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No.144

English magazine

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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. You can learn 20 useful expressions for interviews in English and lots of other expressions for going shopping.

You can find out what it's like to live in Oregon, USA, and learn all about horseracing in the UK. There's an article on a French diplomatic secret, Quebec (Canada) and a new type of English known as "Engrish". You can learn some "insect" idioms and phrasal verbs with the verb to talk, as well as finding out about passive forms of the Past Continuous. Plus lots, lots more!

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!

Yours,
Andy



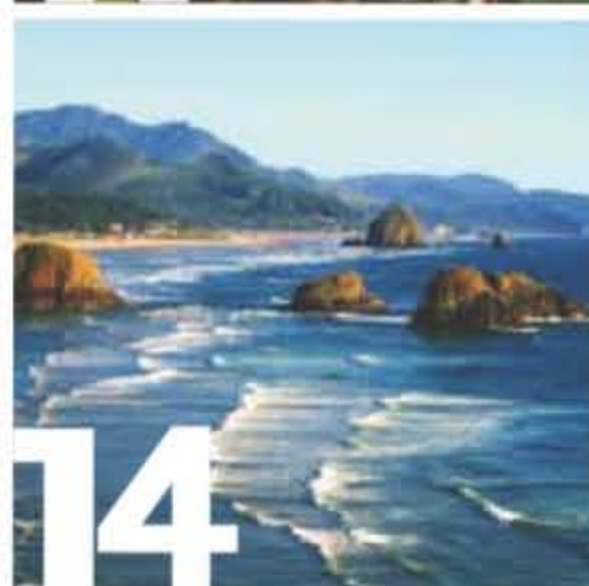
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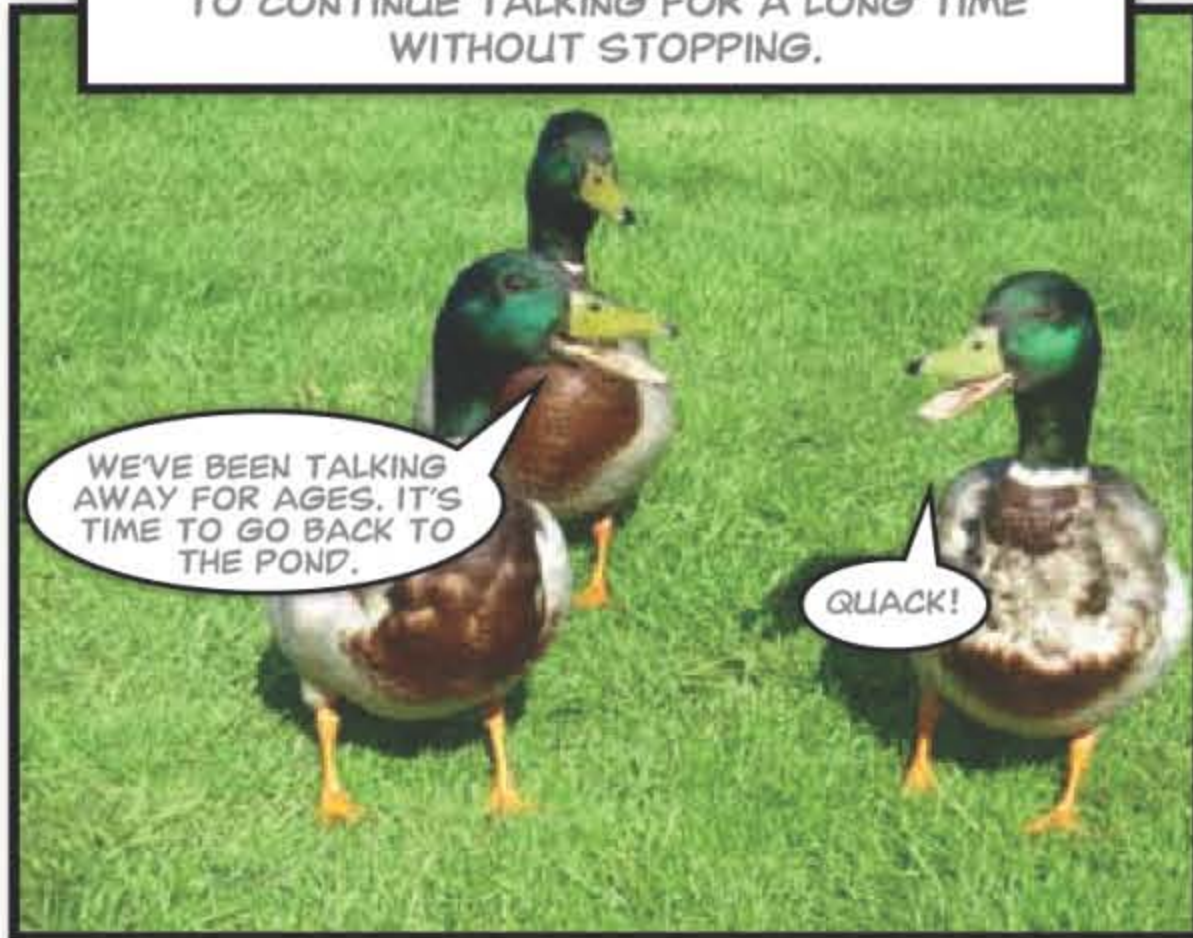
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PHRASAL VERBS TALK

We generally use the verb "to talk" to refer to the act of speaking. For example, "I was talking to Jennifer last night." Now let's look at some phrasal verbs with the verb "to talk".

TALK AWAY
TO CONTINUE TALKING FOR A LONG TIME WITHOUT STOPPING.



TALK SOMEONE DOWN
TO CONVINCE SOMEONE TO LEAVE A HIGH AND DANGEROUS PLACE AND NOT TO JUMP.



TALK DOWN TO SOMEONE
TO SPEAK AS IF YOU WERE SUPERIOR AND THE OTHER PERSON WERE INFERIOR.



TALK SOMEONE INTO DOING SOMETHING
TO CONVINCE SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T WANT TO DO IT.



TALK SOMEONE OUT OF DOING SOMETHING
TO CONVINCE SOMEONE NOT TO DO SOMETHING.



TALK AROUND A TOPIC/SUBJECT
TO TRY TO AVOID SPEAKING ABOUT A TOPIC BECAUSE IT IS EMBARRASSING OR PAINFUL.



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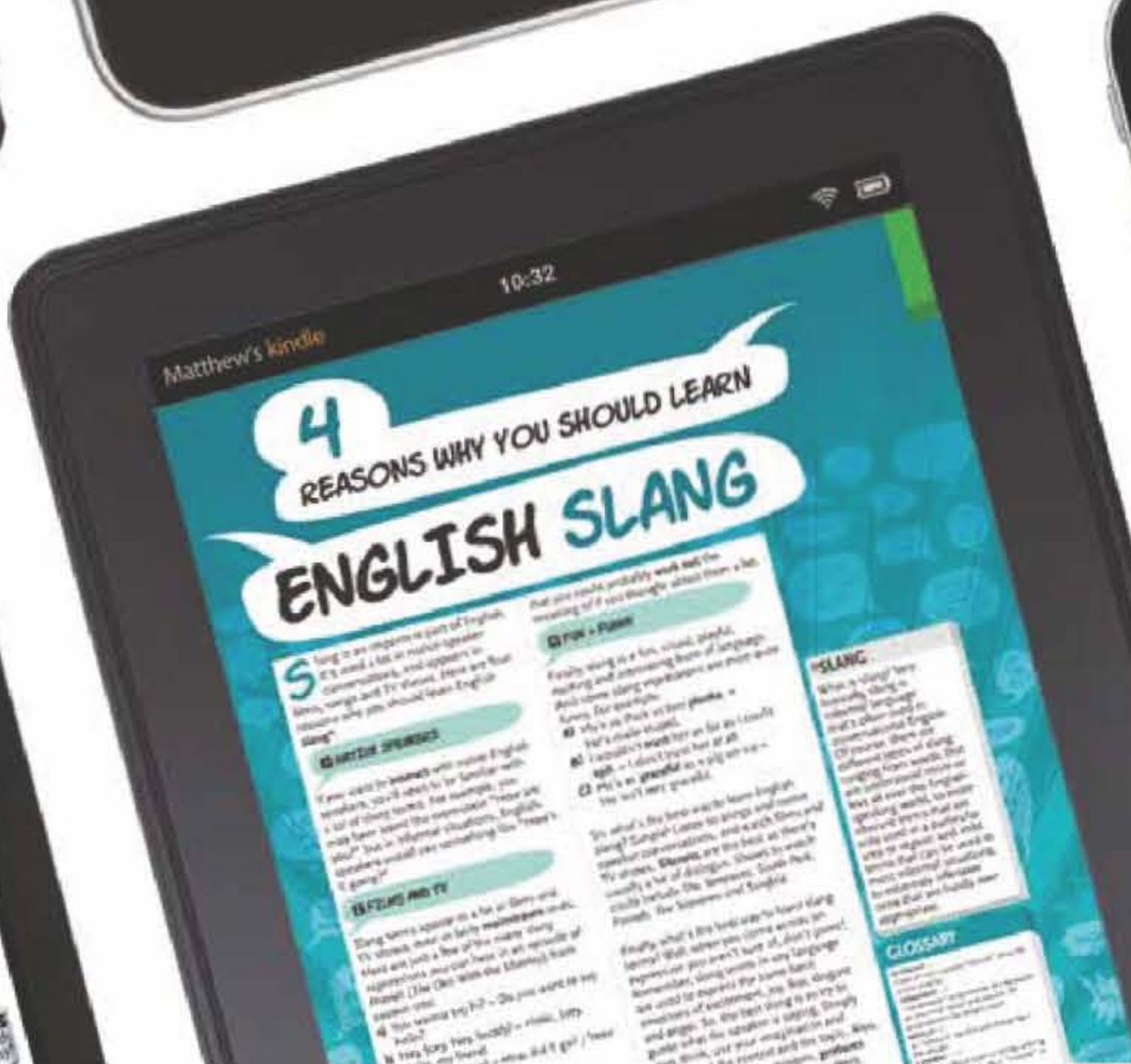
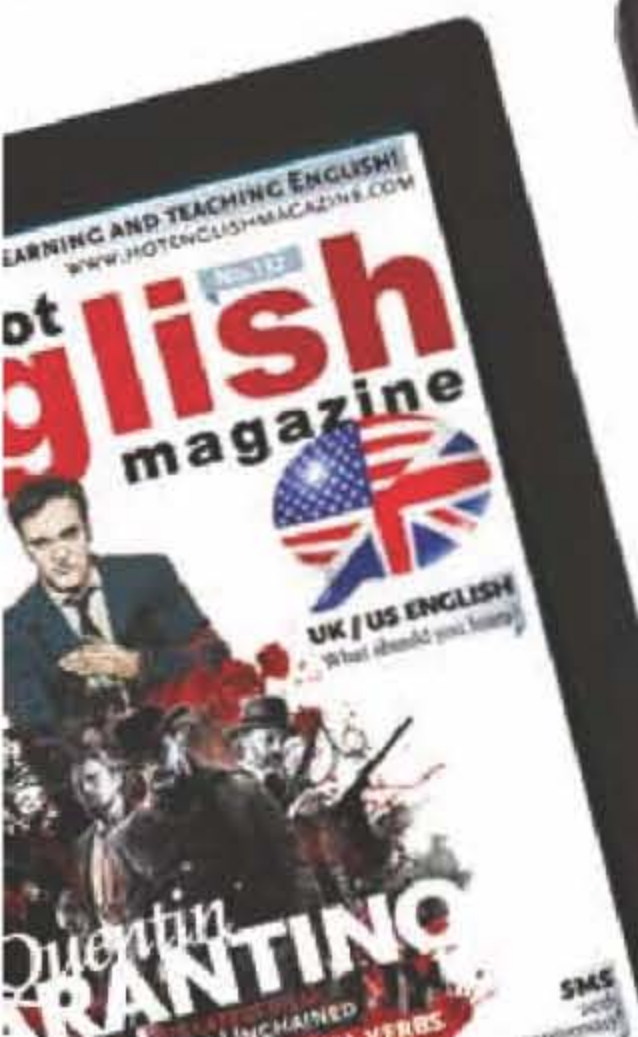
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INSECT IDIOMS

GLOSSARY

an ointment *n*
a cream that you put on a cut or wound to cure it

a bad mood *n*
if you are "in a bad mood", you are angry and unhappy

This month we are looking at some insect idioms.



A fly in the ointment

Someone or something that ruins a situation which could have been nice or successful.

"We had a great Christmas. The only fly in the **ointment** was my aunt, who was in a really **bad mood** all the time."



I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE TO SEE IT.

Fly on the wall

If you say that you would like to be a "fly on the wall" in a certain situation, you mean that you would like to be there secretly to see what happens.

"Susan is telling Jim that she's leaving him tonight. I'd love to be a fly on the wall during that conversation."



WE'RE MAKING A FLY-ON-THE-WALL WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARY.

A fly-on-the-wall film

A television programme or film in which the people involved don't know that they are being filmed, or they forget that they are being filmed.

"The fly-on-the-wall documentary is all about a week in the lives of six medical students."



HE WOULDN'T HURT A FLY.

Wouldn't hurt a fly

If you say that someone "wouldn't hurt a fly", you are saying that they are very gentle, peaceful and non-violent.

"Jake isn't the violent type. He wouldn't hurt a fly."



Be as busy as a bee

To be very busy or active.

"She can never sit still and she's always doing things: organising meetings, going to parties, seeing friends, etc. She's as busy as a bee."



SUNFLOWERS REALLY ARE THE BEES KNEES. LOOK AT ALL THIS POLLEN!

Be the bee's knees

To be very, very good.

"Have you seen this new MP3 player? It's the bee's knees."

Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. **Answers on page 22**



- On which side does a tiger have most **stripes**?
- Who went into the tiger's **den** and came out alive?
- What do you get if you **cross** a tiger with a kangaroo?
- If a four-legged animal is a quadruped, and a two-legged animal is a biped, what's a tiger?
- What's the silliest name you can give a tiger?
- What's striped and goes round and round?
- What do you do if a gorilla decides to sleep in your bed?
- What do you call a gorilla with a gun?



ENDINGS

- A:** A stripey **jumper**.
- B:** A tiger in a **revolving door**.
- C:** Sir.
- D:** The tiger.
- E:** **Spot**.
- F:** **Stri-ped**.
- G:** On the outside.
- H:** Sleep somewhere else.

GLOSSARY

a stripe *n*
a line that is a different colour to the colour next to it

a den *n*
a home that wild animals such as lions or foxes make for themselves

to cross *vb*
if two animals "cross", they mate and create a baby with characteristics of the two animals

a jumper *n*
clothing worn over a shirt to keep you warm

a revolving door *n*
a door that turns around in a circle when you push it

a spot *n*
a round circle of colour

striped *adj*
with lines of colour on it, like a tiger

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

WHY IS "ABBREVIATION" SUCH A LONG WORD?

WE'RE ALL CRAZY. THAT'S WHAT KEEPS US SANE.

THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE: THOSE WHO CAN COUNT, AND THOSE WHO CAN'T.

FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE PEACE AND QUIET WE'VE INVENTED THE PHONE-LESS CORD.

BE NICE TO YOUR KIDS. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO WILL CHOOSE YOUR NURSING HOME.

I INTEND TO LIVE FOREVER. SO FAR, SO GOOD.

GLOSSARY

to keep you sane *exp*
to ensure that you are mentally healthy

peace and quiet *n*
no noise and no stress

a phone-less cord *exp*
this is a play on words. The standard expression is "cordless phone" (a house phone with no wire)

a nursing home *n*
a place where nurses and doctors look after elderly people

so far, so good *exp*
everything is perfect up until now

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DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC:



FAILURE EXPRESSIONS

This month, we are looking at some expressions to do with "failure".



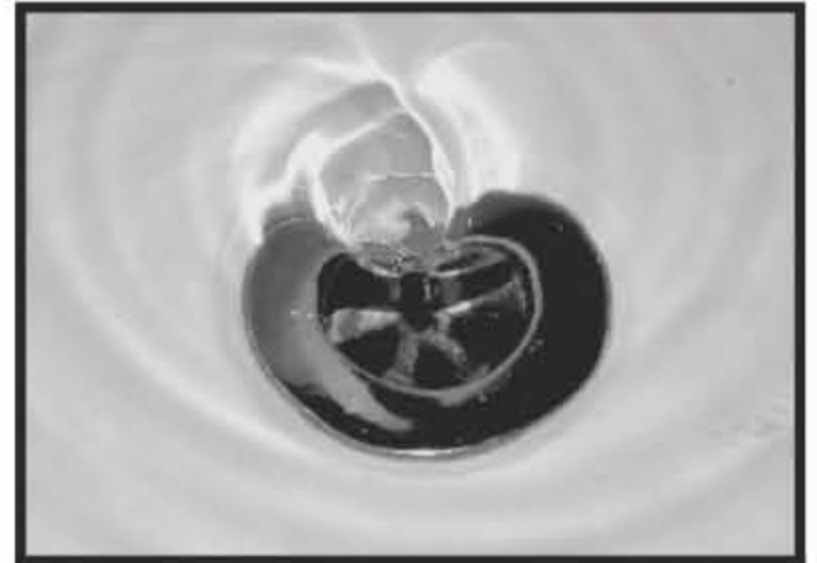
Put/throw a spanner in the works

To do something that causes another thing to fail or to go badly.
"We seemed to be doing quite well until we received a tax bill for 20,000 euros. It really put a **spanner** in the works."



