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Learn **hot** English magazine

No.175

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ELTON JOHN

LOUIS ARMSTRONG
THE BEATLES

NORAH JONES
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10 SONGS TO HELP YOU LEARN ENGLISH

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WHAT ARE YOURS GOING TO BE?



ISSN 15772898 00175
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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with Learn Hot English magazine

WHY ARE YOU LEARNING ENGLISH? TO GET A BETTER JOB, TO PASS AN OFFICIAL ENGLISH EXAM, TO TRAVEL, OR JUST TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH? LEARN HOT ENGLISH MAGAZINE HELPS WITH ALL THIS.

1 Increase your vocabulary. In every issue of Learn Hot English you'll learn over 350 English words and expressions! Plus you'll learn lots of idioms, phrasal verbs, grammar and more.

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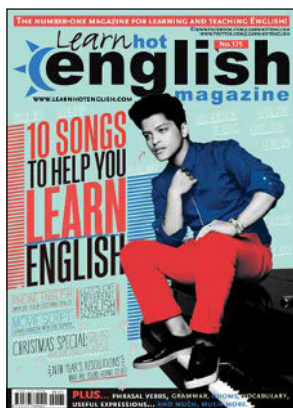
3 English for exams! Learn Hot English helps prepare you for official English exams (First Certificate, IELTS, TOEFL, etc.). How? Exams test your ability to speak and your range of vocabulary. Hot English improves your communication skills and your knowledge of words and expressions.

4 English for work! Practical English for the office, for meetings, for talking to clients – it's all in Hot English. Plus, read business tips from entrepreneurs.

5 English for life! Want to travel to English-speaking countries? With Learn Hot English you'll learn the words and expressions you need for international travel!

6 English for speaking! How do native English speakers really talk? Learn with our natural English conversations. Also, learn English slang and read about current events (news, culture, music, films) so you can make conversation with native English speakers.

7 Want to learn even more? Get a copy of English Unlocked! You'll learn extra vocabulary, grammar, social English and business English. They're sold separately – see the advert in this magazine for more information.



Hi, everybody and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, we're looking at 10 amazing songs that can really help you learn English.

These 10 songs can help in lots of areas of language such as

verb tenses, as well as expanding your range of vocabulary and helping you learn lots of useful phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions. This month, we're also focusing on Christmas, with an Xmas quiz, film and wordsearch. Of course, that's not all and we've lots more fun things for you to read and listen to so you can learn lots of useful English: censorship, the office, the family, crime, confusing words, books, phrasal verbs, useful language and lots, lots more! Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

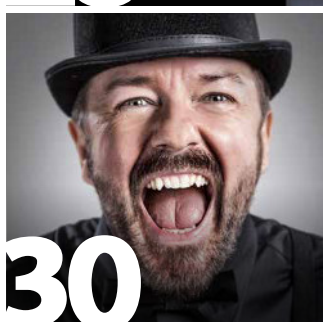
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AUDIO FILES

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All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing SL, although we do love Christmas, think Ricky's a funny bloke and regularly break New Year's resolutions.

What holiday character are you?

1 When do you think Christmas decorations should go up?

- a. Never. Who wants a huge tree in their house?
- b. At the end of November. You can never start too early.
- c. Mine are still up from last year.
- d. December 28th when all the decorations are on sale.

2 What did you do for Thanksgiving in November?

- a. Nothing. I went to France, because they don't celebrate Thanksgiving there.
- b. Started writing my Christmas cards and buying presents. I like to plan early.
- c. Made lots of cranberry pies to send to charity.
- d. Complained, complained, complained.

3 What would you like for Christmas?

- a. Everyone to be quiet and forget this silly holiday.
- b. Everyone to have a great holiday.
- c. I don't need anything. Giving is enough.
- d. Money.

4 What song do you play non-stop at Christmas?

- a. Silent Night
- b. Joy to the World
- c. Do they know it's Christmas?
- d. Ebenezer Good

5 What phrase do you use the most during the holidays?

- a. Keep the noise down.
- b. Merry Christmas.
- c. Ho ho ho.
- d. Bah humbug.

Results If you answered...

mostly a's

You are The Grinch

You hate the holidays. Your only wish is to escape the noise, relatives and all those decorations. The good news is that they'll be over soon and you'll be left with some presents at least.

mostly b's

You are An Elf

The holidays are a serious matter for you. There is no one else who can organise and plan better than you. But remember to play as much as work... maybe ask for help with the cooking.

mostly c's

You are Father Christmas

The holidays are your favourite time of year. You love all the mistletoe, presents and mince pies. But be careful not to be overenthusiastic around people who may not like the holidays as much as you.

mostly d's

You are Scrooge

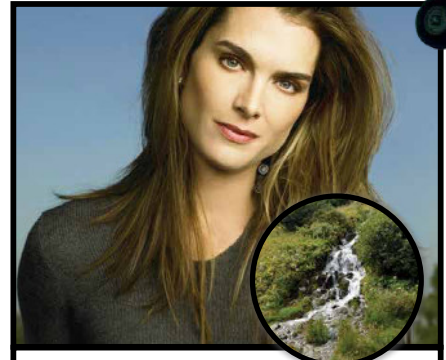
You try to take advantage of other people's good spirit during this time of year. Try not to be so mean and do something charitable. You never know, you might enjoy it.





The Name Game

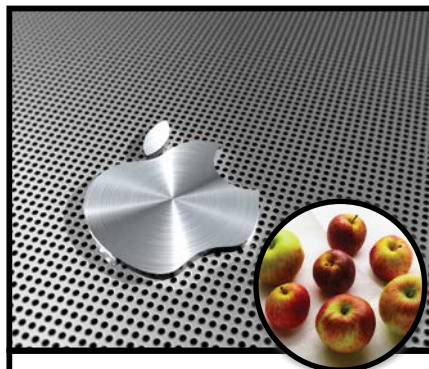
THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES OF FAMOUS NAMES WITH MEANING. MORE NEXT MONTH.



Brook Shields (American actress)
 A "brook" is a small stream (a small river). And a "shield" is a large piece of metal or leather which soldiers carry to protect their bodies.
 "The knights were fighting with swords and shields."



EasyJet (UK airline)
 If something is "easy", it isn't difficult.
 A "jet" is an aeroplane that is powered by a jet engine.
 "That exam was so easy."



Apple (US computer company)
 An "apple" is a round fruit that is either green or red.
 "My grandma always said, 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away.'"



Microsoft (US computer company)
 "Micro" is a prefix that is used to refer to something very small.
 Something that is "soft" is not hard.
 "The butter went soft in the sun and we had to put it back in the fridge."



Cranberries (Irish group)
 A "cranberry" is a red berry (a little round fruit) that is sour. They are often used to make a cranberry sauce, that is eaten with turkey.
 "We made some cranberry sauce with the berries that we picked from your garden – it was delicious."



Keith Moon (British musician – drummer with *The Who*)
 The "moon" is the round object in the sky that goes round the Earth once every four weeks.
 "If you look up into the sky at night, you can see the moon."



Pearl Jam (American group)
 A "pearl" is a beautiful stone that you can find in oysters. "Jam" is a sweet type of food made from fruit (strawberries, apricots, peaches, etc.) and sugar. It is often put on bread.
 "They found a pearl in the oyster."
 "I had a strawberry jam sandwich."

Wrap Rage

Amazon declares war on excessive wrapping.

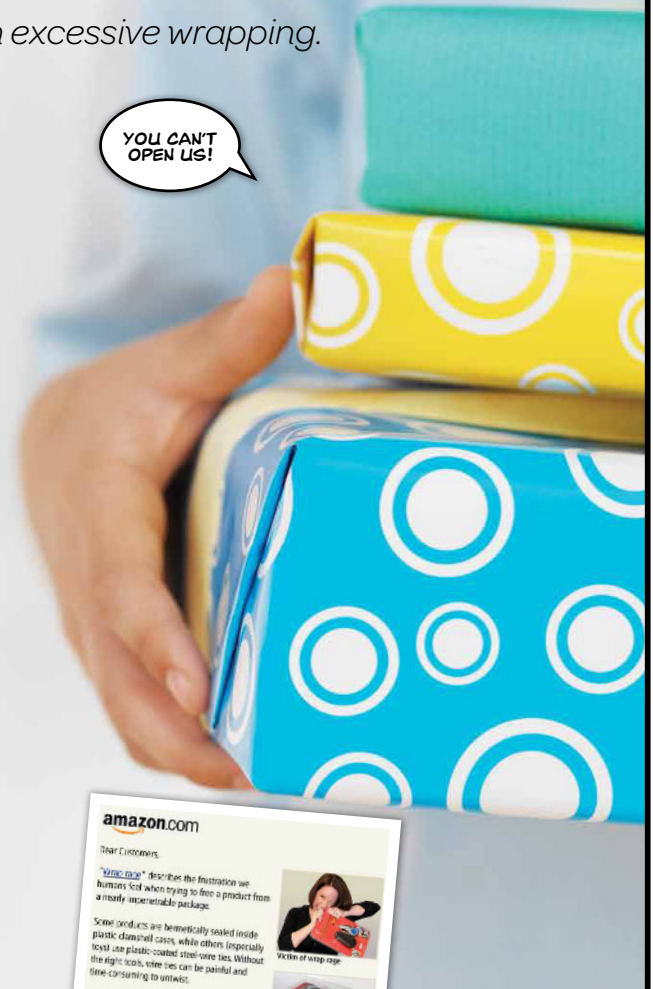
Have you ever had difficulty opening a **package**? If you have, you've probably experienced "wrap rage". But what is it? And what can we do about it?

"I shouldn't have to start each Christmas morning with **pliers** and **wire cutters**. But that is what I do, and it still takes me 10 minutes to open each package," said Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. He was referring to the excessive **packaging** that can be found around many products. This complex **wrapping** may lead to "wrap rage" – extreme anger produced by an inability to open the package.

In order to reduce incidents of wrap rage, Amazon has launched a campaign. The aim is to reduce annoying packaging in the products they **ship out**. Called "frustration-free packaging", they want to replace hard plastic wrapping with a simple, eco- and **customer-friendly** cardboard box. Manufacturers such as Fisher Price, Matchbox, Sony and Microsoft have **signed up to** the new idea.

The move is also good for the environment. "Every Christmas we produce an extra three million tonnes of **waste**, and this could impact significantly on that," said a spokesperson for Waste Watch, a British **refuse** charity. The scheme to reduce packaging is already running in America and will be launched in the UK very soon. "The project has been very popular in the US, and we are committed to doing everything we can to reduce packaging," said Ben Howes of Amazon UK. ♻️

YOU CAN'T OPEN US!



ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

GLOSSARY

- a package** *n* a small box / parcel that someone sends you
- pliers** *n* a tool with two handles and two hard metal parts at the other end. Used for holding things or pulling things out
- wire cutters** *n* a tool for cutting hard wire
- packaging** *n* the paper / plastic, etc. around a package / parcel / present
- wrapping** *n* the paper / plastic, etc. around a package / parcel / present
- to ship out** *phr vb* to send to another country – not necessarily by ship
- customer-friendly** *adj* that is easy for customers to use / open
- to sign up to something** *exp* to accept a new idea; to start doing something
- waste** *n* things that are thrown away (old bits of paper, food, etc.)
- refuse** *n* things that are not wanted from a house, shop, factory, etc.

1 Pre-reading

What does "rage" mean? What are the common causes of rage? For example, "road rage"? Can you think of other situations / places where the public express their rage?

2 Reading I

Read the article to find out what type of rage it is.

3 Reading II

Using your own words, answer the following questions:

1. What is "wrap rage"?
2. What causes it?
3. What is Amazon's campaign all about?
4. Where is the campaign already in effect?



4 Language focus

Words with "wrap". See if you can make a sentence with each word / expression.

- a. wrapping paper
- b. to wrap
- c. to wrap up a present
- d. to wrap your arms around someone
- e. to wrap up a meeting
- f. to be wrapped up in your studies / work

5 Discussion

1. Have you ever experienced "wrap rage"? When? Why?
2. What should we do about packaging? Do we use too much? Why? Why not?
3. Have you ever thought about this topic before? Has reading the article changed the way you think in any way? Why? Why not?

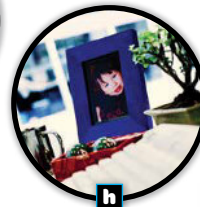
USEFUL VOCABULARY

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VOCABULARY.
THIS MONTH: THINGS IN AN OFFICE. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Match the words

Match the words below to the pictures.

1. a copy machine _____
2. a fax machine _____
3. a water cooler _____
4. a window _____
5. a desk _____
6. a picture _____
7. a plant _____
8. a meeting room _____
9. a computer _____
10. coffee _____



2 Wordsearch

Now find these words in the wordsearch.

coffee

computer

copy machine

desk

fax machine

meeting room

picture

plant

water cooler

window

3 Guess the word

Think of ways to describe the office vocabulary words.
Ask your partner to guess the word based on your clues.

IT'S SOMETHING WITH LEAVES AND IT CONSTANTLY NEEDS WATER.



A PLANT!



USEFUL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS

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

TO GO TO WORK

IF YOU "GO TO WORK", YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO YOUR JOB.



"I GO TO WORK BY BUS EVERY MORNING."

TO FINISH A PROJECT

IF YOU "FINISH A PROJECT", YOU COMPLETE AN ASSIGNMENT.



"OUR GROUP FINISHED THE PROJECT LAST NIGHT."

TO HAVE A MEETING

IF YOU "HAVE A MEETING", YOU AND YOUR COWORKERS SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT SOMETHING RELATED TO YOUR JOB.



"SALLY AND I ARE HAVING A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FINANCES."

TO BE AVAILABLE

IF YOU "ARE AVAILABLE", THEN YOU ARE FREE TO TALK AND TO DO A PARTICULAR TASK.



"SHE WAS NOT AVAILABLE ALL LAST WEEK BECAUSE SHE WAS OUT OF TOWN."

TO HAVE A BREAK

TO STOP WORKING TEMPORARILY, AND HAVE A REST.



"WE HAD A BREAK IN BETWEEN OUR LONG PRESENTATIONS."

TO BE OUT TO LUNCH

TO BE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE ON A LUNCH BREAK.



"HENRY WILL BE OUT TO LUNCH FROM 1-2 O'CLOCK TOMORROW."

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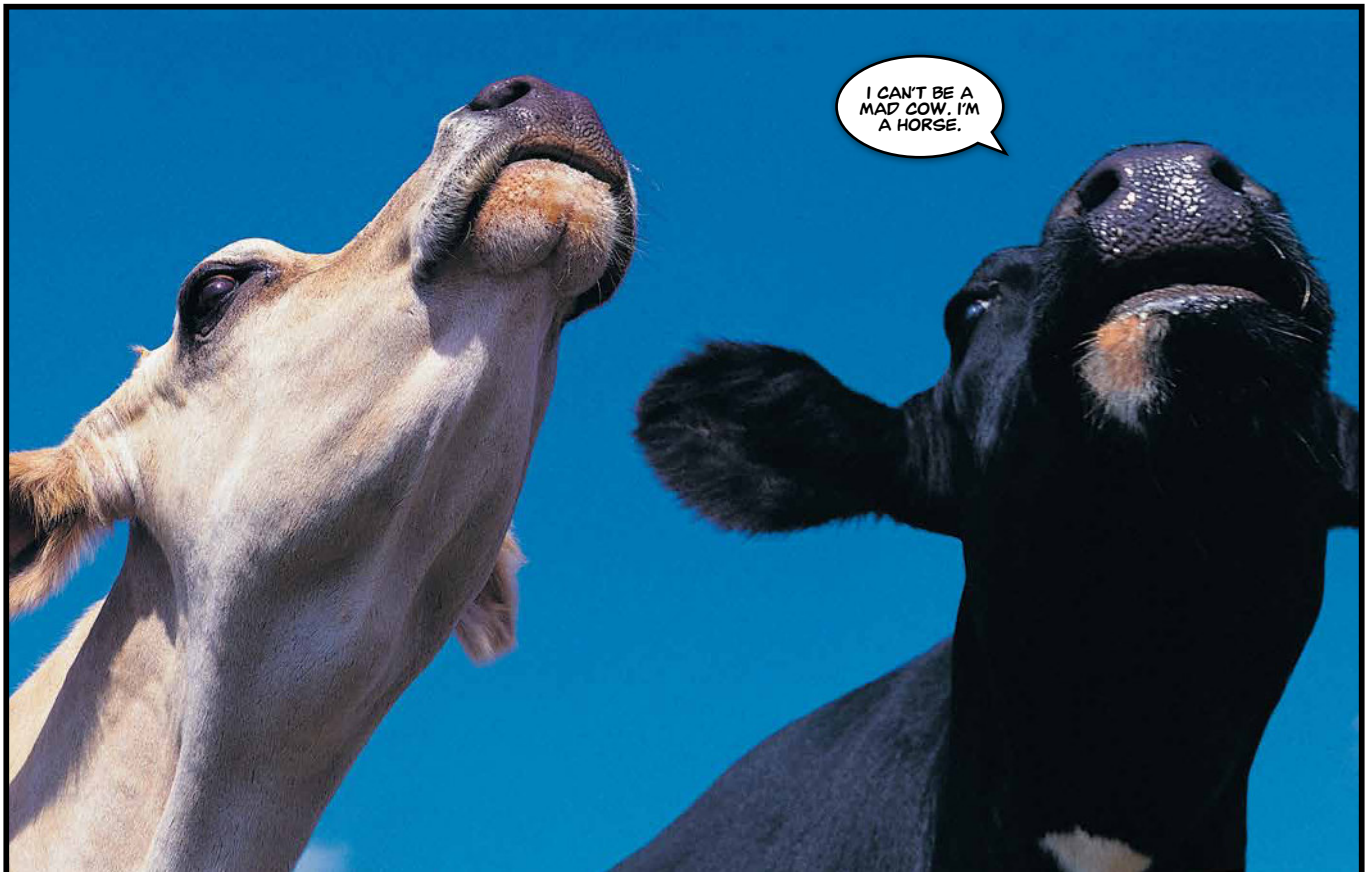
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Story Time

JOKES, ANECDOTES AND STORIES AS TOLD BY NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS.



The New Pianist

Patient: Doctor, will I be able to play the piano after the operation?

Doctor: Yes, of course.

Patient: Great! I never could before.

Mad Cow

Two cows are standing in a **field**. One says to the other, "Are you worried about **Mad Cow Disease**?"

The other one says, "No, It doesn't worry me. I'm a horse!"

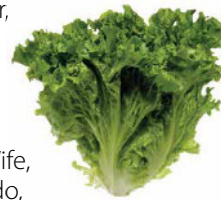
"You've Got Mail!"

A woman is in her front garden. All of a sudden, her neighbor, Jim, comes out of the house and goes straight to the **letterbox**. He opens it, looks inside, **slams it shut**, and then **storms** back into his house. A little later, he comes out of his house again, goes to the letterbox, opens it and slams it shut again. As the woman is getting ready to **mow** her **lawn**, Jim comes out of his house again. He **marches** to his letterbox, opens it and then slams it closed harder than ever. The woman is **puzzled** by his actions, so she asks him, "Is something wrong?" And Jim says, "There certainly is! My stupid computer keeps telling me I've got mail!"



