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CD index

- 1 Hello
- 2 Together Again
- 3 Road Hell
- 4 Fingers' Error Correction Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 5 Nursery Rhymes
- 6 Story Time
- 7 Blair Wealth Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 8 Radio ad
- 9 Checked In
- 10 Buried Boat
- 11 Radio ad
- 12 Weird Trivia
- 13 Corny Criminals
- 14 Food's Up Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 15 Social English
- 16 Jokes
- 17 Graffiti
- 18 Through the Roof
- 19 Salty Burger
- 20 999 Calls
- 21 Song
- 22 Radio ad
- 23 Typical dialogues
- 24 Dr Fingers' Vocabulary
- 25 Quirky News
- 26 Radio ad
- 27 British Bar Chat
- 28 US Bar Chat
- 29 Imperial Success Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 30 Dumb US Laws
- 31 Dictionary of Slang
- 32 Radio ad
- 33 Idioms
- 34 Radio ad
- 35 Student Scam
- 36 Sweet Revenge
- 37 Homo Politicus Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 38 Advertising Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 39 Technology Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 40 Marketing Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 41 Radio ad
- 42 Business Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 43 Medicine Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 44 Finance Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 45 Telephone Conversation Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 46 Goodbye



This symbol tells you that the article is recorded on the CD.

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Editor's intro



Hello everyone, and welcome to another issue of Hot English. Are you looking forward to Christmas? One way to **get into the festive spirit** is to see a pantomime. This is a type of theatre play for both adults and children that is often based on a fairy tale (Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, etc). A woman plays the part of a man, and there's a Dame, who is a man dressed as a woman. There are also lots of jokes, **wacky** costumes and songs. If you're in Madrid, you can see one here, performed by the Madrid Players. For more information, please visit: www.madridplayers.blogspot.com

In this month's issue of Hot English, we're looking at the sad situation of the hyphen. Unfortunately for many, he seems to be **on the way out**, as fewer and fewer people are using him. However, we at Hot English would like to offer our full support, as the hyphen often helps with understanding. Bring back the hyphen, we say!

Our main theme this month is the 1930s – a fascinating period. You can read about some of the great moments and people from this decade, plus read about the incredible story of the Mitford sisters – Britain's most unusual family.

Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Hot English magazine. All the best and see you next month,

Andy

PS Don't forget to order your copy of the Student's Pack or the Teacher's Pack. See the ad in the magazine for more details. It's the perfect Xmas gift!

GLOSSARY

to get into the festive spirit *exp*
to celebrate Christmas by having a good time and being kind/generous, etc
wacky *adj*
crazy; strange
on the way out *exp*
disappearing
common ground *n*
if two people or groups find "common ground", they agree about something

Photo & Quote of the month



Here's our photo of the month. Now, can someone tell us, what is the point of this sign?

And here's our quote of the month:

"Language is always changing. It has to move with the times. There has to be a negotiated **common ground**, but within that there's room for variation and a degree of creativity." What do you think?

For our "Word of the Day", and lots, lots more free content, please visit Dr Fingers' fantastic blog: www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog

All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing, S.L., although we do think that English spelling is best left as is, the second episode of *Star Wars* was pretty poor (compared to the rest), and there's nothing like a bit of Schadenfreude to spice up your day.

Magazine Index

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Together Again & Road Hell
- 6 Hyphen Hysterics
- 8 Headlines News
- 9 Nursery Times
- 10 Story Time
- 11 Scouting Around
- 12 Basic English: The Hairdresser's
- 13 Grammar Fun
- 14 Headlines News
- 15 Checked In & Buried Boat
- 16 Trivia Matching
- 17 Weird Trivia
- 18 Dr Fingers' Grammar
- 19 Subscriptions
- 20 Corny Criminals
- 21 Changing 30s
- 22 Atonement Time
- 24 Divided Family
- 26 Face to Face: Orwell & Huxley
- 27 Social English: The Hairdresser
- 28 Headline News
- 29 Jokes, graffiti and cartoon
- 30 Through the Roof & Salty Burgers
- 31 Anniversaries
- 32 999 Calls & Recipe (Welsh Rarebit)
- 33 Song & Backissues
- 34 Vocabulary & Typical Dialogues (board games)
- 35 Vocabulary Clinic: Work
- 36 Witch Hunt
- 37 Quirky News
- 38 Bar chats
- 39 Trafalgar Trouble
- 40 Dumb US Laws
- 42 Dictionary of Slang
- 43 Idioms: Animals
- 44 The Lindberg Case
- 45 Phrasal Verbs (Time)
- 46 Headline News
- 47 The Hoax
- 48 Film Speech
- 49 Student Scam & Sweet Revenge

Pre-Intermediate

Intermediate

Upper Intermediate

Advanced





Together Again

One of Britain's most famous bands reforms.

Led Zeppelin are one of the most famous rock bands of all time. Now they say that they are going to **reform**. The original group was **comprised of** Robert Plant (vocals), Jimmy Page (guitar), John Paul Jones (bass) and John Bonham (drums). They **split up** after the death of Bonham in 1980. The **media** report that tickets to the concert will be sold for £125 each. Led Zeppelin are not the only band that have recently reformed. Others include The Spice Girls, The Police, Take That, Crowded House and Genesis. "These bands are still very popular" said one journalist. "They can still make lots of money, and people want to see them **play live**". ✨

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Road Hell

Government report that there will be 6m more cars by 2031.

An environmental group in Britain has reported that there will be a great increase in the number of cars in the future. The group, which is called *The Campaign for Better Transport* says that if the government does not do anything, British roads will become a **disaster area**. Stephen Joseph, executive director of the group, says, "Roads are getting **busier** every day. We cannot continue like this.

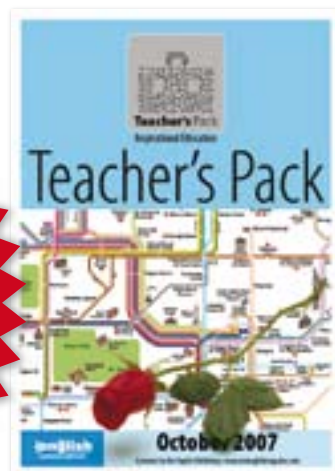
Road traffic is destroying our communities, our health and our **environment**. We have had this problem for a long time now. The government has to **encourage** people to use alternative types of transport such as trains and buses." Mr Joseph says that if the government does nothing, there will be a **queue** of cars that goes from London in the south to Edinburgh in the north. ✨

GLOSSARY

to reform *v*
if a group "reforms", the singers/
musicians come together again
after separating
comprised of *exp*
including; made of
to split up *phr vb*
to separate
the media *n*
newspapers, radio, the television,
etc
to play live *exp*
to play music to an audience
a disaster area *n*
an area of destruction and
devastation
busy *adj*
with a lot of cars and traffic
the environment *n*
the natural world, including the
sea, air, plants, animals, etc
to encourage *vb*
to try to persuade someone to do
something
a queue *n*
a line of people in a shop/the street



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OUT NOW!

Hyphen Hysterics



See if you can match the words with the images (A-E). **Answers** on page 42



A



B



C



D



E

- Toothpaste
- Salesperson
- Chickpeas
- Haircut
- Bumblebee

What do these words have in common? Well, they're all compound nouns: two words that join together to form another word. There are many of these in English. In some cases, the two words join together to form one word (tooth + paste = toothpaste); in other cases, they are joined by a **hyphen** (ski + boot = ski-boot), and in some cases they remain separate, even though they refer to a single unit (ice + cream = ice cream).

Of course, as with most things regarding the English language, there are no fixed rules. Take the case of the word "e-mail" (or should we say "email"). There seems to be no agreement on

how to write it. The BBC and the *New York Times* both write it with a hyphen (e-mail), but most of the rest of the world prefers it without the hyphen (email). And there are always lots of inconsistencies. For example, the term "African American" contains no hyphen, whereas "Italian-American" does.

According to the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, the hyphen is being used less and less. And as a result, for their latest dictionary, they have taken the hyphen out of 16,000 words, many of them two-word compound nouns. So, "**fig-leaf**" is now "fig leaf", and "**pot-belly**" is now "pot belly". However,

"**pigeon-hole**" and "**leap-frog**" are just one word now, "pigeonhole" and "leapfrog".

As a spokesperson for the dictionary said, "We only reflect what people in general are reading. We have been **tracking** this for some time and we've been finding the hyphen is used less and less."

However, others want to defend the use of the hyphen. "The hyphen is there to help the reader, and to show either that two words are **linked** in some significant way, or to add understanding in words such as "**go-between**"; a linguist explained. ✚



The English language

Unlike many other languages, English has no governing **body** controlling spelling, pronunciation, grammar or the introduction of new words. Many large dictionary-creators monitor the use of language through their analysis of **corpora** (the collection of examples of language from newspapers, books, conversations, recordings, etc). They base their decisions to include, to exclude or to change words on the way that language is used.



GLOSSARY

- hyphen** *n*
a punctuation sign (-) for joining two words, or for showing that a word has been broken in two
- a fig leaf** *n*
a leaf from a fig tree. Adam and Eve wore fig leaves instead of clothes
- a pot belly** *n*
a round, fat stomach
- a pigeonhole** *n*
a place in a piece of furniture on the wall where you can leave letters or messages for someone
- leapfrog** *n*
a game which children play. One child bends over and another child jumps over his/her back
- to track** *vb*
to investigate
- linked** *adj*
connected
- a go-between** *n*
someone who passes messages between two people or groups
- a body** *n*
an organisation
- corpora** *n*
collections of examples of language (from newspapers, books, reports, etc) that is stored on computers. The singular form is "a corpus"



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Headline News

Headline News N° 1

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Fast Driver

Driver breaks record.

A British driver was caught driving at more than 270 kph. Timothy Brady **pleaded guilty** to driving well in excess of the **speed limit**. He is the fastest driver ever caught. He has been sentenced to 10 weeks in jail. He was driving a 3.6-litre Porsche 911 Turbo. Brady, 33, of north-west London, was banned from driving. He **resigned** from his job days after police stopped him in the car. ☹



Bad Stars

Worst film couples voted.



What makes a convincing **on-screen** romance? *Star Wars'* **couple** Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen have been voted the worst on-screen couple. Second place went to Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez for their **performance** in *Gigli*. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman were also on the list

for their performance in *Eyes Wide Shut*. Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom were in third place for their part in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. More than 3,000 movie-goers were **surveyed**. Affleck was in the top 10 for a second time for his part with Kate Beckinsale in *Pearl Harbor*. ☹

Least convincing screen relationships

- 1 Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen: *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones*
- 2 Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez: *Gigli*
- 3 Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom: *Pirates of the Caribbean*
- 4 Madonna and Adriano Giannini: *Swept Away*
- 5 Catherine Zeta Jones and Sir Sean Connery: *Entrapment*



GLOSSARY

to plead guilty *exp*
to admit that you are responsible for a crime

a speed limit *n*
the maximum speed permitted

to resign *vb*
to leave your job voluntarily

on-screen *adj*
in a film

a couple *n*
two people in a relationship

a performance *n*
an actor's "performance" is the way he/she acts in a film

to survey *vb*
to ask people questions in order to get opinions

NURSERY TIMES



CD track 5
English child

This is the second part of our mini-series on nursery rhymes and their origins. This month we're looking at three nursery rhymes: "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep", "Georgie Porgie", and "London Bridge is Falling down". More next month.

Baa, baa, black sheep

As you can see, this rhyme is all about sheep, and it is related to the **wool** industry. This was a very important part of England's economy from the Middle Ages until the nineteenth century. The rhyme refers to a special **tax** on wool that was introduced



by King Edward I in 1275 (known as the English Customs Statute).

This authorised the king to collect a tax on all **exports** of wool. This song has always been popular for educational reasons because it contains an animal sound ("baa"). Animal sounds are some of the first sounds that babies and young children imitate because the sounds are based on onomatopoeia (i.e. there is a connection between the real-life sound and the sound of the word).

Baa, baa, black sheep

*Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.
One for the master, one for the dame,
And one for the little boy who lives down
the lane.*

Georgie Porgie (pudding and pie)

The **lyrics** in this rhyme refer to George Villiers, the 1st Duke of Buckingham (1592-1628). Villiers (Georgie Porgie) was a **courtier**. He was very good looking and had a number of relationships, including a secret **affair** with King James I (1586 - 1625).

Villiers' most **notorious** affair was with Anne of Austria (1601-1666), who was the Queen of France and married to the French king Louis XIII. Villiers was disliked by both courtiers and **commoners**. Villiers had a lot of influence over the king. Incidentally, the relationship between

George Villiers and Anne of Austria is **featured** in the Alexander Dumas novel *The Three Musketeers*.

Georgie Porgie (pudding and pie)

*Georgie Porgie pudding and pie,
Kissed the girls and made them cry,
When the boys came out to play,
Georgie Porgie ran away.*

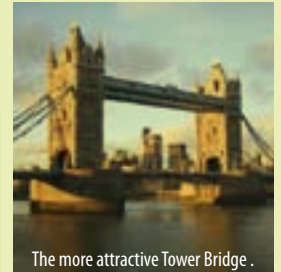
London Bridge is Falling Down

This nursery rhyme is based on one of London's many bridges: London Bridge. The history of this bridge goes back to Roman times in the first century. The first London Bridge was made of wood. There were many fires, and Viking invaders destroyed the bridge in the 11th century.

The first stone bridge was built in 1176. It took 33 years to construct, and had twenty **arches**, plus a **tower** and **gates**. This bridge survived the Great Fire of London in 1666. In the 1820s, another version of the bridge was built on a **site** north of the old one. This new bridge opened in 1831 and the old bridge was demolished. In the 1960s, another London Bridge was built. The London Bridge of 1831 was transported, stone by stone, to Lake Havasu in Arizona, by a rich American. Interestingly, he thought he was buying the more attractive and more famous Tower Bridge.

London Bridge is Falling Down

*London Bridge is falling down,
Falling down, falling down,
London Bridge is falling down,
My fair Lady.*



The more attractive Tower Bridge.

GLOSSARY

- wool** *n*
sheep hair that is used to make warm clothes
- a tax** *n*
money you pay to the government to cover the cost of public services such as the police, teachers, etc
- an export** *n*
goods that are sold in another country
- a dame** *n*
a lady
- a lane** *n*
a small road
- lyrics** *n*
the words to a song
- a courtier** *n*
a person who works in a palace, assisting the king/queen
- an affair** *n*
a relationship with someone who isn't your wife/husband
- notorious** *adj*
famous for something bad
- a commoner** *n*
an ordinary person (not a king/queen/aristocrat/lord/lady, etc)
- to feature** *vb*
if something "is featured" in a book, it appears in that book
- an arch** *n*
a structure that is curved (round) at the top and that is supported at the sides by a wall
- a tower** *n*
a tall, narrow building that stands alone or that forms part of another building (usually a church, castle, etc)
- a gate** *n*
the door that is the entrance to a garden/castle/tower, etc
- a site** *n*
a place; a piece of ground used for a particular purpose





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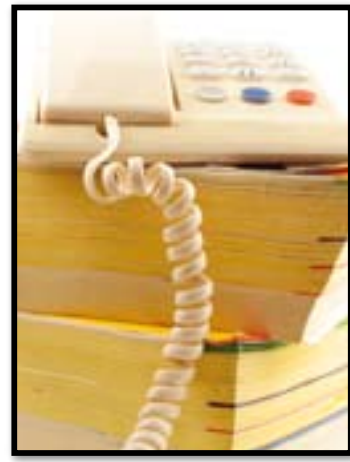


Story Time

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

Library Idiot

An idiot walks into a library. He goes up to the counter, slams down a book and screams at the librarian, "This is the worst book I've ever read!" "Oh, really," says the librarian. "What's wrong with it?" "It has no plot and far too many characters," the idiot explains. And the librarian looks up and



calmly remarks, "So, you're the one who took our phone book."

Police Car

Two idiots are speeding down the street when they pass a police car. "Oh, no!" the first idiot says. "Is that police car following us?"



"Yes," the other replies. "I'm going to drive down this little side road. Tell me if it follows us," the first idiot explains. So, he drives into a side road. "So, is the cop still following us?" the first idiot asks. "Yes," the other idiot replies. "Are his lights flashing?" the first idiot asks. And the other idiot replies, "Yes... no... yes... no... yes... no... yes... no..."

