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Editor's intro

Hello everyone, and welcome to another issue of Hot English. Enjoying your classes? Studying hard? We hope you are. We've got lots of exciting things for you this month, including a new series (Face to Face) in which we put two famous people against one another and see who wins. Plus there's an interesting article on the infamous English-language spelling debate: should we simplify spelling? This month also sees another part in our series on new words. And our focus is all about gangsters. Find out about some cruel ones, some deadly ones, and some funny ones. Plus, you can learn how to talk like a gangster.

On another, completely different note, there's been another interesting and exciting development with my bilingual son (with a few lessons to be learnt for your own linguistic progress). For the first time ever, he's started talking to me almost exclusively in English. It all happened after we went to England. It was almost as if he'd been preparing for the great day: listening to phrases, storing them in his memory, processing the language, but still not using it. I guess this is what happens when children learn a language. There's a stage when they take in vast amounts of language. And then later, much later, they actually start using it.

One thing that I think helped was to make him repeat things in English. So, when he said something in Spanish, I would often say, "Tell me in English". Or, if he didn't know, I'd say it and tell him to repeat it. Having personally seen how this can help, I can tell you that repeating things is an excellent way of learning a language. It helps in so many ways: you learn how to use chunks of language, you say phrases in blocks (including all the connected speech), and you see how language goes together naturally. And after a while, you'll find that you will start using these segments of language as part of your natural speech. It's magic! Incidentally, we're developing lots of new material to help you in this field, but more about that later.

Well, that's enough of that. Now, go and get yourself a nice cup of coffee, and sit down to enjoy (we hope) this month's issue of Hot English. All the best and see you next month,

Andy

PS Don't forget the new Students' Pack and Teachers' Pack! They're great for self-study or use in the classroom. Your classes will never be the same again!

Photo of the month



And here's Tony Blair, taking one last photo of Iraq before he leaves us for a safer, less stressful job. So, out goes the cult of personality from the media-obsessive Blair, and in comes

the 56-year-old Scotsman, our new, supreme leader: Comrade Gordon Brown. It's the Age of Change... or so he says.

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Rude Children

Teaching children to behave.

The British government wants to teach children **manners** and respect. Some say that children and teenagers are **ruder** these days than in the past. The government wants to change this. The government is going to give schools in England £14m to pay for **politeness** classes. The government says that it is very important for children to know when to say words like "please" or "thank you", or when to offer their seat to an **elderly** person when they are on the bus. Teachers will also teach children how to speak to adults and how to use the correct tone. "Teenagers in England have changed," a government minister said. "And we want them to be more **respectful** – they will be more respectful." ✨



Wedding Error

Welshman arrives for wedding... one year early.

A teacher who lives and works in Canada has made a very big **mistake**. Dave Barclay, who is originally from **Wales**, thought that his friend was getting married on 6th July 2007. So, Dave organised to fly home for that **date**. However, when he arrived home in Wales, he discovered his mistake: his friend's wedding is supposed to **take place** on 6th July, but

not this year, next year, 2008. Dave had travelled 4,000 miles home for no reason. "I am a year early for the wedding," said Dave, "My friends think it is very funny". The **return** aeroplane **ticket** cost Dave £500. He said, "This is all very **embarrassing**. I have never been this early before. I'm going to have to go again next year too." ✨



GLOSSARY

- manners** *n*
if someone has "good manners", they are polite and respectful to others
- rude** *adj*
impolite and not respectful to others
- politeness** *n*
being nice and respectful to others
- elderly** *adj*
"elderly" people are old (usually over 65)
- respectful** *adj*
if you are "respectful" to someone, you speak in a way that shows you have a good opinion of them
- a mistake** *n*
an error
- Wales** *n*
a country to the west of England that is part of Britain
- a date** *n*
a specific day
- to take place** *phr vb*
to happen
- a return ticket** *n*
a ticket that permits you to travel to a destination and to return
- embarrassing** *adj*
something "embarrassing" makes you feel timid, shy or ashamed

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OUT NOW!

Noise Nuisance

What noises most annoy you? Dogs at night? Noisy cars? The rubbish truck? New York City is introducing new laws to stop excessive noise.



WOOF!
WOOF!

A barking dog



An ice cream van



A lawn mower



A rubbish truck



A pneumatic drill

Peace and quiet

Like many big cities, New York is busy. And like most busy cities, it's in a permanent state of construction, with lots of noise going on. Last year alone, there were more than 275,000 noise **complaints** to a special city **hotline**. However, things are going to change. The local government is introducing a new noise code. The new law will **target** barking dogs, noisy rubbish trucks, lawn mowers, pneumatic drills and irritating iPods. Even **ice cream vans** can only play their music while they are moving. Under the new laws, officers will investigate complaints about noise immediately.

Nice mayor



So, who is behind the new law? Mayor Michael Bloomberg wanted the new laws to be approved

in 2005. It is the first change in noise regulations in more than 30 years.

"People have a right to sleep and it's finding that balance – we will do that," the mayor said. Experts say excessive noise can cause lots of problems, including **hearing loss**, **sleeping disorders** and psychological problems.

Solutions

Some of the solutions include the following. Pneumatic drills must have **noise jackets**, rubbish trucks have to keep 15m away from residential buildings overnight, there will be restrictions on the hours of use of lawn mowers, ice cream trucks cannot play music while stationary, and there will be **fin**es for the use of portable stereo systems, and heavy fines of up to \$24,000 for restaurants who ignore a first **warning**. Night clubs must also reduce noise levels

Controversy

But some aspects of the law are controversial. Cars can be **towed away** if their alarm goes off for more than three minutes at night. And there will be fines for dog owners whose pets bark for more than 10 minutes continuously during the day, or five minutes at night

This has caused the greatest number of protests. Dog owner Marlene Hussey said, "Humans make a lot more noise than doggies do. How are you going to tell a dog, 'You only have five minutes,?'" But an environmental protection officer said, "New Yorkers are very tolerant and **reasonable** people: they take the **subways**, they take the streets, they go out, to the stadium, to parades. But when they close their doors at home, that is when they expect to be quiet. We will enforce these laws." 🗣️

GLOSSARY

- complaint** *n*
if you make a "complaint", you tell someone that you are unhappy about a situation
- a hotline** *n*
a special telephone line for a specific purpose
- to target** *vb*
if a new law "targets" a particular group, it is for that group
- an ice cream van** *n*
a vehicle that sells ice cream
- hearing loss** *n*
if you suffer from "hearing loss", your ability to hear is affected negatively
- a sleeping disorder** *n*
if you have a "sleeping disorder", you have problems sleeping
- a noise jacket** *n*
a special cover to put over the drill in order to reduce the amount of noise it makes
- a fine** *n*
if you are given a "fine", you must pay money because you have broken a law
- a warning** *n*
if you give someone a "warning", you tell them about a possible danger
- to tow away** *phr vb*
to take away a car (usually by putting it onto a large vehicle) because it is parked illegally
- reasonable** *adj*
acceptable
- the subway** *n*
the underground train system in New York City

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Headline news



Simpson Man

An image of Homer Simpson has appeared on a **hill** in England. The Simpsons' character was painted with a **biodegradable paint**. The picture of Homer is next to the famous fertility symbol: the Cerne Abbas giant. This drawing of a **naked** giant is a symbol of ancient spirituality. Many people believe the 60-metre picture helps fertility. There is debate among experts about when the giant was created. Some say it was painted thousands of years ago. Others say it was drawn in the 17th century.



Playstation Winner

A boy had a nice surprise the other day. Sixteen-year-old Mark Hughes had ordered a Playstation Two console on eBay for 130 euros. However, when he opened the **package**, he found more than 60,000 euros inside it. Police are investigating the matter. The boy's parents alerted police when the parcel arrived. The police can hold onto the money for a few months. However, if the money remains **unclaimed**, the family can **apply for** it. A spokesperson for eBay said, "We agree that the contents of the parcel were **somewhat** unusual."



WELL, DO YOU, OR DON'T YOU?

Wedding Joke

A **bride** thought it would be funny to play a joke on her future husband. However, the **priest** who was conducting the wedding ceremony did not think it was funny. Ana Müller, 27, was going to marry Helmut Dietrich, 29, at a castle in Austria. But when the priest asked her, "Do you take this man to be your lawfully-wedded husband?" She replied, "I don't" (instead of the customary "I do"). Unfortunately, under Austrian law, if either person replies in the negative, the wedding is cancelled. This is supposedly to prevent **forced marriages**. "We had to send all our guests home," Ana said.



Clever Dog

A dog called Hello is named the most intelligent dog in the universe. The dog sells food in a small shop in the Chinese city of Pingdong. "She knows how to open the fridge, **pick up** the food, and put it on the **counter**, then collect the money from the customers. Many people just come to be served by her," says the owner. The intelligent dog also goes shopping by herself. She carries a plastic bag, containing money and a shopping list, in her mouth. "If there is a **queue**, she waits," the owner explained. "And, when it is her turn to be served, she puts her front legs on the counter and drops the bag in front of the shopkeeper." 🐕



GLOSSARY

- a hill** *n*
a little mountain
- biodegradable paint** *n*
paint that disappears when it rains
- naked** *adj*
with no clothes on
- a package** *n*
a box or large envelope that is sent in the post
- unclaimed** *adj*
if something is "unclaimed", no one says it is theirs
- to apply for** *phr vb*
to ask for something formally
- somewhat** *adj*
a little bit
- a bride** *n*
a woman who is getting married
- a priest** *n*
a member of a religious organisation with special responsibilities
- a forced marriage** *n*
if there is a "forced marriage", a woman or man is obliged to marry another person
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to take something in your hands
- the counter** *n*
the long table in a shop where they serve you
- a queue** *n*
a line of people waiting to be served in a shop

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



In this section Dr Fingers identifies and corrects typical errors.



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. I advise that you take this medicine.
2. She asked me that I go with her.
3. The police wanted to know the cause for the accident.
4. I know do it very well.
5. I knew her in a party three years ago.
6. The film is not worth to see.
7. The vase worths 60,000 euros.
8. On the plane, she sat on the chair behind me.
9. They gave me a cheque of 58 euros.
10. He has three childrens: a boy and two girls.
11. You can choose between more than 20 courses.
12. How often do you go to the church?
13. I fell down and broke my arm and I had to go to the hospital.
14. We went to cinema at the weekend.
15. Most people works in the city centre.



Error Analysis

1. The construction is "advise" someone to do something.
2. The construction is "ask" someone to do something.
3. The expression is "the cause of".
4. We can express our abilities with the expression "know how to do something".
5. We use the verb "to meet" to describe the first time we meet someone.
6. The expression "to be worth" is followed by a gerund (verb, -ing).
7. The expression is "to be worth".
8. A "chair" is a movable seat for one person. A "seat" is a fixed place to sit in a public place such as a cinema, train, bus, etc.
9. You give someone a cheque "for" X amount.
10. "Children" is a plural word.
11. We often use "choose between" when there is a limited choice (either one thing or another thing), and "choose from" when the choice is bigger.
12. When we refer to "church" in general, we don't use definite article "the".
13. When we refer to "hospital" in general, we don't use definite article "the".
14. We use the definite article with "cinema" – the cinema.
15. "People" is a plural word so it is "people work".



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CD track 5 - Englishman & Scotswoman



Story Time

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

Idiot driver

An idiot is driving down the A34 **motorway** when his mobile phone rings. It's his dad. "Son, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way down the A34. Please be careful."

"It's not just one car, dad!" says the idiot. "There's hundreds of them!"



Suicide yell

Three men, a Scotsman, an Englishman and a **sumo wrestler** are about to commit suicide by jumping off the top of a building. The Scotsman jumps off and shouts, "God save Scotland!" Next, the Englishman jumps off and



shouts, "God Save England!" Finally, the sumo wrestler jumps off and

shouts, "God save the person who I **land** on!"

Memory failure

An **elderly couple** are having dinner at another couple's house. After eating, the wives leave the table and go into the living room to have a cigar. The two elderly gentlemen are **clearing away the table** and talking. One of them says, "Last night, my wife and I went out to a new restaurant, and it was great. I really recommend it."

The other man says, "What's the name of the restaurant?"

The first man **frowns** in obvious concentration and finally says to his friend, "Erm, what's the name of that red flower you give to someone you love?"

His friend replies, "A **carnation**?"

"No. No. The other one," the first man says.

His friend offers another suggestion, "The **poppy**?"



"No," says the first man, getting angry. "You know the one that is red and has **thorns**."

And his friend says, "Ah, you mean a rose?" finally understanding what it is.

"Yes, yes that's it," the first man says excitedly.

The first man then turns toward the kitchen and shouts, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Wrong song

A man walks into a bar and orders a beer. He takes his first



sip and puts it down. While he's looking around the bar, a monkey jumps down

and **steals** the pint of beer from him. "Whose monkey is that?" the man asks angrily. "It **belongs** to the piano player," the **barman** replies. So, the man walks over to the piano player and says, "Do you know, your monkey stole my beer." And the **pianist** replies, "No, but if you **hum** it, I'll play it." 🎵



GLOSSARY

- a motorway** *n*
a large road with more than one lane (a line of cars)
- a sumo wrestler** *n*
a Japanese competition fighter
- to land** *vb*
the place where you "land" is the place where you come to the ground
- elderly** *adj*
old
- a couple** *n*
two people in a relationship
- to clear away the table** *exp*
to take the dirty plates, cups, etc off the table after you have eaten
- to frown** *vb*
if someone "frowns", lines appear on their forehead because they are worried/confused, etc
- a carnation** *n*
a plant with white, pink or red flowers
- a poppy** *n*
a plant with a red flower. You can get opium from it
- a thorn** *n*
a sharp point on a plant
- a sip** *n*
if you take a "sip" of a liquid, you drink a very small amount of it
- to steal** *vb*
to rob
- to belong to** *exp*
if something "belongs" to you, it is yours
- a barman** *n*
a person who serves drinks in a bar
- a pianist** *n*
a person who plays a piano
- to hum** *vb*
to sing a song with your lips closed

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Paparazzi Power

Do you remember Courtney Cox from *Friends*? She played the part of Monica. In a new series, Cox plays the part of a stressed-out magazine editor who will **stop at nothing** to get the story. The hunted has become the hunter.



Dirty work

Courtney Cox's latest TV **role** is as a **tabloid magazine** editor in the US drama series *Dirt*.



Cox plays a **hard-headed** editor. "I'm pretty **ruthless** in the series,"

says Cox. "It's an **outrageous**, fun show. There's **betrayal**, deception, jealousy and drugs – it's pretty **salacious** in every way," she added. *Dirt* is Cox's highest-profile role since *Friends*. The show is

co-produced by her husband, David Arquette.

Big difference

So, what does Cox think about playing a member of the "enemy"? "I'm an **outrageous** editor but I try to always tell the truth or uncover the truth, but the things I do to get the truth are maybe questionable."

As a celebrity with plenty of experience in dealing with the tabloids, Cox says the TV role has opened her eyes to the world of paparazzi journalism. "I understand how competitive it is," she says. "But at the same

time it's really **weird** – when you look at paparazzi it's almost like sometimes they **cut off their moral code**. It's their jobs, I understand, but it's just a **very fine line between** work and hurting people."

Irony

Ironically, playing this part has made her a greater **target** for real-life paparazzi. "Since I



have been doing *Dirt*, there's usually someone outside of my house

every day."

