

Keep your English
up to date 4

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

24/7



BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH



bbclearningenglish.com

© British Broadcasting Corporation 2008

CONTENTS

1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
2. Lesson stages
3. Answers
4. Audio script
5. Student worksheets 1, 2, 3

Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: Changes in society

Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Language – ‘24/7’

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,
Listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary, language and discussion
Audio script – Available in teacher’s notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

bbclearningenglish.com/radio/specials/1720_uptodate4/page10.shtml

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

24/7

LESSON STAGES

A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Gavin Dudeney, an expert on the English language, and that the talk is about the way English is changing. This particular talk is about the phrase '24/7'.

B

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking, Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

C

Students do **Vocabulary, Exercise 2** - without dictionaries at first.
Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

D

Students read **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk.
They answer question 'a'.

Students listen again and do **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 4**.

E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**
Students read **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 5** and then listen to Section 2 of the talk.
They answer question 'a'.

F

Students try to answer **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 6**. They listen again to Section 2 to check/complete their answers.

G

If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out **Student Worksheet 3**

For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the audio script and play the complete talk as they read.

The language work focuses on other phrases that include numbers.

The final discussion uses some of the language from the lesson.

AUDIO SCRIPTS

Listening Section 1

Most of my work is done online these days, and I'm always surprised at how many people expect me to be available 24/7, answering emails as soon as they arrive, night or day.

It wasn't too long ago that people tended to work a fixed timetable – once the work was done they headed home and that was it for the day, but the rise of the Internet, online shopping and banking and other 'always on' services has given us the idea that everything should be available all of the time. And that's where the expression 24/7 comes in.

Listening Section 2

When something's 24/7 you can pretty much guarantee that it's always available, or that a service is offered all day, without interruptions, around the clock. The Oxford English Dictionary first included 24/7 way back in 1983, but it's only in recent years that it's become so widespread, covering shops, websites and even people.

These days you might even find 24/7/365, meaning that a service is available every day of the year – which more or less describes my work routine!

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

- a. a fixed timetable** when the times that something happens never change
- b. always on** something is never turned off or stopped
- c. to be available** you can get or have something
- d. interruptions** when a process is temporarily stopped
- e. way back** a long time ago
- f. widespread** very common and popular

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

- a. ii.** people want services available at all times

Exercise 4

- a.** False – ‘I’m always surprised at how many people expect me to be available 24/7, answering emails as soon as they arrive.’
- b.** False – ‘It wasn’t too long ago that people tended to work a fixed timetable.’
- c.** False – ‘the Internet, online shopping and banking.’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

- a.** ‘When something’s 24/7 you can pretty much guarantee that it’s always available, or that a service is offered all day, without interruptions, around the clock.’

Exercise 6

- a.** False – ‘The Oxford English Dictionary first included 24/7 way back in 1983’
- b.** False – ‘it’s only in recent years that it’s become so widespread’
- c.** True – ‘a service is available every day of the year – which more or less describes my work routine!’

EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7

- a. to head home ('headed home')
- b. pretty much
- c. around the clock

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8a

- a. 9/11
- b. 7/11
- c. 50:50
- d. the number one
- e. 999
- f. a first
- g. a certificate 18
- h. a 4x4
- i. the 90s

Exercise 8b

- a. Call 999, there's a fire!
- b. Is there a 7/11 near here? I need to buy some milk.
- c. The world has changed so much since 9/11. It seems there are wars everywhere.
- d. I'm not sure I can meet you this weekend. There's a 50:50 chance that I will have to work.
- e. I don't know why people in cities buy 4x4s. There is no need for such a big car.
- f. I'm sorry son, you're too young to see this film. It's a certificate 18.
- g. David did so well; he graduated with a first.
- h. Do you know the band called Oasis; they were really popular in the 90s.
- i. The Beatles had many number ones.

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Do you think your culture and society has changed in any of the following ways over recent years?

