Everyday English for ESL

Lesson 3 — Hair Appointment

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EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 3 — HAIR APPOINTMENT

TRANSCRIPTS

DIALOGUE

RECEPTIONIST: Hello, Scissors Hair Salon, Trudy speaking. How may I help you?
CUSTOMER: I’d like to make an appointment please.
RECEPTIONIST: What do you need to have done?
CUSTOMER: Well, I’d like to have my hair cut and styled.
RECEPTIONIST: When can you come in?
CUSTOMER: Do you have anything available for Saturday morning?
RECEPTIONIST: Let me just look. Yes, we do. How about ten forty-five?
CUSTOMER: That would be fine.
RECEPTIONIST: Can you give me your name, please?
CUSTOMER: Yes, it’s Jolie. That’s J-O-L-I-E.
RECEPTIONIST: Thank you Ms Jolie. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Every woman knows how important it is to look after your hair. There’s nothing worse than a bad hair day, especially if you have something special planned.

How often you visit the hairdresser’s depends on the length and style of your hair, but the average British woman spends over a month of her life in the hairdresser’s chair, according to a new study.

The survey asked women how often they visit their hairdresser’s and how long they spend having their hair done.

Over a year, the average woman spends just under fourteen hours in the hairdresser’s, which works out at thirty-six days or just over a month during the course of a lifetime.

Visits include trips for a cut and blow-dry, which take around forty-five minutes, and a full colour, which takes two and a half hours.

Most will visit the salon for a trim every six weeks, with the hair being coloured every three months.

QUESTIONS

- How often do you go to the hairdresser’s?
- When did you last visit the hairdresser’s?
- What did you have done?
- Describe your hair.
- What other words do you know for describing people’s hair?
LANGUAGE NOTES

1. **Scissors** is one of those English words which is always plural in form (others include ‘trousers’ and ‘pyjamas’): ‘Where are those scissors I bought’ but ‘Where’s that pair of scissors I bought’.
2. When people give their name to someone over the phone, they often put the word **speaking** after it. You can only do this if you are talking on the phone, however.
3. **I’d like** is a contraction of ‘I would like’ and is a polite way of making a request.
4. Note the construction is ‘to have something done’ (verb ‘to have’ + object + past participle). You use this when someone else is going to do the action for you or to you. There’s another example in the next line: *I’d like to have my hair cut and styled*. We don’t need to add ‘by the hairdresser’ because it’s obvious.
5. **Hair**, meaning what covers your head, is uncountable: *Her hair is long*. In some languages it’s plural (French ‘cheveux’, for example). However, if you are talking about individual hairs, it can be countable: *Waiter, there’s a hair in my soup!*
6. We use **let** + the infinitive without ‘to’ to form first person and third person imperatives: *Let me see. Let’s start at nine-thirty tomorrow.*
7. Saying **Yes, we do** in English is more polite than just saying ‘Yes/No’. That’s why so-called short answers are very commonly used. To form the short answer, you use the first word from the question (this is either an auxiliary verb or a form of ‘be’): *Can we do it? Yes, we can.*
8. **How about** *(something)* is one way of making a suggestion. You could also say ‘What about …’.
9. Instead of ‘ten forty-five’, you could say ‘a quarter to eleven’. It can also be written as 10.45.
10. If you have problems pronouncing certain letters of the alphabet, it helps to think of them as words: J=jay, I=eye, K=kay, Q=queue, U=you, etc.
11. Note that we say **we look forward to seeing** and not **we look forward to see**. This is because ‘to’ is a preposition here and not part of an infinitive.
12. **Every** is followed by a singular noun except in expressions like ‘every two weeks’.
13. **Worse** is the irregular comparative form of ‘bad’. The superlative is ‘worst’: *This is the worst haircut I’ve ever had.*
14. A **bad hair day** can also be a day on which everything seems to go wrong. It does not necessarily mean that your hair looks bad (though that was clearly the origin of the expression).
15. **The hairdresser’s** is short for ‘the hairdresser’s salon’. The apostrophe + s designates possession. This construction is commonly used with shops and certain professions: *I’m going to the dentist’s/doctor’s/butcher’s/grocer’s, etc.*
16. **Over** is used with two distinct meanings in this passage. In the first instance (‘over a month’) it means ‘more than’, but in the second (‘over a year’), it means ‘during the course of’.
17. **Women** is the irregular plural form of ‘woman’.
18. These are indirect questions. The direct questions would be ‘How often do they visit their hairdresser?’ and ‘How long do they spend …?’ To form an indirect question, you omit the auxiliary verb (‘do’ here), and put the subject before the verb: *… how often they visit ….*
19. The American spelling is ‘color’.
20. Short for ‘Most women’. 
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 3 — HAIR APPOINTMENT