But the actress is quite philosophical about it. "You know that if you're going to be an actor... you have to expect that you will be a target for paparazzi." But some things have been too much for her. Just recently, she was getting into a car outside a restaurant when the vehicle was surrounded by photographers. "My daughter was in the back seat and that was really **scary** because Coco was like, 'Mommy why are they taking my picture? It was kind of hard to explain that mommy is on a TV show and I'm not sure why they're that interested... I'm not wearing anything outrageous, I'm not doing anything crazy – it does seem like times are **pretty tough** if that's what people are finding interesting."

But Cox knows how to put things into perspective.

"I have friends that have 10 photographers sitting outside their house, and so in retrospect it's not so terrible." ☆

Courtney Cox

Born on 15th June 1964, Birmingham, Alabama. Married to David Arquette. One child: Coco. Roles: *Friends*, *Scream*, *Dirt*.



Dealing with the Paparazzi

Some get angry. Some take legal action. And some get violent. There are a thousand ways to deal with the paparazzi. But Nicole Kidman tried something differently. As 20 photographers were waiting outside her Sydney home, Kidman sent out a case of beer and water bottles. Written on the case of 24 bottles of Victoria Bitter beer was a note that said, "Enjoy! Nicole and Keith."

GLOSSARY

to stop at nothing *exp*
to do everything possible

a role *n*

a part in a film or television series

a tabloid magazine *n*

a magazine with sensational stories about the rich and famous

hard-headed *adj*

with a very strong personality

ruthless *adj*

cruel and showing no kindness

outrageous *adj*

shocking, crazy, difficult to believe

a betrayal *n*

if there is a "betrayal", you do something bad to someone who trusted and believed in you

salacious *adj*

dealing with sexual matters in a detailed and gratuitous (unnecessary) way

weird *adj*

strange and unusual

to cut off your moral code *exp*

to ignore any doubts you may have about whether something is right or wrong

a very fine line between *exp*
a very small difference between

a target *n*

if you are the "target" of something, you are attacked or criticised

scary *adj*

frightening

pretty tough *exp*

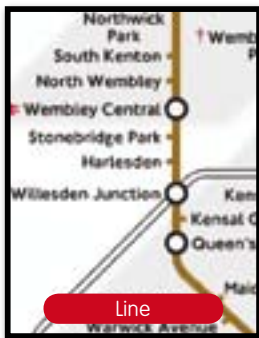
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Track



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Tube train



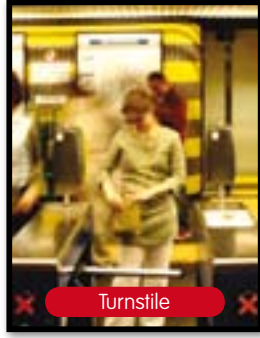
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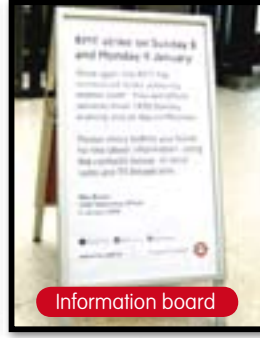
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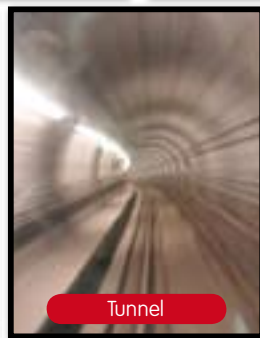
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Escalator



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Overcrowding



The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

DESCRIBING ABILITY (THE USE OF "CAN / COULD / BE ABLE TO")

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at some verbs to describe ability and permission.



Can

We use "can" to describe our abilities. For example:

- a) I can swim really well.
- b) She can climb mountains.



Remember, as a modal verb, the verb following "can" has no "to". And all the forms of "can" are the same (I can, you can, he can, she can, etc). We form negatives by adding "not" after the verb,

or using the contractions "can't / cannot". And we form questions by placing "can" at the start of the question.

For example:

- a) He can't do it.
- b) They can't see it very well.
- c) Can they ride a bike?



Could

The past of "can" is "could", and the negative form is "could not" (or the

contraction "couldn't"). We use "could/couldn't" to talk about our abilities from the past. For example:

- a) I could run for two hours non-stop when I was younger.



- b) She could speak fluently by the time she was just two years old.
- c) I couldn't do it.

Be able to

The future of "can" is "will be able to". For example:

- a) We will be able to leave early next week.
- b) She will be able to visit us more regularly now that she lives so close.

Past ability

We use "could" to refer to

a general ability. However, when we want to express a past ability on one particular occasion, we often use "managed to" or "was/were able to". For example:

- a) She managed to open the box with a knife. / She was able to open it with a knife.



- b) The prisoner managed to escape out of the prison window. / The prisoner was able to escape out of the prison window.

Permission

Both "can" and "could" can be used for asking for permission, with "could" being the more polite version. For example:

- a) Can I sit here, please?
- b) Could you come and help me, please? ☆

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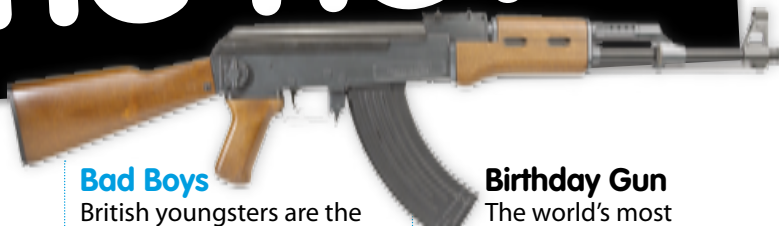
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ENVIOS A DOMICILIO



Headline news



Organ Donors

"We must increase the number of **donors** available," a top doctor has said. "We want a system of **presumed consent**," he added. At least one person dies every day because a **suitable** donor cannot be found. The recommendation was made after analysing the experience of Spain. Donation rates there have almost **doubled** there since 1990 when a system of presumed consent was introduced. However, in Britain, only 20% of the population (13 million people) are on the register. And more than 8,000 people are waiting for organs.

Queen Anger

The Queen decided that enough was enough during a recent photo-shoot. At the time, celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz was taking photos of the Queen. Leibovitz suggested a more informal **pose**. "Maybe try it without the **crown**?" she said. "A bit less **dressy**," she added. "Less dressy? What do you think this is?" the Queen said angrily. "I'm not changing anything. I've done enough dressing like this, thank you very much," the Queen said as she walked out. Later, the BBC **released** a re-edited version of the incident **showing** the Queen in a **bad light**. The BBC were forced to **apologise**.

Bad Boys

British youngsters are the worst in Europe, according to a new report. The report found that British 15-year-olds get drunk more often, have more fights and are more likely to have sex than their French, Italian or German **counterparts**. Many believe it may have something **to do with** British teenagers night-time activities. More than 45% of 15-year-old boys in England spend most evenings with friends. However, in France that figure stands at just 17%. In continental Europe, teenagers are more **likely to sit down** to a meal with their parents (in Italy, 93% eat regularly with their families). In Britain, just 64% sit down as a family.

Birthday Gun

The world's most famous automatic rifle, the AK-47, is celebrating its 60th birthday. Asked if he had any regrets, the weapon's inventor, Mikhail Kalashnikov, said, "I sleep well. It's the politicians who are to **blame** for failing to come to an agreement and resorting to violence." Back then, Kalashnikov was fighting on the eastern front during World War II. While in hospital, he decided to design an automatic rifle that combined the best features of the American M1 and the German StG44. "I always wanted to construct agricultural machinery, but the war changed all that," he added. Since production began, more than 100 million AK-47s have been made. ☺



I AIN'T GONNA LOSE THE HAT.



I'M NOT ALL THAT BAD.

GLOSSARY

- a donor** *n*
a person who gives a part of their body for doctors to use
- presumed consent** *exp*
if there is "presumed consent", you assume that everyone agrees with the measure/idea/proposal, etc
- suitable** *adj*
appropriate
- to double** *vb*
to increase by 100%
- a pose** *n*
a particular way that you stand while someone takes your photo
- a crown** *n*
a hat with jewels, etc worn by kings or queens
- dressy** *adj*
"dressy" clothes are smart and formal
- to release** *vb*
to make available to the public
- to show someone in a bad light** *exp*
to do something that makes another person look bad
- to apologise** *vb*
to say that you are sorry
- a counterpart** *n*
someone from a different country/company who is in a similar situation to you
- to do with** *exp*
to have some connection or relationship with
- likely to sit down** *exp*
will probably sit down
- to blame** *vb*
to say that someone is responsible for something



Chatterboxes

Women do not talk more than men, says report.

IT'S HARD TO TALK MUCH WITH A PIERCING IN YOUR MOUTH.

A new study has shown that women do not talk more than men. **Researchers** studied 400 different students over a period of time and found that there was only "a little difference" between the amount of words used by men and women each day. Many earlier studies had suggested that women can talk

almost three times more than men. In the study, it was found that women use 16,215 words a day; whilst men use around 15,669. The researchers said that this difference is "not significant". The biggest factor contributing to **talkativeness** was whether someone is an **introvert** or an **extrovert**. The study

found that the most talkative person used about 47,000 words a day; and the least talkative person used about 500. A woman's action group member, Paula Hall, said, "This **proves** that women do not talk more than men. Do you think that men **spend** all day in the pub in silence?"

Garden Arrest

Old lady arrested for garden problems.



A 70-year-old woman in the United States says she was "attacked" by police whilst she was **mowing** her front **lawn**. The police arrived at the house of Betty Perry in Utah after complaints from the local council that her lawn was dry and brown. The trouble started when Mrs Perry **refused** to give her name to the police officers.

She said that during the argument, one police officer hit her with a pair of **handcuffs** and cut her nose. After the incident, she said that she was **distraught**. "What kind of country do we live in where the police can get aggressive because you haven't **watered** your lawn?" When asked to explain the

cause of the injuries, a police spokesperson said that Mrs Perry had simply "**slipped** and fallen". Mrs Perry says that this is a **lie**. Mrs Perry was taken to hospital to have her injuries treated. She was later arrested and taken to jail where she is being held. Police say that her lawn was "sadly **neglected**".

GLOSSARY

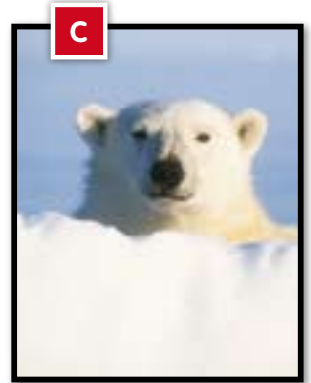
- a researcher** *n* a scientific investigator
- talkativeness** *n* the tendency to speak a lot
- an introvert** *n* a timid, shy person
- an extrovert** *n* an outgoing person who enjoys the company of others
- to prove** *vb* to demonstrate
- to spend** *vb* if you "spend" all day in the pub, you are in the pub all day
- to mow** *vb* if you "mow" the grass, you cut the grass with a machine (a lawnmower)
- a lawn** *n* an area of flat, well-kept grass
- to refuse** *vb* to say that you will not do something
- handcuffs** *n* metal objects that the police put around a suspect's wrists (the joint between the hand and arm)
- distraught** *adj* emotionally affected and worried
- to water** *vb* to put water on plants, grass, etc
- to slip** *vb* if you "slip", you lose your balance and fall
- a lie** *n* something that isn't true
- neglected** *adj* not cared for; not looked after

TRIVIA MATCHING

Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 13), and the photos (A-M). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** on page 42

1. Chewing gum
2. An onion
3. A rock
4. Playing cards
5. A map
6. A polar bear
7. A paw
8. A skunk
9. A handstand
10. A carpenter
11. A blacksmith
12. A tailor
13. A porter





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

Human teeth are almost as hard as rocks.



A collector of rare books is a bibliophile. And a seller of rare books is a bibliopole. Now you know how to address your local bookshop assistant, "Mr/Mrs Bibliopole".



Tired of crying every time



you **peel** and **chop** onions? The trick is to **chew** gum – it'll **prevent** your eyes from **watering**.

During your lifetime, you will eat approximately 30,000 kilos of food, which is equivalent to the weight of about 18 sumo wrestlers.



In Eastern Africa you can buy beer that has been **brewed** from bananas.



Some **skunks** do **handstands** before they spray. Cute!



In every episode of *Seinfeld* there is a Superman somewhere.



When polar bears are **hunting** and

want to **blend in with** the ice, they will sometimes cover up their black nose with their white **paws**.

Mosquitoes do not bite, they **stab**. When



attacking a victim, the mosquito **pierces** the victim with its long **proboscis** and **sucks** the blood up. What vicious creatures! Incidentally, research shows that mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.

According to the 1900 US census, there were 596,000 **carpenters**, 220,000

blacksmiths, 134,000 **tailors**, 102,000 shoemakers, 42,000 **porters**, 25,000 **millers**, 8,000 **bootblacks** and 7,000 **furriers**.



During World War II, British pilots were given playing cards. If the pilots were **shot down** and captured, the cards could be **soaked** in water and **unfolded** to reveal a map to help get them to safety. Ingenious!



The combination of the letters "ough" in the English language can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains all nine pronunciations. All together now, "A rough-coated, dough-



faced, thoughtful ploughman coughed and hiccoughed as he strode through the streets of Scarborough after falling into a slough." ☺

GLOSSARY

- to peel** *vb*
to cut the skin off a vegetable or piece of fruit
- to chop** *vb*
to cut into small pieces
- to chew** *vb*
to use your teeth to break food
- to prevent** *vb*
to stop from happening
- to water** *vb*
if your eyes start to "water", liquid comes out of them
- to brew (beer)** *vb*
to make beer
- a skunk** *n*
a black and white animal that sprays a horrible-smelling liquid
- a handstand** *n*
to go into a position with your hands on the ground and your feet in the air
- to hunt** *vb*
to try to catch something in order to kill or keep it
- to blend in with** *exp*
if you "blend in with" your surroundings, you try to look similar to the background
- a paw** *n*
a hand of an animal
- to stab** *vb*
to push a sharp object into someone's body
- to pierce** *vb*
if something sharp "pierces" an object, the sharp thing goes into that object
- a proboscis** *n*
a long object that comes out of an animal's head (often the nose)
- to suck** *vb*
to use the muscles in your mouth to drink a liquid
- a carpenter** *n*
a person whose job is to make things with wood
- a blacksmith** *n*
a person whose job is to put metal shoes on horses
- a tailor** *n*
a person whose job is to make clothes
- a porter** *n*
a person whose job is to carry bags in train stations
- a miller** *n*
a person whose job is to make flour from grain
- a bootblack** *n*
a person whose job is to shine shoes
- a furrier** *n*
a person whose job is to make and sell clothes from fur (animal skin)
- to shoot down** *phr vb*
if a plane is "shot down", it is hit by enemy fire and forced down to the ground
- to soak** *vb*
to make very wet
- to unfold** *vb*
to open paper that has been folded (with one side on top of the other)

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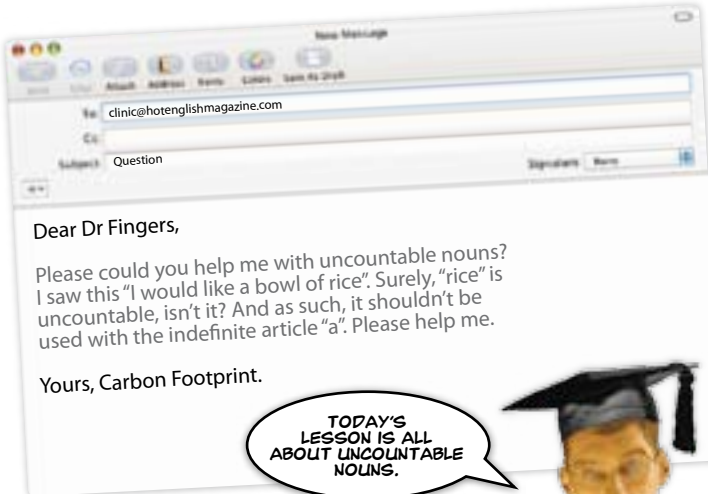
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DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Dear Dr Fingers,

Please could you help me with uncountable nouns? I saw this "I would like a bowl of rice". Surely, "rice" is uncountable, isn't it? And as such, it shouldn't be used with the indefinite article "a". Please help me.

