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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with *Learn Hot English* magazine

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, we're looking at how to learn difficult words. We've got six fantastic tips for you that will really help you learn new words. As part of this, we'll show you how to use images, sounds and other tricks to help you. Of course, that's not all, and we'll also be looking at some useful words for talking about getting to work, 12 useful words for talking about fruit, cocktails, plastic, writing, British food, strange weather, Cockney English 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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10



18



22



39

### Pre-Intermediate (CEF level: A2)

- 3 Editorial
- 5 The Ig Nobels TRACK 01
- 6 Name Game; & Story Time TRACK 02
- 8 Useful Vocabulary: Getting to work
- 9 Useful Verbs and Expressions: Getting to work
- 10 Wacky Wardrobes
- 11 Let's talk about... Fruit TRACK 03
- 12 Functional language: Websites TRACK 04
- 13 Error correction & Listening: Job Quiz TRACKS 05-6
- 14 Grammar Fun: So & Such

### Intermediate (CEF level: B1)

- 15 10 fun facts about cocktails!
- 16 Plastic Obsession TRACK 07
- 18 Learning words TRACK 08
- 20 Sherlock Holmes
- 21 Listening: Adverts TRACK 09 ; Photo Magic
- 22 Victorian Times
- 24 Victorian Whodunit
- 25 Conan and the Dead
- 26 Guy Ritchie & Jude Law

### Upper Intermediate (CEF level: B2)

- 28 Last Writes TRACK 10
- 29 Cockney English
- 30 Cockney Bankers
- 32 Vocabulary Clinic: Strange, Weird & Unusual People TRACK 11
- 33 Quirky News / Corny Criminals / Riddles TRACKS 12-14
- 34 English Pronunciation
- 35 Recipe: English Onion Soup; Listening: Office Problems TRACK 15

### Advanced (CEF level: C1)

- 37 Dictionary of Slang / Chat-up Lines TRACKS 16-17
- 38 Year in Review: 1997
- 39 Accent Alert / Listening: Complaints TRACKS 18-19
- 40 Idioms: Roads TRACK 20
- 42 Food revolution TRACK 21
- 44 Phrasal Verbs: The News TRACK 22
- 45 Subscriptions
- 47 Audio scripts
- 49 Answers
- 51 Word of the Month: Palindrome

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# The Ig Nobels

Awards for unusual scientific research.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

## 1 Pre-reading

You are going to read an article about some unusual scientific research. Look at the words below. What do you think the research is about?

bra gas mask beer bottles

tequila diamonds

pregnant women

cows names

Icelandic banks

## 2 Reading I

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

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and complete the sentences.

- Javier Morales won the \_\_\_\_\_ prize.
- He used a pressure vessel to make \_\_\_\_\_.
- Elena Bodnar won the \_\_\_\_\_ health prize.
- Katherine Whitcome wanted to know why \_\_\_\_\_ women didn't topple over.
- Catherine Douglas and Peter Rowlinson were awarded the \_\_\_\_\_ medicine prize.
- The peace prize went to \_\_\_\_\_ Bollinger.

## 4 Language focus Past tenses

Look at this extract from the article, "The chemistry prize went to Javier Morales..." The writer has used the past tense of the verb "to go" ("went"). Transform the following sentences from the Present Simple to the Past Simple.

- She wins the prize.
- They like the game.
- The judges choose the winner.
- They do some research.
- We don't know the answer.

## 5 Discussion

- Which piece of research is the most/least useful? Why?
- Have you heard about any unusual scientific research? What was it?



A **bra** that can be used as a gas mask. Smashing beer bottles over people's heads. How to turn tequila into diamonds. These are just some of the themes for this year's **Ig Nobel\*** prizes – the most bizarre scientific award ceremony in the world. And the winners are...



The chemistry prize went to Javier Morales from the National University of Mexico for his **research** into how to make diamonds from tequila. He used a **pressure vessel** to do this.

The public health prize was awarded to Elena Bodnar of Illinois, for **patenting** a bra that can be converted into a pair of gas masks. "It was inspired by the Chernobyl nuclear accident," said Bodnar, who is originally from the Ukraine.



The physics prize was awarded to Katherine Whitcome at the University of Cincinnati and colleagues. They looked into the question of why **pregnant** women don't **topple over**.

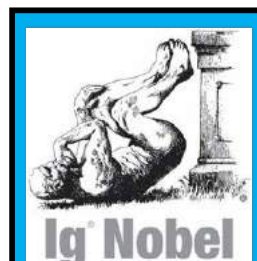
The veterinary medicine prize was awarded to Catherine Douglas and Peter Rowlinson of Newcastle University's school of agriculture. Their research showed that giving cows names such as Daisy increases their **milk yield**. "It's the **highlight** of my career," said Douglas. "The work **amused** the public, but it also addressed a serious issue about the **welfare** of animals."



The peace prize went to Stephan Bolliger and his colleagues from the University of Bern in Switzerland. They did experiments to discover whether it's more painful to hit someone on the head with a full beer bottle or an empty one. "Empty beer bottles are **sturdier** than full ones," the researchers reported.

And the economics prize went to the directors, executives and auditors of four Icelandic banks (Kaupthing bank, Landsbanki, Glitnir bank and Central Bank of Iceland) for demonstrating that **tiny** banks can be rapidly transformed into **huge** banks, and vice versa."

It's nice to think that this fascinating research is getting the attention it deserves! ☺



## Ig Nobels

The Ig Nobels are awards for unusual scientific research. The name of the competition (The Ig Nobels) forms an expression that sounds like the English word "ignoble", which is basically the opposite of "noble" (a "noble person" has excellent qualities of character, including honesty, generosity and selflessness).



## GLOSSARY

- a bra** *n*  
a piece of clothing women wear under their shirts/T-shirts, etc.
- research** *n*  
scientific investigation
- a pressure vessel** *n*  
a metal container (usually cylindrical) that can be put under great amounts of pressure
- to patent** *vb*  
to formally register an invention as yours
- pregnant** *adj*  
if a woman is "pregnant", she has a child in her
- to topple over** *phr vb*  
to fall (often because the top part is too heavy)
- a milk yield** *n*  
a cow's "milk yield" is the amount of milk it produces
- the highlight of something** *exp*  
the most important part of something
- to amuse** *vb*  
to make laugh
- welfare** *n*  
health, happiness and well-being
- sturdy** *adj*  
strong; not easily broken
- tiny** *adj*  
very small
- huge** *adj*  
very big

# THE NAME GAME

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

# STORY TIME

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



**Jane Fonda** (US actress)  
IF YOU ARE "FOND" OF SOMEONE, YOU LIKE THAT PERSON VERY MUCH.  
"I'm really fond of you."



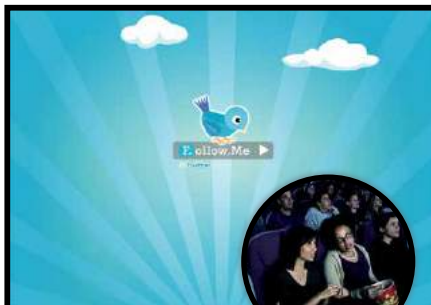
**Elizabeth Taylor** (British actress)  
A "TAILOR" IS SOMEONE WHO MAKES CLOTHES AS PART OF THEIR JOB.  
"I had this suit made by a tailor in Hong Kong."



**Jude Law** (English actor)  
A "LAW" IS A RULE OF CONDUCT ESTABLISHED BY CUSTOM, AGREEMENT OR A GOVERNMENT.  
"It's against the law to do that. If the police see you, they'll arrest you."



**Guy Ritchie** (English director)  
A "GUY" IS AN INFORMAL WORD FOR A MAN.  
"Do you see that guy over there? He's my brother."



**Twitter** (website)  
TO "TWITTER" IS TO SPEAK ABOUT SILLY OR UNIMPORTANT THINGS. LITERALLY, WHEN BIRDS "TWITTER", THEY MAKE A LOT OF SHORT, HIGH-PITCHED SOUNDS.  
"They were twittering excitedly about the new film."



**Stephen Fry** (English actor)  
IF YOU "FRY" FOOD, YOU COOK IT IN HOT OIL.  
"We fried the fish and roasted the vegetables."

## Doctor, Doctor

**Patient:** Doctor! Doctor! I think I'm invisible.

**Doctor:** Who said that?

**Patient:** Doctor! Doctor! I think I'm a **goat!**

**Doctor:** How long have you felt like this?

**Patient:** Since I was a **kid!**

**Patient:** Doctor!  
Doctor!  
I'm going to die in 51 seconds!

**Doctor:** I will be with you in a minute!



**Patient:** Doctor! Doctor! I think I'm a **needle!**

**Doctor:** Mmm... yes. **I see your point!**

## Master Shock

It's early one morning, and Michael goes to wake up his son for school. "Come on. It's time to get up!"

"I don't want to go to school."

"Just give me two reasons why you don't want to go," Michael says.

"Well, all the kids hate me for a start, and the teachers don't like me, either!"

"Oh, come on! That's no reason not to go to school. Get up and get dressed and I'll make you a nice breakfast."

"OK. You give me two reasons why I should go to school."

"Well," Michael explains, "for a start, you're 52 years old."

And secondly, you're the **headmaster.** ☺



## GLOSSARY

**a goat** *n*  
an animal about the size of a sheep with horns and a beard

**a kid** *n*  
two meanings: a) a baby goat; b) a young child

**a needle** *n*  
a sharp piece of metal for sewing (joining pieces of material together)

**I see your point** *exp*  
two meanings: a) I understand you; b) I can see the sharp end of the object you are holding

**a headmaster** *n*  
the male director of a school ("headmistress" is the female version)



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# USEFUL VOCABULARY

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VOCABULARY.  
THIS MONTH: GETTING TO WORK. ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

## 1 Match the words

Match the words below to the pictures.

1. Jacket
2. Shoes
3. Keys
4. Door
5. Train
6. Bus
7. Car
8. Underground train
9. Taxi
10. Colleagues



## 2 Wordsearch

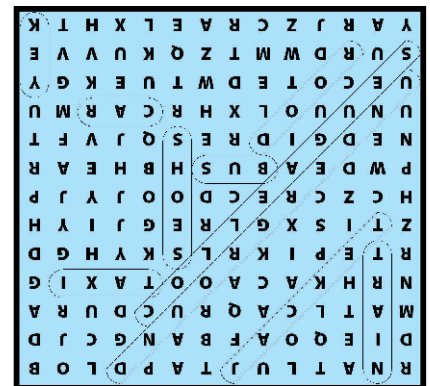
Now find these words in the wordsearch.

Jacket	Shoes
Key	Door
Train	Bus
Car	Underground
Taxi	Colleagues



## 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: GETTING TO WORK.

## DO UP YOUR SHOES

TO TIE THE LACES (THE STRING) ON YOUR SHOES SO THE SHOES DON'T FALL OFF.



DO UP YOUR SHOES BEFORE YOU GO OUT!

## LOCK THE DOOR

TO CLOSE THE DOOR WITH A KEY.



DID YOU REMEMBER TO LOCK THE DOOR?

**CATCH A TRAIN / BUS / UNDERGROUND TRAIN**  
TO TAKE A TRAIN / BUS / UNDERGROUND TRAIN IN ORDER TO GO SOMEWHERE.



I CATCH THE 8:30 TRAIN EVERY MORNING.

**GET TO WORK**  
TO ARRIVE AT WORK.



WHAT TIME DID YOU GET TO WORK THIS MORNING?

## GREET YOUR COLLEAGUES

TO SAY HELLO TO THE PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH.



SHE ALWAYS GREETS ME IN THE MORNING.

## HAVE A CHAT WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

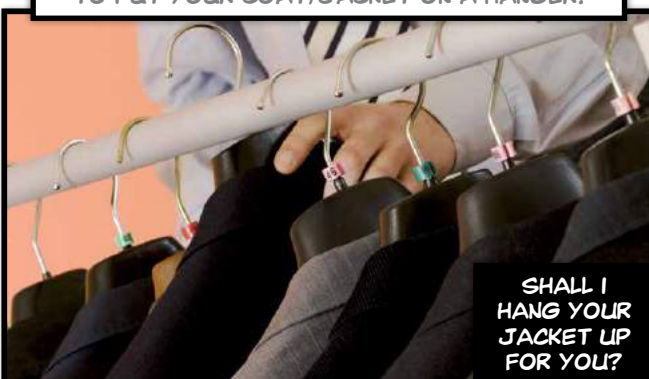
TO TALK TO YOUR COLLEAGUES IN AN INFORMAL WAY.



I USUALLY HAVE A CHAT WITH THEM BEFORE STARTING WORK.

## HANG UP YOUR COAT/JACKET

TO PUT YOUR COAT/JACKET ON A HANGER.



SHALL I HANG YOUR JACKET UP FOR YOU?

## GET A COFFEE/TEA

TO MAKE YOURSELF A CUP OF COFFEE/TEA.



CAN I GET YOU A COFFEE?

# Wacky Wardrobes

Unusual clothing from the world of fashion. by Patrick Howarth

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at these words below. Can you think of any crazy fashions with these things?

a chemical suit

a gas mask

a military uniform

human hair

iron pirates

gold

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas.

## 3 Reading II

Read the sentences below. Which fashion item are they referring to?

- This dress appeared at a show in the London College of Fashion.
- This item of swimwear wasn't very popular with men.
- People wear them in Asia because of all the pollution.
- These clothes were shown at Fashion Rio.
- This outfit is perfect for after a chemical attack.
- These clothes were inspired by a Hollywood film.
- You need a lot of money to buy this item of clothing.
- This item comes with a pink gun.



Fashion is all about strange and original designs, but how many of these designs do people actually buy? Let's look at some of the most bizarre fashion ideas of recent years.



### The Urban Security Suit

The Urban Security Suit was made by Dutch designer Tim Smit in 2008. With this suit you can look fashionable even after a chemical attack - when you'll want to look your best, of course. "This is *the* must-have accessory for the next war, skirmish, struggle, conflict, combat zone or civil strife you find yourself in..." said the designer.



### Gas Masks

Masks are very popular in the fashion world at the moment. People have worn them in Asia to protect themselves from pollution. But now they're a fashion statement. Gas masks appeared in many fashion shows in 2008/2009. This picture shows a Japanese girl wearing the latest in fashionable survival accessories.



### Military Uniforms

Other warfare fashions include designer "fun" military uniforms, some of which come with a pink gun. Would you wear this next time you go out for dinner? One question, is it OK to take a purse, wallet or handbag with you?

### Human Hair

Are you happy with wearing fur? No? Then, what about clothes made from human hair? In 2007



designer Julia Reindell created a series of dresses made from human hair as part of her show at the London College of Fashion. Other designers liked the idea and human hair dresses became common on the catwalk in early 2008. But what do you do with your human hair suit? Brush it? Comb it? Curl it?



### Iron Clothes

If hair is not your thing, you could think about iron. Fashion designer Luana Jardim showed a collection of dresses made of iron at Fashion Rio in 2008. Just what you need next time you go to a "heavy metal" concert.



### Pirate Fashion

Hollywood often influences fashion. *The Pirates of the Caribbean* films inspired lots of designers, including Jean Paul Gaultier's 2008 Paris collection. Pirate hats, big belts and boots were in. But then everybody wants to look like Johnny Depp.



### Menskiirts

Of course, wacky fashion isn't only for women. Do you remember menskiirts? These first appeared in 2006/7 and David Beckham was one of their biggest fans. And what about the mankini (see picture)? British designer Alexander McQueen borrowed the idea from the *Borat* film. McQueen's one-piece swimsuit came out at the Milan Fashion Week in 2008 but fortunately it didn't become very popular.



### Gold Jeans

Feeling rich? Then how about a pair of gold-plated jeans? Top designer John Galliano had gold trousers in his menswear collection. Pictured are the Goldplated Jeans by Kohzo Denim. The trousers are actually made of organic cotton which is then painted with 18 carat gold paint. They'll cost you about €600 a pair.

