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# EDITOR'S INTRO

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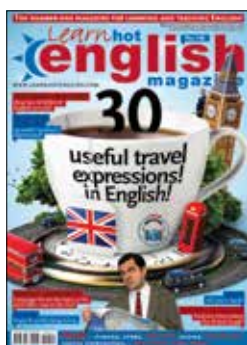
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Hi, everybody, and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine!

This month, we're looking at British comedy. Find out what the British find funny, and why they laugh at it. We're also looking at world-famous comedian Rowan Atkinson,

otherwise known as Mr Bean. On another topic, we've got lots of useful travel words and expressions for you to learn and that you can use when you're on the train, on the bus or at the post office. Talking about travel, you can also read about Los Angeles and listen to someone talking about their experiences there. And there's also an interesting article on how the film character Rocky is helping a small town in Serbia. Of course that's not all, and you'll be able to enjoy all our usual sections to help you learn English. Have a great month and happy learning.

Yours,

*Andy*



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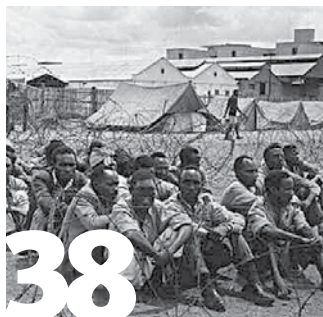
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# PHRASAL VERBS THROW

We generally use the verb "to throw" to refer to the action of using your hands to make an object fly through the air. For example, "I threw a plate at his head." Now let's look at some phrasal verbs with the verb "to throw".

**THROW SOMETHING AWAY**  
TO PUT SOMETHING OLD OR DIRTY IN THE RUBBISH BIN; TO GET RID OF SOMETHING OLD.



**THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND SOMEONE**  
TO HOLD SOMEONE IN AN EMOTIONAL WAY BY PUTTING YOUR ARMS AROUND THEM QUICKLY AND SUDDENLY.



**THROW SOMEONE IN JAIL/PRISON**  
TO SEND SOMEONE TO JAIL/PRISON.



**THROW SOMETHING AT SOMEONE**  
TO THROW SOMETHING SO IT HITS SOMEONE.



**THROW MONEY AT A PROBLEM**  
TO USE MONEY TO TRY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM.



**THROW IN A PRODUCT (FOR FREE)**  
IF A SALES PERSON "THROWS IN" A PRODUCT FOR FREE, THE SALES PERSON INCLUDES THAT PRODUCT AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT.





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## Opinion form questions

All comments are welcome – even negative ones, which are often more useful as they help us improve. Thanks for your collaboration!

- 1 What 3 things do you like about *Learn Hot English* magazine?
- 2 What 3 things do you dislike about *Learn Hot English* magazine?
- 3 What are your 3 favourite sections in *Learn Hot English* magazine? Why do you like them?
- 4 Which 3 articles or pages from the June 2014 issue of *Learn Hot English* magazine (Hot English 145) did you like? Why did you like them?
- 5 Any other comments? Any ideas for improving the magazine? Be as honest as you like.

Thanks very much for your opinions and ideas. We really appreciate them!



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# INSECT IDIOMS

This month we are looking at some more insect idioms.

## GLOSSARY

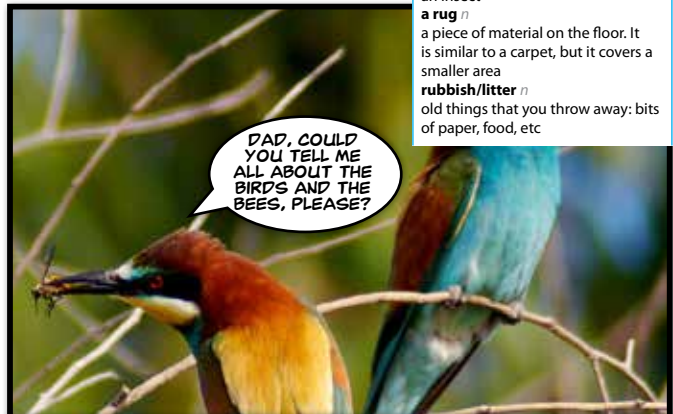
- a bee** *n*  
a little black and yellow insect that makes honey
- a bonnet** *n*  
a hat with ribbons that are tied under the chin (the bottom part of your face)
- a mess** *n*  
if things are "in a mess", they are disordered and not tidy
- snug** *adj*  
if you are "snug", you feel warm, secure and comfortable
- a bug** *n* *US*  
an insect
- a rug** *n*  
a piece of material on the floor. It is similar to a carpet, but it covers a smaller area
- rubbish/litter** *n*  
old things that you throw away: bits of paper, food, etc



### Have a bee in your bonnet

To keep talking about something again and again because you think it is important. However, no one else thinks it is so important.

"He's got a **bee** in his **bonnet** about people leaving a **mess** on their desk. I wish he'd shut up about it."



### The birds and the bees

If you tell a child about the "birds and the bees", you tell him/her about sexual reproduction.

"My parents didn't tell me about the birds and bees until I was fifteen."



### As snug as a bug in a rug

To feel very comfortable and warm because you are in bed or under a cover.

"I spent all weekend in bed watching TV and playing with my PSP portable. I was as **snug** as a **bug** in a **rug**."



### A litter bug

Someone who throws rubbish on the floor.

"This street is disgusting with all this **rubbish** everywhere. The government has to do something about **litter bugs**."



### Bug someone

To annoy or irritate someone.

"No, I won't play that game with you – I'm busy. Now go away and stop **bugging** me!"



### Bug in the system

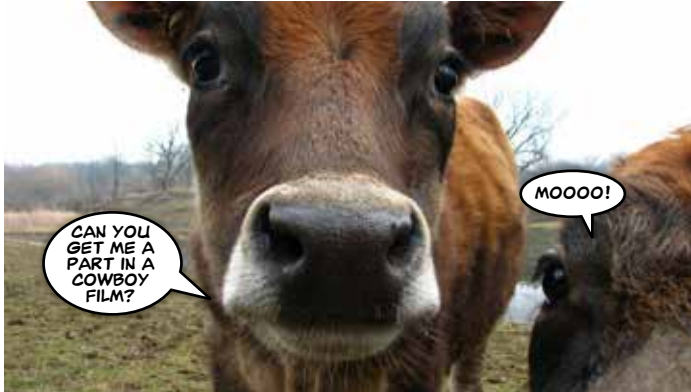
If there is a bug in a computer programme, there is an error in it.

"The programme doesn't work properly. I think there's a **bug** in the software."



# Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. **Answers** on page 24



1. What animal has two **humps** and is found at the North Pole?
2. What kind of **keys** have **tails**?
3. What type of wild cat should you never play cards with?
4. Why don't leopards escape from the zoo for long?
5. What does a **kitten** become after it is three days old?
6. Why are elephants **wrinkled**?
7. Where do cows go on Saturday nights?
8. What is a crocodile's favourite game?



- A:** A **cheetah**.
- B:** To the moo-vies.
- C:** Four days old.
- D:** A lost camel.
- E:** **Snap**.
- F:** Mon-keys.
- G:** Have you tried to **iron** one?
- H:** Because they are always **spotted**.

### GLOSSARY

**a hump** *n*  
the high area of skin on a camel's back

**a key** *n*  
a metal object used to open a locked or closed door

**a tail** *n*  
the long object at the back that a dog/cat/horse, etc has

**a kitten** *n*  
a baby cat

**wrinkled** *adj*  
with many lines on the skin

**a cheetah** *n*  
a type of wild cat. It is the fastest animal on land

**snap** *n*  
two things: a) a game played with cards. When you show the same card as another player, you shout "snap"; b) if a person or animal "snaps", it tries to bite very quickly

**to iron** *vb*  
to move an electrical appliance (known as an iron) over clothes so that the creases (the lines) disappear

**spotted** *adj*  
two things: a) with spots (small circles of colour); seen or observed

# GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

SOME SAY THE GLASS IS HALF EMPTY. SOME SAY THE GLASS IS HALF FULL. I SAY, "ARE YOU **GONNA** DRINK THAT?"

**LIFT OUT OF ORDER. TRY THE ONE ACROSS THE STREET.**

**MATURITY IS KNOWING WHEN AND WHERE TO BE IMMATURE.**

**I'D EXPLAIN IT TO YOU, BUT YOUR BRAIN WOULD EXPLODE.**

**I USED UP ALL MY SICK DAYS, SO I'M CALLING IN DEAD.**

**I'VE GOT TO SIT DOWN AND WORK OUT WHERE I STAND.**

### GLOSSARY

**gonna** *exp*  
going to

**a lift** *n*  
a device that takes you from one floor to another floor in a building

**maturity** *n*  
the state of acting like an adult

**immature** *adj*  
juvenile; not acting responsibly

**to use up** *exp*  
to use completely

**a sick day** *n*  
a day when you don't go to work because you are sick

**to call in (sick)** *exp*  
to telephone the place where you work and to tell them that you are ill and cannot come to work

**to work out** *exp*  
to understand; to decide

**to stand** *vb*  
where you "stand" on a particular issue or political question is your view or opinion of that issue

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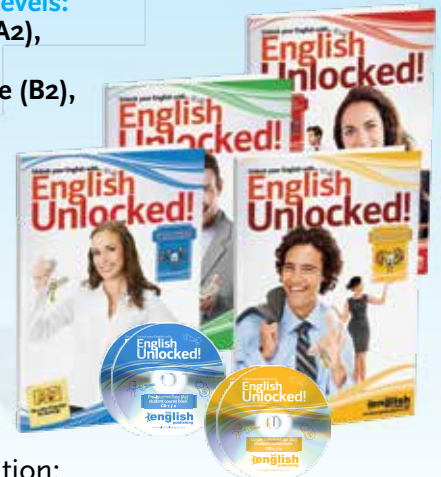
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# DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: DISASTER & FAILURE



This month, we are looking at some expressions to do with "failure".



### A dead duck

Something that is not successful or useful; something that will fail.  
"This project was a **dead duck** right from the start because of a lack of funding."



### A no-win situation

A difficult situation in which whatever happens the result will be bad.  
"We're in a bit of a **no-win situation**. Whatever we do, no one is going to be satisfied."



### A sinking ship

A company or organisation that is failing.  
"I've had a look at the accounts and they're **in a complete mess**. In fact, I'd say that this company is a **sinking ship**."



### Go pear-shaped

If a plan "goes pear-shaped", it fails or goes badly.  
"We had planned to finish the project this week, but everything has gone **pear-shaped**."



### Go/fall to pieces

To fail suddenly and completely; to start playing or doing really badly.  
"The football team did really well last year, but this year they have gone to **pieces**."



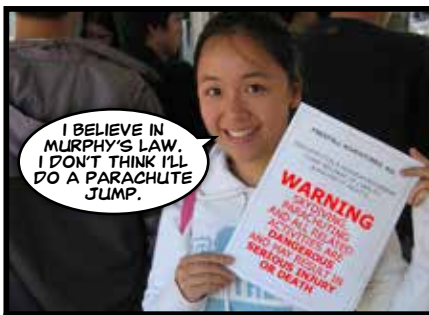
### Not set the world on fire

Not to be very exciting or successful.  
"This new club is good, but it's just like every other club. It won't **set the world on fire**."



### Sod's law

Bad things will happen if there is any possibility of them happening.  
"The one time I arrive late for work, the boss happens to notice. It's **sod's law**."



### Murphy's law

An unwritten law that says that if something can go badly, it will go badly.  
"I'm a great believer in **Murphy's law**: what can go wrong, will go wrong."

### GLOSSARY

**a duck** *n*  
a type of bird that lives in water.  
Donald Duck was one  
**in a complete mess** *exp*  
if things are "in a complete mess", they are not ordered or neat  
**a sinking ship** *n*  
a ship that is going under water because there is a hole in it  
**to set something on fire** *exp*  
to burn something



# DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



The start of a new section in which Dr Fingers corrects typical English errors.



## Activity

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section.

1. I am learning English for five years.
2. I was working during four hours last night.
3. I lived in Paris during three months.
4. I played a lot of tennis during holidays.
5. I fell asleep the exam.
6. She was talking three hours.
7. I told her that she comes.
8. I told him that he gives the drink to me.
9. I told them that they go.
10. She is good at all.
11. All of us didn't want to go there.
12. We all were really happy with the results.
13. All is going really well.
14. I like the all kinds of music.
15. I didn't like the food and couldn't eat all.



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## Error Analysis

1. Remember, we use the present perfect (or present perfect continuous) to refer to actions that started in the past and continued until now.
2. We use "for" with periods of time (not "during").
3. We use "for" with periods of time (not "during").
4. We say "during the holidays".
5. We use "during" with nouns (during the exam).
6. We use "for" with periods of time.
7. For reported commands, we use this formula: "told" + object pronoun + infinitive.
8. For reported commands, we use this formula: "told" + object pronoun + infinitive.
9. For reported commands, we use this formula: "told" + object pronoun + infinitive.
10. We use the word "everything".
11. To say that no one wanted to go, you can use "none of us".
12. This is a problem of word order: we were all really happy...
13. We use the word "everything".
14. The article "the" isn't necessary.
15. There's a missing pronoun (it) in this sentence: couldn't eat it all.





# British humour



A sense of humour is central to the British identity. And as every comedian knows, to be funny you need good material. By Rob Julian

Luckily, Britain is a society that has great material. From the famously bad weather, to the mysterious class system, to politicians and celebrities -there's so much to laugh at. As the old **saying** goes, "If you didn't laugh, you'd cry". But perhaps **Oscar Wilde** said it best, "Life is far too important to be taken seriously". Here's a look at some of the things that Britain laughs at.

## Class

Britain's ancient **class system** has always been a mystery to foreigners, and a source of fascination, and humour, to the British. In the past, the British were expected to "know their place". That meant they had to accept their status as working class, middle class or upper class, and to **behave** appropriately. People who acted and spoke as if they belonged



to a higher social class were laughed at. Television comedies such as *Steptoe and Son*, *The Good Life* and *Keeping Up Appearances* used class as the basis of their humour.

## Sex

Sex and sexuality is often **repressed** in Britain. As a result, it's the source of a great amount of humour. But because of **censorship**, sexual humour on the stage or screen had always had to be indirect and very subtle. And this is why **innuendo** or "double entendre" (the double meaning of words) became central to British humour, especially in the 1960s and '70s. The *Carry On* movies became famous for jokes that had a sexual implication. But



they aren't the only ones to use "double entendre". Virgin Atlantic airlines used it in an advert, with their slogan "you never forget your first time". On TV, *The Benny Hill Show* was a **huge hit**. For two decades, British audiences loved to see this fat, middle-aged man being chased by half-naked women.

## Violence

Violence is nothing to laugh about, especially if it's happening to you. But



fictional violence can be funny as it is energetic and visually exciting. The **slapstick** tradition with people falling down or hitting each other, but never really getting hurt, has been popular for decades, even centuries. *Fawlty Towers* is a classic British **sitcom** that is full of "fun" violence. Who can forget the sight of Basil Fawlty assaulting his waiter Manuel? This childish form of slapstick violence continued with shows such as *The Young Ones*.

## Work

Everyone who has a job knows that workplaces are often **absurd**. In the seventies and early eighties, the sitcom *Are You Being Served?* was **set in** a large, old-fashioned **department store**, a great place for **gags**. But no British





comedy has represented the workplace as successfully as *The Office*. Like too many bosses, manager David Brent is **vain**, self-important and **insensitive**. He is so funny because he is so recognisable. He manages to offend everyone who works for him.

### Family

Families can be a source of love, but families can also be a pain. That's why we're fascinated how other families work. Family conflicts make great drama in film and television, but they can also be a source of humour. British sitcoms often use the **dysfunctional family** as a favourite theme. This can be seen in comedies such as *The Royle Family*. They constantly **get at** each other while watching the television. Brothers Del-Boy and Rodney Trotter in *Only Fools and Horses* are typical **sibling rivals** as they fight with each other but are also **loyal** to one other and to their grandfather. In *Absolutely Fabulous* mother and daughter have changed roles. Teenager Saffi is **dependable** and **sensible**,



and her fashion-obsessed mother Edina and her friend Patsy are **irresponsible** and self-absorbed.

### Fools and losers

The British love a **loser**. If life is difficult, it always helps to know that there's someone

**worse off** than yourself. Losers are the victims of their own ambitions. They try, they fail, then they try again, all for our entertainment. This can be seen in programmes such as *Mr Bean* and *Blackadder*, the bad-tempered Basil Fawlty of *Fawlty Towers*, Frank Spencer, the unintelligent hero of 1970's sitcom *Some Mothers Do Have 'Em*, The ridiculous part time soldiers of *Dad's Army* – there's a love of the fool in British humour.



### Madness and Surrealism

The British are famous for their eccentricity and British humour can be very **weird**. Of course, cartoons and animation are perfect for the strange and surreal. *Bonzo the Dog* was Britain's first animated success. Bonzo took a journey to the moon and a trip to Hollywood on a radio wave. *The Magic Roundabout* was all about an enchanted garden populated by talking dogs and rabbits who played the guitar. More recently, there has been *Wallace and Grommit* which is all about a cheese-loving inventor and his faithful dog. In the 1950s, radio show *The Goons* was full of funny voices and ridiculous situations. *Monty Python's Flying Circus* combined weird **skits** with the playful imagination of animator Terry Gilliam. The team's feature films included *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Life of Brian* and *The Meaning of Life*. Meanwhile



on TV, the anarchic *Kenny Everett Video Show* was a **ratings success**. By the turn of the 21st century, the madness was getting darker. *The League of Gentlemen* introduced the nightmare world of Royston Vasey. The disturbing *Jam* was perhaps the strangest ever seen on television, with television sets full of seven-year-old schoolgirl killers and professional baby-fighting.

