

Contents

Introduction	6
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My Family

Unit 1	Jackie Jackie is originally from Cardiff in South Wales, but she now lives in Cornwall in south-west England.	8
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Unit 2	Micky Micky has lived and worked in London for most of his life. He worked as a legal executive for many years, but now runs a pub in East London.	22
--------	--	----

Unit 3	Tammy Tammy grew up in Canada but left in her 20s. She now lives and works in East London.	35
--------	--	----

Supplementary Units

Unit 4	Anne-Maj Anne-Maj lives in Sweden, where she comes from a large family. She also visits London regularly.	50
--------	---	----

Unit 5	Danny Danny is a student at Nottingham University who recently spent a year studying in Dover. He comes from a small market town near Cambridge.	56
--------	--	----

A Typical Day

Unit 6	Dorothy Dorothy is a retired headmistress who originally comes from Yorkshire in the North of England. She moved to London in the 1950s.	64
--------	--	----

Unit 7	Peter Peter is an engineer who has lived in north-east London his entire life.	83
---------------	--	-----------

Unit 8	Jill Jill is an operating sister in London. She originally comes from Llanrwst, a small town in North Wales.	96
---------------	--	-----------

Supplementary Units

Unit 9	Catherine Catherine comes from a small market town in North Wales. She is bilingual in Welsh and English.	110
---------------	---	------------

Unit 10	Danny	115
----------------	--------------	------------

A Place I Know Well

Unit 11	Danny	122
----------------	--------------	------------

Unit 12	Catherine	135
----------------	------------------	------------

Unit 13	Anders Anders is originally from Åmål, Sweden, but now lives and works in Gothenburg.	150
----------------	---	------------

Supplementary Units

Unit 14	Jackie	165
----------------	---------------	------------

Unit 15	Tammy	170
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UNIT 3 Tammy



1. Pre-Listening Comprehension

A Discussion

Tammy grew up in Canada but left in her 20s. She now works as a theatre sister and lives in east London, but she has retained her Canadian accent.

1. What do you think of when you hear the word 'Canada'?
2. How much do you know about Canada?
3. Have you been to Canada?
4. Would you like to go to Canada? Why? / Why not?
5. Do you know what a Canadian accent sounds like in your own language?

B Note-taking



Tammy talks about her brother, Stephen and her sister, Susan. Fill in the notes.

Stephen

1. Age: _____
2. Married/Single: _____
3. Number of children: _____
4. Lives in: _____
5. Job: _____

Susan

6. Lives in: _____
7. Number of children: _____

C Gap-fill



Tammy talks about her sister and her two other brothers. Listen and fill in the missing words.

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.

1. Tammy's second-oldest sister Nancy is married to _____ and lives in Whistler.
2. Tammy's brother Brian has three _____.
3. The oldest child is going to start _____ soon.
4. Tammy's brother Bruce has two little _____.
5. Bruce and his wife recently bought a _____ for the first time.

D Questions



Tammy talks about Whistler, a famous ski resort north of Vancouver. Listen and answer the questions.

1. Which word does Tammy use to describe Whistler?
2. Why didn't Tammy go to Whistler the last time she was in Canada?
3. How does Tammy normally travel to Whistler?
4. Has the interviewer ever been to Whistler?

3. Interesting Language Points

A The present simple

We generally use the present simple when we are talking about situations which we see as permanent. Look at these examples from the interview:

*They live up at Whistler and they don't have kids between the two of them ...
they have a nice life up there
Three of them live in Edmonton and then Stephen lives in Ontario and Nancy
lives in Whistler.
I go up there whenever I can 'cos my sister lives there.
Jill's sister works on that train.*

B Forming questions using *do/does* and *did*

To form a question in the present simple we use *do/does* + subject + verb. Tammy says her mum's parents both came from Germany. The interviewer says:

Do you know where in Germany?

If we are asking a question in the third person (he/she/it) we use *does*, as in these examples:

'Where does he live?'

