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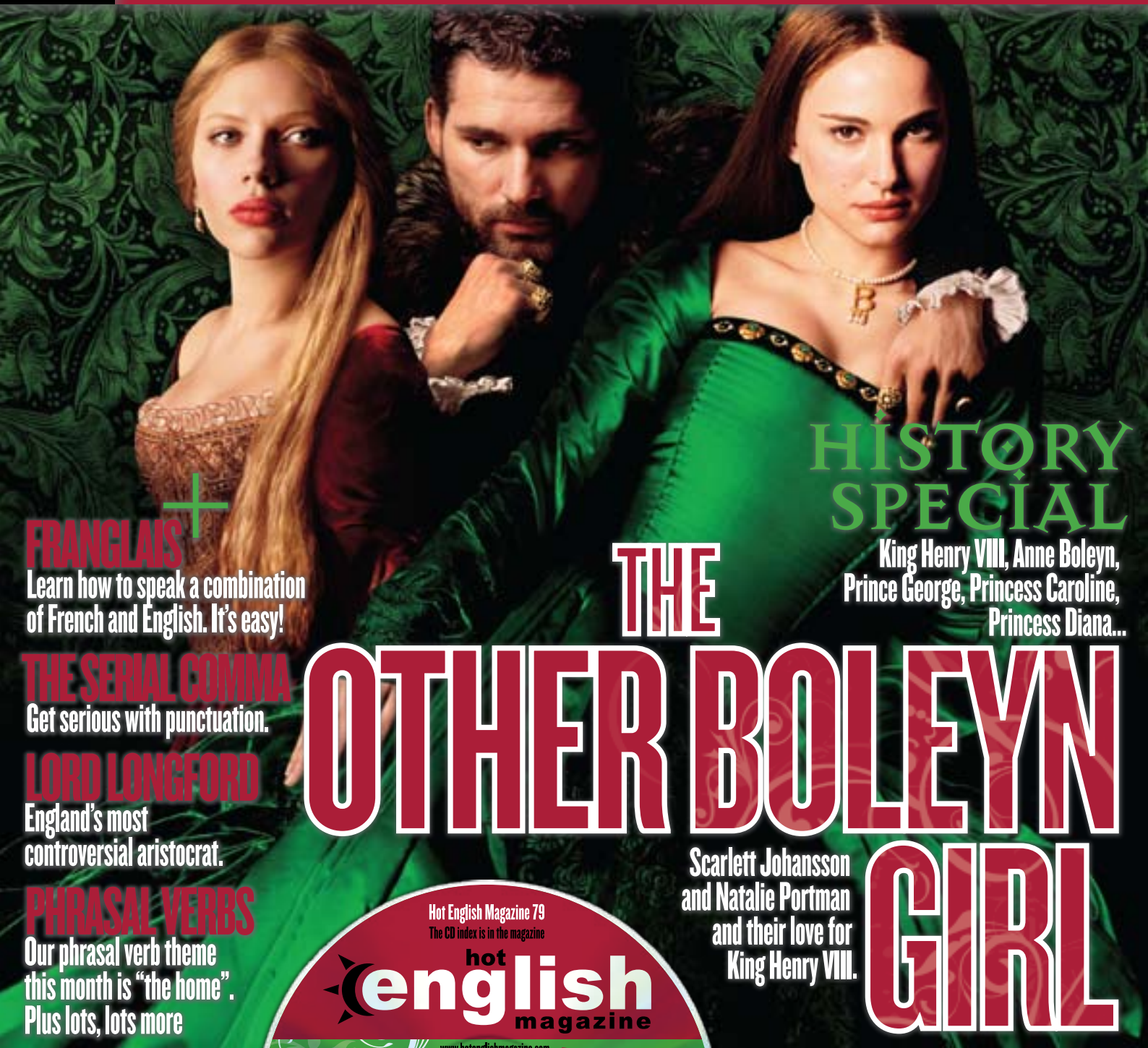
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Editor's intro



Hello everyone, and welcome to Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This issue of Hot English is a special history edition. We've got an article on Henry VIII – one of England's largest and **bloodiest** kings. You can read all about his wives and his **break** with Rome and the Catholic Church. You can also see him **fight it out** with

Queen Elizabeth I in our section called Face to Face. As you'll probably know, there's a trial **going on** in England at the moment to try to discover what happened to Princess Diana on **that fateful night** when she died in a car crash. But this isn't the first time that the Princess of Wales has been at the centre of a massive news story. Princess Caroline (who was the Princess of Wales in the 18th century) is another princess who led a tragic life. Speaking of royalty, you can also read about one of England's most controversial lords: Lord Longford. Find out why he was in the news so often.

Good news: our download system and Members' Area is now working again. This means you can order the download version of Hot English (in PDF and MP3 format), plus you can get the download version of the Teacher's Pack and Student's Pack – with a nice discount, too. See inside the magazine for more details.

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 Remember, if you're looking for an English-language course abroad, and somewhere to spend your government grant money (your "beca" money), we can organise a course for you. For more information, please write to coursesabroad@hotenglishmagazine.com

GLOSSARY

- bloody** *adj*
a "bloody" king/queen kills many people
- a break** *n*
a separation
- to fight it out** *phr vb*
if two people "fight it out", there is a competition to see who wins
- to go on** *phr vb*
to happen
- that fateful night** *n*
that terrible, tragic night when something bad happened

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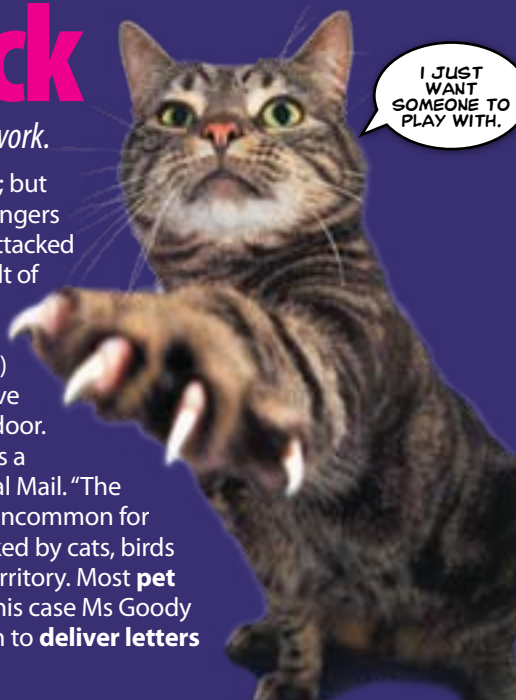
All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing, S.L., although we do think that Henry VIII was a brutal chap, the *Sopranos* is a great show and Mr Bean is somewhat accident-prone.



Cat Attack

Postal workers afraid to work.

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



*Royal Mail

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



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

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

Royalty Action

Man demands Sopranos' money.

WHO WANTS TO JOIN OUR GANG?



The Sopranos

This is a drama series about a New Jersey Mafia family (the Sopranos), with Tony Soprano as the boss. The series stars James Gandolfini, and has won many awards. The series ran from January 1999 to June 2007.

"Unfortunately, America loves success. But when it happens, some people **resent** it," said David Chase, the creator of the TV drama *The Sopranos*, after winning a court case in New Jersey. David Chase was defending himself against Robert Baer. Baer, a former **judge**, claimed his ideas helped David Chase create the story for the series. Baer also said that he **arranged meetings** for Mr Chase with New Jersey police officers and prosecutors. He said that this

helped Chase get ideas for his **hit series**. Baer wanted both a **credit** and payment. However, a US **jury dismissed the claims**. They said that Baer was not **owed** anything. Mr Chase said the case was like "having a **fly buzzing** in your bathroom for seven years". Chase added, "I tried to help Baer out with his writing but it didn't **work out**." The Sopranos is about a Mafia family in New Jersey. The show ran for eight years on cable channel HBO. ☹

GLOSSARY

- to bite** *vb*
if you "bite" something, you use your teeth to cut into it
- a postal worker** *n*
a person who works for the post office delivering letters
- a post box** *n*
a box in which you place letters
- a drive** *n*
a piece of hard ground in front of someone's house that is used to park cars
- a pet owner** *n*
a person who has an animal that lives in their house
- to deliver a letter** *exp*
if the postman "delivers" your letters, he/she takes the letters to your house
- to resent something** *exp*
to feel angry and bitter about something
- a judge** *n*
the person in a law court who decides how a criminal should be punished
- to arrange a meeting** *exp*
to organise and make plans for a meeting
- a hit series** *n*
a television programme that is extremely popular
- a credit** *n*
if you get a "credit", you are mentioned as one of the authors/writers/designers, etc
- a jury** *n*
the 12 people in a law court who listen to the facts about a crime and decide whether the person accused is guilty or innocent
- to dismiss a claim** *exp*
to decide that there is no need for a legal trial against someone
- to owe** *vb*
if you "owe" money, someone has lent you money but you have not paid it back
- a fly** *n*
a small, common insect with two wings, usually black.
- to buzz** *vb*
the continuous noise that a fly makes
- to work out** *phr vb*
to be OK/satisfactory in the end
- to reign** *vb*
when a king or queen "reigns", s/he rules the country

The Name Game

English language names with real meaning.

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

Brooke Shields

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



James Blunt

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



Robin Hood

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



Britney Spears

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



Smart Car

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



Procter & Gamble

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



Counting Crows

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



Courtney Love

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



The Carpenters

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



Blur

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



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Guide Book Blunder

A guide book gives tourists the wrong information.