### Race

One of the greatest changes of the past half-century has been the transformation of Britain into a multiracial society, following a process of immigration beginning in the late 1940s. Unfortunately, classic sitcoms from the sixties and seventies now seem very racist. *Love Thy Neighbour* **made light** of the anxieties of a white couple when an African family moves in next door. *Mind Your Language*, set in an English language class for non-native speakers, had something to offend almost everyone with its simplistic **stereotypes**. One of the most controversial figures of recent years is Ali G from Da Ali G Show. He was created by comedian Sacha Baron-Cohen. The character has divided opinions, but managed to attract huge audiences. ✪

### GLOSSARY

**a saying** *n*  
a memorable sentence that people often say  
**Oscar Wilde** *n*  
a famous Irish writer  
**the class system** *n*  
the way that society is divided into working-class, middle-class and upper-class people  
**to behave** *vb*  
to act  
**repressed** *adj*  
a "repressed" feeling or emotion is hidden and not talked about  
**censorship** *n*  
the process of examining films/books, etc and eliminating "offensive" text/scenes, etc  
**innuendo** *n*  
the indirect reference to something rude or sexual  
**a huge hit** *n*  
a very popular film  
**slapstick** *n*  
a type of humour that involves falling down, hitting people, etc  
**a sitcom** *abbr*  
a situation comedy - a television series about a group of people  
**absurd** *adj*  
strange, ridiculous, etc  
**set in a place** *exp*  
if a film is "set in a place", it happens in that place  
**a department store** *n*  
a large shop with many different departments: men's clothing, women's clothing, etc  
**a gag** *n*  
a joke - often one told by a professional comedian  
**vain** *adj*  
obsessed with his/her physical appearance  
**insensitive** *adj*  
not thinking about the feelings of others  
**a dysfunctional family** *n*  
a family with many problems  
**to get at one another** *exp*  
to attack one another verbally  
**sibling rivals** *n*  
two brothers who are in competition  
**loyal** *adj*  
faithful, supportive, honest  
**dependable** *adj*  
someone who is "dependable" will always do what he/she says she will do and at the right time  
**sensible** *adj*  
someone who is "sensible" acts in a responsible and controlled manner  
**irresponsible** *adj*  
not acting in a responsible way  
**a loser** *n*  
a person who is very unsuccessful in life  
**worse off** *adj*  
if someone is "worse off" than you, they are in a worse situation  
**weird** *adj*  
strange and unusual  
**a skit** *n*  
a short act in which actors make fun of people by imitating them  
**a ratings success** *n*  
a programme that is very popular  
**to make light of something** *exp*  
to make fun of something; to laugh at something  
**a stereotype** *n*  
a fixed, general image of a nationality/race, etc. It is often an exaggerated and negative image

# Mr Bean

The man with the rubber face.

He's ugly, but he's **cute**. He's weird but he's clever. He's **childlike**, but he dresses like an old man. He has revolting personal habits, but likes things to be **neat and tidy**. He's a **walking disaster** in a **tweed** coat. He's Mr Bean. Just hope he isn't anywhere near you!

## How Bean was Born

Two feature films, and several **long-running** TV series and a cartoon series as well – Mr Bean is a superstar. The **antics** of this weird little man have been delighting audiences for over fifteen years.

In the first series, Mr Bean falls to earth in a ray of light. But in reality it took a while for Mr Bean to be born.

The man behind Mr Bean is British comic actor Rowan Atkinson.

As a child, Atkinson had a **stutter**, a condition which sometimes returns when he is in stressful situations. However, Atkinson has since used his mispronunciation for comic effect from time to time.

## The seed that became a bean

Atkinson was born in Durham in north-east England and studied electrical engineering at Newcastle University before doing his masters degree at Oxford University. At Oxford,

he met the writer Richard Curtis and collaborated with him writing **sketches**. His first success in comedy was writing for the sketch show *Not the Nine O'clock News*. Atkinson first developed the Bean character while he was a student at Oxford. This **prototype** Mr Bean made an appearance at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in the 1980s.

## Blackadder

But before Bean became a big hit, there was *Blackadder*. Atkinson and Richard Curtis wrote and starred in the first of the *Blackadder* series. *Blackadder* is all about a character (Blackadder) who appears in different historical periods. The first series was set in 15<sup>th</sup>-century England.



*Blackadder II* took place in the Elizabethan era (during the 16<sup>th</sup> century), and included a descendant of the original Blackadder. The same pattern was repeated in *Blackadder the Third*, set during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and in *Blackadder Goes Forth*, which is set during the First World War. Much of the humour is based around Blackadder's **sarcastic** and **witty** comments, and his cruelty to his **sidekick**, Baldrick. The *Blackadder* series went on to become one of the most successful BBC situation comedies of the 1980s, and it was voted the second-best British sitcom of all time, beaten by *Only Fools and Horses*.



## Monsieur Hulot – the original French Bean

Atkinson launched the first Mr Bean TV series in 1990, and has never looked back. Atkinson has said that Bean was influenced by the "Mr Hulot" character of the French comic actor and director Jacques Tati. "Mr Hulot" used physical humour more than dialogue,



and Bean is the same. Bean hardly ever says anything clearly. He **grunts** and makes strange noises most of the time. Perhaps that's why he is so popular internationally.

## A car nut

Atkinson is now a millionaire with an estimated wealth of 60 million pounds. His major hobby is fast cars. He loves Aston Martins and has a large private collection. In 2003, Atkinson starred in a James Bond spoof called *Johnny English*. Atkinson owns the same Aston Martin DB7 he drove in the movie. Will you be going to see his latest film? ☺



## GLOSSARY

- cute** *adj*  
pretty and attractive
- childlike** *adj*  
if someone is "childlike" they appear to be a child because of the way they act/talk, etc
- neat and tidy** *exp*  
if things are "neat and tidy", those things are ordered and in their place
- a walking disaster** *n*  
a person who has many accidents
- tweed** *n*  
a type of thick woollen material
- long-running** *adj*  
that has been happening for a long time
- antics** *n*  
funny or silly ways of behaving
- a stutter** *n*  
if someone has a "stutter", they repeat the same sound many times when speaking
- a sketch** *n*  
a short, humorous piece of acting that is part of a show
- a prototype** *n*  
a model of something; the first version
- sarcastic** *adj*  
if someone is "sarcastic", they say things that have the opposite meaning. For example, they say, "that's nice", when they really mean to say that it is horrible
- witty** *adj*  
with an ability to say funny things, or to respond quickly to a comment
- a sidekick** *n*  
a person who accompanies the main star and who is inferior, less important, less intelligent, etc
- to grunt** *vb*  
to make sounds instead of speaking



# The World of Bean

Find out all about Mr Bean, and read about his latest film.



## Mr Bean's Teddy

"Teddy" is Mr Bean's best friend. Bean seems to think Teddy is a real person. He tries not to wake him in the mornings, he buys him Christmas presents, and looks after him like a child. But sometimes, often in an emergency, Bean has to use him as a **dish cloth** or paint brush.

## Mr Bean's Mini

Mr Bean's lime green Mini is very important to him. He uses it to **get himself into and out of trouble**. He drives it while he gets dressed. And he looks after it carefully. For example, sometimes he removes the **steering wheel** instead of the key when he parks it. Other times he hides the key under the **car bonnet**. The key for the bonnet is kept in the boot, the key for the boot is hidden somewhere else.

## Mr Bean's Girlfriend

Mr Bean's "girlfriend", Irma Gobb, appears in a number of episodes. She isn't treated well by Bean. He seems to think of her more as a friend and companion than a love interest. However, he becomes jealous when she dances with another man at a disco in *Mr Bean Goes to Town*. And she certainly

expects him to propose to her on Christmas Day in *Merry Christmas, Mr Bean*. But he doesn't, so Irma leaves him.

## The Animated series

In 2002 an animated version of the series was launched. The series also introduced some additional characters, featuring Mr Bean's unpleasant **landlady**, Mrs Wicket and her **evil** one-eyed cat, Scrapper. Rowan Atkinson provided the voice for Bean, and all of the animated Bean actions are taken from Atkinson himself.

## Bean in the Movies

In 1997, *Bean* (directed by Mel Smith), also known as *Bean: The Ultimate Disaster Movie*, made US \$230 million on a **budget** of only around US \$22 million. In the movie, Mr Bean works as a security guard for an important London art gallery. By mistake, he is chosen to transfer a painting ("Whistler's Mother") from the gallery's collection to a US gallery. After a number of disasters, Bean accidentally destroys the painting. But with a bit of creativity and some **varnish**, Bean puts a photographic reproduction of the painting in the original **frame**. When it is exhibited for the first time, nobody knows the difference.

## Bean now

*Mr Bean's holiday* is written by Rowan Atkinson and Richard Curtis (Curtis wrote the script for *Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Notting Hill*). Atkinson has said that *Mr Bean's Holiday* will be the last Mr Bean movie. In the movie, Mr Bean is heading to the Riviera on the southern coast of France for a holiday. However, his journey becomes chaotic after he meets Romanian film director Emil and his 8-year-old son Stefan, on a train. They eventually find themselves in a small village. There, they meet Sabine, a pretty young girl. They also meet a **film crew**, which results in an unexpected **screening** of Bean's video diary at the Cannes Film Festival. ✨

## GLOSSARY

**a dish cloth** *n*  
a piece of material used to clean plates or surfaces in the house  
**to get yourself into trouble** *exp*  
to create problems for yourself  
**to get yourself out of trouble** *exp*  
to do something so you aren't in a difficult situation  
**a steering wheel** *n*  
the round object in a car that you hold and use to change direction  
**a car bonnet** *n*  
the metal cover over the car engine  
**a landlady** *n*  
a woman who rents rooms in a building/house/flat  
**evil** *adj*  
bad, cruel, etc  
**a budget** *n*  
money allocated for a project  
**varnish** *n*  
a liquid used to cover wood in order to preserve it  
**a frame** *n*  
the metal/wooden border that is fitted around a painting/picture  
**a film crew** *n*  
the people who are involved in making a film: the director, the lighting specialist, etc  
**a screening** *n*  
if there is a "screening" of a film, that film is shown to the public



# Dictionary of slang

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

 Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
You think a friend has taken your pen without permission.	Did you appropriate my pen?	Did you take my pen without permission?	Did you nick my pen? Did you <b>pinch</b> my pen?
The television isn't working again. You tell a friend.	The television is not functioning satisfactorily.	The TV isn't working.	The TV's <b>on the blink</b> .
A friend won 6,000 euros on the lottery. However, she spent it all in one night.	My friend dispensed of all her money in one night.	My friend spent all her money in one night.	My mate <b>blew</b> all her money in one night.
You decided to buy yourself a really expensive jacket.	I bestowed an expensive jacket upon myself.	I bought an expensive jacket for myself.	I <b>splashed out</b> and bought a <b>wicked</b> jacket.
You need to go to the toilet.	I need to pay a visit to the men's room.	I need to go to the toilet.	I need to go to the <b>bog</b> ; I need to spend a penny; I need to go to the khazi.
You would like to go dancing tonight.	I would like to engage in some bodily movement at a discotheque tonight.	I'd like to go out dancing tonight.	I fancy a boogie tonight.



## GLOSSARY

Please note that some of the words in this glossary box are literal translations of parts of idiomatic expressions.

**to pinch** *vb inform*  
to steal. Literally, to take skin between your fingers and to apply pressure as a way of hurting someone

**on the blink** *exp inform*  
functioning badly. To "blink" is to open and close your eyes quickly

**to blow (money)** *exp inform*  
to spend money quickly. Literally, if something is "blown" it moves because air is pushing against it

**to splash out** *exp inform*  
to spend money generously and with little control. Literally, to "splash" is to cause water to fly in the air, often by making movements with your hands

**wicked** *adj inform*  
very good. In standard English, "wicked" means evil, bad or cruel

**a bog** *n inform*  
a toilet. In standard English, a "bog" is an area of wet land



# On the Train

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## Useful Expressions

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

### What you say

- Where can I buy a ticket?
- Where can I make a reservation?
- I'd like a single to London, please.
- I'd like a return to Birmingham, please.
- I'd like to reserve a **berth** in the sleeper to Edinburgh, please.
- I'd like a monthly **season ticket**, please.
- Is this train direct?
- Do I have to change trains?
- Which **platform** is it for the 14:45 to Manchester, please?
- How long does it take?
- What time does it arrive in London?
- Where do I have to change?
- Is this the train for Bath?
- Is there a **left-luggage office**?
- I'm sorry but I've lost my train ticket.
- The **ticket machine** wasn't working properly.
- I've missed my connection.
- When's the next train to Brighton?

- Is there a waiting room here?
- Is there a lost-luggage office?
- Where's the information desk, please?
- Is there a porter here, please?
- I'd like a **cheap day return** to London, please.
- Is this seat taken?
- I think this is my seat.

### What you hear

- I'm sorry but the train is **delayed**.
- The next train arriving on platform 6 is the 13:48 to Brighton.
- You are in carriage number 10.
- This is a non-smoking train.
- Tickets, please.
- You'll have to pay a surcharge. / You'll have to pay an excess fare.

### Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions.



## GLOSSARY

- a berth** *n*  
a bed in a compartment in a train
- a season ticket** *n*  
a train ticket you can use for a fixed period of time: three months / six months / one year, etc
- a platform** *n*  
the area in the train station where you stand or sit and wait for the train to come
- the left-luggage office** *n*  
a place where you can leave bags in lockers
- a ticket machine** *n*  
a machine that gives you a ticket
- a cheap day return** *n*  
a ticket that is lower in price, and that allows you to travel to a place and return in the same day, but not during rush hour (the busy times)
- delayed** *adj*  
if a train is "delayed", it will come later than planned



# AMAZING WORLD



Sunny Los Angeles is located on the southwestern coast of America in the state of California. Like most big cities in the United States, it is very **spread out**, but even more so than most others; and having a car is definitely necessary for getting around. Los Angeles is divided into Hollywood and its **downtown area** (where people work), and the suburbs (known to the locals as "the valley"), where people live. Including all of its counties, Los Angeles (also known as L.A.) has a population of 20.6 million people. By Johnna Shwartz.

## Hollywood

Los Angeles is probably most famous because it **is home to** Hollywood and the movie studios. Movies are filmed and edited at these studios, and because of this many famous movie stars live in Los Angeles. Hollywood has several famous **landmarks**. For example, on a clear day driving down Hollywood Boulevard, you can see one of the most famous images of Los Angeles: the big white "Hollywood" sign in the **hills**. Hollywood is also the location of the famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where many movie stars have left their hand and footprints in the **concrete** in front of the theatre.



## The Weather

Los Angeles has some of the best year-round weather in the world. Thanks to its location close to the Pacific Ocean, most of the time the weather is warm or temperate. In the summer it can get very hot, up to 37 degrees Celsius. But the rest of the time, the temperature usually stays between 7 and 24 degrees. It doesn't rain very often in Los Angeles, and it never snows.

## Sports

The biggest sports in Los Angeles are basketball and baseball. Everyone here is a **huge fan** of the L.A. Lakers, the basketball team that has had famous players such as Shaquille O'Neal and Magic Johnson. Basketball games are great fun because the



## The Beach

Of course, Los Angeles is also famous for its fantastic weather and numerous beaches. Surfing and swimming are popular activities here, as well as spending the whole day lying on the sand and **getting a tan**. One of the best areas to **soak up the sun** is Venice Beach. Here you'll find a beautiful beach lined with restaurants, shops, and artists selling their creations.



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# LOS ANGELES



crowd gets really excited and you'll probably even see a few celebrities in the **stands**. Of course, the resident baseball team, the L.A. Dodgers, is also very popular.

## The Sites

There's more to see in Los Angeles than just the famous sites in Hollywood. Here you can find a variety of museums for every taste; in fact, Los Angeles has over 300 museums. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Getty Center are two large art museums featuring collections including ancient and contemporary art. In addition you'll find the Natural History Museum and the California ScienCenter, where you can learn about animals or how the human body works.

## The Food

Because Los Angeles is so close to the border of Mexico, you can find delicious Mexican food here. Some of the best Mexican dishes include nachos (tortilla chips covered with cheese and other **toppings**) and burritos (tortillas filled with beans, cheese, and meat). But you can also find pretty much any type of food. Other popular meals include

sushi, Italian, and Chinese food. To find some great restaurants, just head to Ventura Boulevard or the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Promenade, which have almost every type of restaurant imaginable.



## Shopping

Another popular activity among the locals of Los Angeles is shopping. You'll find some of the most expensive shopping in America. Those who have a lot of money to spend head to Rodeo Drive, a paradise for designer clothing fans. Designer stores such as Louis Vuitton and Gucci line this street, and it is almost impossible to find an article of clothing under \$500. For those of us who **can't afford** the clothing, **window shopping** is always fun along Rodeo. There are also many **malls** throughout Los Angeles that provide a variety of cheaper shopping. Will you be going to Los Angeles? ✨

## Top 10 things to do in Los Angeles

1. Go to the beach. Los Angeles has miles of beaches, especially in Santa Monica and Malibu. **Grab** a towel and a picnic basket and spend a day relaxing in the sun. During the summer, the ocean is warm enough to swim in.
2. Grauman's Chinese Theatre. This is definitely one of the biggest tourist destinations in Los Angeles. Check to see if your hands are as big as Arnold Schwarzenegger's with the handprints in the cement in front of the theatre.
3. Go to a basketball or baseball game. When the Lakers play in Los Angeles, they play in the Staples Center, a huge stadium. You'll have fun **rooting the team on**.
4. Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The museum has a huge permanent collection of art and always has some interesting exhibitions. Some past exhibitions have included paintings from the artists Klimt and Magritte.
5. Natural History Museum. This museum covers everything from dinosaurs to prehistoric art. It even has a section just on California history.
6. Dine on Mexican food. Los Angeles is one of the best places to go for good, traditional Mexican food.
7. Go to see the **taping of a show**\*. Many American television shows are filmed in Los Angeles and if you are

lucky, you can be in the audience. This is the best way to see a movie or television star while you are here.

8. Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. The aquarium is about an hour's drive from Los Angeles but has some beautiful fish tanks. The shark lagoon and the jellyfish exhibit are especially interesting.
9. The Hollywood Bowl. The Hollywood Bowl is a huge venue for shows, and it features concerts of all types of music from classical to jazz. This can be a great start to spending the night out in Hollywood.
10. Shopping on Rodeo Drive. Go to spend money or just window shop. Either way, chances are you'll see a celebrity.



## \*The taping of a show

Would you like to be on TV? In Los Angeles, it's easy. Here's how: [www.tvtix.com](http://www.tvtix.com) offers free TV tickets to a number of TV shows and offers opportunities to be extras in movies. You can also get tickets for the Tonight Show with Jay Leno: Here's the website address for the Tonight Show tickets: [http://www.nbc.com/The\\_Tonight\\_Show\\_with\\_Jay\\_Leno/about/tickets.shtml](http://www.nbc.com/The_Tonight_Show_with_Jay_Leno/about/tickets.shtml) If you plan your trip to Los Angeles more than 2 weeks in advance, you can write a letter to *the Tonight Show* and get sent tickets in the mail. Otherwise, you have to go to the ticket office at 7 in the morning on the day of the show you want to see. Going to a TV show taping is kind of an all day thing. For example, to get good seats on *the Tonight Show*, you have to show up at NBC studios around one in the afternoon on any weekday. Then around 3 they start seating, around 4 the show starts taping, and you get out at 5. Bring a picnic and eat lunch **in line** to pass the time.

