

Episode 6: Soho

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

Age: Young adults / Adults

Aims: In this lesson the students will:

1. learn about Soho;
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 expressions related to British pub culture;
4. practise these expressions in a personalized speaking task;
5. prepare personalized anecdotes about best friends, including a focus on phrases to describe how they met.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; full transcript for Episode 6 (with all key vocabulary highlighted in red for reference); Track 1 (full audio for Episode 6); Track 2 (conversation); Track 3 (Lord Jeffrey's 'best friend' anecdote) – all downloaded from onestopenglish.

Summary: Follow Lord Jeffrey as he takes you on a bike ride into the heart of Soho. Pop into the Coach and Horses pub for a meat pie, encounter a rather unfriendly landlord and enjoy a nice pint of lager. Finally, listen to Lord Jeffrey reminisce about the time he met his best friend.

Warmer activities

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

1. Write *Soho* 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 heart of central London and to the locals it's known as a village.
- It was once infamous for its red light district but is now a hub for tourists and locals enjoying great restaurants, bars and clubs.
- It's a home to London's gay community and this is reflected in its eclectic mix of shops and bars.
- Lots of famous people have lived there: from Karl Marx to Mozart to Casanova.

- Historically, it's known as a bohemian area, full of artists, private members' bars and jazz clubs.
- Unlike other areas of London, Soho still manages to retain its edge and individuality.

2. (Only required if this is the first time students have listened to an episode.) Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a very special guide to Soho. 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 either be 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: *beggar, landlord, pork scratchings, bow tie, singalong*. Here are some definitions and notes on culture to help you:

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beggar – someone who is very poor and lives by asking people for money or food

landlord – someone who owns or manages a pub, a bar or a small hotel

pork scratchings – pieces of pig's skin cooked in hot fat, usually eaten cold

Pork scratchings are a popular pub snack and are sold in packets – like crisps – in most traditional pubs in Britain.

bow tie – a narrow piece of cloth that a man puts around his collar and ties into a bow

Bow ties used to be worn only for special occasions but they are now a fashion item often worn by young, trendy men.

singalong – an occasion when people get together to sing songs for fun

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

- How does Lord Jeffrey feel about Soho?
- Where does he take you in Soho?
- What story from his past does he tell you?

5. Play Track 1 (full audio for Episode 6).

Key: 1. He truly loves it.; 2. to the Coach and Horses pub; 3. the story of when he met his best friend (George Thomas)

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. music, food and laughter; 2. someone speaking every language in the world; 3. a bike; 4. because he's getting hungry; 5. A sandwich walks into a pub and orders a pint of real ale. The barman turns, looks at him and says, "Sorry, mate. We don't serve food!"; 6. meat pies; 7. his

best friend (George Thomas); 8. a guitar; 9. his song; 10. Oh, my friends, it's good to know you!

Colloquial language task

Aims: to compare and contrast standard forms of English with 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 pub landlord, which is full of colloquial language related to pub culture, 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. What would you like? = What can I get ya?; 2. What are you drinking? = What you having?; 3. half a pint = a cheeky half; 4. beer = lager; 5. I'll buy them = I'll get them in; 6. It's my turn = It's my round; 7. I'll drink for that reason = I'll drink to that; 8. Cheers! = Bottoms up!; 9. traditional beer with no gas = real ale; 10. pub food = pub grub; 11. go out and party = hit the town

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

6. Put students in pairs to write their own conversations. Once ready, students can perform their dialogues to another pair or to the whole class.

Discussion task: Friendship

Aim: to use some common phrases used to describe a best friend in a personalized speaking task

1. Refer students to the phrases and discuss the meaning of any that they are unsure of.

2. Play Track 3 (Lord Jeffrey's 'best friend' anecdote).

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3. Refer students to the list of questions and reiterate that they are there to help students to prepare their anecdotes and that they should use the phrases in 1.

4. 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.

5. When all the students have completed their anecdotes, have whole-class feedback.

Extension activities

- Students present their anecdotes to the whole class.
- Students prepare short presentations on either Soho or any area like Soho from their city.
- Continuing with the theme of Soho, students research an important person who lived there to bring to the next lesson.