Throw/pour cold water on something

If you "throw cold water" on somebody's opinions or ideas, you do or say something that destroys those ideas.
"Everybody was excited about the construction of a gym until the boss **poured** cold water on the proposal."



Go down the plughole

If something goes "down the plughole", it fails or is wasted.
"They have just cancelled the order. Now all our hard work has gone down the **plughole**."



Kiss/say/wave goodbye

If you "kiss goodbye" to something, you accept that something will never happen, or that you will never have something.
"I can kiss goodbye to any hope of promotion in this company."



Cook somebody's goose

Ruin someone's plans.
"We really cooked his **goose** by informing the press of his intentions to get married secretly next month."



The wooden spoon

An imaginary prize for the person who loses a competition.
"We'd like to present you with the wooden spoon for coming last in the race."



Not stand a chance

If something "doesn't stand a chance", it is going to fail.
"Those football players are professionals and we're just amateurs. We don't stand a chance of winning against them."



Steal someone's thunder

To do something that takes attention away from another person's success.
"In the party Jim turned up with a famous actress. He's always trying to steal my **thunder**."

GLOSSARY

- a spanner** *n*
a metal tool with an end that goes round a nut so you can loosen the nut
- to pour** *vb*
to put liquid from one container to another
- a plughole** *n*
a hole in a bath or sink where the water goes down
- a goose** *n*
a large bird similar to a duck
- thunder** *n*
when there is a storm (violent weather), you can hear "thunder" and see lightning

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



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



Activity

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct them, then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section.

1. After 2001, the price of oil has been increasing every year.
2. After all, we decided to cancel the trip and go home.
3. Soon, you'll be of my age.
4. She set up her own business in the age of 23.
5. I solicited a job at an international company.
6. She went to Paris before five years.
7. I've received the e-mail two days ago.
8. I arrived at 6pm. Five minutes ago that, I was in a traffic jam.
9. What kind of jam do you like? Cured or smoked?
10. She doesn't agree the proposal.
11. They made an agreement on the price.
12. The country's economy is based on the tourism.
13. You shouldn't to do it here.
14. He taught me play the piano.
15. She was aiming the gun against me.



Error Analysis

1. We use "since" to refer to a period of time that started in the past and has continued until now.
2. The expression "in the end" is used to say what happened eventually.
3. The correct expression to use in this sentence would be "the same age as me".
4. We use "at" with "the age of...".
5. The correct expression is "apply for a job". You can "solicit" (ask for) help, support or an opinion from someone. For example: "They solicited his help."
6. The correct expression here would be "five years ago".
7. Remember, with past tense expressions such as "two days ago", you have to use the past simple.
8. The correct expression to refer to a time before a past tense time would be "five minutes before that" in this case.
9. Remember, "jam" is a type of sweet sauce made from fruit and sugar. Only "ham" can be cured or smoked.
10. The preposition "with" or "to" follows the verb "to agree".
11. In English you can "reach" an agreement.
12. We don't generally use "the" with nouns such as "tourism".
13. Remember, after modal verbs (should/must/can, etc) we use the infinitive without "to".
14. We say that you can teach someone "how" to do something.
15. You aim a gun "at" someone.



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Dictionary of slang

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

| ↓ Situation |  Formal |  Relaxed |  Informal |
|--|---|---|---|
| A friend asks what you think of something. You have no interest in the topic. | It really interests me very little. | It isn't important to me. | I couldn't care less about it; whatever! |
| A friend really likes to go out at night and do things in excess. | She likes to enjoy herself at night. | She likes to go out and have a good time. | She parties hard; she parties like a rockstar. |
| A friend is very excited and slightly hysterical about something. You tell him to calm down. | Please make an attempt to enter a state of repose. | Calm down. | Chill out; don't get your pantyhose in a bunch (US); don't get your knickers in a twist . |
| You show a friend something that you think will really impress him. | This is going to impress you. | You'll be amazed at this. | This is gonna knock your socks off ; this is out of this world. |
| A friend is very forgetful. | She is somewhat absent minded. | She's really forgetful. | She's a scatterbrain; she's a feather brain . |
| A friend is trying to act very "masculine". | He is attempting to act in a manly fashion. | He's getting all macho. | He's being a tough guy |



GLOSSARY

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

pantyhose *n* US thin, nylon clothing that women wear over their legs. "Tights" in British English

knickers *n* clothing women wear under their trousers/skirt

in a twist *exp* if something is "in a twist", it has been turned many times

socks *n* clothing you wear on your feet

a brain *n* the organ in your head for thinking

The last King of Scotland

A film all about Uganda's dictator, Idi Amin.

Have you heard of Idi Amin? He was a dictator who ruled in Uganda during the 1970s. American actor Forest Whitaker plays the lead role in *The Last King of Scotland*, all about the African ruler.

Synopsis (spoiler warning)

The film follows the **fictional** relationship between Idi Amin (played by Forest Whitaker) and a young Scottish doctor, Nicholas Garrigan (played by actor James McAvoy). Garrigan travels to Uganda for adventure, but **ends up** becoming Amin's personal doctor. At first Garrigan tries to ignore the crimes Amin is committing. But eventually, he understands Amin's true nature when a comment of his leads Amin to kill the health minister. Garrigan also develops an affair with one of Amin's many wives. She too is killed by Amin. In response, Garrigan tries to poison Amin, but Amin discovers this **plot** and orders his guards to kill Garrigan. In the end, Garrigan is saved by a fellow Ugandan doctor, and escapes with a group of hostages released during the Israeli commando operation at **Entebbe** International Airport.

Learning the part

American actor Forest Whitaker plays the lead role. He learnt Swahili for the part, as well as watching hours of **footage** of Amin's speeches. He also **hung around** the market in the capital, Kampala, meeting people who knew the dictator. "Everyone had stories," Whitaker said during an interview. "Many of the people



I met had a **dual feeling of him** in the first place: some had **relatives** who had been killed during the regime, but there remained the feeling that he had also done certain great things for the country. That was something that I needed to understand in order to play the character."

Whitaker's performance has been particularly **praised** for **capturing Amin's mannerisms**, accent and voice. Whitaker later admitted that it was difficult to **get rid of** the accent afterwards. "As soon as we **wrapped**, I thought I had lost the accent, but when I talked to people, I realised I hadn't."

As for looking like Amin, Whitaker has this to say, "I'm **three shades lighter** than him, 40-50 pounds (about 10 kilos) lighter than him, my face structure is different," he said. "Luckily, I suppose that people felt the spirit of the man came across – and that's great."

Film information

The film is directed by Kevin Macdonald, who won an Oscar for his 1999 documentary on the Munich Olympics, *One Day In September*. It stars Forest Whitaker (who plays Idi Amin) and James McAvoy (who plays Nicholas Garrigan – the Scottish doctor). The film is based on Giles Foden's novel *The Last King of Scotland*. It was adapted by screenwriters Peter Morgan and Jeremy Brock. The film was shot on location in Uganda and the UK. It stars several of Uganda's leading actors. 🌟



GLOSSARY

a spoiler warning *n*
a reminder that the information about to follow will tell you what happens in the film, and will "spoil" it for you (ruin it for you)

fictional *adj*
not real; not based on a real person

to end up *phr vb*
if you "end up" being something, you are that thing in the end

a plot *n*
a plan to kill someone or do something bad

Entebbe *n*
an airport in Uganda. It is also the place where Israeli commandos rescued Israeli and Jewish hostages in 1976

footage *n*
extracts from television or film

to hang around *phr vb*
to be in a place with no particular purpose

a dual feeling of someone *exp*
a mixture of two different feelings towards someone: possibly admiration and hatred

a relative *n*
a person who is related to you: a cousin, uncle, aunt, etc

to praise *vb*
to say good things about someone

to capture someone's mannerisms *exp*
to do a very good and convincing imitation of the way someone is

to get rid of something *exp*
to find a way of making something disappear or go away

to wrap *vb inform*
to stop filming for the day

three shades lighter *n*
with skin that is three times less dark

Forest Whitaker

A life of cinema. The film of a life.

Forest Whitaker is a talented actor who's starred in several films. He won an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA for his performance as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in the 2006 film *The Last King of Scotland*. Let's find out more about him.

Early life

Whitaker was born in Longview, Texas on 15th July 1961. His father, Forest Whitaker, Jr, was the son of the novelist Forest Whitaker, Sr. His mother, Laura Francis Smith, was a teacher. The family moved to the Los Angeles area when Whitaker was a **toddler**. Whitaker went to California State Polytechnic University **on a football scholarship**, but left because of a back injury. Later, he went to the Music Conservatory at the University of Southern California (USC) to study opera, and was then accepted into the Drama Conservatory. He graduated from USC in 1982. His first agent discovered Whitaker singing in a production of *The Beggar's Opera*.

Career

Whitaker's first **onscreen role** was in 1982 in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*. He starred

with Nicolas Cage and Sean Penn. He followed with roles in *Platoon*, *Good Morning, Vietnam*, and *The Color of Money*. In 1988, Forest played the part of musician Charlie Parker in the Clint Eastwood film, *Bird*. He won Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival for that performance. In the 1990s, Whitaker **branched out into** producing and directing. In 1991, he co-produced and co-starred in *A Rage in Harlem*. And in 2004, he directed the romantic comedy, *First Daughter*.

TV

Whitaker has also worked a lot in television. In 2002, Whitaker was the **host** and narrator of *The Twilight Zone*. In January 2006, he joined the cop serial *The Shield*, as Lieutenant Jon Kavanaugh. His performance as an **internal affairs cop** was well-received. In 2006, he acted in the TV series *ER*, playing a man who comes



Filmography

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| <i>The Butler</i> | (2013) | <i>The Enemy Within</i> | (1994) |
| <i>Freelancers</i> | (2012) | <i>Prêt-à-Porter</i> | (1994) |
| <i>The Last King of Scotland</i> | (2006) | <i>The Crying Game</i> | (1992) |
| <i>The Marsh</i> | (2006) | <i>A Rage in Harlem</i> | (1991) |
| <i>Panic Room</i> | (2002) | <i>Bird</i> | (1988) |
| <i>Phone Booth</i> | (2002) | <i>Good Morning, Vietnam</i> | (1987) |
| <i>Ghost Dog</i> | (1999) | <i>Platoon</i> | (1986) |
| <i>Smoke</i> | (1995) | <i>The Color of Money</i> | (1986) |
| | | <i>Fast Times at Ridgemont High</i> | (1982) |

into the ER with a **cough**, but quickly faces the long-term consequences of a **stroke**.

The Last King

Whitaker received critical acclaim for his performance as the dictator Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*. He won an Oscar for Best Actor in the 2007 award show.

Whitaker **immersed himself in the role**, reading books about Amin, and meeting with Amin's friends and family. He mastered the East-African accent, and learned Swahili, which he uses throughout the film.

Personal life

In 1996, Whitaker married fellow actress Keisha Whitaker. They have two daughters, Sonnet and True. He has a son named Ocean from a previous relationship and a **stepdaughter** named Autumn from a previous relationship of Keisha's. Forest is a vegetarian and a **black belt in karate**. He recently opened a vegan restaurant in west Los Angeles called *Taste of the Goddess* 🌱



GLOSSARY

- a toddler** *n*
a child – usually between the ages of two and four
- on a football scholarship** *exp*
with financial assistance to attend school because you are good at football (American football)
- an onscreen role** *n*
a part in a film
- to branch out into something** *exp*
to do something different to the things you normally do
- a host** *n*
a person who interviews people or presents things on a television programme
- an internal affairs cop** *n*
a police officer who investigates other police officers
- a cough** *n*
if you have a "cough", you have a sore throat and often expel air rapidly through your mouth
- a stroke** *n*
if someone has a "stroke", a blood vessel in the brain bursts and sometimes causes paralysis
- to immerse yourself in a role** *exp*
to become completely involved in a role; to live the role
- a stepdaughter** *n*
a daughter born to your wife or husband from a previous marriage
- a black belt in karate** *exp*
the highest level in the sport karate



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Shopping

Useful Expressions

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

What you ask

- Can you recommend a good toy/clothes shop?
- Is there a chemist's/supermarket in the area?
- Where can I get toothpaste/pet food?
- Where's the nearest shopping centre?
- What time do you open/close, please?
- Are you open on Sundays?
- Could you help me, please?
- Could you tell me where the X department is?
- Excuse me, I'm looking for an X.
- Is there somewhere I can **try this on**, please?
- Does it suit me?
- Do you have this in a larger/smaller size / a different colour, please?
- Do you take credit cards?
- Does it have a **warranty/guarantee**?
- Can I pay by cheque?
- Could I have a VAT receipt, please?

What you hear

- There's a really good toy shop just around the corner.
- The best clothes shop is in the shopping centre.
- The nearest one is a few kilometres away.
- We're closed at lunchtime, between 1 and 3pm.
- We're open from 9am till 6pm, Monday to Friday.
- It's too long/short.
- The ladies/gents **changing rooms** are over there.
- You can bring it back and get a **refund** if you keep the **receipt**.
- We take all the major credit cards.
- We only accept cheques with a cheque card.
- We're offering 6 months' free credit with no deposit. ❄

Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions.



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GLOSSARY

to try something on *exp*
to put on clothing to see if you like it or if it fits

a warranty/guarantee *n*
a written promise by a company to replace or repair a product that you have bought

a changing room *n*
a room where you can try on clothing that you might buy

a refund *n*
money returned to you by a shop when you give back a product that you bought previously

a receipt *n*
a piece of paper giving information about the product you bought

AMAZING WORLD

Oregon is the 9th largest state in the US. It's got **snow-capped mountains year round**, lots of national forests, lots of **micro-breweries**, festivals, fairs and large and small cities. It's the perfect place for people with an adventurous spirit. By Jeff. (US English spelling)

Wild Horses

Oregon is one of the great states of the US. But it's also one of the least known. It's got mountains and beaches. There is a **lush** green environment in the western part, while



the central and eastern parts have **high plains** with **herds** of wild horses. You have the Portland Trailblazers, a NBA basketball team. There is also the University of Portland Women's Soccer Team, who won the 2002 Women's National Championship. The largest independent new and used bookstore in the world, Powell's Books, is located in Portland. And best of all, there's no **sales tax** in Oregon. This means that the prices on things show the real cost and you don't have to add on 17%. Let's find out more about the state and the capital, Portland.

Portland

Portland is the biggest city in Oregon. There are lots of places to visit there, including the Portland Museum of Art, with a lovely open-air garden café and temporary exhibitions. You can also visit the Old Port Exchange, which is next to the port, and which is full of antique shops and cafés. Outside Portland there are lots of things to



see too. The city is in a valley with very large mountains surrounding it. The mountains are covered in snow all year. The ones surrounding the city are called Mt Hood, Mt Saint Helens, Mt Jefferson, Mt Bachelor and the Three Sisters. There are lots of pine forests around Oregon. One of the most spectacular things outside Portland is the Columbia River **Gorge**, which is a **huge ravine** with a river running through it.

Eating and Drinking

Portland has some great places for eating out. Some of the best restaurants are *Jakes Grill*, the *Portland City Grill*, *McMinneman's*, *McCormick* or *Schmicks*. There are also lots of fantastic Asian and Latin American restaurants in this area. Generally, the inhabitants of Oregon are extremely health conscience when it comes to food. You can find **food stands** with vegan and vegetarian dishes such as **tofu** and organic meals. Oregon also knows a lot about beer. Portland has more micro breweries (28 at least) than any other city in the US. Across the state, there are more than 70 micro breweries that make their own beer. You can visit these breweries and get one of their beers. Oregon is also famous for its wine. **Grapes** and **hazelnuts** are grown everywhere in



Jake's Grill

Interesting Facts

- The state dance is the Square Dance, a typical cowboy dance.
- There are over 1,400 named lakes in Oregon.



- Crater Lake, at 630 meters deep, is the deepest lake in the US.
- The US ski team practices on Mt Hood because of the year-round snow.
- If you stretched out all the rivers, creeks, and streams in Oregon, they would circle the Earth four and a half times.





OREGON

Beavers

Oregon is **nicknamed** the Beaver State because of the large numbers of beavers it has. These animals were once **prized for** their **furs** and they were almost **hunted to**



extinction. However, these days there are laws to protect them, and they've **made an impressive comeback.** These expert **dam-builders** are appropriate as the state animal because Oregon has over 31,000 man-made dams. Oregon State University has nicknamed their school's athletic team the "Beavers".

Oregon and many **vineyards** make wines with these products. One classic Oregon wine is made with the grape Pinot Grigio. There is also a cheese factory in Tillamook, which makes fantastic cheese. They begin with the highest-quality milk from their dairies and create cheese, ice cream, yogurt and sour cream.

Festivals & Fairs

There are also lots of festivals and fairs in Oregon. The Mt Hood Jazz Festival is two fun-filled days and nights of groovy jazz music in an outdoor environment. In historic downtown Gresham, musicians **jam** all weekend long while you walk around



drinking and eating tasty treats and listening to great music.