WORD LIST

appointment .................................................. an arrangement to see someone at a particular time, especially for a business meeting or to get a professional service
available .................................................. able to be obtained, taken, or used
average (adj.) ................................................. like most others of the same type
bad hair day .................................................. a day when your hair looks untidy and you do not feel attractive; a difficult day when nothing seems to go well for you
blow-dry (n) ................................................. method of styling the hair while drying it with a hand-held hairdryer
brush (n) ..................................................... an object used for making your hair tidy by brushing it
colour (v) .................................................. to use dye to change the colour of someone’s hair (AmE spelling = color)
course ...................................................... a continuous period of time
customer .................................................. a person or company that buys goods or services
cut (v) ...................................................... to make something shorter
depend ...................................................... if one thing depends on another, it is affected by the other thing
full colour .................................................. a full colour is when all your hair is coloured with hair dye
hair .......................................................... the stuff that grows on your head
hairdresser .................................................. someone whose job is to cut and style people’s hair
hairdresser’s ................................................ the place where a hairdresser works
hairdryer .................................................... a device that uses hot air to dry hair
hairspray .................................................. a substance that you spray onto your hair to hold it in position
length ......................................................... how long something is
lifetime ..................................................... the period of time when someone is alive
look after .................................................. to take care of something
over ......................................................... during; more than
receptionist ............................................... a person whose job it is to welcome people, answer the phone, etc. in a hotel, shop, office, etc.
salon ........................................................ a place where you can have your hair cut and styled
scissors ...................................................... a tool for cutting hair
shampoo ................................................... a liquid that you use for washing your hair
spend ......................................................... to stay somewhere for a period of time
straight ...................................................... without any bends or curves
study (n) .................................................... a research project that examines a problem or a particular subject
style (n) .................................................... the shape that your hair has been cut or arranged into (also ‘hairstyle’)
survey (n) .................................................. a set of questions that you ask a large number of people
trim (n) ..................................................... cutting off small amounts of it in order to make it look neater and tidier
wavy .......................................................... wavy hair has a lot of waves or curls in it
woman ...................................................... a woman (plural = women) is an adult female human being
work out at ............................................... add up to, amount to
worse .......................................................... irregular comparative form of the adjective ‘good’
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 3 — HAIR APPOINTMENT

LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE PICTURES

chair  scissors  hairdresser  hairspray  comb  blow-dry
shampoo  brush  curly  wavy  straight  hairdryer

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  

5.  
6.  
7.  
8.  

9.  
10.  
11.  
12.  

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

JEFFREY HILL
B. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. A bad hair day is something that you plan.
2. All British women spend over a month at the hairdresser’s during their lifetime.
3. The average British woman spends more than 14 hours per year at the hairdresser’s.
4. A full colour takes longer than a blow-dry.
5. Women have their hair trimmed more often than they have it coloured.

C. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Every woman knows how important it is to look (1) for/after your hair. There’s nothing (2) worse/worst than a bad hair day, especially if you have something special (3) planned/planning.

How often you visit the hairdresser’s depends (4) on/of the length and style of your hair, but the average British woman spends (5) more/over a month of her life in the hairdresser’s chair, according (6) to/with a new study.

The survey asked women (7) if/how often they visit their hairdresser and how (8) long/many they spend having their hair done.

Over a year, the average woman spends just (9) under/less 14 hours in the hairdresser’s, which works out at 36 days or just over a month (10) during/for the course of a lifetime.

Visits (11) including/include trips for a cut and blow-dry, which take (12) around/approximate 45 minutes, and a full colour, which takes two and a half hours.