Barking Dogs

A very tired man goes to see his doctor. "Doctor, there are dogs all over my neighbourhood. They bark all day and all night, and I can't get any sleep." "Well, I have some good news

for you," the doctor explains as he opens a drawer full of sample medications. "Here are some new sleeping pills that work really well. A few of these and your troubles will be over." "Great," the man replies. "I'll try anything." A few weeks later, the man returns looking worse than ever. "Doc, your plan is no good. I'm more tired than before." "I don't understand it," says the doctor, shaking his head. "Those are the strongest pills on the market." "That may be true," the man says, "but I spend all night chasing those dogs; and when I finally catch one, he won't swallow the pill."



GLOSSARY

- to go up to X** *exp*
to go close to X
- a counter** *n*
a long table in a shop/bar/pub where you are served
- to slam** *vb*
if you "slam" a book down on a table, you hit it aggressively against the table
- a librarian** *n*
a person who works in a library
- a plot** *n*
a story in a book/film
- a phone book** *n*
a large book full of phone numbers and addresses
- to speed** *vb*
to drive very fast; to drive faster than the permitted speed
- to flash** *vb*
if a light is "flashing", it is going on and off
- to bark** *vb*
if a dog "barks", it makes a sound often because it is angry
- a drawer** *n*
a little box that is part of a table/desk and in which you can put things
- sample medication** *n*
a small quantity of a medicine that is an example of that medicine
- a sleeping pill** *n*
a tablet you take to help you sleep
- troubles** *n*
difficulties
- over** *adj*
finished
- to shake your head** *exp*
to move your head from side to side as a way of saying no
- to chase** *vb*
to run behind something in order to catch them
- to swallow** *vb*
if you "swallow" something, it goes from your mouth to your stomach

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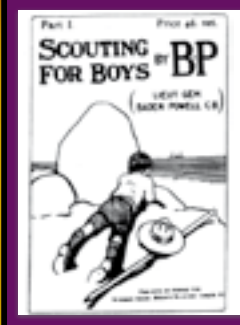
Scouting Around

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FOUGHT A BEAR?



Scouting

Scouting was started in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell. The principles of Scouting are in the book *Scouting for Boys* (London, 1908). The movement grew to include three major age groups: Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Rover Scout. In 1910, a new organization was created for girls, with three age groups: Brownie Guide, Girl Guide and Ranger Guide.



There are 28 million of them around the world. Only six countries don't have them (Cuba, Burma, Laos, China, North Korea and Andorra). And 11 of the 12 moon-walking astronauts were once one. The Scouts are enjoying their 100th birthday. But what would the inventor of the movement, Robert Baden-Powell, think of things today?



Scouting began in 1907 when Robert Baden-Powell (a Lieutenant General in the British Army), held the first Scout camp on Brownsea Island, England. Baden-Powell wrote the principles of Scouting in the book *Scouting for Boys* (London, 1908).

Many feel that the Scouts could be the answer to society's problems. These days, newspapers are full of stories of child obesity, and teenagers and children involved in **muggings**, drug dealing and even shootings. One **headmaster** recently spoke out on the subject. "Baden-Powell's movement was aimed at creating **practical, self-reliant, and unselfish** citizens – exactly what is

required today. Baden-Powell knew that young people need a focus in life and that they need to learn responsibility and leadership. They also need to **take risks**, but in the safest way possible," he added. "Scouting teaches you how to have fun, with an element of risk, without affecting other people. It teaches you about

the consequences of your actions, respect for others and the qualities that a good leader has. It's time that our youngsters got off the sofa, and did something truly exciting."

Here are a few extracts from the original scouting "bible": *Scouting for Boys*.

Animals

A scout is friend to animals. He should save them as far as possible from pain and should not kill any animal unnecessarily, even if it is only a **fly**.

Water

Plunge in boldly and look to the object you are trying to attain and don't bother about your own safety. (Apparently, Baden-Powell was angry about an episode in which a woman **drowned** in a pond at Hampstead while a **crowd looked on**.)

Smoking

No boy ever began smoking because he liked it but because he thought it made him look like a grown-up man. When a **lad** smokes before he is fully grown up it is almost sure to make his heart **feeble**, and the heart is the most important **organ** in a lad's body.

Alcohol

Alcohol is now shown to be quite **useless** as a health-giving drink and it is mere poison when a man takes too much.

Sleeping in the cold

A boy who is accustomed to sleeping with his window shut will probably suffer by catching cold and rheumatism when he first tries **sleeping out**. The thing is always to sleep with your windows open, summer and winter, and you will never catch cold. A soft bed and too many blankets make a boy dream bad dreams, which weakens him. ✪

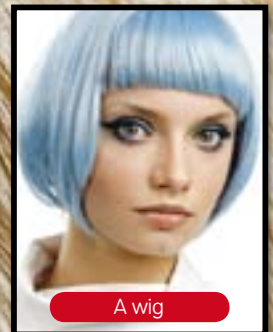
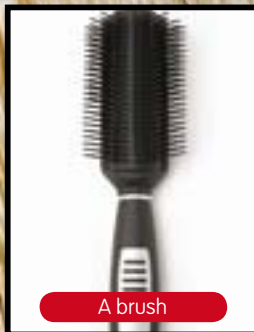
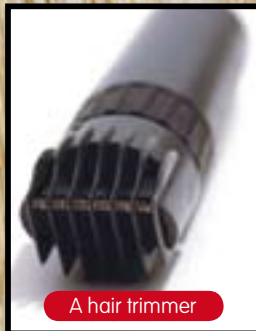
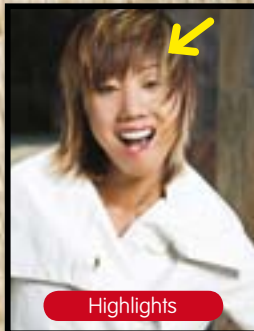
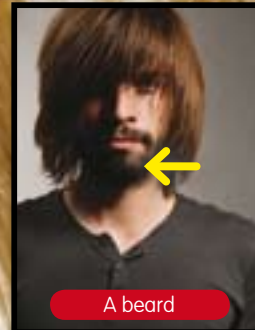
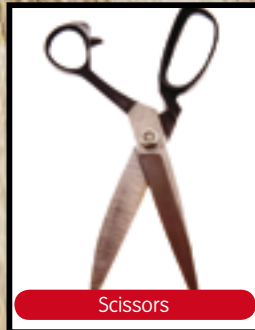
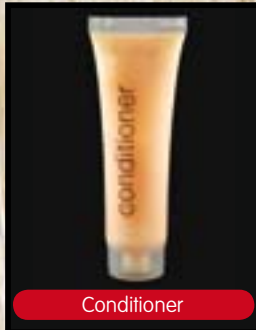
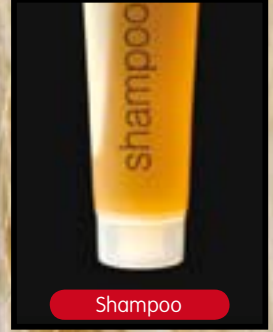
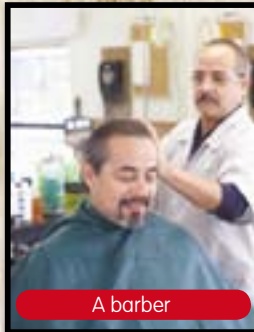
GLOSSARY

- a mugging** *n*
if there is a "mugging", someone is robbed in the street, often with violence
- a headmaster** *n*
the manager/director of a school
- practical** *adj*
a "practical" person makes good decisions and knows how to deal with situations
- self-reliant** *adj*
a "self-reliant" person is good at dealing with situations on their own
- unselfish** *adj*
an "unselfish" person thinks of others before thinking of him/herself
- to take risks** *exp*
to do things that are potentially dangerous but possibly also good/beneficial for you or others
- a fly** *n*
a small insect with wings
- to drown** *vb*
to die in water
- a crowd** *n*
a large group of people
- to look on** *phr vb*
to watch while something is happening but without participating
- a lad** *n*
a boy
- feeble** *adj*
weak; not strong
- an organ** *n*
a heart, liver, kidney, lungs, etc
- useless** *adj*
not useful or important
- to sleep out** *phr vb*
to sleep in a tent or outside on the ground

HEIL, BADEN.



Basic English





The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

QUESTION WORDS

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the use of question words.



We can form questions by placing the auxiliary (or an auxiliary verb) at the start of the question. For example:

- a) He is happy. = Is he happy?
- b) She can speak French. = Can she speak French?
- c) They live in Canada. = Do they live in Canada?

We can also form questions with a question word ("what, where, which, how, who, when, why, whose"). We often place the question word at the start of the question. For example:

- a) What do you do?
- b) Where does she live?
- c) Who does he work with?
- d) When does he get up in the morning?

What, which, whose

We can use "what, which" and "whose" with nouns. For example:

- a) What car do you drive?
- b) Which newspaper do you read?
- c) Whose bicycle is this?

Who's & whose

Be careful with "who's" and "whose". The pronunciation is exactly the same, but the meaning is different. "Who's" is a contraction of "who is". For example:

- a) Who's that girl over there? (who is)
 - b) Who's that man I saw you with last night? (who is)
- And "whose" is used to

ask about possession. For example:

- a) A: Whose mobile phone is this? B: It is Paul's.
- b) A: Whose car did you use? B: We used Shirley's car.

What & which

We generally use "which" when there is a limited choice (usually between two things). For example:

- a) Which colour do you prefer? The red or the green?
- b) Which one are you going to buy? The big dog or the small dog?
- c) Which one is your wife? The dark one or the blonde one?

And we use "what" when there is a greater choice (although the rules for this aren't always clear). For example:

- a) What newspaper do you read? ("which" is also possible)
- b) What car is the best for driving around in the city? A Smart car or a Mini? ("which" is also possible)

How

"How" can be followed by a verbal phrase. For example:

- a) How did you do it?
- b) How did she get here?

"How" can also be followed by an adjective, an adverb, or "much" or "many". For example:

- a) How often do you come here?
- b) How big is your house?
- c) How tall do you have to be to join the police force?
- d) How much wine did you drink?
- e) How many chairs do we need? ☺



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Headline News

Headline News N° 2

The voice of the people

London 2007

Blair Ride

Tony Blair's new car is sent back.

It was supposed to be Tony's new car. But now the police have sent it back to the factory. The modified, £100,000 grey BMW 7 Series had **bullet-proof glass** and **reinforced doors**. As agreed, the new BMW was taken to England inside a **lorry**. It was brought to a police station in Britain. However, on opening the lorry, four **asylum seekers** jumped out. They had ridden to Britain inside the vehicle. The men were arrested. Police have now returned the car as "its security has been **compromised**". The four men were arrested for immigration offences and remain in custody. ☹



I TOOK THEM FOR A RIDE.

Menu Change

Poor translations causing embarrassment.

Would you like some "virgin chicken"? Probably not, but if you go to China, you could well be **served** some. The Beijing Tourism Bureau has **released** a list of 2,753 **dishes** and drinks with unusual translations. Some of the other translations of traditional dishes include "burnt lion's head", "goat's book" and "pig's slips". An official said, "It is

confusing for foreigners. And it is bad for our image. Poor English translations could **scare** or **embarrass** foreign customers, and may cause misunderstanding of China's eating habits." Government officials are also **targeting spitting, littering** and bad driving in preparation for the Olympic Games. ☹

GLOSSARY

- bullet-proof glass** *n*
very strong glass that won't break when a bullet (fired from a gun) hits it
- reinforced doors** *n*
doors that are constructed with extra-strong metal
- a lorry** *n*
a large vehicle for transporting goods
- an asylum seeker** *n*
a person who wants to live in a foreign country because he/she is in danger in his/her country
- to compromise** *vb*
if the security of something has been "compromised", that thing is no longer secure or safe
- to serve** *vb*
if you are "served" food, you are given that food
- to release** *vb*
if you "release" information, you make that information public
- a dish** *n*
a plate of food
- to scare** *vb*
to frighten
- to embarrass** *vb*
to make someone feel ashamed or uncomfortable
- to target** *vb*
if you "target" something, you decide to attack or focus on that thing
- to spit** *vb*
to force liquid out of your mouth
- to litter** *vb*
to throw rubbish on the floor





Checked In

A couple spend 22 years living in the same hotel room.



An elderly **couple** have had a room at a hotel **named after** them. David Davidson and his wife Jean were given this **honour** after spending the last 22 years living as permanent guests at a Travelodge hotel just outside of Sheffield. The couple's love of the Travelodge **hotel chain** started in 1985 when they stayed at one of the hotels in Staffordshire. Since then, they have literally "moved in". The couple are in their late 70s and they admitted that they found the lifestyle **suit**ed them very well. "My wife has a bone disease," said Mr Davidson, "and it

is good that she doesn't have to go up stairs." The couple have spent an estimated £90,000 in the twenty years that they have been using the hotel. "One day we asked if we could live here and they said yes. We **book well in advance** and therefore we get the very best prices," said Mr Davidson. "We usually pay about £90 a week, and we'll continue to live here for many years to come." The couple have developed a close relationship with the **employees** and each Christmas they **exchange presents**. ⚡

GLOSSARY

- a couple** *n*
two people in a relationship
- to name after** *phr vb*
to give the same name as
- an honour** *n*
a special prize or award
- a hotel chain** *n*
a number of hotels all owned by the same company
- to suit** *vb*
if something "suits" you, it is good/perfect for you
- to book** *vb*
to reserve (a room in a hotel)
- well in advance** *exp*
a long time before you use/need it
- employees** *n*
the people who work in a company
- to exchange presents** *exp*
if you "exchange presents", you give a present to one person and they give you a present
- a discovery** *n*
something important or significant that is found
- to come across something** *exp*
to find something by chance (by accident)
- a longboat** *n*
a type of long boat that Vikings used to cross the sea
- a layer** *n*
a "layer" of material is a portion of that material that is between two other layers
- clay** *n*
a kind of earth that is soft when it is wet and hard when it is dry. Often used for making pots/cups, etc
- the Norman Conquest** *n*
a time when the Normans invaded England in 1066
- an archaeological find** *n*
an old object of value that is discovered
- to damage** *vb*
to destroy/break/harm

Buried Boat

Viking long boat discovered under a car park.



Archaeologists working in the British city of Liverpool have made an interesting **discovery**. They have **come across** the remains of what they think is a 1,000-year-old Viking **longboat** in a pub car park. They say that the boat is about 3 metres below a **layer** of **clay** just outside the Railway Inn pub. Vikings are known to have been present

in that area of Liverpool about 1,000 years ago, before the **Norman Conquest** of Britain. If the discovery is genuine, Professor Stephen Harding of the University of Nottingham says that it could be "one of the most significant **archaeological finds** in British history". The discovery was made by using modern technology. The

next stage, according to Mr Harding, is "very important". "We have to think very carefully about what we are going to do next. We don't want to **damage** the boat and it is going to be very difficult to move it from that place. But we are all very excited about the discovery, and we're starting work on it as soon as possible," he added. ⚡

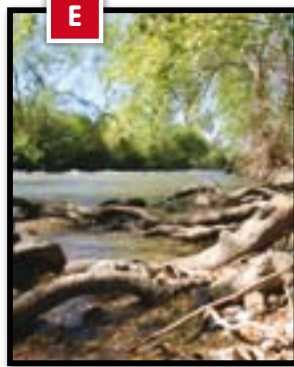
TRIVIA MATCHING

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. An ostrich
2. A football player
3. To roar
4. A lion
5. A sloth
6. A harmonica
7. A stringed instrument
8. Contact lenses
9. A weapon
10. A beaver
11. A stamp
12. The Holy Land
13. A river





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



Ostriches can run faster than horses, and the males can **roar** like lions.

Sloths take two weeks to digest their food. How lazy!



The harmonica is the world's most popular instrument.



Lyndon B. Johnson was the first president of the United States to wear **contact lenses**.



On average, US airport **security personnel** confiscate six **weapons** a day **searching** passengers. Scary!



In the late 1950s, Lincoln City Football Club had one football player called Ray Long who was over 183cm tall, and another player called David Short, who was only 164cm tall.