Yours, Carbon Footprint.

TODAY'S LESSON IS ALL ABOUT UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS.

Dear Ms Footprint,

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

You are quite right to point out that we don't usually use indefinite articles (a/an) with uncountable nouns (milk, sugar, water, rice, meat, fish, etc), preferring to place "some" in affirmative sentences.

For example:

- a) There is some sand in my shoes.
- b) He put some sugar in my coffee.
- c) There is some water on the floor in the living room.
- d) She took some rice from the fridge.



And with negative sentences and questions we often use "any". For example:

- a) There isn't any sand in my shoes.
- b) He didn't put any sugar in my coffee.
- c) There isn't any water on the floor.
- d) Did she take any rice from the fridge?



Countable nouns

However, with singular countable nouns we use "a/an". For example:

- a) He ate a banana.
- b) She sat on a chair.
- c) They found a 50-euro note.
- d) They need a bulb for the lamp.



And we use "some/any" with plural countable nouns. For example:

- a) He didn't eat any bananas.
- b) They didn't have any chairs to sit on.
- c) Did they find any bank notes?
- d) Do they need any bulbs for the lamp?



Uncountable nouns and recipients

However, we can use "a" with uncountable nouns in certain expressions, particularly expressions that go "a... of", and which have some kind of container or unit of measurement. For example:

- a) She had a bowl of rice.
- b) There wasn't a drop of water.
- c) I would really like to listen to a piece of music.
- d) Would you like a game of tennis?
- e) She had a packet of biscuits.
- f) There is a box of matches over there.
- g) We got a carton of orange juice.
- h) They got a bottle/carton/litre of milk.



Well, Mrs Carbon Footprint, I hope that has helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to:

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This month, read the first part of Dr Fingers' biography, and find out how the first dictionary was ever written. Write in with your comments. Read other people's opinions. Join in the chat. Just visit www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog Get blogging! Hot blogging!

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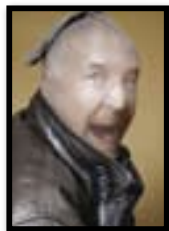
Here's another part in our series on good, bad and funny criminals.

Customer loans

"We've got a big problem on our hands now," said bank director Gustav Müller after an unusual bank robbery. It all started when 34-year-old Gunther Schnell raided the main branch of the Bigway Bank in Vienna at approximately 10am. He entered the bank with a **fake** gun and **threatened** to kill staff if they didn't do what he told them to do. However, Schnell soon found himself in trouble as he had chosen to rob a bank that was right next to the country's Special Forces headquarters. Schnell eventually **barricaded himself up** on the first floor of the bank, taking three members of staff and a customer with him. And while he was up on the first floor, Schnell answered calls from customers and offered them **loans** at 0% interest rates. He eventually **gave himself up** leaving the bank to deal with the angry customers who thought they had secured the answer to their financial problems.

Teacher bribes

"They have paid a heavy price for a poor decision,"



an education minister said whilst referring to the case of two teachers who had been **suspended** from the school where they worked. Sandra Estafa was told to leave her job after charging pupils to **miss PE**. Fifty-four-year-old Estafa told pupils that if they paid a dollar a day, they could **skip** PE lessons and still get a good **grade**. Estafa was sentenced to three years' probation, ordered to perform 300 hours of community service and **banned from** teaching for three years. Estafa, a physical education teacher at a school in Brinkstown, admitted six charges of **bribery**. Estafa was arrested after another PE teacher was arrested for the same crime. During interrogation, he told officials that it was Estafa's idea and that she had forced him to do it too.

Bizarre escape

"It was like something out of the 19th century," a police officer told reporters after a



bizarre escape by two men on a horse and cart.

The two men escaped four police motorbikes, a **patrol car**, two cycling constables and a helicopter. One of the men was wanted for serious **assault**. That afternoon, he was **spotted** by a police cycle patrol. On realising that he had been seen, the suspect jumped onto a **rag-and-bone cart** with a friend and **trotted off**. They were soon followed by a convoy of police vehicles. Locals in the district described "a weird procession" along a motorway, with the horse and cart **weaving in and out of traffic**. "We got as close as we could but we were worried about frightening the horse," a police officer explained. The chase ended in a side street, where one of the men jumped off the cart and ran down a **back alley**. He is still **at large**. The second man was surrounded by officers after he stopped the horse. 🐾

GLOSSARY

- fake** *adj*
not real
- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- to barricade yourself up** *exp*
to go into a room and to place barriers outside the room so no one can get in
- a loan** *n*
money the bank lends you and that you must return with interest
- to give yourself up** *phr vb*
to let the police arrest you after a period of hiding from them
- to suspend** *vb*
if you are "suspended", you are told to leave school or your job temporarily
- to miss** *vb*
if you "miss" a class, you don't go to that class
- PE** *abbr*
Physical Education
- to skip** *vb*
if you "skip" a class, you don't go to that class
- a grade** *n*
a mark at school: A, B, C, D, E, etc
- to ban from** *phr vb*
to prohibit from
- bribery** *n*
offering money to someone (often a person in an official position) in return for a favour
- bizarre** *adj*
strange and unusual
- a patrol car** *n*
a police car
- assault** *n*
the crime of attacking someone physically
- to spot** *vb*
to see or notice
- a rag-and-bone cart** *n*
a vehicle that is pulled by horses and that is used for carrying old clothes/ furniture, etc
- to trot off** *phr vb*
if a horse "trots off", it leaves a place walking quite quickly
- to weave in and out of traffic** *exp*
to go from right to left in order to avoid the traffic
- a back alley** *n*
a small street behind the main streets
- at large** *exp*
if a criminal is "at large", he/she is still free

<http://MADRIDTEACHER.COM>
English Vocabulary for Beginners
actividades en internet para principiantes
<http://madridteacher.com/Activities/>



Most admired

Britain's most admired man.

Top Man

Who's the most popular man in your country? And what does he do? In Britain, it's a **chef**. And his name is Gordon Ramsay.



The list

Chef Gordon Ramsay has been voted the most admired man in Britain. The **survey** was carried out by men's magazine *Esquire*. The final list was the following:

1. Gordon Ramsay – a chef (17%)
2. Stephen Hawking – a physicist (14%)
3. Ray Mears – a TV **survival expert** (11%)
4. Daniel Craig – an actor (11%)
5. Ricky Gervais – a comedian (9%)

Around 500 men **took part** in the study. The least-admired men included Pete Doherty (a singer and ex-boyfriend of top model Kate Moss), and footballer David Beckham. Actress Scarlett Johansson was voted the most popular woman to get married to, with pop star Kylie Minogue following in second place. Sienna Miller, Kirsty Gallacher and Angelina Jolie also appeared on this list.

The concerns

The **poll** had some other interesting **findings**. It showed that almost half the participants were more concerned about **global warming** than the threat of terrorism or the state of the economy. And while football is the favourite sport of 63% of those surveyed, more men **fantasise** about having a **number-one album** than they do about playing in a world-class football team. And finally, the poll found that men were more interested in doing a job they love than the size of their pay cheques.



The cook

So, who exactly is Gordon Ramsay?

Ramsay is a Scottish chef. He has many restaurants, he has **hosted** numerous cooking programmes and he has been **awarded** a total of ten **Michelin stars**. Ramsay's **ferocious temper** has made

him a favourite of television networks in both Britain and the United States. Here are some interesting facts about Gordon Ramsay.



Ramsay will appear on an episode of *The Simpsons*. During the episode, he will teach Homer Simpson how to cook.

Ramsay once threw food critic A.A. Gill out of his restaurant. Gill said, "Ramsay is a wonderful chef, just a really **second-rate** human being."

Ramsay has also had **confrontations** with his kitchen staff, including one incident that resulted in a **complaint** being **filed**.

Ramsay is known for his views against **vegetarianism**. In one incident, he admitted that he had given a vegetarian group a dish that contained chicken stock.

During an episode of a cooking programme, Ramsay cooked in a prison for its **inmates**. He **challenged** one prisoner to an onion-**chopping** race. Ramsay lost.

In June 2006, Ramsay won a case against the *London Evening Standard* newspaper. The paper had alleged that the general condition of a restaurant in his programme had been **faked**. Ramsay was awarded £75,000 plus costs. Ramsay said at the time, "I won't let people write anything they want to about me. We have never done anything in a cynical fake way." ❖

Gordon Ramsay

Born: 8th November 1966 in Scotland.
Cooking style: French cuisine.

Famous for: being a chef and his numerous restaurants, including the Savoy Grill, and Gordon Ramsay at Claridge's.

Personal life: married to Cayetana Elizabeth Hutcheson. Four children.

GLOSSARY

- a chef** *n*
a person who cooks in a restaurant
- a survey** *n*
a series of questions you ask people in order to get their opinions
- a survival expert** *n*
a person who has the skills necessary to live in the mountains, jungle, desert, etc
- to take part** *phr vb*
to participate
- a poll** *n*
a series of questions you ask people in order to get their opinions
- a finding** *n*
a result
- global warming** *n*
the theory that the world's temperature is increasing because of pollution, etc
- to fantasise** *vb*
to dream about an imaginary situation that is enjoyable to think about
- a number-one album** *n*
a collection of songs that sells very well and reaches the number-one position in the list of best-selling albums
- to host** *vb*
to organise and manage a programme/show, etc
- to award** *vb*
to give as a prize
- a Michelin star** *n*
the Michelin guide is the oldest and best-known restaurant guide. They give Michelin stars to high-quality restaurants
- a ferocious temper** *n*
if someone has a "ferocious temper", they become very angry very easily
- second-rate** *adj*
of an inferior quality
- a confrontation** *n*
a fight or battle between two groups
- to file a complaint** *exp*
to accuse someone of something by informing the police or legal authorities
- vegetarianism** *n*
a way of life that consists of not eating meat
- an inmate** *n*
a prisoner
- to challenge** *vb*
if you "challenge" someone to a race, you ask them to have a race with you to see who wins
- to chop** *vb*
to cut (food) into small pieces
- to fake** *vb*
to try to make something appear to be real or genuine, even though it isn't

Gangsters in films and the cinema.

Stylish clothes. Slick hair. Cigars. Expensive shoes. Gangsters are one of the great Hollywood stereotypes. Here, we're going to look at some of the most famous gangster movies of all time, and the gangster themes they explored.

HOLLYWOOD

Gangs

The most important thing for the gangster is his gang or crew. It acts as his family and a business for him. So, to understand the gangster, you first have to understand the gang. Martin Scorsese's 2002 film *Gangs of New York* explores the roots of the gang scene in New York City. The film opens in lower Manhattan in an area known as the "Five Points". It tells the story of a territorial war between two gangs: the Nativists (an anti-immigration gang) and the Dead Rabbits (an Irish immigrant gang). The Nativists are led by Daniel Day Lewis's character

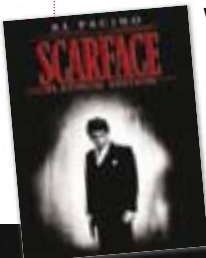


THE ONE WITH THE TALLEST HAT GETS TO BE BOSS.

Bill "the Butcher" Cutting, and the Dead Rabbits are led by Liam Neeson's character, Priest Vallon. Although Bill is not a modern-day gangster, he shows the early **traits** of one. He is violent and he commands respect. From his small business, a butcher's shop, he controls his gang. Bill also shows some of the important character traits of a gangster: he is brave, he is violent and he enjoys the company of beautiful women. However, the biggest difference between Bill and future gangsters is his clothes. He appears throughout the film dressed in either working clothes or a **shabby** suit. No **self-respecting**, twentieth-century gangster would have been seen looking so **scruffy**.

Style

Some of the early gangster films showed the gangster's preoccupation with style. And films made in the 1930s and the 1940s mirrored the world of the gangsters who existed in the real world. James Cagney was probably the most famous gangster actor of the time, and his performances were



often based on Al Capone's image, with his suit and a tie and **rugged good looks**. One of Cagney's most famous films was *Angels with Dirty Faces* (1939), with its good guy-bad guy concept. James Cagney played the gangster (the bad guy), and Pat O'Brien played the local priest (the good guy). Although it was clear that the priest was the better person, Cagney's **portrayal** of a gangster was different. He was shown as an interesting and likeable character. And when he is taken to the electric chair at the end of the film, there is a genuine feeling of sympathy for him.



YOU DIRTY CAT.

Family

Later films included the theme of the family. This is an important part of any gangster's life, with his most trusted followers being members of his family. *The Godfather* played on this idea, **chronicling** the life of the

Corleone family. The Godfather (played by Marlon Brando) is Vito Corleone – the head of the Corleone family, and father of Sonny, Fredo, Michael and Connie and **surrogate father** to Tom Hagen, his consigliere (adviser). The film also plays on the theme of tradition and the rules and regulations that govern being a member of the Mafia.

Business

By the late twentieth century most gangster films were dominated by the theme of business. Whereas early gangsters such as Bill Cutting had less interest in money, it was the main motivational factor for the character of Tony Montana in the film *Scarface*. This film starts with Montana (played by Al Pacino), a Cuban refugee, arriving



American Gangster

The latest gangster film is *American Gangster* (starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe). The film is set in Manhattan and is about a **drug-smuggling racket**. They have devised an **ingenious** method of importing heroin that consists of transporting the drug inside the **coffins** of dead soldiers from the Vietnam War. The inventor of this new method is the main character, Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington). Russell Crowe plays the part of the detective who is trying to catch Lucas. The film is directed by Ridley Scott.

GANGSTERS

in Florida with no money. He soon becomes part of the drug world and makes himself a fortune selling cocaine.

Montana has many of the traits of a traditional gangster: he is brave, hedonistic and violent, but also **greedy**. He buys expensive cars and mansions around Miami, and starts to take



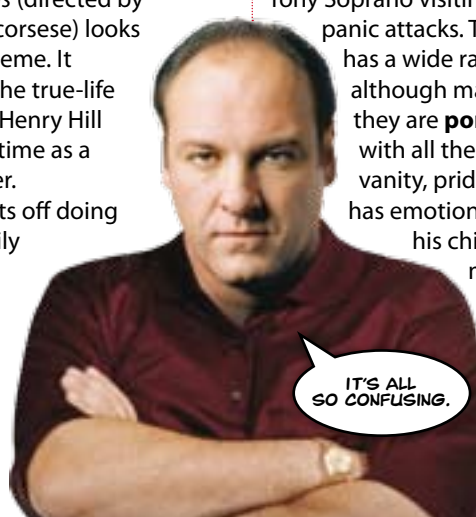
more and more cocaine. And just like many other gangsters, Montana is very protective of his family members. When he finds out that his friend has been going out with his sister, Montana shoots him dead immediately, only to discover that they had actually married. Soon after, Montana dies in a gun battle – the perfect, violent end for a gangster.

Organised crime

Whilst Tony Montana often worked alone, most gangsters were part of complex criminal

network. The film 1990 film *Goodfellas* (directed by Martin Scorsese) looks at this theme. It follows the true-life story of Henry Hill and his time as a gangster.

