

Episode 3: Notting Hill

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

Age: Young adults / Adults

Aims: In this lesson the students will:

1. learn about Notting Hill;
2. practise listening for gist and reconstructing audio stories from memory using comprehension questions as prompts;
3. compare and contrast standard forms of English with more common colloquial and idiomatic expressions related to market shopping;
4. practise these expressions in a personalized speaking task;
5. discuss national events and festivals from their own countries and practise paraphrasing each other.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; full transcript for Episode 3 (with all key vocabulary highlighted in red for reference); Track 1 (full audio for Episode 3); Track 2 (conversation); Track 3 (Lord Jeffrey's 'Notting Hill Carnival' anecdote) – all downloaded from onestopenglish

Summary: Follow Lord Jeffrey as he takes you to his favourite antiques market in Notting Hill. Wander into the market and meet a stallholder who tries to rip off Lord Jeffrey. Finally, sit down in a warm café over a nice cup of tea to hear all about Lord Jeffrey's exciting first Notting Hill Carnival experience.

Warmer activities

Aims: to engage students with the theme of Notting Hill; to introduce Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London (not required if students have already listened to previous episodes); to pre-teach a few key pieces of vocabulary; to practise listening for gist

1. Write *Notting Hill* on the board and discuss what students know about this area of London. What is it famous for? Has anyone been there before?

Here are just a few ideas to share with your students:

- It's in the west of London.
- It has a reputation for being an affluent and fashionable area.
- It's very popular with tourists due to Portobello Market, the Notting Hill Carnival and the film *Notting Hill* starring Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts.
- It is characterized by its well-kept residential areas full of attractive terraces and townhouses.

2. (Only required if this is the first time students have listened to an episode.) Explain to students that they are going to listen to a very special guide to Notting Hill. Read this to the class:

Your guide is Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London, who is hundreds of years old. He's seen London change so much during this time and has been there to experience it all – from the Great Fire of London in 1666, to the explosion of music and fashion on the King's Road in the 1960s. He's the perfect person to show you around. He can choose to be either in human form or ghost form at any time and, as you'll hear, he often changes his form to scare people who try to cheat him!

3. Pre-teach the following vocabulary: *little-known, hot spot, antique, junk, family heirloom, stilts, euphoric, unnerved, blur*. Here are some definitions and notes on culture to help you:

little-known – known by very few people; the opposite of 'well-known'

Lord Jeffrey is referring to Portobello Market here – it used to be a little-known antiques market but it is now very well-known by people from all over the world.

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hot spot – a place that is fashionable, popular and lively

antique – an old object such as a piece of furniture or jewellery that is valuable because it is rare, beautiful or well made

There are lots of antiques markets in London and Portobello is one of the most popular. It is very popular and fashionable to buy and restore antique furniture in Britain.

junk – old, broken or useless things

family heirloom – a valuable or special possession that has belonged to a family for many years

stilts – two long narrow pieces of wood with places to put your feet on so that you can stand on them to walk high above the ground
Stilts are worn by many entertainers taking part in the parade at the Notting Hill Carnival. They wear colourful costumes and walk on stilts to stand high above the crowds.

euphoric – feeling extremely happy, usually for a short time only

unnerved – nervous or frightened

blur – if something such as a memory or an idea is a blur, it is no longer clear in your mind

4. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a guide to Notting Hill. Dictate these three questions:

- Where in Notting Hill does Lord Jeffrey take you?
- What problem does he have with the market stallholder?
- What story from his past does he tell you?

5. Play Track 1 (full audio for Episode 3).

Key: 1. Portobello Market; 2. The stallholder tries to cheat him about the price of a watch.; 3. the story of his first experience at the Notting Hill Carnival

Memory task

Aims: to encourage students to mentally reconstruct what they have listened to; to work

collaboratively in groups

1. Hand out the worksheet and refer students to the memory task. Put students into small groups to answer the questions.

Key: 1. the Notting Hill Carnival; 2. market sellers who often try to overcharge for items they call antiques but are actually junk; 3. a watch; 4. that his great grandad was given the watch by his best friend as he was dying during the Battle of the Somme in the First World War; 5. that it's very expensive and overpriced; 6. from a charity shop and it actually cost £2.50; 7. costumes, processions, music; 8. jerk chicken, rice and peas and curried goat; 9. "You are where you belong! The universe is beautiful!"; 10. make-up and an enormous hat made of orange and pink feathers

Colloquial language task

Aims: to compare and contrast standard forms of English with more natural sounding colloquial equivalents; to focus on the meaning, form and use of these expressions in a collaborative speaking task

1. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to the conversation between Lord Jeffrey and the stallholder, which is full of colloquial language related to market shopping, for a second time.

