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# EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with *Learn Hot English* magazine

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

In this month's issue, we're looking at six songs with motivational messages. Learn lots of new words, improve your listening skills, and get motivated to learn more.

Also this month, find out how poems can help you learn English. Plus, download a poem and accompanying audio file for FREE from our fantastic book *Poetry in English*.

Of course, that's not all, and you can also learn how to use the Past Simple Passive. Plus, how to spell words over the phone, how to introduce yourself and how to use slang to talk about making plans. We've also got lots of great articles: funny mistakes, wacky festivals, unusual cafés, rooftop bars, naming and shaming websites, and ironic deaths, to name just a few.

Happy learning!  
See you next month! *Andy*



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## Pre-Intermediate (CEF level: A2)

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Vocabulary: flats / apartments
- 5 Shared flats ☺ TRACK 1 ☺
- 6 Cafés ☺ TRACK 2 ☺
- 7 Festivals ☺ TRACK 3 ☺
- 8 Grammar Booster: The Past Simple Passive ☺ TRACK 4 ☺
- 9 Word Booster: Expressions with *talk*
- 10 English in Action...  
Quick responses ☺ TRACK 5 ☺
- 11 Natural English:  
Technology ☺ TRACK 6 ☺
- 12 Listening activity:  
At a party ☺ TRACK 7 ☺
- 13 Practical English:  
How to spell names ☺ TRACK 8 ☺

## Intermediate (CEF level: B1)

- 14 Rooftop bars ☺ TRACK 9 ☺
- 15 Video experiments ☺ TRACK 10 ☺
- 16 Food ☺ TRACK 11 ☺
- 17 Listening activity:  
The conversation ☺ TRACK 12 ☺
- 18 Travel English:  
The emergency ☺ TRACK 13 ☺
- 19 How poems can improve  
your English
- 20 Songs ☺ TRACK 14 ☺

## Upper Intermediate (CEF level: B2)

- 23 Recipe: Fondue /  
TV Script: *Minder*
- 24 Mistakes ☺ TRACK 15 ☺
- 25 Websites ☺ TRACK 16 ☺
- 26 People skills ☺ TRACK 17 ☺
- 27 Vocabulary Clinic:  
Motivation & enthusiasm
- 28 Listening activity: Introducing  
yourself ☺ TRACK 18 ☺
- 29 Directory
- 31 Idioms: "Countries" idioms

## Advanced (CEF level: C1)

- 32 Group Talk: Websites ☺ TRACK 19 ☺
- 33 Slang Conversation:  
Making plans ☺ TRACK 20 ☺
- 34 Back-handed compliments  
☺ TRACK 21 ☺
- 35 Ironic deaths ☺ TRACK 22 ☺
- 36 Lovable rogues ☺ TRACK 23 ☺
- 37 Listening activity:  
The conversation ☺ TRACK 24 ☺
- 38 Phrasal Verb Themes:  
Products & gadgets
- 39 Subscriptions
- 40 Answers
- 42 Story Time ☺ TRACK 25 ☺



# FLAT / APARTMENT WORDS

Learn some useful words and expressions for talking about flats or apartments.



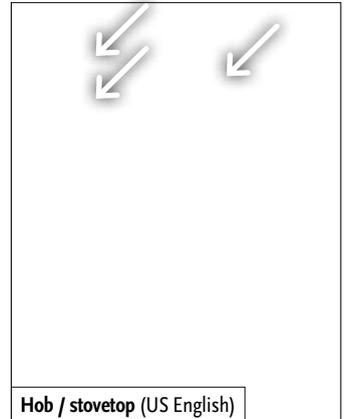
Washing machine



Bed



Oven



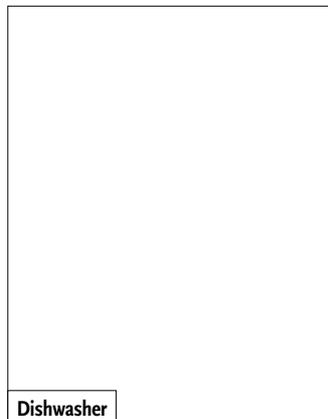
Hob / stovetop (US English)



Radiator



Fridge / refrigerator / fridge-freezer



Dishwasher



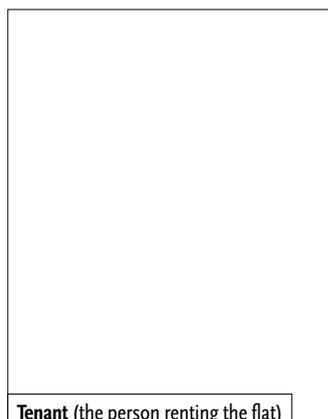
Sofa



TV / television



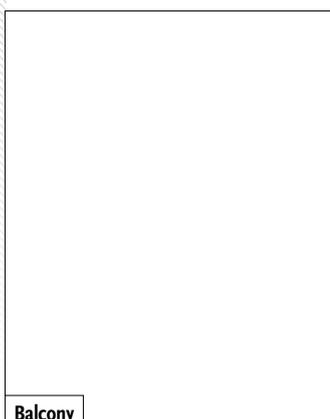
Electricity bill



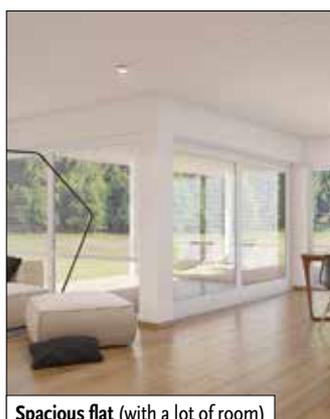
Tenant (the person renting the flat)



Landlord (the owner of the flat)



Balcony



Spacious flat (with a lot of room)



Fully-furnished flat (with furniture)



Unfurnished flat (with no furniture)

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

**Think about it** Have you ever lived in a shared flat or house? Where was it? How long did you live there? What were your flatmates like? What did you like or dislike about it? How much did you pay per month for it?

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

TRACK 1: ENGLISH ACCENTS



By Heidi Mostafa

# WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN A SHARED FLAT?

**W**e asked a few people about their experiences of living in **shared accommodation**.

## Helmut

I once **shared** a flat with three friends, which was great fun – cooking together, chatting, going out... it was amazing. Some of my best experiences were when we'd all make dinner and just have a nice **evening in**. However, it has got its disadvantages too as I remember it was really **hard** to study for my final exams while my friends were out partying.

## Karl

The thing I like about living in a shared flat is that you're with people from lots of different **backgrounds** or cultures. So, you get to find out about people's traditions from other parts of the world, and try lots of **yummy** international food. I remember one night we all cooked something special from our home countries,

so we had food from India, Egypt and Cuba. It was amazing.

## Ricky

I like it because there's always someone to talk to, **go out with**, or share a meal with – so, you're never alone. The bad thing is having to share the bathroom. One of my **flatmates** where I was staying was really **messy**. She never cleaned up in the bathroom, she'd leave all her dirty clothes **lying around** the house and she hardly ever **washed up** after cooking. Eventually, I had to say something about it, but she didn't **take it very well**.

## Pablo

I made some really good friends when I shared a flat. It's nice to know that if you've got a problem or you get sick, there's someone there who can **take care of** you, especially when you're living in a foreign country without your family. Once, I had this terrible fever and I felt so weak that I couldn't get out of bed, but

my **roommates** brought me food, medicine, and checked up on me regularly ✨

## GLOSSARY

**shared accommodation** *n*  
a house, flat, apartment, etc. with several people living there, each paying their part of the rent

**to share** *vb*  
if you "share" something with another person, you can both use it

**a flat** *n*  
a place where you live (with a bedroom/s, kitchen, bathroom, etc.) on one floor. The flat is part of a big building

**an evening in** *exp*  
if you have an "evening in", you stay at home and don't go out

**hard** *adj*  
difficult

**a background** *n*  
your "background" refers to several things about you, including your family, experiences, home, school, etc.

**yummy** *adj*  
"yummy" food is delicious

**to go out with** *exp*  
if you "go out with" friends, you go to a bar, pub, cinema, etc. with them

**a flatmate** *n*  
a person who lives in a room in the flat, apartment, etc. that you're renting

**messy** *adj*  
someone who is "messy" leaves their clothes on the floor, never tidies up, etc.

**lying around** *exp*  
if clothes are "lying around", they're on the floor, the sofa, a table, etc.

**to wash up** *phr vb*  
to clean the plates, cups, knives, etc. after eating or cooking

**to take it badly** *exp*  
if you "take something badly", you get angry when someone criticises you or says something about you

**to take care of** *exp*  
if you "take care of" someone, you help them while they're sick

**a roommate** *n US*  
a person who lives in a room in the flat, apartment, etc. you're renting

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Add three more ideas to the lists of advantages and disadvantages of sharing a flat:

**Advantages:** *it's cheaper, you can live with friends...*

**Disadvantages:** *some people are dirty/messy, it can get noisy...*

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas mentioned?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Who...

- ...found it hard to study?
- ...had a messy flatmate?
- ...tried lots of delicious food?
- ...didn't like having to share the bathroom?
- ...found out about other people's traditions?
- ...was looked after when he was sick?

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

**Think about it** What cafés are there in the town/city where you live? What are some of your favourites? How often do you go to a café? What do you usually have there? What unusual cafés have you been to?

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

TRACK 2 ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN



A CUP OF TEA, ANYONE?

By Harriet King

# UNUSUAL PLACES TO HAVE A CUP OF TEA!

A café is a small restaurant that serves tea, coffee, cakes and other **snacks**. Typically, it consists of one room with tables and chairs, and a kitchen area at the back. But not all cafés are the same.



**Bikes**  
*Look mum no hands!* is a café for cycling enthusiasts.

With a built-in **workshop**, you can enjoy a cup of tea while your bike gets repaired, or you can even learn how to **fix** the bike yourself. The name (“look mum no hands”) comes from a popular expression that children say when they’re riding a bike without holding onto the **handlebars**.



**Cats**  
Lady Dinah’s Cat Emporium is

London’s very first cat café. A family of 11 cats live at the café. Customers can **cuddle**, play or just sit with them while having a cup of tea and slice of cake. The café in north London is so popular that you have to book in advance (for up to three months in **busy periods**).

**Dogs**  
Scooby’s is London’s first



dog café, with a selection of food and drinks for both humans and their pets. The ordering **counter** has a side reserved for **hounds**. The menu includes coffee, cake and biscuits for people, and cheese bone biscuits, roast chicken **muffins** and ‘dog-gestive’ biscuits for the dogs. The colourful café has separate seating areas for dogs and humans.



**Clocks**  
Ziferblat is a Russian café where everything on the

menu is “free” – you simply pay for the amount of time you spend there. At 6p a minute (or 3p for members), you can take what you want from the kitchen (cakes, biscuits, fruit, etc.). They’ve got superfast wifi, as well as books, board games, chess sets and card games. At a maximum of £1.80 per hour, it’s one of London’s cheapest cafés.



**Cereal**  
Cereal Killer Café was set up by identical twins

Alan and Gary Keery from Belfast. The café offers

more than 100 different varieties of cereal, 12 kinds of milk and 20 toppings. The **hipster** brothers were at the centre of a **media storm** after they were accused of being “**out-of-touch**” for charging so much for cereal in such a poor area of London. However, several politicians and businesspeople came to their defence.

Now you can enjoy your cup of tea in style! ☺

## GLOSSARY

**a snack** *n*  
something you eat between meals, such as a chocolate bar, a piece of cake, etc.

**a workshop** *n*  
a room or area where you can repair mechanical things

**to fix** *vb*  
if you “fix” something that’s broken, you repair it so it works again

**the handlebars** *n*  
the “handlebars” on a bike are the things you hold onto while you’re riding it

**to cuddle** *vb*  
if you “cuddle” someone, you put your arms round them and hold them close as a way of showing you like them

**busy periods** *exp*  
during “busy periods” in a café (for example) there are many people there

**a counter** *n*  
a long table in a bar, restaurant, etc. where you order your drinks or food

**a hound** *n*  
a dog

**a muffin** *n*  
small, round, sweet cake, often with fruit or chocolate inside. They are often eaten for breakfast

**to set up** *phr vb*  
if you “set up” a business, you start it and prepare it so it can start operating

**identical twins** *n*  
two children who look exactly like one another because they’ve developed from a single fertilised ovum

**a hipster** *n*  
men and women typically in their 20s and 30s who are politically independent or progressive, etc. Hipster men often have beards

**a media storm** *n*  
if there’s a “media storm”, many newspapers, TV stations, etc. are interested in a story

**out-of-touch** *exp*  
someone who is “out-of-touch” doesn’t know the latest news and isn’t aware of any changes in a situation

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the paragraph titles for each unusual café. In what way do you think the cafés are “unusual”? Make notes.

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What can you get repaired while you’re having a drink in the café *Look mum no hands!*?
2. How many cats live in the cat café?
3. What type of muffins are there for the dogs?
4. How much does it cost for five minutes in *Ziferblat* (if you aren’t a member)?
5. What games have they got in *Ziferblat*?
6. How many kinds of cereal do they have in *Cereal Killer Café*?

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

**Think about it** What festivals are there in your country? What are some of your favourites? What was the last festival you went to? What did you do there? What other strange festivals have you heard of? What do they involve?

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

TRACK 3: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN



By Harriet King

# 3 WEIRD AND WONDERFUL FESTIVALS



**Babies**  
*El Colacho* is a Spanish festival that dates back to

1628. Held in the town of Castillo de Murcia, babies are placed on **mattresses**, clothes and **pillows**. Then, men dressed as **devils** jump over the infants. Apparently, this **purifies** the babies and washes away all evil. Some believe that anybody who doesn't **take part** in the festival as an infant will have a "life full of bad luck". The date of the festival varies as it takes place on the first Sunday after **Corpus Christi**.



**Monkeys**

Every year, over 600 monkeys attend a feast held in front of the Pra Prang Sam Yot temple in Lopburi, just north of Bangkok (in Thailand). Known as The Monkey Buffet Festival, the monkeys enjoy over two tonnes of grilled sausage, fresh fruit and vegetables, ice cream, and other **treats**. Between 2,000 and 3,000

monkeys inhabit the village and bring thousands of tourists to the area. So, the feast is seen as a way of thanking the monkeys for helping the **local** economy. The event is, of course, monkey-themed, with **festival-goers** dressed in monkey masks and costumes. The monkeys have become **accustomed** to humans over the years, and are extremely friendly. The festival was described as one of the strangest in the world by London's *Guardian* newspaper.



**Tomatoes**

The town of Buñol, Valencia, holds the world's biggest annual **food fight**. *La Tomatina* (as it's known in Spanish) attracts tourists from all over the world.

**Dating back to 1945**, the partying and celebrations last all week, but the tomato fight **takes place** between 11am and 1pm on the Wednesday. Until recently, as many as 50,000 people were trying to get into the small Valencian town to join in on the fun. In response, the local council

has had to limit the number of participants. They also had to bring in a few rules, such as "no T-shirt ripping" and "all tomatoes must be **crushed** before being thrown".

Whoever thought a tomato could be so dangerous? ✚

## GLOSSARY

**a mattress** *n*  
a thick, soft object you put on your bed and that you sleep on top of

**a pillow** *n*  
an object you put under your head when you sleep

**a devil** *n*  
a powerful, evil (very bad) spirit

**to purify** *vb*  
if you "purify" something, you make it clean and pure

**to take part** *exp*  
if you "take part" in an event, you participate in it

**Corpus Christi** *n*  
a special day to celebrate the blood and body of Jesus Christ

**a treat** *n*  
something nice you give to someone because they've been good: chocolates, money, flowers, a trip to the cinema, etc.

**local** *adj*  
the "local" economy (for example) is the economy related to the place you're talking about (an area in Thailand in this case)

**a festival-goer** *n*  
someone who goes to a festival

**accustomed to** *exp*  
if you're "accustomed to" something, it's easy for you because you do it very often

**a food fight** *n*  
if people are having a "food fight", they're throwing food at each another

**to date back to** *exp*  
if an event "dates back to" the 19th century (for example), it started in the 19th century

**to take place** *exp*  
if an event "takes place" in a city (for example), it happens in that city

**to crush** *vb*  
if you "crush" something, you put pressure on it so it becomes flat

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the photos of the festivals. What is happening? What do they involve? Make notes.

