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TABOO NUNS

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CD index



- 1 Hello
- 2 Marijuana Vending Machines
- 3 Australian Party Teen
- 4 Fingers' Error Correction (low level)
- 5 Nursery Rhymes
- 6 Story Time
- 7 Functional Language
- 8 Social English
- 9 Siberian Punishment Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 10 Radio ad
- 11 Coffee Food
- 12 Find Bin
- 13 Radio Ad
- 14 Weird Trivia
- 15 Corny Criminals
- 16 999 Calls
- 17 Banning Tourists Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 18 Jokes
- 19 Graffiti
- 20 Bear Soldier
- 21 Bad Sleep
- 22 Song
- 23 Radio Ad
- 24 Typical Dialogues
- 25 Dr Fingers' Vocabulary
- 26 Quirky News
- 27 Radio Ad
- 28 British Bar Chat
- 29 US Bar Chat
- 30 McDonald's Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 31 Dumb US Laws
- 32 Dictionary of Slang
- 33 Error correction (high level)
- 34 Radio Ad
- 35 Idioms
- 36 Radio ad
- 37 Three Little Pigs
- 38 Goth Attack
- 39 Naughty Cop Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 40 Advertising Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 41 Technology Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 42 Marketing Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 43 Radio Ad
- 44 Business Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 45 Medicine Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 46 Finance Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 47 Telephone Conversation Teacher's/Student's Pack
- 48 Goodbye



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

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 cinema edition, with articles on two great **upcoming films**: *Indiana Jones* and *Sex and the City*. For some reason, I keep referring to the series as *Sex in the City*, but then that would mean the programme is only about one thing: sex; whereas *Sex and the City* means it's

about two things: sex, and New York City. It's funny how one word can change so much!

Talking about language, a reader wrote in recently commenting on our new section "The Name Game". In a previous article, we said that "smart" means intelligent, but he rightly pointed out that "smart" can also be used to describe someone who is clean and neat in appearance. For example, "She looked very smart in her new suit." We aren't sure what the makers of the Smart car actually meant, but they were probably going for a combination of both definitions.

Still on the topic of language, I heard another classic example of Spanglish from my son just recently. He told me that something wasn't "flano". He was trying to say "flat", but ended up creating a mixture of "flat" plus the Spanish word "plano". It's amazing how language works.

Back to Hot English. This month, we've also got an article on Brian de Palma's latest film *Redacted*, which is causing quite a controversy, and another article on a controversy surrounding a traditional English nursery rhyme. Plus lots of other articles on topics of interest and language. 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 are 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 courses@hotenglishmagazine.com

PPS For lots more free content, please visit Dr Fingers' blog. He's writing away as we speak: www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog

GLOSSARY
upcoming films 17
films that are going to come out

Magazine Index

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Marijuana Vending Machines & Australian Party Teen
- 5 The Name Game
- 6 Doctor Anger
- 8 Headline News
- 9 Nursery Rhymes
- 10 Story Time
- 11 Functional Language: Time
- 12 Basic English: Clothes
- 13 Social English: Clothes
- 14 Headline News
- 15 Coffee Food & Find Bin
- 16 Trivia Matching
- 17 Weird Trivia
- 18 Dr Fingers' Grammar
- 19 Subscriptions
- 20 Corny Criminals
- 21 999 Calls & Recipe
- 22 Grammar Fun
- 23 Wonders of the World
- 24 Indiana Jones
- 26 Sex and the City
- 28 Headline News
- 29 Jokes, graffiti and cartoon
- 30 Bear Soldier & Bad Sleep
- 31 Anniversaries
- 32 Face to Face
- 33 Backissues
- 34 Vocabulary & Typical Dialogues: The Band part II
- 35 Dr Fingers' Vocabulary Clinic: Stopping
- 36 The Indian Mutiny
- 38 Quirky News
- 39 Bar Chats
- 40 Dumb US Laws
- 41 Directory
- 42 Dictionary of Slang
- 43 Idioms: The Home
- 44 Redacted
- 45 Phrasal Verbs: Sport
- 46 Dollywood & Dolly Parton
- 48 Headline News
- 49 Three Little Pigs & Goth Attack
- 50 Word of the Month: Sleaze

Pre-Intermediate

Intermediate

Upper Intermediate

Advanced

17

Weird Trivia
Bob Dylan's real name: revealed.

23

Wonders of the World
Great archaeological discoveries.

24

Indiana Jones
The action adventurer is back.

26

Sex and the City
The 4 cool girls from NYC are back, too..

44

Redacted
This year's most controversial film.

46

Dollywood & Dolly Parton
Living the American dream.

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Marijuana Vending Machines

California to use vending machines for marijuana.

What do you normally buy at a **vending machine**? A Coca-Cola? A packet of **crisps**? A new report says that some vending machines in California will sell marijuana. However, only people with a doctor's **prescription** can use the machines. People who buy the marijuana must show a special pass to the **security guard** at the machine. Then, the security guard checks the person's **fingerprints** and a camera takes a photo of the person. Sometimes, marijuana can help people who are in a lot of **pain**. Eleven US states permit the use of marijuana as a **medicine**. But many people do not agree with this. ☺



Australian Party Teen

Australian party teenager turns pro.

LET'S PARTY!

"It was the best party ever – that's what everyone's saying," said Corey Delaney, an Australian **teenager**. Last month, Delaney, 16, had a party when his parents were away. The party caused more than \$18,000 of **damage**. Five hundred teenagers went to the party at Delaney's home in Melbourne. Delaney's **neighbours** called the police because there was a lot of **noise**. The



police came with dogs. But now, Delaney says he is going to be a professional party **host**. He even has a **manager**, Max Markson.

"He did a great party in the wrong place. Now we're going to do a great party in the right place," Markson said. People have different **opinions** of Delaney: for some, he is a **hero**; for others, he is just an arrogant **brat**. ☺

GLOSSARY

- a vending machine** *n*
a machine that sells things in public places, usually snack foods and drinks
- crisps** *n*
thin pieces of fried potatoes – a popular snack that usually comes in a small, plastic bag ("chips" in US english)
- a prescription** *n*
a note that a doctor writes; it says that a patient needs a specific medicine
- a security guard** *n*
a person who is paid to protect a certain place and maintain security (bank, airport, etc)
- a fingerprint** *n*
the small lines on the soft part of your finger. They are used to identify you
- pain** *n*
an unpleasant sensation that a person feels when they are injured/hurt
- medicine** *n*
a substance / pill that you take when you are sick
- a teenager** *n*
an adolescent; a person between thirteen and nineteen years old
- damage** *n*
if something is "damaged", it is broken or in a bad condition
- a neighbour** *n*
a person who lives in the house/flat next to you, or very close to you
- a noise** *n*
a sound that you can hear; "noise" is usually unpleasant or loud
- a host** *n*
a person who organises and coordinates an event. The opposite of a guest
- a manager** *n*
a person who is responsible for the money/administration of a business or organisation
- an opinion** *n*
a person's feelings or ideas about a specific subject or theme
- a hero** *n*
a person who is respected by other people for doing something very good or brave
- a brat** *n*
a negative word to describe a child who is annoying or especially impolite

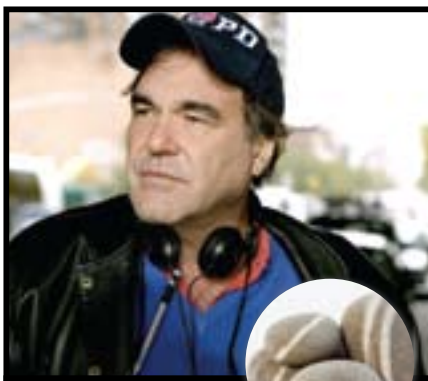
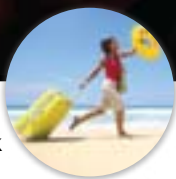
THE NAME GAME

This is another part in our series of famous names with meaning. More next month.



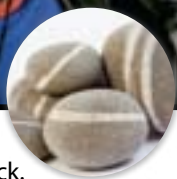
Billy Holiday

A "holiday" is a break you have from work.
"They went to the south of France for their holiday."



