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# english magazine

NOT BE BOTHERED

HANG OUT

PUT YOUR FACE ON

KIP

HAVE ONE TOO MANY

A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

FACE THE MUSIC

MUST BE MAD / MENTAL

CHAT SOMEONE UP

**THE HOBBIT**  
Learn about English riddles from this book

**INTERNET FADS**  
Strange things that people do!

**URBAN FASHION**  
Steampunks and Hipsters – read all about them

**ID THEFT**  
What is it? How to avoid it!



GET DOLLED UP

THUMPING HEADACHE

WOLF DOWN

CHILL OUT

GATECRASHED

SCOFF

SMOG!

SUCKS

TO HAVE PRE-DRINKS

KITTY

REALLY HOT!

HOUSE WARMING PARTY

CHILL PILL

MAKE IT

TO EAT A HORSE

TO BE STARVING

I'M IN LUCK

**PLUS...** PHRASAL VERBS, GRAMMAR, IDIOMS, VOCABULARY, USEFUL EXPRESSIONS... AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

MORE THAN **50**

USEFUL SLANG

EXPRESSIONS!

LET'S DO A RUNNER!

SHARE A CAB

AWESOME

I HAD A BLAST LAST NIGHT!

DOWN IN ONE

TO BE GUTTED

I'M KNACKERED!

LAME

TIGHT / STINGY

LET'S GO DUTCH!

FIT!

THERE'S LOADS OF TALENT HERE

ON THE PULL

THIS PARTY ROCKS!

CAN'T REMEMBER A THING

**SLANG CONVERSATION**  
The house party!

**SUPERSTITIONS**  
Common superstitions in English-speaking countries

**TRUTH & REALITY**  
When Hollywood gets it wrong!

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HIT THE ROAD

FANCY SOMEONE

I FEEL LIKE SPLASHING OUT!

CHECK OUT

TAKE IT EASY

GET THE DRINKS IN

I'M WASTED / PLASTERED / HAMMERED / SLAUGHTERED / PISSED

IT'S MY ROUND!

HIT THE SPOT

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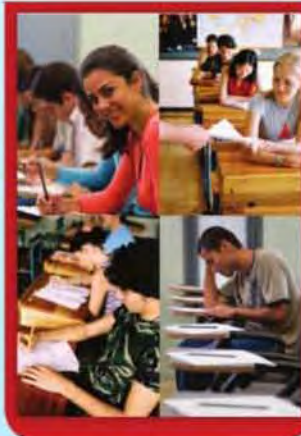
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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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

Do you know any English slang? It's quite common in songs, films and TV shows, as well as in conversational English. In this month's issue, we're looking at 4 key reasons why you should learn some English slang, as well as giving you 50 useful slang expressions for talking about going out at night.

Our Film of the Month, *The Hangover Part III*, is full of slang expressions. The original film from the franchise (*The Hangover*) is a comedy about four friends who go to Las Vegas on a **stag do**. They get extremely drunk and wake up the next morning with terrible **hangovers** and little memory of the night before. The second film was set in Bangkok (Thailand), but this latest film takes place in Las Vegas again.

Another film we're looking at this month is *The Hobbit*. Director Peter Jackson has divided the original story by JRR Tolkien into three parts. In the book version, the Hobbit has to solve a number of **riddles**, which are types of word puzzles. Here's a simple one for you to try: "Name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday."

Do you know the answer? It's *yesterday, today, tomorrow*.

Of course, that's not all! We've also got articles on how to express thanks, a few of the world's most expensive homes, unusual charity events, internet fads, pop songs from the 1980s, superstitions, ID theft, Angela Merkel, and two new urban **subcultures** you probably haven't heard of: steampunks and hipsters.

And finally, our audio booklet *Idioms 1* is now available from the Apple App Store and Google Play. You can learn over 150 useful idiomatic expressions from the sound files, example sentences and descriptive images. Simply download the Hot English App for free, then buy the booklet in-app. Or you can get the physical copy from the shop on our website ([www.hotenglishmagazine.com](http://www.hotenglishmagazine.com)). Over the coming months, we'll be putting lots more booklets up there, which you'll find really useful!

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

Yours,  
*Andy*

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

Sign up for some Speaking Classes with Hot English. See page two of this magazine for more details, or visit: [www.telephone-english.com](http://www.telephone-english.com)

## GLOSSARY

- a stag do** 1) a party for a man who is going to get married. The guests are usually just his male friends
- a hangover** 1) if someone has a "hangover", they feel sick and have a headache because they drank a lot of alcohol the night before
- a riddle** 1) a poem / puzzle / joke that is difficult to understand
- a subculture** 1) a group of people within a society who are different from the majority of people: punks, hippies, Goths, mods, New Romantics, etc.



5



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# In the News

IN THE NEWS N°19

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

LONDON 2013

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

## Think about it

Do you believe people can predict the future? Why? Why not? What do you think the world will be like in 50 years? Have you seen any of the *Star Wars* films? If so, what did you think of them? Do you enjoy sci-fi films? Why? Why not?

## TECHNOLOGY

# PREDICTING THE FUTURE



Is it possible to predict the future? In 1988, an American reporter interviewed 30 futurologists and asked them what technology would be like in 2013. What did they say? A few predicted SatNavs, saying “cars will come equipped with electronic map systems.” And they also said we’d be using e-mail, doing banking online, and making video calls with our computers. But the futurologists got plenty of things wrong as

well. For example, they said that robots would be doing all our cooking and cleaning. “Convenience robots that can perform a variety of household tasks may start hitting the marketplace by the late 1990s,” one scientist said. Also, none of the futurologists predicted the rise of mobile phones or tablet computers. What do you think the top gadget will be in 2030? ➔

## GLOSSARY

- to predict** *vb*  
if you “predict” the future, you say what will happen in the future
- a futurologist** *n*  
someone who tries to predict the future
- a SatNav** *n*  
a little machine that has a map in it. It can give you directions
- to perform** *vb*  
if a machine can “perform” a task or job, it can do it
- a household task** *n*  
things you do in the house: cleaning, cooking, making the beds, etc.
- to hit the marketplace** *v3p*  
if a product “hits the marketplace”, it appears in shops
- a rise of** *exp*  
an increase of
- a gadget** *n*  
a machine that does something useful: an MP3 player, a tablet computer
- a seer** *n*  
someone who can predict the future
- 9/11** *n* / *US*  
September 11th – the date of the terrorist attacks in New York. Notice how in American English they put the month first (9) and the day afterwards (11)
- the big screen** *n*  
a word that refers to cinema in general
- to release** *vb*  
when a product is “released”, it appears in shops and you can buy it
- to come out** *phr* *vb*  
when a film “comes out”, it is in cinemas and you can see it
- a hit** *n*  
a very successful film
- merchandising** *n*  
toys and clothes with images or names of a film, sports team, pop group, etc.
- to quit** *vb*  
if you “quit” a job, you leave it
- a truck** *n*  
a large vehicle for transporting goods. A “lorry” in British English

## FUN FACT

The most famous seer in history is the 16th-century Frenchman Nostradamus. Some believe he predicted World War II and the terrorist attacks of 9/11 on the Twin Towers in New York City.

## CINEMA

# STAR WARS IS BACK

**S**tar Wars is coming back to the big screen. The first *Star Wars* movie, called *A New Hope*, was released in 1977. Since then, there have been six films in total. And now there are plans to make at least three more, with the first one to be released in cinemas in 2015. Several of the main characters will return, including Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Han Solo, who will be played once again by Harrison Ford. “I’m looking forward to it,” Ford recently told the press. When the first



*Star Wars* film came out, very few people expected it to be a success. But it was an immediate hit with both the public and critics; and it won six Oscars at the 1978 Academy Awards. Since then, the *Star Wars* saga has created a merchandising empire, with toys, books and video games worth about \$27 billion. ➔

## FUN FACT

After seeing the first *Star Wars* film, a young James Cameron quit his job as a truck driver to make movies. Two of his films are *Titanic* and *Avatar*.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE?

# SIX WORD GAMES FROM THE HOBBIT!

by Georgie Kiely



## Pre-reading

Here are some useful words for the article. Which ones had you heard of before? Where from?

- **Hobbit** (a fictional race of humans who live in the lands of Middle-earth)
- **Elf** (a small magical creature who plays tricks on people)
- **Dwarf** (a very small person – a little person)
- **Troll** (a type of monster that lives under a bridge)
- **Goblin** (a small, ugly creature that enjoys causing trouble)
- **Dragon** (an animal like a big lizard with wings and claws)
- **Giant** (an imaginary person who is very big and strong)

## JRR TOLKIEN

JRR Tolkien (1892-1973) was a professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford. During his childhood Tolkien lived in the village of Sarehole in the Worcestershire countryside (near Birmingham). He based Hobbiton on this village. Tolkien served as a Second Lieutenant in the First World War. His experiences of battle inspired him to write several poems, such as *The Lonely Isle*. *The Hobbit* remains popular to this day and is recognised as a classic in the world of children's literature. *The Hobbit* is the prequel to Tolkien's other famous work, *The Lord of the Rings*.



**T**he *Hobbit* tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, a young hobbit. He joins a group of dwarves led by Thorin Oakenshield. The dwarves are fighting a dragon called Smaug, who has **taken over** their home: the Lonely Mountain. Bilbo is offered a **share** of the treasure that the dragon is guarding.

Bilbo has never been outside Hobbiton, the town where he lives, and the mission is a **journey of discovery** for him. Along the way, he's captured by goblins, trolls and elves, and he's rescued by some friendly **eagles**. He even talks to the clever but **vain** dragon, Smaug, and learns an important lesson. "Never laugh at **live** dragons!"

*The Hobbit* was written by JRR Tolkien and was

based on a story he told his children. He began to write it one day while marking school exam papers, beginning with the phrase, "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit." Some of the themes explored include **leadership**, **heroism**, **luck**, **personal growth**, the abuse of power, and our relationship with nature. The book was first published in 1937.

One famous part from the book is the **riddle** scene. After escaping from the goblins, Bilbo gets lost in a **cave** where he meets Gollum, "a small **slimy** creature" who offers to show Bilbo the way out if he can answer some riddles. Try to solve the following six riddles from the book. You'll find the answers at the bottom of the page. 🍷

## THE FILM VERSION

The film version of the book has been split into three parts: *An Unexpected Journey* (2012), *The Desolation of Smaug* (2013), and *There and Back Again* (2014). The first film stars Ian McKellen (as Gandalf the Grey) and Martin Freeman (as Bilbo Baggins). It's directed by Peter Jackson, who co-wrote the script with Mexican director Guillermo Del Toro.

## GLOSSARY

- to take over** *phr* *vt*  
if an army or group "take over" an area, they take it by force and start to control it
- a share** *n*  
a "share" of something is a part of it
- a journey of discovery** *n*  
a journey/trip in which you discover something about yourself
- an eagle** *n*  
a large bird that eats small animals
- vain** *adj*  
someone who is "vain" is in love with themselves
- live** *adj*  
alive (not dead)
- leadership** *n*  
the ability to lead (direct) and manage people
- heroism** *n*  
"heroism" refers to actions that are brave or courageous
- personal growth** *n*  
a story of "personal growth" is about how someone develops mentally and physically
- a riddle** *n*  
a poem/puzzle/joke that is difficult to understand
- a cave** *n*  
a hole in the side of a mountain. Bears often live in caves
- slimy** *adj*  
"slimy" objects are thick, wet and unpleasant
- roots** *n*  
the "roots" of a plant are the parts of it that grow under the ground
- a hinge** *n*  
a piece of metal, wood or plastic that is used to join a door (for example) to its frame
- a lid** *n*  
the top part of a box that you can open and close
- voiceless** *adj*  
without a voice
- wingless** *adj*  
without wings (the part of a bird's body that moves up and down when it flies)
- to flutter** *vb*  
if something "flutters", it moves up and down or from side to side with a lot of light, quick movements
- to mutter** *vb*  
if you "mutter", you speak very quietly
- mail** *n*  
chain "mail" is a kind of armour (protective clothing) made from small metal rings
- to clink** *vb*  
if two objects "clink", they make a short, light sound when they touch each other
- to champ** *vb* *old-fashioned*  
to bite and eat food noisily
- to stamp** *vb*  
if a horse "stamps" its food, it hits its foot on the ground

## Riddle I

"It cannot be seen,  
cannot be felt,  
Cannot be heard,  
cannot be smelt,  
It lies behind stars  
and under hills,  
And empty holes it fills,  
It comes first and  
follows after,  
Ends life, kills laughter."

## Riddle II

What has **roots** as  
nobody sees,  
Is taller than trees  
Up, up it goes,  
And yet never grows?



## Riddle III

A box without **hinges**,  
key or **lid**,  
Yet golden treasure  
inside is hid.

## Riddle IV

**Voiceless** it cries,  
**wingless flutters**,  
**Toothless bites**,  
**mouthless mutters**.

## Riddle V

Alive without breath,  
as cold as death;  
Never thirsty, ever drinking,  
all in **mail** never **clinking**.

## Riddle VI

Thirty white horses on  
a red hill, first they **champ**,  
Then they **stamp**,  
then they stand still.

Riddle I: Darkness  
Riddle II: A mountain  
Riddle III: A ring  
Riddle IV: A bird  
Riddle V: A horse  
Riddle VI: A horse

DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS!

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

**Think about it** What were some of your favourite fairy tales? Did any stories ever frighten you as a child? What stories would you read (or did you read) to your children?

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

# FOUR TERRIFYING TALES

By Danielle Ott

What did your parents read to you as a child? Traditional children's stories are designed to both **entertain** and teach, but they're also often full of violence, **cruelty** and death. Here are four!

## The Thumb-Sucker

by Heinrich Hoffman

*The Thumb-Sucker* is a story that appears in *Struwwelpeter*, a collection of 10 illustrated tales by German author Heinrich Hoffman. It was published in 1845. The story is about a little boy called Conrad who won't stop **sucking** his **thumb**. One day, when his mother is out, Conrad **pops** his thumb **into** his mouth once again. But this time, a **sinister**-looking **tailor** runs in with a giant pair of **scissors** and cuts off Conrad's thumbs. The **moral** of the story? Don't suck your thumbs!

## Little Red Riding Hood

by Charles Perrault

In the earliest written account of this famous story by Charles Perrault (1628-1703), Little Red Riding Hood is in the forest when a wolf appears. **Naively**, she tells him that she's going to visit her grandmother. The wolf says goodbye then runs off to the house. He eats the grandmother, puts on her clothes then jumps into bed to wait for Little Red Riding Hood. Eventually, Little Red

Riding Hood gets to the house, and is about to be eaten by the wolf when she's rescued by a passing **hunter**. The moral of the story? Never talk to strangers!

## Hansel and Gretel

by the Brothers Grimm

Hansel and Gretel are the young children of a poor **woodcutter**. One day, his second wife takes the children into the woods and leaves them there as there isn't enough food for everyone in the family. After days of **wandering around**, the children find a cottage made of **gingerbread** and sweets. As they're **feasting** on the **goodies**, the door opens and a witch appears. She invites them in, then **locks** Hansel in an **iron cage** and forces Gretel to become her **slave**. She wants to **fatten up** the boy so she can eat him, but Gretel pushes the witch into an open **oven**, where she dies. The moral of the story? Never accept sweets from strangers!

## The Little Mermaid

by Hans Christian Andersen

A young **mermaid** falls in love with a prince and wants to marry him. Desperate to change, she visits a sea witch, who gives the mermaid legs in return for her voice. The mermaid also learns that she'll die if the prince marries anyone else. Unfortunately, the prince is in love with another woman and decides to wed her. But just before

the mermaid is about to die, her sisters bring her a knife. They tell her that if she kills the prince, she can become a mermaid again. But the little mermaid **can't bring herself** to do it. Eventually, she **turns into** a spirit and goes into the kingdom of God. The moral of the story? Be careful what you **wish** for!

And they talk about violence on TV! ☹

## GLOSSARY

- to entertain** *vt*  
if something "entertains" you, it interests you or makes you laugh
- cruelty** *n*  
behaviour that causes pain to people or animals
- to suck** *vt*  
if someone "sucks" their thumb, they put it in their mouth and pull at it with the muscles in their cheeks and tongue
- a thumb** *n*  
the thickest finger on your hand
- to pop into** *phr vt*  
if you "pop something into" your mouth, you put it in there quickly
- sinister** *adj*  
something that is "sinister" is evil and bad
- a tailor** *n*  
a person whose job is to make or repair clothes
- scissors** *n*  
a small cutting tool with two sharp blades. They're often used to cut paper
- a moral** *n*  
the "moral" of a story is a lesson from it
- naively** *adv*  
if you describe someone as "naive", you think they're innocent or they lack experience. "Naively" is the adverb
- a hunter** *n*  
a person who looks for and kills animals
- a woodcutter** *n*  
a person whose job is to cut down trees
- to wander around** *phr vb*  
to walk in an area with no particular objective
- gingerbread** *n*  
a sweet biscuit that is flavoured with ginger. It is often made in the shape of a man
- to feast** *vt*  
if you "feast" on a particular type of food, you eat a lot of it because you like it
- goodies** *n*  
things that people like to eat: sweets, chocolates, etc.
- to lock** *vt*  
to close a door with a key so no one can get in or out
- a cage** *n*  
a structure with metal bars for keeping birds or animals
- a slave** *n*  
someone who is the property of another person and who has to work for that person
- to fatten up** *phr vt*  
if you "fatten up" an animal, you give it food so it gets fat
- an oven** *n*  
an appliance in the kitchen for cooking. It's like a box with a door at the front
- a mermaid** *n*  
a mythical creature that's half fish and half woman
- can't bring herself to** *exp*  
if you "can't bring yourself to" do something, you can't do it physically or mentally
- to turn into** *phr vb*  
to become
- to wish** *vt*  
the things you "wish" for are the things you want or would like to be true

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the titles of the popular stories. What are they about? Can you remember?

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

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

1. A witch wants to eat a little boy.
2. A girl is almost eaten by a wolf.
3. A woman dies and turns into a spirit.
4. A little boy is attacked by a tailor.
5. A woman falls in love with a man who loves another woman.
6. A witch is cooked in an oven.

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

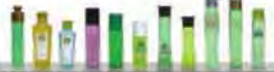
**Think about it** Have you ever taken home any shampoo or soap from a hotel? What other things would you take without feeling guilty? What would you take from the office without feeling bad?

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

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading I

Look at the list of things below. Which ones would you take without feeling guilty?