So as you can see the world of fashion has something for everybody. Isn't it time you made your wardrobe a bit wackier? ☺



# LET'S TALK ABOUT: FRUIT

# Vocabulary



Apple



Pear



Oranges

Pineapple



Strawberry



Watermelon



A bunch of grapes



Peaches



Raspberry



Kiwi



Lemon



Banana

## Useful Expressions

### What you say

- Are they in season?
- I'll have a kilo of...
- I'll have a bag of...
- I'll have a bunch of...
- I'll have a handful of...
- Are they ripe? \*

### What you hear

- Shall I put them in a bag for you?
- They're 40 pence a kilo.
- How many would you like?
- How much would you like?
- Would you like to try one?
- Anything else? \*

## Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, NIGELLA IS AT THE GREENGROCER'S.

**Greengrocer:** Good afternoon.

**Nigella:** Hello.

**Greengrocer:** How can I help you?

**Nigella:** How much are the carrots, please?

**Greengrocer:** Ninety pence a kilo.

**Nigella:** OK. I'll have half a kilo, please.

**Greengrocer:** Here you are. Anything else?

**Nigella:** Yes, I'll have half a kilo of the Golden Delicious apples, please.

**Greengrocer:** Here you are.

**Nigella:** And a kilo of bananas, please.

**Greengrocer:** OK.

**Nigella:** Are the grapes in season?

**Greengrocer:** Oh, yes, they're delicious. Here, try one.

**Nigella:** Mmm... they are nice. I'll have a kilo of those, please.

**Greengrocer:** Great. Here you are. Would that be all?

**Nigella:** Yes, thanks. How much is it, please?

**Greengrocer:** Three pounds fifty, please.

**Nigella:** Here you are.

**Greengrocer:** Thank you. And here's your change. Have a nice day.

**Nigella:** Thanks, bye. \*



FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

THIS MONTH: WEBSITES



Punctuation

- "WWW" = double u, double u, double u
- "." = dot = [www.people.com](http://www.people.com)
- ".com" = dot com = [www.help.com](http://www.help.com)
- "-" = hyphen (some people say "dash", too) = [www.card-time.com](http://www.card-time.com)
- "\_" = underscore = [www.letter\\_reader.com](http://www.letter_reader.com)

Things to do online

- Go online.
- Visit a website.
- Surf the net.
- Send someone a website link.
- Post something on a website.
- Upload something to a website.
- Download something from a website.
- Design a website.



Dialogue

IN THIS DIALOGUE, EDWARD AND SAMANTHA ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR WEBSITES.

**Edward:** Hey, have you visited my website recently?  
**Samantha:** No, what's new?  
**Edward:** Well, I've started writing a blog as part of the website. I've also uploaded lots of photos you might like to see.  
**Samantha:** What's the address?  
**Edward:** It's [www.travellife.com](http://www.travellife.com)  
**Samantha:** I thought you had a website about jokes.  
**Edward:** No, I stopped doing that. This one's all about travel. People write in with their stories and upload photos.  
**Samantha:** Mmm... interesting. Have you seen our new company website?  
**Edward:** No.  
**Samantha:** We've just had it revamped. It's looking really good.  
**Edward:** What's the address?  
**Samantha:** It's [www.shoesgalore.com](http://www.shoesgalore.com)  
**Edward:** I'll have a look this afternoon.  
**Samantha:** Great. ☺



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# 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!

- We will be there on June.  
*We will be there in June.*
- I did the exam at 2005.
- Christmas Day is in 25th December.
- I'll be there in 6.
- She'll come back at April.
- The concert starts on 8pm.

# LISTENING



## Job Quiz

Listen to the quiz and guess the job.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

### 1 Pre-listening

Match the jobs (1 to 8) to the definitions (a-h).

- A shop keeper
- A scientist
- A footballer
- A pop singer
- An actor
- A hotel manager
- A psychologist
- A vet



- A person who is in charge of a hotel.
- Someone who studies the human mind.
- Someone who treats sick animals.
- Someone who acts in films.
- Someone who sings in a group or as a solo artist.
- A person who plays football professionally.
- A person who investigates things in a laboratory.
- A person who sells things in a shop.

### 2 Listening I

You are going to listen to a quiz show in which celebrities have to guess someone's job. What is the contestant's job? Choose from the list in the Pre-listening activity. What is special about this person's job?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again and answer the questions "yes" or "no".

- Has Fred been to university?
- Does he work in an office?
- Is his job scientific?
- Does he work in a shop?
- Is he a teacher?
- Is his job medical?
- Does he work in a hotel?
- Is he a famous pop singer?

### 4 Language focus The Present Simple

Look at this extract from the listening, "Do you work at home?" The speaker has asked a question in the Present Simple using the auxiliary "do". Complete the questions 1 to 5.

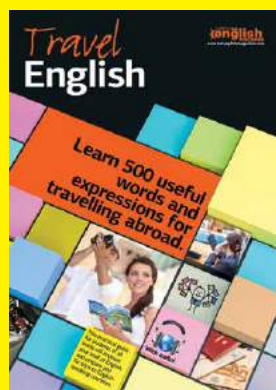
- Where \_\_\_\_\_? I live in New York City.
- What time \_\_\_\_\_? I get up at 7 in the morning.
- What \_\_\_\_\_? I usually have cereal and toast.
- What time \_\_\_\_\_? I usually leave about 7:30.
- How \_\_\_\_\_ get to work? I go by bus.

### 5 Discussion

- How would you describe your job?
- What job would you like to have? Why?
- What did you want to be when you were younger? Why?

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



# GRAMMAR FUN

THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT SOME EXPRESSIONS WITH "SO" AND "SUCH".



"so" & "such".

"So" is generally used before adjectives. For example:

- a) I'm **so** tired.
- b) She's **so** nice.
- c) This is **so** good.
- d) I'm **so** hungry!
- e) We were all **so** worried about you.
- f) You're **so** kind to let us stay here.

We can use "so many" with countable nouns. For example:

- a) There are **so many** places to see.
- b) There were **so many** people at the party.

And we can use "so much" with uncountable nouns. For example:

- a) I've got **so much** work to do.
- b) There's **so much** sugar in this I can't drink it.

"Such" is generally used before nouns. For example:

- a) He is **such** a fool.
- b) They are **such** idiots.

Notice how "such" can also be used with nouns that have adjectives before them. For example:

- a) They are **such nice** people. ("people" is the noun)
- b) It was **such a good** film. ("film" is the noun)
- c) It is **such a nice** day. ("day" is the noun)
- d) It was **such a great** idea of yours.
- e) They are **such good** stories.
- f) That's **such a clever** dog.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

## 1 Exercise

Complete the sentences with "so" or "such".

1. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ stupid sometimes.
2. She's \_\_\_\_\_ an idiot.
3. He's \_\_\_\_\_ good.
4. They're \_\_\_\_\_ bad boys.
5. It was \_\_\_\_\_ a terrible film.
6. It was \_\_\_\_\_ nice today.



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# 10 fun facts about cocktails!



## Hi Everyone

Last night I went out for a friend's birthday and we went to a cocktail bar. The barman who mixed the cocktails gave me this cocktail quiz to do. If I can answer all the questions, he'll give me a free drink next week. So come on, help me out. Find the answers in the text below. Here are the questions:

1. When were cocktails invented?
2. Why are they called "cocktails"?
3. What is James Bond's favourite cocktail?
4. What is a Tom Collins made of?
5. Which cocktail is Humphrey Bogart making for Lauren Bacall when he says "Here's looking at you kid," in the film Casablanca?
6. What do the terms "on the rocks" and "straight up" mean?
7. Which three Hollywood stars have cocktails named after them?
8. What is a screwdriver and why is it called

The Mint Julep. Over 80,000 are served during the race meeting. A Mint Julep is made with bourbon, sugar syrup, and, of course, mint. It's a very strong drink but delicious. **Chuck Benson, Louisville, Kentucky.**

Gin, lemon juice, sugar syrup, soda water and a slice of lemon. The gin, lemon juice and the syrup is poured into a tall glass and stirred well. Then, it is topped up with soda and stirred again. It is garnished with the slice of lemon and a cherry. There are lots of other Collins drinks including the John Collins (with bourbon), the Juan Collins (with Tequila) and the American Collins (with fruit). **Stephanie Rider, Los Angeles, California.**

Many suggest that the original drinks were mixed using the tail feather of a rooster or cock. Others say that the drinks were named after a Mexican princess, Xochitl. And some say that the word comes from the French word for egg cup ("coquetel"). **Frank Rouse, New Orleans, Louisiana.**

It's National Pina Colada Day in the US. Pina Coladas are made by mixing white rum, coconut cream and pineapple juice with ice in a cocktail shaker. Margaritas, Daquiris and Martinis also have their national days in the States. **Pedro Jimenez, Mexico City, Mexico.**

A vodka martini shaken not stirred. Actually, the real Bond martini is a Vesper Martini, the only cocktail Bond invented himself. It's made with three measures of Gordon's gin, one of vodka and half a measure of Kina Lillet. It is shaken very well until it's ice-cold, then a large slice of lemon-peel is added. **Eva Cantona, Lyons, France.**

A mixture of vodka and orange juice. American engineers made them in the 1940s by adding vodka to their lunchtime orange juice and stirring the mixture with real screwdrivers. **Vaclav Fiala, Ostava, Czech Republic.**

"On the rocks" = poured onto ice; "straight up" = chilled in the shaker and then strained so there's no ice in the glass. **Harriet Armstrong, Tokyo, Japan.**

A champagne cocktail made with dry champagne, brandy, bitters and a sugar cube. My favourite too. "Here's looking at you, Bryony!" **Pete "Rick" Berlin, Turin, Italy.**

### 1 Pre-reading

Read the questions (1 to 10) in the blog. How many can you answer?

### 2 Reading I

Read the text and find the answers to the 10 questions.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Which cocktail would you most like to drink? Why?

9. Which cocktail is drunk at the horserace event The Kentucky Derby?
10. Why is 10th July an important cocktail day?

Charlie Chaplin (lime juice, apricot brandy, and gin), Mae West (brandy, an egg yolk, sugar and cayenne pepper), and Greta Garbo (brandy, dry vermouth, orange juice, crème de menthe and grenadine). **Ryan Frost, Leicester, UK.**

Cocktails are mentioned in English literature as early as the 17th and 18th century, so they are usually dated from then. **Naomi Fryer, Melbourne, Australia.**

# Plastic Obsession

Trying to live without plastic bags.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

## 1 Pre-reading

Match the types of bag (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

1. A handbag
2. A shopping trolley bag
3. A suitcase
4. A backpack/rucksack
5. A plastic bag
6. A toilet bag / washbag / sponge bag
7. A briefcase
8. A re-usable bag



## 2 Reading I

Read the article once. What type of bags do they talk about? What do they say about them?

## 3 Reading II

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

1. 13.4 billion.
2. 10 billion bags.
3. 51 degrees South.
4. 1,000 years.
5. €0.22
6. 1.2 billion bags.

## 4 Language focus "Take"

Look at this extract from the article, "Some argue that the bags take 1,000 years to decompose..." We can use "take" to say how long something lasts. For example, "It takes me 20 minutes to get to work." Answer the questions using "take".

1. How long does it take you to get dressed in the morning? *It takes me...*
2. How long does it take you to have breakfast?
3. How long does it take you to get to work?

## 5 Discussion

1. Do you use many plastic bags in a typical week? How many?
2. Will you try to reduce the number of plastic bags you use? How?
3. What will you use instead of plastic bags?



How many plastic bags do you use a week? Every year, millions and millions of them are produced, and they're a danger to the environment. But how can we reduce our dependence on the plastic bag?

The good news is that plastic bag use in the UK has **dropped**. It has gone from 13.4 billion in 2007 to 9.9 billion in 2008 – a reduction of 26 per cent, or 3.5 billion bags. However, the bad news is that we're still using 10 billion bags a year. Many supermarkets are trying to help us **cut back**. They're now charging for plastic bags and asking shoppers to come with shopping trolley bags or re-usable bags. But even if this figure is reduced to 4.5 billion bags a year, that's still a lot of bags.

The big problem is that plastic bags are a danger to the environment. Plastic bags can be found everywhere across the planet from Spitsbergen at latitude 78 degrees North, to the Falkland Islands at 51 degrees South. In fact, there are so many plastic bags in some parts of Africa that a **cottage industry** has started with **locals** using them to make hats. But in other countries they are a major **nuisance**, especially when they block **sewage systems**.

The main problem is that bags just won't disappear. Some argue that the bags take 1,000 years to **decompose** (although this is debatable). Whatever the figure, enormous numbers end up in **landfill sites** or **incinerators**; but billions get into the environment, especially the marine environment, where they are a terrible **threat** to marine life. Sea turtles **mistake them for jellyfish** and **choke** on them; albatrosses mistake them for squid and die a similar death; even dolphins have been found dead with plastic bags blocking their blowholes.

So, will the world become plastic bag free one day? It is possible. "The biggest **obstacle** is the consumer," explained Jane Hargreaves, an environmental expert. "We have to start using reusable shopping bags." The government is planning to introduce a plastic bag tax. In Ireland, they did this in 2002, imposing a **levy** of €0.22 (the PlasTax) on all plastic bags – the first of its kind in the world. This caused a reduction in use of 90 percent, from 1.2 billion bags a year to fewer than 200,000 – with the **revenue** from the tax used for environmental clean-up schemes.

So, are you going to stop using so many plastic bags? 🌱

### GLOSSARY

- to drop** *vb*  
to fall; to decrease
- to cut back** *phr vb*  
to reduce
- a cottage industry** *n*  
a small factory / production process at a home by family members using their own equipment
- a local** *n*  
a person from the area you are referring to
- a nuisance** *n*  
something that is an obstruction or that is annoying/harmful, etc.
- a sewage system** *n*  
the system that carries dirty water through pipes/tubes, etc. from houses to a processing plant
- to decompose** *vb*  
if an object "decomposes", it changes chemically and begins to disappear
- a landfill site** *n*  
an area where rubbish is taken to be put in the ground
- an incinerator** *n*  
a large fire for burning waste
- a threat** *n*  
a danger
- to mistake A for B** *exp*  
if you "mistake A for B", you think that A is B
- jellyfish** *n*  
a transparent animal with poisonous tentacles that lives in the sea
- to choke** *vb*  
if you "choke" on something, something blocks your throat and you cannot breathe properly
- an obstacle** *n*  
something that stops you doing what you want to do
- a levy** *n*  
a small sum of money that you pay as a form of tax (money to the government)
- revenue** *n*  
money that is received



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**GLOSSARY**

**a cognate** <sup>FS</sup>  
a word that has the same origin or root in several languages. For example, "garden" (English), "jardin" (French) and "jardín" (Spanish) are all cognates

**an anchor word** <sup>FS</sup>  
a word that helps you remember another word because it's associated with this target word. When you see or hear the anchor word, you think of your target word

**a target word** <sup>FS</sup>  
the word you're trying to learn or remember. Literally, a "target" is something you try to hit with a knife, gun, arrow, etc.

# 6 TOP TIPS FOR LEARNING DIFFICULT WORDS!

Words are really important when you're learning a language. You need them to speak, write and understand things. And the more words you know, the easier it is for you. Even if your grammar is perfect, if you don't know many words, you'll find it hard to speak fluently. But not all words are the same.

Some are easy to understand because they're similar in your language or they remind you of something you already know. For example, "education" is a **cognate** in many languages ("educación" in Spanish, and "education" in French).

But other words aren't so easy. Take the example of "squirrel" – a small animal with a long furry tail. The word is probably like nothing you've seen in your own language. So, what can you do to help you remember it and other equally difficult words? Here are 6 top tips for learning difficult words.