Gardening Tip

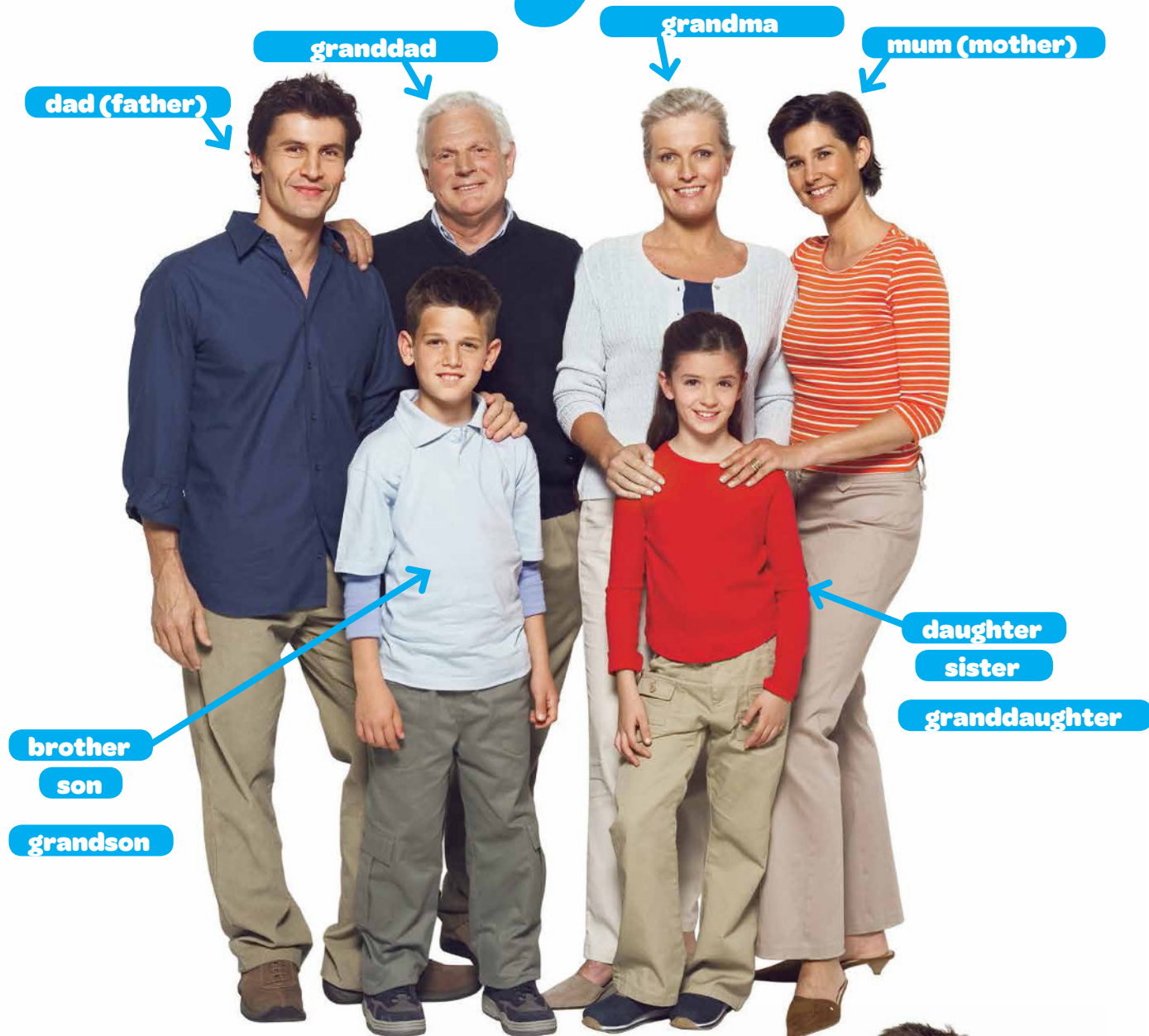
A prisoner in jail receives a letter from his wife. It begins, "Dear Husband, I have decided to plant some **lettuce** in the back garden. When is the best time to plant it?" The prisoner, knowing that the prison guards read all the letters, replies, "Dear Wife, whatever you do, do not touch the back garden. That is where I hid all the money." A week or so later, he receives another letter from his wife. The letter says, "Dear Husband, You wouldn't believe what happened. Some men came to the house with **shovels**, and **dug up** the entire back garden." The prisoner writes another letter back and says, "Dear Wife, now is the best time to plant the lettuce." 🌱



GLOSSARY

- a field** *n*
an area of grass in a park or on a farm
- Mad Cow Disease** *n*
a fatal disease / illness that cows can get. Also known as "bovine spongiform encephalopathy" (BSE)
- a letterbox** *n*
a small box at the entrance to a building in which letters or parcels are delivered
- to slam something shut** *exp*
to close something with force and violence
- to storm** *vb*
if you "storm" out of a place, you leave angrily
- to mow** *n*
to cut grass
- a lawn** *n*
a well-kept area of grass
- to march** *vb*
if you "march" to a place, you walk there quickly
- puzzled** *adj*
confused
- lettuce** *n*
a type of green vegetable used to make salad
- a shovel** *n*
a tool for digging holes
- to dig up** *phr vb*
if you "dig something up", you find something after making a hole in the ground

BASIC ENGLISH *Family*



In-laws

- **mother-in-law**
the mother of your husband / wife
- **father-in-law**
the father of your husband / wife
- **brother-in-law**
the brother of your husband / wife
- **sister-in-law**
the sister of your husband / wife
- **the in-laws**
a general word to describe any or all of the above



SOCIAL ENGLISH

The Family

LISTEN AND REPEAT THESE EXPRESSIONS.

Useful expressions

- I'm travelling with my family.
- Our family lives in New York.
- My family is **spread out**.
- I have a big family.
- He is my **stepbrother**.
- I have a mother and a father.
- I **get on well with** my brother.
- He looks a lot like his cousin.
- My cousins are from Nevada.
- She **takes after** her mother.
- How old are your children?
- My children are very young.
- My children are all grown up.
- Peter is three years old.
- He is older than Paul.
- He is my eldest son.
- She is my youngest daughter. ☺

Part II

NOW LISTEN TO THIS DIALOGUE. AMANDA AND GLENN ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES.



Amanda: Oh, well, fancy meeting you here! How are you? **What've you been up to** lately?

Glenn: Not that much, except that I'm going to my **family reunion** next week.

Amanda: Oh, really? Are you going to see your brother?

Glenn: Yeah, and his wife. They've got a new baby.

Amanda: Send them my best wishes.

Glenn: I will. Hey, how's your son Devon?

Amanda: He's fine. He's nervous about starting at a new school.

Glenn: Ah! And, how old is he now?

Amanda: He's six. And then there's Charlie.

Glenn: He's my youngest.

Amanda: How old is he?

Glenn: Four, and he loves carrots and colouring. **How's your wife?**

Amanda: She's fine, thanks. She's really excited about the reunion too. It'll be nice to see everyone. My family is so spread out all over the country, so it's nice when we can all **get together**.

Glenn: I know what you mean. Well, I've got to finish the shopping, but have a great time at the reunion. Oh, and say hi to your sister for me.

Amanda: Will do. See ya! ☺

GLOSSARY

spread out *exp*
if things are "spread out", they are far apart

a stepbrother *n*
the son of your stepfather (your mum's husband, but not your real father) or stepmother (your dad's wife, but not your real, biological mother)

to get on well with *exp*
to have a good relationship with

to take after *phr vb*
to be the same as

what have you been up to? *exp*
what have you been doing?

a family reunion *n*
a meeting with family members who have not seen one another for a long time

to get together *phr vb*
when people "get together", they meet in order to spend time together

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Phone expressions

Messages



Functional Conversation: The Message

Adam: Hi, could I speak to Mr Bailey, please?

Helen: I'm sorry, but he's out to lunch right now. Who's calling please?

Adam: This is Adam Lockheed. Could you tell him to call me as soon as possible? I'll be in the office all day.

Helen: What's your telephone number?

Adam: My number is 584-1096, extension 207.

Helen: OK, I'll let him know you called.

Adam: Do you know when he'll be back in the office?

Helen: He'll be back in about an hour.

Adam: Great, thank you. ☺

The person who answers the phone

Taking down a message

- Would you like to leave a message?
- Can I take a message?
- May I take a message?

Asking for information

- Who's calling please?
- What company are you from?
- What's your telephone number?
- What's this message regarding?

Giving information

- I'll let her know you called.
- I'll make sure she gets the message.
- I'll tell her to call you back as soon as possible.

The Caller

Leaving a message

- Could you tell her that Jane called, please?
- Could I leave a message, please?
- Could you ask her to call Sam when she gets in?
- No, there's no message. I'll call back later.

Asking for information

- Do you know when she'll be back in the office?
- Do you have another phone number for him that I could call?
- Will he be in the office tomorrow?

Giving information

- My number is 467-4509, extension 476.
- This is Glenda Jordan.
- I am with the company Flying Flags, Inc.





DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

IN THIS SECTION DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



1 Activity

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

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

1. Which house do you live?

Which house do you live in?

2. It's without a problem.

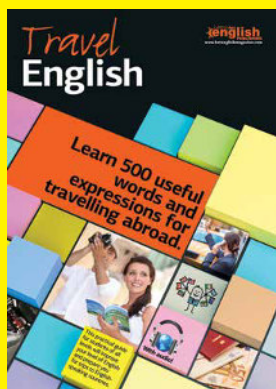
3. I'm having a headache.

4. Look to me.

5. Do you like to play the tennis?

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1 Pre-listening

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

You are going to listen to a woman called Jo talking to a police officer at the police station. What could they be talking about? Invent some possible situations.

2 Listening I

Look at the pictures below. Can you guess what happened to Jo? Listen to check your ideas.



3 Listening II

Listen again and complete the police statement with the correct information.

1. "... was having a _____."
2. "... It must have been about ____ in the evening..."
3. "... One was dressed in _____... he was carrying a _____."
4. "... The other one was wearing _____..."
5. "... but the bar was pretty _____..."
6. "... It (my purse) was actually in my _____..."

4 Language focus: Verb tenses.

Which tense is used most in the conversation? Write down an example. When do we use this tense?

5 Discussion

1. Have you ever had any of the following stolen?
 - a. a bag
 - b. a purse
 - c. jewellery
 - d. a laptop computer
 - e. something from your car
2. Where were you? What happened? Has this happened to anyone you know?



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PHONE ENGLISH

Personal details

1 Pre-listening

What personal details do you give when you join a gym. For example: *your name*. Think of at least three more things.

2 Listening I

Listen once. What personal details is Amanda checking?

3 Listening II

Complete the sentences with the missing information. (some will be numbers)

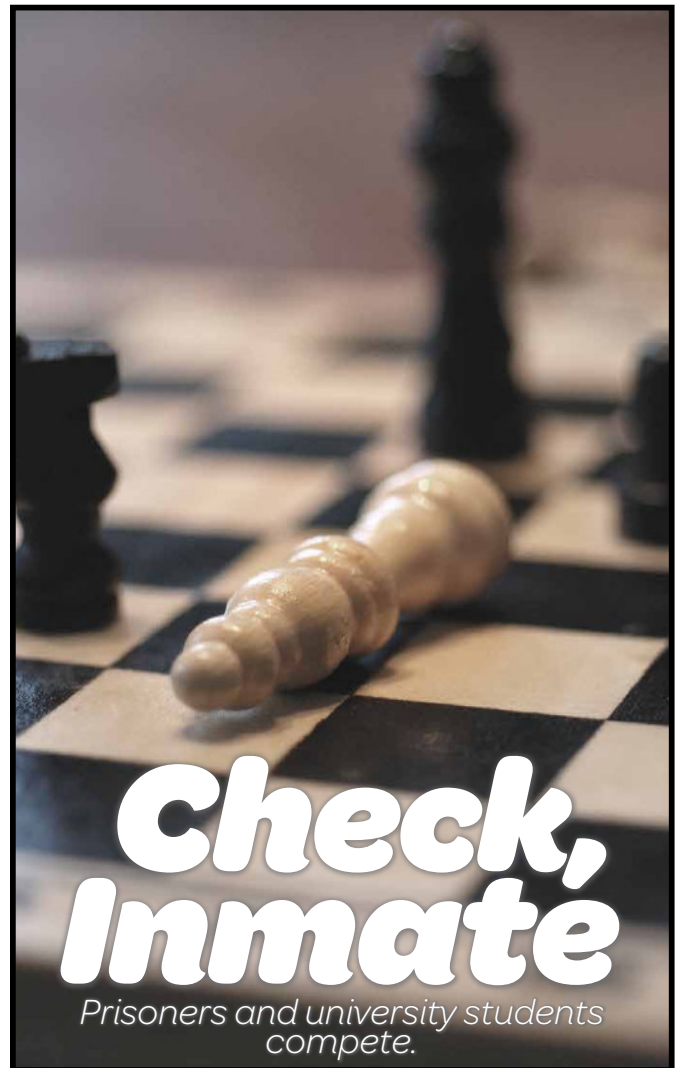
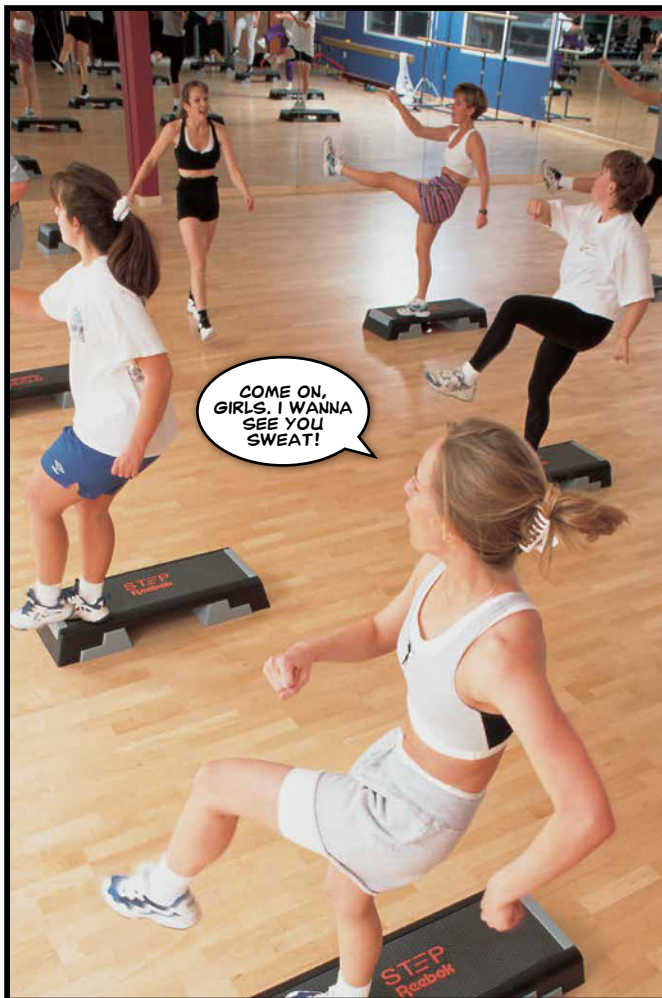
1. Address: ___ Willow Avenue, Atlanta _____
2. Gym membership number: _____
3. Last name: _____
4. E-mail address: _____

4 Language focus

Complete the sentence below with a modal verb that is used for a polite request.

_____ I speak to Richard, please?

What other modal verbs could you also use?



// t eases my mind and gives me something fun to do," said Calvin Washington, who was talking about a **cultural exchange program** in which students from Princeton University play chess with prisoners. "It relaxes me and transports me to another place momentarily. As soon as it's over, it's back to **business as usual**."

Calvin Washington is a prisoner at the jail. He understands the importance of chess in his daily life. According to him, "Chess gives me patience. Often, when I play chess, I want to **make a big move** as soon as I see it. But, I realise it is good sometimes to wait and see what else is happening around me."

Game of chess, anyone? 🍀



GLOSSARY
a cultural exchange program *n*
 a program that involves people learning about another culture or system
business as usual *exp*
 if it is a case of "business as usual", everything is normal and the routines are the same as before
to beat *vb*
 to win against
to make a move *exp*
 to move the pieces on the chessboard

Film / TV Scripts

THIS MONTH: *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56



It's a Wonderful Life (1946) is a classic Christmas movie about the impact that one individual person can have on the rest of the world. George Bailey is a man who is **down on his luck** and feels bitter towards the world. But with the help of an angel-in-training, George gets a **glimpse** of



what the world would be like if he had never been born. This scene is George talking to his angel, Clarence. George feels depressed and says he wishes he had never existed. So, Clarence decides that he will show George a world without him...

The script

Clarence: So, you still think killing yourself would make everyone feel happier, eh?

George: Well, I don't know. I guess you're right. I suppose it would've been better if I'd never been born at all.

Clarence: What did you say?

George: I said I wish I'd never been born!

Clarence: Ohhh, you mustn't say things like that. You... wait a minute... wait a minute... that's an idea. What do you think? [Looking up to the sky] Yeah, that'll do it. Alright. You got your **wish**. You've never been born. [opens the door] You don't have to make all THAT **fuss** about it!

George: What did you say?

Clarence: You've never been born. You don't exist. You haven't a care in the world. No worries, no **obligations**, no eight thousand dollars to get, and no Potter looking for you with the Sheriff.

George: Say something else in that ear.

Clarence: Sure. You can hear out of it.

George: Well, that's the **doggonedest** thing... I haven't heard anything out of that ear since I was a kid. Must have been that jump in the cold water.

Clarence: Your lip's stopped **bleeding**, too, George.

George: What do you know about that... What's happened? It's stopped snowing out, hasn't it? What's happened here? ☺

1 Exercises

Read the dialogue and then answer the questions below.

1. What is George's wish?
2. How much money did George need to get?
3. Who is looking for George?

2 Definitions

Given the context, what do you think these **bolded** words mean? Choose the best option.

1. **down on his luck**
a. having a series of bad things happen b. looking for good fortune
2. **a glimpse**
a. a dessert b. a momentary look
3. **a wish**
a. something you hope for b. something you eat on
4. **a fuss**
a. a display of anxious activity b. a snowstorm
5. **an obligation**
a. something you have to do b. something you wish for
6. **doggonedest**
a. biggest b. strangest
7. **bleeding**
a. when a body part is injured and gets bruised b. when red liquid comes out of your body



VIDEO Search YouTube for "It's a wonderful life - careful what you wish for".

Winter festivals!

Well, it's Christmas time again, one of the most widely-celebrated holidays in the world. There are lots of customs associated with Christmas, such as opening presents and hanging stockings. But, there are many other winter holidays throughout the world that people celebrate with their own traditions as well. Here are three of them.

1. The Winter Solstice – (The shortest day of the year)

The Winter Solstice is an important pagan festival. It takes place on the shortest day of the year. This usually happens between the 20th and 23rd December in the northern hemisphere (June in the southern hemisphere). Part of the holiday is for worshipping the sun, moon and zodiac. Many people celebrate The Winter Solstice, including **Pagans** and **Wiccans**.

People around the world celebrate the solstice in unique ways. One special event takes place in an Irish temple that was built for a celebration called Newgrange. Newgrange is a 5,500-year-old grave. During the solstice, the grave lights up in its inner **chamber** for about fifteen minutes, and only a set amount of people are admitted inside to see the spectacular event.

2. Hanukkah – (The Festival of Lights)

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that lasts for eight days. It is celebrated sometime between late November and late December. Hanukkah honours the memory of the Maccabean revolt of the 2nd century BC, a Jewish **uprising** against Syrian rule.

Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah with several traditions. Each night, they light a new candle and place it on the **Menorah**. Ross from the television programme *Friends* explained the miracle of Hanukkah, "The miracle was that the little bit of oil [from the Menorah candles] that should've **lasted** only one day burned for eight days." During Hanukkah, family members exchange gifts, and the strict rules of the Bible are more relaxed.

3. Kwanzaa – (The Pride of Africa)

Kwanzaa began in the 1960s, so it is a relatively new festival. It is a celebration of African culture. Kwanzaa was made official by Maulana Karenga, an African-American political activist. It is celebrated in many countries, including the US, Canada, the Caribbean and Africa. It lasts seven days, from 26th December until 1st January. The holiday name comes from *matunda ya kwanza*, which means "first fruits" in **Swahili**.