Shampoo  
(from a hotel bathroom)



Sachet of ketchup  
(from a restaurant)



Stapler (from the office)

Coffee  
(from a colleague at work)



Pencil (from IKEA)



Extra apple  
(from the supermarket)



Flowers (from a park)



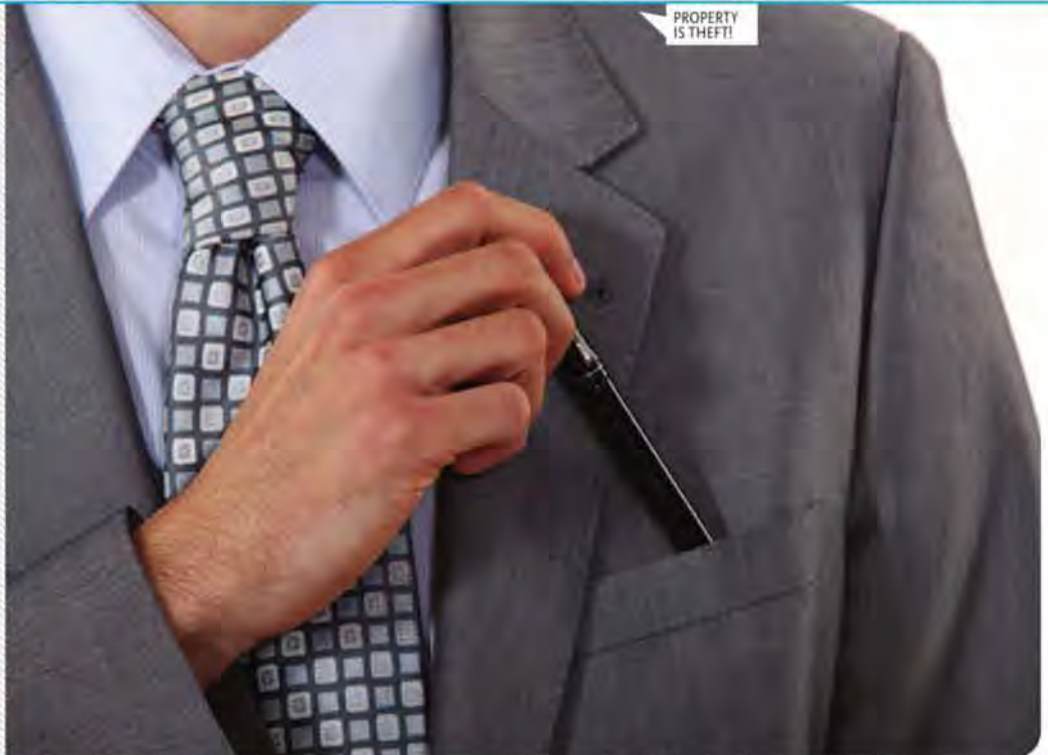
### 2 Reading I

Read the article once.  
Which statistic is the most surprising? Why?

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again.  
Then, answer the questions.  
What percentage of people think it's OK to take...

1. ...unsecured internet?
2. ...restaurant condiments?
3. ...office stationery?
4. ...a colleague's tea or coffee?
5. ...an extra apple at the supermarket?
6. ...park flowers?



# THE THINGS WE THINK IT'S OK TO STEAL!

Theft is a crime, isn't it? Well, not always. According to a recent survey carried out by [paintballing.co.uk](http://paintballing.co.uk), there are some things that people think it's all right to take.

As part of the poll, 1,000 adults were asked what they felt was acceptable to steal without **feeling guilty**. Top of the list were hotel "freebies" such as shampoo, soap, towels, razors, hairbrushes and bathrobes, with 93% believing that it was "all part of staying at the hotel".

Next on the list was **unsecured internet**, with 88% saying they'd **have no qualms** about accessing a neighbour's network if it wasn't **password-protected**.

This is followed by restaurant condiments, with 55% feeling that it was perfectly acceptable to **walk off with** sachets of ketchup and mustard as they'd "already paid for them in the

price of the meal".

At work, 27% felt it was OK to take home office **stationery**, with 22% also thinking there was nothing wrong with **helping themselves to** a colleague's tea, coffee or biscuits.

Out shopping, 17% felt it was all right to eat **pick-and-mix sweets** as they were going to buy some anyway. Eleven percent saw nothing wrong with taking the odd extra apple at the supermarket fruit counter **after weighing** their fruit. Ten percent thought it was OK to weigh expensive food items (such as avocados) as cheaper ones (like tomatoes). And 8% said they wouldn't feel guilty for walking off with pens or pencils from shops such as IKEA as it was a form of publicity for the company as the pens had their logos on.

Finally, three percent admitted to having taken

home park flowers to decorate the house or to give as **gifts** to friends or relatives.

What would you take without feeling guilty? ☺

## GLOSSARY

**to feel guilty** adj  
if you "feel guilty" about something you did in the past, you feel bad about it

**a freebie** n  
something you're given for free. Often a product with the name and logo of a company on it

**unsecured internet** adj  
if access to someone's internet is "unsecured", you don't need a password to use it

**to have no qualms** adj  
if you "don't have any qualms" about something, you aren't worried about it being wrong or bad

**password-protected** adj  
if access to someone's internet is "password-protected", you need a password to use it

**to walk off with** phr  
if someone "walks off with" something, they take it without asking permission and with no intention of returning it

**stationery** n  
equipment used in an office: paper, pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers, etc.

**to help yourself to** phr  
if you "help yourself to" something, you take it without asking permission first

**pick-and-mix sweets** n  
a selection of sweets that you can buy in a shop. You choose the sweets you want and put them in a little plastic bag

**a gift** n  
a present; something that someone gives you

# GRAMMAR BOOSTER

## THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I'm seeing Zoe at 6pm.	I'm not seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Am I seeing Zoe at 6pm?
You're seeing Zoe at 6pm.	You aren't seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Are you seeing Zoe at 6pm?
He's seeing Zoe at 6pm.	He isn't seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Is he seeing Zoe at 6pm?
She's seeing Zoe at 6pm.	She isn't seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Is she seeing Zoe at 6pm?
It's seeing Zoe at 6pm.	It isn't seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Is it seeing Zoe at 6pm?
We're seeing Zoe at 6pm.	We aren't seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Are we seeing Zoe at 6pm?
They're seeing Zoe at 6pm.	They aren't seeing Zoe at 6pm.	Are they seeing Zoe at 6pm?

### Present Continuous

We can use the Present Continuous to talk about future arrangements with other people at specific times. For example:

- a) I'm seeing Jack at 6pm.
- b) We're meeting at 11am.

We use this tense for plans that are fixed at a certain time in the future. For example:

- a) She's leaving at 9pm.
- b) Paul and Caitlin are coming to the party this Sunday.
- c) We're going skiing next week.

### Dialogue: Meeting up

Lauren and Alfie are talking about meeting up. [Listen and complete with the correct words.]

- Lauren: So, what are you doing (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday?  
 Alfie: Oh, nothing much. Why?  
 Lauren: Well, we're having a barbecue if you want to come (2) \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Alfie: Sounds good. What time?  
 Lauren: About 1pm.  
 Alfie: Great. Shall I bring (3) \_\_\_\_\_?  
 Lauren: Just yourself!

- Alfie: Perfect!  
 Lauren: Oh, and I'm meeting up with Jenny and Mike later (4) \_\_\_\_\_ if you fancy joining us.  
 Alfie: OK. What time?  
 Lauren: 7pm in the Fox and Hound – you know, that pub on the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of Argyll Street.  
 Alfie: Yeah, I've been there. Erm, I've got a doctor's appointment at 6pm, but I should be finished by then.  
 Lauren: Great. Oh, and what are you doing next Saturday (6) \_\_\_\_\_?

- Alfie: I'm not sure. Why?  
 Lauren: Well, Ben's moving (7) \_\_\_\_\_. I told him we'd be able to help.  
 Alfie: We? But I can't. I've got, erm, I've got a dental appointment in the morning. They're taking a tooth out. And then I'm playing (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with Karl.  
 Lauren: Oh, right. Well, you'd better phone Ben to tell him you can't make it. He was counting on you.  
 Alfie: OK, erm, I, er, I will.



WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER BARBECUE NEXT WEEK!



# WORD BOOSTER

## CRIME VERBS

### Commit a crime



If someone "commits a crime", they do something illegal.  
"He committed a number of crimes."

### Steal something



If someone "steals" something, they take it without permission and without intending to return it.  
"He stole the money."

### Jail



If someone is "jailed", they're sent to prison.  
"She was jailed for six months."

### Rob a bank



If someone "robs" a bank, they steal money from the bank.  
"He robbed more than \$40,000 from the bank."

### Rob a person



If someone is "robbed", a thief takes money or property from them.  
"They were robbed while they were asleep."

### Charge someone



When the police "charge" someone with a crime, they formally accuse them of having committed that crime.  
"They charged him with murder."

### Arrest someone



If the police "arrest" someone, they take them to the police station and charge them.  
"Police arrested five people in connection with the robbery."

### Burgle



If a building is "burgled", a thief enters it illegally and steals things.  
"Our house was burgled while we were on holiday."

### Murder someone



If A "murders" B, A kills B, often for money.  
"It's the story of a murder that takes place in a small village."

### Investigate a crime



If the police "investigate" a crime, they try to find out what happened.  
"They're investigating the cause of the explosion."

### Loot



If people "loot" shops or houses, they steal things from those shops / houses, often during a war or riot.  
"At about 6pm, they started smashing up cars and looting shops."

### Kidnap



If A "kidnaps" B, A takes B as a prisoner and makes demands. If the demands aren't met, A may kill B.  
"They kidnapped her and demanded \$3 million for her safe return."

**Think about it**

Have you ever been in an emergency? What happened and how did you react? How do you think you would respond in a natural disaster?

# ENGLISH IN ACTION... DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES

**Useful words**



Fire engine



Helicopter



GPS / SatNav



Ambulance



Mountain rescue dog



Paramedic



Lifeguard



Ladder



Stretcher



Lifeboat



Air and sea rescue service



Coastguard



Mountain rescue service



Bottle of water



Blanket



Helmet

**More words**

- **SOS** – a signal people send when they're in danger. In Morse Code, it consists of a continuous sequence of three-dits / three-dahs / three-dits.
- **Shelter** – a place where you can protect yourself from the cold / rain, etc.
- **Victim** – a person who has been hurt in an accident.
- **Avalanche** – a large mass of snow that falls down the side of a mountain.
- **Drought** – if there's a "drought", it doesn't rain for a long period of time.
- **Flood** – when there's a "flood", there's water in the streets, etc. because it has rained a lot.
- **Hurricane** – an extremely violent wind or storm.
- **Wildfire** – a fire in a forest or area of land.
- **Earthquake** – a violent movement of the earth.
- **Tsunami / tidal wave** – a large mass of water in the sea that flows onto the land and destroys things.
- **Blizzard / snow storm** – when there's a "blizzard", it snows a lot and there are strong winds.
- **Landslide** – a large amount of earth that falls down the side of a mountain.
- **Smoke signal** – a message that you create by using smoke from a fire.
- **Casualty** – someone who has died, or an injured person.
- **Evacuate** – if you "evacuate" an area, you leave that area.
- **Air-sea rescue service / search and rescue service (SAR) / search and rescue team** – an organisation that uses helicopters and specialists to find people in the mountains or the sea
- **Survivor** – a person who continues to live after being in serious danger.

**Dialogue: Lost!**



Randy and Flynn are in a rock band. While filming their music video in the mountains, they've managed to get lost. Also, Randy has fallen and hurt his arm and leg. **[Listen and complete with the correct words.]**  
**R=Randy F=Flynn**

**R:** Ow! My arm really hurts. I'll never be able to play the guitar again.  
**F:** You couldn't play in the first place!  
**R:** Very funny!  
**F:** Can you walk?  
**R:** Let me try... Ow! No! I think my (1) \_\_\_\_\_ is broken.  
**F:** [uncaring] What a disaster... we'll never finish this video.  
**R:** It's your fault we got lost. The film crew was right behind us, but you wanted to run ahead to look for a good (2) \_\_\_\_\_.  
**F:** My fault! It was your idea to shoot the video in the mountains. I wanted to do it in the studio. Much safer.  
**R:** Call the paramedics!  
**F:** Paramedics! Are you kidding? An ambulance can't get up here. We need the air-sea rescue service. They've got (3) \_\_\_\_\_!  
**R:** Well, call them! I'm in pain.  
**F:** Stop exaggerating! [He tries calling on his mobile.] Oh, no. My phone's dead.  
**R:** I know! Let's make a fire. We can send smoke signals.  
**F:** No way! We'll probably start a forest (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**R:** Erm... Then make a stretcher out of some tree branches and carry me down.  
**F:** Are you crazy? I can't carry you by myself, especially not with all that weight you've put on.  
**R:** Well, think of something! I don't want to die in the mountains.  
**F:** Relax. It's just a sore (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and leg.  
**R:** Broken arm and leg *actually*.  
**F:** Whatever. Just be thankful we weren't caught in an avalanche.  
**R:** Very comforting...  
**F:** I've got an idea. I'll leave you here with my bottle of water and my (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as a blanket, and I'll go and look for some help. I should be back in a day or two.  
**R:** No way! Don't leave me here. There are wolves!  
**F:** There aren't any wolves!  
**R:** [begging] Please!  
**F:** OK. How about I make you a shelter out of branches and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and then I...? [wolf howls in the distance] Wait, what's that?  
**R:** Wolves? [more howling]  
**F:** No... Sniffer dogs!  
**R:** Oh, thank god. I'm saved! [wolf howls in the distance]  
**F:** Oh no, you're right. It's wolves. Quick, run! [He starts running.]  
**RUN! Run for your life!**  
**R:** Wait!

# NATURAL ENGLISH

TRACK 6: DANISH WOMAN, AMERICAN MAN, SLOVENIAN WOMAN, ENGLISH WOMAN, SPANISH MAN, LITHUANIAN WOMAN

What's your idea of the perfect job?

Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

## Remember!

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

**Cecilia** (Denmark, sociologist)



A description of the perfect job, it would be a job where I could **combine** my interest with having a really good **income**.

**Jack** (USA, actor)



My perfect job would be working with all of my friends and all of my family whenever I wanted to, and very little.

**Jerneja** (Slovenia, occupational therapist)



My perfect job would be, like, to have a full-time job and with, it will be **good paid** [sic]\* as well. That I **would not to have worry about** [sic]\*, er, to, if I have money or no, for example

**Megan** (England, fashion sales adviser)



I don't really mind what job I do, or what sector I work in, as long as I'm using languages and seeing as much of the world as I can, that's perfect to me. Just something different every day. There's always new **challenges** to **overcome**. That's my idea of the perfect job.

**Jorge** (Spain, freelance translator)



My idea of the perfect job is the one that is, erm, well-paid and corresponds to something that you like. In my case, I like languages so I like translating, teaching and that would be the perfect job – a job where I could develop my **strengths**, and a job where I would be well-paid.

**Indre** (Lithuania, photographer)



The idea of perfect job is that you're enjoying working and the main motivational thing for you is not to earn money, but is to do your work and it's, it's like your hobby and I'm really **jealous for** [sic]\* people who have found their perfect job, which is also their hobby.

## \*SIC

"sic" is used to indicate that the words have appeared exactly the way someone said them, often when those words are non-standard or incorrect. Literally, "sic" is Latin for "thus". "Sic" often appears in square brackets [sic]. Here are the corrections for the non-standard phrases on this page:

**sic'** = good paid = well paid

**sic'** = would not to have worry about = would not have to worry about

**sic'** = jealous for = jealous of

## GLOSSARY

**to combine** v: if you "combine" two or more things, you join them or put them together

**income** n: a person's "income" is the money they earn from their job

**a challenge** n: a "challenge" is something new and difficult which needs a lot of effort

**to overcome** v: if you "overcome" a problem, you find a solution to it

**a strength** n: your "strengths" are the qualities and abilities that you have

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** What food do you like to cook? What's your favourite type of international food? What are some of your favourite dishes?

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

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Match the items of food (1 to 12) to the pictures (a-l).

1. Garlic
2. Onion
3. Tinned tomatoes
4. Tuna fish
5. Minced meat
6. Noodles
7. Soy sauce
8. Ginger
9. Tortillas
10. Peppers
11. Lettuce
12. Lime



### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to three people talking about their favourite international food. Listen once. Which dish sounds the best? Which one would be the easiest to make?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, write the items of food from the Pre-listening activity next to the name of each international style of food.

1. Italian:
2. Chinese:
3. Mexican:

### 4 Language focus Quantifiers

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording Food Fun: "...a basic sauce with some garlic, onion and tinned tomatoes..." The speaker has used a quantifier ("some"). Complete the following sentences with the correct quantifiers / articles, etc.

1. She's eating \_\_\_\_\_ apple.
2. Are there \_\_\_\_\_ eggs in the fridge?
3. We haven't got \_\_\_\_\_ sugar.

### 5 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct verbs.

### Audio script

# What's your favourite type of food?

#### Italian

I really like Italian food, and my all-time favourite is probably lasagne. The best thing about it is that it's quite easy to (1) \_\_\_\_\_. When I was at university, a friend taught me how to make a basic sauce with some garlic, onion and tinned tomatoes. Simply (2) \_\_\_\_\_ this to some pasta or spaghetti and you've got yourself a delicious meal in about 15 minutes! You can also add in some tuna fish, minced meat or vegetables to the sauce for a different type of pasta dish!



#### Chinese

I love Chinese food and became a real fan when I was living in Hong Kong. I often (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Chinese restaurant near my house as it serves authentic Cantonese food. I quite like cooking Chinese-style food too. If I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ something quick and tasty, I often make a stir fry. All you need is some noodles, soy sauce and any vegetables or meat of your choice. Just (5) \_\_\_\_\_ up the vegetables and meat into little pieces and fry it all with some garlic and ginger. Then, simply add some soy sauce and you've got yourself a great meal. I often add some chillies too, to make it hot and spicy.



#### Mexican

I love Mexican and Tex-Mex food. My parents used to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in Texas so we ate a lot of it there. I love making burritos or tacos myself too. It's really easy. Get some of those ready-made tortillas, then (7) \_\_\_\_\_ up a bit of chicken or beef and some peppers and onion, add this to the tortillas, along with some cheese, lettuce and tomato and squeeze some lime over it. You can make some guacamole to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with it too. That's also really easy. You just get some avocados and mash them up with some tomato or just alone. Yummy!



Think about it!

How many different ways are there of expressing thanks in your language? Do you know any ways of expressing thanks in English? Try to think of three.

# PRACTICAL ENGLISH EXPRESSING THANKS

This month we're looking at some ways of saying thanks.

## Thanking someone personally

- Thanks! / Thanks a lot.
- Thank you very much. / Thanks very much. / Thank you so much.
- Thanks for coming along.
- Thanks for spending time on this.
- I can't thank you enough.
- If there's anything that I can do for you, just let me know.
- You're a star!
- I don't know what I would have done without you.
- You're just so kind!
- It was very kind of you.
- I really appreciate your help.
- I really appreciate what you did for us.
- I owe you big time. (informal)
- Thanks a million. (informal)

## Responding to thanks

- Not at all. (formal, UK)
- You're welcome!
- (It's) my pleasure!
- Don't mention it!
- It was the least I could do
- That's OK.
- No problem.
- No sweat. (informal)
- Any time! (informal)
- It was nothing. (informal)
- That's alright. (informal)

## Thanking someone who tried to help

- Thanks anyway.
- Thank you for (looking).
- Thanks for trying.



THANKS A MILLION!

## Dialogue: The favour

Fred has just helped Jemima move flats. They're in the pub afterwards and Jemima is a little bit tipsy (drunk). [Listen and complete with the correct words.] J=Jemima F=Fred

- J: I can't thank you enough Fred. You've been such a help. I really appreciate it.  
F: No sweat. It was nothing.  
J: No, but I really mean it. There were so many heavy things. You're just so kind... and (1) \_\_\_\_\_!  
F: Like I said, it was my pleasure. No need to go overboard. I think you might have had a few too many.  
J: I hated my old (2) \_\_\_\_\_, but I couldn't have moved without your help. I'm eternally in your debt.  
F: Anytime... So, did you see the football match last night?  
J: Don't change the (3) \_\_\_\_\_. If there's anything I can do for you, just let me know. I mean it.  
F: Sure, if I think of something I'll let you know. I'll get the bill. You need to lie down. [He goes to pay the bill. Then comes back.] Sorry but I just realised I'm out of cash. Could you lend me twenty euros?  
J: Of course. It's the least I can do. Anything for you.  
F: Thanks a million. [He gets an idea.] And...erm... actually, could you lend me another forty for the (4) \_\_\_\_\_? I'm a bit short.
- J: It'd be a pleasure.  
F: Oh, great. Well, erm, why not make it sixty... er... a hundred.  
J: Here. A hundred euros!  
F: Great! Much appreciated. And, while I think of it... Can I borrow your (5) \_\_\_\_\_ this weekend?  
J: Of course! Take it for the whole week. Here are the keys.  
F: Wow. Thanks! I really owe you big time.  
J: Don't mention it. Anything else?  
F: Erm... oh, right, I was planning on having a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ at my house this Saturday. But your new apartment has such great views. Could I have it at your place instead?  
J: Of course. Oh, no. Wait a minute. My parents are coming to stay this weekend.  
F: Oh, OK. Thanks anyway.  
J: But I could send them to a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ instead...  
F: Perfect! You're a star!