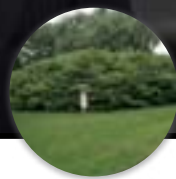
Oliver Stone

A "stone" is a little rock.
"He threw a stone at the window and broke it."



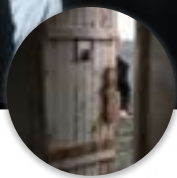
George Bush

A "bush" is a small tree.
"The garden had bushes all around it."



The Doors

A "door" is the thing you open to get into a room.
"Please close the door behind you."



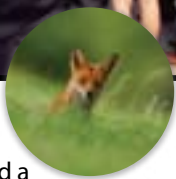
The Eagles

An "eagle" is a very large bird that eats little mammals.
"The eagle flew down and caught the rabbit."



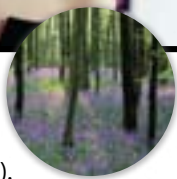
Michael J. Fox

A "fox" is a type of dog with red hair and a bushy tail (a tail with a lot of hair).
"Fox hunting is illegal in England now."



Natalie Wood

A "wood" is a forest (a large number of trees all in one place).
"They walked through the wood collecting wild flowers."



Al Gore

"Gore" is a word used to refer to the presence of a lot of blood. A "gory" film is one with a lot of blood. And a "gory" picture has an image of an injury with blood.
"The film was full of blood and gore."



Train Anger

A doctor gets angry on a train.

Match each form of transport with its corresponding picture. **Answers on page 42**



- | | | | | | | | |
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A doctor was on a train. He ordered some food. But when the food came, he got very angry. Why?

Dr Russell Walshaw was on a train. He was travelling to London. At the time of the incident, he was in the first class **dining carriage**. The 66-year-old doctor was sitting there when a **steward** came to talk to him. The steward wanted to prepare the tables for lunch. So, he asked the doctor **politely**, "Would you mind moving, please?" However, the doctor didn't want to move. He had just finished eating breakfast and he was working on his **laptop**. "You can **lay the table** around me," the doctor said.

The doctor continued working until the steward came back to lay

the table. But then the problems started. "The steward put the **plate** down on the table very **forcefully**," the doctor explained. "I shouted at the steward. But he just walked away. I was so angry that I threw a plate."

The doctor was given a **warning** from the General Medical Council in London (The GMC). They said that the doctor's actions were "unacceptable". In his defence, the doctor said that he had been responding to the steward's aggression. "The steward **dropped** the plate on my table and showed **bad manners**," the doctor explained. "Also, I didn't throw the plate at him, I threw the plate in his general direction. I'm sorry that it hit him. Perhaps I should have just shouted at him instead." ❌



GLOSSARY

- a dining carriage** *n*
a special car/carriage in a train where people eat and there is a restaurant
- a steward** *n*
a person who works on a train/airplane serving food, helping passengers, etc
- politely** *adv*
with respect; considerately; not rudely
- a laptop** *n*
a small, portable computer that opens and closes like a book
- to lay the table** *exp*
to prepare a table for eating; to put plates, glasses, forks, knives, etc on it
- a plate** *n*
a round, flat ceramic object on which you put food to eat
- forcefully** *adv*
with a lot of force
- a warning** *n*
if you give someone a "warning", you tell them of a possible danger in the future
- to drop** *vb*
to let something fall from your hands; if something "drops", it falls accidentally
- bad manners** *exp*
if you have "bad manners", you are not polite to someone; you say/do rude things

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Headline News

Headline News N° 1

The voice of the people

London 2008

Official Apology

This May is the first anniversary of the disappearance of British **youngster** Madeline McCann. Many **theories** have **circulated** about whether her parents were involved in her disappearance. Now, two British newspapers have been ordered to pay **damages** for stories that accused the parents of causing the girl's death. The **libel** damages amount to €698,000.

The Daily Express has issued a front-page **apology** to the family and The Daily Star has done the same. Madeline's parents, Gerry and Kate McCann have said that they are **pleased** that the newspapers have admitted the "**utter falsity**" of the accusations.

This isn't the first time the couple have **sued** a publication for defamation. In August last year, Gerry and Kate took



The McCann's receive an apology.

the Portuguese newspaper Tal & Qual to court. An article from that newspaper said that Portuguese police were certain that the parents accidentally killed Madeline. Tal & Qual has **folded** since then.

Madeline went missing after being left alone with her younger sister and brother in May last year while

on holiday in Praia da Luz, Portugal. Although there have been possible **sightings** of the **toddler**, she hasn't been found yet. ☺

GLOSSARY

- a youngster** *n*
a child
- a theory** *n*
an unproven idea
- to circulate** *vb*
if an idea/story is "circulating", many people are talking about it
- damages** *n*
money won in court as compensation
- libel** *n*
the crime of writing something untrue about someone
- an apology** *n*
the act of saying sorry to someone
- pleased** *adj*
happy
- an utter falsity** *exp*
something which is not true
- to sue** *vb*
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation
- to fold** *vb/inform*
to close
- a sighting** *n*
if there is a "sighting" of something, that thing is seen
- a toddler** *n*
a child between one and four
- an occupation** *n*
when one country keeps its army in another country
- a community** *n*
a group of people
- to ruin** *vb*
to cause something to go badly
- upcoming** *adj*
something happening in the close future
- an uprising** *n*
a revolution; a rebellion against a government or authority
- to go into exile** *exp*
to go to live in another country for political reasons
- the authorities** *n*
the police, government officials etc
- overseas** *adv*
in another country
- to demand** *vb*
if you "demand" something, you ask for that thing with force/aggression
- to commit** *vb*
if someone "commits" a crime, they do that crime
- an incarnation** *n*
a living representative of someone who is dead
- charismatic** *n*
with an attractive personality / way of speaking

What a Riot

Tibetans attack the Chinese.

There has been a lot of rioting and protests in Tibet. The Tibetans have been protesting the Chinese government's **occupation** of their country. The protestors have attacked people from the Han **community**, who are ethnically Chinese.

The Chinese government has accused the **Dalai Lama*** of organising the riots to **ruin** the **upcoming** Beijing Olympics. The Dalai Lama has denied this. The Dalai Lama is the leader of Tibetan Buddhists around the world and has always said that he is a total pacifist. The protests began around the anniversary of a failed **uprising** against Chinese rule in 1959. After that, the Dalai



Lama **went into exile** to India. He is the leader of the Tibetan government-in-exile there. The Chinese **authorities** say that only a few people were killed, but **overseas** Tibetan groups say that a lot of people died.

Tibet was independent for many decades until communist forces invaded in 1950. Since then the people of the country have **demand**ed independence and say that the Chinese government has **committed** many human-rights abuses. ☺

*Dalai Lama

Tenzin Gyatso (the Dalai Lama) is the spiritual leader of Buddhists all over the world. He says he is the fourteenth **incarnation** of the Dalai Lama, a line of Buddhist holy men who have appeared throughout history. He is a **charismatic** man and has won the Nobel Peace Prize. He believes in non-violence and during the recent unrest in Tibet asked Tibetans not to use force. There has also been a movie about him, called *Kundun*, directed by Martin Scorsese.



NURSERY TIMES

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



Old Mother Hubbard

The words to this rhyme refer to Cardinal Wolsey. Cardinal Thomas Wolsey was an important person from the 16th century (during the Tudor period of history)

who worked for King Henry VIII. Things went well at first, but later, Wolsey **“failed”** to get a divorce for the King from Queen Katherine of Aragon.

The king wanted the divorce so he could marry Anne Boleyn. In the song, Wolsey is Old Mother Hubbard, King Henry is the **“doggie”** and the **“bone”** refers to the divorce. The **“cupboard”** symbolises the Catholic Church. The subsequent divorce, arranged by Thomas Cramner, resulted in the **break** with **Rome** and the formation of the **Anglican Church**.

Old Mother Hubbard

Old Mother Hubbard,
Went to the cupboard,
To get her poor dog a bone,
But when she got there,
The cupboard was **bare**,
And so, the poor dog had none.

