

Please use the below instructions for each of the listening MP3 files. The main point of the practice is to become a ...

BETTER LISTENER.

STEP 1

DON'T look at the script yet. Listen to the conversation, or conversations, or talk. If necessary, a few times. If you can't understand well, go to STEP 2. If you understand well, see if you can answer the questions listed in STEP 3. If you can't, go to STEP 2.

STEP 2

DON'T look at the script yet. Check the vocabulary below. Then try listening again. Then go to STEP 3.

STEP 3

DON'T look at the script yet. Read the questions below, then listen again. Try to answer the questions. If you're still having trouble, go to STEP 4.

STEP 4

Read the script carefully. Then listen again! Then try answering the questions again!

Jack and Friends

Jack and Friends

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends # 1

“Introductions”

VOCABULARY:

crow	married	hippopotamus	drums
elementary	ukulele	husband	interesting
single	look forward	nurse	vegetarian

QUESTIONS:

1. Where is Jack from?
2. How old is Jack?
3. What university is he visiting?
4. What language will Holly teach at the university?
5. Is Jack married?
6. What does he like to do?
7. Where is Holly from?
8. How old is she?
9. How many children does she have?
10. Is her husband a doctor?
11. Who is a vegetarian?
12. What does Holly see outside the window?

Jack and Friends

Script

Act 1

Jack: Hello, everyone. My name is Jack Black. I'm a bird, a crow. It's very nice to meet you. I am from America, and I'm very happy to be teaching crow language at Blue Sky University now. This is my first trip to Japan. I've been in Blue Sky City for a few months now. I am 27 years old, and in America, I am an elementary school teacher. I am single but one day I want to get married. In my free time, I like to read books, go hiking, and play my ukulele. I also like to *write* books. I hope that one day you can read a book that I wrote. I look forward to meeting all of you and talking with all of you. Thank you very much.

Act 2

Holly: Hi! My name is Holly Hoople. Holly. H-O-L-L-Y. Hoople. H-O-O-P-L-E. As you can see, I'm a hippopotamus. I am from Tanzania. I am 36 years old. I am married, and I have 3 children. My husband is a nurse, and I am a doctor. In my free time, I like to play the drums. I'm very happy to be in Japan now and happy to be teaching Hipponese—hippo language—to students at Blue Sky University. A few years ago, I had a six-month home stay with a family in Blue Sky City. So this is my second time here. I look forward to meeting everyone. Thank you!

Act 3

Jack: It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

Holly: Yes, it is.

Jack: May I introduce myself?

Holly: Sure.

Jack: My name is Jack. Jack Black. Please just call me Jack.

Holly: I'm Holly. Holly Hoople. Please call me Holly.

Jack: It's nice to meet you, Holly.

Holly: It's nice to meet you, too, Jack. Where are you from?

Jack: I'm from America. And you?

Holly: I'm from Tanzania. Are you a student?

Jack: No, I'm not. I'm a teacher. An elementary school teacher.

Holly: That sounds really interesting! I'm a doctor.

Jack: A doctor!

Holly: In your free time, what do you like to do?

Jack: I like to read books, go hiking, and play my ukulele. How about you?

Holly: I like to cook. I'm a vegetarian. Look out the window, Jack. See that lovely grass. I think I'll go eat a little. It was nice meeting you.

Jack: It was nice meeting you, too. See you around!

Jack and Friends

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #2

"Likes"

VOCABULARY:

honest	originally	I guess ...	lose weight
vegetables	bitter	promise	
actually	mother tongue	prepare	

QUESTIONS:

1. What is Jack going to do Friday night?
2. What foods can't Holly stand?
3. Has Holly eaten *goya*?
4. Which does Holly like sweet potatoes or green peppers?
5. What was Holly's favorite subject?
6. Why didn't Jack like music?
7. What two subjects didn't Jack like very much?
8. Is he going to cook *goya*?
9. At most, how many sweet potatoes does Holly plan to eat at the party?

Jack and Friends

Script

Jack: Hi, Holly. How's it going?

Holly: Pretty good. And you?

Jack: Not bad. Say, I'm having a dinner party and I would like you to come.

Holly: When is it?

Jack: This Friday. Which do you prefer, beef, pork, or chicken?

Holly: Oh, dear, I don't like any of them. To be honest, I can't stand any of them. I'm a vegetarian.

Jack: Oh, yes, I remember now. You told me that before. Well, we'll have a vegetarian party. Which vegetables do you like?

Holly: I'm crazy about sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes are my favorite vegetable. And I love corn, too. And I like green beans, peas, green peppers . . . well, actually, I like *all* vegetables.