## GLOSSARY

- spread out** *exp*  
if a city is "spread out", it covers a very large area and it is far from one point to the other
- the downtown area** *n*  
the area in the centre of the city
- is home to** *exp*  
has
- a landmark** *n*  
a building or object that you can see from far away
- a hill** *n*  
a small mountain
- cement** *n*  
a grey powder which is mixed with sand and water to make concrete (which is used to make buildings)
- to get a tan** *exp*  
if you "get a tan", your skin colour becomes brown after lying in the sun
- to soak up the sun** *exp*  
to lie in the sun, enjoying the warmth
- a huge fan** *n*  
a big supporter
- the stands** *n*  
the area where people sit and watch a game of baseball/basketball, etc
- a topping** *n*  
food that is placed on top of pizza
- can't afford** *exp*  
don't have enough money for
- window shopping** *n*  
looking at things in the windows of shops, without buying anything
- a mall** *n*  
a large building with many shops in it
- to grab** *vb*  
to take suddenly and with your hands
- to root a team on** *exp US*  
to support a team and to shout words of encouragement
- in line** *exp*  
in a line of people waiting to be served



# LIVING ABROAD: L.A.

What's it like living in Los Angeles? We talked to Michelle Brinks, who went to school there. By Johnna Shwartz (US English)

## What were the best things about Los Angeles?

One of my favorite things about Los Angeles is the weather. I hate the cold and it never really gets that cold there. Plus, most of the time it's usually sunny. I also loved going to the beach during the summer. There's so much to do at the beach, but my favorite thing was going with my friends and having a picnic on the **sand**.



## What were the worst things about being there?

I definitely disliked that you had to drive everywhere to **get around** because the city is so **spread out**. Los Angeles has a **ton of**



traffic and sometimes it takes a long time to get somewhere **close by** just because the streets are so **congested**. Also, a lot of people complain about the **pollution**.

## Was it easy to meet people?

I think people there are pretty nice in general, but normally you only meet people through school or through work. I went to school there so that's how I met most of my friends. **I guess** you could also try meeting people by going out to clubs or bars.

## What did you usually do there?

If I was with my friends, we'd go out to dinner, see a **movie**, or sometimes go out to a club. There's always something to see or do in Los Angeles whether it's a museum exhibit or a concert, so we were rarely bored.

## Did you have any problems there?

Just the normal problems of living in any city, like watching out for **pickpockets**. Some people think Los Angeles has a lot of crime, but I think it's as safe as any other big city. Also, many people think driving is difficult in

Los Angeles because there is a lot of traffic and **road rage**, but it just takes a little practice and a lot of patience.

## Do you ever see celebrities in Los Angeles?

I actually saw many celebrities living in Los Angeles. The easiest way to see them is to go to a **television show taping**. That was one of the best things I ever did in Los Angeles. I went to the *Tonight Show* a few times. It has interviews with celebrities, and I've **seen** Quentin Tarantino, Will Smith and Ewan McGregor **close up**, which is very cool. I also saw lots of celebrities at basketball games because even the stars enjoy **cheering on the Lakers**.



## What are the people like in Los Angeles?

There are all types of people in Los Angeles since the city is pretty diverse. For the most part, though, most of the people are friendly and **laid-back**. Some people say that everyone in Los Angeles is beautiful, but I think that's just a stereotype.

## Would you go back to Los Angeles?

Definitely. Los Angeles is one of my favorite cities in the world. I love that it has all the nightlife and shopping of a big city, but also has access to beaches, parks, mountains, and other places you can't usually find in metropolitan areas. Between the weather and the beaches and all the fun things to do, it's a great place to be. ✨



## GLOSSARY

- school** *n* US in American English, "school" is often used to refer to university or college
- sand** *n* extremely small pieces of stone or shell on the beach
- to get around** *phr vb* to go from one place to another
- spread out** *exp* if a city is "spread out", it covers a very wide area
- a ton of** *exp inform* a lot of
- close by** *exp* near; close to
- congested** *adj* if the roads are "congested", there is a lot of traffic
- pollution** *n* if there is "pollution", the air is dirty and contaminated
- I guess** *exp* I think
- a movie** *n* US a film
- a pickpocket** *n* a person who steals money or wallets from people's pockets
- road rage** *n* if you experience "road rage", you become extremely angry and violent while you are driving
- a television show taping** *exp* the filming of a television show
- to see something/someone close up** *exp* to be able to see something/someone from a very short distance
- to cheer someone on** *exp* to shout words of encouragement for a team
- the Lakers** *n* a professional basketball team from Los Angeles
- laid-back** *adj* calm and relaxed





## Job offers

Job offer expressions and their true meaning.

1. Some **overtime** required = you will be working 15 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2. **Duties** will vary = you will do anything and everything.
3. Must have an **eye for detail** = there is no **quality control** so you'll have to check everything yourself.
4. A wide variety of experience = three of our employees have just left and we need someone desperately to cover all these three vacant positions.
5. **Apply** in person = we want to see what you look like.
6. Requires **leadership skills** = you will have all the responsibilities of a manager without the pay or respect.
7. Competitive salary = we pay less than our competitors.
8. Good communication skills needed = we tell you what to do and you will listen.
9. Problem-solving skills **a must** = this office is a disaster and we need someone to **sort it out**.
10. Flexible hours = be prepared to work **all the hours under the sun**.
11. Ability to handle a **heavy workload** = you complain, you're **fired**.
12. Must be **self-starter** = you'll be working on your own without any help.
13. Competitive environment = it's **every man for himself**.
14. Some public relations skills required = when our company **gets in trouble**, you'll be on TV trying to **get us out of it**. ☼



### GLOSSARY

**overtime** *n*  
if you work "overtime", you work extra hours in addition to your normal hours

**a duty** *n*  
a job you must do as part of your work

**an eye for detail** *exp*  
an ability to notice details

**quality control** *n*  
if there is "quality control", someone is checking that everything is OK

**to apply (for a job)** *exp*  
to try to get a job by sending in a letter or CV and attending an interview

**leadership skills** *n*  
the ability to lead and manage other people

**a must** *n*  
something that you have to do

**to sort out** *exp*  
to find a solution to a problem

**all the hours under the sun** *exp*  
every hour in the day

**a heavy workload** *n*  
a lot of work

**to fire** *vb*  
to tell someone to leave a job

**a self-starter** *n*  
a person who can think for him/herself

**it's every man for himself** *exp*  
a situation in which everyone is in competition with one another

**to get into trouble** *exp*  
to create problems for yourself

**to get someone out of (trouble)** *exp*  
to help someone who is in a difficult situation

THANKS FOR OFFERING ME THE JOB OF MOUSE CONTROL OFFICER.



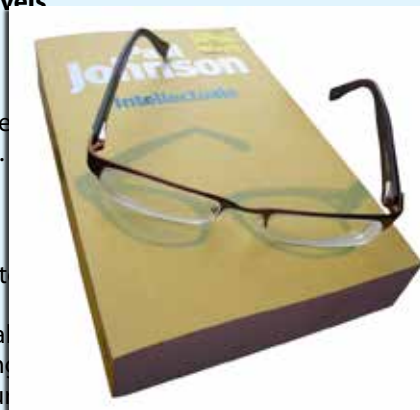
# USEFUL ADVICE



HOW TO BE INTELLECTUAL

Learn how to appear intellectual. Guaranteed to impress your friends.

- Wear glasses. They're guaranteed to make you appear more intellectual.
- Wear **tweed jackets**, a **top hat** and start smoking a pipe.
- Adopt a **posh** British accent.
- Start carrying a **walking stick**.
- Add letters to the end of your name: MBA, Phd, MSc, CIA, NASA, FBI, etc.
- Carry copies of **classic novels** around with you at all times.
- Memorise some **clever-sounding quotes** and use them as often as possible.
- Surround yourself with idiots – that way you'll appear much more intelligent and sophisticated in comparison.
- If in doubt, just don't speak and appear to be analysing a situation. People will naturally think you are clever.
- **Cite famous works of literature** or respected publications, even if you haven't read them: "From what Einstein says in his book, I believe... I believe Nietzsche said it best... According to the *Economist*..."



What fun! ☼



### GLOSSARY

**a tweed jacket** *n*  
a jacket made from tweed (a rough, woollen fabric). Prince Charles has a few

**a top hat** *n*  
a large, tall hat

**posh** *adj*  
very sophisticated

**a walking stick** *n*  
a stick some people use to help them walk

**a classic novel** *n*  
a high-quality novel such as ones by Dickens, Cervantes, Victor Hugo, etc

**clever-sounding** *adj*  
that sounds intelligent and intellectual

**a quote** *n*  
a phrase or sentence that is famous

**to cite famous works of literature** *exp*  
to mention things from famous books as a way of illustrating something

# STUPID CRIMINALS

Here's another part in our series on stupid criminals. Learn how not to do it.

## Feast Away

An English **burglar** broke into a social club in Brighton. He was **intending** to steal music and video equipment. However, once inside, he found a chicken in the fridge. So, he cooked and ate it, **washing it down** with two bottles of wine. Later, he **stretched out** on the floor and went to sleep. Next morning, he woke up to find himself under arrest.



## Dyeing Out

When Paul Broke from Tennessee robbed a bank, he **got off to a bad start**. He had a **slip of paper** with the writing "This is a hold-up" on it. Unfortunately, the paper also had his name and address on it. Then, the clerk handed him a package, telling the robber that it was full of money. However, it was really a **booby-trap** that exploded and covered the man in red **dye**. He ran out of the building, **trailing** red dust, and made his escape on a bicycle. Police later found him at the side of the road, breathing heavily and with a **trail of** red dye behind him.



## Frogs can swim

In Bordeaux, France, a thief in a **frogman's suit** walked into a bank right next to a river. He was carrying a **suitcase** in which he **pretended** to have a bomb. He got £20,000, ran out of the bank, jumped into a river and swam two kilometres underwater towards his **getaway car**. It seemed like the perfect escape, but for one thing: every time he breathed, he left a trail of **bubbles**. Police followed the bubbles and arrested him as he **climbed ashore**.



## Call for Help

A man from Scotland managed to break into the basement of a bank by climbing through a **street-level window**. However, in the process, he cut himself up **pretty badly**. He then realised that:

- He couldn't get to the money from where he was.
- He couldn't climb out of the window through which he had entered.
- He was **bleeding** pretty badly.

So, he picked up one of the office phones and called the **emergency services**. ☹️

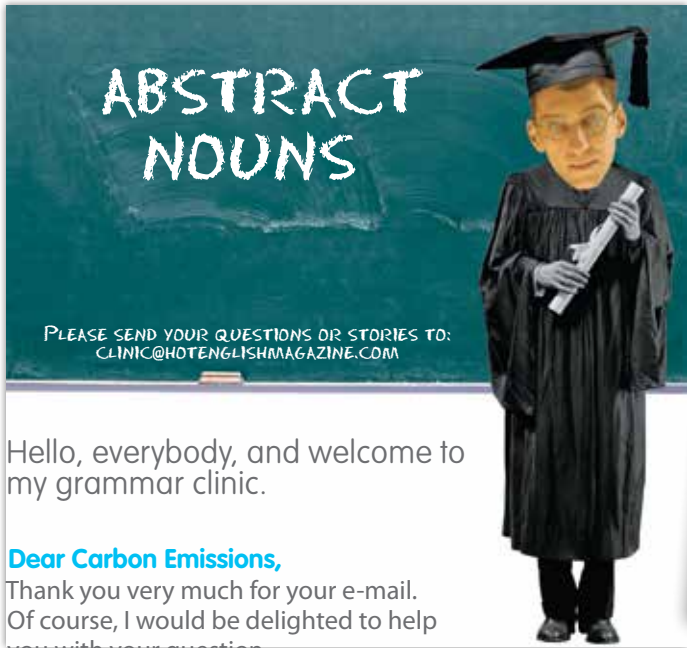


## GLOSSARY

- a burglar** *n*  
a person who enters property with the intention of stealing
- to break into a place** *exp*  
to enter a building illegally
- to intend (to do something)** *exp*  
to plan to do something
- to wash (food) down** *phr vb*  
if you "wash your food down" with wine, you have wine with your food
- to stretch out** *phr vb*  
to extend your arms and legs
- to get off to a bad start** *exp*  
to begin with a mistake or error
- a slip of paper** *n*  
a small strip of paper
- a booby-trap** *n*  
a box with a hidden bomb or trick inside it
- dye** *n*  
a chemical substance that changes the colour of hair/skin, etc
- to trail** *vb*  
if you are "trailing" red dust, there is a line of red dust behind you
- a trail of something** *n*  
a line of something behind you
- a frogman's suit** *n*  
a rubber suit used by people who swim under water
- a suitcase** *n*  
a large bag for carrying clothes, etc when you go on holiday
- to pretend** *vb*  
to act as if something is true even if it isn't
- a getaway car** *n*  
a car used to drive away quickly from a robbery
- bubbles** *n*  
small, round circles of air in the water
- to climb ashore** *exp*  
to go from the water onto land
- a street-level window** *n*  
a window that is at the same height as the street
- pretty badly** *exp*  
quite badly
- to bleed** *vb*  
if you are "bleeding", blood (the red liquid) is coming out of your body
- the emergency services** *n*  
the police, the fire service and the ambulance service



# DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

**Dear Carbon Emissions,**

Thank you very much for your e-mail. Of course, I would be delighted to help you with your question.

As we saw last month, an abstract noun is a noun that often refers to a quality, a state, a concept, or a feeling – things that don't have any physical existence. For example:

- a) **Relevance to:** This report has no relevance to us.
- b) **Remedy to:** There is no real remedy for a common cold.

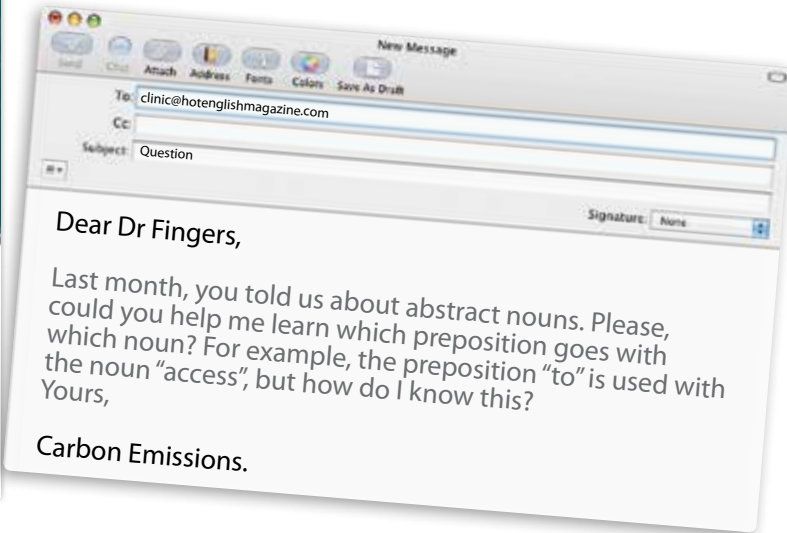
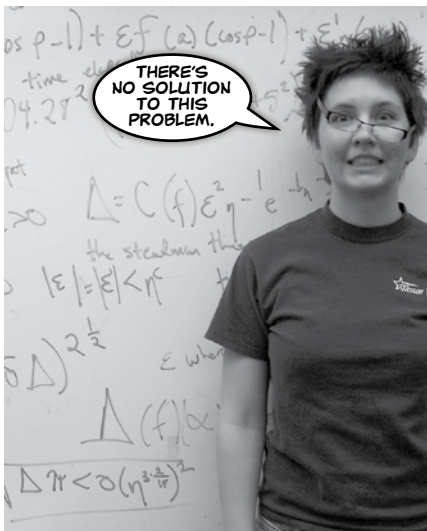


As you rightly point out, many of these abstract nouns have prepositions that go with them. However, the bad news is that there are no rules concerning which preposition goes with which noun. So, you'll just have to learn them as fixed phrases. Here are a few abstract nouns that usually have the preposition "to" after them.

**Abstract nouns and the preposition "to"**

- a) **Access to:** They don't have access to these classified files.
- b) **Addiction to:** This substance creates an addiction to other drugs.

- c) **Alternative to:** There is no alternative to this solution.
- d) **Answer to:** There is no answer to this problem.
- e) **Damage to:** There wasn't much damage to the car.
- f) **Exception to:** We will make an exception to that rule.
- g) **Contribution to:** They made a contribution to the fund.
- h) **Devotion to:** They show great devotion to their leader.
- i) **Immunity to:** They don't have any immunity to this disease.



- j) **Resistance to:** There was some resistance to the change.
- k) **Solution to:** There is a solution to this problem.
- l) **Witness to:** He was a witness to the crime.
- m) **Sequel to:** This film is a sequel to another one.
- n) **Introduction to:** There was no introduction to the book.

Well, Carbon Emissions, I really hope my explanations have helped you.  
**Yours, Dr Fingers.**  
Please send your questions or stories to: [clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com](mailto:clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com)





# British bar chat



## Ikea Homes

This month two British people are talking about Ikea homes. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions.

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of Ikea homes?
2. What does one of the speakers say against Ikea homes?

**Jim:** Hi, Jen. Have you heard, Ikea are **launching** a new **range of** homes, would you believe?

**Jen:** Yeah, I did here about that, but, I think, don't really like the idea. I mean everything looks the same from Ikea. Not sure I'd really want an Ikea home.

**Jim:** But these are **gonna** be homes, you know, with everything in it so you don't have to worry about **furniture**.

**Jen:** But **that's my point**. Every Ikea kitchen looks exactly the same.

**Jim:** Well, I mean, there is a range of kitchens you don't have to, you know, you can get different colours different, different doors on your kitchen. The basic structure is the same but the doors can look different, different colours, different **wood grains** and things like that. And these homes

[yeah, I suppose] are gonna be really **well-insulated** so they're gonna be **energy efficient** and...

**Jen:** Energy efficient? They're made of wood, paper. [Yeah, I know] They're probably fly away the next hurricane

**Jim:** That's the most energy efficient thing. It's, it's a **timber frame** with fibre glass insulation inside, and it's gonna, you're gonna be really snug inside these homes.

**Jen:** What's wrong with a **brick** house?

**Jim:** Well, they're more expensive for one. I mean buying a home anywhere in the south-east of England and you'll be paying for it for the rest of your life. I mean, the **mortgage doesn't come into it**. You'll be paying it not for the rest of your life, but for the rest of your grandchildren's lives.