'What time does she finish?'

'How does it look?'

To form a question in the simple past we use *did* + verb. When asking about Tammy's parents, the interviewer says:

did they originally come from Scotland, or ...?

Tammy says she was born in Germany. The interviewer says:

How did that happen?

C Introduction to the present perfect simple

We use the present perfect simple to talk about things which have (or haven't) happened during a period of time leading up to the present. To form the present perfect simple we use the verb *have* + past participle.

1. The present perfect simple with *just*

We often use the present perfect simple with *just* to talk about things that have happened very recently. The word *just* fits between *has / have* and the part participle, as in these examples:

'I have just heard I have passed my exam!'

'We have just come back from holiday, so we are a bit tired.'

'Pierre has just left.'

We often shorten *has/have* in spoken English to 's or 've:

'I've just heard I've passed my exam!'

'We've just come back from holiday, so we are a bit tired.'

'Pierre's just left.'

Now look at these examples from the interview. When talking about her brother Brian's children, Tammy says:

His oldest one's just graduated from high school.

When talking about her youngest brother Bruce and his wife, Tammy says:

they've just bought their first house

2. The present perfect simple with questions and answers:

Interviewer: *Have you been up there a lot?*

Tammy: *I've been up there a few times.*

Interviewer: *Have you ever taken that train from Vancouver to Whistler?*

Tammy: *No, I've never done that. I've always just driven up.*

D Expressing surprise



We often use a rise and a fall () to express surprise. Look at these examples from the interview:

Tammy: *But my mum's parents were both from Germany.*

Interviewer: *Oh, ~~really?~~*

Tammy: *Well, I was actually born there.*

Interviewer: *~~Were you?~~*

Tammy: *I have five brothers and sisters.*

Interviewer: *~~Really?~~*

Now practise making statements and expressing surprise.

4. Further Listening Practice

A Recognising individual words in a stream of speech



Work with a partner. Listen to the excerpts from Tammy's interview and write them down. Then check your answers with another pair.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____?
4. _____.
5. _____.
6. _____.

B Hearing the sounds of English 1



Listen and repeat each minimal pair after the speaker.

they/day

lives/leaves

had/hat

try/dry

fairly/fairy

C Discriminating between minimal pairs of sounds 1



Tick (✓) the boxes which correspond to the words you hear.

1	1	2	3	4	5
they					
day					
2	1	2	3	4	5
had					
hat					
3	1	2	3	4	5
fairly					
fairy					
4	1	2	3	4	5
lives					
leaves					
5	1	2	3	4	5
try					
dry					

D Contractions

Contractions are common in informal spoken and written English, such as two friends chatting, emails between friends, and so on, but not in more formal English such as lectures, speeches and letters to companies.

With a partner, practise saying the contracted forms of these phrases in pairs.

did not do not He is I am I have one is
that is there is they are they have who is

Now look at the following excerpts from the interview and put in the appropriate contractions. Then listen to check your answers.



Example: And (I am) I'm not sure how my grandmother got to Canada either.

1. And (that is) _____ why we ended up in Chilliwack . . .
2. (He is) _____ married with one child.
3. And then (I have) _____ got another sister . . .
4. they (do not) _____ have kids between the two of them
5. then (there is) _____ Brian – married, three kids
6. His oldest (one has) _____ just graduated from high school . . .
7. and (they have) _____ just bought their first house which (they are) _____ rather excited about
8. (I have) _____ been there a few times.
9. I (did not) _____ make it last time . . .

E Hearing the sounds of English 2



As with Exercise B, listen and repeat each minimal pair after the speaker.

other/udder high/eye
bid/bit spend/spent
fifty/fifteen

F Discriminating between minimal pairs of sounds 2



Tick (✓) the boxes which correspond to the words you hear.

