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Learn **hot**  
**english**  
magazine

No.163

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# HOW TO END A CONVERSATION IN ENGLISH!



IS THERE TOO MUCH SEX AND VIOLENCE IN MOVIES?

HOW TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH THE COMMA!

HOW TO SPEAK FRANÇAIS!

8 USEFUL SLANG TERMS.

HEAR LOTS OF DIFFERENT ENGLISH ACCENTS!

## HENRY VIII

England's bloodiest king!

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

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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Learn Hot English magazine

WHY ARE YOU LEARNING ENGLISH? TO GET A BETTER JOB, TO PASS AN OFFICIAL ENGLISH EXAM, TO TRAVEL, OR JUST TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH? LEARN HOT ENGLISH MAGAZINE HELPS WITH ALL THIS.

**1 Increase your vocabulary.** In every issue of Learn Hot English you'll learn over 350 English words and expressions! Plus you'll learn lots of idioms, phrasal verbs, grammar and more.

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**5 English for life!** Want to travel to English-speaking countries? With Learn Hot English you'll learn the words and expressions you need for international travel!

**6 English for speaking!** How do native English speakers really talk? Learn with our natural English conversations. Also, learn English slang and read about current events (news, culture, music, films) so you can make conversation with native English speakers.

**7 Want to learn even more?** Get a Skills Booklet! You'll learn extra vocabulary, grammar, social English and business English. The Skills Booklets are linked to the topics in Hot English magazine. They're sold separately – see page 25 for more information.



Hi everybody and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, find out how to end a conversation in English. This is extremely useful, especially if you want to stop someone talking. We'll

also be showing you lots of different ways to signal the end of the conversation and how to actually say goodbye. Of course, that's not all and we've got lots more fun things for you to read and listen to so you can learn lots of useful English. In our history section, we'll be looking at England's bloodiest king: King Henry VIII. Find out about his wives (including the ones he had executed) and how he broke with the Catholic Church to form the Church of England. On the topic of language, we're looking at some problems with the comma, and you can find out how to speak Franglais – a mixture of English and French! Plus lots, lots more! Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

*Andy*



### AUDIO FILES

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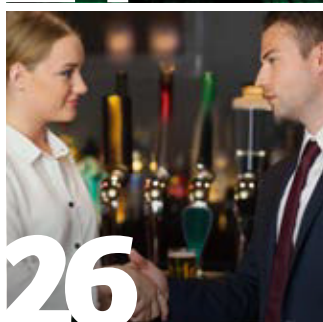
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# NEWS STORIES

## Cat Attack

*Postal workers afraid to work.*

"I think Georgie only wants the letters; but sometimes, she **bites** the postman's fingers too," said Jane Goody, whose cat had attacked a number of **postal workers**. As a result of the attacks, Jane, 34, moved her **post box** to the end of her **drive**. Now the **Royal Mail\*** (the British postal service) are demanding that more people move their post boxes away from the front door. "We record about 5,000 animal attacks a year," said a spokesperson for the Royal Mail. "The vast majority being dogs but it's not uncommon for our postmen and women to be attacked by cats, birds and any other animal protecting its territory. Most **pet owners** are very responsible; and in this case Ms Goody has taken action to allow the postman to **deliver letters** without injury." 🐾



**GLOSSARY**  
**to bite** *vb*  
 if you "bite" something, you use your teeth to cut into it  
**a postal worker** *n*  
 a person who works for the post office delivering letters  
**a post box** *n*  
 a box in which you place letters  
**a drive** *n*  
 a piece of hard ground in front of someone's house that is used to park cars  
**a pet owner** *n*  
 a person who has an animal that lives in their house  
**to deliver a letter** *exp*  
 if the postman "delivers" your letters, he/she takes the letters to your house

### \*Royal Mail

The Royal Mail is Britain's postal service. It was founded in 1660. Their slogan is "With us, it's personal." They deliver 84 million items every day. Britain was the first country to issue stamps (in 1840).



These first stamps were called Penny Blacks (for the price of one penny, you could send a letter anywhere in Britain).

Traditionally, post boxes have the Latin initials of the king or queen who is **reigning** at the time of installation. So, you can find some with VR (for Victoria Regina – Queen Victoria) or ER VII (for Edwardus Rex the seventh – King Edward VII). As most people in Britain live in houses, postal workers have to deliver the letters directly to people's houses through the letter box – a small hole in the door.

# Poetry in English



## New!

Check out our *Poetry in English* book!

Learn lots of English with these fantastic poems.

- Learn over 150 useful words and expressions!
- Improve your listening skills!
- Increase your range of vocabulary!
- Perfect your pronunciation and spoken English!

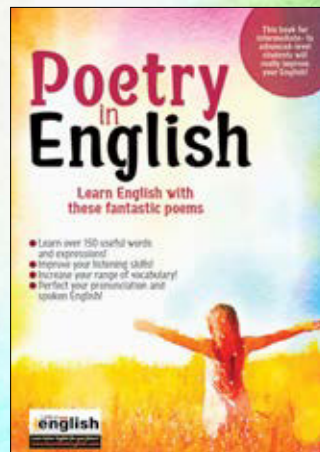
**THIS BOOK IS PERFECT FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES, PARENTS OF CHILDREN LEARNING ENGLISH, TEACHERS OF ENGLISH!**

**IT INCLUDES:**

- A selection of poems by George Szirtes.
- Activities to increase your range of vocabulary.
- Audio files to improve your listening skills.
- A wide variety of topics and themes related to English-language culture.
- Comprehension exercises so you can check your understanding.
- Pronunciation activities to perfect your speaking skills.
- Glossaries in English so you can learn the meaning of new words.

**This book for intermediate- to advanced-level students will really improve your English! Visit our website for more information:**  
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# The Name Game

English language names with real meaning.

How many words do you know in English? You probably know a lot - a lot more than you realise. Just think of all the famous people and products from English-speaking countries that you know, buy or have heard. Many of these names are actually real English words. And, although you may not know what they mean, you already know the word. This section will help explain the meaning behind many of these interesting names. This is the first part of a new series on names and words. More next month.

## Brooke Shields

A "shield" is a piece of metal that soldiers used in the past for protecting their bodies. For example: "The warrior used the shield to defend herself against the sword."



## James Blunt

If a knife is "blunt" it isn't very sharp and doesn't cut well. For example: "This knife is blunt - we need to sharpen it."



## Robin Hood

A "hood" is the part of the jacket that you wear over your head. For example: "Put your hood up as it's really cold."



## Britney Spears

A "spear" is a long, thin weapon with a sharp point at the end. For example: "The soldiers threw spears at us, but we had shields so we could protect ourselves."



## Smart Car

If you are "smart", you are very intelligent. For example: "He isn't very good at sport, but he is extremely smart."



## Procter & Gamble

If you "gamble", you play games for money. For example: "She loves to gamble on horseraces."



## Counting Crows

A "crow" is a type of black bird with a big beak. For example: "The black crow was in the garden looking for worms."



## Courtney Love

OK, this one is easy, and we all know what "love" is, even if it's hard to define it. For example: "He is in love with you."



## The Carpenters

A "carpenter" is someone who makes things with wood as part of his/her job. For example: "The carpenter made this table and bed."



## Blur

If an image is "blurred", it is not clear or in focus and it is hard to see what it is. For example: "The picture was blurred and it was hard to see who she was kissing." ❌



# Guide Book Mistake

*A guide book gives tourists the wrong information.*

How well do you know your British battles? See if you can match each battle (1 to 5) with its description (A-E). **Answers on page 42**



1

The Battle of Trafalgar



2

The Battle of Waterloo



3

The Battle of Hastings



4

The Battle of Britain



5

The Battle of Balaclava

- A:** This battle was fought on 18th June 1815 between the French Empire army (under Napoleon Bonaparte) and the British army (under the Duke of Wellington) and various German states including Prussia.
- B:** This battle was fought in southern Russia on 25th October 1854 during the Crimean War. The British, French and Ottoman Empire (Turkey, more or less) were fighting against Russia.
- C:** This battle was fought in 1940. The Luftwaffe (the German **air force**) were trying to destroy the RAF (the British air force).
- D:** This battle was fought on 21st October 1805. During the battle, the British **navy** defeated the French and Spanish fleets.
- E:** This battle was fought on 14th October 1066 between Duke William of Normandy and King Harold II of England. The Normans won and invaded England.

**H**ave you ever found an error in a guidebook? Shop workers in England recently found a **fairly big** mistake in a guidebook. The error was a historical one concerning the Duke of Wellington (1769-1852). Wellington was one of England's greatest generals. He fought at the Battle of Waterloo (in 1815). However, the guidebook claims that he fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



The Battle of Hastings took place in the south of England. During this battle, William the Conqueror (from Normandy, in France) **beat** King Harold (from England). The guide book says that it was Wellington who fought the English,

even though this was about 700 years before the Duke was even born. One shop worker who noticed the mistake said, "I think it's quite funny. It's quite a big **mess-up**. Obviously someone didn't **proofread** it properly."

Another shop worker said, "The book is a good idea. It looks really good, but what a shame they did not get it proofread first. I suppose they got it wrong because both names start with a "w".

The publishers have **apologised** for the mistake. They said, "We are aware there is an error on the Battle map and guide and we will **deal with** it as soon as possible." ✨

## NEW ZEALAND GUIDE

This isn't the first time a guide book has been printed with errors. Just recently, a 120-page guide produced in Australia (and distributed to the top hotels in New Zealand) had quite a few mistakes. This included spelling errors and geographical gaffes. In one case, there were pictures of the North Island above **captions** from the South Island.



## GLOSSARY

**an air force** *n*  
the part of a country's armed forces that is concerned with fighting in the air

**the navy** *n*  
the part of a country's armed forces that is concerned with fighting at sea

**fairly big** *adj*  
quite big

**to beat** *vb*  
to defeat; to win against

**a mess-up** *n*  
a failure

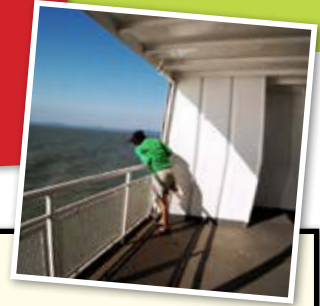
**to proofread** *vb*  
to read a book or article before it is published in order to find and mark mistakes that need to be corrected

**to apologise** *vb*  
to say sorry

**to deal with** *exp*  
to give your attention to something or someone so that a problem can be solved or a decision can be made

**a caption** *n*  
the words printed underneath a picture which explain what the picture is about

# The dangers of going on a cruise!



## Pre listening

Answers on page 42

Read the following advertisements for three cruise holidays. Imagine you have won €2,000 in a competition and you want to go on a cruise holiday. Which holiday (1 to 3) would you choose to go on, and why?

1. Cruise around the Caribbean islands. Relax in total luxury. Swimming-pool, spa, sauna, massage, mini golf course, sports deck and cinema. No stop-offs. One-week cruise: €700.
2. Cruise around the Antarctic. See whales, polar bears, penguins and icebergs. Two-week cruise: €1,200.
3. Cruise around the Mediterranean. Spend the afternoons shopping in Spain, France, Italy and Greece. Delicious Mediterranean cuisine. Organised activities and trips. One-week cruise: €800.

## Listening I

You are going to listen to an article about a cruise ship. Listen once and answer the following questions:

1. What is the name of the ship?
2. How many people on the ship got sick?

## Listening II

Solve the anagrams, then listen again to check your answers.

1. Today we're talking to Sally Fields about a new cruise (**HIPS** = \_\_\_\_\_)
2. Normally, ships with the name of a queen are launched by a real (**GINK** = \_\_\_\_\_) or queen.
3. The champagne (**BELTOT** = \_\_\_\_\_) used to name the ship didn't break.
4. That's supposed to be bad (**CULK** = \_\_\_\_\_).
5. Just three weeks later, nearly 80 (**GASSENTERS** = \_\_\_\_\_) got sick.
6. The (**VISUR** = \_\_\_\_\_) is transmitted from hand to mouth.

## Audio script -

### Passengers get sick on cruise ship.

**Presenter:** Today, we're talking to Sally Fields about a new cruise ship.

**Sally:** Good morning. Yes, we're talking about the cruise ship the Queen Victoria. Some say that she's cursed.

**Presenter:** Why's that?

**Sally:** Well, she was launched by the Duchess of Cornwall – Camilla, Prince Charles' wife. Normally, ships with the name of a queen are launched by a real king or queen. However, in this case, it was Camilla. On top of that, the champagne bottle used to name the ship didn't break.

**Presenter:** That's supposed to be bad luck, isn't it?

**Sally:** Yes, that's right. And that's why many people believe the ship is cursed. Anyway, just three weeks later, nearly 80 passengers got sick, with severe vomiting, nausea and diarrhoea.

**Presenter:** That must have been a bit annoying.

**Sally:** Yes, some of the passengers had paid up to 30,000 euros for the cruise.

**Presenter:** So, is this the first time that something like this has happened?

**Sally:** Oh, no. This virus, the Norovirus, is very common. About a year ago more than 300 passengers and crew on the QE2 caught the bug on a cruise to New York.

**Presenter:** So, what can be done to prevent people catching it?

**Sally:** Well, the virus is transmitted from hand to mouth. So, many cruise lines give passengers anti-virus hand wash to rub on their hands when boarding the ship and before eating. Public areas, such as light switches, hand rails and door knobs, are also cleaned regularly.

**Presenter:** OK. Thanks very much, Sally. That was really interesting. ☺



# Wordsearch

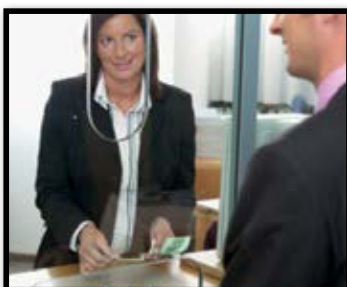
# The Bank

See if you can find the following words in the wordsearch.

Answers on page 42



- PIN** (number – a personal identification number)
- ATM** (automated teller machine)
- Clerk** (the person who serves you in the bank)
- Cashier** (see above)
- Teller** (the US word for a bank clerk/cashier)
- Safe**
- Coin**
- Note**
- Bill**
- Credit**
- Debit**
- Card**
- Cheque**
- Cash**
- Purse**
- Wallet**
- Currency**
- Alarm**
- Vault**
- Slip** (a paying-in slip)
- Pound**
- Dollar**
- Euro**
- Yen**
- Mortgage**
- Loan**
- Account**
- Balance**
- Transaction**
- Statement**
- Transfer**
- Charges**
- Overdraft**
- Interest**
- Rate**
- Change** (coins)
- Exchange** (rate)
- Commission** (rate)
- Overdrawn**
- Funds**
- Signature**



# Traditional

# English songs!

This is another part in our series on nursery rhymes and their fascinating origins.



## Mary had a little lamb

The words to this song were written by Sarah Hale (of Boston) in 1830. It's apparently based on a real-life incident in which a girl named Mary Sawyer took her pet **lamb** to school. This nursery rhyme is good for children as it introduces the concept of **similes** ("white as snow" for example). Incidentally the words "Mary had a little lamb" were the first words ever recorded by **Thomas Edison** on his **phonograph**.

## Mary had a little lamb

Mary had a little lamb,  
Little lamb, little lamb,  
Mary had a little lamb,  
It's **fleece** was white as snow.

And everywhere that Mary went,  
Mary went, Mary went,  
Everywhere that Mary went,  
The lamb was sure to go.



## Mary, Mary quite contrary

The Mary in this traditional nursery rhyme is Mary Tudor, also known as "Bloody Mary" (born 18th February 1516 – died 17th November 1558). She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and she reigned from (19th July 1553 until her death in 1558). Queen Mary was a Catholic and was famous for her **persecution** of Protestants. The "garden" in the rhyme refers to **graveyards**. In the rhyme it is said the graves were growing in size, presumably with all the bodies of Protestant **martyrs**.

However, in total, there were only 300 executions during her reign – far less than during the reign of her father, King Henry VIII. The "silver bells" and "cockle shells" were instruments of torture. And the "maids" is the plural form of "maiden", which was a slang term for a type of guillotine (which was used for cutting off people's heads).

## Mary, Mary, quite contrary

Mary, Mary quite **contrary**,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and **cockle shells**,  
And pretty **maids** all in a **row**.

