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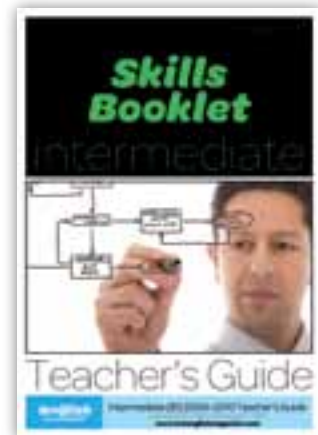
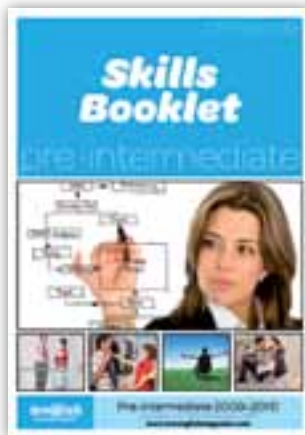


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This symbol tells you that the text is recorded and is available on the CD or as an MP3.



Hi, and welcome to another issue of Hot English Magazine, the fun magazine for learning English. Our big topic this month is England's upper class. As part of this, we're looking at Eton School, fox hunting and an unusual gentlemen's club, The Bullingdon. We're also looking at the meaning of the word "posh", and we've got an article on two very posh people who are now ruling in Britain: David Cameron (the prime minister) and Boris Johnson (the mayor of London). Last, but not least, we're also looking at one of literature's most famous upper class gentlemen: Bertie Wooster. He's the star of a popular television series (*Jeeves & Wooster*), which is based on a series of books by the English writer PG Wodehouse. He's a fascinating character who leads a wonderful life of leisure. Oh, to be rich!

Our film of the month is *The A-Team*, which is based on one of the most popular TV series of the 1980s. One of the stars of the original series was Mr T. He's an interesting chap who became famous in his own right, and who has also created a series of videos to help children. You can find out more about him, plus the origins of his iconic hairstyle. Speaking of which, this month, we're taking a special look at hairstyles from around the world in our special "Hairstyle" vocabulary page. Hope you enjoy it!

There was an interesting story in the news just recently. A gift shop in Australia's Parliament House had to withdraw 200 commemorative mugs (cups) that were designed to mark US President Barack Obama's visit to the country. The mugs had the president's name spelt incorrectly ("Barrack Obama" [sic] instead of "Barack Obama"). Well, in our article "Gaffes Galore" we've got lots more examples of embarrassing spelling errors like this one.

Anyway, good luck with your English language learning, and see you in September - have a great summer!

Yours,
Andy

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French material

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All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing SL, however, we do think that Mr T's hairstyle is cool, everyone needs a Jeeves, and the A-Team are good at getting out of a sticky situation.



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this topic in a mini-video at
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Englishman

track 2

READING

Cycling Cities

The best cities in the world for cycling.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Create a definition of a cycle-friendly city. Use the words from below.

- traffic
- pollution
- education
- bike lanes
- cycle paths
- roads
- bike parks
- workers
- cyclists



2 Reading I

Which cities do you think are the most cycle-friendly in the world? Choose from the list below. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

- Los Angeles
- Barcelona
- London
- Bristol
- Dallas
- Cambridge
- Copenhagen
- Birmingham
- Berlin



3 Reading II

Read the article again and write the name of a city (choose from the cities in Reading I) next to each sentence.

1. The city has about 80 kilometres of bike lanes.
2. Cyclists are considered at every stage of any new developments.
3. Forty percent of all traffic movements are by bicycle.
4. There are 3,250 parking spaces for bikes.

4 Language focus "There is/are"

Look at this extract from the article, "There's also good cycle parking." The speaker has used "There is" to talk about the existence of something. Complete the following sentences with "There is" or "There are".

1. _____ a good supermarket near here.
2. _____ two parks in the city.
3. _____ some nice restaurants along the river.
4. _____ a bank at the end of this street.

5 Discussion

1. Is your city cycle-friendly? In what way?
2. When do you use a bicycle?
3. Would you like to cycle more? Why? Why not?

Is traffic a big problem where you live? Increased **cycling** may be the answer. Just take a look at these **cycle-friendly** cities from around the world.



Cycling is the solution to many problems. More cyclists mean less noise, less traffic, less **pollution** and a healthier population. But where are the best places to live and cycle? A new report **lists** the best cities for cyclists.

Top of the list is Amsterdam (in the Netherlands) – also known as the bike capital of the world. An incredible 40% of all traffic movements are by bicycle. There's an **extensive** network of safe, fast and comfortable bicycle routes. Plus, there's an anti-theft-prevention programme with **underground sheds** for bikes.



Copenhagen is known as "the city of bikes". It's a city where 32% of workers cycle to work because it's fast and easy. Berlin is another European city that's great for cycling. The city has about 80 kilometres of **bike lanes**, and 50 kilometres of **pavement paths**. Cycling accounts for 12% of total street traffic.

Barcelona has been **praised** for its municipal cycle service "Bicing". This was introduced in March 2007. It's a bicycle service that allows users to take bicycles from any of the 100 stations spread around the city. Later, they can leave them at any other bike station inside the urban area of the city. The city has created a "green ring" that **surrounds** the metropolitan area of Barcelona with a **bike path**. There are currently 3,250 parking spaces for bikes at street level. Barcelona City Council is also constructing a new underground car park for bicycles.

The UK has its cycle-friendly cities too. Bristol is currently at the top of the list. It's the birthplace of "Sustrans" – the cycle-route charity which was formed 30 years ago. One of their projects was converting an old **rail line** between Bristol and Bath into a bike route. Other bike-friendly cities in the UK include Cambridge and York. Cambridge is an old city but has still managed to build good cycle **infrastructure**, and cyclists are considered at every stage of any new developments. There's also good cycle parking, **park-and-ride schemes** and excellent public transport.

How does your city compare to these? 🗺️

GLOSSARY

- cycling** *n*
riding on a bicycle
- cycle-friendly** *adj*
if a city is "cycle-friendly", it is good / safe / easy for cycling
- pollution** *n*
when there is "pollution", the air is dirty and contaminated
- to list** *vb*
if a report "lists" several things, it mentions these things one after another
- extensive** *adj*
that covers a big area
- underground** *adj*
that is under the ground (below the surface of the earth)
- a shed** *n*
a building, shelter or covered area for storing things
- a bike lane** *n*
a special road for cyclists to cycle on - often next to an existing road
- a pavement path** *n*
a part of the pavement (the place next to a road where people walk) where cyclists can cycle
- to praise** *vb*
to say good things about someone/ something
- to surround** *vb*
if A "surrounds" B, A is/ goes around B
- a bike path** *n*
a special road for bicycles
- a rail line** *n*
a route that trains travel along
- infrastructure** *n*
the basic facilities of a city such as transport, communications, power supplies, buildings, etc.
- a park-and-ride scheme** *n*
a system that allows drivers to leave their cars in car parks outside the city, and to take a bus into the city

READING II

Environmental Crimes

New term invented to classify environmental crimes.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the "oil-related" words (1 to 7) to the definitions (a-g).

1. Oil
2. Oil company
3. Oil industry
4. Oil field
5. Oil rig
6. Oil spill
7. Oil well

- a. A business that extracts/refines oil.
- b. An area on the ground or under the sea bed where there is a lot of oil.
- c. If this happens, oil comes out of a container or the sea bed and goes into the sea.
- d. A thick liquid that is used as fuel.
- e. A word that refers to the business of extracting oil and exploiting it as a resource.
- f. A large structure that is used for taking oil out of the ground or the sea bed.
- g. A hole from which oil is extracted.

2 Reading I

What do you think "ecocide" means? Think. Then read the article once to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Write the name of a place next to each sentence.

1. There are large deposits of heavy crude oil.
2. The oil well is owned by BP.
3. The oil is under peat bog land.
4. Oil companies have operated there for decades.
5. The explosion caused a massive oil spill.
6. The region is heavily polluted.

4 Language focus

Past Tense Verbs

Look at this extract from the article, "This occurred after an explosion on an..." The writer has used a Past Tense verb ("occurred"). Transform the following sentences into the Past Tense.

1. The ship _____ (sink) to the bottom of the sea.
2. They _____ (buy) six of them.
3. She _____ (see) you at the party.
4. He _____ (take) a photo of it.

5 Discussion

1. Do you think that ecocide should be considered a crime? Why? Why not?
2. What environmental disasters have occurred in your country?
3. What can be done to prevent disasters such as these?



War crimes. Crimes against humanity. Crimes of aggression. **Genocide.** These are the four crimes against peace. But soon there may be a fifth: ecocide.

British lawyer Polly Higgins wants to see the mass destruction of the environment considered a crime too... on the same level as genocide! If she's successful, environmental cases could be **tried** at the International Criminal Court (**ICC***).

Ecocide already has its own dictionary definition: "The extensive destruction, damage to or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory, whether by human agency or by other causes, **to such an extent** that peaceful **enjoyment** by the **inhabitants** of that territory has been severely **diminished**."

At present it's very difficult to prosecute companies for "environmental crimes". But under an ecocide law, it would be easier to **put** individuals (such as directors of companies) **on trial**. This would put more pressure on **fossil fuel**, mining, agricultural and chemical companies to **act within the law**.

These measures would also help prevent disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. This occurred after an explosion on an **offshore** drilling rig operating off the coast of Louisiana. The explosion occurred on 20th April 2010, and resulted in a fire that **sank** the rig and caused a massive oil spill. Eleven rig workers were killed and 17 others were injured. The deepwater oil well, which is owned by BP [British Petroleum], was operating 1,500 metres below sea level. The results have been devastating with the destruction of marine life, and chaos to the Gulf of Mexico fishing and tourism industries.

Another on-going environmental disaster is Alberta Tar Sands. The area (in north-eastern Alberta, Canada) has large deposits of bitumen (extremely **heavy crude oil**). These oil sand deposits lie under 141,000 square kilometres of forest and **peat bog** land.

The Niger Delta is another danger zone. Oil companies have operated there for decades with very little environmental supervision. As a result, the region has become heavily polluted, and villagers find it hard to live off the land as the water is poisoned.

Let's hope the introduction of "ecocide" will help stop things like this! ☆

***The ICC**
The ICC was set up in 2002 to hear cases for four crimes against peace: genocide, war crimes, crimes of aggression (such as unprovoked war), and crimes against humanity.

GLOSSARY

genocide *n*
the systematic killing of an ethnic group

to try *vb*
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation

to such an extent *n*
to such a level; to such an amount

enjoyment *n*
if you have "enjoyment" of an area, you can live there happily / comfortably / safely, etc.

an inhabitant *n*
a person who lives in the area you are referring to

to diminish *vb*
to reduce; to decrease

to put on trial *exp*
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation

a fossil fuel *n*
energy sources (from the remains of once-living organisms) such as oil, gas, coal, etc.

to act within the law *n*
to do things that are legal / permitted

offshore *adj*
not on land – in the sea

to sink *vb*
if something "sinks", it goes under the water and to the bottom of the sea

heavy crude oil *exp*
very dense oil that has not been refined or processed

peat bog land *n*
an area of land that is wet

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



Teletubbies (television characters)
SOMEONE WHO IS "TUBBY" IS A LITTLE BIT FAT.

"He was a little bit tubby as a child."



Pulp (music group)
"PULP" IS A SOFT, SMOOTH, WET PASTE THAT IS PRODUCED WHEN AN OBJECT IS PRESSED, CRUSHED OR BEATEN

"The olives are crushed to a pulp."



George Orwell (English writer 1903-1950)
A "WELL" IS A HOLE IN THE GROUND WITH WATER IN IT. PEOPLE TAKE THE WATER OUT OF THE WELL FOR DRINKING.

"They filled the bucket with water from the well."



Radiohead (music group)
YOUR "HEAD" IS AT THE TOP OF YOUR BODY.

"I banged my head on the door."



Jeffrey Archer (1940-present)
AN "ARCHER" IS SOMEONE WHO SHOOTS ARROWS WITH A BOW.

"The archers shot the arrows and killed the enemy soldiers."



Frank McCourt (Irish writer - 1930-2009)
A "COURT" IS A PLACE WHERE LEGAL MATTERS ARE DECIDED BY A JUDGE AND JURY.

"He was in court accused of stealing from the company."

Clever Clogs

Three idiots have just finished a **jigsaw-puzzle**.

They're so pleased with themselves that they decide to go out and celebrate. After a delicious meal, they walk into a bar singing, "61 days, 61 days!" "Why are you **chanting** 61 days?" the bartender asks.

And one of the idiots replies, "Because we did the puzzle in 61 days, and the box said 3-6 years!"



Water, Please!

An Englishman is lost in the desert. After two days without any water, he sees another man, who has a shop. "Water, please. I need some water," says the Englishman.

"I'm sorry," replies the other man, "but I only sell **ties**."

"Ties! Ties! What do I want with ties!" the Englishman says angrily.

"Oh, well, there's a restaurant just over the **hill**!"

"Really?" says the Englishman. "Why, thank you," he says, and he **heads off** to the restaurant.

Four hours later, the Englishman comes back. This time he's really, really thirsty.

"You told me there was a restaurant," the Englishman says.

"That's right," the other man answers.

"But you didn't tell me about the strict **dress code**!"

"That's right," says the other man.

"Now would you like to buy a tie?"



Little Jokes

What do you do if there's a snake in your bed? Sleep in the **wardrobe**.

Why did the man put his bed in the **fireplace**?

Because he wanted to **sleep like a log**.

GLOSSARY

- a jigsaw-puzzle** *n*
a game that consists of putting together the pieces of a picture
- to chant** *vb*
to repeat a phrase many times as if in a song
- a tie** *n*
a piece of clothing worn around the neck - usually over a shirt
- a hill** *n*
a small mountain
- to head off to** *exp*
to go to
- a dress code** *exp*
if a restaurant/club has a "dress code", they have strict rules about what you must wear in order to enter
- a wardrobe** *n*
a piece of furniture for keeping clothes
- a fireplace** *n*
a place in a house with a chimney where you can make a fire
- to sleep like a log** *exp*
to sleep very well and very deeply

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HOLIDAY NIGHTMARES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Match the words

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

1. Passport d
2. Luggage e
3. Wallet (man) / purse (woman) f
4. Train j
5. Insect repellent a
6. Bottled water b
7. Sickness tablets c
8. Sun cream i
9. Insect bite h
10. Souvenir g



2 Wordsearch

Now find these words in the wordsearch.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| passport | luggage |
| wallet | purse |
| train | tablets |
| cream | souvenir |
| insect | mosquito |
| taxi | plane |
| sun | thief |
| water | sick |



3 Guess the word

Think of ways to describe the words above.

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



IT'S SOMETHING YOU USE TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN FROM THE SUN.

SUN CREAM!



HOLIDAY NIGHTMARES

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VERBS AND EXPRESSIONS.
THIS MONTH: HOLIDAY NIGHTMARES.

GET BITTEN

IF YOU "GET BITTEN", AN ANIMAL/INSECT BITES YOU.

"I GOT BITTEN BY A MOSQUITO."



MISS A TRAIN/TAXI/PLANE

IF YOU "MISS A TRAIN", YOU DON'T CATCH IT (OFTEN BECAUSE YOU ARRIVE LATE AT THE STATION).

"THE TRAFFIC WAS REALLY BAD AND WE MISSED OUR TRAIN."



GET BURNT

IF YOU "GET BURNT" IN THE SUN, YOUR SKIN BECOMES DAMAGED BECAUSE IT HAS HAD TOO MUCH SUN.

"IF YOU DON'T PUT ANY SUN CREAM ON, YOU'LL GET BURNT."



GET ROBBED

IF YOU "GET ROBBED", SOMEONE STEALS (TAKES) SOMETHING FROM YOU.

"WE GOT ROBBED WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR THE BUS."



LOSE YOUR LUGGAGE

IF YOU "LOSE YOUR LUGGAGE", YOU CAN'T FIND IT (OFTEN BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS STOLEN IT).

"WE LOST OUR LUGGAGE DURING THE HOLIDAY."



GET SICK/ILL

IF YOU "GET SICK/ILL", YOU EAT OR DRINK SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU FEEL BAD/SICK.

"SHE GOT REALLY SICK AFTER DRINKING THE WATER."



GET A TUMMY/STOMACH BUG

IF YOU "GET A TUMMY/STOMACH BUG", YOU GET AN ILLNESS THAT HURTS YOUR TUMMY/STOMACH.

"HE GOT A TUMMY BUG AFTER EATING MEAT IN A LOCAL RESTAURANT."



GET RIPPED OFF

IF YOU "GET RIPPED OFF", YOU PAY TOO MUCH FOR SOMETHING, OR BUY SOMETHING THAT IS WORTHLESS.

"WE PAID £40 FOR THE SOUVENIR, BUT WE SAW THE SAME ONE IN ANOTHER SHOP FOR JUST £3. WE GOT RIPPED OFF."



Things we associate with England.



Images of England

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF ENGLAND? ANY OF THESE THINGS? CAN YOU NAME THEM? USE THE WORDS BELOW.

- Trafalgar Square football William Shakespeare Churchill Big Ben the Houses of Parliament rugby
 Carnaby Street a poppy Oxford a double-decker bus Buckingham Palace a man in a bowler hat curry
 the Underground a bottle of port The Times newspaper fox hunting Ascot the Henley Regatta a punk
 red post boxes the Royal Family a judge snooker darts Eton a butler a tweed jacket the BBC



LET'S TALK ABOUT: **CLEANING UP****Dialogue**

IN THIS DIALOGUE, MEGAN AND DUNCAN ARE CLEANING UP AFTER A DINNER PARTY AT ABBIE'S HOUSE.

A: Abbie
D: Duncan
M: Megan

- A:** Thanks so much for offering to wash up.
D: That's OK. Glad to help. It was a delicious dinner.
A: Thanks. Hey, I'm just going to see how the other guests are getting along.
D: OK. Bye. [Abbie leaves the kitchen.]
M: Right, come on. Let's get this done as quickly as possible. Hand me that pan.
D: But I haven't cleaned it yet.
M: Just use a paper towel.
D: Where does the cutlery go?
M: Just throw it in this drawer. Come on, quick!
D: I really think we need some more washing-up liquid. And we need to change the water in the sink. It's black.
M: It's OK. Come on!
D: Shouldn't you be drying those plates before you put them in the cupboard?
M: No one's going to notice.
D: Look at this frying pan. It's got something stuck on the bottom. We need the wire brush.
M: Here, use this.
D: But that's for cleaning shoes.
M: No one will know. Right, that's it. [Abbie comes in again.]
A: Hi. Everything all right?
M: Fine, thanks.
A: Oh, look, you've almost finished. That was, erm, quick.
M: Well, you know me. I don't like to hang around.
D: [under his breath] You can say that again! ☺

**Let's talk about...
Cleaning up****Useful Expressions**

- Where do the plates go?
- Have you got a clean washing-up sponge?
- There isn't any more washing-up liquid.
- You need a wire sponge to clean that.
- This pan is really dirty.



