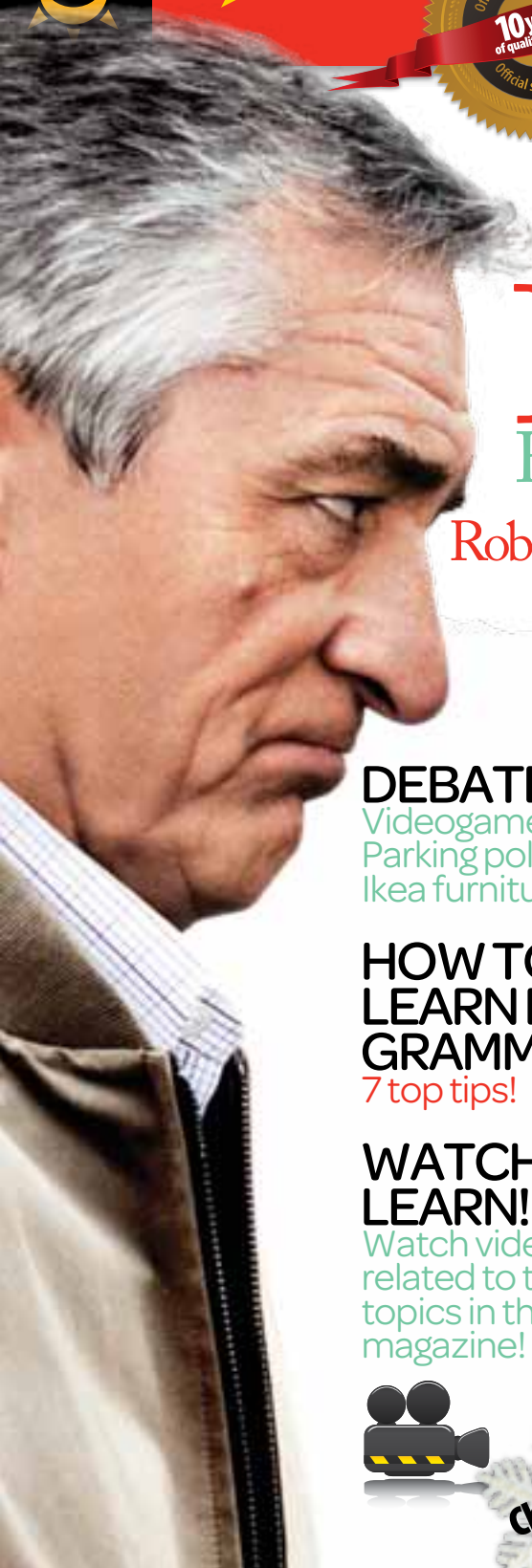


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Little Fockers

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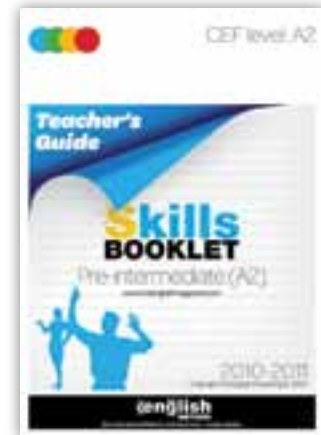


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Hi, and welcome to another issue of Hot English Magazine, the fun magazine for learning English.

Do you think videogames are a negative influence on society? Should there be stricter parking policies in city centres? Is Ikea furniture as good as it looks? Join us for some great debates in this month's magazine. Plus, find out about some extremely unusual university and college courses, discover an amazing place to visit in the UK, learn the secrets of how to make a delicious soup, listen to the German English accent, and read about one of the world's greatest novelists: Charles Dickens.

Speaking of Dickens, he's also the author of one of the most famous Christmas stories of all time: *A Christmas Carol*. Although the book was published more than 150 years ago (in 1843), it's been the subject of hundreds of films, plays and story adaptations. As you probably know, the main character in the story is Ebenezer Scrooge. But did you know that the word "Scrooge" is still used to describe someone who's a bit of a **miser**? You can find it in expressions such as, "Stop being such a Scrooge!"

This month, we're also looking at the latest film in the *Focker* series: *Little Fockers*. Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) and Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro) are back for another episode in this classic family **struggle** with the in-laws. The film looks set to be another big **hit**.

As part of our language section this month, you can learn about paraphrasing, pick up some phrasal verbs to use when negotiating, read some idioms related to the word "path", and learn some words to describe negative emotions as part of Dr Fingers' Vocabulary Clinic. Of course, there's lots more, but we've just **run out of** space to tell you about it!

Anyway, have a great time, good luck with your English language learning, and see you all next month.
Yours,

Andy

PS Don't forget about the Hot English videos. They're in the free area of our website: www.hotenglishmagazine.com
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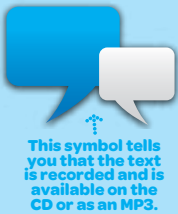
PPPPS Remember to order your copy of the new improved Skills Booklet. This year's Skills Booklets are even better than last year's (of course!). Please contact us at subs@hotenglishmagazine.com or visit our website for more details.

GLOSSARY

- a miser** *n*
a person who hates spending money
- a struggle** *n*
a fight/war/battle
- a hit** *n*
a film/song, etc. that is very successful
- to run out of** *exp*
if you have "run out of" something, there is no more of that thing, often because you've used it all

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9. Pre-Intermediate Listening: Disaster Dash
10. Weird Courses
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That's a great idea – let's buy it!

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READING I

Ikea Houses

Furniture maker dominates the world of... furniture.

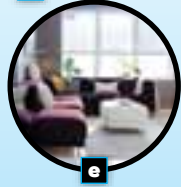
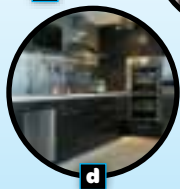
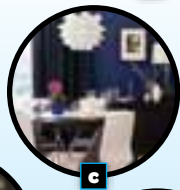
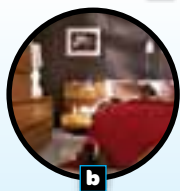
IKEA HOUSES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the rooms in the house (1 to 5) to the pictures (a-e). What furniture do you have in each room? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

1. Living room
2. Bathroom
3. Kitchen
4. Dining room
5. Bedroom



2 Reading I

Where do you buy your furniture? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the shop where you go? Think. Then, read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and say what the numbers refer to.

1. 8 million
2. 120,000 people
3. 267
4. £10
5. 25-year

4 Language focus

The Past Simple

Look at this extract from the article on this page, "...This meant I had to go back to the shop..." The writer has used some Past Simple verbs ("meant / had"). Transform these sentences into negative forms.

1. I went out last night.
2. She spoke to Jeff.
3. They ate at home.
4. He took the train.

5 Discussion

1. Have you ever bought anything from Ikea? What did you think of it?
2. What's your favourite / least favourite piece of furniture? Why?
3. What type of furniture would you love to have? Why?

Have you bought any **furniture** lately? Was it from Ikea? The Swedish furniture **manufacturer** is fast becoming a world leader. But is that a good thing?

There's no doubt that Ikea is popular! Ten per cent of all furniture bought by UK **householders** is from Ikea. More than 8 million homes in the UK have Ikea products. There are 267 shops in 25 countries around the world, with more than 120,000 people employed in the shops. And five hundred million global customers visit a store annually. Trade journal *Marketing* said, "It's a Swedish success story. Almost a third of adults in the UK have bought furniture from Ikea in the past three years!"

There are clear advantages to Ikea furniture. For a start, it's cheap. Sofas are **available** for just over £100. You can get a **bookcase** for as little as £10 (the **chain's** Billy bookcase is one of its most popular items), and you can **pick up** a table with four chairs for less than £150. "They offer simple designs at excellent prices," said an industry expert. "Ikea has meant stylish interior decor is possible on even the smallest of **budgets**."

The products are also strong and **last** well. "I have a couple of **dressing tables**, a desk and a bed from Ikea. They've **survived** wonderfully over the past 5 years," explained one shopper. "I've got a kitchen table and some cupboards with glass doors all from Ikea. They've both **served me well**," said another. Many items come with a guarantee too. With an Ikea kitchen, for example, you get a 25-year warranty!

However, there are some **downsides**. **Assembling** the furniture isn't always easy. "I couldn't understand the drawing," said one shopper. "I was **putting** this desk **together** when I realised that one of the pieces was **missing**," said another. "This meant I had to go back to the shop, which was way **out of town**." Others complain about the

confusing layout of the shops. "I just wanted to buy a plant pot," explained another shopper, "but I had to walk through six different departments to get it. It was like a **maze** in there."

Finally, the fact that everyone buys in Ikea means that a lot of houses have the same furniture. One day, all our homes could **turn into** models of the shop's **showrooms**. But then if the furniture looks good and it lasts well, who cares? 🗨️



GLOSSARY

- furniture** *n*
objects for a home/office such as tables, chairs, sofas, desks, etc.
- a manufacturer** *n*
a company that makes something
- a householder** *n*
a person who lives in a house
- available** *adj*
if a product is "available", you can buy it because it's in the shops
- a bookcase** *n*
a large piece of furniture for books
- a chain** *n*
a large company with lots of shops where they sell their products
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to buy / find. Literally, to take in your hands
- a budget** *n*
the amount of money you have to buy something or to spend in general
- to last** *vb*
if something "lasts", it exists for a long time
- a dressing table** *n*
a piece of furniture with a mirror and drawers (boxes for keeping things). It is usually kept in the bedroom
- to survive** *vb*
if something "survives", it lasts for a period of time without breaking
- served me well** *exp*
if something "serves you well", it does what you hoped it would do during a period of time
- downside** *n*
the negative aspect of something
- to assemble** *vb*
to put the parts together to make a finished product
- to put together** *phr vb*
to construct; to build
- missing** *adj*
if something is "missing", it is not where it should be and you can't find it
- out of town** *exp*
if something is "out of town", it is far from the centre of a town
- a maze** *n*
if a place is like a "maze" it is very confusing and it is hard to walk around. Literally, a "maze" is a complex system of paths and corridors that is a type of game – you have to try to get to the centre of it
- to turn into** *phr vb*
to become
- a showroom** *n*
a type of shop where a company can exhibit / show its products



Videogames Debate

Are videogames a positive or negative influence on society?



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



track 3

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

What are the pros and cons of videogames? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the pre-Reading activity.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write "True" or "False" next to each question.

- The scientists were from the University of Rochester.
- They tested several 18- to 34-year-olds.
- The participants played for 40 hours.
- The surgeons played Nintendo Wii after doing their operations.
- One of the speakers believes that videogaming can lead to a sedentary lifestyle.
- Some of the videogames mentioned in the article involved killing people.

4 Language focus

Verbs as Nouns

Look at this extract from the article on this page, "...Children should be outside playing, using their imagination, reading, socialising and learning..." The writer has used several nouns that have been created from verbs: *using, reading, socialising, learning*. Complete the sentences with the words from below.

language, good, teeth, exercise, tired

- Playing tennis is a good form of _____.
- Reading is a good way of learning a _____.
- Socialising is difficult if you're feeling _____.
- Watching too much television isn't _____ for you.
- Eating too many sweets is bad for your _____.

5 Discussion

- What's your favourite videogame?
- What was the last videogame you played?
- What will videogames be like in the future?

What do you think of videogames? Are they a negative influence on society? Or do they have an important role to play? We asked two people what they thought.

Amelia Stanhurst: In favour of videogames

I think videogames have a lot to offer. A recent study into the effects of computer games has shown that **fast-paced** action games make us better **decision-makers**. Scientists at the University of Rochester **tested** several 18- to 25-year-olds. They divided them into two groups. The first group played action games such as *Call of Duty 2*, in which **participants** shoot each other. The second group played *The Sims 2*, a strategy-based game. After 50 hours of playing, both groups were given a series of tests to see whether they could make quicker decisions. Scientists discovered that those who had trained on the action games made decisions 25 per cent more quickly than those in the other group. Videogames also help with **hand-eye co-ordination**. In another study, **surgeons** who played Nintendo Wii before going into an **operating theatre** performed better than those who didn't. Let's stop being so negative about videogames!

Morgan Brayston: Against videogames

I'm firmly against videogames, especially for children. While children are playing a game, they're **wasting** valuable time – time that could be spent doing exercise, socialising with friends, reading a book or learning something. Studies have also shown that videogaming is addictive and leads to a **sedentary lifestyle**, which in turn can lead to obesity. Videogames can also cause over-excitement, exhaustion, eye-strain and **sleeplessness**. Worst of all, many videogames are violent. Children think nothing of **blowing someone's head off**, shooting people, or crashing a car into a group of **pedestrians**. Is this what we want our youngsters to be doing? On top of that, they learn nothing of the consequences of these actions. Of course, not all video games are bad, but most of them are *not* good. Children should be outside playing, using their imagination, reading, socialising and learning – not shooting, **maiming** and killing. ☺



Top 5 videogames

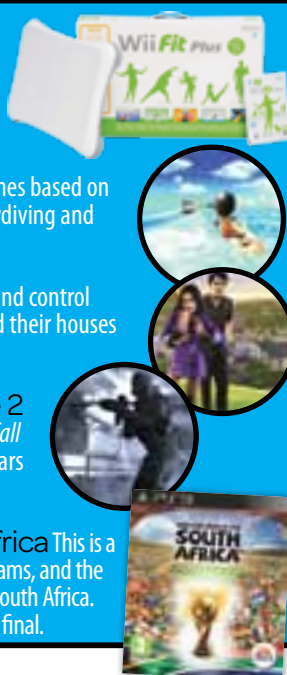
Wii Fit Plus This package comes with games to improve your fitness, strength and sense of balance.

Wii Sports Resort This includes games based on sports such as tennis, bowling, baseball, skydiving and sword fighting.

The Sims 3 This game lets you create and control imaginary people. It also allows you to build their houses and choose their friends.

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 This is the sixth installment in the popular *Call of Duty* series. Players fight in battles and wars using a variety of weapons.

2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa This is a football game that features several national teams, and the 10 stadiums from the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Choose a team and then make your way to the final.



GLOSSARY

- fast-paced** *adj*
if something is "fast-paced", it is exciting and it has lots of action
- a decision-maker** *n*
if you are a good "decision-maker", you can make decisions quickly
- to test** *vb*
if you "test" people, you give them an exam to do or a series of tasks to complete
- a participant** *n*
someone who is involved in something; someone who takes part in something
- hand-eye co-ordination** *exp*
a person's ability to use their hands and their eyes for the same task
- a surgeon** *n*
a doctor who does complex operations (on the brain or heart, for example).
- an operating theatre** *n*
the room where a surgeon does operations
- to waste** *vb*
if you "waste" time, you don't do anything constructive with your time
- a sedentary lifestyle** *exp*
if someone has a "sedentary lifestyle", they spend most of their time sitting down, not getting any exercise
- sleeplessness** *adj*
if you suffer from "sleeplessness", you can't sleep
- to blow someone's head off** *exp*
to shoot someone in the head and to cause their head to come off
- a pedestrian** *n*
someone who is walking in the street
- to maim** *vb*
to damage a part of someone's body permanently

English language names with real meaning.

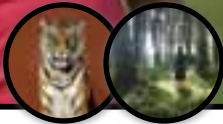
THE NAME GAME

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

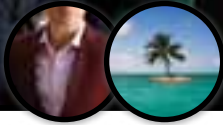


STORY TIME

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



Tiger Woods (American sportsman)
A "TIGER" IS A TYPE OF BIG CAT WITH BLACK AND ORANGE STRIPES. / A "WOOD" IS A PLACE WITH MANY TREES.
"They saw a Siberian tiger in the zoo." / "We got lost in the wood."



Maroon 5 (American rock band)
"MAROON" IS A TYPE OF REDDISH-PURPLE COLOUR. / IF SOMEONE IS "MAROONED", THEY ARE LEFT IN A PLACE THAT IS DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO ESCAPE FROM.
"He was wearing a maroon jacket." / "They were marooned on a desert island."



Kanye West (American rap singer)
"WEST" IS ONE OF THE POINTS OF THE COMPASS: NORTH, EAST, SOUTH, WEST.
"We decided to go west."



Dr Gregory House (TV character played by English actor Hugh Laurie)
A "HOUSE" IS A BUILDING WHERE PEOPLE LIVE.
"She lived in a big house with six bedrooms."



Minute Maid (brand of fruit juices)
THERE ARE 60 "MINUTES" IN AN HOUR. / A "MAID" IS A WOMAN WHO WORKS IN A HOTEL OR PRIVATE HOUSE DOING THE CLEANING, COOKING, WASHING, ETC.
"She ran the race in just 3 minutes." / "Lord and Lady Bracknell have 4 maids to look after their house."



Coldplay (British rock band)
"COLD" IS THE OPPOSITE OF HOT. / IF YOU "PLAY" A GAME, YOU TAKE PART IN IT.
"It's really cold outside. / Shall we play football?"

Lovely Photo

Abbie's having Sunday lunch with her **in-laws**. Things aren't going too well and there have been a few arguments. Eventually, Abbie's mother-in-law says, "Well, if you hate us so much, why's our photo on the **mantelpiece** above the open **fireplace**?" And Abbie replies, "To keep the kids away from the fire!"



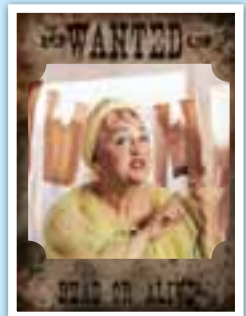
Wining & Dining

A couple are in a restaurant. The waiter brings the wine and **pours** it into Alfred's glass. He **takes a sip** then says, "Mmm... very interesting. It's full-bodied and **imposing** with a **nutty** base, a **sharp bite**, and a **bitter aftertaste**." And his wife responds, "Are you describing the wine or your mother?"



Outlaws & In-laws

I say, I say, I say. What's the difference between **outlaws** and in-laws? I don't know. What is the difference between outlaws and in-laws? Outlaws are "**wanted**!"



Too Late

Amelia: What's up? You look terrible.

Leo: Oh, nothing.

It's just the antique clock in the living room has fallen off the wall.

Amelia: Don't worry. We can fix it.

Leo: No, it's not that. It's just that my mother-in-law was sitting under it, and if that clock had fallen just one minute earlier, it would have

landed on her head. That clock's always been slow! 🍷

GLOSSARY

an in-law *n*
the mother or father of your wife or husband

a mantelpiece *n*
a horizontal piece of wood/metal/stone above a fireplace. Often used for putting photos on

a fireplace *n*
the area in a house where a fire can be lit. It is often connected to a chimney

to pour *vb*
if you "pour" wine, it goes from the bottle into a glass

to take a sip *exp*
if you "take a sip" of a liquid, you drink a very small amount of it

imposing *adj*
if wine is "imposing", it is very strong or impressive

nutty *adj*
if food or drink is "nutty", it tastes of nuts - hard, dry fruit that often has a shell (a hard covering) around it

a sharp bite *exp*
if wine has a "sharp bite", it has a strong, bitter taste (like a lemon)

a bitter aftertaste *exp*
if something has a "bitter aftertaste", the sharp taste stays in your mouth after you have eaten/drank it

an outlaw *n*
a criminal who is hiding from the police / the authorities

to land *vb*
if A "lands" on B, A falls and hits B

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USEFUL VOCABULARY

In the Bedroom

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Match the words

Match the words (1 to 14) to the pictures (a-n).

1. Bed
2. Mattress
3. Chest of drawers
4. Wardrobe ("closet" in US English)
5. Bedside table with a bedside light / lamp
6. Blinds
7. Curtains
8. Wastepaper basket
9. Duvet
10. Pillow
11. Clothes hanger
12. Blanket
13. Dirty clothes basket / laundry basket / washing basket
14. Dressing table ("dresser" in US English)



2 Wordsearch

Now find these words in the wordsearch.

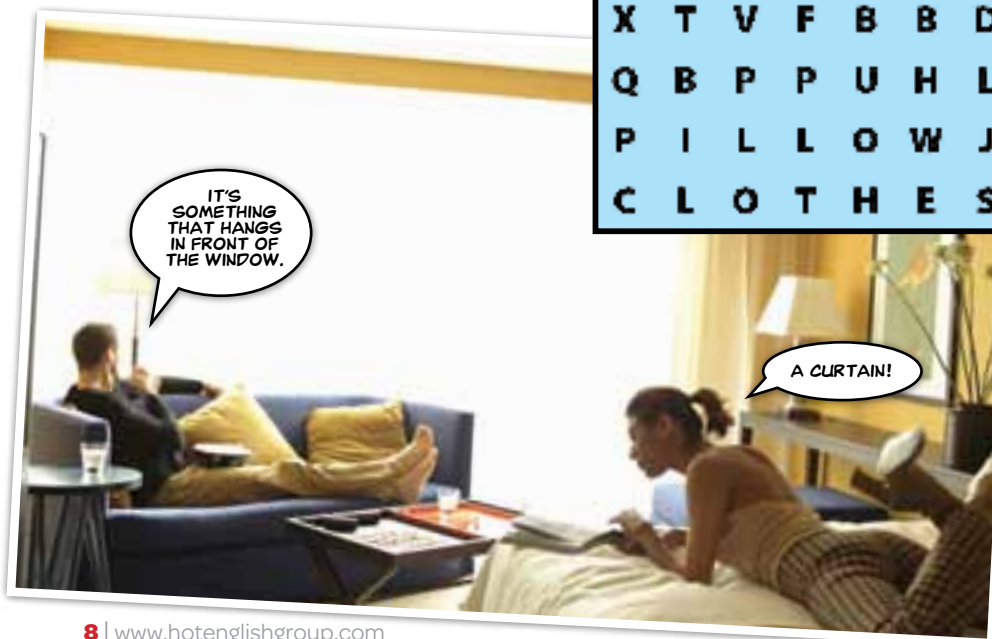
bed	mattress
drawers	wardrobe
closet	table
lamp	blinds
curtains	basket
duvet	pillow
hanger	blanket
dresser	clothes
sheet	



3 Guess the word

Think of ways to describe the words above.

