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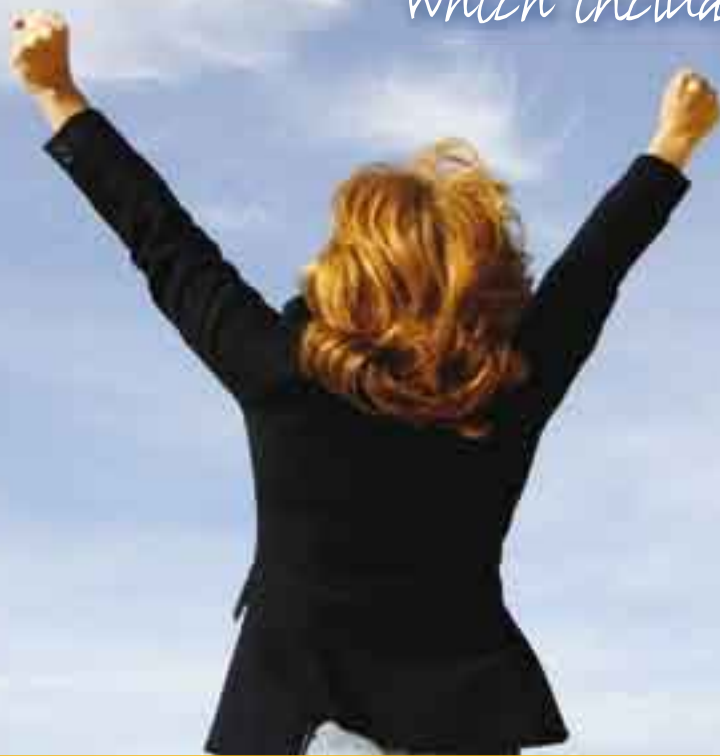
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CD index



- 1 Hello
- 2 Idioms
- 3 Jokes
- 4 Dr Fingers' Vocabulary Clinic
- 5 Dr Fingers' Error Correction Clinic
- 6 Dictionary of Slang
- 7 Basic English
- 8 Office Humour
- 9 Useful advice
- 10 Stupid Criminals
- 11 Hot English radio ad
- 12 Dr Fingers' Grammar
- 13-14 British Bar Chat
- 15-16 US Bar Chat
- 17 Dumb US Laws
- 18 Story Time
- 19 Weird Trivia
- 20 Typical Dialogues
- 21 Hot English radio ad
- 22 Social English
- 23 Quiz
- 24 Quirky News
- 25 Pretty Polly
- 26 Song
- 27 New Words
- 28 Hot English radio ad
- 29 The Trouser Snatcher
- 30 Grammar Fun
- 31 Fluency Practice
- 32 Business English
- 33 Goodbye

Editor's intro

Hi, everybody, and welcome to another issue of Hot English. It's May, and it's time for... the Eurovision song contest. Europe's **wackiest** and **tackiest** festival. We'll be looking at this year's competition. And as part of our special European theme, we'll also be looking at Euroscepticism, European stereotypes and European humour.

Ever heard of a "coolhunter"? This month, we're talking to Julio about an unusual profession from the fashion industry: coolhunting. Find out what it is and how to become a coolhunter yourself.

We've also got an interesting article on Hollywood and its treatment (or in this case, "mistreatment") of history. This month also sees the start of the very first Hot English radio play: **The Trouser Snatcher**. It's a five-part Victorian murder mystery. You can listen to it on the CD, and download the **script** from the homepage on our website www.hotenglishmagazine.com

For your further amusement, we have a new series of Bushisms – funny, interesting and weird things that George W. Bush has said. Incidentally, the English-speaking press often refer to George Bush as George Dubya Bush. Do you know why? Well, "dubya" is a way of saying "double u" (his middle initial: "w"). So now you know. Well, that's all for now. Have a great month and happy learning.



Magazine Index

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Phrasal Verbs
- 5 Advert
- 6 Idioms
- 7 Jokes & Graffiti
- 8 Dr Fingers' Vocabulary Clinic
- 9 Dr Fingers' Error Correction Clinic
- 10 Eurovision
- 11 Eurovision trivia
- 12 Eurovision lyrics quiz
- 13 Eurosceptics
- 14 European humour
- 15 Dictionary of Slang
- 16 21 things to do in the US
- 18 Basic English
- 19 Office Humour & Useful advice
- 20 Stupid Criminals
- 21 Dr Fingers' Grammar
- 22 British Bar Chat
- 23 US Bar Chat
- 24 Crossword & Answers
- 25 Subscriptions
- 26 Dumb US Laws
- 27 Coolhunting
- 28 Story Time
- 29 Wordsearch & Joke
- 30 Trivia Matching & Weird Trivia
- 32 Vocabulary
- 34 Typical Dialogues
- 35 Social English
- 36 Quiz
- 37 Quirky News
- 38 Pretty Polly
- 39 Song + types of car
- 40 New Words
- 41 Web ad
- 42 Mongoose Ghost
- 44 Hollywood History
- 46 Bushisms
- 47 The Trouser Snatcher
- 48 Grammar Fun
- 49 Fluency Practice
- 50 Business English

PS Don't forget to visit Dr Fingers' blog on our website. There are now podcasts (MP3 sound files) for you to download and listen to.

PPS Thinking of studying English abroad this year? We can find you the ideal course. For more information: sales@hotenglishmagazine.com.

GLOSSARY

- wacky** *adj*
crazy
- tacky** *adj*
cheap; not sophisticated; not attractive
- a trouser snatcher** *n*
a person who steals another person's trousers
- a script** *n*
the text for a theatre play, film, radio play, etc
- un-stimulating** *adj*
not interesting or exciting

Word of the month: McJob

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a McJob is, "An **un-stimulating**, low-paid job with few prospects, especially one created by the expansion of the service sector."

Interestingly, the UK arm of McDonald's is planning a campaign to have the dictionary definition of a McJob changed. Lorraine Homer from McDonald's said the firm felt the definition was "out of date and inaccurate".

Just last year, McDonald's tried to improve the image of its employment opportunities with the slogan, "McProspects – over half of our executive team started in our restaurants. Not bad for a McJob." The expression McJob first appeared in the online version of the Oxford English Dictionary in March 2001



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PHRASAL VERBS THROW PART II

This month we are looking at some more phrasal verbs with the verb "to throw". We generally use the verb "to throw" to refer to the action of using your hands to make an object fly through the air. For example, "I threw a plate at his head." Now let's look at some phrasal verbs with the verb "to throw".

TO THROW AWAY AN OPPORTUNITY
TO WASTE AN OPPORTUNITY OR A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING



THROW DOWN WEAPONS (GUNS)
TO STOP FIGHTING BECAUSE THE OPPOSITION IS TOO GREAT.



THROW SOMEONE OFF
TO CONFUSE SOMEONE WHO IS CHASING YOU; TO DO SOMETHING SO THAT SOMEONE CANNOT FIND OR CATCH YOU.



THROW OUT/THROW AWAY
TO PUT OLD OR UNWANTED THINGS IN THE RUBBISH BIN.



THROW OFF (CLOTHES)
TO REMOVE CLOTHING QUICKLY.



THROW SOMEONE OUT OF A PLACE
TO FORCE SOMEONE PHYSICALLY TO LEAVE A PLACE; TO REMOVE SOMEONE FROM A PLACE.





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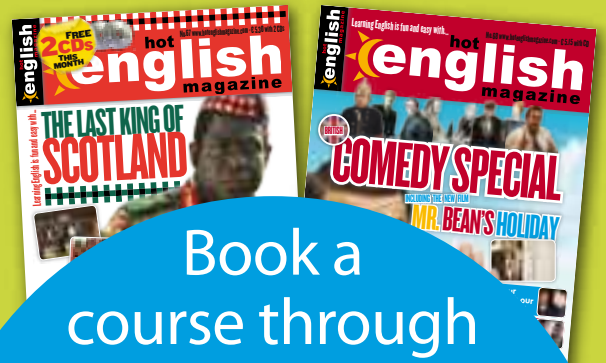
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INSECT IDIOMS



CD track 2 - British woman & British man

GLOSSARY

- a butterfly** *n*
an insect with large colourful wings and a thin body
- a stage** *n*
the raised area in a theatre where actors or singers perform in front of an audience
- a cobweb** *n*
an object that spiders make in order to catch flies
- a flea** *n*
a very small jumping insect
- to chat** *vb*
to talk informally
- a gnat** *n*
a small flying insect that bites people and lives near water
- a snail** *n*
a small animal with a long, soft body and a shell on its back. It moves very slowly

This month we are looking at some more insect (and small animal) idioms.



Have butterflies in your stomach

To feel very nervous, usually about something you have to do.

"He had **butterflies** in his stomach as he walked onto the **stage** to give the presentation in front of more than 3,000 people."



Blow the cobwebs away

To do something which makes you feel less tired or less bored, usually by going outside for some fresh air.

"A nice walk by the sea will blow the **cobwebs** away."



Send someone away with a flea in his/her ear

To tell someone to go away in an angry way.

"She was asking for money, but I sent her away with a **flea** in her ear."



Have the attention span of a gnat.

Not have the ability to concentrate for very long; to become distracted or bored very easily.

"He can't work for longer than five minutes without **chatting** to someone. He's got the attention span of a **gnat**."



At a snail's pace

Very slowly.

"The roads were full of traffic and we were moving at a **snail's pace**."



Snail mail

The "slow" system of sending letters through the post (as opposed to sending e-mails).

"If you send it by **snail mail**, it'll take at least a week to get to me. Just e-mail it if you can."

Little Jokes



CD track 3 British woman & US woman

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. *Answers on page 24*



I EAT MY SARDINES STRAIGHT FROM THE SEA.



- Where is it that "yesterday" comes after "today"?
- What never gets any wetter no matter how hard it rains?
- What do people make that nobody can ever see?
- What do ghosts like about tall buildings?
- Why do statues and paintings of George Washington always show him standing?
- What has a neck, but no head?
- What did the guitar say to the rock star?
- What kind of **can** never needs a **can opener**?

A: They have lots of "scare" cases.

B: Stop picking on me.

C: Because he never "lies".

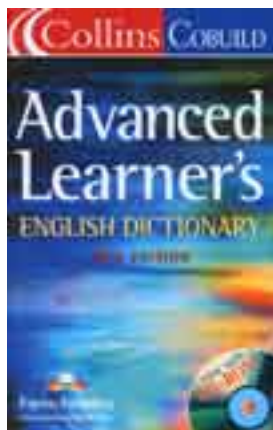
D: A pelican.

E: The sea.

F: A bottle.

G: In a dictionary.

H: Noise.



GLOSSARY

a can *n*
a metal container for liquids such as Coca Cola, etc
a can opener *n*
a metal object used for opening cans (see above)
"scare" cases *exp*
this is a play on words: to "scare" someone is to frighten that person. A "staircase" is a set of steps that goes from one floor to another
to pick on someone *exp*
if you think that someone is "picking on you", you think they are treating you unfairly and badly
a pelican *n*
a large white bird with a very big bill (nose)

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

I USED TO BE INDECISIVE BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.

I USED TO BE CONCEITED, BUT NOW I'M PERFECT.

MY INTEREST IS IN THE FUTURE BECAUSE I AM GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE THERE.

THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY RULE, INCLUDING THIS ONE.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST OFFICIAL FIGURES, 99% OF ALL STATISTICS ARE TOTALLY WORTHLESS.

DIPLOMACY IS THE ART OF SAYING "NICE DOGGIE" UNTIL YOU CAN FIND A ROCK.

GLOSSARY

indecisive *adj*
incapable of taking a decision
conceited *adj*
too proud of his/her abilities; with feelings of superiority
worthless *adj*
of no value
a doggie *n inform*
a word used to refer to a dog

COMEDY & ENGLISH

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And improve your English!

The Giggling Guiri is Spain's first professional, English-language comedy club. For the average price of a one-hour class, students can experience the English language in its most natural state. It is completely uncensored adult comedy, where accents, metaphor, description and other aspects are weaved together as an intrinsic part of the act. You will definitely learn something, and learning has never been so much fun.



Coming Soon

This month our star performer is RICHARD HERRING. Herring worked on the BBC Radio 4 series On The Hour. He also worked alongside STEWART LEE on the cult shows Fist Of Fun (BBC TWO) and This Morning With Richard Not Judy (BBC TWO). He also co-wrote 37 episodes of the sitcom Time Gentlemen Please (Sky One), which starred AL MURRAY - THE PUB LANDLORD. His latest show is Ménage à un, which consolidates his position as one of the UK's most uncompromising and innovative stand-ups in a show which deals with loneliness, only-ness and onanism, and attempts to determine whether three-in-a-bed sex romps are really better than one-in-a-bed sex romps.

For more information, please visit www.richardherring.com

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BARCELONA Café Teatre Llantíol (c/ Riereta, 7 Metro: S. Antoni / Liceu)
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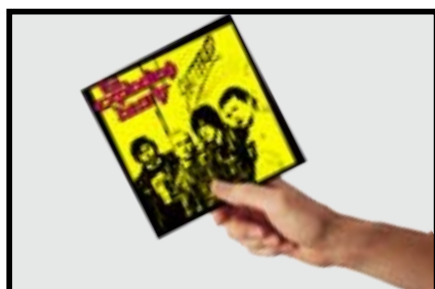


DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: DISASTER & FAILURE



CD track 4 British women

Here are some more useful **collocations*** for you to learn. The images will help you associate the expression with its meaning. This month: Disaster & failure.



A one-hit wonder

A musician who has one successful record and then no others.
"She wrote a really popular song back in the eighties, but since then we haven't heard anything from her. She was a one-hit wonder"



Ask/cry for the moon

To want something that is impossible to have.
"Trying to find the perfect man is like asking for the **moon**."



You can't win 'em (them) all; you win some, you lose some

It isn't possible to be successful all of the time.
"It's a **pity** she didn't get the role in the film this time. Oh well, you can't win 'em all."



A seven/nine-day wonder;

Someone or something that causes interest or excitement for a short period of time, but is then quickly forgotten about.

"No one thought the actor would survive more than one film, but he showed them that he was more than just a seven-day wonder."



Come within an inch of something

To very nearly do something.
"We came within an **inch** of making a lot of money. If only we hadn't sold the business so quickly"



A lame duck

A person or company that is in trouble and needs help.
"In the space of just three months, the business was transformed from a world-class international company into a **lame duck**."



By the skin of your teeth

To be successful, but only by a very small margin, and with a lot of luck.
"She hadn't studied at all for the exam, but managed to pass it by the skin of her teeth. Lucky Betty!"



Pick up the pieces

To try to return to a normal life after a traumatic experience.
"He's gradually **picking up** the pieces after his divorce."

* Collocations

A collocation is a sequence of two or more words that go together to form fixed expressions ("heavy rain", for example). Learning lots of collocations will improve your level of English, and help you with exams such as First Certificate, Advanced and Proficiency, which test your knowledge of these things.

GLOSSARY

- the moon** *n*
the round object in the sky that goes round the earth every four weeks
- it's a pity** *exp*
it is sad/unfortunate
- an inch** *n*
approximately 2.5 cm
- lame** *adj*
if you are "lame", you are unable to walk properly because of an injury
- a duck** *n*
a type of bird. Donald is one
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to take in your hands

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



The section in which Dr Fingers corrects typical English errors.



CD track 5 British man & other person



Activity

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

1. There isn't much difference among the two films.
2. The party was a huge success and all the guests amused themselves.
3. With a pen and paper, children can amuse them for a long time.
4. He saw an amount of films during the film festival.
5. Exercise can be hard work, but it can also be amusing.
6. When the speaker fell down, the audience thought it was most enjoyable.
7. I won't to go there next week.
8. She must to help us.
9. He shoulds stop smoking.
10. We enjoy to work here.
11. I am thinking that it's time to go.
12. There is a hour left before the concert starts.
13. We lived next to an hospital.
14. I was surprised and anger that she didn't say sorry.
15. We will be assisting the meeting next week.



Error Analysis

1. We use "between" for two things, and "among" for more.
2. If you "enjoy yourself", you have a good time.
3. If you "amuse yourself", you do something so you aren't bored: Can't you find something to do to amuse yourself?
4. We use "amount of" with uncountable nouns, and "a number of" with plural nouns.
5. If something is "enjoyable", it causes you to feel good and pleasant. Something "amusing" makes you laugh.
6. Remember, something "amusing" makes you laugh.
7. Remember, there is no "to" after "won't".
8. Remember, there is no "to" after "must".
9. Remember, there is no third-person "s" with "should".
10. Remember, we use the gerund after "enjoy".
11. Remember, we don't use the continuous form when think refers to an opinion. For example, "I think it's..."
12. Remember, we use "an" with "hour".
13. Remember, we use "a" with "hospital".
14. The adjective is "angry".
15. Remember, if you go to a meeting, you "attend" that meeting.





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Eurovision mania

Europe's greatest song contest

Well, it's that time of year again. Europe is once again about to launch its greatest cultural triumph on the world: the Eurovision Song Contest. By Rob Julian

The start

Eurovision is a super-contest for a super-state. Growing from **humble beginnings**, Eurovision has become a phenomenon. It's one of the most-watched, non-sporting events in the world. Audience figures are between 100 and 600 million worldwide. But why? Well, there are **catchy tunes**, energetic performances and youthful dreams. Eurovision's glamour and suspense will **thrill** the world this May. Sure, there are plenty of people who think it is **tacky** and **tasteless**. But there are plenty of people who think it's tacky and tasteless and still love it. That's the appeal of Eurovision.

