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No.132

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**HIS LATEST FILM:**  
**DIANGO UNCHAINED**

**PHRASAL VERBS**  
Acts of violence

**VIOLENCE IN FILMS**  
Is it having an effect on us?

**USEFUL IDIOMS**  
Violence & pain

**SMS**  
20th  
anniversary!

**THE LONDON UNDERGROUND**  
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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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

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

Our main theme this month is **Violence!** Do violent films make us more aggressive? We'll be trying to answer this controversial question, as well as looking at one of the masters of violent films: Quentin Tarantino. You can read his opinions on the topic, and a review of his latest film: *Django Unchained*, which is a **revenge** movie **set** in the **American South**.

There's an interesting scene in the movie in which Django (played by actor Jamie Foxx) explains how to spell and pronounce his name. "D J A N G O – the 'j' is silent," he says. In future issues of Hot English we'll be looking at **silent letters** which appear in words such as *chocolate* (silent second "o"), *Wednesday* (silent "d") and *government* (silent "n"). Don't you just love English pronunciation!

Talking about language, we're also looking at the pros and cons of learning either British or American English. We'll also be telling you about some of the main differences between these two varieties of English, as well as continuing with our series on UK / US words.

This month sees the launch of two new sections: Business English and Travel English. In Business English, we'll be looking at some interesting topics from the world of business; and in Travel English, you can learn some useful words to use when travelling abroad to English-speaking countries. We're sure you'll love both new sections!

Of course, that's not all. We've also got articles on the London Underground, photo memes, unusual political parties, James Bond theme songs, performance art, the UK driving test, two best-selling books, and some real-life **dumb** criminals.

Well, that's all for now. Enjoy the magazine, happy learning and see you all next month,

*Andy*

**NEW!** Get this year's 2013 Skills Booklets! See page 19 for more details.

Remember to download the Hot English app for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch and Android. It's fantastic!

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## GLOSSARY

**revenge** *n*  
if A gets "revenge" on B, A does something bad to B because B did something bad to A

**set in** *exp*  
if a film is "set in" a period or time, it happens in that period or time

**the American South** *n*  
the southern states of the USA: Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, etc.

**silent letters** *n*  
letters that aren't pronounced. For example, the first "n" isn't pronounced in the word "government"

**dumb** *adj*  
stupid



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All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing SL. However, we do think that *Fifty Shades of Grey* is raunchy, Quentin Tarantino films are funny and violent and *James Bond* theme songs are great.

# In the News

IN THE NEWS N°17

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

LONDON 2013

**Objective** To read and understand the news in English.

## Think about it

Why do you think gold is so valuable? What would you do if you found a gold nugget? Would you like to go on a cruise? Why? Why not? Why do you think people enjoy cruises?

## MONEY

# GOLD FEVER!

**G**old is the most precious metal on Earth. Just one gram of it is worth €40. So, imagine how happy an Australian **prospector** was when he discovered a **nugget** weighing five and a half kilos! The amateur gold-digger (who wishes to remain anonymous) was **prospecting** with a **metal detector** near the Australian town of Ballarat. He discovered the piece of gold just 60 centimetres below

the ground. Experts say it'll **fetch** at least €240,000, and the lucky **miner** has said he'll use the money to **pay off debts**. "A lot of people think these goldfields are dead and that there's no gold left, but the prospector

persisted and he's been rewarded," said Cordell Kent, the owner of the Ballarat gold exchange shop. Ballarat was a busy

gold mining town in the mid 1800s. Now locals are expecting a new **gold rush** as people come and try to **strike it rich**. ✪



## FUN FACT

Most of the world's gold is beneath the ocean floor. But nobody mines it because searching for gold below the sea costs more than the gold is worth.

## TRAVEL

# ALL ABOARD... AGAIN

**T**he QE2 (short for Queen Elizabeth II) is one of the most famous **ocean liners** in history. It was launched by Queen Elizabeth II in 1967, and during its 40 years of service it carried more than 2.5 million passengers back and forth across the

Atlantic from Southampton (England) to New York (America). The **luxurious** ship was **pulled out of service** in 2008, and a private investor bought it for £50 million. Since then, it's been in a Dubai port. But now the QE2 is coming back. The Oceanic Group (a cruise

and leisure company) is planning to turn the vessel into a 5-star hotel, with 500 rooms, **shopping malls**, and three Michelin-starred restaurants. The floating hotel will remain in the harbour of a leading Asian city (the company will soon announce which one). "The **vision** for the QE2 is for her to become a cultural and tourist attraction – a **beacon of luxury, glamour, quality and tradition**," said a company spokesperson. All aboard! ✪



## FUN FACT

The Caribbean is the world's most popular cruise ship destination.

## GLOSSARY

- a prospector** *n* someone who looks for gold, oil, diamonds, etc. under the ground
- a nugget** *n* a small piece of something, such as gold, chicken, etc.
- to prospect** *vb* to look for gold, oil, diamonds, etc. under the ground
- a metal detector** *n* a device for finding metal under the ground
- to fetch** *vb* if an object "fetches" a certain amount, it sells for that amount
- a miner** *n* someone whose job is to find things (coal, gold, etc.) in tunnels under the ground
- to pay off** *phr vb* if you "pay off" a debt, you give back the money you owe to the bank, etc.
- a debt** *n* money you owe to someone
- busy** *adj* a "busy" place has a lot of people in it
- a gold rush** *n* when there's a "gold rush", a lot of people go to a place where gold has been discovered
- to strike it rich** *exp* if you "strike it rich", you become rich
- an ocean liner** *n* a ship that takes passengers across an ocean
- luxurious** *adj* very comfortable; very expensive
- to pull out of service** *exp* if a ship is "pulled out of service", it isn't used as a ship any more
- a shopping mall** *n* a large building with many shops in it
- a vision** *n* your "vision" of a future situation is the way you think the future will be for something
- a beacon of** *exp* an excellent example of

**Objective** To learn about body language in English-speaking countries.

**Think about it**

When was the last time you went to an interview? How did it go? Were you aware of what you were doing with your body during the interview? In what way?

# SIX THINGS **NOT** TO DO IN A JOB INTERVIEW

You've got a very short time to make a good impression in a job interview. And any mistake you make could cost you the job. Here are six of the most common **body language** mistakes that people make in interviews. **Model:** Joanna Zlobikowska

1

## Focus

Keep your smartphone, mobile or PDA in your pocket or bag during an interview. **Avoid** holding it, and never, under any circumstances, take it out to look at it, or answer it if it starts ringing. In fact, to be on the safe side, turn it off before the interview. Also, if you're making notes on your PDA, it could look like you're texting a friend, so use a pen and paper.



2

## Hands

Try to avoid **clasp**ing your hands as this could make you look nervous or uncomfortable. The same goes for **rub**bing your hands together. This could look like you think you've already got the job, or, worse, that you're thinking of all the money you'll be earning. Let your hands **rest** naturally at your sides or on your lap.



3

## Time

Avoid looking at your watch, or checking the time on your mobile or a wall clock. You may well be bored, but if you want that job, you shouldn't let the interviewer know that. **Clock-watching** is extremely distracting for the person you're supposed to be talking to.



4

## Arms

Be careful with what you do with your arms. If you **cross** them, it could make you look defensive. Let them **hang loosely** at your sides or gently on your lap.



## GLOSSARY

**body language** *n*  
the feelings or emotions that you show through the position or movement of your body

**to avoid** *vb*  
if you "avoid" something, you don't do it, or you try not to do it

**to clasp** *vb*  
if you "clasp" something, you hold it tightly in your hands

**to rub** *vb*  
if you "rub" a part of your body, you move your fingers over it while pressing firmly

**to rest** *vb*  
if you let your hands "rest", you put them in a position where they're supported or relaxed

**a lap** *n*  
the area on top of your legs when you're sitting

**clock-watching** *n*  
continuously looking at a clock/watch so you know the time

**to cross** *vb*  
if you "cross" your arms, you put one arm over the other one

**to hang loosely** *exp*  
if your arms are "hanging loosely", they're in a relaxed position at your sides

**to roll your eyes** *exp*  
to make a circular movement with your eyes from one side to the other side.

People often do this when they hear something they don't like

**an involuntary reaction** *exp*  
a reaction that is automatic – you can't control it

**untrustworthy** *adj*  
someone who is "untrustworthy" is dishonest - you can't trust them

**to stare** *vb*  
if you "stare" at something, you look at it for a long time

**scary** *adj*

frightening

**a blunder** *n*

a mistake / error

**to ruin your chances** *exp*

if something you do or say "ruins your chances" of getting a job (for example), it stops you from getting that job

5

## Eye rolling

Some people have a tendency to **roll their eyes** in conversation – often as an **involuntary reaction** to something surprising they've heard. However, you should avoid doing this at all costs – it looks like you think the other person is stupid or boring. Save your eye rolling for when you're back in your car or office and out of sight.



6

## Eye contact

Try to maintain eye contact with the person you're talking to. Not doing so could make you appear **untrustworthy**. On the other hand, don't **stare** as that's **scary**!



In the world of business, just one of these body language **blunders** can take just seconds, but it could **ruin your chances** of getting the job you want.

Watch your body language! ✨

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** How often do you use the underground? Which underground train systems have you used? Which ones are the best? Why?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

**Note!**

See page 22 for our new Travel English section. This month: the Underground!

# WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND?

By Georgina Kiely

The London Underground has just celebrated its 150th anniversary. We asked a few people what they thought of it.

"The Underground is great for doing a bit of **people-watching**. In the morning, you get all the **city types** with their **suits** on. Then, during the day, you get lots of tourists, and at the weekend there are families going to the museums, and people going shopping. At night, the **tube** is full of interesting people going out to the theatre, the cinema or bars and clubs." **Sophie, 26**

"I'm not a big fan of the Underground. OK, it's really convenient, but it's just so **crowded** in **rush hour**. Sometimes, you really have to push to get in. And it gets so hot, especially in the summer. There's no air conditioning and sometimes it's like being in a sauna. Last July, someone **fainted** in a carriage that I was in!" **Amelia, 33**

"I love travelling by tube. I sit there with my eReader and my 45-minute journey goes by in no time. Some days, when I'm tired, I might

**doze off**, but I normally use the time to read a book. The **line** I take is normally quite quiet, especially as I travel first thing in the morning when most people are still getting up. If you don't **fancy** reading, you can listen to music or watch a film on your iPad." **Jack, 29**

"Getting the underground in the morning or after work is a **nightmare**. It's just full of people pushing and **shoving** in the **unbearable** heat. These days, I either walk into work or get the bus. As far as I'm concerned, the bus is great, especially if you get a seat at the front and top of a **double-decker**. It's so much better than being stuck in a dark tunnel with a load of **grumpy** people." **Bob, 34**

"The Underground is definitely the best way to get around the city. It's fast and **reliable** so you can **time** your journey perfectly. If I went to work by bus or car, it'd take an hour, but on the underground it takes about a third of the time. Apart from that, I really like all the unexpected things down there: the **buskers**, the poems on posters, the mice running along the **tracks**... it's fascinating." **Sam, 35** ✨

## THE LONDON UNDERGROUND



The London Underground (often shortened to the Underground, and also known as the Tube) was first opened in 1863. With 270 stations and 402 kilometres of track, it's the fourth largest metro system in the world in terms of route kilometres (after the Seoul Metropolitan Subway, the Shanghai Metro and the Beijing Subway), and it's got the largest number of stations. It's also the third busiest metro system in Europe after Moscow and Paris. There are plans to introduce air conditioning and Wifi coverage very soon.

## GLOSSARY

- people-watching** *n*  
if you do some "people-watching", you sit in a bar (for example) and watch people
- city types** *n*  
the type of people who work in the City (the financial district of London): stockbrokers, bankers, etc.
- a suit** *n*  
clothing that consists of a jacket and trousers / skirt of the same material and colour
- the tube** *n*  
an informal name for the underground train system in London
- crowded** *adj*  
if a place is "crowded" there are many people there
- rush hour** *n*  
the time in the morning or evening when people travel to or from work
- to faint** *vb*  
if someone "faints", they lose consciousness
- to doze off** *phr vb*  
if you "doze off", you fall asleep
- a line** *n*  
a train route with stations
- to fancy** *vb*  
if you "fancy" doing something, you want to do that thing
- a nightmare** *n*  
a terrible/bad situation
- to shove** *vb*  
if you "shove" someone, you push them
- unbearable** *adj*  
something "unbearable" for you is very bad and you don't want to accept it
- a double-decker (bus)** *n*  
a bus with two floors: one at the top and one at the bottom
- grumpy** *adj*  
if someone is "grumpy", they're a bit angry
- reliable** *adj*  
if something / someone is "reliable", they always do what they say they'll do
- to time** *vb*  
if you "time" a journey, you calculate how long it'll take
- a busker** *n*  
a musician who plays in the street. People give him/her money
- a track** *n*  
the "tracks" are the two metal lines that the trains travel on

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What are the pros and cons of travelling by underground?

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity. Did anyone mention the things you thought of?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a name next to each statement.

1. He likes reading on the Underground.
2. She likes watching people on the Underground.
3. He likes it because it's fast and reliable.
4. She thinks it's too hot in the summer.
5. He prefers to walk or get the bus.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever received a joke or funny photo from someone? What did you think of it? What jokes or funny images have you sent on to friends? What memes are there from your country?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

## READ & LISTEN II

TRACK 3: US WOMAN & NEW ZEALAND MAN



# HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PHOTO MEMES?

By Georgina Kiely

A **meme** is an image, photo or video clip that people **adapt**, then send to their friends and colleagues. If the meme becomes popular, other people do their own versions of it, and then it gets even more popular. Here are five photo memes from 2012.



### 1 Grumpy cat

The "grumpy cat" meme is

a picture of an angry-looking cat. People write text under the picture that represents the cat's thoughts. Typical comments include, "The best part of waking up is going back to sleep!", "The world will end in 2012? Good!", and, "I had fun once. It was awful."

### 2 The Philoraptor

This meme is a picture of a "velociraptor", a dinosaur from the *Jurassic Park* films. He's got his **claw** under his **chin** in a thoughtful **pose**.

The text written around the picture is usually a philosophical question such as, "Is a fly without wings

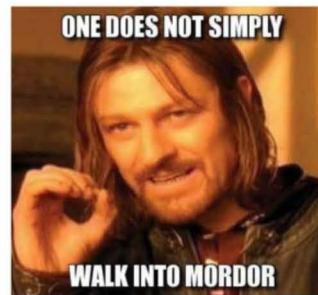


called a walk?", "What would happen if

said my nose is going to grow?", and, "If you try to **fail** and **succeed**, which have you done?"

### 3 Boromir

This meme shows a picture of the character Boromir from *The Lord of the Rings* films. The text on the image is based on a quote from the film in which Boromir



says, "One does not simply walk into Mordor." Variations of the meme include, "One does not simply check in to **Mordor**", "One does not simply get off the internet!", or "One does not simply look at only one meme!"



### 4 McKayla Is Not Impressed

This meme is created with a photo of American gymnast McKayla Maroney. McKayla won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics, but was disappointed that she hadn't won a gold medal, which is why she **pulled the face**. A photo of her is usually **superimposed** onto a famous image, such as the moon landing or the Mona Lisa painting.



### 5 Condensing Wonka

This meme is based on an image of the character Willy Wonka from the film *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The picture is taken from a scene in the

film in which Willy Wonka (played by Gene Wilder) shows the children one of his sweets, the "Everlasting Gobstopper". The text added to the picture usually consists of a **sarcastic** or **condensing** comment, such as, "Oh, you just **graduated**? You must know everything!", or "Oh, you **post quotes** from philosophers on Facebook? You must be so intellectual!", and "Oh, you're going as a vampire for Halloween? How original!"

Why don't you create a meme? \*

## GLOSSARY

**a meme** *n*  
an image, photo, video, etc. that people send to one another. These images, photos, videos, etc. are often adapted: text is added, music is added, etc.

**to adapt** *vb*  
if you "adapt" something, you change it in some way

**grumpy** *adj*  
if someone is "grumpy", they're a bit angry

**awful** *adj*  
bad / terrible

**a claw** *n*  
an animal's "claw" is its hand/foot

**a chin** *n*  
the part of your face that's under your mouth

**a pose** *n*  
the way that you stand or sit when someone is taking your photo, etc.

**to fail** *vb*  
if you "fail", you aren't successful – things go badly

**to succeed** *vb*  
if you "succeed", you're successful – things go well

**Mordor** *n*  
an imaginary land in the book *Lord of the Rings*

**to pull a face** *exp*  
if you "pull a face", you show an emotion with your face. For example, if you "pull an angry face", you make yourself look angry

**to superimpose** *vb*  
if image A is "superimposed" on image B, you put image A on image B

**sarcastic** *adj*  
to say the opposite of what you mean in order to make fun of someone. For example, when you say, "that shirt is really nice", but you really mean that you don't like it

**condensing** *adj*  
if A is being "condensing", A is talking to B in a superior way because A thinks he/she is more important than B

**to graduate** *vb*  
to finish your studies at university/college

**to post** *vb*  
to put an image / text on a website

**a quote** *n*  
a phrase or sentence from a book / interview, etc.

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the pictures of the photo memes. Which ones have you seen before? Why are they popular? Who's in the pictures?

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once. Which memes do you like / dislike? Why? Which comments on the memes are the funniest?

### 3 Reading II

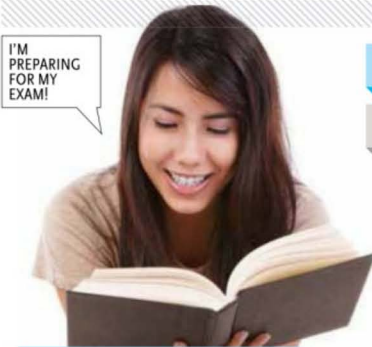
Read the article again. Then, write the name of a meme next to each statement.

1. It's a picture of a character from *The Lord of the Rings*.
2. The text represents the cat's thoughts.
3. It's based on an image of a character from the film *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
4. It's a picture of a dinosaur from the film *Jurassic Park*.
5. A photo of her is often superimposed onto famous images.

# GRAMMAR BOOSTER

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR SITUATIONS IN PROGRESS, TRENDS AND CHANGES.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I'm learning it.	I'm not learning it.	Am I learning it?
You're learning it.	You aren't learning it.	Are you learning it?
He's learning it.	He isn't learning it.	Is he learning it?
She's learning it.	She isn't learning it.	Is she learning it?
It's learning it.	It isn't learning it.	Is it learning it?
We're learning it.	We aren't learning it.	Are we learning it?
They're learning it.	They aren't learning it.	Are they learning it?



I'M PREPARING FOR MY EXAM!

## Present Continuous

We can use the Present Continuous to describe a situation in progress, or one that's developing. For example:

- He's going out with Sandra.
- She's staying with her friend for a week.
- I'm living in London this month.
- Paul's working in a restaurant while he looks for a job as an engineer.
- I'm reading a really great book.
- They're converting the cinema into a new office building.

