

# Listening comprehension

**Read the article about Oxbridge on pages 27-30 of ENGLISH Now No 99. Then watch this video about two people, a man from Oxford University and a woman from Cambridge University, each supporting their university. Try to understand what they're saying and fill in the blanks in the transcript below.**

**Man, pro-Oxford:** Britain and Ireland have some of the world's greatest centres of \_\_\_\_\_, over 50 universities in fact, but I propose the motion that Oxford is Britain's best \_\_\_\_\_.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** I oppose the motion on the grounds that Cambridge is quite clearly Britain's best university. The Cambridge University Press is the oldest printer and \_\_\_\_\_ in the world and the \_\_\_\_\_ academic press.

**Man, pro-Oxford:** Founded in the 11th century, Oxford was the first university of Britain.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** And then, they built a \_\_\_\_\_!

**Man, pro-Oxford:** Oxford has 11 \_\_\_\_\_ and over 11 million volumes housed on a hundred and 20 miles of shelving, which is why our English \_\_\_\_\_ is the dictionary the world uses. We have the world's oldest university \_\_\_\_\_ and 47 Nobel Prize winners have studied or taught at Oxford.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** We have won 61 Nobel Prizes, a world record, and we have \_\_\_\_\_ 15 British \_\_\_\_\_, including Robert Walpole, Britain's first ever PM.

**Man, pro-Oxford:** You may have had \_\_\_\_\_ but we've taught more; 26 British prime ministers have been to Oxford \_\_\_\_\_ Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and David Cameron.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** Is that a boast or an \_\_\_\_\_?

**Man, pro-Oxford:** Also, the \_\_\_\_\_ Evelyn Waugh, Lewis Carroll, Aldous Huxley, Oscar Wilde, J R R Tolkien and Graham Greene all studied here.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** We've had EM Forster, Samuel Pepys, Nabokov, and J G Ballard, Iris Murdoch, A A Milne, Douglas Adams and Michael Crichton.

**Man, pro-Oxford:** The \_\_\_\_\_ John Locke and Thomas Hobbes have spent time at Oxford, as have \_\_\_\_\_ pioneers such as Albert Einstein and Erwin Schrödinger.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** Well, some of the world's most important scientific \_\_\_\_\_ were made at Cambridge, including the electron and the splitting of the atom, the cause of motion, and Darwin wrote his theory of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Man, pro-Oxford:** We educated Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** We invented the world's first computers and the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Man, pro-Oxford:** Well, we taught the actors Hugh Grant, Kate Beckinsale, Richard Burton and Rowan Atkinson and Monty Python's Michael Palin and Terry Jones.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** Yeah well, we taught three Pythons: John Cleese, Eric Idle and Graham Chapman. Other people who've performed with the Cambridge Footlights include Stephen Fry, Emma Thompson and Sacha Baron. And, we won more \_\_\_\_\_.

**Man, pro-Oxford:** I propose that the motion is tied.

**Woman, pro-Cambridge:** Agreed.