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Should you get one?

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Legend?  
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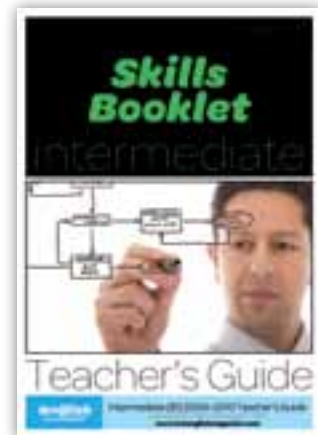
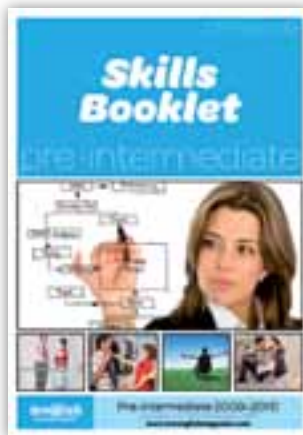


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2. eReaders
3. Spotify to the Rescue
4. Story Time
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6. Functional language: The Telephone
7. Radio ad
8. Fingers' Error Correction
9. Pre-Intermediate Listening: Green Times
10. Ridiculous Requests
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Hi, and welcome to another issue of Hot English Magazine, the fun magazine for learning English. We've got a great magazine for you this month. For a start, we're talking about pirates. Now, I don't know whether I should be telling you this, but I'm actually related to a famous pirate. My grandmother's surname was Bisher, and her great, great grandfather's name was Frobisher, and they were direct descendants of Martin Frobisher. Well, actually, he wasn't a real pirate (he was a privateer), but he was the next best thing. Anyway, you can read about him and some modern-day pirates, and even learn how to talk like a pirate. What fun!

Our special focus this month is Poland. First of all, we'd like to offer our condolences to the people of Poland for the recent tragedy. The fact that this issue is dedicated to Poland is entirely coincidental.

Apart from this, we've got a fascinating article on Boiler Rooms (unregulated companies that sell worthless shares). You can learn all about their tactics and how to avoid falling for their tricks! And we've also got an interesting article on ridiculous work demands. Many years ago, I had a job in a fast-food restaurant. One day, the manager told me to put on a chicken suit and to stand outside the restaurant handing out leaflets. "I'm not doing that!" I said. "Oh, yes you are. It's in your contract." And it was. So, I had to. But it was actually a lot of fun. Have you ever had to do anything ridiculous at work?

This month, we're also looking at one of my greatest childhood heroes: Robin Hood. I can still remember having Robin Hood sword fights at Christmas with my brother and uncle, and watching the fantastic film version of Robin Hood starring Errol Flynn. Ah, the swashbuckling life for me!

Anyway, good luck with your English language learning, and see you all next month.

Yours,  
*Andy*

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**Chopin**  
The master composer and Polish national hero.

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US English

track 2

# READING

# eReaders

eREADERS

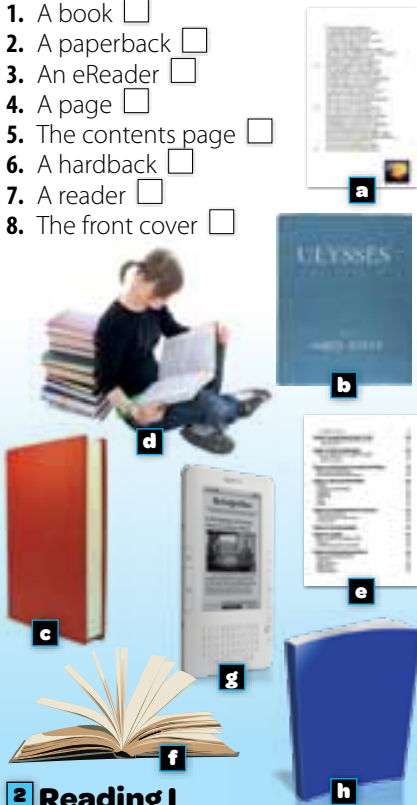
Is this the end of the book?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Match the "book words" (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

- A book
- A paperback
- An eReader
- A page
- The contents page
- A hardback
- A reader
- The front cover



## 2 Reading I

What do you think the advantages and disadvantages of an eReader are? Think. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article. Then, write a summary of the advantages and disadvantages mentioned in the article.

## 4 Language focus The Present Continuous

Look at this extract from the article, "...we're helping to save trees as they don't use paper." In this example, the writer has used a Present Continuous structure. Transform the following sentences into the Present Continuous.

- I run in the park.
- She works from home.
- They travel by train.
- We don't watch television.

## 5 Discussion

- What do you think of eReaders? Would you buy one? Why? Why not?
- What do you like/dislike about reading paper books?
- Where/What/When do you like to read?

Have you got an eReader? Are you thinking of getting one? We asked some eReader owners to give us their opinions.

There are many things that people like about eReaders. "eReaders are really **light**, weighing less than most **paperbacks**," said Nathan Jones, a **market researcher**. "You can hold the book and turn the pages with one hand. An eReader is definitely more comfortable to read in bed or if you're lying on a sofa, plus mine's got a light so I can read in bed at night without **disturbing** my partner." Another big **advantage** is that you can store hundreds of books on them. "eReaders are perfect for travel," said Kiera Smith. "You can have lots of books in one **device**, instead of carrying loads of books in your **luggage**." The **search functions** are also popular. "You can look for a character by their name or for a place just by typing in the word. That's really useful," said Megan Malone, a sales executive.



One user liked the function for increasing **font size**. "I've got **poor eyesight**," explained Harvey Callaghan, an engineer. "But the eReader is perfect for me as I can increase the

font size." And Jennifer Saunders said, "I like eReaders because they're ecological. If we buy an ebook, we're helping to save trees as they don't use paper. Also, my eReader is solar-powered, so it only uses **renewable energy**." Best of all is the **availability** of hundreds of free books online. "**Project Gutenberg**\* has millions of **titles** and they're all free to download," said another user.

One of the biggest **complaints** is that you can't find certain titles. "Many books are simply not available in electronic form," said Daisy Madison, an estate agent. If you want a specific book, one that is older, perhaps, or not a bestseller, it won't be available – at least, that was my experience."



Others complained about the small **delay** in turning pages. "The gap between pressing the 'next page' button and the screen showing the page is really annoying," said Joel Bray, a shop assistant. "Also, you can't **flick** between pages so easily." So, what do you think? \*

## \*Project Gutenberg

Project Gutenberg (often abbreviated to PG) is an archive of e-books. It was founded in 1971 by Michael Hart. It is the oldest digital library. Titles in their top 100 most popular e-books include *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (by Lewis Carroll), *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), *Ulysses* (by James Joyce) and *Frankenstein* (by Mary Shelley). They're all free. As Michael Hart said in 2004, "The mission of Project Gutenberg is simple: To encourage the creation and distribution of e-books."



## GLOSSARY

- an owner** *n* a person who possesses something
- light** *adj* not heavy; that doesn't weigh very much
- a paperback** *n* a book with a thin, flexible cover
- a market researcher** *n* someone who collects and analyses data/information about the market
- to disturb** *vb* if you 'disturb' someone, you do something that annoys/irritates/interferes with them
- an advantage** *n* something positive/good/beneficial
- a device** *n* an electrical appliance that does a job
- luggage** *n* bags you take with you when you travel
- a search function** *n* an application on a machine that allows you to look for things
- a font** *n* a set of letters/numbers/characters of the same size, shape and type
- poor eyesight** *n* if someone has "poor eyesight", they can't see very well
- renewable energy** *n* a form of energy that can be used again and again (solar, wind, etc.)
- availability** *n* if something is "available", you can find/buy/use it
- a title** *n* a book
- a complaint** *n* if someone makes a "complaint" about something, they explain why they aren't happy about that thing
- a delay** *n* if there is a "delay", something doesn't happen as quickly as you expected
- to flick** *vb* if you "flick" between the pages in a book, you turn those pages quickly

# READING II

## Spotify to the Rescue

Online music service may be the answer to record labels' problems.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

### 1 Pre-reading

Think of an artist / group / composer, etc. for each genre of music.

Rock Pop Reggae

Country Motown

Heavy metal R&B

Classical music

Folk Blues

Hip hop

### 2 Reading I

Why do you think the music industry is in a state of crisis? Think. Then read the article to check your ideas.

### 3 Reading II

How can websites like Spotify help the music industry? Think. Then, read the article again to check your ideas. Finally, write up a quick summary of the ways that these websites can help.

### 4 Language focus

#### The Present Simple

Look at this extract from the article, "Spotify also includes a radio feature..." In this example, the speaker has used a Present Simple verb ("includes"). Transform these sentences into negative forms.

1. She likes the song. =
2. They eat at home for lunch. =
3. He lives in a small apartment. =
4. I get up early in the morning. =
5. We do some exercise at the weekend. =

### 5 Discussion

1. Where do you get your music from? How do you pay for it?
2. Where/When do you listen to music?
3. What types of music do you like? Why?



The music industry is in a state of crisis. But one website could **hold the answer** to their problems.

In the past, **record labels** controlled the music industry. They **owned** the artists, they managed the system of distribution and they fixed the prices. But then things started to change. First there was CD piracy. That began to affect sales. Then, it was the turn of the internet and **file sharing**. And that's really killing the industry. In a recent **survey** by *The New York Times*, 56 percent of **respondents** said that sharing music files over the internet was "always" or "sometimes acceptable", while 37 percent said it was "never acceptable". As a result, many music shops have **gone out of business**, and record companies are losing millions.

So, what can the record companies do? The answer may **lie with** websites such as Spotify, a **music streaming** service. Users can **browse** for music by artist, album, record label or by genre. They have access to approximately 6 million **tracks** from the music catalogue. Users can also create **playlists** and share them or edit them with other users. Spotify also includes a radio **feature** which creates a random playlist of songs chosen based on your preferences.

Spotify was launched for public access on 7 October 2008. It is currently only available from certain **IP addresses** (those assigned to **providers** in Sweden, Spain, Norway, Finland, the UK and France). Users of the free service are by invitation only (in order to limit numbers). This service includes access to all the songs, but there are **advertisements** that are played periodically between songs. Alternatively, users can pay a monthly subscription fee of €9.99 and listen to songs without any interference from adverts. The songs are also played at higher quality.

And all of this is good news for record labels. Spotify **generates** money from subscriptions and from advertising. Then, they pay the record labels with this money.

"They are paying us a **royalty** per stream. That, to me, equates to a sustainable business model," said a spokesperson for a major record producer.

Let's hope it works for everyone! ☺

#### GLOSSARY

- to hold the answer** *exp*  
to have the answer / solution to a problem
- a record label** *n*  
a company that makes/produces records/music
- to own** *n*  
to possess
- file sharing** *n*  
giving other people a music file in exchange for another music file that another person has
- a survey** *n*  
a report on the things that people like/dislike, etc.
- a respondent** *n*  
someone who answers questions in a survey
- to go out of business** *exp*  
to stop functioning as a business; to have no more money
- to lie with** *phr vb*  
if an answer "lies with" X, it is in X, or X has the answer
- music streaming** *n*  
files (sound / video) that are transferred in real time
- to browse** *vb*  
to explore / look at casually and with no real objective
- a track** *n*  
a song that has been recorded
- a playlist** *n*  
a list of songs that will play on a radio / MP3 player, etc.
- a feature** *n*  
an interesting or important part of something
- an IP address** *abbr*  
an Internet Protocol address – it identifies a computer
- a provider** *n*  
a business that offers access to the internet
- an advertisement** *n*  
a piece of publicity designed to sell something
- to generate** *vb*  
to create (money/wealth, etc.)
- a royalty** *n*  
a small payment to the owner of intellectual property (a book, a piece of music, etc.)

# THE NAME GAME

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES ON FAMOUS NAMES WITH MEANING.



# STORY TIME

Jokes, anecdotes and stories as told by native English speakers.



**Robin Hood** (English hero)  
A "HOOD" IS A PART OF A JACKET OR COAT THAT COVERS YOUR HEAD.  
"The teenager pulled the hood of his jacket over his head."



**Russell Crowe** (Australian actor)  
A "CROW" IS A LARGE, BLACK BIRD THAT MAKES A LOUD NOISE. / WHEN A ROOSTER (A MALE CHICKEN) "CROWS", IT MAKES A LOUD SOUND.  
"The crow flew into the sky." / "The rooster crowed at 5 in the morning."



**Camilla Parker-Jones** (member of royal family)  
IF YOU "PARK" A CAR, YOU PUT IT INTO A PARKING SPACE.  
"She parked the car."



**Luke Skywalker** (fictional character from Star Wars)  
THE "SKY" IS THE SPACE AROUND THE EARTH WHICH YOU CAN SEE WHEN YOU STAND OUTSIDE AND LOOK UP. / IF YOU "WALK" SOMEWHERE, YOU GO THERE ON FOOT.  
"Look! There's an eagle in the sky." / "We walked to the station."



**Alfred Hitchcock** (British film director)  
A "HITCH" IS A PROBLEM OR DIFFICULTY. / IF YOU "HITCH" A RIDE SOMEWHERE OR "HITCHHIKE", YOU ASK A DRIVER TO TAKE YOU THERE FOR FREE.  
"There have been a few technical hitches." / "We hitched a ride to the town centre."



**YouTube** (website)  
THE "TUBE" IS AN INFORMAL WORD TO REFER TO THE TELEVISION. / A "TUBE" IS ALSO A LONG, HOLLOW (EMPTY) OBJECT THAT IS USUALLY ROUND.  
"What's on the tube tonight?" / "They fitted a tube to the barrel so they could drink the beer."

## Cow versus Horse

A young man goes to the country for the first time. One day, he's walking through a village when he meets a farmer. "So, Farmer Giles, why doesn't this cow have any **horns**?" asks the young man. The farmer thinks for a moment, then begins to explain. "Well, young man, **cattle** can **do** a lot of **damage** with their horns. So, we have to do something about them so they don't **hurt** anyone. Sometimes, we put special **pads** on them so they aren't sharp. And, there are some breeds of cattle that never grow horns. But the reason this cow doesn't have any horns, young man, is because it's a horse."



## Lawyer Query

A first-year **law** student is talking to a **lawyer**. "Do you mind if I ask you a question?" the law student asks. "No, of course not," the lawyer replies. "OK," says the law student. "Let me see if I understand this. When a person assists a criminal in breaking the law **BEFORE** the criminal gets arrested, we call him an **'accomplice'**." "Yes. That's right." "But when a person assists a criminal in breaking the law **AFTER** the criminal has been arrested, we call him a 'lawyer', right?"



## Competitive salary

"So, what's this about a competitive salary?" asks a new **employee**. "Does it mean that the company pays good **rates** to their employees in order to compete with other companies and **retain** good staff?"



### GLOSSARY

- a horn** *n* some animals have "horns" (hard objects) coming out of their heads
- cattle** *n* a general term for cows/bulls, etc.
- to do damage** *v* if something "does damage", it destroys or breaks something
- to hurt** *vb* if something "hurts" you, it causes you pain
- a pad** *n* an object with soft material on it that is used to cover something sharp
- the law** *n* the rules and regulations in society
- a lawyer** *n* a person who practices law
- an accomplice** *n* someone who assists a criminal when committing a crime
- an employee** *n* someone who works in a company/organisation, etc.
- a rate** *n* an amount of money paid for something
- to retain** *vb* to keep; not to lose
- a veteran** *n* someone who has worked in a company/office, etc. for a long time

"No," says the **veteran** employee. "It means that the company remains competitive by paying less than their competitors." ⚡

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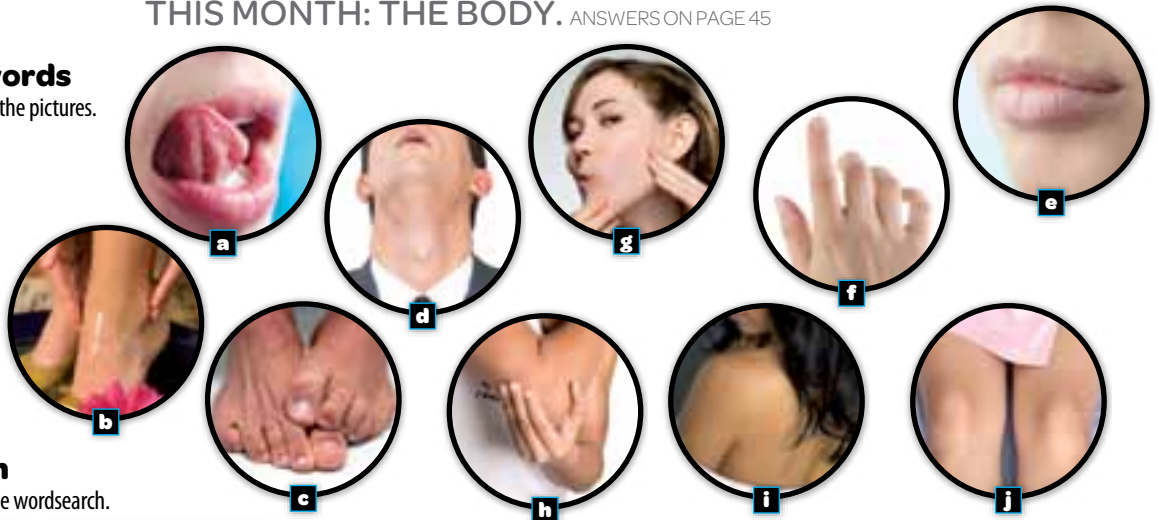
# USEFUL VOCABULARY THE BODY

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VOCABULARY.  
THIS MONTH: THE BODY. ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Match the words

Match the words (1-10) to the pictures.

1. Shoulder
2. Tongue
3. Elbow
4. Ankle
5. Lips
6. Fingers
7. Knees
8. Neck
9. Cheek
10. Toes



## 2 Wordsearch

Now find these words in the wordsearch.

ankle	cheek
elbow	fingers
knees	lips
neck	shoulder
toes	tongue



## 3 Guess the word

Think of ways to describe the words above.

See if your partner can guess the word from the clues.

IT'S THE JOINT BETWEEN YOUR LEG AND YOUR FOOT.

YOUR ANKLE!





# THE BODY USEFUL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VERBS AND EXPRESSIONS.  
THIS MONTH: THE BODY.

## SHRUG YOUR SHOULDERS

TO MOVE YOUR SHOULDERS UP AS A WAY OF SAYING, "I DON'T KNOW."



"WHEN I ASKED HER IF SHE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, SHE JUST SHRUGGED HER SHOULDERS."

## STICK YOUR TONGUE OUT

TO PUSH YOUR TONGUE OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.



"THE RUDE LITTLE BOY STUCK HIS TONGUE OUT AT ME."

## BANG YOUR ELBOW

TO HIT YOUR ELBOW AGAINST SOMETHING.



"OH! I'VE JUST BANGED MY ELBOW AGAINST THE TABLE."

## TWIST YOUR ANKLE

IF YOU "TWIST YOUR ANKLE" (OR WRIST), YOU TURN IT TOO MUCH AND THE LIGAMENTS BECOME DAMAGED, WHICH CAN CAUSE A LOT OF PAIN.



"SHE CAN'T PLAY TENNIS BECAUSE SHE'S TWISTED HER ANKLE."

## PURSE YOUR LIPS

TO PUSH YOUR LIPS TOGETHER IN ORDER TO FORM A ROUNDED SHAPE.



"SHE PURSED HER LIPS AND BLEW HIM A KISS."

## CRACK YOUR FINGERS

TO BEND YOUR FINGERS UNTIL THEY MAKE A SNAPPING SOUND (A SHORT, SHARP SOUND).



"STOP CRACKING YOUR FINGERS! IT'S HORRIBLE!"

## BEND YOUR KNEES

WHEN YOU "BEND YOUR KNEES", YOU CHANGE THE POSITION OF YOUR LEGS SO THEY ARE NOT STRAIGHT.



"SHE BENT HER KNEES SO SHE COULD PICK UP THE MONEY."

## TOUCH YOUR TOES

TO USE YOUR FINGERS TO TOUCH YOUR TOES.



"CAN YOU TOUCH YOUR TOES? I CAN'T."



# Wandering Souls

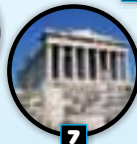
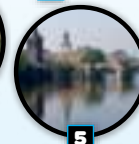
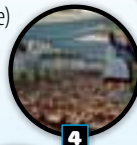
Blog entries by two girls travelling around Europe. By Patrick Howarth



## 1 Pre-reading

Match the European cities (with the names of attractions) (a-g) to the photos (1 to 7).

- Munich (beer halls)
- Athens (Acropolis)
- Rome (Coliseum)
- Amsterdam (canals)
- Copenhagen (Little Mermaid)
- Paris (Eiffel Tower)
- Prague (Charles Bridge)



## 2 Reading I

Read the article once to check your answers from the Pre-reading activity.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and say where the following places are from (the city or country).

- The Carlsberg beer factory
- Patras
- Neuschwanstein Castle
- Tivoli Gardens
- Les Champs Elysees
- Epidaurus
- Karlstejn Castle
- The Louvre
- Anne Frank's House
- The Seine

## 4 Language focus

### The Present Perfect Simple

Look at this extract from the article, "We've just left Paris after two fantastic, but expensive, days." The writer has used the Present Perfect Simple: "have / has" + a past participle ("have left" in this case). Write the following contracted forms in full.