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

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

1. It involves some jumping.
2. It dates back to 1945.
3. It dates back to 1628.
4. It's a festival enjoyed by both humans and animals.
5. Some new rules have recently been introduced.
6. It was described by the *Guardian* as one of the strangest festivals in the world.

GRAMMAR BOOSTER

# HOW TO USE THE PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE IN STORIES & ANECDOTES

By Harriet King

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I was paid.	I wasn't paid.	Was I paid?
You were paid.	You weren't paid.	Were you paid?
He was paid.	He wasn't paid.	Was he paid?
She was paid.	She wasn't paid.	Was she paid?
It was paid.	It wasn't paid.	Was it paid?
We were paid.	We weren't paid.	Were we paid?
They were paid.	They weren't paid.	Were they paid?

The full forms are: **weren't = were not; wasn't = was not**

We form the past simple passive with *was / were* and a past participle:

- a) The food **was prepared** by Ben.
- b) The cars **were cleaned** by Molly.

We form negatives with *was not / were not* and a past participle:

- a) The food **wasn't prepared** by Ben
- b) The cars **weren't cleaned** by Molly.

In active sentences, the person or thing doing the action is the subject of the sentence:

- a) **Josh** painted the picture. = *Josh* (subject) *painted* (verb) *the picture* (object)
- b) **Zoe** paid the bills. = *Zoe* (subject) *paid* (verb) *the bills* (object)

However, with passives, the person or thing receiving the action is the main focus of the sentence:

- a) **The picture** was painted by Josh.
- b) **The bills** were paid by Molly.

Notice how the person who does the action can appear at the end of the sentence

after the word "by". You don't have to add this information. For example, "The photo was taken in 1932 (by Susan Bates)."

We use the passive when...

- a) ...we don't know who has performed the action = "The wall was demolished two years ago."
- b) ...it isn't important who has performed the action = "The work was completed in May."
- c) ...it's obvious who has performed the action = "The man was arrested at his home." [Obviously, the police arrested the man.]

### Dialogue: Describing a journey

Toby has just got back from his holiday. Things didn't go too well. [Complete the dialogue with the correct past participles.]

- taken    given    taken  
 driven    stopped    given  
 allowed    pushed

- Pete:** So, how was it?  
**Toby:** Great, although the journey back was a nightmare.  
**Pete:** Oh, no. What happened?  
**Toby:** Well, as I was going through customs I got (1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Pete:** Really?

I WAS COMPLETELY TAKEN BY SURPRISE!



**Toby:** Yeah, I was (2) \_\_\_\_\_ this form to fill in and then I was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ into a room at the back to be questioned.

**Pete:** But why?

**Toby:** I have no idea. Anyway, about half an hour later, I was (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to a cell for the night.

**Pete:** Did they bring you any food or anything?

**Toby:** Yeah, at about 3am, a tray of food was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in through a little window in the door, but I wasn't really hungry so I didn't eat much of it.

**Pete:** Did they tell you why they were holding you?

**Toby:** No, that was the worst part, just not knowing what was going

on. Anyway, in the morning, I was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ permission to make a call. I phoned my dad and he got in touch with the embassy. Shortly after making the call, this guy came in and said that I was free to go and that everything was in order. I was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to have a quick shower, then I was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to the airport and put on the next plane back to the UK.

**Pete:** Incredible! Did they apologise or anything?

**Toby:** Not really. They just said that there had been some sort of mix-up.

**Pete:** I hope nothing like that ever happens to me!

**Toby:** Yeah, of course. ☆

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS WITH *TALK*

Here are some useful words and expressions related to the verb *to talk*.

**Talk**

When you “talk”, you use language to say things.  
“We were talking in the bar.”

**Talk to**

If you “talk to” someone, you have a conversation with them.  
“I talked to Jack last week.”

**Talk about**

If you “talk about” something, you discuss that thing.  
“They were talking about their holidays.”

**A talk**

A conversation.  
“I had a long talk with him about the situation.”

**Talks**

“Talks” are formal discussions, usually between different countries or employers and employees.  
“The two sides sat down for talks to try to resolve the situation.”

**Talk back**

If you “talk back” to someone in authority (such as a parent or teacher), you answer them, often in a rude way.  
“You shouldn’t talk back to your parents or teachers!”

**Talk down**

If someone “talks down” to you, they talk to you as if you were a child or a bit stupid.  
“They were talking down to me even though I knew more about it than them.”

**Talk into**

If you “talk someone into” doing something, you convince them to do it.  
“He talked me into investing in the scheme.”

**Talk out of**

If you “talk someone out of” doing something, you convince them *not* to do it.  
“She tried to talk me out of buying the property.”

**Talk over**

If you “talk something over”, you discuss it openly and honestly.  
“We should go somewhere quiet to talk it over.”

**Small talk**

Small talk is polite conversation about unimportant things that people make when they're at a party, at lunch, etc.  
“They had to make small talk as the other guests hadn't arrived yet.”

**Learning expressions**

The best way to learn any words or expressions is by seeing or hearing them in context (in sentences, phrases, etc.) when you're reading or listening to English. Make a note of any words or expressions that you like (or want to learn) and write these down in sentences. Remember, always record language in phrases or sentences – never as individual words. You should also practise using the words or expressions as often as you can: in conversation, on the phone, in e-mails, etc. This will help you remember them.

**Objective** To learn some useful words and expressions for responding to news in English.

**Think about it** When was the last time you heard some surprising news? What did it involve? When was the last time a friend told you about a terrible experience they'd had? How did you respond? When was the last time you gave someone some news? What was it? How did the other person respond?

TRACK 5: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

ENGLISH IN ACTION...

# QUICK RESPONSES

Learn some useful expressions for responding to a piece of news someone has given you in English.

- **You're kidding!** = you're joking / you can't be serious.
- **What a nuisance!** = how annoying.
- **Typical!** = that's typical of them; that's what you'd expect from them.
- **Well done!** = congratulations / you did very well
- **Good idea!** = that's a good idea.
- **Tell me about it!** = I know because it's happened to me.
- **How awful!** = how terrible.
- **Oh, no!** = poor you / how terrible.
- **What a nightmare!** = what a terrible situation / how terrible.



## 1 Response completion

Complete the responses with the correct letters.

- A:** I passed the exam!  
**B:** That's great ne\_ \_ \_!
- A:** I'm fed up of this job.  
**B:** I know how you fe\_ \_ \_!
- A:** It's just so sad – I can't bear it any longer.  
**B:** Ch\_ \_ \_ up! It was only a film.
- A:** I've booked our holiday to the States.  
**B:** How exc\_ \_ \_ \_ \_!
- A:** We lost all our luggage.  
**B:** What a night\_ \_ \_ \_!
- A:** The computer crashed and I lost everything.  
**B:** How aw\_ \_ \_ \_!
- A:** They've cancelled the flight. We'll have to take another one tomorrow morning.  
**B:** What a nuis\_ \_ \_ \_!
- A:** I think we got away with it. They didn't see us.  
**B:** Phew! That was a cl\_ \_ \_ \_ one.

## 2 Conversations completion

Complete the mini-conversations (1-2) with expressions from the previous exercises or any other expressions. In many cases, more than one answer may be possible.

### 1. At the pub

Jeremy and Alisha are at the pub.

**Jeremy:** So, how did the dinner party go last night?

**Alisha:** It was a bit of a disaster, actually.

**Jeremy:** (1) \_\_\_\_\_. What happened?

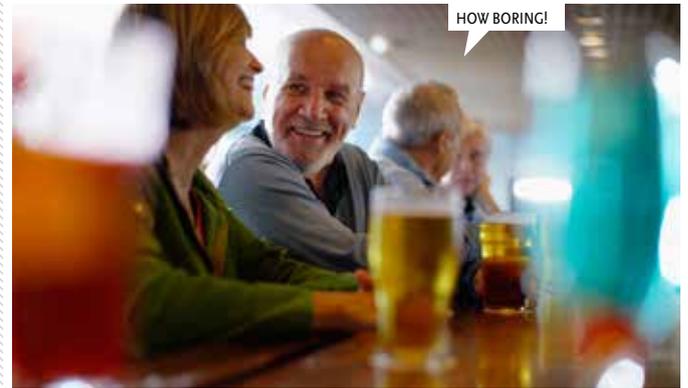
**Alisha:** Well, about an hour before the guests arrived, the oven broke down – it just switched itself off and wouldn't come on again.

**Jeremy:** (2) \_\_\_\_\_! So, what did you do?

**Alisha:** Well, I went round to my neighbour's place. Luckily she was in and said I could use her oven.

**Jeremy:** (3) \_\_\_\_\_!

**Alisha:** Yeah, anyway, next, I... [fades out]



### 2. At the coffee shop

Lewis and Jessica are in a coffee shop.

**Lewis:** [fade in] ...so, I phoned up the shop and they told me that they had the replacement part in stock, but when I got there, the guy behind the counter didn't know anything about it.

**Jessica:** (4) \_\_\_\_\_! So, what did you do?

**Lewis:** Well, when I got home, I phoned up them again and they put me on hold.

**Jessica:** (5) \_\_\_\_\_!

**Lewis:** Yeah. Well, in the end, I managed to speak to someone, but they said they wouldn't have the part for another four weeks.

**Jessica:** (6) \_\_\_\_\_!

**Lewis:** Yeah, tell me about it. But then, you'll never guess what happened... [fades out]



# NATURAL ENGLISH

© TRACK 6: AMERICAN WOMAN, AMERICAN MAN, ENGLISHWOMAN, NEW ZEALAND MAN, FRENCH WOMAN, AMERICAN MAN

What piece of technology couldn't you live without?

Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

## Remember!

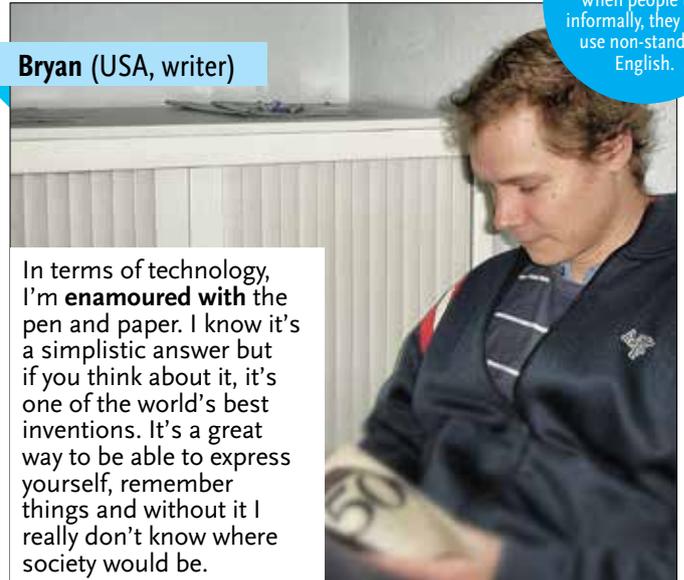
When people talk informally, they often use non-standard English.

**Danielle** (USA, wildlife enthusiast)



At this point I probably **couldn't live without** a washing machine. The idea of washing my clothes everyday or going to the river or however, I, I don't think I could do it and I would just smell bad all the time.

**Bryan** (USA, writer)



In terms of technology, I'm **enamoured with** the pen and paper. I know it's a simplistic answer but if you think about it, it's one of the world's best inventions. It's a great way to be able to express yourself, remember things and without it I really don't know where society would be.

**Georgina** (England, Olympic swimmer)



I don't think I could live without my **laptop**, it has everything I need on it and I can listen to music while I work which is great.

**James** (New Zealand, travel writer)



You know what, I'm actually **getting a bit sick of** technology. I definitely can't live without my computer because I use it for work, but I'd almost want to **get rid of** all the technology in my life and simplify things. Life would just be more relaxed.

**Leslie** (France, HR manager)



Definitely my phone, my whole life from the age of 13 onwards is on my phone and to be honest I'm addicted to text messages.

**John Michael** (USA, business owner)



I am obsessed with my iPhone, unfortunately and fortunately. It **takes up** a lot of my time so that's why it's an unfortunate thing but on the fortunate side it also **saves** me a lot of time. There's a lot of **applications** on there that I use that allow me to do things faster and to find things out that I wouldn't be able to do as quickly without it.

## GLOSSARY

### couldn't live without *exp*

if you "couldn't live without" something, you really need that thing in order to be happy, content, etc.

### enamoured with *exp*

if you're "enamoured with" something, you love that thing

### a laptop *n*

a portable computer (that you can carry with you) that weighs about 2kg

### to get sick of *exp*

if you "get sick of" something, you don't like that thing any more and it has become annoying

### to get rid of *exp*

if you "get rid of" something, you throw that thing away because you don't want it any more

### to take up *phr vb*

if something "takes up" a lot of your time, it uses a lot of your time

### to save *vb*

if something "saves" you time, it's fast and effective so you can spend your time on other things

### an application *n*

a computer program that does a useful job. Also known as an "app"

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

**Think about it** When was the last time you went to a party? Whose party was it? Who did you talk to there? What did you talk about? Did you meet anyone new? What did you talk to them about? What did you eat or drink there?

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

TRACK 7: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

### Note!

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

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Imagine you're at a party and you've just met someone. What can you talk about with them? Add at least three more items to the list.

*the host, the food or drinks, the other guests, how you know the host, the weather, the house or flat where the party is, any mutual friends, the music...*

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conversation between two people who have just met at a party. Listen once. Do they talk about any of the things you thought of for the Pre-listening activity?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- Who is Ellie's flatmate?  
a) Steve  
b) Jenny
- What is Jenny wearing?  
a) a blue dress  
b) a pair of red trousers
- Which company does Ellie work in?  
a) Earnest Shapely  
b) Brooks Productions
- What is Steve's profession? He's a/an...  
a) accountant  
b) teacher
- What does Steve do in his free time?  
a) a bit of acting  
b) a lot of cycling
- Where did Steve live once? In...  
a) Hong Kong  
b) Chicago

### 4 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct prepositions.



ARE YOU IMPRESSED?

NOT REALLY!

# At a party!

### Audio script

**Steve:** Hi, I'm Steve. You're Ellie aren't you?

**Ellie:** Yes, that's right. How's it going? *[They shake hands.]*

**Steve:** Not too bad. You're a friend of Sarah's, aren't you?

**Ellie:** Well, sort of – she's a friend of a friend.

**Steve:** Oh, who's that then?

**Ellie:** Jenny, my flatmate. She knows Sarah from way back.

**Steve:** I don't think I've met Jenny.

**Ellie:** She's that girl over there in the blue dress holding a bottle of (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Steve:** Oh, right. So, do you two work together?

**Ellie:** Not exactly. I mean, we used to, but she changed (2) \_\_\_\_\_, so we aren't in the same company any more.

**Steve:** Oh, right, so which company was that?

**Ellie:** Brooks Productions – it's a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ . I'm in the finance department.

**Steve:** That's interesting. Do you get to meet any famous (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Ellie:** Not really, although Martin Coolway passed through the other day.

**Steve:** Who?

**Ellie:** Yeah, exactly. I'd never heard of him either. So, what about you? What do you do?

**Steve:** I'm in accounting, but I do a bit of acting in my (5) \_\_\_\_\_ too.

**Ellie:** Oh, right.

**Steve:** We're rehearsing for a play right now – *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

**Ellie:** Oh, Oscar Wilde. Very nice. Have you got a big part?

**Steve:** I'm Merriman – the butler.

**Ellie:** Great!

**Steve:** I was in a couple of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a few years ago too.

**Ellie:** Amazing. Anything I might have seen?

**Steve:** Not really. They were mostly local movies in Hong Kong – I was living there at the time. I got a few parts as an extra in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and films.