### GLOSSARY

- a lamb** *n*  
a baby sheep
- a simile** *n*  
something which compares two things, often by introducing the comparison with "as" or "like"
- Thomas Edison**  
the scientist who is famous for inventing the light bulb
- a phonograph** *n*  
a type of machine for playing records before record players
- a fleece** *n*  
a coat of wool on a sheep or a lamb
- persecution** *n*  
cruel treatment towards a group of people because of their religious or political beliefs
- a graveyard** *n*  
a place where dead people are buried. Often it is located next to a church
- a martyr** *n*  
somebody who is prepared to die rather than change his/her religious or political beliefs
- contrary** *adj*  
things that are contrary to each other are completely different from each other
- a cockle** *n*  
a small type of shellfish that you can eat
- a shell** *n*  
the hard coating that surrounds something
- a maid** *n*  
a young girl or woman
- a row** *n*  
if people are standing in "a row" it means that they are standing next to each other in a line
- to be merry** *vb*  
to be happy
- a soul** *n*  
your spirit
- a pipe** *n*  
a) a tool used for smoking; b) an instrument that you blow into for creating music
- a fiddler** *n*  
a person who plays a violin



## Old King Cole

The origin of this nursery rhyme dates back to the 3rd century. Historians believe that Old King Cole is referring to a Celtic King of Britain, but no one is sure exactly which king it was. Much of the evidence for this comes from the book "Historia Regum Britanniae" (A History of the Kings of Britain) by Geoffrey of Monmouth (1110-1155). In this book, Coel Godhebog (Cole the Magnificent – born 220 AD) was the Lord of Colchester (the word Colchester means

"Cole's Castle"). The Romans had conquered Britain during this period and Coel Godhebog was a Decurion – a type of local governor. The Tudor dynasty, starting with King Henry VII, claimed to descend from Old King Cole. This was used as a way of legitimising the Royal House of Tudor's claim to the English throne.

## Old King Cole

Old King Cole was a **merry old soul**,  
And a merry old soul was he,  
He called for his **pipe**,  
And he called for his bowl,  
And he called for his **fiddlers** three.



# Story Time

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



Here are some useful words to help you understand the jokes before reading them. Match each word (1 to 8) with its meaning (A-H). *Answers on page 42*

1. A fun fair
2. A ride
3. A milkshake
4. Popcorn
5. French fries
6. Sick
7. A cruise
8. A dress



## Second opinion

Doctor to patient:  
"You are very **sick**."

Patient to doctor:  
"Can I get a second opinion?"

Doctor again: "Yes, you're **ugly** too."

## Starting Salary

Sally has just finished university and she's in a job interview. After about half an hour, the interviewer asks one last question, "So, Sally, what **starting salary** were you hoping for?"

Sally thinks for a minute then says, "About 150,000 euros a year, depending on the **benefits package**."

The interviewer thinks for a second then says, "Well, what would you say to 8-weeks holiday, full medical and dental **insurance**, a **company car**, and a free **cruise** once a year?" And Sally sits up and says, "Wow! Are you joking?"

And the interviewer replies, "Yeah, of course I am, but you started it."

## Ten again

"What would you most like for your birthday?" a man asks his wife. She thinks for a minute then says, "I'd love to be ten again." So, on the morning of her birthday, the man gets her up early and takes his wife to the local **fun fair**. He puts her on every **ride** in the park. Five hours later, he takes her to McDonald's, where he orders her a double Big Mac with French fries and a strawberry **shake**. Then, they go to a movie and see the latest Disney film, with lots of **popcorn**, Pepsi and sweets. What a fabulous adventure of a day. Finally, he takes her home and they both collapse onto the bed. Just before sleeping, he **leans over** and says, "Well, dear, what was it like being ten again?" And the woman opens her eyes, sits up slowly and says, "You idiot! I meant dress size!" ❖

## GLOSSARY

- to be sick** *vb*  
to be ill
- to be ugly** *vb*  
to be unattractive
- a starting salary** *n*  
the initial amount of money you are paid each month by your employer
- a benefits package** *n*  
the payments or benefits you receive in addition to your salary
- insurance** *n*  
an arrangement whereby you pay money to a company, and they pay money to you if something unpleasant happens to you or you lose something
- a company car** *n*  
a car given to you by your company
- a cruise** *n*  
a holiday during which you travel on a big ship and visit a number of places
- a fun fair** *n*  
a place outside with many fun things to do: roller coasters (fast trains), etc
- a ride** *n*  
an attraction at a fun fair – often a type of fast train
- a shake** *n*  
a cold drink made by mixing milk with a flavouring, and sometimes also ice cream
- popcorn** *n*  
food that people often eat at the cinema. It consists of corn that is heated until it explodes and becomes large and light
- to lean over** *phr vb*  
to bend your body towards someone so that you are very close to them

# FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

This month: saying goodbye.

## Saying goodbye after a meeting/ party, etc.

- It was nice seeing you.
- (It was) nice meeting you.
- It was great to see you again.
- Bye. / Goodbye.
- See you soon. / See you later. / See you.
- See you tomorrow. / See you next week.
- **A:** See you later alligator. **B:** In a while, crocodile.

## Saying goodbye at night (before going to bed)

- Good night.
- Sleep tight.
- Sleep well.
- Get a good night's sleep.

## Escaping from a conversation (on the phone, etc)

- Well, I really should be going.
- I've got another call.
- Well, I really must be going.
- Well, it was great talking to you.
- I'm sorry but I've got to get going. / I'd better get going.

## Saying goodbye for a long time

- Farewell.
- All the best.
- I'll miss you.
- See you soon, I hope.
- It was great knowing you.
- Have a nice life! ✨



Complete each space with the correct word. **Answers on page 42**

- life
- meeting
- miss
- going

- Person I:** It was nice meeting you.  
**Person II:** Yes, it was nice \_\_\_\_\_ you too.
- Person I:** So, then, Brian says to me, 'Hey, where are you going?' and I said...  
**Person II:** Hey, I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I really should be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Person I:** Farewell, my love.  
**Person II:** Bye. I'll \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- Person I:** Goodbye. I suppose we won't see each other again then.  
**Person II:** Yeah, have a nice \_\_\_\_\_.

# PHONE SECTION

## How to order something over the phone!

Answers on page 42

### Listening I

You are going to listen to a telephone conversation. Sarah is ordering some olive oil. Listen once and write down the following numbers:

1. The product number: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

### Listening II

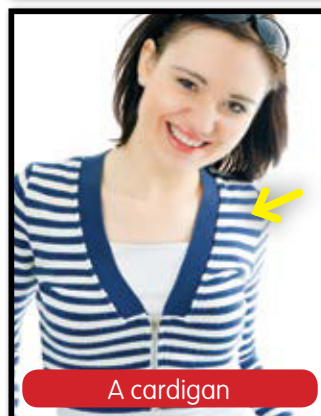
See if you can complete the text with the right words or expressions. Then, listen again to check your answers.

**Reception:** Saragosa Oil. (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Caller:** Hi, this is Sarah Smith from the Food Emporium.  
**Sales:** How are you?  
**Caller:** (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sales:** So, what can I do for you?  
**Caller:** (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 700 one-litre bottles of olive oil product number 0783-467.  
**Sales:** OK. When do you need it to be delivered by?  
**Caller:** We'd like it in the warehouse by Friday 14th May, if possible.  
**Sales:** That shouldn't be a problem. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ will you be using?  
**Caller:** Just charge it to the company account, please.  
**Sales:** Could I (5) \_\_\_\_\_, please?  
**Caller:** Yes, our warehouse is The Food Emporium, 13, Barwell Street, Hanton, Middlesex KT22 OLR.  
**Sales:** Yes, that's the address we have. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to confirm the order, please?  
**Caller:** Yes, certainly. Is your fax number the same as the telephone number?  
**Sales:** No, it's 00 34 93 678 9201.  
**Caller:** OK. (7) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sales:** Bye.



# clothes

Basic English



# The Clothes Shop

## Social English

This month: The Clothes Shop. Listen and repeat these expressions.



### What you say

- Have you got these trousers in blue?
- I'm looking for a size 32.
- Is it 100% cotton?
- Where's the **checkout counter**?
- I'm looking for a size ten dress.
- Have you got this in a bigger/larger/smaller size, please?
- Where are the changing rooms, please?
- Could I try these on, please?
- Do you have this in a different colour?

- How much is this, please?
- Is this on sale?

### What you hear

- What shirt size do you take?
- What shoe size are you?
- Shall I get you a bigger size?
- The changing rooms are just over there.
- You can get a refund if you keep the receipt.
- We take all major credit cards.
- There's a 25% reduction on the price. ❖

- I'd like to take these trousers back, please.
- Do you take credit cards?
- Have you got a shirt to go with these trousers?
- Have you got any trousers to **match** this shirt?



Now listen to this dialogue. In this conversation, Betty is in the clothes shop.

**Assistant:** Good afternoon, can I help you?

**Betty:** Yes, I was looking for a pair of trousers.

**Assistant:** What waist size are you?

**Betty:** 28.

**Assistant:** And what colour were you looking for?

**Betty:** Black or dark blue.

**Assistant:** Here you are. (She gives her a pair of trousers.)

**Betty:** Can I try them on?

**Assistant:** Yes, certainly. The changing rooms are over there. (She points to the changing rooms.)

**Betty:** Can I try a size 30 too, please? Just in case.

**Assistant:** Certainly. Here you are.  
(5 minutes later Betty comes out.)  
How are they?

**Betty:** Fine thanks. I think I need the size 30 – I must have **put on some weight** recently.

**Assistant:** Anything else?

**Betty:** Yes, I was also looking for a shirt to **go with** the trousers.

**Assistant:** How about these shirts here?

**Betty:** Yes, they look nice. Could I try one on, please?

**Assistant:** Yes. Here, these should fit you.

**Betty:** Great. Actually, I think I'll just take them because **I'm in a bit of a rush**.

**Assistant:** OK. That'll be 68 pounds, please.

**Betty:** Here you are. (Betty gives the assistant her card.)



### GLOSSARY

**a checkout counter** *n*  
the place in a shop where you pay and receive a receipt

**to match** *vb*

if one piece of clothing matches another, they go well together

**to put on some weight** *exp*

to become a bit fatter

**to go with** *exp*

if A "goes with" B, A goes well with B

**I'm in a bit of a rush** *exp*

I don't have much time

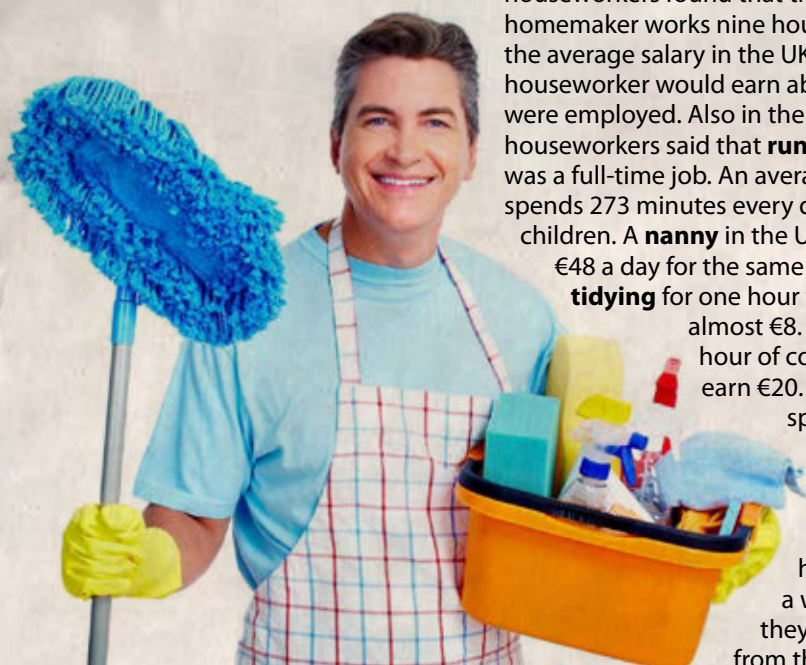
# Headline News

Headline News N° 2

The voice of the people

London 2015

## How much is a house-worker worth?



How much time do you spend on **housework**? Just recently, a **survey** of 4,000 British houseworkers found that the **average** homemaker works nine hours every day. So, as the average salary in the UK is €30,000, a British houseworker would earn about €40,000 if they were employed. Also in the survey, 71% of houseworkers said that **running** the family-home was a full-time job. An average houseworker spends 273 minutes every day looking after the children. A **nanny** in the UK would earn about €48 a day for the same job. Cleaning and **tidying** for one hour would earn a cleaner almost €8. And for more than an hour of cooking, a **chef** would earn €20. Carolyn Morris, a spokeswoman for the website, said, "The survey clearly demonstrates that not only do houseworkers **deserve** a wage for their efforts, they also need a break from the **daily grind**." ☺



### GLOSSARY

**housework** *n*  
work that you do in the house: the cleaning, the dusting, etc  
**to survey** *vb*  
to ask people questions in order to find out about someone's opinions or behaviour  
**average** *adj*  
typical; normal  
**to run** *vb*  
to organise; to be in charge of  
**a nanny** *n*  
a woman who is paid by parents to look after the parents' children  
**to tidy** *vb*  
to put things in order  
**a chef** *n*  
a cook in a restaurant  
**to deserve** *vb*  
if you think someone "deserves" something, you think they should have it because of their qualities or actions  
**the daily grind** *n*  
the boring tasks that you have to do every day as part of your normal life

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# Does the government know too much about us?

Answers on page 42

## Pre listening

Look at the following list below. What information should be considered confidential? What information does the government have a right to know? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Religion
- Criminal convictions
- Sexual orientation
- Date of birth
- Favourite colour
- Favourite colour
- Blood group
- Height
- Shoe size
- Electricity consumption
- Car type
- Details of phone calls
- Favourite colour
- DNA
- Race
- Mortgage payments

## Listening I

You are going to listen to a conversation about government surveillance in Britain. Listen once and write down three types of information about people the government wants to obtain?

## Listening II

Match the beginning of each sentence (1-5) with the correct ending (A-E).

1. Is England becoming like... \_\_\_\_
2. Very shortly, they will be sending out questionnaires to... \_\_\_\_
3. The idea is to get information on... \_\_\_\_
4. The government say they need this information to... \_\_\_\_
5. Many people feel that local councils should spend this money on improving services, not by poking their noses into... \_\_\_\_

- A: everyone in the country
- B: our private lives
- C: Soviet Russia
- D: promote greater numbers of councillors from minority groups
- E: our children, mortgage payments, ethnic background, religion and sexual orientation

## Audio script -

### Scandal as government orders local councils to "spy" on residents.

**Presenter:** Good afternoon. You are listening to England Today and my name is Geoffrey Gamer. Is England becoming like Soviet Russia? Some think so. Here with me in the studio is Penny Purser to discuss this.

**Penny:** Good afternoon.

**Presenter:** So, as I understand it, the government wants to find out even more about us.

**Penny:** Yes, that's right. Very shortly, they will be sending out questionnaires to everyone in the country. The idea is to get information on our children, mortgage payments, ethnic background, religion and sexual orientation. It'll also ask questions on our attitudes to libraries, rubbish collection and schools.

**Presenter:** Why?

**Penny:** Well, the government say they need this information to decide whether to promote greater numbers of local councillors from minority groups. But many people are worried about how this confidential information will be stored and used. Worst of all, the New Place Survey, as it's known, is expected to cost at least £15million.

**Presenter:** That's a lot of money.

**Penny:** Yes. Many people feel that local councils should spend this money on improving services, not by poking their noses into our private lives.

**Presenter:** Yes, there are certainly better things that they could do with the money.

**Penny:** Exactly. Civil rights campaigners are calling the survey "intrusive and very sinister", pointing out that any information handed over will not be kept confidential. This is an especially sensitive area after one government department recently managed to lose millions of files with confidential bank details.

**Presenter:** Yes, I can imagine why people are worried about this. OK, Penny. Thanks very much for that. Lots to talk about here, I think. ☺



# TRIVIA MATCHING

## Exercise

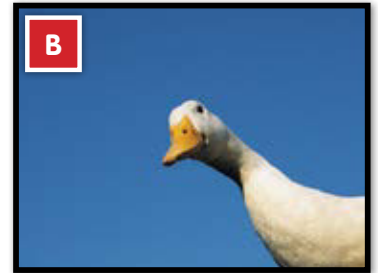
See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 14), and the photos (A-N). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. Answers on page 42

1. A squirrel
2. A dragonfly
3. A frog
4. A kangaroo
5. A goose (plural: geese)
6. An almond
7. A peach
8. A crown
9. Cheese
10. An egg
11. A hammerhead shark
12. A dish / plate
13. Salt
14. An evil spirit

A



B



E



C



D



H



F



G



J



I



K



L



M

N



This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Who ever thought the world was so unusual?

The average squirrel lives for about nine years. A dragonfly has a **lifespan** of 24 hours.

The Poison Arrow frog has enough poison to kill 2,201 people.

A group of kangaroos is called a **mob**. And a group of geese is called a gaggle.



Almonds are a member of the peach family.



Maine is the only state whose name has just one syllable.

The most common part of your body that is bitten by insects is your foot.

The most common time for a **wake-up call** is 7am.



There are seven points on the Statue of Liberty's crown.



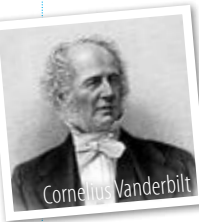
The average person goes to the bathroom 6 times a day.

France has the highest **per capita** consumption of cheese.

Walt Disney named Mickey Mouse after the actor Mickey Rooney, whose mother he **dated** for some time.

Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel with over 50,000 words in it, none of which contained the letter "e". Incidentally, a new book is published every 13 minutes in America.

Many sharks lay eggs, but hammerheads give birth to live babies. Young hammerheads are usually born **headfirst**, with the **tip** of their hammer-shaped head **folded backwards** to make them more **streamlined**.