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



USEFUL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS

In the Bedroom

LIE DOWN ON THE BED

IF YOU "LIE DOWN" ON A BED, YOU GO ONTO THE BED AND PUT YOURSELF IN A HORIZONTAL POSITION, OFTEN IN ORDER TO SLEEP.



"SHE FELL ASLEEP AS SOON AS SHE LAY DOWN."

CHANGE THE SHEETS

IF YOU "CHANGE THE SHEETS", YOU TAKE OFF THE DIRTY SHEETS AND PUT ON CLEAN ONES.



"I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CHANGED THE SHEETS."

SWITCH ON A LIGHT / SWITCH OFF A LIGHT

IF YOU "SWITCH ON" THE LIGHT, YOU PRESS A BUTTON (OR FLICK A SWITCH) SO THE LIGHT COMES ON.



"COULD YOU SWITCH ON THE LIGHT, PLEASE? I WANT TO READ FOR A BIT."

HANG CLOTHES UP

IF YOU "HANG CLOTHES UP", YOU PUT THEM ON A CLOTHES HANGER AND THEN IN A WARDROBE.



"DON'T JUST LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES LYING AROUND - HANG THEM UP!"

PULL DOWN/UP THE BLINDS

IF YOU "PULL DOWN THE BLINDS", YOU PULL A STRING OR CORD SO THE BLINDS COME DOWN.



"THE SUN'S REALLY BRIGHT. COULD YOU PULL THE BLINDS DOWN, PLEASE?"

DRAW THE CURTAINS

IF YOU "DRAW THE CURTAINS", YOU CLOSE THEM.



"I THINK YOU SHOULD DRAW THE CURTAINS IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET CHANGED."

EMPTY THE WASTEPAPER BASKET

IF YOU "EMPTY THE WASTEPAPER BASKET", YOU THROW AWAY THE RUBBISH THAT'S IN IT.



"THE WASTEPAPER BASKET IS LOOKING A BIT FULL. I THINK YOU NEED TO EMPTY IT."

MAKE THE BED

IF YOU "MAKE THE BED", YOU ARRANGE IT SO THAT THE SHEETS / DUVET / BLANKETS ARE ON PROPERLY, AND THE BED IS NEAT AND TIDY.



"IT'S YOUR TURN TO MAKE THE BED!"



The Lake District

A beautiful place in England. By Patrick Howarth

1 Pre-reading

Match the places in the UK (1 to 5) to the definitions (a-e).



1 Stonehenge



3 Edinburgh



2 Tower Bridge



4 The Eden Project



5 Bath

- A famous bridge in London over the River Thames.
- Giant transparent domes (each recreating different global climate conditions) with thousands of plants.
- A prehistoric circle of stones.
- A beautiful city in Scotland which is also the capital city.
- A beautiful city in the south-west of England.

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Would you like to visit the Lake District? Does it sound interesting? Why? Why not?

3 Reading II

Read the text again. What does the writer say about the following things in the Lake District?

- Geography
- Location
- Tourism
- Activities / sports
- The weather
- Famous people who've lived there
- Language
- Food & drink

4 Language focus Verb Tenses



This is a revision lesson. Look through the article and see if you can find examples of the following tenses.

- The verb *to be*
- Have got*
- There is / There are*
- The Present Simple
- The Past Simple

5 Discussion

- What's the most beautiful place in your country?
- Which places have you visited in the UK?
- Which area of natural beauty in the world would you like to visit?

The Lake District is one of the most beautiful places in England. It's a mountainous area in the north-west, in the county of Cumbria. Famous for its beautiful countryside (and particularly for its lakes), it's a popular holiday destination. Even in the days of cheap foreign travel, it still gets over 14 million tourists a year.



The biggest tourist attractions are the lakes and mountains. Many visitors come to walk and climb the fells (as the mountains are called in Cumbria). These include Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England at 978 metres. Other popular holiday activities are sailing and canoeing. There are 19 major lakes, including Windermere (the largest), Coniston Water, Ullswater and Bassenthwaite Lake, which is the only one to be called a "lake".

Unfortunately for tourists, the Lake District is also the wettest part of England, and it's famous for its rain. In the summer, the weather can be quite warm and sunny, but there's often a lot of rain, too. The fells are foggy all year round, and climbers and walkers need to be very careful.

The Lake District has always been a popular place to live for writers. In fact, many famous authors have lived and worked there. Arthur Ransome, author of the popular *Swallows and Amazons* books for children, used the lakes as a setting for many of his adventure stories. William Wordsworth, the 19th century poet, lived in Grasmere and Randal Mount. He wrote his poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" there. This is one of the most well-known poems in the English language. He was inspired to write it after seeing daffodils growing near Ullswater. However, the most famous Lake District writer is Beatrix Potter. She's the author of the *Peter Rabbit* children's stories. She lived at Hill Top farm in Near Sawrey. Wordsworth's and Potter's houses are both open to the public.



One thing many visitors comment on is the way people speak. The locals have a strong accent and use some words which are not common in other parts of England. For example, "a fell" is a mountain, "a beck" is a small river, "a tarn" is a small lake, "bitches" are trousers, "a bairn" is a child, and "to gander" at something is to look at it. There are even Cumbrian numbers, starting with "yan, tan, tethera" (one, two, three). Experts believe that many Cumbrian dialect words come from Old Norse, the language spoken by the Vikings, who came to the area in the 10th century.

There's a lot of traditional Cumbrian food. The Cumberland sausage is a very long pork sausage, which is popular all over England. In fact, local butchers are campaigning to make Cumberland sausages unique, so that only sausages made in Cumbria can use the name. The town of Kendal is the home of the Kendal Mint Cake, the original energy food. The cake is made with glucose and is popular with mountaineers. In fact the first people to climb Mount Everest carried Kendal Mint Cake with them and ate it at the top.

The Lake District is a fascinating place with something for everyone. So, next time you want a relaxing and healthy holiday in the UK, why not visit the Lakes? But don't forget your raincoat and an umbrella! ⚡

LET'S TALK ABOUT:
The Street

Taxi rank



Parking meter



Bike stand



Statue

Public lavatory
/ public toiletDrinking
fountain

Bus shelter



Bench



Street name



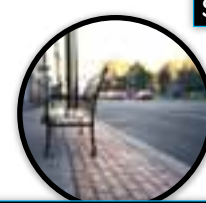
Lamppost



Street sign

Rubbish bin / litter bin
("trash can" in US English)

Telephone box



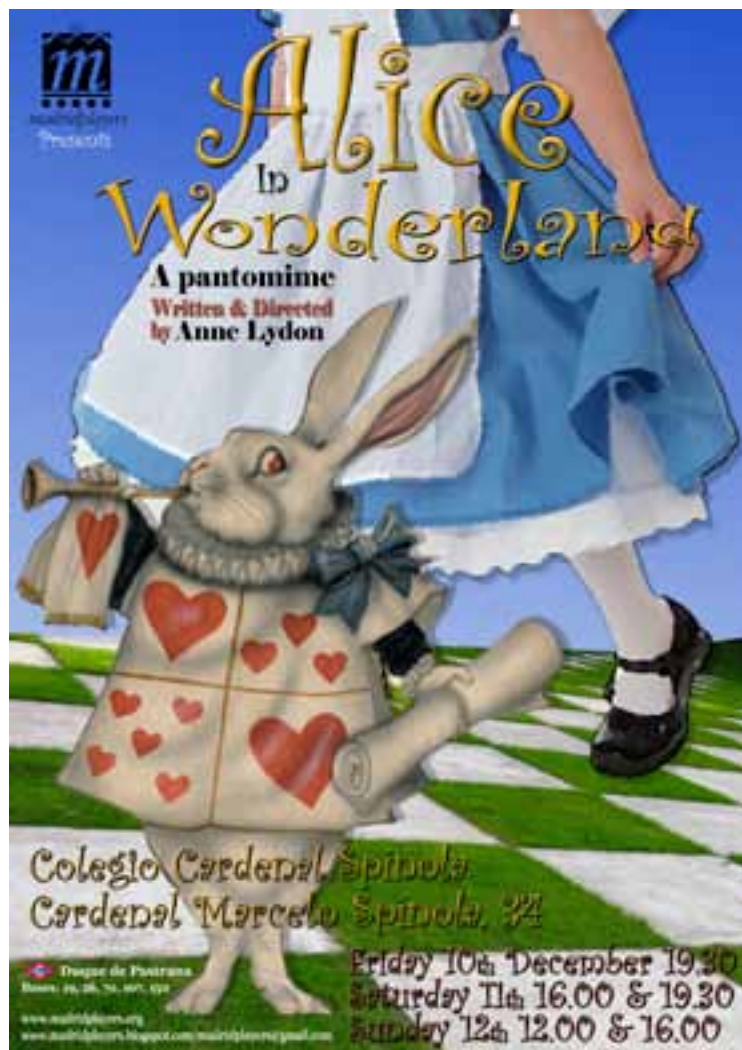
Pavement ("sidewalk" in US English)

DialogueIN THIS DIALOGUE, LARA IS
IN THE STREET WHEN SHE'S
APPROACHED BY A TOURIST.**T: Tourist****L: Lara****T:** Hello.**L:** Hi.**T:** Can I ask you a question?**L:** Yes, OK but I'm in a bit of a rush.**T:** Thank you so much. Where can I get a taxi, please?**L:** There's a taxi rank just over there.**T:** Thank you so much.**L:** OK. I've got to go...**T:** ...what does this street sign mean?**L:** It means, no parking.**T:** But I don't want to park.**L:** Well, if you haven't got a car, you don't need to worry about it.**T:** Thank you. What is this?**L:** It's a parking meter.**T:** Why?**L:** Why?**T:** Yes, why?**L:** Well, you put money in it and it gives you a ticket. Then, you take the ticket and...**T:** Oh, that sounds like fun. I will try it.**L:** OK. Well, I really must...**T:** ...where can I go to the toilet, please?**L:** Erm, I really don't know, erm, I think there's a public toilet in

the park.

T: I can go in the park?**L:** No, there's a machine-operated toilet...**T:** A machine?**L:** Never mind. Just go into that pub over there.**T:** Thank you. What is this?**L:** It's a lamppost. It lights up at night.**T:** That is very clever.**L:** Yes, now, I've really got to go.**T:** Is that a statue?**L:** Yes.**T:** Who is it?**L:** Oh, I don't know. Someone from the 19th century. Look...**T:** ...Thank you so much. You are very kind. Where can I throw this bag of rubbish, please?**L:** Well, there's a rubbish bin at the end of the street.**T:** I can't see it.**L:** Look, there!**T:** Can you take it, please?**L:** What?**T:** Here. [The tourist gives Lara his bag of rubbish.] I'm very grateful.**L:** Thank you and goodbye. I am in a rush. I must go now.**L:** Hey, wait! I'm not taking... [The tourist disappears.]**Useful Expressions**

- Can you tell me where the park is, please?
- Do you know if there's a bank round here?
- Is there a car park near here?
- Where's the nearest post office, please?
- Are there any shops around here?
- Have you got the time on you, please?
- Do you know if there's a cash-point (cash machine) near here?





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this topic in a mini-video at
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FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Paraphrasing

THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT PARAPHRASING IN ENGLISH.

Paraphrasing involves putting someone else's ideas or thoughts into your own words. One of the most common ways of doing this is by using the word "so". For example:

- a) So, you're saying that you're not happy with the situation.
- b) So, you don't feel that you're getting paid the right amount.

Sometimes, we use paraphrasing as a way of giving our interpretation of things. For example:

- a) As far as I understand it,...
- b) From what I understand,...
- c) So, what you're saying is,...

We can use paraphrasing to put things in our own words. For example:

- a) In other words...
- b) Let me see if I understand you correctly...
- c) What I think you're saying is that...

Paraphrasing is essentially a way of reaching understanding. For example:

- a) If I'm hearing you correctly...
- b) From what I can tell...
- c) Let me see if I understand this correctly...

When we finally understand things, we can use these expressions:

- a) Oh, I see. You mean...
- b) I get it. What you want is...
- c) So, what you mean is...

Sometimes the speaker might summarise their thoughts for us, especially if they can see that we're having difficulty. For example:

- a) Put it this way...
- b) Look at it this way...

Or the speaker may try to reduce things to the bare minimum in order to really simplify things. For example:

- a) Basically,...
- b) In a nutshell,...
- c) To put it another way,...
- d) What it all boils down to is...

Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, HOLLIE IS TALKING TO LEON.



- H:** Hollie
L: Leon
- H:** Hi, how's it going?
L: Fine, thanks. How are you?
H: Oh, I had a terrible day. I got into an argument with my boss. She can be so awkward at times.
L: Mmm...
H: What do you mean, "mmm..."?
L: Well, from what I can tell, you've got a few anger management issues.
H: No, not really. I just had an argument.
L: So, what you're saying is that you aren't entirely happy with the way you are.
H: I wouldn't go that far.
L: OK, so let me see if I understand this correctly, what I think you're saying is that you want to change – you need to get control of your life.
H: No, that's not what I'm saying. I was just chatting.

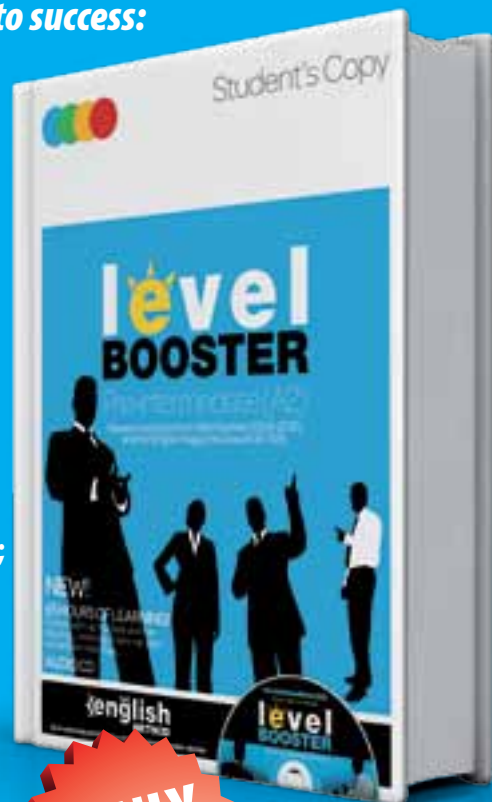
- L:** Are you taking medication?
H: What?
L: Are you seeing a psychologist? From what I can tell, you've got issues that need dealing with. Did you have a happy childhood?
H: What are you talking about? What's got into you?
L: You're in desperate need of help.
H: I don't need any help!
L: That's right. Let it all out. I can hear the pain. Talking is good.
H: I'm not really looking for any advice here, I was just...
L: I'm getting the impression that you aren't really ready to talk about this yet.
H: What's wrong with you? Don't you listen? I was just chatting.
L: I'm getting some negativity here. How long have you been feeling like this?
H: I'm out of here!
L: You can't run away from it! Face up to it! Confront it! Deal with it!
H: Shut up! ✖

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track 8



US man & US woman

track 9

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

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



1 Activity

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct them. All the sentences should be in the Present Perfect. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

- I am finished it.
I have finished it.
- She is seen it before.
- They not have worked much today.
- Have you eat lunch yet?
- Has she have a break this morning?
- We have sent them not.

SKILLS BOOKLET LISTENING Disaster Dash

Some of the world's worst disasters.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-listening

Match the sentences (1 to 8) to the types of disaster (a-h).

- A huge wave hits the coast.
- There's no water.
- It's extremely hot.
- There's a lot of water on the ground.
- The earth moves violently.
- A lot of snow falls down a mountain.
- There's a big fire.
- Lava comes out of a volcano.



b Avalanche



c Volcanic eruption



a Flood



d Heat wave



e Tsunami



f Earthquake



g Drought



h Bushfire

2 Listening I

You are going to listen to two people who are talking about disasters. Listen once. Which disasters from the Pre-listening activity are mentioned?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- The floods in Pakistan took place last **March / July**.
- Twenty one million people have been affected by the **floods / earthquake**.
- The earthquake took place in **Alaska / Haiti**.
- The tsunami happened in **1994 / 2004**.
- The China Floods took place in **1831 / 1931**.
- Over **8 million / 28 million** people lost their homes.

4 Language focus The Past Simple

Look at this extract from the listening on this page, "...It happened on 26th December – Boxing Day..." The speaker has used a Past Simple verb "happened". Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple.

- They _____ (**think**) it was really bad.
- She _____ (**not like**) it.
- He _____ (**take**) a good picture.
- We _____ (**leave**) at 7am.
- They _____ (**not understand**) it.

5 Discussion

- Have you read about any disasters recently? What happened?
- What types of emergency services are there in your country? What do they do?
- Have you ever helped out in a disaster? What did you do?

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Comida Vegetariana

y algo más

GRAMMAR FUN



THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT THE ADVERB TOO.

The use of **too** + an adjective has negative connotations. It's used to show that there's a greater amount of something than is necessary. **For example:**

- a) This exercise is **too difficult**.
- b) It's **too cold** out here.

In many cases, **too** is used to say why something isn't possible. **For example:**

- a) They were **too tired** to play the game.
- b) It was **too late** to go to the cinema.
- c) He was **too full** to finish his food.
- d) It's **too far** to walk to.
- e) This restaurant is **too expensive**. We can't go there.

We can use **not too** + an adjective to say that something is sufficient, OK and adequate – just what's needed. **For example:**

- a) This food isn't **too hot**, it's perfect!
- b) This work isn't **too difficult** – it's fine.

We can use **too many** with countable nouns to say that there's an excess of something. **For example:**

- a) I've been eating **too many** sweets.
- b) There are **too many** people in this room – it's against fire regulations.

And we can use **too much** with uncountable nouns to say that there's an excess of something. **For example:**

- a) There's **too much** salt in this food.
- b) They've used **too much** plastic on this packaging.

1 Exercise

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

Complete the sentences with the adjectives from below.

easy far big cold tired late young sweet

1. This book won't fit in my pocket. It's too _____.
2. We've got to get up early tomorrow, so it's too _____ to go out now.
3. The food is too _____ – I'll put it back in the oven.
4. He was still under 20 so he was too _____ to get into the club.
5. This exercise is too _____. A three-year-old could do it.
6. You put too much sugar in the dessert and now it's too _____.
7. I think we should get the bus – the city centre is too _____ to walk to.
8. I really don't want to play right now – I'm too _____.

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Ice Cream Delight

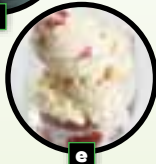
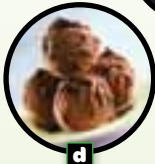
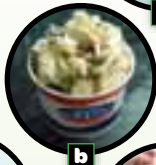
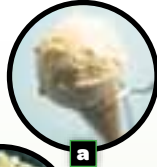
What's your flavour? The unusual world of ice cream. By Patrick Howarth

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

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

1. Chocolate ice cream
2. Strawberry ice cream
3. Vanilla ice cream
4. A scoop of ice cream
5. Raspberry ripple
6. An ice cream cone
7. A banana split
8. A tub of ice cream



2 Reading I

How many ice cream flavours can you think of in 2 minutes? Think. Then, read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. When was ice cream invented?
2. When did the first ice cream parlour open in the US?
3. How much is the ice cream industry worth?
4. Where is the ice cream flavour "rocky road" popular?
5. Where is the ice cream flavour "rum and raisin" popular?
6. In which country is horsemeat ice cream popular?
7. In which country can you find foie gras ice cream?
8. Where's the shop that has more than 860 flavours?

4 Language focus

Verb Tenses
This is a revision lesson. Look through the reading and see if you can find examples of the following tenses.

1. The Present Simple
2. The Past Simple
3. The Present Perfect

5 Discussion

1. What's your favourite dessert?
2. What's your favourite flavour of ice cream?
Which flavour from this page would you like to try?
3. What do you like to eat ice cream with?

What's your favourite dessert? Ice cream often appears at the top in opinion polls. But why?

Ice cream has had a long history. Its origins go back to about 60 AD, when the Roman emperor Nero would order ice to be brought from the mountains. Later, he would combine the ice with fruit toppings. In the 13th century, Marco Polo learned of the Chinese method of creating ice and milk mixtures and took this back to Europe. The first ice cream parlour in America opened in New York City in 1776. And since then, ice cream has developed into the delicious dessert we know and love.

There's no denying that ice cream is popular. It's an \$11 billion retail industry, and it's popular all over the world, with the US, New Zealand, Denmark, Australia, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Norway, Ireland and Switzerland being the top consumers in terms of consumption per head.

The great thing about ice cream is that there are so many different flavours. There are simple ones such as chocolate, strawberry and vanilla. Or mixed flavours such as "rum and raisin" (vanilla, rum and raisins), "rocky road" (chocolate, nuts and marshmallow), "raspberry ripple" (vanilla and raspberry syrup), and "cookies and cream" (sweet cream and chocolate cookies).

Each country seems to have its favourite flavours. In the US, "rocky road" and "cookies and cream" are popular; whereas in the UK, it's "rum & raisin" and "raspberry ripple". They're all tasty, but some countries have some decidedly strange flavours. In Japan you can get "horsemeat ice cream". It's called Basashi Ice and it's made with real horse meat. Some Japanese ice cream parlours also offer "whale", "eel", "octopus" and "squid ink" ice creams (the squid ink one is black). However, the strangest Japanese ice cream flavour of all has to be Pit Viper, which is made from the venom of the poisonous viper snake.

But there's more. In America you can try a scoop of "Cold Sweat", an ice cream made with jalapeño peppers and other hot chillies. It's supposed to be VERY spicy. If you want a really luxurious ice cream, go to France to try Philippe Faur's "foie gras ice cream" made with goose livers. It costs about \$150 a tub. For a smelly ice cream, try Britain's "Seriously Stilton", with 25% of it consisting of blue stilton cheese. Amazingly, it's very popular.

