Listen to the speakers describing their favourite things and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

1. Preparation: matching
Do this exercise before you listen. Match the verb with the correct noun and write a – g next to the numbers 1 – 7.

1........ take a. a designer
2........ listen to b. your scooter
3........ watch c. a business
4......... stroke (= move your hand gently over something) d. films
5......... park e. photos
6......... make it as (= be successful as) f. the cat
7......... set up (= start) g. music

2. Check your understanding: matching
Match the speakers with their favourite things. Write a – e next to the numbers 1 – 5.

1........ Speaker A a. a tablet
2........ Speaker B b. a sewing machine
3........ Speaker C c. a scooter
4........ Speaker D d. a set of knives
5........ Speaker E e. a cat
3. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise while you listen. Write the word to fill the gaps.

1. My favourite thing has to be my new tablet. It’s really light and quite __________, so I take it with me everywhere. I’m always writing to friends and it’s big enough to do college work on it too. It takes really good __________, and I play games and listen to __________ on it as well, of course. I often download __________ onto it, and watch them in ___________. My mum says I’m __________, because I’m always on it. I even read things on it at breakfast time. I’m not allowed to at __________ time, though. I have to be __________ and talk to people then. “Welcome back to real life,” my mum says.

2. My favourite thing? Does my __________ count as a thing? She’s not really a thing, but anyway. She’s a really __________ little cat. I’ve had her since she was __________ months old. You know how some cats are really __________ and hardly talk to you? I know cats don’t really talk, but you know what I mean. Well, she’s not like that at all. She’s really __________ and comes up to me as soon as I get home, purring away like mad. She makes a lot of __________ for a tiny thing. She loves being stroked and comes and curls up next to me when I’m on the ___________. She’s great __________.

3. My new scooter! It’s quite small, but __________, and just what I needed for getting around the ___________. I used to have quite a long walk to the ___________, then a longish walk at the other end to get to ___________. But now I can just whiz there on my ___________. And there’s no problem parking, there’s always __________ for it. You have to be __________ with the cars and __________ – they don’t always see you – and when it rains the surface of the road is __________, it gets really slippery. But in general it’s perfect for me, and I can fit a __________ on the back too – I’ve got an extra __________ for a friend. It’s great. Riding along makes me feel so free.
4. This might sound a bit old-fashioned, but my sewing ____________ is my favourite thing. I'm studying ____________ and love making things, as well as designing them. I also love ____________ myself and often buy second-hand clothes – everyone loves the “vintage” ____________ at the moment – and then I adapt them to my ____________. It’s much easier using a machine to do that than doing it by ____________. I do alterations for my mum and my sister too. If I don’t make it as a ____________, I suppose I can always set up my own alterations and customising ____________. Customising clothes, by taking things off and adding things on, is actually very ____________, so I wouldn’t mind that.

5. My set of Japanese knives. That sounds a bit sinister, doesn’t it, but I’m not a ____________ or anything. They’re chef’s knives and the best ones come from ____________. Cooking is my new hobby. I got into it when I started watching Masterchef on TV. Then I went to an evening ____________ for beginners, and I haven’t looked back since. I try and have a ____________ for between four and eight ____________ every two or three ____________. That gives me something to work towards and I always do new ____________ so they can try them out and give me feedback. It’s quite an ____________ hobby if you use good ____________, but now my friends help towards the ____________. They still get a good ____________ for a very low price.

What’s your favourite thing?

Why is it important to you?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.