On every Saturday and Sunday from March until Christmas, in downtown Portland there's the Portland Saturday Market. It's the largest outdoor arts and craft market in the US and it's full of interesting things to buy. It is right under the Burnside Bridge where hundreds of **vendors** and **artisans** gather and **bring back a little taste of the 60s.**

Outdoor Activities

Oregon is a **haven for** outdoor sports. You can go skiing and snowboarding year-round on Mt Hood, one of the few spots in the US that is covered with snow all year. You can go **whitewater rafting** and **kayaking** on the White Salmon River, which is one of the best rivers around for these sports. Apart from that, there are thousands of **spots** where you can go mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, fishing, golfing or hang-gliding. The Columbia River Gorge is also **internationally acclaimed** for its **awesome conditions** for wind-surfing. 🌟



GLOSSARY

- snow-capped mountains** *n*
mountains with snow on top of them
- year round** *exp*
during the whole year
- a micro-brewery** *n*
a small factory that makes beer. Often owned by a family or individual
- lush** *adj*
with lots of green vegetation
- high plains** *n*
a large, flat area of land with very few trees on it
- a herd** *n*
a group of animals that travel together
- sales tax** *n*
extra money you pay (that goes to the government) when you buy something – often between 15-17%
- a gorge** *n*
a deep, narrow valley
- huge** *adj*
very big
- a ravine** *n*
a very deep, narrow valley with high sides
- a food stand** *n*
a table in the street with food for sale
- tofu** *n*
food of Chinese origin made from soy milk
- a grape** *n*
the fruit used to make wine
- a hazelnut** *n*
a hard, dried fruit, often used in chocolate bars
- a vineyard** *n*
a place where vines grow (trees that produce grapes for making wine)
- to jam** *vb*
to play music informally and to improvise
- a vendor** *n*
a person selling things in the street
- an artisan** *n*
a person who makes beautiful things with his/her hands
- to bring back a little taste of the 60s** *exp*
to do something that reminds you of the 1960s
- a haven for something** *n*
a place where the conditions for something are perfect
- whitewater rafting** *n*
going down a very fast river in a raft (a type of inflatable boat)
- kayaking** *n*
a sport that involves travelling in a long, thin boat known as a kayak – similar to a canoe
- a spot** *n*
a place
- internationally acclaimed** *n*
famous around the world
- awesome conditions** *n*
incredible, amazing conditions
- to nickname** *vb*
to give an informal name
- prized for** *exp*
famous for; appreciated for
- a fur** *n*
the soft hair and skin from an animal often used to make coats, etc
- to hunt something to extinction** *exp*
to kill so many of an animal that it almost disappears
- to make a comeback** *exp*
to appear again after people thought it had disappeared or was dead
- a dam** *n*
a wall that is built across a river

LIVING ABROAD: OREGON

An interview with someone who has visited or lived in a foreign country. This month we are talking to Michael about his time in Portland, Oregon. (US English)

Michael, why did you go to Portland, Oregon?

Well, I was doing an English language course at the Sorbonne in Paris and I needed to spend a year abroad. I could choose a university anywhere in the US and I chose to go to Portland. I don't know why I chose that place because I didn't know anything about it, but probably because it was so far away and... I didn't know anything about it.

What were your first impressions of the state/city?

I thought it was a very beautiful city, and an extremely beautiful state. The people were really nice too and the surrounding mountains were **brehtaking**.



Where did you stay?

I stayed with a really nice family. I learnt a lot of English with them, and I helped the father with his French. He spoke a bit and he was **keen to improve**.

What kind of work did you do while you were there?

Well, at first I just studied and went to the university. But later, I **stayed on** because I got a job at a shop called Columbia Sportswear doing sales. There are lots of other jobs you can get, illegally, such as working in the ski resorts, working as a **bartender**, or at the Nike and Adidas headquarters.



And what are the best things about Oregon?

All the **outdoor activities** like snowboarding, **rafting**, camping, visiting the Pacific Ocean. Also, there's no **sales tax** in Oregon. Another great thing is that you aren't allowed to **pump your own gas** – the **petrol station attendants** have to do it for you, which is a real advantage when it's raining or snowing.

And what are the worst things about Oregon?

All the rain on the west side of the state, but I

suppose that's what makes it so beautiful.

And what were the people like there?

Very nice, friendly, easy to **get along with** and **welcoming**.

What did you do during the day?

I liked going down to NW 21st avenue for lunch and a beer while sitting outside during the springtime. Plus, going for long drives along the Columbia River Gorge and hiking. On the weekends I liked going to this outside market called the Saturday Market for food, music and shopping.



And what did you do at night?

My favorite bars were on NW 21st avenue, such as the *Blue Moon*, *Silver Dollar* or the *Gypsy*. Other good bars downtown were *15*, *Bar 71* or *Kells*.

And what are the best places to eat?

The best places to eat would be *Jakes Grill* or the *Portland City Grill*. They eat a lot of fish there and one of their favorites is fish **tacos** with fresh salmon or fresh tuna.

And when is the best time to go to Oregon?

In August when it is still warm and the **leaves** are **turning brown**.

What is there to do in Oregon during the summer?

In the summer, people go outdoors, have picnics in many of the surrounding parks, plus you can still snowboard as the ski season **lasts** twelve months.

And what advice would you give someone who is thinking of visiting Oregon?

It is a wonderful place to live, but getting a job is going to be hard right now. Overall Portland and the rest of Oregon is by far one of my favorite states and an **awesome** place to live.

OK, thank you very much, Michael. Not at all. ☺



GLOSSARY

- brehtaking** *adj* incredible, amazing
- keen to do something** *exp* very excited about doing something; with a great desire to do something
- to stay on** *phr vb* to stay in a place after you should have left, or after everyone else has left
- a bartender** *n* a person who works in a bar serving drinks
- outdoor activities** *n* sports you can do outside
- rafting** *n* a sport that involves travelling in a raft (a small, inflatable rubber or plastic boat) on a river
- sales tax** *n* extra money you pay (that goes to the government) when you buy something – often between 15-17%
- to pump your own gas** *exp* to put petrol into the car by yourself
- a petrol station** *n US* a place where you can buy petrol for your car. Also known as "a garage" or "gas station"
- an attendant** *n* a person who works in a petrol station
- to get along with someone** *exp* to have a good relationship with someone
- welcoming** *adj* that makes you feel comfortable and happy in a place
- a taco** *n* a traditional Mexican dish that is like a crêpe made from corn
- a leaf (plural: leaves)** *n* the green thing that grows on trees
- to turn brown** *exp* to become brown (usually in the autumn)
- to last** *vb* if something "lasts" for a certain period of time, it happens during that period of time
- awesome** *adj US* incredible, amazing



Your boss and you

Ten differences between you and your boss.

1. When you take a long time, you're slow; when your boss takes a long time, he's **thorough**.

2. When you don't do it, you're lazy; when your boss doesn't do it, she's **too busy**.

3. When you make a mistake, you're an idiot; when your boss makes a mistake, he's only human.

4. When you do something without being told, you're **overstepping your authority**; when your boss does the same thing, that's **initiative**.

5. When you **take a stand**, you're being **pig-headed**; when your boss does it, she's being firm.

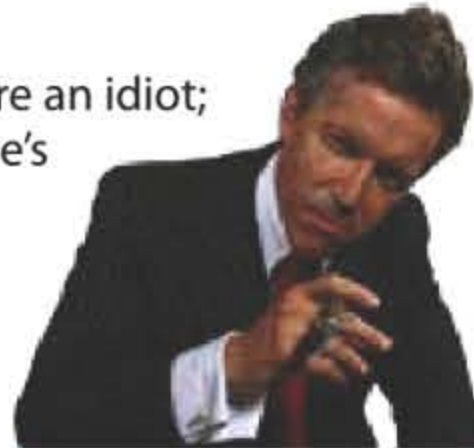
6. When you overlook a **rule of etiquette**, you're being rude; when your boss **skips** a few rules, he's being original.

7. When you do something to please your boss, you're being a **creep**; when your boss pleases her boss, she's being co-operative.

8. When you're out of the office, you're **avoiding work**; when your boss is out of the office, he's on business.

9. When you're **off sick**, it's because you're always sick; when your boss **has a day off**, she must be very ill.

10. When you **apply for leave**, you must be going for an interview; when your boss applies for leave, it's because he's **overworked**. ☺



GLOSSARY

thorough *adj*
very careful and methodical

too busy *exp*
with too much work to do and not enough time

to overstep your authority *exp*
to do something that is not acceptable or permissible

initiative *n*
if you have "initiative", you have the ability to act and take decisions without having to ask other people

to take a stand *exp*
to show clearly what your attitude is or what you think of something

pig-headed *adj*
someone who is "pig-headed" always does things the way he/she wants to do them

a rule of etiquette *n*
an unofficial rule of good behaviour in society

to skip *vb*
if you "skip" a rule, you don't obey that rule

a creep *n*
a person who acts in an insincere way, often because he/she wants to please a person in authority

to avoid work *exp*
to try not to work

off sick *exp*
at home because you are ill

to have a day off *exp*
not to go to work because you are sick or you have something to do

to apply for leave *exp*
to ask for permission not to go to work because you are sick/stressed

overworked *adj*
if you are "overworked", you are very tired because you have been working too much



USEFUL ADVICE



Learn how to entertain yourself with these fun activities. This month: twelve things to say in an interview in order to create an "interesting" atmosphere.



- I never work in the afternoon, I'm too drunk.
- So, what do you do here, then?
- What's that awful smell?
- Where on earth did you get that tie?
- I'm only here because there's nothing good on TV.
- Is that your father in the photo or your husband?
- I hear nobody does much work around here.
- So, which route do the cashiers take to the bank?
- The voices in my head told me to come to this interview.
- Do you mind if I send a few e-mails on your computer?
- So, what sort of salary will I be on?
- How much do you earn then? ☺

GLOSSARY

awful *adj*
terrible; horrible

on earth *exp*
people use this expression for emphasis when they are angry, shocked, etc

a cashier *n*
a person who people pay money to in a shop or business



STUPID CRIMINALS

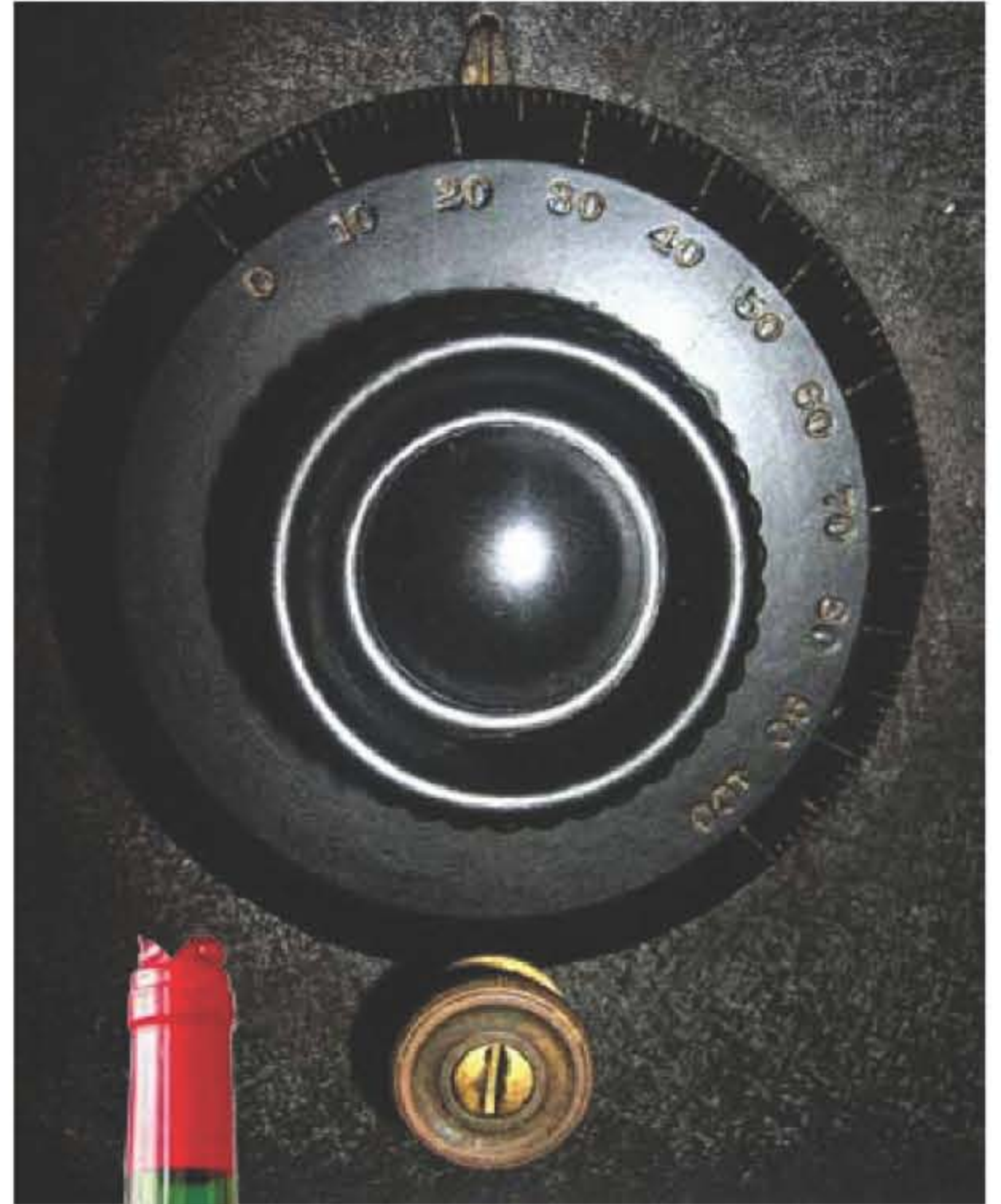
Here are some more stupid criminals. Learn how not to do it.

Worked Up

In February 1993, bank robbers in Cooperville, Ohio **drilled through a safe door** and hit a brick wall. They **carried on** drilling and eventually found themselves outside in the street again.

Hitched Up

Simon Nash's lawyer said in court in June 1992 that his client's "offences were characterised by extreme stupidity", and it's easy to see why. Nash **thumbed a lift** from a police car in Wrexham at 1:00am and, when asked why he had a **screwdriver** in his pocket, he told the officer that he had been about to steal a car, but there were **too many people about**. He also had a pair of rubber **gloves** and a metal pipe. He was, of course, **nicked on the spot**. He appeared in court with a large **bruise** on his head. Three weeks previously he had **dived into** a pool containing only half a metre of water.



Coked Up

A man walked into a local police station, dropped a bag of cocaine on the **counter** and informed the desk sergeant that it was sub-standard. He asked the police to arrest the person who had sold it to him.



Drunk Up

A man was fined 190 dollars by a court in Southport, Australia, in June 1995, for what his solicitor called "the worst attempted robbery of all time". The defendant had drunk four litres of wine before **breaking into** the offices of an **insurance company**. He stole a calculator, thinking it was a video cassette recorder. Beyond that, he had no memory of the incident.



Bagged Up

Travion Davis, 19, thought it would be a good idea to rob a bank with no clothes on in order to avoid being recognised. So, he **stripped naked** before the raid then **made off with** \$15,000 in two shopping bags. Not surprisingly, the sight of a naked man running down the street with two bags **stuffed full of cash** was quite enough to attract the attention of a number of police officers, and a few members of the public too. They chased the man for several hundred metres before **grabbing** him and taking him into custody. ☹



GLOSSARY

- to drill through something** *exp*
to make a hole in something using a drill (an electrical device for making holes in walls)
- a safe door** *n*
the door to a safe (a metal box or room for keeping money secure)
- to carry on** *phr vb*
to continue
- to thumb a lift** *exp*
to try to stop a car so that the driver can take you somewhere for free. People often use their "thumbs" (the thick finger) as a sign to the driver to stop
- a screwdriver** *n*
a tool used for turning screws to fix into wood, metal or plastic
- too many people about** *exp*
too many people there
- gloves** *n*
clothing for the hands
- nicked on the spot** *exp inform*
arrested immediately
- a bruise** *n*
a dark mark on the skin where you have been hit
- to dive into something** *exp*
to jump into water with your head first
- a counter** *n*
a long table often found in the reception area
- to break into something** *exp*
to enter a place illegally
- an insurance company** *n*
a company that pays you money if you have an accident
- to strip naked** *exp*
to take off all your clothes so you are nude
- to make off with something** *exp*
to escape from a place with stolen money or objects
- stuffed full of cash** *exp*
filled with money
- to grab something** *exp*
to take something suddenly and with force

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

Dear Climate Warming,

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

Basically, there are two types of general nouns: concrete nouns and abstract nouns. Concrete nouns are things that can be seen or touched. For example:

- a) **A chair:** He sat on a chair.
- b) **A table:** Your book is on the table.
- c) **A dog:** The dog ate my food.
- d) **A bottle:** She drank a bottle of wine.

On the other hand, abstract nouns cannot be seen or touched. They often refer to a quality, a state, a concept, or a feeling – things that don't have any physical existence. In effect, your five senses cannot detect this group of nouns: you cannot see them, you cannot hear them, you cannot smell them, you cannot taste them, and you cannot feel them. Here are some examples of abstract nouns:

- a) **Intelligence:** He's a boy with a lot of intelligence.
- b) **Joy:** She was weeping with joy.

Notice how most abstract nouns are uncountable. Here are some more examples:

- a) **Love:** There isn't much love here.
- b) **Hate:** He was filled with hate.
- c) **Kindness:** She showed a great deal of kindness.
- d) **Fear:** He was shaking with fear.
- e) **Anger:** She was crying with anger and frustration.
- f) **Imagination:** You need a lot of imagination to do something like this.
- g) **Loneliness:** He has a fear of loneliness.
- h) **Happiness:** I'm just looking for happiness.



