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Learn **hot** English magazine

No.186

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GET LOST

GET DRESSED

GET A PRIZE

GET SOMEWHERE

GET HOT

GET A JOB

GET MARRIED

23 USES OF THE VERB "TO GET"!

LOTS OF DIFFERENT ENGLISH ACCENTS!

GET A TRAIN, BUS, PLANE, ETC.

GET A COLD

GET UP

FUNNY LAWSUITS!

GET TO WORK

GET A PRESENT

GET HOME

THE DANGERS OF COWS!

"TOWN" IDIOMS!

GET SOMETHING

GET TIRED

GET DARK

GET BETTER

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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with *Learn Hot English* magazine

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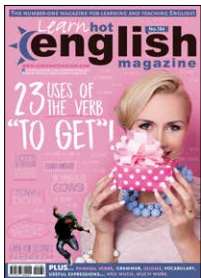
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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, we're looking at 23 uses of the verb "to get". This verb is extremely common and can mean lots of different things. However, as you'll see, it's often used to mean either "become", "receive" or "arrive". Listening to our recorded version of this article will really help you learn these different uses. Of course, that's not all, and we'll also be looking at some "jobs" vocabulary, different types of dances, house museums, compound nouns, "train" words and expressions, online reviews and lots, lots more!

Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of *Learn Hot English*. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy



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World Facts

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

Tea, sleep, mobiles, and beer. Who leads the world?

by Patrick Howarth

1 Pre-reading

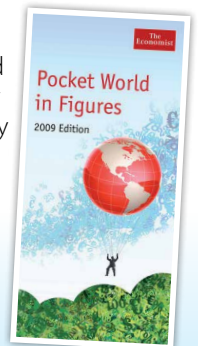
How much do you know about the world in the 21st century?

Do the quiz.

- Which country drinks the most tea?
 - the UK
 - India
 - China
 - Ireland
- Which country drinks the most coffee?
 - Spain
 - the USA
 - Sweden
 - Brazil
- Which country drinks the most beer per person?
 - the Czech Republic
 - Germany
 - Australia
 - Venezuela
- Which country drinks the most champagne per person?
 - the USA
 - France
 - Guadeloupe
 - Mauritius
- Which country produces the most gold?
 - France
 - China
 - South Africa
 - Russia



Which country produces the most gold in the world? Which country has the highest **spending power**? Which country is the **sleepiest** nation? You can find the answers to these and many other questions in the *Pocket World in Figures*, a fascinating new book recently published by *The Economist* magazine. This is the first of a two-part series.



Many of the facts are extremely surprising. For example, everyone knows that the British love tea. They drink it for breakfast, at 11.00 am, and, of course, at teatime (3.30 pm). The **British** must be the biggest tea drinkers. Well, they're not. The **UK** is only the world's sixth biggest **consumer** of tea, drinking 131,000 tonnes a year. China drinks the most, at 828,000 tonnes, and, of course, produces the most (1,166,000 tonnes per year). China also produces more gold than any other country in the world – 270 tonnes a year.

2 Reading I

Read the article once to check your answers.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. What do the numbers refer to?

- 3:30 pm.
- 828,000 tonnes.
- 270 tonnes.
- 2,164,000 tonnes.
- \$103,040.
- 4.25.

4 Language focus The Superlative

Look at this extract from the article, "Brazil is the biggest coffee grower,..." The writer has used a superlative ("the biggest"). Complete the sentences with the correct superlatives.

- He is the _____ (**nice**) boy I know.
- It's the _____ (**high**) mountain in the world.
- This is the _____ (**tasty**) food here.
- That was the _____ (**boring**) film I've ever seen.
- That was the _____ (**bad**) book of the four.

5 Discussion

- Which fact is the most/least surprising?
- Do you know any other unusual facts? What are they?

So what about coffee? The coffee in Spanish and Italian bars is famous all over the world but The United States drinks the most, consuming 1,262,000 tonnes of coffee beans annually. Brazil is the biggest coffee **grower**, producing 2,164,000 tonnes of beans each year. Which countries come to mind when you think of beer? Many of the most famous **brands** come from Europe: Heineken from Holland, Lowenbrau from Germany, Carlsberg from Denmark, and Pilsner Urquell from the Czech Republic, for example. The citizens of these countries all drink a lot of beer, of course, but the biggest beer drinkers on earth are... the Venezuelans, who consume 83 litres per person annually.

And champagne? Surely the French drink more champagne than the rest of the world. Well, they don't. Champagne is expensive, so it's probably most popular in a rich country. So, what about the USA? Again, no. Could it be Luxembourg, the country with the highest **GDP** per head of population, at \$103,040, and the greatest **purchasing power** in the world? No. In fact, the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe **have** the biggest **taste for bubbly**, with 4.25 bottles of champagne consumed **per head** per year. The islands are in fact part of France, which perhaps explains the figure.

More next month. ✪

GLOSSARY

spending power *n*
the amount of money people have to spend (buy things)

sleepy *adj*
a bit tired; the "sleepiest" nation, would be the nation that sleeps the most

British *adj*
from Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) – "Britain" is often interchanged with "the UK"

UK *n*
from the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) – "the UK" is often interchanged with "Britain"

a consumer *n*
a person who buys / pays for goods and services for their own personal needs

a grower *n*
a country that grows plants/crops, etc.

a brand *n*
a product that is well-known by its name/trademark/logo, etc.

GDP *abbr*
gross domestic product = the total market value of goods and services produced by workers and capital within a nation's borders

purchasing power *n*
the amount of money people have to buy things

to have a taste for something *exp*
to really like a particular food/drink

bubbly *n inform*

champagne

per head *exp*

per person; by/for each person

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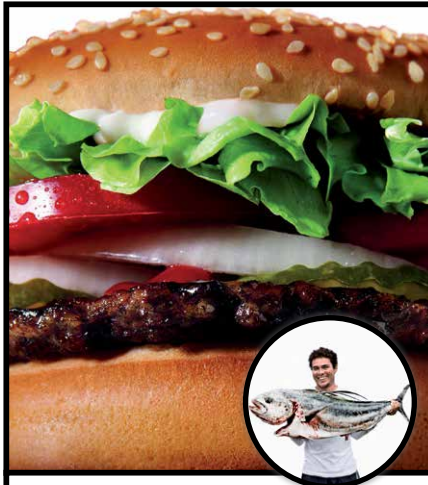
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THE NAME GAME

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES OF FAMOUS NAMES WITH MEANING. MORE NEXT MONTH.



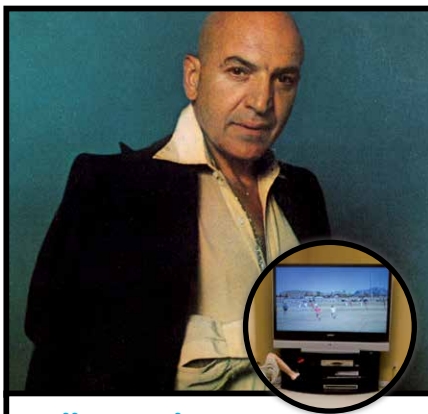
Burger King (American restaurant chain)
A "KING" IS THE MALE HEAD OF A KINGDOM. HIS WIFE IS THE QUEEN.
"Prince Charles might become king one day."
A "BURGER" IS THE SHORTENED VERSION OF "HAMBURGER".
"I'll have a burger and chips, please."



Whopper (Burger King hamburger)
SOMETHING THAT IS VERY BIG.
"That fish you caught was a whopper."



Pull and Bear (Spanish fashion stores)
IF YOU "PULL" SOMETHING, YOU USE YOUR HANDS TO MAKE IT COME CLOSER TO YOU.
"She pulled the book towards her."
A BEAR IS A LARGE ANIMAL THAT LIVES IN THE WOODS AND LIKES HONEY.
"The bear went into the house and ate all the food."



Telly Savalas (American actor)
THE "TELLY" IS AN INFORMAL/SLANG WORD FOR THE "TELEVISION".
"Is there anything good on the telly tonight?"



Luke Skywalker (character from the Star Wars film)
THE "SKY" IS THE AIR ABOVE THE EARTH.
"There were lots of stars in the sky."
A "WALKER" IS SOMEONE WHO WALKS - OFTEN AS A FORM OF EXERCISE. "He is a very fast walker."

STORY TIME

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



First day

It's a girl's first day at school. On meeting the child outside the **school gate**, the excited mum asks, "So, did you **enjoy** your first day at school?" "First day?" the girl replies. "Do you mean I have to go back tomorrow?"



Past participles

"Nick, what's the past participle of the verb 'to **ring**'? a teacher asks his pupil. And the pupil replies, "What do you think it is, sir?" And the teacher replies, "I don't *think*. I KNOW!" To which the pupil says, "I don't think I know either, sir!"



Taxi time

A man is in a hotel. He goes up to **reception** and says, "Excuse, me could you **call** me a taxi, please?" And the hotel receptionist says, "Yes, sir. Certainly, sir. You are a taxi!"



Maths

A teacher tells a student to write the number 55. The student asks, "How?" "Just write 5 and beside it another 5!" the teacher explains. The student writes 5 and then stops. "What are you waiting for?" the teacher asks. And the student replies, "I don't know which side to write the other 5 on!"

Conjugation

Another day in class, the teacher tells a student to conjugate the verb "to walk" in the Present Simple tense. And the student starts saying, "I walk. You walk..." Suddenly, the teacher interrupts him and says, "Quicker! Please." So, the student says, "I run. You run. He runs. She runs..."



GLOSSARY

- the school gate** *n*
the door that you go through to enter a school. It often leads into the playground
- to enjoy** *vb*
if you "enjoy" something, you like doing it
- to ring** *vb*
if a telephone "rings", it makes a noise because someone is trying to call you
- reception** *n*
the area (often with a desk) in the entrance to an office/hotel, etc. where there is a receptionist
- to call** *vb*
two meanings: a) to telephone someone; b) if you "call" someone a name, you say that they are that thing



House Museums

Sir John Soane's Museum

An incredible 18th century house that is home to artefacts collected by Sir John Soane.

www.soane.org

Jane Austen's House Museum



The 17th century house where the novelist Jane Austen spent the last 8 years of her life.

www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk

Dickens House Museum

A charming house that has been adapted as a museum to commemorate the novelist's association with Broadstairs.

www.dickensfellowship.org/DHMB.htm

Ted Coney's Family Portraits

An incredible collection of paintings on the theme of family life.

www.tedconeyfamilyportraits.co.uk

Kettle's Yard

A unique house containing a distinctive collection of modern art.



www.kettlesyard.co.uk

GLOSSARY

an insight into something *exp*
an understanding of something

fine *adj*

you can use this word to describe something that you admire or think is very good

a work *n*

something created by an artist: a painting, a piece of music, etc.

to step back in time *exp*

to go back in time to a previous period of history

weird *adj*

strange and unusual

an artefact *n*

an object of historical or archaeological interest

townspeople *n*

the people from a town

to dress up *phr vb*

to put on costumes and clothing

canvas *n*

a piece of fabric on which a painting may be done

House Museums

THE UK IS FAMOUS FOR MUSEUMS SUCH AS THE TATE MODERN, THE NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BUT THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OTHER LESSER-KNOWN MUSEUMS THAT ARE EQUALLY FASCINATING. AND MANY MUSEUMS ARE ACTUALLY IN THE HOUSES WHERE THE FAMOUS PERSON ONCE LIVED. HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST HOUSE MUSEUMS IN THE UK.

House museums are in a special category of their own. For a start, they give you a fascinating **insight into** the life of the famous person. You can see where they lived, how they lived and where they created some of their **finest works**. Sir John Soane's Museum in London is a great example of a house museum. Sir John lived in London during the 18th century (1753-1837) and his house is exactly as he left it. In fact, visiting the house is just like **stepping back in time**. It's full of thousands of **weird** and wonderful objects from around the world, including valuable paintings, beautiful sculptures and an Egyptian mummy.



The Dickens House Museum is in honour of the famous English writer, Charles Dickens. It is in the town of Broadstairs, Kent, which Dickens regularly visited. There are numerous personal **artefacts** and documents (including many letters) in **exhibit rooms**. The town also has an annual Dickens Festival, which takes place in June. During the festival, **townspeople dress up** in Victorian clothing. There are exhibitions, parades, theatre plays and musicians.

Some contemporary artists open their homes as house museums, too. Ted Coney has created an art gallery at



his home in Ely, England. He's been painting for over forty years. His collection consists of a group of forty

paintings on the theme of family life and relationships. Some of the topics include a daughter's marriage, the birth of a first grandchild, family anniversaries, marriages, bicycle tours by the artist, and dark family secrets. Most of the paintings are oil on **canvas**, although there are some examples of painting on glass, wood and Ivorene.

So, the next time you go to England, why not visit a house museum? ★

USEFUL VOCABULARY

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VOCABULARY.
THIS MONTH: ON THE TRAIN. ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

1 Match the words

Match the words below to the pictures.

1. Train
2. Ticket
3. Carriage
4. Waiting room
5. Track
6. Platform
7. Buffet car
8. Seat
9. Ticket inspector
10. Passenger



2 Wordsearch

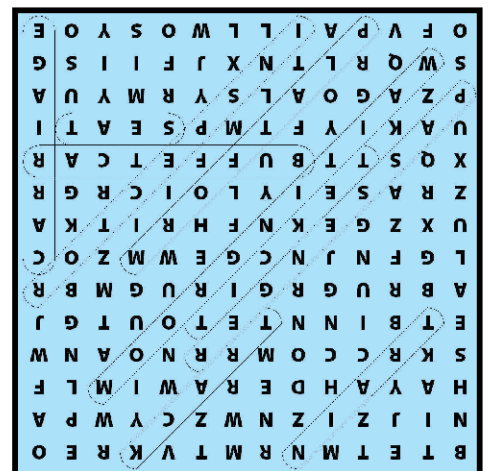
Now find these words in the wordsearch.

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| Passenger | Platform |
| Train | Ticket |
| Waiting room | Track |
| Buffet car | Seat |
| inspector | Carriage |



3 Guess the word

Think of ways to describe the words above. See if your partner can guess the word from the clues.



USEFUL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VERBS AND EXPRESSIONS.
THIS MONTH: ON THE TRAIN.

BUY A TICKET

TO USE MONEY TO OBTAIN A TICKET.

"WE BOUGHT OUR TICKETS ONLINE."



MISS A TRAIN

NOT TO CATCH A TRAIN.

"WE MISSED THE TRAIN BECAUSE WE ARRIVED TOO LATE."



FIND A SEAT

TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO SIT ON THE TRAIN.

"WE COULDN'T FIND A SEAT ON THE TRAIN."



GO BY TRAIN

TO TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION BY TRAIN.

"WE WENT TO THE BEACH BY TRAIN."



COST

THE AMOUNT THAT SOMETHING "COSTS" IS THE AMOUNT YOU MUST PAY FOR IT.

"THE TICKETS COST LESS AT THE WEEKEND."



GET ON / GET OFF A TRAIN

TO ENTER / LEAVE A TRAIN.

"WE GOT ON AT BARKSTONE STATION., AND WE GOT OFF AT SANDSTONE STATION."



Musical Mania

Controversial music stars in the spotlight. By Emma Weinbren

1 Pre-reading

Match the musicians (1 to 6) to the photos (a-f).

1. David Bowie
2. Elton John
3. Freddie Mercury
4. Amy Winehouse
5. Liam Gallagher
6. Aimée Ann Duffy



2 Reading I

What do you know about Liam Gallagher and Amy Winehouse? Why are they famous? Why are they in the news so often? Think, then read the text to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and write L (for Liam) or A (for Amy) next to each sentence.

1. ...is the lead singer of Oasis.
2. ...has a brother called Noel.
3. ...sang R&B and soul.
4. ...was one of the best-selling female solo artists.
5. ...has a song called "Rehab".
6. ...likes Manchester City.

4 Language focus Contractions

Look at this sentence from the article: "He's 178 cm tall." "He's" is the contracted form of "He is". Write the full forms for the following contracted forms.

1. He's got brown hair.
2. ...if you've got a brother...
3. They're just tired...
4. She's famous for...
5. She's got a waxwork at...

5 Discussion

1. Do you know any songs by these musicians? Which ones do you like?
2. Who is your favourite musician? Why?
3. Why are some musicians so controversial?
4. Who are the most controversial musicians in your country? What are they famous for?



Liam Gallagher

(21st September 1972)

Liam Gallagher was the lead singer of the British band Oasis until he left in 2009. He sang and played the guitar and the keyboards for the group. His favourite football team is Manchester City, and he's of Irish descent. He's 178cm tall, he's got brown hair and blue eyes, his zodiac sign is Virgo... and he's often in the news.

Liam once said of U2, "They don't seem like normal people." And he has had a long-standing feud with singer Robbie Williams. In 2000, during a music awards ceremony, Robbie asked, "Does anybody

want to see me fight Liam?" Like many stars, Liam sometimes comes across as arrogant. "There's Elvis and me. I couldn't say which of the two is best," he once said.

Liam's most difficult relationship is with his brother and band mate, Noel Gallagher. "Everyone knows that if you've got a brother, you're going to fight," Liam once said. "Sure I love Noel, but not as much as I love Pot Noodles," he added.

Noel once announced that he would never play with his brother again. But their mum seemed to think differently. "They're just tired at the end of the tour," she said. "They've had fights before and got over it. The funny thing is they didn't fight as children. They didn't fight until they started the band."



Amy Winehouse

(14th September 1983 to 23rd July 2011)

Amy Winehouse is another famous British pop star. Her full name was Amy Jade Winehouse and she was an R&B / soul singer and songwriter. She's got a waxwork at Madame Tussaud's. She was once ranked 50th on NME's "Cool list".

