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# Learn **hot** English magazine

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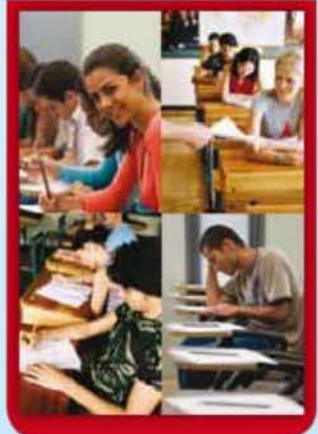
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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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Hi, everybody, and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine!

I read a funny story the other day. A driver in London was fined for parking on double yellow lines that weren't even there when he parked his car! Apparently, the people painting the lines on the road drew them

around his car. Then, a traffic warden appeared and gave him a parking ticket. Incredible! Talking about laws, there are all sorts of strange ones still in existence in the UK and USA. We'll be looking at a few this month in our new section called *Dumb Laws*.

Another one of our themes this month is the British Royal Family. We're looking at the film *The Queen* (starring actress Helen Mirren). You can also find out about some of the key members of the Royal Family, and see how they're related to one another in our "Royal Family Tree". Plus, you can read some trivia about the Royal Family, which I'm sure you'll enjoy.

Of course, that's not all! We're also looking at negative questions, useful expressions for taking a taxi, Kansas (USA), phrasal verbs with the verb *to take*, words to describe noises you can make with your hands, fish idioms, plus lots, lots more!

Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month,

Andy

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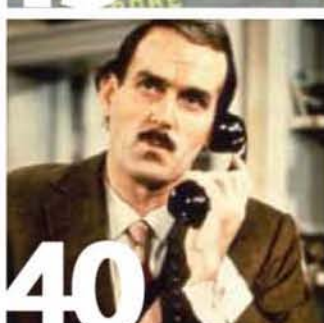
### GLOSSARY

**to fine** v  
if you're "fined", you must pay money because you've committed a crime, etc.

**double yellow lines** n  
two yellow lines in the road. You can't park in areas with "double yellow lines"

**a traffic warden** n  
a person whose job is to make sure that cars aren't parked illegally

**a parking ticket** n  
a piece of paper that tells you that your car is parked illegally. It often includes the amount of money you have to pay as a fine



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# PHRASAL VERBS TAKE

## GLOSSARY

**a mortgage** /r/ money the bank lends you to buy a house

The verb "to take" has many different uses. Generally, we use this verb to refer to the action of carrying/taking something from one place to another. For example, "I took my car to the garage so they could repair it."

**TAKE OFF** IF AN IDEA "TAKES OFF" IT BECOMES VERY POPULAR OR IT GETS ACCEPTED.



THE IDEA OF HATS FOR CATS HAS REALLY TAKEN OFF.

**TAKE IN (THE WASHING/DRY CLOTHES)** TO COLLECT THE CLOTHES FROM THE WASHING LINE BECAUSE THEY ARE DRY.



I TOOK ALL THE WASHING IN BEFORE IT STARTED TO RAIN.

**TO BE TAKEN IN** IF YOU ARE "TAKEN IN" BY SOMEONE, YOU BELIEVE THAT PERSON, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT HONEST.



THEY TOOK ALL MY CAMERA EQUIPMENT. I WAS TAKEN IN BY THEIR FRIENDLY FACES

**TAKE ON SOMEONE (AT WORK)** TO EMPLOY SOMEONE; TO GIVE SOMEONE A JOB.



THE CLUB TOOK ME ON LAST WEEK AS THEIR NEW SECURITY MANAGER

**TAKE OUT (MONEY)** TO USE YOUR BANK CARD TO EXTRACT MONEY FROM A CASHPOINT MACHINE OR A BANK.



SHALL I TAKE SOME MONEY OUT, OR DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR DINNER?

**TAKE OUT (A MORTGAGE / BANK LOAN)** TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BANK: THEY GIVE YOU MONEY TO BUY SOMETHING, YOU PAY BACK THE MONEY WITH INTEREST.



IF WE ARE GOING TO BUY THIS PLACE, I THINK WE WILL NEED TO TAKE OUT A LARGE MORTGAGE.

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# FISH IDIOMS

**GLOSSARY**

**to split up with** *exp*  
to separate; to stop going out with someone  
**a compliment** *n*  
a nice comment on someone's clothes/appearance/abilities, etc  
**a kettle** *n*  
a metal container used for boiling water – often water for making tea

This month we are looking at some general fish idioms.



**There are plenty more fish in the sea**

There are lots of other men/women to go out with. Something people say to someone who has just **split up** with a girlfriend or boyfriend.  
"Don't worry about Jim. There are plenty more fish in the sea."



**Fish for compliments**

To try to make someone say good things about you, often by criticising yourself  
A: Do I look fat in this dress? B: No, of course not. Are you fishing for **compliments**?



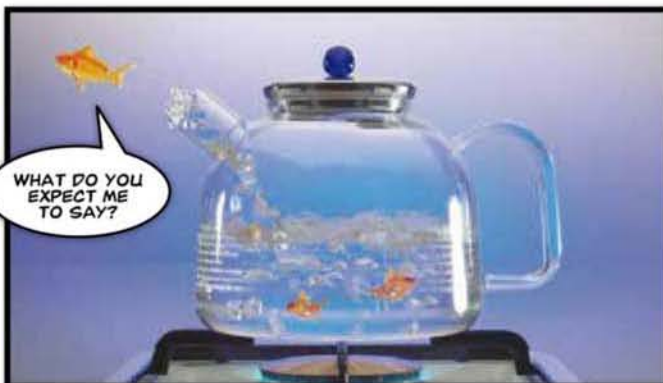
**Smell fishy**

If a situation or an explanation "smells fishy", you think that someone is being dishonest.  
"Jim's version of events smells a bit fishy to me – I think he was the one who did it."



**Fish for information**

To try to obtain information.  
A: How much does Bob earn each year?  
B: Why? Are you fishing for information?



**Be another kettle of fish**

If you say that something (or someone) is "another **kettle** of fish", you are saying that it (or he/she) is completely different.  
"I've driven a scooter before, but riding on that 600 cc motorbike is a completely different kettle of fish."



**A queer fish**

This means a "strange person".  
"He washes his hands about thirty times a day. He's a bit of a queer fish."

# Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers.



1. What do you call a 100-year-old ant?
2. What is the biggest ant in the world?
3. Doctor, doctor, the baby has **swallowed** my pen. What should I do?
4. Doctor, doctor, I keep getting a pain in the eye when I drink coffee.
5. Why do elephants never forget?
6. What do you **get** if you **cross** a crocodile with a flower?
7. What do you call an elephant in a phone box?
8. Doctor, doctor, I think I'm a goat.



## ENDINGS

- A:** Have you tried taking the spoon out first?
- B:** Doctor: How long have you felt like this?  
Patient: Since I was a **kid**.
- C:** Because nobody ever tells them anything.
- D:** An antique.
- E:** I don't know, but I'm not going to smell it.
- F:** Use a pencil till I get there.
- G:** **Stuck**.
- H:** An elephant.

## GLOSSARY

**to swallow** *vb*  
to take food or liquid from your mouth to your stomach

**to get** *vb*  
to receive; to produce

**to cross** *vb*  
to mix; to combine

**a kid** *n*  
a baby goat; also a young child

**stuck** *adj*  
trapped; unable to get out

# GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

"TOILET CAMERA IS FOR RESEARCH ONLY"

WHEN I WAS BORN, I WAS SO SURPRISED I COULDN'T SPEAK FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.

GOD MUST LOVE STUPID PEOPLE. HE MADE SO MANY.

ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, MOST POEMS RHYME, BUT THIS ONE DOESN'T.

NEVER PUT OFF TO TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN AVOID ALTOGETHER.

## GLOSSARY

**research** *n*  
investigation (often scientific)

**a violet** *n*  
a small white or purple flower

**to put off** *phr vb*  
to delay; to do later than planned

**to avoid** *vb*  
if you "avoid" something, you try not to do or see that thing

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## IDIOMS This month: SPEAKING AND TALKING



### Talk shop

If people who work together "talk shop", they talk about their work when they are in a bar/pub/restaurant.  
"John and Mary are so boring to be with in the pub – they just talk shop."



### You can talk

Something that you say when person A criticises person B for doing something that person A does him/herself.  
A: Jane had a crash last week. She's a terrible driver.  
B: You can talk. You had six crashes last year.



### Be like talking to a brick wall

If talking to someone is like talking to a **brick** wall, the person you are speaking to isn't listening.  
"I've tried telling Sam what I want, but it's like talking to a brick wall – he just won't listen."



### Look who's talking

Something you say when person A criticises person B for doing something that person A does him/herself.  
A: Frank smokes too much.  
B: Look who's talking. Up until last year you were smoking twenty a day.



### Can talk the hind legs off a donkey

Can talk a lot without stopping.  
"She could talk the **hind legs** off a donkey."



### Pillow talk

Loving, romantic conversations that lovers have when they are in bed together.  
"She enjoyed the quiet moments together – the walks on the beach, the **pillow** talk..."



### Talk in riddles

To talk in a way that is difficult to understand.  
"I wish she would stop talking in riddles and just tell me what she wants."



### Now you're talking

Something you say when someone makes a better suggestion or offer than the one that they made before.  
A: OK, if you don't want to go to the theatre, we could go to the cinema.  
B: Now you're talking.

### GLOSSARY

- a brick** /ɪ/  
a rectangular block of baked clay used for building houses
- hind legs** /ɪ/  
the legs at the back of an animal
- a pillow** /ɪ/  
a soft object on which you rest your head while you are sleeping
- a riddle** /ɪ/  
a difficult and confusing description of something



# FUNNY PRODUCT LABELS

Our mini-series on funny signs from English-speaking countries. Here's another part in our series on funny **product labels**. Some companies seem to think we're **raving loonies**.

**1** Instructions on the **packaging** for a cake: "For best results **remove wrapper**, open mouth, insert cake and eat." Could you say that again?

**2** On a packet of **furniture wipes**: "Do not use on children or infants." But it removes the dirt so effectively.

**3** Instructions in a TV manual: "Do not **pour liquids** into your television set." But what if it needs cleaning?

**4** Instructions in a car manual: "Exit from car in the following manner: open door, leave vehicle, close doors firmly and **lock** with car key." So, do I get out of the car before locking the doors?

**5** On a package of **maggots** for fishing: "Not for human consumption." But they look so **tasty**.

**6** On a **toilet brush**: "Do not use for personal hygiene." But it's great for cleaning under my arms.

**7** On the bottom of a bottle of a **fizzy drink**: "Do not open here." **Whoops!** Too late!

**8** On a sign at a bus stop: "No stopping or standing." Can I sit?

**9** On an electric **kettle**: "The **appliance** is switched on by setting the 'on/off switch' to the 'on' position." Oh, right, so I don't put it to the 'off' position then, do I?"

**10** On a label for a bag of cat biscuits: "Pour the biscuits into a **bowl** and place near cat." Here, kitty! Here, kitty! Food time! Kitty! Kitty! Kitty!...

## GLOSSARY

- a product label** *n*  
a piece of paper on a product with information about that product
- a raving loony** *n*  
a completely crazy person
- the packaging** *n*  
the plastic or paper covering a product
- to remove** *vb*  
to take off
- a wrapper** *n*  
a piece of paper covering a product
- furniture wipes** *n*  
moist (slightly wet) pieces of paper used for cleaning tables, chairs, etc
- a maggot** *n*  
tiny creatures that look like baby worms
- tasty** *adj*  
that has a nice taste when you eat it
- a toilet brush** *n*  
a large brush used for cleaning the toilet bowl
- to pour** *vb*  
if you "pour" biscuits into a container, you allow them to fall from the packet into the container
- a fizzy drink** *n*  
a drink that contains small bubbles of carbon dioxide
- whoops!** *exp*  
an expression used when people make a mistake or do something by accident
- a kettle** *n*  
a metal container for boiling water – often so you can make tea
- an appliance** *n*  
an electrical machine for doing a job in the home
- a bowl** *n*  
a deep plate for liquids
- to lock** *vb*  
to close with a key

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# Dictionary of slang

Here we've got some examples of how to say things in different situations.

 Situation	 <b>Formal</b>	 <b>Relaxed</b>	 <b>Informal</b>
You asked a young lady to marry you. You tell a friend.	I asked for her hand in marriage.	I asked her to marry me.	I went down on one <b>knee</b> ; I <b>popped the question</b> .
Your wife left you for another man. You tell a friend.	My wife abandoned me.	My wife left me.	My wife walked out on me; she <b>dumped</b> me.
Someone smashed all the windows in your office. You want to know who is going to pay to replace them.	Who is going to contribute to the costs incurred?	Who is going to pay for this?	Who's gonna pick up the <b>tab</b> for this?
You did nothing all weekend and had a very boring time.	I was unoccupied all weekend.	I had nothing to do all weekend.	I was well bored; I was <b>twiddling</b> my <b>thumbs</b> all weekend.
A friend never likes to spend his money.	He is reluctant to part with his money.	He's a bit mean.	He's a real <b>Scrooge</b> ; he's tight; he's a meanie; he's a real miser.
A friend asks you if you know who took some stolen money. You know nothing about it.	I have no information pertaining to this incident.	I don't know anything about it.	I'm stumped; I <b>haven't got a clue</b> .



### GLOSSARY

Please note that some of the words in this glossary box are literal translations of parts of idiomatic expressions.

**a knee** *n*  
the joint in the middle of your leg

**to pop the question** *exp inform*  
to ask someone to marry you

**to dump** *vb*  
to leave someone. Literally, to "dump" something is to place that thing in a casual manner

**a tab** *n inform*  
the bill. Literally, a "tab" is a small piece of cloth or paper attached to something with information about that thing

**to twiddle** *vb*  
if you "twiddle" something, you twist and turn it in your fingers

**a thumb** *n*  
the large finger on your hand

**Scrooge** *n*  
a horribl, mean man from a story by Charles Dickens (*A Christmas Carol*)

**I haven't got a clue** *exp*  
I don't know. Literally, a "clue" is a piece of information to help you solve a mystery

# Movie review: *The Queen*

A fascinating study of character, tradition and political reality in late twentieth-century Britain. By Rob Julian

## Shocking news

It's 1997 and Great Britain has a new, young and **promising** prime minister, Tony Blair. Glamorous Princess Diana is socialising in Paris with her new Egyptian boyfriend. Meanwhile, the steady and respectable 72-year-old Queen Elizabeth is holidaying in Balmoral Castle - the Royal Family's estate in Scotland. What happens next will **shake the nation**. News arrives that Princess Di and Dodi Fayed have been killed in a Paris car crash. The nation **goes into shock**.

Steven Frear's new movie *The Queen* takes these dramatic events as its inspiration. *The Queen* is a fascinating study of character, tradition and political reality in late-twentieth-century Britain.

## A film with a difference

Traditionally, the kings and queens we see on the **big screen** are historical figures. However, *The Queen* is unusual because the Queen herself is still a living monarch. It's a bit strange at first to see such a familiar character played by an actress, but Helen Mirren does a fantastic job of playing this fascinating figure.



Martin Sheen plays Prime Minister Tony Blair. Much of the movie is concerned with the tensions between these two **clever** (and often conflicting characters), each with their own **political** and **personal agendas**.

## Reactions

Eventually, the British public become angry that the royal family is not showing enough sympathy in the days after Diana's death. The royal family remain on holiday in Balmoral while the **wreaths** left at the gates of Buckingham Palace **pile up**. Blair, with the support of Prince Charles, tries to convince the Queen to return to London to share the sadness of the British public. But the Queen sees no reason to **break with tradition**, since Diana is no longer "part of the family". Eventually, it is Blair who manages to break the royal ice and **exert his will**. Whether you are a fan of the monarchy or not, *The Queen* is a fascinating **insight** into the relationship between power, privilege and tradition.

## "Annus Horribilis"

1997 was a bad year for the queen, but it wasn't her worst. In her words, "1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an **Annus Horribilis**."

She was referring to a series of events that year which included:

- The announcement that her second son, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, would separate from his wife Sarah Ferguson.
- Scandalous pictures of a topless Sarah being kissed by her friend, John Bryan.
- News that her daughter, Princess Anne, would divorce her husband Captain Mark Philips.
- A fire in one of her many homes, Windsor Castle. The castle was seriously damaged, and several priceless **artefacts** were lost. Originally, the government planned to pay the £40 million bill for repairs. But after a **public outcry**, the Queen agreed to open up several royal residences to tourists. She used the funds to pay for the repairs.
- And finally, the announcement of the separation of her son Prince Charles and his wife Diana.



## GLOSSARY

**promising** *adj*  
something that is "promising" seems to be very good

**to shake the nation** *exp*  
to cause shock amongst the population

**to go into shock** *exp*  
to enter a state of extreme surprise

**the big screen** *n*  
the cinema screen

**clever** *adj*  
intelligent

**a political agenda** *n*  
a list of things that are important for you politically

**a personal agenda** *n*  
a list of things that are important for you personally

**a wreath** *n*  
an arrangement of flowers, usually in the shape of a circle

**to pile up** *phr vb*  
if things "pile up", many of those things are on top of one another

**to break with tradition** *exp*  
to do something that is different to what you normally do

**to exert your will** *exp*  
to force others to do what you want

**an insight** *n*  
an understanding of a problem

**annus horribilis** *n Latin*  
a terrible year

**an artefact** *n*  
an object of cultural, archaeological or monetary value

**a public outcry** *n*  
if there is a "public outcry", many people protest about something



# The House of Windsor

What is the British Royal Family? A wonderful institution that unites Britain and the Commonwealth? Or an **irrelevant** waste of money? Whatever your point of view, the British Royal family continues to fascinate millions of people around the world. Who hasn't heard of the love triangle between Charles, Diana and Camilla? Or the tragic and mysterious death of Diana in 1997?

Like any family, there's plenty of drama, including a few **skeletons in the cupboard**. Here's a guide to some of the key players in the drama of the House of Windsor over the past 100 years. On the next page there's a family tree. Use your knowledge to put the correct name in the blank spaces. (Answers are on page 24.)



**Anne**  
The Queen's only daughter. She is most famous for her charitable work. Married Mark Philips and had two kids, Peter and Zara. Divorced and remarried Timothy Laurence



**Andrew**  
The Queen's second son. Was married to Sarah Ferguson.



**Prince Philip**  
Queen Elizabeth's husband. Originally both a Danish and Greek prince. Famous for his outspoken nature and his **gaffes**.



**Camilla**  
Prince Charles' ex-girlfriend from the sixties and seventies. Now she's his wife.



**The Queen mother**  
Also called Elizabeth. Wife of George VI. Died in 2002 at the age of 102.



**Charles (the Prince of Wales)**  
The **heir** to the throne and first son of Elizabeth II.



**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**  
The current monarch. Crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1953.



**Diana**  
"The Princess of Hearts". Diana was Prince Charles' first wife. Died with her boyfriend Dodi Fayed in a car crash in Paris in 1997.



**George V**  
Son of George the Fifth and king during World War Two.



**Harry**  
Royal "wild child" and younger brother of William. Now in the army.



**George VI**  
The King of England during World War One and grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II.



**Sarah Ferguson (Fergie)**  
Straightforward, redhead once considered a **breath of fresh air** in the royal family. Ex-wife of Prince Andrew. There are two children from their marriage: Eugenie and Beatrice.



**Edward**  
The youngest child of Queen Elizabeth II. Quiet, reserved and with a great interest in the theatre. Married to Sophie Rhys Jones. They have a 3-year-old daughter called Louise.



**Wallis Simpson**  
American socialite who married Edward VIII after he **abdicated** from the throne.



**Edward VIII**  
Older brother of George VI. Abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson – a "**commoner**". This caused a scandal in Britain at the time.