- i) **Sadness:** He felt a mixture of sadness and joy.
- j) **Bravery:** She was awarded for bravery.
- k) **Cowardice:** The soldiers were reprimanded for cowardice.
- l) **Embarrassment:** He felt a great deal of embarrassment.
- m) **Beauty:** She was famous for her beauty.
- n) **Confidence:** He's suffering from a lack of confidence.
- o) **Luck:** They didn't have any luck.
- p) **Bitterness:** They are feeling a great deal of bitterness.
- q) **Boredom:** Boredom is a big problem among teenagers.

Well, Climate Warming, I really hope my explanations have helped resolve your linguistic problems.

Yours, Dr Fingers. ☺

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



British bar chat



The Oscars

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

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

Andy: So, the Oscars are **coming up**. So, **you going** to be watching it? I'm really **looking forward to** it.

Chris: Er, well, I **tend to skip** the Oscars. I don't really think it reflects the movie-going public's opinion of films.

Andy: You know, it's a chance for real critics to **actually** give their opinion of these films and **set out a standard for** all the other filmmakers and all the directors to follow. **I mean**, we've got some fantastic films there: great actors, great actresses. **You know**, they're setting the standard.

Chris: I don't know. I think there are too many **vested interests** in the, in the film industry. I don't think they're particularly **impartial**. I think that they vote for people that they've worked for in the past, or... They're just, it's quite, sort of, they're all **in each other's pockets**, really, I think, in Hollywood.

Andy: No, they all vote independently. I mean, I don't think, there's no getting together...

Chris: Well, supposedly, yeah, supposedly.

Andy: If you just look back in the past, some truly great films have been recognised as being truly great films in the Oscars, I mean.

Chris: Yeah, but did they become thought of as

great because they've won seven Oscars? I mean, a lot of, a lot of these awards really give a film a better **reputation** than it **deserves**. There are so many films that have been **overlooked** in the past.

Andy: Yeah, but I can't really think of any film that, you know, hasn't had an Oscar and deserved one.

Chris: That's because you probably haven't heard of it. I mean, The whole of the Hollywood film industry is just about, erm, **big-budget films**, erm, English-speaking films. People just don't hear about foreign films. You know, there are some great French films that have **never even seen the light of day** at the awards' ceremonies.

Andy: Yeah, well, **what's the point** in watching them? You don't understand them, do you?

Chris: Well, I like them, and I especially like films without the big stars, because you know that there's a possibility that they might not live till the end of the film. You know, if you get Tom Cruise in a movie, you know he's gonna be there at the end of the film. He's not **gonna** get shot in the first ten seconds, obviously. And I prefer to be surprised by films, really.

Andy: Yeah, I suppose so. Well, want to come and see, they're showing the Scorsese film, *The Departed*.

Chris: Oh, yeah that sounds good, yeah. ☺



GLOSSARY

- to come up** *exp*
if something is "coming up", it is going to happen soon
- you going...** *exp*
this is an example of non-standard English. It should be, "Are you going..."
- to look forwards to...** *exp*
to be excited about something that is going to happen in the future
- to tend to do something** *exp*
if you "tend to" do something, you normally do that thing
- to skip something** *exp*
not to see or do something because you don't want to see or do it
- actually** *exp*
really
- to set out a standard for something** *exp*
to establish a very good example of something that others can refer to
- I mean** *exp*
people often use this expression when they want to emphasise or clarify something
- you know** *exp*
people often use this expression for emphasis or to check the other person's understanding
- a vested interest** *n*
something that you would like to protect for personal, financial or political reasons
- impartial** *adj*
someone who is "impartial" can give a fair opinion because he/she isn't involved
- in each other's pockets** *exp*
receiving money from one another
- a reputation** *n*
the opinion that other people have of you – it can be good or bad
- to deserve** *vb*
if you think something "deserves" a thing, you think it should have that thing
- to overlook** *vb*
to ignore; not to notice
- a big-budget film** *n*
a film that costs a lot to make
- never to see the light of day** *exp*
never to become public; never to be produced
- what's the point...** *exp*
why...?
- gonna** *abbr*
going to

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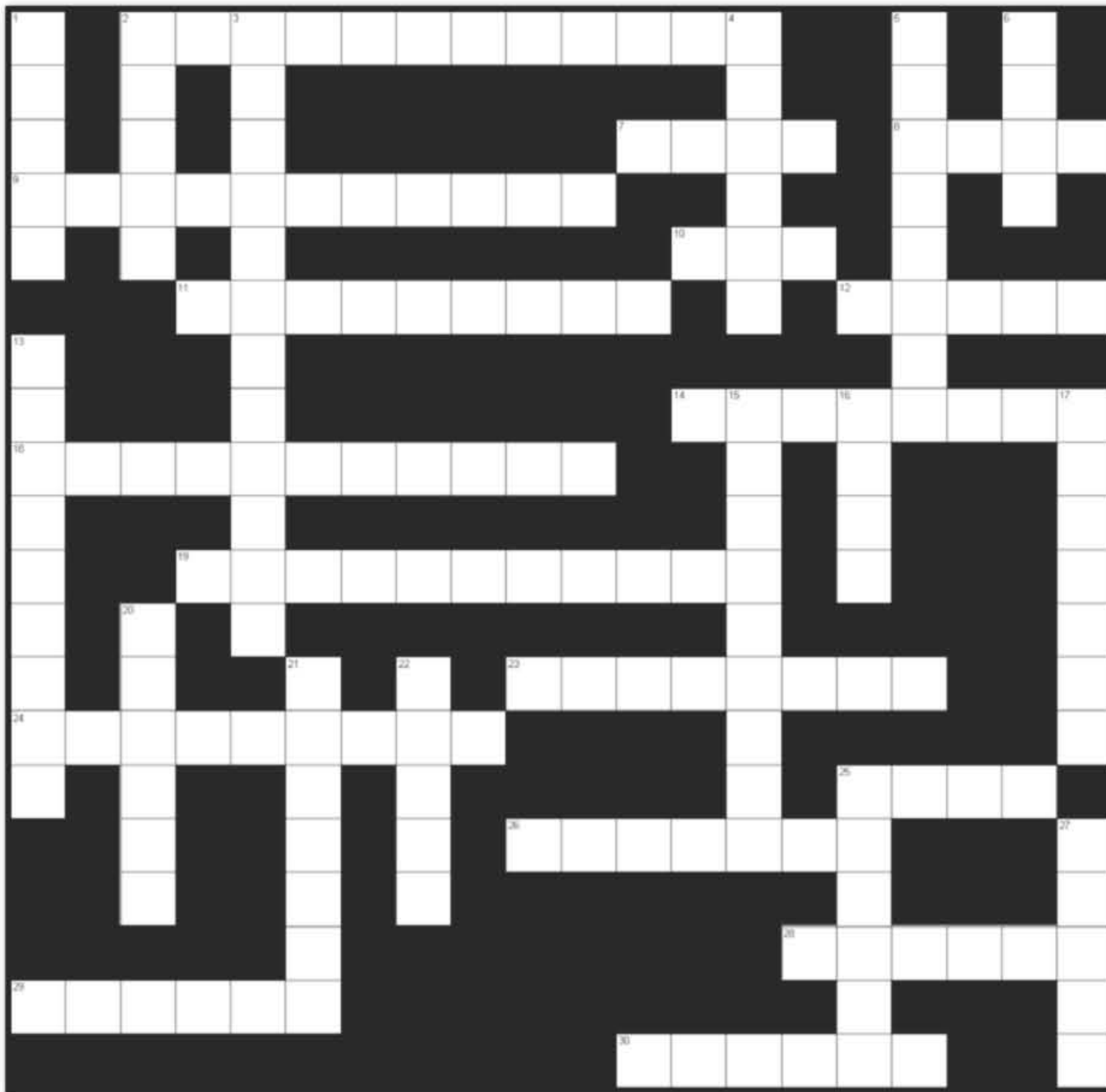
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CROSSWORD

Answers on page 31



Across

- 2:** Incredible and amazing (often in reference to a view) = breath_____.
- 7:** To notice or see = to sp_____.
- 8:** To say words to God, sometimes when you are in a desperate situation = to pr_____.
- 9:** With no sense or meaning = meanin_____.
- 10:** If a company is like this, it has taken out more money

- from the bank than it has = in the r_____.
- 11:** A person who serves drinks in a bar = a bart_____.
- 12:** A competitor = a ri_____.
- 14:** If this happens to a company, it stops working because there is no more money = to go ban_____.
- 18:** Impressive; of a superior quality = outstan_____.
- 19:** To have a lot of determination = to have an

- indomi_____ will.
- 23:** Keeping animals with the purpose of producing more animals = bree_____.
- 24:** If this happens, there is a lot of noise, excitement and confusion = a comm_____.
- 25:** To support; to bet money on = to ba_____.
- 26:** To put money on a horse = to have a flut_____.
- 28:** With an ability to move your legs very quickly = nim_____.

- 29:** A person who rides horses during a horserace = a joc_____.
- 30:** The job you choose to do for the majority of your professional life = your care_____.

Down

- 1:** To try to stop a car so the driver can take you somewhere for free = to thu_____ a lift.
- 2:** To enter a place illegally = to bre_____ into a place.
- 3:** Exciting = exhila_____.
- 4:** Clothing you wear on your hands = glo_____.
- 5:** A company who sells you goods or services = a supp_____.
- 6:** The leader = the he_____.
- 13:** A thin stick used by the Chinese to eat = a cho_____.
- 15:** A person who puts petrol in your car in a petrol station = an atten_____.
- 16:** To do something to help the time pass more quickly = to do something to ki_____ time.
- 17:** a person who teaches horses how to race = a trai_____.
- 20:** To play games for money = to gam_____.
- 21:** Bad tempered and obstinate = strop_____.
- 22:** To be in a state of sadness because something bad has happened to you = to mou_____.
- 25:** A mark on your body where you have been hit = a brui_____.
- 27:** To destroy something = to wre_____ something.

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

Bar Chat
1. One of the speakers says he likes the Oscars because it's a chance for critics to give their opinion of films, and an opportunity to set standards for other filmmakers and directors. He also says that some truly great films have been recognised in the Oscars.

2. The other speaker says he doesn't like the Oscars because he doesn't think the Oscars reflect the movie-going public's opinion of films, there are too many vested interests in the film industry, the judges aren't impartial (they just vote for people who they've worked for in the past), they often overlook other great films, and the Oscars is all about big-budget films.

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

Typical Dialogues
1. Brian wants to talk about the photo, a joke, some gossip and Big Brother
2. Brian unplugs the computer and Jim loses everything.

Quiz Analysis
Mostly "a" = You are a kind, respectful and considerate work colleague.
Mostly "b" = You should consider a career in the army.

Fluency Practice
B:
1. The only fly in the ointment was my aunt.
2. I'd love to be a fly on the wall.
3. It was a fly-on-the-wall documentary.
4. He wouldn't hurt a fly.
5. She's as busy as a bee.
6. It's the bee's knees."



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

- ☹️ Persons may not sleep on a road. (California)
- ☹️ It is prohibited to take a dog in an **elevator**. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to jump into a passing car. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to **pour** salt on a highway. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to drive more than two thousand sheep down Hollywood Boulevard at one time. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal for a trumpet player to play his instrument with the intention of **luring** someone to a **store**.

- ☹️ Drinking **intoxicating cement** is prohibited. (California)
- ☹️ **Crushing rocks** in the city limits is forbidden. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to **curse** on a mini-golf course. (California)
- ☹️ You cannot bathe two babies in the same **tub** at the same time. (California)
- ☹️ You may not **hunt moths** under a street light. (California)
- ☹️ **Toads** may not be **licked**. (California)



- ☹️ It is illegal to skateboard or roller-skate through the courthouse and library. (California)



- ☹️ All persons wishing to keep a rhinoceros as a pet must obtain a \$100 license first. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to chase butterflies. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to walk a camel down Palm Canyon Drive between the hours of 4 and 6pm. (California)
- ☹️ Dogs may not chase **squirrels** in the summer. (California)
- ☹️ No person may carry a fish into a bar. (California)

- ☹️ The owners of houses with Christmas lights on them past February 2nd may be **fined** up to \$250. (California)
- ☹️ Elephants are prohibited from **strolling down** Market Street unless they are on a leash. (California)
- ☹️ It is illegal to **wipe** one's car with **used underwear**. (California)
- ☹️ You may not play percussion instruments on the beach. (California) ☹️

GLOSSARY

an elevator *n US*
an electrical box that takes you up to different floors in a building. A "lift" in British English

to pour *vb*
to put liquid from one container to another

to lure someone to place *exp*
to make someone go to a place by tricking or enchanting them

a store *n US*
a shop

intoxicating *adj*
that makes you drunk

cement *n*
a grey powder that is mixed with sand and water to produce concrete

to crush rocks *exp*
to break rocks

to curse *n*
to say taboo words

a tub *n*
a bath

to hunt *vb*
to try to find in order to kill or catch

a moth *n*
an insect similar to a butterfly. It is attracted to light.

a toad *n*
an animal similar to a frog, but bigger

to lick *vb*
to move your tongue over something

a squirrel *n*
a red or grey animal with a bushy tail (a tail with a lot of hair) that lives in trees and eats nuts

to fine *vb*
if you are "fined", you must pay money to the government because you have committed a crime

to stroll down *phr vb*
to walk down casually and with no particular objective

to wipe *vb*
to clean a surface with a cloth

used *adj*
not clean and not new

underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers or skirt



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French presidential candidate accused of interference in Canadian politics.

Last month, we looked at the gaffe, that silly, dangerous or embarrassing comment made by accident. This month, we're looking at a gaffe that's causing a lot of trouble in Canada.

Don't rock the boat

Canada is a complex place. There are two official languages: English and French, but in



the province of Quebec, French is almost the exclusive language. A recent poll showed that 82% of the people in the province of Quebec were French speakers, and only 7.9% were English speakers (the others being mostly Italian and Spanish). For many decades

now, there has been talk of Quebec **seceding** from Canada and becoming an independent state. In 1995, there was a **referendum** on whether Quebec should secede from Canada and become an independent state. The referendum took place on 30th October. People were voting on a **motion** to **pursue** Quebec's independence. This motion was defeated by an extremely small margin: just half a percent (the "yes votes" got 49.42%, and the "no votes" got 50.58%). So, you can understand how sensitive the situation is in Quebec, with about half the people wanting to be independent.

Putting your foot in it

Right now, many Canadian politicians are angry with Segolene Royal. Ms Royal is France's latest political phenomenon. She is the Socialist presidential candidate, and has a long history of political gaffes. But her most recent gaffe is **causing a storm** in Canada. She apparently told reporters that she supported



"sovereignty and liberty" for Quebec. This may sound like a logical comment to make, but in a country like Canada it's **dynamite**.

Trying to take one's foot out

The reactions didn't take long to appear. Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper said, "Experience teaches that it is **highly inappropriate** for a foreign leader to **interfere** in the democratic affairs of another country." Ms Royal has **denied** interfering in Canada's internal affairs. Her comments were made after a brief meeting in Paris with Andre Boisclair, the leader of the pro-independence organisation *Parti Quebecois*. Ms Royal said that she and Mr Boisclair had common



positions that included "the sovereignty and freedom of Quebec". Later, Ms Royal said her views had not

deviated from the **long-standing** French policy of "neither interference nor indifference" in Quebec. "What I said, which I confirm, is that in any democracy, the people who vote are sovereign and free. The people of Quebec would freely decide their destiny if and when the time comes," she said.

Not the first time

This isn't the first time that a French politician has caused trouble in Canada. In the 1960s, Charles de Gaulle once caused a diplomatic scandal when he shouted "Vive le Quebec libre!" And this isn't the first time that Ms Royal has been criticised for her diplomatic gaffes. In Beijing, she said that France's justice system could learn lessons from China, a country which has long been accused of abusing human rights. Critics say that Ms Royal **tailors her remarks to please** whomever she is speaking to. Most Canadian politicians aren't that interested in excuses. ❌



GLOSSARY

to secede *vb*
if a region or group "secedes" from a country, it separates from that country

a referendum *n*
if a country holds a "referendum", they ask the people to vote on a proposal

a motion *n*
a formal proposal to do something

to pursue something *n*
if you "pursue" an activity, you do that activity

to cause a storm *exp*
to create a scandal; to create tension

dynamite *n*
if a comment is like "dynamite", it makes many people angry

highly inappropriate *exp*
not at all suitable or acceptable

to interfere *vb*
to become involved in something that doesn't concern you

to deny something *exp*
to say that something isn't true

long-standing *adj*
that has been happening for a long time

to tailor your remarks to please someone *exp*
to change the things you say so it pleases the person you are talking to

Story Time

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

Caught in the Act

A woman is working in her office when Jim comes in. In a moment of passion, the woman and Jim start kissing. A few minutes later, the boss walks in and shouts, "Is this what you get paid for?"

"No," says the woman. "I do this for free."



Paper Dunce

An attractive new **temp** is standing in front of the **paper shredder** with a confused look on his face. "Do you need any help?" a woman asks.

"Yeah," the temp says, "How does this thing work?" The woman takes the papers from the temp's hands and demonstrates how to work the shredder. After a moment, the temp still has a confused look on his face. "Any questions?" the woman asks.

"Yeah," says the temp. "Where, exactly, do the copies come out from?"