THANKS FOR THE CARDBOARD TUBE! IT'S GREAT!

## GLOSSARY

**go overboard** *exp.*  
if someone "goes overboard", they do something too much (in this case, they say thanks too much)  
**to have had a few too many** *exp.*  
if you say that someone "has had a few too many", you think they've had too much alcohol



**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** What's the biggest or most expensive house you've been in? Whose house was it? What did you think of it? What expensive houses are there in your country? Who lives there?

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



Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What would you expect to find in a luxury home? Think of as many things as you can: a swimming pool, a hot tub, a squash court, a ballroom, a bowling alley, an ice skating rink, a tennis court...

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

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

1. It's got two squash courts.
2. It's in Beverly Hills, California.
3. It recently sold for £35 million.
4. It once belonged to a king.
5. It's got five pools.
6. It's in Mumbai, India.
7. It appeared in a film from the 1970s.
8. It's in Brooklyn, New York.

### 4 Language focus Comparatives

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...It's bigger than Buckingham Palace..." The writer has used a comparative ("bigger"). Complete the sentences with the correct comparatives.

1. This one is \_\_\_\_\_ (short) than that one.
2. This building is \_\_\_\_\_ (tall) than the other one.
3. She's a lot \_\_\_\_\_ (nice) than her sister.

# 5 of the most expensive homes in the world!

The house where British singer Amy Winehouse lived recently sold for £1.9 million. But that's nothing compared to some of the world's most expensive homes.



#### Updown Court

Updown Court is England's most expensive home. It was valued at £70 million, but recently was sold

for £35 million. Located in the small village of Windlesham in Surrey, it's built on 58 acres\* of forest and gardens. It's bigger than Buckingham Palace, and probably a lot more fun too. Its 103 rooms include 24 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, and two penthouse apartments. Guests can go swimming in one of five pools, watch a film in the cinema, go bowling, or play squash and tennis on the estate's private courts.



#### Hearst Castle

Even if you've never been to the US, you've probably seen the inside of one of America's most

expensive homes: Hearst Castle in Beverly Hills, California. The house is the setting of a famous scene from the 1972 film *The Godfather* in which a movie director wakes up to find a horse's head in his bed. Built in the 1920s, it's got 29 bedrooms, three swimming pools, a disco and a cinema. It was built for newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, and is now a state historic park. It's smaller than Updown Court, but its location and history give it a value of \$165 million.

#### Fairfield Pond

If Hearst Castle is the most exclusive home on the west coast, Fairfield Pond is its equivalent on the east coast. Located on more than 60 acres in Brooklyn, New



York, it's valued at around \$220 million, and it's the home of junk bond billionaire Ira Rennert.

Fairfield Pond has a bowling alley, a basketball court, two tennis courts, two squash courts and a huge hot tub.



#### Villa La Leopolda

The \$736 million Villa La Leopolda on the French Riviera was once owned by

King Leopold II, who ruled Belgium from 1865 to 1909. His mistress lived there until the king's family evicted her after he died. Villa La Leopolda was a military hospital in World War I, and was rebuilt by an American around 1930. It featured in Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 film *To Catch a Thief*. These days, it's home to Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov.



#### Antilia

It would take a thousand millionaires to buy the world's most expensive home. Antilia is a billion-dollar estate in Mumbai, India. With 27 floors, it's got a health club, a ballroom, and three stories of hanging gardens. It's home to Indian businessman Mukesh Ambani, his family and 600 servants.

People say there's no place like home. And that's probably true whether you live in a huge mansion or a tiny cottage. Still, it must be nice to have your own cinema! ☺

\*Acre

One acre is about 4.1km<sup>2</sup>

**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever raised any money for charity? What did you do? Have you ever donated any money to a charity? Which one? Why?

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

DO YOU  
LIKE MY  
JEANS?



Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the paragraph titles. What do you think the charity events consist of?

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a charity or event next to each statement.

1. It takes place in US colleges.
2. It took them three days to raise \$1,000.
3. It takes place in November.
4. The money raised was for the Akanshka Foundation.
5. Participants aren't allowed to drink alcohol.
6. They've raised more than £33 million since 1996.

### Language focus Enough

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...students had donated enough money..." The writer has used "enough" + a noun. Choose the correct options for each sentence.

1. I don't think he's *good enough / enough good* for the team.
2. We don't have *money enough / enough money* for the project.
3. I think they've got *food enough / enough food* for the party.
4. I don't think he's *well enough / enough well* for the competition.

# 6 unusual ways to raise money for charity!

By Georgie Kiely

Every year, thousands of people around the world raise money for charity. Typical events include going on a sponsored walk, run or trip. But there are lots of other ways to help out, as these 6 unusual events clearly show.

#### 1 November

Every November, thousands of men across the world grow a moustache for charity. The idea is to increase awareness of men's health problems such as prostate cancer, and to raise as much money as they can. Participants invite friends to sponsor them as they grow their moustache. Movember started in Melbourne, Australia, but is now a global phenomenon.

#### 2 Dryathlon

As part of this event for Cancer Research UK, participants spend a month without drinking any alcohol. In 2012, more than 30,000 participants helped raise over three million pounds. One person who took part said it was "an emotional, wonderful and, most importantly, dry journey!"

#### 3 Axe Undie Run

The aim of this event is to see which US colleges can donate the most clothes to local charities. University students strip off, drop their clothes into collection bins, then race around the campus in their underwear. "Charity will never be the same!" is the slogan for this fun run.

#### 4 Jeans for Genes

As part of Jeans for Genes, participants from offices, schools and sports clubs are sponsored to wear their jeans for a day. The aim is to raise money for children with genetic disorders. "Genies" (as the volunteers are known) promote the event, collect donations and sell merchandise. Jeans for Genes has raised more than £33 million since 1996.

#### 5 Pay to stop Baby

Students at Evanston Township High School convinced school administrators to let them play Justin Bieber's song *Baby* non-stop over the loudspeakers for a week, or until they'd raised \$1,000... but within just three days, students had donated enough money to stop the music. In the song, Bieber sings the word "baby" more than 50 times. The money was used to support a local charity.

#### 6 One dress, one year

New York woman Sheena Matheiken was sponsored to wear the same dress for 12 months. She wanted to raise money for the Akanshka Foundation, which gives the poorest children in India an education. By the end of the year, she'd managed to raise an impressive \$100,000. She had seven copies of the dress and washed them regularly!

Which event would you support? ☺



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

**Think about it** Have you read about any predictions for the end of the world? What were they? Have you heard of any other unusual predictions? What are your predictions for the next ten years for the world, the economy, technology, etc.?

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

# IS THE WORLD ABOUT TO END?

**A**steroid attacks. Famine. Nuclear disaster. People have been making **predictions** about the end of the world for centuries. Here are a few of the most famous ones.

One of the earliest **prophecies** came from Christopher Columbus. He declared that the world would end in 1658. His calculations were based on the fact that the planet was going to **last** just 7,000 years and that it had been created in 5342 **BC**. Of course, that wouldn't be his only major mistake. In 1642, he thought he'd landed in India when it was actually America!

Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder of the Worldwide Church of God, told his **congregation** that the world was going to end in 1936, and that only *they* would be saved. After the prophecy failed, he changed the date three more times before finally **giving up**.

Jim Jones, the founder of the Peoples [sic] Temple Agricultural Project, claimed he had visions that a nuclear holocaust was going to take place in 1967. Later, on 18th November 1978, he convinced his followers to commit mass suicide in north-western Guyana. Known as the Jonestown Massacre, more than 900 people died from cyanide poisoning. After **overseeing** the deaths, Jones shot himself in the head.

In 1966, Jehovah's Witnesses declared that 1975 marked 6000 years since man's creation, and that this would be "the end

of our existence on earth". Later, they said it was only a "possibility", though some continued to **affirm** that 1975 would "probably" be the end.

Hon-Ming Chen, the leader of the Taiwanese cult God's Salvation Church, claimed that God would appear on Channel 18 on every TV set in the US on 25th March 1998. Then, at 10:00am on 31st March, God would come to Earth in a **flying saucer**. On top of that, God would have the same physical appearance as Chen himself. Chen chose to base his cult in Garland, Texas, because he thought "Garland" sounded like "God's Land".

Philip Berg, dean of the worldwide Kabbalah Centre, said that a ball of fire would **descend** on earth on 11th September 1999, destroying almost all forms of life.

The world-renowned linguist Charles Berlitz predicted that the world would end in 1999. He didn't specify how, but he said that it could involve nuclear devastation, asteroid impact, **pole shift** or other earth changes.

One of the most recent predictions came from the Mayans, an ancient civilization that ruled over areas of what is now southern Mexico, Guatemala and Belize between 1000 BC and 1519 AD. According to several interpretations of their calendar, the world was going to end on 21st December 2012. Many people around the world took the **warnings** seriously, and one man even built his

very own "Noah's Ark".

Beware of false prophets! ❖

## NOSTRADAMUS

One of the most famous seers (someone who predicts the future) of all time was Michel de Nostredame, aka Nostradamus (1503-1566). A French author, translator and astrological consultant from the 16th century, Nostradamus is best known for his book *Les Propheties (The Prophecies)*, the first edition of which appeared in 1555. This consisted of almost 1,000 four-line verses called quatrains. In one, he seems to have predicted the Great Fire of London, which took place in 1666 – about 100 years after Nostradamus died. He wrote:

*The blood of the just will be demanded of London, burnt by the fire in the year '66.*

There are also apparent references to Napoleon, Hitler and the September 11th (2001) attack on the Twin Towers in New York. Impressive? Not really, as the experts say that these predictions are largely the result of misinterpretations, mistranslations and the twisting of words.

## GLOSSARY

- a prediction** ⇨ if you make a "prediction", you say what you think will happen in the future
- a prophecy** ⇨ a prediction (see previous entry)
- to last** ⇨ the time that something "lasts" is the time that it exists or is alive
- BC** ⇨ Before Christ – the time before the birth of Jesus Christ – about 2,000 years ago
- a congregation** ⇨ the people who regularly go to a church service
- to give up** ⇨ if you "give up" trying to do something, you stop trying to do it
- to oversee** ⇨ if someone in authority "oversees" a job or an activity, they make sure that others do it properly
- to affirm** ⇨ if you "affirm" that something is true, you say firmly and publicly that it's true
- a flying saucer** ⇨ an alien spaceship. From a distance, it looks like a flying plate
- to descend** ⇨ if something "descends" to earth, it comes to earth
- pole shift** ⇨ a theory that the poles (the South Pole / North Pole) could change position
- a warning** ⇨ a written or spoken message that tells people about a possible danger
- a prophet** ⇨ someone who predicts that something will happen in the future; also, a person who is believed to be chosen by God to say the things that God wants to tell people
- aka** ⇨ also known as – often used to say that someone has another name

Answers on page 44

### Pre-reading

Which predictions for the end of the world have you heard about before?

- Ball of fire
- Asteroid attack
- Alien attack
- Famine (no food)
- Floods (heavy rain)
- War
- Nuclear destruction

### Reading I

Read the article once. Which prediction is the most ridiculous? Why?

### Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. Who...

1. ...said that the world would end in 1658?
2. ...told his followers that the world would end in 1936?
3. ...said there would be a nuclear holocaust in 1967?
4. ...thought the world would probably end in 1975?
5. ...said that God would come to Earth in a flying saucer?
6. ...predicted the world was going to end in 2012?



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

**Think about it** Have you ever shared a photo or video of yourself online? What was it of? Who did you share it with? Why do you think people like sharing photos and videos of themselves online?

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

## READ & LISTEN II

© TRACK 11: ENGLISHMAN  
& NEW ZEALAND MAN

I'M A BIT OF  
A PLANKER!



# 7 CRAZY INTERNET FADS!

Ever heard of milking, planking or Lion Kinging? They're just three of the many internet fads that have been taking the web by storm. Each fad involves being filmed or photographed doing a specific act, then uploading the video to YouTube or the photo to Facebook (or another social network). Other internet users share the video or photo and the best ones go viral. Here are six of the most popular (and most ridiculous) online fads.

### Planking

"Planking" first appeared in 2011. It involves being filmed or photographed while you're lying on top of an object (such as a car) or between two objects (such as two chairs). Famous planking shots include a picture of two Wisconsin teens who planked on top of a police car (they were arrested), and a 14-year-old Norwegian boy who planked on top of a dead shark (his father is a fisherman).

### Milking

"Milking" was created in 2012 by students at Newcastle University in the UK. It involves standing in a public place and pouring an entire container of milk over your head. The students created a viral video of themselves "milking" in several public places, including a train station and the middle of a busy road.

### Porting

"Porting" is just like "milking", but instead of milk you pour a bottle of port over

your head. It was invented by a group of students at Durham University (also in the UK) in December 2012. "What could be better than pouring fortified wine over crisp, white shirts?" one of the students said. They uploaded a video of themselves porting in several places in Durham and it quickly went viral.

### Frosting

In November 2012, Colin Hickey from Montana (USA) created "frosting". This involves photographing yourself doing a summertime activity in the middle of winter. In one "frosting" photo that went viral, a mother and son are wearing their bathing suits while sitting on a beach towel in the snow. In another picture a man is lying on a lilo in the middle of a frozen lake.

### Gallon Smashing

"Gallon smashing" is another milk fad. Gallon smashers go into a supermarket and pick up a container of milk. Then, when nobody is watching, they smash the milk carton on the ground and collapse into the puddle of milk. Of course, an accomplice films the whole stunt. It's called "gallon smashing" because milk is sold in one-gallon containers in the United States.

### Lion Kinging

Remember the animated film the *Lion King*? There's a scene at the beginning when the lion Mufasa holds his new-born son Simba up in the air in order to present

him to the other animals. Well, this fad is all about being filmed while lifting your cat or dog into the air, just like Mufasa does in the movie.

### Plumbking

This fad is rather disgusting. To do it, you need to be filmed putting your head down a toilet bowl and then flushing it. Fun, eh?

So, what do you think the next internet fad will be? Maybe you should invent one yourself! ☺

### VIDEO

YouTube

Watch cat and dog owners re-enact the famous scene from *The Lion King*. Search YouTube for "lion kinging"

### GLOSSARY

#### a fad

an activity that's very popular for a short period of time

#### to take by storm

if something "takes the world by storm", it becomes very popular very quickly

#### to go viral

if a video (for example) "goes viral", it becomes popular on the internet because people share it or tell their friends about it

#### to pour

if you "pour" liquid out of a container, you let the liquid come out of the container, often by holding the container at an angle

#### port

a type of strong, sweet red wine

#### crisp

"crisp" cloth, material or paper is clean and has no creases (lines) in it

#### a lilo

a type of plastic bed that's filled with air. You can lie on it in the water

#### to pick up

if you "pick something up", you take it in your hands

#### to smash

to break into small pieces

#### a puddle

a "puddle" of water (for example) is an area of it on the ground. "Puddles" often appear after it rains

#### a stunt

an action that is designed to attract attention or publicity

#### a toilet bowl

the part of the toilet that has water in it at the bottom

#### to flush

to press a button on a toilet so it fills with water and cleans the toilet

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

Look at the titles of the internet fads. What do you think they involve? Make notes.

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of an internet fad next to each statement.

1. In one photo, a man is in the middle of a frozen lake.
2. It was created by students at Newcastle University.
3. It was inspired by a Disney film.
4. It's similar to "milking".
5. It involves lying between two objects.
6. It's pretty revolting.
7. It takes place in a supermarket.

**Objective** To improve your reading skills and to learn about an aspect of culture from many English-speaking countries.

**Think about it** Why do you think some people drink in excess? Have you seen any of *The Hangover* movies? What did you think about them? What's your favourite comedy? What do you like about it?

ARE YOU HUNGOVER TOO?



## VIDEO

YouTube

Check out the trailer for *The Hangover Part III*. Search YouTube for "Hangover III trailer"

## GLOSSARY

**a hangover** *n*  
if someone has a "hangover", they feel sick and have a headache because they drank a lot of alcohol the night before

**to relate to** *exp*  
if you can "relate to" something, you can understand it, often because it's happened to you before

**to release** *v*  
when a film is "released", it appears in cinemas and you can see it

**a stag do** *exp*  
a party for a man who is going to get married. Often, the guests are his male friends

**a groom** *n*  
the "groom" is the man in a wedding who is going to get married

**a bachelor party** *n*  
see previous "stag do" entry

**to black out** *phr* *v*  
if someone "blacks out", they lose consciousness (often after drinking too much or being hit on the head) and appear to be sleeping

**to revive** *v*  
if you "revive" someone who was unconscious, you make them wake up

**to threaten** *v*  
if something is "threatening" you, it's a danger for you or it's something bad for you

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

**a smash hit** *n*  
an extremely successful film / song, etc.

**a sequel** *n*  
a "sequel" to a previous film is the second part of it – it continues the story

**a plot** *n*  
the "plot" of a film (for example) is the story it tells

**resistant to** *exp*  
if you're "resistant to" something, you aren't harmed by it

**fatigue** *n*  
if you're suffering from "fatigue", you feel very tired and weak

**dehydration** *n*  
if you're suffering from "dehydration", you feel weak or ill because you've lost a lot of water

**nausea** *n*  
if you're suffering from "nausea", you feel sick and as if you're going to vomit

**sensitivity to** *exp*  
if you have a lot of "sensitivity to" light, you don't like the light as it affects you in a bad way, often hurting you

# THE HANGOVER FILMS

Have you ever had a **hangover**? Research shows 75% of us have had at least one in our lives. Maybe that's why *The Hangover* series of films has been so popular. Almost everyone can **relate to** them!

Back in 2009, the movie *The Hangover* was **released**. It's a comedy about four friends who go to Las Vegas on a **stag do**. They get extremely drunk and wake up the next morning with terrible hangovers and little memory of the night before. But that's not all. The **groom** is missing and the remaining three have to find him before the wedding that afternoon. In the course of the film, the friends steal a tiger, meet boxing legend Mike Tyson, and get shot at by drug dealers.

Sound unbelievable? Well, the movie was actually based on a true story. Tripp Vinson, one of the producers, went to Vegas for his **bachelor party**. During the night, he drank so much that he fell unconscious. "I got separated from my friends, and I **blacked out**. And when I was

**revived**, I was in a club being threatened with a very, very large **bill**. It was not a fun experience at the time, but it made for a funny story," he said.

*The Hangover* was a **smash hit**. It made \$460 million at the box office and the critics loved it, with one writing, "The movie's stupid fun is worth experiencing at least once." Given the film's success, the filmmakers decided to make a **sequel**. *The Hangover Part II* has a similar storyline, but this time the guys are on a stag do in Bangkok. "What happens in Bangkok isn't as much fun as when it happened in Vegas," said one reviewer, "but it's still worth the trip."

