BEN AND HOLLY

TYPE OF LANGUAGE

- Standard British English
- Conversational

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

- Every episode begins with the narrator saying “somewhere, hidden amongst thorny brambles is a little kingdom of elves and fairies. Everyone who lives here is very, very small…” Then, Ben and Holly introduce themselves, “I’m Ben Efl” “and I’m Princess Holly”. Then the narrator introduces the story “Today’s adventure starts at the (castle/meadow)…”

- Most of what is said is a dialogue between Ben & Holly or their family/friends. The majority of this is in the present tense to describe the setting or talk about what is happening, e.g. There are lots of fairies. In many of the episodes, they also describe how things work/how to do things, e.g. “The mill goes at the speed of the wind”.

- There are a considerable number of idioms, fixed and semi-fixed expressions, e.g. to be in a spot of bother, to feel left out, what on earth is going on?

- There are a number of adjectives of opinion in each episode, e.g. boring, awful, interesting, good, exciting.
COMMON WORDS & PHRASES

• Hello
• Oh, dear
• Come on. Let’s play!
• Wait for me/us…
• We love good music.
• See you later!
• I don’t suppose you know any tricks?
• How about sitting here?
• Problem solved
• Wow!
• Well done!
• Oh, no!
• What’s wrong?
• You mustn’t wake her up
• Can we go meet the pirates?
• Can I come too?
• Follow me.
• Hooray!
• Are you alright?
• Let’s play racing
• We need to help.

TIPS

If you are able to do the following ideas in English then great. If you can’t or don’t feel confident in doing so, you can still aid your child’s learning by doing them in Spanish.

• Encourage your child to recognize what is happening in the cartoon. Ask questions like Who can you see? What are they doing? Why? Where are they?

• Before watching, talk about the title of the cartoon together. Talk about what might happen, e.g. in the episode you could ask your child for ideas about who/what they will see, what they might do.

• If you are watching online, stop halfway through. Summarise what’s happened so far. Use gesture and facial expression to reinforce meaning (e.g. Holly’s surprised)
• Try to notice the natural language used to express ideas, e.g. cheer up (as opposed to don’t be sad). This kind of natural language comes up a lot and is more authentic than the language children are usually taught at school. Noticing this kind of language will help children to be flexible and understand that there are many different ways to express the same thing.

• Each episode has a theme and contains an identifiable lexical set. Try to pick out the group of words for that episode, e.g. in the episode The Elf Band, there are lots of words related to music (recorder, band, music, tune, instruments). Later you can review these with your child. Try to be creative and make games where you can use the language.

• Review what was seen in the programme and ask your child, do you remember…? Research has shown that staged review helps memorisation and is most effective if reviewed after about 10 minutes, a day, a week and then a month.

• Visit http://www.littlekingdom.co.uk/ for games, stories, activities, news and competitions