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ST VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL!

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EDITOR'S INTRO

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Hi, everybody, and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine! This month, we've got lots of fun material for you to learn English. For a start, there's a new section: Dr Fingers' Error Correction Clinic. Well, actually, it's a section we had a few years ago that we've decided to bring back. We think you'll find it really useful. Read over the incorrect sentences and try to correct the error. Then, listen to check your answers.

Our feature article this month is on Mel Gibson. You can read lots of interesting things about him. We're also looking at some "gaffes" – those silly or stupid comments people make, often by mistake. Prince Philip – the Queen's husband – is famous for his gaffes. You can read about some of the funny (and not so funny!) things that he's said over the years.

Of course, that's not all, we're also looking at Bristol (England), skiing vocabulary, phrasal verbs with the verb "to take", "sea creature" idioms, kissing trivia and quotes (it's almost St Valentine's Day!) and wind farms.

Well, that's all for now. Have a great month, learn lots of English and see you again next time for some more language learning fun!

Andy

PS Remember to sign up for the newsletter so you can receive lots of FREE language lessons. Just visit our website (www.learnhotenglish.com) and enter your name and e-mail address in the box on the right-hand side of the page.



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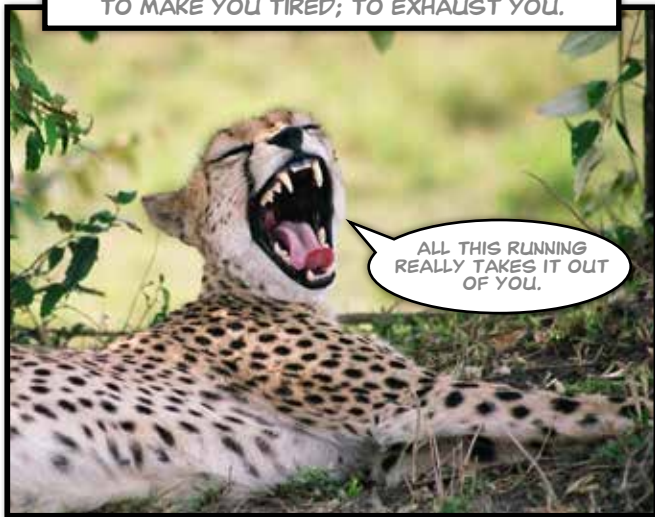
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PHRASAL VERBS TAKE

The verb "to take" has many different uses. Generally, we use this verb to refer to the action of carrying/taking something from one place to another. For example, "I took my car to the garage so they could repair it."

TAKE IT OUT OF YOU
 TO MAKE YOU TIRED; TO EXHAUST YOU.



TAKE OVER A BUSINESS
 TO TAKE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF A COMPANY.



TAKE IT OUT ON SOMEONE
 TO HURT OR ATTACK SOMEONE (MENTALLY/ VERBALLY/PHYSICALLY) BECAUSE YOU ARE FRUSTRATED, ANGRY, ETC.



TAKE UP A NEW HOBBY
 TO START DOING A NEW HOBBY



TAKE SOMEONE UP ON AN OFFER
 TO ACCEPT AN OFFER; TO AGREE TO DO SOMETHING THAT ANOTHER PERSON PROPOSES.



TAKE OFF
 TO REMOVE CLOTHING.



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SEA-CREATURE IDIOMS

GLOSSARY

slippery *adj*
wet and smooth
an eel *n*
a long fish with a body like a snake
fry *n*
young or newly-hatched fish
an oyster *n*
a large, flat shellfish. Some are eaten, others produce pearls
a shark *n*
a large fish with big teeth. Some eat humans

This month we are looking at some sea-creature idioms.



As slippery as an eel

Someone who is "as **slippery** as an **eel**" is dishonest and cannot be trusted.
"I wouldn't go into business with him. He's as slippery as an eel."



A red herring

Something or someone who takes your attention away from the main subject. For example, a character in a film who appears to be the murderer, when really it is someone else.

"For the first 200 pages of the book I was convinced that Lord Melbury was the murderer, but that was just a red herring."



Be packed like sardines

If people are "packed like sardines", there are many people in a very small space.
"There were fifty of us in the train carriage. We were packed like sardines."



Small fry

People or organisations which are not large or important.

"These new clients of ours are small **fry**. We're used to dealing with much bigger organisations."



The world is your oyster

If the "world is your **oyster**", you have the ability and freedom to do anything or go anywhere.
"You're young, healthy, intelligent, and you don't have any commitments – the world is your oyster."



A shark

Someone who tricks people in order to get their money. This often consists of giving bad advice about selling, buying or investing in something.
"When you are asking for information about where to invest, beware of the **sharks**."

Little Jokes

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



1. Waiter, there's a **fly** in my soup.
2. Waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?
3. Waiter, my plate is wet.
4. Waiter, what is this?
5. Waiter, there's a **button** in my soup.
6. Waiter, this **lobster** has only got one **claw**.
7. Waiter, there is soup on the menu.
8. Waiter, this glass is dirty.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WINE IN YOUR GLASS?



ENDINGS

- A:** I don't know. I'd better call the manager – **I can't tell one insect from another.**
- B:** Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realise you wanted a clean one.
- C:** He must have been in a fight, sir. I'll bring you the winner.
- D:** Oh, really. I was sure that I'd cleaned it properly.
- E:** Swimming, sir.
- F:** Don't worry, sir, the **spider** in the bread will **get** it.
- G:** It's not wet, sir. That's the soup.
- H:** Thank you, sir. I was wondering what had happened to it.



GLOSSARY

a fly *n*
a small insect with two wings

a button *n*
a small round object on a shirt for fastening the two halves of the shirt

a lobster *n*
a sea creature with a hard shell and two large claws (see below)

a claw *n*
two pointed parts at the end of a lobster's legs. Used for holding/ taking things

I can't tell one X from another *exp*
I can't see the difference

a spider *n*
an insect with eight legs

to get something *exp*
in this case: to eat/kill it

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

JESUS SAVES. COS HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN AFFORD TO.

HALITOSIS IS BETTER THAN NO BREATH AT ALL

SUICIDE IS THE MOST SINCERE FORM OF SELF-CRITICISM.

"TO DO IS TO BE." (ROUSSEAU)
"TO BE IS TO DO." (SATRE)
"DO BE DO BE DO." (SINATRA)

KEEP THIS TRAIN STATION TOILET TIDY. PLEASE THROW YOUR TICKETS OUT OF THE WINDOW.

WHEN GOD MADE MAN, SHE WAS ONLY TESTING.

GLOSSARY

to save *n*
two meanings: a) to rescue you from danger; b) to collect money

halitosis *n*
breath that smells bad

self-criticism *n*
judging your own actions, words, ideas, etc

to keep something tidy *exp*
to maintain everything in an ordered way

to test *vb*
to experiment; to try

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DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: IDIOMS SPEAKING & TALKING



This month: Speaking and Talking.



Be a recipe for disaster

To be something that will cause a disaster or something bad to happen. "Going into business with your husband will be a **recipe** for disaster."



Not a ghost of a chance; not have a chance/hope in hell

If something "doesn't have a ghost of a chance" of succeeding, it will never work well.

"If we don't sort out these problems, this new idea won't have a ghost of a chance of succeeding."



Go back to the drawing board

To start planning something again because the first idea wasn't successful, or it wasn't accepted or approved. "Now that they've rejected our proposal, we'll have to go back to the drawing board."



It'll all end in tears

It will end badly. "I know they're in love, but she lives in Australia and he lives in Singapore. I think it'll all end in **tears**."



Be the final nail in the coffin

To be the action or event that finally destroys or finishes something. "The way that she insulted him in public was the **final nail** in the **coffin** of their relationship."



Fight a losing battle

To be trying to do something that has no hope of succeeding. "Trying to get all this work done by tomorrow night is like fighting a losing battle."



Be down on your luck

To be suffering because everything is going badly for you. "He lost his house, his wife and his car, and just this morning he had some bad news from the doctor. He's been a bit down on his luck recently."



Go down like a lead balloon

Not to be successful; to be a complete and utter failure. "Nobody liked the new play and the critics destroyed it. It went down like a **lead balloon**."

GLOSSARY

- a recipe** *n*
a list of ingredients and instructions on how to make food
- tears** *n*
small droplets of liquid that come out of your eyes
- a nail** *n*
a long, thin, sharp piece of metal. Nails are often hit into the wall
- a coffin** *n*
a large box for a dead body
- lead** *n*
a type of metal: pb
- a balloon** *n*
a) a large, strong bag filled with gas. You can travel in it; b) a small rubber bag filled with air. Often used as decoration at parties

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



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



Activity

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

1. Your trousers are broken.
2. It's six thirty o'clock.
3. She didn't do any mistakes.
4. After three months in bed, he became better.
5. Come to here so I can talk to you.
6. I am agree with you.
7. Different from me, she is very good at English.
8. Let me examine your pulse.
9. Could you lend to me some money?
10. I have a free time.
11. I forgot my coat at home.
12. We asked the waiter the bill.
13. We borrowed some money to them.
14. It is a very tired job.
15. I'm not doing very much in the moment.
16. It all depends in your attitude.
17. The programme is about the affects of smoking.
18. We couldn't afford paying for the house.
19. We were afraid to miss the plane.
20. I'll help you after I will finish eating.



Answers & Error Analysis

1. We normally use "ripped" or "torn" for broken clothes.
2. It isn't necessary to add "o'clock".
3. We use the construction "make a mistake".
4. In English, we use the expression "to get better".
5. We say "come here" with no preposition.
6. We use the verb "to agree" without the auxiliary verb "to be".
7. You need the expression "unlike me".
8. In English, you "feel" someone's pulse.
9. There is no preposition with the verb "to lend".
10. "Free time" is uncountable so you need to use "some".
11. We "leave" things at home.
12. In English, you ask someone "for" something.
13. You borrow money "from" someone.
14. The adjective for describing the effect that something has on you is "tiring".
15. We say "at the moment".
16. We use the preposition "on" with depend.
17. The noun is "effect"; the verb is "to affect".
18. The verb "to afford" is followed by an infinitive.
19. If you are "afraid to do something", you don't want to do that thing because you are frightened. If you are "afraid of doing something", you are worried about something happening.
20. "After" is followed by a present simple verb when it has a future meaning.



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Dictionary of slang

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

 Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
<p>A friend has been taking drugs. You explain this situation to a friend.</p>	<p>He is suffering from the effects of a hallucinogenic substance.</p>	<p>He's a bit high.</p>	<p>He's stoned; he's out of it; he's out of his head.</p>
<p>You think a film was really, really impressive. You tell a friend.</p>	<p>It really impressed me.</p>	<p>It was incredible.</p>	<p>It was out of this world; it was awesome; it was amazing.</p>
<p>Your husband has had an affair with another person.</p>	<p>He has been unfaithful to me.</p>	<p>He has had an affair.</p>	<p>He's a two-timer; he's a cheater; he's been two-timing me.</p>
<p>A man often makes sexist comments. You tell a friend.</p>	<p>He is disrespectful and insulting towards women.</p>	<p>He's sexist.</p>	<p>He's an MCP (a male chauvinist pig).</p>
<p>You are driving and you notice a police car behind you.</p>	<p>Oh, no, some officers of the law.</p>	<p>Oh, no, the police.</p>	<p>Oh, no, the cops / the fuzz / the pigs / the 5:0. (US)</p>
<p>You were at a party and you didn't know it was so late.</p>	<p>I was quite unaware of how time had progressed.</p>	<p>I didn't realise what time it was.</p>	<p>I completely lost track of time.</p>



GLOSSARY

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

an affair *n*
a relationship with someone who isn't your wife/husband/boyfriend/girlfriend, etc

5:0 *abbr inform*
the police. This comes from the television police series with the great surfing music *Hawaii 5:0*

a track *n*
a metal line that trains travel on

Mel Gibson



Mel Gibson
In a nutshell

He's confident, he's outspoken, and he's full of controversy. He's the **actor-turned-director**, and Hollywood **enfant terrible**. He is Mel Gibson. Here's a quick look at the career of the man himself. Feature articles by Rob Julian

Leading Man

Back in 1978, a movie was made in Australia on a **budget** of only 30,000 dollars. It was a science fiction story, **set** some time in the near future. It was filmed outside Melbourne on public roads. It had no special effects, only **stunts** involving modified cars. The budget was low. So low, in fact, that the actors had to wear **vinyl** suits instead of leather ones because they were cheaper to buy.

However, the film achieved incredible success, and went on to earn \$100 million world wide. It held a record in the Guinness Book of Records as the highest profit-to-cost ratio of a motion picture, and only lost the record in 2000 to *The Blair Witch Project*. The movie was *Mad Max*. It starred a young Australian actor by the name of Mel Gibson. Since then, Gibson has **never looked back**. *Mad Max* was followed by several **sequels**. *Mad Max 2* launched Gibson's international **career**. It was a world-wide **box office hit**. *Mad Max 3 - Beyond Thunderdome* starred Tina Turner and was also a hit at the box office.

Moving on

Mel's next starring role was in *Gallipoli*, an Australian classic about the First World War that never achieved the international success it **deserved**. In 1984, Mel

starred as Fletcher Christian in *The Bounty*. Gibson and Anthony Hopkins, his co-star on the film, did not **get along during the shoot**. At the time, Anthony Hopkins was a **teetotaler**, and Mel Gibson was **struggling** with alcoholism.

Hollywood signed Gibson to make the *Lethal Weapon* series in 1987, and this firmly established him in the action-movie genre.

Gibson then changed from action to classical drama, playing the Danish prince in the play *Hamlet*. Gibson was **cast alongside** many experienced Shakespearean actors, which was a **challenge** for him. He described working with his **fellow cast members** as similar to being "thrown into the boxing ring with Mike Tyson".

Behind the Camera

Gibson **broke new ground** when he made *Braveheart*. Gibson said that when the *Braveheart* script arrived and was recommended by his agents, he **rejected** it because he thought he was too old to play the part. But after careful thinking, he decided to not only act in the film, but to direct it as well.

Braveheart's success established Gibson permanently in Hollywood. Gibson received two Academy Awards (Best Director and Best Picture) for his 1995 direction of *Braveheart*. In the movie, Gibson starred as Sir William Wallace, a thirteenth-century Scottish freedom fighter.

He also played a revolutionary hero in 2000's *The Patriot*, which was set during the American War of Independence. Gibson **has Irish roots** and has a history of playing characters with **bad feelings towards** the British. This has caused some people to suggest he is anti-British.

Controversy

Gibson's first controversy as a director was with the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. It was filmed entirely in Aramaic, Latin and Hebrew. Because it was difficult to get the movie industry interested in the movie's potential, he needed to spend 25 million dollars of his own money. It has a lot of graphic violence, which earned it an **"R" rating** in some countries. It is also considered by some to be anti-semitic. However, despite the criticism, it was a box office success. Its popularity with Christian audiences helped it to gross over \$612 million. Gibson's latest movie, *Apocalypto*, seems to continue Gibson's taste for the controversial. ☹

Name: Mel Columcille Gerard Gibson
Occupation: actor /director
Born: Peekskill, New York, 3rd January 1956. He is the sixth of eleven children.
Educated: Australia. Graduated from national Institute of Dramatic Arts (Sydney 1977)
Marital status: married to Robyn Moore (1980) 7 children.
Religion: Roman Catholic
Likes: speaking his mind
Dislikes: liberal Catholicism
Personal fortune: about US \$850 million

GLOSSARY

an actor-turned-director *n*
an actor who has started directing films

an enfant terrible *n*
someone who is clever but unconventional and who causes problems or embarrassment for friends and family

a budget *n*
money allocated for a project, department, etc

set *adj*
if a film is "set" in a particular place, it happens in that place

a stunt *n*
a dangerous or exciting piece of action in a film

vinyl *n*
a type of strong plastic
never to look back *exp*
never to think about the things that happened in the past because you are so successful

a sequel *n*
a film that continues the story of a previous film

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

a box office hit *n*
a film that makes a lot of money because lots of people go to see it

to deserve *vb*
if you feel that a film "deserved" more positive criticism, you think it should have had more positive criticism because it was good
to get along with someone *n*
to have a good relationship with someone

during the shoot *exp*
while the film was being made

a teetotaler *n*
a person who drinks no alcohol

to struggle *vb*
if you are "struggling", you are fighting against something

to be cast alongside someone *exp*
to be given a part in the same film as someone

a challenge *n*
something that is difficult for you

a fellow cast member *n*
another person who is acting in the same film as you

to break new ground *exp*
to do something new and different

to reject *vb*
if you "reject" something, you don't accept it

to have Irish roots *exp*
to have an Irish ancestor

to have bad feelings towards someone *exp*
to dislike someone; to feel hatred towards someone

an "R" rating *n*
if a film has an "R" rating, you have to be 18 to see it



Apocalypto

Apocalypto, like other Mel Gibson movies such as *Braveheart*, *The Passion of the Christ*, and even *Mad Max 2*, is another **epic** with a strong **moral message**. Here's the story: a loving husband, father and **skilled hunter** called "Jaguar Paw" leads a happy life in his small jungle village, but there is trouble **threatening paradise**. Early one morning, a band of warriors attack the village. They take many prisoners and force the **captives** to march through the jungle. They go through lands **ravaged by plague, drought, deforestation** and **pollution**, and finally arrive at a Mayan capital, a place of consumption and corruption.

Escape

Once there, the women are **sold into slavery**, while the men are sent to the pyramid to be **sacrificed** to the gods. But Jaguar Paw escapes. He is injured and is hunted constantly. Against impossible

odds, he must fight back through the jungle to his home to save his wife and children, and to seek a new beginning for a civilisation that has lost its way. Jaguar Paw is like a prophet who must endure constant punishment and suffering. He also **bears witness to** the end of civilization. He sees a whole society destroyed because of warfare, disease, environmental destruction and moral collapse. The Mayan civilisation in the movie is like a mirror to our own. Yet when the Christian missionaries arrive at the end of the film, this is represented as another problem rather than a solution to the moral crisis of the Mayan culture. This gives the film much more appeal to the non-religious moviegoer.

Controversy

The film does have some potential controversies.

Gibson is the first big-budget filmmaker to take Mayan civilization as a serious subject. The movie is filmed entirely in Yucatan Mayan, and has many unknown local actors instead of big stars. Many have criticised Gibson for not showing much of the culture's extraordinary achievements in mathematics, astronomy and art. And experts have disputed many details in the Mayan practices and architecture shown in the movie. However, the jungle sequences, shot in Mexico's last remaining rainforest, are exquisitely beautiful. And an angry jaguar, a dangerous waterfall and lethal **quicksand** provide lots of Tarzan-style action. Without Gibson's **maverick** spirit, *Apocalypto* would probably never have been made at all. Thirty minutes or so shorter, and this might have been a masterpiece. It's not perfect, but *Apocalypto* is still a great action movie. 🌀



GLOSSARY

- an epic** *n*
a film whose story extends over a long period of time
- a moral message** *n*
a message that helps show people how to live or act
- skilled** *adj*
with a lot of ability
- a hunter** *n*
a person who tries to catch or kill wild animals
- to threaten** *vb*
if something "threatens" you, it is a danger to you
- paradise** *n*
a perfect place
- a captive** *n*
someone who is caught and placed in prison
- ravaged by plague** *exp*
destroyed because many people have the plague (a terrible disease that spreads quickly)
- drought** *n*
a period of time with no rain and very little water
- deforestation** *n*
if there is "deforestation", many trees in a forest are destroyed
- pollution** *n*
poisonous or dangerous substances that make the water, land or air dirty
- sold into slavery** *exp*
if someone is "sold into slavery", that person is sold to another person and must work for nothing
- to sacrifice** *vb*
to kill someone as part of a religious ceremony
- to bear witness to something** *exp*
to see something as it happens
- quicksand** *n*
an area of land with soft, wet sand. If you fall in it, you may die
- maverick** *adj*
a rebel; someone who does things differently from everyone else

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Mel Gibson Trivia and quotes

Find out more about Mel Gibson by reading about some interesting things he's done and said.