Quick-Thinking Boss

An important boss is in his office with his secretary **sitting on his lap**.

All of a sudden his wife walks in. Without hesitating, the boss **dictates** to his secretary, "...and in conclusion, gentlemen, **shortage or no shortage**, I cannot continue to operate in this office with just one chair."



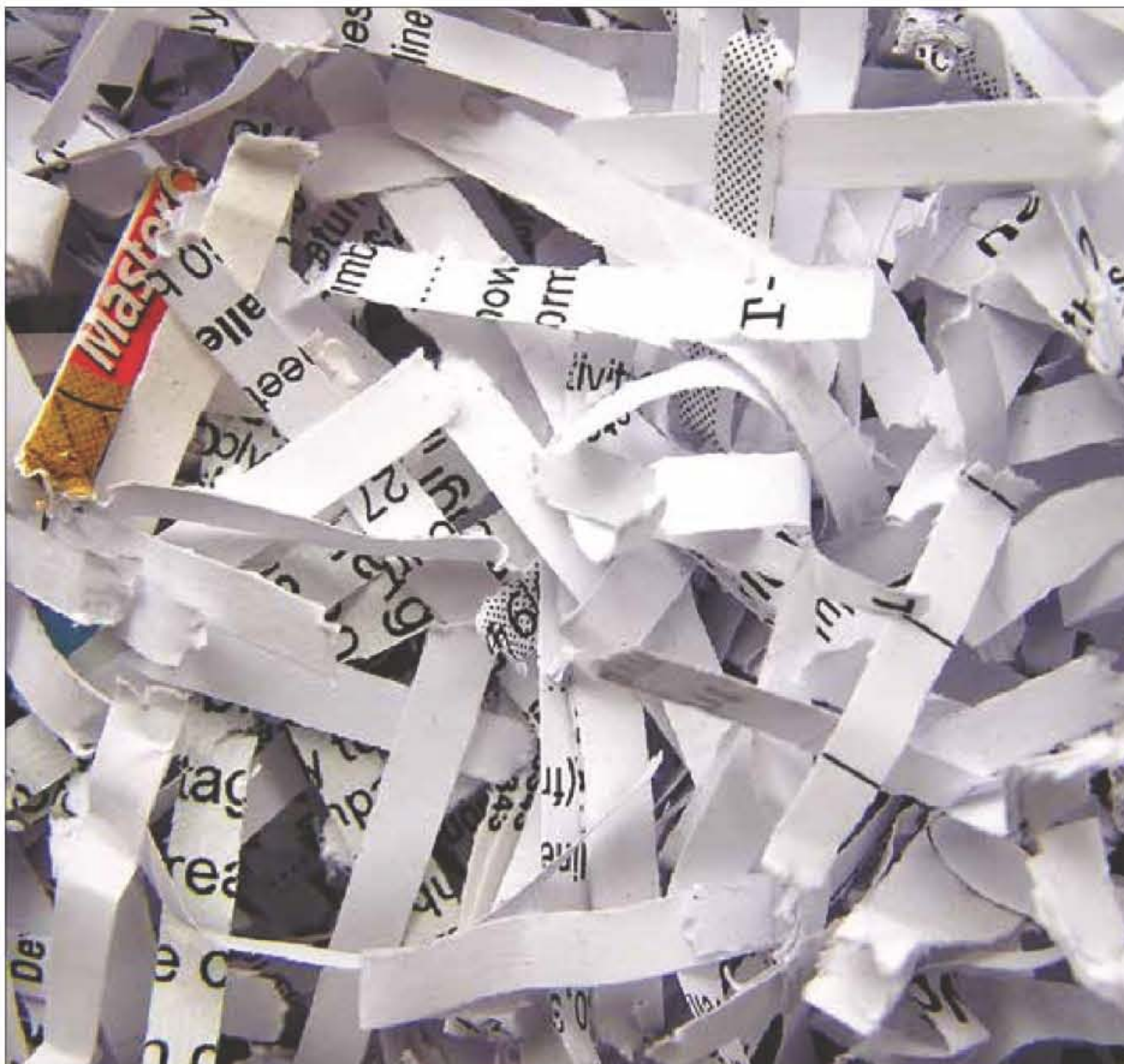
Liar!

An office manager arrives at work and notices an employee who appears to be totally **stressed out**. So, the office manager gives the employee some advice.

"You know, I was feeling really stressed last week, so I went home every afternoon for two weeks and asked my husband to give me a massage. It was fantastic, and it really helped; you should try it too."

Two weeks later, when the manager arrives at her department, she sees the employee happy and full of energy at her desk.

"I see you **followed my advice**," the manager says. "Yes, I did," says the employee. "It was great! **By the way**, I didn't know you had such a nice house!"



GLOSSARY

- a temp** *n*
a worker with a temporary or very short-term contract
- a paper shredder** *n*
a machine that cuts paper documents into very small pieces
- to sit on someone's lap** *exp*
to sit on the front part of someone's legs as they are sitting down
- to dictate** *vb*
to speak so that another person can write what you are saying
- shortage or no shortage** *exp*
I don't care if there is a shortage (a lack of something) or not
- stressed out** *adj*
very tense because you have too much work, etc
- to follow someone's advice** *exp*
to do what someone has recommended that you do
- by the way** *exp*
people use this expression when they think of something extra to say after finishing one topic



Office characters

See if you can identify the word. Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck! (Read the vocabulary page 30/31 before doing this.)



1. A student who is doing temporary work in the office in order to get work experience = an in_____.
2. The person who is employed to do office work, including typing letters and answering phone calls = the se_____.
3. The person who does administrative work for one particular person, usually an office manager or a boss = a personal a_____ (also known as a P.A.).
4. The person in charge of the office = the b_____.
5. The person who likes to play jokes on other people or do funny things = the office jo_____.
6. Someone who loves to ridicule or threaten others = the office bu_____.
7. Someone who seems to be very kind but who will report you for arriving late or for not doing your work properly = the backst_____.
8. The person who spreads stories about other people's private lives = the office gos_____.
9. The person who tells stories that no one else is interested in = the office bo_____.
10. The person who likes to get things finished as quickly as possible, and whose standard of work is usually poor = the slop_____ worker.
11. Someone who will do anything for attention at work = the attention se_____.
12. The newest employee = the new b_____.
13. Someone who deliberately causes trouble at work = the office sab_____.
14. A man who is constantly flirting with female employees = the office le_____.
15. The person who always defends the boss = the boss' p_____.
16. The person who is given all the worst jobs in the office = the office dog_____.
17. Someone who will never break any rules or regulations, even if it is the sensible thing to do = a jobs_____.

LOST IN THE SUPERMARKET BY DANIEL COULOUNE

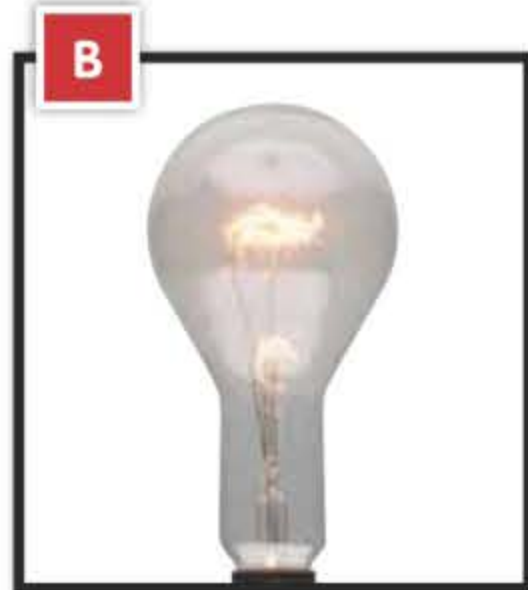
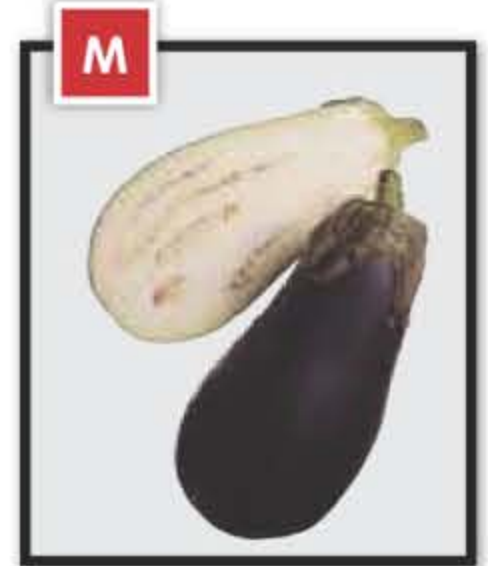


Trivia Matching

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 22

1. A light bulb
2. A jaw
3. An eyeball
4. An aubergine ("eggplant" in US English)
5. A lobster
6. An axe
7. Chess
8. An ant
9. A vulture
10. A prison
11. A thumb
12. A driver
13. A crocodile



Weird Trivia

This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so amazing?

The inventor of the **light bulb**, Thomas Edison, was afraid of the dark.

Until 1796, there was a state in the United States called Franklin. Today it is known as Tennessee.

To escape the **grip** of a crocodile's **jaws**, push your thumbs into its **eye-balls** – it will let go instantly.

Two-thirds of the world's **aubergines** are grown in New Jersey.

King Henry VIII was so afraid of being attacked at night that he slept with a gigantic **axe** under his pillow.

Men most often dream about other men; whereas women dream about men and women equally. Weird!

Between 1979 and 1988 **chess** was banned in Iran.

Amazingly, 0.7% of Americans are currently in prison.

that at this time of day, drivers would be alert and capable of adjusting to the change. No major accidents were reported.

The Boston University Bridge (on Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts) is the only place in the world where a boat can sail under a train that is driving under a car which is driving under an aeroplane. Incredible! ✨

The highest recorded flight for a bird was 11,277 metres. It was a **vulture**, which, unfortunately, flew into a plane.

An ant can lift 50 times its own weight, and can pull 30 times its own weight.

Until 1965, **Swedes** used to drive on the left-hand side of the road. The conversion to the right-hand side was carried out on a **weekday** at 5pm. All traffic stopped as people **switched sides**.

The time and day were specifically chosen to prevent accidents. It was thought



You **blink** over twenty million times a year.

It takes a **lobster** approximately seven years to grow to half a kilo.

The only state capital in the US without a McDonald's is Montpelier – the state capital of Vermont.



GLOSSARY

- a light bulb** *n*
a round, glass object that produces light when it is connected to the electricity
- a grip** *n*
a strong, firm hold on something
- a jaw** *n*
the lower part of your face below your mouth
- an eyeball** *n*
the round object in your eye that you use to look
- an aubergine** *n*
a large, purple vegetable
- to blink** *vb*
to open and close your eyes very quickly
- a lobster** *n*
a sea creature with a hard shell, two claws and eight legs
- an axe** *n*
a large weapon with a wooden handle and a piece of metal at the end for cutting trees, etc
- chess** *n*
a game played on a board with black and white squares on it. There is a king and queen in the game, and many other pieces
- a vulture** *n*
a large bird that eats dead animals
- a Swede** *n*
a person from Sweden
- a weekday** *n*
Monday to Friday
- to switch sides** *exp*
to change sides

VOCABULARY OFFICE WORKERS

Learn some useful words and expressions related to the office and the types of people who work there.

The boss – the person in charge of the office, also known as the office manager, the chief or the **big cheese**.



Intern – the student who is doing temporary work in the office in order to get work experience. Typical tasks include **archiving, typing up documents**, and moving things from one part of the office to another.

Secretary – the person who is employed to do office work, including typing letters, answering phone calls, and arranging meetings. The days of making coffee for the boss are definitely **over**.



PA (personal assistant) – this is the person who does administrative work for an office manager or boss. Typical tasks include **scheduling meetings, screening calls** and telling visitors that the boss isn't in.



The office joker (also known as the office prankster) – this is the person who likes to play jokes on other people or do silly things, including making irritating noises and hiding people's **personal belongings**.



The techie bighead – this is the technical expert who loves to talk about computers and technology. They enjoy making other people feel stupid because of a lack of technical knowledge. The techie **bighead** will use lots of **jargon** when speaking, and has an inability to explain anything in simple terms.

The office know-it-all – the person who thinks he knows the answer to everything. If you are trying to find a solution to a problem, he'll say, "Oh, no, you can't do it like that" or, "Oh, no, you don't want to do it like that". Of course, he won't offer to help you.

The little general – someone who has been given a lot of power even though they have an insignificant position in the company. They really enjoy their position of authority and use it to **order other people around**. Typical "little general" employees include security guards and receptionist staff.

The jobsworth – this person is so concerned about company rules and regulations that he won't break them in order to do something kind or **sensible**. "No, I'm sorry. I can't help you do that, it's against company rules." "No, I can't do that for

you. It's more than my job's worth."

The office bully – this is the person who loves to **ridicule** or **threaten** office employees. Bullies do this to compensate for their own **feelings of inadequacy**.

The backstabber – this person seems to be very kind but is, in fact, your worst enemy. When you aren't around, backstabbers will **report** you for arriving late or not doing your work properly.

The office gossip – this is the person who loves to **gossip** about people in the office.



The office climber – this is the person who is constantly thinking of ways to get to the top.

The office bore – this is the person who loves to tell jokes or stories that no one is interested in. Office bores tend to have very **monotonous voices**.

The slack/sloppy worker – this is the type of person who gets bored very easily, and who needs to finish things as quickly as possible. They have the **attention span of a gnat**.

The attention-seeker – this is the person who will do anything for attention at work, including **spreading false rumours** or wearing wacky clothing. They are constantly saying, "Look at me! Look at me!"

GLOSSARY

- the big cheese** *n Inform*
the most important person in an organisation
- to archive** *vb*
to put documents in files
- to type up a document** *exp*
to write a document on a computer
- over** *exp*
finished
- to schedule a meeting** *exp*
to fix a time for a meeting
- to screen calls** *exp*
to check who is calling before deciding to talk to them or put them through to another person
- personal belongings** *n*
private possessions
- a bighead** *n*
a person who thinks he/she is the best
- jargon** *n*
technical language
- to order people around** *exp*
to tell people what to do
- sensible** *adj*
logical, careful and based on reason
- to ridicule** *vb*
to make fun of someone; to laugh at someone
- to threaten** *vb*
to say that you will do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- a feeling of inadequacy** *exp*
a feeling of insecurity; a lack of confidence in yourself
- to report someone** *exp*
to tell the authorities about the bad things that someone is doing
- to gossip** *vb*
to talk about other people's private lives
- a monotonous voice** *n*
a person with a "monotonous voice"; speaks in just one continuous tone
- the attention span of a gnat** *n*
an inability to concentrate for long. A "gnat" is a very small insect
- to spread false rumours** *exp*
to say false things about someone
- veteran staff** *n*
people who have been working in a company for a long time
- to take advantage of someone** *exp*
to use someone for your own benefit
- to spread a virus** *exp*
to cause a computer virus to attack many computers
- to delete** *vb*
to eliminate
- to make advances on someone** *exp*
to try to start a sexual relationship with someone
- a lewd comment** *n*
a comment which is rude and concerned with sex

The new boy – this is the most recent arrival in the office. **Veteran staff** often **take advantage of** the new boy and give him all the worst jobs. The new boy can't wait for the next member of staff to arrive so he won't be the new boy any longer.

The office saboteur – this is the person who deliberately causes trouble at work – he's the office psycho. Typical activities include putting salt in the coffee, **spreading computer viruses**, or **deleting** important files. Their motives are dark and dangerous. If you have a saboteur in your midst, beware.

The office leech – this is the person with strong sexual desires, but very little in the way of attractiveness. The office leech spends his

day **making advances on** women or making **lewd comments**.



The boss's pet – the boss' favourite person.

The dogsbody / the gofer – this is the person who is given all the worst jobs in the office. They are often employed to carry heavy things, or make the tea and coffee. ☺



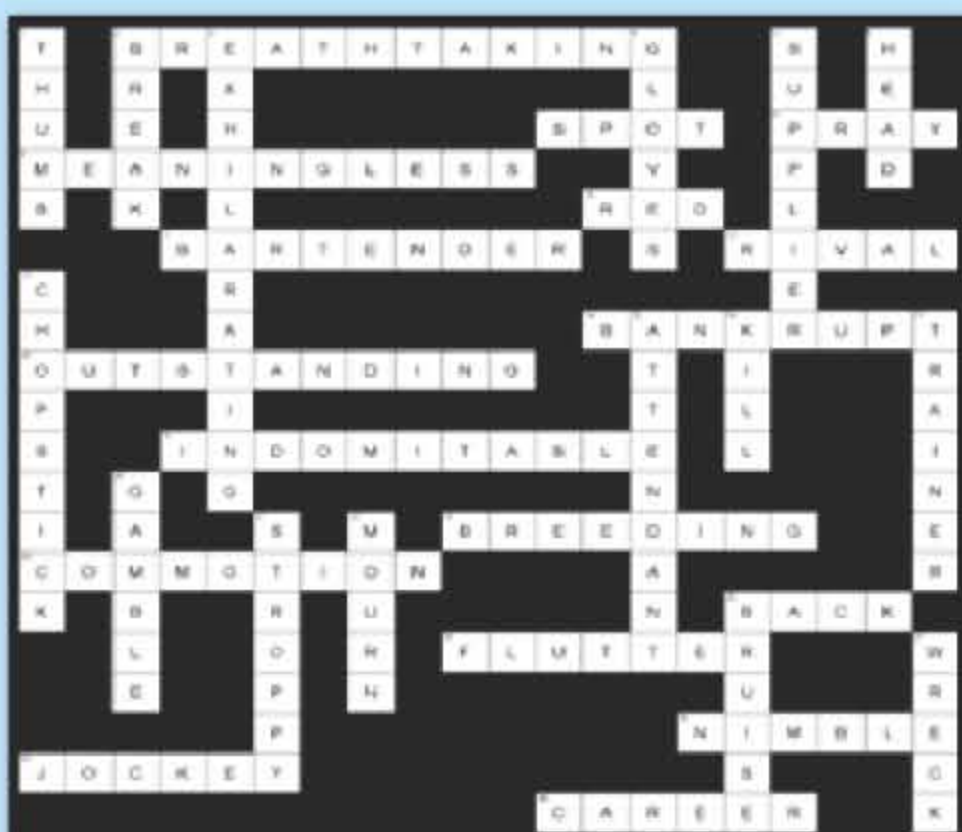
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Crossword page 22



Wordsearch answers

1. Intern
2. Secretary
3. Assistant
4. Boss
5. Joker
6. Bully
7. Backstabber
8. Gossip
9. Bore
10. Sloppy
11. Seeker
12. Boy
13. Saboteur
14. Leech
15. Pet
16. Dogsbody
17. Jobsworth

TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE OFFICE BORE

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions. **The Office Bore**

In this conversation, Jim is trying to do some work when he's disturbed by Brian, the office bore. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. What does Brian want to talk about?
2. What happens in the end?