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



A



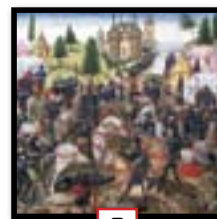
B



C



D



E

1 The Battle of Trafalgar

2 The Battle of Waterloo

3 The Battle of Hastings

4 The Battle of Britain

5 The Battle of Balaclava

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

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



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

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

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

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

NEW ZEALAND GUIDE

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



GLOSSARY

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

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

fairly big *adj*
quite big

to beat *vb*
to defeat; to win against

a mess-up *n*
a failure

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

to apologise *vb*
to say sorry

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

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

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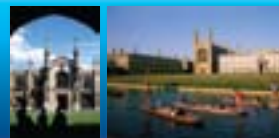
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Headline News

Headline News N° 1

The voice of the people

London 2008

Chinese Hamster Craze

Hamsters are now the most popular pets in China.

What's your favourite animal? Hamsters are now the most popular **pets** in China. The reason is that this is the "Year of the Rat". A reporter from Xinhua News Agency said, "Rats and mice have a bad image, but hamsters are **gentle**. You can **hold** them in your hand and play with them." The price of a hamster in China has increased

from €1 to €3. One father said, "I've always wanted to buy my son a small animal, and a hamster is an ideal **choice**. By **bringing up** a pet, my son will learn about compassion and **caring for** animals." **Pet shops** in China say that people are also interested in other, similar-looking animals. For example, **squirrels** are also now popular. ☺



YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A NICER PET.



Violin Disaster

Professional violinist breaks his \$1 million violin.

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



GLOSSARY

- a pet** *n*
an animal that lives with you in your house
- gentle** *adj*
calm and kind; not aggressive
- to hold** *vb*
to have something in your hands
- a choice** *n*
if you have a "choice", you have more than one option
- to bring up** *phr vb*
to educate and care for someone. For example, parents "bring up" their children
- to care for** *exp*
to look after
- a pet shop** *n*
a shop that sells animals
- a squirrel** *n*
an animal that lives in a tree. It has a bushy tail (a tail with a lot of hair)
- to land on** *phr vb*
to fall on
- a case** *n*
a container that holds or protects something
- to be worth the money** *exp*
to be good value for the money you pay
- to borrow** *vb*
if you "borrow" something, you take something with permission and return it later

NURSERY TIMES



CD track 5
English child

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

Mary had a little lamb

There is no historical connection with this rhyme. However, the words "Mary had a little **lamb**" were the first words ever recorded by **Thomas Edison** on his **phonograph**. The words were written by Sarah Hale (of Boston) in 1830. This nursery rhyme is good for children as it introduces the concept of **similes** ("white as snow" for example).

Mary had a little lamb

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

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

It followed her to school one day,
School one day, school one day,
It followed her to school one day,
That was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,
Laugh and play, laugh and play,
It made the children laugh and play,
To see a lamb at school.



Mary, Mary quite contrary

The Mary in this traditional nursery rhyme is Mary Tudor, also known as "Bloody Mary" (born 18th February 1516 – died 17th November 1558). She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and she reigned from (19th July 1553 until her death). Queen Mary was a Catholic and was famous for her **persecution** of Protestants. The "garden" in the rhyme refers to **graveyards**. In the rhyme it is said the graves were growing in size, presumably with all the bodies of Protestant **martyrs**. However, in total, there were only 300 executions during her reign – far less than during the reign of her father, King Henry VIII. The "silver bells" and "cockle shells" were instruments of torture. And the "maids" is the plural form of "maiden", which was a slang term for a type of guillotine (which was used for cutting off people's heads).

Mary, Mary, quite contrary

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



GLOSSARY

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

Old King Cole

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

Decurion – a type of local governor. The Tudor dynasty, starting with King Henry VII, claimed to descend from Old King Cole. This was used as a way of legitimising the Royal House of Tudor's claim to the English throne.

Old King Cole

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

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Story Time

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

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

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

- A:** A mixture of milk (or ice cream) with a flavour such as strawberry/ chocolate, etc.
- B:** A journey in a luxury ship.
- C:** A park with many fun things to do and rides to go on.
- D:** Fried pieces of potato.
- E:** Clothing worn by women to cover their legs – usually as far as the knees.
- F:** Not well; ill.
- G:** A type of snack made by cooking corn/ maize.
- H:** An attraction at a fun fair. For example, a rollercoaster (a very fast train) is one.



Second opinion

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

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

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

Starting Salary

Sally has just finished university and she's in a job interview.

After about half an hour, the interviewer asks one last question, "So, Sally, what **starting salary** were you hoping for?"

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

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

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

Ten again

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



GLOSSARY

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

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This month: saying goodbye.

Saying goodbye after a meeting/party, etc

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

Saying goodbye at night (before going to bed)

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

Escaping from a conversation (on the phone, etc)

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

Saying goodbye for a long time

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



Complete each space with the correct word.

Answers on page 42

1

Life

2

Meeting

3

Miss

4

Going

1.

Person I: It was nice meeting you.

Person II: Yes, it was nice **(A)** _____ you too.

2.

Person I: So, then, Brian says to me, 'Hey, where are you going?' and I said...

Person II: Hey, I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I really should be **(B)** _____.

3.

Person I: Farewell, my love.

Person II: Bye. I'll **(C)** _____ you.

4.

Person I: Goodbye. I suppose we won't see each other again then.

Person II: Yeah, have a nice **(D)** _____. ☺

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The bank

Basic English



A bank



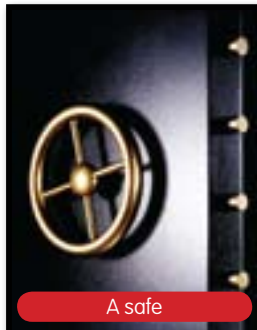
A bank manager



A PIN number
(a personal identification number).



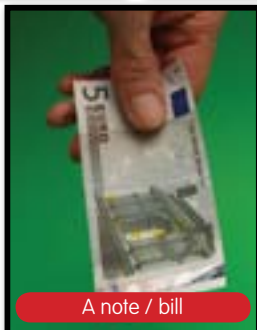
A cashier



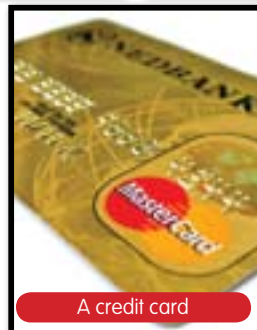
A safe



A coin



A note / bill



A credit card



A cheque



A cheque book



A traveller's cheque



A cash machine
(an "ATM" (automated teller machine) in US English)



A piggy bank



A purse



A wallet



A bag of money



An alarm



A security guard



A vault



Pounds



Dollars



Euros



Yen



The bank

Social English

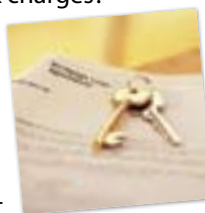
This month: the bank. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say

- I'd like to pay this money into my account, please.
- I'd like to take 600 euros out, please.
- What's my bank balance, please? / Could you give me a bank

statement, please?

- I'd like to transfer some money from my current account, please.
- Are there any bank charges?
- I'd like to cash this cheque, please.
- I'd like to apply for a mortgage. / I'd like to apply for an overdraft, please.
- How much interest does it pay? / What's the interest rate?
- I've lost my credit card. / I need to cancel my credit card urgently.
- I'd like to apply for a new credit card, please.
- I'm sorry but I've forgotten my PIN number.
- Could you change this note for me, please?
- Could I have some larger bills and small bills, please?
- Please give it to me in 20-euro notes.
- Could I have the rest in change, please?
- What's the exchange rate for euros to British pounds, please?



What you hear

- The exchange rate for euros to British pounds is 0.748.
- We charge a 2% commission rate.
- The current interest rate is 4%.
- There are no bank charges.
- I'm afraid the account is **overdrawn**.
- I'm afraid there are no funds in the account.
- Which account would you like to transfer the money from?
- Could you **sign** and date the cheque, please?
- You'll have to apply for a new PIN number. ☺

Now listen to this dialogue. In this conversation, Jane is in the bank.

- Cashier:** Good morning.
Jane: Good morning. I'd like to pay this money into my account, please.
Cashier: Have you filled in a paying-in slip.
Jane: No, I didn't see them.
Cashier: Here you are. (He gives Jane a slip.)
Jane: (Jane fills it out.) I'd also like to apply for a credit card.
Cashier: You'll need to fill out this form. (He gives Jane a form.) Then, we'll process your **application**.
Jane: I've also got these US dollars on me. Can I change them here?
Cashier: Yes, that won't be a problem.
Jane: What's the exchange rate for dollars to pounds?
Cashier: It's 0.50615 pence. That means that one dollar is worth 50.615 pence.
Jane: So, if I change 100 US dollars, I'll get about 50 pounds, right?
Cashier: Yes, 50 pounds and 61.5 pence, to be precise.
Jane: And are there any charges?
Cashier: There's a 2.5% **commission charge** on all **transactions**.
Jane: OK. I'll think I'll just keep them for my next trip to the states.
Cashier: OK. Have a nice day.
Jane: Bye.



GLOSSARY

- overdraw** *adj*
if your account is "overdrawn", you have taken out more money than you have
- to sign** *vb*
to write your name on a formal document
- an application** *n*
a form you complete when you want to join an organisation/bank, or apply for something
- a commission charge** *n*
money you pay (often a small percentage of the total) for doing a bank operation
- a transaction** *n*
a bank operation

Headline News

Headline News N° 2

The voice of the people

London 2008

Professional Housewife

Housewife would be paid €40,000.