Jack: Do you like *goya*?

Holly: *Goya*? I've never heard of *goya*.

Jack: It's a Japanese vegetable, originally from Okinawa, I think. Some people think it's a little bitter.

Holly: Well, I love all vegetables, so I'd like to try it.

Jack: By the way, you speak English so well.

Holly: Thank you. I began studying English when I was ten years old. Of course, my mother tongue is Hipponese—hippo language.

Jack: When you were young, what was your favorite subject?

Holly: I was crazy about P.E. And I was crazy about music, too. I liked English very much, and I liked social studies, too. I liked math okay, but I hated science.

Jack: I was crazy about P.E., too. But I couldn't stand music class. I liked music, but I didn't like the songs the teacher made us sing. I guess I liked social studies okay, but I didn't like science or math very much. Anyway, I'm looking forward to Friday night. All vegetables, I promise. For sure, I'll prepare lots of sweet potatoes, and I'll cook some *goya*, too.

Holly: Sounds great. But I'm sort of on a diet. I'm trying to lose a little weight. If you cook sweet potatoes, only cook about twenty-five for me.

Jack and Friends

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #3

“Last Weekend”

VOCABULARY:

Hazo (name)	cards	grade	spend time with
Hovolla (name)	socks	assignments	collect
Heely (name)	a couple of . . .	plan	experience
miss	ties	driving school	

QUESTIONS:

1. During the weekend, who did Holly talk to on the phone?
2. What was the score in Hazo’s soccer match?
3. How old is Heely? What did he do for the first time?
4. What did Jack do on Saturday?
5. On Sunday, who did Jack go shopping with?
6. Who bought a couple of ties?
7. Why didn’t Holly buy any clothes when she went shopping with Jennifer?
8. During his first university summer, what did Jack enjoy collecting?
9. During his second university summer, where did Jack travel to?
10. What are three examples of things Jack’s students want to do during summer vacation?

Jack and Friends

Script

- Jack: Hi, Holly. Did you have a nice weekend?
- Holly: Yes, it was very nice. Thank you. I was able to talk to my children on Zoom.
- Jack: How are they?
- Holly: Hazo is twelve now. He loves soccer. Yesterday, his team won a game, 3-2. And Hovolla is ten. She's crazy about reading. She talked to me about the book she's reading now. And Heely is almost one. My husband told me he took his first step yesterday.
- Jack: You must miss them a lot.
- Holly: I certainly do. But the children are going to come to Japan to stay with me during the summer. I can't wait. It should be a great experience for them. How was your weekend?
- Jack: It was pretty good. On Saturday, some friends came over to my apartment and we cooked pasta. After that we played cards. On Sunday, I met David downtown. We went shopping. David bought some socks, and I bought a couple of ties. After that, we went to a coffee shop and talked.
- Holly: I went downtown shopping on Sunday, too. I went with Jennifer. She bought a couple of shirts. I wanted to buy some clothes too, but I couldn't find anything big enough for me. Did you finish grading your students' homework assignments?
- Jack: Yes, I did. Most of them wrote about their plans for summer vacation. Many of them plan to go to Tokyo Disneyland. And some of them plan to go to driving school. And almost all of them want to spend time with their families and their friends from high school. When you were a university student, what did you do during summer vacation?
- Holly: I went jogging every day. Jogging in the river is great. And I worked in my vegetable garden. I love growing vegetables. How about you?
- Jack: Every summer was different. The first summer I worked at a small restaurant near a beach. That was great fun. I collected lots of shells. The second summer I traveled in Europe. I went to England, Scotland, France, and the Netherlands. The third summer, I lived with my parents and studied Japanese very hard. The fourth summer, I began looking for a job.
- Holly: Sounds like your university experience was great. I really enjoyed my four years of university, too.

Jack and Friends

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #4

"Family"

VOCABULARY:

actually	bank	salesman	career
architect	stay-at-home	trumpet	especially
dentist	programmer	diversity	nope
office	carpenter	interests	an only child
sibling	insurance	suggest	

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Jack feeling really happy?
2. What was Jack's little sister's big news?
3. What does Jack's little sister do for a living?
4. Who does Jack think is smarter, his little sister or he himself?
5. How many brothers does Jack have?
6. How many sisters does Jack have?
7. How many of his sisters work at banks?
8. How many of his brothers are computer programmers?
9. Is any of his brothers or sisters a musician?
10. How many brothers and sisters does Holly have?

Jack and Friends

Script

Jack: Hi, Holly. How's it going?

