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ESTUDIANTE Y DE LA OFERTA EDUCATIVA

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Editor's intro



Hello everyone, and welcome to another issue of Hot English. Happy New Year to you all, and we hope it's a good one for you. This month, our special focus is on New York City. Find out how to spend the perfect day in the city that never sleeps. We're

also looking at how New York has changed since **9/11**, and what it's like to be a New York **stock broker**. You can also read about one of New York's most famous **landmarks**: Coney Island, which is really special as it was founded by one of my ancestors, the world-famous explorer, Rufus Coney.

We've got lots of other interesting articles for you to read and listen to, including a look at one of the most controversial childcare experts in Britain: Claire Verity. We're also looking at the changing face of England's **fire-fighters**. And we've got some more of those "Embarrassing Moments" stories sent in by some of our readers. They're great. 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. It'll make your life easier. See the ad in the magazine for more details.

GLOSSARY

9/11 *exp US*
notice how Americans put the month first then the day. In British English, this date would be 11/9 (the 11th of September)

a stock broker *n*
a person whose job is to buy or sell company shares on the stock market

a landmark *n*
a building, tourist site, or feature that is either famous or easy to recognise/see

an ancestor *n*
a relation of yours who lived many years ago

a fire-fighter *n*
a person whose job is to extinguish fires or to rescue people in fires

Photo & Quote of the month



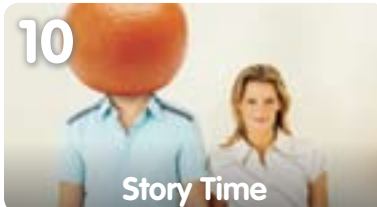
Here's a funny photo for you. Let's hope we can do something about the climate so the polar bears can have a bit of ice to play on.

And here's our quote of the month: "Politics isn't a bad profession: if you succeed there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book."
Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)
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

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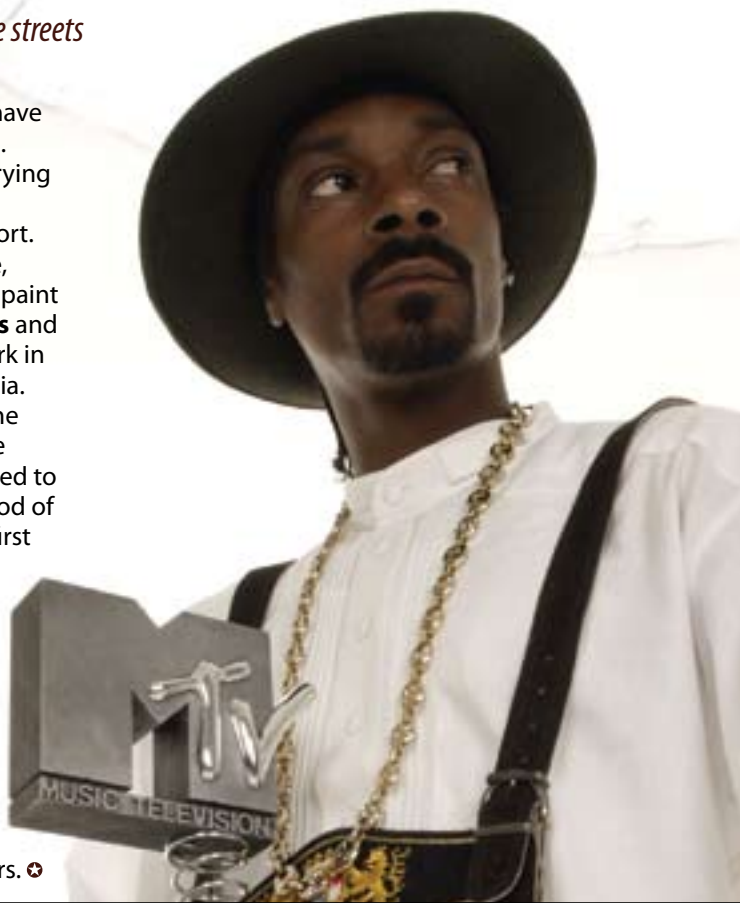
All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing, S.L., although we do think that rats make marvellous pets, Woody is a funny chap, and swearing at work is a good way of relieving stress.



Rapper Rapped

Snoop ordered to clean the streets

Rapper Snoop Dogg is in trouble. And now he will have to do **community service**. The rapper was found carrying a **weapon** last year whilst travelling through an airport. For his community service, Snoop must collect **litter**, paint park **benches**, **rake leaves** and **remove** graffiti, all at a park in Orange County in California. Snoop Dogg admits that he is guilty of committing the offence. Now, he is expected to work in the park for a period of one week. This is not the first time that Snoop Dogg has been **in trouble** with the police. In a separate incident, he was found carrying drugs and a weapon. That time, Snoop Dogg was given 1,000 hours of community service. Snoop has been singing and rapping for many years. ✪



GLOSSARY

community service *n*
a form of punishment that involves doing jobs in the city for free (cleaning walls, collecting rubbish, etc)

a weapon *n*
an object used to hurt or kill someone

litter *n*
objects that are thrown away: old bits of paper, food, etc (also, "rubbish")

a bench *n*
a long seat for sitting/lying often found in a park

to rake leaves *exp*
to collect leaves that are on the ground with a rake (a tool with a long handle and some metal "teeth" at the end)

to remove *vb*
to take away

in trouble *exp*
if you are "in trouble", you have difficulties because you have done something illegal/bad

to apologise *n*
to say that you are sorry

a pipe *n*
an object for smoking tobacco. It has a tube and a small cup at the end in which you put tobacco

on air *exp*
if something happens "on air", it happens while people are watching the television or listening to the radio

to break a rule *exp*
to do something that is not permitted

to light up *phr vb*
to put fire on a cigarette/cigar, etc so you can smoke it

a viewer *n*
a person watching a television programme

a complaint *n*
if there is a "complaint", someone says something bad about a programme or service

on stage *exp*
if a musician/actor does something "on stage, he/she does it while playing in front of an audience and on the "stage" (an elevated platform)

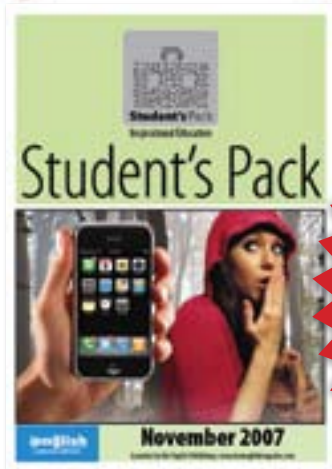


Smoking Presenters

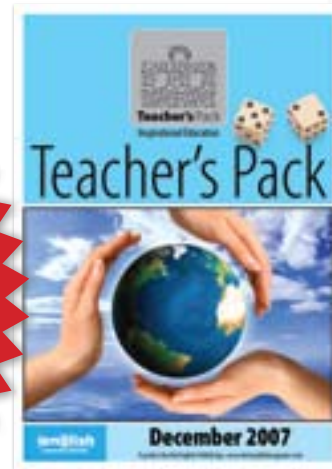
Television presenters in trouble for smoking on "the box"

Anti-smoking protesters in England say the BBC has to **apologise** after two presenters smoked a **pipe** whilst **on air**. This happened half-way through a programme called *Top Gear*, which is all about cars. Smoking inside the television studio is illegal. The two men **broke the rule** while they were talking about a Porsche. "They took out two pipes and

lit up", said one **viewer**. The anti-smoking organisation ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) say that by smoking on television, the presenters were breaking the law. However, the BBC said that they have only received a few **complaints**. The Rolling Stones had a similar problem a few months earlier when Keith Richards smoked a cigarette **on stage**. ✪



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OUT NOW!

Pet Passion

Hollywood film creates new pet fashion.

Write the name of each pet next to its corresponding picture. (A-F). **Answers** on page 42



A



B



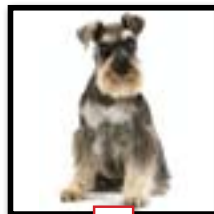
C



D



E



F

Mouse

Dog

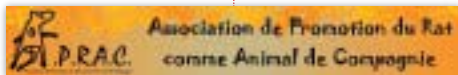
Cat

Rat

Rabbit

Hamster

Do you have a pet? The latest **craze** is for pet rats. And it's all because of the Disney film, *Ratatouille*, which is an American animated film about a French rat. "Since the film came out in the summer, there has been a real fashion for rats," said Gerald Moreau, vice president of French rat support group APRAC (*l'Association de Promotion du Rat comme Animal de Compagnie* – the Association for the Promotion of the Rat as a Pet). "There's no doubt it has changed people's thoughts on rats," Moreau added. "Before, rats were seen as **disgusting**. But now, people see them as intelligent, **cute**, sociable animals."



Since the film, the number of visitors to APRAC has increased dramatically – from 50 hits per hour to more than 400.

Supporters of rats argue that they are excellent pets. They are much more intelligent, and much more interesting than hamsters or mice.

They recognise their own name, and **grow**

attached to their owner. They also play with you like a dog or a cat. Rats take care of the injured and sick in their groups. The main disadvantage is that rats are real **attention seekers**. "They need a lot of **cuddles** and **play time**," Mr Moreau warned. ❄



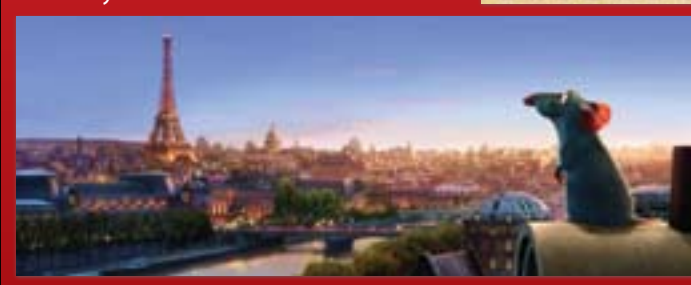
Ratatouille – the film

Ratatouille is all about the adventures of Remy, a French rat. He wants to become a professional **chef**.



Rat information

- A group of rats is called a "**mischief**".
- The rat is the first symbol of the Chinese Zodiac. For the Chinese, the rat symbolises intelligence and **prosperity**.
- There are now around five million pet rats in France.
- There are also 60 million **wild rats**, mostly in urban areas such as Paris.



GLOSSARY

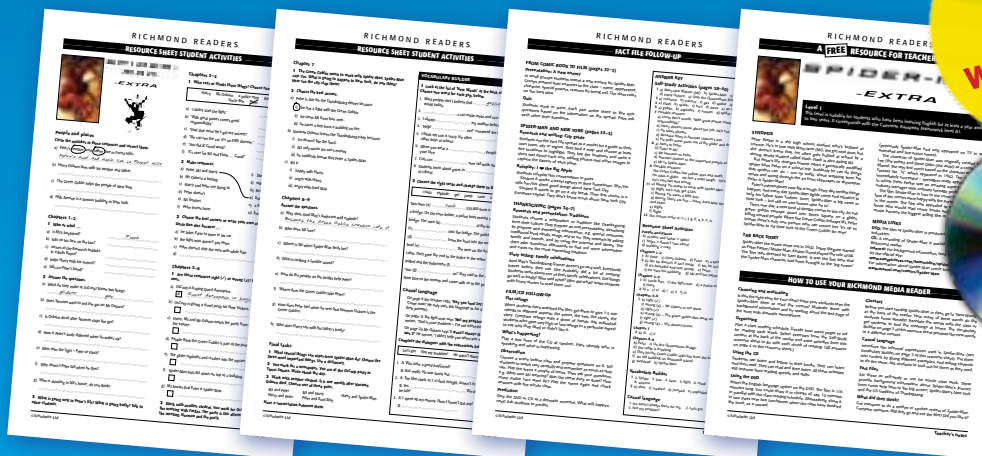
- a craze** *n* a fashion
- disgusting** *adj* horrible, that makes you feel sick
- cute** *adj* nice and attractive
- to grow attached to their owner** *exp* to become very close and friendly with their owner (the person who looks after them)
- an attention seeker** *n* a person who wants/needs/ demands attention from others
- a cuddle** *n* if you give someone a "cuddle", you hold them in an emotional way
- play time** *n* time dedicated to playing games and having fun
- a chef** *n* a person whose job is to make food in a restaurant
- mischief** *n* actions that cause problems or trouble for others
- prosperity** *n* a condition or state in which someone is rich or financially successful
- a wild rat** *n* a rat that lives in the street (not in a house)

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Headline News

Headline News N° 1

The voice of the people

London 2007

Tattoo Tremors

A man gets the worst tattoo in the history of tattooing.

"Fashions change but tattoos are forever."

He loved his wife, so he did what any loving husband would do: he got a tattoo of her on his back. But now he's **regretting** it.

It cost more than 1,000 euros. It took 20 hours. And it covers all of his back. After 15 happy years with his wife, Alan Jenkins decided it was time for the ultimate



expression of love. So, he had an image of her face (and those of their two daughters) tattooed on his back. Unfortunately, it all **backfired** after Lisa, 36, **went off with** a 25-year-old Latvian man she had met at work.

"I thought she was happy," Alan said. "I had it because I thought we loved each

other." Apparently, Lisa met her new love, fitness instructor Kaspars Gavars, at work. She wants him to live in the family home in South Wales... once Alan has **moved out**.

"I didn't plan to fall in love with Kaspars," Lisa said. "It just happened. And I never wanted Alan to have my face tattooed on his back." Alan, who has two girls, Daniella (10) and Jade (15), grew suspicious after Kaspars started **giving** Lisa **lifts** to work. But despite his sadness, Alan has no plans to have the tattoo **removed**. "Lisa may have left me, but she'll be on my back forever thanks to the tattoo," he said. ☘



Popular types of tattoo

- A butterfly.
- A dragon.
- A Celtic cross.
- A sign of the zodiac.
- Japanese Kanji or Chinese characters.
- A sun.
- A phoenix.

God's Army

Priests are told not to wear dog-collars.

It is a symbol of the friendly **vicar**. But now **priests** around the country are being told to take it off. The days of the priest with a **dog-collar** could be at an end. Why?

Violence against the church is a big problem. In a **survey** of 90 London

members of the clergy, nearly 50% said they had been attacked. One vicar from north-west London said his church had been **machine-gunned**. And in the past decade, five vicars have been murdered.

PEACE TO YOU ALL!



Some say the answer is for priests to take off the dog-collar. The organisation National Churchwatch (which gives personal safety advice to priests) says that vicars with dog-collars are attacked more often than doctors. The organisation's Nick Tolson said, "When priests are on

their own, and when they are **off-duty** – for example, when they are doing their shopping – there is no need for them to wear their dog-collars. All that does is to attract people who are motivated towards violence." ☘

GLOSSARY

- to regret** *vb*
to feel bad about something you have done
- to backfire** *vb*
if something "backfires", it does the opposite to what you expected
- to go off with someone** *exp*
to leave your husband/wife, etc and have a relationship with another person
- to move out** *phr vb*
to leave the home where you are living
- to give someone a lift** *exp*
to take someone in a car to a place
- to remove** *vb*
to take off; to delete
- a vicar** *n*
a member of the Church of England who is in charge of a church
- a priest** *n*
a member of a religious organisation
- a dog-collar** *n*
the white band that goes around the neck of a Christian priest
- a survey** *n*
a series of questions you ask people to get their opinions on something
- a member of the clergy** *n*
an official member of a church organisation
- to machine-gun** *vb*
to shoot with a gun that fires many bullets very quickly
- off-duty** *adj*
if a police officer or priest is "off-duty", he/she isn't working officially

NURSERY TIMES



CD track 5
English child

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



The grand old Duke of York

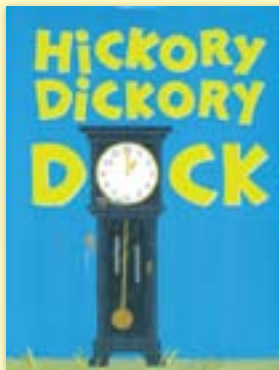
This song was written in the 15th century. It refers to the **defeat** of Richard, "The grand old Duke of York", in the Wars of the Roses (1455). This war was fought between the house

of York (whose symbol was a white rose) and the house of Lancaster (whose symbol was a red rose). The Wars of the Roses **lasted** for over thirty years.

During the war, there was a battle on 30th December 1460

known as the Battle of Wakefield. The Duke of York and his army went to his castle at Sandal. Sandal Castle was built on a **hill** that was more than 10 metres high. During the battle, Richard left the castle and went down to attack the Lancastrians. Richard's army was eliminated and he was killed.

*The Grand old Duke of York he had ten thousand men,
He **marched** them up to the top of the hill,
And he marched them down again.
And when they were up, they were up,
And when they were down, they were down,
And when they were only halfway up,
They were neither up nor down.*



Hickory, Dickory Dock

This poem is for children so they can **mimic** the sound of a clock **chiming**. The objective of the song is to help children learn how to tell the time. It was **published** in 1744.