Actor Sean Connery once suggested Gibson should play the next James Bond. Gibson **turned down the role**.

On 28th July 2006, Gibson was arrested on suspicion of **drink driving**. According to a statement by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Gibson was detained while driving along the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu at 2:36 am, and **spouted expletives**, and sexist and anti-Semitic comments.



Mel was the first person to be awarded *People* magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive".

Gibson has an estimated fortune of \$850 million, according to the *Los Angeles*



Business Journal. The size of his fortune makes him the 47th richest person in the Los Angeles area, and the wealthiest actor in the world.

Gibson recently bought the 2,160-hectare island of Mago, near Fiji, from a Japanese hotel chain for \$15 million in 2004. He plans to turn the Pacific paradise into his own personal retreat. The island is currently home to forty native residents – mostly coconut farmers and their families.

Gibson almost didn't get the **role** that made him a star. His agent got him an audition for *Mad Max*, but the night before, Mel got into a **drunken brawl** with three other men at a party. The result? A **swollen nose**, a **cracked jaw**, and various other bumps and **bruises**. Mel **showed up** at the audition the next day looking like a "black and blue pumpkin" (his own words). Mel didn't expect to get the role. However, the director told Mel to come back in two weeks, telling him, "We need **freaks**". When Mel did come back, he wasn't recognised because his **wounds had healed**. He got the part.

Mel Gibson Quotes

"I did a lot of crazy things so I'm surprised to be alive."
 "Hollywood is a factory. You have to realize that you are working in a factory and you're part of the mechanism. If you break down, you'll be replaced."
 "Obviously, nobody wants to touch something filmed in two dead languages (*The Passion of the Christ*). They think I'm crazy, and maybe I am. But maybe I'm a genius."
 "I'm not a **preacher**, and I'm not a pastor. But I really feel my career was leading me to make *The Passion of the Christ*. The Holy Ghost was working through me on this film, and I was just directing traffic. I hope the film has the power to **evangelize**."

"I'm not a **done deal**. I'm a work in progress. I'm still extremely **flawed**." Mel talking about his religious beliefs.

"I might go, and go somewhere no-one can find me. You know where that is? You know where the place is no-one can find you? I was thinking of **pitching my tent right next to the weapons of mass destruction. Then no-one would find me.**"

"My dad taught me my faith. I believe what he taught me. The man never lied to me in his life. People said, 'Well, he's just an old **kook**.' He's not an old kook. He's very intelligent.

He's in complete possession of all his mental faculties. And if he says something he has a reason why he says it and he can back it up. **Mensa** wanted this guy, OK? He's very intelligent."

Mel Gibson talking about his father, Hutton Gibson, who is considered a controversial figure due to his outspoken views on religion and morality. He is known for his anti-Semitism. ☹



//...I was thinking of pitching my tent right next to the weapons of mass destruction. Then no-one would find me.//

GLOSSARY

- to turn down a role** *exp*
to say that you don't want a part in a film
- drink driving** *n*
the crime of driving while you are drunk from too much alcohol
- to spout expletives** *exp*
to say many bad/taboo words
- a role** *n*
a part in a film
- a drunken brawl** *n*
a fight that takes place between people who have been drinking alcohol
- a swollen nose** *n*
a nose that is bigger than usual because it has been damaged
- a cracked jaw** *n*
a broken jaw (the lower part of your face below your mouth)
- a bruise** *n*
a mark on your skin where your skin has been damaged or hit
- to show up** *phr vb*
to arrive
- a freak** *n*
an unusual and strange person
- a wound** *n*
a cut on your body
- to heal** *vb*
if a wound "heals", it becomes healthy and normal again
- a preacher** *n*
a member of a religious organisation who gives sermons (official talks)
- to evangelize** *vb*
if someone "evangelizes", they try to convert you to Christianity
- a done deal** *n*
a finished product
- flawed** *adj*
damaged; not perfect
- to pitch a tent** *exp*
to put up your tent (a kind of house made of fabric) in a place where you are going to sleep
- a kook** *n inform*
an eccentric person who has beliefs which are different other people's
- Mensa** *n*
an organization for very intelligent people

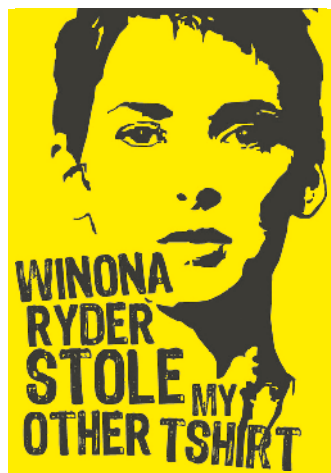
The Bad Boys and Girls of Hollywood

Naughty, Naughty!

We're all capable of doing some silly things, but some people ought to know better. Maybe it's the pressures of **fame**: too much money, too many drugs and attention. Here are some silly stars and their **dumb** moments. By Rob Julian

Miss Stickyfingers

On 12th December 2001, Winona Ryder was arrested for **shoplifting** thousands of dollars' worth of designer clothes and accessories at Saks Fifth Avenue



department store in Beverly Hills, California. Ryder **hired** a top defence **attorney**. Negotiations for a **plea-bargain** failed at the end of summer 2002. During the **trial**, she was also accused of using drugs without valid prescriptions. Ryder was convicted of grand theft and vandalism, but the **jury acquitted her** on the third charge of **burglary**. In December 2002, she was sentenced to three years' probation, 480 hours of community service, \$3,700 in **fines**, and \$6,355 in repayment to Saks. The judge ordered the actress to attend psychological and **drug counselling**.

"Heeere's Johnny!"

In 1994, Jack Nicholson was involved in a **road rage** incident. He used a golf club (apparently a number 2 iron) to **smash the roof** and **windshield** of another car. The other driver **took**



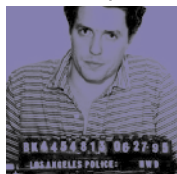
Nicholson to court.

The driver said that he was "severely injured" from

"emotional distress". The authorities said the film star became angry after being **cut off** in traffic. **Charges were dropped** after Nicholson reached an **out-of-court settlement** with the driver.

Caught with his pants down

On 27th June 1995, Hugh Grant was arrested by the Los Angeles Police "on suspicion of **lewd conduct** in a public place". He had been caught in his car on Sunset Strip with prostitute Divine Brown (also known as Stella Marie Thompson), who had been paid \$50 by Grant. Grant's police **mug-shot** was in every paper across in the world. His explanation was that he was exhausted by all the interviews for the film *Nine Months* (he had done 12 interviews that day), and he didn't know what he was doing (well, if he didn't, Divine Brown certainly did). Naturally his excuse wasn't taken seriously by the court. He received a heavy fine and two years **probation**.



Sometimes you have to put your foot down!

In February 2000, actress Halle Berry was involved in a car accident when she hit another vehicle after



running through a red light.

So, what do you do after a car accident?

You run away of course.

Berry **put her foot down** and drove away before the police arrived. Berry, who had sustained a head injury, later said she had no memory of the accident. She pleaded guilty to a **misdemeanour** charge. She paid a fine, made repayments to the other driver, did community service, and was placed on three years' probation.

A bad telephone connection

In June 2005, Russell Crowe was arrested and charged with **assault** by New York City police. The incident took place at the Mercer Hotel, New York. Apparently, Crowe's telephone in his hotel room wasn't working, and the hotel concierge refused to help him make a call. So, Crowe threw a telephone at him. The concierge needed to be treated for a cut to his face. Crowe was charged with "fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon" (the telephone). He was sentenced to probation and paid about US\$100,000 to settle the civil lawsuit to the concierge. He **blamed** his state of mind on "the combination of **jet lag**, loneliness and adrenaline" and said he "wasn't **aiming**" at the concierge. ☹



GLOSSARY

- fame** *n* the state of being famous
- dumb** *adj* stupid
- shoplifting** *n* stealing from shops
- to hire** *vb* to pay money for someone's services
- an attorney** *n* US a lawyer
- plea-bargaining** *n* an arrangement in which the prosecution and defence come to an agreement
- a trial** *n* a legal process to decide if someone is innocent or guilty
- a jury** *n* the 12 people who decide if someone is innocent or guilty
- to acquit someone** *exp* to say that someone is innocent of all charges
- burglary** *n* the crime of entering a house with the intent of stealing
- a fine** money you must pay as punishment for committing a crime
- drug counselling** therapy and advice to help people with drug problems
- road rage** *n* intense and extreme anger that drivers feel while driving
- to smash** *vb* to break something by hitting it
- a roof** *n* the top part of the car
- a windshield** *n* the glass at the front of the car — the driver looks out of it while driving
- to take someone to court** *exp* to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation
- to cut someone off/up** *exp* to drive in front of someone suddenly causing the other driver to stop
- to drop charges** *exp* to stop all criminal proceedings against someone
- an out-of-court settlement** *n* an agreement between lawyers representing both parties
- lewd conduct** *n* behaviour that is considered to be inappropriate
- a mug-shot** *n* a photo the police take of a person who is charged with a crime
- probation** *n* a period during which you must not commit any other crime
- to run through a red light** *exp* to drive even though the light is red
- to put your foot down** *exp* to push down on the accelerator so you can drive faster
- a misdemeanour** *n* a minor crime
- assault** *n* physical violence against someone
- to blame something** *exp* to say that something is responsible for a negative situation
- jet lag** *n* the feeling of tiredness that you get after travelling through a time zone
- to aim** *vb* if you are "aiming" a weapon at someone, you are trying to hit that person with the weapon

Basic English

Useful Expressions

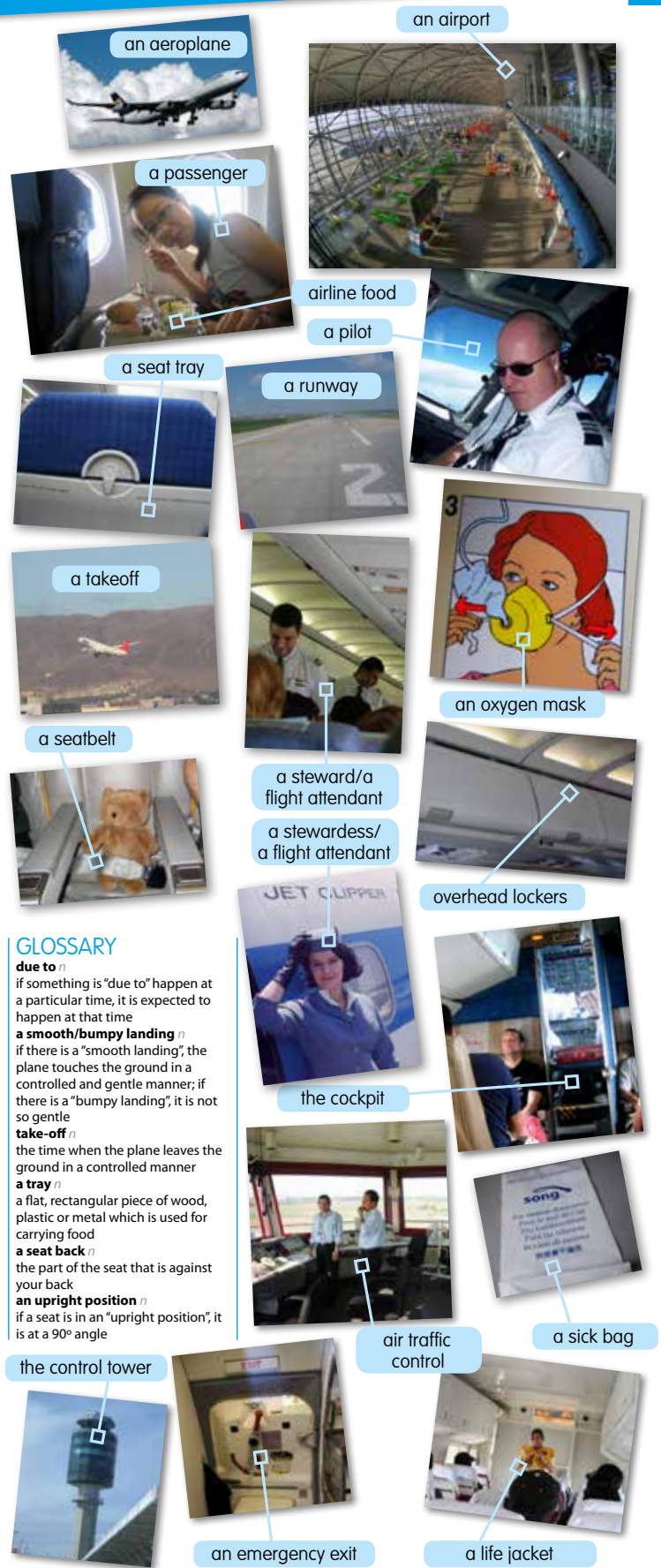
Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

What you ask/say

- I think this is my seat.
- Could you bring me a blanket, please?
- I think you've taken my seat belt.
- Could you help me put this bag in the overhead locker, please?
- There's no more room in the overhead lockers.
- What time are we **due to** land?
- I'm supposed to be connecting to another flight. Do you know where I have to go?
- Excuse me. Do you have a sick bag, please?
- Do you have any games for children?
- Can I pay in euros?
- I'll have a coffee/tea/coke, please.
- Do you have a vegetarian menu?
- Do you have any headphones so I can watch the film?
- That was a **smooth/bumpy landing**.

What you hear

- Can I see your boarding card, please?
- Would you like me to look after that bag for you?
- Please make sure your seat belts are fully-fastened.
- This is the captain speaking...
- Cabin staff prepare for **take-off**.
- Please fasten your seat belts, fold your **trays**, and put your **seat backs** in the **upright position**.
- Please remain seated until the cabin lights are switched off.
- Please switch off all mobile phones.
- What would you like to drink?
- Would you like any ice with that?
- That'll be X euros, please.
- Would you like any duty-free goods?
- Ladies and gentlemen, we hope you've had a pleasant flight.. ✪



GLOSSARY

- due to** *n*
if something is "due to" happen at a particular time, it is expected to happen at that time
- a smooth/bumpy landing** *n*
if there is a "smooth landing", the plane touches the ground in a controlled and gentle manner; if there is a "bumpy landing", it is not so gentle
- take-off** *n*
the time when the plane leaves the ground in a controlled manner
- a tray** *n*
a flat, rectangular piece of wood, plastic or metal which is used for carrying food
- a seat back** *n*
the part of the seat that is against your back
- an upright position** *n*
if a seat is in an "upright position", it is at a 90° angle

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AMAZING WORLD



Bristol is England's best city in the southwest. It's the birth place of actor Cary Grant, home to the Clifton **Suspension Bridge** (designed by legendary structural engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel), and home to one of England's great universities. Come and find out more about Bristol. By Laura Hanbury

Today and Yesterday

Often overlooked in favour of her more gentele sister, Bath, Bristol is a city with great history, a place where antiquity and modernity sit hand in hand, and where students and locals invariably **rub each other up the wrong way**.

Bristol has a rich history as an important port and a centre for international maritime trade. From as early as the 14th century it was a centre for international trade with Spain, Portugal and Iceland amongst others. Merchants from Bristol **amassed enormous wealth** from imports and exports and this is reflected in the city's grand buildings and the impressive **Georgian crescents** of **chic** Clifton Village.



Today, however, the main export is drum 'n' bass, which is a style of music made popular by home grown DJs like Roni Size and DJ Tricky. Bristol's music scene is a strong influence on the city's nightlife, shopping and fashion. Bristol is also home to Wallace and Gromit, the Oscar-winning duo created by Aardman Animations.

City Districts

The city's character is reflected in the diversity of the different districts. Clifton Village sits high on the hill above the city centre and the docks. With its beautiful Georgian crescents and



grand squares, Clifton is home to **posh** students. It has lots of restaurants, chic boutiques and **cosy** cafés.

On the other side of Whiteladies Road are Redland and Cotham, where the University of Bristol has the majority of its Departments and the main library. It's also a favourite spot for students as there are nice pubs, sandwich bars and a couple of great **greasy spoon cafés**. In fact, a trip to Bristol wouldn't be complete without breakfast at St Michael's Café on St Michaels Hill. Students love it for the cheap food, the rock 'n' roll murals, and the 10p **jukebox**. Once you're done **filling up, pop across the road** for a pint at the famous Highbury Vaults.



Other Districts

Beyond Redland you'll find the Gloucester Road, a paradise for lovers of anything **retro** and **vintage**. The road is a Mecca of second-hand clothes, retro furniture and records. Spend an afternoon **bargain hunting** in the many second-hand vintage shops, and take a break at some of Bristol's more alternative cafés and bars.

Perhaps the most notorious area of the city is St Pauls, the site of the Bristol riots and often thought of as the city's darker side. It is now undergoing some major renovation and you'll find some great clubs and bars amongst St Pauls' squares. The strong Caribbean presence is reflected in the area's cuisine and the dominant reggae and dub music scene. ✨

Bristol Top 11

Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery

Situated at the top of Park Street, this museum is home to a diverse collection of objects ranging from Egyptian Mummies to priceless works of art. Be sure to have a look at the World Wildlife Gallery which is filled with examples of endangered species including local favourite, Alfred the Gorilla.



Brunel's SS Great Britain

Take a walk around Brunel's great ship, which is a design masterpiece originally built in Bristol's Docks. The ship is now a museum and won the Museum of the Year Award 2006... so it must be worth a visit.

Bristol Zoo

The city's zoo is in 12 acres of beautiful gardens. It is a great way to spend an afternoon. The zoo is the fifth oldest in the world and the oldest outside of a capital city.

Blaise Castle and Grounds

On the north west edge of Bristol near Henbury, you'll find Blaise castle and its spectacular grounds. The 600 acres of parkland are shrouded in folklore and mystery and make it the perfect place

BRISTOL



to escape the **bustle of the city**. Be sure to visit the Folly, a small Gothic Castle built in 1766 that sits on Blaise Hill.



Bristol's Harbour Side

A stroll along the harbour will tell you a lot about the city's history and its future. The harbour side is developing into the modern face of Bristol with bars, restaurants and museums.

Bristol Old Vic

The Old Vic is the city's oldest theatre. It was originally opened in 1766 as an illegal back-street theatre until it was granted a royal theatre licence in 1778 by George III.

The Tobacco Factory

The Tobacco Factory, south of the harbour in Bedminster, is now a theatre, a bar and a café. The industrial-style bar plays good music, and the café serves up Mediterranean **nosh**.

Cribbs Causeway

If shopping is **your thing**, there's no shortage of original shops around Park Street and the Gloucester road to keep you occupied; but if you want everything in one place, Cribbs Causeway Shopping Centre just north of Bristol has 135 shops and 17 cafés all under one roof.