And now the four friends are back for one final party. The third installment is set in Las Vegas again, but the story is different this time around. **Plot** details are being kept a secret, but a studio press release said, "This time there's no wedding. No bachelor party. What could go wrong, right?"

Of course, plenty can – and will – go wrong! 🍷

## 5 hangover symptoms

Did you know 25% of people are naturally **resistant to** hangovers? For the rest of us, here are the five main symptoms: **fatigue**, **dehydration**, a headache, **nausea**, **sensitivity to** light and sound.

## The hangover cure

In theory, there's no cure for a hangover, but there are plenty of ideas of what you can do to prevent one from occurring. Make sure you eat before you start drinking, and order a glass of water between each alcoholic drink (this prevents dehydration). If you do have a hangover, you can reduce the symptoms by getting plenty of sleep, doing some light exercise and eating a big breakfast including, if possible, bacon and baked beans (apparently these items of food help reduce the effects of the hangover). Some say that drinking some more alcohol the next day can also help. This "special" cure is known as "the hair of the dog".

# Business News

BUSINESS NEWS N°3

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

MAY 2013

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

## Think about it

What do you think of Apple products? Are they innovative? In what way? Do you think the iPhone is the best mobile phone? Why? Why not? Why do you think fast food chains such as McDonalds and KFC are so successful?

## IS APPLE IN TROUBLE?

The iPod, the iPhone and the iPad – Apple is famous for making **innovative** products. And with every product **release**, the company's **share price** has continued to **climb**. But not any

longer. Since October 2012, the value of Apple's **stock** has **dropped** by

almost 20%.



And many analysts say it's because of the October 2011 death of the company founder Steve Jobs.

"Apple has lost Steve Jobs' **showmanship**. The company has lost the **wow factor**," writes industry

expert Kevin Chan. And consumers seem to agree. A recent **survey** found that Americans believe Apple's main rival Samsung is as "inspiring" as Apple. Also, in the fourth **quarter** of 2012, Samsung managed to sell more phones than Apple sold iPhones. So, can the company **turn its fortunes around**? "Apple needs to release another revolutionary product to reclaim its status as an **innovator**," suggests one tech blogger. Time will tell. 🍋

## GLOSSARY

- innovative** *adj* something that's "innovative" is new and original
- a release** *n* if there's a product "release", that product appears in shops and you can buy it
- a share price** *n* the amount you have to pay for a share (a company's "shares" are the many equal parts into which its ownership is divided). Shares can be bought as an investment
- to climb** *vb* to increase
- stock** *n* a company's "stock" is its shares. The people who hold the "stock" are the shareholders
- to drop** *vb* to decrease / to go down
- showmanship** *n* a person's skill at performing or presenting things in an entertaining and dramatic way
- the wow factor** *n* if something has a high "wow factor", it really surprises and interests you
- a survey** *n* if a company carries out a "survey", they ask people questions in order to get information and opinions
- a quarter** *n* financial years are divided into "quarters" (periods of three months)
- to turn your fortunes around** *exp* if a company "turns its fortunes around", it starts doing well again after doing badly
- an innovator** *n* someone who introduces changes and new ideas
- a taco** *n* a crispy Mexican pancake made from corn and eggs. It's filled with meat, vegetables and a spicy sauce
- a chain** *n* a "chain" of shops is a number of shops that are owned by the same company
- a burrito** *n* a tortilla (a type of bread made from corn and eggs) with meat, beans and cheese inside it
- a nacho** *n* a small, triangular piece of crisp tortilla, often with cheese on top
- a launch** *n* if there's a product "launch", that product is introduced officially (often with a party, etc.) to the market and you can buy it from shops
- to deal with** *phr vb* if a company "deals with" extra demand, it can produce enough goods for that extra demand
- to drive growth** *exp* if a product "drives growth", it causes growth and an increase in profits
- a taco shell** *n* a crispy Mexican pancake (a type of thin bread) made from corn and eggs
- an outlet** *n* a shop which sells the goods/food made by a particular manufacturer

## BUSINESS FACT

According to the 2013 survey, the 10 most "visionary, inspiring, bold and exciting brands" are Google, Apple, Samsung, Ikea, Microsoft, Sony, BMW, Audi, Coca-Cola and eBay.

## TACO TO THE RESCUE!

Can one **taco** create 15,000 jobs? It sure can! Taco Bell is a **chain** of American fast food restaurants. It sells Mexican food, including **tacos**, **burritos** and **nachos**. And last year, the company released its most popular product ever: the Nacho Cheese Taco. Many are saying it's a "miracle" taco. "It's been the biggest **launch** in Taco Bell history," said Greg Creed, chief executive officer of Taco Bell. He said the company sold one million of the tacos every day in 2012, and added

15,000 jobs to deal with the extra demand. Mr Creed also said the company expects the new taco to **drive growth**, with plans to open 2,000 new restaurants over the next ten years. So, what's so special about the taco? Well, not much. The **taco shell** has a cheese flavour, unlike the normal plain ones. And people love it. After trying one for the first time, a taco-lover tweeted, "I feel

sick, but it was worth it. Delicious!" 🍋



## BUSINESS FACT

There are approximately 300,000 fast food **outlets** in the US, employing over 4 million people.

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** How often do you travel on public transport? What do you use: the bus, the train, the underground? How often do you take the car? What do you use it for?

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

Answers on page 44

Audio script

# Two transport stories

## I Pre-listening

You're going to listen to two transport-related stories. Look at the pictures of some of the people who appear in the stories. What do you think the stories will be about? Make notes.



## II Listening I

Listen once to compare your ideas from the Pre-listening activity.

## III Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- The man in the first story often does a bit of shopping on Saturday...  
a) morning b) afternoon
- The busker sings songs by...  
a) Elvis Presley b) Dire Straits
- The speaker went to visit a client last...  
a) Monday b) Tuesday
- The busker and the man in the suit were...  
a) different people b) the same person
- The man in the second story was on a...  
a) train b) bus
- The woman was robbed about...  
a) five minutes into the journey  
b) 10 minutes into the journey
- The thief was stopped by a pirate and a...  
a) Viking b) vampire
- In the end, the woman...  
a) got her bag back b) lost her bag

## IV Language focus Adverbs

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording Transport Time: "...He was talking excitedly to a group of colleagues..." The speaker has used an adverb ("excitedly"). Read through the audio script and see if you can find four more adverbs.

## V Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

### Tram ride

I often get the tram into town on Saturday morning to do a bit of shopping. There's a busker who's usually at the tram (1) \_\_\_\_\_ playing the guitar and singing. He does covers of famous songs by Elvis Presley or the Beatles and he's quite good so I sometimes give him a bit of spare change. Anyway, last Tuesday, my (2) \_\_\_\_\_ sent me out to visit a client in an office in the centre. Just as I was going in, I walked past this well-dressed guy in an expensive suit and shiny black shoes. He was talking excitedly to a group of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. I thought I recognised him, but I couldn't quite remember where I knew him from. About an hour later, as I was leaving the (4) \_\_\_\_\_, I saw the same guy again and it was then that I suddenly remembered who he was: the busker from the tram station. Of course, he didn't look anything like the long-haired guy in scruffy (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and a dirty old T-shirt that I knew. How strange!



### Bus trip

I was on the bus last week and it was full of people dressed up for a fancy-dress (6) \_\_\_\_\_. There were pirates, vampires, ghosts, Vikings – you name it, they were there. Anyway, about 10 minutes into the journey, there was some shouting from the top of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_, "Thief! Thief! Stop, thief!" a woman was screaming desperately. Seconds later, a man came crashing down the stairs with a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand. Immediately, two of the party-goers jumped up and stood in his path. One was a pirate with an eye-patch and a sword, and the other was a Viking with an axe and a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ with horns. "Hand it over!" the pirate said forcefully, with his sword drawn. Incredibly, the man just gave them the bag, then pushed his way past them and jumped off the bus. I guess he felt a bit intimidated. Later, the pirate and Viking gave the bag back to the (10) \_\_\_\_\_, then calmly sat down again. Weird!



Think about it!

Do you ever listen to music from the 1980s? Which songs? Why do you think 80s music is still very popular?

# MUSIC... IN ENGLISH

1980s pop songs

THOSE WERE THE DAYS!



**M**any of the biggest hits from the 1980s are still popular today. Three songs that defined the decade are Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean*, A-ha's *Take On Me* and Cyndi Lauper's *Time After Time*.



### 1 Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson's music career began in 1964. Back then, he was only seven years old and was part of The Jackson Five with four of

his brothers. Later, Michael went solo, and became so popular in the 1980s that people started calling him the "King of Pop".

#### Song

*Billie Jean* was one of the best-selling singles of 1983. It comes from Michael Jackson's second (and most successful) album, *Thriller*. The song is about all the female groupies who used to follow Michael around, sometimes claiming that he was the father of their child.

#### Song extract

*Billie Jean is not my lover,  
She's just a girl who claims that I am the one,  
But the kid is not my son.*



### 2 A-ha

A-ha were a Norwegian pop band. Formed in 1982, they released their biggest-selling album *Hunting High and Low* in 1985.

The disc went triple platinum. The fact that A-ha sang all their songs in English contributed to their international success. The band's members were lead vocalist Morten Harket, guitarist Paul Waaktaar-Savoy and keyboardist Magne Furuholmen.

#### Song

*Take On Me* was A-ha's first ever single. It's a love song, but the actual meaning of the lyrics is unclear. The band made an animated music video for the track, and it was played repeatedly on MTV. Many artists have covered the song, including Madonna, Tori Amos and the Jonas Brothers.

#### Song extract

*I'll be coming for your love, OK?  
Take on me, (take on me) take me on (take on me),  
I'll be gone,  
In a day or two.*



### 3 Cyndi Lauper

Cyndi Lauper is an American pop star. She kicked off her career in the 1970s, singing covers in New York clubs. Record executives

were impressed by her distinctive singing voice and original fashion sense, and signed her up for a record deal. She won the Grammy for Best New Artist in 1985, and she continues performing today.

#### Song

One night, Cyndi saw the 1979 science-fiction movie *Time After Time*. She was inspired by the film title and stayed up all night writing a song with the same name. The lyrics are about two people who are in a relationship but who are growing apart. Music critic Scott Floman called the track "one of the decade's finest ballads."

#### Song extract

*I can't hear what you've said,  
Then you say, go slow,  
I fall behind, the second hand unwinds,  
If you're lost, you can look and you will find me,  
Time after time, if you fall, I will catch you...*

## VIDEO

YouTube

Check out the music video for A-ha's *Take On Me*. Search YouTube: "Take on Me A-ha"

## LEARNING ENGLISH WITH SONGS

Listening to music is a great way to learn English. As you sing along to your favourite songs, you learn lots of words, and also improve your pronunciation.

## GLOSSARY

- a hit** *n*  
a very successful song
- to define** *vi*  
if a song "defines" a decade (for example), it seems to describe that decade and show what it was like
- a decade** *n*  
a period of 10 years
- a career** *n*  
someone's music "career" is the part of their life that they spend writing/playing music
- to go solo** *vip*  
if a musician in a band "goes solo", he/she leaves the band and starts singing/playing, etc. on their own
- a single** *n*  
a song from an album that is often sold individually. You can refer to the main song on a CD as a single
- a groupie** *n*  
someone (usually a young woman) who is a fan of a particular pop group or singer. "Groupies" often follow bands around the country
- to release** *vi*  
when a song is "released", it appears in shops and you can buy it
- to go triple platinum** *vip*  
if an album "goes platinum", one million copies of it are sold. If it's "triple platinum", three million copies are sold
- a vocalist** *n*  
a person who sings (in a band)
- a keyboardist** *n*  
a person who plays the keyboard (a type of piano)
- lyrics** *n*  
the words for a song
- a track** *n*  
a song on an album
- MTV** *abbr*  
Music Television – an American TV channel launched in 1981 that played music videos. These days, it produces TV shows too
- take on me** *vip*  
this seems to be a version of "take me on", which means something like "accept me / go out with me / be with me", etc.
- to kick off** *phr id*  
to start
- a cover** *n*  
a version of a famous song
- distinctive** *adj*  
different / special
- to sign up** *phr id*  
if a musician "signs up" for a record deal, they sign a contract to produce music with a record company
- a record deal** *n*  
a legal agreement to produce music for a record company. In return, the record company will market and sell the music
- to perform** *vi*  
if a musician (for example) "performs", he/she plays or sings in a concert
- to grow apart** *vip*  
if two people "grow apart", they stop loving each other
- a ballad** *n*  
a romantic song that often tells a story
- the second hand** *n*  
the "hand" on a clock or watch that marks the seconds
- the second hand unwinds** *vip*  
The meaning of this isn't entirely clear. It could be: *time passes; we go back in time; time goes backwards*

# TRAVEL ENGLISH

## AT THE HOTEL

Practical English to use in English-speaking countries.

### Vocabulary



Lift / elevator



Receptionist



Double room (with a double bed)



Single room (with a single bed)



Twin room (with two single beds)



Porter / bellboy



Key



Key card



Pillow



Mini-bar



Trouser press



Cot



Safety-deposit box / safe

### More words

- **Reception / front desk** – the area in the hotel entrance where you can book rooms or ask questions. The receptionist is usually behind a long table
- **Guest** – a person who is staying in a hotel.
- **Lobby** – the large area near the entrance just when you walk into a hotel.
- **Room service** – if a hotel has “room service”, it will bring food / drinks to your room.
- **Suite** – the most luxurious room in a hotel
- **Bill** – a piece of paper with information about how much you have to pay for the hotel room.
- **Hotel manager** – the person in charge of the hotel and the staff who work there.
- **Air-conditioning** – a machine that produces cold air.
- **Heating** – a machine that produces warm air.
- **Balcony** – an area on the outside of a room with a railing (a guard or barrier) around it.
- **View** – what you can see from the hotel window: the land, sea, mountains, etc.
- **Floor** – the second “floor” of a building (for example) refers to the second level of that building with all the rooms on it.
- **Check in** – when you “check in” to a hotel, you go to the front desk and tell them that you’ve arrived.
- **Check out** – when you “check out”, you go to the front desk and tell them that you’re leaving. You often pay at this point.
- **Wake-up call** – a telephone call from the hotel that will wake you up at a certain time.

### Useful expressions

#### What you say

- I'd like a room for two nights, please.
- I'd like a single room, please.
- I have a reservation under the name of Smith.
- Does the hotel have a swimming pool?
- Is breakfast included?
- We need a cot for the baby, please.
- Could I have a wake-up call at 6am, please?
- What time do we have to check out?

#### What you hear

- What name was the reservation made under?
- Here's your key. It's room 458.
- It's on the fourth floor.
- The lift is just over there.
- Would you like someone to help you with your bags?
- Breakfast is served between 7 and 11.
- Check-out is at midday.
- Shall I call a taxi for you?

### Dialogue: Checking in

Melissa has just arrived at the hotel where she's staying. She's at the front desk.



- Receptionist:** Hi, can I help you?
- Melissa:** Yes, I made a reservation a couple of weeks ago.
- Receptionist:** What name did you make it under, please?
- Melissa:** Simmonds, Melissa Simmonds.
- Receptionist:** Ah, yes, a single room for two nights.
- Melissa:** Actually, it was a double room for three nights.
- Receptionist:** Oh, I'm sorry about that. I'll just change the booking. Right, so that's a double room for three nights.
- Melissa:** Yes, I'll be checking out on Monday morning.
- Receptionist:** Could I have your credit card and passport, please?
- Melissa:** Yes, here you are.
- Receptionist:** Thanks. You're in room 625, which is on the sixth floor. Here's your key card, and the lift is just over there.
- Melissa:** Great. What time is the restaurant open for breakfast, please?
- Receptionist:** Between 7am and 10am.
- Melissa:** OK, and is there a swimming pool here?
- Receptionist:** Yes, just down those stairs over there on the right. We've got some pool towels if you need one.
- Melissa:** Perfect.
- Receptionist:** And let me know if there's anything else you need. Enjoy your stay.
- Melissa:** Thanks.

# 4

## REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN

# ENGLISH SLANG

**S**lang is an important part of English. It's used a lot in native-speaker conversations, and appears in films, songs and TV shows. Here are four reasons why you should learn English slang\*.

### 1 NATIVE SPEAKERS

If you want to **interact** with native English speakers, you'll need to be familiar with a lot of slang terms. For example, you may have learnt the expression "How are you?" but in informal situations, English-speakers would use something like "How's it going?"

### 2 FILMS AND TV

Slang terms appear in a lot in films and TV shows, even in fairly **mainstream** ones. Here are just a few of the many slang expressions you can hear in an episode of *Friends* (*The One With the Monkey*) from season one:

- You wanna say hi? = Do you want to say hello?
- Hey, Joey. Hey, buddy! = Hello, Joey. Hello, my friend.
- So, how'd it go? = How did it go? / How was it?
- I dunno. = I don't know.

### 3 MUSIC

There's a lot of slang in songs too. You'll find common terms such as "wanna" (want to) or "gonna" (going to) in most songs, but lots of other slang expressions too. For example, in the Dire Straits song *The Sultans of Swing*, there's the line, "He's got a daytime job, he's doin' alright" where they've used the expression "He's doin' alright", which means, "Things are going well for him."

In other songs, you'll find some more **obscure** terms. For example, rapper MC Hammer uses terms such as "kicks" for **sneakers** and "ghetto bird" for "police helicopter", although they're both terms

that you could probably **work out** the meaning of if you thought about them a bit.

### 4 FUN + FUNNY

Finally, slang is a fun, visual, playful, exciting and interesting form of language. And some slang expressions are even quite funny. For example:

- He's as thick as two planks. = He's really stupid.
- I wouldn't **trust** her as far as I could spit. = I don't trust her at all.
- He's as **graceful** as a pig on ice = He isn't very graceful.

So, what's the best way to learn English slang? Simple! Listen to songs and native speaker conversations, and watch films and TV shows. **Sitcoms** are the best as there's usually a lot of dialogue. Shows to watch could include *The Simpsons*, *South Park*, *Friends*, *The Sopranos* and *Seinfeld*.

Finally, what's the best way to learn slang terms? Well, when you come across an expression you aren't sure of, don't panic! Remember, slang terms in any language are used to express the same basic emotions of excitement, joy, fear, disgust and anger. So, the best thing is to try to guess what the speaker is saying. Simply stop, think, use your imagination and think about the context and the topic. Also, look for any facial expressions, **gestures** and reactions from the other speakers. For example, imagine you ask someone what they thought of a film and they say, "It was wicked!" Now, you may know that "wicked" means "evil" and "bad", but if you see that your friend is smiling and looking enthusiastic, you'll soon realise that "wicked" means "good"!

There's nothing complicated or mystical about slang terms. They're basically common words that are used in a fun, imaginative way. And if you really want to improve your English, you should learn a few of them!

Catch ya later! ✨

### \*SLANG

What is slang? Very basically, slang is informal language that's often used in conversational English. Of course, there are different types of slang ranging from words that are understood more or less all over the English-speaking world, to more obscure terms that are only used in a particular area or region; and mild terms that can be used in most informal situations, to extremely offensive ones that are hardly ever appropriate.