1	1	2	3	4	5
other					
udder					
2	1	2	3	4	5
bid					
bit					
3	1	2	3	4	5
fifty					
fifteen					
4	1	2	3	4	5
high					
eye					
5	1	2	3	4	5
spend					
spent					

G Linking

Linking occurs when the end of one word runs_into the start_of the next word. It is very common in informal spoken English, but less so in more formal English, such as speeches or lectures.

The most common linking occurs between the letter -s at the end of a word when the next word begins with a vowel, as in these excerpts from the interview:

*He was_at Moscow University...
dad was_in the army*

However, linking also occurs with other sounds, as in these excerpts from the interview:

*they spent_a lot of time in_an_Indian village
Yeah, that's_what she was_saying.
Yeah, you guys_should try it.*





Mark where you think linking occurs in these excerpts from the interview, then listen and check your answers.

1. Well, I was actually born there.
2. He was an engineer . . .
3. I have five brothers and sisters.
4. He lives in Ontario.
5. He's a great guy.
6. she's a stepmom to his kid

H Hearing the sounds of English 3



As with Exercises B and E, listen and repeat each minimal pair after the speaker.

either/ether	kid/kit
began/begun	gorgeous/gorges
there/dare	

I Discriminating between minimal pairs of sounds 3



Tick (✓) the boxes which correspond to the words you hear.

1	1	2	3	4	5
either					
ether					
2	1	2	3	4	5
began					
begun					
3	1	2	3	4	5
there					
dare					
4	1	2	3	4	5
kid					
kit					
5	1	2	3	4	5
gorgeous					
gorges					

J Simplification – elision



When speaking quickly in English, people often miss out individual sounds at the ends of words. For example, a speaker will say *las' night* instead of *last night*, *jus' got here* instead of *just got here*, or *trie' to* instead of *tried to*.

Fill in the missing words in these extracts.

1. And I'm not sure how my grandmother _____ Canada either.
2. My sister _____ lives in Ed . . . Alberta.
3. He's a _____.
4. And then I've got another sister who's er, _____ Tony . . .
5. and my _____ Bruce
6. His oldest one's _____ from high school . . .
7. they've _____ their first house
8. I didn't make it _____ 'cos of mum being in hospital . . .
9. I've always _____ up.

K Simplification – weak forms



Words in informal spoken English often sound very different than the dictionary form. For example, *'from'* changes to *'frum'*, *'been'* changes to *'bin'* and *'to'* changes to *'te'*.

This gap-fill consists of excerpts from the interview and contains words which you should know, but may have problems recognising in a stream of speech. Before you listen, try to fill in the missing words. Then listen and check your answers.

1. Um, your parents, did they originally come _____ Scotland, or . . . ?
2. They were both born _____ Ontario . . .
3. He was _____ Moscow University when all the troubles began . . .
4. dad was _____ the army
5. He's married _____ one child.
6. and they spent a lot _____ time _____ an Indian village
7. Then I've got another sister who's er, married _____ Tony.
8. His oldest one's just graduated _____ high school, starting college . . .
9. and they've just bought their first house, which they're rather excited _____
10. I didn't make it last time 'cos, 'cos of mum being _____ hospital . . .

A Extension exercise

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

born bought child does excited gorgeous
got graduate great hospital just lot
make married oldest originally out
parents should spent train village

1. My _____ moved to a mobile home once we'd all left home.
2. Los Cristianos was _____ a little fishing village, but now it's a major tourist resort.
3. I was _____ on Christmas Day as well!
4. We got _____ at the wrong station, so we had to buy another ticket.
5. What _____ your wife work as?
6. Katie's the youngest student and Petra is the _____.
7. Stefan and Carla are getting _____ next year.
8. We _____ so much money on holiday! We've never been anywhere so expensive before.
9. I used to get a _____ of headaches when I was a _____.
10. We live in a small _____ of about 2,000 inhabitants.
11. We had a _____ time on holiday. You should have come with us!
12. I'm going to have huge party when I _____ from university.
13. Sarah _____ me a new top for my birthday. Isn't it wonderful?
14. I'm really _____ about my new job.
15. This lasagne is _____! Would you like to try some?
16. We're having a barbecue next Saturday. Can you _____ it?
17. Christoph's in _____ with a broken leg so I'm going to visit him later.
18. When we were in Norway we took a _____ from Oslo to Bergen.
19. Don't worry about cooking us dinner. We'll _____ have a sandwich.
20. You've _____ a terrible cough. You _____ go to the doctor.