*Hickory dickory dock,
The mouse ran up the clock,
The clock **struck** one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory dickory dock.*



GLOSSARY

- a defeat** *n*
if there is a "defeat", an army loses a battle
- to last** *vb*
if something "lasts" for 30 years, it happens for 30 years
- a hill** *n*
a small mountain
- to march** *vb*
if you "march" soldiers, you order them to walk in an orderly way – all walking together
- to mimic** *vb*
to copy
- to chime** *vb*
if a clock "chimes", a bell on it makes a noise every hour
- to publish** *vb*
if a song or story is "published", it is printed in a book and sold to the public
- to strike** *vb* (past: **struck**)
if a clock "strikes" one, the bell makes a sound once; if it strikes "two", it makes the sound twice, etc
- a cross** *n*
a shape that consists of a vertical line with a shorter horizontal line through the middle of it
- a street hawker** *n*
a person who sells food or things in the street
- the resurrection** *n*
the time when Christ came alive again after being dead for three days

Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns are small fruit cakes decorated with a white **cross**. They are often served with butter. During the 19th century, they were sold by **street hawkers** who shouted, "Hot cross buns!". This can be seen in the film *Oliver!*, which is based on the novel by Charles Dickens. Cross buns are generally sold at Easter. The cross on the buns is to celebrate the **resurrection** of Christ after his death on the cross. ✪



*Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!
One a penny two a penny, hot cross buns,
If you have no daughters, give them to your sons,
One a penny two a penny, hot cross buns.*



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Story Time

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

Bed Solutions

This guy goes to see a **psychiatrist**. "Doc," he says, "I've got this terrible problem. Every time I get into bed, I think there's somebody under it. So, I get under the bed, but then I think there's somebody on top of it. Top, under, top, under. You've got to help me. I'm **going crazy!**"



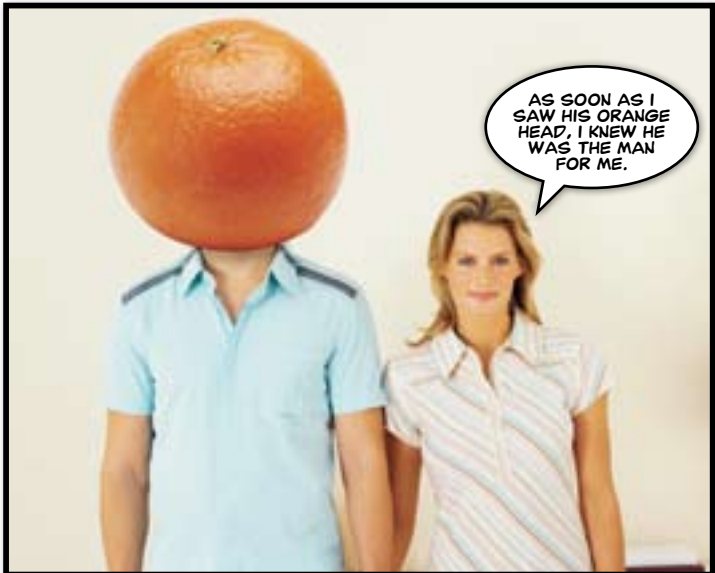
So, the psychiatrist says, "Come to me three times a week, and I'll **cure your fears**." "How much do you charge?" "A hundred dollars a visit." "OK. I'll think about it," the man says. Six months later, the doctor

meets the man in the street. "Hey, why didn't you come to see me again?" he asks. "For a hundred dollars a visit? You must be joking. A **bartender** cured me for ten dollars." "Oh, really? How did he do that?" "He told me to cut the legs off the bed."



Orange Head

A man with a big orange head walks into a doctor's office. The doctor says, "**Good gosh!** You've got a big orange head. How did that happen?" So, the guy starts to tell his story. "Well, doctor, the other day I'm **walking along** the beach when I notice a piece of metal in the sand. I **pick it up** and it's a lamp. So, I clean off the sand and out comes this **genie**. He says he'll **grant** me three **wishes**. So, I say, 'Genie, for my first wish I want a bank account with 10 billion dollars in it. And the genie gives me a card with a number for a **bank account** with 10 billion dollars in it. So, then I say, 'Genie, for my second wish I want to be married to the most beautiful woman in the world, and I want her to be



madly in love with me. And **all of a sudden** I'm standing next to the most beautiful woman in the world; and in her hand she has a marriage certificate." Then, the guy turns to the

doctor and says, "Now, Doctor, I think this is the **point** where I **went wrong**. I looked at the genie and said, 'Genie, for my third wish I want a big orange head.'" 🍊

GLOSSARY

- a psychiatrist** *n*
a doctor who treats mental illnesses
- I'm going crazy** *exp*
I'm getting really angry
- to cure** *vb*
to make better
- a fear** *n*
if you have a "fear", you are frightened of something
- a bartender** *n*
a person who works in a bar serving drinks, etc
- good gosh!** *excl*
an exclamation of surprise
- to walk along** *phr vb*
to continue walking in a particular direction
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to take something with your hands
- a genie** *n*
a magical, imaginary person who lives in a lamp
- to grant a wish** *exp*
to give you what you ask for
- a bank account** *n*
a series of bank numbers that represent a place where money is kept in a bank
- madly in love with someone** *exp*
if you are "madly in love with someone", you really love that person
- all of a sudden** *exp*
suddenly; quickly and unexpectedly
- a point** *n*
a time or place in a story
- to go wrong** *exp*
if things "go wrong", they go badly and cause you problems

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This is the start of a new section on **functional language**. Here are some expressions for meeting and greeting someone. Next month, useful language for subsequent meetings.



HOW DO YOU DO?

- B: How do you do?
- A: Hello, I'm Sam. (informal)
- B: Pleased to meet you, Sam. / Nice to meet you, Sam.

- A: I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Brian.
- B: Nice to meet you, Brian.

- A: Hello, I'm Jim.
- B: Pleased to meet you, Jim. / Nice to meet you, Jim.

- A: Hi, my name's Mark. (informal)
- B: Hi, Mark.

Introducing someone

- This is Paul.
- I'd like to introduce you to Jane.
- Have you met Jim before?
- You know Mark, don't you?

Meeting people

- Hello. / Hi.
- Good morning. (up until about 13:00)
- Good afternoon. (from 13:00 till about 17:00)
- Good evening. (from 17:00 until about 20:00)

Introducing yourself

- A: How do you do? (formal)



PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

- You don't know Mike, do you?
- Have you met my colleague, John?
- I'd like you to meet my colleague, John.
- This is Sam. He works in the editorial department.
- Mike, this is Betty. ☺

Shaking hands

Remember, most people from English-speaking countries shake hands on meeting someone. In formal situations, it is not common to kiss the person you have just met.



Good night

Remember, we use "good night" or "night" as a way of saying goodbye to someone at night.

GLOSSARY

functional language *n*
language used for a particular purpose: to say sorry, to say hello, to say goodbye, etc

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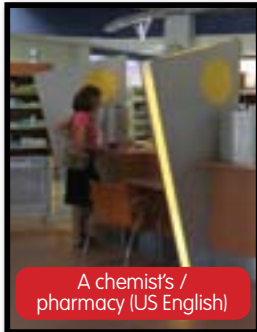
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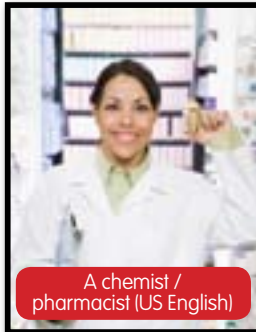
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Basic English



A chemist's / pharmacy (US English)



A chemist / pharmacist (US English)



Antiseptic cream



Aspirin



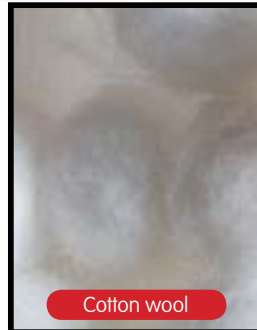
A bandage



A plaster / band-aid / elastoplast / sticking plaster



Contact lens solution



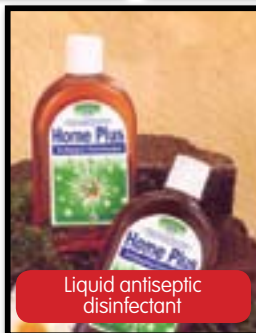
Cotton wool



Cotton buds



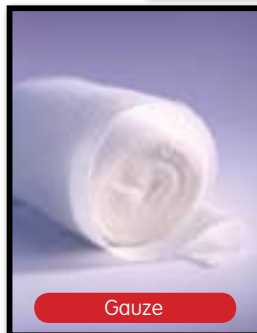
Cough medicine



Liquid antiseptic disinfectant



Eardrops



Gauze



Insect spray



Laxatives



Nose drops



Sleeping pills



A chemist sign



A first-aid kit



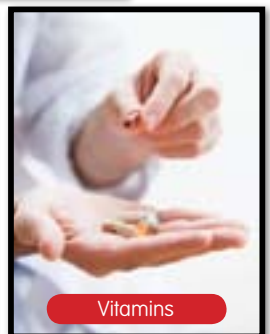
Suppositories



Tablets



A thermometer



Vitamins



CD track 8 -
US woman & US man

The Chemist's / Pharmacy

Social English

Learn the kind of English you need for typical occasions. This month: the chemist's / the pharmacy. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- Is there a chemist's / pharmacy nearby?
- When does the chemist's open/close?
- I need something for a cold/ **constipation**/diarrhoea/ **hay fever**/ a headache.
- Have you got anything for an insect bite?
- I've got a bit of **sunburn**. What would you recommend?
- I've got a bit of an **upset stomach**. Is there anything you could recommend?



- I need something for a **bad tummy** urgently.
- Where are the plasters, please?
- Do you have any thermometers?



What you hear

- The contact lens solution is just over there.
- Do you have a prescription?
- I'm sorry but we haven't got any cotton buds at the moment.
- You'll need a prescription for this.
- This medicine



should help **clear it up**.

- This works well on **rashes**.
- You'll need to talk to a doctor about that. ⚡



The Chemist's

In Britain, the chemist's offer a whole range of products apart from medicines, including toothpaste, deodorant, shaving foam, disposable cameras, batteries, chocolate, sweets and drinks.

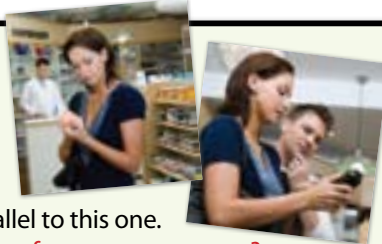


GLOSSARY

- constipation** *n*
if you have "constipation", you have a condition that prevents you temporarily from going to the toilet
- hay fever** *n*
an allergy to pollen (a fine powder produced by plants/flowers)
- sunburn** *n*
a red mark on your body where you are burnt because you have been in the sun for too long
- an upset stomach** *n*
a pain in your stomach, often because you have eaten something bad
- a bad tummy** *n*
a pain in your stomach, often because you have eaten something bad
- to clear something up** *exp*
to cure something; to make an illness/rash, etc go away
- a rash** *n*
an area of red marks on your skin where your skin is irritated or hurting
- an aisle** *n*
a space between rows of shelves that you can along in a shop
- cough medicine** *n*
medicine to help you cure a cough (an irritation in your throat)
- a chest infection** *n*
an infection in the front and upper part of your body
- a GP** *abbr*
a general practitioner. A doctor who treats all types of illnesses (not a specialist)

Part II Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Jane is at the chemist's.

- Chemist:** Can I help you?
- Jane:** Yes, I was looking for some antiseptic cream.
- Chemist:** You'll find some in the next **aisle** – the one parallel to this one.
- Jane:** OK. Great. Another thing, have you got anything for an upset tummy?
- Chemist:** Yes, these work quite well. (The chemist shows Jane a packet of pills.)
- Jane:** OK. I'll take a packet of those then. And have you got any cough medicine?
- Chemist:** Yes, you'll find that next to the toothpaste – just over there.
- Jane:** OK. Thanks very much. And finally, I was just wondering if it's possible to get any antibiotics. I've got a bit of a **chest infection**.
- Chemist:** Not without a prescription. You'll have to speak to your **GP** about that.
- Jane:** OK. Thanks for your help.



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Corny Criminals

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

Officer Stolen

Thief steals police officer.
"He was supposed to deter criminals, but now he's gone... forever," said a police spokesperson after a thief stole a **life-sized cardboard cut-out** of a policeman. Police say the cardboard replica, known as PC Bob Molloy, had been doing a great job of **detering shoplifters** in



supermarkets. Thefts had fallen from 36 per month to just one since PC Molloy's 2D presence was introduced two years ago.

The cut-out, which cost £100 to produce, has been **rotated** between stores in a number of towns. It shows PC Molloy in full uniform and with **arms folded**. It looks so life-like that some shoppers have even tried to talk to the cardboard **copper**.

But police may yet **have the last laugh** as the theft was captured by CCTV cameras, and they are confident of making an arrest. Video footage shows the thief

paying for his groceries, then walking off with PC Molloy **tucked under his arm**.

Party Crasher

Escaped convict joins police party.

"I really couldn't believe my eyes, since the man was the criminal we were **seeking**," said a police officer who **spotted** an escaped criminal at a barbecue party at the local police station. Police in Xinzhu city, Taiwan, had invited residents to celebrate the **Moon Festival** with them. Many took up the kind offer, including an escaped **drug-dealer** called Chen, who had just been listed as one of the city's most-wanted criminals. Police officer Cai Zhengtong, who was in charge of the barbecue, said, "I saw a man dressed in an **eye-catching** yellow jacket enter the place and sit in the corner. He seemed to be familiar, so I asked a colleague about it, and he said, 'That's Chen – the man we're looking for.'" Police at the party quickly arrested the criminal. "I thought a police barbecue would be the last place police would look for me," Chen said. 🌟



GLOSSARY

- life-sized** *adj*
the same size as the thing in real life
- a cardboard cut-out** *n*
an image of someone/something that has been cut from card (thick paper)
- to deter** *vb*
if an object "deters" you from doing something, it stops you from doing that thing
- a shoplifter** *n*
a person who steals from a shop
- to rotate** *vb*
if an object is "rotated", it is moved from place A to place B, and the object in place B is moved to place A
- folded arms** *n*
with your arms in front of your body and with one on top of the other
- a copper** *n inform*
a police officer
- to have the last laugh** *exp*
to be the one who laughs in the end; not to be the victim in the end
- to tuck something under your arm** *exp*
to put something under your arm in order to keep it safe
- to seek** *vb*
to look for
- to spot** *vb*
to see; to notice
- the Moon Festival** *n*
a Chinese festival celebrated in autumn
- a drug-dealer** *n*
a person who buys and sells illegal drugs
- eye-catching** *adj*
that makes you look at it because it is so different/attractive/colourful, etc



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

Headline News

Headline News N° 2 The voice of the people London 2007

Oh, *!*? \$#@

A new report on the benefits of swearing.

Have you ever **sworn** at work? A new report said it could be good for you and the company where you work. According to a study by Norwich University, swearing at work helps employees **cope with stress** and also **boosts team spirit**. "Our study suggested that, in many cases, taboo language serves the needs of people for developing and **maintaining solidarity**, and as a mechanism to cope with stress," said Professor Yehuda Baruch, a management specialist. "Attempts to prevent workers from swearing could have a negative impact." He argues that managers need to understand how their staff feel about swearing. And that the challenge is to **master the art of** knowing when to **turn a blind eye to** communication that does not meet with their own standards. So, do you swear at work? ☺



Swear box

Some offices have a swear box. This is a little box that you must put money into every time you swear. The money is then used for things such as the office party (where there is usually a lot more swearing, but no swear box).

Mellow Mushrooms

Dutch government declares war on magic mushrooms. By Rebecca Kern

The Netherlands are famous for their tolerance of soft drugs. But just recently, they've **banned** the sale of all magic mushrooms. Since 1971, the sale of fresh mushrooms has been permitted, but the sale of dried mushrooms (with higher amounts of psychedelic chemicals) has been prohibited. However, under the new law, fresh mushrooms are also prohibited. "The problem with mushrooms is that their effect is **unpredictable**," said justice ministry spokesman Wim van der Weegen. "Therefore, all the shops that sell mushrooms will be closed," he added.



