

# CHUGGINGTON



## TYPE OF LANGUAGE

- British English (although there is also an American English version)
- Conversational

## GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

- Each episode is about a group of trainee trains who face a series of challenges. Most of what is said is a dialogue between the train characters.
- Most of the script is in the present tense, describing or asking what is happening, e.g. *I'm carrying the parcels*. However, characters also frequently talk about the future, e.g. *We're going to a race, the presentation will begin in 10 minutes*.
- Much of the vocabulary is related to competing (go faster, win, lose, draw, trophy, award, to catch up, to cheer somebody on, supporter, speedy, to beat a record, to earn a badge).

## COMMON WORDS & PHRASES

- Hiya
- Good luck!
- Cool!
- Oh dear!

- Stop. Come back here!
- Come on (you guys)!
- Well done!
- Congratulations!
- Time to (go)
- I did it!
- See you!
- I can't believe it
- I knew it!
- What's up?
- What's going on?
- Are you ok?
- What's the matter?
- Good job!
- I'll be right there

## 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.**

- Before watching, use the first scene to talk to your child about who they can see, where they are and what they are doing.
- Stop at an interesting part. Summarise what has happened so far and what's happening now, e.g. "*Who is winning the race?*", "*How does (Wilson) feel?*" Encourage your child to predict what will happen next "*Who's going to win?*".
- At the end of each programme, ask your child questions about what happened and retell the story together. Then ask them which part they liked best and why.
- Try to pick out collocations (words that typically go together) that might be useful for your child, e.g. *to win a race*, *to offer help*. Collocations can be challenging when learning a foreign language, as they are often different from the learner's mother tongue, e.g. *to have a nap* in Spanish is  *echar una siesta* (not tener)
- Review any key vocabulary. 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. Focus on words and expressions that are useful for your child (things that they will encounter in their own lives) and ignore the less common vocabulary.

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- Try to identify the natural features of intonation characteristic of native speakers, e.g. that's amazing! I can't believe it! Use the cartoon as a model. You can repeat this and have your child copy; turning the volume down until eventually they are saying it alone.
  - Visit the BBC children's webpage <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/chuggington/> or the official Chuggington site <http://www.chuggington.com> for games, videos and printable activities, as well as a section for grown-ups.
  - Visit <http://www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org> and search for transport. You can find a variety of different activities here, as well as an informative section for parents.
  - There are a number of Read Along Chuggington books available, which come with CD's so that children can listen to the stories and follow them in the book.