Rocking Finns

Last year, Athens was the **host** to the fiftieth anniversary of the contest. The winners were the Finnish hard rockers *Lordi* with their song *Hard Rock Hallelujah*. Great news, because until last year, Finland had participated the most times in the Eurovision finals without winning. So, this year, the competition finally heads north, to Helsinki. So put on your **parka** and let's take a trip to the brightest star in the European showbiz galaxy.

How does it all work?

Things have changed a bit since the first contest in 1956, which started in

Switzerland as a radio show. It began with entries from only seven countries, but now Eurovision has entries from over forty. Here's a look at how the contest works. First of all, Eurovision isn't a competition for EU countries only. Eurovision is the name given to a network of communication channels, the EBU, founded in the 1950s. It **links** public TV

Your Guide to Eurovision 2007

Venue: The Helsinki Arena.
Dates: The semi-final for the 52nd Contest will take place on 10th May, and the final on 12th May.

stations across Europe. That's why countries like Israel and Morocco, which are not part of the European Union, can compete in the contest. The format of the show changed in 2004 with the introduction of a semi-final. This year 28 countries will perform in the semi final with the ten highest-scoring countries of these going through to the final. Both the semi-final and final are broadcast live on TV.

Automatic Qualification

France, Germany, Spain and the UK are allowed direct entry into the final because they are major financial contributors to the contest. Aside from these four countries, the winner of the previous year's contest, and

EUROVISION
SONG CONTEST
HELSINKI 2007

winners from the semi-finals will go to the final.

In the past, a country's votes were decided by a **jury**, but now, citizens of that country can vote for their favourite songs by telephone or SMS. Juries can still be used by each country if there is a communications failure. Whichever method of voting is used (jury, telephone or SMS), it is not possible to vote for a **performer** from your own country.

Each country is asked to give points to their favourite entry, allocating 12 points to their favourite entry, 10 points to their second favourite entry, 8 to their third choice and so on down to the tenth favourite entry. A country can give its points to any other country. All vocals must be sung live. No voices are permitted on **backing tracks**.

The winning delegation not only wins the accolade of best song for the year, they also host the next Eurovision Song Contest. So, last year hard rockers Lordi won for Finland, and brought Eurovision to Helsinki for 2007 ✪



GLOSSARY

a humble beginning *n*
a start that is not very spectacular; a small-scale beginning
a catchy tune *n*
a song that is easy to remember
to thrill *vb*
to excite; to cause emotion
tacky *adj*
cheap and not attractive
tasteless *adj*
vulgar and not attractive
a host *n*
a person who organises and manages an event
a parka *n*
a large coat for keeping you warm
to link *vb*
to connect
a jury *n*
a group of people who judge others in a competition
a performer *n*
a person who plays music/sings, etc in front of an audience
a backing track *n*
pre-recorded music that is played while a singer acts or sings

Eurovision trivia



Here are some fascinating facts about Eurovision.

✦ In the 1978 competition, Norway became the first country to receive “nul points” (no points) for their entry, *Mil Etter Mil* (Mile after Mile). In 2003, Jemini became the first UK act to receive “nul points”.

✦ 1995 was the fourth year the contest was won by Ireland. This was a problem for the Irish because **hosting** the finals is so expensive. As a result, they asked Eurovision to change the rules so they wouldn't have to host the contest the following year if they won.

✦ Cliff Richard represented the UK in 1968 and 1973. He didn't win either time. However, many people think that he did win in 1968 as the song *Congratulations* became far more famous than the song which **beat** it by 1 point: Spain's *La, la, la*. Incidentally, in that song, the word “la” was repeated 138 times.

✦ The 1974 Eurovision entry “E depois do adeus” (“After goodbye”) was used as a signal to start a revolution against the military **regime** in Portugal in April 1974.

✦ Nana Mouskouri performed Luxembourg's entry in 1963. Despite coming 8th, the song was a **hit** and her distinctive look made her internationally famous. In the 1990s, she became a member of the European parliament.

✦ The youngest ever winner of the Eurovision Song Contest was 13-year-old Sandra Kin from Belgium in 1986.

✦ ABBA is the most famous band to have won Eurovision. Before Eurovision, ABBA was known by various different names. The manager chose the name ABBA as a joke – ABBA was also the name of a well-known **fish-canning company** in Sweden.

✦ In 1999, the Croatian song had some sound effects that appeared suspiciously like human voices. The EBU decided that Croatia had “**broken the spirit of the rules**” by including voices on the backing track and **penalised** them.

✦ Switzerland's singer DJBobo has been called DJ BoBovic since he recently announced that his entry for Eurovision 2007 will be a **Balkans** hymn. This is a deliberate attempt to get as many points as possible from the eastern European countries. In an interview, the singer said, “Our song sounds exactly like people love it in eastern Europe... just a stamping disco pop – that's very popular in Russia, Poland and Hungary. 30 out of the 42 countries that are allowed to vote are in eastern Europe. If they all give us their points, we can win.”

GLOSSARY

to host *vb*
to organise and manage an event
to beat *vb*
to win against
a regime *n*
a non-democratic or military government
a hit *n*
a song that is very successful and popular
a fish-canning company *n*
a factory where they put fish in tins/cans (small metal containers)
to break the spirit of something *exp*
to do something against the ideas and philosophy of something
to penalise *vb*
to give points against a competitor because he/she/they have cheated
the Balkans *n*
the area in south-eastern Europe where countries such as Serbia and Croatia are
a spleen *n*
an organ near your stomach that controls the quality of your blood

✦ You can buy an official Eurovision Song Contest book. According to the press release, “the delight and disappointment, scandals, glamour and **spleens** are presented year by year”. “Spleens”!!!? What are they talking about? ✦

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Asociación Española de Promotores de Cursos en el Extranjero

Eurovision Lyrics quiz

Try our Eurovision song quiz.

Here's a selection of some of the **lyrics** from Eurovision. Choose the correct line (a, b, c) to complete the lyrics. And who said that Eurovision song lyrics had to be silly? Answers on page 24.

1. "I kiss your lips so sweet.
Mmm, _____"
a) It's such a **treat**.
b) But do you feel the heat?
c) They taste like meat.
Artist: Gerli Padar. Country: Estonia. Song: *Partners in Crime*

2. "You can serve me something really hot, call it love or madness, _____"
a) You'll get the best of what I've got.
b) Let's give it a shot.
c) I've completely **lost the plot**.
Artist: Dmitri Koldun. Country: Belarus. Song: *Work Your Magic*

3. "Don't let your indecision, _____"
a) Play with your mind.
b) **Fry** your brain.
c) Take you from behind.
Artist: Bucks Fizz. Country: U.K. Song: *Making Your Mind Up*

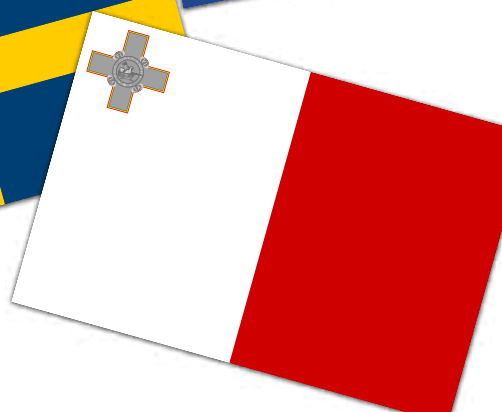
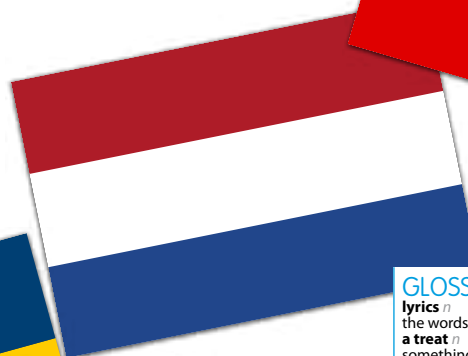
4. "And I'm lost, then I'm found. _____"
a) And I run, then I hide.
b) And I turn upside down.
c) And my face makes a **frown**.
Artist: Olivia Lewis. Country: Malta. Song: *Vertigo*

5. "Hey guys, you know what turns me on... Come let it go, baby, let it show baby. _____"
a) Tell me what gives you a **seizure**.
b) Let me know what makes your mind blow.
c) Let me know what makes it grow.
Artist: The Jet Set. Country: Poland. Song: *Time to Party*

6. "My, my, at _____ Napoleon did **surrender**."
a) Waterloo
b) Oahu
c) Timbuktu
Artist: Abba. Country: Sweden. Song: *Waterloo*

7. "I **beg** you, hear my plea. Take _____, for eternity."
a) Me to your room
b) The shirt right off my back
c) The longing of my heartbeat
Artist: Aida & Frederik Ndoci. Country: Albania. Song: *Hear my plea*

8. "No more doubting, no more fears, no more cheating, no more _____."
a) Beers
b) Tears
c) Deers
Artist: Linda Wagenmakers. Country: The Netherlands. Song: *No Goodbyes* ♡



GLOSSARY

lyrics *n*
the words to a song
a treat *n*
something special to make you feel good or that you can enjoy
to lose the plot *exp inform*
to become mad/crazy
to fry *vb*
to cook in oil
a frown *n*
a line across your forehead, often caused when you are confused/angry, etc
a seizure *n*
a sudden attack or illness such as a heart attack
to surrender *vb*
to stop fighting and to offer yourself as a prisoner because you have lost
to beg *vb*
to ask for something desperately



Eurosceptics

Why some people just don't like Europe.

Bureaucratic Brussels



These days, about 50 percent of laws that affect European nations are made in **Brussels**. And there are more than 5,000 pages of regulations a year. Some people, often referred to as Eurosceptics, say that this is too much. Many Eurosceptics point to the "ridiculous" laws that Brussels comes up with. For example, EU **directive** 2003/20/EC says that children under 135cm must have **booster seats** when travelling by car. "Is this meant to include everyone who is under 135cm?" they ask. "What about tall children? Will they be included? Is this a way of increasing the booster seat market and helping booster seat makers?"

Straight Bananas

Other "ridiculous" laws include the regulations regarding the size and shape of fruit and vegetables. According to some British newspapers, EU regulations would mean the end of **bendy bananas**, **curved cucumbers** and **chunky** carrots. They referred to these regulations as the "bendy banana laws". British **greengrocers** would have to conform to the rules on size, length, colour and texture of fruit and vegetables as **laid down** by Brussels, they argued. Actually, this wasn't entirely true. What the rules do say is that fruit should reach a **degree of maturity** in order to satisfy the consumer. No shape or size was ever **banned** under these rules: it was simply a way of helping to inform **traders** of particular specifications.

Eurosceptics

The biggest anti-Europe party in Britain is UKIP (the United Kingdom Independence Party). Their principal aim is the **withdrawal** of the UK from the European Union. The party has around 17,500 members. They say that they want the United Kingdom to be "governed by laws made to **suit its own needs** by

"Euro" words

A Eurosceptic = someone who is against many aspects of the European Union. Other terms include: a Europhobic and a Eurocynic.
A Europhile = someone who is in favour of the European Union and what it means.

its own Parliament, which must be directly and **solely accountable to the electorate** of the UK". In the European Parliament elections of 2004, UKIP received 2.7 million votes (16.8% of the national vote), and gained twelve seats in the European Parliament. However, in the general elections of the following year, they only received 618,000 votes (2.38% of the vote). UKIP believe that regulations on air and water quality, agriculture, working hours, health and safety at work, social protection, sport and culture should be **handed back** to the UK. They argue that it is undemocratic to have these areas governed by Brussels.

Anti everything

Apart from UKIP, Eurosceptics can be found in all the major parties in Britain, including the Labour Party and the

Conservative Party. British Eurosceptics are generally people who want to keep the British currency and maintain "freedom" from foreign interference. They are firmly against centralisation, and the idea of a European superstate (a kind of United States of Europe). Other measures that they do not like include the European Rapid Reaction Force (a kind of European army), the European Constitution, the European **Public Prosecutor**, any extension of Europol (a kind of European police force), and any **harmonising of welfare benefits** or taxation. Do you have any Eurosceptics in your country? ❖



GLOSSARY

Brussels *n*
the capital of Belgium and the place where many European institutions are
a directive *n*
an official instruction/rule/law given by an authority
a booster seat *n*
a special safety chair for children in a car. It "boosts" them (makes them higher)
a bendy banana *exp*
a banana that is not straight
curved *adj*
not straight
a cucumber *n*
a long, green vegetable often used in salads
chunky *adj*
thick (not thin)
the greengrocer's *n*
a shop that sells fruit and vegetables
lay down *phr vb*
if an authority "lays down" a rule or law, they say what that rule or law must be
a degree of *exp*
an element of; a bit of
maturity *n*
the state of being fully developed
to ban *vb*
to prohibit
a trader *n*
a person who buys or sells things
the withdrawal *n*
the "withdrawal" of something is the act of taking it away
to suit needs *exp*
to do what is necessary
solely *adv*
only
accountable to *exp*
if you are "accountable to" someone, you must be prepared to justify your actions to that person
the electorate *n*
the people who can vote in an election
to hand back *phr vb*
to return
a public prosecutor *n*
the main legal representative in a country. The person who is responsible for presenting cases against people or organisations
to harmonise *vb*
to make things the same or similar in order to create more efficiency
a welfare benefit *n*
money that the government gives to people who have no work or who are poor

Euro humour

Some jokes on the topic of Europe.

European heaven & hell

Here's a little joke for you that you've probably seen before. It's based on **stereotypes**, and it imagines two scenarios: a European heaven, and a European hell. Do you agree with the stereotypes? How would you change them?

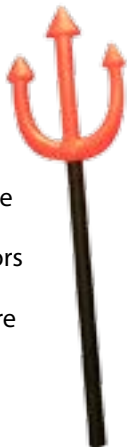
European heaven

- In heaven, the drivers are British,
- The **cooks** are French,
- The engineers are German,
- The administrators are Swiss,
- And the lovers Italian.



European hell

- In hell, the drivers are German,
- The cooks are British,
- The engineers are Italian,
- The administrators are French,
- And the lovers are Swiss.



And here is a variation on the 'heaven and hell' joke:

A happy person has...

- A German salary,
- British beer,
- An Italian lover,
- A Greek entertainer,
- And a French cook.



An unhappy person has...
 ● A Greek salary,
 ● Italian beer,
 ● A French lover,
 ● A German **entertainer**,
 ● And a British cook.



European joke: the black and white horse

A prize is going to be awarded for the first person to discover a horse with black and white stripes, just like a zebra. A German, a Frenchman, an Englishman and an Italian participate, hoping to win the prize of 1,000,000 euros. The German decides to spend weeks in the national library **researching** horses with black and white stripes. The Englishman goes straight to a shop which specialises in **hunting gear**, buys all the equipment necessary and **sets off for** Africa to **search for** this strange creature. The Frenchman buys himself a horse and paints it black and white. And the Italian goes to the best restaurant in Milan, orders an expensive meal for himself with a fine bottle of wine. After the meal, he **lights up** an expensive Havana cigar, **pours** a glass of brandy, sits in a luxurious arm-chair in the hotel and begins to consider what he will do with the 1,000,000 euros once he has found this remarkable horse with black and white stripes.



GLOSSARY

- a stereotype** *n*
a general image that people have of a group of people or a nationality
- a cook** *n*
a person who prepares food in a restaurant, etc
- an entertainer** *n*
a person who tells jokes, sings, etc
- to research** *vb*
to look for information about something
- hunting gear** *n*
material you need to hunt animals (to catch or kill animals)
- to set off for a place** *exp*
to start on a journey so you can reach a place
- to search for something** *exp*
to look for something
- to light up** *phr vb*
to put fire on a cigarette/cigar so you can smoke it
- to pour** *vb*
to put liquid from one container into another



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Dictionary of slang



CD track 6 - English accents



Exercise

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

↓ Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
You went to a party with friends. You all enjoyed yourselves.	We had a number of positive experiences at the party.	We had a great time at the party.	We had a ball .
Your cat vomited on your sofa.	My cat regurgitated its food on my sofa.	The cat threw up on the sofa.	The cat barfed on the sofa.
You are very tired.	I am physically drained and exhausted.	I'm really tired.	I'm bushed ; I'm beat ; I'm knackered .
You offer a friend a can of beer.	Would you like to partake of a beer, my friend?	Would you like a can of beer?	Want a brew, dude? Want a brewski, dude? Fancy a beer, mate?
You think a friend's clothes are cheap and not fashionable.	He is attired in some outmoded and unfashionable clothes.	His clothes aren't trendy.	His clothes are so cheesy ; his clothes are so tacky .
You were with a group of tourists sightseeing in a city. You and a friend managed to escape from the group so you could be on your own.	We evaded them successfully.	We lost them.	We gave them the slip .



GLOSSARY

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

- a ball** *n*
a very large party. People wear nice clothes, eat, dance, etc
- cheesy** *adj* *US*
of poor quality and unfashionable
- tacky** *adj*
of poor quality and unfashionable
- to sightsee** *vb*
to visit the important monuments in a city
- to give someone the slip** *exp*
to escape from someone

AMERICAN 21

America is a big place. We all know that. So, what should you see and what should you do when you visit. Ayelet Drori has a list of the 21 things you must do and see when visiting the States. This is the first of a two-part series.

Bagels in NYC

You can't say you've been in New York City until you have eaten a bagel. The bagel is a round piece of bread that is about as big as a CD with a hole in the middle that can be served at anytime, but most commonly at breakfast. The classic way to eat them is **topped with** cream cheese and lox (smoked or cured salmon) from a Jewish deli on practically every corner. New Yorkers recommend checking out Daniel's Bagels close to Grand Central Station or H&H Bagels in three shops throughout Manhattan.



