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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 29: Competition



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*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Ceilia**

So I was at the bus stop but then I decided to walk but these shoes - they're just not designed for... oh, what's this?

**Mary**

Goodness. It looks like Gordon has finally **pulled out all the stops** and actually made something amazing!

**Ceilia**

It must be for the bake-off competition – always makes an effort when there's something to win! The first prize is £500.

**Mary**

Hi Gordon. Fantastic cake.

**Gordon**

Cake? What cake?

**Mary**

This one. Did you make it for the competition?

**Ceilia**

The bake-off. The first prize is £500.

**Gordon**

Oh... the competition... yes, that's my cake. Rather good isn't it? I think the attention to detail will put me **ahead of the game**.

**Ceilia**

It is amazing how much effort you can put in when there's big money **up for grabs**.

**Gordon**

It's not about the money, Ceilia - but this should really **blow the competition away**.

**Mary**

But don't forget you'll be **in competition with** some of the best bakers in the business.

**Gordon**

Don't worry about that. I had better just go and put this in a box so we can send it off to the judges – we don't want to miss the deadline.

**Mary**

**May the best man win!**

**Peter**

Best man? Is someone getting married?

**Mary**

No, I was just wishing him luck for the bake-off competition.

**Peter**

Oh, is he entering too? I've been baking all night to make a cake for the competition. I put it over here... Has anyone seen my cake?

**Ceilia**

Was it a chocolate cake with a cream top?

**Peter**

Yes!

**Mary**

Gordon, I think you've got Peter's cake.

**Gordon**

Yes...I was going to help him deliver it. There you go, Peter - nice cake, probably needs a little bit more cream.

**Peter**

Thank you.

**Ceilia**

**You win some, you lose some.** And this time you *definitely* lost!

## Vocabulary

### **pulled out all the stops**

made a special effort

### **ahead of the game**

in an advantageous position

### **up for grabs**

available

### **blow the competition away**

surprise the other competitors by being much better than them

### **in competition with**

trying hard to beat other people

### **may the best man win!**

hopefully, the person who deserves to win, will win

### **you win some, you lose some**

bad luck; too bad

## Questions

1. What does Gordon say about his cake that will put him 'ahead of the game' in the cake competition?

(Hint: Watch the video again.)

- a) The flavour
- b) The size
- c) The detail

2. What does Mary really mean when she tells Gordon 'may the best man win'?

(Hint: She's being honest! You could check the vocab reference.)

- a) She thinks Gordon deserves to win.
- b) She thinks the person who makes the best cake deserves to win.
- c) She thinks someone better than Gordon is going to win.

3. What excuse did Gordon give when everyone realised it was Peter who had made the cake?

(Hint: He was going to help him in some way.)

- a) He had bought the ingredients.
- b) He was going to help Peter deliver the cake.
- c) He had done the icing on the cake.

## Answers

1. What does Gordon say about his cake that will put him 'ahead of the game' in the cake competition?

a) The flavour

Wrong. It's not that.

b) The size

Wrong. It's not that.

**c) The detail**

**Correct. Yes, that's what he said.**

2. What does Mary really mean when she tells Gordon 'may the best man win'?

a) She thinks Gordon deserves to win.

Incorrect. That's not what she meant.

**b) She thinks the person who makes the best cake deserves to win.**

**Correct. That's what she really meant.**

c) She thinks someone better than Gordon is going to win.

Wrong. She didn't mean that.

3. What excuse did Gordon give when everyone realised it was Peter who had made the cake?

a) He had bought the ingredients.

Not correct.

**b) He was going to help Peter deliver the cake.**

**Correct. That's what he said!**

c) He had done the icing on the cake.

Wrong. He didn't say that.