

## Unit 5 – What Are You Waiting For?

### VOCABULARY

#### Time expressions

spend time doing  
waste time doing  
spend a period of time doing  
pass the time  
lose time

a waste of time/money/  
space, etc.

#### Wasting time

waiting for a bus  
being stuck in traffic  
queuing  
looking for something

#### Approximate language

almost, not quite, just, under, nearly, close to

exactly, precisely

more or less, approximately,  
roughly, about

or more, plus, more than, over

#### Generalising

The average Briton spends ...  
In Britain people waste ...  
People waste about ...  
Londoners spend ...

### GRAMMAR

#### Talking about duration

**How long** have you been waiting?  
I've been waiting **for half an hour**.

**How long** does it take you to get to work?  
It **takes** me **25 minutes** to get to work. (We use the verb *take* to talk about duration.)

**How many** hours a week do you spend doing exercise?  
About three or four.

#### Present perfect continuous

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about the duration of activities that are continuing.

I **have been waiting** here for 20 minutes. (I am still waiting.)

The present perfect continuous is formed by: auxiliary *have* + *been* + *-ing* form of verb.

Compare this to:

I **was waiting** for 20 minutes. (I am NOT waiting now.)

How long **have you been waiting?** (Question)

I **haven't been waiting** more than an hour. (Negation)

## **USEFUL PHRASES**

### **Apologising and making excuses**

Have you been waiting long?

Sorry I'm late.

I'm terribly sorry.

I was caught in traffic.

The traffic was terrible.

It took me over an hour to get here.

I had trouble finding a taxi.

It took me over half an hour to find one.

### **Saying numbers and times**

#### **Numbers**

2 ½ = two and a half

2 ¼ = two and a quarter

205 = two hundred and five

215 = two hundred and fifteen

250 = two hundred and fifty

#### **Times**

2:05 = five past two

2:15 = two fifteen / a quarter past two

2:30 = two thirty / half past two

4:55 = five to five

5:05 = five past five