Bristol's Parks

Bristol has so many parks and open spaces you'd be hard pushed to see all of them. However, you should make time for a walk on the Downs at the top of Whiteladies Road, and a visit to Brandon Hill Park just off Park Street on Great George Street. It is home to the 30-metre high Cabot's Tower, where you get the best views of the city.

Architecture and Monuments

Make time to take in the city's many beautiful buildings and monuments. A walk around the city will give you plenty to look at, from the Wills memorial building at the top of Park Street to the Christmas steps that lead down towards the centre. You can join an organised tour or just wander at your



own pace making time for plenty of café stops.

The Avon Gorge Hotel

One thing you must do before leaving Bristol, is to have tea or lunch at the Avon Gorge Hotel overlooking the Suspension Bridge. The view is fantastic, and the hotel is superb.



Famous residents

Banksy, the UK's most well-known graffiti artist, is originally from Bristol. He uses derelict buildings and walls as his canvas and you can see his art showcased



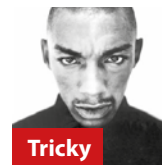
Banksy

on a number of the city's buildings. He has amassed a cult following despite the controversy surrounding his work. His supporters believe his graffiti should be valued as great art while others think it is simply vandalism. This cheeky and anonymous artist even managed to sneak one of his pieces into an exhibition at the Tate Modern. *Massive Attack* is one of the UK's most successful bands and they were born and bred in Bristol.



Massive Attack

The city is famous as the home of Drum 'n' Bass, and *Massive Attack* and DJs Roni Size and Tricky were some of the pioneers of this movement. The band haven't been tempted away from the city by the bright lights of the capital, and even opened their own bar just off Park Street. ✨



Tricky



Roni Size

GLOSSARY

- a suspension bridge** *n*
a bridge that is constructed by using ropes or metal cables
- to rub someone up the wrong way** *exp*
to annoy or irritate someone
- to amass enormous wealth** *exp*
to become very, very rich
- Georgian** *adj*
built in the 18th century during which there were three British kings called George (George I, II, III)
- a crescent** *n*
a street or row of houses that is built in a curve
- chic** *adj*
fashionable
- posh** *adj*
upper class and sophisticated
- cosy** *adj*
warm, welcoming and small
- a greasy spoon café** *n*
a cheap restaurant serving fried food
- a jukebox** *n*
a machine that plays records if you put money in it
- to fill up** *phr vb*
if you "fill yourself up", you eat enough food so you aren't hungry
- to pop across the road** *exp*
to cross the road quickly
- retro** *adj*
"retro" clothes, music and objects are based on the styles of the past
- vintage** *adj*
"vintage" cars or objects are old but admired and valued
- bargain hunting** *n*
looking for the cheapest price for something
- the bustle of the city** *exp*
the stress, noise and chaos of the city
- nosh** *n inform*
food
- your thing** *exp*
the type of thing that you like

LIVING ABROAD: BRISTOL

An interview with someone who has lived abroad or in another city. Alice was a student at Bristol University. She is here to tell us her favourite things about the city.

Alice, what were your first impressions of Bristol?

Well, to be honest, I didn't really **take to** Bristol that much in the beginning. I'd **got used to** being in London, and I **guess** suddenly being in a much smaller city made me feel a bit claustrophobic. But after a couple of weeks I started to **get a feel for** the city, and I realised that I couldn't compare it to London, it was a **totally different kettle of fish** and it had a different rhythm to the capital. Now, I look back on my three years in Bristol with very fond memories. The only thing I don't miss is the rain.



What would you say is the city's most defining feature?

Well, that's a **pretty tough** question to answer. There's no one defining feature because it's such a diverse place. But I think the thing that most defines Bristol is probably the music scene. People are defined by the music they listen to, it affects the way they dress, where they go out and also where they live.

Where did you live in Bristol?

I lived just off Cotham Hill for a year and then on St Michael's Hill for a year, close to the University and kind of on the edge of Redland. It was a great area to live as it was minutes from the bars and restaurants on Whiteladies Road, a short walk to Park Street and also walking distance to Clifton Village and Gloucester Road.



What was your favourite part of the city?

I liked a lot of different places in the city. Obviously Clifton Village is beautiful and there are lots of nice cafés and shops, but I also liked the Gloucester Road. I think it depends **what you're in the mood for**. On a beautiful

sunny day you want to lie on the Downs, the huge park at the top of Whiteladies Road, and then go for Pimms on the terrace of the Avon Gorge Hotel, overlooking the Suspension Bridge. On a cold wet day you want to **hit** Bristol's cosiest café, the Boston Tea Party on Park Street, and eat home-made organic cakes.

Bristol's best kept secrets?

Aaaah, now that's easy. For pizza you have to go to Sergio's, which is hiding just below Park Street on Frogmore Street. The Pizzas are **huge**, delicious and cheap, and best of all it's **BYO**. For a long lunch on Saturday, the Primrose Café in the Clifton Arcade in Clifton Village is **unbeatable**. For the infamous Exhibition cider which is only served in half pints, head to the Coronation Tap in Clifton.



For art house films, head to the Watershed which sits on the **waterfront** at the bottom of Park Street. They always show original films, have interesting talks and there's a really nice bar and restaurant too.

For a more **upmarket** dinner try the Mud Dock Café and Restaurant down at the docks. It sits above a bike shop and has a bike-themed décor. The food is good, the cocktails are great and it's **not too pricey**.

Another favourite has to be Yia Mass, a Greek Bar on Park Street with very flexible opening hours and a great atmosphere. The traditional Greek **plate-smashing dances** that take place suddenly and spontaneously add to the fun and chaos. They happen **at the owner's discretion** and are usually determined by the quantities of ouzo he has consumed that night.

Are we out of time yet? I could go on... ✨



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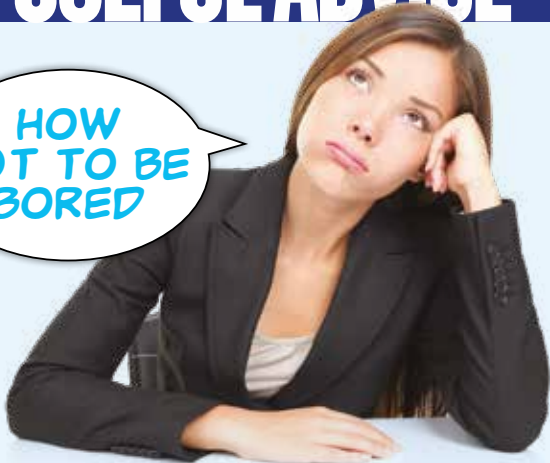
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GLOSSARY

- to take to a person/place** *exp* to start to like a person/place
- to get used to something** *exp* to become accustomed to something
- I guess** *exp* I suppose
- to get a feel for something** *exp* to start to understand how something works
- a totally different kettle of fish** *exp* something completely different
- pretty tough** *exp* quite difficult
- what you're in the mood for** *exp* what you want to do
- to hit** *vb inform* to go to
- huge** *adj* very, very big
- BYO** *abbr* bring your own bottle
- unbeatable** *adj* that cannot be better
- the waterfront** *n* the area next to the sea/river
- upmarket** *adj* expensive and of good quality
- not too pricey** *exp* not too expensive
- a plate-smashing dance** *n* a Greek dance that involves breaking plates
- at the owner's discretion** *n* when the owner wants

USEFUL ADVICE

HOW NOT TO BE BORED



Learn how to entertain yourself with these fun activities. This month: how to annoy a waiter or waitress.

Have a four-hour lunch and leave no **tip**.

Ask the waiter or waitress, "Excuse me, why are you a waiter? Is it because you are a really bad singer, or a really bad actor?"



After the waiter describes each item on the menu, shout "**rubbish!**" but continue smiling.

Whenever the waiter walks by, **cough** and **mutter**, "No tip tonight, **buster**".

When the waiter isn't looking, **snap your fingers** really loudly. When he looks round, **pretend it wasn't you**.

While talking to the waiter, casually **wipe** your hands on his apron or shirt front.

Tie the **tablecloth** around your neck and say, "You wouldn't charge Superman for dinner, would you?"

As the waiter walks to the kitchen, scream, "He's **gonna spit** in the soup!"

When the **bill** arrives, say, "I've just got three words to say to you: eat the bill."

What fun! ☆



GLOSSARY

a tip *n*
money you leave for a waiter/waitress at the end of a meal if you are satisfied with the service

rubbish *n inform*
very bad

to cough *vb*
to force air out of your mouth

to mutter *vb*
to speak very softly and unclearly, often when you are complaining

buster *n inform*
my friend

to snap your fingers *exp*
to make a sharp sound by moving your middle finger quickly across your thumb

to pretend it wasn't you *exp*
to act as if something wasn't you

to wipe *vb*
to clean, often with a cloth

a tablecloth *n*
a piece of material placed over the table

gonna *abbr inform*
going to

to spit *vb*
to force liquid out of your mouth

a bill *n*
a formal piece of paper informing you how much you must pay

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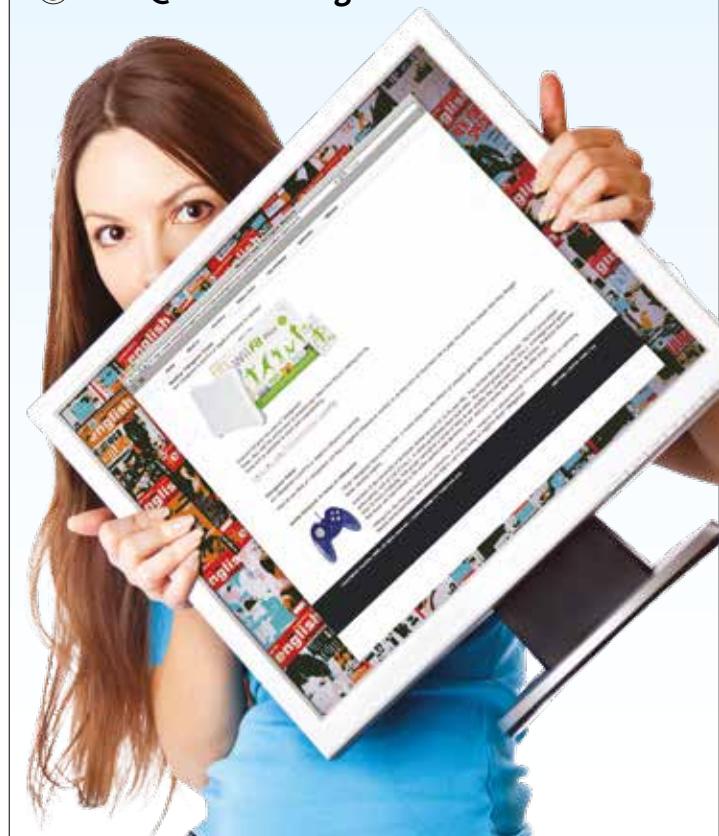
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STUPID CRIMINALS

Here's the first part on a new series on stupid criminals. Learn how not to do it.

Car Busters

Two men from Nebraska tried to pull the front off a **cash machine**. They attached a **chain** from the cash machine to the **bumper** of their car. However, instead of pulling the front of the cash machine off, they pulled off their bumper. In a panic, they left the scene and drove home, leaving their bumper with the **licence plate** still attached to it. It didn't take long for the police to catch them.



Blast Off

John Garvis **broke into** a house in London to steal **copper pipes**. However, while he was pulling off the pipes, he broke a **gas main** without realising it. Hearing the sound of the escaping gas, he lit a **match** to see what was happening and **blew up** the house. Amazingly, he survived. Even more amazingly, he returned the next day for more pipes and **ran straight into** the police, who were investigating the **blast**. Garvis was jailed for four and a half years.



Golf Goof

When German tourist Hans Olaf arrived at **customs** in Heathrow airport, he was carrying a heavy **suitcase** and a large golf bag. Customs officials asked him to open the main suitcase. As Olaf was opening his bag, the officials started asking Olaf about golf. And it was then that the customs officials realised that Olaf **didn't know the first thing about** golf. As a final test, one of the customs officials asked Olaf to demonstrate his **swing**, which Olaf did by swinging the golf club as if it were a baseball bat. A substantial amount of narcotics were found in Olaf's golf bag.



Fire Proof

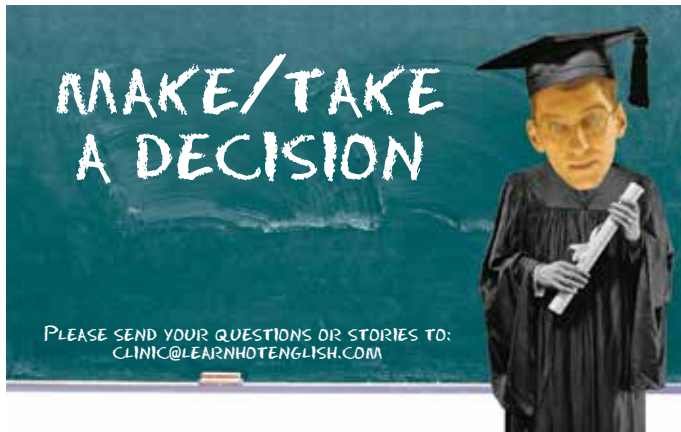
In 1993, Gordon James was arrested in Norfolk, Virginia, and charged with breaking into his next-door neighbour's house. James had stolen a television, camera, and video recorder, and then **set the house on fire** in an attempt to destroy any evidence **linking** him to the theft. Unfortunately for James, his house shared a wall with the neighbour's house, and as both houses suffered heavy damage, part of the wall separating the houses had fallen down. Police, fire-fighters and the neighbours could clearly see all stolen equipment inside James' living room. . ✪

GLOSSARY

- a cash machine** *n*
a machine you can use to take money from your bank account
- a chain** *n*
a series of metal rings connected together in a line
- a bumper** *n*
the back or front part of a car that protects the car if it hits an object
- a licence plate** *n*
the object at the front and back of a car with information (numbers and letters) about the car
- to break into (a house)** *exp*
to enter a house illegally and with the intention of stealing something
- copper** *n*
a type of metal
- a pipe** *n*
a metal tube for carrying liquid/gas
- a gas main** *n*
a pipe which supplies gas to a building
- a match** *n*
a thin piece of wood used for making fire
- to blow up** *phr vb*
to destroy a building with an explosion
- to run straight into someone** *exp*
to meet someone suddenly and unexpectedly
- a blast** *n*
an explosion
- customs** *n*
the government organisation that collects taxes on goods entering a country
- a suitcase** *n*
a large bag often used for carrying clothes when going on holiday
- didn't know the first thing about** *exp*
didn't know anything about...
- a swing** *n*
a movement you make with a golf club before hitting the ball
- to set the house on fire** *exp*
to cause a fire in a house
- to link** *vb*
to connect



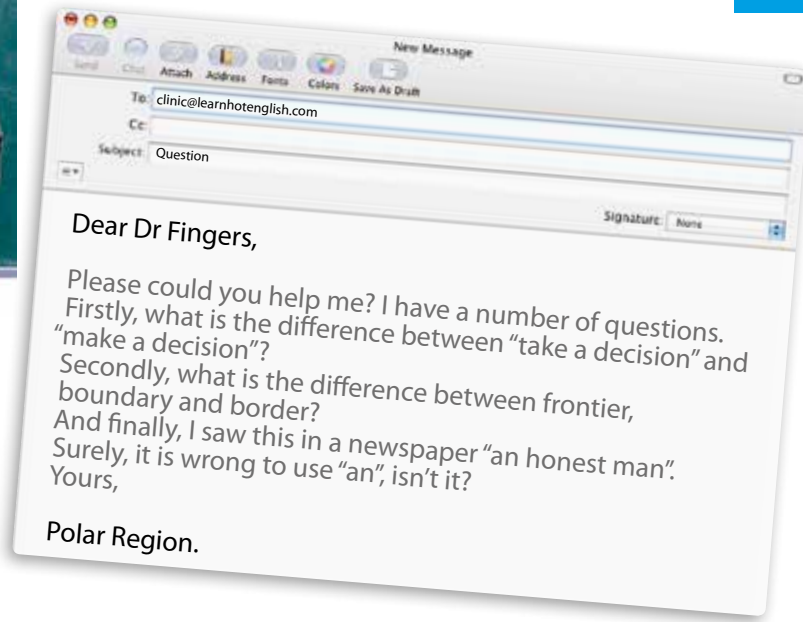
DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

Dear Polar Region,

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



Decisions

Firstly, is it "take" or "make" a decision? The simple answer to that is it depends on your nationality. Let me elaborate. Generally, the Americans use the expression "make a decision", and in British English "take a decision" is also possible (the British use both forms). To Americans, "take a decision" sounds very strange, so they may tell you that it isn't correct. But I can assure you that in British English it is acceptable English and you'll find it used on the BBC website, and in magazines such as the *Economist*. However, as far as I know, there is not yet a "decision-taking process", so you'll have to stick with a "decision-making process".



For example:

- a) This wood marks the boundary between Sir Guy's land and Sir Fred's land.
- b) This line marks the boundary between the two villages.

Articles

And finally, I move on to your last question. Yes, you are right to say that generally speaking we use "an" before a word that starts with a vowel. For example, "an apple, an orange, an elephant". However, some words which start with a consonant form a vowel sound, and as such, they need the article "an". For example, we say "an MSc" because the letter "M" is pronounced "em" with the vowel sound produced by the letter "e". Here are some more examples: "An FA Cup match, an MA student, an honour, an honest man, an hors d'oeuvre." Likewise, there are some words that start with a vowel, but have a consonant sound. For example, "university" which is pronounced with the consonant sound "you", and as such requires "a" rather than "an". Here are some more examples: "a user, a university, a universe, a ewe (a female sheep)".

Divisions

Now, let's move on to your second question. Generally speaking, all these words (frontier, boundary and border) are synonyms and are interchangeable at times. However, "frontier" is often used to refer to a political division. For example:

- a) We crossed the frontier between France and Spain at Hendaye.
- b) They crossed the frontier between Italy and France.

A "border" generally refers to a division between countries that is created by a natural feature. For example:

- a) The Río Grande forms the border between the US and Mexico.
 - b) The border between much of Spain and France is formed by the Pyrenees.
- And finally, a "boundary" refers to a division in a small area such as a village or a farm.



MY LEFT FOOT IS IN FRANCE AND MY RIGHT FOOT IS IN SPAIN.



Well, Polar Region, I really hope my explanations have helped resolve your linguistic problems.

Yours, Dr Fingers. ☺

Please send your questions or stories to: clinic@learnhotenglish.com



British bar chat

Marijuana

This month, two British people are talking about marijuana. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions:

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of marijuana?
2. What does the other speaker say against marijuana?

Andy: I just read that, erm, marijuana is now one of the biggest **cash crops** in the US?

Jen: Really?

Andy: So it seems like, yeah, it's **taking over**.

Jen: All right, well, not really, I think it's quite good, **actually**.

Andy: But, you know, marijuana **leads to** other drugs, doesn't it. You know, start on marijuana, next, next month, **you're on cocaine**, then you're on heroin...

Jen: Oh, **come on!** People say that, but it's not really the case. I've been taking it for about five years now.

Andy: Yeah, bit **slow in the head**, aren't you. Come on, you know, you can't, no, but, you know, seriously, **you can always tell** the type of person who smokes marijuana. They're, like, so

laid-back, you can't imagine them ever getting a **real job**.

Jen: Oh, **that's rubbish**. Come on, I work as a full-time secretary. I have to have **my head screwed on**.

