

The Scottish English Podcast

E3 - Edinburgh Castle

<i>Transcript</i>	<i>Vocabulary and grammar structures you should know. *= meaning used in the podcast if there is more than one meaning.</i>	<i>Collocations, idioms and other useful phrases.</i>
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<p>Claire Kilted English: [00:00:00] There's really something about the <u>imposing</u> structures of castles. Their rich history, and the tales they tell that capture the imagination. Did you know there used to be up to 2000 castles across Scotland? Much of what remains of these castles are <u>ruins</u>. But one castle in particular has stood the test of time and is nowhere near becoming a ruin. Edinburgh Castle.</p> <p>Nestled atop Castle Rock in the centre of Edinburgh, this ancient <u>fortress</u> has <u>witnessed</u> centuries of history. From royal weddings to bloody battles, its walls have echoed with the footsteps of kings, queens, and commoners alike.</p> <p>Join me as we explore the history and significance of Edinburgh Castle and discover the fascinating stories that lie within its walls.</p> <p>Hello and welcome to the Scottish English podcast - improve your English while learning about the history, culture and accents of Scotland! Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts, or on my YouTube</p>	<p>Imposing (adjective) /ɪmˈpəʊzɪŋ/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impressive to look at; making a strong impression </p> <p>Ruin (noun) /ˈruːɪn/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (uncountable) the state or process of being destroyed or severely damaged - (countable) the parts of a building that remain after it has been destroyed or severely damaged* </p> <p>Fortress (noun) /ˈfɔːtrəs/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a building or place that has been made stronger and protected against attack </p> <p>Witness (verb) /ˈwɪtnəs/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to be the place, period, organization, etc. in which particular events take place </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An imposing building - An imposing figure - An imposing presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fall into ruin - Go to ruin - Be in ruins - Lie in ruins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A great fortress - An impenetrable fortress - An impregnable fortress
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<p>channel so you don't miss out on any upcoming episodes! In the description, you'll find a link to the transcript of this episode, along with some key vocabulary.</p> <p>I'm Claire from Kilted English, where I'm building a community of upper-intermediate and advanced English learners to support them as they prepare for the B2 First and C1 Advanced Cambridge English exams. If that sounds like you, drop me a comment and I'll let you know all about it!</p> <p>I created the Scottish English podcast to help learners of English find out about the history of my country, its culture and what life is like living there, all through my <u>peculiar</u> accent!</p> <p>Edinburgh Castle: A History</p> <p>Edinburgh Castle is one of the most <u>iconic</u> castles in Scotland. It is located on Castle</p>	<p>Peculiar (adjective) /pɪˈkjuːliə(r)/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strange or unusual, especially in a way that is unpleasant or makes you worried - peculiar (to somebody/something) belonging or relating to one particular place, situation, person, etc., and not to others* <p>Iconic (adjective) /aɪˈkɒnɪk/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - being a famous person or thing that people admire and see as a symbol of a particular idea, way of life, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An iconic figure - An iconic image
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<p>Rock, a <u>volcanic</u> plug that dominates the city's <u>skyline</u>. The castle has been a place of strategic importance for centuries, and it has played a key role in Scottish history.</p> <p>The earliest evidence of a <u>fortification</u> on Castle Rock dates back to the 12th century. However, the castle we know today was built in the 13th century by King David I. Over the centuries, the castle has been <u>besieged</u>, captured, and recaptured by various armies.</p> <p>One of the most famous events in Edinburgh Castle's history was the Scottish coronation of King James VI in 1567.</p> <p>The castle also played a significant role in the Wars of Independence between Scotland and England.</p> <p>The Castle's Attractions</p> <p>Edinburgh Castle is home to a number of historic attractions, including the Crown Jewels of Scotland, the Stone of Destiny, and the National War Museum of Scotland. Visitors can also explore the castle's</p>	<p>Volcanic (adjective) /vɒl 'kæni:k/ - caused or produced by a volcano</p> <p>Skyline (noun) /'skaɪlaɪn/ - the outline of buildings, trees, hills, etc. seen against the sky</p> <p>Fortification (noun) / ,fɔ:tɪfɪ 'keɪʃn/ - (countable, usually plural) a tower, wall, gun position, etc. built to defend a place against attack* - (uncountable) the act of fortifying or making something stronger</p> <p>Besiege (verb) /bɪ 'si:dʒ/ - besiege something: to surround a building, city, etc. with soldiers until the people inside are forced to let you in* - besiege somebody/something: to surround somebody/something in large numbers - besiege somebody (with something): to send so many letters, ask so many questions, etc. that it is difficult for somebody to deal with them all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dominate the skyline - Fill the skyline - A dramatic skyline
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dungeons, the Royal Palace, and the Great Hall.

- **The Crown Jewels of Scotland:** These priceless treasures include the Scottish Crown, the Sceptre, and the Sword of State.
- **The Stone of Destiny:** This ancient stone was used to crown Scottish monarchs for centuries. It was stolen by the English in 1296 but was returned to Scotland in 1996.
- **The National War Museum of Scotland:** This museum tells the story of Scotland's military history, from the Roman period to the present day.

Edinburgh Castle Today

Today, Edinburgh Castle is one of Scotland's most popular tourist attractions. It welcomes over a million tourists every year, with 2023 seeing over 1.9 million stepping through the gates. People come from all over the world to explore its history and admire its stunning architecture. The castle is also a popular venue for events, such as

Priceless (adjective)

/'praɪsləs/

- extremely valuable or important*
- extremely funny

<p>concerts and festivals. One of the most famous events held in the castle is the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This show brings together military bands and cultural performers from all around the world. Over 220,000 people get to see the shows live every year, and another 100 million watch on TV. The event is also a display of engineering skill, as the stands where spectators are seated are <u>precariously</u> (but safely!) balanced over the edge of the very <u>steep</u> sides of Castle Rock.</p> <p>Edinburgh Castle is a symbol of Scotland's history and heritage. It is a place of great beauty and significance, and it offers visitors a unique opportunity to learn about the country's past. Whether you are a history <u>buff</u>, a culture enthusiast, or simply looking for a memorable experience, Edinburgh Castle is a must-visit destination.</p> <p>Thanks for listening today! Don't forget to download the transcript from today's episode! Please subscribe and share this podcast with your friends and family who</p>	<p>Precariously (adverb) /prɪˈkeəriəsli/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in a way that is not safe or certain; dangerously - in a way that means something is likely to fall or that might cause somebody to fall* </p> <p>Steep (adjective) /stiːp/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (of a slope, hill, etc.) rising or falling quickly, not gradually* - (of a rise or fall in an amount) sudden and very big - (of a price or demand) too much; unreasonable </p> <p>Buff (noun) /bʌf/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a person who is very interested in a particular subject or activity and knows a </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be steep - Look steep - Seem steep - Extremely steep - Fairly steep - Very steep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A history buff - A film buff - A movie buff
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may be interested in improving their English while learning more about Scotland!	lot about it	
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