But if you're looking for a really wide selection, you'll need to go to the town of Merida in Venezuela. This is where you can find Coromoto, the ice cream shop with the most flavours in the world. On a typical day, they offer 60 flavours, but these are changed regularly so every time a customer visits, there's a new one to try. In total, the shop has more than 860 flavours, including tropical fruit flavours such as "guava", "papaya" and "mango", and some more unusual flavours such as "avocado", "mushrooms in wine", "onion", "beef" and "garlic". However, the strangest of all must be the "sardines in brandy".

So, next time you fancy an ice cream what are you going to ask for? Boring old chocolate, or something new and exciting such as "squid ink"? Chocolate for me, please. 🍫



READING I

Weird Courses

Unusual things to study at college or university.



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this topic in a mini-video at
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the book titles (1 to 6) to the subjects that they deal with (a-f).

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>Pediatrics for Beginners</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2. <i>Films from the 1920s</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Physical education |
| 3. <i>The Healthy Diet for Sportspeople</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Psychology |
| 4. <i>How to Take Better Pictures</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Photography |
| 5. <i>Kings and Queens of England</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Medicine |
| 6. <i>Overcome your Fears</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Media studies |
| | f. History |

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Which course is the most unusual? Why? Which one would you like to take? Why? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, match the courses (1 to 7) to the universities (a-g).

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. "David Beckham Studies" | a. Durham University |
| 2. "Zombie Studies" | b. Alfred University |
| 3. "Harry Potter and the Age of Illusion" | c. Queen's University Belfast |
| 4. "Philosophy and Star Trek" | d. Staffordshire University |
| 5. "Feel the Force: How to Train in the Jedi Way" | e. Georgetown University |
| 6. "Robin Hood Studies" | f. Nottingham University |
| 7. "Maple Syrup – The Real Thing" | g. The University of Baltimore |

4 Language focus Nouns

A number of course subjects are mentioned in the article: *accounting, engineering, photography...* Write the names of the people next to each subject below (1 to 8).

- Accounting = **an accountant**
- Engineering =
- Farming =
- Photography =
- Medicine =
- History =
- Biology =
- Chemistry =



DO MY LEGS LOOK BIG IN THESE TIGHTS?

What did you study at university or college? There are hundreds of courses available... including some very strange ones.

Choosing a university or college **course** is never easy. Some people **pick** subjects that will lead directly to a job, such as accounting, medicine or engineering. While others go for something a bit less focused, such as maths, history or English literature. Some **degree** courses such as photography or physical education are considered less "intellectual". And others are **looked down on** as "joke" or "Mickey Mouse" subjects, such as media or film studies. But they're nothing compared to some of the following.



Staffordshire University (in England) offers a **module** called "David Beckham Studies" for students taking sociology, sports science or media studies. The course deals with the sociological importance of football.

The University of Baltimore (in the USA) is offering students the chance to study zombies. This is part of its "English 333" course. The **lecturer** of zombie studies is Arnold Blumberg, who has written a book on zombie films.

Durham University (in England) offers a unit in "Harry Potter and the Age of Illusion" as part of its education studies course. Students can read about topics such as "Muggles and magic: the escape from the **treadmill** and the recovery of **enchantment**", as well as "Gryffindor and Slytherin: **prejudice** and **intolerance** in the classroom". Fascinating!

Georgetown University (in Washington DC) is offering a course in "Philosophy and Star Trek". Students can attempt to answer questions such as "Is time travel possible?" and "Could we **go back** and kill our grandparents?"

A masters course in the "Psychology of Exceptional Human Experiences" at the University of Coventry (in England) allows students to study the film *Ghostbusters*. Lecturer Tony Lawrence said of the course, "We don't tell students what to believe but we help them investigate."

Queen's University Belfast (in Northern Ireland) has a course in "Feel the Force: How to Train in the Jedi Way". Students learn about the real-life psychological techniques behind Jedi **mind tricks**, as well as examining the wider issues behind the *Star Wars* universe, such as **balance, destiny, fatherhood** and fascism.

Embedded within the MA in History at Nottingham University (in England) is a module called "Robin Hood Studies". Students can learn about the **tales** of one of England's most famous **medieval** heroes.

Alfred University in New York (in the USA) offers a unit called "Maple Syrup – The Real Thing". The course looks into the profession of making maple syrup and how the production process has **hardly** changed over the years.

So, which course would you like to take? 🍀

GLOSSARY

- a course** *n*
a structure of classes on a particular subject that you study at university or college
- to pick** *vb*
to choose; to select
- a degree** *n*
a qualification you receive after completing a university course
- to look down on** *phr vb*
to consider inferior or less important or successful
- a module** *n*
one part of a course
- a lecturer** *n*
a teacher who mainly teaches or who gives lectures (talks / speeches) at a university/college
- a treadmill** *n*
this word can be used to refer to a job that is boring and exhausting. Literally, a "treadmill" is a machine for exercise with a moving part that you can run on
- enchantment** *n*
in the world of fantasy and legends "enchantment" refers to magic
- prejudice** *n*
a feeling of dislike based on someone's age, sex, religion, etc.
- intolerance** *n*
not accepting people for who they are
- to go back** *phr vb*
if you "go back" in time, you travel into the past
- a mind trick** *n*
a psychological technique that involves manipulating someone's mind or changing what they're thinking
- balance** *n*
when two forces are equal
- destiny** *n*
your "destiny" refers to the things that have happened to you and that will happen to you in the future
- fatherhood** *n*
the state of being a father
- to embed** *vb*
if A is "embedded" in B, A is placed / fixed in B
- a tale** *n*
a story
- medieval** *adj*
a word to describe something or someone from medieval times (between the 5th and 15th centuries)
- hardly** *adj*
not very much

READING II

Parking Pain

PARKING PAIN

Anger at parking restrictions and fines.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the "parking" words (1 to 6) to the pictures (a-f).

- Car park
- Traffic warden
- Parking spot / space / bay
- Parking meter
- Wheel clamp
- Tow-truck



2 Reading I

What are the advantages and disadvantages of stricter parking policies for city centres? Think. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

- How late was Charlene when she got her fine?
- What does Charlene think of the situation with clamping firms?
- Why couldn't Charlene get her car back on Sunday?
- How much did she have to pay?
- What does Nate dislike about cars?
- What does Nate suggest to help deal with the problem?

4 Language focus

The Past Passive

Look at this extract from the article on this page, "...I was obliged to stay in a hotel..." The writer has used a Past Passive construction ("was obliged"). Transform the following sentences into the Past Passive. Do not include the agent (the person who does the action).

- They took it to the station.
- She sent it by post.
- They delivered them last Friday.
- He opened it with scissors.

5 Discussion

- What's the traffic like in your city or town? What's being done about it?
- Do you drive to work? Where do you park?
- What could be done to ease traffic problems in your country / city / town?

Are there any problems with traffic in your town or city? What's the solution? Many local **councils** are adopting stricter parking policies for city centres. We asked two experts what they thought of it.



Charlene Rumpton: Against stricter parking policies for city centres

I'm against stricter parking restrictions. Where I live, the situation is becoming intolerable, with parking meters everywhere and more and more restricted zones. But worst of all, **motorists** are being **punished** for ridiculous offences. These include things such as leaving one **wheel** a little bit over the white line of a **car park bay**, failing to display your **pay-and-display** ticket correctly, or coming back just two minutes past the time on the ticket. I think there should be a bit more **leeway** with the time limits. Just recently, I got a **fine** for being *four minutes* late. The situation with private **clamping firms** is out of control, too. These companies are clamping as many cars as possible because that's how they make their money. And the council are **towing away** more and more cars these days. Just last month, I got back at 1am on Sunday morning to find my car was missing. I thought it had been stolen, but I eventually found out it had been towed away. It was a wet night and the last train had long gone. Incredibly, they just told me to come back on MONDAY morning! They said that they towed cars away 24/7 but were closed for payments after 10pm, and all day Sunday. I was obliged to stay in a hotel and get up early the next morning. On top of that, I had to pay a massive £360 fine to get my car back. This has got to change.



Nate Sawsby: In favour of stricter parking policies for city centres

I'm firmly in favour of increased parking restrictions. I think there should be more controlled parking zones, and more **pedestrianised** areas. Cars bring noise, fumes and pollution to the city, not to mention the dangers involved. Illegally-parked cars make it difficult to walk down the streets, and it's practically impossible if you've got a **pram** and young children. In my street, there are often cars with wheels on the **pavement**, which is really annoying. Of course, we can't stop cars coming in without **investing** in public transport. We need to spend more on buses, install **tram lines** and make sure there are sufficient trains coming in and out of the city. We also need to create lots more **cycle lanes** so people can use their bikes. But as we're improving this, we need to establish more and more restricted parking zones and pay-and-display zones with parking metres. At the same time, we need to **set up** more **park-and-ride schemes**, with massive car parks outside the city, and regular buses to take people into the centre. Then, if people park illegally, they should be fined heavily. This money can then be used to finance further improvements, or for building more cycle lanes. 🌱

GLOSSARY

- a council** *n* the elected government in charge of a city, town or village
- a motorist** *n* a person who drives a car
- to punish** *vb* if someone is "punished", they must pay a fine, go to prison, etc. because they have done something illegal
- a wheel** *n* one of the four round objects under a car that a car travels on
- a car park bay** *n* a rectangular space that is marked on the road (usually with painted lines) where you can park your car
- pay-and-display** *exp* a system for parking by which you buy a ticket from a machine and display (show) this ticket inside your car so that traffic wardens can see it
- leeway** *n* extra space or time to operate in outside the established limits
- a fine** *n* an amount of money you pay as punishment for an offence or crime
- a clamping firm** *n* a company that makes money by putting a clamp (a metal block) on the wheels of illegally parked cars and charging vehicle owners for the return of their car
- to tow away** *phr vb* if a car is "towed away", it is attached to a cable on another vehicle and pulled away (often because it is parked illegally)
- pedestrianised** *adj* a "pedestrianised" area is one where people can walk but cars cannot drive
- a pram** *n* a type of bed with wheels for transporting a baby. A "baby carriage" in US English
- a pavement** *n* the area to the side of the road where people can walk. A "sidewalk" in US English
- to invest** *vb* if you "invest" in something, you spend money on it to make it better
- a tram line** *n* tracks (metal lines) in the road for a tram (a public transport vehicle that is powered by electricity) to travel on
- a cycle lane** *n* a path often next to a road that people on bicycles can use
- to set up** *phr vb* to create or start
- a park-and-ride scheme** *exp* a system in which people park their cars in car parks outside the city and take a bus (often a free one) into the centre

HOW TO... LEARN ENGLISH GRAMMAR

This month, **SEVEN** top tips to help you learn English grammar.

Grammar = the ways that words are put together in order to make sentences.

1. Perspective

The first thing to do is to put grammar into perspective. Grammar alone isn't going to help you learn a language. In order for language development to take place, you need to read and listen a lot. Think about children – they never sit down to *learn* grammar. They're exposed to lots of language and then pick it up naturally. You can do the same if you listen and read enough! In fact, the more you read and listen, the more language you'll absorb, and the more you'll see how the language fits together (which is what grammar is all about).

2. Psychological

You also need to remember that grammar is largely psychological. This means that the choice of tense often depends on what you (the speaker) want to say in a particular situation at a particular time – the choice of tense is not determined by some external "rule". So, the selection of either *will* or *be + going to*, or *must* or *have to*, or the Present Perfect or Past Simple, and all those other grammar structures that are often compared, will depend mostly on what *you* want to say.

3. Freedom!

You also need to bear in mind that English is a dynamic language that's constantly evolving. There's no linguistic organisation regulating it (as there is for French or Spanish). So, the concept of "right" and "wrong" doesn't really exist – it's more a question of what is (or is not) standard English. But as there's no universal concept of standard English, and there are hundreds of varieties of the language (Australian English, British English, American English, Jamaican English, South African English... and so on), and all of them are equally valid, it all gets a bit complicated. In many cases it isn't a question of what's "right" or "wrong", but what's accepted (or not) as standard in a particular part of the world. For example, in some places, it's acceptable to say, "He don't like it!" [sic]

4. It's easy!

English grammar isn't really that complicated. And there are a limited number of tenses that you need to learn (please refer to our "English Grammar Tenses" box). The rest of "English" consists of thousands of important words and expressions (each with their own "grammar"). If grammar is starting to sound overly complex or hard to grasp, you're probably going into too much detail. Learning *how* and *when* to use the tenses is a lot more difficult, and this is where your teacher or a good grammar book can help. There are often useful guidelines (albeit with a lot of exceptions) that can help you understand when the tenses are used. But real learning will take place from repeated exposure to the language through reading and listening, and seeing the structures in action for yourself.

5. Verb tables

So, what can you do to "learn" English grammar? One thing is to memorise key verb tables. This can be done through the "look, cover, write, check" formula. Simply choose a verb table (the Past Simple, for example), look at it for a few minutes, then cover it and try to write it out again. Finally, compare your version with the original... then do it again until you can recreate the table perfectly. Then, choose another tense to work on. It shouldn't take long as there really aren't that many key grammar tenses to learn.

6. Memory & repetition

You also need to memorise key grammatical sentences. Listen and repeat these back to yourself until you've learnt them by heart and you can say them fluently. The sentences may be out of context, and they may not be entirely natural, but that doesn't matter because the purpose is to internalise the basic structure, which you can then use

in the future to generate other sentences with the same structure. For example, if you learn this sentence, "*Keira lives in America*", you can then use it to generate hundreds of other sentences, just by replacing the subject ("*Keira*"), the verb ("*lives*") and the complement ("*in America*"). For example:

- a) Mike studies in Brighton.
- b) Sara works in accounts.

7. Drills

Another thing you need to do is to build up your agility with the verb tenses. Do grammar drills on your own, with a friend or with your teacher to develop fluency. For example, say a sentence in a particular tense, then create the negative or question forms that correspond to it: "*She went to the shops.* / *She didn't go to the shops.* / *Did she go to the shops?*" Keep doing this until you can do it automatically and without thinking. Then, when you're in a conversation, you'll find the tenses (and affirmative, negative or interrogative forms) come to you much more easily.

To summarise: read and listen a lot, learn the verb tables, memorise key grammatical sentences, practise forming negatives and question forms and, above all, remember that language is all about communication – it isn't a set of rules! ☺

English Grammar Tenses

Here are the key grammar tenses that you need to learn. The verb *to be*, the Present Simple, the Present Continuous, the Past Simple, the Present Perfect, Future forms (*will*, *be + going to*, the Future Continuous, the Future Perfect), Modal verbs, the Past Continuous, Passive forms, the Past Perfect and Conditionals (zero, I, II, III).

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how to use hot english magazine

Hot English magazine is designed to improve your level of English. But how? Learning a language is a complex process, but one thing is clear: you need input in order to progress. "Input" is basically language in the form of listening or reading texts. Hot English provides both. The following consists of just a few ideas on how to use the magazine. As you can see, Hot English is divided into different levels, but learners of all levels can take advantage of *all* the magazine.

Lower-level ideas

- 1 Look at the photos. Read the title and introduction. Think about the topic. Then read the article to check your ideas.
- 2 Read the article. Check the words in the glossaries. Then listen to the article.
- 3 Read and listen to the articles/conversations at the same time.
- 4 Do the exercises. Then, check the glossaries. Afterwards, listen to the article.
- 5 Read the glossaries before reading the article. Then, read the article.
- 6 Read the article carefully and look up 10 new words. Then listen to it.

Higher-level ideas

- 1 Listen to the articles/conversations before reading the text.
- 2 Put the CD on in the car and listen.
- 3 Listen to the recordings. Then, read the transcript as you listen again.
- 4 Create MP3s of the sound files to listen while you walk, work or relax.
- 5 Watch the online video related to the topic and then read the article.
- 6 Try to guess the meaning of words/expressions from the context and without referring to the glossary definitions or a dictionary.
- 7 Listen to each sentence of an article or conversation. Pause the recording and try to repeat what they've just said.

Teachers

Hot English is also great for teachers. You can use the material for essential classroom reading and listening activities. The Teacher's Notes will give you ideas on how to present and exploit the material, and the videos offer a good resource for follow-up activities. Many of the reading and listening activities have "ready-to-go" exercises within the magazine, which will make your job a lot easier.

good luck!

Do you have any ideas on how to use Hot English? Please write to andyc@hotenglishmagazine.com We appreciate all comments!

US man & US woman track 12

Skills BOOKLET

Refer to unit 5 of the Intermediate Skills Booklet for more explanations and exercises.

SKILLS BOOKLET LISTENING



Healthy Times

How to live a healthy lifestyle.

1 Pre-listening

What's the definition of a healthy lifestyle? Look at the prompts below and think of one idea for each one. Then, discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Food – Don't eat too much fatty food.
- Drink
- Alcohol
- Exercise
- Work
- Relaxation
- Smoke
- Free time
- Sport
- Personal weight

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a doctor, who is talking to a patient (Mr Jones) about his lifestyle. Listen once. Is Mr Jones living a healthy lifestyle? Give details.

3 Listening II

Listen again. What does the doctor say about the following things related to Mr Jones?

1. His weight.
2. His work.
3. Alcohol.
4. Smoking.
5. Exercise.
6. Food.

4 Language focus

The Present Perfect Continuous

Look at this extract from the listening text related to the exercises on this page, "...I've been eating a lot of free burgers..." The speaker has used the Present Perfect Continuous ("have been eating"). Transform the following sentences into the Present Perfect Continuous.

1. I've slept a lot.
2. She's eaten the food.
3. They've finished the work.
4. We've sent the e-mails.

5 Discussion

1. How would you describe your level of health or fitness?
2. What's your diet like?
3. Do you get much exercise? What do you do to keep fit?

The incredible but true life of Charles Dickens. By Sam Gordon



What the Dickens!

Oliver Twist. A Christmas Carol. Great Expectations. They're just a few of the many books by Charles Dickens – one of the most famous and popular **novelists** of all time. Dickens is famous for his **vivid** stories and **colourful** characters. But how did he come up with all the ideas?

The answer lies in Dickens' own life, which was almost as **eventful** as some of his characters'. Charles

Dickens was born on 7th February 1812. His early life was comfortable and secure until his father (John Dickens) suddenly **went bankrupt**. John was sent to Marshalsea **debtors' prison** where his family joined him shortly afterwards. Dickens used his experiences of this to help write the book *Little Dorrit*.



While his father was in prison, Dickens had to work in a **rat-infested** factory for ten hours a day. His job consisted of **pasting labels** on jars of shoe polish. He earned six shillings a week (about 30 pence) and had to give all of the money to his family to help pay for their accommodation. This experience of poverty influenced much of his writing and helped him describe the conditions in which many poor people spent their whole lives. When it was published in 1839, *Oliver Twist* shocked readers with its images of poverty and suffering in London.



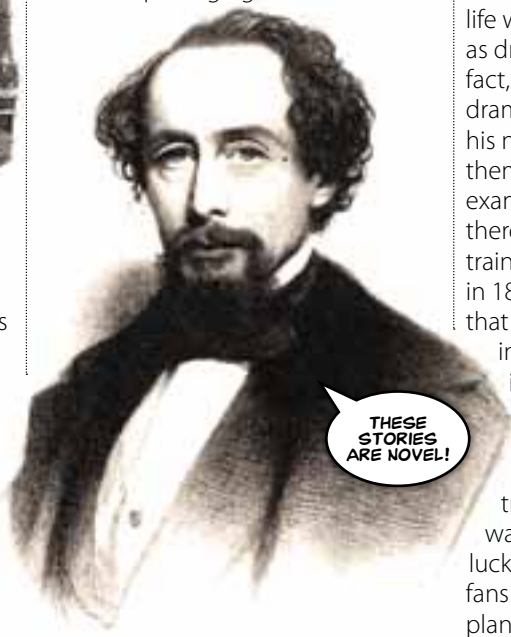
John eventually got out of prison. As a result, Charles Dickens was able to go back to school and continue his education. When he finished, Dickens worked as a freelance reporter and taught himself **shorthand** in his **spare time**. Later, he worked as a legal journalist for four years, reporting on **court cases**. He was able to use this experience to help him write about the confusing bureaucratic legal system in Victorian England, especially in his book *Bleak House*. In court, he also



saw a lot of people – good and bad – that helped him create some of his best villains and heroes.

Many of Dickens' characters were "do-gooders" – people who try to help others. But Dickens himself was also a great **philanthropist**. In 1846 he helped set up a **safe-house** for women who had been reduced to crime. The centre offered accommodation and also education courses to help them re-integrate into society. Later, Dickens based, many characters in his books on the women he met there. Dickens also gave public readings of his work to support Great Ormond Street Hospital (a children's hospital) and wrote anonymously in newspapers every week reporting on cases of mistreated children.

At the height of his popularity, Dickens was a world-famous (and very wealthy) author. He was even popular in America, a country he toured twice. There's a story of American fans waiting at the **docks** for the ship bringing the latest



THESE STORIES ARE NOVEL!



HAS ANYONE SEEN MY FAMILY?

instalment of Dickens' novels. This is because Dickens published his stories in episodes in journals and newspapers, and put a **cliff-hanger** at the end of each chapter.

Dickens had expressed a wish to be **buried** quietly at Rochester Cathedral, but when he finally died in 1870, he was **laid to rest** in Westminster alongside Britain's kings and queens. His own life was a classic **rags-to-riches story**, as dramatic as any in his novels. In fact, some events in his life were so dramatic that he didn't put them in his novels as no one would believe them. For example, there was a train crash in 1865 that he was involved



in. The train was **derailed**, and the first seven carriages fell from a bridge. The only first-class carriage that remained on the track was the one that Dickens was in. Unbelievable, but true – and lucky... not only for Dickens, but for fans of great literature across the planet. 🍀

Quote

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveller back to his own fireside and quiet home!" Charles Dickens



Dickens' Most Famous Works

The Pickwick Papers (1836-37): Mr. Samuel Pickwick and friends make a series of journeys through the English countryside. Each trip forms a story of its own.



David Copperfield (1849-50): The book follows David's journey into adulthood after his oppressive stepfather sends him to work in a factory.



Oliver Twist (1837-39): A young orphan joins Fagin and his gang of pickpockets.

Bleak House (1852-53): A satire of the English legal system. This is considered Dickens' masterpiece. It centres around the never-ending case of "Jarndyce and Jarndyce".