Young **beavers** stay with their parents for the first two years of their lives before going out on their own. Very human! Stamp collector Gaston



Leroux was once murdered by **philatelist** Hector Giroux. Apparently, the pair had an argument over the ownership of an 1851 Hawaiian **stamp** with a **face value** of just 2 cents.



Roosevelt (Franklin) is regarded as one of the most **superstitious** presidents. He travelled continually but never left on a Friday. He also refused to sit at a table with 12 other people as that would make the total number of people 13.



Archduke Karl Ludwig (1833-1896) (the brother of the Austrian emperor), was an extremely religious man. Once, on a trip to the **Holy Land**, he insisted on drinking from the River Jordan, despite **warnings** that it would make him fatally ill. He died within a few weeks. ☹



GLOSSARY

- to roar** *vb*
when a lion "roars", it makes a loud sound from its mouth
- a sloth** *n*
an animal from Central and South America that lives in trees and that moves very slowly
- contact lenses** *n*
small, plastic round objects that you put in your eyes so you can see better
- security personnel** *n*
people whose job is to guarantee that an area (an airport, a government building, etc) is secure and safe
- a weapon** *n*
a gun/rifle, etc
- to search** *vb*
if the police "search" you, they look in your clothes to see if you have anything illegal/prohibited/stolen
- a beaver** *n*
a small animal with a big tail that builds dams (barriers) in rivers
- a philatelist** *n*
a person who collects and studies stamps
- a stamp** *n*
a small square of paper you stick on an envelope to pay for the cost of sending the letter
- the face value** *n*
the amount of money written on the stamp/coin/note, etc
- superstitious** *adj*
people who are "superstitious", believe in things that are not real
- the Holy Land** *n*
areas in Israel/Palestine that have important religious significance
- a warning** *n*
if you give someone a "warning", you tell them about a danger

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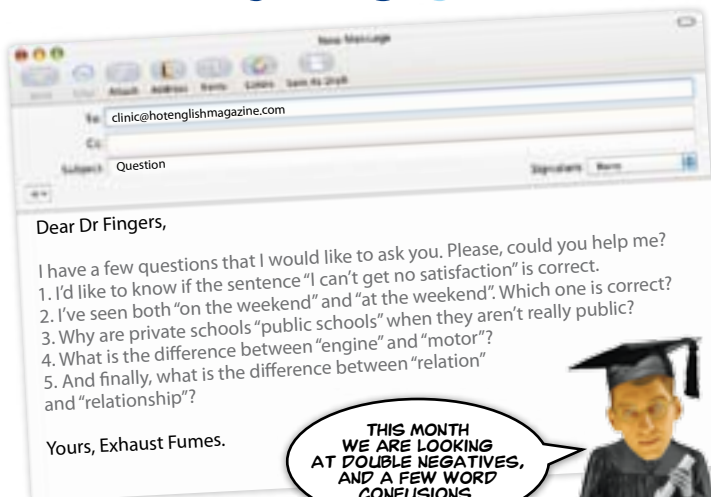
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DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



THIS MONTH WE ARE LOOKING AT DOUBLE NEGATIVES, AND A FEW WORD CONFUSIONS.



Dear Exhaust Fumes,

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

1. In colloquial English it is very common to have double negatives. However, it is not considered to be grammatically correct. Here are some examples of double negatives used informally:

- a) We don't need no education. (from the band Pink Floyd)
- b) They don't need no more chairs.

2. Both "on the weekend" and "at the weekend" are correct, although the British prefer to use "at", and our American cousins prefer to use "on".

3. The use of the term "public" to refer to private schools is most confusing. Some say it dates back to the time when

independent schools (private institutions) were open to the public (i.e. anyone could send their child to the school, as long as they paid, of course). Incidentally, schools that are financed by the government are called "state schools". Some suggest that only old independent (private) schools should be referred to as "public schools". These exclusive schools include Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, and Rugby.

4. There are many cases when both "engine" and "motor" are used to mean the same thing. However, we generally use the term "engine" to refer to a device that uses some form of thermal energy (steam, petrochemical, etc); whereas we use "motor" to refer to a device that converts electrical energy into mechanical work.

5. In many cases you can use both "relation" and "relationship" when you are talking about the way in which two things are connected. For example: What's the relation/relationship between poverty and crime?

You can also use both "relationship" (in the singular form) and "relations" (in the plural form) to talk about the way in which two people (or two groups/countries, etc) feel and behave towards one another. For example:

- a) The Chinese have a very good relationship with their neighbour, North Korea.
- b) The Chinese have good relations with their neighbour, North Korea.

And finally, remember, your "relations" are members of your family. For example: Do you often visit your relations?

Well, Exhaust Fumes, I hope that has helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers. Please send your questions or stories to: clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com

www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog

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Corny Criminals

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



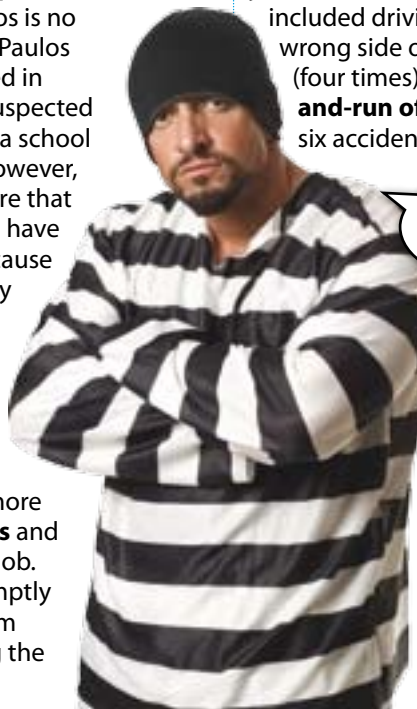
CD track 13 - US woman & Irishwoman

Cheeky robber

Jim Broil gets the award for the **cheekiest** robber. A **reward** of \$1,000 was offered for information leading to the capture and conviction of a man robbing taxi drivers. Broil, who was responsible for the robberies, **turned himself in** and demanded the reward. He received a 20-year sentence for **aggravated robbery**... and no compensation.

False alibi

They say that everyone, even the lowest of the low, has a **sense of pride**. And Pierre Paulos is no exception. Paulos was arrested in Belgium, suspected of robbing a school in Liege. However, Paulos swore that he couldn't have done it because he was busy **breaking into** a jewellery store at the same time – a much more **prestigious** and important job. Police promptly arrested him for robbing the jeweller's.



DON'T JUDGE A ROBBER BY HIS CLOTHES.

Pole position

A **drunk driver** was arrested after driving with a traffic-light pole (including all the lights) lying across the car **bonnet**. The driver had hit the pole and simply kept driving. When the driver was asked about the pole, he replied, "It came with the car when I bought it."

Driving offence

There's **fierce competition** for the world's worst driver. Candidate number one is a 75-year-old man who received 14 traffic tickets in a space of just 20 minutes. The offences included driving on the wrong side of the road (four times), four **hit-and-run offences**, and six accidents. Candidate

number two is a 62-year-old woman who failed her driving test 40 times before finally passing it in August 1970. By that time, she had spent over \$700 on lessons, and

could no longer **afford** to buy a car.



Dumb robber

In order to **avoid being detected** by video surveillance cameras, Marjorie and Bob Hearn put on a hat and **wig** before robbing a store in downtown Chicago. As a result, police were unable to identify the couple. However, after carefully reviewing video material from other parts of the store, police noticed a similar looking couple (minus the wigs and hats) **filling out** an **entry form** for a free trip. Helpfully, the couple had filled out the form with their current address, which police **took note of** before arresting them both. ☺



GLOSSARY

- cheeky** *adj*
a bit rude or disrespectful
- a reward** *n*
a sum of money you receive as thanks for something
- to turn yourself in** *exp*
to go to the police so they can arrest you
- aggravated robbery** *n*
robbery that involves the use of a weapon (a gun/knife, etc)
- a sense of pride** *n*
positive feelings about yourself
- to break into** *phr vb*
to enter a place illegally
- prestigious** *adj*
respected and admired by others
- a drunk driver** *n*
a driver who drives whilst under the influence of alcohol
- a bonnet** *n*
the front part of a car where the engine is
- fierce competition** *exp*
very, very strong competition
- a hit-and-run offence** *n*
the crime of hitting someone with a car and not reporting it or helping
- to afford** *X vb*
to have enough money for X
- to avoid being detected** *exp*
to do something so that you aren't recognised/discovered/seen
- a wig** *n*
a piece of false hair that covers your head
- to fill out** *phr vb*
to complete, providing information
- an entry form** *n*
a piece of paper that you complete in order to enter a competition
- to take note of** *exp*
to notice and remember

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(go to the "Madrid" section, obviously!)

CHANGING 30s

The 1930s was a great but tragic decade in history, full of interesting characters, spectacular developments and devastating violence. Here are a few key moments and people from the 1930s.

- Warner Brothers release the first all-talking, all-colour movie: *Song of the Flame* (1930).

- The first Tintin comic is published in 1930, *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets*.



- Aldous Huxley publishes *Brave New World* in 1932.

- The world's tallest building, the Empire State Building, opens on 3rd May 1932.

- **Swing music** starts becoming popular from 1935 onwards.



- The game of Monopoly is released onto the market in 1935.

- The Spanish Civil War starts in July 1936.

- The Japanese Empire

invades the Republic of China in July 1937.

- The German **zeppelin** The Hindenburg is destroyed by fire, killing thirty six people (May 1937).

- Some of cinema's greatest classics are released during the 1930s: *Dracula* (1931), *The Mummy* (1932), *King Kong* (1933), *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937), *Gone with the Wind* (1939), and *The Wizard of Oz* (1939).

- Great film and television characters from the 1930s include *Laurel and Hardy*, the *Marx Brothers* and *Tarzan*.



- A few famous people from the 1930s include: Al Capone (gangster), Greta Garbo (actress), Judy Garland (actress), Joe Louis (boxer), Joe DiMaggio (baseball player), Jesse Owens (sprinter).

- The Great Depression starts as the US economy crashes. Millions are out of work, there is the **threat of** civil war, and many families become desperately poor. This soon leads to a general World Depression.

- Fascism becomes popular. There is Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany, Franco in Spain, and the threat of



Fascism in Britain, France and just about every other country in Europe.

- At the same time, Stalinism is **taking grip** in the Soviet Union. Stalin's Five Year Plans (designed to reorganise the economy through **collectivisation** and rapid industrialisation) lead to the deaths by **starvation** of millions.

- Germany and the Soviet Union invade Poland in September 1939. World War II starts. ☆



GLOSSARY

swing music *n*
a style of dance jazz that was popular in the 1930s. It was played by big bands

a zeppelin *n*
a type of airship that could transport people

the threat of something *exp*
the danger of something

to take grip *exp*
to become stronger and more developed, and to affect more and more people

collectivisation *n*
the process of bringing all production under the control of the government and state

starvation *n*
dying or suffering because there is no food or not much food

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ATONEMENT TIME

A prize-winning book.
A film starring Keira Knightley.

There have been many novels set in the 1930s. But few have been as successful as Ian McEwan's 2001 book *Atonement**. On its release, the book was nominated for one of the top literary prizes: the Booker Award. It was also Time magazine's book of the year, and it has regularly appeared on lists of the Top 100 books. Recently, a film adaptation of *Atonement* was released by the film director Joe Wright, starring James McAvoy and British actress Keira Knightley.

One of the striking features of *Atonement* is that the story takes place over a period of 64 years. The story starts one hot summer's day in 1935. The Tallis family is a typical upper-class English family from the 1930s: they live in a large country house, they have a team of **domestic staff**, and all the usual concerns, such as making sure that their **offspring** are well-educated, that they behave in the company of their **peers**, and that they marry someone **worthy of their position**.

One of the main characters in the story is Cecilia Tallis (played in the film by Keira Knightley). Cecilia has returned home from Cambridge University, where she is studying literature. For some time she has been confused by her

emotional feelings towards Robbie Turner (James McAvoy), who is the son of their **housekeeper**. Robbie is studying at Cambridge too. However, it is clear that there is a difference in their social backgrounds that could cause problems in a future relationship.

The early days of the summer holidays are confusing for both Cecilia and Robbie. Cecilia is unwilling to admit that she may be attracted to Robbie, fearing the inevitable future consequences. It all **comes to a head** one hot summer's day. Cecilia is **watering** some flowers. Robbie tries to help and accidentally breaks a **vase**, which falls into the fountain. To recover the pieces of the valuable vase, Cecilia **strips to her underwear** and jumps into the fountain, right in front of a **startled** Robbie.



HAVE
I JUST
BROKEN A
TABOO?

*Atonement - the meaning

So, what does "atonement" mean? Basically, if you do something wrong, later, you can "atone" for that bad thing by doing something positive (as an "atonement" for that bad thing) or as a way of saying sorry. Here are a few examples:

- He's living in a monastery in a gesture of atonement for his past crimes.
- Guilt is often characterised by a need to make atonement for having done wrong.
- "Murder is unique in that it abolishes the party it injures, so that society has to take the place of the victim and on his behalf demand atonement or grant forgiveness; it is the one crime in which society has a direct interest." W.H. Auden.
- "The beginning of atonement is the sense of its necessity," Lord Byron.
- "What atonement is there for blood spilt upon the earth?" Aeschylus.



However innocent this action may have been, during the 1930s Cecilia had broken a taboo: women should not be seen without clothes in public. Victorian values were still considered important in the 1930s; in fact, many of these values would remain up until the 1960s. Other **norms** included the unwritten rule that people should not show their emotions in public, something which didn't really change until the death of Princess Diana.

But Cecilia isn't the only one who is confused. Cecilia's 13-year-old sister, Briony Tallis, is also watching secretly. She is **upset** by what she sees. Later that day, she reads a letter from Robbie to Cecilia which includes some sexual references. From that day on, Briony decides that Robbie is a dangerous **deviant**. It is the events of that day, and the future actions of Briony, which generate the story



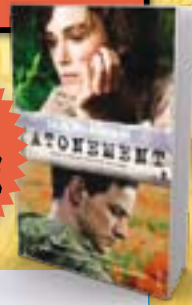
for Ian McEwan's book. And these events will change the lives of the principal characters (Robbie Cecilia and Briony) forever.

The story of the love between Cecilia and Robbie is **told retrospectively** by an aging Briony, who by 1999 is a respected novelist herself. The title *Atonement* refers to Briony's attempt to **atone** for a lie that she told when she was younger. McEwan demonstrates that there are many differences between life at the end of the twentieth century and life during the 1930s: the British class system is no longer so

important, many of the strict social rules have vanished, and **social mobility** is possible. But, as *Atonement* demonstrates, some things never change, such as the power and devastating effect of a single lie. ✪

Would you like to win a copy of *Atonement* – the award-winning book by Ian McEwan? Just send an e-mail to andyc@hotenglishmagazine.com and we'll send you the opinion form to fill out. Then, just answer the questions, send them back and you'll be entered into a prize draw to win this great book to help you improve your English. 20 copies to give away courtesy of Penguin Books.

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Book extract

Here's an extract from Ian McEwan's book *Atonement*. This is a description of one of the main characters, Briony.

A taste for the miniature was one aspect of an orderly spirit. Another was a passion for secrets: in a prized varnished cabinet, a secret drawer was opened by pushing against the grain of a cleverly turned dovetail joint, and here she kept a diary locked by a clasp, and a notebook written in a code of her own invention. In a toy safe opened by six secret numbers she stored letters and postcards. An old tin petty cash box was hidden under a removable floorboard beneath her bed. In the box were treasures that dated back four years, to her ninth birthday when she began collecting: a mutant double acorn, fool's gold, a rain-making spell bought at a funfair, a squirrel's skull as light as a leaf.

But hidden drawers, lockable diaries and cryptographic systems could not conceal from Briony the simple truth: she had no secrets. Her wish for a harmonious, organised world denied her the reckless possibilities of wrongdoing. Mayhem and destruction were too chaotic for her tastes, and she did not have it in her to be cruel. Her effective status as an only child, as well as the relative isolation of the Tallis house, kept her,

at least during the long summer holidays, from girlish intrigues with friends. Nothing in her life was sufficiently interesting or shameful to merit hiding; no one knew about the squirrel's skull beneath her bed, but no one wanted to know.