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FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Asking for help



What you say

- Could you help me, please?
- Would you mind taking my bag down, please?
- Could you turn on the light, please?
- Can you lend me £10 until next week, please?
- Could you do me a favour, please?
- Would you mind lending me a hand?

What you hear

- Shall I help you with that?
- Can I help?
- Do you need any help?
- OK. No problem.
- Of course. I'd be delighted (to).
- Sure! I'd be glad to.
- I'm sorry but I'm a bit busy at the moment.
- I'm afraid I can't help you right now.



Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, PENSIONER HARRY IS ON A TRAIN. HE'S TRYING TO GET HIS HEAVY BAG DOWN FROM THE LUGGAGE RACK.

- Harry:** Excuse me, but could you help me with this bag, please?
- Mollie:** Sorry. Can't. Got a bad back.
- Harry:** Well, it's just I think it's going to fall. Could you just hold onto this side, please?
- Mollie:** I said I've got a bad back.
- Harry:** But it's going to fall. It's got lots of valuable objects in it. Please!
- Mollie:** I can't! Worth a lot of money, is it?
- Harry:** Yes, it is.
- Mollie:** How much?
- Harry:** What do you mean?
- Mollie:** How much will you pay me if I help you?
- Harry:** Oh, I see. I can give you ten pounds.
- Mollie:** Ten pounds? Are you joking?
- Harry:** That's all I've got. Please, if you can't help, could you go into the corridor and ask if anyone there can help me.
- Mollie:** Hello! Is anyone there? No, there's no one there.
- Harry:** Please. It's falling...
- Mollie:** Whoops! Looks like I was too late. Shall I help you pick up the pieces?
- Harry:** No, thanks. ☺



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DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

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



I BOUGHT THIS LAST WEEK.

I CAUGHT A COLD!

1 Activity

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. They should all be in the Past Simple. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck!

- The film begin at 9pm last night.
The film began at 9pm last night.
- I buyed you a new CD at the shops yesterday.
- She catch a really bad cold last month.
- I fell really sick last night.
- I felt down on the ground.
- She finds a €50 note in the street last week.

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LISTENING ACTIVITY



The Volcano

Nature versus air travel. By Patrick Howarth

1 Pre-listening

Has your flight ever been delayed? What was the cause of the delay? Look at the ideas below. Which ones have you experienced?

- Poor weather.
- A volcanic eruption.
- A drunken pilot.
- Unidentified baggage on the plane.
- Technical problems.
- A strike [when workers stop working as a form of protest]
- A war.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

2 Listening I

You are going to listen to someone talking about a recent trip. Listen once and answer this question: Why did they have to re-arrange their travel plans? Choose from one of the ideas in the Pre-listening activity.

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct place for each sentence.

- Martina went there for a meeting. **Iceland / Madrid / Britain**
- A volcano erupted here. **Britain / Barcelona / Iceland**
- The ash from the volcano went here. **Britain / Bilbao / Madrid**
- Martina travelled here by train. **Madrid / Bilbao / Barcelona**
- Martina went from here by boat to Southampton. **Britain / Bilbao / Iceland**

4 Language focus Regular Past Tense Verbs

Look at this extract from the listening, "It erupted and produced a big cloud of ash." The speaker has used two regular Past Tense verbs ("erupted / produced"). Complete the following sentences with the verbs from below.

watched produced erupted talked

- The volcano _____ last week.
- The eruption _____ a lot of ash.
- We _____ to her last week.
- I _____ the news on TV.

5 Discussion

- Have you ever missed a flight? Why?
- Have you ever had to change your travel plans? Why?
- What do you like/dislike about airports and air travel?



GRAMMAR FUN

Question Words

THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT SOME MORE QUESTION WORDS. THIS IS THE THIRD PART OF A MINI-SERIES ON QUESTION WORDS.

What... for

We can use "what... for" to ask about the reason for something. For example:

- a) **A:** What did you do that for? **B:** I don't know.
- b) **A:** What do you want the pen for? **B:** To write a note to Jenny.

How

We can use "how" to ask about the way that something happens/works. For example:

- a) **A:** How did you do it? **B:** I just opened it and then pressed the button.
- b) **A:** How does it work? **B:** It's simple. You just follow the instructions.

How

We can also use "how" to ask how successful or enjoyable something was; or to ask about someone's health. For example:

- a) **A:** How was the trip? **B:** Not too bad.
- b) **A:** How is your aunt? Is she better? **B:** Yes, she's fine, thanks.

How much / How many

We can use "how much" (for uncountable nouns) and "how many" (for countable nouns) to ask about the quantity of something. For example:

- a) **A:** How much sugar is there? **B:** Not much.
- b) **A:** How many chairs are there? **B:** Thirteen.

How long...

We can use "how long" to ask about the duration of something. For example:

- a) **A:** How long did it take? **B:** Ten days.
- b) **A:** How long are you going to be? **B:** About two minutes.

How often...

We can use "how often" to ask about frequency. For example:

- a) **A:** How often do you go to the gym? **B:** Once a week.
- b) **A:** How often did you use to go to the cinema? **B:** Twice a month.

How + an adjective

We can use "how" + an adjective to ask about the degree of something. For example:

- a) **A:** How fast were they travelling? **B:** At about 35 kph.
- b) **A:** How far is the station from here? **B:** It's a ten-minute walk.

1 Exercise

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Choose the correct options.

1. **A:** How did you **prepare / preparing** for the marathon?
B: I trained every day for six weeks.
2. **A:** How **much / many** did it cost? **B:** Not much.
3. **A:** How **often / long** did the train journey take?
B: About 2 hours.
4. **A:** How **many / often** do you see her? **B:** About once a year.
5. **A:** How **much / many** tables are there? **B:** Not enough.
6. **A:** What did they say that **for / from**? **B:** I think they were angry.
7. **A:** How **far / fast** were they travelling? **B:** About 70 kph.
8. **A:** How **was / were** the concert? **B:** It was great.
9. **A:** How **often / far** is it to your house from here?
B: It's too far to walk.
10. **A:** How **do / is** your sister? **B:** She's fine, thanks.

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Kensington & Chelsea

London's poshest district.



Kensington and Chelsea is one of London's most exclusive areas. It has a lot to offer... but not just for posh people.

The London **borough** of Kensington and Chelsea is famous for its shops. And two of the most famous luxury

department stores which are in the area: Harrods (on Brompton Road); and Harvey Nichols (at the corner of Knightsbridge and Sloane Street). Harrods is a London **landmark** with a



beautiful interior, particularly the Food Hall with its wonderful decor and delicious food. The store has a famous Winter Sale (which is always opened by a celebrity). It starts a few days after Christmas and goes on into January.

But there are lots of other places to go shopping. The King's Road has a lot of fashionable shops, and was at the centre of the punk movement during the 1970s. For something really upmarket, walk down Sloane Street where you'll find some of the most exclusive shops on the planet, including Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Giorgio Armani, Jimmy Choo, Fendi, Dolce & Gabbana, Bulgari and Chanel to name but a few. However, if you're looking for a **bargain**, try the British Red Cross Shop in Chelsea. This **charity shop** sells second-hand clothes, but most of them are **designer labels**.

Another great area to visit in Kensington and Chelsea is Notting Hill. Portobello Road market is open every day, except for Sunday. On Fridays there are clothes and **bric-a-brac stalls**; and on Saturdays there's the world-famous **antiques** market. In August, you can visit the Notting Hill Carnival, which takes place in streets around the area.



Kensington and Chelsea has some great museums too. The Natural History Museum

is in a beautiful old building. It's got lots of **stuffed animals**, dinosaur bones and an enormous replica blue whale. During the winter, you can go ice-skating in the museum grounds.



There's also a Christmas fair next to the rink, and a bar serving the ultimate winter warmer – **Winter Pimms**. Other museums in the area include the Science Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Fancy a nice walk? Head off to Kensington Gardens. It was once the private gardens of Kensington Palace, but it's a public park now. The open spaces of Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park form an almost continuous "green **lung**" in the heart of London between Kensington and Westminster.



After all that walking, you'll want something to eat or drink. There are loads of great pubs, restaurants and bars in Kensington and Chelsea.

Try The Scarsdale – a lovely place for a meal or drink... or both! For something a bit different, visit Peter Jones in Sloane Square. It's a very traditional English department store. The café on the top floor is a perfect **spot** for lunch or afternoon tea, and it has great views over Chelsea and Knightsbridge.



See you in Kensington & Chelsea! 🌟

GLOSSARY

- a borough** *n*
an administrative area of a city
- a landmark** *n*
a special, prominent object/place that is well-known and visible/noticable
- a bargain** *n*
something that is good value for money
- a charity shop** *n*
a shop that sells second-hand goods. The profits go to charities to help the poor, etc.
- a designer label** *n*
an item of clothing from a top designer: Prada, Gucci, Armani, etc.
- bric-a-brac** *n*
small, ornamental, decorative objects of no great value
- a stall** *n*
a table in a market on which goods are placed that are going to be sold
- an antique** *n*
an old object (often more than 100 years old) that is valuable
- a stuffed animal** *n*
a dead animal that has a substance put inside it so that it can be preserved and displayed (often in a museum)
- Winter Pimms** *n*
a cocktail made of Pimms (a ready-mixed cocktail), brandy, ginger ale and cinnamon
- fancy** *vb*
"Do you fancy?" means, "Would you like...?"
- a lung** *n*
literally, an organ in the body for breathing
- a spot** *n*
a place

READING I

Brand Stretching

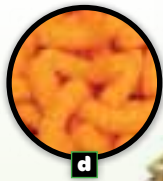
When companies take their products too far.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the brand names (1 to 7) to the pictures (a-g).

- Cheetos
- Diesel
- Bic
- Fairy
- Lucozade
- Camel
- Harley Davidson



2 Reading I

Read the article once to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

- What is brand extension?
- What is brand stretching?
- What are the advantages of brand extension?
- Why do tobacco companies use brand stretching so much?

4 Language focus Superlatives

Look at this extract from the article, "But one of the weirdest has to be..." The writer has used the superlative form of "weird" = "weirdest". Complete the sentences with the superlative forms of the words in brackets.

- It's one of the _____ (good) books I've ever read.
- He's one of the _____ (strange) people I know.
- That's one of the _____ (bad) films I've ever seen.
- It's one of the _____ (dirty) flats I've ever seen.

5 Discussion

- Have you bought or used any of the products mentioned?
- What do you think of brand extension? What do you think of brand stretching?
- Have you seen any funny/ridiculous/good examples of brand stretching? What are they?

What images **come to mind** when you think of Harley Davidsons? Leather boots. **Bearded bikers**. American **highways**. What about a cake-decorating mixture? You obviously haven't heard of the Harley Davidson Cake Decorating Mix – a fine example of **brand stretching**... gone too far.



Many companies do what is known as brand extension. This is the use of a successful **brand name** to launch a new product in the same market. For example, Fairy was extended from a **washing-up liquid** brand to become a **washing powder** brand too. It made sense. Similarly, the Lucozade brand went from a children's health drink to an energy drink and sports drink. That made sense too.

When done successfully, brand extension can have several advantages. There's less **risk** with a new product if it carries a familiar brand name. On top of that, customers will associate the quality of the established brand with the new product. Customers will also feel more comfortable about the product and be more willing to **sample** it. Finally, promotional **launch costs** (particularly advertising) are likely to be lower.

Other companies try something a bit more radical: brand stretching. This involves the use of an established brand name for products in unrelated markets. Sometimes it works. For example, Japanese motorcycle manufacturer Yamaha started making hi-fi equipment, pianos and sports equipment. And they were very successful.

Tobacco companies are experts at brand stretching. Many of them started putting their brand names on non-tobacco merchandise or services after the introduction of tobacco advertising **bans**. For example, the manufacturers of Camel cigarettes started using their name for "lifestyle" products such as clothing, shoes, and watches. And Marlboro has produced the Marlboro Classics range of clothing. It's now the second-largest **mail order brand** in the USA, and there are more than 1,000 Marlboro Classics shops throughout Europe and Asia.



But brand stretching doesn't always work. Something just doesn't seem right. The Harley Davidson Cake Decorating Kit is a fine example of that. But there are plenty more. Bic pens brought out the Bic **Pantyhose**. Restaurant chain Hooters started an airline, and Diesel Jeans produced a range of wines known as Diesel Jeans Wines. But one of the **weirdest** has to be the Cheetos Lip Balm. Can you imagine what that would taste like? ☺

GLOSSARY

- to come to mind** *exp* to think of
- bearded** *adj* with a beard (hair on the lower part of the face)
- a biker** *n* a person who rides a motorbike
- a highway** *n* a big road with many lanes (lines) of traffic. A "motorway" in British English
- brand stretching** *n* using the name of a famous product for a new product in a different market
- a brand name** *n* the name of a famous product
- washing-up liquid** *n* a substance used to wash dirty plates, knives, cups, etc.
- washing powder** *n* a powder (many small particles of a substance) used to clean clothes (often in a washing machine)
- risk** *n* danger
- to sample** *vb* to try a small amount of a product to see if you like it
- launch costs** *n* the money needed to promote, market and advertise a new product
- a ban** *n* a prohibition; something you cannot do
- a mail order brand** *n* a company that sells goods through a catalogue / the internet – there are no physical shops
- pantyhose** *n* *US* an item of thin clothing that covers the legs and goes up to the stomach ("tights" in British English). Usually worn by women
- weird** *adj* strange, unusual



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READING II

Gaffes Galore

When people get it wrong... big style.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Look at the sentences below. See if you can find a mistake in each one. Can you correct them?

These sentences contain errors!

1. This wine is from Chiie.
2. The recipe requires salt and freshly-ground people.
3. You need a lot of editing experience for this job.
4. She went to the University of Wisconson.
5. One of the commandments is, "Thou shalt commit adultery."

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

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

1. 50
2. 7,000
3. 100
4. Two
5. 1988
6. 1632

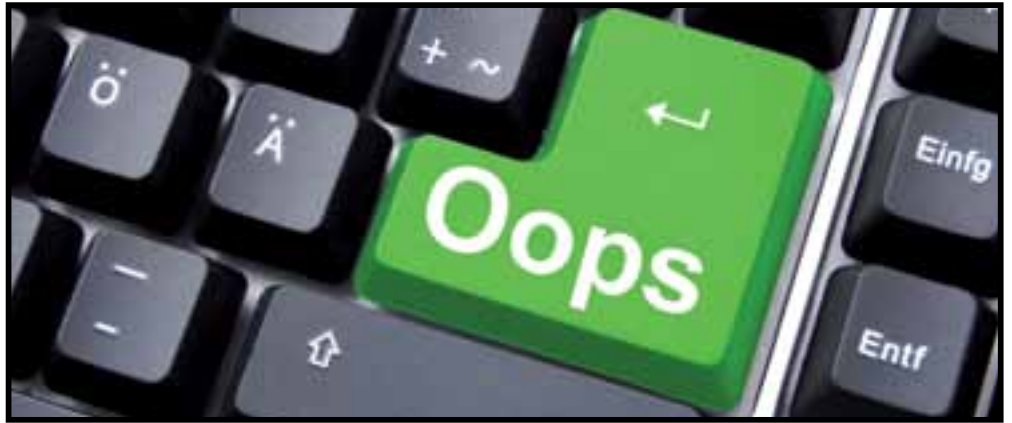
4 Language focus The Past Passive

Look at this extract from the article, "...thousands of coins were issued with..." The writer has used a Past Passive construction ("were issued"). Transform the following sentences into the Past Passive. You don't need to include the agent (the person who did the action).

1. They proofread the book.
2. They took the coins out of circulation.
3. They found the mistakes.
4. They placed a classified ad in the newspaper.

5 Discussion

1. What was the last error you noticed in a publication?
2. What's the worst spelling mistake you've ever made in your language?
3. Which words do you find difficult to spell?



What's the biggest written mistake you've ever made? It surely can't be as bad as any of these.

There were **red faces** in Chile just recently after thousands of **coins** were **issued** with the name of the country spelt wrongly. The 50-peso coins (worth about 10 cents) were issued in 2008, and instead of "Chile" the coins had "Chiie" [sic] on them. But it's not all bad news – the coins have since become collectors' items, and the **mint** says it has no plans to **take them out of circulation**.



Just recently, a publishing company in Australia had to reprint 7,000 copies of *Pasta Mash* (a cook book with more than 100 pasta basic recipes). Why? Well, one recipe listed "salt and freshly-ground people" instead of "pepper". The publisher said almost every one of the recipes in the book listed salt and freshly-ground pepper, but a misprint occurred on just one page. "When it comes to the **proofreader**, of course they should have **picked it up**, but proofreading a cook-book is an extremely difficult task," a spokesperson said.

Text errors are actually quite common in the world of publishing. *The Guardian* newspaper is famous for them, and is commonly referred to as the "Grauniad" (a misspelt version of their name). And there are many examples of errors in all the major publications. For example, a recent ad in *Woman's World* magazine read, "We are currently looking for proofreaders with editing [sic] experience," with the word "editing" spelt with two "t's". The ad also referred to the magazine incorrectly as *Women's World* instead of *Woman's World*.

In 1988 the University of Wisconsin awarded thousands of diplomas with the name of the state spelt incorrectly: "Wisconson" [sic] with an "o" instead of an "i" ("Wisconsin"). Six months passed before anyone noticed the **blunder**. An official defended the university by saying the certificates had been proofread, but only to check the names on them, not the general text.

But proofreading errors are nothing new. In the 1632 edition of the King James Bible the omission of the word "not" gave a whole new meaning to the seventh commandment, appearing as, "Thou shalt **commit adultery**", instead of "Thou shalt *not* commit adultery."

