

Homesickness

Live from Edinburgh podcasts

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30–40 minutes
Language and skills: Listening for gist, listening for specific details, using of



Warmer and vocabulary

1. Play hangman with the phrase, *Home is where the heart is*.
2. Ask students to suggest similar expressions in their language. If they can't think of a similar one, ask them to suggest any sayings or proverbs about home. Tell them to translate them literally into English.
3. Write the sentence stem, *Home is where the heart is*, on the board and ask students to work in pairs and brainstorm different ways of finishing it. Think of a couple yourself to get them started (e.g. *Home is where the family is*, *Home is where you go at the end of the day*, *Home is where happy memories are...*).

Listening

1. Explain what the students are going to listen to and let them read exercise 3 first to get ready. Play the recording through once, pausing after each speaker to give students time to circle the topics.

Answers:
 Speaker 1: friends family cat
 Speaker 2: daughter friends clothes
 Speaker 3: son television girlfriend
 Speaker 4: friends dog food
 Speaker 5: London Aberdeen family

2. Before you play the recording a second time, it may be worth checking students understand the phrases in **bold** in exercise 4. Play the recording through a second time and get students to check their answers together.

Answers:
 Speaker 1: **b**; Speaker 2: **e**; Speaker 3: **d**;
 Speaker 4: **a**; Speaker 5: **c**

Language

Tell students to read the information about noun + of + noun. They then should try to re-assemble the phrases. If you wanted to extend this exercise, you could ask students to suggest other similar phrases using the words in A (e.g. *a network of contacts*, *different parts of the school*, *a couple of beers*, *the birth of a nation*, *a length of string...*). Alternatively, you could ask them to make as many noun phrase (NP) + of + NP of things they see in the classroom.

Answers: *A network of friends; Different parts of Edinburgh; A couple of years; The birth of my son; A length of time*

Speaking

1. Set up the situation by asking students to imagine different aspects of their home, using the prompts in question 6. They should write these down.
2. Then put students into pairs and ask them to tell each other what they would and wouldn't miss from their list if they were away from home for a long period of time. Wherever possible they should give reasons.

Alternative procedure for students studying abroad and already away from home:

Ask students to complete the notes as before, but instead of telling each other what they would miss, ask them to say what they do miss. You could open this into a class discussion on homesickness – with students contributing suggestions on how to deal with it.



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, 'If you were away from home for a long period of time, what would you miss most?'

Speaker 1 (female, London)

Actually, I am away from home. I've lived in Aberdeen for the past year and a half, originally from London. Um, and it's been the past few trips back that I've really noticed that I've missed my family and friends a great deal. Um, the climate is a lot warmer in the south, in London, than it is up in Aberdeen. Um, just walking around in the shops, seeing pretty dresses in shops that I've realized I can't necessarily wear here and I want to wear, I could wear at home.

Speaker 2 (female, Scotland)

If my daughter wasn't with me, I'd miss her the most. Um, I don't know, um, apart from that, just depends where I was going. I'd miss my household luxuries, my clothes, everything like that, 'cos obviously you can't take everything with you.

Speaker 3 (male, Scotland)

I would miss my girlfriend, who's pregnant, so I'd also miss the birth of my son and him growing up.

Speaker 4 (female, Middlesbrough)

Um, I'm originally from Middlesbrough. So, been in Edinburgh a couple of years now, and so I'm starting to class this as my home. Um, so when I leave, yeah, it does feel like I'm missing home – I'm missing my family, as in my boyfriend, I'm missing my dog. Um, I've got a good network of friends as well that I've created over the past couple of years as well. Um, and friends are really important to me. Back down in Middlesbrough, there's just my mum and my sister and that's it. So, yep, I'd miss my friends, family, dog!

Speaker 5 (male, Northern Ireland)

Yes, family definitely. Because when you're, certainly when you're younger, you don't appreciate your family. And it's only whenever you are away, you realize just how much, you do realize how much you miss them. Our family get-togethers now – we have a very big family and it's great coming home. And I wouldn't go away again. I lived in Aberdeen for six years and I wouldn't go away from home again for that length of time.