Other books set in the 1930s

- The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro (winner of the Booker Prize)
- Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Ian McEwan

Ian McEwan is one Britain's most successful novelists. He won the prestigious Booker Award in 1998 for his novel *Amsterdam*. Many of McEwan's plots involve characters trying to survive difficult moral situations. McEwan lives and works in central London.

A fascinating story concerning the writer recently **came to light**. In 2002, Ian McEwan discovered that he had a brother, David Sharpe. David had been **given up for adoption** during World War II. At the time, David's mother was married to a different man. But she had an **affair** with another man, and they had a child: David. Later, her husband was killed in combat, and David's mother married the man she was having the affair with (David's father). Ian was born a few years later to the same mother and father as his brother, David. Nothing was ever said about his secret brother, David.

GLOSSARY

- on its release** *n* when it was available to the public
- a literary prize** *n* an award/trophy/money given to the best book in a competition
- domestic staff** *n* servants and maids who clean the house, cook, etc
- offspring** *n* children
- peers** *n* people who are the same age as you, or who have the same status
- worthy of their position** *exp* with the same qualities, money, status as them
- a housekeeper** *n* a person whose job is to cook, clean and look after the house
- to come to a head** *exp* to reach a climax
- to water** *vb* to put water on plants
- a vase** *n* a ceramic container for flowers
- to strip to your underwear** *exp* to take off all clothing except underwear (clothing worn under trousers / a skirt, etc)
- startled** *adj* surprised; shocked
- norms** *n* accepted ways of behaving in society
- upset** *adj* sad and angry
- deviant** *n* someone whose behaviour is different from what is considered acceptable
- to tell retrospectively** *exp* if someone "tells you a story retrospectively", they explain what happened to them many years ago
- to atone for something** *exp* to do something good as a way of compensating for something bad that you did
- social mobility** *n* if there is "social mobility" in society, poor, uneducated people can become rich/successful
- to come to light** *exp* if something "comes to light", people find out about it
- to give up for adoption** *exp* if a child is "given up for adoption", the child is offered to another family
- an affair** *n* a relationship with a person who is not your husband/wife, etc

The story of one of the most unusual families of the 1930s: the Mitfords.

DIVIDED

The Kennedys, the Roosevelts, the Rockefellers, the Vanderbilts. They're all famous families. One of the most famous families from England in the 1930s and 40s were the Mitfords.

British society at the beginning of the twentieth century was very different from what it is today. During the 1920s and 30s, the British **class system** was still strong, and great and powerful families dominated society from their large **manor houses**. Amongst this **ruling elite** were the Mitfords. The Mitford family had played a **prominent role** in British society for hundreds of years, and by the 1930s they were one of the most famous families of the British social scene.

At the heart of the family were the seven children Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Unity, Jessica, Deborah and Thomas. The six sisters and one brother were often seen at the best parties in London, and their movements and activities were regularly reported in the pages of the local and national newspapers. The parents of the Mitford children, Baron Redesdale and his wife Sydney, were typical of the British upper class: they were **emotionally distant**, they had a large household of **domestic staff**, and they believed that each of their six daughters should receive a basic education at home from a **governess**. Their most important wish was that their daughters should marry a **man of wealth** and status.

The Mitfords had always been a very political family. During the 1930s, Fascism was fast-becoming the ruling political ideology of continental Europe. The Mitfords were known as a family of the political right, and during the

1930s their young, attractive daughters were drawn towards the power of Nazi Germany. Two of the daughters, Diana and Unity visited Germany and attended the first Nazi party rally at Nuremberg after the **seizure of power** in 1933. The two girls were impressed by the **aura** of National Socialist ideology. When they returned to Germany in 1935, Unity Mitford (who at the time was just 21 years old) began a close

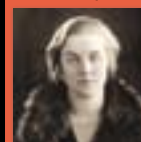


friendship with Adolf Hitler and other prominent members of the Nazi party, including Julius Streicher and Albert Speer. Ironically, one of the women that Hitler most admired was the English girl, Unity Mitford. The feeling was mutual.

But the Mitfords were also a divided family. The 1930s were a time of **polarised political opinion**. And as two of the Mitford sisters became more active in their support for right-wing political causes on the continent, another sister **drifted** in a completely different direction and started to support the Communists. Jessica Mitford was younger than both Diana and Unity, and during the mid-1930s she met a nephew of Winston Churchill's called Esmond Romilly. Romilly's **nickname** was the "Red Nephew" because of his political **ties** to the Communists. Before long, Jessica and Esmond had fallen in love, and they **eloped** to Spain where they took part in the Spanish Civil War, fighting for the Republicans (against the Nationalists).

British society was **stunned** by the **split** within the Mitford family. The story of how two of the

The famous Mitford sisters



Diana Mitford. Born 17th June 1910. Died 11th

August 2003. Married British Fascist leader Oswald Moseley.



Unity Valkyrie Mitford. Born 8th August 1914.

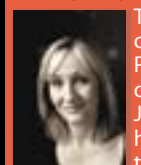
Died 28th May 1948. Big supporter of Fascism.



Jessica Mitford. Born 11th September 1917. Died 22nd

July 1996. Member of the American Communist Party.

JK Rowling & Jessica Mitford



The author of the Harry Potter series of books, JK Rowling, has said that Jessica

Mitford (the Communist one) is her heroine. And Rowling's first daughter, Jessica Rowling, is named in honour of Jessica Mitford.

FAMILY



Oswald Moseley

Born on 16th November 1896, Oswald Moseley was famous as Britain's Fascist leader. He created the British Union of Fascists (BUF) in 1932 – an anti-Communist party. The party was famous for its rowdy meetings, which were attended by black-uniformed paramilitary **stewards**, who were called "blackshirts". The party was frequently involved in violent **confrontations**, particularly with Communist and Jewish groups. Oswald Moseley died on 3rd December 1980, aged 84 years in France. He was cremated in Paris.

GLOSSARY

- the class system** *n*
the system in society that divides people into working class, middle class, upper class, etc
- a manor house** *n*
a large house in the country, often with many servants working there
- the ruling elite** *n*
the people in society with positions of power
- a prominent role** *n*
an important part
- emotionally distant** *n*
if someone is "emotionally distant", they aren't affectionate or loving
- domestic staff** *n*
the servants and maids who work in a house doing the cleaning, cooking, etc
- a governess** *n*
a woman who educates a child in the child's home
- a man of wealth** *n*
a man with a lot of money
- a seizure of power** *exp*
if there is a "seizure of power", someone or a group takes control of a country
- an aura** *n*
a feeling or atmosphere that surrounds something
- polarised political opinion** *n*
with extreme political opinions from the right and left
- to drift** *vb*
to move slowly in a particular direction
- a nickname** *n*
an informal name
- a tie** *n*
a connection
- to elope** *vb*
to leave secretly, often to avoid a scandal
- to stun** *vb*
to shock; to surprise
- a split** *n*
a separation
- a farewell letter** *n*
a letter in which you say goodbye
- rowdy** *adj*
noisy and violent
- a steward** *n*
a person whose job is to provide security at meetings
- a confrontation** *n*
a fight or argument between two groups

daughters had become strong supporters of Fascism, and how the other had become a Communist fighter was featured in many different newspapers. In 1936, Diana Mitford appeared on the front pages of all of the newspapers when she married the leader of the British Fascist Party, Oswald Moseley. The wedding took place in Berlin at the home of Nazi party minister Joseph Goebbels, with Adolf Hitler as the guest of honour.

Meanwhile, the political climate in the United Kingdom was changing. Germany was becoming less popular after it sent troops first into Austria and then into Czechoslovakia. Many politicians argued that Germany was becoming more and more dangerous and that the British and the French had to act to stop German expansion. However, both Diana and Unity argued strongly against Britain declaring war with Germany; but when Germany invaded Poland on 1st September 1939, war was inevitable. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain made the declaration of war.

Upon hearing the news, Unity Mitford wrote a **farewell letter** to Hitler and shot herself in the head with a pistol that had been given to her by the German leader. However, her suicide attempt was unsuccessful and she survived with serious brain damage. Diana Mitford and her husband, Oswald Moseley, spent the Second World War as prisoners. MI5, the British security forces, considered them both "ambitious and dangerous".

Meanwhile, Jessica Mitford and her husband had returned from the Spanish Civil War. They went to America. Her husband Esmond Romilly joined the Canadian Air Force in the fight against Fascism, but was killed in action after a bombing raid over Germany. After the war, Jessica became a political activist and a writer. She enjoyed a long life and great success; and her book *Hons and Rebels* (*Daughters and Rebels* in the US), which is all about the early life of the Mitford sisters, was a bestseller. Diana Mitford, the Nazi sympathiser and one of the "great beauties of her generation", died in France in 2003. ✪



Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE

This month: George Orwell versus Aldous Huxley.



George Orwell vs Aldous Huxley

George Orwell

George Orwell was born in 1903. He was originally called Eric Arthur Blair, later changing his name to George Orwell. He was born in India (where his parents were living), and he later went to the famous **public school** Eton. After leaving school, he moved to Burma where he joined the imperial police force. It was here that he came to hate the idea of the British Empire. In one of his early books, *Burmese Days*, he described the **arrogant** and racist attitude of many British colonialists. By 1927, Orwell had returned to Europe, and decided to spend his life as a writer. Throughout the 1930s, Orwell published a number of books. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, Orwell went to Spain to fight against the **Nationalist forces**. Later on, he wrote a book about his experiences there called *Homage to Catalonia*. He returned to England at the start of the Second World War. He spent the next few years

writing and working for the BBC's Eastern Division, reporting on the war in the East. After the war, Orwell published his most famous books: *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949). Both of these books were highly political and **dealt with** the idea of totalitarian societies and propaganda. These two books brought Orwell fame and wealth. He died at the age of 46 of tuberculosis. He is remembered as one of England's finest modern writers.

Aldous Huxley

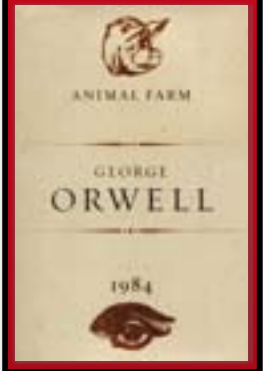
Aldous Huxley was born into a famous English family in 1894. His father was a renowned herbalist and writer. Like Orwell, Huxley was educated at Eton College, and later went to Oxford University. After graduating, he returned to Eton as a teacher (teaching Orwell French for a year while Orwell was at Eton). During his youth, Huxley suffered from an illness that left him almost **blind**. This prevented him from fighting in the Great War

(1914 to 1918). By his early twenties, Huxley had decided on a **career** as a writer. He realised that he was **not suited to** work as a teacher (one student remembered that "he kept poor discipline in class"). His most famous work from this period is *Brave New World*, which was completed in 1939. In the book, he said that human society in the future would be controlled by drugs, and that people would be psychologically programmed to work hard and respect authority. *Brave New World* was a great success. In 1937, Huxley moved to the United States to live in Hollywood. He soon began working in the film production industry, and wrote **screenplays** for a number of films including *Pride and Prejudice*. Huxley continued to write throughout his later life, and he also became involved in the psychological drug craze of the early 1960s. He died on 22nd November 1963 (the same day that the President John F. Kennedy was assassinated).

The Verdict

These two writers are both great literary figures. Their most important books (*Brave New World* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*) are the two most famous **dystopian novels** that have ever been written. However, as Huxley lived 23 years longer than Orwell and only produced one book that is generally considered great, our verdict has to be: Aldous Huxley = 8 out of 10; George Orwell = 9 out of 10. ✨

George Orwell
Born 25th June 1903.
Died 21st January 1950. Most famous books include *Animal Farm* and *1984*.



Aldous Huxley
Born 26th July 1894.
Died 22nd November 1963. Most famous book: *Brave New World*.



GLOSSARY

a public school *n*
an exclusive private school
arrogant *adj*
with ideas that you are superior
the Nationalist forces *n*
the right-wing groups, political parties and members of the church and army who were fighting the Republicans, Socialists, Communists, etc
to deal with *phr vb*
if a book "deals with" a particular topic, it is about that topic
blind *adj*
with no ability to see
a career *n*
a job that you do for the majority of your professional life
not suited to do X *exp*
not good at doing X
a screenplay *n*
the text for a film
a dystopian novel *n*
a book about a terrible and oppressive fictional society



The Hairdresser's

Social English

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.
This month: the hairdresser's. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- I'd like to have a haircut, please.
- I'd like a **trim**, please.
- I'd like to have a blow dry, please.
- I'd like my hair **dyed** blonde/black/brown, please.
- I'd like to have a short back and sides.
- I'd like to get my hair thinned out.
- I'd like to have a perm, please.
- I'd like to have my hair **curled**, please.
- Could you **straighten** my hair, please?
- Could you take a bit

- off the back and sides, please?
- Could you cut off any **split ends**, please?
- Just take a bit off the top, please.
- Leave it a little longer at the front/back/top/sides.
- Cut it a little shorter at the front/back/top/sides.
- Leave the **sideburns**, please.
- Just leave it like that, please.
- That's great, thanks.

What you hear

- Would you like me to wash it first?

- Would you like some conditioner?
- Come this way, please.
- How would you like it?
- Cut and blow dry?
- What can I do for you?
- Shall I use the **hair trimmer**?
- Would you like some hair gel? ❖



Part II Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Jim is at the hairdresser's getting a hair cut.

- Jim:** I'd like a haircut, please?
Hairdresser: Do you have an appointment?
Jim: No.
Hairdresser: Actually, we're not that **busy** right now. Could you come over here to the **washbasins**, please? (The hairdresser washes his hair.)
 So, how would you like it?
Jim: Could you just trim the **fringe**, and cut a bit off the back and sides, please?
Hairdresser: Anything off the top?
Jim: Erm, just leave it actually. Perhaps just cut the ends, but I'd rather have it longer on top.
Hairdresser: OK. (She cuts his hair.) So, do you work round here?
Jim: Yeah. In the high street. Actually, don't take too much off the sides, please. I want a bit over the top of my ears.
Hairdresser: No problem. Nice day, isn't it? (She finishes the hair cut.)
 How's that, then?
Jim: Yes, that looks great. Erm, actually, could you take a bit more off the back, but leave the sideburns as they are, please?
Hairdresser: OK.



GLOSSARY

- a trim** *n*
a haircut that involves cutting off a small amount of hair
- to dye** *vb*
to change the colour of your hair by using chemicals
- to curl** *vb*
to make your hair curly (with little round rings)
- to straighten** *vb*
to make your hair straight (with no curls)
- split ends** *n*
if you have "split ends", some of your hairs are damaged and split (divided) at the end
- sideburns** *n*
hair on the side of the face
- a hair trimmer** *n*
a machine that cuts hair
- busy** *adj*
with a lot of customers
- a washbasin** *n*
an object in a bathroom in which you can wash your hands/hair, etc
- a fringe** *n*
a line of hair that covers your forehead

Headline News

Headline News N° 3

The voice of the people

London 2007

Great Country

The world's best country is chosen.

Which country would you most like to live in? According to a recent survey by the *Economist* magazine, the best place to live in the world is Ireland. Researchers took the following into account: income, health, freedom, unemployment, family life, climate, political stability, security, gender equality and family and community life. "Ireland wins because it successfully combines the most desirable elements of the new (such as low unemployment and political liberties), with the preservation of certain cosy elements of the

old, such as stable family and community life," a commentator said. "It is very difficult to measure quality of life, and we're sure that these findings will have their critics, except, of course, in Ireland," she added. Ireland was followed by Switzerland, Norway and Luxembourg. All but one of the top 10 were European countries. The USA was 13th, while France was 25th, Germany was 26th and Britain was 29th. The researchers said although Britain achieved high income per head, it had high levels of social and family breakdown. ☺



Top ten countries

1. Ireland
2. Switzerland
3. Norway
4. Luxembourg
5. Sweden
6. Australia
7. Iceland
8. Italy
9. Denmark
10. Spain

Devon Heaven

One family's love of the English countryside.