A Christmas Carol (1843): Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by 3 ghosts on Christmas Eve and learns the importance of kindness and generosity.

Little Dorrit (1855-57): This story takes place in and around Marshalsea debtor's prison. Amy Dorrit is the daughter of William, who has been there for so long that he's called "the Father of Marshalsea".



Martin Chuzzlewit (1843-44): Martin Chuzzlewit gets into difficulty after falling in love with his grandfather's ward, Mary. Eventually, Martin decides to go to America to seek his fortune.

A Tale of Two Cities (1859): A story of love and redemption that takes place during the French revolution in the late 1700s.








Pictures from Italy (1845): A travel guide that describes Dickens' time in Italy. There are descriptions of the local people, shops, food and fiestas.

Great Expectations (1860-61): This book follows the life of the orphan Pip. From his humble beginnings, he ends up in London where he becomes a gentleman.

GLOSSARY

- a novelist** *n*
a person who writes novels (books about imaginary characters)
- vivid** *adj*
very bright and clear
- colourful** *adj*
a "colourful" character is funny and interesting
- eventful** *adj*
if something is "eventful", lots of things happen
- to go bankrupt** *exp*
if you "go bankrupt", you have no money and can't pay your debts (the money you must pay to other people)
- a debtors' prison** *n*
a jail for people who have become bankrupt
- rat-infested** *adj*
if a place is "rat-infested", it has lots of rats (small animals with long tails)
- to paste** *vb*
to stick something to something else with glue
- a label** *n*
a small piece of paper or plastic on an object that explains what the object is
- shorthand** *n*
a system of writing that uses signs to represent words or letters
- spare time** *n*
time when you have nothing to do and no work
- a court case** *n*
a formal investigation that takes place in a court (a legal building) into a criminal offence. The case is managed by a judge. The jury (12 people) decide if the accused is innocent or guilty
- a philanthropist** *n*
someone who gives money to help the poor
- a safe-house** *n*
a secret place where people can go to be protected from danger
- docks** *n*
a place next to the sea or a river where goods are loaded onto (put on) or unloaded from (taken off) ships
- a cliff-hanger** *n*
an exciting point in a story which will be continued in the next episode
- to bury** *vb*
to put a dead body in a hole in the ground
- to lay to rest** *exp*
if you "lay someone to rest", you bury them
- a rags-to-riches story** *exp*
a story of a poor person who becomes rich and successful
- to derail** *vb*
if a train "derails", it goes off the tracks (the metal lines it travels on) by accident
- delusions** *n*
if you have "delusions", you believe something which is not true
- an orphan** *n*
a child whose mother and father have died
- a pickpocket** *n*
someone who steals things from people's pockets
- a ward** *n*
a child who is being looked after by an adult (this adult is often referred to as a "guardian")
- redemption** *n*
in a story of "redemption" a bad person becomes good in the end
- humble beginnings** *exp*
if someone has "humble beginnings", they are poor at the start (of their life)
- to advocate** *vb*
to promote, recommend or support something
- slavery** *n*
a system in which slaves must work for nothing, and can be bought or sold
- overwork** *n*
too much work
- a stroke** *n*
a "stroke" happens when blood vessels in the brain are damaged, which causes paralysis (an inability to move)

Charles Dickens: A Timeline

<p>1812: 7th February: Charles Dickens is born.</p>	<p>1824: Dickens' father John is sent to a debtors' prison. Young Dickens goes to work at Warren's Blacking factory.</p> 	<p>1829: Dickens becomes a freelance reporter at Doctors' Commons Court.</p> <p>1830: He meets and falls in love with Maria Beadnell. The relationship eventually fails (a not very flattering version of her appears years later in <i>Little Dorrit</i>).</p>	<p>1835: He meets and becomes engaged to Catherine Hogarth. They marry the following year.</p> <p>1836: The first series of <i>Sketches by Boz</i> is published. They consist of a series of short stories by Dickens.</p> 	<p>1837: <i>The Pickwick Papers</i> is published in monthly editions. Against all expectations, it is a huge success.</p>	<p>1842: Dickens embarks on a tour of Canada and the United States and advocates the abolition of slavery.</p> <p>1845: Dickens starts an amateur theatrical company.</p>
1800	1830	1840			
<p>1857: Dickens falls in love with Ellen Ternan.</p> 	<p>1864: Dickens is by now in poor health, largely because of consistent overwork.</p> <p>1865: Dickens and Ellen Ternan are involved in a train accident on their return from a holiday in Paris.</p>	<p>1867: Against his doctor's advice, Dickens continues work and begins another tour of the United States.</p> 	<p>1869: Dickens suffers a stroke.</p> <p>1870: Final public readings take place in London.</p> <p>June 8th 1870: He suffers another stroke after a full day's work on the book <i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>. Dickens dies the next day. The novel is never finished.</p> <p>June 14th 1870: Dickens is buried at Westminster Abbey.</p> 		
1850	1860	1870			



A Christmas Carol

A *Christmas Carol* was written and published in 1843 by the English writer Charles Dickens. Since then, there have been numerous **adaptations** of the short novel, including several films, plays, musicals, books, puppet shows, radio plays and cartoons. But why is it so popular?

The main character in the book is Ebenezer Scrooge. He's the owner of a small business in Victorian London and a **tight-fisted, cynical** individual he is too. Scrooge particularly dislikes Christmas as it means he has to give his **clerk** Bob Cratchit a day off, which he compares to someone stealing from him once a year.

Most of the story is set on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley. Before he died, Marley had been just as **mean** as Scrooge and took every opportunity to exploit the poor. As a result, Marley lives a doomed existence and is forced to **roam** the earth as a ghost for eternity. However, Marley has decided to help his old partner escape the same **fate**, and so **warns** Scrooge that he must change his ways before it's too late. To help him, Scrooge will be visited by three spirits: the ghost of Christmas Past, the ghost of Christmas Present, and the ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.



Bob Cratchit. Cratchit's son, Tiny Tim, is **lame** and the family only just manage to **survive** on the **tiny wage** that Scrooge pays. However, despite all their problems, the family are happy and make the most of what little they have. Scrooge also sees how content his nephew (Fred) is in the company of his friends.

Scrooge has now seen how his obsession with money has actually made him unhappy, and how the people he knows don't need to be wealthy in order to be happy. The final spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, now appears and shows Scrooge the possible consequences of his actions. First, they visit the Cratchit's home again, however they are no longer the same happy family. They are **mourning** the death of Tiny Tim, who has died from his illness. Then, they see the reaction to Scrooge's own death: nobody is **upset**, Scrooge's money and possessions have been stolen by the poor, and his cheap tombstone is in a **messy, uncared-for graveyard**. The vision ends with Scrooge crying over his grave, **begging** for a chance to change his ways.

But when Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning, he's a changed man. After sending an enormous turkey to the Cratchit family for their Christmas dinner, he spends the rest of the day with his nephew, and becomes a model of kindness and generosity. And from that day on (as Dickens writes), "It was always said of him [Scrooge] that he knew how to keep Christmas well if any man alive possessed the knowledge."



So, why is the story so popular? Although it was written so long ago, many of the themes are still relevant today. Here are a few of the universal themes that it touches on, plus some other reasons why the book is so popular.

- Money doesn't necessarily bring you happiness.
- The family is important.
- Giving is better than receiving.
- Greed will make you miserable.
- It's important to have the Christmas spirit all year round.
- It's a classic story of redemption – of one man changing radically after seeing the error of his ways.
- The story is about the true meaning of Christmas and the Christmas spirit.
- It conjures up images of a traditional Christmas, with carol singers, food and family gatherings.
- It helps us to reflect on who we are and what others think of us.
- It makes us think about those who are less fortunate than ourselves.
- It has elements of anti-commercialisation, forcing us to think about the true meaning of Christmas.
- We all know some Scrooges. Some of us may even have been one at some point in our lives.
- Everyone is capable of change.
- It's a message of hope and happiness.
- Some of the best things in life are free.

What do you think? 🌟



The first spirit is the Ghost of Christmas Past. He

shows visions from when Scrooge was younger, starting with the way he was abandoned at boarding school by his father. A number of traumatic experiences happen at Christmas which explains why Scrooge hates it so much now that he's an adult. We also see why Scrooge never married: although he was **engaged** to a girl, he kept **postponing** the ceremony because he didn't think he had enough money; and in the end she got tired of waiting and married someone else.



The second spirit is the Ghost of Christmas Present.

He shows Scrooge the family of his clerk,



Quotes

Charles Dickens' novel, *A Christmas Carol* (1843), is the famous tale of Scrooge. He's visited by ghosts from the past, present and future. The novel is a celebration of Christmas, but it is also a story of redemption. Here are a few quotes from the novel.



- "Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it."
- "A Merry Christmas, uncle. God save you!" cried the voice of Ebenezer Scrooge's nephew. "Merry Christmas? What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You are poor enough," he said. "Come on. What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You are rich enough," said his nephew gaily.
- "What's Christmas time... but a time for paying bills without money?" Scrooge
- "Every idiot who goes about with Merry Christmas on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart." Scrooge
- "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." Scrooge
- "God bless us every one!" said Tiny Tim, the last of all."

Bah! Humbug!

One of the most famous quotes from *A Christmas Carol* is, "Bah! Humbug!" This is Ebenezer Scrooge's response when his nephew wishes him a merry Christmas. It means something like, "What rubbish! What nonsense!"



GLOSSARY

- an adaptation** *n*
an "adaptation" is another version of an original book, film or play
- tight-fisted** *adj*
if someone is "tight-fisted", they aren't generous with their money
- cynical** *adj*
if someone is "cynical", they don't believe that people are nice or that people do things in order to be nice
- a clerk** *n*
a person who works in an office, bank or law court and who looks after the accounts
- mean** *adj*
if someone is "mean", they are not very nice and don't share their things
- to roam** *vb*
if someone "roams", they walk in an area with no particular objective
- fate** *n*
your "fate" is your predetermined future – your destiny and what is going to happen to you
- to warn** *vb*
to tell someone of a danger
- engaged** *adj*
if you are "engaged" to someone, you are going to marry that person
- to postpone** *vb*
if you "postpone" something, you cancel it in order to do it at a later time
- lame** *adj*
if someone is "lame", they are unable to walk properly because of an injury
- to survive** *vb*
if you can "survive", you have enough to exist, although this isn't much
- tiny** *adj*
very small
- a wage** *n*
the money you receive for the work you do
- to mourn** *vb*
if someone is "mourning", they are sad because someone has died
- upset** *adj*
sad or emotionally distressed
- messy** *adj*
disorganised or untidy
- uncared-for** *adj*
if something is "uncared for", nobody has been looking after it
- a graveyard** *n*
a place (usually next to a church) where dead bodies are buried in the ground. The places where they are buried are marked with gravestones
- to beg** *vb*
to ask for something in a desperate way

IT'S A WINTER WONDERLAND!

The latest film in the Fockers' series. By Louise Baker & Molly Sloan

Little Fockers

Family life is often the cause of tension. Brothers fighting with sisters. Parents with children. Uncles with nieces. Aunts with nephews. And then there are the **in-laws**. The famous in-laws. Of course, all this family friction makes for great comedy... as the *Focker* film series has shown.

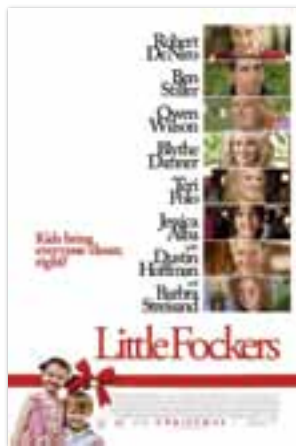
The *Focker* films revolve around the struggle between Gaylord "Greg" Focker (Ben Stiller) and his **father-in-law**, Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro). We first met Greg in the 2000 movie *Meet The Parents*. In that film, Greg and Pamela (Pam) are **engaged**, but before the wedding, Greg has to meet her parents: Jack and Dina Byrnes. The sequel to the film was *Meet the Fockers*, in which Pam's parents meet Greg's parents (played by Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand). In the latest film, *Little Fockers*, Greg and Pam have five-year-old **twin** children. And the in-laws are getting together for Christmas. Will Greg be able to **cope**?

All the familiar faces are back for this film. Robert De Niro plays Jack Byrnes, Ben Stiller is Greg,



I WOULDN'T LET YOU MARRY MY DAUGHTER IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ON EARTH!

I KNOW.



Barbra Streisand is back as Roz (Greg's mum), Dustin Hoffman returns as Greg's father Bernie, and Owen Wilson makes an appearance as Pam's **lovesick ex-fiancé**. But there are lots of new characters too, such as the twins' headmistress (played by Laura Dern).

The latest film centres on Greg and his attempts to be recognised as the head of the family. In one scene, he tries to force his son to eat his lasagne, even though his son says he isn't feeling too well. "I am your father and I am requesting that you eat your lasagne", Greg orders. His son promptly **throws up** all over him. In another scene, Greg attempts to **carve** the Christmas turkey at the dinner table but ends up cutting his finger. And in another hilarious scene, Greg has to **inject** Jack in the **groin** after Jack takes some **untested impotency drugs**. Then, just at the worst possible moment, Greg's son walks in (as Greg is giving Jack the injection). "I'd like a few moments alone with him just to **erase** what he saw **from his memory**," Jack tells Greg. "No. You're not going to erase my son's memory!" Greg replies.

The battle between Greg and Jack ends up in a pool of multi-coloured plastic balls at a **play-park**. Guaranteed entertainment for the holiday season! 🍷

The Characters



Jack Byrnes (played by Robert De Niro) – he's a retired CIA agent and father of Pamela.



Dina Byrnes (Blythe Danner) is Pam's mother and Jack's wife.



Gaylord "Greg" Myron Focker (Ben Stiller) is the main character of the film. He's a nurse and is married to Pam.



Pamela Martha "Pam" Byrnes-Focker (Teri Polo) is Greg's wife.



Kevin Rawley (Owen Wilson) was once Pam's fiancée.



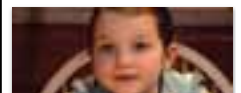
Rosalind "Roz" Focker (Barbra Streisand) is Greg's mother and a sex therapist for elderly people.



Bernard "Bernie" Focker (Dustin Hoffman) is Greg's father and Roz's husband. He's a former lawyer who became a **stay-at-home father**.



Henry Focker (Colin Hanks) is Greg's son, and twin brother of Samantha Focker.



Samantha Focker (Daisy Tahan) is Greg's daughter, and twin sister of Henry Focker.



Meet the Parents

Gaylord "Greg" Focker (Stiller) is in love with Pam Brynes (Teri Polo). When Pam invites him to spend the weekend at her parents' home, Greg decides that this would be the perfect place to **propose to** Pam. Unfortunately for Greg, Jack **takes an immediate disliking** to Greg. Time after time, Greg **struggles** to prove himself to Jack, but things always seem to go wrong. Finally after a series of **mishaps** and a tense airport interrogation, Jack **gives his blessing**: Greg can marry Pam!



Meet the Fockers

The second movie continues where the first left off. Now that Greg has met Pam's parents, got their approval, and popped the question, all that's left is for the Byrnes family to meet Greg's parents. But Greg is nervous about introducing his eccentric parents to the traditional Byrnes family. Greg's father, Bernie, (Dustin Hoffman), is a Capoeira-dancing, human rights activist. Bernie was once a lawyer, but went on **paternity leave** when Greg was born and never returned to work.

Greg's mother, Roz (Barbara Streisand), is a sex therapist for the elderly. The contrast between Greg's liberal parents and Pam's conservative parents makes for a lot of uncomfortable moments... and some great comedy!



Dustin Hoffman

For a while, it appeared that Hoffman wasn't going to be in the film. So, the part of Bernie Focker was **written out of the script**. However, later, Hoffman (73) agreed to participate, and certain scenes had to be shot again.

Quotes from the *Focker* films

Jack: I'll be watching you.

Jack: I mean, can you really trust another human being, Greg?

Greg: Yeah, I think so.

Jack: No. The answer is you cannot.

Jack: Pam told me she let you in on a little secret of mine last night.

Greg: [Nervously] Yes. Yes, she did.

Jack: Well, as long as you keep your mouth shut for the rest of your life, you're in no immediate danger.

Pam: Take it easy on the sarcasm. Humour is entirely **wasted on** my parents.

Greg: What are they... Amish?

Jack: Greg, a man reaches a certain age when he realises what's truly important. Do you know what that is?

Greg: Love, friendship... just love, I think.

Jack: His **legacy**.

Greg: That, too.

Jack: If your family's **circle** joins in my family's circle, they'll form a **chain**. I can't have a **chink** in my chain.

Bernie: It's not about winning or losing. It's about passion. You know what I mean, Jack.

Jack: Not really, Bernard. I think personal **competitive drive** is the essential key that makes America what it is today.

Bernie: Well, whatever works.

Pam: This weekend is going to be fun, and your parents are great.

Greg: They're great in small doses.

Jack: I'm watching you.

Greg: I have eyes too, so I'll be watching you... watching me!



GLOSSARY

to revolve around *phr vb*

if A "revolves around" B, A is all about B

a struggle *n*

a fight / battle

a father-in-law *n*

your "father-in-law" is the father of your wife or husband

engaged *adj*

if you are "engaged" to someone, you are going to marry that person

a twin *n*

two brothers or sisters born at the same time from the same mother

to cope *vb*

if you "cope" with something, you can do it and it isn't a problem

lovesick *adj*

if someone is "lovesick", they are in a bad way mentally because they love someone very much and that other person doesn't love them

a fiancé *n*

a man who you are going to marry

to throw up *phr vb*

to vomit; to eject liquid from your mouth because you are sick

to carve *vb*

if you "carve" a turkey (a large bird commonly eaten at Christmas), you cut it into pieces

to inject *vb*

to introduce a chemical into somebody's blood with a needle (a long, thin metal object) and a syringe (a plastic object containing the chemical)

a groin *n*

an area of the body that is between the legs

untested *adj*

if something is "untested", there have been no experiments to see if it works

impotency drugs *n*

medication/drugs to help men who have sexual problems

to erase something from someone's memory *exp*

if you "erase something from someone's memory", you delete that specific information from their mind

to erase someone's memory *exp*

if you "erase someone's memory", you completely remove all the information from that person's mind

a play-park *n*

a place where children can play

to propose to *exp*

if you "propose to" someone, you ask them to marry you

to take an immediate disliking *exp*

if you "take an immediate disliking" to someone, you don't like them from the moment you meet them

to struggle *vb*

to have difficulty with

a mishap *n*

a "mishap" is something that has gone wrong

to give your blessing *exp*

if you "give your blessing" to someone, they have your permission to do something

paternity leave *exp*

if a father is on "paternity leave", he has a "holiday" in order to spend time with his new baby

a stay-at-home father *n*

a father who takes care of the baby while the mother goes to work

to write out of a script *exp*

if a character is "written out of a script", the writer changes the story so the character is not in the script (the text for the film)

to waste on *phr vb*

if a joke is "wasted on" someone, there is no point in telling them the joke because they won't think it's funny

a legacy *n*

someone's legacy is what they leave behind after they die: memories, money, children, property, etc.

a circle *n*

your "circle" is an exclusive group of people you spend the most time with: family, friends, colleagues, etc.

a chain *n*

a series of things that are all connected. Literally, a "chain" is a series of metal rings that are connected in a line

a chink *n*

a small weakness in something

competitive drive *n*

motivation to be more successful than other people



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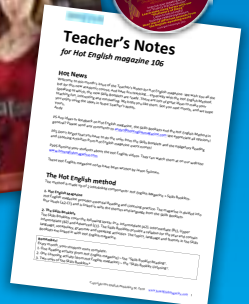
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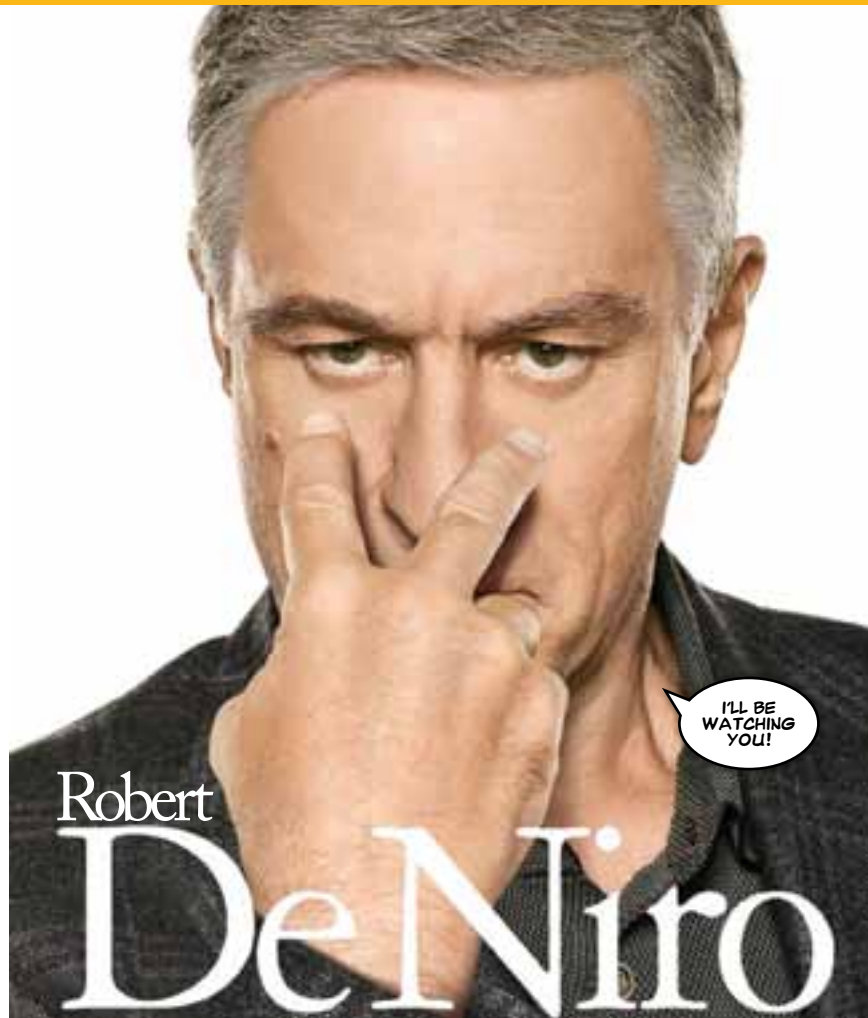
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Robert De Niro

Full Name: Robert Mario De Niro, Jr.
Renowned American actor, producer, and director who has won two Oscars.