How much time do you spend on **housework**? A website has **surveyed** 4,000 British housewives. It found that the **average** mother works nine hours every day. Therefore, a British housewife would earn about €40,000 if she was employed. The average salary in the UK is €30,000. 71% of housewives said that **running** the family-home



I'VE EARNED 200 TODAY.

was a full-time job. An average mum spends 273 minutes every day looking after the children. A **nanny** in the UK would earn about €48 a day for the same job. Cleaning and **tidying** for one hour would earn a cleaner almost €8. And for more than an hour of cooking, a **chef** would earn €20. Carolyn Morris, a spokeswoman for the website, said, "The survey clearly demonstrates that not only do housewives **deserve** a wage for their efforts, they also need a break from the **daily grind**." ☺

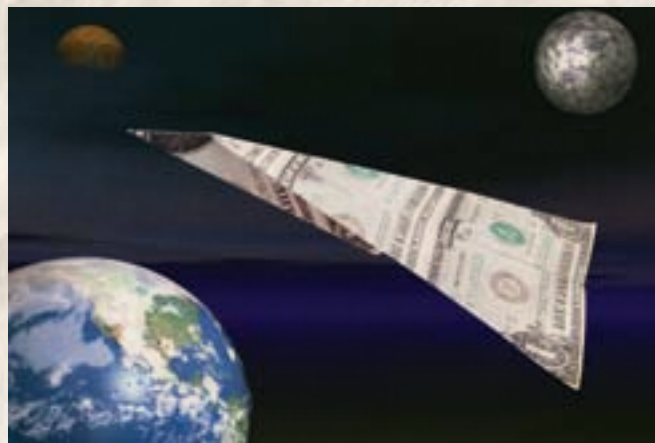


Paper Spaceship

Can Japan's paper plane fly in space?

Did you make paper planes when you were a child? How far did they fly? A team from the University of Tokyo want to fly a paper plane from the International Space Station back to

earth – a distance of 400km. The plan is to ask a Japanese astronaut to throw about 100 of the paper planes into space. The paper has a substance added to it that increases its **heat resistance**. So far, the planes have endured temperatures of around 300 degrees Celsius. They have also survived in wind speeds of seven times the speed of sound. "We think from this experiment we will be able to create new concepts, and in the very near future perhaps new types of airships from this design", said Professor Suzuki, the scientist leading the **research**. He hopes it will also make more school children interested in science. ☺



GLOSSARY

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



Bean Accident

Actor in Mr Bean incident.

Mr Bean is known for his bad luck. But now the actor who plays Mr Bean (Rowan Atkinson) has had a minor accident of his own. The accident **took place** at a US **ski resort**. At that time, Atkinson was **reversing** from a **parking meter** when his car hit a Volkswagen Jetta. "He was **backing out** of a **parking spot** and didn't see the car behind him. There was a little bit of **damage** to the other car, but he won't be charged with any offence," a police officer explained. The star's UK agent was unavailable for comment. The television character is famous for driving a Mini, but the real star drives a **four-by-four** vehicle. The last time that Atkinson appeared as Mr Bean in a Mini

was when he drove into London's Leicester Square in order to promote the Bean movie, *Mr Bean's Holiday*. Atkinson parked the Mini on the red carpet and then met fans who were waiting outside. ☘

Rowan Atkinson

Rowan Atkinson (aka Mr Bean) was born on 6th January 1955. He is considered to be one of Britain's top comedy acts. Atkinson was in shows such as *Not the Nine O'Clock News* and *Blackadder* before introducing Mr Bean in the UK in 1990.



I'M JUST AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN.

Year Winner

Surprise winner for annual award.

The winner of Time magazine's "Person of the Year for 2007" is... Russian president Vladimir Putin. The title was given to Mr Putin for bringing stability to Russia. Former US Vice President Al Gore and Harry Potter author JK Rowling were **runners-up** for the title. Last year, the **award** was given to all members of the public who had created or **downloaded** content on the internet. The magazine has given out its Person of the Year award every year since 1927. Previous **recipients** have included US Presidents George W Bush and Bill Clinton, and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. According to the magazine, the title is given to the most powerful individuals and forces that are **shaping the world** – either for better or for worse. Controversial **recipients** in the past have included Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin and Ayatollah Khomeini. ☘



I ALWAYS WIN.

Vladimir Putin

Vladimir Putin was born on 7th October 1952. He became the president of Russia on 7th May 2000. He was re-elected for a second term in 2004. Many civil rights activists accuse Putin of **cracking down on** democratic opposition and free speech.

GLOSSARY

- to take place** *exp*
to occur; to happen
- a ski resort** *n*
a place in the mountains where there are hotels and places to ski
- to reverse** *vb*
to go backwards
- a parking meter** *n*
a machine that gives you a ticket which gives you permission to park in a certain area
- to back out** *phr vb*
to drive backwards out of a place
- a parking spot** *n*
a place specifically for parking a car
- damage** *n*
physical harm that is caused to an object/person
- a four-by-four** *n*
a vehicle in which all four wheels are powered by the engine at the same time
- a runner-up** *n*
someone who finishes second in a competition
- an award** *n*
a prize, medal, certificate or sum of money that someone is given for doing something well
- to download** *vb*
to transfer data from the internet to your computer
- to shape the world** *exp*
to influence things that happen in the world
- a recipient** *n*
someone who receives something
- to crack down on** *phr vb*
if people in authority "crack down on" a group of people, they take action against that group

TRIVIA MATCHING

Exercise

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

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

A



B



E



C



D



H



F



G



J



I



K



L



M



N





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

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

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

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



Almonds are a member of the peach family.



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

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

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

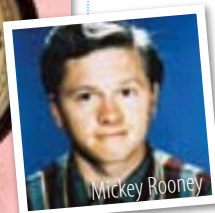


There are seven points on the Statue of Liberty's crown.



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

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



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



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

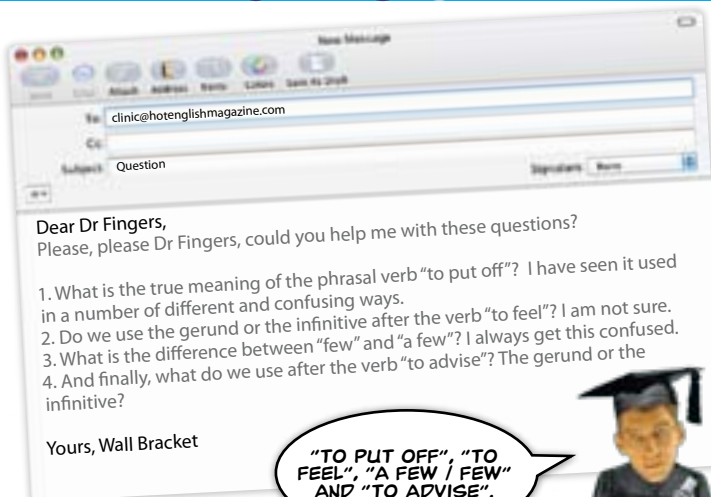
Many sharks lay eggs, but hammerheads give birth to live babies. Young hammerheads are usually born **headfirst**, with the **tip** of their hammer-shaped head **folded backwards** to make them more **streamlined**.

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

GLOSSARY

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

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Dear Wall Bracket,

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

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



doing it. For example, "They put me off travelling alone – they made it sound too dangerous."

2. The use of the gerund or the infinitive doesn't really change the meaning of the verb "to feel". In general, the use of the gerund indicates that the action has not finished. For example, "I felt the table moving as the airplane flew over." On the other hand, the use of the infinitive (without "to") indicates that the action was complete and finished. For example, "I felt the bullet brush across my arm." Basically, there is no right or wrong answer – it depends what you want to refer to: an action in progress, or a completed action.
3. Basically, "few" means "not many" – it has a negative feel to it. For example, "There were few people at the concert – it was a bit disappointing." And "a few" is more positive and means "some". For example, "There were quite a few people at the concert – we were really pleased."

4. Finally, "to advise" is often followed by a noun or an object pronoun when we are referring to someone specific. For example:
 - a) We advised her to give up smoking.
 - b) They advised him to leave early.

However, when the advice is given in general and is not directed to anyone in particular, we use the gerund. For example:

- a) She advised giving up smoking.
- b) They advised leaving early.

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

Yours, Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to:
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Corny Criminals



CD track 15 - US women

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



Speedy González

Man stopped in unusual vehicle.

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

The Great Escape

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

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



Court Ban

Judge suspended after bizarre incident.

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

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

GLOSSARY

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



TELEPHONE 999

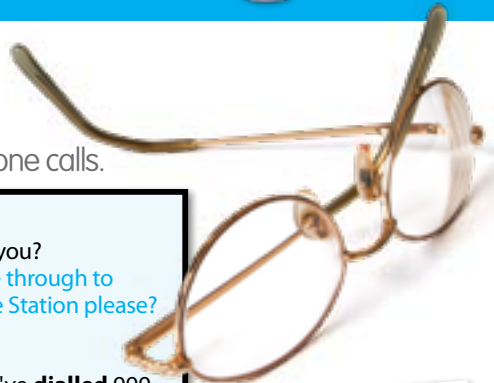
Here's another part of our mini-series on ridiculous but real emergency phone calls.