Hill starts off doing small jobs for a crime family in New York when he is a teenager. Eventually, he **drops out** of school. And one day, he arrives home and his mother looks at him and says "You're a gangster". Later on, Hill becomes involved with two of



the most important mobsters of the time, Jimmy Conway (based on the real-life gangster Jimmy Burke) and Tommy DeVito (based on



the violent Tommy DeSimone). Their growing criminal **careers reach a peak** in 1978 with the Lufthansa Heist. This robbery was one of the biggest in criminal history and it took intense planning from a group of intelligent and **ruthless mobsters**.

Humour & life

Moving on from this, some of the more recent gangster films have introduced an element of humour. *Analyze This* (starring Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro) follows the story of a gangster and his psychoanalyst. On a similar theme, the television series *The Sopranos* sees lead man Tony Soprano visiting a **shrink** to deal with his panic attacks. This award-winning series has a wide range of gangster types, but although many are cold-blooded killers, they are **portrayed** as very human, with all the usual human weaknesses: vanity, pride, vice, addiction, etc. Tony has emotional problems with his wife, his children, his **mistresses**, his mother (she tries to kill him), his friends and family. As a result, the audience often finds itself sympathising with these gangsters as they try to deal with everyday aspects of life... as well as killing the **odd person** here and there. ♣



Cool Gangsters

Henry Hill describes the attraction of life being a gangster:
"As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a gangster. To me, being a gangster was better than being President of the United States. They weren't like anybody else. I mean, they did whatever they wanted... nobody ever called the cops."



GLOSSARY

- a trait** *n*
a characteristic or quality that someone has
- shabby** *adj*
"shabby" clothing is old and dirty
- self-respecting** *adj*
any "self-respecting" gangster would do X = any typical gangster would do X
- scruffy** *adj*
dirty and untidy
- rugged good looks** *n*
with strong, attractive and "masculine" features
- a portrayal** *n*
the way that something is shown
- to chronicle** *vb*
if a film "chronicles" a series of events, the film shows those events over a period of time
- a surrogate father** *n*
a person who acts as a father to someone who has no real father
- greedy** *adj*
with a desire for a lot more of something than is necessary
- to drop out** *phr vb*
to leave school before the end of the year or course
- a career** *n*
a job or profession you choose to do for the majority of your life
- to reach a peak** *exp*
to arrive at the maximum point
- ruthless** *adj*
with no mercy; cruel
- a mobster** *n*
a gangster
- a shrink** *n inform*
a psychoanalyst
- to portray** *vb*
if a character is "portrayed" in a certain way, he/she is shown in that way
- a mistress** *n*
a married man's "mistress" is the woman he has an affair with
- the odd person** *exp*
a random, unspecified, un-named person
- a drug-smuggling racket** *n*
a criminal activity that involves importing illegal drugs
- ingenious** *adj*
very clever
- a coffin** *n*
a box for a dead body

A look at some historical gangsters.

REAL GANGSTERS

We've all seen gangsters in the movies, but what were they like in real life? Let's have a look at a few real ones.

Charles "Lucky" Luciano

"Lucky" Luciano is considered by many to be the father of all organised crime. He was born in Sicily in 1897, but his family left for the United States in 1907 in search of a better life. Before long, Luciano was involved in theft and drugs, and he ended up in jail on a number of occasions.

By the early 1920s, Luciano was mixing with important members of the New York mob. He had created a business empire based around



the sale of hardcore drugs, making about \$1 million dollars a year. He had also become friendly with future Mafia bosses Vito Genovese and Frank Costello. During the late 1920s, Luciano started doing business

with the leader of the New York Mafia, a man called Joe "The Boss" Masseria.

The partnership between Luciano and Masseria was difficult. They both had very different ways of doing business. And it was not long before Luciano decided to have Masseria killed. The story goes like this. Luciano and Masseria were in a restaurant, playing cards. At some point, Luciano excused himself to go to the bathroom. Seconds later, some of Luciano's men calmly walked in and shot Masseria dead. Immediately, Luciano took control of Masseria's lottery business. Then, in September 1931, he got even more power when Salvatore Murrano (Luciano's last powerful rival) was assassinated. Once again, there was an element of theatre in the execution. Members of Luciano's mob visited Murrano's office disguised as police officers. Once they were inside, they shot and stabbed Murrano to death.

By the end of 1931, Luciano was in total control of the Italian Mafia in New York. He also had businesses across the whole of the United States. He created the system of hierarchy, making the mob work more efficiently. Different Mafia families looked after different areas of business: one family would be responsible for narcotics; while another would be responsible for prostitution. Luciano also created the law: "We only kill each other", which became an important part of Mafia culture. He refused to refer to himself as the "Capo di tutti i capi" (the Boss of all the Bosses) although in reality this is what he was.

The early 1930s was when Luciano's kingdom was at its strongest. He had lots of money and was seen in the most expensive bars and restaurants around New York accompanied by someone different every night. In 1936, he was prosecuted and sent to jail. However, he remained an important figure until his death of a heart attack in 1962.

Al Capone

Al Capone was never as important as Lucky Luciano, but he is far more famous. Capone's persona and character have been used many times as a model for crime lords. And his accent, mannerisms and style of dress have become the stereotype of what we think of as a gangster. Capone was born in 1899 in Brooklyn, New York,



to Italian parents. He was the fourth of nine children. As a teenager he joined the criminal gangs the Brooklyn Rippers and The Forty Thieves. One day, he was involved in a fight in a restaurant after insulting a

Capone's face was slashed three times with a knife. It was from this point that he got the nickname "Scarface". He hated this name and once killed a man for using it.

man's sister. Capone's face was **slashed** three times with a knife. It was from this point that he got the nickname "**Scarface**". He hated this name and once killed a man for using it.

After some time working for the Five Points Gang, the boss, Frankie Yale thought it would be a good idea to move Capone to look after the operation in Chicago. Capone was given responsibility for the **protection rackets** which controlled alcohol and prostitution. Before long, Capone was the most powerful gangster in town. During the late 1920s, Capone was making **staggering amounts** of money. It is said that in one year he made about \$10m. Much of this money was made by illegally selling alcohol. Liquor was prohibited at this time, but Capone made millions running speakeasies (illegal bars that served alcohol). The key to his success was his ability to bribe politicians to stop them from prosecuting him. On one occasion, Capone pushed a politician down the steps of the town hall after the politician disagreed with Capone.

At the same time, Capone attempted to create an image of a community man. He provided free milk to the children of Chicago to stop them developing the disease rickets. He also opened **soup kitchens** for the poor and homeless. He was a man of style, and if he ever killed someone, he would send the victim's family flowers, and he would sometimes attend the funeral. On one occasion, Capone's men accidentally **wounded** a woman during a gang fight. Capone paid for all of the lady's medical expenses. However, in 1932, Capone was finally imprisoned in the famous prison at Alcatraz. His time in jail was difficult, and he never returned to his position of power in US society.

Owney Madden

The Mafia is mostly associated with the Italians. But other ethnic groups had their own crime gangs. Owney Madden was a member of an Irish gang called the Gophers. They operated in an Irish neighbourhood in New York called Hell's Kitchen. Madden first arrived in New York at the age of eleven. He was originally born in Leeds, Yorkshire (in the north of England). He kept his Yorkshire accent for the rest of his life, and often saved articles from the *Yorkshire Post*. Madden was **vicious**, with no respect for

authority, and "with the cruelty of the devil". He soon got the nickname Owney "The Killer" Madden. He never worked a day in his life, and the police considered him as "**crafty**, cruel, bold and lazy".

Madden became the most important member of the Irish gangs in New York. He could earn \$200 a day, often threatening businesses with



firebombs if they did not pay him. He was also known for his ability to survive. At a dance hall in 1912, at the age of just 21, he was attacked by members of a rival gang. He was shot eleven times but somehow survived. He refused

to tell the police who shot him; however, three members of the rival gang were killed the following week.

At the age of 23, Madden was jailed for his involvement in a murder. He spent nine years in prison. On coming out he became a boxing promoter, often **fixing fights**. Madden was probably best known for owning the famous Cotton Club in Harlem, a top spot for New York City nightlife in the 1930s. The club originally belonged to African-American boxer Jack Johnson, but Madden forced Johnson to sell him the club. Immediately afterwards, Madden started a strict "whites only" policy (all African-Americans, whether employees or performers, were **forbidden** to enter by the front door, and none whatsoever were allowed into the club as guests). Madden eventually moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he opened a hotel, spa and casino. He died in 1965 – one of the few major gangsters of the time to end his life quietly in bed. ❖

Funny names for New York gangs

Atlantic Guards, Battle Row Gang, Baxter Street Dudes, Daybreak Boys, Dead Rabbits, Dock Rats, Five Points Gang, Forty Thieves, Fourth Avenue Tunnel Gang, Hudson Dusters, James Street Gang, Little Doggies, Neighbor's Sons, Pansies, Plug Uglies, Swamp Angels, the Whyos.



GLOSSARY

- in search of** *exp*
looking for
- to end up** *phr vb*
if you "end up" in a place, you are there eventually
- a mob** *n*
a Mafia gang
- to have someone killed** *exp*
to pay someone to kill another person
- disguised as** *exp*
if you are "disguised as" a police officer, you are wearing clothes that make you look like a police officer
- to refuse** *vb*
to say that you won't do something
- to slash** *vb*
to make a long, deep cut with a knife
- a scar** *n*
a mark on your body where you were once cut
- a protection racket** *n*
a criminal activity in which gangsters demand money in return for protection
- staggering amounts** *n*
very, very large amounts
- a soup kitchen** *n*
a place where poor people can get food
- wounded** *adj*
with a cut or injury on the body
- vicious** *adj*
aggressive and violent
- crafty** *adj*
good at getting what you want, but in a dishonest way
- to fix a fight** *exp*
to pay a boxer to lose a fight
- forbidden** *adj*
prohibited

Leaders fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE

Which leader do you most admire? In our new series on leaders from the world of politics, history, fiction and legend, we **pit** two leaders **against** each other to see which one is the best. This month: Queen Elizabeth I versus Lady Macbeth.



Queen Elizabeth I vs Lady Macbeth

The match

This is an interesting match between two famous women in British history. Elizabeth I ruled England from 1558 until her death in 1603. Her period of rule was successful and is **remembered fondly** as the "Elizabethan Era". Lady Macbeth is a fictional character from Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. This is one of Shakespeare's most famous plays and it was published at around the same time as Elizabeth's death, between 1603 and 1606. However, although Lady Macbeth is a fictional character, she is based on the real life Queen Gruoch of Scotland.

Queen Elizabeth I

Elizabeth was born in very difficult times. Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, was executed by Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII. And Mary I (Elizabeth's sister), **imprisoned** Elizabeth in the Tower of London, accusing her of being involved in a rebellion in 1554. Many people thought

Elizabeth would be killed. However, she survived, and, with the death of her sister in 1558, Elizabeth became the Queen of England. Elizabeth proved that she was a survivor. But Elizabeth's problems had only just begun. At that time, the Protestants and Catholics in England were in open warfare after the establishment of the **Church of England**. The general feeling of the day was that a queen could not be an effective leader. However through her famous Latin motto "video et taceo" ("I see and I keep silent"), Elizabeth survived once again. She **refused** to completely support the Protestants and she refused to persecute the Catholics. Therefore she made very few enemies. Elizabeth also refused to marry. To marry would mean that Elizabeth's power would be shared with a man. Although many say she was in love with Robert Dudley (the First Earl of Leicester), she never married. This shows

that she was willing to **make personal sacrifices** to keep control as a leader.

Lady Macbeth

Lady Macbeth was also a very powerful lady. But whereas Elizabeth's success came through doing nothing, hers came from action. In the play, Lady Macbeth's husband, Macbeth, is told that he will "become King hereafter" and she decides that she has to push him into action to make the **prophecy** come true. She **encourages** Macbeth to do "the deed" and kill the reigning King Duncan as he sleeps in their castle. He does. And afterwards, they try to **blame** the palace servants. Therefore, we can see that Lady Macbeth is **cunning** and ambitious. She is also **decisive**. Once she had decided that her husband should kill Duncan, she **saw the plan through** to the bitter end. However, later in the play, as Macbeth's **quest for power** becomes more and more dangerous, she suffers a **nervous breakdown**. She **feels remorse** for the murder of the previous king, and sees imaginary blood on her hands and clothes.

The Verdict

It is clear that of the two, Elizabeth is the better leader. Whilst Lady Macbeth's cunning and ambition bring success in the short term, she is a failure in the long term. On the other hand, Queen Elizabeth often chose not to act, and made few enemies. Our verdict: Queen Elizabeth I: 9 out of 10; Lady Macbeth: 5 out of 10. ✦

Elizabeth I

Reign 17th November 1558 – 24th March 1603.
Famous quote: "I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a King, and of a King of England too!"

Lady Macbeth

From a Shakespeare play. Based on Queen Gruoch of Scotland (from the early 10th century). Married to Macbeth. Death: suspected suicide.
Famous quote: "A little water clears us of this deed." (Act 2, Scene 2)
"What's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed." (Act 5, Scene 1)

GLOSSARY

- to pit two people against each other** *exp*
to put two people in a situation so they are in competition with one another
- remembered fondly** *exp*
if something is "remembered fondly", people have pleasant memories of it
- to imprison** *vb*
to put in prison
- the Church of England** *n*
the Church that was formed in England when the English church separated from the Catholic Church in 1534 during the reign of Henry VIII
- to refuse** *vb*
to say that you won't do something
- to make personal sacrifices** *exp*
not to have things yourself so that others can have things or so that you can help others
- a prophecy** *n*
a prediction; something that someone really believes will happen
- to encourage** *vb*
to motivate someone to do something
- to blame** *vb*
to say that someone is responsible for something bad
- cunning** *adj*
with an ability to get things for yourself in a clever way
- decisive** *adj*
with an ability to make quick decisions
- to see a plan through** *exp*
to complete a project or plan
- a quest for power** *n*
a strong desire for power
- a nervous breakdown** *n*
an illness caused by mental stress. Sufferers become very depressed
- to feel remorse** *exp*
to feel bad about something you did in the past
- a deed** *n*
something that is done and that is either very good or very bad (very bad in this case)

The Underground

Social English

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions. This month: the underground (also known as the tube, the subway (US English) and the metro). Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- Where can I get a ticket, please?
- How much for a zone-3 ticket?
- I'd like a season ticket, please?
- I'd like a **Travelcard**, please?
- Where's the information desk, please?
- Have you got a tube map I could have, please?
- Which **platform** is it for Victoria Station, please?
- Which platform for the Central Line, please?
- Which line is it for Baker Street, please?



- Do I need to change **lines** for Waterloo Station?

What you hear

- Stand clear of the doors, please.
- Mind the doors, please.
- The next station is Tottenham Court Road. Change here for the Northern Line.
- You need to take the Bakerloo line.
- Change at Tottenham Court Road for the Northern Line.
- The information desk is in the main hall.
- That'll be six pounds, please.
- Please let passengers off the train first.
- Stand to the right. (on the



escalator)

- You need to take the **northbound train**. / You need to take the **southbound train**.
- We apologise for the delay but there has been a security alert at Victoria Station.

Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions. ✚

Part II Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Bob is trying to buy a tube ticket.