Holly: Pretty good. And you?

Jack: Can't complain. Actually, I'm feeling really happy right now. I got a text message from my little sister today. I hadn't heard from her for maybe six months.

Holly: How is she?

Jack: She's doing great. She's found a new boyfriend. That's why she wrote, to tell me about him.

Holly: What does she do?

Jack: She's an architect. The main thing she does is design offices for dentists.

Holly: Wow, that sounds amazing! She must be very smart!

Jack: Much smarter than me.

Holly: Is she your only sibling?

Jack: Oh, no. But she's my only younger sister. I also have three younger brothers, four older sisters, and two older brothers.

Holly: Plus you, that's eleven, isn't it?! Eleven brothers and sisters!

Jack: That's right. Eleven. One elementary school teacher, that's me, two sisters who work at banks, one sister who is a stay-at-home mom, another sister who is a computer programmer, two brothers who are carpenters, one brother who is an insurance salesman, another brother who is a professional trumpet player, and another brother who is a stay-at-home dad. And my little sister, the architect.

Holly: That's a lot of diversity. A lot of different interests.

Jack: Yes, it is. When we were young, our parents kept suggesting that we become lawyers or doctors—but none of us did. Finally, everyone found their own careers, and at least for the moment, everyone seems happy. Especially my little sister. She's got that new boyfriend. But how about you, Holly? Do you have brothers and sisters?

Holly: Nope. Not a one. I'm an only child.

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #5 "Experiences"

VOCABULARY:

traveling	vivid	foreign exchange	looks like ...
Mediterranean	wonderful	flew	antelope
Vincent Van Gogh	Arles	pheasant	experience

QUESTIONS:

1. During the weekend, who did Holly talk to on the phone?
2. What was the score in Hazo's soccer match?
3. How old is Heely? What did he do for the first time?
4. What did Jack do on Saturday?
5. On Sunday, who did Jack go shopping with?
6. Who bought a couple of ties?
7. Why didn't Holly buy any clothes when she went shopping with Jennifer?
8. During his first university summer, what did Jack enjoy collecting?
9. During his second university summer, where did Jack travel to?
10. What are three examples of things Jack's students want to do during summer vacation?

Jack and Friends

Script

Jack: Holly, do you like traveling?

Holly: Yes, I do. I like traveling very much.

Jack: Have you been to Europe?

Holly: Yes, I have. I have been to Europe twice—both times when I was a university student.

Jack: Have you seen the Mediterranean Sea?

Holly: Yes, I have. Once I took a train along the coast from Italy to France. That was a great trip!

Jack: Do you like Vincent Van Gogh?

Holly: I love Vincent Van Gogh! His colors are so wonderful! So vivid!

Jack: He used to live in Arles, in the South of France. Have you visited Arles?

Holly: No, I haven't. Have you?

Jack: Yes, I have. I've been to Arles, but I've never seen the Mediterranean Sea. Have you visited any other countries in Asia—besides Japan?

Holly: No, I haven't, but I've traveled around Japan a lot.

Jack: Where have you been?

Holly: Well, I've been to Yamanashi and Nagano many times. When I was a foreign exchange student. I like to climb mountains.

Jack: Really? Have you ever climbed Mt. Yari?

Holly: Yes, I have. I've climbed Mt. Yari three times. Have you climbed it?

Jack: I haven't climbed it, but I flew to the top of it once. And I've flown to the top of Mt. Fuji five times. Have you ever climbed Mt. Fuji?

Holly: No, I haven't, but I would like to this summer.

Jack: There are many small mountains not so far from Blue Sky University. Have you ever climbed any of them?

Holly: Yes, I have.

Jack: And have you ever seen a bear when you were climbing?

Holly: No, I haven't. Have you?

Jack: No, I haven't. Have you ever seen a pheasant?

Holly: No, I haven't. Have you?

Jack: Yes, I have. Three or four times. Have you ever seen a *kamoshika*?

Holly: A *what*?

Jack: A *kamoshika*. It kind of looks like a goat. In English, I think people call it a Japanese antelope-goat.

Holly: No, I've never seen one of those. But I'd like to. Have you seen one?

Jack: Yes, I have. Many, many times.

Holly: Maybe I should go hiking with you!

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #6 "Future"

VOCABULARY:

must be	learn	delicious	memorize
excited	surf	certainly	mirror
professional	a little bit	a lot of it	improve
husband	scuba diving	crab	

QUESTIONS:

1. Who are going to visit Holly during the summer vacation?
2. What is Holly going to do with each of her children?
3. What does Holly invite Jack to do?
4. Where is Jack going to travel to this summer?
5. What is he going to do in each place?
6. In what three ways is Jack going to try to improve his Japanese skill during the summer?