Bridge views

Crossing the Brooklyn Bridge is a great way to see New York City. As you walk across the bridge, you get a great view of the **Big Apple**, and the huge gothic-styled bridge overhead. On the Manhattan side of the bridge, Chinatown is nearby. And on the Brooklyn side of the bridge, there are two restaurants well worth a visit: Giordano's, the oldest pizzeria in Brooklyn; and the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory for dessert. You'll be **stuffed** so why not take a water taxi back? For bridge history, visit www.nycroads.com/crossings/brooklyn



Central Park

Where else in the world can you spend an afternoon watching **newly-wed** Asian **couples** take their pictures near the flowers, climb all over Alice in Wonderland, and **lay** a flower at Strawberry Fields as a **tribute** to the famous Beatle, John Lennon? Only in Central Park. If it's a rainy day, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is only a short walk away. If it's sunny, **stroll through** the park listening to the musicians, watching the rollerbladers, or eat at the *Tavern on the Green*.



The Empire State Building

There is nothing in the world like the view from the Empire State Building. And it's even better after **sunset**. Being so far away from all the city noise almost lets you forget that you are looking down on one of the world's **busiest**, largest cities. But as the street lights turn on, you'll remember where you are again. Go up there the first night to **get your bearings** and see the **layout** of the city.

A lobster dinner

The northeastern coast of the States is the best place to eat fish. Every state or city seems to have a specialty. You could spend a week just trying all the different kinds of seafood they have there. Maine is known for its lobsters while Boston is famous for its **crab chowder**. If you drive along the coast, you'll be greeted by marinas full of fishing boats and restaurants with fresh fish. In Portland, try some **lobster** at the Armoury Restaurant or the Lobster Cooker. Legal Seafood is another good restaurant chain that serves excellent seafood.

Blooming blossoms

One of the prettiest sights in America is the **cherry blossom trees in bloom** in spring. And the best place to see them is in Door County, Wisconsin. Orchards of trees glow with the little white and pink flowers. Door County also has **cute** little shops, great fishing **spots** and beautiful state parks. Another must-see in Door County is the Swedish restaurant Al Johnson's with the grass roof and goats grazing on the top of it. For more information, check out www.doorcounty.com 🍷



GLOSSARY

topped with X *exp*

with X on top

the Big Apple *n inform*

New York City

stuffed *adj*

if you are "stuffed", you feel full

because you have eaten too much

a newly-wed couple *exp*

two people who have just got

married

lay a tribute to someone *exp*

put something (often flowers) in

order to honour someone

to stroll through *exp*

to walk through with no particular

objective

sunset *n*

the time when the sun goes down

and it becomes night

busy *adj*

with a lot of people and movement

to get your bearings *exp*

to understand where you are in

relation to the buildings/objects, etc

the layout *n*

the design

a crab *n*

an animal that lives in the sea, has

a hard, orange shell on its back and

walks sideways

chowder *n*

a type of thick soup with pieces

of fish

a lobster *n*

a sea creature with a hard shell and

two large claws (hands)

a cherry blossom tree *n*

trees that produce beautiful white

flowers

in bloom *n*

if a tree is "in bloom", it has flowers

on it

cute *adj*

nice and attractive

a spot *n*

a place

A HIDDEN GEM

All about the city of Madison, Wisconsin. By Chi Jia

I would never have imagined myself to be in love with her; the name sounded vaguely familiar when I thought it was time to look her up on the map. There she was, marked with a star in south central Wisconsin, a state almost surrounded by water. Studying Wisconsin closer, countless lakes and rivers decorate vast open **prairies**, forests, and **farmlands**. No wonder the meaning of Wisconsin is "Gathering of Waters". Most cities are located beside at least one lake. Milwaukee, the biggest city in Wisconsin and 22nd largest city in the country, resides on the shore of Lake Michigan, one of the 5 great lakes. One hundred and fifty years ago, large numbers of European immigrants, including Germans, Scandinavians, Belgians, Dutch, Swiss, Finns, and Irish, started settling in Wisconsin. Today, many small to midsize cities have maintained their traditions and heritage, and various ethnic festivals throughout the year attract tourists' attention.

When I arrived in the capital city, Madison, I immediately felt affection for it because of its **vibrant atmosphere**, beautiful lakes and parks, and **laidback**, friendly people. It isn't a big city, so the traffic always moves smoothly, but the urban culture is far richer than the typical midsize US city. The streets are not only used by cars and buses, but also by walkers, runners, cyclists, musicians, **food vendors**, **political advocacy groups**, and foreigners such as myself. The University of Wisconsin – Madison, one of the best public universities in the country, is right **downtown**; a **busy**, colorful pedestrian street called State Street connects the magnificent Capitol building to the university. Various cafés, restaurants, bookstores, galleries, gift shops, museums, theatres, and civic centers contribute to a **charming** and **cozy** atmosphere. Being the capital city and a college town, Madison has long held the reputation as one of the elite cities in the US. Close to 60% of the population in Madison has a college education, and the city has been consistently ranked in the top ten US cities (for more information, visit www.visitmadison.com/visitorinfo/awards.php). This is due to its natural beauty as well as the many educational opportunities the city

offers. From English as a Second Language to PhD programs, private institutes to the public university, you'll find something that's right for you. If not, well, you can always look to the many universities, colleges and schools just outside of Madison.

Although Wisconsin is known for its dairy and farming industry, its manufacturing, health care, education and tourism industries are also the major driving force for its economy. Tied to its economy, there are various choices for education, catering to all interests. The state public education system offers the University of Wisconsin System with 26 campuses, including its biggest campus in Madison, and the Technical College System with 16 campuses offering programs transferable to the University of Wisconsin. Among 28 private four-year colleges, Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Beloit College, and Lawrence University are highly respected in this country.

It's hard to believe that I have lived here for almost 6 years. As time goes by, my heart only grows fonder for this gem, Madison, Wisconsin 🍷



GLOSSARY

- a prairie** *n*
a large area of flat, grassland in North America
- farmlands** *n*
land that is used to produce cereal or crops (food)
- a gathering** *n*
if there is a "gathering" of people or things, those things come together
- a vibrant atmosphere** *n*
a place with an exciting energy to it
- laidback** *adj*
calm and relaxed
- a food vendor** *n*
a person who sells food in the street
- a political advocacy group** *n*
a group of people who want to make political changes
- downtown** *adv*
in the centre of the town/city
- busy** *adj*
with a lot of people
- charming** *n*
nice, attractive and welcoming
- cozy** *adj*
warm and attractive



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CD track 7 - US woman & US man

At the post office

Useful Expressions – The Post Office

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

What you say

- Is there a post office near here?
- What time does the post office open?
- Where can I buy stamps?
- Where can I get an envelope, please?
- I would like to send this letter to the US.
- I would like to send this letter **special-delivery**.
- I would like to send a **certified letter**.
- I would like to send a parcel to Australia.
- I'd like sixteen stamps for Japan, please.
- Is there a post box near here, please?
- I'd like to send this parcel **registered post**.
- Do you have any **self-adhesive envelopes**?
- I've come to collect a parcel, please.

What you hear

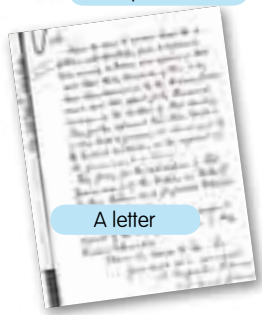
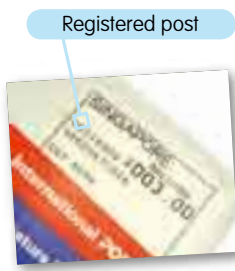
- That'll be X amount, please.
- Shall I leave it here for you?
- There's a post box just around the corner.
- Just put your name and address on the back, please.
- Please complete this form.
- This parcel is cash on delivery.
- First class or second class?
- I just need to weigh it on the scales.

Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions.



GLOSSARY
special delivery *adv*
 if you send a letter "special delivery", it arrives faster than normal
a certified letter *n*
 a "certified letter" is guaranteed to arrive at its destination
registered post *n*
 if you send a letter "registered post", you pay extra so that the letter is guaranteed
a self-adhesive envelope *n*
 an envelope that you don't have to lick (to touch with your tongue) in order to close it





USEFUL ADVICE

Useful Advice
& Crank Call



CD track 9 US women



HOW NOT TO BE BORED

Meetings

How to make work meetings more fun. Bored at work? Tired of those long, boring meetings? Try some of these ideas to **liven up** your office meeting.

1. As the meeting starts, stand up and say, "So, boss, what's the 'real' reason for the meeting?"
2. Half-way through the meeting, **lean back in your chair**, put your feet up on the table, and say, "Well, this is the way I see it..."
3. Pre-prepare a little paper boat. Then, **spill** coffee on the conference table and sail your boat down the table.
4. Every time someone says something, **nod** vigorously, and say "uh-huh, uh-huh!"
5. Each time the boss makes an important point, make a little **coughing noise**.
6. Bring a **hand puppet** with you. Use the puppet to ask questions during the meeting, giving it a funny voice, "Hello, Mr President, what were last month's sales figures?"
7. Complain loudly that your neighbour won't stop touching you. Demand that the boss make him or her stop doing it.
8. Bring a large **pile of papers** to the meeting. Every time the speaker makes a

point, pretend to check it in one of the **printouts** and act as if you have just found some **substantiating evidence** there.

9. Every now and then, smile and **wink** at someone who is sitting opposite you – preferably a guest. Just for a bit of variety, you might like to shake your head too, as if to say that you think the speaker is lying.

10. As everyone gets up to leave, stand by the door, shake their hands and thank them for coming. ☺

GLOSSARY

to liven up *phr vb*
to make more exciting
to lean back in your chair *exp*
to push your body backwards against the chair so you are at an angle
to spill *vb*
if you "spill" a liquid, the liquid accidentally comes out of a container
to nod *vb*
to say yes by moving your head up and down
a coughing noise *n*
a noise you make by forcing air out of your mouth
a hand puppet *n*
a little toy that looks like an animal or person and that you control with your hand
a pile of papers *n*
many papers with one on top of the other
a printout *n*
a piece of paper that has been printed on a photocopier or printer
substantiating evidence *n*
evidence that supports a theory
to wink *vb*
to open and close one eye as a way of communicating with someone

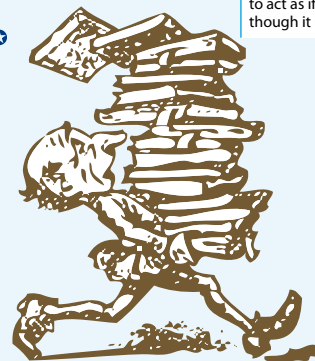
Five fun activities to stop boredom.

- Every time someone asks you a question, answer them with the same question. Do it with a serious look on your face.
- Make a **sandwich board** advertising your services as a **house cleaner** and expert gardener. See if anyone requires your services.
- **Load yourself up with** as many books as possible, then walk down the street trying not to drop any.
- Go to work with a **cooking pan** on your head. See how long you can keep it there before you are ordered to **remove** it.
- See how many hairs you can pull out of a sleeping person. Wait until your friend falls asleep then gently start pulling out his or her hairs. If they wake up, quickly look at the **ceiling** and **pretend** to be inspecting it.

GLOSSARY

a sandwich board *n*
a form of advertising consisting of two large pieces of card with text on them that a person wears on the body
a house cleaner *n*
a person who does cleaning jobs in the house
to load yourself up with something *exp*
to put many heavy things in your arms
a cooking pan *n*
a metal container used for cooking
to remove *vb*
to take away; to take off
a ceiling *n*
the top part of a room – where the light usually is
to pretend *vb*
to act as if something is true even though it isn't true

What fun! ☺



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STUPID CRIMINALS



CD track 10 - US woman & British woman

Here's another part in our series on really stupid criminals.

Forgetful Robber

Forty-three year old Marcus Bernstein walked into a **grocery store** and demanded all the money in the **register**. When the **cashier handed** it to him, he **fled**, but left his **wallet** on the counter with all his personal details inside. Police didn't take long to arrest him at his home.

Bubbly Does It

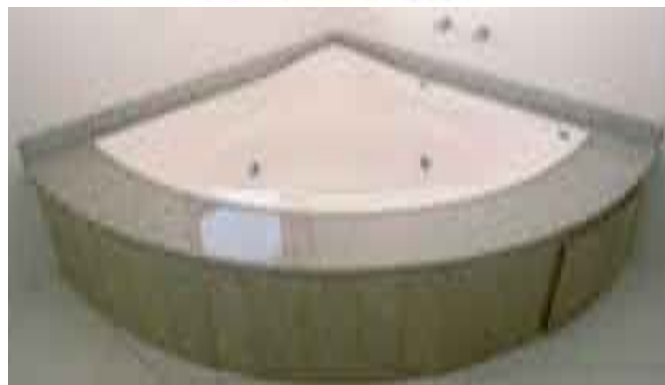
Texan **burglar** Brad Skimpton **broke into** a large home in a suburb of Houston, Texas. Skimpton, 28, spent two hours preparing bags full of the things he wanted to steal, and **lined them up** near the front door, ready to go. However, just as he was about to go, he decided he wanted to have a bath, especially after having seen the one in the main bathroom with a built-in Jacuzzi. So, he went upstairs, **ran the bath** and **slipped into** the warm water. It didn't take him long to fall asleep. In fact, he didn't even wake up when the owner returned. On seeing the stranger in his bath, the owner immediately, phoned the police, who woke up the **snoozing** Skimpton.

Hot Thief

Jim Bender, a fifty-eight-year-old burglar from London was in a house one hot August evening. In fact, it was so hot that he took off his shirt and **hung it over** a chair. Minutes later, he heard a noise, and fled in a panic, leaving the shirt behind. Unfortunately for Bender, in his shirt pocket there was a bingo card with his name, address, phone number, and occupation on it. Police soon caught him. Bender admitted two other crimes, and got an 18-month prison sentence.

Police Security

Thieves in a small town in Wales stole a **safe** containing more than 35,000 pounds and a number of valuable documents. It was later found by police, hidden under a nearby **bush**. The owner of the safe demanded it back, but police said they needed to check the safe for **fingerprints**. Two days later, police reported the safe stolen again. Silly police! 🙄



GLOSSARY

- a grocery store** *n US*
a shop that sells vegetables and fruit. The "grocer's" in British English
- a register** *n*
a computer that records what you buy in a shop. It is also where the money is kept
- a cashier** *n*
a person who works with the register
- to hand** *vb*
to give
- to flee** *n (past: fled)*
to escape; to run away
- a wallet** *n*
an object men use to carry their money, credit cards, etc
- a burglar** *n*
a person who enters private property with the intention of stealing things
- to break into a place** *phr vb*
to enter private property, often with force
- to line up** *phr vb*
to put things in an ordered line
- to run a bath** *exp*
to turn on the tap in the bathroom in order to fill the bath with water
- to slip into** *phr vb*
to enter something with one smooth movement
- to snooze** *vb inform*
to sleep
- to hang over** *phr vb*
to put an object over another object
- a safe** *n*
a metal container for money that is built into the wall. It has a secret code for opening it
- a bush** *n*
a small tree
- a fingerprint** *n*
invisible marks left by your fingers



DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



CD track 12 - pompous Englishman



Exercise

Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

Dear Readers,

Last month we looked at some abstract nouns with the preposition "to". This month, I thought we'd continue with our mini-series on abstract nouns and look at some nouns that go with the preposition "for". I hope you find it useful.

Abstract nouns and the preposition "for"

- a) **Admiration:** I have a lot of admiration for her.
- b) **Appetite:** He has a huge appetite for success.
- c) **Craving:** I have a craving for chocolate.
- d) **Cure:** There is no cure for the common cold.
- e) **Demand:** There is a big demand for computer technicians.
- f) **Disrespect:** She showed disrespect for the institution.
- h) **Taste:** He has developed a taste for Indian food.
- h) **Need:** She has a great need for love.
- i) **Sympathy:** I have no sympathy for him.
- j) **Recipe:** They have a great recipe for chocolate cake.

- k) **Remedy:** There is no remedy for this illness.
- l) **Respect:** I have a great deal of respect for you.
- m) **Room:** There is no room for anyone else.
- n) **Responsibility:** I have responsibility for these children.

Well, kind readers, I really hope my explanations have helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

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British bar chat

LED ZEPPELIN

Guitar Heroes

This month two British men are talking about rock music and **guitar heroes**. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions:

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

Jim: Have you read that article about guitar heroes? Did you see the order of them? I don't believe it. Do you?

Bob: Well, to be honest I don't really care that much, you know? It's not interesting, it's a **bit over-rated** if you ask me, all that.

Jim: Oh, **come on**.

Bob: Come on what? **I mean**, it's all **narcissistic**: I hate myself, things like that.

Jim: Have you ever listened to Jimmy Page?

Bob: Jimmy Page is he, who is he? I've never heard of Jimmy page.

Jim: Led Zeppelin? Come on.

Bob: Led Zeppelin? Was that some kind of **balloon** or something?

Jim: Yeah, of course, but that's just a joke. From The Who?

Bob: From The Who, well, anyway, my point is that it just **annoys** me because all the time people are talking about rock guitar. I mean, what about, like, Mozart or Beethoven?

Jim: Oh, you're classical.

Bob: **Aye**, but there's talent, **it doesn't matter**.

Jim: There's a lot of violence in classical music?

Bob: Violence? I don't think so. I think some of the most beautiful music you will ever hear is when you go to the opera and it's beautiful.

Jim: It's all right, but you can't sleep.

Bob: You can't sleep? So what is so good about these bands?

Jim: Come on, all the movements of their fingers, and all the sounds you don't normally hear. Come on, it's great, it's exciting, building it up.

Bob: Building it up? So who has impressed you? Tell me. Tell me one person who is really talented.

Jim: Jimmy Page.

Bob: Jimmy Page. Why Jimmy Page?