We can also use the Present Continuous for situations that are changing. For example:

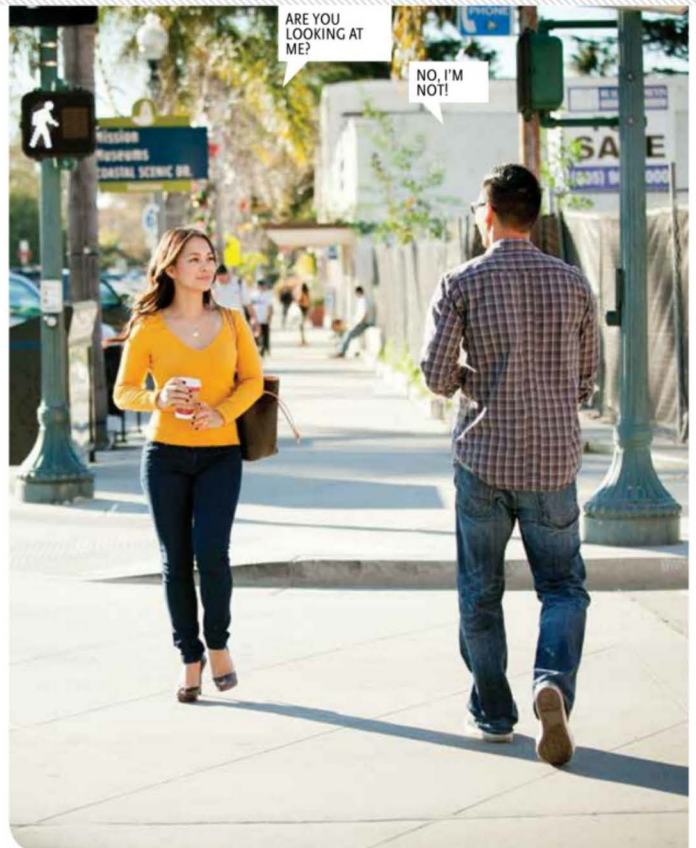
- The cost of living is going up.
- Unemployment rates are falling.
- They're developing a new office payment system.

## Dialogue

### Then ew house

Hugo and Jennifer, two ex-colleagues, meet in the street. [Listen and complete with the correct nouns.]

- Jennifer:** Hugo!
- Hugo:** Jennifer. How's it going?
- Jennifer:** Not too bad. What are you doing round here?
- Hugo:** I've just bought a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the area.
- Jennifer:** Oh, where?
- Hugo:** Just round the corner actually. You live round here, don't you?
- Jennifer:** That's right. I'm renting a place just down the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. What a coincidence. So, how's it going?
- Hugo:** Great, thanks.
- Jennifer:** And how's your brother, Alfie?
- Hugo:** Not too bad. He's working in a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the City. He's got some sort of a temporary job there.
- Jennifer:** Very good.
- Hugo:** So, what's the area like?
- Jennifer:** Not too bad. They're building a new Underground (4) \_\_\_\_\_, which is going to open sometime next year. They reckon that house prices will really go up after that.



- Hugo:** Looks like I made a good (5) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jennifer:** You certainly did. So, is Alfie still going out with Marcie?
- Hugo:** No, they **split up** ages ago. He's living on his own right now.
- Jennifer:** Oh, right. You'll have to give me his phone (6) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hugo:** OK. I'll send you a text message. So, are you still going out with Michael?

- Jennifer:** No. That finished ages ago. Free and single... again.
- Hugo:** Oh, I am too.
- Jennifer:** Great. Erm, so, send me Alfie's number when you can.
- Hugo:** OK. See you around.
- Jennifer:** Bye!
- Hugo:** Yeah, bye.

## GLOSSARY

**split up** *vb* *inform*  
to separate; to stop being married, etc.



# WORD BOOSTER

## ACTS OF VIOLENCE

### Pinch



If you "pinch" someone, you hold their skin between your thumb and forefinger and squeeze.

**"Ow! Stop pinching me!"**

### Hurt (someone)

If you "hurt" someone, you make them feel pain.

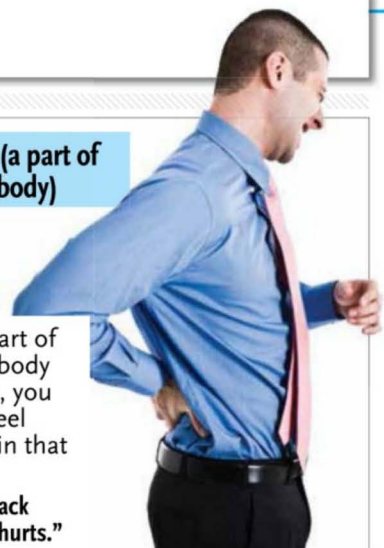
**"She really hurt me when she pulled my hair."**



### Hurt (a part of your body)

If a part of your body hurts, you can feel pain in that part.

**"My back really hurts."**



### Bite

If you "bite" something, you use your teeth to break it.

**"The dog bit me but it didn't hurt much because it was so small."**



### Punch

If A "punches" B, A hits B with his/her fist (a closed hand).

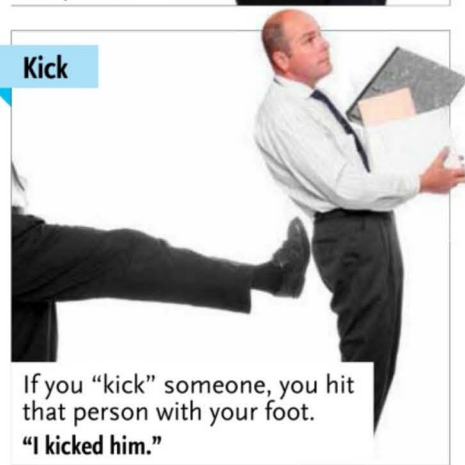
**"The boxer punched her opponent during the fight."**



### Kick

If you "kick" someone, you hit that person with your foot.

**"I kicked him."**



### Slap

If you "slap" someone, you hit them in the face with the palm of your hand (the inside part of your hand).

**"She slapped him."**



### Scratch

If you "scratch" someone, you use your fingers to break their skin.

**"She scratched me with her long fingernails."**



### Bleed

If something makes you "bleed", it causes blood to come out of you.

**"I cut my finger and it wouldn't stop bleeding."**



### Shoot

If A "shoots" B, A fires a gun at B.

**"We went paintballing and James shot me!"**



### Smack

If A "smacks" B, A uses his/her hand to hit someone.

**"He smacked his work colleague on the backside."**



### Head butt

If A "head butts" B, A uses the front part of his/her head to hit B.

**"She head butted him."**



**Objective** To learn some useful words and expressions for talking about photography in English.

**Think about it**

Are you a good photographer? Why? Why not? What makes a great photograph?

# ENGLISH IN ACTION... PHOTOGRAPHY

## Useful words



## More words

- **Close-up shot** = a photo taken near the subject / model.
- **Airbrush out** = if you “airbrush something out” of a photo, you delete it from the photo using Photoshop or any other computer software program.
- **Studio shot** = a photo taken in a special room with lights, etc.
- **Shutter speed** = the amount of time that the shutter is open. This is recorded in a fraction of a second. For example, if you have a shutter speed of 1000, then the shutter will open for 1/1000th of a second. The bigger the number, the shorter the time that the shutter is open for.
- **Aperture** = the hole through which light passes into the lens. The aperture opening is measured in f/stops – the smaller the f/stop number, the larger the aperture opening (so more light comes in).
- **AE (automatic exposure)** = the camera controls the aperture exposure and shutter-speed.
- **Telephoto lens** = a powerful camera lens which lets you take close-up pictures of something that is far away.
- **SLR (Single Lens Reflex)** = a camera that lets you see exactly what the lens sees. You can change the lens on a digital SLR, and produce high-quality photos. SLRs take photos more quickly than more basic cameras, so they’re good for action photography.
- **Filter** = something you put on the lens to change the colour or light.
- **Red-eye** = an unwanted effect that happens to the eyes of people and animals in photos where their eyes appear red, often because of the flash.
- **Pose (for a photo)** = if you “pose” for a photo, you stay in a position so someone can take a photo of you.
- **Photo shoot** = when there’s a “photo shoot”, a photographer takes pictures.
- **“Cheese”** = people say this when someone takes their photo. It makes you look as if you’re smiling.



SAY “CHEESE”!

## Dialogue: The photo shoot

Jenny has just started a photography course. For her first assignment, she has to take some photos of a friend. So, she’s asked Nate to come over and pose for her. [Listen and choose the correct prepositions.]  
J=Jenny N=Nate

- J: Thanks for coming!  
N: No worries! I’ve never done any modelling before. Is that your new camera?  
J: Yeah! It’s an SLR.  
N: An SL... what?  
J: SLR – single lens reflex. It’s got everything. Video, automatic and manual focus, red-eye reduction... plus it can shoot (1) \_\_\_\_\_ really high resolution... up to 26 megapixels. Oh, and the camera shop threw in a free tripod!  
N: Awesome! I’d love to get a decent camera. I just take snaps (2) \_\_\_\_\_ my iPhone.  
J: Smartphones take terrible pictures!  
N: Yes, but you can add filters (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the Instagram app.  
J: Really?  
N: Yeah, you can give your shots a sepia look, make them more saturated, or more faded and...  
J: Very interesting. Anyway, let’s get started. I’ll do the full-length compositions first. So, just take your top (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and stand over there.  
N: What?  
J: Take your top off and stand (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the window.
- N: What?  
J: Beside the window... I’m going to use the natural light.  
N: No, I mean the part about taking my top off!  
J: Oh, don’t worry. The pictures will be tasteful. I’ll shoot you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ soft focus.  
N: No! I’m not taking my shirt off.  
J: Mmm... OK. Probably for the best anyway... you’ve put (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a bit of weight.  
N: What?  
J: Nothing. Erm, would you mind if I just zoom in and take some close-ups (8) \_\_\_\_\_ your face instead?  
N: Oh, OK... Sure.  
J: Later, I can airbrush out the wrinkles.  
N: Wrinkles? I don’t have any wrinkles!  
J: It’s amazing what you can do with Photoshop. I’ll add a bit of colour (9) \_\_\_\_\_ your skin too. You look a bit pale. Have you been sick recently?  
N: Wow... you really know how to make a subject feel at ease.  
J: And I’ll probably digitally reduce the size of your nose. I never noticed how big it is. And probably whiten your teeth. You’ll look great.  
N: OK. I’m leaving.

## GLOSSARY

**wrinkles** *n*  
lines on the skin / face. They often appear on old people  
**to feel at ease** *exp*  
if you “feel at ease”, you feel comfortable  
**to whiten** *v*  
when you “whiten” teeth (for example), you make them whiter / cleaner

# NATURAL ENGLISH

©TRACK 6: BELGIAN MAN, N. IRISH WOMAN, SPANISH MAN, US WOMAN, BRAZILIAN MAN & US WOMAN

What do you like or dislike about your mobile phone?

Photos and interviews by Laura Hockett

## Remember!

When people talk informally, they often use non-standard English.

**Tal** (Belgium, web designer)

I love the fact that my mobile phone has internet. That's the best thing about having internet everywhere... it's having that mobile phone. The worst thing is that people can reach you, especially by calling you. That's usually the thing I'd rather turn off at any given time. I... just send me an e-mail. That would be **awesome**.



**Laura J** (N. Ireland, student)

I particularly like the fact that I have internet access so that I can contact people at home for free over the internet just as if I was **texting** them. Erm... and it's great that I have Google Maps on my phone, so that when I get lost I can just look up where I am and find my way back.



**José** (Spain, flight attendant)

Talking about my mobile phone, the thing that I really like is that you can easily... erm... check your e-mail and send e-mails, and... er... you know, keep in contact with your... contact with your friends in an easy way. But I... the... the worst part is that I don't... I don't really [want to] feel like I... I'm **dependent on**... on the phone. That's the worst part.



**Ashleigh** (USA, English teacher)

Erm... I have a very old phone, so I can't really do much with it. But, it's also kind of nice because it makes me be more of a **face-to-face** person... relationally, instead of always being on my phone. So that's good.



**Julio** (Brazil, management consultant)

My mobile phone... Well, I like it... that it's a **touch screen** and it has lots of **gadgets** on it. The **battery** is not... it's not bad, so... yeah, it's good. What I don't like is sometimes it's... it's pretty slow, and sometimes the **wifi** doesn't work really well. But overall, it's a good mobile.



**Laura H** (USA, English teacher)

I have one of the simplest mobile phones there is, which I actually really like because I'm not really **tempted** to be on it all the time. So... yeah, I spend more time talking with people around me rather than texting people or... stuff like that.



## GLOSSARY

- awesome** *adj*  
amazing / incredible / very good
- to text** *vb*  
to send a written message by mobile phone
- dependent on** *exp*  
if you're "dependent on" something, you really need that thing
- face-to-face** *exp*  
a "face-to-face" meeting with someone is a meeting with that person (not a talk by mobile or video conference, etc.)
- touch screen** *n*  
if a computer has "touch screen" capabilities, you can control it by touching the screen – you don't need a computer mouse
- a gadget** *n*  
a little machine that does a useful job: an MP3 player, an iPad, etc.
- a battery** *n*  
a device that you put in a machine to power the machine
- wifi** *n*  
"wifi" allows an electronic device to exchange data wirelessly (using radio waves – not wires)
- tempted** *adj*  
if you're "tempted" to do something, you really want to do it, even though it might not be good for you

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Are there any new employees where you work? Did you introduce yourself? Why? Why not? What questions did you ask? What does it feel like to be a new employee?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

PLEASED TO  
MEET YOU!

### Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Think of five questions to ask a new employee at work. For example: "Where are you from?"

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conversation between an employer and a new employee at work. Listen once. Did you hear any of your questions from the Pre-listening activity?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Where's Gary from originally?
2. Where did he go to school?
3. How long has he been at his current job?
4. How many times does he go home a year?
5. Which city is he from?
6. What does Rachel want to do one day?

### 4 Language focus Features of conversational English

Look at this extract from the audio script on this page: "...Yes, mostly. I mean, we lived in Paris..." The speaker has used "I mean" for self-correction. Read through the audio script and look for any other features of conversational English.

### 5 Listening III

Choose the correct words to complete the audio script.

# First day at work

## Audio script

**Gary:** Hi, I'm Gary by the way.

**Rachel:** Rachel. Pleased to meet you.

**Gary:** Pleased to meet you. So, is this your first day?

**Rachel:** Yes, I started this (1) *morning / afternoon*.

**Gary:** So, are you from round here?

**Rachel:** Yes, I live in Hackney. Where are you from?

**Gary:** Canada, originally.

**Rachel:** Really? You haven't got much of an accent.

**Gary:** No, well, I went to a school in (2) *Switzerland / Germany* where there were a lot of British kids.

**Rachel:** Right. So, have you been here for long?

**Gary:** About three years.

**Rachel:** Do you miss home?

**Gary:** A bit, but I get to go back about (3) *three times / twice a year* – once at Christmas to see the family and then again in the summer.

**Rachel:** That's nice. I'd love to go out there one day.

**Gary:** You should. It's an amazing country. Lots of big spaces.

**Rachel:** I've heard that (4) *Montreal / Toronto* is really nice.

**Gary:** Oh, yes, and Vancouver too. That's where

I'm from. So, are you from (5) *London / Manchester* originally?

**Rachel:** Yes, mostly. I mean, we lived in (6) *Lyon / Paris* for a year or two when I was about ten, but apart from that, I've been living here!

**Gary:** It's a great city.

**Rachel:** Yes, but I'd love to go travelling one day – you know, just take off for a couple of (7) *months / years*, maybe work somewhere, learn a foreign language...

**Gary:** There's nothing stopping you!

**Rachel:** I know. Oh well, one day maybe.

**Gary:** Hey, we're going for a drink after work if you fancy coming along.

**Rachel:** That sounds great.

**Gary:** We're meeting up at 6pm in the Hare and Fox – it's a (8) *bar / pub* just on the corner.

**Rachel:** Oh, yes, I saw it as I was coming in this morning.

**Gary:** It's nice for a drink after work.

**Rachel:** Perfect. I'll see you there.

**Gary:** OK. See you there.

**Think about it!**

When was the last time you blamed someone for something. What did you blame them for? What did you say to them? How did they react?

# PRACTICAL ENGLISH

## EXPRESSING BLAME

This month, we're looking at ways to **blame\*** someone for something.

### Blamingso meone

- It's all your fault.
- I'm to blame!
- I blame you for this.
- They blamed it on him.
- I always get blamed for things.
- I told you not to do that.
- It was your idea to go there.
- I left you in charge of them.
- You were supposed to look after them.
- It was up to you to look after them.
- If you hadn't left them alone, this never would have happened.
- You were responsible for keeping an eye on it.
- It's all down to you.

### Responding to blame

- It wasn't my fault!
- It isn't their fault!
- It's got nothing to do with me.
- I'm not the one you should be blaming.
- (Pete) was responsible for looking after the boxes.
- There's no way you can blame me for this.
- I can't believe you just said that!
- That's rubbish!
- That's nonsense!
- You're out of your mind!

#### \*Blame

If you "blame" A for something bad, you say that A is responsible for that bad thing.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT!



I'M TO BLAME!



### Dialogue: After the concert

Randy and Flynn recently started a new band. They've just left the stage after playing their first concert. Unfortunately, it didn't go very well. [Listen and complete with the correct verbs.] R=Randy F=Flynn

- R:** Well, that was a complete disaster.
- F:** I thought it went quite well.
- R:** Are you kidding? We were a **laughing stock**. You can't (1) \_\_\_\_\_, and our songs are **rubbish**.
- F:** I blame the guy doing the sound. The levels were totally out.
- R:** It's not his fault. You shouldn't have booked a show so soon after we (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the band. We weren't ready!
- F:** That's nonsense. *I* was ready. *You* weren't. And anyway, it wasn't all bad. The crowd were **cheering** as we left the stage.
- R:** No, they were **jeering**. Oh, and next time, don't do a stage dive unless you're sure the audience is going to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ you. You looked like a right idiot when you **hit the floor**.
- F:** At least I was **trying** to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ like a rock star! You blame me for everything. But I'm the only one trying to make our band a success.
- R:** (*relenting*) Look. We just need to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ before the next **gig**.
- F:** Mmm... actually we've got another show tomorrow.
- R:** What? I'm not playing again until we're ready.
- F:** You're just afraid of failure!
- R:** No, I'm afraid of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a fool of myself! [*Resigned*] OK... So, where are we playing?
- F:** It's a private party.
- R:** Cool. Whose party is it?
- F:** Erm, my sister's.
- R:** [*Suspicious*] How old is your sister...?
- F:** Ten.
- R:** Ten? We're (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at a ten-year-old girl's birthday party? I left you in charge of bookings because you said you had "industry contacts". This is embarrassing.
- F:** We've got to start somewhere. [*Begging*] Please come... She'll be really **upset** if we don't play.
- R:** [*relenting*] Oh, OK.
- F:** Great! I'll (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the costumes.
- R:** Costumes?
- F:** Yeah, my sister wants us to **dress up as clowns**.
- R:** I quit!

### GLOSSARY

- a laughing stock** *n*  
if someone is a "laughing stock", everyone laughs at them
- rubbish** *adj*  
bad; of very low quality or value
- to cheer** *vb*  
when people "cheer", they make a lot of noise to show they like something
- to jeer** *vb*  
when people "jeer", they shout rude things or insults at someone they don't like
- to hit the floor** *exp*  
if you "hit the floor", you trip or fall and go onto the ground
- a gig** *n*  
a concert
- upset** *adj*  
if someone is "upset", they're unhappy / sad / angry
- to dress up as** *exp*  
if you "dress up as" a clown (for example), you put on clothes so you look like a clown
- to quit** *vb*  
if you "quit" something, you stop doing it



**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** What's your favourite season of the year? Why? What special seasonal festivals are there in your country?

**Exams** This reading activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of words below. Which festivals are they connected to?



# Festivals for every season of the year!

Spring, summer, autumn, winter... there are festivals for every season of the year. Here are several from around the world.

### 1 Winter

Many cultures have festivals to mark the winter solstice. This is usually between 21st and 22nd December (in the northern hemisphere), and it's the longest night (and shortest day) of the year. Traditionally, the winter solstice marks the end of the darkness of winter and the promise of spring. Germanic people had the festival of Yule at this time, during which they decorated and then burnt a Yule log. The Romans had Saturnalia in honour of the god Saturn – the Roman god of agriculture and time. One of the strangest traditions of Saturnalia was that masters and slaves changed jobs, with the masters serving their slaves for a day. And in countries that were once part of the Persian Empire, there's Yalda, which is held between 20th and 21st December. It celebrates the birth of Mithras, the angel of light and truth. As part of the festival, people have small parties and eat delicious food.