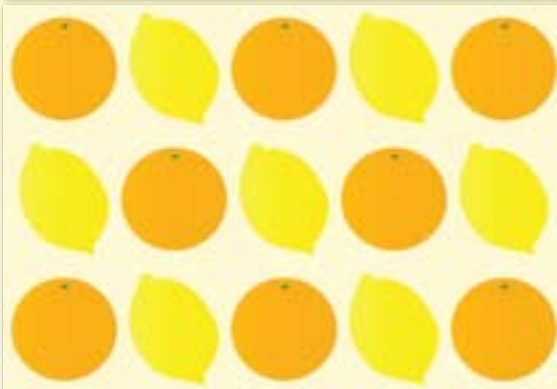
Oranges and lemons

This song originated in 1665. The names in the song relate to some of the many churches of London. Originally, the song was part of a **game of catch**. When a child was caught in the game (between the joined arms of two players), the child's head was **“cut off”**.

The song is referring to a **debtor** (**“you owe me five farthings”**). At the time of the song, there were public executions in Newgate prison, sometimes for debtors. Just before the execution, prisoners were woken up by a bell (the **“Execution Bell”**), which is why there is a reference to bells.

Oranges and lemons

“Oranges and lemons,” say the Bells of St Clements,
“You owe me five farthings,” say the Bells of St Martins,
“When will you pay me?” say the Bells of Old Bailey,
“When I grow rich,” say the Bells of Shoreditch
“When will that be?” say the Bells of Stepney,
“I’m sure I do not know,” say the Great Bells of Bow,
“Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
Here comes a chopper to chop off your head.”



One two buckle my shoe

This nursery rhyme has no known connection with any events in history. Some say the song was invented as a fun way to teach children how to count.

One two buckle my shoe

One two **buckle** my shoe,
Three, four, knock at the door,
Five, six, pick up sticks,
Seven, eight, lay them straight,
Nine, ten, a big fat **hen**,
Eleven, twelve, **dig** and **delve**,
Thirteen, fourteen, **maids a-courting**,
Fifteen, sixteen, maids in the kitchen,
Seventeen, eighteen, maids **in waiting**,
Nineteen, twenty, my plate's empty.



CD track 5
English child

GLOSSARY

- to fail** *vb*
to be unsuccessful
- a doggie** *n inform*
a dog
- a bone** *n*
the hard objects that make up the skeleton in a body; dogs like to play with them
- a cupboard** *n*
the room in the kitchen where you keep food, dishes/plates, etc
- to break** *vb*
to separate
- Rome** *n*
the capital city in Italy; the centre of the Catholic Church
- Anglican Church** *n*
also called the Church of England; started by King Henry VIII when he left the Catholic Church
- bare** *adj*
empty; there is nothing inside
- a game of catch** *exp*
a type of game that children play in which they try to catch/trap each other
- a debtor** *n*
a person who owes money to another person
- to owe** *vb*
if you **“owe”** someone money, you must repay money that someone lent you
- a farthing** *n*
an old type of coin from England that was worth a quarter of a penny
- a chopper** *n*
a person or thing that **“chops”** or cuts (it can be a large knife)
- to chop off** *phr vb*
to separate A from B with a knife
- to buckle** *vb*
a **“buckle”** is a piece of metal or plastic attached to one end of a strap. This is used to **“close”** a shoe
- a hen** *n*
a female bird (such as a chicken)
- to dig** *vb*
to make a hole in the earth
- to delve** *vb*
if you **“delve”** into something, you investigate it and try to discover something about it
- a maid** *n*
an old English word for a young girl who is not married
- a-courting** *exp*
a colloquial way to say **“courting”**; if a maid is **“courting”**, she is looking for a husband
- in waiting** *exp*
a maid **“in waiting”** is a young, unmarried girl who works for a queen or princess

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Story Time

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

Hair Today

A man goes into the hairdresser's. He only has three hairs on his head. The hairdresser says, "Good morning. How would you like it?"

And the man replies, "A **side parting**, please."

So, the hairdresser tries to give him a side parting, but it's impossible.

"I'm sorry," says the hairdresser.

"Could we try something else?"

"OK," says the man. "How about a **middle parting**?"

So, the hairdresser tries that, but it's still no good.

"I'm really, really sorry," says the hairdresser.

"Oh, don't worry," says the man.

"Just leave it **in a mess**."



Turtle Food

There are three **turtles** who are best friends. One day they decide to go on a **picnic**. But when they get there, they realise that they've forgotten the drinks. "I'll go and get them," says one of the turtles. "OK," say the other two turtles. "We'll wait for you to come back before we start eating."

An hour goes by, then six hours, and finally a day. Eventually, one of the turtles says, "Oh, come on. I'm **starving**. Let's eat some of the sandwiches."

And all of a sudden, the first turtle **pops up** from behind a rock and says, "If you do, I won't go."

Baby Boom

Four **expectant fathers** are in a hospital waiting room. Their wives are **in labour**.

The nurse arrives and says to the first man, "Congratulations, you are the father of **twins**."

"What a coincidence!" says the first man. "I work for the Twins Baseball Team."

A little while later, the nurse returns and says to the second man, "You are the father of **triplets**."

"Wow! That's an incredible coincidence," he says. "I work for the 3M Corporation."

An hour later, the nurse comes back. This time, she turns to the third man, and tells him that his wife has just given birth to **quadruplets**.

And he says, "I don't believe it. I work for the Four Seasons Hotel!"

After hearing this, everybody's attention turns to the fourth guy, who has just **fainted**. The nurse **rushes** to his side and, after some time, he slowly **regains consciousness**.

The nurse asks, "Are you all right?"

"Yes," says the man. "I'm OK now. I just had a shocking thought. I work at the 7-11 store." ❗

NICE AND SLOWLY.



GLOSSARY

a side parting *n*
with a line of no hair down the side of your head

a middle parting *n*
with a line of no hair down the middle of your head

in a mess *exp*

not ordered

a turtle *n*

an animal with a hard shell on its back

a picnic *n*

if you have a "picnic", you have food outside in a park or in the country

starving *adj informal*

very, very hungry

to pop up *phr vb*

to appear suddenly

an expectant father *n*

a man whose wife/girlfriend/partner is going to have a baby

in labour *n*

if a woman is "in labour", she is about to have a baby

twins *n*

two babies born at the same time from the same mother

triplets *n*

three babies born at the same time from the same mother

quadruplets *n*

four babies born at the same time from the same mother

to faint *vb*

to lose consciousness

to rush *vb*

to move quickly

to regain consciousness *exp*

to become conscious again



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Telling the time

This month: telling the time.

- It's four o'clock.
- It's half past one. / It's one thirty.
- It's half past six. / It's six thirty.
- It's a quarter to seven. / It's six forty five.
- It's a quarter past three. / It's three fifteen.
- It's eight twenty five.
- It's five to nine.

Asking about the time

- What time is it, please?
- Have you got the time on you, please?
- What time do you make it, please?
- Is my clock right?
- What time is the exam?
- Is it an hour ahead in England?
- Is it an hour behind?

Talking about the time

- We have one hour.
- We don't have much time.
- There isn't much time.
- There's plenty of time.
- We've got time to get lunch.
- Time flies. ☆



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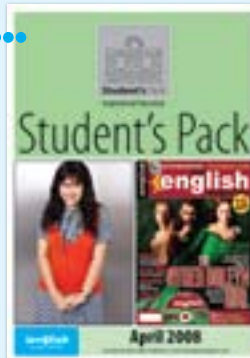
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clothes

Basic English





The Clothes Shop

Social English

This month: The Clothes Shop. Listen and repeat these expressions.



What you say

- Have you got these trousers in blue?
- I'm looking for a size 32.
- Is it 100% cotton?
- Where's the **checkout counter**?
- I'm looking for a size ten dress.
- Have you got this in a bigger/larger/smaller size, please?
- Where are the changing rooms, please?
- Could I try these on, please?
- Do you have this in a different colour?

- How much is this, please?
- Is this on sale?