**Jen:** But wouldn't you rather save your money and invest in something that will actually last for a hundred years rather than an Ikea paper house that's gonna **blow away** the next minute.

**Jim:** I don't think they'll blow away, I mean, these, these, these homes will stop the hurricanes, will stop the **global warming** and, er, they'll make the **environment** better. I think they're really a, they're really a great things.

**Jen:** Actually, I was gonna go and have a look at one. Do you want to come along with me?

**Jim:** Oh, OK then. ☺

### GLOSSARY

**to launch** *vb*  
to put a product into shops so people can buy it

**a range of something** *exp*  
a number of products of the same type but with slight differences

**gonna** *abbr*  
going to

**furniture** *n*  
tables, chairs, etc

**that's my point** *exp*  
that is what I am trying to say

**a wood grain** *n*  
the lines on the wood

**well-insulated** *adj*  
with a layer of a material inside the walls that keeps the house warm

**energy efficient** *adj*  
that doesn't waste electricity

**a timber frame** *n*  
the wooden structure of the house

**brick** *n*  
a small, rectangular piece of baked clay used for building houses

**a mortgage** *n*  
the money you borrow from the bank to build a house

**X doesn't come into it** *exp*  
X is not a part of it

**to blow away** *phr vb*  
if the wind "blows something away", it moves that thing to another place

**global warming** *n*  
the increases in temperature caused by pollution of the environment

**the environment** *n*  
the natural world: the air, the land, the sea, plants, animals, etc





# US bar chat



Windows Vista™

## Windows Vista

This month, two Americans are talking about the Microsoft windows program Vista. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions.

1. What does one of the speakers say in favor of Microsoft?
2. What does one of the speakers say against Microsoft?

**Sally:** Hey, how are you?  
**Jenny:** I'm great. How are you doing?  
**Sally:** Great. I was just, I just bought a new computer at Christmas. I'm really excited about it.  
**Jenny:** Really?  
**Sally:** Yeah.  
**Jenny:** Wow. Does your, does it have the new Vista program on it?  
**Sally:** No, it doesn't because it hadn't come out at that point.  
**Jenny:** Oh, man, **that really sucks**. Vista sounds like it's fantastic.  
**Sally:** Do you really think so? **I didn't think it was that big of a deal**.  
**Jenny:** Yeah, totally, I think it's going to take computing to a while new level.  
**Sally:** I don't know, **I'm leery about all of this**.  
**Jenny:** Really why?  
**Sally:** Well, **I mean** I just bought this new computer. Is it, am I going to be able to **upgrade** and use it with all the programs I already have?  
**Jenny:** Yeah, Yeah of course you will. Don't worry. Vista's a really flexible program.  
**Sally:** Yeah, but it took, what, 25 years for them to develop it?  
**Jenny:** Exactly that's because it's so advanced. It's amazing. I mean it's going to revolutionize all of computing and a lot of other things too.  
**Sally:** I don't know, Microsoft, they've always been **prone to bugs** and viruses and **crashing**. I just, why did it take so long for them to develop this?  
**Jenny:** Well, basically because it's going to revolutionize absolutely everything. I mean, it's going to revolutionize things like how people study. Erm, Bill Gates said it could even eliminate **textbooks**.  
**Sally:** How so?  
**Jenny:** Well, I'm not exactly sure of how it works, but that's what Mr Gates says, I mean he says we could **end up** in a world without paper textbooks, and he also says that it's going to



revolutionize how people watch television.  
**Sally:** I just don't believe that. I'm not, I'm worried that it's not going to be **compatible** with all the other programs or the programs being developed nowadays.  
**Jenny:** Yeah, yeah, compatibility, "shmatability". He says that it's even going to help change things like advertising. I mean, how cool would it be to be able to watch a personalized advertisement that's directed exactly at you?  
**Sally:** Well, **that would be neat**, but then they'd say that they're **targeting** personalized shows as well? But who are they targeting, Americans? Cos in Europe I don't think you can do that because of the copyright and licensing laws.  
**Jenny:** Erm, I'm not really too sure about laws like that, but I mean America's a huge market, there's 300 million people.  
**Sally:** True, but it's gonna **open a whole new can of worms**.  
**Jenny:** Well, anyways, erm, can I come over and check out your new computer?  
**Sally:** Yeah, definitely. Maybe you could help me **figure out** the pricing for Vista and **download** it. ☆

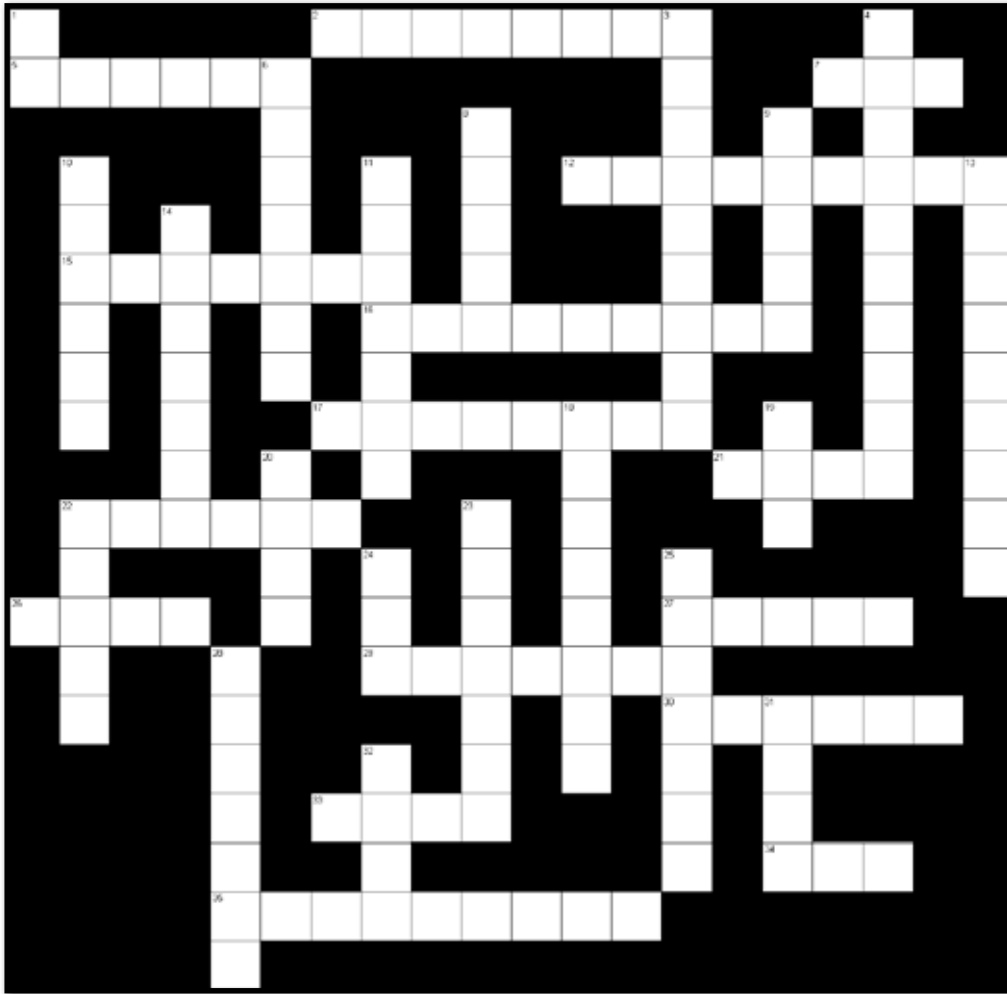
### GLOSSARY

**that really sucks** *exp US inform*  
that is really bad  
**I didn't think it was that big of a deal** *exp*  
I didn't think it was so special  
**I'm leery about all of this** *exp US*  
I'm suspicious about all of this  
**I mean** *exp*  
this expression is often used for emphasis or to clarify a point  
**to upgrade** *vb*  
to buy and install the latest version of a programme  
**prone to something** *exp*  
if something is "prone to" happen, it will happen frequently  
**a bug** *n*  
an error in a programme  
**to crash** *vb*  
if a computer "crashes", it stops working suddenly  
**a textbook** *n*  
a book that students use to study a subject at school  
**to end up** *phr vb*  
if you "end up" in a particular situation, you are in that situation eventually  
**compatible** *adj*  
if two things are "compatible", they work well together  
**that would be neat** *exp inform*  
that would be good  
**to target** *vb*  
to try to appeal to a certain group of people  
**to open a whole new can of worms** *exp*  
to create a new but difficult and complicated situation  
**to figure out** *phr vb*  
to understand  
**to download** *vb*  
to take a programme or file from the internet and to put it onto your computer



# CROSSWORD

Answers on page 33



- 4: A round object in the road. Cars drive around it in order to take a different road = a round\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6: Food (such as a cheese) that goes on top of pizza = top\_\_\_\_\_.
- 8: Not real; false = bo\_\_\_\_\_.
- 9: To stop the car suddenly by pushing a pedal = to br\_\_\_\_\_ suddenly.
- 10: To say that you will not do something = to re\_\_\_\_\_ to do something.
- 11: The amount you pay in order to have insurance = a prem\_\_\_\_\_.
- 13: To try to convince someone to do something = to enc\_\_\_\_\_ someone to do something.
- 14: A short film that advertises another film = a trai\_\_\_\_\_.
- 18: A verbal fight with someone = an argu\_\_\_\_\_.
- 19: If you do this, your skin becomes brown after lying in the sun = to get a t\_\_\_\_\_.
- 20: Paper or metal money = ca\_\_\_\_\_.
- 22: The poor areas of a city where people live in shacks or under cardboard boxes with no electricity, etc = the sl\_\_\_\_\_.

## Across

- 2: This type of injury causes damage to your neck because the car has stopped suddenly = a whi\_\_\_\_\_ injury
- 5: A toy that looks like a person and that has strings that control it = a pu\_\_\_\_\_.
- 7: A vehicle used to pull broken cars with a rope = a t\_\_\_\_\_ truck.
- 12: A company that offers you protection and possibly compensation in case you have an accident = an ins\_\_\_\_\_ company.
- 15: To stop feeling angry with someone and to accept their

apology = to for \_\_\_\_\_ someone.

- 16: To act badly or rudely = to mis\_\_\_\_\_.
- 17: A large bag for carrying clothes, etc when you go on holiday = a sui\_\_\_\_\_.
- 21: To participate in an election and to give your vote to a person or party = to c\_\_\_\_\_ a vote.
- 22: If a city is like this, it covers a very large area = spr\_\_\_\_\_ out.
- 26: If a road is like this, there are many, many cars on it = a bu\_\_\_\_\_ road.
- 27: Frightening = sc\_\_\_\_\_.
- 29: A person who sees

an accident or crime = a wit\_\_\_\_\_.

- 30: Don't have enough money for something = can't aff\_\_\_\_\_ something.
- 33: Increasing = on the ri\_\_\_\_\_.
- 34: A chemical used to change the colour of hair/fabric, etc = d\_\_\_\_\_.
- 35: To say that you are sorry = to apo\_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

- 1: It is your decision = it is \_\_\_\_\_ to you.
- 3: A person is living in the Big Brother house = a housem\_\_\_\_\_.

## Jokes

1D 2F 3A 4H 5C 6G 7B 8E

### British Bar Chat

1. One of the speakers says that Ikea homes are good because they come with everything in it so you don't have to worry about furniture, they are going to be well insulated and energy efficient, they are going to be snug, and they aren't that expensive. They're good for the environment.  
2. The other speaker says that all Ikea homes are the same, they may blow away, and they won't last long.

## US Bar Chat

1. One of the speakers says that it is good because it's going to take computing to a whole new level, Vista's a really flexible program, it's so advanced, it's going to revolutionize all of computing, and it's even going to help change things like advertising.

2. The other speaker says that she is worried that she won't be able to use all the programs she already has, it may be prone to bugs and viruses and crashing, and it may not be compatible with all the other programs or the programs being developed.

## Trivia Matching

1D 2B 3K 4E 5A 6H 7C 8M 9G 10I 11F 12J 13L

### Typical Dialogues

- 1. He buys sixteen stamps to Japan.
- 2. He wants to send his son in the parcel.

### Quiz Analysis

Mostly "a" = you are fairly normal. Mostly "b" = congratulatory: you are a complete snob.

## Fluency Practice

B:

- 1. He's got a bee in his bonnet.
- 2. They told me about the birds and bees.
- 3. I was as snug as a bug in a rug.
- 4. I hate litter bugs.
- 5. Go away and stop bugging me!
- 6. There's a bug in the system.



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Here are some more crazy laws from the US. (US English spelling)

- It is illegal to bring your horse above the **ground floor** of any building. (Colorado)
- It is unlawful to **lend** your **vacuum cleaner** to a next-door neighbor. (Colorado)
- You may not drive a black car on Sundays. (Colorado)
- It is illegal to **mistreat** rats. (Colorado)
- It is illegal for a man to kiss a woman while she is asleep. (Colorado)
- Residents may not **own** chickens, but may own **up to three** turkeys. (Colorado)
- Cats may not **run loose** without a **taillight**. (Colorado)
- It is unlawful to **walk** backwards after **sunset**. (Connecticut)
- Crossing a : while **walk on your ha** strictly prol (Connecticut)
- You may not educate do (Connecticut)



- Children may not wear a Halloween mask unless they get a special permit from the sheriff. (California)
- Males may not dress as a female unless special **permission is granted** by the sheriff. (California)
- It is forbidden to mutilate a rock in a state park. (California)
- It is illegal to permit a **llama to graze** on city property. (Colorado)
- Boulders** may not be **rolled** on city property. (Colorado)



- It is illegal for **fire trucks** to exceed 25mph, even when going to a fire. (Connecticut)

- It is illegal for any **beautician to hum, whistle,** or sing while working on a customer. (Connecticut)

- Persons may not change clothes in their car. (Delaware)

- It is illegal to wear **pants** that are **firm fitting** around the **waist**. (Delaware)

- One may not **whisper** in church. (Delaware)

- No person shall pretend to sleep on a **bench** on the **boardwalk**. (Delaware)



GLOSSARY

**to raffle** *vb*  
to give as a prize in a competition  
**to grant permission** *exp*  
to allow someone to do something  
**a llama** *n*  
a type of South American goat  
**to graze** *vb*  
if animals are "grazing", they are eating grass  
**a boulder** *n*  
a large rock  
**to roll** *vb*  
to move an object by turning it over and over in circular movements  
**ground floor** *n*  
the floor in a building that is at the same level as the street or ground  
**to lend** *vb*  
to give for a limited period of time  
**a vacuum cleaner** *n*  
an electrical appliance for cleaning the floor  
**to mistreat** *vb*  
to act in a bad way towards something/someone  
**to own** *vb*  
to possess  
**up to three** *exp*  
any number including or below three  
**to run loose** *exp*  
if an animal is "running loose", it is not controlled in any way and is free  
**a taillight** *n*  
a light at the back of a car for driving at night  
**a sunset** *n*  
the time when the sun goes down before it is night  
**to walk on your hands** *exp*  
to put your hands on the ground and your legs in the air, and then to move by using your hands  
**a fire truck** *n* *US*  
a large vehicle that contains water. A "fire engine" in British English  
**a beautician** *n*  
a person who works in a beautician's and who treats people's faces, etc  
**to hum** *vb*  
to sing to yourself by making a low, continuous sound  
**to whistle** *vb*  
to sing to yourself by blowing air out of your mouth  
**pants** *n* *US*  
trousers  
**firm fitting** *exp*  
that are very close to the body  
**a waist** *n*  
the area around your stomach  
**to whisper** *vb*  
to speak in a very low voice so others can't hear you  
**a bench** *n*  
a long seat for three or four people  
**the boardwalk** *n*  
a wooden path (often next to the sea) for people to walk on

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# Rocky Romp

*A village in Serbia that's hoping that Rocky can save it.*

What kind of city do you live in? Would you consider it a lucky one, or an unlucky one? One village in Serbia is convinced that it's **jinxed**. And they're probably right. Over the past few years, they've suffered serious damage from floods and landslides. But now they've come up with a solution.

## Rocky to the rescue

The village of Zitiste lies about 55 kilometres north of the Serbian capital Belgrade.

"We've had a lot of bad luck in recent years," said Madic, one of the residents. "And many of our residents have left the village **in search of** a better future. But now we're going to change all that: we're going to build a giant statue of the film character Rocky. This is the chance to give a better, more positive image to Zitiste," Madic explained. "With this statue, we will **ward off bad luck**."



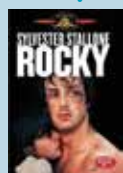
## A fighting man



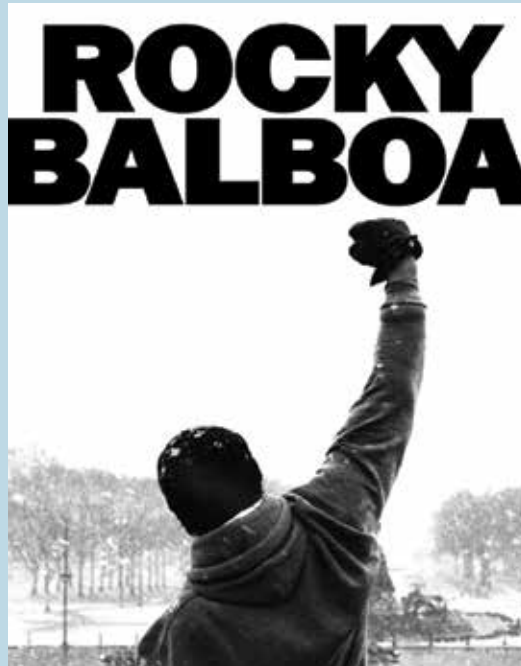
But why Rocky? "I felt as if Rocky has come from our village," Madic explained. "He had to fight to win his place in society. After I saw the latest film, I was

convinced it was the right thing to do." Madic presented his idea to the **local council** and other officials agreed with the plan. Madic said that villagers had already been **in touch with** officials in the US city of Philadelphia, where a Rocky Balboa monument has already been **erected**. "We have also contacted a **sculptor** who has designed the statue, asking him whether he would help us," Madic added. Let's hope it helps!

## Rocky information



*Rocky* (1976) is the story of a boxer who **gets the chance** to fight the **reigning champ**. It's the classic story of the **underdog** winning **against all the odds**. It was written by Sylvester Stallone (who also starred in it), and it was directed by John Avildsen. The film won three Oscars for best picture, best director and best film editing. Due to the film's **low budget**, members of Stallone's family played minor roles in the film: his father rings the bell at the start and end of each boxing round; his brother plays a street corner singer; and his first wife, Sasha, was the



## set photographer.

One of the most famous scenes in the film is of Rocky running up the steps of the Philadelphia



Museum of Art. This scene has become a **cultural icon**. In 1982, a statue of Rocky (commissioned by Stallone for *Rocky III*) was placed at the top

of what are now known as the "Rocky Steps".