**Ellie:** Interesting. My aunt lived there for a few years. It must have been amazing.

**Steve:** Oh, yes, it was. I was living on this (8) \_\_\_\_\_ about 40 minutes from Hong Kong island. I had to get the ferry to work every day.

**Ellie:** Incredible. So, what did you do... *[fades out]* ✪

**Think about it!**

What rules are there for saying numbers in your language? When was the last time you had a problem with the bank? Have you ever had any money put into your account by mistake? What happened? Has any money ever come out of your account by mistake? What happened? How good are you at remembering phone numbers?

PRACTICAL ENGLISH

# HOW TO SPELL NAMES IN ENGLISH

Do you remember how to say the letters of the alphabet? Try saying them out loud. Then, listen to check your answers.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

## 1 Dictation I

Listen to the surnames being spelt out and write them down.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## The military alphabet

When we spell out words over the phone, we can use the military alphabet to help us speak clearly (and be understood). See if you can pronounce the words below. Then, listen to check.

The military alphabet			
Alfa	Hotel	Oscar	Victor
Bravo	India	Papa	Whiskey
Charlie	Juliet	Quebec	X-ray
Delta	Kilo	Romeo	Yankee
Echo	Lima	Sierra	Zulu
Foxtrot	Mike	Tango	
Golf	November	Uniform	

## 2 Dictation II

Listen to the surnames being spelt out with the military alphabet and write them down.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## The names alphabet

Instead of the military alphabet (and so you don't sound like a soldier or police officer), you can invent your own alphabet or use one based on names and other words, like the one below.

The names alphabet			
Adam	Henry	Ocean	Victor
Boy	Iris	Paul	William
Charles	John	Queen	X-ray
David	King	Robert	Young
Edward	Luke	Sam	Zebra
Frank	Mary	Tom	
George	Nancy	Union	

## 3 Dictation III

Listen to the words being spelt out with the names alphabet and write them down. Notice the use of "for": "B for boy", etc.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Dialogues: Spelling problems

Listen to the two dialogues and complete them with the correct names or words. [Don't read the text until you've completed the exercise!]

Phone call I. The caller's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone call II. The caller's address is: \_\_\_\_\_

### Phone call I



CAN YOU SPELL THAT FOR ME, PLEASE?

**Bank:** Snope's International Banking. Mark speaking. How may I help you?

**Caller:** Hi, I was calling about a transfer I'd made this morning.

**Bank:** OK. Can I have your name, please?

**Caller:** Yes, it's Abbie Halliday.

**Bank:** How do you spell that, please?

**Caller:** That's A for Adam, B for Boy, B for Boy again, I for Iris and E for Edward; and my surname is Halliday, that's H for Henry, A for Adam, L for Luke, L for Luke again, I for Iris, D for David, A for Adam and Y for Young.

**Bank:** Great. And the last two digits of your debit card, and the name on the card.

**Caller:** It's 694, and the name is... [fades out]

### Phone call II



SHALL I SPELL THAT FOR YOU?

**Shop:** Freddie's Furniture Store. Sarah speaking, how may I help you?

**Alfie:** Hi, I was calling about an order I placed about weeks ago. The items still haven't been delivered.

**Shop:** OK. Can I have your name, please?

**Alfie:** Alfie Connor.

**Shop:** And your address?

**Alfie:** 13 Windmaster Road.

**Shop:** Could you spell that for me, please?

**Alfie:** Yes, that's W for William, I for Iris, N for Nancy, D for David, M for Mary, A for Adam, S for Sam, T for Tom, E for Edward and R for Robert.

**Shop:** And the reference code for the order, please?

**Alfie:** Yes, it's... [fades out]

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

**Think about it** What are some of your favourite bars? Which bars do you go to? Who do you go with? What do you eat/drink there? Are there any rooftop bars in your town/city? Have you ever been to a rooftop bar? What do you think is special about rooftop bars?

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

TRACK 9: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

# ROOFTOP TRENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

By Harriet King

WHAT A VIEW!

Rooftop bars are becoming more and more popular. Here are a couple you might like to visit.



## Sky Bar

At over 200 metres in the air, Sky Bar in Bangkok (Thailand) is one of the highest rooftop bars in the world. As one guest on TripAdvisor wrote, "The **view** from the top is amazing – on a clear evening we could see so much of the city from above." Sky Bar has received worldwide recognition and numerous **awards**, with the New York Times naming it one of the "46 places to go to in 2013". The bar also **featured** in the movie *The Hangover Part II*.



## The Roof Gardens

The Roof Gardens is on top of a building in Kensington High Street (in central London). Open to the public, there are three gardens: a Spanish-style garden, a Tudor garden, and an English woodland garden. The gardens are home to several species of trees and a **pond** with ducks and flamingos.

There's also a nightclub, a restaurant and a bar, which offers a range of cocktails and barbecue food. One reviewer on the website Yelp wrote, "You're in the middle of London but feel like you're in a secret **courtyard** in Spain. Beautiful fountains, walkways and **hedges**. Just walking around with a drink is an experience."



## The Rooftop Film Club

The Rooftop Film Club **screens** movies on a rooftop in London. Drinks, food, sweets and popcorn and **director's chairs** as seats help add to the cinema-like atmosphere. Also provided are warm blankets and an individual set of **wireless headphones** so you won't **get distracted** by any noise. There's a bar on the roof and a barbecue so you can have some great food and enjoy delicious drinks as you watch your favourite movies on an open-air **screen**. One reviewer on Time Out's website wrote, "A cool **venue**, amazing views, a genius concept in rooftop movies and **wicked** cocktails – a very good night out."



## Hot Tub Cinema

Because having a cinema on the roof isn't enough for some people, you can now watch movies while you relax in a **hot tub**. Costing around £27.00 per person, each tub has room for four to six people. Films are screened almost every day throughout the summer months, with a choice of movies from comedies, to musicals and horror films. Once the film is over, a DJ arrives, drinks are served, **bubble bath** is poured into the hot tubs, and the party begins.

The trend for rooftop entertainment is growing by the day! 🍷

## GLOSSARY

**a view** *n*  
a "view" is what you can see from a window, a room, etc.  
**an award** *n*  
a prize in a competition  
**to feature** *vb*  
if a bar (for example) "features" something, the bar has that thing  
**a pond** *n*  
a small area of water (often with fish) that is usually artificial, human-made, etc.  
**a courtyard** *n*  
an open area of ground with walls or buildings around it  
**a hedge** *n*  
a row of bushes or small trees, usually along the edge of a garden, field, road, etc.  
**to screen** *vb*  
if a film is "screened", it's shown  
**a director's chair** *n*  
a type of folding chair that film director's often use  
**wireless** *adj*  
with no wires or cables  
**headphones** *n*  
objects you wear on your head or in your ears so you can hear something  
**to get distracted** *exp*  
if you're "distracted", you aren't concentrating because there's a noise, or something else that you're focusing on  
**a screen** *n*  
a large object in a cinema that you look at while you watch a film  
**a venue** *n*  
a place where an event, party, etc. happens  
**wicked** *adj informal*  
excellent, very good  
**a hot tub** *n*  
a large bath for several people that you can sit in to relax  
**bubble bath** *n*  
a type of liquid soap that makes bubbles (circles of air)  
**to pour** *vb*  
if you "pour" a liquid into a container, you put it into the container

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

You're going to read an article about some rooftop bars. Look at the paragraph titles. What do you think each rooftop bar is like? Make notes.

## 2 Reading I

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

## 3 Reading II

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

1. Guests here will get wet.
2. It's about 200 metres high.
3. There's a nightclub there.
4. It featured in a film.
5. It costs about £27 per person.
6. It was described as "cool" by a reviewer on Time Out's webpage.
7. It's got some flamingos in it.
8. The seats are foldable.

**Think about it** Have you seen any videos on YouTube lately? What were they about? Have you seen any viral videos (very popular videos) lately? What were they about? Have you heard about any other social experiment videos? What did they involve? Can you think of an idea for a social experiment video? What would it involve?

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



# 4 SOCIAL EXPERIMENT VIDEOS

**W**hat would you do if you noticed some keys on the ground, a £5 note attached to a board in the street, or a lost girl in a shopping centre? Social experiment videos (shot with a hidden camera) aim to find out how people will react in a variety of situations. And the videos often go viral as the results are so interesting. Here are four social experiment videos.



**1 The free money**  
As part of this social experiment, five £5

notes were attached to a board in the street with a message that read, "This money is for people in need only". Most passers-by stare at the "free money" and take pictures of it. In one case, two women are seen removing two of the £5 notes, but this is only so they can give them to a nearby homeless man. Then, in another show of goodwill, a man is filmed pinning an extra £5 note onto the sign. However, it doesn't end well as two men are seen pocketing the remaining £20.



**2 Lost girls**  
In another experiment, two little girls

pretend to be lost in a busy shopping centre. Hidden cameras record Uma (7)

and Maya (5) who take it in turns to look lost. Astonishingly, over a period of about an hour, only one person (a grandmother) stops to ask if they're all right. And over 600 people just walk past, ignoring them. Experts say the reluctance of the passers-by to do anything to help may have something to do with a fear – especially among men – that any help they offer could be "misinterpreted".



**3 The fall**  
Two men, both with crutches, fall down in the street

as the reaction of passers-by is secretly filmed. One of the men appears to be homeless; the other is a well-dressed businessman. So, who do you think people are more likely to help? In the experiment, both the homeless man and the business man fell over 10 times each. Every time the businessman fell over, someone came to help him (10/10). However, when the homeless man fell over, he was helped up only twice (2/10). What would you have done?



**4 The bus ride**  
In a similar experiment by Swedish YouTube

channel *STHLM Panda*, a man dressed in a suit is filmed asking bus drivers if

he can ride for free because he's lost his wallet. Each time, he's allowed on the bus, and the bus drivers treat him "nicely". Some even offer to help look for his "lost wallet." Later, the exact same man asks the same question. However, this time, he's wearing a cheap jacket and carrying his belongings in a plastic bag. And when he asks for the free ride, all the drivers say no.

So, what does this tell us about humankind? 🍷

## GLOSSARY

- a shopping centre** *n*  
a large building with many shops in it
- to aim** *vb*  
if you "aim" to do something, you want to do that thing
- to go viral** *exp*  
if a video "goes viral", it becomes popular because lots of people see it and share it
- in need** *exp*  
someone "in need" is poor and needs help or money
- passers-by** *n*  
people who are walking past when something is happening
- to stare** *vb*  
if you "stare" at something, you look at it for a long period of time
- homeless** *adj*  
a "homeless" person has no home
- goodwill** *n*  
if someone performs a gesture of "goodwill", they do something nice for other people
- to pin** *vb*  
if you "pin" a piece of paper onto a board, you put it there, often with a pin (a thin, sharp piece of metal)
- to pocket** *vb*  
if you "pocket" money, you put it in your pocket and take it
- reluctance** *n*  
if someone is showing "reluctance", it's obvious that they don't want to do something
- to misinterpret** *vb*  
if you "misinterpret" something, you don't understand it correctly
- a crutch** *n*  
a long object that people with a bad leg use to help them walk
- a suit** *n*  
a formal set of clothing with a jacket and trousers of the same material and colour
- a wallet** *n*  
an object men carry in their pockets to hold their money, bank cards, etc.
- belongings** *n*  
your "belongings" are your things, possessions, etc.

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Read the introduction to the article so you know what a "social video experiment" is. Then, look at the paragraph titles. What do you think each social video experiment involves? What will the results be? Make notes.

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

- In total, how much was pinned to the board in the street at first?
- How much was given to a homeless man?
- How long did the "lost girls" experiment last?
- How many people walked past the lost girls?
- How many times did the businessman fall over?
- How many times was the homeless man helped up?
- How did the bus drivers treat the businessman?
- How many times was the homeless man allowed on the bus?

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

**Think about it** What are some of your favourite items of food? What items of fruit or vegetable do you like? How often do you eat real (not processed) food? How important is eating well to you? What do you do to ensure you eat well? Do you know about any other items of food with special health benefits? What are they? Why are they healthy?

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

© TRACK 11: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

# FIVE FOODS THAT ARE REALLY GOOD FOR YOU!

**W**e all know it's important to eat well. But some items of food also have incredible medical benefits. Here are a few.



## Avocados

According to a recent study by the Avocado Council, an avocado a day can help reduce your **cholesterol** levels. Avocados are high in fat, but most of the fat is **monounsaturated** (or "good" fat), which can help lower cholesterol and reduce the risk of a heart attack. The report was funded by the Avocado Council, but also appeared in the Journal of the American Heart Association.



## Almonds

A study from Aston University (in Birmingham) found that eating just 50g of almonds a day could help reduce your blood pressure, improve blood flow and reduce your risk of heart disease. Almonds are also a great source of **protein** and "good" fats, even though they have a lot of **calories**.

## Turmeric

Scientists from Case Western Reserve University (in Cleveland, Ohio) and the Georg-



Speyer-Haus (in Frankfurt, Germany) have found that **turmeric** can help slow down the development of cancer. The spice (which is a key ingredient in curry powder), is also seen as a potential natural remedy for conditions such as **Alzheimer's**, **cataracts**, **ulcerative colitis** and cardiovascular disease.



## Oily fish

A study published in the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases claims that a portion of oily fish a week can reduce your risk of getting **arthritis**. Rheumatoid arthritis causes **inflammation** in the joints. The study looked at the health and eating habits of women over a period of more than 15 years. It found that those who regularly ate at least one portion of oily fish a week had up to 52% lower risk of developing arthritis compared with those who ate less than one portion a week.

## Beetroot juice

According to a recent trial from the University of London, a glass of beetroot juice a day could help reduce your blood pressure. The trial, which was funded by the British



Heart Foundation, found that the high levels of nitrates in a glass of beetroot juice helped relax and **dilate** blood vessels, and as a result, lowered blood pressure in people with hypertension. Beetroot also contains several nutrients and minerals, including **folate**, manganese, zinc and vitamin B-6.

Eat the real thing! Your body will thank you! 🍏

## GLOSSARY

**cholesterol** <sup>n</sup>  
a substance that exists in the fat, tissues and blood of all animals. Too much cholesterol can cause heart disease

**monounsaturated** <sup>adj</sup>  
"monounsaturated" fats can help you lower your cholesterol levels

**protein** <sup>n</sup>  
a substance found in food and drink such as meat, eggs, and milk. You need "protein" in order to grow

**calories** <sup>n</sup>  
units used to measure the energy value of food

**turmeric** <sup>n</sup>  
a type of spice used in curry

**Alzheimer's** <sup>n</sup>  
a condition in which a person's brain gradually stops working properly

**a cataract** <sup>n</sup>  
layers over a person's eyes that prevent them from seeing properly

**ulcerative colitis** <sup>n</sup>  
a bowel disease. A person suffering from it has inflammation in the large intestine

**arthritis** <sup>n</sup>  
a type of disease that affects the joints (your knees, etc.)

**inflammation** <sup>n</sup>  
an "inflammation" is a painful area on your body that's red and swollen (bigger than normal)

**stiffness** <sup>n</sup>  
if you're feeling "stiffness", your muscles or joints hurt and they're difficult to move

**a joint** <sup>n</sup>  
a part of your body (such as your elbow, knee, shoulder, etc.) where two bones meet and are able to move together

**to dilate** <sup>vb</sup>  
when blood vessels "dilate", they become wider or bigger

**folate** <sup>n</sup>  
folic acid - one of the B vitamins

THIS IS DISGUSTING... BUT AT LEAST IT'S GOOD FOR ME

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What health benefits do you think the items of food mentioned in the article might have? Make notes.

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write an item of food next to each statement.

1. It can help relieve tension in your joints.
2. They can improve your blood flow.
3. It can reduce your blood pressure.
4. They can help reduce your cholesterol levels.
5. It's got vitamin B-6 in it.
6. It can help the fight against cancer.
7. It's a potential remedy for Alzheimer's.

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

**Think about it** When was the last time you went to a pub? Where was it? What did you have to drink or eat? Who were you with? What did you talk about? What pubs are there in the town/city where you live? How often do you go to pubs?