### GLOSSARY

- to interact** *v*  
if two or more people "interact", they talk to one another
- mainstream** *adj*  
"mainstream" programmes (for example) are the most typical and popular TV programmes that people watch
- obscure** *adj*  
an "obscure" word is only known by a few people
- a sneaker** *n* (US)  
a shoe for doing sport (running, playing football / basketball, etc.). "Trainers" in British English
- to work out** *phr v*  
if you "work out" the meaning of a word, you understand what it means
- a plank** *n*  
literally, a "plank" is a long, flat, rectangular piece of wood
- to trust** *v*  
if you "trust" someone, you believe that they are honest and truthful
- to spit** *v*  
to force liquid out of your mouth
- graceful** *adj*  
someone who is "graceful" moves in a smooth and controlled way
- a sitcom** *n*  
a funny television series about the lives of a group of people
- a gesture** *n*  
a movement you make with a part of your body, often in order to express an emotion

**D**o you know what "kip", "knackered" and "going Dutch" mean? They're three fairly common English slang expressions. Here are 50 useful English slang expressions to describe going out at night.

### PLANNING THE NIGHT

#### NOT BE BOTHERED

If you "can't be bothered" to do something, you don't want to do it, often because you don't have the energy or you're feeling lazy.

"I can't be bothered to go into town – let's just go to the pub round the corner."

#### KIP

A short sleep, often in the afternoon.  
"I think I'll have a kip before we head out."

#### TO GET DOLLED UP

To put on nice clothes for a special occasion (usually for women).  
"I'm going to get dolled up for the party."

#### TO PUT YOUR FACE ON

To put make-up on (usually for women).  
"Wait! I've got to put my face on!"

#### TO HAVE PRE-DRINKS

To have some drinks at home before going to a club or pub (often as a way of saving money!). Also, "to pre-drink".  
"Let's have a few pre-drinks before going out!"

#### MAKE IT

If you can't "make it" somewhere, you aren't able to go there.  
"Thanks for the invite, but I don't think I can make it as I've got a conference to go to the next day."

### MEETING UP

#### A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

People often use this expression when they

meet up with someone they haven't seen for a long time.

"You're a sight for sore eyes! Last time I saw you was at Brad's wedding."

#### YOU MUST BE MAD / YOU MUST BE MENTAL

People often use these expressions to say that they'd never do the thing they're talking about. It's a way of emphasising what you want to say.

"You must be mad if you think I'm going to drink that", which means, "I'd never drink that!"

#### TO HANG OUT

If you "hang out" with people, you spend time with them, chatting, drinking, socialising, etc.  
"We're going to hang out with Jamie and Harriet before going to the party if you fancy coming along."

#### TO TAKE A CHILL PILL / TO CHILL OUT

If you tell someone to "chill out", you're telling them to relax and be calm.  
**A:** If we don't leave soon, we'll be late.  
**B:** Chill out! We'll be fine.

#### TO BE GUTTED

If you're "gutted" about something, you're unhappy and disappointed about it.  
"I'm gutted they cancelled the concert. I was really looking forward to it."

### AT THE RESTAURANT

#### TO BE STARVING

To be really hungry.  
"I hope the food comes soon. I'm starving."

#### TO EAT A HORSE

If say you could "eat a horse", you're saying that you're really hungry.  
"Let's order now. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse."

#### TO SCOFF

If someone "scoffs" food, they eat all of it very quickly.  
**A:** I didn't get any of the starters.

**B:** That's 'cos Bryan scoffed them all.

#### TO WOLF DOWN

To eat food very quickly.  
"You must have been hungry. You wolfed that pizza down in seconds!"

#### TO BE STUFFED

If you're "stuffed", you feel full because you've eaten too much.  
"I never should have had that dessert. I'm stuffed."

#### TO GO DUTCH

To divide a bill equally between the people who are there. For example, if there are two people, each pays 50% of the bill.  
"Let's go Dutch!"

#### TO DO A RUNNER

To leave a bar or restaurant without paying the bill.  
"Quick, the waiter isn't looking! Let's do a runner!"

### AT THE BAR/CLUB

#### KITTY

An amount of money that everyone contributes to and that is used to pay for drinks, etc.  
"Everybody has to put ten euros into the kitty."

#### TO SPLASH OUT

To spend a lot of money, often in order to celebrate something.  
"Let's get a bottle of champagne. I feel like splashing out."

#### TO DOWN IN ONE

To drink all the contents of a glass without stopping or pausing.  
"Look, everyone! I'm going to down this pint of beer in one."

#### HIT THE SPOT

If something "hits the spot", it's perfect for you.  
"Mmm... That cold beer really hit the spot."

#### TO BE WASTED / PLASTERED / HAMMERED / SLAUGHTERED / PISSED (UK)

To be very drunk

"He can't even stand up. He's wasted!"

**NOTE:** In Britain "to be pissed" means to be drunk, but in the USA it means "to be angry".

#### TO HAVE HAD ONE TOO MANY

If you say that someone has had "one too many", you're saying that they've had too much alcohol. The "one" refers to a glass of beer / wine / whisky, etc.  
"You should go home. I think you've had one too many."

#### TO GET THE DRINKS IN

To buy drinks for everyone in the group you're with.  
"I think it's my turn to get the drinks in. What are you having?"

#### ROUND

A "round" of drinks is a selection of drinks for everyone in the group you're with.  
"I'll get this round! / It's my round!"

#### TIGHT / STINGY

If you say that someone is "tight", you're saying that they never spend money.  
"He never gets anyone else a drink. He's just so tight."

#### TO SPLIT THE COST

If you "split the cost" of something, you share the cost, often dividing it in half.  
"Let's split the cost!"

### THE PARTY

#### HOUSE-WARMING PARTY / HOUSE-WARMING

A party someone has soon after moving into a new house/flat.  
"We moved in last Thursday, and we're having the house-warming party on Saturday night if you want to come along."

#### TO GATECRASH

To go to a party you weren't invited to.  
"They gatecrashed a party in the town centre."



**Objective:** To learn some English slang.

### Think about it!

Do you use a lot of slang when speaking in your language? In what situations do you use slang, and in what situations should you avoid it? Is English slang difficult to learn? Why? Why not? Why is it a good idea to learn English slang?

### TO ROCK

If something "rocks", it's great / fantastic.

"This party rocks!"

### TO BE AWESOME

To be great / fantastic.

"The party was awesome!"

### TO BE LAME / TO SUCK

If something is "lame" or if it "sucks", it's terrible.

"This party is totally lame!"

### TO CHECK OUT

If you tell A to "check something (or someone) out", you're telling A to look at that thing or person.

"Check out that guy on the dance floor – he's really cute."

### TALENT

This word is used to refer to attractive people in general.

**A:** Shall we go?

**B:** No way! There's loads of talent here.

### LOOKING FOR LOVE

### TO BE ON THE PULL

If someone is "on the pull", they're looking for "romance".

"Mark split up with his girlfriend last week so I think he's on the pull."

### FIT / HOT

Good-looking

"Wow! That guy over there is really fit!"

### TO CHAT SOMEONE UP

To talk to someone in a playful, fun way because you think they're attractive.

"I think that girl was trying to chat me up!"

### TO BE IN LUCK

If you're "in luck", someone seems to be interested in you.

"I think I'm in luck – he asked for my phone number."

### TO SNOG

To kiss someone intimately and for a long time.

"They were snogging."

### TO FANCY SOMEONE

To find someone attractive.

"I really fancy him. I think he's gorgeous!"

### GOING HOME

**TO HIT THE ROAD / TO GET GOING / TO GET MOVING / TO MAKE TRACKS**

To leave a place / to go home

"I think I'm going to hit the road. I've got to get up early tomorrow."

### TO HAVE A BLAST

If you "have a blast", you have a great time.

"I had a blast last night! Let's do it again sometime!"

### KNACKERED / SHATTERED

If you're "knackered", you're very tired.

"I'm going home. I'm knackered!"

### TO HIT THE SACK / HAY

To go to bed

"I can't wait to get home and hit the sack."

### TO SHARE A CAB

If you "share a cab" with someone who is going in the same direction as you, you both take the same taxi and divide the cost.

"I don't fancy walking home. Why don't we share a cab?"

### THE NEXT DAY

### NOT REMEMBER A THING

If you "can't remember a thing", you can't remember anything.

"Did I make a fool of myself last night? I can't remember a thing."

### THUMPING HEADACHE

If you've got a "thumping headache", your head is hurting a lot.

"I've got a thumping headache. Have you got an aspirin?"

### TO FACE THE MUSIC

To deal with the consequences of something bad that you've done.

"I got drunk and swore at my boss last night. On Monday I'll have to face the music."

### TO TAKE IT EASY

To relax.

"I've got a terrible hangover. I think I'm gonna go and lie down and take it easy." ☺



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**Objective** Improve your reading comprehension and learn business tips in English.

**Think about it** Do you have a plan to get rich? If so, what is it? If not, what might your plan be? Do you think money brings happiness? Why? Why not? Which points from this article do you agree with? Why?

BE SELFISH!  
GET RICH!

# HOW RICH PEOPLE THINK:

## 8 top tips for success!

**W**ant to get rich? Well, first you'll have to start thinking like a rich person. That's according to Steve Siebold, a **life coach** who has written the **self-help book** *How Rich People Think*. It's full of tips on how to change your **mindset** so that you can make lots of money. Here are eight of his top tips.

### 1 Rich people take action

Steve says most people wait for someone else to make them rich. But, rich people create a plan to become rich, and they **follow through with** that plan. In other words, they take action.

### 2 Rich people dream about the future

"Self-made millionaires get rich because they **project** their dreams, goals and ideas into an unknown future," writes Steve. He says rich people imagine the future they want to live in, and then create that future. Most people, he explains, spend too much time **dwelling on** the past.

### 3 Selfishness is a virtue

According to Siebold, most of us believe it's better to put the needs of others before our own needs. Rich people, by contrast, believe it's **smarter** to look after yourself first, then others later. "If you're not taking care of *you*, you're not in a position to help anyone else," says Steve.

### 4 Rich people follow their passion

Many people **settle for** a job they don't like. But, according to Steve, wealthy people find a way to make money doing what they love. "To the average person, it looks like the rich are working all the time," Siebold says. But, he explains, they don't *feel* like they're working too much because they love their jobs.

### 5 Rich people never stop educating themselves

According to Steve, "The middle class read novels, **tabloids** and entertainment magazines." But, he says, "Walk into a **wealthy**

person's home and one of the first things you'll see is an **extensive** library of books they've used to educate themselves on how to become more successful."

### 6 Rich people focus on earning money, not saving

"The masses are so focused on **clipping coupons** and living **frugally** that they **miss** major opportunities," says Steve. But the rich, he writes, are always looking for ways to make more money, rather than save what they have.

### 7 Rich people aim high

Steve says many people **set their sights low** so that they don't get **disappointed**. But, he argues, "No one ever **strikes it rich** and lives their dreams without **huge expectations**." So start thinking big!

### 8 Rich people teach their kids how to be rich

"As a child, I can't recall a day that went by without my dad telling me I could do anything I **set my mind to**," says Jeff Weiner, the founder of LinkedIn. According to Steve, many parents teach their kids how to merely survive and get by. But wealthy parents teach their **offspring** that anything is possible.

Are you ready to get rich? 🍀

## GLOSSARY

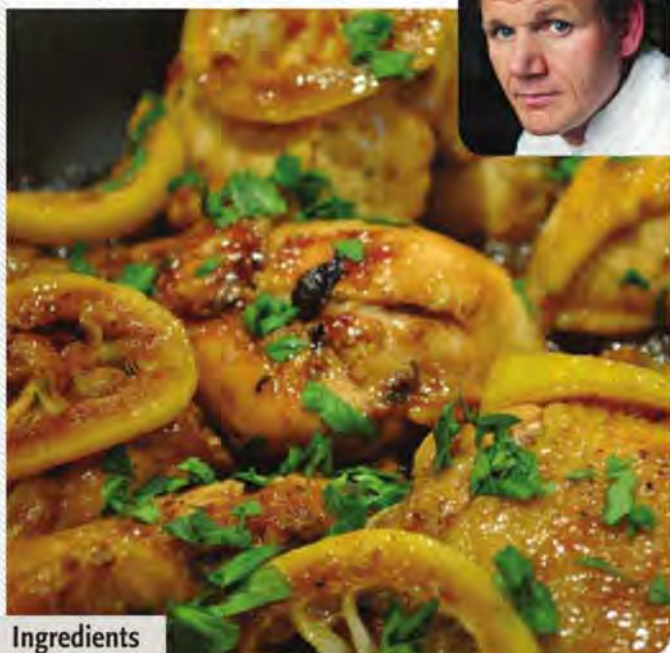
- a life coach** *n*  
a person who offers advice on how to live your life or improve it
- a self-help book** *n*  
a book that helps you improve, get rich, find a job, find love, etc.
- a mindset** *n*  
your "mindset" is the way you think about things
- to follow through with** *v*  
if you "follow through with" a plan, you complete it
- to project** *v*  
if you "project" your dreams / objectives / targets, etc. into the future, you make plans for achieving those things in the future
- to dwell on** *v*  
if you "dwell on" something (often something negative), you think about it a lot
- smart** *adj*  
intelligent
- to settle for** *v*  
to accept
- a tabloid** *n*  
a type of newspaper with articles on famous people and not very serious news
- wealthy** *adj*  
rich
- extensive** *adj*  
an "extensive" library of books: (for example) is a library with many books
- to clip** *v*  
to cut
- a coupon** *n*  
a "coupon" is a piece of paper which gives you a discount on a product, or which allows you to have it for free
- frugally** *adv*  
if you live "frugally", you don't spend much money and you don't eat much
- to miss** *v*  
if you "miss" an opportunity to do something, you lose that opportunity
- to set your sights low** *v*  
if you "set your sights low", you don't think you'll achieve very much at work or in your personal life, etc.
- disappointed** *adj*  
if you're "disappointed", you aren't happy with the results of something
- to strike it rich** *v*  
to become rich
- huge** *adj*  
very big
- an expectation** *n*  
your "expectations" are your hopes or beliefs that something will happen
- to set your mind to** *v*  
if you "set your mind to" something, you focus / concentrate on doing that thing
- offspring** *n*  
your "offspring" are your children

### Bio - Steve Siebold

Born in the USA in 1964, Steve is a life-coach and a former professional sportsman. His self-help books include *How Rich People Think* (2010) and *Die Fat or Get Tough* (2009).

# RECIPE GORDON RAMSAY'S STICKY LEMON CHICKEN

Try this delicious chicken recipe by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay.



## Ingredients

- 500 grams of chicken **drumsticks** and **thighs**
- ½ a lemon, **sliced**
- 1 tablespoon of vinegar (preferably sherry vinegar)
- 3 tablespoons of **soy sauce**
- 1 tablespoon of honey
- 4 tablespoons of water
- Olive oil
- **Bunch** of fresh **thyme**
- Bunch of fresh **parsley**
- Salt and pepper

## Process

1. **Heat** the oil in a large pan. **Add** the chicken pieces to the pan and season them with salt and pepper. Brown the chicken pieces for about five minutes, turning them regularly.
2. Add the soy sauce, vinegar and sliced lemon to the pan. **Squeeze** a little extra lemon juice over the chicken. Add the water. Continue to cook for another 5 minutes. The liquid will **reduce down** and become **syrupey**.
3. Add the fresh thyme and honey to the pan. Season the chicken a little more and **stir** all the ingredients together. Cook for another couple of minutes.
4. Mix the fresh parsley in with the chicken.
5. When it's ready, serve it with some **mashed potato**. 🍌

## VIDEO



Search YouTube for "Gordon Ramsay lemon chicken"

## GLOSSARY

- a drumstick** *n*: the lower part of a chicken leg
- a thigh** *n*: the upper part of a chicken leg
- to slice** *vb*: to cut into thin pieces
- soy sauce** *n*: a dark brown liquid made from soy beans. It's often used in Chinese cooking
- a bunch of** *exp*: a small amount of (literally, a group of things growing closely together)
- thyme** *n*: a herb with small leaves. It's often used in sauces
- parsley** *n*: a green plant that is often used as garnish (decoration for food)
- to heat** *vb*: if you "heat" food, you make it warmer
- to add** *vb*: if you "add" food to a pot, you put the food in the pot
- to squeeze** *vb*: if you "squeeze" a lemon, you use pressure/force to make the juice come out
- to reduce down** *phr vb*: if you "reduce down" a liquid, you cook it until the liquid has disappeared
- syrupey** *adj*: liquid that's "syrupey" is sweet and thick
- to stir** *vb*: if you "stir" food, you move it with a spoon
- mashed potato** *n*: potato that has been cooked and that is a soft mass

## Real Language in action

# FILM SCRIPT ARGO



Argo is about six US **diplomats** who escaped from Tehran (Iran) during the 1979 **hostage crisis**\*. Ben Affleck plays Tony Mendez, the **CIA** agent in charge of rescuing the six. Mendez's plan is to go to Tehran and convince the authorities there that he's a director making a science-fiction movie (called *Argo*). He hopes to get the

diplomats out of the country by **pretending** they're part of his **film crew**. In order to make his story even more credible, he organises a **launch party** for the film, hires a producer, creates a **storyboard** and even prints off posters and **brochures**. In this scene, Mendez is trying to convince Hollywood producer Lester Siegel to help him with his plan. Also present at the meeting is Hollywood make-up artist John Chambers (played by John Goodman), who has put Mendez in contact with Siegel.

## ARGO

Argo won three Oscars, including Best Picture.



## VIDEO



To watch and read along, search YouTube for "Argo couch scene"

## The Script

### Siegel (to Chambers):

OK, you got six people **hiding out** in a town of what... four million people, all of whom chant "Death to America!" all the **live-long day**. You want to **set up** a movie in a week, you want to **lie** to Hollywood... a town where everybody lies for a living. Then you're going to **sneak** over here [referring to Mendez] into a country that wants CIA blood on their breakfast cereal, and you're going to walk the **Brady Bunch** out of the most watched city in the world.

**Mendez:** Past about a hundred **militia** at the airport. That's right.

**Lester:** Right. Look, I gotta tell you. We did **suicide missions** in the army that had better **odds** than this.



\*The **hostage crisis** began on 4th November 1979 when 52 Americans were taken hostage in the American embassy in Tehran (Iran). They were held until 20th January 1981. At the time, many Iranians were angry at America's support for the last shah (king) of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He was overthrown by the Iranian Revolution on 11th February 1979.

## GLOSSARY

- a diplomat** *n*: a senior official who represents a country and who works in an embassy
- a hostage** *n*: if A takes B "hostage", A captures B and makes demands to a government, etc. If the demands aren't met, A may kill B
- the CIA** *abbr*: the Central Intelligence Agency, a US spy agency
- to pretend** *vb*: to act as if something is true, even though it isn't
- the film crew** *n*: the people who work on a film: the sound engineers, the lighting technicians, etc.
- a launch party** *n*: a party to celebrate a new film, book, etc.
- a storyboard** *n*: a set of pictures which show what will happen in a film
- a brochure** *n*: a thin book with pictures and information about a product or service
- to hide out** *phr vb*: if someone is "hiding out" in a city (for example), they're in a secret place where the police, etc. can't find them
- the live-long day** *n*: an unusual way of saying "all day"
- to set up** *phr vb*: if you "set up" a film, you plan and arrange it and make sure that it can happen
- to lie** *vb*: if you "lie" to someone, you tell them something that isn't true
- for a living** *exp*: the things you do "for a living" are the things you do to earn money
- to sneak** *vb*: if you "sneak" into a place, you enter there secretly and quietly
- the Brady Bunch** *n*: an American television series about a family with six children
- a militia** *n*: an organisation that operates like an army but whose members are not professional soldiers
- I gotta tell you** *abbr*: I must say
- a suicide mission** *n*: a mission in which the soldiers taking part will probably die
- odds** *n*: if something has good "odds", it'll probably be successful

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

**Think about it** What superstitions are there in your country? Which ones do you believe in? How superstitious are you? Which superstitions from this article exist in your country?