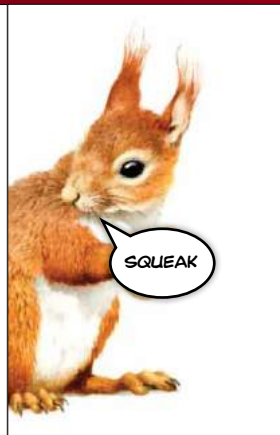


**1 SOUNDS**

So, imagine you're finding it hard to remember the word "squirrel". One way to help you remember it is to think of another word you already know that sounds similar. So, let's imagine you chose "squeak", which is a high-pitched sound a small animal makes. This will be your "**anchor word**" – the word that will help you remember the target word (squirrel, in this case). Next, you need to create a sentence with both these terms. However, try to make the sentence a bit funny, unusual or crazy. In fact, the funnier or crazier it is the easier it'll be to remember. For example: **"THE SQUIRREL SQUEAKED WHEN HE SAW THAT SOMEONE HAD STOLEN HIS SNACK."**

**2 IMAGES**

Next, create an image for your sentence. A sentence plus an image will really help you remember the word. For added effect, the image should be colourful and a bit crazy. Our brains are specially designed to catch and understand visual information quickly – and your brain will remember a funny, colourful picture much more easily. **"THE SQUIRREL SQUEAKED WHEN HE SAW THAT SOMEONE HAD STOLEN HIS SNACK."**



**3 RHYMES**

What does the word you want to learn rhyme with? This can help you remember the word. The best thing is to find a word you already know (even one in your own language) that rhymes with the target word. For example, imagine you wanted to learn the word "endorse", which means to support or approve something. One word that rhymes with "endorse" is "horse". So, now all you need to do is to create a funny sentence with both words, and add a picture of it to really help you remember it. For example: **"THE HORSE ENDORSED THEIR DECISION TO GO BY CART."**





## 4 FAMOUS PEOPLE



You could use famous people to help you learn words too. For example, imagine you want to learn the word “shrimp”, which is a small, pink sea creature with a long tail and many legs. How about this one?  
**“SHREK ATE A PLATE OF SHRIMPS.”**

## 5 ALLITERATION

Alliteration is the repeated use of the same consonant or vowel sounds. For example, “**A**lice ate an **a**pple” has the /æ / sound repeated. Alliteration is often used in songs and slogans as it makes them easier to remember. A famous one by the food company Heinz was “Beanz Meanz Heinz!” which uses the same / nz / sound.

You can use alliteration to help you learn words. So,



imagine you wanted to learn the word “whistle” (to make music by forcing air out between your lips or teeth). You could create this sentence, which has the / w / sound repeated: **“THE WIND WAS WHISTLING THROUGH THE WINDOW.”**



Or “recipe” (a list of instructions on how to make food): **“I READ THE RECIPE FOR THE RED BEAN RISOTTO.”**



Or “bow” (the front part of a ship): **“BOB WAS AT THE BOW OF THE BOAT, LOOKING FOR HIS BOARD.”**

## 6 WORD PARTS

If you break up the word you want to learn, you might be able to find parts of it that could help you remember the whole word. For example, imagine



you wanted to learn “bitter”, which is the opposite of “sweet”. You could take the “bit” part of “bitter” and use this in a sentence: **“THE BIT OF LEMON I ATE WAS BITTER.”**



Or if you wanted to learn the word “principal” (a school director) because you kept confusing it with “principle” (a basic idea or rule). You could take the word “pal” (meaning “friend”) from “principal” and write this: **“THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IS A PAL OF MINE.”**



Or if you wanted to learn “drawer” (a box in a piece of furniture for putting things in), you could take “draw” and make it into “drawing” (which you probably already know) and then create this sentence: **“I PUT THE DRAWING IN THE DRAWER.”**

Have fun!

### NOTE

Deciding how to learn and remember a new word is a very personal thing. Only you will know which sounds, words or images will help you remember the target word. The examples we’ve given here are our ideas, but you’ll need to think of your own “anchor” words, sounds, sentences, examples and images, which is all part of the fun. Many of these ideas are based on “mnemonics”, which are little tricks or devices to help you remember things.

## OTHER WAYS TO HELP YOU REMEMBER WORDS

### FLASHCARDS

Write the word (in a sentence) on one side of a little card, and the definition on the other side. Or, use digital flashcards from apps such as Anki.

### DIALOGUES

Act out a dialogue with a friend using as many of your target words as you can. Film or record the dialogue with a smartphone, then watch or listen to it later to help you remember the words.

### SONGS

Create a little song, rap or rhyme with some target words. Once again, record or film it on a smartphone so you can watch or listen to it later.

### STORIES

Create a story with as many target words as you can. Record the story so you can listen to it during the day.

### GAMES

Play games such as Bingo with the words you want to learn. Or, download a free board game template and make questions with the words that you have to answer as part of the game.

### CONVERSATIONS

Use as many of the words as you can in conversations. If you can’t speak to a native English speaker, don’t worry, just get together with another friend who wants to learn English and start talking!

### REPETITION

Repeat words to yourself until you can say them automatically and without thinking. Remember to put the words in phrases or sentences.

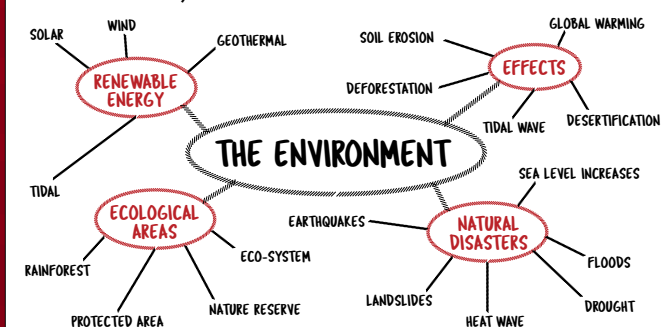
### TRANSLATION

Create a table (see below) with a list of sentences with your target words in the left-hand column, and a translation of the sentences in the right-hand column. Then, later on, cover up the translation column (the right-hand column) and read over the English sentences. On a separate sheet of paper, try to translate them again. Then, check your translations against the original list. Or, do it the other way round: read over the translations and try to write the sentences in English again. Then, check your English sentences against the original ones.

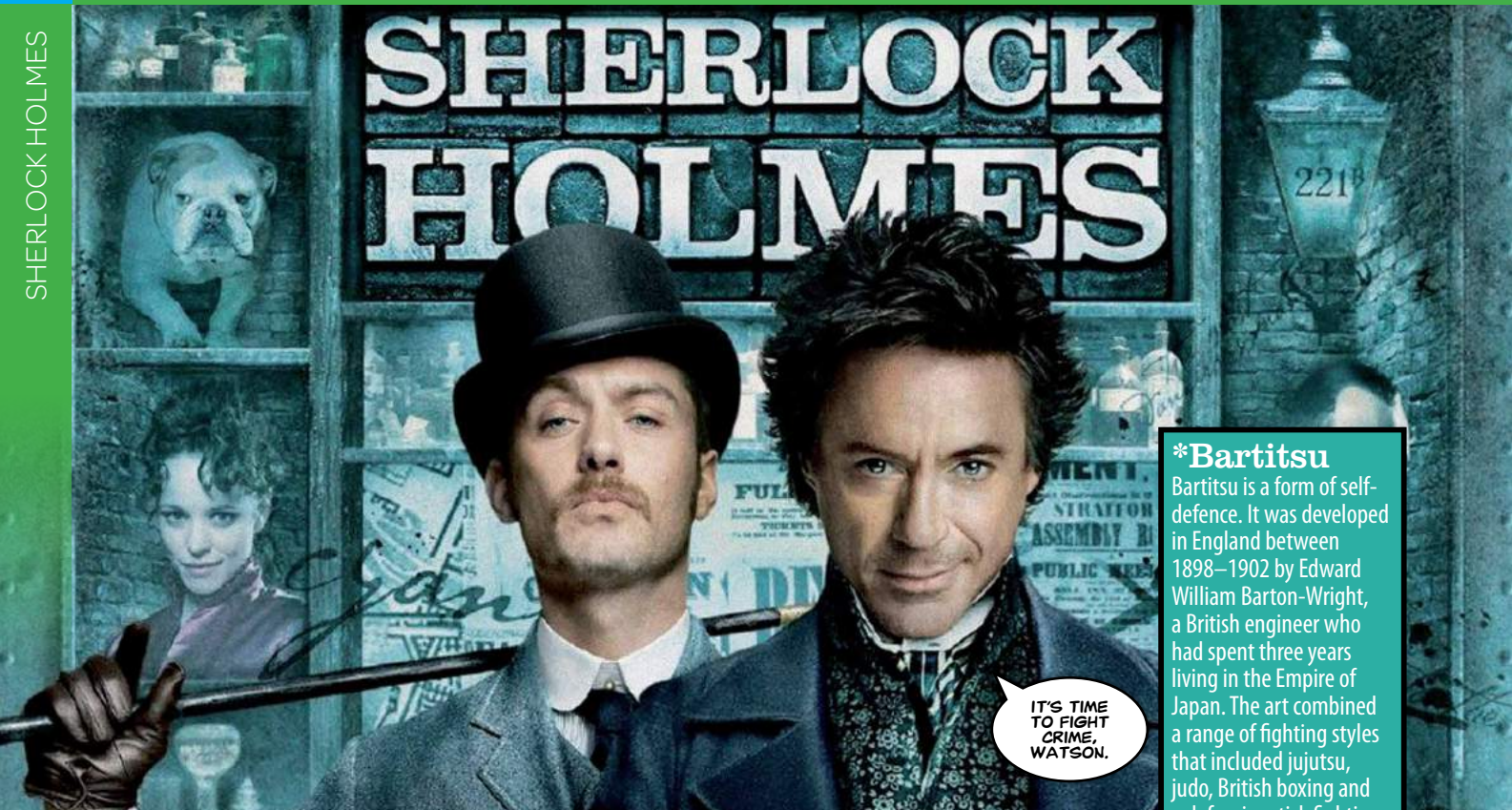
English	Translation
Create word webs.	
Write stories to help you learn them.	
Sing songs with the words in them.	
Act out dialogues with the words.	
Translate sentences with the words.	
Play games with the words.	
Draw pictures of the words.	

## SPIDERGRAMS

Create word webs or spidergrams with as many of the words as you can. When you connect a new word or idea to things you already know, you make it easier for your brain to find it when you need to remember it.







IT'S TIME TO FIGHT CRIME, WATSON.

**H**ave you ever seen a Sherlock Holmes film? There have been more than 200 of them; and more than 70 actors have played the part of the world-famous detective. The first film was *Silence is Golden* (1916) and starred William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes. In 1939, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was released. It starred Basil Rathbone as Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Watson. The duo would later make 13 more films together.

and Watson are trying to stop a **conspiracy** to destroy Britain. The film starts with Holmes arresting the **murderous cult leader** Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong). As he is being led to the **gallows**, Blackwood promises he will return from the dead to **exact his revenge**. Will Holmes be able to stop him?

Robert Downey was excited about the project. "I think me and Guy are **well-suited** to working together. The more I look into the books, the more fantastic it becomes. Holmes is such a **weirdo**." Both Ritchie and Downey are **martial arts** enthusiasts and were interested in the **bartitsu**\* mentioned in the 1901 Sherlock Holmes story *The Adventure of the Empty House*. During filming, Downey was accidentally **punched** in the face by a **stuntperson**, causing Downey to **tumble**, but not to fall unconscious. 🍀

A more recent film, *Sherlock Holmes*, was directed by Guy Ritchie and starred Robert Downey Jr as Sherlock Holmes and Jude Law as Dr Watson. The film is set in 1891. Holmes



**\*Bartitsu**

Bartitsu is a form of self-defence. It was developed in England between 1898–1902 by Edward William Barton-Wright, a British engineer who had spent three years living in the Empire of Japan. The art combined a range of fighting styles that included jujutsu, judo, British boxing and a defensive stick fighting style that had been developed by Pierre Vigny of Switzerland. In 1901, Bartitsu was immortalised by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who referred to it as the misspelt "bartitsu".



**GLOSSARY**

- a conspiracy** *n*  
a secret plan to do something illegal
- murderous** *adj*  
that causes death
- a cult leader** *n*  
the person in charge of an extremist organisation or sect
- the gallows** *n*  
the structure on which they hang people. If they hang someone, they kill them by putting a rope around their neck
- to exact your revenge** *exp*  
to do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you
- to be well-suited to** *exp*  
if A is "well-suited to" B, A and B go well together
- a weirdo** *n*  
a strange unusual person
- martial arts** *n*  
fighting techniques such as karate, judo, ninjitsu, etc.
- to punch** *vb*  
to hit with a closed hand
- a stuntperson** *n*  
an actor who does the dangerous action sequences in a film
- to tumble** *vb*  
to fall
- the game is afoot** *exp old-fashioned*  
the fun is starting; the game has begun

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Arthur Conan Doyle was born on 22nd May 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He died on 7th July 1930 in England. In 1888, he published his first novel featuring Detective Holmes and Dr Watson called *A Study in Scarlet*.



**Sherlock Holmes book quotes**

- "Come, Watson, come! **The game is afoot**. Not a word! Into your clothes and come!"
- "Perhaps when a man has special knowledge and special powers like my own, it rather encourages him to seek a complex explanation when a simpler one is at hand."
- "There can be no question, my dear Watson, of the value of exercise before breakfast."
- "It is a question of cubic capacity. A man with so large a brain must have something in it."
- "I listen to their story, they listen to my comments, and then I pocket my fee."
- "Supposing I unravel the whole matter, you may be sure that Gregson, Lestrade and co. will pocket all the credit. That comes of being an unofficial personage."
- "Let us hear the suspicions. I will look after the proofs."
- "Pipes are occasionally of extraordinary interest. Nothing has more individuality save, perhaps, watches and bootlaces."



# LISTENING



*Genuine trade fair radio ads.*

## 1 Pre-listening

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

You are going to listen to three ads for trade fairs. Look at the titles below. What do you think they are going to talk about in the ads? What do you think you can find at the trade fairs? Who are the fairs for?

- A radio ad for the National Wedding Show.
- A radio ad for the NECA EXPO – a language fair.
- The VIP Record and CD Fair.

## 2 Listening I

Listen once to check your ideas.

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Which trade fair are they referring to? Write "a" (The National Wedding Show), "b" (The NECA EXPO) or "c" (The VIP Record and CD Fair).

- It's held in the Orange County Convention Centre, in Orlando, Florida.
- It's held at Sasha's Hotel in Piccadilly, Manchester.
- It's held at the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre.
- It only costs £3 to get in.
- It takes place in May.
- It's the biggest wedding fair in the UK.
- It lasts from 13th to 17th April.

## 4 Language focus Comparatives

Look at this extract from the text, "It's bigger and better than ever." The speaker has used the comparative form of "big" ("bigger"). Complete the following sentences with the comparative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- She's \_\_\_\_\_ (tall) than I am.
- This desk is \_\_\_\_\_ (long) than the other one.
- This film is \_\_\_\_\_ (good) than the other one.
- That book is \_\_\_\_\_ (bad) than her first one.
- This website is \_\_\_\_\_ (interesting) than Mark's.

## 5 Discussion

- Which trade fair sounds the most interesting? Why?
- Have you been to a trade fair recently? What was it about? What did you see?
- Are there many trade fairs in your country? Where? Which ones are you interested in? Why?

# PHOTO MAGIC

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH FROM THE WORLD OF SPORT, POLITICS AND BUSINESS. CAN YOU THINK OF SOMETHING TO WRITE IN THE SPEECH BUBBLES?

**Photo 1** Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (left) greets Nigeria's ambassador to the United Kingdom, George Adesola Oguntade, and his wife, Modupe Oguntade.



**Photo 2** Pressman Mike Stone takes samples from the printing press to check the colour on the official photograph of President Donald J. Trump at the Government Publishing Office.



**Photo 3** More than 2,000 people disguised as Santa Claus pose for a picture at the ski resort of Verbier in the Swiss Alps.







# Victorian

Have you heard of the Victorians or the Victorian era? It was the period when Queen Victoria was **on the throne** (between 1837 and 1901). This was a time of change, exploration and adventure. It was also a time of extreme wealth and terrible poverty.

**M**any Victorian households had a **servant** or servants. In 1891, two million servants were recorded in the **census**.

During the Victorian period, ordinary people started going on holidays to the seaside for the first time.



Medicine made great progress with the discovery of antiseptic surgery by Joseph Lister.

When a woman entered a room, it was considered rude for a man to offer his seat to her because the **cushion** might still be warm.

People thought that you could digest food better in the dark, so the dining room was often located in the **basement**.

It was considered **improper** to look into someone's bedroom, so most bedrooms were on the second or third **floor**.

People **went to great lengths** to hide their **water closets** from view. In some homes, they were behind a curtain or screen, in a separate part of the house or even outside.



The children of rich or upper middle-class parents rarely saw their parents as they were tended by **nannies**.

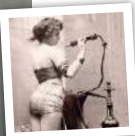
Women made pictures and bouquets from their own hair or the hair of a family member. They **framed** this and displayed it in the house.



A lot of men used macassar oil to **slick back** their hair. In order to stop this grease from **staining** the furniture, pieces of material called antimacassars were placed over the backs of chairs.