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

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Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Imagine you're in a pub with a friend. You're at the bar waiting to order some drinks for yourselves and some other friends. What can you talk about? Add three more items to the list below.

*a football match, a sports event, your holidays, the weekend, your family, work...*

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conversation between two people who are in a bar. Listen once. Were any of your ideas from the Pre-listening activity mentioned?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions with yes / no.

1. Did they both see the game the previous night?
2. Did Kate's team win the previous week?
3. Has Kate got three children?
4. Is Molly 10-years-old?
5. Is Ben 9-years-old?
6. Is Kate going sailing in the Mediterranean?
7. Is Mark going to spend a week in France?
8. Has Kate been to France?

### 4 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

### Audio script

# How to build on the conversation

### Note!

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

### At the pub

Mark and Kate are in a pub with some colleagues from work. They're at the bar getting the drinks.

**Mark:** So, did you see the game last night?

**Kate:** Yeah. What a disaster.

**Mark:** They deserved it I think. I mean, Coghill missed the penalty, Rogers hit the bar three times and Bentley got (1) \_\_\_\_\_ off in the second half.

**Kate:** That was never a red card.

**Mark:** Oh, well, we're still five points ahead. [silence] So, how's the company team (2) \_\_\_\_\_?

**Kate:** Not too bad, although we lost 4-zero last week.

**Mark:** What a disaster!

**Kate:** I missed an open goal, and I haven't (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the end of it. So embarrassing! And my family were (4) \_\_\_\_\_ too!

**Mark:** Oh, no. You've got two kids, haven't you?

**Kate:** That's right.

**Mark:** So, how are they doing?

**Kate:** Fine, thanks. Alfie is four now and Molly is 10. How old are yours?

**Mark:** Jessica's seven and Ben's nine.

**Kate:** Quite a handful, I should (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mark:** Oh, yes, they keep me busy. [silence] So, have you got any plans for the summer?

**Kate:** Jamie and I are going sailing in the Caribbean.

**Mark:** Very nice!

**Kate:** Yeah, we've been (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to go for some time now, but just never got round to it. What about you?

**Mark:** We're hoping to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a week or so in France. My sister's got a house over there.

**Kate:** Fantastic!

**Mark:** She's got two kids too, so all the cousins have a great time together.

**Kate:** Very nice! Whereabouts in France?

**Mark:** The Dordogne area, sort of east of Bordeaux.

**Kate:** Oh, right, yes. I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a couple of people with homes out there.

**Mark:** Yeah, there are lots of Brits out there. We've been there quite a few times before. It's just so relaxing.

**Kate:** I've never been to France. I'd love to go though.

**Mark:** It's great as... [fades out] ☺

TRAVEL ENGLISH

By Harriet King

# THE EMERGENCY

Learn over 20 useful words and expressions for talking about emergencies.

Useful words



Police car



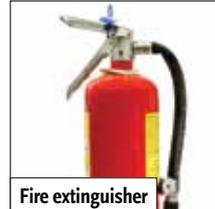
Police officer



Fire-fighter



Fire engine



Fire extinguisher



Ladder



Smoke



Ambulance



Paramedic



Helicopter



Hospital



Stretcher

Words to describe

- **Injury** – if you've got an injury, you've got a cut, or a broken leg, etc.
- **Bleeding** – if you're bleeding, blood (a red liquid) is coming out of your body.
- **Burn** – if someone has a burn, a part of their skin is red because it's been in contact with fire.
- **Pulse** – your "pulse" is the regular beat in your body.
- **Bruise** – a mark on your body (usually black, blue or purple in colour) where you've been hit.
- **Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation / the kiss of life** – a form of first aid that involves breathing into someone's mouth.
- **Siren** – a device on a fire engine, police car, ambulance, etc. that produces a loud sound.
- **Operator** – the person who takes emergency phone calls.
- **Accident & Emergency** – a department at a hospital that deals with patients who need immediate and urgent help.
- **Heart attack** – if someone has a "heart attack", their heart stops beating.
- **Unconscious** – someone who is "unconscious" is breathing but not completely awake or conscious.
- **First Aid** – treatment given to a sick person before professional medical help can be given
- **Airlift** – to transport a person by helicopter / plane, etc.

999

In the UK, if there's an emergency, you have to dial 999. You will need to give the following information when you call 999: who you are, where you are, your phone number and what happened. Once the situation has been assessed properly, an ambulance, fire engine or police car will be sent.

Dialogue: The emergency phone call

Oscar, a language student, is staying with a host family in Bournemouth (England). He's just discovered his host family's dad unconscious on the kitchen floor. Listen and complete the script with the correct words.

**Operator:** The ambulance service.  
**Oscar:** Hi, it's my **host family's** dad – he's unconscious.  
**Operator:** OK, what's your name and address please?  
**Oscar:** Oscar. I'm staying at 23 Blacksmith Road, in Bournemouth, it's just off the high street.  
**Operator:** OK, Oscar, an ambulance is on its way.  
**Oscar:** There's no one else at home. I found him on the kitchen floor. I think he's had a **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ or something like that.  
**Operator:** OK, I need you to try and find his pulse, and tell me if he's **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Oscar:** *[feeling for the pulse]* Yes, he's breathing.  
**Operator:** How old is he?  
**Oscar:** About 55, I think.  
**Operator:** Do you know anything about his **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
**Oscar:** Not really. He seems to be quite **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ . I mean, he goes walking and plays tennis. Please hurry up.  
**Operator:** The ambulance is just around the corner. Are there any signs of **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ or broken limbs?  
**Oscar:** No, but he's got a **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ on his head. What should I do?  
**Operator:** Just stay with him until the **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ get there. *[the sound of an ambulance]* Oscar: OK, I can hear the **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Operator:** They're outside your house right now; make sure they can get in quickly.  
**Oscar:** Yes, yes they're here.  
**Operator:** OK, I'm going to leave you with them now, OK?  
**Oscar:** OK, thanks for your help.  
**Operator:** No problem, bye.  
**Oscar:** Bye. *[He hangs up the phone.]* ↻

GLOSSARY

a **host family** ʃ  
a family that you stay with when you go abroad to study or learn a language

# 9 WAYS THAT POEMS CAN HELP YOU LEARN ENGLISH!

Listening to poems is a great way to **improve** your English. They can help you perfect your pronunciation, increase your **range** of vocabulary and assist with your spoken English. But that's not all!

## 1 Easy!

Learning English by listening to poems is easy. Just **load up** your MP3 player with your favourite poems and press play. And you can listen to them whenever and wherever you want, so you can learn English while you're walking, driving, doing sport or relaxing on the sofa.

## 2 Natural

While you're listening to a poem, you're receiving language in the form of lots of useful English words, expressions, phrases and sentences. So, you're increasing your range of vocabulary and learning English the natural way – without having to study or do exercises.

## 3 Vocabulary

Poems are great for **expanding** your range of vocabulary. A lot of poems are based on a particular topic. So, you'll learn lots of words around a theme, which is a good way of

organising your learning. Plus, it makes remembering words a lot easier.

## 4 Perspectives

Poems can give you a new **perspective** on life, allowing you to see things from a different angle. As William Butler Yeats (an Irish poet – 1865-1939) once said, "[Poetry] is blood, imagination, intellect running together... It **bids** us to touch and taste and hear and see the world, and **shrink** from all that is of the brain only."

## 5 Colourful language

Poets often use colourful language such as **metaphor**, imagery and symbolism to describe things. Through poems, you'll also learn about the flexibility of English as poets often break standard grammar and punctuation "rules".

## 6 Listening

Poems are great for your general listening skills. While you're listening to poems,

you're getting used to the sounds in English. More importantly, you can use poems to practise listening for gist – listening for a general understanding of something, without trying to understand every single word.

## 7 Culture

Poems can teach you a lot about culture as the topics are often to do with traditions or historical events. This will help you learn about different countries and their customs, as well as important events from the past.

## 8 Pronunciation

Poems are great for your pronunciation. There's often a repetition of sounds through rhyming words. This will help you get used to the different sounds in English. You can also learn about things such as connected speech (when the final consonant sound of one word merges with the initial vowel sound

of the following word), sentence stress (the way certain words are stressed in sentences or phrases) and intonation (the way a **variation** in **pitch** can transform meaning).

## 9 Rhythm

Finally, poems can help you understand and appreciate the rhythm of English. English is a stress-timed language. This means that stressed syllables are spoken at regular intervals; and unstressed syllables are **shortened** to **fit in with** this rhythm. Poems can help you understand this and **get used to** it.

So, load up your MP3 player with some poems, put on your headphones and press play – you'll learn so much! ✨

## GLOSSARY

- to improve** *vb*  
if you "improve", you become better at something
- a range** *n*  
your "range" of vocabulary (for example) refers to the number of words you know
- to load up** *phr vb*  
if you "load up" a container, you fill it with something
- to expand** *vb*  
if you "expand" something, you make it bigger
- a perspective** *n*  
your "perspective" of something is the way you think about it
- to bid** *vb Old*  
if A "bids" you to do something, A asks, requests, etc. you do that thing
- to shrink** *vb*  
if you "shrink" from something, you move away from it because you don't like it
- a metaphor** *n*  
an imaginative way of describing something by comparing it to another thing. For example, "He's a rat."
- a variation** *n*  
a change
- pitch** *n*  
the "pitch" of a sound is how high or low it is
- to shorten** *vb*  
to make shorter or smaller
- to fit in with** *exp*  
if you make A "fit in with" B, you reduce the size of A so it can enter B
- to get used to** *exp*  
if you "get used to" something, it becomes easy for you because you've done it so many times

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# 6 SONGS WITH MESSAGES

Songs are a great way to improve your English. You can learn lots of new words, build on your listening abilities, and improve your speaking too if you sing along to the songs. Here are 6 songs with messages to inspire you to learn more and do better.

BY HEIDI MOSTAFA

IT'S MY LIFE  
BON JOVI



## 1 Stronger by Kelly Clarkson

*Stronger* was released in October 2011. It's about how **hard times** and painful experiences can make you stronger. Kelly Clarkson is an American singer, songwriter and actress. She was born on 24th April 1982. She won the first season of the TV series *American Idol*; and since then, she's won over 60 music awards, and sold over 25 million albums worldwide.

### Lyrics

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger,  
Stand a little (1) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Doesn't mean I'm lonely when I'm alone,  
What doesn't kill you makes a (2) \_\_\_\_\_.



## 2 Who you are by Jessie J

*Who you are* came out in November 2011. It's about believing in yourself and always being true to who you are. Jessie J is an English singer and songwriter. Her real name is Jessica Ellen Cornish, and she was born on 27th March 1988. She's sold over 11 million singles and 2.5 million albums worldwide since 2012.

### Lyrics

It's okay not to be okay,  
Sometimes it's hard,  
to follow your (3) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Tears don't mean you're losing,  
everybody's **bruising**,  
Just be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to who you are.



## 3 It's my life by Bon Jovi

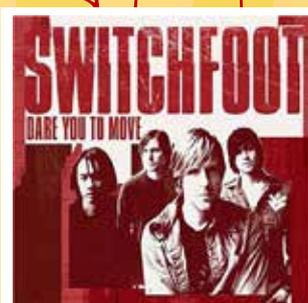
*It's my life* was released in May 2000. It's about taking control of your life, following your dreams, and **living life to the fullest**. *Bon Jovi* is an American rock band from New Jersey, featuring Jon Bon Jovi as the lead singer. The band has performed more than 2,500 concerts in over 50 countries in front of more than 34 million fans.

### Lyrics

It's my life, it's now or (5) \_\_\_\_\_,  
I ain't gonna live (6) \_\_\_\_\_,  
I just want to live while I'm alive,  
It's my life...

STRONGER  
KELLY CLARKSON

WHO YOU ARE  
JESSIE J

DARE YOU TO MOVE  
SWITCHFOOT

#### 4 Dare you to move by Switchfoot

*Dare you to move* came out in March 2004. The song is about making a positive change in your life, and **letting go** of any past events that may be **holding you back**. *Switchfoot* is an American alternative rock band from San Diego. Their debut album *The Beautiful Letdown* sold over 2.6 million copies. They're famous for their energetic live shows.

#### Lyrics

*I dare you to move, I dare you to move,  
I dare you to lift yourself up  
off the (7) \_\_\_\_\_,  
I dare you to move.*



#### 5 Eye of the tiger by Survivor

*Eye of the Tiger* was released in May 1982. It's famous for being the theme song for the Sylvester Stallone movie *Rocky III*. It's about not giving up on your dreams, setting your eye on a goal, going for it and not stopping until you attain it. *Survivor* is an American rock band from Chicago. They were hugely successful in the 1980s.

#### Lyrics

*Rising up straight to the (8) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Had the guts, got the glory,  
Went the distance,  
Now I'm not gonna (9) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Just a man and his will to survive.*



#### 6 Get up Stand up by Bob Marley

This song by Bob Marley (1945-1981) came out in 1973. It's about **standing up** for your rights, never giving up and fighting for what's rightfully yours. Bob Marley was a Jamaican reggae singer, songwriter, musician and guitarist.

#### Lyrics

*Get up, stand up, stand up  
for your rights,  
Get up, stand up, don't give  
up the (10) \_\_\_\_\_,  
[Life is your right], Get up,  
stand up.  
[So, we can't give up the  
fight.]  
Stand up for your rights.*

EYE OF THE TIGER  
SURVIVOR

### GLOSSARY

**to release** *vb*  
when a song is "released", it appears in the shops and you can buy it

**hard times** *n*  
if you're experiencing "hard times", you're having a difficult life

**to bruise** *vb*  
if people are "bruising", they're suffering or having a bad time

**live life to the fullest** *exp*  
to live your life very positively, doing lots of positive things

**ain't** *exp informal*  
isn't / aren't

**gonna** *exp informal*  
going to

**to let go** *exp*  
if you "let go" of something, you allow it to escape or go away

**to hold you back** *exp*  
if something is "holding you back", it's preventing you from advancing

**to lift yourself up** *exp*  
if you "lift yourself up", you become positive again

**to rise up** *phr vb*  
to improve, to increase

**guts** *n*  
if you've got a lot of "guts", you're brave and courageous, even in dangerous situations

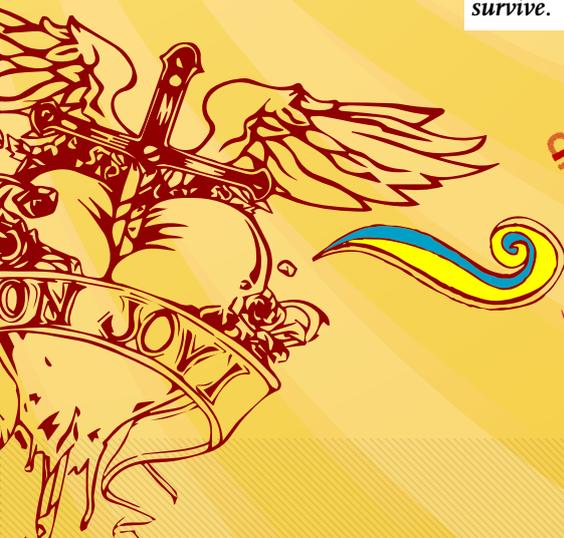
**to go the distance** *exp*  
to do what you say you'll do; to complete a course of action; to complete a task

**a will** *n*  
a desire, a strong feeling for something

**to survive** *vb*  
if you "survive", you continue to live after experiencing a dangerous or difficult situation

**to stand up for** *exp*  
the things you "stand up for" are the things you defend, especially when they're criticised or attacked

**to give up** *phr vb*  
if you "give up", you stop doing something



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# FONDUE!