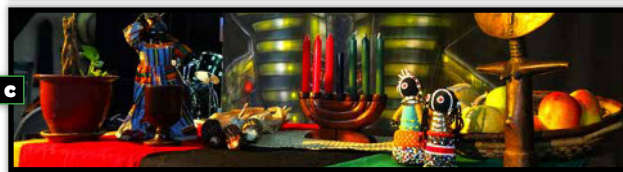
Kwanzaa has several customs. Firstly, it is based on seven principles that value family, community and culture. A common Kwanzaa gift is something inexpensive, such as a book or a candle holder. A typical ritual during Kwanzaa is to decorate houses with objects of African culture and light a **kinara**. A **kinara** is a traditional candleholder that holds red, black and green candles – the colours of black liberation in America.

The holiday season is for having fun and **bringing out** the charitable spirit in people. So, celebrate the way you want, and have a happy holiday! 🎉

1 Pre reading

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

Look at the pictures below. Do you know what these festivals are called? Do you know what happens during the celebrations?



2 Reading I

Read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

According to the article, which celebration(s)...

- ...involves worshipping the moon and sun?
- ...involves hanging up a big sock?
- ...began within the last 50 years?
- ...involves lighting candles?
- ...is celebrated by pagans and wiccans?

4 Language focus The Past Passive

Can you find and underline two examples of the past passive in the article? Can you put the active sentence from the article into the passive? "...Ross from *Friends* explained the miracle of Hanukkah..."

5 Discussion

- Which of the festivals mentioned in the article are celebrated by communities in your country?
- What holidays do people in your country typically celebrate? Which of the customs mentioned in the article do you practise in your country?
 - Hanging up a stocking
 - Lighting candles
 - Exchanging presents

Do you practise any others?

GLOSSARY

- a pagan** *n*
a person who does not believe in any religion
- a wiccan** *n*
a person who practices Wicca (or witchcraft)
- a chamber** *n*
a windowless room
- an uprising** *n*
an "uprising" happens when a group of people start fighting against their country's government because they want to bring about political change
- a Menorah** *n*
a ceremonial candleholder
- to last** *vb*
to endure
- Swahili** *n*
a widely-spoken language in Africa
- to bring out** *phr vb*
to provoke a positive or negative reaction from a person or animal



Go Green!

A new study shows the benefits of green spaces.

"This study offers valuable evidence that **green space** does more than 'pretty up' the neighbourhood," said Dr Terry Hartig, from the Institute for Housing and Urban Research at Uppsala University in Sweden. Hartig was commenting on **research** from two Scottish universities on green areas in cities.

"The study confirms what we have been saying for many years: parks are important for health, and everyone should have access to high quality, beautiful and **vibrant** green spaces. But despite increased recognition of the role of parks in areas, far too many parks' teams find their **budgets** are still **under** continuous **threat**," he added.

Even small parks in cities can have positive effects. For a start, parks help protect us from **strokes** and heart disease, perhaps by **cutting** stress. When the records of more than

366,000 people who died between 2001 and 2005 were analysed, it revealed that green spaces in the areas in which they lived made a big difference to their risk of fatal diseases. Scientists believe this is because living near parks encourages people to be more active.

The researchers said that other studies suggested that contact with green spaces helped promote faster **healing** after surgery. Dr Richard Mitchell from Glasgow said, "The implications of this study are clear: environments that promote good health might be crucial in the fight to reduce health inequalities between the rich and the poor." 🌱

Parks in the UK Hyde Park

Hyde Park is one of the largest parks in central London. It is 350 acres, making it bigger than the Principality of Monaco. It remains open throughout the year from 5am to midnight. Hyde Park is famous for its "Speakers' Corner", an area where public speaking is allowed on any (legal) subject. The park has also been the venue for a number of famous rock concerts, with bands such as The Who, Queen, and The Rolling Stones performing there. It was also the location of one of the Live 8 concerts (2005).



1 Pre-reading

What do you think the health benefits of "green spaces" are? Make a list. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

2 Reading I

How good is your memory? Memorise these key words from the article. When your teacher tells you to stop, cover the words and write down the ones you remember. After studying the words, guess what the article is about.

study evidence neighbourhood

research green areas parks

important beautiful role

budgets effects heart disease

stress active healing

environment inequalities

3 Reading II

What does the article say about the following?

1. budgets
2. stress
3. surgery
4. the rich and the poor

4 Language focus

Despite

Read the sentence from the article to determine the rule.

"But despite increased recognition of the role of parks in areas, far too many parks' teams find their **budgets** are still **under** continuous **threat**," he added."

Underline the correct word in the rule about "despite":

"Despite" is normally used at the **beginning** / **end** of the sentence and is used to talk about two **similar** / **contrasting** ideas.

5 Discussion

1. Are there any green areas in your neighbourhood? Would you like to see more? Why? Why not?
2. Do you agree that parks promote better health? How? Why?
3. Can you think of any more factors that can improve the quality of life?

GLOSSARY

a green space *n*
a park or area of nature / countryside in a city

to pretty up *phr vb*
to make beautiful

research *n*
investigation

vibrant *adj*
bright

a budget *n*
an amount of money that is going to be used for something

under threat *exp*
in danger

a stroke *n*
if someone has a "stroke", a blood vessel in their brain gets blocked or bursts

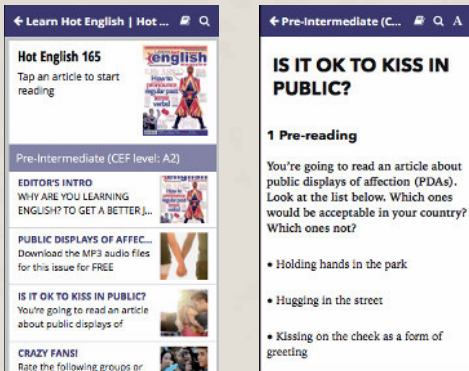
to cut *vb*
to reduce

to heal *n*
to cure; to make better

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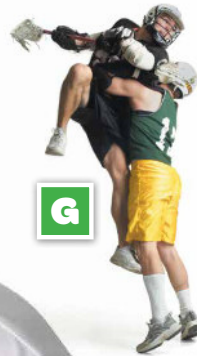
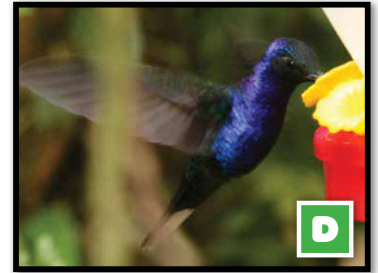
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TRIVIA MATCHING

1 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 ON PAGE 56

1. hummingbird
2. lacrosse
3. a chef
4. a chimpanzee
5. a gondola
6. a karaoke machine
7. a Caesar salad
8. a penny
9. a cough
10. a mirror
11. glasses
12. cabaret performers
13. an Oscar



WEIRD TRIVIA

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR MINI-SERIES ON STRANGE FACTS. WHOEVER THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS SO OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY?

A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.



Canada's national sport is lacrosse, not hockey.



On average, a 4-year-old child asks 437 questions a day.

The first non-human to win an Oscar was Mickey Mouse.



Caesar Salad is not **named after** Julius Caesar but after chef Caesar Cardini.

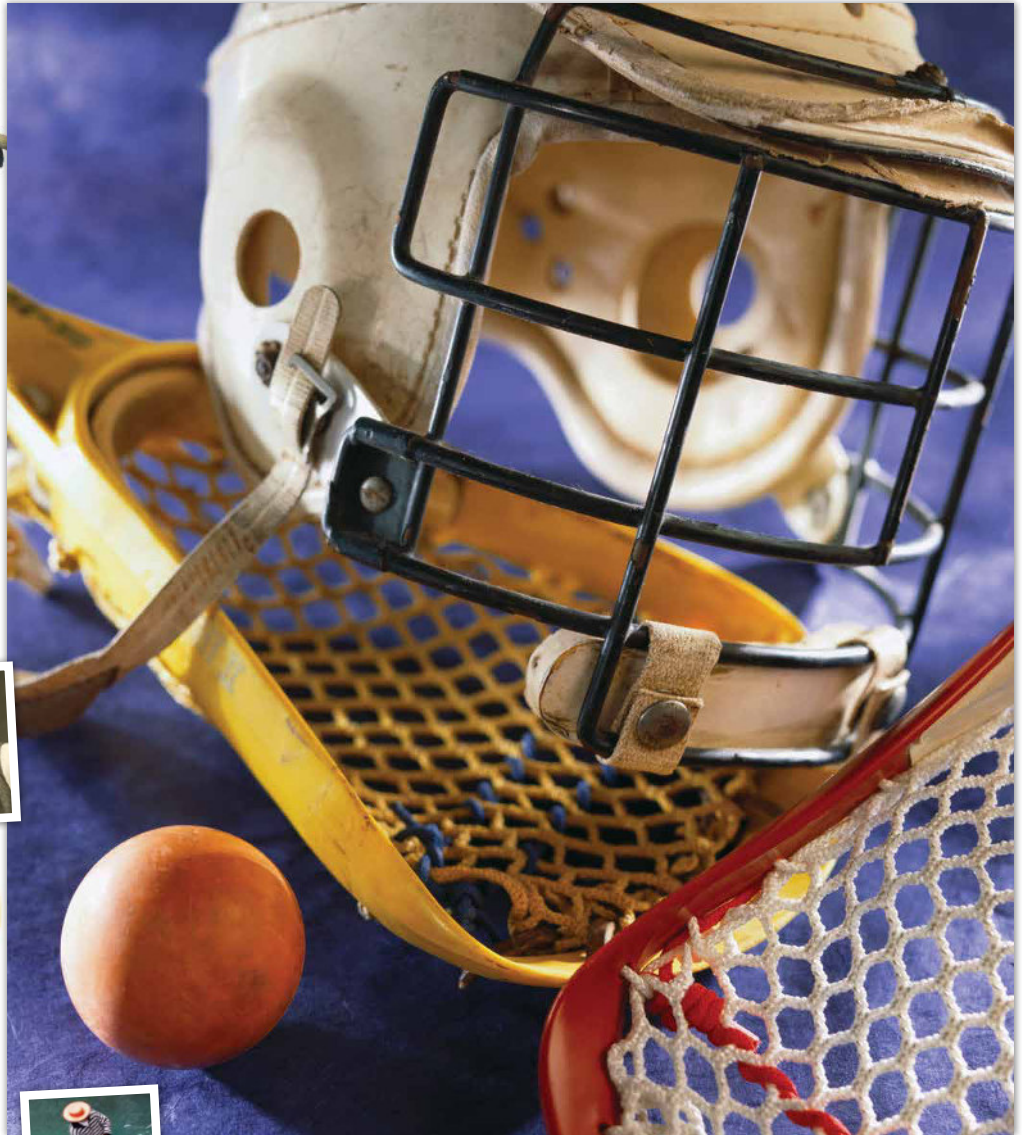
A cough releases an explosive charge of air that moves at speeds up to 60 mph.



A Californian doctor has **set the record** of eating 17 bananas in two minutes.



American and Russian space flights have always included chocolate.



Australia's oldest federal political party is the *Australia Labour Party*, which was founded in 1891.

A chimpanzee can learn to recognise itself in a mirror, but monkeys can't.



Forty percent of McDonald's profits come from the sales of **Happy Meals**.



All gondolas in Venice, Italy, must be painted black, unless



they belong to a high official.

All US

Presidents have worn glasses, some of them just didn't like to be seen wearing them in public.



"Fortnight" is a **contraction** of "fourteen nights". In the US, "two weeks" is more commonly used.



"One thousand" contains the letter "a", but none of the



words from one to nine hundred and ninety-nine has an "a".

The term "karaoke" means "empty orchestra" in Japanese, and the **karaoke machine** was designed originally to provide background tracks for solo **cabaret performers**.



A "googol" is a 1 followed by 100 zeros. Mathematician Edward Kasner supposedly asked his **nephew** to suggest a name for the number, and he came up with this word. ✪



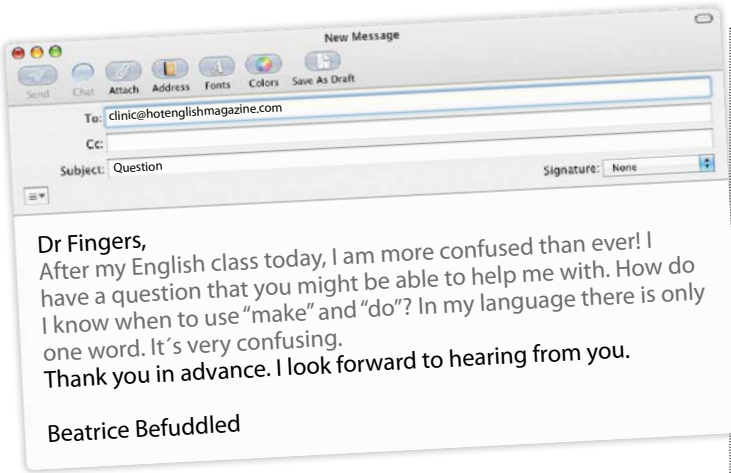
GLOSSARY

- to name after** *phrvb*
if you name A after B, you give A the same name as B
- to set a record** *exp*
if you "set a record", you are the best at that thing
- a Happy Meal** *n*
a meal for children at McDonald's. It often comes with a present
- a contraction** *n*
a shortened form of a word or words
- a karaoke machine** *n*
a machine that plays music. People take turns using a microphone to sing the words
- a cabaret performer** *n*
a person who performs in a live show as a dancer, singer or comedian
- a nephew** *n*
the son of your brother or sister

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR



TODAY, WE'RE LOOKING AT WHEN TO USE "MAKE" AND "DO"



Dr Fingers,
After my English class today, I am more confused than ever! I have a question that you might be able to help me with. How do I know when to use "make" and "do"? In my language there is only one word. It's very confusing.
Thank you in advance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Beatrice Befuddled

Dear Beatrice Befuddled,

Thanks for writing in. You addressed a very common problem, so let's look at "do" first.

1. "Do" is often used for activities, such as sports ("do sport, do exercise, do martial arts", etc). For example:
 - a) *I like doing sports at the weekend.*
 - b) *I do karate on Fridays.*

"Do" is also used to talk about work and jobs around the house ("do the ironing, do the cleaning, do the washing up", etc.). For example:

- a) *Brenda has to do her homework.*
- b) *The twins hate doing the washing-up.*

Now, let's look at "make":

2. "Make" is often used for creating things ("make a model plane, make a cake, make food", etc). For example:
 - a) *Kevin made me a delicious birthday cake.*
 - b) *When I was younger, I used to make my own birthday cards.*

"Make" is also used in lots of useful business terms ("make an appointment, make a profit, make a phone call", etc.). For example:

- a) *The company isn't making much profit this year.*
- b) *Managers have to make difficult decisions.*

Remember there are always exceptions and there are some phrases with "make" which are less obvious. For example, "to make a bed".

There are also cases where both are possible but there is a difference in meaning. For example:

- a) *To do an exam = "At the end of the year, we have to do an exam."*
- b) *To make an exam = "I made the maths exam but I think it was difficult."*

In this case, both are possible. In "a" we are referring to the action of the student taking the exam (the activity), and in "b" we are speaking about the teacher who creates the exam.

In addition, there are lots of expressions with "make" and "do" where there is no official rule. For example:

1. With "make":
 - a) *Why do you always have to make a mess?*
 - b) *Don't worry about making mistakes when you speak English – the important thing is to practise.*
 - c) *Our neighbours are always making noise.*
2. With "do":
 - a) *Arguing never does any good.*
 - b) *A glass of wine a day doesn't do any harm.*
 - c) *Can you do me a favor?*
 - d) *It's got nothing to do with you.*

I hope this helps. Keep the questions coming, and good luck with your English!

Just to summarise:

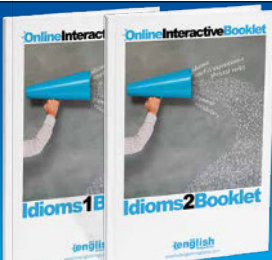
- a) *In general, we use "do" for jobs around the house.*
 - b) *And we use "make" for business expressions.*
- The rest you'll just have to learn by heart.

**Yours Sincerely,
Dr Fingers.**

Please send your questions or stories to:
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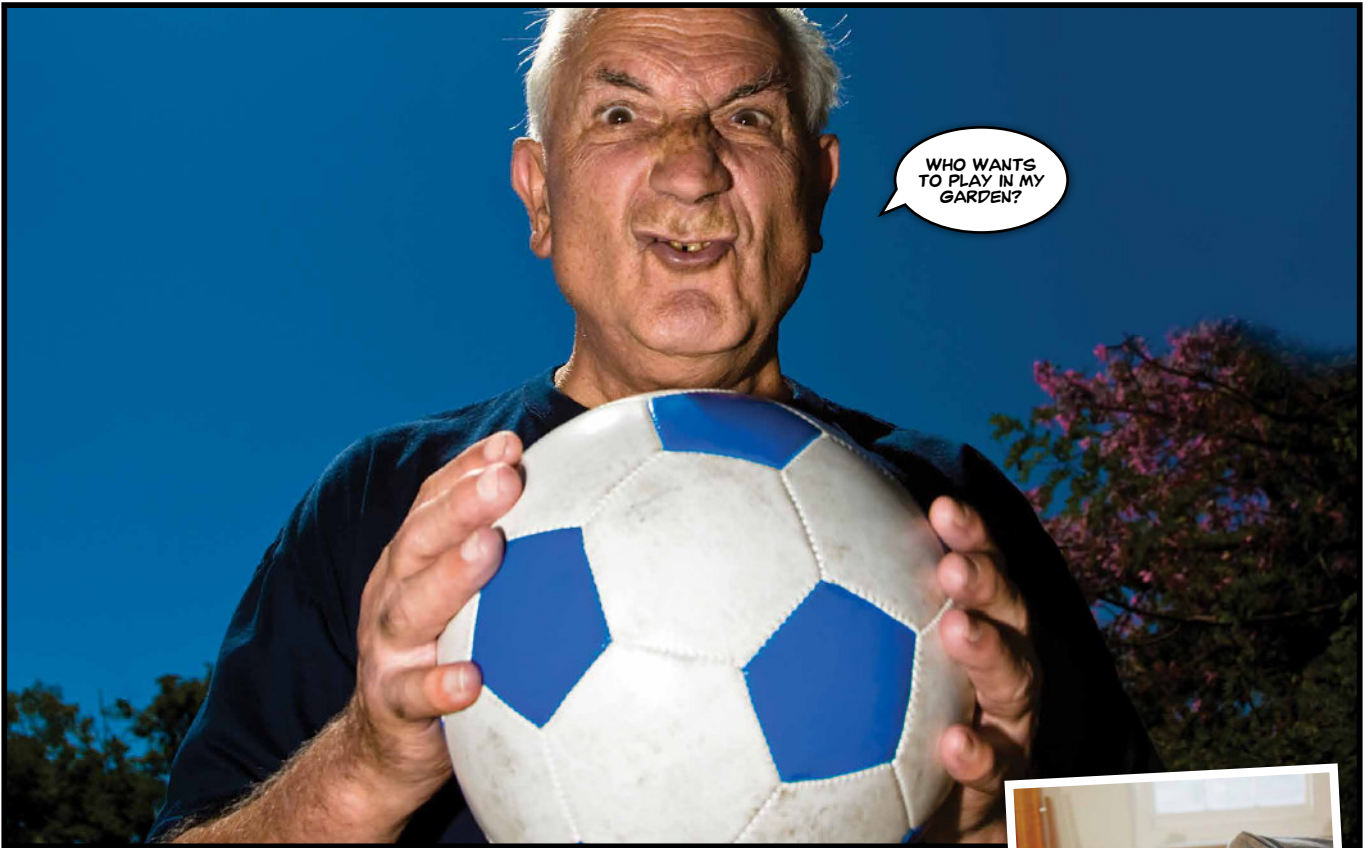
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3. Cheque a Hot English Publishing S.L. (Sólo España)
4. Transferencia bancaria a HOT ENGLISH PUBLISHING SL (sólo España):
 0081 5229 71 000111813
 El paquete puede tardar entre cuatro y seis semanas en llegar.
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Corny Criminals

HERE'S ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES ON GOOD, BAD AND FUNNY CRIMINALS.



