

## Beyond the Big Two – Edinburgh's Summer of Festivals



LANGUAGE LEARNING

### The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 31

*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: Beyond the Big Two – Edinburgh's Summer of Festivals

Welcome back to the Scottish English Podcast, the show where you can learn about Scotland's history and culture all while improving your English. This is the third episode in our Edinburgh festivals series.

While the International Festival and the Fringe grab the headlines, Edinburgh's August is alive with even more celebrations of creativity. Today we **spotlight** three other major festivals: the Edinburgh Art Festival, the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, and the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Don't forget to download the free transcript in the description. It gives you definitions, pronunciation, and some idiomatic phrases for vocabulary that I use in today's show.

If you are enjoying this Edinburgh Festivals series and the Scottish English Podcast, hit that subscribe button. Or if you're a big fan, consider supporting the show's creation by leaving a tip or by becoming a member. You will get early access to the audio versions of the podcast, and depending on which tier you choose, you could request your own episode topics. More about all that in the description.

Let's hear about some other Edinburgh festivals.

## Edinburgh Art Festival.

Founded in 2004, the Edinburgh Art Festival is the UK's largest annual visual arts festival. It brings together exhibitions from **established** and **emerging** artists across more than 40 venues, including major galleries and unique public spaces. The festival **commissions** new works, supports Scottish and international talent, and offers free events, talks and tours, making world class art **accessible** to all. It's an **invitation** to explore the city and the creative ideas **shaping** our times.

## Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

Since 1978, the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival has brought the city to life with the sounds of jazz, blues, funk, and more. Over 10 days, more than 130 concerts take place in venues, ranging from grand concert halls to **intimate** clubs and outdoor stages. The festival **attracts** international stars and rising local talent with **highlights** including the free Mardi Gras and Carnival events that fill the city with colour and rhythm. It's one of Europe's largest jazz festivals and a must for music lovers.

## Edinburgh International Book Festival.

Established in 1983, the Edinburgh International Book Festival is a haven for readers and writers alike. Held in Charlotte Square Gardens, it features author talks, panel discussions, workshops, and book signings with leading voices from Scotland and around the world. For two weeks, it transforms Edinburgh into the world's **literary** capital. The festival is known for its themed discussions on contemporary issues, **fostering** debate and **intellectual exchange** in a welcoming setting.

A festival season under debate.

These festivals, alongside the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and others, make Edinburgh's summer a truly global celebration of the arts. They bring together artists, thinkers, and audiences from every corner, turning the city into a **vibrant** creative hub. Yet for all their colour and creativity, Edinburgh's summer festivals aren't without **controversy**.

In recent years, there's been growing concern about the **soaring** cost of **accommodation**. Some flats now charge thousands of pounds for a stay in August, making it harder for performers and audiences to take part.

Many artists and visitors worry that the rising **expense** is putting the festivals out of reach for all but the wealthiest, risking a loss of **diversity** and **creative ambition**. There are also calls for better **accessibility**, as many venues remain difficult for disabled performers and audiences.

**Funding** cuts, pressures on public space, and **disputes** over how the festivals **impact** local life have all sparked lively debate about their future. **Supporters** argue that these challenges must be **tackled** head-on to keep Edinburgh's summer of culture open and inspiring for everyone.

What do you think about the festival season in Edinburgh? Have you visited in summer? Tell me in the comments.

That's all for this special series on the Edinburgh festivals. Whether you come for music, art, books, or the sheer creative energy, Edinburgh in August offers an experience like no other.

Don't forget to subscribe for more podcasts about Scotland, its history and culture. See you next time on the Scottish English Podcast.

### Vocabulary Table

Word / Phrase	Definition	Pronunciation (UK)	Collocations & Idiomatic Phrases

spotlight (noun/verb)	To focus attention on something or someone	/ˈspɒt.laɪt/	spotlight on, put in the spotlight, under the spotlight
established (adj)	Recognized, accepted or well-known	/ɪˈstæb.lɪʃt/	established artist, established tradition
emerging (adj)	Becoming known or coming into existence	/ɪˈmɜː.dʒɪŋ/	emerging markets, emerging talent
commissions (noun/verb)	Requests for someone to create or produce something	/kəˈmɪʃ.ənz/	art commissions, commissioned work
accessible (adj)	Easy to approach, reach, or understand	/əkˈses.ə.bəl/	accessible venue, easily accessible
invitation (noun)	A request to participate or attend	/,ɪn.vɪˈteɪ.ʃən/	send an invitation, accept an invitation
shaping (verb/noun)	Influencing or determining development	/ˈʃeɪ.pɪŋ/	shaping opinions, shaping the future
intimate (adj)	Close and personal, private or small-scale	/ˈɪn.tɪ.mət/	intimate setting, intimate knowledge

attracts (verb)	Draws attention or interest	/ə'træks/	attracts attention, attracts talent
highlights (noun/verb)	Emphasizes or points out important parts	/'haɪ.laɪts/	festival highlights, key highlights
literary (adj)	Related to literature or writing	/'lɪt.ər.ər.i/	literary festival, literary works
fostering (verb)	Encouraging or promoting development	/'fɒs.tər.ɪŋ/	fostering talent, fostering creativity
intellectual exchange (noun)	Sharing ideas and knowledge thoughtfully	/,ɪn.təl'ek.tʃu.əl ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/	intellectual exchange of ideas
vibrant (adj)	Full of energy and life	/'vaɪ.brənt/	vibrant city, vibrant culture
controversy (noun)	Disagreement or argument about something important	/'kɒn.trə.vɜː.si/	public controversy
soaring (adj)	Increasing rapidly to a high level	/'sɔː.rɪŋ/	soaring prices, soaring demand

accommodation (noun)	A place to stay or live	/əˌkɒm.əˈdeɪ.ʃən /	hotel accommodation, accommodation costs
expense (noun)	The cost or price of something	/ɪkˈspens/	travel expense, living expenses
diversity (noun)	Variety and difference within a group	/daɪˈvɜːsɪ.ti/	cultural diversity, diversity of opinion
creative ambition (noun)	Strong desire to achieve creative goals	/kriˈeɪ.tɪv æmˈbɪʃ.ən/	pursue creative ambition
accessibility (noun)	The quality of being easy to reach or use	/əkˌses.ɪˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/	improve accessibility
funding (noun)	Financial support for an activity	/ˈfʌn.dɪŋ/	government funding, secure funding
disputes (noun)	Arguments or disagreements	/dɪˈspjuːts/	settle disputes, disputes over
impact (noun/verb)	The effect or influence of something	/ˈɪm.pækt/	impact on society, economic impact

supporters (noun)	People who support a cause or idea	/sə'pɔː.təz/	supporters of
tackled (verb)	Dealt with a problem or challenge	/'tæk.əld/	tackled the issue, tackled challenges