2. Refer students to the instructions of the first task.

3. Play Track 2 (conversation).

4. Refer students to the colloquial phrases in the second task and get them to replace the phrases they have underlined.

Key: 1. lots of cheap offers = bargains galore; 2. looking around = browsing; 3. What exactly are you looking for? = Are you looking for anything in particular?; 4. been thinking of = had my eye on; 5. cost little money but look good = cheap and cheerful; 6. cost you a fortune = cost you an arm and a leg; 7. have enough money to pay for the things that I need = make ends meet; 8. a bit expensive = a bit pricey; 9. do something now to have success in the future = strike while the iron's hot; 10. overcharge me = rip me off

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5. Play Track 2 again for students to check their answers.

6. Put students in pairs to discuss the questions.

Anecdote task

Aim: to discuss national events and celebrations in a personalized speaking task; to practise paraphrasing each other

1. Play Track 3 (Lord Jeffrey's 'Notting Hill Carnival' anecdote) and tell students to listen carefully to the way Lord Jeffrey describes the sights, sounds and smells of the story.

2. Tell students that they are now going to tell anecdotes about festivals and national events from their own country. If students are from the same country, each pair must try to think of two different events to talk about.

3. Put students into pairs to discuss the questions. Remind them that they must listen carefully in order to retain as much information as possible, and that they must try to create a sense of atmosphere with their stories.

4. Put students into new pairs and explain that they must paraphrase and explain their previous partner's national event to their new partner.

5. Monitor students as they speak, listening out for any errors and examples of good language to write on the board at the end of the lesson.

6. Have brief whole-class feedback, asking a few pairs to report back on what they've learnt.

Extension activities

- Students write their own dialogues, including language from the colloquial language task.
- Students present their chosen national celebration to the whole class.
- Students work in groups and design their own festivals to present to the class.

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Memory task

Work together with your partner and see if you can answer these questions from memory.

1. What does Lord Jeffrey say Notting Hill is home to?
2. What does he warn you about before entering the market?
3. What does Lord Jeffrey want to buy?
4. What story about the watch does the market stallholder tell?
5. What is Lord Jeffrey's reaction to the price quoted?
6. Where did the watch actually come from and how much did it cost?
7. Fill in the spaces about the Notting Hill Carnival:
Lively, brightly coloured _____, street _____ and live _____.
8. What three types of Caribbean food does Lord Jeffrey mention?
9. What does the lady in the crowd say to Lord Jeffrey?
10. What is he wearing when he wakes up?

Colloquial language task: market shopping

1. You are going to listen to the conversation at the market stall for a second time. Read and listen to the conversation. Underline ten sections of the conversation that are different from what you hear on the recording.

Stallholder:	Ladies and gentlemen, gather round! Antiques for sale at great prices. Lots of cheap offers!
Lord Jeffrey:	Bargains you say? Well that's very interesting. I heard it was almost impossible to find a bargain in London!
Stallholder:	<i>Absolutely not</i> , sir – and what can I do you for today?
Lord Jeffrey:	Well, I'm just looking around at the moment, if that's OK?
Stallholder:	Of course, sir. Please take your time and let me know if anything catches your eye.
Lord Jeffrey:	I will, thank you.
Stallholder:	What exactly are you looking for?
Lord Jeffrey:	Well, I've been thinking of getting a vintage watch for a while, actually.
Stallholder:	Oi! Mickey! Can you bring that box of watches over?
Stallholder's son:	OK, Dad.
Stallholder:	If it's a watch you're after then you've come to the right place, my friend. Have a look at some of these. All are proper vintage, from the ones that cost little money but look good to the glamorous – and none of 'em will cost you a fortune.
Lord Jeffrey:	I can see ... Tell me, how much would one of these go for?
Stallholder:	Well it all depends, sir. That one in your hand is from the First World War. It's actually a family heirloom that dates back for centuries. My great

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grandad was given that by his best friend as he was dying during the Battle of the Somme. It breaks my heart to have to sell it but times are hard and I need to have enough money to pay for the things that I need. I can offer it to you at the bargain price of only 500 pound. I take cash, cheque, credit card, PayPal and euros.