B Questions with
do/does and *did*

Form questions from the words in brackets, using *do*, *does* or *did*. Look at the examples first:

You (cook) dinner every night?

Do you cook dinner every night?

He (take) sugar?

Does he take sugar?

You (have) a good holiday?

Did you have a good holiday?

1. you (like) swimming?

2. you (close) the window before we left?

3. you (enjoy) the party last night?

4. it (rain) a lot in Boston?

5. you ever (have) to work late?

6. this train (go) to Wigan?

7. you (study) Latin when you were at school?

8. you (want) to stop now for a cup of coffee?

9. she (like) the present you got her for her birthday?

10. your garden (get) a lot of sun?

11. you (know) if Martin passed his driving test?

12. your teacher (give) you a lot of homework?

C Transformations

Change each word in brackets taken from the interview to make them fit the gap.

1. It's Alain's (birth) _____ on Saturday, so don't forget to send him a card.
2. Thanks for lending me that book. It was very (interested) _____.
3. My sister Caroline is two years (oldest) _____ than me.
4. Sarah loves (child) _____ so she's going to train to be a (teaching) _____.
5. We used to (live) _____ in Boston, but we moved to Vermont when we had the kids.
6. We're going to (bought) _____ a new car next week.
7. This book is so (excited) _____! You must read it!
8. We (taken) _____ our kids to the circus last week and they loved it.
9. Do you like (driven) _____?
10. I (works) _____ through my lunch break so I'm starving! What's for dinner?





Part 1: Personal Details (54")

I: Um, if I could just start with some (1) personal details.

Can I have your name, please?

T: It's Tammy St. John.

I: OK. How do you um, do the St. John? Is that two separate words?

T: It's er, S-T (2) dot John.

I: OK. And your address.

T: It's er, 313a Hainault Road.

I: Hainault. How do you spell that?

T: H-A-I-N-A-U-L-T.

I: OK and er, that's London?

T: Yes.

I: Yeah. And the postcode?

T: N11 1ES.

I: OK. And your daytime telephone number.

T: 0208 550 3451.

I: OK. And do you have a mobile?

T: Yes.

I: Can I have that number?

T: You want that one as well.

I: Yes please. (3) It's just for our files.

T: OK. 07742 135211.

I: OK. And your date of birth.

T: 9th of the 12th, '61.

I: OK. Thanks very much.

Part 2: My Family (2'47")

I: Um, your parents, (4) did they originally come from Scotland, or . . . ?

T: No.

I: No?

T: Not even from Canada. (*laughs*) Well, they did. They were both born in Ontario, but my mum's parents were both from Germany.

I: Oh, really?

T: Yes.

I: Do you know where in Germany?

T: Not really, no. Um, I know my grandfather was (5) Prussian, I think. (6) He was at Moscow University when all the troubles began and he had to get out 'cos of . . . the family he was in or whatever. And I'm not sure how my grandmother got to Canada either. But they were from (7) a fairly wealthy family there as well, but . . . they all got out.

I: Have you been interested to go to Germany and try and track them down – (8) track down your family?

T: (9) Well, I was actually born there.

I: Were you?

T: Yeah. (*laughs*)

I: How did that happen?

T: Army.

I: Your . . . dad.

T: Dad. Yeah, dad was in (10) the army. (11) The only foreign-born kid.

I: Right. Um, what was his work?

T: He was (12) an engineer, Royal Engineer.

I: OK.

T: (13) Sergeant. (14) And that's why we ended up in Chilliwack 'cos there was (15) an engineering army base there.

I: So Canadian Army.