Jim: He plays the guitar with a, with a **bow**, with a violin bow. Have you ever seen that?

Bob: With a bow?

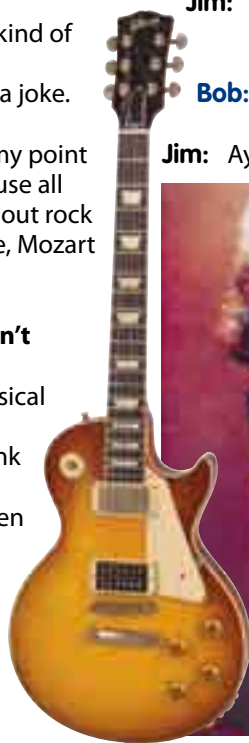
Jim: Great sounds

Bob: Well, I'm sure that a classical composer could do so much better than Jimmy Page.

Jim: All these guys have been dead for hundreds of years. Are you really interested in them?

Bob: Oh, well, let's leave this. **Do you fancy** a drink?

Jim: Aye, why not, yeah. ☺



GLOSSARY

a guitar hero *n*
a famous or popular rock guitar player

a bit *exp*
a little amount

over-rated *adj*
with a reputation that is too high; with a reputation that you don't deserve

come on *exp*
an expression people use when they hear something they don't agree with or think is silly

I mean *exp*
people often use this to emphasise what they are going to say

narcissistic *adj*
obsessed with your beauty

a balloon *n*
a round object filled with air that floats in the air

to annoy *vb*
to irritate

aye *exp*
yes

it doesn't matter *exp*
it isn't important

a bow *n*
a long, wooden object used to play the violin

do you fancy...? *exp*
would you like...?

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US bar chat



US Bar Chat – Swiss Army Knives

This month two young Americans are talking about Swiss Army Knives and **gadgets**. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions:

1. What does one of the speakers say in favor of Swiss Army Knives?
2. What does the other speaker say against Swiss Army Knives?

Bobby: Hey, how are you? **Get a load of my** Swiss Army Knife.

Brady: Wow, is it new?

Bobby: Yeah, I just bought it today

Brady: Why did you buy it?

Bobby: Well, I mean, isn't the Swiss Army Knife the best gadget in the world?

Brady: I don't know about that. **That's saying something.**

Bobby: Oh is it, well...

Brady: Why do you think it's the best gadget in the world?

Bobby: Well, I mean, look it has a knife if I need to cut something. It has a **saw** if I need to saw something. It has a toothpick if I need to **pick**. It has a **tweezer** if I need to tweeze...

Brady: OK, but I think I could invent a gadget that has a bit more. It's for **outdoorsy people**, so why doesn't it have a **flashlight** or a button for emergency phone calls?

Bobby: Well, I mean, it doesn't need one. It has a **magnifying glass**. If you need light, you can start a fire.

Brady: OK. And the saw is about the size of my finger.

Bobby: Well, yeah, I mean, it's been used many a time. In 1989 Professor John Ross, a doctor in rural Uganda wrote that he had used the saw blade **attachment** to perform six emergency **amputations**, his surgical saw having been stolen. I myself have **brought** many a seemingly desperate situation **to a happy conclusion** by the **employment of the corkscrew** on my own Swiss Army Knife. The only **down side** to owning one is running into somebody whose model features more employments than your own.

Brady: Wow, you sure know a lot of the Swiss Army Knife and its history. Did you memorize that off the back of the box?

Bobby: Yes. Yes I did.

Brady: Nice. Well, I don't know. It's, it's a good gadget, but I think they could improve it.

Bobby: Hmm. You might be right. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a gadget** *n*
a small machine or device that does something useful
- get a load of** *exp inform*
look at
- that's saying something** *exp*
that is something interesting/important
- a saw** *n*
an object used for cutting trees or large pieces of wood
- to pick** *vb*
to take, collect or remove
- tweezers** *n*
a metal object used for taking small things or pulling out hair
- outdoorsy people** *exp inform*
people who enjoy being outside in the country/mountains, etc
- a flashlight** *n US*
an object that produces light when you press a button. A "torch" in British English
- a magnifying glass** *n*
a round glass object for making things look bigger
- an attachment** *n*
something that is added to another thing
- an amputation** *n*
cutting off an arm or leg
- to bring something to a happy conclusion** *exp*
to find a good solution to a problem
- the employment of something** *exp*
the use of something
- a corkscrew** *n*
an object used for taking the cork out of a wine bottle
- the down side** *exp*
the negative aspect of something

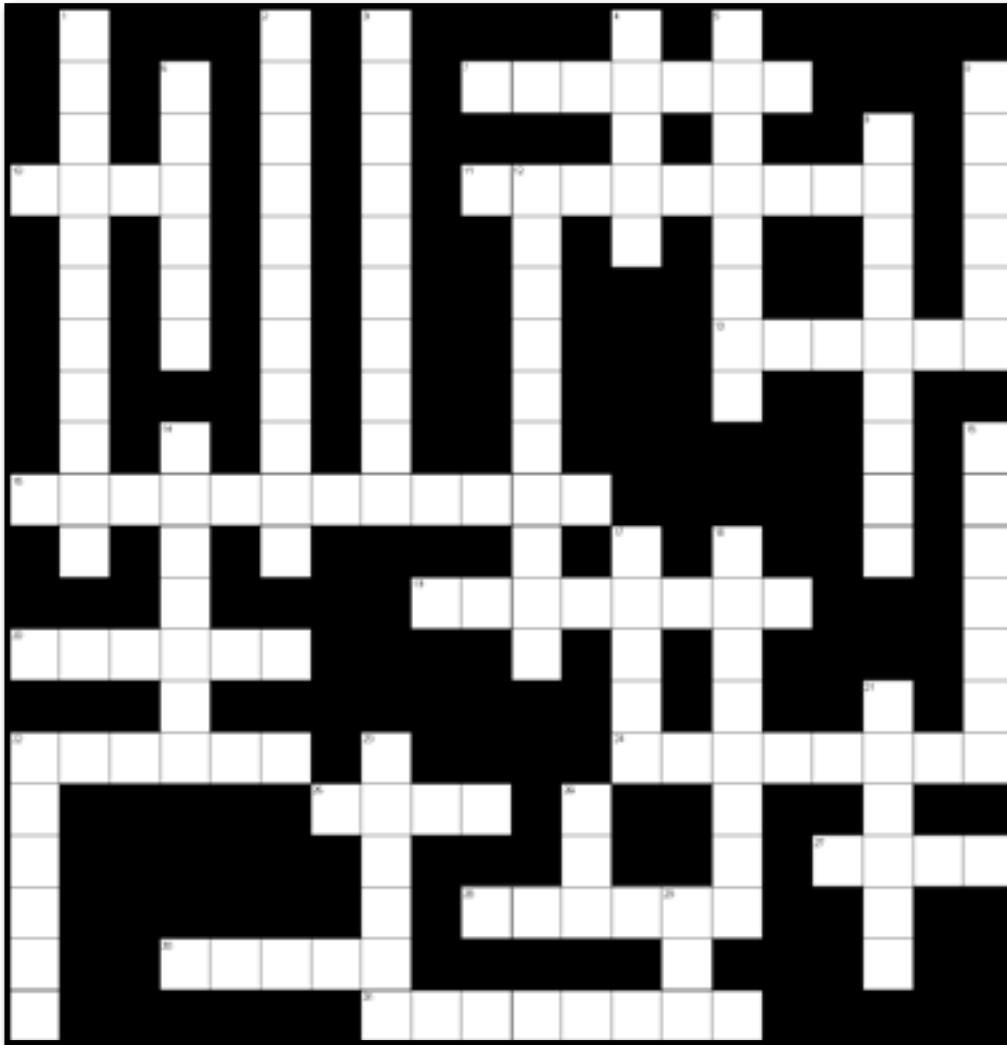
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- in front of an audience = a perfo_____.
- 12: Something that isn't true or correct = an inac_____.
- 14: To copy = to imi_____.
- 15: A special safety chair for children in a car = a boos_____ seat.
- 17: To say that something is negative (bad/ugly/ inaccurate, etc) = to br_____ something.
- 18: A cruel, shocking action = an atro_____.
- 21: To excite or to cause emotion = to thr_____.
- 22: With very little left = in short sup_____.
- 23: To walk in an area with no particular purpose = to wan_____ around aimlessly.
- 26: A glass container for food/sweets, etc = a j_____.
- 29: Attractive = pleasing to the e_____.



Across

- 7: The bad person in a film = the vil_____.
- 10: The person/country that organises and manages an event = the h_____.
- 11: An official instruction given by an authority = a dir_____.
- 13: An informal word that means to sleep = to sno_____.
- 16: To gain an advantage over someone by doing something clever = to outmano_____.
- 19: Correct and with the correct information = ac_____.

- 20: Destruction caused by heavy rain = flood dam_____.
- 22: Only = sol_____.
- 24: To discover what a code means = to deci_____ a code.
- 25: To give = to h_____.
- 27: To connect = to li_____.
- 28: To inspect; to look at in order to find information = to sur_____.
- 30: If an option is like this, it may happen = to be on the ta_____.
- 31: The computer that records what you buy in a shop = the regi_____.

Down

- 1: Good at finding solutions to problems = resou_____.
- 2: An invisible mark left by your fingers = a fingerp_____.
- 3: New and original = inno_____.
- 4: To change = to al_____.
- 5: Feelings of suspicion = dist_____.
- 6: A song that is easy to remember = a ca_____ tune.
- 8: Brutal, violent and primitive = sava_____.
- 9: A person who sings or acts

Jokes

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

Eurovision song lyrics

1b 2a 3c 4a 5b 6a 7c 8b

British Bar Chat

- 1. One of the speakers says that guitar heroes produce exciting music with lots of finger movement, and all the sounds you don't normally hear.
- 2. The other speaker doesn't like guitar heroes because they are over-rated and narcissistic,

US Bar Chat

- 1. One of the says that Swiss Army Knives are good because they are the best gadget in the world, and because they have a knife, a saw, tweezers, a magnifying glass and a toothpick.
- 2. The other speaker says that they are a bit limited because they don't have a flashlight or a button for emergency phone calls, and the magnifying glass is too small.

Trivia Matching

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

Typical Dialogues

- 1. The curator tells Bob about a painting by Goya.
- 2. Bob breaks a priceless vase.

Quiz Analysis

- Mostly "a" = You like to keep a low profile in the office.
- Mostly "b" = What are you doing in an office? You should be on television!

Fluency Practice

- B:
- 1. He's got butterflies in his stomach.
- 2. The walk will help blow the cobwebs away.
- 3. I sent her away with a flea in her ear.
- 4. He's got the attention span of a gnat.
- 5. We were moving at a snail's pace.
- 6. Don't send it by snail mail.



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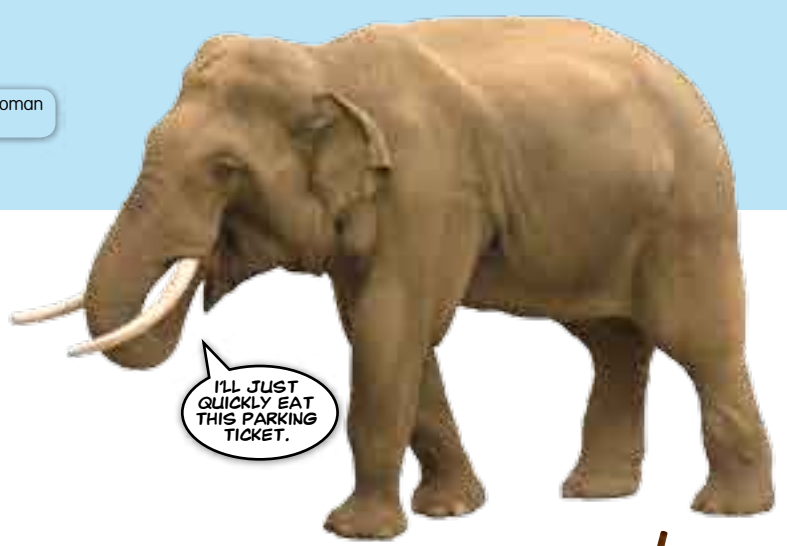
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CD track 17 US woman & British woman



Here are some more crazy laws from the US. These ones are from Florida and Georgia. (US English spelling)

- ☛ Women in a **beauty salon** may be fined for falling asleep under a **hair dryer**.
- ☛ If an elephant is left tied to a **parking meter**, the parking **fee** has to be paid.
- ☛ It is illegal to sing in a public place whilst wearing a swimsuit.
- ☛ It is considered an offense to shower **naked**.
- ☛ You are not allowed to break more than three dishes per day.

- ☛ Doors of all public buildings must open outwards.
- ☛ It is illegal to sell your children.
- ☛ It is against the city ordinance to hang your clothes outside on a **clothesline**.
- ☛ The **molestation** of **trash cans** is prohibited.
- ☛ Chickens are considered a protected species.
- ☛ Persons may not **tow** a **sled** behind their bicycles.
- ☛ **Stage nudity** is **banned**, with the exception of **bona fide** theatrical performances.
- ☛ Beer may not be sold between 2am and 7am.
- ☛ **Lap dances** must be given at least six feet away from a customer.

- ☛ It is illegal to use **profanity** in front of a dead body which is lying in a **funeral home**.
- ☛ Donkeys may not be kept in **bathtubs**.
- ☛ Signs are required to be written in English.
- ☛ No one may carry an **ice-cream cone** in their back pocket if it is Sunday.
- ☛ All citizens must own a **rake**. ☺



GLOSSARY

a beauty salon *n*
a shop where you can have skin or hair treatment
a hair dryer *n*
an electrical device for drying wet hair
a parking meter *n*
an object that you put money in so you can buy a parking ticket and have permission to park in an area
a fee *n*
an amount of money that you must pay for a service/product
naked *adj*
with no clothes on
a clothesline *n*
a piece of string/plastic on which you hang wet clothes so they dry
molestation *n*
destruction/damage
a trash can *n*
an object in which you throw rubbish (old bits of paper, etc)
to tow *vb*
to pull a car that is attached to your car with a strong bit of rope/metal
a sled *n*
an object you sit on in order to travel over snow
stage nudity *n*
acting, singing or dancing with no clothes on
to ban *vb*
to prohibit
bona fide *adj*
valid; legal
a lap dance *n*
a sexy dance in an XXX club
profanity *n*
taboo words; swear words
a funeral home *n*
a building where dead bodies are prepared for burial
a bathtub *n*
an object in the bathroom in which you can sit/lie in order to wash yourself
an ice-cream cone *n*
food in the form of a cone. Ice cream is placed on top of the cone
a rake *n*
an object used to collect leaves in a garden



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COOLHUNTING

What is "cool" in fashion? These days, many fashion houses contract "coolhunters" to help them answer that question. We spoke to Julio Cesar Aguilera, a "coolhunter", to find out all about "coolhunting".
By Marta Wendlinger

What is "coolhunting"?

"Coolhunting" is basically observing people in an organised, planned way, and recording this information so that businesses can use it. Before "coolhunting" began, businesses imposed new designs and habits of consumerism on the public. But later they realised that "ordinary" people had a lot to offer in terms of creativity. And so the process was reversed: businesses started hiring individuals to observe people. Later, businesses can use that information when designing and selling their products. Take the example of sushi. A few years ago, sushi wasn't "cool". But then people started saying that it was healthy, **pleasing to the eye**, minimalist, and it had an interesting ritual associated with it... so it became popular... and cool. These days, coolhunting happens in all the major fashion cities (London, Paris, Milan and New York City), plus it has expanded to cities as diverse as Seoul, Moscow, Rio and Buenos Aires, where people, often **because of necessity**, have become creative.

How did it all start?

The phrase first appeared in 1997 in an article featured in "New Yorker" magazine entitled, *The Cool Hunt* written by Malcolm Gladwell, where he simply described what a friend did as a job. That person was none other than Dee Dee Gordon, currently the owner of Look Look, the largest company dedicated to American teen coolhunting and worth millions of dollars.

Fashion Dressing

Do you have a **closet** full of clothes but never know what to wear? Do you walk into a fashion store, **wander around aimlessly**, and never know where to start or what to look for? Do you want to look your best but just don't know how? If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions, try out a fashion consulting session or personal shopping. You'll learn exactly what colours, styles of clothing and accessories highlight your unique assets, saving precious time, energy, and above all money when you shop. Great for men and women of any age. By appointment only.
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What exactly does a coolhunter do?

Explore. Walk. Get lost in the city. Talk to people. The street is like a movie ... you always have to have your camera, because if not, you'd lose scenes. But each "coolhunter" has their own concept of what's "cool" (**snobby, grubby, kitsch**), and is ultimately influenced by personal preferences and prejudices. I look at everything: posters, graffiti, ads, and I **pick up flyers** too. Later, I use it all to process that "walk". Coolhunters walk where others don't go, avoiding all those well-known touristy routes, looking for new bars, strange little businesses, vintage clothing stores, funky T-shirt shops, new cuisine restaurants...

How did you get involved?

I've always been interested in the "MTV generation," and urban tribes such as Goths, Punks, and Mods. Seeing an opportunity for myself, I started investigating and contacting known "coolhunters" in New York, Milan, and London. Eventually, I developed a relationship with the Milan-based company *The Future Concept Lab* who hired me in 2006 as their Barcelona correspondent to write an in-depth report on what was "cool" in terms of design, home furnishings, fashion, entertainment and culture, food, body-beauty (tattoos, piercings, hair/make-up), technology, and lifestyle. The Barcelona report was part of a larger report featuring ten other Mediterranean cities, among them Istanbul, Marseille, Beirut, Naples and Cairo.