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

# 7 SUPERSTITIONS FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

**A**re you superstitious? Here are the origins of seven common superstitions from English-speaking countries.

## If you break a mirror, you'll have seven years' bad luck

It was an ancient belief that mirrors could capture your soul, so breaking a mirror was like damaging your spirit. The only way to counter the bad luck is to bury the broken pieces in a hole and to cover them up with mud.

## If you spill some salt, throw it over your left shoulder or you'll have bad luck

In the past, many people believed that spilling salt could lead to bad luck. The only way to stop this was to throw salt over your left shoulder, which is where they believed the devil was often lurking. The belief was that you could neutralise the bad luck by throwing salt into the devil's eyes.

## If a black cat crosses your path, bad luck will follow

During the Middle Ages, people thought black cats were witches in disguise. And a black cat crossing your path was a sign that the devil was watching you.

## It's good luck to find a horseshoe in an open field

If you find a horseshoe in an open field, you need to pick it up with your right hand, make a wish, then throw it over your left shoulder. The ancient Greeks considered the horseshoe a symbol of fertility and good fortune. In England in the Middle Ages people often hung an upside-down horseshoe on

doors to frighten off witches or demons.

## Knock on wood to stop bad things from happening

If you're talking about something and you don't want it to happen, you need to knock on a piece of wood and say "touch wood!" For example, if you say, "I've never had an accident", you need to tap on a piece of wood so you don't actually have an accident yourself. This comes from an ancient belief that good spirits lived in trees. However, when the tree was cut down, the spirits inside would die and evil spirits would take over. By knocking on the wood, you could drive away the evil spirits, and prevent any misfortune.

## The number 13 will bring you bad luck

In many English-speaking countries, the number 13 is considered unlucky. And Friday 13th is the day for misfortune. This superstition is so common that some hotels avoid having a 13th floor, and airlines don't give tickets for the 13th row. But why? Apparently, the origins are religious. At Jesus Christ's Last Supper, there were thirteen people around the table (including Christ and the twelve apostles); and Friday was the day that Christ was crucified. Fear of the number 13 (triskaidekaphobia) is a specifically-recognised phobia.

## Walking under a ladder will bring you bad luck

The origins of this superstition are also religious. In Christianity, the triangle is a sacred symbol that represents the Holy

Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. A ladder against a building forms the shape of a triangle. So, by walking under it, you "break" the triangle. Of course, apart from that, it also seems logical that if you walk under a ladder, something could fall on your head! 😊

## GLOSSARY

**superstitious** (adj)  
 people who are "superstitious" believe in magic or things that aren't real

**a soul** n  
 the part of you that consists of your mind, character, thoughts and feelings

**to counter** v  
 if you "counter" an action or process, you create an opposite effect and stop it happening (or reduce its power)

**to bury** v  
 to put in a hole in the ground

**to spill** v  
 if you "spill" liquid (for example), a bit of it falls from a container

**the devil** n  
 the most powerful evil spirit

**to lurk** v  
 if someone "lurks" somewhere, they wait there secretly, often in order to do something bad

**in disguise** exp  
 if someone is "in disguise", they're wearing different clothes so you don't recognise them

**to pick up** phr v  
 if you "pick something up", you take it in your hands

**a wish** n  
 if you "make a wish", you ask for something that you'd like

**fertility** n  
 the ability to reproduce and have babies

**upside down** exp  
 if something is "upside down", the top part is at the bottom, and the bottom part is at the top

**to frighten off** phr v  
 to do something to frighten someone and to make them leave a place

**to take over** phr v  
 if A "takes over" an area, A starts to dominate and control that area

**to drive away** phr v  
 if you "drive someone away", you make them leave a place

**misfortune** n  
 something unpleasant or unlucky that happens

**the Last Supper** n  
 the last meal that Jesus had with his followers before he was crucified (see other entry)

**an apostle** n  
 a person who followed Jesus Christ and who told people about him and tried to persuade them to become Christians. The 12 apostles were the 12 people chosen by Jesus to carry on his work after his death

**to crucify** v  
 if someone is "crucified", they're killed by being tied or nailed to a cross and left to die

**sacred** (adj)  
 "sacred" objects have a special connection with God

**the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit** exp  
 the Father (God), the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Jesus' spirit after he died)

Answers on page 44

## Pre-reading

Think of three superstitions from your country.

## Reading I

Read the article once. Were any of your superstitions mentioned? Are they exactly the same in your country?

## Reading II

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

- How many years' bad luck will you have if you break a mirror?
- What should you throw over your left shoulder if you spill some salt?
- What should you do if you find a horseshoe in an open field?
- What are the origins of the "unlucky" number 13?
- What are the origins of the "walking under a ladder" superstition?

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

**Think about it** How careful are you about protecting your identity? What security measures do you take to protect your identity? What about your computer in general?

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

READ & LISTEN II

TRACK 16: ENGLISHMAN & NEW ZEALAND MAN



HOW SAFE IS YOUR ID?

## HOW TO AVOID ID THEFT!

**I** **identity theft** is one of the fastest-growing crimes. But what does it involve? And what can you do to prevent it?

In 2010, 30-year-old Sandra Nichols scanned in her **ID card** for a job she was applying for. A few weeks later, her boyfriend mistakenly uploaded the document to a **file-sharing website** and left it there without realising.

Months later, Sandra applied for an **overdraft**, but was **turned down**. Shortly afterwards, she received a phone call from a **debt-collection agency** demanding payment for money **owed**. This was the first of a number of calls from several agencies following up debts that had been **run up** in her name.

Sandra eventually discovered that she owed thousands to banks, credit companies and financing institutions. And she found out that her name had been used to **sign up for loans**, take out credit cards, rent a flat and even buy a car. She'd become a victim of ID theft.

So, what can you do to protect yourself? Here are a few top tips:

Always **shred** any documents with personal information on them before throwing them out. Thieves often **rummage through** bins looking for confidential information. Make sure your computer

has an up-to-date anti-virus and firewall system installed, and keep your operating system and software applications updated.

Only enter your credit card details on secure sites, or websites that you've used before.

Never open suspicious **attachments**, or e-mails from unknown sources.

Don't send your password by e-mail, or give it over the phone to someone claiming to be from the bank. And never click on links **embedded** in e-mails that are supposedly from an official organisation.

Avoid file sharing as this gives other people access to your hard drive. If you do use one, make sure you disconnect your computer from the internet when you aren't using it.

Avoid giving away too much personal information on social networking sites. Your date of birth, names of schools attended, phone numbers or the names of your parents and relatives are often required to verify an identity, and thieves can use this information too.

Create complex passwords using a combination of numbers, upper- and lower-case letters, and keyboard symbols. Also, change your passwords regularly, use a different password for every website, and if you need to jot them down somewhere, write them in **code**. To be

extra safe, you could use a program such as Password Safe to create an encrypted username and password list.

Stay safe! ☀

### PASSWORDS

Passwords that you should try to avoid (as they're extremely common!) include: 123456, abc123, money, letmein, dragon, 11111, iloveyou, baseball, master, welcome, football, ninja and passwords.

### GLOSSARY

**identity theft** *n*  
the crime of using someone's personal information in order to get a credit card, borrow money, etc. Often abbreviated to ID theft

**an ID card** *n*  
a card with a person's photo and information about them: name, date of birth, address, etc.

**a file-sharing website** *n*  
a website where you can upload files, store them there, or download other files

**an overdraft** *n*  
if you apply for an "overdraft", you ask the bank for permission to take out more money than you have in your bank account

**to turn down** *phr* *vb*  
if someone asks for something and you "turn them down", you say that it isn't possible or can't be done

**a debt-collection agency** *n*  
a company that collects money that people owe to the bank, etc.

**to owe** *vb*  
if you "owe" money to someone, they lent you the money and you haven't paid them back yet

**to run up** *phr* *vb*  
if you "run up" debts, you borrow or spend more money than you have

**to sign up for** *phr* *vb*  
if you "sign up for" a particular service, you put your name on a contract so you can start using that service

**a loan** *n*  
money that the bank gives you. You have to return the amount with interest

**to shred** *vb*  
if you "shred" a document, you cut it into very small pieces, often with a "shredder" (a special machine)

**to rummage through** *phr* *vb*  
if you "rummage through" rubbish (for example), you look in the rubbish for something

**an attachment** *n*  
a document / photo, etc. you send in an e-mail

**embedded** *adj*  
if A is "embedded" in B, A is inside B

**in code** *adv*  
if you write something "in code", you write it using a special language or symbols so that others can't understand it

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What is ID theft? Think of a definition. What can you do to prevent identity theft?

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why should you shred documents with personal information on before throwing them away?
2. What types of attachments should you never open?
3. Why should you avoid file-sharing sites?
4. Why should you be careful about giving away too much personal information on social networking sites?
5. What types of passwords should you create?

# VOCABULARY CLINIC

## UK / US WORDS - COMMON EXPRESSIONS



1

**British English:** A: Here's your coffee. B: Cheers!  
**American English:** A: I paid the money into your account. B: Thanks.



2

**British English:** We're going away for a **fortnight** (a period of 2 weeks).  
**American English:** We stayed there for **two weeks**.



3

**British English:** She's really **angry** with us.  
**American English:** She's **mad** at us. [Americans also use the word "angry". In British English, "mad" means "crazy" or "insane".]



4

**British English:** I took a couple of my **mates** to the party. [friends]  
**American English:** I went to the beach with my **buddy**.



5

**British English:** He studied **maths** at university.  
**American English:** I was never very good at **math**. [Americans don't use the plural form.]



6

**British English:** I love it in the **autumn** when the leaves turn brown.  
**American English:** **Fall** is one of my favourite seasons.



7

**British English:** I'll give you a call on my **mobile**.  
**American English:** Have you seen my **cell phone** anywhere?



8

**British English:** She was trying to **chat me up!** [to speak to someone in a playful, friendly way because you like them]  
**American English:** He was trying to **pick me up!**



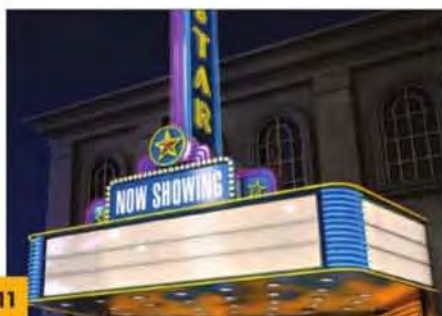
9

**British English:** I found an **insect** in my salad.  
**American English:** The house was full of **bugs**.



10

**British English:** Where are the **toilets**, please? [this term is used for public toilets in the street, a restaurant, shopping centre, etc.]  
**American English:** She just went to the **restroom**.



11

**British English:** There's a new **cinema** in the centre.  
**American English:** We met up at the **movie theater**.



12

**British English:** Where are you going for your **holiday**?  
**American English:** We just got back from our **vacation!**

**Objective** To improve your reading skills.

**Think about it** Have you seen any funny videos or photos online recently? Have you heard about any other stories of someone trying to censor something? What happened?

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

by John Michael Mulderig

# When things go wrong: 3 stories

Answers on page 44

## Pre-reading

You're going to read three stories about things that went wrong for a famous singer, a well-known basketball player and a council. What do you think could have happened? Make notes.

## Reading I

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

## Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write *Beyoncé*, *Argyll* or *James* next to each statement.

1. A young girl took some photos of food.
2. Some of the photos were turned into memes.
3. It happened during a basketball camp for young players.
4. Photos from a concert were at the centre of this controversy.
5. Someone filmed part of a sports game.
6. Some photos taken by a nine-year-old girl caused concern.

## Language focus

### To get

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "... But when web users got news of this..." The writer has used an expression with the verb "to get" ("get news of something"), which means "to find out about something". What do the expressions with get mean (more or less) in the following sentences?

1. The news soon **got out**. =
2. She **got lucky!** =
3. It **got** the event even more publicity. =

**T**rying to censor something can often backfire, as singer Beyoncé Knowles, basketball player LeBron James, and the council of Argyll and Bute in Scotland all found out.



### Beyoncé Knowles

When pop star Beyoncé performed at the Super Bowl XLVII half-time show in February 2013, she received rave reviews. Within hours, the website BuzzFeed.com had posted photos of the singer in action. However, Beyoncé's publicist thought the pictures were unflattering and demanded their removal. But when web users got news of this, the photos went viral. Some were turned into **memes\***, with Beyoncé photo-shopped green to look like the Incredible Hulk, and her face superimposed onto just about every cartoon and movie character imaginable. Now if only they'd just ignored it!



### Argyll and Bute council

In 2012, nine-year-old Martha Payne started posting photos of her **school dinners\*** on her blog, NeverSeconds, as part of a school writing project. Every

day, she asked the small number of visitors to rate the nutritional value of the food. However, the Scottish council of Argyll and Bute (who are responsible for the school) took offence. They were concerned about the possible negative effect that this could have on the catering staff. So, they told Martha to stop publishing the photos. But their attempts to bully a young girl backfired spectacularly and ended up generating attention from news stations, famous people (including celebrity chef Jamie Oliver) and millions of web users from around the world. Martha's blog now has over eight million followers, and has collected more than £115,000, which has been given to Mary's Meals, a charity that helps impoverished children.



### LeBron James

In the summer of 2009, Nike and National Basketball Association (NBA) superstar LeBron James co-sponsored a basketball camp for young players. During one of the games, college sophomore, Jordan Crawford, out-manoeuvred, then **dunked\*** on LeBron James. Immediately, there were attempts to confiscate video footage taken of this. Officials wanted to prevent it getting out and harming James' reputation. But as website [www.rivals.com](http://www.rivals.com) noted, "By censoring the tape, LeBron turn(ed)

the dunk into a legend." Eventually, the video was leaked and appeared all over the internet. Most saw the dunk as a young kid who got lucky against a basketball star who probably wasn't even trying that hard. However, the attempts to suppress it got the event more publicity than it would have received otherwise. Jordan Crawford currently plays for the NBA.

There are always some things that we'd like to keep private, but once they appear online, the best course of action seems to be to turn a blind eye... if you don't want a small problem to turn into a big deal. ☺

\***Meme** = an adapted video or photo that becomes popular online.

\***School dinner** = the food that children eat at lunchtime – around 1pm.

\***Dunk** = if a basketball player "dunks", he/she jumps into the air and pushes the ball into the basket from above.

## THE STREISAND EFFECT

The "Streisand effect" describes what happens when someone tries to suppress information and this ends up creating even more publicity for it. The term refers to an incident involving singer and actress Barbra Streisand. In 2003, photos of her beachfront



property appeared on a website. Streisand sued the owners of the site, but wasn't successful. And as a result, public knowledge of the picture increased substantially, with more than 400,000 people visiting the site to see the photo of Barbra's house.

**Think about it**

What's the strangest hotel, city or place you've ever stayed the night? What was special or different about it? Do you think most people are honest? Why? Why not? If you found a valuable ring in the street, what would you do with it?

# QUIRKY NEWS

Unusual news stories from around the world.

## A Prison fun!

**H**ave you ever wondered what it's like to go to prison? Now's your **chance**. A former maximum security jail in Holland has just been **turned into** a luxury hotel. Het Arresthuis – which is Dutch for “The Judgement House” – was one of the Netherlands' most **notorious** prisons. But now its 105 **cells** have been turned into 40 **chic** and spacious **suites**. Each room has free WiFi, a flat-screen TV and a coffee machine, and the hotel has a gym, sauna and an organic

herb garden. The designers have also kept some parts of the original jailhouse, including the solid metal doors and the **bars** across the windows. In the evening, the hotel serves special “prison” dinners, where guests dress up as **inmates** and eat together at a **communal table**. One guest wrote on TripAdvisor, “We loved our stay in cell #9 and would certainly ‘do time’ there again.”

PRISON ISN'T SO BAD!



Answers on page 44

## A Questions!

1. What has the former jail been turned into?
2. What was the name of the prison in Dutch?
3. How many rooms are there in the hotel?
4. Where do guests eat in the evening?
5. In which room did the guest who wrote on TripAdvisor stay?

## B Questions!

1. Where is Bill Ray Harris from?
2. What did Sarah Darling drop into his cup?
3. What was she trying to do at the time?
4. When did Sarah come back for the missing item?
5. How much money has she raised for him so far?

## GLOSSARY

**to wonder** *v.b*  
if you “wonder” about something, you think about it and ask questions about it

**a chance** *n*  
an opportunity; a special time to do something

**to turn into** *phr v.b*  
if a prison (for example) is “turned into” a hotel, it becomes a hotel

**notorious** *adj*  
famous for something bad

**a cell** *n*  
a room in a prison for prisoners

**chic** *adj*  
fashionable and sophisticated

**a suite** *n*  
a special, large room in a hotel

**bars** *n*  
long, thin pieces of metal in a window to stop people getting in or out

**an inmate** *n*  
a prisoner

**a communal table** *n*  
a long table where everyone can eat

**to do time** *cxp*  
if someone “does time”, they go to prison

**honesty is the best policy** *cxp*  
being honest or truthful is always the best thing to do

**homeless** *adj*  
a “homeless” person lives in the street and has no home

**to beg** *v.b*  
to ask for money or food

**to drop** *v.b*  
if you “drop” something, it falls out of your hand/pocket, etc.

**an engagement ring** *n*  
a “ring” is a piece of jewellery you wear around a finger. An “engagement ring” is for someone who is getting married

**change** *n*  
money in the form of loose coins (metal money)

**takings** *n*  
the “takings” refers to the amount of money that a business (for example) gets from selling things during a particular period

**to set up** *phr v.b*  
if you “set up” a webpage, you create it

**to raise money** *cxp*  
if you “raise money”, you collect that money by asking people to give it to you

**to donate** *v.b*  
if you “donate” money to a charity, you give money to that charity

**charitable** *adj*  
a “charitable” person gives money to organisations that help poor people, etc.

### FAST FACT:

At the Poseidon Resort in the Bahamas you can sleep in a glass room 13 metres underwater.

## B Honest man

**T**hey say **honesty is the best policy**. It certainly was for Bill Ray Harris, a **homeless** man from Kansas who lives under a bridge. He spends his days **begging** by the side of the road. Just recently, local woman Sarah Darling accidentally **dropped** her **engagement ring** into his cup while she was giving him some **change**. Later on, while Bill was counting the day's **takings**, he found the platinum and diamond ring. “The ring was so big that I knew if it was real, it was expensive,” he said. But instead of selling it, he kept it in case Sarah came back. Two days later, she did, and he returned the ring. “It was a miracle,” Sarah said. And now she's **set up** a page on the internet to **raise money** for Bill to help him start a new life. So far, over 8,000 people have **donated** a total of \$200,000.

CAN I HAVE MY RING BACK?



### FAST FACT:

America is officially the most **charitable** nation in the world, with Ireland in second place and Australia in third (in proportion to their populations).



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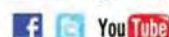
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**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** When was the last time you complained about something? What was it? Have you ever had a problem with your internet provider? What happened? Have you ever complained about something in a restaurant? What?

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

Answers on page 44

### Pre-listening

You're going to listen to two customer service stories. What sort of complaints do people typically have with...

- ...their internet provider: *the system doesn't work, it's too slow...*
- ...a restaurant: *the waiter is rude, the food is cold...*

### Listening I

Listen once. Were any of your ideas mentioned? Which experience can you relate to most? Why?

### Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

- How long did it take for the first speaker's website to be up and running with the new server?
- Who called about a day after that?
- Who called the following day?
- How many calls did he get in total?
- Why did the second speaker find a table for herself?
- Who popped up as she was about to leave?
- What was she offered as compensation?
- What did she think of the food?

### Language focus Linking words

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording *Let's Complain!*: "...However, about a day after that..." The speaker has used a linking word ("however"). Complete the following sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

- Despite not really wanting to go...
- In spite of all the opposition to it...
- However, we did think that...

### Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

### Audio script

# Two customer service stories

HOW MANY COMPLAINTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE?



Internet provider

I once signed up for a new internet service provider to host my blog and website. They were offering really cheap rates and were going to give me more space, which I needed. Everything seemed to go quite smoothly and within a couple of days my website was up and running on the new server. However, about a day after that, I (1) \_\_\_\_\_ from someone in the sales department asking whether I was interested in video streaming for the site. I politely told them that I was all right for the moment, but if they wanted to send me through the information and price list by e-mail, (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The following day, someone from the customer service department called up and asked whether I was happy with the service. I told them I was. And then, the day after that, someone else phoned up and asked me to rate the service (3) \_\_\_\_\_. I said it was a bit early to do that as I hadn't been with them for long, and could they please stop calling me. Yes, of course, she said, but the following day someone else called up from another department. In fact, for the next week or so, I got about 10 calls (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Eventually, I asked to speak to the managing director and explained the problem. She apologised and promised that I wouldn't receive any more calls, which was great.

IS THIS WHAT YOU ORDERED?



Restaurant

The other day, I went out to this restaurant with a friend. It wasn't that busy, and we were in a rush, so we were keen to get seated and served (5) \_\_\_\_\_. We waited a bit but the waiter didn't come over, so we found a table ourselves. A few minutes later, there was still no sign of the waiter, so I started looking around, trying to catch his eye, but every time I seemed to be about to get his attention, (6) \_\_\_\_\_. After another couple of minutes of that, we'd had enough so we got up to leave, but just as we were about to go out the front door, the manager popped up out of nowhere and asked us (7) \_\_\_\_\_. We told him what had happened and he went to get the waiter. Seconds later, there was a full-blown shouting match going on between them. Eventually, the waiter stormed off and the manager came back. "I'm really sorry about that, he's a bit temperamental at times. If you stay, we'd be happy to invite you to a free bottle of wine." OK, we thought, (8) \_\_\_\_\_. A minute or so later, the waiter came over and threw a menu down on our table and mumbled, "I'll be back!" It was just incredible how rude he was, but it was also really funny to watch – like something out of a TV sitcom. Anyway, we enjoyed watching the world's rudest waiter, and the food was great. Of course, we never left a tip!

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

# USEFUL IDIOMS **DISASTER!**

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## Spell disaster

If A "spells disaster" for B, A is going to have a very bad effect on B.

"More bad weather like this could spell disaster for farmers across the country."

D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R



## Disaster area

If a place is a "disaster area", it's very untidy

"After the party, the house was a disaster area with dirty plates, cigarette butts and rubbish everywhere."



## Be a recipe for disaster

If something is a "recipe for disaster", it's going to end badly.

"Renting your flat to Jack would be a recipe for disaster. You know what he's like with food and money."



## Mess up big style (informal)

If you "mess up big style", you do something really badly.

"I started off the competition well, but I messed up big style in round two and got all the questions wrong."



## Go from bad to worse

If things "go from bad to worse", they become even worse than they already were.

"Our team started off well, but one of our players got sent off in the second half and then things just went from bad to worse. We ended up losing 10-2."



## An accident waiting to happen

If there's an "accident waiting to happen", the situation is very dangerous.

"They still haven't repaired the railing around the balcony. It's an accident waiting to happen."



## More by accident than (by) design

If you do something "more by accident than by design", you do it accidentally – not really because of any careful planning.

"I don't know how I managed to fix it, but I just did. It was more by accident than by design."



## Make a pig's ear of something (British)

To do something very badly.

"Bob made a pig's ear of fixing the television. Now it won't even turn on!"



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

**Think about it**

What pets do you have? What are the pros and cons of owning a pet? Which animal would you like to have as a pet? Why? What can be done about anti-social pet owners?

© TRACK 20: US WOMAN, US MAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

**Note!**

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

DO YOU LIKE THE DOG WE BOUGHT FOR YOU?

# GROUP TALK

## PETS IN THE CITY

### Audio script

**Sara:** So, guys, I've just seen all these dogs around the city and I, I kind of wonder, how can people have dogs in their apartments, 'cause the apartments here are tiny.

**Tim:** They are really small. Yeah, I know for a fact the, erm, my **host mother** doesn't have a dog but her apartment is very small and it could not contain a dog.

**Megan:** Mine too, and most of the apart, apartments here don't even have gardens so the dogs would just be **holed up** inside the flat all day with nothing to do. So...

**Tim:** ...and then another thing you see is that a lot of people don't **curb their dogs**, so

you end up having a lot of accidents on the ground that end up being accidents later in the office underneath your shoe.

**Sara:** Yeah.

**Tim:** So...

**Megan:** Yeah that's not a great thing to have when you walk into the office first thing in the morning.

**Sara:** No. Part of me, like, part of me thinks that a cat would be better right?

**Megan:** Def, I think here, cats definitely would be better.

**Tim:** Erm, I'd have to disagree with you because I've never been a cat person myself.

**Megan:** Yeah, yeah, me neither but I think here, it'd have to be cats.

**Tim:** Yeah. Maybe, maybe

you know subjective to where we are, [yeah], cats would probably be more efficient.

**Sara:** Well, I mean I've always been a cat person, my parents have always had cats and I love cats. And I, I could see myself with a cat here in a big city, but a dog?

**Megan:** Personally, I've never really been a dog person but here, I think, depending on the country I think cats could be a winner.

**Tim:** Yeah definitely I'd have to agree with you on that.

### GLOSSARY

**tiny** *adj*  
very small  
**a host mother** *n*  
a "host mother" is a woman who looks after a student. The student lives with the "host mother" in her house temporarily  
**holed up** *exp*  
if someone is "holed up" in a place, they're trapped there and can't leave  
**to curb a dog** *exp*  
if a dog owner "curbs a dog", he/she picks up the dog mess from the ground  
**def** *adv* *inform*  
definitely

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Listen once. Which animal do the three speakers seem to think is best to have in the city?

### 2 Listening I

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why is one of the speakers surprised that people have dogs in the city?
2. What else makes apartments bad for dogs?
3. What does one of the men complain about?

### Top tip: how to listen

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

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

**Think about it**

When was the last time you went to a house party? What was it like? What do you like/dislike about parties?

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ENGLISHMAN &  
ENGLISHWOMAN

# SLANG CONVERSATION THE HOUSE PARTY

Luke has just arrived at Zoe's house, where there's a party.  
Z=Zoe L=Luke



## Dialogue

Z: Luke! Glad you could make it, at last.

L: Thanks for the invite. Nice place you got here!

Z: Cheers. There's a flat on the fourth floor that's up for grabs if you're interested.

L: No, I'm fine where I am, thanks. Rocking party. I could hear it two blocks away.

Z: Yeah, the music is a bit loud. Here, chuck your coat over there and let me get you a drink. A nice cold one?

L: Perfect! So, what's it like living here?

Z: Not too bad. The neighbours are a bit of pain though. The woman in the flat above is a tap dancer and her son's learning the trumpet – what a racket!

L: Sounds like you're getting your own back. Do you think they'll come down to complain?

Z: No, they've gone away for the weekend.

L: Ah, when the cat's away... So, what's your new flatmate like?

Z: His room's a pigsty, he's always leaving his stuff lying around and he helps himself to my food, but he's fairly easy-going, a good laugh and he gets me into gigs for free as he's a band manager.

L: That's all right then.

Z: Right, let me introduce you to a few people.

L: Actually, have you got any grub? I'm starving!

Z: There were some pizzas, but I think someone's scoffed them all. Oh, there's a bit of cake left if you want, and I think there are a few crisps in the living room.

L: I think I'll have some of that cake. I skipped lunch.

Z: You must be hungry.

L: Yeah, tell me about it! So, who are all these friends of yours?

Z: A few old school friends, some mates from work. Oh, and there's this girl I've been meaning to introduce you to, Jessica. I know you two guys will hit it off. I've been telling her all about you!

L: Hope it was all good.

Z: Of course!

L: So, what's this I've heard about you... [fades out]

## GLOSSARY

**to make it** *exp*  
if you "make it" to a place, you arrive there eventually. "Glad you could make it" means, "I'm pleased you could come"

**an invite** *n inform*

an invitation

**a place** *n inform*

a house, building, etc.

**up for grabs** *exp*

if something is "up for grabs", it's available and you can have it if you want it

**rocking** *adj inform*

if a party is "rocking", there are a lot of people there having a good time

**to chuck** *vb inform*

to throw in a casual way

**a racket** *n inform*

a loud noise

**to get your own back** *exp*

to get your revenge; to do something bad to someone who did something bad to you

**when the cat's away** *exp*

this is from the expression "when the cat's away, the mice will play", which means that when the person in authority (the cat) isn't there, those under that person's authority (the mice) will enjoy their freedom and do bad/naughty things

**a pigsty** *n*

if you describe someone's room as a "pigsty", you're saying that it's dirty and messy. Literally, a "pigsty" is an enclosed area where pigs are kept on a farm.

**a good laugh** *n inform*

if you say that someone is a "good laugh", you're saying that they're fun to be with

**a gig** *n inform*

a concert

**grub** *n inform*

food

**starving** *adj*

very hungry

**to scoff** *vb inform*

to eat quickly

**to skip** *vb*

if you "skip" breakfast (for example), you don't have breakfast

**tell me about it!** *exp*

I agree! / I know!

**to hit it off** *exp inform*

if two people "hit it off", they become friends

## Warning

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

hot  
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METHOD

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Now  
available  
online!

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever had trouble making yourself understood? What happened? Have you ever got into difficulties when speaking a foreign language? What happened?

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

**Note!**

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

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**

You're going to listen to two stories about miscommunication. Look at the pictures of the people below who appear in the stories. What do you think the stories could be about? Make notes.



**2 Listening I**

Listen once to compare your ideas from the Pre-listening activity.

**3 Listening II**

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why did the woman from the first story go to England?
2. Where did she get a job?
3. What was she invited to?
4. Which word did she misunderstand and what does it mean?
5. Where did the second speaker get a job?
6. What did everyone keep saying about his wife?
7. Why was he confused about this?
8. Which two words had people mixed up?

**4 Language focus**  
**Prepositional phrases**

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording Communication Problems: "...in the centre of town..." The speaker has used a prepositional phrase. Complete the following phrases from the audio script with the correct prepositions.

1. Perking \_\_\_\_\_, he said...
2. I was met \_\_\_\_\_ the door by...
3. But before stepping \_\_\_\_\_, I...
4. And it was \_\_\_\_\_ that point that something...
5. \_\_\_\_\_ my first week, I...
6. \_\_\_\_\_ then, I was completely confused...

**5 Listening III**

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

**Audio script**

# Communication problems & language difficulties: two stories

**Nature!**

I'm from Norway and about 10 years ago I went to live in London for a couple of years to improve my English. Shortly after arriving, I got a job in an estate agent's in the centre of town. On my first day at work, this guy in his 60s (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and started chatting. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and told me that he was a "naturist". "That's great," I said innocently. "I'm from Norway and we're really into that too," not fully understanding what I was saying. Perking up, he said that he was having a party that weekend and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to come along. Keen to meet a few of the locals, I accepted. So, the following Saturday, I headed off to his house. I guess I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ "naturist", but assumed it meant that he was into nature or something like that. Well, that turned out to be a big mistake! When I got to the house, I was met at the door by a man in a loosely-fitting bathrobe. That's weird, I thought. But anyway, I told him who I was and he invited me in. But before stepping in, I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and out into the back garden where I could see a group of people who were chatting and eating and all completely... naked. And it was at that point that something clicked and I realised that "naturists" weren't actually environmentalists – they were "nudists"! Not wanting to appear rude, I (6) \_\_\_\_\_ having left my bag at home, and rushed off. It was a bit embarrassing seeing the man at work again, but we just ignored each other after that.

IT WAS ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING!



**Ballet!**

I got a job in a lawyer's firm in Hong Kong once. In my first week, I was invited to a welcoming party for the new employees in a bar near to the office. The managing director was there (7) \_\_\_\_\_ from the firm and I joined in on the conversation. He introduced me to everyone, told them where I'd been working before and then mentioned something about my wife, saying, "And his wife is a professional dancer." Strange, I thought. Why does he think my wife's a "dancer", but not wanting to question him in front of everyone else, I just (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the topic of conversation. Later, someone else mentioned how they'd heard that my wife was a great dancer. By then, I was completely confused because although my wife likes dancing, she's not exactly what I'd call a "dancer". Curious to find out what was going on, I asked a colleague why (9) \_\_\_\_\_. "Because you told us that she's a ballet dancer," he replied. "But my wife isn't a ballet dancer!" I said. Eventually, we figured out that it was because I'd said that my wife was from "Bali", which is in Indonesia, and that (10) \_\_\_\_\_ "ballet" and had presumed I was saying that she was a "ballet" dancer, when I'd just been trying to tell them where she was from. Anyway, later, this manager had told everyone about how she was a dancer, and things just went from there. It's incredible how one simple mistake can (11) \_\_\_\_\_!

IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING!



Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What do the following terms mean? Write short definitions.

- investment    austerity    VAT
- trade union    living standards
- unemployment

### 2 Reading I

What does austerity mean in terms of economics and politics? What are the pros and cons of austerity measures? Make notes. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What type of music does Angela Merkel like?
2. What is one of her principal objectives?
3. What does she want to do about labour costs?
4. How has this affected German firms?
5. How has this affected living standards?
6. What does Peer Steinbrueck compare budget consolidation to?
7. What is Sharan Burrow worried about?

### 4 Language focus Preposition review

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...They're waking up and worrying about..." The writer has used two verbs + prepositions: wake up / worry about. Complete the following expressions from the article with the correct prepositions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the centre of...
2. \_\_\_\_\_ full swing...
3. keep driving \_\_\_\_\_ labour costs...
4. this \_\_\_\_\_ turn has...
5. it has also resulted \_\_\_\_\_
6. are forced \_\_\_\_\_ their knees...
7. a commitment \_\_\_\_\_ a jobs plan...
8. just to clear \_\_\_\_\_ any...



# Does Angela Merkel have the solution to Europe's problems?

She worked as a chemist before going into politics. She's currently the chancellor of Germany. And *Forbes* magazine has named her the most powerful woman in the world five times (in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011). Angela Merkel is rarely out of the news these days. And right now this mild-mannered opera fan is at the centre of a European debate on the best way to handle the financial crisis.

With the recession in full swing, Merkel's solution is simple: austerity. This means cutting investment in all areas of government (education, health, defence...) and increasing taxes (sales tax, VAT, personal tax...). "I will not let anyone tell me we must spend more money. This crisis did not come about because we issued too little money but because we created economic growth with too much money and it was not sustainable growth," she explained. "Each country has to take its own steps to reduce its debt," she added.

One of her principal objectives is to make Europe more competitive. In a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting, Merkel insisted it was vital to keep driving down labour costs. Germany has already done this by making the labour market more flexible and getting trade unions to accept low pay deals. This in turn has allowed German firms to undercut their foreign rivals. However, it has also resulted in real living standards

rising much more slowly in Germany than in countries such as Britain, France or the United States.

So, far the price of austerity has been high. In some countries, youth unemployment is over 50% and many believe that this could threaten social stability. "Some societies are being forced to their knees," said Peer Steinbrueck, who was finance minister in Germany from 2005 to 2009 in Merkel's right-centre grand coalition government. "Budget consolidation is in some ways like medicine. The right amount can save lives while too much can be lethal," he added.

And some are worried that not enough is being done about unemployment. "Leaders feel the pressure, but there's only a commitment to a jobs plan in a very few countries," said Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation. "They're waking up and worrying about stock markets and rating agencies, rather than things people really care about – such as education, growth and jobs."

#### Bio - Angela Merkel

Angela Merkel was born in Hamburg, West Germany, on 17th July 1954. She entered politics after the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall. She became Chairwoman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party, and then Germany's first female chancellor following the 2005 national elections. Angela speaks Russian fluently. There's an Angela Merkel Barbie doll.

But Angela won't be swayed, "Were we to meet halfway, we would have accepted that Europe will not be competitive globally," she said recently at a conference, just to clear up any lingering doubts.

It's not for nothing that she's referred to as the new Iron Chancellor! ☘

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

**Think about it** What urban subcultures are there in your country? Do you have any equivalents to steampunks or hipsters in your country? What are they? What are some of the most unusual subcultures in your country?

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

# TWO NEW URBAN TRENDS: STEAMPUNKS & HIPSTERS

By Georgie Kiely

**P**unks. Mods. Goths. New Romantics. These are some of the many subcultures you can find in the UK. But there are several others that have **popped up** over the years. Here are two that you might not have heard of.

## Steampunks

Steampunks wear a combination of Victorian fashion and futuristic sci-fi clothing. They look like characters out of a Jules Verne novel, with their **retro-futuristic** weapons and elaborate clothing that includes waistcoats, top hats, coat tails, corsets, goggles and military-inspired garments.



There are several steampunk conventions around the world. The Saturday of the four-day San Diego Comic-Con International event is generally known as "Steampunk Day". This ends with a **photo-shoot** for the local press, with the most spectacular steampunks **posing** for the pictures. And the Saturday steampunk "after-party" has also become a major event in the steampunk social calendar.

The biggest Steampunk festival in Europe is "Weekend at the Asylum", which takes place in Lincoln, England. During the three-day event, there's music, comedy and a large market selling steampunk clothing. One of the highlights of this event is "tea **duelling**". This is a competitive sport between two contestants who sit in front of one another, each with a cup of tea. Taking a biscuit in their right hand, they **dunk** it and hold it up. The winner is the person who can hold their biscuit up for the longest and then **pop it into** their mouth without the biscuit breaking. If your biscuit **crumbles** before you can eat it, you're eliminated! Likewise, if your biscuit falls to bits before your competitor's does, you're also eliminated.

## Hipsters

Hipsters are young people who reject everything



**mainstream** – mainstream films, mainstream music, mainstream fashion, mainstream politics. It's all about being cool and different. As Matt Granfield of HipsterMatic has said, "The way to be cool these days isn't to look like a television star, it's to look as though you'd never even seen television."

Hipster clothing comes from shops such as Urban Outfitters and American Apparel and usually consists of tight jeans, **thick-rimmed** glasses, T-shirts with ironic messages or obscure film **quotes**, messenger bags, and footwear such as converse all-star trainers, old-school sneakers, or Classic Reeboks.

Hipsters are often university students who are studying an arts degree or a science-related subject, or they might have careers in music, art or fashion. They're **into** books and poetry by Jack Kerouac, Alan Ginsburg and Norman Mailer, and films by obscure directors. Hipster music consists of little-known bands and genres such as Indie Rock, Alternative Hip Hop and Electronic Rock. They often support local record shops by buying songs on vinyl.

Hipsters are generally into progressive politics, they live sustainably, eat organic food, ride fixed-gear or single-

gear bicycles and recycle and reuse things. They're often vegans or vegetarians, enjoy tofu sandwiches and understand everything about coffee, which they buy from their local **independent coffee shop**. When amongst other hipsters, they enjoy **witty banter** on topics such as politics, music, film and literature.