Call I – The Glasses

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

Call II – The Bus

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



GLOSSARY

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

RECIPE

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

JENNA'S "DOWN HOME" MEATBALLS

By Jenna DiMaria

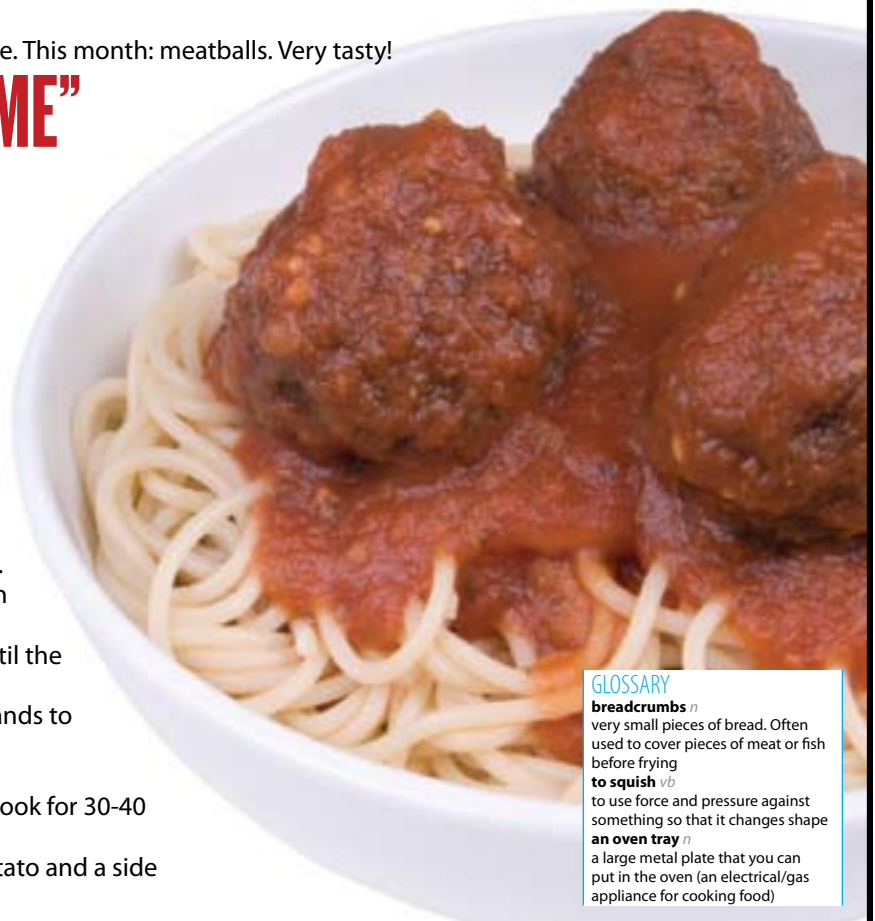
Ingredients (for 10-12 meatballs)

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

Method

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

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



GLOSSARY

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

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR FUN



The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

TO BE LIKE

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



What... is he/she like?

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

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

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

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

- A:** What's Sam like?
B: Oh, he's really funny, and quite tall too.

- A:** What's Petra like?
B: She's got blonde hair and she's highly intelligent.

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

- A:** What was the film like?
B: Pretty boring.

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

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

- A:** How's work these days?
B: Oh, great thanks. I really like my boss.

- A:** How's Bob?
B: Oh, he's fine – much better thanks.

- A:** How's Sarah doing?
B: Oh, not too bad, although she doesn't like her new job much.

Now, compare these sentences:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HISTORY OF HENRY VIII

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KING HENRY VIII

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



GLOSSARY

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

A new film set in the royal court of King Henry VIII in 16th Century England.

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

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



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

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

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

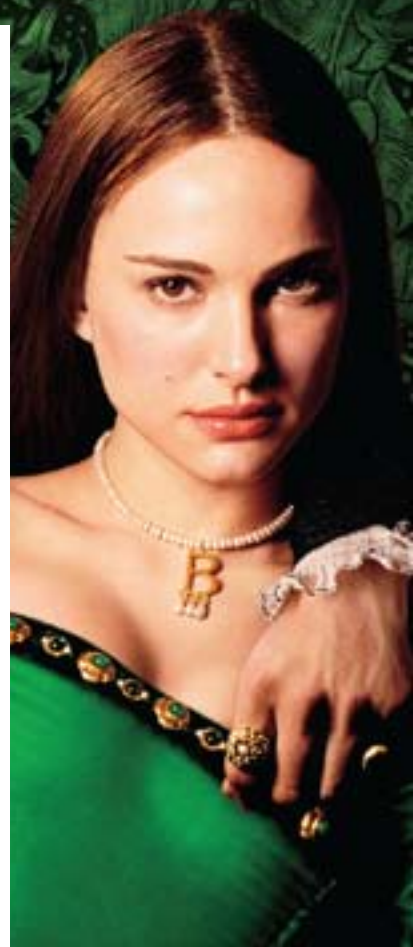
By 1527, the king decides he wants to divorce his wife, Catherine, and marry Anne. Mary is quietly ignored and becomes "the other Boleyn girl". Later, Mary is forced to become Anne's lady-in-waiting. Anne becomes obsessed with her ambition to become queen.

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

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



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



FILM INFORMATION: THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

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

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



BOLEYN GIRL

NATALIE PORTMAN

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

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



SCARLETT JOHANSSON

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

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



ERIC BANA

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

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

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



GLOSSARY

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

MORE THAN TEN YEARS AFTER HER TRAGIC DEATH, PRINCESS DI IS STILL IN THE NEWS. BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME THAT AN ENGLISH PRINCESS HAS BEEN AT THE CENTRE OF A NATIONAL CONTROVERSY. BACK IN THE 18TH CENTURY, THE PRINCE OF WALES (WHO LATER BECAME KING GEORGE IV) WAS INVOLVED IN ANOTHER STORY THAT CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC. THIS IS THE STORY OF PRINCE GEORGE AND PRINCESS CAROLINE.

POOR PR

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



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

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

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

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

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

PRINCESS CAROLINE

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



PRINCE OF WALES

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



PRINCESS

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



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

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

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

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

GLOSSARY

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

THE MODERN-DAY TRIAL

The current trial on the death of Princess Diana is turning into a bit of a circus. Mohamed Al Fayed is convinced that Diana was murdered on the orders of Prince Philip (the queen's husband). During the trial, Al Fayed has accused Prince Philip of being a "Nazi racist called Frankenstein" and Camilla of being "a crocodile", but insists that he is not mad. He also claims that Diana was pregnant by his son Dodi (who also died with her in the 1997 Paris car crash), and he named more than 30 people alleged to have been involved in what he called the "slaughter" of Diana and Dodi, or in the plot to conceal it. Tony Blair, two Metropolitan Police Commissioners, a British ambassador, several lords, and most of the French authorities were on his list of "suspects". Al Fayed claims that Prince Philip and Prince Charles plotted Diana's assassination during a meeting at **Balmoral**. They then ordered M16 in Paris to execute the plan, he claims. "Was the Queen involved?" he was asked. "I have no idea," he responded, adding, "I do not think the Queen is as important as that." When Al Fayed was asked to name the M16 assassin who carried out the murder, he said it was James Andanson, the paparazzi (and secret agent) in the white Fiat Uno that was seen in the tunnel that night.



Headline News

Headline News N° 3

The voice of the people

London 2008

Unhealthy Anger

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

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



NO STRESS!
NO ANGER!

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

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

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

Controversial Grammys

Should drug addict Amy Winehouse have won awards at the Grammys?

"I don't think she should have won. I think it sends a bad message to our young people who are trying to **get into this business**," said Natalie Cole about Amy Winehouse's success at the Grammys. Winehouse, 24, said she was "so happy and **proud**" to win five **Grammys**, including Record of the Year and Best New Artist. But singer Natalie Cole, 58, daughter of the famous jazz musician Nat King Cole, said Winehouse didn't **deserve** to win.

Winehouse is currently fighting a severe drug addiction. And she couldn't **attend** the Grammys because her US visa application was rejected. Cole, who has used drugs in the past, says that Winehouse is being **rewarded** for her bad behaviour: "This is about discipline and hard work, and you don't just get to do your drugs and go on **stage** and get rewarded." Meanwhile, Winehouse's mother says that her daughter is continuing to receive medical treatment, and that she is **well on the road to recovery**. ✚



THIS GRAMMY WILL REALLY CHEER ME UP.

GLOSSARY

- a blister** *n*
a painful liquid bubble on the surface of the skin - often on the feet
- a recovery** *n*
if a sick person makes a recovery, s/he becomes well again
- to prioritise** *vb*
to decide which tasks are the most important, and to do them first
- to sort out** *phr vb*
to do what is necessary to solve a problem or get something done
- to get into the business** *exp*
to become involved in a particular type of work
- the Grammys** *n*
an American music award ceremony
- proud** *adj*
to feel very good about something you have done
- to deserve** *vb*
if you think that someone "deserves" something, you think they should have that thing
- to attend** *vb*
to go to; to be present at
- to be rewarded** *vb*
to receive something in return for doing something good/positive, etc
- a stage** *n*
an elevated area where the actors or entertainers perform
- to be well on the road to recovery** *exp*
if a sick person is "well on the road to recovery", he/she is getting better

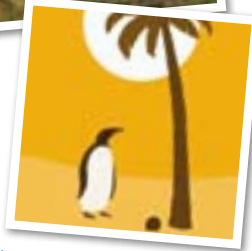
Little Jokes



CD track 18 - US women

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

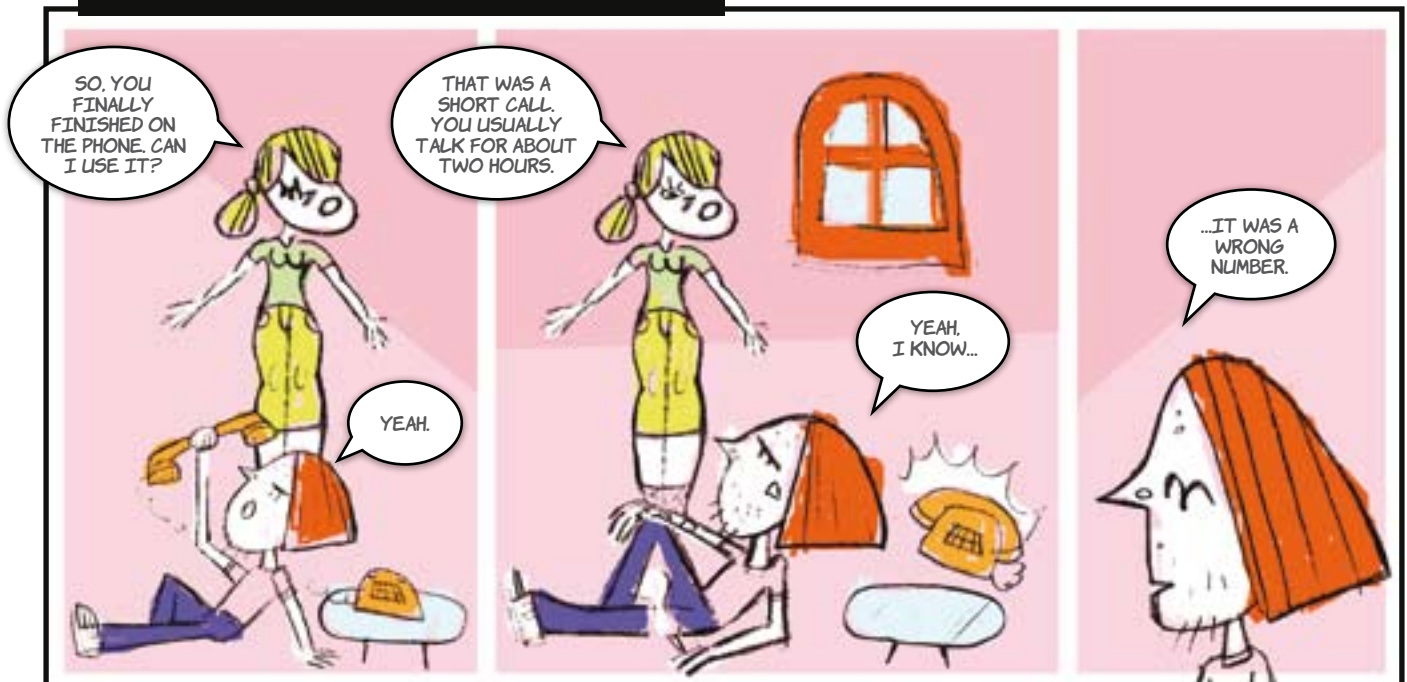
1. On which side do chickens have most **feathers**?
2. What kind of paper likes music?
3. What's white and goes up?
4. What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts?
5. Did you hear about the man who bought a **paper shop**?
6. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert?
7. What did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