Answers on page 22

YOUR COMPANY NEEDS AN OFFICE BORE.



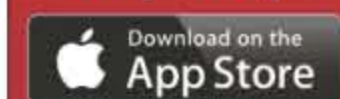
- Brian: Hello. Working, are you?
 Jim: Yes, I am, **actually**.
 Brian: **Working hard on** the computer?
 Jim: Yeah, I'm trying to **get this report finished**.
 Hey, you don't know how I can **get rid of** this **text box** here – it's just appeared in the middle of the **screen**.
 Brian: No. So, who's that in the photo?
 Jim: It's my wife.
 Brian: Nice. How old is she?
 Jim: Look, I've really got to finish this by lunchtime.
 Brian: Is that your mobile phone?
 Jim: Yes, it is.
 Brian: Have you heard **the latest**?
 Jim: No.
 Brian: Sue is getting married.
 Jim: Mmm... very interesting.
 Brian: I heard a great joke.
 Jim: Oh, really. Do you mind passing me that dictionary, please?
 Brian: Did you see *Big Brother* last night? It was really funny, Sharpy got thrown out ...
 Jim: Look, I hate to be rude, but would you mind... I really can't concentrate...
 Brian: **What's wrong?**
 Jim: Nothing. It's just I'm trying to get this finished.
 Brian: Shall I put some music on. I've got a great new CD. Here, if I just **plug in** my i-Pod here... (*Brian pulls out a plug and there's a loud bang*).
 Jim: What was that? What have you done to my computer?
 Brian: Oh, don't worry. I'll plug it in here. This song is great.
 Jim: Did you just **unplug** my computer? I've lost the file I was working on.
 Brian: (*Brian plays the song.*) Isn't it a great song? 🎧

Missing a few copies of Hot English magazine?



For some great deals on back issues:

www.learnhotenglish.com/shop



GLOSSARY

- the office bore** *n*
 someone in the office who tells annoying jokes or stories that no one is interested in
- actually** *exp*
 in fact; really
- to work hard on something** *exp*
 to put a lot of effort into doing something
- to get something finished** *exp*
 to manage to finish something
- to get rid of something** *exp*
 to make something disappear
- a text box** *n*
 a box that appears on a computer screen. You can write in the box
- a screen** *n*
 the thing you look at as you are working on the computer. It is similar to a television
- the latest** *exp*
 the most recent
- to plug something in** *exp*
 to connect something to the electricity so it works
- to unplug something** *exp*
 to disconnect something from the electricity so it stops working

The interview

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.
This month: the interview. **Part I:** Listen and repeat these expressions.

What the interviewer says

- I'm looking for someone who can...



- Do you know how to...
- Do you have much experience in...
- How long were you working as a...

- Have you ever... ?
- What type of person would you say you are?
- What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself?
- Tell me about your employment history.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Why would you be good for this position?
- Why are you interested in this position?
- What would you do in this situation?
- What do you do in your free time?
- Have you ever had to do this before?

- What do you know about our company?
- Tell me about yourself.
- Why are you suited for this position?
- What did you like about your previous positions?
- What didn't you like?
- Tell me about your greatest achievement.
- What sort of salary are you hoping to earn?



What you say

- I'm good at...
- I know how to...



- I've had experience with...
- I was working for 10 years as a...
- I am hardworking/independent/good at working in a team/ambitious, etc
- I have initiative, drive, ambition and good computer skills. ☆

Part II

Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Petra is at a job interview.

- Petra: Hi, I've come about the job interview.
Employer: Oh, yes. Please take a seat. So, I can see from your CV that you were working in marketing. What was that like?
Petra: Oh, it was really interesting, but I think I'm looking for something a bit more **challenging**. I wasn't given much responsibility.
Employer: OK, and you're **applying for the job** here as sales manager. What makes you suitable for this job?
Petra: Well, I'm really organized, I've got good experience in sales, I know how to manage a team and I'm very good at motivating people.
Employer: OK, tell me a little bit about yourself now. What do you do in your free time?
Petra: Well, I love reading. I do a lot of sport too.
Employer: OK, and what do you know about our company?
Petra: Well, the company was recently bought out by an Australian **conglomerate**, and the new acting **CEO** is Jane Mayers.
Employer: Impressive. Not a lot of people know that. OK, well, I can say that we're definitely interested. I'm going to be interviewing a few more people this week. We'll be in contact with you some time towards the end of the week.
Petra: Great. I look forward to hearing from you.



GLOSSARY

- challenging** *adj*
difficult for you
to apply for a job *exp*
to complete a form or send a letter or e-mail in response to a job ad
a conglomerate *n*
a large business consisting of several different companies
a CEO *abbr*
the chief executive officer – the person in charge of the company

QUIZ ARE YOU A WORKPLACE BULLY?

Quiz

Are you a good friend to your work colleagues? Or do you enjoy **ridiculing** and **threatening** them? Do our quiz and find out whether you are a workplace **bully** or not. **Quiz Analysis** on page 22

- There's a new employee just arrived in the office. What do you say to him?
 - Here, I'll show you around and introduce you to everyone.
 - I'm the boss here and don't forget it. Now go and make some tea!



- A junior colleague comes to you for help understanding a document. What do you say?
 - Yes, of course, I'd be glad to help you.
 - Hey, listen up everyone: Jim can't read. What an idiot!
- A work colleague suggests **playing some practical jokes** on other colleagues. What do you say?
 - I think **I'll pass on that one**.
 - Yeah, let's **lock** the new boy in the **store room**.



- There's an **outing** organised for managers and staff. Everyone should be attending, with only a very few

exceptions. What do you say to your assistant?

- Please come along. It'll be great fun.
- Stay in the office and finish those reports.



- You're in a meeting, giving a presentation on a new line of products. One of the junior employees asks you an **awkward question**. What do you say?
 - If you don't mind, I'll answer your question later.
 - What? Who **the hell** are you to ask me a question?



- A work colleague has put on a lot of weight recently. What do you do?
 - Nothing.
 - I **poke** him in the **belly**, and tell everyone that his new name is "**fatty**".



- Another colleague has lost his hair because of a rare hair condition. What do you do?
 - I ask if there's anything I can do to help.
 - I **slap** him on the head every time I see him and say, "**Rise and shine**".



- A junior employee has made a number of mistakes in a report she wrote last week. What do you do?
 - I give her some advice on **avoiding** some of the most **common pitfalls**.
 - I **pin** her report **up** on the office **notice board**, highlighting her mistakes in a **marker pen**.



- You've had a really serious disagreement with one of your colleagues. What do you do?
 - Only speak to her when I have to, and focus exclusively on work-related matters.
 - I make **snide remarks** about her when other people are around. ⚡



GLOSSARY

- to ridicule someone** *exp*
to laugh at someone in order to make them feel bad
- to threaten someone** *exp*
to act in a violent or aggressive way towards someone
- a bully** *n*
a person in a strong position who attacks people in weaker positions
- to play a practical joke on someone** *exp*
to do something to someone in order to make that person feel embarrassed or stupid
- I'll pass on that one** *exp*
I won't do it this time; I don't want to do it
- to lock** *vb*
to close a door with a key so someone can't get in or out
- a store room** *n*
a room used to keep supplies such as paper/pens, etc
- an outing** *n*
an organised trip outside the office/school
- an awkward question** *n*
a question that is difficult to answer
- the hell** *exp inform*
people use this expression for emphasis or when they are angry
- to poke** *vb*
to hit with your finger
- a belly** *n inform*
a stomach
- fatty** *adj inform*
a name used to refer to someone who is a bit fat
- to slap** *vb*
to hit with an open hand
- rise and shine** *exp*
people often use this expression when telling someone to get out of bed. People with bald heads can supposedly "shine" their heads (make the head look bright)
- to avoid something** *exp*
to try not to do something
- a common pitfall** *n*
a mistake that people often make
- to pin something up** *exp*
to fix something on a wall with sellotape/pins/nails, etc
- a notice board** *n*
a plastic or wooden board on the wall with messages for staff
- a marker pen** *n*
a pen that makes a thick mark on paper
- to make a snide remark** *n*
to make comments that are designed to hurt someone

Quirky News

Funny news stories from around the world.

Lessons Learnt



Two robbers thought they had an easy victim. They **spotted** 78-year-old Jennifer Smiles in a car and decided to rob her. One of the men jumped into the passenger seat with a gun and demanded Smiles' money.

However, Smiles wasn't about to **give in to their demands**. She responded by **grabbing** the robber and his gun and **exchanging blows**. A second robber came into the car to rescue his friend, but Smiles hit him too. Eventually, the two robbers escaped and ran away... without any money and without the gun. Police are reviewing **surveillance footage** from security cameras.

Free Living



University graduate Jim Barker thought he'd found the ideal home: a Wal-Mart **department store**. He managed to live there for more than three days. "**There was no one around** at night, so I slept in the garden department or in the **men's room**," Barker explained. "I **killed time** by putting **items** back on the right **shelves**, **figuring** at least I was being productive and beneficial to the store." He had planned to stay longer, but after about 41 hours he noticed that managers **were on to him**.

Paris Problems



For many people Paris is a dream city: the cobbled streets, beautiful French women, the culture, the art at the Louvre.... But for some Japanese tourists, it's a **nightmare**. Every year, about a dozen Japanese tourists have to be repatriated from the French capital suffering from what is known as the "Paris syndrome". This is what happens when they discover that Paris is not quite as wonderful as they expected. The rude Parisians and aggressive taxi drivers are too much for some and they suffer a **psychiatric breakdown**. Around a million Japanese travel to France every year. However, reality can come as a shock. So far this year, the Japanese embassy in Paris has had to **repatriate** four people, sending them back by plane with a doctor or nurse to help them **get over the shock**. Apparently, the only cure is to go back to Japan... and never return to Paris.

GLOSSARY

- to spot** *vb*
to notice
- to give in to someone's demands** *exp*
to do what someone wants you to do even though you don't want to
- to grab** *vb*
to take suddenly
- to exchange blows** *exp*
to have a physical fight
- surveillance footage** *n*
images recorded on a video camera in the street / in a shop, etc
- a department store** *n*
a large shop with many sections selling many different things
- there was no one around** *exp*
there was no one there
- the men's room** *n*
the toilet for men
- to kill time** *exp*
if you "kill time", you try to find something to do while you are waiting
- an item** *n*
a product; an object
- a shelf** *n*
a piece of wood/metal/plastic on which products are placed
- to figure** *vb*
to think
- were on to him** *exp*
knew about him and what he was doing
- a nightmare** *n*
a terrible situation
- a psychiatric breakdown** *n*
a situation in which you are too stressed to function normally
- to repatriate someone** *exp*
to send someone back to their country of origin
- to get over the shock** *exp*
to recover from a shock

MONK WINE

A WINE THAT WAS INVENTED BY BENEDICTINE MONKS IS CAUSING HAVOC.

What do teenagers in your country do on a Saturday night? Go to the cinema? Meet up with friends in a restaurant? For many British teenagers, one of their favourite hobbies is getting drunk. And one of the most popular drinks in Scotland is a drink produced by monks called Buckfast Tonic Wine.



Hold on

Buckfast Tonic Wine, commonly known as "Buckfast", "Buckie" or "Bucky", is a type of wine that is produced by monks at Buckfast Abbey in south-west England. The wine was first produced in the 1890s when Benedictine monks started using a recipe brought over from France. The wine was originally sold in small quantities by the Abbey, as a medicine with the slogan, "Three small glasses a day, for good health and lively blood". By the 1920s some 1,400 bottles were sold annually. But in 1927, the Abbey lost its licence to sell wine. So, the Abbot **signed a deal** with **wine merchants** to distribute the wine **on the Abbey's behalf**. As part of the deal, the monks had to change the drink so it was, in the words of the monks, a "smoother, more mature medicated wine". The result is a strong, sweet, sticky... and very cheap drink that young people love. After the change, sales increased rapidly.



Teenage Drinkers



These days, Buckfast Tonic Wine is popular among young drinkers, particularly in Scotland. There, the drink is known as **Commotion Lotion** and **Wreck the Hoose Juice**. In fact, statistics show that Lanarkshire in Scotland accounts for around 10% of worldwide sales. Other

important importers include Spain, Australia and the Caribbean. And, because it's so popular with anti-social teenage drinkers, it has a bad reputation. Its high strength (15%), and relatively low price and sweetness appeal to underage drinkers.

Wine Critics

Many politicians have singled out Buckfast Tonic Wine as being particularly responsible for crime, **disorder**, and general social deprivation in these communities



(although in reality, Buckfast is only one of a number of brands consumed abusively and accounts for only 0.5% of alcohol sales in Scotland).

Helen Liddell, the former Secretary of State for Scotland, called for the wine to be **banned**. And in some parts of Lanarkshire, some shops have been **granted an off-licence** on the condition they do *not* sell Buckfast.

The Scottish Justice Minister, Cathy Jamieson, once suggested that retailers should stop selling Buckfast. A further attack was made by Andy Kerr, the Scottish Parliament's Health Minister. In a radio interview in 2006, he described the drink as a "seriously bad" contributor to anti-social behaviour. In turn, he was accused of showing "bad manners" and a "complete lack of judgement" by the distributors.

The Future

So, what does the future of the drink look like? The Scottish health minister, Andy Kerr, has agreed to hold talks with representatives of the company which distributes the wine on behalf of the Roman Catholic monks of Buckfast Abbey. He will try to find out why the drink is such a favourite, especially with young people in some deprived areas of Scotland. Meanwhile, the distributors, J Chandler & Co, **reject criticisms** of the drink, saying politicians should **attack the root of problem drinking** rather than one product. It insists it does not market the drink to young people with promotions such as two-for-one offers or coupons. For their part, the monks prefer not to comment. Would you like a glass of Buckfast? ☺



Information Box Teenage drinkers

This table shows the percentage of teenagers who say they have been drunk 20 times or more.

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Denmark | 41% |
| UK | 29% |
| Finland | 28% |
| Ireland | 25% |
| Portugal | 4% |
| France | 4% |
| Italy | 2% |



GLOSSARY

- a monk** *n*
a man who dedicates his life to religion and who lives in a monastery
- to sign a deal** *exp*
to put your name on a contract
- a wine merchants** *n*
a company that buys and sells alcoholic drinks
- on the Abbey's behalf** *exp*
for the abbey; in the name of the abbey
- a commotion** *n*
if there is a "commotion", there is a lot of noise/excitement/confusion/chaos/fighting, etc
- to wreck something** *exp*
to destroy something
- the hoose** *n Scot*
the house, as pronounced with a Scottish accent
- 15%** *exp*
most wine is about 12%, so 15% is quite strong
- disorder** *n*
if there is "disorder", there is violence and noise
- banned** *adj*
prohibited
- to grant someone an off-licence** *exp*
to give someone permission to sell alcohol
- to reject criticism** *exp*
to say that the criticism isn't true
- attack the root of something** *exp*
to find the cause of a problem and to try to resolve it
- problem drinking** *n*
drinking in excess, drinking too much, drinking in order to become drunk

Do you speak

"Engrish"?

A new form of English invented by the Japanese.

"I wonder why coffee tastes so good when you're **naked** with your family." What is this? Actually it's the text from a Japanese advert for coffee. And it's a fine example of the new form of English known as "Engrish".

English is cool

Have you ever bought a T-shirt with some foreign-language writing on it? A few French words perhaps? Some attractive but **meaningless** Chinese writing? In Japan, it's really typical to buy products with English words on them. In fact, English phrases have long appeared in Japanese advertising and product design. They are apparently there only to make products and services look cool to the Japanese public. But the funny thing is most of the words or expressions don't really make much sense. And now they've **come up with** a word to describe this new form of written English: "Engrish".

English is "Engrish"

"Engrish" can be defined as the incorrect English that appears in Japanese advertising and on products. While the term may refer to spoken English, it is more often used to describe written English.

"Engrish" has been found on everything, including poorly-translated signs, **menus**, **instruction manuals** and advertisements, and strange T-shirt slogans.

