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Magazine No1

**SIMPLY THE BEST!** Better than all the rest!  
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CD track 1  
Intro

We recently found this unique photo of the Irish author James Joyce which inspired us to do a special issue on Ireland.



James Joyce suffered from a persecution mania, convinced that Oscar Wilde was going to steal his copy of Hot English. This can clearly be seen in the author's eyes.

## EDITOR'S INTRO

number 1

Hi there! Welcome to the first full edition of Hot English Magazine Russia!

We've got loads of great stuff for you in this magazine, so here goes:

The Hot English Pilot Issue (April/May) was a great success around St. Petersburg, so we decided to print the Summer Edition of the magazine with 32 pages and a great CD with accents!

To celebrate this, we've organised a great **launch party** for Friday the 11th June. It starts at the British Consulate (Ploshchad Proletarskoy Diktatury), from 18:00 till 20:00, followed by an **after-party** at the Red Lion Pub from 20:30 till the last man (or woman) standing! Any Hot English reader can come, just enter the competition and we'll invite you!

The final winner of the Summer Grand Prix will be decided at the launch party - Moving On Courses have provided two weeks free on their language course in Ireland and Sindbad Travel have provided free return flights to Dublin! **SOMEBODY MUST WIN!** See the competition information on the back page.

We've also **lined up** loads of other sponsors to help at the launch party MET Cafe and the North-West Coffee Company will have a cappuccino bar, and provide canapes and sandwiches; Baltic Bread are making us a 50 kilogramme cake! The Red Lion Pub is providing Irish beers; all in all, it's going to be a great party!

The results of last month's writing competition are on the back page - congratulations to Dmitry Filonov for winning, and thanks to Britannia Bookshop for providing the prizes.

If you're a teacher or student, you may like to sign up for the Hot English newsletter. This is a monthly e-mail that we'll send you with a Hot English article complete with teachers' notes

and photocopyable sheets with exercises to use in class. Just send us an e-mail at: newsletter@hotenglishmagazine.ru saying whether you're a student/teacher and we'll put you on our e-mail list.

Bored during the week? Tired of doing the same things? Come to The Hot English International Party at the Red Lion Pub. Starting on Wednesday the 23rd June, and then EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT from 21:00 till the last man (or woman) standing. It's a great way to spend your Wednesday night (and Thursday morning!). The Red Lion Pub is by the Bronze Horseman (Ploshchad Dekabristov). It's a fantastic place to meet people and practise your English or Russian and during June entry is free (normally 100 roubles including a free drink)! As well as loads of interesting people and great music, there's a party with games, prizes and competitions. You will be able to see some photos from the party at www.hotenglishmagazine.ru. Just click on the icon that says International Party and choose a party date.

Have a great summer, make sure you enter our competition, and see you at the launch party!

William and the Hot English team.

### GLOSSARY:

**to sign up for something** *exp.*

to say that you want to do something - either in writing or verbally

**launch party** a party to celebrate the beginning of something

**after-party** the unofficial part of the celebrations, involving lots of **booze**

**booze** *inform.* alcohol

**lined up** *exp.* organised

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## What is Hot English?

A funny, monthly magazine for improving your English. Real English in genuine contexts. Slang. Business English. Functional language. US English. Cartoons. Humorous articles. Easy to read. Helpful glossaries. Useful expressions. Fun. Something for everyone. Readers from 16 - 105 years-old. From pre-Intermediate to proficient. A great exercise pack, complete with useful grammar and vocabulary-based worksheets. Fun material for teachers. Fantastic 60 minute audio CD. Great website with listenings, archive, games and exercises:

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**Where can you find Hot English?** In shops, language schools and universities around St. Petersburg. If you cannot find it near you, please call and we'll organise it for you.



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 000 Hot English Magazine, although we do think that Ireland has great pubs, beautiful sheep and lots of scenery...or did I mean beautiful scenery...?

# QUIZ: Are you an angel or a devil?



Do you consider yourself a good, kind, helpful type of person? Or do you have a cruel, wicked, evil side to your character? Do our quiz and find out whether you are an angel or a devil. Put a tick by the correct answer, and be honest:

Have you ever stolen any money from your parents?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever made a small child cry?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever thrown a **bucket** of water over a cat?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever tried to **run someone over**?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever **pushed in** at the front of a queue?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

On a train full of people, have you ever stayed in your seat when an elderly person got on?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever used your position of power to **seduce** someone?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever **sworn at** your parents?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever **cheated** in an exam?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever manipulated someone by using **emotional blackmail**?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever **blackmailed** someone?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

Have you ever **set fire** to a building?

Yes:    
 No:    
 No comment:

## GLOSSARY

**a bucket** *n*  
 a container for water. It is often used when you are cleaning the floor

**to run someone over** *phr vb*  
 to hit someone with your car

**to push in** *phr vb*  
 to enter a line of people who are waiting to be served. You do this without the permission of the people there and you usually go to the middle of the line or near the front

**seduce** *vb*  
 to make someone fall in love with you

**to swear at someone** *exp*  
 to say a taboo word to someone

**to cheat** *vb*  
 to look at some "illegal" notes during an exam

**emotional blackmail** *n*  
 if you use "emotional blackmail", you play with someone's emotions in order to force them to do something

**to blackmail someone** *exp*  
 to promise to reveal a secret about someone in order to make that person give you money

**to set fire to something** *exp*  
 to burn something

**a beggar** *n*  
 a person who lives on the street and asks people for money

**to be unfaithful** *exp*  
 to have a relationship with someone who is not your husband/wife/partner

**to regret** *vb*  
 to feel bad about something you have done in the past

# Dr Fingers' Grammar Clinic



Have you ever stolen any money from a **beggar**?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever sold drugs to anyone?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever shouted at someone and made them cry?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been cruel to an animal?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been arrested?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been **unfaithful** to your partner?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a physical fight?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever got drunk and done or said something you **regretted** afterwards?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever put something horrible in someone's food or drink?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever walked through a door and not said "thank you" to the person holding the door open?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic. Just recently a very charming gentleman called Greg sent me a very interesting question by e-mail. He wanted to know about the difference between "must" and "have to / have got to". Here is his e-mail:

Dear Fingers,

I'm teaching English in Russia and I had a few problems trying to tell my students about the difference between "must" and "have to / have got to". Please, could you help me?

All the best,  
 Greg (by e-mail).

## Dr Fingers says

Dear Greg,

What an interesting question. I would be delighted to try and help you. Let's see, first of all you could tell your students that both these words are used for talking about obligations but there are some important differences. Let's look at them separately.

### Must

Basically, "must" is an internal obligation that is felt by the person who is talking. It is like saying, "I feel it is necessary to do X".

Let's see some examples:

"I **must** stop smoking", which means, "I feel it is necessary for me to stop because it is bad for my health".

"You **must** finish this by 5pm", which means "I think it is necessary that you finish this by 5pm".

"She **must** stop talking like that", which means "I think it is necessary that she stops talking like that".

### Have to / have got to

On the other hand, "have to / have got to" is an external obligation that comes from another person or an authority. It can also be related to a law, a rule or an agreement. Let's look at some examples:

"I **have got to** see the doctor", which means "I have an appointment to see the doctor so I have to go".

"She **has got to** get her hair cut now she's in the army", which means "She has to get her hair cut because a rule in the army says that it is obligatory".

"You've got to take your passport when you go abroad", which means "you have to take your passport because there is a law that makes this obligatory".

Well, Greg, I hope that has answered your question. You could tell your students that in fact the difference between these two words is not so important in the sense that any English speaker would understand what you are saying with "must" or "have to". I will put some grammar exercises related to this question in the exercise pack so you can practise it too. Thanks again for your enquiry and I'll speak to you all in the next magazine. Bye.  
 Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to:  
[grammarclinic@hotmailmagazine.ru](mailto:grammarclinic@hotmailmagazine.ru)

## ANSWERS

### QUIZ

#### Mostly "yes"

Oh dear, it appears you have come straight from hell. You are an evil, cruel wicked person who probably has a lot of fun in life and is wonderfully rich. But does your conscience allow you to sleep at night?

#### Mostly "no"

So far you've been a good boy/girl and kept out of trouble. Are you living in a monastery?

#### Mostly "no comment"

You are a discreet, cautious person - this will get you far in life and keep away those nosy, self-opinionated people like the person who wrote this quiz.

## Limerick, Ireland

— by Shane McCarthy

CD track 3  
American woman

Ireland is full of charming little towns and villages. One great place to go and stay is the town of Limerick, which is a traditional town in the south of Ireland. It's got lots of things to see, historical sites and welcoming, friendly people; and of course there are lots of places to enjoy some of Ireland's fine food and drink. Let's find out more.



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### The People

Without a doubt, the best things about Limerick are the people. The Irish are really friendly in general, but people from Limerick are extra-friendly. They're really proud of their corner of Ireland and if they know it's your first time visiting, they'll make sure you enjoy it. It's a personal thing, so if you're **stuck** with nothing to do, they'll take you somewhere. Basically people really want you to enjoy their city.

The best place to meet people, or just watch them, is at the market on a Saturday. You'll see some real characters and you can hear them **chatting away**, **slagging** one another and **having a go** at each other for fun. And they don't mind if you listen; in fact, they might even bring you into the conversation too. Other good places to meet people are at sporting events and some of the pubs in the centre down O'Connell Street.

### Castles

Now you might want to visit a few places of cultural interest. Top of the list is King John's Castle. This was built about 500 years ago. It was **cleaned up** recently and opened to the public. You can see all sorts of artefacts, and the views up and down the River Shannon are fantastic.

Another great place to visit is Bunratty Castle. It's got a large park where you can see how people used to live many hundreds of years ago. Actors sometimes play the parts of different characters such as priests or farmers, and they show what things people used to do in the village about 500 or 600 years ago.

### Walking

Limerick is great for walking around too. It's quite small and it's on a **grid** so there are two or three main streets and little ones **off** them. The centre is quite small and it's a great mixture of businesses, bars and shops. You'll really enjoy it. There are lots of great walks around Limerick too. The countryside

there is beautiful and really green; and you'll soon see why they call Ireland the **Emerald Isle**. You can **rent** boats and take trips up along the River Shannon; or you can go for an ice-cold swim in one of the **lakes** near the city.

Finally, if you've read Frank McCourt's book "Angela's **Ashes**", or seen the film version, you've got to do the "Frank McCourt Guided Tour". You can see all the places that appear in this book and other books that he's written. The tour includes visits to bars, so it's lots of fun.

### Ships & Bricks

The first thing you notice when you go to Limerick is that all the buildings in the centre are the same colour: red. In the past few years there's been a lot of building in Limerick and a lot of development – and all with red **bricks**. In fact, you can't build in anything else but red brick, which gives the city a really nice touch. So how did this happen? Well, many years ago, ships used to leave Limerick with lots of goods to take to other parts of the world; but very often they would return with nothing. This was bad because the ships were having problems on the sea because of the **lack** of weight. So what they used to do was fill the ships up with red bricks from England. Then, when they arrived back at Limerick, they just took all the red bricks off and used them for building. And there you have it, a bit of Limerick history for you.

### Food & Drink

As you're walking around Limerick, you may want to stop for a bit of food or a drink. There are loads of good places to go – Limerick won't **let you down**. If you want something good to eat, try "The Locke Bar". You can sit on the terrace and look over the River Shannon that runs through Limerick. Another great restaurant is "The Green Onion" down on Patrick Street. This has a great selection of food and drinks at very affordable prices. I recommend a pint of

Bulmer's. This is a sweet cider, which is great with ice on a hot day. In winter I recommend a delicious pint of Guinness. Food in Limerick is mostly typical Irish food. The best local dish is Irish Stew. This is a kind of thick soup with everything in it, including vegetables and meat. It's great on a cold day as it'll warm you up. Go to "Ted's Sportsbar" for this. For the really brave amongst you, there's "Packet and Tripe". This is a local delicacy. Personally, I don't like it, but you might like to try it. It's made of sheep's stomach and it's filled with lots of other things, but it's better not to ask what.

**Sport**

If you like sport, Limerick is also great place. There's a strong sporting culture down there. Rugby and soccer are the main sports, but Irish sports such as **hurling\*** and **Gaelic football\*** are also really popular. The summer is best for Hurling and Gaelic Football; and the autumn and spring are best for rugby and soccer.


**Night-life**

Finally, there's also a great bar and social life in Limerick. Pubs are usually open from 11 till about one in the morning. My favourite pub is Mack's on Patrick Street. It's got a balcony and you can have fun looking down at everyone on the ground floor bar. After the pubs close everyone goes to nightclubs. The George Night-Club is really good. They have theme nights, which are a lot of fun. Friday night is 80s night, Sunday is 90s night and Thursday is 70s.