### 2 Spring

Spring is an important season for many cultures. It's seen as time to celebrate youth, light and birth after the darkness of winter. In India, there's a Hindu festival known as Holi. As part of this, people cover their bodies with coloured powder and throw water at friends. The colours represent the spring blossom on trees. In England, there are May Day festivals

in many villages around the country. Traditionally, a May Queen (a young girl) rides or walks at the front of a parade wearing a crown and a white gown (to symbolise purity). She makes a speech and then festival goers dance round a Maypole.

### 3 Summer

Summer festivals are often held around Midsummer, which is usually between 21st June and 24th June (in the northern hemisphere). This represents the longest day of the year. In Scandinavia, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, Midsummer is the most celebrated festival after Christmas. Fire plays an important part because people believed it kept evil spirits away. In Hungary girls jump over bonfires on St Ivan's night (24th June). In France, people celebrate the "Fête de la Saint-Jean" with bonfires on the same date.

### 4 Autumn

Autumn marks harvest time – the time when crops are gathered from the fields. The Jewish festival of Sukkot has its roots in this. As part of this festival, there are special prayer services and holiday meals. In the US, Thanksgiving commemorates the good harvest of 1621, which the early colonists celebrated in Plymouth (Massachusetts). And in Germany, there's the famous Munich beer festival, the Oktoberfest, which is part of this harvest tradition.

Which seasonal festival are you going to celebrate? \*

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a festival next to each statement.

1. It's a Hindu festival.
2. Germanic people celebrated it.
3. It's celebrated in the US.
4. It was in honour of the god Saturn.
5. There are often bonfires.
6. It celebrates the birth of Mithras.

### 4 Language focus Prepositions of time

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...This is usually between 21st and 22nd December..." The writer has used a preposition of time ("between"). Read through the article again and find some more prepositions of time.

**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** What are the main political parties in your country? What other minority parties are there? Are there any unusual parties? What policies do they have?

**Exams** This reading activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.



Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the names of the political parties (1 to 3) in the article. Think of three questions to ask about each of them.

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once. Did you find the answers to any of your questions? Which political party is the most unusual?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a political party next to each statement.

1. They ran in the 1948 election.
2. They got 97 votes in the 1983 elections.
3. It was started by a comedian.
4. They wanted to promote vegetarianism.
5. It was a joke.
6. It was started by a musician.
7. The party got 42,000 votes in the 1940 election.

### 4 Language focus Reported speech

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...she told listeners that she was proud of America's national debt..."

The writer has used **Reported Speech**. Complete these sentences with your own ideas.

- a) I told my dad that...
- b) My friend told me that...
- c) I told my colleague that...
- d) My aunt told me that...

## Three unusual political parties

Are there any "unusual" political parties in your country? Here are three alternative parties from the UK and US. But just how successful were they?

### 1 The Surprise Party

American comedian Gracie Allen (1895-1964) once started her own political party. She did it to publicise her comedy act (with partner George Burns), and called it the Surprise Party. She even went on a campaign tour on a private train, stopping off in different cities to perform her show. Allen made "election" speeches, too. In one of these, she told listeners that she was proud of America's national debt because it was the biggest in the world. Allen also published a book, *Gracie Allen for President*, which included photographs from their campaign tour and the Surprise Party convention. Even though it was all a joke, Allen received an endorsement from Harvard University, and went on to receive 42,000 votes in the general election in November 1940.

### 2 The Vegetarian Party

Another unusual American political party of the 1940s was The Vegetarian Party. Its founders, John Maxwell (the owner of a vegetarian restaurant) and Symon Gould (the editor of the magazine *American Vegetarian*) ran for president and vice president respectively in 1948. Maxwell and Gould didn't think animals should be used for food or fashion, and they wanted to promote vegetarianism. Of course, in the land of the hamburger, they were unlikely to get elected, but they did manage to stand candidates in the following four elections until Gould's death in 1963.

### 3 The Official Monster Raving Loony Party (The OMRLP)

One of the most famous alternative parties from the UK is The Official Monster Raving Loony\* Party (OMRLP). It was started in the 1980s by musician David Sutch (1940-1999), who called himself Screaming Lord Sutch. He first campaigned as a Raving Loony in Bermondsey (London) in 1983, where he came sixth with 97 votes. Despite the name, the party often raised serious issues. Road safety was one of these, and thanks to their efforts London's Carnaby Street became pedestrianised. Other policies which eventually became law included giving passports to pets, allowing pubs to be open all day, and lowering the voting age to 18. The late Sir Patrick Moore (a British astronomer) once said that the Raving Loonies had an advantage over all the other parties because they *knew* they were loonies.

Of course, politicians from other parties didn't like the Raving Loonies. In 1983, Sutch stood against the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and won 235 votes. Following the election, Thatcher's Conservative government raised the candidates' deposit fee (the amount each candidate has to pay in order to stand for election) from £150 to £500. However, it never stopped Lord Sutch as he simply played more concerts to raise more money.

Lord Sutch died in 1999, but his legacy lives on, and unusual candidates continue to stand in UK elections today. At a time when politics is so depressing, it's good to have something to smile about. ☺

#### \*Loony

This is an informal term that is used to describe someone who is crazy / insane / mad.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What type of chocolate do you like? How often do you eat chocolate? What other sweet things do you like?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.



# WHEN CHOCOLATE BECOMES A WORK OF ART!

Chocolate is delicious, we all know that. But it isn't just for eating, as these chocolate works of art clearly show.



## Chocolate wall

The World Chocolate Wonderland is a theme park in Beijing (China). One of its attractions is a 12-metre-long replica of the Great Wall of China made entirely out of chocolate. There's also a chocolate BMW, as well as chocolate replicas of more than 600 Terracotta Army warriors.



## Chocolate couch

In 2009, chocolate company Galaxy used 250kg of their own chocolate to make a chocolate couch. The couch was part of their "Irresistible Reads" campaign, which was designed to promote reading. It was put on display in Victoria Embankment Gardens in London. Photos were taken of British TV actress Emilia Fox sitting on the couch reading a book.



## Chocolate room

In 2011, seven artists from Lithuania used 300kg of

chocolate to build a chocolate room with a chocolate floor, ceiling and walls. The room, which was on display at a shopping centre, even had a chocolate table, chocolate books, chocolate pictures and chocolate candlesticks. The artists later broke up the chocolate and gave it to shoppers.

## Chocolate hotel suite

In 2011, French chocolatier Patrick Roger worked with fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld. Together, they created a chocolate hotel suite as promotion for the ice cream company Magnum. The room, at the La Reserve hotel in Paris, had a chocolate carpet, chocolate bed and a chocolate nightstand full of chocolate books. Sitting on the bed was a chocolate man eating a Magnum ice cream.



## Chocolate tree

In 2012, Patrick Roger made a five-metre tree from five tons of chocolate. The sculpture, which was at Roger's shop in Paris, even had chocolate monkeys hanging from chocolate branches. Roger wanted to raise awareness of the problems facing African wildlife.



## Chocolate shoes

One of London's greatest chocolatiers, Phil Neal, once created a collection of high-heeled shoes made of chocolate. Neal used top-quality, Venezuelan chocolate, filled the shoes with ganache and strawberries, and decorated them with 22-carat gold. The shoes were on sale at

London's luxury chocolate shop Theobroma Cacao for £25 each or £45 a pair.



## Chocolate mailbox

In 2011, chocolate company Godiva made a chocolate mailbox with white truffle hearts to celebrate Valentine's Day. The mailbox was on display at its shop on Fifth Avenue in New York City. Customers could post their love letters there, and the company would stamp and mail them for free during the three weeks leading up to Valentine's Day.

## GLOSSARY

**Terracotta Army** *n*  
"terracotta" is a type of clay used to make cups/plates, etc. "Clay" is a kind of earth that is soft when it's wet and hard when it's dry. The Terracotta Army is a collection of soldiers and horses that were buried with Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, in 210–209 BC. They were there to protect the emperor in his afterlife

**warrior** *n*  
an experienced / professional soldier

**to put on display** *exp*  
if you "put something on display", you put it in a museum so everyone can see it

**Victoria Embankment Gardens** *n*  
a series of gardens on the north side of the River Thames

**a ceiling** *n*  
the top part of a room

**a candlestick** *n*  
an object for holding a candle (a stick of hard wax that burns and provides light)

**a suite** *n*  
a set of rooms in a hotel

**a nightstand** *n*  
a small table next to your bed

**a ton** *n*  
more or less 1,000 kilos

**to hang** *vb*  
if a monkey is "hanging" from a branch on a tree, it's holding onto the branch

**a branch** *n*  
a part of a tree that grows from its trunk. "Branches" often have leaves on them

**to raise awareness** *exp*  
if you "raise awareness" of something, you help people understand that thing

**high-heeled shoes** *n*  
shoes with a high part at the back of the shoe

**ganache** *n*  
melted chocolate and cream that's often used for making truffles

**a mailbox** *n* *US*  
when you want to post a letter, you put it in a "mailbox" (a "post box" in British English) so the post office can send it

**to stamp** *vb*  
to put a stamp on. A "stamp" is a small square piece of paper that you put on an envelope as payment for sending a letter

**to mail** *vb*  
to send a letter to its destination

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

You're going to read an article about some unusual things made of chocolate. Look at the titles. What do you think the chocolate works of art consist of? Make notes.

## 2 Reading I

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

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

- How many chocolate Terracotta warriors are there in the World Chocolate Wonderland?
- How much chocolate was used to make the chocolate couch?
- Where were the artists from who made the chocolate room?
- When was the chocolate hotel suite made?
- How much chocolate was needed for the chocolate tree?
- What's the origin of the chocolate that was used for the chocolate shoes?
- Where was the chocolate mailbox on display?



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** How often do you send text messages? What do you prefer: e-mail, text message or speaking by phone? Why?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

## READ & LISTEN II

© TRACK 11: US WOMAN & NEW ZEALAND MAN



Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What do you think these text message abbreviations mean?

1. **wot** (wot is it?)
2. **u** (do u like it?)
3. **r** (r u at home?)
4. **4** (I'll be there 4 u)
5. **IMHO** (IMHO, I don't think you'll like it)
6. **plz** (plz call me later today)
7. **lol** (Pete doesn't know about the party. LOL)
8. **2moro** (cu 2moro)
9. **L&R** (cu L&R)
10. **ZZZ** (I'm so ZZZ)

### 2 Reading I

What are the pros and cons of texting? Make notes. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions

1. How many texts were sent last year?
2. What percentage of smartphone users prefer to text?
3. Are the number of calls on mobiles going up or down?
4. How many texts does the average Briton send a week?
5. How many texts a week do 18- 25-year-olds send?
6. Where's the world's fastest texter from?

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY SMS!

The first **SMS** was sent in December 1992 – more than 20 years ago.

Since then, **text messaging** has become the most common way for people to communicate. But what else has it brought?

More than eight trillion text messages were sent last year, with 15 million messages leaving mobiles every minute. And despite competition from e-mail and social networking messaging services, 92% of smartphone users still prefer to text.

Just recently, **Ofcom** released the Communications Market Report. James Thickett, director of research at the organisation, said, "Over the past year there have been some **major shifts** in the way we communicate with each other. But by far the most popular means of communication on a day-to-day basis is text."

The volume of **landline calls** has been falling for some time, but now calls on mobiles are also declining. "Texting is seen as a traditional means of communication, but it's still continuing to grow," he added.

The report had some other interesting **findings**. The average Briton sends 50 texts a week, more than double the figure of four years ago. Although this is nothing compared to the Filipinos, who text an average of 27 messages a day.

Eighteen- to twenty-five year olds send the most texts – about 133 messages per week – almost double any other age group. Men use text more than women, but send shorter messages. Almost three quarters of those questioned said they'd be lost without text.

There's even a Guinness World Record for the fastest **texters**. The current record holder is Sonja Kristiansen of Norway. She wrote the following message in just 37.28 seconds: "The **razor-toothed piranhas** of the **genera Serrasalmus** and **Pygocentrus** are the most **ferocious** freshwater fish in the world. In reality, they **seldom** attack a human." In 2005, the record was held by 24-year-old Scotsman Craig Crosbie, who completed the same message in 48 seconds.

Unfortunately, texting has also led to a number of social **ills**. These include cyber **bullying**

(**harassing** someone by text), "**sexting**" (sending sexually-explicit messages), drunk texting (sending messages while drunk), and car-texting (the extremely dangerous habit of texting while driving).

So, wot do u think? 🗳️

### GLOSSARY

**an SMS** *abbr*  
Short Message Service; a written message you send by mobile phone

**text messaging** *n*  
writing messages that you send by mobile phone

**Ofcom** *n*  
an organisation that regulates the telecommunications sector (phones, etc.)

**major** *adj*  
important / big

**a shift** *n*  
a change

**landline** *adj*  
a "landline" phone is a fixed phone that's connected with wires

**a call** *n*  
a telephone call. If you make a "call", you phone someone and speak to them

**a finding** *n*  
an interesting piece of information

**a texter** *n*  
someone who "texts": who sends written messages by mobile phone

**razor-toothed** *adj*  
very sharp. If something is "sharp", it can cut easily

**a piranha** *n*  
a type of fish with sharp teeth

**a genera** *n*  
the plural of "genus": a class of similar things such as a group of animals or plants

**ferocious** *adj*  
very violent and aggressive

**seldom** *adv*  
not very often

**an ill** *n*  
a "social ill" is something bad in society such as unemployment, drug addiction, etc.

**to bully** *vb*  
if a strong / powerful person "bullies" a weaker person, the strong person attacks (verbally or physically) the weaker person

**to harass** *vb*  
if A "harasses" B, A annoys B by attacking them repeatedly or by causing them problems

# WHAT SHOULD YOU LEARN: UK OR US ENGLISH?



Which version of English is the best: British or American? Of course, there's no easy answer, but here are five things to think about when choosing one.

## 1 What is British or American English?

Very generally, American English is a term used to refer to the form of English used in the United States, including all the **dialects** used there. And British English is the form of English used in the United Kingdom, as well as all its varieties.

## 2 What are the differences between British and American English?

In general, the two versions of English are very similar. There are some **subtle** differences, but these don't usually interfere with communication or understanding. Some of these differences include...

- a) **...vocabulary:** most words are the same, but there are some exceptions. For example, the British say "biscuit" and the Americans say "cookie". However, people from both countries understand one another's terms.
- b) **...grammar:** most of the tenses and structures are the same, but there are some differences in **usage**. For example, a British person might say, "Have you had dinner?", whereas an American would say, "Did you have dinner?"
- c) **...slang:** there are several differences here. For example, a British person might say, "Alright, **mate?**", whereas an American would say, "OK, **buddy?**" And of course, there are also many, many varieties of slang *within* both the US and UK.

d) **...spelling:** most words are spelt the same, but some US terms are simplified. For example, the British write "colour" and "gynaecology", whereas the American versions are "color" and "gynecology".

d) **...pronunciation:** British people often use the schwa sound (/ ə /) with words ending in *er* (*water, later, never*). However, Americans pronounce the / r / sound more prominently.

## 3 Which version is easier to learn?

There's no way of saying which version is the easiest. A lot depends on which version you're more **used to**. Any British or American person who speaks reasonably clearly will be equally easy to understand. For example, if you listen to a BBC (British) presenter or a CNN (American) one, you probably won't notice much difference in the accent. And of course you could find people in both countries who are difficult to understand.

## 4 Which version is official English?

There's no official version of English. There is Standard English (the sort of English you see in newspapers, formal letters and legal documents), but this isn't *official* English. And linguists **classify** Standard English as a dialect, so it's on the same level as all other types of English such as Canadian English, New Zealand English, South African English, Australian English, British English, American English, Scottish English, Irish English.... So,



no version of English is superior to another – they're all equally valid.

## 5 So, which version of English should I choose?

In the end, it's up to you which version of English you choose to learn. As the differences between the varieties of English are minimal, and there's no official version, it doesn't really matter. Of course, if you're thinking of **emigrating** to the States, you'd be better off listening to more American English; and if you're planning to go to Australia, you should probably focus on Aussie English. However, if these things aren't an issue, the best thing would be to

listen to all sorts of English, including non-native versions, to get a feel for this international language. 🌐

## GLOSSARY

- a dialect** *n*: a form of a language that is spoken in a particular area
- subtle** *adj*: something "subtle" isn't easy to notice or see
- usage** *n*: the way in which words are used in particular contexts: in speech, in writing, etc.
- (my) mate** *exp inform*: my friend
- (my) buddy** *exp inform*: my friend
- used to** *exp*: if you're "used to" something, you're accustomed to that thing and it's normal/natural for you
- to classify** *vb*: if you "classify" things, you divide them into groups or types so that things with similar characteristics are in the same group
- to emigrate** *vb*: if you "emigrate", you leave your own country and go to live in another country

# Business News

BUSINESS NEWS N°1

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

LONDON 2013

**Objective** To read and understand business news in English.

## Think about it

How do snowstorms affect the economy? How do they help the economy? What do you know about China's economy? Do you own anything made in China? What?

## THE COST OF SNOW

**S**now is free, right? Not quite! A recent study by **insurance company** Esure shows that snow costs the UK economy about £11 million every year. How? Because when there's

a heavy **snowfall**, people can't get to work or to the shops to buy things. That means snowstorms reduce **productivity** and hurt **retail sales**. For example, in the last three months of 2010,



OH, SNOW!

Britain experienced a lot of snow. According to analysts this caused the economy to **shrink** by 0.5%. "When the economy is **bouncing along** the bottom anyway, a **bout** of bad weather can easily **tip** it into **negative territory**," said economic advisor Peter Spencer. And this last winter wasn't much better. Severe snowstorms seriously affected many businesses. Jay Gordon runs a hair salon in London and he said 15 customers cancelled their **appointments** during one snowy weekend.

"On Saturday we had 15 **no-shows**. It's a loss of **revenue**," he said. But it isn't all bad news. Cold weather also means people buy extra winter clothes and start thinking about (and booking) summer holidays. ☺

## GLOSSARY

- an insurance company** *n*: a company that pays you money if you have an accident. In return, you pay a monthly premium (amount of money)
- a snowfall** *n*: if there's a "snowfall", it snows a lot
- productivity** *n*: the rate at which goods are produced
- retail sales** *n*: the number of products that a shop sells
- to shrink** *vb*: if an economy "shrinks", it becomes smaller
- to bounce along** *exp*: if an economy is "bouncing along", it's going up and down a little bit
- a bout** *exp*: a short period of
- to tip** *vb*: if something "tips" one way, it moves that way
- negative territory** *n*: if an economy moves into "negative territory", it starts to perform badly and people lose money, etc.
- an appointment** *n*: a time when you have arranged to do something: see the dentist, have your hair cut, etc.
- a no-show** *n*: if there's a "no-show", a customer doesn't go to an appointment
- revenue** *n*: money a company receives
- a threat** *n*: a danger
- to rise** *vb*: to increase
- to grow** *vb*: to become bigger / stronger, etc.
- to slow down** *phr vb*: if an economy "slows down", less goods are produced or sold, etc.
- to predict** *vb*: to say what you think will happen in the future
- to rely on** *phr vb*: to depend on
- the manufacturing sector** *n*: the part of the economy that produces and makes goods
- labour costs** *n*: the money paid to workers
- to struggle** *vb*: if a country / economy is "struggling", it isn't doing well and isn't making much money
- a consumer** *n*: a person who buys things or uses services
- a consumer class** *n*: a part of society (the middle class, for example) that buys things or uses services
- high-end products** *n*: expensive products

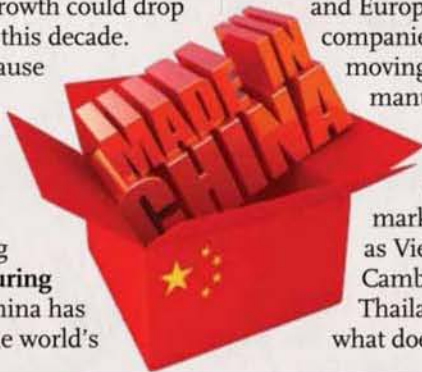
## BUSINESS FACT

Climate change is a big **threat** to the skiing industry. If global temperatures continue to **rise**, many ski resorts may close over the next few decades.