Her most famous album is "Back to Black". It came out in 2006 and became the best-selling album of 2007. She won many awards for her music, and she was famous for her soulful voice and distinctive music style. With international hits such as "Rehab", she was one of the best-selling female solo artists of her time.

But Amy was another star who was often in the news... and not always because of her music. One of the big stories was her divorce from Blake Fielder-Civil after just two years of marriage. She also had a lot of problems with drugs and alcohol. She often walked out of concerts, and sometimes got booed by the crowd. A music critic once wrote about one of her concerts that ended badly, "It was one of the saddest nights of my life." In one of her most famous songs, "Rehab", she sings, "I don't ever wanna drink again, I just, oh, I just need a friend." Sadly, she never found that friend. ❄️

Vocabulary



Actor / actress



Director



Engineer (a sound engineer)



Bartender



Driver



Cleaner



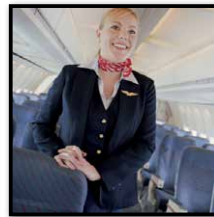
Television presenter



DJ (a disc jockey)



Waiter / waitress



Flight attendant



Painter



Chef

LISTEN AND REPEAT THESE EXPRESSIONS.

Useful Expressions

- What do you do?
- Do you work long hours?
- Do you enjoy the work?
- Do you get on with your boss?
- Did you study to be a journalist?



Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, BEN AND JENNA ARE TALKING ABOUT JOBS.

- Ben:** So, what do you do?
Jenna: I'm a chef in a hotel restaurant.
Ben: Oh, that's interesting. Did you go to a catering college?
Jenna: Yes, I studied there for three years. Then, I got a job in an Italian restaurant.
Ben: Wow!
Jenna: What about you? What do you do?
Ben: Well, I went to acting school. I want to be an actor, but I don't have any work at the moment. So, I'm working as a bartender at night and I'm a cleaner and painter during the day.
Jenna: Poor you.
Ben: Yes, it's pretty tiring. I go to auditions when I can. I really want to get a part in a TV series.
Jenna: Good luck.
Ben: Thanks, I need it. ☺



Mini-dialogues

- **A:** What do you do?
- **B:** I'm a flight attendant.
- **A:** What does your aunt do?
- **B:** She's a lorry driver.
- **A:** How long have you worked there?
- **B:** For six months. ✪



FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

THIS MONTH: DESCRIBING YOUR HOUSE

Rooms in the house



Bedroom

Living room

Dining room

Bathroom



Hall

Kitchen

Garden

Places near your house



Shopping centre

Supermarket

Newspaper shop

Corner shop



Swimming pool

Train station

Sports centre

What you ask

- How many rooms has it got?
- Is the kitchen big?
- Is your home far from here?
- Is there a bus into the town centre?
- What are your neighbours like?
- Are there any shops near here?

Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, HARVEY AND DAISY ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR HOUSES.

Harvey: So, what's your house like?
Daisy: Well, it's quite big. It's got three bedrooms, a nice, big living room and a garden.
Harvey: That's nice. Do you use the garden much?
Daisy: Oh, yes. We often have barbecues in the summer.
Harvey: What about the kitchen?
Daisy: The kitchen is pretty small.
Harvey: How many bathrooms are there?
Daisy: Two. There's one upstairs and one downstairs.
Harvey: That's great. You'll have to invite me round some time.
Daisy: How about tonight?
Harvey: OK. See you later.
Daisy: Bye. ✪



Airlines use funny stories to get some free advertising.

What's the best way for an airline to get free **advertising**? Simple! Create a story and make sure it gets in the news.

There have been a number of funny stories in the news about airlines over the past few years. And not many of them have **turned out to be** genuine. In November 2006, China Southern Airlines announced that it was going to limit passengers to just one visit to the toilet per **flight**. Much later, Ryanair said that it was going to charge passengers one pound for a visit to the bathroom.

In 1999, Virgin Airlines said that several planes would have "love beds" fitted in them for "amorous" passengers. In another attempt to **grab attention**, Southwest Airlines said its **in-flight safety briefing** would be an 80-second rap. Mistral Air, an airline **chartered** by the Vatican, said it was going to offer **vials** of Holy Water to Catholic pilgrims who were travelling to holy sites. Shortly afterwards, a German travel company announced that it would launch a flight for **nudists**. Another German company promised to become the first airline for smokers. And finally, Ryanair said they were considering a special **tax** for obese passengers.

So far, none of the ideas have been put into practice, but we've had a lot of fun reading about them... and the airlines have had their free advertising. ✪



THIS IS NOT A PUBLICITY STUNT!

GLOSSARY

- advertising** *n* paid announcements in newspapers, on the radio, etc. to get publicity
- to turn out to be** *exp* to be in the end; to be eventually
- a flight** *n* a trip in an aeroplane
- to grab someone's attention** *exp* to do something that makes people notice you
- an in-flight briefing** *n* a demonstration by cabin staff of emergency procedures and how things work
- to charter** *n* if a company/organisation, etc. "charters", a plane, they pay to use it for a specific purpose
- a vial** *n* a small glass container
- a nudist** *n* a person who likes to be naked (without clothes on)
- a tax** *n* an extra charge for a service



DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

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



1 Activity

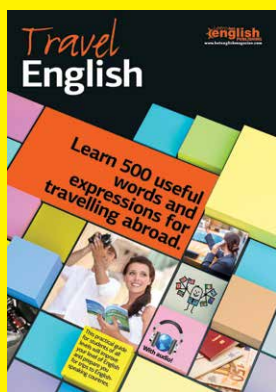
ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck!

- I am waiting in the bus stop.
I am waiting at the bus stop.
- The pen is in the table.
- I put the picture in the wall.
- The money is next the book.
- My house is close the station.
- The picture is on the top of the page.

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LISTENING



Favourite City

People talk about their favourite cities.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

1 Pre-listening

You are going to listen to four people talking about their favourite cities. Before listening, match the cities (1 to 6) to their corresponding countries (a-f).

- Berlin
- London
- Tokyo
- Vienna
- Dubai
- Toronto

- Austria
- Canada
- England
- United Arab Emirates
- Germany
- Japan



2 Listening I

Listen once. Which cities do they talk about? Choose from the Pre-listening activity.

- City: _____
- City: _____
- City: _____
- City: _____

3 Listening II

Listen again. Write the name of the city next to each sentence.

- Knightsbridge has all the posh shops like Harrods. *London*
- Fifty years ago, there was nothing there – just desert.
- There's a huge concert house.
- It is also close to the Niagara Falls.
- All the buildings are really modern.
- It's most famous for the CN Tower.
- It's a giant wheel that takes you high up.
- It's got some of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

4 Language focus Prepositions

Complete the sentences from the listening with the correct prepositions. Then, listen again to check your answers.

- For me, the best city _____ the world...
- ...you can go _____ the beach...
- ...there are also lots _____ interesting markets...
- You can see most _____ the city from the top.

5 Discussion

- Which cities from the Pre-listening activity have you visited? When?
- What's your favourite city outside your country? Why do you like it?
- What's your favourite city in your country? Why?
- What makes a city special?

The section that makes grammar easy, interesting, and fun.



GRAMMAR FUN

THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT

compound nouns

In English, we can join words to create compound nouns. For example, we can put "horse" and "race" together to form "horse race" (a race with horses). As you can see, the second word (race) is the main word; the first word (horse) describes the second one and defines what type of "race" it is. Here are some more examples. Notice how some words join together to form one word, others are separated by a hyphen (-), and others are two separate words:

- a) **Toothpaste** = I put some toothpaste on my toothbrush.
- b) **Marketing department** = She works in the marketing department.
- c) **Swimming pool** = I went swimming in the swimming pool.
- d) **Ice cream** = This ice cream is delicious.
- e) **Haircut** = I had a haircut yesterday.
- f) **Check-in** = Check-in for the flight is two hours before departure time.
- g) **Full moon** = There was a full moon last night.

Remember, when you want to make the plural form, just add the "s" to the second noun (not the first one). For example: marketing departments; swimming pools; ice creams; full moons, etc.



MMM... ICE CREAM.

1 Exercise

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

whiteboard, dining room, police officer, output, driving licence, printer cartridge

1. The printer has run out of ink. We need a new _____.
2. I'm sorry I can't drive the car because I don't have a _____.
3. She was stopped by a _____ for speeding on the motorway.
4. I think we should hang the painting in the _____.
5. I've noticed that _____ at the factory has decreased this month.
6. Write the answers on the _____.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

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A Bridget too Far?

A third Bridget Jones film may be one too many.

1 Pre-reading

Match the female film characters (1 to 7) to their corresponding pictures (a-g). Which films were they in?

1. Erin Brockovich
2. Scarlett O'Hara
3. Sister Maria
4. Dorothy
5. Bridget Jones
6. Cruella de Vil
7. Princess Leia



2 Reading I

What do you know about the Bridget Jones films? What are the stories about? Read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and complete the information. Write "1" (the first Bridget Jones film), "2" (the second Bridget Jones film) and "3" (the third Bridget Jones film).

1. She wants to have a baby.
2. She decides to keep a diary.
3. She's in her forties.
4. She thinks her boyfriend is having an affair.
5. She gets arrested.
6. She decides to take control of her life.
7. Mark flies out to help her.

4 Language focus Storytelling

What tenses do we generally use to describe film plots in English? Look over the article again and find examples of:

1. The Present Simple.
2. The Present Simple Continuous
3. The Present Simple Passive

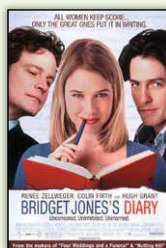
5 Discussion

1. Who's your favourite female movie character? What do you like about her?
2. Do you know of any other famous trilogies? Which one is your favourite?
3. What's the most ridiculous film you've ever seen? Why was it so bad?



Bridget Jones has been in three films, but has that been one too many?

The first Bridget Jones film, *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001), was a big hit. Bridget Jones (Renee Zellweger) played the role of an ordinary woman struggling against her age, her weight and her lack of love. As a part of her New Year's Resolution, Bridget decides to take control of her life and promises to keep a diary. But things aren't going to be easy. She's in love with a reserved, stuffy lawyer, Mark Darcy (Colin Firth), but starts a relationship with her boss, Daniel Cleaver (played by Hugh Grant). The film has many hilarious scenes and was a huge hit at the box office.



The second film, *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* (2004), didn't do so well. The story picks up four weeks after the first film. Bridget Jones is becoming uncomfortable in her relationship with Mark Darcy. She's convinced that Mark is having an affair with his attractive intern. After a series of incidents, Bridget leaves Mark and goes to Thailand with Daniel Cleaver to film "The Smooth Guide". However, Bridget gets involved in an international incident and is arrested. Daniel abandons her, but Mark comes to the rescue. The film is funny, but not quite as funny as the first one.



The third film is *Bridget Jones's Baby* (2016). In this film, Bridget is no longer single. In fact, she has married the "man of her dreams", Mark Darcy, and seems to have everything she ever wanted. The problem? Now in her forties, Bridget is desperate to have a child. But then things get really complicated when she meets American Jack Qwant. She gets pregnant, but then doesn't know who the father is.

Some thought the film was going to flop and that people were tired of Bridget. For many, the idea of a woman trying to have a baby didn't sound like a good basis for a comedy. Unlike Bridget's dating dilemmas, this is *not* a subject that everyone can relate to. Others felt that Bridget Jones was outdated. In a debate on the British chat show *Loose Women* participants discussed whether the character really reflected what women were like back then. They were critical of the fact that Bridget Jones never seemed to be happy on her own; whereas the men were. However, to the surprise of many, the film did very well.

Author Helen Fielding always maintained that the "Bridget Jones dilemma" is common in modern day society. "There are so many advertisements now telling people they need to look a certain way and have this perfect life," explains Fielding. "That's why Bridget struck such a chord with women, because she is human and she has these flaws which most of us have." ✨

Animal Alert

One of Britain's most dangerous animals.

1 Pre-reading

Match the animals (1 to 5) to the photos (a-e).

1. Cow
2. Bull
3. Calf
4. Horse
5. Donkey



2 Reading I

What do you think you should do if a cow attacks you? Think, then read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. How many cows are there in the UK?
2. How much can a cow weigh?
3. Which two people were attacked by cows?
4. How many people have been killed by cows over the past eight years?
5. Why do cows attack people?

5 Language focus Collocations

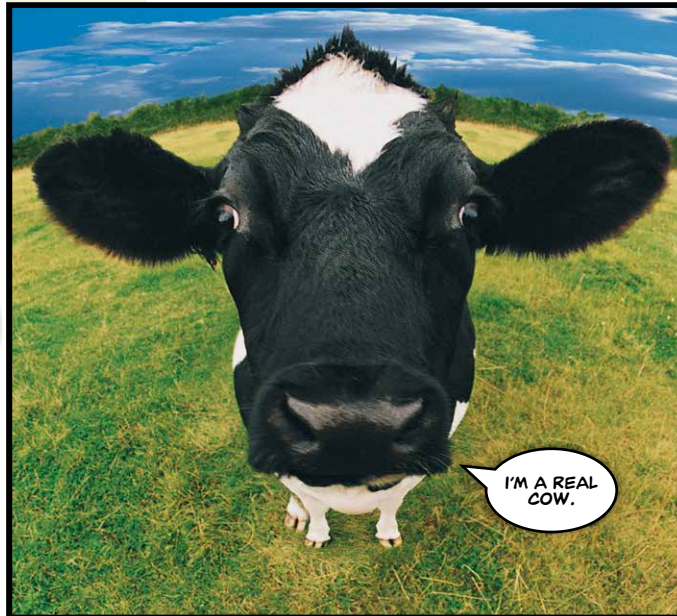
Look at this collocation from the article: an "isolated incident". Collocations are words that often go together. Can you find any more?

1. serious _____
2. animal _____
3. best _____
4. English _____
5. cracked _____

5 Discussion

1. Have you ever had a frightening experience with an animal?
2. What dangerous animals are there in your country?
3. Do you go to the country very often? What do you do there?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49



England is relatively safe when it comes to animals and wildlife. There are no lions, elephants or tigers, or any dangerous spiders and **deadly** snakes. But there are a lot of cows.

No image of the British countryside would be complete without a cow. In fact, there are more than ten million of them in the UK. With their sad, beautiful eyes, their slow walk and **harmless** appearance they are a **key part** of the **landscape**. But they do have another side to their character. And given that they can weigh more than 500kg, this can be a bit of a problem.

In recent weeks, there have been two **high-profile** attacks by cows. A fortnight ago a cow attacked former government minister, David Blunkett. He ended up with a **black eye** and a **cracked rib**. In another attack, a vet was **trampled** by **cattle**. She was walking with her two dogs. In both cases, experts believe the cows were trying to protect their **young** from dogs.

But these aren't isolated incidents. Health and Safety Executive figures show that 18 people have been killed and 481 injured by cows in the past eight years. "Spring and early summer are when cows feel most **vulnerable**," a spokesperson explained. "We hear of one or two incidents each week, but these don't usually involve serious injuries."

So, what can you do if you're confronted by an angry cow? "The best advice is to keep calm and **carry on**," an animal expert explained. "If you find yourself in a field of cattle, move away as carefully and quietly as possible. And above all, keep dogs close and on a **leash**. And if the cows **charge**, let go of the leash – the cows are more interested in the dog than you."

So, next time you go for a walk in the English countryside, watch out for cows... especially if you're walking your dog! ✨

How to say "moo" in other languages

- Danish – Muuh
- Finnish – Ammuu
- French – Meuh
- German – Muh
- Hebrew - Go'eh
- Italian - Mu!
- Swedish - Muu

Cow trivia

A cow is a mature female. "Cattle" refers to animals from the whole "cow" family (cows, bulls, etc.). A bull is an adult male cow. An ox is a castrated adult bull. Every day, a cow drinks about a bathtub full of water and around 20 kilos of food. You can lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs – a cow's knees cannot bend properly to walk down. The UK is the 9th largest milk producer in the world and the 3rd largest in Europe. For more information on the not-so-nice side of cattle production in the UK, go to: www.vegsoc.org/info/cattle.html

GLOSSARY

- deadly** *adj*
very dangerous; that can kill
- harmless** *adj*
not dangerous
- a key part** *exp*
an important part
- the landscape** *n*
everything you can see when you look across an area of land: the mountains, hills, etc.
- high-profile** *adj*
a "high-profile" event is one that attracts a lot of attention
- a black eye** *n*
a dark mark around the eye where someone has been hit
- a cracked rib** *n*
a broken rib (one of the curved bones that goes around your chest)
- to trample** *vb*
if someone is "trampled", they are injured by animals walking on them
- cattle** *n*
a general word to refer to cows, bulls, etc.
- young** *n*
an animal's "young" are its babies
- vulnerable** *adj*
if you feel "vulnerable", you think that you are in danger
- to carry on** *phr vb*
to continue
- a leash** *n*
a piece of leather/string/rope, etc. that you attach to a dog/animal
- to charge** *vb*
if animals "charge", they run towards an object and all together

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PHOTO MAGIC

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH FROM THE WORLD OF SPORT, POLITICS AND BUSINESS.

Can you think of any ideas for the speech bubbles?
Have a competition in class or at home.

Photo 1 Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn is startled by Cody the Dachshund.



Photo 2 Former presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton were all at the first tee of the President's Cup.

