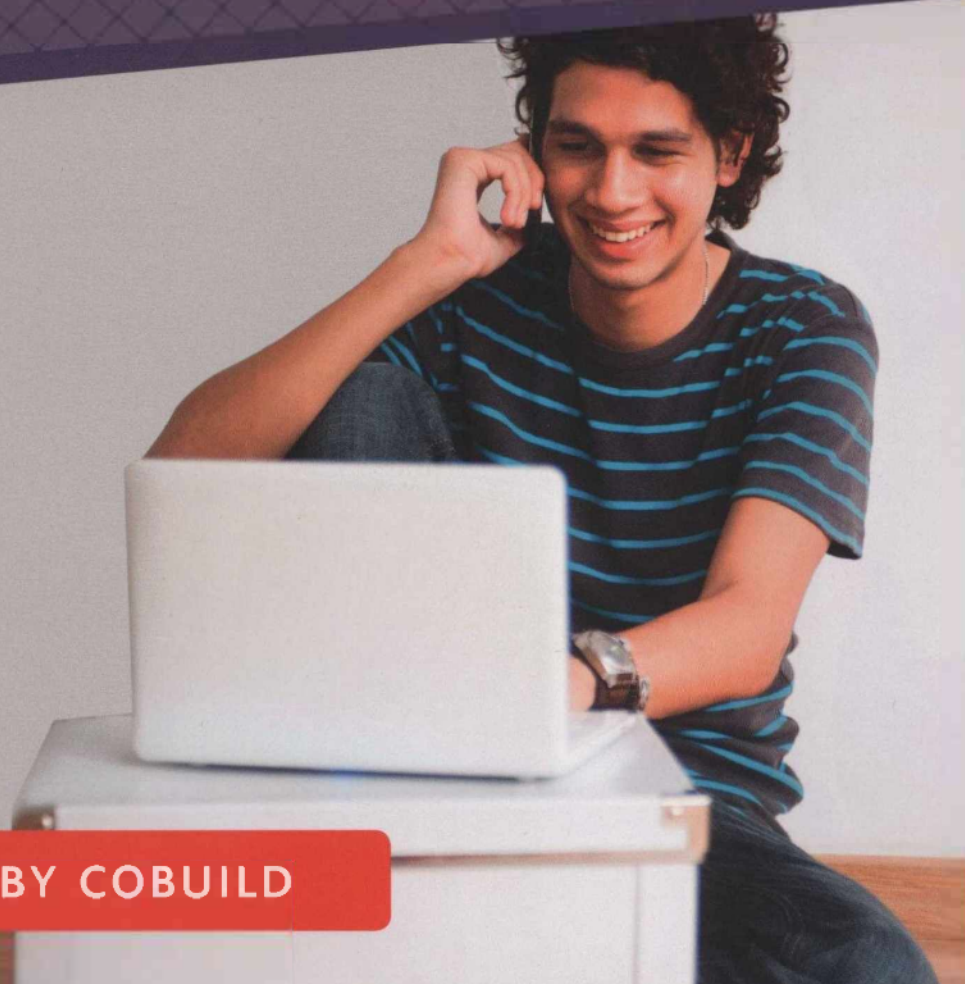
Ian Badger



NHÀ XUẤT BẢN TỔNG HỢP
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

NTV

Công ty TNHH
Nhân Trí Việt



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DEDICATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For Gerry

I would especially like to thank:

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Carhire 3000
Carphone Warehouse, Hammersmith
Thomas Exchange Global, London
Riverside Studios, London
Transport for London (Underground)
3AW Radio Station, Melbourne

About the author

Ian Badger is a highly regarded author who has written a wide range of published materials to aid spoken and written communication in English. He runs a training consultancy (BMES) which specialises in helping the employees of international companies to communicate with their counterparts, contacts, and customers worldwide. This work, which involves helping speakers from all over the world to communicate clearly and effectively with each other, has made him acutely aware of the need to understand English however it is spoken.

Ian is originally from London but now lives in Bristol in the west of England. He spends a lot of his time running face-to-face training in Finland, Germany, France, and Russia and working remotely in many other parts of the world. He has worked as a director of studies, teacher trainer, teacher of English, and communications consultant and is a regular speaker at international conferences.

Ian is also the author of *English for Business: Listening* (Collins, 2011).

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INTRODUCTION

Collins English for Life: Listening will help you to improve your understanding of English as spoken by a range of speakers for whom it is a first or second language.

You can use *Listening*

- as a self-study course
- as supplementary material on a general English course.

Listening aims to develop your awareness and sensitivity to different speakers of English. As you listen to the recordings, you will note which speakers are easier to follow and notice why this is the case: speed, clear accent, lack of complex vocabulary and idiom, straightforward use of grammar. As you develop your awareness of features which make speakers easy to understand, you will gain more awareness of your own English and take steps to ensure that you become a clearer speaker.