People are generally living longer

People are having fewer children

More people are working from home or have flexible working hours

There are more foreign companies and products in your country

Shops and banks are open for longer hours

People have more contact with other people around the world

More people work in service industries rather than manufacturing ones

Young people stay in education for longer

- b. What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks of the changes in your country?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a. a fixed timetable | when a process is temporarily stopped |
| b. always on | when the times that something happens never change |
| c. to be available | a long time ago |
| d. interruptions | something is never turned off or stopped |
| e. way back | very common and popular |
| f. widespread | you can get or have something |

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Gavin Dudeney talking about the use of a new word in English and answer these questions.

- a. What change in society does Gavin describe?
- i. more people work from home
 - ii. people want services available at all times
 - iii. more people work in service industries, not manufacturing ones

4. Listen to Section 1 again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Gavin Dudeney.

- a. Gavin's clients are happy to wait for him to reply.
- b. People haven't worked regular fixed hours for many years now.
- c. Gavin gives four specific examples for 'always on'.

WORKSHEET 2

LISTENING SECTION 2

- 5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer these questions.**
- a. What does the phrase *24/7* mean?
- 6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**
- a. The phrase first appeared in the Oxford English dictionary in 1993.
- b. Although not popular now, it will soon become widespread because of the Internet.
- c. Gavin probably finds it hard to take a holiday.

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.
- a. return to your house
 - b. almost certainly
 - c. at all times in a day

LANGUAGE

- 8a. There are many common number phrases that are used in English. Can you match numbers in the box to the definitions below?

the number one	a first	a 7/11(seven eleven)
50:50 (fifty fifty)	999	9/11 (nine eleven)
a 4x4 (four by four)	the 90s	a certificate 18

- a. _____ : this is the date the World Trade Center in New York was destroyed in 2001.
- b. _____ : this is the name of a successful chain of convenience stores, which are open from early until late.
- c. _____ : we say this when we are not sure that something will happen e.g. a football team may or may not win, and the chance of either happening is equal.
- d. _____ : this refers to the most popular music/song at that moment.
- e. _____ : this is the telephone number you ring in the UK if you need an emergency service, such as the police.
- f. _____ : this is the highest mark that you can get in a university degree in the UK. It is equal to more than 70%.
- g. _____ :: this is used, in the UK, to show that a film is only suitable for adults.
- h. _____ : this refers to a large car which is good for driving on poor quality roads because all of the wheels are powered by the engine.
- i. _____ : this was the final decade of the last century.

BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

8b. Use the words and phrases from Exercise 8a to complete the sentences below.

- a. Call _____, there's a fire!
- b. Is there a _____ near here? I need to buy some milk.
- c. The world has changed so much since _____. It seems there are wars everywhere.
- d. I'm not sure I can meet you this weekend. There's a _____ chance that I will have to work.
- e. I don't know why people in cities buy _____. There is no need for such a big car.
- f. I'm sorry son, you're too young to see this film. It's _____.
- g. David did so well; he graduated with _____.
- h. Do you know the band called Oasis; they were really popular in _____.
- i. The Beatles had many _____.

Discussion

9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Can you remember where you were when you heard about 9/11? Do you think the world and your society has changed much since then as a result of the attack?
- b. What is the emergency number in your country? Have you ever used it?
- c. Do films have age limits in your country; is there anything similar to an 18 certificate?
- d. What's your opinion of 4x4s? Are they cool? Are they environmental destroyers?
- e. Do you know anyone who has got an equivalent to a first? What are they like?
- f. What's number one at the moment? Do you like it?
- g. Are there any 7/11 stores in your country? Do you often use convenience stores?
- h. What do you tend to buy there?
- i. What fashion and music was popular in your country in the 90s?
- j. Do you have a favourite sports team? What chance do you think they have of winning a major competition?
- k. Does your society have any aspects or features of a 24/7 society?