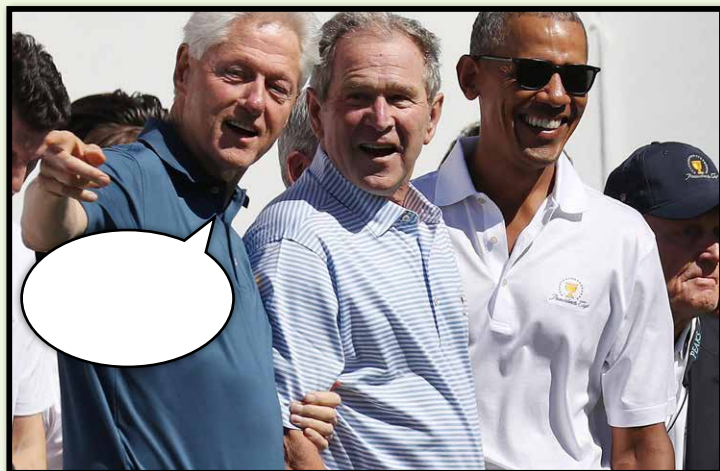
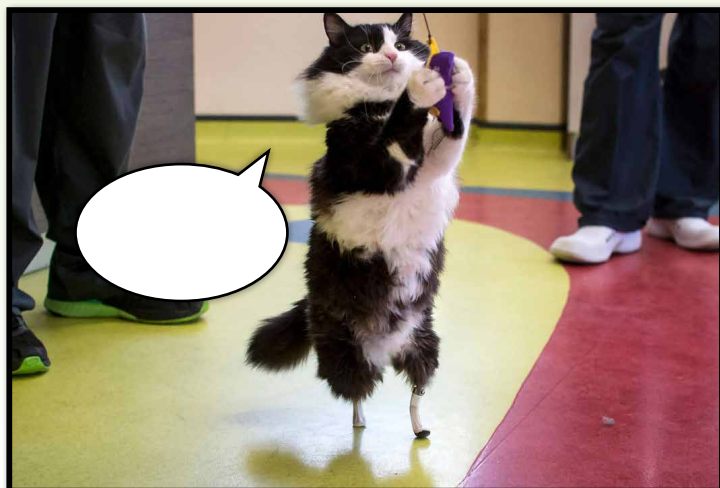


Photo 3 A cat gets 'bionic' paws in Bulgaria.



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LISTENING



Technical Problems

Dealing with customer service departments.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

1 Pre-listening

Look at the list of computer problems below. Have you had any of these problems recently? Which one is the most serious?

- The computer won't turn on.
- The internet won't work.
- It doesn't send my e-mails.
- It keeps turning off for no reason.
- It won't run any of my programs.
- It's got a virus.
- The screen won't come on.
- The CD-ROM drive doesn't work.
- I can't turn it off.

2 Listening I

You are going to listen to a telephone conversation about someone who has a problem with his computer. Listen once. What problems is he having? Choose from the list in the Pre-listening exercise.

3 Listening II

Listen to the first part and answer these questions.

- Which number do you press to cancel an order?
 - Which number do you press if you have a technical problem?
- Listen to the second part and answer these questions.
- Which number do you press if you are having problems connecting to the internet?
 - Which number do you press if your computer is running slowly?

Now listen to the third part (the conversation) and answer these questions.

- What is Roger's user number?
- What is his address?
- When did he buy the computer?
- What does he have to do in the end?

4 Language focus Past tense negatives

Look at this sentence from the conversation.

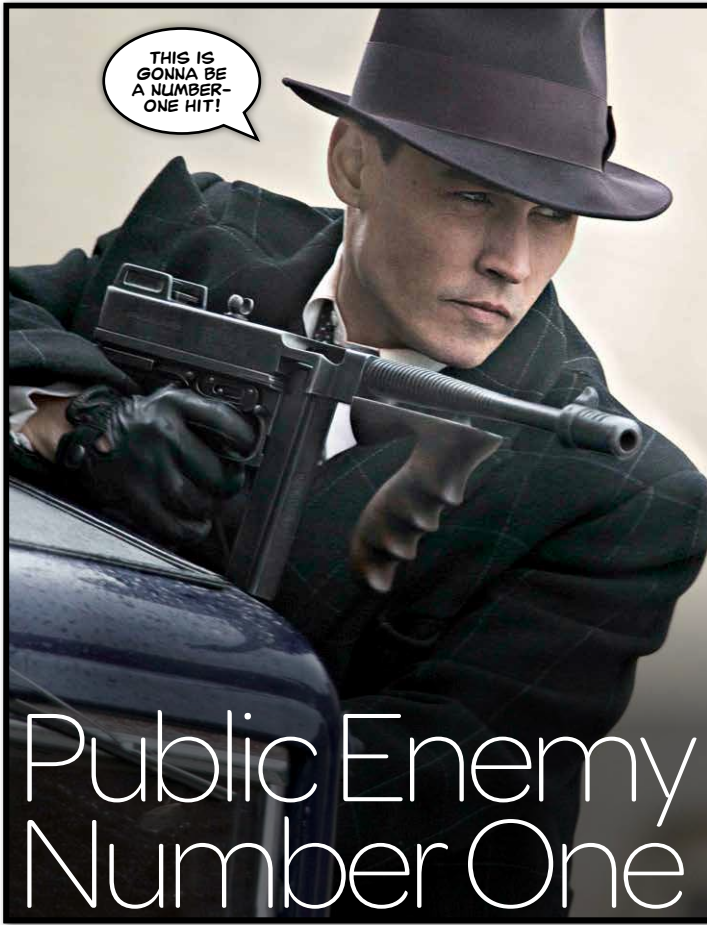
"I don't know why because I didn't move it or drop it or anything like that."

We form past tense negatives with "didn't" and an infinitive. Transform these sentences into negatives.

- I bought it yesterday.
- I switched it on.
- It stopped working.
- I kept pressing the button.

5 Discussion

- What do you like/dislike about your computer?
- Have you had a problem with an electronic device recently? What was it?
- Do you like gadgets? Why? Why not?



Public Enemy Number One

TO SOME HE WAS A **RUTHLESS** CRIMINAL. TO OTHERS, HE WAS A CHARISMATIC HERO. JOHN DILLINGER WAS AMERICA'S ORIGINAL "PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE".

Dillinger was a rebel from an early age. At school, teachers complained about his "**bewildering** personality", and he often **bullied** the smaller children. Dillinger admitted that his ambitions were very different from those of his classmates. "My buddies wanted to be firemen, farmers or policemen, something like that," he said. "Not me, I just wanted to steal people's money!" After **seventh grade**, Dillinger left school and went to work. He also started to stay out all night at parties. His father, reportedly a strict parent, feared his son was getting out of control. So, he moved the family from inner city Indianapolis to a rural area of Indiana, hoping the quieter lifestyle would have a positive effect on his son.

But Dillinger refused to **settle**

down. He committed **petty crimes** and never had a stable job. In 1924, Dillinger planned a robbery with his friend and stole \$120 from a local **grocery store**. Dillinger was caught and, under instructions from his father, **pleaded guilty** to the crime. Incredibly, the court sentenced him to over *ten* years in prison. Shocked by the unfair sentence, Dillinger promised to be, "the **meanest** guy you ever saw when I get out of here".

Dillinger kept to his promise. In prison, he assembled a **tough** gang. On being **released**, they committed a series of robberies across Indiana and quickly **gained notoriety**. Often they would **pretend** to be sales representatives for a security company in order to gain access to the bank, and then steal the money. Although Dillinger was

caught by the police a few times, he always managed to escape. He was known as the man "no jail could hold". Once he even broke out of an "**escape-proof**" prison by **threatening** guards with a **fake** gun which he had made out of wood.

Although Dillinger was a criminal, he was a popular figure with a special kind of **charm**. He often made funny comments while committing robberies and was once reported as saying, "Now nobody get nervous. You ain't got nothing to fear. You're being robbed by the John Dillinger Gang. That's the best there is!" It was this charm which attracted girlfriend Billie Frechette. On meeting her, Dillinger bought her a **fur coat** as a present. Frechette quickly **fell for him** and the couple became inseparable – even after Dillinger told her who he was. She was also **loyal to** Dillinger. Later, when she was interrogated and beaten by police, she refused to give them any information. But the FBI were never far behind. They assigned agent Melvin Purvis to catch the criminal. Purvis declared Dillinger America's first Public Enemy. Purvis' big **breakthrough** came when he was given a **tip-off** by one of Dillinger's acquaintances, Anna Sage. Purvis met Sage on 19th July 1934, and she promised to call Purvis when she knew where Dillinger was. Three days later, Sage telephoned Purvis and told him that Dillinger would be in the Biograph Theater in Chicago that night. The FBI organised a **stake out**. Dillinger tried to escape but was shot dead during the gun fight.

The gangster's story has been retold in the film *Public Enemies*, with Johnny Depp playing John Dillinger and Christian Bale as Melvin Purvis. Just like the real John Dillinger's life, this film is fast, action-packed and full of danger. So, was Dillinger a modern-day Robin Hood or a dangerous fugitive? You'll have to decide. ✪

John Herbert Dillinger
Famous bank robber and gangster. Born 22nd June 1903. Died 22nd July 1934 (aged 31). Imprisoned from 1924 to 1933.



GLOSSARY

- ruthless** *adj*
showing no mercy or pity
- bewildering** *adj*
strange, unusual, incomprehensible
- to bully** *vb*
to use strength or a superior position to intimidate people who are weaker or in an inferior position
- seventh grade** *n US*
children in "seventh grade" are 12 to 13 years old
- to settle down** *phr vb*
to start to lead a quiet life
- a petty crime** *n*
a crime that is not very serious
- a grocery store** *n US*
a shop that sells fruit and vegetables (a grocer's in British English)
- to plead guilty** *exp*
to admit that you have committed the crime
- mean** *adj*
cruel and not kind
- tough** *adj*
violent
- to release** *vb*
if a prisoner is "released", he/she is free to leave prison
- to gain notoriety** *exp*
to become famous for something bad
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true even though it isn't
- escape-proof** *adj*
if a prison is "escape-proof", no one can escape from it
- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone if they don't do what you say
- fake** *adj*
not real; an imitation
- charm** *exp*
a way of being that is pleasant and attractive
- a fur coat** *n*
a coat made from animal hair
- to fall for someone** *exp*
to start to love someone
- loyal to** *exp*
if you are "loyal to" someone, you remain a true and honest friend to them
- a breakthrough** *n*
an important development
- a tip-off** *n*
information that helps the police find/catch a criminal
- a stake out** *n*
if the police organise a "stake out", they secretly watch a building

Ted Kennedy

He was known as the great “Liberal Lion of the Senate”. His dream was for a more compassionate nation. He supported **liberal*** positions on abortion, public education, and **capital punishment**. He lived a long, tragic and sometimes controversial life, passing away on 25th August 2009. This is the life of Ted Kennedy.

Ted had a privileged childhood. He was born Edward Moore Kennedy on 22nd February 1932 in Massachusetts. He was the youngest of nine children and brother to JFK and Robert Kennedy. Ted grew up in an **Irish Catholic family**. His mother, Rose Fitzgerald, was the daughter of Boston **mayor** John Fitzgerald. His father, Joseph P. Kennedy, was a millionaire businessman. In 1950, Ted followed his brothers to Harvard University, but was **expelled** for **cheating** (he asked another student to take a Spanish exam in his place). Ted eventually returned to the university after a period in the armed forces. On leaving Harvard, Ted studied at the International Law School (The Hague) and then entered Virginia Law School, where he received his law degree in 1959. By then, Ted knew that he wanted a **career** in politics.

Things seemed to be going well, but then something happened that was to change Ted's life forever. On the night of 18th July 1969, Ted accidentally drove his car off an unmarked bridge on Chappaquiddick Island in Massachusetts. His companion in the car, 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne, **drowned**. Instead of going for help or reporting the accident, Ted just left. A judge later found Ted Kennedy guilty of leaving the scene of an accident. The scandal was all over the newspapers and Kennedy was criticised for abandoning the young woman. Many felt that she could have been saved. It was never clear what he was doing with her (he was married at the time), or why he did not report the accident to the police. Despite the scandal, Kennedy was re-elected to the Senate in 1970.

The 1980s weren't a great time for Ted. This was the era of President Ronald Reagan – the conservative Republican – and Ted's liberalism wasn't in fashion. Ted also had trouble at home. There were accusations of **philandering** and alcohol abuse. In 1982, after 24 years of marriage, he and wife Joan Bennett Kennedy divorced. In 1992 he remarried – this time to a lawyer called Victoria Reggie. Together, they had five children: Kara, Edward Jr, Patrick Kennedy, Curran and Caroline Raclin.

In 1992, things changed after the Democratic victory of Bill Clinton. By the late 1990s, Ted Kennedy had become one of the Senate's most prominent members. He helped pass bills that affected the lives of many Americans, and supported legislation on immigration reform, criminal code reform, fair housing, public education, health care, AIDS research and a variety of programmes to help the poor. But towards the end of the decade, his health started **deteriorating**. On 17th May 2008, he went to hospital after a **seizure**. Three days later doctors diagnosed a brain tumour. On 20th January 2009, he suffered another seizure. Finally, on 25th August 2009, Ted's battle with brain cancer came to an end. He **passed away** in the evening at his Cape Cod, Massachusetts, home. The “lion” had died. ✨

*Liberal

There are several definitions of the word “liberal”.

In the US, a “liberal” is often used to refer to someone with left-wing, socialist, progressive views (often members of the Democrat Party). This is opposed to people with more right-wing conservative, traditional views (often members of the Republican Party).

In the UK, a liberal is someone who believes that people should be free to do or think as they like. They believe in political and individual freedom and want to defend basic human rights, and are against anything that increases the power of the state. The Liberal Democrat Party in Britain is the main centre party. Amongst many other things, they believe in reforming the constitution and establishing proportional representation in British elections.

However, a liberal system and liberalism can also be used to describe a system that gives companies and organisations a lot of economic freedom. Curiously, in this respect, some aspects of liberalism are associated with market freedom – ideas that are more in line with right-wing, capitalist politics.



His first taste of politics came in 1960. Ted **campaigned** for his brother, John, in the **presidential race**. In 1962, shortly after his brother's victory, Ted was elected to the **Senate**. At the age of 30, he became a representative for the state of Massachusetts.

But it wasn't a happy time. In 1963, his brother, then President John F. Kennedy (JFK), was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. A year later, Ted was in a plane crash and spent weeks in the hospital recovering from a back injury and internal bleeding. The injuries caused chronic pain, which affected him for the rest of his life. Ted was unable to campaign for re-election in 1964, but he won anyway in a **landslide victory**.

The late 1960s was dominated by the Vietnam War. The United States had become deeply involved in the war during JFK's administration. Ted initially supported the war, but eventually began to **speak out against** it, especially after reports of poor military planning and political corruption in South Vietnam. He was specifically against the **military draft**, and the US's failure to help the victims of the war. In 1968, there was another family tragedy. Ted's closest brother, Robert, was assassinated during his presidential campaign. After Robert's death, in 1969, Ted became a **front-runner** for the Democratic presidential nomination.



Ted Kennedy quotes

"My brother need not be idealised or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life, to be remembered as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it."
About his brother Robert Kennedy in June 1968.

"Dad, I'm in some trouble. There's been an accident and you're going to hear all sorts of things about me from now on. Terrible things."
Shortly after the Chappaquiddick accident.

"I regard as indefensible the fact that I did not report the accident to the police immediately."
Talking about the Chappaquiddick incident in July 1969

"Frankly, I don't mind not being president. I just mind that someone else is."

"Well, here I don't go again" - **on not running for president in 1988.**

"What we have in the United States is not so much a health-care system as a disease-care system."

"Integrity is the lifeblood of democracy. Deceit is a poison in its veins."

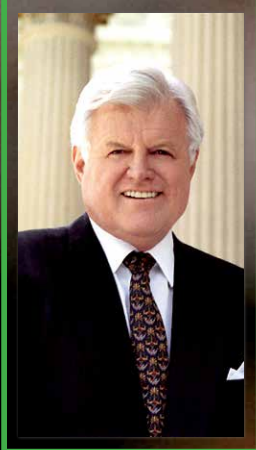
"The Republicans are looking after the financial interests of the wealthiest individuals in this country."

"The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dreams shall never die."

"We want to support our troops because they didn't make the decision to go there."

"With Barack Obama, we will turn the page on the old politics of misrepresentation and distortion. With Barack Obama we will close the book on the old politics of race against race, gender against gender, ethnic group against ethnic group, and straight against gay."
January 2008. ✪

Ted Kennedy
Edward Moore "Ted" Kennedy (22nd February 1932 – 25th August 2009). US senator from Massachusetts and member of the Democratic Party. First elected in November 1962. He was elected nine times and served for 46 years in the US Senate. He was the brother of JFK and Robert Kennedy.



GLOSSARY

capital punishment *n*
the legal killing of someone for having committed a crime

an Irish Catholic family *n*
a family of Irish origin – there are many people of Irish descent in the US

a mayor *n*
an elected leader of a town or city

to expel *vb*
to tell someone to leave a school after doing something bad

to cheat *vb*
to do something dishonest in a game or exam/competition, etc.

a career *n*
the professional job you choose to do for the majority of your life

to campaign *vb*
if people "campaign" for a political party or candidate, they do things to promote that party or candidate

a presidential race *n*
an election to see who is going to be the next president

the Senate *n*
the upper house of the US Congress. Two members are elected from each state by popular vote for a six-year term.

a landslide victory *n*
a victory with a big margin over your opponent

to speak out against something *exp*
to criticise something you are against

the military draft *n*
compulsory enrolment in the armed forces; conscription.

a front-runner for something *exp*
the person in a leading/winning position

to drown *vb*
to die by suffocating in water

philandering *n*
to have relationships/affairs with people while you are married, etc.

to deteriorate *vb*
to become worse

a seizure *n*
a sudden attack, spasm or convulsion

to pass away *phr vb*
to die

DO YOU "GET" IT?

The verb "to get" can mean a lot of things. Here are a few of these useful meanings!

1 GET A PRESENT



If you "get" a present, you receive it.
"I got a new phone for my birthday."