Lord Jeffrey: £500 pounds? Hmm. That seems a bit expensive to me ...

Stallholder: I'm telling you, it's a great price! You should do something now to have success in the future, mate.

Lord Jeffrey: If this is a family heirloom, shouldn't you really be leaving it to your children?

Stallholder: Sadly, I haven't got any. I could never have children.

Lord Jeffrey: So, why did that boy just call you 'Dad'?

Stallholder: You what? Oh, did he? I mean ... err ... I ... I don't know what you're talking about, mate! What's going on? Where are you? Oi, where did you go? Oh, OK, where's my watch gone?

Stallholder's son: Dad? Dad? Look, look ... I've got one of those broken watches on my wrist! I don't know how it got there? I felt a hand on my wrist but I couldn't see anyone!

Lord Jeffrey: One of those broken watches? You're trying to overcharge me! Tell me the honest price for this watch or I'll haunt you forever!

Stallholder: Haunt me? OK, OK ... I got it from a charity shop. For £2.50. I'm sorry, mate – I'm just trying to make ends meet and take care of my son.

Lord Jeffrey: By teaching him to take advantage of people? Don't you ever try and rip off anyone else again!

Stallholder: I won't! I promise you! Please don't haunt me, I'm scared!

Lord Jeffrey: Come on traveller, let's get out of here.

2. Replace the ten underlined phrases in 1 with the correct form of the appropriate colloquial phrases below.

to have an eye on something

bargains galore

to browse (v)

to cost an arm and a leg

a bit pricey

to rip (somebody) off

Are you looking for anything in particular?

strike while the iron's hot

to make ends meet

cheap and cheerful

3. Listen again to check your answers.

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4. Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Have you **had your eye on anything** recently?
2. Has anyone ever tried **to rip you off**?
3. Do you know a shop or market where you can find **bargains galore**?
4. Will you be **looking for anything in particular** next time you go shopping?
5. Do you spend a lot of time **browsing**?
6. Can you think of a time when you needed **to strike while the iron was hot**? Did you?
7. Do you have a possession that cost **an arm and a leg**?
8. How do you **make ends meet**?
9. What was the last thing you bought that was **a bit pricey**?
10. Do you have a possession that you love which is **cheap and cheerful**?

Anecdote discussion task

1. **At the end of your visit to Notting Hill, Lord Jeffrey tells a story about going to the Notting Hill Carnival for the first time. Listen to Lord Jeffrey's anecdote again to hear how he tells his story.**
2. **Work with a partner and each tell your own anecdotes about a carnival or national event from your country. When you're telling your story, try to create a sense of atmosphere and describe how you felt at the time. When your partner is talking, listen carefully and remember as much information as you can. Here is a list of questions to help you.**
 - Is there a famous carnival or national event like the Notting Hill Carnival in your country?
 - What does it celebrate?
 - How many people go?
 - How long is the event?
 - Is it a family occasion or better spent with friends?
 - When did it begin?
 - What clothes or costumes do people wear? What do they represent?
 - What food do people traditionally eat?
 - How do they celebrate? Are there street processions, brightly coloured costumes and live music performances?
 - Have you been there yourself? If yes, describe your first experience.
 - If you could organize your own festival, what would you celebrate and how would you celebrate?
3. **Now swap partners and tell your new partner about your old partner's national event!**

Listen carefully to your partner and ask him or her at least one question about their national event when they've finished talking!

If you come to London, remember to visit Notting Hill. It's a fantastic place!

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Hello again my travelling friends! Welcome back to your London tour with me, your guide – Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London! Walk with me, this way.

We find ourselves in a very special place – Notting Hill. This is a place that I love and it's of course home to the famous Notting Hill Carnival! But more about that later. First, I want to take you to Portobello Market. It was once a little-known antique market but today it has grown in fame and become a hot spot for tourists and Londoners alike. Ah, here we are.

Now listen carefully. We need to be careful not to get cheated by some of the market stall sellers who often try to overcharge for items which they may call antiques but are actually junk.

Let's enter the market. Keep your wits about you and an eye on your possessions.

Stallholder: Ladies and gentleman, gather round! Antiques for sale at great prices. **Bargains galore!**

Lord Jeffrey: Bargains you say? Well that's very interesting. I heard it was almost impossible to find a bargain in London!