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

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

THE PHONE CALL BY DANIEL COLTOUINE



GRAFFITI



CD track 19 - Englishman & Englishwoman

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

WHATEVER IT IS, I DIDN'T DO IT!

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

HE WHO LAUGHS LAST DIDN'T GET IT.

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

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

GLOSSARY

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



SOME PEOPLE THINK I'M REALLY FUNNY.

Funny Men

Why some men are funny.

Are men funnier than women? Previous studies show that men tell more jokes, and male comedians **outnumber** female ones. But why? A professor from Norwich University thinks he knows the answer: because of the male hormone testosterone. Professor Sam Shuster tested his theory by riding a **unicycle** along the streets of Newcastle, and observing how people reacted. He found that women tended to make **encouraging comments**, while men laughed and made jokes. "The most aggressive were young men," he told the British Medical Journal. "About 75% of the men attempted comedy

– mostly shouting out 'lost your **wheel?**' for example," Shuster explained. "Young men in cars were particularly aggressive. However, this type of behaviour decreased among older men, who tended to offer more **admiring comments**, much like the women," Shuster added. So, why are men more aggressive when they try to be funny? Another doctor said, "Men might respond aggressively because they see the other man as a **threat** – attracting female attention away from themselves." So, there you have it. Next time you hear a man trying to be funny, you'll know why. 🚗

Chicken Out

English chef causes scandal.

He **electrocuted** a live chicken on television. Then he **suffocated** a number of **chicks**. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver is leading a campaign to raise the standards of chicken production. Oliver performed the shocking **stunts** on television as a way of demonstrating some of the practices used in the **battery chicken industry**.

Together with the **RSPCA** and the animal rights group Compassion in World Farming (or CIWF), Jamie Oliver is trying to persuade shoppers that **intensively-reared** chicken meat and eggs affect **animal welfare**.

The battery chicken industry began in the late 1950s. As part of the process, broiler chickens (as battery **hens** are known) are selectively **bred** and **reared** for their meat rather than eggs. These days, about 75% of the world's food animals are "broiler chickens" and some 200 billion are produced annually - 800 million of them in the UK. 🌟



LOVE YOUR CHICKENS!

Jamie Oliver

Jamie Oliver is an English chef. He has made many television cooking programmes, and he is well-known for attempting to improve **school dinners**. Just recently, he has turned his attention to battery chickens. During a television show, Oliver criticised a number of supermarkets for using battery chickens, including Sainsbury's - the supermarket that pays Oliver large sums of money to promote their products.

The battery chicken industry

Battery chicken farming takes place in large and usually **windowless sheds**. Each shed contains tens of thousands of birds which are bred to grow quickly. A typical broiler chicken reaches a finished weight of 2.5kg within nine weeks.

GLOSSARY

- to outnumber** *vb*
to be greater than something else in number
- a unicycle** *n*
similar to a bicycle, but with only one wheel and no handles
- an encouraging comment** *n*
a comment that is designed to give hope or confidence
- a wheel** *n*
one of the round objects (there are often four) that moves around as the vehicle moves
- an admiring comment** *n*
a comment that shows you respect/like/admire someone
- a threat** *n*
a danger
- to electrocute** *vb*
to kill a person or animal by using electricity
- to suffocate** *vb*
to kill a person or animal by not allowing them to breathe
- a chick** *n*
a baby chicken
- a stunt** *n*
an action that is designed to attract attention and publicity
- the battery chicken industry** *n*
the industry that involves breeding, feeding and killing chickens in order to sell the meat
- the RSPCA** *abbr*
the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. An animal welfare charity in Britain
- intensively-reared** *adj*
"intensively-reared" animals are produced very quickly so their meat can be used/eaten/sold
- animal welfare** *n*
the health and comfort of animals
- a hen** *n*
a female chicken
- to breed** *vb*
to keep animals for the purpose of producing more animals
- to rear** *vb*
to keep and look after a young animal until it is old enough to be used for work or food
- a school dinner** *n*
a lunch that is eaten by children at school
- windowless** *adj*
without windows
- a shed** *n*
a building that is used to keep animals or store things

APRIL



A monthly look at things from the month. This month: April. By Mark Pierro.



April 1st 1340
The Danish national hero Niels Ebbesen kills the German prince Gerhard III - ruler of Holstein. This ended the 1332-1340 **interregnum** in Denmark. Apparently, Gerhard kept **hogging** the **blanket**.



April 2nd 1513
Juan Ponce de Leon **sets foot on** Florida becoming the first known European to do so. He is greeted by Mickey Mouse.



April 6th 1793
During the French Revolution, the Committee of Public Safety becomes the **executive organ** of the republic. The period known as the Reign of Terror begins and lots of Frenchmen and women lose their heads.



April 7th 1940
Booker T. Washington (who was an important spokesperson for African Americans) becomes the first African American to be shown on a United States stamp.



April 8th 1985
India **files a lawsuit against** Union Carbide for the disaster which kills an estimated 2,000 and injures another 200,000. This is known as the Bhopal disaster.



April 9th 1867
The United States Senate ratifies a treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska (about 1,500,000 km²) for the sum of about \$7 million. Well, at least they didn't invade it.



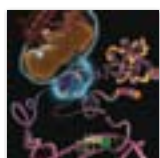
April 11th 1905
Einstein reveals his Theory of Special Relativity.



April 12th 1961
Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to travel into space in Vostok 3KA-2 (Vostok 1).



April 13th 1829
The British Parliament grants freedom of religion to Roman Catholics. What progress!



April 14th 2003
The Human Genome Project is successfully completed with 99% of the human genome sequenced to 99.99% accuracy. Very precise!



April 15th 1955
Ray Kroc opens his first McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois. The world of fast food is born.

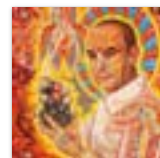
April 17th 1986
A treaty is signed ending the



Three Hundred and Thirty Five Years' War between the Netherlands and the **Isles of Scilly**.



April 18th 1025
Boleslaw I the Brave is crowned in Gniezno, becoming the first King of Poland. A long history of blood, war and **conquest** awaits the country.



April 19th 1943
Swiss chemist Dr Albert Hofmann deliberately takes **LSD** for the first time to see what the effects were. Apparently, he had a marvellous **trip**.



April 23rd 1988
Pink Floyd's album Dark Side of the Moon leaves the charts for the first time after spending a total of 741 consecutive weeks (over 14 years) on the Billboard 200.



April 27th 1981
Xerox PARC introduces the computer mouse.

April 29th 1967
Muhammad Ali is **stripped of his boxing title** after refusing to join the United States Army. He cites religious reasons as the cause. ☸

Events for April 2008

1st April
April Fool's Day.
6th April
presidential election in Montenegro.
7th April
World Health Day.
13th April
elections in Italy.
16-17th April
Pope Benedict visits United States of America.
19th April
Passover starts.
20th April
elections in Paraguay.



GLOSSARY

an interregnum *n*
a period of time during which there is no ruler because one has just left/died, etc, and the next one hasn't started ruling yet
to hog *vb inform*
if you "hog" something, you keep it for yourself and don't share it
a blanket *n*
a cover that you put over your body in bed
to set foot on *exp*
to walk on; to go on
an executive organ *n*
the government department/body that makes decisions and that has all the power
to file a lawsuit against *exp*
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation
the Isles of Scilly *n*
a group of islands off the south west coast of England
conquest *n*
the act of conquering land (taking complete control of it)
LSD *n abbr*
lysergic acid diethylamide – an illegal, hallucinogenic drug
a trip *n*
an imaginary experience caused by taking hallucinogenic drugs
to strip someone of a title *exp*
to inform someone that they don't have a title any longer. A "title" could be "Sir, Lord, Lady", etc
Passover *n*
a Jewish festival to celebrate the first day of the Jewish year

Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE



KING HENRY VIII vs QUEEN ELIZABETH I

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

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

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

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

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

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

KING HENRY VIII

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



QUEEN ELIZABETH I

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



GLOSSARY

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

SONG



CD track 22 -
Irishman

Superhero, sometimes

By Garrett Wall

© Garrett Wall 2008.

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

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

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

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

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

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



GLOSSARY

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

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VOCABULARY

THE BAND

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about bands.

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

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

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

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

Lyrics – the words to a song.

