



NB: This is not a word for word transcript

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- Rob:** Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Rob and Rosie joins me today. Hello Rosie!
- Rosie:** Hi Rob!
- Rob:** Today we're talking about what can be a very stressful moment in our lives – moving house. Packing up even a small house or flat can be quite stressful and time-consuming but imagine the **upheaval** involved in moving a big company or organisation.
- Rosie:** Like the BBC World Service maybe?
- Rob:** Exactly like that. Because I am of course talking about our home, Bush House in London. It's where we are speaking from now.
- Rosie:** But not for long because the World Service is preparing to leave the building for new purpose-built facilities in another part of London.
- Rob:** It's a sad time and time to **reflect** on what's taken place in this famous London landmark. More on that in a moment but first it's time to set you a question Rosie. So are you ready?
- Rosie:** I guess so.
- Rob:** OK. Do you know when the construction of the first part of Bush House (we call it Centre Block) was completed?
- a) 1913
  - b) 1923
  - c) 1933
- Rosie:** I'm going to say b) 1923.

**Rob:** As usual we'll find out the answer at the end of the programme. Now, as I mentioned we're saying farewell to Bush House this year. The building has housed the BBC World Service since 1941 – so it's been our home for seventy years. I haven't been there that long but I still have some fond memories of the place in my relatively short time here.

**Rosie:** It certainly has a special place in the hearts of people who have worked here – the **staff**. This could be because of the style of the building with its wide marble staircases and Roman columns.

**Rob:** Yes, it doesn't look like a normal media centre but that's because it wasn't designed to be one. Did you know that back in 1929 it was **declared** – or reported – to be the most expensive building in the world having cost around two million pounds to build!

**Rosie:** Well was all that money worth it? It probably was if we listen to what some BBC staff have been saying. This producer thinks it's a special place. Listen to his reasons...

### **BBC Producer**

*I don't know whether it's just the physical building, the bricks and mortar of Bush House, or the fact that we have a sort of United Nations of broadcasting here, but I think maybe it's a bit of both. It's not a bespoke broadcasting centre and that's part of its charm. It's a rabbit warren of corridors and crazy modifications and things and that's part of what makes it special I think.*

**Rob:** So there are two things that have made Bush House special. The physical building – that means the bricks and mortar that it has been built with. But he also suggests something else.

**Rosie:** He says it could be the United Nations of broadcasting. He means it's a very multi-cultural place. There are people of all different nationalities broadcasting to all different parts of the World.

**Rob:** He also talked about the **charm** of the place. This is the character, which he says is due to not being a **bespoke** broadcasting centre. As we said, it wasn't originally built for radio.

**Rosie:** But since the BBC moved in, things have been changed and added on – these are the crazy **modifications** he mentioned. To modify something is to change something. And did you hear how he described the corridors?

**Rob:** Yes, like rabbit warrens! Lots of long dingy passages where you see producers running from office to studio.

**Rosie:** There's one thing about Bush House that another producer has **criticised** – or made negative comments about. See if you can work out what it is...

### **Producer BBC**

*I love this building, every bit of it. I loved it from the very first moment I entered the building. The only thing I wasn't happy about were the carpets. They were worn out, with lots of holes, very undignified. I thought my God! Such a beautiful building, such a fantastic organisation, such awful carpets!*

**Rob:** Ha! He wasn't happy about the carpets. He described them as very worn out, lots of holes and very **undignified** so lacking in dignity, not really representing the BBC.

**Rosie:** It's not what he was expecting as the building was beautiful and it was such a fantastic organisation.

**Rob:** Well they do say 'first impressions count' and his first impression of the BBC were the awful carpets! How about you Rosie? What impression did you get when you first entered Bush House?

**Rosie:** Well I was in awe when I first entered Bush House because it's just so huge and very beautiful.

**Rob:** Sadly we won't be walking into Bush House for much longer as most of us are moving to a new **state-of-the-art** building somewhere else in London.

**Rosie:** But I guess this building will remain the spiritual home of the World Service. Rob, what will you remember about this place?

**Rob:** Well as you say, it's the quirkiness, all the corridors and hidden little rooms. And also the old-fashioned studios that seem to

have lots of wood in them, for some reason! So that's what I remember but do you remember the question I set you today?

**Rosie:** Yes I do.

**Rob:** Good. Earlier I asked you if you knew when the construction of the first part of Bush House (Centre Block) was completed?

**Rosie:** And I said b) 1923.

**Rob:** And you are right. Well done! The answer is indeed 1923. That's when the main part of Bush House was completed. And did you also know that Bush House was named after Irving T. Bush who was one of the designers. It was originally built to be a world trade centre.

**Rosie:** I didn't know that but that's quite incredible! I wonder what will happen to it next?

**Rob:** I'm not really sure actually. OK Rosie, could you please remind us of some of the vocabulary we have heard today?

**Rosie:**

upheaval  
reflect  
staff  
declared  
charm  
bespoke  
modification  
criticised  
undignified  
state-of-the-art

**Rob:** Thanks Rosie. That's all for now, but do join us again soon for more 6 Minute English! Bye for now!

**Rosie:** Bye bye!

## Vocabulary and definitions

upheaval	big change that can cause a lot of confusion and effort
reflect	look back
staff	people who work for the organisation or company
declared	stated publicly
charm	a quality that is pleasing or attractive
bespoke	made specially for the needs of the customer
modification	a change that has been done to improve something
criticised	to find fault with something or someone
undignified	lacking in dignity, causing you to lose respect for something
state-of-the-art	of the latest technology

### More on this story:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/indepth/80th\\_anniversary.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/indepth/80th_anniversary.shtml)

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