What you hear

- What shirt size do you take?
- What shoe size are you?
- Shall I get you a bigger size?
- The changing rooms are just over there.
- You can get a refund if you keep the receipt.
- We take all major credit cards.
- There's a 25% reduction on the price. ❖

- I'd like to take these trousers back, please.
- Do you take credit cards?
- Have you got a shirt to go with these trousers?
- Have you got any trousers to **match** this shirt?



Now listen to this dialogue. In this conversation, Betty is in the clothes shop.

Assistant: Good afternoon, can I help you?

Betty: Yes, I was looking for a pair of trousers.

Assistant: What waist size are you?

Betty: 28.

Assistant: And what colour were you looking for?

Betty: Black or dark blue.

Assistant: Here you are. (She gives her a pair of trousers.)

Betty: Can I try them on?

Assistant: Yes, certainly. The changing rooms are over there. (She points to the changing rooms.)

Betty: Can I try a size 30 too, please? Just in case.

Assistant: Certainly. Here you are.
(5 minutes later Betty comes out.)
How are they?

Betty: Fine thanks. I think I need the size 30 – I must have **put on some weight** recently.

Assistant: Anything else?

Betty: Yes, I was also looking for a shirt to **go with** the trousers.

Assistant: How about these shirts here?

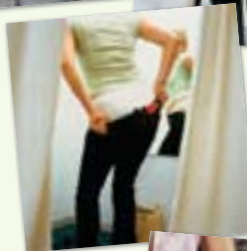
Betty: Yes, they look nice. Could I try one on, please?

Assistant: Yes. Here, these should fit you.

Betty: Great. Actually, I think I'll just take them because **I'm in a bit of a rush**.

Assistant: OK. That'll be 68 pounds, please.

Betty: Here you are. (Betty gives the assistant her card.)



NO, IT LOOKS TERRIBLE ON YOU.



GLOSSARY

a checkout counter *n*
the place in a shop where you pay and receive a receipt

to match *vb*

if one piece of clothing matches another, they go well together

to put on some weight *exp*

to become a bit fatter

to go with *exp*

if A "goes with" B, A goes well with B

I'm in a bit of a rush *exp*

I don't have much time

Headline News

Headline News N° 2

The voice of the people

London 2008

Offensive Buildings

Buildings cause a controversy.

Jewish-American leaders are **threatening** legal action against a Methodist community in Alabama over a controversially-shaped building. The building's shape is **contentious** because it is similar to a Nazi swastika. The American **navy** also owns a building with the same offensive design which was discovered by Google Earth last year and had to be reshaped.

This isn't the first time a building's shape has **stirred debate**. A British magazine (*Front*) recently published **aerial pictures** of Capitol Hill in Washington showing it and the streets leading up to it is eerily similar to the shape of the Eye of Isis on top of a pyramid. This ancient Egyptian symbol is used by the **Freemasons**. This has **conspiracy theorists in a tizzy**. Architecture has for a long time been suspected of holding secret messages from the designers. And many of the more suspicious members of society have noticed that Isis is also on the \$US dollar. Are **the powers that be** controlling us? Could it be aliens? Is Elvis hiding in Belfast? The truth is out there. ☛



Science King

The king of science fiction dies.

Famous Science Fiction author and inventor Arthur C. Clarke has died in Sri Lanka aged 90. The **renowned futurist** was very influential in the world of science and is best known for his book *The Sentinel* (1948). This short story was later re-written and made into the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) by director Stanley Kubrick.



Clarke was born in Somerset, England in 1917 and was interested in stars from an early age. He couldn't afford to go to university, so he had to work as an auditor. Later he was a member of the RAF during World

War II. Around this time he had become a member of the British Interplanetary Society and started writing sci-fi novels. All in all, he wrote over 100 **fiction and non-fiction books**.

Later, Clarke wrote about his scientific ideas and came up with the idea of **geostationary satellites**. He never **patented** the idea because he thought they would never be invented in his lifetime. He was also famous for his science programmes on British television during the 1980s and 1990s. Arthur C. Clarke also had an asteroid and a type of dinosaur named after him!

In recent years, he had been living in Sri Lanka where he owned a diving school which was destroyed by the tsunami in December 2006. He died on 19th March. His final book, *The Last Theorem* is being released later this year. ☛



GLOSSARY

- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something (often something bad) if someone doesn't do what you want
- contentious** *adj*
controversial
- the navy** *n*
the ships that form part of a country's armed forces
- to stir debate** *exp*
to cause a lot of discussion
- aerial pictures** *n*
photographs taken from the air
- Freemasons** *n*
a secret society
- a conspiracy theorist** *n*
someone who thinks there are sinister reasons behind current events
- in a tizzy** *exp inform*
very excited about something
- the powers that be** *n*
the government; powerful politicians
- renowned** *adj*
well-known and respected
- a futurist** *n*
someone who studies the future
- fiction** *n*
non-factual books; books about invented things
- non-fiction** *n*
factual books; books about real things
- geostationary satellites** *n*
satellites that pass over certain stations on the Earth's surface. Used for telecommunications
- a patent** *n*
if you own a "patent", you own the rights to an idea

GOODBYE!
I'M GOING
TO SPACE.



CD tracks 11, 12
Irishwoman & Englishwoman



New report says that coffee in the morning is a meal in a cup.

Coffee Food

What do you have for breakfast? A new report says that the coffee you have in the morning may contain up to 50% of the **calories** you need for the whole day. Some of the cups of coffee **tested** by a **consumer** magazine had almost 400 calories.

Researchers said that the **full-fat milk**, cream and chocolate in the coffees contains most of the calories.

A **skimmed milk** cappuccino only had about 30 calories. But the worst thing about the coffee shops is the food.

A **slice** of chocolate cake may have more than 600 calories; and some sandwiches can have as many as 500 calories.

The report said, "You might be surprised to know that some coffee shop sandwiches contain more calories, fat and salt than a fast-food hamburger." In Britain, the recommended daily intake of calories for women is 2,000 calories, and for men it is 2,500. So, a coffee and a **snack** could give you almost half that amount alone. ☘

Find Bin

The search for Bin Laden continues... but this time it's a film director.

Do you remember the film *Super Size Me* all about a man who lived off hamburgers for a month? That film was directed by Morgan Spurlock. Spurlock's **latest** film is even more **absurd**. It's about his search for the Al Qaeda leader, Osama Bin Laden. Spurlock visits countries such as Morocco, England and Afghanistan and interviews lots of different people. "But in the end," Spurlock said, "I **realised** that finding this guy isn't the answer. I always wanted to **learn what shaped him** and his followers. At the same time, I met so many people who want the same things for themselves and their families [...] I wanted to give these people a voice. Maybe Americans will realise from this movie that behind some of these **imposing** Muslim **beards**, there are people who have the same concerns as all of us: peace and **security** for our family and friends." ☘

GLOSSARY

- a calorie** *n*
a unit of energy-producing chemicals in a food or drink; if you eat/drink lots of calories and don't exercise, the calories become fat
- tested** *adj*
if something is "tested", someone examines it to decide if it is good/bad/useful
- a consumer** *n*
someone who consumes or uses an object; a "consumer" of coffee buys/drinks coffee
- a researcher** *n*
a person who investigates a certain object or idea
- full-fat milk** *n*
milk with all of the natural cream and fat; the fat has not been reduced/skimmed
- skimmed milk** *n*
milk that does not have the natural fat and cream; also called "reduced fat" milk
- a slice** *n*
a thin piece or part of something, usually cake, pizza, bread, etc
- a snack** *n*
a small quantity of food that is not part of a full meal
- latest** *adj*
the most recent
- absurd** *adj*
strange, ridiculous, not normal
- to realise** *vb*
to suddenly think about or understand something
- learn what shaped him** *exp*
to discover the ideas, history, and motivation for a person's actions or beliefs
- imposing** *adj*
big and impressive; often negative
- a beard** *n*
hair that grows on the sides and bottom of a person's face
- security** *n*
if there is "security", there is no danger

Exercise

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

1. A pickle
2. A thumb
3. A tongue
4. A crocodile
5. A cup of coffee
6. An ostrich
7. A neck
8. Tuna fish
9. A dream
10. A tribe
11. Beer
12. A flea
13. A football pitch



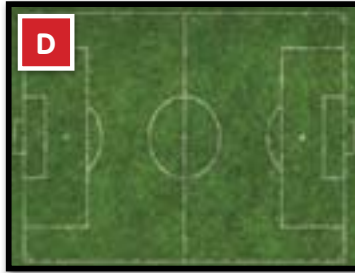
A



B



C



D



E



F



G



I



H



J



L



K



M



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

John Lennon's first girlfriend was called Thelma **Pickles**.