T: Yes. Yes.

I: Right. OK. You . . . Er, you've got brothers and sisters there.

T: I have five brothers and sisters.

I: Really?! (*laughs*)

T: Yeah! (*laughs*)

I: Can we go through them?

T: If you like. We start with the oldest, is Stephen. He's er, 50 now. He's married with one child. He lives in Ontario. Er, they spent a lot of time in an Indian village teaching children for years after they got (16) their er, teaching credentials. Um, I have another sister called Susan. My sister called Susan lives in Ed . . . Alberta. Married, one kid who's . . . he's 25 or 26 now. (17) He's a great guy. He's turned out really well. And then I've got another sister who's er, married to Tony, and they live up at Whistler and they don't have kids between the two of them, but she's (18) a stepmom to his kid and, um, and they have a nice life up there. Er, then there's Brian – married, three kids. Nice kids. (19) His oldest one's just graduated from high school, starting college. And the other one, the next one'll graduate next year. Um, and my youngest brother Bruce, he's married with two little girls and they've just bought their first house, which they're rather excited about. And again he lives in Edmonton as well as Brian. So they're all, (20) spread out a bit.

I: They are, aren't they?

T: Well, three of them live in Edmonton and then Stephen lives in Ontario and Nancy lives in Whistler.

I: OK. (21) Whistler's supposed to be absolutely beautiful.

T: (22) It's gorgeous.
 I: Have you been there a lot?
 T: I've been there a few times. (23) I didn't make it last time 'cos, 'cos of mum being in hospital, but yeah, I go up there whenever I can 'cos my sister lives there. So . . .
 I: Have you ever taken that train from Vancouver up to Whistler?

T: No, I've never done that. I've always just driven up.
 I: OK. 'Cos um, Jill's sister works on that train.
 T: Yeah, that's what she was saying.
 I: It sounds wonderful.
 T: Yeah, you guys should try it.
 I: (24) Yep, one day.
 T: Yep.

7. Words and Phrases

- 1 personal details (plural) – personal information: name, address, date of birth, etc.
- 2 dot – a very small round mark (in this case a full stop)
- 3 It's just for our files. – It's just for our records, i.e. the information we keep about people.
- 4 did they originally come from Scotland – Were they born in Scotland?
- 5 Prussian – coming from Prussia (Prussia no longer exists, but historically Prussia was the dominant state in northern Germany and its capital was Berlin.)
- 6 He was at Moscow University when all the troubles began (add . . .) – He was at Moscow University when the First World War broke out in 1914 and Russia and Germany became enemies.
- 7 a fairly wealthy family – quite a rich family
- 8 track down your family – try to find out information about your family
- 9 Well, I was actually born there. – Well, in fact I was born there.
- 10 the army – Canada's military force, which is now part of the Canadian Forces
- 11 The only foreign-born kid. – The only child who was born abroad. (*kid* is a slang word for *child*.)
- 12 an engineer, Royal Engineer – a soldier working with machines in the Canadian Army, now known as the Canadian Forces
- 13 (a) Sergeant. – A sergeant is a middle-ranking soldier.
- 14 And that's why we ended up in Chilliwack – And that's how we came to live in Chilliwack
- 15 an engineering army base – a place with military buildings where members of the army live
- 16 their er, teaching credentials (plural) – their teaching qualifications
- 17 He's a great guy. – He's a really nice man. (*guy* is a slang word for *man*)
- 18 a stepmom – (AmE) (BrE *stepmum*) – a woman who is married to, or living with the child's father, but who is not the child's birth mother
- 19 His oldest one's just graduated from high school – His oldest child has just finished his secondary education.
- 20 spread out a bit – they live in different places covering a large area
- 21 Whistler's supposed to be absolutely beautiful. – People say Whistler is very beautiful.
- 22 It's gorgeous. – It 's very beautiful.
- 23 I didn't make it last time – I didn't manage to get there last time.
- 24 Yep. – Yes. (informal)