**Margaret**  
The Queen's sister. **Chain-smoking** glamour girl of the fifties and sixties. Died in 2002.



**William**  
Oldest child of Diana and Charles, and **second in line** for the throne. Has his mother's good looks.

## GLOSSARY

**irrelevant** *adj*  
not important or significant to a situation

**a skeleton in the cupboard/closet** *exp*  
an embarrassing/damaging secret

**a gaffe** *n*  
something embarrassing that you say or do mistakenly

**an heir** *n*  
a person who is going to be king/queen

**a commoner** *n*  
not a member of the royalty or aristocracy

**a breath of fresh air** *n*  
something new and different

**chain-smoking** *exp*  
if someone "chain-smokes", they smoke one cigarette after another

**to abdicate** *vb*  
to stop being king or queen

**second in line for the throne** *exp*  
the second person with a right to become king (if Charles doesn't become king, then it will be William)

# The Royal Family Tree

See if you can complete each numbered space with the correct member of the Royal Family.



# Royal Trivia



Here are some interesting facts on the British Royal Family.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Sir Walter Raleigh financed his trip to America by **gambling** with Queen Elizabeth I. He bet her that he could calculate the weight of smoke. He did this by placing two identical cigars on opposite ends of a set of **scales**. He lit one cigar and made sure that no **ash** fell. The difference in the weight after the cigar was finished was the "weight of smoke". The Queen was impressed and Raleigh won his trip to America.



Edward VIII **abdicated** in 1936, after only one year as King. He wanted to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee. At that time, the Church of England prohibited remarriage after a divorce. Edward refused to marry anyone else. Eventually, the couple were married in France, although the Church of England refused to recognise the marriage.



If the Queen lives until 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007, she will become the oldest reigning monarch in both British and Commonwealth history, surpassing King George III and Queen Victoria, both of whom died before the age of 82.



One of the Queen's uncles, Prince George, was bisexual and was said to be a lover of the **playwright** Noel Coward.



Princess Anne is the only member of the British Royal Family to have competed in the Olympic Games (horse riding). She was once almost **kidnapped**.

Prince Andrew served as a helicopter pilot on active service during the **Falklands War** with Argentina in the 1980s.



Diana was the first Englishwoman to marry the **heir** to the throne since 1659 – all the others were foreigners.

During the Second World War, Princess Elizabeth convinced her father that she should be allowed to join the army. She enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, where she was known as "number 230873 second **subaltern** Elizabeth Windsor". She trained as a **lorry** driver.



Early on Friday morning, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1982, Queen Elizabeth II woke to find a strange man sitting at the end of her bed. He was a mentally-ill man who had entered Buckingham Palace after climbing over a five-metre wall. He spent about ten minutes talking to the Queen. She eventually called for help and the man was captured.

Prince Harry's full name is Henry Charles Albert David Mountbatten-Windsor.

In 1991, Prince William was admitted to hospital after being accidentally hit on the side of the head by another student who was **swinging** a golf club. William suffered a **fracture** of the skull and had to have an operation. Imagine how the other student must have felt.



The film *The Madness of King George III* was called *The Madness of King George* when it was **released** in the States. The "ill" part of the title was dropped because film distributors thought that American **moviegoers** would think the film was a **sequel**, and not go to see it because they still hadn't seen *The Madness of King George I* or *The Madness of King George II*.

King George I of England could not speak English. He was born and raised in Germany and never learned to speak English even though he was King from 1714 to 1727.

Queen Anne had a transvestite cousin, Lord Cornbury. She sent him to be governor of New York and New Jersey. The colonists were not amused.



## GLOSSARY

- ash** *n* the grey or black powder that is left after something is burnt
- a playwright** *n* a person who writes theatre plays
- to kidnap** *vb* to take and hold a person illegally and demand money in return for his/her safe return
- the Falklands War** *n* a war between Britain and Argentina in the South Atlantic over the Falklands Islands (Las Malvinas)
- an heir** *n* a person who will be king/queen when the current king/queen dies
- a subaltern** *n* an officer in the army below the rank of captain
- a lorry** *n* a large vehicle for transporting goods
- to abdicate** *vb* to stop being king/queen voluntarily
- to swing** *vb* if you "swing" a golf club, you move back so it can hit the ball
- a fracture** *n* a break in a bone
- to release** *vb* if a film is "released", it is in the cinemas and people can go and see it
- a moviegoer** *n* a person who goes to see a film
- a sequel** *n* the second part of a book or film
- to gamble / bet** *vb* to play a game with someone for money
- scales** *n* a piece of equipment for weighing things

# Basic English

This month: the airport.

**Useful Expressions**

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

**What you ask/say**

- Where can I **check in**?
- Which **check-in desk** do I go to?
- Where's passport control?
- What time is the plane leaving?
- Which terminal does the plane leave from?
- Can I check my **baggage** in here, please?
- Where's the nearest toilet, please?
- Do you know which **boarding gate** the plane is leaving from?
- Where's boarding gate 34, please?
- Is there a baggage **trolley** near here, please?
- Can I check in electronically?
- I bought this **e-ticket** on the internet.
- Can I have a **window seat**, please? Can I have

an aisle seat, please?

- Where's the **departure lounge**, please?
- Is there a duty-free shop here?
- Is there anywhere I can change my money, please?

**What you hear**

- Can I see your passport, please?
- Did you **pack** the bags yourself?
- You will have to pay **excess baggage**.
- Your plane is **delayed** forty-five minutes.
- Would you like a window seat or an aisle seat?
- Are you travelling alone?
- Here's your boarding card.
- You'll be boarding at gate number 34.
- Can I see your hand luggage, please?
- The plane is due to **land** in approximately twenty minutes.
- The plane will **take off** at 14:35. ⚡



baggage

a boarding card

a passport

a trolley

hand luggage

a member of the ground staff

**GLOSSARY**

**to check in** *phr vb*  
to show your ticket in an airport and to register your bags

**a check-in desk** *n*  
a place where you can show your ticket and register your bags

**baggage** *n*  
the bags you take with you when you travel

**a boarding gate** *n*  
a door through which passengers pass in order to get on the plane

**a trolley** *n*  
a metal object with wheels for carrying your bags

**an e-ticket** *n*  
a ticket you buy on the internet

**a window seat** *n*  
a seat next to the window

**an aisle seat** *n*  
a seat next to the corridor

**a departure lounge** *n*  
a very large room where you can relax and sit before getting on the plane

**to pack** *vb*  
to put your clothes and possessions in a bag

**excess baggage** *n*  
if your bags are heavier than 20kg you have to pay a sum of money known as "excess baggage"

**delayed** *adj*  
if your plane is "delayed", it leaves later than planned

**to land** *vb*  
if a plane "lands", it comes to the ground in a controlled manner

**to take off** *phr vb*  
if a plane "takes off", it leaves the ground in a controlled manner



a plane ticket



a duty-free shop



the check-in desk

a window seat



an aisle seat

the departure lounge



the boarding gate



a bureau de change





# AMAZING WORLD

When most people think of Kansas, they imagine a scene right out of a western movie complete with **Wyatt Earp**. Or they think of Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* and her **ruby** shoes. But there is so much more to the undiscovered state of Kansas. (US English spelling) By Leslie Boyd

## Kansas City

If I asked you to name a city in Kansas, I bet the first (and only) one that would **come to mind** would be Kansas City (also known as KC). Kansas City is called the Heart of America because it's right in the middle of the USA. Most people still think KC looks like it did in the old western movies and books. However, today you will find a very modern, cultural center that is **home to** over 1.9 million people.

## The Sites

The Country Club Plaza in Kansas City was the first shopping center in America. Its 12 towers, fountains and architecture were **modeled after** buildings in Seville, Spain. Speaking of fountains, Kansas City's **nickname** is the City of Fountains because it has over 200 fountains from all over the world. A favorite of



mine is the Crown Plaza Fountain. But be careful of this one. It doesn't really look like a fountain because the **nozzles** are invisible to the human eye. After you walk over

it and get shot with water, you'll remember where that fountain is for the rest of your life. But **stick around** after you **get drenched** as the fountain lights up at night and is quite spectacular.

## BBQ

Some of the most popular restaurants are those serving barbecued meat. In fact, barbecue is a way of life in Kansas City and there are more than 90 barbecue restaurants. Kansas City barbecue is considered the best in the world. I recommend *Wabash*, the *Branding Iron*, or *Fiorella's Jack Stack* for some



of the best barbecue in the KC area. Kansas City barbecue is always slow smoked at a low temperature over wood, usually hickory. Some barbecue is cooked

up to 18 hours to obtain that one-of-a-kind flavor. The actual barbecue sauce is never applied to the meat until it is ready to serve. You can't come to Kansas without trying the barbecue. But don't forget to ask for a **bib**. You'll need one.

## Jazz

Kansas City is also renowned for its jazz. It all started more than 80 years ago and continues today. One of the best things to have come out of Kansas City jazz is the jazz **jam session**. In the past, many musicians would get together after a concert to experiment with new methods of playing. The best musicians would take part in these jam sessions that lasted all night and into the next day. If you are interested in hearing a real jam session or even playing in one, the *Mutual Musicians Foundation* is open on weekends for all-night jam sessions. You might also try the *Club* at Plaza III, the *Phoenix Piano Bar & Grill* and the *Blue Room* for some great jazz.



## Sports

Kansans are sports fanatics and are very **loyal** to their two major teams, the *Kansas City Chiefs* (American Football) and the *Royals* (baseball). There are also college sports teams that everyone is passionate about. These games can **get really crazy**, maybe even crazier than football games in Europe. **Check out** a game and experience one of America's favorite pastimes. Another popular sport is the the barbecue eating contest. For this contest, five to ten overweight men (and sometimes women) **pig out** on ribs. **It's quite a sight** because they are all covered from head to toe in barbecue sauce. But I've never **figured out** why they bother wearing the bibs.



## Famous people & Kansas

William Purvis and Charles Wilson who invented the helicopter in 1909.

**Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.**

Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States.

**Silent comedian Buster Keaton.**

The first African-American woman to win an Academy Award was Hattie McDaniel.. She won the award for her role in the film *Gone with the Wind*.

**George Custer formed the famed 7th Cavalry in 1866 in Fort Riley, which is between Junction City and Manhattan, Kansas.**

Wyatt Earp, James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok and William B. "Bat" Masterson were three of the legendary lawmen who kept the peace in rowdy frontier towns like Abilene, Dodge City, Ellsworth, Hays, and Wichita.



# KANSAS



## Information box - Kansas facts



→ A ball of **twine** in Cawker City measures over 12 meters in circumference, weighs more than 8,000 kilograms and is still growing.

→ South of Ashland, the Rock Island Bridge is the longest railroad bridge of its kind. It measures about 400 metres long and is 30 metres above the Cimarron River.

→ Dodge City is the windiest city in the United States.

→ Truman Capote's account of a real-life murder in his book *In Cold Blood* took place in Kansas.

→ In Italy, the city of Milan is 400 kilometres northwest of Rome. In Kansas, Milan is about 50 kilometres northwest of Rome in Sumner County.

→ A **hailstone** weighing more than 750 grams once fell on the town of Coffeyville.

→ The world-famous fast-food chain of pizza restaurants known as Pizza Hut opened its first store in Wichita.

→ Sumner County is known as The **Wheat** Capital of the World.

→ Kansas is a native American Indian word which means "People of the south winds".

→ The capital of Kansas is Topeka. And the largest city is Wichita.

→ Kansas City is actually the capital of the neighbouring state of Missouri, although part of Kansas City is also in Kansas.



## The Countryside

As you leave Kansas City, you feel like you've **taken a step back in time**. The big city is gone and in its place are small towns and **crop fields**. During spring time all you can see for miles and miles is green grass, cattle and little farm houses. This is the true **Mid-West**. It's here in the country that the famous image of the Wild West comes to life. Go to Dodge City and you can see a recreation of a gunfight on the dusty streets of the town. Or you can experience frontier life firsthand by taking a wagon ride across the **prairie** like the **pioneers** did. Or take part in a **pow-wow** and feel the rhythmic dance music of the Native American Indian tribes.

Kansans are serious about their history. And you can find a museum for just about anything. In Atchison there is a museum dedicated to Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Abilene has a museum for its home-town hero President Dwight D. Eisenhower. And don't forget all the Native American museums. But there are lots of really **weird** museums too, such as the Kansas **Barbed Wire** Museum with over 2,000 varieties of barbed wire.

## The People

As you enter the countryside, you'll notice a change of attitude in the people too. Compared to people from Kansas City, it feels like they have all the time in the world. You will always receive a smile and a "**howdy**" when you walk down the street. When driving in a small town, you can be assured that you will receive a few "**hello honks**" from farmers driving their **pick up trucks**. In the summer these people sit on their **porches**, drink lemonade or beer and listen to the insects sing.

In fact, the best time to visit Kansas is in the summer. In the city there is always an outdoor festival or a cultural activity, and in the country there's always a porch to sit and relax on. It looks like Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* was right. There's no place like home... when it's Kansas. So pack your cowboy hat and head on over. ☘

## GLOSSARY

- Wyatt Earp** *n*  
a famous sheriff from
- ruby** *adj*  
bright red
- I bet** *exp*  
I am sure
- to come to mind** *exp*  
to think of
- home to** *exp*  
if a city is "home to" something, that thing is in the city
- to model A after B** *exp*  
to use A as inspiration for the design of B
- a nickname** *n*  
an informal name
- a nozzle** *n*  
an object fitted to the end of a pipe to control the flow of water
- to stick around** *phr vb*  
to stay in a place
- to get drenched** *exp*  
to become very wet
- a bib** *n*  
a piece of cloth worn over the front of your shirt to stop the shirt getting dirty whilst eating. Normally for babies
- a jam session** *n*  
an improvised concert
- loyal** *adj*  
faithful
- to get (really) crazy** *exp*  
to become out of control
- to check out** *exp*  
to investigate; to see
- to pig out** *phr vb*  
to eat a lot of food very quickly
- it's quite a sight** *exp*  
it's incredible to watch
- to figure out** *exp*  
to understand
- to take a step back in time** *exp*  
to go back in time; to experience the past
- a crop field** *n*  
an area of land where they grow food such as wheat
- the Mid-West** *n*  
the central area of the United States
- the prairie** *n*  
a large area of flat land in the US
- a pioneer** *n*  
one of the first people to do something – in this case, to cross the US from east to west
- a pow-wow** *n*  
a meeting or conference of Native American Indians
- weird** *adj*  
strange; unusual
- barbed wire** *n*  
circles of metal wire with sharp pieces on them for protection
- howdy** *exp inform US*  
hello
- a hello honk** *n*  
a sound produced with a car horn as a way of saying hello
- a pick up truck** *n*  
a large car with a lot of space at the back for transporting goods
- a porch** *n*  
a raised area outside a house and around the house that is covered. People often sit there
- twine** *n*  
strong string used for gardening or farming
- a hailstone** *n*  
a ball of ice that falls from the sky
- wheat** *n*  
a cereal crop used to make bread

# LIVING ABROAD

Every month we interview someone who has lived or visited another country about their experiences and impressions of that country. This month we are speaking to Lindha about her time in Kansas in the city of Manhattan. (US English spelling)

## Lindha, why did you go to Kansas?

I went to study veterinary medicine at Kansas State University.

## What did you expect it to be like and what were your first impressions?

Honestly? I thought it would be kind of boring. I had this image of small towns with lots of farm animals.



## What did you do there?

Mostly I just studied. When we had time, we drove to little towns in Kansas. My favorite thing to do was just pick a direction and drive. You never know where you are going to **end up**.

## What were the best things about it?

Manhattan has a great university feel to it. I loved going to the **football** games. We would spend the whole day **tailgating** outside the stadium, drinking beer and having a big barbecue.

## Was it easy to meet people?

People from Kansas are so friendly. I met most of the people at school events like the football games and in the bars **downtown**. There's a big section of the city called Aggieville where all the bars and dance clubs are located. My friends invited me to their houses for holidays all the time since I had nowhere to go. **On the downside**, I'd say that many Kansans are very **sheltered** and don't pay much attention to life outside the US. But as the grandma of my Kansan friend might say, "we're still **sweet as pie**".



## What were the worst things about being there?

It's very difficult to get around Kansas without a car. Everything's so **spread out** and there isn't really a public transportation system.

## What was the funniest thing that happened while you were there?

I remember one trip I took with my friend to her grandparents' house. They had horses and asked me if I wanted to go for a ride. Well, I had never ridden a horse before but I decided to **give it a go**. So I **hopped on** and everything was fine for a minute. But then the horse **went crazy**. It started **bucking** and making these crazy noises. I thought I was going to die. Sara, my friend, eventually calmed the horse down but not before I had destroyed an entire section of the **fence**. I thought they would be **mad** but they were just in shock – they couldn't believe I had stayed on the horse for that long. They kept asking me if I'd ever thought about being in a rodeo. To this day, they call me "Wild Lindha".



## Did you have any other problems?

I'm Swedish, but my English is pretty good because my dad's English. But it took a little while to get used to the accent. The people from the cities don't really have a strong accent, but the people from the country are hard to understand sometimes. You also have to be careful with the weather. I was there for a year and in the winter it was **absolutely freezing**, and during the summer it was so hot I thought I might die. Of course, they have heating and air conditioning everywhere.



## So, would you go back?

Definitely. I made some great friends and discovered a new passion for horse back riding. ☺

## GLOSSARY

- to end up** *phr vb*  
if you 'end up' somewhere, you arrive at that place eventually
- football** *n US*  
American football. People from the States refer to football as soccer
- to tailgate** *vb US*  
to open the back of your car and have a picnic from there
- downtown** *adj*  
in the centre of town
- on the downside** *exp*  
the negative things
- sheltered** *adj*  
protected; with few experiences of life outside your town/family, etc
- sweet as pie** *exp*  
very nice
- spread out** *exp*  
with big distances from one point of the city to another
- to give something a go** *exp*  
to try something
- to hop on** *phr vb*  
to jump on
- to go crazy** *exp*  
to act in a completely irrational and uncontrollable manner
- to buck** *vb*  
to kick and jump
- a fence** *n*  
a barrier between areas of land
- mad** *adj US*  
angry. In British English, "mad" usually means insane or crazy
- absolutely freezing** *exp*  
very, very cold

# Crank

# Call



Telephone conversations to help improve your listening skills. Here are some more crank calls - those funny telephone calls that are designed to **wind** people **up**.

## The Nanny

For this call, we responded to an **advertisement** in a local newspaper. The victim is looking for a nanny (someone to look after her children).



**Victim:** Hello?

**Hot:** Oh, hi, My name's Sara. I'm calling about the advertisement for a nanny you put in the newspaper?

**Victim:** Oh, yes great, well let me tell you a little about our family. OK there are two children and...

**Hot:** Oh, sorry, but can I just ask you a few questions first?

**Victim:** Erm, OK, sure.

**Hot:** Well, it's just that I have a few **requirements**.

**Victim:** Sure

**Hot:** OK, so do you have a TV?

**Victim:** Well, Yes...

**Hot:** But it's big, isn't it? I mean not one of those old little ones. It's just that my boyfriend has a **widescreen TV** and that's what I'm **used to**.

**Victim:** Well, I'm...

**Hot:** And you've got a DVD player, right?

**Victim:** Sure, but I don't think that's... Look, can we just talk about the children for a moment?

**Hot:** OK, sure. Go ahead.

**Victim:** Right, well...

**Hot:** Oh, one more thing. Sorry, but do you have a **hot tub**?

**Victim:** A hot tub?

**Hot:** Yeah, I like to **unwind** at the end of a long, stressful day. It doesn't have to be a big one.

**Victim:** Listen, but I don't think this is the job for you.

**Hot:** Oh, so you don't have a hot tub then?

**Victim:** No. Goodbye.

**Hot:** Gee! Some people are so rude.



### GLOSSARY

**to wind someone up** *phr vb*  
to really annoy or irritate someone  
**an advertisement** *n*  
a piece of publicity in a newspaper or on the television or radio  
**a requirement** *n*  
a demand; something you need  
**a widescreen TV** *n*  
a television with a very big screen (the flat object you look at)  
**used to something** *exp*  
accustomed to something  
**a hot tub** *n*  
a large bath often placed outside that is used for massage, hydrotherapy  
**to unwind** *vb*  
to relax at the end of a stressful day

# USEFUL ADVICE

HOW NOT TO BE BORED



Learn how to entertain yourself with these fun activities.