Bob Dylan's real name is Robert Zimmerman.



Some **tribes** protect their babies from disease by washing them in beer. Anyone for a beer bath?



The average human dream lasts between 2 and 3 seconds.

Your **thumb** is the same length as your nose.



A crocodile can't **stick** its tongue **out**.

Kangaroos are excellent swimmers.



Greece's national anthem has 158 verses.



A flea can jump 350 times its body length. That is more or less the same as a human jumping the length of a football pitch.

Even after shouting for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you will have only produced enough sound energy to **heat** one cup of coffee.



A mile on the ocean and a mile on land are not the same distance. A nautical mile is 6,080 feet (1,853 metres); and a land mile (also known as a statute mile) is 5,280 feet (1,609 metres).

The largest bird in the world is a species of ostrich known as *Struthio camelus*. And the North African subspecies is the tallest of all the ostriches. The average height of these birds is around 2 metres, but some males can be 2.74

metres tall. The head and **neck** alone can be 1.4 metres long.

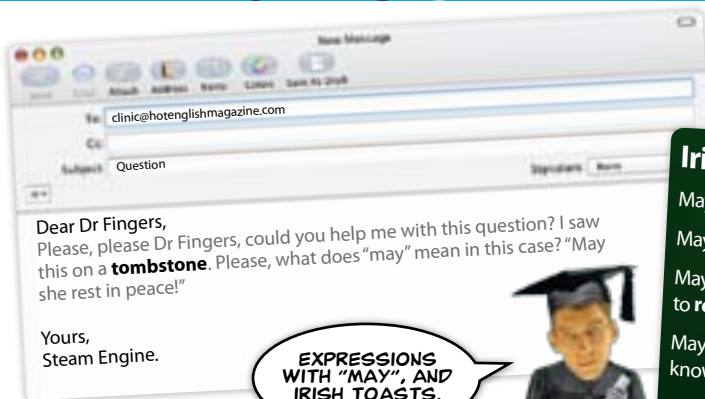
During their lives, tuna fish swim at a steady rate of 14 kilometres per hour for an indefinite period of time – and they never stop moving. That means that a fifteen-year-old tuna has probably travelled about two million kilometres in its lifetime. ✦



GLOSSARY

- a pickle** *n*
a piece of vegetable that is preserved in vinegar
- a tribe** *n*
a group of people of the same race, religion, language, customs – often from a developing country
- a thumb** *n*
the thickest finger on your hand
- to stick out** *phr vb*
if something is "sticking out", it is further forward than other things
- to heat** *vb*
to make warm
- a neck** *n*
the part of your body that joins your head to your body

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



EXPRESSIONS WITH "MAY", AND IRISH TOASTS.



Dear Steam Engine,

Of course, I would be delighted to help you. OK, here goes. "May she rest in peace", means "I hope she rests in peace" or "Please let her rest in peace". This is a formal expression, but one that is used in specific circumstances.

Other typical expressions with this construction are the following:

- May you both be very happy! = I hope that you are both happy.
- May God be with you!
- May the force be with you! (from the film *Star Wars*).
- May the devil never use your bones for **drumsticks**!



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

The Irish have a lot of great **toasts** that use this same structure. You can read some of them in the green box. May you understand them all!

Irish Toasts

- May the wind be always at your back!
- May you have warm words on a cold evening!
- May you live to be a hundred years, with one extra year to **repent**!
- May you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May your troubles be as few and as far apart as my grandmothers teeth!
- May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future!
- May there always be work for your hands to do!
- May your purse always hold a **coin** or two!
- May God bring good health to the enemies of your enemies!
- May you never forget what is worth remembering, or remember what is best forgotten!
- May your neighbours respect you, troubles **neglect** you, the angels protect you, and heaven accept you!
- May your troubles be less and your **blessings** be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door!
- May those who love us, love us! And for those who don't love us, may God turn their hearts! And if he cannot turn their hearts, may he turn their **ankles**, so we may know them by their **limping**!

Well, Steam Engine, I hope that has helped you. **Yours, Dr Fingers.**

Please send your questions or stories to:

clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com

GLOSSARY

- a tombstone** *n*
a stone object that marks where a dead person is buried. It often has the person's name, dates of birth/death, and a small message
- drumsticks** *n*
long thin pieces of wood that are used to play the drums; a chicken leg
- a toast** *n*
if you drink a "toast" to someone, you say good things about them just before drinking. "Let's drink a toast to Charles. To Charles!" (and now you drink some of your drink)
- to repent** *vb*
to ask someone (a god) to forgive you for something bad you did in the past
- a coin** *n*
a small, round piece of metal that is used for money
- to neglect** *vb*
to ignore; not to pay attention to; to leave alone
- a blessing** *n*
something good that happens to you; something that makes your life better
- an ankle** *n*
the part of your body that connects your leg to your foot
- to limp** *vb*
to walk with difficulty/pain because your foot or leg is hurt/injured

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50-99 Suscripciones 30%	37.80		
100+ Suscripciones 50%	27		

Firma:

Corny Criminals



CD track 15 - US women

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



Clean Nose

Woman charged for unusual crime.

Charleen Newman is the first woman to be charged with a very unusual crime: cleaning her nose on a police officer's shirt. It all happened after police in West Virginia were called out to **deal with** a **domestic dispute**. Officer Elliott was the first to arrive. He found a woman outside the house shouting at a man who was in the kitchen. The man **refused** to open the door, claiming that he was frightened that the woman was going to hit him. So, the police arrested Ms Newman, 36, after she refused to calm down. However, as they were walking her to the police car, Ms Newman allegedly **wiped** her nose on the back of the police officer's shirt. Ms Newman was charged with **battery** on a police

officer. This crime is defined as "intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature against an officer". So now you know.

Speed Camera Anger

Have you ever experienced **road rage**? There are often stories of vicious arguments on the motorway, of people attacking other people's vehicles or of motorists attacking one another. There are also stories of violence against **speed cameras**. They have been **beaten**, burned and **torn down** by angry motorists but this is the first time that one has been shot. Apparently, the speed camera



was shot three times with a **high-powered rifle**. Police in Tennessee were **on routine patrol** in the **early hours** when they heard **gunfire**. They **searched** the area and saw a man in a car behaving "very suspiciously". When the officers stopped and searched the van, they found a high-calibre hunting rifle on the floor of the vehicle. When the driver, Chad Clark, 47, was questioned about this, he said that he "didn't want to say what he was doing there because he didn't want to get into trouble". Later, the police found a camera that had been hit with three **high-calibre rounds**. Clark was charged with vandalism. ⚡

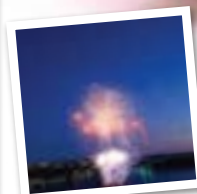
GLOSSARY

- to deal with** *phr vb*
to resolve or take care of a problem or situation
- a domestic dispute** *n*
a conflict or argument between people in their home
- to refuse** *vb*
if you "refuse" to do something, you say you will not do that thing
- to wipe** *vb*
if you "wipe" your nose, you clean it with a cloth or tissue
- battery** *n*
the crime of attacking someone or touching someone in an offensive manner
- road rage** *exp*
extreme anger experienced by someone who is driving
- a speed camera** *n*
a special camera used by police to see how fast you are driving
- beaten** *adj*
hit and damaged by a person, usually with a hard object
- to tear down** *phr vb*
to demolish; to violently remove from a place
- a high-powered rifle** *n*
a long gun that is very strong/powerful
- on routine patrol** *exp*
if a police officer is "on routine patrol", he/she is driving/walking in an area generally (not investigating a crime)
- the early hours** *exp*
the first few hours of the morning, when it is still dark outside
- gunfire** *n*
the loud sound that a gun makes
- to search** *vb*
to inspect an area carefully trying to find something
- a high-calibre round** *n*
the ammunition used in a high-powered rifle (see previous entry)



TELEPHONE 999

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



Call I – The Hamster

Operator: Police. Can I help you?
Caller: Yes, hello. I was just calling about my hamster.
Operator: Your what?
Caller: My hamster.
Operator: This is an emergency phone line. How could your hamster possibly be related to a life and death situation?
Caller: No, it's just that I think he's trapped behind the wardrobe.
Operator: And?
Caller: Well, I just wanted to know if anyone could come and help me. He's quite old now and...
Operator: We don't deal with pet emergencies. Try contacting the RSPCA, or perhaps get a friend to help you move the wardrobe.
Caller: Oh, OK. Do you think he'll be all right behind there?
Operator: I don't know. Goodbye.
Caller: Goodbye. And thanks.