- She's been there before.
- I've never seen it before.
- They've told us about it.
- We haven't had lunch yet.
- He hasn't arrived yet.

## 5 Discussion

- Which places/cities from the article have you visited? What's your favourite?
- Which places / countries / cities from the article would you like to visit? Why?
- Do you like travelling? Why? Why not?

## 1st August

Hi! Jenny here. And this is my AMAZING Interrail blog. My best friend Kate and I have just bought our Interrail passes, and now we're going to see Europe (or as much as we can in 30 days!). The fun begins tomorrow when we're catching the Eurostar from London to Paris. We are SO excited.

## 3rd August

We've just left Paris after two fantastic, but expensive, days. We've been up the Eiffel Tower, around the Louvre (saw the Mona Lisa), down the Champs Elysees and along the banks of the Seine. We've spent too much money on cakes, coffee, and wine. Oh dear. We're now on a train heading for Amsterdam.

## 7th August

Hi! We're in Copenhagen. Amsterdam was great. We visited Anne Frank's house and saw lots of canals. From there we went to Copenhagen, where we've been for the last two days. The Tivoli Gardens are cool and the Carlsberg beer factory is fantastic. We saw the Little Mermaid too. Berlin next.

## 12th August

We've been in Germany for a week nearly. Berlin was brilliant. We went to all the museums and lots of beer halls. Then we caught a train to Munich for more beer halls and the Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria. Everyone speaks English and is really friendly. But we're spending too much money. Tonight we're catching a train to Prague. Some Czech guys we met on a train told us it's much cheaper than Germany.

## 17th August

Prague is fabulous. The best place yet. The architecture is incredible and the whole city is so romantic. We've found a cheap hostel in the centre of the city and we have been doing lots of sightseeing, including Charles Bridge and Prague Castle. We've also been on a couple of trips outside the city; one to Karlstejn Castle, and another to the spa town of Karlovy Vary. Both were lovely. The beer's even better here than in Germany.

## 22nd August

We finally left Prague three days ago and have travelled through Italy to catch the ferry from Bari to Patras in Greece. We didn't spend much time in Italy because we spent so long in the Czech Republic, but we did have time to stop in Venice (unbelievable), Siena (where we missed the Pallio by a day!), and Rome (The Coliseum is my favourite building so far).

## 27th August

We've spent the last four days lying on a beach and it's been wonderful. From Patras we caught a bus to Olympia, which was great but SO hot. Now we're in Nauplion, where the beach is nice. Tomorrow we're going to visit Mycenae and the theatre at Epidaurus before catching a last train to Athens. Greece is cheaper – hurray!

## 31st August

Wow, Athens is hot in August! We visited all the famous places (the Acropolis and the Parthenon, of course) and the museums and had some fantastic Greek meals. Today we're flying back to London. We can't believe that the holiday has nearly finished. It's been brilliant. We both want to do it again next year. We haven't been to Spain and Portugal or Scandinavia, so there are lots of places still to go. We'll post some photos next week.

Love Jenny and Kate ☺

# LET'S TALK ABOUT: **Seafood**



## Let's talk about... **Seafood**

### Useful Expressions

- How do you cook the mussels?
- I've got some **fillets of fish**.
- Have you **deboned** the fish?
- I'm going to cook the fish in the oven with some potatoes.
- He's going to **fry** the fish.
- They cover the fish in **batter** and **deep fry** it.
- We're serving the oysters with lemon.
- Would you like some salt and vinegar with the fish?
- Be careful! It's got a few bones in it.
- She gets all her fish from the **fishmonger's**.

### Other types of fish



## Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, AARON IS PREPARING SOME FOOD. HE'S TALKING TO SANDRA.

**Sandra:** So, what are you cooking?  
**Aaron:** I'm making a fish pie. You don't like fish much, do you?  
**Sandra:** Not really.  
**Aaron:** It's good for you.  
**Sandra:** Yes, I know, but I hate all those bones.  
**Aaron:** This fish hasn't got any.  
**Sandra:** You always find one or two.  
**Aaron:** Well, they won't kill you. Hey, I'm doing mussels in a white wine sauce for the starter.  
**Sandra:** Sounds nice, although I don't like mussels either.  
**Aaron:** You're so fussy.  
**Sandra:** You know me. I'm an environmentalist who's worried about **overfishing**. The world's supply of fish is in danger!  
**Aaron:** Don't worry. The fishmonger's I go to only stocks fish that has been caught ethically. Well, that's what she says anyway. Glass of white wine?  
**Sandra:** Sure. ☺



### GLOSSARY

- a fillet of fish** *n*  
a piece of fish with no bones in it
- to debone** *vb*  
to take the bones out of fish/meat
- to fry** *vb*  
to cook in hot oil
- batter** *n*  
a type of food made of flour, milk and eggs. It is used to cover other food before frying in oil
- to deep fry** *vb*  
to cook food in a lot of oil that covers the food
- a fishmonger's** *n*  
a shop that sells fish/seafood
- a starter** *n*  
food that is served before the main course (soup, salad, etc.)
- overfishing** *n*  
catching too many fish and causing fish stocks to disappear



FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

# The Telephone (part V)

## Special Requests

### Requests

- Could you repeat that, please?
- Would you mind spelling that for me, please?
- Could you speak up a little please?
- Can you speak a little slower please?
- Can you give me her e-mail address, please?
- Can you hold for a minute, please?
- Do you have a pen handy?
- Would you like to repeat that back to me?
- How do you spell that, please?
- Could you send me an e-mail confirming that, please?

### Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, MELINDA IS CALLING UP TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY ABOUT A CAMERA SHE BOUGHT RECENTLY.

**Receptionist:** Cameras Galore. How may I help you?  
**Melinda:** Oh, hi. Could you put me through to someone in the customer services department, please?  
**Receptionist:** Yes, certainly. Hold the line, please.  
**Shop:** Good afternoon. How may I help you?  
**Melinda:** Hi. I bought a camcorder from one of your shops just recently and there seems to be a part missing.  
**Shop:** I beg your pardon. Could you repeat that, please? We seem to have a bad line.  
**Melinda:** Yes, I'm sorry. I bought a camcorder from one of your shops just recently and there's a part missing.  
**Shop:** I beg your pardon.  
**Melinda:** Is that better?  
**Shop:** Ah, yes.  
**Melinda:** Sorry, I was in a tunnel. Anyway, as I was saying, I bought a camcorder from one of your shops and there's a part missing.  
**Shop:** You'll have to bring the camcorder into the store with the receipt.  
**Melinda:** OK, but could you just confirm that you've got the part in stock, please? I don't want to come in for nothing.  
**Shop:** What's the missing part? And what make of camcorder is it?  
**Melinda:** It's a Sony Handycam and the missing part is the memory card. The shop assistant told me the camcorder came with a 4GB memory card, but I can't find it.  
**Shop:** Hold the line, please.  
**Shop:** Yes, we do have that part in the store.  
**Melinda:** Great. What time are you open, please?  
**Shop:** From 9 to 6.  
**Melinda:** Thanks a lot.  
**Shop:** Bye.  
**Melinda:** Bye. ☺



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# DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

IN THIS SECTION, DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



## 1 Activity

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck!

- They was very sad.  
*They were very sad.*
- I not was at home last night.
- They wasn't there.
- You were at the cinema?
- He was in the park?
- We were six in the party.

# SKILLS BOOKLET LISTENING

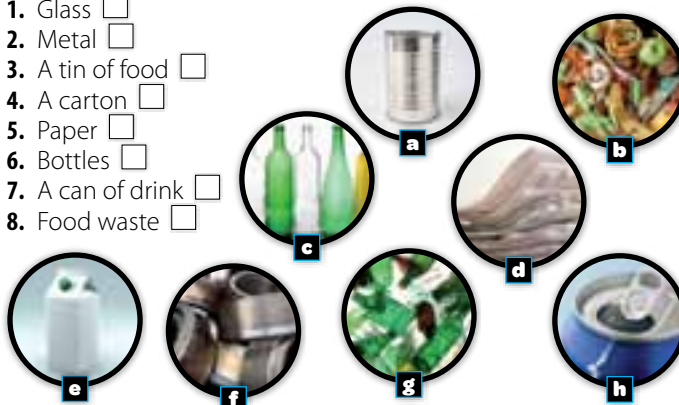


Helping to save the planet.

## 1 Pre-listening

Match the types of rubbish (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

- Glass
- Metal
- A tin of food
- A carton
- Paper
- Bottles
- A can of drink
- Food waste



## 2 Listening I

You are going to listen to two people who are talking about recycling. Listen once and answer this question: Which objects from the Pre-listening activity do they recycle?

## 3 Listening II

Listen again and choose the correct answer.

- The bottles go in the **green / red** bag.
- The paper goes in the **green / blue** bag.
- The tins go in the **yellow / green** bag.
- Jon usually puts everything in **one big plastic bag / a green bag**.
- Maria tells Jon that the scientist on the TV programme works for a **museum / car company**.
- In the end, they go to the shops **by car / on foot**.

## 4 Language focus The First Conditional

Look at this extract from the listening, "If we recycle paper, we won't need to cut down so many trees." The speaker has used a First Conditional structure. Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- If I have time tonight, I'll...
- If it's sunny this weekend, I'll...
- If I go out for lunch, I'll...
- If it rains tonight, I won't...
- If there's nothing good on TV, I'll...



## 5 Discussion

- Do you recycle your rubbish? How? Where?
- Do you think recycling is helping the environment? How?
- What else could you do to help the environment?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

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Comida Vegetariana

The section that makes grammar easy, interesting, and fun.



# GRAMMAR FUN

## Question Words

THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT SOME QUESTION WORDS ("WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHO, WHY", ETC.). THIS IS THE FIRST OF A TWO-PART SERIES. MORE NEXT MONTH.



We can use "what" to ask for information about something.

**For example:**

- a) What did you say?
- b) What happened?

We can also use "what" to ask for opinions of things or people. **For example:**

- a) **A:** What is he like?
- B:** He's tall and handsome and really, really nice.

- b) **A:** What was the film like?
- B:** Not very good.

We can use "why" to ask about a reason for something.

**For example:**

- a) Why did that happen?
- b) Why did you leave early?

And we use "when" to ask about time. **For example:**

- a) When did you leave?
- b) When is the exam?

We can use "where" to ask about place or position.

**For example:**

- a) Where did you put my pen?
- b) Where do you work?

We use "which" when there is a limited choice of something.

**For example:**

- a) Which bag do you like? The red one or the green one?
- b) Which towel did you take? Mine or yours?

### 1 Exercise

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Complete the sentences with the correct question word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ one do you like? The first one or the second one?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ did they tell you about it? On Friday or Saturday?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the weather like?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the money? In the bank or in your wallet?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ did you say that? Because you were angry?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ happened after that? Did they leave?

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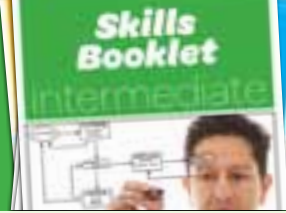
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# Transport Time

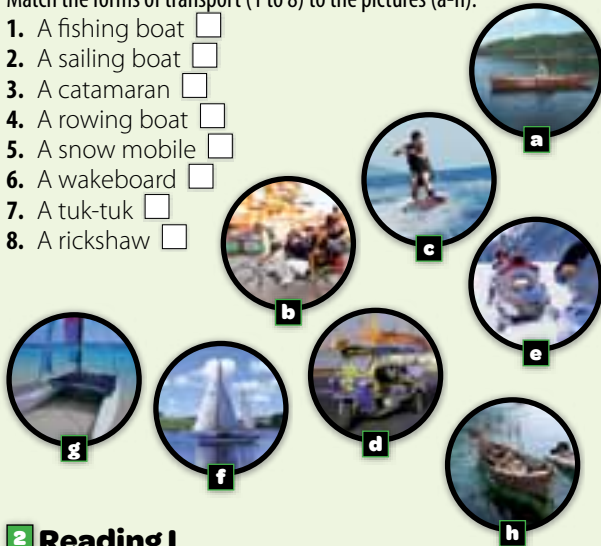
By any means – one hundred and twelve ways to travel. By Patrick Howarth

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Match the forms of transport (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

1. A fishing boat
2. A sailing boat
3. A catamaran
4. A rowing boat
5. A snow mobile
6. A wakeboard
7. A tuk-tuk
8. A rickshaw



## 2 Reading I

Read the article once and answer this question. What is unusual about Charlie Boorman's trip in the television series *By Any Means*?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the following questions.

What form of transport did Charlie take...

1. ...in Burma?
2. ...from Ireland to Liverpool?
3. ...from Dover to Calais?
4. ...from Dubai to Mumbai?
5. ...from Wicklow to the Irish Sea?
6. ...in Nepal?
7. ...in China?
8. ...from Malaysia to Singapore?
9. ...in Delhi?

## 4 Language focus The First Conditional

Look at this extract from the article, "...if it moves, Charlie will try to ride it..." In this example, the writer has used a First Conditional construction: "if" + The Present Simple / "will" + a verb. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1. If we leave now, we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) there on time.
2. I won't be happy if you \_\_\_\_\_ (not help) me.
3. She'll send the e-mail if she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) time tonight.
4. If they see what you've done, they \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really angry.

## 5 Discussion

1. Which forms of transport from this article have you used?
2. Which forms of unusual transport would you like to use?
3. What's your favourite form of transport? Why?

**W**hat's the best way to travel around the world? Of course, that depends. If you want to do it quickly, then you'll need to go by aeroplane. But if you want to make it fun, you should do what Charlie Boorman did.

If you like motorbikes, you may have heard of Charlie Boorman, who is an actor, traveller and world famous motorbike enthusiast. He's been all over the world on a bike. In 2004, he and his best friend, film star Ewan McGregor, rode from London to New York via Europe and Asia – *The Long Way Round*, as their hit TV series was called. In 2007, he and Ewan set off again, this time riding *The Long Way Down*, from Scotland to Cape Town, South Africa. However, Charlie doesn't only love motorbikes – he's a fan of lots of different types of transport. In fact, if it moves, Charlie will try to ride it, sail it, fly it or drive it. This was demonstrated in 2008 when Charlie travelled from Wicklow in Ireland to Sydney, Australia, by any means of transport except a plane.



The series, called *By Any Means*, was a big hit on British TV. One of the aims of the trip was for Charlie to travel by as many different forms of transport as possible... and he was very successful. He managed to use 112 different types of transport, and he only had to catch a plane once (after a natural disaster in Burma made other ways of travelling impossible).

Can you think of 112 different forms of transport? If you can, you're a genius. In fact, Charlie used lots of different types of cars, boats, and bikes and each one counted as part of the 112. For example, Charlie took a fishing boat from Ireland to Liverpool, a small sailing boat from Dover to Calais, a catamaran from Venice to Croatia, a cargo ship from Dubai to Mumbai, India, a rowing boat along the Ganges, and a yacht from Indonesia to Darwin, Australia. And these are only some of the examples of the ways he travelled on water.

Of course, Charlie Boorman also got to ride lots of different motorbikes. In fact, the journey began with a bike ride from Wicklow to the Irish Sea. He also rode motorcycles in India, Cambodia and Australia, where the journey ended with Charlie riding into Sydney with a big gang of Australian bikers.

There were also lots of more unusual forms of transport on the journey. Charlie rode an elephant in Nepal and horses in Australia. He flew by balloon in China and helicopter in the Himalayas. He rode a snow mobile and a ski tube in the Snowy Mountains of Australia and he was also the first man to wakeboard from Malaysia to Singapore. One of his favourite vehicles was a tuk-tuk – a three-wheeled motorised rickshaw that he rode in Delhi. In total, the trip took 102 days and Charlie and his crew travelled through 24 countries. The journey was such a success that in 2009, Charlie set off again, this time to travel from Sydney to Tokyo "by any means". The TV series and the book should be out soon! 🍀



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# READING

## Ridiculous Requests

Work becoming more demanding with ridiculous demands.

### 1 Pre-reading

See if you can invent a ridiculous work-related request for each of the workers below.

Postal workers Receptionists

Customer services department employees

Telephone operators

Office employees Shop assistants

For example: *All postal workers must sing whilst delivering letters.*

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once and compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, match the sentence beginnings (1 to 5) with the endings (a-e).

- Postal workers have been told to...
- In one company, all office supplies were...
- A receptionist had to test pens to see that...
- At one company, employees had to sign a book...
- Employees at a clothes shop had to...

- ...they were really out of ink.
- ...say "hi" to everyone who walked in.
- ...every time they went to the toilet.
- ...locked up.
- ...walk faster.

### 4 Language focus

#### The use of "how"

Look at this extract from the article, "...managers wanted to control how fast office supplies were being used up." We can use "how" + an adjective when we want to know about the extent of something. Complete the sentences with the adjectives below.

clever long fast cold

- We want to see how \_\_\_\_\_ he can run.
- We want to know how \_\_\_\_\_ the piece of string is.
- I'd like to know how \_\_\_\_\_ she really is.
- I can't believe how \_\_\_\_\_ the room is.

### 5 Discussion

- Which request is the most ridiculous/reasonable? Why?
- What's the most ridiculous request you've ever heard?
- Have you ever had to ask someone to do something ridiculous? What? Why?

Have you ever been told to do something ridiculous at work? Here are a few examples of absurd work-related demands.

Every day, hundreds of **postal workers** brave the cold, rain, heat and snow in order to **deliver** letters across the country. They have to **put up with** angry customers, vicious dogs and **sore feet** from all the walking. But that isn't enough for bosses at the Royal Mail. They don't seem to be happy with the speed of delivery. So, in a recent **ruling**, postal workers were informed that they had to **walk faster**. "Postmen and women have been told to walk at 7km/h when they deliver mail. Previously staff had a **target** to walk at 3 km/h," explained a spokesperson for the Communication Workers Union. "This means workers have larger **rounds**, work longer hours and on top of all that, they aren't even paid **overtime**."

But there are lots more companies with ridiculous ideas. In another company managers wanted to control how fast **office supplies** were being used up. So, all the cupboards and drawers containing supplies were **locked up**. In order to get a new pen, employees had to **prove** that the old pen was entirely **out of ink**. The receptionist who was in charge of the key to the supply cupboards had to test the pen that she was given before she could give out a new one.

At another company, employees had to **document** everything they did during the day, **accounting for** every minute. And every time they wanted to go to the toilet, they were required to sign the "in" and "out" attendance books.

In another company, staff in the customer services department were ordered to smile while talking on the phone so they would "sound more friendly". At times, the conversations were **recorded**. Later, managers would **review** the sound files to make sure that their employees sounded sufficiently "happy".

In another company, employees weren't allowed to speak directly to the owners or anyone above their direct boss unless they were talked to. This often made the simplest **tasks** extremely time consuming. And in a paper-manufacturing company, employees were ordered to park exactly in the centre of the parking space. And at a clothes shop, all employees were told to say "hi" to absolutely everyone who walked into the shop. They were also forbidden to wear any clothing with a logo of a clothes manufacturer that wasn't sold in the shop.

You couldn't **make it up!** 🍀



#### GLOSSARY

- a postal worker** *n*  
someone whose job consists of taking letters/parcels to people's houses
- to brave** *vb*  
if you "brave" the cold, you go out even though it is very cold
- to deliver** *vb*  
to take/transport goods/letters, etc. to someone's house/office, etc.
- to put up with** *exp*  
if you have to "put up with" something bad, you have to tolerate and accept it
- sore feet** *n*  
if you have "sore feet", your feet hurt – often because you have been walking too much
- a ruling** *n*  
a formal decision; a regulation
- a target** *n*  
an objective
- a round** *n*  
a postal worker's "round" is the route he/she takes when delivering letters
- overtime** *n*  
extra time that you work after your normal hours
- office supplies** *n*  
pens / pencils / paper, etc. that you use in an office job
- to lock up** *phr vb*  
to close with a key
- to prove** *vb*  
to demonstrate
- out of ink** *exp*  
with no more ink (the blue/black, etc. chemical substance in a pen)
- to document** *vb*  
to record officially
- to account for** *exp*  
to give an explanation for
- to record** *vb*  
to put sound/images on an audio/video file
- to review** *vb*  
to check
- a task** *n*  
a job that you have to do
- to make something up** *exp*  
to invent something



# READING II

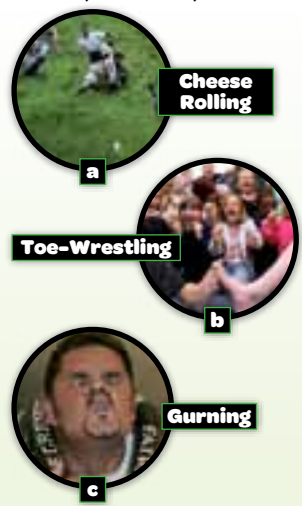
## Mad Dogs & Englishmen

When it comes to crazy, there's no one quite like the Brits. By Sam Gordon

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the names and pictures of unusual "sports" from England. What do you think they consist of?



### 2 Reading I

Read the article once to check your ideas.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again and write a brief description of each "sport".

### 4 Language focus

#### The Present Perfect Passive

Look at this extract from the article, "It's been practised in England since 1297..." In this example, the writer has used a Present Perfect Passive construction ("have/has been" + a past participle). Transform the following sentences into the Present Perfect Passive.

1. They have made the cake.
2. They have sold the house.
3. She has bought the car.
4. He has framed the picture.

### 5 Discussion

1. Which of these "sports" would you like to try? Why?
2. Are there any unusual sports in your country? What?
3. What's your favourite spectator sport?