**Shane's Advice**

Well, that's Limerick for you. I hope you get a chance to go there one day. Just before I go, here's my idea of a great day out in Limerick – you may want to copy it:

- Go for a nice walk by the river in the morning.
- Have lunch in one of the bars there.
- In the afternoon, go to watch some sport and see Limerick people at their best.
- Around six or seven in the evening, head off to a nice bar such as Nancy Blake's or Finn's, where there's a great atmosphere.
- Finish off the night in a club such as Aubar's.
- And finally, if you get the chance, go to Limerick for Christmas. It's really beautiful as they **do up** the city with lights and decorations.



**Information Box – A Limerick Story**  
 The Irish love telling stories. Here's one from Limerick: In the late 19th century a British Landlord called Lord Croker was lying on his death-bed when a priest came to visit. Lord Croker had hundreds of acres of land in and around Limerick; in fact he was one of the wealthiest people there. The priest said:  
 "Lord Croker, don't worry. You are going to a better place. You have nothing to fear."  
 And Mr Croker just looked up at the priest and said:  
 "I doubt it! There's no place like Limerick!"

**\*Hurling**  
 Hurling is an Irish game which is a bit like hockey.

**\*Gaelic Football**  
 Gaelic Football is an Irish sport which is a bit like a mixture between rugby and football.

**GLOSSARY**

**stuck** *adj*  
 if you are "stuck with nothing to do", you don't know what to do

**to chat away** *phr vb*  
 to talk for a long period of time about trivial things

**to slag someone** *exp inform*  
 to insult someone – sometimes as a joke

**to have a go at someone** *exp*  
 to attack someone. In this case, in a fun way

**to clean up** *phr vb*  
 to clean completely

**a grid** *n*  
 a number of horizontal and vertical lines form a grid

**off** *exp*  
 if a little street comes "off" a big street, it is connected to that big street

**emerald** *n*  
 a semi-precious green stone

**to rent** *vb*  
 to pay money to use something for a limited period of time

**a lake** *n*  
 an area of water surrounded by land

**ashes** *n*  
 things become "ash" when you burn them

**a brick** *n*  
 a rectangular piece of stone used for building houses. It is usually red

**a lack** *n*  
 if there is a "lack" of something, there is nothing of that thing, or not enough of it

**to let you down** *exp*  
 to disappoint you

**to do up** *phr vb*  
 to renovate, to improve



# IDIOMS

This month we are looking at some idioms with the colour white.



## ◀ To be as white as a sheet

To be very pale because you are sick or frightened:  
"He turned as white as a sheet when he saw the ghost."



## To be a white elephant

To be something (usually a building) that costs a lot of money and is completely useless:  
"That new sports centre cost a fortune and is completely useless because nothing works – it's a white elephant."



## ◀ To swear/say that black is white

To say that something is true even though it obviously isn't; to say the opposite of what is true:  
"He assured us that he had closed all the windows, but it was obvious that he'd left one of them open – he'll swear that black is white to save himself."

## ▲ To be whiter than white

To be completely honest and good, and someone who never does anything bad:  
"They say he's whiter than white, but I don't trust him at all."



## ◀ To see everything in black and white; to appear black and white

To see something in a very superficial and simple way; to appear to be very simple and easy:  
"Things aren't quite as black and white as they appear – that tree definitely wasn't there yesterday."



## ▲ To bleed someone white

To get someone's money by tricking them; to take everything from someone:  
"She got the house, the kids, the car and a large maintenance – she bled him white."

Illustrations by Jorge Tarruella

GLOSSARY to trust *vb* If you trust someone, you believe them and think they are honest

# DICTIONARY OF SLANG



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

## Situation



You invite someone to go for a drive in your new car:

Would you like to come in my car?

Do you fancy going for a **ride** in my new car?

Do you wanna go for a **spin** in my new **motor**?

You want to know when someone is ready:

Please inform me when you are ready

Just tell me when you're ready

Give **us** a **shout** when you're ready

Your boss shouted at you because you left the office without **locking the door**:

I got a formal reprimand for not locking the office door

The boss told me off

I got a lot of **stick** for not locking the office door; I got a right **bollocking** for not locking the office door

Your boyfriend left you:

He terminated our relationship

He left me

He **dumped** me; he **chucked** me

A friend went to the bank to borrow some money. You ask what happened:

Was it a successful meeting?

Did it go well?

Any **joy**?; any luck?

A 4-year-old boy keeps asking the same question. You tell him to stop:

Please stop repeating the same question

Stop being so annoying

Stop nagging me; give it a rest, will you?

You have argued with your partner and now you need to sleep at a friend's house:

May I sleep here tonight?

Could I sleep here tonight?

Can I crash here tonight?; can I doss down here tonight?; can I kip here tonight?

## GLOSSARY

**a ride** *n* a short journey in a car / **to spin** *n* to go around in circles very fast / **a motor** *n* *inform* a car / **us** *exp* *inform* notice how "us" can be used instead of "me" *informally* / **to shout** *vb* to make a loud noise from your mouth / **to lock the door** *exp* to close a door with a key / **a stick** *n* a piece of wood or metal / **a bollock** *n* *offens* a testicle / **to dump** *vb* to put something somewhere very quickly / **to chuck** *vb* to throw something / **joy** *n* happiness



# a guide to the Irish



By David O'Brien (from Dublin)

So you are thinking about visiting Ireland, are you? Well, what do you know about these people who live on the little green island on the edge of the continent? Like many other people, the Irish are sometimes best defined as what they are not. Take for example the Canadians, who always say, "we're not Yanks!", or the New Zealanders who tell you, "we're not bloody **Aussies**, mate!". Well, the Irish are famous for saying, "we're not **bleeding** British!", or, along with their Celtic cousins in Scotland and Wales, "we're not English!". So what exactly are the Irish, apart from not being British or English? Read on and find out!

## a Jackeen



### Friendly

Irish people are normally very friendly and happy. For example, when the Irish soccer team is playing away, the fans who travel to see the match are normally welcomed with open arms. This is because they spend a lot of money in the bars and restaurants, and don't get angry and **go on the rampage** if their team loses. Their hospitality is also world renowned. However, this doesn't mean that you should expect them to buy you a drink in the first bar you go into!

By the way, if someone does offer you a pint, it is customary to return the favour next time you are ordering yourself. This is the basis of the **round system**, also seen in other countries.

People do their best to be helpful, even if sometimes it doesn't seem that way! Don't be afraid to ask for directions, and don't get frightened if the person responds like this:

"Ah, **Jaysus!** now, if I wanted to get where you're going, I wouldn't start from here!"

Don't worry. Eventually they will put you on the right road.

### Two Kinds Of Irish

Irish people can be categorised into two main categories: those from Dublin, the "Jackeens"; and those who are from anywhere else in the country, the "Culchies".

### Jackeens (Dubliners)

The term Jackeen comes from the nineteenth-century. One day **Queen Victoria** visited Ireland and the people of Dublin went on the streets to cheer and wave the Union Jack (the British Flag). The country people (the Culchies) were really angry that the Dubliners had shown so much respect to a "foreign queen", and have never forgotten it since – the Irish in general never forget things like that. From that day on, they referred to Dubliners as Jackeens, from the word "Union *Jack*".

Typical modern-day Jackeens wear **tracksuits** and **baseball caps**. Jackeens tend to think of themselves as really clever, funny and cultured. And they consider the Culchies to be uncultured and a bit too **fond** of their sheep.

### Culchies (Not Dubliners)

Culchies, on the other hand, believe themselves to be decent, hard-working **folk**. They are generally very friendly and more welcoming than the Jackeens. A stereotypical Culchie wears **dirty jeans**, **muddy boots** and can often be seen with a piece of **straw** or a **matchstick** in his mouth. Culchies see the Jackeens as dangerous and dishonest. Unfortunately, both sides are right to some extent in their view of the others.

### Dealing With Them

Jackeens are in general less polite to strangers. So if you ever find yourself being **hassled** by one, or if one of them says something like, "**are you starting?**", you should respond by saying the following:

"Arah! Will ye **feck off**, ye **bloody** Jackeen!", which means:

"Ah! Will you please go away, you horrible Jackeen!"

The Jackeen will be completely **taken aback**. And if your accent doesn't quite **fool** him that you are Irish, at the very least, the shock at being called a Jackeen will leave him momentarily confused – giving you lots of time to make your escape.

### Chat

In other cases, you may like to chat to the locals. If so, you are going to need some topics of conversation. In Ireland, even more so than in other countries, *the* favourite topic of conversation is the weather. Basically, the weather in Ireland is so unpredictable that there's always something to talk about. For example, it can be sunny, rainy, sunny, and rainy again in a few hours, without any warning. In fact, there is a saying in Ireland, that if you don't like the weather, just wait for ten minutes.

### Optimists

The strange thing about the Irish, is that they always expect good weather. Instead of accepting that they live in an oceanic climate with lots of rain and acting accordingly, people seem genuinely confused when it starts to rain and never seem to have an umbrella with them when they need one. For example, you will see young girls walking around in **miniskirts** and T-shirts when it's zero degrees.

**an Aussie** *n inform*  
an Australian

**bleeding** *adj offends*  
this is a version of the word "bloody" and is used to show you are angry

**to go on the rampage** *exp*  
to destroy an area and act in a destructive manner

**the round system** *n*  
this is an unofficial system that says that if someone buys you a drink, you should later invite that person to a drink

**Jaysus** *exp inform*  
an Irish expression of anger, surprise or frustration. «Jesus» in British English

**Queen Victoria** *n*  
Queen Victoria was a British queen who ruled during much of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. At this time Britain had an empire that included Ireland. Most of Ireland (not the north) became independent in 1921

**a tracksuit** *n*  
a jacket and trousers you wear to do sport

**a baseball cap** *n*  
(see picture – the hat the Jackeen is wearing)

**fond of something** *exp*  
if you are "fond of something", you like that thing very much

**folk** *n*

people

**muddy** *adj*  
mud is a mixture of water and earth

**straw** *n*  
a piece of dry, yellow grass. Horses eat it

**a matchstick** *n*

a little stick for lighting a fire

**to hassle** *vb*

to annoy and irritate

**are you starting?** *exp*

are you trying to start a fight?

**feck off** *exp offends Irish*  
the Irish way of saying «fuck off». This is a rude way of saying, «go away!»

**bloody** *adj offends*  
this word is used to show you are angry, frustrated or surprised

**to be taken aback** *exp*  
to be shocked

**to fool** *vb*  
to make someone believe something that isn't true

**a miniskirt** *n*  
a very, very short skirt (clothing women wear to cover their legs)

**to whinge** *vb*  
to complain

**feckin'** *adj offends*  
this is a less offensive, and Irish, version of the word "fucking", which is used to show you are angry, frustrated or surprised

**to yap away** *phr vb*  
to talk

**a bog** *n*  
a large area of wet land

**a snack** *n*  
a small amount of food that you eat between meals

**tough** *adj*  
difficult

**to handle** *vb*  
if you can «handle» something difficult, you are able to do it

**the drinking pace** *n*  
the speed that people drink

**to sink** *vb*  
to drink all at once

**the black stuff** *n*  
"black beer", like Guinness or Murphy's

**to talk shite** *exp offends*  
to enjoy talking about stupid things that are not important

**to snog** *vb inform*  
to kiss passionately

## a calchie



### Complaints

And the complaints about the weather are non-stop. In March and April, when it's really wet and windy, you will hear things like:

"Jaysus! Will the weather ever get better?"  
And in September, after non-stop rain for three months, they

**whinge**:  
"Sure we didn't really have a **feckin'** summer at all!"  
So if you want to start a conversation with anyone, just say, "isn't the weather terrible?" and you will be **yapping away** in no time.

### Where To Meet The Irish

No matter where they are from, most Irish people have one thing in common: they love to drink! Most of their culture is centred round the pub, whether it be down the road in town, or five miles away across a **bog**.

Unfortunately, pubs in Ireland are legally obliged to open and close at certain times. Because of this, Irish people tend to go out early (around 8pm) and drink fast and furiously without stopping to have a meal or even a **snack**. By 11pm, when pubs traditionally stop serving, they are completely drunk. Closing time has recently been extended to 12 and 12.30am, giving drinkers an extra hour. It's a bit **tough** to **handle** the **drinking pace** at first, but don't worry – practice makes perfect, and you'll soon be **sinking** pints of the **black stuff** like the best of them. Then you will also have no trouble with the favourite Irish pub pastimes: **talking shite** and trying to **snog** someone.

# new year in DUBLIN

CD track 5  
Northern Englishman

We all know that December is the biggest party month of the year: there are office parties, end of school parties, Christmas celebrations and New Year's Eve parties. Of course, the New Year's Eve party is usually the biggest of them all. It is the last chance to **let your hair down** before resolving to **get in shape** for the following year. One great place to celebrate this is in one of the world's liveliest cities... Dublin! Let's see how you could spend your New Year in Dublin.