Try this delicious Swiss fondue recipe. [serves 6]



## Ingredients

- 1 200 grams Gruyere cheese
- 2 200 grams Emmental cheese
- 3 1 teaspoon of **cornstarch** (cornflour)
- 4 2 teaspoons of **kirsch**
- 5 240 ml of dry white wine
- 6 Bread cut into cubes

## Utensils

- 7 Fondue pot
- 8 Fondue forks
- 9 Saucepan
- 10 Spatula

## Steps

1. Place the saucepan onto a medium heat and add the white wine.
2. When the wine starts **simmering**, gradually add the **grated** Emmental cheese and **stir** it in.
3. Then, add the grated Gruyere cheese.
4. Stir the mixture until the cheeses have completely **melted**.
5. Next, mix the kirsch and the cornstarch together. Then, add this mixture to the melted cheese, constantly stirring.
6. When the mixture has **thickened**, **remove** it from the heat.
7. Then, use the spatula to transfer the cheese mixture into the fondue pot.

Now use the fondue forks to enjoy your delicious fondue! ☆

**VIDEO**

Watch a video explaining how to make it. Search YouTube for "How to make the perfect Swiss cheese fondue".

**GLOSSARY**

**cornstarch** *n*  
a type of flour made from corn. It's often used to thicken sauces, etc.

**kirsch** *n*  
an alcoholic drink made from cherries

**to simmer** *vb*  
if a liquid is "simmering", it's cooking slowly on a low heat

**grated** *adj*  
"grated" cheese has been cut into very small, thin pieces

**to stir** *vb*  
if you "stir" food, you move it around so it mixes and cooks

**to melt** *vb*  
"melted" cheese has become like a liquid

**to thicken** *vb*  
to make thicker (with less liquid)

**to remove** *vb*  
if you "remove" a saucepan from the heat, you take it off the heat

# MINDER



Arthur Daley is a **dodgy** car salesman and "entrepreneur" from the British TV series *Minder*. He's played by actor George Cole. Arthur often gets into trouble, so he needs some help from Terry, his **minder**. In this scene, Arthur is explaining one of his latest **money-making** schemes to Terry.

## The script

A=Arthur T=Terry



**A:** Come over here. I want to show you the sort of **inspired business acumen** that makes me a **winner**. Look at that.

**T:** Goldfish.

**A:** **Goldmine**, Terry, Goldmine.

**T:** I would have thought sharks would've been more in **your line**.

**A:** Very **droll**, very droll.

**T:** So, what are you **gonna** do with them?

**A:** Put them in little plastic bags. At least, you are.

**T:** I'm what?

**A:** Now look, don't worry. You'll be on an **earner**.

**T:** How big an earner?

**A:** Well, that depends, don't it? I mean, there's a bit of time and motion to consider.

**T:** Oh, time and motion.

**A:** Well, you know, like **piece work** – so much a bag? I think that would be **equitable**.

**T:** What are you talking about?

**A:** Well, look you've been to the **fairground**, haven't you?

**T:** Yes, Arthur, I have been to the fairground.

**A:** And you see in some of the **booths** they have little plastic bags with goldfish in which they give away as prizes.

**T:** Yeah, all right.

**A:** Well, how do you think those goldfish get into those little plastic bags?

**T:** [being sarcastic] Somebody puts them in the little plastic bags.

**A:** You're quick, Terry, I'll give you that, you're quick.

**T:** Well, I'm not going to do it.

**A:** Well someone's got to.

**T:** **Ain't** gonna be me.

**A:** No, no, no, no, they don't hurt them, if that's what's worrying you. I mean, they've got no **nervous system**. I mean, you've never heard a trout scream when it got caught, have you?

**T:** Oh, **leave it out**, Arthur.

**A:** **Hang on**, hang on. No, look, you're being **unreasonable**, Terry. ☆

**VIDEO**

Watch the clip from the TV series *Minder*. Search YouTube for "Minder, Arthur Daley and Terry - Goldfish".

**GLOSSARY**

**dodgy** *adj*  
dishonest

**a minder** *n*  
a person whose job is to protect rich or famous people

**a money-making scheme** *n*  
an idea that will make money

**inspired** *adj*  
an "inspired" person has new and original ideas

**business acumen** *exp*  
the ability to make good decisions in business

**a winner** *n*  
someone who is successful in life

**a goldmine** *n*  
something that can make you a lot of money

**in your line** *exp*  
something that's "in your line" is typical or perfect for you

**droll** *adj*  
funny

**gonna** *exp inform*  
going to

**an earner** *n inform*  
something that can make or earn money for you

**piece work** *exp*  
a type of business arrangement in which a worker is paid for each unit he/she produces

**equitable** *adj*  
fair, just, correct

**a fairground** *n*  
an area of land where there's a fair: a fun attraction with food, drinks, fun rides, etc.

**a booth** *exp*  
a small area separated from a larger public area by thin walls

**ain't** *exp inform*  
isn't / aren't

**a nervous system** *n*  
the system of cells, tissues and organs that regulates the body's responses to internal and external stimuli

**leave it out** *exp informal*  
stop it!

**hang on** *exp*  
wait!

**unreasonable** *adj*  
someone who is "unreasonable" acts in a way that isn't fair, sensible, just, etc.

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

**Think about it** Have you made any mistakes lately? What were they? How serious were they? Have you ever made a mistake at work? What happened? What are some of the biggest mistakes you've made in life?

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

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# 3 FUNNY MISTAKES!

**W**e all make mistakes – it's a part of life. But some mistakes are clearly more spectacular than others!



## The gorilla

A zoo worker in a gorilla suit was accidentally

shot with a **tranquilliser dart**. The employee from a zoo in Tenerife (in the Canary Islands, Spain) was taking part in a **drill** to ensure zoo staff knew how to respond if a gorilla escaped. Unfortunately, no one told the vet that the gorilla wasn't real. Fearing that there was a gorilla **on the loose**, the vet fired the shot – designed for a 200kg gorilla – at the man and hit him in the leg, according to *La Opinión de Tenerife*. The 35-year-old employee, who was wearing underpants under the gorilla suit, was taken to hospital on the Spanish island. He recovered shortly afterwards.



## The crane

A young man managed to completely destroy

a house. The unnamed Dutchman was planning to use a **crane** to lower himself into his girlfriend's garden

so he could **propose** to her. Unfortunately, the crane fell through the neighbour's roof. But worse was to follow. Emergency services spokesman Jelle Mulder told AFP, "During the attempt to **right** the crane, it **slipped** and fell on the house again, making the damage even worse." The frustrated lover jumped to safety and no one was hurt. On a happier note, Dutch media reported that despite the **fiasco**, the girlfriend accepted the marriage proposal.



## The cat

A man in the US is offering a £130

**reward** for

the return of his girlfriend's cat ("whatever state he's in"), which he accidentally sold. Roy Dufek thinks the cat, called Camo, may have hidden inside the base of a bed that he **put up for sale** on an online site. The bed belonged to his girlfriend Hayley, who was moving out of her apartment in Portland, Oregon. Roy was helping her **get rid of** her extra furniture. In a message he posted on Craigslist, he wrote, "Little did I know that when the cat is scared, it hides inside the bed." After agreeing a price, Roy helped the buyer **strap** the bed onto the top of his car so he could take it to his

home almost 40 kilometres away. "Unfortunately, this means the cat could have jumped out at any moment during the journey," Roy explained. Meanwhile, Roy's girlfriend is understandably "**crushed**". Roy added that Camo was "her world", **blaming** himself for losing him. He's currently working with the buyer to search through the house, garage and garden.

Whoops! ☹️

## GLOSSARY

**a tranquilliser dart** *n*  
a sharp object that is fired from a gun. When the dart hits you, a liquid/chemical enters your body and you fall asleep

**a drill** *n*  
a training exercise. For example, in a fire "drill", people practise what they need to do if there's a fire

**on the loose** *exp*  
if a dangerous person or animal is "on the loose", they've escaped and they're free

**a crane** *n*  
a large machine for lifting heavy objects in the air

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

**to right** *vb*  
if you "right" something, you return it to its normal or correct state or position

**to slip** *vb*  
if something "slips", it falls a bit

**a fiasco** *n*  
a terrible, disastrous situation in which everything goes wrong

**a reward** *n*  
an amount of money you pay if someone finds or returns something

**to put up for sale** *exp*  
if you "put something up for sale", you try to sell it, often through adverts in local newspapers, etc.

**to get rid of** *exp*  
to throw away

**to strap** *vb*  
if you "strap" an object onto a car, you tie it on the car

**crushed** *adj*  
very sad

**to blame** *vb*  
if you "blame" yourself for something, you say that it's your fault

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the paragraph titles. What do you think the mistakes in each story involved? Make notes.

## 2 Reading I

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

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why was the zoo worker dressed in a gorilla suit?
2. Why did the vet shoot him?
3. What was the Dutchman planning to do?
4. Who was hurt when the crane fell onto the house?
5. Why was the Dutchman happy in the end?
6. Where was the cat hiding?
7. When does the cat go there?
8. Why is searching for the cat so complicated?

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

**Think about it** Have you heard of any other “naming and shaming” websites? Who are they aimed at? Would you like to set up one of these sites? Who would your targets be? What do you think of the idea of naming and shaming websites in general? How different is it to bullying? Who deserves to be named and shamed in your country?

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

TRACK 16: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

SHAME ON YOU!

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of people below. Rank them in order (“4” being the “worst”). Then, think of ideas for “dealing” with them. What could you do to prevent them being like this again?

*plane passengers who behave anti-socially; people who have affairs with married men/women; businesspeople who pay their bills late; people who take up too much space on the Underground*

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity. Did you think of anything similar to these websites?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write True (T) or False (F) next to each statement.

1. Shawn Kathleen has been a flight attendant since 2008.
2. One of the photos showed a passenger picking his nose.
3. Homewreckers has more than 500,000 Facebook “likes”.
4. The site doesn’t include photos of the “mistresses”.
5. CreditorWatch names and shames companies who don’t pay their bills on time.
6. Hundreds of businesses have signed up for it.
7. “Man-spreading” involves lying down on the beach.
8. There are lots of photos of man-spreaders on Tumblr.

# 4 “NAMING AND SHAMING” WEBSITES!

“Naming and shaming” websites are designed to identify and shame people who’ve supposedly done something wrong. Here are four famous ones.

### Passengers

Facebook page *PassengerShaming* is full of photos taken by flight attendants and passengers from all over the world. The aim is to highlight some of the unusual, anti-social and, in some cases, disgusting habits of airplane travellers. *PassengerShaming* was created by Shawn Kathleen, who has been a flight attendant since 2010. The photos capture fellow passengers in unusual sleeping positions, picking their noses, filing their nails, changing babies’ nappies, and, as one man was shown to be doing, sleeping with his hands down his trousers.

### Homewreckers

Website *Sheshomewrecker* is a place where wives can name and shame their partners’ mistresses. With more than 250,000 Facebook “likes”, the site includes over 500 “mistresses” from across the US complete with their names, locations and photographs. Profiles also include the details surrounding each affair. One entry features a photograph of an Iowa-based woman described as a home

wrecker. An accompanying caption reads, “She will never have his heart like I did. EVER.” However, not everyone thinks it’s such a nice idea, and the site has been described as “mean-spirited”, “horrific” and “disgusting”.

### Late payers

*CreditorWatch* allows small businesses to name and shame companies that don’t pay their bills on time. Colin Porter started it after becoming frustrated with late payers in his own business. “Since we launched in January, we’ve had thousands of members sign up, and hundreds of businesses registered for not paying their debts,” Colin explained. As they say on the website, “Ensure your business grows by avoiding bad customers and suppliers. Access credit reports for any company in Australia to determine what sort of risk they represent to your business.”

### Men

“Man-spreading” is the habit that some men have of parting their legs when sitting to form a “V” shape, and taking up a lot more room than is appropriate. This is particularly annoying when they do it on public transport, often taking up more than one seat. In an attempt to stop the practice, several websites and blogs have been set up. One Tumblr site

hosts photos of man-spreaders in an attempt to shame the culprits. And the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (in New York City) has launched a series of public advertisements that encourage men to “share a little less of themselves”. One of the adverts reads, “Dude, stop the spread please. It’s a space issue.”

Are these sites a good idea, or are they taking things just a little too far? ☺

## GLOSSARY

**to shame** *vb*  
to make someone feel bad about something, and to make others lose respect for this person

**to highlight** *vb*  
if something “highlights” a point or problem, it makes you think about that point or problem

**disgusting** *adj*  
horrible, revolting, not nice

**to file** *vb*  
if you “file” your nails, you use a thin metal object to cut your nails

**a nappy** *n*  
an object babies wear under their clothes. It stops their clothes getting dirty when they go to the toilet

**a mistress** *n*  
a married man’s “mistress” is a woman with whom he’s having a secret relationship

**an affair** *n*  
a secret relationship with a person who isn’t your wife, husband, partner, etc.

**an entry** *n*  
a short description or summary of something in a website, book, etc.

**a wrecker** *n*  
someone who “wrecks” (destroys, breaks, etc.) something

**a caption** *n*  
the words printed under a picture, photo, etc. that explain what it is

**mean-spirited** *adj*  
someone who is “mean-spirited”, is horrible and isn’t very nice

**a bill** *n*  
a piece of paper with information about how much you must pay for something

**to launch** *vb*  
if you “launch” a website, you start it

**to sign up** *phr vb*  
if you “sign up” to become a member of a club, etc., you complete a form so you can become a member of that club, etc.

**Tumblr** *n*  
a social networking website

**Dude** *exp US*  
man, guys

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

**Think about it** How good are you at listening? In what way are you a good listener? How much do you know about body language? How important is it? How would you rate your sense of humour? What does it mean to have a sense of humour? How important is empathy in relationships? Give examples. Give an example of a time when you were flexible about something.

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

© TRACK 17: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

ARE YOU LISTENING ACTIVELY?

# 8 PEOPLE SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED!

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the paragraph titles. What does each skill involve? Which ones are the most important? Why?

## 2 Reading I

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

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. Active listening involves listening without \_\_\_\_\_ someone.
2. Humour can be used to \_\_\_\_\_ a tense situation.
3. Empathy can help you \_\_\_\_\_ what someone might do.
4. In order to persuade someone to do something, you need to focus on any potential \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ to being patient is to wait and observe.
6. Knowing your audience involves knowing exactly who you're \_\_\_\_\_ to.
7. Understanding body language might tell you what someone else is \_\_\_\_\_ or feeling.

**H**aving good **people skills** is essential for success at work and in life. These skills (also known as “soft skills” or “emotional intelligence”) can make all the difference. Here are a few you need to develop.

### 1 Active listening

Active listening involves listening very carefully to what the other person is saying without interrupting them. Then, taking your time to think and respond, rather than just answering as quickly as you can so you can say what you want to say.

### 2 A sense of humour

Humour is a great way of **diffusing** a tense situation. And being able to see the funny side of things can often help make the environment more pleasant and relaxed.

### 3 Empathy

Having an ability to **relate to** others and understand how they're feeling is a **key** skill. **Empathy** allows you to create relationships. It can also give you an **insight** into people's motives, which can help you **predict** responses.

### 4 Flexibility

It's important to have opinions and ideas, but you also need to be able to respond to changes. When the situation transforms, you need to be able to adapt.

### 5 Persuasive powers

Knowing how to persuade people to do things is a key skill in life and business. This often involves having a clear idea of who you're talking to and their specific needs. This will allow you to focus on any potential benefits for them.

### 6 Patience

No one likes a **hothead**, so it's good to be able to **keep a level head** in stressful situations. The key to being patient is to wait and observe, and know when to act, rather than just jumping in without considering your options.

### 7 Knowing your audience

Knowing what, when and how to say something is **critical**; above all, it involves understanding exactly who you're talking to. For example, if you've just been away on holiday while your colleagues have been **stuck** in the office, it probably isn't a good idea to start talking

about your two-week trip to the beach.

### 8 Body language

Body language makes up around 80% of the meaning in the messages we communicate. So, being aware of what your gestures, expressions and voice are actually saying can really help. And understanding other people's body language may tell you what they're really feeling or thinking.