Jack and Friends

Script

- Jack: Holly, what are you going to do this summer?
- Holly: I'm going to spend lots of time with my three children. All three of them are coming to Blue Sky City. They're going to be here for three weeks.
- Jack: That sounds great! You must be so excited.
- Holly: I am!
- Jack: What are you going to do with your children?
- Holly: My oldest child, Hazo, is crazy about soccer, so I plan to take him to a professional soccer match. The Blue Sky City team is pretty strong. Have you been to one of their soccer matches?
- Jack: No, I haven't. But sometime I'd like to see them play.
- Holly: You can come with us.
- Jack: Thanks. I'll look forward to it.
- Holly: My daughter, my second child, Hovolla, she's ten years old, she's studying Japanese now. She really likes Japanese comic books. I'm going to take her to a bookstore.
- Jack: How about your baby boy? Can he and your husband come?
- Holly: Yes, they are going to come, too. My baby boy, Heely, has just learned to walk. I'm going to take him to the beach and watch him walk in the surf and sand . . . and I'm going to take thousands of pictures. But what about you, Jack? What are your plans for summer?
- Jack: Well, I'm going to travel a little bit. I'm going to go scuba diving in Okinawa, and I'm going to go to Hokkaido and do some hiking.
- Holly: I hear that the seafood is delicious in Hokkaido.
- Jack: I've heard that, too. I'm certainly going to eat a lot of it. I'm really looking forward to trying the crab. But this summer, I also need to work on my Japanese skills. I'm going to try to write one page of Japanese every day. And I'm going to memorize twenty-five Japanese characters every day. And I'm going to stand in front of the mirror and talk to myself in Japanese for twenty minutes every day.
- Holly: If you do that, your Japanese skill will certainly improve.
- Jack: I hope so.

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #7 "A Party"

VOCABULARY:

mention

reason

rainbow

draw

pot-luck

you can't miss it

alligator

QUESTIONS:

1. Who knows the details about Andy's party, Jack or Holly?
2. When is the party?
3. Where is the party?
4. From the university, how long does it take to walk to Andy's apartment?
5. Who is going to draw a map for whom?
6. What is Holly going to take to the party?
7. What are Jack and Holly planning to do together at the party?

Jack and Friends

Script

Holly: Are you going to Andy's party?

Jack: I'm not sure. He mentioned it a few days ago, but he didn't tell me any details.

Holly: I talked to him last night. He said it's going to be this Saturday night.

Jack: I'm going to play tennis Saturday afternoon. What time is the party going to start?

Holly: He said the party was going to start at 7:30.

Jack: Where is the party?

Holly: The party's going to be at his apartment.

Jack: Where is his apartment?

Holly: It's not far from Blue Sky University. It takes about fifteen minutes to walk there.

Jack: Do you know how to get there?

Holly: Yes, I do. I'll draw you a map.

Jack: Thank you.

Holly: His apartment building is bright orange. You can't miss it.

Jack: Is there any special reason he's having a party?

Holly: I don't think so. Just for fun, I guess. He told me it would be a pot-luck party.

Jack: What are you going to bring?

Holly: I thought I'd bring sweet potatoes.

Jack: Surprise, surprise! I wonder what I should bring. Andy is the first alligator I ever met. Do you know what alligators usually eat at parties?

Holly: I'm not sure, but once I went out for dinner with him. He ate a lot—and he seemed to like *everything*. I think he'll be happy, no matter what you bring. Oh, and he loves singing. He's surely going to have a singing contest. Probably you should practice singing something.

Jack: Are you practicing?

Holly: Yes, I am. I'm going to sing "Over the Rainbow."

Jack: How about if we sing it together?

Holly: That sounds great!

Jack and Friends

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #8

"A Favor"

VOCABULARY:

humid

baby-sit

globe

wedding

adult

exchange

anniversary

favor

join

I'd like to ...

trouble

merry

romantic

lesson

QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Holly want to open the window?
2. When is Holly's wedding anniversary?
3. What favor does Holly ask of Jack?
4. What favor does Jack ask of Holly?
5. Which of Jack's friends thinks that Hipponese is a beautiful language?