What qualities must a "coolhunter" have to be successful?

You have to be a **keen observer of people** with a background in design, fine arts, and aesthetics; and it's always helpful to have lived in various countries in order to compare different urban phenomena. ✨

GLOSSARY

pleasing to the eye *exp*
attractive
because of necessity *exp*
because they have no option
snobby *adj*
sophisticated and upper class
grubby *adj*
dirty and grungy
kitsch *adj*
of poor quality; of an inferior or ridiculous style
to pick up *phr vb*
to collect; to take in your hands
a flyer *n*
a piece of paper with information about a product, a concert, etc
a keen observer of people *exp*
someone who is good at noticing things about people
a closet *n US*
a piece of furniture with two doors at the front for clothing or other things. A "wardrobe" in British English
to wander around aimlessly *exp*
to walk in a place with no particular objective



coolhunter01@hotmail.com



CD track 18 British men

Story Time

Jokes anecdotes and stories as told by native English speakers.



The idiot and the chainsaw

An idiot walks into a **hardware store**. He sees an ad for a **chainsaw** that can cut 6 trees in one hour. The idiot is **suitably impressed**, and buys it. However, the next day, the idiot brings it back and says, "This chainsaw is **defective**. It would only cut down one tree and it took me all day!"

Confused, the salesman takes the chain saw and **starts it up** to see what's wrong. At which point, the idiot asks, "Hey, what's that noise?"

Funeral comments

Three friends die in a car accident and go to heaven. Once there, an angel asks them, "When you are in your **coffin** and friends and family are **mourning** you, what would you like to hear them say about you?" The first guy says, "I'd like to hear them say that I was a great doctor, and a great family man." The second guy says, "I'd

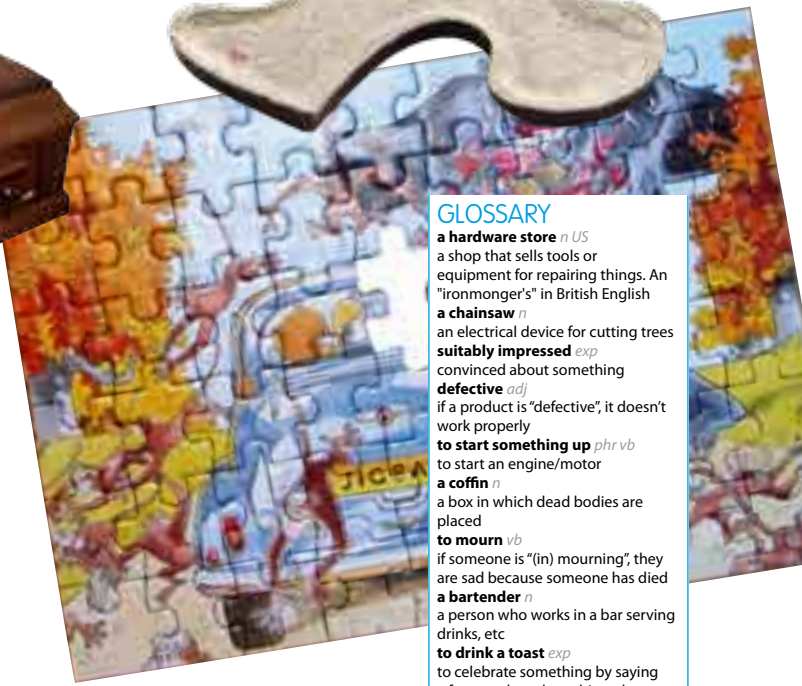
like to hear that I was a wonderful husband, and that I made a huge difference to society." And the last guy replies, "I'd like to hear them say, 'Look! He's moving!'"

The jigsaw puzzle

Two idiots walk into a bar. One of them tells the **bartender** to line up six glasses of whisky. The idiots lift their glasses and **drink a toast**, "Here's to 51 days!"

and they proceed to **down their drinks**. Once again, they tell the bartender to line the drinks up; and once again they drink a toast to the 51 days and down their drinks.

The bartender is curious and says, "**I don't get it**. Why are you drinking a toast to 51 days?" And one of the idiots replies, "Well, we just finished a jigsaw puzzle. On the box, it had '2-4 years', but we finished it in 51 days. Aren't we clever?"



GLOSSARY

- a hardware store** *n* US a shop that sells tools or equipment for repairing things. An "ironmonger's" in British English
- a chainsaw** *n* an electrical device for cutting trees
- suitably impressed** *exp* convinced about something
- defective** *adj* if a product is "defective", it doesn't work properly
- to start something up** *phr vb* to start an engine/motor
- a coffin** *n* a box in which dead bodies are placed
- to mourn** *vb* if someone is "(in) mourning", they are sad because someone has died
- a bartender** *n* a person who works in a bar serving drinks, etc
- to drink a toast** *exp* to celebrate something by saying a few words and touching glasses before drinking
- to down your drink** *exp* to drink the contents of a glass
- I don't get it** *exp* I don't understand it

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In the museum

See if you can identify the word.
Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck!

(Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this. Answers on page 33)



1. A building that has paintings, exhibitions and artefacts = a mu_____.
2. A painting, sculpture or drawing that is considered an important or valuable piece of art = a _____ of art.
3. An old object of cultural or archaeological interest = an ar_____.
4. A public event with works of art based on a theme or from the same artist = an ex_____.
5. A place in a museum with a permanent exhibition of works of art = a ga_____.
6. A person in charge of protecting things in a museum = a se_____ guard.
7. The place where you can buy gifts or souvenirs in a museum = the museum s_____.
8. An image created with coloured paints = a pai_____.
9. A work of art created with stone or metal = a scu_____.
10. The money you pay to enter a museum = an entrance f_____.
11. A machine that checks the contents of your bags = an X-ray s_____.
12. An exhibit that involves some kind of communication between the visitor and the exhibit = an in_____ exhibit.
13. A person who takes people around a museum explaining things = a tour g_____.
14. A trip around the museum with a guide (a person who explains things) = a guided t_____.
15. A person who visits a museum = a vis_____.
16. Someone who is in charge of the objects in a museum = a cu_____.

SHOPPING NIGHTMARE BY DANIEL COUTOLINE



Trivia Matching



Exercise

Exercise

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

1. An emu
2. A polar bear
3. A footprint
4. Manure
5. The breaststroke
6. A rubber band
7. A navel
8. A lung
9. A bee
10. A windy day
11. The shore
12. A feast
13. Goofing around



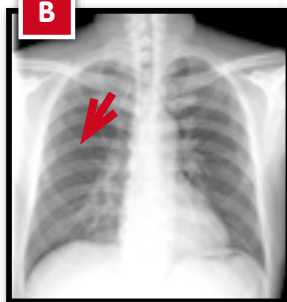
D



K



M



B



E



H



F



J



I



G



A

C



L



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

Emus cannot walk backwards.

No word in the English language **rhymes with** the word "month".

Polar bears can eat as many as 86 penguins **in a single sitting**. What a feast!



MY NAME (KNUT) RHYMES WITH CUTE.



Frederick the Great of Prussia tried to **ban** the consumption of coffee, and demanded that people drink alcohol instead.

The most popular name for a cat is Kitty; and the number-one name for dogs is Brandy



SURELY YOU CAN THINK OF A MORE IMAGINATIVE NAME THAN KITTY.

Goofy had a wife, Mrs Goofy, and one son, Goofy Junior.

Neil Armstrong first **stepped on** the moon with his left foot



The world camel population is 19,627,000, which is about the same as the population of Australia.



Cows produce around 30 kilos of **manure** every day.

Captain Matthew Webb of England was the first person to swim the English Channel using the **breaststroke**.



Actor Tommy Lee Jones and former vice-president Al Gore shared a **flat** at Harvard.

Rubber bands last longer when **refrigerated**.

The word "samba" means "to **rub navels** together".



Your right **lung** takes in more air than your left one does.

You are **more likely** to **get stung** by a **bee** on a windy day than in any other kind of weather.

Luca Luise is not a lucky man. In 1983, a **fierce gust of wind** blew 45-year-old Luise's car into a river near Naples, Italy. Fortunately, he managed to break a window, climb out of the car and **swim to shore**. However, once on dry land, a tree blew over and **knocked him unconscious**. ☺



GLOSSARY

- to rhyme with** *exp*
if two words "rhyme with" one another, they have the same sound
- in a single sitting** *exp*
at one time (without having a break)
- to ban** *vb*
to prohibit
- goofy** *adj*
a bit silly or ridiculous
- to step on** *phr vb*
to put your foot on
- manure** *n*
cow excrement/waste
- breaststroke** *n*
a style of swimming that involves moving your arms outwards, and your legs like a frog
- a flat** *n*
an apartment
- a rubber band** *n*
a thin circle of very elastic rubber
- to refrigerate** *vb*
to put in the refrigerator (the large electrical box for keeping things cold)
- to rub** *vb*
to move one thing against another
- a navel** *n*
the hole in your stomach
- a lung** *n*
an organ in your chest that fill with air. There are two of them
- more likely to** *exp*
probably going to
- to sting** *vb (past participle: stung)*
if an insect "stings" you, it bites you
- a bee** *n*
a black and yellow insect that makes honey
- a fierce gust of wind** *exp*
a strong and sudden amount of wind
- to swim to shore** *exp*
to swim until you arrive at the coast or land
- to knock someone unconscious** *exp*
to hit someone and make them lose consciousness

VOCABULARY THE MUSEUM

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about museums.

A museum – a building that has paintings, exhibitions and artefacts. What's the greatest museum in the



world? See our list below for the ten best museums of all time. Do you agree with the list?

A work of art – a painting, sculpture or drawing that is considered an important or valuable piece of art.



An artefact – an old object of cultural or archaeological interest. And no, we're not talking about your grandmother!

An exhibition (an "exhibit" in US English) – a public event with works of art based on a theme or from the same artist.

A gallery – a place in a museum with a permanent exhibition of works of art. These days you can visit virtual galleries on the internet. Try this site for the best links to virtual museums: <http://icom.museum/vlmp/galleries.html>
A security guard – a person who is in charge of security in a museum. Often found looking bored in one of the galleries.

The museum shop – the place where you can buy gifts or souvenirs in a museum. This is many



people's favourite part of the museum.

A painting – an image created with coloured paints. The Mona Lisa with her **enigmatic smile** is a fine example.

A sculpture – a three-dimensional work of art. Have you ever been to Vigeland Park in Oslo? It has 192 sculptures with more than 600 figures, all modelled in full-size by



Gustav Vigeland. Vigeland also designed the **layout** of the **grounds**. It's a fantastic place to visit.

An entrance fee – the money you pay to enter a museum. In the past, museums used to be free in Britain. Now most of them charge you.

A X-ray scanner – a machine that checks the contents of your bags. Why don't they **scan** your bags on the way out?



An interactive exhibit – an exhibit that involves some kind of communication between the visitor and the

The World's Ten Best Museums

Here's our list of the top ten museums of all time. Are there any more that you'd add to the list?

The Louvre, Paris

With its pyramid **skylight** and Mona Lisa, it's on the top of everyone's list of places to visit in Paris.

The Prado, Madrid

Full of works by Spanish artists including Goya, Velasquez and El Greco.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met), New York City

The Met is famous for its older paintings and sculptures by some of history's most famous artists, including Leonardo Da Vinci and Pablo Picasso.

The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York City

The MOMA is smaller than the Met, but just as good. You can see works by contemporary artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein here.

British Museum, London

Full of the treasures acquired (some say "stolen") during the height of the British Empire. There are more than 7 million artefacts, including the Rosetta Stone.

The Vatican Museum, Rome

Twenty-two collections ranging from Egyptian art to ancient maps to modern religious art.

The Smithsonian, Washington, DC

Housing some of the country's most important memories, including Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis monoplane, and the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night he was assassinated.



The Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain

The titanium-clad museum is so distinctive that you'll never forget it.

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

France's collection of modern and industrial art. Divided between the modern artists from 1905 to 1960, and the contemporaries from 1960 onwards.

The Tate Modern, London

An impressive museum of contemporary international art in an old **power station**.



GLOSSARY

- a gift** *n*
a present
- a souvenir** *n*
something that you buy and that reminds you of a place
- an enigmatic smile** *n*
a smile that is difficult to define or understand
- the layout** *n*
the design
- the grounds** *n*
the area of land where something is
- to scan** *vb*
if a machine "scans" a bag, it moves X-rays over it in order to see inside it
- a lever** *n*
a handle that is attached to a piece of machinery
- a knob** *n*
a round switch attached to a piece of machinery
- can't be bothered to** *exp*
can't find the energy to
- a leaflet** *n*
a piece of paper with information about a product/service/concert, etc
- a plaque** *n*
a piece of metal or wood with information written on it
- a beard** *n*
hair on the face
- a tweed jacket** *n*
a jacket made of tweed (a thick type of wool)
- a skylight** *n*
a window in a roof
- a power station** *n*
a place where electricity is generated

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exhibit. This may include touching buttons, moving **levers** or pressing **knobs**. How exciting!

A tour guide – a person who takes you around a museum explaining things and telling you jokes, anecdotes and stories related to the work of art or artist.



A guided tour – a trip around the museum with a guide (a person who explains things). Ideal for those who **can't be**

bothered to read the **leaflets** or the information **plaques** below the work of art.

A visitor – a person who visits a museum. There are three classes of visitor:

a) The rapid visitor – they run through the museum and see absolutely everything in just under an hour.

b) The pensive visitor – they spend hours contemplating individual works of art.

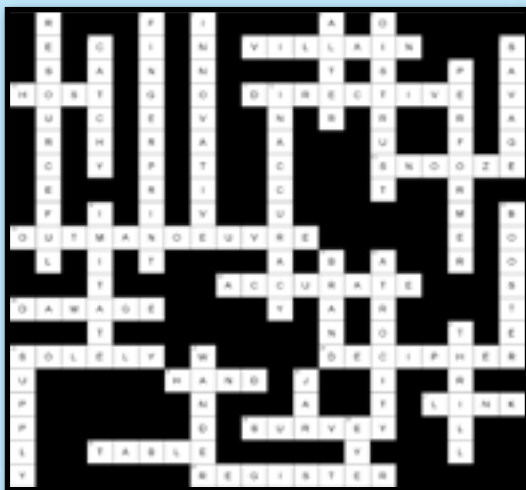
c) The conscientious visitor – they will dedicate a whole day in the museum to seeing absolutely everything.

A curator – someone who is in charge of the objects in a museum. The traditional image of a curator is of an elderly man with a **beard**, a pair of glasses and a **tweed jacket**. In reality, most curators look like Harrison Ford ✨



Wordsearch page 29

- Museum
- Work
- Artefact
- Exhibition
- Gallery
- Security
- Shop
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Fee
- Scanner
- Interactive
- Guide
- Tour
- Visitor
- Curator



Crossword page 24

TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE MUSEUM

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions.



CD track 20 Englishman & Englishwoman



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In this conversation, Bob is visiting the museum. He is wandering around unsure of where to go when he meets the museum **curator**. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. What does the curator tell Bob about?
2. What does Bob break? **Answers** on page 24

Bob: Morning. This is a nice painting, isn't it?
 Curator: Yes, one of Goya's most famous works.
 Bob: Work here, do you?
 Curator: Yes, I am the museum curator.
 Bob: Oh, **very posh**. That's a nice **jug**.
 Curator: It is a **vase**. A Ming vase. It is one of the museums most **priceless artefacts**.
 Bob: What's it for? Drinking beer?
 Curator: Not exactly.
 Bob: Hey, do you mind if I **follow you around** a bit?
 Curator: I beg your pardon?
 Bob: I mean, could you tell me about this painting?
 Curator: Well, I am **rather busy**. You really need to get onto a **guided tour**.
 Bob: Couldn't you just tell me about this work of art? You are here, after all. Please.

Curator: Our **guides** will be able to help you...
 Bob: Please.
 Curator: Oh, all right. This painting that you are looking at is known as the *Self-Portrait with Dr Arrieta*. As you can see, Goya is sitting up in bed, more dead than alive, **leaning back** against the doctor, who supports the patient's weight with one arm and with the other **raises** a glass of medicine towards the patient's **lips**...
 Bob: (*Touching the painting.*) But what's this **smudge** here?
 Curator: No, you mustn't touch the painting.
 Bob: I didn't.
 Curator: Yes, you did. Please don't put your fingers on it. And you mustn't cross this **rail**.
 Bob: Oh, you're getting all strict.
 Curator: Well, **I really must be getting on**.
 Bob: (*Bob picks up the vase.*) Hey, this vase doesn't weigh much.
 Curator: Put that down. It is more than 3,000 years old.
 Bob: Here, catch! (*Bob pretends to throw it.*)
 Curator: Do not touch that!
 Bob: No, only joking. (*Bob drops the vase.*) **Whoops!** Have you got any glue?
 Curator: Guard! Guard! ⚡



GLOSSARY

a curator *n*
 a person who is in charge of the objects in a museum
very posh *exp*
 very sophisticated
a jug *n*
 a container for liquid such as water/milk, etc
a vase *n*
 a container for flowers
priceless *adj*
 very, very valuable
an artefact *n*
 an old object that has a lot of value
to follow someone around *exp*
 to walk behind someone and to go where they go
rather busy *exp*
 with quite a lot of work to do
a guided tour *n*
 a special trip around a museum with someone explaining things to you
a guide *n*
 a person who takes people around a museum explaining things to them
to lean back *phr vb*
 to push your body back against something so that you are at an angle
to raise *vb*
 to move from a low position to a higher position
lips *n*
 the part of your mouth that you use for kissing
a smudge *n*
 a mark; a dirty mark
a rail *n*
 a rope or barrier that marks a line that you must not cross
I must be getting on *exp*
 I have to go
whoops! *exp*
 an expression people use when they make a mistake or break something

Renting a car



CD track 22 Englishwomen

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.
This month: renting a car. Listen and repeat these expressions.
Please see page 39 for a useful guide on types of car.