- Bob:** I'd like a ticket for Zone 1, please.
- Ticket office:** Are you going to be using London transport much today?
- Bob:** I beg your pardon?
- Ticket office:** If you're doing a lot of travelling, you're **better off** getting a Travelcard.
- Bob:** Oh, well, how much is a single?
- Ticket office:** A single, Zone-1 ticket is five pounds.
- Bob:** And a Travelcard?
- Ticket office:** That's six pounds thirty for Zone 1.
- Bob:** And what is a Travelcard?
- Ticket office:** Well, you can use all the buses and Underground trains for free for a day with the Travelcard.
- Bob:** OK, I'll get one of those, please.
- Ticket office:** That'll be six pounds thirty, please.
- Bob:** Here you are.
- Ticket office:** Thanks. Here's your **change**.
- Bob:** Oh, erm, how do I get to Waterloo, please?
- Ticket office:** Well, you need to take the Central Line to Tottenham Court Road, then change for the Northern Line. And then take the southbound train to Waterloo.
- Bob:** OK. Thanks very much.
- Ticket office:** Have a nice day.



GLOSSARY

- a Travelcard** *n*
a special pass that permits you to travel on the trains or buses all day for free
- a platform** *n*
the area in a train station where the train arrives
- a line** *n*
a route along which trains travel, with many stations along the way
- an escalator** *n*
an electric staircase that takes you from one level to another
- a northbound train** *n*
a train that is travelling north
- a southbound train** *n*
a train that is travelling south
- to be better off** *exp*
if you are "better off" in a certain situation, it is better for you to be in that situation
- change** *n*
the money that is returned to you after you pay for something

Headline news



Leopard Attack

A wildlife guide had an unusual guest in his bed. John Roar was sleeping when a leopard suddenly jumped onto his bed. "I just grabbed its neck, and **pinned it down** for 20 minutes until help arrived," Roar said. The uninvited guest was apparently trying to catch the family's cat, which was sleeping on the bed. "We have never heard of a leopard coming into a private home," a nature and parks spokesperson said. "Leopards usually enter villages after they become too weak to hunt in the wild. They are little **threat** to humans," she added. The animal was taken to a veterinary hospital for tests.



Bride Fight

A bride has been arrested on her wedding day for fighting with her husband. Sally Brown was still in her white dress when she attacked her husband, Mark Allerton. Apparently, Brown, 40, hit her husband with a **stiletto heel** at the hotel where they were staying. The police were called, and Brown later admitted assault. The hotel manager who was first on the scene said, "The room was covered in broken glass and wires were pulled out of **sockets** throughout the room. Brown's solicitor **blamed** her behaviour on her mental state at the time. Apparently, she had been drinking while on anti-depressants.



Guns Galore

Statistics show that since the **Virginia Tech** shooting, more Americans are applying for licences to carry guns than ever before. A shopkeeper from a gun store said, "Gun sales have **gone up** since Virginia Tech," she said. "And we are not just talking men here, but I am seeing a lot more women." One gun owner explained the logic behind it all. "Imagine you are in a restaurant and a mad man is walking around from table to table, pointing a gun, taking aim and **pulling the trigger**. If you don't have your gun with you, you're gonna die like all the rest." And a university student said, "If I go to class, I want to go with the gun. Guns are, to me, a freedom."



Smart Clothes

European scientists are developing clothing which they say will be able to monitor your health. The "intelligent textiles" contain sensors designed to monitor body fluids such as blood and **sweat**. The aim is to use the clothes to check on groups such as recovering hospital patients, people with chronic illnesses and injured athletes. The Biotex programme is funded in part by the European Union. The next **step** will be to **try out** the experimental fabric on volunteers. A project co-ordinator said, "Sensors have been built and have been tested in the lab. We have started their integration into textile **patches**." 🚫



GLOSSARY

- to pin down** *phr vb*
to use your hands or body to hold someone in a fixed position
- a threat** *n*
a danger
- a stiletto heel** *n*
a very high heel (the back part on the bottom of the shoe)
- a socket** *n*
a hole in the wall where you connect electrical appliances to the electricity
- to blame** *vb*
to say that someone is responsible for something
- Virginia Tech** *n*
a college in the US where a gunman killed many students
- to go up** *phr vb*
to increase
- to pull the trigger** *n*
to pull a small lever on a gun so it shoots a bullet
- sweat** *n*
liquid that comes out of your body when you are hot
- a step** *n*
an action
- to try out** *phr vb*
if you "try something out", you experiment with it
- a patch** *n*
a piece of material that is used to cover an injury

Little Jokes



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

1. What gets wet the more you get dry?
2. Doctor, doctor, I keep lying.
3. Get out of my house. You've broken all my plates.
4. My uncle is a millionaire but he never washes.
5. What do you say to a cow that is standing in front of your car?
6. What breaks when you say it?



- A:** Moo-ve over.
B: Silence.
C: Thanks. I've had a **smashing time**.
D: He must be **filthy rich**.
E: That's not true.
F: A towel.

GLOSSARY
a smashing time *exp*
 a wonderful, fantastic time. Literally, "to smash" a plate is to break it
filthy rich *exp*
 very, very rich. Literally, "filthy" means very dirty

GRAFFITI



CD track 16 - US woman & Scotswoman

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

COMPUTERS ARE NOT INTELLIGENT. THEY ONLY THINK THEY ARE.

JOB OFFER FOR TELEPATHIC PERSON. YOU KNOW WHERE TO APPLY.

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

DICTIONARY DEFINITION. A SHIN: A DEVICE FOR FINDING FURNITURE IN THE DARK.

WHAT HAS FOUR LEGS AND AN ARM? A VERY HAPPY PIT BULL TERRIER.

DON'T BE SO OPEN-MINDED - YOUR BRAINS MIGHT FALL OUT.

GLOSSARY
a telepathic person *n*
 a person with mental powers that permits him/her to communicate mentally
to apply *vb*
 if you "apply" for a job, you complete an application form for that job in order to be selected
doggie *n inform*
 an informal word for a dog
a shin *n*
 the front part of your leg between your knee and your ankle

READY? BY DANIEL COUTOLINE



GLOSSARY
to hurry up *phr vb*
 if you "hurry up", you move quickly because you are late, etc



Stoned Presidents Presidential candidate admits to inhaling smoke.

US media stations around the States have been investigating stories of drug taking among potential presidential candidates. Fifteen years ago, there was an **uproar** when it **emerged** that Bill Clinton, who was then a democrat candidate for the presidency, admitted to trying marijuana during his younger years, even though he famously said that he "didn't **inhale**". Just recently, one of the favourites for the democrat

candidacy in this election, Barack Obama, said on a talk show, "I did take cannabis when I was at high school." And when asked the question, "Did you inhale?" by the host, Obama replied, "Yes, I did inhale, that was the point" - something which many feel he **needn't have bothered mentioning** at all. Others say that he is "**unsuitable**" to **run for the presidency**. In his defence, Obama has

said that there is a right-wing media campaign against him. This came after **revelations** that his middle name is "Hussein", and that he once attended a Muslim church, something which right-wing voters and campaigners find hard to accept, given the **current** climate. The *Boston Globe* newspaper said that, "With all this, and his liberal views on Iraq, he has **no chance of winning**". ❖

Overrated Albums

Sergeant Pepper's "not that good" says report.



Some of the most famous albums of all time have come under attack recently. The *Guardian* newspaper interviewed celebrities and members of modern-day bands, asking them the question, "What famous album do you hate?" The answers were varied but some very famous albums were criticised including The Beatles' *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*. A member of the band Cornershop said that *Dark Side of the Moon* was "a sort of **lab experiment** put together by **scarf-wearing** university types... Lyrically the band do not say anything more than 'greed is bad'."

Another album attacked by celebrities was Nirvana's 1991 release *Nevermind*. Wayne Coyne of The Flaming Lips said that *Nevermind* had a "**poisonous influence** that justified suffering". He continued by saying, "What is this band that sounds like Nickelback? What are these drug addicts **going on about?**" Abba's self-titled **debut album** was also called "**overrated**" by a member of the band The Sugarbabes. They said that the songs *Dancing Queen*, *Knowing Me Knowing You* and *Money, Money, Money* were all particularly "annoying songs". ❖

GLOSSARY

- an uproar** *n*
if there is an "uproar", there is a lot of shouting and noise
- to emerge** *vb*
if information "emerges", it becomes public
- to inhale** *vb*
if you "inhale" smoke, you take it into your lungs (the two organs in your chest)
- needn't have bothered mentioning** *exp*
it wasn't necessary to mention
- unsuitable** *adj*
not appropriate
- to run for presidency** *exp*
to present yourself as a candidate in the presidential elections
- a revelation** *n*
a surprising or interesting fact that becomes public
- current** *adj*
that is happening now
- no chance of winning** *exp*
with no possibility of winning
- a lab experiment** *n*
a technological or scientific test. Literally, an experiment that is carried out in a scientific laboratory (a lab)
- scarf-wearing** *n*
a "scarf-wearing" person is wearing a scarf (a piece of clothing you wear around your neck). Stereotypical British university students have scarves
- greed** *n*
the desire to have more than you need
- a poisonous influence** *n*
a negative effect on someone
- to go on about something** *exp*
to keep talking about something
- a debut album** *n*
the first album a group or singer makes
- overrated** *adj*
if you think something is "overrated", you don't think it is as good as other people say it is

OCTOBER



Come and celebrate the month with us in our series on anniversaries. This month: October. Did anything interesting happen on or near your birthday or birth month?



October 1st 331 BC
Alexander the Great defeated Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela, and was subsequently **crowned** the King of Asia in a ceremony in Arbela. Hoorah!



October 4th 1957
The Soviet spacecraft *Sputnik 1* was launched by a rocket in Kazakhstan and became the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth.



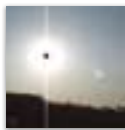
October 5th 1877
After battling US armed forces for more than three months, retreating over 1,000 miles across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, and enduring a five-day **siege**, Chief Joseph and his Nez Percé tribe finally **surrendered**.



October 8th 1967
Marxist revolutionary and guerrilla leader Che Guevara was captured and killed near La Higuera, Bolivia.



October 12th 1810
The first Oktoberfest was held in Munich, to celebrate the wedding of Prince Ludwig I of Bavaria. We love the Germans.



October 13th 1917
An estimated 70,000 people witnessed "The Miracle of the Sun" in the Cova da Iria fields near Fátima, Portugal. After a downfall of rain, the sun appeared to be **spinning** towards the earth.

Many thought it meant the end of the world.



October 15th 1582
The Gregorian calendar was introduced to replace the Julian calendar, which had been in use since 45 BC. England finally **followed suit** 170 years later on Wednesday 2nd September 1752. This day was immediately followed by Thursday 14th September, 1752. This traumatic change caused riots and people demanded their eleven days back. Now you know why Britain doesn't have the Euro.



October 17th 1662
King Charles II of England sold Dunkerque to France for £40,000. You can't even buy a one-bedroom apartment with that these days.



October 19th 202 BC
Roman general Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Battle of Zama, thus successfully concluding the Second Punic War.



October 20th 1973
The Sydney Opera House in Sydney, (where else?) Australia, was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II.



October 22nd 1844
There was **disappointment** for the Millerites and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church after Jesus failed to return to earth on this special day, as predicted by **preacher** William Miller.



October 23rd 1958
Belgian cartoonist Peyo introduced a new set of comic strip characters called the *Smurfs*, one of the four things that Belgium is most famous for, alongside Tintin, Hercule Poirot, and Jean-Claude Van-Damme.



October 24th 1929
The start of the Great Depression. Although this may sound like the title for a Leonard Cohen song, it was, in fact, the day The New York Stock Exchange crashed on "Black Thursday", causing **bankruptcies**, suicides and a worldwide economic depression.



October 25th 1971
There were confusing changes at the United Nations as The People's Republic of China officially became known as The Republic of China.



October 27th 1904
The first section of the New York City Subway opened, **running** between City Hall and the Bronx.



October 28th 1904
The first **mugging** on the New York City Subway.



October 30th 1831
African American slave Nat Turner was captured after leading a slave rebellion that was brutally **suppressed**. ❖

Events for October 2007

October 1st – The minimum age for buying tobacco will rise from 16 to 18 across England and Wales.
October 3rd – Los Ríos Region of Chile will officially begin its functions as a new region.
October 13th – Elections will be held for all local government in New Zealand.
October 20th – Rugby World Cup 2007 Final in Stade de France, Paris.
October 21st – 2007 Formula One season ends at the Brazilian Grand Prix.



Countries celebrating their independence

October 4th – Lesotho (became independent from the United Kingdom in 1966).
October 8th – Croatia (became independent from Yugoslavia in 1991).
October 29th – the birth of Turkey (after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire in 1923).

GLOSSARY

to crown *vb*
when a king or queen is "crowned", a crown is placed on his/her head as part of a ceremony in which they become king or queen
a siege *n*
if there is a "siege", soldiers or the police surround a building/town/city, etc and try to force the people inside to come out or surrender
to surrender *vb*
to stop fighting and to agree that you have been beaten
to spin *vb*
to turn around and around while in the air
to follow suit *exp*
to do the same
disappointment *n*
if you have a feeling of "disappointment", you are sad about the result of something
a preacher *n*
a member of a religious group who speaks in public in an attempt to spread a religion
bankruptcy *n*
the state of having no more money to pay bills, etc
to run *vb*
if a line "runs" from point A to point B, it goes from point A to B
mugging *n*
the crime of robbing someone in a public place with violence
to suppress *vb*
if a rebellion is "suppressed", it is stopped in a very violent way

VOCABULARY

Learn some useful gangster words and expressions.



GANGSTER TALK

Beef – a complaint or disagreement. “He’s got a beef with us.”

Boss – the head of the family. He decides who is killed. Also known as the “Don”.

Capo – the second level of gangster bosses (below the Boss/Don).

Captain – the third level of gangster bosses (below the capo).

Come heavy – to be carrying a loaded gun. “Did you come heavy?”

Connected – if you are “connected”, you are a member of a crime family.

Consigliere – a counsellor in a crime family (such as Tom in *The Godfather*). The consigliere advises the Boss.

Crew – the group of gangsters under the capo’s command.

Earnar – someone who makes a lot of money for the family. “He’s a big earnar.”

Feds – the FBI. “He’s working with the Feds.”

Front – a legitimate business (such as a shop or restaurant)

that is used to hide the illegal activities of a crime family. “This shop is just a front for their prostitution racket.”

Goomah – a mistress; someone who a gangster is having an affair with.

Grand – a thousand dollars. Also known as “g’s”. “He owes us 20 g’s.”

Guests of the state – prisoners. “He’s a guest of the state.”

H – heroin. “He got done for dealing with H.”

Lam – to go into hiding because of a recent crime. “He had to go on the lam.”

Made guy – someone who is an official member of a crime family.

Madonn’ – a typical Italian expression of surprise that gangsters often use. “Madonn’ – she’s beautiful.”

The Mob – either referring to a single organised crime family, or to all the organised crime families together. “He’s in the mob, isn’t he?”

Mobster – someone who is in the mob.

Murder rap – a sentence for committing murder. “He did 8 years for a murder rap.”

Offer – gangsters are very good at making offers, especially when accompanied by a gun to the head. “They made him an offer he couldn’t refuse.”

Organised crime – a word used to refer to the Mafia.

Piece – a gun. “You got a piece on you?”

Pinch – to arrest. “They pinched him for dealing with H.”

Points – the percentage charged for a loan. “I’m gonna charge you two points per week.”

Protection money – money you pay to a crime family as a form of insurance.

Racket – an illegal activity to make money. “It was a money laundering racket.”

Rat – someone who informs the police about a crime committed by the Mafia. “He’s a dirty rat.”

RICO – an abbreviation of “Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act”. This law, passed in 1970, is designed to make it easier to sentence members of crime families.

Shake someone down – to try to get money from someone by threatening them or demanding protection money. “Are you trying to shake me down?”

A sit-down – a meeting to resolve a dispute.