Are there any unusual contests or competitions in your country? The English are famous for their wacky pastimes. This is the first of a two-part series.

Top of the list of **bizarre** British pastimes has to be Cheese Rolling. Every May, Cooper's Hill in Gloucester is **host to** a race of man against a Double Gloucester cheese. The cheese is **rolled** from the top of the hill and a group of competitors chase it down the hill and try to **overtake** it before it reaches the bottom. This may sound easy, but it isn't especially as the cheese can reach speeds of up to 120 kph. It's also highly dangerous; and every year there are several **injuries**. In fact, 2005's main race had to be **delayed** because there were no ambulances, as they were already being used to take competitors from previous races to hospital.



Next on the list is the World **Toe-Wrestling** Championships. This takes place in Derbyshire every year. As part of the "toe fight", two competitors sit opposite one another on a platform (called the "Toedium"). They both **lock big toes** and then try to push each other's feet to the ground. For the last

few years, the competition has been dominated by Alan "Nasty" Nash, and Paul "the Toeminator" Beech, who have won the title ten times between them. It is a sport the British are actually good at, which is just as well, given that it was invented by a group of walkers in Staffordshire who wanted to find a game that Britain could be **successful** at. Unfortunately, numerous efforts to get the sport Olympic status have been unsuccessful.

However, toe wrestling has more chance of Olympic recognition than the sport of "gurning". The aim of gurning is to pull the most **grotesque** face possible. It's been practised in England since 1297, and the World Gurning Championship takes place annually in Egremont, Cumbria. The undoubted star of the sport was Peter Jackman, who won the Championship four times and whose speciality was a face called "The Bela Lugosi". Jackman even had all of his teeth removed in 2000 to make his facial features easier to manoeuvre, but tragically died in Spain three years later while playing golf. His **epitaph** was, "Gurn", but not forgotten."



More next month! ✪

**GLOSSARY**

**bizarre** *adj*  
unusual; strange

**to be host to** *exp*  
if a country "is host to" an event, they organise that event

**to roll** *vb*  
when something "rolls", it moves along a surface, turning over many times

**to overtake** *vb*  
if you "overtake" something that is moving, you go faster than it and pass it

**an injury** *n*  
if there is an "injury", someone breaks a leg/arm, etc.

**to delay** *vb*  
if an event is "delayed", it starts later than planned

**a toe** *n*  
one of the five "fingers" on your feet

**wrestling** *n*  
a form of fighting that is a sport

**to lock** *n*  
if two people "lock" arms/feet/toes, etc. they join these body parts together

**a big toe** *n*  
the biggest/thickest toe on your foot

**successful** *adj*  
if someone is "successful", they win or achieve what they want

**grotesque** *adj*  
disgusting / horrible / revolting / very ugly

**an epitaph** *n*  
the text on someone's gravestone (the stone that marks where they are buried when they are dead)

**"gurn"** *exp*  
this sounds like the word "gone"

# HOW TO... SPEAK ENGLISH



THIS MONTH, HOW TO... SPEAK ENGLISH. THIS IS THE SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES ON SPEAKING ENGLISH.

Last month, we looked at spoken production (simply producing words). This month, we're looking at spoken interaction (speaking/conversing with other people). Spoken interaction basically refers to any communicative act in which two or more people are exchanging information. It can take many forms: a casual chat, a formal discussion, a debate, an argument, an interview or a negotiation.

In spoken interaction there is no clear structure. Just think back to the last conversation you had. How did it go? Smoothly? Badly? Basically, the speakers in an interaction construct the conversation together. They listen, respond, put forward ideas and work together to communicate. A number of factors can determine how well the conversation goes: your motivation, who you're speaking to, where you are and the time of day, your physical and mental state at the time of speaking, and how the other speaker feels. On top of that, paralinguistic elements such as body language, voice pitch and tone of voice can also affect the conversation.

There are several interesting features of spoken interaction. These include hesitation, silences, over-lapping (when both speakers talk at the same time), repetition, mumbling, non-standard English and even errors. The use of conversational fillers is also common. These include words and expressions such as 'er' / 'erm' / 'like' / 'I mean' and 'you know', which don't really mean anything, but which are designed to fill space, or allow the speaker to hold the floor while they think about what they're going to say. Finally, in spoken interaction, very few people speak in grammatically-correct and complete sentences. Just look at this example from a transcript of a native-speaker conversation:

**Harrison:** So, the other day, I was, erm, walking, walking down the street.

**Brooke:** Oh, yeah?

**Harrison:** I mean, I was cycling, cycling and there's two people and they're, they're, like, looking at me...

**Brooke:** Looking?

**Harrison:** Yeah, and, like, I, I try to...

During the interaction, the speakers are using both receptive and productive skills – they're listening and speaking at the same time. The key skill is listening – your ability to understand what is being said. This doesn't mean understanding every word. In fact, in many cases, people won't be speaking very clearly at all. So, the most important thing is to capture the meaning of what the other person is trying to say. In order to do this, you need to know all about the keys to English pronunciation (see previous articles in this series), particularly all about

connected speech and word and sentence stress. The most important thing to remember is that English is a stress-timed language and that only the key words are stressed (usually the nouns and verbs). Most of the other words are not pronounced so clearly. So, you need to be able to listen out for these, and then to try to use this information to work out what the speaker is trying to say.

When it comes to participating in the conversation, you can actually get by with very little. In conversation, we use a lot of fixed expressions. Some are designed to show that you are following things, "Yeah, right. / Of course. / I know. / Tell me about it! / You're joking?"

Others are used as a way of encouraging or supporting the speaker, or as a way of showing sympathy, "I know what you mean. / You can say that again. / Really? / I know the feeling. / Why was that? / Who said that?"

Participating in spoken interaction is never easy, especially when it involves native speakers. The key is to just try to keep up and follow the conversation as best you can. Then, when you feel comfortable, you can use one of the fixed expressions, or even contribute with a story or comment. Be bold, be brave and, above all, be quick!

Have fun! And good luck! 🍀



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track 12

## SKILLS BOOKLET LISTENING



*Ancient festivals that are still going strong.*

### 1 Pre-listening

Match the words (1 to 6) to the pictures (a-f). Can you think of any more "festival-related" words. See if you can make a description of a festival with some of these words.

1. A procession
2. A dancer
3. Acrobats
4. A flame thrower
5. A feast
6. A goddess



### 2 Listening I

You are going to listen to someone talking about four different festivals.

Listen once. Which one sounds the most interesting? Why?

1. The Nevruz Festival
2. The Day of the Dead
3. Esala Perahera
4. The Marriage of the Trees

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Where is each festival from? Choose from the countries below. Then, match the countries to the names of the festivals (1 to 4) from Listening I.

**Sri Lanka Italy Mexico Turkey**

### 4 Listening III

Listen again. Then, write a very short description of each festival.

### 5 Language focus The Second Conditional

Look at this extract from the listening, "Now, if you wanted to see a Mexican festival, the end of October would be a good time." The speaker has used a Second Conditional construction ("if" + a Past Simple verb / "would" + an infinitive verb). Complete the following sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. If I had a million dollars, I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a house by the beach.
2. I would pay you a lot of money if you \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me the answer.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really happy if you invited her to the party.
4. They wouldn't mind if you \_\_\_\_\_ (borrow) their car.

### 6 Discussion

1. Have you heard about or seen any of these festivals? Give details.
2. What interesting festivals are there from your country/city/town, etc.?
3. Which international festival would you most like to go to? Why?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Hot English LANGUAGE SERVICES & SKILLS BOOKLET LISTENING (B1)



# AMAZING WORLD: POLAND

POLAND IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY WITH A LONG HISTORY AND LOTS OF INTERESTING THINGS TO SEE. HERE'S OUR LIST OF THE BEST PLACES TO VISIT.



## SOPOT

Sopot is in the north of Poland next to the Baltic Sea.

It's a popular summer tourist destination and a health spa with the longest wooden pier in Europe (515.5 metres). It is also famous for the Sopot International Song Festival, the largest musical event after the Eurovision Song Contest. Before leaving, try "gofry" (waffles) with whipped cream and blueberries (or other toppings). They're delicious!



## WROCLAW

Wroclaw is the fourth largest city in Poland. It's in

the south on the Oder River. There's a 14th-century town hall in its beautiful market square. To see the city, just follow the "path of dwarfs" (small, metal creatures). They're designed to point out the top sights. There's one next to the Psychology and Languages Department of the University of Wroclaw sitting there in deep thought.



## KAZIMIERZ DOLNY

This is a small town in eastern

Poland on the eastern bank of the Vistula River. Since the 19th century it has become a popular holiday destination, especially for artists. It's about a two-hour car ride from the capital city Warsaw, so it's also a weekend getaway destination. During the 16th

and 17th centuries the town was an important trading centre for grain along the river, and it has a Renaissance feel to it.



## MAZURY LAKE DISTRICT

The Mazury Lake District is in the east of Poland. It consists of about 2,700 lakes which are connected by a network of streams, canals and rivers. It's a great place for fishing, boating or water sports.



## WARSAW

Some of the key attractions in Warsaw are the palaces and the parks. The Royal Baths Park was designed in the 17th century in baroque style. There are two palaces there, both from the 17th century: The Palace on the Water, and the Palace on the Island. Wilanow Palace is another spectacular palace. It is in Wilanow Park, and it was built in the 17th century by King Jan III Sobieski. The palace has a huge art collection including paintings, books, porcelain, drawings and manuscripts. The grounds are also impressive and include a lake and a lovely stream surrounded by a forest.

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## ZAKOPANE

Zakopane is in a large valley between the Tatra Mountains and Gubalowka Hill in the south, and it's a great place for skiing. Bialka Tatrzenska is a

charming village in the south with mountain activities such as **sledging** and skating, and is only 20 km from Zakopane.



## GDANSK

This Gothic-style city is well worth a visit. Gdansk is where the Solidarity movement was created by political activist Lech Wałęsa. He played a big part in ending Communist rule all over Central Europe. While you're there, buy some **amber** jewellery – it's one of the few places where you can find it.



## MALBORK CASTLE

Malbork Castle was built in 1230 by Teutonic Knights who arrived on the banks of the Vistula River and settled there. The castle passed into Polish hands in the 15th century. For the next three centuries, Malbork Castle served as the royal residence for Polish kings during their annual visit to Pomerania. The castle is among the largest **brick** structures in Europe. There's a hotel in the castle grounds where you can stay.



## WOLIN NATIONAL PARK

Wolin National Park is one of the smallest national parks in Poland, but also one of the most spectacular. There are **steep cliffs overlooking** the Baltic Sea to the north, with **breathtaking views** from two

special **viewpoints**: Kawcza Gora (which is about 70 metres above sea level), and Gosan (about 100 metres above sea level). The park has rare plants and wildlife including sea-eagles and 16 kinds of orchids. It is also a European bison sanctuary.



## CRACOW

Cracow's Main Market Square is Europe's largest medieval marketplace (comparable in size and greatness with St Mark's Square in Venice). Polish kings came here the day after their coronation. Also in Cracow you can find Sukiennice (the Cracow Cloth Hall), the oldest shopping mall in the world. From Cracow, you can visit Auschwitz, the infamous concentration camp where more than 1.5 million people died. It's a very emotional experience.



## SALT MINE

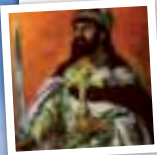
The 700-year-old Wieliczka Salt Mine is an underground labyrinth. It reaches a depth of 327 metres and is over 300 kilometres long, with a 3.5-km touring route for visitors (about 1% of the total length of the mine's passages). There are historic statues, mythical figures and several **chapels** and multi-level **chambers** that have been carved from the salt. There are also subterranean lakes with a ghost-like light that reflects off them.

So, when are you coming to Poland? 🇵🇱

# POLISH HISTORY TIMELINE

POLAND HAS HAD A LONG AND TRAGIC HISTORY.

**10TH CENTURY** – By the mid-10th century, the Polania tribe becomes dominant.



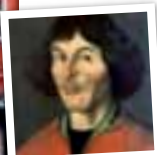
**966** – Duke Mieszko I becomes Poland's first recorded leader.

He converts to Christianity after marrying Dabrowka of Bohemia. This is formally recognised as the birth of the Polish nation.

**1364** – A university is founded in Cracow. It is one of Europe's first universities.

**14TH CENTURY** – There are many wars against several enemies including Teutonic Knights, Tatars, Russia and the Ottoman Empire. However, the country prospers economically and culturally.

**1543** – Nicolaus Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik) publishes *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres*, claiming that the earth revolves around the sun.



**1569** – The Polish Parliament (Sejm) unifies Poland and Lithuania into one state.

**1573** – The Sejm guarantees religious equality to Roman Catholics, Jews,



Protestants, Orthodox Christians and Muslims.

**1596-1609** – Poland's capital city is moved from Cracow to Warsaw.



**1655-60** – Sweden invades Poland with

the help of the Tartars and Cossacks. Poland's population of 10 million is reduced to 6 million as a result of the war and plague.

**1700s** – Poland's three powerful neighbours (Russia, Prussia and Austria) divide Poland among themselves, leaving a small part for the Poles.

**1793** – Russia and Prussia take over half of what is left of Poland.

**1794** – Tadeusz Kosciuszko starts a rebellion for Polish independence, but it is not strong enough to defeat the Russians.



**1807** – Napoleon creates a Polish state, the Duchy of Warsaw.

**1815** – At the end of the Napoleonic wars, Poland is divided by the allies at the Congress of Vienna. The eastern portion is ruled by Russia. Over the years, Russia attempts to eradicate Polish culture, making Russian the official language of the Russian partition. Prussia does the same in their portion of

Poland, attempting to Germanicise the Poles. Under the Austrian partition, Galician Poles are allowed to retain some autonomy.

**1890s** – Poland experiences mass emigration due to poverty. Up until 1914, approximately 4 million Poles (out of a population of 22 million) emigrate to the United States.



**1914-18** (World War I) – Poles are forced into the Russian, German, and Austrian armies and are obliged to fight against one another.

**1918** – Poland becomes independent at the end of World War I.

**1919** – The Treaty of Versailles gives Poland western Prussia.



**1919-20** – During the Polish-Soviet War, Jozef Pilsudski's army defeats the Russians. Poland gains western Ukraine and Belarus.

**1926** – Pilsudski makes himself dictator of Poland. The economy stabilises and Polish culture continues to prosper.

**SEPTEMBER 1939** – Nazi Germany invades western Poland on 1st September; and the Soviet Union invades eastern Poland on 17th

September. Mass arrests and executions occur, including the Katyn Forest Massacre (1940).

**JUNE 1941** – Nazi Germany attacks the Soviet Union. Poland remains under the Nazi regime for the next three years.

**FEBRUARY 1945** – Russia, the United States and Great Britain meet at the Yalta Conference and agree to leave Poland under Soviet control.

**1978** – Karol Wojtyla, the Archbishop of Cracow, is elected Pope. He is the first non-Italian pope in nearly 500 years.



**1980** – Strikes and riots cause the economy to **crumble**. At the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, the workers are allowed to organise into an independent trade union



called Solidarity. Strike leader Lech Walesa is elected as the head of Solidarity. Solidarity gradually grows into a strong, non-violent, socio-political movement.

**1990** – Poland's first free elections are won by Lech Walesa.

**1999** – Poland joins **NATO**.

**2004** – Poland becomes a member of the European Union and continues to gain international credibility. 🇵🇱

## POLAND

**CAPITAL CITY:** Warsaw.  
**Location:** Central Europe (borders with Germany and the Russian Republic).  
**FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM POLAND:** Frederic Chopin, Marie Curie and Lech Walesa.  
**POPULATION:** 38 million (approximately).  
**PRIME MINISTER:** Donald Tusk



**EX-PRESIDENT:** Lech Kaczynski (tragically died in a plane crash).

## GLOSSARY

- a pier** *n*  
a structure that goes from land into the sea. It is usually for walking on
- a waffle** *n*  
a type of food made with flour, sugar, milk and butter. It often has little square/diamond shapes on it
- a topping** *n*  
food (such as cheese/chocolate, etc.) that you put on top of other food
- a market square** *n*  
a public square where food is sold
- a sight** *n*  
a place for tourists to visit in a city
- a getaway destination** *n*  
a place where people go for short holidays. It is often close to where they live
- a lake** *n*  
a large area of water that is inland and not part of the sea
- a stream** *n*  
a small river
- sledging** *n*  
going down snow-covered hills on a sledge (a wooden/plastic device that you sit on)
- amber** *n*  
a hard yellow-orange fossil resin used for making jewellery
- brick** *n*  
a rectangular block of clay used for building houses/buildings
- steep** *adj*  
a "steep" hill/mountain/cliff has a sharp angle (60°/70°, etc.) and is difficult to go up
- a cliff** *n*  
a mountain next to the sea
- to overlook** *vb*  
if A "overlooks" B (a view), you can see B from A because A is higher
- brehtaking** *n*  
incredible; amazing; wonderful
- a view** *n*  
what you can see when you look around you
- a viewpoint** *n*  
a high place for observing mountains, hills, the sea, etc.
- a chapel** *n*  
a small church that is part of a building/house
- a chamber** *n*  
an enclosed space or compartment
- to crumble** *vb*  
if an economy "crumbles", it stops functioning
- NATO** *abbr*  
the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation – a military organisation that consists of European and North American countries

The king of bandits. by Martin Quinn

# Robin Hood

*"Robin Hood, Robin Hood, riding through the glen.  
Robin Hood, Robin Hood, with his band of men.  
Feared by the bad, loved by the good,  
Robin Hood, Robin Hood, Robin Hood."*

I'M AS STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW!

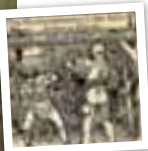
EVERYONE'S HEARD OF ROBIN HOOD – THE MAN IN GREEN TIGHTS WHO STOLE FROM THE RICH TO GIVE TO THE POOR. THERE ARE FILMS ABOUT HIM, PLAYS ABOUT HIM AND SONGS ABOUT HIM, AND HE'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF POPULAR CULTURE. BUT WHO WAS HE?

Robin Hood first appears in the 13th Century. Many of the earliest stories about Robin Hood come from **ballads**. One ballad from the early 15th century begins, "Robyn hode in scherewode stod" (which is old English for, "Robin Hood in Sherwood stood"). Robin has also been connected to folk traditions. Figures such as the Green Man (similar in appearance to Robin Hood) appeared in May Day ceremonies. In fact, some of these ceremonies are still **held in honour of** the Green Man in countries with Celtic or Germanic traditions. Some say that Marian was a reference to the May Queen, which is another part of the May Day celebrations.

What is clear is that no two sources seem to agree on who Robin was or where he lived. Some claim that the name Robin Hood was used in England to refer to criminals in general. Others say that Robin was a **bandit** leader who lived in Sherwood Forest with his band of Merry Men (as his followers became known). However, others give his birthplace as Loxley, Sheffield in South Yorkshire. And another site in Yorkshire (now known as Robin Hood's Well) has been associated with Robin Hood since about 1422.



Some say that a book by Howard Pyle, *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* (1883), has had the most influence on the modern-day legend. In Pyle's story, Prince John rules England under a reign of terror, collecting **taxes** from the poor. He's assisted by the evil Sheriff of Nottingham. Robin and his Merry Men (including Little John, Will Scarlett, Friar Tuck and Much the Miller's Son) are fighting against him. They hide in Sherwood Forest (in Nottingham) and rob from rich **merchants** and tax collectors travelling through. The money is then given to poor people who are suffering from heavy taxation and subsequent poverty. Robin's love interest is Maid Marian, a beautiful noblewoman. Sherwood Forest is close to the town of Nottingham where Robin's arch-nemesis, the Sheriff of



Nottingham, has his headquarters.



Much of this story is based on fact. During the 12th century, England was in a state of turmoil. The king of England was Richard I, who reigned from 1189 to 1199.

He was known as Richard the Lionheart, and spent much of his time on Crusades in the Holy Land. While he was away, his brother, Prince John, ruled. John was, by all accounts, a cruel and unpopular ruler.



In the 20th century, the legend of Robin Hood became a popular topic for films. These were based on traditional stories of the legendary English folk hero. One of the earliest films was *Robin Hood* (1922), which starred Douglas Fairbanks. And one

of the most famous was *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938 –



starring Errol Flynn). In this film, Robin is a **Saxon** lord, and the **baddies** are **Normans**. Robin enters an archery competition. He

wins, but is then arrested. However, his Merry Men (with Marian's help) rescue Robin from execution at the **gallows**. Meanwhile, King Richard has returned to England **in disguise**, but is recognised by one of Prince John's followers. Prince John plans to murder his brother and have himself **crowned king**. However, Marian alerts the bandits and the murder plot is **thwarted**, but Marian is captured by the Sheriff. Robin, who in the meantime has met the king, disrupts Prince John's coronation, kills the Sheriff's **henchman**, Sir Guy of Gisbourne, and rescues Marian. Richard is restored to the throne, Robin marries Marian, and they all live happily ever after. Hurrah!



But that's not the only film. In *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (1991 – starring Kevin Costner), Robin is a Norman **crusader** who returns from the Middle East with a Moorish companion (played by Morgan Freeman). The

film also starred Alan Rickman (as the Sheriff) and Sean Connery (as King Richard). More elements were introduced to the story, including witchcraft and Celtic warriors acting as mercenaries for the Sheriff. Comedy king Mel Brooks **parodied** the story of Robin Hood with his film *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* (1993).