Born: 17th August 1943.

Famous films include: *The Godfather: Part II*, *The Deer Hunter* and *Taxi Driver*.

Trivia:

- De Niro **dropped out** of high school.
- He once said that Meryl Streep is his favorite actress to work with.
- One of his first acting roles was as the lion in a local production of *The Wizard of Oz*.
- De Niro is mentioned in ZZ Top's song "Gun Love", and rapper Jay-Z and Alicia Key's song "Empire State of Mind".
- De Niro **put on** about 30 kilos for his role in *Raging Bull*.
- He studied a Sicilian dialect for four months before playing the part of Vito Corleone in *The Godfather: Part II*.
- De Niro is a very private person and rarely gives interviews.



Quotes:

- "I don't like to watch my own movies – I fall asleep in my own movies."
- "I only go to Los Angeles when I'm paid to."
- "There's a mixture of anarchy and discipline in the way I work."
- "Some people say that New York's a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there."
- "I've never been one of those actors who's **touted myself** as a fascinating human being. I had to decide early on whether I was going to be an actor or a personality."
- "The talent is in the choices."
- "After my first movies, I gave interviews. Then I thought, what's so important about where I went to school and my hobbies? What does any of that have to do with acting – with my own head?"
- "One of the things about acting is it allows you to live other people's lives without having to **pay the price**."



Robert De Niro is most famous for playing aggressive, violent and **troubled** characters, but he's great at comedy, too, as he's shown in the *Focker* series of films. And now he's back as Jack Byrnes in the latest instalment: *Little Fockers*.

De Niro was **born and raised** in New York City in 1943. His parents (Robert Sr and Virginia), were both artists. After they divorced, De Niro was raised by his mother in Manhattan, where he attended the famous Stella Adler Conservatory, and Lee Strasberg's Actor's Studio.

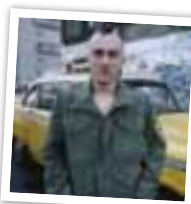


De Niro got his first roles in the late 1960s and early 1970s in films such as *Bang the Drum Slowly* (1973) and *Mean Streets* (1973). However, his **breakthrough role** was in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather: Part II* (1974). For his **portrayal** of a young Vito Corleone in the film, De Niro won an Oscar for Best Actor in a Supporting



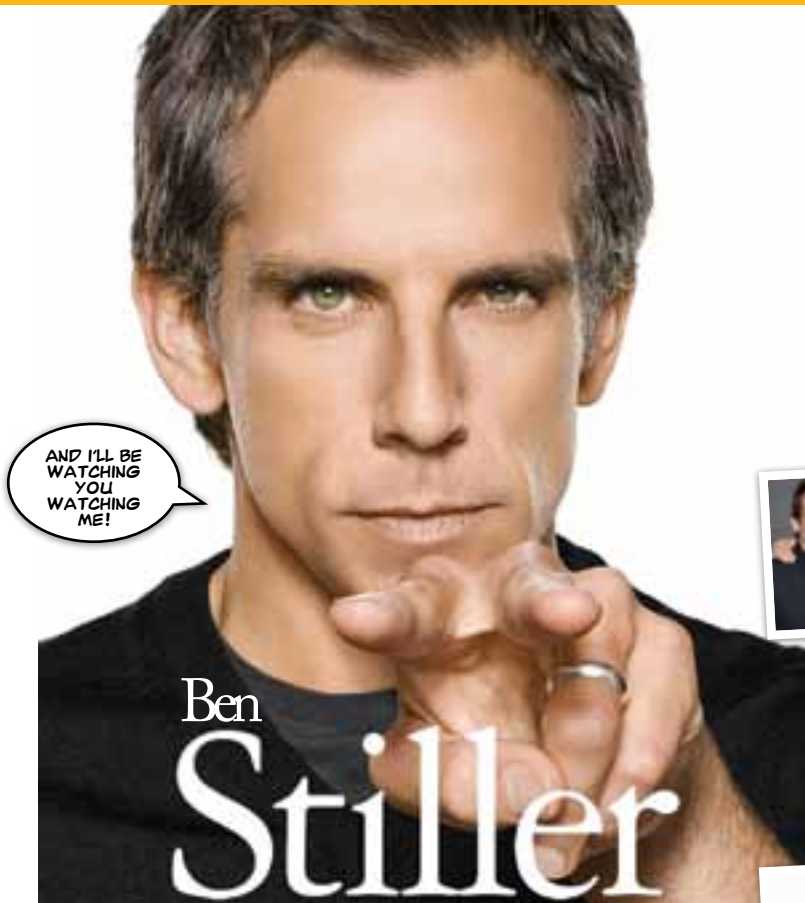
Role. Actor Marlon Brando (who played Vito Corleone in *The Godfather*, 1972) also received an Oscar for his role, which meant that both De Niro and Brando are the only actors to win an Oscar for playing the same character.

But things didn't stop there. Later, De Niro got Oscar nominations for *Taxi Driver* (1976) and *The Deer Hunter* (1979), and actually won the **prestigious award** for a second time for his portrayal of the boxer Jake LaMotta in *Raging Bull* (1980). De Niro is most famous for his portrayal of gangsters and **crooks**. He took on the role of Al Capone in *The Untouchables* (1987), a mobster in *Goodfellas* (1990), and a **hardened** criminal in *Cape Fear* (1991). So, his character in the *Focker* films trilogy is a real **treat** as we get to see him play **tough** ex-CIA agent Jack Byrnes in a comedy role. Aren't we lucky! ☺



America's very own Mr Comedy.

Ben Stiller Full Name: Benjamin Edward Stiller
Well-known American actor, producer, director and writer, who's famous for his roles in comedies.
Born: 30 November, 1965
Famous films include: *Along Came Polly*, *Night at the Museum*, *There's Something about Mary*, *Meet the Parents* and *Meet the Fockers*.



AND I'LL BE WATCHING YOU WATCHING ME!

Ben Stiller

Trivia:

- Stiller is married to actress Christine Taylor. They have two children together.
- His actor parents (Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara) often make **cameo appearances** in his films.
- Stiller won \$32,000 for charity as a contestant on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*
- Stiller is a big fan of Tom Cruise. He has



impersonated him for many years, and the two are now friends.

- Before Stiller chose acting as his career, he was a drummer in a band called Capital Punishment.
- Stiller is a member of the Frat Pack – a core



group of actors who often star in films together. Members of the group include Jack Black, Will

Ferrell, Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson and Steve Carrell.

Ben Stiller is one of America's top comedians. And now he's back in the latest *Focker* film.

Ben Stiller was born and raised in New York City. His parents (Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara) are also famous comedians, and his sister Amy (who is two years older) is an actress, too.

Stiller grew up during a period when his parents' careers were **in full swing**: they were regulars on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, and they were being given roles and receiving award nominations **left, right and centre**.

Stiller got his **big break** in the theatre play *The House of Blue Leaves* (by American playwright John Guare). After this, Stiller made a short film called *The Color of Money* (1987) with *Blue Leaves* co-star John Mahoney. The film was **aired** on an episode of the *Saturday Night Live* (SNL) show that year. Later, Stiller was invited to join the **cast** on the show for the 1988-1989 season. But unlike many of his SNL co-stars (who used the show as a **springboard** to fame), the programme wasn't good for Stiller

and he left after a short time. His next project proved to be more successful. His sketch comedy programme, *The Ben Stiller Show*, was shown on MTV from 1990-1991, and on FOX from 1992-1993. In 1993, Stiller won an Emmy Award for outstanding achievement in writing for the show, but **ironically** this came *after* the show had been cancelled.

But Stiller didn't let that **deter** him. He **made his directorial debut** in *Reality Bites* (1994), a romantic comedy starring himself, Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke. And then starred in the film that was to catapult him into the world of Hollywood comedy: *There's Something About Mary* (1998), with co-stars Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon. Since then, Stiller has starred in highly-successful comedies such as *Meet the Parents* (2000), *Zoolander* (2001), *Dodgeball* (2004), *Night at the Museum* (2006) and *Tropic Thunder* (2008).



Stiller is known for keeping himself busy. But as long as he keeps making us laugh, that's fine with us! 😊

Quotes

- "If my parents were, like, **plumbers**, who knows what I would be doing?"
- "There's an old saying in Hollywood: it's not the length of your film, it's how you use it."
- "I grew up wanting to make movies, and along the way I suddenly found that I had a career doing comedy."
- "I'm always willing to **endure humiliation on behalf of** my characters."
- "I have a lot of nervous energy. Work is my best way of channelling that into something productive, unless I want to **wind up assaulting** the postman or gardener."

GLOSSARY

troubled *adj*
if someone is "troubled", they have psychological problems

born and raised *exp*
the place where you were "born and raised" is where you started your life and lived as a child

breakthrough role *exp*
the part in a film or play that makes an actor famous

a portrayal *n*
an interpretation of a character

a prestigious award *n*
a very highly-respected prize for an outstanding (very good) achievement

a crook *n*
a criminal

hardened *adj*
if a criminal is "hardened", they have become mentally strong after having had many experiences in crime

a treat *n*
something very nice that doesn't happen very often

tough *adj*
rough or violent

to drop out *phr vb*
if you "drop out" of school, you leave before you take any exams or finish the course

to put on *phr vb*
if someone "puts on" weight, they become heavier/fatter

to tout yourself as *exp*
if you "tout yourself as" X, you tell everyone that you are X

to pay the price *exp*
if you "pay the price", you have to deal with the consequences of something bad that you have done

in full swing *exp*
if something is "in full swing", it's at its best and most active moment

left, right and centre *exp*
from lots of different people or places

a big break *exp*
an opportunity for an actor to become famous / successful

to air *vb*
if something is "aired" on TV or the radio, it is shown or played on TV / the radio, etc.

a cast *n*
the group of actors who appear in a film, play or TV show

a springboard *n*
if A is a "springboard" for B, A makes B possible and helps launch B

ironically *adv*
strangely or unusually

to deter *vb*
if something "deters" you from doing X, it makes you not want to do X

to make a directorial debut *exp*
if someone has "made their directorial debut", they have directed a film for the first time

a cameo appearance *exp*
a very small part in a film or TV programme. The person appearing may be the director, a friend or a famous person. The appearance in the film is often a private joke

to impersonate *vb*
to copy the way someone behaves or speaks, often using humour to make fun of that person

a plumber *n*
a person who fixes toilets, repairs water pipes, mends bathrooms, etc.

to endure *vb*
if you "endure" a bad or painful situation, you are forced to experience it

humiliation *n*
the feeling you get when someone makes you feel stupid/embarrassed

on behalf of *exp*
if you do something "on behalf of" someone else, you do it for them

to wind up *phr vb*
if you "wind up" doing something, you do that thing in the end

to assault *vb*
to attack violently

READING I

Jobs A way

A job that came and went... then came back again.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

What do these people do in their jobs? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- accountant, fitness trainer, physical therapist, civil engineer, personal trainer, farmer, priest, archaeologist, computer engineer, civil servant, psychologist, chimney sweep, switchboard operator, chef, driver

2 Reading I

Can you think of any jobs that have become much less common or even disappeared over the past few years? Discuss your ideas with a partner. Then, read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. What does the writer say about the following?

- Lamplighters.
- Switchboard operators.
- Chimney sweeps in Victorian literature.
- Chimney sweeps these days.

4 Language focus

Expressions with make
Look at this extract from the article on this page, "...is now making a comeback..." The writer has used an expression with "make" ("make a comeback"). Complete these sentences with the words from below.

friends, bed, call, impression

- You did well at that meeting. You really made an _____.
- We had an argument last night, but we made up shortly after, and now we're _____ again.
- Can I borrow your mobile phone, please? I need to make a phone _____.
- The bedroom's a mess and you haven't made the _____.

5 Discussion

- Which jobs are some of the most fashionable at the moment? Why?
- What are some of the most popular jobs in your country? Why are they popular?
- Which industries are creating the most jobs in your country? Why?

Software engineers. Fitness trainers. Physical therapists. They're all jobs that are popular these days. But do you think they'll still **be around** in 20 years? What about 30 or 40 years? Over time, jobs come and go; but one profession that seemed to be **on the brink of extinction** is now **making a comeback**.

The job market has changed radically over the past 100 years or so. In the late 19th century, there were lamplighters – people who went around the streets literally lighting the gas lamps, but then electricity came in and they were no longer needed. **Switchboard** operators were popular up until the 1980s, but are now not so common. During World War II, **telegraph** operators on ships were extremely important. They used **Morse code** to send and receive messages. But the telecommunications revolution has changed all that. Newspaper **typesetters** once played a **key role** in newspaper production. They spent hours placing individual letters and words in **printing presses** in order to create newspaper pages. Now, of course, computers do all the work.

For many years, **chimney sweeps** were popular. During the days of coal fires in people's homes, thousands of sweeps were needed to clean the chimneys. At this time, the situation was appalling. Poor, homeless children and **orphans** were often sold to sweeps, and were forced up the narrow chimneys. As a result, adult sweeps were often depicted as **villains** in Victorian literature. However, towards the end of the 19th century, the situation improved, until the industry became fully regulated and children were no longer employed. Sweeps appeared in a more positive light in the 1964 film *Mary Poppins*, which starred Dick van Dyke as a **cheery** old sweep (**albeit** with an **appalling Cockney** accent).



Over time, more and more houses have **switched over to** gas or electricity. And for a while it seemed as if the **days** of chimney sweeps were **numbered**. But then came the **credit crunch** and the **worldwide recession**, and, as a result, more and more people have started using coal fires as a way of heating their homes cheaply. And this has led to a demand for chimney sweeps. "It's hard, physical work," explained one sweep. "But when you're up there on the roof among all the chimney pots there's nothing like it. I don't mind getting dirty. It's a fascinating job."

So, if you're thinking of switching to coal-fired heating, you'd better find a sweep! ☺



Chimney sweeps are considered good luck at weddings. And some people even pay for a sweep to turn up to the wedding. This dates back to the time of King George III (1760 to 1820), whose life was once saved by a chimney sweep. King George III was riding his horse in a royal procession when a dog appeared and started biting the horse's legs. The animal began to **rear up** and the king lost control. All of a sudden, a man rushed out from the crowd, **grabbed** the reins and saved the king. The king wanted to thank the man, but couldn't as the man had disappeared. However, the king did find out that the man was a chimney sweep. So, the king said that from that day on, all chimney sweeps should be considered lucky.

GLOSSARY

- to be around** *phr vb* to exist
- on the brink of extinction** *exp* if something is "on the brink of extinction", it is about to disappear
- to make a comeback** *exp* if something or someone "makes a comeback", they become popular again
- a switchboard** *n* a place in a large office or business where all the telephone calls are connected
- a telegraph** *n* a system of sending and receiving messages by radio signals or electricity
- Morse code** *n* a communication system that uses short and long sounds to create messages
- a typesetter** *n* a person who arranged the individual metal letters on a metal plate so that a page for a newspaper/magazine could be printed
- a key role** *exp* an important job
- a printing press** *n* a machine for producing newspapers, magazines or books
- a chimney sweep** *n* a person who cleans a chimney (a tall structure in a house/building). Smoke goes up the chimney
- an orphan** *n* a child whose parents have died
- a villain** *n* an evil (very bad) character in a story
- cheery** *adj* if someone is "cheery", they are generally happy and they smile a lot
- albeit** *conj* although; even though
- appalling** *adj* very bad; terrible
- Cockney** *n* a common accent in areas of the East End of London
- to switch over to** *phr vb* to start to use something else
- days are numbered** *exp* if someone's "days are numbered" they are going to disappear / die
- credit crunch** *exp* a period of poor economic activity
- worldwide recession** *exp* a term to describe the global financial crisis
- to rear up** *phr vb* if a horse "rears up", its front legs go high into the air
- to grab** *vb* to take something in your hands quickly and with force

Laugh Away



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

US woman  track  14

When public figures can't stop laughing.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the actions (1 to 6) to the photos (a-f). When was the last time you did any of these things? Why? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Laugh
- Smile
- Frown
- Cry
- Shout
- Whisper



2 Reading I

The article is about two people who started laughing uncontrollably. One is a politician (who was speaking in parliament), and the other is a newsreader (who was on a chat show). What do you think they were laughing about? Think. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

- Where is Mr Merz from?
- What was he doing when he started laughing?
- How did some of the other MPs respond?
- What did most of the listeners who contacted the show think of Ms Green's laughing fit?

4 Language focus

The Past Perfect Passive

Look at this extract from the article on this page, "...Mr Merz had been criticised recently..." The writer has used the Past Perfect Passive ("had been criticised"). Transform the following sentences into the Past Perfect Passive. Do not include the agent (the person who does the action).

- They had translated the document.
- She had repaired the car.
- They had posted it online.
- We had edited the video clip.

5 Discussion

- When was the last time you had a laughing fit?
- What are some of the most inappropriate moments to start laughing?
- What can you do to regain control if you're having a laughing fit?

When was the last time you laughed a lot? Most people are the victim of an uncontrollable fit of laughter at least once in their lives. But when it happens in front of the television cameras, it can become an internet sensation.

Do you think there's anything funny about **spicy** meat? Swiss finance minister Hans-Rudolf Merz seemed to think it was **hilarious**. Mr Merz was **making a speech** in the Swiss parliament on meat imports when he started laughing... and couldn't stop. The meat in question is known as "bündnerfleisch" – a type of **air-dried** beef product. Herr Merz later admitted that he was **amused** by the **bureaucratic language** in which the **bill** was written.

Since then, Mr Merz has become an internet **hit**. A video of the incident shows a grey-suited minister **giggling away**, accompanied by applause from his parliamentary colleagues. So far, the video has been seen by more than 500,000 people on YouTube and other websites. "I don't understand what he's talking about," said one viewer, "but it's just so funny." The recent publicity will be good news for the minister, too. Mr Merz had been criticised recently for **signing away** much of Switzerland's banking secrecy, and for failing to do enough to help two Swiss citizens who were **detained** by Libya. But now, with **retirement** a few months away, Mr Merz may **leave on a high note**. Some even suggest he may have a future career as a comedian.

Of course, Mr Merz isn't the first person to **crack up on air**. BBC Radio 4 newsreader Charlotte Green lost control on the programme *Today* not so long ago. It all happened after a clip of the oldest known recording of the human voice was played. A studio member remarked that the 1860 recording of a woman singing the French song "Au Clair de la Lune" sounded like a "bee **buzzing** in a bottle". That seemed to **set** Ms Green **off** as she **broke down** into a **fit of the giggles**. Later, the editor of the show, Ceri Thomas, said most listeners who contacted the show had commented on "how much they had enjoyed the moment". He added, "When Charlotte **loses it**, she really loses it."



So, why do we get these fits of laughter? Experts say it's a form of release. Nervous tension often builds up inside us, especially in those who've got high-pressure, stressful jobs. Then, this pressure needs an **outlet**, and will usually manifest itself through **tears**, anger or laughter... uncontrollable fits of laughter!

So, beware! That uncontrollable laughing fit could **strike** at any moment. ☘

You Tube

Watch this YouTube clip of Mr Merz cracking up live on TV:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MD51dc7n4&p=A067B4426FB13D19&playnext=1&index=3>

GLOSSARY

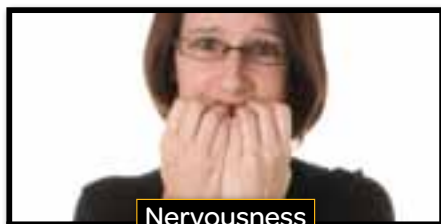
- spicy** *adj*
if food is "spicy" it is hot because it has certain herbs or spices in it, such as chilli
- hilarious** *adj*
very funny
- to make a speech** *exp*
if you "make a speech", you talk to a group of people about a topic
- air-dried** *adj*
if something has been "air-dried", it has been left outside to dry naturally
- amused** *adj*
if you are "amused" by something, you think it's quite funny
- bureaucratic language** *exp*
if something is written in "bureaucratic language", it is written in very plain language that is often full of industry-specific words
- a bill** *n*
a proposed new law
- a hit** *n*
a success
- to giggle away** *phr vb*
if you "giggle away", you keep laughing uncontrollably
- to sign away** *phr vb*
if you "sign away" the rights to something, you legally give those rights to someone else by signing (putting your name on) a contract
- to detain** *vb*
if someone is "detained", they are kept as a prisoner
- retirement** *n*
the age at which people stop working (usually 65)
- to leave on a high note** *exp*
if you "leave on a high note", you finish after doing something positive which you will be remembered by
- to crack up** *phr vb*
if you "crack up", you start laughing and can't stop
- on air** *exp*
if a show is "on air", it is being shown on TV, played on the radio, etc.
- to buzz** *vb*
the sound a bee (a yellow and black insect that makes honey) makes when it flies
- to set off** *phr vb*
if something "sets you off", it makes you laugh
- to break down** *phr vb*
if you "break down", you lose control
- a fit of the giggles** *exp*
an attack of laughter
- to lose it** *exp*
to lose control: to become extremely angry, to laugh a lot, etc.
- an outlet** *n*
a way for something (anger, tension, etc.) to come out
- tears** *n*
the liquid that comes out of your eyes, often when you are sad
- a strike** *n*
if something "strikes", it happens very quickly and without warning



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC (part II)

Negative Feelings & Emotions

LEARN SOME USEFUL WORDS, VERBS & EXPRESSIONS.



Nervousness

"She tried smiling confidently so they wouldn't notice her nervousness."