See how many pens you can put up your nose. Take a photo and send it to *Guinness Book of Records*.



In the street, sing Italian operas in a loud voice. **Hold out** a hat to see if anyone wants to **reward** you for your efforts.

**Gossip** about someone right in front of them. Start talking about your victim **in hushed tones**. Just watch their face as you **dish the dirt**.

Answer every question with a question. For example.

**Friend:** Are you coming to the party tonight?

**You:** Am I coming to the party tonight?

**Friend:** Yes, are you coming to the party?

**You:** Are *you* coming to the party?

See how long you can continue like this before your victim **realises** what you're doing.

Repeat yourself constantly. Repeat yourself constantly. Repeat yourself constantly. Repeat yourself constantly. Repeat yourself...

Read books upside down on the **Underground** or on a train. See if anyone says anything. Laugh out loud as you **pretend** to read.

What fun! ♦



### GLOSSARY

**to hold out (a hat)** *phr vb*  
to extend your hat in your hand  
**a reward** *n*  
compensation in the form of money or something else  
**to gossip** *vb*  
to speak about the private lives of other people  
**in hushed tones** *exp*  
in a soft, quiet voice so that no one else can hear  
**to dish the dirt** *exp inform*  
to say bad things about people and their private lives  
**to realise** *vb*  
to understand what is happening  
**the Underground** *n*  
the train system that runs under the ground in London  
**to pretend** *vb*  
to act as if something is true even though it isn't

# DR FINGERS' DESCRIPTIVE NOISE



# "NOISE NUISANCE"

Here's another part in our special "noise" class. This month: noises made with your hands. **Answers also on page 24**

## Part I

Listen to each sentence and the accompanying noise. Repeat each sentence.

1. He knocked on the door.
2. She rapped on the door.
3. He thumped me.
4. She punched the bag.
5. Stop tapping your fingers!
6. She snapped her fingers.
7. They clapped loudly.
8. He flicked the dust at me.
9. She strummed the guitar.
10. He was beating the drum.
11. She slapped me.
12. He poked me in the chest.



## Part II

Now, look at the following sentences. In each one there is a missing "noise word". Listen to the sound on the CD, then write in the correct word or words that describe the sound. Choose from the words below.

knocked	punched
slapped	tapping
flicked	rapped
thumped	clapped
strumming	snapped
poked	beating

1. The guitarist was \_\_\_\_\_ his guitar.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ me in the chest.
3. The audience liked the show and \_\_\_\_\_ loudly.
4. She was \_\_\_\_\_ the drum while he was singing.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ his fingers and the waiter came running.
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ me very hard on the back.
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ the ball of paper at me.
8. I was so angry that I \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ on the door.
10. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ your fingers.
11. He \_\_\_\_\_ a famous tune on the door.
12. She \_\_\_\_\_ the boxer in the face. 🥊



## GLOSSARY

- to rap** *vb*  
to hit by using a series of quick blows
- to thump** *vb*  
to hit very hard with a closed hand
- to punch** *vb*  
to hit with a closed hand
- to tap your fingers** *vb*  
to hit your fingers against a surface using a series of quick blows
- to snap** *vb*  
to make a sharp sound by moving your middle fingers quickly across your thumb
- to flick** *vb*  
to remove something with a quick movement of your finger
- to strum** *vb*  
to move your fingers quickly across the guitar strings
- to beat** *vb*  
to hit in order to make a sound or rhythm
- to slap** *vb*  
to hit with an open hand
- to poke** *vb*  
to quickly push with your finger

# DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

**Dear Fire Hydrant,**

Thank you very much for your e-mail. Of course, I would be delighted to help you learn about negative questions.

Basically, negative questions are questions that have a negative form in them. As you can see, you can make negative questions with just about any tense. For example:

- a) Didn't you go to the party?
- b) Don't you like the film?
- c) Doesn't she want to see it?
- d) Haven't they eaten already?
- e) Hadn't they been there before?
- f) Don't they want to take it?
- g) Couldn't they have done it earlier?
- h) Hasn't he fixed it?

**Uses**

We can use negative questions for invitations. For example:

- a) Won't you have a biscuit?
- b) Won't you come in for a minute?

We can also use negative questions for exclamations:

- a) Isn't it a nice day?
- b) Aren't they good at singing?

Negative questions can also be used to show that you are surprised or even angry that something hasn't been done:

- a) Hasn't she finished repairing the car yet?
- b) Aren't they in bed yet?

And finally, we can also use negative questions to make polite requests:

- a) You haven't got a pen I could borrow, have you?
- b) You don't know the time, do you?
- c) You couldn't help me with this, could you?
- d) You haven't seen my jacket anywhere, have you?



**Dr Fingers' Language Drill**

Negative questions are a very useful way of practising using auxiliaries. Here to help me is one of my students, Susan. Say hello, Susan [hello]. The following dialogue will give you an opportunity to hear some negative questions in action. OK, let's go.

Dr Fingers: I can't pay the rent.  
 Student: Why can't you pay the rent?  
 Dr Fingers: Because I don't have any money.  
 Student: Why don't you have any money?  
 Dr Fingers: Because I wasn't paid my salary.  
 Student: Why weren't you paid your salary?  
 Dr Fingers: Because the accountant didn't receive my bill.  
 Student: Why didn't the accountant receive your bill?  
 Dr Fingers: Because I didn't have time to send it.  
 Student: Why didn't you have time to send it?  
 Dr Fingers: Because I haven't had a moment's peace for the past three weeks.  
 And so on. ☺



Well, Fire Hydrant, I really hope my explanations have helped you understand these things.

**Yours, Dr Fingers.**

Please send your questions or stories to: [clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com](mailto:clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com)



# British bar chat

## Pets

This month, two British men are talking about pets. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions.

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of keeping pets?
2. What does the other speaker say against keeping pets?

**Chris:** I just heard that Hollywood star George Clooney is **in mourning** for his beloved potbelly pig Max.

**Andy:** I just think that's ridiculous. **I mean**, how can you, how can you **fall in love with** a pig?

**Chris:** Well, they're almost human, pigs, aren't they? I mean, he lived with the 150-kilo animal for 18 years.

**Andy:** What human... How can you... I mean... It's a pig, you know. They're not... What... What human qualities do they have?

**Chris:** Well, you just look in their eyes they're almost human. They've got **sort of** human expressions, almost. I mean, they don't smile or anything but you can see that there's, there's some sort of intelligence there. Apparently Clooney shared a bed with it.

**Andy:** Well, I think he should be **reported** to some sort of... I mean that's just



ridiculous how can you... you can't take the, the, you know, the living with a pet thing so far. I mean, you know, **there's gotta be** some limits to, you know, where the pig lives and what you do.

**Chris:** Well, they make people happy don't they. They're some, something to talk to. They may not **respond** but, you know.

**Andy:** I just, I think the whole thing of keeping pets is so unnatural. I mean, you know, what they do to them in order to live with them. You know, they **neuter** them so they don't, you know, they don't get all heated, I just think that's so unfair...

**Chris:** Well, some people do. Certain, certain animals do **breed** you know quite...

**Andy:** Excessively, I think...

**Chris:** Excessively if they're not neutered. But I think they just teach people to care for others.

**Andy:** Well, you know, having babies is a better way of teaching people how to care for others, no, surely? Or just **looking after** the people in **your own environment**, like the **elderly** people, your friends, your family.

**Chris:** Well, exactly, you mean, how elderly people, their family have more or less gone elsewhere so they need a pet to **keep them company**. They become part of the family really.

**Andy:** Yeah, anyway, have you seen my new pet snake? Don't get too close.

**Chris:** Right. ☺



### GLOSSARY

**in mourning** *exp*  
if you are "in mourning", you are sad because someone has died

**I mean** *exp*  
I wanted to say

**to fall in love with someone** *exp*  
to start to love someone very much

**sort of** *exp*  
kind of

**to report someone** *exp*  
to tell the authorities/police about a crime that someone has committed

**there's gotta be** *exp inform*  
there have got to be. Notice how the native speaker uses the non-standard abbreviation "there's = there has" instead of the standard form "there have"

**to respond** *vb*  
to answer

**to neuter** *vb*  
to remove the reproductive organs

**to breed** *vb*  
if animals "breed", they produce babies

**to look after** *phr vb*  
to care for

**your own environment** *exp*  
the people in your life

**the elderly** *n*  
old people

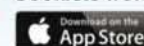
**to keep someone company** *exp*  
to stay with someone so that they aren't alone

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# US bar chat



## Moon Base

This month two young Americans are talking about the NASA decision to establish a base on the moon in the near future. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions (US English spelling):

1. What does one of the speakers say in favor of establishing a moon base?
2. What does the other speaker say against establishing a moon base?

**Leigh:** Hey, have you heard that NASA wants to create a permanent base on the moon?

**Ashley:** Oh, yeah, I heard about that the other day. That's really exciting.

**Leigh:** Do you think so? Do you think it's really worth it?

**Ashley:** Yeah, definitely. There's all kinds of things that they can discover **out there**. I mean, **there's a lot of experiments** they can do in outer space that they can't do on the Earth.

**Leigh:** But there are still so many places on earth to develop. We don't even know.... we haven't really actually discovered, well, we've discovered but haven't really explored the Polar regions or the seas. There are so many other places to visit on Earth, which is like a space in itself.

**Ashley:** Yeah, but I think people have always had this desire to go, like, go travel, like, you know, Christopher Columbus he went across to the New World because he didn't know what was there. There was still **plenty of stuff** in Europe.

**Leigh:** To discover new things.

**Ashley:** Yeah, but he wanted something different. He wanted something more...

**Leigh:** Have you heard about that invention last year? It was called Spaceship One by Virgin's Richard Branson, and it's a, it's an actual rocket that you can go into space to explore.

**Ashley:** Oh, yeah, and he's **gonna**, like, charge people, like, a millino, a billion dollars to go do that. That sounds, that sounds really fun. If you had the money. Erm, I'd maybe **see how other people do** on it first and make sure there's no major **mishaps**.

**Leigh:** A bit **risky**.

**Ashley:** I heard that Steven Hawking wanted to go up on that thing.

**Leigh:** See, I can see that it's, it's exciting to travel and see what space is like, but it's a lot of money and we have a lot of other **issues** on Earth now that we should focus on rather than space exploration.

**Ashley:** Well, yeah, that's true, but, I mean, **I guess if, if everything else fails** we might **wanna** go ahead and **invest** in space exploration **cos** if the, if the Earth gets **screwed up** then we have to go somewhere.

**Leigh:** You never know, we may completely destroy the earth.

**Ashley:** Yeah, or either us, or an asteroid or something.

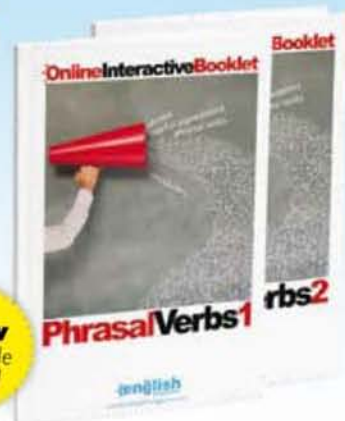
**Leigh:** Well, I don't know. I just don't know if it's worth **wasting** billions of dollars. ☹

### GLOSSARY

- out there** *exp*  
in space
- there's a lot of experiments...**  
*exp inform*  
notice how the native speaker uses the non-standard "there's a lot of..." instead of the standard form "there are a lot of..."
- plenty of stuff** *exp*  
many things
- gonna** *n*  
going to
- see how other people do** *exp*  
see what happens to the other people
- a mishap** *n*  
an error or accident
- risky** *adj*  
dangerous
- an issue** *n*  
a problem; an important subject
- I guess** *exp*  
I think
- if everything else fails** *exp*  
if all the other things we are doing aren't successful
- wanna** *exp inform*  
want to
- to invest** *vb*  
to spend money on something with the hope that you will receive a profit
- cos** *exp inform*  
because
- to screw up** *phr vb inform*  
to ruin or spoil something, or to do something badly
- to waste** *vb*  
to use money for no useful purpose

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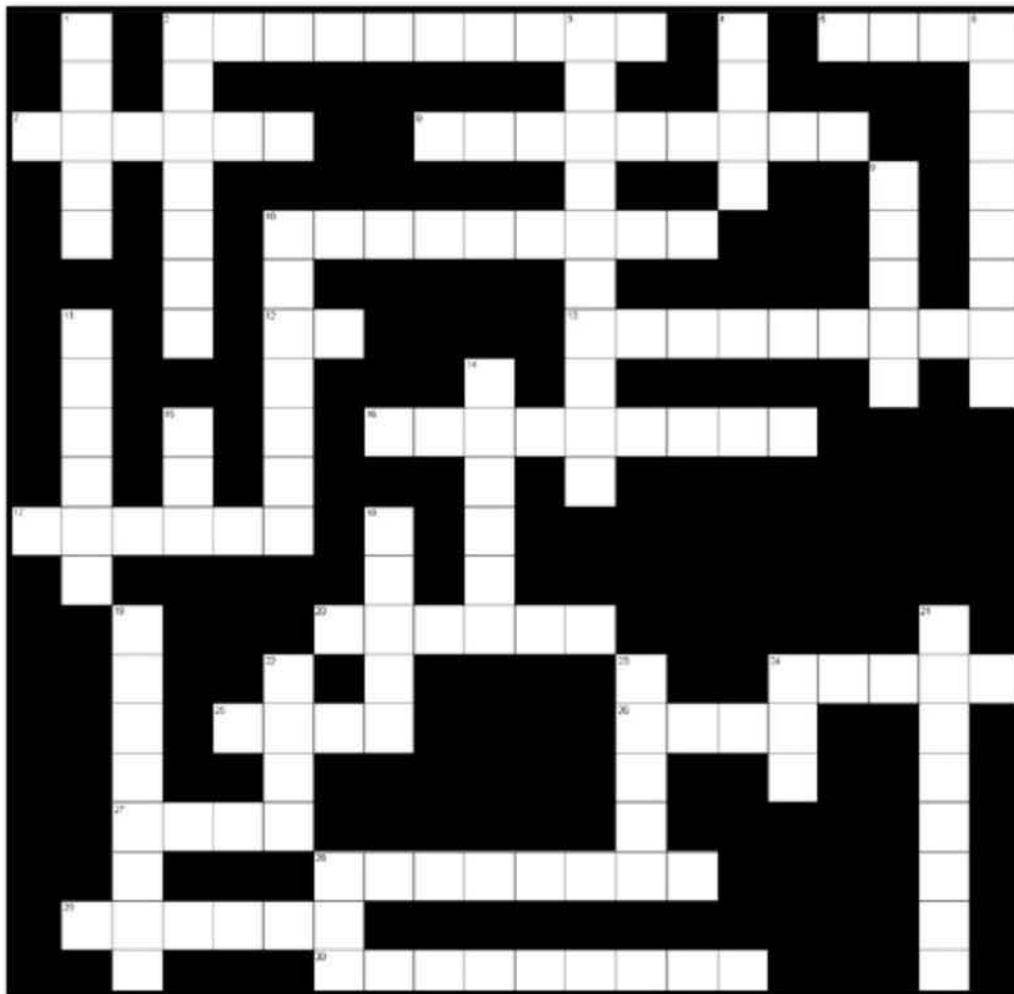
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# CROSSWORD

Answers on page 33



## Down

- 1: To drink only one particular type of drink all night = st\_\_\_\_\_ to one drink  
 2: The government of a town or city = a co\_\_\_\_\_  
 3: To take away someone's property as a form of punishment = to con\_\_\_\_ something  
 4: To dominate, abuse and manipulate someone = to walk all o\_\_\_\_ someone  
 6: To become very, very wet = to get dren\_\_\_\_  
 9: To do what someone else wants or decides = to go a\_\_\_\_ with someone  
 10: An object placed just outside the door and on which people can clean their shoes = a do\_\_\_\_\_  
 11: If a town is like this, there is a big distance between one point and another = spr\_\_\_\_ out  
 14: To take away = to re\_\_\_\_\_  
 15: To eat a lot of food very quickly = to p\_\_\_\_ out  
 18: To stop breathing because you have something blocking your throat = to ch\_\_\_\_\_  
 19: An American English word that means to have a party outside, placing the food and drink in the opened back of your car = to tai\_\_\_\_\_  
 21: An object that may cause you to hit your foot against and fall = a tri\_\_\_\_ hazard  
 22: To clean the surface of something, such as your shoes = to wi\_\_\_\_\_  
 23: To say that = to st\_\_\_\_ that  
 24: To start trying to do something = to s\_\_\_\_ out to do something  
 28: I'm sure that = I b\_\_\_\_ that

## Across

- 2: A formal presentation to the press = a press con\_\_\_\_\_  
 5: If something does this, you think of that thing = to come to mi\_\_\_\_\_  
 7: To understand something = to fig\_\_\_\_ something out  
 8: With no purpose, logic or objective = poi\_\_\_\_\_  
 10: Humiliating and disrespectful = demeaa\_\_\_\_\_  
 12: I will pay for the drinks = the drinks are \_\_\_\_\_ me  
 13: Something new or different that requires great effort = a chall\_\_\_\_\_  
 16: A life of few experiences or travel outside your own town/city/home = a shel\_\_\_\_ life.  
 17: A small machine that does something useful = a gad\_\_\_\_\_  
 20: Comfortable and that reminds you of your own home = hom\_\_\_\_\_  
 24: To cause an argument or discussion = to sp\_\_\_\_ a row  
 25: To entertain an important person by taking them to restaurants/bars, etc = to wine and d\_\_\_\_ someone

- 26: To consider something when making a decision = to t\_\_\_\_ something into account  
 27: To try something for the first time = to g\_\_\_\_ something a go  
 28: To make something more colourful and attractive = to brig\_\_\_\_ something up  
 29: A line of colour that is different to the main background colour = a str\_\_\_\_\_  
 30: A thin piece of wood used to clean your teeth = a to\_\_\_\_\_

### Royal Family Tree

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. George V             | 2. Queen Mary                      |
| 3. Edward VIII          | 4. Wallis Simpson                  |
| 5. George VI            | 6. Elizabeth II (The Queen Mother) |
| 7. Phillip              | 8. Elizabeth II                    |
| 9. Margaret             | 10. Diana                          |
| 11. Charles             | 12. William                        |
| 13. Harry               | 14. Anne                           |
| 15. Capt. Mark Phillips | 16. Peter                          |
| 17. Zara                | 18. Andrew                         |
| 19. Fergie              | 20. Beatrice                       |
| 21. Eugenie             | 22. Edward                         |
| 23. Sophie              | 24. Louise                         |

### Jokes

- 1D 2H 3F 4A 5C 6E.  
7G 8B

### Noise Nuisance

1. strumming  
2. poked

3. clapped  
4. beating  
5. snapped  
6. slapped  
7. flicked  
8. thumped  
9. knocked

10. tapping  
11. rapped  
12. punched

### Bar Chats

1. One of the speakers likes pets because they are something to talk to, they make people happy, they teach you how to care for others, and they keep you company. 2. The other speaker doesn't like because it's unnatural to keep pets, they neuter the animals, it's better to have babies, and it's better to take care of the elderly, friends or family.

1. One of the speakers is in favor of establishing a moon base because it's exciting, they can do experiments there, they can discover new things, and we may need a base outside the Earth if things go badly. 2. The other speaker is in against establishing a moon base because it's not worth it, it's a waste of money, there are plenty of places to discover here on Earth, and there are plenty of things to deal with here on Earth.