By Lyndsey Anderson.

## 31st December 10:00 - Food Before Drink

The first thing you need in the morning is a good breakfast. We suggest you start your day with a delicious Irish breakfast (egg, bacon, sausage, fried bread, tomatoes and beans). Then for lunch, we recommend some traditional Irish Stew (a kind of soup with meat and vegetables). Two of our favourite restaurants are "Gallagher's Boxty House" and "The Shack". However, if you want something less local, there are hundreds of restaurants in Dublin to choose from, including Chinese, Italian, Indian, Lebanese and Mongolian.

## 31st December. 15:00 - Let's Drink

In the evening you will want to celebrate in one of Dublin's many pubs. But which one? Planning an evening out in Dublin seems like an impossible task as the city is full of them. In fact, the writer James Joyce once wrote in his book, "Ulysses":

Leopold Bloom: "(A) good **puzzle** would be (to try to) cross Dublin without passing a pub"

Just to help you choose one, we have a few recommendations for you. But be careful because they are all popular and you'll have to **book** your tickets in advance for the New Year celebrations:

"The Brazen Head" is in the South of the city. It's more than 800 years old, and it's Dublin's oldest pub (built in 1198). It's lively and it's got lots of character.

Another popular Dublin **drinking hole** is "The Quays" in Temple Bar (an area of Dublin). It is a friendly pub with traditional Irish music and dancing. Don't be surprised if you get **dragged into an impromptu sing-a-long** by some friendly locals. Further down the road is the "Left Bank Bar". This was once part of the Bank of Ireland and it has amazing **decor**, with coins **embedded** in the walls. You can also walk around the old vaults in the basement.

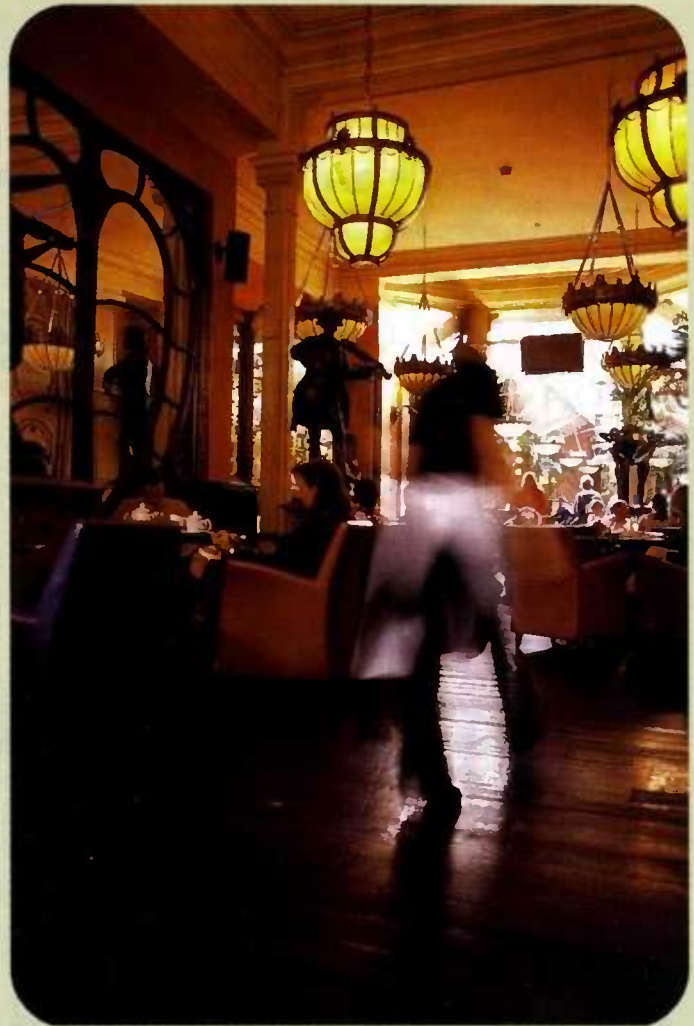
Right next door to the "Left Bank Bar" is "The Oliver St. John Gogarty". Oliver was a very interesting man and his story is worth re-telling. He was a politician, sportsman, doctor and many other things. During the Civil War in 1922 he was captured and sentenced to execution. Fortunately he managed to escape. The Irish poet W.B. Yeats wrote this about the escape:

"Pleading a natural necessity he got into the garden, plunged under a shower of revolver bullets and as he swam the ice-cold December stream promised it, should it land him to safety, two swans". Which is translated as:

"He said he wanted to go to the toilet, got into the garden, ran as they fired at him and swam across the river. He promised to put two **swans** in the river if he survived."

Luckily, he did survive and he later delivered two swans to the River Liffey.

The pub is fantastic. There is a constant party atmosphere in the downstairs bar, where they play a mixture of modern music and



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traditional Irish tunes with lots of people dancing. Upstairs, live Irish bands play on weekends and special occasions, like New Year's Eve. You never need to order your drinks more than once as the friendly bar staff always remember what you are drinking.

## Night Clubs

If you don't want to go to a pub, you may like to go to one of the many nightclubs in Dublin. Dublin has plenty to offer you. There is "Odeon", which is a converted railway station. This is where Dublin's hip and sophisticated young things go. "POD" is also popular. It was once voted European club of the year and attracts all Dublin's house music fans. If you really feel like spoiling yourself and fancy some celebrity spotting, go to "The Kitchen". This is owned by Irish rock band (and Dublin lovers) U2. It is considered by many people to be the best nightclub in the city, if not the world! The music ranges from contemporary dance to hardcore drum 'n' bass. Although popular with celebrities, U2 themselves don't put in many appearances.

## 31st December. 23:20 - The Stroke of Midnight...

OK, you've got your tickets for a New Year party, but before you go, you should go to the city centre. Thousands of Dubliners go here to hear the bells of Christ Church Cathedral. The 15th century bells ring **at the stroke of midnight**, which marks the start of the New Year. The event is popular so get there well before midnight with several jumpers to guarantee a place in the middle of the action. There will be singing (usually drunken versions of "Auld Lang Syne"\* and plenty of kisses from random strangers. After you've enjoyed yourself here, you can go to your pub for dancing and drinking.

## 1st January 2004 - Any energy left?

If New Year's Eve hasn't left you too exhausted, there's plenty to do and see when you wake up (if you do) on New Year's Day (during the day).

There's a "City Tours" bus tour, which takes you past all of Dublin's famous landmarks. You can get on and off the bus as often as you like to explore the sights and then catch the next bus when you're done. It is worth stopping at Dublin Zoo and, of course, the Guinness factory. Here you can watch how Guinness is made and try the finest pint of Guinness Dublin has to offer, while enjoying panoramic views of the city. And of course, the **hair of the dog** will be perfect for any **hangover**.

So, if you're stuck for something to do this New Year, Dublin is the answer. With some of Europe's best shopping, a rich and diverse history and culture to explore and, of course, the world's finest pubs and hospitality, you'll have the time of your life.

**\* "Auld Lang Syne"**

Here are the lyrics to this internationally famous song. It's Scottish English. Most native speakers don't really know what the words mean, but they enjoy singing them anyway. Learn them and join in on New Year's Eve:

*"Should **auld** acquaintance be forgot, and never **brought to mind**,  
Should **auld** acquaintance be forgot and the days of **auld lang syne**.  
For **auld lang syne** my dear; for **auld lang syne**,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, for the sake of **auld lang syne**."*



**Information Box – The Celtic New Year**

The Celtic New Year actually falls on the 1st November. So, traditional Celtic New Year's Eve celebrations are on Halloween, the 31st October. This is known as Samhain. Samhain marks the end of summer and the start of winter and is seen as a magical time. Today, the celebrations have lost their spiritual meaning but

are still an important Irish tradition. There are parades through the centre of Dublin that end with a spectacular firework display.

**GLOSSARY**

**to let your hair down** *exp*

to have a good time

**to get in shape** *exp*

to get physically strong

**lively** *adj (liveliest)*

with lots of people, music and atmosphere

**a puzzle** *n*

a complicated game

**to book** *vb*

to reserve

**a drinking hole** *n*

a pub

**to drag into** *exp*

If someone "drags you into" something, they force you to do that thing

**impromptu** *adj*

improvised – not planned

**a sing-along** *n*

If there is a "sing-along", many people are singing together

**a local** *n*

a person who is from the area you are referring to – Dublin, in this case

**décor** *n abbr*

decoration

**embedded** *n*

if an object is "embedded" in the wall, it is fixed in the wall

**a vault** *n*

a protected room in a bank where they keep money

**a swan** *n*

a large, beautiful white bird

**live** *adj*

"live" music is music that is played by musicians in a concert hall or bar – not recorded music

**a bell** *n*

a large metal object that makes a noise. They have them in churches

**at the stroke of midnight** *exp*

at midnight, exactly

**a jumper** *n*

warm clothing you wear on the top part of your body

**hip** *adj*

fashionable

**to spoil yourself** *exp*

to be especially nice to yourself

**the hair of the dog** *exp*

a drink you have in the morning to help you recover from your hangover (see next entry)

**a hangover** *n*

the terrible feeling the next morning after you have drunk too much alcohol

**auld** *adj Old English*

old

**to bring to mind** *exp*

if something is "brought to your mind", you remember that thing

**auld lang syne** *exp Old English*

the old times

# irishwriters

Illustrations by Edgardo Carosia [www.carosia.com](http://www.carosia.com)

**George Bernard Shaw** - (born in Dublin 1856. Died 1950)

George Bernard Shaw was an Irish **playwright** who wrote many plays that criticised various aspects of society. "The Widower's Houses" (1892) was all about the **slums** and how landlords exploited the residents. "Mrs Warren's Profession" (1893) was an attack on Victorian attitudes to prostitution. His most famous play was "Pygmalion" (1913), which was a **satire** on the English class system. The story is about a **cockney** girl who becomes a **posh** lady after a few classes with a speech specialist. This was Shaw's most successful work, and was later the basis for the musical and film "My Fair Lady" (1956; 1964). In 1925 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.



The Irish have produced some of the most famous English language writers in the world. Three of them are George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce and Oscar Wilde. Let's have a look at them.



**J a m e s**

**Joyce** - (born in Dublin 1882. Died 1941)

James Joyce is considered one of the most influential and significant novelists of the 20th century. Many admire him for the way he uses many radical literary techniques, particularly in his novel, "Ulysses".

His other novels include "Finnegans Wake" (1939), which is about the family of a Dublin **publican**. It is a complex novel full of references to Irish and human history. Another book, "The Dubliners", is a collection of 15 short stories about the sentimental lives of various Dublin residents.

"The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" is an autobiographical account of the adolescence and youth of Stephen Dedalus. The story refers to many aspects of Ireland's religion and politics.

"Ulysses" is perhaps his most famous novel, which many consider the greatest novel of the 20th century. It is all about the events of one day in Dublin, 16th June 1904, and centres on the activities of Leopold Bloom and his wife Molly. What makes the novel really complicated are the unconventional literary techniques that Joyce uses, and all the historical, literary, religious and geographical references. In Dublin you can visit many of the places that Joyce mentions. And every 16th June is Bloom's Day when people dress in period costume and follow the route of the people in the book.

**Oscar Wilde** (born in Dublin 1854. Died 1900).

This Irish author and **wit** had a tragic life and died after spending two years in an English prison. He is most famous for his sophisticated and **witty** plays, and the novel, "The Picture Of Dorian Gray". His masterpiece was "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1895), which is a satire on the English class system.

In 1891, Wilde became "intimate" with an English Lord, the marquess of Queensberry. Wilde was accused of homosexual practices, and was eventually sent to prison. Here are some quotes by this Irish genius:

At **Customs**: "I have nothing to declare but my genius."

"If one could only teach the English how to talk, and the Irish how to listen, society would be quite civilized."

"After a good dinner, one can **forgive** anybody, even one's own **relatives**."

"Life is far too important to talk seriously about."

"He had the sort of face that, once seen, is never remembered."

"He knew the precise psychological moment when to say nothing."

"All women become like their mothers – that is their tragedy; no man does – that is his tragedy."

"Anybody can make history; only a great man can write it."

"Anyone can sympathize with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success."

"Arguments are to be **avoided**; they are always vulgar and often convincing."

"As long as a woman can look ten years younger than her own daughter, she is perfectly satisfied."

"Children begin by loving their parents; after a time they judge them. Rarely they forgive them."

"Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes."

"Genius is born, not paid."

"**I beg your pardon**, I didn't recognise you – I've changed a lot."

"I can believe anything – provided it is incredible."

"I can resist everything except temptation."

"I do not play cricket because it requires me to assume such indecent postures."