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

Melody – the tune of a song.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TYPICAL DIALOGUES

THE BAND



CD track 24 -
English accents

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nigella: Yeah, but no one caught you.

Stan: They didn't see me coming.

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

Stan: About 400 pounds.

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

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

Nigella: Rent-a-crowd?

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

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

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

Nigella: Publicity? We only had a poster.

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

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

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



GLOSSARY

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

to blow *vb*
to break; to make explode

to put someone off *phr vb*
to distract someone by doing something that they do not like

to leap about *phr vb*
to jump around the place

a rent-a-crowd *n*
people that you pay to come and watch your band

a pint *n*
a large glass of beer – half a litre, approximately

DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: STOPPING



CD track 25 -
US women

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



Run out of steam

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



Stop somebody in their tracks

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



Call it quits

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



Throw in the sponge/towel

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



Wash your hands of somebody/something

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



Drop everything

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



The game's up

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

GLOSSARY

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

DIRTY MOVIES?

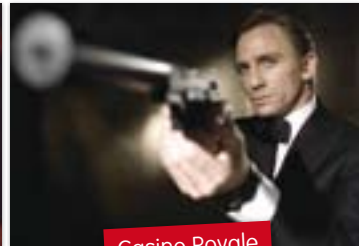
Images of violence and sex on television or films is a big problem, especially if you have young children. However, help is at hand. There are now a number of **websites*** that give detailed descriptions of films so that you can be more aware of their true content. Have a look at the following descriptions of popular films (1 to 6). Can you guess what each film is? Choose from the movies below. **Answers** on page 42



Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix



There's Something About Mary



Casino Royale



The Simpsons Movie



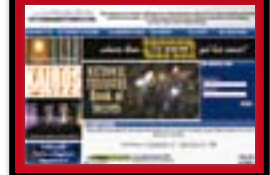
Shrek



Borat

* WEBSITES (TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT FILM)

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



GLOSSARY

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

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

naked *adj*
with no clothes on

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

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

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

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

misogyny *n*
a strong and irrational dislike of women

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

perilous *adj*
very dangerous

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

fancy *adj*
special or expensive

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

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

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

3. There is a lot of sexual humour in this film, including an extended scene dealing with a man who gets a certain part of his body **stuck** in his **zipper**. In another scene, one of the

bad guys gives a dog some illegal substances. There is another scene in which a dog is **electrocuted** and **wrestled** with. The film is:

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

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

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



CD track 26 - US women

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

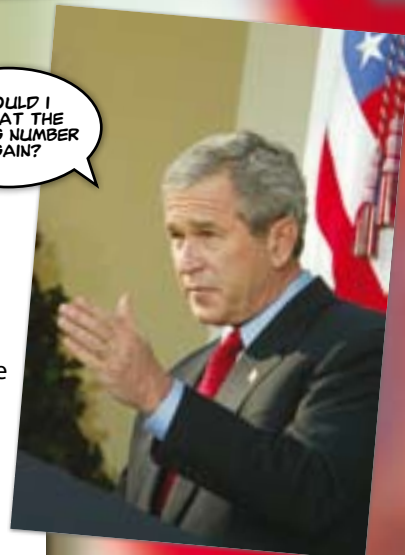
Wrong number

SHOULD I REPEAT THE WRONG NUMBER AGAIN?

George Bush is in the news again after making another one of his famous verbal **gaffes**. This time, he gave out the wrong phone number... twice. "I have a message for every **homeowner** worried about rising **mortgage** payments: the best you can do for your family is to call 1-800-995-HOPE," Bush said, before repeating the message with the same wrong number.

The message was supposed to promote a **help-line** for **homeowners** who wanted advice on how to deal with **rising bills**. But

the number the US president gave out was for a school in Texas (the Freedom Christian Academy). Almost immediately, the school became **inundated with calls**. Officials at the school eventually decided to **take the phone off the hook** after secretaries became tired of re-directing callers. "I've tried my best to give the correct number to those people when they called, but it got a little **overwhelming**," a school worker said. White House officials later gave out the correct telephone number as 1-888-995-HOPE. *



Cane You

Self-defence classes for the elderly.

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



of the hands, wrists, arms and bodies and going on to turning and twirling

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

Kind Driver

A helpful driver found himself in a sticky situation.

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

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



GLOSSARY

- a gaffe** *n*
a stupid or careless mistake
- a homeowner** *n*
a person who has/owns a house
- a mortgage** *n*
an amount of money which you get from a bank in order to buy a house
- a help-line** *n*
a special telephone number that you call if you want to get help on a particular issue
- to rise** *vb*
to increase
- a bill** *n*
a written statement/letter telling you how much you must pay for goods or services
- inundated with calls** *exp*
if you are "inundated with calls", you receive so many calls that you cannot deal with them all
- to take the phone off the hook** *exp*
to take the telephone receiver off the part that it normally rests on, so that the phone will not ring
- overwhelming** *adj*
if something is "overwhelming", it affects you a lot, and you do not know how to deal with it
- a walking stick** *n*
a long wooden stick that someone uses to help them walk
- a warm-up** *n*
physical exercises that you do before doing sport
- a stranglehold** *n*
a way of holding someone by putting your arms around their neck
- an arm lock** *n*
a way of holding someone by putting your arms around a part of their body
- to pay off** *phrvb*
if an action "pays off", it is successful or profitable after a period of time
- to move out of the way** *exp*
to change your position so that something or someone can pass
- to set** *vb*
when concrete "sets" it becomes firm or hard
- concrete** *n*
a substance used for building which consists of cement, sand, small stones and water
- to pull over** *phrvb*
if you "pull over" while you are driving, you stop the car
- a stretch of road** *n*
an area or a length of road



British bar chat

US bar chat

The Underground

Andy: I went on the **Underground** today. It was just terrible. It was, just so many people around. I can't...

Katherine: It's terrible. [Yeah.] This morning I didn't even have anywhere to put my feet. Pushing, **shoving**, pushing, shoving.

Andy: Yeah, I don't know. I think they should put more like more trains on or something. I don't know. I don't know. There's enough people going on the m... you know the Underground to make it worth their while. And it's just... everyone's, everyone's so **bad tempered** in the morning. You get such... I don't know. I hate... I hate people in the Underground.

Katherine: It's too hot. There's no air conditioning. Somebody **fainted** the other day and nobody did anything.

Andy: Nothing? What they just [**Nope**] like watched?

Katherine: Nope. They just watched. They called the security, security pull him over. Then more people get on the train, more people get off. Push, shove. Nobody has any respect for anybody anymore.

Andy: Yeah, I **guess** people are sort of frightened of **getting involved in stuff** and having to go and make police statements. I don't know.

Katherine: Frightened of helping someone?

Andy: I don't know like he could've been a **druggie**. He could've been a drunk person.

Katherine: He was in a **suit**.

Andy: Yeah? That's a bit unfair though, isn't it? So, you only help people because they're in a suit or something, you know. [Well.] What ... would you've... what... did you do anything?

Katherine: ...I couldn't.

Andy: Yeah. There you go. There. Wait a minute, you're criticising other people.

Katherine: There was a lot of people in my way. ☺



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

The Scouts

Nicholas: Do you have time for another?

Kjersti: Yeah, but just one. I have to **pick my nephew up** from Boy Scouts.

Nicholas: Oh yeah? Does he like being a Boy Scout?

Kjersti: Absolutely! They go camping and **hiking** and swimming. He loves the outdoors. Plus it's a great **outlet** for all his energy.

Nicholas: I suppose that when kids are kept occupied they have fewer opportunities to **act out**.

Kjersti: Exactly. I was a Brownie when I was younger and look how great I **turned out!**

Nicholas: A Brownie?

Kjersti: Yeah, that's an age group in the Girl Scouts, you know similar to Cub Scouts. So then you're supposed to **work your way up to the top**.

Nicholas: So, how long were you in the Girl Scouts?

Kjersti: Erm, one year.

Nicholas: Only one?

Kjersti: Er, yeah! But I got the "Perfect Attendance **Patch**".

Nicholas: Well, good for you. Well, **you'd better** go get your nephew.

Kjersti: Oh, that's right. See you later! ☺



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

The Serial Comma

Punctuation problems related to the comma.

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

The serial comma is the comma that is used in lists of words. In most cases, it comes just before the last "and". For example:

- a)** Italy, Germany, and England. (This is written *with* the serial comma.)
- b)** Italy, Germany and England. (This is written *without* the serial comma.)

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

"I would like to dedicate this song to my parents, John and Jane." In this sentence there is ambiguity. From the way it is written, it could have two distinct meanings:

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

Here is another example:

"My favourite types of sandwiches are tuna, ham and cheese." Without the serial comma, it isn't clear if the writer likes two or three types of sandwiches:

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

However, if you add the comma, the meaning is less ambiguous if you want to say that you like three sandwiches:

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

Here is another example:

"I spoke to Sally, a police officer and a cook."