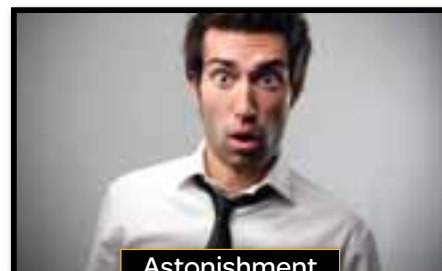
When you've got feelings of "nervousness", you're worried or frightened about something that is happening or that might happen.



Suffering

"Everything that's happened this month has caused terrible suffering and pain."

"Suffering" refers to the pain which someone feels in their body or mind.



Astonishment

"What on earth are you doing here?" he asked in astonishment."

"Astonishment" is a feeling of great surprise.



Spite

"Not wanting him to be able to get married again, she refused him a divorce out of spite."

If someone does something out of "spite", they do it in order to hurt another person.



Resentment

"The changes and reduction in holidays caused a lot of resentment among the older staff."

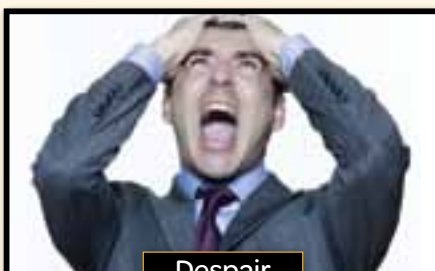
"Resentment" is anger that someone feels about something.



Bitterness

"Even after six years, she still felt bitterness towards the judge who'd sent her to prison."

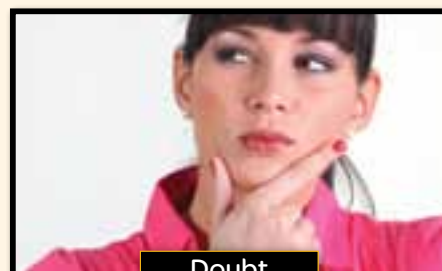
If someone feels "bitterness" about something, they are angry about that thing, even after a long time.



Despair

"A great feeling of despair swept over them after the results of the election came in."

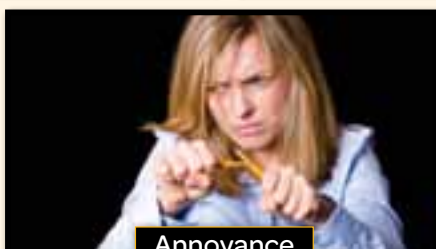
"Despair" is the feeling that things are wrong, and that there's no hope.



Doubt

"When in doubt, just call a doctor. It's the safest course of action."

If you are in "doubt" about something, you aren't sure about it.



Annoyance

"Much to their annoyance, the music wasn't turned off until 4 in the morning!"

"Annoyance" is the feeling you get when someone makes you feel a bit angry, irritated or impatient.



Helplessness

"Their feelings of helplessness as the ancient trees in the park were chopped down provoked a furious response."

Helplessness" is a feeling you get when you don't have the power or strength to do something.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Match the "Bond" people (1 to 8) to the photos (a-h).

- 1. Sean Connery
- 2. Roger Moore
- 3. Daniel Craig
- 4. Pierce Brosnan
- 5. Ernst Stavro Blofeld
- 6. Ms Moneypenny
- 7. M
- 8. Q



2 Reading I

What do you think a real-life Bond character would be like? Think. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1. What did Ian Fleming do during World War II?
- 2. What do Ian Fleming and James Bond have in common?
- 3. Where did Ian Fleming meet Wilfred Dunderdale on a number of occasions?
- 4. What was Wilfred Dunderdale's most important achievement?

4 Language focus Verb Tenses

This is a revision lesson. Look through the article and see if you can find examples of the following tenses: the Past Simple, the Past Passive, the Present Perfect, the Present Perfect Passive, the Present Simple.

5 Discussion

- 1. Who's your favourite James Bond actor? Why?
- 2. What's your favourite James Bond film? Why?
- 3. Which other fictional characters are popular in your country?



The search for the "real" James Bond.

Smooth. Sophisticated. Dashing and daring. James Bond was the ultimate spy, but was he based on a real person? The authors of two new books think they may have the answer.

James Bond is one of the most famous fictional characters ever created. He's the protagonist of 12 novels and two collections of short stories that were written by English writer Ian Fleming. Bond has also starred in 22 films and has been played by famous actors such as Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig. Bond is well-known for his cars, his implacable enemies and his many girlfriends. But who was he really?

Fleming based part of Bond on his own experiences. During World War II, Fleming worked in Naval Intelligence, and he was in charge of a specialist unit of commandos known as 30 Commando. Fleming spent his time choosing targets and planning missions to get information and equipment from the enemy. James Bond was also in the navy, rising to the rank of naval Commander (just as Fleming had done). Both Bond and Fleming went to Eton, both liked the same food (scrambled eggs and coffee), both were heavy drinkers, and both were attracted to flamboyant, beautiful women. But that's where the similarities end. Fleming, for instance, never went on secret missions, and never killed her majesty's enemies. So, who was the true inspiration for Bond?

Some say that Fleming based Bond on his friends. And there have been many candidates, including Sir Fitzroy Maclean (a writer), Michael Mason (a British secret service agent), and William Stephenson (a Canadian spy). In fact, Fleming once wrote in *The Times* newspaper that "James Bond is a highly romanticised version of a true spy. The real thing is... William Stephenson."

But now another name has been suggested: Wilfred Dunderdale, otherwise known as "Biffy". The authors of two new books both seem to agree that Dunderdale could be the man. *M16: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949* (by Keith Jeffery) describes some of Dunderdale's



adventures. And a history of the London gentlemen's club called Boodle's relates how Fleming and Dunderdale were both members of the club and met there many times. In fact, it is believed that Bond's club (Blades) was a version of real-life Boodle's.

Dunderdale certainly had an exciting life. He was born in 1899 in Odessa, which was a Russian city at that time (it's now in the Ukraine). After the First

World War, Dunderdale joined the navy and volunteered for a secret mission to Odessa. He managed to get into Russia by wearing his old school uniform and pretending to be a Russian schoolboy. He hid in his old headmaster's house for a week, trying to get information about Russian submarines. Later, the Royal Navy picked him up and he returned to London a hero.

Between 1926 and 1940 Dunderdale lived in Paris, where he was station chief for British security. He had many adventures but perhaps his most important job was in 1939 when he smuggled a German Enigma code-breaking machine from Poland to the UK. Many historians believe that the Enigma machines were crucial to the Allies winning the war. From 1940, Dunderdale lived in London, where he was in charge of organising British spying missions in German-occupied France. He himself went on a secret mission to Madrid under the false name of John Green.

Dunderdale was a rich man and his lifestyle was certainly very Bond-like. He drove a bullet-proof Rolls Royce, wore solid gold Cartier cufflinks, and smoked Balkan cigarettes, using a long cigarette holder. Author Stephen Smith knew Dunderdale personally, and describes him as a "wonderful host, debonair and romantic, with enormous vitality and a gift for friendship, but with elements of the pirate in him." Does that sound familiar to you?

However, if Fleming did use Dunderdale as a model for James Bond, he certainly didn't use him as a physical model as Dunderdale was only 1.67 metres tall. Perhaps we're no closer to the mystery after all. ✨

Ian Fleming
British author and journalist most famous for his novels about the British spy, James Bond.
Born 28th May 1908.
Died 12th August 1964.



Unusual news stories from around the world.

QUIRKY NEWS & CORNY CRIMINALS

quirky news



Bench Attack

Park benches designed to deter sitters.

When was the last time you sat on a park **bench**? Did you stay for long? A new range of park benches will limit the amount of time you can sit there. And if you don't get up in time, it could get extremely **painful**.

The new benches have a unique feature: numerous sharp **spikes** on the part that you sit on! Visitors who want a rest need to put a coin in a machine next to the bench. Once the money has been accepted, the spikes disappear into the bench, allowing you to sit down in comfort... but only for half an hour. When the **time's up**, the spikes slowly start moving up again. It doesn't hurt at first, but after a minute, they start coming up even more quickly. They aren't long enough to cause serious injury, but they do cause pain, as tests have shown. But why have they been installed?



"Our public parks are extremely popular in summer," a spokesperson for the local council where the benches have been installed explained. "But with all the thousands of people who visit the park, there aren't enough benches for everyone. We want to ensure that the facilities are **shared out evenly**, and to stop people **grabbing** a bench and staying there all day. Fitting steel spikes seemed to be the **fairest way** of stopping people doing this."

Apparently, the idea came from German sculptor Fabian Brunsing, who created a similar bench as part of an **installation art** piece called "Pay and Sit Private Park Bench". He intended it as a **satire** on the over-**commercialisation** of modern life, and thought he was exaggerating... but if only he knew. Once again, life imitates art. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a bench** *n*
a long, wooden seat often found in parks
- painful** *adj*
if something is "painful", it hurts someone physically or emotionally
- a spike** *n*
a sharp metal object with a point at the end
- time's up** *exp*
if the "time's up", there is no more time – something has finished
- to share out evenly** *exp*
if you "share something out evenly", you give an equal piece to everyone
- to grab** *vb*
to take something quickly, usually so others can't have it
- the fairest way** *exp*
a way of doing something so that everyone has the same opportunities
- installation art** *n*
art that is created for a specific place, often using materials or things from that place
- satire** *n*
comedy that makes something or someone appear to be ridiculous or silly
- commercialisation** *n*
making things that should be free into something that is sold for profit
- to testify** *vb*
if you "testify" in court, you speak in front of a judge and give evidence about a crime
- to approach** *vb*
if you "approach" someone, you go close to them
- to refuse** *vb*
if you "refuse" to do something, you say that you won't do it
- to grab** *vb*
to take something quickly in your hands with force
- a suspect** *n*
a person who the police believe may have committed a crime
- a hearing** *n*
an official meeting in order to listen to facts about something, often a crime
- at short notice** *exp*
with very little time to prepare for something
- to hand in** *phr vb*
if you "hand something in", you give it to someone
- a receipt** *n*
a piece of paper given by a shop that confirms that you have bought something from the shop
- a taxpayer** *n*
a person who pays tax (money to the government for services such as the police, schools, hospitals, etc.)
- to foot the bill** *exp inform*
if you have to "foot the bill", you have to pay for something

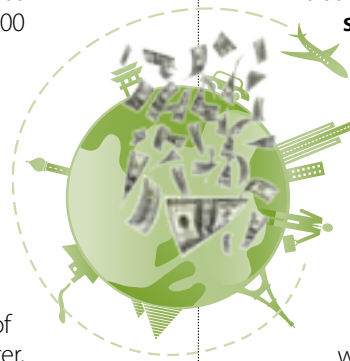
Corny Criminals

Courting Madness



A court pays a man to fly back from Australia to testify in court.

It seems as if the German justice system has a lot of money to spare. Twenty-year-old Tosten Becker from Cologne (Germany) was recently paid to fly more than 16,000 kilometres to **testify** at a trial. It all started six months ago when Becker was in a bar. A young man **approached** Becker and asked for some money. When Becker **refused**, the man **grabbed** Becker's mobile phone (which was on the table) and ran out. Becker reported the theft to the police, giving them a description of the robber. A couple of months later, Becker flew to Sydney for a three-month English language course. However, after about six weeks there, he got a call from Berlin's District



Court. "They told me that they'd found the person who took my phone," Becker explained. "They also said that I had to fly back for the **suspect's hearing**, which was in 4 days. I told the woman that I could only get first class tickets **at** such **short notice**, but she said that was OK and that I should go ahead. After my 22-hour plane trip, which cost me €5,500, I only spoke for about 30 seconds in court! Then, I **handed in** the **receipt** for the tickets, got my money back and returned to Australia," Becker added. The thief who took Becker's phone is 19 and has no money, so the German **taxpayer** will now have to **foot the bill** for the **journey**, too. The thief was sentenced to a weekend's detention. ✪



Pumpkin Soup

HERE'S A QUICK, EASY RECIPE TO KEEP YOU WARM DURING THOSE COLD WINTER NIGHTS.

Ingredients

- ½ cup **diced** onion.
- 1 **tablespoon** butter / margarine.
- 5 cups of peeled and diced pumpkin.
- ¾ cup diced potatoes.
- 2 cups (500ml) water.
- 1 chicken **stock cube**.
- 1 **pinch** of ground ginger (optional).
- 1 pinch of ground nutmeg (optional).
- Salt and pepper to taste.
- 2 cups (500ml) milk.
- Several **croutons**.



Preparation

In a large saucepan, fry the onion in butter or margarine. Add the water and the chicken stock, plus the pumpkin, potatoes (and the ground ginger and nutmeg if you want), and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 20 minutes or until the pumpkin and potatoes are **tender**. Add the milk, and then **blend** with a **blender** until it's smooth. Sprinkle the croutons on top and serve.

How to make the croutons

Heat the **oven** to about 275°C. Puré some garlic and oil in a blender, or cut up the garlic as finely as possible and stir it into the oil. Add any other spices if required (oregano, etc.). Cut up the bread into little cubes and place in a mixing bowl. Then, add the garlic oil mixture and a few generous pinches of salt and pepper. Make sure each cube is coated evenly and lightly. Then, arrange the bread cubes on a **baking tray** and place in the oven. Cook for about 10 minutes, then turn them over and cook for a further 10 minutes, or until they're **crisp** and golden. ☺

GLOSSARY

- diced** *adj*
cut into small cubes (squares)
- a tablespoon** *n*
a large spoon for serving food
- stock** *n*
a substance used for soups and sauces that is made out of the combination of boiled meat, bones or vegetables
- a cube** *n*
a small square
- a pinch** of *exp*
a small amount of food that you can hold between two fingers
- a crouton** *n*
a small piece of toasted or fried bread
- tender** *adj*
soft – not hard
- to blend** *vb*
to combine; to mix
- a blender** *n*
an electrical device for mixing food
- an oven** *n*
an electrical appliance in the kitchen for cooking food
- a baking tray** *n*
a large metal plate that you can put in the oven
- crisp** *adj*
hard, firm and fresh



Food Fun

Preparing for a dinner party.

1 Pre-listening

Think of as many items of food as you can in two minutes. Write the items of food in the correct columns in the table below.

Meat	Fruit	Vegetable	Dairy	Fish
pork	pineapple	courgette	milk	tuna

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two people (Martin and Carol) who are discussing dinner plans. Listen once. How many items of food from the table in the Pre-listening activity do they mention?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions. In the end, what are they going to have...

1. ...for the starter?
2. ...for the main course?
3. ...for dessert?
4. ...to drink?

4 Language focus Future Tenses

Look at this extract from the listening on this page, "...We're having curry..." The speaker has used the Present Continuous to refer to a future arrangement. Complete the following sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

1. I'm seeing... next Wednesday.
2. I'm going to try to finish... tonight.
3. I think I'll call... later this evening.
4. I'll be working on... tomorrow afternoon.
5. I'm going to watch... at the weekend.

5 Discussion

1. What do you like to cook for dinner parties?
2. What do you like/dislike about dinner parties?
3. What are some of your favourite dishes? Why?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

In-Law Hell



WE'RE ONE BIG, HAPPY FAMILY.

I HOPE HE DOESN'T ASK ME WHAT I THINK OF HIS DRESSING GOWN.

Families can be a big source of tension. And in every family, there's often friction, especially with the **in-laws**. But what can you do about it? Here's our advice on how to deal with **annoying** in-laws.

Unwanted advice

In-laws are famous for giving advice... even when it isn't wanted. Here are some examples of the typical things they say:

- a) "This chicken is dry. You shouldn't leave it in the oven for so long."
- b) "Your **sheets** would look a lot fresher if you used a **fabric softener**."
- c) "Watching television in the dark is not good for your eyes. You should keep a light on."

Our advice: listen politely and avoid a confrontation. In the end, you don't have to take the advice, just **acknowledge** it and then move on. Also, put the advice into perspective. It might help if you imagine that it was coming from your best friend. Would you react differently?

Ignore the rules

In-laws have a tendency to ignore the rules you've **laid down** for your children:

- a) "A little chocolate won't hurt!"
- b) "What harm can one more hour of TV do?"
- c) "But the kids don't know that it's a swear word!"
- d) "I thought it was time she learnt the truth about Santa."

Our advice: if you say "no sweets before bedtime" and you see your in-laws giving sweets to your kids, then they are **undermining** your authority... and you should think about confronting them. You need to tell your in-laws the rules and make sure they understand that they are there for the good of your children.

It's holiday time!

In-laws often expect to be invited to all family events and holiday parties:

- a) "What time shall we come round on Christmas Day?"
- b) "So, your anniversary is on Friday, is it? How romantic! What time should we come over for dinner?"
- c) "You can't go away this weekend! It's Fluffy the cat's birthday and we're having a party for her! You have to come!"

Our advice: be **up front** with them. Tell them that you will spend half of the holidays with them, and the other half with your family. You can ask them if there are any holidays they prefer but you must be firm, and remind them that you have a family too.

Your home is my home

In-laws are famous for criticising the home, but that doesn't stop them from coming over all the time!

- a) "This house is so **messy**! If you won't clean it, then **hire** a **housekeeper**."
- b) "This sofa is as hard as a rock! Where did you find it, a **car boot sale**?"
- c) "It is hot in here! Haven't you heard of air conditioning?"

Our advice: your in-laws are **putting you down**, and treating your home as if it's their own personal hotel, thinking that they can come and go as they please! Tell them that their negative comments about your home hurt your feelings, and explain clearly that they're welcome to come to your house... as long as they check with you first! ✨

GLOSSARY

- a row** *n*
an argument; an angry discussion about something
- an in-law** *n*
the mother or father of your wife or husband
- annoying** *adj*
if something is "annoying", it irritates you or makes you angry
- a sheet** *n*
the thin, cotton cover for your bed
- fabric softener** *n*
a liquid you add to the washing machine to make your clothes softer (nice and smooth to touch, not rough or hard)
- to acknowledge** *vb*
if you "acknowledge" something, you make it clear that you have heard or understood it
- to lay down** *phr vb*
if you "lay down" rules, you tell someone what the rules are and say how important they are
- to undermine** *vb*
if you "undermine" someone, you try to reduce / weaken their authority or say the opposite to what they have said
- up front** *exp*
if you are "up front" with somebody, you are honest with them about something
- messy** *adj*
untidy or disorganised – not ordered
- to hire** *vb*
if you "hire" someone to do a job, you find them, employ them and pay them to do that job
- a housekeeper** *n*
a person who cleans and tidies your house
- a car boot sale** *exp*
an outdoor market where people sell unwanted things from car boots (the part of the car at the back where there is space to carry things)
- to put down** *phr vb*
if you "put someone down", you say something that makes them feel bad or less important

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Situation	Formal 	Normal 	Informal 
A friend tells you that she has completed a job, for which she received £10,000.	I was the recipient of an amount not in excess of ten thousand British pounds sterling.	I was paid ten thousand pounds for it 	I got ten grand.
A colleague informed the police about an employee who was selling company secrets.	She notified the authorities about the illegal activities in which he was engaged.	She told the police about him. 	She grassed him up.
Your team lost. You are really disappointed.	I am most displeased at the outcome.	I'm really disappointed. 	I'm gutted.
A friend is shouting, screaming and complaining loudly about some proposed changes. You tell him to calm down.	Please desist from behaving in this animated state of extreme enthusiasm.	Calm down! 	Keep your hair on!
You recently travelled by plane from New York to London. The landing at Heathrow was pretty bumpy and a bit frightening.	It was somewhat fear-inducing, especially for one of such a delicate nature.	It was frightening. 	It was pretty hairy.
You ask a friend how she is.	May I be so bold as to enquire as to your current state of animation?	How are you? 	What's up? / How's it hanging? / How's it going? / What's going on? / What's happening? / Anything new? / 'Sup? / What are you up to? / Whatcha doin'?

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Accent Alert: a look at English accents from around the world.



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SKILLS BOOKLET LISTENING



The German English Accent

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

Germany has a population of about 82 million people, and borders France, the Czech Republic, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Luxembourg, Denmark, Poland and Switzerland. The capital is Berlin (with a population of about 2 million), and other major cities include Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Bonn and Cologne. The president of Germany is Christian Wulff (of the Christian Democratic Union party – the CDU) and the chancellor is Angela Merkel (CDU).

Germany is famous for many things, including its music, literature, technology, engineering, beer, sausages and delicious bread. Famous people from



Germany include Claudia Schiffer (model), Friedrich Nietzsche (philosopher), Albert Einstein (scientist), JS

Bach (composer), Marlene Dietrich (actress), Michael Schumacher (Formula One driver), Ludwig van Beethoven (composer), Arthur Schopenhauer (philosopher), Steffi

Graf (tennis player), Bertolt Brecht (playwright), Boris Becker (tennis player), Johnny Weissmuller (actor who played Tarzan), Erich Maria Remarque (writer), Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (poet), Franka Potente (actress) and Rudolf Diesel (the inventor of the diesel engine)... among many others.

German is one of the principal languages in the European Union. Around the world, German is spoken by approximately 105 million native speakers (principally in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg), and also by about 80 million non-native speakers. It is the third most studied language worldwide.

There are a number of key characteristics of the German English accent. Here are a few of them.

Some German people often replace the “w” sound with a “v” sound. For example, they might say, “Ve are going to get vet,” (“We are going to get wet”).

They may also replace the “v” sound with an “f” sound. For example, “She had a fery nice time,” (“She had a very nice time.”).

They also sometimes replace the “th” sound for a “z” sound. For example:

- a) Zis is ze answer to ze question. (This is the answer to the question.)
- b) Zat is very good. (That is very good.)
- c) I zink it is zis one. (I think it is this one.)

Now sit back, relax and listen to Daniela telling us all about the German English accent. 🎧

You Tube

Funny video clip
Watch this hilarious YouTube clip of a German man getting into difficulties with his English:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh5xu35bAxA>



The Job Appraisal

Feedback on your performance at work.

1 Pre-listening

See if you can answer the typical job appraisal questions.