Andy: Yeah, OK, but maybe you don't smoke too much. But you get these guys you can tell they've been smoking **loads** every day. They're, you know, perhaps, you know, maybe they're musicians or something.

Jen: Yeah, but it's like the same with everything, you know. If you drink too much, you'll **bust your liver**.

You just shouldn't, you can't smoke too much.

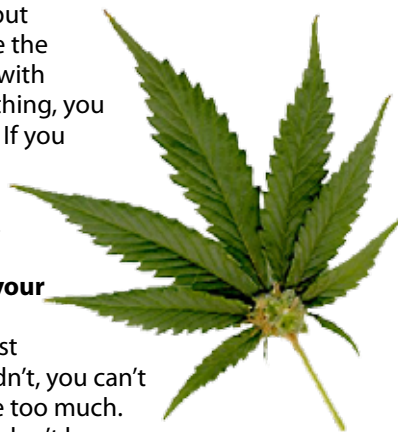
Andy: Yeah, I don't know. It seems kind of like one of those drugs you can get addicted on.

Jen: You can get addicted to anything. You can get addicted to nicotine.

Andy: Yeah, right, so have you got any on you at the moment?

Jen: Yeah, I do actually.

Andy: OK. **Roll up**. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a cash crop** *n*
a crop (a food) that is grown and sold
- to take over** *phr vb*
to dominate
- actually** *exp*
really
- to lead to another thing** *n*
if X leads to Y, X causes Y
- you're on cocaine** *exp*
you are taking cocaine regularly
- come on** *exp*
people use this expression when they hear something that they don't agree with or they think is silly
- slow in the head** *exp*
a bit stupid
- you can always tell** *exp*
you can always see
- laid-back** *adj*
relaxed and calm
- a real job** *n*
a serious job that requires mental or physical effort
- that's rubbish** *exp*
that is stupid
- to have your head screwed on** *exp*
to be a sensible, rational, logical person
- loads** *exp*
lots of
- to bust your liver** *exp*
to destroy your liver (the organ in your body that processes your blood)
- to roll up** *phr vb*
to make a cigarette with marijuana in it

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US bar chat



OJ Simpson

This month, two young Americans are talking about OJ Simpson. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions:

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of what the newspaper has done?
2. What does the other speaker say against what the newspaper has done?

Janet: Have you heard about OJ Simpson? I've heard that he's publishing a really interesting book. It's like a virtual confession. It's almost like he's **pretending** that he really did murder his ex-wife.

Leigh: I did hear that the other day in the news. Isn't that horrible?

Janet: No. I think, I think **it's fine**. **I mean**, the *New York Post* has said that he's just trying to make some **blood money**, but I totally don't agree with that, though.

Leigh: I completely agree. This family is still **grieving** and I don't think they should be **subjected to** this kind of thing.

Janet: What do you mean? I mean, **so what if** he's making blood money? I mean, the poor guy was subjected to a really public **trial** and I don't see why he shouldn't **make a bit of money** from it.

Leigh: OK. But he can't be **tried** again, so we should **put this topic to rest** and not make the family **go through** it again.

Janet: Why should we put it to rest? It's something that the public's really

interested in. I mean, what's better than a little bit of celebrity scandal?
Leigh: OK, it might be **hypothetical**, a hypothetical "I did it", but many of the members of the public still believe that he's **guilty**.

Janet: But it's clear that this book is hypothetical. I mean, the book specifically says that this is a hypothetical story.

Leigh: That's fine but it's still **raising the same question** that the trial did and it's done.

Janet: Yeah, but I think it's something that people are still interested in. I mean, people don't have to buy the book if they don't want to. They're only going to buy it if they're interested.

Leigh: Yeah, and many people have been asked not to buy it, haven't they?

Janet: I don't think so. That's not true, is it? They haven't been asked not to buy it. I don't think that that's something you can do in a country where there's freedom of expression. He can publish this book if he wants to.

Leigh: **I guess** it is freedom of speech but I still think it's a horrible topic to have to still think about.

Janet: OK, well then, I guess you're not going to buy the book!

Leigh: Not at all! ❌

GLOSSARY

- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true even if it isn't
- it's fine** *exp*
it's OK
- I mean** *exp*
people often use this expression when changing topics, or for emphasis
- blood money** *n*
money obtained through killing someone
- to grieve** *vb*
if a person is "grieving", he/she is sad because something tragic has happened
- to subject someone to something** *exp*
to force someone to experience something unpleasant
- so what if** *exp*
it is not important to me that
- a trial** *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is innocent or guilty
- to make money from something** *exp*
to generate a profit from something
- to be tried** *exp*
to be in a legal process to decide if you are innocent or guilty
- to put something to rest** *exp*
to stop talking about something or referring to it
- to go through something** *exp*
to experience something bad
- hypothetical** *adj*
based on possible ideas, not real ones
- guilty** *adj*
not innocent
- to raise a question** *exp*
to ask a question
- I guess** *exp*
I think; I imagine

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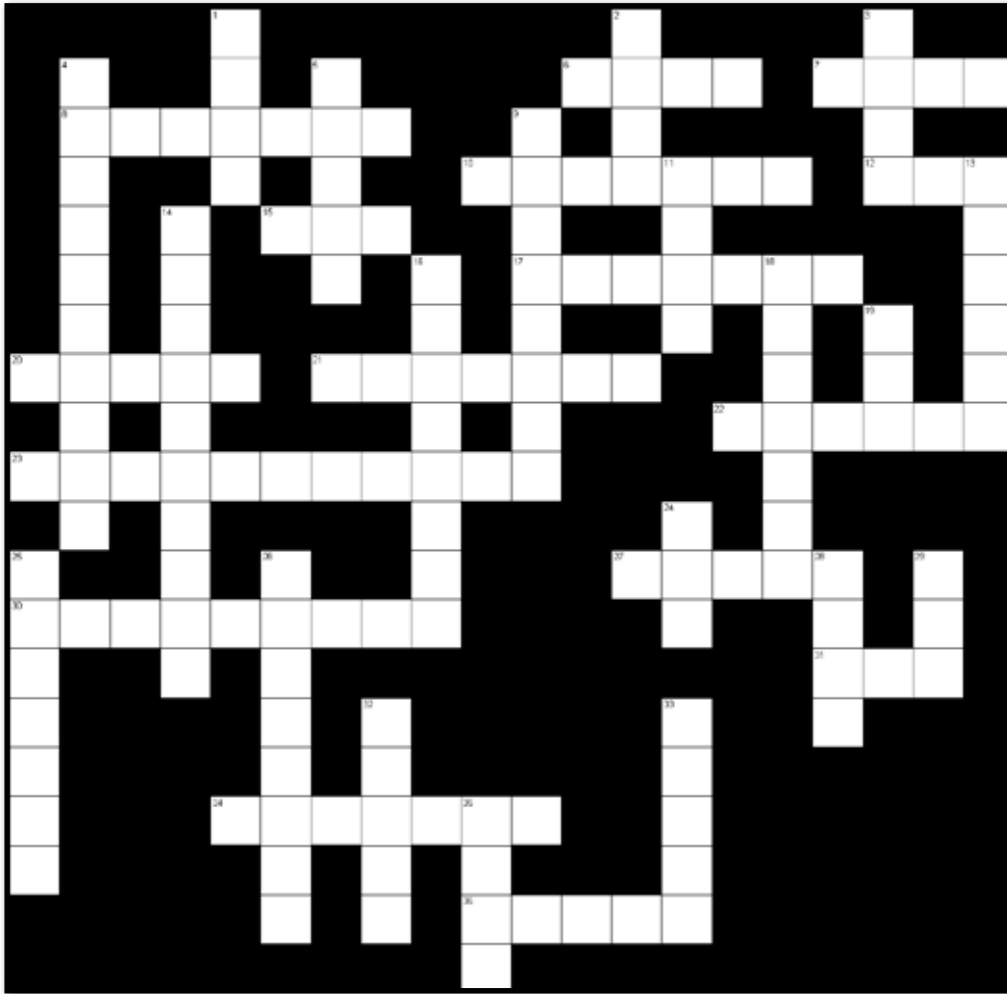


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CROSSWORD

Answers on page 34



- 2: Hurry up / be quick = get a m_____ on
- 3: To eat until you aren't hungry = to f_____ yourself up
- 4: New and different = refre_____
- 5: A person from the area you are referring to = a lo_____
- 9: A large bag for carrying clothes when you go on holiday = a sui_____
- 11: To destroy something with an explosion = to bl_____ something up
- 13: It is not surprising that... = no wo_____ that...
- 14: A person who gives advice on personal problems = a coun_____
- 16: A person who says exactly what he/she is thinking = a stra_____ talker.
- 18: Because = on the grou_____ that
- 19: To cross the road quickly and for a short time = to p_____ across the road
- 24: To meet someone unexpectedly = to r_____ into someone
- 25: Prepared to do something = wil_____ to do something
- 26: Walking in the mountains as a sport = tr_____
- 28: A job that you must do or complete = a ta_____
- 29: To fire a gun = to l_____ off a gun
- 32: To enter a house with the intention of stealing = to bre_____ into a house
- 33: Should be banned = ou_____ to be banned
- 35: A machine that permits you to withdraw money from your bank account by using your bank card = a c_____ machine

Across

- 6: To like something very much = to be f_____ of something
- 7: To say exactly what you are thinking = to speak your mi_____.
- 8: The crime of not paying taxes to the government = tax ev_____.
- 10: A machine that plays records if you put money in it = a juke_____.
- 12: To try to remain anonymous; to try not to be noticed = to keep a _____ profile

- 15: A prohibition = a b_____
- 17: To do something even though it may be unpleasant = to go th_____ with something
- 20: The type of thing that you like doing = your th_____
- 21: Looking for the cheapest price for something = bar_____ hunting
- 22: The back or front part of a car that protects the car = the bum_____
- 23: Not considering other people's feelings =

- insen_____
- 27: To start to cry suddenly = to bu_____ into tears
- 30: Offensive to a group or a minority = politically inco_____
- 31: To cause something to burn = to s_____ something on fire
- 34: The set of numbers and letters at the front and back of a car = a li_____ plate
- 36: Quick or fast = sw_____

Down

- 1: Warm, comfortable and welcoming = co_____

Jokes

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

British Bar Chat

- 1. One of the speakers says that marijuana is OK in small doses, and that you have to be careful. She says that you can get addicted to anything.
- 2. The other speaker doesn't like marijuana because it leads to other drugs, and it makes people too laid-back.

US Bar Chat

- 1. One of the speakers says that it's OK that OJ Simpson is making money from this, that the public are interested in it, and that he has every right to publish the book if he wants to.
- 2. The other speaker doesn't like it because the family is still

grieving, they should put the topic to rest, the family shouldn't go through it again, and many people believe he was actually guilty.

Trivia Matching

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

Typical Dialogues

- 1. Gordon wants to do some off-piste skiing.
- 2. Michaela doesn't want to follow Gordon because she thinks it's too dangerous.

Quiz Analysis

Mostly "a" = You take pride in your home. It would be a pleasure to stay with you.
Mostly "b" = Have you ever wondered why you never get any visitors?

Fluency Practice

- B:
- 1. He's as slippery as an eel.
 - 2. I think it's a red herring.
 - 3. We were packed like sardines.
 - 4. They're just small fry.
 - 5. The world is your oyster.
 - 6. Watch out for the sharks.



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



- ☛ It is illegal for a man with a moustache to "habitually kiss human beings". (Indiana)
- ☛ It is illegal for a husband to kiss his wife on Sunday. (Connecticut)
- ☛ It is illegal to kiss a stranger. (Iowa)
- ☛ No one is permitted to ride their horse up the stairs of the **county court house**. (Arizona)
- ☛ It is illegal for men and women over the age of 18 to have less than one missing tooth visible while smiling. (Arizona)

☛ It is considered an offense to **feed alcoholic beverages** to a **moose**. (Arkansas)

☛ Owners of **flamingos** may not let their **pet** into **barber shops**. (Arkansas.)

☛ One may not **roam** the city with a **bow and arrows**. (Arkansas.)

☛ Dogs may not bark after 6pm. (Arkansas)

☛ **Flirtation** between men and women on the streets of Little Rock may result in a 30-day **jail term**. (Arkansas.)



☛ It is unlawful to walk one's cow down Main Street after 1:00pm on Sunday. (Arkansas)



☛ It is a **misdemeanor** to shoot at any kind of **game** from a moving vehicle, unless the **target** is a **whale**. (California)

☛ **Peacocks** have the **right of way** to cross any street, including **driveways**. (California)

☛ Nobody is allowed to ride a bicycle in a swimming pool. (California)

☛ You are not permitted to wear cowboy boots unless you already **own** at least two cows. (California)



☛ Ice cream may not be eaten while standing on the **sidewalk**. (California)

☛ It is prohibited to sleep in a parked vehicle. (California)

☛ Detonating a nuclear device within the city limits results in a \$500 fine. (California)

☛ One may not use one's own **restroom** if the window is open. (California). ☛

GLOSSARY

- a county court house** *n* the building where legal processes take place in a county
- to feed** *vb* to give food to
- an alcoholic beverage** *n* an alcoholic drink
- a moose** *n* a large reindeer (a type of Bambi)
- a flamingo** *n* a pink bird with long legs
- a pet** *n* an animal you keep at home for company
- a barber shop** *n* a hairdresser's for men
- to roam** *vb* to travel in an area with no particular purpose
- a bow and arrows** *n* a weapon that consists of a long piece of curved wood and sticks with sharp points at the end
- flirtation** *n* the action of talking with someone you are sexually attracted to
- a jail term** *n* a period of time in prison
- a misdemeanor** *n* a minor crime
- game** *n* wild animals or birds that are hunted for sport
- a target** *n* the thing you are trying to shoot or kill
- a whale** *n* a large mammal that lives in the sea
- a peacock** *n* a large bird. The male peacock has a large tail which spreads out like a fan
- the right of way** *n* the right to continue along a particular route
- a driveway** *n* a piece of land that goes from the road to the front door
- to own** *vb* to possess
- a sidewalk** *n US* the part of the road where you can walk. A "pavement" in British English
- a restroom** *n US* a toilet/bathroom in a public place

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GREAT MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY



This is the third part in our mini-series on US history. This month, the New Deal, the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis. By Laura Warrell. (US English spelling)

Roosevelt's New Deal

Franklin Roosevelt, no relation to Theodore, was elected president in 1932 and took office in 1933. He promised a "New Deal" for Americans to help them during the

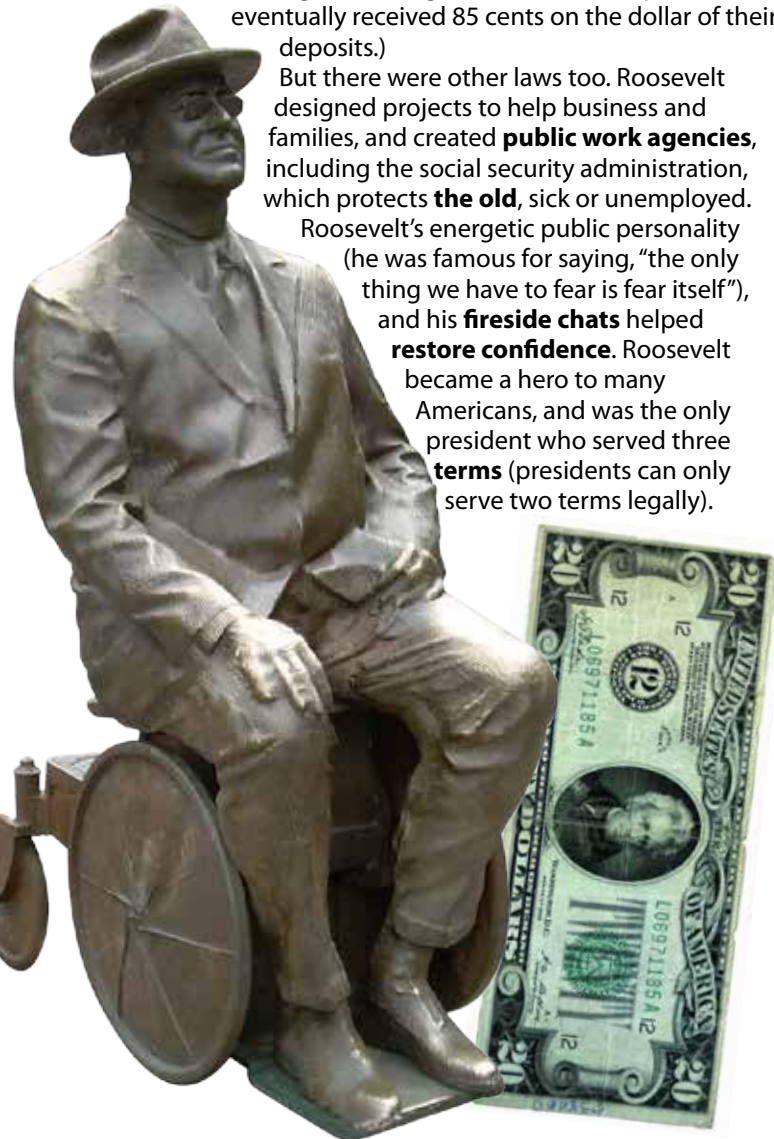
Depression. The deal was meant to **raise the employment rate**, and **provide finance** to help industry and agriculture.

Initially, Roosevelt blamed businessmen and bankers for the terrible economic situation. "Practices of the **unscrupulous money changers** stand indicted in the court of public opinion," he said.

On March 9th, Roosevelt sent the Emergency Banking Act to Congress. The act was passed the same day. In total, 4,004 small local banks were closed and were merged into larger banks. (Their depositors eventually received 85 cents on the dollar of their deposits.)

But there were other laws too. Roosevelt designed projects to help business and families, and created **public work agencies**, including the social security administration, which protects **the old**, sick or unemployed.

Roosevelt's energetic public personality (he was famous for saying, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"), and his **fireside chats** helped **restore confidence**. Roosevelt became a hero to many Americans, and was the only president who served three **terms** (presidents can only serve two terms legally).



The Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis

In April 1961, an armed group of 1,500 **Cuban exiles** landed in the Bahia de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs) on the south coast of Cuba. The exiles had been trained by the CIA with the approval of President Eisenhower's administration, and had arms from the US government. The exiles wanted to provoke a rebellion in Cuba that would **overthrow** Fidel Castro's communist regime. Instead, the Cuban army defeated the exiles, and most were killed. Anti-American demonstrations followed in Latin America and Europe, which made US-Cuban relations even worse.

President Kennedy suffered from the crisis when he entered office that same year. Some of the exiles **blamed** Kennedy for refusing to **authorize** air support for the invasion.

After the Bay of Pigs incident, the USSR increased its support to Cuba and secretly installed **ballistic missiles** there. Kennedy blockaded Cuba with the US navy, and warned the USSR that any missile launched from Cuba would provoke a full-scale attack from the United States against the Soviet Union. On October 28, Khrushchev agreed to **withdraw** the missiles and the crisis ended. ❖



GLOSSARY

- a deal** *n*
an agreement
- the Depression** *n*
a period of great poverty during the 1930s
- to raise** *vb*
to increase
- the employment rate** *n*
the number of people working
- to provide finance** *exp*
to give money to help a project/business, etc
- unscrupulous** *adj*
without morals
- money changers** *n*
people who lend money and charge interest
- public work agencies** *n*
organisations that plan public building projects
- the old** *n*
people who are old (over 60)
- fireside chats** *n*
a series of radio programmes given by Roosevelt during this period. He often began the programmes with "My friends..."
- to restore confidence** *exp*
to make people feel safe and secure again
- a term** *n*
a period of time
- a Cuban exile** *n*
a Cuban person who lives in another country because he/she disagrees with the politics in Cuba, or who is persecuted in Cuba
- to overthrow** *vb*
to remove a government from power
- to blame** *vb*
to say that someone is responsible for something bad
- to authorize** *vb*
to give formal permission for something
- a ballistic missile** *n*
a missile that is only guided during the powered phase of the flight
- to withdraw** *vb*
to take away

Story Time

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



Liar!