What about the books, magazines and newspapers you read? Have you found any errors recently? 🍀

Have you noticed any errors in Hot English? Nobody's perfect! Please let us know about any you see. Write in to: andyc@hotenglishmagazine.com

GLOSSARY

- red faces** *n*
if there are "red faces", people are embarrassed because of a mistake
- a coin** *n*
a metal piece of money
- to issue** *vb*
to produce
- a mint** *n*
the place where the official coins of a country are made
- take out of circulation** *exp*
if something is "taken out of circulation", it is removed from shops or general use and people can no longer use it
- ground** *adj*
if food is "ground", it is crushed (pressed) until there are very small pieces of it
- a proofreader** *n*
a person whose job is to check text and find errors
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to find
- a blunder** *n*
a mistake
- thou shalt** *exp Old*
you must
- to commit adultery** *exp*
to have a relationship with someone who is not your husband/wife/partner, etc.

HOW TO... LEARN ENGLISH BY READING



THIS MONTH, HOW TO... LEARN ENGLISH BY READING.

Reading is a great way to improve your English. You'll learn new words, revise previously-taught structures and absorb thousands of useful expressions and phrases... without any effort.

By reading, you are receiving valuable language input. And this is how you learn! Remember, language learning is a combination of input + practice. As you're reading, you're taking in language naturally, and you're seeing how it all fits together. This is crucial to your learning.

The great thing about reading is that learning takes place subconsciously. There are no exercises to do, no grammar rules to learn, no tasks to complete... it's all natural. The language flows in through your eyes, and gets registered in your brain. What could be easier?

The key to effective reading is to read things that you *want* to read. There are millions of books, magazines and websites out there. You couldn't possibly read them all. So, the important thing is to find things that you *like* reading. Then, you'll be motivated to read. And then the reading won't be difficult. It'll be easy! And then you'll learn. It's simple.

Remember: read what you *want* to read. What you like reading. What motivates and inspires you. But where can you start? Well, you could read a book that you've already read in your own language. Simply find a translated (or original) version of a book that you have read and enjoyed. This will make processing the content in the target language much easier as you'll already know what the book is about!

You could also read the news. This is great as you can read the news in your own language first, then in English. You'll see that it won't be too difficult as you'll be familiar with the topics and stories. Magazines are also great. Find one that covers

a topic you're interested in: business, clothing, guns, horses, houses, housekeeping, stocks and shares, sports, computers, electronics, designing, cooking... you name it, they'll have it. If not, look for information on the internet. There are also websites for every topic under the sun!

Why not join a forum? They're a great source of English input as the language is often written in a simple, spoken style. Go to Google Groups, which has discussion groups based on common interests. Just type in the topic that interests you and join the chat.

Finally, how you read is also important. The best thing is to read without using a dictionary. Let the words flow over you. Just skip the parts you don't understand. If you make your reading feel too much like work, it'll stop being fun. Of course, you could make a note of any new words and phrases that you like or see repeated frequently, but try not to break your concentration too much. Also, set yourself mini-objectives. For example, if you're reading a novel, read 20 pages a day. Very soon, you'll have been exposed to thousands of useful phrases and words.

Have fun reading! You'll learn so much! 🌟



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LISTENING ACTIVITY



Sport Mad

Life with a sports fan. By Patrick Howarth

1 Pre-listening

Choose the correct options for the mini-culture quiz.

1. Who wrote the *1812 Overture*? **Tchaikovsky / Vivaldi**
2. Who composed *The Four Seasons*? **Prokofiev / Vivaldi**
3. Who wrote *Peter and the Wolf*? **Prokofiev / Vivaldi**
4. Which London football team wears blue football shirts? **Manchester United / Chelsea**
5. Which football team has Sir Alex Ferguson as its manager? **Manchester United / Chelsea**

2 Listening I

You are going to listen to two people who are talking about football and going to concerts. Listen once to check your answers from the Pre-listening activity.

3 Listening II

Listen again. Answer "yes" or "no".

1. Does Archie want a glass of wine?
2. Does Archie have the concert tickets?
3. Is the concert in May?
4. Does Sophie like classical music?
5. Does Sophie like fireworks?
6. Does Sophie go to watch Chelsea every week?
7. Does Sophie want to go to the football match?
8. Did Archie watch the World Cup games with Sophie?



4 Language focus "Get"

Look at this extract from the listening, "I got the tickets." The speaker has used the past tense of the verb "to get" ("got"), which means "bought" in this context. What does "get" (or the expression with "get") mean in the sentences below (1 to 5)?

1. They **got married** last week.
2. She **got lost** last night.
3. I **got home** really late.
4. Did you **get** the e-mail I sent you?
5. What did you **get** for your birthday?

5 Discussion

1. Do you prefer concerts or football matches? Why?
2. When was the last time you went to a classical concert or football match? What was it like?
3. What do you like/dislike about football / classical music?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

LISTENING (B1)



Jolly Posh

Hugh Grant, David Cameron, Ralph Fiennes and the Queen are all very posh. But what exactly does it mean to be posh?

The most important thing about being posh is to have a posh accent. This often involves speaking with a slow **drawl**, and making your vowels as long as possible (see our Accent Alert article for more information on this). In class-divided Britain, people can immediately tell how posh you are from your accent. In fact, the writer George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "It is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman hate or **despise** him."

Posh people have also been to the "right" school. This means one of England's top public schools. In fact, the school you went to is very important. Top of the list of acceptable schools for posh people are Eton, Rugby, Harrow and Marlborough. Some of the other public schools are OK, but may be referred to as "MPSIA" (minor public school, I'm afraid).

Being posh is also about wearing the right clothes. The Barbour jacket (a waxed, green hunting

jacket) is one of the key items. Another is Wellington boots (or "wellies" as they are more commonly known), which will give the posh person a country look. **Tweed** is also fashionable.

Interestingly, **scruffiness** is also acceptable. The Daily Mail newspaper describes the modern posh person as "**pitifully clad**". The former (and very posh) Duke of Norfolk had his own theory. When **urged** by a friend to **tidy himself up** he replied, "Whatever for? Everyone knows who I am anyway!" Posh people know they're posh. They don't have to dress up to prove it!

Posh activities mostly revolve around sport. Many posh people enjoy hunting, shooting, cricket, tennis and rugby. Some belong to drinking clubs or gentlemen's clubs. But gambling, fighting and heavy drinking are also popular among posh people.

Being posh also includes behaving in a posh manner. This means acting politely, and doing things such as offering seats to the elderly, holding doors open to strangers and assisting people

with small children. It's also about knowing how to behave at the dinner table, and always saying "please", "sorry" and "thank you". However, posh people are also capable of being destructive, rowdy and violent.

Being posh is also about **showing restraint**. This means remaining extremely calm in moments of stress. It's about maintaining a **stiff upper lip**, being cold-blooded and never, ever showing any emotion (except to horses and cats). **Unflappability**. Sang-froid. **Equanimity**.

These are the **traits** of the typical posh person.

Of course, not everyone likes posh people. Posh people are (or at least think they are) the elite of society. They are often (but not always) **born into wealth**, and go to the most expensive schools in the country. They then move into jobs of power, including working for the top banks or they go into politics. They all support one another through the **old boy network***.

In England, class divisions still exist. And people do examine the little differences between schools, universities, clothes and accents – much more than in other countries. So there you have it! The easiest way to spot a posh person in England is by the clothes they wear, the school they've been to, and the way they speak. ✪



A competition to find the stupidest upper-class person.

Old Boy Network



Many Old Etonians form part of the Old Boy Network – an informal network of ex-school friends who exchange favours in politics or business.

Upper Class Twit of the Year

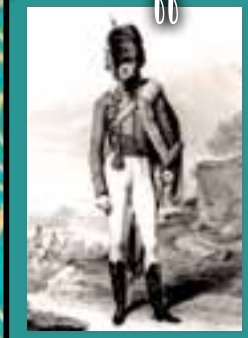
The Upper Class **Twit** of the Year is a comedy **sketch** from the TV show *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. It's one of the most **savage satires** of members of the English upper class.



The sketch consists of a competition with a number of **obstacles**. Here are a few of them.



The Stiff Upper Lip



During the Battle of Waterloo, Lord Uxbridge displayed the famous British stiff upper lip. He was commander of some 13,000 allied cavalry and 44 guns. At about 2:30pm, he led a series of cavalry charges. During one of these, he lost his right leg. At the time, he was close to the Duke of Wellington and calmly said, "By God, sir, I've lost my leg." To which Wellington replied in an equally calm voice, "By God, sir, so you have."



Walking Along the Straight Line
As part of this task, the twits must walk along straight lines.



The Matchbox Jump
This consists of jumping over a line of **matchboxes**.



The Hunt Ball Photograph
As part of this, the twits must have their photographs taken and make small talk with two strangers.



Waking The Neighbour
This task involves waking up a neighbour by slamming a car door or **tooting** a car **horn**.



Insulting the Waiter
In order to complete this task, the twits must be **rude** to a waiter.



The Bar
As part of this, the twits must go under a wooden bar that is about 1.5 metres off the ground.

Posh Names



I'M A RUPERT.

Posh people can be known as "toffs, snobs, hooray Henrys" and "Ruperts", or are referred to as "toffee-nosed". People from other classes (particularly the working class) are known as "oiks" and "plebs". Inverted snobs are those who hate wealthy posh people just because they're... wealthy and posh.

Other uses of posh



YOU WON'T GET POSHER THAN ME!

The pop-singer, fashion icon, footballer's wife and all-round superstar, Victoria Beckham is known as "Posh" Spice, although she has the "wrong" accent to be truly posh. "The Posh" is the nickname of Peterborough Football Club. "Posh" can be used to describe something luxurious or **upmarket**.



Watch it!
You can watch the sketch here on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSqkdcT25ss>
Have fun! 🍷

GLOSSARY

- a drawl** *n* if someone speaks with a "drawl", they speak slowly and not clearly and with long vowel sounds
- to despise** *vb* to hate
- tweed** *n* a thick woollen cloth often with different coloured threads
- scruffiness** *n* someone who is "scruffy" is dirty and untidy and wears old clothes
- pitifully** *adv* poorly; badly
- clad** *adj formal* dressed
- to urge** *vb* if you "urge" someone to do something, you try to persuade them to do it
- to tidy yourself up** *exp* to make yourself look nice, neat and clean
- to show restraint** *exp* if you "show restraint" you control yourself and don't become emotional
- a stiff upper lip** *n* remaining calm and controlled in a moment of stress and tension
- unflappability** *n* an ability to remain calm
- equanimity** *n* a calm state of mind
- a trait** *n* an aspect of your character
- born into wealth** *exp* born into a rich family
- upmarket** *n* expensive, good quality
- a twit** *n* an idiot
- a sketch** *n* a short scene that is often funny
- savage** *adj* cruel, violent, aggressive
- a satire** *n* a play/story/scene that makes fun of a person or institution
- an obstacle** *n* an object (or series of objects) that competitors must jump over, go under, climb up, etc.
- a matchbox** *n* a little box for holding matches (objects that produce fire when you strike them)
- to toot a horn** *exp* to press a button in a car in order to make a loud sound as a way of communicating with other drivers
- rude** *adj* not polite

The Bullingdon Club



Bullingdon Club Photo

This famous photo shows David Cameron with his "hard-drinking" friends from the Bullingdon Club. Many opponents of the Tories have used the picture to embarrass him.

The Bullingdon Club

An exclusive club for the wealthiest students of Oxford University in England. The club's colours are sky blue and ivory. Members dress for their annual club dinner in specially-made navy blue tailcoats. They attend expensive dinners and then smash up the restaurant.



There are many clubs in the UK. Some raise money for charity. Others organise sports activities. Some are for debating. And others are for walking. But have you ever heard of a club whose **sole purpose** is to drink and destroy restaurants? Welcome to the Bullingdon Club. It's one of England's most exclusive clubs, and only the richest can join.

The Bullingdon Club is a student **dining** club at Oxford University. Membership is by invitation only, and members must pay for the uniform, which costs around £3,000! Typically, Bullingdon Club meetings take place in restaurants in Oxford. During the meal, members will eat the **priciest** food and order the most expensive wines and champagnes. And when they've finished, they will proceed to destroy the restaurant, breaking furniture and windows. Once they've finished, they will pay for the damage. What fun! As you can imagine, many restaurants are keen to avoid the Bullingdon Club, which is why the club often has to **book under an assumed name**.

The Bullingdon Club was **founded** at Oxford University in 1780. Originally it was a **hunting** and cricket club. But by the late 19th

century, the emphasis was almost exclusively on dining. "The Bullingdon Club dinners were the occasion of a great display of **exuberant spirits**," wrote one reporter. The New York Times told its readers in 1913 that, "The Bullingdon represents the **acme of** exclusiveness at Oxford; it is the club of the sons of nobility, the sons of great wealth."



Over the years, there have been a number of incidents. On 12th May

1894, Bullingdon members **smashed** almost all the glass of the lights and 468 windows in the Peckwater **Quadrangle**. As a result, the club was **banned** from meeting within 15 miles of Oxford. In 2005, club members caused damage to a beautiful 15th century pub in Oxfordshire during a dinner. Four members of the party were arrested, and the incident was widely reported.

Incredibly, some of the UK's top leaders are ex-members of this **notorious** club. These include George Osborne (the **Chancellor of the Exchequer**), **1** Boris Johnson (the **mayor** of London) and **2** David Cameron (the prime minister).



It's nice to know who is **ruling over** you! 🗳️

GLOSSARY

- a sole purpose** *exp*
one reason
- dining** *n*
the act of eating (often in restaurants)
- pricy** *adj*
expensive
- to book** *vb*
to reserve
- under an assumed name** *exp*
using a false name
- to found** *vb*
to start a company
- hunting** *n*
chasing and tracking animals in order to kill / catch them
- exuberant spirits** *n*
if people are in "exuberant spirits", they are very happy and excited
- the acme of** *exp formal*
the "acme of" something is the greatest/highest point of it
- to smash** *vb*
to break (glass, bottles, etc.)
- a quadrangle** *n*
a rectangular, open area with parts of a large building along the sides. Also known as a "quad"
- to ban** *vb*
to prohibit
- notorious** *adj*
famous for something negative
- the Chancellor of the Exchequer** *n*
the government minister in charge of the economy/finance, etc.
- a mayor** *n*
the elected leader of a town/city
- to rule over** *exp*
the people who are "ruling over" you are the people in charge / in government

The life and times of the UK's new prime minister.

David Cameron

He's a famous Old Etonian. He went to Oxford University. And he's awfully posh. David Cameron is the UK's 52nd prime minister.



David Cameron Quotes

"I'm a **practical** person, and **pragmatic**. I know where I want to get to, but I am not ideologically attached to one particular method."

"I think I'm canine rather than feline. I like company, I like people, and that is much more dog-like than cat-like. And I'm more of a dog lover."

David Cameron

Born: 9th October 1966 in London
Married to Samantha. Two children and baby on the way. First child Ivan died in 2009.
Educated at Eton and Oxford.
Elected MP for Witney, Oxfordshire 2001.
May 2010, becomes Prime Minister.

Likes: Bob Dylan, The Smiths, Radiohead and Pulp.
Favourite film: The Godfather
For his holidays, he likes to go to Turkey, France and Cornwall.
Drinks Guinness.
Supports Aston Villa football club.
Likes to watch darts on TV



Samantha Cameron

Mrs Cameron works as the creative director of upmarket **stationery firm** Smythson's of Bond Street. It counts Stella McCartney, Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell among its clients. Samantha has a tattoo on her ankle and went to art school in Bristol. She is the daughter of landowner Sir Reginald Sheffield. She grew up on the 300-acre Normanby Hall estate near Scunthorpe. Sam and Dave were married in 1996.



In May 2010, David Cameron became the UK's new prime minister. At 44, he's the youngest prime minister since 1812 (when Robert Banks Jenkinson became prime minister); and he's six months younger than Tony Blair was when he entered Downing Street in 1997. But how did Cameron get there?

David Cameron was born on 9th October 1966. He was **raised** in a fabulously wealthy family. Mr Cameron has said he had a "happy childhood", but one where there was no "**whingeing**". At the age of seven, young Cameron was **packed off to** Heatherdown, an exclusive **preparatory school**, which counted Princes Edward and Andrew among its pupils. Then, following in the family tradition, came Eton – one of England's most prestigious schools for boys.

After Eton, Mr Cameron went to Oxford University where he studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics. At Oxford University he was a prominent member of the notorious Bullingdon



Club, but avoided student politics because, according to one friend from the time, "he wanted to have a good time." Mr Cameron's **tutor** at Oxford, Professor Vernon Bogdanor, describes him as "one of the **ablest**" students he has taught.

After university, Mr Cameron got a job in the Conservative Research Department. As a researcher, he was seen as hard-working and **bright**. Later, he took a job in **PR** with television company Carlton. Mr Cameron spent seven years at Carlton, as head of corporate communications, travelling the world with the firm's boss.

In 2001, Mr Cameron won the Conservative **seat** of Witney, in Oxfordshire. Then, in 2005, he succeeded Mr Howard as party leader. He was seen as something different from the traditional Tory leaders, and in his first party

conference speech he famously said, "Let sunshine win the day!" He also described himself as the "**heir** to Blair".

And now he's the prime minister! Let's see what changes he'll bring to the UK. ⚡

The Conservative Party

The Conservative Party is a political party in the UK that was founded (in its present form) during the early 19th century. It is the main centre-right party in the UK. The Conservative Party is descended from the old Tory Party (founded in 1678), and is still often referred to as the Tory Party, and its politicians, members and supporters as Tories. At present, the Tories are ruling with the Liberal Democrats in a coalition government. The leader of the Liberal



Democrats is Nick Clegg, whose wife, Miriam Durantez, is Spanish.

GLOSSARY

- posh** *adj* sophisticated; upper-class
- to raise** *vb* to "raise" children is to care for them until they are adults
- to whinge** *vb* to complain about trivial things
- to pack off to** *exp* to send someone to a place for a period of time
- a preparatory (prep) school** *n* a private school for children between the ages of 6 to 12 (more or less)
- a tutor** *n* a teacher or teaching assistant at university
- able** *adj* with a lot of skill and intelligence
- bright** *adj* intelligent
- PR** *abbr* Public Relations – concerned with maintaining the public image of a company/person, etc.
- a seat** *n* someone who is elected to parliament has won a "seat"
- an heir** *n* a person who inherits another person's money, property, title or reputation
- practical** *adj* someone who makes sensible decisions and deals effectively with problems
- pragmatic** *adj* someone who deals with problems effectively and directly (not just theoretically)
- a stationery firm** *n* a company that produces writing paper, envelopes, etc.



GOT A PROBLEM? PERHAPS YOU NEED TO CALL THE A-TEAM! THEY'LL SORT IT OUT FOR YOU.

THE A-TEAM



IT'S ALL ABOUT TEAMWORK.