For a lady to show her ankles was **considered taboo**.

Many people kept a **hedgehog** in the basement so it could eat insects. It **curled up** and slept during the day, but **roamed around** the dark kitchen at night eating insects.



When Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, most people lived in villages and worked on the land. There was no electricity (gas lamps or candles were used for light) and most people walked or travelled by boat, train and horse. However, by the end of her reign in 1901, the majority of the population lived in towns and worked in offices, shops and factories, and there was **pipéd water**, gas and even electricity. ✨



## Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria (1819 – 1901) came to the throne in 1837, at the age of 18. She married her cousin, Albert, in 1840. Queen Victoria died in 1901 at the age of 81. She is Britain's longest reigning Queen, ruling Britain for 63 years. The current monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, has been Queen for 58 years. During Queen Victoria's reign, Britain became the most powerful country in the



world, ruling a quarter of the world's population. There were also many wars during this period in countries such as India, Afghanistan, Turkey, the Sudan and South Africa, to mention just a few. During Queen Victoria's reign, Britain's population more than doubled from 16 million to 37 million, causing a huge demand for food, clothes and housing. Factories and machines were built to meet this demand and new towns emerged, changing the landscape and the way people lived and worked.





# Victorian Times

## Famous Victorians

Here are just a few of the most famous people from the Victorian



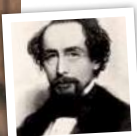
**Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)**

This Scottish author is famous for writing *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*, two of the most popular children's stories ever written.



**Alexander Graham Bell (1847 - 1922)**

Alexander Graham Bell was born on 3rd March 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is best known for inventing the telephone. Many inventors had been working on the idea of sending human speech by wire, but Bell was the first to succeed.



**Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)**

Charles Dickens wrote some of the most popular and widely-read novels of the 19th century including *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*.



**Florence Nightingale (1820 - 1910)**

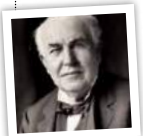
Florence Nightingale helped to make nursing a well-respected

medical profession. She became a nurse and cared for soldiers during the Crimean War in Turkey. She improved conditions for the soldiers and became a heroine for many.



**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)**

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created the Sherlock Holmes character. Holmes is one of the most important characters in British literature and Conan Doyle's work has greatly influenced the detective fiction genre.



**Thomas Edison (1847-1931)**

Thomas Edison developed the electric carbon filament lamp which eventually became the modern light bulb.



**David Livingstone (1813-1873)**

David Livingstone was a great explorer. This Scottish missionary explored much of central Africa and wrote the story of his amazing three-year journey. ✪

## Family Life

Victorian life was very strict. Family and religion were important. Families were often large with the father as the head of the house. Children called their father "sir" and obeyed him without question. Almost every family except the very poorest had a servant to do the housework and look after the children.

There was a huge difference between the rich and the poor. Rich families often had very comfortable lives in big houses with lots of money. Poor families who had no money were often taken into **workhouses**. This could happen if the father was ill and could not work. Many children in poor families died from diseases such as scarlet fever, polio and TB. ✪

## Victorian Sayings

The Victorians were famous for their **sayings**. These were **passed on** from generation to generation and many are still used today.

**"Least said soonest mended."**  
 If there is a problem, the less you speak about it the sooner it will be resolved. This is reflective of the Victorian's habit of keeping their emotions private.

**"Protect yourself from other people's bad manners by a conspicuous display of your own good ones."**  
 People were expected to be **on their best behaviour** at all times.

**"How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child."**  
 This reflects the Victorian belief that children should be **polite** at all times.

**"Neither a borrower nor a lender be."**  
 Money was an extremely sensitive issue for the Victorians. In those days, you could go to prison for being **in debt**; and you could be sent to Australia as a **convict** for stealing as little as a loaf of bread.

**"Do not kill the goose that lays the golden egg."**  
 This means that you should look after the things that can create wealth and that you shouldn't **covet** more than you have.

**"The stone that lies not in your road need not offend you."**  
 Don't become involved in other people's problems if they have nothing to do with you.

**"The devil makes work for idle hands."**  
 The Victorians were very keen on hard work and industriousness. This quote meant that if you were lazy, you could become involved in bad things.

**"Children should be seen and not heard."**  
 During this period, children were expected to **behave impeccably** at all times, and never to make a noise.

**"Speak when you are spoken to and not before."**  
 This was mainly directed at children, who were expected to keep quiet until someone asked them a question. ✪

**GLOSSARY**

**on the throne** *exp*  
 if a person is "on the throne", they are the king/queen of a place

**a servant** *n*  
 a person who works in a rich person's house doing the cleaning, cooking, washing, etc.

**a census** *n*  
 a record of the number of people in a country and what they do, etc.

**a cushion** *n*  
 a bag made of cloth, leather, plastic, etc. that is filled with feathers or any other substance and that is often used for sitting on

**the basement** *n*  
 the room at the bottom of a house (often under the ground)

**improper** *adj*  
 not correct; not polite or respectful

**a floor** *n*  
 the "floor" of a building is all the rooms on a particular level in that building

**to go to great lengths** *exp*  
 to make a big effort

**a water closet** *n*  
 an old-fashioned word for a toilet

**a nanny** *n*  
 a woman who is paid to look after another person's children

**to frame** *vb*  
 to put a picture in a "frame" (a wooden/plastic/metal object that goes around the picture)

**to slick back** *exp*  
 to make your hair smooth and flat by putting oil/grease, etc. on it

**to stain** *vb*  
 if a liquid "stains" clothing/furniture, etc. the liquid leaves a mark on the clothing/furniture, etc.

**to consider taboo** *exp*  
 if an action is "considered taboo", people don't like it and find it embarrassing

**a hedgehog** *n*  
 a small mammal with spines (sharp points) on its back that rolls into a ball when frightened

**to curl up** *phr vb*  
 to go into the shape of a ball

**to roam around** *exp*  
 to walk around with no particular objective

**piped water** *exp*  
 water that enters a building through a pipe (a metal/concrete tube)

**a workhouse** *n*  
 a type of prison where poor people worked in return for food and accommodation

**a saying** *n*  
 an expression/proverb that people often say

**to pass on** *phr vb*  
 if something is "passed on", it is transmitted to another generation

**manners** *n*  
 the socially correct way of behaving

**on your best behaviour** *exp*  
 acting in a very polite and respectful way

**polite** *adj*  
 being respectful to others

**a borrower** *n*  
 someone who accepts money from others with the intention of repaying it

**in debt** *exp*  
 if you are "in debt", you owe money to other people

**a convict** *n*  
 a person who is guilty of a crime

**to covet** *vb*  
 to want things that belong to others

**idle** *adj*  
 lazy; with no desire to work

**to behave impeccably** *exp*  
 to act extremely correctly and nicely



# Victorian Whodunit

The London of Sherlock Holmes was a dark and dangerous place with criminals lurking around every corner. But what was London really like in the 19th century?

Some say that London was actually quite safe. British politician Douglas Hurd has written a biography of Sir Robert Peel – the man who created the world's first police force in London in 1829. In his book, Hurd says that "peace-loving citizens slept easily in their beds" during this period." In 1856, historian J Ewing Ritchie said the police arrested 73,240 people, mostly for **drunkenness**. Only 6,763 people were arrested for **assault**. These figures are nothing compared to present-day standards.



Sir Robert Peel

Londoners were shocked to read about the terrible murders of Jack the Ripper. He killed prostitutes in the East End of London, **ripping out** their insides with a knife. There were many theories as to the identity of Jack the Ripper but no one was ever arrested. However, this murder was fairly unique and there were in fact very few recorded murders in 19th-century London. Even in Old Nichol, the worst **slum** in the city, only one murder was recorded between 1885 and 1895 when a **shoemaker stabbed** his wife to death. Sherlock Holmes had lots of time to smoke his pipe.



The most dangerous place in London was the East End. Poor people lived in crowded, dirty areas in very unhealthy conditions. At night it could be dangerous, particularly in dark, **unlit** streets. Markets and shopping areas in the East End were also dangerous. As British academic Jacqueline Banerjee said, "It was risky to be anywhere where many people gathered or, alternatively, where there was no one else around." In 1866, a French visitor wrote that crime was everywhere in the East End of London. "It has stopped being a city where one can walk at night with one's **mind at rest** and one's hands in one's pockets," he wrote.

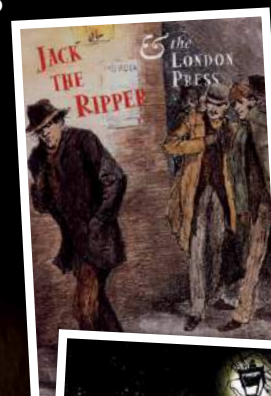
So, who were the criminals? At this time, gangs of men often worked together to rob people's houses, while children learned how to **pick pockets** or steal money from people's clothes without the owners noticing. Many women were arrested for stealing too – mostly from shops or market stalls. However, most of these robberies were for food or for goods worth very little.

One of the worst crimes occurred in 1888.



By the end of the century, London was becoming even safer. Police officers were better trained and efforts were made to help the poor. Writers such as Charles Dickens had shown the reading public what life was really like for London's **least well-off**. As a result, the government introduced compulsory education in 1870. This led to a **decline** in the number of convicted criminals under seventeen. Also, areas where poor people lived were cleared and new houses and roads were built. In 1897, the journalist Charles Booth wrote, "On the whole, people are less **brutal** than they used to be."

So, why was Sherlock Holmes so popular? At the time, police investigative techniques were very basic. The police often made mistakes and ended up chasing the wrong people. However, the public could read fascinating tales of Holmes and how he used his powerful mind and extraordinary powers of deduction to catch criminals. And those same stories that were published all those years ago in Beeton's Christmas Annual can still amaze and delight us today. ✨



## GLOSSARY

- to lurk** *vb*  
if someone is "lurking", they are hiding and waiting to attack
- drunkenness** *n*  
the state of being drunk (having had too much alcohol)
- assault** *n*  
if there is an "assault", someone is physically attacked
- a figure** *n*  
an amount represented in numbers
- unlit** *adj*  
with no light
- mind at rest** *exp*  
if your "mind is at rest", you feel calm, safe, content, etc.
- to pick a pocket** *exp*  
if a criminal "picks a pocket", he/she puts their hand into someone's pocket and takes out money, etc.
- to rip out** *exp*  
to pull out with great force
- a slum** *n*  
a dirty, poor area with a lot of people and no water/electricity, etc.
- a shoemaker** *n*  
a person whose job is to make shoes
- to stab to death** *exp*  
to kill with a knife
- the least well-off** *exp*  
the poorest people
- a decline** *n*  
a decrease
- brutal** *adj*  
cruel, wicked, violent and savage



# Conan and the Dead

In 1918, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle admitted to being a Spiritualist - someone who believed that people could contact the dead. But how could the man who created Sherlock Holmes, the most logical of detectives, believe in ghosts?

Conan Doyle was born in 1859 to very religious parents. When he was nine years old, he was sent to a strict Catholic boarding school in England. He was not happy and started to question his religious beliefs. When he left school, he did not believe in God anymore. However, between 1906 and 1918, Conan Doyle experienced the deaths of his first wife, his brother, both of his brothers-in-law and two of his nephews. He became very depressed and **found relief** in supporting Spiritualists, who said they had scientific **proof** of life after death. But what kind of proof did they have?



Katie Fox



Maggie Fox

Spiritualism started in the USA in 1846. Two sisters, Maggie and Katie Fox, said they could communicate with the ghost of a man who had been murdered in their house. They said his ghost, or spirit, contacted them with **taps** and **knocks**.

Sometimes, people who came to their house heard the dead man's voice when he took control of one of the girls. Later, investigators found a skeleton **buried** in the **cellar** and even more people believed the Fox sisters' story.

Soon, other people started to copy the two sisters. They also said they could contact the dead, and some charged money for their services. Meetings were held in dark rooms with participants seated around a table. Sometimes, the table would **lean** and **tilt**, or **witnesses** would feel a gentle **breeze** on their faces or smell fresh flowers. Sometimes, pictures would slowly appear on blank sheets of paper, apparently drawn by a spirit. Many people attended these meetings, which



were called **séances**, and believed they really were contacting dead relatives and friends.

But in 1888, Maggie Fox admitted that she had lied about contacting the dead man. She showed how she made the tapping sounds with the bones in her **toes**. She even wrote a signed letter in the New York World newspaper, saying "Spiritualism is a **fraud** and a **deception**." But by then so many people believed in Spiritualism that they did not accept her confession. Conan Doyle was one of them. "Nothing that she could say in that regard would in the least change my opinion," he wrote, adding that he was sure "there is an **occult** influence connecting us with an invisible world".

Eventually, Conan Doyle became a **spokesperson** for Spiritualism. He wrote books and, in 1893, joined the British Society for Psychical Research, which tried to find the truth about **séances** and **mediums**. One year later, a British army officer called Colonel Elmore asked the Society to investigate his country home. Elmore said that at night he could hear **chains** being **dragged** along the floor and strange moaning sounds. Conan Doyle and two others spent several days in Elmore's house. One night, they heard a "**fearsome uproar**", but could not find what caused the noise. They didn't know if the noises were a trick or were real. Later, the body of a ten-year-old girl was found buried in Elmore's garden. Conan Doyle decided the house must have been haunted by her spirit.

Conan Doyle believed in Spiritualism for the rest of his life. In July 1930, he wrote "The reader will judge that I have had many adventures. The greatest and most glorious of all awaits me now." A few days later, he died. His friend Harry Price later wrote, "Poor, dear, lovable, **credulous** Doyle! He was a giant in stature with the heart of a child." ❄️



I'LL NEVER GIVE UP THE GHOST.

## GLOSSARY

**to find relief in** *exp*  
if you "find relief in" something, that thing helps to stop the pain

**proof** *n*  
evidence

**a tap / knock** *n*  
a gentle sound made by someone hitting wood/metal, etc.

**to bury** *vb*  
if a dead person is "buried", they are placed in a hole in the ground

**a cellar** *n*  
the room at the bottom of a house often under the ground

**to lean / tilt** *vb*  
to move at an angle; to move away from a vertical position

**a witness** *n*  
someone who sees an event/crime, etc.

**a breeze** *n*  
a gentle wind

**a toe** *n*  
a "finger" on your foot

**a fraud** *n*  
a trick that is designed to make money

**a deception** *n*  
a trick that is designed to make money or make people believe something that isn't true

**occult** *adj*  
relating to supernatural forces

**a spokesperson** *n*  
someone who represents a company/organisation, etc. and says things for that company/organisation

**a medium** *n*  
a person who claims to be able to communicate with the dead

**a chain** *n*  
a series of connected metal rings

**to drag** *vb*  
to pull along the ground using force

**a fearsome uproar** *exp*  
a terrible/horrible, loud noise

**credulous** *adj*  
someone who is "credulous" often believes things that others don't consider to be true

# GUY RITCHIE &

**G**uy Ritchie was born on 10th September 1968 in Hatfield, England. He is an English screenwriter and filmmaker. His two most famous films are *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998) and *Snatch* (2000), although he is most famous for his marriage to Madonna.



Ritchie married Madonna at Skibo Castle in Scotland on 22nd December 2000. They had a son, Rocco (11th August 2000), and they **adopted** a baby boy from Malawi named David. Following his marriage to Madonna, Ritchie began focusing his filmmaking on his famous wife. He directed her in a music video for the song "What it Feels Like for a Girl". The video was

controversial and **featured** violent behaviour against men, including a shot where she **tasers** a man, drives a car through a group of men, and **incinerates** a man by throwing a lighter into a pool of gasoline.

Their big film together was the romantic comedy *Swept Away* (2002). It was a remake of the 1974 film of the same name. Ritchie **cast** Madonna as rich **socialite** Amber Leighton. One day, Amber's wealthy but passive husband (Tony) takes her on a cruise from Greece to Italy, but Amber is unimpressed and **takes out her anger** on the ship's first mate, Giuseppe (Adriano Giannini). During the trip, a storm destroys the boat and Amber and Giuseppe end up on a deserted island. Does it sound bad? It was. The film was a critical and commercial failure and won a number of awards at the 2002 **Golden Raspberry Awards** for Worst Picture, Worst Actress (Madonna), Worst Screen Couple, Worst Remake and Worst Director (Guy Ritchie).