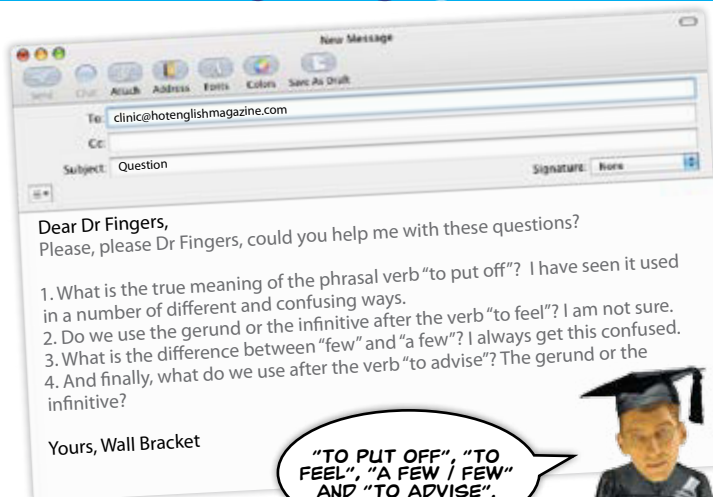
Businessman Cornelius Vanderbilt was an **insomniac**. And, he wasn't able to **fall asleep** unless each leg of his bed was placed in a dish filled with salt. He thought this would keep evil spirits away. ✨

### GLOSSARY

- a lifespan** *n*  
a period of time that a person, animal or plant is expected to live
- a mob** *n*  
a large, disorganised and often violent crowd of people
- a gaggle** *n*  
a group of geese
- a wake-up call** *n*  
if you get a "wake-up call", someone wakes you up in the morning because you asked to be woked up
- per capita** *exp*  
the "per capita" amount of something is the total amount of it in a country or area divided by the number of people in that country or area
- to be dating** *vb*  
if you are "dating" someone, you are going out with them
- headfirst** *adj*  
if you move "headfirst" in a particular direction, your head is the part of your body that is furthest forward as you are moving
- a tip** *n*  
the "tip" of something is the end of it
- to be folded backwards** *vb*  
if you "fold something backwards", you bend it so that the front part covers the back part
- to be streamlined** *vb*  
an animal that is "streamlined" has a body shape that allows it to move quickly through water or air
- an insomniac** *n*  
someone who finds it very difficult to sleep
- to fall asleep** *vb*  
to start sleeping



# DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Dear Dr Fingers,  
Please, please Dr Fingers, could you help me with these questions?

1. What is the true meaning of the phrasal verb "to put off"? I have seen it used in a number of different and confusing ways.
2. Do we use the gerund or the infinitive after the verb "to feel"? I am not sure.
3. What is the difference between "few" and "a few"? I always get this confused.
4. And finally, what do we use after the verb "to advise"? The gerund or the infinitive?

"TO PUT OFF", "TO FEEL", "A FEW / FEW" AND "TO ADVISE".



Yours, Wall Bracket

### Dear Wall Bracket,

Of course, I would be delighted to help you. OK, here goes.

1. To "put off" can have a variety of different meanings. Here are a few of them:
  - a) To "put off" can mean "to delay". For example: "They have put off the match until next week because of all the bad weather."
  - b) If a food or smell "puts you off" eating, it makes you not want to eat. For example, "The disgusting smell of that milk put me off my lunch."
  - c) If someone "puts you off", they distract you. For example, "She put me off as I was about to serve in the tennis game."
  - d) And finally, if you "put someone off doing something", you convince them not to do it – you dissuade them from

- doing it. For example, "They put me off travelling alone – they made it sound too dangerous."
2. The use of the gerund or the infinitive doesn't really change the meaning of the verb "to feel". In general, the use of the gerund indicates that the action has not finished. For example, "I felt the table moving as the airplane flew over." On the other hand, the use of the infinitive (without "to") indicates that the action was complete and finished. For example, "I felt the bullet brush across my arm." Basically, there is no right or wrong answer – it depends what you want to refer to: an action in progress, or a completed action.
  3. Basically, "few" means "not many" – it has a negative feel to it. For example, "There were few people at the concert – it was a bit disappointing." And "a few" is more positive and means "some". For example, "There were quite a few people at the concert – we were really pleased."
  4. Finally, "to advise" is often followed by a noun or an object pronoun when we are referring to someone specific. For example:
    - a) We advised her to give up smoking.
    - b) They advised him to leave early.
 However, when the advice is given in general and is not directed to anyone in particular, we use the gerund. For example:
    - a) She advised giving up smoking.
    - b) They advised leaving early.

Well, Wall Bracket, I hope that has helped you.

### Yours, Dr Fingers.

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# Corny Criminals

Here's another part in our series on good, bad and funny criminals.



## Speedy González

*Man stopped in unusual vehicle.*

A German man was stopped by police after he was doing more than 60kph down a high street... in an electric **wheelchair**. Guenther Eichmann, 54, who is an engineer, told police that he had **modified** the wheelchair's electric **engine** so it could go faster. He was stopped in the wheelchair doing twice the **speed limit**. His vehicle was confiscated and he was given a €400 **fine**.

## The Great Escape

When Steffi said that she was going to escape from the jail, we just laughed," a **warden** told reporters in Frankfurt. "We have a reputation as the most secure prison in Germany. But when we went to check her cell yesterday, she was gone. At first we thought she must still be

somewhere in the prison, and began **searching** for her. But she wasn't here. Gradually, we realised what must have happened. A fellow inmate called Karin was released on the same day, and the **suitcase** she left with was unusually heavy. In fact, it was so heavy that another warden had to help her with it. Steffi is quite small and it's obvious now that she must have been hiding inside the suitcase." Police are currently looking for both teenagers.



## Court Ban

*Judge suspended after bizarre incident.*

"Every single person is going to jail in this courtroom unless I get that instrument now," a judge told a courtroom after a mobile phone **went off** during a **trial**. No one **owned up**, so security officers were called in.

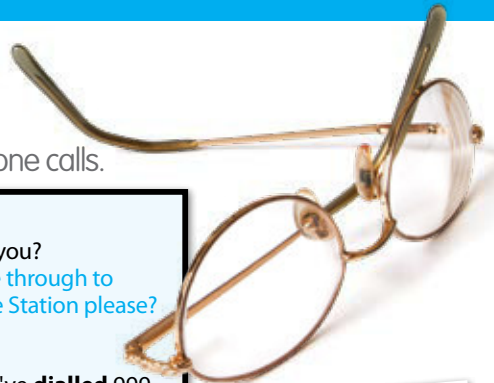
They tried to find the phone but failed. After a brief **break**, Judge Restaino returned and again asked whose phone it was. When no-one said anything, the judge arrested the entire courtroom audience of 46 people and **set bail at \$1,500** per person. One defendant told the judge, "This isn't fair to the rest of us." To which the judge replied, "I know it isn't." The defendants were then taken to a jail, where they were **searched** and pushed into **cells**. Fourteen people who could not **post bail** were later **shackled** and transported to another prison. It was only later in the afternoon, when reporters began to ask questions about the **ruling**, that Judge Restaino ordered their **release**. Judge Restaino has been **suspended**. An enquiry is expected to follow. ✪

## GLOSSARY

- a wheelchair** *n*  
a chair with wheels that you use if you cannot walk properly
- to modify** *vb*  
to change something slightly in order to improve it
- an engine** *n*  
the machine in a car that produces the power which makes the car move
- a speed limit** *n*  
the maximum speed at which you are allowed to drive
- a fine** *n*  
a sum of money that you are ordered to pay if you have done something illegal
- a warden** *n*  
a person whose job is to look after prisoners and make sure that they obey the rules
- to search** *vb*  
to look for
- a suitcase** *n*  
a bag or box with a handle in which you carry your clothes when you are travelling
- to go off** *phr vb*  
if a phone "goes off", it starts to ring
- a trial** *n*  
a legal process during which a judge and jury listen to evidence and decide whether a person is guilty or innocent
- to own up to** *phr vb*  
to admit that you are responsible for something bad
- a break** *n*  
a period of time in which things stop
- to set bail at \$1500** *exp*  
to decide that the arrested person must pay \$1500 in order to be released while they are waiting for their trial
- to be searched** *vb*  
if you are "searched", the police or someone looks for illegal things in your clothes, body or possessions
- a cell** *n*  
a small room in a prison in which a prisoner is locked
- to post bail** *vb*  
to pay the "bail" money (see previous entry)
- to be shackled** *vb*  
to have a shackle (two metal rings joined by a chain) put around your wrists or ankles in order to stop you from escaping
- a ruling** *n*  
an official decision made by a judge or court
- release** *n*  
if a person is "released" from prison, he/she is free to go
- to be suspended** *vb*  
if you are "suspended", you must leave your job temporarily until a decision is made about you

# TELEPHONE 999

Here's another part of our mini-series on ridiculous but real emergency phone calls.



## Call I – The Glasses

**Operator:** Police. Can I help you?  
**Caller:** Erm, yes, look, I've lost my glasses.  
**Operator:** Right.  
**Caller:** And I'm trying to get my lunch and I can't peel my potatoes very well.  
**Operator:** Right... but you're through to the police.  
**Caller:** I know...  
**Operator:** Well, I can't come and look for your glasses.  
**Caller:** But I still need them.  
**Operator:** Well, you don't ring 999 for your glasses.  
**Caller:** Well, I couldn't get through to... I couldn't find the local police number.  
**Operator:** It's in the phone book under "p" for police, but the police can't help you either.  
**Caller:** No... but I mean... I could go to the police station, I suppose, to see if they're there.  
**Operator:** Right, well I'm afraid this is a 999 line and I can't help you with your glasses. Goodbye.

## Call II – The Bus

**Operator:** Police. Can I help you?  
**Caller:** Could you put me through to Southmead Police Station please?  
**Operator:** I can't...  
**Caller:** I'm very angry...  
**Operator:** But listen, sir, you've dialled 999 you need to tell me what your emergency is.  
**Caller:** There are no buses in Crow Lane...  
**Operator:** Are you phoning 999 to report the fact that there are no buses in Crow Lane?  
**Caller:** Exactly. Exactly. Because the police are doing nothing about this. All this aggro that's going on. I'm a visitor here.  
**Operator:** Excuse me, sir, I can't take a complaint about no bus services on 999...  
**Caller:** Well, would you put me through to Southmead Police Station, please?  
**Operator:** I will give you the correct number for you to dial, sir.  
**Caller:** That's lovely.

**GLOSSARY**  
**to peel** *vb*  
 to take the skin off fruit/vegetables  
**local** *n*  
 that is in the area you are referring to  
**to dial (a number)** *vb*  
 to press buttons on a phone so you can call a number  
**aggro** *abbr*  
 aggravation (trouble, problems, difficulties)

## RECIPE

Here's another recipe for you to try at home. This month: meatballs. Very tasty!

# JENNA'S "DOWN HOME" MEATBALLS

By Jenna DiMaria

### Ingredients (for 10-12 meatballs)

- ½ a kilo of minced meat.
- 250 grams of green olives stuffed with anchovies.
- ½ a small onion.
- 1 egg.
- **Breadcrumbs.**

### Method

- Preheat the oven to 175°C.
- Cut the olives and onion into tiny pieces.
- Put the olives and onion into a bowl with the minced meat and the egg.
- **Squish** the mixture with your fingers until the ingredients are all mixed together.
- Add some breadcrumbs and use your hands to form meatball shapes.
- Put the meatballs on an **oven tray**.
- Put the tray in the preheated oven and cook for 30-40 minutes.

Served with spaghetti, or slices of fried potato and a side salad. Great for lunch. ★



**GLOSSARY**  
**breadcrumbs** *n*  
 very small pieces of bread. Often used to cover pieces of meat or fish before frying  
**to squish** *vb*  
 to use force and pressure against something so that it changes shape  
**an oven tray** *n*  
 a large metal plate that you can put in the oven (an electrical/gas appliance for cooking food)



The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

## TO BE LIKE

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the use of "to be like".



### What... is he/she like?

We often use the question "what is X like?" to ask about someone's character or personality. For example:

- A:** What is Bob like?  
**B:** He's a lovely man, but not very reliable – he often forgets about important appointments.

- A:** What is Sarah like?  
**B:** Well, she's generally really nice, but she loses her temper and starts shouting every now and then.

With answers to questions with "to be like", we can also include information about someone's physical appearance. For example:

- A:** What's Sam like?  
**B:** Oh, he's really funny, and quite tall too.
- A:** What's Petra like?  
**B:** She's got blonde hair and she's highly intelligent.

This question can also be used to ask about a film, an experience, a trip, etc. For example:

- A:** What was the film like?  
**B:** Pretty boring.
- A:** What was your trip abroad like?  
**B:** Disastrous – our bag was stolen three times!

Some people confuse "what... like?" with "how". Remember, we use "how" in questions to ask about things which change – moods, health, etc. For example:

- A:** How's work these days?  
**B:** Oh, great thanks. I really like my boss.
- A:** How's Bob?  
**B:** Oh, he's fine – much better thanks.
- A:** How's Sarah doing?  
**B:** Oh, not too bad, although she doesn't like her new job much.

Now, compare these sentences:

- A:** How is Betty?  
**B:** She's fine thanks. She only broke her arm. It could have been much worse.

- A:** What is Betty like?  
**B:** She's very organised and highly motivated.

In the first set of sentences, the speaker is asking about Betty's health; and in the other set, the speaker is

asking about Betty in general: her personality, character, physical appearance, etc.

And finally, don't confuse "to be like" with the verb "to like". Compare these two sentences:

- A:** What is she like?  
**B:** She's really nice.

- A:** What does she like doing at the weekend?  
**B:** She likes going to the cinema at the weekend. ♣



# HISTORY OF HENRY VIII

Henry VIII was perhaps the largest, **bloodiest** and most **promiscuous** king in British history. He was King of England from 1509 until his death in 1547. Later, he also became King of Ireland. He is most famous for having six wives. But he also had a great impact as a monarch, and under his rule England saw many changes.

Henry VIII was very good at sports. As a young man, he was **outstanding** at **jousting** and hunting. However, later in life, an injury to his leg prevented him from exercising and he became **overweight**. Henry was very well educated. He spoke fluent Latin, French and Spanish. And he was an excellent musician, author and poet. Henry was also involved in the construction and restoration of some of England's most famous and beautiful buildings, including King's College Chapel in Cambridge.

Henry was the second son of King Henry VII. It was expected that his older brother, Arthur, would become King and that Henry would have a career in the Church. However, in 1502 Arthur died and Henry therefore became **heir** to the throne. Henry's father wanted to maintain an excellent relationship between England and Spain. So, Henry was married to Arthur's widow, Catherine of Aragon, who was the daughter of King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile. Henry married Catherine in June 1509.

Henry's main ambition was to produce a son. But by 1525, the only child to have survived after birth was their daughter Mary. Henry wanted a divorce from Catherine, and the easiest way to do this was to break from the Catholic Church. This act saw the creation of the Church of England, which is also known as the Anglican Church.

Henry had become very interested in a young lady in the court named Anne Boleyn. Henry married Anne in 1533 and Anne soon **gave birth** to a daughter, Elizabeth. However, Anne did not produce a son and the relationship quickly broke down. In 1536, Anne was arrested on charges of **adultery**. She was **beheaded** on 19th May 1536.

Henry then became engaged to Jane Seymour. Jane was one of Anne's ladies-in-waiting. They were married just 11 days after Anne's

execution. At about the same time, Henry passed a law that led to the union of England and Wales. In 1537, Henry's wish finally came true – Jane gave birth to a son, Prince Edward. But Jane sadly died from an infection during childbirth. Henry considered Jane to be his "true" wife, being the only one who had given him a male heir to the throne. He was **buried** next to Jane at his death.

Henry later married Anne of Cleves. He was encouraged to marry her by his chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, as she was the daughter of an important ally, the Duke of Cleves. However, Henry found Anne to be "unattractive" and they divorced after six months. From that point, Cromwell began to **fall out of favour** with the king and he was executed in 1540.

In July 1540, Henry married Catherine Howard. Henry was very happy with his new queen. But shortly after their marriage, she had several affairs with other courtiers. Henry was furious and ordered her to be executed. She was beheaded in 1542 when she was about 18 years old. Henry married his last wife, the wealthy widow Catherine Parr, in 1543. He remained married to Catherine until his death in 1547.

Henry's reign was marked by his cruelty. He executed many people – estimates put the number at 72,000. But Henry also made sure that the greatest act of his **reign** – his break from the Roman Catholic Church – was one of the most radical of any English monarch. It led to the transformation of England into a Protestant society, and to the large decrease in the economic and political power of the Church.

When Henry died, his great ambition was **fulfilled**. His son Edward **succeeded** the throne. However, Edward's reign didn't last long. He died at the age of 15, and Henry's eldest daughter Mary then became Queen. Mary died five years later and was succeeded by Henry's other daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth reigned from 1558 until her death in 1603. Her reign is known as the "Elizabethan era" and is an extremely important period in history. It is therefore an **irony** that after so desperately wanting a son, it was actually one of Henry's daughters who would become both his most prominent heir, and one of the greatest monarchs in British history. ✪

**KING HENRY VIII**  
King of England,  
1509 – 1547.  
Born 28th June 1491.  
Died 28th January 1547.  
Famous for having six  
wives and beheading two  
of them.