### Trivia Matching

- 1M 2I 3E 4L 5A 6H 7C

- 8K 9F 10G 11B 12D 13J

### Typical Dialogues

1. The woman calls the fire brigade because her cat and husband are stuck in a tree.  
2. Her husband was up there for a long time because the woman was "negotiating" with him.

### Quiz Analysis

Mostly "a" = You are a "green" traveller. Nature thanks you.  
Mostly "b" = You have little concern for the dangers of climate change and seem more concerned with your

own comfort and pleasure.

### Fluency Practice

- B:**  
 1. There are plenty more fish in the sea  
 2. Stop fishing for compliments.  
 3. It smells a bit fishy to me.  
 4. She was fishing for information.  
 5. It was a completely different kettle of fish.  
 6. He's a bit of a queer fish.

### D

1. When do you get shy?  
2. What makes you happy?  
3. How would you like to be?

4. What's the most important personality trait (that) a friend can have?

### E:

1. We took Sally on last week. / We took on Sally last week.  
 2. We need to take out a mortgage.  
 3. We should take the washing in. / We should take in the washing.  
 4. We need to take some money out (from our bank account).  
 5. This new idea is really taking off.  
 6. I was taken in by his good looks and charm.



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Do you know all the laws in your country? What about America? America has some incredible laws. Did you know that in the state of Alabama it's illegal for donkeys to sleep in bathtubs? Yes, that's it. You are prohibited from taking your pet donkey and placing him in the bath in order to wash him. This is the start of a new mini-series on some of America's **dumbest** laws. Here are some from Alabama, Alaska and Arizona (*US English spelling*)

- ☹ It is illegal for a driver to be **blindfolded** while operating a vehicle. Alabama.
- ☹ Dominoes may not be played on Sunday. Alabama.
- ☹ It is illegal to wear a **fake moustache** that

causes laughter in church. Alabama.

- ☹ Putting salt on a **railroad track** may be punishable by death. Alabama.
- ☹ It is legal to drive the wrong way down a **one-way street** if you have a **lantern** attached to the front of your automobile. Alabama.
- ☹ You may not have an ice-cream **cone** in your back pocket at any time. Alabama.
- ☹ Masks may not be worn in public. Alabama.
- ☹ Men may not **spit** in front of the opposite sex. Alabama.
- ☹ You may not wear blue jeans down Noble Street. Alabama.
- ☹ **Moose** may not be viewed from an airplane. Alaska.
- ☹ While it is legal to shoot bears, waking a sleeping

bear for the purpose of taking a photograph is prohibited. Alaska.

- ☹ It is considered an offense to push a **live** moose out of a moving airplane. Alaska.
- ☹ Hunting camels is prohibited. Arizona.
- ☹ A class 2 **misdemeanor** occurs if one places a **mark** upon a flag which is "likely to provoke physical retaliation". Arizona.
- ☹ When being attacked by a criminal or burglar, you may only protect yourself with the same weapon that the other person possesses. Arizona.
- ☹ It is unlawful to refuse a person a glass of water. Arizona.
- ☹ Anyone caught stealing soap must wash himself with it until it is all used up. Arizona.

### Why dumb?

The truth is, there's a story behind every one of these seemingly dumb laws. Take this one, for example. In Colorado it is illegal to place a **couch** on outside porches. This may appear very strange, but there is a good reason for it and it goes like this. The University of Colorado in Boulder is famous for its party atmosphere. A common tradition at the University is to burn couches following big events (i.e. winning a football game). To stop this potentially dangerous activity, a law was passed to discourage it. Makes sense, doesn't it? So, you see, there's a logical explanation for every one of these laws, even if they do appear dumb to us now.



### GLOSSARY

- dumb** *adj* /US/ stupid
- blindfolded** *adj* with a piece of cloth covering your eyes so you cannot see
- fake** *adj* not real; an imitation
- a moustache** *n* a line of hair above your mouth and below your nose
- a railroad track** *n* one of the two metal lines on which trains travel
- a one-way street** *n* a street that only permits traffic in one direction
- a lantern** *n* a lamp in a metal frame with glass sides and with a handle so you can carry it
- a cone** *n* a cone-shaped wafer used for holding ice cream
- to spit** *vb* to force liquid out of your mouth
- a moose** *n* a large North American deer
- live** *adj* that is living – not dead
- a misdemeanor** *n* a crime that is not really serious
- a mark** *n* a stain on clothing caused by coffee or dirt
- a couch** *n* a sofa

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# GREAT MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY



This is the second part in our mini-series on US history. This month, Teddy Roosevelt, and the Great Depression. *By Laura Warrell*

## Teddy Roosevelt

Teddy Roosevelt was the youngest president in American history. He was famous for his energy, his brilliance and his funny **eyeglasses**. During the Spanish-American war, in which Cuba fought for its independence from Spain, Roosevelt was colonel of the **Rough Rider Regiment**. This was the first volunteer cavalry regiment. Roosevelt and his regiment of 1,250 men became legends because they were courageous. Most amazing, the Rough Riders were made up of men **from all walks of life**: cowboys, Indians, **Ivy-League patriots**, and aristocratic sportsmen – the type of men who usually wouldn't **get along**, except that the charismatic Roosevelt **brought them together**. In 1898, Roosevelt led them, along with a group of black soldiers known as "buffalo soldiers", up Kettle Hill where he captured San Juan Heights, virtually ending the war. When asked to explain his success, Roosevelt said, "speak softly and carry a big stick". The **quote** made it into history books all over the world.



## The Great Depression

In 1929, an economist from Yale University said the American economy had reached a "permanently high **plateau** of prosperity". Five days later, the **stock market crashed** and the Great Depression, the worst economic **recession** in American history, began.

On October 24, 1929 (known as "Black Thursday") investors began **getting rid of** their stocks. Financiers bought the stock to stop the panic, but it didn't work and more and more people **sold off** stock. October 29<sup>th</sup> (known as "Black Tuesday") was the most **devastating** day in the history of the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed and **wiped out** all the financial gains of the previous year.

Over \$30 billion disappeared from the American economy – the same amount of money that the government had spent to fight World War I.

Public confidence was destroyed. The Depression caused a level of unemployment and poverty that the country had never seen. American families **broke down** under the pressure, students left high school (2 to 4 million children quit), and thousands of families **were left homeless**. One-third of Americans **fell below the poverty line**. Farmers with guns went to local banks to prevent **foreclosures** on their property. President Hoover even had to send in the army to **break up** peaceful demonstrations led by WWI veterans who were demanding their **pensions**.

### GLOSSARY

- eyeglasses** *n US*  
objects you wear so you can see better. "Glasses" in British English
- rough** *adj*  
if you describe someone as "rough", you are saying that they use a lot of force and aggression
- from all walks of life** *exp*  
from all levels of society and class
- Ivy-League** *adj*  
Ivy-League schools include Harvard and Princeton
- a patriot** *n*  
someone who loves and fights for his/her country
- to get along** *phr vb*  
to have a good relationship with someone
- to bring people together** *exp*  
to form a group with different people
- a quote** *n*  
a famous phrase that appears in a book or that people repeat
- a plateau** *n*  
a stage in a process where there is no change. Literally, a large area of high, flat land
- the stock market** *n*  
this term refers to the general activity of buying and selling shares, and the people and institutions that organise it
- to crash** *vb*  
to fail suddenly
- a recession** *n*  
a period of zero economic growth
- to get rid of something** *exp*  
to throw something away
- to sell off** *phr vb*  
to sell something because you need the money
- devastating** *adj*  
very destructive or damaging
- to wipe out** *phr vb*  
to eliminate; to destroy completely
- to break down** *phr vb*  
to stop working (a machine)
- were left homeless** *exp*  
had no home
- to fall below the poverty line** *exp*  
to become very poor and to have less money than the minimum necessary to survive
- a foreclosure** *n*  
an action that involves taking possession of a property that was bought with a loan from the bank
- to break up** *phr vb*  
if the police "break up" a demonstration, they try to stop it
- a pension** *n*  
a regular sum of money for someone who has retired (after 65) or who is disabled



# Story Time

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



## The Lion

A lion wakes up one morning in a really **bad mood**. So, he goes over to the monkey, **roars** loudly and says, "Who is the **mightiest** animal in the jungle?"

And the monkey replies, "You are, master."

Then the lion goes to the zebra and says, "Who is the mightiest animal in the jungle?"

**Shaking with fear**, the zebra says, "You are, master."

Next, the lion meets an elephant. "Who is the mightiest animal in the jungle?" the lion demands to know.

But instead of answering, the elephant **grabs** the lion, **slams** him against a tree six times, **drops** him and **walks off**.

"All right! All right!" the lion shouts. "There's no need to get angry just because you don't know the answer."



## The Bride & Groom

John is going to marry Sally. A few weeks before the wedding, John goes to the **priest** and makes him an unusual offer.

"Look, I'll give you 100 euros if you'll change the **wedding vows**," says John. "When you get to the part where I'm supposed to promise to love, honour and obey her forever, I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that out."

John passes the minister a 100-euro bill, and the priest **nods in agreement**.

But on the day of the wedding, when it's time for the **groom's** vows, the priest looks the young man in the eye and says: "Will you promise to obey her every command, to serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life, and never to look at another woman as long as you both shall live?"

The groom **gulps**, looks around, and says, "Yes". Later, John **leans towards** the priest and says, "I thought we **had a deal**."

The priest then returns John's 100-euro bill and says, "She made me a better offer". ❖

## GLOSSARY

- to freak out** *phr vb*  
to become very frightened
- to have enough** *exp*  
if you have "had enough", you are tired of a situation and want to change it
- a bad mood** *n*  
if someone is in a "bad mood", they are angry or unhappy
- to roar** *vb*  
when lions "roar" they make a loud sound
- mighty** *adj*  
very strong and powerful
- to shake with fear** *exp*  
to be so frightened that your body is trembling
- to grab** *vb*  
to take suddenly with your hand
- to slam** *vb*  
to close with force
- to drop** *vb*  
if you "drop" something, you allow it to fall to the ground
- to walk off** *phr vb*  
to leave a place walking
- a priest** *n*  
an official member of a religious order
- a wedding vow** *n*  
a promise that you make to your husband/wife during the wedding
- to nod in agreement** *exp*  
to say that you agree to something by moving your head up and down
- a groom** *n*  
the man who is getting married
- to gulp** *vb*  
to swallow because you are shocked or frightened
- to lean towards someone** *exp*  
to move the upper part of your body towards someone
- to have a deal** *exp*  
to have a formal agreement or contract with someone

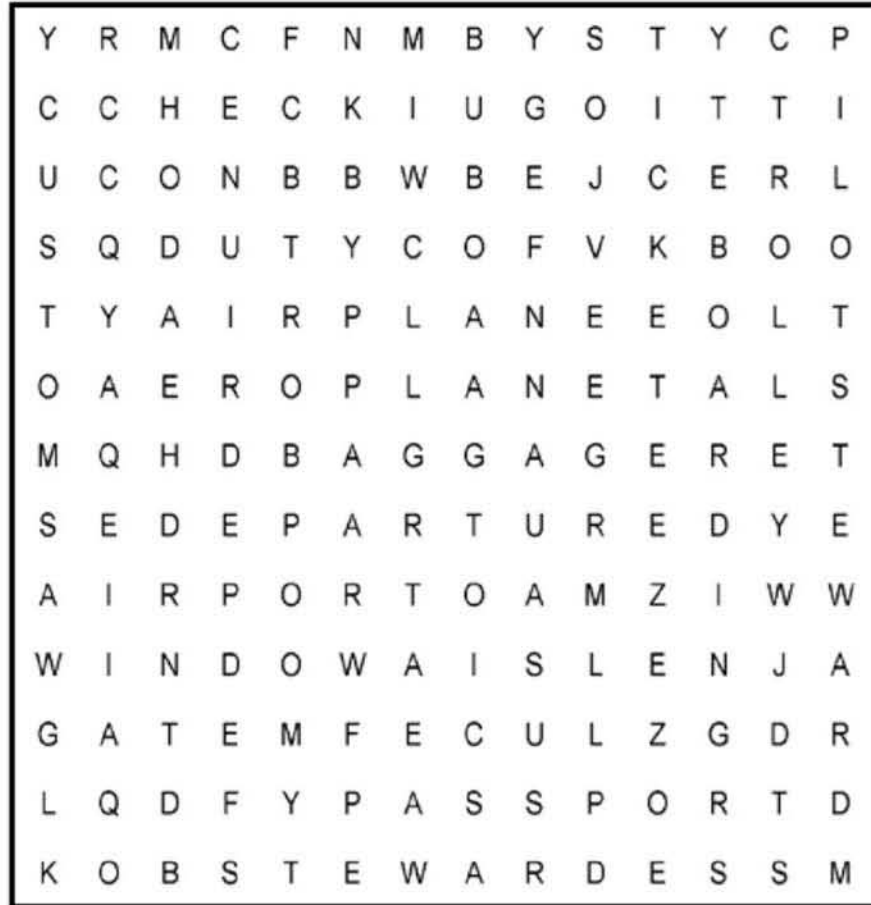
## Irritating Taxi Driver

Sam walks into a bar and asks for a beer. As he's drinking, another man comes in and orders a glass of water. Sam decides to leave after his first beer, but as he's going out, he notices the other man leaving too. Sam goes to another bar and asks for a beer, but the same guy comes in too. This happens twice more and eventually Sam starts to **freak out**. Who is this guy? Sam wonders. Finally, Sam has **had enough** and says to the man, "Who are you and why are you following me around?" And the guy replies, "I'm your taxi driver."



## Airport Words

See if you can identify the word. Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck! (Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this.)



1. A large flying form of transport (US English spelling) = an air\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The same as number one, but British English spelling = an ae\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The person who flies the plane = the p\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The woman who serves you drinks and food on the plane = the ste\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The man who serves you drinks and food on the plane = the ste\_\_\_\_\_.
6. A card that tells you where in the airport your plane is = a boar\_\_\_\_\_ card.
7. The large building where airplanes fly from = an ai\_\_\_\_\_.
8. The collection of bags that you take with you = your bag\_\_\_\_\_.
9. A metal vehicle with wheels for carrying your bags = a tro\_\_\_\_\_.
10. A shop where you can buy tax-free goods = a \_\_\_-free shop.
11. A plane ticket you buy from the internet = an e-t\_\_\_\_\_.
12. A seat next to the window = a w\_\_\_\_\_ seat.
13. A seat next to the aisle = an a\_\_\_\_\_ seat.
14. The large room where people wait before going to catch their plane = the dep\_\_\_\_\_ lounge.
15. The place where you go to get on the plane = the boarding g\_\_\_\_\_.
16. The place where you show your ticket = the ch\_\_\_\_\_in desk.
17. The place where you show your bags and where they ask you questions as you enter the country = cu\_\_\_\_\_.
18. The place where you show your passport = pas\_\_\_\_\_ - control.

### SAFE SWIMMING BY DANIEL COUTOLINE

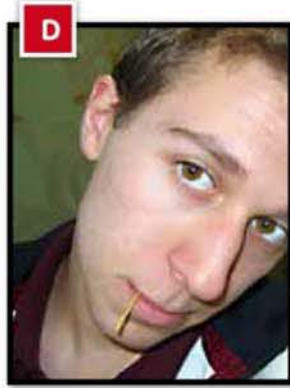


# Trivia Matching

## Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 13), and the photos (A-M). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** also on page 24

1. A zebra
2. A white stripe
3. A reindeer
4. A snail
5. Doughnuts
6. A hockey stick
7. A rabbit
8. The king of hearts
9. The king of spades
10. The king of diamonds
11. The king of clubs
12. A toothpick
13. A revolving door



# Weird Trivia

This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so **awe-inspiring**?

The word "listen" contains the same letters as the word "silent". Coincidence, or what?

All the planets in our solar system **rotate** in an anti-clockwise direction except Venus. It's the only planet that rotates in a clockwise direction. There's always at least one exception to every rule, as you know from studying English.



The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their heads are the rabbit and the parrot. Very useful.

**Reindeer** like to eat bananas.

The longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order is "almost". Surprise your English teacher with this piece of useful information.

Twenty-four-carat gold is not pure gold since there is a small amount of **copper** in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be **moulded** with the hands.



A piece of paper cannot be **folded** more than nine times. Try it!



A hippopotamus can run faster than a man, although not **with such grace**.

The town of Whitby (population 116,000) in Canada has more doughnut shops per capita than any other place in the world. We're sure it's also pretty high on obesity levels, but we can't confirm that.

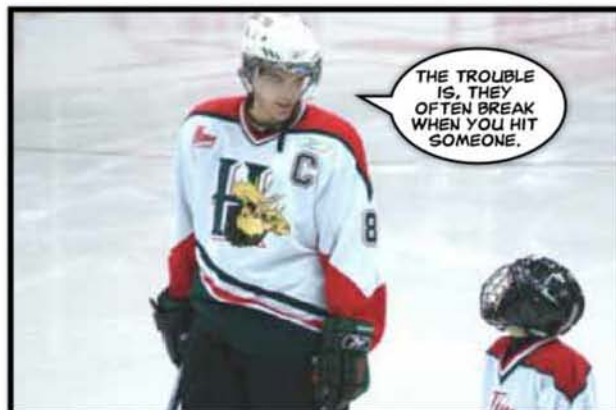
Canada imports approximately 822 Russian-made hockey sticks... every day!

The **revolving door** was invented in 1888.

The king of hearts is the only king without a **moustache**.

The object that Americans most often **choke on** is the **toothpick**.

A snail can sleep for 3 years. Lucky snail!



The Main Library at Indiana University **sinks** over two and a half centimetres every year. Why? Well, when it was built, engineers **failed to take into account** the weight of all the books. There's always something, isn't there?

And lastly, an interesting question: Is a zebra white with black stripes, or black with white **stripes**? Many zoologists would say that a zebra is white because its stripes end towards the belly and the **belly** is mostly white. However, others would say that a zebra is black because if you shaved all the fur off a zebra the skin is mostly black. So it really depends on how you want to look at it, but we're sure the zebra doesn't really care 🐾

## GLOSSARY

- awe-inspiring** *adj*  
amazing, incredible
- to rotate** *vb*  
to turn in circles
- a reindeer** *n*  
an animal that lives in forests in northern Europe. Rudolph is a red-nosed one
- copper** *n*  
a type of metal used to make coins and wires
- to mould** *vb*  
if you "mould" a soft substance, you use your hands to make shapes with it
- to fold** *vb*  
if you "fold" a piece of paper, you bend it so that one part covers another part
- with such grace** *exp*  
with such smooth, controlled movements
- a revolving door** *n*  
a door that turns round and round in circles. They are often found in hotel entrances
- a moustache** *n*  
a line of hair above the mouth and below the nose on the face
- to choke on something** *exp*  
if you "choke on" something, you cannot breathe because that thing is blocking your throat
- a toothpick** *n*  
a thin piece of wood used to clean your teeth. Often found in restaurants
- to sink** *vb*  
to disappear slowly below the surface
- to fail to take X into account** *exp*  
to forget to consider X
- a stripe** *n*  
a line of colour different to the main background colour
- a belly** *n*  
the area in the centre of your stomach

# VOCABULARY FIRE

Learn some useful words and expressions related to fire and the fire brigade.

**Fire brigade** – the group of men and women whose job it is to fight fires.

**Fire service** – (also known as the “fire department” in US English) the organisation which has the job of **putting out** fires.

**Fire drill** – when there is a “fire drill” in a building, people who work or live there practise what to do if there is a fire.

**Fire fighters** – (also known as “firemen / firewomen”) these are the people who come to your house when there is a fire. They also rescue people in dangerous situations, such as car accident victims or people who are **stuck in lifts...** and cats up trees.

**Fire engine** – (also known as a “fire truck” in US English) this is a kind of large vehicle with a large tank of water or foam used for fighting fires.

**Fire station** – a building where fire engines are kept, and where fire fighters wait until they are called to put out a fire.