The A-Team are a group of ex-United States Army special forces troops. They appeared in a television series of the same name which ran from 23rd January 1983 until 30th December 1986, with a total of 98 episodes.

There are four characters in The A-Team.

The leader is Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith (played by actor George Peppard).

Lieutenant Templeton "Faceman" Peck (played by Dirk Benedict) is a **smooth-talking conman**. He's referred to as "Face".

The team's pilot is Captain H.M. "Howling Mad" Murdock (played by Dwight Schultz). He has been **declared insane** and lives in a mental institution, but often comes out to help the team.

The team's strong man and mechanic is Sergeant BA (Bad Attitude) Baracus, otherwise known as Mr T (from the actor's real surname, Tureaud).

Every episode begins with this

voiceover introduction: "Ten years ago, a crack commando unit was sent to prison by a military court for a crime they didn't commit. These men promptly escaped from a maximum security **stockade** to the Los Angeles underground. Today, still wanted by the government, they survive as soldiers of fortune. If you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can **hire**... The A-Team."

Most episodes follow a **set formula**. The first few scenes will show the episode's victim, explain what his/her problem is, and why they need the A-Team to help them. This will provide the main story for the episode. Very often, the victim will be a young woman who Face is attracted to. At some point in the episode, the A-Team will be trapped or caught and will need to construct a weapon or a vehicle in order to escape.

The A-Team was famous for its cartoon-like use of violence. People were seldom hurt in the crashes, gun fights and explosions. Many criticised the show for this, but others welcomed it as an entertaining form of **escapism**. 🍀

A-TEAM TRIVIA

The gold worn by Mr T in the TV series weighed between 15 and 20 kilos.

During the entire series, only five people ever died **on screen**.

Almost every single episode of the A-Team involves a car **stunt**, with the car jumping dramatically into the air, then making a **crash landing**. Afterwards, the occupants can often be seen walking out of the car **unscathed**.

Mr T and George Peppard didn't **get along** very well, especially after Mr T became the real star of the show. Things got even worse after Peppard found out that Mr T was paid more than he was.



WHO YOU LOOKIN' AT, FOOL?

THE A-TEAM (2010)



There's a film version of the series called *The A-Team* (2010). It stars Liam Neeson (as Colonel John

"Hannibal" Smith), and it's directed by Joe Carnahan. The **tagline** is, "There is no plan B!" Who will the boys be saving this time?

RAMPAGE JACKSON

Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson plays B. A. Baracus in the film version of *The A-Team* (2010). He is a former Ultimate Fighting Championship Light-Heavyweight title holder.



QUOTES

BA Baracus: Shut up, fool!

Murdock: I wish I could just jump in the water and live like a fish.

BA Baracus: Shut up, fool. You **ain't** no fish!

BA Baracus: They're closing. They got us!

Hannibal: You never know.

BA Baracus: I do. We're almost **out of gas**.

Hannibal: Now, why did you **pick** a truck with no gas?

BA Baracus: 'Cause I liked the **paint job**.

Hannibal: BA, there's an old saying, "The best defence is a good offence."

BA Baracus: You got that wrong, man, "A good offence is the best defence."

Hannibal: OK, **have it your way**.



MIR T

He's famous for his role as BA Baracus in the 1980s' television series *The A-Team*. He appeared as boxer Clubber Lang in the 1982 film *Rocky III*. And he's spent a lot of time helping children. Mr T is one of America's most famous **icons**.

Mr T was born on 21st May 1952 in Chicago, Illinois. His full name was Laurence Tureaud, and his nickname (Mr T) comes from the initial letter of his surname. The youngest of a family of twelve, Mr T went to Dunbar High School (Chicago) where he played football, **wrestled**, and studied martial arts. Later, he won a **scholarship** to Prairie View A&M University. After university, he joined the army.

Later, he worked as a **bouncer**. And it was here that his image was developed. He often put on gold neck chains and other jewellery that customers left behind, or that they gave to him to look after.

Years later, Mr T became a **bodyguard** to the stars. He protected well-known personalities including Muhammad Ali, Steve McQueen, Michael Jackson, Leon Spinks, Joe Frazier and Diana Ross, charging \$3,000 per day. As a bodyguard, his **business card** read, "Next to God, there is no greater protector than I." Mr T claimed that he never lost a client, saying, "I got hurt worse growing up in the ghetto than working as a bodyguard."

In 1984, he made a motivational video called *Be Somebody... or Be Somebody's Fool!* In the video, he gives helpful advice to children, teaching them how to understand and appreciate their origins, showing them how to dress fashionably without buying **designer labels**, demonstrating how to make **tripping up** look like break-dancing, and explaining how to control anger and how to deal with **peer pressure**. The video is roughly one hour long, but contains 30 minutes of singing, either by the group of children accompanying him, or by Mr T himself. In one song he says why it's important to treat your mother right, and in another, he raps about **growing up** in the ghetto. The raps were written by Ice T.



In 1984 Mr T released an album, "Mr T's Commandments". It was in the same tone as his 1984 educational video, instructing children to stay in school and to avoid drugs. He later followed up with a second album the same year, titled *Mr T's Be Somebody... or Be Somebody's Fool!* 🌟



MR T'S QUOTES

- "I believe in the Golden Rule: the man with the gold rules."
- "I'm teaching fools some basic rules."
- "I have seven brothers, and they're introverts. I'm an extrovert. I love people."
- "I'm not perfect, I'm not an angel, but I try to live a certain way because it brings honour and respect to my mother. I tell people that when they look at me, they're looking at nothing but a big, overgrown, **tough mama's boy**. That's who I am."
- "People ask what gives me the authority to give advice? I say, first of all, I don't give advice. Mr T helps people. I motivate them, I inspire them, I give them hope, and I plant the **seed** so they can feel good about themselves."

MR T'S HAIR

Mr T is famous for his hairstyle. It looks similar to a Mohawk, but he claims that it is based on the hairstyles of **Mandinka** warriors. He decided that adoption of the style would be a powerful statement about his African origin.



- GLOSSARY**
- to sort out** *exp* to find a solution to
 - smooth-talking** *adj* someone who is "smooth-talking" can speak confidently and can persuade others to do things
 - a conman** *n* a person who tricks people in order to get money from them
 - to declare insane** *exp* if someone is "declared insane", doctors say that he/she is insane / crazy / mad
 - a voiceover** *n* a commentary or explanation in a film or television programme which is spoken by someone who is not seen
 - a stockade** *n* a strong area for keeping enemies out or for holding people prisoner
 - to hire** *vb* if you "hire" someone, you pay them to do something for you
 - a set formula** *n* a fixed/established way of doing things
 - escapism** *n* watching or reading things as a way of escaping from reality
 - on screen** *n* on the television / in a film
 - a stunt** *n* a dangerous or exciting piece of action in a film
 - a crash landing** *n* if there is a "crash landing", a car hits the ground after flying through the air
 - unscathed** *adj* with no injuries or damage
 - to get along** *exp* if you "get along" with someone, you are friends with them
 - a tagline** *n* a phrase/sentence used to promote a film
 - ain't** *abbr/inform* aren't (can also be "isn't")
 - out of something** *exp* if you are "out of something", you have no more of that thing
 - gas** *n US* petrol / diesel
 - to pick** *vb* to choose
 - a truck** *n* a large vehicle for transporting goods
 - a paint job** *n* the way that something is painted
 - have it your way** *exp* do what you want
 - an icon** *n* a symbol
 - to wrestle** *vb* to fight as a sport
 - a scholarship** *n* money given to finance your studies
 - a bouncer** *n* a person who works in a bar/club, etc. as a security guard
 - a bodyguard** *n* a person who protects a rich/famous person
 - a business card** *n* a small card with details about a professional person
 - a designer label** *n* clothing that is produced by a famous fashion designer / house
 - to trip up** *phr vb* to fall down after hitting your foot against something
 - peer pressure** *n* the pressure exerted by people who are the same age as you
 - to grow up** *phr vb* when you "grow up", you become an adult
 - tough** *adj* strong (physically or mentally)
 - a mama's boy** *exp* a boy who depends on his mother and who is very close to her
 - Mandinka** *n* one of the largest ethnic groups in West Africa

A look at some of the most popular hairstyles of all time.



HAIRSTYLES

HAIRSTYLES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. HAVE YOU HAD ANY OF THESE?

THE BOB

This hairstyle was made popular in the 1920s. It consists of hair down to **earlobe** level (more or less). Victoria Beckham even has her very own version: *The Beckham Bob*.



THE POMPADOUR

This is one of the most famous hairstyles of the 1950s. The hair is **combed back** on the sides, and pulled up and over itself on top to create the Elvis Presley / James Dean look.



THE DUCKTAIL

This is similar to the pompadour, but



there's more (and longer) hair around the neck. Do you remember John Travolta's hair from the film *Grease*? That's a ducktail!

THE PIXIE

This very short hairstyle consists of an extremely short fringe ("bangs" in US English). Otherwise known as the Audrey Hepburn look.



THE SHAG

This hair style was made famous by the Beatles, and consists of **messy**, slightly long hair.



BOUFFANT

This is created by **piling** the hair up on top. Just think Amy Winehouse or



Marie Antoinette!

AFRO

This hairstyle is perfect for people with curly hair. Guitarist Jimi Hendrix had one.



PONY TAIL

This consists of a long piece of hair tied at the back. Steven Seagal has one, and Antonio Banderas and Russell Crowe have had them in the past.



PIGTAILS

This hairstyle consists of two **clumps** of hair tied at the sides. Miley Cyrus and Paris Hilton have been seen with them.



CORNROWS

This consists of **braided** hair in **rows** from front to back. Dancer, rapper and model Kevin Federline had one once.



THE MULLET

This consists of long at the back and short hair in the front ("party in the back, all business up front" as it's also known). Singer Billy Ray Cyrus was famous for his mullet.



THE RAT-TAIL

Related to the mullet, this hairstyle consists of a long piece of hair that resembles the tail of a... rat.



DREADLOCKS

This hairstyle is associated with the Rastafarian movement – that special Bob Marley look.



LIBERTY SPIKES

Liberty spikes will give you the definitive punk look. For longer-lasting spikes, use glue.



MOHAWK

This is the original **warrior** look.



FAUXHAWK

For those who want



a little punk in their lives, there's the "fauxhawk" – one of the many David Beckham looks.



PERM

The hairstyle of the 1980s.



THE BED HEAD

This messy style of hair makes you look like you've just **rolled out** of bed. It basically consists of **misplaced** sections of hair. Brad Pitt had a bed head in the film *Fight Club*.



BOWL

Every child's worst **nightmare**, but the quick and easy answer for parents who want to save a bit of money.



THE RACHEL

This haircut is named after the character Rachel Green from the TV series *Friends*. Perfect with **highlights**.



BUN

This consists of hair in a circular coil that is placed on the back of the head.



SKINHEAD

This hairstyle is ideal for those who don't want to have to worry about their hair. Brazilian footballer Ronaldo had one once.



CREW CUT

This hairstyle is similar to a skinhead, but with some extra hair on top. The term was used to describe the haircut worn by members of the Yale **rowing crew** in the 1890s. By the mid-1960s, the crew cut was generally seen as a mark of conservative political opinions. Ricky Martin has been seen with one.



FLAT TOP

This hairstyle is a version of the crew cut, but the hair is longer and flatter on top. Dolph Lundgren has had one.



THE COMBOVER

This is for those who like to pretend it isn't happening. ☹️



TYPES OF HAIR



Straight hair



Curly hair



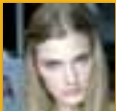
Wavy hair



Tied-back hair



Braided / plaited hair



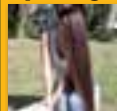
A centre parting



A side parting



A fringe



Long hair



Black hair



Blonde hair (woman)



Blond hair (man)



Brown hair



Red hair

GLOSSARY

an earlobe *n*
the soft part at the bottom of your ear (where earrings are inserted normally)
to comb back *exp*
to use a comb (a plastic object with "teeth") or a brush to push your hair back and away from your face
messy *adj*
not ordered; untidy; not in place
to pile *vb*
to put a quantity of things (in this case, hair) on top of one another until they form a high mass of those things
a clump *n*
a mass of something (hair, in this case)
braided *adj*
if hair is "braided", it is put into strips which are placed over one another to create crossed sections of hair
a row *n*
a line of something
a warrior *n*
a soldier who is experienced in fighting
to roll out of *exp*
if you "roll out of" bed, you fall out of the bed in a rolling (circular) movement
misplaced *adj*
not in its correct place
a nightmare *n*
a terrible situation
highlights *n*
areas of hair that have been dyed (changed colour) so they are a lighter colour or blonde
a rowing crew *n*
a group of people who row a boat (move it through the water with oars – long sticks)

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READING I

Famous Flops

Some of the most famous failures of recent times. By Sam Gordon

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Complete the names of the groups with the words from below.

- Enemy Block Five Supremes
Girls Wings That Boys

1. New Kids on the _____
2. Diana Ross and the _____
3. The Backstreet _____
4. Take _____
5. Paul McCartney and _____
6. The Spice _____
7. The Jackson _____
8. Public _____

2 Reading I

Look at the list of things below. What could cause them to fail? Think. Then, read the article once to check your ideas.

1. A play
2. A concert
3. A new singer-songwriter
4. A major exhibition centre

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a sentence/phrase describing each flop.

1. Carrie
2. Moose Murders
3. A *Diana Ross and the Supremes* concert
4. The *New Kids on the Block* comeback
5. Carly Hennessy
6. The Millennium Dome

4 Language focus The Past Perfect

Look at this extract from the article, "...she had refused to include the original members..." In this example, the speaker has used a Past Perfect construction ("had refused"). Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Perfect.

1. They _____ (see) the film before.
2. She _____ (eat) when we arrived.
3. He _____ (forget) to close the window.
4. We _____ (be) there before.

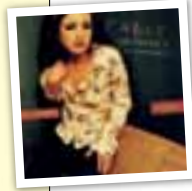
5 Discussion

1. What's the worst theatre play you've ever seen? Why was it so bad?
2. Have any groups in your country attempted to make a comeback? What happened?
3. Are there any buildings that have flopped in your country? What are they? Why did they flop?



costume – was described by critics as "titanically bad". *The New Yorker* even said that it "would insult the intelligence of an amoeba". It lasted just one performance.

Even musical legends aren't safe from the **dreaded** flop. Diana Ross had to cancel 23 shows from her *Diana Ross and the Supremes* concert because of poor ticket sales. **Mind you**, she had refused to include the original members of the Supremes, so that may have explained it. Sometimes it's best to know when to stop. *New Kids on the Block* were a phenomenal success when they first appeared in the late 1980s, selling 80 million albums around the world. But when they attempted a **comeback** in 1993 with a rap album and a silly new name (NKOTB), the results weren't too good. Did they learn the lesson? No. Guess what? NKOTB are back and **touring** again.



But that was nothing compared to the case of Carly Hennessy. She's an Irish-born singer-songwriter who finished in sixth place on the television **talent programme** *American Idol*. In 2001, she released her **debut album** "Ultimate High" and her **record company** MCA Records spent over \$2 million on recording and promotion. Unfortunately, the record sold only 300 copies in its first three months. Carly was **dropped** by her record label the following year.

And just to show that flops come in all shapes and sizes, how about the Millennium Dome? With a surface area of 80,000 square metres it must be one of the biggest flops ever. It was used to **house** the **Millennium Experience**, a major exhibition in London celebrating the beginning of the third millennium. The exhibition opened to the public on 1st January 2000 and ran until 31st December 2000. It cost £758 million to build but attracted less than half the expected visitors, and is now empty apart from the occasional music concert. One **BIG turkey**.

There's often a fine line between failure and success. The trick is to learn the lessons, but the problem is that not everyone gets a second chance.

More next month. ☺

This is the second part of our series on famous **flops**. This month: the theatre and music.

The theatre has seen its fair share of flops. Does a musical version of Stephen King's horror novel/film *Carrie* sound like a bad idea to you? Well, it was. The production, which opened in New York, was **panned** by critics and lost \$8 million. Miraculously, it managed to **last** for 21 performances. But that was nothing compared with *Moose Murders*. The murder mystery **farce** – complete with a man in a **moose**



GLOSSARY

- a flop** *n* something that fails badly
- to pan** *vb* to fail badly
- to last** *vb* if something "lasts" for a period of time, it happens during that period of time
- a farce** *n* a funny theatre play in which characters become involved in complicated and unlikely situations
- a moose** *n* a type of large deer (Bambi)
- dreaded** *adj* if something is "dreaded", many people are frightened of it
- mind you** *exp* an expression used to contradict what you have just said
- a comeback** *n* if someone makes a "comeback", they return after a period of absence
- to tour** *vb* to travel around the country singing/acting in different places/towns/cities
- a talent programme** *n* a television programme in which people sing/dance/act, etc. and judges award points
- a debut album** *n* the first album that a singer/group releases
- a record company / label** *n* a company that promotes/manages groups/singers, etc.
- to drop** *vb* if a company "drops" a product, they stop producing it
- to house** *vb* if something is "housed" in a building, it is kept there
- the millennium** *n* a period of 1,000 years
- a turkey** *n inform* something that fails spectacularly

Fox Hunting

One of England's most controversial "traditions".



Watch & Learn!
Listen to people discussing
this topic in a mini-video at
www.hotenglishmagazine.com

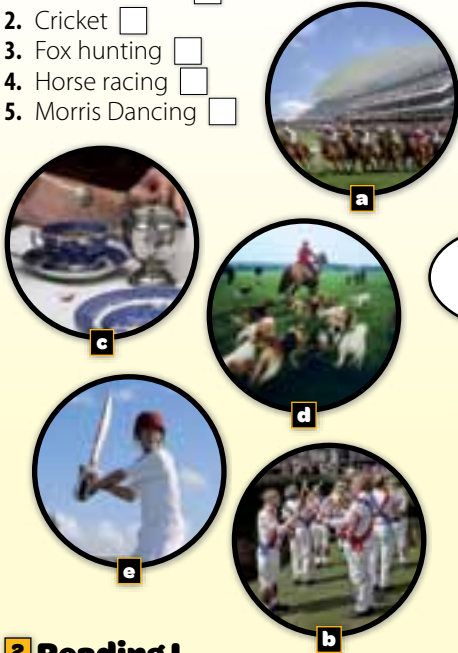
Englishman track 14

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the English traditions (1 to 5) to the pictures (a-e).

1. Afternoon tea
2. Cricket
3. Fox hunting
4. Horse racing
5. Morris Dancing



Are there any controversial **blood sports** in your country? In the UK, there's fox **hunting**. Officially, it's illegal but it's still **going on**. And it's just as **divisive** as ever.