Football Folly

"I'm 89-years-old, and I want a little **peace of mind**," said Elma Jensen. "This is my **yard** and my property, and I don't want footballs **crushing** my flowers."

It all started with a game. Some children in the neighbourhood were playing football, and the ball **landed** in Jensen's yard. Police say there had been an **ongoing dispute** over the football. Finally, a child's parent reported Jensen to the police after she **confiscated** the ball. The 89-year-old woman was placed under arrest and taken to the police station in Cleveland. She faces a charge of **petty theft**.

"We don't like arresting 89-year-old women," said police officer Andrew Shephard. "We don't like getting into neighbourhood disputes like this, and taking

them to the extreme, but sometimes you're **backed into a corner**." According to Shephard, "The actual rule is if you take the property of another and convert it to your own use, it's theft. She was told by the police two times to give the ball back, and she refused to do so." Jensen must appear in court next month. The football, valued at \$15, is being held for evidence.

Naptime

"I didn't want to confront the guy, so I **sneaked into** my kitchen and called the police," said Melba Watson. The 43-year-old woman from Oklahoma found a special surprise Sunday morning. When she woke up just before 6 am, she heard a series of noises coming from the front room of her house.

A man, later identified as Manny Banks, tried to rob Watson's

house. But before he could make his escape, he fell asleep on Watson's couch. Apparently, Banks had taken a **tranquilliser** before **raiding** the home, and fell asleep before leaving the crime scene. Banks was found wearing a jacket that belonged to Miss Watson as well as her husband's **tracksuit bottoms**. Next to him, he had a bag of her jewellery and some sweets he had found in the kitchen.

When Banks was interviewed by police, he said he didn't remember much about the incident. In fact, he claims he was surprised to find himself sleeping in someone else's house. Banks is currently awaiting his sentence at the Oklahoma County jailhouse. Hopefully he won't sleep through his **trial**. ☺

GLOSSARY

- peace of mind** *exp*
a feeling of tranquillity and calmness
- a yard** *n US*
a piece of land next to someone's house. A "garden" in British English
- to crush** *vb*
if you "crush" something, you make it flat
- to land** *vb*
if something "lands" somewhere, it arrives there, often after flying through the air
- an ongoing dispute** *exp*
a fight that has been going on for a long time
- to confiscate something** *exp*
to take something away from someone as a form of punishment
- petty theft** *n*
stealing something of little value
- to back someone into a corner** *exp*
to force someone into a situation in which they have very few options
- to sneak into a place** *exp*
to enter a place secretly
- a tranquilliser** *n*
a drug that causes you to be calm
- to raid** *vb*
to attack / rob a building
- tracksuit bottoms** *n*
trousers you wear to do sport
- a trial** *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is innocent or guilty

THIS MONTH, WE HAVE TWO RECIPES FOR YOU TO COOK AT HOME.

THE FIRST RECIPE: SAUSAGE AND COURGETTE PASTA. IT IS A VERY DELICIOUS DINNER.

Sausage & courgette pasta

Ingredients

- ½ kilo sausage
- 2 small courgette, **sliced**
- ¼ kilo fresh mushrooms
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2.5 ml basil
- 2.5 ml oregano
- 2.5 ml parsley
- 55 ml white wine
- 40 ml olive oil



Method

- **Sauté** the garlic in olive oil.
- Add the sausage to the oil and sauté until cooked.
- Add courgette, mushrooms, basil, oregano, parsley and wine.
- Cook **covered** until vegetables are soft, or up to one hour.
- Serve over rice or pasta. 🍴

OUR SECOND RECIPE OF THE MONTH IS A TYPICAL HOLIDAY DRINK: EGGNOG.

eggnog

Ingredients

- 6 eggs
- 680 ml milk or cream
- 160 ml sugar
- 15 ml vanilla
- 2.5 ml **ground** nutmeg



Method

- In a large bowl, beat the eggs using a **wire whisk**.
- Mix in the milk.
- Then, mix in the sugar.
- Continue to beat the mixture until it gets thicker.
- Add the vanilla and ground nutmeg.
- Cover and refrigerate for about 3 hours until **chilled**. ❄️



GLOSSARY

a courgette *n*
a long, thin green vegetable (zucchini, US English)

to slice *vb*
to cut into thin pieces

to sauté *vb*
if you "sauté" food, you fry it quickly in hot oil or butter

covered *adj*
if something is "covered", you place something else over it to hide or protect that thing

ground *adj*
if a substance is "ground" it has been crushed into a fine powder

a wire whisk *n*
a cooking instrument with a long handle that is used to blend ingredients

chilled *adj*
if something is "chilled", it becomes colder but does not freeze



London Bus Tour

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Pre-listening

Match the words from column A with a word from column B to make London tourist attractions.

column A			column B
			a. Abbey <input type="checkbox"/>
			b. Thames <input type="checkbox"/>
			c. Square <input type="checkbox"/>
			d. Park <input type="checkbox"/>
			e. Palace <input type="checkbox"/>

Now check your answers in the next exercise.

2 Listening I

You are going to hear a tour guide describe some popular tourist sights in London. What do you know about the ones mentioned in the Pre-listening activity? Make notes. Then, listen once to compare your ideas.

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, complete the table with the missing information.

Attraction	Dates mentioned	One interesting fact
Westminster Abbey	1066, 1483, 1936	5. ___
River Thames	1. ___	346 metres long
Trafalgar Square	2. ___	6. ___
St James Park	3. ___	7. ___
Buckingham Palace	4. ___	8. ___

4 Language focus: Phrasal Verbs

Read the sentence and choose the correct meaning of "set off".

"Before we set off, I just want to remind you that no audio recording equipment is permitted."

- a. to arrive b. to start c. to leave

5 Discussion

Answer the following questions.

1. Are there any sightseeing buses in your city? Have you been on one? What did you see?
2. Have you seen any of the London sights mentioned in the bus tour? Which ones? Which ones would you like to visit?
3. What are the popular tourist attractions in your city? What can you do there? Which ones would you recommend to tourists?
4. Do you like sightseeing when you visit other cities? What do you think is the best city for sightseeing?

1 The Lazy Song by Bruno Mars
LANGUAGE: PHRASAL VERBS

In the song, Bruno is singing about how he doesn't want to do anything. Notice how he uses the phrasal verb "pick up". If you "pick up" the phone, you answer it, often by literally taking it off the receiver.

*Today I don't feel like doing anything,
I just **wanna** lay in my bed.
Don't feel like picking up my phone,
So, leave a message at the **tone**.*

2 What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong
LANGUAGE: VOCABULARY THEMES

Songs can help you learn words based on a theme or topic. This song, for example, has lots of nature-related words such as *rainbow* and *sky*. Also, the song is sung slowly so it's easy to follow.

*The colours of the rainbow,
So pretty in the sky,
Are also on the faces of people going by.
I see friends shaking hands, saying how do you do?*

3 Blank Space by Taylor Swift
LANGUAGE: SPOKEN LANGUAGE

This is one of pop star Taylor Swift's most **catchy** and popular songs. It's got lots of examples of informal and spoken language such as *wanna* and *ain't*.

*Love's a game. Wanna play?
New money, **suit and tie**. I can **read** you like a magazine.
Ain't it funny rumors fly?
And I know you heard about me.
So, hey, let's be friends, I'm **dying** to see how this one ends.*

4 Sunrise by Norah Jones

Language: past tense verbs
This relaxing song has a mixture of basic language and idiomatic phrases, as well as some **metaphors** for those who like songs with a deeper meaning. It also has a lot of past tense verbs, such as *held*, *couldn't* and *tried*.

*Sunrise, sunrise.
Looks like morning in your eyes,
But the clocks held 9:15 for hours.
Sunrise, sunrise. Couldn't tempt us if it tried.*

5 Your Song by Elton John
LANGUAGE: MODAL VERBS

This song is an all-time **classic**, and has been covered by many other famous artists. The words are pronounced clearly throughout the song, with lots of repetition so the **lyrics** are easy to remember. It also includes quite a few modal verbs, such as *can* and *may*.

*And you can tell everybody, this is the song.
It may be quite simple, but now that it's now done,
I hope you don't mind, I hope you don't mind...*

10 SONGS TO HELP YOU LEARN ENGLISH

LISTENING TO SONGS IS A GREAT WAY OF IMPROVING YOUR ENGLISH. AND SONGS CAN HELP IN SO MANY AREAS OF LANGUAGE. HERE ARE 10 OF OUR FAVOURITES.



6 *Bubbly* by Colbie Caillat

LANGUAGE: THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

This Californian singer-songwriter is famous for her soft voice and acoustic singing. This song is great for reinforcing your knowledge of the Present Continuous tense, with examples such as *is falling* and *are hiding*.

*The rain is falling on my window pane,
But we are hiding in a safer place,
Under covers staying dry and warm,
You give me feelings that I adore.
They start in my toes make me crinkle my nose,
Wherever it goes, I always know.*

7 *Thinking Out Loud* by Ed Sheeran

LANGUAGE: COLLOCATIONS

This song is perfect for fans of love and romance. It was number-one in the UK charts in 2014, and is often played on the radio. The tune is memorable, and the words are pronounced very clearly. It also includes lots of useful **collocations** and fixed expressions, such as *think about*, *fall in love*, *in mysterious ways* and *every single day*.

*I'm thinking about how people fall in love,
In mysterious ways,
Maybe just the touch of a hand.
Well, me, I fall in love with you every single day.*

8 *The World's Greatest* by R. Kelly

LANGUAGE: IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

Popular R&B singer R. Kelly wrote and recorded this song which has appeared on several film tracks. It includes lots of idiomatic expressions such as *make it*, or *have your back against the ropes*.

*I'm that star up in the sky, I'm that mountain peak up high.
Hey, I made it; I'm the world's greatest.
And I'm that little bit of hope, when my back's against the ropes.
I can feel it; I'm the world's greatest.*

9 *She's Always a Woman to Me* by Billy Joel

LANGUAGE: THE FUTURE WITH WILL

This song is another timeless classic, and includes a wide range of everyday verbs. It also has several examples of the future with *will*, so it's great for helping you understand this tense.

*She can lead you to love, she can take you or leave you.
She can ask for the truth, but she'll never believe.
And she'll take what you give her as long as it's free,
Yeah, she steals like a thief, but she's always a woman to me.*

10 *Hey Jude* by The Beatles

LANGUAGE: PRONUNCIATION

Released in 1968, *Hey Jude* is one of the most famous songs in British music history. The song is sung quite slowly, so it's easy to follow. It can also help you with your pronunciation, as you can hear how word sounds join together. For example:

*Plays it = plays_it
It's a = It's_a
World a = world_a*

*Don't carry the world upon your shoulders,
For well you know that it's a fool who plays it cool,
By making his world a little colder.*



GLOSSARY

a receiver *n*
a telephone's "receiver" is the part that you hold near your ear and speak into

wanna *abbr*
want to

a tone *n*
the sound you hear when you pick up a telephone receiver. It means that you can dial a number

catchy *adj*
a "catchy" song is easy to remember

a suit *n*
a jacket and trousers of the same colour and material

a tie *n*
a long thin piece of cloth that is worn round your neck (under a shirt collar)

to read (a person) *exp*
if you can "read" a person, you understand them and know what they're thinking, planning, etc.

ain't *abbr*
"is not" or "are not"

dying *exp*
if you're "dying" to do something, you really want to do it

a metaphor *n*
a word or phrase which compares two things. For example, comparing someone's eyes to the sunrise, as in the song

sunrise *n*
the time in the morning when the sun first appears in the sky

an all-time classic *exp*
a piece of music, writing, etc. of very high quality that is used as the perfect example of something

lyrics *n*
the words for a song

a window pane *n*
the glass in a window

to crinkle *vb*
if you "crinkle" your nose, you push it up on your face and lines appear on it

a collocation *n*
a collocation consists of words that go together frequently or always. For example: *to think + about*; or, *to listen + to*

a peak *n*
the top of a mountain

to make it *exp*
if you "make it", you're successful and do something well

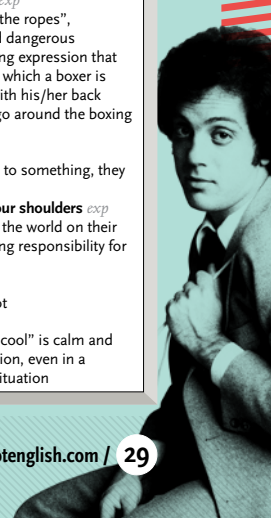
back against the ropes *exp*
if your "back is against the ropes", you're in a very bad and dangerous situation. This is a boxing expression that describes a situation in which a boxer is being hit many times with his/her back against the ropes that go around the boxing ring

to lead *vb*
if someone "leads" you to something, they take you to that place

to carry the world on your shoulders *exp*
if someone is "carrying the world on their shoulders", they're taking responsibility for everything

a fool *n*
a stupid person; an idiot

to play it cool *exp*
someone who "plays it cool" is calm and doesn't show any emotion, even in a difficult or dangerous situation





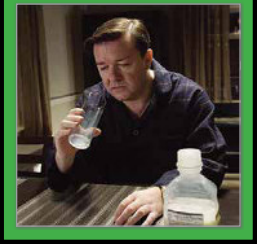
GHOST

"IT'S EVERYTHING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WANTS: A FAT, BRITISH, MIDDLE RICKY GERVAIS ABOUT HIS ROLE I



GHOST TOWN

Ghost Town is a comedy written by David Koepp and John Kamps. It stars Ricky Gervais, Greg Kinnear, and Tea Leoni. The film is about Bertram Pincus (played by Ricky Gervais) who dies, but is miraculously revived. When he wakes up, he realises he has the ability to see ghosts. All the ghosts want something from him, especially a guy called Frank. Frank is still in love with his widow, and asks Bertram for help. Bertram is now in the middle of a love triangle. This was Ricky's first Hollywood lead role.



Ghost Town was Ricky Gervais' first **lead role** in a Hollywood production. The film also stars Greg Kinnear.

Bertram Pincus (Gervais) is a dentist and **loner**. One day, he dies during a hospital operation. Luckily, he is **resuscitated** and recovers, with the added ability of being able to talk to dead people. Eventually, this becomes a bit annoying. One ghost, Frank (Kinnear) begins to **pester** Bertram.

When Frank was alive, he was married to Gwen. But now that he's gone, she is in a relationship with another man. Frank wants Bertram to put a stop to the relationship. But Bertram isn't sure he wants to be involved, especially after meeting the nice boyfriend. Bertram also finds that he is falling in love with Gwen.



As the film progresses, Bertram begins to help some of the other ghosts. Some of these spirits are friends and relatives, or the relatives of people he knows. Through his dead friends, Bertram finds out information about Frank and Gwen's relationship. He realises that they haven't **let go** of each other, despite death separating them. Meanwhile, Bertram has **fallen out** with Gwen after revealing his **paranormal** friendship with her **deceased** husband. Gwen, of course, doesn't believe

Bertram, and heads for Egypt to do some archaeological work.

Bertram wants to help the woman he now loves, and also his friend, Frank. Will he manage it? *Ghost Town* offers great entertainment **from beyond the grave.** ☆

TOWN

-AGED COMEDIAN TRYING TO BE THE SEMI-ROMANTIC LEAD," SAID IN THE FILM *GHOST TOWN*.

RICKY GERVAIS GREG KINNEAR



Ricky Gervais is a British comedy writer and actor. He's famous in the UK for his role as David Brent in *The Office*. But there's a lot more to him than just that.

Ricky Gervais is originally from

Reading, near London. He has been in showbiz since about 1983 when he was at university. While a Philosophy student at University College London, he formed a pop group with a friend. Their band, *Seona Dancing*, released two singles, one of which became successful in the Philippines. Ricky later worked as a manager for bands. And it was when he was doing this that he met Stephen Merchant.

Stephen became a close friend and they worked together for years until they **hit the big time** with *The Office*. The **fly-on-the-wall** mockumentary was successful, and **catapulted** the two to stardom. This is especially true of Ricky, who starred as the **inept** David Brent. They successfully **followed it up** with *Extras*, where Ricky played an aspiring TV **extra**.

Ricky lives with his partner Jane Fallon, who is a TV producer and author. They live together with their pet cat, Ollie. Ricky is a strong believer in animal rights. He has been especially active in the campaign to prevent the use of bear fur for royal guards' ceremonial hats. Ricky was also in the news once after he lost £200,000 to **fraudsters**. The thieves used the passport of a dead man with a picture of Ricky to steal from his account. Later, they were caught trying to buy gold bullion. ✪



Greg Kinnear is an American actor and son of an American diplomat. As a result of his father's job, Greg moved about a lot as a child to places such as Beirut and Athens. He didn't spend a lot of time in the US. He eventually returned to the US to go to university.

Greg's first jobs in showbiz were as a reporter and a TV host. He gradually moved into acting roles in television and, eventually, **the big screen**. He received an Oscar nomination in 1996 for his performance in *As Good as it Gets*, starring Jack Nicholson. Jack Nicholson and Greg's other co-star Helen Hunt both won Oscars for this comedy. Later, Greg appeared in several other films before starring in *Auto Focus*. This was a biographical film about the life and mysterious death of Bob Crane, an American actor found murdered in 1978. Recently he starred in *Fast Food Nation*, a fictional film **loosely based on** a factual book by Eric Schlosser, an investigative journalist.

Another one of his films was *Flash of Genius*, another true story. This was the tale of Robert Kearns, the inventor of the **intermittent windshield wiper**. Kearns successfully took two large car manufacturers to court for **patent infringement**. On a personal level, Greg is married to Helen Labdon and they have two daughters. ✪

GREG KINNEAR

Greg Kinnear was born in Logansport, Indiana in the United States on 17th June 1963. He is an Academy Award-nominated actor and television personality. He began in show business as a talk show host, and then started making films. He lives with his wife and two children.

RICKY GERVAIS

Born in Whitley in Reading, Berkshire, in England on 25th June 1961. Ricky is an English comedian, actor, author and pop singer. He has been in show business since 1983 and has won several awards. He lives with his partner Jane Fallon. Ricky is also an animal rights activist. In 2010, he appeared on Time's list of the 100 most influential people in the world.