The ban comes after an increase in mushroom-related injuries. In 2006, there were 128 reported incidents, compared to only 55 in 2004. One of the most serious involved the death of a 17-year-old girl who jumped from a building in Amsterdam after eating magic mushrooms. In another incident, a tourist drove uncontrollably through a **campground** and nearly hit **campers**. Major sellers of the magic mushrooms oppose the ban because they could lose millions of euros. ☺



GLOSSARY

- to swear** *vb*
to say a rude or taboo word
- to cope with stress** *exp*
to manage stress and reduce it, or learn to live with it
- to boost** *vb*
to increase
- team spirit** *n*
the feelings of solidarity and unity within a group
- to maintain solidarity** *exp*
to preserve and keep the feelings of unity and support within a group
- to master the art of** *exp*
if you "master the art of" something, you learn how to do it
- to turn a blind eye to something** *exp*
to ignore something when you should really take action
- to ban** *vb*
to prohibit
- unpredictable** *adj*
if something is "unpredictable", it is difficult to know what it is going to do
- a campground** *n*
an area of land where you can put your caravan or tent (a material object in which you can sleep)
- a camper** *n*
a person who sleeps in a tent in a campground

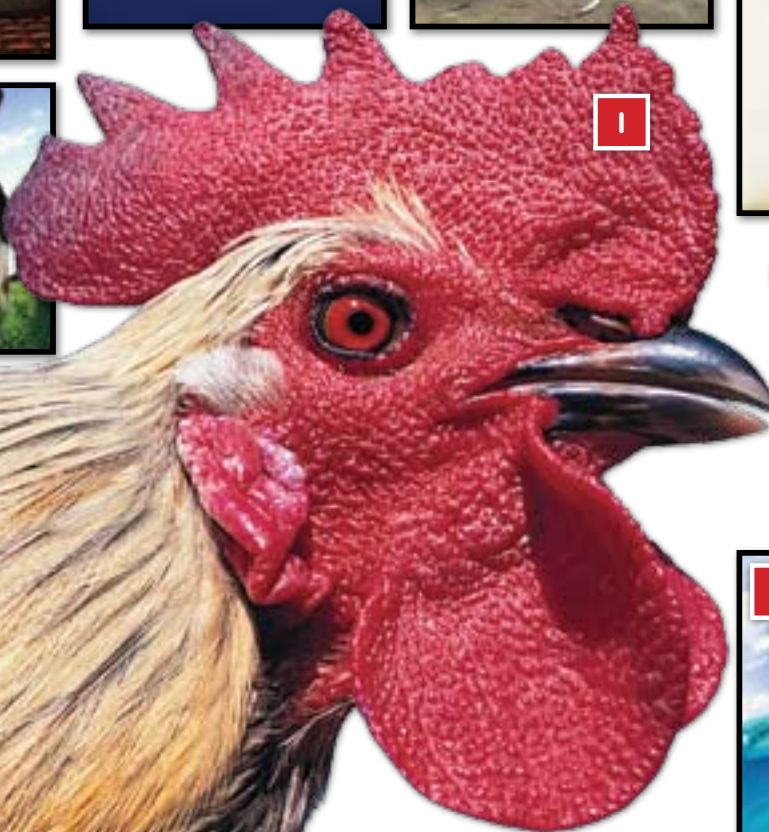
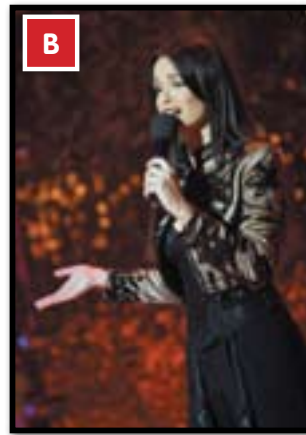
TRIVIA MATCHING

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. A male
2. A female
3. A flamenco dancer
4. A pair of trousers
5. A singer's performance
6. Cockfighting
7. A rooster
8. A shark
9. Sting rays
10. A bone
11. A stage in a theatre
12. A flag
13. Cattle





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

The capital of the Maldives is Male, which is very masculine. So far, there are no capital cities with the name Female.



Maldives

A well-known flamenco dancer once **took out an insurance policy** against his trousers **splitting** during a **performance**.



The biggest market for **cockfighting** is the Philippines, which has an estimated five million fighting **roosters**.



Sharks and sting rays are the only animals that don't get cancer. Scientists believe this has something to do with the fact that they don't have bones (they have **cartilage**).



Football **strikers** Dixie Dean and Jimmy Greaves were both aged exactly 23 years 290 days when they both scored their 200th goals in the English Premier League.



Dixie Dean



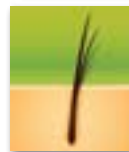
Jimmy Greaves

A short time before his assassination, President Lincoln had a dream about dying, which he told the Senate about. Incidentally, when John Wilkes Booth (the man who assassinated Lincoln) **leapt** onto the **stage** after shooting the president, he **tripped** on an American flag.



John Wilkes Booth

Have you ever wondered where the marketing term "brand" comes from? Well, before **fences** were used in **ranching** to keep one person's **cattle** separate from another person's, ranch-owners branded (marked) their cattle with a hot iron. This was so that they could identify their **herd** later.



When was the last time you had a **hangover**? It's a universal phenomenon, but each country has a different way of describing it. In France, they call it "wood mouth". The Germans refer to it as "the **wailing** of the cats", the Italians call it "out of tune", Norwegians identify it as "terrible **carpenters**", Spaniards call it "backlash", and the Swedes refer to it as "pain in the **hair roots**".

GLOSSARY

- to take out an insurance policy** *exp* to sign a contract so that you have an insurance policy (a policy that gives you compensation in case of an accident, injury, etc)
- to split** *vb* if your trousers "split", they break
- a performance** *n* if an actor/singer is giving a "performance", they are acting/singing in front of an audience
- cockfighting** *n* a sport that involves a fight between two roosters (male chickens)
- a rooster** *n* a male chicken
- cartilage** *n* a strong, flexible substance in your body, especially around your joints and nose
- a striker** *n* a football player whose objective is to score goals
- to leap** *vb* to jump
- a stage** *n* the elevated high area where an actor/musician plays to the public
- to trip** *vb* to fall because your foot has hit something
- a fence** *n* a plastic/wooden/metal barrier around a garden or area of land
- ranching** *n* the job of managing a large farm with cows/horses, etc
- cattle** *n* cows and bulls
- a herd** *n* a group of cows or bulls
- a hangover** *n* a bad feeling in your head/body after drinking too much alcohol
- to wail** *vb* to cry (often because you are in pain or sad)
- a carpenter** *n* a person whose job consists of making things with wood
- hair roots** *n* the place beneath the skin where hair starts to grow

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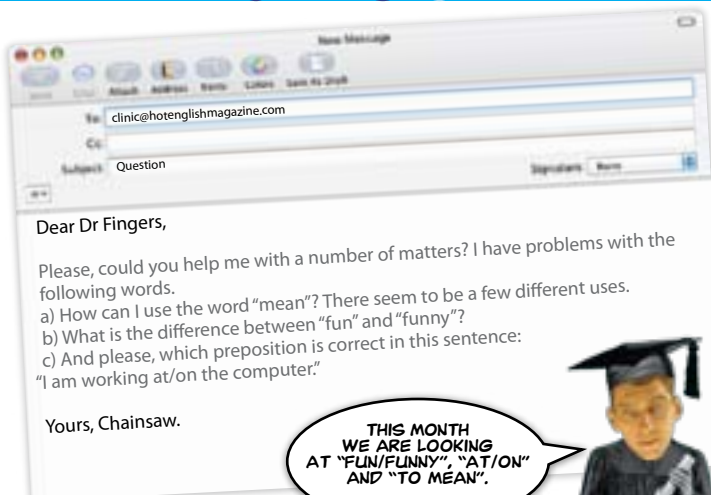
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DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



THIS MONTH WE ARE LOOKING AT "FUN/FUNNY", "AT/ON" AND "TO MEAN".



Dear Chainsaw,

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

1. When "to mean" is referring to something you want to do (you intend to do), then it is followed by "to". For example:

- a) I meant to do it last night.
- b) I didn't mean to hurt you.
- b) She meant to tell you all about it.
- c) We didn't mean to lose your dog. Sorry!

We can also use "to mean" with an indirect object. For example: "I meant Sam to see it – not you!" It is like saying, "I wanted X to happen." Here are some more examples:

- a) They meant us to have it. (They wanted us to have it.)
- b) We meant Jim to do it. (We wanted Jim to do it.)

When "to mean" is describing the meaning of initials or a word, it is followed by a noun or a noun phrase. For example:

- a) CIA means Central Intelligence Agency.
- b) This word means "angry" in Italian.

And finally, "to mean" can be used in the sense of "to suppose" (often followed by a noun or by a clause). For example:

- a) That will mean more money, won't it?
- b) This will mean we will have to get up earlier.
- c) That will mean working longer hours.



2. Basically, if you say that something is "fun", you are saying that it is enjoyable. For example:

- a) The party was a lot of fun.
- b) The trip was really good fun.

And if something makes you laugh, it is funny. For example:

- a) The film was really funny.
- b) Sam makes me laugh. He's really funny.

3. Both "working at" and "working on" are possible. However, there is a subtle difference as "at" suggests a position. For example: "He said he was cooking in the kitchen, but I saw him working at the computer in his bedroom."

And "on" is used to indicate the use of a computer for a particular job rather than, for instance, pen and paper. For example: "She wrote the story on a computer. But Nigel used a typewriter."

Well, Chainsaw, I hope that has helped you.

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

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 Edad: DNI/NIF:

Número de cuenta ____/____/____/____
 Banco: Sucursal:
 Dirección :
 Código Postal:



Suscripciones múltiples/ Regalos - solicitud de petición

- Me gustaría pedir varias suscripciones para amigos y compañeros, en las que se aplique los descuentos mostrados en la tabla de la derecha. Por favour ten en cuenta que se puede realizar el envío a dos direcciones diferentes (la tuya y otra).

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Nombre: Apellidos:
 Dirección:
 Código Postal: Población:
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Descuento según número de suscripciones	Precio descontado para cada	Cantidad	Total
1 Suscripción	49.95		
2-4 Suscripciones 10%	45.00		
5-9 Suscripciones 15%	42.50		
10-19 Suscripciones 20%	39.95		
20-49 Suscripciones 25%	37.50		
50-99 Suscripciones 30%	34.95		
100+ Suscripciones 50%	24.95		

Firma:



Sweets Destroyed

Latest attack in chocolate war.



An expert chocolate maker has been forced to **resign**. He was caught **squashing truffles** at another manufacturer's shop. Brian Mixton used to work as a **chef** for top chocolate-maker Burnton's. He was found **damaging** the truffles at a shop that **belongs** to rival chocolate-maker, Chocolat. The store manager from Chocolat said that staff found £63.50 worth of truffles **damaged**. After informing Burnton's about it, Chocolat decided to take no further action. Meanwhile, Burnton's has **declined to comment** on the situation, but

issued a statement saying Mr Mixton had resigned, and that they promised to investigate the matter further. Lynn Cunningham from Chocolat said, "It was very extraordinary really. The staff saw how Mr Mixton was **handling** a number of truffles in a way that made them suspicious. When we checked the truffles later, we saw that they had been squashed and damaged," she said. "We just want them to stop this kind of behaviour and ensure it never happens again," Cunningham said. ✪

GLOSSARY

- to resign** *vb*
to leave your job voluntarily
- to squash** *vb*
if you "squash" something, you break it or make it smaller by applying pressure and force
- a truffle** *n*
a soft chocolate in the shape of a ball
- a chef** *n*
a person whose job is to make food in restaurant kitchens
- to damage** *vb*
to break or destroy
- to belong to** *exp*
if something "belongs to" you, it is yours and you own it
- damaged** *adj*
broken or destroyed
- to decline to comment** *exp*
not to say anything about a topic
- to issue a statement** *exp*
to say something to the press/news in public
- to handle** *vb*
to touch with your hands
- eventful** *adj*
if you describe a period as "eventful", you are saying that a lot of interesting, exciting or important things happened during this period
- high-profile** *adj*
something "high-profile" receives a lot of attention in the press/news
- an affair** *n*
a relationship with someone who isn't your wife/husband, etc
- to reunite** *vb*
to come together again after a separation
- a tough politician** *n*
a politician who uses his/her power and authority to impose order/discipline
- a founding principle** *n*
a theory or concept that an idea is based on



C'EST LA VIE!

YES, THAT'S LIFE.

Premier Divorce

French President's marriage ends.

Months after becoming the French President, Nicolas Sarkozy has divorced his wife, Cecilia. It is the second time that both Nicolas and Cecilia Sarkozy have been divorced, and it all happened very quickly – within the space of a week. The Sarkozy's marriage had been very **eventful**. In 2005, Cecilia had a very **high-profile affair** with a

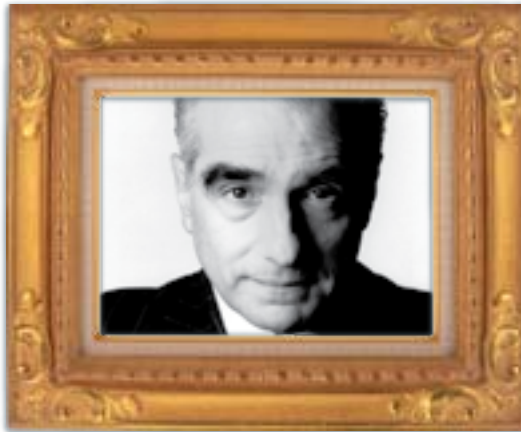
man called Richard Attais. She left her husband Nicolas in order to travel around the world with him. Later, Sarkozy had an affair with a journalist called Anne Fulda. However, by the end of 2005, the Sarkozys were **reunited** again. But it didn't last. Sarkozy is renowned as a **tough politician**. In response to a question on immigration,

he said, "We no longer want immigration that is inflicted (on us) but immigration that is chosen, this is the **founding principle** of the new immigration policy I advocate." And when asked about all the violence at some of France's football stadiums, he said, "We want to allow families to return to football stadiums and feel safe." ✪

Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE

This month: Martin Scorsese versus Woody Allen.



Woody Allen vs Martin Scorsese

Woody Allen

Allen Stewart Königsberg (Woody Allen) was a **gifted child**. He often impressed his **schoolmates** in New York City with magic tricks; and before he was even 20 years old, he was writing comedy **scripts** for stars of the day. Later, he started writing short stories for newspapers and before long he was working on **screenplays** for his own films. At this time, he also stopped using his real name (Königsberg) and adopted the **pseudonym** Woody Allen.

Over the next forty years, he produced many films and became known as one of the most **innovative** and imaginative directors and writers in the film industry. He has won three Academy Awards and he has been nominated 21 times in three different categories. He is famous for wanting complete control of his films, often writing, directing, producing and even acting in them. Some of his best-known films include *Sleeper*, *Hannah and her Sisters*, *Manhattan Murder Mystery*,

Bullets over Broadway and the more recent *Match Point* (starring Scarlett Johansson). As a person, Woody Allen is known as an eccentric. He is said to have attended psychotherapy sessions regularly over the past forty years, he is a **keen** jazz musician, he has been married on several occasions, and he is notoriously negative about his own films.

Martin Scorsese

Scorsese is the director who, along with Francis Ford Coppola, is best known for his depiction of New York and its **criminal underclass**. Most famously he has produced films that deal with the Italian mafia, such as *Goodfellas* and *Casino*. Martin Scorsese was born in New York City to Italian-American parents, and studied at New York University during the 1960s. It was here that he **fell in with** a group of young directors who were going to change the course of cinematic history over the next forty years. Amongst

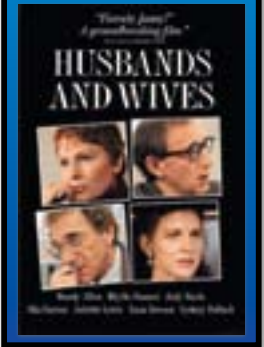
this group was George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Brian de Palma and Francis Ford Coppola. For much of his directing career, Scorsese has worked with the actor Robert de Niro. His films with de Niro include *Raging Bull* and *Taxi Driver*. These were both critically successful. He has been nominated for many different Academy Awards, and in 2006 he finally won his first Oscar for his direction of the film *The Departed*.

Conclusion

Both Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese are immensely important figures in the film industry. Both have won Oscars and both have a large cult following. Scorsese is the more successful in terms of commercial success. However, Woody Allen has brought an **unparalleled** level of talent and originality to the film industry. These are things that are almost impossible to quantify. Therefore our scores are as follows: Woody Allen = 9/10; Martin Scorsese = 8/10. ⚡

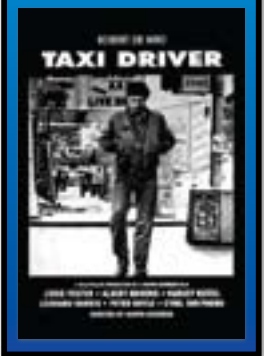
Woody Allen

Born 1st December 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. Most famous films include *Manhattan*, *Husband's and Wives*, *Hannah and her Sisters*, *Bullets over Broadway*.