"I like Wagner's music better than anybody else's: it is so loud, one can talk the whole time without other people hearing what one says."

"It is a terrible thing for a man to find out suddenly that all his life he has been speaking nothing but the truth."

"Men become old but they never become good."

"Murder is always a mistake; you should never do anything that one cannot talk about after dinner."

"My own business always **bores me to death**; I prefer other people's."

"To be intelligible is to be **found out**."

"The reason we are so pleased to find out other people's secrets is that it distracts public attention from our own."

"There is only one thing in the world that is worse than being talked about, and that is *not* being talked about."

"To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance."

"When people agree with me I always feel that I must be wrong."

"With an evening coat and a white tie, anybody, even a **stockbroker**, can gain a reputation for being civilized."



#### GLOSSARY

**a playwright** *n*  
a person who writes plays (stories that are acted in the theatre)

**a slum** *n*  
an area of a city with poor houses in bad condition

**a satire** *n*  
a story that makes something look ridiculous or stupid

**a cockney** *n*  
a working class person from London

**posh** *adj*  
someone who is rich and sophisticated

**a publican** *n*  
a person who manages a pub

**a wit** *n*  
a very clever person who says many funny and intelligent things

**witty** *adj*

a clever and funny person

**Customs** *n*  
the area in an airport or port where you have to declare goods that you are bringing with you

**to forgive** *vb*  
to accept that someone is sorry for what they have done to you

**relatives** *n*  
your cousins, uncles, aunts, etc

**to avoid** *vb*  
If you "avoid" something, you try very hard never to do that thing

**I beg your pardon** *exp*  
excuse me

**to bore you to death** *exp*  
to make you very bored

**to find out** *phr vb*  
to discover

**a stockbroker** *n*  
a person who buys and sells company shares (stocks)

# MET

# WHAT A LIFE!

We're all worried about our health, and **deep down** we all **long for** a healthy life, free of disease and pain. But what's the best way to achieve this? What should we eat? What should we drink? How much exercise should we do? We decided to analyse the eating, drinking and general living habits of two people from two very different countries: Brad, a 23-year-old American; and Jean-Pierre, a 23-year-old Frenchman. Perhaps there is something that we can learn from them.

**Brad**  
Age: 23  
Weight: 97 kilos  
Profession: university student  
Nationality: American

**Saturday, 10:34am**  
Brad wakes up. It's time for breakfast. This consists of the following: 6 pancakes with syrup, a large glass of milk, a plate of ham and eggs and 6 pieces of toast.

**11:43am**  
After a long, hot shower, Brad goes out to the **shopping mall** to meet up with his friends. It is only 500 metres away, but Brad drives anyway.

**12:04pm**  
Brad and his friends find the nearest McDonald's and have some lunch, which consists of two hamburgers, **French fries** and a chocolate **milkshake**. Afterwards, they go to the **games arcade** and play a few rounds of "Death Destructor".

**14:56pm**  
It's time for lunch so Brad **heads** home. Mum has left him some food in the microwave: **chicken wings** and four hot dogs, and there's a litre of coca-cola in the **fridge**.

**16:03pm**  
Brad's friends **come round** to play on the Playstation. It's time for a **snack** so Brad opens up a **bag of chips** and gets some more coke for his **buddies**.

**20:15pm**  
Brad and his buddies go to the video library and rent a DVD: "**Nightmare** on Elmstreet VIII". They go back to watch it and order six family pizzas with more coke.

**00:19am**  
It's time for bed.



## GLOSSARY

**deep down** *exp*  
deep inside you

**to long for something** *exp*  
to really want something

**a shopping mall** *n*  
a large area with many shops

**French fries** *n US*  
small, long pieces of fried potato. "Chips" in British English

**a milkshake** *n*  
a drink made of ice-cream and chocolate or strawberry flavour

**a games arcade** *n*  
a room with many computer games

**to head** *vb*  
to go

**chicken wings** *n*  
a piece of chicken that is cooked and eaten. Birds use their "wings" to fly

**a fridge** *n*  
a refrigerator - a cold "room" in the kitchen for keeping food and drinks cold and fresh

**to come round** *phr vb*  
if friends "come round", they come to your house

**a snack** *n*  
a small amount of food that you eat between meals

**a bag of chips** *n US*  
a small plastic bag with pieces of fried potato. "Crisps" in

British English

**a buddy** *n US*  
a friend

**a nightmare** *n*  
a bad dream with things that frighten you

**a bidet** *n*  
an object in the bathroom you use to wash your bottom (the part of your body that you sit on)

**to meet up** *phr vb*  
to meet with friends at a specific time and place

**a platter of cheese** *n*  
a plate with many different types of cheese

**to wash down** *phr vb*  
if you "wash down" food with a particular drink, you have that drink to accompany the food

**groggy** *adj*  
if you feel "groggy", you feel bad, your head hurts and you feel very tired

**snooze**  
a short sleep

**a frog** *n*  
an amphibian that lives near water. French people like to eat their legs

**a snail** *n*  
an animal that carries its house on its back. French people like to eat them

**Jean-Pierre**  
Age: 23  
Weight: 64 kilos  
Profession: university student  
Nationality: French

**Saturday, 09:00am**  
Jean-Pierre wakes up. It's time for breakfast. This consists of the following: three cups of strong black coffee, a croissant with butter and jam and two Gauloises cigarettes.

**10:23am**  
After a long, hot bath, and six minutes on the **bidet**, Jean-Pierre phones his friends and they **meet up** to go shopping for clothes. Jean-Pierre drives his Renault Clio.

**12:04pm**  
Jean-Pierre and his friends go to a cafe and order four cups of strong black coffee. They have an intellectual philosophical discussion on "liberte", "fraternite" and "egalite". In total, they smoke a packet of Gauloises.

**13:03pm**  
It's time for lunch. Jean-Pierre goes home and prepares himself the following: a **platter of cheese** (the smelly variety) and a bowl of olives. This is accompanied by a baguette and is all **washed down** with a bottle of "vin rouge" (red wine). After this feast, Jean-Pierre feels a little sleepy and lies down for a three-hour **snooze**.

**16:03pm**  
Jean-Pierre wakes up feeling a little **groggy**. He has two more cigarettes and another cup of strong black coffee, which helps wake him up. He phones his friends and they arrange to go to the cinema to see a French film (of course).

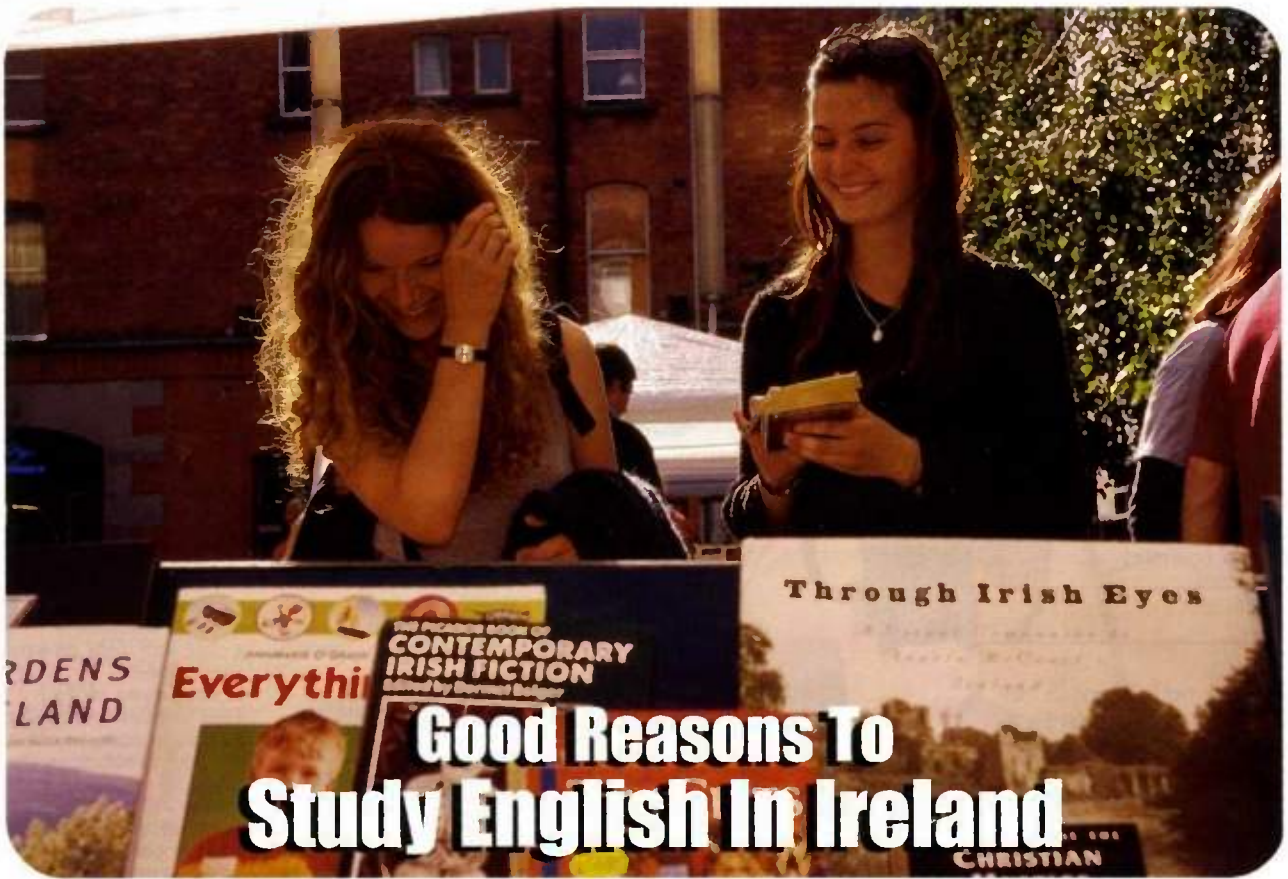
**22:25pm**  
The film has finished and Jean-Pierre head for a bar. They discuss the merits of the four-hour film in which a man suddenly discovers that he is dissatisfied with life and decides to end it all by jumping off a bridge. In the bar, Jean-Pierre and his friends eat sixteen **frogs'** legs, 78 **snails** and drink 6 bottles of "vin blanc" (white wine). They smoke a further twenty one packets of cigarettes.

**04:19am**  
It's time for bed.

**Conclusion**  
So, from our two diaries of a Frenchman and American you can see what they do and eat in a typical day. Which lifestyle is the best? Who knows? But perhaps we can learn something from them both. Vive la France! And, God bless America!

Illustration by V.C.





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# Good Reasons To Study English In Ireland

Ireland's a great place for a holiday: there's beautiful **scenery**, charming towns and the people are wonderful. But it's also a great place to study. Let's see why.

### Talkers

The best thing about studying in Ireland is that you'll have so many opportunities to practise English. The Irish are an expressive race, and just love **chatting**. In fact, they're possibly the most sociable people in the world and just love talking to strangers and foreigners. You'll soon feel welcome wherever you go, and if you ever feel like having a chat, just **pop down** to the **local** pub and you'll find someone who's **willing** to talk to you.

### Writers

The Irish are good writers too. Ever since English became the most common language, they've contributed to it, **enhanced it, enriched it** and given it something special. They've produced many world-class English-language writers, which is incredible when you consider how small Ireland's population is (about 4 million people). Many of the famous writers and novelists that you probably thought were "English", were in fact Irish, such as George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce, and Oscar Wilde (see our article on Irish writers for more information).

### Beauty

You'll also be amazed by Ireland's natural beauty. There are **quaint** towns and picturesque villages with welcoming locals. In fact, Ireland is full of small towns with a vibrant social life. Even the capital city, Dublin, only has a million people living there. Ireland is also a country with a lot of history, and a well-defined culture. You can find out all about this in the many museums, libraries, art galleries, theatres and music festivals. On top of that, you can do just about any sport you like, whether it's golf, riding, sailing, walking, fishing or anything else.

### Latinos

Ireland's also a safe country. People live a quiet peaceful way of life, going out, being sociable and generally enjoying themselves. Ev-

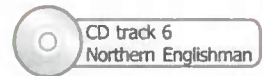
eryone who visits Ireland comes back with wonderful memories of the kind, warm, helpful people who are keen to talk; and that's probably why they call them the "Latinos of the north".

### Top Teaching

Once you've **made up your mind** to study in Ireland, you're going to need to choose a centre. But which one? Well, it's very simple really. All the centres that appear in the guide on studying in Ireland are recognised and authorised by the Irish Ministry of Education. There are regular inspections and the schools only pass if they comply with strict standards that relate to the quality of teaching, the acceptability of the location, the careful selection of housing and the personal attention the student receives from the centre. All the schools must use the most up-to-date teaching methods, and have qualified teachers with experience teaching English as a foreign language.