GLOSSARY

- a lead role** *n*
the most important part in a film
- a loner** *n*
a person who prefers to be alone; someone with no friends or social life
- to resuscitate** *vb*
to make someone alive again after they have died
- to pester** *n*
to annoy; to irritate
- to let go** *phr vb*
to accept that something has finished
- to fall out** *phr vb*
to argue and subsequently stop speaking
- paranormal** *adj*
relating to the world of spirits and ghosts
- deceased** *adj*
dead
- from beyond the grave** *exp*
from the world of the dead; from the world of ghosts / spirits
- to hit the big time** *exp*
to become famous
- fly on the wall** *adj*
a "fly-on-the-wall" documentary, is one that films the everyday life and happenings of ordinary people
- to catapult** *vb*
to cause to rise / increase rapidly
- inept** *adj*
incompetent; useless
- to follow up** *phr vb*
if you "follow up" A with B, you do B shortly after A
- an extra** *n*
someone who appears in a film, often in a crowd scene / restaurant, etc.
- a fraudster** *n*
a criminal who obtains money often by tricking people
- the big screen** *n*
the world of cinema / films
- loosely based on** *exp*
more or less the same as
- the intermittent windshield wiper** *n*
a device used for cleaning rain from the front screen (the window) of a car
- patent infringement** *n*
commercially developing an idea that belongs to someone else



AFTER CONDUCTING EXHAUSTING RESEARCH AND HEATED DEBATES, HOT ENGLISH HAS **COME UP WITH** A LIST OF THE TOP TELEVISION COMEDIES. EVERYONE WHO STEPPED INSIDE THE HOT ENGLISH HEADQUARTERS WAS SUBJECT TO A RELENTLESS LIST OF QUESTIONS. LET'S SEE IF YOU AGREE WITH THE RESULTS.

The comedy that was on nearly everybody's list was *Friends*, the American **sitcom** which ran from 1994 to 2004. Every single one of the main characters has become famous as a result, and Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox Arquette, Lisa Kudrow, Matthew Perry, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer will always be known as Rachel, Monica, Phoebe, Chandler, Joey and Ross – six friends living in New York. The series was created by David Crane and Marta Kauffman and was shown in over a hundred countries. The relationships between the friends – especially the romances of Ross and Rachel, and Monica and Chandler – kept viewers happy for 10 seasons. In fact, the final episode of the show was watched by an estimated audience of 51.1 million in the US alone.

The second comedy on our list was fiercely defended by the Brits. *Only Fools and Horses* ran over seven seasons between 1981 and 1991. The show follows the adventures of Derek "Del Boy" Trotter (David Jason) and his brother Rodney (Nicholas Lyndhurst). The London pair are constantly attempting to get rich, often by working on the wrong side of the law. It was voted Britain's Best Sitcom in a 2004 BBC poll, and it **speaks volumes** that the show is still popular after twenty-five years.

The next comedy on our list was *The Simpsons*.

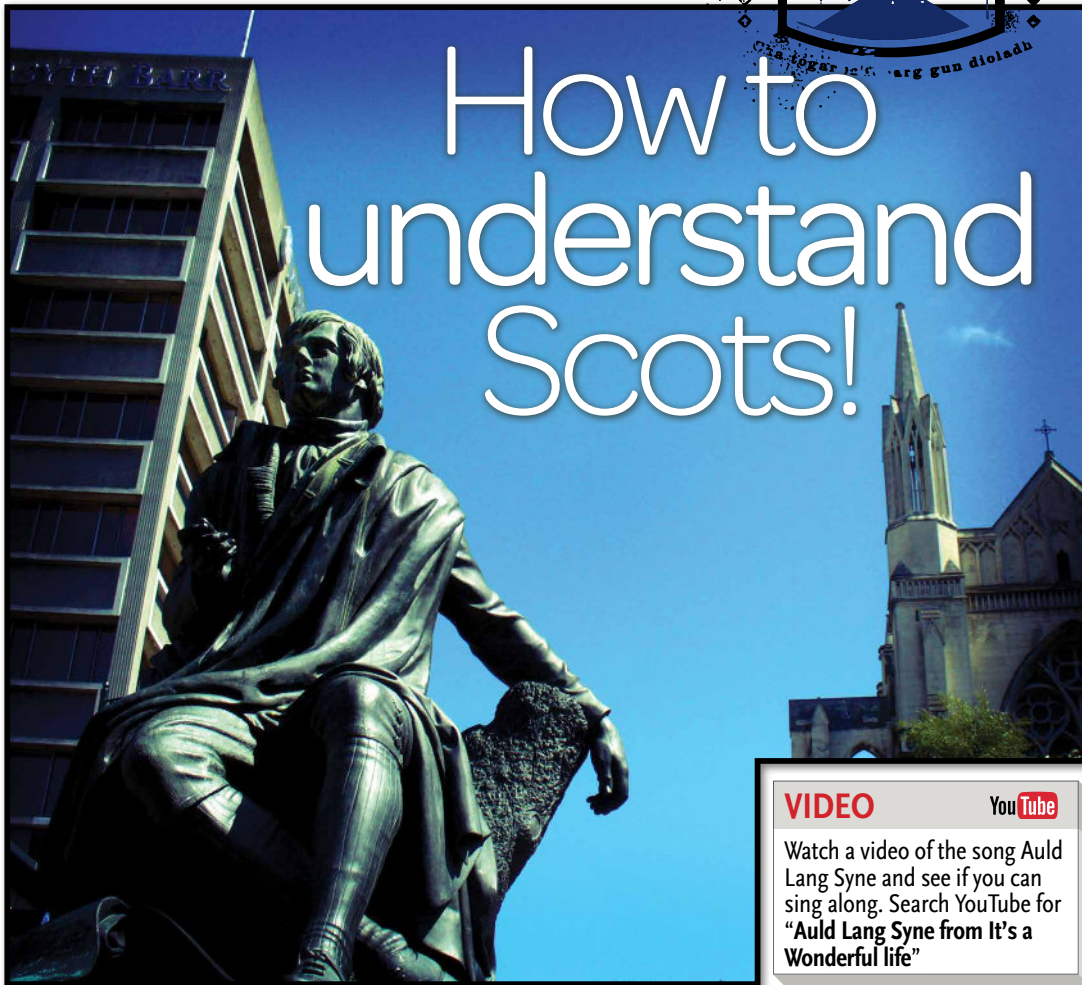
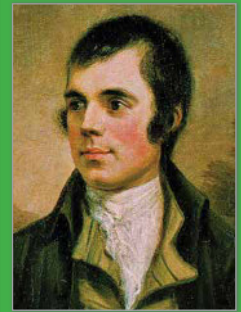
Who could have guessed that an animated series about a **dysfunctional** cartoon family with yellow skin and blue hair would become so popular? A long time ago, we wouldn't have believed it either. But twenty seasons, nineteen years, 427 episodes and a \$526-million movie later, *The Simpsons* is America's top TV show. Creator Matt Groening uses the show to **poke fun at** many aspects of US life. It also holds the Guinness World Record for "Most Celebrities Featured in an Animation series". Famous **cameo appearances** include Ringo Starr, Meryl Streep, and Michael Jackson.

Another popular show to make our list is *Will and Grace*. This popular American sitcom ran for eight seasons from 1998 to 2006. During that time, it became well-known as the first network TV series to feature gay characters amongst the principal leads. *Will and Grace* features best friends Will Truman, a gay lawyer, and Grace Adler, a Jewish interior designer. However, the most popular characters are thought by many to be the rich, opinionated, alcoholic **socialite** Karen Walker and the gay, **penniless** actor Jack McFarland.

Whether British or American, gay or straight, old or modern, what these comedies share is their strong reliance on the strong bonds of family. This is both our blood families, and the families we make for ourselves – our friends. 🌟

GLOSSARY

- to come up with** *exp*
to think of
- a sitcom** *n*
a comedy TV programme about the lives of a group of people
- to speak volumes** *exp*
to say a lot about; to demonstrate
- a dysfunctional family** *n*
a family with a lot of problems
- to poke fun at something** *exp*
to make fun of
- a cameo appearance** *n*
if a famous person makes a "cameo appearance" in a film, he / she appears in the film for a short period of time
- a socialite** *n*
a person who goes to many fashionable parties
- penniless** *adj*
with no money



How to understand Scots!

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a video of the song Auld Lang Syne and see if you can sing along. Search YouTube for "Auld Lang Syne from It's a Wonderful life"

New Year

A famous song that is often sung at New Year is "Auld Lang Syne". This song is actually a traditional Scots language poem. It was written by the poet Robert Burns, who lived in the 1700s. Burns wrote extensively in Scots as well as in English. "Auld Lang Syne" can be literally translated as "old long since", but really means "long long ago", "times gone by" or "for the sake of times gone by". This is Robert Burns' most famous work though it's said that he wrote the words when he heard an old man saying them. Here are the words with a rough translation.

*Should auld acquaintance
be forgot,
Should old friends be
forgotten,
and never brought to
mind?*

*and forgotten forever?
Should auld acquaintance
be forgot,
Should old friends be
forgotten,
and auld lang syne?
for the sake of times
gone by?*

*For auld lang syne, my
dear
For the sake of times gone
by, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
For the sake of times
gone by,
we'll tak a cup o' kindness
yet,*

*We'll have a drink in
friendly company,
for auld lang syne.
For the sake of times
gone by.*

GLOSSARY

the Lowlands *n*
an area in southern Scotland
the Auld Sod *exp*
a nickname for Scotland (and also
Ireland)
rough *adj*
more or less
the sake of *exp*
the benefit of

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO SCOTLAND? DID YOU FIND THE ACCENT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AT TIMES? IF THE ANSWER IS YES, THERE MIGHT BE AN IMPORTANT REASON. SOME SCOTTISH PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE **LOWLANDS**, HAVE THEIR OWN DIALECT: "SCOTS".

The dialect originated over the course of several centuries. It's a mixture of the heavy Scottish accent and Middle English. This was the type of English spoken in the Middle Ages. Scots was originally a reference to the Scottish Gaelic language. Eventually though, many Lowlanders began to refer to Scottish Gaelic as *Erse* (Irish). The word Scot came from the Gaelic term "Scotii". The Scotii were the Gaelic Irish who came to Scotland in the 4th Century with their own language. However, by the 15th Century, the word "Scots" referred to the dialect spoken in the Lowlands and eastern Scotland.

Scots differs a great deal from English, but it has its similarities. It is a bit like the similarities between Swedish and Danish, or Swedish and Norwegian. Some say it should be classified as a different language. But for a northern English or an Irish person, Scots is more or less understandable if spoken slowly or read. Some of the vocabulary has also influenced Modern

English. Here are a few examples of Scots words and phrases.

- a bairn = a child
- a brae = a hill
- a braid/ a leid = a language or dialect
- a burn = a small river
- a kirk = a church
- skelp = to slap / smack / hit
- srieve = to write
- the hamely tongue = the nicely-spoken language
- There's no many fowk that leeves in that glen. = There aren't many people living in that valley.
- Thon thonder / Yon yonder = That thing over there. / That thing in the the distance.
- wee = small
- a wain (literally, a wee one) = a child

So next time you visit the "Auld Sod" of Scotland, you'll be able to impress the locals with your knowledge of Scots. And if you hear the locals telling you to "haste ye back" ("come back soon"), you'll know a welcome return is guaranteed. 🍀

LITTLE JOKES

MATCH EACH JOKE BEGINNING (1 TO 8) WITH ITS ENDING (A-H). THEN, LISTEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1. Who earns money driving their customers away?
 2. What has many **keys** but can't open any doors?
 3. What did one ghost say to another?
 4. Why don't aliens eat clowns?
 5. What did the barman say to the sandwich?
 6. Why did the magician get lost on the road?
 7. **Waiter:** Good evening, sir. Tonight, we have **stewed** liver, **boiled** tongue, and frog's legs.
 8. What has 10 legs and **drools** a lot?
- a. **Customer:** Don't tell me your problems. Just give me the **menu**.
 - b. a taxi driver.
 - c. a piano.
 - d. **quintuplets**.
 - e. "Go away. We don't serve food."
 - f. "Do you believe in people?"
 - g. Because they taste **funny**.
 - h. Because he turned into a **driveway**.



GLOSSARY
a key *n*
 a metal object you use to open a door
stewed *adj*
 cooked slowly in a covered dish
to boil *vb*
 to cook in water at 100°C
to drool *vb*
 if a baby "drools", it has liquid coming from its mouth and running down its face
a menu *n*
 a list of all the food and prices in a restaurant
quintuplets *n*
 five babies born at the same time from the same mother
funny *adj*
 a) strange; weird b) hilarious; humorous
a driveway *n*
 a mini-road outside a house that goes from the public road to a person's garage or front door

GRAFFITI

HERE ARE SOME MORE EXAMPLES OF BRITISH TOILET GRAFFITI.

IF PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT, AND NOBODY'S PERFECT, WHY PRACTISE?

NOSTALGIA ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.

THE STATEMENT BELOW IS FALSE.

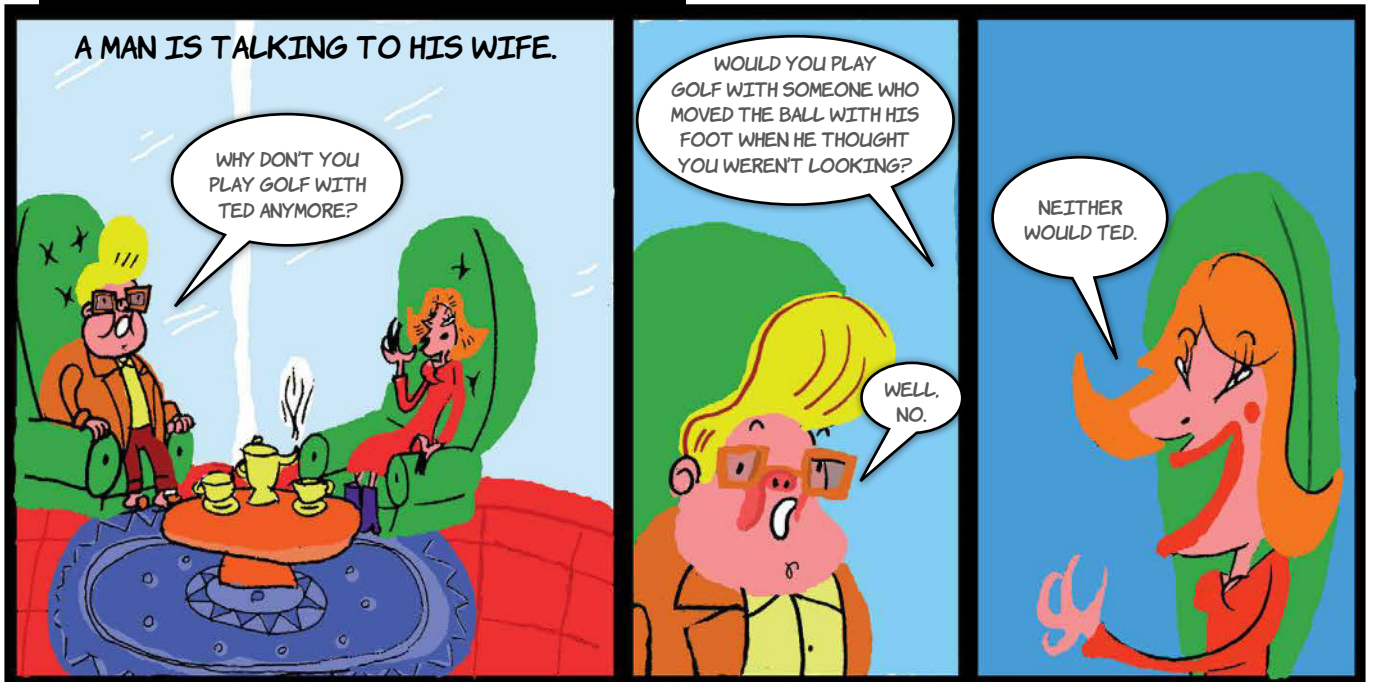
THE STATEMENT ABOVE IS TRUE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK; THEY DON'T DO IT VERY OFTEN.

IF MONEY COULD TALK, MINE WOULD ALWAYS SAY, "GOODBYE".

GLOSSARY
nostalgia *n*
 a feeling of sadness or emotion when thinking about the past

GOLF BY DANIEL COLTOLINE



Misheard Lyrics

HERE ARE SOME MORE OF THOSE DIFFICULT-TO-UNDERSTAND SONG LYRICS. SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY THE CORRECT ONES. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56



GLOSSARY
a goose *n*
 a type of big bird (similar to a duck) that you can eat. It is usually grey
to do a runner *exp inform*
 to run away from a difficult situation; to escape
gravy *n*
 a sauce made from meat juices
achy *adj*
 this comes from the verb "to ache". If you heart is "aching", you feel bad because someone has hurt you emotionally
a thumb *n*
 the short thick finger on your hand
to keep someone down *exp*
 to stop someone from progressing; to oppress someone
a trashcan *n US*
 a container for rubbish – old pieces of paper, etc. A "rubbish bin" in British English
sneakers *n US*
 shoes for doing sport. "Trainers" in British English

1 In Manfred Mann's song "Blinded by the Light", the real lyrics are...
a. Wrapped up like a **goose** that **did a runner** in the night.
b. Revved up like a deuce, another runner in the night.



5 What is the next line in Billy Ray Cyrus's song, which pleads, "Don't tell my heart"?
a. My **achy**, breaky heart.
b. My **eggy**, bready heart.



2 Which are the real lyrics to the Go-Go's song "Our Lips are Sealed"?
a. Even Dallas games, people play.
b. In the jealous games people play.



6 What are the real lyrics for Chumbawumba's "Tubthumping"?
a. I got no **thumb**, but it grew back again. You're never gonna **keep me down**.
b. I get knocked down, but I get up again. You're never gonna keep me down.



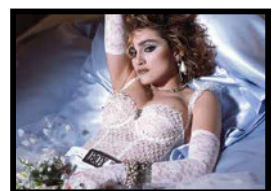
3 The Billy Joel song "You May Be Right" goes...
a. I made the **gravy**, but it just may be some tuna fish you're looking for.
b. I may be crazy, but it just may be a lunatic you're looking for.



7 The title of Queen's song is...
a. We are the **trashcans**, oh yeah.
b. We are the champions, my friends.



4 The next line of Madonna's song "Like a Virgin" is...
a. touched for the thirty-first time.
b. touched for the very first time.



8 Beyoncé's "Crazy in Love" goes...
a. Looking so crazy in love, smell my **sneakers**, smell my crazy in love.
b. Looking so crazy in love's got me looking, got me looking so crazy in love.





WE'RE ALL FIRED UP AND READY TO GO.

Festival: Up Helly Aa

DO YOU FEEL LIKE SOME FIRE, **FEASTING**, FANCY DRESS AND FUN? WELL, EUROPE'S BIGGEST FIRE FESTIVAL MAY IGNITE YOUR INTEREST.

Imagine a celebration with performances, parties and processions in a crazy 24-hour celebration. Reminiscent of Viking traditions, the town goes a little mad and the festivities **put** Mardi Gras **to shame**. It's called "Up Helly Aa", and it's definitely a unique event to **brighten up** the cold winter month of January.

Up Helly Aa has some **rowdy** traditions. It is over 100 years old, and takes place on the last Tuesday of January every year in the small town of Lerwick, Shetland (just off the coast of Scotland). The tradition dates back to the Napoleonic Wars when soldiers and sailors came home from their travels and needed an excuse to be rowdy and **show off** their firearms. However, it's more than an excuse for a sub-arctic bonfire and **booze-up**. It is now a highly-publicised event involving over four or five thousand spectators. Rumour has it that a group of very educated men in the town of Lerwick **came up with** the name for the festival. They also thought of other elements including guising (disguising yourself during the processions) and introduced the tradition of a torch light procession.

Another tradition of Up Helly Aa is deciding on the "jarl". The jarl is the main guiser (person in disguise) of the festival. It takes a full year to decide who the jarl will be, and which character from the Norse sagas he'll represent. This became a regular occurrence in 1889. In the evening, over 800 men (in some towns the guisers don't allow women) **form ranks** in the darkened streets. They all hold wooden posts on their shoulders topped with paraffin-soaked sacks. At 7:30 in the evening, a signal rocket is **set off** over the Town Hall. The torches are lit, the band starts playing, and the

amazing, blazing procession begins. The Guiser Jarl is half-a-mile behind the procession, on his **soon-to-be-burnt long ship**. It takes half an hour for the Jarl's group of Vikings to **drag** him to the burning site through the crowd of spectators.