There have been five sequels to Rocky: *Rocky II* (1979), *Rocky III* (1982), *Rocky IV* (1985), *Rocky V* (1990), and *Rocky Balboa* (2006), the most recent film. We think that's probably the end of the series, although, who knows?

## The real Rocky

The real Rocky was Rocco Francis Marchegiano (1923-1969), better known as "Rocky Marciano". He was an Italian-American boxer who was the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion from 23rd September 1952 to 27th April 1956. He had 43 knockouts to his credit (an 88% KO rate). ⚡



## GLOSSARY

- jinxed** *adj*  
if a person or place is "jinxed", many bad things happen to him/her/it
- damage** *n*  
destruction
- a flood** *n*  
a situation in which there is water on the ground after heavy rains, etc
- a landslide** *n*  
a situation in which large areas of earth fall down a mountain or hill
- in search of** *exp*  
looking for
- to ward off bad luck** *exp*  
to stop bad things happening to you or a place
- a local council** *n*  
the government of a town or city that you are referring to
- in touch with** *exp*  
communicating with
- to erect** *vb*  
to build or create a building/statue
- a sculptor** *n*  
a person who creates a work of art using clay, metal, wood, plastic, etc
- to get the chance to** *exp*  
to have the opportunity to
- the reigning champ** *n*  
the person who is the champion at that time
- the underdog** *n*  
the person in an inferior/weaker position during a competition
- against all the odds** *exp*  
if you do something "against all the odds", you are successful even though nobody thought you would win
- a low budget** *n*  
a little amount of money to finance something
- a set photographer** *n*  
a person who takes photos during the making of a movie
- a cultural icon** *n*  
a person or place who has become part of a society's culture

# Story Time

Jokes anecdotes and stories as told by native English speakers.

## Slow down or stop

One day, a police officer stops a motorist who has just **gone through a red light**. The officer is about to give the driver a **ticket** when the driver says, "Officer, you can't give me a ticket for that!" "Why not?" asks the officer. "Because," explains the driver, "although I didn't stop, I did **slow down**, and

that's almost the same as stopping."

The officer looks at the driver and says, "But you didn't stop, and the sign definitely says STOP!"

"But there wasn't any traffic about and it was safe," replies the motorist.

At which point, the officer pulls out his **truncheon** and starts hitting the motorist.

"What are you doing?" the driver shouts.

And the police officer responds, "Do you want me to slow down, or stop?"

## An act of kindness

A young man at the Post Office is **sorting through** some **envelopes** when he discovers a letter addressed to "God, in Heaven". On opening the envelope, the postal worker finds a letter from an **elderly** man. It reads, "Dear God, I'm a 89-year-old pensioner. I've

never asked for anything.

However, I desperately need \$100 to buy a present for my son and I was just wondering if you could send me the money."

The young man is **deeply touched** by the letter and starts a collection among his **co-workers**, collecting 90 dollars in total. Then, he sends a letter to the old man and feels a great sense of happiness.

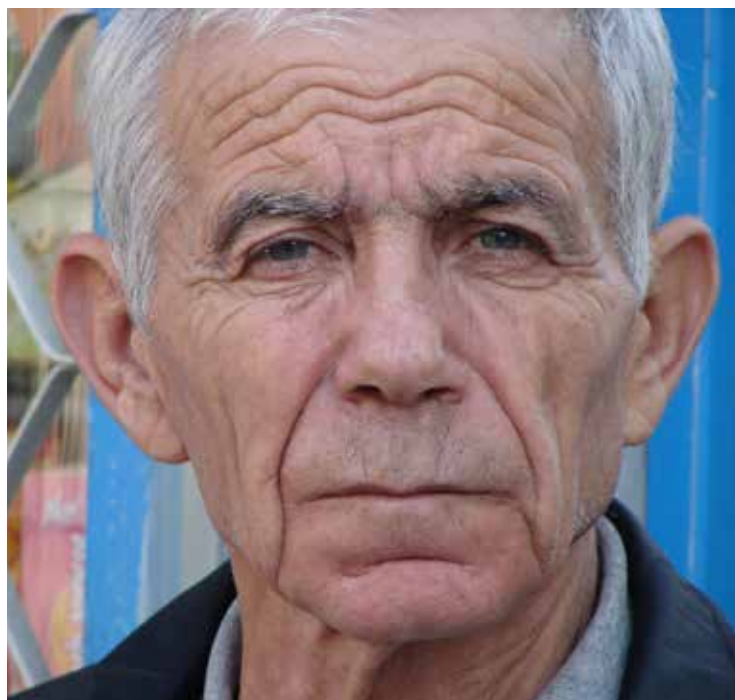
A few weeks pass when another letter comes addressed to God. It's

from the same man. The postal worker opens the letter again and reads the following:

"Dear God, thank you for the money. I deeply appreciate it. However, I must tell you that I only received 90 dollars of the 100 you sent. Those **thieves** at the Post Office must have stolen the other 10 dollars!"

## The Stamp

An elderly man buys a **stamp** at the post office and asks the clerk, "**Shall I stick it on myself?**" And the clerk replies, "The letter will get there faster if you **stick** it on the envelope." ✪



## GLOSSARY

**to go through a red light** *exp*  
to drive even though the traffic light is red

**a ticket** *n*

a piece of paper informing you of the traffic offence you have committed

**to slow down** *exp*

to make the car go slower

**a truncheon** *n*

a large stick used by the police for hitting suspects

**to sort through** *phr vb*

to separate a pile of papers/ documents into different areas

**an envelope** *n*

a rectangular object in which you place a letter so you can send it

**elderly** *adj*

old – in reference to people

**deeply touched** *adj*

affected emotionally

**a co-worker** *n*

a person who you work with

**a thief** *n*

a person who steals or takes things

**a stamp** *n*

a little, square object with a value on it that is placed on an envelope

**shall I stick it on myself?** *exp*

two things: a) shall I put the stamp on the envelope? b) Shall I put the stamp on my body?





## In the Post Office

See if you can identify the word.  
Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck!  
(Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this. Answers on page 33)



1. A place where you go to buy stamps and send letters = a \_\_\_\_\_ office.
2. A written form of communication that you send in an envelope.
3. A little square paper object with a value on it that you stick on an envelope.
4. The paper object in which you place a letter or card.
5. A person who works in a post office = a \_\_\_\_\_ worker.
6. The small slot in your front door where the postman or postwoman leaves letters.
7. A man who takes the letters to your house and puts them in the letterbox.
8. A vehicle that postmen and women drive in order to take the letters and parcels to your house = a postal \_\_\_\_\_.
9. A card with a picture on one side and space for some text on the other.
10. A large box that is wrapped in paper.
11. A letter that is sent by a special postal service for which you pay extra money = a \_\_\_\_\_ letter.
12. The object used to weigh your letter.
13. An object in the street in which you can place letters = a post \_\_\_\_\_.
14. A machine that gives you stamps when you insert money in it = a stamp \_\_\_\_\_.
15. A mark with the date on it that the postal service place on your stamp = a post \_\_\_\_\_.
16. A note you get from the post office informing you that there is a parcel waiting for you at the post office = a \_\_\_\_\_ slip.

### THE FORTUNE TELLER BY DANIEL COULTONE



# Trivia Matching

## Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 13), and the photos (A-M). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** also on page 24

1. Penguins

2. A spider

3. A bartender

4. Mice

5. A cow

6. A bull

7. Dilated pupils

8. An iron nail

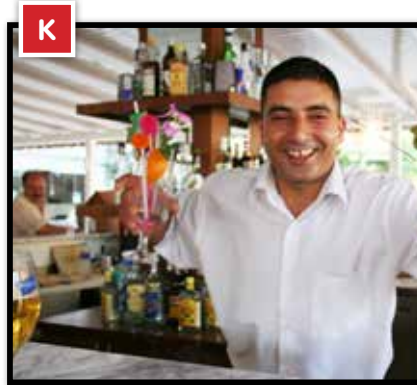
9. An elephant's trunk

10. A snorkel

11. A scaredy-cat

12. Letters

13. A giant





# Weird Trivia

This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so unusual?



An apple, not a cup of coffee, is better at waking you up in the morning. Apple, anyone?

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts. Remember that next time you're **getting her dressed**.

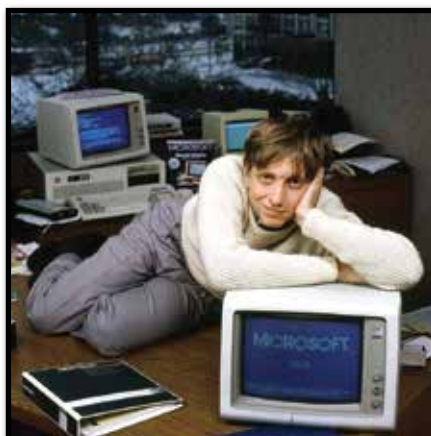


Walt Disney was **afraid of** mice.

A group of twelve or more cows is called a "flink". A group of twelve or more bulls is known as "run for your life!"



Alligators cannot move backwards, which is good to know.



Bill Gates' first business was Traff-O-Data, a company that manufactured machines that recorded the number of cars passing a given point on a road.

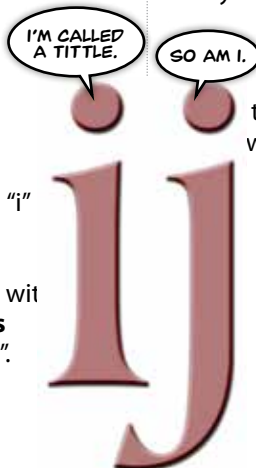
When you're looking at someone you love, your pupils **dilate**. However, the same thing happens with someone you hate. How confusing!

Your body contains the same amount of iron as an iron **nail**. For a healthy constitution, eat nails.

The dot on top of the letter "i" is called a "tittle".

The only number in English with the same number of **letters** as the number itself is "four". As you can see, it's number "4" and it has "four" letters. Fascinating!

Elephants are capable of swimming about thirty kilometres a day. They use their **trunks** as natural **snorkels**. Isn't nature clever?



Emperor Penguins can **dive** to a depth of about 450 metres under water. They can also stay under water for a long time. The maximum time recorded has been 18 minutes. What clever penguins!

King Henry III of France, Louis XVI of France and Napoleon all suffered from "ailurophobia", which is a fear of cats. What **scaredy-cats**!

Have you ever been in an **earthquake**? The Ancient Greeks believed that earthquakes were caused by **giants** fighting under the ground. And the Ancient Japanese thought there was a giant **spider** living under the earth, and that every time it moved it caused the earth to **tremble**. How **quaint**!

What do you think Sandra Bullock, Chevy Chase, Bill Cosby, Kris Kristofferson, Bruce Willis, and, possibly, yourself, all have in common? Well, before they became famous, they all worked as **bartenders**.



### GLOSSARY

- to get someone dressed** *exp*  
to put clothes on someone
- afraid of something** *exp*  
frightened of something
- to dilate** *vb*  
if you pupils "dilate", they become bigger
- a nail** *n*  
a thin piece of metal with a pointed end and a flat end. You hit the flat end to push the nail into a wall
- a letter** *n*  
a letter from the alphabet: A, B, C
- a trunk** *n*  
an elephant's long, thin nose
- a snorkel** *n*  
a long, thin plastic tube that you can use for breathing under water
- to dive** *vb*  
to jump into water (or under water) with your head first
- a scaredy-cat** *n inform*  
a person who is easily frightened
- an earthquake** *n*  
when there is an "earthquake", the ground moves violently
- a giant** *n*  
an imaginary person who is very big, very tall and very strong
- a spider** *n*  
an insect with 8 legs. They can spin webs
- to tremble** *vb*  
if the earth "trembles", it shakes (it makes rapid movements)
- how quaint** *exp*  
how nice; how cute
- a bartender** *n*  
a person who works in a bar/pub serving drinks

# VOCABULARY THE POST OFFICE

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about the post office and the postal service.

**The post** ("mail" in the US) – the system by which letters and parcels are collected and **delivered**.



**The postal service** (The USPS – United States Postal Service) – this is the organisation that sends and delivers letters. These days, it's known as "snail mail" because it can be so slow. After internet and e-mail became so popular, everybody thought that the postal service would disappear, but now that everyone's buying things on the internet, the postal service is doing very well delivering packages all around the world.

**A post office** – a place where you go to buy stamps, send letters and wait in long queues for someone to serve you.



**A letter** – a written form of communication. These days, most letters are **bills** and Christmas cards.

**A stamp** – this is the little square paper object with a value on it that you **stick on** an envelope. Stamps haven't evolved much since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and you still need to **lick** the back of the stamp with your tongue. How primitive! Stamp collecting is the hobby that involves collecting... stamps.

**An envelope** – this is the object in which you place a letter or card. These days most envelopes are "self-adhesive", which means you don't have to lick them.



**A postal worker** (a clerk) – a person who works in a post office. Postal workers sell stamps, **weigh** parcels, and answer silly questions such as, "Why hasn't my parcel arrived yet?" or "Why haven't I received any letters recently?"

**Letterbox** – the small **slot** in your front door where the postman or postwoman leaves letters. In an **apartment block**, letterboxes are in the entrance to the building, and each letterbox has a name and apartment number on it for your letters.

**A postman / postwoman** – the person who takes the letters to your house and puts them in the letterbox.

**A post van** – the red vehicle that postmen and women drive in order to take the letters and parcels to your house.

**A postcard** – a card with a picture on one side and space for some text on the other. Don't you just hate getting postcards from exotic parts of the world especially when you're working in a stressful office?

**A parcel/package** – a box that is **wrapped** in paper and sent by post. Don't you just love receiving parcels?

**A registered letter** – a letter that is sent by a special postal service for which you pay extra money. This **insures** it in case they lose it. Non-registered letters have no such guarantee, and may get lost, along with the other 16 million letters that disappear in Britain every year.



**Scales** – the object used to weigh your letter. Just one extra sheet of paper on the scales will put your letter into a higher and more expensive postal category.



**A post box** (a "mail box" in US English) – an object in the street in which postmen and women place letters. Traditional British post boxes are red and big enough for a man to climb inside. Did you see the Mr Bean episode when he gets inside one? American ones are on long poles and only big enough for a bird or two. Incidentally, there's a "sport" in America called "mail box baseball". This consists of driving in your car and destroying mail boxes with a baseball bat. What fun!

**A stamp machine** – a machine that gives you stamps when you insert money in it.



## GLOSSARY

- to deliver** *vb*  
if you "deliver" something, you take it to that place
- a snail** *n*  
a little animal with a shell on its back
- a bill** *n*  
a letter informing you how much money you owe
- to stick on** *phr vb*  
to put on with glue
- to lick** *vb*  
to touch with your tongue
- to weigh** *vb*  
to use scales to see how heavy something is
- a slot** *n*  
a small, narrow opening
- an apartment block** *n*  
a large building with many flats in it
- to wrap** *vb*  
to cover in paper
- to insure** *vb*  
to pay a company so that something is protected in case of fire, loss, theft, etc
- mercenary** *adj*  
only interested in money





**A post mark** – the mark with the date on it that the postal service place on your stamp. This is to ensure that you don't try to use the stamp again. How **mercenary!**



**A notification slip** – the note you get from the post office informing you that there is a parcel waiting for you at the post office. The small print on the notification slip tells you not to go on the same

day that you receive the slip. However, most people don't see this.

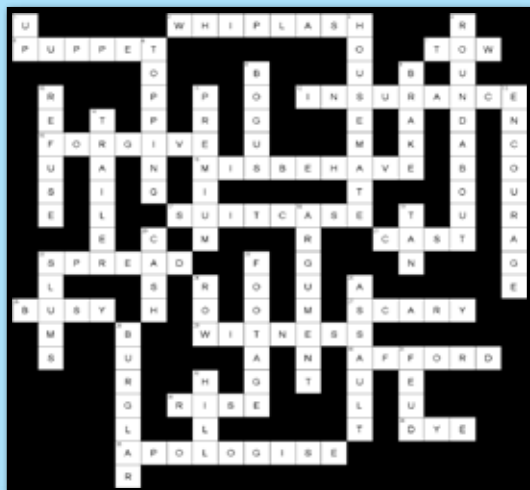
**Cash on delivery** (COD) – if a company sends you something COD, the post office deliver the letter or parcel to your house, and you pay the postman or postwoman for it.

**A queue** – a line of people found waiting to be served in the post office. If you only have one simple letter to send, you are guaranteed to find yourself at the back of a very long queue. ☹



Wordsearch page 29

1. Post
2. Letter
3. Stamp
4. Envelope
5. Postal
6. Letterbox
7. Postman
8. Van
9. Postcard
10. Parcel
11. Registered
12. Scales
13. Box
14. Machine
15. Mark
16. Notification



Crossword page 24

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# TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE POST OFFICE

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions.

In this conversation Nigel is in the post office talking to a clerk. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. What does Nigel buy?
2. Who is he trying to send?

Answers on page 24

Clerk: Good afternoon, how may I help you?

Nigel: Yes, erm, well, there are a number of things. Firstly, I haven't been receiving my letters.

Clerk: Well, maybe no one is writing to you.

Nigel: Very funny. I'd like you to investigate it.

Clerk: Do you live in an **apartment block**?

Nigel: Yes, I do. How did you know?

Clerk: Well, maybe someone has been stealing **mail** from your **letterbox**.

Nigel: Yes, that would explain it. Yes, thank you.

Clerk: Anything else, sir?

Nigel: Yes, I'd like sixteen **stamps** for Japan, please.

Clerk: Here you are.

Nigel: Is there a **post box** near here where I can send these letters?

Clerk: You can leave them with us.

Nigel: Are you sure they won't get lost?

Clerk: No, they're perfectly safe with us. Anything else?

Nigel: Yes, I'd like to send this **parcel registered post** to New York.  
*(Nigel places the parcel on the counter. It is very heavy.)*

Clerk: That's a very large package, sir. It's going to be very expensive to send. You might like to consider using a worldwide express service to **deliver** it.

Nigel: No, no.

Boy: *(A voice from inside the parcel.)* Dad, dad, can I come out now?

Nigel: *(Speaking to the parcel.)* Shhh... I told you to **keep quiet**.

Clerk: I'm sorry, sir, but do you have a small child **wrapped up** in that parcel.

Nigel: No.