During his marriage to Madonna, Ritchie followed the religion **Kabbalah** and regularly went to services at the Kabbalah Centre, which his former wife is heavily involved in. The couple were formally divorced in 2008. A friend said, "They were both very calm. Madonna told Guy, 'I'm sorry, I want a divorce'. And he agreed. It was quite painless but very sad." There were rumours that Madonna's desire to adopt another child had been a source of friction, as well as her wish to spend more time in America. Some say that Ritchie's snoring also had something to do with it, but those rumours are uncorroborated. He's currently married to model Jacqui Aninsley. 🍀

## Guy Ritchie quotes

"I can understand that the whole world is interested in my wife Madonna. That's even why I married her."

"Creatively, we like the same sort of things, so it just makes sense to work together." (on working with wife Madonna).

"The best thing to do is find one person in your life and try to love them unconditionally. If you've accomplished that, you've accomplished a lot."

"I got into film-making because I was interested in making entertaining movies, which I felt there was a lack of."

"I like death. I'm a big fan of it."

"I like to think that we've got a plan, so let's **stick to it**. That said, once we've stuck to it, we're allowed as much improvisation as anyone cares to indulge themselves in."

"If somebody has a better idea than me, I'll take it if it **surpasses** what we have on the page because at the end of the day, it's me that takes the credit anyway!"

"Other than the fact that I like a country house, I can't think of anything I'd want to spend my money on."

"I'm not under too much of an illusion of how smart or un-smart I am because filmmaking ultimately is about teamwork."

**D**avid Jude Heyworth Law was born on 29th December 1972. He is an English actor, film producer and director. Some of his best known films include *The Talented Mr Ripley* (1999), for which he was nominated for an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, and *Cold Mountain* (2003), for which he was nominated for an Oscar for Best Actor. He was the face of the perfume Dior Homme Sport, and has represented Dunhill as its "apparel ambassador" in Asia.

Jude Law is famous for the efforts he goes to in order to prepare for his roles. For the film *The Talented Mr Ripley* he learned to play the saxophone, and he learned ballet dancing for the film *Artificial Intelligence*. To **get in shape** for his role in *Cold Mountain* he took up **lumberjacking**; and for his role as a sniper in *Enemy at the Gates* he studied camouflage, and how to handle the weapon correctly.

Jude Law is also famous for his charitable work. In 2002 he directed a Respect for Animals anti-fur cinema commercial called "Fur and Against". In 2004, he launched a campaign to raise 2.5 million for the Young Vic Theatre redevelopment project. In 2006 he joined Robbie Williams in the "Soccer Aid" celebrity football match to help UNICEF. He also does charity work for organisations such as Make Poverty History. In 2007, Jude went to Afghanistan for a period of 10 days to document peace commitments and activities for an upcoming film for marking the UN International Day of Peace.

Jude's personal life has also been a topic of interest. While making the film *Alfie*, Jude began a relationship with co-star Sienna Miller, becoming engaged on Christmas Day 2004. They separated in November 2006 after Jude had an affair with the babysitter. 🍀

## Jude Law quotes

"I always wanted to be an actor and not a beauty pageant winner."

"I throw root vegetables at them." (about the paparazzi)

"I honestly have no interest in celebrity status whatsoever... it takes away from what I am, which is an actor who wants to be better and do better things."

"They are all films I like but no one else seems to." (about his movies that flop)

"I'm happiest at home hanging out with the kids."

"London is my home... I know what's right and wrong here, and it's nice to have somewhere familiar to go back to."

"I'm incredibly boring; I had a very happy childhood. I never starved, nor did I have a silver spoon in my mouth. I'm one of those terribly middle-of-the-road, British middle class, South London gents." (on his **upbringing**)



# & JUDE LAW



THIS TIME I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE THE PLOT.

THIS FILM IS REALLY SOMETHING TO WRITE "HOLME" ABOUT.



DO I LOOK THE PART?

## Jude Law trivia

Jude was arrested for attacking a photographer outside his London home in September 2007. He was released on bail. In October 2007, he was cleared of the charges.

Jude's affair with his children's ex-nanny, Daisy Wright, was named Hollywood's **sneakiest** affair by US magazine in 2007.

Jude was ranked fifth as Best Dressed Man in Britain by GQ magazine in 2007.

He was awarded the chevalier of the Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres medal, one of France's top honours in 2007.

Jude and ex-wife Sadie Frost have their own production company Natural Nylon. They formed it with friends Ewan McGregor, Jonny Lee Miller and Sean Pertwee.

Jude's movie *Alfie* was a box-office flop, only making back about half of its estimated \$60 million budget, and voted one of the worst remakes of all time by subscribers to Screen Select magazine.

On November 17, 2004, Jude was named People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive."

## Guy Ritchie

Guy Ritchie was born on 10th September 1968 in Hatfield, England. He is an English screenwriter and filmmaker. He is a martial arts enthusiast and a fan of Chelsea Football Club. He was expelled from school at the age of 15.



## Jude Law

David Jude Heyworth Law (29th December 1972) – English actor, film producer and director. Married Sadie Frost on 2nd September 1997. They had three children. Divorced 29th October 2003. Became a father for the fourth time following a relationship with US model Samantha Burke in 2008. Burke gave birth to a daughter, Sophia, on 22nd September 2009 in New York. Jude supports Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.



## GLOSSARY

- to adopt** *vb*  
if someone "adopts" a child, they take legal charge of the child even though it isn't theirs biologically
- to feature** *vb*  
to show in a film
- to taser** *vb*  
to shoot with a "taser" – a gun that shoots an electrical charge
- to incinerate** *vb*  
to burn
- to cast** *vb*  
if a director "casts" you in a film, you are chosen to act in that film
- a socialite** *n*  
a person who is famous in fashionable society and who goes to celebrity parties, etc.
- to take your anger out on someone** *exp*  
if you "take your anger out on someone", you are angry with that person even though they aren't the real cause of your anger
- the Golden Raspberry Awards** *n*  
an award ceremony for really bad films/actors, etc. – the anti Oscars
- Kabbalah** *n*  
a discipline concerned with the mystical aspect of Judaism
- to stick to** *exp*  
if you "stick to" something, you continue using it or doing it
- to surpass** *vb*  
to be better than
- to get into shape** *exp*  
to become fit and healthy
- lumberjacking** *n*  
the activity/job of cutting down trees
- an upbringing** *n*  
your "upbringing" is the education and care you receive as a child
- sneaky** *adj*  
secret, dishonest and immoral

# Last Writes

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

*Is the writing on the wall...?* by Sam Gordon

## 1 Pre-reading

Write short definitions of the following type of writing.

1. Typewriting.
2. Note writing.
3. Handwriting.
4. Letter writing.
5. Blog/diary writing.
6. Shorthand.
7. Joined-up writing.
8. SMS text-writing.
9. Essay writing.
10. Academic text writing.

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once. What does the writer say about handwriting? Write a short 30-word summary of the article.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. What does writing expert Kitty Burns Florey predict for the future?
2. What percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 17 use a computer?
3. How has technology helped left-handers?
4. Why is the disappearance of handwriting good for patients?
5. What are some of the disadvantages of the disappearance of handwriting?
6. What does Umberto Eco see as the future for handwriting?

## 4 Language focus "No longer"

Look at this extract from the article, "People no longer travel on horseback..." The writer has used the expression "no longer", which means the same as "don't do X anymore". Rewrite the following sentences with "no longer".

1. We don't talk to them anymore.
2. They don't deal with that supplier anymore.
3. She doesn't get the DVDs delivered to her place of work anymore.
4. He doesn't do business with them anymore.

## 5 Discussion

1. What was the last thing you wrote with a pen or pencil?
2. How often do you write with a pen or pencil?
3. Do you agree with the ideas in the article? Why? Why not?



Have you done any writing with a pen or pencil recently? With all the technology available, some believe that writing will become a thing of the past. But is that a good thing?

Apart from Christmas cards and shopping lists, what do we actually write these days? In fact, handwriting is becoming so uncommon that expert Kitty Burns Florey predicts that in 100 years it may be **legible** only to experts. "When your great-great-great grandchildren find that letter of yours in the **attic**, they'll have to take it to a specialist, an old **guy** at the library who will **decipher** the strange symbols for them"

The fact is that writing on the computer is much easier. According to statistics, 90% of American children between the ages of 5 and 17 use computers. Many kids can type 20-30 words per minute by the time they leave elementary school. "Computers are better," says 9-year-old Monique, "with typing, you don't have to erase when you make a mistake. You just **hit** the **delete button**, so it's a lot easier."

Technology certainly does make things a lot more **straightforward**. It means no more long hours in the classroom learning joined-up writing. And it's good news for "left-handers" too – you can't **smudge** with a **keyboard**. It's also better for our health. There's an old joke that doctors always have terrible handwriting, but it wasn't so funny when the wrong medication was given because a prescription was **illegible**. Believe it or not, it was common, but typing has made this a **thing of the past**.

However, some feel that the "need for speed" might be **harming** our general levels of **literacy**. These days, people write more on their mobile phones and MSN than on paper. And "text-speak" is the new "lingo". So why "wait" for someone when you can "w8" for them instead? Why bother explaining that you think something is funny or you're just joking when you can put "lol" ("laughing out loud")? And why worry about grammar or spelling when SMS text-writing has no rules?

So, is the **writing on the wall** for handwriting? According to Umberto Eco, author of *The Name of The Rose*, even if writing becomes unnecessary it may be rediscovered as a hobby or pleasure like many modern sports. "People no longer travel on horseback but some go to a riding school; motor yachts exist but many people are still **devoted** to sailing; people collect stamps even in the age of e-mail," he said.

So, why don't you let us know what you think? By e-mail or letter, of course. ✨

### GLOSSARY

- legible** *adj*  
that is easy to read
- an attic** *n*  
the room at the top of a house just below the roof
- a guy** *n* *inform*  
a man
- to decipher** *vb*  
to understand and be able to read a code or writing that is difficult to read
- to hit a button** *exp*  
to press a key on a computer
- the delete button** *n*  
a button on a computer that erases / rubs out text
- straightforward** *adj*  
easy to understand
- to smudge** *vb*  
if you "smudge" writing/ink, you move your hand over it and create a dirty mark
- a keyboard** *n*  
an object with letters and numbers on it that you use to write text on a computer
- illegible** *adj*  
that is not easy to read
- a thing of the past** *exp*  
something that is no longer used
- to harm** *vb*  
to damage; to cause damage to; to destroy
- literacy** *n*  
a general word used to refer to our ability to read and write
- the writing is on the wall** *exp*  
if "the writing is on the wall", it is easy to predict what is going to happen
- devoted to** *exp*  
if you are "devoted to" something, you care about that thing a lot





# Cockney English

A true Cockney is someone born within the sound of Bow Bells (the bells from St Mary-le-Bow Church in the City of London). However, many born outside this area have a “Cockney” accent, particularly in the East End of London, and in the outer London boroughs, the London suburbs and towns outside London such as Luton, Leighton Buzzard and Romford.

Cockney Rhyming Slang uses expressions that rhyme with the word (instead of using the actual word itself). For example, the word “look” rhymes with “butcher’s hook”. So, if someone says, “Have a butcher’s hook!” it means, “Have a look!” In many cases the rhyming word is omitted. So, this will be shortened to, “Have a butcher’s!” (“Have a look!”).

In the table, there are some useful expressions for you to learn. You’ll notice that some of the expressions have the rhyming words omitted. ☺

English	Cockney rhyming slang	Example
Believe	Adam and Eve	I don’t Adam and Eve it.
Face	Boat race	Nice boat race on him!
Head	Loaf of bread	Use your loaf!
Hair	Barnet Fair	Nice Barnet!
Stairs	Apples and pears	Shall we take the apples and pears?
Own	Jack Jones	I’m all on my Jack Jones.
Stink	Pen and ink	There’s a nasty pen and ink in here.
Lie	Pork pie	Are you telling porkies?
Yank (American)	Septic tank	There were some Septics at the club.
Pub	Rub-a-dub-dub	Let’s go down the rub-a-dub-dub.
Suit	Whistle and toot	Like my new whistle?
Money	Bees and honey	I haven’t got any bees.
Hands	Jimmy Shands	Show us your Jimmies!
Pocket	Davy Crockett	It’s in his Davy.
Look	Butcher’s hook	Have a butcher’s at this.
Cash	Sausage and mash	Got any sausage and mash on you?
Laugh	Bubble bath	We had a right old bubble bath.
Soap	Bob Hope	There ain’t no Bob Hope in the bathroom.
Toilet	Karsey Moilet	I’m just going to the karsey.

For lots more Cockney rhyming slang expressions, visit this site: <http://www.hintsandthings.co.uk/library/rhymingslang.htm>

Banks lure customers with new initiative.

WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SELECT WHEN YOU USE A **CASHPOINT MACHINE**? MANY OFFER A CHOICE OF UP TO SIX LANGUAGES. BUT NOW YOU CAN SELECT AN ACCENT TOO.



**B**ank Machine, which runs 2,500 **ATMs** across the country, has set up five **cash dispensers** which offer customers the option to request cash in English or **Cockney\***.

And if you ask for Cockney, the machine will tell you it is "Reading your bladder of lard" (card) before asking for your "Huckleberry Finn" (**PIN**). Then the hard decisions start. Do you want to see your balance on the "Charlie Sheen" (**screen**)? Or would you like to **withdraw** some "sausage and mash" (**cash**)?

If the machines are a success, the company hopes to follow them up with **Brummie**, **Geordie**, **Scouse** and Scots ATMs. "It isn't simply about client satisfaction," a spokesperson for the company said, "It's also about keeping dialects alive in Britain." Well, the company certainly gets a bit of publicity, its users get a bit of a "bubble bath" (laugh), and everyone's a "chicken dinner" (winner).

So, which accent will you be choosing next time you take some money out? 🍷

**GLOSSARY**

- a cashpoint machine** *n*  
a bank machine that permits you to take money out of your account by using your bank card
- an ATM** *abbr*  
an Automated Teller Machine – a cashpoint machine
- a cash dispenser** *n*  
a cashpoint machine (see above)
- a PIN** *abbr*  
a Personal Identification Number - the secret number you need to key in
- the screen** *n*  
the part of a computer/television / ATM, etc. that displays images and that you look at
- to withdraw** *vb*  
if you "withdraw" money, you take it out of your bank account
- mash** *n inform*  
mashed potato – potato that is in the form of a paste
- cash** *n*  
money in the form of coins and notes
- Brummie** *adj inform*  
from the English city of Birmingham
- Geordie** *adj inform*  
from the English city of Newcastle
- Scouse** *adj inform*  
from the English city of Liverpool

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(if we aren't already!)



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC

# strange, weird and unusual people

HERE ARE SOME MORE USEFUL AND INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS FOR YOU TO LEARN. THIS MONTH: STRANGE, WEIRD AND UNUSUAL PEOPLE.



**Good-for-nothing**

A LAZY, USELESS PERSON.

"You are a lazy good-for-nothing. Get out of bed and do something!"



**Be living on another planet**

YOU CAN USE THIS EXPRESSION TO REFER TO SOMEONE WHO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SILLY, MAD, RIDICULOUS OR UNREASONABLE. THE EXPRESSION, "WHAT PLANET IS HE ON?" MEANS "IS HE MAD? / IS HE CRAZY?"

"Have you seen this bill from Frank? There's no way that we're going to pay that. What planet is he on?"



**Be off your trolley**

BE CRAZY.

"Beth wants us to work all weekend for no extra pay. She must be off her trolley."



**Be as stubborn as a mule**

BE SOMEONE WHO JUST WON'T LISTEN TO REASON AND WHO INSISTS ON DOING WHAT THEY WANT.

"He just won't listen to a word I say. He's as stubborn as a mule."



**Be a waste of space**

SOMEONE WHO IS A "WASTE OF SPACE" IS USELESS OR NOT HELPFUL.

"You're a waste of space. Get out and stop annoying us."



**Space cadet**

A STRANGE, CRAZY, FORGETFUL OR ABSENT-MINDED PERSON.

"He left home without his keys again the other day. He's a real space cadet."



**Be as mad as a hatter**

BE EXTREMELY CRAZY, UNUSUAL OR WEIRD.

"I saw him dancing in the park with a bright pink hat, a fluorescent green jacket and two mismatched socks. He's as mad as a hatter."