## CHINA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

**C**hina's economy has **grown** at an average of 9.9% per year for the last 35 years. But it now appears to be **slowing down**. In fact, analysts **predict** that Chinese growth could drop to just 3% this decade. Why? Because for years the country has **relied** on its very strong **manufacturing sector**. "China has become the world's

second largest economy by making everything for everyone and at the lowest price," writes one reporter. But Chinese **labour costs** are rising, and American and European companies are now moving their manufacturing to cheaper labour markets, such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. So, what does China



need to do? According to Professor Michael Pettis of the Beijing Business School, Chinese companies need to stop focusing on cheap exports and start producing luxury products for the local market. Why? Because western economies are **struggling**, and European and American **consumers** aren't buying as many Chinese goods anymore. Apart from that, China now has a rapidly growing **consumer class** with enough money to buy **high-end products**. ☺

## BUSINESS FACT

*The Economist* predicts that China will overtake the US as the world's largest economy in 2018.

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you met an old friend recently? Who was it? Where did you meet? What did you talk about?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**

Imagine you've just met an old friend in the street. Think of four questions to ask him/her. For example: "Where are you working now?"

**2 Listening I**

You're going to listen to two old friends having a chat. Listen once. Did you hear any of the questions you thought of for the Pre-listening activity?

**3 Listening II**

Listen again. Then, answer yes / no.

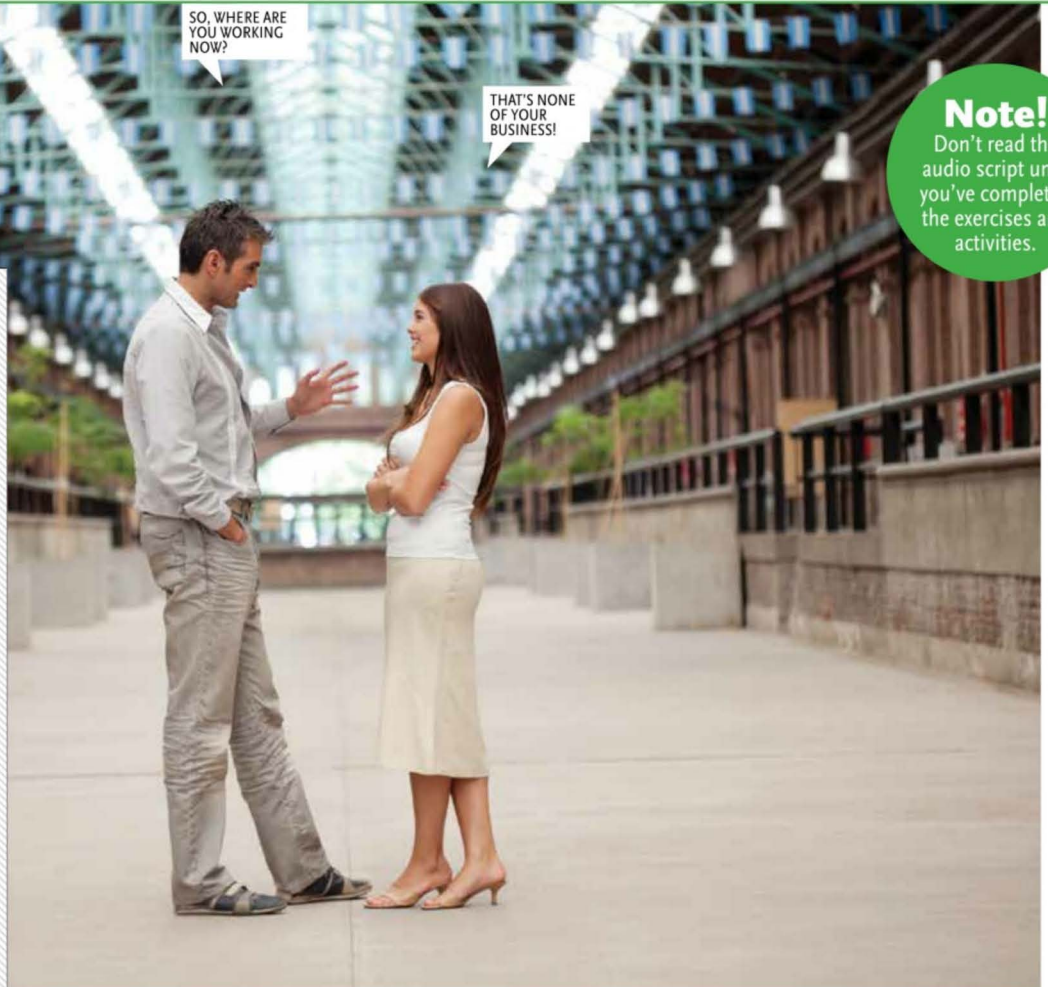
1. Were Alex and Danielle at school together?
2. Were they in Ms Jones' class?
3. Was Alex in the school football team?
4. Did Alex go out with Danielle?
5. Is Alex working as a doctor right now?
6. Is Danielle a set designer?
7. Does Danielle tell Alex the name of the TV series she's been working on?

**4 Language focus**  
Features of conversational English

Look at this extract from the audio script on this page: "...You look, erm, different..." The speaker has used the sound "erm" to fill a space in the conversation. Read through the audio script and look for any other features of conversational English.

**5 Listening III**

Complete the audio script with the correct prepositions.



# Catching up

**Audio script**

**Alex:** Don't I know you from somewhere?

**Danielle:** Er, I don't think so.

**Alex:** It's Danielle, right? We were (1) \_\_\_\_\_ school together.

**Danielle:** Erm...

**Alex:** You know, Alex Simmonds. I was that guy (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the back always cracking jokes... throwing paper aeroplanes... annoying the teachers...

**Danielle:** Mmm...

**Alex:** We were in Ms Jones' class. I was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the school band.

**Danielle:** Erm...

**Alex:** I went out with your best friend, Jaqueline.

**Danielle:** Oh, Alex. Now I remember. You were expelled (4) \_\_\_\_\_ school before you took your exams, weren't you?

**Alex:** That's me.

**Danielle:** You look, erm, ... different.

**Alex:** It's been a long time. I'm working in a bank, and I'm married (5) \_\_\_\_\_ three kids.

**Danielle:** You really have changed. We always thought

you'd end up in prison!

**Alex:** Thanks. So, what (6) \_\_\_\_\_ you? What have you been up to?

**Danielle:** Well, I work in a film production company.

**Alex:** Sounds interesting.

**Danielle:** Yeah, it's all right. I'm a set designer.

**Alex:** What's that?

**Danielle:** I design the sets (7) \_\_\_\_\_ TV programmes. We've been working on this fantasy TV series that's about to come out.

**Alex:** Sounds interesting. So, what's the series?

**Danielle:** I'm not allowed to talk (8) \_\_\_\_\_ it, but I think it's

coming out sometime next month. It'll be on Channel 5 in the evening.

**Alex:** I'll look (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for it. Will your name be in the credits?

**Danielle:** Of course!

**Alex:** Oh, well, let me know when it's on.

**Danielle:** Will do.

**Alex:** Anyway, I'm going to go and mix it up.

**Danielle:** Speak to you later.

**Alex:** Bye.

Think about it!

Do you like James Bond films? Why? Why not? Why do you think they're so popular? What's your favourite film soundtrack? What do you like about it?

# MUSIC... IN ENGLISH

James Bond theme songs

## VIDEO



Check out the music video for *A View to a Kill*. Search YouTube: 'A View to a Kill video'

## LEARNING ENGLISH WITH SONGS

Listening to music is a fantastic way to learn English. As you sing along to your favourite songs, you'll be learning lots of words and improving your pronunciation.

## GLOSSARY

- a theme song** *n*  
a piece of music for a TV series / film, etc. It's normally played at the beginning of the TV series / film
- to perform** *vb*  
if you "perform" a piece of music, you play it in front of an audience
- a vocalist** *n*  
a person who sings either individually or as a member of a group
- a career** *n*  
a job or profession that you do for a long period of time
- to release** *vb*  
if a song or film is "released", the public can go and see it or buy it
- a hit** *n*  
a very popular song / film, etc.
- to sparkle** *vb*  
if something "sparkles", it shines with a lot of small points of light
- to linger** *vb*  
if something "lingers", it continues to exist for a long time, much longer than expected
- a mortal** *n*  
an ordinary person. They cannot live forever, they will eventually die
- a grave** *n*  
the hole in the ground for a dead person
- the charts** *n*  
the official music list that shows which songs are the most popular
- cutting-edge** *adj*  
very modern; the most advanced in its field
- MTV** *abbr*  
Music Television – an American TV channel that plays music videos / has reality shows
- a keyboardist** *n*  
someone who plays the keyboard (a type of electric piano) as an instrument
- a bassist** *n*  
someone who plays the bass guitar (a guitar with four thick strings)
- a drummer** *n*  
a person who plays the drums (a set of percussion instruments that you hit with sticks)
- a track** *n*  
a song or a piece of music on a CD
- decent** *adj*  
something "decent" is good or an acceptable standard
- to shoot to stardom** *exp*  
if someone "shoots to stardom", they suddenly become famous
- a demo** *n*  
an abbreviation of "demonstration". A "demo" CD has one or two examples of a person's music
- daunted** *adj*  
if you're "daunted", you're a bit frightened or intimidated about something
- a task** *n*  
an activity or a piece of work that you need to do
- to rise to the challenge** *exp*  
to respond well to a difficult situation
- to praise** *vb*  
if you "praise" someone, you say good things about them
- a ballad** *n*  
a type of song which is slow, romantic and which tells a popular story
- a classic** *n*  
a typical example of something
- to match** *vb*  
if A "matches" B, A is perfect for B
- to crumble** *vb*  
if something "crumbles", it breaks into a lot of small pieces

Every James Bond movie starts with a different **theme song**. It's usually **performed** by one of the top artists of the day. Here are three Bond theme songs from the films *Diamonds are Forever* (1971), *A View to a Kill* (1985), and *Skyfall* (2012).



### 1 Diamonds are Forever

*Diamonds are Forever* (from the movie of the same name) is one of the best-known James Bond theme tunes.

The song is sung by Shirley Bassey (born in Wales in 1937). She's one of the most famous British **vocalists** of the twentieth century. Shirley began her **career** singing in Cardiff pubs. By the 1960s, she was an international star. Although she's **released** many number-one **hits**, she's probably best known for singing the theme songs to three Bond films: *Goldfinger* (1964), *Diamonds are Forever* (1971) and *Moonraker* (1979).

#### Song extract

*Diamonds are forever,  
Sparkling round my little finger,  
Unlike men, the diamonds linger,  
Men are mere mortals who,  
Are not worth going to your grave for.*



### 2 A View to a Kill

*A View to a Kill* is the theme song from the 1985 Bond film of the same name. It's the only Bond theme ever to reach number one in

the US **charts**. This song is sung by Duran Duran (formed in Birmingham in 1978), one of the biggest pop groups of the 1980s. They became known for their **cutting-edge** music videos, and they were one of the first groups to appear regularly on **MTV** (which was launched in 1981). The band is still together and its members are singer Simon Le Bon, **keyboardist** Nick Rhodes, **bassist** John Taylor and **drummer** Richard Taylor.

Duran Duran were asked to write the **track** after the group's bassist once said to a James Bond film producer at a party, "When are you going to get someone **decent** to do one of your theme songs?"

#### Song extract

*Until we dance into the fire,  
That fatal kiss is all we need,  
Dance into the fire,  
To fatal sounds of broken dreams,  
Dance into the fire,  
That fatal kiss is all we need,  
Dance into the fire.*



### 3 Skyfall

*Skyfall* is the theme song from the latest Bond film of the same name. This song is sung by Adele, a 24-year-old English singer-

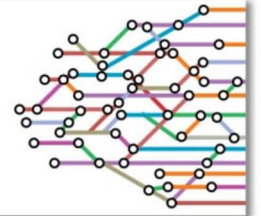
songwriter. She **shot to stardom** in 2006 after a music executive heard some of her **demos** on her MySpace page. Since then, she's released two albums (19 and 21 – her ages at the time she wrote each of them). She's often compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Roberta Flack, and she's earned the respect of her fellow musicians. Beyoncé has said she wants to work with her, and Madonna recently remarked, "Adele is brilliant, I love her!" Adele said she was initially **daunted** by the **task** of singing for a James Bond movie. But she certainly **rose to the challenge**. Music critics have **praised** the track, describing it as "a majestic **ballad**" and a "**classic James Bond theme**". And the singer even managed to impress Bond himself. Daniel Craig, the actor who plays 007, said he cried when he first heard the song. He said it "perfectly **matches**" the film.

#### Song extract

*Let the sky fall,  
When it crumbles,  
We will stand tall,  
And face it all together,  
At sky fall. ☆*

# TRAVEL ENGLISH

## THE UNDERGROUND



Practical English to use in English speaking countries. This month: the Underground.

### Vocabulary

- **Tube map** - a diagram of all the train lines and stations that are part of the London Underground / the tube.
- **Underground line** - a train route with stations: the Northern Line, the Circle Line, etc.
- **Tube station** - places where you can buy a ticket and get on or off a train.
- **Track** - the metal lines that the trains travel on.
- **Carriage** - one of the sections of the train that carries about 50 passengers.
- **Zone** - the Underground is divided into different zones. For example, Zone 1 is the central area of London.
- **Single ticket** - a ticket that allows you to go on one journey to a destination without returning.
- **Return ticket** - a ticket that allows you to go to a place and return from there.
- **Stop** - a station on the underground train route.
- **Platform** - the area in the underground station where passengers can get on and off the trains.
- **Escalator** - a moving staircase that takes you up or down a level.
- **Pickpocket** - a thief who steals things (money, etc.) from people's pockets.
- **Tunnel** - an underground passage that the train passes through.
- **Delayed train** - if a train is "delayed", it arrives later than it should.

### Useful expressions

#### What you say

- A single to Baker Street, please.
- A return to Waterloo Station, please.
- Which platform is it for Victoria Station, please?
- Do I need to change lines for Waterloo Station?
- I'd like a Travelcard, please.

#### What you hear

- Stand clear of the doors, please.
- Mind the **gap**, please.
- The next station is Tottenham Court Road. Change here for the Northern Line.
- You need to take the Bakerloo line.
- Get on the southbound train.
- Change at Tottenham Court Road for the Northern Line.



### Dialogue: The tube stop

Miranda is a tourist in London. She wants to get to Waterloo Station.

**M=Miranda B=Bob**

- M:** Hi. Do you think you could help me, please?
- B:** Yes, sure.
- M:** I'm trying to get to Waterloo Station. What's the best way to get there?
- B:** Probably by tube.
- M:** OK. Do you know which line it is?
- B:** Yes, it's the er, the Northern line.
- M:** Great. And do you know where the nearest tube stop is?
- B:** Well, Covent Garden is just down this street. But then you'd have to change at



Leicester Square to get on the Northern Line. So, it'd be quicker, and easier, to walk to Leicester Square and to get the tube from there.

- M:** OK. That's great. Do I need to change lines after that?
- B:** No, just get on a southbound train – find the platform that says "Southbound" and take the first tube that comes along. I think it's about four or five stops from there.
- M:** That's great. Thanks so much.
- B:** My pleasure. Bye.
- M:** Bye.



# DJANGO UNCHAINED:

## TARANTINO'S CONTROVERSIAL NEW FILM

**R**eservoir Dogs, Jackie Brown, Inglorious Basterds – Quentin Tarantino has made lots of controversial films. But his latest movie, *Django Unchained*, is possibly his most contentious yet. It's set in the American South in 1858, and it's about an African-American slave named Django who takes revenge on his white owners. The film stars Jamie Foxx (as Django), Christoph Waltz (as Django's partner) and Leonardo DiCaprio (as a ruthless slaver named Calvin Candie).

*Django* has divided audiences. Some love it, while others think it's in bad taste. In typical Tarantino style, the film combines humour with graphic violence. But many feel that this combination is inappropriate in a story about American slavery, which is such a sensitive topic. On top of that, much of the on-screen violence is of white people mistreating slaves. The film's biggest critic is African-American filmmaker Spike Lee. He has refused to see *Django* and told a reporter "All I'm going to say is that the film is disrespectful to my ancestors."

But the movie has many supporters as well. One critic wrote that *Django* "represents a major step forward for Hollywood films dealing with slavery as it doesn't shy away from depicting the ugly brutalities of this period of American history." And actor Jamie Foxx said, "The film is supposed to make you angry." Others point out that *Django* is a strong character who fights back against his white owners to gain his freedom. This, they say, makes up for the film's violence towards slaves.

So, what has Tarantino said about the controversy? Well, he's mostly stayed out of it. But he did say that even though his movie is violent, it's nothing compared to the reality of American slavery. "A lot worse stuff actually happened," he told a press conference.

Have you seen *Django Unchained*? What do you think of it? If you haven't seen it, how do you think you'd feel about it? ❖



### Exploitation Flicks

Quentin got his inspiration for *Django Unchained* from exploitation films, a genre of movies popular in America in the 1960s, 70s and early 80s. They were made very cheaply and were full of sex, violence and gore. Nowadays



exploitation films have a cult following and Quentin Tarantino

is a big fan. The exploitation genre is divided into several sub-genres. Here are some of them.

**Cannibal films:** These were mainly made in the 1970s. They were often about primitive tribes who kidnap people and eat them. Two popular films were *Eaten Alive!* (1980) and *Cannibal Holocaust* (1980).

**Stoner films:** The characters in these films spend their time smoking marijuana and doing stupid things. A classic is *Cheech and Chong: Up in Smoke* (1980).

**Spaghetti westerns:** These were westerns made by Italian directors (hence the word "spaghetti") in the 1960s. The most famous spaghetti western filmmaker is Sergio Leone. His films *The Good, The Bad and the Ugly* (1966) and *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964) helped make Clint Eastwood a star.

**Carsploitation:** These films feature lots of fast cars, car races and pileups. The most famous picture in this genre is *Vanishing Point* (1971), about a Vietnam veteran who drives from Denver to San Francisco, while taking a lot of drugs.

**Shocksploitation:** Basically, these films are full of extremely shocking sex and violence. Popular titles include *Blood Sucking Freaks* (1976), *I Drink Your Blood* (1970) and *I Eat Your Skin* (1970).

### Objective

Learn about English-speaking culture. Read about *Django Unchained*, Quentin Tarantino's latest film.

### Think about it

Have you seen any controversial films? What made them controversial? What do you think of artists, directors, musicians, etc. who try to be controversial?

### VIDEO



Check out the trailer for *Django Unchained*. Search YouTube for "Django Unchained trailer"

### GLOSSARY

**controversial** *adj*  
if something is "controversial", people have very strong opinions about it

**contentious** *adj*  
a "contentious" issue causes argument and disagreement among people

**set in** *exp*  
if a film or book is "set in" a time or period, it happens in that time / period

**a slave** *n*  
a person who is the property of another person and who must work for free

**to take revenge** *exp*  
to do something bad to someone who did something bad to you

**an owner** *n*  
if you're the "owner" of something, that thing is yours

**ruthless** *adj*  
a "ruthless" person is very cruel / bad, and they'll do anything to achieve their goals

**a slaver** *n*  
a person who buys, sells and deals with slaves

**in bad taste** *exp*  
if something is "in bad taste", it isn't nice / appropriate / acceptable, etc.

**graphic violence** *n*  
if a film has "graphic violence", it shows a lot of realistic violence

**sensitive** *adj*  
a "sensitive" topic is one that could offend people, so you need to deal with it carefully

**to mistreat** *vb*  
to treat someone badly and to do bad things to them

**an ancestor** *n*  
an "ancestor" is someone from your family in the past: your great grandfather, etc.

**a step forward** *exp*  
if something represents a "step forward", it represents progress

**to shy away from** *exp*  
if a person "shies away from" something, they're afraid to deal with that thing

**brutality** *n*  
violent and cruel behaviour towards a person or animal

**to fight back against** *exp*  
to attack someone who has attacked you

**to make up for** *exp*  
if A "makes up for" B (a bad thing), A compensates for B

**a genre** *n*  
a type of film / book / art. For example: horror films, westerns, comedies, etc.

**gore** *n*  
if a film has a lot of "gore", there's a lot of blood and violence

**a cult following** *n*  
if a film (for example) has a "cult following", it's very popular with a group of fans

**a pileup** *n*  
if there's a "pileup", many cars crash into one another

**a freak** *n*  
a person who is unusual and different from others in the way they act / dress / speak, etc.

**Objective:** To learn about English-speaking culture and to read about a famous American filmmaker.

**Think about it!**

What Quentin Tarantino films have you seen? What did you think of them? Do you agree that he's a cinematic genius? Why? Why not?