## GLOSSARY

- bloodiest** *adj*  
the most violent; the one who kills the most people
- promiscuous** *adj*  
someone who has relationships with many different people
- outstanding** *adj*  
excellent
- jousting** *n*  
a game in which two people on horseback fight each other using lances (long metal poles)
- overweight** *adj*  
fat; heavier than you should be
- an heir** *n*  
someone who will inherit money, property or a title when another person dies
- to give birth** *exp*  
when a woman "gives birth", her baby is born
- adultery** *n*  
the "crime" of having a relationship with someone who is not your husband/wife
- to behead** *vb*  
to cut someone's head off
- to be buried** *vb*  
a person is "buried" in the ground after they die
- to fall out of favour with someone** *phr vb*  
to stop being liked by someone
- a reign** *n*  
the period of time when a king or queen rules a country
- fulfilled** *adj*  
happy and satisfied with what you have achieved
- to succeed the throne** *exp*  
to be the next person to be king or queen
- an irony** *n*  
something strange; something different from what you expected

A film about King Henry VIII in 16th Century England.

# THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

One of England's most famous kings was King Henry VIII. And he is probably most famous for his six wives, particularly his second wife, Anne Boleyn. She was **beheaded** in May 1536. But did you know that Anne had a sister called Mary who was the king's **mistress**? A famous film looks at the relationship between



the two sisters, Anne and Mary, and Henry. It's called *The Other Boleyn Girl* and stars Natalie Portman as Anne, Scarlett Johansson as Mary, and Eric Bana as King Henry VIII. The film is based on the popular book of the same name, which is written by British author Philippa Gregory. In the story, Anne and Mary **compete for** the love of the handsome king.

The story begins in 1521. Both the Boleyn sisters are extremely beautiful. At just 13 years old, Mary is married to the wealthy **courtier**, Sir William Carey. However, Mary's life is changed forever when King Henry takes an interest in her. At that time, the king is married to his first

wife, Queen Catherine of Aragon (Catalina de Aragón y Castilla), and Mary is one of her **ladies-in-waiting**. Mary is reluctant to have an affair but she **gives in** and becomes the king's mistress. Soon, Mary is pregnant with the king's child. However, while she is pregnant, her sister Anne seduces Henry and steals him away. Mary's heart is broken as, at this point, she has fallen in love with the king.

By 1527, the king decides he wants to divorce his wife, Catherine, and marry Anne. Mary is quietly ignored and becomes "the other Boleyn girl". Later, Mary is forced to become Anne's lady-in-waiting. Anne becomes obsessed with her ambition to become queen.

In 1532, Mary falls in love with a handsome servant, William Stafford. Mary and William marry in secret. A year later, Anne becomes queen. When Anne discovers that her sister, Mary, has secretly married a **commoner** and is pregnant with his child, she immediately sends Mary away from the court. At the same time, their brother George is in an unhappy marriage and is secretly having a homosexual affair.

Life soon becomes very difficult for Anne. The king desperately wants a son. After Anne gives birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1533, Anne suffers two **miscarriages**. When Mary returns to the court in 1535, she begins to suspect that Anne and George are having an incestuous affair in order to help Anne conceive again.



Anne is arrested the following year, and so is George. George and his male lover are executed as Anne's supposed lovers. Mary is uncertain what to do – she is sure that people are telling lies about her sister, but she is also afraid that they may be true. Finally, Anne is executed on 19 May 1536. Mary, "the other Boleyn girl", lives out the rest of her life in peace with her common-born husband, William Stafford. 🍀



## FILM INFORMATION: THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

Directed by Justin Chadwick. Starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.

Tagline: "Two sisters divided for the love for a king."



# BOLEYN GIRL

## NATALIE PORTMAN

American actress.  
Born 9th June 1981.  
Starred in *Star Wars* and *Closer*.

"The new Audrey Hepburn" is how some people have described her. Natalie Portman was born in Israel in 1981 and moved to the United States a few years later. She turned down the opportunity of becoming a child model in favour of acting. Her first film role was in 1994, but she only became well-known when she appeared in *Star Wars* some years later. In 2005, she was nominated for an Oscar award for her role in *Closer*. Portman has a degree in Psychology from Harvard University. She has said that she would "rather be **smart** than a movie star". And she doesn't want to be an actress all her life – she once said that when she is older, she wants to pursue a **career** in psychology. She is a vegetarian and a firm supporter of animal rights. She also campaigns for environmental causes.



## SCARLETT JOHANSSON

American actress and singer.  
Born 22nd November 1984.  
Starred in *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *Lost in Translation*.

Scarlett Johansson is a strong supporter of Barack Obama, and an active campaigner for the Democratic Party. She was born in New York in 1984. She became famous when she acted in the 1998 film *The Horse Whisperer*. She has since gone on to star in several well-known films including *Lost in Translation*. Johansson is the face of several famous brands including L'Oreal. She is also a Global Ambassador for the aid and development agency, Oxfam. She loves eating cheese and has often criticised Hollywood for promoting an image that causes unhealthy dieting in women. In addition to acting, Johansson is starting a musical career. In May 2008 she released her first album, *Anywhere I Lay My Head*.



## ERIC BANA

Australian actor.  
Born 9th August 1968.  
Starred in *Hulk*, *Troy* and *Munich*.

As a motor racing enthusiast, Eric Bana always dreamed of becoming a professional racing car driver. But his father advised him not to pursue his hobby as a career. Bana was born in Melbourne in 1968 to a Croatian father and German mother. He started his acting career as a comedian on Australian television. He became famous after starring in the film *Chopper* in 2000. Since then, he has starred in several Hollywood films including *Hulk*, *Munich* and *Troy*.

Bana is a supporter of various different charities including the Australian Childhood Foundation. He is married with two young children. He participates in motor racing competitions in Australia, and he is a strong supporter of Australian football.



## THE TUDORS

The Tudors is a series that takes place in 16th-century England. It focuses mostly on King Henry VIII and stars Irish actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers. It was originally released between 2007 and 2010.



## GLOSSARY

- to be beheaded** *vb*  
if someone is "beheaded", their head is cut off
- a mistress** *n*  
the girlfriend/lover of a married man
- to compete for something** *exp*  
to try to get something and stop another person getting it
- a courtier** *n*  
a man or woman of high social class who assists the king or queen, often advising them
- a lady-in-waiting** *n*  
a woman of high social class who assists a queen
- to give in to something** *phr vb*  
to agree to do something that you do not want to do
- a commoner** *n*  
a person who is not an aristocrat or of royal blood
- a miscarriage** *n*  
if a woman has a "miscarriage", the baby dies at or before birth
- smart** *adj*  
intelligent
- a career** *n*  
a profession; a job



# How to end a CONVERSATION

## 1 Pre-listening

Answers on page 42

What reason or excuse can you give for ending a conversation? Add at least three more ideas to the list below. You...

- ...have to prepare the dinner.
- ...have got a train to catch.
- ...are busy and you have to get back to work.
- ...are going on a long journey home by plane.
- ...are moving abroad permanently and you've got a plane to catch.

## 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to five conversations in which people say goodbye. Listen once and match the ideas from the Pre-listening activity to the conversations below.

1. At the pub = *he/she has to prepare the dinner*
2. In the street =
3. In an office =
4. In a restaurant =
5. In an office =

## 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions. There's one question for each dialogue.

1. When will the speaker's kids be back?
2. When does the speaker's train leave?
3. How long have the speakers been working together?
4. Where is the speaker flying back to?
5. Where do the speakers arrange to meet?

## 1. AT THE PUB

**Henry:** ...and then he asked me to work at the weekend.

**Abbie:** That's so annoying.

**Henry:** Tell me about it. *[silence]*

**Abbie:** Well, look, I'd better get going. I've got to get dinner ready and the kids will be back in about half an hour.

**Henry:** OK. Of course.

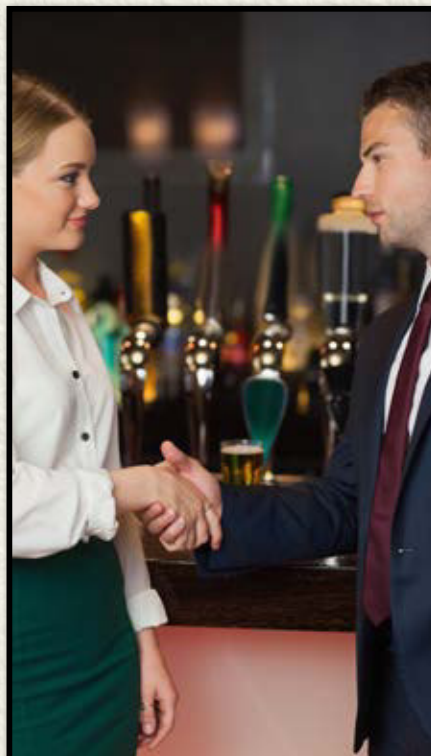
**Abbie:** Right, so, I'll see you on Friday.

**Henry:** Yes, at three o'clock.

**Abbie:** Perfect! See you then.

**Henry:** OK. Bye.

**Abbie:** Bye.



## 2. IN THE STREET

**George:** ...a...and that's why I decided to leave.

**Megan:** Good decision.

**George:** Best I've ever made.

**Megan:** Well, it was lovely talking to you, but I've got to run. My train leaves in about 10 minutes.

**George:** No problem. Have a good one!

**Megan:** Yeah, sure. Hey, why don't we get together sometime this week for a coffee or something?

**George:** Good idea. I'll give you a call.

**Megan:** OK. Speak later. Take care.

**George:** Bye.

**Megan:** Bye.





### 3. IN AN OFFICE

**Harvey:** I can't believe you're actually going. It's been, what, like six years, hasn't it?

**Mandy:** That's right. It's just flown by.

**Harvey:** I know. It feels like only yesterday when we started here. I'm really gonna miss you.

**Mandy:** I'll miss you too. Keep in touch.

**Harvey:** I will. It was wonderful to finally meet your family and everything.

**Mandy:** Thanks. So, goodbye then.

**Harvey:** Bye. Take care and send me a text message when you get to Chicago.

**Mandy:** I will! Good luck.

**Harvey:** And you. Bye.

**Mandy:** Bye.



### 4. IN A RESTAURANT

**Morgan:** OK, so I'll call the distributors while you prepare the contract, and we'll talk again next week.

**Poppy:** Sounds good!

**Morgan:** Great! So, have a nice trip back to Sydney.

**Poppy:** I will.

**Morgan:** And don't forget to e-mail me that information.

**Poppy:** Of course!

**Morgan:** Thanks again for everything.

**Poppy:** No problem. Bye.

**Morgan:** Bye.



### 5. IN AN OFFICE

**Nicole:** So, I'll send you over that proposal and you can tell me what you think of it sometime next week.

**Luke:** Sounds good.

**Nicole:** And I'll let you know when the report comes out.

**Luke:** Perfect!

**Nicole:** Oh, before I go, I just remembered, we're going for a drink after work tomorrow if you fancy coming along.

**Luke:** That sounds good.

**Nicole:** We're meeting up at the Fox & Hounds at about 6pm.

**Luke:** Oh, great. I'll see you there.

**Nicole:** OK. See you later then. Bye.

**Luke:** Bye.



The tragic tale of Princess Caroline – an 18th century story

BACK IN THE 18TH CENTURY, PRINCE GEORGE (THE PRINCE OF WALES, WHO LATER BECAME KING GEORGE IV) WAS INVOLVED IN A CONTROVERSY THAT CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC. THIS IS THE STORY OF PRINCE GEORGE AND PRINCESS CAROLINE.

# POOR PR

The wedding between the Prince George and his German wife was anything but romantic. The ceremony **took place** on 8th April 1795 when Prince George (the Prince of Wales) married a German princess named Caroline Amelia of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel. But it was no wedding of love. During the wedding, the 32-year-old prince was apparently so drunk that he had to be held up by his **servants**. And in the words of one eye-witness, he "looked like death". He continued to drink after the ceremony and spent his wedding night on the bedroom floor.



So, why did Prince George get married? Well, George was famous for his **gambling**, **womanising** and large **debts**. George and his new bride were first cousins, and they had met just three days before they became man and wife. George didn't want to get married, but agreed to it after his father (King George III) promised to **pay off** Prince George's debts. If that seemed bad enough, at the time of his marriage to Caroline, Prince George was already married to another woman: an older, **twice-widowed** Roman Catholic **commoner** called Maria Fitzherbert. The marriage wasn't actually legal because Prince George didn't have his father's permission to marry. It was also illegal for anyone who was married to a Catholic to inherit the throne.

Prince George and Princess Caroline never **got on very well**. When he wasn't drinking, the Prince was interested in clothes, architecture and art; according to some, the princess had no "intellectual" interests and was also "sarcastic and vulgar" (apparently she never bathed either). George and Caroline spent their **honeymoon** in a rented house filled with George's friends. According to Caroline, they "were constantly drunk and **filthy**". George had also brought along his **mistress**, Lady Jersey. Caroline later said that the house resembled "a bad **brothel**". Somehow, George and Caroline managed to

consummate the marriage; and on 7th January 1796 (nine months after the wedding) their only daughter Charlotte was born. Two days later, George wrote a **will** in which he left all his property to Maria Fitzherbert. To Caroline, he left a single shilling. He also said that Caroline could have nothing to do with **raising** Charlotte. At the time, women had no right to **custody** of their children, and when Caroline left George in December 1797 she was forced to leave her daughter behind as well. At first, the two were happy to be separated. George went back to Maria Fitzherbert, while Caroline had a number of **affairs**.

However, by 1805, Caroline's reputation was so "bad" that the government launched an investigation into her private life, which was known officially as the "Delicate Investigation". At the time, Caroline had adopted a little boy. Many said it was actually her own illegitimate son. George hoped this was true so he could get divorced, but there was no evidence that the princess had **committed adultery**. To make matters worse, George refused to be in the same room with Caroline, got newspapers to publish stories about her sex life, and refused to let Caroline see their daughter more than once a week (this was later reduced to once every two weeks). Fed up with the situation, Caroline decided to leave England in 1814. She spent the next several years travelling around Europe. She ran up huge debts, and had a number of affairs with her servants. In 1818, Caroline's daughter died. Now, there was no heir to the throne, and Caroline was afraid that George would kill her so he could remarry.

But George was more interested in divorce, especially after his father's death in 1820. The prince was now King George IV, and he was determined to prevent Caroline from becoming queen. Caroline was equally determined that she would be crowned. It was the beginning of a royal battle.

## PRINCESS CAROLINE

Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel was born on 17th May 1768. She died on 7th August 1821. She was the wife of the Prince of Wales (who later became King George IV).



## PRINCE GEORGE

George was born on 17th August 1762. He was the eldest son of King George III and Queen Charlotte. He was famous for his extravagant lifestyle, his love of women and his fondness for art and architecture. In 1785, he secretly (and illegally) married a Roman Catholic, Maria Fitzherbert. In 1795, he was officially married to Princess Caroline of Brunswick. The marriage was a disaster. In 1811, George became **regent** after his father was declared insane. George became King George IV in 1820. George died on 26th June 1830. His only child, Princess Charlotte, died in 1817. On George's death, the crown passed to his brother, who became King William IV.



# PRINCESS

Caroline returned to England in 1820. Most ordinary people were on her side. Large crowds were on the streets shouting, "Long live the queen!" and attacking those who refused to join in. In fact, things were so bad that many thought there would be a revolution. But George remained obstinate, and a **bill** was introduced to "deprive Her Majesty, Caroline Amelia Elizabeth, of the Title, Prerogatives, Rights, Privileges, and Exemptions of Queen Consort of this Realm; and to dissolve the Marriage between His Majesty and said Caroline Amelia Elizabeth".



attended almost every day. Much of the focus was on Caroline's relationship with an Italian servant. Apparently, he had slept in her tent and even shared a bath with her. But public opinion remained with Caroline. In the end, the bill was defeated by a vote of 123 to 95.

The king would not get his divorce, but Caroline would not get her crown. On the day of the ceremony, in a scene right out of a movie, Caroline arrived at Westminster Abbey and went from door to door, demanding entrance, but was refused every time.

