

## Discovering the Edinburgh International Festival

# Kilted English



LANGUAGE LEARNING

### The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 29

*Transcript & Upper-intermediate and Advanced Vocabulary Guide*

Below is the transcript with all selected B2, C1, and above vocabulary and phrases in **bold**. After the transcript, you'll find a table with definitions, British English pronunciation, and useful collocations/idioms for each highlighted word or phrase.

### Transcript: Discovering the Edinburgh International Festival

Welcome to the Scottish English Podcast, the show where you can learn about Scotland's history and **culture** all while improving your English.

I'm Claire, and in this **special series** we are exploring the **world-renowned** Edinburgh festivals.

Today, we begin with the Edinburgh International Festival, the event that started it all and **set the stage** for Scotland's Capital to become the world's **festival city**.

Don't forget to download the free transcript that you can find in the description. It gives you definitions, the pronunciation, and some idiomatic phrases for some of the vocabulary that I use in today's show. If you enjoy the Scottish English Podcast, hit that subscribe button. Or if you're a big fan, consider supporting the show's creation by giving a tip or becoming a member. You'll get early access to audio versions of the podcast, and depending on which tier you choose, you could even get the opportunity to request your own episode topics. There's more about all that in the description, but let's get into it. The Edinburgh International Festival.

The Edinburgh International Festival, or the EIF, was founded in 1947 in the aftermath of World War II with a powerful vision: to reunite people through great art and foster a "flowering of the human spirit".

The idea was **championed** by **cultural pioneer** Rudolf Bing, a Jewish **refugee** from the Nazi **regime**, **alongside civic leaders** like Lord Provost John Falconer and the British Council.

Edinburgh's ancient beauty, artistic facilities, and safe atmosphere made it the perfect home for this ambitious new event. Despite post-war austerity and rationing, the city rallied behind the festival with locals even donating their coal rations so Edinburgh Castle could be floodlit for the inaugural celebration.

The first festival featured classical music, opera and theatre, **drawing** artists and audiences from across Europe and quickly establishing itself as a **beacon** of hope and cultural **renewal**.

#### International collaboration

From the very beginning, the EIF has welcomed the world's finest performers in opera, music, theatre, and dance. Its commitment to artistic excellence and international collaboration remains at the heart of the festival, bringing together acclaimed artists and companies from around the globe.

Over the decades, the festival has expanded to include dance, visual arts, and contemporary music, commissioning new works and nurturing emerging talent.

The EIF is **renowned** for its curated invitation-only programme, ensuring a standard of quality that draws audiences and critics alike. This year's highlights include world premieres, innovative theatre and collaborations that push artistic boundaries, demonstrating the festival's ongoing relevance and creative energy.

**Legacy** and impact.

The Edinburgh International Festival has not only transformed the city's cultural landscape, but has also had a profound impact on Scotland and the world. It continues to promote values of artistic excellence, cultural diversity, and international understanding, while offering educational outreach and inspiring the next generation of artists.

Next time on the Scottish English Podcast, we'll turn to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest and most diverse arts festival. Born from the same spirit of creativity and openness that defines Edinburgh in August. Stay with us as we explore the wild, wonderful world of the Fringe.

**Vocabulary Table**

Term / Phrase	Definition & Pronunciation (British English)	Useful Collocations & Idiomatic Phrases
culture	/ˈkʌltʃə(r)/: The shared ideas, customs, social behaviour, and arts of a particular society.	cultural heritage, cultural diversity, cultural renewal
special series	/ˈspeʃəl ˈsɪəriːz/: A set of related shows or episodes on a particular topic.	special series on history, documentary series, limited special series
world-renowned	/ˌwɜːld rɪˈnaʊnd/: Famous and respected all over the world.	world-renowned festival, world-renowned artist, world-renowned event

set the stage	/set ðə steɪdʒ/: To create the conditions for something to happen.	set the stage for success, set the stage for change
festival city	/'fɛstɪvəl ,sɪti/: A city famous for hosting many festivals.	become a festival city, festival city reputation
championed	/'tʃæmpiənd/: To publicly support or defend a cause or idea.	champion a cause, champion rights, champion the idea
cultural pioneer	/'kʌltʃərəl ,paɪə'niə(r)/: Someone who is among the first to develop or promote cultural or artistic ideas.	cultural pioneer in music, artistic pioneer, pioneer spirit
refugee	/,ref.jʊ'dʒi:/: A person forced to leave their country because of war, persecution, or danger.	political refugee, refugee crisis, refugee camp
regime	/rei'ʒi:m/: A government, especially an authoritarian one.	oppressive regime, regime change, authoritarian regime
alongside	/ə'lɒŋsaɪd/: Together with or at the side of.	work alongside colleagues, fight alongside, alongside other contributors
drawing	/'drɔ:ɪŋ/: Attracting or pulling towards something.	drawing attention, drawing crowds, drawing comparisons

beacon	/ˈbiːkən/: A light or signal used as a guide or symbol of hope and inspiration.	beacon of hope, beacon of light, beacon for change
renewal	/rɪˈnjuːəl/: The process of making something new again or restoring it.	cultural renewal, renewal of vows, renewal of energy
renowned	/rɪˈnaʊnd/: Well known and admired for something.	renowned artist, renowned university, renowned scientist
legacy	/ˈlegəsi/: Something handed down from the past, such as traditions, reputation, or impact.	lasting legacy, cultural legacy, legacy of excellence