Start developing your people skills now. You need them! 🌟

## GLOSSARY

**people skills** *n*  
if you've got good “people skills”, you're good at dealing with people  
**to diffuse** *vb*  
if you “diffuse” a tense situation, you make it less tense  
**to relate to** *exp*  
if you can “relate to” someone, you can understand how they feel  
**key** *adj*  
a “key” skill (for example) is a very important one  
**empathy** *n*  
“empathy” is the ability to understand another person's feelings  
**an insight** *n*  
if you've got an “insight” into something, you can understand that thing  
**to predict** *vb*  
if you can “predict” what will happen, you can imagine or guess what will happen  
**a hothead** *n*  
a person who gets angry very easily  
**to keep a level head** *exp*  
to remain calm  
**critical** *adj*  
very important  
**stuck** *adj*  
if you're “stuck” somewhere, you can't leave that place

# MOTIVATION & ENTHUSIASM

## An optimist



An “optimist” is someone who is positive and hopeful about the future.  
**“Optimists say that share prices will go up by more than 5% this year.”**

## A good feeling about something



If you’ve got a “good feeling about something”, you’re feeling positive about it.  
**“I’ve got a good feeling about this meeting – I’m sure we’ll get what we’ve been hoping for.”**

## Give someone a boost



If you “give someone a boost”, you do something that motivates them and encourages them to improve or do something even better.  
**“We felt that the salary increase would give her a boost after all her hard work.”**

## Keep your spirits up



If you “keep your spirits up”, you remain optimistic and positive about the future despite any difficulties.  
**“They managed to keep their spirits up, despite the poor sales results.”**

## Have faith in



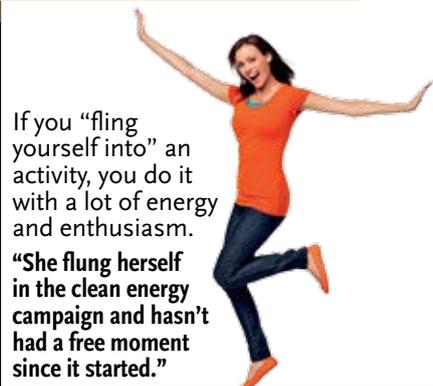
If you “have faith in someone”, you feel confident about their abilities.  
**“I’ve got a lot of faith in Janet’s ability to get the contract renewed.”**

## Lift someone’s spirits



If you “lift someone’s spirits”, you make them feel positive and motivated again.  
**“We need to do something to lift their spirits – these past few months have been hard on all of us.”**

## Fling yourself into something



If you “fling yourself into” an activity, you do it with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.  
**“She flung herself in the clean energy campaign and hasn’t had a free moment since it started.”**

## Go the extra mile



If you “go the extra mile”, you do more than what is expected of you.  
**“You can count on Georgina; she’s always willing to go the extra mile.”**

## Put your heart and soul into something



If you “put your heart and soul into something”, you dedicate a lot of energy to it.  
**“Harriet was determined to make a success of the project, and really put her heart and soul into it.”**

## Raring to go



If someone is “raring to go”, they’re enthusiastic and excited about something and want to start immediately.  
**“I can’t wait to go on the adventure weekend. I’m just raring to go!”**

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** When was the last time you had to introduce yourself? Who were you talking to? What are some polite ways to introduce yourself to people in your language? What do you usually say to friends when you see them after a short period of time? How do you greet them? What about friends you haven't seen for a long time? What do you say or do?

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

DO YOU LIKE MY WATCH?

**Note!**

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

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**

For each of the situations below, say how you'd greet the person and what you'd say to them in the first minute of conversation.

1. A good friend you've just met in the street.
2. Someone you've met for the first time in an internet café.
3. A friend you bump into on the train who you haven't seen for six years.
4. Someone who you've just been introduced to at a party.

**2 Listening I**

You're going to listen to four mini-conversations. Listen once to compare your ideas from the Pre-listening activity. Did they say any of the things you thought of?

**3 Listening II**

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

**Conversation I**

1. What does Jack hope he's done?
2. What does Ben suggest doing?

**Conversation II**

3. How long has Jessica been there?
4. What did Alex do in the north?

**Conversation III**

5. How long is it since they last saw each other?
6. What has Sandra just done?

**Conversation IV**

7. When did John and Mark first meet?
8. How long did Jane work with John for in London?

**4 Listening III**

Listen again and complete the audio script with the correct prepositions.

**Audio script**

# Introducing yourself

**In the street**

**Ben:** All right?  
**Jack:** How's it going?  
**Ben:** Not too bad. And you?  
**Jack:** Just (1) \_\_\_\_\_ an exam.  
**Ben:** Oh, right. How did it go?  
**Jack:** Not too bad I think.  
**Ben:** Do you (2) \_\_\_\_\_ you passed?  
**Jack:** I hope so.  
**Ben:** Fancy going to the pub?  
**Jack:** Yeah, good idea.  
**Ben:** Come on then.

**Alex:** About a month. Great country, isn't it?  
**Jessica:** Fantastic. Have you been to the north?  
**Alex:** Yeah. I went trekking there.  
**Jessica:** So did I! I'm (3) \_\_\_\_\_ down south now.  
**Alex:** I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ there last week. The beaches are incredible, and the accommodation is so cheap.  
**Jessica:** Yes, I've heard. So, what... [fades out]

(6) \_\_\_\_\_ you for ages.  
**Mike:** Yeah, it's been a while.  
**Julie:** About six years.  
**Mike:** Something like that. You don't (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a day older.  
**Julie:** Thanks. So, how's Zoe and the kids?  
**Mike:** They're fine thanks. Sam's still at school, but Sandra's just left for university.  
**Julie:** Wow! Doesn't time (8) \_\_\_\_\_!  
**Mike:** Tell me about it. So, what... [fades out]

have you and John (9) \_\_\_\_\_ each other?  
**Mark:** Oh, we go back a long way. We were at school together, then, after university, we spent a bit of time together in a shared flat. What about you?  
**Jane:** Oh, I (10) \_\_\_\_\_ with John for about three years in a company in London. Lovely place you've got here.

**At the internet café**

**Alex:** Hi, I'm Alex.  
**Jessica:** Jessica. Nice to meet you.  
**Alex:** Nice to meet you. So, have you been here for long?  
**Jessica:** About three weeks now. And you?

**On a train**

**Mike:** Julie!  
**Julie:** Mike! Fancy (5) \_\_\_\_\_ you here! How's it going?  
**Mike:** Not too bad! And you?  
**Julie:** Just great. I haven't

**At a party**

**John:** Jane, this is Mark. Mark, Jane.  
**Mark:** Hi Jane. Nice to meet you.  
**Jane:** Nice to meet you too. So, how long

**Mark:** Thanks. We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in about six months ago, so there's still a lot to do. So, where do you live?  
**Jane:** Well, I've been living... [fades out]

Let's be



friends

(if we aren't already!)

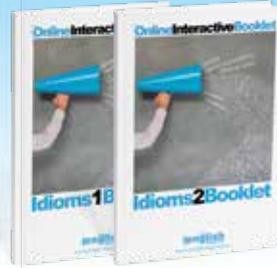
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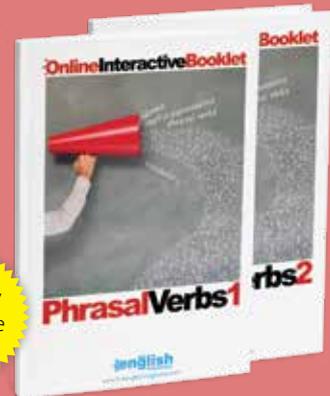
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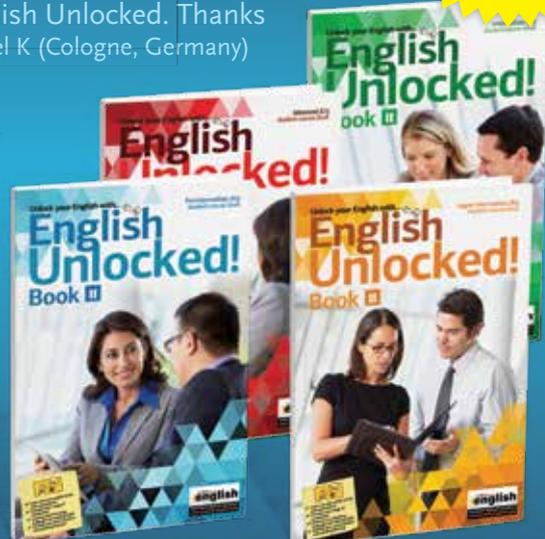
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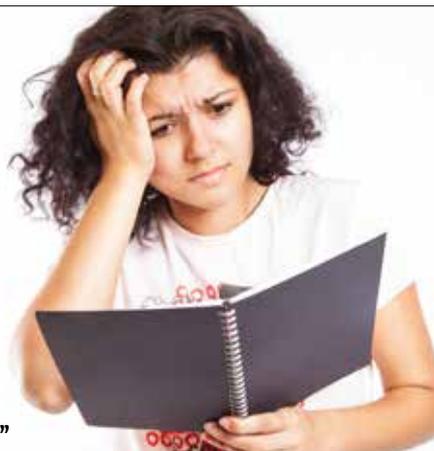
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## Double Dutch

If something is "double Dutch", it's completely incomprehensible.  
"This article is written in double Dutch. I can't understand a word of it."



## Excuse my French / pardon my French

This is something people say as a way of apologising for swearing.  
"This is a *bloody* disaster, if you'll excuse my French."



## Dutch courage

Someone with "Dutch courage" feels confident and sure of themselves because they've drunk some alcohol.  
"I had a couple of drinks before going into the meeting, just to give me a bit of Dutch courage."



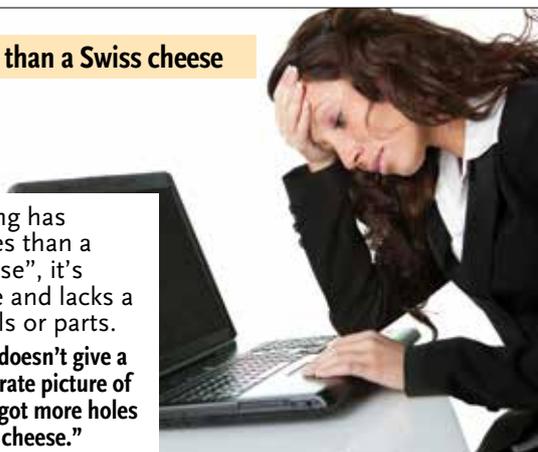
## Indian summer

A period in late autumn when the weather is unusually warm.  
"I love this Indian summer, but I wish it had been like this in August when we were at the beach."



## More holes than a Swiss cheese

If something has "more holes than a Swiss cheese", it's incomplete and lacks a lot of details or parts.  
"This report doesn't give a full and accurate picture of events – it's got more holes than a Swiss cheese."



## English rose

An attractive English girl with fair-skin and rosy cheeks. Princess Diana was a typical English Rose.  
"Amelia looks like a typical English rose, but under that pleasant exterior she's actually quite nasty."



## Slow boat to China

If you describe something as being like taking a "slow boat to China", you're saying that it's taking a very long time.  
"Waiting for them to produce the report into the accident is like taking the slow boat to China."



## When in Rome, do as the Romans do

When you're visiting a new country, you should behave like the people from that country. People usually just say the first part of the phrase, "When in Rome..."  
"When I'm at home, I usually have lunch at about 1pm, but when I was living in Spain, I had it at about 3pm. When in Rome..."



**Objective** To improve your advanced listening skills by listening to several speakers chatting in an informal setting.

**Think about it** What are some of your favourite websites? Which websites do you regularly visit? Why? Have you discovered any good websites lately? What are they? What can you find there? What type of websites do you use most? Which social networking sites do you use? Why? Which news websites do you visit regularly? Why?

© TRACK 19: SEVERAL ENGLISH ACCENTS

WHAT A TERRIBLE WEBSITE!

## GROUP TALK

# WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE WEBSITES?

### Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises. Also, please note that when people chat informally, they often use non-standard English, correct themselves, repeat themselves, rarely speak in full sentences and even make factual or grammatical mistakes because they're speaking fast.

Answers on page 44

## 1 Listening I

You're going to listen to some people talking about their favourite websites. Which websites do you use regularly? Why? Listen once. Were any of your websites mentioned? What other websites, blogs, social networks, etc. were mentioned in the conversation?

## 2 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What does one of the speakers say is wrong with Wikipedia?
2. What does he then go on to say that contradicts what he said previously?
3. What does one of the female speakers like about the food blog she follows?
4. What does the other female speaker like to follow?
5. What does the male speaker say that he's really into?
6. What does one of the female speakers say about social networking?

## Audio script

**Megan:** Well, for me, Google always solves all of my problems.

**Sara:** Yeah.

**Megan:** No matter what website you go to, for me everything starts with Google.

**Sara:** Or Wikipedia.

**Megan:** Answers all of my questions.

**Tim:** Yeah, definitely I mean you can look up anything on Google or Wikipedia and you will find an answer. Not, on Wikipedia, I've been told it loses its credibility because any of the people can edit it.

**Megan:** Yeah, I've heard that as well that on Wikipedia, there's some weird things dotted around, hidden in certain...

**Sara:** Yeah, but at the same time, I feel like most of the articles are pretty legit.

**Tim:** Yeah, oh, definitely, yeah, because they're coming from real people with real perspectives and they're edited by the owners of

Wikipedia all the time. But what else do you guys use the internet for, what sort of...?

**Sara:** Ah, I love reading food blogs.

**Tim:** Do you?

**Megan:** Food blogs?

**Sara:** Yeah, I love, I'm kind of a foodie and I have a couple of food blogs that I love to follow.

**Tim:** Such as?

**Sara:** Well, first example, one called, it's my favourite it's called Smitten Kitchen.

**Megan:** Smitten Kitchen?

**Tim:** It's got a ring to it!

**Sara:** It does! And it's very professional, very, really nice format and she has really amazing recipes.

**Megan:** Yeah?

**Sara:** It's just...

**Tim:** Definitely.

**Megan:** See for me as well, I always like to follow the gossip and what's going on around the world, so I'm always one that's checking all the gossip websites and

all the newspapers, but the newspaper websites but then also the entertainment section.

**Tim:** Yeah, definitely. And I'm really into you know, I, again, clarifying what you said and going back to it I definitely use Google at the beginning of everything.

**Sara:** Yeah for sure.

**Tim:** But I'm very into, I'm very into the social networking aspect of the internet as well.

**Megan:** As is I think everyone now, the whole social networking has just...

**Tim:** Yeah it's just blown up exponentially over the past few years but...

**Megan:** I can't even, five years ago I wouldn't have even known what Twitter or Facebook were but now everyone knows what they are.

**Tim:** Yeah.

**Sara:** I hardly know what Twitter is!

**Tim:** Alright well, great... [fades out] ❄️

## Top tip: how to listen

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

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

**Think about it** When was the last time you made plans to go out at night? Who were you with? What did you want to do? What did you all decide to do in the end? What do you do if your friends make plans that you aren't interested in: go anyway, or do something else?

## SLANG CONVERSATION



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# MAKING PLANS

You're going to listen to a conversation between two people who are trying to decide what to do. Listen once. What do they decide to do in the end? Then, listen again and try to guess the meaning of the following slang expressions (also marked in bold in the text). Write out a version of them in Standard English:

	Slang expression	Standard version
1	That's thrown a spanner in the works	
2	What a bummer!	
3	Grab a bite to eat	
4	We'll never hear the end of it	
5	I'm sort of in two minds	
6	I just don't feel up to it	
7	You can't bail out on me	
8	I'm a bit broke	
9	I flogged	
10	What a mug!	
11	A quick one	
12	A rip-off	
13	His car's conked out	
14	We can't leave him in the lurch	
15	I'll give him a bell	



**Warning**  
Many of the words and expressions from this section are used in informal situations. So, be careful how you use them yourself!