Jack and Friends

Script

- Holly: Wow, it's really hot in here. Do you mind if I open the window?
- Jack: Not at all. Go ahead.
- Holly: Ah, that feels so much better. It's so hot and humid here in Blue Sky City. Jack, can I ask you a favor?
- Jack: Sure. Go ahead.
- Holly: As you know, my family is coming to visit me this summer. And August 3rd is my and my husband's wedding anniversary. I'd like to take him out to a nice restaurant.
- Jack: That sounds romantic. And you want me to go with you?
- Holly: Umh, no, I don't. Could you possibly baby-sit for me that evening? I think Hazo and Hovolla are pretty good at watching their baby brother, but Heely's only one year old. He needs to have an adult with him.
- Jack: Sure. I can baby-sit. I'd love to, actually. I've heard so much about your children. When?
- Holly: August 3rd.
- Jack: Right. You just said that, didn't you? And, umh, Holly, I have a favor to ask you, too. When I go back to America, I want to teach my students to speak a little bit of Hipponese. If it's not too much trouble, could you give me some speaking lessons?
- Holly: Jack, thank you! I'm so glad you're interested in Hipponese! Not so many creatures across the globe can speak it. I'd love to help you.
- Jack: Thank you, Holly. You're so sweet. And, umh, I have one more favor to ask you. I've become friends with one of the exchange students here, David. He's from America, too—and he's also interested in learning Hipponese. Would you mind if he joined us?
- Holly: I wouldn't mind at all. The more the merrier! Why does he want to learn Hipponese?
- Jack: He can explain his idea better than I can, but it seems he's heard you talk, and it seems he thinks the sound of Hipponese is really beautiful. He says he just wants to see how it feels to speak such a beautiful language.
- Holly: Really? David said that? Wow, that *really* makes me happy.
- Jack: Great! Every time we have a lesson, I'll bring you a big bag of sweet potatoes.
- Holly: Ah, you don't need to do that. But I do love sweet potatoes.

Basic Conversation Jack and Friends #9 “Dreams”

VOCABULARY:

currently

matter

in my case

be amazed

porcupine

respected

born

used to ...

though

dying

eager

be meant to ...

correct

realize

willing

in the end

impossible

admit

QUESTIONS: What famous words of Bob Dylan does Jack quote?

1. What type of animal was Powapop?
2. What Olympic event did Powapop want to try?
3. What did Jack want to be when he was young?
4. What did Jack's parents want him to be?
5. Finally, what did Jack become?

Script

Jack:

Hello, everyone. Some of you know me, but maybe some of you don't. My name is Jack Black, and I am currently teaching crow language here at Blue Sky University. I'm amazed at how quickly many of my students are learning. Caw! Caw! Caw! It's wonderful to hear my students speaking so well.

In America, I am an elementary school teacher, and sometimes I talk to my students about their dreams. When you were an elementary school student, did you have a dream? Did your dream change as you got older? Did it stay the same? Do have a dream now?

Bob Dylan, the great songwriter and singer, once sang these words: "He not busy being born is busy dying." I think he's correct. We always need to be trying to be "born," to become something. We always need to have hope for the future. We always need to do something to make the future we hope for a reality. In the end, it may not matter if all your dreams come true. What is important is that you have dreams, you have hopes for the future, and you do what you can to make your dreams come true.

When I was young, I had a friend, a porcupine. His name was Powapop. He used to watch me fly, and he began to dream of becoming a flyer himself. He began to dream of winning a gold medal in the Flying Olympics. Well, he was so eager to fly that his parents didn't want to tell him that it was impossible. They let him try and try. Finally, after a while, Powapop himself realized that he couldn't fly. I think that was a good experience for him. If, from the beginning, his parents had told him that flying was impossible, he might have given up without trying. Then he might have had a bad feeling for a long time. In the end, Powapop became a lawyer. He's quite successful and has a wonderful family—two beautiful children.

In my case, from the time I was a very small boy, I wanted to be a teacher. But my father told me that teachers didn't make much money. And my mother told me that teachers in America weren't respected by society. My father wanted me to be a businessman, and my mother wanted me to be a lawyer. I didn't want to be a lawyer. I didn't want to be a businessman. I wanted to be a teacher. So I was unhappy for a long, long time.

Finally, though, I knew that I had to listen to my own heart, and my own heart was telling me that I was meant to be a teacher. And finally, I could become a teacher. I don't make so much money, but I'm very happy now. I love teaching very much, and I love watching my students learn and grow. And my parents, well, *now* they see how happy I am—and now they are willing to admit that I was meant to be a teacher. So in the end, everything was okay—because I listened to my heart and I worked hard to make my dream come true.

But remember this: of course, your dream is important, but your relationship with other people is important, too. Follow your heart, but don't forget to be a good friend, a good family member, and a good member of your community.

Thank you for listening.

Jack and Friends