Two students are **arguing** when the teacher enters the room. "What's going on here? What are you arguing about?" the teacher asks. One girl answers, "We found a ten-dollar **note** and decided to give it to the biggest liar." "Lying! Children shouldn't lie. You should be **ashamed** of yourselves," says the teacher, furiously. "When I was your age, I never lied." At which point the girls give the ten-dollar note to the teacher.

Seeing the Light

Two factory workers, Jim and Sally, are talking. Jim says, "I can convince the boss to give me a **day off**." And Sally replies, "How are you going to do that?" "It's easy," Jim says. "Just watch and learn." So, Jim **hangs upside-down from the ceiling** and calls the boss. "What **on earth** are you

doing?" says the boss as she comes in. And Jim replies, "I'm a **light bulb**." Then the boss says, "Jim, you've been working too much. Go home now, and get some rest." At that, Jim jumps down from the ceiling and prepares to go home. At that point, Sally starts leaving too, following Jim out of the room. "And where do you think you're going, young woman?" the boss asks. And Sally says, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."

God Speaks

A man is talking to God. "So, God, how long is a million years?" And God replies, "To me, it's about one minute." And the man asks, "So, how much is a million euros?" And God says, "To



me, it is about one euro cent." So the man says, "OK, can I have a one cent?" And God replies, "Wait a minute."

Two Dogs

Brian has two dogs called **Commonsense** and **Trouble**. Brian takes his dogs to the park every evening. But one day, he only takes Trouble, and leaves Commonsense at home. While Brian is walking, Trouble disappears. Brian looks everywhere for the dog, but can't find it anywhere. Eventually, he starts to panic. An elderly woman sees Brian and asks, "What's the matter? Can I do anything to help?" And Brian replies, "I'm looking for Trouble..." "I beg your pardon?" the woman asks, interrupting Brian. "Where's your commonsense?" And Brian replies, "I left it at home." ✨



GLOSSARY

to argue *vb*
to have a verbal fight with someone
a note *n*
a piece of paper money
ashamed *adj*
embarrassed about something
a day off *exp*
a day that you spend away from work because you are ill, etc
to hang upside-down *exp*
to be hanging from something with your head pointing towards the ground
the ceiling *n*
the top part of a room above your head
on earth *exp*
this expression is used for emphasis
a light bulb *n*
a glass ball that produces light when connected to the electricity
commonsense *n*
your ability to make good judgments
trouble *n*
if there is "trouble", there is fighting or rioting



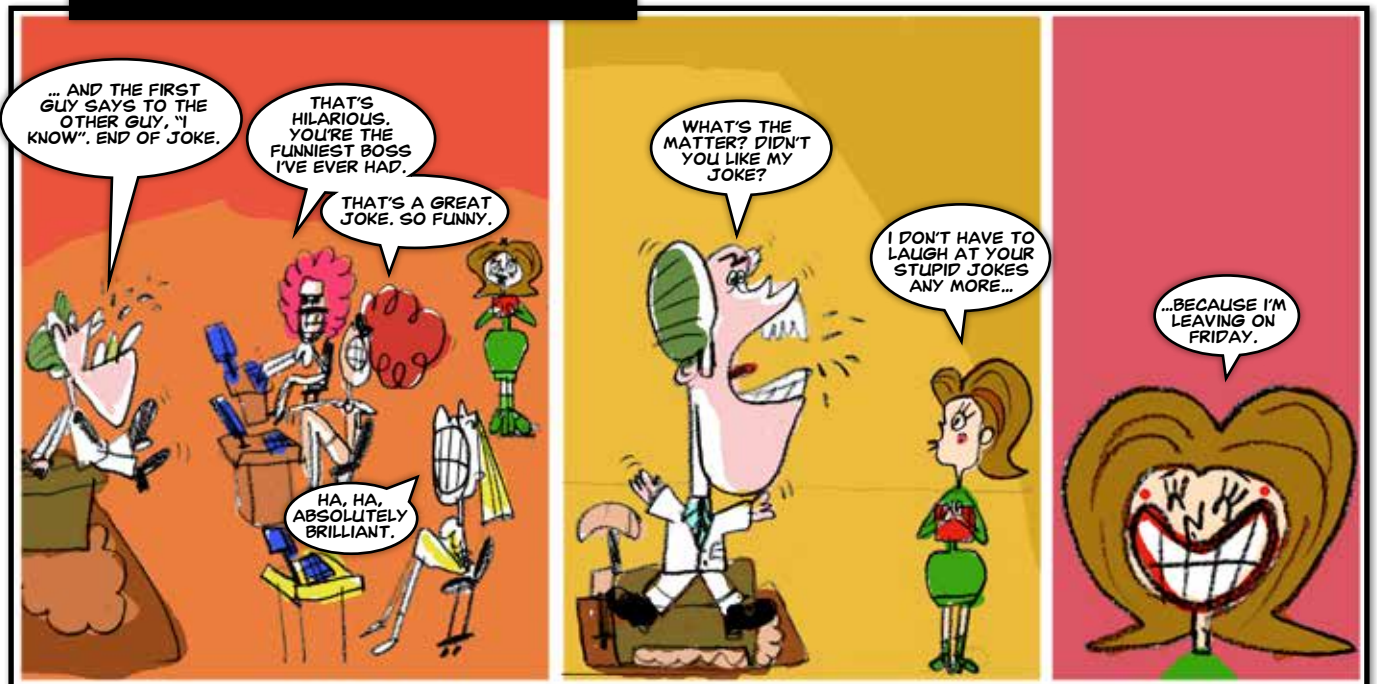
Skiing words

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



- The long pieces of fibreglass or wood that you attach to your feet in order to go down a mountain.
- A person who practises the sport of skiing.
- The two poles you hold, one in each hand, in order to coordinate your movements as you ski down the hill = ski _____.
- A fibreglass board attached to the feet. A sn_____.
- Large, heavy shoes that are worn on the feet = ski _____.
- The side of a mountain that has been designated as an area where skiers or snowboarders may descend = a ski r_____.
- A place where there are hotels, shops, apartment blocks, bars, restaurants and ski lifts all based around a skiing area = a ski re_____.
- A raised area of snow for ski jumping = a ski j_____.
- Skiing in non-designated areas = off-p_____ skiing.
- A type of electric seat that takes into the air as it carries you up the mountain = a ch_____ lift.
- A machine that drags you up the mountain with your skis on the snow = a skil_____.
- A box which is used to transport skiers up a mountain. It can carry about 20 skiers and travels along a strong piece of metal cable = a cable _____.
- A plastic, wooden or fibreglass object that you sit on in order to slide down the snow = a sl_____.
- An official document that permits you to use the chairlifts, ski lifts and cable cars = a ski p_____.
- Large bumps in the snow = mo_____.
- A style of turning that consists of keeping your skis far apart at the back, and maintaining the ski tips close together = the snowp_____.
- A style of turning that consists of maintaining your skis together at all times = a pa_____ turn.
- Special glasses that are designed to protect your eyes = ski go_____.

BOSS JOKE BY DANIEL COUTOLINE

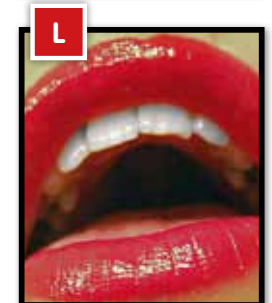
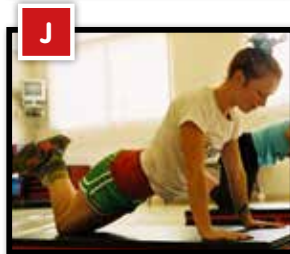
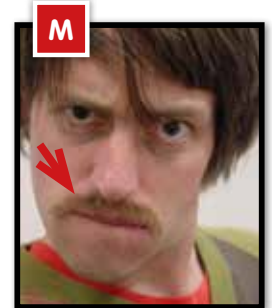


Trivla Matching

Exercise

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

1. Porcupines kissing
2. A kiss
3. Lips
4. Carrying out a survey
5. Tooth decay
6. Rubbing noses
7. A couple
8. The back of the hand
9. A cheek
10. An underwater kiss
11. A moustache
12. A heart
13. Someone working out



Trivia: Kissing

Here are some fantastic facts on kissing.

If a man and a woman were seen kissing in public in Medieval Italy, they could be forced to marry.

The average person will spend about 20,000 minutes kissing in their lifetime.

A **survey** has shown that 50% of people kiss before they turn 14.

Kissing helps reduce **tooth decay**. This is because kissing increases the production of saliva in the mouth. In turn, saliva helps clean the mouth, and prevents tooth decay.

Eskimos, Polynesians and native Malaysians all **rub noses** instead of kissing.

A survey on **couples** found that people who kiss their partner before leaving for work every morning **tend to** earn a higher income.

The scientific name for kissing is "philematology".

Canadian porcupines kiss one another on the **lips**.

Ancient Romans often kissed each other on the eyes as a greeting.



During Victorian England, a man was required to kiss the back of a lady's hand on greeting her.

* The Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone is a block of stone that is in Blarney Castle, which is about 8 km from the Irish city of Cork. The stone was built into a tower of the castle in 1446, and is now a popular tourist site in Ireland.



Types of kisses

A peck = a light, soft, quick kiss.

A butterfly kiss = opening and closing your **eyelids** against your partner's face.

A kiss on the cheek = a light, friendly kiss on the cheek.

An Eskimo kiss = a form of greeting that involves gently rubbing your noses together.

A kiss on the lips = an intimate kiss on someone's lips.

A forehead kiss = a kiss on the **forehead** that is a way of reassuring someone, or showing your appreciation for someone. This type of kiss is popular amongst footballers.

A love bite / a hickey kiss (US English) = the object of this kiss is to leave a mark on your partner's neck.

A letter kiss = a kiss in a letter by writing the letter "X" several times at the bottom of the page.

A wake-up kiss = a kiss you give someone before they wake up.

A goodnight kiss = a kiss you give someone before they go to sleep.

A goodbye kiss = a kiss you give someone when you say goodbye to them.

A French kiss = a kiss involving the tongue. The French call this type of kiss the "English kiss".

A snog (informal) = a passionate kiss that may last several minutes.

The most kisses in a single movie were 127 in the 1927 film *Don Juan*, starring Mary Astor and Estelle Taylor. They were both kissed by actor John Barrymore.

For many Americans and British people, the standard European greeting of kissing on the **cheek** is very unusual.

A Japanese couple holds the record for the longest underwater kiss. It

lasted for a total of 2 minutes and 18 seconds.

According to research, a kiss is a good way of finding out if you like someone or not. Kissing gives you the opportunity to **check out** your partner's pheromones (the chemicals that signal sexual attraction).

Research has shown that a kiss can **boost** your self-esteem. In theory, when you're kissing, you're happy, and this makes you feel good about yourself.

You can **burn 26 calories** in a one-minute kiss. As you're kissing, your heart is pumping and your pulse is **racing**. It's a great cardiovascular workout.

In Ireland, if you kiss the **Blarney Stone***, you will be given the "gift of the gab" (a great ability to **flatter** someone and to **speak with eloquence**). ☺

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

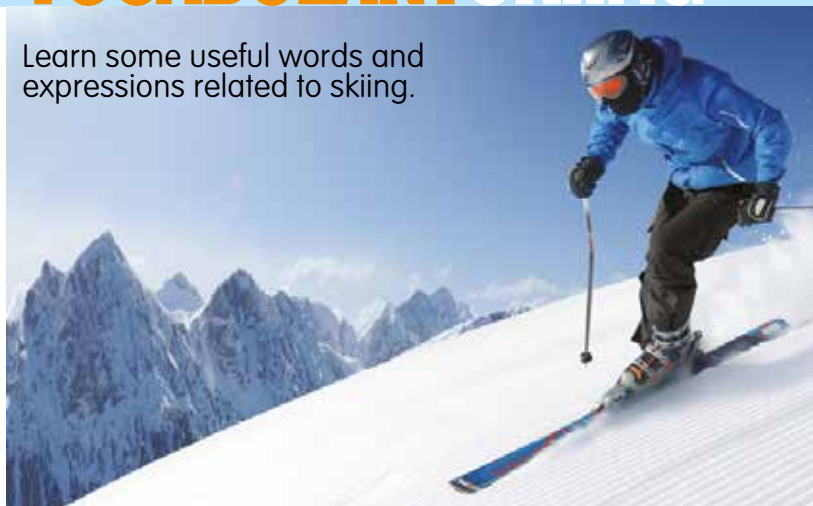


GLOSSARY

- a survey** *n*
a series of questions asked in order to obtain people's opinions
- tooth decay** *n*
if you have "tooth decay", your teeth are infected with bacteria
- to rub noses** *n*
to move one nose against another nose as a form of greeting
- a couple** *n*
two people in a relationship
- to tend to** *exp*
if something "tends to" happen, it often happens
- lips** *n*
the part of your mouth that you use for kissing
- a cheek** *n*
the side of your face
- to last** *vb*
if something "lasts" for a certain amount of time, it takes that time
- to check out** *phr vb*
to investigate
- to boost** *vb*
to increase suddenly and quickly
- to burn calories** *exp*
to do exercise to eliminate excess calories
- to race** *vb*
if your pulse is "racing", it is beating very fast – more than 120 beats per second
- to flatter** *vb*
to say good things about someone in an exaggerated way – often because you want something from that person
- to speak with eloquence** *exp*
to speak effectively and with an ability to persuade people to do something
- an eyelid** *n*
a piece of skin that covers your eye when your eye is closed
- the forehead** *n*
the front part of your head below your hairline

VOCABULARY SKIING

Learn some useful words and expressions related to skiing.



Skis – the long pieces of fibreglass or wood that you attach to your feet in order to go down a mountain.

A skier – a person who practises the sport of skiing.

Ski sticks/poles – the two poles you hold, one in each hand, in order to coordinate your movements as you ski down the hill. Ski sticks may also be used as a **weapon** against **inconsiderate** skiers.

Snowboard – a fibreglass board attached to the feet. Young, trendy teenagers with trousers that are six sizes too big for them often use snowboards.

Ski boots – large, heavy boots that are worn on the feet and that make you walk like an **overweight** penguin.

Ski rental shop – a place where you go to **rent** skis or ski boots. There are often long, frustrating **queues** because finding a pair of ski boots that fit you comfortably is no easy **task**.

A ski run / a ski slope – the side of a mountain that has been designated as an area where skiers or snowboarders may **descend**. There are green runs for beginners, blue and red runs for intermediate skiers and black runs for **nutters**.

A ski resort – a place where there are hotels, shops, apartment blocks, bars, restaurants and ski lifts all based around a skiing area. Some ski resorts are **set in idyllic** Alpine villages, complete with wooden **chalets**, **horse-drawn carts** and **charming** hotels. Others are purpose-built resorts that remind you of the Bronx with snow.

A ski jump – a raised area of snow designed to **elevate** the crazy or **unsuspecting** skier several metres into the air.

Snow conditions – the general state of the snow. Snow conditions depend on how much it has snowed and the weather at the time of skiing. **Freshly-fallen** snow may create

powder snow. Warm weather will lead to **slushy snow** that **turns to ice** over night.

Off-piste skiing – skiing in non-designated areas. This may seem like fun, but often ends up causing **avalanches**, and leading to an emergency situation involving helicopters, snow scooters and St Bernard dogs.

A chairlift – this type of electric chair takes you up the mountain. Here are a few useful phrases so you can make **small talk** with the person sitting next to you: "Have you skied here before? Where are you staying?" And "Could you hold my ski poles while I blow my nose, please?"

A ski lift – this is a machine that **drags** you up the mountain with your skis on the snow. Don't start doing slalom as you will inevitably get your skis crossed and make a spectacular fall.

A cable car – this is the deluxe method of getting to the top of the mountain and

consists of a small box in which about 20 people stand. The cable car travels along a strong piece of metal cable.

A sledge / sleigh / toboggan – this is a plastic, wooden or fibreglass object that you sit on in order to slide down the snow.

A ski pass – an official pass that permits you to use the chairlifts, ski lifts and cable cars in a ski resort. Finding your ski pass at the appropriate moment (i.e. when you have to show it) can be a stressful experience.

Moguls – these are large **bumps** in the snow. Watching an inexperienced skier skiing down an icy black run full of moguls will provide you with a cheap but enjoyable form of entertainment.

Ski turns – there are two basic methods for turning whilst skiing: a) The snowplough – this consists of keeping your skis far apart at the back, and maintaining the **ski tips** close together as you go from one side to another in a desperate attempt not to fall. b) A parallel turn – this consists of maintaining your skis together are all times, and at all costs, in order to effect a skilful and graceful turn.

Ski accessories Here are some typical ski accessories: A ski hat – a hat worn to keep your head warm. Ski goggles – special

glasses to protect your eyes.

Gloves – objects worn over the hands that are designed to keep your hands warm.

Ski trousers / ski pants – clothing worn to cover the legs.

Woollen socks – thick socks to keep your feet warm.

A ski jacket – a thick jacket worn over the upper half of the body.

A scarf – clothing worn around the neck.

Are you ready to ski? 🏔️

GLOSSARY

a weapon *n*
 an object you can use to hurt or kill someone

inconsiderate *adj*
 if someone is "inconsiderate", they don't consider the thoughts or feelings of other people

overweight *adj*
 fatter than you should be for your height/size

to rent *vb*
 to pay money to use something for a limited period of time

a queue *n*
 a line of people waiting to be served in a shop

a task *n*
 a job

to descend *vb*
 to go down

a nutter *n inform*
 a crazy person

set in *exp*
 if a hotel is "set in" a particular place, it is in that place

idyllic *adj*
 beautiful, peaceful, pleasant

a chalet *n*
 a small wooden house in a mountain area

horse-drawn *adj*
 that is pulled by horses

a cart *n*
 a small vehicle with two or four wheels

charming *adj*
 pleasant or attractive

to elevate *vb*
 if something is "elevated", it goes high in the air

unsuspecting *adj*
 not aware of what is happening

freshly-fallen *adj*
 that has fallen a short time ago

powder snow *n*
 snow that is very fine and with tiny particles

slushy snow *n*
 snow that has started to melt (become water)

to turn to ice *exp*
 to become ice; to freeze

an avalanche *n*
 if there is an "avalanche", a large mass of snow falls down the mountain

small talk *n*
 polite conversation about unimportant things

to drag *vb*
 to pull with force

a bump *n*
 an area of higher ground

ski tips *n*
 the ends of the skis

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TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE SKIING TRIP

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions. **The Skiing Trip**



GLOSSARY

- a chairlift** *n*
a machine that you sit on and that takes you up the mountain
- a fair bit** *n*
quite a lot
- waterproof** *adj*
"waterproof" clothing keeps water out
- goggles** *n*
glasses you wear to protect your eyes
- do you fancy doing...?** *exp*
would you like to...?
- off-piste skiing** *n*
skiing on parts of the mountain that are not officially trails or runs
- I bet** *exp*
I'm sure
- wicked** *adj inform*
cool; very good
- a jump** *n*
an area of high snow that you can jump off
- a mogul** *n*
a large bump in the snow (often caused by a rock)
- an avalanche** *n*
a large mass of snow that falls down the side of the mountain
- red tape** *n*
a narrow piece of red plastic

In this conversation Gordon is on a skiing trip. It's the very first day of his holiday, and he's at the top of a mountain about to ski down. He's just met another Englishman, Michaela, on the **chairlift**. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. Where does Gordon want to ski?
2. Why doesn't Michaela want to follow Gordon?