It's a beautiful spot in Devon. And one Dutch family have been making the 700-kilometre journey from their home near Amsterdam to the tranquil area since 1957. Just last October, Hans and Margaret Plomp, who were celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary, made their 50th journey to the Devon Cliffs holiday park. Hans first took his family to the resort after a friend recommended the place. "We all slept in a big tent with one room for the children and the other for me and Margaret," says Hans. "Back then, there were only a few tents and about 30 caravans. We had sheep grazing around the tents. It was beautiful with lovely hilly countryside and meadows." The spot is now a Haven Holiday park, complete with an indoor and outdoor pool, an all-weather sports court, a luxury spa, adventure golf, amusement arcade, shops, takeaways and restaurants. Hans and Margaret are regarded as regulars at the local church, and are good friends with many of the staff. ☺

GLOSSARY

to take into account *exp*
to consider; to think about when making a decision
income *n*
money you receive from your job
gender equality *n*
equality between men and women
cosy elements *n*
the nice, pleasant things
family breakdown *n*
divorce, separation, etc
a spot *n*
a particular place in the country
a wedding anniversary *n*
a day on which you celebrate the day that you got married
a holiday park *n*
an area where you can camp or live in a caravan and that has amenities including toilets, showers, pools, sauna, billiards rooms, children activity centres, restaurants, golf courses, etc
a tent *n*
a little house made of material for sleeping in when you are in the country
to graze *vb*
when animals "graze", they eat grass
hilly countryside *n*
land with many hills (little mountains with grass)
a meadow *n*
a field with grass and flowers on it
an amusement arcade *n*
a room with many machines for playing games

Little Jokes



CD track 16 - Englishman & Irishwoman

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

1. What's the best thing to put into a Christmas cake?
2. Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas Party?
3. What do cats say to each other at New Year?
4. What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas?
5. How do sheep greet each other at Christmas?
6. What do vampires put on their turkey at Christmas?
7. What did one snowman say to another snowman who was in a pool of water?
8. What does Tarzan sing at Christmas?



GLOSSARY

mew *exp*
when a cat "mews", it makes a soft, high-pitched sound. Also, "meow"

cross *adj*
if you are "cross", you are angry. This is a play on words: "Christmas cards"

a grave *n*
a hole in the ground for a dead body. "Gravy" is a sauce you put over meat

ewe *n*
a female sheep. It is pronounced the same as "you"

a screwdriver *n*
a tool used for turning screws. It consists of a long metal part and a plastic handle

to run *vb*
if you "run" a programme, you activate that programme and use it

a spell checker *n*
a computer programme that checks the spelling of words (how they are written)

a lecture *n*
a talk someone gives in order to teach people about something

a lecturer *n*
a person who gives a lecture (see above)

- A:** Happy Mew Year!
B: I told you not to play with fire.
C: Your teeth.
D: Cross-mouse cards.
E: Grave-y.
F: Jungle Bells.
G: He had no "body" to go with.
H: A Merry Christmas to "ewe".

GRAFFITI



CD track 17 - Englishman & Irishwoman

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

24 HOURS IN A DAY.
24 BEERS IN A CASE.
COINCIDENCE?

BEWARE OF COMPUTER
PROGRAMMERS WHO
CARRY SCREWDRIVERS.

THE FIRST THREE MINUTES
OF LIFE ARE THE MOST
DANGEROUS. AND SO ARE
THE LAST THREE.

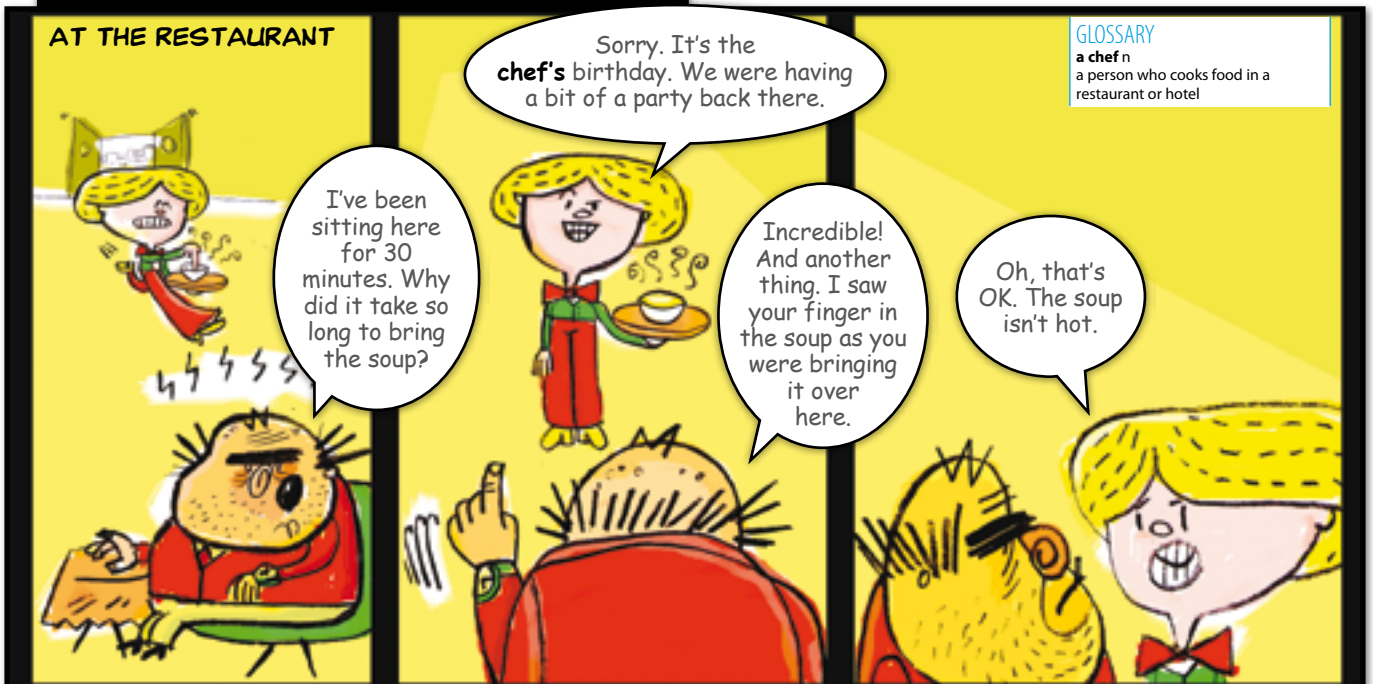
DO NOT USE LIFT IN CASE
OF FIRE. JUST JUMP.

DO WITCHES RUN
SPELL CHECKERS?

DEFINITION OF A LECTURE:
A MEANS OF TRANSFERRING
NOTES FROM THE LECTURER
TO THE STUDENT WITHOUT
PASSING THROUGH THE
MINDS OF EITHER.

RUDE WAITRESS BY DANIEL COLTOLINE

AT THE RESTAURANT



GLOSSARY

a chef *n*
a person who cooks food in a restaurant or hotel

Sorry. It's the chef's birthday. We were having a bit of a party back there.

I've been sitting here for 30 minutes. Why did it take so long to bring the soup?

Incredible! And another thing. I saw your finger in the soup as you were bringing it over here.

Oh, that's OK. The soup isn't hot.



Through the Roof

Tropical plant surprises staff at botanical garden.

“The plant just went crazy; it **shot up** and went through the glass of the **greenhouse**,” said shocked members of staff at Bangor University after a Mexican plant grew almost two metres in two days. The plant, Agave Americana, is an unusual **specimen**. It grows slowly year after year and then **flowers** just once before it **withers** and dies. “I was completely **dumbfounded** when I saw what had happened,” said Dr Brown, curator of the Bangor University tropical gardens. Unfortunately Mr Brown, who has been responsible for **cares** for the rare plant for the past twenty eight years, was on holiday when the spurt of growth took place and **missed** the whole thing. “For many years, it just sat there not doing very much,” said Mr. Brown. “It was just quietly in its corner on its own. However, it seems that it must have decided that **enough was enough** and it really **went for it**. I shouldn’t have gone away on holiday as I’ve missed something spectacular.” After the plant went through the glass, it didn’t stop, and it grew another four metres. “The sad thing now,” said Dr. Brown “is that it will soon die. But I suppose that’s life.” ❄

Salty Burger

Restaurant employee in court after burger incident.

GLOSSARY

to shoot up *phr vb*
to grow very quickly

a greenhouse *n*
a glass house for growing plants

a specimen *n*
a single plant/animal that is an example of a particular species

to flower *vb*
when a plant “flowers”, flowers appear on it

to wither *vb*
to become smaller and very dry

dumbfounded *adj*
shocked; very surprised

to care for *phr vb*
to make sure that something is healthy and in a good condition

to miss *vb*
if you “miss” something, you don’t see it

enough is enough *exp*
that is sufficient; I don’t want any more of X

to go for it *exp*
to do something in a determined and forceful way

reckless conduct *exp*
acting in a way that causes danger to others

salty *adj*
with a lot of salt in it

to spill *vb*
if you “spill” food or a liquid, you accidentally drop the food or liquid

to rectify *vb*
to change something so it becomes correct or good

police custody *n*
if you are taken into “police custody”, you are arrested and taken to the police station

bail *n*
money an arrested person pays so they can leave prison while they are waiting their trial (legal process)

a sample *n*
a small amount of something that is used for analysing that thing

an overreaction *n*
a reaction that is considered to be extreme and not proportionate to the circumstances

A fast-food restaurant employee has spent a night in jail and is facing criminal charges. Restaurant employee Kendra Bull from Atlanta Georgia was charged with **reckless conduct** after serving a “**salty**” burger. The incident occurred after Ms Bull **spilt** salt on the hamburger meat in the restaurant. She thought that she had **rectified** the situation after knocking the salt off with the help of the duty manager. However, when a police officer, Wendell Adams, arrived at the restaurant and ate one of the hamburgers, he

became violently ill. He took Bull outside for questioning, and then arrested her. Bull was later released from **police custody** on \$1,000 **bail**. “If it was so salty, why did he eat the whole thing instead of just taking one bite and throwing it away? I’m feeling a lot of anger right now” 26-year-old Bull said. Bull has worked at the restaurant for five months. **Samples** of the burger meat have been sent to the state crime laboratory for tests. “I think this is one big **overreaction**,” said Bull. “I’m not a criminal. I just made a mistake, that’s all.” ❄

DECEMBER



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



December 1st 1955
Rosa Parks was arrested for violating

racial segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama, after **refusing** to give her seat to a white man on a bus. This started the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



December 2nd 1956
A yacht called Granma carried Fidel Castro,

Che Guevara and 80 other members of the *26th of July Movement* from Mexico to Cuba. The Cuban revolution had started.



December 3rd 1967
A medical team led by Christiaan Barnard at a

hospital in Cape Town, South Africa performed the first successful human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky. I wonder how many unsuccessful attempts had been made before that?



December 4th 1676
In an area north of Lund, Sweden, forces led by

Swedish Field Marshal Simon Grundel-Helmfelt defeated the invading Danish army under the command of King Christian V of Denmark. The Swedes then celebrated the conclusion of what was known as the Scanian War.



December 5th 1933
Prohibition officially ended when the 21st

Amendment to the US Constitution was **ratified**. Most Americans celebrated with a glass of the **hard stuff**,

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



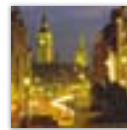
December 8th 1980
Mark Chapman fatally shot former Beatle John

Lennon outside the Dakota apartments in New York City.



December 10th 1868
The first **traffic lights** were

installed outside the Houses of Parliament in London.



December 11th 1868
The first **traffic jam** occurred

outside the Houses of Parliament in London.



December 12th 1901
Guglielmo Marconi received the first

trans-Atlantic radio signal. The signal travelled from Cornwall (in England) to Newfoundland (in Canada).



December 13th 2003
Former Iraqi President Saddam

Hussein was found hiding in a hole during Operation Red Dawn. The **bearded** dictator was captured alive.



December 14th 1911
Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and

his team became the first people to reach the South Pole. Immediately following them were the British, who were the first to get to the South Pole and *not* make it back again.



December 16th 1773
As part of a protest against the British Tea Act,

Americans **dumped** crates of tea into Boston Harbour in what became known as the Boston Tea Party.



December 17th 1989
The Simpsons made its debut as an

animated series on the Fox television network.



December 19th 1972
Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, and Harrison Schmitt

returned to Earth on Apollo 17 after visiting the moon. Apparently they couldn't find a McDonald's so it wasn't worth staying. No human has visited the Moon since.



December 20th 1803
As part of the Louisiana Purchase, New Orleans was

transferred from France to the United States. In total, the French sold vast areas of land in America for just \$15 million. The French have been **regretting** it ever since.



December 23rd 1888
During a **bout** of mental illness, Dutch painter

Vincent van Gogh famously cut off the lower part of his own left ear and gave it to a prostitute. Apparently, she preferred the ear to one of his paintings.



December 25th 1818
Silent Night, a Christmas carol by Josef Mohr and Franz

Gruber, was first performed in a church in Austria. ❄️

Events for December 2007

December 1st – World AIDS Day

December 2nd – UEFA draw for Euro 2008 in Switzerland.

December 10th – International Human Rights Day

December 21st – Queen Elizabeth II will be 82, making her the oldest reigning monarch in British history.



Countries celebrating their independence

December 6th – Finland
December 12th – Kenya



GLOSSARY

a racial segregation law *n*
a law in the US that said where black people could sit, live, etc

to refuse *vb*
to say that you won't do something

Prohibition *n*
a law in the US that prohibited selling or drinking alcohol

to ratify *vb*
to give formal approval of something

the hard stuff *n inform*
alcohol

to supply *vb*
if you "supply" something to someone, you give a quantity of it to that person

traffic lights *n*
red, orange and green lights in the streets that tell cars when to stop or go

a traffic jam *n*
a line of cars in the road that isn't moving or that is moving slowly

bearded *adj*
with a beard (hair on the face)

to dump *vb*
to throw casually and without care

to make your debut *exp*
to appear in public for the first time

to regret *vb*
to feel bad about something you did in the past

a bout of something *exp*
if you have a "bout" of an illness, you have that illness for a short period of time

Wacky but absolutely true emergency calls. Celebrating 70 years of stupid calls.

TELEPHONE 999



CD track 20 - Englishmen



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

Call I – Crossword Troubles

Operator: Police. Can I help you?
Caller: Yes, I'm having a few difficulties.
Operator: What's the nature of your problem?
Caller: Well, I'm doing the crossword...
Operator: A crossword?
Caller: Yes, and I can't get the word for 2 down.
Operator: Sir, this is an emergency number for emergencies only.
Caller: Yes, but I was wondering if someone could help me. The clue is, "Road passenger transport", and it's got three letters...
Operator: This is not an emergency. I'm terminating this call.



Call II – Television Remote

Operator: Police. Can I help you?
Caller: Yes, I'm in terrible pain.
Operator: What sort of pain?
Caller: Well, I'm sitting on the sofa and my back is killing me.
Operator: Is this an emergency?
Caller: Yes, it is. I can't reach the remote.
Operator: We can't send someone round for that.
Caller: But I can't change channels. There's something I want to watch on BBC1. Couldn't someone come and help me?
Operator: Er, no, I'm sorry but the police have better things to do with their time. I suggest you call a friend or a neighbour. Good afternoon.
Caller: Bye.



GLOSSARY

down *exp*
in crosswords, some of the answers go "across" (horizontally), and others go "down" (vertically)
a clue *n*
information that helps you think of the word for the crossword
to kill *vb inform*
to really hurt
the remote (control) *n*
a device for changing the channels on the television
to send someone round *exp*
if the police/ambulance, etc "send someone round"; they send a person to your house
chopped *adj*
cut into very small pieces
flour *n*
a fine white powder used for making bread, etc
a tsp *abbr*
a teaspoon (a little spoon, often used for coffee/tea)
an oven grill *n*
the part of an oven (an electrical appliance for cooking food) where you can make toast, etc
to remove *vb*
to take out/away

RECIPE WELSH RAREBIT

Here's another recipe for to try at home. This month: Welsh rarebit. This is the perfect evening snack. Delicious!

Ingredients

85g cheese (Wensleydale or Cheddar), **chopped**.
75ml milk or cream.
30g plain **flour**.
1 **tsp** Dijon mustard.
One egg.
Salt and black pepper.
2 slices bread (ciabatta), toasted.
Tabasco and Worcestershire sauce (optional).