What you say

- I'd like to **rent** a car, please.
- How much is it per hour?
How much is it per day?
How much is it per kilometre?
- How much is the **insurance**?
- Do you need to see my **driver's licence**?
- Can I leave the car in another city?
- Is it petrol or diesel? Does it take petrol or diesel?
- There appears to be a **dent** in the bodywork.
- There's a **scratch** at the back.



- Where is the car?
- What's the car **registration number**?
- Where do I have to leave it when I've finished?

- What do I do with the keys?
- Is it manual ("stickshift" US) or automatic?
- Sorry, but I put diesel in the petrol **tank**.
- I'm sorry but I crashed the car.
- I'm sorry but I've **written the car off**. I've **totalled** the car (US)
- The car is a **write off**. Can you give me another one?



GLOSSARY

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

insurance *n*
if you pay for "insurance", you receive money/compensation if you have an accident

a driver's licence *n*
a formal document that shows you have permission to drive

a dent *n*
a hole in the surface

a scratch *n*
a small cut on the surface of something

a registration number *n*
the numbers and letters at the back and front of a car that identify a car

a tank *n*
the object in a car in which you put petrol/gas/diesel

to write a car off *exp*
to destroy a car completely

to total a car *exp US*
to destroy a car completely

a write-off *n*
if a car is a "write-off", it is completely destroyed

a bay *n*
an enclosed area in a building that is used for a specific purpose

a parking space *n*
an area in a car park where you can park a car

unlimited mileage *n*
if the car has "unlimited mileage", you can travel as far as you like without being charged for it

to swipe *vb*
if they "swipe" your card, they put your card into a little machine in order to register it

the excess *n*
a limited amount of money you must pay for repairs if you have an accident

Part II

Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Sally is in a car rental office. She wants to rent a car.

Sales: Good morning. How may I help you?
Sally: Good morning. I'd like to rent a car for the day.
Sales: OK. Any car in mind?
Sally: Just an ordinary four-door car.
Sales: We've got a Peugeot 206 if you like.
Sally: Yes, that would be fine. How much is it per day?
Sales: It's 80 pounds per day with unlimited mileage, and that includes insurance.
Sally: That sounds all right.
Sales: And the excess is 200 pounds.
Sally: What does that mean?
Sales: Well, if you have an accident, you have to pay the first 200 pounds.
Sally: OK. I'm not really planning on having an accident.
Sales: Very wise. So, just fill in this form, please. And I need to see your driving licence, and I'll have to swipe your credit card.
Sally: OK. Here you are.
Sales: Very good. Here are the keys. The car is in bay 62, in parking space 91. It's a blue Peugeot 206 station wagon.
Sally: Great.
Sales: Drive safely.
Sally: Thanks. Bye.
Sales: Bye.



What you hear

- It comes with a full tank of petrol.
- Please return it with a full tank.
- The keys are here.
- The car is parked in the car park, in **bay 24, parking space B23**.
- Just phone this number if you have any difficulties.
- The registration number is PY2 4TZ.
- Just fill out this form, please
- May I see your driving licence, please?
- I'll just take down your details.
- It's got **unlimited mileage**.
- I need to **swipe** your credit card.
- You will be liable for the **excess**, which is 200 pounds. ☆

QUIZ ARE YOU AN ATENTION SEEKER?



CD track 23 Englishman & Scotsman

Are you an attention seeker? Are you the kind of person who loves attention at work? Or do you prefer to remain anonymous? Do our quiz and find out whether you are an **attention seeker** or not. **Quiz Analysis** on page 24

- Work is an opportunity to:
 - Progress in the profession of my choice.
 - Show everyone what a great and fantastic person I am.
- How do you like to work?
 - In silence.
 - With my music **on full blast**, moving my body in rhythm to the beat. Every now and then I get up for a little dance. Irish River Dancing is my favourite. Everyone loves to watch me.
- I'm organising a work **outing** to the local pub for a few after-work drinks. "Last one to the pub's a **dork!**"
- What type of clothes do you wear to work?
 - Something that says that I'm professional.
 - Anything which will get me noticed: a **flashy** pink **tie**, a pair of really tight trousers, brightly-coloured shoes – you name it, I'll wear it.



- It's Friday late afternoon and work is just finishing. What's happening?
 - I'm trying to finish off as much work as possible so I don't have to take any work home with me.
 - You're in a staff meeting. What are you doing?
 - Taking notes quietly.
 - Telling jokes, making funny comments, and putting my hand up at every opportunity so I can



answer all the questions.

- How often do you stop for a break during the day?
 - Once in the morning and once in the afternoon.
 - About every ten minutes. That way I can **keep people up-to-date** with the **latest** news, **gossip** or rumours. It's important to let people know about these things.
- Your biggest fear at work is...
 - Losing my job.
 - Being stuck** in a room on my own with no one to talk to.
- It's first thing Monday morning. What are you doing?
 - I'm **catching up on** all my e-mails.
 - I'm telling everyone what a wonderful weekend I had. I sometimes bring in videos of me with my family or friends to show everyone what a great, fun person I really am.
- What do you do for lunch?
 - I bring in a packed lunch and eat it at my desk.
 - I bring in loads of food and share it with everyone in the office. People love my cooking. ☆



GLOSSARY

an attention seeker *n*
a person who does things in order to get attention from others

on full blast *adj*
at the maximum amount

an outing *n*
a trip organised for a class/office

a dork *n inform*
an idiot

flashy *adj*
that is bright and very colourful

a tie *n*
an object men wear around the neck and on a shirt

to keep people up-to-date *exp*
to tell people about the latest information

the latest *adj*
the most recent

gossip *n*
information about other people's private lives

being stuck *exp*
being trapped

to catch up on something *exp*
to deal with all the jobs and work that has accumulated over a period of time



CD track 24 Englishwoman & US woman

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

Bad Joke



Bruce Gormy thought it would be funny to play a practical joke on his grandmother, but it all **went horribly wrong**. Gormy, 45, was out shopping with his elderly grandmother. When they got to the bank, Gormy told his 93-year-old grandmother to go into the bank and to hand over a note, which he gave her. The innocent **geriatric** entered the bank and gave the **teller** the note, which said, "Give me all of your money. This is a **stick-up**."

Immediately, the teller sounded the bank's **alarm system**, and police and FBI **surrounded** the building. However, instead of a gang of armed robbers, police found the confused pensioner. Gormy (junior) was charged with criminal attempt of robbery by intimidation.

Broken Tooth



Just recently, Warmington Town Hall received a 3,000-euro **dental bill** from a local woman. Apparently, it all started when Mrs Joanna Dente came in to get a licence for her **pet snake**. As she was waiting, she **helped herself to** a sweet from a **jar** on the **counter**. But on taking a bite into the hard sweet, she broke a tooth. "I took the candy, so it's partially my fault," Dente, 67, said. "But I wouldn't have taken it if it wasn't there. And anyway, they shouldn't have such hard sweets, especially not for people my age." Meanwhile, the jar of sweets remains on the counter.

GLOSSARY

- to go horribly wrong** *exp*
to be a disaster
- a geriatric** *n*
a very old person
- a teller** *n US*
the person who works in a bank dealing with customers
- a stick-up** *n*
a robbery in a bank
- an alarm system** *n*
a system of electrical devices that make a loud sound when it is activated
- to surround** *vb*
if a building is "surrounded", there are police/soldiers all around it
- a dental bill** *n*
a letter informing you how much you must pay for dental treatment
- a pet snake** *n*
a snake you keep in your house
- to help yourself to something** *n*
to take something without asking permission
- a jar** *n*
a glass container for food
- a counter** *n*
the long table in a shop/business where the public are served
- to pose as** *exp*
to act as if you are something even though you aren't really that thing
- a garage attendant** *n*
a person who works in a garage putting petrol/gasoline in cars
- to pocket the money** *exp*
to take money that belongs to another person or business
- to dispense gasoline** *exp US*
to put gasoline/petrol into a car
- unnoticed** *adj*
that is not seen

Profit Posing



A man is under arrest after **posing as a garage attendant**. Brian Boule sold gasoline to drivers for \$10 a tank, then **pocketed the money**. Police said he had sold more than 450 gallons of gas worth about \$1,300. He was charged with theft.

Authorities said Boule used a magnetic key and a code, allowing him to **dispense gasoline unnoticed**. Boule had previously worked for gas testing companies.

One of the customers, who preferred to remain anonymous, said, "He asks you, 'You want gas? I'll fill you up for \$10'. I wasn't going to complain about that." One night the manager noticed, and went to talk to Boule. "He was going from pump to pump. He was selling gas to the people. We asked him, 'What are you doing here?' And he said, 'Nothing, nothing.'" Then, he ran away. Police later arrested him.



Pretty Polly

THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF A TALKING PARROT.

How many words in English do you know? 500? 1,000? 2,000? Incredibly, there's a parrot with a vocabulary of 950 words. His name is N'kisi and he's an African grey.

An incredible bird

N'kisi is a truly amazing bird. He can create his own words, use words in context, and even make complete sentences. Plus, he's got an impressive knowledge of about six Congolese dialects. On one occasion N'kisi was shown some **aromatherapy oils**. He didn't know the word for "aromatherapy", but he took one **sniff** of them and said, "pretty smell medicine". N'kisi is also good at using his verb tenses, being able to use past, present and future tenses. And he's often very inventive. Once he said "fled" instead of "flew", which, although incorrect, is something that many English-speaking children do too.

Descriptive powers

N'kisi has an incredible ability to describe things he sees. On observing a parrot **hanging upside down** from its **perch**, he once said, "You got to put this bird on the camera." On being shown a picture of a man on the phone, he said, "What ya doing on the phone?" On seeing a couple holding one another, he said, "Can I give you a **hug**?" And when he first met Dr Jane Goodall, the famous chimpanzee expert, he said, "Got a **chimp**?" Apparently, N'kisi had seen Dr Goodall in a photo with apes.

Animals and speech

So, is N'kisi a special case? There are many examples of animals being able to repeat sounds. Some owners claim their dogs can say words



when they are **barking**. And there's the example of a **seal** that could repeat common phrases, including his name. Many parrots and other species of bird are famous for their ability to mimic speech. But N'kisi is something special. Dr Goodall says N'kisi's linguistic abilities are "an **outstanding** example of interspecies communication". ✨

Information Box – African Greys

African Greys are probably the most intelligent birds. Some Greys do not start speaking until 2 years old. However, there is no guarantee that a Grey will speak. Experts say that African Greys have the intellectual capacity of a 5-year-old child with the emotions of a 2-year-old. **Owners** compare keeping an African Grey to trying to raise a young child as they need constant care and attention, plus lots of interaction with humans or other animals. The birds need at least three hours out of the **cage** every day, and about 45 minutes chat with other humans in order to keep them in good mental health. They also need lots of stimulating toys as they get bored very easily. Would you like an African Grey?

Information box – vocabulary

The average English speaker possesses a vocabulary of 10,000 to 20,000 words, but uses only a fraction of these – about 2,000 words (the rest being recognition or recall vocabulary). Incidentally, Shakespeare's active vocabulary was 30,000 words.



GLOSSARY

- aromatherapy oils** *n*
different smelling oils used to treat minor illnesses or stress
- a sniff** *n*
if you have a sniff of something, you smell that thing
- to hang upside down** *exp*
to be in a position with your head towards the ground and your feet in the air
- a perch** *n*
a pole that birds sit on in their cage
- a hug** *n*
to hold someone in an emotional embrace
- a chimp** *n*
a chimpanzee – a type of intelligent monkey
- to bark** *vb*
when animals "bark", they make a sound from their mouth
- a seal** *n*
an animal that lives in the water and that has large eyes and soft fur
- outstanding** *adj*
unusual because it is so good/superior, etc
- an owner** *n*
the person who possesses something
- a cage** *n*
a little room with metal bars for keeping an animal



YOU'D BETTER PRAY THAT I DON'T WORK OUT HOW TO USE YOUR MOBILE PHONE.



MAKE SURE YOU PHOTOGRAPH MY GOOD SIDE.

TYPES OF CAR

Just to help you rent a car in English, here are some examples of different types of car.

A five-door car = a car with two doors on the left and two doors on the right, and one at the back.

A three-door car = a car with one door on the left and one on the right, and one at the back.

A manual = a car with gears (usually 6: first gear, second gear, third gear, fourth gear, fifth gear and reverse) that you have to change as you drive. The alternative is an automatic.

A saloon (a "sedan" in US English) = a car that seats at least four people and that has a **hard-top roof** and a **boot** that is separate from the **back seats**.

An estate (a "station wagon" in US English) = a car with a long body, a door at the back and space behind the back seats.

A hatchback = a car with an extra door at the back which opens upwards, and which gives you more space.

A coupé = a car with a fixed roof, a **sloping back**, just two doors but seats for four people.

Van = a small or medium-sized vehicle with a row of seats at the front and room at the back for goods.

A minivan (also known as a people carrier, a multi-purpose vehicle, a people-mover, or a multi-utility vehicle) = a car that is similar in shape to a van, but that is designed for personal use. It has between four and nine seats and is designed for maximum interior room

A convertible = a car with a roof that you can **fold down** or **remove**.

GLOSSARY

a hard-top roof *exp*
a metal roof (not a soft, material roof). The roof is the top of the car

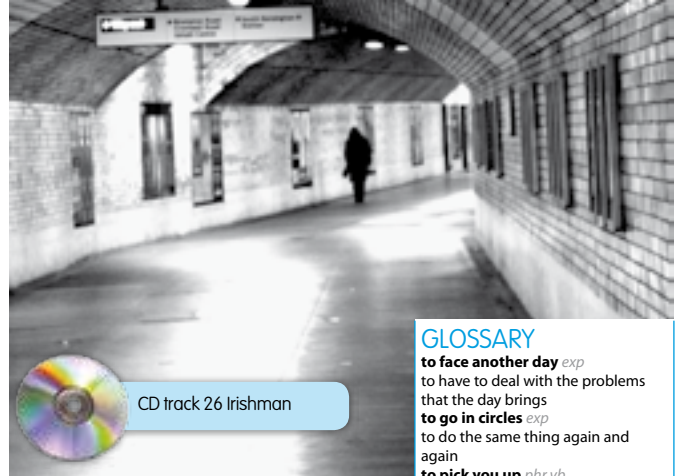
a boot *n*
the covered space at the back of a car for putting bags, etc

a back seat *n*
a place for sitting behind the driver or co-pilot

a sloping back *n*
a back that is at an angle and goes down to a lower position

to fold down *phr vb*
to close by moving one part on top of another

to remove *vb*
to take away; to take off



CD track 26 Irishman

GLOSSARY

to face another day *exp*
to have to deal with the problems that the day brings

to go in circles *exp*
to do the same thing again and again

to pick you up *phr vb*
to help you and make you feel better

cos *exp abbr*
because

wanna *exp abbr*
want to

to make you mad *exp*
to make you very angry

a turn *n*
a change

SONG:

Loving is a Cruel Thing

By Garrett Wall

Copyright Garrett Wall 2007.

Everyday I wake up tired,
At times, it's hard just to **face another day**,
It seems my life is **going in circles**,

Too much of the same, and too little loving. Yeah.

And why is it when you least expect it,
Someone **picks you up** and turns you around, yeah,
And why can't it always be that easy, yeah,

Cos when you need it most love can't be found.

Chorus

Do you **wanna** know what it is that **makes me mad**,
Looking at my life and seeing all the pain, the pain I've had,

Loving is a cruel, cruel thing,
loving is a cruel, cruel thing,
Loving is a cruel, cruel thing,
When you're not loved, when you're not loved,
When you're not loved, when you're not loved,

Every night I go to sleep,
I dream of a love and a life so perfect,

Its hard to be so idealistic, yeah,
When every **turn** I make is the wrong one.

Chorus

Do I have to say all the right words?
It's true what they say,
The hardest part of loving is leaving.

Chorus

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New words

So, you thought you knew English, did you? Here are some of the newest words in the English language.

The 80s was the generation of the **Yuppie**. In the 90s we were introduced to the "new man" – the caring, emotionally-liberal man. But, what about the first decade of the 21st century? Here are some new words for you to learn.



iPods

If you thought an iPod was a digital music player, you were wrong. An iPod is a person who is "**insecure**, pressured, **over-taxed** and **debt-ridden**" – someone who is suffering under the stress of modern living. Are you an iPod?

Yads

No, a Yads is *not* some disgusting little insect, but is, in fact, a "young



and determined **saver**" – a young person who **conscientiously** saves money in bank accounts or by buying **National Savings bonds**. Do you know any Yads?

Ski

Are your parents saving their money so that you can **inherit** it all one day? Or are they **selfishly** spending it on themselves? If they are slowly **going through**



the money, then they are a Ski: "spending the kids' inheritance". Most parents do this by going on expensive trips abroad, or by visiting spas and health resorts. Skis are otherwise known as "Woofs" ("well-off older folk").

Kippers

The opposite of a Ski is a Kipper: "kids in parents' pockets eroding the retirement savings" – the kind of person in their 20s or 30s who is living at home after university, spending all of mummy and daddy's savings and pension money. Also known as "boomerang kids" and "parasite singles".



Neets

Do you know any 16-24 year-olds who are doing nothing with their lives? Then maybe you know a Neet: "not in education, employment or training". A recent survey found that there are 1.2 million Neets in the UK, and that 10% of all male Neets are involved in crime.