Are there any steampunks or hipsters in your country? 🗳️

## VIDEO

YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bbLVM618xs> or search "How to be a hipster"

## GLOSSARY

**to pop up** *phr vb*  
if something "pops up", it appears suddenly and quickly

**retro-futuristic** *adj*  
something "retro" is from the past. A "retro-futuristic" weapon (for example), is a weapon from the past that appeared to be something out of the future at the time

**a photo-shoot** *n*  
if there's a "photo-shoot", a photographer takes pictures of a model, etc

**to pose** *vb*  
if you "pose" for a photo or painting, you stay in a position so that someone can photograph or paint you

**duelling** *n*  
a "duel" is a formal fight between two people in which they use guns or swords. "Tea duelling" is a competition involving cups of tea and biscuits (see article)

**to dunk** *vi*  
if you "dunk" a biscuit (for example) in a cup of tea, you put it in the tea for a short time

**to pop into** *phr vb*  
if you "pop something into" your mouth (for example), you put it into your mouth quickly

**to crumble** *vb*  
if a biscuit (for example) "crumbles", it breaks into a lot of small pieces

**mainstream** *adj*  
"mainstream" activities (for example) are the most typical and normal activities because most people do them

**thick-rimmed** *adj*  
the "rim" of the glass on a pair of glasses is the outside plastic part of the glass. "Thick-rimmed" glasses have thick rims

**a quote** *n*  
a film "quote" (for example) is something that someone said in that film

**into** *adv*  
the things that you're "into" are the things you like

**an independent coffee shop** *n*  
a "coffee shop" is a type of restaurant that sells coffee, cakes, etc. An independent one is managed by a single person, and isn't part of a big company

**witty banter** *exp*  
if two people are having some "witty banter", they're joking with each other in a funny, clever and friendly way

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the pictures of the steampunks and hipster. How would you describe them?

## 2 Reading I

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

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write **S** (for steampunk) or **H** (for hipster) next to each statement.

1. They often wear tight jeans.
2. They look like characters from a Jules Verne novel.
3. They're into progressive politics.
4. They like music that you've probably never heard of.
5. They wear futuristic sci-fi clothing.
6. They enjoy tea duelling.



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

**Think about it** Do movie directors have an obligation to make sure that films reflect the truth as accurately as possible? Why? Why not? Have you seen any historical films? How true to real life do you think they were?

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

## READ & LISTEN II

TRACK 25: NEW ZEALAND MAN & ENGLISHMAN

# TRUTH AND LIES: HOW HOLLYWOOD FILMS COMPARE TO REAL LIFE

by John Michael Mulderig

**H**ollywood films are often based on real-life events. But how close are they to the truth? Here are two movies that were inspired by true stories.

### 1 The Impossible

In December 2004, the Alvarez-Belón family were enjoying a holiday at their beach side hotel in Phuket (Thailand) when disaster struck. Early in the morning of the 26th, a 10-metre tsunami crashed into the resort, slamming Maria, the mother,



into some nearby trees. After the initial shock, she found her eldest son Lucas. Sometime later, villagers carried Maria to a hospital in Takua Pa so that medical staff could operate on her life-threatening injuries. Maria's husband and two younger boys were in the swimming pool at the time. Miraculously, they also survived, and the family was reunited a few days later. In total, the wave killed over 200,000 people.

The film version of the event captures the terror and destructive power of the tsunami, and was partially filmed at the resort where the family were staying. But despite the similarities, there's one major difference: while the real-life Alvarez-Belón family are Spanish, the family portrayed in the movie are British. In the film, Maria and Quique are played respectively by British actors Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor, with Enrique's name becoming Henry and the family's surname changed to Bennett. Director Juan Antonio Bayona, who is actually Spanish, explained that they needed international actors in order to raise funds for the film. He added, "This is not a film of nationality, race or social class. All that was swept away by the wave."

### 2 Argo

On 4th November 1979, radical Iranian militants took more than sixty hostages from the United States Embassy in Teheran (Iran). Six US

diplomats managed to evade capture and were sheltered by Canadian Ambassadors Ken Taylor and John Sheardown.



With little chance of escape, Canadian and United States officials needed a plan to get them out. CIA operative Tony Mendez eventually came up with an idea: the six would pretend to be Canadian citizens working on a Hollywood film. Canadian Ambassador Ken Taylor said, "We thought the (Mendez) plan was OK... but we didn't think we really needed something that intricate." They had some other more straightforward schemes, but ultimately went with the Mendez plan. On 28th January 1980, the diplomats passed themselves off as Canadian film crew and left Iran safely. The remaining hostages weren't released until a year later on 21st January 1981.

So, how does the film compare to reality? In the film version, CIA operative Tony Mendez is presented as the hero, while the Canadians take a back seat, only providing housing for the diplomats. Director Ben Affleck said that this was to provide greater dramatic tension by making it seem as if everything was resting on Mendez's shoulders. On top of that, British diplomats are shown refusing to help the Americans, something which is hotly disputed by those who were actually there at the time. Defending the film, Affleck explained, "Because we say it's based on a true story, rather than this is a true story, we're allowed to take some dramatic licence." The late singer-songwriter

John Lennon once said, "Reality leaves a lot to the imagination." It's clear that the directors of the *Impossible* and *Argo* felt this way too. ❄

### THE IMPOSSIBLE (2012)



Starring Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor. Directed by Juan Antonio Bayona.

### ARGO (2012)



Starring Ben Affleck and John Goodman. Directed by Ben Affleck. *Argo* is the name of the film they invented as part of the plan to get the Americans out.

### GLOSSARY

**to strike** v/b  
if a disaster "strikes", it happens suddenly

**a tsunami** n  
a very large wave (a mass of water in the sea), often caused by an earthquake (a violent movement of the earth)

**to slam into** phr/v/b  
if A "slams into" B, A crashes into B with great force

**life-threatening injuries** n/np  
an "injury" is damage to a person's body. "Life-threatening injuries" can kill you

**to reunite** v/b  
if two people are "reunited", they meet again after being separated

**to raise funds** n/np  
to collect money for something (a charity, etc.) by asking people for that money

**to sweep away** phr/v/b  
if someone is "swept away" from an area, they're taken away from that area very quickly (in this case, by the tsunami)

**to take hostages** n/np  
if criminals "take hostages", they catch people and hold them until their demands are met

**to evade capture** n/np  
if you "evade capture", you escape from a place where people are trying to catch you

**to shelter** v/b  
if you "shelter" someone (particularly someone the police are looking for), you give them a place to hide or live

**intricate** adj  
something that's "intricate" has many small parts or details

**ultimately** n/np  
in the end / eventually

**to pass yourself off as** n/np  
if you "pass yourself off as" a prince (for example), you act as if you're a prince, even though you aren't

**film crew** n  
the "film crew" are the people who work on a film: the sound engineers, the camera operators, etc.

**to take a back seat** n/np  
if you "take a back seat" during an operation (for example), you don't do much and let others lead it

**to rest on someone's shoulders** n/np  
if responsibility for something "rests on your shoulders", it's your responsibility

**hotly disputed** n/np  
if something is "hotly disputed", people don't agree with it

**to take dramatic licence** n/np  
if a director "takes dramatic licence", they tell the story the way they want to, often ignoring the facts

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-reading

What changes can filmmakers make to real-life stories? Think of as many ideas as you can. They can... change the dates, change the names of the people, set it in a different country, change the sequence of events...

### 2 Reading I

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

### 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why was Maria taken to hospital?
2. Why was it a miracle that everyone in her family survived?
3. What was the major difference between the film and reality?
4. What was the film *Argo* based on?
5. How did the diplomats get out of the country?
6. In the film version, what is one of the major differences?

# PHRASAL VERBS STAGES OF LIFE

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

course tall University lottery school grandfather medicine children

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1

## Name after

If you "name" a child "after" someone, you give your child the same name as that person.

"My son is named after my \_\_\_\_\_."



2

## Take after

If you "take after" someone in your family, you're just like them.

"She takes after her dad: she's \_\_\_\_\_, good looking but also extremely stubborn."



3

## Bring up

If you "bring up" a child, you care for and educate that child.

"I brought up six all on my own!"



4

## Grow up

The time when you're "growing up" is the time when you go from being a child to becoming a young adult.

"We grew up in a poor area of the town, but after mum won the \_\_\_\_\_, we moved out to the posh part of the city."

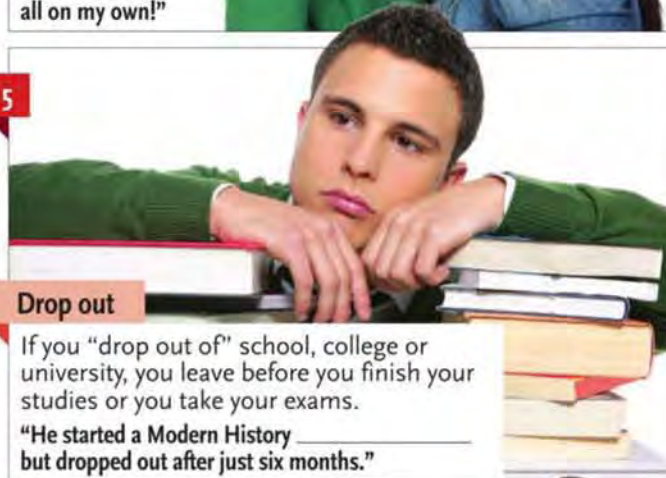


5

## Drop out

If you "drop out of" school, college or university, you leave before you finish your studies or you take your exams.

"He started a Modern History \_\_\_\_\_ but dropped out after just six months."



6

## End up / wind up

The place where you "end up" is the place where you are in the end. / The things you "end up" doing are the things you do in the end.

"After university, she went to study \_\_\_\_\_ in the US, but ended up working in a hospital back in the town where she was born."



7

## Turn out

The way someone "turns out" is the way that they are (in terms of their personality and character, etc.) in the end.

"She never studied much at \_\_\_\_\_, but she turned out to be a really successful businesswoman."



8

## Live up to

If you "live up to" other people's expectations, you do as well as people thought you would do.

"He definitely lived up to our expectations: he studied at Oxford \_\_\_\_\_, did an MBA in Harvard and is now the CEO of a major multinational."



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## Photos from the news

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

Photo 1



Madonna shows up to the GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Awards (awards for issues that affect their lives) in a Boy Scout uniform.

Photo 2



A woman takes pictures of art installation "Alice" by Spanish artist Cristina Lucas in the Andalusian Centre of Contemporary Art in the Andalusian capital of Seville.

Photo 3



On International Pillow Fight Day, hundreds flock to Trafalgar Square in central London to hit one another over the head.

### TERRIFYING TALES (PAGE 6)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Hansel and Gretel; 2. Little Red Riding Hood; 3. The Little Mermaid; 4. The Thumb-Sucker; 5. The Little Mermaid; 6. Hansel and Gretel

### THINGS TO STEAL (PAGE 7)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. 88%; 2. 55%; 3. 27%; 4. 22%; 5. 11%; 6. 3%

### GRAMMAR BOOSTER (PAGE 8)

1. next; 2. over; 3. anything; 4. today; 5. corner; 6. morning; 7. house; 8. tennis

### ENGLISH IN ACTION (PAGE 10)

1. leg; 2. location; 3. helicopters; 4. fire; 5. arm; 6. jacket; 7. leaves

### FOOD FUN (PAGE 12)

- 1 Pre-listening**  
1g 2h 3f 4a 5l 6i 7k 8b 9e 10d 11j 12c

### 2 Listening I

- American and Indian  
**1 Listening II**  
1. Italian: garlic, onion, tinned tomatoes, tuna fish, minced meat  
2. Chinese: garlic, ginger, noodles, soy sauce  
3. Mexican: peppers, onion, lettuce, lime, tomato

- 1 Language focus**  
1. an; 2. any/some; 3. any

### 2 Listening III

1. make; 2. add; 3. go; 4. want; 5. chop; 6. live; 7. fry; 8. serve

### PRACTICAL ENGLISH (PAGE 13)

1. strong; 2. apartment; 3. subject; 4. weekend; 5. car; 6. party; 7. hotel

### EXPENSIVE HOMES (PAGE 14)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Fairfield Pond  
2. Hearst Castle  
3. Updown Court  
4. Villa La Leopolda  
5. Updown Court  
6. Antilia  
7. Hearst Castle  
8. Fairfield Pond

### 2 Language focus

1. shorter; 2. taller; 3. nicer

### CHARITIES (PAGE 15)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Axe Undie Run  
2. Pay to stop *Baby*  
3. Movember  
4. One dress, one year  
5. Dryathlon  
6. Jeans for Genes  
**2 Language focus**  
1. good enough; 2. enough money; 3. enough food; 4. well enough

### END OF THE WORLD (PAGE 16)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Christopher Columbus; 2. Herbert W. Armstrong; 3. Jim Jones; 4. The Jehovah's Witnesses; 5. Hon-Ming Chen; 6. the Mayans

### INTERNET FADS (PAGE 17)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Frosting  
2. Milking  
3. Lion Kinging  
4. Porting  
5. Planking  
6. Plumbking  
7. Gallon smashing

### TRANSPORT STORIES (PAGE 20)

- 1 Listening II**  
1a 2a 3b 4b 5b 6b 7a 8a

### 2 Language focus

Four more adverbs: suddenly, forcefully, incredibly, calmly

### 3 Listening III

1. station; 2. boss; 3. colleagues; 4. building; 5. jeans; 6. party; 7. bus; 8. bag; 9. helmet; 10. woman

### SUPERSTITIONS (PAGE 28)

- 1 Reading II** (wording may vary)  
1. Seven  
2. Salt  
3. Pick it up with your right hand, make a wish, then throw it over your left shoulder.  
4. There were 13 people at the Last Supper.  
5. A ladder against a building forms the shape of a triangle, which is a sacred symbol for Christians. By walking under the ladder, you break the triangle.

### ID THEFT (PAGE 29)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Because thieves sometimes rummage through bins looking for confidential information.  
2. Suspicious-looking ones or ones in e-mails from unknown sources.  
3. Because this gives other people access to your hard drive.  
4. Because this information can be used when verifying an identity.  
5. Ones with a combination of numbers, upper- and lower-case letters and keyboard symbols.

### WHEN THINGS GO WRONG (PAGE 31)

- 1 Reading II**  
1. Argyll; 2. Beyoncé; 3. James; 4. Beyoncé; 5. James; 6. Argyll  
**2 Language focus**  
1. became known; 2. became lucky; 3. gave

### QUIRKY NEWS (PAGE 32)

- A: Questions!**  
1. a luxury hotel; 2. Het Arresthuis; 3. 40; 4. at a communal table; 5. number nine

### B: Questions!

1. Kansas; 2. a ring; 3. give him some change; 4. two days later; 5. \$200,000

### CUSTOMER SERVICE STORIES (PAGE 34)

- 1 Listening II**  
1. A couple of days.  
2. Someone from the sales department.  
3. Someone from the customer service department.  
4. About 10.  
5. Because the waiter didn't come over.  
6. The manager.  
7. A free bottle of wine.  
8. She thought it was great.

### 2 Listening III

1. got this call  
2. I'd think about it  
3. on a scale of one to ten  
4. from different people in the company  
5. as quickly as possible  
6. he looked the other way  
7. what the problem was  
8. so we went to sit down

### GROUP TALK (PAGE 36)

- 1 Listening I**  
A cat.

### 2 Listening II

1. Because the apartments are so small.  
2. There aren't any gardens.  
3. Owners not curbing their dogs.

### COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS (PAGE 38)

- 1 Listening II**  
1. To improve her English.  
2. At an estate agent's.  
3. A party.  
4. Naturalist – it's someone who likes to be naked.  
5. In a law firm in Hong Kong.  
6. That she was a great dancer.  
7. Because although she's a good dancer, she isn't a professional dancer.  
8. They'd understood "ballet" when the man had said "Bali".

### 2 Language focus

1. up; 2. at; 3. in; 4. at; 5. in; 6. by

### 3 Listening III

1. came over to my desk  
2. seemed to be quite friendly  
3. wanted to know whether I'd like  
4. hadn't really paid much attention to the word  
5. peered through the front door  
6. made up a feeble excuse about  
7. talking to some of the people  
8. smiled and tried to change  
9. everyone thought my wife was a dancer  
10. one of the managers had understood  
11. lead to such confusion

### ANGELA MERKEL (PAGE 39)

- 1 Reading II** (wording may vary)  
1. Opera.  
2. To make Europe more competitive.  
3. Drive them down.  
4. They've been able to undercut foreign rivals.  
5. It's made them rise much more slowly.  
6. Medicine.  
7. The fact that few leaders are concerned about education, growth and jobs.

### 2 Language focus

1. at; 2. in; 3. down; 4. in; 5. in; 6. to; 7. to; 8. up

### STEAMPUNKS & HIPSTERS (PAGE 40)

- 1 Reading II**  
1H 2S 3H 4H 5S 6S

### TRUTH AND LIES (PAGE 41)

- 1 Reading II** (wording may vary)  
1. Because she had life-threatening injuries.  
2. Because so many people had died.  
3. In the film version, the family are British; in reality, they were Spanish.  
4. The 1979 Iranian hostage crisis.  
5. They pretended to be part of a Canadian film crew.  
6. In the film version, Tony Mendez is presented as the hero, and the Canadians take a back seat, but this wasn't entirely true.

### PHRASAL VERBS (PAGE 42)

1. grandfather; 2. tall; 3. children; 4. lottery; 5. course; 6. medicine; 7. school; 8. University

Let's be



friends

(if we aren't already!)

## STORY TIME

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



## Lazy birds

- A:** I say, I say, I say. Why do birds fly south for the winter?  
**B:** I don't know. Why do birds fly south for the winter?  
**A:** Because it's too far to walk!

## Tiger fun

A police officer is **patrolling** the streets when he sees a man with a tiger on a **lead**. He stops the man, **takes down his details** and orders him to take the tiger to the zoo. The next day, the police officer sees the same man with the tiger again. "I thought I told you to take the tiger to the zoo," the police officer says. "I did," says the man. "And now I'm taking him to the cinema."

## Annoying parrot

A man is on his way to work when he notices a parrot on a **perch** in the front window of a **pet shop**. Stopping to have a look, the parrot suddenly says, "Hey, mister, you're really stupid!" The man **shakes his head** and walks off. On the way home, the same thing happens. This continues for a couple of days. Eventually, the man has had enough and goes into the shop. "Could you tell your parrot to stop insulting me, please?" he asks the store owner. "Oh, I'm sorry," says the owner. "I'll **have a word with him** about it." "Thanks," says the man. "I'd appreciate it." The next day, the man walks past the shop again.

"Hey, mister!" the parrot calls out.  
 "Yes?" the man asks, **wondering** what the parrot is going to do. And the parrot says, "You know what you are!"

## GLOSSARY

- to patrol** *v*  
 if the police are "patrolling" in an area, they're in that area, checking that things are all right
- a lead** *n*  
 a dog's "lead" is the long, thin piece of material that you hold onto. It goes around the dog's neck so you can control it
- to take down details** *exp*  
 if the police "take down your details", they ask for your name, address, etc.
- a perch** *n*  
 a bird's "perch" is the stick or piece of wood that it sits on
- a pet shop** *n*  
 a shop that sells animals that you can buy and keep in your house
- to shake your head** *v*  
 to move your head from side to side, often as a way of saying "no" or because you don't like or agree with something
- to have a word with someone** *exp*  
 to talk to someone about something
- to wonder** *v*  
 if you "wonder" about something, you think about it and the reasons for it

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