2 GET A COLD



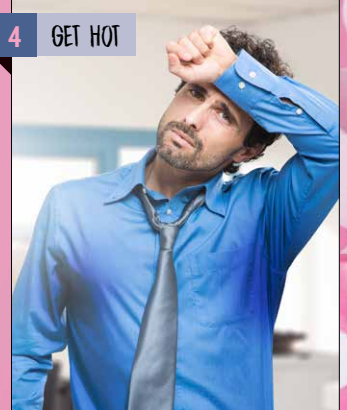
If you "get a cold", you catch it.
"I got a cold after walking home in the rain."

3 GET LOST



If you "get lost", you don't know where you are.
"We got lost as we were walking through the city."

4 GET HOT



If you "get hot", you become hot.
"The room got really hot with the windows closed."

5 GET MARRIED



If you "get married", you become someone's husband or wife.
"They got married in March."

6 GET DRESSED



If you "get dressed", you put on clothes.
"I got dressed and had breakfast in just 10 minutes."

7 GET HOME



The time you "get home" is the time you arrive at home.
"I got home really late last night."

8 GET TO WORK



If you "get to work", you arrive there.
"I had to attend a meeting as soon as I got to work."

9 GET A TRAIN, BUS, PLANE, ETC.



If you "get a train", you go somewhere by train.
"We got a train to the conference as it was more convenient than driving."

10 GET ON A BUS, TRAIN, PLANE, ETC.



If you "get on a bus", you enter it.
"I got on the bus and paid for my ticket."

11 GET OFF A BUS, TRAIN, PLANE, ETC.



If you "get off a bus", you leave it.
"The bus driver told me to get off because I didn't have a ticket."

12 GET DARK



If it "gets dark", it becomes dark and night.
"It gets dark at about 5pm at this time of the year."

13 GET BETTER



If a sick person "gets better", they become well again.
"He got better after staying at home for a few days."

14 GET AN E-MAIL, LETTER, MESSAGE, ETC.



If you "get an e-mail", you receive it.
"I got several e-mails from her yesterday."

15 GET A PRIZE



If you "get a prize", you win it.
"I got first prize in the competition."

16 GET A JOB



If you "get a job", you are given a job.
"After three interviews I finally got the job."

17 GET WORSE



If a sick person "gets worse", they become more ill.
"I've been getting worse since I started taking that medicine."

18 GET ANGRY



If someone "gets angry", they become angry.
"She got angry when she saw what they were doing."

19 GET TIRED



If you "get tired", you become tired.
"I got tired doing all that gardening."

20 GET SOMEWHERE



If you "get somewhere", you arrive at that place.
"We walked for about 20km and eventually got there."

21 GET UP



The time you "get up" is the time you leave your bed in the morning.
"I got up at 6am this morning."

22 GET SOMETHING



If you "get" something, you understand it.
"I didn't get the joke."

23 GET + A PAST PARTICIPLE



We can use "get" and a past participle as a form of passive.
"She got arrested for stealing the iPhone" =
"She was arrested for stealing the iPhone."



An updated version of the 1980's' musical. By Emma Weinbren

Few films have made as big an impact as *Fame*. The 1980's blockbuster made **legwarmers** fashionable and helped **spark** a dance **craze** around the world. But *Fame* came back as a **remake** in 2009 starring Kelsey Grammer (*Frasier/Cheers*) and original cast member Debbie Allen. But how did it compare to the original?

Only one thing is important to students at the New York City High School of Performing Arts: fame. However, this doesn't come easily. As the tagline says, "How **big you make** it is all about how far you take it". The **aspiring stars** must work hard and compete against each other to achieve their dreams. They also have to deal with the everyday pressures of high school that come from homework, friendships and romance. The film follows the students as they experience the highs and the lows of training to become a star.

In reality, the cast of *Fame* are already stars. Perhaps the most famous is Kelsey Grammer, who is best known for his character Dr Frasier Crane in the television series *Frasier*. In the film, he plays strict teacher Joel and works alongside **dance tutor** Fran (played by Megan Mullally). Mullally also has a **comedy background** and won awards for her role as Karen Walker in the hit **sitcom** *Will and Grace*.

The head of the school is Debbie Allen. She was in the original film and played the part of the **uncompromising** teacher, Lydia Grant. Nearly thirty years later, she returned to play **headmistress** Angela.

Some of the students in the film are also stars. Singer Denise is played by Naturi Naughton, who was in the 90s girl group 3LW. Other students include Disney Channel star Kay Panabaker and Anna Maria Perez de Taglé, who featured in *Hannah Montana* and *Camp Rock*. 🌟





Gene Anthony Ray



Lee Curreri

The Dark Side of Fame

Behind the scenes of our favourite dance series.

"Fame costs. Right here is where you start paying." This was the **immortal** opening line of the eighties TV series *Fame* (1982-87), which was a *spin-off* the film of the same name. But real-life fame for many of the actors in the series came at a price.

Many of the stars of the series were **catapulted to fame**. But success wasn't easy for them. Behind the scenes cast members were suffering from drug abuse, **backstage feuds** and exhaustion. Gene Anthony Ray was perhaps the most **troubled** star of all. **On screen** he played **temperamental** dancer Leroy Johnson, who gained a place at the academy through his impressive street dancing skills. The **tough** character, who often violently disagreed with his teachers, soon became a **hit** with the fans. In real life, Ray enjoyed his new status, partying every night and buying extravagant items such as diamond jewellery. However, he soon discovered the **downside** of fame, and started to drink heavily and take drugs regularly. As a result, he often missed **rehearsals**.

It wasn't long before his life was **spiralling out of control**. In 1984, he was **fired** from the show. "For five months I sat at home in front of the TV and **stuffed my face** with junk food," he recalled. Ray had spent

all his savings on drugs and was rumoured to be sleeping on park benches. Things went from bad to worse when the star was diagnosed HIV positive in 1996. Tragically, Gene Anthony Ray died from a stroke in 2003.

But Ray wasn't the only cast member to become involved with drugs. Lee Curreri, who played the part of young musician Bruno Martelli, took cocaine to help him deal with his stressful workload. The combination of composing, acting and **performing** songs made him increasingly tired. "Back then, this stuff was **rampant**," he explained. "In LA people would do it out open in a restaurant". He left the series after a few **seasons** due to a disagreement with the production team. Curreri was frustrated that he had to **mime** his piano playing and complained that the producers "didn't want to deal with creative issues".

Tensions such as this were not uncommon among the **cast**. There were numerous reports of **clashes** between Erica Gimpel, who played student Coco Hernandez, and co-star Debbie Allen. Debbie Allen played academy headmistress Lydia Grant and was rumoured to be as strict in real life as her **on-screen persona**. Allen coordinated the live *Fame* tour in the UK



and her hard approach didn't always make her popular with the rest of the cast. Halfway through the tour, Erica Gimpel **walked out** after an argument with Allen. Gimpel claimed she was exhausted. In a recent interview Erica described Debbie as "tough", explaining that "she would **get in your face**, you know, she was that kind of person". In her defence, Allen admits she was **demanding**,

but she defined this as "tough love". "They were playing with a lot of dangerous, hot things", she explained, referring to the cast's **wild antics** on the tour. She maintains that a strong rule was needed to **keep** the young actors **on track**. Despite these differences, the two women are now reconciled.

For these cast members, fame really did come at a cost. 🍀



- GLOSSARY**
- legwarmers** *n*
thick clothing that dancers wear over their lower legs to keep them warm
 - to spark a craze** *exp*
to create a fashion
 - a remake** *n*
another version of a previous film
 - to make it big** *exp*
to become successful
 - an aspiring star** *n*
someone who wants to be famous
 - dance tutor** *n*
a person who teaches dance
 - a comedy background** *n*
someone with a "comedy background", has worked on comedy films, series, etc.
 - a sitcom** *n*
a television programme (often a comedy) about the lives of a group of people
 - uncompromising** *adj*
someone who is "uncompromising" is determined not to change
 - a headmistress** *n*
the female director of a school
 - immortal** *adj*
that will be remembered for a long time
 - to catapult to fame** *exp*
to make very famous very quickly
 - a backstage feud** *n*
an argument between actors who are working on a show/film, etc.
 - troubled** *adj*
disturbed; worried; with problems
 - on screen** *exp*
in the film
 - temperamental** *adj*
calm and quiet one moment, angry and manic the next moment
 - tough** *adj*
with a strong character
 - a hit** *n*
a very popular person/thing/film, etc.
 - the downside of something** *exp*
the negative aspects of something
 - a rehearsal** *n*
a practice session for a film/play, etc.
 - to spiral out of control** *exp*
to become gradually more and more out of control
 - to fire** *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job
 - to stuff your face** *exp/inform*
to eat a lot of food
 - to perform** *vb*
to sing a song, play music, etc. in front of an audience
 - rampant** *adj*
if something is "rampant", it exists in many places
 - a season** *n*
the main period when a series is shown on TV (from October to June, for example)
 - to mime** *vb*
to act without using words
 - a cast** *n*
the group of actors/actresses, etc. who are in a film
 - a clash** *n*
a verbal/physical fight
 - an on-screen persona** *n*
the character you play in a film/show, etc.
 - to walk out** *phr/vb*
to leave a job/project, etc. before it is finished
 - to get in your face** *exp*
if someone "gets in your face", they confront you and don't leave you alone
 - demanding** *adj*
someone who is "demanding" is difficult to make happy
 - wild antics** *n*
funny, silly, crazy ways of behaving
 - to keep someone on track** *exp*
to make sure that someone does the right thing



Dance Types

Read our guide to some of the top dances from around the world.

Line dancing



Line dancing is a group dance often associated with American country music. Dancers form a line and **perform steps** in time with each other and the music. This type of dancing became particularly popular in America in the 1970s. Line dancing **took off** in many other countries in the 1990s thanks to country hits such as Billy Ray Cyrus's "Achy Breaky Heart".

Morris dancing



Morris dancing is an English folk dance traditionally performed in spring. Dancers in white costumes and step together as a group, often using sticks or **swords** and waving handkerchiefs in the air. This type of dancing is mostly performed in rural areas of England.

Irish dancing



Irish dancing is a group dance made popular in 1994 by the "Riverdance" show. The dance is performed by kicking the legs quickly and precisely while maintaining the upper body still. Performers traditionally dance to Irish folk music.

Northern soul



The Northern Soul dance movement started in England in the 1960s. It was part of the **craze** for Northern Soul music, an American Motown style which was particularly popular in areas of northern England such as Manchester. This is an athletic style of dancing features spins, flips and backdrops.

Ballet dancing



Ballet is an originally French dance which has been performed for centuries. The dance is traditionally accompanied by classical music. One of the most famous ballet pieces is *Swan Lake*. Ballet is highly technical and it takes years to train. Ballet dancers must master moves such as the *fouette*, the *arabesque* and the *grand jeté*, which involves **doing the splits** in mid-air. flips and backdrops.

Salsa dancing



Salsa is a Latin dance which is performed by couples. Throughout the dance, the upper body remains more or less level while the **hips sway** from side to side. This is known as the "Cuban hip movement". Although the dance originated in the Caribbean, it is popular all over the world.

Tap dancing



Tap dancing is performed by dancers with metal soles on their shoes. This makes a distinctive tapping sound. There are no clear origins of tap dancing and various forms have been found in Africa, Ireland, England and the West Indies. Tap was popularised in the 1930s by Steve Condos, who brought his own **innovative** dance style to Broadway. This **paved the way for** famous tap dancers such as Fred Astaire in the 1940s and 1950s.

Break dancing



Break dancing is an urban dance style which originated in New York in the 1970s. The dance evolved among young people as a form of street entertainment. It is mostly performed to hip-hop music and involves a number of **gravity-defying moves** such as balancing on one hand. Break dancing became popular after being featured in music videos such as Run DMC's *It's Like That*.

Ballroom dancing



This type of dancing includes a number of different styles from the waltz to the cha cha. Dances can be either slow or **upbeat**, but they are always performed in pairs. Two of the most famous ballroom dancers Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, who gave ballroom dancing a touch of Hollywood glamour in the 1930s. Ballroom dancing has made a comeback in recent years as a result of a number of reality TV shows.

How to dance

Do you want to dance like a pro? Follow our simple guide and you'll soon be spinning through the air.

Pay for dance classes or **hire** a personal dance instructor.



Rent a few dance movies or instructional DVDs and copy the moves. Pay attention to the dancers' body alignment, posture and technique.



Film yourself. You'll soon see where you're going wrong and how you can improve.

Perfect your posture! Stand up straight, push your shoulders back and hold your head up high. Be a proud dancer! And remember to relax – if your body is tense, you'll move like a robot.



Do a bit of stretching every day to make your body much more flexible. After a few months, you'll be doing the splits in the air.

Wear the right shoes and clothing. That leotard or tutu may make you feel silly, but at least you'll be warm and comfortable.



Breathe carefully and consistently. Before starting, take a few deep breaths, and keep breathing as you dance (or you might die!).



Dance to music you like! There's no point dancing to songs you don't enjoy listening to.

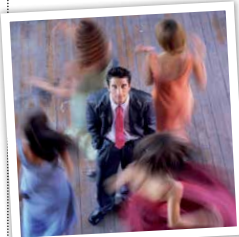


Smile! At least you'll appear to be having a good time.

Keep it simple. Avoid any complex dance manoeuvres until you've mastered advanced techniques.



Mix it up! Learn a variety of steps so you don't keep doing the same things.



Take the floor! Don't just stand on the side – get into the middle and show them your moves.

Keep it safe! Your number one objective should be to leave the dance floor in one piece. And when dancing with a partner, try to cause as little injury as possible.

Above all, have fun! Remember, dancing is supposed to be an enjoyable activity. 🍀



For an informative video on how NOT to dance, watch this video on YouTube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQG_Wfq3Qm8



And if all else fails, just watch this guy. He may not be a dance champ, but he certainly knows

how to enjoy himself.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hpJR-3gZDQ&feature=related>

GLOSSARY

- to perform** *vb*
to sing a song / play a piece of music, etc. in front of an audience
- a step** *n*
a dance movement with the feet
- to take off** *exp*
to become popular
- hips** *n*
the two areas at the sides of your body between the tops of your legs and your waist
- to sway** *vb*
to move gently from side to side
- swords** *n*
a weapon consisting of a long, sharp piece of metal and a handle
- innovative** *adj*
new and different
- to pave the way for** *exp*
if A "paves the way for" B, A creates a situation in which B can exist
- gravity-defying** *adj*
that involves flying in the air
- a move** *n*
a movement that forms part of a dance
- a craze** *n*
something that has become very popular
- upbeat** *adj*
exciting and rhythmic
- to do the splits** *exp*
to open your legs very far apart
- to hire** *vb*
if you "hire" someone, you give them a paid job to do

The controversial life of France's most famous fashion designer.



Coco Chanel

HER TRADEMARK SUITS AND LITTLE BLACK DRESSES BECAME POPULAR ALL OVER THE WORLD. SHE WAS A STYLE ICON AND FASHIONISTA, BUT COCO CHANEL BECAME AN OBJECT OF HATRED TO SOME.

Coco Chanel didn't have a glamorous start to life. She was born Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel on 19th August 1883, in Saumur, France. After her mother's death, Chanel was put in an **orphanage** by her father. She was **raised** by **nuns** who taught her how to **sew** – something which became useful to her in later life. Around the age of 20, Chanel started a relationship with Etienne Balsan who offered to help her start a **millinery business** in Paris. She left him soon afterwards for one of his even wealthier friends, Arthur "Boy" Capel.

With the necessary financial backing, Chanel opened her first shop on Paris's Rue Cambon in 1910. She started selling hats. Within a short period of time, she opened more shops in Deauville and Biarritz and began making clothes. Her first dress was made out of an old jumper. Many people seemed to like it and asked her where she got it from. "My fortune is built on that old jersey that I'd put on because it was cold in Deauville," she once told author Paul Morand.

In the 1920s, Chanel launched her first perfume, Chanel No. 5. It was the first time that a perfume had featured a designer's name. In 1925, she introduced the now world-famous Chanel suit. Her designs were revolutionary for the time. Above all, they were comfortable – gone were the days of restrictive **corsets**. Another 1920s revolutionary design was Chanel's little black dress. At the time, black was associated with **mourning**,

but Coco showed how **chic** black could be.

The international economic depression of the 1930s was bad for Chanel's business. But the Second World War changed everything for her. After the German invasion of Paris, Chanel closed her business. She **lay low** for a while, but later became involved with a German military officer, Hans Gunther von Dincklage who was stationed in Paris. Eventually, she got special permission to return to her apartment at the Hotel Ritz, where many other German officers were staying. It was there that she lived a life of luxury, while many others in her country suffered. After the war ended, she was interrogated, but not charged as a **collaborator**. Thousands of other French women had their heads **shaved** for collaborating. Chanel was allowed to go.

Coco Chanel
French fashion designer and founder of the Chanel fashion label. Born 19th August 1883. Died 10th January 1971. Some say her nickname comes from her times as a singer in clubs in Vichy and Moulins, where she was called "Coco". Others say it could be a shortened version of the French word "cocotte", which means "kept woman".



Many of her **compatriots** were unwilling to forgive her. They saw Chanel's relationship with a Nazi officer as a **betrayal**. Immediately after the war, Chanel left Paris and went to live in Switzerland. In 1954, she returned to Paris to launch a new collection, but it didn't have much success with Parisians, but was very popular with Americans. Chanel eventually died on 10th January 1971, at her apartment in the Hotel Ritz in Paris. Hundreds attended the funeral at the Church of the Madeleine... many of them wearing Chanel suits. These days, the company she founded continues to **thrive**. Coco lives on. ☺

Coco Chanel Quotes

"A fashion that does not reach the streets is not a fashion."

"Elegance is refusal."

"In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different."

"Success is often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable."

"Luxury must be comfortable, otherwise it is not luxury."

