

Contents

Introduction	7
--------------	---

My Family

Unit 1	Judy	10
--------	------	----

Judy lives in Sevenoaks, a beautiful town in Kent, south-east of London. She is the mother of four children. She also works full-time as a teacher in a private girls' school. During nearly the entire interview one of Judy's sons, Rupert, is playing the piano in another room, which makes this unit more challenging.

Unit 2	Marilena	32
--------	----------	----

This is an English as a Lingua Franca unit (ELF). Marilena is a Romanian woman in her early 30s. Seven years ago she decided to leave Romania and come to London. She now works in the operating theatres of a busy hospital in east London together with her colleague and line manager, Jill, who also appears in the interview. Marilena understands spoken English very well and communicates effectively, although she does make a number of phonological and grammatical errors. Jill speaks clearly, but quickly, and she has retained her North Welsh accent.

Unit 3	Randy	68
--------	-------	----

Randy is a trained actor, musician and composer from Montana in the USA who is currently living in London. He has a strong American accent, despite having lived in the UK since 1999. This interview was recorded in a large Victorian pub during one afternoon in early summer and there is a lot of background noise (music, people talking and calling out, etc.). It is a good example, though, of real life listening.

Supplementary Units

Unit 4	Eileen	88
--------	--------	----

Eileen was born in Watford in north-west London, but she now lives in Walthamstow in east London with her husband and two children. She has a strong east London accent.

Unit 5	Hannah and Luke	102
--------	-----------------	-----

Hannah (aged 20) and Luke (aged 18) are the daughter and son of Judy in Unit 1. As with a lot of young people they speak very quickly.

A Typical Day

Unit 6	Ingse Ingse is a divorced mother of twin girls who lives in Bergen on the west coast of Norway, where she works for a large energy company. She speaks excellent English as she lived and worked in the UK for a number of years. She has a slight Norwegian accent combined with a slight Geordie accent which she acquired from living in Sunderland.	112
Unit 7	Dorah and Jill Dorah and Jill both work as operating theatre nurses in two different London hospitals. Dorah is a black South African who came to work in the UK in 1998. She specialises in operations on eyes. Jill comes from North Wales but moved down to London in 1987. She specialises in orthopaedics, i.e. operations involving bones. Both Dorah and Jill have marked accents.	132
Unit 8	Randy	156
Supplementary Units		
Unit 9	Eileen	180
Unit 10	Peadar The name Peadar is the Irish or Gaelic form of Peter. Peadar comes from County Cork in the Irish Republic but moved to England at the age of 17 to see life outside Ireland. He works on building sites in the London area where he specialises in digging tunnels. Peadar has a strong Irish accent despite having lived in London for forty years. Another challenge for the students is that people from Cork are renowned for speaking extremely fast.	194

A Place I Know Well

Unit 11	Trudie	202
	Trudie is a very successful businesswoman who works in the City – the financial centre of London. In this interview she talks about her home and the area in London where she lives. Trudie has an RP accent and speaks quite quickly at times.	

Unit 12	Laura and Francis	218
	Laura is a project manager from Vancouver married to Francis, a professional architectural photographer from Massachusetts. They live just outside Seattle in Washington State in the north-west of the USA. In this interview they talk about Seattle and their recent visit to London.	

Unit 13	Val, Peter and Jill	238
	This is an interview with a group of friends, Val, Peter and Jill, who all live in Walthamstow in north-east London. The interview takes place in a pub. The three talk about their local area – things to see and do and local history. Val is a true Cockney, as she was born within the sound of the bells of Bow Church, and has a Cockney accent. Peter has lived in London all his life and has a strong London accent. Jill is originally from North Wales and has retained her Welsh accent.	

Supplementary Units

Unit 14	Dorah and Letta	260
	Dorah and Letta are sisters who grew up under apartheid in South Africa. Here they talk about the township they grew up in and how it has changed in recent years. They both speak excellent English, but have retained their South African accent.	

Unit 15	Muriel	272
	Muriel lives just outside Cannes with her husband and young son. In this interview she talks about the place she lives now – Mougins – and the place she lived before, which was in the mountains near the Swiss border. Muriel speaks good English, but has a strong French accent.	

UNIT 11 Trudie



1. Pre-Listening Comprehension

Trudie is a very successful businesswoman who works in the City — the financial centre of London. In this interview she talks about her home and the area in London where she lives. Trudie has an RP accent and speaks quite quickly at times.