Boy: *(From inside the parcel.)* Dad, I think I need to go to the toilet.

Clerk: Who's that? Who's in the parcel?

Nigel: It's my son. I was hoping to send him to the States to see his grandma.

Clerk: Oh, that's all right. Why didn't you say so in the first place? Would you like to send him first class or second class?

Nigel: Erm, second, I think. ✨



## GLOSSARY

- a clerk** *n*  
a person who works in a post office serving people: selling stamps, etc
- an apartment block** *n*  
a large building with many flats in it
- mail** *n*  
letters and parcels
- a letterbox** *n*  
a small box with your name and apartment number on it. Letters and post are placed in it
- a stamp** *n*  
a little square object with a value on it that is placed on an envelope
- a post box** *n*  
an object in the street in which you can place letters. Later, postal workers collect the letters and send them
- a parcel** *n*  
a large box that you send by post
- registered post** *n*  
if you send a letter "registered post", you pay extra so that there is a guarantee that the letter will arrive
- to deliver** *vb*  
if a letter is "delivered", it is taken to its destination
- to keep quiet** *exp*  
not to talk
- to wrap up** *exp*  
to put paper around an object so you can send it or give it as a present



# On the bus

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.  
 This month: the bus. **Part I:** Listen and repeat these expressions.

## What you say

- Which is the bus for London?
- Where is the bus stop?
- What time is the next bus to Birmingham?
- What's the best way to get to Halifax by bus?
- What time does the last bus for Liverpool leave?



- Where can I get the number 34 bus?
- Where do I **get off** for the Science museum?
- How long does it **take**?
- Where do I have to get off?
- How long do I have to wait?
- Do you know when the next bus is coming?
- Have we passed Oxford Street?
- Do you have a bus **timetable**?
- Which bus do I need?
- Do I have to change buses?
- Where do I have to get off?
- Where does the bus leave from?
- Can you tell me where to get off?
- Do I have to get off here?
- Could you tell me when we get to Hyde Park, please?

## What you hear

- You must have the **exact change**.
- You have to press the button to stop the bus.
- This ticket hasn't been **stamped**.
- You're on the wrong bus. You need to take the number 3.



- This seat is for the **elderly** only.
- Would you like a **single** or a **return**?
- It's the third **stop** after this one.
- You aren't allowed to bring bikes on the bus.
- Where are you getting off? \*

## Part II Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Sam has just got on the bus.

Sam: Is this the right bus for Trafalgar Square.  
 Bus driver: Yes.  
 Sam: A single, please. *(Sam gives the driver a ten-pound note.)*  
 Bus driver: You need to give the exact change.  
 Sam: Oh, sorry. Here you are. *(Sam hands over the right change.)*  
 Bus driver: Don't forget your ticket.  
 Sam: Does this bus stop at Oxford Street?  
 Bus driver: No, you need the 34 for that.  
 Sam: Where can I get the 34?  
 Bus driver: It's the bus stop over the street. That one just over there. *(He points at the bus stop.)*  
 Sam: Do I have to change buses?  
 Bus driver: No, it's direct. But this one's going to Trafalgar Square, and you can walk to Oxford Street from there. It isn't far.  
 Sam: Oh, OK. I'll stay on this one then. Could you tell me where to get off, please?  
 Bus driver: Yes, all right.  
 Sam: OK. Thanks.  
 Bus driver: Hey, you've forgotten your ticket.  
 Sam: Oh, right.



## GLOSSARY

**to get off** *phr vb*  
 to leave a bus or train  
**to take** *vb*  
 to last a period of time  
**a timetable** *n*  
 a list of the times when something happens  
**exact change** *n*  
 money that corresponds exactly to the price  
**to stamp** *vb*  
 if a ticket is "stamped", it is marked to show that it has been checked  
**the elderly** *n*  
 old people  
**a single** *n*  
 a ticket that permits you to travel to a place (but not to return)  
**a return** *n*  
 a ticket that permits you to travel to a place and to return to your original destination  
**a stop** *n*  
 a place where a bus stops and allows passengers on or off

# QUIZ ARE YOU A SNOB?

Is the only way to celebrate in style with a glass of French champagne and caviar? Or are you a beer and pizza type of person? Do our quiz and find out whether you are a snob or not. **Quiz Analysis** on page 24

1. What type of music do you listen to?
- a) Anything and everything – it depends on my **mood**.
  - b) Only Bach, Beethoven and Mozart.



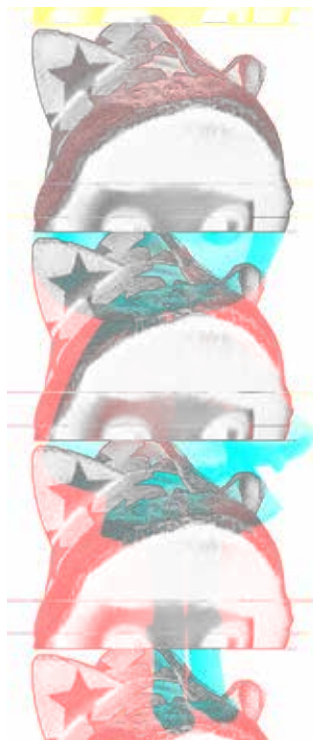
2. What's your idea of the perfect night out?
- a) The cinema, a nice meal in a cosy restaurant, a bit of dancing – I don't know, just about anything.
  - b) The theatre, the opera or a classical music concert.

3. Do you ever buy clothes in second-hand shops?
- a) Yes, of course. Sometimes you can find a good **bargain**.
  - b) Never! I only shop at Armani, Gucci and Dolce & Gabbana.

4. What would your dream holiday be?
- a) I don't know, lying on the beach, doing some sport, visiting a city – anything to get away from office life.
  - b) Shooting **grouse** and **wild fowl** in Scotland with members of the aristocracy.



5. Have you ever been on a bus?
- a) Of course I have. They're cheap, efficient and good for the environment.
  - b) Never! They're just so dirty, and the people are **ghastly**.



6. You notice that a friend is wearing a **fake** Rolex watch, a **phoney** Lacoste T-shirt, and is carrying an imitation Louis Vuitton bag. What do you say?
- a) Hey, where did you get that stuff? I'd like one of those watches.



- b) I never knew you were so **tacky**. I'm sorry but I am going to have to terminate this friendship.

7. How many of your close acquaintances have **titles**?

- a) No one, as far as I know, although I do have a friend who works in the BBC. Does that count?
- b) Most of them: there's Lord Foolbury, Lady Leggit, the Earl of Simpleton, Baroness Shellsuit...



8. How do you judge someone when you meet them for the first time?

- a) I don't really judge them, I just **sort of** try to **find out** what things they're **into**, and what we have in common – things like that.



- b) I judge them by their accent and their position in society.

9. A friend mispronounces the name of a French politician. What do you do?

- a) Nothing. The pronunciation of foreign names is **largely subjective** anyway.
- b) Mispronouncing names shows a lack of culture and sophistication that I **abhor**. I instruct them as to the correct way of pronouncing the name and insist on the correct pronunciation. ✪

## GLOSSARY

**a mood** *n*  
if you are in a good "mood", you are happy

**a bargain** *n*  
a very cheap offer

**grouse** *n*  
a type of wild bird from northern Europe

**wild fowl** *n*  
wild birds that people hunt and kill in order to eat

**ghastly** *adj*  
terrible; horrible

**fake** *adj*  
not real

**phoney** *adj*  
not real

**tacky** *adj*  
cheap and of an inferior quality

**a title** *n*  
Lord, Lady, Sir, Marquis, Baroness...

**sort of** *exp*  
more or less

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

**into** *prep*  
if you are "into" something, you like doing that thing

**largely** *adv*  
mostly

**subjective** *adj*  
that is based on personal opinions

**to abhor something** *exp*  
to hate something a lot



# Quirky News

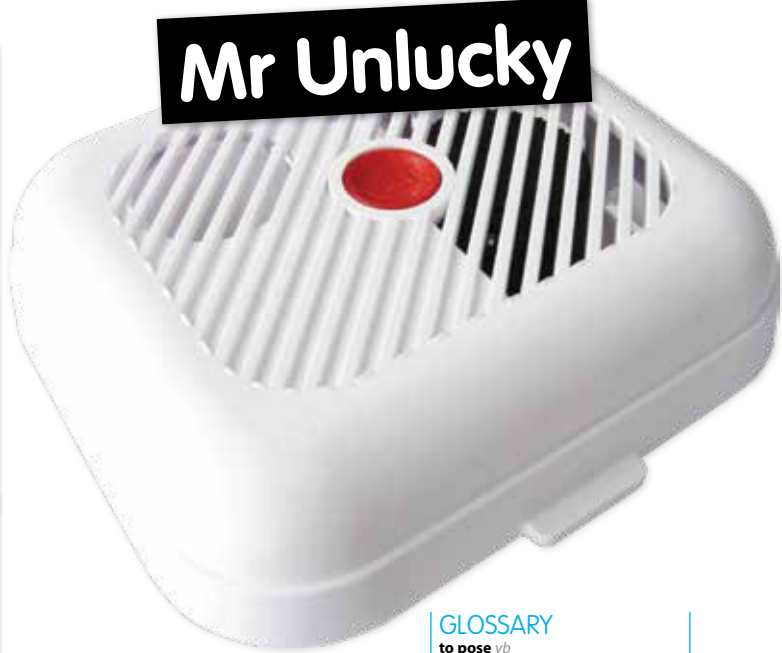
Funny news stories from around the world.

## Photo Fury



“There is no problem with taking pictures with tourists but not that kind of photo,” said Rio de Janeiro police commander Felipe Angelo, who was referring to a series of photos that showed two police officers **posing** with three blonde tourists. In the pictures, one of the women was **handcuffed**, and the other two were playing with police rifles. The photos were posted on a **photo-sharing website**, “I think that the officers **let vanity get the better of them**,” Commander Angelo said. “The uniform is **sacred**, as is the policeman’s gun. That is not something you play with.” The pictures were taken near the resort of Parati. They were reportedly placed online by a Peruvian tourist who was accompanying the three women, who are believed to be **Dutch**. The photos have since been **removed** from the website. The officers have been allowed to continue working while the investigation is in progress.

## Mr Unlucky



“This is even worse than last year,” said Nigel Nofortune after fire investigators determined the cause of a fire that destroyed his \$127,000 home last month: a **short circuit** in his **smoke detector**. The previous year, someone **broke into** Nofortune’s house and stole his new security system.

### GLOSSARY

**to pose** *vb*  
to stand in a position so someone can take a photo  
**handcuffed** *adj*  
with handcuffs on – metal objects placed around the wrists (the joints between your arms and hands)  
**a photo-sharing website** *n*  
a website where people put photos  
**vanity** *n*  
a strong belief in your attractiveness and beauty  
**to let something get the better of you** *exp*  
to permit an emotion to dominate you or your feelings  
**sacred** *adj*  
considered of great religious or spiritual value  
**Dutch** *adj*  
from Holland  
**to remove** *vb*  
to take away  
**a short circuit** *n*  
damage to an electrical object caused by a fault in the electrics  
**a smoke detector** *n*  
an electrical appliance that makes a sound when there is smoke  
**to break into** *exp*  
to enter a place illegally  
**a ring** *n*  
a round, metal piece of jewellery worn on the finger  
**to report** *vb*  
to tell the police about a crime  
**in mind** *exp*  
if something is “in mind”, you are thinking about it  
**to prove someone right** *exp*  
to demonstrate that you were correct  
**a belly** *n inform*  
a stomach  
**a VCR** *abbr*  
a video cassette recorder  
**an earring** *n*  
a piece of jewellery worn on the ear  
**to bring up** *phr vb*  
to vomit  
**to swallow** *vb*  
to take from your mouth to your stomach

## Hungry Dog



When Margory Anille couldn’t find her 5,000-dollar wedding **ring**, she was convinced that someone had stolen it. So, she went to **report** it to the police. But Anille’s grandmother already had a suspect **in mind**: the family dog. And X-rays **proved the grandmother right**. The valuable ring was inside the **belly** of Anille’s pit bull terrier, Sugar. “I couldn’t believe it,” Anille said. “But it made sense since Sugar has been caught eating **VCRs**, electric blankets and even my diamond **earrings**.” Dr Linda Spu helped the dog to **bring up** the ring by giving it some peroxide. The ring emerged intact. “Animals **swallow** a lot of stuff,” said Dr Spu. “It’s not an unusual thing.”

# KENYA'S BLOC

## A LOOK AT BRITAIN'S COLONIAL PAST IN KENYA AND A SCANDAL THAT IS COMING TO LIGHT.

What comes to mind when you think of Kenya? The savannah? Lions? Elephants? Tea **plantations**? That's the traditional image of Kenya. A quiet, peaceful African country. But Kenya holds dark secrets. It was once part of the British Empire, and a terrible war left thousands dead. Many of the survivors or that war are demanding compensation. And there's even talk of a **trial** for war crimes.

### Special Kenya

For the British, Kenya was the perfect place. It had **fertile land**, it was free of malaria, there were blue skies year round and it had exotic **wildlife**. Thousands of British people **settled** there during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of these immigrants were from the top echelons of society: aristocrats, **ex-Etonians**, students from the top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, and many others who simply pretended that they were aristocrats or ex-Oxbridge graduates. By 1939, Kenya had a "white" community of 21,000 people.

### Happy Valley

During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, life in Kenya was one long party for the **settlers**. The press came up with the term "Happy Valley" to refer to this time in Kenya's colonial history. Mainly, it is a reference to the **party-going lifestyle** of those who made the Rift Valley (also known as the Kenyan highlands) their home. It was a time of wild parties and drugs. There was even a saying at the time, "Are you married, or are you from Kenya?"

### Relationship

But for many native Africans, it wasn't such a "happy" time. In just over a generation, the Africans were reduced to a society of **squatters** or pushed into **tribal reserves**. They had lost their political freedom and become a servile class.

And after the Second World War, the situation got worse. Many Africans fought against the Japanese in Burma, and against Fascism in Europe and Africa. But when they returned home, they were greeted as potential **troublemakers**.

By the early 1950s, few Kenyans could ignore the "winds of change": Indonesia and India had gained independence, and the pro-British

Egyptian monarchy was **overthrown**. In short, Kenya, like most other colonies, was ready for some political change. But no one could have predicted the level of violence.

### The Mau Mau

The war started in the early 1950s. It was known by the British as "The Emergency", and it was fought against a secret organisation known as the Land and Freedom Army. Members of this secret organisation had to **swear an oath of secrecy**. This gave it an almost religious aura.

The British referred to these freedom fighters as Mau Mau, a **derogatory term** of unknown origin. In early 1952, there were **guerrilla-style military operations**, aimed at settlers in isolated farms.

### War

The turning point in the war came on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1952. A well-known **loyalist chief** was murdered. As a response, the British governor,



Evelyn Baring, declared a state of emergency. During the **crackdown**, many, many Africans were kept in camps in **appalling** conditions, camps which were quite similar to the concentration camps from the Second World War.

Those who suffered most were people from the Kikuyu tribe. Almost 1.5 million Kikuyus, almost the entire population, were **resettled** in 804 special villages with **barbed wire** surrounding them. This was to cut off any support for the fighters in the forests of Kenya.

### Horror

Much of the horror of the war is told by writer Caroline Elkins in her book *Kenya: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. She tells the history of the **anti-insurgency** tactics of the British settlers, which included executions,



### Kenyan history

- From October 1952 to December 1959, Kenya is under a state of emergency because of the Mau Mau rebellion against British rule.
- During 1954, Mau Mau supporters are moved to detention camps
- Kenya becomes independent in 1963. The Kenya African National Union (KANU) of Jomo Kenyatta forms a government. He allows white farmers to stay in the country.
- 1978, Daniel arap Moi becomes President.
- December 2002, there are democratic and open elections.

### Recent news

There's a murder trial in Kenya against a British aristocrat. Thomas Cholmondeley, 45, is accused of killing an African game warden. If convicted, Cholmondeley could face the death sentence. Cholmondeley inherited his massive 100,000-acre farm from his great-grandfather, who was one of Kenya's first white settlers. Some local Kenyans are demanding the return of all the land that was taken from them during the British colonial era. Much of this land is still in the hands of white farmers.



# OD LEGACY

## GLOSSARY

**a plantation** *n*  
a large piece of land where coffee, tea, sugar, etc is grown

**a trial** *n*  
a legal process to decide if someone is guilty or innocent

**fertile land** *n*  
land that is very good for growing plants, crops, etc

**wildlife** *n*  
animals that live free in the forests, mountains, jungles, etc

**to settle** *vb*  
to start living in a place

**an ex-Etonian** *n*  
a person who once went to the exclusive English school Eton

**a settler** *n*  
a person who starts to live in a place/colony

**a party-going lifestyle** *n*  
a way of life that involves going to parties and having fun

**a squatter** *n*  
a person who starts living on another person's property

**a tribal reserve** *n*  
an area of land where people from a tribe are forced to live

**a troublemaker** *n*  
a person who causes problems

**to overthrow** *vb*  
if a government is "overthrown", it is destroyed by force

**to swear an oath of secrecy** *exp*  
to make a formal promise to be loyal to a group

**a derogatory term** *n*  
a word that is used in an insulting way

**a guerrilla-style military operation** *exp*  
attacks carried out by small groups of irregular soldiers

**a loyalist chief** *n*  
a chief who is loyal to the government

**a crackdown** *n*  
strong action taken against people who break the law

**appalling** *adj*  
terrible; horrible

**to resettle** *vb*  
to force people to live in another area

**barbed wire** *n*  
long, thin pieces of metal with sharp points on. Often used for protecting a building, etc

**anti-insurgency** *adj*  
against people who are attacking the government

**starvation** *n*  
if someone is dying of "starvation", they are dying because they have no food

**to filter back** *phr vb*  
to reach someone gradually

**a POW** *abbr*  
a prisoner of war

**a gulag** *n*  
a labour camp

**to lose patience with someone** *exp*  
to become angry with someone after a period of time helping them

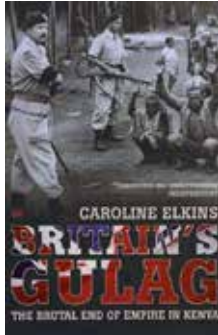
**cowardly** *adj*  
someone who acts "cowardly" is afraid of danger

**reactionary** *adj*  
someone who is "reactionary" doesn't like change

**the left** *n*  
people with socialist ideas

**couldn't turn a blind eye** *exp*  
couldn't ignore it; couldn't pretend they hadn't noticed it

torture with electric shock, mass killings, deportations, slave labour, the burning down of villages, **starvation**, and the use of concentration camps to hold the prisoners – all the things that Britain had supposedly been fighting against during the Second World War.