Robin Hood has been a popular character in TV shows, too. A television series from the 1980s, *Robin of Sherwood*, starring Jason Connery (Sean Connery's son), was well received.

*Maid Marian and her Merry Men* was a very popular children's comedy TV series in Britain that ran for several seasons. In this series, Maid Marian is the leader and Robin is her **bungling sidekick**. One of the most recent TV series in the UK



was *Robin Hood* (2006). The series ran for three seasons and had a number of unusual **twists**, including the fact that Robin receives help from another **outlaw** – the mask-wearing Watchman, who is actually a woman.

These days, Robin Hood is an important part of popular culture. His name is often used to refer to outlaws who help the poor or disadvantaged. Many famous criminals have been **likened to** Robin Hood, including US gangster Al Capone (1899-1947) and Australian outlaw Ned Kelly (1854-1880). The Colombian drug lord, Pablo Escobar (1949-1993), is another example of this. He was one of the biggest drug-traffickers in history, and may have been responsible for hundreds of deaths. However, many of the poor **slum dwellers** of Medellín in Colombia (where Escobar had his powerbase) consider him a hero for the help he gave to them. But it isn't only criminals who associate themselves with the Robin Hood "brand". Just recently, a professional gambler in the States has created a website **www.Robinhood702.com**. He has promised to donate any money he wins at casinos in Las Vegas to poor people. "My goal is to save someone's house, pay their debts and win back their American dream," he claims.

It seems that the legend of Robin Hood is as strong as ever. 🌱



## Robin Hood

The latest film to be based on the story of the English folk hero is *Robin Hood* (2010). It's directed by Ridley Scott and stars Russell Crowe (who plays the part of Robin) and Cate Blanchett (who plays the part of Maid Marion). The film starts after the death of King Richard, and follows the life of the famous outlaw and his female companion. Interestingly, director Ridley Scott was going to portray the Sheriff of Nottingham as heroic, but this was later changed.



## King Richard I

Richard I (1157-1199) was the king of England from 6th July 1189 to 6th April 1199. He was one of the most important Christian commanders of the Third Crusade (1189-1192). Richard I (also known as Richard the Lionheart) won several victories against Saladin (1137-1193) – a Kurdish Muslim leader who fought against the Crusaders.



## King John

King John of England (1167-1216) was the successor to the throne of England after his brother, Richard the Lionheart, died in 1199. King John ruled from 6th April 1199 until 19th October 1216. During King Richard's absence in the crusades, Prince John attempted to take over control of England. King John is best-known as the king who signed the Magna Carta in 1215 – a document that limited the powers of a king and helped pave the way for constitutional law in the English-speaking world.



## Robin Hood

Robin Hood is a legendary English folk hero from the 12th or 13th century who is probably based on a real bandit, but no one is really sure. He is generally portrayed as a supporter of King Richard I. He is accompanied in the legends by his band of Merry Men who live with him in Sherwood Forest, near Nottingham. His love interest is Maid Marian, a noblewoman.



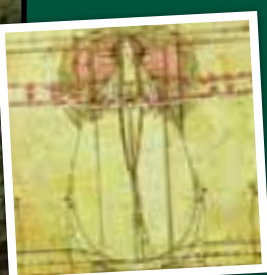
## The Green Man

The Green Man is a mythical being from many northern European countries (although similar characters have been found in the Middle East and Asia). The Green Man has been connected with the Celtic nature god Cernunnos, as well as Medieval characters such as Puck and Jack in the Green. Robin Hood is often associated with the Green Man, most probably because they were both benevolent and both lived in forests.



## The May Queen

The May Queen is a common tradition with roots in paganism. The May Queen is a teenage girl who leads processions on May Day, the first day of summer. Marian has become associated with the May Queen through her association with Robin Hood. Some say that the May Queen used to be killed as a human sacrifice, but this is thought to be anti-pagan propaganda.



### GLOSSARY

- tights** *n*  
clothing that covers the legs from the waist to the feet
- a ballad** *n*  
a song (often with a story in it)
- to hold** *vb*  
if an event is "held" somewhere, it happens in that place
- in honour of** *exp*  
if something is done "in honour of" someone, it is done as a mark of respect for that person
- a bandit** *n*  
a successful robber
- a tax** *n*  
money paid to the government for services: education, police, teachers, etc.
- a merchant** *n*  
a person who buys and sells goods for a profit
- a Saxon** *n*  
a member of the West Germanic tribe that invaded Britain in the 5th and 6th centuries. At the time of Robin Hood, Saxons were mostly poor farmers who spoke a language which later became modern English
- the baddies** *n*  
the bad, evil, cruel people in a story/film, etc.
- a Norman** *n*  
a member of a tribe from northern France. Normans invaded England in 1066. Many Normans became aristocrats in England
- gallows** *n*  
a structure used for hanging people (killing them with a rope around the neck)
- in disguise** *exp*  
with clothes that make you look different or that hide your identity
- to crown king** *exp*  
if someone is "crowned king", they are declared king in an official ceremony
- to thwart** *vb*  
to prevent from happening; to stop
- a henchman** *n*  
a person who does violent, cruel or dishonest things for his/her master
- a crusader** *n*  
a soldier who went on the military expeditions to the Holy Land (Jerusalem)
- to parody** *vb*  
to make fun of a book/film/story by doing a funny version of it
- bungling** *adj*  
a "bungling" person does things badly and often makes mistakes
- a sidekick** *n*  
a close friend or follower of someone. The "sidekick" is of inferior status
- a twist** *n*  
an unexpected event in a story
- an outlaw** *n*  
a person who is hiding from the police/law
- to liken to** *exp*  
to compare to
- a slum** *n*  
an urban area with poor houses with no electricity, water, etc.
- a dweller** *n*  
a person who lives in an area

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Australia's hard man actor.  
By Christine Bohn

# Russell Crowe

RUSSELL CROWE IS A WORLD-FAMOUS ACTOR, SINGER AND SONG-WRITER. HE'S BEEN NOMINATED THREE TIMES FOR AN OSCAR AS BEST ACTOR; AND HE WON ONE FOR HIS ROLE IN THE FILM *GLADIATOR* (2000). BUT THERE'S MUCH MORE TO THIS MULTI-TALENTED ACTOR.

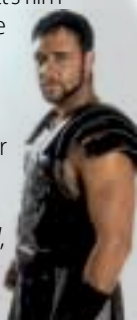
Crowe was born in New Zealand on 7th April 1964. At the age of four, his family moved to Australia as his parents wanted to **further their careers** as **film set designers**. Crowe made his debut as an actor at age 6 in an episode of the Australian TV series *Spyforce*. When Crowe was 14, his family moved back to New Zealand. During this time, Crowe **pursued a career** as a singer using the stage name Russ le Roq. In the 1980s, he **released a single**, "I Just Want to be Like Marlon Brando".

At the age of 21, Crowe returned to Australia. Within a year, he got a part singing and dancing on stage in an Australian production of *Grease*. Later, he spent two years (1986-88) **touring** as Dr Frank N Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*. His first major film role was in *The Crossing* (1990). He also starred in the TV series *Police Rescue*, and the controversial film *Romper Stomper* (1992).



His big break came with a role in the film *LA Confidential* (1997). Crowe played the part of Bud White, a quick-tempered southern California cop investigating corruption in Los Angeles during the 1950s. Crowe was nominated for an Oscar for his part in the film *The Insider*. Later, Crowe took the **lead role** in Ridley Scott's film *Gladiator*. Crowe played the part of Maximus, a Roman general who is forced to become a gladiator. Crowe won an Oscar for Best Actor for his part in this film.

His latest film is *Robin Hood*, in which he plays the part of Robin Hood. 🍀



THIS IS ANOTHER STRING TO MY BOW!

## Trivia

Crowe is a big sports fan and has joint ownership of the South Sydney Rabbitohs rugby team.



He is of Norwegian and Maori descent.

His nickname is Rusty.

He has donated lots of money to charity. He once gave \$250,000 to rebuild a school library that **burnt down**; and on another occasion, he gave \$200,000 to a primary school near his home in rural Australia to build a swimming pool.

## Quotes

"Perhaps it is good to have a beautiful mind, but an even greater gift is to discover a beautiful heart."

"I'd move to Los Angeles if New Zealand and Australia were **swallowed up** by a **tidal wave**, if there was a bubonic plague in England, and if the continent of Africa disappeared from some Martian attack."

"The important thing to me is that I'm not **driven** by people's **praise** and I'm not **slowed down** by people's criticism. I'm just trying to work at the highest level I can."

"If I don't get the **goose-bump** factor when I'm reading it [the script], then I can't do it!"

"I'm destined to be attracted to those I cannot defeat."

"People accuse me of being **arrogant** all the time. I'm not arrogant, I'm focused."

"I want 17 or so kids. I say to my wife, 'Imagine having a daughter! A little you



running around!' She just smiles and nods and says 'Yeah, yeah ... no.'"

"I hate having long hair – it's like walking around with a dead koala on your back!"

"My children have never watched any of my films. Charlie knows that daddy makes movies, but he says they are not good enough for him to watch."

"I grew up in Australia, so I've got aspects of both cultures. New Zealanders tend to be very **persistent**, you know? And Australians are quite **happy-go-lucky**, so I've got kind of a combination of the two things."

"I'd like to play passionate women, but no one will let me."

"You don't have to like an actor to do a scene with him. You don't have to like a director. But it's just better if you do."

"My days, if they start in the morning with a **cuddle** from my son, are just so much more glorious than they were prior to that."

## Russell Crowe

Russell Ira Crowe is an actor, singer and song-writer. He was born on 7th April 1964 in Wellington, New Zealand. His wife is Danielle Spencer. They have two sons, Charlie and Tennyson. Some of Crowe's most famous films include *The Crossing* (1990), *L.A. Confidential* (1997), *The Insider* (1999), *Gladiator* (2000), *A Beautiful Mind* (2001), *Master and Commander* (2003) and *Cinderella Man* (2005).



## GLOSSARY

- to further your career** *exp*  
to do something that benefits your career (your profession/job)
- a film set designer** *n*  
a person who makes the scenery for an interior scene in a film
- to pursue a career** *exp*  
to do things related to your career (your profession/job)
- to release a single** *exp*  
to make a song available to the public so they can buy it
- to tour** *vb*  
if a band "tours", it travels to different cities/countries, playing there
- a lead role** *n*  
the most important part in a film
- to burn down** *phr vb*  
if a building "burns down", it is completely destroyed by fire
- to swallow up** *phr vb*  
if a body of water "swallows up" a city/country, that city/country disappears under the water
- a tidal wave** *n*  
a large mass of high water in the sea
- to be driven** *exp*  
if you are "driven" by something, you are motivated by that thing
- praise** *n*  
positive criticism
- to slow down** *phr vb*  
to start doing things more slowly
- goose-bumps** *n*  
if you get "goose-bumps", little areas of raised skin appear on your body often because you are cold, frightened, excited or emotional
- arrogant** *adj*  
someone who is "arrogant" thinks they are very important/special
- persistent** *adj*  
someone who is "persistent" never stops and continues even when there are difficulties
- happy-go-lucky** *adj*  
someone who is "happy-go-lucky" is calm, easy-going and content
- a cuddle** *n*  
if you give someone a "cuddle", you put your arms around them as a way of showing that you love them



Australia's elegant star.

# Cate Blanchett

CATE BLANCHETT IS AN AUSTRALIAN ACTRESS AND THEATRE DIRECTOR. SHE'S FAMOUS FOR HER ROLES IN FILMS SUCH AS *ELIZABETH*, *THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY*, *THE AVIATOR* AND *THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON*. SHE'S ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST TALENTED ACTRESSES. BY CHRISTINE BOHN

Cate Blanchett **grew up** in Melbourne, Australia, where she lived with her brother, sister and parents. Her Texas-born father, a US naval officer and advertising executive, died when she was only ten years old. Her first film role came at the age of 18. During a trip to Egypt, she was asked by a guest at a hotel whether she would like to be an **extra** in the movie *Kaboria*, to which she said yes.



Later, Blanchett moved to Sydney to study at the National Institute of Dramatic Art. When she graduated, in 1992, she began her **career** in theatre. She became famous for her part in the 1997 film *Paradise Road*, playing the role of an Australian nurse. In 1997, she received her first



**lead role** in the production of *Oscar and Lucinda*. Her first **high-profile role** was in the 1998 movie *Elizabeth* in which she played Elizabeth I of England. She got an Oscar nomination for Best Actress in a Leading Role for this. She eventually won an Oscar for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for her **performance** in the film *Aviator* (2004), which was directed by Martin Scorsese. Her latest role is in the film *Robin Hood*, in which she plays the part of Maid Marian. 🍀

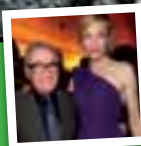
## Quotes

"If you know you are going to fail, then fail gloriously."

"Believe it or not, I'm pretty good at just doing nothing."

"Thank you to Martin Scorsese. I hope my son will marry your daughter."

"You know you've **made it** when you've been moulded in miniature plastic. But you know what children do with Barbie dolls? It's a bit scary, actually."



"I think that's what I love about my life. There's no maniacal master plan. It's just **unfolding before me.**"

"I'm not interested in playing characters who see the world **through my prism**. I think the journey of understanding any character is to see how they **tick** and how they differ from you."

"Violence and racism are bad. Whenever they occur they are to be condemned and we should not **turn a blind eye** to them."

I'M "MAID" IN HEAVEN!

## Cate Blanchett

Cate Blanchett is an Australian actress and theatre director. She was born on 14th May 1969 in Melbourne, Australia. She is married to playwright and screenwriter Andrew Upton and they have three children together. Some of her most famous films include: *Elizabeth*, *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *The Aviator*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*.



## GLOSSARY

**to grow up** *phr vb*  
if you "grow up" in an area, you live there as a child until you become older  
**an extra** *n*  
a person with a non-speaking part in a film – often as a member of a crowd  
**a career** *n*  
a job/profession that you chose to do for the majority of your life  
**a lead role** *n*  
the most important part in a film  
**a high-profile role** *n*  
a part in a film that receives a lot of attention  
**a performance** *n*  
an actor's "performance" is the way he/she acts in a film/play, etc.  
**to make it** *exp*  
if you have "made it", you have become successful/famous  
**to unfold before you** *exp*  
if something "unfolds before you", it happens as you are watching it  
**through my prism** *exp*  
if you see something "through your prism", you judge it according to your way of seeing things  
**to tick** *vb*  
the things that make you "tick" are the things that motivate/excite you  
**to turn a blind eye to X** *exp*  
to ignore X

Bad people selling bad shares.



# BOILER ROOM

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BUYING ANY STOCKS OR SHARES? THEY CAN BE A GOOD WAY TO **INVEST** YOUR MONEY. BUT IF YOU EVER GET A CALL FROM A **STOCKBROKER** OFFERING YOU THE **DEAL OF A LIFETIME**, THINK CAREFULLY! THEY MIGHT BE WORKING FROM A BOILER ROOM.

**B**oiler rooms exist all over the world... and they're becoming more and more common. They are basically unregulated companies that sell stocks and shares. Tele-salespeople from the boiler rooms **cold-call** potential investors and try to sell them **shares**. The sales people often use **high-pressure tactics**, and they'll keep **harassing** investors until they buy. In some cases, the shares aren't **listed**, so they can't be sold on. But in other cases, the shares are completely **worthless** or even non-existent. The average loss for most victims is around £20,000, but some people have **parted with** huge sums of money. In total, boiler rooms are estimated to steal as much as £1 billion every year. "People who work in boiler rooms are prepared to **target** anyone, however vulnerable, and will take their last penny if they can," a police spokesperson said.

Boiler rooms are simple to operate. Working from the **share registers** of legitimate **quoted companies**, boiler room salespeople target people who have bought shares in the past. The **Financial Services Authority** (FSA) and the City of London Police recently wrote to 6,500 homes to warn people that their details were on a "master list" being used by **fraudsters** to sell worthless shares. "Intelligence suggests that this list of people from across the UK is currently being shared among boiler rooms," a police



spokesperson said. Boiler rooms are often based abroad, so they can avoid investigation in the countries that they are targeting.

The main problem is that boiler room salespeople are very good at what they do. According to the FSA, 15% of victims are persuaded to buy shares during their first call. And nearly half of the victims agree to buy after they are called four or more times. Boiler room salesmen often won't take no for an answer. They will constantly call a target, trying to build a relationship and get their confidence. They will appear knowledgeable and highly professional and incredibly insistent. The average targets are pursued for at least a month before finally purchasing shares, but about 25% informed the police that they received calls from the same boiler room for more than half a year.

Aileen Clark was the victim of a boiler room **scam**. She's a retired health worker who lost her £500,000 **life savings** to a sophisticated shares fraud. One day, Aileen, 64, got a call from a company using the name Mayfair Lane. "They were so **plausible**," she said. First she paid £5,000 for shares that were sold to her by a nice man who claimed to be Cambridge educated. More investments followed. But one day, she was informed that the shares she'd bought should only have been sold to corporate investors, and that if she wanted to sell them on, she'd have to buy at least £1 million's worth. Aileen refused at first, but then she was given the "good" news: she could **go halves** with another private investor. Eventually, she paid the £500,000 – half the "necessary" amount.

Things would have continued if it hadn't been for one of her sons. He saw a programme on TV about boiler rooms, and

told his mum to stop (at which point the fraudsters were trying to convince Elizabeth to **re-mortgage** her house to find the money for yet more shares). "I feel so ashamed, so stupid, but these people are so clever, so believable," she warned. "I'm not the only idiot out there, so please warn people about this." Eventually, the gang were caught. They are accused of stealing about £2.5 million from more than 500 investors. Led by a 51-year-old businessman, the company traded under the name Whitecard Capital.

Another share-selling scam involved two companies with offices in London and Barcelona. These companies managed to **dupe** £4m **out of** British investors. Fortunately, the money was recovered, and will now be distributed to the 500 or so UK investors who were persuaded to buy worthless shares between March and November 2006. The two companies, Fencemore Securities and Business Analytics, cold-called UK investors. The FSA said the company targeted investors whose names appeared on a list of individuals who had **fallen for** similar scams in the past.

Another case involved a company based in a Caribbean island. Sales executives at this company cold-called people and offered them shares in Safevest PLC with a promise of significant returns on their investment. But the shares proved worthless. The FSA



GET OUT AND SELL!

said it had recovered about £270,000 from the fraud. "This figure is believed to be the amount invested by victims, and it will be repaid to them in full," it added. An FSA director said, "We are extremely pleased to be able to recover and return money to investors who have been persuaded to hand over their money as part of a share fraud scam. However, such good news is rare for victims who deal with unauthorised firms, as the money usually disappears **without a trace**."

These days, boiler room operatives are getting more and more sophisticated. Some **masquerade as** reputable FSA-registered firms. "There has been a dramatic increase in overseas fraudsters using the names, registration numbers and addresses of FSA-authorized firms and individuals," an industry expert explained. "The criminals are also using cloned copies of legitimate companies' websites, changing important details such as phone numbers and e-mail addresses. This means that merely checking that a firm contacting you is on the FSA register is not enough to protect you from fraudsters."

On top of that, the **recession** is making fraud more common. "There's an increase in the use of **threats**," said a spokesperson from the Economic Crime Department. "Unscrupulous salespeople often intimidate victims by claiming that a verbal contract was made. This often works with elderly people who are frightened of the possibility of legal action if they don't buy the shares." Interestingly, more men than women are victims "because women ask more questions, and that poses difficulties for the perpetrators of this fraud."

So, what can you do if you

suspect that the friendly person **at the end of the line** is working for a fraudulent company? The FSA has a number of suggestions:

Find some means of getting information about the firm. For example, have a look on the website for a **switchboard number**. Call the company on that number (not any number given to you by the caller) to see if the number is genuine.

In general, be suspicious of all unsolicited calls. Cold-calling for investment business is illegal, so reputable stockbrokers will not do it.

Remember, making large, **sure-fire gains** on the stock market is notoriously difficult. Be suspicious of any company offering something that sounds too good to be true.

Do not give out personal or financial details, or agree to anything right away, and never send money **up-front**. Make your own inquiries, including a check with the FSA. Do not rely on websites mentioned by the seller – they are easily faked. If you have been contacted by a suspicious firm or have any doubts, get in touch with the FSA.

Find out about the company whose shares are being offered. Is it a quoted company? Check with a local stockbroker registered in the country you are buying from. Unquoted shares are likely to be impossible to sell; even quoted shares may be **thinly traded**.

If you do buy shares from a legitimate company, consider using a **nominee account** to own the shares; that way your name will not appear on the share register.

Be careful! There are a lot of bad people out there! ✨

## 'BOILER ROOM'


The term 'boiler room' originates from a time when telemarketers would rent cheap office space in the basement of buildings. These offices were often close to, or actually in, the room where **boilers** were situated – hence the name.



**BOILER ROOM (2000)** is directed by Ben Younger and stars Vin Diesel, Seth Davis and Ben Affleck. Giovanni Ribisi (played by Seth Davis) is an enterprising college dropout who's making money from an illegal casino. One day, he gets a job in an investment business that makes money from mysterious investments. These are sold by pushy sales people who cold-call clients. In charge of the new recruits is veteran salesman Jim Young (played by Ben Affleck).



## FILM QUOTE

(BY OFFICE MANAGER JIM YOUNG)  

 "And there is no such thing as a 'no-sale call'. A sale is made on every call you make. Either you sell the client some stock or he sells you a reason he can't buy. Either way a sale is made, the only question is who is gonna **close**? You or him? Now be **relentless**. That's it, I'm done."