Martin Scorsese

Born 17th November 1942 in New York City. Most famous films include *Taxi Driver*, *Casino*, *Gangs of New York*, *Goodfellas*.



GLOSSARY

- a gifted child** *n*
a very clever/intelligent child with special/advanced skills and abilities
- a schoolmate** *n*
a person who is studying at school with you; a school friend
- a script** *n*
the text for a film / theatre play
- a screenplay** *n*
the text for a film
- a pseudonym** *n*
a name that someone uses instead of his/her real name
- innovative** *adj*
new and original
- keen** *adj*
enthusiastic
- the criminal underclass** *n*
the people in society who are trapped in a life of crime
- to fall in with** *exp*
if you "fall in with" a group of people, you join that group
- unparalleled** *adj*
with no comparison

A new film set in New York City starring Will Smith.

I AM LEGEND

What would you do if you were the last person left alive on earth? This is the question that faces American scientist Robert Neville in the film *I am Legend*. Neville (played by the actor Will Smith) survives a deadly virus that destroys the population of New York City. As a scientist, Neville worked on **research** to **eradicate** such killer diseases, but in a disastrous experiment a **lethal** virus is introduced to the general population and it spreads.

The result of the **pandemic** is that Neville is, **seemingly**, the only human left alive in New York City. He lives a solitary existence for the next three years amongst the **skyscrapers** of Manhattan. Visually, the film looks very similar to the recent *28 Days Later* or *Vanilla Sky* where an actor is left alone in a big city.

I am Legend is a film adaptation of a popular book (also called *I am Legend*) which was written in 1954 by Richard Matheson. The book was originally set in the city of Los Angeles; however the producer of the film, Akiva Goldsman, decided to move the location to New York City because he felt that the **landscape** and the buildings were more dramatic, especially after the terrorist attacks of September 2001.

The **tagline** for the film is "The last man on earth is not alone", suggesting that whilst Neville walks around the streets of New York City, something is there with him – unseen. By Neville's own calculations, about 2% of the human population should have survived the virus. But throughout this time, his only companion is a **stray dog**.

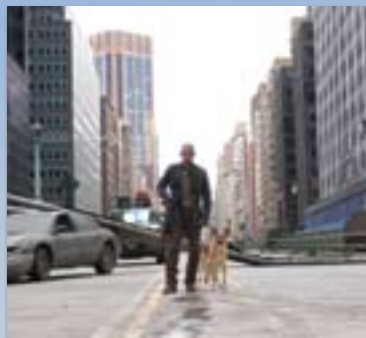
Richard Matheson's book *I am Legend* has been adapted for film before: in 1964 *The Last Man on Earth* was filmed starring Vincent Price; in 1971 another,

more famous, version was produced called *The Omega Man* starring Charlton Heston; and in the late 1990s, Ridley Scott attempted to make a version of the film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, but the film was eventually abandoned after increasing costs.

I am Legend is possibly Will Smith's most **challenging** film. For this film, Will has to spend most of the time alone. Therefore, he will have the job of keeping the audience interested without being able to interact with other people. In this way *I am Legend* will be similar



to the film *Cast Away* which featured the actor Tom Hanks alone on a desert island, with no company except for a beach ball.



I am Legend promises to be a visually-stunning **portrayal** of New York City. The story is **profound** and

provocative, and by the time you leave the cinema, you should be thinking a little more about the troubles which face humankind. ☺

FILM INFORMATION: I AM LEGEND
Directed by Francis Lawrence. Starring Will Smith. Tagline: "The last man on earth is not alone."



WILL SMITH
American actor and singer. Born 25th September 1968. Starred in the television series, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Most famous films *Wild Wild West*, *Hitch* and *Ali*.



GLOSSARY
research *n* investigation
to eradicate *vb* to eliminate
lethal *adj* very dangerous; that can kill you
a pandemic *n* a disease that affects a very large number of people
seemingly *adv* apparently
a skyscraper *n* a tall building with many floors (levels)
a landscape *n* everything you can see when you look at an area
a tagline *n* a piece of text (often just one sentence) that is used to promote a film or describe what the film is about
a stray dog *n* a dog with no home
challenging *adj* something that is "challenging" requires a lot of effort and determination
a portrayal *n* an actor's "portrayal" of someone is the way the actor shows that person to be
profound *adj* with a lot of meaning behind it
provocative *adj* that causes debate or controversy



NYC 24



Tara Palmeri & brother PJ



7:30am–8:30am. Wake up early and take a yoga class at the Laughing Lotus Yoga Centre. You'll notice that New Yorkers **meditate** louder than anyone else in the world.



6:00pm–7:30pm. Have dinner at the Great Jones Café in Greenwich Village. The menu is written on the wall, and it has the best home cooking and cheapest prices in New York.



9:30am–1:30pm. Visit one of New York's great museums: the Museum of Modern Art, the Frick Collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, or the Guggenheim Museum. You won't be disappointed.



8:00pm–10:00pm. After dinner, head over to the Theater District to catch one of Broadway's hottest musicals, *Avenue Q*. Hysterical **puppets** show you what it's like being a college graduate in the big city.



1:30pm–2:30pm. Head east toward the Brooklyn Bridge to have lunch at a little restaurant under the bridge called The Bridge Café. This is the oldest **drinking establishment** in New York City (and is now also a restaurant).



10:00pm–11:00pm. After the show, walk to Fifth Ave to go up the Empire State Building. There are 1,860 steps from the street level to the 102nd floor so your best bet is to take the elevator. On a clear night you can see almost 80 miles (about 130km) from the top of the building. But don't go on a stormy night as **lightning strikes** the building about 100 times a year.



2:30pm–3:30pm. Have a walk through Central Park where you'll see joggers, skaters, cyclists, dancers, dogs and even horses.



11:30pm–1:00am. For cocktails, take a trip to Grand Central Station to check out Campbell Apartment. This bar is the ex-office of businessman John W. Campbell which has been transformed into a 13th-century Florentine palace full of Renaissance antiques, grand pianos and organs.



4:00pm–5:30pm. Jump on the Staten Island Ferry to get a panoramic view of lower Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty.



1:30am–7:30am. After you've had a few drinks, stagger over to the **Meat Packing District** to party all night. Some of the hottest and most exclusive night clubs include *Lotus*, *Bungalow 8* and *Marquee*. ✪



GLOSSARY

- to meditate** *vb*
to remain in a silent and calm state often as part of a yoga session
- to head** *vb*
to go to
- a drinking establishment** *n*
a bar that has a licence to sell alcohol
- a puppet** *n*
a toy that you can move by pulling strings or by putting your hand inside it
- lightning** *n*
a flash of light in the sky during a storm (violent weather)
- to strike** *vb*
to hit
- the Meat Packing District** *n*
the area in a city where meat arrives and is cut and put into packages/boxes, etc then taken to shops to be sold



A look at New York City's different districts.

5 BOROUGHES

When people think about New York City, the Manhattan skyline usually **comes to mind**. But there's more to New York City than just Manhattan. There are five **boroughs** in New York City, and each borough has its own unique personality and heritage that makes the city one of the most diverse and interesting in the world. *By Tara Palmeri. US English.*

THE BRONX

The Bronx is often seen as New York's **seedy** area. But these same "seedy" streets inspired the birth of rap and hip-hop in the 1970s, and were dubbed the "Boogie Down." The Bronx (also known as "Da Bronx") is a working-class area with the highest percentage of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans on mainland US. Bronx-native

(and Latina icon), Jennifer Lopez, describes her **roots** in the borough in her song "Jenny from the Block". The Bronx is also home to many major **landmarks** such as the



Yankee Stadium, the New York Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo – the largest metropolitan zoo in the US. People from the Bronx are often

described as **brash** and **bossy**, but their pride in the borough makes their personality stronger than any other. In the words of famous rapper Fat Joe (from his song "Lean Back"), "I'm from Bronx, New York, and I reppin' till I die".



BROOKLYN

Whatever you think you know about Brooklyn "fuggedaboutit" ("forget about it"). New York City's most populous borough (with 2.5 million residents) maintains a character of its own through its cultural diversity, independent art scene, and unique architecture heritage.



Brooklyn's other name, "**Crooklyn**", stems from its association with rappers, drug dealers, and gangsters. But the clean and somewhat classy areas of Brooklyn (Prospect Park, Ocean Parkway, and Brooklyn Heights) must not be forgotten. Recently, **hipsters** from the Lower East Side have migrated to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, for its lower **rent**, **funky** shops, and cool restaurants, bars, and clubs. Brooklyn's beach front, Coney Island, was once a popular **vacation spot**. It also hosts



the oldest wooden **rollercoaster** in the United States "The Cyclone", and a famous **hotdog hut**, Nathan's.



NEW YORK CITY

Nicknames: the Big Apple, Gotham, The City That Never Sleeps.

State: New York.

Boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx, Staten Island.

Settled: 1624.

Mayor: Michael Bloomberg.

Population: 8.2 million.

Land Area: 469.9 sq/m



STATEN ISLAND

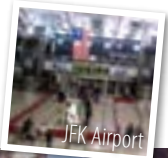
Referred to as "Brooklyn with Parking," Staten Island has the most **residential character** of all the five boroughs. Described as a place where the **makeup is thick** and the accents are even thicker, it is home to a large population of loud and abrasive Italian-Americans with personalities similar to characters on the television series *The Sopranos* (all about the Italian-American Mafia). Staten Island is located on the largest **landfill** in the world, 2,200 acres, and has the **nickname**, "New York's **trash receptacle**". One of its major tourist attractions, the Staten Island Ferry, provides a magnificent view of the Statue of Liberty as it approaches Manhattan. Interestingly, although the name "Staten Island" is used to

describe the borough, its actual name is "Richmond."



QUEENS

Cruise down Queens Boulevard and experience New York's most ethnically diverse borough, and the 2nd most ethnically diverse area in the US, with over half its population being immigrants. Continue further on the Grand Central Parkway and catch a glimpse of Queens' major landmarks: New York City's two major airports John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia, the Shay Stadium (the stadium of the New York Mets baseball team), and the Arthur Ashe Stadium (where the US Open tennis is held every September). Take the Grand Central Parkway further into Flushing Meadows where the 1939 and the 1964 New York World Fairs were held. To end your tour of Queens, take the Queensboro Bridge over to our next borough, Manhattan.



MANHATTAN

"New York, New York" or the "Big Apple" is the land of **skyscrapers** and dreams. Frank Sinatra's lyrics, "If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere," describe the attitude of the typical New Yorker.



The **sitcoms** *Friends* and *Seinfeld*, and the comic drama *Sex and the City* stereotype life in Manhattan. And areas of Manhattan



have appeared in thousands of films and television series. Greenwich Village, the Lower East Side and the East Village all offer a **bohemian** subculture. **Shop-aholics** can satisfy

their every need at SoHo (where you can find lots of shops). Chelsea, one of the big homosexual areas of the city, is the new center of the city's art industry and nightlife. Manhattan's Chinatown has the largest concentration of Chinese people in the west. Artists and intellectuals find inspiration in the Upper West Side; while the rich and wealthy live in the Upper East Side (one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the United States, with average rent at \$2,500 a month – mice included). The average visitor may be overwhelmed by the **hustle-and-bustle** of Manhattan life, but this energy has kept the city's spirit and industry alive despite the events of September 11, 2001. ☺

GLOSSARY

- to come to mind** *exp*
if something "comes to mind", you think of it
- a borough** *n*
an area or district in a town/city
- seedy** *adj*
dirty, dangerous, untidy
- roots** *n*
origins
- a landmark** *n*
a building, site or feature that is either famous or easy to recognise/see
- brash** *adj*
very confident
- bossy** *adj*
a "bossy" person likes to give orders or dominate others
- a crook** *n*
a criminal/thief/robber
- a hipster** *n*
a cool person
- rent** *n*
the money you pay to live in someone else's house
- funky** *adj*
cool
- a vacation spot** *n*
a place where people like to go on holiday
- a rollercoaster** *n*
a "train" in a fun fair that travels very fast on a track
- a hotdog hut** *n*
a small wooden construction (like a one-roomed house) in the street where they sell hot dogs
- a residential character** *n*
if an area has a "residential character", there are many houses there with people living
- makeup** *n*
paint that you can put on your face
- thick** *adj*
if makeup is "thick", there is a lot of it on. A "thick" accent is a strong accent
- a landfill** *n*
a large hole in the ground in which rubbish is placed
- a nickname** *n*
an informal name
- a trash receptacle** *n*
a place for putting old bits of paper/food, etc (a rubbish bin)
- a skyscraper** *n*
a tall building with many floors (levels)
- a sitcom** *n*
a television series about the lives of a group of people in 1 or 2 locations
- bohemian** *adj*
artistic; unconventional
- a shop-aholic** *n*
a person who is "addicted" to shopping
- the hustle-and-bustle** *n*
the noise, energy and chaos of something

STOCK SHOCK

New York City stockbrokers are famous around the world. We've seen them on TV shows. We've seen them on the news. And we've seen them on films (*Wall Street* starring Michael Douglas, for example). But what are they really like? Tara Palmeri interviewed Steven Hecht to find out more about a New York City stockbroker. *US English*.

Steve, what's your day like?

Well, money never sleeps and it's always moving, so I need to be **in tune with** where the money is going and how **current events** are affecting money flow.

You have to remember that exchanges are open 24 hours a day, and money is always going to go where it's treated best. So, I wake up around 6:30am every morning and turn on CNBC to see what's happening in Asia and Europe because everything is linked. Something that happens in New York is reflected in the exchanges in Asia and Europe and vice versa. Political attacks or terrorist attacks have a great effect on the world market. People buy or sell based on world news and how they are feeling. After this, I head into the office at 9.

What's your office like?

There are three computers in the office. One is used specifically for stock quotes. Another is for a financial service subscription that I use, and the other one is for general use. There are copies of the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times that I read every morning. CNBC is also always on in the office. With all these forms of media, I am listening and gathering information all day.

What's it like at different times of the day?

Well, the close of the day is the most intense because people make decisions when the market is **about to close**.

What are the most exciting days for you?

Whenever there is world **turmoil**. The most exciting day that I ever experienced was the first day the New York Stock Exchange opened after 9/11. The stock market was closed for 4 full days. On the day that the stock market opened again, it was really intense because there was a huge amount of selling. Also, it's exciting when the

Federal Reserve speaks. The Federal Reserve announces the interest rates results at 2:15 in New York every month and the market reacts



immediately. For example in September they lowered the interest rates half a point and the market **shot up** 300 points.

Any typical stockbroker expressions, jargon, or slang?

"Money never sleeps" and "money goes where it's needed." My personal favorite expression is, "The market is doing its sky-falling dance." I say this because the market is very schizophrenic. It has 20 different personalities that are always competing with one another. People all over the world are trying to make decisions about money because for every buyer there is a seller, and if I think that something is going down I need to find someone to buy it. This goes on all day, it's like a dance between the buyers and the sellers.

What type of person makes a good stockbroker?

Half of a good stockbroker is the right psychology and the other half is a fundamental understanding of economic theory. If you combine these two, you can make a lot of money.

Thanks, Steven. ☺

STEVEN HECHT – NYC STOCK BROKER.

Steven Hecht owns a financial services company. He manages his clients' money portfolio and decides what stocks they should invest in.



GLOSSARY

in tune with *exp*
if you are "in tune with" something, you understand it and are monitoring it

current events *n*
things that are happening now in the news/world

about to close *exp*
going to close very soon

turmoil *n*
chaos and confusion

the Federal Reserve *n*
the central bank of the US

to shoot up *phr vb*
to increase very rapidly and considerably

AFTER 9/11

9/11 destroyed much of downtown New York City, but Manhattan has emerged as a more vibrant community. Tara Palmeri, a New York native, recounts her experience on September 11, and describes the city's exceptional recovery. *US English*.

I experienced 9/11 from the other side of the Hudson River in New Jersey, 20 miles (32km) from **ground zero**. I was in class one morning when a plane collided into the first tower. I wondered if it was an attack or merely a navigational error. But after another plane **rammed** into the second tower, I knew it wasn't an accident. Almost immediately, there were hysterical students trying to reach loved ones and the sound of **announcements** for students to return home.

I spent the rest of the day in front of a television screen wondering what would happen next. I worried about friends who worked in the

homeless for months. Tens of thousands of jobs disappeared and many **garment factories** in Chinatown still remain closed. But the city's spirit changed too. Instead of a **somber feeling**, there was a strength that unified neighbors as they consoled each other and worked together to find understanding and peace.