Answers on page 24

Gordon: So, have you done much skiing then?
 Michaela: Yeah, **a fair bit**.
 Gordon: Have you seen my skis? They're the latest design.
 Michaela: Nice.
 Gordon: And look at my ski boots. They're new. Did you rent yours?
 Michaela: Yes, but they're...
 Gordon: See this jacket. I won't ever get wet in this jacket. It's made of Gore Tex, which is **waterproof**.
 Michaela: Mmm...
 Gordon: And look, I've got Gore Tex ski trousers, Gore Tex gloves, Gore Tex socks, a Gore Tex hat, Gore Tex pants, and these **goggles**...
 Michaela: Well, yes, I really must...
 Gordon: What kind of jacket is that, then?
 Michaela: Oh, I just got it...
 Gordon: So, you like snowboarding do you? *(Gordon is pointing at Michaela's snowboard.)*
 Michaela: Yes...
 Gordon: I did snowboarding once. I was pretty good, but I didn't really like it. Bit too easy. Hey, **do you fancy doing a bit of off-piste skiing?** Look, we could ski down here. **I bet** it's got some **wicked jumps**. *(Gordon points to a prohibited zone of the mountain.)*
 Michaela: No, I wouldn't go down there. There are lots of rocks and **moguls**, and the snow conditions don't look too good either. You might create an **avalanche**.
 Gordon: What? Are you scared?
 Michaela: No, it's just there's a bit of **red tape** there showing that you shouldn't really ski there...
 Gordon: Oh, that's nothing. Come on, it'll be fun.
 Michaela: No, I think I'll just go down here... like everybody else.
 Gordon: See you at the bottom! Geronimo! ✨



Wordsearch answers

1. Skis
2. Skier
3. Sticks
4. Snowboard
5. Boots
6. Run
7. Resort
8. Jump
9. Piste
10. Chair
11. Lift
12. Car
13. Sledge
14. Pass
15. Mogul
16. Snowplough
17. Parallel
18. Goggles



Crossword page 24

Visiting someone's house

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions. This month: visiting someone's house.

Part I: Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- Sorry I'm late. The traffic was terrible.
- Sorry, but I think I'm a bit early, aren't I?
- Here's a **little something** for you.
- We got this for you.
- What a lovely house.
- How long have you been living here?
- It's a nice neighbourhood.
- The sofa's very **comfy**.
- Is that you in the photo?
- Are these your children?
- That's a nice painting.
- I'll have whatever you're having.
- I'll have a coke, please.
- Where's the bathroom, please?
- I think it's getting late.
- I think we should be going.
- Thank you for a lovely evening.
- The food was fantastic.
- I'm sorry about dropping that plate/glass.
- You should **come round to our place** sometime.
- We've just had it redecorated.
- Here's our photo album from out time in Washington.
- Can I get you anything to drink?
- We've got red wine, white wine, beer, orange juice or water.
- More soup/wine/meat, etc?
- The bathroom is just along the corridor. It's the second door on the left.
- Can I give you a lift anywhere?
- Bye, and thanks for coming.
- Come again whenever you like.
- Drive carefully.



Part II

Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Jane has arrived at Peter's house for a **dinner party**.

Peter: (*someone knocking*) Hi, Jane. At last! We were getting worried.

Jane: Yeah, sorry, I got a bit lost, but your directions helped.

Peter: Here, let me take your coat. Come in.

Jane: Nice house.

Peter: Yeah, it isn't bad.

Jane: I like the **carpet**.

Peter: I got it in India. Can I get you anything to drink?

Jane: I'll have a glass of white wine, please.

Peter: Here you are (*he hands her the wine*). Now let me show you around. This is the living room.

Jane: Very **cosy**. Is that you in the photo?

Peter: Yes, it is. And this is the kitchen. Small, but functional.

Jane: That smells delicious. What is it?

Peter: Oh, just a little something. Come on upstairs, I'll show you the bedrooms.



GLOSSARY

- a little something** *exp*
a little present
- comfy** *adj inform*
comfortable
- come round to our place** *exp*
to come to our house
- to show someone around** *exp*
to show someone a house and all the rooms
- a carpet** *n*
a piece of thick material used to cover the floor
- cosy** *adj*
warm, welcoming and attractive

QUIZ ARE YOU HOUSE PROUD?

Do you spend time, money and energy on making your house as attractive, **cosy** and comfortable as possible? Or do you think you have better things to do? Do our quiz and find out whether you are house **proud** or not. **Analysis** on page 24

- If you just won 3,000 euros, what would spend it on?
 - Doing up** your house.
 - Going on a nice holiday.
- How often do you change the **sheets** on your beds?
 - At least once a week.
 - When they start to make me **itch**.
- When you do the cleaning, how do you **go about it**?
 - I do it room by room: the bathroom first, then the kitchen, then the living room, etc.
 - Cleaning? What's that?



- When was the last time you cleaned behind the sofa?
 - I move the sofa and clean behind it every time I do the **vacuuming**.
 - The sofa is far too heavy to move.
- A friend has walked in your kitchen with **muddy shoes**. What do you do?
 - I clean it immediately with a **mop**.
 - I wait a few days – it's easier to **pick up** dried dirt.
- Your cat has started to **scratch** the furniture. What do you do?
 - I sell the cat.
 - Nothing – he needs to **sharpen** his **nails**.
- Some guests are coming to stay the night. What are you going to do?
 - I'm going to prepare the spare room with some fresh sheets, clean towels and a nice **vase** of flowers.
 - I'll throw a blanket on the sofa. They can sleep there.
- What do you do to keep your bathroom smelling fresh?
 - I have a **can of air freshener** that I use at all times.
 - My bathroom smells the way nature **intended it to smell**.
- A large colony of insects has invaded your house. What will you do?
 - I'll call a **pest control company**.
 - Nothing. It's nice to have a bit of **company**.
- There's a big, brown **stain** on the living room wall. What do you do?
 - I call in the painters and ask them to repaint the living room walls.
 - I paint two eyes, a nose and a mouth on it. That'll make it look like a funny face.

Now check your answers. ☆

GLOSSARY

cosy *adj*
comfortable and warm

proud *adj*
if you are "proud" of something, you are very happy, satisfied and pleased with it

to do up *phr vb*
to renovate; to improve

a sheet *n*
a piece of material placed on the bed. You sleep on the sheet

to itch *vb*
if something makes you "itch", it irritates your skin

to go about something *exp*
if you are "going about" something, you are doing that thing

the vacuuming *n*
cleaning the house with a vacuum cleaner (an electrical appliance that sucks up dirt)

muddy shoes *n*
shoes with mud on them. "Mud" is a mixture of water and earth

a mop *n*
a piece of equipment for cleaning the floor. It consists of pieces of material attached to a stick

to pick up *phr vb*
to take from the floor, usually with your hands

to scratch *vb*
if you "scratch" furniture, you create a mark on it often by using a sharp object

to sharpen *vb*
to make a knife or other object sharper so it can cut more easily

a nail *n*
the hard part at the end of your finger

a vase *n*
a container for flowers

a can *n*
a metal container for liquids

air freshener *n*
a spray that makes the air smell nice

intended it to smell *exp*
wanted it to smell

a pest control company *n*
a company that kills/eliminates insects

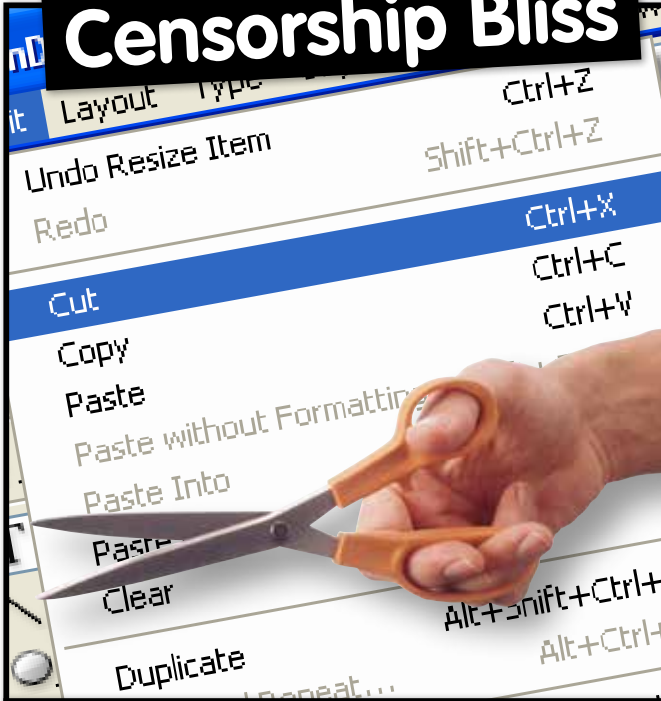
company *n*
if you have "company", someone is with you

a stain *n*
a mark that is difficult to eliminate or remove

Quirky News

Funny news stories from around the world.

Censorship Bliss



Students at a university in the US were surprised to see the latest edition of their university newspaper with a large hole in the middle of one of the pages. A note **stapled** to every copy of the newspaper said the story had been **pulled out** because it was "inappropriate". Initially, most students suspected that the story had been about sex or something like that. But later, they discovered that the story was actually a summary of a report by the Education Department that had rated the school "**deficient**". The college principal said, "If it's something that has a potential to hurt students' **self-esteem**, then I have an obligation not to let that happen." How considerate!

Cold Justice

Two armed men, aged 27 and 22, were arrested after robbing a young man. The robbers held up the man during a **heavy snowstorm**. The suspects pushed the man into their car, robbed him and then threw him back out on the street. Officers responded to the scene, where they found the robbers trying to **dislodge** their vehicle from the snow, which reached up to 30 centimetres in parts of the city. "As soon as they saw us, the men tried to run away on foot," said a police captain, "but they just couldn't run fast enough. It was actually quite comical." Police officers followed the men in a specially-adapted snow patrol vehicle and arrested the exhausted men soon afterwards.



Toilet Ice



An elderly couple, Mr and Mrs Slumber, were enjoying a film when a large piece of ice smashed into their house. At first they didn't notice, and thought that the noise had been a car crash. "We went outside to investigate but found nothing, so we finished watching the movie. But when we went up to the bedroom, we discovered a huge chunk of ice on the bed, and a one-metre-wide hole in the ceiling." A Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson admitted that the ice could have come from an airplane. "Ice occurs when **waste water leaks** from a plane's bathroom onto the outside of the plane and **freezes** at high altitudes," the spokesperson explained.

GLOSSARY

- quirky** *adj*
strange and unusual
- to staple** *vb*
fixed with a staple (a small, thin piece of metal)
- to pull out** *phr vb*
to remove; to take out
- deficient** *adj*
not adequate; below standard
- self-esteem** *n*
your feelings about yourself
- a heavy snowstorm** *n*
a period of violent weather with a lot of snow
- to dislodge something** *exp*
to move something that is trapped or stuck
- waste water** *n*
water from a toilet
- to leak** *vb*
if water "leaks", it comes out of a container or pipe
- to freeze** *vb*
to become ice

FROM CHAINS

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST FREE COLONY OF EX-SLAVES: FREETOWN



Twinned Towns

Freetown is twinned with Kingston upon Hull in northern England and New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

The American War of Independence (1775-1783) was all about freedom, liberty and justice. Or was it? Not quite. Many of those who fought against the British were actually **slave owners**. And when they created their declaration of rights for all men, they never once meant to include African Americans. This is the fascinating story of the slaves who fought for the British and against the Americans.

Liberty?

"Give me liberty or give me death," the **patriot** Patrick Henry famously said in 1775. Ironically, he owned a slave. In fact, most of the **founding fathers** held slaves. Arthur Middleton, a patriot from Charleston, had 30 slaves. Edward Rutledge from North Carolina, one of those who **signed** the declaration of independence, also had slaves. Even George Washington had slaves.

War

When war broke out, many slaves simply left the **plantations** and went to look for the British. In fact, more than 100,000 tried to escape; and there are estimates that up to seven thousand African Americans actually fought with the British. They did so in units such as the **Black Pioneers**, or with Colonel Tye and his band of **guerrillas**.

As you know, the war ended with an American victory. Many **Loyalists** then moved back to Britain or to Canada. But what about the African-Americans. Some had to return to slavery. But others were more fortunate. At the end of the war, 3,000 freed slaves were waiting to leave New York with British soldiers. One of the British commanders, Sir Guy Carleton, was determined not to return

these slaves to their American masters. At first, George Washington demanded the return of the slaves, but Washington eventually agreed to **let them go**. It was the start of a new life for the freed slaves.

Nova Scotia

Many of the ex-slaves travelled to Nova Scotia in Canada, but their story was not a happy one. The climate was **harsh**, especially in winter when temperatures dropped to below zero.

On top of that, white Loyalists who were also in Nova Scotia had slaves; and they were unhappy about a large population of freed slaves. Their aim was to reduce these ex-slaves to a very cheap labour force. So, even though the African-Americans were technically free, they were so poor that they had no choice but to work for practically nothing.

New Land – Nova Scotia

Very soon, the situation became intolerable for the ex-slaves. Many of them had been promised land. But they never received it. They had also been promised food and provisions for the winter, but there wasn't enough food for everyone. Eventually, one of the African-American immigrants, **Thomas Peters*** (an ex-sergeant in the Black Pioneers), decided to take action. He **sailed** to London to **appeal to** the British government. He carried the authority of 202 families.

When Peters got to England, he met two very important people in the fight against slavery: Granville Sharp and Thomas Clarkson.



Clarkson



Sharp

*Thomas Peters

Peters has been referred to as the first African-American political leader. He is remembered as the courageous opponent of injustice and

discrimination, and as an inspiration for black self-determination in both North America and West Africa. However, he died a tragic death. On 1st May 1792, while in the new colony, he was accused of stealing

from a settler who had died. He was sentenced to return the goods and receive a public reprimand. The humiliation was too much for him and he lost all credibility. He died from fever, the night of 25th June 1792.

Chronology – Sierra Leone

1787 Freedom Province is established for freed slaves.

1789 The colony is abandoned.

1792 New settlers from Nova Scotia arrive at the colony. Freetown is founded.

1794 Freetown is attacked by the French.

1799 Freetown is renamed Sierra Leone.

TO FREETOWN



Two men

Sharp was an eccentric Englishman. He had **battled** in the **courts** to **challenge** the status of slaves. He fought the case of the ship *Zong*, whose owners tried to **collect insurance** for slaves that they had **thrown overboard**. Thomas Clarkson was a naval officer who devoted his life to ending the slave trade. Previously, Sharp had tried to start a colony of free blacks in West Africa (in what is today Sierra Leone). Some 400 black men and women arrived on the coast in 1787. The following year, in 1788, a local chief called Nembana sold a **strip of land** to Captain John Taylor (who was representing the British government) for the new immigrants to use. But the first **settlers** didn't survive long and most of them died of disease. Sharp needed some more emigrants for his project. So, when Sharp heard about the African-American Loyalists in Nova Scotia, he had his answer.

Sailing to Africa

The plan was simple: John Clarkson, Thomas's younger brother, was to go to Nova Scotia to **enlist** any volunteers for the new colony. Clarkson had never done anything like this before, and he only expected about 100 people to **come forward**. In the end, more than 1,100 left Canada for a new life in Africa.

The voyage across the Atlantic was terrible,

Britain and the slave trade

The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, recently made a speech to mark the upcoming 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade (1807-2007). Blair said Britain feels "deep sorrow" for the slave trade. He added, "I believe the bicentenary offers us a chance not just to say how profoundly shameful the slave trade was... how we condemn its existence utterly and praise those who fought for its abolition... but also



to express our deep sorrow that it ever could have happened." He also acknowledged that Britain's rise to global power was partially dependent on colonial slave labour. But some say his statement didn't go far enough. Kofi Mawali Klu of rights group Rendezvous of Victory said, "We want an apology of substance that addresses the demands for African reparations." He said Blair should back up his words with measures such as tackling the alienation of black youth in Britain's education system.

with some of the worst storms that the sailors had ever experienced. But they all arrived safely. Once there, the freed slaves rebuilt the town and there were incredible developments: women were permitted to vote, there were free schools, free churches, and, for the first time, African-American ministers baptised whites.

The End



Further reading

For more information on this fascinating topic, you should read *Rough Crossings* by Simon Schama. It tells the story of slaves during and after the American Revolution.

Unfortunately the colony didn't **last** long. After a French raid in 1794, the British became nervous about leaving the colony undefended. They were also worried about some of the political developments. In fact, the freedom the ex-slaves enjoyed there was far greater than anything that anybody in Britain had ever experienced. Eventually, Freetown became a British colony, and all the institutions were dismantled. And later, when the British abolished slavery in 1833, Freetown became a place for freed slaves from all over the world. During the short period that the colony existed, African-Americans had organised a truly-free society with equal representation for all.

It was just too far **ahead of its time**. 🌟

An important anti-slavery law

A British **ruling** in 1772 (known as Lord Mansfield's ruling) said that it was unlawful for a slave to be



forcibly taken out of England. This was wrongly interpreted to mean that slavery was illegal in England. As a result many slaves around the world saw Britain as a slave-free paradise that they had to reach.

GLOSSARY

- a slave owner** *n*
a person who possesses slaves (humans who must work for nothing)
- a Patriot** *n*
a person who fought for American independence from the British
- a founding father** *n*
the political leaders who signed the Declaration of Independence
- to sign** *vb*
to put your name on a formal document
- a plantation** *n*
a large piece of land where coffee, sugar, tea, etc is grown
- a guerrilla** *n*
an irregular soldier who fights against a government
- a Loyalist** *n*
the people who fought with the British against the American Patriots
- to let someone go** *exp*
to free someone
- harsh** *adj*
a "harsh" climate is very difficult for people to live in
- to sail** *vb*
to go on a ship and travel to a place
- to appeal to someone** *exp*
to ask someone to do something urgently
- to battle** *vb*
to fight
- a court** *n*
a building where legal processes take place
- to challenge something** *exp*
to question something
- to collect insurance** *exp*
to receive money from an insurance policy (a legal agreement that means you receive money when you lose something or when you have an accident, etc)
- to throw someone overboard** *exp*
to throw someone from a ship and into the sea
- a strip of land** *n*
a small, thin area of land
- a settler** *n*
a person who starts to live in a new country
- to enlist** *vb*
to persuade someone to join something
- to come forward** *exp*
to agree to do something; to offer to do something
- to last** *vb*
to happen or continue for a period of time
- to be ahead of your time** *exp*
to do something that people aren't prepared for or ready to accept
- a ruling** *n*
an official decision by a judge

1807 The abolition of slavery bill is passed in England.

1808 Sierra Leone becomes an English colony.

1833 Slavery is declared illegal in Britain and the British Empire.

1961 Sierra Leone becomes independent from Britain.

Legal Decisions



Magistrates in Europe

Under the civil law systems of European countries such as Italy, Spain, Belgium and France, a "magistrate" is a generic term which includes both prosecutors and judges.