## GLOSSARY

- to invest** *vb*  
if you "invest" your money, you put it into a bank account or buy shares with the hope of making a profit; an "investor" is the person who invests; an "investment" is an amount of money that is invested
- a stockbroker** *n*  
a person who is qualified and certified to buy and sell shares
- the deal of a lifetime** *exp*  
a business transaction that will make you a lot of money
- to cold-call** *vb*  
to telephone a person/company that doesn't know you
- a share** *n*  
a company's shares are the many parts into which its ownership is divided. People can buy and sell shares
- high-pressure tactics** *n*  
"tactics" are the things you do to achieve your objectives; "high-pressure tactics" are aggressive /direct/forceful
- to harass** *vb*  
if someone "harasses" you, they keep asking you for something until you give it to them or do what they want
- listed** *adj*  
a "listed" share is one that can be officially traded on the stock market
- worthless** *adj*  
with no value
- to part with** *exp*  
if you "part with" money, you give that money to someone
- to target** *vb*  
if you "target" a particular group, you focus your attention on that group
- a share register** *n*  
an official list of the shareholders of a company
- a quoted company** *n*  
a company whose shares can be officially traded on the stock market. Also known as a listed company
- the Financial Services Authority** *n*  
an independent organisation that regulates the financial services industry in the UK
- a fraudster** *n*  
someone who makes money by tricking people or being dishonest
- a scam** *n*  
a trick designed to make money
- life savings** *n*  
the money you have saved (kept) over the course of your life
- plausible** *adj*  
believable; that you can believe
- to go halves** *exp*  
if you "go halves" with someone, you each pay 50% for something
- to re-mortgage** *vb*  
a way of creating money by mortgaging a part of your house in return for money, or increasing your existing mortgage. The bank keeps the house (or part of it) if you can't pay the money back
- to dupe out of something** *exp*  
to trick someone into giving money
- to fall for** *phr vb*  
if someone "falls for" a trick/scam, they believe it
- without a trace** *exp*  
with no evidence/sign of where it is
- to masquerade as** *exp*  
if A is "masquerading as" B, A is acting as if it is B, or is disguised as B
- the recession** *n*  
a period of poor economic activity
- a threat** *n*  
a promise to do something bad to someone
- at the end of the line** *exp*  
on the other end of the telephone
- a switchboard number** *n*  
a telephone number for the place in a company where telephone numbers are connected
- a sure-fire gain** *n*  
profit that is certain
- up-front** *adv*  
if you pay money "up-front", you pay it before receiving a service or goods
- thinly traded** *exp*  
if shares are "thinly traded", not many people buy or sell them
- a nominee account** *n*  
a bank account whose named holder is different to the person who actually owns the assets in the account
- a boiler** *n*  
a container in which water is heated
- to close** *vb*  
if you "close" a sale, you convince the other person to buy something
- relentless** *adj*  
without stopping; without interruption



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this topic in a mini-video at  
www.hotenglishmagazine.com

Englishman track 13

# READING I

# You Cheat!

The increase of cheating around the world.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Think of six ways to cheat in an exam.  
Use any of the words below.

- an MP3 player    your arm
- your leg    a bottle of water
- a mobile phone    the internet
- a PDA    your hand
- a pencil    a sheet of paper

For example: *Writing notes on your hand.*

## 2 Reading I

How do you think the internet has changed the way people cheat? Think. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, say what the numbers refer to.

1. \$700,000
2. \$300,000
3. 2 million
4. 28%
5. Tens of thousands
6. \$1,000

## 4 Language focus

### Passive constructions

Look at this extract from the article, "And a famous overseas site is estimated to sell about 146,000 sets of answers..." In this example, the writer has used a passive construction: "is/are" + a past participle + an infinitive ("is expected to sell"). Complete the following sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

1. He is known to have...
2. She is rumoured to spend...
3. They are thought to own...
4. He is believed to be...
5. She is thought to have...

## 5 Discussion

1. Do you know anyone who has cheated in an exam? How did they do it?
2. What do you think of cheating? Is it a big problem?
3. What can be done to prevent cheating?



**C**heating is nothing new. But it's becoming a lot more sophisticated.

Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin was **caught out** just recently. A photo taken after the speech she'd given on a "return to conservative principles" showed her left hand covered with **crib notes**. These included the words "energy, budget cuts, tax" and "**lift Americans' spirits**". The word "budget" had been crossed out. Video footage also showed her reading from her hand when asked what top three things a conservative-led congress should do. Writing notes on your hand is one way to cheat in an exam. But these days, it's a lot easier... especially with the internet.



Anyone who wants to cheat in an exam can probably find the answers online. There are hundreds of sites offering solutions to all sorts of tests. And it's a **lucrative** business. One operator in Oregon made \$700,000 in about nine months before his arrest. The owner of a website in Ohio **pocketed** more than \$300,000. And a famous overseas site is estimated to sell about 146,000 sets of answers and take in about \$10 million per year. Actually **getting hold of** the exam answers isn't that hard. Some do the exam themselves and use button cameras or document-scanning pens to copy the tests. Others organise for a group to take tests repeatedly until they can memorise the entire exam between them. Others simply **bribe** exam administrators.

At the moment, business **is booming**. More and more companies now require their employees to take professional exams. And hundreds of businesses and trade organisations have introduced formal certification programs to measure and verify employee skills. In the US alone, at least 2 million exams are taken every year for information technology certification. But employees also have to take exams for all sorts of professions from **crane operators** to **court reporters** to school bus drivers and financial planners.

But more testing has led to more cheating. Test officials estimate that hundreds of thousands of test-takers have used the internet to buy answers for professional tests. And a recent survey found that 28 percent of **test centres** had at least one cheating incident over the last five years. In one incident, tens of thousands of soldiers obtained answers to tests in a range of military skills.

Many see this as a cause for concern. For a start, there are the financial consequences. Writing a scientifically-rigorous test can cost up to \$1,000 per question. But more importantly, many tests are for work in **sensitive areas** such as defence installations and hospitals. Now, how would you feel if you knew that the people in charge of the computers controlling nuclear weapons might have cheated in their tests, and may not really know what they're doing? *That is worrying.* ☹

### GLOSSARY

- to cheat** *vb*  
to do something illegal/dishonest in a test/exam
- to catch out** *phr/vb*  
if someone is "caught out", they are discovered doing something bad
- crib notes** *n*  
notes (often on a small piece of paper) that are used to cheat
- to lift someone's spirits** *exp*  
to do something that makes another person feel happier
- lucrative** *n*  
that makes a lot of money
- to pocket** *vb*  
if you "pocket" money, you take it (often dishonestly)
- to get hold of** *exp*  
if you "get hold of something", you obtain/get/receive/have it
- to bribe** *vb*  
if A "bribes" B (often a person in an official position), A offers B money so A can do something illegal/dishonest
- to be booming** *exp*  
if business is "booming", things are going really well
- a crane operator** *n*  
a person who controls/operates a "crane" (a machine for lifting, moving very heavy objects)
- a court reporter** *n*  
a person whose job is to record what is said in a court of law
- a test centre** *n*  
a place where official exams/tests are held
- a sensitive area** *n*  
related to an area of national security or one of life and death

# READING II

# Party Fun

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Imagine you are in charge of planning a pre-wedding party for a good friend. Think of some good ideas for the party/day. Try to answer the following questions.

- What are you going to do?
- Where are you going to go?
- Where are you going to eat?
- Are you going to do any fun activities during the day?
- Are you going to wear any unusual clothes?

## 2 Reading I

Read the article and compare your ideas for a party to the ones in the article.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. What happened to the Scottish man?
2. What happened to the man in the bath?
3. What happened to the bridegroom who was going skiing for his honeymoon?

## 4 Language focus

### Perfect Modals

Look at this extract from the article, "... he assumed that he must have had an accident..." In this example, the writer has used a Perfect Modal construction: "must have" + a past participle ("must have had"). Complete the following sentences with your own ideas.

1. She must have seen...
2. They must have taken...
3. He must have spoken to...
4. We must have heard...

## 5 Discussion

1. What do people do on stag/hen nights in your country?
2. What's the best/worst party you've ever been to?
3. What's the worst/funniest thing that's ever happened to you in a party?

Parties that go a bit too far. By Sam Gordon

How do people in your country celebrate before they get married? In the UK, **stag** and **hen parties** are popular. But they can get a bit out of hand.



Stag **dos** are popular across the world but each country has its own version – and more often than not its own particular name. In the US it's a "bachelor party", in South Africa it's a "bull's party" and in Australia it's a "**buck's** night". And for the girls, it's a "bachelorette party" (in the US), and "hen party", "hen do" or "hen night" (in the UK, Ireland and Australia). Some versions of these parties are a little more civilized than others. In Denmark, "Polterabend" usually involves breakfast, fun activities during the day (such as paintballing or go-karting), dinner at a restaurant and then a **night out**. However, in some other countries things can get a little more **raucous**.

Perhaps it's no surprise that the Brits also take their stag-dos to the wildest extremes. For a start, they are generally now stag *weekends* rather than mere stag *nights* – one night of madness, it seems, just isn't enough. Stag weekends can involve trips abroad. Amsterdam and Barcelona are popular destinations. Eastern Europe was, but **revellers** quickly became so **notorious** that in many places the parties were **banned**. These days many more stag weekends take place in Britain, with Brighton, Blackpool and London amongst the most popular destinations.

The idea behind the stag do is that the groom gets a chance to **let his hair down** one last time before taking on the responsibilities of marriage. They are also **fair game** for any **practical joke** that their friends might want to play on them. Take the example of the Scottish man who was put on a train to Land's End (in the Southwest corner of England!) to **sleep off** his **hangover**. That was supposed to be funny (well, his friends thought it was)... especially as his wedding was back in Scotland, and was taking place the next day. As a result, he missed his wedding. To make matters worse, his **wife-to-be** was so angry that she refused to marry him, **full-stop**.

Then there's the story of the groom-to-be who was thrown into a bath full of water and **handcuffed** to the taps. The culprits? His own brothers. They promptly fell asleep (drunk) and left the poor man in the bath for 5 hours. He was eventually found unconscious and taken to hospital suffering from **hypothermia**. So much for brotherly love. Last but not least, there's the story of the bridegroom who went out and got extremely drunk. Knowing that he was going skiing for his honeymoon, his friends arranged for his leg to be put in a **plaster cast** while he was sleeping. A few hours later, the groom woke up, unable to remember anything. On discovering his plaster, he assumed that he must have had an accident while he was **partying**. Everyone thought it was so funny that they decided not to tell him the truth until he **figured it out** for himself. Unfortunately, this wasn't until half way through his skiing holiday. ☹️

## The Hangover (2009)

is an American comedy directed by Todd Phillips and starring Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Heather Graham. It's about four friends who travel to Las Vegas for a bachelor party. They wake up the next morning and can't remember anything, but that's just the start of their adventures.



## GLOSSARY

- a stag party** *n*  
a party for a man who is going to get married. Usually just men go
- a hen party** *n*  
a party for a woman who is going to get married. Usually just women go
- a do** *n*  
a party
- a buck** *n*  
an adult male deer/rabbit, etc.
- a night out** *n*  
if you have a "night out", you go to bars/clubs/discos, etc.
- raucous** *adj*  
wild, loud and uncontrollable
- a reveller** *n*  
a person who is enjoying a party or a fun night
- notorious** *adj*  
famous for something bad
- to ban** *vb*  
to prohibit; to say that something cannot happen
- to let your hair down** *exp*  
to relax completely, have fun, enjoy yourself and not worry about the consequences
- fair game** *exp*  
if someone is "fair game" for a joke, it is considered acceptable that this person is the victim of the joke
- a practical joke** *n*  
a joke that is designed to make someone look silly
- to sleep off** *phr vb*  
if you "sleep off" a hangover, you continue sleeping until you feel well again
- a hangover** *n*  
a terrible feeling after drinking a lot of alcohol
- a wife-to-be** *n*  
a woman who is going to be someone's wife
- full-stop** *exp*  
this expression is often used to emphasise something
- to handcuff** *vb*  
to use handcuffs (metal objects that go around a person's wrists) to restrain/control them
- hypothermia** *n*  
a condition in which the victim has a very low body temperature
- a plaster cast** *n*  
a thick, hard covering that goes over a broken arm or leg to protect it
- to party** *vb*  
to have fun at a party; to have fun in a club/bar, etc.
- to figure out** *phr vb*  
if you "figure something out", you understand what has happened



# Stupid People



This is another part in our mini-series on colloquial ways of referring to someone who is somewhat "lacking in intelligence" (i.e. "stupid"). This month's examples have comparative forms. There are two types:

1) "He's about as sharp as a football."

In this example, the speaker is making an equal comparison between the "sharpness" of a person and the "sharpness" of a football. "Sharp" can mean two things: **a)** quick/intelligent; **b)** with a pointed end, or a side that cuts easily. Basically, the speaker is saying that neither the football nor the person is sharp – and thereby implying that the person is stupid.

2) "She's slower than a snail."

In this example, the speaker makes a negative comparison between the speed of a person and a snail. "Slow" is used as a metaphor for being stupid.

OK, let's look at some more examples that follow this pattern.



He's about as sharp as a marble.



His IQ is lower than a plant's.



She's as smart as bait.



He's as thick as a stick.



He's as stupid as a salt shaker.



She's stupider than paint.



He's as sharp as a bowling ball.



She's as smart as a bag of rocks.



She's less intelligent than a box of rocks.



He's as slow as an ant with a heavy load on its back.



She's about as sharp as a blunt knife.



She's dumber than a bag of hammers.



# Let's Get Motivated

*If you want to succeed, what do you need? Motivation! By Patrick Howarth*

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Can you think of any ways for motivating staff at work? Use the words (or related parts of speech) below to think of four ideas.

- recognition   praise   salary
- holidays   colleagues   tasks
- managers   perks   expenses
- location of office   rewards   trust
- promotion   deadlines   freedom
- punishment   kindness   fun

For example: *It's important to praise staff when they do a good job.*

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once and compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

## 3 Reading II

Read the questions below and try to answer them. Then, read the article again to check your answers.

1. What is motivation?
2. What is intrinsic motivation?
3. What is extrinsic motivation?
4. What are motivational speakers?
5. What do motivational speakers try to do?
6. How do they do it?

## 4 Language focus Conditionals

Look at this extract from the article, "...if you get people on your side, they'll want to help you." The writer has used a First Conditional structure: "if" + the Present Simple; "will" + a verb. Complete the following sentences with your own ideas. Use First, Zero or Modal-Verb Conditional structures.

1. If you want to get ahead in life, you...
2. If you want to be successful in life, you...
3. If you want to motivate staff in a company, you...
4. If you want to achieve good results, you...

## 5 Discussion

1. How do you motivate yourself to do something?
2. Do you think you are intrinsically or extrinsically motivated? Give details.
3. How would you motivate someone who's feeling a bit down?

Do you ever find it hard to summon the energy to do things? What makes you like that? Maybe it's your motivation.

Motivation (often called "the will to succeed" or "goal-oriented behaviour") plays an important role in explaining how humans behave the way they do. Some sort of motivation is generally necessary if we want to achieve something, whether it's success at work, or having the energy to get off the sofa to make a sandwich. The former may be motivated by ambition, and the latter by hunger, but in both cases some form of motivation is present.



Motivation is often described as being intrinsic or extrinsic. Intrinsic motivation comes from inside an individual (rather than from any external reward or stimulus). The motivation comes from the pleasure you get from the task itself, or from the sense of satisfaction in completing or simply working on a task. An intrinsically-motivated person will work on something because it's enjoyable or challenging or stimulating.

Extrinsic motivation refers to motivation that comes from outside. The motivating factors are external rewards such as money or grades. These rewards provide more satisfaction and pleasure than the task itself. An extrinsically-motivated person will work on a task (even when they have little interest in it) because of the potential rewards. Money is a common extrinsic motivational influence, but punishment is, too (it doesn't have to be positive!). Most forms of competition involve this type of motivation as competitions encourage people to want to win and beat others rather than enjoy the activity for its own sake. As you probably know, there's a motivational difference between running a race and going for a jog.

Many companies spend millions trying to motivate their employees. One way is to contract a motivational speaker – professionals such as former Olympic Champion Sally Gunnell, and/or successful businesspeople such as Zig Ziglar and Deepak Chopra. The objective is for the speaker to help increase motivation in the workplace. In many cases, they help employees see the future in a positive light and inspire workers to pull together. Many use examples from their own lives. Motivational speaker Wayne Dyer, for example, was abandoned by his alcoholic father, but he ended up graduating from Detroit University. And professional speaker Anthony Robbins suffered many hardships, including having a tumour of the brain. They use these examples as a way of showing others how to overcome difficulties.

The internet is also full of ideas for motivating employees. The website [www.pickthebrain.com](http://www.pickthebrain.com) has a few top tips:

- Provide pleasurable rewards for your employees for having done a good job. If people see the benefits of hard work (e.g. promotion, extra holidays, parties, etc.), they'll work harder.
- Set deadlines – if people are given a deadline, they'll become more productive – especially if it's a very tight deadline.
- Make people aware of the negative consequences if they don't hit the deadline!
- Be kind – if you get people on your side, they'll want to help you.
- Make it fun – if you provide staff with enjoyable tasks, they'll find them intrinsically more motivating!
- Give your staff freedom – if you give your employees the chance to experiment and be creative, they'll produce more.
- Recognise achievement – people like to receive praise. Although this is an extrinsic reward, the increase in self-esteem develops intrinsic motivation.
- Give trust – if people know they're trusted to do a good job, they'll do one.

Whatever you want to achieve, a little motivation goes a long way. And a lot of motivation goes even further. ☺

SKILLS BOOKLET READING (B2)

QUIRKY NEWS & CORNY CRIMINALS  
**quirky news**

US woman  
track 16

# Camilla's Luck

Camilla Parker-Jones has been having a bit of bad luck recently. Last Christmas, Camilla (also known as the Duchess of Cornwall) was **due to** turn on the Christmas lights at London's Burlington Arcade, which was first opened in 1819. Camilla was given a **cord** to pull in order to turn on the lights. After a **countdown** from shoppers, she **yanked** on the cord, but it **came off in her hand** and the lights failed to **come on**. In another incident, Camilla was invited to an **unveiling ceremony** for a homeless charity in Plymouth. It was supposed to be straightforward: all she had to do was pull



on a string and a curtain would open, revealing a **plaque**. However, as she pulled on the string, the plaque fell down and broke. One of the most famous incidents occurred in 2007. Camilla was invited to **christen** the cruise liner Queen Victoria.

She was **handed** a bottle of champagne to smash against the ship's side. However, she failed to break the bottle. Legend has it that ships which are christened incorrectly will bring bad luck to the people who sail on it. And in this case it's proved to be true: months later, **scores of** passengers on the ship were taken ill with a contagious **stomach bug**. The **curse** of Camilla! ☘

US woman  
track 18

## Riddle

### THE CAMELS

One day, a peasant buys a herd of camels and takes them to his farm. As he's riding along, he counts them. There are 29. He was sure he had bought 30 camels, so he jumps off the camel he's riding and counts them again. To his relief there are 30. Half an hour later, he counts the camels again, but there are 29 again. Confused, he climbs off his camel and counts them again. And once more, there are 30. What's going on? ☘

**GLOSSARY**

**due to** *exp*  
if someone is "due to" do something, they are going to do it

**an arcade** *n*  
a covered passageway with shops on one or both sides

**a cord** *n*  
a piece of string or material

**a countdown** *n*  
if there is a "countdown", people count from 10 down to 1 (10, 9, 8...)

**to yank** *vb*  
if you "yank" something, you pull it

**to come off in your hand** *exp*  
if A "comes off in your hand", A becomes detached from B and you have A in your hand

**to come on** *n*  
if lights "come on", they are turned on and start shining

**an unveiling ceremony** *n*  
a ceremony in which a covered statue / work of art is uncovered and shown to the public

**a plaque** *n*  
a piece of metal/wood/plastic, etc. with information on it about a famous person or event

**to christen** *vb*  
to name a ship/person in an official ceremony

**to hand** *vb*  
to give

**scores of** *exp*  
lots of. Literally, a "score" is 20 of something

**a stomach bug** *exp*  
an infection/bacteria that attacks the stomach

**a curse** *exp*  
a form of evil magic that causes bad things to happen

**a councillor** *n*  
a person who is elected to the local government in a town/city

**to award a contract to someone** *exp*  
to give work to a company so they can do a specific job

**a budget** *n*  
an amount of money for doing a specific job

**a quote** *n*  
a formal letter giving details of how much a specific job will cost

**a tender** *n*  
a formal offer to do a particular job

**to put out to tender** *n*  
if a job is "put out to tender", it is offered to companies

**fishy** *adj* *inform*  
suspicious

**to surface** *vb*  
if something "surfaces", it appears suddenly and mysteriously

**a school chum** *n*  
a friend from school

**to own** *vb*  
to possess

**mucky** *adj*  
not clear; suspicious; potentially illegal

# Corny Criminals

## Corrupt Councillor

Elected official gets into trouble.