The objective of most fox hunts is simple: to **track, chase** and, sometimes, kill a fox. A hunt begins when the hounds are "cast". This is when the dogs are released and start searching in bushes for foxes. When the hounds **pick up** the **scent**, they track the fox. If they see it, the chase is on and the dogs run after it. They are followed by the **riders** who wear **scarlet-coloured** coats known as "pinks". The hunt continues until either the fox escapes (it "goes to ground" – meaning that it **takes refuge** in an underground **burrow**), or is caught and then usually killed by the hounds.

GLOSSARY

- a blood sport** *n*
a sport that involves killing an animal
- hunting** *n*
finding an animal in order to kill, chase or catch it
- to go on** *exp*
to happen
- divisive** *adj*
that causes division/anger/controversy
- to track** *vb*
to try to find an animal by following its footprints or smell
- to chase** *vb*
to run after in order to catch
- to pick up** *exp*
if dogs "pick up" a scent (smell) they notice it
- a scent** *n*
a smell from an animal
- a rider** *n*
person who is riding a horse
- scarlet-coloured** *adj*
a type of strong, bright red colour
- to take refuge** *exp*
if you "take refuge" in a place, you go there to hide and be safe
- a burrow** *n*
a hole or tunnel that animals make in the ground
- unspeakable** *n*
very bad
- in pursuit of** *exp*
chasing; trying to catch
- the uneatable** *n*
something that cannot be eaten
- a 4x4** *n*
a car with four-wheeled drive - a system in which power is transmitted to all four wheels
- pest control** *n*
controlling/killing animals that can harm/hurt humans or human activity
- a livelihood** *n*
this word refers to the things you do to earn money to survive
- a trap** *n*
a device or hole in the ground that is designed to catch/kill an animal
- to ban** *vb*
to prohibit
- to gather** *vb*
to come together in groups
- artificial** *adj*
not genuine; not the real thing
- a trail** *n*
if dogs follow a "trail", they smell the ground and follow the scent of an animal in order to catch/kill it
- a front** *n*
a legal business or activity that is hiding another illegal or secret one

2 Reading I

What do you know about fox hunting? Think. Then, read the article once to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer these questions.

1. What are some of the arguments against fox hunting?
2. What are some of the arguments in favour of fox hunting?

4 Language focus

The Present Simple Passive

Look at this extract from the article, "...and that the foxes are killed quickly..." In this example, the speaker has used a Present Simple Passive construction ("are killed"). Transform the following sentences into the Present Simple Passive. Do not mention the agent (the person/people who do the action).

1. They ride the horses.
2. They hunt foxes.
3. They pass laws.
4. Many people oppose the decision.

5 Discussion

1. What do you think about fox hunting?
2. What do you know about the other traditions mentioned in the Pre-reading activity?
3. Are there any controversial traditions in your country? What are they? Why are they controversial?

Many people are against fox hunting. Animal rights activists argue that foxes suffer a cruel and violent death (after a very stressful chase). They also say that fox hunting is an activity in which people seem to gain pleasure from cruelty. Others despise it for being a mostly upper-class and aristocratic sport. Oscar Wilde once described it in 1893 as, "the **unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable**".

Supporters of fox hunting are equally passionate. They say it's a tradition that's part of England's cultural heritage.



They also say that it plays an important role in rural life, and that many jobs depend on fox hunting. And they argue that it's an activity and spectacle enjoyed not only by the riders but also by many others who follow on foot, bicycle or in **4x4s**. Finally, they point out that it's an important form of **pest control** that protects the **livelihood** of farmers, and that the foxes are killed quickly and that it's much less cruel than using **traps** or poisons.

But in 2005 everything changed. The Hunting Act came into force, and this effectively **banned** fox hunting. But it wasn't easy passing the law. Five men broke into the House of Commons to demonstrate against it, and thousands of people **gathered** outside the Houses of Parliament in protest. Now, it is officially illegal, but hunts still take place. Many follow **artificial trails**, but opponents claim this is simply a **front** and that many real foxes are still hunted.

Whatever the truth, more than 1,804 hunt groups are still in existence. So, it seems that one of England's most controversial traditions just refuses to die. 🐾



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC

People's Characters

LEARN SOME USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO DESCRIBE PEOPLE'S CHARACTERS.



"He got a first-class degree from Oxford University – he's really smart."

Someone who is "smart" is clever and intelligent.



"She can speak seven languages, and she plays four instruments – she's really gifted."

Someone who is "gifted" has many special abilities.



"Although she's a successful film star, she's really down-to-earth."

Someone who is "down-to-earth" is normal and straightforward and has no air of superiority.



"She loves going to parties and meeting people. She's really sociable."

Someone who is "sociable" enjoys being with other people.



"I wouldn't talk to him today. He's really argumentative."

Someone who is "argumentative" often disagrees with other people and starts arguments (angry verbal exchanges) easily.



I don't think I've ever seen her angry. She's just so easy-going."

Someone who is "easy-going" is relaxed and not easily annoyed or irritated.



"You can tell him anything. He's completely trustworthy."

Someone who is "trustworthy" will keep a secret if you tell it to them.



"If he says he'll have it ready at a certain time, he will. He's extremely reliable."

Someone who is "reliable" always does what they say they will do.



"Although they were brought up in a strict family, they are fairly broadminded."

Someone who is "broadminded" accepts many types of behaviour and many opinions.



I don't think he's been entirely frank with us."

Someone who is "frank" says things in an open, honest and direct way.



He's an inspiring and self-assured speaker who isn't afraid of large audiences."

Someone who is "self-assured" is confident and certain of their abilities.



"Some people describe him as shy, but I just think he's arrogant."

Someone who is "arrogant" believes that they are superior to others.



Jeeves & Wooster

The English gentleman, and the gentleman's gentleman.



Imagine having an **endless** supply of money. A **manservant** to look after you. And nothing to worry about except which party to go to, or how to escape from your **domineering** aunt. This is the life of Bertie Wilberforce Wooster.



Bertie Wooster is the star of *Jeeves and Wooster*, a British comedy television series about a **man of leisure**. It's adapted from P.G. Wodehouse's "Jeeves" stories, which are set in England and the United States in the 1920s and 30s. Bertie is played by English actor Hugh Laurie (the star of the television series *House*).



Wooster is an **empty-headed, jovial** member of the upper class. He has a personal servant whose name is Jeeves. Jeeves is the perfect "gentleman's personal gentleman". He's well-informed, talented and rarely shows any emotion. "Jeeves is the guide, philosopher and friend everyone needs. The nanny to put you to bed at night and make sure you are comfortable," Hugh Laurie explains.

Jeeves impresses Wooster almost immediately. In the first episode, Wooster is in bed with a **hangover**. There's a knock at the door. It's Jeeves, who's been sent there by the **valet** agency. Within seconds, Jeeves has prepared a cure for Wooster's hangover.

Jeeves: If you would drink this, sir. It's a little preparation of my own invention. Gentlemen have told me they find it extremely **invigorating** after a late evening.

Bertie: [Bertie takes the glass and drinks it.] I say! I... I say! You're **engaged!**

Jeeves: Thank you, sir. My name is Jeeves.

Bertie: I say, Jeeves, what an extraordinary talent!
Jeeves: Thank you, sir.

Each episode finds Bertie Wooster in some **predicament**, usually involving marriage or money. But Jeeves can usually find a way out of it. In one episode, Aunt Agatha orders Wooster to marry Honoria Glossop. Bertie isn't **keen on** the idea, but Jeeves **comes up with a cunning plan**. This involves convincing Honoria's parents that Wooster is **unfit** to marry their daughter. ✨

Watch & Learn
You can watch *Jeeves & Wooster* for free on YouTube (although we recommend buying the DVDs as they've got subtitles). Just go here for a quick look: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqvddpX1uYA>

Jeeves & Wooster
Jeeves & Wooster is a British TV series about Bertie Wooster and his valet, Jeeves. It stars English actors Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry. It was shown on ITV from 1990 to 1993.

P.G. Wodehouse Books
Jeeves and Wooster is based on books by P.G. Wodehouse (Sir Pelham Grenville). He was born on 15th October 1881 and died on 14th February 1975.

GLOSSARY
endless *adj* with no end; that never finishes
a manservant *n* a person who works for you, doing the cleaning, cooking, ironing, etc.
domineering *adj* someone who is "domineering" likes to dominate/control others and tell them what to do
a man of leisure *exp* a person with no job who lives a life of pleasure and does the things they want to do
empty-headed *adj* a bit silly; not serious; not very intelligent
jovial *adj* always happy/content
a hangover *n* a bad feeling in your body/head after drinking too much alcohol
a valet *n* a personal male servant for a man
invigorating *adj* if a drink or form of exercise is "invigorating", it wakes you up and makes you feel fresh/new
to engage *vb* if you "engage" someone, you contract their services
a predicament *n* a problem
keen on *exp* if you are "keen on" something/someone, you like that thing/person
to come up with *exp* to think of
a cunning plan *n* a clever idea/scheme
unfit *adj* if someone is "unfit" for something, they are not appropriate or good for that thing, and they are not able to do it

QUIRKY NEWS, CORNY CRIMINALS & RIDDLES

quirky news



Bird Classes

Birds taught the basics by humans in disguise.

It's a big moment for bird lovers: for the first time in more than 400 years, Britain is re-introducing cranes into the country. It won't be easy, but the **cranes** have got some special helpers: human crane teachers.



So far, eight chicks have **hatched** from eggs that were brought over from Germany. The chicks will be **brought up** in a special "crane school" with human teachers **dressed as** cranes. The "human cranes" will teach the birds the skills they need to **survive** in the wild. Crane "mum" Amy

According to the **RSPB's** Grahame Madge, cranes were once found throughout the UK. But they died out in the 1600s in the UK, the victims of hunting and loss of habitat as **wetlands** were **drained**. These days, there are a few isolated populations in the UK. However, the Great Crane Project (by conservation groups the **WWT**, the RSPB and Pensthorpe Conservation Trust) **aims** to re-establish a **sustainable breeding population** in Somerset – from where it is hoped they will **spread**. The **conservation groups** are working with local **landowners** to provide suitable areas for the birds.



transferred to a temporary **release enclosure** on the Somerset **moors**, before they are **released** into the wild. "It's really important to minimise human contact," explained one of the "crane teachers". "Only people in costumes are allowed near the birds. It's very strict! The last thing you want is for one of the birds to **imprint** on you!" ✨

US woman track 18

Riddles

READ THE INFORMATION THEN SOLVE THE CRIME.

Murder!
Lord Bigglesby is found murdered one Sunday morning. His wife, Lady Bigglesby, immediately calls the police. When the police arrive, they question Lady Bigglesby and her staff. These are their answers.

Lady Bigglesby said she was sleeping.
The cook said he was preparing breakfast.
The gardener said he was picking vegetables.
The maid said she was buying stamps at the post office.
The butler said he was cleaning shoes.

The police instantly arrested the murderer. Who was it? How did the police know? ✨

GLOSSARY

- a crane** *n*
a bird with a long neck, long legs and a long bill (nose)
- RSPB** *abbr*
the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- a wetland** *n*
an area of land with water
- to drain** *vb*
if you "drain" land, that is wet you take the water out of it
- WWT** *abbr*
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
- to aim** *vb*
the things you "aim" to do are the things you plan to do
- a sustainable breeding population** *exp*
a population of birds/animals that can live, reproduce, find food, etc.
- to spread** *vb*
if things "spread", they go to other places and start living there too
- a conservation group** *n*
an organisation that protects a species of animal or an area of land
- a landowner** *n*
a person who owns (possesses) land
- to hatch** *vb*
if a bird "hatches", it comes out of an egg
- to bring up** *phr vb*
if parents "bring up" children, they educate and care for them
- dressed as** *exp*
if you are "dressed as" X, you are wearing clothes so you appear to be X
- to survive** *vb*
if a person/animal "survives", it manages to live and it doesn't die
- a release enclosure** *n*
a container for holding birds/animals before they are put into the wild
- a moor** *n*
an area of open land with a few hills
- to release** *vb*
if an animal is "released", it is freed (permitted to go to the wild)
- to imprint** *vb*
if an animal "imprints" on you, it recognises you as its parent and becomes dependent on you
- an award** *n*
a prize (often money) for winning something
- an owner** *n*
a person who possesses something
- a pub landlord** *n*
a person who manages a pub
- to snore away** *phr vb*
if someone is "snoring away", they are snoring a lot (making loud breathing noises while sleeping)
- a thief (thieves)** *n*
a person who steals (takes) things from others
- cash** *n*
money in the form of notes (paper money) and coins (metal money)
- a burglar** *n*
a robber who enters a house/building to steal
- a tip** *n*
money you leave a worker for the service they provide. The amount depends on the quality of the service
- a tin** *n*
a metal container for food
- in a flash** *exp*
very quickly
- to scare away** *phr vb*
to frighten and cause to leave
- to get on** *phr vb*
if someone is "getting on", they are becoming old
- to retire** *vb*
if someone "retires", they stop working usually because of their age

Corny Criminals

Dozy Dog

World's worst guard dog.

Taser has been named Britain's worst guard dog. The 11-year-old Doberman-alsatian crossbreed was given the unofficial **award** after sleeping through a robbery in a pub he was supposed to be guarding. Dog **owner** and **pub landlord** Leo Keel found Taser asleep in the corner of the main bar the next morning. "Taser was **snoring away**," Keel explained. "**Thieves** had been in during the night and taken hundreds of pounds in **cash** and alcoholic beverages, but Taser never even woke up," Keel added. The **burglars** had forced open a window to get in. They stole bottles of spirits, and a jar containing staff **tips**, and a **tin** with **donations** for a local charity collection.



"In the past, Taser would've been down the stairs **in a flash** if he'd heard a noise," Keel said. "We bought him to guard the pub and he's done a great job up until now, **scaring away** robbers three or four times, but he's **getting on** a bit now and I think it's time for him to **retire**." ✨



LISTENING ACTIVITY

DIY Movement

I'M DOING IT MYSELF.



Alternative ways of living your life.
By Patrick Howarth

1 Pre-listening

DIY (Do It Yourself) refers to decorating/cleaning/repairing jobs that are done at home. Look at the list below. Which ones have you done recently?

- Decorating the house.
- Fixing the toilet.
- Putting up shelves.
- Mending things.
- Putting up a picture.
- Painting the house.
- Doing the gardening.



2 Listening I

You are going to listen to someone who is talking about a political idea called "DIY Britain". What do you think it is? Think. Then, listen once to check your ideas.

3 Listening II

Match the sentence beginnings (1 to 6) to the endings (a-f).

1. Well, there are groups of people who...
2. The idea is that in the modern world...
3. Well, sixty or seventy years ago, people...
4. But in this article there was a man...
5. He organised a race from London to Athens for...
6. Quite a lot of the shops take the money and it...

- a. ...used to mend things themselves.
- b. ...means that the money is not controlled by the banks.
- c. ...who had built his own house.
- d. ...don't want to use banks, the electric companies...
- e. ...cars that use old vegetable oil instead of petrol.
- f. ...most people don't understand how things work.

4 Language focus "Used to"

Look at this extract from the listening, "...people used to mend things..." In this extract, the speaker has used "used to" to refer to things that happened regularly in the past. Complete the following sentences with your own ideas.

1. When I was younger, I used to play a lot of...
2. When I was a child, I used to like...
3. When I was a teenager, I used to go to...
4. When I was at school, I used to...

5 Discussion

1. Do you like DIY? Why? Why not?
2. What was the last job you did at home? Was it successful?
3. What do you think of the DIY Britain idea? Could it work in your country?



Avocado Salad

HERE'S SOMETHING COOL AND FRESH FOR THE SUMMER.



Ingredients

- Two avocado pears – **peeled, pitted** and **diced**.
- Red onion, **sliced**.
- Green bell pepper, **chopped**.
- Large **ripe** tomato, chopped.
- ¼ cup chopped fresh coriander.
- The juice of half a lime.
- Salt and pepper.
- ¼ cup pine nuts, **toasted** light brown in the oven.
- 100 grams of Parmesan cheese.

Preparation

- In a medium bowl, mix the avocado pears, onion, bell pepper, tomato, coriander and lime juice. Gently **toss** until evenly coated. Season with salt and pepper. **Sprinkle** the pine nuts over the top, and **grate** the cheese on top of that. ☆

GLOSSARY

peeled *adj*
with the skin taken off / removed

pitted *adj*
with the stone taken out

diced *adj*
cut into small cubes (squares)

sliced *adj*
cut into thin slices

chopped *adj*
cut into small pieces

ripe *adj*
if food is "ripe", it is fully grown and ready to eat

to toast *vb*
to heat until it becomes brown

to toss *vb*
if you "toss" a salad, you mix it up after putting oil and vinegar, etc. on it

to sprinkle *vb*
if you "sprinkle" cheese on food, you put an amount of cheese over the top of that food

to grate *vb*
if you "grate" food, you rub it over a grater (a metal tool to cut the food into small pieces)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

A school like no other.

Eton School

Prince Harry and Prince William went there. David Cameron went there too. And so did 18 other prime ministers. Eton is one of England's most famous schools.



Eton

The full name of Eton is "The King's College of Our Lady of Eton besides Wyndor". The school was founded by King Henry VI in 1440. The boys-only school was actually set up as a charity to provide free education to seventy poor boys, who would then go on to King's College, Cambridge (which King Henry also founded). There are about 160 teachers and approximately 1,300 boys between the ages of 13 and 18.