A Schema building – predicting which words will come up

Which 10 of these 20 words do you expect to hear during the interview?

brick-built, builders, a burglar alarm, a church, converted, a cul-de-sac, dentures, a diet, feathers, files, greenery, a hallway, ink, nylon, a patio, perfume, poverty, semi-detached, a strike, toothache

B Normalisation – anticipating the next word



This exercise is designed to help you get used to Trudie's voice.

Listen to Track 276. There is a word missing from the end of each excerpt. When you hear the beep sound, try to guess the missing word and write it down. Then listen to Track 277 to check your answers. How well did you guess?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

C Discussion

You now know a little bit about Trudie from the Introduction and from hearing her speak. No doubt you have subconsciously formed your own conclusions about her. Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups and share your answers with the class:

1. What do you expect Trudie's home to be like?
2. What do you expect the road where Trudie lives to be like?
3. What do you expect the area where Trudie lives to be like?



2. Listening Comprehension

A True/False



Trudie talks about her home. Answer true or false. Be prepared to give reasons for your answers.

- _____ Trudie's house was built in the first half of the 20th century.
- _____ Trudie likes the pebble-dash effect on the front of her house.
- _____ Trudie has clearly made a lot of changes to her house.
- _____ When Trudie bought the house it had four bedrooms.
- _____ The reception room is divided by French doors.
- _____ Downstairs there is a huge kitchen.

B Gap-Fill



Trudie continues to talk about her home and the road where she lives.

Before you listen, try to predict which words, or which types of words (nouns, adjectives, prepositions, parts of verbs, etc.) will fit in the gaps. Then listen and check your answers.

- Trudie has _____ the garage into a _____ room.
- There is a _____ downstairs.
- Trudie says the _____ is a reasonable size.
- The _____ is about 50 foot long.
- Access to the garage is from the _____ round the _____ of Trudie's house.
- Trudie doesn't know how _____ the _____ is at the end of her _____.
- The _____ at the _____ of the house is quite small.
- Trudie's road is quite quiet because it's a _____.

C True/False



Trudie talks about her neighbours. Answer true or false. Be prepared to give reasons for your answers.

- _____ Trudie thinks her neighbours are wonderful.
- _____ The woman across the street complained about the noise Trudie's builders made.
- _____ Trudie felt the builders could have worked harder.
- _____ Trudie's street is a popular location for families with children.
- _____ Trudie gets on very well with the mixed-nationality couple who live opposite.

6. _____ The couple across the road clearly trust Trudie.
7. _____ Trudie's next-door-neighbour had nothing to do with her after she complained about the building work.

D Gap-Fill



Trudie talks about East Finchley. As with Exercise A, try to predict which words, or which types of words, will fit in the gaps. Then listen and check your answers.

1. East Finchley is one of the many _____ of London.
2. There is a _____ of shops in the _____ Street and also a _____.
3. Trudie says East Finchley is a _____ community.
4. Some people have _____ there _____ their lives there while others have recently moved in.
5. A lot of the houses in East Finchley are being _____.
6. East Finchley isn't a very _____ area, but it does have a lot of family houses which are quite _____.
7. It doesn't _____ long to get to the _____ from East Finchley.
8. You can travel to the _____ of London in around 40 minutes.
9. There is a _____ station in East Finchley.
10. East Finchley is quite _____ up.
11. Trudie says Muswell Hill is a good place to go for _____.
12. The _____ from Muswell Hill on a clear day is _____ fantastic, according to Trudie.

E Questions



Trudie talks about the parks in East Finchley. Listen and answer the questions.

1. Where do the antique fairs take place in Alexander Park?
2. What is the name of the woods near Trudie's home?
3. What is the main aim of the East Finchley Festival?
4. What can you buy to eat at the Festival?
5. How long does it take Trudie to get to Hampstead Heath by car?
6. What is special about the concerts at Kenwood House?
7. What lies between the audience and the orchestra at these concerts?
8. What usually happens at the end of each concert?
9. Do you get a refund if the weather's too bad for the concert to take place?

3. Interesting Language Points

A Negative statements with a positive meaning

It is very common in British English to use negative statements instead of positive statements, as in these examples, with their actual meanings:

I don't feel very well. = I feel really ill.

I haven't got much money on me. = I have almost no money on me.

I'm not very hungry. = I'm quite full up from when I last ate.

Look at Trudie's use of negative statements taken from the interview:

It's not particularly attractive...

I don't have really much garden to the front of the house...

there aren't really many cars coming down the road

she didn't really like the noise

There's aren't actually many children in my street.