Six years later, this same spirit supported the reconstruction of downtown New York to become an even more desirable place to live. The Lower Manhattan Development Corp.'s allocation of \$800 million to projects changed downtown Manhattan dramatically. These projects included the **rehabilitation** of

buildings, the transformation of the streets surrounding the New York Stock Exchange, and the creation of parks and green spaces. As a result, neighborhoods such as the Lower East Side and TriBeCa have become **trendy**. The Lower East Side has developed into a **hip** district of bars, restaurants and clubs (it was previously famous as a place for shopping **bargains**). And TriBeCa, once an industrial district dominated by **warehouses**, has been revitalized into a residential area inhabited by wealthy New Yorkers.

Construction of the Freedom Tower is currently in progress

and has already reached ground level. The Freedom Tower will capture the style of a classic New York skyscraper. Its height, 1,776 feet (about 500 meters), is in reference to the year the US Declaration of Independence was signed (1776). The construction of a World Trade Center memorial is also in progress. This consists of two **pools** and a wall with the names of the victims on it so that the people of New York may never forget those who were lost on the day when so much changed. ★



towers. I **consoled** my friend Mary whose uncle TJ Hargrave worked on the 105th floor of the north tower as a broker for Canter Fitzgerald. TJ never made it home from work that day to see his wife and three daughters, Corey, Casey, and Amy. The days following September 11 were filled with **memorial services**.

The city lost 2,973 lives that day and its **skyline** changed dramatically. **Ash** from the towers covered apartments, leaving many New Yorkers



GLOSSARY

- ground zero** *n*
the area in the ground where the Trade Towers used to stand
- to ram** *vb*
to hit very hard and with force
- an announcement** *n*
words said to the public on the radio, the television or over a loudspeaker system
- to console** *vb*
to offer kind words of support and sympathy to someone who is very sad or suffering
- a memorial service** *n*
a church service in honour of someone who has died
- a skyline** *n*
the line that is formed where the sky meets the buildings in a city/town
- ash** *n*
a grey powder from material that has burnt
- a garment factory** *n*
a factory for making clothing
- a somber feeling** *n*
a feeling of sadness/depression
- rehabilitation** *n*
the improvement or reconstruction of an area or building
- trendy** *adj*
fashionable
- hip** *adj*
cool
- a bargain** *n*
something that is cheap and good
- a warehouse** *n*
a large building for storing goods
- a pool** *n*
a small area of still water

Headline News

Headline News N° 3

The voice of the people

London 2007

Ig Nobels

Winners of the most bizarre scientific investigation.



Mayu Yamamoto



Brian Wansink



Dr. Johanna van Bronswijk

Gay bombs. Talking rats. A study on the word "the". These are just some of the themes for this year's **Ig Nobel*** prizes – the most bizarre scientific award ceremony in the world. In the past, scientists have won prizes for investigating things such as why birds don't get headaches, and what happens to a locust while it is watching *Star Wars*. This year's winners are equally **wacky**. The prizes, **awarded** during a ceremony at Harvard University, include the following:

Medicine – Brian Witcombe and Dan Meyer for their work on the health consequences of **swallowing a sword**.

Physics – a US-Chile team who investigated the problem of how **sheets** become **wrinkled**.

Biology – Dr Johanna van Bronswijk for her study on all the insects that share our beds.

Chemistry – Mayu Yamamoto for developing a method to extract vanilla fragrance and flavouring from **cow dung**.

Linguistics – a University of Barcelona team for showing that rats are unable to tell the difference between a person speaking Japanese backwards and somebody speaking Dutch backwards.

Literature – Glenda Browne for her study of the word "the", and how it can cause complications

for those trying to put things into alphabetical order.

Peace – the US Air Force Wright Laboratory for research and development on a chemical weapon that would provoke homosexual behaviour among enemy troops.

Nutrition – Brian Wansink for investigating the limits of human appetite by **feeding** volunteers a never-ending supply of soup.

Economics – Kuo Cheng Hsieh for **patenting a device** that can catch bank robbers by dropping a net over them.

Aviation – an Argentinian team for discovering that impotency drugs can help hamsters recover from **jet lag**. ✪



* Ig Nobels

The name of the competition "Ig Nobel" is a double play on words. Firstly, the combination "Ig" and "Nobel" forms an expression that sounds like the English word "ignoble", which is basically the opposite of "noble" (a "noble person" has excellent qualities of character, including honesty, generosity and selflessness). The competition name is also a play on the "Nobel" prizes. These more serious prizes are awarded for achievement in the fields of science, literature and economics, and for the promotion of world peace. This competition was started by Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), who was, ironically, the inventor of dynamite.

GLOSSARY

- wacky** *adj*
crazy; strange
- to award** *vb*
to give a prize to
- to swallow** *vb*
to take food/liquid from your mouth to your stomach
- a sword** *n*
a long knife used for fighting/killing, etc
- a sheet** *n*
a thin piece of fabric placed on the bed
- wrinkled** *adj*
if clothing or a piece of fabric is "wrinkled", it has many lines on it
- cow dung** *n*
what a cow produces and leaves on the ground after food is digested, etc
- to feed** *vb*
to give food to
- to patent** *vb*
if you "patent" an invention, you register it officially as your invention
- a device** *n*
an object that has been invented for a particular purpose
- jet lag** *n*
the feeling of tiredness after travelling through a time zone
- disabled people** *n*
people with a physical handicap (with a condition that restricts movement, etc)
- the dining industry** *n*
the business sector that includes restaurants, bars, cafés, etc
- to sacrifice a desire** *exp*
if you "sacrifice a desire", you don't do what you want to do so that someone else can have it or enjoy it

Gloomy Work

Depression among office workers. By Amanda Glensky

Like your job? Motivated at work? A lot of people have trouble getting out of bed for work in the morning. A recent US government survey shows that about 7 percent of full-time employees had work-related depression last year. The survey also shows that women were more seriously depressed than men. And that those caring for children, the elderly or **disabled people** were most depressed.

According to the survey, the **dining industry** is the second most depressing. Cooks, bartenders and food servers work so that their guests enjoy themselves. But, could they be **sacrificing their own desires** and needs in the process? On a brighter note, engineers, architects and surveyors appear to be the happiest. Also, people with full-time jobs are less depressed than those with no job at all. ✪



I WISH I WERE AN ARCHITECT.

Little Jokes



CD track 17 - Englishman & Scotsman

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

1. What has four eyes and runs over 2,000 miles.
2. I'm looking for a man with a wooden leg called Johnson.
3. Why is it hard to keep a secret in the winter?
4. I know a café where we can eat **dirt cheap**.
5. What's the best cure for **insomnia**?
6. Why are ghosts bad at telling lies?
7. Why can't you play jokes on snakes?
8. Why do you ask people for money when you play football?



GLOSSARY

to run *vb*
if a river "runs" over 2,000 miles, it is 2,000 miles long

dirt cheap *n*
very cheap

insomnia *n*
if you have "insomnia", you can't sleep

to pull someone's leg *exp*
to play a joke on someone

to drop off *phr vb*
two meanings: a) to go to sleep; b) to fall off (physically) a place

poor *adj*
two meanings: a) not very good; b) not rich

to see through someone *phr vb*
two meanings: a) to understand someone's true intentions; b) to be able to see through someone literally because they are transparent (as is a ghost)

to chatter *vb*
two meanings: a) if your teeth "chatter", they make a sound as they hit one another many times and very quickly because you are cold; b) to talk a lot

- A:** But who wants to eat dirt?
B: Because you can't **pull their legs**.
C: What's his other leg called?
D: Sleep on the edge of the bed and you'll soon **drop off**.
E: Because I'm a **poor** player.
F: The Mississippi River.
G: Because you can always **see through them**.
H: Because your teeth **chatter**.

GRAFFITI



CD track 18 - Englishman & Scotsman

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

IGNORE THIS SIGN.



JAMES BOND RULES OK.

MICKEY MOUSE IS A RAT.



HELP YOUR LOCAL POLICE FORCE. BEAT YOURSELF UP.

CONSIDERATION RULES, IF THAT'S OK.

PRESERVE WILDLIFE. PICKLE A SQUIRREL.



GLOSSARY

a rat *n*
two meanings: a) a large mouse; b) a person who informs the police about a crime (informal)

to beat up *phr vb*
to hit many times

to preserve *vb*
two meanings: a) to protect and save; b) if you "preserve" food, you put it in a container and/or a special liquid so you can keep it for a very long time

to pickle *vb*
to preserve food by putting it in vinegar

a squirrel *n*
an animal that lives in trees, has a bushy tail (a hairy tail) and eats nuts

DIRECTIONS BY DANIEL COLITOUNE





Strange Excuses

Driver in trouble after pathetic excuse.



I FEEL LIKE A SCAPEGOAT.

A man caught **speeding** on a Canadian highway has surprised traffic police with his **reasoning**. The man, from Switzerland, claimed that he was driving his car at 161 km/h (100 mph) because there weren't any **goats** on the roads. "It is the first time that I have heard an excuse like that," said Canadian police

spokesperson Joel Doiron. "Although he's correct, in a way, I've never seen a goat on these roads in twenty years. But no one has ever used it as an excuse before". The driver claimed that in his native Switzerland he is constantly worried that a goat might jump out into the road as he's **driving along**. "I guess

there must be a lot of goats there," Mr Doiron commented. The driver has been ordered to pay a **fine** of C\$360. Mr Doiron added, "We always hear the same reasons: that someone is **in a rush**, or that they are angry, or that they haven't been **paying attention**. It's nice to hear something different, even though it's a little crazy." 🐐

Mobile Mobiles

Good news for mobile users.



HELLO, IS THAT THE PILOT? ARE WE THERE YET?

Passengers could soon be using their mobile phones on planes flying through European **airspace**. New technology will permit mobile phone use **without risk of** interference with **aircraft systems**. For many years, passengers have been ordered to turn off their mobile telephones for safety reasons. This message has often been ignored by passengers, and it has been difficult for the **cabin staff** to **implement**. However, this new technology could solve the problem once and for all. If it is **given the go-ahead**, the service would allow calls to be made when a plane is more than 3,000 metres high. A spokeswoman for Virgin Atlantic said the airline was "watching developments closely". She said, "We are **monitoring** customer demand and will act if they say they want to use their mobile phones." She added, "If we were to introduce this service in the future, we want to ensure we do it in a socially-acceptable way." Experts say that changes to the system will have been implemented by next year. 🌟

GLOSSARY

- a scapegoat** *n*
someone who is blamed for something bad, even though it isn't his/her fault
- speeding** *n*
driving above the speed limit; driving too fast
- reasoning** *n*
the arguments you use to explain something or to arrive at a conclusion
- a goat** *n*
an animal with horns and a beard
- to drive along** *phr vb*
to continue driving in a particular direction
- I guess** *exp*
I think; I suppose
- a fine** *n*
if you are given a "fine", you must pay money as punishment for committing a crime
- in a rush** *exp*
if you are "in a rush", you must go somewhere quickly
- to pay attention** *exp*
to concentrate on what you are doing
- airspace** *n*
the part of the sky that belongs to a country/continent, etc
- without risk of** *exp*
with no danger of
- aircraft systems** *n*
the mechanical systems that control an airplane
- cabin staff** *n*
the people who work on an airplane while it is flying (the pilot, air steward, captain, etc)
- to implement** *vb*
if you "implement" a plan, you put it into action and make sure it happens
- to give something the go-ahead** *exp*
to say that something can happen; to give permission for something to happen
- to monitor** *vb*
to analyse and observe

JANUARY



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



January 1st 1999

The euro, the official currency of the European

Union, was introduced in most countries, with the UK being one of the big exceptions. Why do they always have to be so different?



January 3rd 1521

An angry Pope Leo X

excommunicated

Martin Luther from the Roman Catholic Church after Luther refused to **retract** 41 of his 95 theses. The Protestant church was born.



January 6th 1907

Maria Montessori opened her first school and **day-**

care centre for working-class children in Rome. Since then, her methods have been used to teach children all over the world, including the author of this magazine.



January 7th 1558

The Duke of Guise (a Frenchman) captured Calais,

England's last continental possession. It was a sad day for England, but a very happy one for France.



January 9th 1768

Philip Astley

staged the first

modern circus in London. Although the British Parliament had been doing an excellent job of entertaining English people for hundreds of years previously (and since).



January 11th 1964

US Surgeon General Luther Leonidas Terry

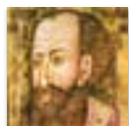
issued the warning that smoking "may" be dangerous for one's health, and was largely responsible for the **smoking ban** a few decades later.



January 15th 1943

Construction of the world's largest office building, w,

was completed. Construction was resumed in 2001 after some **nasty** terrorists tried to destroy it.



January 16th 1547

Ivan the Terrible was crowned Tsar of Russia. Was he

really so terrible?



January 17th 1893

In a spectacular coup in Hawaii, the **Citizens' Committee**

of Public Safety (led by a certain Lorrin A. Thurston) **overthrew** the government of Queen Liliuokalani of the Kingdom of Hawaii. But, can a public safety committee really overthrow a government?



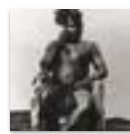
January 19th 1983

Apple Computer introduced the Apple Lisa, their

first commercial personal computer. It had 1 MB of RAM, and cost about \$9,000.



Would anyone like to admit to buying one of those?



January 22nd 1879

Zulu forces of King Cetshwayo armed with **spears**

and **shields** managed to **annihilate** a British force of more than 1,000 troops armed with guns and cannons at the Battle of Isandlwana.



January 28th 1521

The Diet of Worms was convened to discuss Martin

Luther and the Protestant Reformation in the Holy Roman Empire. A "Diet of Worms"? I'd rather eat my hat.



January 29th 1886

Karl Benz **filed** a **patent** for the

first successful gasoline-driven automobile. Now let's see if the Germans can invent a more **environmentally-friendly** car soon.



January 30th 1649

King Charles I was **beheaded** for **high treason** in

front of the Banqueting House in London during the English Civil War. Can a king really be found guilty of treason? And, beheading a king at a banqueting house is not very good table manners, surely.



January 31st 1961

A chimpanzee called Ham travelled into

outer space aboard Mercury-Redstone 2. Many more human Americans have followed him since. ✨

Events for January 2008

January 1st – New Year's Day

January 1st – Cyprus and Malta adopt the euro.

January 7th (Orthodox) – Christmas

January 14th – Old New Year (Orthodox)

Martin Luther King Day in the United States – **3rd Monday of the month**

Australia Day in Australia –

January 26th Republic Day in India



GLOSSARY

to excommunicate *vb*
to reject someone from a church and force them to leave the church

to retract *vb*
if you "retract" what you have said/done, you say that you did not mean it

a day-care centre *n*
a place where parents can leave their children to be looked after during the day

to stage *vb*
if you "stage" a circus, you organise and present the circus to the public

a smoking ban *n*
a prohibition on smoking

nasty *adj*
horrible; not nice
to overthrow *vb*
if a government is "overthrown", it loses power, often because of violence

a spear *n*
a weapon that consists of a long piece of wood with a piece of sharp metal at the end

a shield *n*
a round piece of metal that is used to protect your body while fighting

to annihilate *vb*
to eliminate

to file a patent *exp*
to register a new invention as yours
environmentally-friendly *adj*
that doesn't harm or destroy the environment (the air, water, land)

to behead *vb*
to cut someone's head off

high treason *n*
the crime of betraying your country, often by helping your country's enemies

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

TELEPHONE 999



CD track 21 - Englishmen

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



Call I – The Pigeon

Operator: Police. How can I help you?

Caller: Hello.

Operator: Hello. How may I help you?

Caller: Oh, right. I thought we'd been **cut off**. Erm, I know this is gonna sound stupid but a pigeon's been **run over**. I'm sorry but I've got no money to phone the **RSPCA** or anything.

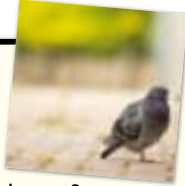
Operator: Right... so you're ringing the emergency line...

Caller: Well, I've just been told...

Operator: ...which is for life-and-death emergencies, about a pigeon which has been run over?

Caller: Well, I've just been told to phone you by the **operator**.

Operator: Right, I'm going to **put you through** to another line which will give you a number to call. I'm not prepared to **deal with** your enquiry on this line. Just one moment.



Call II – Lazy Boy

Operator: Can I help you?

Caller: Hi, is that the police?

Operator: We can put you through to the police.

What is the nature of your call?

Caller: Well, it's my son. He won't get out of bed.

Operator: What's the address of the house you are calling from?

Caller: Yes, it's... erm, it's just he won't get out of bed and he has to go to work.

Operator: Is this an emergency?

Caller: Well, he'll lose his job.

Operator: Is your son conscious?

Caller: No, he's sleeping.

Operator: Well, I suggest you wake him up. Thank you for your call.

Caller: But...