# QUENTIN TARANTINO: THE BAD BOY OF CINEMA

**B**oth audiences and critics love Quentin Tarantino films for their mixture of **smart** humour, **foul language** and extreme violence. In fact, *Empire* magazine called his first movie, *Reservoir Dogs*, “the greatest **cult film** ever made.” And his second picture, *Pulp Fiction*, won an Oscar for best **screenplay** and a Palme D’Or at the Cannes Film Festival. But how did he learn to direct? Was his first movie really destroyed? And how many times has he been arrested?

## Tarantino the film buff

How did Tarantino learn to make movies? By watching them! He once said, “When people ask me if I went to film school, I tell them, ‘No, I went to films!’” Growing up he went to the cinema constantly and as a teenager he already had an **encyclopaedic knowledge** of film. “I couldn’t spell, I couldn’t remember anything, but I could go to a movie and I knew who starred in it, who directed it... everything.”

So, what kind of movies does he like? “I’m a **genre** lover – everything from spaghetti westerns to samurai movies,” he said. Tarantino also enjoys obscure B-movies and **exploitation films**, and has an enormous collection of both at his home in Los Angeles. When friends come to dinner, Quentin often shows a film from his private collection in his home movie theatre.

## Tarantino the video store clerk

When Tarantino was 22 he started working in a **video store**. But it wasn’t just any old video store. It was called Video Archives, and one former customer called it “the greatest video store in the world”. Video Archives **rented out** well-known films but also had a massive catalogue of really hard-to-find movies. The job was perfect for Tarantino – he could watch movies all day long. But Quentin was destined for bigger things. In 1992, he **quit** his job at Video Archives to make his **debut film**, *Reservoir Dogs*. And his **success** with that film meant that he could start making movies instead of just watching them.

## The lost Tarantino film

Did you know that Quentin’s first film is partially lost? In 1984, the young filmmaker started making a movie called *My Best Friend’s Birthday*. It was about a man who’s trying to do something nice for his best friend’s birthday, but keeps running into obstacles. Quentin and a few other young filmmakers made it for \$5,000 over a period of four years.



VIOLENCE IS FUN TO WATCH!

But then **tragedy struck**. A fire **broke out** and half the film was destroyed. The surviving 36 minutes have been screened at several film festivals, but never officially released. You can watch it on YouTube.

## Tarantino’s three brushes with the law

Tarantino films are full of **hardened** criminals. But did you know that Quentin himself has had a few **brushes with the law**? The first was when he was 15 and he was arrested for stealing a book from a bookstore. Then, in his early twenties, he spent 10 days in jail. Why? For failing to pay \$7,000 worth of parking tickets. “I was kind of excited about going to jail, and I learned some great police dialogue from the cops,” he said in an interview. Finally, in 1997, Quentin attacked a producer in a Hollywood restaurant. He pushed the man against a wall and **punched** him, which sounds just like a scene from one of his movies. The producer **sued** Tarantino for five million dollars, but the case never **went to court**.

## The future?

Is Tarantino planning to **retire**? In a recent interview, the 49-year-old director said he plans to quit making movies at the age of 60. Why? “I don’t want to be an old-man filmmaker... directors don’t get better as they get older.” So, what will he do instead? He said he’d like to write novels and books on cinema. But before he leaves the movie business, Tarantino has a few more films to make. He’s currently planning a trilogy called *Killer Crow*, which is about a platoon of African-American soldiers in World War II. ☆





## VIDEO



Watch Tarantino's first film *My Best Friend's Birthday*. Search YouTube for "my best friend's birthday".

## GLOSSARY

**smart** *adj*  
clever and intelligent

**foul language** *n*  
language that is offensive and rude, etc.

**a cult film** *n*  
a film that is popular with a small group of fans who really love it

**a screenplay** *n*  
a written copy of the dialogue in the film and instructions for sound, lighting, etc.

**encyclopaedic knowledge** *n*  
if a person has "encyclopaedic knowledge" of something, they can remember many facts about that thing

**a genre** *n*  
a style of music, literature, painting, film, etc.: horror films, cowboy films, etc.

**exploitation films** *n*  
low budget films from the 1960s, 70s and 80s that had a lot of sex and violence

**a video store** *n*  
a shop which rents and/or sells films on video and DVD

**to rent out** *exp*  
if a shop "rents out" something, you can pay to have that thing for a period of time

**to quit** *vb*  
if you "quit" a job or activity, you stop doing it

**a debut film** *n*  
the first film that someone produces and shows in public

**success** *n*  
if you have "success" with something, that thing goes well

**tragedy struck** *exp*  
if someone uses the phrase "tragedy struck", it means "something terrible happened"

**to break out** *phr vb*  
if a fire "breaks out", the fire starts burning

**hardened** *adj*  
"hardened" criminals have committed many crimes and have a lot of experience

**a brush with the law** *exp*  
if a person has a "brush with the law", they're arrested by the police

**to punch** *vb*  
to hit someone with a fist (a closed hand)

**to sue** *vb*  
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation (money, etc.)

**to go to court** *exp*  
if a case "goes to court", it's heard in a court of law and the judge decides who is guilty or innocent

**to retire** *vb*  
to leave your job permanently and to stop working, often at the age of 65

**to top** *vb*  
if you "top" something, you do better than the previous time when it was done

**expectations** *n*  
if you have positive "expectations" about something, you think it'll do well

**to blow someone away** *exp*  
if you're "blown away" by something, you're very impressed with that thing and you really like it

**IQ** *abbr*  
IQ is an abbreviation for "intelligence quotient" - your level of intelligence. A person with an IQ over 130 is considered intelligent

**dyslexic** *adj*  
a slight brain disorder which makes reading or spelling difficult

**descent** *n*  
if you're of Italian "descent" (for example), your ancestors (your great grandparents, for example), were Italian



## Bio - Quentin Tarantino

Born in Tennessee in 1963, Quentin Tarantino is an American screenwriter and film director. His movies include *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *Pulp Fiction* (1994) and the *Kill Bill* series (2003 and 2004).

## Quotes

- **On film violence...**  
"Violence is one of the most fun things to watch."
- **On what he wants the audience to feel...**  
"I want to top expectations. I want to blow you away."
- **On being a screenwriter...**  
"A writer should have this little voice inside of you saying, 'Tell the truth and reveal a few secrets'."

## Trivia

- His parents named him after a character called Quint in *Gunsmoke*, a famous American western TV show.
- He has an IQ of 160 and is dyslexic.
- He's of Italian, Irish and American Indian descent.



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INSTINCTS!

# Four business tips from SHARON OSBOURNE

**S**haron Osbourne is one of the world's most successful businesswomen. She first became famous as the wife of heavy metal musician Ozzy Osbourne on the **hugely successful reality TV** show *The Osbournes* (which was about daily life in the Osbourne **household**). Nowadays, she's a **talk show host**, music manager and published author. So, what are Sharon's four top tips for making it in the **cutthroat** world of business?

## 1 Build a personal brand

Sharon is **opinionated** and offensive. For many businesspeople those two qualities would be a **drawback**. But for Sharon they're **assets**. Why? Because she understands that scandalous behaviour is part of her **personal brand**. It's what people expect from her. For example, she recently told participants at a conference that she once sat next to Prince Charles at a charity dinner and told him "dirty jokes". And she often **swears** and makes **crude remarks** during interviews. Of course, you don't have to be like Sharon, but you do need to understand about your personal brand.

## 2 Get free publicity

Sharon's **antics** are often reported in the newspapers. And that means Sharon gets free **publicity**. In 2005, she threw eggs at heavy metal band Iron Maiden during their performance at the Ozzfest music festival (Sharon claimed it was because Iron Maiden's lead singer criticised her husband Ozzy). Of course, the incident was reported in the newspapers.

### Bio - Sharon Osbourne

Born in London in 1952, Sharon is a media personality and music manager. She's married to famous heavy metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne and the couple have three children. Sharon's net worth is approximately \$40 million. Check out her website: [www.sharonosbourne.com](http://www.sharonosbourne.com)

More recently, she attacked Lady Gaga on Facebook for wearing **fur**. Again, the press reported it and Sharon was all over the **headlines**. Advertising is expensive. So, try to find ways to get free publicity by doing something new, different or shocking.

## 3 Never say never

Sharon is extremely **persistent**. In 1979, Ozzy was **fired** from his band Black Sabbath. It looked like his **career** was over. Then, Sharon came to the rescue. She started managing Ozzy and helped him launch a **solo career**. With Sharon's support, Ozzy became even more successful than he'd been with Black Sabbath (he later joined the band again). Then, in 1996, the popular Lollapalooza music festival said that Ozzy couldn't play because he was "uncool". So, what did Sharon do? She started her very own heavy metal festival: Ozzfest. And every year, Ozzy plays at the popular festival, along with many other heavy metal and hard rock bands.

## 4 Follow your instincts

Sharon recently said, "Your **gut** is always right." And she always does what her "gut" tells her. For instance, last year, she **quit** the popular show *America's Got Talent* because she sensed "it was time to **bail**". Being an entrepreneur and running your own

business means having to make a lot of difficult choices and decisions. According to business leaders, you should always listen to your "inner **compass**" (your gut) when making those decisions. And if you're still not sure, talk to a colleague or a **mentor**. 🌟

### Objective

To learn some business tips from an English-speaking entrepreneur.

### Think about it

What do you know about Sharon Osbourne? Do you think she's a good businesswoman? Why? Why not? How can having an outrageous personality help you be successful in business?

### GLOSSARY

**hugely successful** *exp*

very popular

**reality TV** *n*

a "reality TV" show is a programme with real people in real-life situations

**a household** *n*

a family. Literally, the people who live in a house

**a talk show** *n*

a type of TV programme with interviews with famous people, or guests chatting

**a host** *n*

a person whose job is to interview famous people on television

**cutthroat** *adj*

a "cutthroat" situation is one in which people only think about themselves and will do anything to be successful

**opinionated** *adj*

an "opinionated" person has strong opinions/ideas about things

**a drawback** *n*

something negative or bad

**an asset** *n*

something positive or good

**a personal brand** *n*

if you create a "personal brand", you create an image for yourself and try to market this image through your website, Facebook page, etc.

**to swear** *vb*

when someone "swears", they say rude / bad / offensive words

**a crude remark** *n*

an offensive / rude comment

**antics** *n*

funny, silly or unusual things someone does

**publicity** *n*

if you get free "publicity", information about you appears in the news, etc. and people hear about you or your company, etc.

**fur** *n*

the soft hair from animals that's often used to make coats, etc.

**a headline** *n*

if you appear in the "headlines", you appear on the front pages of the newspapers

**persistent** *adj*

someone who is "persistent" continues trying to do something, even though it's difficult.

**to fire** *vb*

if someone is "fired" from their job, they lose their job / they're told to leave

**a career** *n*

the professional job you choose to do for the majority of your working life

**a solo career** *n*

if a musician embarks on a "solo career", they start singing / playing on their own (not in a band)

**your gut** *n*

your "guts" are the organs inside you. A "gut" feeling is based on instinct or emotion rather than reason or thought

**to quit** *vb*

if you "quit" doing something, you stop doing it

**to bail (out)** *vb*

if you "bail out" of somewhere, you leave that place

**a compass** *n*

literally, a "compass" is an instrument for finding directions (north, south, etc.). It has a dial and a magnetic needle that always points to the north

**a mentor** *n*

an older, more experienced person who gives you help and advice, especially help related to your job

# RECIPE

## JAMIE'S CHOPPED GREEN SALAD

IT'S A SIMPLE BUT DELICIOUS SALAD!



Jamie Oliver is an English celebrity chef, cookbook writer and **restaurateur**. Here he makes a really simple but delicious salad. Serves 3-4.

### Ingredients

- 1 small **lettuce**.
- Half a **cucumber**.
- 4 **spring onions**.
- 2 **avocados**.
- 3 tomatoes.
- 115 grams of cheese (whichever type you like).
- A few fresh **basil** leaves.
- A handful of **caress** (or rocket lettuce if you prefer).
- 2 tablespoons of French or English **mustard**.
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil.
- 1 tablespoon of red wine vinegar.
- A **pinch** of pepper and salt.

### Preparation

1. **Finely slice** the spring onions on a large **chopping board**.
2. Next, one by one, **chop up** the cucumber, avocado, lettuce, basil, tomatoes, cheese and caress on the chopping board.
3. Create a circle in the middle of the vegetables so you can see the chopping board. In this circle, add the mustard, olive oil, red wine vinegar, and some salt and pepper.
4. Using the knife and your hands, mix the salad so the dressing evenly **coats** the ingredients.
5. Move the salad onto a plate, **drizzle** with olive oil and enjoy! 🍴



This recipe is from:  
**Jamie's Ministry of Food**

### VIDEO



Search YouTube for "**Jamie's green salad**" (starts at 2:30)

### GLOSSARY

**a restaurateur** <sup>n</sup>  
a person who owns and manages a restaurant

**a lettuce** <sup>n</sup>  
a green vegetable used in salads

**a cucumber** <sup>n</sup>  
a long, thin, green vegetable

**a spring onion** <sup>n</sup>  
a small type of onion with long green leaves

**an avocado** <sup>n</sup>  
a vegetable that is shaped like a pear with a large stone and a green part inside that you can eat

**basil** <sup>n</sup>  
a type of herb which has green leaves and a strong smell and taste. It's often used in Italian cooking

**caress** <sup>n</sup>  
a very small plant with green leaves and white stalks that is used in salads

**mustard** <sup>n</sup>  
a yellow sauce with a strong taste

**a pinch of** <sup>exp</sup>  
a "pinch of" something is a very small amount of it that you take between your thumb and index finger

**finely** <sup>adv</sup>  
if something is cut "finely", it's cut into very small pieces

**to slice** <sup>vb</sup>  
to cut something into very thin pieces

**a chopping board** <sup>n</sup>  
a plastic / wooden object you cut food on

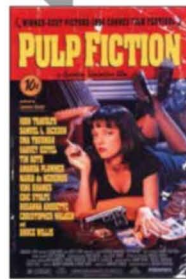
**to chop up** <sup>phr vb</sup>  
if you "chop up" food, you cut it into small pieces

**to coat** <sup>vb</sup>  
if you "coat" food with oil (for example), you put oil over the top of the food

**to drizzle** <sup>vb</sup>  
if you "drizzle" oil (for example) over food, you put a small amount of the oil over the food

# FILM SCRIPT

## PULP FICTION



*Pulp Fiction* (1994) is an American film directed by Quentin Tarantino. It stars John Travolta, Samuel Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis. The film tells three separate (but **loosely connected**) stories which are set in the criminal **underworld** of Los Angeles. One of these stories follows Vincent Vega (Travolta) and Jules Winnfield (Jackson), two **hit men** for a powerful LA gangster. In this scene, Vincent and Jules are discussing Vincent's recent trip to Europe.



LET'S TALK ABOUT FOOD BEFORE WE KILL SOMEONE!



THIS IS GOOD!

### The Script

V=Vincent J=Jules

- V:** You know what the funniest thing about Europe is?
- J:** What?
- V:** It's the little differences. I mean they got the same sh\*t over there that they got here but it's just... just there it's a little different.
- J:** Example?
- V:** Alright, well you can walk into a **movie theatre** in Amsterdam and buy a beer. And I don't mean just like in an old paper cup, I'm talking about a glass of beer. And in Paris, you can buy a beer in McDonald's. And you know what they call a Quarter Pounder with cheese in Paris?
- J:** They don't call it a Quarter Pounder with cheese?
- V:** No man, they got the **metric system**. They wouldn't know what the f\*ck a Quarter Pounder is.
- J:** What do they call it?
- V:** They call it a Royale with cheese.
- J:** Royale with cheese.
- V:** That's right.
- J:** What do they call a Big Mac?
- V:** A Big Mac's a Big Mac. But they call it Le Big Mac.
- J:** Le Big Mac. What do they call a Whopper?
- V:** I don't know, I didn't go into Burger King.

### VIDEO



Search YouTube for "**Royal with Cheese HD 720P**" (starts at :31)

### GLOSSARY

**loosely connected** <sup>exp</sup>  
if two things are "loosely connected", they're connected but not in a strong way

**the underworld** <sup>n</sup>  
a term that refers to the criminals in a city

**a hit man** <sup>n</sup>  
someone who is paid to kill people

**a movie theatre** <sup>n</sup> <sup>US</sup>  
a cinema

**the metric system** <sup>n</sup>  
the measurement system used in Europe: kilometres, litres, metres, grams, etc.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What type of art do you like? Are there any styles you don't like? Why? Have you ever seen or heard of a work of performance art? What did it involve?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.



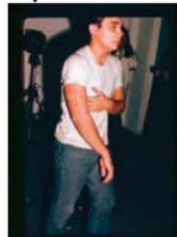
# IS PERFORMANCE ART REALLY ART?

A work of art is something that can be admired forever. A work of **performance art** only lasts as long as... the performance. As Erik Hokanson (the **curator** of Grace Exhibition Space) once said, "It's the *action* that's the art, not so much the physical result." Documentation of the performance (such as a photo or a video) may survive, but that's all. Here are five examples of performance art.



## 1 I Like America and America Likes Me

For his 1974 work *I Like America and America Likes Me*, artist Joseph Beuys spent three days in a gallery **wrapped** in **felt** and accompanied by a wild **coyote**.



## 2 Shoot

As part of his 1971 performance piece, *Shoot*, US artist Chris Burden asked a friend to shoot him in the arm. The following year, he performed *Deadman*. This involved lying under a **tarpaulin** on a **busy highway**. He was **illuminated** by **flares** as the night-time traffic **roared** by.

## 3 Still and Chew / Art and Culture in London

John Latham's performance *Still and Chew / Art and Culture in London* took place in 1966. Latham was a part-time



teacher at the time, and during one class, he invited his art students to **chew**

pages of a library copy of Clement Greenberg's book *Art and Culture*. The **pulp** was then dissolved and distilled and **sealed** in **glass vials**. When the library asked for their book back, Latham tried to give them one of the glass vials. The library rejected it. As a result of the exhibition, Latham became known as "The Man Who Ate Art and Culture".



## 4 I I

As part of his 2011 performance piece *I I*, artist Ryan McNamara and collaborator Sam Roeck **buried** themselves in the ground. With just their faces showing, they sang love **duets**, such as "Tonight" from *West Side Story* and Dolly Parton numbers. Fifteen minutes into the three-hour performance, a drunken visitor accidentally kicked one of the artists in the head, and **stumbled back** into the other one. The artists carried on, **undeterred**.

## 5 The Artist is Present

In 2010, the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City presented artist Marina Abramović's performance piece *The Artist is Present*. As part of this, Marina sat in the museum's **atrium** every day from the opening of the museum to its closing. Onlookers could take turns sitting

opposite her for as long as they wanted, becoming part of the artwork themselves. The performance lasted 736 hours and 30 minutes, and attracted celebrities such as Björk and James Franco.