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Memory task

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

1. What three things does Lord Jeffrey say 'venture out of every door in Soho'?
2. What can you hear if you listen very carefully?
3. What transport do you use to get into town?
4. Why does Lord Jeffrey take you to the Coach and Horses pub?
5. Can you remember the joke Lord Jeffrey tells the landlord?
6. What is the only food on offer in the pub?
7. Who did Lord Jeffrey meet at the table you're sitting at?
8. What instrument was George playing when he entered the pub?
9. What did George teach everyone in the pub?
10. What was the last line of his song?

Colloquial language task

1. You are going to listen to the conversation between Lord Jeffrey and the pub landlord for a second time. Read and listen to the conversation. Underline eleven sections of the conversation that are different from what you hear on the recording.

Landlord:	What would you like?
Lord Jeffrey:	Well, I was hoping to get a new bike for my birthday.
Landlord:	A funny guy, eh? If I had a pound for every time I heard that, I'd be retired by now! Anyway, what are you drinking, pal? Half a pint?
Lord Jeffrey:	No, we'd like two <i>full</i> pints of beer, please. I'll buy them; it's my turn.
Landlord:	Two pints, coming right up. Any snacks?
Lord Jeffrey:	Yes, please. A packet of your finest pork scratchings.
Landlord:	Here you are, gentlemen. Good health!
Lord Jeffrey:	I'll drink for that reason – cheers! Ah, delicious! Now, tell me, barman, do you know any good English pub jokes to tell my travelling friend, here?
Landlord:	Well, that bow tie you're wearing must be a joke! Although, it's not a very good one.
Lord Jeffrey:	Well, I've got a <i>classic</i> joke – are you ready? A sandwich walks into a pub and orders a pint of traditional beer with no gas. The barman turns, looks at him and says ...
Landlord:	"Sorry, mate. We don't serve food!" Now, if I had a pound for every time I've heard that joke, I wouldn't just be retired, I'd be living in a posh villa in the south of France!
Lord Jeffrey:	Exactly! A classic! Anyway, we'd like some decent pub food to go with these beers, so that we're ready to go out and party. Can we look at your food menu?

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2. Replace the eleven underlined phrases in 1 with the appropriate colloquial phrases below.

It's my round

a cheeky half

Bottoms up!

lager

What can I get ya?

What you having?

I'll get them in

pub grub

hit the town

I'll drink to that

real ale

3. Listen again to check your answers.

4. Work with a partner to write your own pub conversation and include at least six of the phrases above. Try to make the conversation sound as natural as possible. Once you've completed your conversation, rehearse it to perform to the rest of the class.

Discussion task: Friendship

1. At the end of your visit to Soho, Lord Jeffrey tells a story about meeting his best friend. Look at the phrases below and discuss their meanings with a partner.

soulmate

to get on like a house on fire

to have a lot in common

He/she cracks me up

He/she is someone I can turn to

He/she is a rock

He/she is a friend for all seasons

2. Listen to Lord Jeffrey's anecdote again to see how he tells his story and to check the meaning of the phrases above.

3. Work with a partner and each tell your own anecdotes about your best friend. Try to use some of Lord Jeffrey's phrases to help you tell your story. Here is a list of questions to help you.

- Where were you when you first met your best friend?
- How long have you known each other?
- How would you describe him/her when you first met?
- Can you remember your first conversation? What did you talk about?
- What did you think of him/her at first?
- What things do you have in common?
- How do you spend your time together?
- How does he/she make you laugh?
- How would you describe your best friend?
- How do you think your best friend would describe you?
- Do you think you'll be friends forever?

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

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

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Good evening, traveller! And, yes, it's me: Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London! This evening, we're heading to Soho for the final leg of my guide to London.

I truly love Soho. It's probably the most cosmopolitan place in the capital ... with music, food and laughter venturing out of every doorway. Soho is a place that parties through the night and then gets up to go to work in the morning ... and, if you listen closely, you'll hear someone speaking every language in the world and meet all kinds of people – from beggars to princes!