### Exams & Courses

Next you're going to need to decide what type of course you want to do. In the guide you'll find everything you could possibly imagine, including courses for children, courses for youngsters, courses for





adults, courses for professionals and year-long courses in local secondary schools. Once you have identified the type of course you are looking for, you can decide how long you want to go and when you want to go. You may also like to study for an exam such as the Cambridge First Certificate – well, that’s no problem, just look at the information on the schools and you’ll find what you’re looking for. There are also opportunities to do paid-work, or **internships** in order to get valuable experience.

### Families

Once you’ve chosen your centre and the type of course, you’ll need to decide on some accommodation. The best way of getting your fluency **up-to-scratch** is to live with a family. This gives you 24-hour a day opportunities to practise your English. Of course, you may find it hard at first, but after a while, you’ll find yourself talking without having to think first; and in Ireland you’ll find it even easier as the Irish are a sociable people who will be more than willing to help you and listen to you.

Most families offer **full-board**, which means breakfast, lunch (which you can take out with you) and dinner during the week, and all the meals during the weekend. We’re sure you’ll really enjoy this option, and after a short time you may even find yourself being treated like another son or daughter.

There are other accommodation options too, such as university residences, hotels, hostels, bed-and-breakfast, shared flats or individual apartments.

So, choose Ireland as your next destination to study English and we guarantee you’ll have an unforgettable experience.

### GLOSSARY

**scenery** *n*

the land, the country, the view you can see

**chatting** *n*

talking informally

**to pop down** *phr vb*

to go down for a quick visit

**local** *adj*

if something is “local”, it is very close to the place you are referring to

**willing** *adj*

if you are “willing” to do something, you really want to do that thing

**to enhance** *vb*

to increase the value of something

**to enrich** *vb*

to make something better

**quaint** *adj*

small and traditional

**to make up your mind** *exp*

to decide

**an internship** *n*

a period of time working in a company to get experience.

The work is not paid

**up-to-scratch** *adj*

to an acceptable level

**full-board** *adj*

a hotel that offers “full-board”, gives you breakfast, lunch and dinner



# BRITISH BAR CHAT - Irish Bars

CD track 7 & 8

*Conversational crap from native speakers*

This month Geoffrey and Harry are talking about Irish bars. Listen to their conversation and answer these two questions. Remember, you don't have to understand every word in order to answer the questions. Just listen for the key words (the most important words in the conversation):

**Exercise**

1. According to one of the speakers, where is the best place to go to an Irish bar?
2. What are the good things about Irish bars according to the other speaker?



**GLOSSARY**

**a flat** *n*  
an apartment

**what was it like?** *exp*  
this question means: "please describe the place to me"

**brilliant** *adj*  
excellent, very good

**you know?** *exp*  
people often say this to check that the other person is understanding

**the craic** *n Irish*  
having fun, and a good time

**like** *exp*  
people often use this word when they are thinking about what to say next. It is used to fill space in a conversation and it doesn't mean anything

**pool** *n*  
"pool" is a game similar to billiards

**stuff** *n Inform*  
things in general

**to run** *vb*  
to control and manage a business

**do you fancy...** *exp* would you like to...

**ANSWERS**

1. One of the speakers thinks that the best place to go to an Irish bar is in Ireland.
2. The other speaker says that Irish bars are great because of all the music, dancing, plus the big screen TV, the games, the pool and the general atmosphere.

Geoffrey: I went to this great new bar just down the road from my flat yesterday.

Harry: Yeah, **what was it like?**

Geoffrey: Oh, it was **brilliant!** Oh, it was great it was one of those, one of those Irish bars, **you know**, sort of thing.

Harry: Irish bars! Oh, no, why, why'd you go? You know, we're in Spain. Why'd you go to an Irish bar?

Geoffrey: No, it's, you know, it's, it's, it's **the craic**. That's, that's what they call it. That's what, what the, the Irish call it, it's brilliant, you know, they've got the music, they've got the, the dancing. Everyone, everyone sort of talking and, you know, the great atmosphere, it's brilliant.

Harry: You know, go to Ireland for that. Why go to an Irish bar when you're in Spain?

Geoffrey: No, what, what, what you want when you go to a bar? And it doesn't matter whether you're in Spain, you're in England or Ireland, whatever. You're just looking for a good time, aren't you? And this is brilliant, they've got the big screen TV with the sport. They've got all, **like**, the games, the **pool** tables and **stuff**. But it's just great. There's everything going on. It's brilliant.

Harry: Yeah, but it's not, you know, they call it an Irish bar, but it's not an Irish, it's just like a normal bar **run** by, maybe, I don't...

Geoffrey: No, no, no but, like, the actual people that are in this place, they are actually Irish, you know, and all the staff are Irish. So, you know, it's, it's kind of, it is an Irish bar, and all the stuff is imported from Ireland. So it's, it's Irish.

Harry: Well, I don't agree. I can't understand why someone would want to go to an Irish bar if they're in Spain.

Geoffrey: And they've got the proper beer. They've got the Guinness, the Murphy's, they've got all that sort of stuff. It's absolutely brilliant. Anyway, **do you fancy** going for a pint now?

Harry: Oh no I couldn't. I had ten pints of Guinness last night in that bar down the road.

Geoffrey: McMurphy's?

Harry: Oh, yeah. I suppose that's the name, isn't it? Yeah.



# US BAR CHAT - Taxi Drivers & Motorcyclists

CD track 9 & 10



More conversational crap from native speakers

This month we are going to listen to two young Americans, Reid and James, talking about taxi drivers and motorcyclists. They are trying to decide which group are the worst at driving. Listen to all the conversation and answer these two questions. Remember, you don't have to understand every word in order to answer the questions, you just have to listen for the key words (the most important words):

Exercise

1. What frightening experience did one of the speakers have with a motorcyclist?
2. Do both speakers have the same opinion at the end?

Reid: Alright, **man**. Who do you think is **crazier**, the taxi-drivers or the motorcyclists?

James: That's a good question. I may have to say the taxi-drivers **cos** they just don't even care.

Reid: Over the motorcyclists, you think the taxi, taxi-drivers are crazier?

James: Well, yeah, **I mean**, they do get paid for their job, but they, **they just don't give a shit**.

Reid: **Dude**, I was (laughs) I was walking down the **sidewalk** the other day, and this crazy **asshole** on his stupid little **moped** came about 30 miles an hour in my direction. On the sidewalk, man, it was insane.

James: I **guess** taxi-drivers don't do that, but they do **swerve** in and out through the **lanes like mad**.

Reid: Yeah, but, but the motorcyclists they don't wear **helmets**, they **haul ass** in and out of traffic.

James: **Erm**, some of them wear helmets, but just some. But yeah, going back to the taxi-drivers, I mean, they get paid, but who knows what the, what **the hell** they're thinking while they're driving.

Reid: Yeah I can, **I can see, kind of, where you're coming from**, man. I've seen some taxi-drivers absolutely **flip out** in the middle of traffic.

James: (Laughs) When you see 'em driving in there, and they'll turn around and start talking to you, and who knows what else they are thinking.

Reid: (Laughs) No, **no kidding**, I've definitely experienced that a few times.

James: But, who knows. They use their **horns**, like, I don't know, they're eating **candy**, and, who knows what else they are thinking while they are driving.

Reid: True, but, erm, you know, motorcyclists probably die a whole lot easier.

James: So, who do you think's more crazy, taxi-drivers or motorcyclists?

Reid: Erm, I'd say without a doubt the, erm, motorcyclists for sure. And you?

James: Taxi-drivers.

GLOSSARY

**man** *exp inform*  
this is used to refer to someone in an informal way

**crazier** *adj (crazy)*  
mad, insane

**cos** *abbr*  
because

**I mean** *exp*  
this is often used to change the direction of your conversation, or to introduce something important that you are about to say

**they just don't give a shit** *exp*  
*offens*  
they don't care; it isn't a problem for them

**dude** *exp inform US*  
this is used to refer to someone (usually a man) in an informal way

**the sidewalk** *n US*  
the area next to a road where you can walk. "Pavement" in British English

**an asshole** *n* *offens*  
a word used to refer to someone you hate or are angry with

**a moped** *n*  
a small motorbike – usually 50 cc

**to guess** *vb*  
to suppose

**to swerve** *vb*  
to suddenly change direction while you are driving

**a lane** *n*  
big roads have many lines of traffic, which are known as "lanes"

**like mad** *exp*  
as if he/she were crazy/insane

**a helmet** *n*  
an object you wear on your head to protect your head

**to haul ass** *exp US inform* *offens*  
to go very fast

**erm** *exp*  
this is the noise that people make while they are thinking what to say

**the hell** *exp* *offens*  
people use this expression to show they are angry or frustrated

**I can see, kind of, where you're coming from** *exp*  
I think I can understand what you are trying to say. "Kind of" means more or less

**to flip out** *phr vb*  
to suddenly do something stupid or dangerous

**'em** *abbr*  
them

**no kidding** *exp*  
I agree with you completely

**a horn** *n*  
the object that makes a noise in a car. You use it while driving to "communicate" with other drivers when you are angry or impatient

**candy** *n US*  
sweets – we aren't sure why the speaker compares using a horn with eating candy

ANSWERS

1. One of the speakers had a frightening experience when a motorcyclist (on a moped) drove towards him on the sidewalk.
2. No, the speakers don't agree with one another, they have different opinions.

**"Crying" - Aerosmith (American band)**

There was a time, when I was so brokenhearted,  
Love wasn't much of a friend of mine, the **tables have turned**, yeah  
'Cause me and them ways have **parted**, that kind of love was the **killing kind**,  
All I want is someone I can't resist, I know all I need to know by the way that I got kissed,  
I was crying when I met you, now I'm trying to forget you,  
Your love is sweet misery, I was crying just to get you,  
Now I'm dying 'cause I let you, **do what you do, down on me**.

Now there's not even **breathing room**, between pleasure and pain,  
Yeah you cry when we're making love, must be **one and the same**,  
It's down on me, yeah, I got to tell you one thing,  
It's been on my mind, girl I **gotta** say,  
We're partners in crime, you got that certain something,  
What you give to me, **takes my breath away**,  
Now the word out on the street, is the devil in your kiss,  
If our love **goes up in flames**, it's a fire I can't resist.

**the tables have turned** *exp*

"things have changed and now I am in a position of power"

**'cause** *abbr*

because

**to part** *vb*

to separate

**the killing kind** *exp*

if you describe love as the "killing kind", you are saying that it was a relationship that hurt you

**do what you do, down on me** *exp*

this expression is referring to a sexual act that involves someone going on his or her knees in order to do something to the other person

**breathing room** *n*

space to think and live

**one and the same** *exp*

identical

**gotta** *abbr*

have got to

**to take your breath away** *exp*

to surprise you, to excite you

**to go up in flames** *exp*

to burn



For copyright reasons, we can't put these on the CD - sorry!

# Classic

## Songs



**"Mrs Robinson" - Simon & Garfunkel (American singers - the song is from the film "The Graduate", starring Dustin Hoffman)**

And here's to you, Mrs. Robinson,  
Jesus loves you more than you will know, (wo wo wo)  
**God bless you** please, Mrs. Robinson,  
Heaven **holds** a place for those who **pray** (hey hey hey, hey hey hey)

We'd like to know a little bit about you for our **files**,  
We'd like to help you learn to help yourself,  
Look around you, all you see are **sympathetic** eyes,  
**Stroll around** the grounds, until you feel at home.

And here's to you, Mrs. Robinson,  
Jesus loves you more than you will know, (wo wo wo)  
God bless you please, Mrs. Robinson,  
Heaven holds a place for those who pray (hey hey hey, hey hey hey)

Hide it in a hiding place where no one ever goes,  
Put it in your **pantry** with your **cupcakes**,  
It's a little secret, just the Robinsons' affair,  
Most of all, you've got to hide it from the **kids**.

Coo coo ca-choo, Mrs Robinson,  
Jesus loves you more than you will know, (wo wo wo)  
God bless you, please, Mrs Robinson,  
Heaven holds a place for those who pray (hey hey hey, hey hey hey)

**God bless you** *exp*

this expression is used to express thanks, affection or a desire for good health

**to hold** *vb*

in this case: to have

**to pray** *vb*

to speak to God and ask for things

**files** *n*

a collection of information in a computer or in a paper folder

**sympathetic** *adj*

understanding

**to stroll around** *phr vb*

to walk in a place with no particular objective

**a pantry** *n*

a room in the kitchen where you can keep food

**a cupcake** *n*

a little round cake

**a kid** *n*

a child

**"True Colors" - Cyndi Lauper (American singer)**

You with the sad eyes, **don't be discouraged**,  
Oh I **realize**, it's hard to **take courage**,  
In a world full of people, you can **lose sight** of it all,  
And the darkness inside you, can make you feel so small.