GLOSSARY

cut off *exp*

if you are "cut off" while you are talking on the phone, the phone line is interrupted

to run over *phr vb*
to hit with a car

RSPCA *abbr*

the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. An organisation that protects animals

an operator *n*

a person who works at a telephone exchange answering or transferring calls

to put someone through *phr vb*
to connect a caller to a different line

to deal with *phr vb*
to try to find a solution to

RECIPE APPLE CRUMBLE

Here's another recipe to try at home. This month: apple crumble. This is the perfect dessert. Yummy!

Ingredients

Five apples, **peeled** and cut into small pieces.
110g butter.
110g brown/Demerara sugar.
180-200g flour.

Method

- Preheat the oven to 180C (gas-mark 4).
- Cut the apples into small pieces and place into a **greased oven tray**.
- Rub the butter into the flour and sugar to make the **crumble topping**. **Sprinkle over** the apple
- Cook in the oven for about 30 minutes. Check regularly.
- Remove, and allow to cool slightly before serving with ice cream or cream.

Delicious! 🍷



GLOSSARY

to peel *vb*

to cut the skin off fruit/vegetables

greased *adj*

covered in butter/oil

an oven tray *n*

a special plate for cooking things in the oven

crumble *n*

a mixture of butter, flour and sugar. If something soft "crumbles", it breaks into small pieces

a topping *n*

food that goes on top of another piece of food

to sprinkle over *phr vb*

to cover lightly with a small amount



Hard to be happy

by Garrett Wall

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For more information, visit:

www.garrettwall.net

www.myspace.com/garrettwall

www.junkrecords.es



Morning blues when you hear the news,
Nothing ever changes,
Traffic jams, screaming car alarms,
Broken **channel changers**, don't ask why.

Ten-hour days, overnight **delays**,
Getting home too late,
Weekends start with a **shopping cart**,
In the **parking bays**.

What a life, it will **cut you down to size**,
Sinking feeling going out of your mind,
And you know that it's, hard enough to be happy,
Hard enough to **get by**, hard enough to be happy, with life.

Eating time, everyone in line, but the dinner can be late,
Half-baked lies burning up inside, saying it tastes great,
What a life.

Just sit back, let it all go slack,
When it gets to you, take some time,
Let it all unwind, get it out of you,
Don't ask why.

It will cut you down to size,
Sinking feeling going out of your mind,
But you know that it's, hard enough to be happy,
Hard enough to get by, hard enough to be happy,
Hard enough to get by.

Morning blues when you hear the news,
But it never changes, morning's gone,
So you move right on to the comic pages, yeah.

It will cut you down to size,
Sinking feeling going out of your mind,
And you know that it's, hard enough to be happy,
Hard enough to get by, hard enough to be happy,
Hard enough to get by.

GLOSSARY

morning blues *n*

a feeling of depression in the morning

a traffic jam *n*

if there is a "traffic jam", cars aren't moving, or are moving very slowly

a channel changer *n*

a device for changing the channels on TV. Also, a "remote control"

a delay *n*

if there is a "delay", something happens later than planned

a shopping cart *n*

an object with wheels in which you put food while you are shopping

a parking bay *n*

a space for a car in a car park

to cut you down to size *exp*

to make you feel less important than you think you are

a sinking feeling *n*

if you get a "sinking feeling", you become depressed suddenly

to go out of your mind *exp*

to become frustrated/angry/depressed/crazy

to get by *phr vb*

if you manage to "get by", you have just enough money for the basics in life (food, shelter, etc)

a half-baked lie *n*

a lie that is not convincing; a lie that has not been properly prepared

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VOCABULARY

CARDS



CD track 24 - Englishmen

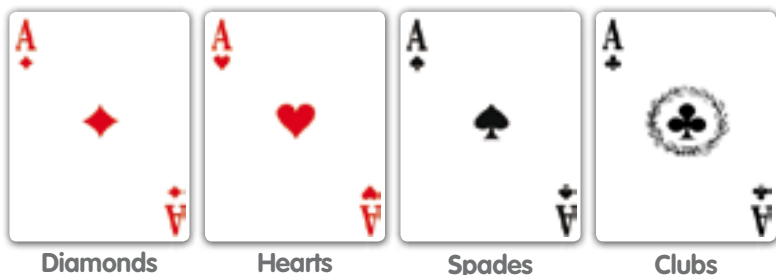


TYPICAL DIALOGUES

THE GAME OF CARDS

Learn some useful words and expressions to use when playing cards.

A deck of cards – 54 cards (including 2 jokers) form a deck of cards. Most decks of cards have four suits:



Diamonds Hearts Spades Clubs

Here are some of the most important cards in a deck of cards (the cards with a rank):



Ace King Queen Jack Joker

Trumps – the suit that you decide is the most important in a game of cards. A trump card will beat a card of any other suit. Typical expressions: *Hearts are trumps; I'll trump your card.*

Dealer – the person who gives cards to each player.

To bluff – to act as if you have good cards, even if you don't really.

To bet – to play cards for money.

A loser – the person who loses the game.

The rules – the laws for playing the game.

A cheat – a person who breaks the rules. Typical expressions: *Stop cheating! You cheat!*

A player – someone who plays a

game.

An opponent – the person you are playing against.

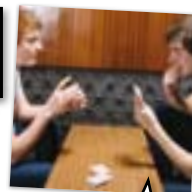
A turn – if it is your "turn", it is time for you to deal the cards, or to take a card. Typical expressions: *Whose turn is it? It's my turn. It's your turn.*

A card – you can do many things with the cards: deal the cards (give cards to each player), shuffle the cards (mix the cards), draw a card (take a card), fold your cards (throw your cards into the middle as a way of saying that you don't want to take part in that particular round any longer).

Winner – the person who wins the game.

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

In this conversation, Pete and Gordon are playing a game of cards.



IT'S YOUR TURN TO CHEAT.

- Pete:** Go on then, shuffle the cards.
Gordon: How many cards this round?
Pete: Six. (Gordon deals the cards. They both check their cards.)
Gordon: I'll have three cards, please.
Pete: Here you are. (Pete gives Gordon his three cards.) I'm changing four.
Gordon: Right. I'll **bet** 4 euros.
Pete: You're bluffing. I can see it in your eyes. I'll **match** your 4 euros and raise you three.
Gordon: OK. I'll match your three and see your cards. What have you got?
Pete: Two pairs: two jacks and two queens.
Gordon: Not bad, but not good enough. I've got three kings.
Pete: How do you do it? You always win.
Gordon: I'm just lucky.
Pete: Yeah, right. (Pete notices something in Gordon's **sleeve**.) Hey, what's that card doing in your sleeve?
Gordon: What card?
Pete: That one that just fell onto the floor.
Gordon: Oh, this one. (Gordon picks the card up from the floor.) Erm...
Pete: You cheat!
Gordon: Hey, don't call me a cheat!
Pete: Well, what are you then?
Gordon: Erm... I was just keeping it there for... Hey, look, there's a giant spider on the ceiling. (Gordon points to the ceiling.)
Pete: Where? (Pete looks round, and Gordon runs out of the room.)
A cheat and a coward. ☹️

GLOSSARY
to bet *vb*
to play cards for money
to match *vb*
if you "match" someone's 4 euros, for example, you also bet 4 euros
a sleeve *n*
the part of your shirt/jacket that covers your arms
a coward *n*
a person who is easily frightened or who won't face danger

Here are some typical poker hands (the cards you are holding in your hand) in order of importance:

DR FINGERS' BLOG For information on how to play poker, visit our blog: www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog

Royal flush – five cards of the same suit in order, starting with the 10 and going up to the Ace.



Straight flush – five cards of the same suit in order.



Four of a kind – four cards that are the same rank or number.



A flush – five cards of the same suit (not necessarily in order).



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: SUCCESS



CD track 25 -
Englishman & Scotsman

Here are some more useful and interesting expressions for you to learn. This month we are looking at "success".



A stroke of luck

Something very good and lucky that happens.
"Paul happened to see us waiting at the bus stop and offered to give us a lift, which was a real stroke of luck."



Thank your lucky stars

To feel grateful for something.
"I'm just thanking my lucky stars that he never found out what I'd really done."



Work like magic

To be very effective; to be successful.
"This new medicine works like magic."



Strike while the iron is hot

To do something while there is a good possibility of it succeeding.
"Now's the time to act – we've got to strike while the **iron** is hot."



A no-lose situation

A situation in which you will always win / be successful.
"This is a no-lose situation."



A win-win situation

A situation in which you will always win / be successful.
"This deal is perfect: you boost your sales, and we get some free publicity. It's a win-win situation."



The sky's the limit

There are no limits to what you can achieve.
"After all his recent successes, it seems as if the sky is the limit for him."



Be on the up and up

To be having more and more success.
"Lucy's doing really well – she's on the up and up."



GLOSSARY

an iron *n*
a fire "iron" is a long piece of metal used for moving wood/coal in a fire

Embarrassing

A look at some more of those embarrassing moments.

moments

A while ago, we ran a series on embarrassing stories. Here are some more that readers have sent in.

I'm a doctor!

My dad really **made a fool of himself** once. We were out in this shopping centre. As we were walking through the centre, we suddenly saw this **crowd** of people standing round a guy on the ground. "Stand back! I'm a trained paramedic," my dad said very confidently, having just passed a **first-aid course**. Dad pushed his way through the people, but he didn't get very far because a police officer appeared and put her hand out to stop him. "Excuse me, sir, but we are in the middle of arresting this man," said the police officer, referring to the man on the floor.
Jim (Brighton).

Generous Diner

I really **put my foot in it** during my first week at a new job I had a few years ago. One Friday, we all went down to a restaurant for lunch. After ordering our food, the waiter appeared with our drinks and a few plates of snacks. "What a great restaurant," I thought, giving us free **nibbles** before the main course. So, I picked up one of the plates and started offering the food to



everyone at the table. But just as I was imagining what a good impression I was making, one of the top executives **tapped me on the shoulder**, and said, "Do you mind? That's my starter you're **handing around**."
Sally (New York City).

Ho, Ho, Ho

I managed to create the most embarrassing Christmas card ever. One day in early November, I was taking a shower when my 3-year-old son came in. I didn't realise he was there, but when I turned off the water, I saw him covered **from head to foot** in face cream. He made a real mess, but he looked so funny that I ran for my camera and took a few **shots**. The photos came out really well so I made a few copies and included them with each of the Christmas cards I sent to about 30 friends and family. Days later, a friend called about the picture, laughing hysterically, and suggesting I take a closer look at the photo. To my horror I could see that in addition to my son, I had captured my reflection in the mirror – wearing nothing but a camera!
Jenny (Mallorca).



Bad Doggie

I had a really embarrassing experience with my girlfriend's family. We'd only been going out for a few weeks when she invited me round to have dinner with her family. There were about ten of us, including her mother, father, brother, sister and a couple of uncles and aunts. I was very keen to make a good impression. Anyway, just as we sat down to dinner, I needed to go to the bathroom. So, I excused myself and went upstairs. However, once up there, I realised that I had some dog mess on my shoes. So, I started cleaning the shoe, but it wasn't easy without a **brush**. It took quite a while to do and by the time I'd finished about twenty minutes had passed. Of course, it was really embarrassing having to go downstairs again, with everyone waiting there patiently to eat, obviously wondering what **on earth** I'd been doing up there for the past twenty minutes.
Gordon (Hull). 🇬🇧

Why not write in with your own embarrassing moments? Write to moments@hotenglishmagazine.com



GLOSSARY

- to make a fool of yourself** *exp*
to do something that makes you appear to be silly/stupid
- a crowd** *n*
a group of people
- a first-aid course** *n*
a course that tells you how to deal with medical emergencies
- to put your foot in it** *exp*
to do or say something embarrassing or silly
- nibbles** *n inform*
little pieces of food you eat before lunch/dinner
- to tap someone on the shoulder** *exp*
to use your finger to hit someone gently on the shoulder in order to get their attention
- to hand around** *phr vb*
if you "hand around" something, you give it to everyone in the group
- from head to foot** *exp*
from the bottom to the top of the body
- a shot** *n*
a photo
- a brush** *n*
an object used to clean things. It consists of bristles (thin pieces of plastic/hair/metal)
- on earth...** *exp inform*
this expression is used to show surprise

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CD track 26 -
Scotsman & US woman

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

Memory Success

Mum wins prize after forgetting son's age.

A mum won £1.3million on the lottery because she forgot how old her son was. For years, Jane Wynner had been using numbers representing family ages and important dates. One of the numbers was the age of son Brian, a **chef**, who **turned 32** last month. But Jane, 61, a pharmaceutical technician, forgot to change the number and **picked 31**, along with 1, 17, 24, 30, and 49 for the **draw**. Amazingly, all six numbers **came in**, and she **split** a £2.6m **jackpot** with another winner. She said, "We are **gob-smacked**. It hasn't **sunk in** yet. All our numbers mean something to us, and I **update** them as our lives change. But I've been a bit **forgetful** recently, probably due to age, and I forgot to change Brian's birthday on the ticket." Husband Arthur, 63, also a pharmaceutical worker, said, "She **rushed upstairs in a right state** when she realised we'd won. I thought one of our dogs had died." The couple, whose second son Chris is 34, plan to **splash out** on cars and a holiday in Florida. ✨



GLOSSARY

a chef *n*
a person whose job is to cook in restaurant kitchens

to turn 32 *exp*
to become 32 years old

to pick *vb*
to choose

a draw *n*
a lottery - a game in which you choose numbers and can win prizes

to come in *phr vb*
if your numbers "come in", they appear as the winning numbers

to split *vb*
to divide

a jackpot *n*
the money you win in a competition

gob-smacked *adj inform*
very surprised

to sink in *phr vb*
if news starts to "sink in", you start to understand and accept it

to update *vb*
to add the most recent information so things are up-to-date /current

forgetful *adj*
if you are "forgetful", you often don't remember things

to rush *vb*
if you "rush" somewhere, you go there very quickly

in a right state *exp inform*
in a panic

to splash out *phr vb*
to spend a lot of money or to buy something expensive

to prove *vb*
to demonstrate

check-out staff *n*
the people who work in a supermarket charging customers

shopping *n*
the food/things you buy in a shop

a conveyor belt *n*
a mechanical device that carries the food/objects to the check-out till

a complaints form *n*
a form on which customers can write negative comments about the service

a twinkle in the eye *exp*
a look in your eye that says you are joking

tetchy *adj inform*
irritable; becoming angry easily

to fine *vb*
if you are "fined", you must pay money as punishment for a crime

fine *adj*
OK; acceptable

Age Discrimination

Granddad storms out of supermarket.

"It's bureaucracy gone mad," said 72-year-old John Edie after supermarket staff refused to sell him any alcohol because he couldn't **prove** he was over 21. **Check-out staff** at the supermarket demanded Mr Edie prove he was old enough to buy two bottles of French wine. The white-haired grandfather-of-three, who uses a stick to help him walk, said he had refused to confirm he was over 21 as it was a "stupid question". Mr Edie then asked to see the manager of the store. But when Mr Edie was also informed by the store manager that he would have to prove that he was over 21, the pensioner abandoned his **shopping** on the **conveyor belt** and left the store, but not before demanding a **complaints form**. Mr Edie said, "If the check-out lady, who was about 40, had asked me with a **twinkle in her eye**, perhaps I wouldn't have been so **tetchy**. And if the manager had explained that all the staff had to ask everyone because they had previously been **fined**, but admitted that I was clearly over 21, it would have been **fine**, but he showed no sense of humour." ✨





British bar chat

US bar chat

Coffee

This month Jim and Bob are talking about coffee and tea.

Jim: So, I just read this article about coffee. Apparently, it's really bad for you.

Bob: Coffee? Bad for you? Of course, it's bad for you. It's horrible. I can't stand the stuff.

Jim: Oh, I quite like it. It's a good way to start the day. You know, it **gives** you a little **kick-start**.

Bob: But if you've got to drink coffee all day just to keep yourself going, that's no good. You've obviously, there's obviously something wrong with your **diet** if you're **relying on** coffee. It doesn't even taste that nice. Horrible.

Jim: Yeah, **come on** though, the tastes are... it depends on the type of coffee. You know, if you have some, you know, pretty bad **instant coffee**, then you're probably not going to get a nice cup of coffee. But, you know, if you get some nice **filter coffee**...

Bob: Listen, we're English, we drink tea. That's what we're supposed to do. We're English, we don't drink coffee. If we were Italian, maybe, if we were Spanish or something. But we're English, we should drink tea and we should enjoy it.

Jim: Well, we're in the European Union now. Come on, **you gotta get into** the European stuff. You know, sit out on the café all day, on the, you know, watching people go by, drinking your cups of coffee.

Bob: Oh, well, **I don't buy it**. I think it's something that's best left in France. I just can't. **You can't beat** a good cup of Yorkshire tea.

Jim: Oh, all right. **Fancy going out for** a cup of coffee, then?