I've brought bikes so we can cycle into town. Here is your helmet. Let me help you put it on.

Well, I'm not fond of emotional goodbyes. However, I'd just like to say ... [that it's been a pleasure to meet you and what a lovely person you are. I honestly couldn't have asked to spend time with someone nicer] ... and I hope that we remain great friends! Ah, there we go! A perfect fit! Now then, follow me!

Welcome to the epicentre of London nightlife – Soho! Let's explore!

I'm getting hungry; let's stop here at the Coach and Horses to get a drink and something to eat. Although, I should warn you that the landlord can be quite a character!

Landlord: **What can I get ya?**

Lord Jeffrey: Well, I was hoping to get a new bike for my birthday.

Landlord: A funny guy, eh? If I had a pound for every time I heard that, I'd be retired by now! Anyway, **what you having, pal? A cheeky half?**

Lord Jeffrey: No, we'd like two *full* pints of **lager**, please. **I'll get them in; it's my round.**

Landlord: Two pints, coming right up. Any snacks?

Lord Jeffrey: Yes, please. A packet of your finest pork scratchings.

Landlord: Here you are, gentlemen. Good health!

Lord Jeffrey: **I'll drink to that – bottoms up!** Ah, delicious! Now, tell me, barman, do you know any good English pub jokes to tell my travelling friend, here?

Landlord: Well, that bow tie you're wearing must be a joke! Although, it's not a very good one.

Lord Jeffrey: Well, I've got a *classic* joke – are you ready? A sandwich walks into a pub and orders a pint of **real ale**. The barman turns, looks at him and says ...

Landlord: "Sorry, mate. We don't serve food!" Now, if I had a pound for every time I've heard that joke, I wouldn't just be retired, I'd be living in a posh villa in the south of France!

Lord Jeffrey: Exactly! A classic! Anyway, we'd like some decent **pub grub** to go with these beers, so that we're ready to **hit the town**. Can we look at your food menu?

Track 2

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- Landlord:** Here you go.
- Lord Jeffrey:** It just says 'MEAT PIES' in big letters.
- Landlord:** Yeah.
- Lord Jeffrey:** OK. In that case, we'd love two of your meat pies, please!
- Landlord:** CHEF, TWO MEAT PIES!
- Chef:** Two pies, coming right up!
- Landlord:** I'll bring them over to you when they're ready.
- Lord Jeffrey:** Great, thanks. Let's grab a seat over there.

Cheers! Ah, I love this pub. So many wonderful memories. In fact, it was round this very table where I met, for the first time, my best friend, George Thomas. It was back in the 1960s and it seemed like every young man with a beard, like George, was playing guitar ...

It was about 11pm and the bell for the last orders rang out.

- Landlord:** Ladies and gentlemen, time at the bar!
- I was sitting with a few friends when George came in through the door, guitar in hand.
- George:** Oh, won't you walk with me a while, through the winding streets of Soho.
- Where so many here have walked; oh, my friends, it's good to know you!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Bravo! Bravo! Musician, pull up a chair – I love that song!
- George:** Thank you – and I love your bow tie!

So, there you have it – the start of a great friendship and we're friends to this day. He's a **soulmate** and **we get on like a house on fire**. We spend so many evenings just talking about ... pretty much anything and everything. **We've got a lot in common** and share so many of the same interests and the same sense of humour, too! George **just cracks me up**. He's also **someone I can turn to** if life is getting me down. When I broke up with Janie, **he was a rock**. He's **a friend for all seasons**.

That first meeting was something special, though. George managed to teach every single person in there his song and we had the best singalong you've ever heard!

Ah, well, this is as good a place as any to end my little guide to London. The last line of George's song, "My friends, it's good to know you", sums it all up perfectly. It's been wonderful showing you around this amazing city – my friends, it's good to know you!

- George:** So, is everyone ready? A one, a two, a one, two, three, four!
- Everyone:** Oh won't you walk with me a while, through the winding streets of Soho.
- Where so many here have walked; oh, my friends, it's good to know you!

Track 3