

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.