QUIRKY NEWS & CORNY CRIMINALS

# quirky news

## Wallaby Lawnmowers

An eco-solution to all your gardening problems.

What's the best way to cut grass? Most people use a **lawnmower**. Some people use sheep. But now a few gardeners are using **wallabies** to **trim** their **lawns**.

"They're great," said wallaby owner Sarah Jenkins. "They play in the garden and eat the grass. The kids love them too. We're really happy with the animals." **Enthusiasts** say the animal is a **cuter**, friendlier and a more exotic alternative to sheep. But a pair of wallabies aren't cheap: **males** can cost £150 and females around £650. Waveney Wildlife, Britain's



biggest private **supplier** of wallabies, has reported a 100% increase in orders for the **marsupials**. And most of it is **driven** by growing interest from individuals. Trevor Lay, who **runs** the centre in Bungay, Suffolk, now sells 35 a year and says he could find homes for three times as many. "It's crazy. To be honest, if I had 100 I could easily sell them," he explained.

So, are you interested in keeping a wallaby at home? If you are, you're going to need enough land for them to **roam** (at least half an acre) and fences about 2 metres high so the animals can't jump to freedom. ✨

## Corny Criminals

### Washing Machine

Angry customer kidnaps washing machine repairman.



"I'm not **proud** of my actions, but I felt there was no other option," said Stacey Lines, 42, after she **kidnapped** a washing machine **repairman**. But why? "About ten months ago I bought a new washing machine. After using it a couple of times, it **broke down**, so I called an engineer. I had to call five times before they finally agreed to **send someone round**. When the man came, he checked the machine and pulled out a 2p

coin from it. He said the coin was causing the problem. However, a few days later I turned on the machine again and it still wouldn't work. The guy came back and he said that I'd have to pay for any extra repairs even though the machine was still **under warranty**, and that I might as well get a new one because the amount it would cost to fix it would be the same as buying another one. Then, he said he had to leave because he had another client to see. And that's when I **lost** it. **There was no way I was going to** let him out until it was fixed. So, I **locked** the door and stood in front of it and he couldn't get out. He waited for about ten minutes and then called the police." Later, police confirmed that they were called to the address and that a man was "liberated", but that no further action was taken. The shop eventually offered Ms Lines a new washing machine. ✨

## Riddles

CAN YOU SOLVE THESE?



- 1 "The turtle took two chocolates to Texas to teach Thomas to tie his boots." How many "t's" in that?
- 2 What gets bigger and bigger as you take more away from it?
- 3 What goes up, but never comes down? ✨

### GLOSSARY

- a lawnmower** *n* a machine for cutting the grass
- a wallaby** *n* a general word used to refer to animals that are similar to kangaroos
- to trim** *vb* to cut a little bit
- a lawn** *n* an area of flat, well-kept grass
- an enthusiast** *n* a person who is very interested in a particular hobby or activity
- cute** *adj* nice, pretty, attractive, etc.
- a male** *n* a man (a "female" is a woman)
- a supplier** *n* a person or organisation that sells goods/products, etc.
- a marsupial** *n* a group of animals that includes the kangaroo. Female "marsupials" carry their babies in pouches (little "pockets" in their stomachs)
- to drive** *vb* if something "drives" sales, it produces/causes those sales
- to run** *vb* to direct and organise
- to roam** *vb* to walk about freely in an area
- proud of** *exp* if you are "proud of" something you have done or can do, you are pleased/satisfied with it
- to kidnap** *vb* to detain a person illegally
- a repairman** *n* a person who comes to fix something that is broken
- to break down** *phrvb* to stop working
- to send someone round** *exp* if a company "sends someone round", they tell that person to visit a house in order to do a job
- under warranty** *exp* covered by a product guarantee
- to lose it** *exp* to become very angry; to lose control of yourself
- there was no way I was going to X** *exp* I was not going to X under any circumstances
- to lock** *vb* to close with a key

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

QUIRKY NEWS, CORNY CRIMINALS & RIDDLES



THIS MONTH, HOW TO... LEARN ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION.

Pronunciation is really important. Much more important than grammar. For example, when you're speaking, if you use a present tense verb instead of a past tense verb, it probably won't affect your overall message. But if your pronunciation isn't comprehensible, you're in trouble... no matter how perfect your grammar is.

So, what can you do to improve your pronunciation? The most important thing to understand is that English is a stress-timed language. English pronunciation focuses on specific stressed words while quickly gliding over other non-stressed words. Stressed words include nouns ("dog, table", etc.), verbs ("sit, run", etc.), adjectives ("beautiful, wonderful", etc.) and adverbs ("quickly, slowly", etc.). Most of the other words are *not* stressed and include determiners ("a/the"), auxiliary and modal verbs ("am, is, have, can", etc.) prepositions ("in, at, to", etc.) conjunctions ("but, and", etc.) and pronouns ("he, she, they", etc.).

Just to show you what we're talking about, read the following sentences out loud to yourself, putting stress on the content words (marked in bold):

- a) The **nice man arrived punctually** in the **morning**.
- b) She can **do** it on **Monday** as long as she doesn't have to **finish** the **reports** for the **afternoon**.



Notice how the two sentences take about the same time to say even though the second sentence is much longer than the first one. This is because there are five stressed words in each sentence. When you speak, you should stress the content words and glide over the non-stressed words. That's the trick to English pronunciation.

The next thing you need to do is to learn how to read phonetic script. This is extremely useful. There are 26 letters in the English *alphabet* but there are many more sounds in the English *language*. Learn the phonetic script! Then, when you look up a word in the dictionary, you can see how it's pronounced. Very useful!

So, what's the best way to improve your pronunciation? It's simple: speak! Speak the language out loud. Speak to yourself. Say vocabulary words out loud. Read passages from magazines, newspapers and books out loud. Transferring language from your mind to your mouth is a very effective technique.

Also, do lots of listen and copy exercises. Watch videos and listen to CDs. Pause the recordings and repeat the sentences following the intonation and stress patterns as much as possible. Watch news programmes and copy their way of speaking. Also, record yourself. When you listen to the recording afterwards, you can compare your pronunciation with the master version.

Finally, try this useful exercise for really improving your pronunciation. Get a recording (about 10 minutes long) of someone speaking in English. Listen to it a few times to get familiar with it. Then, start listening intensively to it. Go back to the beginning and take a deep breath. Then, play the first sentence from the recording. As you listen, say the sentence out loud at the *same time* as the recording. Don't repeat the sentence *after* the recording – do it with the speaker, copying their intonation, pronunciation and stress patterns. Do it several times (twenty is not too many). Then, move on to the next sentence. Keep going till you get to the end. And then start the whole process again until you can do it all by heart.

Good luck, and remember, comprehensibility is the aim of the game. Go for it! 🍀





# English onion soup

YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH THE DELICIOUS AND CLASSIC FRENCH "SOUPE À L'OIGNON" (ONION SOUP), BUT HAVE YOU TRIED THE ENGLISH VERSION?

### Ingredients

- 60 grams of butter.
- 1.5 kilos of **peeled** and **sliced** onions.
- 4-5 **chopped** garlic cloves.
- 1 bay leaf.
- A few **sprigs** fresh thyme.
- 150 ml cider.
- 750 ml chicken stock.
- 12-18 sage leaves.
- 4 slices bread, toasted.
- 120 grams of grated cheese.
- Salt and pepper.



### Preparation

Melt the butter in a big pot over medium-low heat. Add the onions and **sauté** slowly until soft, tender and browned (about 45 minutes). Add the garlic, bay and thyme leaves and cook for five minutes, then add the cider and **simmer** for about three minutes. Then, remove the herbs and add the stock and simmer for 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Put the soup into heatproof bowls. Top each serving with a slice of toast and sprinkle the cheese on top. **Grill** in the **oven** until the cheese is **melted** and bubbling.

Delicious! 🍴

### GLOSSARY

- to peel** *vb*  
to take the skin off fruit/vegetables
- to slice** *vb*  
to cut into thin strips
- to chop** *vb*  
to cut into small pieces
- a sprig** *n*  
a small shoot or twig of a plant
- to sauté** *vb*  
to fry quickly in a little oil
- to simmer** *vb*  
to cook slowly over a low heat
- to grill** *vb*  
to cook under/over a strong heat/fire
- an oven** *n*  
an electrical appliance in the kitchen for cooking food
- to melt** *vb*  
if cheese "melts", it becomes liquid



## Office Problems

Office-related misdemeanours and how to deal with them.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

### 1 Pre-listening

Look at the list of office incidents. Which ones are the most/least serious? What measures would you suggest be taken against the people in question?

1. A man has been fiddling his expenses.
2. A woman has been running a pirate CD business from her department.
3. A man often drinks at work.
4. A woman has been writing a personal book while she is at work.
5. A managing director has lied on his CV.
6. A woman phoned in sick but then went to a party.

### 2 Listening I

Listen to several people talking about the incidents from above and compare your ideas.

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Who are they talking about? Write "Speaker 1, Speaker 2, Speaker 3, Speaker 4, Speaker 5" or "Speaker 6".

1. This person had a bottle of whisky or vodka under his desk.
2. This person went to a party when she was supposed to be at home.
3. This person stayed in cheap hostels but put in bills for four-star hotels.
4. This person said he's studied at Cambridge University.
5. This person used the office photocopier a lot.
6. This person was arrested by the police.

### 4 Language focus Modal verbs

Look at this extract from the listening, "I think they should carry out tests on people..." The speaker has used a modal verb to give an opinion ("should"). Using a range of modal verbs (can / can't / should / shouldn't / must / mustn't / may / might), write sentences giving your opinions on the people mentioned in this listening activity. For example:

I think that people who phone in sick when they aren't really sick should get the sack.

### 5 Discussion

1. Have any of incidents similar to these happened in your office? Which ones?
2. Can you think of any more examples of employees breaking company policy?
3. What can be done to reduce incidents such as these?



5 tips for dealing with your boss

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# DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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

 Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
A friend has a spot on his face.	Your face is blighted by an accumulation of grease.	You've got a spot. 	You've got a zit.
A friend appears to be nervous and anxious. You ask why.	Why are you in such a state of agitation?	What are you so worried about?	What are you so uptight about? 
A friend is somewhat innocent.	He is green and inexperienced in the ways of the world.	He can be a bit innocent at times.	He's a bit of a mug.
A friend is afraid to touch a snake. You tell him to stop being frightened.	Your fears are unfounded. 	There's no need to be afraid.	Stop being such a wimp!
A friend warns you about something. You thank her.	I am most grateful for the timely warning.	Thanks for the warning. 	Cheers for the heads up.
You have reminded a friend many times to do something but he still hasn't done it.	I have informed him to complete the action on a number of occasions.	I've told him to do it many times.	This is the umpteenth time that I've told him to do it.

# CHAT-UP LINES / PICK-UP LINES

(US English)

LET'S SEE IF YOU GET LUCKY.



- 1 I lost my teddy bear. Will you keep me company instead?
- 2 Do you believe in love at first sight? Or do you think I should walk past again?
- 3 Are you a parking ticket? Because you have "fine" written all over you!
- 4 If I could arrange the alphabet I'd put "U" and "I" together.
- 5 Hi, I was just curious because I saw you noticing me so I'm just giving you notice that I noticed you after you noticed me. 😊



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A look at English accents from around the world.



THIS IS THE FIRST OF A NEW SERIES ON ENGLISH ACCENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN BOTH ENGLISH-SPEAKING AND NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT THE WELSH ENGLISH ACCENT.

**Location of Wales**

Wales is a country just west of England (see map).

**Capital**

Cardiff (300,000 approximately).

**Population**

About 3 million people.

**Famous for**

Wales is famous for its beautiful countryside with green hills, deep valleys and a coastline that covers approximately 1,300 kilometres. It's also famous for its male-voice choirs, its sheep and Tom Jones. Incidentally, the Prince of Wales (Prince Charles) is not Welsh.

**Famous people/groups from Wales**

Sir Anthony Hopkins (actor); Tom Jones (singer); Catherine Zeta Jones (actress); Timothy Dalton (actor); Shirley Bassey (singer); The Manic Street Preachers (group); Super Furry Animals (group); The Stereophonics (group).

**Language**

About 20% of the population in Wales speak Welsh, which is a Celtic language. Welsh is also spoken in a small colony in Patagonia, Argentina, which was inhabited by Welsh settlers in 1865. English is the predominant language in Wales. It is known as Welsh English, Anglo-Welsh or Wenglish.

**Special features of Welsh English**

Distinctive pitch differences, which makes Welsh-English speakers sound as if they are singing. It gives their speech a "sing-song" effect. They also have a tendency to rise at the end of statements, whereas in standard English, there is a falling tone. The vowels are a bit more elongated. A strong tendency to roll the "r". This is known as the "alveolar trill".

**Listen & Learn**

Now sit back and listen to a real Welshman (William Reese) talk about Wales, the Welsh and the Welsh English accent. ❖



A customer tries to get a computer fixed.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

**1 Pre-listening**

Look at the list of potential computer problems. Which ones have you experienced in the past?

- a) The computer won't turn on.
- b) It's got a virus.
- c) It's running really slowly.
- d) It won't load a program or any software.
- e) It switches off all of a sudden.
- f) The screen is cracked.
- g) There's no more memory available.

**2 Listening I**

You are going to listen to someone who has a problem with their computer. What is the problem with the computer (choose from the list in the Pre-listening activity). Does the problem get resolved?

**3 Listening II**

Listen again and answer the questions.

1. Why can't Ms Hardacre deal with the customer?
2. Has the customer tried plugging the computer in?
3. Has the customer services assistant done the advanced technology course?
4. Who does the support engineer say the customer has to speak to?
5. Why isn't the computer covered by the guarantee?
6. Where are the terms of the policy and why can't the customer read them?

**4 Language focus**

**Formal / Informal language**

Look at this extract from the listening, "I think you got the wrong end of the stick." This is an informal way of saying, "I think you misunderstood me." Transform the following informal sentences into more formal/standard ones.

1. Morning. What's up?
2. Sorry but you'll have to chat to my workmate about it.
3. Fancy going out tonight?
4. This is well out of order.
5. This is a joke!

**5 Discussion**

1. What do you like/dislike about your computer at home/work?
2. What programs do you run on your computer? What do you use them for?
3. What's your favourite / least favourite program or software? Why?

# ROAD IDIOMS II



**Reach the end of the road / Be at the end of the road**

TO BE AT THE END OF A SITUATION OR PROCESS.  
"After he found out that she'd been lying, it was the end of the road for their relationship."



**Let's get this show on the road**

SOMETHING YOU SAY IN ORDER TO TELL PEOPLE THAT YOU WANT TO START AN ACTIVITY OR A JOURNEY.  
"We've got less than two hours to get this room ready for the party, so let's get this show on the road."



**Be right up/down someone's alley**

TO BE PERFECT FOR SOMEONE; TO BE JUST THE SORT OF THING THAT SOMEONE LIKES TO DO.  
"This job should be right up your alley."



**A dead-end job**

A JOB WITH NO FUTURE; A BORING JOB WITH NO PROSPECTS OF PROMOTION.  
"I was stuck in a dead-end job with no hope of ever getting promoted."



**At a crossroads**

AT THE POINT WHERE A DECISION MUST BE MADE.  
"We're at a crossroads here where we must choose between continuing as we are, or completely changing our way of doing things."



**Your road to Damascus**

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"It was a chance meeting in a bar that she would later describe as her road to Damascus."



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# Food Revolution

What's so good about British food? by Simon Thomas

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

## 1 Pre-reading

Match the items of food (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

1. A leg of lamb
2. A snail
3. Porridge
4. Bacon
5. Ice cream
6. Beef (oven roast)
7. A sausage
8. Pork chops



## 2 Reading I

Read the article once. Which two items of food from the Pre-reading exercise are not mentioned.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again and complete the sentences.

1. The Fat Duck offers diners unusual concoctions such as...
2. British supermarkets are stocking great new food such as...
3. British cheese makers don't tend to...
4. Some British producers are starting to...
5. Vito Catello has opened...
6. Although people in Bologna are proud of their food, the restaurant is...

## 4 Language focus Comparisons

Look at this extract from the article, "British cheese can be as good as French or Italian varieties..." The writer has made a comparison with "as... as". Use the words below to make similar comparisons. Use negative forms if necessary.