Method

- Preheat the oven grill to its highest setting.
 - In a pan, heat the milk but do not boil.
 - Add the flour and cook for a minute. Remove from the heat and cool.
 - Mix in the cheese, mustard and egg, then season with salt and black pepper (and the Tabasco and Worcestershire sauce if required).
 - Place the toasted bread in an ovenproof dish and pour the egg mixture over.
 - Place under the **grill** and cook for five minutes, until golden brown on top and cooked thoroughly.
- Remove** and serve with sliced tomato. ❄



SONG



Fish

by Garrett Wall

© Garrett Wall 2007.

For more information, visit:

www.garrettwall.net

www.myspace.com/garrettwall

www.junkrecords.es



CD track 21 -
Irishman

It's a hard road to **take**,
When you think you know it all,
And the bed that you make,
Is not enough to **break your fall**,
It's the way it goes,
How the water flows,
Take it as it comes,
Just let the river run.

It's a feeling you get,
That you **can't put your finger on**,
There's **no room for regret**,
Just gotta wait until it's gone,
It's the same for me,
It's the same for you,
All we ever say,
All we ever do.

Sometimes, you **feel just like a fish out of water**,
Waiting to catch your breath to survive.

It's such an empty space,
That still you try to call your own,
If you fill it up with **grace**,
You might even call it home,
It could take some time,
Till you get it right,
Be it only a day,
Or the rest of your life.

Sometimes you feel just like a fish out of water,
Waiting to catch your breath to survive.

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GLOSSARY

to take *vb*
to accept
to break your fall *exp*
to reduce the impact of a fall or some bad news
to take it as it comes *exp*
to accept things as they are
can't put your finger on *exp*
can't explain properly
no room for *exp*
no space for; no time for
regret *n*
feelings of sadness about things from the past
to feel like a fish out of water *exp*
to feel very different from others; to feel uncomfortable because you are different from the rest
grace *n*
a pleasant, polite and dignified way of doing things

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VOCABULARY BOARD GAMES



CD track 23 -
Englishmen

Learn some useful words and expressions to use when playing board games.

Dice – the small cubes with one to six spots or numbers on their sides. Typical expressions: *Shake the dice; Pass me the dice, please.*



Cheat – a person who breaks the rules in a game. Typical expressions include: *Stop cheating! You cheat!*

Board game – a game that people play by moving little pieces around on a piece of wood or cardboard (chess, snakes and ladders, chequers, etc.).

Player – someone who plays a game.

Opponent – the person you are playing against.

Team – a group of people playing together in a game against another group.

Turn – if it is your “turn”, it is time for you to shake the dice or move your pieces. Typical expressions include: *Whose turn is it? It's my turn. It's your turn. Miss a turn!*

Game piece/token/bit – an object that represents a player in a game.

Card – many board games come with cards with information on them about what to do, or offering a surprise element to the game. When you mix the cards, you “shuffle” them. If you land on a certain square, you may have to take a card. Typical expressions: *It's my turn to shuffle the cards; Take a card. ♠*

Space/square – an area in a game. Players can jump a square (go over it), land on a square (go on it), or move forward X squares.

Chips – plastic counters used in games to represent money.

Travel set/pack – a mini version of a game that you can play while you are travelling on a plane/train, etc. The pieces often have magnets on them.

Counter – a small, flat, round coloured object used in board games. Typical expressions: *That's my counter; I want the blue one.*

Objective – what you must try to achieve in the game.

Winner – the person who wins the game.

Loser – the person who loses the game.

Box – the box in which the game is kept.

Rules – the laws for playing the game.

Vocabulary-building board games

- Scrabble** - Create words on the board. Don't you just hate it when your brother or sister gets a Triple Word Score?



- Taboo** - Talk about a word without actually mentioning it. Very challenging.



TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE BOARD GAME

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

In this conversation, Ben and John are playing Monopoly.



- Ben:** My turn. Give me the dice.
John: Here you are.
Ben: Right, I'm going to buy three hotels. Here's 300 pounds. Change, please.
John: Here you are.
Ben: Right. Let's see if I can get a six. (*He throws the dice.*) Yes! A six! (*He lands on "Go".*) That's 400 pounds for me, please. Come on, pay up!
John: Here you are. (*He gives him the money.*)
Ben: Your turn. (*He gives her the dice.*) Go on, shake. Let's see if you can get a nine and land on one of my nice little hotels. (*John shakes the dice. He gets a nine.*) Yes! Yes! Thank you so much for coming to stay at my hotel. That'll be 1,200 pounds, please.
John: I don't have enough.
Ben: Well, you'll have to sell some of your properties... for half the price.
John: OK. I'll sell these three.
Ben: Ah! I'm winning.
John: Yes, I know.
Ben: And you're not.
John: Yeah, yeah. (*He is getting angry.*)
Ben: And you're losing!
John: Not any more, I'm not...
Ben: What do you mean?
John: Watch this! (*John throws the board in the air.*)
 Goodbye.
Ben: You are so **childish**. ♠

GLOSSARY

childish *adj*
if you describe someone as “childish”, you think they are immature and juvenile (not adult)

DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: WORK



CD track 24 -
US man & US woman

Here are some more useful collocations for you to learn. This month we are looking at some more work idioms.



Be run/rushed off your feet

To be very busy.

"I can't stay for long – I'm rushed off my feet."



Get the chop

To lose your job.

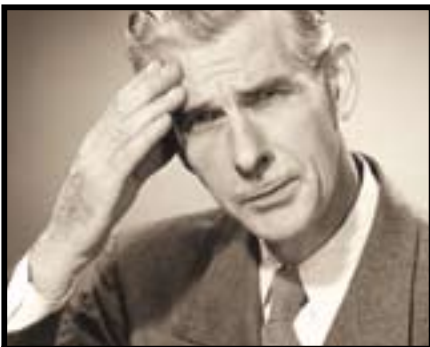
"They were given the **chop** for stealing company property."



Too many cooks spoil the broth

If too many people are working on the same job/project, they will ruin it.

"There were just too many people who were not being coordinated. It was a case of too many cooks spoiling the **broth**."



Be snowed under

To have too much work.

"I'm afraid we won't be able to deal with your request because we're a bit snowed under at the moment."



Hang up your hat/boots

To leave your job forever.

"The day that I stop enjoying work will be the day that I hang up my hat."



Burn the candle at both ends

Not to sleep much because you are working late into the night, and getting up very early.

"I've had no time to do any housework because I've been burning the **candle** at both ends."



Business as usual

A situation that has returned to its usual state again after something unpleasant or unusual happened.

"It was business as usual just two days after the fire destroyed most of the ground floor."



Don't give up the day job

Something you say to someone who doesn't have much talent. It's like telling them that they will never triumph in a particular field.

"You aren't bad at painting, but I wouldn't give up the day job."



GLOSSARY

to chop *vb*
literally, to cut

broth *n*

a kind of soup, often with rice and vegetables

a candle *n*

an object made of wax that burns and provides light when you light it

Witch Hunt

She was the last witch to be executed in Europe. And now some think she should be **pardoned** officially. This is the story of Anna Göldi.

The Middle Ages (5th to 15th centuries) was a time of superstition, with **witch-hunts** all over Europe. This caused the deaths of many innocent women. But the last execution for witchcraft took place little more than 200 years ago, at the height of Europe's so-called **Age of Enlightenment**. The woman at the centre of this tragic **tale** is Anna Göldi.

The story starts in the tiny Swiss canton of Glarus. It is a long narrow valley with high mountains **towering over** the villages. This was where Anna Göldi arrived in 1765, looking for work as a **maid**. Within a short time, Anna found work with Jakob Tschudi, a local **magistrate** and **rising politician**. Anna was tall and attractive, with dark hair and brown eyes, something **which wasn't lost on her employer**. She worked there for seventeen years, and for many years, things seemed to be going well. But then, one morning one of the children found a **needle** in her milk. Two days later needles appeared in the bread as well. Suspicion fell upon Anna. She was **sacked** by the Tschudis. Later, she was accused of witchcraft, tortured, and finally executed.

For many years, her story was forgotten. But just recently, a local journalist began to **go over** the records. And now he believes he knows what really happened. "The simple fact is that Jakob Tschudi had been having an affair with

Anna Göldi. When she became pregnant with his child and she **threatened** to reveal the truth about the affair, he accused her of witchcraft. At the time, adultery was a crime, and Tshudi

stood to lose everything if he was found out. So, he planted the needles that led to the accusations against Anna. This was a form of extra-judicial murder," he explained.

Anna Göldi's ordeal is documented in the Glarus archives. Shortly after Anna was told to leave, there was an order for her arrest. She was captured a few days later. She was questioned day and night by the religious and political leaders of Glarus. She insisted on her innocence, but eventually confessed to being a witch, admitting that the devil had appeared to her in the form of a black dog, and that the needles had been given to her by Satan. But once free of the torture, she **withdrew her confession**. So, they tortured her again. And this time she **stuck with her confession**. Two weeks later, she was led out to the public square, where her head was cut off with a sword.

"Everyone agrees that what happened was completely wrong," said Fritz Schiesser, who represents Glarus in the Swiss parliament. "And now we need to take this last step and give her an official pardon." The decision is still pending. ✪

Anna Göldi

Anna Göldi arrives in Glarus in 1765. She works as a servant for seventeen years for Jakob Tschudi. He has an affair with her. She threatens to reveal the truth. He reports her for witchcraft. Göldi is arrested in February 1782 and is forced to admit she is a witch. She is executed on 18th June 1782. On 20th September 2007, the Swiss parliament decides to acknowledge Anna Göldi's case as a **miscarriage of justice**. Göldi's story has been made into a German-language film. A local museum dedicated to her story will open soon.



GLOSSARY

- to pardon** *vb*
to say that a convicted person did not actually commit a crime
- a witch-hunt** *n*
an attempt to find and punish a group of people (witches, in this case)
- the Age of Enlightenment** *n*
an 18th century movement which advocated reason as the true authority
- a tale** *n*
a story
- to tower over** *phr vb*
if a mountain is "towering over" a village, it is high above the village
- a maid** *n*
a woman who works in the house cleaning, cooking, etc
- a magistrate** *n*
someone who acts as a judge in law courts
- a rising politician** *n*
a person who is becoming more and more important as a politician...
- which wasn't lost on her employer** *exp*
which her employer definitely noticed
- a needle** *n*
a small, thin piece of metal used for mending clothes and sewing
- to sack** *vb*
to tell someone to leave a job
- to go over** *phr vb*
to investigate again
- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- to stand to lose everything** *exp*
if you "stand to lose everything", you could possibly lose everything, including your job, house, reputation, etc
- to withdraw a confession** *exp*
to say that the confession you made isn't actually true
- to stick with a confession** *exp*
not to change the confession you made
- a miscarriage of justice** *exp*
a wrong decision made by a court of law – often one that results in someone going to prison or being executed for something they didn't do

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CD track 25 -
US man & US woman

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

No Pay



“What would I do with so much money? My wife has already **passed away**, my parents are dead. I have no children and no other **relatives**. I don't want it,” said a German **pensioner** who won £2 million on the lottery but refused to accept it. The 70-year-old man from Hameln, Lower Saxony, went to the HQ of the German lottery association in Hanover after finding out about his win, and told them he did not want the money. He said he had only bought the lottery ticket **out of habit** because his **late wife** had been a passionate player. Lottery officials said they were trying to persuade him to keep the money. ❖

Belgium Sale

They say you can buy just about anything on eBay. And they may be right. Just recently, there was a surprise offer on sale: “Belgium. A kingdom in three parts. Possible to buy it as a whole, but not advisable.” **Bidding** for the country reached 10 million euros before eBay **withdrew** the item.



The **spoof sale** was carried out by former journalist Gerrit Six. He wanted to make a protest about the fact that Belgium still had no government 100 days after its elections. He **warned** potential buyers to **take** the public debt of 300 million euros **into account**.” Peter Burin, a spokesman for eBay said, “We can't allow bidding on something virtual or unrealistic. People must be able to buy and sell on eBay in a neutral way.” ❖

GLOSSARY

- to pass away** *phr vb*
to die
- a relative** *n*
someone who is related to you: an aunt, uncle, cousin, etc
- a pensioner** *n*
an old person who has stopped working and who is receiving a pension
- out of habit** *exp*
if you do something “out of habit”, you do it automatically because you have always done it
- a late wife** *n*
a wife who died previously
- to bid** *vb*
to offer a price for an object during a public sale
- to withdraw** *vb*
if something is “withdrawn”, it is taken away
- a spoof sale** *n*
a “spoof sale” appears to be serious but is in fact a joke
- to warn** *vb*
to tell someone of a potential danger
- to take something into account** *exp*
to consider something when making a decision
- he was mistaken for a vandal** *exp*
people thought he was a vandal (someone destroying property)
- to pop into** *phr vb*
to enter quickly and for a short period of time
- to sign** *vb*
to put your name on a document/book, etc
- to deface** *vb*
to spoil or ruin something by drawing on it
- a shelf** *n*
a piece of wood/metal/plastic for putting books, food products, etc on

Novelist Vandal

He's a world-famous novelist. He's sold books all over the world. But just recently **he was mistaken for a vandal**. Horror writer Stephen King **popped into** a shop in Alice Springs (Australia) unannounced and started **signing** copies of his latest book, *Lisey's Story*. However, customers who saw him thought he was **defacing** the books and reported him to staff. Fortunately, the store manager, Susan Ellis, recognised King. “The author's surprise visit and private signing session was not particularly unusual. Lots of authors do it,” Ellis explained. “They'll come into the shop and check if their works are on the **shelves**. If they are, they'll often sign a few copies. If they're not, they'll ask about them. It's embarrassing if we haven't got their work on the shelves.” ❖



STEPHEN KING



LISEY'S STORY



British bar chat

Simplified Spelling

This month, John and Bob are talking about whether English **spelling** should be simplified or not.

- John:** I read this report yesterday all about simplifying spelling. I think that's a great idea. I'm **sick to death** of getting spellings wrong. I never know how to spell any words, you know, words like diarrhoea, erm...
- Bob:** Well, maybe, maybe the **point** is that they're, you're not being taught in school properly. It's a problem with the system. **I mean**, you can't change the language just cos people aren't, you know, taught properly. That seems just a bit silly.
- John:** Yeah, but come on, but English spelling is ridiculous. **There's words** like Leicester, I mean, you know, a logical person would say Leicester is L E S T E R [listen, OK but...], but it's L E I...
- Bob:** ... you might have a point but that's maybe why the, the English language is so beautiful. You can see how it's developed over the centuries, and, and these rather, rather strange spellings they obviously come from somewhere, don't they? And it's good to teach people, you know, just to...
- John:** Yeah, but that's, OK, I mean, you know, a few hundred years ago, there were even stranger spellings and we simplified it then. Why can't we simplify it again? You know, people are suggesting, you know, "friend" instead of F R E I N D [sic] should be F R E N D.
- Bob:** And we all, we all write like a text message? That would just be ridiculous. Come on! We've got to keep some of the **richness** and the beauty of the English language. ✨



US bar chat

Coca Cola



- Mary:** So, have you tried the new Coca Cola Zero?
- John:** Yeah, I like that **stuff**.
- Mary:** For me, when I take it, for me when I drink it without eating food, it tastes **kind of** strange. So, I still prefer, **like**, Diet Coke, or something like that.
- John:** For me, I think it's still a little bit too **sugary**. I prefer the taste of Diet Coke.
- Mary:** You too? Well, what about, erm, do you remember Crystal Pepsi?
- John:** Oh, yeah. That stuff was cool.
- Mary:** It was completely clear, but it still tasted like Cola with that car..., that dark colour.
- John:** Yeah, it looked like you were drinking water or Sprite or something but it tasted just like Pepsi.
- Mary:** Have you ever taken the Pepsi **challenge**?
- John:** No, what's that?
- Mary:** It's when you have two drinks that are covered, so you can't tell if it's Pepsi or Coke and they ask you which one's better.
- John:** Oh, yeah, I think I remember taking that in a **shopping centre** back in the eighties.
- Mary:** In the eighties. That was a while ago. So, which one did you prefer? Coke or Pepsi?
- John:** I always prefer Coke. And you?
- Mary:** Erm... me too. ✨

GLOSSARY

spelling *n*
the way that words are written with the letters in the correct order

sick to death of something *exp*
very tired and angry about something

the point *n*
the important thing

I mean *exp*
people often use this expression in order to redirect the conversation or to emphasise something

there's words *exp*
notice how even native speakers make mistakes when speaking. It should be "there are words"

richness *n*
the variety of something that makes it interesting

stuff *n inform*
things

kind of *exp*
more or less

like *exp*
people often use this word in conversations as a way of filling space

sugary *adj*
with a lot of sugar (or too much sugar) in it

a challenge *n*
something new and difficult that you must complete/do

a shopping centre *n*
a large building with many shops in it

Trafalgar Trouble

It's in the heart of London. And now it's at the heart of a controversy. Trafalgar Square London has a new statue. But not everyone is happy with it.