But I see your true colors, **shining** through,  
I see your true colors, and that's why I love you,  
So don't be afraid to let them show, your true colors,  
True colors are beautiful, like a **rainbow**.

Show me a smile then, don't be unhappy,  
Can't remember, when I last saw you laughing,  
If this world makes you crazy, and **you've taken all you can bear**,  
You call me up, because you know I'll be there.



**don't be discouraged** *n*

don't become depressed

**to realize** *vb*

to understand

**to take courage** *exp*

to prepare yourself to face a difficult situation

**to lose sight of something** *exp*

to forget about important things because you are thinking too much about other trivial things

**to shine** *vb*

to give out a bright light

**a rainbow** *n*

a semi-circle of different colours that you can see sometimes in the sky when it rains

**you've taken all you can bear** *exp*

you can accept no more, the pressure is too much for you

### "Ebony & Ivory" - Paul McCartney

**Ebony** and **ivory**, live together in perfect harmony,  
Side by side on my **piano keyboard**, oh Lord, why don't we?

We all know that people are the same, wherever you go,  
There is good and bad in everyone, learn to live, we learn to  
give each other,  
What we need to survive, together alive.

Ebony and ivory, live together in perfect harmony,  
Side by side on my piano keyboard, oh Lord, why don't we?

**ebony** *n*  
a very hard, black wood

**ivory** *n*  
a type of white bone which grows out of an elephant's head

**the piano keyboard** *n*  
the black and white area of a piano that you play with your hands



### "Brown-Eyed Girl" - Van Morrison (Irish singer)

Hey, where did we go, days when the rains came?,  
Down in the **hollow**, playing a new game,  
Laughing and **a-running**, hey, hey, **skipping** and a-jumping,  
In the **misty** morning **fog**, with our, our hearts **a-thumping**,  
And you, my brown-eyed girl, you, my brown-eyed girl.

Whatever happened, to Tuesday and so slow,  
Going down to the old **mine** with a **transistor radio**,  
Standing in the sunlight laughing, hide behind a rainbow's wall,  
**Slipping** and **a-sliding**, all along the **waterfall**,  
With you, my brown-eyed girl, you, my brown-eyed girl.

Do you remember when we used to sing,  
Sha la la la la la la la la la la dee dah,  
Just like that, sha la la la la la la la la la la dee dah,  
La dee dah.

**a hollow** *n*  
a place with an empty space in it

**a-running** *exp*  
the "a" is here to help the singer make the words go with the music  
**to skip** *vb*

to run and jump many times

**misty** *adj*  
with water in the air near the ground - this often makes it difficult to see

**fog** *n*  
with a lot of water in the air near the ground

**to thump** *n*  
if your heart is "thumping", it is beating very hard

**a mine** *n*  
a tunnel that is constructed in the ground and which is used to take out metals, coal, etc

**a transistor radio** *n*  
a small radio that you can hold in your hand

**to slip** *vb*  
if you "slip", you lose your balance and fall

**to slide** *vb*  
to move slowly and smoothly over a surface

**a waterfall** *n*  
a place where water falls over a mountain or cliff

# in the news...

CD tracks 11 & 12  
American woman,  
northern  
Englishman,  
American woman

## GLOSSARY

**to miss school** *exp*

not to go to school

**to try** *vb*

if someone is "tried", there is a legal process and people decide if the person is innocent or guilty

**truancy** *n*

not going to school

**to deal with someone** *exp*

to take action against someone

**to back up** *phr vb*

to support, to help

**a roll call** *n*

when there is a "roll call", someone reads out a list of names to see if everyone is there

**a court** *n*

a building or room where they have legal processes

**a trial** *n*

a legal process where there is a decision about whether someone is innocent or guilty

**a lawyer** *n*

a person who represents you in a legal process

**a squawk** *n*

a loud noise that a bird makes from its mouth

**a pet** *n*

an animal that lives with you in your home

**a judge** *n*

a person who controls a legal process

**a carpet** *n*

a piece of thick material that is on the floor in a house for decoration or to conserve heat

**a mess** *n*

in this case, excrement

**a witness** *n*

a person who has seen a crime

**a seed** *n*

if you put a "seed" in the ground, a tree or plant will grow

**to belong** *vb*

if something "belongs" to you, it is yours

**a can** *n*

a metal container for liquids like beer

**to pick up** *phr vb*

to take something in your hands, usually from the ground

**to knock back** *phr vb*

to drink very quickly

**to down** *vb*

to finish your drink

**to pose** *vb*

to stand in a position so someone can take a photo of you

**to shoot up** *phr vb*

to increase dramatically



## Prison

"This is the most ridiculous thing that's ever happened to me," said Joy Grace after she was sentenced to two months in prison because her son had **missed school**. She was **tried** under a new law in Ireland which punishes parents who ignore their children's **truancy**.

"Some children never go to school," said David Sweeny, a headmaster from a secondary school in Dublin. "And the parents don't do anything about it. This new law will **deal with them**," he added.

The new law is also **backed up** by the latest technology. A central database records the names of absent students each day. And if a child misses **roll call**, the system automatically sends a message to parents on their mobile phones. "It's quick and efficient and we're very pleased with it," Mr Sweeny added. Parents without a mobile phone receive a more traditional telephone call. Meanwhile 42-year-old Mrs Grace is serving her sentence in a women's prison in Dublin.

## What A Lovely Bird!

There were strange noises coming from **court** six during a **trial** in San Francisco last month. Instead of the usual sounds of **lawyers** presenting cases or defending clients, there were loud **squawks** of "hello", "shut up" and "go away". So who was responsible for all this noise? Actually, it was an 18-year-old parrot called Bozie.

The parrot originally belonged to Miss Rachel Accardi. She bought him about 6 years ago; however, she had to give him to a friend after she moved to an apartment with strict no-**pet** rules. The new owner, Mr Southby, 35, claims the bird is now his. Miss Accardi disagrees.

"I've never quite had a case like this where there's so much love and emotion on both sides," admitted the **judge**.

During the trial a new **carpet** had to be placed under the bird because of all the **mess**; and **witnesses** occasionally asked for questions to be repeated because of all the noise. During breaks, Bozie received water and **seeds** to keep him happy. In the end, the judge decided the bird **belonged** to Mr Southby. "The judge did the right thing," Mr Southby said.



## Beer For Pigs

One of the top tourist attractions in the state of Alabama is a 4-year-old pig with a taste for beer; and thousands of tourists have crossed state borders to come and see him. The pig, who is known as "Hogswallop", had his first drink two years ago. His owner, Pete Bouze, had left a full **can** of beer on the ground. Seconds later, Hogswallop **picked up** the can with his teeth and **knocked back** the contents. When Mr Bouze came back, he saw the pig with the can in its mouth:

"I couldn't believe it at first. Then I got another can, opened it and watched how my pig **downed** the contents. He seemed to really like it, and, of course, he got a bit drunk, which was really funny. He was trying to walk but he kept

falling over."

Mr Bouze later sold the pig to a circus. And now Hogswallop is working for the Alabama ministry of tourism, **posing** for photos and entertaining visitors at a small farm outside the town of Drinkem; and since then, tourism rates have **shot up**.



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# Irish music...

The Irish love music; and anywhere you go in Ireland there'll be someone playing in the street or in a bar. Traditional Irish music is a kind of Celtic music which is often referred to as "diddly – eye". It's the kind of music that no young person admits listening to, but which all Irish people claim to love, especially if they're away from home. Let's look at some typical Irish music.

## Elvis Presley

One of the most famous songs in Ireland is "Danny Boy" (also known as the "Derry Air"). Elvis Presley once did a version of it, and Irish people often sing it at funerals or in other social occasions.

It's a really sad song, that has become identified with Ireland and its **struggle** for independence. It is supposedly sung by a **grieving** mother, but no one is really sure what she's crying about. Some say it could be about a death during the **potato famine**, or about a friend or son who **emigrated**.

The tune of "Danny Boy" was written by an Irishman, Rory Dall O'Cahan in the late 17th century. However, the words as we know them today were written by a British lawyer, Frederick Edward Weatherly in the 19th century. Here are the lyrics to the song:

## & Irish songs

### Danny Boy

Oh Danny boy, the **pipes**, the pipes are calling,  
From **glen** to glen, and down the mountain side,  
The summer's gone, and all the flowers are dying,  
'Tis you, 'tis you must go and I must **bide**.

But come ye back when summer's in the **meadow**,  
Or when the valley's **hushed** and white with snow,  
'Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,  
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so.

And if you come, when all the flowers are dying,  
And I am dead, as dead I well may be,  
You'll come and find the place where I am lying,  
And **kneel** and say an "**Ave**" there for me.

And I shall hear, **tho'** soft you **tread** above me,  
And all my dreams will warm and sweeter be,  
If you'll not fail to tell me that you love me,  
I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me,  
I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me.

## Rebel songs

Many Irish people also love to sing **rebel** songs. These are songs about Ireland's struggle for **independence** from the British. Of course, many are ironic and sarcastic and **slag** the British and their armed forces in Ireland at the time. For example, one written by Peadar Kearney, the author of the Irish National Anthem, describes the 1916 **Easter Rising**.

Other rebel songs are about atrocities by the **Black and Tans**. These were British veterans from World War One. They were sent to Ireland to deal with the **IRA**. In one of their worst atrocities the Black and Tans killed 13 people in a stadium who were watching the "All-Ireland **Hurling** Final". One of these rebel songs, "A Nation Once Again", was recently voted the most popular song in the world by BBC listeners.

One of the best known songs is "Kevin Barry", which describes the hanging of an 18-year-old medical student. Another popular song is "James Connolly", which is about one of the organisers of the Easter Rising. Here are the lyrics to this song:

### The Death Of James Connolly

A great crowd had gathered outside of **Kilmainham**,  
With their heads all uncovered, they knelt on the ground,  
For inside that **grim** prison, lay a brave Irish soldier,  
**His life for his country about to lay down**.

He went to his death like a true son of Ireland,  
The firing party he bravely did face,  
Then the order rang out: "Present arms, Fire!"  
James Connolly fell into a **ready-made grave**.

The **black flag** they **hoisted**, the cruel **deed** was over,  
Gone was the man who loved Ireland so well,  
There was many a sad heart in Dublin that morning,  
When they murdered James Connolly, the Irish rebel.





Many years have gone by since the Irish rebellion,  
When the guns of Britannia they loudly did speak,  
And the bold IRA they stood shoulder to shoulder,  
And the blood from their bodies flowed down  
Sackville Street.

The Four Courts of Dublin, the English bombarded,  
The spirit of freedom, they tried hard to **quell**,  
But above all the **din**, came the cry: "No surrender!"  
**T'was** the voice of James Connolly, the Irish rebel.

### Moving Forward

These days the traditional ballads are still popular with the Irish, but internationally, it's their pop and rock groups that sell records. Lots of famous bands have come from Ireland, including U2, Thin Lizzy, The Boomtown Rats, Enya, The Undertones, The Cranberries, and The Corrs... and we're sure they'll be lots, lots more to come.

### GLOSSARY

**a struggle** *n*

a fight

**grieving** *adj*

if someone is "grieving", they are very sad because someone has died

**the potato famine** *n*

in the 19th century thousands of Irish people died or went to England, America or other countries because of a disease that destroyed potatoes.

At the time, potatoes were the most common food. The British government did little to help the Irish

**the pipes** *n*

a musical instrument. You blow air through it and it makes a sound

**a glen** *n*

an area of land between two mountains – a valley

**'tis** *exp Old English*

it is

**to bide** *vb Old English*

to wait

**a meadow** *n*

an area of grass where cows live and eat

**to hush** *vb*

to make someone be quiet

**to kneel** *vb (past: knelt)*

to go onto your knees (the joint in the middle of your legs)

**an Ave** *abbr*

an Ave Maria – some words that Catholics say when they are talking to God

**tho'** *exp Old English*

though

**to tread** *vb*

if you "tread" on something, you put your feet on it

**a rebel** *n*

In this case, an Irish person who was fighting against the British

**Independence** *n*

until 1921 Ireland was part of the British Empire. In 1921 the British made all of Ireland independent ex-

cept the north, which is still part of the United Kingdom

**to siag** *vb*

to say bad things about someone

**the Easter Rising** *n*

this was a revolt in 1916 by some Irish rebels against the British. Most of the fighting happened in Dublin

**the Black and Tans** *n*

British veterans from the First World War who were sent to fight Irish rebels

**the IRA** *abbr*

the Irish Republican Army – they were fighting the British in order to get independence

**hurling** *n*

a game similar to hockey

**Kilmainham** *n*

a prison in Dublin. Many Irish rebels were executed here

**grim** *adj*

depressing

**his life for his country about to lay down** *exp*

notice how the word order in this sentence is a little bit different. In more conventional English this would be: about to lay down his life for his country.