It wouldn't take you very long to get to the countryside.

Now try to make up your own examples of negative statements with positive meanings.

B Qualifying statements

It is also very common in British English to qualify statements rather than to make direct statements. This is probably one of the reasons British people have a reputation for being reserved.

Trudie uses the word **quite** throughout her interview. (NB This is not the quite = exactly/precisely meaning, but a way of qualifying the following word to make it less strong.)

quite nice, quite noisy, quite nice, quite close, quite big and spacious

She also makes a number of qualified statements:

I do actually know quite a few of my neighbours.

East Finchley is probably what you would perhaps call the suburbs of London.

it's probably not necessarily the most fashionable area in London

C Intensifying statements

At other times in the interview Trudie speaks very enthusiastically about certain things. Look at these examples:

he's absolutely lovely
you really, really are high up here
an absolutely fantastic view of London
you can see for absolutely miles
And that's huge. I mean that is absolutely massive.
fantastic music

Now try to make up your own examples of intensifying statements.

D The passive

There are a number of examples of the passive in the interview:

It was actually built in 1923. (simple past passive)

The garage has been converted into a breakfast room. (**present perfect simple passive**)

The houses are gradually being done up. (present continuous passive)

East Finchley Festival is held in the summer. (present simple passive)

Now try to make your own examples featuring these passive tenses.

E To have something done

We use this construction when someone does something for us. Common examples are:

'Have you had your hair cut?'

(Not 'Did you cut your hair?' This is a common mistake made by non-native English speakers. It implies that the person you are talking to cut their own hair. Definitely not a compliment!)

'We're having our living room decorated next week.'

'Paul had his wisdom teeth taken out last week so he won't be eating peanuts for a while.'

Now look at these examples from Trudie's interview:

I was having some building work done...

But the thing is, when you have building work done it is quite noisy.

Now try to make up some sentences using this construction.

F Word stress

Every word of more than two syllables in English has one prominent stress – the primary stress. There may also be a secondary stress. Mark the prominent stress in these words taken from Trudie's interview:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. absolutely | 8. fashionable |
| 2. attractive | 9. fantastic |
| 3. classical | 10. festival |
| 4. community | 11. necessarily |
| 5. converted | 12. orchestra |
| 6. countryside | 13. particularly |
| 7. exhibition | 14. performances |



London

4. Further Listening Practice

A Dictation



At times in her interview Trudie speaks very quickly and consequently some words are not pronounced clearly.

Work with a partner. First listen to the excerpts from Trudie's interview and write down how many words there are in each item. Then listen and write down the words you hear. After that check your answers with another pair.

1. (____ words) _____
2. (____ words) _____
3. (____ words) _____
4. (____ words) _____
5. (____ words) _____

B Elision



In fast spoken English a process called 'elision' often occurs, most frequently with words ending in *-d* and *-t*. This results in these sounds not being pronounced when the next word begins with a consonant. This can make it difficult for you to recognise individual words in a stream of speech – even those words which you use regularly when speaking.

Listen to these excerpts from the interview and use a tick (☐) or a cross (☒) to mark whether the final *-d* or *-t* of words are pronounced or not pronounced. The relevant letters have been put in capitals for ease of reference.

1. it's a brick-built house (☐)
2. On the front it has something called pebble-dash... (☐) (☐)
3. and that is sort of just like stone (☐) (☐)
4. It's a semi-detached house. (☐)
5. which has been converted into a breakfast room (☐) (☐)
6. It has a very large bedroom at the front of the house... (☐)
7. which used to be two bedrooms (☐)
8. And then next door to that we have a kitchen... (☐)
9. And then at the back I have a garden... (☐)
10. there's a road that leads round the back of my house (☐) (☐)

C Glottal stop



Another feature of natural spoken English is the *glottal stop*. A glottal stop happens when the speaker tightens his or her throat and very briefly stops the air from getting through. This results in the /t/ sound at the end of words such as *got* or *lot*, or the /t/ sound in words such as *bottle* or *kettle* not being fully pronounced. This can make it difficult for you to recognise words containing this feature.

Try to fill in the gaps before you listen to the excerpts, and discuss your predictions with your teacher. Then listen to check your answers.

1. I do have something _____ used to be a garage attached to my house, _____ I've now converted that into a breakfast room.
2. _____ has three bedrooms.
3. It's _____ one bathroom upstairs.
4. _____ I've knocked it into one huge one
5. And then next door to _____ we have a kitchen...
6. I'm not sure when it was _____, _____ pretty, pretty old.