Mss

Feeling sick because you don't have enough money to pay all those **bills**? Finding it hard to pay the **mortgage**? You could be suffering from Mss: "money sickness syndrome". Apparently, almost four million UK residents **take time off work**, and another 11 million experience a **slump** in their sex lives as a result of money worries.

Fid

Are you a father? If you are, then you could be a Fid: a "fully involved dad". This is the kind of father who wants to play a big role in **bringing up** the kids. In the 1970s, dads spent only 15 minutes a day on childcare **duties**; today, this has **risen** to two hours.



Fud

If you aren't a Fid, then you're probably a Fud: a "fully uninvolved dad" – the opposite of a Fid. According to a recent report, 15% of dads still see their **task** as providing the rules for the children, and are not involved with the day-to-day care of their kids.

Mos

Worried about the influence the internet could be having on your children? Then you could be a Mos: "mother over shoulder" – the type of mum who stands behind little Jimmy as he **surfs the net**, making sure he doesn't visit any restricted sites.

Kgoy

No, this isn't an exotic planet in outer space. Kgoy is in fact an expression to describe the way that children learn things at a very early age: "kids are growing older younger". The days when 7- to 10-year-olds were given Lego, wooden toys and sweets from Santa **are definitely over**. These days, most kids want videogames, digital cameras, TVs, iPods and unlimited broadband internet access. ☺

GLOSSARY

- a Yuppie** *n abbr*
a young urban professional
- insecure** *adj*
not confident
- over-taxed** *adj*
taxed too much. Tax is the money you pay to the government for services such as the police, etc
- debt-ridden** *adj*
with many debts (money you owe other people)
- a saver** *n*
a person who regularly saves money by putting it into a bank account
- conscientiously** *adv*
carefully
- National Savings bonds** *n*
government stocks and shares that you can buy and earn interest on
- to inherit** *vb*
to receive money or property when someone dies
- selfishly** *adv*
only thinking about yourself
- to go through money** *exp*
to spend money quickly
- in your parent's pockets** *exp*
living from the money your parents give you
- to erode** *vb*
to destroy or use gradually
- a bill** *n*
a letter informing you of how much money you must pay
- a mortgage** *n*
money you borrow from the bank in order to buy a house
- to take time off work** *exp*
to leave work temporarily because you are sick or want a rest
- a slump** *n*
a decrease
- to bring up (a child)** *phr vb*
to educate a child
- a duty** *n*
something that you have to do as part of your job
- to rise** *vb*
to increase
- a task** *n*
a task or job that you have to do, often as part of a larger project
- to surf the net** *exp*
to look for things on the internet
- are definitely over** *exp*
do not exist any longer

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MONGOOSE GHOST

The biggest haunted house story of the 1930s.

Have you ever seen a ghost? Ever heard strange sounds at night? In the 1930s, the biggest story in the news was about a haunted house on the Isle of Man in Britain. And this ghost was something very special.

Strange noises

It all started during the 1930s, on the Isle of Man. At the time, Mr and Mrs Irving lived with their 13-year-old daughter, Voirrey, in a small farmhouse. In September 1931, Voirrey started to hear strange noises in the house. At first, they all thought it was an animal. Mr Irving wanted to kill it. But nothing appeared. Later, he put down some **poison**, but the noises continued. Eventually, Mr Irving tried communicating with the animal, making various noises himself. To his surprise, the animal **imitated** him. Later, Voirrey sang nursery rhymes to the strange creature, and it began to repeat these.

Finally, it showed part of itself: a small **bushy tail**. It claimed to be a **mongoose**. They called it Gef.

A strange relationship

And so began the strange relationship between Gef and the Irvings. Gef told the Irvings that he was from India and that he had been born on 7th June 1852. According to Mr Irving, who kept a **diary**, Gef talked in a language he claimed to be Russian, sang in Spanish and could recite poetry in Welsh. Gef killed rabbits for them and left them outside. And when he was asked who he was, Gef replied, "I am an **earth-bound spirit**". Mr Irving seldom saw Gef,

but Voirrey and Mrs Irving often **saw him face to face**.

Hello, my name's Gef

As well as talking, Gef also developed a talent for singing. He knew the words to many popular songs. He also liked to play jokes on the family. Once, he **pretended** to have been **poisoned**, but later admitted it was just a joke. The Irving family did not find that at all funny. But apart from that, they found his company enjoyable. Gef even became a useful source of gossip. He would often travel around the island, spying on other people and telling the Irvings what was going on.

Immediately, Gef started to panic. He said that he loved their company and was afraid that he would be left on his own. When the family decided to stay, Gef became much more obedient.

The price you pay

Very soon, the story of the mongoose ghost **spread** to the **mainland**. The story was a great favourite with the British press, and journalists referred to it as Gef the Talking Mongoose. Many people came to the Irving household to try and see the creature. One of the most important visitors was Harry Price, a famous paranormal investigator. Price wanted to conduct a proper scientific study of the Irving's farmhouse. So, he got together a team of investigators and scientists. Price couldn't find

You can't see me

On one occasion, Gef showed the sensitive side to his nature. Mrs Irving once managed to stroke Gef's **fur**, but unfortunately she cut her finger on his sharp teeth. Gef immediately told her to go and put some cream on the wound. On another occasion, the Irvings threatened to **move out**. They were tired of Gef throwing things around in the house.



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the time to go to the Isle of Man, but a friend of his, a Captain M.H. Macdonald, offered to go instead.

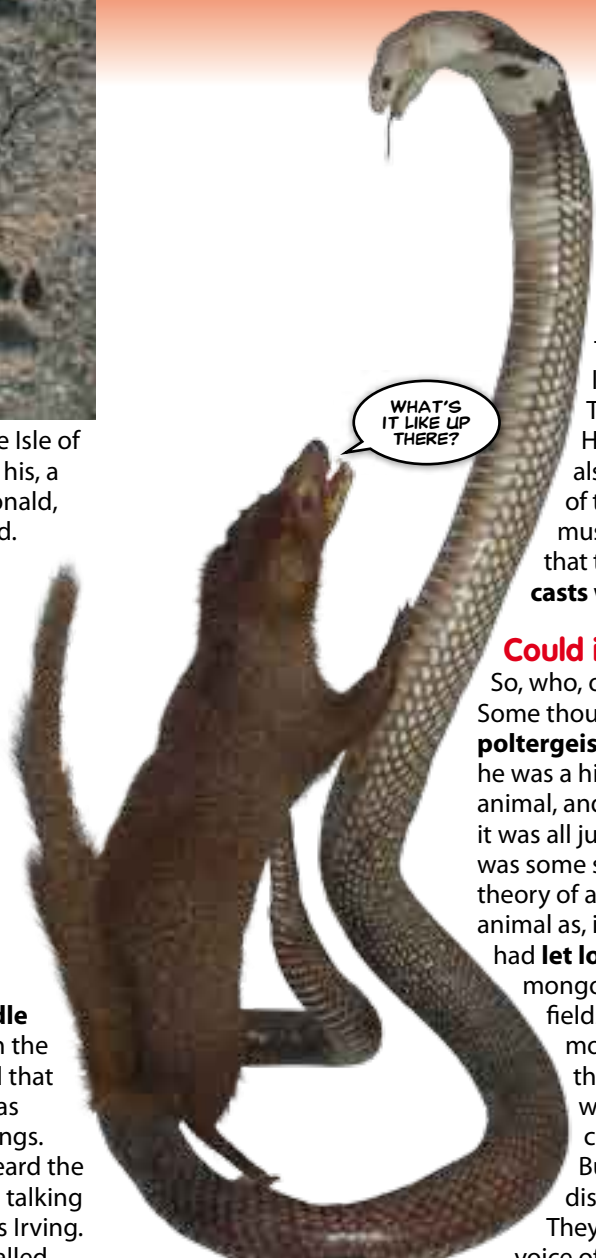
Go away!

When Macdonald arrived at the farm on 26th February 1932, he saw nothing. But when he left to go to his hotel, a voice from nowhere screamed, "Go away! Who is that man?"

The next day, as Macdonald was having tea with the Irvings, a large **needle** came flying through the room. Mr Irving said that it was Gef and he was always throwing things. Later, Macdonald heard the **shrill voice** upstairs talking with Voirrey and Mrs Irving. When Macdonald called to ask if the mongoose would come down, the voice screamed, "No, I don't like you." Macdonald then tried **sneaking** upstairs, but the mongoose heard a **stair creak**, and screamed, "He's coming!" After that, Macdonald saw and heard no more of Gef.

Some hair

There was still no evidence that Gef actually existed. But in March 1935 there was a **breakthrough**. One day, Gef took some hairs from his tail and left them on a table. Gef told Mr Irving about the hairs, and Irving **forwarded** them to Price, who had them examined. Unfortunately, the hairs proved to be dog hairs -



In total, the only evidence was a few **blurry** photographs of something in the fields around the farmhouse. The best picture looked like a cat. The British Natural History Museum, also studied some of the evidence. But museum officials said that the **paw print casts** were from a cat.

Could it be true?

So, who, or what, was Gef? Some thought Gef was a **poltergeist***, others said he was a highly-intelligent animal, and some thought it was all just a **hoax**. There was some support for the theory of an intelligent animal as, in 1912, a farmer had **let loose** some mongooses in his fields. He wanted the mongooses to kill the rabbits, which were eating his crops.

But others dismissed the idea. They thought that the voice of Gef was in fact Irving's daughter Voirrey, who had found the ideal form of entertainment. The Irving family finally moved out of the farmhouse in 1937. Later in 1947, the new owner of the farm claimed that he had shot a "strange looking mongoose-like animal", which had been **roaming** around the property. Although some say that this may well have been Gef, the majority of people on the Isle of Man at the time were sure that Gef left the farmhouse along with the Irving family. Interestingly, Voirrey, who is still alive in the south west of England, refuses to be interviewed on the subject. Is she hiding a secret? Will she reveal it one day? ☆

*** A Poltergeist**

Poltergeist is a German word that means "noisy ghost". It is generally used to describe a spirit or ghost that moves things around, knocks on doors, shakes beds and throws things. On a few rare occasions, poltergeists have been known to speak, including the The Bell Witch in 1817 and Gef the Talking Mongoose in 1931.

probably from the collie dog on the farm. Eventually, Harry Price came to the farm, but the visit was a waste of time as Gef only came back to the farm after Price had left. This was virtually the end of the story – although Macdonald paid a second visit to the farm and again heard the mongoose talking in its shrill voice.



GLOSSARY

- poison** *n*
a substance that will kill you if you drink or eat it
- to imitate** *vb*
to copy
- a bushy tail** *n*
a tail with a lot of fur/hair on it
- a mongoose** *n*
an animal that is a member of the cat family (see pictures)
- a diary** *n*
a book in which you write personal thoughts or information
- an earth-bound spirit** *n*
a ghost that is forced to remain on earth (ie it can't go to heaven, etc)
- to see something face to face** *exp*
to see something close; to see something in real life
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true, even if it isn't
- to poison** *vb*
to kill or injure someone by giving them poison (a substance)
- fur** *n*
the hair on an animal's body
- to move out** *phr vb*
to change house and to go and live somewhere else
- to spread** *vb*
if news "spreads", many people find out about it
- the mainland** *n*
in England (not on the island)
- a needle** *n*
a thin piece of metal used for sewing clothes with thread
- a shrill voice** *n*
a high-pitched voice
- to sneak** *vb*
to go somewhere quietly so that others can't hear you
- a stair** *n*
a step in a house that takes you from one floor to another
- to creak** *vb*
if a stair "creaks", it makes a sound as you step on it
- a breakthrough** *n*
an important development/change
- to forward** *vb*
if you "forward" a letter, you send it on to another person
- blurry** *adj*
if a photo is "blurry", the image is not clear
- a paw print cast** *n*
a plaster model of an animal's footprint
- a hoax** *n*
a trick; a story designed to trick people
- to let something loose** *exp*
to free an animal into the wild
- to roam** *vb*
to move about an area freely

HOLLYWOOD HISTORY

HISTORICAL FILMS AND HOLLYWOOD – AN IMPOSSIBLE UNION?

Have you seen a historical film recently? Did you enjoy it? Do you think it was **accurate**? The latest Hollywood “historical” **blockbuster**, *300*, is causing a real controversy.



The historical film

Some say that there is no such thing as a historical film. Here’s why: a good Hollywood film needs a hero and a **villain**. It needs the hero to live to the end of the film, and the villain to die. It also needs the hero to be the “right” nationality (preferably American), and it needs a touch of romance, and a nice, happy ending.

However, history isn’t always so kind to its **protagonists**. Real heroes and villains are rarely either good or bad. And one country’s villain may well be another country’s hero. In many cases, the hero isn’t even American, and he or she may die before the story ends. And, worst of all, not all stories from history have an element of romance. However, none of these problems ever seem to worry Hollywood film-makers. In many cases, they simply **alter** the facts. This may include changing the nationality of the hero, exaggerating the good or bad qualities of the hero or villain, and changing the order of events so they fit in to the 90 minutes film-makers have to tell the story. Just have a look at these supposedly “historical” films.

Napoleon

This 1927 film was directed by Abel Gance. It’s all about the rise and fall of the French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte. In one scene, Napoleon is shown at the Club des Cordeliers when the Marseillaise (the French national anthem) is sung for the first time. Gance was later informed that Napoleon had never been at that club. To which Gance responded, “He is now”.



The Charge of the Light Brigade

The real **Charge** of the Light Brigade took place during the Crimean War (1854-1856). This war was fought in southern Russia between Britain and France on one side



(plus a few other nations), and Imperial Russia on the other. The charge by British cavalry resulted in the loss of many lives and horses. It was an attempt to capture some Russian cannons, but was a complete disaster.

The 1936 film version (starring Errol Flynn) was full of **inaccuracies**, the biggest being the fact that the film took place in India, not Russia. Incidentally, one stuntman and more than two hundred horses died during the filming of the famous charge.

They Died With Their Boots On

This film was all about General Custer and his last fight against Sioux Indians at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in June 1876.

The film version (1941 – directed by Raoul Walsh) also starred Errol Flynn and showed Custer dying heroically with his men. However, evidence suggests that many of the soldiers were shot in the back (meaning they were probably running away from the battle), but that wouldn’t have made for a “good” film. Also, in the film, Custer and his wife Elizabeth (“Libby”) meet at West Point in 1857. In reality, they didn’t meet until 1862. There are many other inaccuracies.



The Patriot

This film was released in 2000 and was directed by Roland Emmerich and starred Mel Gibson. It is set near Charleston, South Carolina, during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and follows the story of Benjamin Martin and his fight for American freedom against the British.

The film was criticised for inventing or exaggerating British **atrocities**. The most-criticised scene was one showing the **torching** of a church containing the town’s inhabitants, of which there is no historical record.

The film was also criticised for showing the British shooting **wounded** American soldiers. Historical experts say that this rarely happened as the British needed to save **powder**, which was **in short supply** – when this did happen, they killed the wounded with **bayonets**.

Another historical inaccuracy was the depiction of American-owned slaves being freed to serve with the American forces. In reality, many slaves ran away from their American masters and fought with the British against the Americans. Also, South Carolina was famous for refusing to allow any African Americans (either slaves or freed slaves) into the **state militia**.



Braveheart

This film (1995) starred Mel Gibson and was directed by Toby Reisz. It is based on the life of Scottish national hero William Wallace





and his fight against English rule in Scotland during the 13th century. The film includes an affair between William Wallace and Princess Isabelle (based upon Isabella of France). The film implies she is pregnant at the time of Wallace's execution. However, historically, the real Isabella was a child of nine still living in France at this time, and she probably never even met Wallace. The film also caused controversy because of its anti-English nature. Apparently, during a **screening** in Glasgow, there was a **huge cheer** at every English death. The SNP (the Scottish National Party) **took advantage of** the sentiment and could often be seen **handing out** political **leaflets** outside cinemas. The film became a political message rather than a reflection of reality.

U571

This 2000 film was directed by Jonathan Mostow and starred Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel and Jon Bon Jovi. It took place during World War II (1939-1945). In the film, a German submarine is boarded in 1942 by American



submariners who are disguised as Germans. They capture the German submarine's Enigma **cipher machine**. This was one of the most significant moments of the Second World War, and allowed the **Allies to decipher** many supposedly secret messages. However, the film was heavily criticised because it was actually the British who captured the Enigma machine in May 1941 when they captured U-110. During the war, 15 Enigma machines were captured, of which the Americans and Canadians got one each, while the British found the rest. In an interesting confession, screenwriter David Ayer admitted that U-571 **distorted** history. "It was a **mercenary decision...** to create this parallel history in order to drive the movie for an American audience," he admitted. "Both my grandparents were officers in World War Two, and I would be personally offended if somebody distorted their achievements." The movie was also criticised for showing a scene in which the U-boat sailors kill Allied sailors who are in the water after their ship sunk. However, in 99% of the cases, U-boat crewmen were famous for assisting survivors. ☺

300: fact or fiction?

The latest controversy surrounds the film 300. The film (directed by Zack Snyder) tells the story of the battle between the Greeks and Persians at Thermopylae in 480 BC. It is regarded as a key event in the birth of western democracy by some historians.

In the film, 300 Spartans under King Leonidas fight against an invading force



of 120,000 Persian troops led by Emperor Xerxes. The tiny Spartan force repeatedly **outmanoeuvres** the invaders. They are eventually defeated after a three-day battle, but only through **treachery**. This action by the Spartans delays the Persians and gives the Greek armies long enough to prepare for the defence of Athens and Athenian democracy



J'accuse

But the Iranians (modern-day Persians) aren't happy with this. They say that the film represents them as **savage**, murderous and **warmongering**. And the country's Islamic leadership has accused America of "psychological warfare", and a calculated attempt to demonise Iran at a time of intensifying US pressure over the country's nuclear programme. A government spokesman **branded** the film "an insult to Iran", while four MPs have urged the foreign ministry to pressure other Muslim countries to ban it. "Such a fabrication of culture and insult to people is not acceptable by any nation or government," another spokesperson told reporters. "In the film Iranians are considered to be monsters devoid of any culture, humanity and wisdom who know nothing except attacking other lands, threatening peace and killing human beings."