US woman  
track 17

Corruption is a problem everywhere in the world, but especially in local politics. Take the case of **councillor** Jim Barkins. He's being investigated for **awarding a contract to** a company run by one of his friends. The contract, with a **budget** of over £30,000, was for training courses for staff at the

council. The council's rules regarding awarding contracts are simple. They require three **quotes** for such a contract. However, in this case, there were no **tenders** and Barkins simply gave the contract to Diamond Design Communication, a company run by Simon Saunders. "That contract was never **put out to tender**. We demand an investigation," said a spokesperson for an opposition party. At first, Barkins denied there was anything **fishy** going on. "I hardly know the man," Barkins, 58, declared. However, a few months later, a photo **surfaced** of Barkins and Saunders drinking together in a bar. This was followed by the discovery that Barkins and Saunders were actually old **school chums**. Finally, it was revealed that Barkins' daughter works for Saunders' company, and Saunders' son had worked in a company that Barkins **owned** before he became a councillor. "This is a dirty, **mucky** business and we're determined to get to the bottom of it," the opposition spokesperson added. ☘







Refer to unit 15 of your Upper Intermediate Skills Booklet for more explanations and exercises.

Englishman & US woman



track

21



# Fish Pie

HERE'S ANOTHER SIMPLE DISH TO TRY AT HOME.

### Ingredients

- Fish (haddock, cod or salmon)
- Potatoes
- A carrot
- A stick of celery
- Cheese
- A lemon
- A chilli (optional)
- Parsley
- Shrimps / Prawns
- Olive oil
- Butter
- Salt and pepper



### Equipment

- A baking tray; or...
- An earthenware dish

### Preparation

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Cut up the potatoes and put them in a pan of salted water to **boil**. Cook for around 12 minutes (or until soft).

Get a baking tray or earthenware dish. Peel the carrot and grate it into the dish, and do the same to the celery and cheese. Then, grate some lemon **zest** and add this too. Next, chop up the chilli (optional) and parsley, cut up the fish (without any bones) and add all this, along with the prawns or shrimps, to the dish.

**Squeeze** over the juice from the lemon, **drizzle** a little olive oil, and add a good **pinch** of salt and pepper. Mix everything together really well. When the potatoes are ready, remove them from the pan. **Mash** them with a bit of butter, salt and pepper. Spread the mashed potato over the top of the fish mixture and add some more **grated cheese**. Place in the preheated oven for around 40 minutes.

Delicious (and healthy)! 🍴

### GLOSSARY

- to boil** *vb*  
if you "boil" water, you cook the water until it is 100°C
- the zest** *n*  
the "zest" of a lemon, orange or lime is the skin that has been cut into very small pieces
- to squeeze** *vb*  
if you "squeeze" lemon over food, you apply pressure to a lemon half so all the juice comes out and goes over the food
- to drizzle** *vb*  
if you "drizzle" oil over food, you put a small amount of the oil over the food
- a pinch of** *exp*  
a small amount of food that you can hold between two fingers
- to mash** *vb*  
to crush something so that it forms a soft mass/substance
- grated cheese** *exp*  
cheese that has been cut into very small pieces



# Travel Time

A holiday nightmare to write home about.

## 1 Pre-listening

What can go wrong on a holiday? Use the words below to help you think of ideas.

**food hotel flight drink weather**

**temperature clothes airline room**

**swimming pool robber apartment**

**insects wild animals**

## 2 Listening I

You are going to listen to someone who is describing a terrible holiday experience. Listen once and compare your ideas from the Pre-listening activity.

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, make notes on the problems they had with the following places/things (1 to 3).

1. The airport
2. Their luggage
3. The apartment

## 4 Language focus Reported Speech

Look at this extract from the listening, "...they told us to get there a few hours before departure time..." The speaker has used a Reported Speech construction ("they told us to get..."). Transform the following sentences into Reported Speech.

1. "Bring your bags." = They told us to...
2. "Open the letter." = She told us...
3. "Stop singing!" = He told us...
4. "Pay the money." = They told us...

## 5 Discussion

1. What's the worst thing that's happened to you while on holiday?
2. What's your idea of a holiday nightmare?
3. What's the best holiday experience you've ever had?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Why pirates are everyone's favourite bandits.



# Good Bad-Guys

EVERYONE LOVES PIRATES. YOU ONLY NEED TO LOOK AT THE SUCCESS OF THE *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN* FILMS TO KNOW THAT. IN FACT, JACK SPARROW AND HIS CREW ARE ACTUALLY THE **GOODIES** IN THE FILMS! BUT REAL-LIFE PIRATES WEREN'T SO AMUSING. SO, WHY DO WE LIKE THEM SO MUCH?



Anne Bonny

**fearsome** pirate than Anne Bonny. Her career began when she met and fell in love with fellow pirate Captain Jack Rackham (otherwise known as "Calico Jack").

Anne had to **disguise** herself as a man in order to sail with him because women were not welcome on ships in those days. However, she proved to be so deadly with a **cutlass** that all the crew soon accepted her as one of their own. No one knows quite what happened to Anne in the end, but her reputation survives.

Finally, not all pirates were considered criminals. Some even had permission to be pirates. They were known as **privateers** or **buccaneers**, and they had the king or queen's  **blessing** to rob and steal from foreign ships. Sir Martin Frobisher (1535-1594) is a typical example. He was an explorer of Canada's north-eastern coast, and went in search of the **Northwest Passage**. He crossed the Atlantic in 1576 and reached Labrador and Baffin Island, discovering Frobisher Bay, but failing to find a route to the Pacific Sea. In 1585, he sailed as vice admiral of Sir Francis Drake's expedition to the West Indies in the Caribbean where they robbed gold from French and Spanish ships; and in 1588 he played an important part in the campaign against the Spanish Armada.



Pirates lived a life of freedom, adventure and excitement. Perhaps that's why we admire them. ❖

Perhaps the main reason is the pirates themselves. Many of them were so larger-than-life that they make Jack Sparrow look ordinary in comparison. The most famous of

all is probably Edward Teach – better known as "Blackbeard". Teach earned this nickname because of the large **beard** that

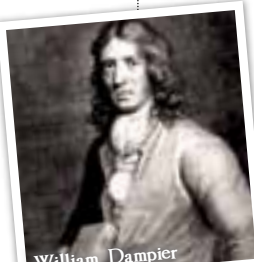
covered almost all his face. When attacking ships, he would put **hemp** into his beard and **set it alight** to terrify his enemies. As a result, many thought he was "the devil himself". Blackbeard **struck fear into the hearts of** everyone he knew and captured more than 40 ships. He was finally killed when the Royal Navy **ambushed** him on 22nd November 1718.

But not all pirates were quite so uncivilised. Take

William Dampier, for example. He was a famous pirate who spent many years robbing ships, but he was also a successful author and a very popular figure in high-society. Dampier published his **journals**, which mixed tales of **pillage** and robbery with very knowledgeable accounts of wildlife, geography and navigation. Dampier had a big impact on literature in other ways too. After arguing with the sailor Alexander Selkirk on one expedition, Dampier left Selkirk **marooned** on the deserted island of Juan Fernandez. Selkirk survived for 5 years with only wild goats, rats and wild cats for company. After he was finally rescued, he became the

inspiration for Daniel Defoe's famous tale *Robinson Crusoe*.

And not all pirates had beards as some of them were women. There was never a more



William Dampier

## National Talk like a Pirate Day

Would you like to be a pirate? You can... for a day. Just join in the fun of National Talk like a Pirate Day. It's held every year on 19th September. For more information, visit [www.talklikeapirate.com/piratehome.html](http://www.talklikeapirate.com/piratehome.html) Meanwhile, here are some useful pirate words and expressions for you to learn.

- Ahoy there!** = Hello!
- Aye, aye!** = Yes, yes!
- Ahoy, there, matey.** = Hello, there, friend.
- All right, me hearty?** = Are you OK, my friend?
- You scurvy dog!** = You horrible person!
- Shiver me timbers!** = What? (an expression of surprise)
- I've got the booty.** = I've got the treasure.
- A doubloon** = A gold coin.
- A gentleman o' fortune.** = A pirate (the polite way of referring to them!).
- You're lily-livered.** = You are weak.
- By the Powers!** = Oh, no!
- He's down in Davy Jones' Locker.** = He's at the bottom o' the sea (where the souls of dead men lie, supposedly).
- Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!** = (This is a famous pirate poem.)
- The Jolly Roger / The Skull and Crossbones** = (The official pirate flag.)

### GLOSSARY

- the goodies** *n*  
the good people / heroes in a film / story
- a beard** *n*  
hair on the lower part of a man's face
- hemp** *n*  
the fibre of a plant
- to set alight** *exp*  
to burn
- to strike fear into the hearts of** *exp*  
to really frighten
- to ambush** *vb*  
to attack suddenly from a hidden place
- a journal** *n*  
a personal record of what happens during a period of time
- pillage** *n*  
the act of robbing and destroying things
- to maroon** *vb*  
to leave on a deserted island or abandoned place
- fearsome** *adj*  
frightening
- to disguise** *vb*  
if you "disguise" yourself as something, you put clothes on so you appear to be that thing
- a cutlass** *n*  
a short, heavy sword (a weapon with a wooden handle and a sharp metal point at the end)
- a privateer/buccaneer** *n*  
a sailor who had official permission to attack and steal from foreign ships
- a blessing** *n*  
if you have the king/queen's "blessing" to do something, you have their permission to do it
- the Northwest Passage** *n*  
a water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the Arctic

The master composer of the 19th century.

# Chopin



CHOPIN WAS A FAMOUS POLISH COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN. HE IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE GREAT MASTERS OF ROMANTIC MUSIC. CHOPIN LED A SHORT AND TRAGIC LIFE, MOSTLY AS AN EMIGRÉ IN PARIS. 2010 IS THE BICENTENNIAL OF CHOPIN'S BIRTH (1810).

**F**ryderyk Franciszek Chopin was born on 1st March 1810 in the village of Zelazowa-Wola, Poland. Chopin's musical talent **became apparent** extremely early on, and he was compared with the childhood genius Mozart. Already at the age of 7, Fryderyk was the author of two **polonaises** (in G minor and B flat major). And very soon "little Chopin" became a major attraction in aristocratic circles, playing to counts, lords and princes.

She offered Chopin tenderness, warmth and maternal care. They spent the winter of 1838/1839 on the Spanish island of Majorca, living in a former **monastery**. It was here that Chopin wrote many of his most famous pieces, including the series of 24 preludes, the Polonaise in C minor, the Ballade in F major and the Scherzo in C sharp minor. But Chopin also became gravely ill and showed symptoms of **tuberculosis**. For many weeks he was so weak that he couldn't leave the house.



In 1830, there was an **uprising** in Poland against Russian domination.

This was the beginning of a Russo-Polish war. Eventually, the uprising collapsed and the Russians captured Warsaw. During the uprising, Chopin was abroad in Vienna. On hearing about the war, Chopin wrote in his diary, "The enemy is in the house... Oh, God, do you exist?" Chopin never returned to Poland.

In the autumn of 1831, Chopin went to Paris. At the time, there were thousands of **exiles** in the city, including soldiers, politicians, writers and artists. Chopin became a member of the Polish Literary Society, attended emigré meetings and played at charity concerts. He also became friends with other famous composers such as Liszt, Mendelssohn and Berlioz.

In 1836, Chopin started a relationship with the famous French writer **George Sand**\*.



In 1839, Chopin and Sand returned to France. Chopin moved into George Sand's manor house in Nohant, in central France. They enjoyed a deep friendship, but separated in July 1847 (some say as a result of the **hostile** attitude of George Sand's son). In 1848, Chopin went to England, where he gave his last concert on 16th November 1848, playing for Polish emigrés in the Guildhall in London. A few days later, he returned to Paris, and died there on 17th October 1849 of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Chopin was **buried** in the Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris, but, in accordance with his **will**, his heart was taken to Warsaw where it was placed in an **urn** in a pillar of the Holy Cross Church. His heart always belonged in Poland. ✦

## Quotes by chopin

"Put all your **soul** into it – play the way you feel."

"Sometimes I can only **groan**, suffer, and **pour out** my **despair** at the piano."

"It is dreadful when something **weighs on your mind**, not to have a soul to **unburden yourself** to. I tell my piano the things I used to tell you."

"I wish I could throw off the thoughts which poison my happiness. And yet I take a kind of pleasure in **indulging** them."

## \* George Sand

George Sand (real name Aurore Lucile Dupin) was a famous French novelist. She was born in July 1804 and died in June 1876. Some of her most famous works include *Compagnon Du Tour De France* (1840), *La Petite Fadette* (1848) and *Château Des Désertes* (1850)



## Frederic Chopin

Frederic Chopin was a famous composer and musician from Poland. He was born on 1st March 1810 in Zelazowa-Wola, Poland. He died on 17th October 1849. His father was French, and his mother was Polish. Most of his pieces were written for the piano as a solo instrument. Some of his most famous works include: Nocturne in E flat major; Preludes numbers 4 and 15; Scherzo number 2; Ballade number 1; Polonaises numbers 3 and 6; and Fantasie in F minor. Many believe that his melancholic and soulful music was a result of all the suffering for his home country.



### GLOSSARY

- to lead** *vb*  
the life you "lead", is the life you have
- an emigré** *n*  
a person who is forced to live in another country (often for political reasons)
- to become apparent** *exp*  
if something "becomes apparent", it is obvious eventually
- a polonaise** *n*  
a slow dance of polish origin
- an uprising** *n*  
a rebellion against people in authority
- an exile** *n*  
a person who is forced to live in another country (often for political reasons)
- a monastery** *n*  
a building where monks or nuns live (people who devote their lives to religion)
- tuberculosis** *n*  
an infectious disease that attacks the lungs (the organs used for breathing)
- hostile** *adj*  
aggressive; not friendly
- to bury** *vb*  
to put a dead body in a hole in the ground
- a will** *n*  
a legal document explaining what is to do be done after someone has died
- an urn** *n*  
a container with a narrow neck for the ashes of a dead person
- a soul** *n*  
the spirit of a person
- to groan** *vb*  
to make a deep sound as if you are in pain or very sad
- to pour out** *phr vb*  
if you "pour out" your feelings, you explain them to someone
- despair** *n*  
pain, suffering, sadness, a loss of hope
- to weigh on your mind** *exp*  
if something is "weighing on your mind", you are thinking about it a lot and it is worrying you
- to unburden yourself** *exp*  
if you "unburden yourself" to someone, you tell that person about your worries and troubles
- to indulge** *vb*  
if you "indulge" yourself in a feeling, you allow yourself to enjoy/experience/suffer from that feeling

voices

Various English accents

track

22

# DICTIONARY OF SLANG

HERE WE'VE GOT SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW TO SAY THINGS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.



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Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
Your car has stopped working.	It has ceased functioning.	It has stopped working.	It's conked out. [it is / it has]
You heard a joke that made you laugh.	That amusing quip caused me to guffaw hysterically.	That joke made me laugh.	That joke really cracked me up.
A friend is under a lot of pressure and stress at work. It's starting to affect her mentally.	She is commencing to suffer as a result of stress-related professional issues.	She's having a mental breakdown.	She's cracking up.
You bought a new computer. However, it isn't as good as they said it would be.	They exaggerated the merits of the computer's performance and abilities.	It isn't as good as they said it was.	It's not all it's cracked up to be.
It's late and you are at a friend's house. You don't want to catch the train home. You ask if you can sleep there.	May I please repose in your place of residence tonight?	Can I sleep at your house tonight?	Can I crash at your place tonight?
A friend is sleeping on the sofa.	He is resting in the arms of Morpheus upon the chaise lounge.	He is sleeping on the sofa.	He's crashed out on the sofa.

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OUR MONTHLY LOOK AT ENGLISH ACCENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN BOTH ENGLISH-SPEAKING AND NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. THIS MONTH: THE POLISH ENGLISH ACCENT.

### POLAND

● Poland (Polska) is a country located in Central Europe. It has borders with many countries, including Germany, the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and Slovakia.



- The capital of Poland is Warsaw.
- The population is approximately 38 million.
- Poland's first free elections after the fall of the Iron Curtain were in 1990. They were won by Lech Walesa.
- Poland became a member of NATO in 1999.
- Poland became a member of the European Union in 2004.
- Prime Minister: Donald Tusk.
- Recently-deceased president: Lech Kaczynski (new elections to be held shortly).



- **MARIE CURIE** (1867-1934) – physicist and chemist.
- **LECH WALESZA** (1943) – political activist and co-founder of Solidarity – Poland's first independent trade union.

- **POPE JOHN PAUL II (KAROL WOJTYLA)** (1920-2005) – the first Pope of Polish origin.



- **JOSEPH CONRAD** (1857-1924) – a British subject of Polish origin who wrote many famous books in English, including *Heart of Darkness*, which was the inspiration for the film *Apocalypse Now*.

Darkness, which was the inspiration for the film *Apocalypse Now*.

- **MICHAEL ANTHONY SOBOLEWSKI** (1954) – founding member of the hard rock band Van Halen.
- **SIR ARTHUR JOHN GIELGUD** (1904-2000) – English actor, director, and producer of Polish origin.
- **HELENA RUBINSTEIN** (1870 - 1965), a cosmetics industrialist and founder of Helena Rubinstein, Incorporated.
- **GLORIA SWANSON** (1899 – 1983) - actress of the Silent Era who had Polish ancestry.

Now sit back and listen to Natalia telling us all about the Polish English accent. ☺

### FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM POLAND

Millions of Polish people have emigrated from their country over the years. So, apart from the many famous Poles from Poland, there are also many Americans and British people of Polish descent who are famous.



- **NICOLAUS COPERNICUS** (1473-1543) – famous astronomer.
- **FREDERIC CHOPIN** (1810-1849) – musician and composer.

# Negotiation Knockout



Top tips for negotiating your way to success.

## 1 Pre-listening

Try to come up with 6 top tips for successful negotiating. Use the words and ideas below to help you.

- price
- offer
- options
- argue
- motivation
- advice
- anger
- rules
- contract
- figure
- budget
- maximum
- minimum
- expectations
- win
- lose

## 2 Listening I

You are going to listen to someone who is talking about his top tips for successful negotiation. Listen once and compare your ideas from the Pre-listening activity.

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. What are the seven negotiation tips the speaker mentions? Try to jot down the main ideas (don't worry about writing the exact words).

## 4 Language focus Complex noun groups

Look at this extract from the listening, "The idea of meeting with my suppliers to set new prices and draw up new contracts made me miserable." In this example, the speaker has used a complex noun group. Can you identify the main verb that follows the noun group? (It's "made") Now, complete the following complex-noun-group sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

1. The idea of having to get up early in the morning to... was...
2. The thought of having to meet him to... was...
3. The idea of having to... at the weekend was...
4. The thought of having to go to... was...

## 5 Discussion

1. What are your top tips for negotiating?
2. When was the last time you had to negotiate?
3. Do you have to do much negotiating at home/work? What for?

# WAY IDIOMS

THIS MONTH, WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME "WAY" IDIOMS.



**Have come a long way**

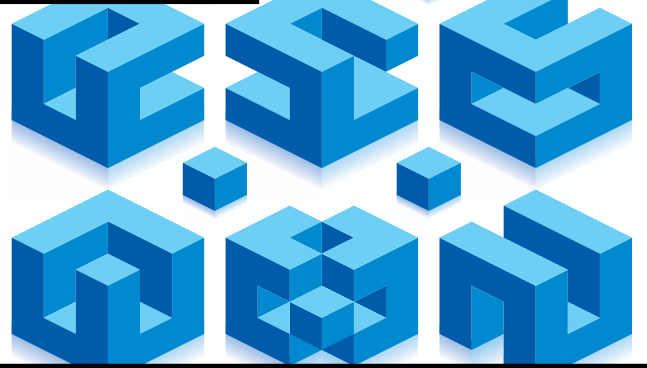
TO HAVE MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS.

"We've come a long way with our business since the days when we were operating out of my bedroom."

**In any way, shape or form**

IN ANY WAY AT ALL.

"I have never been involved with her or her company in any way, shape or form."



**Out of the way**

IF A PLACE IS "OUT OF THE WAY", IT IS A LONG DISTANCE FROM OTHER VILLAGES, TOWNS OR CITIES.

"It's a great pub, but it's a little bit out of the way."



**Not stand in somebody's way**

IF YOU SAY THAT YOU "WON'T STAND IN SOMEONE'S WAY", YOU ARE SAYING THAT YOU WON'T STOP OR PREVENT SOMEONE FROM DOING WHAT THEY WANT.

"If that's what you want to do, I won't stand in your way. Do what you want!"



**Ways and means**

THE "WAYS AND MEANS" OF ACHIEVING SOMETHING ARE THE METHODS FOR ACHIEVING IT.

"There are ways and means of achieving our goals which don't involve spending so much money."



**Find out / See which way the wind is blowing**

TO SEE HOW A SITUATION IS DEVELOPING BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ABOUT IT.

"I think we ought to see which way the wind is blowing before deciding who to support."



# TV Trips

Look, look  
it's me!  
How to  
get on TV!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Can you think of any ways to become famous? Look at the list below. Add some more ideas. Then, choose the ones that you think are most effective.

**Marry someone famous**

**Appear on a reality TV show**

**Write a provocative book**

**Paint a controversial picture**

**Perform a stunt during a live event**

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once. Were any of your ideas similar to the ones from the Pre-reading activity?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

- Who were the producers of one show with a TV psychiatrist looking for?
- What did people interested in participating in the show on weight loss have to do?
- What type of people are the producers of *My Secret Body* looking for?
- What do some people suggest you do if you want to be on a game show?
- What do would-be contestants for *Big Brother* have to do to get on the show?