A few weeks later Caroline fell ill. "I know I am dying – they have killed me at last!" she said. She even went so far as to say that she thought she had been poisoned. She finally died on 7th August 1821 at the age of 53. George IV lived another nine years, but never remarried. ☆

The debate over this bill lasted more than three months and was, in effect, the public trial of Queen Caroline. The **hearings** were covered closely by the newspapers, and Caroline herself

## GLOSSARY

- to take place** *vb*  
to occur; to happen
- a servant** *n*  
someone who does personal jobs for the lord/prince, etc
- to gamble** *vb*  
to play games for money
- to womanise** *vb*  
if a man "womanises", he has lots of relationships with different women
- a debt** *n*  
an amount of money that you owe someone
- to pay off your debts** *exp*  
to pay back all the money that you owe
- to be twice-widowed** *exp*  
if you are "twice-widowed", you have married two times and both times your husband or wife has died
- a commoner** *n*  
a person who is not an aristocrat or of royal blood
- to get on well with** *phrvb*  
to have a good friendly relationship with
- a honeymoon** *n*  
a romantic holiday that you have after your wedding
- filthy** *adj*  
very dirty
- a mistress** *n*  
the girlfriend/lover of a married man
- a brothel** *n*  
a house where prostitutes work
- a will** *n*  
a document in which you write what you want to happen to your money and property when you die
- to raise (a child)** *exp*  
to look after a child until s/he has grown up
- custody** *n*  
the legal right to keep and look after a child
- an affair** *n*  
a romantic relationship with someone who is not your wife/husband
- to commit adultery** *exp*  
to have a relationship with someone who isn't your wife/husband
- a bill** *n*  
a proposed new law that is discussed and then voted on in parliament
- a hearing** *n*  
an official meeting to hear and consider information related to an incident
- a regent** *n*  
a person who rules a country temporarily because the king or queen is sick/insane, etc
- a slaughter** *n*  
a killing; a cruel, unfair killing
- Balmoral**  
a castle in Scotland that is owned by the British royal family

## A MODERN-DAY TRIAL

One of the most famous modern-day trials of a princess was that on the death of Princess Diana (1961-1997). During the trial, Mohamed Al Fayed (the father of Diana's lover, Dodi) declared that Diana had been murdered on the orders of Prince Philip (the queen's husband). He also accused Prince Philip of being a "Frankenstein", and Camilla of being "a crocodile". He also claimed that Diana was pregnant by his son Dodi (who also died with her in the 1997 Paris car crash), and he named more than 30 people alleged to have been involved in what he called the "slaughter" of Diana and Dodi, or in the plot to conceal it. These people included Prime Minister Tony Blair, two Metropolitan Police Commissioners, a British ambassador and several lords.

Al Fayed claimed that Prince Philip and Prince Charles plotted Diana's assassination during a meeting at **Balmoral**. They then ordered M16 in Paris to execute the plan, he claimed. "Was the Queen involved?" he was asked. "I have no idea," he responded, adding, "I do not think the Queen is as important as that."

When Al Fayed was asked to name the M16 assassin who carried out the murder, he said it was James Andanson, the paparazzi (and secret agent) in the white Fiat Uno that was seen in the tunnel that night.



# Headline News

Headline News N° 3

The voice of the people

London 2015

## Unhealthy Anger

*A new study finds that angry people take longer to heal.*

Are you an angry or a calm person? A new scientific study says that calm people heal faster than angry people. Nearly 100 participants took part in the study.



NO STRESS!  
NO ANGER!

Scientists tested participants' ability to control their anger. And scientists monitored the speed at which participants recovered from a **blister**. Angry people were four times more likely

to take a minimum of five days to heal. Whether a person directed their anger externally or internally had no influence on recovery – the important factor was how much control the person had over their feelings.

Angry people produced higher levels of stress hormones. Steve Bloom, a professor of medicine at Imperial College London, said stress was now recognised as a factor in **recovery** rates. "Your body **prioritises** and **sorts** one thing **out** at a time, so if you are stressed – angry in this case – your body works through that before it gets on with the process of healing." Scientists suggest that therapies such as relaxation could help angry people make a quicker recovery. ☺



## Violin Disaster

*Professional violinist breaks his \$1 million violin.*



"I'm not happy about it at all, but it kind of saved my life," said David Garrett, a professional violinist. Garrett, 26, is a famous classical musician. Last Christmas, he fell down some stairs. He **landed on** his violin **case**. The violin case probably saved his life, but the fall broke his \$1 million violin inside. The violin was made in Italy in 1772. The instrument will take eight months to repair and will cost €80,000. "I think it's **worth the money**," said Garrett. "You want to have the best repair possible done, which is never the cheapest solution. Certain instruments just work very well with the violinist... I just loved the violin very, very much." In the meantime, Garrett is **borrowing** a Stradivarius violin, worth more than €3 million. ☺

### GLOSSARY

**a blister** *n*  
a painful liquid bubble on the surface of the skin - often on the feet

**a recovery** *n*  
if a sick person makes a recovery, s/he becomes well again

**to prioritise** *vb*  
to decide which tasks are the most important, and to do them first

**to sort out** *phr vb*  
to do what is necessary to solve a problem or get something done

**to land on** *phr vb*  
to fall on

**a case** *n*  
a container that holds or protects something

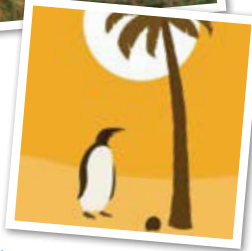
**to be worth the money** *exp*  
to be good value for the money you pay

**to borrow** *vb*  
if you "borrow" something, you take something with permission and return it later

# Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. *Answers on page 42*

1. On which side do chickens have most **feathers**?
2. What kind of paper likes music?
3. What's white and goes up?
4. What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts?
5. Did you hear about the man who bought a **paper shop**?
6. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?
7. What did the **stamp** say to the **envelope** on Valentine's Day?
8. Did you hear about the magic tractor?



**GLOSSARY**  
**a feather** *n*  
 a bird's feathers are the soft objects on its body  
**a paper shop** *n*  
 a shop that sells newspapers/magazines, etc  
**a stamp** *n*  
 a small piece of paper that you stick onto an envelope or parcel before you post it, to pay for the cost of the postage  
**an envelope** *n*  
 a rectangular paper container for a letter  
**to turn into** *phr vb*  
 to become something else; to change from one thing to another  
**to be stuck on someone** *phr vb*  
 to have strong feelings of love or passion for someone  
**a snowflake** *n*  
 a soft piece of frozen water that falls as snow  
**wrapping paper** *n*  
 special paper for covering objects so you can give them as presents

- A:** It **turned into** a field.  
**B:** Lost.  
**C:** On the outside.  
**D:** Annette ("a net").  
**E:** I'm **stuck on you**.  
**F:** A confused **snowflake**.  
**G:** It blew away.  
**H:** **Wrapping paper**.

## THE PHONE CALL BY DANIEL COULTON



# GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

WHATEVER IT IS, I DIDN'T DO IT!

REMEMBER: NEVER INSULT THE ALLIGATOR TILL AFTER YOU CROSS THE RIVER.

HE WHO LAUGHS LAST DIDN'T GET IT.

AN AMBASSADOR IS AN HONEST PERSON WHO IS SENT ABROAD TO LIE IN THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY.

CAN WE HAVE A NEW WALL, PLEASE? (GRAFFITI ARTISTS UNITED)

**GLOSSARY**  
**didn't get it** *exp*  
 didn't understand it  
**to lie** *vb*  
 to say something that isn't true

# Health and safety gone mad!

## Pre listening

Answers on page 42

In what professions would you find the following health and safety hazards? Which do you think are the most dangerous hazards? What can you do to prevent them from happening?

Dangerous machinery	Chemicals
Fire	Noise
Eye strain	Lifting heavy objects
Electricity	Inhaling substances
Falls from a height	A lack of light

## Listening I

You are going to listen to a conversation about government health and safety instructions. Listen once and say what three professions are mentioned?

## Listening II

Listen again and complete each space with the correct missing words.

1. What do you do when a light bulb breaks? According to new guidelines from the department of health and safety, you should follow a new \_\_\_\_\_.
2. This is just the latest example of \_\_\_\_\_ from the Department of Health and Safety.
3. If you want to change a bulb, you will need \_\_\_\_\_, a sturdy box, \_\_\_\_\_ or paper, a \_\_\_\_\_, sticky tape, labels, a pen or pencil, and a mask.
4. Plus the law against picking up a computer without \_\_\_\_\_, or the decision to replace hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ because they are too low.
5. The government think they are too low for \_\_\_\_\_, who may injure themselves when they get off them.

## Audio script -

### Government health and safety instructions go mad.

**Presenter:** Good evening and welcome to The World In Vision. What do you do when a light bulb breaks? According to new guidelines from the department of health and safety, you should follow a new ten-step guide. Here with me to talk about this is Michelle Barnes, a journalist.

**Michelle:** Well, this is just the latest example of ridiculous rules from the Department of Health and Safety.

**Presenter:** So, what are these new guidelines all about?

**Michelle:** Well, according to the new rules, if you want to change a bulb, you will need protective gloves, a box, stiff card or paper, a damp cloth, sticky tape, labels, a pen or pencil and a mask.

**Presenter:** That's ridiculous.

**Michelle:** Yes, it's just the latest example of ridiculous rules that the government is passing.

**Presenter:** Such as...

**Michelle:** Just recently there was the case of the firefighters who were told they couldn't rescue cats from trees any longer because it's too dangerous; and a coastguard from the south of England was sacked for taking "unnecessary risks" after he rescued someone.

**Presenter:** That's the whole point of being a coastguard, isn't it?

**Michelle:** Yes. Plus the law against picking up a computer without proper training, or the decision to replace hundreds of park benches because they are too low.

**Presenter:** What do you mean "too low"?

**Michelle:** The government think they are too low for elderly people, who may injure themselves when they get off them.

**Presenter:** What is this country coming to? Oh, well, Michelle. Thank you very much for coming in today.


**Michelle:** My pleasure. ✪




# DECEMBER





Come and celebrate December with us in our series on anniversaries. This month: December. By Mark Pierro.

 **December 1st 1955**  
Rosa Parks was arrested for violating **racial segregation laws** in Montgomery, Alabama, after **refusing** to give her seat to a white man on a bus. This started the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

 **December 2nd 1956**  
A yacht called Granma carried Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and 80 other members of the *26th of July Movement* from Mexico to Cuba. The Cuban revolution had started.

 **December 3rd 1967**  
A medical team led by Christiaan Barnard at a hospital in Cape Town, South Africa performed the first successful human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky. I wonder how many unsuccessful attempts had been made before that?

 **December 4th 1676**  
In an area north of Lund, Sweden, forces led by Swedish Field Marshal Simon Grundel-Helmfelt defeated the invading Danish army under the command of King Christian V of Denmark. The Swedes then celebrated the conclusion of what was known as the Scanian War.

 **December 5th 1933**  
**Prohibition** officially ended when the 21st Amendment to the US Constitution was **ratified**. Most Americans celebrated with a glass of the **hard stuff**,

except for poor old Al Capone, who had to find an alternative source of income apart from **supplying** illegal liquor.

 **December 8th 1980**  
Mark Chapman fatally shot former Beatle John Lennon outside the Dakota apartments in New York City.


 **December 10th 1868**  
The first **traffic lights** were installed outside the Houses of Parliament in London.

 **December 11th 1868**  
The first **traffic jam** occurred outside the Houses of Parliament in London.


 **December 12th 1901**  
Guglielmo Marconi received the first trans-Atlantic radio signal. The signal travelled from Cornwall (in England) to Newfoundland (in Canada).

 **December 13th 2003**  
Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was found hiding in a hole during Operation Red Dawn. The **bearded** dictator was captured alive.


 **December 14th 1911**  
Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first people to reach the South Pole. Immediately following them were the British, who were the first to get to the South Pole and *not* make it back again.

 **December 16th 1773**  
As part of a protest against the British Tea Act, Americans **dumped** crates of tea into Boston Harbour in what became known as the Boston Tea Party.

 **December 17th 1989**  
*The Simpsons* **made its debut** as an animated series on the Fox television network.

 **December 19th 1972**  
Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, and Harrison Schmitt returned to Earth on Apollo 17 after visiting the moon. Apparently they couldn't find a McDonald's so it wasn't worth staying. No human has visited the Moon since.

 **December 20th 1803**  
As part of the Louisiana Purchase, New Orleans was transferred from France to the United States. In total, the French sold vast areas of land in America for just \$15 million. The French have been **regretting** it ever since.

 **December 23rd 1888**  
During a **bout** of mental illness, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh famously cut off the lower part of his own left ear and gave it to a prostitute. Apparently, she preferred the ear to one of his paintings.

 **December 25th 1818**  
*Silent Night*, a Christmas carol by Josef Mohr and Franz Gruber, was first performed in a church in Austria. ❄️

## Events for December 2015

**December 1st** – World AIDS Day  
**December 12th** – UEFA draw for Euro 2016 in France.  
**December 10th** – International Human Rights Day  
**December 25th** – The Peter Pan Cup in Hyde Park, London.



## Countries celebrating their independence

**December 6th** – Finland  
**December 12th** – Kenya



## GLOSSARY

**a racial segregation law** *n*  
a law in the US that said where black people could sit, live, etc  
**to refuse** *vb*  
to say that you won't do something  
**Prohibition** *n*  
a law in the US that prohibited selling or drinking alcohol  
**to ratify** *vb*  
to give formal approval of something  
**the hard stuff** *n inform*  
alcohol  
**to supply** *vb*  
if you "supply" something to someone, you give a quantity of it to that person  
**traffic lights** *n*  
red, orange and green lights in the streets that tell cars when to stop or go  
**a traffic jam** *n*  
a line of cars in the road that isn't moving or that is moving slowly  
**bearded** *adj*  
with a beard (hair on the face)  
**to dump** *vb*  
to throw casually and without care  
**to make your debut** *exp*  
to appear in public for the first time  
**to regret** *vb*  
to feel bad about something you did in the past  
**a bout of something** *exp*  
if you have a "bout" of an illness, you have that illness for a short period of time



The strange case of an aristocrat's obsession with a killer.

# LORD LONGFORD

Lord Longford was an aristocrat who defended one of England's most notorious killers, Myra Hindley. His relationship with her is the subject of a fascinating film (*Longford* 2006), which stars English actor Jim Broadbent.



Lord Longford (born Francis Aungier Pakenham on 5th December 1905) was a politician, an author and a social reformer. However, he's probably most famous for his campaign for the release of **sadistic** murderer **Myra Hindley**\*

As you would expect, Lord Longford had a privileged **upbringing**. He was educated at Eton College and New College, Oxford. He graduated with a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He married on 3rd November 1931 and had a total of eight children.

Longford first appeared in the news during the 1970s. At this time, he was a leading figure in the Nationwide Festival of Light - an organisation that was protesting against the commercial exploitation of sex and violence, but particularly sex!

As part of the anti-pornography campaigning, Lord Longford went on a tour of sex shops, strip clubs and topless bars. This made him a **subject of derision** and he became known as "Lord Porn".

It was also around this time that Longford started making contact with Myra Hindley. Hindley was in prison for the murder of a number of children and teenagers. In 1977, Lord Longford appeared on television and spoke openly of his belief that Hindley should be released from prison (despite only having served 12 years of a life sentence) as she had **repented for her sins** and was "no longer a danger to the public".

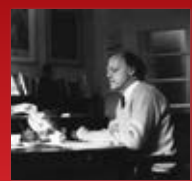
In 1985, Longford condemned the decision not

to review Hindley's case for another five years as "barbaric", and his campaign for Hindley continued even after she admitted to two more murders in 1986. On a radio talk show to promote his new book about saints, he was asked by a caller whether he **regretted** having helped Myra Hindley. "Not at all," he said. "As a matter of fact, I consider my visiting Myra Hindley, and indeed, all the other prisoners I've visited for over fifty years, to be one of the great **blessings** of my life."

Was Lord Longford a **compassionate** reformer or a **deranged** fool? You'll have to see the film to decide for yourself. ✨

## LORD LONGFORD

English aristocrat. Born 5th December 1905. Died 3rd August 2001 at the age of 95. He defended notorious killer Myra Hindley and opposed gay rights.



## \*MYRA HINDLEY

Myra Hindley (23rd July 1942 – 15th November 2002) and Ian Brady (born 2nd January 1938) were known as the **Moors Murderers**. Together, they murdered a number of children and teenagers between 1963 and 1965. They were eventually caught when Myra's brother-in-law (David Smith, who was married to Myra's younger sister, Maureen) reported one of the murders to the police. During the trial, the judge described the pair as "two sadistic killers of the utmost depravity". Myra Hindley died in prison in 2002 at the age of 60.



## LONGFORD – THE FILM

Longford is a television film. It is directed by Tom Hooper and stars English actor Jim Broadbent (as Lord Longford) and Samantha Morton (as Myra Hindley).



## GLOSSARY

**sadistic** *adj*  
someone who is "sadistic" enjoys hurting other people and causing pain

**an upbringing** *n*  
your "upbringing" is the way that your parents treat you and the things that they teach you when you are a child

**to be a subject of derision** *exp*  
if someone is "a subject of derision", they are laughed at and made fun of

**to repent for your sins** *exp*  
to show or say that you are sorry for something bad/illegal/immoral that you have done wrong

**to regret** *v/b*  
if you "regret" something you have done, you feel bad about it and wish that you hadn't done it

**a blessing** *n*  
something good for which you are thankful

**compassionate** *adj*  
someone who is "compassionate" wants to help people who are sick, poor, hurt, etc.

**deranged** *adj*  
strange, crazy, insane

**a moor** *n*  
an area of high land that is mostly covered by wild grass

# SONG



## Superhero, sometimes

By Garrett Wall

© Garrett Wall 2008.

For more information, visit:

[www.garrettwall.net](http://www.garrettwall.net)

[www.myspace.com/garrettwall](http://www.myspace.com/garrettwall)

[www.junkrecords.es](http://www.junkrecords.es)

You **gotta** learn, to roll when you fall,  
'Cos when you get burned, there's no feeling at all,  
It's what I've tried to tell you all this time,  
But you don't listen no, you've got **God knows** on your mind.