GLOSSARY

- accurate** *adj*
correct; with the correct information
- a blockbuster** *n*
a film that costs a lot to make and that has many stars in it
- a villain** *n*
the bad person in a film
- a protagonist** *n*
the main star in a film
- to alter** *vb*
to change
- a charge** *n*
a situation in which many horses and riders are running at an objective during a battle
- an inaccuracy** *n*
something that isn't true or correct
- a atrocity** *n*
a cruel, shocking action
- to torch** *vb*
to burn
- wounded** *adj*
if soldiers are "wounded", they have injuries (broken arms, etc)
- powder** *n*
guns during this period needed "powder" (a chemical substance) in order to fire them
- in short supply** *exp*
if something is "in short supply", there isn't much of it
- a bayonet** *n*
a long knife attached to the end of a gun
- the state militia** *n*
an irregular armed force of soldiers from a state in America
- a screening** *n*
if there is a "screening" of a film, the film is shown
- a huge cheer** *n*
a loud noise made by happy people
- to take advantage of something** *exp*
to use something for your own benefit
- to hand out** *phr vb*
to give
- a leaflet** *n*
a piece of paper with information about something on it
- a cipher machine** *n*
a machine that creates coded language
- the Allies** *n*
the group of countries including the US, Britain, France, etc who were fighting in World War II
- to decipher** *vb*
if you "decipher" a secret message, you discover what it means
- to distort** *vb*
to change something so it is different to what it was before
- a mercenary decision** *exp*
a decision that you make and that is based on the financial implications
- to outmanoeuvre** *vb*
to gain an advantage over someone by doing something clever
- treachery** *n*
an action against someone who trusted you
- savage** *adj*
brutal; violent; primitive
- warmongering** *adj*
with a desire for war and destruction
- to brand** *vb*
to say that something is bad

GEORGE "DUBYA" BUSHISMS

THE FUNNY THINGS THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS SAID

It's been about five years since we last published some G.W. Bush quotes. Here, just to celebrate this momentous occasion, are some more quotes for you to enjoy. This is the first of a two-part series.

"I think I may need a **bathroom break**. Is this possible?"

A note that George passed to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a UN Security Council meeting. 2005.



"This notion that the United States is getting ready to attack Iran is simply ridiculous. And having said that, all options are **on the table**."

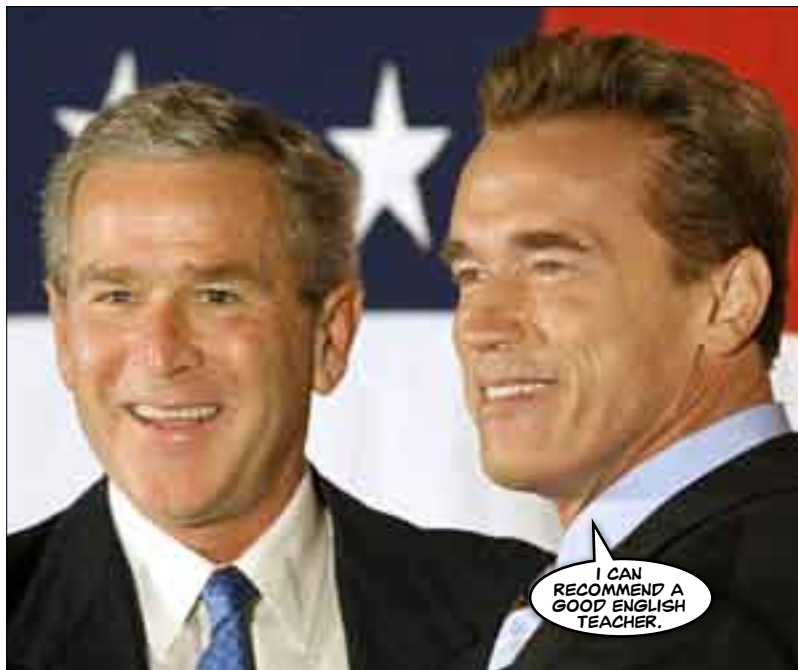
An ambiguous George. 2005.

"It's totally **wiped out**... It's devastating, it's got to be doubly devastating on the ground." An enthusiastic George talking to his **aides** in **Air Force One** while **surveying flood damage** caused by Hurricane Katrina. 2005.

"See, in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to **sink in**, to kind of **catapult** the propaganda." *George Bush – master of propaganda and misinformation. 2005.*

"You work three jobs?... Uniquely American, isn't it? I mean, that is fantastic that you're doing that." *George talking to a divorced mother of three children (not three jobs, as George understood). 2005.*

"Then you wake up at the high school level and find out that the illiteracy level of our children are **[sic]** appalling." *And the grammar of our presidents isn't that good either! 2004.*



"Our enemies are **innovative** and **resourceful**, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to **harm** our country and our people, and neither do we."

What's that? You never stop thinking about how to harm your people? That's a nice thought for the American people, George. 2004.

"And there is **distrust** in Washington. I am surprised, frankly, at the amount of distrust that exists in this town. And I'm sorry it's the case, and I'll work hard to try to **elevate it**." *Elevate it? Surely de-elevate it? Or reduce it, perhaps? 2007.*

"The best way to defeat the totalitarian of hate is with an ideology of hope – an ideology of hate – excuse me – with an ideology of hope." *So, what will it be? Hate? Or hope? George? 2007.*

"The only way we can win is to leave before the job is done." *You aren't going to run, are you George? 2006. 🇺🇸*



GLOSSARY

- a bathroom break** *n*
a period during a meeting, etc when you can go to the toilet
- on the table** *n*
if an option is "on the table", it may happen
- it's wiped out** *exp inform*
it's incredible! it's totally destroyed!
- an aide** *n*
an assistant to someone who has an important job
- Air Force One** *n*
the US president's private airplane
- to survey** *vb*
to inspect; to look at in order to find information
- flood damage** *n*
destruction caused by too much rain and water on the ground
- to sink in** *phr vb*
if information "sinks in", you start to understand or believe it
- to catapult** *vb*
if you "catapult" something, you fire that thing suddenly and with force
- [sic]** *exp*
a Latin word meaning "thus", "so", or "just as that". In writing, it is placed within square brackets to indicate that incorrect language or an error has been reproduced as in the original
- innovative** *adj*
new and original
- resourceful** *adj*
good at finding solutions to problems
- to harm** *vb*
to hurt; to damage; to cause pain
- distrust** *n*
feelings of suspicion
- to elevate** *vb*
to increase

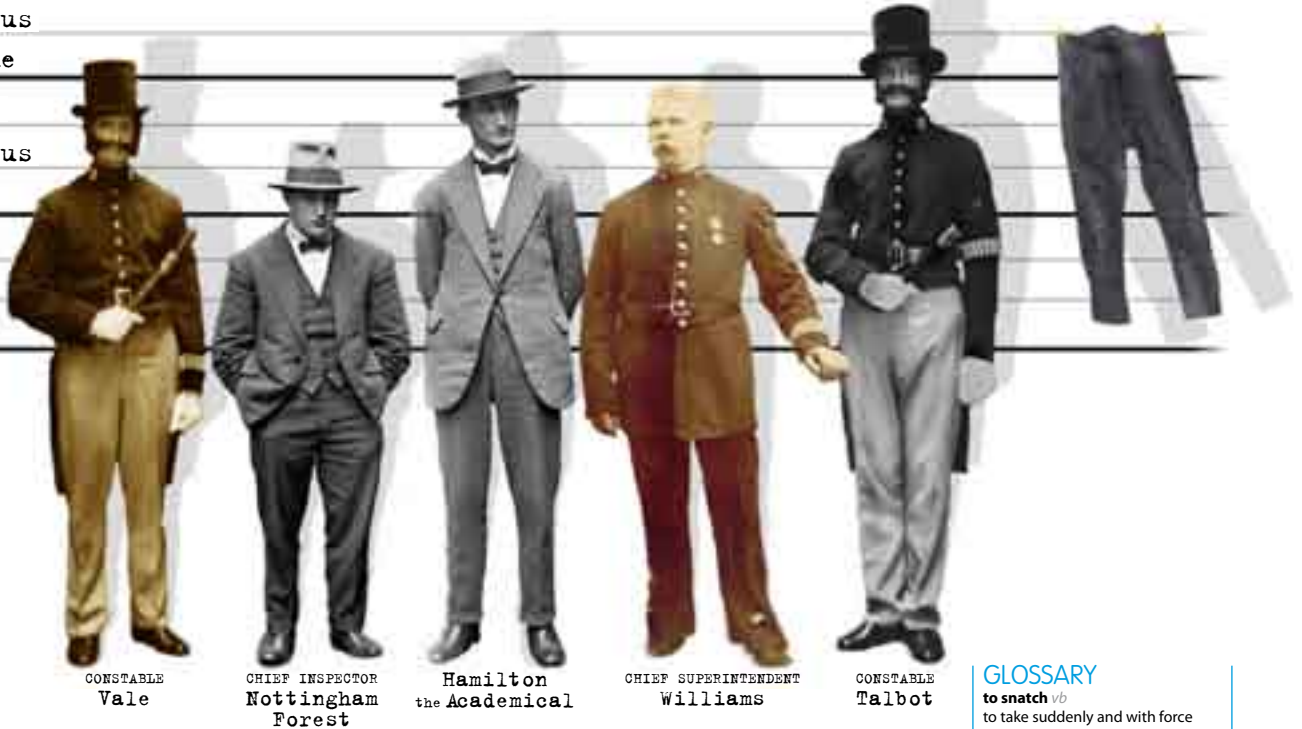


CD track 29 various English accents

The Whitechapel Trousers Snatcher

A radio play by Mark Pierro and Ian Coutts.

Disastrous
Grotesque
Pathetic
Disastrous
Rubbish
Cheap
Awful
Pap



CONSTABLE
Vale

CHIEF INSPECTOR
Nottingham
Forest

Hamilton
the Academical

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
Williams

CONSTABLE
Talbot

Hot English is proud to present the Whitechapel Trousers **Snatcher** – a six-part Victorian murder mystery.

Someone is murdering Victorian gentlemen by **tearing off** their trousers in public places. Can the police catch this villain before he **strikes** next? And who will the next victim be? Inspector Nottingham Forest of Scotland Yard is the only man who can solve this crime. With twenty years of service in the police and another twenty years before that in Her Majesty's imperial army, he is absolutely sick and tired of working for a low wage and constantly being **passed over for promotion**. Inspector Forest works with his trusted **sidekick** Hamilton the Academical. Hamilton has a pensive, peaceful and positive approach

to life and work. This puts him in a unique position to disagree with everything Inspector Forest says and does.

In this episode, we meet a **witness** to the first murder, a **guttersnipe** who goes by the name of... Guttersnipe. He is a frightened, simple man who only wants to **stay on the right side of the law**.

We also meet Inspector Forest's hated boss, Detective Inspector Williams. His **contempt for** Forest is noticeable.

And now, sit back and enjoy the story.

The script

For the full **script**, please download the file from the homepage of our website:

www.hotenglishmagazine.com

Don't forget to join us next month for part II. 🎧

GLOSSARY

to snatch *vb*
to take suddenly and with force

to tear off *phr vb*
to take off quickly and suddenly

to strike *vb*
to attack

to pass someone over for promotion *exp*
if you are "passed over for promotion", someone below you or in an inferior position to you is promoted instead of you

a sidekick *n*
an assistant who is less intelligent and less important than his/her master

a witness *n*
someone who sees a crime

a guttersnipe *n*
a person who spends his/her life in the streets, living in the poorest areas

to stay on the right side of the law *exp*
to do legal, honest things and never to have problems with the police

contempt for someone *exp*
hatred for someone; no respect for someone

a script *n*
the text for a film/play, etc

The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

The passive voice: the past perfect Grammar fun



CD track 30 Englishman

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

The past perfect

We form the past perfect with "had" + a past participle. And we use the past perfect to talk about an action that happened before another past tense action. For example:



- a) When we arrived at the cinema, the film had already started.
- b) She had finished the work before I got to the office.
- c) They had made the food.
- d) She had bought the computer.

The past perfect passive

We form the past perfect passive with "had been" and a past participle. Remember, with the passive voice,



the object of the verb becomes the subject, and it isn't necessary to mention who "did" the action, although you can introduce the person/people with the word "by". For example:

- a) They had made the food by 4pm. (active)
- b) The food had been made by 4pm. (passive)
- a) She had bought the computer last month. (active)
- b) The computer had been bought last month. (passive)



Here are some examples of the past perfect active and passive without the agent (the person who performed the action).

- a) They had finished the game by 6pm. (active)
The game had been finished by 6pm. (passive)
- b) She had scored the first goal by 3pm. (active)
The first goal had been scored by 3pm. (passive)
- c) They had played the tennis match by 4pm. (active)
The tennis match had been played by 4pm. (passive)
- d) They had won the game by 9pm. (active)
The game had been won by 9pm. (passive)
- e) They had lost the game by 2pm. (active)
The game had been lost by 2pm. (passive)
- f) They had signed the contract by March. (active)
The contract had been signed by March. (passive) ✪





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Fluency Practice



CD track 31 US woman & US man

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

A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.
"A swan swam over the pond. Swim, swan, swim. Swan swam back again. Well swum, swan."



B: Dictation

Listen to these sentences and write down what you hear.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

C: Connected speech

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

1. Do you like what I'm doing?
2. What are you doing?
3. I couldn't see what he was doing?
4. She doesn't know what I'm doing?
5. Do they like what they're doing?
6. We don't know what we're doing?

D: Pronunciation – the "u" sound

Look at the sentences containing words with the "u" sound (cup, luck, etc). Try to say the words in each sentence correctly. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. Cup. Do you want another cup?
2. Hut. The dog is in the hut.
3. Bug. There's a bug in the system.
4. Luck. We're out of luck.
5. Hug. Shall I give you a hug?



E: Answering questions: shopping

Answer these questions as quickly as you can. Answer the first four in the affirmative, and the second lot of four in the negative.

1. Where do you go shopping for clothes?
2. What's your favourite clothes shop?
3. What's your favourite department store?
4. Which shopping centre do you use?
5. Where do you go shopping for food?
6. Can you recommend a good clothes/food... shop?
7. What was the last item of clothing that you bought?
8. When was the last time you went shopping and spent more than 100 euros?

F: Question formation – shopping

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

1. Ask me what my favourite shop is.
2. Ask me what the last thing I bought was.
3. Ask me if I like shopping.
4. Ask me if I've ever taken an item of clothing back.
5. Ask me how I pay for things in shops.
6. Ask me which shopping centre I usually go to.



G: Revision Drills – Do you know where... Do you know who...

This drill is designed to practise using "do you know where/who...". Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and answer with full answers.

1. Do you know where the toilet is?
2. Do you know where Miami is?
3. Do you know where the American president lives?
4. Do you know where Greenland is on a map?
5. Do you know who the British prime minister is?
6. Do you know who invented the television? ❖





Useful Business Expressions

This month we are looking at some typical words, expressions collocations and forms related to the word "price". Listen and repeat the following expressions.

Price

1. They are going to **raise** prices.
2. There has been a 15% price **rise** over the past two months.
3. How did you price this product?
4. The **price tag** had 16 euros written on it.
5. There has been a sharp increase in the price of petrol.
6. There will be a high price to pay if we accept **investment** money from them.
7. The shares are priced at 33p.
8. What's the **retail price** for the mobile phone? What's the cost price for the mobile phone?
9. The **retail price index** for October shows that inflation is at about 3%.
10. They want a deal at any price.
11. Most of the **supplies** we need are available, **but at a price**.
12. **We can't put a price on** all the good business advice you've given us.
13. At 4,000 euros per chair, they are **pricing themselves out of the market**.
14. Both companies lost out during the **price war**.
15. Home insurance can be a bit **pricey**.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English telephone dialogue.

- Nigella:** Nigella here.
Stella: Hi, Nigella. Stella calling.
Nigella: Oh, Stella. How's it going?
Stella: OK. Just wondering if you'd see the new prices for the ZX4000.
Nigella: No, not yet. Any problems?
Stella: Well, they've decided to raise the price by more than 16%, which will probably have a negative impact on sales.
Nigella: Yes, we could be in danger of pricing ourselves out of the market.
Stella: Yes, our competitors have each individual unit priced at 33 euros, which is about 6% less than ours without taking the rise into consideration.
Nigella: If we're not careful, we're just going to become too pricey.
Stella: I suggest we bring this up with the head of sales as a matter of urgency.
Nigella: OK. Good idea. Can I leave that up to you to organise the meeting?
Stella: Yeah, sure. Speak soon.
Nigella: Cheers. ✨

GLOSSARY

- to raise** *vb*
to increase
- a rise** *n*
an increase
- a price tag** *n*
a piece of paper/plastic attached to a product with the price on it
- an investment** *n*
a sum of money used to finance a business and that gives you a share of the business
- a retail price** *n*
the price in a shop that customers must pay for a product
- the retail price index** *n*
a list of prices of typical goods which shows how much the cost of living changes from one month to the next
- supplies** *n*
goods that are needed to produce something
- at a price** *n*
for a large cost
- we can't put a price on** *exp*
it is impossible to calculate the value of
- to price yourself out of the market** *exp*
to charge so much for a product that no one buys it
- a price war** *n*
a situation in which competing companies see who can offer the lowest prices for their products
- pricey** *adj/inform*
expensive



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