1. film / boring / the other one
2. this book / interesting / the other one
3. tired / you
4. writing on the computer / complicated / writing by hand
5. shopping online / time-consuming / shopping in shops

## 5 Discussion

1. What comes to mind when you think of British food?
2. What's your opinion of British food? What is it based on?
3. What British food have you tried? What did you think of it?



There's a revolution going on in British cooking. The San Pellegrino list (a list of the 50 best restaurants in the world) puts an old British pub, The Fat Duck, at number 2. And the Michelin guide, the authority on **fine dining**, gives more stars to London restaurants than anywhere else outside France. What's happening?

For a start, British chefs have a high level of creativity. Heston Blumenthal, the head chef and owner of The Fat Duck,

has an amazing menu. His **diners** can try truly unusual **concoctions** such as snail porridge (oats and milk mixed with cooked snails) or bacon and egg ice cream. It sounds strange, but Blumenthal has won many awards for his cooking. In 2005, the magazine *Restaurant* said The Fat Duck was the best restaurant in the world, and it was voted Best Restaurant in the UK in 2008 and 2009, scoring a maximum 10 out of 10 in the *Good Food Guide*.

British supermarkets are also **stocking** great new food. At Tesco's, you can find exotic food such as dragon fruit from China or emu meat from Australia along with traditional British beef or apples. Another British supermarket, Waitrose, sells organic produce (fresh food grown without help from artificial chemicals).

A lot of British produce is now considered world-class. William Nelson, one of England's top **butchers**, says that British beef is the best in the world. "Europeans don't believe in good-tasting beef," he says. "The taste comes from the sweetness of the fat and the Europeans grow protein on bones, not beef." Meanwhile, the cheese-maker Tom Calver says that British cheese can be as good as French or Italian varieties. "Where we **fall down** is that we don't **blow our own trumpet**," he says. "We don't **give ourselves** enough **credit** about what we actually produce."

Some British producers are even starting to sell their food in other countries. Guy Tullberg sells traditional English sauces through his family business. "We've done the *Slow Food Festival* in Turin for three years and everyone said we were **mad** - that we **wouldn't sell a thing**. But every year we come back with £6,000 to £7,000."

And Vito Catello, an Italian immigrant who grew up in Britain, has tried something even more challenging. Earlier this year, he opened a restaurant in Bologna selling English food to Italian customers. "When you look even at the **mainstream dishes** in Britain such as fish and chips they're delicious," he explains. "But people aren't promoting it enough. That's what I'm doing. I'm **shouting about** them. I'm shouting about Lincolnshire sausages **and the like** because they're great British products." And all this shouting seems to be working. People in Bologna are so proud of their food that some say they won't even eat in the next town, but Catello's *Passion* restaurant is fully booked every night.

Maybe it's time to give British food another go. ✨



### GLOSSARY

- fine dining** *n*  
eating top quality food at top quality restaurants
- a diner** *n*  
a person who eats in a restaurant
- a concoction** *n*  
an item of food that has been created from several different items of food
- to stock** *vb*  
if a shop "stocks" something, it sells that thing
- a butcher** *n*  
a person whose job consists of selling/cutting meat in a shop
- to fall down** *phr vb*  
to fail; not to be successful
- to blow your own trumpet** *exp*  
to tell everyone how wonderful/amazing/fantastic, etc. you are
- to give yourself credit for something** *exp*  
to praise yourself (say good things about yourself) for something good that you have done
- mad** *adj*  
crazy/insane
- wouldn't sell a thing** *exp*  
wouldn't sell anything
- a mainstream dish** *n*  
food that is typical/common from the place you are referring to
- to shout about something** *exp*  
to tell everyone how marvellous/good/wonderful, etc. something is
- and the like** *exp*  
and things such as that



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## The News

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**Go off (a bomb)**  
TO EXPLODE.



"The bomb went off at 6pm."

**Flare up (violence)**

IF VIOLENCE "FLARES UP", IT STARTS.



"Violence flared up after the government arrested the opposition leader."

**Bring down (a government)**

TO CAUSE A GOVERNMENT TO CRASH.



"The revolts brought down the government."

**Leak out (news)**

IF A SECRET OR NEWS THAT SHOULD BE A SECRET "LEAKS OUT", THE PUBLIC FINDS OUT ABOUT IT.



"News of their plans for marriage were leaked out."

**Crack down on**

IF THE POLICE OR AN AUTHORITY "CRACK DOWN ON" A GROUP OF PEOPLE, THEY BECOME STRICTER IN MAKING THE GROUP OBEY LAWS/RULES.



"The government have decided to crack down on underage drinkers."

**Break out (war)**

TO START



"War broke out last month after negotiations broke down."

**Break off (talks)**

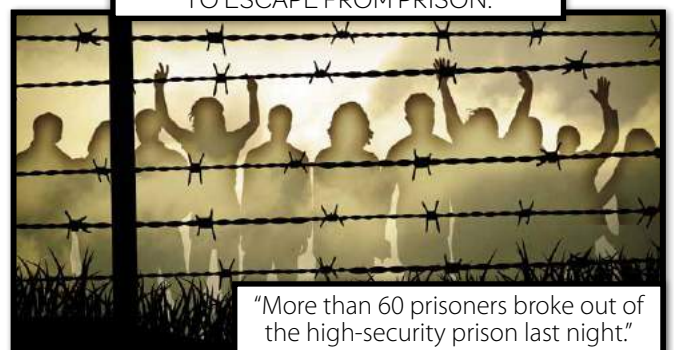
IF ONE PARTY "BREAKS OFF" TALKS, THEY STOP TALKING TO THE OTHER SIDE.



"The union reps decided to break off talks after months of negotiating with the government."

**Break out (of prison)**

TO ESCAPE FROM PRISON.



"More than 60 prisoners broke out of the high-security prison last night."



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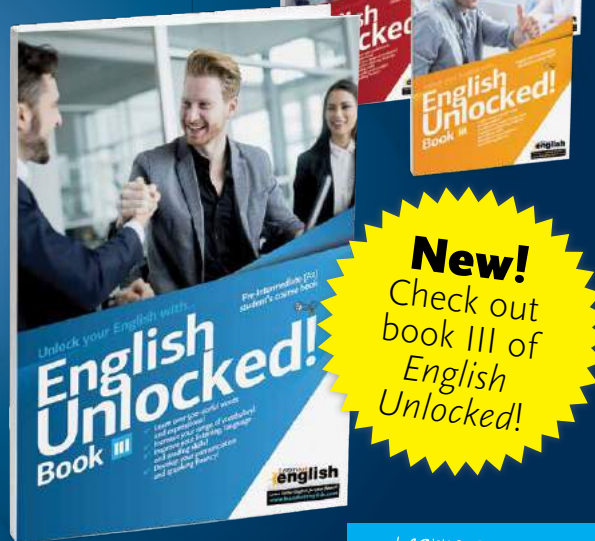
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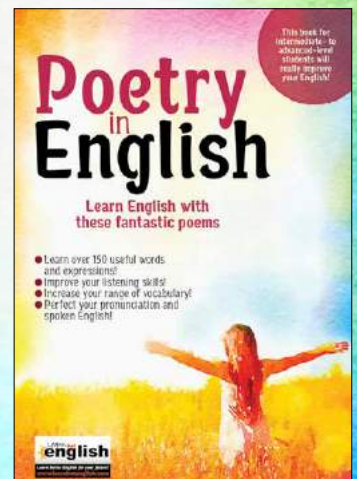
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**JOB QUIZ** (09) TRACK 05 (02)

Listen to the quiz and guess the job.

**Bernie:** Hello, good evening, and welcome. I'm Bernie Foreman and it's time to play "What on earth do you do?" the game show for people with unusual jobs. Our guest can only answer "yes" or "no" and our celebrities only have 2 minutes to find out what he does. So let's play "What on Earth do you do?" First question, Wendy?

**Wendy:** Do you work at home?

**Fred:** No, I don't.

**Bernie:** Hard luck, Wendy. Tommy, have you got a question?

**Tommy:** How long have you done your job?

**Bernie:** Sorry, Tommy. Fred can only answer "yes" or "no". You'll have to ask another question.

**Tommy:** Oh yeah. How many years have you done this job, Fred?

**Bernie:** That's still not a yes/no question, Tommy?

**Tommy:** Oh, right. So, have you done this job for more than a year?

**Fred:** Yes, I have.

**Bernie:** Professor Armstrong.

**John:** Have you been to university, Fred?

**Fred:** Yes, I have.

**Bernie:** Your go again, Wendy.

**Wendy:** Do you work in an office?

**Fred:** No, I don't.

**Tommy:** Have you done this job for more than 2 years?

**Fred:** Yes, I have.

**John:** Is your job scientific?

**Fred:** Yes, it is.

**Bernie:** Wendy.

**Wendy:** Do you work in a shop?

**Fred:** No, I don't.

**Tommy:** Have you done this job for more than 3 years?

**Fred:** Yes, I have.

**John:** Are you a teacher?

**Fred:** No, I'm not.

**Wendy:** Do you work in a school?

**Fred:** Erm... no, I don't.

**Tommy:** Have you done this job for more than 4 years?

**Bernie:** You've already asked that question, Tommy.

**Tommy:** Oh sorry. Have you done this job for more than 4 years?

**Fred:** Yes, I have.

**Bernie:** Your question, Professor.

**John:** Is your job medical?

**Fred:** Yes, it is.

**Wendy:** Do you work in a hotel?

**Fred:** No, I don't.

**Bernie:** OK, you've got 30 seconds left. We know Fred has a medical job and that he's had his job for more than 4 years. Come on celebrities, you don't want Fred to win the £1 million, do you? Your go, Tommy.

**Tommy:** Have you done this job for more than 5 years?

**Fred:** No, I haven't.

**Tommy:** Aha. I think I know what he does. He's a footballer.

**Bernie:** No, Tommy, you're the footballer. Fred's a medical scientist. Professor, can you help?

**John:** Do you work with sick people?

**Fred:** No, I don't.

**Wendy:** Are you a famous pop singer?

**Fred:** No, I'm not.

**Tommy:** Are you a famous actor?

**Fred:** No, I'm not.

**John:** Do you help sick animals?

**Fred:** Yes, I do.

**Bernie:** OK. So, Wendy this is the last question. If you don't guess Fred's job now, he will win £1 million. We know he works with sick animals. So, what's your last question?

**Wendy:** Are you a dog psychologist?

**Fred:** Yes, I am. How did you guess?

**Wendy:** I have a psychologist for my Labrador, Ken. He thinks he's an Alsatian.

**Bernie:** Well, that was incredible. Well done, Wendy, and hard luck, Fred. Join us again next time to see if anyone can beat the panel on "What on Earth do you do?". Good night.

**RADIO ADVERTS** (09) TRACK 09 (02)

Genuine trade fair radio ads.

**AD1: WEDDING FAIR AD**

**Man:** (in a panic) What are we going to do?

**Woman:** (calm) What's wrong?

**Man:** We're getting married in three months and we haven't organised anything.

**Woman:** Don't worry.

**Man:** How can you say 'don't worry'? You haven't got a dress. I haven't got a suit. We haven't sent out the invitations. We haven't booked our honeymoon. We haven't even ordered a cake. It's going to be a disaster.

**Woman:** No, it's not.

**Man:** What's wrong? Don't you care?

**Woman:** Because we're going to The National Wedding Show.

**Man:** The National Wedding Show? What's that?

**Woman:** It's the biggest wedding fair in the UK. Everything we need will be there. Wedding dress designers, limousine hire, travel agents for honeymoons even caterers for the cake.

**Man:** When is it?

**Woman:** All next week. From the 14th to the 19th of May.

**Man:** Where?

**Woman:** At the Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London. Starts Monday at 9.30am.

**Man:** You're wonderful! I'm so glad we're getting married.

**Woman:** In fact I've just had an idea.

**Man:** What?

**Woman:** Let's get married next week at Earls Court. It'll be so easy.

**AD2: LANGUAGE LEARNING ADVERT**

**Announcer 1:**  
 Do you wish you could speak a foreign language?  
 Do you get embarrassed when you travel abroad?  
 Do you need to improve your language skills for work?  
 If your answer to even one of these questions is "yes", then you need to come to NECA EXPO. Yes, Neca Expo is back. It's bigger and better than ever. There are more exhibitors, more schools and colleges, and more students than ever before. Study here or abroad, there's a course for every one at Neca Expo. So, if you want to learn Spanish, come to Neca Expo. If you want to start Chinese, come to Neca Expo. If you want to improve your English, come to Neca Expo.

**Announcer 2:**  
 NECA EXPO. From 13th – 17th April, Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida. Part of Universal Studios, Florida.

**AD3: RECORD & CD FAIR**

**Man:** Excuse me, have you got "Frozen Blood" by Crispy Ambulance?

**Assistant 1:** No. Sorry mate.

**Man:** Oh well. Thank you.

**Man:** Excuse me, I'm looking for a copy of "Frozen Blood" by Crispy Ambulance.

**Assistant 2:** Never heard of it.

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

**Man:** Excuse me, I wonder if you've got the CD "Frozen Blood" by Crispy Ambulance.

**Assistant 3:** (mocking laughter) Crispy Ambulance! You must be joking. No one's bought one of those for twenty years.

**Man:** Thank you for your help.

**Assistant 3:** (more laughter)

**Girl:** Excuse me, did you say you wanted "Frozen Blood" by Crispy Ambulance?

**Man:** Yes, that's right.

**Woman:** You should go to the VIP Record and CD Fair.

**Man:** Really?

**Woman:** Yes, listen.

**Announcer:** Come to the VIP Record and CD Fair – the best music collectors' event in the north of England. Over 100 tables full of music. We've got everything from

Abba to The Zootons, from Bob Marley to Beethoven, and from Cristy Moore to Crispy Ambulance. Our next fair is Saturday 22nd September, at the Sasha's Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester. Entrance fee just £3. Whatever you're looking for, come and ask us. And we won't laugh at you – promise!

**OFFICE PROBLEMS** (09) TRACK 15 (02)

Office-related misdemeanours and how to deal with them.

Do you know anyone who's been dismissed recently? What did they do? Did they break company policy? Was it for something illegal? We asked a few people for their stories.

**Speaker I**

I heard about this guy in accounts who was fiddling his expenses. He was claiming for receipts that he'd collected from friends and family and their trips to restaurants and things like that. Also, when he went on business trips he often stayed in cheap hostels, but put in bills for four-star hotels. I guess that's pretty serious. I don't know what happened to him, but I think they should sack people for doing things like that, don't you?

**Speaker II**

There was this woman I heard about who was working in the archive library for a music company. Apparently, she was running her own little pirate CD business from the department, supplying street vendors with illegal copies of the CDs and dealing with them during work time. Management called in the police as it was a criminal matter. I think she got a few months in prison for that.

**Speaker III**

I heard about this guy who was a pretty heavy drinker. He had a supply of booze under his desk and would regularly get through a bottle of whisky or vodka during the day. You can't have people like that in the office. I think they should carry out tests on people to check they aren't taking alcohol or drugs at work.

**Speaker IV**

I heard about this woman who was writing a book while she was at work. She was using the office photocopier to print drafts of it, too. Apparently, she was working on it for about six months before anyone realised. I can't imagine how no one noticed, but I guess she must have been stuck away in some quiet corner all on her own with very little supervision. I think they should sack her because she isn't really doing her job properly.

**Speaker V**

I heard about this managing director who'd been caught out lying on his CV. He'd been at the company for about 20 years and had risen up through the ranks to get to the top position. According to his CV, he'd studied at Cambridge University and got a business degree from there. However, during a party, he got drunk and spilled the beans, telling one of his deputies about it. Later, she informed the president. The guy was due to retire that year and the company had done really well under his leadership, so they didn't do anything about it. But I think they should set an example and take his pension away or fire him or something like that.

**Speaker VI**

There was this woman in marketing who got the sack for taking a day off work without permission. She called in sick, but someone found pictures of her on her Facebook page that showed her at a party on the day she was supposed to be at home. Honestly, I don't think people should get the sack for that, although I will admit it's a bit dishonest. Everyone should have 3 or 4 days that they can have off whenever they want. That might stop them having to lie or invent excuses about not coming in when they want to do something else.