You never think before you act,  
You never wait you just react,  
You're **in a rush** to save the world,  
'Cos you think you'll get the girl,  
Superhero, sometimes.

And everyone knows what to defend,  
'Cos everybody waits to get used  
in the end,  
It's nothing new, you've heard it all before,  
Still you go on and choose to ignore it all  
the more.

Well you think **you've got it made**,  
The man of steel, **as tough as nails**,  
And when you're hurt you never **bruise**,  
What the hell you trying to prove,  
Superhero, sometimes.

You gotta learn, to **take it in your stride**,  
'Cos you can't win 'em all, no, no matter  
how you try.

You never think before you act,  
You never wait you just react,  
You're in a rush to save the world,  
'Cos you think you'll get the girl,  
Superhero, sometimes.



### GLOSSARY

**gotta** *abbr*  
have got to  
**God knows** *exp*  
we use this expression to show that you are annoyed, angry, worried, surprised, disappointed, etc  
**to be in a rush** *phr vb*  
if you are "in a rush", you have to leave quickly because you need to be somewhere else  
**to have got it made** *exp*  
to be certain that you are going to be rich or successful  
**to be as tough as nails** *exp*  
to be extremely strong or aggressive  
**to bruise** *vb*  
if you "bruise", an injury appears on your body as a purple mark, although the skin is not broken  
**to take something in your stride** *exp*  
to deal with a problem calmly and easily

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# VOCABULARY

## THE BAND

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about bands.

**Singer (main singer = lead singer)** – the person who sings the songs.

**Backing singers/vocals** – the people who accompany the singer, often singing during the chorus.

**Concert ("a gig")** – a series of songs played in front of an audience.

**Song** – a piece of music that lasts about 2-3 minutes.

**Lyrics** – the words to a song.

**Stage** – the area where musicians perform to a live audience.

**Melody** – the tune of a song.

**Chord** – several musical notes played at the same time to make a nice sound.

**The chorus** – the part of the song that is repeated several times and forms the basis of the song.

**The verse** – the part of the song that is in between the chorus. There are normally two or three verses in a song.

**A song list** – a list of songs performed by a band during a concert.

**A guitar strap** – a piece of material that a guitarist wears over his/her shoulder to hold the guitar.

**A plectrum** – a small piece of plastic for plucking the strings of a guitar. A "pick" in US English.

**A soloist** – a person who plays a solo (a piece of music played/sung by just one person).

**A band/group** – a group of musicians who play music together.

**A guitar string** – a long, thin piece of material that you pluck to make a sound. There are normally six strings on a guitar.

**Feedback** – the unpleasant loud noise that is produced when a microphone or guitar is placed too near an amplifier.

**Amp (amplifier)** – a piece of equipment that increases and projects the sound produced by the instruments.

**Mic (microphone)** – a singer holds the microphone and sings into it in order to produce sound/notes.

**To lip synch (lip-synching)** – to move your lips to a song so it looks as if you're singing the words even though you aren't.

**A sound check** – this is done before a band performs a concert, to make sure that the sound of the music is balanced. During the sound check, the band plays and the engineer checks the sound.

**A stage dive** – when a performer jumps from the stage into the crowd. ✨

# TYPICAL DIALOGUES

## THE BAND

In this conversation, Nigella (the guitarist) and Stan (the lead singer) have just finished playing a concert with their band, Broken Wings.

**Nigella:** That was awful. You were so **out of tune**.

**Stan:** What? You can talk! Your guitar string broke, you got all the chords wrong in the final song, and you **blew** the amp.

**Nigella:** I just turned the volume up for my guitar solo. At least I didn't forget the chorus to "Rockbumption". I mean, come on, how many times have we rehearsed this song?

**Stan:** You **put me off** with all that **leaping about** on stage.

**Nigella:** It's part of my act. The fans expect it. At least I didn't fall off stage.

**Stan:** I didn't fall. That was a stage dive.

**Nigella:** Yeah, but no one caught you.

**Stan:** They didn't see me coming.

**Nigella:** They let you fall. So, how much did we make tonight then?

**Stan:** About 400 pounds.

**Nigella:** Oh, right. That's not bad – about 100 pounds each then.

**Stan:** Erm, well, not exactly. After paying for the transport, the **rent-a-crowd**...

**Nigella:** Rent-a-crowd?

**Stan:** Yeah, where do you think all those people came from?

**Nigella:** Oh, right. And what other expenses did we have?

**Stan:** The free tickets for all our friends, the publicity...

**Nigella:** Publicity? We only had a poster.

**Stan:** Well, that costs money, you know. Anyway, after all that, we're left with the grand total of 5 pounds and 23 pence.

**Nigella:** Mmm... Wanna share a **pint**?

**Stan:** Yeah. OK. Let's go. I think the bar is still open. ✨



### GLOSSARY

**to be out of tune** *phr vb*  
if you are "out of tune", you do not produce the right notes

**to blow** *vb*

to break; to make explode

**to put someone off** *phr vb*

to distract someone by doing something that they do not like

**to leap about** *phr vb*

to jump around the place

**a rent-a-crowd** *n*

people that you pay to come and watch your band

**a pint** *n*

a large glass of beer – half a litre, approximately

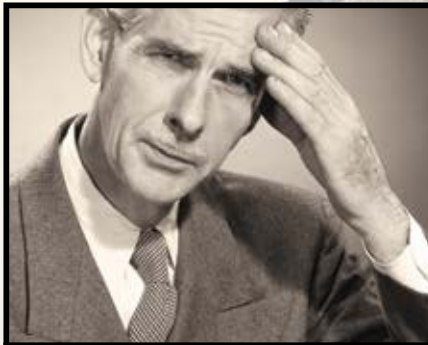
# DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: STOPPING

Here are some more useful and interesting expressions for you to learn. This month we are looking at some expressions to describe the act of stopping.



### Run out of steam

To lose the energy to do something or your interest in something.  
 "I can't take anymore of this non-stop stress. I've just run out of **steam**."



### Stop somebody in their tracks

If something "stops you in your tracks", it makes you stop what you are doing suddenly.  
 "A loud noise stopped me in my tracks."



### Call it quits

To decide that you have had enough of something.  
 "Look this awful situation has been going on for too long – let's just go home and call it quits."



### Throw in the sponge/towel

To stop doing something.  
 "This is going to be my last race – I'm going to throw in the towel."



### Wash your hands of somebody/something

To stop having anything to do with a situation or person because it causes you too many problems.  
 "I'm going to wash my hands of him – he's non-stop trouble."



### Drop everything

To stop what you are doing suddenly.  
 "Drop everything! I've got some good news."



### The game's up

We know your secrets; we know what you are really doing; we understand what you are really doing.  
 "You can stop **pretending** to be a British agent. We know all about your true identity. The game's up."

#### GLOSSARY

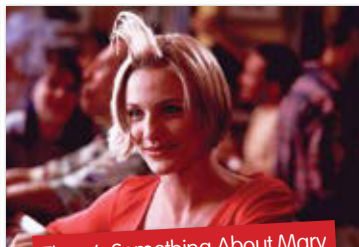
**steam** *n*  
 water vapour  
**to pretend** *vb*  
 to act as if something is true, even though it isn't really true

# DIRTY MOVIES?

There are often images of violence and sex on television or in films. And for some it's a big problem, especially those with kids. But don't worry! Help is at hand. There are now a number of **websites\*** that can tell you exactly how much sex and violence there is in the film. In order to show you how it works, why don't you play our little game? Read over the following descriptions of popular films (1 to 6) according to some of the websites. Can you guess what each film is? Choose from the movies below. **Answers on page 42**



Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix



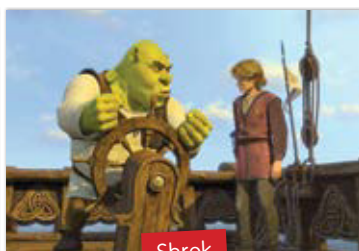
There's Something About Mary



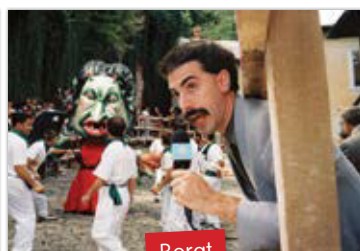
Casino Royale



The Simpsons Movie



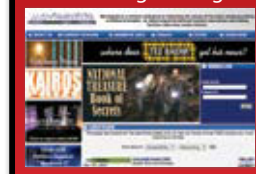
Shrek



Borat

## \* WEBSITES (TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT FILM)

www.parentpreviews.com  
www.screenit.com  
www.christiananswers.net  
www.kids-in-mind.com  
www.movieguide.org



## GLOSSARY

**a puppet** *n*  
a doll/toy that looks like a person

**to dunk** *vb*  
if you "dunk" food into a drink, you put it into the drink before eating it

**mud** *n*  
the sticky brown mixture of earth and water

**a full-frontal** *n*  
the front part of a naked body

**rear nudity** *n*  
the back part of a naked body

**to entice** *vb*  
to try to persuade someone to do something

**misogyny** *n*  
a strong and irrational dislike of women

**to be stuck** *exp*  
not to be able to move

**a zipper** *n*  
a metal device on clothes that is used to open and close them

**to electrocute** *vb*  
to hurt or kill an animal or person by using electricity

**to wrestle** *vb*  
if you "wrestle" with a person or an animal, you fight them

**to knock over** *phr vb*  
if something "knocks you over", it hits you and pushes you to the ground

**to strangle** *vb*  
to kill someone by applying pressure to their neck so that they cannot breathe

**to dare someone** *exp*  
if you "dare" someone to do something dangerous, you ask them if they are brave enough to do it

**naked** *adj*  
with no clothes on

**an anatomical term** *n*  
a word or expression that relates to a part of the body

**perilous** *adj*  
very dangerous

**a stunt** *n*  
an action that is designed to attract attention or publicity

**fancy** *adj*  
special or expensive

**reckless** *adj*  
with no care for the safety of someone or something

1. Some wooden **puppets** wear clothes that expose parts of their body. A female dragon falls in love with a donkey. A gingerbread cookie (shaped like a man) is tortured by being **dunked** into a glass of milk. An ogre showers with **mud**. The film is:

2. A home-made porn film is partially seen and heard. There is male **full-frontal** and **rear nudity**. There is a lot of sexually-related comedy, some of which involves prostitutes. The overall way in which the protagonist speaks might be **enticing** for some kids to imitate. Bad attitudes are expressed (on purpose), including racism and **misogyny**. Violence-based comedy is present including a man-on-man nude battle over a magazine. The film is:

3. There is a lot of sexual humour in this film, including an extended scene dealing with a man who gets a certain part of his body **stuck** in his **zipper**. In another scene, one of the bad guys gives a dog some illegal substances. There is another scene in which a dog is **electrocuted** and **wrestled** with. The film is:

4. The death of a character is discussed, and we see a bloodied face. Most of the violence is through the manipulation of magic and people being **knocked over** by metaphysical forces. Sexual content is present with a kiss. Parents sensitive to depictions of satanic-like themes may not find this film suitable for their children. The film is:

5. The father of the family is often rude to his wife and children. At one point he is physically abusive to his son (attempting to **strangle** him). The father also **dares** his son to skateboard **naked** through the town. He later denies this to the police, lying to them. The son is briefly completely nude. In another scene, a man considers kissing a pig, and there are offensive comments made about Christians. Two rude **anatomical terms** are used. The film is:

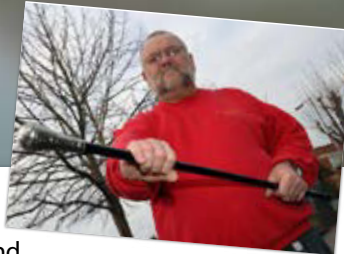
6. There are many scenes of hand-to-hand combat, with people being shot and a naked man subjected to torture. **Perilous stunts** are shown throughout the film. The main character is shown consuming **fancy** alcoholic drinks and usually drives in a **reckless** manner. The film is:

# Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

## Cane You

Self-defence classes for the elderly.



"We don't teach lots of complicated techniques. It's basic stuff – stuff you can remember," said Kevin Garwood, a martial arts expert who has set up self-defence classes for pensioners. And many of the techniques involve teaching them how to use their **walking sticks**. Kevin, 58, said, "I am not trying to make grey-haired ninjas, but what the classes do is give them tremendous confidence." Classes begin with a **warm-up**, focusing on gentle movements

of the hands, wrists, arms and bodies and going on to turning and twirling the stick. Pupils practice sets of movements and learn simple **strangleholds**, **arm locks** and throws, using their walking sticks. And the lessons are already **paying off**. Just recently, one elderly woman was attacked by two men. The men grabbed her arm and her handbag. But she hit them with her stick and they ran off. ★

### GLOSSARY

- a walking stick** *n*  
a long wooden stick that someone uses to help them walk
- a warm-up** *n*  
physical exercises that you do before doing sport
- a stranglehold** *n*  
a way of holding someone by putting your arms around their neck
- an arm lock** *n*  
a way of holding someone by putting your arms around a part of their body
- to pay off** *phrvb*  
if an action "pays off", it is successful or profitable after a period of time
- to move out of the way** *exp*  
to change your position so that something or someone can pass
- to set** *vb*  
when concrete "sets" it becomes firm or hard
- concrete** *n*  
a substance used for building which consists of cement, sand, small stones and water
- to pull over** *phrvb*  
if you "pull over" while you are driving, you stop the car
- a stretch of road** *n*  
an area or a length of road

## Kind Driver

A helpful driver found himself in a sticky situation.



"I was just trying to be helpful," said a German driver after he **moved out of the way** to allow a police car with flashing lights to pass. But seconds later, Hans-Peter Wagner found himself trapped in **setting concrete**. "I didn't see the road ahead, and before I knew it, the car was stuck in concrete." Wagner, 62, was driving in northern Germany when he saw a police car

trying to get past him. So, he **pulled over** but went straight into a **stretch of road** that had just been freshly laid with concrete. Seconds later, the concrete set around the car wheels. Police had to pull the car out. "It looked like a regular road, and I didn't see it was wet concrete," Wagner added. "That's what you get for trying to be nice." ★

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# British bar chat

## The Underground

- Andy:** I went on the **Underground** today. It was just terrible. It was, just so many people around. I can't...
- Katherine:** It's terrible. [Yeah.] This morning I didn't even have anywhere to put my feet. Pushing, **shoving**, pushing, shoving.
- Andy:** Yeah, I don't know. I think they should put more like more trains on or something. I don't know. I don't know. There's enough people going on the m... you know the Underground to make it worth their while. And it's just...everyone's, everyone's so **bad tempered** in the morning. You get such... I don't know. I hate... I hate people in the Underground.
- Katherine:** It's too hot. There's no air conditioning. Somebody **fainted** the other day and nobody did anything.
- Andy:** Nothing? What they just [**Nope**] like watched?
- Katherine:** Nope. They just watched. They called the security, security pull him over. Then more people get on the train, more people get off. Push, shove. Nobody has any respect for anybody anymore.
- Andy:** Yeah, I **guess** people are sort of frightened of **getting involved in stuff** and having to go and make police statements. I don't know.
- Katherine:** Frightened of helping someone?
- Andy:** I don't know like he could've been a **druggie**. He could've been a drunk person.
- Katherine:** He was in a **suit**.
- Andy:** Yeah? That's a bit unfair though, isn't it? So, you only help people because they're in a suit or something, you know. [Well.] What ... would you've...what...did you do anything?
- Katherine:** ...I couldn't.
- Andy:** Yeah. There you go. There. Wait a minute, you're criticising other people.
- Katherine:** There was a lot of people in my way. ☺



**GLOSSARY**  
**the Underground** *n*  
 the underground train system in London. Also known as the Tube  
**to shove** *vb*  
 to push aggressively  
**bad tempered** *adj*  
 not happy about something; angry  
**to faint** *vb*  
 to lose consciousness  
**nope** *exp inform*  
 no  
**I guess** *exp*  
 I think; I suppose  
**to get involved** *exp*  
 if you "get involved" in an incident, you intervene and try to help  
**stuff** *n inform*  
 things  
**a druggie** *n inform*  
 a person who is addicted to illegal drugs  
**a suit** *n*  
 a combination of clothing that consists of a jacket and trousers of the same colour and material



# US bar chat

## The Scouts

- Nicholas:** Do you have time for another?
- Kjersti:** Yeah, but just one. I have to **pick my nephew up** from Boy Scouts.
- Nicholas:** Oh yeah? Does he like being a Boy Scout?
- Kjersti:** Absolutely! They go camping and **hiking** and swimming. He loves the outdoors. Plus it's a great **outlet** for all his energy.
- Nicholas:** I suppose that when kids are kept occupied they have fewer opportunities to **act out**.
- Kjersti:** Exactly. I was a Brownie when I was younger and look how great I **turned out!**
- Nicholas:** A Brownie?
- Kjersti:** Yeah, that's an age group in the Girl Scouts, you know similar to Cub Scouts. So then you're supposed to **work your way up to the top**.
- Nicholas:** So, how long were you in the Girl Scouts?
- Kjersti:** Erm, one year.
- Nicholas:** Only one?
- Kjersti:** Er, yeah! But I got the "Perfect Attendance **Patch**".
- Nicholas:** Well, good for you. Well, **you'd better** go get your nephew.
- Kjersti:** Oh, that's right. See you later! ☺



**GLOSSARY**  
**to pick someone up** *exp*  
 to go to a place to meet someone and to take them to another place or home  
**a nephew** *n*  
 the son of your brother/sister,  
**hiking** *n*  
 walking in the mountains/hills/countryside  
**an outlet** *n*  
 an "outlet" for energy, is a way of permitting you to release that energy  
**to act out** *phr vb US*  
 to act in a bad way; to misbehave; to behave badly  
**to turn out** *phr vb*  
 the way you "turn out" is the way you are in the end  
**to work your way up to the top** *exp*  
 to continue working/trying until you reach the maximum level  
**a patch** *n*  
 a small piece of material that you can sew onto clothes. The patch has information or images on it  
**you'd better** *exp*  
 you should

# avoid problems with a comma!

*Punctuation problems related to the comma.*

It's amazing how one little bit of punctuation can have so much power. Take the case of the comma. It's supposedly small and insignificant; however, it can completely change the meaning of a sentence. And in many cases, its omission can lead to confusion. In this article, we'll be looking at one type of comma: the "serial comma" – otherwise known as the Oxford or Harvard comma.