Call II – The Firework Display

Operator: Police. Can I help you?
Caller: Hello, is that the police?
Operator: Yes, this is the emergency number.
Caller: Oh, right, I'm not sure if I'm **through** to the right place, but I was wondering **what time the local firework display started**.
Operator: This is an emergency line. You need to speak to the **local council**.
Caller: But I wanted to know if it would be safe to take my 14-year-old child.
Operator: We really can't answer questions of that nature. As I said, you'll have to phone the local council.
Caller: OK. **Just one last thing, do you happen to know where the firework display will be held?**
Operator: Phone the local council. Thank you for your call. Goodbye.
Caller: Oh, OK. I'll phone the local council then.
Operator: Yes, you do that. Bye.

GLOSSARY

a wardrobe *n*
a big piece of furniture where you keep clothes
to be through *exp*
to be connected by telephone
a firework *n*
a small object that is lit to entertain people on special occasions. Fireworks produce bright colours and make loud noises
a display *n*
an exhibition of something
a local council *n*
a group of people (often elected) who manage and direct things for a city or town
to hold *vb*
if an event is "held" in a place, it happens in that place

RECIPE

Here's another recipe for you to try at home. This month: Apple Crisp.

APPLE CRISP

Bake at about 175°C for 30 minutes.

Ingredients

- 8 red apples (approximately, depending on size).
- 1 cup of flour (237 ml).
- 1 cup of brown sugar (237 ml).
- 1 stick of margarine or butter melted (100 grams of butter).
- 5-10 ml of cinnamon (to taste).
- A pinch of salt.
- 10-15 ml white sugar.
- 22 X 30 cm baking dish (standard size).

Method

- **Peel** and thinly slice apples. Place them **evenly** into the baking dish.
- **Sprinkle** with cinnamon, salt, and white sugar.
- Combine the flour, brown sugar, and melted butter in a bowl. Mix well.
- Sprinkle the flour/brown sugar/butter mixture over the apples evenly.
- Bake in the oven for 30 minutes.
- Best served warm with whipped cream or a **scoop** of vanilla ice cream, but it tastes good at room temperature too. Makes 8 to 12 **servings**.
- Enjoy! ☺



GLOSSARY

to peel *vb*
to take the skin off fruit/vegetables
evenly *adv*
equally and with the same amount on all the surface
to sprinkle *vb*
if you "sprinkle" a powder over an area, you put that powder lightly and evenly over the area
a scoop *n*
an amount of food in a large spoon
a serving *n*
one portion/amount of food that is sufficient for one person to eat

DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR FUN

GOING TO



In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at some future passives with the "going to" construction.



We form this type of future with the verb "to be" + "going" + an infinitive with "to". We often use "going to" to refer to future plans or intentions. For example:

- A:** We're going to play tennis tomorrow.
- B:** They're going to leave early.
- C:** She's going to take the book with her.
- D:** I'm going to help you later.



We can also use "going to" to make predictions based on evidence. For example:

- A:** Look at that black cloud. It is going to rain.
- B:** Stop running so fast – you are going to fall.
- C:** If you carry on annoying the dog, it's going to bite you.



We form the negative by placing "not" after the verb "to be"; and we form questions by placing the verb "to be" at the start of the question. Notice the contracted forms "isn't" / "aren't". For example:

- A:** She isn't going to eat it.
- B:** We aren't going to like it.
- C:** Are they going to take it?
- D:** Is he going to buy it?



Passive forms of "going to" are formed with the verb "be going" + "to be" + a past participle. For example:

- A:** All the food is going to be eaten.
- B:** The work is going to be finished.
- C:** The table is going to be made.
- D:** The room is going to be cleaned.
- E:** The article is going to be written.
- F:** The film is going to be made.
- G:** The drinks are going to be prepared.
- H:** The e-mail is going to be sent.
- I:** The shoes are going to be thrown away.

WONDERS OF THE WORLD



INDIANA JONES IS HOLLYWOOD'S SEXIEST ARCHAEOLOGIST AND ACTION HERO. FROM **CURSES** TO **CHALICES**, SNAKE PITS TO SEDUCTIVE WOMEN, HARRISON FORD MAKES ARCHAEOLOGY COOL. BUT REAL AND AMAZING DISCOVERIES HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS. THESE **DIGS** ARE WORTHY OF INDIANA JONES. CHECK OUT SOME OF THE MOST FASCINATING AND IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OF THE 20TH CENTURY.



PHAROAH FINDINGS

It's the autumn of 1922, in exotic Egypt, the Valley of the Kings. English archaeologist Howard Carter makes a remarkable discovery. He's found the tomb of a very famous

young Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt's New Kingdom Period (1500 to 1070 BC) King Tutankhamen spent over 3,000 years in his hidden tomb, surrounded by treasures of gold. His death is **marked** by mystery; many think he was murdered. Rumour has it that there is a terrible curse on his gold. In his diary, Carter describes his amazing findings, "... details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues and gold – everywhere the glint of gold..." His tomb and treasures have come to symbolise the Ancient Egyptian civilization, although it looks like King Tut took the secret of his curse to the grave.



THE "LOST CITY", FOUND!

Lost to the world after the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire in the 16th century, the Inca city Machu Picchu was not re-discovered until 1911. American archaeologist Hiram Bingham **brought** this symbol of the great

Inca civilization **to light** once again. Machu Picchu ("Old Peak" in the Inca language) is 700 metres above the Urubamba river in Peru's Andes Mountains. No one is really sure what it was for, but some think it may have been a secret ceremonial city, others say it could be an astronomical observatory, and others say it may have been a sacred place to worship the Inca gods.



FROZEN FRITZ

Along the border between Austria and Italy, a brutal crime occurred – around 3300 BC. Two German tourists discovered the body of a frozen man in September 1991. At first, scientists thought

the corpse was from modern times. But forensic testing proved Ötzi (named after the region, and also known as "Frozen Fritz"), was actually several thousand years old. We now know that he was either a murder victim, or a victim of ritual sacrifice. Buried with hunting tools and travelling provisions, Frozen Fritz is "Europe's oldest natural mummy," and helps us understand the lives of Europeans of the Copper Age.



TILL DEATH DO US PART

Think the Great Wall of China is impressive? In 1974, farmers near Xi'an, China, discovered an entire army of soldiers – underground. The

army stands outside an entire subterranean city, which serves as a **tomb** for Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi. This emperor ruled over the Qin province and then all of China from 247 to 210 BC. The Terracotta (clay) army has about 7,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses, and 150 cavalry horses." Some of the figures stand over 1.5 metres tall. Apparently, the architects and builders of the original enormous mausoleum were buried inside the tomb to guard the secrets of the treasures and entrance forever. ✨

GLOSSARY

- a curse** *n*
a magical force that causes bad/evil things to happen
- a chalice** *n*
an elegant cup that is used to serve wine in church
- a dig** *n*
a site/place where archaeologists dig holes in the earth to look for things
- marked** *adj*
if a person or event is "marked" by something, it is famous or remembered for that thing
- to bring (something) to light** *phrvb*
to make something public; to uncover or make something visible
- a tomb** *n*
a special place where a dead person is buried. Part of the "tomb" is a monument and is often above ground and with a lot of decoration

A new film following the adventures of the legendary explorer, Indiana Jones.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

ARE YOU A FAN OF INDIANA JONES? THE LATEST INDIANA JONES FILM IS DUE OUT IN MAY. IT IS DIRECTED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG, PRODUCED BY GEORGE LUCAS, AND STARS HARRISON FORD AS INDIANA JONES.