### Film: White Mischief

The film *White Mischief* is all about Kenya during the 1940s.

Rich landowner Sir John Broughton and his young wife Diana arrive in Kenya to escape the war. They live a life of drugs and parties. However, Diana falls in love with the Earl of Erroll. Things come to a head when Erroll is murdered. The prime suspect is Diana's husband, Jock. The film stars Joss Ackland, Greta Scacchi and Charles Dance, and it was directed by Michael Radford.

### Witnesses

It wasn't long before news of the atrocities began **filtering back** to Britain. John Nottingham, a colonial officer at the time, said "What went on in the Kenya camps and the Kenya villages was brutal, savage torture by people who have to be condemned as war criminals. I feel ashamed to have come from a Britain that did what it did."

Another liberal police chief in Kenya claimed that conditions in the detention camps were far worse than those he had suffered as a Japanese **POW**. Comparisons were also made with the Soviet **gulags**.

### Bloody Legacy

There is some dispute about the numbers killed. Official records show that Mau Mau supporters killed at least 2,000 African civilians, and killed some 200 army and police. In all, 32 white settlers died in the rebellion. Official figures talk of 12,000 dying. But unofficial figures are between 100,000 and 300,000 people killed.

### The End

Eventually, the British government **lost patience with** the settlers. Churchill thought the settlers were as much "the problem" as the Mau Mau. In fact, Churchill had a favourable view of the Kikuyu. He once said, "They are not the primitive **cowardly** people which

many imagined them to be, but people of considerable fibre, ability and steel."

By 1960, even the most **reactionary** in Britain were too embarrassed by the "excesses" to defend the settlers any longer. And many on the **left** were fighting hard for Kenyan rights. One such person was Barbara Castle, a Labour politician of the time. Castle and others were helped by a letters from missionaries, judges, soldiers and policemen in Kenya who **couldn't turn a blind eye**.

Kenya became independent in 1963 and the myth of a "dignified" decolonisation grew. The Mau Mau were never given any recognition (there is still no official memorial to them in Nairobi), many white settlers were allowed to stay, and the British were never criticised. However, this may change. Some Mau Mau veterans are preparing to visit London next year to discuss a potentially huge legal action for compensation. Apart from the demands for compensation, they also want an investigation into alleged war crimes and human rights abuses by former British officials. Let's see what happens. ✪



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# Staged Accidents

A new crime involving drivers and dishonest insurance claims.



Imagine the scene. You're driving along minding your own business. All of a sudden, the car in front of you suddenly stops and you crash. The next thing you know, the other driver is making an enormous **claim for injuries** against your **insurance company**. What's going on? Well, you may have been the victim of a **staged** accident.

## Very little damage

So, what is a staged accident? Basically, a staged car accident is when someone deliberately crashes into an innocent motorist and **claims on insurance** or **demands cash**.

Peter Jones was a victim of a staged crash. "I've always felt really confident of my driving abilities," he explained. "But one day, as I was driving home, the car in front of me **braked sharply** at a **busy roundabout**. I did my best but I crashed into him. We stopped and the other driver gave me his name and address, which he seemed to have written out already. I definitely felt it

was a **scam**. There was very little damage done and yet he claimed about £32,000. This included a **tow truck** when none was needed."

## Something isn't quite right

Peter's experience is similar to that of Jim. At the time of the accident, Jim was looking for a parking place near his home. All of a sudden another vehicle crashed into his sports car. "Three men got out of the car, and one of them demanded £50. He threatened to collect it from me at my home later that evening. Of course, I **refused** to give them the money and instead offered my **insurance details**. A month later, I got a letter from the men's solicitor demanding a large sum of money for **whiplash injuries** and damage to the car. I definitely think it was a staged accident, and I reported it to the police."

## Let's look into this

The police are investigating this new crime. "There are a number of ways the

criminals operate," says Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott of the City of London Police. "One way is that they will drive with two or three people in their vehicle (in order to make a bigger insurance claim) and will select a fairly new vehicle with one or two people or maybe a family inside. Then, they will deliberately **collide with** it, usually by braking hard in front of the vehicle. They will then claim insurance for whiplash or other injuries." The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB), which was set up by **insurers** last year to deal with fraud cases, says that **bogus** and **inflated claims** like those from deliberate accidents cost more than £1.5 billion a year. They say this adds five per cent to **premiums**.

John Beadle, IFB chairman, said, "Staged motor accidents are **on the rise** and are potentially

extremely dangerous. Not only do they cost honest drivers millions of pounds each year but they also put innocent motorists in danger." So, watch out for those staged accidents. ❗

## GLOSSARY

- a claim for injuries** *exp* a request for money from an insurance company because you were hurt in an accident
- an insurance company** *n* a company that offers you protection and compensation in case of accidents
- staged** *adj* if an accident is "staged", it has been prepared and it isn't really an accident
- a claim on insurance** *n* a demand for compensation from an insurance company because you have suffered a loss or accident
- to demand** *vb* if you "demand" something, you ask for that thing as if it were your right
- cash** *n* paper or metal money
- to brake sharply** *exp* to stop the car suddenly
- busy** *adj* with a lot of traffic
- a roundabout** *n* a round object in the road. Cars drive around it in order to go along a different road
- a scam** *n* a trick, often in order to get money
- a tow truck** *n* a large vehicle that is used to pull broken cars with a rope
- to refuse** *vb* to say that you will not do something
- insurance details** *n* the information about your insurance company: the name, the number, etc.
- whiplash injuries** *n* damage caused to your neck because the car stopped suddenly
- to collide with something** *exp* to hit something; to crash against something
- an insurer** *n* an insurance company
- bogus** *adj* not real
- an inflated claim** *n* a claim for compensation that is more than really necessary
- a premium** *n* an amount you pay to the insurance company so that you are covered by the insurance policy
- on the rise** *exp* increasing
- a witness** *n* a person who sees a crime or an accident

## Information Box how to deal with a staged crash

- Do not say anything about your suspicions.
- Take photos of cars and passengers.
- Count the number of passengers in the other car.
- Try to find an independent **witness**.
- Tell the police and your insurers about your suspicions.
- Any demands for money should be rejected.
- Exchange insurance details.





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# PERSUASIVE PRESSURE

A US guru teaches British politicians the art of persuasion.

What's the best way to persuade someone to do something? What's the best way of changing someone's behaviour? That's something that politicians would love to know. In Britain, Labour politicians are taking lessons from an expert, Bob Cialdini. They're also learning about Cialdini's six principles of persuasion.

## Learn the tricks



Bob Cialdini is a professor of Psychology and Marketing at Arizona

State University, and the million-selling author of a book called *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*. He's also a successful international speaker, a trainer and a consultant. His company, Influence At Work, has a number of **blue-chip** American corporate clients, and a new UK subsidiary. Just recently, Professor Cialdini met government ministers to discuss his "science of compliance". Here are Cialdini's six principles of persuasion. You

could learn from them: **Commitment/consistency** – once people have decided on a **course of action**, it takes a lot to get them to admit they were wrong. **Authority** – if someone with authority tells you to do something, **you are more likely to do it**. This is why companies often use famous people to help to



advertise their products.

**Social validation** – if you see a lot of people who are similar to you doing something, you are likely to **follow suit**.

**Scarcity** – the **rarer** the goods or service, the more



we want it. This is why adverts such as "**while stocks last**" work so well.

**Liking/friendship** – people are much more likely to



say "yes" to someone they know, or at least like. If you're a teenager, that means you're much more likely to be convinced by another teenager than by a parent, police officer, or politician.

**Reciprocity** – you have to give something first if you



want something in return. According to Cialdini, this is one reason why Hare Krishna collectors do so well at airports because they offer free flowers.

are missed. At present, many clinics have posters on hospital walls describing the situation and saying things like, "257 people this year have missed appointments". This, Cialdini says, has the unintended consequence of **reinforcing the behaviour** in patients' minds. Cialdini's answer was simple: make people commit to **turning up** by asking the patients (not the staff) to **fill in the appointment card**. Simple, but effective! "There is recognition of the importance of behaviour change in encouraging public service progress," Cialdini explained. "We must motivate our citizens in ways that are socially beneficial." 🌱

## GLOSSARY

**a blue-chip company** *n*  
a large, well-established company  
**a course of action** *exp*  
a series of actions you decide to take  
**you are more likely to do it** *exp*  
you will probably do it  
**to follow suit** *exp*  
to do the same as others  
**rare** *adj*  
not common  
**while stocks last** *exp*  
while the product is in the shop; until the product is sold out  
**to miss** *vb*  
if you "miss" a meeting, you don't go to the meeting  
**an appointment** *n*  
a meeting with a doctor  
**the National Health Service** *n*  
the government organisation that manages hospitals, doctors, nurses, etc  
**to reinforce behaviour** *exp*  
to do things that convinces someone that certain actions are acceptable  
**to turn up** *phr vb*  
to arrive  
**to fill in** *phr vb*  
to complete  
**an appointment card** *n*  
a card with details about the meeting you will have with a doctor



## Problems and solutions

Cialdini's first job was to find a solution to the problem of **mised appointments** in the **National Health Service** (the NHS). Every year, more than seven million NHS appointments





# SNEAKY SALES

Learn how to recognise sales tricks and techniques.

Are you easily convinced by sales people? Learn some of the tricks that they use, and be better prepared for next time.

## 1. The "low price" bait

This consists of advertising a product at a very low price as a way of tempting you into the shop. Of course, when you ask about the product, it isn't **in stock**. However, there is another model (more expensive, of course), which is "just as good".



## 2. Just say "yes"

All good salespeople are taught that the most important thing is to get the client to say "yes". The trick is to ask you a series of questions that you **are likely to** answer in the affirmative. For example, "Do you want a car that drives smoothly? (of course) Do you want low maintenance costs? (who doesn't?) Is the safety of your family a concern? (erm, yes.) Once you are **set up for saying yes**, yes, yes, the salesperson will ask some important closing questions, such as, "Can I get you into this car today?"

## 3. "It's the last one"

This is one of the oldest tricks in the book. Typical expressions associated with this tactic include, "Another

couple is looking at this same home", "I've got six more appointments for people to see it", "I know of at least six people who are interested in it". This **plays on your fear of losing** something.

## 4. "Offer ends today"

This is a variation of the previous tactic, and it just makes it that much more difficult for you to **shop around**. Of course, most promotional offers are for a limited time (nothing lasts forever), but whether the day that you're in the store is actually the last day of the offer is never really clear.



## 5. And now it's my boss' turn

This is where the salesperson introduces you to someone in higher authority. This person is usually the "store manager", or "sales manager", and is often a very **strong "closer"**. This is another way of putting additional pressure on you.

## 6. "Would you mind waiting?"

Another way of influencing you is to make you wait. For this trick, the salesperson will put you in a little room and abandon you for a long period of time. They will tell you that they are talking to the "sales manager", trying to get you a **better deal**. In reality, they're in the back eating chocolate or playing cards. This puts you in a weak position, and gives you less time to **comparison shop**.



## 7. Whoops! I'm terrible at maths

Just before you make your buying decision, the salesperson will offer to give you an estimate of the "total investment". The trick is, they deliberately make a mistake and tell you a **figure** that is actually higher than the real figure. They do this to **gauge your reaction**.

All of a sudden, they will "discover" their error, and, hey presto, you've just "saved" another two hundred dollars. You're supposed to be so excited by this "discovery" and the "lower" price that you agree to buy right then.

## 8. It's only paperwork

Now it's just a question of making you sign the contract. But salespeople know that they have to be very careful about using the "C" word ("contract"). So, instead, they'll say, "I just need you to 'OK' the paperwork". Of course, the "paperwork", is in fact a **legally-binding contract**.

## 9. Would you like to spend some more money?

And the grand finale is the **extended warranty**. This is another way of getting even more money out of you. In fact, some companies make all their profit from these extended warranties. They'll use **lines** such as, "You'll sleep better knowing you're protected from costly repair bills." Of course, an extended warranty can

provide valuable protection. But it can also be a waste of money. If the product is so good, why does it need an expensive three-year guarantee?

As the ancient Romans said, "caveat emptor" (Latin for, "let the buyer beware") ☹



## GLOSSARY

- in stock** *exp*  
if a product is "in stock", a shop has that product
- are likely to** *exp*  
will probably
- set up for saying yes** *exp*  
prepared, controlled and dominated by another person so that you will say yes
- to play on your fear of something** *exp*  
to use your fears as a way of persuading you to do something
- to shop around** *exp*  
to go to many shops and to compare prices
- a strong closer** *n*  
a person who is good at making you decide to buy something
- a better deal** *n*  
a cheaper offer
- to comparison shop** *n*  
to go to many shops and to compare prices
- a figure** *n*  
a number
- to gauge someone's reaction** *exp*  
to see what someone thinks of something; to see how someone reacts to something
- a legally-binding contract** *n*  
a contract that is valid in a court of law
- an extended warranty** *n*  
a contract that offers you assistance if the product stops working
- a line** *n*  
a sentence or phrase

# BIG BROTHER AT

## CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER IN ENGLAND CAUSES A SCANDAL.



Do you have a version of *Celebrity Big Brother* in your country? The version in England was once at the centre of an international scandal.



### The Attacks

More than 40,000 complaints. Accusations of **bullying**. Suspected racism. This is the result of the latest edition of *Celebrity Big Brother*. The problems centred on Shilpa Shetty. Shetty is a **Bollywood** star from India and she was **subjected to** aggressive behaviour by some other contestants. Why? And who was responsible?

### The Three Bullies

The accused are three English girls: Jo O'Meara, Danielle Lloyd and Jade Goody. Let's have a look at each of them. Jo O'Meara is an ex-member of the pop group *S Club 7*. She was initially the favourite to win *Celebrity Big Brother*, but lost popularity after her arguments with Shetty. In one incident she can be seen imitating Shetty's Indian accent. When she was later shown **footage** of this, she said, "I'm not a racist person at all, I know I'm not."



### The Beauty

Danielle Lloyd is an ex-Miss Great Britain. Once, in a television show she was asked, "Who was Winston Churchill – a rapper, a US president, a prime minister or a king?" And Lloyd replied, "Wasn't he the first black president of America? There's a statue of him near me that's black." During her time on *Celebrity Big Brother*, she repeatedly attacked Shetty. Some of her comments included, "She



(Shetty) wants to be white"; "She's a dog"; "They eat with their hands in India, don't they? Or is that China?" and "She can't even speak English properly".

As a result of her behaviour on the show, Danielle Lloyd lost **six-figure** modelling **contracts** with motorcycle insurance firm Bennetts, fashion label Rocawear and the adult clothing website [www.becheeky.com](http://www.becheeky.com).



### The Beast

And finally, there was Jade Goody. Before *Celebrity Big Brother*, she was famous for her appearance on *Big Brother*. During her time on that show, Goody **threatened to "deck"** another contestant. The contestant had apparently claimed that Goody had a **verruca** on her foot.

After leaving *Big Brother*, Goody earned an estimated £8 million fortune in other reality shows, and appeared in gossip magazines such as *Heat* and *OK*.



Goody is also notorious for her level of ignorance. She thought the British city of Cambridge was in London, and thought that Saddam Hussein was a boxer. In 2006, Goody signed up for the London Marathon, collapsing before the finish. **Prior to** the race, Goody described how she'd been preparing for the marathon by "eating curry and **Chinese** and drinking." Afterwards, she explained why she could not finish the race, "I don't really understand miles (the race is about 26 miles long, which is about 42 kilometres). I didn't actually know how far it was going to be. I'll be honest, I didn't take it seriously which is really bad of me because there's people out there who actually want to do the marathon. I didn't realise how much commitment the marathon was. I had four training sessions, that's all I did. At most I could run half an hour on a **treadmill**."



### Attacks

During her time in the house, Goody was aggressive to Shetty. In one incident, Goody shouted at Shetty and told her to "go back to the **slums**". And during another **row**, Goody referred to Shetty as "Shilpa **Poppadom**".



Goody was eventually evicted from *Celebrity Big Brother*. Many saw her eviction (82% of viewers voted against her) as a vote against **racial abuse**. In a post-eviction interview, Goody said she was "embarrassed and disgusted" by her own behaviour. When her comments were read back to her, she said, "Oh, my God. Maybe I am racist."





# BIG BROTHER



She added, "I look like a **complete and utter nasty person** – the sort of person I don't like myself." She later said, "I am not a racist, and I, sincerely, with my hand on my heart, **apologise** to anyone I have offended out there."

## Reactions

Eventually, Shilpa Shetty won the competition. But before she left, there were an unprecedented 40,000 complaints made to Ofcom (a **broadcasting regulator**). Even politicians became involved. During the scandal, Gordon



Brown (the **Chancellor of the Exchequer**) was visiting India. He presented the choice between Goody and Shetty as one that would shape how the rest of the world sees Britain. "I know that people in India say that Britain is generally a country of tolerance," Mr Brown said. "**It is up to people to cast their votes**, but a vote for Shilpa is a vote for tolerance."



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## Defending themselves



In their defence, Channel 4 (the television channel responsible for *Celebrity Big Brother*) said in a statement that there had been "no overt racial abuse or racist behaviour"

directed against Shetty. However, it admitted there had "undoubtedly been a cultural and class clash between her and three of the British females in the house".

"It is in the nature of Big Brother that conflicts **arise**, and



**housemates** are **encouraged** to resolve issues among themselves. Shilpa has not voiced any concerns of racial abuse to Big Brother. Housemates have access to support from Big Brother at all times."

So, what did Shetty have to say about it all? Apart from **forgiving** the housemates, she said, "Is that what today's UK is? It's **scary**. It's **quite a shame** really." 😞



## Information Box television complaints

Here are some other programmes which have received complaints in Britain.



### The Last Temptation of Christ (2001)

This Martin Scorsese film about the life of Jesus Christ got 1,554 complaints. The film, which stars American actor

William Defoe as Jesus Christ, attracted controversy because it showed Christ having sexual fantasies about Mary Magdalene. "These people, who probably hadn't seen the film at the movies, complained about it on principle," a spokesperson said.



### Brass Eye (2001)

This television programme received 992 for a **spoof** show on the media coverage of paedophilia.



### Spitting Image (1992)

This spoof news programme, which is presented by **puppets**, received 341 complaints for an episode that included an image of God.

### UEFA Champions League trailer (2003)

A trailer for the UEFA Champion's League got 233 complaints. The clip featured a boy **misbehaving** at a dinner table so he could be sent to his room and watch the football on his television.