The original celebration has changed slightly from the modern-day celebration. It used to involve burning tar barrels and releasing them into the streets during the procession. Unfortunately, this led to a lot of trouble and vandalism. Nowadays, the long ship is decorated with a dragon's head and tail. This is then **set on fire** and set to sea. The boat is built over the whole year and is a demonstration of the islanders' skills and spirits. Once they arrive to the burning site, the Jarl leaves his ship with a lot of cheering from the crowd. A **bugle** call sounds, and then the other guisers throw the torches onto the ship. As the fire destroys four months' work in a couple of minutes, the crowd sings a traditional song called "The Norseman's Home".

All in all, this festival is sure to keep even the most serious of **folks** entertained. It re-enacts the times when Norse leaders' funerals involved cremation and fire, and when there were religious ceremonies to celebrate the sun's return after the winter solstice. The guising is reminiscent of prehistoric fertility rituals and the feasting follows **saga** traditions from the winter drinking halls of Viking warriors. If you should miss the Up Helly Aa in Lerwick, **don't despair** – there are another eight fire festivals in various districts of Shetland during the late winter. And, nowadays women are included in the festivities, so everyone can join in the guising and procession. So, get ready to go back in time. ✨



GLOSSARY

- feasting** *n*
eating and drinking as part of celebrations
- to put something to shame** *exp*
to make something look poor in comparison
- to brighten up** *phr vb*
to make you feel happier / more positive
- rowdy** *adj*
loud, noisy and violent
- to show off** *phr vb*
to demonstrate something you are proud of
- a booze-up** *n inform*
a party in which a lot of alcohol is consumed
- to come up with** *exp*
to think of
- to form ranks** *exp*
if people "form ranks", they line up in order to go on a procession
- to set off** *phr vb*
to start a journey
- soon-to-be burnt** *exp*
something that will be burnt in a short time
- a long ship** *n*
a typical Viking ship
- to drag** *vb*
to pull with force
- to set on fire** *exp*
to burn
- a bugle** *n*
a small trumpet
- folks** *n*
people
- a saga** *n*
a traditional / mythical story
- don't despair** *exp*
don't worry



Do you know the difference between “less” and “few”? A large supermarket chain in the UK, Tesco, is having a big problem with it.

The sign in question reads “Ten items or less”. It appears above the **checkout area**. But what’s the problem? According to experts, it’s wrong. They say that “fewer” should be used to describe countable things, such as “bananas, oranges” and “items”. “Less”, on the other hand, should be used to describe uncountable things, such as “water, rice” and “wine”.

The Oxford University Press also got involved, and advised, “Less means ‘not as much’. ‘Fewer’ means ‘not as many’”.

One organisation, the Plain English Campaign, is asking Tesco to change its checkout signs. Plain English is an independent group that fights for clearly written public documents. Plain English asked Tesco to change their signs from “ten items or less” to “ten items or fewer”. One of their spokesman said, “There is a debate about whether the word on the sign should be ‘less’ or ‘fewer’. The debate about which is right has been going on for years now, and I still don’t think we know if ‘less’ or ‘fewer’ is correct.”

Plain English tried to offer another more **agreeable** alternative. Their spokesman said, “Saying ‘Up to ten items’ is easy to understand and avoids any debate.” Or so they thought. Some people began to argue that “Up to ten items” means “ten items and no more” or “nine items or fewer”.

These grammar corrections have provided endless debate between the two sides. Who knew **checking out** at the supermarket could be so grammatical? 🤔

Tesco

A supermarket group with more than 2,100 supermarkets across the country. Originally, Tesco sold only food and drinks, but have now expanded by selling clothing, DVDs, technology, internet services, etc. It was founded in 1919 by Jack Cohen. It is a British-based company, but they have expanded to South Korea, Slovakia, the United States and many other countries around the world.



1 Pre-reading

What’s the difference between “fewer” and “less”? See if you can write a short description of the two words.

2 Reading I

Read the article and check your ideas about “fewer” and “less”.

3 Reading II

Answer the questions. You can refer back to the article.

1. What is Oxford University Press’ position on the debate?
2. What is the expert’s stance on “ten items or less?”
3. What is “Plain English”? What action is it demanding?
4. What alternative is “Plain English” suggesting?

4 Language focus - Prepositions

Words following “debate”:

1. to debate about ...
2. a debate between ...
3. to debate with ...

Make a sentence for each of the above phrases.



5 Discussion

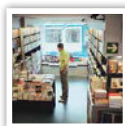
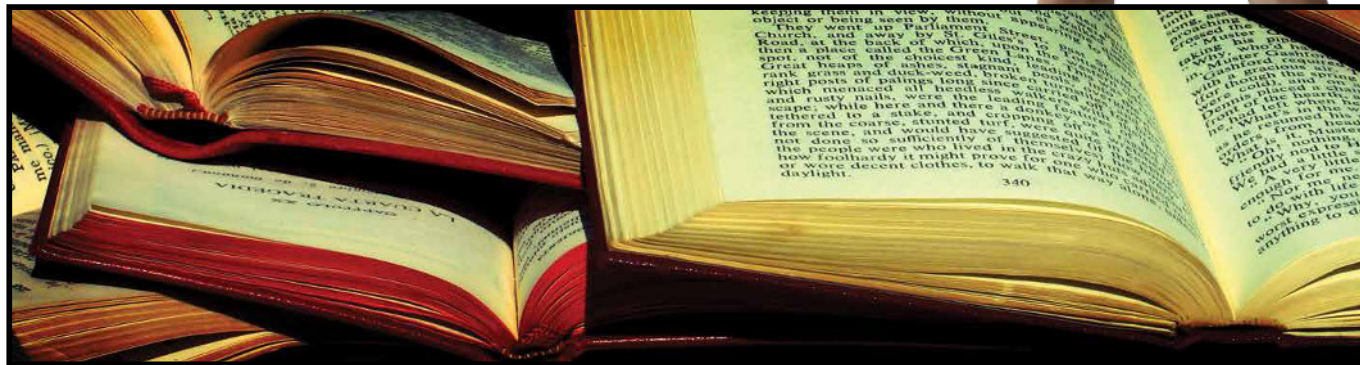
1. Do you think this debate is important or trivial? Why?
2. How important is grammar in your language?
3. In your opinion, what is the best way to learn / teach grammar? Why?

GLOSSARY

the checkout area *n*
the place in the supermarket where you pay for your food
agreeable *adj*
if something is “agreeable”, it is good and acceptable for someone
to check out *phr vb*
to pay for your food, etc. in a supermarket

VOCABULARY Books

HERE ARE SOME USEFUL WORDS FOR TALKING ABOUT BOOKS.



A bookshop
a place where you can borrow books (have the books for a short period of time).



Plot the story of the book.



A character
a person in the story.



A fairy tale a short story featuring mythical beings such as fairies, elves, and spirits. They often start, "Once upon a time..." and they end, "And they all lived

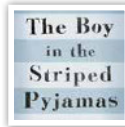
happily ever after."



An author
a person who writes a book.



A chapter
a section of a book.



books.

A cover a rigid piece of paper that protects the

A paperback
a small book with a soft cover - often big enough



to put in your pocket.
A bookshelf
a piece of furniture with shelves (flat pieces of wood / metal, etc.) for putting books on.



An aisle a space between bookshelves in a library / bookshop.



To browse
to look at books casually or to look for information in a casual way.



ISBN
(International Standard Book Number)
a unique number for a book in order to identify the

publisher, title and edition. Magazines and periodicals have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number).



Catalogue
a list of all the books or other material in the bookshop. You can search for things by keyword, author, title or subject.



E-book an electronic (or digital) version of a book.



Reference books
books that are used for finding information, such as dictionaries or encyclopaedias. ☺

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(NOT SO) TYPICAL DIALOGUES

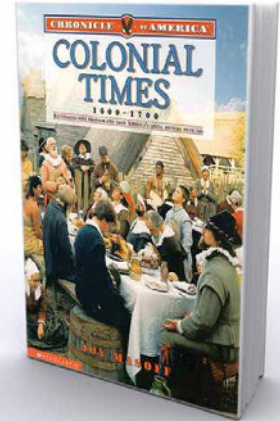
The Bookshop

IN THIS CONVERSATION, MADELINE IS BUYING A BOOK AT A BOOKSHOP.

Madeline: Hi, I'm looking for a book.
Shop: Certainly. Here you are. *[She gives her a hook.]*
Madeline: No, not a **hook**. A book. I'm looking for a book.
Shop: Oh, I'm sorry. Any particular kind of book?
Madeline: Erm...
Shop: A metal book? A wooden book? A paper book?
Madeline: Erm, a paper book, please.
Shop: Oh, OK. That's very traditional, if I may say so. Now, what would you like in your book? Animals? Minerals? Words?
Madeline: Erm, words. I think.
Shop: OK. Very good. A paper book with words in it.
Madeline: Yes.
Shop: No problem. Now, what language would you like your book to be in? French? German? Chinese?
Madeline: Erm...
Shop: We have a very interesting book in Japanese.
Madeline: But I don't speak Japanese. Do you have any books in English?
Shop: Oh, yes. We have some books in English.
Madeline: Great.
Shop: What genre of book would you like to read? Mystery? Romance? Historical? Maybe something biographical?



Madeline: I'd like to read a historical book, please.
Shop: OK. What period of history do you like? I'd recommend Colonial times in America, or something on Medieval times, or Prehistoric times.
Madeline: Colonial times in America sounds good.
Shop: Yeah, I agree. Now, last question. Would you like a little book or a big book?
Madeline: Erm, a big book, please.
Shop: Very well. You can't get a bigger book than this. *[He gives her a big book.]*
Madeline: OK. Thank you very much. But wait a minute. It's really heavy. I don't think I can **lift** it.
Shop: Well, there is one new book that we just got in. It's pretty good. But it's **explosive**.
Madeline: You mean the **plot's** explosive?
Shop: Yes, it's-it's explosive.
Madeline: Explosive? I don't understand. What do you mean?
Shop: I mean explosive. In fact, don't open that book inside the shop.
Madeline: What are you talking about? How could a book be...
Shop: I told you not to open it in here...
Madeline: ...explosive? Now I **get it**. ✨



GLOSSARY
a hook *n*
 a piece of metal that is curved (in a semi-circular shape) at the end
to lift *vb*
 to raise; to take to a higher position; to take from the floor / ground
explosive *adj*
 a substance or device that can cause an explosion
a plot *n*
 the story in a book / film
I get it *exp*
 I understand it

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DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC

describing money

HERE ARE SOME MORE USEFUL AND INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS FOR YOU TO LEARN. THIS MONTH, WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME EXPRESSIONS TO DESCRIBE MONEY.

GLOSSARY

a catch /r/ a trick; a hidden problem or difficulty



Daylight robbery

WE OFTEN USE THIS EXPRESSION WHEN SOMEONE CHARGES AN UNREASONABLY HIGH AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR SOMETHING.

"Did you see how much they were charging for a coffee? That's daylight robbery."



Pour money down the drain

IF YOU "POUR MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN", YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY ON UNNECESSARY THINGS.

"Buying that car was like pouring money down the drain."



Someone's bread and butter

AN ACTIVITY OR WORK THAT PROVIDES THE MAIN PART OF SOMEONE'S INCOME.

"The mobile phone business is his passion, but his job in the factory is actually his bread and butter."



Cost an arm and a leg

IF SOMETHING "COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG", IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE.

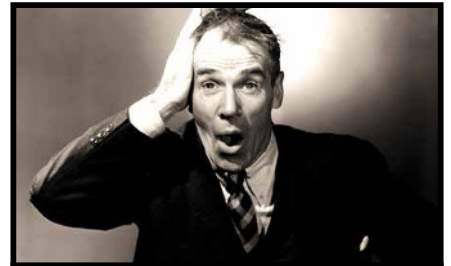
"That flat screen TV cost us an arm and a leg."



Be sitting on a goldmine

TO POSSESS SOMETHING THAT PRODUCES LARGE PROFITS.

"The cost of petrol is going to skyrocket here, so petrol companies will be sitting on a goldmine."



Kill the goose that lays the golden egg

TO HARM OR DESTROY THE PERSON OR THING THAT GIVES YOU MONEY OR POWER.

"If you sell your business now, you'll be killing the goose that lays the golden egg."



There's no such thing as a free lunch

WE OFTEN USE THIS EXPRESSION TO SAY THAT YOU CANNOT GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING AND THAT YOU MUST WORK FOR WHAT YOU HAVE.

"They said we get a free mobile phone if we attend the talk, but there must be a **catch**. There's no such thing as a free lunch."

RIDDLES & quirky news

Place your Bets!

A poker prodigy.

// I don't know why, but it's just easy for me," says Dan Cronan, a secondary school **dropout** who pays his bills in a non-traditional way.



At only 20 years-old, Dan Cronan is now one of Europe's best poker players.

Cronan, from Yorkshire, failed his A levels in school, but credits the secret of his success in life to good poker-playing. He says, "Bad players have bad luck because they don't understand probabilities. There are so many **compulsive gamblers** out there." In his defence, Dan added, "I failed my A levels because I was always playing golf. My **stepdad** played poker. I watched him play and got interested in it."

Cronan put a lot of effort into developing his poker-playing skills. At 17, he bought 10 poker books to study the game; and at 18 he was playing poker on the internet, at casinos and in competitions. Dan's mother, Sandra Carter, said, "He knew his numbers by the time he was two or three. When he started school he couldn't speak, but he could already tell the time," she said.

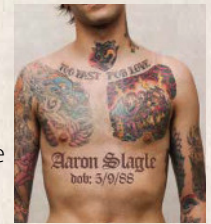
This year, Cronan was **runner-up** in the World Heads-Up Championship in Barcelona winning £90,000. Later this year, he plans to go to the Bahamas for the European Poker Tour. He hopes to win the first prize, which is £1 million. Despite Cronan's success, he stays **humble**. He said, "I never thought I'd become a millionaire. I just love playing poker." ✨

Smile, you're on camera!



// He made it almost too easy to find him. Some of the guys in my department said they wish it was always this easy," said Officer Ian Lake, who had just arrested burglar Aaron Slagle.

Slagle, from Bristol, England, tried to break into a car. The car was parked in a **garage** near his house. But what Slagle didn't know was that security cameras in the garage were watching him the entire time. Later, police analysed **footage** from the cameras and identified Slagle immediately. But this was not because he had a criminal record or because the police recognised his face. It was actually his tattoos that **gave him away**. So, what was so special about Slagle's tattoos?



They were of his name and his date of birth.

Officer Lake said, "We get such clear images from these cameras that there is often **no doubt** as to the identity of the criminal. And, in this particular case, it has never been more obvious. Criminals won't be tolerated in Bristol, and we will keep catching them." Of course, it's much easier if they're wearing their name on the back of their necks. ✨

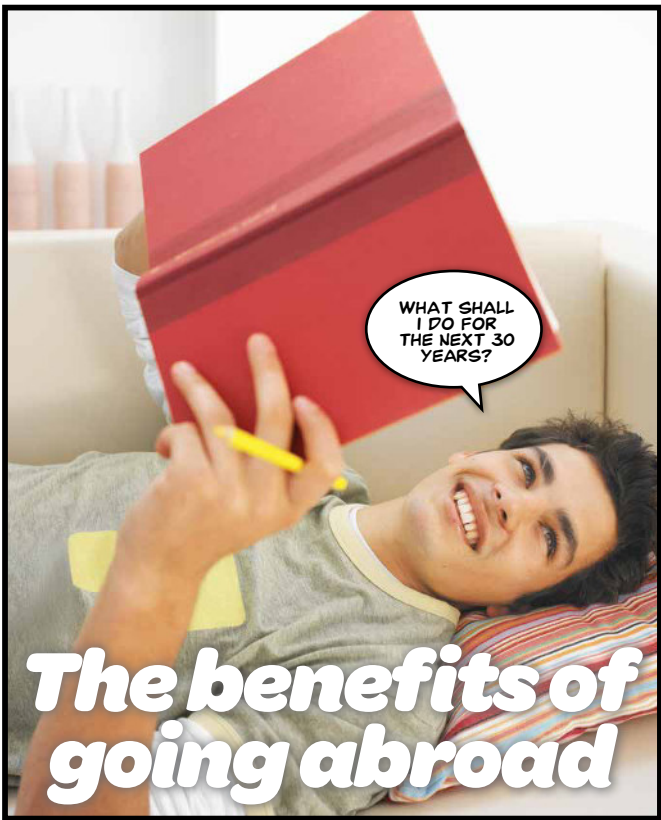
GLOSSARY

- a dropout** *n*
a person who leaves college before completing the exams / course, etc.
- a compulsive gambler** *n*
a person who is obsessed with gambling (playing games for money) and cannot stop him/herself
- a stepdad** *n*
a man who marries your mother and is not your biological father
- a runner-up** *n*
the person who comes second in a competition
- humble** *adj*
not arrogant; not with feelings of superiority
- a garage** *n*
a covered place where you can park your car
- footage** *n*
images that have been recorded on a camera
- to give away** *exp*
if something on you "gives you away" it shows others who you really are, or it reveals something you are trying to hide
- no doubt** *exp*
if you have "no doubt", you are certain about something
- an inn** *n*
a pub that has rooms where you can stay for the night
- a crossroads** *n*
a place in a road where two roads meet
- a power failure** *n*
a situation in which the electricity stops working because the central power plant is broken
- headlights** *n*
the lights at the front of a car

Riddles

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

- 1** Take off my skin. I won't cry, but you will. What am I?
- 2** A cowboy rode to an **inn** on Friday. He stayed two nights and left on Friday. How could that be?
- 3** A black dog stands in the middle of a **crossroads**. None of the street lights are working due to a **power failure** caused by a storm. A car with two broken **headlights** drives towards the dog, but turns in time to avoid hitting him. How could the driver have seen the dog in time? ✨



The benefits of going abroad

1 Pre-listening

What are the benefits of studying or working abroad? How could this help you choose the right career? How could it help you develop as a person? Make notes.

2 Listening I

Listen to the interview once. Were any of the things you thought of for the Pre-listening task mentioned?

3 Listening II

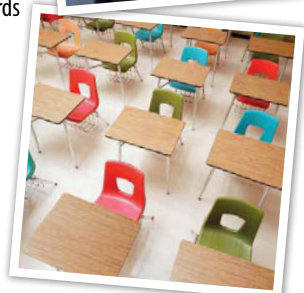
Listen again. Then, write a 100-word summary of the main points. Use some of the following words in your summary.

choose a career, making decisions, think independently, perspective, on your own, grow up, away from home, language, freedom, confidence, mature, opportunities...

4 Language focus

Have you ever...

1. ... made a difficult decision? What was it?
2. ... studied abroad? Where did you study? How long?
3. ... done voluntary work? What did you do?
4. ... been away from home? Where did you go? Did you enjoy it? Why? Why not?

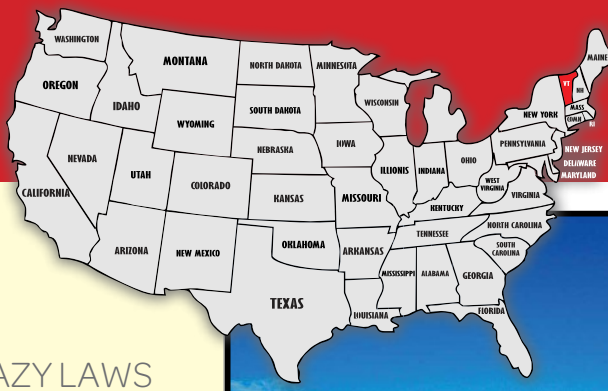


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HERE ARE SOME MORE CRAZY LAWS FROM THE US. (US ENGLISH SPELLING) THIS MONTH: VERMONT.