But the big question is, what's the significance of these works of performance art? ✨

## GLOSSARY

- performance art** *n*  
a theatrical work of art involving dance, music, acting, painting, etc.
- a curator** *n*  
the person who is in charge of the objects or works of art in a museum
- to wrap** *vb*  
if you "wrap" something around you, you put it around you
- felt** *n*  
a soft material made from wool
- a coyote** *n*  
a wild animal that lives in North America. It's like a small wolf
- a tarpaulin** *n*  
a waterproof canvas fabric used to cover and protect things
- busy** *adj*  
if a road (for example) is "busy", there are a lot of cars on it
- a highway** *n* US  
a large road with lots of lanes (lines of traffic). "Motorway" in British English
- illuminated** *adj*  
if something is "illuminated", it has lights shining on it
- a flare** *n*  
a small portable device that produces a very bright flame (burning light). It's often used as a signal
- to roar** *vb* *exp*  
if traffic "roars by", it makes a lot of noise as it passes. Lions "roar" when they're angry, etc.
- to chew** *vb*  
to use your teeth to break up food into smaller pieces so that it's easier to eat
- pulp** *n*  
if something is reduced to a "pulp", it's crushed / smashed / beaten until it is smooth and wet
- to seal** *vb*  
if you "seal" something, you put it in a container and stop any air going in or out of the container
- a glass vial** *n*  
a small bottle made of glass often used for perfume
- to bury** *vb*  
if something is "buried", it's in a hole in the ground
- a duet** *n*  
a piece of music that's played or sung by two people
- to stumble back** *phr* *vb*  
if you "stumble", you put one foot on the other and almost fall. If you "stumble back" you do this as you're walking backwards
- undeterred** *adj*  
if a person is "undeterred", they continue doing something, even though it's difficult or others are trying to stop them
- an atrium** *n*  
an open area of a building (usually in the entrance) which extends through several floors up to the roof. It often has glass panel in the ceiling so lots of light can enter

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the titles of the works of performance art. What do you think they involve?

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity. Which work sounds the most interesting? What do they mean?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a work of art (just the abbreviated forms) next to each statement. This work of art involved...

1. ...destroying a copy of a book.
2. ...sitting in a museum for more than 700 hours.
3. ...staying in a gallery with a wild animal.
4. ...being buried in the ground for three hours.
5. ...lying on a busy road at night.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What type of films do you like? What are some of the most violent films you've seen? What do you think of violent films?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH!

# ARE FILMS MAKING US VIOLENT?

TV programmes and films are full of violence. In fact, according to the *New Scientist* magazine, by the time the average American child starts school, he or she will have seen 8,000 killings and 100,000 acts of violence on TV. But does watching on-screen **brutality** make people more likely to commit violent acts?

According to most actors and filmmakers the answer is no. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is famous for his roles in action **flicks** such as *Terminator 2* and *Conan the Barbarian*, denies a link between movie violence and real violence. "Movies are **entertainment** – people know the difference," he said. And director Quentin Tarantino (who is well known for **bloodthirsty** films such as *Pulp Fiction* and *Django Unchained*) has repeatedly said movies are not responsible for violence in society. In a 1994 interview, he stated, "Real life violence is real life violence. Movies are movies." However, one film **blogger** wrote, "Of course action stars and directors claim their movies don't make the world more dangerous! They're protecting their jobs!"

But what do scientists say? In 2010, American psychologist Dr Jordan Grafman studied the effects of violent videos on a group of 14- to 17-year-old boys. He **monitored** the teenagers' **brainwaves** while they watched a series

of short, violent clips. Dr Grafman found that the images made the subjects "less **sensitive** to violence and more accepting of violence." He said this meant the clips made the boys "more likely to commit **aggressive** acts".

But other scientists **dispute** those findings. Professor Mark Griffiths from Nottingham Trent University agrees that violent images may **desensitise** us to violence. But, he says that doesn't mean we're more likely to act aggressively or commit a violent crime. Furthermore, in 2005 the British medical journal *The Lancet* reviewed hundreds of studies into the effects of movie and TV violence. It found "only weak **evidence**" to suggest that violent media **leads to** crime.

So, what about violent video games? Ohio State University's Professor Brad Bushman believes games such as *Call of Duty* and *Grand Theft Auto* (where players have to kill a lot of opponents) **definitely** make people more violent. Why? Because playing video games is active (compared to watching TV, which is passive). In a movie you only watch an actor shoot the enemy, but in a video game you actually shoot them yourself. But once again, others disagree. In a 2011 case, the US Supreme Court found "no conclusive **link** between video games and aggression."

The debate about the effects

of on-screen violence has been **going on** for decades. And there are no signs it'll be **resolved** any time soon. But even if violent movies and computer games are **harmless**, is it right that we're enjoying them so much? 🍿

## VIDEO

YouTube

Quentin Tarantino recently got into an argument with an interviewer after the reporter asked him for his thoughts on movie violence. Search YouTube for: 'Tarantino interview Murthy'

## GLOSSARY

**brutality** *n*  
if something is done with "brutality", it's extremely violent

**a flick** *n inform*  
a film

**entertainment** *n*  
something that's a form of "entertainment" is fun and enjoyable to watch: a film, etc.

**bloodthirsty** *adj*  
a "bloodthirsty" film has a lot of violence and blood in it

**a blogger** *n*  
someone who writes articles on the internet on their own personal website

**to monitor** *vb*  
if you "monitor" something, you check its progress carefully and regularly

**a brainwave** *n*  
an electrical signal produced by the brain

**sensitive** *adj*  
if someone is "sensitive" to something, they're affected emotionally by that thing

**aggressive** *adj*  
if someone is "aggressive", they act in an angry / forceful / violent manner

**to dispute** *vb*  
if you "dispute" something, you question it and ask whether it's really true or correct

**to desensitise** *vb*  
if you're "desensitised" to something, you react less strongly to that thing and it affects you less

**evidence** *n*  
information used to say whether something is true or not

**to lead to** *exp*  
if A "leads to" a particular result or outcome, A causes that result to happen

**a link** *n*  
a relationship between two things

**to go on** *phr vb*  
if something "goes on" for a particular period of time, it happens for that time

**to resolve** *vb*  
to find a solution to something

**harmless** *adj*  
not dangerous; safe

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Do you think violence in films makes us more aggressive? Think of arguments for or against this question.

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task. What do you think now?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What's Arnold Schwarzenegger's opinion of violent films?
2. What has Quentin Tarantino said about violent films?
3. What did Dr Grafman's study find?
4. What did *The Lancet* find?
5. What does Professor Bushman believe?

# VOCABULARY CLINIC

Part III

## UK / US WORDS - DRIVING & ROADS



1

**British English:** The suitcase won't fit in the **boot**.

**American English:** The **trunk** is stuck and it won't open.



2

**British English:** You need a special licence to drive a **lorry**.

**American English:** I hate driving on the freeway with all those **trucks**.



3

**British English:** I couldn't open the **bonnet**.

**American English:** I don't know how to open the **hood**.



4

**British English:** There was no space in the **car park**.

**American English:** The **parking lot** was expensive so I parked the car on the street instead.



5

**British English:** I often use my **driving licence** as ID.

**American English:** My new **driver's license** should arrive in a week.



6

**British English:** I've only ever driven a **manual car** with gears and a gear lever.

**American English:** I'm not used to using a **stick shift**, I usually drive an automatic.



7

**British English:** I forgot to put on the **hand brake**.

**American English:** The **emergency brake** was broken.



8

**British English:** If you go on the **motorway**, it'll only take an hour.

**American English:** There isn't as much traffic on the **freeway** today.



9

**British English:** I had to get a new **number plate**.

**American English:** She's got a personalised **license plate**. It says: "007".



10

**British English:** You need to clean your **windscreen**. It's really dirty.

**American English:** The **windshield** broke in the crash.



11

**British English:** He drove too close to me and broke my **wing mirror**.

**American English:** I saw the cyclist in my **side mirror**.



12

**British English:** She almost got knocked down on the **zebra crossing**.

**American English:** They're putting a new **crosswalk** by the school.

**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** Have you taken your driving test? What was it like? Was it difficult? How did you feel afterwards? What was the hardest part? Did you pass first time?

**Exams** This reading activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.



### YOUNG DRIVERS

In South Dakota, USA, you can drive legally at the age of 14!

Answers on page 44

#### 1 Pre-reading

Think of five reasons for failing a driving test.

#### 2 Reading I

Read the article once. Were any of your ideas from the Pre-reading task mentioned?

#### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Which candidates have the highest pass rate?
2. Who is in the second highest group to pass?
3. According to the DSA, how many hours of driving tuition does a learner need?
4. Why shouldn't learners take the test in their own car?
5. Why is it better to use a car with dual controls?

#### 4 Language focus Prepositional verbs

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...drive through a red light..." The writer has used a prepositional verb ("drive through"). Complete the following sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

1. She climbed over...
2. They were arguing about...
3. He looked after...
4. We were thinking about...

# Five reasons why people fail their driving test

**H**ow easy is the driving test in your country? Do people often fail it? Here are five things that could have an influence on passing or failing the test.

#### 1 Age

Research shows that younger candidates do much better than older ones when it comes to passing their driving test. In the UK between 2004 and 2006, the pass rate for seventeen-year-old boys was 51% and 48% for girls. But for those over the age of 27, the pass rate dropped to 43% and 36% respectively. And for those over 47, the rates went down even further. However, in a reversal of the trend, the second highest group to pass are women in their sixties.

#### 2 Practice!

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA), the organisation that oversees driving tests in Britain, estimates that a learner needs two hours of driving tuition for every year of life. In other words, if you're 17 you will need about 34 hours of classes; and if you're 20 you should have 40.

#### 3 Choice of car

One driving school suggests that learners shouldn't take the test in their own car. The examiner may think you haven't had proper lessons, or that the driving school is worried about lending you a car. But more importantly, not using a driving school car could make the examiner extremely nervous. This is because driving school cars usually

have dual controls: two sets of brakes, gears etc. For safety reasons, examiners are much more likely to intervene if a car *doesn't* have dual controls. And intervention means an automatic fail.

#### 4 Common mistakes

There are a number of common mistakes that drivers make in tests, some of which include:

- Not checking in your rear-view mirror when reversing.
- Generally not using your rear-view or side-view mirrors enough.
- Pulling out without checking first.
- Driving too slowly or too fast.
- Steering too early or late.
- Not checking when moving away from a stationary position.

#### 5 No, no's!

Here are some things you definitely shouldn't do in a test. They may sound ridiculous, but they're actually things that people have done. So, when doing your driving test, don't...

- ...drive through a red light.
- ...answer your mobile phone.
- ...stop and chat to a friend.
- ...try to bribe the driving instructor.
- ...threaten the driving instructor.
- ...drink alcohol before the test.
- ...have a fit of road rage.

Oh, and don't bring any pets with you – an examinee in England once brought along a goldfish in a fish tank! ☺

**Think about it**

Do you like the taste of bacon? Why? Why not? Why do you think bacon is such a popular food? What are your top tips for finding a job? What do you think employers look for in job applicants?

# QUIRKY NEWS

Unusual news stories from around the world.

## A Smell like bacon!

Most people agree that the smell of freshly-cooked bacon is delicious. Just a **whiff** of it is enough to make your stomach **rumble**. But would you want to *smell* like bacon? Entrepreneur Justin Esch thinks it's a good idea, which is why he's invented the world's first **bacon-scented shaving cream**. "Bacon is **mouth-watering** and people get excited when they smell it. When you walk into a room, don't you want people to be excited to see you?" Justin recommends using his shaving foam before business meetings or even an "important **date** with someone you may want to spend the rest of your life with." And he hasn't stopped at shaving foam – he's also invented **bacon-flavoured lip balm**, **bacon-smelling roses**, and **bacon-infused baby food**. Feeling hungry? ☺



Answers on page 44

## A Questions!

1. What has Justin Esch invented?
2. What does Justin recommend you use it for?
3. What's he invented for your lips?
4. What's he invented for babies?

## B Questions!

1. Where is Adam Pacitti from?
2. How many jobs has he applied for?
3. Where's the billboard advertising his website?
4. How much did it cost him?

## GLOSSARY

- a whiff** *n*  
if there's a "whiff" of a particular smell, you can smell it
- to rumble** *vb*  
if your stomach "rumbles", it makes a low continuous sound, often because you're hungry
- scented** *adj*  
"scented" things have a nice smell, either naturally or because the smell has been added to them
- shaving cream** *n*  
a substance men put on their face before they shave (cut the hair off their face). Also, "shaving foam"
- mouth-watering** *adj*  
"mouth-watering" food looks or smells nice
- a date** *n*  
if you have a "date" with someone, you've arranged to go with them to a restaurant / the cinema, etc. because you like them
- lip balm** *n*  
a substance you put on your lips to protect them
- a hangover** *n*  
if you've got a "hangover", you feel bad because you drank too much alcohol the night before
- a headache** *n*  
a pain in the head
- the Isle of Wight** *n*  
a little island off the south coast of England
- to apply for** *exp*  
if you "apply for" a job, you write a letter or complete a form in order to ask for the job
- to launch** *vb*  
when you "launch" a website, people can start to visit the website on the internet
- to get in touch** *exp*  
if you "get in touch" with someone, you call them / write to them, etc.
- desperate** *adj*  
if you're "desperate" for something, you really need that thing
- a job seeker** *n*  
someone who is looking for a job
- a billboard** *n*  
a large piece of wood or metal in the street with an advert on it
- a publicity stunt** *n*  
an action that's designed to get attention
- current** *adj*  
your "current" job is the one you have now

### FAST FACT:

According to research, bacon helps cure **hangovers**. How? Bacon contains certain chemicals that reduce the effects of **headaches**.

## B How to find a job

What's the best way to find a job? **Isle of Wight** man Adam Pacitti thinks he knows. The 24-year-old has **applied** for over 250 jobs in the last three months. But he hasn't had any success. So, what's he done? He's **launched** the website [www.employadam.com](http://www.employadam.com). The site includes Adam's CV, as well as a short video in which he talks about his experience and skills. "So, if I seem like your ideal candidate, then please **get in touch** because, to be honest, I'm getting **desperate**," says Adam in the video. The young **job seeker** has also paid for a **billboard** in central London to advertise his website. The billboard includes a photo of Adam and some text that reads, "I spent my last £500 on this billboard. Please give me a job." Do you think Adam's **publicity stunt** will work? ☺



### FAST FACT:

A recent survey found that 88% of people aren't satisfied with their **current** job.



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**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever been to a housewarming party? Whose house was it? Have you ever had a housewarming party? How did it go?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.



**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises.

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**

What sort of questions could you ask when you visit someone's house for the first time? Think of three. Also, think of some typical comments to make.

**2 Listening I**

You're going to listen to a conversation between a guest and the host for a housewarming party. Listen once. Did you hear any of the questions or comments you thought of for the Pre-listening activity?

**3 Listening II**

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. When did Kath move in?
2. Who did most of the painting?
3. Where does Kath take Noah first?
4. Whose house can they see through the window?
5. How much did it cost?
6. Who painted the work of modern art that's in Kath's living room?

**4 Language focus**

**Features of conversational English**

Look at this extract from the audio script on this page: "...Oh... So, erm, how much did it cost?..." The speaker has used the sound "erm" to fill a space in the conversation. Read through the audio script again and find some more features of conversational English.

**5 Listening III**

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

# The housewarming party

**Audio script**

**Kath:** Hey, Noah! Thanks for coming.  
**Noah:** Am I early?  
**Kath:** You're the first one here, but that's fine. Come in and let me (1) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Noah:** Cheers. Nice place. When did you move in?  
**Kath:** About a month ago. We've been doing it up – only just finished. I did most of the painting myself.  
**Noah:** It's looking great. I used to do a bit of painting and decorating (2) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Kath:** Mmm... Here, I'll show you around.  
**Noah:** Great.  
**Kath:** Well, this is the kitchen.  
**Noah:** Very nice.  
**Kath:** And just through here is the living room... with a balcony.  
**Noah:** Nice view.  
**Kath:** You can see the park down there, and if you look through (3) \_\_\_\_\_ , you can see the river.  
**Noah:** Great!  
**Kath:** I can get into the centre in about ten minutes.  
**Noah:** Amazing. So, it must have set you back a bit.  
**Kath:** It wasn't too bad. The riverfront properties are really expensive, and those (4) \_\_\_\_\_ are for millionaires only, but these ones on the south side aren't too bad. It's a bit of an up-and-coming area, and it's still got a bit of a bad reputation, but that's all changing. You see that house over there?  
**Noah:** Yeah.  
**Kath:** Michael Caine lives there.  
**Noah:** Really?  
**Kath:** Yes! I saw him (5) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Noah:** Did you say anything to him?  
**Kath:** No.  
**Noah:** Mmm... Oh... So, erm, how much did it cost?  
**Kath:** Quite a lot.  
**Noah:** About...?  
**Kath:** More or less £300,000.  
**Noah:** Wow!  
**Kath:** Drink?  
**Noah:** Yes, please. I'll (6) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Kath:** White or red?  
**Noah:** Red, please. Nice painting!  
**Kath:** Frank's uncle did it.  
**Noah:** I love modern art.  
**Kath:** Yeah, me too. He sells a lot of his work from his website. He sold a big piece (7) \_\_\_\_\_ . I think they're going to hang it in their entrance hall.  
**Noah:** Wow! So, erm, do you like painting?  
**Kath:** Not really. [silence] I wonder where those other guests are. I think I'm just going to pop into the kitchen to see how the, erm, the food's getting on.  
**Noah:** Fine. Don't mind me. I'll just, erm, look at this book.  
**Kath:** Great.

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## Pick a fight



To start a fight or argument with someone.  
"He was in a bad mood and tried to pick a fight with me."

## Pepper-spray



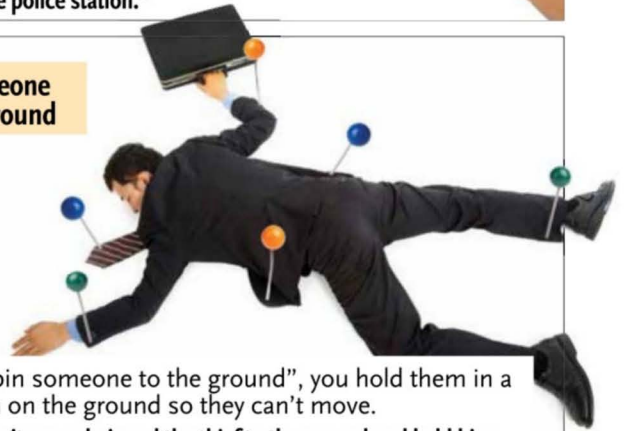
If you "pepper-spray" someone, you push a button on a container so that a chemical substance comes out. "Pepper-spray" is used as a form of self-defence against an attacker.  
"The police officer pepper-sprayed the man, then took him to the police station."

## Pull hair



To hold someone's hair in your hand and to pull down so it hurts the other person.  
"She pulled my hair while we were fighting."

## Pin someone to the ground



If you "pin someone to the ground", you hold them in a position on the ground so they can't move.  
"The security guard pinned the thief to the ground and held him there till the police came."

## Wrestle someone to the ground

To use your strength to force someone to the ground.  
"He was going to hit me with the stick so I wrestled him to the ground."



## Get someone in a head lock

To use your right arm and left hand to hold someone's head so that they cannot move.  
"When we arrived she had our friend in a head lock."



## Block a punch

If you "block a punch", you use your arm to stop someone from hitting you.  
"If I hadn't managed to block his punch, he might have broken my nose!"



## Taser

To use a taser (an electrical device) as a means of control. The taser fires an electric shock through someone.  
"The police tasered him."



**Objective** To improve your advanced listening skills by listening to a genuine conversation with native speakers.

**Think about it**

What book are you reading at the moment? How many books have you read this year so far? What was the best book you read last year?

TRACK 20: ENGLISHWOMAN, US WOMAN & US MAN

I READ A REALLY GOOD BOOK JUST LATELY!

HOW INTERESTING!

**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises. Also, please note that when people chat informally, they often use non-standard English and rarely speak in full sentences.

# GROUP TALK BOOKS

## Audio script

**Mario:** All right, yeah so this book that I've been re... reading lately is called *Mockingjay*. It's the third book in a trilogy, *The Hunger Games* trilogy?

**Laura:** Ah! *The Hunger Games*!

**Megan:** I've heard of that, yeah!

**Mario:** And I think the book is just absolutely **terrific**. I'm on one of the last chapters now but... and it's, and it's starting to really **heat up**. So, what are you guys reading?