### Dialogue

**Pete:** [to the ticket seller] Two tickets for *Straight Guys* at seven, please.

**Ticket**

**seller:** I'm sorry but there aren't any seats left.

**Pete:** [to Noah] Well, **that's thrown a spanner in the works.**

**Noah:** **What a bummer!** I was really looking forward to it.

**Pete:** Me too! I guess we could go and **grab a bite to eat** then come back for the next session.

**Noah:** Yeah, but what about Mike's party? **We'll never hear the end of it** if we don't show up.

**Pete:** Well, I'm **sort of in two minds** about going anyway.

**Noah:** What?

**Pete:** Yes, **I just don't feel up to it.**

**Noah:** **You can't bail out on me** now.

**Pete:** I'm **a bit broke** too.

**Noah:** I can lend you something. I'm **loaded** right now. I **flogged** my stereo to Greg.

**Pete:** How much did you get for it?

**Noah:** Two hundred.

**Pete:** Nice! It was only worth about 50.

**Noah:** Yeah, I know. **What a mug!** Look, I know, let's go to the pub down the road, the Dog and Duck, and have a **quick one.** Then, we can head off to the party.

**Pete:** The Dog and Duck? That place is a **rip-off.** I got charged £10 for a pint last time I went there.

**Noah:** [beep from text message] Hey, I just got a text from Leon. He wants to know whether we can pick him up – **his car's conked out** so he needs a lift.

**Pete:** But he lives miles away.

**Noah:** **We can't leave him in the lurch.**

Look, I know, let's go and pick him up, then head off to Mike's place and have a drink in a pub near there, then go to the party. Come on – you know you want to.

**Pete:** Oh, all right then.

**Noah:** Great. I'll **give Leon a bell** and tell him that we'll be there in about 20 minutes.

**Pete:** All right. I'll go and get the car. 🚗

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

**Think about it** What other back-handed compliments do you know of? Has anyone ever given you a back-handed compliment? Have you ever given someone a back-handed compliment? Why do you think people give back-handed compliments? How often do you give genuine compliments? How important is it to compliment people?

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

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I JUST LOVE YOUR BACK-HANDED COMPLIMENTS.

THANKS!



# HOW TO GIVE A BACK-HANDED COMPLIMENT!

**S**ome insults are hard to detect, and can even appear to be compliments. These hidden snubs are known as back-handed compliments. Here are a few.

**Compliment:** "You look like you've been eating well."  
**Translation:** You've put on some weight.

**Compliment:** "I didn't recognise you! You look beautiful!"  
**Translation:** You normally look like a **tramp**.

**Compliment:** "Your shoes look so comfortable."  
**Translation:** Those shoes are so unstylish.

**Compliment:** "Your new haircut really makes your face look slim."  
**Translation:** You've got a fat face.

**Compliment:** "You're so photogenic."  
**Translation:** You look a lot better in pictures than in person.

**Compliment:** "I love that

outfit! You're so brave."

**Translation:** I wouldn't be seen dead in something like that.

**Compliment:** "You look great for your age."  
**Translation:** I'd just like to remind you that you aren't young any more.

**Compliment:** "You've done quite well for someone of your educational level."  
**Translation:** I was under the impression that you were an **ignorant**, uneducated fool.

**Compliment:** "You're so normal compared to the last person I dated."  
**Translation:** You're boring.

**Compliment:** "You're getting better at your job every day."  
**Translation:** When you started here, I thought you were a complete **moron**.

**Compliment:** "I'd never have guessed that you were a surgeon."  
**Translation:** You **come across as** too stupid to be a professional.

**Compliment:** "I love how you're not obsessed with personal style."

**Translation:** You dress like a **slob**.

**Compliment:** "You're a riot when you've had a bit to drink!"

**Translation:** You're really boring when you're **sober**.

Get ready to respond to those back-handed compliments! ✨

## GLOSSARY

**a compliment** *n*  
something nice that you say to someone to show that you like what they've done, what they're wearing, etc.

**a snub** *n*  
an insult; something rude that someone says

**a tramp** *n*  
a person who lives in the street

**photogenic** *adj*  
someone who is "photogenic" looks good in photos

**I wouldn't be seen dead in...** *exp*  
I would never wear...

**ignorant** *adj*  
an "ignorant" person doesn't know the things they should know

**to date** *vb*  
if you're "dating" someone, you're having a romantic relationship with them

**a moron** *n informal*  
an idiot

**to come across as** *exp*  
if you "come across as" intelligent (for example), you appear to be intelligent

**a slob** *n*  
a lazy and untidy person

**sober** *adj*  
someone who is "sober" isn't drunk

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Read over the compliments (and ignore the "translations" for now). In what way are they insulting? What do you think they really mean?

### 2 Reading I

Now read over the "translations" to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

### 3 Reading II

Read over the translations below. See if you can remember the corresponding back-handed compliments without referring back to the article.

1. "I didn't recognise you! You look beautiful!"
2. "You're so photogenic."
3. "I love that outfit! You're so brave."
4. "You're so normal compared to the last person I dated."
5. "You're getting better at your job every day."
6. "I love how you're not obsessed with personal style."



# 4 IRONIC DEATHS

A death is never funny, but sometimes it can be **ironic**! Here are the stories of four people who had ironic deaths.



## 1 Jimi Heselden (1948-2010)

Jimi Heselden was the owner of the company that produces Segways – two-wheeled motorised scooters that are controlled by moving your body in the direction you want to travel in. A multi-millionaire, Jimi owned an estate in the English countryside, and was a keen user of them. However, one day, while riding around on a **rugged** country version of the Segway, he drove off a 28-metre **cliff** and fell to his death.



## 2 Clement Vallandigham (1820-1871)

Clement Vallandigham, a lawyer from Ohio (USA), once represented a defendant who was charged with killing a man during a bar fight. Clement wanted to demonstrate to the **jury** that the dead man had accidentally shot himself when he pulled his pistol out from a pocket. While discussing this with fellow **attorneys** in his hotel room,

Clement showed them how he would demonstrate this to the jury. Using a pistol he thought was **unloaded**, he drew the weapon from his pocket so he could **re-enact** the events. However, the pistol got caught on his clothing, and he accidentally shot himself, later dying from his injuries. On a positive note, his client was later **acquitted**.



## 3 Bobby Leach (1858-1926)

Bobby Leach was famous for going over the Niagara Falls in a **barrel** in 1911. That 60-metre **stunt** left him with a fractured jaw and broken **knee-caps**. After spending six months in hospital, he **toured** the world talking about his famous fall at shows and lecture halls, posing for pictures with his barrel. However, during one of the tours in New Zealand, he **slipped** on some orange peel in the street, fell to the ground and broke his leg. Unfortunately, the wound became infected, and the complications that followed caused his death.



## 4 Felix Powell (1878-1942)

Felix Powell wrote the music for the song *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag and Smile, Smile, Smile*

(published in 1915). Felix and his brother George (who wrote the **lyrics**), entered the tune into a competition for “the best **morale-building** song”. Incredibly, it won first prize and became famous for being “the most **optimistic** song ever written”. It was often sung by soldiers as they marched off to the horrors of World War I (1914-1918). And the **upbeat** lyrics helped convince many others to go and fight for their country. However, despite writing such an optimistic song, Felix committed suicide in 1942 at the age of 63. At the time, he was **on duty** as a member of the **Home Guard** during World War II. He shot himself with his own rifle.

How ironic! ❗

## GLOSSARY

- rugged** *adj*  
a “rugged” piece of equipment is strong and designed to last a long time
- a cliff** *n*  
a mountain that’s next to the sea
- a jury** *n*  
the 12 people who decide if someone is innocent or guilty during a court trial
- an attorney** *n US*  
a lawyer; someone who represents a person in court
- unloaded** *adj*  
if a gun is “unloaded”, there are no bullets in it
- to re-enact** *vb*  
if you “re-enact” a situation, you repeat what happened in that situation
- to acquit** *vb*  
if the accused person is “acquitted”, they’re free to leave
- a barrel** *n*  
a large cylinder for holding liquids such as beer
- a stunt** *n*  
a dangerous action
- a knee-cap** *n*  
the round, hard object on your knees (the joint in the middle of your legs)
- to tour** *vb*  
if you “tour” the world, you go on a journey around the world
- to slip** *vb*  
if you “slip”, you fall
- the lyrics** *n*  
the words to a song
- morale-building** *adj*  
a “morale-building” activity makes everyone feel good again
- optimistic** *adj*  
positive about the future
- upbeat** *adj*  
an “upbeat” song is happy and positive
- on duty** *exp*  
if a soldier or police officer is “on duty”, they’re working
- the Home Guard** *n*  
a force of mostly older people who were defending Britain during World War II

Answers on page 44

## 1 Reading I

An ironic situation is a strange, unusual one that is completely different to what you’d expect. For example, a fire-station burns down in a fire, a pilot has a fear of heights, a marriage counsellor files for divorce, someone wins the lottery then dies the next day... Think of at least three more ironic situations.

## 2 Reading II

Read or listen to the article about ironic deaths (unusual or strange ways to die for the people concerned). Which death is the most ironic? Why?

## 3 Comprehension

Now, answer the questions without referring back to the article.

1. What was different about the Segway that Jimi was riding?
2. How are Segways steered?
3. What was the man that Clement was defending accused of?
4. How did Clement manage to shoot himself?
5. What was the medical result of Bobby Leach’s 60-metre stunt?
6. In what way was his death ironic?
7. Why was Felix Powell’s song popular?
8. Why was it ironic that he committed suicide?

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** How many baddies from literature, film, etc. can you name in two minutes? Which ones have redeeming features? Does the concept of the lovable rogue exist in your country? What does it mean exactly? Are there any famous lovable rogues from your country? Who are they? In what way are they rogues? In what way are they lovable?

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

TRACK 23: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

WHY DON'T THEY LOVE ME?



# WHY WE LOVE A SCOUNDREL!

**L**ovable rogues are the **scoundrels** who appear in books, films and TV series that we can't help liking. They're often wicked, cowardly and dishonest, but sometimes there's just something about them that **captures our hearts**. Here are three famous lovable rogues.



## 1 Captain Jack Sparrow

Captain Jack Sparrow is a fictional character from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films. He's **shrewd** and calculating and survives by using his **wit** and negotiation skills. If he's ever in danger, he'll **flee**, only fighting if absolutely necessary. However, even though he's a murderous pirate, his comical humour makes him lovable too. He even has a sense of morality. In one scene, he abandons his crew while they're being attacked by the Kraken (a terrible sea monster). However, he eventually feels **duty-bound** to return and help them.



## 2 Arthur Daley

Arthur Daley is a car salesman and "entrepreneur" from the British TV series *Minder*. Played by actor George Cole, Arthur has a garage full of garden gnomes, goldfish and fake watches that he tries to sell to an unsuspecting public. As he says, "You make contact with your customer, understand their needs, then **flog** them something they could well

**do without.**" Some of his schemes include trying to sell one-legged chickens ("they're easier to catch") and "water-damaged" umbrellas. In one episode, he says to Terry (his **minder**), "I **swear** on my sainted mother's grave." To which Terry replies, "I happen to know your mother is alive and well and living in Frinton." Arthur just **shrugs** and says, "Well never mind that." Despite all his great ideas, Arthur usually ends up **losing out**, so we can't help feeling **sympathy** for him.



## 3 Harry Flashman

Writer George MacDonald Fraser (1925-2008) created a series of books that follow the life of Harry Flashman\* – a Victorian soldier and adventurer. Flashman is "a scoundrel, a liar, a cheat, a thief and a coward". However, through a combination of luck, he usually ends up being **hailed as a hero**. In one story, he becomes the heroic defender of Piper's Fort after he's found **clutching** the flag, surrounded by enemy dead. However, in reality, Flashman arrived at the fort by accident, collapsed in terror during the attack, and had actually been trying to surrender the **colours**, not defend them. In another book, after the **Charge of the Light Brigade**, he flees in panic from the fighting, but mistakenly gallops into an entire Russian regiment, adding to his heroic image. What most people find fascinating about Flashman is the way he uses his wit, quick thinking and

**callousness** to get out of the **stickiest** of situations.

Who's your favourite lovable rogue? \*

## \*HARRY FLASHMAN

The original Harry Flashman was a character in *Tom Brown's School Days* (1857), a semi-autobiographical work by Thomas Hughes (1822-1896). This Flashman is a notorious bully at Rugby School who is expelled for drunkenness.

## GLOSSARY

a **lovable rogue** *n*  
the bad person in a film who you like, respect or love  
**a scoundrel** *n*  
a person who behaves very badly towards other people, especially by tricking them  
**to capture your heart** *exp*  
if someone "captures your heart", you start to love them  
**shrewd** *adj*  
a "shrewd" person can understand and judge a situation quickly and use this information to their own advantage  
**wit** *n*  
the ability to use words or ideas in a funny and clever way  
**to flee** *vb*  
to run away from a place  
**duty-bound** *adj*  
if you feel "duty-bound" to do something, you feel that you must do it because it's your responsibility  
**to flog** *vb informal*  
to sell  
**to do without** *exp*  
if you can "do without" something, you don't need that thing  
**a minder** *n*  
a person whose job is to protect a rich or famous person  
**to swear** *vb*  
if you "swear" that something is true, you promise that it's true  
**to shrug** *vb*  
when you "shrug", you raise your shoulders as a way of saying that you don't care about something  
**to lose out** *phr vb*  
if someone "loses out", they don't get what they want  
**sympathy** *n*  
if you feel "sympathy" for someone who is in a bad situation, you feel bad or sorry for them  
**to hail as** *exp*  
if you're "hailed as" a hero (for example), everyone says you're a hero  
**to clutch** *vb*  
if you're "clutching" something, you're holding it tightly so it won't escape  
**the colours** *n*  
a regiment's colours are its flags  
**the Charge of the Light Brigade** *exp*  
a cavalry charge by British forces on horses against Russian soldiers on 25th October 1854 during the Crimean War  
**callousness** *n*  
a person's "callousness" is the way that they're cruel and don't care about other people  
**sticky** *adj*  
a "sticky" situation is a complicated, dangerous one

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Think of as many negative adjectives as you can. Add more words to the list below: **wicked, evil, murderous, cowardly, dishonest, bad, pessimistic, proud, self-deluded, arrogant, rude, cunning, criminal, despicable...**

Now, see if you can apply any of the adjectives to three characters in literature, film, television, etc.

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which rogue is the most "lovable"? Why?

## 3 Comprehension

Answer the questions without referring back to the article.

1. What does Captain Jack Sparrow rely on to help him survive?
2. Why did he return to help his crew while they were being attacked by the Kraken?
3. What does Arthur Daley say he likes to sell to his unsuspecting customers?
4. What, according to Arthur, were the advantages of the one-legged chickens?
5. Why was Flashman hailed as the hero of Piper's Fort?
6. What had really happened?
7. Why did he charge into an entire Russian regiment?

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

**Think about it** Have you ever been stuck in a lift? What happened? Was there anyone else with you? What did you talk about? When was the last time you went to a conference? What was it about? Who did you meet? What did you talk about?

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

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Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-listening

For each of the situations below, say how you'd introduce yourself, what you'd say to the other person to get the conversation started, and what topics of conversation you'd use to keep the conversation going.

1. You're stuck in the lift at work with someone who works on another floor to you.
2. You're at a conference and you're ordering a coffee at the bar. You see someone you'd like to talk to.

## 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to two mini-conversations. Listen once to check your ideas from the Pre-listening activity.

Did they say any of the things you thought of? Did they discuss any of the topics you thought of?

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

### Call I

1. Who does Jack work with and on which floor?
2. Who does Beth work with and on which floor?
3. Why does Beth get out of the lift?
4. Why does Beth accept the invitation to have a cup of coffee?

### Call II

5. What was the problem with Keith's booking?
6. What positive things do they mention about the hotel?
7. Why hasn't Justin done much sightseeing?
8. Why was Keith's wife able to accompany him?

## 4 Listening III

Listen again and complete the audio script with the correct words.



# How to start a conversation!

### Note!

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

### Audio script

#### In a lift

Beth and Jack are stuck in a lift. They both work in the same office. They've never met before.