"Nature gives you the face you have at twenty; it is up to you to merit the face you have at fifty."

"Some people think luxury is the opposite of poverty. It is not. It is the opposite of vulgarity."

"Innovation! One cannot be forever innovating. I want to create classics."

"In fashion, you know you have succeeded when there is an element of upset."

Coco Avant Chanel (2009)

A French film about the life of the young Coco Chanel. Starring Audrey Tatou as Coco Chanel and directed by Anne Fontaine. The film ignores the controversial war years. There have been many films on the life of the designer, and even a Broadway musical (*Coco*, 1969) which starred Katharine Hepburn.



GLOSSARY

- an orphanage** *n*
a house for children who have no parents
- to raise** *vb*
to educate and care for a child
- a nun** *n*
a woman who belongs to a religious order and dedicates her life to religion
- to sew** *vb*
to make or repair clothing with a needle and thread
- a millinery business** *n*
a shop that sells hats
- a corset** *n*
a close-fitting clothing that women wear under their dresses
- mourning** *n*
if someone is in "mourning", a close friend/relative, etc. has just died
- chic** *adj*
fashionable
- to lie low** *exp*
to keep away from people; not to draw attention to yourself
- a collaborator** *n*
someone who helps their country's enemy
- to shave** *vb*
to take off all the hair with a knife
- a compatriot** *n*
someone who is from the same country as you or the person you are referring to
- a betrayal** *n*
an act of disloyalty; an act against your country
- to thrive** *vb*
to do very well

Fit for the 70s

1970s' lifestyle protects the planet.

1 Pre-reading

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

Read these statements about the 1970s. Which one of them is *not* true? Write T (true) or F (false).

- a) Elvis Presley died in 1977.
- b) Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first woman prime minister in 1979.
- c) The film *Star Wars* came out in 1977.
- d) Heavy metal rock music was born in the 1970s with groups such as Led Zeppelin.
- e) The punk rock movement started in the late 1970s.
- f) Bill Clinton was president of the US during the 1970s.
- g) People were slimmer in the 1970s than they are now.
- h) "Telephone Booth Stuffing" was popular. It consisted of trying to get as many people into a telephone box as possible.



2 Reading I

Think of as many positive and negative things about the 1970s as you can. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and complete the sentences.

- 1. Everybody is getting a bit _____.
- 2. People are eating _____ % more food than 40 years ago.
- 3. This has a cost in terms of _____.
- 4. The more you eat, the more you are contributing to _____.
- 5. In the 1970s, we ate _____.
- 6. People were much _____ in the 1970s.

4 Language focus *Less / Fewer*

Look at this extract from the article: "We ate less, we used the car less, and we walked more and did more exercise." We generally use "less" with uncountable things. For example, "There is less food here." And we use "fewer" with countable things. For example, "There are fewer people here." Complete the sentences with "less" or "fewer".

- 1. There was _____ snow here last year.
- 2. There are _____ glasses on this table.
- 3. We've got _____ money than we had last month.
- 4. This room has _____ chairs than the other room.

5 Discussion

- 1. What's your favourite decade from the 20th century? Why?
- 2. What do you think the best/worst things about the 1970s are?
- 3. If you could go back to any period in time, which one would it be? Why?

What images **come to mind** when you think of the 1970s? **Flared jeans**, disco music, **platform shoes**, Donny Osmond, Margaret Thatcher, Charlie's Angels, Starsky and Hutch? Environmentalists and health experts think that we should return to the "ways of the 70s". But why?

"The big difference between the 1970s and these days is that we're much larger now," explained Dr Phil Smith, a researcher at a London medical centre. Between 1994 and 2004, the **average body mass index (BMI)** for men in England increased from 26 to 27.3, with the average female BMI rising from 25.8 to 26.9, which equates to about 3 kg. "This is not really just about obese people; the distribution of the whole population is what's important," Dr Smith added. "Everybody is getting a bit fatter."

But is that really a problem? Yes, say health experts and environmentalists. For a start, **slimmer** people are far less likely to suffer from health-related complications. Worse still, **overweight** and **obese** people are using 19% more food than 40 years ago. This means more food production, more transport to get the food to the shops and, as a consequence, extra **greenhouse gas emissions**. "Every item of food and drink that you buy and consume has a cost in terms of energy," Dr Smith explained. "A heavy population eats more, consumes more and uses more **resources**, and is therefore responsible for emitting more greenhouse gases. It's simple really: the more you eat, the more you're contributing to **global warming**."

Things were different in the 1970s. We ate less, we used the car less, and we walked more and did more exercise. Far fewer houses had **central heating** and **air-conditioning**. Back then, if you were cold, you put on another jumper; and if you were hot, you **removed** a layer of clothing. People were also much slimmer. "We need to be doing a lot more to reverse the global trend towards fatness," Dr Smith added. "**Shifting** the population weight distribution back to that of the 1970s would do quite a lot to help the planet. In the 1970s we had bigger portions of vegetables and smaller portions of meat, and there's been a shift in the amount of exercise we do. All these things are combining to hurt the planet and this is a calculation that **deserves** a bit more attention." The message is simple: if we **get back** to the relatively slim, trim days of the 1970s, we could help stop climate change. Bring on the flared jeans! ☺

GLOSSARY

- to come to mind** *exp*
if something "comes to mind"; you think of it
- flared jeans** *n*
jeans that are narrow at the waist and wide at the bottom
- platform shoes** *n*
shoes with thick soles that make you appear taller
- average** *adj*
the usual/typical/normal number
- body mass index** *n*
a measurement of the relative percentages of fat and muscle mass in the human body
- slim** *adj*
not thin and not fat
- overweight** *adj*
a bit heavier/fatter than normal for your height/age, etc.
- obese** *adj*
very fat
- greenhouse gas emissions** *n*
gases that contribute to global warming
- resources** *n*
the minerals, water, oil, gas, etc. that belong to a country
- global warming** *n*
an increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere
- central heating** *n*
a system for making a building warmer
- air-conditioning** *n*
a system for cooling a building (making it colder)
- to shift** *vb*
to change / to move
- to deserve** *vb*
to merit; if you feel that A "deserves" B, you feel that A should be given B
- to get back to** *exp*
to return to

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1 Pre-reading

Match the reality shows (1 to 5) to their corresponding descriptions (a-e).

1. Survivor
2. American Idol
3. Big Brother
4. Strictly Come Dancing
5. Fear Factor



- a. Contestants live together in a house. Every week one of them is evicted.
- b. Contestants are faced with a series of challenges that test them mentally and physically. Anyone who is too afraid to complete the task is out.
- c. Celebrities are paired with professional dancers and compete in dance competitions.
- d. Contestants live on a remote island and complete tasks in exchange for food.
- e. Contestants sing and dance in front of a panel of judges.

2 Reading I

This article is about a reality show called *The Apprentice*. What do you think the show could be about? Look up a definition of the word "apprentice" if you need to. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. How long does the show last?
2. What went wrong when the contestant tried to sell the pizzas?
3. What happens to the winning team?
4. What happens to a member of the losing team?
5. Why was it a bad idea to try to hire out the Ferrari in the market?
6. What was the superhero Pantsman supposed to be promoting?

4 Language focus Inferring meaning from the context

Look at the following words and expressions from the article. Find them in the article and try to guess the meaning from the context.

1. Pitch an idea
2. Fire a candidate
3. Heated argument
4. Backstabbing antics
5. Notorious incident
6. To be pants (informal)
7. Straight-talking

5 Discussion

1. Have you seen any of these reality shows? Which ones do you like? Why?
2. What are the most popular reality shows in your country?
3. Why do you think reality shows are so popular?
4. Could you think of an idea for a reality show?

You're Fired!

A look at the UK's toughest reality show.



How far would you go to get your dream job? In the reality TV show *The Apprentice*, 15 candidates compete against each other to work with multi-millionaire Alan Sugar. But the competition is far from easy. Backstabbing, high pressure and ruthless decisions are all part of the deal.

Being on *The Apprentice* is like being on a 12 week job interview. The candidates are split into two teams and each week they are given a difficult business task to complete. The tasks are designed to test their skills in salesmanship, negotiation, leadership, teamwork and organisation. At the start of each episode, the teams each choose a project manager to act as the team leader for the duration of the task. And then they try to make some money.

The tasks are both varied and challenging. In one episode, the teams had to design a TV and print advertising campaign for Amstrad's new Jukebox music system. Then, they had to pitch the idea to potential buyers. In another episode, they had to sell pizzas at an Italian-themed stall at a London festival. That went disastrously wrong when they bought too many ingredients and made too few pizzas. In another episode, they had to buy British produce to sell at a French farmers' market. The plan was to buy some cheap cheese from a British supermarket and sell it off to unsuspecting French customers. It didn't work too well. In another episode, the participants had to design greetings cards with an environmental theme. One of the salespeople became over enthusiastic and told potential buyers that if they didn't buy the cards, they'd be damaging the environment.

At the end of each task, both teams are called into the boardroom to discuss things with Alan Sugar. Their performance is evaluated and the winning team is rewarded for their hard work. However, the losing team must explain what went wrong. Finally, Alan Sugar fires the candidate he believes is most responsible for the loss. The process continues over the weeks until Alan Sugar has only one candidate left, who will become his apprentice. In the boardroom, the candidates are often involved in heated arguments, especially when they have to defend themselves. One candidate, Michael Sophocles, became infamous for his backstabbing antics in Series Four. He continually blamed his colleagues for the team's losses. He was eventually fired after unsuccessfully trying to rent out an expensive Ferrari at Portobello Road market – a place where Londoners traditionally go for a bargain, not to spend large amounts of money.

A lot of the humour in the show comes from the contestants' stupid mistakes or silly ideas. One of the most notorious incidents was in Series Five. The teams were asked to design a cereal box for children. Arrogant contestant Philip came up with the idea of a superhero called "Pantsman", who wore his pants on the outside of his trousers. He also invented a Pantsman song and dance to accompany the promotion. Needless to say, executives were not impressed and concluded that the idea was, well, pants.

The show is also famous for Alan Sugar's cutting remarks. He's straight-talking and isn't afraid to tell the candidates exactly what he thinks of them. After firing one candidate who hadn't managed to sell anything, he said, "whoever employs him, better get a receipt". And he told another candidate that "there might be a village missing an idiot somewhere".

So, if you can deal with a hard-nosed boss, backstabbing colleagues and a great deal of embarrassment, why not apply for the next series? Who knows, you might become Alan Sugar's apprentice! 🍕



death

HERE ARE SOME MORE USEFUL AND INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS FOR YOU TO LEARN. THIS MONTH: DEATH.



Be dead and buried

TO BE FINISHED; TO BE ENDED COMPLETELY.
"As far as she's concerned, the matter is dead and buried."



It's do or die

PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THIS WHEN THEY ARE ABOUT TO TAKE A RISK IN ORDER TO AVOID A FAILURE.
"We've got to do something to save the company, and we've got to do it now. It's do or die."



Come back from the dead

TO BE POPULAR AGAIN AFTER A PERIOD OF NOT BEING POPULAR OR SUCCESSFUL.
"The singer has come back from the dead with his latest hit single."



Be alive and kicking

TO BE ALIVE, DESPITE ANY RUMOURS TO THE CONTRARY; TO CONTINUE TO BE ALIVE AND FULL OF ENERGY.
"I saw James last week – he's still alive and kicking."



Be a fate worse than death (often humorous)

TO BE THE WORST POSSIBLE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN.
"Having to work here alone when everyone else is on holiday is a fate worse than death."



Over my dead body

IF YOU SAY THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN "OVER YOUR DEAD BODY", YOU ARE SAYING THAT YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO PREVENT IT.
"If he thinks he's going to work here it'll be over my dead body."



Turn in your grave

IF YOU SAY THAT A DEAD PERSON WOULD "TURN IN THEIR GRAVE", YOU THINK THEY WOULD BE ANGRY IF THEY KNEW ABOUT SOMETHING.
"Bach would turn in his grave if he heard the way you just played that piece of music."

QUIRKY NEWS & CORNY CRIMINALS

quirky news

Cow Aversion

A radical solution to anti-social behaviour.

What's the best way to deal with vandals? Simple! Buy some cows. A local council had been receiving a number of **complaints** about **troublesome** youngsters in a park in Scotland. "It was terrible," explained Betty Booth, a resident from the area. "Those young kids rode onto the park with their motorcycles and **tore up** the surface and broke down **fences**. They threw things at the children and they even burnt a wooden **slide**. We called the police, but they couldn't do anything."



The council was **at a loss** until someone suggested using cows to **deter** the youngsters. Desperate for ideas, the council bought 8 cows and **let them loose** on the park grounds to **graze**. And it seems to have worked. "Since

the **cattle** were put in, the anti-social behaviour has **dropped** dramatically and the people using the park are much happier. I believe using cows really works," a member of the local council explained. The council are currently considering whether cows may be the solution to other sites with anti-social behaviour. ✨

Riddles

CAN YOU SOLVE THESE?



- How many letters are in the alphabet?
- What has one head, one foot and four legs?
- What has a **head**, a **tail**, is brown and has no legs? ✨

GLOSSARY

- a complaint** *n* if there is a "complaint" about something, people say bad things about it
- troublesome** *adj* "troublesome" youngsters break things, make a noise, have fights, etc.
- to tear up** *exp* if someone "tears up" a park, they destroy the grass and remove it from the ground
- a fence** *n* a wooden/metal/ plastic barrier to separate parts of land
- a slide** *n* an object in a park for children. They walk up it and sit and slide down it
- at a loss** *exp* if you are "at a loss", you don't know what to do
- to deter** *vb* to stop someone from doing something
- to let (an animal) loose** *exp* to let an animal be free in an area
- to graze** *vb* if an animal "grazes", it eats the grass or plants that grow there
- cattle** *n* a general term to refer to cows, bulls, calves, etc.
- to drop** *vb* to decrease
- in a bid to** *exp* in an attempt to
- to cut down on** *exp* to reduce
- to resort to** *exp* to use in an emergency or because there are no other options
- a photofit image** *n* a picture/image of someone who is wanted by the police
- a wanted criminal** *n* someone who the police want to talk to or arrest in relation to a crime
- a range of** *n* a selection of
- to fine-tune something** *exp* to adjust/change something to make it perfect
- to put together** *exp* to assemble; to create
- a caricature** *n* a drawing of someone with exaggerated features
- intended for** *exp* designed/created for
- a hit-and-run accident** *n* an accident in which a driver crashes into a person/car and drives away without stopping to help, etc.
- to post on** *exp* if you "post something on" a website/blog, you put it on that website/blog
- the head** *n* the part of a coin with the image of a person (a king/queen, etc.)
- the tail** *n* the reverse side of a coin that has no image of a person

Corny Criminals

Mii Photos

The police use a videogame program to help fight crime.

In a **bid to cut down on** expenses, the Tokyo police department has **resorted to** unusual measures. Instead of paying artists to draw **photofit images of wanted criminals**, they're using the computer program Wii. One feature of the popular console is "Mii". This allows users to create their own computer-generated character to use on the games. And it's easy to do. You simply select from a **range of** different face shapes, hairstyles, eyes, ears and other features and make an image of yourself. Then, you can **fine-tune** it by adjusting the clothing, size and expressions. You can **put together a caricature** in a question of seconds. It was originally **intended for** gamer users on Nintendo products such as Wii Sports and Wii Fit. But now the police are using it too. The police's first Mii was of a young man with long brown hair and sunglasses. He was wanted

for a **hit-and-run accident** in the south of the country. The image, along with a photo of the type of car involved, was **posted on** game blogs and websites. "Who needs sketch artists now?" a spokesperson for the police department said. "These Mii's are perfect." ✨



ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

QUIRKY NEWS, CORNY CRIMINALS & RIDDLES



IT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST EXPENSIVE CUP OF COFFEE IN HISTORY. IN 1992, STELLA LIEBECK WAS AWARDED MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN DAMAGES AFTER INJURING HERSELF WITH A CUP OF COFFEE. THE BIG QUESTIONS: HOW? AND WHY?

In 1992, Stella Liebeck was in the passenger seat of her car. She had just ordered a takeaway coffee from a McDonald's **drive-through restaurant**. Her grandson, Chris, parked the car so that Liebeck could add cream and sugar to the drink. But as she placed the coffee cup between her knees, she **spilt** the entire cup of burning hot coffee on her **lap**. Ouch!

Initially, Liebeck wanted to **settle out of court**. She demanded \$20,000 to cover her medical costs. However, the company offered just \$800, and refused to raise its offer. So, Liebeck contracted a lawyer, Reed Morgan. Morgan **filed suit** in a New Mexico District Court accusing the company of "**gross negligence**" for selling coffee that was "unreasonably dangerous". Morgan raised the amount to \$90,000, but the restaurant refused once again. Eventually, the case **went the trial**.

During the case, Liebeck's lawyers made some interesting discoveries. They found out that franchisees of the restaurant chain were being told to serve coffee at 82° to 88°C. At that temperature, coffee causes a **third-degree burn** in two to seven seconds. However, Liebeck's lawyer argued that coffee should never be served hotter than 60°C. After days of **deliberation**, the **jury** returned its verdict: guilty! They found that McDonald's was 80% responsible for the incident and Liebeck was 20% at fault. Although there was a **warning** on the coffee cup, the jury decided that the warning was neither large enough nor sufficient. They awarded Liebeck US\$200,000 in compensatory **damages**, which was then reduced to \$160,000. In addition, they awarded her \$2.7 million in punitive damages. However, the judge reduced the punitive damages to \$480,000. The decision was appealed by both McDonald's and Liebeck in December 1994, but the parties eventually settled out of court for approximately \$600,000. Liebeck died on 4th August 2004, at the age of 91 having enjoyed the most expensive cup of coffee in the world. ☺

Outrageous US lawsuits

Liebeck's case isn't unusual. Here are some more outrageous lawsuits.