For years, Trafalgar Square has had statues dedicated to British war and empire heroes. At the centre of the square is Nelson's Column, with a statue of Lord Nelson on top. He was the admiral who successfully commanded the British **fleet** during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 against the French and Spanish. The column is surrounded by fountains and four huge **bronze** lions (made from the recycled metal of French cannons). At each corner of the square, there are four **plinths**. Three of them have permanent statues: George IV (a British king from 1820-1830), Henry Havelock (a British general who was active in India), and Sir Charles James Napier (another British general).

But it's the new statues on the fourth plinth that are causing a bit of a controversy. Up until recently, there was a statue of a naked, **pregnant** woman with no arms. The 3.6m **marble** sculpture, called *Alison Lapper Pregnant*, divided opinion. Artist Marc Quinn said he had sculpted his friend Ms Lapper because "**disabled people** were under-represented in art". "I felt the square needed some femininity," Mr Quinn told BBC News. "Alison's statue could represent a new model of female heroism," he added. But Robert Simon, editor of the British Art Journal, said, "I think it is horrible. Not because of the subject matter, I hasten to add. I think Alison Lapper is very brave, very wonderful, but it is just a rather **repellent** **artifact**: very shiny, slimy surface, machine-made, much too big." However, Bob Niven, chief executive of the Disability Rights Commission, said the statue at the heart of London would raise public debate on disability. So, how did a statue of a naked, pregnant



and disabled woman end up in the heart of London surrounded by British war heroes? It all started in 2003 when the **mayor** of London, Ken Livingstone, **backed** a suggestion that the fourth plinth should be used as an ever-changing **display** of artwork. The mayor, who has had the square partly **pedestrianised**, wants the square to become a cultural focus for London. He **commissioned** six artists to come up with ideas for the fourth plinth. *Alison Lapper Pregnant* was one of works selected from the shortlist. It was **displayed** until April 2007.

Mr Quinn spent 10 months in Italy working on the statue from a single piece of white marble. Ms Lapper, who sat for the artist when she was eight months pregnant, said, "It still daunts me now. I'm going to be up in Trafalgar Square. Little me." At present, the statue on the fourth plinth is *Model for a Hotel 2007* by German sculptor Thomas Schütte. ♻️



Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar (1805), a British naval victory against France and Spain that took place during the Napoleonic Wars. Trafalgar Square is a popular site for political demonstrations, and for celebrations such as New Year's Eve.



GLOSSARY

- a fleet** *n*
a large group of ships for fighting battles
- bronze** *n*
a type of metal often used for making statues. It is a mixture of copper and tin
- a plinth** *n*
a rectangular block of stone for a statue
- pregnant** *adj*
with a baby inside her stomach
- marble** *n*
a type of very hard rock which feels cold when you touch it
- disabled people** *exp*
people with a physical disability (with an illness that restricts movement, etc)
- repellent** *adj*
that disgusts you
- an artefact** *n*
an object that has cultural or archaeological interest
- a mayor** *n*
the elected leader of a town/city
- to back** *vb*
to support
- a display** *n*
an arrangement of objects/art, etc so that people can see/admire it
- to pedestrianise** *vb*
to convert a road into an area where pedestrians (people walking) can walk
- to commission** *vb*
if you "commission" a work of art, you pay someone to create that work of art
- to display** *vb*
to show objects/art to the public



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

🌟 Citizens may not enter Wisconsin with a chicken on their head. (Wisconsin)



🌟 Airplanes may not be **landed** in city parks. (Wisconsin)

🌟 You are not allowed to park your elephant on Main Street. (Wisconsin)

🌟 Private citizens may personally arrest any person that disturbs a church service. (Mississippi)

🌟 It is illegal to teach others what **polygamy** is. (Mississippi)

CD track 30 - US man & US woman

🌟 A man may not seduce a woman by lying, and claiming he will marry her. (Mississippi)

🌟 No one may **bribe** any athlete to **rig** a game, match, tournament, etc, with the exception of **wrestlers**. (Mississippi)

🌟 It is illegal to drive around the town square more than 100 times in a single session. (Mississippi)

🌟 Hard objects may not be thrown by hand. (Mississippi)

🌟 Worrying **squirrels** will not be tolerated. (Mississippi)



🌟 **Minors** can buy **rolling paper** and tobacco but not lighters. (Mississippi)

🌟 It shall be unlawful to provide beer or other intoxicants to elephants. (Mississippi)

🌟 It is illegal to throw stones at birds in the city limits (Mississippi)



🌟 Dancing is strictly prohibited. (Mississippi)

🌟 It's illegal to sit on the **curb** of any city street and drink beer from a **bucket**. (Mississippi)

🌟 It is illegal to request someone to "watch over" your parked car. (Mississippi)

🌟 One may not **honk** another's horn. (Mississippi)

🌟 It is illegal to have a sheep in your truck without a **chaperone**. (Montana)

🌟 In Montana, it is illegal for married women to go fishing alone on Sundays, and illegal for unmarried women to fish alone at all. (Montana)



🌟 Persons in possession of a **pea shooter** risk it being confiscated by police. (Montana) 🌟



GLOSSARY

to land *vb*
if a plane "lands", it comes to the ground in a controlled way
polygamy *n*
a custom that permits someone to be married to more than one person
to bribe *vb*
to pay money to someone in order to receive preferential treatment
to rig *vb*
if you "rig" a game, players are paid to change the result of the game
a wrestler *n*
a sportsman who fights professionally
a squirrel *n*
a small animal that lives in trees and that has a big, bushy tail (a tail with a lot of hair)
a minor *n*
a person who is still legally a child
rolling paper *n*
paper used to make cigarettes
the curb *n*
the edge of the road next to the pavement (where people walk)
a bucket *n*
a container for water – often used when cleaning the floor
to honk *vb*
to press a button so your horn sounds (the object in a car that makes a sound in order to "communicate" with other drivers)
a chaperone *n*
a person who accompanies another person to make sure they are OK
a pea shooter *n*
a small, thin object with a hole inside for firing peas or small pieces of paper. You blow air through it



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DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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



CD track 31



Situation



Formal



Relaxed



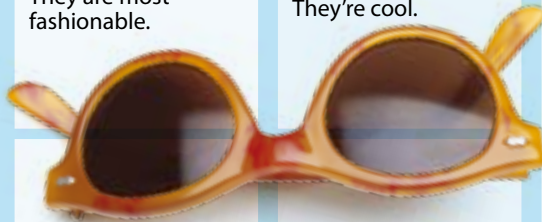
Informal

You think your friend's sunglasses are very fashionable.

They are most fashionable.

They're cool.

Those shades are rocking.



I LOVE WINDING PEOPLE UP.

A friend of yours likes playing jokes on other people and irritating them.

He enjoys provoking people until they enter a state of rage.

He likes annoying people.

He likes winding people up; he's a real wind-up merchant.

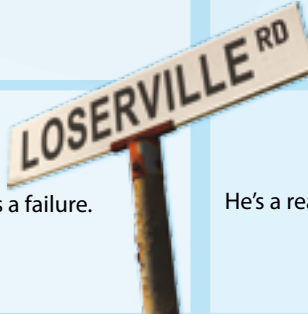


Jane is going out with Frank. You don't think that Frank is good for Jane because he spends his time playing computer games, and he has no ambition in life.

He is a worthless person.

He's a failure.

He's a real loser.



I'LL JUST KIP DOWN HERE.

Your friend is driving very fast.

You are motoring at the maximum possible speed.

You're driving at full speed.

You're driving at **full whack**.



A friend asks if you know what the capital of Mongolia is. You don't.

I am afraid my knowledge in that area is somewhat deficient.

I don't know.

I'm stumped; no idea, mate; I'm **clueless**.



You ask if you can sleep at your friend's house because you have **missed** the last train.

May I rest my weary head here tonight, please?

Can I sleep here tonight, please?

Can I **shack up** here tonight? Can I **kip** down here tonight?

GLOSSARY

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

at full whack *exp*
at maximum speed. Literally, "to whack" is to hit

clueless *adj inform*
with no idea about something. Literally, a "clue" is a piece of information that helps you solve a mystery/puzzle

to miss *vb*
if you "miss" a train, you don't catch that train

to shack up *phr vb inform*
if you "shack up" in a place, you start living there. Literally, a "shack" is an old hut built of tin (a metal)

to kip *vb inform*
to sleep

Answers

Hyphen Hysteries page 6

A Bumblebee; B Chickpeas; C Toothpaste; D Salesperson; E Haircut

Trivia Matching page 16

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

Little Jokes page 29

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

ANIMAL IDIOMS



CD track 33 -
Irishwoman & Englishman

GLOSSARY

a bull's eye *n*
the small circular area at the centre of a target
to turn up *phr vb*
to arrive
to badger *vb*
to annoy someone by asking them the same question over and over again. Literally, a "badger" is a black and white animal that lives underground and is active at night
a molehill *n*
a little pile of earth made by a mole that is digging a hole. A mole is a small animal with black fur

This month we are looking at some general animal idioms.



Have a Cow

To become very angry or upset about something.
"I thought Jim was going to have a cow when I told him I'd lost his key."



Hit/score a bull's eye

To make a spectacular success.
"Sally really hit the **bull's eye** with her invention, and now she's super-rich."



Stag party/night

A party for a man who is going to get married. The guests are usually only his male friends.
"On Bob's stag night, they took off all his clothes and tied him to a street lamp."



Hen party/night

A party for a woman who is going to get married. The guests are usually only her female friends.
"For Sally's hen night, they went out for dinner. During the dinner, a male stripper who was dressed up as a policeman **turned up**."



Badger someone

To annoy someone by repeatedly asking them something.
"I left my job three months ago, and since then they've been **badgering** me to go back."



Make a mountain out of a molehill

To make a slight difficulty seem to be a very serious problem.
"You did one bad exam. Stop worrying about it. You're making a mountain out of a **molehill**."

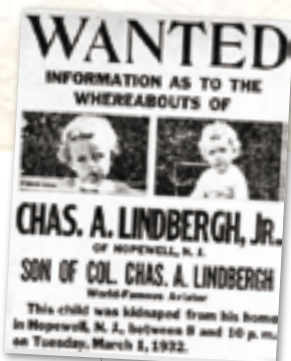
THE LINDBERGH CASE

There's a missing child. The story dominates the news for many months. Politicians, presidents and famous people become involved. There are rumours, accusations and tales of suspicion. Sound familiar? The story of little Charles Lindbergh has a lot in common with the tragic tale of Madeline McCann, the little girl who went missing while on holiday with her parents in Portugal. But the case of the Lindbergh baby was even bigger.

It all started on 1st March 1932. Mrs Lindbergh and her Scottish nurse, Betty Gow, **tucked up** little Charles Lindbergh II in his bed (he was **recovering** from a cold), and made sure that everything was all right. They closed the **window shutters**, except for a pair of shutters that couldn't be closed properly. Later that evening, the baby's father, Colonel Charles Lindbergh, the world-famous flyer, came home to the house in Hopewell, New Jersey. Soon afterwards, he had supper. Then, at 10pm, Betty Gow went to check on the 20-month-old baby and discovered he wasn't there.

Whatever the McCanns achieved in publicity was nothing compared to the Lindbergh case. By midnight there were **road blocks** all across the state. The next day, 100,000 police and volunteers were **sweeping the countryside**, and 400 journalists had gathered in the Lindberghs' garden, waiting for any news. Aircraft circled to take pictures. Presidents, prime ministers and the Prince of Wales **extended their sympathy**. Even Al Capone offered his help from jail. The country was in such a state that one car with New Jersey **number plates** was stopped 109 times on its way home from California. It became, in the words of one journalist of the time (HL Mencken) "the biggest story since the **Resurrection**".

"I think it is thrilling to have so many people moved by one thought," Mrs Lindbergh wrote. But her feelings of optimism soon changed; and one day she wrote in her diary, "I have a sustained feeling – like a high note on



One of the most sensational news stories of the 20th century.

an organ that has got stuck – inside me." Meanwhile her husband, Charles, knew how newspapers behaved. The press had made him famous but he hated its inaccuracies and inventions.

Now that he was in charge of the hunt for his son, newspapers began to feel that they were unfairly rejected.



Always seeking stories, the **tabloids** often invented stories, or wrote about Lindbergh's negotiations with the Mafia.

Lindbergh was convinced that they could lead him to the **kidnappers** as there were many kidnapping gangs operating in the US at the time.

But it all came to a very sad end seven months later. On 12th May 1932, a man got out of a **truck** four miles from the Lindberghs' house to go to the toilet. There, he discovered the body of Charles Augustus. The post-mortem concluded that death had occurred two or three months before, the result of a fractured skull. So, nothing the Lindberghs could have done would have made any difference. Their baby had died that first night, either by falling to the ground when his kidnapper was on the ladder, or by a **sharp blow to the head**.



Tired of being in the spotlight, the Lindberghs moved to Europe in December 1935, still **mourning** the loss of their son.

More than three years later, the story returned to the front pages when the man accused of the murder, Bruno Hauptmann, went on trial in Flemington, New Jersey. Bruno was a German immigrant living in the Bronx. He maintained his innocence until the end, but was found guilty and executed on 3rd April 1936. Someone had paid for the crime, but Mrs Lindbergh's "sustained note" never went away. ✪



Charles Lindbergh (father)
Charles Augustus Lindbergh was born on 4th February 1902. He was famous for making the first solo, non-stop flight across the Atlantic, from Long Island to Paris in 1927 in a plane called The Spirit of St Louis. He married Anne Morrow on 27th May 1929. They had six children: Charles Augustus Lindbergh II (1930-1932); Jon Morrow Lindbergh (1932); Land Morrow Lindbergh (1937); Anne Lindbergh (1940-1993); Scott Lindbergh (1942); and Reeve Lindbergh (1945).



GLOSSARY

- to tuck up** *phr vb*
if you "tuck up" a child, you make the child feel comfortable before he/she sleeps
- to recover** *vb*
if you are "recovering" from a cold, you are in the process of getting better
- a window shutter** *n*
a wooden or metal cover that is fitted on the outside of a window
- a road block** *n*
if there is a "road block", the police stop the traffic in order to question drivers
- to sweep the countryside** *exp*
if a group of people are "sweeping the countryside", they are moving through the countryside, often as they are looking for something
- to extend your sympathy** *exp*
to say that you are sorry about something
- a number plate** *n*
the series of numbers and letters at the back and front of a car that identify the car
- the Resurrection** *n*
the time when Jesus came alive again after being dead for 3 days
- a tabloid** *n*
a newspaper that often has sensational stories about famous people
- a kidnapper** *n*
a person who "steals" a person and demands money in exchange for that person
- a truck** *n US*
a large vehicle for transporting goods. A "lorry" in British English
- a sharp blow to the head** *exp*
a hit to the head with great force
- to mourn** *vb*
to be grieving (in a state of sadness) because someone has just died

PHRASAL VERB THEMES: TIME

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

CLOCK ON/IN; CLOCK OFF/OUT

TO RECORD THE TIME YOU ARRIVE AT WORK OR LEAVE WORK, USUALLY AT A MACHINE WITH A CLOCK.



TAKE TIME OFF

TO SPEND TIME AWAY FROM WORK, EITHER BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS, OR SO YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ELSE.



BE PRESSED FOR TIME

NOT TO HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO DO THE THINGS YOU NEED TO DO; TO BE IN A RUSH.



BRING FORWARD

TO CHANGE THE DATE OR TIME OF SOMETHING SO THAT IT CAN HAPPEN EARLIER THAN PLANNED.



FIT IN (TIME)

TO FIND TIME TO DO SOMETHING OR TO SEE SOMEONE.



RUN OUT OF TIME

TO HAVE NO MORE TIME TO DO SOMETHING; TO REACH THE END OF A PERIOD OF TIME.