This sentence is also somewhat ambiguous. Here are the three possible meanings:

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

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

So, as you can see, the serial comma is quite good in some cases when you want to avoid ambiguity. However, despite this, there is no consensus among writers or editors on the use of the serial comma. Oxford is in favour of the comma (hence the name, the Oxford Comma). The Oxford Style Manual (2002) says, "The last comma serves also to resolve ambiguity, particularly when any of the items are compound terms joined by a conjunction [such as 'and']". However, other publishers and publications argue that the Oxford Comma is against conventional practice and that it is better to improve the wording of the sentence in order to avoid the ambiguity. We at Hot English believe in being practical, and our policy is: if the Oxford Comma makes the sentence easier to understand, use it. What do you think? ☆



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

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

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

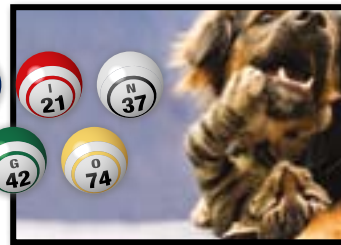
Bingo games may not last over 5 hours unless they are held at a fair. (North Carolina)

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOSSARY

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

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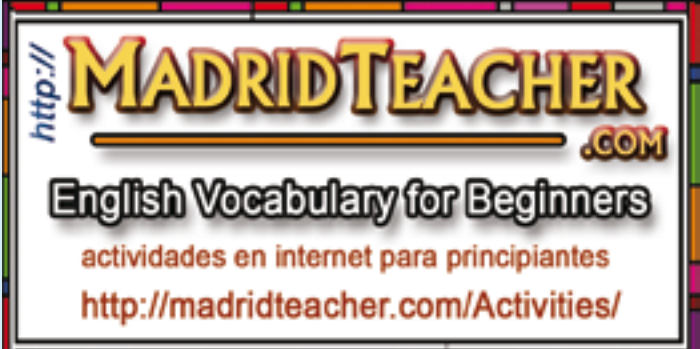
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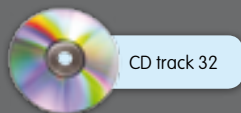
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DICTIONARY OF SLANG



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



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GLOSSARY

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

a heel *n*
the part of your shoe/foot that is at the bottom (of your shoe/foot) and at the back

Answers

- Guide Book Blunder page 6
1D 2A 3E 4C 5B
Story Time page 10
1C 2H 3A 4G 5D 6F 7B 8E
Functional Language page 11
A2 B4 C3 D1
Trivia Matching page 16
1E 2C 3A 4K 5B 6D 7F 8M 9G 10N 11H
12I 13L 14J
Little Jokes page 29
1C 2H 3F 4D 5G 6B 7E 8A
Dirty Movies? page 36
1 The Simpsons Movie
2 Borat
3 There's Something About Mary
4 Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix
5 Shrek
6 Casino Royale

Situation



Formal



Relaxed



Informal

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

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



A home from home; a home away from home

A place where you feel as comfortable as you do in your own home.
"This bar is like a home from home for many ex-pat business people."



Be home and dry

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



Be home free

To be certain to succeed at something because you have finished the most difficult part of it.
"Once you leave this road, you just go over the bridge, then you're home free - we're the first house on the left."



Be nothing (much) to write home about

Not to be especially good or exciting.
"The film was OK, but it was nothing much to write home about."



A home truth

If you tell someone a "home truth", you tell them an unpleasant fact, usually something bad about themselves.
"Jim is always criticising us for the way we live, but it's time that someone told that man a few home truths."



Bring home the bacon

To earn the money to live on.
"Who brings home the bacon in your family?"

LORD LONGFORD

Who is the most controversial figure in your country? One of England's is probably Lord Longford. He was an aristocrat who opposed gay rights and who defended one of England's most notorious killers, Myra Hindley. His relationship with Myra Hindley is the subject of a recent film (*Longford* 2006), which stars English actor Jim Broadbent. This is the story of Lord Longford.

Lord Longford (born Francis Aungier Pakenham on 5th December 1905) was a man of many things. He was a politician, an author and a social reformer. He was a Labour Party minister and is considered (by some) to be a human rights campaigner. However, he was probably most famous for his campaign for the release of Moors Murderer **Myra Hindley***.

As you would expect, Lord Longford had a privileged **upbringing**. He was educated at Eton College and New College, Oxford. He graduated with a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He married on 3rd November 1931 and had a total of eight children. In 1940, after a period of religious unease, he converted to Roman Catholicism. He first appeared in the news during the 1970s. At this time, he was a leading figure in the Nationwide Festival of Light. This organisation was protesting against the commercial exploitation of sex and violence in Britain. It also **advocated** the teaching of Christ as the key to recovering "moral stability" in the nation. As part of the anti-pornography campaigning, Lord Longford went on a tour of sex shops, strip clubs and topless bars. This made him a **subject of derision** and he became known as "Lord Porn".

It was also around this time that Lord Longford started making contact with Myra Hindley. Hindley was in prison for the murder of a number of children and teenagers. In 1977, Lord Longford appeared on television and spoke openly of his belief that Hindley should be released from prison (despite having only been arrested 12 years earlier) as she had **repented for her sins** and was "no longer a danger to the public". In 1985, he condemned the decision not to review Hindley's case for another five years as "barbaric", and his campaign for Hindley continued even after she admitted to two more murders in 1986. On a radio talk show to promote his new book about saints, he was asked by a caller whether he **regretted** having helped Myra Hindley. "Not at all," he said. "As a matter of fact, I consider my

visiting Myra Hindley, and indeed, all the other prisoners I've visited for over fifty years, to be one of the great **blessings** of my life."

Lord Longford was also famous for his homophobic views. He was a **staunch opponent** of any kind of gay rights legislation. In 1998, at the age of 92, he made the following claim in the House Of Lords, "If someone seduced my daughter, it would be damaging and horrifying but not fatal. She would recover, marry and have lots of children. On the other hand, if some elderly, or not so elderly, schoolmaster seduced one of my sons and taught him to be a homosexual, he would ruin him for life." What a nice chap!

Lord Longford and his wife had eight children, among them the writers Antonia Fraser, Rachel Billington, and Thomas Pakenham. His wife Elizabeth was also a noted writer. The fascinating film, *Longford*, looks at this famous lord's campaigning for one of England's most hated women. Something that many people found hard to accept. ✚

LORD LONGFORD

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



*MYRA HINDLEY

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



LONGFORD – THE FILM

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



GLOSSARY

- an upbringing** *n*
your "upbringing" is the way that your parents treat you and the things that they teach you when you are a child
- to advocate** *vb*
to recommend something publicly
- to be a subject of derision** *exp*
if someone is "a subject of derision", they are laughed at and made fun of
- to repent for your sins** *exp*
to show or say that you are sorry for something bad/illegal/immoral that you have done wrong
- to regret** *vb*
if you "regret" something you have done, you feel bad about it and wish that you hadn't done it
- a blessing** *n*
something good for which you are thankful
- a staunch opponent** *n*
someone who is firmly against something
- a moor** *n*
an area of high land that is mostly covered by wild grass

PHRASAL VERB THEMES: THE HOME

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

MOVE OUT

TO STOP LIVING IN A PARTICULAR HOUSE OR FLAT.



MOVE IN TO (INTO)

TO START LIVING IN A NEW HOUSE OR FLAT.



MOVE IN TOGETHER

TO START LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE AS SOMEONE.



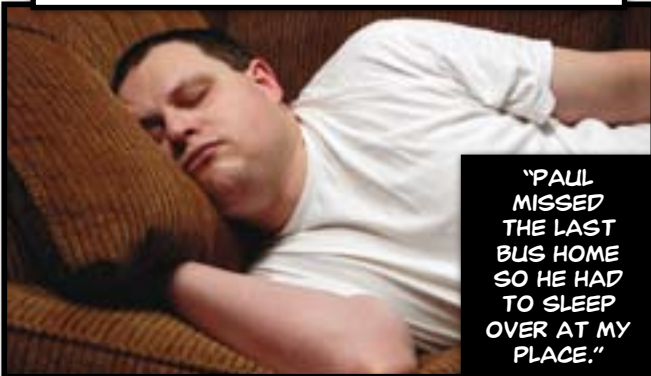
PUT SOMEBODY UP

TO LET SOMEONE STAY IN YOUR HOME FOR A SHORT TIME.



SLEEP OVER

TO SLEEP IN SOMEONE'S HOUSE FOR A NIGHT.



DO UP

TO DECORATE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF A HOUSE.



PULL DOWN

TO DEMOLISH A BUILDING, OFTEN BECAUSE IT IS OLD OR ABOUT TO FALL DOWN.



LIVE ON (AN AMOUNT OF MONEY)

TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY THE THINGS YOU NEED IN ORDER TO LIVE, EAT, PAY RENT, ETC.



ONCE



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



THE PLOT

The movie starts with the unnamed "Guy" (played by Glen Hansard) **busking** on Dublin's Grafton Street, doing **cover versions**. A **junkie** tries to steal Guy's **earnings** but apologises when Guy catches him. Later, at night, while Guy is performing songs he wrote by himself, a friendly Czech girl (Irglová) who is referred to as "Girl" starts talking to him. When Guy mentions that his real job is repairing **vacuum cleaners**, Girl mentions that her hoover is broken. Although Guy is unfriendly at first (he has recently split up from his girlfriend), when Girl arrives the next day (with the hoover) they go to a music shop where Girl plays the piano and Guy realises that she is a **gifted** musician. They soon become friends.



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

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



A MODERN-DAY MUSICAL... OR ROMANCE?

Once is both a musical and a love story with a difference. Unlike ordinary musicals, everyone on screen doesn't **burst into song** spontaneously. However, the musicians in the film perform each number while the rest of the actors blend into the backdrop of grotty, working-class Dublin. And this is why director John Carney (former bass guitarist with *The Frames*) described it as a "modern-day musical". Cillian Murphy, who starred in *28 Days Later* and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, was supposed to play Guy but Glen Hansard became the final choice. Murphy was a talented musician before he became an actor but, as it turned out, Hansard became the star of the show, thereby turning it round from actor/musician to musician/actor. Glen's only other major acting performance was in the film *The Commitments* where he played, yes, you guessed it, a guitarist.

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



GLOSSARY

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

Franglais

A new form of language that combines French and English.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Would you like to speak Franglais? ✨

FRENCH WORDS USED IN ENGLISH

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



FRANGLAIS (AS USED BY THE FRENCH)

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



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

MILES KINGTON

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

GLOSSARY

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

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Headline News

Headline News N° 4

The voice of the people

London 2008



Gender Music



Do men and women listen to music differently?