You're in court and you're the **judge**. This is the case before you: it was one-thirty in the morning. Three **drunken** young men go to the local taxi office. A taxi driver **refuses** to take them home. So, the men get violent and destroy the office. All three men have jobs, and earn a decent wage. None of them have a **criminal record** or any previous charges. What are you going to do?

In England, cases like these are often tried by ordinary people with no formal legal training. These part-time civil judges are known as magistrates. So, what exactly does a magistrate do?

What is a magistrate?

A magistrate is a type of judge, but with limited powers. There are basically two types of magistrate in England: professional magistrates and **lay** magistrates. There are very few professional magistrates. The vast majority are lay magistrates – ordinary people who work as magistrates part-time. These magistrates work voluntarily (although they may receive money for costs) on **local benches**. Lay Magistrates do not always need to have legal qualifications, but they need to demonstrate that they can make good decisions. These magistrates do a lot of the work that judges are **too busy to do**, such as judging minor legal cases (such as parking offences), **extending** sentences (to a maximum of twelve months),

giving **fin**es, and giving **community orders** (which can include up to 300 hours of **unpaid work**). Magistrates also **hear proceedings** for certain offences, and establish whether sufficient evidence exists to pass the case to a higher court for **trial** and **sentencing**.

Half Days

So, who becomes a magistrate? There are about 29,000 lay magistrates. Some of them are in part-time work, others are **retired** and others have no job. A magistrates' court is normally composed of at least two, and not more than seven, magistrates, when trying a case. Magistrates are required to sit for a minimum of 26 half days each year. However, they are expected to be available for up to 35 half days per year, and they should also be prepared to sit for a whole day at a time if necessary. There are more than 700 magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

A recent controversy

Britain recently selected its

youngest magistrate. Lucy Tate, a 19-year-old law student was appointed as a magistrate in Pontefract (in the north of England). Ms Tate was **recruited** after an advertising campaign by the British government. The campaign was designed to attract more young people and people from ethnic backgrounds to legal careers.

But not everyone is happy about it. One magistrate said, "Some of the magistrates in Pontefract **feel very disillusioned** about what has happened... what **life experience** does she have at



Lucy Tate

GLOSSARY

- a judge** *n*
a person who manages and controls a legal process
- drunken** *adj*
a "drunken" person has drunk too much alcohol
- to refuse** *vb*
to say that you won't do something
- a criminal record** *n*
a file with a list of all the crimes that have been committed by someone
- lay** *adj*
not expert or professional
- a local bench** *n*
a court in a town or city
- too busy to do something** *exp*
unable to do something because you have too much work
- to extend something** *exp*
to make something last longer
- a fine** *n*
if you are given a "fine", you must pay money as punishment for a crime you have committed
- a community order** *n*
a punishment that involves doing work for the community (cleaning the streets, etc)
- unpaid work** *exp*
work for which you receive no payment
- to hear proceedings** *exp*
if a judge "hears proceedings", he/she listens to the charges against the accused during a trial
- a trial** *n*
a legal process in which the judge and jury decide if someone is innocent or guilty
- to sentence** *vb*
to say what punishment a convicted person must have
- to retire** *vb*
to stop working, often because you are 65
- to recruit** *vb*
to employ; to give work to
- to feel very disillusioned** *exp*
to feel sad and disappointed
- life experiences** *n*
experiences you have had that help you understand about life
- a role model** *n*
someone who serves as a positive example for others

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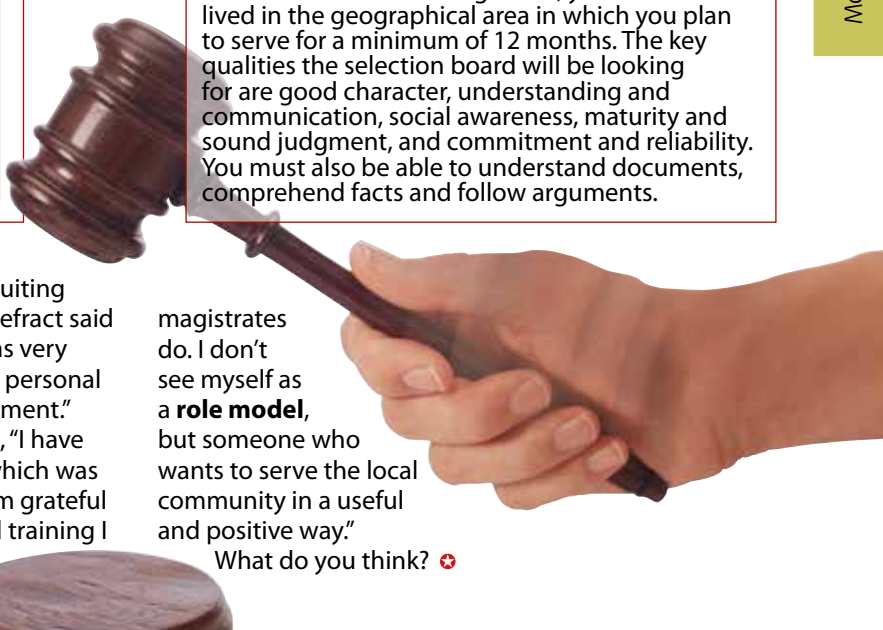
Further reading

For more fascinating stories from a real life magistrate, visit:
<http://thelawwestofealingbroadway.blogspot.com/>



Magistrates

A magistrate is also known as a “justice of the peace” or JP for short. The less serious crimes that magistrates handle are known as “summary offences”. More serious crimes such as murder and arson can only be **tried** at the Crown Court where a **jury** may be present. These serious cases are known as “solemn” or “indictable offences”. In order to become a magistrate, you must have lived in the geographical area in which you plan to serve for a minimum of 12 months. The key qualities the selection board will be looking for are good character, understanding and communication, social awareness, maturity and sound judgment, and commitment and reliability. You must also be able to understand documents, comprehend facts and follow arguments.



19 years old?” Ms Tate’s hobbies include shopping for shoes, watching television and reading. Her website has a photograph of her favourite pink shoes and matching handbag. Her favourite films are *Dirty Dancing*, *Notting Hill*, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Pretty Woman*. But Sue Vogan, who was

responsible for recruiting magistrates in Pontefract said “The committee was very impressed with her personal maturity and judgement.” Ms Tate herself said, “I have had my first case, which was fascinating, and I am grateful for the support and training I have received, as all new

magistrates do. I don’t see myself as a **role model**, but someone who wants to serve the local community in a useful and positive way.”
 What do you think? 🗳️

The Magistrates’ Game

Imagine you are a magistrate. Read the following cases and decide what sentencing is required. Discuss your ideas with a partner. Here are your punishment options:

- Option 1** A fine (forcing someone to pay for costs, or personal compensation).
- Option 2** A community order (forcing someone to do up to 300 hours of unpaid community work).
- Option 3** Referral to a higher court (suggesting the case be tried in a Crown Court with a jury).

Case 1: Drunken Nuisance

Two drunks have been **making a nuisance of themselves** again. They were seen demanding money from members of the public. They were also causing a noise and disturbance. They have been charged with a number of **public order offences**. These included **harassment**. They are drunk in the **dock**, and think the whole process is very funny.



Case 2: Parking Rage

A 41-year-old married lady was on her way to work. She wanted to park her car in a public car park. She was just about to turn into the car park when another car appeared in front of her. She **waved on** the other car, indicating that he could leave first. However, the other driver, Mr Jones, misinterpreted the gesture. Jones then jumped out of his car, and threatened the lady with violence. Jones also kicked the car door, causing criminal damage.



Case 3: Drink Driving

The eldest son of an aristocratic landowning family had organised a party on the **family estate**. At one point in the day, he drove his Range Rover across a field and went to speak to one of the local policemen who was supervising traffic in and out of the **site**. The eldest son had had some champagne with his friends earlier. He was shocked and furious when one of the officers required him to take a **breath test** (which he failed). Protesting loudly he was taken off to the nearest police station where he was charged with drunk driving.



Case 4: Old Soldier

A 60-year-old ex-soldier was **on bail** for a petty theft (he had stolen goods valued at 30 pounds). He is of No Fixed Abode (NFO), and he was living in a **bail hostel** until his case came to court. He had walked out of the bail hostel that morning, got on a bus and gone to a shop where he stole two bars of chocolate and a pen. He said he did it because he didn’t like the bail hostel and because he had to share a room. He said that he would prefer to go to prison.



GLOSSARY

- to make a nuisance of yourself** *exp*
to cause trouble; to do something illegal or annoying
- a public order offence** *n*
a minor crime that may involve making a noise, etc
- harassment** *n*
the act of attacking or annoying someone
- the dock** *n*
the place where the accused person stands during a trial
- to wave someone on** *exp*
to make a sign with your hand informing someone that they can move
- a family estate** *n*
a large area of land owned by a family
- a site** *n*
a piece of ground used for a particular purpose
- a breath test** *n*
a test to discover if you have been drinking alcohol or not
- on bail** *exp*
if an arrested person is “on bail”, they have permission to leave prison if they pay a certain amount of money
- a bail hostel** *n*
a type of hotel where people who are on bail can stay
- to try** *vb*
to start a legal process against someone in order to decide if they are innocent or guilty
- a jury** *n*
the 12 men or women who decide if someone is innocent or guilty

Energy Anguish

British residents block attempts to produce pollution-free energy in Britain.

Britain has a difficult **task**: to generate 10% of its energy from **renewable sources** by 2010. So far, only 4.2% of energy is from renewable sources... and three years is not a long time to change this. The answer seems to be wind power: it's clean, it's fairly easy to produce, and it's as profitable as renewable energy can be. And there's an unlimited supply of wind in Britain. So what's the problem? The answer: Nimbys.

Nimbys

So, who are these **Nimbys**? Nimbys are basically people who don't want anything dangerous, ugly or undesirable built near their house. Things such as prisons (fairly understandable), nuclear power stations (very understandable), rubbish dumps (50-50), or **homeless shelters** (a bit selfish). Now they are **objecting to wind farms on the grounds that** they are very big, very ugly, and a **huge blight on the landscape**.

A Massive Project

Things had been looking very positive. The biggest and best wind farm project is the London Array. This is the world's largest **offshore** wind farm. It'll cost £2bn and will include 271 **wind turbines**. It will be able to deliver 1,000 megawatts – enough to power 25% of all greater London's homes. The wind farm itself will be 16 kilometres out to sea. The project **has government approval**, but it won't be **going ahead**. Why? Because of the Nimbys.

Other Examples

There are lots of other examples of Nimby obstruction. The county of Devon is a good case. It has set itself a target of generating 150MW, but so far has only approved 7MW of wind because small local councils keep obstructing every proposal. Wales has set itself a target of generating 800MW by 2010, but local council refusals mean only 217MW are operating.



Response

The government response has been **swift**. They have promised new laws that will require local planning authorities to approve wind farms automatically. These new planning rules will weaken local residents' right to raise aesthetic objections to wind farm applications. So, in the future, there could be more and more of those great white wings turning on the horizon producing endless amounts of cost-effective, pollution-free, clean energy... just as long as the Nimbys don't **get in the way**. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a task** *n*
a job or piece of work that you must complete
- renewable sources** *n*
forms of energy that can be used over and over again
- a homeless shelter** *n*
a building with beds/rooms for people with no home
- to object to something** *exp*
to be against something
- a wind farm** *n*
an area with many wind turbines (see further below)
- on the grounds that** *exp*
because
- a huge blight on the landscape** *exp*
something that ruins the view
- offshore** *adj*
that is not on land – that is in the sea
- a wind turbine** *n*
a machine for converting energy in wind into electrical energy
- to have government approval** *exp*
to have the official backing/support of the government
- to go ahead** *exp*
to continue
- swift** *adj*
quick/fast
- to get in the way** *exp*
to obstruct something
- a back yard** *n*
an area at the back of a house

* Nimby – Information Box

Nimby is actually an abbreviation of "not in my **back yard**". Of course, when one person accuses another of being a Nimby, it is probably because the anti-Nimby doesn't have to suffer the consequences of the proposed action. Are we all Nimbys at heart?



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Kissing Quotes

Here are some things that people have said on the topic of kissing.



"I wasn't kissing her, I was **whispering** in her mouth." Chico Marx.



"Kiss me and you will see how important I am." Sylvia Plath.

"A legal kiss is never as good as a stolen one." Guy de Maupassant.

"Is not a kiss the very autograph of love?" Henry Finck.



"**Tw**as not my lips you kissed, but my soul." Judy Garland.

"A kiss without a **hug** is like a flower without the fragrance." Proverb.

"A kiss is just a pleasant reminder that two heads are better than one." Anonymous.



"A kiss makes the heart young again." Rupert Brooke.

"A man's kiss is his **signature**." Mae West.



"**Kiss and make up**, but too much **make-up** has ruined many a kiss." Mae West.

"Soul meets soul on lovers' lips." Percy Bysshe Shelley.



"I am in favor of preserving the French habit of kissing ladies' hands. After all, one must start somewhere." Sacha Guitry.



"If you are ever **in doubt** as to whether to kiss a pretty girl, always **give her the benefit of the doubt**." Thomas Carlyle.

"A man **snatches** the first kiss, **pleads** for the second, demands the third, takes the fourth, accepts the fifth – and **endures** all the rest." Helen Rowland.

"No one has ever died because of a kiss, but many a poor **soul** died for a **lack of one**." American proverb.

"Friends are kisses blown to us by angels." Anonymous.

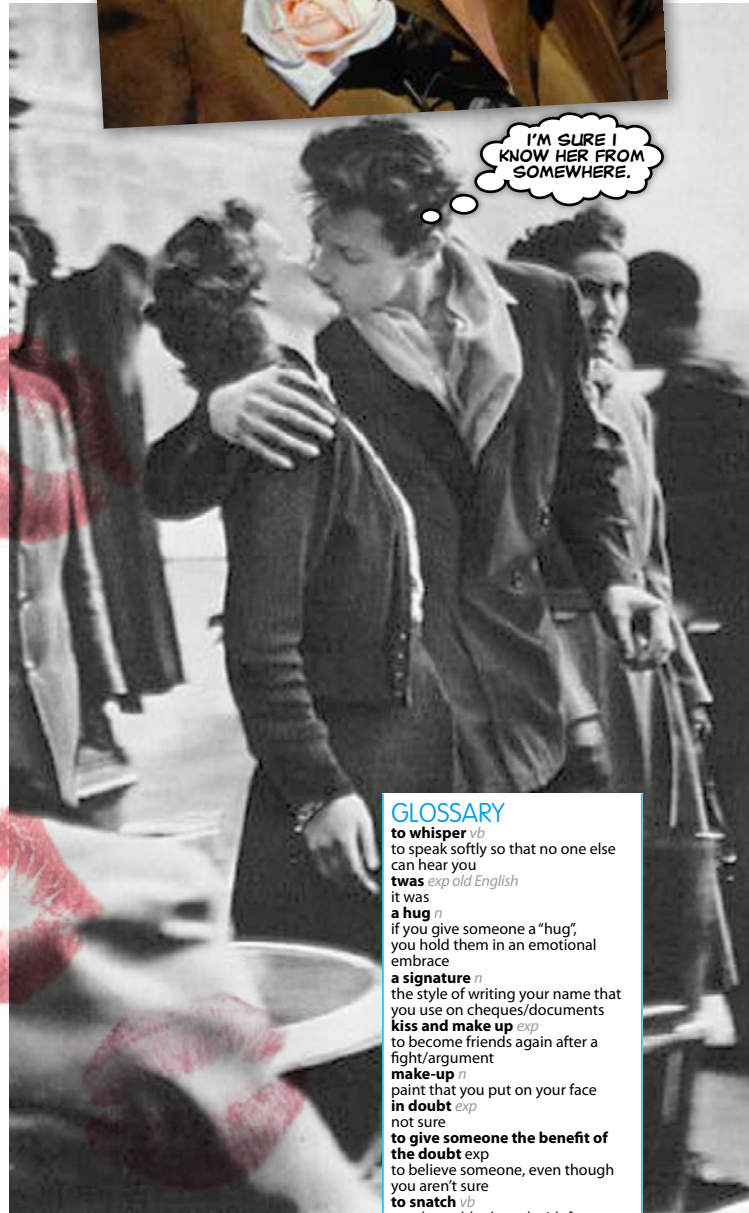
"A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop **speech** when words become **superfluous**." Ingrid Bergman.

"Kissing is a means of getting two people so close together that they can't **see anything wrong** with each other." Anonymous.

"When I saw you, I was afraid to meet you. When I met you, I was afraid to kiss you. When I kissed you, I was afraid to love you. Now that I love you, I'm afraid to lose you." Anonymous. ♡



"A KISS IS A LOVELY TRICK DESIGNED BY NATURE TO STOP SPEECH WHEN WORDS BECOME SUPERFLUOUS."



"I'M SURE I KNOW HER FROM SOMEWHERE."

GLOSSARY

to whisper *vb*
to speak softly so that no one else can hear you

twas *exp old English*
it was

a hug *n*
if you give someone a "hug", you hold them in an emotional embrace

a signature *n*
the style of writing your name that you use on cheques/documents

kiss and make up *exp*
to become friends again after a fight/argument

make-up *n*
paint that you put on your face

in doubt *exp*
not sure

to give someone the benefit of the doubt *exp*
to believe someone, even though you aren't sure

to snatch *vb*
to take suddenly and with force

to plead *vb*
to ask for something with desperation

to endure *vb*
to suffer a painful experience without giving up or avoiding it

a soul *n*
someone's spirit

a lack of something *exp*
if there is a "lack of something", that thing is missing

a speech *n*
a formal talk

superfluous *n*
that is not necessary or no longer needed

can't see anything wrong with X *exp*
can't see what the problem with X is

can't see anything wrong with X *exp*
can't see what the problem with X is

can't see anything wrong with X *exp*
can't see what the problem with X is

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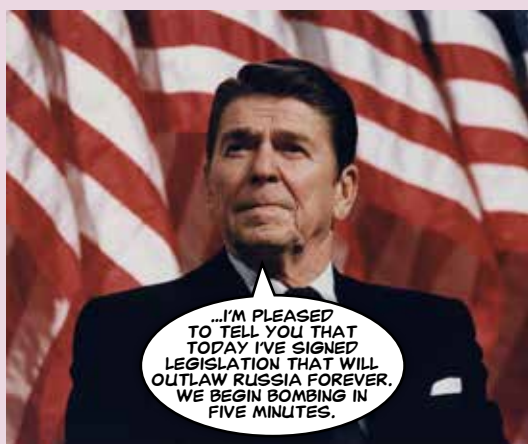
can't see anything wrong with X *exp*
can't see what the problem with X is

can't see anything wrong with X *exp*
can't see what the problem with X is

Great Gaffes

Have you ever said something stupid? Or made a comment when it would have been better to say nothing? Welcome to the world of the "gaffe" (a stupid or **insensitive** comment or action, often done at the worst possible time). Some people just can't stop themselves from making gaffes. But even the most careful of us occasionally "put our foot in it". Some of the best experts are those in front of the world's media. Here are some really great gaffes. By Rob Julian.