HANG ON

TO WAIT, USUALLY FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.



HANG OUT (WITH FRIENDS)

TO SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS, RELAXING.



Headline News

Headline News N° 4

The voice of the people

London 2007



Gordon Brown has some good news for Britain's ecologists.

"Instead of just five new **eco-towns** we will now aim for ten – building thousands of new homes in every region of the country," Gordon Brown announced, as he **unveiled plans** to double the number of "eco-towns" to be built across the UK. Mr Brown promised that up to 100,000 **carbon-neutral homes** would be built. "For the first time in nearly half a century we will show the imagination to build new towns – eco-towns with low and zero-carbon homes."

The eco-town idea was the first major policy announcement made by Mr Brown.

These towns are intended to be **ecologically sustainable**: their electricity and power will come from locally-produced, pollution-free energy, such as solar or wind power. They are often built on brownfield sites (abandoned industrial sites), rather than greenfield land (land that has not been developed and that is currently part of nature, or used for agriculture). ☺

Work Shy

Australian surfers come under attack.

In the past, an Australian surfer's worst enemy was the shark. Now it could be the Australian government as they **target** those claiming **unemployment benefits** whilst enjoying the delights of the sun, sea and surf.

"There is a **correlation between** high unemployment and coastal areas," said an Australian government spokesperson, as he launched a plan to **crack down on** surfers living on **welfare benefits**. "These people are basically refusing to work and choosing instead to surf and relax on the beach," he added.

Australia has an **acute shortage of** labour.

The economy has enjoyed 15 years of strong growth, and unemployment is at a 30-year low. "We've got too many jobs chasing too few people, yet there are still pockets of potential labour around the country," the spokesperson added. "We've got areas where there aren't any jobs, and we've got other areas where they're desperate for workers." Currently, the government is recruiting thousands more skilled workers from overseas to **plug gaps** in the labour market. Without this army of foreign accountants, health professionals and hairdressers, there are fears that Australia's booming economy could begin to **stumble**. ☺



GLOSSARY

an eco-town *n*

a town that receives electricity from renewable sources: wind, the sun...

to unveil plans *exp*

to explain plans to the public

a carbon-neutral home *n*

a house that produces no CO2 and that is run on renewable energy

ecologically sustainable *adj*

that doesn't produce anything harmful to the environment and that preserves the environment

to target *vb*

if you "target" a particular group, you "attack" that group or make them the focus of an investigation, etc

unemployment benefits *n*

money you receive from the government if you have no job

a correlation between *n*

a connection between

to crack down on *phr vb*

if the government "cracks down on" a particular crime, they focus on that crime and try to stop it

welfare benefits *n*

money you receive from the government if you have no job

an acute shortage of *exp*

if there is an "acute shortage of" something, there is not much of that thing and you need more of it

to plug gaps *exp*

if you "plug gaps", you try to fill holes (needs)

to stumble *vb*

if you "stumble", you start to fall

The Hoax

The fascinating story of Clifford Irving.



Richard Gere's latest film is *The Hoax*. It's the incredible story of author and journalist Clifford Irving, who was arrested for fraud in a spectacular case from the early 1970s.

Clifford Irving started off his **career** as a writer for the *New York Times*. He also wrote a few novels, and the successful autobiography of an **art forger** called *Fake!* (1969). In 1970 Irving was living on the island of Ibiza, in Spain, where he met another author, Richard Suskind. And it was here that the pair came up with a scheme that was designed to make them a lot of money: to write and sell Howard Hughes' "autobiography".



At the time, Hughes was a famous multi-millionaire **recluse**. He had a number of businesses and had been involved in the movie and flying industries. However, by 1958, Hughes had retired from public life, and he hated any kind of contact with the public. In fact, no one, apart from a very few close friends and associates had seen him for many years.

Irving and Suskind's plan was to write a fake autobiography of Howard Hughes. And it was almost successful. Suskind did most of the research into Hughes, using news archives. And Irving started **forging** letters in Hughes's own hand, imitating authentic letters Irving had seen in *Newsweek* magazine.

When Irving and Suskind were ready, Irving contacted a major publishing house. Irving claimed that he had been talking to Hughes about writing the autobiography. Irving showed them three forged letters, one of which claimed that Hughes wished to have his biography written but that he wanted the project to remain a secret. The autobiography would be based on interviews between Hughes and Irving.



The publishing house agreed to the terms and wrote up contracts between the publishing house and Hughes and Irving. Eventually, the publishing house paid an advance of \$100,000, with an additional \$765,000 to go to Hughes. The publishing house paid by cheque, which Irving deposited into a Swiss bank account that Irving's wife had opened under the name H. Hughes (Helga Hughes).

Late in 1971, Irving delivered the **manuscript** to the publishing house, complete with notes in Hughes's forged handwriting (notes that an expert **graphologist** declared genuine). The publishing house announced its intention to publish the book in March, 1972. But news of the autobiography had been **leaked**. And now several representatives of Hughes's companies expressed their doubts about the authenticity of the book. Irving **kept his cool**. But then the whole **hoax** came to an end on 7th January 1972 when Hughes finally contacted the outside world. Hughes arranged a telephone conference with seven journalists. Hughes **denounced** Irving and said that he had never even met him. At first, Irving claimed that the voice was a **fake**. But Irving finally confessed on 28th January 1972. Irving and Suskind appeared in court on 13th March, and were found guilty on 16th June. Irving was convicted and spent 14 months in prison. He voluntarily returned the \$765,000 advance to the publishing house. Suskind was sentenced to six months and served five. It was the hoax of the century. ✪

The Hoax

Directed by Lasse Hallström. Starring Richard Gere and Alfred Molina. Based on the life of Clifford Irving.

Clifford Irving

Born 5th November 1930. Famous for writing the fake "autobiography" of Howard Hughes. Currently lives in Aspen, Colorado. He recently said this about the film, "I had nothing to do with this movie, and it had very little to do with me."



Richard Gere

Born 31st August 1949 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Famous for his roles in *American Gigolo* (1980), *An Officer and a Gentleman* (1982), and *Pretty Woman* (1990). An active supporter of many charities.



GLOSSARY

- a career** *n* the job you choose to do for the majority of your professional life
- an art forger** *n* a person who copies paintings and sells them illegally
- a recluse** *n* a person who lives alone and who avoids contact with other people
- to forge** *vb* to make an illegal copy
- a manuscript** *n* a first version of a book
- a graphologist** *n* a person who analyses handwriting and styles of writing
- to leak** *vb* if information is "leaked", the press or the public find out about it unofficially
- to keep your cool** *exp* to remain calm even though you are in a tense situation
- a hoax** *n* a trick designed to make people believe something
- to denounce** *vb* if you "denounce" someone, you report them to the police/authorities
- a fake** *n* a copy; an illegal version

Film Speech

What's your favourite film **speech**? A recent poll chose a monologue from the war movie *Apocalypse Now* as the best speech in cinema history. Here are our top six film speeches.



1. Go Ahead, Punk

Here's tough guy Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) from the Don Siegel

film *Dirty Harry* (1971): *I know what you're thinking. Did he fire six **shots** or only five? Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement, I've **kinda lost track** myself. But being as this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world, and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question, 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya, punk?*



2. Greed is Good

And here is Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) from the Oliver Stone movie

Wall Street (1987): *The point is, ladies and gentleman, is that **greed** – for lack of a better word – is good. Greed is right. Greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms – greed for life, for money, for love, knowledge – has marked the **upward surge** of mankind. And greed – **you mark my words** – will not only save Teldar Paper [the name of the company,] but that other malfunctioning corporation called the USA.*

3. Choose Life

In this speech, Mark Renton (Ewan McGregor) is talking about life in general, in a scene



from the Danny Boyle film *Trainspotting* (1996): *Choose life. Choose a job. Choose a **career**. Choose a family,*

*Choose a big television, Choose washing machines, cars, compact disc players, and electrical tin openers. Choose good health, low cholesterol and dental insurance. Choose fixed-interest **mortgage repayments**. Choose a starter home. Choose your friends. Choose your future. Choose life.*



4. Napalm Heaven

This is the speech that Lieutenant Colonel Bill Kilgore (Robert Duvall) makes

in the Francis Ford Coppola film *Apocalypse Now* (1979): *You smell that? Do you smell that? Napalm, son. Nothing else in the world smells like that. I love the smell of napalm in the morning. You know, one time we had a hill bombed, for twelve hours. When it was all over I walked up. We didn't find one of 'em, not one stinkin' body. The smell, you know that gasoline smell, the whole hill. Smelled like... victory. Someday this war's gonna end...*

5. God's Fury

This is the speech that Jules Winnfield (Samuel L Jackson) makes just before executing a small-time drug dealer in the Quentin Tarantino film *Pulp Fiction* (1994): *The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the inequities*



of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who, in the name of charity

and good will, shepherds the weak through the valley of darkness, for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know my name is the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon you.



6. Brothers in Arms

And finally, here is General Maximus Meridius (Russell

Crowe) addressing his troops in the opening battle scene for the Ridley Scott film *Gladiator* (2000): *Fratres! [Brothers!] Three weeks from now I will be harvesting my crops. Imagine where you will be, and it will be so. Hold the line! Stay with me! If you find yourself alone, riding in green fields with the sun on your face, do not be troubled, for you are in Elysium (heaven), and you're already dead! Brothers. What we do in life echoes in eternity.* ☺

Which one is your favourite? Write in with your suggestions or comments to filmspeech@hotenglishmagazine.com



LISTEN UP!
I'VE GOT
SOMETHING
TO SAY.



GLOSSARY

a speech *n*
a series of words spoken by a character in a film/play, often saying something important in public
a shot *n*
if there is a "shot", someone fires a bullet from a gun
kinda *abbr*
kind of (more or less)
to lose track *exp*
if you "lose track" of something, you can't remember exactly what has happened
greed *n*
the desire to have more of something than you really need
an upward surge *exp*
a fast increase; a quick development
you mark my words *exp*
listen carefully to what I am saying
a career *n*
a job you choose to do for the majority of your professional life
a mortgage repayment *n*
the money you pay the bank every month as payment for the money you borrowed to buy your house



Student Scam

Students make thousands in false claims.

Three students working over the summer for an **insurance company** thought they'd come up with the perfect way to make money. With the help of his two friends, John Gilbert **forged** death certificates and letters showing that a certain Jacqueline Gilbert had died. The name "Gilbert" was chosen for the **scam** because it was the same as John's surname (Gilbert). He also produced letters showing that he was the **beneficiary** of her life insurance money. The

claim was then approved by James Gargett, another of the students who was working at the same insurance company. The three students then received £30,503 after Mrs Gilbert's "apparent" death. After this success, the students then decided to claim that another woman, Elizabeth Taplin had died. Again the letters were forged and the claim was **approved** by James Gargett. This time they received £95,332 each. However, when the

husband of the real Jacqueline Gilbert **received notification** that his wife's life insurance money had been **awarded**, he contacted the insurance company and demanded to know what had happened as his wife was "very much alive and well". The three men were arrested and have now admitted charges of **faking** the deaths of two women in a £125,000 insurance scam. The three students are awaiting sentence. ☹



Sweet Revenge

Man destroyed by mistresses.

A senior Chinese official is in a lot of trouble after no fewer than eleven former **mistresses** accused him of corruption. It has been reported that Pang Jiavu offered his close friends **lucrative business contracts** under one condition: that he could have an affair with their wives. At the time, Jiavu was working as an influential Communist Party boss and he was also the chairman of the provincial assembly; and he told his close friends that he was going to help them become very rich. However, much later, and in an attempt to protect himself, Jiavu sentenced some of the men to death for "corrupt business activities". This was the **final**

straw for the wives, who joined forces, accusing Jiavu of "corruption and hypocrisy". The People's Daily newspaper in China said, "Mr Jiavu abused his position. He converted young, pretty wives of his junior colleagues into mistresses. But he got caught and we're pleased about that." Jiavu has already been **sacked** and the case is now **under review**. The newspaper said, "It is not surprising for a man to be **brought down** by one woman. But by eleven women at the same time is quite an **achievement**." The whole case is now under review and all **pending** death penalties issued by Mr Jiavu have been **postponed**. ☹

GLOSSARY

an insurance company *n*
a company that pays you money as compensation when you have an accident / lose things, etc

to forge *vb*
to make an illegal copy

a scam *n*
a scheme designed to make money by tricking people

a beneficiary *n*
a person who receives compensation or insurance money

a claim *n*
if you make a "claim", you report a crime or accident to an insurance company in order to get compensation

to approve *vb*
to agree to something; to give your permission for something

to receive notification *exp*
if you "receive notification" of something, you are informed about that thing

to award *vb*
if you are "awarded" a sum of money, you are given that sum

to fake *vb*
to make an illegal copy

a mistress *n*
the female lover of a married man

a lucrative business contract *n*
a business contract that is worth a lot of money

the final straw *exp*
the last thing in a series of bad events that convinces you to stop something or change it

to sack *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job

under review *exp*
if something is "under review", it is being analysed

to bring down *phr vb*
if you "bring someone down", you destroy them professionally

an achievement *n*
something that someone has succeeded in doing after a lot of effort

pending *adj*
waiting for a decision to be taken about it

to postpone *vb*
to delay; to cause to happen at a later date

Word of the Month

This is the start of a new series on fun, useful and very interesting English words. This month's word is actually German in origin, but is a **loanword** that is often used in English: Schadenfreude.

Have you ever felt a sense of **joy** at other people's **misfortune**? If you have, then you have enjoyed a little Schadenfreude. This word has many definitions: to take pleasure from someone else's suffering; to feel happiness at other people's misfortune; to take pleasure in other people's pain. This word is German in origin and comes from two words: "Shaden" (which means "damage" or "harm"), and "Freude" (which means "joy"). The term is often **capitalised**, as it is in the original German.



Another example of the word in use comes from Hollywood superstar Ben Affleck. He used the word while talking to journalists about the film *Gigli* (2003 - starring Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez). The film is often referred to as the worst movie of 2003. During the interview, Affleck said (referring to the way that critics attacked and **made fun of** the film), "I think there was a certain amount of Schadenfreude involved."



Here are some examples of Schadenfreude in action. This first one is an extract from *The Simpsons*. Homer is happy because Ned Flanders is **on the verge of bankruptcy**.

Lisa: Dad, do you know what Schadenfreude is?

Homer: No, I do not know what Schadenfreude is. Please tell me because I'm dying to know.

Lisa: It's a German word for shameful joy, taking pleasure in the suffering of others.

Homer: Oh, come on, Lisa. I'm just glad to see him **fall flat on his butt!** He's usually all happy and comfortable, and surrounded by loved ones, and it makes me feel... What's the opposite of that shameful joy thing of yours?

Lisa: **Sour grapes?**

Homer: Boy, those Germans have a word for everything.

And finally, here are some Schadenfreude quotes.

"To feel envy is human; to savour Schadenfreude is **devilish**." Arthur Schopenhauer.

"Humour is just Schadenfreude with a **clear conscience**." Nietzsche. ✪

Alternative Schadenfreude

Some argue that the English equivalent would be "morose delectation" although this is rarely used (if ever). An opposite of Schadenfreude would be "sympathetic joy" or "happiness in another's good fortune". Other languages have equivalent expressions to describe Schadenfreude. Here are a few of them with their literal translations:

Dutch proverb: No better joy than joy about someone else's **sorrow**.

French proverb: One person's misfortune is another's happiness.

Norwegian saying: Schadenfreude is the only true joy.

Hebrew saying: There is no joy like Schadenfreude.

Japanese saying: Others' misfortunes are the taste of honey.

GLOSSARY

a loanword *n*
a foreign word that is used in another language

joy *n*

happiness

misfortune *n*

bad luck

to capitalise *vb*

to use capital letters (A, B, C, etc)

on the verge of *exp*

about to happen

bankruptcy *n*

the state of having no money to pay bills

to fall flat on one's butt *exp inform*

to make a mistake in an embarrassing way

sour grapes *exp*

if you say that something is "sour grapes", you are saying that it is a case of jealousy or envy

to make fun of someone *exp*

to laugh at someone; to ridicule someone

devilish *adj*

cruel or unpleasant

a clear conscience *n*

if you have a "clear conscience", you don't feel guilty or bad about your actions

sorrow *n*

sadness

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