If you "lay down your life for your country", you die for your country

**a ready-made grave** *n*

a grave (a hole in the ground for a dead body) that is already prepared (ready-made)

**to hoist** *vb*

if you "hoist" a flag, you make the flag go up a pole

**a deed** *n*

an act

**to quell** *vb*

to destroy

**a din** *n*

a lot of noise

**t'was** *Old English*

it was

# Sports

## in Ireland

The Irish love sport. They play all the major international ones such as soccer, rugby and golf, and many of their athletes and sports personalities become internationally famous, such as Manchester United's captain Roy Keane. However, there are also lots of other uniquely Irish sports in Ireland such as Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie. "Hey! I never heard of any of those!" you may say. "What the hell is Camogie?" Well, don't worry. We'll explain.

By David O'Brien



### A Totally New Sport

Gaelic Football is only played in Ireland and in Irish communities in other countries. It all started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the time, Ireland was occupied by the English and was part of the British Empire. The English dominated political life in Ireland. Many Irish people were against this and tried hard to maintain their way of life and aspects of their unique culture. Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century they set up an organisation known as the "Gaelic Athletic Association", which wanted to promote Irish sports. The people in this association said, "hey, **this isn't on**. All our **kids** are playing soccer and some are even playing rugby! They shouldn't be playing those **bleeding** English sports! We'll have to do something about it!"

So what did they do? Well, they invented a totally new sport and called it **Gaelic Football\***. The new sport **did the trick** and is one of the most popular sports in Ireland today. In fact, this is the reason why the Irish international soccer team isn't as good as it could be because many of the most talented footballers choose to play Gaelic Football instead of soccer. Incidentally, until 1970, anyone playing a "foreign sport" (such as soccer) was banned from playing Gaelic Football.

### Rugby & Football

So, how do you play this game? It's quite simple really. Gaelic Football is a bit like a mixture between soccer and rugby. Of course, the Gaelic Athletic Association would hate to hear this said about their game. But the fact is the game is very similar to these two "English" sports. Just like in rugby, the goals are H-shaped, however there is a **goalie** just like in soccer. You get a point if you put the ball over the **crossbar**; and a goal (worth three points) if you get it under the crossbar and past the goalie, just like in soccer. You can hold the ball, but you can't **pick it up** directly off the ground. It is played with 15 players in each team and there are forty minutes in each **half**.

### Tough Boys

These days, Gaelic Football is a semi-contact sport. In theory, physical fights for the ball are **banned** (this rule was written in 1887), although you are allowed to **shoulder** your opponent, and use one hand to get the ball. However, in practice it does get quite violent. In fact, the most exciting parts of the match are the **scraps** between the teams; and even the **coaches** have been known to join in from time to time. It's all good clean fun, though, and the two teams will join each other afterwards for a pint of Guinness and laugh about the **punches** and **bruises**. Sometimes, the players have had a fair few **scoops** the night before the match, but they are **tough** boys who have no problem getting out on the **pitch** next morning.

### Competitions

These days Gaelic Football is strictly amateur. This means that no one gets paid to play, and most people play and train after work or on the weekends. Throughout the country there are school leagues, local team leagues and a country-wide league. There are two important finals: the Irish club league, which is held in Croke Park, Dublin, the largest stadium in Ireland on 17<sup>th</sup> March (St Patrick's day); and the inter-county final, which is held in September. The largest ever crowd for the club league final was in 1961, when more than ninety thousand people came to Dublin. However, many more than that usually travel there. They watch the match in a pub near to the ground or in the city centre, ready to join in the celebrations which will follow if their county wins the "Sam Maguire Cup". Even if their team loses, people usually take it philosophically and hope for better luck next year. They will drink nearly as much as the fans of the winning team, and often in the same pubs. The rival fans exchange **jests**, **slaggings** and serious commentary, but hardly ever anything else. In contrast to soccer,



the rivalry between teams is nearly always very friendly, and the fights are restricted to the pitch.

### Your Game

If you are in Ireland, you may like to see a game for yourself. Tickets for the finals are **like gold-dust**, but it's quite easy to see a regular match in one of the stadiums around the country. Just drive around on a Sunday and you will see lots of these games on local pitches. Unfortunately, it isn't that easy to join in yourself as the locals won't believe you know the rules. However, if you tell them what you have just learned from this article, they may let you join in the celebrations after the match, which is, of course, the most important part of any sport! So that's Gaelic football for you, but what about the other sports?

### Hurling

Hurling is another truly traditional Irish sport. In fact, it is the oldest field sport in Europe. Apparently, the heroes of Irish myths and legends played the game in varying forms before it was regulated in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. It was forbidden by the conquering English in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and revived by the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1894. The easiest way to describe it is as something similar to hockey – taken to its extreme. Hurling is played with a **stick** and ball on a pitch about 200 metres by 150. The stick is called a **hurl**, or **hurley**, and has a wide flat end so that you can carry the hard leather ball – called a **sliothar** – as you run. The sliothar can be hit into the air, caught in the hand and kicked. The sliothar is often thrown from one end of the pitch to the other and sometimes it goes straight through the goal posts for a point. This means that a player can score a goal in just a couple of seconds, making hurling *the* fastest field sport in the world.

### Pints

If Gaelic Football is for tough men, then hurling is for mad men. It is one of the **roughest** games you can play, mainly because the players have a stick **at their disposal** as well as **fists**. They don't have any protection either. In school leagues a **helmet** is obligatory, but not at Inter-county level, and is **scorned** by many players. If you ask them about it, they'll say something like this: "Helmets? Sure they're only for **sissies**! Have I ever had a **fractured skull**? Yes, just a couple of times – but it was nothing to worry about! I went out with the **lads** for a few **pints** after the match and I felt **grand!**"

The hurling final is **held** about a month before the football final, and is just as well attended. However, not as many people play the sport, which may have something to do with a healthy **fear** of fractured skulls and other injuries.

### \*Camogie

Camogie is the female version of hurling. It was started in 1897 and the rules were written in 1904. Camogie differs slightly from Hurling, as the pitch is slightly smaller and there are only 12 players. Also, when you watch a Camogie match, you are likely to see a bit of hair-pulling as well as all the punching and scraps.

So now you know all about Irish sports, you can go and watch a game the next time you go to Ireland. Or perhaps you'd like to start your very own Gaelic Football, Hurling or Camogie team. Contact the Gaelic Athletic Association and we're sure they'll want to help you.

### \*Gaelic Football

The accepted abbreviation of Gaelic Football is GAA, which is also an abbreviation of the Gaelic Athletic Association. It doesn't make any logical sense to call Gaelic Football GAA, but that's all part of the fun of the game!

### to pick up *phr vb*

to take something from the ground and put it in your hands

### a half *n*

sports games are often divided into two halves

### banned *adj*

prohibited

### to shoulder *vb*

to push someone with your shoulder (the part of your body between your arm and your body)

### a scrap *n*

a fight

### a coach *n*

a football trainer or manager

### a punch *n*

a hit with a closed hand

### a bruise *n*

a mark on your body where you have been hit

### a scoop *n Irish*

a drink

### tough *adj*

physically strong

### a pitch *n*

the area of grass where you play a game of football

### a jest *n*

a joke

### slagging *n*

things you say to irritate someone

### like gold-dust *exp*

valuable

### a stick *n*

a piece of metal or wood used to hit something in a game of hockey or hurling

### rough *adj*

violent

### at your disposal *exp*

if something is "at your disposal", you can use that thing

### a fist *n*

a closed hand for hitting

### a helmet *n*

an object you wear on your head to protect your head

### to scorn *vb*

to think that something is stupid or bad

### a sissy *n offens*

a word used to refer to someone you consider physically and mentally weak

### fractured *adj*

if your bone is "fractured", it is broken

### a skull *n*

the bone inside your head that protects your brain

### a lad *n*

a man or boy

### a pint *n*

a large glass of beer

### grand *adj*

very good, excellent

### to hold *n*

if a competition is "held" in a particular place, it happens in that place

### a fear *n*

if you have a "fear" of something, you are frightened of that thing

### GLOSSARY

#### this isn't on *exp*

this is not acceptable

#### a kid *n*

a child

#### bleeding *adj offens*

this word is used to express anger or frustration

#### to do the trick *exp*

to be a solution to a problem

#### a goalle *n*

the person who stands in the goal and tries to stop the ball from entering. It is an abbreviation of "goalkeeper"

#### the crossbar *n*

the piece of metal or wood at the top of a goal



# BUSINESS DIALOGUES

Hi and welcome to the "Business Dialogues" section of Hot English.



CD tracks 14-20  
Various accents

## part I

In our first dialogue Sam Davies is speaking to a bank manager about getting a mortgage. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions:

1. How would you describe the bank manager's attitude at the start of the conversation?
2. How would you describe the bank manager's attitude at the end of the conversation?

Manager: Well, Mr Davies, I must say how lovely it is to meet you. How may I help you?

Sam: Well, I came to ask about getting a **mortgage**. I was wondering how much I could borrow, how much the monthly **repayments** would be and what the costs involved with this are.

Manager: Well, first of all, we have to do a **credit check** on you. This is nothing to worry about, just a simple routine check, you know the sort of thing.

Sam: OK, then how do you decide how much I can **borrow**?

Manager: Well, we use your **income** as a guide to how much you can borrow. We usually **lend** up to three times your annual salary, although a gentleman of your class and distinction could have lots more.

Sam: Mmm... and how much does that mean I'd have to repay each month?

Manager: If you are on a **standard variable mortgage rate**, your monthly repayments will depend on interest rates. Of course, you could ask for a fixed rate mortgage and then the interest rate will remain more or less stable.



Sam: Would I be able to repay the mortgage at any stage?

Manager: Yes, sir, you could repay part of it, or all of it, but there would be a small charge involved. This is known as an "early repayment charge", or ERC, as we call it.

Sam: Mmm... are there any other costs?

Manager: At the moment we are offering a Payment Protection Programme for free. This is a kind of insurance that protects you if you lose your job. It will cover your monthly payments for six months, free of charge.

Sam: Mmm... that sounds good. So what do I have to do?

Manager: Well, first of all we'll need the address of the property you are considering buying, we'll need the address and contact details of your solicitor and we'll need a contract and a couple of recent **payslips**.

Sam: Oh, er... job contract? Payslips? Erm, actually, at the moment I don't have a job, as such. But I'm planning on getting one as soon as possible.

Manager: No job? No contract? Well I am sorry but we can't possibly lend you any money in that case. I had no idea. I suggest you go off and find one before you come back here.

### ANSWERS

1. He doesn't want children because in his opinion they behave badly, and he recently had a bad experience with them.
2. He offers the teacher an hour-long video to show her children.

## Part I - Exercise

Now let's try another activity. Listen to the sentences from the previous dialogue. In each one there is a missing word and a beeping sound. Write down what you think the word is:

1. We usually lend \_\_\_\_\_ to three times your annual salary.
2. This will depend \_\_\_\_\_ interest rates.
3. Would I be able to repay the mortgage \_\_\_\_\_ any stage?
4. At the moment we are offering a "Payment Protection Programme" \_\_\_\_\_ free.
5. It will cover your monthly payments \_\_\_\_\_ six months.  
Now listen to the answers.

### GLOSSARY

**a mortgage** *n*  
money the bank lends you to buy a house

**repayment** *n*  
returning money to someone who lent it to you

**a credit check** *n*  
a check the bank does to see if you earn enough money

**to borrow** *vb*  
If you borrow money, someone gives you money which you have to return in the future

**income** *n*  
the money you earn from your job

**a standard variable mortgage rate** *n*  
with this mortgage the amount you pay depends on the interest rates

**a payslip** *n*  
a piece of paper that tells you how much you have been paid in your job

# BUSINESS DIALOGUES

## part II

CD tracks 14-20  
various accents

### A phone conversation

In this section we'll be listening to a phone conversation. June Baker is a secondary school teacher. She's planning on taking her kids on a trip to the museum. She phones up the museum director to get some information.

1. Why doesn't the museum director want children in his museum?
2. What does the museum director offer the teacher?

Director: Good morning, this is the Natural History Museum, how can I help you?

June: Hi, this is June Baker and I'm from a local secondary school. I was thinking about organising a trip to your museum. I was just wondering when the best time was.

Director: Ah, yes, a school trip. Erm, we do prefer to deal with school trips between 9 and 10 in the mornings.

June: That's a bit too early for us. And just for one hour?

Director: Yes, we find that works best - it keeps the children away from the other visitors, who tend to arrive some time after 10. Just one question, how many children were you thinking of bringing?

June: Well, there's my class of 28, and there's another class of 32.

Director: 60! 60 children in my museum! May I ask, how many adults will be accompanying these children?