GLOSSARY

- a public school** *n*
a private school (often an old one); also known as an independent school
- a boarding school** *n*
a school in which the children sleep
- a housemaster** *n*
a teacher who is in charge of children in a house (one of the buildings where children live/sleep in a boarding school)
- a tailcoat** *n*
a jacket with a piece of long material at the back
- a waistcoat** *n*
a type of jacket with no sleeves (arms)
- pinstriped trousers** *adj*
trousers with thin lines of a different colour to the main material
- a fag** *n*
a personal servant (often a young pupil) who does jobs for an older pupil
- a servant** *n*
someone whose job is to cook, clean, etc. for someone
- to warm** *vb*
to make warm (not cold)
- a chore** *n*
a minor job in the house
- to polish** *vb*
to clean shoes/metal, etc. until they shine (they are clean and bright)
- to fade away** *phr vb*
if something "fades away", it disappears slowly
- corporal punishment** *n*
this involves hitting someone many times because they have done something "bad"
- a cane** *n*
a long stick for hitting
- twigs** *n*
small, thin branches (bits of wood) from a tree
- to flog** *vb*
to hit very hard with a piece of wood/leather as a form of punishment
- a headmaster** *n*
the manager/director of a school
- to phase out** *phr vb*
if something is "phased out", it slowly disappears and is no longer used
- a term** *n*
most schools have three terms – school periods of about 3 months
- a winged collar** *n*
a "collar" is the part of the shirt that goes around the neck. If it is "winged", it looks like the wings of a bird
- to rip** *phr vb*
to break (paper) into many small pieces
- to gather around** *exp*
if people "gather around", they form a group/circle in an area or around someone
- to chant** *vb*
to sing/shout the same phrase over and over again
- to flee** *vb*
to run away in order to escape
- playing fields** *n*
an area of grass where children can play / do sport

Famous Old Etonians

Old Etonians (OEs) include Prince William, Prince Harry, George Orwell, Abhisit Vejjajiva (the prime minister of Thailand), David Cameron (the current prime minister of the UK) and 18 other British prime ministers, including Sir Robert Walpole, William Pitt, William Gladstone, Robert Salisbury, Arthur Balfour, Sir Anthony Eden and Harold Macmillan.



I'M A MEMBER OF ETON'S ELITE!



Eton quotes

"A good Etonian is gentlemanly, intelligent – who could want better than that?"

Ticky Hedley-Dent, Tatler Magazine

"Kids arrived there with this extraordinary sense that they knew they were going to run the country," **Palash Dave (who went to Eton in the 1980s)**

"The Battle of Waterloo was won on the **playing-fields** of Eton." **The Duke of Wellington (who was at Eton from 1781 to 1784)**



Eton is typical of many English **public schools**. For a start, it's a **boarding school**, with 25 boys' houses (each with a **housemaster**). The school is also very expensive – with fees of about £30,000 per year. As in many other public schools, pupils have to wear a school uniform. But Eton's uniform is special, consisting of a black **tailcoat** (or morning coat), a **waistcoat**, and **pinstriped trousers**.

Like many other public schools, Eton once had a system of **fags**. Fags were younger boys who act as personal **servants** to more senior boys. "Fagging" jobs involved cleaning, cooking and running errands. The world-famous author Roald Dahl remembers being ordered to **warm** toilet seats for older boys at Repton School. Other **chores** included making toast, **polishing** shoes, ironing clothes and cleaning cups. The practice of personal fagging **faded away** during the 1970s and 1980s.

As in many other public schools, Eton was also famous for its use of **corporal punishment**. This often consisted of beatings with a **cane** or the **twigs** from a birch tree. In the 16th century, Friday at Eton was known as "**flogging** day". **Headmaster**, John Keate (who held the position from 1809 to 1834) once flogged 80 boys publicly in one session. From 1970, boys were no longer required to take down their trousers for the beatings. In 1983,

all forms of corporal punishment were **phased out**.

Eton has many unique traditions. The Eton Wall Game is a curious mixture of rugby and football played on a pitch 5 metres wide and 110 metres long next to a brick wall. Teams score by throwing a ball at a "goal", which in this case is a garden door at one end and a tree at the other. No one had actually scored a goal since 1909 until Prince Harry managed to in 2002. Another game is "Eton Fives". This is a type of hand-ball game played as "doubles" (two teams of two) in a three-sided court.

The school also has a lot of its own words and expressions. **Terms** are known as "halves" – even though there are three a year. A class is called a "div", and teachers are known as "beaks". A "stick up" is the name of the **winged collars** that some pupils wear. Bad work is called a "rip" (because it is **ripped up** by the teacher), and good work is called a "show up". A traditional form of pupil protest at Eton is called a "Leggit". When pupils are unhappy about something at school, they **gather around** the school hall to protest, **chanting** until the teachers come out. Then, when the headmaster appears, one pupil shouts "Leggit" and all the pupils **flee** in different directions.

Are there any schools like this in your country? ☆

Boris Johnson

He's been to Eton and Oxford University. He's a friend of David Cameron's. And now he's the **mayor** of London. Boris Johnson is one of the UK's most **flamboyant** politicians.



Some see Boris as a bit of a **joker**. "He's the sort of person who 200 years ago would have died aged 30 leading a **cavalry charge** into a volcano," said one political commentator. "People always ask me the same question, they say, 'Is Boris a very, very clever man pretending to be an idiot?' And I always say, 'No!'" the editor of *Private Eye* magazine once said.

Boris is well known for his love of cycling. He frequently commutes to work through the **busy** streets of London. Once, he got into

trouble for speaking on a mobile phone whilst cycling. There were a number of letters criticising his behaviour, but Boris **laughed it off**.

Boris has had a privileged background. He was educated at Eton, and later went to Balliol College, Oxford University, where he studied Classics. During his time at Oxford University, he became president of the Oxford **student union**. He also



became involved in various clubs, including the Bullingdon Club (see other article).

After university, Boris **pursued a career** in journalism. He started off as a **trainee** reporter on *The Times* but was **sacked** for inventing a **quote**. From 1987 he worked at *The Daily Telegraph* where he became a leader-writer and assistant editor. He was editor of *The Spectator* from 1999 until 2008.

Boris has had a fairly long career in politics. In 2001, he was elected MP for Henley on Thames. In 2004 he was appointed **shadow minister** for the arts. However, in November 2004, he was forced to resign over allegations of an **extra-marital affair** with Petronella Wyatt. In 2005, he was back, being given the position of shadow minister for education. In 2006, there were allegations of another extra-marital affair, but

nothing happened as a result. On 2nd May 2008, Boris Johnson was elected mayor of London – a position which he still holds today. ✪

Boris Johnson Quotes



"Yes, cannabis is dangerous, but no more than other perfectly legal drugs."

"I have as much chance of becoming Prime Minister as of

being **decapitated** by a Frisbee, or of finding Elvis."

"As I have discovered myself, there are no disasters, only opportunities. And, indeed, opportunities for fresh disasters."

"There may be a reason I can't think of but the problem with that reason is that I can't think of it now."



Boris Johnson

Boris Johnson (full name: Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson) was born on 19th June 1964. He's a British journalist and politician who is currently serving as the mayor of London. Boris is of Turkish ancestry.



GLOSSARY

a mayor *n*

an elected leader of a town/city

flamboyant *adj*

someone who is "flamboyant" is noticeable / stylish / exciting, etc.

a joker *n*

a person who doesn't take life seriously; someone who other people

don't take seriously

a cavalry charge *n*

if there is a "cavalry charge", many

soldiers on horses gallop (ride fast)

towards the enemy

busy *adj*

if streets are "busy", there is a lot of

traffic

to laugh something off *exp*

to laugh about something that others

are angry about

a student union *n*

an organisation at university that

organises social events

to pursue a career *exp*

if you "pursue a career", you do jobs

that are related to your career (the

professional job you do for the

majority of your life)

a trainee *n*

someone who is learning how to do a

job

to sack *vb*

to tell someone to leave a job

a quote *n*

a phrase or sentence that someone

(often a famous person) has said

a shadow minister *n*

the "shadow minister" for the arts

is the minister for the arts from the

opposition party (not the party in

power)

an extra-marital affair *n*

a relationship with someone who isn't

your wife/husband

to decapitate *vb*

to cut off a head

a limb *n*

an arm or leg

a black eye *n*

an area of darker/damaged skin

around an eye after it has been hit

a cracked rib *n*

the curved bones that protect the

lungs (the two "bags" in your chest

you use for breathing)

to run *vb*

to manage/control

The Darius Guppy Incident



In 1990, Boris received a call from Darius Guppy, an old friend from Eton and Oxford. A British television programme obtained a recording of the call. At the time of the phone call, Boris was working for the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper. Guppy was angry at a *News Of The World* journalist and wanted to have him attacked. In the conversation, Guppy asks Boris to use his journalistic contacts to find the reporter.

Boris: How badly are you going to hurt this guy?

Darius: Not badly at all.

Boris: Really, I want to know because...

Darius: OK, let me explain to you...

Boris: If this guy is seriously injured, I am going to be furious.

Darius: I guarantee you he will not be seriously hurt.

Boris: How badly hurt will he be?

Darius: He will not have a broken

limb or broken arm and he

will not, er, he will not be put

into intensive care or anything

like that. He will probably get

a couple of **black eyes** and a,

and a, and a **cracked rib** or

something like that.

And this guy's **running** London!

voices

Various English accents

track

22

DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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



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| Situation | Formal | Relaxed | Informal |
|--|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Someone does something horrible and not very nice. | That is utterly revolting. | That's disgusting. | That's gross; that's sick. |
| You ask a colleague how she is. | May I enquire as to the nature of your wellbeing? | How are you? | What's up? How's things? |
| You are angry with someone who is annoying you. | I am exasperated by your behaviour. | I've had enough of you. | I've had it up to here with you. |
| A friend is extremely drunk. | He is in a state of inebriation. | He's drunk. | He's out of his face. |
| A friend is earning a lot of money. | He is being remunerated a substantial amount of money for his occupational activities. | He's earning a lot. | He's getting loads of dosh. |
| You are studying at university. You find the course very easy. | It is not of a stressful nature. | It's easy. | It's a doss; it's a breeze. |

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LISTENING ACTIVITY



Posh English

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

The posh English accent is typically an upper-class English accent. Famous people with a posh English accent include Sir Laurence Olivier, the Queen, Prince Charles, Prince Harry, Prince William, David Cameron, Helen Mirren and Hugh Grant.

Posh people can be found all over the country, but like to congregate in the London area of Kensington and Chelsea, particularly in Sloane Square and Sloane Street (hence one of their nicknames, Sloane Rangers).

The posh person's "bible" is *The Official Sloane Ranger Handbook* by British writer Peter York. It tells



posh people everything they need to know about how to be posh.

Typical "posh" jobs include advertising

executives, army officers, farmers, PR agents, art gallery managers, secretaries (for posh banks), journalists, lawyers, wine merchants, auctioneers, art dealers and City of London bankers.

Posh people often have unusual nicknames, such as



Spiffy, Buffy, Gussie, Bingie, Buffy, Tuppy, Oofy, Barmy and Strangely Brown.

In the winter, posh people like to ski in Val d'Isere (in France), Aspen (Colorado) or Verbier (in Switzerland). In the summer you can find posh people in the Caribbean, Monaco, the Greek Isles and Cannes.

Now sit back and listen to Charles telling us all about the Posh English accent. ✪



Doing Business

Trying to get some help for a new business.

I CAN'T HELP YOU!

1 Pre-listening

What do you need in order to set up a business? Rank the ideas below from 1 to 9 according to how important they are ("1" is the most important).

- Rent an office.
- Register the company.
- Employ an accountant.
- Employ a sales person.
- Employ a marketing manager.
- Buy a company car.
- Print some business cards.
- Design a company logo.
- Set up a company website.

2 Listening I

You are going to listen to Chris and Nicola. Nicola is giving Chris some business advice. Listen once. How many of the things from the Pre-listening activity has Chris already got/done?

3 Listening II

- Listen again and answer the questions.
1. What type of product is Chris hoping to market?
 2. What sort of marketing budget has Chris got?
 3. What is Chris going to do about the business cards?
 4. How would you describe Chris's understanding of the term "unique selling proposition"?
 5. Why is Chris disappointed?

4 Language focus Verbs + Prepositions

Look at this extract from the listening, "I advise businesses on their marketing strategies..." The speaker has used a verb + a preposition ("advise on"). Complete the sentences below with the correct prepositions.

1. They congratulated us _____ our success.
2. She applied _____ the job.
3. He warned us _____ the potential dangers.
4. We'll provide you _____ all the necessary equipment.

5 Discussion

1. Have you ever thought about setting up a business? What type of business was it?
2. What's the key to a successful business?
3. What are the pros and cons of owning your own business?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

BRIDGE IDIOMS

HERE ARE SOME "BRIDGE" IDIOMS FOR YOU.



Build bridges

TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY DIFFERENT OR WHO ARE TRADITIONALLY ENEMIES.

"They're trying to build bridges between the different ethnic groups in the area."



Be water under the bridge

IF A PROBLEM OR AN UNPLEASANT SITUATION IS WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, NO ONE IS ANGRY/UPSET/WORRIED ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

"We had a few arguments in the past, but it's all water under the bridge now."



Burn your bridges

TO DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS AND GO BACK TO THE SITUATION YOU WERE IN BEFORE.

"I was tempted to tell Mr Bates what I really thought about him, but I didn't want to burn my bridges as I was potentially interested in working for them again."



Be like painting the Forth Bridge

IF REPAIRING OR IMPROVING SOMETHING "IS LIKE PAINTING THE FORTH BRIDGE", IT TAKES SO LONG THAT BY THE TIME YOU'VE FINISHED DOING IT, YOU HAVE TO START AGAIN.

"Cleaning this enormous office building is like painting the Forth Bridge: by the time you've finished cleaning the 12th floor, the first floor needs cleaning again."



We'll cross that bridge when we come to it

WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM WHEN IT HAPPENS (AND WE WON'T WASTE TIME WORRYING ABOUT IT MEANWHILE).

A: What are you going to do if they say no?

B: We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.



Pull up the drawbridge

TO DO SOMETHING THAT PREVENTS OTHER PEOPLE FROM ENTERING AN AREA OR GETTING ACCESS TO SOMEONE - BY CLOSING DOORS / BY TIGHTENING VISA RESTRICTIONS, ETC.

"They've increased border security and made it practically impossible to enter the country. But is pulling up the drawbridge the answer to our problems?"

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READING

Spend Away!

A few easy ways to spend a lot of money... fast. By Sam Gordon

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the objects/things (1 to 6) to the prices (a-f).

1. A house near Windsor Castle in England
 2. A Ferrari
 3. Grande Complication timepiece
 4. A birthday party at Cipriani restaurant in New York
 5. A wedding reception in France in the Grand Intercontinental hotel
 6. The "Flawless" cocktail
- a. \$500,000
 - b. £35,000
 - c. \$11 million
 - d. \$800,000
 - e. €140 million
 - f. \$60 million

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

Read the article again and complete the information.

1. The house with the 50-seat cinema is near...
2. You can get to the master bedroom in a...
3. The Ferrari is special because only...
4. The watch is called...
5. P. Diddy had his party in...
6. The wedding reception lasted for...
7. At the bottom of the cocktail glass, you can find...

4 Language focus The Third Conditional

Look at this extract from the article, "...it would have added another £35 million to the bill!" The writer has used part of a Third Conditional construction ("would have added"). Complete the following sentences with your own ideas. "If I had known..."

1. ...you were so rich, I wouldn't have...
2. ...it was going to be hot today, I wouldn't have...
3. ...you were going to be here, I would have...
4. ...she was going to say that, I wouldn't have...

5 Discussion

1. If you had an unlimited amount of money to spend, what would you buy?
2. Are you careful about how you spend your money? How? Why?
3. Do you think there should be a more equitable distribution of wealth? Why? Why not?

Got a bit of **spare cash**? Any €500-notes **burning a hole in your pocket**? Here are a few ways to **get rid of** your money... pretty quickly.

Most people's greatest expense in their lifetime is their home. The average price of a house in England today is about €190,000. But there are some much more expensive houses that you might like to consider. Located 25 miles outside of London and near Windsor Castle, there's a house on the market for €140 million. So what do you get for your money? Well, 22 **en-suite bedrooms** for a start, plus a 50-seat cinema, two tennis courts, one squash court, a bowling alley and 58 acres of **grounds**. Oh, and five swimming pools too, one of which you can only access via a glass **lift** from the master bedroom. So, quite a **bargain** really.



A house like this will no doubt have plenty of garage space, so you're going to need a good car to put in there. How about a 1961 Ferrari 250 GT SWB California Spyder? At \$11 million dollars, it's the most expensive car in the world, and only around 55 were ever built. With a top speed of 240 km/h, it's unlikely that

you'll ever be **running late**, but just in case you're bad with time, you'll need a good watch too. The "Grande Complication" by Jean Dunard might be just what you're looking for. It comes in platinum with a **see-through** sapphire back, and will cost you a mere \$800,000. But compared to the car, it's a bargain!

Now you've got the house, the car and the watch, how about a party to celebrate? Some celebrities have managed to spend an awful lot of money on parties. Rapper P. Diddy **splurged** \$500,000 on a birthday party at Cipriani restaurant in New York. But that's nothing compared to what **steel magnate** Lakshmi Mittal paid for his daughter's wedding. The 6-day celebration took place in France and had 1,000 guests. The invitation card arrived in a solid-silver box, guests stayed in the luxury "Grand Intercontinental" hotel and Kylie Minogue **performed** at the event. All in all, it cost Mittal \$60 million.

No doubt the champagne was **flowing like water** at that wedding. But even Lakshmi Mittal didn't serve his guests the "Flawless" cocktail as an aperitif. No wonder really, as each one costs £35,000 and it would have added another £35 million to the bill! The cocktail has been launched by Movida nightclub in London and contains Cristal champagne, Louis XII cognac, and an edible 24-carat gold leaf. It's definitely not a good idea to **gulp it down** all at once, though, as you may accidentally **swallow** the 11-carat white diamond ring that comes at the bottom of the glass!



So there you go, if the **piggy bank** is getting a bit full, or you have some spare change, there are plenty of ways you can spend your money. ☘



GLOSSARY

- spare cash** *n*
extra money that you have that is not really needed for anything
- to burn a hole in your pocket** *exp*
if money is "burning a hole in your pocket", it is extra money that you don't need for anything in particular
- to get rid of** *exp*
if you "get rid of" something, you throw it away
- an en-suite bedroom** *n*
a bedroom with a bathroom next to it - often joined by a door
- the grounds** *n*
the area around a house - the gardens, etc.
- a lift** *n*
a device that carries people from one floor in a building to another one
- a bargain** *n*
something that is very good value for money
- to run late** *exp*
if you are "running late", you are late for an appointment and you aren't going to arrive on time
- see-through** *adj*
transparent
- to splurge** *vb*
to spend a lot of money on luxury items or something really expensive
- a steel magnate** *n*
a businessperson who owns factories that produce steel (a type of metal)
- to perform** *vb*
if a singer/actor "performs", he/she acts/sings in public
- to flow like water** *exp*
if champagne is "flowing like water", people are drinking a lot of it
- flawless** *adj*
with no errors/mistakes/problems
- to gulp down** *exp*
to drink quickly and without care
- to swallow** *vb*
to take liquid/food from your mouth to your stomach
- a piggy bank** *n*
a container for money (often in the form of a pig). Children put their money in it as a way of saving up

READING II

Disguise Surprise

Getting news and information the easy way.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Read the headlines. What are the stories behind them? Have a guess!