## AUDIO SCRIPTS

### ACCENT ALERT 🎧 TRACK 18 🎧

Well, I suppose the vowels are a bit more elongated, you know. We tend to dwell on the sound a bit more. Erm, what else is there? I suppose there's the "u" sound. You know, if you say "you" in English whereas in South Wales we say "ew". "Did 'ew' see that film last night?" [Oh, I see, whereas, we would say, "Did you see that film last night?"] Exactly, that. And we tend to roll our "r's" a little bit as well. [OK.] Sort of like the Scottish. Er, "Did you see the marvellous rugby match the other day?"

Erm, well they tend to be the main differences, er, in terms of vowel sounds, but I think that the differences aside from the vowels then are with vocabulary. Well, we say "but" instead of "friend" or "mate." Er, we say "bard" instead of "sick" or "ill." Er, we say "mun" instead of "man." All of this is very common in South Wales. We say "tup" which means "stupid." As in, "You're a bit tup." Er, what else do we say? We say "bayur" and "baythere". Er, for example, if a bag is in a corner of a room, in standard English you would say, "The bag is there" or "The bag is here"; whereas in, in Welsh we would say, "It's over bayur" or "over baythere". [Oh, very interesting.]

But could I just say that we don't say "look you". The English tend to think that we say "look you" and, and that's nonsense it's simply not true. I blame Shakespeare because it's in a Shakespeare play, you see, and he thinks that we all spoke like that and it's just not true.

Well, I, I suppose the accent itself is quite sing-songy, it's quite up and down. Much like the Welsh themselves, you see. They're never, they're never sort of in the middle. They either, either go to the sort of top or the bottom. And the language itself reflects that, I think; whereas standard English is much flatter.

### TECHNICAL COMPLAINT 🎧 TRACK 19 🎧

*A customer tries to get a computer fixed.*

**Assistant 1:** Good morning, can I help you?  
**Customer:** Well, I'm really sorry to bother you but it's about this laptop.  
**Assistant 1:** (sounding cagey) Yes?  
**Customer:** Well, you see there's a problem with the....  
**Assistant 1:** Oh, I see. I'm afraid you'll need to talk to my colleague Ms Hardacre at the

next desk about that. I can't deal with technological problems.

**Customer:** Oh.  
**Assistant 1:** So, if you'd like to take a seat, my colleague will be happy to help you just as soon as she's free.  
**Customer:** Oh, right. Thank you.  
**Assistant 1:** Just take a seat. She'll be right with you.  
**Assistant 2:** Good morning, sir. What's the problem?  
**Customer:** Yes, well, I've got a problem with this laptop and I was hoping that you might be able to help me.  
**Assistant 2:** Well, let's see shall we? Now what's the problem?  
**Customer:** Well, it's the screen... (phone rings)  
**Assistant 2:** Excuse me, sir. Oh, hello darling. No, no, now's fine. I'm not busy. Hold on a minute though. I'm terribly sorry, sir, but I'm going to have to take this call. It's very urgent. Why don't you explain your little problem to my colleague, Mr Smotherfield? Just take a seat and he'll be free in a minute or two, I'm sure.  
**Customer:** But I spoke to him earlier and he sent me to you.  
**Assistant 2:** (talking into the phone) Hello darling, I'm back. So what time is the film on? [fades out]  
**Assistant 1:** Good morning, can I help you?  
**Customer:** Yes, I spoke to you a couple of minutes ago about...  
**Assistant 1:** Did you?  
**Customer:** Yes, I did. Anyway, it's about my...  
**Assistant 1:** Now have you tried turning it on?  
**Customer:** Well, yes I have, but you see...  
**Assistant 1:** OK. And have you tried plugging it in?  
**Customer:** Yes, of course. The problem is...  
**Assistant 1:** Hmm, it sounds like an advanced technology problem. I'm afraid you'll need to talk to my colleague.  
**Customer:** What! I thought you said you'd done the course.  
**Assistant 1:** Yes, I've done the technology course. But I haven't done the advanced technology course yet. Come back in two months and I'll be able to help you.  
**Customer:** And meanwhile?  
**Assistant 1:** One of our technical service and support engineers will be with you in the next twenty minutes. [30 minutes later]  
**Engineer:** Hello? What's the problem?  
**Customer:** This laptop's broken.  
**Engineer:** How do you know?

**Customer:** The screen's cracked.  
**Engineer:** Cracked screen? Can't help you, mate. You'll need to change it for another one.  
**Customer:** That's what I've been trying to do for the past hour.  
**Engineer:** Then I don't know why you're wasting your time. I fix things, I don't change them. You need to talk to a customer services assistant.  
**Customer:** But they told me to talk to you.  
**Engineer:** Well, they were wrong.  
**Customer:** Honestly. This is ridiculous.  
**Engineer:** Don't take it out on me. Wasn't my mistake. Talk to Mr Smotherfield here.  
**Assistant 1:** Good morning, can I help you?  
**Customer:** Yes, you can. You can change this laptop immediately.  
**Assistant 1:** What's wrong with it?  
**Customer:** The screen's broken.  
**Assistant 1:** How do you know?  
**Customer:** Because there's a great big crack in it.  
**Assistant 1:** I see. Am I right in thinking that you removed the laptop from its box?  
**Customer:** Yes, how else would I know if it's broken?  
**Assistant 1:** Unfortunately, sir, this means that you have broken the terms of our non-transferable package displacement policy.  
**Customer:** What?  
**Assistant 1:** By removing the product from its box you have waived the right to have it replaced, sir.  
**Customer:** I don't believe this. You cannot be serious.  
**Assistant 1:** The policy is quite clearly stated on the back of your receipt, sir. If you look through this magnifying glass, I think you'll find that we're quite within our rights.  
**Customer:** But this is written in Greek.  
**Assistant 1:** We're owned by a Greek company, sir.  
**Customer:** So you won't change the laptop?  
**Assistant 1:** It's not a case of "won't", sir, it's a case of "can't".  
**Customer:** This is outrageous. I'm going to talk to a lawyer.  
**Assistant 1:** Very well, sir. Before you go could I just ask you to complete this feedback form?  
**Customer:** Pardon?  
**Assistant 1:** This feedback form. It asks you about the standards of customer care in our store. We're always trying to put the customer first, you know.

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# ANSWERS

## THE IG NOBELS (PAGE 5)

### 3 Reading II

1. chemistry; 2. diamonds;
3. public; 4. pregnant;
5. veterinary; 6. Stephan

### 4 Language focus

1. She won the prize.
2. They liked the game.
3. The judges chose the winner.
4. They did some research.
5. We didn't know the answer.

## VOCABULARY (PAGE 8)

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

## WACKY WARDROBES (PAGE 10)

### 3 Reading II

1. clothes made from human hair;
2. the mankind;
3. gas masks;
4. iron clothes;
5. the Urban Security Suit;
6. pirate hats and big belts and boots;
7. gold jeans;
8. the "fun" military uniform

## ERROR CORRECTION (PAGE 13)

1. We will be there in June.
2. I did the exam in 2005.
3. Christmas Day is on 25th December.
4. I'll be there at 6.
5. She'll come back in April.
6. The concert starts at 8pm.

## JOB QUIZ (PAGE 13)

### 1 Pre-listening

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

### 3 Listening II

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

### 4 Language focus

1. do you live; 2. do you get up;
3. do you have for breakfast;
4. do you leave; 5. do you

## GRAMMAR FUN (PAGE 14)

1. so; 2. such; 3. so; 4. such;
5. such; 6. so

## 10 FUN FACTS ABOUT COCKTAILS! (PAGE 15)

### 2 Reading I

1. 17th and 18th centuries.
2. Three theories: they were mixed with a rooster or cock's tail feather; they were named after a Mexican princess; the name comes from the French word for egg cup.
3. A vodka martini shaken not stirred.
4. A drink with gin, lemon juice, sugar syrup, soda water and a slice of lemon.
5. A champagne cocktail.
6. With ice; chilled in the shaker and then strained.
7. Charlie Chaplin, Mae West, Greta Garbo.
8. Vodka and orange juice. Engineers mixed them with their screwdrivers.
9. The Mint Julep.
10. It is National Pina Colada Day.

## PLASTIC OBSESSION (PAGE 16)

### 1 Pre-reading

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

### 3 Reading II

1. The number of bags used in 2007.
2. The number of bags being used now.
3. Where the Falkland Islands are.
4. The time it takes for a plastic

bag to decompose.

5. The tax imposed on plastic bags.
6. The number of bags the Irish were using before the tax.

## RADIO ADVERTS (PAGE 19)

### 3 Listening II

- 1b 2c 3a 4c 5a 6a 7b

### 4 Language focus

1. taller; 2. longer; 3. better;
4. worse; 5. more interesting

## LAST WRITES (PAGE 28)

### 3 Reading II

1. Writing will only be legible to experts.
2. 90%.
3. They can't smudge with a computer.
4. Illegible prescriptions are a thing of the past.
5. It's harming our general levels of literacy.
6. It will become a hobby.

## RIDDLES (PAGE 33)

1. There are 2 "t's" in "that"!
2. A hole!
3. Your age!

## OFFICE PROBLEMS (PAGE 35)

### 3 Listening II

1. Person 3; 2. Person 6;
3. Person 1; 4. Person 5;
5. Person 4; 6. Person 2.

## TECHNICAL COMPLAINT (PAGE 39)

### 2 Listening I

The computer screen is cracked.  
The problem doesn't get resolved.

### 3 Listening II

1. Because she's on the phone;

2. Yes, he has;
3. No, he hasn't;
4. A technical service and support engineer;
5. Because the customer removed the laptop from its box;
6. On the back of the receipt; it's too small to read.

### 4 Language focus (answers may vary)

1. Good morning. What seems to be the problem?
2. I'm afraid you will have to talk to my colleague about it.
3. Would you like to go out tonight?
4. This is unacceptable.
5. This is outrageous.

## FOOD REVOLUTION (PAGE 42)

### 1 Pre-reading

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

### 3 Reading II

1. snail porridge and bacon and egg ice cream;
  2. emu meat and dragon fruit;
  3. blow their own trumpet;
  4. sell their food in other countries;
  5. a restaurant in Italy;
  6. fully booked every night
- ### 4 Language focus (answers may vary)
1. The film isn't as boring as the other one.
  2. This book isn't as interesting as the other one.
  3. I'm as tired as you.
  4. Writing on the computer isn't as complicated as writing by hand.
  5. Shopping online isn't as time-consuming as shopping in shops.

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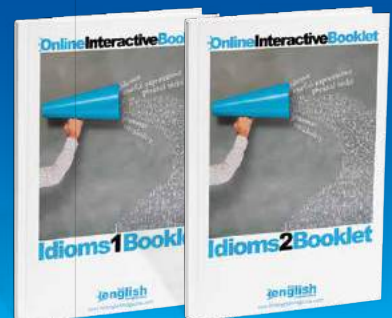
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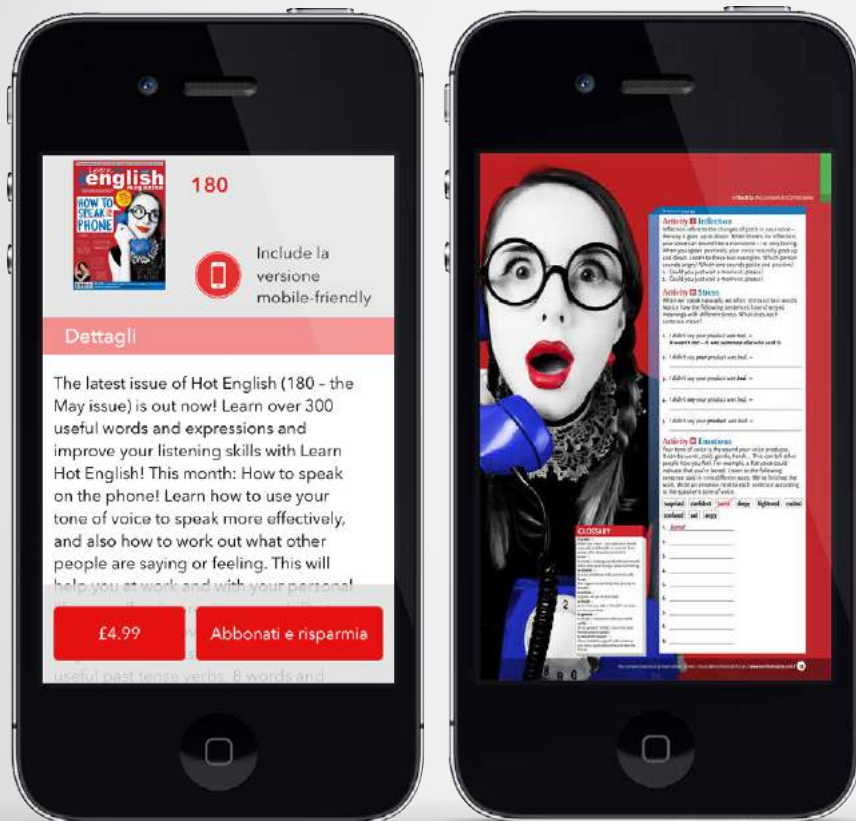
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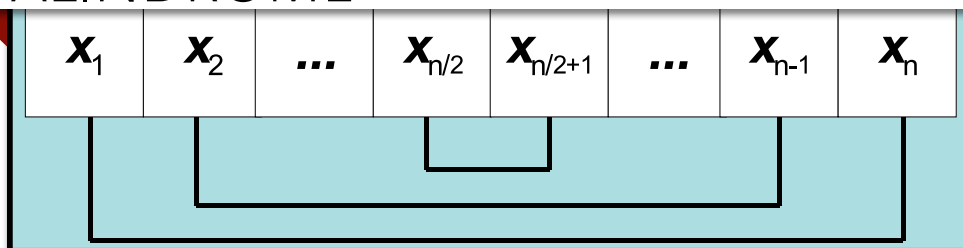
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## WORD OF THE MONTH

## PALINDROME



THIS MONTH'S WORD OF THE MONTH IS... "PALINDROME".

Look at these words below. What do you think is special about them?

*pop kayak civic radar level racecar*

The thing is they're all palindromes. These are words that can be read forwards and backwards and still be the same word. For example, if you write the word "pop" backwards it spells "pop".

The term "palindrome" comes from the Greek words "palin" (which means "back") and "dromos" (which means "way/direction").

The most common and familiar palindromes are character-by-character words such as the ones in the examples above. But a phrase or sentence can also be a palindrome. Look at this example, "Was it a rat I saw?" Try writing it backwards letter by letter and you'll see that it spells out the same question ("Was it a rat I saw?"). Here are some more palindromic sentences/questions:

- Step on no pets.
- Sit on a potato pan, Otis.
- Lisa Bonet ate no basil.
- A man, a plan, a canal, Panama!
- Madam, I'm Adam.
- Do geese see God?
- Mr Owl ate my metal worm.
- No devil lived on.
- No lemon, no melon.
- Red rum, sir, is murder.

As you can see, in order to create the "backward" version, you have to ignore all punctuation, capitalisation and spacing.

Some people have names that are palindromes. One of the prime ministers of Cambodia was "Lon Nol (1913 to 1985). Other palindrome names include Ada, Ana, Anna, Bob, Elle, Eve, Hannah and Otto.

Some palindromes use words as units (rather than using letters). The following sentences are the same if you read them backwards *word for word*:

- Fall leaves after leaves fall.
- First Ladies rule the state and **state** the rule: Ladies first.

The longest palindromic word in the Oxford English dictionary is the **onomatopoeic** "tattarrattat" which was used by James Joyce in his book *Ulysses* (1922) to represent the sound of someone knocking on the door.

Finally, a "semordnilap" (which is "palindromes" spelt backwards) is a word that when spelt backwards reveals a different word. For example, the word "star" spelt backwards is "rats". Here are some more semordnilaps:

*gateman-nametag; deliver-reviled; straw-warts; stop-pots; snap-pans; live-evil; smart-trams; spit-tips; dog-god; maps-spam.*

Now, see if you can make a palindromic sentence? \*

## GLOSSARY

**fall** *n.*  
two meanings: a) autumn (in US English); b) if leaves "fall", they come off the trees

**the state** *n.*  
two meanings: a) the country; b) to "state" something is to say that thing formally/officially, etc.

**onomatopoeic** *adj.*  
an "onomatopoeic" word is formed to sound like the noise of the thing it is describing ("hiss, sizzle", etc.)

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