

## The World's Largest Performing Arts Festival: Edinburgh Festival Fringe

# Kilted English



LANGUAGE LEARNING

### The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 30

*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: The World's Largest Performing Arts Festival: Edinburgh Festival Fringe

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

I am Claire, and we are in the second episode of our **special series** on the Edinburgh festivals. Today we **dive into** the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest **performing arts** festival, and a **global symbol** of **artistic freedom** and **innovation**.

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're enjoying this Edinburgh Festival series and the Scottish English podcast itself, hit that subscribe button. Or if you're a **big fan**, consider supporting the show's **creation** by leaving 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. More about that in the description. Let's get on with the show.

The Fringe began in 1947, the same year as the International Festival, when eight theatre groups arrived uninvited and staged their own shows on the fringe of the official event. Their spirit of independence and creativity **struck a chord**, and year after year, more performers followed their example.

By 1958, the Festival Fringe Society was formed to support the growing **phenomenon**. But crucially, it never imposed selection or censorship. Anyone with a story to tell, and a venue to host them, could take part.

**Open access** and artistic diversity

The Fringe is completely open access, meaning there's no selection committee and no **artistic gatekeeping**. This policy has created a festival that is as diverse as it is vast. In 2024, more than 3,700 shows took place across 262 venues featuring comedy, theatre, dance, cabaret, circus, children's shows, musicals, spoken word, exhibitions, and more.

Comedy has become the largest and most **high profile** section, but the Fringe is also a **launchpad** for innovative theatre, new writing and experimental performance. Venues range from grand theatres to tiny rooms above pubs, parks, shipping containers, and even buses.

The city itself becomes a stage with **vibrant** street performances and **pop-up events** bringing every corner of Edinburgh to life.

A global phenomenon.

The Fringe is not just a festival, it's a movement that has inspired similar events around the world.

It's a place where unknown artists share **billing** with global stars, where critics hunt for the next big thing and where audiences come to be surprised, challenged, and entertained.

The festival's economic and cultural impact is enormous, drawing millions of visitors and making Edinburgh the centre of the creative universe each August.

In our next episode, we'll explore some of the other major festivals that make Edinburgh's summer so unique, from art and jazz to books and beyond.

Join us as we celebrate the full spectrum of Edinburgh's Festival City. That's next time on the Scottish English Podcast.

Vocabulary Table

Word / Phrase + Part of Speech	Pronunciation (British English IPA)	Definition	Collocations / Idiomatic Phrases
special series (noun phrase)	/ˈspɛʃ.əl ˈsiː.riːz/	A group of related episodes or shows focusing on a particular subject or theme.	<i>run a special series, special series of episodes</i>

dive into (phrasal verb)	/daɪv 'ɪn.tuː/	To explore or examine something deeply and enthusiastically.	<i>dive into a topic, dive deep into research</i>
performing arts (noun phrase)	/pə'fɔːmɪŋ ɑːts/	Creative activities such as theatre, music, and dance performed live.	<i>performing arts festival, performing arts centre</i>
global symbol (noun phrase)	/'gləʊ.bəl 'sɪm.bəl/	Something recognised worldwide as a representation or emblem of a concept or idea.	<i>become a global symbol of, a global symbol for peace/artistic freedom</i>
artistic freedom (noun phrase)	/ɑː'tɪs.tɪk 'friː.dəm/	The right to express oneself artistically without censorship or restriction.	<i>defend artistic freedom, promote artistic freedom, artistic freedom to create</i>
innovation (noun)	/,ɪn.ə'veɪ.jən/	The introduction of new ideas, methods, or products.	<i>foster innovation, cutting-edge innovation, innovation in theatre</i>
transcript (noun)	/'træn.skɪpt/	A written or printed copy of spoken material.	<i>download the transcript, read the transcript</i>
idiomatic phrases (noun phrase)	/,ɪd.i.ə'mæt.ɪk 'freɪ.zɪz/	Expressions whose meanings aren't deducible from the literal words alone.	<i>learn idiomatic phrases, common idiomatic phrases, use idiomatic phrases</i>

big fan (noun phrase)	/bɪɡ fæn/	Someone who is very enthusiastic about something or someone.	<i>be a big fan of, a big fan, show your support as a big fan</i>
creation (noun)	/kriˈeɪ.ʃən/	The act of producing or bringing something into existence.	<i>the creation of a podcast, creative creation</i>
tip (noun)	/tɪp/	A small voluntary payment given in appreciation of a service.	<i>leave a tip, offer a tip, show appreciation with a tip</i>
early access (noun phrase)	/ˈɜː.li ˈæk.ses/	The ability to use or see something before it is generally available.	<i>get early access, exclusive early access</i>
tier (noun)	/tɪər/	A level or rank in a system, often linked to different benefits or costs.	<i>choose a membership tier, top-tier benefits, tiered pricing</i>
request (verb)	/rɪˈkwest/	To ask politely or formally for something.	<i>request an episode topic, make a special request</i>
artistic gatekeeping (noun phrase)	/ɑːˈtɪs.tɪk ˈɡeɪt.kiː.pɪŋ/	The practice of controlling or limiting access to artistic performance opportunities.	<i>criticise artistic gatekeeping, challenge artistic gatekeeping</i>

phenomenon (noun)	/fəˈnɒm.i.nən/	A remarkable or exceptional occurrence or person.	<i>a growing phenomenon, cultural phenomenon</i>
open access (noun phrase)	/'əʊ.pən 'æk.ses/	A system that allows free entry without selection or restrictions.	<i>open access policy, embrace open access</i>
strike a chord (idiom)	/straɪk ə kɔːd/	To cause someone to feel sympathy, emotion, or enthusiasm.	<i>strike a chord with audiences, their story struck a chord</i>
launchpad (noun)	/'lɔːntʃ.pæd/	A platform or means for launching new ideas, careers, or projects.	<i>a launchpad for innovation, acting as a launchpad</i>
vibrant (adjective)	/'vaɪ.brənt/	Full of energy and life; bright and colourful.	<i>a vibrant cultural scene, vibrant performance</i>
pop-up event (noun phrase)	/'pɒp.ʌp ɪ'vent/	A temporary or spontaneous event or venue.	<i>organise pop-up events, pop-up shops</i>
billing (noun)	/'bɪl.ɪŋ/	The act of featuring or presenting artists or acts, often in advertising or programmes.	<i>share billing with stars, top billing</i>
high profile (adjective phrase)	/haɪ 'prəʊ.faɪl/	Receiving a lot of attention or publicity.	<i>a high-profile event, high-profile guests</i>