- Beth:** Taking forever, isn't it?  
**Jack:** Yeah, it is pretty slow. *[The lift stops.]* Oh, no. (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Beth:** Typical! *[She holds out her hand.]* I'm Beth, by the way.  
**Jack:** Jack. Pleased to meet you.  
**Beth:** Pleased to meet you. So, which floor (2) \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Jack:** The 23rd. I'm with Mathews & Sons.  
**Beth:** Oh, right. I don't think I've ever (3) \_\_\_\_\_ . I'm on the 9th floor. Saunders & Co. *[The lift starts.]* Oh, the lift's started again.  
**Jack:** I thought we were going to be here all day.  
**Beth:** Me too.  
**Jack:** *[The lift door opens.]* Well, this is your floor.  
**Beth:** Just as well. Actually, I think I'll (4) \_\_\_\_\_ . I don't fancy getting stuck in there on my own.  
**Jack:** Good idea. So, do you fancy getting a coffee? There's a café on this floor, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**Beth:** Oh, yes, I'll need one if I'm going to walk up those stairs.  
**Jack:** You certainly will. So, have you... *[fades out]*



#### At a conference

Justin and Keith are at a conference. They've never met before.

- Justin:** Good talk, wasn't it?  
**Keith:** Very interesting.  
**Justin:** I'm Justin Barnett by the way.  
**Keith:** Pleased to meet you. Keith Carter.  
**Justin:** Pleased to meet you. So, (6) \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Keith:** Yeah, and I just love the city.  
**Justin:** Isn't it great? Where are you staying?  
**Keith:** The Happy Star Hotel.  
**Justin:** Oh, we're there too. Actually, I think I saw you (7) \_\_\_\_\_ . You were just in front of us – there was a problem with the booking?  
**Keith:** Oh, yes, they had no record of the booking. They had me down as "Kenneth Clarke", of all people.  
**Justin:** That's hilarious. No wonder (8) \_\_\_\_\_ . Great hotel though, isn't it?  
**Keith:** Oh, yes, the breakfast buffet is amazing, and the views are incredible!  
**Justin:** Have you been down to the pool? There's a sauna and steam room.  
**Keith:** Not yet, but I'm planning (9) \_\_\_\_\_ . So, have you done much sightseeing?  
**Justin:** Actually, I've been here before.  
**Keith:** Oh, really? It's my first time. My wife's here too. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ so we could do a bit of sightseeing.  
**Justin:** That's nice.  
**Keith:** Yeah, she had some holiday time she had to use up before the end of the year.  
**Justin:** Lucky her. So, what does she do?  
**Keith:** She's a dentist. Actually, that's how we met! *[fades out]* ✨

# PRODUCTS & GADGETS

This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs that you can use for talking about products or gadgets. Complete the sentences (1 to 8) with the words from below.

properly fridge buying version wanted guarantee pieces screen

**1**



**Come out**  
If a product “comes out”, it appears in the shops and you can buy it.  
“The latest \_\_\_\_\_ of the smartwatch is coming out next month.”

**2**



**Take apart**  
If you “take something apart”, you separate it into its different pieces.  
“I took the watch apart, but lost some of the \_\_\_\_\_ so I couldn’t put it back together again.”

**3**



**Take back**  
If you “take back” something you’ve bought, you take it to the shop so you can return it.  
“I took the tablet computer back because it wasn’t working \_\_\_\_\_.”

**4**



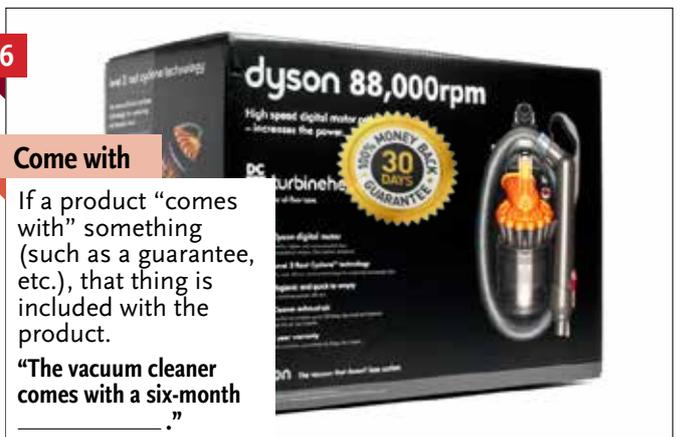
**Get back**  
If you “get back” your money, the shop returns your money.  
“I got my money back because the \_\_\_\_\_ was cracked.”

**5**



**Break down**  
If something “breaks down”, it stops working.  
“The washing machine broke down just three days after \_\_\_\_\_ it.”

**6**



**Come with**  
If a product “comes with” something (such as a guarantee, etc.), that thing is included with the product.  
“The vacuum cleaner comes with a six-month \_\_\_\_\_.”

**7**



**Take off**  
If the shop “takes off” an amount from the price, they reduce the price by that amount.  
“They took 10% off the \_\_\_\_\_ because it was a bit shop-worn.”

**8**



**Sell out**  
If a shop “sells out” of something, there’s no more of that thing in the shop.  
“They’ve sold out of the new digital camera that I \_\_\_\_\_ to buy.”

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**FLATS (PAGE 5)**

**1 Reading II**

1. Helmut; 2. Ricky; 3. Karl; 4. Helmut; 5. Karl; 6. Pablo

**CAFÉS (PAGE 6)**

**1 Reading II**

1. your bike; 2. 11; 3. roast chicken muffins; 4. 30p; 5. board games, chess sets and card games; 6. 100

**FESTIVALS (PAGE 7)**

**1 Reading II**

1. El Colacho; 2. La Tomatina; 3. El Colacho; 4. The Monkey Buffet Festival; 5. La Tomatina; 6. The Monkey Buffet Festival

**GRAMMAR BOOSTER (PAGE 8)**

1. stopped; 2. given; 3. taken; 4. taken; 5. pushed; 6. given; 7. allowed; 8. driven

**ENGLISH IN ACTION (PAGE 10)**

**1 Response completion**

1. news; 2. feel; 3. cheer; 4. exciting; 5. nightmare; 6. awful; 7. nuisance; 8. close

**2 Conversations completion**

(suggested answers – other answers may be possible)

1. Oh, no; 2. What a nightmare; 3. Phew! That was lucky; 4. Typical; 5. That's so annoying; 6. What a nightmare

**PARTY CONVERSATION (PAGE 12)**

**1 Listening II**

1b 2a 3b 4a 5a 6a

**2 Listening III**

1. beer; 2. jobs; 3. film company; 4. people; 5. free time; 6. films

**PRACTICAL ENGLISH (PAGE 13)**

**Dictation I**

1. Watson, that's WATSON.  
 2. Lewis, that's LEWIS.  
 3. Marshall, that's MARSHALL.

**Dictation II**

1. **Gordon:** Golf, Oscar, Romeo, Delta, Oscar, November  
 2. **Masters:** Mike, Alpha, Sierra, Tango, Echo, Romeo, Sierra  
 3. **Bailey:** Bravo, Alpha, India, Lima, Echo, Yankee  
**Dictation III**  
 1. **Smith:** that's S for Sam, M for Mary, I for Iris, T for Tom and H for Henry  
 2. **Reece:** that's R for Robert, E for Edward, E for Edward, C for Charles and E for Edward  
 3. **Marley:** that's M for Mary, A for Adam, R for Robert, L for Luke, E for Edward and Y for Young.

**Phone call I:** Abbie Halliday

**Phone call II:** Windmaster Road

**ROOFTOP (PAGE 14)**

1. Hot Tub Cinema; 2. Sky Bar; 3. The Roof Gardens; 4. Sky Bar; 5. Hot Tub Cinema; 6. The Rooftop Film Club; 7. The Roof Gardens; 8. The Rooftop Film Club

**VIDEOS (PAGE 15)**

1. £25; 2. £10; 3. about an hour; 4. over 600; 5. 10; 6. two; 7. nicely; 8. not once

**HEALTHY FOOD (PAGE 16)**

1. oily fish; 2. almonds; 3. beetroot juice; 4. avocados; 5. beetroot juice; 6. turmeric; 7. turmeric

**PUB CONVERSATION (PAGE 17)**

**1 Listening II**

1. yes; 2. no; 3. no; 4. yes; 5. yes; 6. no; 7. yes; 8. no

**2 Listening III**

1. sent; 2. doing; 3. heard; 4. watching; 5. imagine; 6. meaning; 7. spend; 8. know

**TRAVEL ENGLISH (PAGE 18)**

1. a heart attack; 2. breathing; 3. medical history; 4. healthy; 5. bleeding; 6. bruise; 7. paramedics; 8. siren

**SIX SONGS (PAGE 20)**

1. taller; 2. fighter; 3. heart; 4. true; 5. never; 6. forever; 7. floor; 8. top; 9. stop; 10. fight

**MISTAKES (PAGE 24)**

1. Because he was taking part in a training exercise;  
 2. Because he thought there was a gorilla on the loose;  
 3. Propose to his girlfriend;  
 4. No one;  
 5. Because his girlfriend accepted the proposal;  
 6. In the base of a bed;  
 7. When he's frightened;  
 8. Because the cat could have jumped off the car during the journey to the buyer's house

**NAMING WEBSITES (PAGE 25)**

1F 2T 3F 4F 5T 6T 7F 8T

**PEOPLE SKILLS (PAGE 26)**

1. interrupting; 2. diffuse; 3. predict; 4. benefits; 5. key; 6. talking; 7. thinking

**INTRODUCING YOURSELF (PAGE 28)**

**1 Listening II**

1. He hopes he's passed his exam.  
 2. He suggests going to the pub.  
 3. She's been there for about three weeks.  
 4. He went trekking.  
 5. It's been about six years.  
 6. She's just left for university.  
 7. When they were at school.  
 8. For about three years.

**2 Listening III**

1. had; 2. reckon; 3. heading; 4. went; 5. meeting; 6. seen; 7. look; 8. fly; 9. known; 10. worked; 11. moved

**GROUP TALK (PAGE 32)**

**1 Listening I**

They mention Google, Wikipedia, Smitten Kitchen (a food blog), Facebook and Twitter.

**2 Listening II**

1. He says that it has lost its credibility because anyone can edit it.  
 2. He says that most of the articles are trustworthy because they're edited by the owners of Wikipedia.  
 3. She says it's very professional, the format is nice, and the recipes are amazing.  
 4. She likes to follow the latest gossip and what's going on around the world.  
 5. He says that he's really into social networking.  
 6. She says that she wouldn't have known what Twitter or Facebook was five years ago, but that everyone knows about them now.

**SLANG CONVERSATION (PAGE 33)**

First listening: They eventually decide to pick up Leon, go to a pub, then go to the party.

	Slang expression	Standard version
1	That's thrown a spanner in the works	That's ruined our plans.
2	What a bummer!	How annoying
3	Grab a bite to eat	Get something to eat
4	We'll never hear the end of it	We'll be reminded of it over and over again
5	I'm sort of in two minds	I can't decide what to do
6	I just don't feel up to it	I don't want to do it
7	You can't bail out on me	You can't leave me alone

8	I'm a bit broke	I don't have much money
9	I flogged...	I sold...
10	What a mug!	What an idiot!
11	A quick one	A quick drink
12	A rip-off	A price far above the value of the goods
13	His car's conked out	His car has broken down
14	We can't leave him in the lurch	We can't leave him all alone
15	I'll give him a bell	I'll call him

**BACK-HANDED COMPLIMENTS (PAGE 34)**

1. You normally look like a tramp.  
 2. You look a lot better in pictures than in person.  
 3. I wouldn't be seen dead in something like that.  
 4. You're boring.  
 5. When you started here, I thought you were a complete moron.  
 6. You dress like a slob.

**IRONIC DEATHS (PAGE 35)**

1. It was a special rugged, country version.  
 2. By moving your body in the direction you want to travel.  
 3. The defendant was accused of shooting a man during a bar fight.  
 4. He was re-enacting the events when a loaded gun got caught on his clothing and went off.  
 5. A fractured jaw, broken knee caps and six months in hospital.  
 6. He was famous for a spectacular 60-metre fall, but then died after falling down in the street.  
 7. Because it helped to boost the morale of soldiers going to fight in WWI.  
 8. Because he'd written such an optimistic song.

**LOVABLE ROGUES (PAGE 36)**

1. His wit and negotiation skills.  
 2. Because he felt duty-bound to do so.  
 3. Something they could do without.  
 4. They were easier to catch.  
 5. Because he was found clutching the flag, surrounded by enemy dead.  
 6. He'd arrived there by accident, collapsed in terror and he'd been trying to surrender the colours.  
 7. He did it accidentally as he was fleeing in panic from the fighting.

**HOW TO START A CONVERSATION (PAGE 37)**

**1 Listening II**

1. Jack works with Mathews & Sons on the 23rd floor.  
 2. Beth works with Saunders & Co on the 9th floor.  
 3. She doesn't want to get stuck there on her own.  
 4. She says she'll need it if she's going to walk up the stairs.  
 5. They had his name down as Kenneth Clarke.  
 6. The breakfast buffet, the views, the pool and the sauna and steam room.  
 7. Because he's been there before.  
 8. Because she had some holiday time she had to use up before the end of the year.

**2 Listening III**

1. It's stopped again.  
 2. do you work on  
 3. been up that high before  
 4. get out here too and walk up  
 5. just round the corner  
 6. is it your first time here  
 7. checking in at reception the other day  
 8. they couldn't find you  
 9. to have a swim this evening  
 10. She took a couple of days off work

**PHRASAL VERBS (PAGE 38)**

1. version; 2. pieces; 3. properly; 4. screen; 5. buying; 6. guarantee; 7. fridge; 8. wanted

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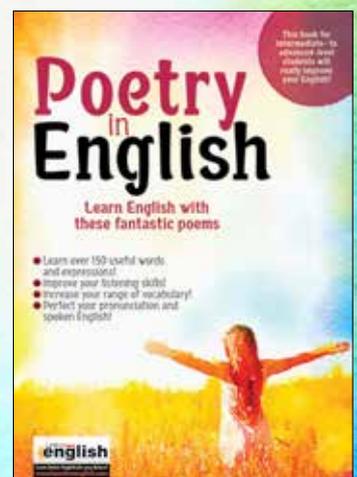
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## STORY TIME

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## The police interview

- Police:** Where do you live?  
**Suspect:** With my parents  
**Police:** Where do your parents live?  
**Suspect:** With me.  
**Police:** Where do you all live?  
**Suspect:** Together.  
**Police:** Where is your house?  
**Suspect:** Next to my neighbour's house.  
**Police:** Where is your neighbour's house?  
**Suspect:** If I tell you, you won't believe me.  
**Police:** Just tell me.  
**Suspect:** Next to my house.

## The Perfect Son

- Anna:** I've got the perfect son.  
**Jack:** Really? Does he smoke?  
**Anna:** No.

- Jack:** Does he drink?  
**Anna:** Never.  
**Jack:** Does he come home late at night?  
**Anna:** No.  
**Jack:** I guess you really do have the perfect son. How old is he?  
**Anna:** He'll be seven months old next Friday.

## The big bikers

An old man is eating in a motorway café when three bikers walk in. The first biker walks up to the old man, pushes his cigarette into the old man's food and then takes a seat at the counter. The second biker walks up to the old man, spits in his drink, then takes a seat at the counter. Finally, the third biker walks up to the old man, throws water in his face, then

takes a seat at the counter. Without saying anything, the old man quietly leaves the restaurant. Shortly afterwards, one of the bikers says to the waitress, "Not much of a man, is he?" And the waitress replies, "Not much of a truck driver either. He's just backed his truck over three motorcycles." ❄️

## GLOSSARY

- a motorway** *n*  
a large road with several lanes (lines of traffic)  
**a biker** *n*  
a person who rides a motorbike regularly, often as a hobby  
**a counter** *n*  
the long table in a restaurant where you order food or drinks  
**to spit** *vb*  
if you "spit", you force liquid out of your mouth  
**a truck** *n*  
a large vehicle for transporting goods  
**a driver** *n*  
a person who drives a car, truck, lorry, etc.  
**to back** *vb*  
if you "back" a vehicle, you make it drive backwards – you reverse it

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