Specifically, *Listening* will help you to develop

- listening for the gist / the main points made by speakers
- listening for the exact meaning of words and phrases
- awareness of clear usage and structures
- your range of everyday English vocabulary
- cultural awareness.

Listening comprises a book and CD. The book consists of 20 units divided into the following five sections:

Section 1: Where are you from?

Section 2: Where are you going?

Section 3: What do you need to know?

Section 4: What do you do?

Section 5: How do you spend your free time?

You can either work through from Unit 1 to Unit 20 or pick and choose the units that are most useful to you.

The CD contains 50 recordings of American, English, Irish, Scottish, Australian, New Zealand, French Canadian, Chinese, German, and Polish speakers, among others. The ability to understand varieties of English is a key to improved communication in English in your work and life.

At the back of the book are the following useful documents:

- a mini-dictionary
- the answer key
- the transcripts

Using *Listening*

For ease of use, each unit follows a similar structure. It is recommended that you follow the order of exercises when working through a unit. Each unit includes

- some simple questions to check your understanding of what is said
- exercises which focus on extracts from the recordings where you can check your understanding of specific features: pronunciation, vocabulary, structure
- gap-filling exercises intended to direct your attention to specific words and phrases which may cause comprehension problems
- vocabulary-matching exercises to widen your vocabulary.

Some of the recordings will be difficult to understand at first, but the task will be to follow the main ideas expressed and to familiarise yourself with unfamiliar ways of spoken English. In cases where the language level of the exercises may appear low, understanding the gist and details of the recordings will present a challenge.

Other features

Powered by dictionaries

In order to expand your vocabulary, further uses of key language are explored through references to examples taken from standard dictionaries. In addition, you can look up any unfamiliar words and phrases in the mini-dictionary at the back of the book. This contains definitions and further examples from a range of dictionaries.

Did you know?

Small sections set in speech bubbles provide useful background information which will help you to understand the context of a recording.

Clear usage

These sections focus on specific issues which can cause problems for the listener, such as complex grammar forms used by native speakers or non-standard usage.

Further listening

The final section in each unit provides you with some suggestions for further study. In most cases, it refers you to complimentary listening material on the *Collins Listening* website www.collinselt.com/listening.

'We all make mistakes!'

'Since many years, I haven't seen a rifle in your hand!' From 'Fernando', ABBA

Native and very fluent non-native speakers make mistakes – even ABBA. The recordings that accompany *Listening* were recorded on location (i.e. not in a studio) and are unscripted. As happens in the real world, the speakers make mistakes. They sometimes use unconventional grammar forms, they do not always speak in full sentences, and they hesitate. These 'errors' have not been removed from the recordings. The speakers' views are also unscripted and reflect their individual opinions and knowledge.

Language level

Listening has been written to help learners at B1–B2 level (Intermediate), but will also be useful for learners at a higher level who wish to develop their sensitivity to a range of accents.

Other titles

Also available in the *Collins English for Life* series: *Speaking*, *Reading*, and *Writing*



Using the CD

This icon indicates that there is an audio track that you should listen to. The *Listening* CD may be used with either a computer or a CD player.

1

YOUR FAMILY



BEFORE YOU LISTEN

The two speakers in this unit talk about their families. Before you listen, think of how you would talk about your family structure.

- Are you an only child, or are you from a large family?
- Do you have many uncles and aunts, cousins, nieces, and nephews?
- Are you close to your family, or do you have little contact with family members?



A Alex is from a small English town in Derbyshire in the East Midlands. In this recording, he talks about his own family and his wife's family.

1 Read the questions and then play the recording through once. Answer the questions to check your general comprehension.

- 1 Do any of Alex's family members live within walking distance of where he lives?
- 2 How many of his wife's sisters (his sisters-in-law) have children?
- 3 Alex expresses regret that his and his wife's parents do not live nearby. Why?
- 4 How many brothers and sisters does Alex have?
- 5 Why is Alex happy to be part of his wife's large family?

Useful language: family

Did you say you had ten siblings – seven brothers and three sisters?

All of my aunts and uncles came to the wedding. So did most of my cousins, my second cousins, my grandparents, and my great-grandfather.

After remarrying, she now has four stepchildren: two stepsons and two stepdaughters.

My brother-in-law has two adopted children.

I have two half-sisters; we have the same mum but different dads.

Alex mentions a number of English places including Cornwall, a county in the far south-west of England, and Derbyshire, a county in the Midlands. If you would like to explore the geography of the UK, locate the places mentioned on a map to give yourself a clearer idea of where the places that Alex talks about are. Go to the website www.collinsmaps.com and search for each one.