**Megan:** Well, I'm not really a massive [book] person, I'm always the kind of person that's on holiday, or if there are holidays, I'm reading one of those... really, **girly** books, kind of just... about some kind of love story with a romantic ending with a big climax and nothing much happens. But, I've been reading a book called *The Wish*. It's all these different people's sto... stories and how they all **end up** together in the end and how every single one of them's **linked**. It's really good, but probably not a guy's kind of thing.

**Mario:** Something for the girls, It's one that's a bit girly...

**Mario:** Doesn't sound like something I'd be interested in, but what are you reading?

**Laura:** Well I'm, I'm kind of stuck between a whole bunch of different books right now. I'm listening to an audio recording of Charles Dickens' *Our Mutual Friend*.

**Megan:** Wow!

**Laura:** And I only listen to it, like, when I'm doing some **random**, **mindless chore** like **sweeping**.

**Mario:** Ah huh! Yeah, yeah!

**Megan:** Yeah.

**Laura:** So, I don't do that all the time so it's been taking me a long time to do it... to read it... or actually listen to it 'cause it's an audio recording. But erm... and then, I'm also kind of in the middle of a Spanish book. It's called *El Juego del Ángel [The Angel's Game]*... and...

**Mario:** Mmm, and what's that about?

**Laura:** It's kind of... **weird**? Not really sure that I like it.

**All:** (Laughter)

**Laura:** But, my friend who lent

it to me said "Just keep reading it gets better."

**Megan:** Yeah.

**Mario:** Yeah, the literature of other cultures definitely at times it **doesn't sit well with**, er, with your perspective as an American student. I've definitely come to realise that.

**Megan:** Yeah. And me I've read a Spanish book as well. And that was very strange. I think they're all...

**Mario:** Yeah.

**Megan:** Everyone's different in all the different cultures.

**Mario:** Yeah, great!

## GLOSSARY

**terrific** *adj*  
very good; incredible

**to heat up** *phr vb*  
if things start to "heat up", they start to get interesting

**girly** *adj*  
if you describe a book (for example) as "girly", you think it's only interesting for girls / women

**to end up** *phr vb*  
if two people "end up" together, they come together in the end

**linked** *adj*  
connected

**random** *adj*  
if you describe something as "random", you're saying that it isn't part of a plan or anything organised

**mindless** *adj*  
boring

**a chore** *n*  
a job you have to do at home, for example: the washing, etc.

**to sweep** *vb*  
to use a broom (a long stick with a brush at the end) to clean the floor.

**ah huh** *exp*  
people make this sound when they understand or agree with something

**weird** *adj*  
strange; unusual

**doesn't sit well with** *exp*  
if something "doesn't sit well with" you, you don't like it or agree with it

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to three people chatting about books. Listen once. Which book (or book series) *isn't* mentioned?

The Wish    Oliver Twist

Mockingjay

The Hunger Games

Our Mutual Friend

El Juego del Ángel  
[The Angel's Game]

## 2 Listening I

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How much of the book *Mockingjay* has one of the speaker's read?
2. What type of books does another speaker like to read on holiday?
3. In what format is one of the speaker's copy of the Charles Dickens book?
4. What does the same speaker think of the Spanish book *El Juego del Ángel*?

## Top tip: how to listen

The most important thing to remember when listening to a conversation is that you won't understand every word. So, you should only listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Then, you can use your intuition to fill in the gaps – just as you do in your own language. Knowing the context and topic of the conversation will help with this.

**Objective** To teach you some slang words and expressions.

**Think about it**

What do you do to get in shape? Do you go to the gym? How often? How healthy are you on a scale of one to ten? What else would you like to do to get fit and healthy?

TRACK 21:  
ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

# SLANG CONVERSATION GETTING IN SHAPE



## Dialogue

- Ben:** You're looking good.
- Gordon:** Been working out at the gym: **pumping iron**, doing aerobics, swimming in the pool. Six hours a day!
- Ben:** Six hours! When do you get the time to work?
- Gordon:** Up at 5am for a three-hour **sesh**, then back at the gym as soon as I get out of work for another three hours. It's all about discipline!
- Ben:** I thought about joining the one near **my place**, but it's a bit of a **rip-off**. You have to sign up for a year.
- Gordon:** That's pretty standard these days.
- Ben:** So, how much does yours **set you back**?
- Gordon:** About €60 a month.
- Ben:** I wouldn't get my money's worth. Besides, it's such a **drag** getting out of bed in the morning, and I just don't have the time in the evening.
- Gordon:** That's a **lame excuse**. **Get rid of** your TV and stop going to the pub – you'll soon see you've got lots of free time.
- Ben:** There are certain things in my life that I'm not prepared to give up, and TV is one of them!
- Gordon:** Besides, you've **put on some weight**. A bit of a **spare tyre** there, and a few **love handles**.
- Ben:** My wife loves it. No, honestly, I'm quite happy just **vegging out**. I think I'll **stick to** my weekly game of tennis.
- Gordon:** Why don't you try out the gym where I go? You could come along as a guest? I've got a couple of **freebies** you could use.
- Ben:** No, I think I'll **give it a miss**.
- Gordon:** OK.
- Ben:** Hey, we're going for a drink this evening, do you want to come along?
- Gordon:** No, I've got to go to the gym.
- Ben:** Well, how about the cinema on Thursday?
- Gordon:** No, I've got to go to the gym.
- Ben:** Oh, Frank's having a party this Saturday. You **up for it**?
- Gordon:** No, I've...
- Ben:** ...don't tell me, you've got to go to the gym?
- Gordon:** How did you know?
- Ben:** I'm telepathic! See you around.
- Gordon:** Bye!

## GLOSSARY

**fit** *adj inform*  
strong and healthy; also, attractive

**to pump iron** *exp inform*  
to lift weights (3 kilos, 5 kilos, etc.) in the gym as a form of exercise to get stronger

**a sesh** *n inform*  
a session; a period of time doing an activity

**my place** *exp inform*  
my house

**a rip-off** *n*  
a "rip-off" is something you paid too much for, or something of very poor quality

**to set you back** *phr vb inform*  
to cost you

**a drag** *n inform*  
if you say that something is a "drag", you think it's boring

**a lame excuse** *n*  
a poor excuse; an excuse that isn't very believable

**get rid of** *exp*  
if you "get rid of something", you throw it away

**to put on weight** *exp*  
to become fatter

**a spare tyre** *n inform*  
extra fat around your waist (the central area of your body)

**love handles** *n inform*  
extra fat around the sides of your body near the stomach area

**to veg out** *phr vb inform*  
to relax and do nothing. "Veg" comes from the word "vegetable"

**to stick to** *exp*  
if you "stick to" something, you continue using it / doing it

**a freebie** *n inform*  
something that is free

**to give something a miss** *exp*  
if you "give something a miss", you don't do it

**(to be) up for something** *exp inform*  
if you're "up for something", you want to do that thing

## Warning

Many of the words and expressions from this section are used in informal situations. Only use in appropriate situations!

hot  
**english**  
METHOD

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**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you been away anywhere lately? Where did you go? How was the trip? Did anything go wrong? What happened? What happened in the end?

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises.

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**

What can go wrong on a holiday or weekend trip away? Think of as many things as you can in just two minutes.

**2 Listening I**

You're going to listen to two travel anecdotes. Listen once. Did they mention any of the ideas you thought of for the Pre-listening activity?

**3 Listening II**

Listen again. Then, write Speaker I or Speaker II next to each question. Who...

- ...had to ask a friend to put him up for the night?
- ...found a very good package deal that included flight and accommodation?
- ...shopped around before paying for the flight?
- ...set off early on Friday?
- ...thought that his wallet had been stolen?
- ...stopped over for one night?
- ...went away with his wife and children?
- ...found that the hotel where he was supposed to be staying had closed down?

**4 Language focus**  
**Phrasal verbs**

Look at this extract from the audio script on this page: "...A colleague was waiting to pick me up..." The speaker has used a phrasal verb ("pick up"). Read through the audio script again and find some more phrasal verbs. What do they mean?

**5 Listening III**

Complete the audio script with the correct words.



# Two travel stories

**Speaker I**

I went to Frankfurt for a conference last spring. It was just a one-day event, but I thought I'd stop over for a night so I could do a bit of sight-seeing. Anyway, I set off early on the Friday on a morning flight and (1) \_\_\_\_\_. A colleague was waiting to pick me up, which was great. We took a taxi to the city centre and she showed me around. She had to get back to work fairly soon after that, and her parents (2) \_\_\_\_\_ so we said goodbye. Anyway, I thought I'd look around a bit before checking into the hotel, so I wandered through the centre. Around 1pm, I popped into a restaurant for lunch, and then decided I ought (3) \_\_\_\_\_. I followed the map I'd printed off to where the hotel should have been, but when I got there, there was a sign on the door that said it was shut. I'd booked it a few months earlier, but it seemed to have closed down since then. Stupidly, I'd given them my credit card details and paid (4) \_\_\_\_\_. I tried to get into another hotel, but it was busy that weekend and all the other hotels in the area were full. After about three hours of wandering around, I decided that I'd had enough so I called my colleague and told her what had happened. Very kindly, she agreed to put me up for the night. I slept on the sofa, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ as her parents were there, but at least I had somewhere to stay! I guess I'll have to return the favour one day!

**Speaker II**

I went with my wife and the kids to Greece last summer. We'd never been there, so I thought it'd make a nice change. I spent some time shopping around for a good deal and eventually stumbled on (6) \_\_\_\_\_. : full-board, flight and all meals included for two adults and two kids for a fortnight for just €999. It was a limited offer so I snapped it up. A few months later, I printed off our tickets, and on the day of the flight, we (7) \_\_\_\_\_. We got there all right with no delays and checked into this fantastic hotel. It had a swimming pool, a games room for the kids, and best of all, the hotel was right next to the beach. We had a great time (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and water in the morning, sight-seeing in the afternoon and relaxing in the evening – it was incredible. The only thing that went wrong was I lost my wallet. About half way through the holiday, we (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the bigger islands. We spent the day visiting a few old monuments and went on this guided tour of a medieval castle. For lunch, we stopped off at this really nice little restaurant. About ten minutes after we left, we went into a café for a coffee. But when I went to pay, I realised I (10) \_\_\_\_\_. There were a few moments of mad panic as we ran around trying to find it. Eventually, my wife ran back to the restaurant to see if it was there... and it was. One of the waiters had come across it as he was cleaning the tables and had kept it behind the bar. They were going to get in touch, but were waiting to see whether anyone came back for it first. I was just so pleased!

**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** Have you read any stories about burglaries or robberies lately? What happened? Have you heard any stories about people doing silly things or making a fool of themselves? What happened?

**Exams** This reading activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.



Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What can go wrong during a robbery? Think of as many ideas as you can in just two minutes.

### 2 Reading I

Read the article once.

Were any of your ideas from the Pre-reading task mentioned? Which criminal is the dumbest?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions without referring back to the article.

1. What mistake did Hannah Sabata make?
2. What did Johnathan forget to do?
3. How did police locate the three teens who broke into a vending machine?
4. How did Peter help police locate him?
5. What was wrong with the day that Timothy chose to do a bit of shoplifting?
6. How did police know that Daniel was going to rob a convenience store?

### 4 Language focus Synonyms

Find words in the article that mean...

1. ...stupid =
2. ...use force to enter a building illegally =
3. ...find / locate someone =
4. ...leave a place quickly =
5. ...steal from shop =
6. ...shop =
7. ...make stronger =

# How to catch a criminal!

By John Michael Mulderig

**P**olice spend a lot of time, effort and money on crime detection. But sometimes, it's the bad guys who help the police, as these six examples of dumb criminals clearly show.

#### 1 YouTube thief

In November 2012, 19-year-old Hannah Sabata uploaded an eight-minute video to YouTube. In the video, she bragged about robbing a bank and stealing a car. She even flashed some of the \$6,000 USD she'd stolen. But thanks to her video, which she'd called "Chick Bank robber", the police had a self-made confession which they used to arrest her.

#### 2 Facebook thief

In September 2009, Jonathan G. Parker, a 19-year-old from Pennsylvania, broke into a house and stole two diamond rings. But before he left, he used the victim's computer to check up on his Facebook account. However, he never logged out and police used the information on the computer to track him down.

#### 3 Powder thieves

In July of 2009, three teenagers broke into a vending machine at the Arlington Recreation Center in St Paul (Minnesota). They stole a number of items then fled the scene. However, they left one vital clue: a trail of a mysterious orange powder. The police followed it from the recreation centre to a nearby home, where they found several bags of Cheetos which had been stolen from the machine. Police arrested the three males aged 17, 18 and 19 who lived in the house.

#### 4 Signature criminal

In 2007, Peter Addison, an 18-year-old from Stockport (Ohio) vandalised a children's campsite building. He smashed up pottery vases, set off fire extinguishers, and left the campsite in a complete state of disarray. But before he left, he used a black marker pen to write his name on a wall. With the suspect's name to go on, it wasn't long before police arrested him. Commenting on the case, Inspector Gareth Woods said, "There are some pretty stupid criminals around, but to leave your own name at the scene of the crime takes the biscuit."

#### 5 Unlucky criminal

In December 2011, Timothy Randall Clark, a 22-year-old from Maryland, tried to shoplift more than \$500 worth of video games. However, he chose the wrong day to do it. At the time, there were 50 police officers in the store as part of a national charity annual event called "Shop With A Cop", which is intended to strengthen relations between law enforcement officials and local youths.

#### 6 Warning

In 2008, Daniel Glen of Windsor (Ontario), called a convenience store to ask the clerk how much money there was in the cash register. He told the clerk to put it all into a bag and to have it ready for him as he'd be coming over later on. Immediately after hanging up, the clerk alerted the police, who arrived at the scene shortly afterwards. They arrested Glen after he committed the robbery.

Now, how dumb is that? ☹

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

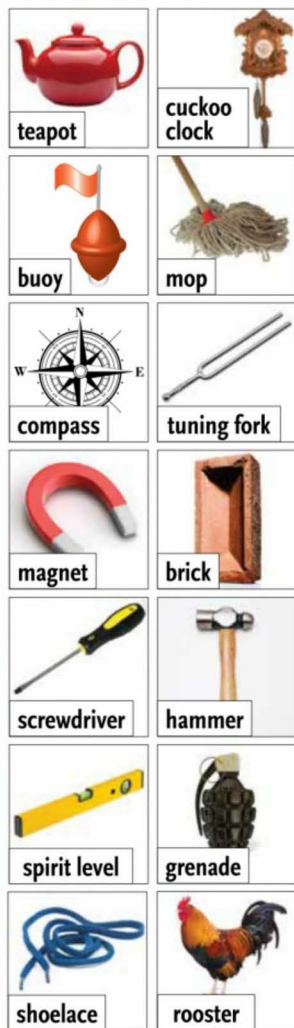
**Think about it** Have you ever played a joke on someone? What was it? What are the dangers associated with playing jokes on people?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

Answers on page 44

**Pre-reading**

You're going to read an article about tricks that are played on new employees. Look at the list of objects. What tricks can you think of involving these objects? Think of as many as you can.



**Reading I**

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity. Which joke is the funniest / cruelest / best / worst? Why?

**Reading II**

Read the article again. Then, explain what the following jokes involve.

1. The mail buoy =
2. Sea-bats =
3. The captain's crank =
4. A hammer for =
5. A long weight =



**HOW TO TRICK A NEW EMPLOYEE!**

In many professions, it's common practice to play a joke on a new employee. One variety of these practical jokes is known as a fool's errand. This involves sending an employee to look for something that doesn't exist – a "chocolate teapot", for example. Newbies are often too shy to question the request, or too young or inexperienced to realise it's a joke. Here are some more examples of fools' errands.

New cooks at restaurants are sometimes asked to go and find bacon stretchers, oven batteries, rooster eggs, or bird food for the cuckoo in the cuckoo clock.

In the navy, sailors are asked to stand at the bow of the ship to look out for the mail buoy that supposedly brings letters and parcels for people on board. Or, they're given a mop and told to find and kill a plague of "sea-bats", which have allegedly infested some portion of the ship.

Others will be told to go and fetch the "captain's crank", which can be used to wind up the compass. Or they're sent off in search of smoke benders, sonar grease (for when it sounds a bit squeaky), tuning forks for the foghorn, or rubber flags for rainy days.

Builders have great fun with their new apprentices, sending them off to find all sorts of non-existent things,

such as brass magnets, steep learning curves, electric bricks, and left-handed screwdrivers.

They may also be asked to look for tools made out of unlikely materials, such as glass hammers. Or they can be told to go and fetch a bucket of steam, a bubble for a spirit level, or a pot of tartan paint. A particular favourite is to tell them to find a "hammer for". And when they ask, "What's a hammer for?" the prankster will answer, "For banging nails in the wall, you fool!"

Another trick is to send the new employee to a hardware store to ask for a "long weight". Shopkeepers who are in on the trick will then go to the back of the shop, presumably looking for the "long weight", but really just relaxing or having a cup of tea. Eventually, the shopkeeper will come back and ask the customer whether the "wait" was long enough.

In the army, an inexperienced soldier may be asked to get an "ID-ten T" (ID-10T), which spells "idiot"; a Bravo Alpha Eleven Hundred November (BA-1100N), which spells "balloon"; or a Sierra Tango One (an ST-1), which spells "stone". New recruits are also sent on errands to find left-handed grenades, shoelace repair kits, grid squares and sparks for the fire.

What fun! ❄️

**APRIL FOOL'S DAY**

April 1st is known as April Fool's Day in many English-speaking countries. It's a day to play jokes on people. There are also often fake stories in major newspapers. Previously, there have been articles on left-handed hamburgers and spaghetti trees, neither of which exist... of course!

**GLOSSARY**

- a practical joke** *n*: a trick played on someone that's designed to make that person look stupid
- a fool's errand** *n*: if you send someone on a "fool's errand", you tell them to go and find something that doesn't exist
- a newbie** *n*: a person who is new at a company, etc.
- a stretcher** *n*: something that makes an object longer – it "stretches" the object
- the navy** *n*: the section of the armed forces that sails in ships and fights battles at sea
- the bow** *n*: the front section of a ship
- a plague of** *exp*: a "plague of" something bad (such as insects) is a large group of those things
- to infest** *vb*: if an animal "infests" an area, there are large numbers of them in that area
- to wind up** *phr vb*: if you "wind up" a device, you turn a key on it to make it work
- a bender** *n*: a device that bends something (makes it change shape and become circular)
- sonar** *n*: equipment on a ship that uses sound waves to calculate the depth of the sea or the position of something under the water
- grease** *n*: a thick oily substance which is used to lubricate machinery (to make it work more effectively and move smoothly)
- squeaky** *adj*: if something is "squeaky", it makes high-pitched noises
- a foghorn** *n*: a piece of equipment on a ship that makes a very loud noise. It's used as a warning sound or to communicate with other ships
- brass** *n*: a yellow-coloured metal made from copper (Cu) and zinc (Zn)
- steep** *adj*: if something is "steep", it increases very quickly and at a large angle (80°, for example)
- a learning curve** *n*: a process where people develop their skills by learning from their mistakes
- tartan** *adj*: a type of cloth from Scotland with lines and colours
- a prankster** *n*: a person who plays practical jokes on people
- you fool** *exp*: you idiot
- a hardware store** *n*: a shop that sells tools for the house / garden, etc.
- a weight** *n*: an object with a specific weight (in kilos, etc.) that is used to measure other weights. It sounds like the word "wait"
- in on the trick** *exp*: if someone is "in on the trick", they know about the joke
- a new recruit** *n*: a person who has very recently joined the army, air force, navy, etc.
- a grid square** *n*: the squares that divide up a map
- a spark** *n*: a tiny piece of burning material that comes from a fire



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you read any good books lately? What were they? What were some of the best books you read last year?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.