Harrison Ford first played the character back in the 1981 film, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. That film was **set** in 1938. Now, the story has been moved to the 1940s and 1950s. The new Indiana is a little older and **wiser**. Nevertheless, the film still has all the elements of a classic Indiana Jones adventure, including exciting archaeological discoveries and incredible **stunts**.

The star of the Indiana Jones films is Henry "Indiana" Walton Jones, Jr. He is a **professor** of archaeology and an **adventurer**, and he's famous for his **whip**, hat, leather jacket and fear of snakes. The character of Indiana Jones was created by Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. It was originally named after a dog that Lucas owned in the 1970s called Indiana Smith. However, Spielberg disliked the name "Smith" and so Lucas suggested "Jones" as an alternative. The general appearance for the character of Indiana Jones was chosen before any actor was **cast** for the **role**. He is a combination of several characters,

including treasure hunter Fred C. Dobbs (as played by Humphrey Bogart in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*) and adventurer Harry Steele (as played by Charlton Heston in *Secret of the Incas*).

This film won't disappoint fans of Indiana Jones. There will be **globetrotting** (reportedly Mexico City, Connecticut and Peru), John Williams' music, and the most amazing stunts imaginable. There are also suggestions that the film will feature the most interesting characters yet. These will include **sidekick** Mac (played by Ray Winstone) and returning **old flame** Marion Ravenwood (played by Karen Allen). Furthermore, Cate Blanchett is rumoured to be cast as a **villain**.

This will be Steven Spielberg's first family-friendly blockbuster film since *Jurassic Park* in 1993. His previous films, including *Saving Private Ryan* and *Minority Report*, have been much more complex and dark. Spielberg himself described this movie as the "sweet dessert after the **bitter herbs**" of his previous film *Munich*. ☺



FILM INFORMATION:
INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL
 Directed by Steven Spielberg.
 Starring Harrison Ford.
 Tagline: "In May, the adventure continues."



OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL



HARRISON FORD

American actor.
Born 13th July 1942.
Starred in *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*.

Of all the characters he has played, Ford has said several times that Indiana Jones is his favourite. Ford was born in Chicago to an Irish father and Russian-Jewish mother. He was not a very good student, but he attended a drama class at college and discovered that he liked acting. Ford **dropped out** of college and was **signed up** by Columbia. His first Hollywood film roles were only very minor. **Disillusioned**, he turned to **carpentry** as a profession. He returned to acting a few years later, and soon after became famous for the role as Han Solo in *Star Wars*.

In 2001, Ford was reported to be the richest actor alive. However, despite being one of the most financially successful actors of his generation, Ford has received only one Oscar nomination. He has been married twice and has five children. His current partner is the actress, Calista Flockhart (from the series *Ally McBeal*). He is a supporter of **environmental** causes and sits on the board of directors of Conservation International. In his free time, he enjoys piloting planes and helicopters. ✨



GLOSSARY

- to set** *vb*
if a film is "set" in 1938, the story appears to happen in 1938
- wiser** *adj*
with more experience of life; maturer; more intelligent
- a stunt** *n*
an exciting or dangerous action in a film, usually including acrobatics or explosions
- a professor** *n*
a teacher in a university
- an adventurer** *n*
someone who likes adventure and discovering new things
- a whip** *n*
a long, thin piece of leather with a hard handle; typically used for managing animals
- to be cast** *vb*
if you are "cast", you are chosen to be the actor/actress for a specific role
- a role** *n*
a part in a film
- globetrotting** *vb*
travelling to many different places in the world
- a sidekick** *n*
a partner or close friend of the main actor in a film. The sidekick is often inferior, less intelligent, less important than the main star
- an old flame** *exp*
a person you loved in the past
- a villain** *exp*
a character in a film who does bad things; the baddie
- bitter herbs** *exp*
things that are unpleasant or difficult to watch/see/hear/remember
- to drop out** *phr vb*
to stop doing something; to stop being part of a group or organisation; to leave school/university
- to be signed up** *phr vb*
if you are "signed up" by an organisation, you sign a contract with that organisation
- disillusioned** *adj*
if you are "disillusioned", you are sad because something wasn't as good as you expected/hoped
- carpentry** *n*
working with wood; making or building things out of wood
- environmental** *adj*
things that are related to nature: the air, the mountains, the water, etc

A new film featuring the stylish 'Sex and the City' girls.

SEX AND THE CITY: THE MOVIE

DID YOU ENJOY THE SEX AND THE CITY SITCOM SERIES ON TV? IF YOU DID, YOU ARE SURE TO LIKE THIS FILM. THE SHOW'S PRODUCERS HAD HOPED TO MAKE IT THREE YEARS AGO, BUT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS DELAYED ITS PRODUCTION. NOW, HOWEVER, THE FABULOUS FOUR (CARRIE, SAMANTHA, MIRANDA AND CHARLOTTE) ARE BACK. THEY ARE A LITTLE OLDER THAN BEFORE, BUT STILL HAVE AS INTERESTING LIVES AS EVER. AND THE FILM FINALLY CONCLUDES SOME OF THE **STORYLINES** THAT WERE IN THE TV SERIES.

Sex and the City has been a very popular programme with women. A lot of girls can connect with one character or another at different times: confident Samantha, **dreamy** romantic Charlotte, **pragmatic** Miranda, and **quirky** Carrie. On top of that, each of the women has an incredible fashion sense; every character is always perfectly dressed and **accessorised**.

Sex and the City is based on the book of the same name by Candace Bushnell. The story is set in New York City. It is about three unmarried women who are best friends. All of the women have very different personalities. And they **confide in** each other about their confusing love lives. Carrie Bradshaw, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, is the main character. She is a **charming, petite** sex columnist, and often the narrator of the story. She writes on things that have an impact on modern women's sex

lives. In love, Carrie tries almost everything but is constantly **disappointed**. And she always seems to return to a certain Mr Big. In the movie, Carrie is now a successful book writer. And she has her own assistant, played by Jennifer Hudson.

Miranda is a red-haired lawyer. She is determined to find a **like-minded**, professional man. But her only faithful lover is an insecure nerd. Charlotte is from a **prestigious**, super-rich family, with old-fashioned moral standards. She is charming but also insecure. She is always looking for a socially-acceptable partner. But, unfortunately, it is almost impossible for any lover to **live up to** her standards. Finally, Samantha is every feminist's hero. She is a successful PR agent and an **unashamed man-eater**. She can flirt with almost any man. This is the Sex and the City girls' final appearance on the big screen, so be sure not to **miss it**. 🍷



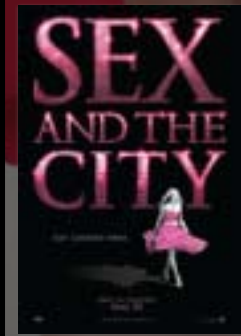
THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE DO SEX AND THE CITY!

FILM INFORMATION:

SEX AND THE CITY: THE MOVIE

Directed by Michael Patrick King.
Starring Sarah Jessica Parker.

Tagline: "New York's fabulous **foursome** back for one last time."





I'M A FASHION ICON.



SARAH JESSICA PARKER

American actress and producer.
Born 25th March 1965.
Starred in *Sex and the City*.

Sex and the City made Sarah Jessica Parker a fashion **icon** to women all over the world. Parker was born in Ohio in 1965 and received singing and ballet training. As a young girl she was cast in several **Broadway productions**. And she attended several acting and dance schools, including the School of American Ballet. Since the early 1980s, Parker has played

various roles in several films. But it wasn't until she starred in *Sex and the City* in 1998 that she became a high profile celebrity.