Bob: Erm, just one.

Jim: All right ☺



Sunglasses

This month Sally and Brad are talking about sunglasses and fashion.

Sally: Hey, how's it going?

Brad: Good, how's it going today?

Sally: Good, I just, look at these new glasses. I just got some new sunglasses.

Brad: Wow, those are **huge**.

Sally: Yeah, but that's what's **in** these days.

Brad: Yeah, I don't know if I could wear those things.

Sally: But why? They're cool.

Brad: It looks like something from the 80s.

Sally: Well, the 80s is back, my friend.

Brad: **Man**, you could be John Mellencamp in those things.

Sally: No, these aren't the 80s. The 80s were... big, plastic, neon pink or green glasses.

Brad: I do like those, though. How much did those cost?

Sally: Erm... you don't want to know.

Brad: That's the thing about sunglasses and something not cool, is how much they cost.

Sally: Yeah, well, these were about 200, but I'm making good money these days.

Brad: You must be making good money – much more than me because I always lose my sunglasses.

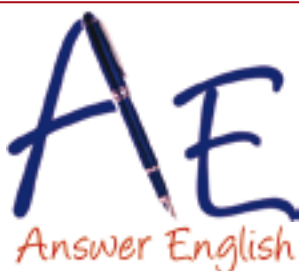
Sally: What else is really in style these days?

Brad: Big hair. ☺



GLOSSARY

- to give you a kick-start** *exp*
to give you energy
- a diet** *n*
the type of food you eat regularly
- to rely on** *exp*
to depend on
- come on** *exp*
an expression used to show surprise
- instant coffee** *n*
coffee that is made from coffee granules (very small pieces of coffee) by pouring hot water on them
- filter coffee** *n*
coffee that is made when hot water passes over coffee in a paper filter and drips into a glass container
- you gotta** *exp*
you have to; you have got to
- to get into something** *exp*
to start to like something
- I don't buy it** *exp inform*
I don't accept it; I don't believe it
- you can't beat X** *exp*
there is nothing better than X
- fancy going out for X?** *exp*
would you like to go out for X?
- huge** *adj*
very big
- in** *adj*
fashionable
- man** *exp inform*
an informal way of referring to someone; an exclamation of surprise



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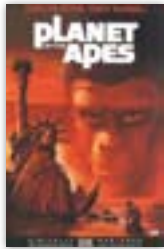
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The Plot Thickens

A look at the best movie plot twists.

Have you ever seen a film and been completely surprised by the ending or a development? If you have, then you've seen a film with an unusual **plot twist**. Here are some of our favourite movie plot twists.



The Planet of the Apes (1968 – directed by Franklin J. Schaffner)
The story: a group of American astronauts **land** on a world where **apes** talk and rule, while humans are slaves.
The plot twist: the planet is actually Earth – the space ship travelled in time instead of space.



Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980 – directed by Irvin Kershner)
The story: Luke Skywalker trains to become a Jedi while Darth Vader and the Empire strike back.
The plot twist: Darth Vader is Luke's father.



Soylent Green (1973 – directed by Richard Fleischer)
The story: The Earth has become so **overpopulated** that people will do (and eat) anything to **survive**.
The plot twist: the food produced and known as Soylent Green is actually made from people.



Friday the 13th (1980 – directed by Emile Chautard)
The story: a group of kids at a summer camp are being killed. The campers believe it's Jason Voorhees, a kid who **drowned** in the camp lake years ago, and who has **returned from the**

grave to get his revenge.
The plot twist: it is actually Jason's mother who is killing all those kids.



Angel Heart (1987 – directed by Alan Parker)
The story: private detective Harold Angel is **hired** by Louis Cyphre to find a missing singer called Johnny Favourite. The **search** leads Angel into the New Orleans' voodoo scene.
The plot twist: Angel is actually Favourite – he just doesn't remember. Oh, and Louis Cypher is the devil (Lucifer).



The Sixth Sense (1999 – directed by M. Night Shyamalan)
The story: a little kid tells his psychologist that he sees dead people.
The plot twist: the kid's psychologist is actually one of those dead people.



The Crying Game (1992 – directed by Neil Jordan)
The story: a British soldier dies whilst escaping from the IRA, who were **holding him hostage**. One of the soldier's **captors** wants to make sure that the soldier's girlfriend is OK.
The plot twist: the soldier's girlfriend is actually a man. ☺



GLOSSARY

a plot twist *n*
an unexpected development in a story
to land *vb*
if a plane / space ship "lands", it comes to the ground
an ape *n*
a large monkey
overpopulated *adj*
if an area is "overpopulated", there are problems because there are too many people living there
to survive *vb*
if you "survive" an accident, you don't die in that accident
to drown *vb*
to die in water
to return from the grave *exp*
to come alive again
to get your revenge *exp*
to do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you
to hire *vb*
to pay money to use something for a period of time or for a particular service
a search *n*
an attempt to find something
to hold someone hostage *exp*
if someone is "held hostage", they are held illegally
a captor *n*
a person who catches another person

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

It is illegal to bring a bomb or rocket to **city council proceedings**. (Montana)

Bands who play in clubs where alcohol is served may not leave the **stage** while performing. (Montana)

No person shall keep pet rats. (Montana)



No **item** may be thrown across a street. (Montana)

It is illegal to operate a vehicle with **ice picks** attached to the wheels. (Montana)

CD track 31 - US woman & US man

If a child **burps** during church, his parent may be arrested. (Nebraska)



It is illegal to go whale fishing. (Nebraska)

It is illegal for bar owners to sell beer unless they are simultaneously **brewing a kettle** of soup. (Nebraska)

It is illegal to fly a plane while drunk. (Nebraska)

Doughnut holes may not be sold. (Nebraska)



A man is not allowed to run around with a **shaved chest**. (Nebraska)

Barbers are forbidden from eating onions between 7am and 7pm. (Nebraska)

It is illegal to drive a camel on the highway. (Nevada)



It is legal to hang someone for shooting your dog on your property. (Nevada)

It is illegal to lie down on the **sidewalk**. (Nevada)



Benches may not be placed in the middle of any street. (Nevada)

You may not **tap your feet, nod your head**, or in any way keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or café. (New Hampshire)

You cannot sell the clothes you are wearing to pay off a **gambling debt**. (New Hampshire)

On Sundays citizens may not **relieve themselves** while looking up. (New Hampshire)



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GLOSSARY

- city council proceedings** *n* meetings held in local government offices
- a stage** *n* the elevated platform where singers/musicians play to an audience
- an item** *n* a thing
- an ice pick** *n* a pointed tool used for breaking ice
- to burp** *vb* if you "burp", a sound comes out of your mouth as air comes out
- to brew** *vb* to cook
- a kettle** *n* a metal container for cooking or for heating water
- a chest** *n* the front part of your body at the top
- shaved** *adj* with the hair cut off
- a barber** *n* a man who cuts men's hair
- a sidewalk** *n* a place next to a road where you can walk. A "pavement" in British English
- a bench** *n* a long seat. Often found in a park
- to tap your feet** *exp* to hit your feet on the ground, often in time with the music
- to nod your head** *exp* to move your head up and down as a way of saying yes
- a gambling debt** *n* money you owe because you have been gambling (playing cards for money)
- to relieve yourself** *exp* to go to the toilet



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DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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



CD track 32

Situation



Formal



Relaxed



Informal

You suggest going for a quick swim.

Shall we immerse ourselves in the water for a short period of time?

Shall we go for a quick swim?

Fancy a quick dip?

THIS IS MY NECK OF THE WOODS.



You were close to a friend's house the other day, although you didn't visit her.

I was in the immediate proximity of your house.

I was close by your place.

I was in your neck of the woods.

ARE YOU AN ANKLE BITER?



A friend informed her boyfriend that their relationship was over.

She terminated the relationship with Sam.

She broke up with Sam.

She ditched Sam; she **dumped** Sam.

I'M DUMPING YOU.



Gordon has a pet dog that is small, loud, aggressive, and bites a lot.

It is of a hostile disposition.

It's aggressive.

It's an **ankle biter**.



Bob is frightened of spiders.

Bob enters a state of alarm when confronted by spiders.

Bob's frightened of spiders.

Spiders really freak Bob out.



You had some repairs done at home. The quality of the work was very poor.

The quality of workmanship was of an inferior standard.

They did a really bad job.

They did a **botch** job.



GLOSSARY

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

fancy...? *exp*

would you like...?

to dump *vb inform*

a) to leave your boy/girlfriend;

b) to throw something in a casual manner

an ankle *n*

the joint that connects your foot to your leg

a biter *n*

a dog/person that bites

Answers

Pet Passion page 6

E: Mouse F: Dog D: Cat B: Rat A: Rabbit

C: Hamster

Trivia Matching page 16

1G 2C 3A 4M 5B 6F 7I 8E 9K 10L

11D 12J 13H

Little Jokes page 29

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

ANIMAL IDIOMS



CD track 34 -
Scotsman & Englishman

GLOSSARY

a shell *n*
the outside part of an egg; the round part of a snail that the snail lives in
a tear *n*
an amount of liquid that comes out of your eyes
eager *adj*
if you are "eager" to do something, you are very excited about doing it
a beaver *n*
an animal that lives in rivers and builds dams (barriers)

This month we are looking at some general animal idioms.



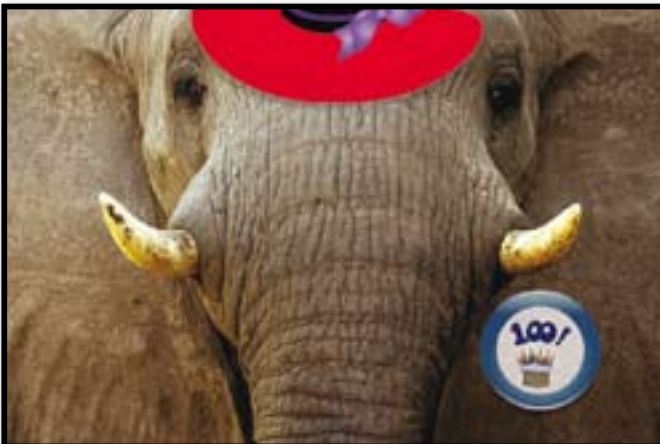
Come out of your shell

To become less shy and more friendly.
"Joining that drama group really helped Paul come out of his **shell**."



Shed/weep crocodile tears

To act as if you are sad; to show sadness that is not sincere.
"The politicians were shedding crocodile **tears** for the deaths of the soldiers, but they still continued to support the war."



Have a memory like an elephant

To be very good at remembering things.
"She's over 98, but she has a memory like an elephant."



Feed/throw somebody to the lions

To cause someone to be in a situation in which they are criticised strongly or treated badly.
"They asked me to give a speech on the proposed changes, but no one prepared me for the audience's hostility. I really felt like I'd been fed to the lions."



Paper tiger

A country or organisation that seems to be powerful but that isn't really.
"Will the UN make a difference in this war? Or is it just a paper tiger?"



Eager beaver

Someone who is very keen and excited about doing something; someone who works very hard.
"She came in over the weekend to finish off the work and paint the walls. She's a real **eager beaver**."

Fire-fighter Fear

They fight fires. They face danger every day. And they go where few of us would **dare** to go. But now our brave fire-fighters are being told not to run, not to climb ladders, and not to **slide down** the pole. What's going on?

Vocabulary

Here are useful words for you to see before reading the article.



It all started with the pole. In August 2006, staff at Devon fire brigade were told to use the stairs instead of sliding down their poles... in case they hurt themselves. For many years, the poles have been used to cut down vital seconds on rescue-response time. However, now, health and safety officials have decided that the poles are a **hazard**. As a result, Devon's newest fire station was built without a pole.

Officer Ken Mulville said, "I would say it takes about a second and a half to slide down the pole, as opposed to 15 or 20 seconds to run down two **flights of stairs** – but those seconds could be critical." In some stations, they have **sealed** the poles, and moved downstairs so they respond more quickly to late-night calls.

In another development, fire crews in Liverpool were banned from running... in case they injured themselves and **claimed damages**. This order was imposed after fireman Gavin Bassie, 38, won £100,000 for injuries after he slipped as he was running at his base.

And now, some fire brigades have been told they can't climb ladders... unless it's an emergency. For many years, the fire brigade has helped towns put up or take down decorations for town festivals. The

town of Ampthill is a typical example. It has its special festival once a year, with celebrations, festivals and parties. As part of the festival, the town council decorates the town with colourful **bunting**. In previous years, the fire department have helped take the decorations down. But now they've been told that they can't... because it's too dangerous.

A former **mayor** of the town, Mark Smith, said, "The reason the festival bunting is still up **arises from the fact that due to** local health and safety advice the local fire brigade is unable to take the bunting down."

In response, fire officer Graeme Smith explained, "Yes, it sounds like the world has gone mad. Fire-fighters will climb ladders to rescue people from burning buildings but not to remove bunting after a festival. The two things are completely different: one is a **999 job** where, in order to save lives, we will take calculated risks; the other is a **maintenance job** which is covered by standard health and safety rules. That could mean closing the road and using a platform to reach the bunting. Unfortunately if we **went down that route** people might ask why we are paying fire-fighters to use our top-level rescue equipment to **remove** a few flags, when a **contractor** could do the job just as well." ❖



GLOSSARY

- to dare** *vb*
if you "dare" to do something, you do that thing even though it is dangerous
- to slide down** *phr vb*
to move down in a smooth continuous movement
- a hazard** *n*
a danger
- a flight of stairs** *n*
a series of steps leading from one floor/level to another floor/level
- to seal** *vb*
to close completely so nothing can enter (not even air)
- to claim damages** *exp*
to demand compensation
- bunting** *n*
small, coloured flags used to decorate the street
- a mayor** *n*
the elected leader of a town/city
- arises from the fact that** *exp*
is because
- due to** *exp*
because of
- a 999 job** *n*
an emergency. The telephone number "999" is the number you call if there is an emergency
- a maintenance job** *n*
a job that requires something to be repaired
- if we went down that route** *exp*
if we started doing things like that
- to remove** *vb*
to take away
- a contractor** *n*
a person or company who does work for another company/organisation

PHRASAL VERB THEMES: WEATHER

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

BRIGHTEN UP

TO BECOME SUNNIER AND LESS CLOUDY.



CLOUD OVER

TO BECOME COVERED IN CLOUDS.



CLEAR UP

IF IT "CLEARS UP", THE CLOUDS DISAPPEAR AND/OR THE RAIN STOPS.



LET UP

IF BAD WEATHER "LETS UP", IT STOPS.



POUR DOWN

IF IT "POURS DOWN", IT RAINS VERY HEAVILY.



BLOW OVER

IF A STORM "BLOWS OVER", IT STOPS OR MOVES TO ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY.



PICK UP

IF A WIND "PICKS UP", IT BECOMES STRONGER.



RAIN OFF

IF A SPORTS GAME IS "RAINED OFF", IT IS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN.



Headline News

Headline News N° 4

The voice of the people

London 2007



Squirrel Squeeze

THEY DON'T CALL ME SID THE SQUIRMY SQUIRREL FOR NOTHING.

"This was quite an unusual rescue," said a member of the **RSPCA** after rescuing a **squirrel** from a bird feeder. The grey squirrel had gone into the **bird feeder** to look for something to eat. However, it had gorged so many nuts it could not get back out through the bars. A local resident in the English town of Christchurch informed the RSPCA after seeing the squirrel trying to get out of the **peanut-filled** feeder.

"This squirrel's eyes were bigger than its stomach," said RSPCA inspector Graham Hammond, who came to rescue the squirrel. "**Ironically**, this feeder is designed to be **squirrel-proof**. We'll have to **go back to the drawing board**, I think," Hammond added. Hammond managed to free the grey squirrel, which was not hurt. It ran off immediately – hopefully not to another feeder. ☺

Return to Sender

Dispute between the US and Peru ends.

A 100-year dispute between the US and Peru has ended. It all started in 1911 when an American university professor, Hiram Bingham, went to Peru and re-discovered Machu Picchu, the famous, ancient Inca site. Bingham made three trips to the site, and took thousands of objects back to the US, including silver statues, jewellery, musical instruments and human bones. They were placed in Yale University. For years, Peru demanded the **artefacts** back but without much luck. But just recently, Yale University agreed to return the **excavated**



objects. "We aim to create a new model for **resolving** competing interests in cultural property," Yale's president, Richard C Levin

proudly announced. "This can best be achieved by building a **collaborative relationship** – one which involves scholars and researchers from Yale and Peru – that serves science and human understanding," he added.