Mrs Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma sued Winnebago for \$1.75 million after she crashed her **motor home** at 90 kph. At the time, she was making a sandwich in the back. She argued that the firm failed to inform her that you can't do this while the vehicle is set on **cruise control**.

Kara Walton, of Claymont, Delaware sued the owner of a nightclub for \$12,000 for falling out of a bathroom window at the club. At the time, she was trying to get in without paying.

Jerry Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded \$14,500 plus medical expenses after being bitten by a neighbour's dog. At the time, Mr Williams was in his neighbour's backyard shooting the dog with a **pellet gun**.

Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, won \$500,000 from the insurance company of a family whose home he burgled. Dickson got into the garage, but couldn't get out and was trapped inside for eight days.

Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles, California, won \$74,000 plus medical expenses for injuries to his hand. Truman had been trying to steal the **hubcaps** from his neighbour's car when the neighbour accidentally ran over Truman's hand.

Kathleen Robertson of Texas was awarded \$80,000 plus medical costs against the owners of a store when she broke her ankle after **tripping** over a running child. The child was her son. ☺



GLOSSARY

a drive-through restaurant *n*
a restaurant where you order food from your car

to spill *vb*
if you "spill" liquid, the liquid falls out of a container accidentally

a lap *n*
the front area of a seated person from the waist to the knees

to settle out of court *exp*
to agree to an amount for compensation with someone in private – not in a court of law

to file suit *exp*
to start a legal process against someone

gross negligence *n*
a serious failure to show care – this may result in injury to another party

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

a third-degree burn *n*
a very serious burn to the body caused by fire, a hot liquid, etc.

deliberation *n*
the time the jury are given to think about the evidence and make a decision

a jury *n*
the group of 12 people who decide if someone is guilty or innocent

a warning *n*
information about the danger of something

damages *n*
the amount of money received as a result of a legal trial

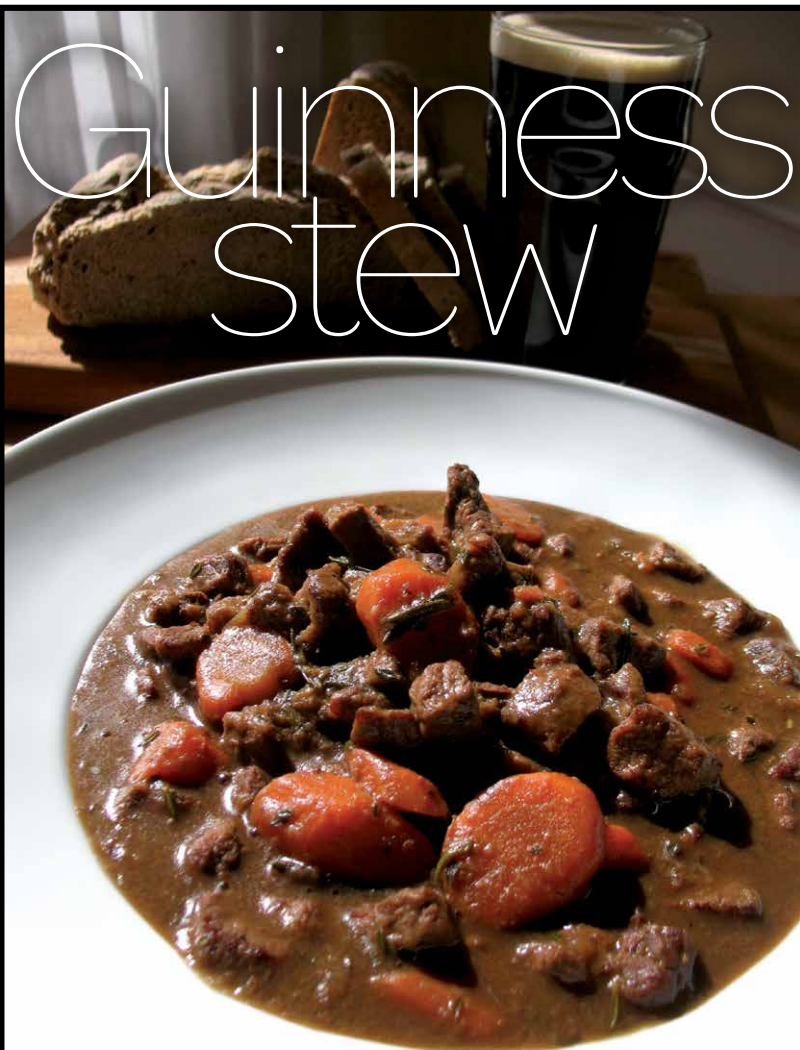
a motor home *exp*
a large vehicle that you can live/sleep/cook in

cruise control *exp*
a control setting on the vehicle that keeps the vehicle moving at a steady speed

a pellet gun *exp*
a type of rifle or pistol that shoots small pieces of metal

hubcaps *n*
a round metal covering over a wheel

to trip *vb*
if you "trip" over something, you hit that thing and fall



THE GUINNESS IN THIS STEW ADDS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL TO THIS DELICIOUS RECIPE. PERFECT FOR AN AUTUMN NIGHT AT HOME.

Ingredients

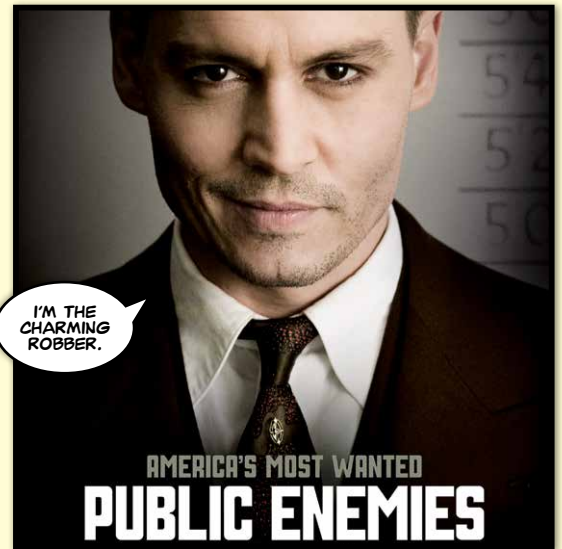
- 1 onion
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 stick of celery
- 2 carrots (chopped)
- A handful of mushrooms (sliced)
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 can/bottle of Guinness
- Beef stock (enough to cover the meat)
- Meat (in cubes)
- Cheese (grated)
- Pastry dough
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper



Method

Fry the onions in olive oil. Add the garlic, celery, carrots, mushrooms and meat and cook for five minutes. Then, add the beef stock, the Guinness and the flour and cook for about one hour until the liquid has been reduced.

Meanwhile, cover the inside of an oven or pudding bowl with pastry dough and pour. Then, when the food is ready, pour it into the bowl. Add the grated cheese on top and cover the top with layer of pastry dough. Put in the oven for about 40 minutes. Delicious! ✨



A film about American gangster John Dillinger.

1 Pre-listening

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

What do you know about these famous criminals? When did they live? What did they do?

- a) Jack the Ripper.
- b) Al Capone.
- c) Bonnie and Clyde.
- d) Robin Hood.
- e) John Dillinger.
- f) Lucky Luciano.



2 Listening I

John Dillinger was a famous gangster. Why do you think he was famous? What do you think he did? How do you think he died? Listen once to check your predictions.

3 Listening II

Listen again and answer the questions.

1. What does the film critic like about the film?
2. What did he think of Johnny Depp's performance?
3. Why was Dillinger so popular at the time?
4. What was he notorious for?
5. What happened to him in the end?
6. What score does the critic give the film?

4 Language focus Nouns & adjectives + prepositions

Look at this sentence from the conversation: "Dillinger was notorious for managing to escape from the police." The adjective "notorious" is used with the preposition "for". Here are some more adjectives and nouns that are followed by the preposition "for". Make 3 sentences with any of them.

famous for; reason for; need for; hope for; preference for; recipe for; respect for; sympathy for

5 Discussion

1. What's your favourite gangster movie? What's it about?
2. What makes gangsters so fascinating?
3. Are there any organised crime gangs in your country? What do they do?

DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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

Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
You can't decide about something.	I am in two minds as to whether to do it or not.	I'm not sure what to do.	I'm on the fence about it. 
You are reading an instruction manual. You do not understand it.	These instructions are bereft of meaning.	I don't understand it.	It's gobbledegook; It's all Greek to me.
You are hungry.	I am in need of some wholesome nourishment.	I'm hungry.	I could eat a horse; I'm starving; I'm famished
A friend had a large party last night.	He hosted a large gathering with entertainment.	He had a big party.	He had a bash.
You agree with what someone is saying.	I am in agreement with your ideas.	I agree; you're right.	Right on. 
You are jealous of your friend's incredible house.	I am most desirous of a place of abode that is similar to that one.	I'd love to have a house like that.	I'd kill for a house like that.

CHAT-UP LINES / PICK-UP LINES

(US English)

LET'S SEE IF YOU GET LUCKY.



- 1 Is your dad an alien? Because there's nothing else in this world like you!
- 2 Help the homeless! Take me home with you.
- 3 Was your father a thief? 'Cause someone stole the stars from the sky and put them in your eyes!
- 4 Excuse me if I'm wrong, but you don't want to kiss me, do you?
- 5 I looked up "beautiful" in the dictionary and your name was listed 😊



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9 unusual world records

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- Fun!
- Practical!
- Functional!
- Provocative!
- Helpful!

12 useful business words and expressions

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15 top tips for increasing your range of vocabulary!

11 ways that songs can help you learn English!

Vocabulary: at the concert

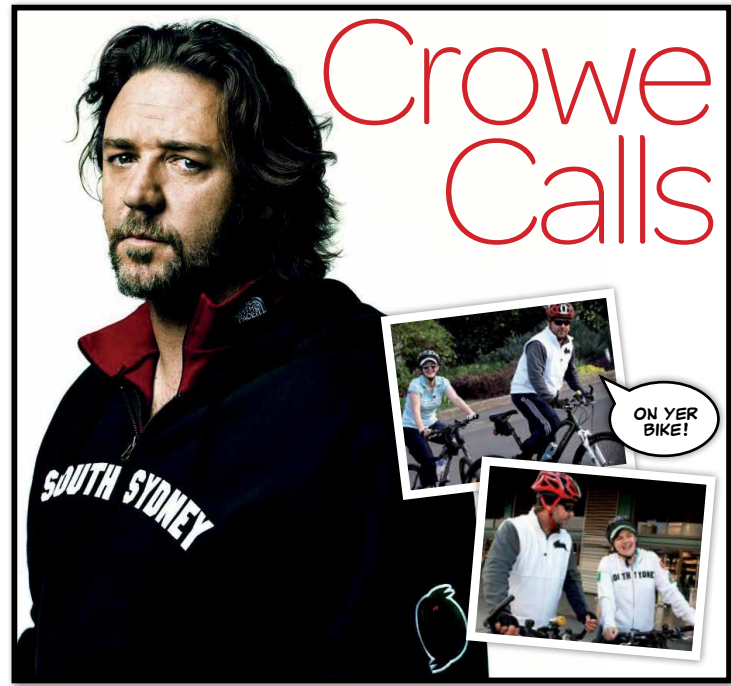
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Actor Russell Crowe challenges journalist to a race.



“When you make a living **throwing stones**, you expect that one day someone is going to **lob** one back. This was that day,” said Australian newspaper columnist Annette Sharp after she made fun of Crowe for smoking after exercising. In response, the actor (Crowe) **challenged** the writer (Sharp) to a race.

It all started with a bike ride. One day, Crowe was out cycling with his personal trainer. After a strenuous workout, they stopped for a rest. During the break, Crowe smoked a cigarette, ate some tacos and drank a soft drink. Reporters were there and took photos. Later, Ms Sharp wrote up a story for Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* under the headline, “Smokes and fatty foods – the fitness regime for **Rusty!**” Another day, another story, they thought. But the next day, Sharp received a phone call from Crowe's spokesman. “Get on your bike, Anette,” he said. “Russell wants you to go riding with him. Are you ready to die?”

The cycle ride, a 19.3km race through the city, wasn't easy. Video of the early morning duel shows Crowe **speeding along** with Ms Sharp **struggling to keep up**. Later, Crowe tells Ms Sharp she is a better cyclist than Australian film director Baz Luhrmann. At one point, Ms Sharp falls off her bike. “I was **sliding down** the track when I came off the seat and landed painfully on the **crossbar**,” she explained. “This was surely it. His victory moment, with me **sprawled** in the dirt. Yet he was gracious, concerned – the perfect gentleman as he rolled up my trousers to check my knee.”

Crowe is famous for his animosity towards journalists (despite having played one in the film *State Of Play*). During an interview he once criticised journalists for “trivialising the news” and emphasising things that are “known to be a lie.”

GLOSSARY

to throw stones *exp*
to insult or criticise people. This comes from the expressions, “People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones”

to lob *vb*
to throw (often with a high arc)

to challenge *vb*
if you “challenge” someone to a race/fight/competition, etc., you ask them to race/compete/fight, etc. with you

Rusty *n*
an abbreviated version of “Russell” – the actor's first name

to speed along *phr vb*
to move quickly along a path/track/road, etc.

to struggle to keep up *exp*
to have difficulties trying to go as fast as someone else

to slide down *phr vb*
to fall down in a smooth, continuous movement

a crossbar *n*
the horizontal piece of metal directly in front of you when you are on a bicycle

sprawled *adj*
lying with your arms and legs at different angles

LISTENING



A look at the life of British nurse Florence Nightingale (1820 - 1910).

1 Pre-listening

Match the heroes (1 to 6) to the photos (a-f). What do you know about them? Why are they considered heroes?

- Muhammad Ali
- Charles Lindbergh
- Mother Teresa
- Winston Churchill
- Princess Diana
- Rosa Parks



2 Listening I

You are going to listen to a conversation about a famous British nurse, Florence Nightingale. Why do you think she is famous? Why do you think she is “being revisited”? What could have happened? Listen once to check your ideas.

3 Listening II

Listen again and complete the sentences.

- She saved the lives of thousands during...
- She is certainly responsible for making the nursing service...
- She was born into a...
- Florence Nightingale was sent to...
- The standards of hygiene were...
- While she was there, death rates didn't drop, they...
- Many credit her with establishing...
- However, we shouldn't over-exaggerate her...

4 Language focus Prepositions

Look at this sentence from the conversation:

“She was indirectly responsible for their deaths...”

Notice how we use the preposition “for” with the word “responsible”.

Complete the expressions below with the correct prepositions.

- He was president _____ the Poor Law Board.
- She sprung _____ fame.
- The war was fought _____ Turkish territory.
- ...when she was back _____ England.
- It had an important impact _____ nursing.
- A statue is going _____ for her in London.

5 Discussion

- Who are the heroes in your country?
- Have you ever done anything heroic? Do you know anyone who has? What was it?
- What are the qualities of a hero? What makes a hero?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49



WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN 1995? WHERE WERE YOU? HOW OLD WERE YOU? WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER? JOIN US ON A LITTLE TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE TO 1995.

Monthly trivia 1995

January

- Austria, Finland and Sweden join the European Union.
- Valeri Poliakov completes 366 days in space aboard the Mir space station, breaking all previous records of duration.

February

- Steve Fossett becomes the first person to make a solo flight across the Pacific Ocean in a balloon.
- The UK's oldest investment bank collapses after **broker** Nick Leeson loses \$1.4 billion on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

March

- Yahoo is founded in Santa Clara, California.
- The Schengen Agreement comes into effect, **removing** many of the **border** controls and making it easier for people to travel between European countries. Most countries sign up... except the UK, of course.

April

- More than 150 people are killed in a massive explosion that becomes known as the Oklahoma City Bombing. Timothy McVeigh and an **accomplice** set off the bomb which is designed to "inspire revolt against a tyrannical federal government".
- The last Chevrolet Corvette ZR-1 car **rolls off** the **assembly line**.

May

- Jacques Chirac is elected president of France.

- The Norwegian group Secret Garden win the 40th Eurovision Song Contest with their song "Nocturne".

June

- French President Jacques Chirac announces the resumption of nuclear tests in French Polynesia. Bring on the radiated dolphins!
- A **department store** in South Korea collapses killing more than 500 people.

July

- In the US, Chicago and Milwaukee set all-time records for high temperatures. Hundreds die as a result.
- After a 30-year career, The Grateful Dead **perform** their last concert.

August

- People in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo and Washington DC mark the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb.
- Microsoft release Windows 95.

September

- The DVD is born.
- eBay is founded.
- The trial against former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti begins. He is accused of having Mafia connections.

October

- OJ Simpson is found **not-guilty** of double murder for the deaths of his former wife (Nicole Brown Simpson) and Ronald Goodman.
- Quebec's independence

movement narrowly loses a referendum for a mandate to negotiate independence from Canada. For the time being, Canada remains intact.

November

- The Dayton Agreement is reached, officially ending the Bosnian War.
- The first ever full-length computer-animated film (*Toy Story*) is released.

December

- In the UK, the lowest ever temperate of -27°C is recorded in the Scottish Highlands. Poor Scots!
- The last Calvin and Hobbes cartoon strip is published.

Famous films of 1995

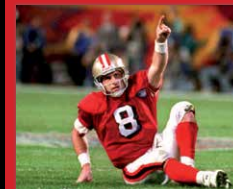
- *Toy Story*
- *Die Hard with a Vengeance*
- *Golden Eye*
- *Pocahontas*
- *Batman Forever*
- *Apollo 13*
- *Se7en*
- *Casper*
- *Jumanji*
- *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*

Albums released in 1995

- "Post" Bjork
- "Mellon Collie and the Infinite" Smashing Pumpkins
- "(What's the Story) Morning Glory" Oasis
- "The Great Escape" Blur
- "Jagged Little Pill" Alanis Morissette
- "Exit Planet Dust" The Chemical Brothers ☆

Sports Trivia

- The San Francisco 49ers win Super Bowl XXIX after beating the San Diego Chargers 49-26.