Many years ago an Australian TV presenter, Ian Meldrum, was interviewing Prince Charles. The interview seemed to be relaxed and informal, or so Meldrum thought:
 Meldrum: (*smiling*) I saw your **mum** in her car the other day.
 Prince Charles: (*in a very cold voice*) I believe you are referring to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.
 Meldrum: (*not smiling now*) Erm, yes.



"...I'M PLEASED TO TELL YOU THAT TODAY I'VE SIGNED LEGISLATION THAT WILL OUTLAW RUSSIA FOREVER. WE BEGIN BOMBING IN FIVE MINUTES."

Politicians are no better it seems. Ronald Reagan was doing a microphone **sound check** before a speech once and said, "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you that today I've **signed legislation** that will **outlaw** Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."

Mr Blair's deputy, John Prescott, is renowned as a **straight-talker**, and has been accused at various times of making **ill-advised** comments or gestures. At one point he compared a **crab** in a **jar** to his party rival Peter Mandelson, joking, "You know what his name is? He's called Peter."

US presidential candidate Dan Quayle once attended a school spelling competition. In front of TV cameras, he "corrected" a child's spelling of the word potato by adding an "e" to make it "potatoe". Luckily, he never became president.

Even the US military, which usually tries to **keep a low profile**, can't control all of its spokespeople. During a press conference, Lieutenant General James Mattis admitted, "Actually, it's quite a lot of fun to fight; you know, it's a **hell of a hoot**. I like **brawling**; it's fun to shoot some people."
 Well, at least he was **speaking his mind**.



// Actually, it's quite a lot of fun to fight; you know, it's a hell of a hoot. I like brawling; it's fun to shoot some people //

More recently, Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany was **caught on tape** admitting that his government had **accomplished** "nothing" and had been lying for the last year and a half to two years. The comments **sparked riots** in the capital Budapest, and opponents called for Mr Gyurcsany's **resignation**.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has got himself into trouble several times. He once said that a congresswoman's **hot temper** was **down to** her mixture of black and Latino blood. He was forced to **apologise** for the comment.



Leona Helmsley, the US businesswoman often referred to as "the Queen of **Mean**", once said this about taxes, "We don't pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes." Later, in 1992, she was sentenced to four years in prison and fined \$7.1m for **tax evasion**.

And of course, we can't end an article on political gaffes without mentioning George W. Bush. Here's a comment of his on poor people, "First, let me make it very clear, poor people aren't necessarily killers. Just because you happen to be not rich, it doesn't mean you're **willing to kill**." ☹

GLOSSARY

insensitive *adj*
without considering other people's feelings

mum *n* *inform*
mother

a sound check *n*
a technical check to see that the microphone and sound is working

to sign legislation *n*
to put your name on a new law

to outlaw *vb*
to say that a government/country is illegal

a straight talker *n*
someone who speaks directly and honestly

ill-advised *adj*
not a good idea

a crab *n*
a sea creature that has a flat, round body and that walks sideways

a jar *n*
a glass container for liquids or food

to keep a low profile *exp*
to try to remain anonymous

a hell of a hoot *exp* *inform*
really good fun

to brawl *vb*
to have physical fights

to speak your mind *exp*
to say exactly what you are thinking

caught on tape *exp*
recorded secretly or without the person knowing

to accomplish *vb*
to achieve; to do

to spark riots *exp*
to do something that makes people riot (act violently in the street)

to resign *vb*
to stop working voluntarily

a hot temper *n*
someone with a "hot temper" becomes angry easily and quickly

down to *exp*
because of

to apologise *vb*
to say that you are sorry

mean *adj*
cruel; not kind; not generous with money

tax evasion *n*
not paying taxes to the government by using illegal means

willing to *exp*
if you are "willing to" do something, you are prepared to do that thing



Royal

Gaffes

Is there anyone in your country who is famous for making gaffes? One of the experts in Britain at making **insensitive** comments is the queen's husband, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip. Prince Philip is well-known for his insensitive and **politically incorrect** comments. Check out these Royal **clangers**.



Prince Charles
 Prince Charles seems to have inherited his father's tendency for gaffes. During an interview with Nicholas Witchell of the BBC, the Prince whispered to his sons, who were standing next to him:
 "I can't bear that man. I mean he's so awful, he really is."

On being introduced to Lord Taylor of Warwick, who is black and who comes from Birmingham, Prince Philip said:

"And what exotic part of the world do you come from then?"

At a World Wildlife Fund dinner, Prince Philip said:
 "If it swims and it's not a submarine the Chinese will eat it."

During an official visit to Russia, and in reference to the Russians, Prince Philip said:
 "They murdered half my family."

To members of a Bangladeshi youth club in central London:
 "So who's on drugs here?"

At a festival in Cardiff, Prince Philip talking to a group of youngsters from the British **Deaf** Association. They were standing near a Caribbean-style band:

"Deaf? If you are near there, **no wonder** you are deaf."

Commenting on the London Olympics in 2012: "Opening and closing ceremonies **ought to be banned**. They are **absolute nuisances**."

When a Swedish tourist waved to Philip in his carriage and shouted proudly, "Good morning, sir, my little girl is six today!" Prince Philip replied, "**So what!**"

The little girl **burst into tears**.

To an Australian

Aborigine:
 "Are you still throwing **spears**?"
 To a Scottish driving instructor Prince Philip asked:
 "How to you keep the **locals off the booze** long enough to get them through the test?"

On being shown an old-fashioned **fuse box**:
 "It looks as if it was put in by an Indian."

In 1963 in Kenya, during a ceremony to mark the independence of Kenya, Prince Philip turned to Jomo Kenyatta, the new Kenyan leader, and said:

"Are you sure you want to **go through with this**?"

In Berlin, talking to a student he asked, "Where are you from?" And the young man replied: "Ballyclare in Northern Ireland, sir". Prince Philip asked the same question to another student, who replied, "Ballyclare in Northern Ireland, sir." And Philip said, "At last we've got two Irishmen in the same room agreeing on something."

In 1994 in Belize, as the queen was getting on board the Royal yacht Britannia, Prince Philip said to her:

"**Get a move on!**"
 To man in a **wheelchair** at a Buckingham Palace party:
 "Why do you have a stick if you're in a wheelchair?"

In 1993, to a Briton he met in Hungary:

"You can't have been here that long – you haven't got a **pot belly**."



In 2001, to a 13-year-old schoolboy: "You're too fat to become an astronaut."
 His answer to London's traffic congestion problems:
 "We should ban tourists."

During the 1981 recession:
 "Everybody was saying we must have more leisure. Now they are complaining they are unemployed."

In 1995, commenting on **stress counselling for servicemen**:
 "In my day, we didn't have **counsellors** rushing around every time somebody **let off a gun**, asking 'Are you all right? Are you sure you don't have a ghastly problem?'"

Responding to calls for a **weapons ban** after the Dunblane shooting (the massacre of schoolchildren by a man with a gun):
 "If a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and **batter** a lot of people to death with a cricket bat, which he could do very easily, I mean, are you going to ban cricket bats?"

When asked to stroke a Koala bear in Australia in 1992:
 "Oh no, I might catch some ghastly disease."

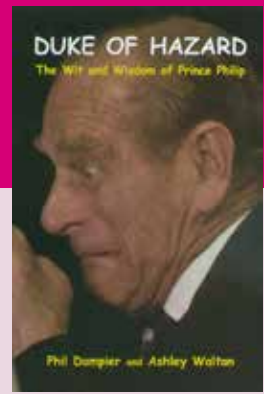
In 1994, speaking to someone from the Cayman Islands (a group of islands in the Caribbean):

"Aren't most of you descended from pirates?"

Speaking to a student who had been **trekking** in Papua New Guinea:

"You managed not to get eaten then?" ✨





Why the gaffe?

There are many theories on Prince Philip's insensitivity. Phil Dampier, author of the book *The Duke of Hazard: The Wit and Wisdom of Prince Philip*, says that Prince Philip simply doesn't care what people think. Dampier added, "I think that's **refreshing** in this day of politicians and **spin doctors**. He speaks his mind. I don't think he intends to upset people. He could be a little bit over the top sometimes, but it's not intended to offend. I think he just comes from a different era, when you know, he saw some pretty horrible things in World War

II, and I think he probably feels that people are a bit too sensitive." However, others aren't quite so understanding. Dorothy Rowe, a psychologist and author, says she believes the comments are driven by Philip's frustration at his position as **consort**. "When people make hurtful statements passed off as a joke, they are getting rid of aggression, but deny responsibility for any hurt," she said. And finally, Prince Philip, in his defence says that he likes to make a joke in order to **diffuse the tension** at formal occasions. What do you think?

Further reading

If you want to read more on the subject, there's a book full of Prince Philip's gaffes called *The Duke of Hazard: The Wit and Wisdom of Prince Philip* by Phil Dampier and Ashley Walton.



Prince Philip

- Prince Philip's official title is the Duke of Edinburgh.
- His father was Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, and his mother was Princess Alice of Battenberg.
- Prince Philip was born on 10th June 1921 on top of a kitchen table at Villa Mon Repos on the Greek island of Corfu. He was named Prince Philippos of Greece and Denmark.
- Prince Philip married Queen Elizabeth II in 1947.
- He is referred to as His Royal Highness.
- In addition to his royal duties, Prince Philip is also the patron of many organisations, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the World Wide Fund for Nature. He is a Chancellor of both the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh.
- Prince Philip had four elder sisters, all of whom married German princes.
- Prince Philip's education began at The American School of Paris in Saint-Cloud.
- Aged 12, Prince Philip departed England for Germany, studying at Schule Schloss Salem, a school in Southern Germany. The school was supervised by Kurt Hahn, who was Jewish, relocated to Scotland where he founded the school Gordonstoun. Prince Philip also left Germany



- (in 1936) and went to Gordonstoun where he did well both academically and socially. Prince Philip was so **fond of** the school that he later sent his three boys (Charles, Andrew and Edward) there.
- On 1st May 1939, Prince Philip began his career in the Royal Navy.
- In 1940 he served on HMS Ramillies, patrolling the Indian Ocean and escorting troops from Australia to the Middle East.
- In 1941 he was transferred to HMS Valiant, a battleship stationed in Alexandria, Egypt. Philip acted as the searchlight control on the ship. Later, Philip was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and served during the invasion of Sicily. Philip was also present onboard HMS Whelp at the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay in 1945.
- Before Philip could marry in 1947, he had to convert from the Greek Orthodox Church to the Anglican Church, and become a naturalised British subject.
- There have been many rumours concerning Prince Philip's private life, including reports that he had an affair with his wife's cousin, Princess Alexandra of Kent, the film star Merle Oberon, and the mother of Sarah Fergusson (the Duchess of York). Another rumour claimed that Philip had a homosexual affair with former President of France Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. All the rumours have been denied.
- As of July 2006, the Duke is the oldest surviving great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria. ❀

GLOSSARY

- insensitive** *adj*
without considering other people's feelings
- politically incorrect** *adj*
offensive to a group or a minority
- a clanger** *n*
a verbal error or insensitive comment
- deaf** *adj*
with no ability to hear
- no wonder** *exp*
it is not surprising
- ought to be banned** *exp*
should be prohibited
- absolute nuisances** *exp*
very annoying
- so what** *exp*
people use this to say that they think something is not important or interesting
- to burst into tears** *exp*
to start to cry
- a spear** *n*
a weapon that consists of a long stick with a sharp point at the end
- a local** *n*
someone from the area you are referring to
- off the booze** *exp*
if someone is "off the booze", they have stopped drinking alcohol
- a fuse box** *n*
a box that contains all the fuses for the electric circuits in a building
- to go through with something** *exp*
to do something even though it may be unpleasant
- get a move on** *exp*
hurry up! Be quick!
- a wheelchair** *n*
a chair with wheels for someone who cannot walk
- a pot belly** *n*
a fat stomach from eating too much or drinking too much beer
- stress counselling** *n*
psychological help for someone who has been in a stressful situation such as a battle
- servicemen** *n*
members of the army/navy/airforce
- a counsellor** *n*
a person who gives advice on personal problems
- to let off a gun** *exp*
to fire a gun
- a weapons ban** *n*
a prohibition of guns
- to batter someone** *exp*
to hit someone many times
- to go trekking** *exp*
to go walking in the mountains as a sport
- refreshing** *adj*
new and different
- a spin doctor** *n*
a person who does public relations for a politician – often covering up mistakes or even being dishonest about things
- a consort** *n*
a person married to a queen who has no official role
- to diffuse the tension** *exp*
to stop a situation being tense
- fond of something** *n*
if you are "fond of something", you like that thing

Active and passive voices Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the passive voice with past simple verbs.

The Active & Passive Voices

In this month's grammar fun section, we'll be looking at the active and passive voices with past tense verbs. Just to remind you from last month, we use the active voice when the subject of the verb is the thing or person doing the action. For example:



- a) She opened the box.
- b) He sold the house.
- c) They took the car.

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

- a) The box was opened (by her).
- b) The house was sold (by him).
- c) The car was taken (by them).

As you can see, past passives are formed with a conjugation of the verb "to be" (was/were) and a past participle. Compare these examples:

- a) They stole the money. (active)
- b) The money was stolen. (passive)

- a) They cleaned the office yesterday. (active)
- b) The office was cleaned yesterday. (passive)

- a) They repaired the computer last week. (active)
- b) The computer was repaired last week. (passive)

- a) She wrote the report three months ago. (active)
- b) The report was written three months ago (by her). (passive)

- a) They signed the contracts four hours ago. (active)
- b) The contracts were signed four hours ago. (passive)

- a) They manufactured the cars in Japan. (active)



- b) The cars were manufactured in Japan. (passive)

- a) They printed the documents. (active)
- b) The documents were printed (by them). (passive)

- a) They opened a new branch of the bank. (active)
- b) A new branch of the bank was opened (by them). (passive)

- a) He bought the clothes. (active)
- b) The clothes were bought (by him). (passive) ✨

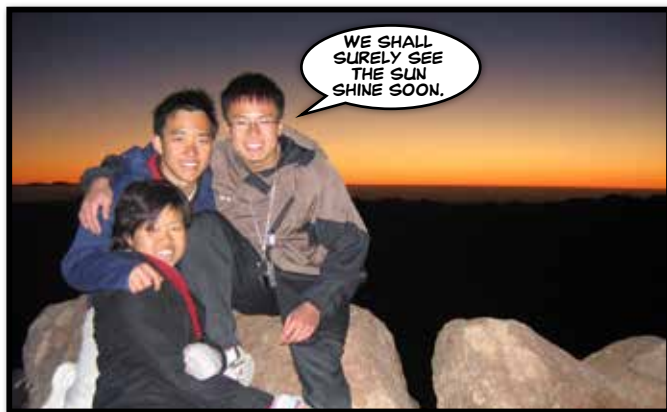


Fluency Practice

Listen to this master class with Dr Fingers and one of his students. Answers on page 24

A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.
"We surely shall see the sun shine soon."



B: Dictation

Listen to these sentences and write down what you hear.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

C: Connected speech

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

1. I'm thinking of going out tonight.
2. She's thinking of changing jobs.
3. We're thinking of going to the cinema tomorrow.
4. They're thinking of getting a new television.
5. He was thinking of going to live in Paris.
6. She had been thinking of getting up earlier tomorrow.



D: Pronunciation – the "er" sound

Look at these sentences containing words with the "er" sound (girl, third, etc). Try to say the words in each sentence correctly. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. Look at that girl over there.
2. We came third in the competition.
3. That shirt isn't yours, is it?
4. There's a bird in the room.
5. This car is really dirty.

E: Question formation

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

1. Ask me how long my coffee break lasts.
2. Ask me how long the film lasts.
3. Ask me how long the television series lasts.
4. Ask me how long the soap in my bathroom lasts.
5. Ask me how long the class lasts.
6. Ask me how long the ink in my printer lasts.
7. Ask me how long the batteries in my digital camera last.
8. Ask me how long a full tank of petrol in my car lasts.

F: Sentence transformation

Listen to these sentences and try to make a question for each one. The question should focus on the underlined information. Do it as quickly as you can.

1. I was born in Brighton. _____?
2. I was born in 1986. _____?
3. I went to a school in London. _____?
4. My father's name is John. _____?
5. I live in Oxford. _____?
6. I work in a publishing company. _____?
7. I've been working there for three years. _____?
8. I've got three children. _____?

G: Revision Drills – Take (with time)

This drill is designed to practise using "to take" and time expressions. Answer the questions as quickly as you can. Remember to answer like this, "It takes X time to do Y".

1. How long does it take you to get up in the morning?
2. How long does it take to cook an egg?
3. How long does it take you to get to work?
4. How long does it take you to get dressed in the morning?
5. How long does it take you to have breakfast?
6. How long does it take to have lunch?
7. How long does it take you to get to sleep at night?
8. How long does it usually take you to make decisions?
9. How long did it take you finish the last report you wrote?
10. How long did it take you to learn how to walk? ✖

BUSINESS ENGLISH

BUSINESS COLLOCATIONS: EMPLOY.



This month we are looking at some typical words or expressions with the word "employ". Listen and repeat the following expressions.

1. She is **employed** by a large multinational corporation.
2. They only **employ** highly-skilled workers here.
3. As production is up, we'll have to look at employing more people.
4. She's highly-**employable**: she's got a degree from Harvard, and she's very hard-working.
5. He's **unemployable** – he is incapable of getting up in the morning and he hasn't got any qualifications.
6. How many **employees** are there here?
7. Is there a high rate of employee satisfaction here?
8. What's the employee **dropout rate** here?
9. What are **employee-employer relations** like here?

10. What is this firm like as an employer?
11. What's the **employment rate** in your country?
12. The **unemployment rate** has been falling for six months consecutively.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English dialogue.

Sarah: Sarah speaking. Who's calling?
Jim: Hi, it's Jim. Hey, I was just going over your strategy report for next year and I had a few questions.
Sarah: Fire away.
Jim: Your predictions for the unemployment rate next year, where did you get them?
Sarah: Official statistics published by the government.
Jim: OK, so you calculate that we're going to need to **take on** about 300 more employees next year. Why's that?

Sarah: Production is up 200%. **Do the figure work yourself.** We can't carry on like this.
Jim: You also predict poorer employee-employer relations and possible **strike action**...
Sarah: If we don't **address key concerns** that have been repeatedly raised by our staff, there will be problems, yes?
Jim: OK, thanks Sarah. Just wanted to **clear** a few things up.
Sarah: No problem. Any time. **Catch you later.**
Jim: Yeah, bye. ☆

GLOSSARY

a figure *n*
is employed by *exp*
 if you "are employed" by a company, you work for that company
to employ someone *exp*
 if you "employ someone", you give that person a job
employable *adj*
 someone who is very qualified and has many skills
unemployable *adj*
 someone who has no qualifications and no skills
an employee *n*
 a person who works in a company
a dropout rate *n*
 the speed at which people leave a company
employee-employer relations *n*
 the relationship between management and the workers
the employment rate *n*
 the number of people working
the unemployment rate *n*
 the number of people with no jobs
for six months consecutively *n*
 every month for six months
fire away *exp inform*
 start asking me questions
to take on *phr vb*
 to employ
do the figure work yourself *exp*
 you do the calculations
to carry on *phr vb*
 to continue
strike action *n*
 if workers take "strike action", they stop working as a protest
to address key concerns *exp*
 to think about things that are worrying people and to try to find solutions
to clear up *phr vb*
 to try to understand
catch you later *exp inform*
 see you later

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