Can you produce a glottal stop?

D Weak forms, i.e. unstressed grammatical (or function) words



The words between the stressed content words are known as grammatical (or function) words. These are the words which bind the speaker's content words together and they are a major contributing factor to the rhythm of English speech. These grammatical/function words tend to be unstressed, which makes them difficult to distinguish. Listen to these excerpts and fill in the missing grammatical/function words.

NB Because this is a listening training exercise don't try to predict the answers before you listen!

1. Um, _____ you describe _____ house _____
_____?
2. _____ the end of _____ street _____ very
nice church.
3. I _____ building work done...
4. I wish they did stay until 5 o'clock, _____
_____.
5. _____ other side _____
very nice young family...

6. _____ it _____ take _____ very long _____ get
_____ countryside...
7. You _____ see _____ Docklands, _____
see sort _____ all _____.
8. _____ got a little bit _____ green where people _____
kick _____ football
9. you _____ go _____ have _____ cup _____ tea...
10. _____ you call it!
11. ..._____ it _____ be a really nice evening, if _____ fine
weather. _____ always fine weather.



A Gap-Fill

Fill in the blanks in these new sentences with words you heard during Trudie's interview. The words are listed in the box to help you.

attractive	keys	knocked	married	neighbours
noisy	park	patio	stone	switch

1. Sorry, can we just stop a minute? I've got a _____ in my shoe.
2. I know he's not very _____, but he's got a lovely personality.
3. We rang the doorbell and _____ on the door, but there was no answer.
4. We usually have dinner on the _____ in the summer, unless it's raining.
5. Where we live in London you need a permit to _____ on the street.
6. When we go on holiday we get our _____ to water the garden and then we do theirs when they're away.
7. I don't think they're _____ — neither of them wears a ring.
8. I've lost my _____ and our neighbour who has a spare set is away, so I'll have to call a locksmith out.
9. How do you _____ it off? Is it this button here?
10. The kids were so _____ the teacher had to shout to make herself heard.

B Transformations

Change the word in each bracket that appeared in the interview to form a word that fits the gap, if necessary.

Here's an example to help you:

*Example: I can make you a sandwich if you're (hunger) **hungry**.*

1. I had to give the police a (describe) _____ of the man I saw because they think he was the getaway driver.
2. We're having some (built) _____ work done, so it's a bit difficult to have anyone to stay at the moment.
3. Most of my friends think Robbie Williams is gorgeous, but I can't see the (attractive) _____ myself.
4. I wish I had a (converted) _____ to drive in the summer, so I could put the top down and get a suntan.
5. Every time we turn our central heating on the pipes start (knocked) _____. I think we've got an airlock somewhere.

6. The beach is no longer (access) _____ by car, so we'll have to go on foot.
7. I was rather (alarm) _____ when I (switch) _____ the lights on and nothing happened, but then I realised there was a power cut.
8. Are flared trousers in or out of (fashionable) _____ at the moment?
9. The one disadvantage with our cottage is that we don't have enough (spacious) _____.
10. I love this time of year when all the (leafy) _____ turn red and yellow.
11. My spatial (aware) _____ is really poor, which is why I'm no good at (park) _____.
12. I'm a bit short of (fund) _____ at the moment. Can you lend me £20?
13. Are you the (owns) _____ of this car?
14. Everybody's very (neighbours) _____ in this street. We're always popping in and out of each other's houses.

C The Passive

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct passive tense.

1. I think he (to operate on) _____ tomorrow morning.
2. The door (to shut) _____ at midnight, so if you come back late you'll have to ring the bell and the night porter will let you in.
3. My car (to repair) _____ so I couldn't fetch her from the station, unfortunately.
4. Have you heard about Peter? He (to fire) _____!
5. Our local swimming pool (to suppose) _____ (to heat) _____, but it gets perishing cold in winter.
6. Penicillin (to invent) _____ by Sir Alexander Fleming.
7. Last year all our courgettes (to eat) _____ by snails so we're not growing them this year.
8. I don't think this bed (to change) _____! I'm going to call reception and complain.
9. I'm sure I (to knock out) _____ in the first round, but I'll give it my best shot.
10. Breakfast (to serve) _____ between 7 and 10am.
11. So while our very important visitors (to show) _____ around the facilities we were frantically trying to get hold of the catering company to find out what had happened to the lunch that, according to our records, (to order) _____ five weeks ago.