- Has the past year been good/bad/satisfactory or otherwise for you? Why?
- What do you consider to be your most important achievements of the past year?
- What do you like and dislike about working for your organisation / company?
- What elements of your job do you find most difficult?
- What elements of your job interest you the most, and least?
- What kind of work would you like to be doing in five or 10 years?
- What sort of training/experience would you benefit from in the next year?
- What has your favourite project or task in the past 12 months been and what made it so great?
- When you do a great job, how do you like to be recognised and rewarded?

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a manager who is giving an employee a job appraisal, trying to find out how she's getting on. Listen once.

Which questions from the Pre-listening activity does Mr Williams ask?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. According to Mr Williams, which account was Ms Jones supposed to be looking after?
2. Had Ms Hillingdon been in touch with Ms Jones about it?
3. How would you describe Mr Williams' attitude to Ms Hillingdon?
4. What is Mr Williams' full title?
5. What does Ms Jones see as the advantages of getting a dog?
6. How long has Ms Smith been at the company?

4 Language focus Verb Tenses

This is a revision lesson. Read through the tapescript of the recording and see if you can find examples of the following tenses or structures.

1. Conditionals
2. Phrasal verbs
3. Past tenses

5 Discussion

1. When was the last time you had a job appraisal? What were you asked?
2. What's the importance of job appraisals?
3. Have you ever given someone a job appraisal? What questions did you ask them?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

PATH IDIOMS

THIS MONTH WE'RE LOOKING AT SOME "PATH" IDIOMS.



Lead somebody up/down the garden path
TO TRICK SOMEONE.

"They told us that the price included everything, but it didn't. They really led us up the garden path."



Take the path of least resistance

TO CHOOSE THE EASIEST OPTION, OR TO ACT IN A WAY WHICH WILL BE EASIEST FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU WON'T HAVE TO ARGUE WITH OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT IT.

"Sometimes it's best to just do what everyone else wants – to take the path of least resistance."



Beat a path to someone's door

IF YOU "BEAT A PATH TO SOMEONE'S DOOR", YOU MAKE AN EFFORT TO FIND THEM, SPEAK TO THEM, BUY SOMETHING FROM THEM, OR DO BUSINESS WITH THEM.

"If you put the price that low, you'll have everyone in the city beating a path to your door."



Cross somebody's path

TO MEET SOMEONE, OFTEN BY ACCIDENT.

"It was a complete nightmare doing business with that company. I hope we never cross paths with them again."



Paths cross

IF TWO PEOPLE'S "PATHS CROSS", THEY MEET.

"It was great to meet her – we got on really well. I hope our paths cross again one day."



Be a stumbling block (in the path of something)

IF SOMETHING IS A "STUMBLING BLOCK (IN THE PATH OF SOMETHING)", IT IS PREVENTING ANOTHER THING FROM HAPPENING.

"The major stumbling block in the path to reunification is the presence of foreign troops in the south."



Block your path / be in your path

IF A PERSON OR OBJECT "IS IN YOUR PATH", IT IS STOPPING YOU FROM DOING SOMETHING.

"We came up with a good idea, but the managing director blocked our path and told us that we couldn't go ahead."



Franchise Fun

That's a great idea – let's buy it! By Patrick Howarth

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

What types of food or drinks are these places famous for?

1. KFC
2. Pizza Hut
3. McDonald's
4. Dunkin' Donuts
5. Subway
6. Burger King
7. Baskin-Robbins
8. Taco Bell



2 Reading I

How easy do you think it is to set up a franchise? What are the risks? What are the pros and cons? Think. Then, discuss your ideas with a partner. Afterwards, read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. What are the start-up costs for a Dunkin' Donuts?
2. What are the start-up costs for a Subway restaurant?
3. Why did Super Suppers struggle in 2008?
4. How many years are franchise agreements for?

4 Language focus

Future Tenses

Look through the article and find as many examples of future tenses as you can.

5 Discussion

1. Have you eaten at any of these restaurants before? What did you think of them?
2. If you could start a franchise business, which one would you choose? Why?
3. Would you rather start a franchise business or your own? Why?

What do these companies

have in common:

Dunkin' Donuts, Burger King, McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream? Lots of things, of course. They're all successful businesses and

famous brands. They were originally started in the USA, and they all sell food. But they're all also franchise companies. So, how easy is it to set up a franchise?

Very simple, in theory. Basically, franchise companies sell their business ideas and models to people who want to start up an identical business. So, if you think your town needs a Dunkin' Donuts (or possibly even another Dunkin' Donuts), you can buy a franchise from Dunkin' Brands Inc. (the company that owns the franchise), and open your own restaurant. Then all you have to do is sell a lot of donuts and coffee, and wait for the money to come pouring in. Easy!

Of course, it isn't actually that simple. In fact, you'll probably have to wait a long time before you start making a profit. Plus, you have to pay for the rights to use the franchise... and famous franchises don't come cheap. According to *Entrepreneur Magazine*, the start-up costs for a Dunkin' Donuts restaurant are between \$537,750 and \$1,765,300. So, you'll need to be a rich, successful business person already to be able to afford to start one of those. Admittedly, not all franchises are that expensive. Subway, the famous sandwich bar chain (and the top-ranked franchise in the world in 2010), costs between \$84,300 and \$258,300.

But once you've bought your franchise, the hard work has only just begun. You'll need to spend long hours setting up the business, and many more managing it. And even then, you won't be guaranteed of success. Many franchise businesses come and go. Super Suppers is a prime example. Before the recession, they offered an exclusive home catering service. They grew spectacularly



between 2005 and 2007, but then got into trouble in 2008 as some of their franchises started failing.

The running costs for a franchise business aren't cheap either. Even after paying for the rights you'll still have

to pay a management fee, royalties based on your sales, and an amount for training and business advice. On top of that, most franchise agreements have a fixed term, which can be between five and thirty years. So, if you buy a franchise, you aren't actually buying the company... you're renting a chance to make money.

But if it all sounds a bit negative, don't be entirely put off. There are alternatives to buying famous and expensive franchises. What about investing in a new franchise? Obviously, they're riskier since they don't have a proven track record of success. On the other hand, you might be purchasing the right to sell something big. Why shouldn't your franchise be the next Baskin-Robbins?



So, how can you tell if the franchise is going to be any good? *Entrepreneur Magazine* suggests asking yourself some simple questions. What's the company's track record? How long has it been in business? Is it successful? What are its secrets to success? You should also look carefully at the management of the franchisor. If they don't have any experience selling burgers, buying a burger franchise from them might not be the best idea in the world. Are there too many other franchises in your area already? Can your town really do with another McDonald's? You'll also need to think about what support the franchisor provides. *Entrepreneur* recommends talking to other existing franchisees, too, if possible.

Perhaps the best thing is to think of your own brilliant business idea, make it successful and then franchise it yourself. Then you really can sit back and count the profits! 🍀

READING I

Biodiversity Battle

The rush is on to save humanity!

1 Pre-reading
What effect do the following things have on nature? Think. Then, discuss your ideas with a partner.

property development, tourism, road construction, the food industry, mining, farming, logging, industrial fishing, war, power plants, oil exploration. Other?

2 Reading I
What do you think biodiversity means? Why is it so important? Think. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II
Read the article again and answer the questions.

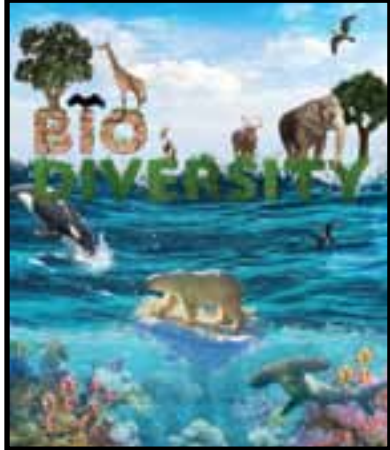
1. What arguments does the writer present in favour of preserving biodiversity?
2. What 3 things are given as examples of things that can be done to help stop the destruction of biodiversity?

4 Language focus Phrasal verbs with pull
Look at this extract from the article on this page, "...Or pulling down the Houses of Parliament..." The writer has used a phrasal verb with "pull" ("pull down"). What does the phrasal verb with pull in each of these sentences mean?

1. The train pulled into the station.
2. It was a big gamble but we managed to pull it off.
3. The car pulled out all of a sudden and I almost crashed into it.
4. They decided to pull out of the agreement.
5. The police pulled him over.

5 Discussion

1. How important do you think biodiversity is? Why?
2. Which species from your country are in danger?
3. What can be done to protect the world's biodiversity?



Biodiversity refers to the variety of plants, animals and other living things which are all inter-connected. The ecological services provided by biodiversity are vital to everyday life. The air we breathe is a product of photosynthesis by green plants. Insects, worms and bacteria break down waste and **enrich** soils. And tiny organisms clean the water in rivers and seas. In fact, all life on earth exists thanks to the benefits of biodiversity. More than 90 percent of the calories consumed by people worldwide are produced from 80 plant species. And 30 percent of medicines are developed from plants and animals. Maintaining a wide diversity of species in each ecosystem is necessary to preserve all living things.

The loss of biodiversity could be devastating. "It is **reckless** to suppose that biodiversity can be diminished indefinitely without threatening humanity itself," said Harvard University biologist Edward O. Wilson, otherwise known as the "father of biodiversity". Just recently, there was a convention on biodiversity in Japan organised by the UN. The **aim** was to set new targets for conserving life on earth. Japan's Environment Minister Ryo Matsumoto warned, "We are now close to a **tipping point** – that is, we're about to reach a **threshold** beyond which biodiversity loss will become **irreversible**."



But what can we do? The problem is that the concept of biodiversity is so vague. People might care about brown bears, but it is much harder to excite them about the fate of microscopic sea creatures which are being **boiled** to death in the cooling systems of **power stations** along coastlines. *The Guardian* newspaper is trying to help. It has launched the Biodiversity 100 campaign to try to convince governments around the world to take action. This includes persuading the UK government to create a series of marine reserves to **reverse** the decline in sea-life caused by **industrial fishing**, banning the **finning** of live sharks at sea by some Asian countries, and stopping the **slaughter** of dingoes in Australia, among many other things.



There's a lot to do. And we'd better **get a move on** if we don't want to end up with a planet that can't sustain life! ❗

What would you think if someone proposed **knocking down** St Paul's cathedral to **widen** the road? Or **pulling down** the Houses of Parliament to create a supermarket? Or **reducing** Big Ben **to rubble** to make way for a car park? It'd be ridiculous, right? But when it comes to devastation of the natural world, we aren't so **squeamish**. But according to some scientists we should be... or we'll be in a lot of trouble!

Nature is **shrinking** by the day. Ancient forests are **decimated**. **Wetlands** are **drained**. Woodland is **flattened**. And all in the name of progress. This is bad in itself, but it's devastating for **biodiversity**.

GLOSSARY

to knock down *phr vb*
if you "knock down" a building, you destroy it

to widen *vb*
if you "widen" something, you make it bigger in terms of width (from one side to the other)

to pull down *phr vb*
if you "pull down" a building, you destroy it

to reduce to rubble *exp*
if a building is "reduced to rubble", there is nothing left but broken bricks and ruins

squeamish *adj*
easily shocked by unpleasant things

to shrink *vb*
to become smaller

decimated *adj*
completely destroyed

wetlands *n*
an area of marshy land (that consists of mud and water)

drained *adj*
if something is "drained", all the water is taken out of it

to flatten *vb*
to make something flat (smooth and low to the ground)

biodiversity *n*
a large variety of plants and animals

to enrich *vb*
to improve the quality of

reckless *adj*
without any care for (or thought about) the consequences of your actions

aim *n*
an objective / a goal / a target

tipping point *exp*
the critical moment in a situation that will lead to a new development that cannot be changed

threshold *n*
the starting point for something to happen

irreversible *adj*
if something is "irreversible", it cannot be changed back to the way it was

to boil *vb*
to heat water to 100°C

a power station *n*
a large factory where electricity is made

to reverse *vb*
to change something back to the way it was

industrial fishing *n*
the business of catching, processing, and marketing fish and other seafood on a grand scale

finning *n*
taking off the fin (the part of the fish on its back that helps it swim) from a fish. The fins are often used for soup

slaughter *n*
the killing of a large number of animals or people

get a move on *exp*
if you tell someone to "get a move on", you are telling them to move/act more quickly

On Record

The book with all the answers. By Sam Gordon



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track 26

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

1 Pre-reading

Complete the facts below with any words of your choice. Then, discuss your choices with a partner.

1. The most intelligent dog in the world is...
2. The biggest palace in the world is...
3. The smallest continent is...
4. The longest railway line is...
5. The largest ocean is...
6. The largest bird is...
7. The fastest animal is...
8. The highest capital city is...

2 Reading I

Read the article once. What's the most unusual record? Discuss your choice with a partner. Do you agree?

3 Reading II

Write the name of the person /people with the world records for the following things.

1. The most simultaneous Coke-Mentos explosions.
2. Writing all the numbers from one to one million.
3. The largest collection of traffic cones.
4. Eating five Ferrero Rocher chocolates in one minute.
5. The largest disco ball in the world.
6. Distance pool cue balancing.

4 Language focus Prepositions + the Gerund

Look at this extract from the article on this page, "... Jackie Bibby has the record for holding the most..." The writer has used a preposition followed by a gerund ("for holding"). Complete these sentence beginnings with any ideas of your own. Remember to use a gerund if the preposition is followed by a verb.

1. I left the office last night without...
2. I once got into my house by...
3. I've often thought about...
4. I was once talked into...

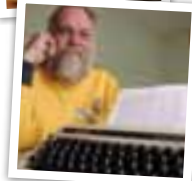
5 Discussion

1. Do you know of any other world records? What are they?
2. What's the most unusual world record you've ever heard of?
3. Have you ever thought about trying to break a world record? What for?

Who's the fastest runner in the world? What's the largest monkey on the planet? Where can you find the tallest trees on earth? If you want the answers to these questions, the best place to look is in the book, *Guinness World Records* – the **ultimate authority** on record-breaking achievement. But the book's actually more famous for its slightly **bizarre** records.



There are records for **tossing** eggs, eating hot dogs and playing the computer game *Grand Theft Auto IV*. There's even a record for the biggest "Coke-Mentos" explosion. That's right, if you drop enough Mentos mints into a bottle of coke it will "blow up". A Guinness World Record of 1,911 simultaneous explosions was set on 19th June 2008, by students of the "School of Business Administration Turiba" in Latvia. In August 2010, this record was beaten with 2,433 simultaneous eruptions by a group of people in Mexico City.



Les Stewart has a world record for typing all the numbers from one to one million in words. It took seven **typewriters**, 1,000 **ink ribbons** and 19,890 pages to do it. David Alexander has the record for wearing 121 T-shirts in one go. Sound easy? Apparently, by the

time he was finished, it took 4 people over half an hour to cut him free. Jackie Bibby has the record for holding the most **live rattlesnakes** in his mouth – an incredible 10. And England's John Evans has the record for balancing the heaviest car on his head (a 160kg mini for 33 seconds).

David Morgan from Burford, Oxfordshire has the largest collection of **traffic cones** – 137 different types of cone, to be precise, which represents two-thirds of the designs ever made. In November 2007, Reuben Williams **unwrapped** and ate five Ferrero Rocher chocolates in one minute. It may sound easy, but **chewing** and **swallowing** those world-famous chocolates is harder than it seems. Try it yourself! Raf Frateur made the largest disco ball in the world, which measures 7.35 metres in diameter. The ball – which has no less than 80,000 small mirrors and is turned by a built-in motor – was displayed during a party at the club "Studio 54" in Antwerp, Belgium, on 20th July 2007.

But as extraordinary as all of these achievements are, there's no doubt who the greatest **record breaker**



of all-time is. Ashrita Furman of New York holds over 100 world records. And he has set new records in more than 30 different countries across all seven continents. Some of his greatest accomplishments include "distance **pool cue balancing**" (that consists of balancing a **cue ball** on top of a **cue stick**), "hopping on a kangaroo ball" (along the Great Wall of China) and "running 8km on **stilts**". Beat that lot, if you can. ☺



GLOSSARY

- ultimate authority** *n*
a person or group with the most knowledge of a subject
- a record** *n*
the best achievement in a particular field
- bizarre** *adj*
strange or unusual
- to toss** *vb*
to throw
- a typewriter** *n*
a machine used to write documents. They were common before computer word processors were invented
- an ink ribbon** *n*
a long piece of material covered in ink that is used in a typewriter
- live** *adj*
alive or living; not dead
- a traffic cone** *n*
a plastic cone-shaped object (usually red or yellow) used to warn traffic of danger on part of a road
- to unwrap** *vb*
to take off the wrapping (plastic or paper covering) from a product
- to chew** *vb*
to use your teeth to break food into smaller pieces
- to swallow** *vb*
to pass food / liquid through your mouth, down your throat and into your stomach
- a record breaker** *n*
a person who has performed the best in a particular field: the fastest runner, the highest jumper, etc.
- a pool cue** *n*
a wooden stick used to play pool (a game where you hit balls into pockets on a table)
- a cue ball** *n*
the white ball used in snooker or pool
- a cue stick** *n*
a wooden stick used to play pool
- stilts** *n*
long sticks you can stand on to make yourself taller – often used by clowns.

PHRASAL VERB THEMES (part 1)

Negotiating

HERE ARE SOME TYPICAL PHRASAL VERBS THAT YOU CAN USE IN NEGOTIATIONS. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES (1 TO 8) WITH THE WORDS FROM BELOW.

sit **party** **return** **demands** **increases** **hour** **price** **months**

Come to (an agreement)

IF YOU "COME TO" AN AGREEMENT WITH ANOTHER PARTY, YOU BOTH AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.



1

"After six _____ of negotiating, they finally came to an agreement."

Ask for (a concession)

IF PARTY A "ASKS FOR" A CONCESSION, THEY ASK PARTY B TO GIVE THEM SOMETHING.



2

"Never make a concession when negotiating unless you ask for one in _____."

Put forward a suggestion

IF YOU "PUT FORWARD" A SUGGESTION, YOU SUGGEST SOMETHING.



3

"I'd like to put forward a suggestion: why don't we have a short break, then get together again in about half an _____?"

Call off (negotiations)

IF ONE PARTY "CALLS OFF" NEGOTIATIONS, THEY STOP NEGOTIATING.



4

"They threatened to call off all negotiations unless we agreed to their _____."

Rule something out

IF X IS "RULED OUT", ONE PARTY SAYS THAT X CANNOT FORM PART OF THE NEGOTIATION.



5

"They ruled out any talk of price _____."

Lay down (the terms and conditions)

IF TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE "LAID DOWN", SOMEONE SAYS WHAT THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS MUST BE.



6

"They laid down a set of minimum requirements before they were even prepared to _____ down and talk."

Turn down an offer

IF SOMEONE "TURNS DOWN" AN OFFER, THEY DON'T ACCEPT IT.



7

"We offered to increase the _____ by 10%, but they turned it down."

Think over

IF YOU "THINK OVER" SOMETHING, YOU SPEND TIME CONSIDERING IT CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.



8

"The other _____ said they'd need a few days to think it over."



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TAPESCRIPTS & BAR CHATS

Disaster Dash (track 9)

Some of the world's worst disasters.

Tanya: Hiya, Barry. Reading a magazine as usual?
Barry: Yeah. I never get the time to read the news normally. I have a quick look at the news online and I buy the *National Geographic* every month. The articles are great.
Tanya: So, what are you reading about now?
Barry: The floods in Pakistan last July. Terrible. Did you know that the United Nations think 21 million people may have been affected by the floods? You know, homeless or injured.
Tanya: Twenty one million. Wow! That's appalling.
Barry: Yeah. Unbelievable. At one point 20% of Pakistan was under water. 20%!
Tanya: That's awful.
Barry: Too right. The UN is trying to raise \$460 million to help. Millions of people are homeless and have no clean water to drink.
Tanya: Poor Pakistan. So, was this the worst natural disaster ever?
Barry: No, no. Although 21 million people have been affected by the floods, not too many have died, thankfully.
Tanya: You mean there have been worse ones?
Barry: There was the earthquake in Haiti last January. That was pretty bad.
Tanya: Oh yes. I remember that. How many people died?
Barry: About 230,000.
Tanya: Terrible!
Barry: And what about the tsunami in 2004? That killed more than 230,000 people.
Tanya: Where was that?
Barry: Asia.
Tanya: Oh, yes, I saw it on TV. It happened on 26th December – Boxing Day.
Barry: That's right. I remember that too.
Tanya: So was the tsunami the worst disaster ever?
Barry: No, no. Actually there's a list of the worst disasters in the magazine.
Tanya: Where did they take place?
Barry: Well, five of the ten worst disasters have taken place in China. Five out of ten!
Tanya: Wow. What were they?
Barry: The Haiyuan Earthquake, the Tangshan Earthquake, the Shaanxi Earthquake, the Yellow River Flood and the China Floods.
Tanya: Tell me about them.
Barry: Well, the most serious were the China Floods.
Tanya: When did they take place?
Barry: 1931.
Tanya: What happened?
Barry: The floods were in the centre of China. After a long drought, it snowed and rained very, very heavily for a few months. Seven cyclones hit the area in July – seven big storms. The Yangtze River flooded, and the Yellow River and the Huai River too.
Tanya: And what happened?
Barry: Well, over 28 million people lost their homes. And as many as 4 million people died.
Tanya: Wow. That's terrible.
Barry: Yeah. And of course in 1931 the emergency services weren't so good, so lots more people suffered. The disaster lasted for many years too because there was also a civil war going on.
Tanya: Well, at least some things have got better since then – the world is helping Pakistan, for example.
Barry: That's true.
Tanya: Hey, can I borrow the magazine when you've finished with it? I'd like to read the article.
Barry: Sure. Here you are. You can have it now.
Tanya: Great thanks.

Healthy Times (track 12)

How to live a healthy lifestyle.