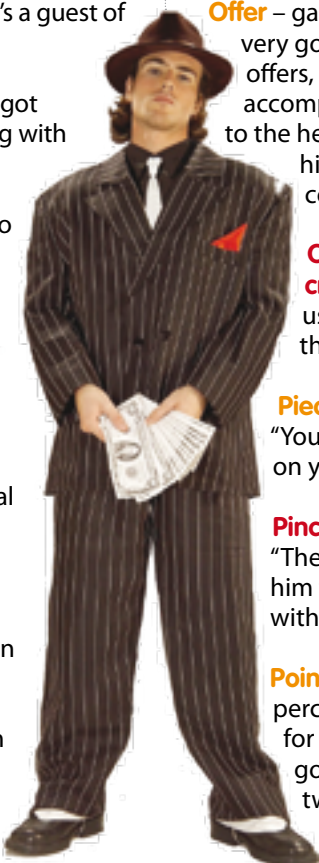
Soldier – the lowest-ranking gangster.

Stand-up guy – someone who refuses to cooperate with the FBI. “He’s a real stand-up guy.”

Waste management business – often used as a euphemism for organised crime. For many years, organised crime families controlled the waste management business in New York and other big cities.

Whack – to murder. Also, to clip, pop, or burn. “He got whacked last year.”

Witness protection program – a programme designed by the government to give a new identity and home to anyone who cooperates with the government and testifies against members of an organised crime family. ☺





CD track 19 - Irishman

SONG

Things don't have to get worse

by Garrett Wall

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You can try, you can try, you won't **fail**,
In simply doing something,
There's everything to gain,
And you can say, you can say, **there's no point**,
And every time you turn away,
Is when you lose the most.

And you can use any reason you need,
To justify that you don't believe.

Fear is **in the mind**, pain of every kind,
Comes to you like a **curse**,
But I'm not gonna do what only you can do,
Things don't have to get worse.

And I could **beg**, I could beg,
It wouldn't help.
'Cos there are some things I know,
We all have to do by ourselves,
And if you fall, if you fall, don't **despair**,
I'm not a friend just when times are good,
'Cos when you fall, I'll be there.

And every time it seems you **wanna** look around,
Well nothing's working when there's none to be found.

Fear is in the mind, pain of every kind,
Comes to you like a curse,
But I'm not gonna do what only you can do,
Things don't have to get worse.

And everybody else can **go to hell**,
You've done it your way and its just as well,
'Cos no one really wants to humour you,
Too **busy** doing now what you should be too.

Fear is in the mind, pain of every kind,
Comes to you like a curse,
But I'm not gonna do what only you can do,
Things don't have to get worse.



GLOSSARY

to fail *vb*
not to be successful
there's no point *exp*
there's no reason to do X
in the mind *exp*
if something is "in the mind", it is imagined and not real
a curse *n*
a supernatural power causing bad things to happen
to beg *vb*
to ask for something desperately
to despair *vb*
if you "despair", you feel that everything is wrong and bad
wanna *exp*
want to
go to hell *exp*
if you tell someone to "go to hell", you tell them to go away in a rude way
busy *adj*
if you are "busy", you have many things to do and very little time

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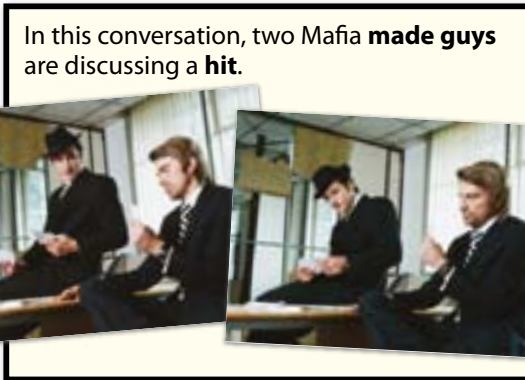
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TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE HIT

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



CD track 21 - genuine New Yorkers



In this conversation, two Mafia **made guys** are discussing a **hit**.



Paulie: Yo, Lucky.
 Lucky: How you doing?
 Paulie: Good. Did you **come heavy**?
 Lucky: As always. You can't be too careful these days.
 Paulie: That's right. Coffee?
 Lucky: Cappuccino.
 Paulie: (To the waiter.) Bring this guy a cappuccino. (Paulie shows Lucky a photo of two men.) Right, this is the guy we need taking care of. It's the guy on the right.
 Lucky: And his name is?
 Paulie: Let's say, John.
 Lucky: What did you **have in mind**?
 Paulie: Nothing too **fancy**. Just a nice, clean hit. As long as he disappears.



Lucky: So, that's **20 g's**, right?
 Paulie: Half up front, the rest when we get news. Cake? It's chocolate.
 Lucky: No, thanks. Trying to stay **slim**. Seen these shoes?
 Paulie: Very nice. By the way, the guy will be staying at the Shilting Hotel.
 Lucky: Got them last week, and they're already **scuffed**.
 Paulie: Room 349.
 Lucky: You sure about this business?
 Paulie: Very sure.
 Lucky: So, what did he do?
 Paulie: He's a **dirty rat**.
 Lucky: You know, I'd feel happier with the **pope's blessing** on this one.
 Paulie: The pope?
 Lucky: The **Boss**.
 Paulie: Oh, right. Well, you got it, only he don't talk to anyone. Everything goes through me. It's better that way.
 Lucky: Well, **I guess** I won't be seeing you for a while. I'll have to **go on the lam**.
 Paulie: Keep it safe.
 Lucky: Yeah, see ya around. ☺



GLOSSARY

a made guy *n*
 an official member of a crime family; a gangster
a hit *n*
 a murder
to come heavy *exp*
 to come with a loaded gun
to have something in mind *exp*
 if you "have something in mind", you are thinking about that thing
fancy *adj*
 sophisticated, complex
20 g's *n*
 twenty thousand dollars/euros, etc
slim *adj*
 attractively thin
scuffed *adj*
 if your shoes are "scuffed", they have dirty marks or scratches on them
a rat *n inform*
 a person who informs the police about the illegal activities of criminals
the pope *n*
 the head of the Catholic Church
a blessing *n*
 a sign of support or approval from someone
a Boss *n*
 the head of a crime family
I guess *exp*
 I suppose
to go on the lam *exp inform*
 to hide for a period of time so the police don't find you

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DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: WORK



CD track 22 - pompous Englishman

GLOSSARY

a sleeve *n*
the arm of a shirt
a business venture *n*
a new and exciting business idea or project

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



Roll up your sleeves

To get ready for work.
"They've got to roll their **sleeves** up and get down to work."



Not be worth the paper it's written on (a contract)

Not to be valid in a court of law; to have no legal worth.
"This contract is not worth the paper it's written on."



Sleeping partner

Someone who is closely involved with a company, often providing money for it, but who is not a manager of the company.
"She was hoping that Nigel might become a sleeping partner in the new **business venture**."



To work on the side

To work in another job apart from your main job.
"He's doing a bit of extra work on the side."



Moonlight

If someone "moonlights", they have a second job in addition to their main job, often without informing their main employer or the tax office.
"She's been moonlighting to earn a bit extra for her holiday."



Talk shop

To talk about work.
"I hate it when you go out and everyone starts talking shop."



Get the sack

To be told to leave your job.
"She got the sack last week because they found out that she had been sending personal e-mails when she was supposed to be working."



Jump ship

To leave a job and go to work for the competition.
"They offered her a lot of money to jump ship."



Donkey work

The most boring, routine or physical jobs in a company.
"Why is it that I always get to do the donkey work?"

* **Collocations** A collocation is a sequence of two or more words that go together to form a fixed expression ("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.



CD track 23 - English-
man & Scotswoman

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

Spelling disaster



"It was our idea of the perfect wedding, but it has turned into a bureaucratic **nightmare**," said Jane Riddell, who had spent more than £4,000 on a Caribbean wedding. "It all started off so perfectly," said the 26-year-old. "But later they spelt our name wrong on the certificate and now they say that we aren't legally married – all because of a stupid spelling mistake."

James Riddell and Jane Loader, have spent the past six months trying to **rectify** the problem. Apparently, a **clerk** in the Caribbean island where the couple were married on a beach, spelt Mr Riddell's surname with an "a" instead of the first "i" – Raddell.

A few days later, and back in England, Mr Riddell noticed the error and returned the certificate to the travel agency, asking for it to be **amended**. But the travel agent's said that the couple would have to return to the island to **sort it out**.

"I was just trying to make a point," said an Australian MP, whose anti-graffiti **crusade** seriously **backfired**. Mike Pratt spent five hours **scrubbing off** what he thought was a piece of graffiti. However, it turned out that the writing was in fact a specially-commissioned piece of street art that had cost the local council more than 30,000 Australian dollars. To make matters worse, Pratt had invited a local television station to **witness** his removal of an "**obnoxious** piece of vivid graffiti vandalism" on the side of a concrete bridge in Canberra. However, while the **over-zealous** MP was **in full swing**, a police car arrived and informed Pratt of his error. Since then, the MP has been referred to police for investigation and possible prosecution. "I just don't know what to say. Now they're calling me a criminal. I was just trying to **draw attention** to this problem," the MP explained.

Graffiti crusader



GLOSSARY

- a nightmare** *n*
a terrible situation that affects you negatively
- to rectify** *vb*
to correct
- a clerk** *n*
a person who works in a shop or office doing admin or routine work
- to amend** *vb*
to correct
- to sort out** *phr vb*
to find a solution to a problem
- a crusade** *n*
a long fight for a cause that you really believe in
- to backfire** *vb*
to go wrong; to achieve the opposite effect
- to scrub off** *phr vb*
to remove paint or dirt from a wall by rubbing hard with a cloth, etc
- to witness** *vb*
to see an event or crime
- obnoxious** *adj*
an "obnoxious" person is unpleasant and not nice
- over-zealous** *adj*
too enthusiastic about something
- in full swing** *exp*
in the middle of doing something
- to draw attention to something** *exp*
to make people notice something
- a plumber** *n*
a person whose job is to repair pipes in toilets/bathrooms, etc
- to solder** *vb*
to join two pieces of metal together by using heat
- renovation** *n*
if there is a "renovation", a building is repaired and improved
- a listed building** *n*
a building that is protected because it is special/old, etc
- a rookie** *n*
a person who is new to a job
- an apprentice** *n*
a person who is learning a profession and who is working in order to get experience
- a lad** *n inform*
a young boy

Young sparky



A young **plumber** out on his first job ended up burning down a £5-million mansion. A neighbour said, "It appears at this stage that this was an unfortunate plumber who was **soldering** in the roof space of a large building, which was undergoing total **renovation**." More than 60 fire fighters were called to the **listed building**. Meanwhile, workers at the site are determined to keep the identity of the **rookie** plumber a secret. Residents suggested the fire was sparked by 17-year-old **apprentice** plumber John Howes. A spokesperson for the local fire service added that the plumber was working for a firm of sub-contracted mechanical engineers. "You have to feel sorry for the poor **lad**. He must feel terrible," the spokesperson added.



British bar chat

Snorers

This month, Jim and Bob are talking about **snoring**.

Jim: Oh, dear me, you're not looking, you're not looking very happy today, mate. What, what's **going on**?

Bob: Oh, yeah, I know. My wife, my wife, she threw me out of bed last night. She threw you...

Jim: She threw you...

What? What have you done? **That's not on** at all.

Bob: I was, I was, I was making a noise, wasn't I?

Jim: You were making a, you were making a noise? That's, well, what kind of noise were you making.

Bob: Well, I was snoring. What kind of noise do you think I was doing?

Jim: Well, I, I, I was **wondering**, to be honest. But she threw you out... you were on the sofa?

Bob: Well, that's where I had to sleep. That's where I **ended up**. That's

cos I got this problem, you see. I got this problem, I can't stop snoring.

Jim: Oh, dear. That's...

Bob: And I don't know what to do about it.

Jim: That's terrible. You must be **knackered, mate**. You know. You've been on the sofa all night?

Bob: Yeah, yeah, well it's all right. Once I got onto the sofa I was fine, you know, I lay down, started snoring again.

Jim: But you, you always snore?

Bob: Yeah, yeah, yeah. **I can't help it**. I don't know what's causing it. I don't know what to do.

Jim: Well, I think we'd best have a beer. It's the only thing I know.

Bob: Ah, yeah.

Jim: To help us out.

Bob: I think that's gonna do wonderful. **The world of good**, actually. Yeah. ☺



US bar chat

Presidential Confessions

This month Jackie and Mary are talking about **presidential confessions**.



Sally: Hey, did you see that *Late Night Show* with Barack Obama on the other night?

Mary: Yeah, it was great. I thought it was really good of him to **come out** like that.

Sally: Really? I don't, I don't. It's that... I don't think our president should have those **dodgy** pasts.

Mary: Oh, wait! Come on!

Everybody's got to do it.

Sally: But where's the limit? Where do we **draw the line**?

Mary: Well, that all depends on who it is and what he's done. But, you know, having a **joint**, that's nothing to be **ashamed of**.

Sally: OK. So, rolling a **doobie's** not bad, but where, what's the limit? What's the next step?

Mary: Yeah, but if you'd be in jail for ten years for killing somebody, or **life**, or whatever, then, you know, OK. But having one joint? You know, sitting **rolling a spliff**. That's all good.

Sally: And what did he actually say the other night? They asked him if he, if he smoked marijuana and he said...

Mary: Yeah, and he said, "Yeah, I actually **inhaled** it". You know, good for him.

Sally: So, **playing off** of what Bill Clinton says.

Mary: Yeah, exactly. Well, **what's the point** of smoking it if you don't inhale it? ☺

GLOSSARY

to snore *vb*
to make a sound through your nose as you are sleeping

to go on *phr vb*
to continue; to happen

that's not on *exp*
that is not acceptable

to wonder *vb*
to ask yourself

to end up *phr vb*
if you "end up" in a place, you are in that place eventually

cos *exp*
because

knackered *adj*
very, very tired

mate *n inform*
my friend

I can't help (X) *it exp*
there is nothing I can do to stop (X)

the world of good *exp*
if something does you "the world of good", it makes you feel much better

to come out *exp*
to admit something

dodgy *adj inform*
a bit dishonest, unreliable, not right, not formal, etc

to draw the line *exp*
to set a limit

a joint *n inform*
a cigarette with marijuana in it

ashamed of *exp*
embarrassed about

a doobie *n inform*
a cigarette with marijuana in it

life *n*
if you "get life", you are sent to prison for the maximum amount of time (often about 25 years)

to roll a spliff *exp inform*
to make a cigarette with marijuana

to inhale *vb*
to take smoke into your lungs

to play off *exp*
to copy; to imitate

what's the point of doing X? *exp*
why do X? What's the use of doing X?

COCA COLA



Coca Cola is the world's most recognisable brand, according to Business Week. We're going to look back at the success of Coca Cola and find out how a sweet, carbonated water drink that was sold from a shop in Georgia became the world's most famous product.

The History

These days, Coca Cola is one of the symbols of America. But it's **come**



a long way from its **humble start**. The drink was invented by John Pemberton,

who lived in the southern state of Georgia. Pemberton was a **retired** US civil war officer who owned a **drugstore** and believed in the healing potential of various plants.

Coca Cola **evolved from** a product called French Wine Cola. This was a mixture of Peruvian coca leaves, the purest wine and the kola nut. Pemberton said that the native South American Indians used the coca leaf frequently and they believed in its beneficial effects on the mind and body. This drink was very successful in the south of the US, particularly in Pemberton's home state of Georgia.

Prohibition

However, in 1886, alcohol was **banned** in Atlanta. So, Pemberton had to replace the wine in the French Wine Cola with sugar syrup. He used the name Coca Cola to describe this new "sweet" recipe. The new Coca Cola drink was immediately as successful as French Wine Cola. And very soon, local business men were selling Coca Cola commercially around the country, giving Pemberton **royalties** of five cents for each gallon.