- 👉 Women must obtain written permission from their husbands to wear false teeth.
- 👉 It is illegal to **tie** a giraffe to a **telephone pole**.
- 👉 **Whistling** underwater is illegal.
- 👉 It is illegal to **deny the existence** of God.
- 👉 In Barre, Vermont, all residents shall **bathe** every Saturday night.
- 👉 Vermont doesn't have any laws, not even weird laws, prohibiting public **nudity**.
- 👉 Colored margarine can only be served in triangle-shaped **patties**.
- 👉 It is illegal to paint **landscapes** in times of war.
- 👉 It's against the law in Vermont for **vagrants** to get food by force.
- 👉 It is illegal to paint a horse.
- 👉 It's against the law in Beanville, Vermont, for a road map to be printed, sold or given away if it contains **lewd** advertising.
- 👉 Vermont, along with Alaska, Hawaii, and Maine, does not allow **billboards**.
- 👉 In Waterbury, Vermont, political campaigners are prohibited from "telling lies or fabricating stories" while **on the campaign trail**.
- 👉 In Rutland, cars are forbidden from **backfiring**.
- 👉 Horses may not be **turned loose** in a **burial ground**.
- 👉 Dropping an object or jumping from a plane is illegal, unless you have permission.
- 👉 It is illegal to allow your sheep to **run wild** in a **schoolyard**. ✨



GLOSSARY
to tie *vb*
 to fix with string or rope
a telephone pole *n*
 a long piece of wood with telephone wires fixed on it
to whistle *vb*
 to make a sound by blowing air out of your mouth
to deny the existence of *exp*
 to say that something doesn't exist
to bathe *vb*
 to clean yourself in a bath; to have a bath
nudity *n*
 having no clothes on; being naked
a patty *n*
 food that has been formed into a flat, round shape
a landscape *n*
 a painting of the countryside / mountains / hills, etc.
a vagrant *n*
 a person with no home who lives in the street and who has no house
lewd *adj*
 suggesting things of a sexual nature
a billboard *n*
 a large piece of wood / metal / plastic in the street with an advert on it
on the campaign trail *exp*
 if a politician is "on the campaign trail", he / she is travelling around the country speaking to potential voters before an election
to backfire *vb*
 when a car "backfires", it makes a loud noise because of a problem with the engine
to turn loose *exp*
 if you "turn loose" a wild animal, you let the animal go free
a burial ground *n*
 an area of land where dead people are buried (placed in holes in the ground)
to run wild *exp*
 if an animal / person is "running wild", he / she / it is not under control and is behaving in a wild manner
a schoolyard *n*
 a school area outside where children play

Population: 621,254 as of 2007
Capital City: Montpelier
Nickname: The Green Mountain State
State Motto: Freedom and Unity

Vermont Facts

- 👉 Vermont has 300,000 state forests and 52 state parks.
- 👉 Forests cover about three-quarters of the state.
- 👉 The state has a population of 10 cows for every 1 person.
- 👉 Vermont is the United States' main producer of **maple syrup** and **marble**. It produces 500,000 gallons of maple syrup every year.
- 👉 Vermont's main industry is dairy, and they produce 2 million pounds of milk every year.
- 👉 Some of Vermont's main tourist attractions are skiing, **hunting** and fishing.
- 👉 Vermont's **nickname** is Green Mountain State because of all of the mountains contained in the small state.
- 👉 Calvin Coolidge and Chester Arthur, two American Presidents, both **hail from** Vermont.
- 👉 Thomas Davenport was from Vermont, and he built the first **printing press**, piano, and motor.
- 👉 The capital, Montpelier, is the only US capital city without a McDonald's restaurant.
- 👉 The ice cream company Ben and Jerry's was founded in Vermont, and gives all of its ice cream waste to farmers to feed their pigs. The pigs like every flavor except mint chocolate chip.
- 👉 Vermont was the first state to have a public school education system in place.
- 👉 Vermont **outlawed** slavery before any other state in the nation.
- 👉 Vermont is one of four US states that does not allow **billboard advertising**.
- 👉 Some residents of Vermont believe there is a sea monster named Champ in the large Lake Champlain on the western border of the state. ✨

Famous People from Vermont:

Chester Arthur – the 21st President of the United States. Born in Fairfield, VT.

John Deere – invented the tractor, from Rutland

Calvin Coolidge – the 30th President of the United States. Born in Plymouth.

Brigham Young – religious leader and first governor of Utah Territory. Born in Whitingham.

GLOSSARY
maple syrup *n*
 a sweet sauce made from the leaves of the Maple tree
marble *n*
 a type of beautiful stone often used for floors or kitchen tables
hunting *n*
 catching or killing wild animals for sport or food
a nickname *n*
 an informal name
to hail from *exp*
 to come from
a printing press *n*
 a machine for creating newspapers / brochures / posters, etc.
to outlaw *vb*
 to make illegal
billboard advertising *n*
 advertising outside on large pieces of wood / metal

DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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

DICTIONARY OF SLANG

Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
A baby is crying very loudly in a public place.	That infant child has tears streaming profusely from his face.	That baby is crying a lot.	That kid is bawling his eyes out.
Your friend is very angry about something.	He is completely incensed about what happened.	He's really mad and upset.	He's miffed; He's livid; He's fuming; He's hopping mad.
You heard a noise and you are scared.	That curious sound frightened me to the very core.	I'm really scared.	I'm totally freaked out; I'm wiggin' out, man. (US)
You are convinced that your employee has been lying to you and you want to confront her about it.	I believe you have uttered a series of falsehoods.	I don't believe you're telling me the truth.	Quit giving me the run-around; Be straight with me.
You are very hungry.	I'm absolutely ravenous for some nourishment.	I'm so hungry; I'm famished.	I could eat a horse; I'm starving.
Your friend is very busy working.	She is totally absorbed in her task.	She's really busy.	She's up to her eyes in work; She's working flat out; She's slammed with work. (US)

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DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

IN THIS SECTION DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



1 Exercise

Read the following sentences. Can you correct them? Then listen to check. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56.

- I will be stay in Vienna for a few days.
- The new bridge had been opened six months ago.
- Take your umbrella; it'll going to rain.
- They finally agreed after several lengthening discussions.
- We don't have a regular schedule; we meet periodic.

Chat-up Lines / Pick-Up Lines (US English)

HERE ARE SOME CLASSIC LINES FOR CHATTING SOMEONE UP.

- Do you have a map? I keep getting lost in your eyes.
- Well, here I am. What were your other two wishes?
- Was your father an **alien**? Because there is nothing else like you on Earth!
- Excuse me, but I think I **dropped** something. **MY JAW!**



GLOSSARY
an alien *n*
 a being who is not from Earth
to drop your jaw *exp*
 to be completely shocked about something
to call *vb*
 if you "call" someone, you use the telephone to speak to them. If you "call" someone a name, you say they are that thing

ADVANCED LISTENING



Censorship through history

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Pre-listening

Why do you think the following things were once censored or banned?

- Harry Potter books
- the Bible
- works by the Greek philosopher Socrates

2 Listening I

Listen once to compare your ideas.

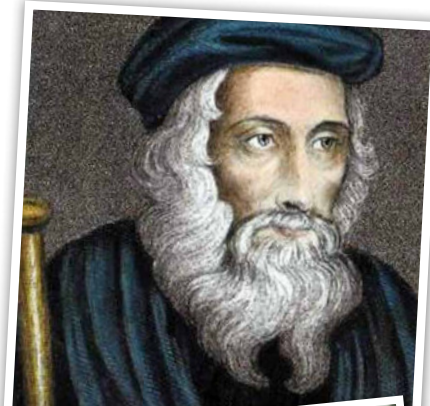
3 Listening II

Which summary best describes what you have listened to? Listen again and choose the option for the correct summary.

- The changing face of censorship.
- How the Ancient Greeks were the first to introduce the idea of censorship.
- How controversial Socrates was.
- Censorship in the 19th century.

4 Discussion

- Are there any famous cases of censorship in your country's history? When?
- What is considered controversial today? Why is it controversial?
- Do you think we are still controlled by censorship? Who controls what is censored? Give examples.



A monthly look at things from the month.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December

CELEBRATE THE MONTH WITH US IN OUR SERIES ON ANNIVERSARIES.
THIS MONTH: DECEMBER.



2nd December 1971
Six small Middle Eastern emirates along the side of the Persian Gulf join together to form the United Arab Emirates.

2nd December 1976
Fidel Castro officially becomes the President of Cuba. Many critics claim that Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado, the man Castro replaced, was a figurehead without real power. Despite this, it is said that Castro was actually responsible for much reform and moderation when he was president.

4th December 771
Carloman, co-ruler of the Franks dies, leaving his more famous brother Charlemagne as undisputed king.

6th December 1921
The Anglo-Irish Treaty is signed between Irish and British leaders. On the same day one year later, the Irish Free State, a partially independent state, comes into existence.

9th December 1987
One day after a traffic accident involving an Israeli tank transporter in which four Palestinian civilians were killed, the first Intifada begins. The Intifada (an Arabic word which means "shaking off" or "uprising") lasts for five years. The result was to give international attention to the plight of the Palestinians and hope for future statehood.

14th December 1819
The southern state of Alabama joins the fast-growing United States of America. It becomes the 22nd state in the union.

15th December 1891
James Naismith introduces a new game at Springfield College in Massachusetts, USA. Using peach baskets for goals, basketball is born.

15th December 1939
Movie classic *Gone with the Wind* premieres in Atlanta, Georgia. It eventually wins ten

Oscars, a record unrivalled for twenty years. "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn."

17th December 1903
Three days after their first try, the Wright Brothers successfully fly an aeroplane. The historic event happens in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

23rd December 1986
Pilots Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan successfully fly non-stop around the globe in the aeroplane *Voyager*. The flight lasts nine days.

25th December 1991
Mikhail Gorbachev steps down as leader of the USSR. The next day marks the end of the Soviet Union as a country.

25th December 2006
The 73-year old "Godfather of Soul", James Brown dies. "The hardest working man in show business" as he was also known, finally retires. ☆

Events for December

10th December
The UN-sponsored International Human Rights Day.



20th December
Uri Gellar's birthday. Gellar is a world famous psychic who claims to be able to bend spoons with the power of his mind. However, many critics believe that he's a fraud.



21st December
The Winter Solstice. The celebration of the shortest day of the year is celebrated by followers of many ancient religions.



31st December
Hogmanay, the final day of the year is celebrated in Scotland. Nowadays it's combined with the New Year celebrations and is one of the biggest parties in the world that night.



GLOSSARY

- an emirate** *n*
a type of Middle Eastern state ruled by an emir, a kind of Arab nobleman
- a figurehead** *n*
a publically acknowledged leader who lacks real power or authority
- moderation** *n*
reasonable actions or behaviour
- the goals** *n*
a scoring zone in various sports
- unrivalled** *adj*
undefeated or unequalled
- to step down** *phr vb*
to resign or retire
- a fraud** *n*
a person who isn't genuine; a cheater

SEAT IDIOMS

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

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SEAT IDI

Learnhot
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In/on the hot seat

IF YOU'RE "IN THE HOT SEAT", YOU'RE IN A POSITION IN WHICH YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR DIFFICULT AND IMPORTANT THINGS.
"Two days after starting her new job, she found herself in the hot seat, having to defend her predecessor's actions even though it was before her time."



(Fly) by the seat of your pants

IF YOU "FLY BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS", YOU HAVE TO IMPROVISE BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE, ABILITY, OR PREPARATION.
"We hadn't prepared for the presentation, so we had to fly by the seat of our pants."



On the edge of your seat

IF YOU'RE "ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT", YOU'RE VERY INTERESTED IN WHAT IS HAPPENING OR WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
"That film was so scary; I was literally on the edge of my seat the whole time."



To take a back seat

IF AN ACTIVITY "TAKES A BACK SEAT", IT BECOMES LESS IMPORTANT THAN SOMETHING ELSE.
"When he became a politician, his hobbies and pastimes had to take a back seat."



To be in the driving seat / to take the driver's seat (US)

TO BE IN CONTROL OF A SITUATION.
"I put Timothy in the driving seat for the project because of his extensive experience in the field."



To win a seat

IF SOMEONE "WINS A SEAT" DURING AN ELECTION, THEY'RE ELECTED TO REPRESENT PEOPLE.
"The Progress Party won the most seats in the last election."

INSANE NAME

School gets a new name in ridiculous new ruling.

"This is just taking things too far," said Marcus Jones of the Campaign for Plain English after a school in Sheffield decided to describe its school as a "place of learning". Watercliffe Meadow Primary in Sheffield has adopted the new **phraseology** because it thinks that the word "school" may have negative connotations for pupils and parents.

One "learning institution" named Watercliffe Meadow decided from an early stage not to use the word "school". Ms Kingdon, a teacher there, defends the decision. She said, [Watercliffe Meadow] "is a place for learning. One reason for this change was that many of the parents of the children here had very negative connotations of school. Instead, we want this to be a place for family learning, where anyone can come. We were able to **start from scratch** and create a new type of learning experience. There are no **whistles** or **bells** or **locked** doors. We wanted to de-institutionalise the place and bring the school closer to real life."

But critics **condemned** it as **political correctness** gone mad. Richard Caborn, a local MP, is unimpressed. "I'm always open to new ideas, but the reality of education is about preparing young people to live in the real world," Caborn said. "I just don't think the case has been made to drop the word 'school' and replace it with 'a place of learning'". Andrew Sangar, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet member for children's services and lifelong learning, said that as far as he was concerned, Watercliffe Meadow was a school, and that was how the council would continue to refer to it.

But other schools are following suit. Barnsley is in the process of replacing its 13 secondary schools with nine new "advanced learning centres". A spokesman said that it was part of a programme called Remaking Learning aimed at regenerating the area by "embracing all ages of learning" from preschool children to adults. But is changing the name of a school really going to change the educational institution itself? 🗣️



Posh names for ordinary activities

"Waste removal engineer" = **dustman / dustwoman**.

"Domestic engineer" = housewife / househusband.

"Knowledge navigator" = teacher.

"Stock replenishment adviser" = **shelf stacker**.

"Dispatch services facilitator" = postman / postwoman.

"Leisure services administrator" = masseuse / masseur.

"Head of verbal communications" = receptionist / secretary.

"Environment improvement technician" = cleaner.

"Education centre nourishment production assistant" = **dinner lady / dinner man**.

GLOSSARY

phraseology *n*
if you use a particular type of "phraseology", you express something using words and expressions of that type
to start from scratch *exp*
if you "start from scratch", you do something without making use of anything that has been done or used before
a whistle *n*
a small object that produces a loud sound if you put it in your mouth and blow into it
a bell *n*
a device that teachers use that makes a ringing sound and is used to attract people's attention
locked *adj*
closed with a key
to condemn *vb*
if you "condemn" something, you say it's very bad and unacceptable
political correctness *n*
acting in a way that is never offensive to a minority group or any disadvantaged people
posh *adj informal*
smart; fashionable; sophisticated
a dustman *n*
a person who collects people's rubbish bins and takes it to the landfill
a shelf stacker *n*
a person whose job it is to put items such as books or sweets on pieces of wood attached to a wall in a supermarket or a shop
a dinner lady *n*
a woman who serves and cooks the food in a cafeteria

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Pre-reading

Look at this list of jobs. What do you think the normal job titles would be?

1. Waste removal engineer
2. Domestic engineer
3. Knowledge navigator
4. Head of verbal communications

Check your answers with the information box above.

2 Reading I

What does "political correctness gone mad" mean? Give examples. Read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Who is for / against substituting the word school for "a place of learning"? What do each of the following people think about the issue?

1. Marcus Jones
2. Ms Kingdon

3. Richard Caborn
4. Andrew Sangar

4 Language focus expressions

Look at this sentence from the article,

"We were able to start from scratch and create a new type of learning experience".

Underline the incorrect definition for "to start from scratch".

- a. to continue doing something that has already been started
- b. to repeat a procedure
- c. to start over again

5 Discussion

Discuss the last sentence from the article.

"But is changing the name of a school really going to change the educational institution itself?"

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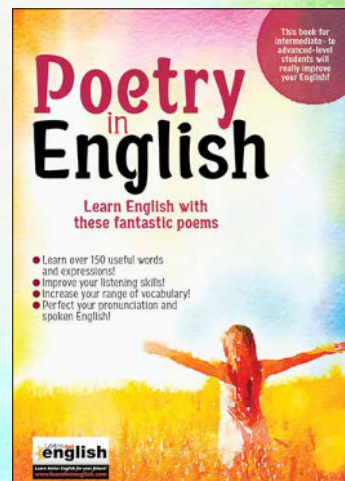
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WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S resolutions?



1 Pre-listening

Look at this list of New Year's resolutions. Which ones have you ever tried to make? How did it go? Which ones would you like to make? Why?

- at healthy food
- Stop smoking
- Get fit
- Learn a language
- Recycle more
- Spend more time with the family
- Pay off any loans
- Write a diary
- Lead a healthier lifestyle
- Go to the gym
- Host more dinner parties
- Get outside more
- Launch a business
- Take up yoga
- Use the car less
- Go to bed earlier
- Pay any bills promptly
- Do up the home
- Eat less junk food
- Be more punctual
- Learn a new skill
- Walk more

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

- Watch less TV
- Adopt a pet
- Read more
- Be more organised
- Travel more
- Find a romantic partner
- Donate money to charity
- Go on a road trip
- Get some new clothes
- Cook more at home
- Drink less alcohol
- Be more on top of the paperwork at home

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to three people talking about their New Year's resolutions. Listen once. Were any of the ones you chose for the Pre-listening task mentioned?

3 Reading II

Listen again. Then, write the correct New Year's resolutions next to each speaker.

1. Speaker 1 = _____
2. Speaker 2 = _____
3. Speaker 3 = _____

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PHRASAL VERB THEMES Relationships (part II)

THIS MONTH WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME MORE PHRASAL VERBS YOU CAN USE TO TALK ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS. THIS IS THE SECOND PART OF A TWO-PART SERIES.

PHRASAL VERB THEMES

ASK SOMEONE OUT
TO ASK SOMEONE TO GO ON A DATE WITH YOU.



GO OUT WITH SOMEONE
TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE.



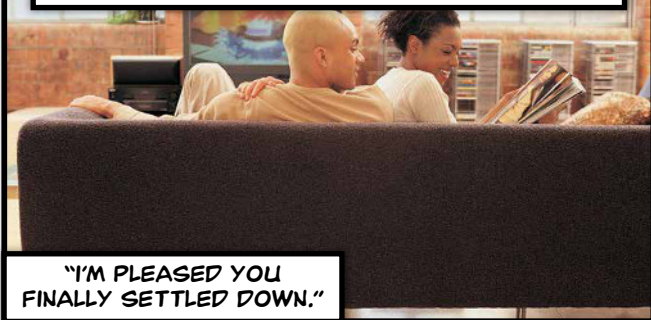
BREAK OFF
IF YOU "BREAK OFF" WITH SOMEONE, YOU STOP THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.



RUN OFF WITH SOMEONE
IF A "RUNS OFF WITH" SOMEONE, A LEAVES HIS/HER HUSBAND / WIFE / PARTNER, ETC. AND HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER PERSON.



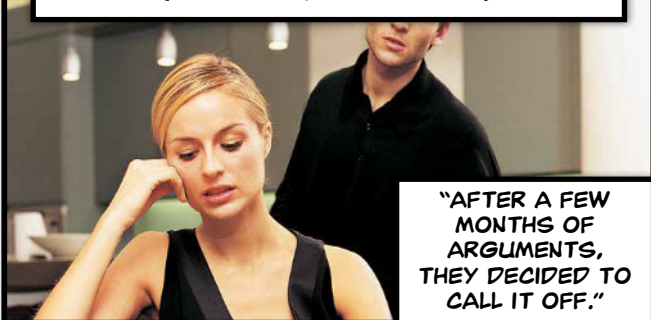
SETTLE DOWN TOGETHER
IF SOMEONE "SETTLES DOWN", THEY START LIVING A QUIET LIFE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY GET MARRIED.



