

L I S T E N I N G – T R A N S C R I P T

EDITH WILSON

Introduction: In the following radio programme, you will hear the first part of the story of Edith Wilson, wife of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. You will hear the recording twice.

In October 1919, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, wife of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, began, in her own words, the first female “stewardship” of the presidency. Her husband had suffered a life-threatening stroke and, in a time of crisis for U.S. democracy, she stepped into the role of acting president. Her actions were controversial at the time and continue to divide opinion to this day.

Edith Bolling was born in Wytheville, Virginia, on October 15, 1872. She was the seventh of 11 children from a Southern family that owned a plantation together with enslaved people. Edith had the pedigree for the White House: She was related to President Thomas Jefferson and to first ladies Martha Washington and Letitia Tyler. Her father was a court of appeals judge, her mother from colonial Virginia. The family lost most of its wealth after the American Civil War and Edith grew up in a small boarding house. In personality, she was not unlike her father’s mother, Grandmother Bolling, whom she describes in her autobiography as “an unusually capable and dominant person, to whom an obstacle meant only something to be overcome.”

On her 15th birthday, Edith was sent to Martha Washington College in Abingdon, Virginia, but was deeply unhappy and stayed for only two semesters. She later studied at a women’s college in Richmond for a year but received little other formal education. In the winter of 1890, while visiting her elder sister in Washington, D.C., Edith met Norman Galt, a wealthy jeweler nearly ten years older than her. The couple were married on April 30, 1896. Galt & Bro. Jewelers was part of the D.C. establishment and Edith enjoyed a lifestyle she had not previously experienced. She loved driving, and became the first woman in Washington, D.C., to receive a driver’s license. After a short illness, Galt died unexpectedly in January 1908. The family jewelry business, which Edith inherited, had fallen on hard times, but with support and advice, she successfully led the firm’s recovery.

Now in her mid-30s, Edith was a wealthy widow. She travelled across Europe but was happiest at home in D.C. Although she had little interest in politics, Edith must have been pleased when Woodrow Wilson, from Staunton, Virginia, won the presidential election on November 5, 1912. He was the first Southerner to win since 1848, when Zachary Taylor, from Orange County, Virginia, had been elected president.

Source: Spotlight 2/25, pages 25-26 (abridged)

ANSWER KEY

READING (1 point for each correct answer, if there are 2 words, both should be correct):

1. ordinary people	6. iron bridges
2. utopian	7. chance encounter
3. failure(s) / disappointment(s)	8. morale
4. Burke's views	9. republican (accept Republican)
5. hostile	10. social security

10 points

VOCABULARY:

1. spatial	6. subsequent
2. variety	7. Babylonians
3. durable	8. remarkable
4. awareness	9. cartographic
5. enigmatic	10. expertise

10 points

GRAMMAR:

1. yet / but	9. out
2. even	10. should
3. by	11. into
4. at	12. their
5. some/each	13. not
6. however	14. would
7. in	15. being
8. had	

15 points

LISTENING (½ a point for each correct answer; if there are 2 words, both should be correct):

1. stroke	6. jeweller/jeweler
2. controversial	7. establishment
3. pedigree	8. recover
4. court (of) appeals	9. wealthy widow
5. capable, dominant (<i>in either order</i>)	10. pleased, South/south

5 points

40 points

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, okresné kolo 2025/2026, kategória 2B – riešenia a úlohy

R O L E – P L A Y

Student – STUDENT A:

At an international school, two students have to decide on the destination and organization of the final school trip; you are one of them. You are an adventurous student who wants to go somewhere exciting and far away, even if it costs more. It is your final school trip, so you should go somewhere special! You suggest lots of things and even how you could raise money to fund the final trip.

Present your arguments and try to convince your classmate that your idea is the best.

X

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R O L E – P L A Y

TEACHER – Student B:

Two students have to decide on the destination and organization of the final school trip; you are one of them. You are a practical and budget-conscious student who wants the trip to be local and affordable (the national park is close by, and everyone will be able to afford it). Present your arguments and try to convince your classmate that your idea is the best.

PICTURE-STORY

Based on the image below, create a story about a young student, Jake, who does not get along with his father. Every evening, Mr. Cooper would remind his son to stay off his phone, stop listening to music and focus on his upcoming exams. The tension grew when Jake had skipped school to practice with his band for a local music contest...



The picture has been created by AI

Autorka: PhDr. Eva Žitná

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku – okresné kolo 2025/2026

Vydal: NIVaM – Národný inštitút vzdelávania a mládeže, Bratislava 2026