- Terrorists tricked!
- Football boss scandal!
- Footballer exposed!
- TV star caught!
- England coach shame!

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. Why is Mahmood called the Fake Sheik?
2. How did Mahmood trick the suspected terrorists?
3. Why did the Newcastle bosses get into trouble?
4. How did the footballer defend himself?
5. Why was the Eriksson story such big news?
6. How do you think Mahmood manages to trick people?

4 Language focus The Present Continuous Passive

Look at this extract from the article, "After being exposed, Fashanu claimed..." In this example, the writer has used a reduced Present Continuous Passive construction ("being exposed"). Complete the following sentences with a past participle of your choice.

1. After being _____ the money, I left.
2. Before being _____ the painting, I had lunch.
3. Whilst being _____ around the building, they paid me the money.
4. After being _____ not to do it, they later changed their minds.

5 Discussion

1. Have there been any spectacular scoops in your country recently? What were they about?
2. Are there any famous reporters in your country? Who are they? Why are they famous?
3. What do you think of entrapment? Should it be allowed?

This is the second part of our series on undercover reporting.

One of Britain's most famous undercover reporters is Mazher Mahmood – otherwise known as the Fake Sheik. He works for the *News of the World* newspaper, and he's been responsible for some of their biggest news stories.

The Fake Sheik **nickname** comes from one of his most famous **disguises**. This consists of long white **robes** and a **headscarf**, which gives him the appearance of a wealthy Arabian sheik. The paper he works for claims that Mahmood has **put** more than 130 criminals **behind bars**, some of whom have been **fooled** by the Fake Sheik disguise. Mahmood's other victims include politicians, footballers, models and even members of the Royal Family. Here are some of his most spectacular **scoops**.

In an undercover operation in September 2004, Mahmood offered to sell radioactive material to suspected terrorists. The men were allegedly working for a group who were attempting to **carry out** attacks in the United Kingdom.

In another report, Mahmood **posed as** the Fake Sheik and talked to Newcastle football bosses Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall. Mahmood secretly recorded them as they **mocked** Newcastle fans.

In another **sting**, Mahmood met up with footballer John Fashanu and offered him money to **fix** a match. Fashanu agreed and took a cash deposit. After being exposed, Fashanu claimed he knew about the sting, and was just **going along with it** in order to **gather evidence** for the police.

John Alford was a star of a popular 1980s television series called *Grange Hill*. Later, he became a national celebrity for his role as a fire-fighter in the series *London's Burning*. In 1997, he met Mahmood at the Savoy Hotel. During the interview, Alford offered to supply cannabis and cocaine. He was later found guilty of drug offences, and jailed for nine months. In his defence, Alford claimed that he was the victim of **entrapment**.

In one of his most famous scoops, Mahmood met up with the England national football-team **coach** Sven-Göran Eriksson in January 2006. Mahmood (who was dressed up as the Fake Sheik) was posing as a businessman interested in opening a sports academy. During the meeting, Eriksson asked Mahmood to take over Aston Villa FC. If he did, Eriksson promised he would leave England after the World Cup and become the Aston Villa manager, and that he would approach David Beckham from Real Madrid to become captain. News of this caused a **media frenzy** as it was so close to the 2006 World Cup.

Beware! Some people just aren't who they seem to be!

Next month: the Fake Sheik meets the Royal Family. ✨



GLOSSARY

- a nickname** *n*
an informal name
- a disguise** *n*
special clothing worn in order to hide your true identity
- a robe** *n*
a long piece of clothing that covers the body and legs
- a headscarf** *n*
a piece of clothing that covers the head
- to put someone behind bars** *exp*
when someone is "put behind bars", they are sent to prison
- to fool** *vb*
to trick
- a scoop** *n*
a very important/sensational news story
- to carry out** *exp*
if someone "carries out" an action, they do that action
- to pose as** *exp*
if you "pose as" someone, you act/dress as if you are that person
- to mock** *vb*
to make fun of; to ridicule; to laugh at
- a sting** *n*
a clever, secret plan to catch criminals, or make secret recordings of someone discussing something illegal, immoral or wrong
- to fix** *vb*
if a match is "fixed", participants in the match are paid to do things that will affect the final result
- to go along with something** *exp*
if you "go along with something", you act as if you agree with it / like it even though you don't
- to gather evidence** *exp*
to collect information that the police can use to prosecute someone
- entrapment** *n*
catching a criminal by using "unfair" or illegal methods
- a coach** *n*
a person who trains/manages a sports/football team
- a media frenzy** *n*
if there is a "media frenzy", many journalists are desperately trying to get information about a popular story

PHRASAL VERB THEMES

Speaking / Talking

HERE ARE SOME TYPICAL PHRASAL VERBS THAT REFER TO TALKING AND MAKING CONVERSATION. MORE NEXT MONTH. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE WORDS FROM BELOW.

situation increase need nothing methods part discussion finance

Join in

IF SOMEONE "JOINS IN" A DISCUSSION / CONVERSATION, THEY START PARTICIPATING IN IT.



1

"They asked me if I'd like to join in on their _____ of alternative energy."

Come on to

IF YOU COME ON TO A PARTICULAR TOPIC, YOU START DISCUSSING IT.



2

"Now, I'd like to come onto the question of _____."

Come in for

IF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING "COMES IN FOR" A LOT OF CRITICISM, IT RECEIVES A LOT OF CRITICISM.



3

"Their _____ came in for a lot of criticism."

Come up (a name)

IF SOMEONE'S NAME (OR SOMETHING IN GENERAL) "COMES UP" IN A CONVERSATION, IT IS MENTIONED CASUALLY.



4

"Your name came up when we were talking about people for the _____ in the play."

Chip in

IF SOMEONE "CHIPS IN" DURING A CONVERSATION, THEY INTERRUPT IT BY SAYING SOMETHING.



5

"What do you think of the economic _____?" he chipped in.

Drone on

IF SOMEONE "DRONES ON", THEY TALK IN A BORING AND MONOTONOUS VOICE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.



6

"He was droning on and on about the need to _____ efficiency. It was so boring."

Drag in /into

IF YOU "DRAG" A TOPIC/PERSON "INTO" A CONVERSATION, YOU MENTION THAT TOPIC/PERSON EVEN THOUGH OTHER PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO DISCUSS IT/THEM.



7

"Don't drag James into all this. It's got _____ to do with him."

Drag up

IF SOMEONE "DRAGS UP" AN UNPLEASANT STORY FROM THE PAST, THEY MENTION IT EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO BE REMINDED OF IT.



8

A: And don't forget the time you were stopped for speeding.
B: There's no _____ to drag that up again.



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TAPESCRIPTS & BAR CHATS

The Volcano (track 9)

Nature versus air travel.

Ken: Hi, Martina. Come and sit down.
Martina: Hello, there, Ken. Good to see you.
Ken: I haven't seen you for ages. Where have you been?
Martina: On a business trip.
Ken: Oh, yeah. You went to Madrid, didn't you?
Martina: Yeah, that's right. I had a meeting there with some Spanish clients.
Ken: But that was over a week ago. Was it a long meeting?
Martina: No, only one day.
Ken: So, where have you been? I've tried phoning a few times but you're never at home.
Martina: I know, I was in Madrid.
Ken: What? All this time?
Martina: Yes.
Ken: Why?
Martina: Because of the volcano, Ken. Don't you ever watch the news?
Ken: What volcano?
Martina: The one in Iceland. It erupted and produced a big cloud of ash.
Ken: Really? I didn't know. But you weren't in Iceland. Madrid's not near there, is it?
Martina: No, Ken. Madrid is about 3,000 kilometres south of Iceland.
Ken: So, what are you talking about?
Martina: Well, the wind blew the ash from the volcano south from Iceland into Britain. All the airports were closed.
Ken: Were they?
Martina: There were no flights in or out of the UK, Ken.
Ken: Are you sure?
Martina: Yes. That's why I was in Madrid. I couldn't get home.
Ken: So, how did you get home?
Martina: Well, I went from Madrid to Barcelona by train. Then, I arranged a meeting with a client there. After that, I tried to buy a train ticket from Barcelona to Paris but there were no tickets on the Eurostar train from Paris to London. So, I stayed in Barcelona.
Ken: I've been to Barcelona. It was lovely.
Martina: Yes, Ken. Finally, I got a ticket on a boat from Bilbao to Southampton.
Ken: Where's Bilbao? Germany?
Martina: No, Ken. It's in the north of Spain.
Ken: Are you sure?
Martina: Yes, I was there a few days ago. So, I got a coach from Barcelona to Bilbao and then got the boat.
Ken: Wow. And all because of this volcano. It seems strange that I've never heard of it.
Martina: You really should read a newspaper or watch the TV news every now and then, Ken.
Ken: I know, but I'm too busy.
Martina: You're unemployed, Ken.
Ken: Well, I've got a job interview next week. It's as a journalist for The Times newspaper.
Martina: I'm sorry, Ken, but I don't think you're going to get the job.
Ken: No, maybe you're right.

Sport Mad (track 12)

Life with a sports fan.

Sophie: Hi Archie, you're late.
Archie: I know, I'm sorry, Sophie. I had to finish some work at the office.
Sophie: That's OK. I've started cooking. Do you want a glass of wine?
Archie: Oh, yes, please.
Sophie: Here you are, Cheers.
Archie: Thanks. Cheers. Hey, great news. I got the tickets.
Sophie: What tickets?
Archie: For that concert I told you about.
Sophie: Concert? Sorry, I don't remember.
Archie: You know, the concert at Kenwood House. In August.
Sophie: August? When in August?
Archie: The 21st. It's a Saturday.
Sophie: Oh. You know, to be honest, I'm not sure about the concert.
Archie: What?
Sophie: Well, you know I don't really like classical music.
Archie: It's only Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture and Vivaldi's Four Seasons. It's not really classical music.
Sophie: Oh, I can't stand Tchaikovsky.
Archie: You've never heard of him.

Sophie: Yes, I have, he did that, er, Michael and the Bear thing. We listened to it at school.
Archie: I think you mean Peter and the Wolf, and it was written by Prokofiev.
Sophie: Oh, yeah. Well, it all sounds the same to me.
Archie: Anyway, you'll enjoy the 1812, there are lots of fireworks at the end.
Sophie: Fireworks? Oh, no. I really don't like fireworks. They're so noisy.
Archie: What? You love fireworks.
Sophie: And those concerts are so crowded. You have to queue for hours to get a drink or something to eat.
Archie: We can take a picnic. It'll be fun.
Sophie: I don't like outdoor concerts. The grass makes me sneeze. I think I'm allergic.
Archie: What? We saw The Rolling Stones at Wembley Stadium and you were fine.
Sophie: Actually I felt quite ill during the show but I didn't say anything. You were enjoying it so much. I didn't want to spoil it for you.
Archie: And every week you go and watch Chelsea play. There's lots of grass on a football pitch but you don't have any problems. I've never heard you sneeze at a match. Scream, shout and swear, yes. Sneeze, no!
Sophie: I often don't feel well at a match.
Archie: Only if they're losing. Hold on. That's it, isn't it?
Sophie: What?
Archie: It's the football, isn't it? It's the first game of the season on Saturday 21st, isn't it?
Sophie: Erm... really?
Archie: Yes, it is.
Sophie: Oh, all right. Yes, it's the first game. We're playing at home to Manchester United.
Archie: I have just sat through three weeks of the World Cup. That was three games a day. I watched them all with you.
Sophie: I know, darling. But we had lots of fun.
Archie: Did you? I didn't. It was boring. I don't mind a little bit of football, but three games every day!
Sophie: Oh, I thought you were enjoying yourself.
Archie: No, Sophie, I wasn't.
Sophie: Oh, sorry. It's just I really love football.
Archie: I know you do. You go to every Chelsea game. That's every weekend for nine months. We never go out. We never go away at the weekend. We never have friends over. We haven't got any friends!
Sophie: I have. There's Dave and Mike...
Archie: ...who you go to football with. No, Sophie. We're going to that concert together. This time we're doing what I want to do.
Sophie: OK, OK. One thing...
Archie: What?
Sophie: If it rains, can I go to the match?
Archie: Aaaargh!

British Bar Chat (track 19)

Dogs

Anthony: Erm, I went round to my aunt's house the other day and she's got this new little dog.
Karen: Was it a puppy... a newborn?
Anthony: Yeah, it's a little puppy. It's so cute, yeah.
Karen: What type of dog is it?
Anthony: I think it's erm, er, a Maltese or something like that. It's like a little white thing.
Karen: Fluffy?
Anthony: Yeah, it's got quite soft hair... long, soft hair... and it's really... it's so cute when it's always jumping around. Have you, have you ever had a dog?
Karen: Yeah we've always had... always had dogs in my family.
Anthony: Oh, OK [yeah]. What's it like keeping them? Because I know that... like, we've always had cats and they're quite easy 'cause you just like leave them in the house. They sleep during the day, they go out at night, and you don't really have to do much.
Karen: Yeah. Our dogs have always been quite well trained; you can leave them when you're out of the house for work for the day. It is... like, you have to be able to get up in the morning and take them for walks and in the evening. And you can't just leave them, they have to be walked, but it's a lot easier if you have a flat... a house as well [oh yeah, with a garden I imagine]. Yeah, if you're living in a flat it's a bit more difficult.
Anthony: So when you left the dog at home, did you... was he allowed in the garden? Could he get into the garden or was he just in the house all day?
Karen: No. He just stays in the house all day. [All right] And sometimes [I] get home at

lunchtime, if there was a chance, and let him out in the garden.
Anthony: Yeah 'cause I think they need company a lot more than cats, don't they?
Karen: Yeah, definitely. Maybe get two... get two Maltese.
Anthony: Ah. They can look after themselves [yeah], and have fun together [it'll be fine.] Yeah... I'll think about it.

US Bar Chat (track 20)

Dreams

Alex: So, I woke up this morning, forced, because I was having such a bad dream.
Christine: Oh yeah? What happened?
Alex: Well, there were... I was in a room with all these maggots and flies and I had no way of getting out.
Christine: So, what did you do?
Alex: Er, well, I obviously tried to escape, but I swear my dad was somewhere and he was pouring in more flies with a bucket.
Christine: Ha, ha, ha. That's awful.
Alex: So, in my dreams my dad's a sadist also.
Christine: Oh gosh! That's, that's too bad. Ha, I, I don't really have nightmares, but I have this one recurring dream that I've had since I was really young. And I've heard it's pretty common actually. It's where I climb this mountain and once I get to the very top, I fall. And I just, I feel like I'm flying, but I crash at the bottom and I always end up waking up right before I crash.
Alex: Uh, huh. You know Freud probably diagnosed that somehow?
Christine: Yeah? What do you think he would say?
Alex: Oh, I have no idea and I don't even want to give it a shot.

DIY Movement (track 21)

Alternative ways of living your life.

Chloe: Hi there, Oscar. What are you having?
Oscar: Oh, a pint of lager, please, Chloe. I'm exhausted.
Chloe: Yeah, you do look tired. What have you been doing?
Oscar: DIY. I've been painting the outside of the house all day.
Chloe: Oh, your poor thing. Hold on, I'll get you a drink.
Chloe: Here you go. Cheers.
Oscar: Cheers, Chloe. Thanks.
Chloe: So, why are you painting the house?
Oscar: Susan wants to sell it and buy something bigger. She's told me to do the garden tomorrow. I hate DIY. Really hate it.
Chloe: Funnily enough, I was reading an interesting article about DIY this morning.
Oscar: Impossible. There's nothing interesting about DIY.
Chloe: No, listen. Have you heard about something called DIY Britain?
Oscar: No. What is it?
Chloe: Well, it's a political idea that's becoming more and more popular in the UK with people who want to control their own lives more.
Oscar: What do you mean?
Chloe: Well, there are groups of people who don't want to use banks, the electric companies, the big supermarkets, things like that. They want to be more self-sufficient.
Oscar: You mean like grow their own food?
Chloe: Well, that could be part of it. But it's more political than just gardening.
Oscar: Please don't mention gardening! So, give me an example.
Chloe: OK. The idea is that in the modern world most people don't understand how things work. We've lost practical skills.
Oscar: Sorry, I don't understand.
Chloe: OK, well, have you got an iPod?
Oscar: Yeah.
Chloe: Do you know how it works?
Oscar: Not really.
Chloe: If it broke, could you mend it?
Oscar: Of course not. I'm not Einstein.
Chloe: Exactly. Well, sixty or seventy years ago, people used to mend things themselves. Now, we just throw them away and buy another one because we don't know how to do-it-ourselves.
Oscar: OK. But what's this got to do with politics?
Chloe: Well, some people think that because we can't do-it-ourselves, big companies and banks have become too powerful. We rely on them instead of our own skills.
Oscar: But what have iPods got to do with DIY? Will

learning how to mend an iPod make me free?
Chloe: Probably not, to be honest. But in this article there was a man who had built his own house. He's done everything. He uses solar power so he has no electricity bills. He grows his own vegetables too. He says he feels free because he doesn't give his money to big businesses.
Oscar: I'm not convinced.
Chloe: There was another guy. He's an engineer and he's interested in experimenting with alternatives to using petrol in cars.
Oscar: Now that's a good idea.
Chloe: He organised a race from London to Athens for cars that use old vegetable oil instead of petrol.
Oscar: What? Vegetable oil?
Chloe: Yeah. He's invented a way to use vegetable oil in his car. He converted nine more cars and they had a race.
Oscar: Did they have to take a lot of bottles of oil with them?
Chloe: No, they had to ask restaurants for old oil as they drove. It was part of the race.
Oscar: So, all the oil was recycled? That's brilliant. Why don't we all have these cars?
Chloe: Because the oil companies don't want us to. Or that's what the article said.
Oscar: So, what about the banks?
Chloe: Well, there's a town in the West of England called Totnes.
Oscar: Oh, yeah. I've been to Totnes. Nice place.
Chloe: Well, they have their own money. The Totnes pound.
Oscar: You're joking.
Chloe: No, it's true. Quite a lot of the shops take the money and it means that the money is not controlled by the banks.
Oscar: But what's the point of all this?
Chloe: OK. So, what do you suggest?
Oscar: Another beer?
Chloe: That's your answer to everything.
Oscar: That's right!

Accent Alert (track 24)

The Posh English Accent

Posh English is a type of English spoken all over Britain. However, it's more common in the south of England. The accent is very similar to received pronunciation, also known as BBC English, although the BBC now uses a variety of accents, only some of which are posh.