So, why is it known as "Engrish"? Well, the term originates from the fact that the Japanese do not have separate sounds for the letters "R" and "L". So, native Japanese speakers who aren't **fluent** in English often mispronounce English words

containing the letters "R" and "L". For example, instead of saying "rice", they may say "**lice**"; and instead of saying "like", they may say "rike".

Video Game English

There are basically two types of "Engrish": misspelled or grammatically-incorrect instructions (often found in instruction manuals and video games); and illogical combinations of words (often found in advertising or on T-shirts). Most of the video game examples are the result of poor Japanese-to-English translations. Here are a few memorable "Engrish" phrases from video games:



- a) Engrish: All your base are belong to us.
Correct: All your bases belong to us.
- b) Engrish: I feel asleep.
Correct: I feel tired/sleepy.
- c) Engrish: You fail it.
Correct: You fail.
- d) Engrish: Victoly.
Correct: Victory.
- e) Engrish: Entry your name.
Correct: Enter your name.
- f) Engrish: A winner is you!
Correct: You win!
- g) Engrish: This guy are sick.
Correct: These guys are sick / This guy is sick.



Advertising & T-Shirt English

And here are some examples of Engrish from T-shirts and advertising:

- a) From a **cooling fan**: Going faster is the system job.
- b) On a packet of **chopsticks**: Please to try your nice Chinese food with chopsticks the traditional and typical of Chinese glorious history and cultural.
- c) On a T-shirt: I do a lot of thing.
- d) On a T-shirt: My boyfriend out of tow.
- e) On a T-shirt: **Spank** on me.
- f) On a T-shirt: Modesty does not here.
- g) On a car: **Outlaw** excellent company big sedan.
So, would you like to learn "Engrish"? ☺

Information Box English online

For more information on this topic, visit the website www.english.com. There's also a book all about "Engrish" called *The Joys of English* by Steven Caires.



Information Box "Engrish" in the cinema

There's an example of "Engrish" in the film *Lethal Weapon 4*. In one scene, Mel Gibson's character is speaking to Uncle Benny, a Chinese restaurant owner and Triad member. He asks Uncle Benny for some "fliced lice" (instead of the correct "fried rice"). To which Benny responds, "It's fried rice!" And in the film *Team America*, the North Korean leader can be heard singing the song "I'm so ronery" (which should be "I'm so lonely").

GLOSSARY

- naked** *adj*
with no clothes on
- meaningless** *adj*
that has no sense or meaning
- to come up with something** *exp*
to think of something
- a menu** *n*
a list of food served in a restaurant with the corresponding prices
- an instructional manual** *n*
a book that tells you how to use a machine
- to be fluent in a language** *exp*
to speak a foreign language perfectly
- lice** *n*
small insects that live on the bodies of animals or people
- a cooling fan** *n*
an electrical appliance that creates cool air
- chopsticks** *n*
two thin sticks that Chinese and other Asian people use to eat food
- to spank** *vb*
to hit someone on the bottom (the part of your body that you sit on)
- to outlaw** *vb*
if something is "outlawed", it is made illegal

A French Love Affair

A French proposal from the 1950s that's causing embarrassment.

Britain and France have been **rivals** for centuries. There have been diplomatic scandals, periods of tension and even wars. But not so long ago, a certain French prime minister made a very unusual proposal. And now the French are highly embarrassed by it.

An Unlikely Union

On 10th September 1956,



Guy Mollet, the French prime minister, came to London. He

arrived with a very special request: to discuss the possibility of a **merger** between Britain and France. Yes, that's it. To talk about a "union" between the two countries who had been at war so many times in the past. He even **discussed the possibility of** the Queen becoming the **head** of the French state.

The conversations took place with the British prime



minister, Sir Anthony Eden. A British cabinet paper (that

has been **declassified**) reads, "When the French prime minister, Monsieur Mollet, was recently in London, he **raised** with the prime minister **the possibility of** a union between the United Kingdom and France."

Crisis

So, why? That's the big question. Well, apparently, at the time

of the proposal, France was in economic difficulties, and was facing the **Suez crisis***.



Also, it was just after the Second World War, during which Britain

had been a **staunch ally** of France.

The idea of joining the two states was rejected. But Mr Mollet quickly responded with another plan: that France be allowed to join the British **Commonwealth**. At first, this proposal was **met more warmly** by Sir Anthony. However, it was also eventually rejected. And, a year later, France signed the **Treaty of**

Rome with Germany and the other founding nations of the **European Common Market**.

Reactions

Current French politicians are in shock. "I tell you the truth, when I read that, I



am quite astonished," said Jacques Myard, a French Nationalist

MP. "I had a good opinion of Mr Mollet before. I think I am going to revise that opinion. I am just amazed at reading this, because since the days I was learning history as a student, I have never heard of this. It is not in the textbooks."

A spokesman for the French embassy said most people had been surprised by the revelation. "We are looking at our national archives," he said. "We cannot

comment at this stage."

You may like to remind French people of this proposal next time they make fun of English food or the British in general. 🇫🇷



*Information Box The Suez Crisis

The Suez Crisis (also known as the Suez War, or the Tripartite aggression as it is commonly known in the Arab world) was a war fought by Israel, France and Britain against Egypt for control of the Suez Canal.



GLOSSARY

- a rival** *n*
a competitor
- a merger** *n*
if there is a "merger", two companies or organisations join and become one
- to discuss the possibility of something** *exp*
to talk about things you may do in the future
- a head** *n*
a leader
- a declassified (paper)** *n*
a secret document that the public can see - usually after 50 years
- to raise the possibility of something** *exp*
to say that something may be possible in the future
- a staunch ally** *n*
a very good friend; a country that supports another country
- the Commonwealth** *n*
an organisation of countries that were once part of the British Empire
- met more warmly** *exp*
received more positively
- the Treaty of Rome** *n*
a law that formed the European Economic Community (EEC) signed by France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg in 1957
- the European Common Market** *n*
another way of referring to the EEC (see above)

Let's be



friends

(if we aren't already!)

HOT SCIENCE ROBOTS

How humans may soon become superfluous.

Tired of doing the **ironing**? **Fed up of** making the beds, cleaning the house and washing the clothes? The good news is that the days of endless **house chores** could be at an end, or so Bill Gates thinks.

Modern Living

Sally is a marketing manager for a large multinational company. She's at work and decides to check how things are at home from a webpage. She's happy: the **tasks** she **set** in the morning for her robot have all been completed: the washing, the ironing, the vacuuming and the cleaning. Satisfied that everything is in order, she checks her elderly mother's house. Everything is fine: her mother's "**companionbot**" has given mum her medicine and helped her out of bed and into a chair.

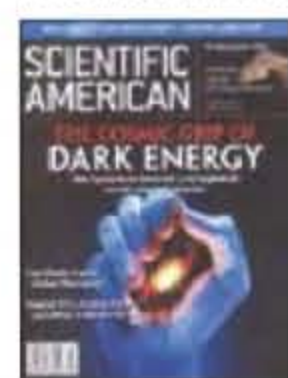
This may sound like something out of a science

fiction movie, but it isn't. It is, in fact, the vision of the future offered by Bill Gates.



Modern Thinking

In an article in the magazine



Scientific American, Gates argues that the robotics industry is about to

expand. He compares the **current** state of robotic technology to the situation in the computer industry during the mid-1970s when



he and fellow **entrepreneur** Paul Allen **launched** Microsoft.

"The level of excitement and expectation reminds me so much of the time when Paul and I looked



at the convergence of new technologies and dreamed of the day when a computer would be on every desk and in every home," Gates writes. "I can **envision** a future in which robotic devices will become a nearly **ubiquitous part of our day-to-day lives.**"

Modern Adaptations

Up until now, there have been many problems. "It has proved extremely difficult to give robots the capabilities that humans **take for granted**," Gates explained. "For example, the abilities to **orient themselves** with respect to the objects in a room, to respond to sounds and interpret speech, and to **grasp** objects of varying sizes, textures and fragility. Even something as simple as **telling the difference between** an open door and a window can be **devilishly**

tricky for a robot." However, there has been progress. In 2004, a race for robotic vehicles across 142 miles of rugged terrain in the Mojave Desert was too much for them. The top robot car managed only seven miles before **breaking down**. But in 2005, the winner completed the course with an average speed of 30 kph, followed by four other finishers. Mr Gates thinks the **falling cost** of computer components will contribute to advances. But he believes that, like the early computer industry, robot developers need a common set of programming tools to solve problems such as dealing with numerous sources of information simultaneously. So, Bill Gates has **set up a team** to solve these problems. The future is **looking bright** for robots. ☺

Information Box Robot

The word "robot" is also used in a general sense to mean any machine that mimics the actions of a human in the physical sense or in the mental sense. It comes from the Slavic word *robota*, labour or work (also used in a sense of a serf). The word robot first appeared in Czech writer Karel Capek's science fiction play *RUR* (Rossum's Universal Robots) in 1921, and according to Čapek, was coined by the author's brother, painter Josef Capek. The word was brought into popular Western use by famous science fiction writer Isaac Asimov.

GLOSSARY

- the ironing** *n*
using an iron (an electrical appliance) to make clothes flat
- to be fed up of something** *exp.*
to be tired of something
- house chores** *n*
jobs you do in the house: cleaning, ironing, etc
- a task** *n*
a job
- to set something** *exp.*
if you "set someone a task", you tell them to do a job, explaining how to do it
- a companionbot** *n*
a robot that keeps someone company
- to expand** *vb*
to make bigger
- current** *adj*
that is happening at the moment
- an entrepreneur** *n*
a business person
- to launch** *vb*
to put a product on the market so people can buy it
- to envision** *vb*
to imagine
- a ubiquitous part of our day-to-day lives** *exp.*
something that forms part of the things we do or use every day
- to take something for granted** *exp.*
to accept something as true/easy/normal without thinking about it
- to orient yourself** *exp.*
to find out where you are, and where things are around you
- to grasp** *vb*
to take in your hands
- to tell the difference between two things** *exp.*
to be able to see the difference between two things
- devilishly tricky** *exp.*
very hard/difficult
- to break down** *phr vb*
to stop working
- a falling cost** *n*
costs that are decreasing
- to set up a team** *exp.*
to form a group of people
- to look bright** *exp.*
to appear to be positive

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DESERT ORCHID

He was loved by many. He appeared in **charity events** all over the country. He took part in the celebrations for the Queen Mother's 90th birthday. He had a special fan club, and thousands of people joined it. And once, a Christmas card arrived from Australia with the simple address: *Desert Orchid, Somewhere in England*. Who was this famous Englishman? Actually, he wasn't a person as such. He was a horse, but a very special one.



Information Box Steeplechasing

This form of racing involves jumping over fences and ditches. The most famous of these races is the English Grand National. The Grand National has been run annually at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool since 1837. It is held on a Saturday in early April.

Horse love affairs

No other country would probably **mourn** the death of a horse as the English would. For the English, the horse is a special animal that should be admired and loved. Racehorses also hold a special place in English society. And Desert Orchid, or Dessie as she was also known, was no exception.

A life of fame

Despite being a horse, Dessie enjoyed a **life of fame and fortune**. He was a special guest

on the BBC *Sports Personality of the Year* show, Princess Anne rode him in a 1992 charity race, and he even



inspired a government minister. During a government speech,

Norman Lamont (the **Chancellor of the Exchequer**) said, "Desert Orchid and I have a lot in common. We are both **greys**... the Opposition hopes we shall **fall at the first fence**, and we are both carrying too much weight."

Goodbye Dessie

When Dessie died on 13th November 2006 (at the age of 27) he was **given full honours**. Former **trainer** David Elsworth said the following, with the solemn voice of a funeral reporter, "Desert Orchid died peacefully in his stable at 6.05am. There was no stress; he departed from this world with dignity and **no fuss**. He did his dying in the same individual way that he did his living. It was time to go... everybody will miss

Information Box Victories

Desert Orchid created history by becoming the only horse to win the King George VI Chase four times. The King George VI Chase is a race in England. It is run over a distance of 3 miles (4,828 metres) at Kempton Park racecourse on Boxing Day (24th December). During his life, Desert Orchid won more than £650,000 in prize money.



him and **our sympathy goes to** his adoring public and fan club that **never ceased to** take opportunities to see him at his public appearances." Desert Orchid's **ashes** were eventually **scattered** near his statue at Kempton Park **racecourse**.

A special horse

So, what was so special about Desert Orchid? Colin Brown, Desert Orchid's regular jockey said, "He was just an **outstanding** horse with

an outstanding character. He could be **stroppy** sometimes, but he was a real professional... it was like driving a Ferrari rather than a Cortina."

Another jockey, Richard Dunwoody, added, "He was a fantastic horse to ride, and without doubt the best horse I ever rode in my entire **career**."



Another contributing factor was the fact that he was grey. People at the races like this as they can easily see the horse they have **backed**. Traditionally, greys have been a favourite among the public. And finally, Dessie **had an indomitable will** to win. In numerous races he looked beaten, but famously fought back to win. His most amazing race was in the 1989 Cheltenham Gold Cup, when he won despite hating both the **track** and the **muddy ground**. *

GLOSSARY

a charity event *n*
a planned and organised occasion to make money for charity (organisations that help poor people, etc)

to mourn *vb*
if you are "mourning", you are sad because someone has died

a life of fame and fortune *n*
a life as a famous person with interviews, press photos, etc

the Chancellor of the Exchequer *n*
the government minister responsible for finance and economics

a grey *n*
two things: a person with grey hair; a horse that is a grey/white colour

to fall at the first fence *exp*
to have problems at the first sign of trouble. Literally, a "fence" is a barrier made of wood that horses jump over during a race

to give someone full honours *exp*
to treat someone with the respect normally given to royalty or aristocracy

a trainer *n*
a person who works with horses, teaching them how to race, etc

no fuss *n*
if there is "no fuss", things are done in a calm, controlled manner

our sympathy goes to X *exp*
we feel very sorry for X because something sad has happened to him/her

never to cease *exp*
not to stop, ever

ashes *n*
after a dead person is cremated (burnt) there are ashes (a grey powder)

to scatter *vb*
if you "scatter" ashes, you put them over an area

a racecourse *n*
a marked area over which horses run in races

outstanding *adj*
impressive

stroppy *adj*
bad tempered and obstinate (doing what he/she wants)

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

to back *vb*
to support; to bet on (to put money on as a sport)

to have an indomitable will *exp*
to have a lot of determination

a track *n*
the path along which horses run during a race

muddy ground *n*
ground that is a mixture of water and earth

HORSE QUOTES

Here are some things that people have said about horses.



"I ride, therefore I am."
Anonymous

"**Closeness**, friendship, **affection**: keeping your own horse means all these things."
Bertrand Leclair.

"The horse is God's **gift** to man."
Old Arab proverb.

"Show me your horse, and I will tell you who you are."
Old English saying.

"A dog **looks up** to a man. A cat **looks down on** a man. But a patient horse looks a man in the eye and sees him as an equal."
Anonymous.



"A **canter** is the cure for every evil."
Benjamin Disraeli.

"A horse is the projection of people's dreams about themselves – strong, powerful, beautiful – and it has the capability of **letting**

us escape from our **mundane existence**."
Pam Brown.



"I am still under the impression that there is nothing alive quite so beautiful as a horse."
John Galsworthy.

"If a car passes me when I'm on a horse, I always think: if I were in that car and saw me, I would wish I was me. **Wistful** children's faces, **staring** out of the back window, agree."
Monica Dickens.

"When I can't ride any more, I shall still keep horses as long as I can **hobble about** with a **bucket** and **wheelbarrow**. When I can't hobble, I shall roll my **wheelchair** out to the fence of the field where my horses **graze** and watch them."
Monica Dickens.

"**God forbid I should go to**

any heaven where there are no horses."
R.B. Cunningham.

"A horse **gallops** with its **lungs**, **perseveres** with its heart, and wins with its character."
Tesio.



"He is pure air and fire; and the dull elements of earth

and water never appear in him, but only in patient stillness while his rider mounts him: he is indeed a horse: and all other **jades** you may call beasts."
William Shakespeare, King Henry V.

"A woman needs two animals: the horse of her dreams and a **jackass** to pay for it."
Anonymous.

"When riding my horse, I no longer have my heart in my chest, but between my knees."
Anonymous. ☺

GLOSSARY

- closeness** *n*
being emotionally close to someone
- affection** *n*
feelings of love and kindness for someone
- a gift** *n*
a present
- to look up to someone** *exp*
to admire someone
- to look down on someone** *exp*
to think that someone is inferior
- to canter** *vb*
if a horse "canters", it runs quite fast
- letting us** *exp*
permitting us
- a mundane existence** *n*
a normal, ordinary, uninteresting life
- wistful** *adj*
sad because you cannot have something
- to stare** *vb*
to look continuously and for a period of time
- to hobble about** *phr vb*
to walk with difficulty because you have hurt your leg
- a bucket** *n*
a metal or plastic container for water
- a wheelbarrow** *n*
an open cart with one wheel for carrying things in the garden
- a wheelchair** *n*
a chair with wheels for people who cannot walk
- to graze** *vb*
if animals are "grazing", they are eating grass or other plants
- God forbid I should go to...** *exp*
I hope I never go to...
- to gallop** *vb*
if a horse "gallops", it runs very fast
- a lung** *n*
the bag in your chest that has air in it
- to persevere** *vb*
to continue trying even though there are difficulties
- a jade** *n* *Shakespearean English*
an ordinary animal
- a jackass** *n* *inform*
a stupid person

THE SPORT OF KINGS

HORSE RACING IN BRITAIN – A LOOK AT THE HISTORY AND THE HYSTERIA.