- Norway beat Germany 2-0 in the FIFA Women's World Cup
- Ajax beat AC Milan 1-0 in the final of the Champions League.
- Finland win the ice hockey world championship.
- South Africa win the Rugby World Cup after beating New Zealand.



Football Trivia

- The following teams win in their respective football leagues (1994-1995): Blackburn Rovers (England), Nantes (France), Real Madrid (Spain), Borussia Dortmund (Germany), Juventus (Italy), F.C. Porto (Portugal) and Ajax (Holland)



GLOSSARY

- a broker** *n*
a person who buys and sells shares/stocks on the stock market
- to remove** *vb*
to eliminate
- a border** *n*
an imaginary line that represents a division between countries
- an accomplice** *n*
someone who assists another person in a crime
- to roll off** *phrvb*
if A "rolls off" B, A leaves B in a smooth continuous movement
- an assembly line** *n*
an arrangement of workers, machines and equipment for creating a product
- a department store** *n*
a very large shop offering a variety of goods and services in separate departments
- to perform** *vb*
if a band "performs", they play music to an audience
- not-guilty** *adj*
innocent

TOWN IDIOMS

THIS MONTH, WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME "TOWN" IDIOMS. MORE NEXT MONTH.

TOWN IDIOMS



Go to town on something

IF YOU "GO TO TOWN ON SOMETHING" (SUCH AS A PARTY / CELEBRATION), YOU SPEND A LOT OF MONEY ON IT.
"They really went to town on their wedding. They spent more than £50,000 on it!"



Paint the town red

TO GO OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF IN THE EVENING DANCING, PARTYING, HAVING FUN, ETC.
"After they finished their exams, they went out to paint the town red."



Go out on the town

IF YOU "GO OUT ON THE TOWN", YOU GO OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF AT BARS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.
"She stayed at home while the others went out on the town."



Man about town

A SOCIABLE MAN WHO LIKES TO ENJOY HIMSELF GOING OUT TO FASHIONABLE PARTIES, ETC.
"He's a real man about town."



Talk of the town

IF SOMETHING IS THE "TALK OF THE TOWN", EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT BECAUSE IT'S SO GOOD.
"The new bar at the end of the street is the talk of the town."



Ghost town

A TOWN THAT USED TO HAVE A LOT OF LIFE BUT THAT'S NOW ABANDONED, ETC.
"The city was once a top spot for tourists, but since the war it's become a ghost town."

Why you should visit Cornwall!

St Ives: the jewel in the British coastline. By Emma Weinbren

1 Pre-reading

What do you expect to see in a coastal area? Match the words (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

1. Cove
2. Bay
3. Fishing village
4. Coastline
5. Beach
6. Waves
7. Cliff
8. Dunes



2 Reading I

Cornwall is a coastal area in the south-west of England. What do you think it's like? What do you think you can find there? Think for a few minutes, then read the article once to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Write words to describe each place or thing from the article.

1. The town of St Ives.
2. The beaches in the St Ives area.
3. The Eden Project.
4. The Tate Modern.
5. A Cornish cream tea.
6. The Minack Theatre.

4 Language focus

Adjectives + prepositions

Look at this sentence from the article: "If you aren't accustomed to the cold..."

This contains an adjective (accustomed) followed by a preposition (to). Complete these expressions with the correct preposition, then make a sentence for each one.

1. Satisfied _____
2. Disappointed _____
3. Delighted _____
4. Grateful _____
5. Shocked _____

5 Discussion

1. Have you ever been to Cornwall? Would you like to go? Why? Why not?
2. What's your favourite coastal area in your country? Why do you like it?
3. What environmental dangers do coastal areas face? What can be done to protect them?



"Cornwall again?" As a teenager, this was how I reacted to the prospect of yet another holiday in the Cornish town of St Ives. While my friends were happily sunning themselves in the Caribbean or other far-flung destinations, I felt hard done by, finding myself left behind in gloomy old England. However, I soon came to love the place. It may not have the tropical climate of the Caribbean, or the warm waters of the Mediterranean, but Cornwall, nonetheless,

has a lot to offer. The town of St Ives is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty and is home to quaint cobbled streets, beautiful beaches and a rich cultural offering.

British beaches have acquired a bad reputation over the years. The British seaside conjures up images of tacky piers, rainy days and dilapidated hotels. But the beaches in the St Ives area of Cornwall boast long stretches of golden sand and crystal clear water. And not a tacky pier in sight. Not only this, but Cornwall also has the warmest climate in England and the highest number of sunshine hours. All this allows you to sunbathe in swimwear without suffering from goose bumps, mild hypothermia or whiplash from a fierce wind. A word of warning, though. Although the weather is warm, don't be deceived into thinking that the sea water is too. If you aren't accustomed to the cold, a quick dip in the icy waters will literally take your break away. After some traumatic incidents during my teenage years, I would only recommend swimming in the British sea to either the very brave or the completely insane.

It's easy to see how St Ives has become so beloved. The town has won awards for its gardens, which, thanks to the mild climate, are able to sustain both native and sub-tropical plants. In fact, it's sometimes difficult to believe you're in England when you're surrounded by the bright, exotic flowers and palm trees. Only a few kilometres away is the world-famous Eden Project (one of the UK's top visitor gardens). From the outside, the futuristic white domes may look a little strange against the natural Cornish landscape. However, the inside is even more surprising. Underneath the shelter of the domes, the designers have managed to create both a rainforest and a Mediterranean environment. You can find everything from tropical chilli plants to the "carnivorous" Puya plant, which can grow up to 3 metres tall. But if you're looking for something a little more rugged and a little less artificial, Cornwall has a number of breathtaking coastal walks. The dramatic coastline provides the perfect setting for a spectacular backdrop to a long-distance hike, punctuated by frequent visits to the pub along the way. With spectacular soaring cliffs and secluded coves, it's hard not to fall in love with the scenery.

But if the weather doesn't allow for outdoor activities, there's plenty to do besides. The town itself is full of places to explore. The quaint cobbled streets house a number of quirky and interesting shops. You can buy freshly-baked bread at the local bakery, browse the specialist hobby shops, or simply enjoy a coffee at one of the town's cosy cafés. And no visit to Cornwall would be complete without a Cornish cream tea. As many locals will testify, there are few things better than a warm scone served with fresh clotted cream and homemade jam. You should also try the local food, especially the seafood.

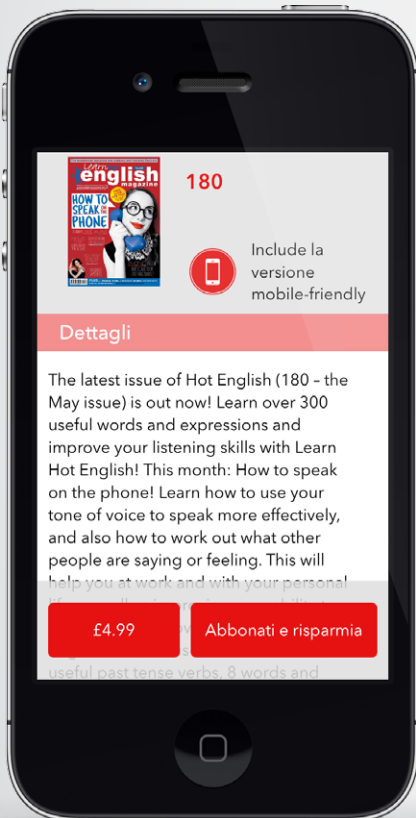
Looking for a bit of culture? There are plenty of cultural places to visit. The Tate Modern is the most famous museum in St Ives. The gallery has a selection of international contemporary art and the exhibits are sometimes highly controversial. The Minack Theatre is perhaps less famous, but no less interesting. This outdoor theatre was constructed in the 1930s and is an impressive sight, with a carved stone stage and seats as well as landscape gardens. Actors often perform classic plays and there are sometimes even operas. It recently won an *Enjoy England* award for excellence as a tourist attraction.

So don't be put off by the British seaside's reputation: give St Ives a try. With its unique scenery, picturesque town centre and numerous places of interest, it truly has something to offer. 🍷

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Five-Star Reviews

Online buying and misleading comments.

1 Pre-reading

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

Read the two user reviews below. Which one do you think is fake? Why? What makes you think so?

The Masked Rider by Horsham Philips

★★★★★

This book is fantastic. Buy it! It's a great read. The quality of the writing is superb, and the illustrations are beautiful. I would recommend it to everyone.

★★★

I bought this book for my husband for his birthday and I read it too. I am a big fan of Horsham Philips, but I feel this book isn't quite up to his usual standard. It starts off well, with an interesting story line, but towards the middle it tends to drag a bit. However, I must say the ending was rather surprising, and I was glad that I made it to the end. Not one of his best, but worth it if you're a fan.

Comment (1) | Permalink | Was this review helpful to you? Yes No [Report this](#)



With the ever-increasing popularity of online shopping, **users reviews** are becoming more and more important. Given that you can't actually touch, see, smell or hear the product you're buying online, these forms of public **feedback** provide valuable information on the product itself. But how far can you trust them?

Sybil Mathews was the victim of a **fake** user review. "I was planning a holiday to Sardinia, Italy and was looking for a hotel.

So, I decided to browse through a holiday website. We read three reviews giving **glowing praise** to this hotel in central Sardinia, so we decided to book a few nights there. However, when we got there, it was horrible – really dirty, expensive and nothing like the one described on the website."

2 Reading I

How do you think you can spot a fake user review? Think of as many ideas as you can. Then, read the article to check your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. Why did Sybil Mathews read the user review before going on holiday?
2. Why was Barnaby Bicken disappointed with the restaurant he went to?
3. What are the best things to look out for when it comes to user reviews?
4. What did one publishing company offer?
5. What do Amazon do if a customer reports a review?
6. Who are TripAdvisor relying on to help them detect fake reviews?

4 Language focus

Verbs + prepositions

Look at this sentence from the article: "The best thing is to look for reviewers who demonstrate some relevant knowledge of the product they are reviewing." Notice how the preposition "for" combines with the verb "to look". Complete these expressions with the correct prepositions. Then, read the article again to check.

1. Browse _____ a website
2. Submit a review _____ a website
3. Start _____ doing something
4. Watch out _____ something
5. Relate something _____ another thing
6. Take something _____ (remove)

5 Discussion

1. Do you read user reviews before buying things? Why? Why not?
2. Have you ever written a user review? What was it for?
3. Do you think user reviews are useful? Why? Why not?

Barnaby Bicken had a similar experience. "I took some important clients to a restaurant in Manchester that had excellent reviews on a food website. However, the service was awful and we were ignored most of the time. Later, I wrote a review and **submitted** it to the same site only to be told that the review site owner would not accept any 'bad' reviews – only the good ones. Yet nowhere did he say this on the site."

So, how can you **spot** a fake user review? Web expert Hilary Saunders has a few top tips. "If there are only a few reviews of a place, there is a good chance they've been planted by friends or **foes**. If there are many reviews, start by **dropping** the most extreme comments. **Stay well away from** things such as 'Go here, it's great!' or 'Buy this! It's cheap and works! 'Also, watch out for similarities in style between reviews from people with different usernames, particularly if those reviews were placed about the same time. And finally, watch out for a sudden **wave of** five-star reviews after a run of lower **ratings**. The best thing is to look for reviewers who demonstrate some relevant knowledge of the product they are reviewing. Those who can justify their comments by relating them to aspects of the product are usually the genuine ones."

Some companies seem to be contributing to the problem. Just recently, a publishing giant offered **gift vouchers** to anyone who would give their textbook a five-star review. But not all online vendors are so cynical. "Amazon works hard to maintain the integrity of its customer reviews," said a spokesperson for the company. "We have very clear guidelines, and when a customer reports a review that they feel is inappropriate, we investigate, and may (or may not) **take it down**."

And a spokesperson for the travel reviews website TripAdvisor said, "Every review is screened prior to posting and a team of quality assurance specialists investigate suspicious ones; we have proprietary automated tools that help identify attempts to **subvert the system**; and our 25 million monthly visitors also help police our content."

So, next time you see that 5-star review for something you want to buy, beware – it could be the work of a fake reviewer! ❗

GLOSSARY

a user review *n*
comments about a product/service, etc. by a member of the public who has bought/used the product/service

feedback *n*
criticism

fake *adj*
not real

glowing praise *n*
extremely positive comments

to submit *vb*
if you "submit" a comment, you send it

to spot *vb*
to notice

a foe *n*
an enemy

to drop *vb*
to delete; to eliminate

stay away from *exp*
to avoid; not to go near

a wave of something *exp*
a series of something

ratings *n*
figures that show how well something is doing

a gift voucher *n*
a certificate with a monetary value on it that can be exchanged for goods

to take something down *exp*
to remove something; to take something off a website

to subvert the system *exp*
to do something corrupt/dishonest, etc. for personal gain

PHRASAL VERB THEMES



Time

THIS IS THE SECOND PART OF OUR MINI-SERIES ON TIME.

PHRASAL VERB THEMES

TAKE YOU BACK
IF SOMETHING "TAKES YOU BACK" TO A CERTAIN TIME, IT REMINDS YOU OF THAT TIME.



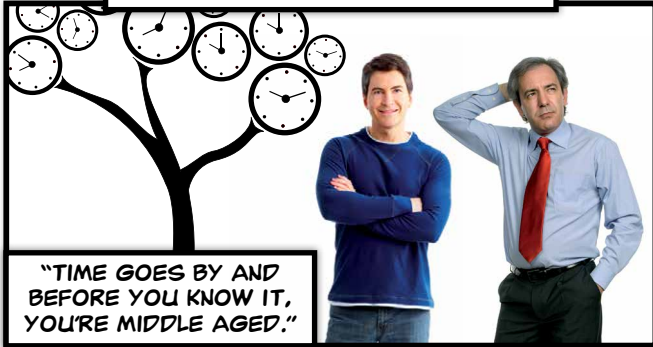
"THIS FILM TAKES ME BACK TO MY TIME IN HONG KONG."

THINK BACK
IF YOU "THINK BACK" TO A TIME IN THE PAST, YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME.



"THINKING BACK, I WISH I'D LEARNT TO TYPE WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL."

GO BY
IF TIME "GOES BY", IT PASSES.



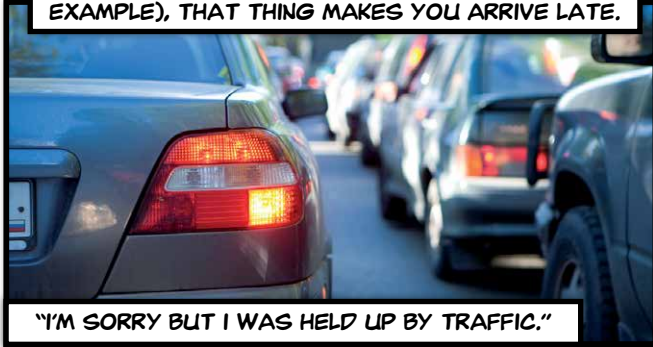
"TIME GOES BY AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE MIDDLE AGED."

HOLD SOMEONE UP
IF YOU "HOLD SOMEONE UP", YOU CAUSE THEM TO ARRIVE LATE.



"CAN YOU GET A MOVE ON PLEASE? YOU'RE HOLDING US UP!"

BE HELD UP
IF YOU'RE "HELD UP" BY SOMETHING (TRAFFIC, FOR EXAMPLE), THAT THING MAKES YOU ARRIVE LATE.



"I'M SORRY BUT I WAS HELD UP BY TRAFFIC."

HURRY UP
IF YOU TELL SOMEONE TO "HURRY UP", YOU TELL THEM TO BE QUICKER - OFTEN BECAUSE YOU'RE LATE.



"HURRY UP! WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR THE FILM."

DRAG ON (A FILM, ETC.)
IF SOMETHING "DRAGS ON", IT CONTINUES FOR TOO LONG AND BECOMES BORING.



"THE FILM WAS SO BORING. IT DRAGGED ON FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS."

KEEP UP WITH SOMEONE
TO STAY AT THE SAME LEVEL AS SOMEONE.



"IF YOU'RE FINDING IT HARD TO KEEP UP, STOP AND HAVE A REST."

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50th anniversary!

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COVER FEATURE

STAY MOTIVATED WITH THESE QUOTES!

Studying a language is never easy. There are times when you'll feel frustrated because you don't seem to be making any progress. But you've got to keep going and remember that language acquisition is a long, slow process with lots of ups and downs. Above all, it's important to have a positive, can-do attitude. These famous quotes should help keep your spirits up. [Complete the quotes with the verbs from below. Then, listen to check your answers.]

try set making returns make see want end do put

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'."
(Audrey Hepburn (1929-1993), actress)

"Either I will find a way, or I will die."
(Phillip Stiller (1554-1586), soldier)

"If you can dream it, you can do it."
(Walt Disney (1901-1966), cartoonist)

"You are never too old to dream another dream."
(CS Lewis (1898-1963), novelist and poet)

"Always do your best. What you do your best, you will succeed."

January 2015 issue

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Details

18 quotes to help you learn English! 13 top tips on how to improve your spoken English. 12 useful words and expressions

FAVOURITE CITY  **TRACK 06** 

People talk about their favourite cities.

Good morning and welcome to Travel Today. On today's programme we've asked people to name their favourite cities and tell us what it is that makes them so special.