**Fire exit** – the door that people must use if there is a fire in a building.

**Fire escape** – a metal **staircase** or ladder on the outside of a building.

**Ladder** – this is the object you can use to climb up to places that are hard to reach. It has a series of steps. It is considered bad luck to walk under a ladder.

**Fireproof** – something that cannot be damaged by fire.

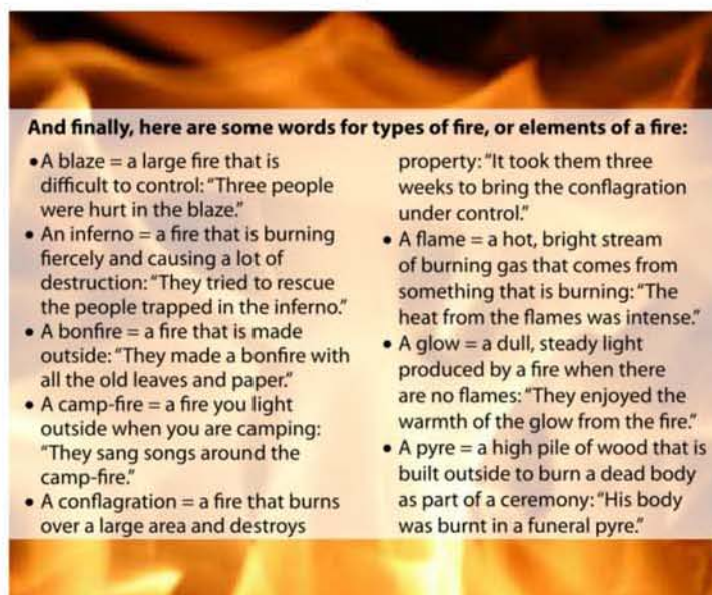
**Fire hose** – this is a long flexible, rubber tube for shooting water under pressure. At the end of the hose there is a nozzle that controls the amount and speed of water that comes out.



**Fire hydrant** – fire hydrants are basically large **taps** in the street that provide water for fighting fires. Fire fighters can connect their hoses to the hydrant. Fire hydrants are sometimes hit by cars and the result is a **flooded street**. In summer, in cities such as New York, fire hydrants become enormous fountains that

children play in when it's really hot.

**Cherry picker** – (also known as a “boom lift” or a “hydraulic ladder”) this is a kind of mechanical ladder. It has a large open box that is often **mounted** on the back of a vehicle. You stand in the box and it takes you up to where



**And finally, here are some words for types of fire, or elements of a fire:**

- A **blaze** = a large fire that is difficult to control: “Three people were hurt in the blaze.”
- An **inferno** = a fire that is burning fiercely and causing a lot of destruction: “They tried to rescue the people trapped in the inferno.”
- A **bonfire** = a fire that is made outside: “They made a bonfire with all the old leaves and paper.”
- A **camp-fire** = a fire you light outside when you are camping: “They sang songs around the camp-fire.”
- A **conflagration** = a fire that burns over a large area and destroys property: “It took them three weeks to bring the conflagration under control.”
- A **flame** = a hot, bright stream of burning gas that comes from something that is burning: “The heat from the flames was intense.”
- A **glow** = a dull, steady light produced by a fire when there are no flames: “They enjoyed the warmth of the glow from the fire.”
- A **pyre** = a high pile of wood that is built outside to burn a dead body as part of a ceremony: “His body was burnt in a funeral pyre.”

**GLOSSARY**

- to put out a fire** *exp*  
to extinguish a fire
- stuck** *adj*  
trapped
- a lift** *n*  
an electrical machine that carries people or things up and down a building
- a staircase** *n*  
a set of stairs inside a building
- a tap** *n*  
an object for turning on or off the flow of water
- a flooded street** *n*  
a street that is covered in water
- mounted** *adj*  
fixed on a surface
- a cherry** *n*  
a small, red fruit
- an orchard** *n*  
a place with many fruit trees
- a fruit picker** *n*  
a person who collects fruit from a tree or bush
- steam** *n*  
water vapour



you want to go. **Cherry pickers** were originally designed for use in **orchards**. It lets the **fruit picker** take the fruit from the top of a tree.

**Siren** – this is the very loud and annoying device that makes a sound when a police car, fire engine or ambulance passes you in the street.

**Matches** – thin sticks that ignite when you strike them. Often used to make fires.

**Smoke alarm** – (also known as a “smoke detector”) this is an electrical device that makes a sharp sound when smoke is detected.

**Fire extinguisher** – this is a metal cylinder which contains water or chemicals which can be used to put out fires.

**False alarm** – this is when you think there is a problem or emergency, but in reality, there’s nothing to worry about. For example, you see white smoke coming from the bathroom, and you call the fire brigade. However, it turns out it’s just **steam** from your flatmate, who is having an extra-long, hot shower. In this case, it would be a false alarm. And the fire fighters probably wouldn’t be very happy with you.

**Fire helmet** – this is the hard hat that fire fighters wear.

**Fireworks** – small objects that are lit to entertain people on special occasions. They contain chemicals and burn brightly or attractively often with a loud noise. “Fire crackers” are fireworks that make several loud bangs when lit ☺



**Wordsearch answers**

**Crime Words, page 29**

1. Airplane
2. Aeroplane
3. Pilot
4. Steward
5. Stewardess
6. Boarding
7. Airport
8. Baggage
9. Trolley
10. Duty
11. Ticket
12. Window
13. Aisle
14. Departure
15. Gate
16. Check
17. Customs
18. Passport



**Crossword page 24**

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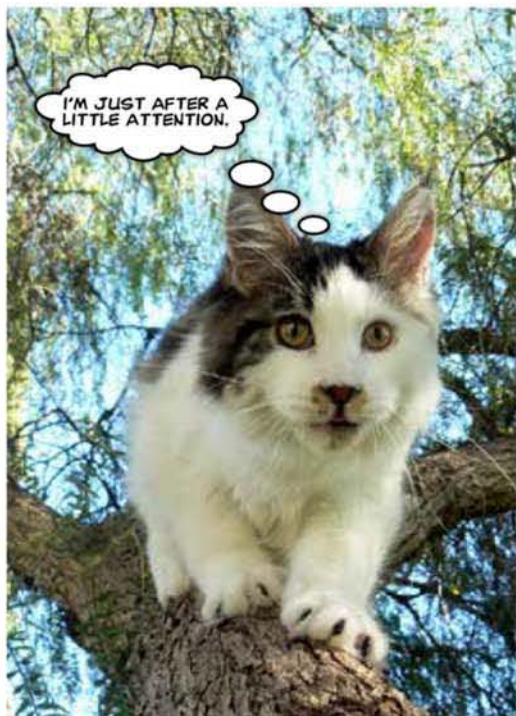


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# TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE EMERGENCY

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions. **This month: The emergency**

In this conversation Gladys calls the fire brigade. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.  
 1. Why does she call the fire brigade?  
 2. Why was her husband in the tree for so long?  
**Answers** on page 24



Fire Brigade: Hello, the Wormington **fire brigade**. How may I help you?  
 Gladys: Hello, yes, I've got a problem.  
 Fire Brigade: Is it an emergency?  
 Gladys: Yes. It's my cat  
 Fire Brigade: Your cat?  
 Gladys: Yes, he's **stuck up a tree** in our garden.  
 Fire Brigade: OK. And you'd like us to rescue it?  
 Gladys: Yes, if you could. And also my husband.  
 Fire Brigade: Your husband?  
 Gladys: Yes. He's in the tree too.  
 Fire Brigade: Well, what's he doing in the tree?  
 Gladys: He was trying to **rescue** the cat, but the **ladder** fell over when he was in the tree and it broke. So now he can't get down.  
 Fire Brigade: And how long has he been there?  
 Gladys: About three hours.  
 Fire Brigade: Is he in any danger of falling?  
 Gladys: No. But he isn't very happy.  
 Fire Brigade: What's your address?  
 Gladys: It's 17 Eliot Street, Blackburn  
 Fire Brigade: OK, so we have one cat and one husband in a tree at 17 Eliot St, Blackburn.  
 Gladys: That's right  
 Fire Brigade: OK. We'll send a **fire engine** round within half an hour. In the meantime, tell your husband not to move or try to climb down.  
 Gladys: Don't worry, he's not going anywhere. Thank you so much. *(shouting to her husband)* OK, honey. So you promise to clean the garage?  
 Brian: *(wearily from afar)* Yes, dear.  
 Gladys: And you promise to paint the kitchen?  
 Brian: Yes, dear.  
 Gladys: OK. They're sending a fire engine around in half an hour.  
 Brian: Very good dear.  
 Gladys: So, what's it like up there?  
 Brian: Very nice, dear.  
 Gladys: Do you want me to throw you a sandwich in a plastic bag?  
 Brian: No dear. I'll just **chew on** a few leaves.  
 Gladys: OK, then. I'll just go in and **put the kettle on** for those firemen. ☺



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### GLOSSARY

**the fire brigade** <sup>(n)</sup>  
 an organisation which has the job of extinguishing fires  
**stuck up a tree** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
 trapped in a tree  
**to rescue** <sup>(vb)</sup>  
 to help someone get out of a dangerous or difficult situation  
**a ladder** <sup>(n)</sup>  
 a piece of equipment for climbing up or down something  
**a fire engine** <sup>(n)</sup>  
 a large vehicle filled with water that fire fighters drive in to reach a fire  
**to chew on something** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
 if you "chew on" food, you use your teeth to break the food so it becomes easier to eat  
**to put the kettle on** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
 to fill a metal container with water so you can heat the water and make tea  
**a fireman** <sup>(n)</sup>  
 a fire fighter - a person whose job is to extinguish fires

# Having lunch

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions. This month: having lunch.

**Part I:** Listen and repeat these expressions.

## What you say over lunch

- Thanks for inviting me to lunch.
- Where would you like to sit?
- What are you having then?
- I recommend the fish.
- **You can't go wrong with the duck.**
- You order for me.
- The steak is delicious here.
- Have a good lunch / enjoy your lunch / bon appétit.
- So, have you been here before?
- Is this your first time here?
- Do you **eat out** much?
- Where do you normally have lunch?
- I'll have the same as him.
- I'll have what he's having.
- This looks great.
- What's your favourite restaurant in town?
- Do you want to share the dessert?
- **This is on me** / I'll get this one.

## What you say to the waiter/waitress

- A table for two, please?
- I have a reservation under the name of Jones.
- Could you bring us the salt/pepper/ketchup/vinegar?
- Could I have the cheque, please?

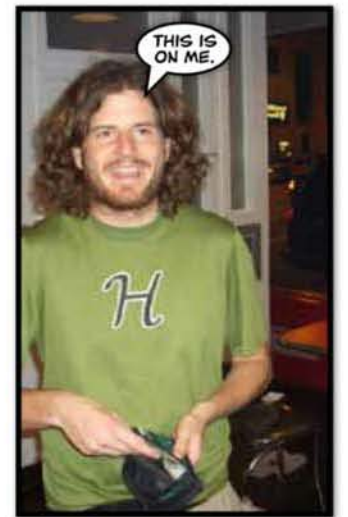


**Part II**  
Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, John and Peter are having a business lunch.

Peter: This is nice.  
John: Yes, I often come here for lunch.  
Peter: What do you recommend then?  
John: Well, the steak is great here. And the salads are delicious.  
Peter: I think I'll have the steak. What will you be drinking?  
John: I think I'll **stick to sparkling water**.  
Peter: Yeah. Me too. I don't like to drink at lunchtime.  
John: So, I heard that you moved offices, is that right?  
Peter: Yes, that's right. We relocated to an office downtown. Oh, look, here's the waiter.  
Waiter: Good afternoon. Can I get you anything to drink?  
John: Yes, please. I'll have the sparkling water.  
Peter: And the same for me, please.  
Waiter: OK, I'll be right back to take your orders.

- I'll have the soup as a **starter**, please.
- I'll have the steak, please.
- What the waiter/waitress says**
- Would you like to sit in the non-smoking section?
- Are you ready to order yet?
- What would you like as a starter?
- What do you want for the **main course**?

- Would you like any wine with that?
- Red, white or **rosé**?
- What would you like to drink?
- How would you like your steak? **Rare, medium or well-done**?
- Would you like any dessert?
- Would you like any coffee? ☕



**GLOSSARY**

**you can't go wrong with** *exp*  
you will really like; you won't have any problems with

**to eat out** *phr vb*  
to eat in a restaurant – not at home

**this is on me** *exp*  
I will pay for this

**a starter** *n*  
food you eat before the main course

**a main course** *n*  
the principal dish of food in a meal – often meat or fish

**rosé** *n*  
a pink-coloured wine

**rare** *adj*  
a "rare" steak is one that has been cooked for a very short time

**medium** *adj*  
a "medium" steak is one that has been cooked and is brown

**well-done** *adj*  
a "well-done" steak is one that has been cooked for a long time

**to stick to something** *exp*  
if you "stick to" one particular drink, you just have that particular drink

**sparkling water** *n*  
water with gas in it

# QUIZ ARE YOU A GREEN TRAVELLER?

How much do you really care about the environment? Do our quiz and find out whether you are a green traveller or not. **Analysis** on page 24

1. You are in a Spanish hotel and there's a sign in the bathroom reminding you not to use too much water. You:

- a) Only brush your teeth with bottled water, and have a very quick shower once a day.
- b) Leave the tap running while you brush your teeth, and spend the day having nice, cool showers.

2. You want to visit a tropical rainforest. Which trip do you go on? One that involves:

- a) A long **trek** on foot into the rainforest that respects the natural habitat.
- b) A ride in a **4X4** along a road that has been **cut through** the rainforest. You can get right to the centre really fast and you don't have to worry about getting wet or bitten by snakes.

3. You've just read a report on **climate change** and the **environmental impact of flights**. You:

- a) Decide that from now on you'll reduce the number of **flights** you take per year.
- b) **Chuck** the report in the **bin** and **book a flight** for a **weekend break** in a European capital.



4. You're on holiday in a large city in the middle of summer. It's hot and **muggy** and you're **sweating** a lot. You:

- a) Find a nice place in the **shade** and drink lots of water.
- b) Go back to your hotel room, turn the **AC** up **full-blast** and have a cold shower for twenty minutes.

5. You're on a safari in Kenya. One of the guides ties a goat to a tree in order to attract a lion. You:

- a) **Rush forward** and rescue the poor little goat.
- b) Get your camera out – you want to capture the moment on film.



6. Your next trip away will be:

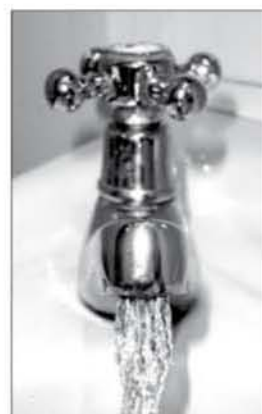
- a) A walking or cycling holiday in an area of natural beauty in your country.
- b) A round-the-world trip taking in 10 major cities and flying on all the best airlines. It'll be fantastic.

7. You're on holiday in India. It's dinner time. What do you do?

- a) I find a nice, pleasant restaurant and try some of the **local delicacies**.
- b) I call my **PA** and get a three-course meal **flown out** by private jet – you can't trust the food here. If not, I'll go to a five-star hotel to see what they've got on offer.

8. You want to go to the coast for your next summer holiday. Which place do you choose?

- a) A hotel in a little fishing village on the coast.
- b) A hotel in a beach resort complete with discos, bars, restaurants and a golf course. The resort is right beside a coral reef where the diving is perfect. They **chopped down** six hundred trees to **make room** for the golf course. It's great! 🌱



## GLOSSARY

- to leave the tap running** *exp*  
not to turn the tap off. A "tap" is a device that controls the flow of water
- a rainforest** *n*  
a thick forest of tall trees found in tropical areas
- a trek** *n*  
a long journey on foot
- a 4X4** *n*  
a large vehicle for driving in the country
- to cut through something** *exp*  
to use machetes or equipment to cut trees in a jungle so you can move through the jungle
- climate change** *n*  
the changes in the weather and temperature caused by pollution
- the environmental impact of something** *exp*  
the effects that pollution has on the environment (the earth/sea/land/air, etc)
- flights** *n*  
journeys by airplane
- to chuck** *vb inform*  
to throw casually
- a bin** *n*  
a container for rubbish (old bits of paper, etc)
- to book a flight** *exp*  
to reserve a flight
- a weekend break** *n*  
a mini-holiday at the weekend.
- muggy** *adj*  
weather that is unpleasantly wet and hot
- to sweat** *vb*  
to lose liquid from your body because of the heat
- in the shade** *n*  
in an area that is protected from the direct light of the sun
- the AC** *abbr*  
the air-conditioning
- full-blast** *adv*  
at its maximum position
- to rush forward** *phr vb*  
to go forward quickly
- a local delicacy** *n*  
a type of food that is typical in the area you are referring to
- a PA** *abbr*  
a personal assistant. A type of secretary
- to get something flown out** *exp*  
if you "get something flown out to you", you pay someone to put something on an airplane to take it to where you are
- to chop down** *phr vb*  
if they "chop down" trees, they cut all the trees in an area and they clear that area
- to make room for something** *exp*  
to make space for something; to clear an area so something can be built there

# Quirky News

Funny news stories from around the world.

## Turkey Eating



New York was the location for the 2006 World Turkey Eating Title. While millions of Americans sat down on 24<sup>th</sup> November to enjoy a traditional turkey roast, eight competitors **set out to** eat a whole turkey in as little time as possible. The rules **stated that** competitors should eat as much as they can in the **time allocated**, unless one of them finishes all the meat on the 5.5 kg bird, at which point the clock is stopped. George Shea, the head of the International Federation of Competitive Eating and the **master of ceremonies** for the event, described the **challenge** as a modern interpretation of the centuries-old Thanksgiving tradition. The contest was presided over by "Hungry" Charles Hardy, himself a former hot-dog eating champion. Competitors came from as far away as Scotland, all hoping to take away some of the \$2,500 prize money.

## Fast Eating

One of Britain's **quirkiest** events, the World Pie Eating Championship, has just become healthier. This year, the organisers have changed the rules and included a vegetarian option. "I realise this may be **controversial**, but **this is the way forward** for pie-eating at this level," said Tony Callaghan, the owner of Harry's Bar in Wigan, northwest England, where the annual competition is **held**. However, the changes have **sparked a row** with the pie-eating traditionalists. They want to keep to the traditional rules of eating meat and potato pies, and eating as many as they can in three minutes. Instead, competitors will have to eat just one regulation 12cm-pie in as short a time as possible. "They've **taken things too far** this year – pies are supposed to be meat and potato and anything else just isn't normal," said painter Dave Smyth, 48, who won the first contest in 1992 by eating four pies in three minutes. Last year's winner, weight-trainer Anthony "The Anaconda" Danson, ate an incredible seven pies in three minutes to **set a new record**. Regulation pies used in the competition must have a diameter of 12 centimetres and a depth of 3.5cm. The vegetarian option will be 10cm by 3cm.



### GLOSSARY

- to set out to do something** *exp*  
to have the intention of doing something
- to state that** *exp*  
to say that
- the time allocated** *exp*  
the official time permitted
- a master of ceremonies** *n*  
a person who introduces people or who says what will happen
- a challenge** *n*  
something new or different that requires great effort and determination
- a ticket seller** *n*  
a person who sells lottery tickets to the public
- the odds** *n*  
the probability
- to reject a conclusion** *exp*  
to say that the conclusions are wrong or inaccurate
- quirky** *adj*  
strange and unusual
- a pie** *n*  
food that consists of pastry filled with meat, vegetables, fruit, etc
- controversial** *adj*  
something "controversial" causes people to have many different and strong opinions
- this is the way forward** *exp*  
this is the what we should be doing to hold *vb*  
if a competition is "held" somewhere, it happens in that place
- to spark a row** *exp*  
to cause an argument or discussion
- to take things too far** *exp*  
to do something very extreme
- to set a new record** *exp*  
to do something that is a new record

## Suspicious Trading



An investigation into a lottery organisation in Canada has revealed something very unusual. For the past ten years, the biggest winners in the lottery have been the **ticket sellers** and others who work there. In fact, since 1999, two hundred and fourteen people with jobs in the company have won more than 60,000 euros. Now what are **the odds** of that happening? An expert has estimated that it would be about one in a trillion. Meanwhile, the lottery corporation has **rejected the conclusions**. "We are the leaders in lottery security," a spokeswoman insisted.