Doctor: Come in, Mr Jones. Please sit down.
Mr Jones: Thank you.
Doctor: Well, Mr Jones, I've got the results from your recent medical.
Mr Jones: Oh, yes. Right. So, will I live?
Doctor: Let's see, shall we? Right. There's your weight to start with.
Mr Jones: Er, yes. I may have put on a few kilos.
Doctor: You've put on 15 kilos in a year, Mr Jones.
Mr Jones: Really? Are you sure?
Doctor: I'm afraid so, Mr Jones. What have you been eating?
Mr Jones: Well, I've got a new job working in a fast food restaurant. I suppose I've been eating a lot of free burgers.

Doctor: I see. Well, I think you'll have to stop, Mr Jones.
Mr Jones: Working?
Doctor: No, eating burgers!
Mr Jones: But they're delicious. And the chips are good too. I can't resist them.
Doctor: Then you'll need to find a new job.
Mr Jones: They need a waiter at the new Italian restaurant. I suppose I could ask there. The pizzas are fantastic.
Doctor: I think a job outside the food industry might be a better idea, don't you, Mr Jones?
Mr Jones: Yes. Perhaps you're right. Maybe I could get a job in a pub. I love beer.
Doctor: Yes, I'm sure you do, Mr Jones, but you need to drink less too. Beer's very fattening.
Mr Jones: No burgers. No beer. You'll be telling me to give up smoking next.
Doctor: I thought you'd given up last year. You told me you had.
Mr Jones: Well, I've been trying to smoke less.
Doctor: How many do you smoke a day?
Mr Jones: Two...
Doctor: Well, that's not so bad.
Mr Jones: ...packets.
Doctor: Two packets! That's 40 a day. You really should give up, you know.
Mr Jones: Yes, yes. OK, I'll try.
Doctor: Now, have you been doing any exercise?
Mr Jones: Well, I walk to work every day.
Doctor: That's good. How far do you walk?
Mr Jones: About five metres. I live next door to the burger bar.
Doctor: That's not really much exercise then, is it?
Mr Jones: No, I suppose not.
Doctor: What about sport?
Mr Jones: Oh yes. I love sport.
Doctor: Good.
Mr Jones: I've been watching the football.
Doctor: Did you say "watching"?
Mr Jones: Yes.
Doctor: On TV?
Mr Jones: Yes. You know. The Premiership.
Doctor: But Mr Jones, watching football isn't the same as playing football.
Mr Jones: I know. But I'm not good enough to play in the league, am I?
Doctor: Mr Jones, do you do any sport?
Mr Jones: I went to Wimbledon last summer... to watch the tennis.
Doctor: Well, that hardly counts. I mean, have you been doing any sport?
Mr Jones: I bought some running shoes two months ago.
Doctor: That's good. Did you go running?
Mr Jones: Well, no, not as such. But I've been wearing them. They're very comfortable and they look great. I've been thinking about buying another pair for work.
Doctor: What about swimming? Have you been swimming recently?
Mr Jones: Er no. I can't swim.
Doctor: OK. What about tennis?
Mr Jones: I haven't got a racket.
Doctor: You could buy one.
Mr Jones: Yes, yes. I suppose so. I'll try to save up for one.
Doctor: Good. Now, about your eating. I'm going to put you on a strict diet. It'll help you lose weight. Here you are.
Mr Jones: Thank you doctor. But this is a vegetarian diet. I can't eat this.
Doctor: Please try, Mr Jones. Your blood pressure is very high. You need to lose weight.
Mr Jones: Oh all right. I'll try.
Doctor: Good. I'd like you to come back in two months, so you can tell me how you've been getting on. OK?
Mr Jones: But I'll be on holiday in two months.
Doctor: Oh yes. Where are you going?
Mr Jones: It's a, erm, a, gastronomic tour of France.
Doctor: I beg your pardon?
Mr Jones: A gastronomic tour of France. Fifteen four-course meals in fourteen days. I've been looking forward to it for months.
Doctor: I give up. I suggest you find another doctor, Mr Jones.
Mr Jones: But...

British Bar Chat (track 18)

Competitions

Bob: So, I entered this, like, writing competition the other day, and, erm, well a couple months ago.
Sally: Yeah?

Bob: Sent it off, erm, didn't hear anything back.
Sally: Oh, nothing at all.
Bob: No. Nothing no.
Sally: Not even a thank-you for entering sort of letter.
Bob: No, they didn't do that, no, no. So, have you ever entered in competitions?
Sally: Not recently. Not for years. As I child, I remember entering the competitions in Blue Peter because you could win a Blue Peter badge which was the best thing as a child.
Bob: Did you ever win one?
Sally: No. Surprisingly not.
Bob: And what competitions do you remember having entered in?
Sally: I think there was a writing competition, it was very, like, a hundred words, maybe about your favourite thing to do or a hobby or a pet. I can't remember clearly. And then drawing, I'm not surprised I didn't win that, because I can't draw to save my life. Did you enter things as a child?
Bob: Erm, I don't remember... having entered many competitions. I quite like, erm, you know sometimes they say, erm, write in with your opinions and you could win such and such. Sometimes, I'd do that. But I've never, ever heard anything back.
Sally: I think...
Bob: The last one I entered recently was, was an online thing. You had to vote for your favourite, erm, favourite, erm, it was from Body Shop, so it was vote for your favourite shampoo from the 1980s.
Sally: From the 1980s? What did you vote for?
Bob: Erm. This one called Ice Blue, which, that I used to really like. And they took away and then they brought it back, and now they say they're only going to have one, of the ten shampoos they brought back, only one's going to stay.
Sally: Oh, the one that wins in the votes.
Bob: Yeah, the one that wins in the votes gets to stay.
Sally: Oh.
Bob: And if you enter the competition, you could win a lifetime, a lifetime supply of shampoo.
Sally: Well, you definitely have to like the shampoo you vote for.
Bob: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Ha ha.
Sally: I don't... competitions now, I just think, I haven't been lucky til now so there's not much point. Some people just get lucky every time.
Bob: Yeah, yeah. Let them win.
Sally: Yeah. I'd like to win a car or something.
Bob: Yeah, that would be cool.

US Bar Chat (track 19)

Pick-up lines.

Alexis: So, I was walking, erm, down the street the other day, and a, a car came up to me and someone asked, he's like, er, "Can you tell me the best way to get back to...". And I was thinking, "Oh, he's just asking for directions," but then he said, "The best way to get back to you?" And I thought that was the funniest pick-up line I've ever heard in my entire life. Have you heard of any funny or corny pick-up lines?
Tyler: I've used a couple in my life. Yes, erm, my favourite is, er, "Do you have a library card, because I want to check you out?" and, erm, "Do you have a map because I just got lost in your eyes?" are two of my particular favorites.
Alexis: I like the last one. I feel like you can get someone.
Tyler: Yeah? You think?
Alexis: You should stick with that one.
Tyler: You think pick up lines actually work sometimes?
Alexis: No, not always. Depends. It depends on the setting obviously and, erm, maybe how cute the person is.
Tyler: It's a good way to open up the conversation. It's an ice breaker.
Alexis: True, true, true.

Food Fun (track 20)

Preparing for a dinner party.

Martin: Hey, Carol, what are you up to?
Carol: Nothing really. Relaxing. Taking it easy.
Martin: Ok. So have you got 5 minutes to talk about this Friday?
Carol: Sure. So, what's happening on Friday?
Martin: My girlfriend's coming round for dinner. Don't tell me you've forgotten.
Carol: No, no, of course not. So, it'll just be you, me,

Dave, and Pam?
Martin: No! I broke up with Pam three weeks ago. Diana's coming.
Carol: Diana? Who's she?
Martin: My new girlfriend.
Carol: You broke up with Pam? You didn't tell me about it.
Martin: Yes, I did. You weren't listening.
Carol: What a shame! I really liked Pam. She was nice. We had a lot in common. We really clicked!
Martin: Yes, yes. Well, it's Diana now.
Carol: Dave really liked Pam too.
Martin: And so did I, remember?
Carol: So why did you split up?
Martin: Because she left me for Dan.
Carol: Dan?
Martin: Yes, Dan.
Carol: What? My brother Dan?
Martin: Yes. Your brother Dan.
Carol: Oh, I'm sorry. So, what's Denise like?
Martin: Who's Denise?
Carol: Your new girlfriend.
Martin: Her name's Diana. She's very nice. I really want to impress her with dinner on Friday.
Carol: OK. Well, everyone knows you're a great cook. So what are we having?
Martin: You said that you'd cook.
Carol: Really?
Martin: Yes. We agreed that you'd cook and I'd buy the wine.
Carol: Oh, yes. I remember now. Erm... We're having curry.
Martin: Curry? We can't have curry. Not at a dinner party.
Carol: Oh, OK. All right then, we'll have, erm, we'll have... roast lamb. Everybody loves my roast lamb.
Martin: No, no, no. That's no good.
Carol: What? Why can't we have lamb?
Martin: Diana's vegetarian.
Carol: Oh no. I hate vegetarians.
Martin: She eats fish though. Can't we have fish?
Carol: Erm, OK. I think we've got some salmon in the freezer. We'll have that.
Martin: OK, perfect. So, we're having salmon, right.
Carol: Yeah. I'll do salmon en croûte.
Martin: What's "en croûte"?
Carol: It's in pastry with a cream and cheese sauce. It'll be delicious.
Martin: No, no, no. We can't have that. It's got dairy products in it. Diana won't eat dairy products... or anything that's too fattening. She's on a diet.
Carol: Is there anything she will eat?
Martin: Anything that isn't fattening. Or that hasn't got meat in it. Or that isn't a dairy product. Or that she's allergic to: wheat, barley... Hold on I wrote a list. OK, here goes: wheat, barley, cheese, butter, eggs, cherry tomatoes... and kiwi fruit. Oh, and chocolate.
Carol: Wow. OK, what about if we have poached salmon with a salad? No cherry tomatoes in the salad, of course.
Martin: That sounds perfect. I've bought some white wine so we can have that with the fish. What about a starter?
Carol: We're going to have soup.
Martin: What sort of soup?
Carol: French onion. I won't put any cheese in it, don't worry.
Martin: Great. That sounds brilliant.
Carol: We can have some red wine with the soup. A bottle of that nice Italian you bought last week.
Martin: Yes, OK, but we won't need that much wine. Diana doesn't drink.
Carol: She doesn't drink!
Martin: Well, you know, just water and Coke and stuff. But she doesn't like alcohol – it's unhealthy, she says.
Carol: She's not drinking Coke with my poached salmon.
Martin: Don't worry she'll have water. It's her favourite drink.
Carol: OK, for the dessert I was thinking of having cheese and biscuits, but I'll have to think of something else, won't I?
Martin: Afraid so.
Carol: Ice cream?
Martin: Dairy! Sorbet would be OK though.
Carol: Will Diana eat lemon sorbet?
Martin: Any flavour you like... except kiwi. She isn't fussy.

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

Accent Alert (track 23)

The German English Accent

Well, I started to learn English in school since I was 11 years old [sic]. Well, seeing, watching English films, for example, or speaking to native speakers. I think all the words with "th" are very difficult to pronounce. Typical mistakes for Germans, for example "what" and the pronunciation, it's very German here. Yes, when I'm thinking about English I always have to remember my old English teacher. And I had her in [the] first year I learned English and she was a very strange person. I don't remember her name, but she was very strictly [sic]. So, for example, when somebody was talking in her lessons, she got angry and was throwing pens, pencils and booklets out of the window of the third floor.

The Job Appraisal (track 24)

Feedback on your performance at work.

Williams: Wait a minute. OK, come on in, Smith. Sit down, sit down.
Smith: Thank you, sir.
Williams: Would you like a cup of coffee or something?
Smith: Er... no thank you, Mr Williams. I'm fine.
Williams: So, how's it going, Smith?
Smith: Erm... very well... I think, sir.
Williams: You only think, Smith. Why don't you know?
Smith: Well, it's more that I'm not really sure, sir.
Williams: I see. Well, you should be sure, Smith. If you want to do well in life, you need to be sure.

Smith: Yes, sir.
Williams: So, which is it?
Smith: Which is what, sir?
Williams: Is it going to be "very well" or isn't it?
Smith: It's going "very well", sir.
Williams: Well, I'm afraid I don't agree Smith. I don't think it's going very well at all.

Smith: Oh! I'm sorry.
Williams: Ms Hillingdon asked you to look after the Jackson Dog Food account. She told you to take it on and to see what happens... .

Smith: No, she didn't.
Williams: ...and she says that you haven't done a thing. If you want to sell more dog food, Smith, you'll have to get out there and sell it. You can't hang around the office all day.
Smith: But Ms Hillingdon hasn't asked me to do anything, sir. I've never even met Ms Hillingdon.

Williams: What? Well, we'll soon see about that. Take a tip from me, Smith, if you want to find out what's going on in business, pick up the phone and talk to the right people. [He makes the call.] Hello, Ms Hillingdon, I'm sorry to bother you. It's Mr Williams here. Yes, yes, I know and I'm sorry. OK, erm, I'm just talking to Smith, the new girl in your department, and, erm, sorry to ask, but she's told me that she doesn't know anything about the Jackson Dog Food account. Yes, yes, OK. Very well. Oh, right. OK. That's fine. I was just checking. Right, right. Good to know. Jolly good. Really sorry to bother you. No, OK. I understand. [He puts the phone down.]

[To Smith again] She said she's never met you. She claims that I'd said that I was going to talk to you about it. But if I'd wanted to talk to you about dog food, I'd have talked to you about dog food, wouldn't I, eh, Smith?

Smith: Well, yes, I suppose you would.
Williams: So, why haven't we spoken about dog food, Smith?
Smith: Erm, I have no idea, Mr Williams.
Williams: You must have ideas, Smith. If I didn't have ideas, I wouldn't be Managing Director of Williams & Williams Marketing.

Smith: Wouldn't you, sir?
Williams: Well, actually I probably would. You see my grandfather started the firm 60 years ago. So, it'd probably be more accurate to say that if I hadn't been born, I wouldn't be Managing Director of Williams & Williams Marketing.

Smith: Er... quite.
Williams: So, woof, woof!, Smith.
Smith: Pardon.

Williams: Woof, woof! Tell me what you know about dogs, Smith.

Smith: What do you mean, sir?
Williams: Have you got a dog?
Smith: Erm, no.
Williams: That's bad, Smith. If you want to sell a product, you need to know your customer. I suggest you go out and buy a dog immediately.

Smith: But dogs aren't the customer. They don't buy dog food.

Williams: Good girl. I wondered if you'd spot that.
Smith: So, I don't need to buy a dog after all then, do I?

Williams: I suppose not. I hate dogs. Dirty, smelly creatures. Always wanting to go for a walk. Awful animals.

Smith: Hold on, sir... but if I had a dog, then I'd be a dog owner.

Williams: Well, obviously. What's your point?
Smith: Dog owners are our customers, sir. Dog owners buy dog food. If I had a dog, I'd understand the customer because I'd be one.

Williams: Brilliant! Brilliant! Buy a dog. No buy two... and put them on expenses.

Smith: Er... Thank you sir.
Williams: Not at all. If you go on like this, Smith, you'll get to the very top.

Smith: Thank you, Mr Williams.
Williams: So, Smith, how long have you been at Williams and Williams?

Smith: This is my first morning, sir. I started today.
Williams: Well, that's very good. After a shaky start, you're beginning to get the hang of things. Now, you'll have to excuse me Smith, I need to speak to some more employees.

Smith: Very well, sir. Shall I close the door?
Williams: Door? Good lord, no. My door is always open. Now get out and sell some dog food. Woof, woof!

Smith: Very well, sir.

Christmas song I: "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (track 27)

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!
 Good tidings we bring for you and your kin; we wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!
 Now bring us some figgy pudding, now bring us some figgy pudding, now bring us some figgy pudding, and a cup of good cheer!

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!
 We won't go until we get some, we won't go until we get some, we won't go until we get some, so bring it out here! Good tidings we bring for you and your kin, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!
 We all like our figgy pudding, we all like our figgy pudding, we all like our figgy pudding, with all its good cheer. Good tidings we bring for you and your kin, We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year! Good tidings we bring for you and your kin, We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

Christmas song II: "Auld Lang Syne" (track 28)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and days of auld lang syne?
 And days of auld lang syne, my dear, and days of auld lang syne, should auld acquaintance be forgot, and days of auld lang syne?
 And there's a hand, my trusty friend, and give us a hand o' thine; we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for the sake of auld lang syne. For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for the sake of auld lang syne.

Ikea Houses (page 4)

1 Pre-reading

1e 2a 3d 4c 5b

3 Reading II

- The number of homes in the UK with Ikea products.
- The number of people who work in Ikea shops.
- The number of shops in the world.
- The price of a Billy bookcase.
- An Ikea kitchen comes with a 25-year warranty.

4 Language focus

1 Pre-reading

1. I didn't go out last night.

2. She didn't speak to Jeff.

3. They didn't eat at home.

4. He didn't take the train.

4 Language focus

1. exercise; 2. language;

3. tired; 4. good; teeth

Useful Vocabulary (Page 8)

1j 2e 3b 4l 5a 6h 7i 8g

9c 10k 11d 12f 13n 14m

The Lake District (Page 10)

1 Pre-reading

1c 2a 3d 4b 5e

3 Reading II

- A mountainous area with lakes.
- The north-west of England, in the county of Cumbria.
- It's a popular holiday destination and gets about 14 million tourists a year.
- Walking, climbing, sailing, canoeing.
- It's often very wet and foggy.
- Arthur Ransome, William Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter
- Local people have a strong accent. There are some special words.
- The Cumberland sausage and Kendal Mint Cake.

Error Correction (Page 13)

1 Pre-listening

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

4 Language focus

- July; 2. floods; 3. Haiti;
- 2004; 5. 1931; 6. 28 million
- thought; 2. didn't like; 3. took;
- left; 5. didn't understand

Disaster Dash (Page 13)

1 Pre-listening

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

4 Language focus

- impression; 2. friends; 3. call;
- bed

Laugh Away (Page 29)

1 Pre-reading

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

3 Reading II (wording may vary)

- Switzerland.
- Making a speech.
- They applauded him.
- They said that they had enjoyed it.
- Language focus
- The document had been translated.
- The car had been repaired.
- It had been posted online.
- The video clip had been edited.

3. \$11 billion.

4. In the US.

5. In the UK.

6. Japan.

7. France.

8. Venezuela.

Weird Courses (Page 16)

1 Pre-reading

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

3 Reading II

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

4 Language focus

- an accountant; 2. an engineer;
- a farmer; 4. a photographer;
- a doctor; 6. a historian;
- a biologist; 8. a chemist

Parking Pain (Page 17)

1 Pre-reading

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

3 Reading II

1. Just four minutes.

2. It's out of control.

3. Because they were dosed for payments on Sunday.

4. £360.

5. The noise, the pollution and the dangers.

6. Public transport, cycle lanes and more park-and-ride schemes.

4 Language Focus

- It was taken to the station.
- It was sent by post.
- They were delivered last Friday.
- It was opened with scissors.

Healthy Times (Page 19)

3 Listening II

- He's put on 15 kilos in a year.
- He should get a job outside the food industry.
- He needs to drink less.
- He should give up.
- He implies that Mr Jones should do more exercise.
- He puts Mr Jones on a strict, vegetarian diet.

4 Language focus

- I've been sleeping a lot.
- She's been eating the food.
- They've been finishing the work.
- We've been sending the e-mails.

Jobs Away (Page 28)

3 Reading II (wording may vary)

- They were popular before the days of gas and electricity.
- They were popular until the 1980s.
- They were often depicted as villains.
- They're becoming more and more popular.

4 Language focus

- impression; 2. friends; 3. call;
- bed

007 (Page 31)

1 Pre-reading

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

3 Reading II (wording will vary)

- He was in charge of a specialist commando unit.
- They were both in the navy, became naval commanders, went to Eton, liked the same food, drank heavily, and liked beautiful women.
- At the gentlemen's club Boodle's.
- He smuggled a code-breaking machine back to the UK.

Food Fun (page 33)

3 Listening II

- French onion soup (with no cheese).
- Poached salmon and salad.
- Lemon sorbet.
- Wine and water.

The Job Appraisal (page 37)

3 Listening II (wording will vary)

- The Jackson Dog Food account.
- No, she hadn't.
- Subservient, polite, cautious.
- Managing Director of Williams & Williams Marketing.
- She'll have a better understanding of the customer.
- It's her first day there.

Franchise Fury (Page 39)

3 Reading II

- Between \$537,750 and \$1,765,300
- Between \$84,300 and \$258,300
- Because of the recession, some of their franchises started failing.
- Between 5 and 30 years.

Biodiversity Battle (page 40)

3 Reading II (wording will vary)

- It's necessary for the survival of humanity, and to ensure that there's clean air, fertile soil and clear water.
- Creating marine reserves, banning finning, stopping the slaughter of dingoes.

4 Language focus

- Pull into = stop at
- Pull it off = to be successful
- Pull out = to leave a side road and join the main road
- Pull out of = stop forming part of
- Pull over = to ask to stop driving

On Record (page 41)

1 Pre-reading

- the border collie; 2. the Vatican;
- Australia; 4. the Trans-Siberian railway; 5. the Pacific;
- the ostrich; 7. the cheetah;
- La Paz (in Bolivia)

3 Reading II

- A group of people in Mexico City.
- Les Stewart.
- David Morgan.
- Reuben Williams.
- Raf Frateur.
- Ashrita Furman.

Phrasal Verbs (page 42)

- months; 2. return; 3. hour;
- demands; 5. increases; 6. sit;
- price; 8. party

Photos from the news.

PHOTO MAGIC

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING TO WRITE IN THE SPEECH BUBBLES?
HAVE A COMPETITION IN CLASS OR AT HOME.

Photo 1 President Barack Obama holds up a document full of solutions given to him by Republican House Minority Leader John Boehner.



Photo 3 The duel between the Gasol brothers (Pau and Marc) is becoming one of the great classics of the NBA.



Photo 2 Racegoers soak up the atmosphere at the 150th running of the Melbourne Cup (known as "the race that stops a nation") as Australia comes to a standstill for the famous horse race.



Photo 4 French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his Brazilian counterpart Ignacio Lula da Silva in the run-up to the climate summit in Mexico.



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