Stallholder: *Absolutely not*, sir – and **what can I do you for today?**

Lord Jeffrey: Well, **I'm just browsing for the moment**, if that's OK?

Stallholder: Of course, sir. Please take your time and let me know if **anything catches your eye**.

Lord Jeffrey: I will, thank you.

Stallholder: Are you **looking for anything in particular?**

Lord Jeffrey: Well, **I've had my eye on** getting a vintage watch for a while, actually.

Stallholder: Oi! Mickey! Can you bring that box of watches over?

Stallholder's son: OK, Dad.

Stallholder: If it's a watch **you're after** then you've come to the right place, my friend. Have a look at some of these. All are proper vintage, from the **cheap and cheerful** to the glamorous – and none of 'em will **cost you an arm and a leg!**

Lord Jeffrey: I can see ... Tell me, **how much would one of these go for?**

Stallholder: Well it all depends, sir. That one in your hand is from the First World War. It's actually a family heirloom that dates back for centuries. My great grandad was given that by his best friend as he was dying during the Battle of the Somme. It breaks my heart to have to sell it but times are hard and I need to **make ends meet**. I can offer it to you at the bargain price of only 500 pound. I take cash, cheque, credit card, PayPal and euros.

Track 2

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- Lord Jeffrey:** £500 pounds? Hmm. **That seems a bit pricey** to me ...
- Stallholder:** I'm telling you, it's a great price! You should **strike while the iron's hot**, mate.
- Lord Jeffrey:** If this is a family heirloom, shouldn't you really be leaving it to your children?
- Stallholder:** Sadly, I haven't got any. I could never have children.
- Lord Jeffrey:** So, why did that boy just call you 'Dad'?
- Stallholder:** You what? Oh, did he? I mean ... err ... I ... I don't know what you're talking about, mate! What's going on? Where are you? Oi, where did you go? Oh, OK, where's my watch gone?
- Stallholder's son:** Dad? Dad? Look, look ... I've got one of those broken watches on my wrist! I don't know how it got there? I felt a hand on my wrist but I couldn't see anyone!
- Lord Jeffrey:** One of those broken watches? You're trying to **rip me off!** Tell me the honest price for this watch or I'll haunt you forever!
- Stallholder:** Haunt me? OK, OK ... I got it from a charity shop. For £2.50. I'm sorry, mate – I'm **just trying to make ends meet** and take care of my son.
- Lord Jeffrey:** By teaching him to take advantage of people? Don't you ever try and rip off anyone else again!
- Stallholder:** I won't! I promise you! Please don't haunt me, I'm scared!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Come on traveller, let's get out of here.

Well, I think that taught him a lesson! Right, enough about markets. Let's pop into this café, I've got a great story to tell you!

- Lord Jeffrey:** Hello, can I get a cup of tea please?
- Waitress:** Coming right up, how do you like it?
- Lord Jeffrey:** Milk and two sugars.
- Waitress:** Milk, two sugars – coming right up.

Let's grab a seat.

Now, let me tell you all about Notting Hill Carnival! It's the largest street festival in Europe, which began in the 1960s as a way for Afro-Caribbean communities to celebrate their own cultures and traditions. It's a festival of lively, brightly coloured costumes, street processions and live music. You find Caribbean food stalls everywhere selling jerk chicken, rice and peas and curried goat. There is *nothing* like the smell of the Notting Hill Carnival! I come along every single year but I'll never forget the first time ...

The colours, the sounds, the smells were intoxicating. Ladies dressed as giant butterflies surrounding me. I kept dancing and suddenly I'm in the middle of a marching band

Track 3

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of tribal drums. In a flash, I hear whistles, as a group of people on stilts surround me blowing hard on their pipes. I'm dancing, sweating and feeling the rhythm. I'm dizzy, euphoric and ... a little unnerved.

Lord Jeffrey: Excuse me. Do you know where I am?

Voice: You are where you belong! The universe is beautiful!

And then ... the rest is kind of a blur. I came round a few hours later with a smile on my face, lying in a park, wearing an enormous hat with orange and pink feathers and with make-up all over my face.

Ah, I love a good cup of tea!

Well, that's that for now. Must dash – I'll see you next time! You don't mind paying for my tea, do you? Great! Thanks! Goodbye!

Oh, blast. It's raining again!