June: Well, there's myself and Mr Crapard, and there'll probably be one other teaching assistant with us.

Director: Just three adults. I'm afraid that won't be enough. We do require at least one adult for every six children.

June: But that's impossible!

Director: I'm afraid we've had a number of unpleasant experiences in the past. Just last week a party of 14 children destroyed our Early Man exhibit and burnt down a pre-historic hut.

June: Well I can assure you that our children are extremely

well-behaved.

Director: I'm afraid rules are rules: one adult for every six children.

June: OK, I'll see what I can do. Now, about the trip, could you organise any talks or guides for the children? Or do you have any special exhibits on at the moment?

Director: No, there are no special exhibits, or objects that could be of any interest whatsoever to children. What we do have is a very special video for the children. It lasts one hour precisely and it explains the museum in detail. In fact, it's the ideal way to see the museum.

June: Well, I was hoping for something a bit more interesting than that.

Director: Well, I'm afraid that's all we have to offer.

June: Mmm... I'll have to think about it. I don't suppose you've got a number for the Science Museum, have you?

Director: Yes, of course, with pleasure. It's 903 457 983. And I'm sure they would love to hear from you.

June: OK, thanks a lot. Bye.

Director: Goodbye.



### ANSWERS

1. The bank manager was very kind, polite and respectful at the start.
2. The bank manager was very rude, impolite and disrespectful at the end.

## Part II - Exercise

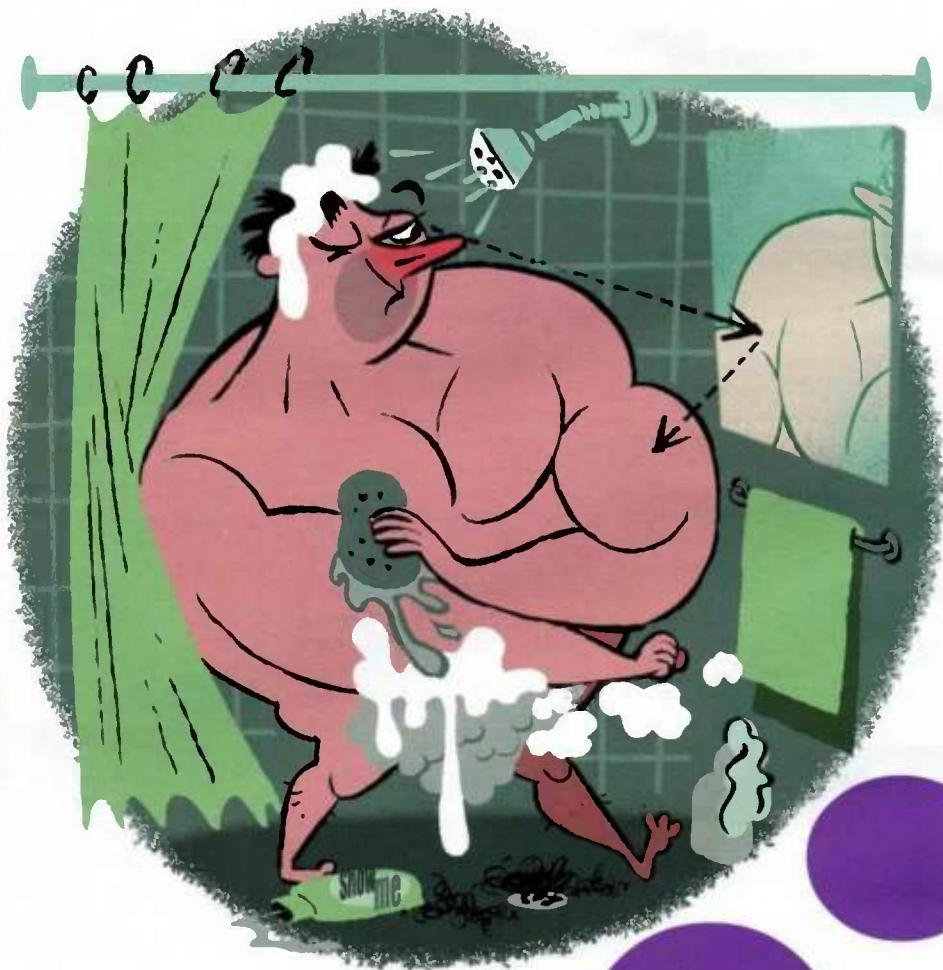
Now listen to some extracts from the conversation again. You will notice there are some missing words and a beeping sound. The missing words are all prepositions. See if you can write the missing word.

1. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ a local secondary school.
2. We do prefer to deal \_\_\_\_\_ school trips between nine and ten in the morning.
3. It keeps the children away \_\_\_\_\_ the other visitors.
4. I'm afraid rules are rules: one adult \_\_\_\_\_ every six children.
5. It explains the museum \_\_\_\_\_ detail.

# The Shower - A Fountain Of Truth

CD tracks 21 & 22  
Posh Englishman,  
American woman

Having a shower may seem like an ordinary everyday activity, but it isn't. And not everyone showers the same way. Just recently, American psychologists became interested in this phenomenon and decided to carry out a three-month survey on bathroom habits. They observed over three thousand men and women in the bathroom (wow! What a job!) and they identified many intriguing differences between the genders. The following is a condensed version of their findings:



## How to shower like a man...

- 1) Take off your clothes and leave them in a **heap** on the bathroom floor.
- 2) Admire yourself in a full-length mirror for two minutes.
- 3) Forget to close the **shower curtain**.
- 4) Use the soap to wash your body and your hair.
- 5) Leave hair all over the soap.
- 6) Laugh loudly as you make **rude noises** in the shower.
- 7) **Giggle** to yourself as you go to the toilet while you are having your shower.
- 8) Get out of the shower and **drip** water all over the floor.
- 9) Ignore the **bath mat** on the floor and stand in the middle of the bathroom.
- 10) Run to the bedroom, leaving a **trail of water** as you go.
- 11) Throw the wet towel on the bed.
- 12) Total time in the bathroom: 5 minutes.
- 13) Average number of personal hygiene products used: 2 (including the water).



## How to shower like a woman...

- 1) Take off your clothes and leave them in two neat **piles**: one for whites and one for colours.
- 2) Step carefully into the shower.
- 3) Wash your hair six times with Cucumber and Lemon shampoo with 83 added vitamins.
- 4) Condition your hair four times with Cucumber and Lemon conditioner - leaving it on for fifteen minutes.
- 5) Shave your **armpits**, legs and all other areas of your body.
- 6) Turn off the shower.
- 7) Dry yourself with a clean fresh towel before leaving the shower area.
- 8) Dry all the wet surfaces in the shower with a cloth.
- 9) Close the shower curtain and put the bath mat over the edge of the bath.
- 10) Spray yourself with forty three products.
- 11) Return to the bedroom wearing a **dressng gown** and with the towel on your head.
- 12) Spend three hours getting dressed.
- 13) Total time in the bathroom: 50 minutes.
- 14) Average number of personal hygiene products used: 95 (not including the water).

### **a survey** *n*

questions about people's habits or customs

### **a heap** *n*

a mass of things, one on top of the other

### **a shower curtain** *n*

a large piece of material (usually plastic) that stops water coming out of the shower area

### **rude noises** *n*

a noise that you can make with your mouth or another part of your body

### **to giggle** *vb*

to laugh uncontrollably about something silly

### **to drip** *vb*

when liquid "drips", it falls in individual small drops

### **a bath mat** *n*

a piece of material on the floor in a bathroom where you can dry your feet

### **a trail of water** *n*

a line of water that has fallen from something or someone

### **a pile** *n*

many things on top of one another

### **an armpit** *n*

the part of your body that is under your arms where your arms and shoulders are joined

### **a dressing gown** *n*

clothing that you wear in the house over your pyjamas or when you come out of the bathroom

## BAD DISGUISE

All about a man, a schoolgirl and a robbery

The objective of most **disguises** is to confuse people; and it's a **skill** that requires expert training. Good disguise artists can completely change their face and appearance. However, others aren't so good, such as the star of our little story, Brian Rogers.

### A Master

One of the most famous disguise artists in history was Ralph Burgess, an Englishman from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He would often disguise himself as a **priest**, a soldier or an elderly man in order to rob people. His disguises were brilliant, and he carefully changed the way he spoke, walked, and acted in order to make the disguise more convincing.

His plan was simple. First he would put on one of his disguises. Then, he would knock on the door of a rich country home and explain how his car had **broken down**. He would use all his **charm** to **win them over**, and his appearance would help.

Once inside the house, he would ask for a glass of water. Then, while the kind old lady or gentleman was getting it, Ralph would

steal the **family silver** and put it in a large **case** that he had with him. In all his life he never had to use violence and he became popularly known as the "**Sparrow**". Just before his death he wrote a letter of confession which he left to his son, who was completely ignorant of the true identity of his father. Ralph was an example of a brilliantly clever and dedicated disguise artist. A more recent thief, Brian Rogers, was somewhat less successful.

### Schoolgirls

38-year-old Brian was caught by police after **snatching** a handbag from an elderly lady in the street. A police officer who arrested him explained what happened:

"I was walking down the high street when this very **dis-traught** lady **came up to me** with a story of a man who had just robbed her bag. She was very nervous and she had some story about a man who was dressed as a schoolgirl and wearing a short **skirt**. I didn't really believe her at first but I **put out a call** anyway for a large man dressed as a schoolgirl. And it didn't take long before we found him.

We discovered him in a railway station toilet, and sure enough, he was dressed as a schoolgirl. He had on a very short skirt and a blonde **wig** that was falling off. I must say, it wasn't the most successful disguise I've ever seen. He had a **five o'clock shadow** and very hairy legs which you could see beneath his skirt. And from a distance you could tell that something was wrong because he is over 1.90cm, which is tall for a woman, let alone a 12-year-old schoolgirl," the police officer explained.

### Bizarre

"During questioning we asked Brian about his disguise. He told us that he knew the disguise was ridiculous and unconvincing. But, the idea was to confuse his victims so they would only remember the clothes. And it's true, this man robbed more than 25 people and none of them

could describe him **accurately**, except to say that he was a tall, hairy man dressed up as a schoolgirl. So, in a way, his disguise was quite effective." Brian is now serving an eight-year prison sentence... in a men's prison.

### GLOSSARY

- a disguise** *n*  
clothing you put on to change your appearance
- a skill** *n*  
an ability
- a priest** *n*  
a person who works for the Christian church
- to break down** *phr vb*  
If your car does this, it stops working
- charm** *n*  
the ability to be nice, attractive and pleasing to other people
- to win someone over** *exp*  
to convince someone that you are a good, honest, decent person
- the family silver** *n* *s i l v e r*  
plates, cups and other valuable objects that you have at home
- a case** *n*  
a large bag for carrying things
- a sparrow** *n*  
a small grey bird
- to snatch** *vb*  
to use your hands to take something from someone else, usually with violence
- distraught** *adj*  
nervous, distressed, worried
- to come up to someone** *exp*  
to move so you are next to someone
- a skirt** *n*  
clothing that women wear to cover their legs
- to put out a call** *exp*  
when the police use their phone to call other police officers and tell them about a crime
- a wig** *n*  
false hair
- a five-o'clock shadow** *n*  
a bit of hair on a man's face. It usually appears at the end of the day, around five o'clock
- accurately** *adv*  
precisely, exactly





# THE PREY

This story occurred in the city of Odessa on the shore of the Black Sea. I was five and I lived with my parents there at that time often taking me and our boxer dog Jim for a stroll. Despite always being excellently fed with fresh meat, Jim was very keen on getting himself a bit of sausage as a snack if he could only get it somewhere, just to enjoy his food and not because he was hungry.

One summer day my parents were rambling along a beach with me and Jim. It was quite a deserted place with no one around except a group of friends picknicking on the sand. They were eating fruit and bread. A sausage was lying on a long carpet waiting to be had. And we should remember it was the late nineteen eighties there were two years before the break-up of the Soviet Union and all food shops were totally empty. So, people had to keep up with it: to obtain specialities like sausages they had to pull a few strings. Suddenly, our

Jim took one glance at that sausage and estimated the situation fast. Being a very smart guy, he ran to the group, stole the sausage and galloped away very rapidly very satisfied with himself. My parents were quite amazed at first but then they began feigning that it was not their dog and they had even seen nothing.

When we had moved away a little they started laughing out loud, as it was so funny. The group possessing the captured food were astonished too, seeing a strange dog stealing their sausage which had taken them so much effort to get, and carrying it off! Luckily they recognised it was their destiny and had to put up with it and also laughed out loud. As for Jim, he escaped safe and sound and had his prey as a second lunch with greatest pleasure and much appetite, being very content with himself and his venture. He had had enough fuel to set a fire!

**Dmitry Filonov, St. Petersburg**