- I: Um, can you describe your house to me? Because I've never seen it.
- T: OK. I live in a 1920s house. It was actually built in 1923. And it's a brick-built house. On the front it has something called **(1) pebble-dash** and that is sort of just like stone. It's quite grey. It's not particularly attractive, actually, on the front. Um... And the windows are small, paned windows – about four-by-four little panes of glass and eight panes of glass per window. It's a semi-detached house. I do have something that used to be a garage attached to my house, **(2) but I've now converted that into a breakfast room**. It has three bedrooms. It has a very large bedroom at the front of the house which used to be two bedrooms, and **(3) I knocked it into one**. It's got one bathroom upstairs. And then downstairs it has one very large **(4) reception room**, which used to again be two reception rooms, but I've knocked it into one huge one which goes from the front of the house to the back of the house. And the back half of the reception room has er, large **(5) French doors** leading on to a **(6) patio**. And then next door to that we have a kitchen, which is a reasonable sized-kitchen, which has a door leading again out to the back of the house. And then **(7) adjoining that** is the garage which has been converted into a breakfast room. We also have **(8) a downstairs cloakroom** and a reasonable size hallway. And then at the back I have a garden which is probably, what? About 50 foot long and within that garden there is also a garage where I can park my car. You get access to the garage because there's a road that leads round the back of my house and the other houses along the street. At the end of my street there's a very nice church – quite old. I'm not sure when it was built, but pretty, pretty old. And that's quite nice because, you know, there's lots of greenery and everything. And um, I don't have really much garden to the front of the house, but that doesn't really matter because there aren't really many cars coming down this road 'cos this road's a cul... **(9) cul-de-sac** so you only really come down the road if you live here, and you can't get access to anywhere else.
- I: Have you got nice neighbours?
- T: I have quite nice neighbours, yes. Um, **(10) the lady who's adjoined to me** complains to me sometimes. Er, I was having some building work done, but she didn't really like the noise. But the thing is, when you have building work done it is quite noisy.
- I: Mmm.
- T: But it only happened from 9 o'clock to 5 o'clock. It didn't happen beyond 5 o'clock 'cos then the builders always went home – actually probably about 4 o'clock. I wish they did stay to 5 o'clock, but they never did. To the other side I've got a very nice young family with um, it's just a couple with a little girl who's, what? Three years old. There aren't actually many children in my street. Um, she... There's her, and then there are a couple of children at the house at the end of the street. And then across the road I have a very nice neighbour who's Greek. And he's absolutely lovely. He's married to a very nice Turkish lady. And um, they are really, really nice. So I look after his keys when he's away, so if his burglar alarm goes off I can switch it off for him, or call the police. Um, I do actually know quite a few of my neighbours. I even know other people down the road and, you know, **(11) we do have the odd gathering**. My next-door neighbour, it's [sic – it was] her 70th birthday what, probably two months ago and she had a big party in a... not in her house, but in a, **(12) a venue** nearby, and all the neighbours in the street went, which was really, really nice. And people who'd left the street actually came back and visited, so that was great.
- I: And quite unusual for London.