Until 1903, Coca Cola contained an estimated 9 milligrams of cocaine per glass. However, later, manufacturers started using coca leaves with the cocaine **removed**. Nowadays, Coca Cola uses a specially-grown, non-narcotic coca leaf.



Marketing

Coca Cola was originally sold in ordinary bottles. Later, in 1916, the famous "contour bottle" was introduced. This bottle was designed by a man called Earl R. Dean. He **won** a competition which was **run** by Coca Cola in 1915 to design a new bottle for the product. Some say that the curved shape of the bottle was based on the curve of the cacao pod, while others said it resembled the curves of a woman's body. As a reward for winning the competition, Dean was given a choice between a \$500-dollar bonus or a lifetime job at the Root Glass Company (the company that made Coca Cola). He chose the lifetime job.

The famous Coca Cola logo was created by John Pemberton's **bookkeeper** Frank Mason Robinson. The typeface used was typical of the style of handwriting in the USA at the time. This logo has remained the same for the last 130 years; many consider it to be the most representative of US culture.

Santa Cola

At the beginning of the 1930s, the company was still looking for new ways to increase sales of the product during winter. Until then, Coca Cola had been considered a summer drink. So, the company asked a talented illustrator, Haddon Sundblom, to draw pictures of a happy Santa Claus enjoying a drink of Coca Cola. He created a now famous series of illustrations that are still used today in their adverts at Christmas time. Some people say it is one of the best ever examples of **re-branding**.



Coca Cola was also one of the first companies to start **sponsoring** events. In 1928, they became the very first sponsor of the Olympic Games in Amsterdam. They also saw the marketing potential of soccer (football), and they became one of the principal sponsors of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. However, Coca Cola have always retained their links with the south of the United States and they are the official soft drink of the Georgia Bulldogs.

World War II

By the end of the 1930s, Coca Cola had established itself as one of the biggest companies in the US. Then, with the start of the first truly global war (the Second World War), the company saw the opportunity to expand beyond its domestic markets. When US soldiers travelled to Europe or Asia, they were supplied with bottles of Coca Cola.

At the start of the Second World War, Robert W Woodruff, the chairman of the Coca Cola Company, decided that this was the perfect opportunity for international expansion. He said, "See that every man in uniform gets a bottle of Coca Cola for 5 cents, wherever he is and whatever the cost to the company." Soon Coca Cola became associated with US soldiers in Europe and with the cool American image. In fact, it was so successful that on one day alone, the 29th June 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered three million bottles of Coca Cola to be sent to the allied forces in North Africa.

Domination

Coca Cola's expansion during the Second World War was very successful. In 1939 they had only 5 factories outside of America, but by 1945 they had 64.

New Markets

During the 1930s, Coca Cola wanted to introduce the drink to the German market. However, the drink was considered "too American" and too difficult to manufacture. So, to solve the problem, a new drink was invented with a different name. This new drink was called Fanta and is still popular today, but few people realise who it was originally invented for.

Top Secret

The exact formula of Coca Cola is a famous trade secret. The original copy of Pemberton's formula is held in SunTrust Bank's main vault in Atlanta. There is a popular myth that only two of the most important Coca Cola executives have access to the formula, with each of these executives only knowing half of the formula each. Whatever the truth, the exact formula is known by very few people.

And it is estimated that by the end of the war five billion bottles of Coca Cola had been drunk. At this time, the



company slogan was, "Wherever you are, whatever you do, wherever you may be, when you think refreshment,

think ice-cold Coca Cola."

Coca Cola is one of the great American success stories. Today there are 16 different varieties of this original Coca Cola recipe. Some with less sugar, some with a cherry flavour, some with no caffeine, and so on. The product changes too from country to country with the local form of Coca Cola reflecting local tastes. From humble beginnings in a drug store it has quite literally conquered the world. During its time, Coca Cola has had many different advertising slogans, but the best one consists of just one word: "Enjoy". ☺



GLOSSARY

to come a long way *exp*
to progress, advance and improve a lot

a humble start *n*
a modest beginning

retired *adj*
if you are "retired", you have stopped working because you are 65

a drugstore *n* *US*
a shop that sells drugs, medicines, food, etc

to evolve from *exp*
to develop from

banned *adj*
prohibited

royalties *n*
money that an author/inventor receives for each sale of a book/song, etc

to remove *vb*
to take away

to run *vb*
if you "run" a competition, you organise and manage it

a bookkeeper *n*
a person whose job is to record how much is spent and received by a business

re-branding *n*
changing the way a product is marketed

to sponsor *vb*
if an organisation "sponsors" an event, they pay some or all of the expenses in order to get publicity

Late Risers

Good news for those non-morning people.

What are you like in the morning? Do you find it easy to get up? Or is it really hard for you? A group of people from Denmark have formed the B-Society – a society of **late risers**. What are they fighting for?

B-Risers

"We're **calling for an uprising** against the **tyranny** of early rising," the B-Society says in its **manifesto**. According to them, humanity is divided into two types: A-people, and B-people. A-people have no problem getting up in the morning, and operate much better earlier in the day. However, B-people are more alert later in the day. "I'm **useless** early in the morning," says one of the members of the B-Society. "All I can do is drink coffee, and stare into space. People **used to** get up early because they had to **feed** the animals. But I haven't got any cows or chickens, so I can sleep late," she added. Now, six months after the society was set up, the B-Society has several thousand members.



B-Schools

And it is not just businesses which are benefiting from this. Teenagers who can't get out of bed in the morning, and parents who never quite **get the kids to school on time** can now benefit from B-classes. From next year, a school in Copenhagen will offer classes which start later in the day (at 10 instead of eight). And even the government seems to like the idea. So, how did it all start?

The B-Society

The B-Society was founded by Camilla Kring, a professor from the University of Copenhagen. On her website, she says, "When B-people's work rhythms are considered at the work place, their productivity and quality of life is increased, which can increase **productivity** for the entire organisation."

She adds that, "B-Society is working globally for a better world that supports a **diversity** of individual daily rhythms, working rhythms and life rhythms. B-Society will



create a new daily rhythm in schools and other institutions as an alternative to the current rhythm of 'early at work and early at home'. We are working for the **establishment of** day nurseries, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools as well as universities that open between 10am and 8pm."

Would you like to work for a B-certified company? ☺



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GLOSSARY

a late riser *n*
a person who gets up late in the morning

to call for something *exp*
to demand something

an uprising *n*
if there is an "uprising", people start to fight against a government or organisation

tyranny *n*
if you describe something as a "tyranny", you think it is cruel, unfair, unpleasant, etc

a manifesto *n*
a list of political demands

useless *adj*
not good at all

used to something *exp*
accustomed to something because you do it frequently

to feed *vb*
to give food to animals

a brain *n*
the organ in your head that you use for thinking

at full speed *exp*
at maximum speed

fully awake *adj*
if you are "fully awake", you have woken up completely

to get the kids to school on time *exp*
to make sure that your children arrive at school punctually

productivity *n*
the rate and speed at which goods are produced

diversity *n*
the "diversity" of something is the fact that it has many different elements

the establishment of something *exp*
the act of creating something



CD track 28 - Englishman & Scotswoman

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

Throwing eggs at a **public speaker** could result in up to one year in prison. (Kentucky)



You may not **dye** a **duckling** blue and offer it for sale unless more than six are for sale at once. (Kentucky)



It is illegal to **fish** with a bow and arrow in Kentucky. (Kentucky)



It is illegal to transport an ice cream **cone** in your pocket. (Kentucky)

Stealing an alligator could result in a ten-year jail term. (Louisiana)



Making a false promise could result in a jail term. (Louisiana)

It is illegal to rob a bank and then shoot at the **bank teller** with a **water pistol**. (Louisiana)



Biting someone with your natural teeth is "simple **assault**"; while biting someone with your false teeth is "**aggravated assault**". (Louisiana)



It is illegal to **gargle** in public places. (Louisiana)



Spectators at a boxing match may not **mock** the contestants. (Louisiana)

There is a \$500 fine for instructing a **pizza delivery man** to deliver a pizza to your friend without them knowing. (Louisiana)



You may not tie an alligator to a **fire hydrant**. (Louisiana)

It is illegal for a woman to drive a car unless her husband is waving a flag in front of it. (Louisiana)



No person may predict another's future. (Louisiana)

It is illegal to be an alcoholic. (Louisiana)



Saying obscene things on the telephone is illegal. (Louisiana)



You may not step out of a plane in mid-flight. (Maine)

After January 14th, you will be charged a fine for having your Christmas decorations still up. (Maine)



It is against the law to **stroll down** the street playing a violin. (Maine)



Shoelaces must be tied while walking down the street. (Maine) *

GLOSSARY

- a public speaker** *n*
a person who gives a formal talk to an audience
- to dye** *vb*
to change the colour of your hair by using a special chemical
- a duckling** *n*
a baby duck
- to fish** *vb*
to try to catch fish
- a cone** *n*
a cone-shaped piece of food that is used to hold ice cream
- a bank teller** *n*
a person who works in a bank serving customers
- a water pistol** *n*
a plastic gun that shoots water
- an assault** *n*
a physical attack
- aggravated assault** *n*
a serious physical attack that causes injury
- to gargle** *vb*
to put water in your mouth and to make a bubbling sound
- to mock** *vb*
to make fun of
- the pizza delivery man** *n*
the person who works in a pizza restaurant and who takes pizza to your house
- a fire hydrant** *n*
a pipe in the street where fire fighters can get water
- to stroll down** *phr vb*
to walk down a place in a calm, casual manner
- a shoelace** *n*
the string used to tie your shoes



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DICTIONARY OF SLANG


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


 Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
You tell your friends that the food you have prepared is ready.	The nourishment is at a state of preparedness.	The food's ready.	Grub's up.
A friend is in a difficult situation.	He is caught up in problematic circumstances.	He is in a bit of trouble.	He's in a real jam ; he's in a bit of a bind; he's in a bit of a pickle .
You have a DVD you are offering to anyone who wants it.	This DVD is available to anyone who requests it.	I've got this DVD if anyone wants it.	This DVD is up for grabs .
Your friend's hands are really dirty.	Your hands are sullied.	Your hands are dirty.	You've got grubby hands; you've got mucky hands.
A friend has a large stomach.	He is somewhat overweight in the region of the waist.	He's a bit fat around the stomach.	He's got a beer belly; he's got a few spare tyres .
You are describing a frightening trip through the mountains in a jeep.	It was fear-inducing.	It was frightening.	It was really hair y.

 CD track 29



I LOVE GRUB.





I'M A BELLY OF BEER.

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

a jam *n inform*
a difficult situation. Literally, food made from fruit and sugar

a pickle *n inform*
a difficult situation. Literally, a piece of vegetable that has been preserved in vinegar

for grabs *exp*
available for anyone who wants it. Literally, to "grab" something is to take it suddenly with your hands

a tyre *n inform*
a layer of fat. Literally, a rubber object that is placed around a car wheel

hairy *adj inform*
frightening. Literally, with a lot of hair on the body

Answers
Trivia Matching page 16
1L 2D 3B 4E 5I 6C 7A 8F 9G 10M
11H 12J 13K
Jokes page 29
1F 2E 3C 4D 5A 6B

ANIMAL IDIOMS



CD track 31 - Englishmen

GLOSSARY

a whale *n*
a very large mammal that lives in the sea
(done in) an arbitrary manner *exp*
done in an unfair and careless way
a barrel *n*
a large, round container for liquids

This month we are looking at some general animal idioms.



Whale of a time

To enjoy yourself very much.
"We had a **whale** of a time."



Chase the dragon

To take heroin.
"After a few months chasing the dragon, he became an addict."



The lion's share

The biggest part of something.
"The lion's share of the budget goes on staff salaries."



Kangaroo court

A court of law that is not official, and that is set up quickly – often in times of war. As a result, the accused is often judged in an unfair and **arbitrary manner**.
"They set up a kangaroo court to deal with people who had been fraternising with the enemy."



Be as funny as a barrel of monkeys

To be very funny or enjoyable.
"That show was really funny – as funny as a **barrel** of monkeys."



Produce/pull a rabbit out of the hat

To surprise everyone by suddenly doing something that shows you have a special skill or ability.
"Just when we thought that he'd lost the competition, he pulled a rabbit out of the hat and did a perfect dance."

Spelling Simplified

A look at a new move to make English spelling simpler.

If you're learning English, you probably hate English spelling. I mean, what other language has such a complicated system of spelling where one word can have more than one pronunciation and meaning (**bow**), or one sound can be written in a number of different ways (court / caught). America has already simplified some words (night-nite; colour-color, etc). However, a newly-formed society, *The Simplified Spelling Society*, wants to simplify English spelling even more. Let's look at the arguments in favour and against.

In favour of simplified spelling

The most important reason for simplifying spelling is to make learning to read easier. Having to waste time on memorising thousands of **quirky** spellings is of no benefit to anyone.

What spelling reform would do is drastically reduce the time it takes children to learn to read and write. This would cut teaching costs. More importantly still, it would reduce the high rate of **illiteracy**, which has been at around 20% for at least a century. This is far higher than other European countries (in Finland it is just 4%, in Sweden 8% and in Germany 10%).

The objective would be to improve the spellings of 200 of the most frequently used words that have silly spellings, such as "once" (wuns) and "said" (sed). Another step would be to reduce the letters in 100 key words, including "friend-frend, beautiful-butiful, slow-slo, have-hav". This would make teaching much easier and more successful. Incidentally, this happened once before during the 17th century when hundreds of English words were changed (atte-at, worde-word, shoppe-shop).

Against simplified spelling

The big question is, what are words? In some languages, words are related directly to spoken sounds (such is the case of Italian and Spanish). In English, words are primarily symbols that represent meaning. They are not designed to be read aloud. They are simple signs that help us relate to the world. And the human mind can deal

with a vast number of individual signs. A Chinese dictionary has about 30,000 signs; and Japanese children have to learn 1,945 in primary school. Cutting down on the number of individual

words we need to know as wholes is no particular advantage. If Chinese can manage to learn so many symbols, so can English children.

The danger is that if children are encouraged to think of reading as turning letters into sounds (and we change spelling to make this easier), they will forever be reading only as fast as they can speak rather than at fluent reading speed (which is about two or three times greater). We want children to be able to read and understand what they read, not just to read it aloud.

Another point is that if spelling reform is based on a supposed link between sounds and letters, we will have to decide which accent we are going to use. For example, children with non-standard accents might naturally spell "bath" as "barf". Trying to agree on a phonic spelling of English words would be a practically impossible given the number of regional and international English accents in existence. Can

you really expect a Londoner to agree with someone from Sydney (Australia) or someone from Johannesburg (South Africa) or someone from Kingston (Jamaica)?

Also, the cost of any change would be **astronomical**. Imagine the number of books in English that would need to be changed. If they were not changed, the children taught by the new system would be effectively **cut off** from their written heritage. ☹



Simplified words

Here are some examples of simplified spellings. Would they help you?

- Bright-brite Friend-frend
- Caught-cort Taught-tort
- Women-wimin Slow-slo
- Heard-herd Could-cud
- Would-wud Should-shud
- Your-yor Whole-hol
- There/their/they're-ther
- Honey-huny Money-muny
- More-mor Support-suport
- Become-becum
- Young-yung Have-hav
- Health-helth Won-wun
- Learning-lerning
- Anyway-enyway Any-eny
- Learn-lern Were-wer
- Beautiful-butiful

GLOSSARY

a bow *n*
two meanings (of many): if you give a "bow", you move your body downwards and forwards as a sign of respect (pronounced with the same sound as "loud"); a weapon that shoots arrows (pronounced with the same sound as "low")

quirky *adj*
strange and unusual

illiteracy *n*
the state of not knowing how to read or write

astronomical *adj*
very, very expensive

cut off *adj*
isolated; not in contact with

PHRASAL VERB THEMES: DATING

This month we are looking at some more phrasal verbs related to dating.