# WHY ARE THESE TWO BOOKS SO POPULAR?

**F**ifty Shades of Grey and A Game of Thrones are two best-selling books. But why are they so successful?

## Fifty Shades of Grey

*Fifty Shades of Grey* was written by English author E.L. James, and was **self-published** in 2011. It's about the relationship between a young businessman (Christian Grey) and a **college graduate** (Anastasia Steele). It's become the bestselling book in British history, beating the *Harry Potter* and *The Da Vinci Code* books in terms of sales.

So, why's it so popular? The one-word answer is simple... sex! "These stories focus on female desire and **what's in it for** the woman, and there's not a lot of that in **mainstream** culture," said Jaclyn Friedman, author of *What You Really Really Want*\*

Many believe the **book cover** has also helped. Instead of using a **raunchy** picture, the publishers have an image of a grey **tie**. "We felt that **discreet**, tasteful covers would bring in new readers who may not have

bought the books with more **explicit** covers," Vintage Books spokesman Russell Perreault said. Others have pointed to the fact that as the book is available on Kindle, people can read it in public without everyone else knowing what they're reading.

## Book extract

[Ana] "You're a **sadist**?"

[Christian] "I'm a **Dominant**." *His eyes are a scorching gray, intense.*

"What does that mean?" I **whisper**.

"It means I want you to **willingly surrender yourself to me**, in all things."

I **frown** at him as I try to **assimilate** this idea.

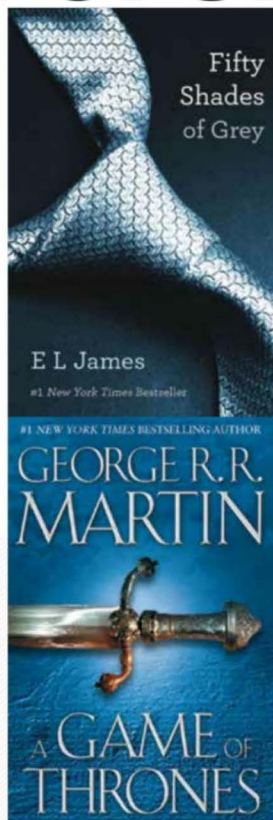
"Why would I do that?"

"To please me," he whispers as he cocks his head to one side, and I see a **ghost of a smile**. Please him! He wants me to please him! I think my mouth drops open. Please Christian Grey. And I realize, in that moment, that yes, that's exactly what I want to do. I want him to be **damned delighted** with me. It's a **revelation**."

— E.L. James, *Fifty Shades of Grey*

## A Game of Thrones

*A Game of Thrones* (1996) is a fantasy novel by American author George R. R. Martin. It's one of several books of the series *A Song of Ice and Fire*, and it's about the **struggle** for power in an imaginary land. So, why has it done so well?



Firstly, although it's a fantasy novel, the book focuses on human topics such as greed, power and corruption. There are magical, fantasy elements, but the book is mostly character-driven, with realistic, **gritty** personalities. Secondly, the stories are difficult to predict as there are lots of **twists** and turns. And thirdly, it's benefited hugely from the popularity of the TV series: *Game of Thrones*, which

is based on the books. With quality actors, incredible **sets**, stunning costumes and a captivating **script**, the TV series has really helped promote the books.

## Book extract

*Nine days they had been riding, north and northwest and then north again, farther and farther from the Wall, hard on the track of a band of wildling raiders. Each day had been worse than the day that had come before it. Today was the worst of all. A cold wind was blowing out of the north, and it made the trees rustle like living things. All day, Will had felt as though something were watching him, something cold and implacable that loved him not. Gared had felt it too. Will wanted nothing so much as to ride hellbent for the safety of the Wall, but that was not a feeling to share with your commander. Especially not a commander like this one.* \*

\*What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl's Shame-Free Guide to Sex & Safety.

## GLOSSARY

- self-published** *adj* if a book is "self-published", the author has printed the book, not a publishing company
- college graduate** *n* someone who has been to university or college (the US word for university)
- what's in it for (me)** *exp* what can I get from it? what can I gain from it?
- mainstream** *adj* ideas or activities that are "mainstream" are very popular and typical
- book cover** *n* the front page of a book, often with a picture and the title of the book
- raunchy** *adj* a "raunchy" book has sex in it
- tie** *n* a long piece of cloth you wear around the neck with formal shirts
- discreet** *adj* something "discreet" is done quietly and carefully
- explicit** *adj* if something is "explicit", it's shown clearly and openly (it isn't hidden)
- sadist** *n* someone who enjoys causing pain and hurting other people
- scorching** *adj* burning; very intense; hot
- to whisper** *vb* to speak in a quiet voice so others can't hear you
- willingly** *adv* if you do something "willingly", you agree to do it because you want to do it
- to surrender yourself to someone** *exp* if you "surrender yourself to someone", you do what that person wants
- to frown** *vb* when you "frown", lines appear on your forehead because you're angry, etc.
- to assimilate** *vb* to learn new ideas or to adapt to them
- the ghost of something...** *exp* a faint impression of something – it's so weak that it's hard to see
- damned** *adj* *inform* this word is used for emphasis
- delighted** *adj* if you're "delighted" with something, you're very pleased about it
- a revelation** *n* a surprising and interesting fact that you didn't know before
- a struggle** *n* a long and difficult attempt to achieve something; a fight
- gritty** *adj* "gritty" characters are realistic because they're shown in a real way
- a twist** *n* an unexpected event in a book that surprises the reader, etc.
- a set** *n* the "set" for a film or TV series refers to the furniture / scenery used to create a scene in a film / TV series, etc.
- a script** *n* a written version of a film or television programme
- the Wall** *n* in the book, the Wall is a barrier between civilisation and the wilderness
- a wildling raider** *n* in the book, a "wildling raider" is a savage man or woman who lives in the area behind the Wall
- to rustle** *vb* when something "rustles", it makes a soft crackling sound as it moves
- implacable** *adj* if someone is "implacable", they have very strong feelings and ideas and won't think or act differently.
- to ride hellbent for** *exp* if people "ride hellbent for" an area, they travel there by horse very quickly

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

What makes a book a bestseller? Think of as many ideas as you can.

## 2 Reading I

Read the reviews of the two books. Which one would you like to read? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a short summary explaining why each book is popular.

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Complete the sentences (1 to 8) with the words from below.

post   opponent   ladder   company   road   foot   bats   money

1

## Trip up

If someone "trips you up", they use their foot to make you fall.

"She stuck out her \_\_\_\_\_ and tripped me up."

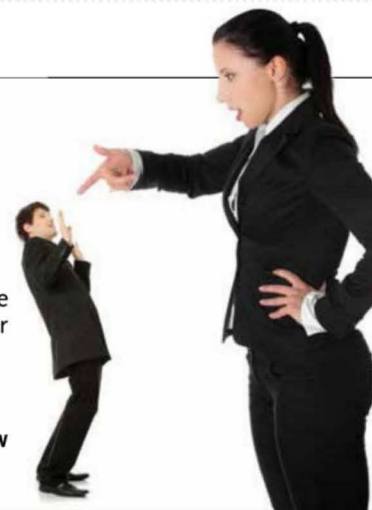


2

## Pick on (someone)

If a strong or powerful person "picks on" a weaker person, the strong person attacks the weaker person verbally or physically, or they treat them badly or unfairly.

"Stop picking on me! It isn't my fault I was offered the new \_\_\_\_\_ at work and you weren't."



3

## Smash up

If someone "smashes something up", they destroy or badly damage that thing.

"He used baseball \_\_\_\_\_ to smash it up."

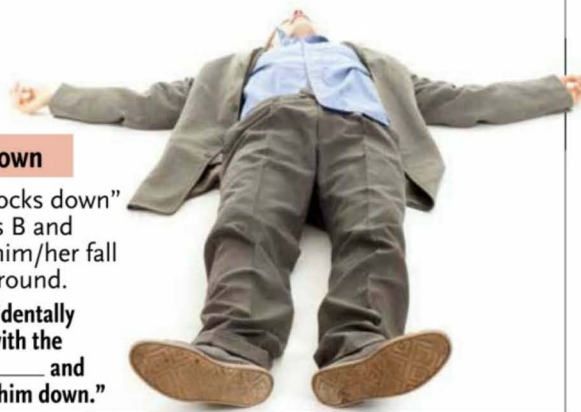


4

## Knock down

If A "knocks down" B, A hits B and makes him/her fall to the ground.

"She accidentally hit him with the \_\_\_\_\_ and knocked him down."



5

## Beat up

To hit someone many times, often as a form of punishment or revenge.

"The gang threatened to beat him up again if he didn't tell them where the \_\_\_\_\_ was."



6

## Burn down

To destroy with fire.

"They burnt down the restaurant and tried to get the money back from the insurance \_\_\_\_\_."

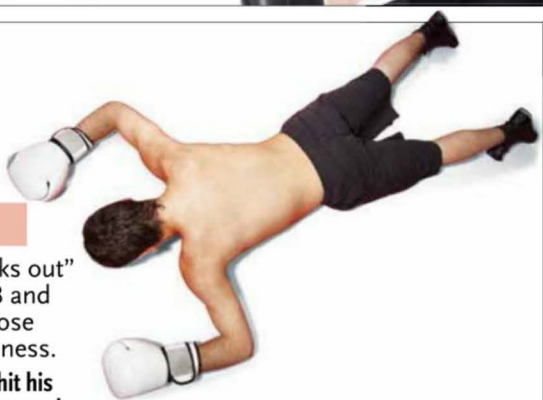


7

## Knock out

If A "knocks out" B, A hits B and makes B lose consciousness.

"The boxer hit his \_\_\_\_\_ and knocked him out."



8

## Run over

If A (a driver) "runs over" someone or something, A hits that person/thing with a car.

"She threw his suitcase onto the \_\_\_\_\_ and ran over it several times."



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## Photos from the news

Can you think of anything to write in the speech bubbles? Have a competition in class or at home.

Photo 1



Singer Katy Perry dressed as a man on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

Photo 2



Members of the media talk to artist Paul Emsley, centre right, about his portrait of Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, which is on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Photo 3



Cyclist Lance Armstrong "comes clean" about doping during an interview with Oprah Winfrey.

### UNDERGROUND (PAGE 6)

#### 1 Reading II

- Jack; 2. Sophie; 3. Sam; 4. Amelia; 5. Bob

### MEMES (PAGE 7)

#### 1 Reading II

- Boromir; 2. Grumpy cat; 3. Condescending Wonka; 4. The Philosoraptor; 5. McKayla Maroney

### GRAMMAR BOOSTER (PAGE 8)

- house; 2. road; 3. bank; 4. station; 5. decision; 6. number

### ENGLISH IN ACTION (PAGE 10)

- at; 2. with; 3. with; 4. off; 5. beside; 6. in; 7. on; 8. of; 9. to

### NEW EMPLOYEE (PAGE 12)

#### 1 Listening II

- Canada; 2. In Switzerland; 3. three years; 4. twice; 5. Vancouver; 6. go travelling

#### 2 Listening III

- morning; 2. Switzerland; 3. twice; 4. Montreal; 5. London; 6. Paris; 7. years; 8. pub

### PRACTICAL ENGLISH (PAGE 13)

- sing; 2. started; 3. catch; 4. act; 5. practise; 6. making; 7. playing; 8. bring

### FESTIVALS (PAGE 14)

#### 1 Reading II

- Holi; 2. Yule; 3. Thanksgiving; 4. Saturnalia; 5. Midsummer / other festivals around this time; 6. Yalda

### POLITICS (PAGE 15)

#### 1 Reading II

- The Vegetarian Party; 2. The OMRLP; 3. The Surprise Party; 4. The Vegetarian Party; 5. The Surprise Party; 6. The OMRLP; 7. The Surprise Party

### CHOCOLATE (PAGE 16)

#### 1 Reading II

- more than 600; 2. 250kg; 3. Lithuania; 4. in 2011; 5. five tons; 6. Venezuela; 7. in New York City

### SMS (PAGE 17)

#### 1 Pre-reading

- what; 2. you; 3. are; 4. for; 5. in my honest opinion; 6. please; 7. laughing out loud; 8. tomorrow; 9. later; 10. bored

#### 2 Reading II

- more than 8 trillion; 2. 92%; 3. down; 4. 50; 5. about 133; 6. Norway

### CATCHING UP (PAGE 20)

#### 1 Listening II

- yes; 2. yes; 3. no; 4. no; 5. no; 6. yes; 7. no

#### 2 Listening III

- at; 2. at; 3. in; 4. from; 5. with; 6. about; 7. for; 8. about; 9. out

### PERFORMANCE ART (PAGE 28)

#### 1 Reading II

- Still and Chew*; 2. *The Artist is Present*;

### 3. I Like America...;

- 1; 5. *Deadman*

### VIOLENCE (PAGE 29)

#### 1 Reading II

- They're entertainment and people know the difference.
- That they aren't responsible for violence in society.
- That violent clips can make people less sensitive to violence in general.
- Only weak evidence to suggest that violence leads to crime.
- That some video games make people more violent.

### DRIVING TEST (PAGE 31)

#### 1 Reading II

- Seventeen-year-old boys.
- Women in their sixties.
- Two hours for every year of life.
- Because the examiner may think you haven't had proper lessons, or that the driving school is worried about lending you a car.
- Because the examiner is much less likely to intervene.

### QUIRKY NEWS (PAGE 32)

#### A: Questions!

- The world's first bacon-scented shaving cream.
- Business meetings or a date.
- Bacon-flavoured lip balm.
- Bacon-infused baby food.

#### B: Questions!

- The Isle of Wight.
- Over 250.
- In central London.
- £500.

### THE HOUSEWARMING PARTY (PAGE 34)

#### 1 Listening II

- about a month ago; 2. Kath; 3. to the kitchen; 4. Michael Caine's; 5. more or less £300,000; 6. Frank's uncle

#### 2 Listening III

- take your coat
- when I was younger
- those trees over there
- on the other side of the river
- in the supermarket once
- have a glass of wine
- to a German company the other week

### GROUP TALK (PAGE 36)

#### 1 Pre-listening I

#### 2 Listening I

- He's up to one of the last chapters.
- Romantic love stories.
- It's an audio recording
- She isn't really sure yet.

### TRAVEL STORIES (PAGE 38)

#### 1 Listening II

- Speaker I; 2. Speaker II; 3. Speaker II; 4. Speaker I; 5. Speaker I; 6. Speaker I; 7. Speaker II; 8. Speaker I

#### 2 Listening III

- got there a couple of hours later

- were staying at her house
- to get over to the hotel
- half the money up front
- which was a bit awkward
- this great package holiday
- set off for the airport
- just lazing about on the sand
- took a boat over to one of
- didn't have my wallet with me

### CRIMINALS (PAGE 39)

#### 1 Reading II

- (wording may vary)
- She uploaded a video of herself talking about the crime.
  - He forgot to log out of his Facebook account.
  - They followed a mysterious trail of orange powder.
  - He wrote his name on a wall.
  - There were 50 police officers in the store.
  - Because he told the store clerk what he was going to do.

#### 2 Language focus

- dumb
- break into
- track someone down
- flee
- shoplift
- store
- strengthen

### JOKES (PAGE 40)

#### 1 Reading II

- The mail buoy = sailors are told to look out for the mail buoy.
- Sea-bats = sailors are told to find and kill the sea-bats.
- The captain's crank = sailors are told to find a crank to wind up the compass.
- A hammer for = new apprentices are told to get a "hammer for".
- A long weight = new apprentices are told to go to a hardware store to buy a "long weight / wait".

### TWO BOOKS (PAGE 41)

#### 1 Reading II (wording may vary)

*Fifty Shades of Grey* = some find the sexual element in it appealing; it focuses on female desire, and there aren't many books like that around; it's got a discreet front cover.

*A Game of Thrones* = there's a TV series to promote it; it's got lots of twists and turns; it focuses on human topics.

### PHRASAL VERBS (PAGE 42)

- foot; 2. post; 3. bats; 4. ladder; 5. money; 6. company; 7. opponent; 8. road



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# STORY TIME

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



I'M A CHEATING CHEETAH!

## Card cheat

**A:** I say, I say, I say. Which big cat should you never play cards with?

**B:** I don't know. Which big cat should you never play cards with?

**A:** A cheetah!

## The mime

An out-of-work mime is desperate for money. So, one morning, he starts performing outside a zoo, taking advantage of the crowds **queuing up** to get in. A short while later, a zookeeper passes by and stops to watch. Impressed, he talks to the mime and offers him some regular work. He explains how the zoo's most popular attraction, a gorilla, has recently died and the keeper is worried that attendance at the zoo will **drop**. So, he wants the mime to **dress up as** a gorilla and live in the cage until they can get another one. The mime accepts.

The next morning, the mime turns up for his new job. He puts on the gorilla suit and gets into the cage. And he's a great success. He jumps about, **swings** from **tyres** and bangs his chest, much **to the delight** of the audience.

But over time, the crowds

start to get tired of him, and start paying more attention to the lion in the cage next to his. Not wanting to lose his job, the mime climbs to the top of his cage, **crawls across** a partition, and **dangles** from the top of the lion's cage, **teasing** the lion. This makes the lion furious, but the crowds love it.

At the end of the day, the zoo keeper comes and gives the mime a **raise** for having done so well. This goes on for some time, with the mime **taunting** the lion, the crowds growing larger, and his salary going up and up. But one day, as he's dangling over the furious lion, he **slips** and falls. As he's getting up, he sees the lion coming towards him. Fearing for his life, he runs around the cage with the lion close behind. Eventually, the lion **catches up with** him and pounces, **pinning** the mime to the ground.

"Help! Help!" the mime shouts, but it's too late. The mime watches in horror as the lion opens its enormous mouth, roars loudly and starts **bending down** towards his face. But just as he thinks he's about to die, the lion

whispers, "Shut up you idiot! Do you want to get us both **fired**?" ❌

## GLOSSARY

- a cheetah** *n*  
a wild animal that looks like a large cat with black spots (circles) on its body. Cheetahs are the fastest animals on earth. This word sounds like "cheater" – from the verb "to cheat", which means to do something "illegal" in a game
- to queue up** *phr vb*  
if people "queue up" for something, they wait in a line for it
- to drop** *vb*  
if a level or amount "drops", it decreases / goes down / becomes less
- to dress up as** *exp*  
if you "dress up as" a gorilla (for example), you put on a gorilla costume
- a cage** *n*  
a metal structure with bars. Animals are kept in "cages" to stop them escaping
- to swing** *vb*  
if you "swing" from tree to tree (for example), you move backwards and forwards between the two trees
- a tyre** *n*  
a thick rubber, round object that goes around the wheel of a car / bicycle / truck
- to the delight of** *exp*  
to the happiness of; to the amusement of
- to crawl across** *phr vb*  
if you "crawl across" an area, you move over that area from a low position using your hands and knees
- to dangle** *vb*  
if someone is "dangling" from a high object, they're hanging from it, often holding on by their hands
- to tease** *vb*  
if you "tease" someone, you provoke them / laugh at them / make them angry, etc.
- a raise** *n*  
an increase
- to taunt** *vb*  
if you "taunt" someone, you laugh at them / make fun of them, etc.
- to slip** *vb*  
if you "slip", you accidentally fall
- to catch up with** *exp*  
if you "catch up with" someone who is ahead of you, you reach / catch them
- to pin (to the ground)** *exp*  
if you "pin someone to the ground", you use force to hold them on the ground
- to bend down** *phr vb*  
if you "bend down", you move your body forwards and downwards
- to whisper** *vb*  
to speak in a low, quiet voice
- to fire** *vb*  
if you "fire" someone from a job, you tell them to leave their job

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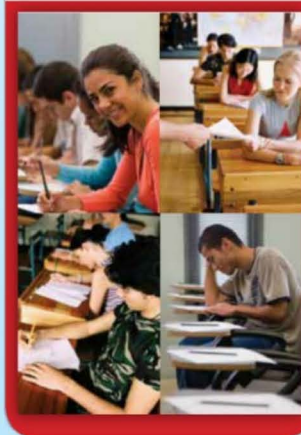
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