# THE GREAT GAME

## BRITAIN'S HUMILIATING DEFEAT IN AFGHANISTAN IN THE 19TH CENTURY

It seems that some people just don't learn from history. Back in the 19th century Britain tried to conquer Afghanistan. It all **went horribly wrong**. Right now they're there as part of NATO. Will history repeat itself?

### Rivalry

At the start of the 19th century there were some 2,000 miles separating British India and Tsarist Russia. Much of the land in between was known as Central Asia and most of it was **unmapped**. The cities of Bukhara,

Khiva, Merv, and Tashkent were virtually unknown to outsiders. And Afghanistan was a land of mountains, **ferocious warriors** and **uncompromising** Islam. Not the sort of place you'd want to get involved in.

At the time, the British were worried about the

Russians. They seemed to be expanding into Central Asia and **threatening** Britain's "jewel in the crown": India. The centre of activity was in Afghanistan. And with that in mind, the British launched the First Anglo-Afghan War in 1838.

### Invasion

The first war was a disaster for the British. The current ruler of Afghanistan was Dost Mohammed, and the British were angry because he had been talking to the Russians. Eventually, a British army (the Army of the Indus) was sent into Afghanistan under the command of General Keane. The plan was to install a **puppet regime** under Shuja Shah, then leave a few British soldiers and officers to guarantee the peace. There seemed to be little doubt that it would succeed militarily, but, as the Duke of Wellington said, "the political problems will begin where the military successes **left off**". How right he was.

### Peace

Things seemed to go well at first. The British entered Afghanistan, Dost Mohammed **surrendered** and was sent into exile to India,

and Shuja Shah became the new, pro-British ruler. The British even began to relax. Army officers spent their mornings riding horses. And in the afternoons, there were polo games, theatre shows, tea parties, and endless rounds of cricket. Many officers even brought their wives and children. Other officers **fell for** the charms of the local ladies, which was to act as a provocation for the Afghan men.

### Anger

However, by 1841 things were starting to **turn nasty**. Prices were rising, there were new taxes, and the Afghans were **resentful** of the presence of so many foreign soldiers. **Mobs** began attacking the British on the streets of Kabul. The city eventually exploded in late 1841. First, Sir Alexander Burnes, Britain's **envoy** to the court of Shah Shujah, was killed. Immediately after, the mob **laid siege** to the British **garrison**, which was camped in a **cantonment** outside the city, with very poor defences. The officer in charge was Sir William Macnaghten. Most Afghans expected him to lead an attack on Kabul in **revenge** for the death of Burnes. But the British did nothing.

### Return

To make things worse, Mohammed Akbar, the son of Dost Mohammed had arrived in Kabul with a force of 6,000 men. He took control of the **uprising**. As food supplies for the British in the cantonment were running low, Macnaghten decided to talk. A meeting was arranged with Akbar. Many British officers tried to persuade Macnaghten not to go. They thought it might be a trick. They were right. Macnaghten went to the meeting and was killed. Afterwards, his head and **limbs** were cut off and hung from a pole in the bazaar. The new commander of the army was General Elphinstone, an elderly man of 60 who had last seen action in the Battle of Waterloo. Once again, the Afghans expected the British to send a raiding party to get revenge for the death of their commander, Macnaghten. But the British did nothing.

### Cold

Christmas was approaching now, and the British were cold, hungry and far from home. Eventually, Elphinstone agreed to surrender and leave Afghanistan. And so began one of the most humiliating retreats for the British army: the long trek back to India over the freezing cold mountain passes. There were





4,500 military personnel (700 of whom were Europeans – the rest being Indian troops) and 12,000 **camp followers** including many women and children. Akbar promised the British a **safe passage** back to India. However, the guarantee proved to be **worthless**. During the retreat, most of the British and Indians were killed over a period of about ten days, **hacked to pieces** or shot by warriors in the mountains.



in 1878. Britain demanded that the ruler of Afghanistan, Sher Ali, accept a British diplomatic mission. The British mission was turned back, so a force of 40,000 men was sent across the border, launching the Second Anglo-Afghan War. Once again, there was a series of humiliating defeats, and in 1881, the British pulled out of Kabul. They left Abdur Rahman Khan on the throne, and he agreed to let the

British maintain Afghanistan's foreign policy while he **consolidated his position** on the throne.

### Revenge

The British were in shock. In order to attempt to **regain prestige**, the British sent two armies into Afghanistan on a mission of revenge. They defeated the Afghans and entered Kabul. Some British officers wanted to **raze Kabul to the ground**. But they **settled for** destroying the great covered bazaar, one of the marvels of Central Asia. It took two days to **blow up** because it was so strong. Meanwhile, British troops went on a **looting spree** before finally **withdrawing** all forces to India. It would be more than 35 years before they would return.

### More War

Things didn't calm down after that. The Russians continued to advance steadily southward toward Afghanistan and by 1868 Tashkent had been formally annexed, and Samarkand had become part of the Russian Empire. Tensions became even more heated when the Russians sent a diplomatic mission to Kabul

### The End

The unofficial conflict between Russia and Britain over Afghanistan came to an end in 1907 at the Anglo-Russian Convention. At the meeting, Russia agreed that in future it would conduct all political relations with Afghanistan through the British. The British agreed that they would maintain the current borders. How considerate!

Of course, the story of interference in Afghanistan didn't end there. During the 1980s the Soviets invaded; and in 2001, the British and Americans entered the country in an attempt to destroy the Taliban. The First Afghan War of 1838 provided the clear lesson that while it may be relatively easy to invade Afghanistan, it is impossible to occupy the country or impose a government not welcomed by the inhabitants. Has history taught us anything? ☺

### The Great Game

"The Great Game" is a term used to describe the rivalry between the British Empire and the Tsarist Russian Empire over Central Asia. The Russians referred to it as "The Tournament of Shadows". This period ran from 1813 to the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907.

### Gandamak

One of the last battles during the retreat to India in 1841 / 1842 is known as the Battle of Gandamak. Forty-five British soldiers and twenty officers of the 44<sup>th</sup> East Essex Regiment were surrounded by Afghans near the town of Gandamak. The troops had just forty **rounds** between them, so they formed a defensive square to prepare for the end. In the wild **hand-to-hand fighting** that followed, all but six of the British were killed. Of these six who escaped, five were killed along the road. Meanwhile, British troops in the town of Jellalabad were watching for any sign of their comrades of the Kabul garrison. On the afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> January 1842 they saw a single figure ride up to the town walls. It was Dr Brydon, the sole survivor of the battle.

### The Great Game – the summarised version

Britain's attempts to conquer Afghanistan.

- Britain starts the first Anglo-Afghan War in 1838.
- A British army under General Keane enters Afghanistan.
- The British install Shuja Shah as the leader of the country.
- The Afghans start to revolt against the British in late 1841.
- Macnaghten is killed during a meeting.
- General Elphinstone takes over command.
- The British start retreating to India.
- The British and Indians are killed during the journey back to India. Approximately 16,500 die.
- Britain sends another army in 1842 on a mission of revenge.
- There is another war in 1878, which ends badly too.
- In 1907, the British and Russians come to an agreement over Afghanistan.
- During the 1980s, the Soviets invade Afghanistan.
- In 2001, the British and Americans enter Afghanistan.



### GLOSSARY

**to go horribly wrong** *exp*  
to become a disaster

**unmapped** *adj*  
a region that is "unmapped" has not been explored

**ferocious** *adj*  
frightening; violent

**a warrior** *n*  
a brave and experienced soldier

**uncompromising** *adj*  
determined not to change

**to threaten** *vb*  
if something "threatens", you it is a danger to you

**a puppet regime** *n*  
a government that is controlled by another government

**left off** *exp*  
stopped

**to surrender** *vb*  
to stop fighting and to admit you have lost

**to fall for** *phr vb*  
if you "fall for" someone, you are attracted to them

**to turn nasty** *exp*  
if a situation "turns nasty", it becomes violent or out of control

**resentful** *adj*  
angry

**a mob** *n*  
a large group of violent people

**an envoy** *n*  
a special diplomat

**to lay siege to something** *exp*  
if army A "lays siege" to army B, army A surrounds army B and traps it

**a garrison** *n*  
a group of soldiers who must guard a town/city/fort

**a cantonment** *n*  
a group of buildings where soldiers live

**revenge** *n*  
doing something bad to someone who has done something bad to you

**an uprising** *n*  
a revolt against a government

**a limb** *n*  
an arm or leg

**camp followers** *n*  
people who are part of a military camp, either as cooks, the administration, or as civilians

**a safe passage** *n*  
a route with no danger

**worthless** *adj*  
with no value

**to hack someone to pieces** *exp*  
to kill someone by cutting them many times

**to regain prestige** *exp*  
to do something that makes people respect or admire you again

**to raze a place to the ground** *exp*  
to destroy a city/town completely

**to settle for something** *exp*  
to accept something – not necessarily the thing you really want

**to blow up** *phr vb*  
to destroy by exploding

**a looting spree** *n*  
if soldiers go on a "looting spree", they steal from shops/houses, etc

**to withdraw** *vb*  
to leave

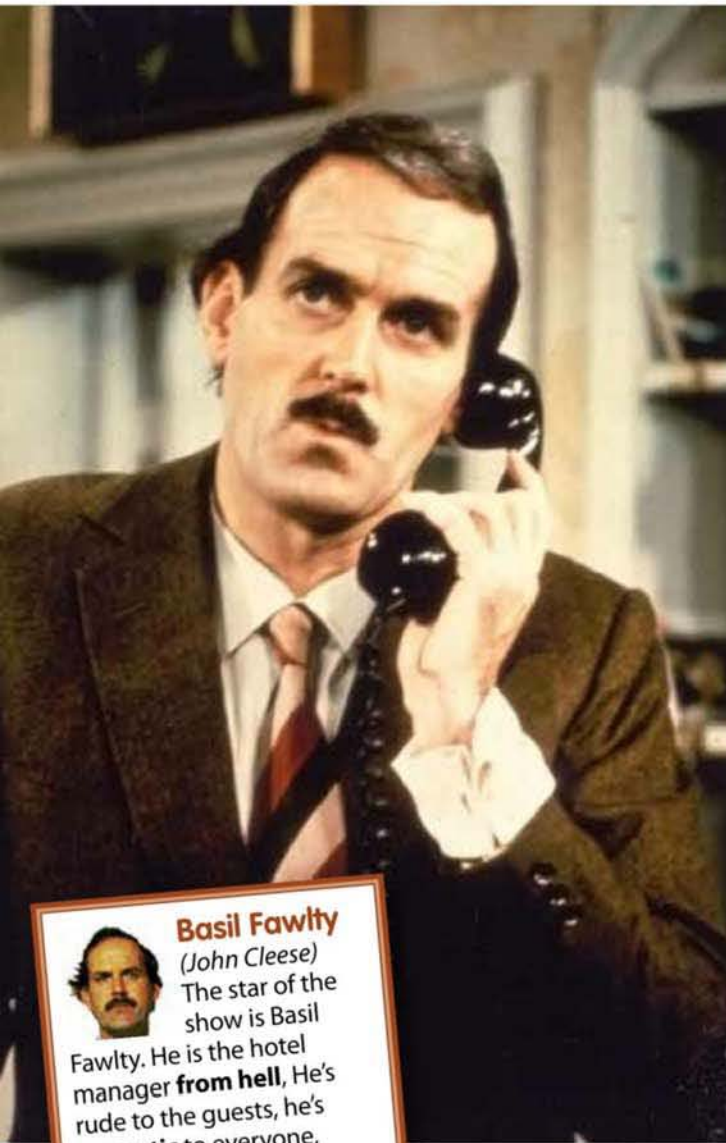
**to consolidate your position** *exp*  
to make your position stronger

**a round** *n*  
a bullet – a piece of metal that is fired from a gun

**hand-to-hand fighting** *n*  
fighting with hands (not shooting)

# Fawlty Towers

One of Britain's top comedy TV hit series is *Fawlty Towers*. It was first shown in the 1970s, but it continues to be as popular as ever. *Fawlty Towers* became an enormous success and was recently voted number one in a poll of the top 100 British comedy shows. Let's have a look at it.



## Basil Fawlty

(John Cleese)  
The star of the show is Basil Fawlty. He is the hotel manager **from hell**. He's rude to the guests, he's **sarcastic** to everyone, and he physically attacks his staff. The only people who aren't insulted or humiliated are those with a title (Lord or Lady) because Basil is a terrible **snob**. The biggest **thorn in Basil's side** is his wife Sybil.



## Manuel

(Andrew Sachs)  
Manuel is the hotel waiter. He is a **walking disaster** and was only hired by Basil because he was so "cheap". He has a poor command of English. However, despite suffering under Basil, Manuel remains **loyal** and devoted.

## The real Fawlty Towers

Not many people know that *Fawlty Towers* is actually based on a real hotel. One day in the 1970's, a group of English comic actors (John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin – better known as the comic team "Monty Python's Flying Circus") visited the Gleneagles Hotel, in Torquay, southwest England.

The group was staying there during the filming of an episode of Monty Python, the hilarious 70s TV series.

But this fact didn't impress the hotel's owner, Donald Sinclair. Sinclair's behaviour wasn't very hospitable at all: he threw a bus timetable at one of the guests, and criticised Terry Gilliam's table manners. Believing that Eric Idle's suitcase contained a bomb, Sinclair hid it behind a garden wall. John Cleese described Sinclair as "the most wonderfully **rude** man I have ever met".

In fact, Cleese was so inspired by Sinclair's rudeness that he decided to write a series based on the experience. The character of Basil Fawlty, played by Cleese, is modelled on Sinclair.

Now the original Hotel Gleneagles has decided to celebrate its association with the show. The hotel recently had a 1.5 million-euro renovation. Actress Prunella Scales, who played Basil's wife Sybil, attended the hotel's reopening party as the **guest of honour**. The **present** hotel owner, Brian Shone, is proud of the connection with the TV series, even though Basil Fawlty was the worst hotel owner in the world. "We



## Sybil Fawlty

(Prunella Scales)  
Sybil Fawlty is Basil's wife.

She has a distinctive laugh (strangely similar to "someone **machine-gunning a seal**") and makes endless phone calls to her friend Audrey. She knows how to control her manic husband, and one sharp "Basil!" is all it takes to **bring him to heel**. Sybil enjoys socialising with the guests, and **ordering Basil around**.

decided Hotel Gleneagles is always going to be famous for inspiring *Fawlty Towers* so, rather than be embarrassed about what has happened, we have chosen to capitalise on it. You cannot **get rid of** the spirit of Basil!"

And the guests certainly seem to be embracing the connection. Manager Sue Pine said "It is quite bizarre. Every day you sit in reception and they come in **by the coach-load** from America, Germany and Holland to see you. We have a big poster in reception and they all have their photo taken beside it."

Luckily, they won't be **yelled at** by Basil, or have their dinner orders mixed up by the Manuel. In fact, today's guests can expect a much nicer (and safer) experience at the hotel. ❖



## Polly

(Connie Booth)  
Polly, the waitress, is

really an art student. She is the only **sane** member of the team. She has an impressive ability to **think on her feet**. She's always **on hand** to help Basil, whether it's **impersonating** Sybil or **hiding dead bodies in laundry baskets**. Basil couldn't **cope** without her.





**Manuel**

English actor Andrew Sachs, who plays Manuel, was once accidentally injured during the filming of the show. In one scene, Basil picks up a **frying pan** and hits Manuel on the head with it. However, actor John Cleese accidentally picked up a real metal frying pan, instead of a rubber one, and knocked Sachs unconscious.



**GLOSSARY**

- faultry** *adj*  
the name of the hotel is a play on the word "faultry". If something is "faultry" it is not working properly
- from hell** *exp*  
a manager "from hell" is the worst kind of manager
- sarcastic** *adj*  
someone who is "sarcastic" says the opposite of what he/she means
- a snob** *n*  
someone who admires "upper-class" people, and who has no respect for working-class people
- a thorn in someone's side** *exp*  
a constant problem. Literally, a "thorn" is a sharp part of a bush or plant
- to machine-gun** *vb*  
to shoot with a machine gun (a gun that shoots many bullets very quickly)
- a seal** *n*  
an animal that lives in the Arctic and that has big eyes and soft fur
- to bring someone to heel** *exp*  
to control and dominate someone
- to order someone around** *exp*  
to tell someone what to do
- a walking disaster** *n*  
a person who always has many problems or accidents
- loyal** *adj*  
faithful
- sane** *adj*  
not crazy
- to think on your feet** *exp*  
to think very quickly, especially in stressful situations
- on hand** *exp*  
if you are "on hand", you are available to help someone
- to impersonate** *vb*  
to copy the way someone is; to pretend to be someone
- a laundry basket** *n*  
a basket for dirty clothes that need washing
- to cope** *vb*  
to survive; to live
- rude** *adj*  
not polite; not respectful
- a guest of honour** *n*  
a special guest at a ceremony
- present** *exp*  
current
- to get rid of something** *exp*  
to eliminate something
- by the coach-load** *exp*  
if people arrive "by the coach-load", many people arrive by coach (bus)
- to yell at someone** *exp*  
to shout at someone
- a frying pan** *n*  
a large metal container for cooking something oil
- to struggle down** *phr vb*  
if you "struggle downstairs", you go downstairs even though it is difficult for you
- a briefcase** *n*  
a thin case for carrying documents
- a confidence trickster** *n*  
a person who tricks people in order to get their money
- to forbid someone to do something** *exp*  
to tell someone that they are prohibited from doing something
- under the impression that** *exp*  
believing that; thinking that
- a reception lobby** *n*  
the main area with the desk in the entrance to a hotel
- a moose** *n*  
a large reindeer (like a big Rudolph)
- a long-standing guest** *n*  
a guest who has been there for a long time
- wildebeest** *n*  
a large African antelope
- to sweep across a place** *exp*  
to move quickly and smoothly across a place
- a plain** *n*  
a large, flat area of land with few trees on it

**The Kipper and the Corpse**

Here are some examples of Basil's sarcasm at its best. In this scene, Basil is speaking to a guest, Mr Leeman.

Mr Leeman: Do you think I might have breakfast in bed in the morning?  
 Basil: In bed?  
 Mr Leeman: Yes.  
 Sybil: Of course, Mr Leeman.  
 Basil: Yes, we can manage that, can we, dear?  
 Sybil: Yes, we can. *[to the phone]* I'll call you back.  
 Basil: Is it your leg?  
 Mr Leeman: I'm sorry?  
 Basil: Well, most of our guests manage to **struggle down** in the morning.

**A touch of class**

One of the guests, Lord Melbury, leaves a **briefcase** in reception with all his valuables. Sybil is suspicious and wants to open the case. In the end, they discover that Lord Melbury is in fact a **confidence trickster**.

Basil: What are you doing, Sybil? Sybil, I **forbid** you to open the safe. *[she opens the safe]* Sybil, I forbid you to take that case out. *[she takes the case out]*  
 Sybil, do not open that case! I forbid it!  
*[she opens the case]*

**The Hotel Inspector**

Basil is **under the impression that** one of his guests is a hotel inspector. Basil tries to charm the "inspector".

Basil: The wine's really good?  
 Walt: Yes.  
 Basil: And the pâté was all right?  
 Walt: Yes, I said so.  
 Basil: And the casserole?  
 Walt: I haven't tasted it yet.  
 Basil: *[smells at it]* Mmmmmmh!