The ruins at Machu Picchu, high in the Andes Mountains, are Peru's most popular tourist attraction. Some believe it to be the birthplace of the Inca Empire. ☺

GLOSSARY

RSPCA *n*
the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. A society that protects animals

a squirrel *n*
an animal with a long bushy tail (with a lot of hair) that lives in trees

a bird feeder *n*
a little cage/box with food in it for birds that is placed in trees

to gorge *vb*
to eat a lot (more than you need)

peanut-filled *adj*
filled with peanuts (little nuts)

ironically *exp*
strangely, curiously

squirrel-proof *adj*
that squirrels cannot get into or use

to go back to the drawing board *exp*
to design or plan something again because it has failed or isn't successful

an artefact *n*
an object of archaeological value

an excavated object *n*
an object that has been taken from the ground

to resolve *vb*
to find a solution to

proudly *adv*
with feelings of satisfaction or happiness with yourself

a collaborative relationship *n*
a relationship in which both sides work together

Gaelic Charm

Ireland wins another award.

They were recently voted best country in the world. And now they've got another award: most friendly people. Ireland is winning awards left, right and centre. How do they do it?

The travel guide publishers *Lonely Planet* has said that Ireland is the world's friendliest country in their 2008 Bluelist ("a guide to the places you really should visit"). They wrote, "Centuries of **turmoil**, **conquest**, **famine** and subsequent immigration have certainly **taken their toll on** the Irish. It has left them with a deliciously **dark sense of humour** and a welcoming attitude towards strangers... That famous ability of the Irish to find **craic** (fun times) means you're always **in for a treat**. These days, after the end of the **Troubles**, a cautious optimism reigns supreme, infecting the land once again with the sense that anything is possible."



Irish tourism officials are very happy about it. Lawrence Bate of Tourism Ireland said, "We are delighted to have this **endorsement** of thousands of *Lonely Planet* readers. People have **expectations** that are far and away **exceeded** when they visit Ireland."

Other countries on the list included Malawi ("the friendliest people in Africa living in the warm heart of the continent"), Fiji ("Fijians have a reputation for helping all travellers feel welcome"), Indonesia ("they greet foreigners with open arms") and

Scotland ("Scotland is becoming the destination for visitors to the British Isles, winning out over **dog-eat-dog** London").



Ireland facts

Capital city: Dublin.
Total area: 70,280 sq km.
Population: 4,015,676.
Languages: English, Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge).
Religions: Roman Catholic 88.4%, Church of Ireland 3%, other Christian 1.6%.

GLOSSARY

turmoil *n*
violence and chaos
conquest *n*
taking land that belongs to others or another country
famine *n*
a situation in which there is no food
to take its toll on *exp*
to affect negatively
a dark sense of humour *n*
a sense of humour that involves laughing at "dark" topics
craic *n* Irish
fun or enjoyment; having a good time
in for a treat *exp*
if you are "in for a treat", you are going to receive something good
the Troubles *n*
the period when the IRA were fighting against British rule in northern Ireland
an endorsement *n*
an approval
expectations *n*
ideas about something before you see/experience it
to exceed *vb*
if something "exceeds" your expectations, it is even better than you thought it would be
dog-eat-dog *adj*
a "dog-eat-dog" situation is one in which many people are competing against one another
a brewery *n*
a factory where they make beer
to lease *vb*
if you "lease" property, you pay money so you can rent it for a fixed period of time
pretty friendly *exp*
quite friendly
a cheery grin *n*
a happy smile
you can't beat *exp*
there is nothing better than
arrogant *n*
with feelings of superiority and importance
the nouveau riche *n*
people who have become rich recently and who some consider to be vulgar

Breweries

The Irish also appeared in a *Lonely Planet* list of the world's 10 best **brewery** headquarters. Although they didn't get the number-one position, the Guinness headquarters in St James's Gate building in Dublin (**leased** by Arthur Guinness in 1759) did appear in the top-ten list. "If you don't know what it is that makes the Guinness brewery Ireland's number-one visitor attraction, you must be under 18," the book says. The overall winner of this list was Australia's oldest beer-maker, the Cascade Brewery, built in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1824 by Peter Degraives, an Englishman.



Comments

Here are some comments from people who sent in e-mails regarding the issue.



"I think the Scots come a close second because, let's face it, they are Irish but never learned to swim." *Rory, Dublin.*

"I agree that the Irish are great. But where are the Spanish? And the Germans? Don't laugh, it's true (in my experience)." *Sam, Belfast.*

"Ireland is a **pretty friendly** place, but if I were you, I'd stay away from Rathcoole on a Saturday night with your *Lonely Planet* and your **cheery grin**." *Mary, Dublin.*

"**You cant beat** the English for friendliness at 3am: 'Hello, mate... What's the time? Ain't gotta light 'ave ya?'" *Scott, London.*

"I've always found the average Irish person very friendly. However, if you want the most **arrogant**, loud and unpleasant people in Europe try the Dublin **nouveau riche**. No class, no fun and not friendly. Luckily the average tourist doesn't come into contact with them." *Trudy, Edinburgh (half-Scots, half-Irish).*

And the final word on the Irish friendliness has to go to Elizabeth Bowen (Irish novelist - 1899 to 1973), who wrote, "Where would the Irish be without anyone to be Irish at?"

Mother Care

The controversy surrounding childcare expert Claire Verity.

Some hate her ideas. Some respect her ideas. She has been a **freelance nanny** for 24 years. She has reportedly worked for Mick Jagger and Sting, and she charges up to 1,400 euros a day. She is the most controversial childcare expert in Britain. Her name is Claire Verity.

Ms Verity has been involved in a number of incidents. Just recently, she was asked to stay away from a major conference on childcare after opponents protested. She was **due to** appear at *The Baby Show* in London to discuss her methods, but the invitation was **withdrawn** after a number of e-mails from angry mothers. In another incident, Ms Verity was forced to call security at a speaking event in Harrogate. She was repeatedly **heckled**. So, who is Claire Verity? And why is she causing so much controversy?

Ms Verity **rose to fame** after appearing as one of three experts on the Channel 4 television series *Bringing up Baby*. She has a very **tough approach** to childcare. Some of her methods include leaving your baby outside "to air", putting the baby to sleep in its own room **from day one**, no eye contact with the baby, **cuddling** the baby for only 10 minutes a day, and ignoring the baby if it cries. Routine is everything and nothing must get in the way of it, especially not emotions. Some of her methods are being debated very seriously, such as her idea for putting the baby in a separate room. Many argue that leaving a baby to sleep in a separate room increases the risk of **cot death** and that babies should share their parents' room for six months.



Ms Verity, who has no children of her own, said, "I've been **hung, drawn and quartered** by the National Childbirth Trust (an organisation that gives information on pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and parenthood). They accuse me of being a **bully**: I think they are the bullies. They look **appalling** – and they are appalling. I just **loathe** them." She said that her routines allowed mothers to "regain control of the situation". And she believes that tiredness is a key factor in **postnatal depression**. So, a

routine is vital if the mother is to avoid teetering over the edge. "A baby is easy once it is clean, warm, fed – and left alone," she said.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 (the makers of the television programme) said that it **stood by** its programme and that Ms Verity had numerous followers. "We were aware there are many different views on how to bring up babies and that the series would **spark debate**," said a spokeswoman. "The programme makes it clear that we are comparing parenting styles from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. She is an experienced nanny with **impeccable references** from her clients. In fact the couples in the series have continued to practise her methods after filming ceased." What do you think? ☆



GLOSSARY

- freelance** *adj*
a "freelance" worker is not employed by any organisation
- a nanny** *n*
a woman who looks after other people's children
- due to** *exp*
because of
- to withdraw** *vb*
if something is "withdrawn", it is taken away
- to heckle** *vb*
to make comments or to shout while someone is talking in public
- to rise to fame** *exp*
to become famous
- a tough approach** *n*
a hard, non-sentimental way of doing things
- from day one** *n*
from the start
- to cuddle** *vb*
to hold someone in an emotional way
- cot death** *n*
the sudden and unexpected death of a healthy baby. Also known as SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). A "cot" is a bed for babies
- hung, drawn and quartered** *exp*
publicly criticised a lot. In the past, traitors were killed by being cut open and cut into four pieces (quartered)
- a bully** *n*
a person in a position of strength or power who abuses others in a weaker position
- appalling** *adj*
terrible, horrible
- to loathe** *vb*
to hate
- postnatal depression** *n*
a feeling of depression some women suffer after giving birth
- to stand by something** *exp*
to say that what you said is true and valid
- to spark debate** *exp*
to cause controversy; to provoke many different opinions
- impeccable references** *n*
if you have "impeccable references", people will say very positive things about you and your previous work

Truby King

Many of Ms Verity's ideas are based on the theories developed by Sir Frederick Truby King (1st April 1858 to 10th February 1938). This New Zealander became famous worldwide in the 1920s. King set up the Plunket Society in 1907. Its principles were all about the regularity of feeding the baby and helping it sleep, and were laid out in Dr King's first book, *Feeding and Care of Baby*. The work of the Plunket Society was credited with lowering infant mortality in New Zealand from 88 per thousand to 32 per thousand over the period 1907 to 1937.





Mona's Mystery

New research shows a different side to Mona Lisa.

New evidence has revealed some very interesting things about the world's most famous painting, the Mona Lisa. A French researcher, Pascal Cotte, has spent the past year investigating Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting. And his 240-megapixel scan reveals traces of facial hair, which had been obliterated by restoration efforts. This shows that the woman with the enigmatic smile had

eyebrows and eyelashes. The research also shows that Da Vinci changed his mind about the position of two of Mona Lisa's fingers on her left hand. Mr Cotte spent 3,000 hours examining data that he collected from scans that he had made whilst he was at the Louvre's laboratory. These scans used infrared and ultraviolet sensors for the very first time. Apart from the eyelashes, eyebrows and fingers, Mr Cotte said that the

scan also showed that the woman who appears in the background of the painting was holding a blanket. This has all but disappeared from view today. This is not the first time Mr Cotte has analysed a famous painting with his special technique. He has previously made high-resolution scans of more than 500 other paintings, including works by Van Gogh, Brueghel and Courbet. ✨



GLOSSARY

- megapixels** *n*
a megapixel is a million pixels. A pixel ("picture element") is a single point in a graphic image – the more pixels the better the definition of the image
- a scan** *n*
to copy an image onto a digital format by using a machine known as a scanner
- to reveal** *vb*
to show something that was previously hidden
- a trace** *n*
a small amount of
- to obliterate** *vb*
to destroy; to eliminate; to delete
- restoration** *n*
repairing something that was damaged
- enigmatic** *adj*
mysterious and difficult to understand
- eyebrows** *n*
the line of hair above the eye
- eyelashes** *n*
the hair around the eye
- to change your mind** *exp*
to do something differently from what you had planned to do
- a blanket** *n*
a piece of thick material used to keep you warm in bed
- pitch-black** *adj*
completely black – with no light
- to go on display** *exp*
if an object "goes on display", it is placed in a public place
- to intend** *vb*
if you "intend" to do something, you plan to do that thing
- a miner** *n*
a person who works in mines taking out coal/diamonds, etc
- a lunchbox** *n*
a box that is used to carry the food you eat for lunch
- to wound** *vb*
if you are "wounded", you are hurt/injured in an accident, etc
- a pip** *n*
the small, hard seed inside a piece of fruit such as an apple, orange, etc
- to rattle** *vb*
when something "rattles", it makes a knocking sound because the things inside it keep hitting the sides
- to donate** *vb*
if you "donate" something to a museum, you give it to the museum for free
- to display** *vb*
to show in a public place
- a curator** *n*
a person who works in a museum and who is in charge of the objects

Old Orange

116-year-old orange goes on display.

It's been officially declared as the world's oldest piece of fruit. A dried-out, pitch-black orange has gone on display in a museum in Staffordshire more than a century after it was originally intended to be eaten. The orange belonged to a miner called Joseph Roberts who was from the county of Staffordshire in England. He took it to work one morning in 1891 in his lunchbox; but he was wounded in an explosion before he had time to eat it. When Mr Roberts went to the local hospital, the orange (and the lunchbox) were returned to his family and stayed there for



the next century. One member of the family said, "We never saw this lunchbox and orange as anything important. I suppose it was just something that we never threw away. You can still hear the pips rattling around inside though. If we'd known it had some special historical significance, we would have donated it to the museum a long time ago." The orange will now be displayed at the Potteries Museum in Stoke on Trent. One of the curators of the museum said, "It's a great example of the social history of the area. I wouldn't eat it though if I were you." ✨

Expression of the month: a dry sense of humour

What kind of humour do you like? The British love a dry sense of humour. But what is it?

Basically, a dry sense of humour is a very **subtle** type of humour. A person with a dry sense of humour often makes simple observations that just happen to be funny. In many cases, it is difficult to notice, and it is not always obvious when (and if) you are supposed to laugh. There is no obvious **winking** or **nudging**. The listener has to **have his dry-sense-of-humour hat on** and be prepared for the joke as it isn't always obvious where it's coming from. And there are no **set-ups** and no **punch-lines**. Here's an example:

Scene: (A lorry driver is stuck in a tunnel.)

Police: What are you doing?

Lorry driver: I'm **delivering** a bridge.

And here is another example:

Scene: (Two women are talking in a bar.)

Woman I: I've heard that **slug slime** is very good for the skin.

Woman II: Yes, but it's difficult to get them to **crawl** on your face.



With a dry sense of humour, one of the most important things is how you say the joke or make a comment. You have to have a very **deadpan face**, and say it in a very **matter-of-fact** way.

In summary, the humour relies on **wit**, keeping a very straight face and using a monotonous tone. Here's one more example:



Scene: (A customer is thinking about buying a computer.)

Salesperson: And if you buy this computer, I'll throw this manual in for free.

Customer: Yes, that should be very useful for lighting fires. ☹



GLOSSARY

subtle *n*

not immediately obvious

to wink *vb*

to open and close one eye as a way of saying that something is a joke or not serious

to nudge *vb*

to push someone with your elbow as a way of saying that something is a joke

to have your dry-sense-of-humour hat on *exp*

to be mentally prepared for dry-sense-of-humour comments/jokes, etc

a set-up *n*

the part of a joke that prepares you for the punch-line (see below)

a punch-line *n*

the end part of a joke that is supposed to be funny

to deliver *vb*

the way you "deliver" a joke is the way you say it, using voice, tone, pauses, etc

slug slime *n*

the liquid that a slug leaves as it moves over something. A slug is like a snail but without the shell

to crawl *vb*

if an insect "crawls" over an area, it moves slowly over that area

a deadpan face *n*

a face with no expression

matter-of-fact *adj*

with no obvious emotion or expression

wit *n*

an ability to say funny/intelligent things very quickly

Hot Staff



Managing Director

Thorley Russell (00 34 91 455 0273)
thorleyr@hotenglishmagazine.com
Editorial Director
Andy Coney (00 34 91 549 8523)
andyc@hotenglishmagazine.com

Director of studies

Leigh Dante (00 34 91 543 3573)
classes@hotenglishmagazine.com

Office manager

Ana Pintor Córdoba (00 34 91 549 8523)
subs@hotenglishmagazine.com

Assistant director of studies

Katherine High (00 34 91 543 3573)
classes@hotenglishmagazine.com

Credit control and administration

(00 34 91 549 8523)

Art editor

Philip McIvor

Editorial department and blog

Peter Moore

Audio production

www.android-tracks.com

Barcelona office (Hot English)

Carmen Soini: 696 108 245

barcelona@hotenglishmagazine.com

Valencia office (Hot English)

Simon Barlow: 635 965 865

simon@hotenglishmagazine.com

Contributors

Dougal Maguire

Daniel Coutoune

Iván Pérez

Blanca San Roman

Craig Dewe

Sam Bones

Marta Ispuerto

Fred McLaughlan

Jane Grodeman

Sam Jenkins

Paul McGann

Tara Palmeri

Robert York

Ian Slater

Marcie Lambert

Laurent Guiard

Amanda Glensky

Carleen Hawthorne

Michele Jaret

Rebecca Kern

Tyler Altas

Anita Iglesias

Cover artist

Cartoonist

Website wizard

Web marketing

Web marketing

Writer

Marketing

Interviews

Writer

Journalist

Writer

Writer

Web consultant

Proof reading

Proof reading

French depart.

Intern

Intern

Intern

Intern

Proof reading

French proof reading

Mexico

Dimsa: Mexico City 555 545 6645

Hungary

Gabor Winkler & Peter Bokor

info@hotenglish.hu

Russia

William Hackett-Jones

william@hotenglishmagazine.ru

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C/Fernández de los Ríos, 98, 2A

Madrid 28015

Phone: (00 34) 91 549 8523

Fax: (00 34) 91 549 8523

info@hotenglishmagazine.com

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O ENVÍANOS UN CORREO ELECTRÓNICO A
(MADRID) classes@hotenglishmagazine.com
(BARCELONA) barcelona@hotenglishmagazine.com
(VALENCIA) simon@hotenglishmagazine.com

