

EPISODE 51

LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



LIKES AND DISLIKES

'How about going to the opera tonight? I got two spare tickets and I thought you would be interested.'

'Well, to be honest, opera is **not my cup of tea** (= it's not what I like). Actually, it has never been ...'

'OK, I understand. How come that I was sure **you were into** (= liked) opera music?'

'No idea. You could have mistaken me for my sister, who just **adores** (= loves) philharmonic and classical music.'

'So, what sort of music are you **fond of**?'

'Pop and rock. But I must admit that Robbie Williams is my **all-time favourite** (= the best ever). As his **dedicated** (= great) **fan**, I've been to quite a few of his concerts all over Europe.'

'I hope you **don't take offence** (= don't feel sorry), but I wouldn't say **I have a particular liking for him** (= I'm fond of him).'

'Well, tastes differ. For me listening to him is **sheer pleasure** (= huge pleasure), for you it can be **hard to bear** (= very unpleasant). That's life!'

'Anyway, have you any idea who might **fancy** (= want) an evening with opera music ...?'



More contexts for the new words:

- He has always been conscientious and **dedicated to** his work.
(= spending all his time and effort on something)
- The restaurant was far too expensive **for my liking**.
(= I didn't like it because it was too expensive)
- By **sheer luck**, we were sent to the same training course by our companies.
(= putting emphasis on the degree of something)



EXERCISE 1

Put the expressions below into the two categories.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have a particular liking for it. | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm into it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I fancy it. | <input type="checkbox"/> It's hard to bear. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I just adore it. | <input type="checkbox"/> It's my all-time favourite. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm a dedicated fan. | <input type="checkbox"/> It's not my cup of tea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm fond of it. | <input type="checkbox"/> It's sheer pleasure. |

I like it	I don't like it



EXERCISE 2

Put the phrases in the right order, then answer the questions.

1. Which person / hard to bear? Why? / do you find
2. are you / Which sport / a dedicated fan of? Why?
3. a particular liking for? Why? / do you have / Which food

ENGLISH IN USE 

I'd like us to look at the following sentence in more detail today:

*'I got two spare tickets and **I thought you would be interested.**'*

What is of particular interest to us here is the use of WOULD in this sentence. In fact, it's an example of reported speech which is introduced by 'thought'. That's why you cannot say: 'I thought you will be interested', especially if it's not clear when you said it and the use of direct WILL might be misleading for the listener. See how these direct sentences can be changed into indirect ones:

1) *'I will be back home at around 7.'*

- 2) 'She will not come anyway.'
3) 'They will agree if most of their requirements are met.'

- 1) I told you I **would** be back home at around 7.
2) Bob was sure she **wouldn't** come anyway.
3) They said they **would** agree if most of their requirements were met.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



- A/ How did George meet Anna?
B/ They met at a party, and he **TOOK AN** Immediate **LIKING TO** her.

If you **take a liking to** something or somebody, you begin to like them.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. You **TAKE TO** something if you start liking it.

John **took to** vegetables when he realized how healthy they were.
His wife **took to** her new neighbors at once.

2. You **GO OFF** something if you stop liking it.

John **went off** junk food when he started having stomach problems.
I **went off** burgers after I got food poisoning from a take-away.



EXERCISE 3

Match the conversation halves.

1. Why did you stop seeing Peter?
2. So this is sushi. It tastes strange.
3. Why did you take a liking to this series?
 - a. I know, it takes time to take to it.
 - b. I went off him when he said those dreadful things about Clare.
 - c. It's the funniest I have ever seen

NEWS



TOP FIVE SERIALS OF ALL TIMES

A popular film website has recently asked its users: which serial is your all-time favourite? On the basis of their answers, a list of the best series of all times was created. Here's the **countdown!**

5. *Friends* – a hilarious sitcom which, despite its age, still **cracks up** millions. Ten seasons awaiting!
4. *Star Trek: The Next Generation* – a definite classic, the story of a spaceship and its charismatic **crew** who **boldly** go where no one has ever **ventured** before. And the **hunk** Jean Luc Picard!
3. *Battlestar Gallactica* – an sf story of the end of humanity. With the enemies – the Cylons – capable of looking like humans, you never know whom you can trust. Sadly, discontinued.
2. *Dexter* – the story of a charming man who leads a double life – as a **forensic** detective, and a serial killer. A definite must! And another season coming up this September!
1. *The Game of Thrones* – the epic intrigue, based on Martin's best-selling book series, tells the story of the **struggle** for power in an imaginary land. Adventure, **treachery** and **deceit abound!** Season three due in April 2013!

GLOSSARY

- **countdown** – the counting of numbers backwards,
- **to crack sb up** – to make sb laugh
- **crew** – people running a ship
- **boldly** – bravely
- **ventured** – travelled
- **hunk** – handsome man
- **forensic** – relating to the use of scientific methods to solve crimes and to find out who committed them
- **struggle** – fight
- **treachery, deceit** – dishonesty
- **abound** – be present in large numbers

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

I like it	I don't like it
I fancy it. I just adore it. I'm a dedicated fan. I'm fond of it. I'm into it. It's my all-time favourite. It's sheer pleasure.	I don't have a particular liking for it. It's hard to bear. It's not my cup of tea.

Ex.2

1. Which person do you find hard to bear? Why?
2. Which sport are you a dedicated fan of? Why?
3. Which food do you have a particular liking for? Why?

Ex.3

1. b
2. a
3. c