**The Germans**

In this scene, Manuel is behind the desk in the **reception lobby**. There's a **moose** head on the reception desk, and the Major, a very old and **long-standing guest**, enters. Manuel is speaking from behind the moose. The Major thinks the moose is talking.

Manuel: How are you, sir. I can speak English. Hello, Major. How are you today?  
 Major: Er... er... er... I'm fine, thank you.  
 Manuel: Is a beautiful day today.  
 Major: Er... is it? Yes, yes, I suppose it is.  
 Manuel: I speak English. I learn it from a book.

**Communication Problems**

In this scene, Basil is having problems with one of the guests, Mrs Richards. She's complaining about her room.

Mrs Richards: When I pay for a view I expect to see something more interesting than that.  
 Basil: That is Torquay, Madam.  
 Mrs Richards: Well, it's not good enough.  
 Basil: Well, may I ask what you were hoping to see out of a Torquay hotel bedroom window? The Sydney Opera House perhaps? The Hanging Gardens of Babylon? Herds of **wildebeest** sweeping majestically across the **plain**?  
 Mrs Richards: Don't be silly. I expect to be able to see the sea.  
 Basil: You can see the sea. It's over there between the land and the sky  
 Mrs Richards: You call that a view?  
 Basil: Well perhaps you should consider **moving to** a hotel closer to the sea, preferably in it.



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# British laws



If you thought the law on the doormat was silly, here are some other laws that still exist in Britain. And quite a few of them are silly too.

"In London, Hackney taxis must carry a **bale of hay** and a sack of **oats**."

"It is illegal to be drunk in a pub or club, or any other **licensed premises**."

"In Hereford, you may *not* shoot a Welsh person on Sunday with a **longbow** in the Cathedral Close."

"In Chester, you can only shoot a Welsh person with a **bow and arrow** inside the city walls and after midnight."

"In York, excluding Sundays, it is legal to shoot a Scotsman with a bow and arrow."

"It is illegal for a Member of Parliament to enter the House of Commons wearing a **full coat of armour**."

"**Petrol stations** may not sell hot food after 11pm unless they apply for a special licence."

"Sleeping with a **consort** of the queen is classified as **treason**, and as such carries a maximum penalty of death."

"Placing a postage stamp of the queen **upside-down** is considered treason."

"It is unlawful to impersonate a **Chelsea pensioner**\*."

"Employers must not **hold meetings** on 31<sup>st</sup> October as it might discriminate against pagans, who, of course, celebrate the festival of Samhain (Halloween) on that day."

"It is illegal to sell most goods on a Sunday. It is however legal to sell a carrot. It is also legal to sell it at any price, and to give free **gifts** with it, such as anything else one might want to buy on a Sunday." ☘

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## \*Chelsea Pensioners

Chelsea pensioners are ex-soldiers who live in the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The soldiers include those who have been injured in service, and who have served for more than 12 years full-time. Those who travel out of the hospital should wear the distinctive hats and scarlet coats.



## British Laws

Here are some incredible facts and figures concerning British laws:

- Over a 12-month period the British government produced 3,621 pieces of legislation, running to a total of 98,600 pages, which is 70 times as long as the epic novel *War and Peace*.
- Apparently, there are 45 pages of instructions on how to correctly label a goat; and more than 50 pages on how a deep-sea diver has to complete his/her **tax return**.
- That there are 279 different tax forms for businesses, asking a total of 6,614 questions. The notes explaining the **Treasury's** "simplified" pensions' regime runs to 1,369 pages.
- One Police force has a total of 1,150 different forms on which to report crimes.
- There are 1,300 pages of road traffic law.



## GLOSSARY

- a bale of something** *n*  
a large quantity of hay/paper, etc that is tied into a tight bundle
- hay** *n*  
cut, dried grass that is given to animals to eat
- oats** *n*  
a cereal crop used for feeding horses, etc
- licensed premises** *n*  
a shop/bar/restaurant that has permission to sell or serve alcohol
- a longbow** *n*  
a long bow (a weapon) that is used for firing arrows over a great distance
- a bow and arrow** *n*  
a weapon that consists of a bow (a long piece of curved wood) and an arrow (a stick with a sharp point at the end)
- a full coat of armour** *n*  
a full metal suit that was used for protection in the Middle Ages
- a petrol station** *n*  
a shop that sells petrol for cars
- a consort** *n*  
the king's wife, or the queen's husband
- treason** *n*  
a crime committed against your country, such as selling state secrets
- upside-down** *adv*  
with the top part facing down
- to hold a meeting** *exp*  
to have, organise and control a meeting
- a gift** *n*  
a present; something free that is given to someone
- a tax return** *n*  
the documents that have information about your income, salary and tax liability
- the Treasury** *n*  
the government department in charge of the country's finances
- to screen** *vb*  
to protect
- a play area** *n*  
an area where children play

## Information Box – Tree Time

A council spent more than 250,000 euros planting trees to **screen** a new children's **play area**. It then dug them up after health and safety experts warned that children could fall ill if they ate the leaves.





A new law to ban one of Britain's most popular pieces of outdoor furniture: the doormat.  
By Rob Julian

Do you have a **doormat** at home? There's something nice about doormats. They're cheap, simple and functional. The nicest ones have "Welcome!" written on them, but any old doormat is better than none. Unfortunately, that's not what the Bristol City **Council** in South West England think, as they've **banned** them. Why?

### Danger!

In a letter sent to 32,000 apartments, the council claimed that "...doormats represent a **tripping hazard** and should be **removed** immediately... please do not leave them outside, creating a risk for others". The letter went on to say that all doormats had to be removed by 18<sup>th</sup> September. "Any mat remaining after this date will be removed and **disposed of**," the letter continued in its official tone.

### Disagreement

But local residents are not happy. They like their mats. Roger Perry, 62, is **refusing** to follow the council's orders. "This is absolutely **ludicrous**. It is so **pointless**. The council says mats are a **hazard**. God knows how. I've lived here for 13 years and have never heard of any accidents. I know they have rules and regulations, but **this is going a bit far**... it's only you and the postman who walk on the mats anyway. I'm keeping mine here to see what they do. It only cost a couple of **quid** but if they take it, that's theft. It's like someone taking your car"

### Disbelief

Derek Pickup, a local councillor who does not agree with the new rule said "I can't really see what the problem is with having a doormat outside your flat to **wipe** your feet on. I've never heard of an accident caused by one. Having a mat outside is a way of **brightening up** the apartments and making them more **homely**." However, a spokesman for the Bristol Council said the ban on doormats had existed for many years, but they recently decided to send a letter reminding residents of the rule. The spokesman said that over a period of time the number of mats had increased. What do you think? ☺

### Doormats (a personality type)

The term "doormat" is also used to refer to someone who behaves timidly, passively and submissively to other people. The connection between the object "doormat" and a submissive type of person comes from the fact that you walk all over a doormat, and if you "**walk all over** a person", you exploit and use that person for your own benefit. Doormats are the type of people who constantly ask for permission to do things, or who say things such as, "Whatever you want is OK. It's all right with me. You decide for me. I'll **go along with** whatever you want." Doormats also apologise a lot. Worse still, those who are around Doormats often recognise this submissiveness and begin to take control of the situation, often manipulating or exploiting the Doormat. There's a book on this topic by Lynne Namka called *The Doormat Syndrome: Learning About the Correct Use of Power*. In her book, Lynne says, "It's as if Doormats wear a T-shirt saying "Available for **demeaning!**" Do you know any doormats?

### Interesting doormat facts

Other types of mat include:  
A "mouse mat" – a small mat for your computer mouse. Otherwise known as a "mouse pad".  
A "place mat" – a small mat on which you can put glasses or bottles so they don't damage the surface of furniture.  
A "bath mat" – a mat that is placed on the floor of a bathroom to provide a non-slip surface, and to absorb small amounts of water. It is often of the same material as a towel.  
A "chat-mat" – a doormat with a recorded message on it.

Doormats are usually made from tough, long-lasting material such as coir, nylon, rubber, cloth, or aluminium and other metals.

Doormats may also be known as "welcome mats", as they are seen as a form of welcome to visitors. The mat itself often has the word "Welcome" written on it, or a funny comment such as "Welcome (if you brought beer)", "Welcome (if you brought chocolates)", or "**Trapdoor** here".



### GLOSSARY

**a doormat** *n*  
an object placed just outside the door and on which people can clean their shoes  
**a council** *n*  
the government of a town or city  
**to ban** *vb*  
to prohibit  
**a tripping hazard** *n*  
something that you may hit with your foot and that may cause you to trip (fall)  
**to remove** *vb*  
to take away  
**to dispose of something** *exp*  
to throw something away  
**to refuse (to do something)** *vb*  
to say that you will not do something  
**ludicrous** *adj*  
ridiculous; stupid  
**pointless** *adj*  
with no objective; not logical  
**a hazard** *n*  
a danger  
**this is going a bit far** *exp*  
this is a bit too extreme  
**a quid** *n* *inform*  
a pound  
**to wipe** *vb*  
if you "wipe" your feet, you clean the surface of your shoes  
**to brighten up** *phr vb*  
to make something appear happier, more colourful or attractive  
**homely** *adj*  
if you describe a home or room as "homely", it makes you feel comfortable and attractive  
**a trapdoor** *n*  
secret door on the floor that takes you down to another level  
**to walk all over someone** *exp*  
to dominate and manipulate someone  
**to go along with someone** *exp*  
to do what someone says or wants  
**demeaning** *adj*  
insulting; humiliating; something that makes others have less respect for you

# Let's be



# friends

(if we aren't already!)



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# What is a king without a crown?

The British monarchy has a large, expensive and very heavy collection of **regalia** officially known as the Crown Jewels. Apart from being **priceless**, they have a very interesting history. By Rob Julian



### The Crowns

There are two main crowns in the collection. The first is the Imperial State Crown, which contains the most precious stones. **Edward the Confessor's** sapphire is set in a Maltese cross at the top of the crown. The ruby in the centre of the crown has a long and colourful history. It once belonged to a King of Granada, who was murdered by Pedro the Cruel, King of Castilla. The same ruby was in the crown that Richard III was wearing at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Richard III was killed during the fighting, and the crown was lost. It was eventually found under a **bush**. It was **picked up** by Lord Stanley and placed on the head of the victorious Henry Tudor, the new king. The other crown is St Edward's Crown. The monarch is always crowned with this golden crown, which contains diamonds, rubies, pearls, emeralds and sapphires.

### The Sceptre

The largest cut diamond in the world is contained in the Royal Sceptre. The sceptre itself is made of gold and is one metre in length. It also contains an enormous amethyst and a superb emerald. There are several other sceptres contained in the Crown Jewels

### The Orb

The Orb is a golden **globe** with a **diamond-encrusted** cross. It's symbolic of the world ruled by Christianity, and is held by the monarch during the coronation ceremony.



### Other Shiny Stuff

Among the Crown Jewels there are also five swords, including the Great Sword of State, the Sword of Justice and the Sword of Mercy. All of them are used in the coronation ceremony. They are traditionally carried before the monarch as he or she enters Westminster Abbey. There are also **maces**, sixteen silver state trumpets and a variety of plates used in the coronation ceremony.

### Robbery I

According to a book by Paul Doherty (*The Great Crown Jewels Robbery of 1303: The Extraordinary Story of the First Big Bank Raid in History*). There was an attempt to steal the jewels in 1303. At

the time, Edward I was King of England. He was in Scotland trying to **crush** the Scottish rebel William Wallace. Edward had placed his treasure in a **chamber** in Westminster Abbey, protected by Benedictine **monks**.

A clever robber, Richard Puddlicott, got into the chamber by entertaining the monks, then helped himself to a good part of the treasure. He was eventually caught and sent to his death in the **Tower of London**, along with about forty monks.



### Destruction

The entire collection of the Crown Jewels was almost completely destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in 1649. Cromwell defeated the monarchy during the English Civil War. Most of the jewels were either sold or **melted down**. Only some of the precious stones (three swords and a spoon) survived. Some years later, when Charles II was returned to the throne, most of the Crown Jewels had to be made again.

### Robbery II

The second robbery took place in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Crown Jewels were briefly stolen in 1671 by an Irishman called Thomas Blood. Blood stole them after **binding and gagging** the **custodian**. Blood was captured shortly afterwards. After that, the Crown Jewels were kept in a part of the Tower of London known as Jewel House. Traditional guards called Beefeaters protect the jewels. Incidentally, the origin of the term "Beefeater" is unclear. It may originate from the fact that early guards were paid in beef, amongst other things. The jewels were temporarily taken out of the Tower during the Second World War. ☺

### GLOSSARY

- regalia** *n* traditional clothes and objects which a king/queen/judge wears on official occasions
- priceless** *adj* that is so valuable that it is impossible to put a price on it
- Edward the Confessor** *n* an English king from the 11<sup>th</sup> century
- a bush** *n* a small tree
- to pick up** *phr vb* to take something in your hands
- a globe** *n* a ball-shaped object with a map of the world on it
- diamond-encrusted** *adj* with diamonds fitted into it
- a mace** *n* an ornamental stick carried by an official and that is a symbol of authority
- to crush** *vb* to destroy completely by applying pressure
- a chamber** *n* a room designed or fitted for a particular purpose
- a monk** *n* a man who dedicates his life to religion and lives in a monastery
- the Tower of London** *n* a famous castle in London
- to bind and gag someone** *exp* to tie someone and put a gag (a piece of cloth) in his/her mouth so he/she cannot speak
- a custodian** *n* a guard of an official building
- to melt down** *phr vb* to turn a solid into a liquid

# Interview: Luc Besson

French film producer and actor Luc Besson (Joan of Arc, Nikita, Leon) was in town promoting his latest film *Arthur and the Minimoys*. We sent two of our top reporters, Sylvie Chalvet and Caroline Whitmore, to speak to him.

**Hot English:** Luc, what's harder: working with animated characters or working with real-life actors?

**Luc Besson:** Directing an actor is always something I love doing. I respect actors a lot. I know that they have their face on the screen and that I don't. I try to be there for them. I love my job. However, for this film I had to work with 300 people who were sitting behind computers. That is not the way I work usually. It was very hard to keep the feeling of the characters for 5 years.

**Hot English:** What are you going to do after this project is finished?

**Luc Besson:** I think that I'm going to rest for a while, but I don't want to retire as a producer, a writer or director. I'm going to stay around.

**Hot English:** Is there going to be a **follow-up** to the film?

**Luc Besson:** It depends on the success of the film, but if there is another film I won't give the pleasure of doing that to anyone else. I had too much fun doing it.

**Hot English:** Why did you choose to mix 3D and real film together?

**Luc Besson:** Why not? We had this crazy idea to mix 3D and real. Other people said that it wouldn't work, but we knew that it would. The main reason is that I wanted to create a complete world filled with "little people", and this would have been difficult to do with real-life characters.

**Hot English:** Was it hard to convince Madonna and Snoop Dog to be voices for the film?

**Luc Besson:** No, it wasn't really. I just phoned Madonna and she agreed straight away. It was the same with Snoop Dog. I knew that I wanted them from the start.

**Hot English:** OK, thank you very much, Luc. ☺



## Arthur and the Minimoys

(known as *Arthur and the Invisibles* in some countries).

Director: Luc Besson

Cast: Freddy Highmore (Arthur), Mia Farrow (Arthur's grandmother), Penny Balfour (Arthur's mother), Doug Rand (Arthur's father). Additional voices by Madonna, David Bowie and Snoop Dog.

The film is an interesting mix of 3D animation and ordinary film.



## Luc Besson.

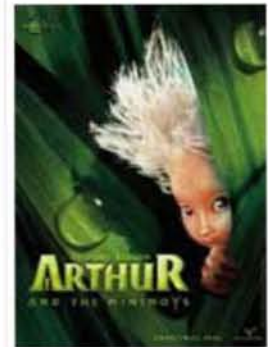
Name: Luc Besson

Age: 47

Nationality: French

Profession: Film producer and actor

Films: *The Fifth Element*, *Joan of Arc*, *Nikita*, *Leon*, and many, many more.



## Story synopsis

Arthur is a ten-year-old boy who lives with his grandparents. As a little boy, he's fascinated by his grandfather's stories. But one day, his grandfather goes missing. Later, on, Arthur's grandmother starts to have financial problems.

Things get worse when an **estate developer** comes to say that he is going to rip up the house and build new property on the land. The only way to stop that happening is to pay the developers the equivalent of the price of the house.

**Just by chance**, Arthur discovers some hidden messages around the house that were left by his grandfather. These messages help Arthur find the land of the Minimoys, which is hidden somewhere in the garden. In the land of the Minimoys there's a treasure that will help solve all their financial problems. Arthur finds the land and meets princess Selenia and her brother Betameche. Together they **set off** to find the treasure.

## GLOSSARY

**a follow-up** *n*  
a second film in a sequence

**an estate developer** *n*  
a person who buys and sells land in order to build property

**just by chance** *exp*  
accidentally

**to set off** *phr vb*  
to start a journey

# SONG OF THE MONTH

This month we're looking at singer-songwriter Garrett Wall, who has just released his latest album, *Daylight, nighttime*

## Full Circle

Garrett Wall has **travelled full circle** since the release of his debut album *All of the Above*. Recorded and **released** in Slovenia, South Korea and Ireland, it features Wall's acoustic approach to song-writing, and **brought him critical acclaim** and media attention in his native Ireland. After signing an international publishing deal with Peermusic Ireland, Wall moved on to an **edgier, electric sound** with *Change* (Rico Records/Celtic Collections), which gave him several radio **hits** and ended in a series of concerts throughout Europe and the US. Relocating to Madrid brought even more changes to Wall's writing and overall sound and, when offered a deal by Peermusic Spain / Ireland to record his third album, he **teamed up with** Maaya Thila who produced the album *Gravity*, which was subsequently release in Ireland, Spain and Germany.



## TV & Cinema

Wall regularly sings and composes for both television and cinema in Spain. He was featured as part of the **soundtrack** to Spanish film *Amor En Defensa Propia* (*Love in Self-Defence*, Universal Pictures 2006). Wall was also invited by the director, Rafa Russo, to sing a version of the theme song "Shattered". A recent collaboration with JL Chicote and Swedish singer Carita Bronska has **lead to** the inclusion of

the song "Shangri-La" in the new Santiago Segura (*Blade 2, Torriente*) film *La Maquina de Bailar* (*The Dancing Machine*).

## New Album

As a result of working together in the world of advertising, producer Jose Luis Chicote invited Wall to work on the follow-up to *Gravity* with the recording of some acoustic **demos** in the summer of 2004. In the following November top Irish drummer Ger Farrell flew over to Round Sound Studios in Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, to begin what would be an unforgettable year of recording and writing. Featuring musicians from six different countries: Spain, United States, Ireland, England, Cuba and Slovenia and including Paul Moore (Bass), world-renowned violinists Livia Sohn and Bojan Cveteznic of Terrafolk fame, Grammy-nominated Cuban rapper Nilo MC, Robbie Jones and Carlos Raya (guitar) it is perhaps the first album to capture Wall's true sound – to balance the **live sound** with the studio sound. It is both exuberant pop and introspective folk. The 13 songs sing of hope, life, love, loss and joy. In terms of lyrical and musical sensibility it is Wall's most mature and complete work to date and shows that this is an artist who is **going from strength to strength**.

Now sit back and enjoy *Space*, one of the songs from the album. ☺



### "Space" by Garrett Wall

Hey, are you ready to be found,  
Now that you're feeling underground,  
Rain, you could stop it coming down.

You know exactly **what it takes**,  
Are you strong, are you **brave**,  
And if you **make it** by yourself,  
You might feel something else.

Space, it's not easy on your own,  
Space, everything you've ever known,  
**Fate**, you can **feel it in your bones**.

You know it's bigger than you both,  
Did you think you could **cope**,  
And if you make it on your own,  
Will you say that you've grown.

Space, all this space, all this sound,  
Space, all this space, all this sound,  
Fate you can feel it in your bones.

You know it's bigger than you both,  
Did you think you could cope,  
And if you make it on your own,  
Will you say that you've grown.