The key to speaking in a posh English accent is to speak more slowly and to elongate the vowels - to make them longer. Some say you need to talk as if you had a plum in your mouth. For example, notice how all the syllables in these words are pronounced: "education, nation, situation."

Notice the final ending sound in these words, "robber, rotter, blighter". And the elongated vowel sounds in these words:
 Glove, love, shove.
 Bath, laugh, mars.
 Day, lay, may.
 Brown, crown, frown.
 Boat, coat, moat.

When speaking in a posh accent, it's also important to speak with an air of superiority - a true belief in your own self-importance. Posh people also use a lot of special words. For example, "blighty" is England. Apparently, this comes from a Hindi word ("bilayti") which means "foreign / faraway".

The word "chap" is often used to refer to a man. And "I say" can be used to emphasise a point or as an exclamation of surprise. For example, "I say, old chap, it's rather hot today, isn't it?" And if you're impressed with something, you can say, "Jolly good show!"

Posh people often include the word "what?" at the end of a sentence as a way of asking for confirmation. For example, "Lovely weather, what?" "What ho!" can be used as a form of greeting, and friends are referred to as "chums". Any problem is known as "a spot of bother", and a nasty person is a "blighter", and instead of yes, it's, "Oh, rather!"

Posh people love using adjectival modifiers such as "simply, awfully" and "frightfully" for emphasis. For example, "It's simply splendid. / It was frightfully good. / She's awfully kind."

Posh people will often use "one" instead of "you". For example, "One must try to be polite at all times."

Please note that the "Bar Chats" and "Off-the-Cuff" audio files are recordings of spontaneous, unscripted speech. As a result, there are examples of non-standard English (including "errors"). This often occurs when people speak quickly and spontaneously.

ANSWERS

Finally, "toodle pip" is a popular way of saying "goodbye".

Now, let's listen to my little story.

What a day!

I've had a simply awful day. In the morning, I went to catch the train up to the city. But when I got there, the little chap who works in the ticket office wasn't there. I don't know where he was... probably drinking tea from that awful little machine on the platform. Anyway, next, I tried to get a ticket from the ticket dispenser but it was out of order. A few seconds later, the train appeared. Not wanting to miss the train, I jumped on. Next thing, this ghastly ticket inspector is asking to see my ticket. "Well," I said, "I'm sorry but your chap at the station wasn't at his post. Bad show, I'd say." Anyway, eventually got rid of the little blighter, but then this oik gets on and starts making this horrendously loud phone call. After a few minutes of listening to that, I simply had to say something and told him to keep the noise down or get out. I don't know. What's this country coming to? Tooodle pip!

Doing Business (track 26)

Trying to get some help for a new business.

Chris: Come in.
Nicola: Good morning. I'm Nicola Daley. I'm here for a meeting with Chris Tidyman.
Chris: And that would be me. Please come in, Ms Daley.
Nicola: Nicola, please.
Chris: And I'm Chris. Can I get you a coffee? Some water?
Nicola: I'm fine, thanks. So, how can I help you, Chris?
Chris: Yes, right. Down to business. Excellent.
Nicola: So...
Chris: Oh, yes, right. Well, I was hoping that you could give me some marketing advice.
Nicola: OK. So, what is it you want to market?
Chris: I'd rather not say.
Nicola: Oh. It's just going to be rather tricky to help you if I don't know what the product is.
Chris: Is it?
Nicola: Yes. I mean, is it a product or a service, for example?
Chris: Yes, it is.
Nicola: (pause) Well, which is it? A product or a service?
Chris: Is there a difference?
Nicola: Well, usually yes.
Chris: Well, perhaps we could kick off with you explaining the difference. Do you mind if I jot down some notes?
Nicola: Very well. A product is something tangible. An object that you sell to your customer. A washing machine or a pizza, for example.
Chris: Oh, it's neither of those.
Nicola: Whereas with a service you do something for your client in return for payment. Cutting someone's hair, for example.
Chris: I see. Good.
Nicola: Ownership of the product will probably pass to the buyer, while ownership of the service remains with the seller.
Chris: This is very interesting.
Nicola: So, which is your business idea?
Chris: Erm, it's a bit of both.
Nicola: Intriguing. Are you sure you can't tell me more?
Chris: Positive. Sorry.
Nicola: (exasperated) Very well. Well, let's move on. How big's your marketing budget?
Chris: How big should it be?
Nicola: Well, it depends.
Chris: On what?
Nicola: On how much money you have to spend on marketing.
Chris: I see. I think I'm beginning to get the hang of this.
Nicola: Well, let me take you through some relatively cheap marketing strategies. Ones that are applicable to a wide range of products and services.
Chris: Excellent.
Nicola: Well, having a business card is very important.
Chris: Why?
Nicola: Well, it makes you look professional. Do you have business cards?
Chris: No. But I've made a note to get one.
Nicola: Next, you need to identify something unusual about what your company does. You need a USP – a unique selling point. Something that makes your product

different. Do you have a USP?
Chris: No. Where can I buy one?
Nicola: I'm afraid you don't understand me. You can't buy a USP, you have to think of it yourself.
Chris: Couldn't you think of it for me?
Nicola: But I don't know what you're marketing.
Chris: Yes, I see the problem. It's a bit of a dilemma.
Nicola: OK. Well, another good idea is to write an article for a magazine or a newspaper. In the article you can write about your product. You can then use the article as publicity.
Chris: That's a good idea. I like writing.
Nicola: If you have a car, you can get the name of your business painted on the side of the car.
Chris: Oh, yes. I like painting.
Nicola: Well, it needs to be done professionally. Appearance is very important.
Chris: Why?
Nicola: If you look professional, people will think you are professional.
Chris: So, do you think I should buy a suit?
Nicola: Well, maybe. It depends what your business is.
Chris: Look, I don't mean to complain, but it does seem as if the help you can give me is rather limited. I was hoping for something more concrete. Something I can really get my teeth into.
Nicola: But Chris, how can I help you market something if you won't tell me what it is?
Chris: But that's my point. I was expecting you to be of more help in that department.
Nicola: I'm sorry but I don't follow you.
Chris: Well, I thought you'd give me an idea for a business.
Nicola: What?
Chris: Well, you're the expert. I haven't the foggiest about business and stuff but I'm keen to learn. So what do you think I should do?
Nicola: I'm sorry, Chris but I think you've misunderstood what I do. I advise businesses on their marketing strategies, I don't think of the business ideas for them.
Chris: You don't?
Nicola: No.
Chris: So you didn't think of the iPod?
Nicola: What?
Chris: Your publicity said that you had worked on marketing campaigns for Apple,, so I assumed that you invented the iPod.
Nicola: I've worked for Pepsi too but I didn't invent Pepsi Cola.
Chris: What? Didn't you?
Nicola: Oh, this is ridiculous. I'm leaving.
Chris: I'll sell you 50% of the company.
Nicola: Are you mad?
Chris: Oh, please.

Off the Cuff (track 29)

Question: Who's your favourite relative?

My favourite relative would probably be my grandma. I don't see her very often so whenever I get to visit, it's always a big deal. And I have a lot of relatives that live near my grandma as well, so we always have big family dinners and we play card games and things together, and I get to practise my cooking a little bit. I don't cook often at home but erm... She's my favourite cos she's always made me feel special since I was little. She buys me things, not that I need things to feel special but, and she erm... teaches me how to play games, things that my parents don't know how to do sometimes. So...

Er, my favourite relative would probably be my uncle because he's always, erm, wherever he's had a job he's always given me work as well. Like, for example, when I was fifteen he worked in this shop, and in the summer he let me work there, over the summer. It wasn't anything special, I was just, like, clearing out the stock room, but, you know, he used to pay me for that. And then later he worked as a photographer in a photography studio and he got me work there. And that was after I left... no, that was before I went to university, so he's always like given me jobs and he's been great, you know. He's looked after me. I've made some money. It's been great.

Answers

Cycling Cities (page 4)

- 2 Reading I
 Berlin; Cambridge; Amsterdam; Barcelona; Copenhagen; Bristol
 3 Reading II
 1. Berlin;
 2. Cambridge;
 3. Amsterdam;
 4. Barcelona
 4 Language focus
 1. There is; 2. There are;
 3. There are; 4. There is

Environmental Crimes (Page 5)

- 1 Pre-reading
 1d 2a 3e 4b 5f 6c 7g
 3 Reading II
 1. Alberta/Canada;
 2. The Gulf of Mexico;
 3. Alberta/Canada;
 4. The Niger Delta;
 5. The Gulf of Mexico;
 6. The Niger Delta
 4 Language focus
 1. sank; 2. bought; 3. saw;
 4. took

Useful vocabulary (Page 8)

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

Error Correction (Page 13)

1. The film began at 9pm last night.
 2. I bought you a new CD at the shops yesterday.
 3. She caught a really bad cold last month.
 4. I felt really sick last night.
 5. I fell down on the ground.
 6. She found a €50 note in the street last week.

The Volcano (Page 13)

- 3 Listening II
 1. Madrid; 2. Iceland; 3. Britain;
 4. Barcelona; 5. Bilbao
 4 Language focus
 1. erupted; 2. produced;
 3. talked; 4. watched

Grammar Fun (Page 14)

1. prepare; 2. much; 3. long;
 4. often; 5. many; 6. for; 7. fast;
 8. was; 9. far; 10. is

Brand Stretching (Page 16)

- 1 Pre-reading
 1d 2a 3g 4e 5f 6c 7b
 3 Reading II (wording may vary)
 1. The use of an established brand name for a new product in the same market.
 2. The use of an established brand name for different products in unrelated markets.
 3. Less risk, customers will associate the quality of the established brand with the new product, customers will feel more comfortable with the new product, promotional costs are lower.
 4. In order to promote their brands in spite of the tobacco bans.
 4 Language focus
 1. best;
 2. strangest;
 3. worst;
 4. dirtiest

Gaffes Galore (Page 17)

- 1 Pre-reading
 1. Chile = Chile
 2. people = pepper
 3. editing = editing
 4. Wisconsin = Wisconsin
 5. "Thou shalt..." = "Thou shalt not..."
 3 Reading II (wording may vary)
 1. 50 = the coins had a value of 50 pesos.
 2. 7,000 = the number of copies of the book that had to be reprinted.
 3. 100 = the number of recipes in the book.
 4. Two = the number of "ts" in the incorrect spelling of "editing".
 5. 1988 = the year in which the diplomas were awarded.
 6. 1632 = the year in which the edition of the Bible appeared.
 4 Language focus
 1. The book was proofread.
 2. The coins were taken out of circulation.
 3. The mistakes were found.
 4. A classified ad was placed in the newspaper.

Sport Mad (Page 19)

- 1 Pre-listening
 1. Tchaikovsky;
 2. Vivaldi;
 3. Prokofiev;
 4. Chelsea;
 5. Manchester United
 3 Listening II
 1. yes; 2. yes; 3. no; 4. no (not really); 5. no; 6. yes;
 7. yes; 8. yes
 4 Language focus
 1. to marry / to wed;
 2. to become lost; 3. to arrive;
 4. to receive; 5. to receive as a present

Famous Flops (Page 28)

- 1 Pre-reading
 1. Block; 2. Supremes; 3. Boys;
 4. That; 5. Wings; 6. Girls;
 7. Five; 8. Enemy
 3 Reading II (wording may vary)
 1. Carrie = It lost \$8 million.
 2. Moose Murders = Criticised heavily by critics.
 3. A Diana Ross and the Supremes concert = Twenty-three shows were cancelled.
 4. The New Kids on the Block comeback = The results weren't good.
 5. Carly Hennessy = She only sold 300 copies of her record.
 6. The Millennium Dome = Very few people visited it.
 4 Language focus
 1. had seen; 2. had eaten;
 3. had forgotten; 4. had been

Fox Hunting (Page 29)

- 1 Pre-reading
 1c 2e 3d 4a 5b
 3 Reading II (wording may vary)
 1. The foxes suffer, people gain pleasure from cruelty; it's mostly upper-class.
 2. It's a tradition, it's part of England's cultural heritage, it plays an important part in rural life, many jobs depend on it, many enjoy it, it protects farmers' livelihood, the foxes die quickly, it's better than

using traps or poison.

- 4 Language focus
 1. The horses are ridden.
 2. Foxes are hunted.
 3. Laws are passed.
 4. The decision is opposed.

Riddles (page 32)

It was the maid. The post office isn't open on Sundays.

DIY Movement (page 33)

- 3 Listening II
 1d 2f 3a 4c 5e 6b

Doing Business (page 37)

- 2 Listening I
 Chris hasn't done/got any of the things from the Pre-listening activity.
 3 Listening II (wording may vary)
 1. He won't say.
 2. He doesn't say.
 3. He's going to get some.
 4. He doesn't know what it is.
 5. a) He wanted her to give him some ideas; b) He thought that she had invented the iPod.
 4 Language focus
 1. on; 2. for; 3. about/of; 4. with

Spend Away (page 40)

- 1 Pre-reading
 1e 2c 3d 4a 5f 6b
 3 Reading II (wording may vary)
 1. The house with the 50-seat cinema is near Windsor Castle.
 2. You can get to the master bedroom in a glass lift.
 3. The Ferrari is special because only 55 were made.
 4. The watch is called the "Grande Complication".
 5. P. Diddy had his party in a restaurant in New York.
 6. The wedding reception lasted for 6 days.
 7. At the bottom of the cocktail glass, you can find a diamond ring.

Disguise Surprise (page 41)

- 3 Reading II (wording may vary)
 1. Because he disguises himself as a sheik.
 2. He posed as someone selling radioactive material.
 3. Because they mocked Newcastle fans.
 4. He said he was just gathering evidence for the police.
 5. Because it was so close to the 2006 World Cup.
 6. He gains their confidence and they drop their guard.
 4 Language focus (answers may vary)
 1. given/offered;
 2. given/offered;
 3. shown/taken;
 4. told/warned

Phrasal verbs (page 42)

1. discussion;
 2. finance;
 3. methods;
 4. part;
 5. situation;
 6. increase;
 7. nothing;
 8. need

WORD OF THE MONTH



Understatement

THIS MONTH'S EXPRESSION OF THE MONTH IS... UNDERSTATEMENT.

Look at the following exchange. How would you describe Boris' comment?

Daisy: It's boiling hot. It's more than 40 degrees out there.

Boris: Yes, it is a bit warm.

Boris has used what is known as understatement. Understatement is used when a speaker wants to make a situation seem less strong or important than it really is (often for comic effect). In this example, Boris is describing the weather as "warm", when it would be more appropriate to use the term "really hot".

Let's look at another example. Imagine it's really cold. Pay attention to Alisha's use of understatement:

Jacob: It's minus 25°C today. It's freezing.

Alisha: Yes, it is a bit chilly.

And here's another example. Just imagine someone has a really fat cat that they've been feeding too much. Notice how Karl uses understatement:

Lydia: What do you think of my cat?

Karl: He's a bit on the large side.

Sometimes, negative superlative phrases are used with understatement. For example:

Amelia: Was the hotel expensive?

Elis: It wasn't the cheapest place I've been to.

Jade: How was the food? Did you like it?

Kieran: It wasn't the best I've ever tried.

Now compare these two situations. Imagine that Zoe has just got her exam results. She passed all of them and got top marks. Which mini-dialogue contains an example of understatement?

Brandon: How did you do in your exams?

Zoe: I passed them all and got top marks! I'm incredible!

Maya: How did you do in your exams?

Seb: Oh, not too bad.

Yes, you've guessed it! The second one is an example of understatement. The English like using understatement because (in general) it fits in with their ideas about never getting too emotional or **blowing your own trumpet**.

Now, here are some examples of understatement from history and the media.

"It's just a **flesh wound**." What the Black Knight says in the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* just after losing both his arms.

"I am just going outside and may be some time." What Captain Lawrence Oates (Antarctic explorer) said just before walking out into a **blizzard** to face certain death in 1912.



"Well, that's **cast** rather a **gloom over** the evening, hasn't it?" What one of the dinner guests in Monty Python's film *The Meaning of Life* says after a visit from the **Grim Reaper**.

Now it's your turn to use a bit of understatement! 🗳️

GLOSSARY

- chilly** *adj*
cold weather that causes you to shiver (shake)
- blow your own trumpet** *exp*
to say how wonderful you are, and to talk about the great things you can do
- a flesh wound** *exp*
a cut on your body/skin that is not very deep, and that does not reach any vital organs (the heart, lungs, etc.)
- a blizzard** *n*
a storm with strong wind and snow
- to cast a gloom over** *exp*
if something "casts a gloom over" a situation, it causes everyone to be sad/unhappy/depressed/worried
- the Grim Reaper** *n*
a person who represents death. He often appears in a black cloak and carrying a scythe (a tool for cutting grass)

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The Expendables

Castles

Product Placement

Gypsies in England & Ireland

Royal Scandals

Churchill Iceland

60 minute CD

Hot Staff



Directors

Managing Director
Thorley Russell (00 34 91 543 3573)
thorleyr@hotenglishmagazine.com
Editorial Director
Andy Coney (00 34 91 543 3573)
andyc@hotenglishmagazine.com

Finance

Financial Director
Leigh Dante (00 34 91 549 8523)
leigh@hotenglishmagazine.com

Classes Department

Director of Studies
Sheila Renée (00 34 91 455 0273)
classes@hotenglishmagazine.com
Teacher Liaison Officer
teacherinfo@hotenglishmagazine.com

Administration Department

Subscriptions (9:30-13:00)
Charlotte Christiansen
(tel / fax) (00 34 91 549 8523)
Skype: hotenglishmagazine2010
subs@hotenglishmagazine.com
payments@hotenglishmagazine.com
Credit control and administration
9-2 (by e-mail thereafter).
Office hours 9:30 - 6 pm
(Spanish time)

Barcelona office (Hot English)

barcelona@hotenglishmagazine.com

Seville office (Hot English)

Christine Ervin
classes@hotenglishmagazine.com

Editorial Department

Staff
Philip McIvor *designer*
Patrick Howarth *writer*
Sam Gordon *writer*
Jason Spilman *Teacher's Notes*
Nick Hargreaves *writer*

Contributors

Blanca San Roman *translation*
Craig Dewe *web marketing*
Fred McLaughlan *interviews*
Paul McGann *writer*
Tyler Altes *proof reading*
Magnus Coney *proof reading*
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IT / video editor

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C/Paseo del Rey, 22 - 1ª planta,
oficina 1, Madrid 28008
Phone: (00 34) 91 549 8523
Fax: (00 34) 672 317 912
Skype: hotenglishmagazine2010
info@hotenglishmagazine.com
www.hotenglishmagazine.com
www.hotenglishgroup.com

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