(13) Mostly/Most will visit the salon for a trim every six weeks, with the hair (14) been/being coloured every three months.
### A. MATCH THE WORDS AND PICTURES

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### B. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. FALSE — You don’t plan to have a ‘bad hair day’, but it’s worse if you ‘have something special planned’.
2. FALSE — The average British woman spends that amount of time at the hairdresser’s.
3. FALSE — It’s just under (= a bit less) than a month.
4. TRUE — A cut and blow-dry takes ‘around minutes’ while a full colour takes two and a half hours.
5. TRUE — Most have a trim every six weeks, and a colour every three months.

### C. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

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EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 3 — HAIR APPOINTMENT

CROSSWORD

Across
1 When did you last ____ to the hairdresser’s? (2)
3 Hair colour (5)
5 Object used to make your hair tidy (4)
8 Cut a small amount of hair (4)
9 How long did you ____ having your hair done? (5)
11 My usual stylist was not ____ (4)
13 You sit in a ____ at the hairdresser’s (5)
14 Typical (7)
17 A hairdresser can be a man or a ____ (5)
20 A shampoo and ____ please (3)
22 I’d like to make an ____ please (11)
23 Opposite of short (4)
24 Someone whose job is to cut people’s hair (11)

Down
2 How ____ do you have your hair cut? (5)
3 Tool used for cutting hair (8)
4 A barber is a hairdresser for ____ (3)
6 Can you take a bit ____ the top? (3)
7 Dry with a hair-drier (4-3)
9 Study (6)
10 I have my hair cut ____ six weeks (5)
12 Hairdresser’s shop (5)
14 Free (9)
15 Synonym for 16 down (4)
16 My last ____ to the hairdresser’s was in May (5)
17 Plural form of 17 across (5)
18 Who usually ____ your hair? (4)
19 Blonde or brunette, for example (6)
20 How your hair is cut or arranged (5)
21 I always ____ my hair stylist 10% (3)
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 3 — HAIR APPOINTMENT

WORD SEARCH

A V E R A G E W O M E N N P S
B I H Y K G D U E E E W H G T
L S C N N W M S A L O N A X U
O I C X H I I X V W E T I Y D
W T Z A R H X U Z T U C R L Y
D C A T P L Q K F C V Q D I A
R M V K X P P O Z J W K R S P
Y S A I E X O S R F W F E T I
V C I O Z F H I U G Q I S Y X
X I L L J E A C N R S H S L N
K S A E G H W S O T V T E E Z
X S B V C G O M P L M E R E O
S O L E D J M O T E O E Y U T
O R E R N A A W B G N U N S L
I S L Y C R N E M D W D R T A

Appointment  Spend
Available  Study
Average  Style
Blow-dry  Survey
Chair  Trim
Colour  Trip
Cut  Visit
Every  Woman
Hairdresser  Women
Often
Salon
Scissors
EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 3 — HAIR APPOINTMENT

CROSSWORD — SOLUTION

```
1  G O S H A D E M  5  C O M B
  F C E F L
  8  T R I M S P E N D F O
  E S U V W
  N S F R E E S D
  O V R  13  C H A I R
14  A V E R A G E Y L Y
  V S Y O
  A T V
  17  W O M A N
  I R I C O
  L I S U M S E T O
22  A P P O I N T M E N T I L
  B T S N Y P O
23  L O N G L
  24  H A I R D R E S S E R
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WORD SEARCH — SOLUTION

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A V E R A G E W O M E N N P S
B I H Y K G D U E E E W H G T
L S C N N W M S A L O N A X U
O I C X H I I X V W E T I Y D
W T Z A R H X U Z T U C R L Y
D C A T P L Q K F C V Q D I A A
R M V K X P P O Z J W K R S P
V S A I E X O S R F W F E T I
V C I O Z F H I U Q I S Y X
X I L L J E A C N R S H S L N
K S A E G H W G O T V T E E Z
X S B V C G O M P L M E R E O
S O L E D J M O T E O E Y U T
O R E N A A W B G N U N S L
I S L Y C R N E M D W D B T A
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