GLOSSARY

a date *n*
an arrangement to see someone

CHAT SOMEONE UP

TO TALK TO SOMEONE IN A FRIENDLY WAY BECAUSE YOU ARE ATTRACTED TO THEM.



ASK SOMEONE OUT

TO ASK SOMEONE TO GO ON A DATE WITH YOU.



STAND SOMEONE UP

IF SOMEONE "STANDS YOU UP", THEY FAIL TO KEEP AN ARRANGEMENT TO SEE YOU, OFTEN LEAVING YOU WAITING FOR THEM.



GO OUT WITH SOMEONE

TO HAVE A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE.



CHEAT ON SOMEONE

TO HAVE AN AFFAIR WITH SOMEONE WHO IS NOT YOUR HUSBAND/WIFE/BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND.



FALL OUT

TO HAVE AN ARGUMENT WITH A FRIEND/BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND, AND TO STOP BEING FRIENDS.



SPLIT UP / BREAK UP
TO STOP THE RELATIONSHIP.



MAKE UP

TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN WITH SOMEONE AFTER AN ARGUMENT.





Headline news

Taxi Opera

Opera singer **Bryn Terfel** has found a new forum for his album: the back of London taxis. As part of a marketing move, Terfel will be **plugging** his new album by having it **piped** into the back of cabs. "People can get in the cab and sit back to listen to Mozart," a taxi driver explained. This is the first time a classical album has been promoted in this way. Terfel said, "I apologise to those who aren't fans and face a long trip with Mozart arias **blasting** their ears. But it's good to challenge stereotypes of **cabbies**. They need something to get away from the heavy traffic." The album includes some of Mozart's greatest operatic arias from *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Così fan tutte*.



NO ONE WILL RECOGNISE ME WITH THIS MASK ON.

Old Jokes

The traditional image of the **grumpy** old man may have a scientific and biological explanation. A study by Washington University in St Louis found that older people find it harder to understand jokes than students. The researchers tested 40 people aged over 65, and 40 **undergraduates**. The participants had to complete jokes and cartoon strips, choosing the correct **punchline** or final picture from a selection of options. Undergraduates performed 6% better than older people when choosing the punchline, and 14% better when completing cartoon strips. "Many jokes require us to simultaneously have two ideas in mind, such as two meanings of the word, and older people may find it difficult to do this," one of the authors of the experiment explained.



WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

Food Throwing

A new report shows that Britons throw out a third of all food. The research also found that food accounts for almost one-fifth (19%) of domestic waste. "Our research has found that about half of the food we throw away could have been eaten," a spokesperson said. Some of the reasons for the waste include buying too much food, **storing** food badly and **fussy** children. Also, around one-third of shoppers do not check what food they need or take a list when buying produce. This often leads to duplication. Interestingly, around 20% of British **climate change emissions** are related to the production, processing, transportation and storage of food. "If we could reduce the level of food wastage, we would also be helping the environment," a government spokesperson said.



Father Likeness

What do women find attractive? Scientists think they may have the answer. Apparently, women who were treated well by their dad during childhood are attracted to men who resemble their father facially. Research shows **close correlations** in the central facial area (including the nose, chin and eyes) between some women's husbands and fathers. The results of another study seemed to offer further **proof**. In this study, women were asked to rate pictures of men's faces for attractiveness, and assess their relationship with their fathers. The team compared the facial features of the men in the study to pictures of the women's fathers. They found in women who reported more positive relationships with their fathers, there was a **link** between the faces the women found most attractive and their fathers' faces. ☺

GLOSSARY

Bryn Terfel *n*
Bryn Terfel (1965) is a world-famous, bass-baritone Welsh opera singer

to plug *vb inform*
to promote

to pipe *vb*
if you "pipe" music into a place, you play music in that place through speakers

to blast *vb*
if music is "blasting", it is playing very loudly

a cabbie *n inform*
a taxi driver

grumpy *adj*
angry and in a bad mood

an undergraduate *n*
a student at university who is studying his/her first degree

a punchline *n*
the end part of a joke that is meant to be the funny part

to store *vb*
to keep in a special place

fussy *adj*
difficult to please

climate change emissions *n*
discharges of gases that damage the environment and lead to global warming

a close correlation *n*
a close connection

proof *n*
evidence

a link *n*
a connection

THE WHITECHAPEL TROUSER SNATCHER

EPISODE V

A radio play by Mark Pierro and Ian Coufts.



Disastrous
Grotesque
Pathetic
Dreadful
Rubbish
Cheap
Awful
Pip

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

In the previous episode of the Whitechapel Trousersnatcher, we saw our heroes, Inspector Nottingham Forest and his trusted sidekick Hamilton the Academical (and his trusted sidekick Ranger the dog) **pass water** in every scene and location that this script was set in.

Also, our heroes arrest The Trousersnatcher and **take him into custody**. But can the Guttersnipe make a positive identification of the Trousersnatcher? Can a charge be made against this foul villain? To find out, sit back and enjoy this final, **turbulent** episode of the Whitechapel Trousersnatcher.

The scripts

For the full script of this episode (and any previous episodes) and the sound file (an MP3), please download the files from the homepage of our website:

www.hotenglishmagazine.com



GLOSSARY

to pass water *n*
to go to the toilet
to take someone into custody *exp*
to arrest somebody
turbulent *adj*
with a lot of change and confusion

Alibi City

Imagine the scenario. You're on a date. It's boring and you want to go home. How do you get out of it? A new company, Alibi Network, deals with problems just like this.

Affairs of the heart

Need a good **alibi**? A new company called Alibi Network can help. They can provide customised alibis and excuses for adults involved in discreet relationships or any other difficult situation. This may include providing you with airline tickets, hotel bills, conference invitations, evening class **receipts**, sports events' tickets, or proof that you went to a job interview. They even have a 24-hour telephone service with a receptionist acting as a virtual hotel desk clerk. The operator will greet a caller with the appropriate hotel greeting message and will **handle** the call according to instructions.



Other affairs

The company can also create a virtual friend for you. He or she comes complete with a mobile phone number, an address and voicemail. Your new virtual buddy will take calls for you, place calls for you, and even make those all-important rescue calls: phoning you while you are in a boring meeting or a dull date so you can have a good reason to leave. "Terribly sorry but I've got to go – work!" As they say on their website, "Alibi Network is a **cutting-edge**, full-service agency providing alibis as well as assistance with a variety of sensitive issues. We understand your need for privacy and we are completely discreet and confidential."

GLOSSARY

an alibi *n*
if you have an "alibi", you can prove that you were in a certain place at a certain time
a receipt *n*
a piece of paper with information about the product you have just bought
to handle *vb*
to deal with something successfully
cutting-edge *adj*
if something is "cutting-edge", it has the latest technological developments

For more information, visit:
www.alibinetwork.com

Waitress Death

The sad story of Adrienne Shelly.

She was a star. She had a young child. She'd just directed a great new film (*Waitress*). Adrienne Shelly had everything to live for. But then she was found dead. It appeared to be suicide. Or was it murder?



HEY, DIDN'T YOU WRITE THIS FILM?

Indie star

Adrienne Shelly was a **rising star**. She had starred in two independent films directed by Hal Hartley (*The Unbelievable Truth* and *Trust*), and had directed three films of her own. Her last film was *Waitress*, which was regarded as her best. Shelly was hoping it would be shown at the **Sundance Film Festival** in 2007. It was. But she never found out. On 1st November 2006, she was found dead in her shower. Initially, the police regarded it as a suicide.

Suicide?

But for many, suicide was out of the question. The idea that this woman – in the prime of her life, at the **peak of her career**, in the middle of mothering a three-year-old daughter she adored – should have killed herself was impossible to contemplate. Shelly's husband, Andy Ostroy, was convinced it was murder. For a start, Shelly

would never have left her daughter intentionally, he told police. Over the next few days, he insisted on a more thorough examination of the crime scene. And he was right.

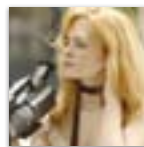
Murder

Next to the shower where Shelly was found, a muddy **footprint** had been left on the toilet. Eventually, they **traced** the footprints to a 19-year-old construction worker who was working in an apartment in the building. He subsequently confessed to Shelly's murder. So, what had happened? That day, Shelly had gone down to

the apartment where the man was working and complained about the noise. He didn't speak much English, having recently arrived in the United States, but he understood when she **threatened** to call the police. Fearing that he would be deported if the police were called, the construction worker threw a hammer at Shelly and followed her back up to her apartment. There, she **slapped** him, and he hit her so hard that she fell back and hit her head against a table. He tried to cover up his crime by making it look like a suicide. He took a **sheet** from the bed and tied Shelly to the shower rail. She was found dead the next day.

Success

Shelly's film, *Waitress*, was eventually **screened** in the Sundance Festival. Within a few weeks of its **release**, the film had **grossed** more than \$17m. Apparently, there are signs that recognition may come in the form of Golden Globes or Oscar Academy Awards, which would be a fitting end to a tragic death. ✪



Adrienne Levine

Born 24th June 1966, New York.
Died 1st November 2006.



GLOSSARY

- a rising star** *n*
a person who is becoming more and more famous
- the Sundance Film Festival** *n*
an independent American film festival that takes place in Salt Lake City
- the peak of your career** *exp*
the highest and most important point of your job or profession
- a footprint** *n*
a mark made by the bottom of your foot or shoe
- to trace** *vb*
to find something/someone after looking for them
- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- to slap** *vb*
to hit someone on the face with an open hand
- a sheet** *n*
a piece of material used to cover the bed. It is often white
- to screen** *vb*
if a film is "screened", it is shown to the public
- a release** *n*
a film's "release" is when it is shown to the public for the first time
- to gross** *vb*
if a film "grosses" a certain amount of money, it makes that amount

Waitress

Shelly's last film, *Waitress*, is all about Jenna, a poor southern waitress. Jenna is trapped in an unhappy marriage to a jealous, controlling man called Earl. She works in Joe's Pie Diner, where it is her job to create a new pie every day. Her only friends are the two other waitresses at the diner: Becky and Dawn (Adrienne Shelly). But things change after Jenna meets Dr Jim Pomatter, the town's handsome new gynaecologist.





A website in the US that claims to be "The American Guide to Speaking British" has been **flooded with** internet traffic. The site was created and is **currently** maintained by a character called Mr Etherington (under the **pseudonym** of Dr Effingpot). The site lists hundreds of words and expressions that are exclusive to British English and that are practically unknown in the US.

British-born Etherington says he started the website after spending a holiday in Florida and not being understood by Americans. "The differences between the British and American forms of the English language are getting bigger everyday," he said. Some academics in the US have even suggested changing the name of US English to "Anglo American" in

order to better describe what is being spoken. However, Mr Etherington has discovered that US Americans are **keen to** learn the British form of English. His success with the website has **led** him to write a book, which has now sold more than 30,000 copies. One US professor said, "People from the states love to learn different British expressions; it is a way of learning about our **heritage** and history".

English Lessons

Americans are learning "British" from a website.



Snoring Away

Report talks of Britain's snoring problem.

Three-quarters of British adults are snorers, and one in three **snores** so badly it stops their partner from sleeping, research has found. The study was **commissioned** by a hotel company and they found that some areas of the UK produce more snorers than others, particularly cities in the north. In the survey 21% of adults said that the fact that they snored made them feel "less sexy" in the bedroom. One in ten of the snorers said that the "**embarrassment**" of snoring had stopped them from spending the night with a new partner. Many famous people have been snorers, including former British



Prime Winston Churchill. Apparently, former US President Teddy Roosevelt's snoring was so bad that when he stayed in a Washington hospital, all the other patients had to be relocated to different floors so that they could get some sleep. A doctor explained why snoring is becoming more of a problem. He said, "More **boozing** and unhealthy eating is one of the big reasons". He added, "Snoring is a real problem. Our research shows that although snoring is often **made fun of**, it's a real problem that can have important effects on our **well-being** and lifestyle."

GLOSSARY

- to flood with** *phr vb*
if a website is "flooded with" traffic, it receives many visits
- currently** *adv*
at this moment
- a pseudonym** *n*
a name which someone uses instead of his/her real name
- keen to do something** *exp*
very excited about doing something
- to lead** *vb*
if A "leads" you to do B, A causes you to do B
- heritage** *n*
the qualities, traditions and cultural history of a country
- to snore** *vb*
if you "snore", you make a sound through your nose as you are sleeping
- to commission** *vb*
to make formal arrangements for someone to do something for you
- an embarrassment** *n*
if something is an "embarrassment", it makes you feel ashamed or bad
- to booze** *vb inform*
to drink alcohol
- to make fun of** *exp*
to laugh at
- well-being** *n*
your "well-being" is your state of health and happiness

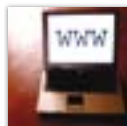
New Words

The latest words to describe current trends and tendencies.

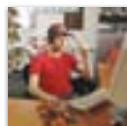
This is the second part of our mini-series on new words.



Thingy
a word that can be used to describe any other word whose name you can't remember. "Can you pass me that food scooping thingy, please?" (i.e. a spoon).



Cobwebsite
an old website that hasn't been updated in living memory.



Loudmouse
a person who, although very quiet and reserved normally, is very vociferous and opinionated on internet discussion forums.



Motspur the fourth wheel on a supermarket trolley that looks just like the other three but makes the trolley completely uncontrollable.



No-brainer a decision that is easy to take and that requires no consultation or much thought. "It's a no-brainer."

PeeCeeing / PCing being **politically correct**.

"Are you peeceeing about this issue?"



Eurowhine
to react spontaneously and negatively against anything the Americans do. "They've been eurowhining again."



Contrafibularity
a controversial situation. For example: "We are stuck in a contrafibularity."

From the British television series *Black Adder*, which was originally used to mean "congratulations". (Please see our Blog for a funny video clip on this.)



Chickenhawk
someone who advocates and supports war as long as others do the fighting.



Bouncebackability the ability of a famous person to return to normal life or fame after being involved in a scandal. "Three months ago he was a social outcast. Now he's back as a television presenter. His **bouncebackability** is unbelievable."

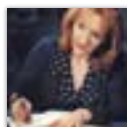


Be blairy to act against the wishes of the majority. One who does as he pleases regardless of opinion. From the proper noun Tony Blair.



Siz a singular, possessive pronoun that is not gender specific.

This means that phrases such as "his/her book" can be avoided. For example: "Each child should take siz book to the class."



Verbing creating verbs from nouns. For example: truthify = "She was truthifying"

("she told the truth"). Or, "She authored the book" ("She was the author of the book").



Waynification the assertion by Americans that they won World War II and saved democracy for the West, despite the fact that they turned up several years late, and only because they were attacked by Japan. From John Wayne, who apparently won the Wild West and the Vietnam war single-handedly. ☺



GLOSSARY

a trolley *n*
a metal object used for carrying food while you are shopping in a supermarket
politically correct *adj*
if you are "politically correct", you are careful about the words you use because you don't want to offend anyone
to whine *vb*
to complain in an annoying way
a social outcast *n*
a person who has been rejected by society or a group of people
to bounce *vb*
if a ball "bounces", it hits the ground and then goes up into the air again

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