## GLOSSARY

- to travel full circle** *exp*  
if you "travel full circle" after a long period of time and changes, you are doing the things you did at first
- to release** *v*  
to put an album in the shops so people can buy it
- to bring someone critical acclaim** *exp*  
to attract the positive attention of critics
- an edgy sound** *n*  
a sound that has elements of rock guitar to it
- a hit** *n*  
a successful song or album
- to team up with** *exp*  
to join together with someone
- a soundtrack** *n*  
the music for a film
- to lead to** *exp*  
if A "leads to" B, A causes B
- a demo** *n*  
a CD produced as a sample of someone's music
- a live sound** *n*  
the sound produced when a band is recorded as they play to an audience
- to go from strength to strength** *exp*  
to become better and better, or more and more successful
- what it takes** *exp*  
what is necessary
- brave** *adj*  
courageous
- to make it** *exp*  
to become successful
- fate** *n*  
destiny
- to feel it in your bones** *exp*  
to believe something truly
- to cope** *v*  
to survive



# CLEVER CRIMINALS

Here's another part in our series on intelligent criminals. Learn from the best.

## Magic Pencils

In April 2002, Malaysian police arrested a woman for selling "magic pencils" for \$225 each. The woman claimed that the pencils could produce correct answers in university entrance exams. The woman also said that the pencils could produce electronic signals to confuse the computers marking the exams. She said that these signals would force the computer to correct any wrong answers. Dozens of students **complained** when the magic didn't work for them. Police later **confiscated** about \$22,800 from sales of the pencils.



## Royal Reception

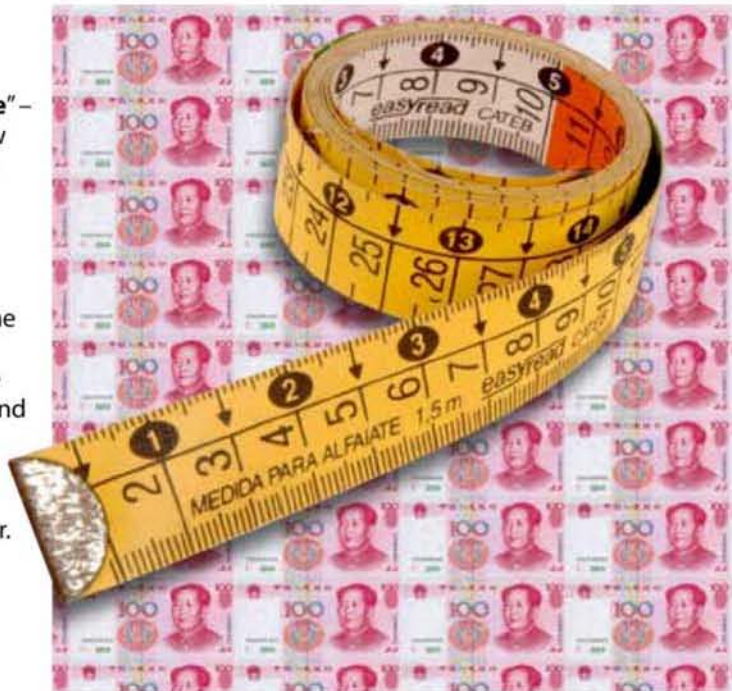
Officials in Peru were **left looking stupid** after the visit of a "Nigerian prince". Thirty-six-year-old Wini Habashu, an unemployed man from Lagos, sent an **official-looking letter** to the authorities in Peru telling them that he would be paying a visit to their country in early 1998. Habashu also informed them that he was a Nigerian prince who wanted to **secure** business contracts for his country.



When he arrived, Habashu was **received with full diplomatic honours**. He gave numerous **press conferences** and newspaper interviews. The Minister for Foreign Affairs **wined and dined** the prince for two days. It was only when the royal visitor had left, that the authorities realised that Nigeria is in fact a **republic**.

## The Height Machine

Jing Taibao claimed to have **patented** the world's first "electronic height-raising **device**" – a machine for making you grow taller. Taibao manufactured the **tiny gadget**, which was sold to adolescents who believed it would make them grow 5 to 7 centimetres taller. This made Taibao a very rich man... until the complaints started. A TV actor who used the device ended up with **swollen eyes**, and an **ashen face**. And when his face recovered ten months later, he found he had actually become one centimetre shorter. Taibao was arrested shortly afterwards. ☹



## GLOSSARY

- to complain** *vb*  
to speak about a situation that you are unhappy about
- to confiscate** *vb*  
to take someone's property as a punishment
- to leave someone looking stupid** *exp*  
to do something that makes someone appear to be stupid
- an official-looking letter** *n*  
a letter that appears to be official
- to secure a business contract** *exp*  
to get/obtain important business agreements
- to receive someone with full diplomatic honours** *exp*  
to welcome an important person and treat them as if they were a diplomat/king/queen, etc
- a press conference** *n*  
a formal talk to journalists
- to wine and dine someone** *exp*  
to take someone to bars and restaurants as a way of entertaining them
- a republic** *n*  
a country that has a president and no royal family
- to patent** *vb*  
to register a new invention formally
- a device** *n*  
an object that has been invented to do a particular job
- tiny** *adj*  
very, very small
- a gadget** *n*  
a small machine that does something useful
- swollen eyes** *n*  
if your eyes are "swollen", the area around your eyes is larger than normal because you have an infection or someone has hit you
- an ashen face** *n*  
a very white, pale face – often because you are ill or sick

# Active and passive voices Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the active and passive voices with present tense verbs.

## The Active & Passive Voices

Basically, we use the active voice when the subject of the verb is the one doing the action. For example:

- a) He makes a cake every Friday.
- b) She takes the money from the bank.
- c) They build houses.



However, with the passive voice, the object of the verb becomes the subject. With the passive voice it isn't necessary to mention who "did" the action, although you can introduce the person/people with the word "by". For example:

- a) The cake is made every Friday (by him).
- b) The money is taken from the bank



(by her).

- c) The houses are built (by them).

As you can see, the passive is formed with a conjugation of the verb "to be" and a past participle. For example:

- a) The rooms are cleaned every day.
- b) The cars are made here.
- c) Fridges are produced here.
- d) A lot of wheat is grown here.
- e) A lot of salt is used in this food.

## Uses

We use the passive when we want to focus on the action, not on the person who performed the action. We can also use the passive with present continuous sentences. For these cases, we use "is/are being" + a past participle. Here are some examples of active and passive sentences with the present continuous:

- a) They are eating the cake. (active)
- b) The cake is being eaten. (passive)
- c) They are singing a song. (active)
- d) The song is being sung. (passive)



- e) They're repairing the machine. (active)
- f) The machine is being repaired. (passive)
- g) They are painting the room. (active)
- h) The room is being painted. (passive)
- i) They are cleaning the room. (active)
- j) The room is being cleaned. (passive)
- k) They are taking a photo. (active)
- l) The photo is being taken. (passive)



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# Fluency Practice

Here are six quick activities for you to improve your pronunciation and fluency. Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and try not to think too much. Later, you can check your answers. You need to study the phrasal verbs and idioms before attempting these exercises. Answers on page 24

### A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.  
"Theophilus sifted three thousand thistles by the thick of his thumb."



### B: Pronunciation: connected speech with fish idioms

Listen to these sentences and see if you can write down the words that you hear. Remember, some words are weak sounds and are unstressed, and as a result they are very difficult to hear.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

### C: Rapid response – Personality

Answer these questions as quickly as you can. Try not to think too much and just invent the answers if you need to.

1. What three words best describe your personality?
2. Would you describe yourself as an outgoing or a shy person?
3. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic? Why?
4. Do you ever get jealous? When?
5. What makes you angry?



### D: Sentence transformation – Personality

Listen to these sentences and try to make a question for each one. Do it as quickly as you can. Use the question words in brackets ( ).

1. Yes, when I'm with people I don't really know.  
(When / get / shy) \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Being with my friends, chatting in a bar.  
(What / make / happy) \_\_\_\_\_?
3. I'd like to be more outgoing.  
(How / like / be) \_\_\_\_\_?
4. I think that loyalty is the most important personality trait that a friend can have.  
(What / most important / personality trait / a friend / have) \_\_\_\_\_?

### E: Phrasal Verbs with "take"

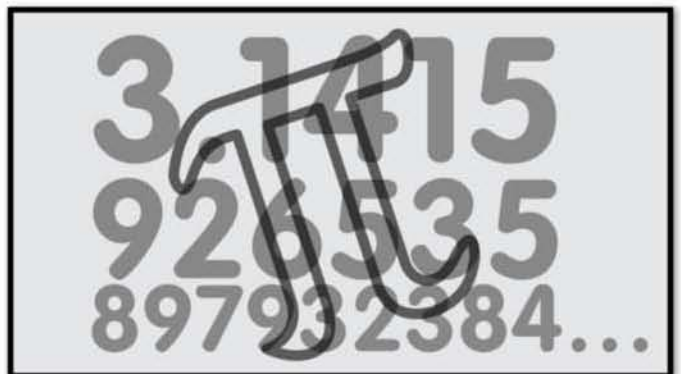
Listen to each sentence then repeat it with an appropriate phrasal verb. You should try to be as quick as possible.

1. We employed Sally last week.
2. We need to sign for a mortgage.
3. We should collect the washing.
4. We need to extract some money (from the bank).
5. This new idea is really becoming popular.
6. I was deceived by his good looks and charm.

### F: Revision Drills – Fractions, decimals & percentages

This drill is designed to practise using fractions and percentages. Remember, fractions are expressed using ordinal numbers (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth...). For decimals, we use a full stop called a "point", (NOT a comma). And for percentages, we simply add the word "percent" at the end. Look at the list of numbers and see if you can say each one. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

- |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. 1/5   | 2. 2/3   | 3. 1/2   | 4. 1/4   |
| 5. 3/4   | 6. 4/10  | 7. 6/12  | 8. 20%   |
| 9. 35%   | 10. 48%  | 11. 72%  | 12. 0.14 |
| 13. 0.67 | 14. 0.38 | 15. 0.02 | 16. 0.09 |



# LONDON LIFE: DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

Christmas trees. Christmas lights. Christmas shopping. Christmas songs. London's got a magical, mystical feel at Christmas that's unique. Find out what to do in London at Christmas. By James Herbertson.

## Shopping

They say Christmas comes earlier every year. And this year was no exception. In August, as temperatures in London were 47°C in the **Underground**, the world-famous shop Harrods announced the opening of a Christmas Shop within the store. As London suffered one of the hottest summers on record, people **flocked** to the shop to buy Christmas trees and decorations. These included £329 Sarabella glass **baubles**, Elvis **figurines** and a range of giant Mother Christmases costing up to 3,000 euros.



## Toys

Many people complain about the **commercialisation of Christmas**. And every year, the religious significance of Christmas seems to be less and less important. However, one of the **delights** of the **festive period** is to go to central London. I suggest you head to Oxford Circus and **wander down** Regent Street admiring the incredible **window displays**. The toy store Hamley's is a special place where children of all ages can enjoy the magic of Christmas. Every year, the shop has elaborate displays that include Santa Claus, reindeer, and the Nativity Scene in its shop windows.



## Christmas Lights

As you are walking down Oxford and Regent Street, you'll see the fantastic light displays. Every year, a famous celebrity, musician or sportsperson is invited to turn on the lights.



There are usually lots of spectators for this marvellous occasion. One year, the organisers chose massive **light beams** that could be seen from Outer Space, and another year, the Harry Potter characters **flicked the switch**. That time it was Emma Watson, who plays Hermione, who turned on the Oxford Street lights. And this year, boy band G4 will be performing the ceremony on 9th November. According to tradition the lights are turned off and taken down on the 5th January at Epiphany.

## Carols

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a good **singsong**. One of the best places to do this is at Trafalgar Square. Every day between 5:00 in the afternoon and 9:00 at night, choirs entertain crowds with their versions of *Silent Night* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. Groups come from all over Britain to sing and often to **raise money for good causes**. You can join in the fun between 11th December and 23rd December and sing along with them.



## Norwegian Tree

In Trafalgar Square you'll find an extraordinarily large Christmas tree. This tree has been donated by Norway every year since 1947 as a **token of appreciation** for the role Britain played in the liberation of Norway in World War II.

This year is extremely special as it is the 60th anniversary of this tradition. In celebration Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit is coming to turn on the lights. The tree itself is taken from forests surrounding Oslo, where the foresters **take great care** to select what they call "The Queen of the Forest".



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## GLOSSARY

**the Underground** <sup>(n)</sup>  
the train system in London that runs under the ground  
**to flock to** <sup>(phr vb)</sup>  
if people "flock to" a place, they go there in large numbers  
**a bauble** <sup>(n)</sup>  
a round decoration that is hung on a Christmas tree  
**a figurine** <sup>(n)</sup>  
a small figure that is hung on a Christmas tree  
**the commercialisation of Christmas** <sup>(n)</sup>  
the way that Christmas seems to be more and more about buying, selling, and making money  
**the delights** <sup>(n)</sup>  
the wonderful things  
**the festive period** <sup>(n)</sup>  
the Christmas period  
**to wander down (a street)** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
to walk down a street casually  
**a window display** <sup>(n)</sup>  
the things that are shown in the front window of a shop  
**a light beam** <sup>(n)</sup>  
a line of light caused by a powerful lamp  
**to flick a switch** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
to press a button so a light comes on  
**a singsong** <sup>(n)</sup>  
if you have a "singsong", you sing with other people  
**to raise money for a good cause** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
to collect money for a charity  
**a token of appreciation** <sup>(n)</sup>  
an action that shows you are grateful for something  
**to take great care** <sup>(exp)</sup>  
to do something very carefully

# It's a Wonderful Life



What are your favourite Christmas holiday films? Without a doubt, one of the most popular Christmas films is Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring James Stewart. What's it about? And why's it so popular?

## The Story

*It's a Wonderful Life* tells the story of George Bailey (played by James Stewart). He's the hero of a town called Bedford Falls. After his father **passes away**, George **gives up his dreams** of travelling around the world to stay home and manage the family business Bailey Building and **Loan Society**. George helps others by **lending** them money at low rates of interest.

## The Baddie

The film's **villain** is an old man called Potter. Potter controls most of the town, and the only institution he doesn't own is the Bailey Building and Loan Society. He's **willing** to do anything to **get his hands on it**: lying, **cheating**, and **bribing** – there's no end to his schemes to destroy George. Yet the Baileys still manage to survive.

## The Bridge

Things get bad for George around Christmas time one year. George's uncle loses an \$8,000 deposit. This will ruin George's business, and he may even have to go to prison. George is desperate, and doesn't know what to do. He even asks Potter for a loan, but Potter **turns him down**.

In a moment of desperation, George decides to commit suicide. He finds a bridge and prepares to jump into the **icy water**. However, just as he's about to do it, another man jumps into the water. George immediately jumps in and rescues the man, who is in fact Clarence, George's **guardian angel**.

## Another Chance

"I wish I'd never been born," George says. At which point the guardian angel **grants George his wish**, showing George what the world would be like if George had never been born. George and Clarence travel through the alternative reality, and see how bad things would really be: his wife Mary is a lonely woman, George's uncle is in a **mental asylum**, and Potter **owns** the town. George sees that somehow he did make a difference. Now none of his problems seem to be that important any more. "Please give me my life back!" he **begs**.

## Popular

So, why is the film so popular? Many say it's because it touches on something that we'd all like to believe: that each and every one of us has the power to make a difference, and that we're all important and count for something. The film also asks and answers the question "What would this world be like if I had never been born?" Now, have you ever thought about that? ☺

can we watch my film again?



## Information Box

United States, 1946  
Directed by Frank Capra.  
Starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers and H.B. Warner.

## Trivia

The first time *It's a Wonderful Life* was released it wasn't a **big hit**. It was nominated for five Academy Awards (including Best Picture and Best Actor), but it won nothing. In fact, it barely made back its costs. Things changed positively in the 1970s, when a whole new generation of movie-lovers discovered the film. A huge, 300-metre representation of Bedford Falls' main street was constructed, with over 80 shops and buildings, and 20 transplanted oak trees. The film was **shot** in the middle of summer, so they had to use man-made snow. In total, they used 3000 tons of shaved ice, and 6000 gallons of chemicals to make the snow. Very ecological!

## GLOSSARY

- to pass away** *phr vb*  
to die
- to give up your dream** *exp*  
to stop trying to achieve your dreams in life
- a loan society** *n*  
a type of bank that lends people money
- to lend** *vb*  
to give someone money/something for a limited period of time
- a villain** *n*  
the bad person in a film
- willing** *adj*  
if you are "willing" to do something, you are prepared to do that thing
- to get your hands on something** *exp*  
to obtain something
- to cheat** *vb*  
to act dishonestly either in a game or in life
- to bribe** *vb*  
to pay money to someone (often an official) in order to obtain something
- to turn someone down** *phr vb*  
to say no to someone; to say that you won't do something
- icy water** *n*  
very cold water
- a guardian angel** *n*  
an imaginary spirit who protects and helps you
- to grant a wish** *exp*  
to tell someone they can ask for anything they want
- a mental asylum** *n*  
a hospital for people who have mental problems
- to own** *vb*  
to possess
- to beg** *phr vb*  
to ask for something with desperation
- a hit** *n*  
a successful film
- shot** *adj*  
filmed



## BUSINESS ENGLISH

## BUSINESS COLLOCATIONS: FIGURES.



This month we are looking at some typical words or expressions with the word "figures". Listen and repeat the following expressions.

1. I need the **figures** for sales in the **first quarter**.
2. What year do these figures correspond to?
3. Those figures you sent me were from last year.
4. The sales figures for 2006 were pretty bad.
5. The figures don't **match up to** the ones in the other **spreadsheet**.
6. I need a **breakdown** of these figures, with information on what they refer to.
7. Is this a true figure?
8. Do these figures reflect reality?
9. **Inflation figures** are **set to** fall.
10. New government figures predict that inflation will **drop** this year.
11. Inflation had been in

- single figures**, but now it's **running at** 15%.
12. Inflation has reached **double figures**.
  13. These figures will tell us how well the competition is doing.

Now listen to this business English dialogue.

## Business Dialogue

- Nigel:** Nigel speaking. Who's calling, please?
- Stan:** Hi, Nigel, Stan here. I was just wondering if you could send me those figures again.
- Nigel:** Which ones?
- Stan:** The ones you sent me by e-mail about three weeks ago.
- Nigel:** I'll need more information than that.
- Stan:** The sales figures for the first quarter of 2006. They don't seem to match up to the ones we had in our spreadsheet.
- Nigel:** OK, I'll send them later today.
- Stan:** Well, actually, I need them like now.
- Nigel:** OK. I'll **get on to it right away**.

- Stan:** Cheers. I appreciate it. Hey, we're going out for a few beers tonight. **Fancy coming along?**
- Nigel:** No, I have football training.
- Stan:** Oh, all right then. I'll see you around.
- Nigel:** Yeah, bye.
- Stan:** Bye. ✨

## GLOSSARY

- a figure** *n*  
a number
- the first quarter** *n*  
the financial year is divided into four quarters, each quarter representing three months. The first quarter refers to January, February and March
- to match up to** *exp*  
to connect with another thing; to correspond to another thing
- a spreadsheet** *n*  
a computer programme for displaying figures, numbers and calculations
- a breakdown** *n*  
a list of the separate parts of something; a detailed list of something
- inflation figures** *n*  
numbers and percentages referring to inflation (a general increase in the price of goods in a country)
- set to** *exp*  
if something is "set to" happen, it is expected to happen
- to drop** *vb*  
to fall or decrease
- single figures** *n*  
numbers from 1 to 9
- it's running at 15%** *exp*  
it is at the rate of 15%
- double figures** *n*  
numbers from 10 to 99
- to get on to something** *exp*  
to start doing something
- right away** *exp*  
immediately
- fancy coming along?** *exp* *inform*  
would you like to come?

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