### Living with Michael Jackson (2003)

This documentary based on a series of interviews with Michael Jackson by Martain Bashir received 171 complaints. Incidentally, Michael Jackson's brother, Jermaine Jackson, was in *Celebrity Big Brother*.



### 11 This Morning (2001)

This early-morning breakfast show featured a gay wedding and **drew** 117 complaints.



## GLOSSARY

- bullying** *n*  
if there is "bullying", people in a position of authority attack people who are in a weaker position
- Bollywood** *n*  
the Indian version of Hollywood
- subjected to something** *exp*  
if you are "subjected to something" bad, that bad thing happens to you
- footage** *n*  
images taken from a film or video
- a six-figure contract** *n*  
a contract six numbers: 100,000, etc
- to threaten** *vb*  
to say that you will do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- to deck someone** *exp inform*  
to hit someone and make them fall down, or become unconscious
- a verruca** *n*  
a small, round abnormal growth on the skin
- prior to** *exp*  
before
- a Chinese** *n inform*  
a meal at a Chinese restaurant
- a treadmill** *n*  
a machine in the gym on which you go running
- the slums** *n*  
the very poor areas of a city with people living with no electricity, etc
- a row** *n*  
a verbal argument
- a poppadom** *n*  
thin, round food like a giant crisp that is from Asia and typically made from lentils, chickpeas or rice
- racial abuse** *n*  
insults that refer to a person's racial origin
- a complete and utter nasty person** *exp*  
a very bad and horrible person
- to apologise** *vb*  
to say that you are sorry about something
- a broadcasting regulator** *n*  
an organisation that controls what happens on television
- the Chancellor of the Exchequer** *n*  
the government minister in charge of finance and the economy
- it's up to people to...** *exp*  
it is the people's decision and choice
- to cast a vote** *exp*  
to participate in an election and to give your vote to a party or person
- to arise** *vb*  
to happen
- a housemate** *n*  
a person who lives in a house with you
- to encourage someone**  
to try to persuade someone to do something
- to forgive** *vb*  
to stop feeling angry with someone and to accept their apology
- scary** *adj*  
frightening
- it's quite a shame** *exp*  
it's a pity; it is sad
- spoof** *adj*  
a show that makes fun of another show
- a puppet** *n*  
a toy that looks like a man/woman/boy/girl and that has strings that control it
- a trailer** *n*  
a short programme that advertises another programme or film
- to misbehave** *vb*  
to act badly or rudely
- to feature** *vb*  
to show
- to draw a complaint** *exp*  
to attract a lot of criticism



# UNHAPPY FAMILIES

## A LOOK AT SOME UNSUCCESSFUL CELEBRITY FAMILIES.

Just recently, American actor Ryan O'Neal was in the news after attacking his own son. This was just another reminder that the stars and their families don't often **get on**. If you think you've ever had a bad **argument** with your family, then take a look at some of these celebrity **family feuds**. By Johnna Schwartz. (US English)

### House Arrest

Actor Ryan O'Neal (*Love Story* and *Paper Moon*) hasn't been **getting along well** with his son Griffin recently. On February 2, Ryan O'Neal was arrested in his home for **assaulting** Griffin. Ryan said he was defending himself against Griffin, who was **swinging a fireplace poker**, and that he shot his gun in order to "**scare Griffin away**". Ryan's daughter, Tatum O'Neal, **doubts** that the story is true. But don't worry, no one was hurt badly and Ryan was let out of jail on \$50,000 **bail**. Sadly, this is not the first time the O'Neals have had family problems. In 1983, they got in a fight and Ryan knocked out two of Griffin's teeth. Talk about a **dysfunctional family**.



### Daddy Issues

Griffin O'Neal isn't the only one who has problems with his father; Angelina Jolie hasn't spoken with her dad, Jon Voight, since 2002. Although Angelina has never commented on her problems with her father, the fact that he once asked Angelina to get help for her "mental problems" probably has something to do with it. Recently, in 2006, Jon Voight said he wanted to meet his grandchildren and even mentioned them in an interview, sending wishes to Maddox and "Shakira." Too bad Angelina's daughter is named Zahara, not Shakira. I guess Jon was too busy memorizing lines for his next movie and didn't have the time to learn his own grandchild's name.



### Sibling Rivalry

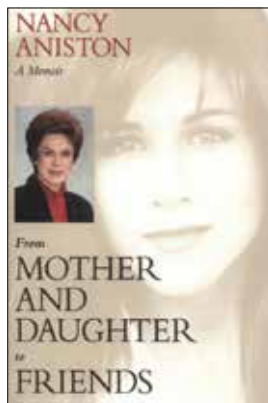
If you thought that was bad, Julia Roberts and her brother Eric haven't spoken in over

10 years. Eric used to be more famous than Julia, who started her **career** in one of Eric's movies. But later, Julia became more famous and **overshadowed** Eric, causing a **long-lasting rift** between them. Eric and Julia's relationship turned from bad to worse when he publicly insulted her in 2002. In an interview Eric blamed Julia for not helping him out more, and said that her acting in *Erin Brokovich* was "not that great". Later on when Julia had **twins**, she let Eric meet the children but told him that he was prohibited from speaking to the media about them. That's a pretty bad case of **sibling rivalry**.



### The Silent Treatment

Jennifer Aniston stopped speaking with her mother not once, but twice. The first time was because Nancy (her mother) gave details about Jennifer's private life during a television interview. After a while, they began talking again. But then Nancy wrote a book about Jennifer and they stopped speaking for a second time. The argument was so bad that Jennifer didn't even invite Nancy to her marriage to Brad Pitt in 2000. **I bet** your family looks **pretty good** compared to these. ☆



### Information Box

Ryan O'Neal was married to Joanna Moore. Their children are Tatum O'Neal and Griffin O'Neal. Ryan was also married to Leigh Taylor-Young, with whom he had son Patrick O'Neal. He also had a son, Redmond O'Neal, with Farrah Fawcett.



Jon Voight married actress Marcheline Bertrand, with whom he has two children, Angelina Jolie and James Haven. Jon and Marcheline separated soon after marrying. Angelina Jolie has three adopted children: Maddox, Pax and Zahara, and one biological child, Shiloh.

Walter Grady Roberts and Betty Lou Bredemus are the parents of Eric and Julia Roberts. Julia Roberts is married to cinematographer Danny Moder and has twin children Hazel Patricia and Phinnaeus Walter.

The actor John Aniston and Nancy Dow are the parents of Jennifer Aniston. Jennifer has two half-brothers, John Melick and Alex Aniston.

### GLOSSARY

- to get on** *phr vb*  
to have a good relationship with someone
- an argument** *n*  
a verbal fight with someone
- a family feud** *n*  
a conflict within your family
- to get along well** *exp*  
to have a good relationship with someone
- to assault** *vb*  
to attack someone physically
- to swing** *vb*  
to move an object with circular movements
- a fireplace poker** *n*  
a long, thin piece of metal used to move things in a fire in the chimney
- to scare someone away** *exp*  
to frighten someone so that they leave a place
- to doubt** *vb*  
to think that something might not be true
- bail** *n*  
money you pay that gives you permission to leave prison while they are investigating you
- a dysfunctional family** *n*  
a family with many problems
- a career** *n*  
the profession or job that you choose to do for the majority of your life
- to overshadow** *vb*  
if you "overshadow" a person, you are greater than that person
- long-lasting** *adj*  
that happens over a long period of time
- a rift** *n*  
a conflict; a separation
- twins** *n*  
two babies born on the same day and at the same time
- sibling rivalry** *n*  
conflict between brothers or sisters
- I bet** *exp inform*  
I am sure
- pretty good** *exp*  
quite good



# CAMDEN TOWN

## LONDON'S ALTERNATIVE AREA.

Punks. Doctor Martin boots. The *Madness* song *House of Fun* coming from stereo systems. Camden's **canal**. The Camden **Lock** Market. Camden town is the **bohemian** capital of London. It **bristles with life**, as thousands seek out alternative lifestyles, musical talent and hedonistic pleasure.

### Camden Market

One of the main features of Camden town is the market. Well, actually there are two markets – one by the Underground station (Camden Town), and another one by the canal, which is known as the Camden Lock Market. In both of these markets you can find lots of interesting things to buy, including **trendy second-hand clothes**, stylish shoes, music, comics, candles and even antiques. The market by the lock has lots of interesting bars and clubs beside it, some of which have **live music**.



### Cult Movie

Over the years, Camden town has had a number of famous literary residents. Mary Shelley who wrote *Frankenstein* was born in Camden, and Charles Dickens who lived on Bayham Street, used south Camden as the **backdrop** for *Oliver Twist*. George Orwell who **penned** *1984* lived in Camden during the 1930's, whilst Welsh poet Dylan Thomas was a contemporary. On the Silver Screen, Scrooge sends a young boy to buy a turkey from Camden in *A Christmas Carol*, whilst cult movie *Withnail and I* starts and ends in the Town.



### Madness

Camden has also proved the inspiration for film, books, poetry and many a musical **track**. The 1980's ska band *Madness* lived and shot many of their videos around Camden. The Dublin Castle pub is their spiritual home and Escapade, the fancy dress shop on Camden High Street, features in the video to the song *House of Fun*. Britpop rivals Damon Albarn from *Blur* and Liam Gallagher from *Oasis* both resided in the area in their formative years as musicians. And Camden features in songs such as *Come Back to Camden* by Morrissey, *Sorted for E's and Whizz* by *Pulp*, and *The Prisoner* by the *Clash*.



### Roundhouse

If you want to step back in Musical Time, you should check out the recently re-opened Roundhouse Theatre. *The Doors* played their one and only UK **gig** there. And in its day, it hosted bands and musicians such as *Pink Floyd*, *Jimi Hendrix*, *The Ramones* and the *Rolling Stones*. By the 1980s, the former **railway shed had fallen into disrepair**. But following a 30-million-pound investment, The Roundhouse Theatre has opened its doors once again to music fans, nostalgia lovers and new audiences alike. The BBC has already held a concert there that featured soul legend *James Brown*, plus Paul Weller and *The Who* **playing to a packed house**. ☺



### Information

Getting there: Camden Town underground station, on the Northern Line.   
When: On Sundays, the High Street is shut off to traffic, giving pedestrians freedom to roam.  
Highlights: Camden Lock Market, Canal, Koko indie club, Roundhouse Theatre.  
Exploring the local area: London Zoo, Regent's Park, MTV Studios.

### Answer English

If you are interested in taking an English course in Camden, then you should consider studying at Camden College of English. This award-winning language school set in the heart of Camden is an ideal location to learn English and enjoy the Town's attractions. Answer English currently has an exclusive special offer of £20 off their English Language Cultural Experience course.

For more information please call the Answer English offices on: (00 44) 20 7402 8651. Alternatively you can send an e-mail to: james@answerenglish.com or visit: www.answerenglish.com for more information. Answer English helps language students looking for language courses, accommodation and work experience in London.

### GLOSSARY

- a canal** *n*  
a long, narrow area of water for boats to travel along. Canals are man-made
- a lock** *n*  
a place in a canal where boats can move to a higher or lower area of water
- bohemian** *adj*  
artistic, unconventional, etc
- to bristle with life** *exp*  
to be a place with lots of people, noise, excitement, etc
- trendy** *adj*  
fashionable
- second-hand clothes** *n*  
clothes that are not new and that were once owned by someone else
- live music** *n*  
music played to an audience by a band, singer, etc
- a backdrop** *n*  
the "backdrop" to an event, is the general situation in which it happens
- to pen** *vb*  
to write
- a track** *n*  
a song
- a gig** *n*  
a musical concert
- a railway shed** *n*  
a large building where trains are kept
- to fall into disrepair** *exp*  
to become old and broken
- to play to a packed house** *exp*  
to do a concert with many people in the audience

# The passive voice: the present perfect Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the passive voice with the present perfect.

## The Active & Passive Voices

We form the present perfect with "has/have" + a past participle. Remember, we generally use the present perfect to talk about completed actions from



the past *without* saying exactly when they happened. The following example sentences are in the active voice. We use the active voice when the subject of the verb is the thing or person doing the action. For example:

- a) We have painted the walls.
- b) They have finished the work.
- c) They have paid the money.
- d) She has fixed the car.

However, with the passive voice,



the object of the verb becomes the subject. In many cases, it isn't necessary to know who actually did the action. For example:

- a) The walls have been painted (by us).
- b) The work has been finished (by them).
- c) The money has been paid (by them).
- d) The car has been fixed (by her).

As you can see, we form the present perfect passive with "has/have been" + a past participle. For example:

- a) John has destroyed the car. (active)
- b) The car has been destroyed (by John) (passive)
  
- a) Shirley has finished the project. (active)
- b) The project has been finished (by Shirley). (passive)
  
- a) Paul has bought the game. (active)
- b) The game has been bought (by Paul). (passive)



- a) Patricia has fired the gun. (active)
- b) The gun has been fired (by Patricia). (passive)
  
- a) Pete has spent the money. (active)
- b) The money has been spent (by Pete). (passive)
  
- a) Michael has broken the computer. (active)
- b) The computer has been broken (by Michael). (passive)
  
- a) Sarah has made the phone call. (active)
- b) The phone call has been made (by Sarah). (passive)
  
- a) Mary has written the book. (active)
- b) The book has been written (by Mary). (passive) ⚡

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# Fluency Practice

Listen to this master class. Answers on page 24

## A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.  
"Sick, slick, slim sycamore saplings."



## B: Dictation

Listen to these sentences and write down what you hear.

1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_.

## C: Connected speech

Look at these sentences. See if you can say them with connected speech. Then, listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. What do you like about it?
2. Do you live here alone?
3. What do you know about it?
4. Do you like it?
5. Do you know where it is?
6. What do you do at the weekend?

## D: Pronunciation – the "a" sound

Look at the sentences containing words with the "a" sound (axe, man, sad, bag, etc). Try to say the words in each sentence correctly. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. The man has an axe.
2. Magnus left his bag on the sack.
3. The pan has a can in it.
4. The man looked sad.
5. Anne lives in Amsterdam.

## E: Answering questions: the car

Answer these questions as quickly as you can. Answer the first four in the affirmative, and the second lot of four in the negative.

1. Do you like driving?
2. Have you ever had an accident?
3. Have you ever picked up a hitch-hiker?

4. Have you ever driven through a red light?
5. Do you always find a parking space near your home?
6. Do you ever use the car horn?
7. Have you ever driven really far?
8. Do you listen to CDs while you are driving?



## F: Question formation – the car

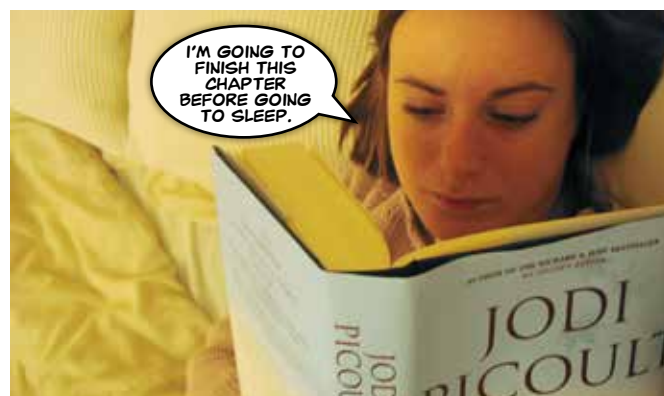
Make questions according to the instructions. Be as quick as you can and try not to think too much.

1. Ask me what kind of car I drive.
2. Ask me what kind of car I would like to drive.
3. Ask me if I like driving.
4. Ask me how often I use my car.
5. Ask me what I like to do while I'm driving.
6. Ask me if I've ever had a bad experience whilst driving.
7. Ask me if I've ever driven abroad.
8. Ask me if I've ever been stopped by a traffic police officer.

## G: Revision Drills – Going to

This drill is designed to practise using "going to" with the future. Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and answer with full answers.

1. What are you going to eat tonight?
2. What are you going to watch on TV tonight?
3. What time are you going to turn off the television?
4. Who are you going to telephone tonight?
5. What are you going to clean before you go to bed?
6. What are you going to prepare before you go to bed?
7. When are you going to go to bed tonight?
8. What are you going to read before you sleep? \*



# BUSINESS ENGLISH PRODUCTS



This month we are looking at some typical words, expressions collocations and forms related to the word “product”. Listen and repeat the following expressions.

## Products

1. They're going to **launch** a series of new products.
2. They're planning on **bringing out** a new product.
3. They have a new **product range**.
4. They're thinking of **stepping up** production.
5. They are selling their product at a reduced price.
6. As part of the launch strategy, they've giving away free product information.
7. Imports of **consumer products** rose last month.
8. They have a new **product line**.
9. The new model **went into production** last month.
10. They want to increase the volume of production.
11. The first car **rolled off the production line**

12. They are considering producing a new version of it.
13. They used **product placement** techniques to advertise the computer.
14. You can get all sorts of software products here.

## Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English telephone dialogue.

**Michael:** Hi, Michael speaking.  
**Sally:** Hi, Michael. This is Sally.  
**Michael:** Oh, hi. How's it going.  
**Sally:** Just wondering if you've seen the new product range our competitors have brought out.  
**Michael:** No. Anything to worry about?  
**Sally:** Well, they're producing a new version of the IZ50, and they're including a number of software products **for free** as part of their new F809 product line.  
**Michael:** Mmm... sounds worrying.  
**Sally:** Yes, I was just wondering what our **short-term plans** were. The sales team are getting worried that

we don't have anything to match these new developments.

**Michael:** I think the best thing is to **arrange a meeting** to analyse the situation and see what we can do. I know we've got a new version of the P387 coming out soon.

**Sally:** OK. I'll speak to you later.

**Michael:** Cheers. Bye.

**Sally:** Bye. ☺

## GLOSSARY

**to launch** *vb*  
to put a product in shops so that people can buy it  
**to bring out** *phr vb*  
to put a product in shops so that people can buy it  
**a product range** *n*  
the total amount of products that a company offers  
**to step up** *phr vb*  
to increase  
**a consumer product** *n*  
something that is sold to the public  
**a product line** *n*  
a new type of product with many different models  
**to go into production** *exp*  
to start manufacturing and making something  
**to roll off the production line** *exp*  
if a product “rolls off the production line”, it is manufactured in a factory  
**product placement** *n*  
positioning products in a film or television programme as a form of subtle advertising  
**for free** *exp*  
that is given to you – you don't have to pay for it  
**short-term plans** *n*  
plans that cover a period in the future one, three, six or twelve months from now  
**to arrange a meeting** *exp*  
to organise a time when you can meet with another person or group of people

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