## 4 Language focus Creating emphasis

Look at this extract from the article, "The most important thing to do first is to decide..." In this example the speaker has created emphasis through the use of the expression "The most important thing to do first is..." Complete the following sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

- When applying for a job, the most important thing to do is to...
- When trying to get on TV, the most important thing to do is to...
- When thinking about changing jobs, the most important thing to do is to...
- When choosing a holiday destination, the most important thing to do is to...

## 5 Discussion

- Why do you think so many people want to be famous?
- What are the pros and cons of being famous?
- What would you do to get your 15 minutes of fame? Have you already had it? How?

In 1968 American artist Andy Warhol famously remarked, "In the future, everyone will be world famous for fifteen minutes." Well, it seems that the future has arrived, and although not everyone can be world famous, nearly everybody wants to be. Reality TV, makeover shows, talk shows, quiz shows and talent shows all use real people as their stars. It's never been easier to get on TV and grab your fifteen minutes in the spotlight. So, how do you go about it?



The most important thing to do first is to decide what sort of show you want to be on. The internet is one place to look. Just type in "I want to be on TV" and see what comes up. The website [www.howtogetontv.com](http://www.howtogetontv.com) was recently looking for "moms for a healthy makeover show". Another show with a TV psychiatrist was looking for people with estranged relationships ("individuals who have been estranged from loved ones, siblings, parents, children, or close friends for over a year or more"). And another was looking for people with weight problems ("REAL people with REAL issues") for a show presented by fitness trainer Jackie Warner. All you had to do was send your details, a photo, and a brief paragraph explaining why you want to be on the show (presumably to prove that you are a REAL person with REAL issues). Oh, and it helps if you live near Los Angeles, where many of these shows are made.

But perhaps you are hoping for something better than a one-off appearance – a series perhaps. Well, once again this is not impossible, particularly if you don't mind doing something embarrassing. In fact, the more embarrassing you are prepared to be, the easier it is to get on TV – just watch an episode of *Big Brother!* Channel 5 in the UK have recently been casting a reality show to be called *My Secret Body*. The production company making the programme is looking for people who would enjoy the chance to tell the British viewing public "what they really think about size, shape, hair, love and sex". However, there's just one thing: you have to be willing to take your clothes off. Still, if you don't mind appearing naked on national TV, this could be your big break.

If you don't fancy displaying your body on TV, what about your mind? All of the thousands of game shows that appear day after day need contestants willing to answer questions or play games on TV. The competition for places on these shows is quite stiff. But don't worry, what you need to do is follow some of the thousands of pieces of good advice available to would-be contestants on the internet. Many suggest making your own video in order to show producers just how good you can look on screen. Your video clip should show off any eccentric or interesting skills you have. You also have to tell the producer why you'd be perfect for the show.



But how do you get on one of the big shows? *The X Factor*, *Fame Academy* or *Big Brother*, for example. For talent shows such as *The X Factor*, contestants are recruited through open auditions, which can attract thousands of wannabes (200,000 people auditioned for series 6 of *The X Factor* in the UK). So, in theory anyone can try, but your chances of making it into the final 12 are about 1 in 16,666. Not great. *Big Brother* also holds open auditions for the thousands of people who are willing to share a house with eleven strangers. For the latest series in the UK, potential contestants were allowed to post a video on YouTube to save them the trouble of having to leave their homes. It's all good practice.

The big question is, why do so many people want to be on television? It may have something to do with the fact that every now and then someone from one of these shows does actually become really famous. Leona Lewis, winner of the third series of *The X Factor UK*, has since sold 6.5 million CDs and starts her first world tour this year. Who wants to be famous for fifteen minutes when you can be famous for longer? ☆

# READING I

# Poor Pirates

Piracy is back in fashion. But why? By Sam Gordon

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

Match the "sea-related" words (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

- The coastguard
- A fishing trawler
- A pirate ship
- The coast
- A speed boat
- Seafood
- A pirate
- A whale



## 2 Reading I

Why do you think some people are turning to piracy these days? Think. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and say what the numbers/dates, etc. refer to.

- 111
- 10 times higher
- Millions
- 73%
- \$2
- \$300 million

## 4 Language focus

### Clauses with "since"

Look at this extract from the article, "Since the beginning of the Somali Civil War nearly twenty years ago, the country has had no central government..." In this extract, the writer has used an opening clause with "since" followed by a Present Perfect tense ("has had"). Complete these sentence beginnings with your own ideas. Remember to use a Present Perfect (Continuous) verbal construction.

- Since leaving university, I...
- Since the end of the cold weather, I...
- Since leaving home this morning, I...
- Since moving house, I...

## 5 Discussion

- What do you think should be done about piracy?
- What more could be done to help poor countries?
- What do you think it's like being a modern-day pirate? What about a pirate from the 17th century?

Pirates are a thing of the past, right? Wrong! They're back. Only this time it isn't cutlasses that they're using – they're carrying rocket launchers and Kalashnikovs.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia has been growing steadily since the early 1990s... and it's showing no signs of stopping. In 2008, there were 111 attacks, including 42 successful hijackings. Those are alarming statistics. But the rate of attacks in January and February of 2009 was about 10 times higher than during the year before. Piracy is once again a very real problem and its effects are felt across the globe. The whole world's shipping industry has been affected and the problem is so serious that in 2008, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling on all nations with vessels in the area to fight piracy with military force.

So, what are the causes of piracy? The answer is simple. Since the beginning of the Somali Civil War nearly twenty years ago, the country has had no central government with any real power and is ruled by warlords. As a result, millions of Somalis depend on food aid and in 2008, according to the World Bank, up to 73% of the population survived on less than \$2 per day. In these circumstances, and with no other option to make a living, it isn't surprising that many people are drawn to a life that brings money and power.

However, it isn't only the war that has created problems. Before the civil war, one of the country's main industries was fishing. Now there's no coastguard, and fishing trawlers from other countries have been entering Somali waters to fish illegally. In fact, it's estimated that foreign ships take \$300 million per year of tuna, shrimp, lobster and other luxury seafood items. Perhaps it's no surprise that many of the pirates are fishermen who can no longer earn enough to survive.

But it isn't only what western countries take that's the problem – it's what they leave too. Dumping of hazardous waste started off the Somali coast in the early 1990s and has depleted fish stocks and affected the health of people living in those areas. As Somali pirate leader Sugule Ali said, "We don't consider ourselves sea bandits. We consider sea bandits those who illegally fish... and dump waste in our seas."

There are two sides to every story and many genuine reasons why people in Somalia have been drawn to piracy. Perhaps focusing more attention on helping Somalia, instead of chasing pirates might be the solution. As Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN said, "Piracy is a symptom of anarchy on the ground. More security on the ground will make less piracy on the seas." ✚



## Somalia fact file

- Capital: Mogadishu.
- Official language: Somali, Arabic.
- President: Sharif Ahmed.
- Independence (from the UK and Italy): 1960.
- Population: 9,100,000.
- GDP: \$7.599 billion.
- Currency: Somali shilling.



## GLOSSARY

- a cutlass** *n* a short, heavy sword
- a rocket launcher** *n* a weapon that can fire a rocket (a powerful explosive device)
- steadily** *adv* slowly but surely
- a hijacking** *n* if there is a "hijacking", criminals take control of a ship/plane, etc. and take the people prisoner
- to call on** *phr vb* if you "call on" someone to do something, you ask them publicly to do it
- a warlord** *n* a military commander who has power in a region
- food aid** *n* food that is donated to a poor country with hungry people
- to make a living** *exp* the things you do to "make a living" are the things you do to make money to buy food, etc.
- drawn to** *exp* attracted to
- hazardous waste** *n* this consists of chemical substances that are poisonous and dangerous
- depleted** *adj* if a quantity of something has been "depleted", it has been reduced a lot
- fish stocks** *n* the total population of fish in the sea



# Stop Whining!

Wine scam causes resentment on both sides of the Atlantic.



Watch & Learn!  
Listen to people discussing  
this topic in a mini-video at  
[www.hotenglishmagazine.com](http://www.hotenglishmagazine.com)

US woman  track  27

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

## 1 Pre-reading

What do the following wine-related words mean?

- a wine cellar   a vineyard   a grape
- a winery   a cork   a corkscrew   body
- a sommelier   a barrel/cask   aroma
- decanting   viticulture/viniculture
- vintage   a vintner   a wine glass
- a wine shop   a magnum of wine
- a wine bar

## 2 Reading I

The following article is about a wine scam (a trick designed to make money). What do you think it could involve? Think. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and say what the numbers/dates, etc. refer to.

1. 18 million
2. €7 million
3. 13.5 million
4. €180,000
5. €58
6. 50,000hl

## 4 Language focus Continuous Passive constructions

Look at this extract from the article, "Their suspicions were also raised by the volume of pinot noir being produced in the region." In this extract, the writer has used a reduced Continuous Passive construction ("being produced"). It is "reduced" because elements of the clause have been omitted (the full clause would be, "...that was being produced..."). Complete the following sentences with your own ideas.

1. We were shocked by the number of people being given...
2. We were surprised by the amount of alcohol being consumed by...
3. We were annoyed by the amount of time being spent on...
4. We were amazed by the amount of money being wasted on...

## 5 Discussion

1. Would you like to read this story? Why? Why not?
2. What are your favourite alcoholic drinks? How do you drink them? When? Where? Why?

Can you tell a good wine from a bad one? Even the experts find it hard at times, as a recent scandal in France's wine region of Languedoc-Roussillon will testify.



The scandal has become known as the "pinot noir scam". As part of the con, E&J Gallo (a leading US winery) was tricked into buying 18 million bottles of plonk which had been repackaged as pinot noir. In total, twelve people from the French wine industry were convicted of masterminding a lucrative plan. They were found to have made a €7 million profit through a fraud which lasted from January 2006 until March 2008. Overall, 13.5 million litres of fake wine were shipped to the US to be drunk by unsuspecting US consumers.

The man behind the scam was the head of a reputable wine merchant. He acted as an intermediary between local producers and a conglomerate, which resold the wine to the American winery. The trading company that worked with Gallo on its popular brand of Red Bicycleette wines was ordered to pay €180,000. They were the only defendants to plead not guilty in the affair. The other defendants included eight co-operative wine cellars from the surrounding Aude and Hérault regions.

Discovery of the scam came to light by chance. During an audit of the French wine merchant in March 2008, investigators noticed that the business was buying pinot noir from local co-operatives for €58 a hectolitre (hl) despite a going rate of €97. Their suspicions were also raised by the volume of pinot noir being produced in the region. Historically, Languedoc-Roussillon produces around 50,000hl a year. Suddenly, it was producing a lot more. Where were all the grapes coming from? The answer was simple. The bottles being labelled pinot noir were in fact wine made from less expensive grapes such as merlot or shiraz. And these are in plentiful supply.

Many honest French winegrowers are furious. "This has caused a loss of image and of reputation which cannot be quantified," said Christophe Escarguel, a lawyer for the union of Pays d'Oc winegrowers. The union emphasised the "considerable damage" done to the "low-level winegrowers who devote their lives to the vines". Another farmer added, "This disaster hurts the image of our country. It hurts the honest small wine producers. And, most importantly, it hurts the client. It is a disgrace." ❖

## Sideways (2009)

is an American comedy-drama starring Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen and Sandra Oh. It's directed by Alexander Payne and it's about two men who take a week-long road trip to the wine country of Santa Barbara, California. Throughout the film, Miles Raymond (played by Giamatti) speaks fondly of the red wine varietal Pinot Noir, while denigrating the Merlot. As a result of the film, the red wine brand Red Bicycleette was launched in 2004, which specialised in wines made with the pinot noir grape.



## GLOSSARY

- to testify** *vb*  
to prove/demonstrate/show
- pinot noir** *n* French  
a type of grape associated with the Burgundy region of France. It produces excellent wine
- a scam** *n*  
a trick that is designed to make money
- a con** *n*  
a trick that is designed to make money
- to trick into** *exp*  
if you "trick someone into" doing something, you convince them to do it even though it is not good for them
- plonk** *n* inform  
cheap wine
- to repackage** *vb*  
if you "repackage" A as B, you make A look like B by putting the same paper/plastic packaging on it
- to mastermind** *vb*  
to plan and direct something complicated and complex
- fake** *adj*  
not genuine/real
- to ship to** *phr vb*  
to send to a place by ship/plane/boat, etc.
- an intermediary** *n*  
a person who acts as a mediator between two people/parties
- to come to light** *exp*  
if something "comes to light", people discover information about it
- a hectolitre** *n*  
100 litres
- the going rate** *exp*  
the usual price
- a disgrace** *n*  
if you describe something as a "disgrace", you think it is terrible/bad

# PHRASAL VERB THEMES

# The News

HERE ARE SOME TYPICAL PHRASAL VERBS THAT YOU CAN FIND IN NEWS ARTICLES. MORE NEXT MONTH. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE WORDS FROM BELOW.

**aid funds benefits prison solution scandal launch employees**

**COME UP WITH**

IF YOU "COME UP WITH" AN IDEA/SOLUTION/ ANSWER, YOU THINK OF IT.



1

"THE COMMITTEE CAME UP WITH A \_\_\_\_\_ THAT THEY PRESENTED TO THE BOARD."

**COUNT DOWN**

TO COUNT THE NUMBERS ALOUD IN REVERSE ORDER UNTIL YOU REACH ZERO (10, 9, 8...).



2

"THEY STARTED COUNTING DOWN FROM 10 TO ZERO IN PREPARATION FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE SPACECRAFT."

**COUNT TOWARDS**

IF ONE THING "COUNTS TOWARDS" ANOTHER THING, IT ADDS TO THAT THING.



3

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED THAT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS BY \_\_\_\_\_ WILL COUNT TOWARDS THEIR PENSION."

**COVER UP**

IF A SCANDAL IS "COVERED UP", THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO HIDE IT (OR INFORMATION ABOUT IT) FROM THE PUBLIC.



4

"THE PRESIDENT KNEW ABOUT THE \_\_\_\_\_, BUT TRIED TO COVER IT UP."

**CRACK DOWN**

IF THE POLICE OR AUTHORITIES TRY TO "CRACK DOWN" ON A CRIME, THEY BECOME STRICTER TOWARDS THAT CRIME AND TRY TO MAKE PEOPLE OBEY THE RULES/LAWS.



5

"THE GOVERNMENT ARE DETERMINED TO CRACK DOWN ON BENEFIT FRAUD, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO CLAIM \_\_\_\_\_ WHILST LIVING ABROAD."

**CUT BACK**

IF YOU "CUT BACK" ON EXPENDITURE/COSTS, YOU REDUCE THOSE THINGS.



6

"CONGRESS CUT BACK ON \_\_\_\_\_ FOR THE SPACE PROGRAMME."

**CUT OFF**

IF YOU "CUT OFF" THE SUPPLY OF SOMETHING, YOU STOP THAT SUPPLY.



7

"THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT WE SHOULD CUT OFF ECONOMIC \_\_\_\_\_ TO THEM UNTIL THEY IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD."

**DETER FROM**

IF YOU ARE "DETERRED FROM" DOING SOMETHING, YOU ARE PERSUADED NOT TO DO IT - OFTEN BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN THE UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES OF DOING IT.



8

"THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE LONGER \_\_\_\_\_ TERMS WOULD DETER PEOPLE FROM COMMITTING THE CRIME."



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# TAPESCRIPTS & BAR CHATS

## Green Times (track 9)

*Helping to save the planet.*

- Jon:** Hi, Maria. Hey, thanks for the party last night. It was great.
- Maria:** Oh, that's OK, Jon. Glad you enjoyed it!
- Jon:** I thought you might like some help clearing up.
- Maria:** That's kind of you. Come in.
- Jon:** So, what can I do?
- Maria:** Well, I'm sorting all the rubbish out. There are lots of bottles, cans and paper plates.
- Jon:** OK. Give me a rubbish bag and I'll clear them up.
- Maria:** All right. Well, the bottles go in this green plastic bag here. The paper goes in this blue bag, and the tins in this yellow bag.
- Jon:** Why don't you just put them in a rubbish bag? It's much quicker.
- Maria:** I want to recycle them, Jon. Don't you recycle?
- Jon:** No, I never bother. I just throw everything in one big plastic bag.
- Maria:** I don't believe it. How can you be so irresponsible?
- Jon:** What?
- Maria:** If people like us don't recycle, the environment will suffer.
- Jon:** Oh, come on. Do you really think I'll save the polar bear if I put my bottles in a bottle bank? It doesn't make any difference.
- Maria:** Of course it does. If we recycle paper, we won't need to cut down so many trees. If we have more trees, there will be less carbon monoxide. And if there's less carbon monoxide, global warming will slow down. If global warming slows down, the polar icecap at the North Pole will stop melting. And that means saving the polar bears. Everything is connected!
- Jon:** I'm not so sure. I watched a programme on TV last week and there was a scientist in it saying that the Earth's climate has always been changing. Sometimes it gets hotter, sometimes it gets colder. Animals become extinct... it's got nothing to do with humans.
- Maria:** Yeah, I saw that programme. Do you know who the scientist works for?
- Jon:** No. The Science Museum or a university, I suppose.
- Maria:** Oh, Jon. He works for a big car company. And there was a woman from an oil company too.
- Jon:** Oh, yes.
- Maria:** Some companies don't want us to make the connection between what humans do and environmental problems. If we do, we'll buy fewer cars and use less oil, and they'll make less money.
- Jon:** I didn't realise you were so green.
- Maria:** Of course I am. Every responsible person should be. And that includes you!
- Jon:** OK! OK! Give me the bags and I'll recycle the bottles, paper and glass.
- Maria:** Good and then we'll go to the shops and buy you some bags so you can start recycling.
- Jon:** OK. We can take my car.
- Maria:** No, Jon. We can walk. The exercise will be good for you... and the planet.

## Festival Fun (track 12)

*Ancient festivals that are still going strong.*

- Karen:** As you may know, this year, the Glastonbury Music and Arts Festival, or Glasto as it's now called, is celebrating its 40th birthday. But 40 years is nothing compared to some popular festivals from around the world. I'm joined in the studio today by travel writer David Jenkins who's going to tell us about some of the world's most ancient festivals. Welcome to the show, David.
- David:** Thanks Karen. It's great to be here.
- Karen:** So, are there any ancient festivals which are still celebrated these days, David?
- David:** Oh, yes. One of the oldest is The Nevruz Festival in Turkey. Every March 21st people in Turkey clean their houses and buy new clothes.
- Karen:** Why?
- David:** To celebrate the start of spring. The idea is that all disease and troubles leave the house before the beginning of spring.
- Karen:** And how long has Nevruz been celebrated.
- David:** Over 6,000 years. It's a very old festival.
- Karen:** Wow. So if you wanted to visit Turkey, 21st March would be a good time to go, right?

- David:** Absolutely. Now, if you wanted to see a Mexican festival, the end of October would be a good time because on 1st and 2nd November Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead. As part of that festival, families take food and drink to the graves of their dead relatives and have a picnic. They eat chocolate coffins and sugar skeletons. It's amazing.
- Karen:** And how old is the Day of the Dead festival?
- David:** About 3,000 years. Although now it's a Christian festival, the day of the dead started as an ancient Aztec festival dedicated to a goddess called Mictecacihuatl.
- Karen:** Fascinating!
- David:** Another ancient festival is Esala Perahera. It's been taking place for about 2,300 years in Sri Lanka, and it's spectacular. There are two big processions with dancers, acrobats, flame throwers and more than 100 elephants. It takes place in July or August in the city of Kandy. If I had the chance, I'd really like to go to it.
- Karen:** And what does the festival celebrate?
- David:** Well, originally it was a rainfall festival, but in the 4th century AD the festival started to celebrate the arrival in Sri Lanka of the sacred tooth relic of Lord Buddha.
- Karen:** A celebration for a tooth?
- David:** That's right. But it is Lord Buddha's tooth so it's very special.
- Karen:** OK, we've got time for one more.
- David:** I thought I'd tell you about another festival which is not very famous.
- Karen:** And what's that?
- David:** The Marriage of the Trees in Accettura, Italy. This is a fertility festival that became Christianised some 1,500 years ago. It is likely that the original festival is much older.
- Karen:** What happens?
- David:** Well, in May a King and Queen tree are cut down in the local forest. They are carried through the town and then "married" in the central square.
- Karen:** The trees are married?
- David:** Yes, the Queen tree is lifted up and put on top of the King tree. This shows respect for the forest and should ensure a good harvest.
- Karen:** Well, I'd love to see that. It sounds extraordinary. Thanks, David. That was really interesting.
- David:** My pleasure.

## US Bar Chat (track 19)

*eReaders*

- Christine:** So, I just got an eReader for my birthday and I'm not quite sure how I feel about it.
- Alex:** Really? Er, I got to ask you, what's the point of one?
- Christine:** Well, actually they're really convenient because you can fit so many books onto just one screen.
- Alex:** Uh huh. And, er, what, why can't you just carry one book around?
- Christine:** Well, it's good for traveling, mostly, I think, because you can bring multiple books with you at one time, and it's just in this lightweight container.
- Alex:** I really think technology has gone too far these days. I mean, just carry one book around. What, what's so hard about that?
- Christine:** Yeah, I see what you're saying. And I do like, I do prefer to read with paperback books, primarily because I like the smell, but... Ha, ha.
- Alex:** OK, that's interesting.
- Christine:** It is really convenient to have a lot of books in one place.
- Alex:** I agree. I, I feel like there's, er, an authenticity that's lacking [in eReaders].
- Christine:** Yeah, I can understand that.