**T**he serial comma is the comma that is used in lists of words. In most cases, it comes just before the last "and". For example:  
**a)** Italy, Germany, and England. (This is written *with* the serial comma.)  
**b)** Italy, Germany and England. (This is written *without* the serial comma.)

less ambiguous if you want to say that you like three sandwiches: "My favourite types of sandwiches are tuna, ham, and cheese." Here is another example: "I spoke to Sally, a police officer and a cook." This sentence is also somewhat

In the previous example, the meaning of the two sentences is identical. However, in some cases, the use of the comma can change the meaning of the sentence. Look at the following sentence:

"I would like to dedicate this song to my parents, John and Jane."

In this sentence there is ambiguity. From the way it is written, it could have two distinct meanings:

- a)** The song is dedicated to the writer's parents, who are John and Jane.
- b)** The song is dedicated to the writer's parents (whose names we don't know), plus two other people: John and Jane.

Here is another example:

"My favourite types of sandwiches are tuna, ham and cheese."

Without the serial comma, it isn't clear if the writer likes two or three types of sandwiches:

- a)** I like two types of sandwiches: tuna sandwiches; and ham and cheese sandwiches.
- b)** I like three types of sandwiches: tuna sandwiches; ham sandwiches; and cheese sandwiches.

However, if you add the comma, the meaning is

### INFORMATION BOX

There is no apparent agreement among the experts on the use of the serial comma. Oxford is in favour of it (hence the name, the Oxford Comma). The Oxford Style Manual (2002) says, "The last comma serves also to resolve ambiguity, particularly when any of the items are compound terms joined by a conjunction [such as 'and']".

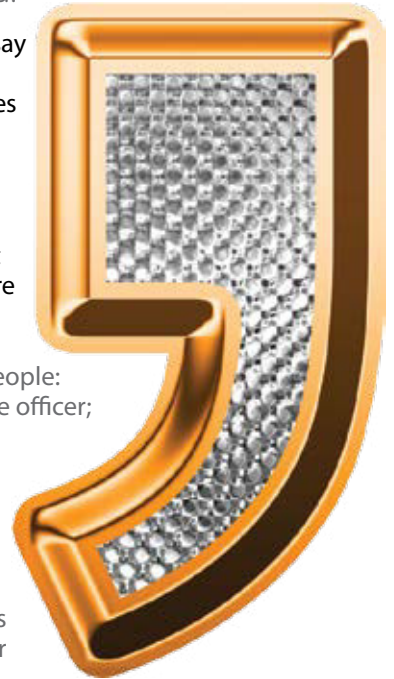
However, other publishers argue that it's simply better to improve the wording of the sentence in order to avoid any ambiguity. At Hot English, we believe in being practical, and our policy is: if the Oxford Comma makes the sentence easier to understand, use it. If not, re-word it!

ambiguous. Here are the three possible meanings:

- a)** I spoke to two people: Sally, who is a police officer; and a cook.
- b)** I spoke to three people: Sally; a police officer; and a cook.
- c)** I spoke to one person: Sally, who is both a police officer and a cook.

If you add the serial comma, it becomes a bit less ambiguous, although even with the serial comma it's still a bit confusing. So, in this case it would probably be better to re-write the sentence.

So, what can you do to avoid any problems? Simple! Just think very carefully about what you want to write. If it's a bit confusing with or without the comma, see if you can think of a better way of writing it so it isn't ambiguous. ☺



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

Persons in possession of illegal substances must pay taxes on them. However, paying taxes on these items does not make them legal. (North Carolina)

Organizations may not hold their meetings while the members present are in costume. (North Carolina)

Bingo games may not last over 5 hours unless they are held at a fair. (North Carolina)

It's against the law to sing off key. (North Carolina)

Elephants may not be used to plough cotton fields. (North Carolina)

The mere possession of a lottery ticket is illegal in North Carolina and may result in a \$2,000 fine. (North Carolina)

Fights between cats and dogs are prohibited. (North Carolina)



It is illegal to drive cars through city cemeteries for pleasure. (North Carolina)

Cars may not be driven on sidewalks. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to throw rocks at a city street. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep with your shoes on. (North Carolina)

One may be jailed for wearing a hat while dancing, or even for wearing a hat to a function where dancing is taking place. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to fish for whales on Sunday. (Ohio)

It is illegal to get a fish drunk. (Ohio)

No one may be arrested on Sunday or on the Fourth of July. (Ohio)

It is illegal to walk a cow down Lake Road. (Ohio)

If one loses their pet tiger, they must notify the authorities within one hour. (Ohio)

It's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license. (Ohio)

GLOSSARY

**to be in costume** *phr vb*  
if an actor is "in costume", he/she is wearing clothes for a play/film, etc  
**a fair** *n*  
an event held in a public place such as a park, where people come to have fun  
**to sing off key** *phr vb*  
if you "sing off key", you do not sing the right notes  
**to plough** *vb*  
if you "plough" a field, you use a plough (a large, sharp farming tool) and pull it across the soil to turn the soil over  
**a sidewalk** *n US*  
the path at the side of a road for walking. The "pavement" in British English  
**a pet** *n*  
an animal that you keep in your home

Answers

Guide Book Blunder page 6  
1D 2A 3E 4C 5B

Cruise curse page 7

Pre-Listening I  
Queen Victoria / Nearly 80  
Listening I  
1. ship  
2. king  
3. bottle  
4. luck  
5. passengers  
6. virus

Wordsearch page 8



Story Time page 10  
1C 2H 3A 4G 5D 6F 7B 8E

Functional Language page 11  
1. meeting; 2. going; 3. miss; 4. life

Phone Section page 11

Listening I  
1. 0783-467.  
2. KT22 OLR  
Listening II  
1. How may I help you?  
2. Fine thanks.  
3. We'd like to order  
4. What payment method  
5. confirm the address  
6. Could you send a fax or e-mail  
7. Thanks very much.

Big Brother Britain page 15

Listening I  
Any three of the following: Children, mortgage payments, ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, attitudes to libraries, rubbish collection and schools.  
Listening II  
1C 2A 3E 4D 5B

Trivia Matching page 16

1E 2C 3A 4K 5B 6D 7F 8M 9G 10N 11H 12I 13L 14J

How to end a conversation page 26

2 Listening I  
1. He/She has to prepare the dinner.  
2. He/She has got a train to catch.  
3. He/She is moving abroad permanently and has a plane to catch.  
4. He/She is going on a long journey home by plane.  
5. He/She is busy and has to get back to work.  
3 Listening II  
1. In half an hour.  
2. In about 10 minutes.  
3. For about six years.  
4. Sydney (Australia).  
5. At about 6pm at the Fox & Hounds (a pub).

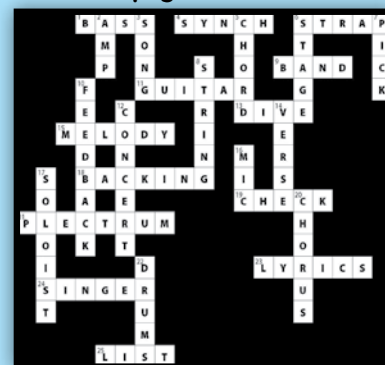
Little Jokes page 29

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

Health and safety gone mad! page 32

Listening I  
Journalist, firefighter, coastguard  
Listening II  
1. ten-step guide  
2. ridiculous rules  
3. protective gloves / stiff card / damp cloth  
4. proper training / park benches  
5. elderly people

Crossword page 34



Dirty Movies? page 38

1 Shrek  
2. Borat  
3. There's Something About Mary  
4. Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix  
5. The Simpsons Movie  
6. Casino Royale

Kings and Queens page 43

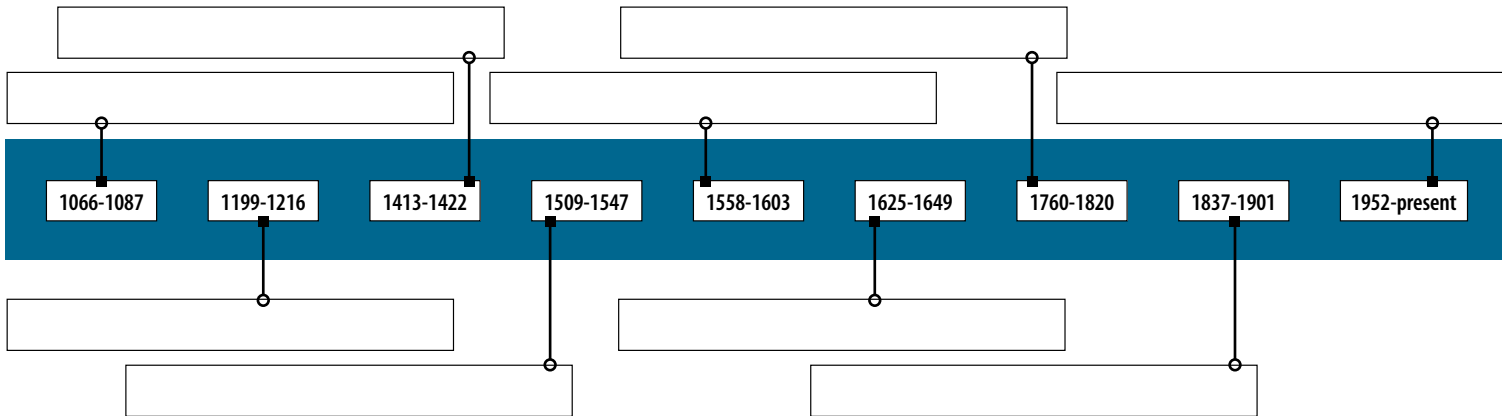
1066-1087 – William I, 1199-1216 – John, 1413-1422 – Henry V, 1509-1547 – Henry VIII, 1558-1603 – Elizabeth I, 1625-1649 – Charles I, 1760-1820 – George III, 1837-1901 – Victoria, 1952-present – Elizabeth II

# English Kings & Queens



Answers on page 42

How well do you know your English kings and queens? Write the name of each king or queen in the correct place. The dates refer to the time they were reigning (being king or queen).



**Charles I**  
He was beheaded during the English Civil War. Oliver Cromwell took over afterwards.



**Elizabeth I**  
She was the one who defeated the Armada. Her reign is known as the Golden Era.



**Queen Victoria**  
She was one of Britain's most powerful monarchs. She was queen during the height of the British Empire.



**George III**  
He was the king who lost America. He also went mad. His son, Prince George (the Prince of Wales), took over.



**King John**  
He was the king when Robin Hood was stealing from the rich and giving to the poor in the forests around Nottingham.



**King Henry VIII**  
He was the English king who broke away from Rome and formed the Church of England (also known as the Anglican Church). He beheaded two of his six wives.



**Elizabeth II**  
She is the current queen, the mother of Prince Charles and grandmother to Prince Henry and Prince Harry.



**King William I**  
This Norman king (from Normandy in the north of France) successfully invaded England, killed King Harold and became England's new king.



**King Henry V**  
He was one of England's greatest kings. He fought in many wars against the French. The actor Kenneth Branagh played King Henry V in a film adaptation of a play by William Shakespeare.

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# DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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

Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
A friend has a new mobile phone. You think it is really good.	That is most innovative.	That's really cool.	That's neat.
You are playing a computer game with a friend. She destroys your base with a nuclear bomb.	She detonated a nuclear device over my base.	She let off a nuclear bomb over my base.	She nuked me.
A friend is a big fan of Portsmouth Football Club.	She is the most ardent supporter of the club.	She's a big Portsmouth fan.	She's nuts about Portsmouth.
Two people have broken into a shop. The police have just arrived outside. One of them suggests leaving quickly.	I suggest we take to our <b>heels</b> .	Let's run!	Leg it! Scarper!
A friend is annoying you and asking you the same question over and over again. You ask her to stop.	Please desist from aggravating me emotionally.	Stop annoying me; go and annoy someone else.	Get off my back!
Little Margaret didn't go to school today, and she wasn't ill. You tell a friend about her naughty behaviour.	She evaded her responsibility to attend an educational establishment.	She didn't go to school.	She skived off school; she played truant.

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**GLOSSARY**  
Please note that some of the words in this glossary box are literal translations of parts of idiomatic expressions.  
**a heel** *n*  
the part of your shoe/foot that is at the bottom (of your shoe/foot) and at the back

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# HOME IDIOMS

This is a new part on a series of "home" idioms.



**A home from home; a home away from home**

A PLACE WHERE YOU FEEL AS COMFORTABLE AS YOU DO IN YOUR OWN HOME.

"This bar is like a home from home for many ex-pat business people."



**Be home and dry**

IF YOU'RE "HOME AND DRY", YOU'VE FINALLY COMPLETED SOMETHING.

"I've just got six more e-mails to write, then I'll be home and dry."



**Be home free**

IF YOU'RE "HOME FREE", YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SUCCEED AT SOMETHING BECAUSE YOU'VE FINISHED THE MOST DIFFICULT PART.

"Once you leave this road, you just go over the bridge, then you're home free – we're the first house on the left."



**Not be much to write home about**

SOMETHING THAT "ISN'T MUCH TO WRITE HOME ABOUT" ISN'T VERY GOOD OR EXCITING.

"The film was OK, but it was nothing much to write home about."



**A home truth**

IF YOU TELL SOMEONE A "HOME TRUTH", YOU TELL THEM AN UNPLEASANT FACT, USUALLY SOMETHING BAD ABOUT THEMSELVES.

"Jim is always criticising us for the way we live, but it's time that someone told that man a few home truths."



**Bring home the bacon**

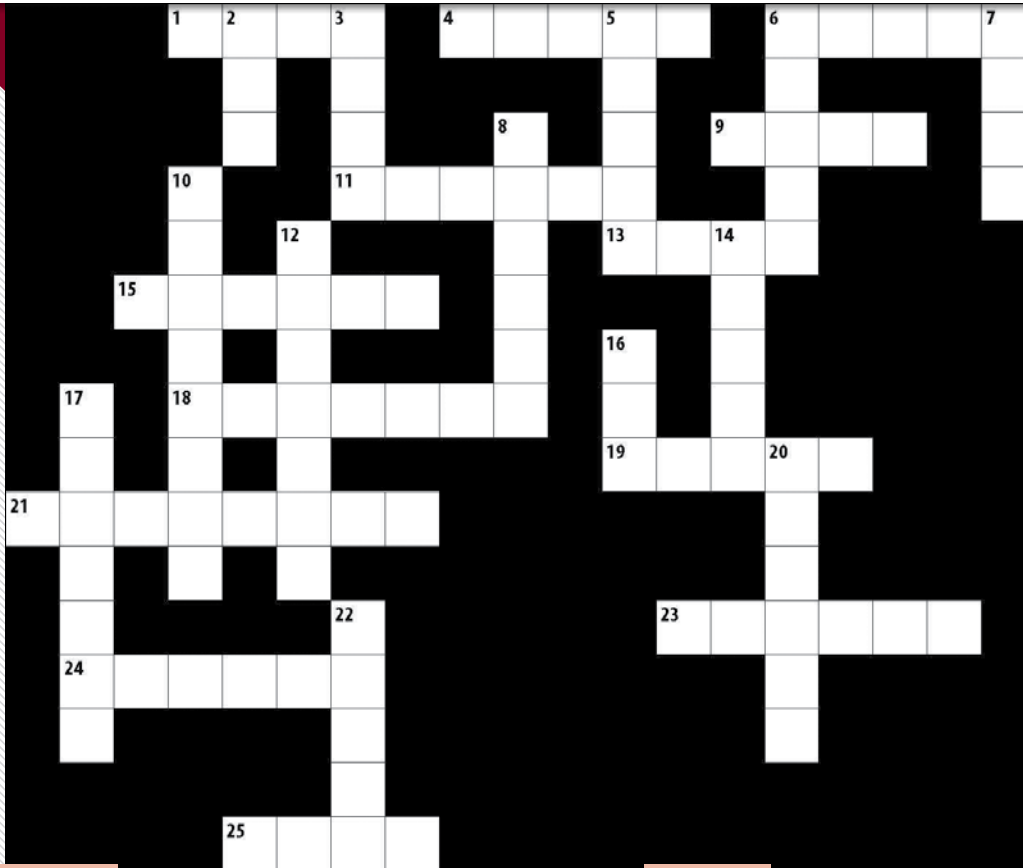
THE PERSON WHO "BRINGS HOME THE BACON" IS THE PERSON WHO EARNS THE MONEY IN A FAMILY.