For many English people, there's nothing better than a day at the races. Exciting action. Good food and drink. A day out in the open air. A unique atmosphere. And a **flutter** on your favourite horse. More than six million people in England enjoy the sport. Why not join us for an **exhilarating** look at horseracing.

People-watching

Next time you visit England, you should go to a horserace. It's a great chance to do a bit of **people-watching**. You'll see all sorts of interesting characters, and, even better, all sorts of unusual English people.

The most famous English horserace meeting is Royal Ascot. You've



probably seen images of it on television, with aristocratic English ladies in their nicest, most colourful and biggest hats. The Royal Ascot week is a five-day meeting, held in June at Royal Ascot Meadow Village in the county of Berkshire. Over 300,000 people go there during the week, making this Europe's best-attended race meeting.

Royal Ascot started in 1711 and it's a major event in the **social calendar** for the upper-class – where you must be seen. Many people just go there for the social side of things, and to drink large quantities of champagne. And the press are often more interested in what people are wearing and doing than the actual racing itself.



Royal Ascot

Another reason for the popularity of Royal Ascot is because it is closely associated with the Royal Family. Every day members of the Royal Family arrive to watch the races. All spectators who enter the royal **enclosure** must wear a **morning suit**, and many ladies wear large, colourful

hats. Most people outside of this section choose to wear **posh clothes** anyway. To be admitted to the royal enclosure for the first time, you must be sponsored by someone who has attended at least four times before.



Information Box The Rocking Horse

What was your favourite toy as a child? During the Victorian period, rocking horses were one of the most popular toys for children. Rocking horses are basically wooden horses that children sit on and **pretend** to ride. The rocking horse market really **took off** in 1851 when Queen Victoria visited a rocking horse factory. While she was there, she admired a **dapple grey** rocking horse. Soon, everyone found out about Queen Victoria's preference, and after that, dapple grey rocking horses became the favourites of Victorian English children. There are two types of rocking horse: those on bow rockers, and those on a stand.



Types of racing

But there's more to horseracing in Britain than just Royal Ascot. In fact,



there are more than 60 racecourses around the country, with thousands of people employed in this multi-million pound industry, including **jockeys**, trainers and **breeders**.

In Britain there are basically two types of races: National Hunt racing, and flat racing. National Hunt racing is run on courses with obstacles (either **hurdles** or fences). Flat racing has no obstacles and is run on a flat course. So, when did horseracing start in Britain?

History

Experts believe that the first horse races were organised around 200 AD by Roman soldiers in the north of England.

The first recorded race meeting was during the reign of Henry II in London in 1174 during a horse fair.

Horseracing really became popular in the 17th century. Around the time that Charles I of England came to the throne, race meetings in the spring and autumn were introduced to Newmarket (a famous racecourse in England).

Later, in 1752, the Jockey Club was formed to create and apply the rules of horseracing.

Finally, in 1969, the Jockey Club and the National Hunt Committee were combined, and this is the body that regulates horseracing in Britain.



Betting

One of the main attractions of horseracing is its association with **gambling**. It makes the



day at the races even more exciting. Every horse in a race has odds. For example, if you **bet** one pound on a horse whose odds are 10 to 1 against, you will receive ten pounds if the horse wins, plus your one pound that you bet (11 pounds in total); and with a horse

with odds of 5 to 1, you would win 5 pounds, plus your one pound bet (6 pounds in total). The most common ways to bet money are: bet to win and bet to place. "Bet to win" means that you put money on a horse, and if it comes in first place, you win the amount shown on the odds.

With "bet to place", you are betting on your horse finishing the race in either first, second, third and, in some cases, fourth place.

Obviously, the amount you receive is lower with "place" bets because you have a greater chance of winning. So, will you be going to the races? 🍀

Information Box Horse breeding

The breeding, training and racing of horses in many countries is a **huge** business. Exceptional horses can win millions, and they can make millions more by providing **stud services**, such as horse breeding.

A **thoroughbred stallion** who has won many races will usually be **put up to stud** when he is **retired**. The owners of **mares** must pay large sums of money to breed their horses with the stallion. The more successful a horse has been, the more expensive it is to breed with. Stallions can **mate with** about 40 mares a year.

The history of **horse breeding** is very interesting. Horses from Europe are generally heavy and slow. So, when people in Europe wanted faster horses, they started to import Arabian horses. These horses were much faster than European horses. When they were bred with European horses, they produced a breed which is taller than the Arabian and faster than European horses.

Another mixture of horses produced the Andalusian. This horse was developed in Spain and is powerful and extremely **nimble**. It is capable of **quick bursts of speed** over short distances. This is ideal for certain types of combat, as well as for bullfighting.



Information Box US horseracing

After baseball, horse racing is the second most widely-attended spectator sport in the US. In 1989, more than 50 million people attended 8,004 days of horse racing, betting more than \$9 billion. Horse racing is also a major professional sport in Canada, Ireland, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South America.

GLOSSARY

- a flutter** *n inform*
if you have a "flutter", you gamble on a horse (put money on a horse)
- exhilarating** *adj*
exciting
- people-watching** *n*
observing people
- the social calendar** *n*
the events that are important for the "upper" class, such as Ascot, Wimbledon, etc
- an enclosure** *n*
an area of land that is closed to the public and surrounded by a wall or fence
- a morning suit** *n*
formal clothing for a man often worn at weddings, often consisting of a long grey jacket and trousers
- posh clothes** *n*
sophisticated and upper-class clothing
- a jockey** *n*
a person who rides a racehorse during races
- a breeder** *n*
a person who keeps animals for the purpose of producing more animals
- a hurdle** *n*
an object that the horse must jump over in a race
- to gamble/bet** *vb*
if you "gamble" or "bet", you play a game for money
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true even though it isn't really true
- to take off** *phr vb*
to become popular
- a dapple grey** *n*
a horse that is a grey/white colour
- huge** *adj*
very big
- stud services** *n*
if a horse provides "stud services", it is used to mate with another horse in order to produce babies
- a thoroughbred** *n*
a pure breed of horse
- a stallion** *n*
a male horse
- to put an animal up to stud** *exp*
to use an animal in order to produce other animals
- to retire** *vb*
to stop working because you are of the age when most people stop (65 for humans)
- a mare** *n*
a female horse
- to mate with** *exp*
if two horses "mate", they produce babies
- horse breeding** *n*
keeping animals with the purpose of producing more animals
- nimble** *adj*
with an ability to move your legs very quickly
- a quick burst of speed** *exp*
a sudden, short period of speed

The passive voice: the past continuous Grammar fun

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

The Active & Passive Voices

We form the past continuous with "was/were" + verb, -ing. For example:

- a) I was walking.
- b) He was running.



Remember, we use the active voice when the subject of the verb is the thing or person doing the action. For example:

- a) They were counting the money.
- b) We were fixing the computer.
- c) She was walking the dog.



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 money was being counted (by them).
- b) The computer was being fixed (by us).
- c) The dog was being walked (by her).

The Past Continuous Passive

As you can see, we form the past continuous passives with "was/were being" and a past participle.

Compare these examples:

- a) She was cleaning the car. (active)
- b) The car *was being cleaned* (by her). (passive)
- c) She was driving the bus. (active)
- b) The bus *was being driven* (by her). (passive)
- a) They were taking a photo. (active)
- b) The photo *was being taken* (by them). (passive)



- a) We were filming the game. (active)
- b) The game *was being filmed* (by us). (passive)
- a) He was answering the phone. (active)
- b) The phone *was being answered* (by him). (passive)
- a) They were buying the tickets. (active)
- b) The tickets *were being bought* (by them). (passive)
- a) He was hanging up the clothes. (active)
- b) The clothes *were being hung up* (by him). (passive)
- a) She was finishing the report. (active)
- b) The report *was being finished* (by her). (passive) ♣

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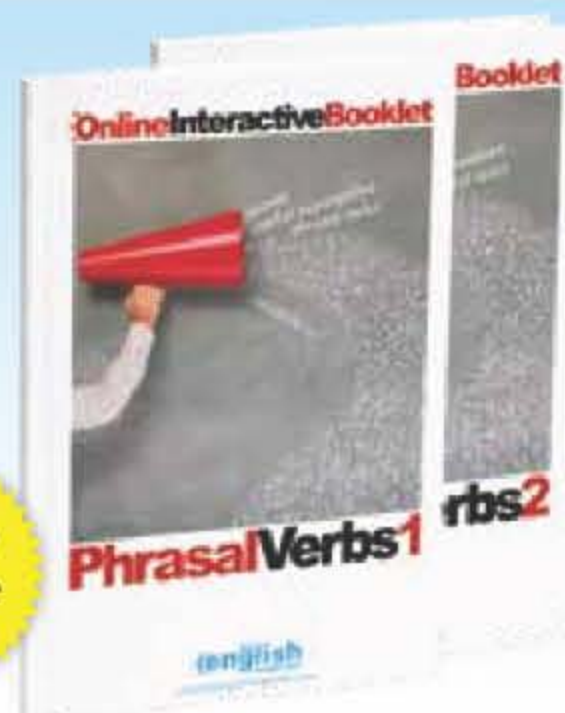
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Fluency Practice

Listen to this master class with Dr Fingers and one of his students. **Answers on page 22**

A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.
"Is this your sister's sixth zither, sir?"



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. Go and get dressed. It's time to go.
2. She's going to go and tell them.
3. We need to go and do it straight away.
4. They are going to go and ruin it.
5. We'll go and help them later.
6. I want to go and see them.

D: Pronunciation – the long "iii" sound

Look at the sentences containing words with the long "iii" sound (sheep, need, sheet, etc). Try to say the words in each sentence correctly. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. There's a sheep in the field.
2. We need to do it now.
3. You need a clean sheet on your bed.
4. This beer is made with wheat.
5. I couldn't sleep last night.

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 what time I get up.
2. Ask me what time I have breakfast.
3. Ask me what time I go to work.
4. Ask me what time I get to work.

5. Ask me what time I have lunch.
6. Ask me what time I stop work.
7. Ask me what time I get home.
8. Ask me what time I go to bed.

F: Sentence transformation: ghosts and horror

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. Remember, some questions with the present perfect are often answered using the past simple. For example: A: Have you ever been to Paris. B: Yes, I went to Paris last year.

1. No, I don't believe in ghosts. _____?
2. No, I've never been in a haunted house. _____?
3. The Shining is my favourite horror movie. _____?
4. No, I've never seen a ghost. _____?
5. Yes, I do like Halloween. _____?
6. Yes, I am easily frightened. _____?
7. I once frightened someone while I was at school. _____?
8. Yes, I went to a fancy-dress party last year. _____?

G: Revision Drills – Reflexive pronouns

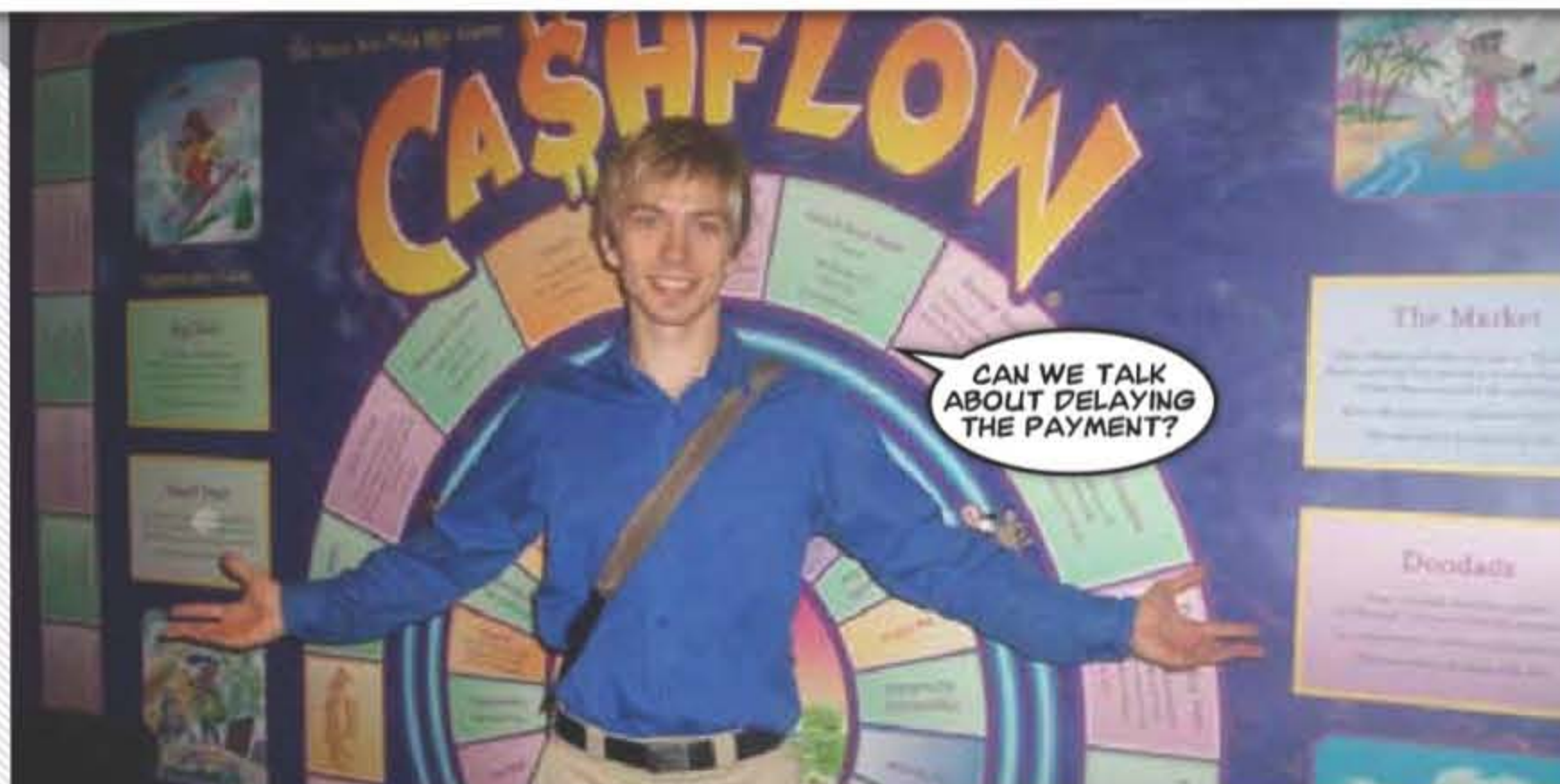
This drill is designed to practise using reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves). Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and answer with full answers.

1. When was the last time you talked to yourself?
2. Have you ever hit yourself?
3. How often do you look at yourself in the mirror during the day?
4. When was the last time you hurt yourself?
5. What was the last present you bought yourself?
6. What was the last thing you had to do by yourself?
7. If you had a band, what would you call yourselves?
8. When was the last time you gave yourself a holiday?
9. How old were you when you learned how to dress yourself?
10. When do babies usually learn how to walk by themselves? ❌



BUSINESS ENGLISH

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES



This month we are looking at some typical words or expressions to describe financial difficulties. Listen and repeat the following expressions.

Financial difficulties

1. We're losing a lot of money.
2. The **sales forecast** for next year isn't very positive.
3. Our profits are down.
4. We're **in the red**.
5. Our costs are too high.
6. We've got to reduce costs.
7. Our competitor's campaign is hurting us a lot.
8. We're **losing out to the competition**.
9. Things aren't going too well financially speaking.
10. We're **on the verge of going bankrupt**.
11. We're going to have to suspend all payments to the bank.
12. We're going to have to **default on a number of payments to suppliers**.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English dialogue.

Gordon: Gordon speaking. Who's calling?
Sarah: Hi, it's Sarah. Bad news I'm afraid.
Gordon: What's up?
Sarah: We're in the red again, and we've got a number of big payments to make.
Gordon: What do you suggest?
Sarah: We'll there are a couple of suppliers that I can talk to about delaying payment.
Gordon: What about the rest?
Sarah: We're going to have to default on a number of payments until the banks come in with another loan.
Gordon: So, what's the underlying cause?
Sarah: Well, we've been losing out to the competition for a while now. Sales are down, and our costs are just too high.
Gordon: Any way we can reverse the situation?

Sarah: Well, the first thing is to reduce our costs. Once we're on a **sounder business footing** we should be able to go back to the banks with a new business plan. But until then, we'll just have to **pray** that the situation changes.
Gordon: Let's talk about it later.
Sarah: OK, see you tomorrow. Bye.
Gordon: Bye. ☺

GLOSSARY

a sales forecast *n*
 a prediction of how much a company is going to sell
in the red *exp*
 if a company is "in the red", it has taken out more money from the bank than it has to **lose out to the competition** *exp*
 if you are "losing out to the competition", the competition is doing better than you
on the verge of something *exp*
 about to do something
to go bankrupt *exp*
 if a company "goes bankrupt" it stops functioning because there is no more money
to default on a payment *exp*
 not to pay someone or a company who you owe money to
a supplier *n*
 a person who sells you goods or services
to reverse a situation *exp*
 to change a situation so it is the opposite to what it was before
on a sounder footing *exp*
 in a more secure and stable situation
to pray *vb*
 to say words to God, sometimes when you are desperate for something

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