DRIFT APART / GROW APART
IF TWO PEOPLE "DRIFT APART", THEY BECOME LESS CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER.



CALL OFF
TO STOP SOMETHING; TO CANCEL SOMETHING (A WEDDING, FOR EXAMPLE).



CHEAT ON SOMEONE
IF A "CHEATS ON" HIS/HER WIFE / HUSBAND, A HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANOTHER PERSON.



AUDIO SCRIPTS

CRIME ALERT TRACK 06

Officer: So, can we start from the beginning please? Slow down and explain what happened.

Jo: Well, I was having a drink with my boyfriend, and I noticed two strange men next to us. They were looking at us a lot, but I didn't think anything of it. Five minutes later, my purse had disappeared.

Officer: I see, and what time was this?

Jo: It must have been about 7 in the evening.

Officer: And do you recall what the men were wearing?

Jo: Yes, I do, because they were wearing strange clothes. One was dressed in old-fashioned clothes and was carrying a cane. The other one was wearing all black – black trousers, a black shirt and a black hat. He looked like a magician.

Officer: And did they speak to you?

Jo: No, not at all. They looked over at us a few times, but they didn't say anything.

Officer: And why do you think they stole your purse?

Jo: Well, I can't be sure, but the bar was pretty quiet. There were hardly any people, and they were looking at us a lot. If it wasn't them, then it was my boyfriend. And I can assure you, my boyfriend is not a thief.

Officer: So, you say they took the purse. Where was your purse exactly?

Jo: Well, this is the strange part. You see, it was actually inside my handbag at my feet. I don't understand how they took it without us noticing, but they did. Purses don't just disappear out of bags, do they?

Officer: Of course not, ma'am, but we've got to get the facts. We can't go round accusing people. Is it possible that the purse fell out of your bag?

Jo: No. I always zip my bag up. It was definitely in there, because I had taken some money out of the bank moments before.

Officer: Well, it sounds like your thieves were magicians, because I just can't see how they took your purse from under your eyes. But, we'll do everything possible to help you.

Jo: Thank you.

PHONE ENGLISH TRACK 07

Amanda: Hi, may I speak to Richard, please?

Richard: I'm sorry, who is this?

Amanda: Oh, sorry. This is Amanda from the gym.

Richard: Oh, hello, Amanda, this is Richard. How are you?

Amanda: Fine, thanks, and yourself?

Richard: Great, thanks.

Amanda: Well, I'm calling to update your personal details.

Richard: Oh, OK, what information do you need?

Amanda: First, is your current address 43 Willow Avenue, Atlanta Georgia 43576?

Richard: Yes, that's correct.

Amanda: And your gym membership number is 453-09-5284, isn't it?

Richard: No, the last four digits are 5-1-8-0.

Amanda: OK. Thank you. Oh, and one more thing. I need to confirm your last name. It is Vandergriff, right?

Richard: No, but close. My last name is Vanderbilt. V-A-N-D-E-R-B-I-L-T.

Amanda: Oh, OK, Mr Vanderbilt. Thank you so much for your time.

Richard: Of course. If you need anything else, you can e-mail me at richardv@groupnet.org.

Amanda: Thank you very much, Mr Vanderbilt. Have a great day.

LONDON BUS TOUR TRACK 11

Hello, welcome everybody. I hope you're all sitting comfortably, and are ready to begin today's Bus Tour of London. Before we set off, I just want to remind you that no audio recording equipment is permitted at any point on our journey – although you are, of course, welcome to take photographs. We also kindly ask you not to smoke.

Our tour today will take us around Historic London, as we trace the Coronation Procession. As you can see, we are currently outside Westminster Abbey. Now, the official name for this stunning example of Gothic architecture is "The Collegiate Church of St. Peter at Westminster". The church is of course more commonly known by its original name of "Westminster Abbey". Every English and British monarch has been crowned here since King Harold, back in 1066. The only exceptions are Edward V in 1483 and Edward VIII in 1936. Neither of them had coronations.

If you look to your left, the river you can see is of course the River Thames. The river is 346 km long, and is the second longest river in the United Kingdom. If you look across the river, you'll see the Houses of Parliament, the seat of the United Kingdom government. You'll also see the Clock Tower – this is the world's largest four-faced chiming clock in the world. The main bell, officially the Great

Bell, is better known by its nickname "Big Ben". It weighs 16 tons.

Now we're going through Trafalgar Square. Trafalgar Square is in the heart of London; its trademark is Nelson's Column: a four-lion statue that guards the column. The column commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar of 1805, a British naval victory from the Napoleonic Wars. Now we are moving onto St James's Park, a 23-hectare park in Westminster, central London. It is the oldest of the Royal Parks of London. The park lies at the southernmost tip, and is named after a leper hospital dedicated to St James the Less. The park has a small lake called St James's Park Lake. It has two islands, Duck Island and West Island. A bridge across the lake gives a Westward view of Buckingham Palace.

And finally, our last stop is Buckingham Palace, the official residence of the British Monarch. Located in the City of Westminster, the palace is used for state occasions and royal entertaining, and is a major tourist attraction. It has been a point of reference for the British people at times of national rejoicing and crisis. Well, that's the end of the tour. Are there any questions?

CAREERS TRACK 20

Interviewer: Well, it's that time of the year again when students are taking exams and thinking about the next big step in their lives. But this isn't only for students; we can all use career advice. Here in the studio, we have Eric Peters. He's a career advisor, and is here to offer some advice on a decision that might change your life forever. Welcome Eric, and thank you for stopping by.

Eric: Pleased to be here.

Interviewer: So, do you remember making that difficult decision of choosing a career? And more importantly, looking back, do you think you made the right one?

Eric: Oh, difficult question. In fact, it's nearly impossible to answer. To be honest, I don't think it's all about making the right decision. It's more about learning to make the right decision. We have it easy up to when we leave school. Then, things get tricky; we have to think more independently and risk making mistakes.

Interviewer: Mmm. One of your big recommendations is studying abroad – why is that?

Eric: Yes, not necessarily studying abroad. It could be volunteer work or teaching. There are a number of possibilities for young graduates these days. But going abroad is definitely a positive thing to do.

Interviewer: Why do you say that?

Eric: Well, living in a foreign country gives you a very different perspective on life. You benefit tremendously, both on a personal and professional level. And also, you're totally on your own, which makes you grow up faster than you would if you were living, say, near the safety net of your family.

Interviewer: So, tell us, how you can benefit personally from being away from home?

Eric: Well, there was a large-scale survey on the long-term impact of studying abroad on a student's personal, professional, and academic life. The results found that studying abroad positively influences a person's career path, worldview, and self-confidence.

Interviewer: I see, and in terms of furthering your career?

Eric: Well, the two things go hand in hand. If you are more mature, self-confident and aware, you have some solid qualities that employers are looking for in their candidates. In other words, you make yourself more desirable for companies to hire. One year of studying abroad could do that for you. It can also open up more opportunities, such as getting a job in another country. It may even help you learn another language. In these times of uncertainty, freedom to move around is priceless.

Interviewer: OK, Eric, well, I'm sure our listeners out there are very grateful for your advice. Come back soon.

Eric: OK, thanks for having me on the show.

CENSORSHIP THROUGH HISTORY

TRACK 25

Let me start today's lecture by quoting Alfred Whitney Griswold, "Books won't stay banned. They won't burn. Ideas won't go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only weapon against bad ideas is better ideas." As you can imagine, today's

talk is going to be about censorship through history. And censorship goes pretty far back.

Let's start with ancient Greece. In Greek communities, citizens had to follow the rules that were put in place by the office of the censor. The office of the censor was sort of supposed to be like the community's "moral compass". But of course, like in all stages of history, there were those who conformed to the rules and those who didn't.

Unsurprisingly, the non-conformists who questioned any type of censorship were part of literary circles. One Greek playwright called Socrates, whom I'm sure you all have heard of, was at the centre of a censorship controversy. As a result of his modern and cutting-edge ideas, Socrates was convicted and executed for heresy. He was sentenced to drink poison in 399 BC for "corrupting the minds of the Greek youth". This ancient view of censorship can still be found in many countries today.

Let's move ahead to the 14th century. In 1384, John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English. This caused a lot of controversy, because it allowed anyone to read the Bible. Catholics and priests were outraged, and the pope was so infuriated that after Wycliffe's death, he ordered Wycliffe's bones to be "dug up, crushed and scattered in the river". The Bible was banned, but later reinstated in the 16th century in England under Henry VIII's rule when England converted to Protestantism. In this new religious setting, Henry was free to marry as many times as he wanted. This example reflects the injustices of censorship; how one man's opinion controls a whole nation. This brings me to a key point about censorship. Censorship isn't so much about taking books away from people, but rather it is about taking away their freedom of thought and their freedom of speech. Fortunately, we have seen men and women stand up for the right to their freedom of expression throughout history. So, of course the 14th century was a long time ago, but do you realise that censorship is still alive and well today? For instance, you've heard of the Harry Potter series. You know, the books about the young wizard who finds himself among a magical world of sorcery and spells...? Well, there are some fundamentalist Christian groups who claim that the Harry Potter books encourage witchcraft. As a result, they're trying to ban the books. No one has been successful in banning the Potter books yet, but the fact that people are trying to ban them proves that censorship is still very much relevant in today's modern world.

Now, is there anything anyone would like to add?

NEW YEAR TRACK 28

What's your New Year's resolution?

Speaker I

My New Year's resolution, erm, I guess it would be – well, I make New Year's resolutions every year and I don't keep them so it's probably not worth making one, but if I have to I guess, erm, to eat more fruit and veg. I know they—they say you're supposed to eat four or five pieces of fruit or veg a day so, well at the moment I'm kind of averaging on two pieces of fruit and probably not enough veg. So that's going to be probably my first New Year's resolution. Erm, but I have a few more. I need to stop smoking which is not very original but is the most obvious one. Again, I say that every year. Erm, drink less? I guess it would be generally to lead a healthier lifestyle. Go to the gym of course – I suppose that goes hand in hand with leading a healthier lifestyle. And yeah, just kind of getting out more, enjoying the countryside, travelling, that kind of thing.

Speaker II

Well, I think I've got a couple. I think to be fitter, to walk sometimes when I, when I usually take the car. Erm, make sure that I do about half an hour, at least, of some kind of exercise. And I think read more. Erm, usually I only read on public transport and if you take the car then you don't have that kind of opportunity but maybe take thirty minutes or so every day to, to read something, not just the newspapers. And, erm, I think, that erm, try perhaps to be a little more organized. Not leave things a few days, and another few days, try to keep up with correspondence, and keep up with things that you need to do, administrative things, all that kind of stuff. I think maybe I'll keep this up January, and part of February, and then it will go back to how it usually is.

Speaker III

Erm, well my New Year's resolution is generally to travel more. Erm, I've seen a lot of cool places, but I feel like there's so much more available for me to see. Erm, I would love to go to Paris and see the Sacré Coeur and go to erm, Arizona to see the Grand Canyon. There's so many places that I've heard about and read about but have never actually taken the time to go and visit. Erm, I'd like-love travelling with friends, perhaps take a road trip from the east coast to the west coast of the United States, and pass through as many states as possible, just to see as many things as I possibly can.

WORD OF THE MONTH

NO-BRAINER



THIS MONTH WE'RE LOOKING AT THE WORD "NO-BRAINER" AND HOW IT IS USED IN A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS.

Have you ever done anything so easy that you didn't have to think about it? Some tasks are so simple that even a child could do them. Welcome to the world of the "no-brainer".

A no-brainer is a task or situation that doesn't need any complicated thought. The term is the suggestion that it is so easy that you don't need to use your **brain** to think about it. It's more a matter of **common sense**.

Here are some no-brainer situations.

- a. There is a potential investment. You invest €2,000. You get a 20% return on your money

or your money back in two weeks. Should you invest? Of course! This is a no-brainer!

- b. You have just interviewed a potential candidate for a post at your company. She's fully-qualified, she's got lots of experience and she's asking for half the amount you were thinking of paying. Should you hire her? Absolutely! It's a no-brainer!
- c. You have two holiday options. An expensive hotel in rainy-old England or a free three-week cruise in the Caribbean courtesy of your company. Which do you choose? Another no-brainer.

And here are some

examples of the term in use.

- a. Turning on a computer is a total no-brainer.
- b. Walking away from a fight with that big, strong guy is the right thing to do. It's a no-brainer.
- c. Either we start firing people or this company will go under. It's a no-brainer.
- d. It really seems like a no-brainer decision, so I'm worried I'm missing something.
- e. Closing down the shop was a no-brainer, because it was losing a lot of money.
- f. A: What's one plus two?
B: That's a no-brainer!

According to the website "The Phrase Finder", the first example of the term was in January 1968 in the Canadian newspaper *The Lethbridge Herald*. A report on an ice-hockey game went like this: "He [an attacker] would break in on the **goalie**, and the goalie would make one of those saves that our manager, Sid Abel, calls 'a no-brainer'."

Have you had any no-brainer decisions to make recently? ❄️

GLOSSARY

a brain *n*
the large organ in your head that you use to think

common sense *n*
if you have a lot of "common sense", you have the ability to think logically and intelligently in everyday situations

a goalie *n* *inform*
a goalkeeper

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MPO S.A.

ISSN 1577-7898

Depósito Legal M.14277.2001
December 2016

Published by Hot English Publishing, S.L.
C/Paseo del Rey, 22 - 1ª planta,
oficina 1, Madrid 28008

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Magazine images:

[MoviePosterDB](https://www.gettyimages.com) [shutterstock](https://www.shutterstock.com) [Adobe Stock](https://www.adobe.com)

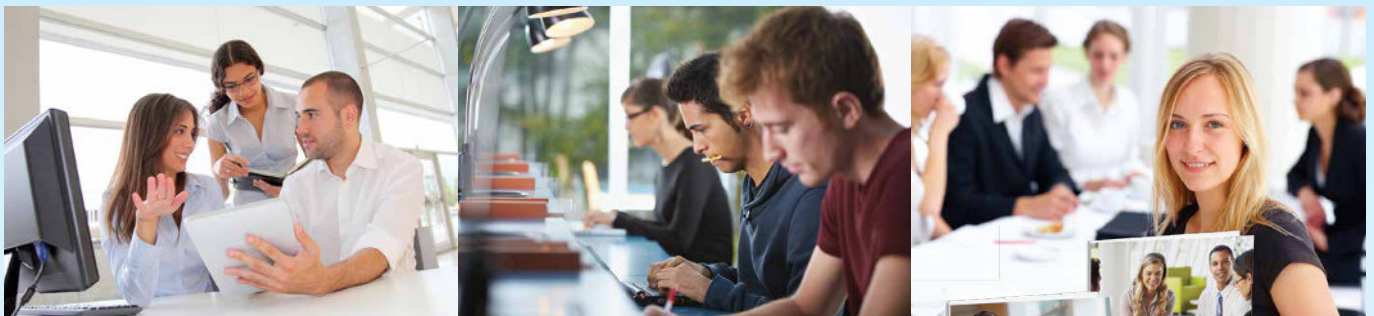
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PAGE 04 **XMAS VOCABULARY**
 1F 2B 3G 4E 5A 6J 7C 8H 9I 10D

PAGE 07 **WRAP RAGE**

1 Reading I

1. "Wrap rage" is extreme anger caused by an inability to open a package.
2. Excessive wrapping on packages.
3. The campaign is about reducing the packaging in Amazon products. This will be more eco- and customer-friendly.
4. The campaign is in effect in America.

PAGE 08 **USEFUL VOCABULARY**

1 Pre reading

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

PAGE 15 **DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION**

1. Which house do you live in?
2. It's no problem
3. I've got a headache / I have a headache
4. Look at me
5. Do you like to play tennis? / Do you like playing tennis?

PAGE 15 **CRIME ALERT**

1 Listening II

1. a drink with my boyfriend
2. seven
3. old-fashioned clothes, cane

4. all black – black trousers, a black shirt and a black hat
5. quiet
6. inside my handbag at my feet

PAGE 17 **PHONE ENGLISH**

1 Listening II

1. 43 Willow Avenue, Atlanta Georgia 43576
2. 453-09-5180
3. Vanderbilt
4. richardv@groupnet.org

PAGE 18 **FILM/TV SCRIPTS**

1. He wishes he had never been born
 2. 8,000 dollars
 3. Potter and the Sherriff
- 2 Definitions**
- 1a 2b 3a 4a 5a 6b 7b

PAGE 19 **WINTER FESTIVALS**

1 Reading I

- a. The Winter Solstice
- b. Hanukah c. Kwanzaa

2 Reading II

1. The Winter Solstice
2. Christmas
3. Kwanzaa
4. Hanukah
5. The Winter Solstice

3 Language focus

Was built and was made. The miracle of Hanukah was explained by Ross from Friends.

PAGE 20 **GO GREEN**

1 Reading II

1. Budgets for parks are under continual threat.
2. Parks help to reduce stress levels.
3. Parks and green spaces help to promote faster healing after surgery.
4. Parks promote good health, and reduce the health inequalities between the rich and the poor.

PAGE 22 **TRIVIA MATCHING**

1d 2g 3f 4h 5m 6e 7k 8c 9a 10b 11l 12i 13j

PAGE 27 **LONDON BUS TOUR**

1 Pre-listening

1e 2a 3c 4b 5d

2 Listening II

1. None
 2. 1805
 3. None
 4. None
- Accept one of the following facts for each sight:
- Westminster Abbey:** The official name: "The Collegiate Church of St. Peter at Westminster" / Example of gothic architecture / Place where British Monarchs are crowned.
- River Thames:** The second longest river in UK.
- Trafalgar Square:** Its trademark is Nelson's column which com-

memorates Britain's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

St James Park: 23 hectares / oldest in London / Named after a leper hospital.

Buckingham Palace: Official residence of British Monarchy / Place of reference in times of crisis and rejoicing.

Language Focus c

PAGE 34 **JOKES**

1b 2c 3f 4g 5e 6h 7a 8d

PAGE 35 **MISHEARD LYRICS**

1b 2b 3b 4b 5a 6b 7b 8b

PAGE 37 **LESS OR FEWER**

1 Reading II

1. Should say "fewer".
2. It's wrong, it should say "ten items or fewer."
3. A group that fights for clearly written public documents. Says the sign should read "fewer."
4. Suggests a sign saying "up to ten items."

PAGE 41 **RIDDLES**

1. An onion
2. His horse's name was Friday
3. It was daytime

PAGE 42 **CAREERS**

Student's own answers.

PAGE 45 **ERROR CORRECTION II**

1. I will be staying in Vienna for a few days.
2. The new bridge was opened six months ago.
3. Take your umbrella; it's going to rain / it'll rain.
4. They finally agreed after several lengthy discussions.
5. We don't have a regular schedule; we meet periodically.

PAGE 45 **CENSORSHIP THROUGH HISTORY**

1 Listening II a

PAGE 48 **INSANE NAME**

1 Reading II

1. Against
 2. For
 3. Against
 4. Against
- 2 Language Focus**
 The incorrect definition is a).

PAGE 50 **WHAT ARE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?**

Speaker 1 = eat five pieces of fruit or veg a day; stop smoking; drink less; lead a healthier lifestyle; go to the gym, get out more.

Speaker 2 = get fit, walk instead of taking the car, read more, be more organised; keep up with any admin work.

Speaker 3 = travel more, go on a road trip.

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