"Who brings home the bacon in your family?"

# GROUPS, BANDS & MUSIC

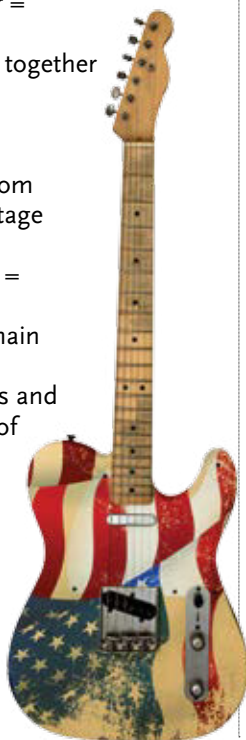
See if you can do this crossword on "band" words.

Answers on page 42



**Across**

1. A guitar with four strings = a b\_\_\_\_\_ guitar.
4. To move your lips as a song is playing so it appears that you are singing it, even though you aren't = to lip sy\_\_\_\_\_.
6. A piece of material that a guitarist wears over his/her shoulder to hold the guitar = a guitar st\_\_\_\_\_.
9. A group of people who play music together = a ba\_\_\_\_\_.
11. An instrument with six strings = a gui\_\_\_\_\_.
13. An action that involves jumping from the stage and into the crowd = a stage di\_\_\_\_\_.
15. A series of notes that make a tune = a mel\_\_\_\_\_.
18. The singers who accompany the main singer = the bac\_\_\_\_\_ singers.
19. When this happens, the band plays and the engineer listens to the quality of sound = a sound ch\_\_\_\_\_.
21. A small piece of plastic that you hold in your hand and use to play the guitar = a ple\_\_\_\_\_.
23. The words to a song = the ly\_\_\_\_\_.
24. A person who sings in a band = a sin\_\_\_\_\_.
25. The songs that a band will play in a concert = a song l\_\_\_\_\_.



**Down**

2. A piece of equipment that increases and projects the sound produced by the instruments = an am\_\_\_\_\_.
3. A piece of music that lasts about 2-3 minutes = a s\_\_\_\_\_.
5. A series of musical notes played at the same time that produce a combined sound = a ch\_\_\_\_\_.
6. The elevated area where musicians perform to an audience = the st\_\_\_\_\_.
7. The American English word for a small piece of plastic that you hold in your hand and use to play the guitar = a pi\_\_\_\_\_.
8. A guitar has six of these long, thin metal things = a st\_\_\_\_\_.
10. The noise produced when a microphone or guitar is placed too near an amplifier that has its volume turned up high = feed\_\_\_\_\_.
12. A performance of a number of songs played in front of an audience = a con\_\_\_\_\_.
14. The part of a song that comes between the chorus = the ver\_\_\_\_\_.
16. An abbreviated form of the word "microphone" = a m\_\_\_\_\_.
17. A musician who plays/sings alone = a sol\_\_\_\_\_.
20. The part of a song that is often repeated and that forms the basis of the song = the cho\_\_\_\_\_.
22. A percussion instrument = dr\_\_\_\_\_.

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# A CHARMING TALE OF LOVE AND MUSIC!



A surprise winner at the 2007 Academy Awards ceremony was the low-budget Irish film *Once*. Set in Dublin, the film was made for approximately €100,000 and starred Glen Hansard, of the Irish band *The Frames*, alongside Czech musician Markéta Irglová. The film won the Oscar for Best Original Song. They performed the song "Falling Slowly" at the ceremony to wide adulation. So, what's the film all about?



## THE PLOT

The movie starts with the unnamed "Guy" (played by Glen Hansard) **busking** on Dublin's Grafton Street, doing **cover versions**. A **junkie** tries to steal Guy's **earnings** but apologises when Guy catches him. Later, at night, while Guy

is performing songs he wrote by himself, a friendly Czech girl (Irglová) who is referred to as "Girl" starts talking to him. When Guy mentions that his real job is repairing **vacuum cleaners**, Girl mentions that her Hoover is broken. Although Guy is unfriendly at first (he has recently split up from his girlfriend), when Girl arrives the next day (with the Hoover) they go to a music shop where Girl plays the piano and Guy realises that she is a **gifted** musician. They soon become friends.



As the film **unfolds**, we see how the pair live in **run-down** parts of Dublin; Guy with his grumpy (but ultimately supportive) father, Girl with her mother and daughter. Guy is dreaming of a recording deal and the pair decide to record some songs. They spend a weekend at a recording studio making a CD of Guy's own songs. At the same time, they talk about their hopes and dreams regarding their love lives: Guy hopes to win back his ex-girlfriend,

who lives in London; Girl contemplates giving her marriage another try with her **estranged husband** who is back in the Czech Republic. Will they win their respective loves back? You'll have to see the film to find out.



## A MODERN-DAY MUSICAL... OR ROMANCE?

*Once* is both a musical and a love story with a difference. Unlike ordinary musicals, everyone on screen doesn't **burst into song** spontaneously. However, the musicians in the film perform each number while

the rest of the actors blend into the backdrop of working-class Dublin. And this is why director John Carney (former bass guitarist with *The Frames*) described it as a "modern-day musical". Cillian Murphy, who starred in *28 Days Later* and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, was supposed to play Guy but Glen Hansard became the final choice. Murphy was a talented musician before he became an actor but, as it turned out, Hansard became the star of the show, thereby turning it round from actor/musician to musician/actor. Glen's only other major acting performance was in the film *The Commitments* where he played, yes, you guessed it, a guitarist.

The plot of the film is different because it isn't an ordinary love story. The two characters want to get back with their **old flames**, not each other, and their only intimate connection is music. And, in fact, the plot of the film is of secondary importance to the music. Glen and Marketa performed the song "Falling Slowly" at the Academy Awards ceremony on 24th February 2007, then won the award for Best Original Song. Marketa said in her acceptance speech that it was proof that struggling musicians everywhere could reach the top. Well, these two did at least. Well done, guys and girls, or should I say Guy and Girl. ✨



## GLOSSARY

- a guy / Guy** *n*  
an informal expression for a man; Guy is also a man's name
- to busk** *vb*  
to play music in the street in order to earn money
- a cover version** *n*  
a version of a song by someone different from the original band/singer
- a junkie** *n inform*  
a drug addict
- earnings** *n*  
the money you earn to live (to buy food, to rent a flat, etc)
- a vacuum cleaner** *n*  
a machine for cleaning the floor in a house. It has a long tube that sucks up the dirt
- gifted** *adj*  
with many special skills or abilities
- to unfold** *vb*  
if a film "unfolds", the action/story develops
- run-down** *adj*  
a "run-down" area is the old, broken, dirty part of a town/city
- an estranged husband** *n*  
a husband who is no longer living with his wife, and not in communication with her either
- to burst into song** *exp*  
to start singing a song suddenly and spontaneously
- an old flame** *n*  
an ex; someone who was once your lover/boyfriend/girlfriend

# How to speak Franglais!



You've heard of English. And you've heard of French. But have you heard of Franglais? It's a mixture of the two languages. Find out all about it and how to speak it – it's a lot of fun!

There are actually two types of Franglais. The first type exists in France and is spoken exclusively by the French. Franglais words consist of English words that the French use as part of their everyday language. For example, the French often use the word "le weekend" to refer to... the weekend. Other words include the following: "le fut" – for "football/soccer"; "les baskets" – to refer to basketball shoes; and "les tennis" to refer to tennis shoes".

Of course, many people in France aren't happy about this. Some even see it as a cultural attack. And what really concerns them is the **creeping advance of English** words, especially American-English, into their language. As a result, the Toubon Law was passed in 1994. This was an attempt to restrict the use of English words in French. The law makes French compulsory in government publications, most workplaces, advertisements, parts of the media and state-funded schools. For the French, English is now seen as a symbol of Anglo-American cultural imperialism – the

language of junk food. And it is something that must be stopped. In order to do that, officials in French public bodies try hard to **weed out** English words and offer French alternatives. So, it was goodbye "le e-mail" and hello "le courriel"; and out went "le spam" and in came "le pourriel".

The other form of Franglais is spoken exclusively by the English. This is an invented language that is a mixture of English and French. It was created by the English journalist Miles Kington (who died in 2008). Speaking Franglais is simple. You just insert as many French words as you know into a sentence, fill in the rest with English, then speak it with absolute conviction and a French accent. Here are some examples:

- "Je suis un rock star" = I am a rock star.
- "Je voudrais go away ce weekend" = I would like to go away this weekend.
- "Je ne suis pas un nutter religieux" = I am not a religious nutter.
- "Je voudrais un cup of coffee, s'il vous plait" = I would like a

- cup of coffee, please.
- "Je ne suis pas un bon sleeper" = I am not a good sleeper.
- "Longtemps, pas voir" = Long time, no see.
- "Je vais driver downtown" = I'm going to drive downtown.
- "Je suis tired" = I am tired.
- "Je ne care pas" = I don't care.

Would you like to speak Franglais? ✨

## FRANGLAIS (AS USED BY THE FRENCH)

Here are some English words as used by the French. Please note that although these are English words, they are often used in a different way by the French.

- "Un parking" = a car park; "un camping" = a campsite; "le marketing" = marketing; "un smoking" = a tuxedo / a dinner jacket; "un déstockage" = a clearance sale; "le footing" = jogging / running; "un talkie-talkie" = a walkie-talkie; "le self" = a self-service restaurant/bar; "un holiday" = a holiday; "un e-mail" = an e-mail; "le score" = the score; "le garden party" = a garden party; "le planning" = planning.



## FRENCH WORDS USED IN ENGLISH

Of course, it's not all one way. There are also many, many French words that are used in English. Here are some of the common ones. "Faux pas" = a mistake; "Savoir faire" = knowledge; "fiancé" = someone you are engaged to be married to; "la crème de la crème" = the best in a group; "tête à tête" = face-to-face meeting; "rendezvous" = a meeting, often a secret one.

SPEAKEZ VOUS FRANGLAIS?



## MILES KINGTON

Miles Kington was a writer for the *Independent* newspaper for more than 20 years. He died at the age of 66 in January 2008. Amongst many other things, he is famous for his books on how to speak "Franglais".

## GLOSSARY

**the creeping advance of something** *n*  
the way that something is increasing slowly but surely  
**to weed out** *phr vb*  
if you "weed something out", you try to identify it and eliminate it  
**a nutter** *n inform*  
a crazy person  
**a clearance sale** *n*  
if a shop has a "clearance sale", they try to sell all the products in the shop because they are going to change them, or they are closing the shop  
**a walkie-talkie** *n*  
a two-way radio used to communicate  
**the score** *n*  
the points that the teams in a game have



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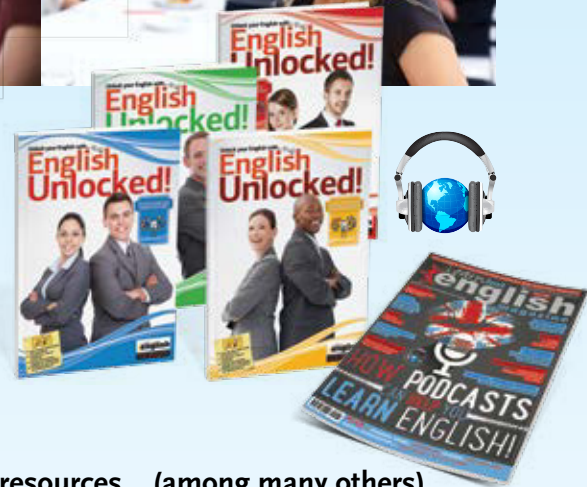
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# PHRASAL VERB THEMES: THE HOME

This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs you can use to talk about the home.

**MOVE OUT**  
TO STOP LIVING IN A PARTICULAR HOUSE OR FLAT.



"JANE MOVED OUT OF HER HOUSE BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT THERE WAS A GHOST THERE."

**MOVE IN TO (INTO)**  
TO START LIVING IN A NEW HOUSE OR FLAT.



"PAUL HAS MOVED INTO HIS NEW APARTMENT IN THE CITY."

**MOVE IN TOGETHER**  
TO START LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE AS SOMEONE.



"AFTER A THREE-YEAR RELATIONSHIP, JENNIFER AND NIGEL FINALLY DECIDED TO MOVE IN TOGETHER."

**PUT SOMEBODY UP**  
TO LET SOMEONE STAY IN YOUR HOME FOR A SHORT TIME.



"SHE HAD NOWHERE TO STAY SO WE PUT HER UP FOR A FEW WEEKS."

**SLEEP OVER**  
TO SLEEP IN SOMEONE'S HOUSE FOR A NIGHT.



"PAUL MISSED THE LAST BUS HOME SO HE HAD TO SLEEP OVER AT MY PLACE."

**DO UP**  
IF YOU "DO UP" A HOUSE, YOU DECORATE IT AND MAKE IT NICER.



"THE HOUSE WAS LOOKING A BIT OLD SO WE DECIDED TO DO IT UP."

**PULL DOWN**  
TO DEMOLISH A BUILDING, OFTEN BECAUSE IT'S OLD OR ABOUT TO FALL DOWN.



"THEY PULLED DOWN THE OLD HOUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY'D PROMISED NOT TO."

**LIVE ON (AN AMOUNT OF MONEY)**  
IF YOU "LIVE ON" AN AMOUNT OF MONEY, YOU ONLY HAVE THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BUY THE THINGS YOU NEED.



"WE CAN'T LIVE ON THE MONEY WE EARN."

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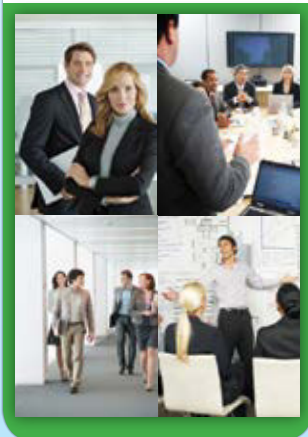
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# FACE TO FACE



## KING HENRY VIII vs QUEEN ELIZABETH I

This month, we're looking at two great English monarchs: Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

**KING HENRY VIII**  
Henry's **reign** was a **colourful period** in British history. He was famous for having six wives, and for **beheading** two of them. He had one great ambition in his life: to produce a son to **succeed** him to the **throne**. But this was easier said than done. Finally, one of his wives, (Jane Seymour), gave birth to a son, Edward (the future King Edward VI), although he died at a very young age. Henry was known for his cruelty and **ruled with an iron-fist**. People who he considered political or personal opponents were executed. He ordered approximately 72,000 people to be killed during his reign. But Henry also made some of the most radical decisions of any English monarch. Most importantly, he broke away from the Roman Catholic Church to form the Church of England (the

Anglican Church). This led to the transformation of England from a Catholic country to a mainly Protestant society. Furthermore, Henry was involved in the construction of several important buildings including King's College Chapel in Cambridge and Westminster Abbey in London.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH I**  
Elizabeth the First's reign is known as the "Elizabethan era". It is famous for its literature, in particular the plays of William Shakespeare. Elizabeth was the youngest daughter of Henry VIII by his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Anne was executed when Elizabeth was only three years old. Nevertheless, Elizabeth was well cared for as a child and received an excellent education. Elizabeth's reign was very different from that of her father. She was known as The Virgin Queen

and never married. She ruled conservatively and was careful about entering into alliances. She also surrounded herself with **trusted political advisers**. The defeat of the Armada in 1588 associated Elizabeth's name with what is seen as one of the greatest victories in British history. Elizabeth's long reign provided stability for the kingdom and helped create a sense of national identity.

**THE VERDICT**  
Henry transformed society by breaking away from Rome and the Roman Catholic Church. But he is perhaps even more famous for his cruel and tyrannical reign. On the contrary, Elizabeth was celebrated as the ruler of a "Golden Age", a view that is still held today. Our verdicts therefore are as follows: Henry VIII = 7/10; Elizabeth I = 9/10. ✪

### KING HENRY VIII

King of England, 1509 to 1547.  
Born 28th June 1491.  
Died 28th January 1547.  
Famous for breaking away from Rome, having six wives and beheading two of them.



### QUEEN ELIZABETH I

Queen of England, 1558 to 1603.  
Born 7th September 1533.  
Died 24th March 1603.  
Famous for defeating the Armada, and bringing the prosperous "Elizabethan era" to England.



#### GLOSSARY

- a colourful period** *n*  
a time during which many interesting things happen
- a reign** *n*  
a period of time when a king or queen is ruling
- to behead** *vb*  
if someone is "beheaded", their head is cut off
- to succeed** *vb*  
the person who "succeeds" a king or queen is the next king or queen
- the throne** *n*  
the position of being king or queen
- to rule with an iron fist** *exp*  
to be a very cruel and strict ruler
- trusted** *adj*  
honest; true to someone
- a political adviser** *n*  
a person who helps a leader/king/queen, etc decide what to do



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