Does knowing what **amplifier** Paul McCartney used on *Sergeant Pepper* enhance the experience? Or is it a crowded dancefloor and the opening chords to *Dancing Queen* that **gets you going**? The BBC's head of pop music, Lesley Douglas, recently said that men listen to music on an intellectual level while women respond emotionally. This statement has **sparked controversy**. Ms Douglas, who coordinates the BBC's **coverage** of pop music across radio and television, said that female listeners had a more emotional reaction to songs and were not interested in production techniques. "Men treat discussions about popular



culture like it's some secret **nerd-battle**, where you use your superior **arsenal of trivial facts** to prove that you love *The Clash* more than anyone else. Women, on the other hand, prove that they love a song by either screaming, 'I love this song!' and getting up and dancing to it, or **wailing**, 'I love this song!' and **bursting into tears**," Ms Douglas explained. Pete Paphides, another music journalist, said music behaviour in men may represent a modern take on prehistoric times. He said that record collecting, for example, was a contemporary, "pleasant alternative" to "**dragging the carcass** of a wild ox back to your home." ☺

Facebook Warning

Social networking sites such as Facebook can ruin your life.

Are you a member of a social networking site? A new report has highlighted the dangers of putting personal information up on the net. Apparently, authorities and employers regularly scan these sites as they **search** for information about people. Last September, two top junior British tennis players had a **nasty surprise**. The tennis authority found pictures of them that

publicised a lifestyle of partying, drinking and eating junk food. As a result, the players had their funding and **coaching withdrawn**. A spokesman from the tennis authority said, "The people they're **letting down** the most are themselves. They've either got to behave like professional athletes or go and do something else." At Cambridge University, at least one professor has admitted scanning applicants' pages – a practice now common in job recruitment. A recent survey said that 62 per cent of British employers check the Facebook, MySpace or Bebo pages of some applicants, and that a quarter had rejected candidates as a result. Reasons given by employers included concerns about "excess alcohol abuse" and "job disrespect". Social network sites have certainly brought unexpected pleasure to millions. But if people aren't careful, the sites could soon be bringing them some equally unexpected surprises. ☺



GLOSSARY

- an amplifier** *n*
a piece of electronic equipment for increasing the level of sound of an instrument
- to get you going** *exp*
to motivate you
- to spark controversy** *exp*
to start a lot of discussion and argument about something, often involving strong feelings of anger
- coverage** *n*
the "coverage" of an event is the filming or recording of it
- a nerd** *n*
someone who is not considered to be trendy or cool, particularly as they wear unstylish clothes or behave awkwardly in social situations
- an arsenal of trivial facts** *exp*
a lot of useless facts about something
- to wail** *vb*
to say something in a loud high-pitched voice that shows that you are excited, unhappy or in pain
- to burst into tears** *phr vb*
to start crying suddenly
- to drag** *vb*
to pull something along the ground, often with difficulty
- a carcass** *n*
the body of a dead animal
- to search** *vb*
to look for
- a nasty surprise** *exp*
something that happens that is unpleasant and not expected
- coaching** *n*
training with an instructor
- to withdraw** *vb*
to remove or take away
- to let down** *phr vb*
to disappoint someone by not doing what is expected of you



Prince Plot

Prince Charles in trouble after promoting Spanish company.

*Royal Warrants

Royal Warrants are given to people or companies who have regularly supplied goods or services for a minimum of five consecutive years to the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh or the Prince of Wales as part of a "proper commercial relationship".

Royal Warrants last for five years. They are often renewed, but can be cancelled at any time. There are 800 Royal Warrant holders with more than 1,100 warrants between them, but only a very few are foreign companies. The warrant system started in 1840 when a group of tradespeople held a celebration in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday. It became an annual event and led to the formation of the Royal Warrant Holders Association. Warrant holders can use the legend "By Appointment" and show the Royal coat of arms on their products, stationery, advertisements and other printed material such as invoices, as well as on their premises and delivery vehicles.

"Any suggestion that Prince Charles is using **Royal Warrants*** as a means of getting **cut-price** luxury goods **demeans** the entire monarchy," said Labour MP Ian Davidson, who has accused Prince Charles of benefiting from his position. The MP is demanding that the prince clarify his position with a Spanish **tiling company** after a former director said that some tiling work for the prince was carried out for free. There has even been the suggestion that this work was in return for receiving a Royal Warrant.

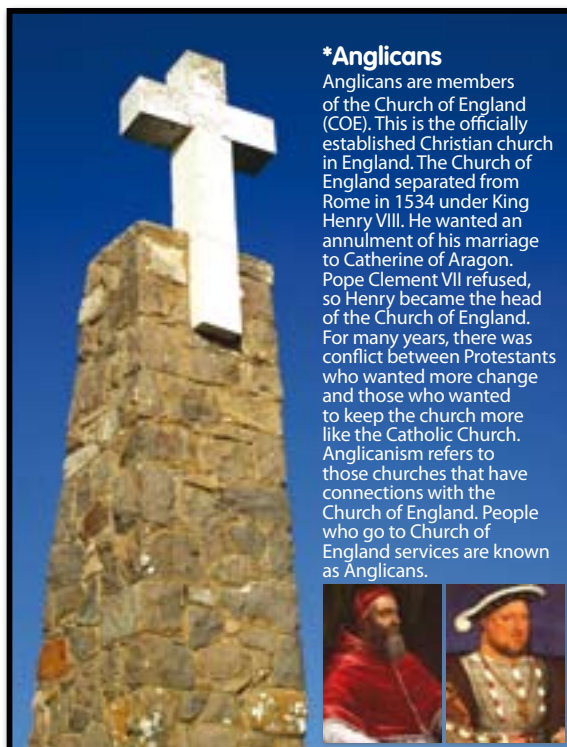
The claim is denied by the company, although its British spokesman accepts that the Prince received a **discount** – but would not disclose how much. According to the executive, the company started donating money to Charles's favourite charities in order to **curry favour**. The company's publicity coup came in 2001, when an Islamic garden it had built at a cost of £100,000 won a silver medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. At the end of the show, the garden was transferred to Highgrove (the country palace of Prince Charles). To mark the garden's arrival, company directors were treated to dinner. ✪

Catholic Britain

The changing face of Britain.

For centuries, it's been Britain's main religion. But now things are changing. A recent study shows that Catholics **outnumber Anglicans*** in Britain for the first time.

Estimates for **church attendances** in 2006 (based on previous years' figures) reveal 861,800 Catholics attended services every Sunday compared with 852,500 Anglican worshippers. Part of the reason for the increase is the large numbers of immigrants coming in from Catholic countries, especially Poland. "There's been a substantial number of Poles coming in and 85 per cent of them are Catholic, so that's going to **boost** your numbers," said Tony Briars of the organisation Christian Research. In a related story, Tony Blair announced his recent conversion to Catholicism. The former prime minister was previously an Anglican. Many believe that Blair **held off** converting during his time **in office** for political and personal reasons: there has never been a Catholic prime minister and many of Labour's policies were opposed by Catholics, such as gay marriages and **stem cell research**. ✪



*Anglicans

Anglicans are members of the Church of England (COE). This is the officially established Christian church in England. The Church of England separated from Rome in 1534 under King Henry VIII. He wanted an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Pope Clement VII refused, so Henry became the head of the Church of England. For many years, there was conflict between Protestants who wanted more change and those who wanted to keep the church more like the Catholic Church. Anglicanism refers to those churches that have connections with the Church of England. People who go to Church of England services are known as Anglicans.

GLOSSARY

cut-price adj

very cheap; cheaper than the normal price

to demean vb

to show very little respect for someone

a tiling company n

a company that produces tiles (flat pieces of baked clay used for covering roofs/walls, etc)

a discount n

a reduction in the usual price of something

to curry favour exp

to try and get someone's support or cooperation by being nice to them

to outnumber vb

to be greater than something else in number

church attendance n

the number of people who go to church

to boost vb

to increase

to hold off doing something exp

to delay doing something

in office exp

the time you spend "in office"; is the time you are working as a minister

stem cell research n

research involving the creation, use, and destruction of stem cells from embryos (unborn humans or animals in the very early stages of development)

Word of the month:

PC

This month's word is "PC (politically correct)".

Political correctness" (often abbreviated to "PC") is a term used to describe language or ideas that aren't offensive. Being PC is a way of trying not to offend racial, religious or cultural groups. For example, instead of referring to "black" people, the accepted term is African-Americans, or Afro-Caribbean British. Quite rightly, many felt that it was wrong to use colour as a means of referring to a group of people. Other examples include eliminating any sexist language and using more general terms and expressions. So, instead of "policeman" we have "police officer", and instead of "postman" we have "postal worker".



In other cases, PC terms are used to talk about physical disabilities. The term "hearing-impaired" is often used instead of "deaf", and "sight-impaired" instead of "blind". People with mental difficulties may be referred to as "mentally-impaired" or "mentally-challenged". Some slightly more ridiculous examples include using the term "vertically-challenged" to describe someone who isn't tall.

In some cases, political correctness seems to have gone too far. Just recently, there was the case of the traditional children's nursery rhyme "Baa Baa Black Sheep" which was changed to read "Baa Baa Rainbow Sheep" so as not to offend certain people. Other controversial examples include the banning of the word "Christmas" on the grounds that it might be offensive to non-Christians.

On a similar note, the BBC recently **bleeped out** some words in a *Pogues* Christmas song to avoid upsetting homosexuals; however, other words in the song that were insulting to women were allowed to stay.



And in another extreme case, teachers in a school were told to avoid using the terms "mum and dad" because "it is anti-gay" as some children may have same-sex parents. Teachers were advised to use the term "parents" in letters or e-mails home to... erm, parents.

Typical expressions

That isn't very politically correct.
That was a non-PC comment.
That wasn't very PC.
That is really non-PC.
I know it isn't very PC, but have you heard the joke about... ❄️

GLOSSARY
to bleep out *phr vb*
if a word is "bleeped out", a sound substitutes the word so it cannot be heard

next month in
hot english

Hot Story: next month sees the start of our 9-part story: **The Flat**. We'll be including an episode of this exciting story every month.

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