## British Bar Chat (track 20)

*Spelling Trouble*

- Miles:** So, I was, I was actually writing a letter the other day... I don't write many letters these days... and there were a couple of words... cos I'm so used to writing on the computer where it corrects it for you... there were, like, a couple of words that I just had to stop and think, how do you spell that? Like, really annoying words, like "accommodation" and "necessary"

- "Necessary" always causes me trouble. I don't know how many "cs" or "ss" there are.
- Liz:** That's always a difficult one. For me it's "attendance." I don't know whether there's an "a" or an "e." There are other words as well, and the more I think about them the more...
- Miles:** Yeah, I mean, there are words that end in "ence", sometimes its "ance" and sometimes its "ence"
- Liz:** Uh, huh. And I don't think there's any rule. I've never found one.
- Miles:** No, no. The only rule I remember from school is "l" before "e" except after "c".
- Liz:** Yep, that was it. See it doesn't... there's a rule but there's probably an exception somewhere.
- Miles:** Yeah. It's just annoying those, sort of, sometimes simple words but you have to write them out yourself...
- Liz:** Yeah, I had "thief" the other day, and I don't know what I was doing and I had to write it "ei" and "ie" to decide which way it went.
- Miles:** Yeah, sometimes you have to look at it, don't you? To remember how the spelling is. I always have problems with like... erm... like "accommodation".
- Liz:** Oh, cos of the double "c", double "m".
- Miles:** Yeah. Now talking about it, I can't even remember how to spell it now but I think it's got two "ms", but I think I always put one "m" or something stupid like that.
- Liz:** It's got two "cs" hasn't it, as well?
- Miles:** Yeah, it's probably got two "cs" or one.
- Liz:** It's probably double of everything.
- Miles:** Yeah, it's probably double, yeah. But it's one of those words that, if I had to write it and I thought it was correct, I would probably write it incorrectly.
- Liz:** Yeah, this is the trouble with computers nowadays.
- Miles:** They don't teach us how to spell [No]. Or they correct us.

## Travel Time (track 21)

*A holiday nightmare to write home about.*

- Barbara:** Hi, Colin, welcome back.
- Colin:** Hi, Barbara.
- Barbara:** Can I get you a drink? You look as if you need it.
- Colin:** There you go. Cheers.
- Barbara:** Cheers.
- Colin:** So, how was it? Did you have a good time?
- Colin:** It was hell. I mean it's a fantastic country. The people are lovely. The food is wonderful. But what a nightmare! Never again.
- Barbara:** What went wrong?
- Colin:** What didn't go wrong! That would be a better question.
- Barbara:** Go on.
- Colin:** Well, we got to Heathrow airport early. Very early.
- Barbara:** Well, you were travelling with a baby. It's a good idea to allow a lot of time.
- Colin:** Yeah, they told us to get there a few hours before departure time because of the increased security checks. So, we were there four hours before take-off. But then there were delays.
- Barbara:** How long?
- Colin:** Ten hours!
- Barbara:** Ten hours!
- Colin:** Can you imagine what Heathrow Airport is like in August for 10 hours with a small baby?
- Barbara:** Not great, I imagine.
- Colin:** No, not great. The guy from the airline told us that they'd give us a hotel room. But he finished work and forgot to tell his colleague. By the time they arranged it, we only had three hours to wait so there was no point going to the hotel.
- Barbara:** How were Sally and Wendy?
- Colin:** Crying a lot.
- Barbara:** I'm not surprised.
- Colin:** Anyway, the flight was OK. We got to Athens safely.
- Barbara:** Great!
- Colin:** But unfortunately our bags didn't. They went to Moscow.
- Barbara:** Oh no. So you were...
- Colin:** ...yep. Stuck in Athens with no clothes. Wendy needed changing and we had no clothes.
- Barbara:** So what did you do?

- Colin:** Well, the man from the airline said that there was nothing he could do. It was night by this time and all the shops were shut and all the hotels were full. We had to decide whether to stay at the airport or get the bus to Tolo.
- Barbara:** Tolo?
- Colin:** That's the name of the resort we were going to. It's in The Peloponnese. About three hours by bus from Athens.
- Barbara:** So what did you do?
- Colin:** We went to Tolo. The airline woman promised to send our bag on a bus the next day.
- Barbara:** So what was Tolo like?
- Colin:** Very nice.
- Barbara:** And the hotel?
- Colin:** Well, I'd booked us into an apartment. I thought it'd be better than a hotel with a baby. But it was awful.
- Barbara:** Why?
- Colin:** It was incredibly hot and there was no air-conditioning.
- Barbara:** Why not?
- Colin:** The travel agent told us the apartment had air-conditioning in every room but she was wrong.
- Barbara:** Couldn't you open the windows?
- Colin:** Well, yes. But the problem was that our apartment was in a garden. It was really pretty. But if you opened any windows thousands of mosquitoes and other insects flew in. Sally got bitten a lot on the first night. We couldn't sleep at all.
- Barbara:** So what did you do?
- Colin:** Nothing. We stayed awake. If we had the windows open we got bitten, if we closed them it was so hot we couldn't sleep. We're all exhausted.
- Barbara:** Oh dear. You need another drink.
- Colin:** No, I need another holiday. Cheers.

## Accent Alert (track 24)

*The Polish English Accent*

- The place where I'm from is beautiful. It's called Bielany and it's one of the nicest neighbourhoods of Warsaw, the capital city. It's next to a forest, and in the winter there's an ice-skating rink.
- Famous people from Poland include the composer Frederic Chopin, the medical investigator Marie Curie and the union leader Lech Walesa. The people are generally helpful but always keep a distance. We are considered friendly and hospitable.
- Polish people are generally good at learning foreign languages (probably because our language is so hard). But there are many English sounds that we find difficult. For example, in English there are short and long vowels, but in Polish all vowels are short which can cause problems with words such as "sheet" where the vowel sound "e" is long.
- Polish people also often make mistakes with word stress. For example, in the word "computer" we would stress the first syllable ("computer"), but the correct pronunciation is to stress the second syllable ("computer").
- Some sounds and therefore words in English are difficult for us to pronounce. The "th" sound in words such as "thirsty, thirty, think" and "three" are all hard for us. We often pronounce them with an "f" sound. So, words such as "free" and "three" have no difference for us as we confuse the "f" sound with the "th" sound.
- Polish people also have difficulties with the articles. For example, in Polish, there is no distinction between "a house" and "the house" because we don't have articles. So, we often make mistakes and say things such as, "I live in house", or "She has dog."
- Now, I'm going to tell you a short story in my best Polish accent.
- Once, when I was at high-school I was late for school. I started running but I got to the school a bit late. Then, I raced up the stairs, but just as I was running up the marble steps, I fell down on both my knees at the same time. It was really painful and I couldn't get up. Everyone else was laughing because it looked as if I was praying, and that was funny because the school was right next to a church.

# ANSWERS

## Negotiation Knockout (track 25)

Top tips for negotiating your way to success.

- Gary:** Hello, good evening and welcome to Business Today, our weekly look inside the world of business. In today's programme we're going to hear about why investment bankers deserve their huge bonuses – that should be interesting; in our small business slot we're going to have an up-date from Monica Harris about how her children's book shop in Newcastle is getting on. But first, do you dread negotiations? Does the thought of having to argue about contracts make your stomach take a tumble? If so, meet Jennifer Garson, European Business Woman of the Year.
- Jennifer:** Hello, Gary.
- Gary:** So Jennifer, tell us a bit about negotiating.
- Jennifer:** Well, when I started in business I dreaded negotiating. When it was time to meet with my employees to discuss salaries, I felt ill. The idea of meeting with my suppliers to set new prices and draw up new contracts made me miserable. I felt I was just no good at it. Worse, I felt I was letting myself and the company down because I was an unsuccessful negotiator.
- Gary:** So, what did you do?
- Jennifer:** Looked for advice on the internet, of course.
- Gary:** And did you find anything useful?
- Jennifer:** Well, you know how it is... there are lots of great ideas out there and even more crazy ideas. You have to find the good ones and spot the bad ones. However, I've drawn up a list of my top seven tips that I refer to before negotiating.
- Gary:** Great. So, let's go with tip number 1.
- Jennifer:** Well, the first one may sound silly but it's "Be willing to negotiate".
- Gary:** What do you mean?
- Jennifer:** If you really want something, ask for it. The other side can only say "no". Don't ask, don't get, as the saying goes. For example, if you're buying a car, the person who's offering the car wants to get the highest price possible. So, unless you ask for a lower price, the seller won't offer one. Why should they?
- Gary:** I see. So, what's tip two?
- Jennifer:** "Don't get emotional." If you lose your temper and attack the other side, they're less likely to walk away. No one likes the idea of being bullied. If you're calm and patient, it's much easier to reach a compromise that has something in it for both sides – what's called a "win-win" situation.
- Gary:** That sounds like good advice.
- Jennifer:** Number three is one of my favourites. "There are no rules."
- Gary:** What do you mean?
- Jennifer:** If I'm signing a contract, I have every right to make sure I'm happy with what's in the contract. If I'm not happy, I cross words out and change them. If the other side tell me I can't do that, I ask them why not. 99 times out of 100, I can. There are no rules!
- Gary:** What's next?
- Jennifer:** "Don't be the first to name a figure." If the other side ask you, "What do you charge?", respond with something like, "What's the budget?" You'll be amazed how often you get more this way. The assumption is that if you're asked a question, you have to answer it, but that simply isn't true. In negotiation, you need to turn these things on their head.
- Gary:** Great. Very clever.
- Jennifer:** And when they name a figure, even if it's better than you expected, don't accept it immediately. Say something like, "I think you'll have to do better than that." They'll respect you and they might offer you more. No one comes out with their maximum figure first. That's tip five – "Never accept their first price."
- Gary:** And number six?
- Jennifer:** "Don't come across as desperate." Try to give the impression that you don't care too much which way things go. Be a reluctant buyer or seller!
- Gary:** And what's your final tip.
- Jennifer:** "Don't be greedy." As I said before, aim for a win-win outcome. The idea that you need to squeeze the other side dry is wrong. If they feel they've been cheated or beaten, they won't negotiate again, or, worse still, they might even close negotiations. That might be bad for your business.
- Gary:** Well, great advice for us all. I'll have to try some of your tips when I ask for a pay rise next week. Thanks, Jennifer.
- Jennifer:** My pleasure, Gary. And good luck with the pay rise!

## Off the Cuff (track 28)

Question: What's your favourite item of clothing?

I don't have one specific preferred item of clothing. Erm, I just prefer summer clothes in general. Like dresses, sandals, shirts, t-shirts... I like them mainly because they're loose fitting and comfortable, and it's easy to relax in them, unlike suits or even jeans sometimes can be uncomfortable. But, erm, if I had to choose a type of shoe that I like the most, I'd say sneakers. I think they're more comfortable even than sandals.



So, the other day I actually saw a kid around the age of, had to be a late teenager or, or in his early twenties, and, erm, he actually was wearing suspenders. [It] didn't look like it was a joke or anything, it looked like he was straight up just trying to wear suspenders. Erm, and, I have to say, if that was the case, then, I have all the respect in the world for him. The only people that wear suspenders are, unfortunately, people over the age of 60 years old and, er, just the fact that somebody, close to [being] my peer, is wearing, erm, suspenders, maybe trying to bring it back into style, I respect that, and I hope he succeeds because I really do like suspenders.

## Answers

### eReaders (page 4)

- 1 Pre-reading  
1f 2h 3g 4a 5e 6c 7d 8b  
3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
**Advantages:** they're light, you can hold them with one hand, they're comfortable to read in bed, they've got lights, you can store hundreds of books on them, they're perfect for travel, they've got search functions, you can increase the font size, they're ecological, there are lots of free books to access.  
**Disadvantages:** you can't find some books, there's a delay when turning page, you can't flick through the pages.  
4 Language focus  
1. I'm running in the park.  
2. She's working from home.  
3. They're travelling by train.  
4. We aren't watching television.

### Spotify to the Rescue (Page 5)

- 3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
Internet sites such as this will pay record companies from the money they collect from subscriptions and advertising. They pay the companies a royalty every time someone plays one of their songs.  
4 Language focus  
1. She doesn't like the song.  
2. They don't eat at home for lunch.  
3. He doesn't live in a small apartment.  
4. I don't get up early in the morning.  
5. We don't do any exercise at the weekend.

### Useful vocabulary (Page 8)

- 1 i 2a 3h 4b 5e 6f 7j 8d 9g 10c

### Wandering Souls (Page 10)

- 1 Pre-reading  
1f 2d 3e 4a 5g 6c 7b  
3 Reading II  
1. Copenhagen; 2. Greece; 3. Bavaria; 4. Copenhagen; 5. Paris; 6. Greece; 7. The Czech Republic; 8. Paris; 9. Amsterdam; 10. Paris  
4 Language focus  
1. She has been there before.  
2. I have never seen it before.  
3. They have told us about it.  
4. We have not had lunch yet.  
5. He has not arrived yet.

### Error Correction (Page 13)

1. They were very sad.  
2. I was not at home last night.  
3. They weren't there.  
4. Were you at the cinema?  
5. Was he in the park?  
6. There were six of us in the party.

### Green Times (Page 13)

- 1 Pre-listening  
1g/c 2f 3a 4e 5d 6c/g 7h 8b  
3 Listening II  
1. green; 2. blue; 3. yellow; 4. one big plastic bag; 5. car company; 6. on foot

### Grammar Fun (Page 14)

1. which; 2. when; 3. what; 4. where; 5. why; 6. what

### Transport Time (Page 15)

- 1 Pre-reading  
1h 2f 3g 4a 5e 6c 7d 8b  
3 Reading II  
1. plane; 2. fishing boat; 3. sailing boat; 4. cargo ship; 5. bike; 6. elephant; 7. balloon; 8. wakeboard; 9. rickshaw  
4 Language focus

1. will get; 2. don't help; 3. has; 4. will be

### Ridiculous Requests (Page 16)

- 3 Reading II  
1e 2d 3a 4c 5b  
4 Language focus (answers may vary)  
1. fast; 2. long; 3. clever/fast; 4. cold

### Mad Dogs & Englishmen (Page 17)

- 3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
a) Cheese Rolling: chasing after a cheese that is rolling down a hill.  
b) Toe-Wrestling: using your toes to fight an opponent.  
c) Gurning: seeing who can pull the ugliest face.  
4 Language Focus  
1. The cake has been made.  
2. The house has been sold.  
3. The car has been bought.  
4. The picture has been framed.

### Festival Fun (Page 19)

- 1 Pre-listening  
1f 2c 3d 4a 5e 6b  
3 Listening II & III (answers will vary)  
1. The Nevruz Festival / Turkey: people clean their houses and buy new clothes.  
2. The Day of the Dead / Mexico: people take food and drink to the graves of deceased relatives, and have a picnic.  
3. Esala Perahera / Sri Lanka: there are two big processions with dancers and more than 100 elephants.  
4. The Marriage of the Trees / Italy: two trees are cut down then "married" in the central square.  
5 Language focus  
1. would buy; 2. told; 3. would be; 4. borrowed

### You Cheat! (Page 28)

- 3 Reading II (answers may vary)  
1. \$700,000 = the amount someone made in Oregon in nine months.  
2. \$300,000 = the amount someone made in Ohio.  
3. 2 million = the number of exams taken every year for information technology certification.  
4. 28% = the percentage of test centres who had at least one cheating incident over the last five years.  
5. Tens of thousands = the number of soldiers who obtained answers to a test.  
6. \$1,000 = the amount it can cost to write just one question for a test.

### Party Fun (Page 29)

- 3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
1. He was put on a train to Land's End, and missed his wedding.  
2. His brothers put him there and handcuffed him to the taps.  
3. His friends put his leg in a plaster and he didn't find out till half way through his skiing holiday.

### Let's Get Motivated (Page 31)

- 3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
1. The will to succeed / goal-oriented behaviour.  
2. Motivation that comes from inside you.  
3. Motivation from external factors.  
4. Professional speakers who give talks.  
5. Inspire and motivate workers.  
6. By showing them how they have overcome difficulties.

### Riddles (page 32)

When the man is on the camel, he forgets to count the one he's riding.

## Travel Time (page 33)

- 3 Listening II (answers will vary)  
1. The airport: they were delayed for ten hours.  
2. Their luggage: it didn't arrive.  
3. The apartment: there was no air-conditioning, and they couldn't leave the windows open because of all the mosquitoes.  
4 Language focus  
1. They told us to bring our bags.  
2. She told us to open the letter.  
3. He told us to stop singing.  
4. They told us to pay the money.

## Negotiation Knockout (page 37)

- 3 Listening II  
1. "Be willing to negotiate."  
2. "Don't get emotional."  
3. "There are no rules."  
4. "Don't be the first to name a figure."  
5. "Never accept their first price."  
6. "Don't come across as desperate."  
7. "Don't be greedy."

## TV Trips (Page 39)

- 3 Reading II  
1. People with estranged relationships.  
2. Send their details, a photo, and a brief paragraph explaining why they want to be on the show.  
3. People who would enjoy the chance to tell the British viewing public "what they really think about size, shape, hair, love and sex".  
4. Make a video to show producers how good you can look on screen, showing off any eccentric or interesting skills you have, and telling the producer why you'd be perfect for the show.  
5. Post a video of themselves on YouTube.

## Poor Pirates (page 40)

- 1 Pre-reading  
1e 2d 3h 4a 5f 6b 7g 8c  
3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
1. 111 = the number of attacks in 2008.  
2. 10 times higher = the increase in the number of attacks in January and February 2009 compared to the year before.  
3. Millions = the numbers of Somalis who depend on food aid.  
4. 73% = the percentage of the population who survived on less than \$2 a day in 2008.  
5. \$2 = the amount that some people have to spend in a day.  
6. \$300 million = the numerical value of all the seafood taken in Somali waters.

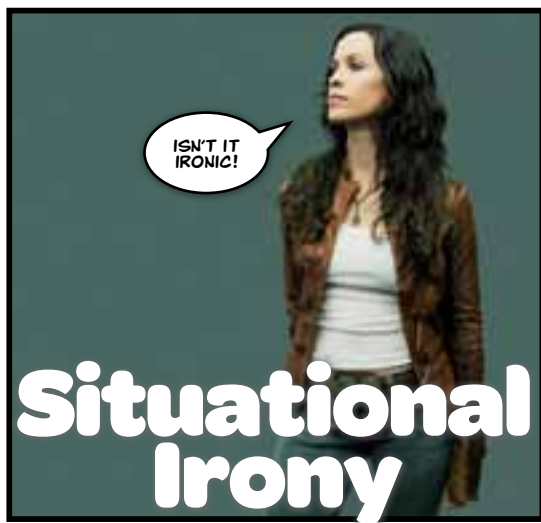
## Stop Whining (page 41)

- 3 Reading II (answers will vary)  
1. 18 million = the number of bottles of plonk which were repackaged as pinot noir.  
2. €7 million = the amount of profit made through the fraud.  
3. 13.5 million = the number of litres of fake wine shipped to the US.  
4. €180,000 = the amount a trading company was ordered to pay.  
5. €58 = the reduced amount they were paying for pinot noir.  
6. 50,000hl = the amount of pinot noir usually produced in the Languedoc-Roussillon region.

## Phrasal Verbs (page 42)

1. solution; 2. launch; 3. employees; 4. scandal; 5. benefits; 6. funds; 7. aid; 8. prison

# WORD OF THE MONTH



THIS MONTH'S EXPRESSION OF THE MONTH IS... "SITUATIONAL IRONY".

Read the following extract from a news story:

"Just last month, another weapons safety instructor shot himself in the foot whilst giving a demonstration on how to handle a weapon safely."

You could describe this event as "situational irony" – a situation that is strange or amusing because it involves a contrast. In this case, the irony comes from the fact that a person who is supposedly an expert in weapons managed to shoot himself during a safety demonstration, which is very ironic.

We can describe situations such as this as examples of "irony" or "situational irony". In these cases, the situation is "ironic" because there is a contrast which is either strange or amusing. Here are some more examples of situational irony.

- a) It's ironic that the sort of people he writes about in his novels never actually read his novels.
- b) I thought I'd met the man of my dreams, but it turns out that not only is he married, but he's

- c) married to the psychiatrist I've been seeing.
- d) It's ironic that the fire station, of all places, burned to the ground in front of 25 helpless fire fighters.

We can also use the term "ironically" as a personal discourse marker. In these cases, we often place "ironically" at the start of the sentence.

- a) Ironically, for a man who claimed to be a pacifist and an anti-war activist, he was convicted of assault.
- b) Ironically, the meeting to discuss the city's improved traffic flow was delayed because the minister of transport was held up in a traffic jam.

You can also comment on the "irony" of a situation. For example:

- a) The irony is that while many government ministers voted for the law, many say in private that it will never work.
- b) The irony is that although he was a highly successful children's author, he never had any children of his own, and had a very unhappy childhood.

The Canadian singer Alanis Morissette has a song called "Isn't it Ironic?" in which she gives examples of ironic situations. In one part of the song, she talks about an old man who wins a million dollars on the lottery, but then dies the very next day.



Finally, here's an example of irony from history. During the attempted assassination of US President Ronald Reagan in 1981, all the shots missed

him except one bullet which ricocheted off the limousine and hit Reagan in the chest. So, the vehicle that was designed to protect the president was responsible for his injury! Very ironic!

Can you think of any examples of situational irony? 📌

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