Person 1

My favourite city is Toronto in Canada. It's most famous for the CN Tower, which is over 500 metres tall. Lots of tourists go there to stand on the glass floor. It's great – you can see everything below you, but it's a really strange feeling. There's also great nightlife in Toronto. There are lots of different bars and clubs in the centre. Toronto is also close to the Niagara Falls. Most people who visit Toronto spend at least a day there. I think it's one of those things you have to see – it's incredible.

Person 2

For me, the best city in the world has to be Dubai. Fifty years ago, there was nothing there – just desert, but now it's a new busy city. All the buildings are really modern and there are lots of skyscrapers. At the moment, they're building the Burj Dubai, which will be the tallest building in the world – 818 metres high. Another great thing about Dubai is that it's got beautiful beaches. It's hot there all year round, so you can go to the beach anytime!

Person 3

My favourite city is London. There's such a great atmosphere and there are so many different areas. Knightsbridge has all the posh shops like Harrods, but there are also lots of interesting markets, such as Camden, if you want something less expensive. Another thing I like about London is visiting all the different locations from films. Many famous films are set in London such as Notting Hill, James Bond and Bridget Jones's Diary. You can go and see what they're like in real life. I really like the London Eye, too. It's a giant wheel that takes you high up. You can see most of the city from the top.

Person 4

Vienna is the best city I've ever visited. Everything's so pretty there and it's got some of the most beautiful buildings in the world, such as the Belvedere Palace and the National Theatre. It's also got a lot of culture. Many famous composers lived in Vienna so music is a big thing there. There's a huge concert house where they have classical music concerts, and you can see the famous Vienna boys' choir. There's nowhere else like it in the world.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS  **TRACK 08** 

Dealing with customer service departments.

Automated Voice: Welcome to IT City. To help us deal with your call as quickly as possible, please select one of the following

options. Press 1 if you'd like to place an order. Press 2 if you'd like to change your order. Press 3 if you'd like to cancel your order. Press 4 if you'd like to make a payment. Press 5 if you'd like to change your details. Press 6 if you have a technical problem. And press 7 if you'd like to speak to our customer service department.

Automated Voice: Thank you. To help us deal with your technical problem, please select one of the following options. Press 1 if you're having problems connecting to the internet. Press 2 if your screen has frozen. Press 3 if you're having difficulties installing new software. Press 4 if your computer is running slowly. Press 5 if you'd like to speak to someone in the technical services department.

Angela: Hello, and welcome to IT City. My name is Angela. Could you please confirm your user number, please?

Roger: Yes, my user number is: 00228894.

Angela: And could you please confirm your name and the first line of your address, please?

Roger: Yes, it's Roger Williams. 14 Holly Drive.

Angela: OK, thank you. How can I help you today, Mr Williams?

Roger: Well, I bought a computer from IT City and it started to go wrong. I turned on the computer and used it for a couple of hours. Then, I switched it off again. But when I tried to turn it on again about 20 minutes later, it wouldn't come on. I kept pressing the button but it just wouldn't switch on.

Angela: OK. And when did you buy the computer, Mr Williams?

Roger: Yesterday.

Angela: Mmm... and you said the computer was working at first?

Roger: Yes, that's right. There weren't any problems at first, but as soon as I switched it off, it stopped working when I tried to turn it on again. I don't know why because I didn't move it or drop it or anything like that.

Angela: Did you spill any coffee or other liquids on it?

Roger: No, of course not.

Angela: OK. I'm afraid you'll have to speak to our customer service department. Could you call again, please, and select the option for the customer service department – press option 7.

Roger: Call again? Can't you transfer me?

Angela: I'm sorry but our internal telephone transfer system isn't working at the moment. I do apologise for the inconvenience. Goodbye and have a nice day.

PUBLIC ENEMIES (track 15)

A new film about American gangster John Dillinger.

Presenter: Today on Movie Moments we're talking about the latest gangster film, Public Enemies, which stars Johnny Depp as tough American gangster John Dillinger. Our very own film critic Sean Roberts went to see the film yesterday – so what's your verdict, Sean?

Sean: Well, I love gangster films, and this one had it all for me: action, suspense and a bit of romance in there as well. And of course, Dillinger is a very interesting character.

Presenter: Yeah, I mean, that must be a really interesting role for an actor. What did you think of Johnny Depp's performance?

Sean: As always, Johnny Depp was great – it was a really convincing performance. Obviously this was a bit of a departure from his Pirates of the Caribbean role – you won't have many children watching him in this one – but he does it really well. You really believe in him and he gets the mixture of charm and danger just right.

Presenter: Yeah, because from what I heard, Dillinger had two sides to him, right?

Sean: Yes, exactly. On the one hand, a lot of the public loved him – he was kind of regarded as the Robin Hood of his day. At the time, it was the Depression and people were angry at the banks for causing the situation – something we can probably sympathise with now – so Dillinger was like a local hero, robbing from the rich and greedy. He definitely had a lot of charm about him. But on the other hand, he was extremely dangerous and ruthless – he and his gang killed several civilians and police officers.

Presenter: Right. And the police had a hard time catching him, didn't they?

Sean: They really did – Dillinger was notorious for managing to escape from the police. It took several attempts to catch him. He even managed to escape from a jail they claimed was "escape-proof". He was on the run for a long time before they finally got him.

Presenter: So, how did they manage to catch him in the end?

Sean: Well, Dillinger was declared "public enemy number one". The guy had a lot of public support, so the police wanted to undermine that. They also got one of the best FBI agents on the case, Melvin Purvis. He was the one who led the final operation when Dillinger was killed.

Presenter: What exactly happened?

Sean: Basically, they were given a tip-off

that Dillinger was in the Biograph Theatre watching a film. The police staked out the cinema and waited for Dillinger to come out. He tried to run away but it ended up in a gun fight and Dillinger was shot three times. They called an ambulance but Dillinger was already dead.

Presenter: So, he died young, didn't he?

Sean: Yeah, he was only 31.

Presenter: Sounds like he had a dramatic life. So overall, how would you rate the film, Sean?

Sean: I'd give it a 9 out of 10. It's definitely the best thing in the cinema at the moment.

Presenter: Great. Thanks very much for coming in.

Sean: My pleasure.

HEROES REVISITED (track 18)

A look at the life of British nurse Florence Nightingale (1820 - 1910).

Becky: Hi, I'm Becky Wright. Welcome to the show. In today's programme, we're talking about heroes revisited. And here with me is Shane McBride. So, Shane, who's your hero?

Shane: Well, I'm going to be talking about my Florence Nightingale.

Becky: Oh, yes

Shane: As you know, for many years she's been seen as a sort of shining light in the field of nursing, and someone

who saved the lives of thousands during the Crimean War. It is true that she was a pioneering nurse who definitely helped improve conditions, and she is certainly responsible for making the nursing service a lot more professional. But the interesting thing is that, at the time, she didn't realise why so many soldiers were dying, and, some even claim that she was indirectly responsible for their deaths, although I do feel that's a bit harsh.

Becky: So, tell us something about her life.

Shane: Well, Florence was born on 12th May 1820 into a rich, upper-class family. Her dream was to become a nurse, but her parents weren't too pleased about this. However, eventually, they gave in. Florence soon became a campaigner for improved medical care for poor people, and worked together with Charles Villiers, who was president of the Poor Law Board. But she really sprung to fame during the Crimean War.

Becky: That was?

Shane: The Crimean War was a war between Britain and France on one side and Russia on the other side and it was fought on Turkish territory. It took place between 1853 and 1856. Anyway, on 21st October 1854, Florence Nightingale and a staff of 38 women volunteer nurses, trained by her, were sent to Turkey to the main British

camp. She worked in Scutari barracks, treating wounded soldiers. Medicine was in short supply, standards of hygiene were non-existent and mass infections were common. While she was there, death rates didn't drop – in fact, they began to rise. As a result, hundreds of troops died – mostly from disease. Interestingly, at the time, she believed they were dying because of poor nutrition, but it was actually the unhygienic living conditions that were killing them. She didn't understand this until later when she was back in England.

Becky: So, what is her legacy?

Shane: Well, there's no doubt that she had an important impact on nursing and health care. And many credit her with establishing the foundations for the modern nursing profession. However, we shouldn't over-exaggerate her contribution to improving conditions for soldiers during the actual war. There were many others working out there and really trying to improve the appalling conditions, including Jamaican British nurse Mary Seacole. For many years, her contribution wasn't fully acknowledged. But that's all changing now, and there's even a statue going up for her in St Thomas' Hospital in London.

Becky: OK. That's great. Thanks very much. Very interesting.

Shane: My pleasure.

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WORLD FACTS PAGE 4**1 Pre-reading**

1c 2b 3d 4c 5b

3 Reading II

1. The time the British drink tea in the afternoon.
2. The amount of tea the Chinese drink.
3. The amount of gold the Chinese produce.
4. The amount of coffee beans the Brazilians produce.
5. The GDP per head in Luxembourg.
6. The number of bottles of champagne the people in Guadeloupe drink.

4 Language focus

1. nicest; 2. highest; 3. tastiest;
4. most boring; 5. worst

MATCH THE WORDS PAGE 8

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

MUSICAL MANIA PAGE 10**1 Pre-reading**

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

3 Reading II

1. L; 2. L; 3. A; 4. A; 5. A; 6. L.

4 Language focus

1. He has got...
2. ...if you have got...
3. They are...
4. She is...
5. She has got...

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC PAGE 13

1. I am waiting at the bus stop.
2. The pen is on the table.
3. I put the picture on the wall.
4. The money is next to the book.
5. My house is close to the station.
6. The picture is at the top of the page.

FAVOURITE CITY PAGE 13**1 Pre-listening**

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

2 Listening I

1. Toronto.
2. Dubai.
3. London.
4. Vienna.

3 Listening II

1. London.
2. Dubai.
3. Vienna.

4. Toronto.

5. Dubai.

6. Toronto.

7. London.

8. Vienna.

4 Language focus

1. In; 2. To; 3. Of; 4. Of.

GRAMMAR FUN PAGE 14

1. Printer cartridge.
2. Driving licence.
3. Police officer.
4. Dining room.
5. Output.
6. Whiteboard.

A BRIDGET TOO FAR PAGE 15**1 Pre-reading**

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

3 Reading II

1. 3.

2. 1.

3. 3.

4. 2.

5. 2.

6. 1.

7. 2.

4 Language focus

1. The story picks up four weeks after...
2. Bridget Jones is becoming uncomfortable in her relationship...
3. ...and is arrested.

ANIMAL ALERT PAGE 16**1 Pre-reading**

1c 2a 3b 4e 5d

3 Reading II

1. More than 10 million.
2. More than 500 kg.
3. A former government minister and a vet.
4. Eighteen.
5. To protect their young.

4 Language focus

1. Serious injuries.
2. Animal expert.
3. Best advice.
4. English countryside.
5. Cracked rib.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS PAGE 18**2 Listening I**

The computer won't turn on.

1 Listening II

1. 3.

2. 6.

3. 1

4. 4

5. 00228894.

6. 14 Holly Drive.

7. Yesterday.

8. Phone again.

4 Language focus

1. I didn't buy it yesterday.
2. I didn't switch it on.
3. It didn't stop working.
4. I didn't keep pressing the button.

FIT FOR THE 70S PAGE 29**1 Pre-reading**

- f) Bill Clinton was president of the US during the 1970s.
FALSE

3 Reading II

1. Fatter.

2. 19.

3. The environment and health.

4. Global warming.

5. Less.

6. Slimmer.

4 Language focus

1. Less; 2. Fewer; 3. Less;
4. Fewer.

YOU'RE FIRED! PAGE 31**1 Pre-reading**

1d 2e 3a 4c 5b

3 Reading II

1. Twelve weeks.
2. They bought too many ingredients and sold too few.
3. They are rewarded for their hard work.
4. He/She gets fired.
5. Because it's a part of London where people go for a bargain.
6. A type of cereal for children.

RIDDLES PAGE 33

1. There are 11 letters in "the alphabet".
2. A bed.
3. A penny!

PUBLIC ENEMIES PAGE 35**3 Listening II**

1. All the action, suspense and romance.
2. He thinks it is very convincing.
3. Because he was regarded as a kind of Robin Hood.
4. Escaping from the police.
5. He was shot by police.
6. Nine out of ten.

HEROES REVISITED PAGE 38**1 Pre-listening**

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

3 Listening II

1. The Crimean War.
2. A lot more professional.
3. Rich, upper-class family.
4. Turkey, to the main British camp.
5. Non-existent.
6. Began to rise.
7. The foundations for the modern nursing profession.
8. Contribution to improving conditions for soldiers during the actual war.

4 Language focus

1. of; 2. to; 3. on; 4. in; 6. up.

CORNWALL PAGE 41**1 Pre-reading**

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

3 Reading II

1. Quaint cobbled streets, beautiful beaches and a rich cultural offering.
2. Long stretches of gold sand and crystal clear water.
3. A rainforest, a Mediterranean environment, tropical chilli plants, the Puya plant.
4. A famous museum with contemporary art.
5. A warm scone with fresh clotted cream and homemade jam.
6. A 1930s' theatre where they put on classic plays and operas.

FIVE-STAR REVIEWS PAGE 43**1 Pre-reading**

The first one is fake.

3 Reading II

1. Because she was looking for a hotel.
2. Because the user reviews were so good.
3. Reviewers who can demonstrate some relevant knowledge of the product.
4. A gift voucher for anyone who gave their textbook a five-star review.
5. They investigate it and may take it down.
6. The public.

4 Language focus

1. Through.
2. To.
3. By.
4. For.
5. To.
6. Down.

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WORD OF THE MONTH

GARDENING LEAVE



THIS MONTH'S WORD OF THE MONTH IS... "GARDENING LEAVE".

What would you do if you were suddenly given two months' **paid leave**? Apparently, most people in England would do some gardening.

Just imagine the situation. Carol (a fictitious employee) has just **resigned** from her job at a computer software company. Initially, the company are shocked as she's one of their top program developers. But then they start to worry. What if she helps the competition? What if she copies a client database and takes it with her? Carol still has 30 days to serve at the company, but now they don't want her in the office for security reasons. So, they inform her that is officially on "gardening leave" – still on the **payroll**, but not permitted to come into the office.

Basically, the term "gardening leave" describes the period of time when an employee (one who has just resigned or who has been **sacked**) still receives a **pay check**, but can't come into the office. "Gardening leave" is often given to employees who have occupied sensitive positions within the company – especially if they are leaving to join a competitor. But why "gardening"? Well, in the UK, gardening is a very popular pastime. So, the idea is that while you're sitting at home waiting for your contract to come to an end, you do a bit of gardening. Simple!

"Gardening leave" can also be given

to employees who are the object of an internal investigation or whose presence in the office is considered **counter-productive**. "Gardening leave" is often given to Formula One motor racing technicians who move between teams. If they say they are leaving, they are immediately put on "gardening leave" to stop them taking valuable information with them.

There was a famous case of "gardening leave" in the news several years ago. The story became known as the "Prescott affair". The man at the centre of the scandal was John Prescott – the **deputy prime minister**. Whilst in power, Prescott had a two-year extra-marital affair with one of his secretaries, Tracey Temple. Temple sold her story to a British newspaper and news of the affair became a big story. As a result of the publicity, Temple was put on gardening leave for two months. On her return to work, she was given a **low-key post** at the University of Westminster. ✪

GLOSSARY

paid leave *ns*
"leave" refers to a period of time during which you are on holiday. If it is "paid leave", you continue receiving your salary
to resign *vb*
to say that you are going to leave your job
the payroll *ns*
if you are on the "payroll", you are an employee who is receiving a salary
to sack *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job
a pay check *ns*
money that you receive for your job
counter-productive *adj*
that causes problems rather than solving them
a deputy prime minister *ns*
someone who becomes prime minister if the current prime minister is unable to perform his/her duties
a low-key post *ns*
a job that does not have many responsibilities

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Printerman

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ISSN 1577-7898

Depósito Legal M.14277.2001
November 2017

Published by Hot English Publishing, S.L.
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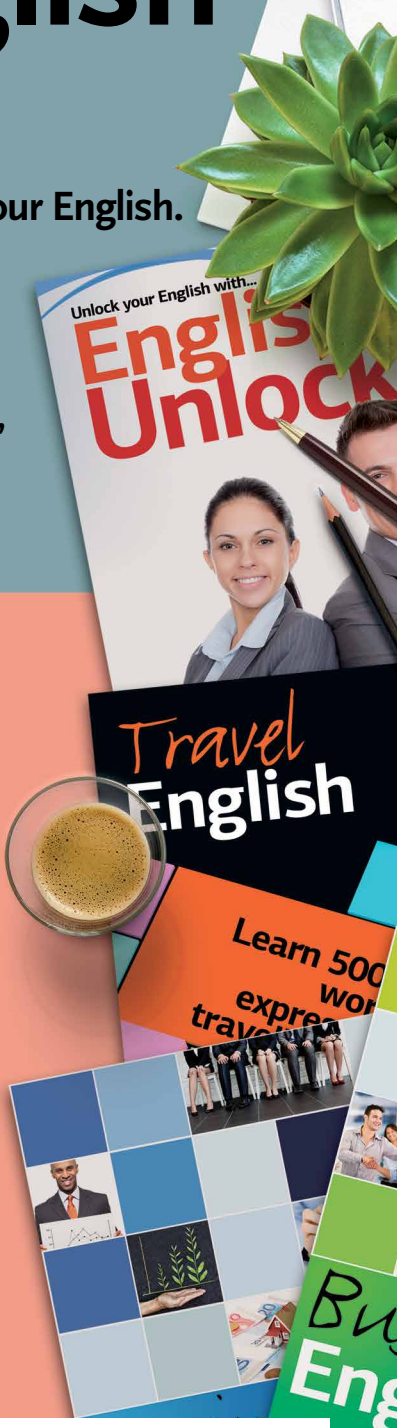
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