- T:** Very unusual. But I've actually been very lucky um, with my neighbours, so um, I'm... sort of quite happy. But maybe that's 'cos I'm a really friendly person.
- I:** Mmm. Right. You live in East Finchley. I've never been there. Can you describe the area?
- T:** Yeah. Um, East Finchley is probably what you would perhaps call the suburbs of London. It's um, very green, leafy [sic – leafy]. It's a village, or town within itself, you know, it has a row of shops. Um, it has its own community. So you have a High Street and you have, you know, your churches, you have your supermarket. You have your own schools and all the services. There are... It's basically a mixed community in that there are people who've lived here all their life, but then obviously you've got the people who are new and incoming. **(13) The houses are sort of gradually being done up, probably over time.** It's, it's probably not necessarily the most fashionable area in London er, however, it does have nice family houses, **(14) quite spacious houses**, and er, you know, it's green and leafy and it wouldn't take you very long to get to the countryside, you know, into north London, you know, or (unclear) and **(15) Hertfordshire**. So I think that's probably why people live here. And it's only, what, 40 minutes, 30 minutes, 40 minutes from the centre of London. You know, it has **(16) a tube line**, which is nice. It's very high up as well. You know you really, really are high up here. If you go to the next sort of shopping area along – **(17) Muswell Hill** – you can have an absolutely fantastic view of London. You can see **(18) the Docklands**, you can see sort of all around. You know on a clear day you can see for absolutely miles. So...
- I:** Have you got any nice parks here?
- T:** We have um, Alexander Park er, which is quite near, nearby er, which is quite big and spacious. And it has a sort of exhibition hall and everything. That's quite useful 'cos they have lots of **(19) antique fairs** and things like that there. And it does have sort of nice greenery. In East Finchley itself we have one... I'd... We only actually have one little park that I'm aware of which is Cherry Tree, Cherry Tree Woods, which is quite nice. So you've got the woods and you've got a little bit of green where people can kick about a football. And there's a little cafe there – you can go and have a cup of tea if you've [sic – you're] walking your dogs. And every year they have the er, East Finchley Festival there, which is held in the summer, which is just basically **(20) a fund-raising event**, but, you know, they have a few local bands playing and they have um, people giving little sort of um... What do you call it? Um, oh, what do you call it? Performances. [laughs] That's what you call it! You know, the local children give a dance performance, or whatever. And then people have **(21) stalls** where they, you know, sell home-made cakes or have **(22) a tombola** and just er, **(23) raise proceeds for a local cause**, which is very good.
- I:** Hmm. Do you always go to that festival?
- T:** Um, if I'm around I do go, yes.
- I:** OK. And I think um, Hampstead Heath is quite close, isn't it?
- T:** It is. That's about, what? A 10-minute walk away, maybe a 15-minute walk away. Five-minute drive. And that's huge. I mean that is absolutely massive. And they have um, **(24) Kenwood House** there, which is an old house which... I think that's **(25) English Heritage**, I think, owns that. And that's very nice to look around and in the summer they have open-air concerts there. They have classical concerts. They have a lake and then they have **(26) an orchestra bowl** beyond the lake. And that's really lovely 'cos you can take a picnic there in the evening and listen to some fantastic music. And it ranges from jazz, classic or just, say, theme tunes from films and things. And they normally end the performance with some fireworks and it can be a really nice evening. If it's fine weather. But it's not always fine weather.

- I: What happens if it rains?
- T: If it rains you don't go and you lose your money for your ticket.
- I: So it's a bit of a risk.
- T: It is a bit of a risk.

7. Words and Phrases

- 1 **pebble-dash** – a covering of pebbles (small round stones) in cement
- 2 **but I've now converted that [the garage] into a breakfast room** – but I have now changed that into a breakfast room
- 3 **I knocked it into one.** – She (or more probably the builders) knocked down the wall between the two original bedrooms and made it into one large bedroom.
- 4 **(a) reception room** – (formal) a room in a house where people can sit together (informal) a living room
- 5 **French doors** – a pair of doors with panes of glass which usually open from the back or side of the house into the garden
- 6 **(a) patio** – an area outside a house with a solid floor, but no roof, where you can sit outside in good weather
- 7 **adjoining that** – (in this case) next to the kitchen
- 8 **a downstairs cloakroom** – a polite word for a toilet
- 9 **(a) cul-de-sac** – a road with only one entrance and exit
- 10 **the lady who's adjoined to me** – the lady who lives next door to me
- 11 **we do have the odd gathering** – we all meet up socially sometimes and do something together
- 12 **a venue** – a place where a public event happens
- 13 **The houses are sort of gradually being done up, probably over time.** – The houses are slowly being renovated, i.e. modernised.
- 14 **quite spacious houses** – quite large houses
- 15 **Hertfordshire** – a county to the north of London
- 16 **a tube line** – an underground train service into London
- 17 **Muswell Hill** – a suburb in north London less than 10 kilometres from central London
- 18 **the Docklands** – The development which has grown over the past 30 years on the site of the old London docks. The areas includes Canary Wharf and other skyscrapers and the O2 Arena.
- 19 **antique fairs** – public events where people buy and sell antiques
- 20 **a fund-raising event** – an event intended to raise money for charity
- 21 **stalls** – a large table displaying goods for sale at a fair, market, etc.
- 22 **a tombola** – a game in which people buy tickets with numbers on in the hope that their ticket will have the same number as a prize
- 23 **(to) raise proceeds for a local cause** – to raise money for a good cause in the local area, e.g. a nearby children's hospital
- 24 **Kenwood House** – a beautiful 18th century house situated on Hampstead Heath, a large ancient natural park in north London with spectacular views over the city
- 25 **English Heritage** – a Government-funded organisation whose mission is to protect England's historical buildings and archaeological sites
- 26 **an orchestra bowl** – a large round theatre without a roof which is used for outdoor concerts, e.g. the Hollywood Bowl