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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 5: Happy



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ENGLISH

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

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**Ceilia**

You seem... **full of the joys of spring**. Are you feeling OK, Gordon?

**Gordon**

You mean happy? There is nothing wrong with being happy... now where did I put the onions?

**Ceilia**

Do you think there is something a bit odd about Gordon today?

**Mary**

He's cheerful. He seems to be **on cloud nine**.

**Ceilia**

I wish he was on cloud nine!

**Mary**

Hi Gordon. Ceilia's worried about you... has something happened? You just seem very... happy.

**Gordon**

I am **on top of the world** actually... don't tell Ceilia but I might have a new job! I had an interview yesterday.

**Mary**

Wow, I bet you're **thrilled to bits**.

**Gordon**

I am Mary – oh, the idea of working in a proper restaurant, with customers who appreciate my food, and the pay's better, too. Ah, that bit was **music to my ears**.

**Peter**

... music in your ears?

**Gordon**

Oh never mind. What do you want?

**Peter**

Customer on table 6 wants the raspberry Pavlova for dessert. (The office phone rings) I'll get that shall I? It's the Poison Ivy restaurant! ...aha... aha... ok... bye. They said, 'Sorry you haven't got the job - they've chosen someone better'.

**Ceilia**

Oh, let's all **jump for joy** then, shall we! Gordon is going to be with us a little bit longer.

**Mary**

Raspberry, Gordon?

**Vocabulary****full of the joys of spring**

very happy / cheerful

**on cloud nine**

very happy

**on top of the world**

feeling happy because things are going well for you

**thrilled to bits**

excited and pleased

**music to my ears**

information that makes you happy / pleased

**jump for joy**

show great excitement / happiness

## Questions

1. Gordon was very happy because he'd had an interview for a new job. How did he describe his feelings?

(Hint: It's a very high place.)

- a) I'm on nine clouds.
- b) I'm on cloud nine
- c) I'm on cloud ten.

2. What is about Gordon's possible new job that is 'music to his ears'?

(Hint: He'll be getting more of something.)

- a) To work with customers who appreciate his food.
- b) To have a bigger kitchen to work in.
- c) He'll get paid more.

3. Who got the job at the Poison Ivy restaurant?

(Hint: It's about quality.)

- a) Someone older.
- b) Someone cheaper.
- c) Someone better.

## Answers

1. Gordon was very happy because he'd had an interview for a new job. How did he describe his feelings?

a) I'm on nine clouds. Not correct. That's not quite right. Try again.

**b) I'm on cloud nine. Yes, that's right! Well done.**

c) I'm on cloud ten. Wrong! That's not the right cloud number. Try again.

2. What is about Gordon's possible new job that is 'music to his ears'?

a) To work with customers who appreciate his food. Wrong. Try again.

b) To have a bigger kitchen to work in. Wrong. That wasn't the best thing. Try again.

**c) He'll get paid more. Correct, well done.**

3. Who got the job at the Poison Ivy restaurant?

(Hint: It's about quality.)

a) Someone older. Sorry, age wasn't mentioned.

b) Someone cheaper. Sorry, that's not correct.

**c) Someone better. Well done!**