Parker has also become very influential in the fashion world. In 2000, she hosted the MTV movie awards and changed outfit no less than 15 times. She is the face of many leading brands including *Garnier*. She also has her own clothing line, and perfume called "Lovely". She is married to the actor Matthew Broderick and has a five year old son. She is currently a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for the United States. ✪

THE FAMILY STONE



ONE OF SARAH JESSICA PARKER'S BEST FILMS IS THE 2005 FILM THE FAMILY STONE.

STONE COLD

Uptight Meredith Morton (Sarah Jessica Parker) is dating successful businessman Everett Stone (Dermot Mulroney). Everett brings Meredith home to Massachusetts to spend Christmas with his lively family. Personalities clash, as Meredith is completely out of place with the more **laid-back** Stones. She is **judgmental, awkward**, and talks too much. She has nothing in common with Everett's four brothers and sisters: there is **pothead** brother Ben (Luke Wilson); sister Susannah (Elizabeth Reaser) with one child and another on the way; deaf and gay brother Thad (Tyronne Giordano); and rebellious sister Amy (Rachel McAdams) who already knows and dislikes Meredith. The parents (Sybil – played by Diane Keaton; and Kelly – played by Craig T. Nelson) don't like Meredith either. In addition, there is added tension as Sybil is keeping a terrible secret (she has breast cancer).

FAMILY FEUD

Meredith is uncomfortable and unable to relate to the family members. Desperate, she calls

her younger and more social sister Julie (Claire Danes) to come rescue her. Julie (Claire Danes) to come rescue her. Everett is attracted to Julie from the start. Troubles come to a head on Christmas Eve, after Meredith offends the entire family. Unable to cope, she runs away, crashing her car. Ben comes to her rescue, and the two end up at a bar where Meredith relaxes and enjoys herself for the first time. The next morning she wakes up in bed with Ben, and is forced to decide between the two brothers. At the same time, romance blooms between Everett and Julie, causing even more chaos at the Stone house.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Christmas morning brings both catastrophe and surprises to the Stone family. The storm hits, and all problems finally come to light. Meredith and Everett have both found true love, when they least expected. The film closes with scenes from the following Christmas celebration at the Stone house. Sybil is missing, but Ben and Meredith alongside Everett and Julie are together and happy.

Sarah Jessica Parker **shines** in a role quite different from the confident Carrie Bradshaw in *Sex and the City*. She brings style and warmth to an insecure young woman who discovers herself. From New York City cool to uptight **snob**, Parker really shows her range of talent in this story about love, acceptance, and **family ties**. ✪

GLOSSARY

- a storyline** *n*
the continuous story in a book, play or film
- dreamy** *adj*
unrealistically positive
- pragmatic** *adj*
practical; realistic; interested in basic causes and results
- quirky** *adj*
peculiar, eccentric; someone who does/says strange/unusual things
- accessorised** *adj inform*
to have "accessories" (bags, jewellery, sunglasses, etc)
- to confide in** *phr vb*
if you "confide in" someone, you talk to them about important personal things
- charming** *adj*
enchanting; with a very pleasing or attractive personality
- petite** *adj*
a short, slim woman
- disappointed** *adj*
disillusioned; if you are "disappointed", things are worse than you expected/hoped
- like-minded** *adj*
if two people are "like-minded", they have similar opinions and ideas
- prestigious** *adj*
socially important; socially respected or distinguished
- to live up to** *phr vb*
to meet or fulfil the expectations or criteria of others
- unashamed** *adj*
without shame; if you are "unashamed", you do not feel bad about what you have done
- a man-eater** *exp*
a seductive/attractive woman who often leads men into bad situations
- to miss** *vb*
if you "miss" a film, you do not see it
- a foursome** *n*
a group of four people or objects
- an icon** *n*
a famous picture/symbol that represents something
- a Broadway production** *exp*
a play that is performed on the street Broadway in New York City
- uptight** *adj*
conventional and conservative; often tense or nervous
- laid-back** *adj*
the opposite of uptight; very relaxed and usually open to change
- judgmental** *adj*
with strong opinions (usually moral) about other people
- awkward** *adj*
socially uncomfortable; saying or doing strange things that make others uncomfortable
- a pothead** *n inform*
a person who smokes a lot of "pot" (marijuana)
- to shine** *vb inform*
to do very well at a specific role or activity
- a snob** *n*
a person who believes that they are socially superior to others
- family ties** *exp*
connections and relationships between members of the same family



Headline News

Headline News N° 3

The voice of the people

London 2008

Independent Thought

European country gets its independence.

The small **Balkan** territory of Kosovo has recently declared independence from the remaining parts of Yugoslavia. The move has been condemned by the Serbian leadership in Belgrade who consider Kosovo to be the southernmost province of Serbia. It is home to many ethnic Albanians who want to **break away** from Serbia but there are people of Serb descent also. The ethnic Serbs want to remain part of Yugoslavia.

Kosovo was the scene of a **bloody** war in the late 1990s when the Kosovo Liberation Army **waged war** on the Yugoslav government led by Slobodan Milosevic. There were many reports of war crimes, including ethnic cleansing, and Milosevic **stood trial** in The Hague, Holland on charges of genocide. During his trial, Milosevic died and many people believe that he escaped justice because of this. As war **spread** across the Balkans in southern Europe

throughout the 1990s, many people died and became **refugees** in places such as Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro. The United Nations intervened several times but there were **atrocities** in places like Dubrovnik, Srebrenica and Sarajevo.

There is **relative peace** in the former Yugoslavia now but the **latest events** in Kosovo have been met with protests in Serbia. Many countries have recognised the declaration of independence, including the United States, but others, most notably Russia, haven't. Many countries fear that it will **spark** similar ideas of regional nationalism in their states. ✪



GLOSSARY

the Balkans *n*
the area of southeast Europe consisting of countries such as Serbia, Croatia, etc

to break away *phrvb*
to stop forming part of something

bloody *adj*
extremely violent with many people dead

to wage war *exp*
to fight a war

to stand trial *phrvb*
to be accused of a crime in court

to spread *vb*
if a war "spreads", more and more countries/areas/people become involved

refugees *n*
people who are forced to leave their country

an atrocity *n*
a horrific event; a mass killing

relative peace *n*
peace, more or less

the latest events *exp*
the most recent things that have been happening in the world

to spark *vb*
to start; to provoke

a race *n*
a competition

to heat up *phrvb*
to become more competitive

to secure *vb*
to win

the Viet Cong *n*
the guerrillas who fought against the US in the Vietnam War

liberal-minded *adj*
with liberal beliefs

a dead heat *n*
if there is a "dead heat" in a competition, both sides have the same votes/points, etc

under fire *exp*
if you are "under fire", you are being shot at / attacked

to shrug something off *phrvb*
to ignore it

to break into *phrvb*
to enter illegally

a breach of national security *n*
if there is a "breach of national security", someone enters a restricted zone and gets access to secret state information

a violation *n*
if there is a "violation" of someone's rights, their rights are attacked

Presidential Race

Democrats attack one another.



IT'S NOT A RACE, YOU KNOW.

The **race** for the Democratic nomination in this year's US presidential election is **heating up**. The race between Illinois senator Barack Obama and former First Lady Hillary Clinton is particularly interesting because, if elected to the presidency, Obama will be the first black president and Clinton will be the first woman president.

In the Republican camp, John McCain has already **secured** the nomination, defeating rivals Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee and Ron Paul. McCain is considered a war hero because he fought in Vietnam and was a prisoner of the **Viet Cong**. John McCain is seen as a conservative candidate similar to

Ronald Reagan, who was president in the 1980s. Democratic candidates are usually seen as **liberal-minded**.

The Democratic race is a **dead heat** at the moment and Barack Obama is **under fire** because of comments made by his pastor. The pastor said that African-Americans are angry because of oppression by white Americans in the past. He also said that 9/11 was the United States' own fault. There have also been accusations that Obama is actually a radical Muslim and is only pretending to be a Christian. Meanwhile, Obama has **shrugged off** most of these problems publicly and is proving himself to be a formidable politician.

In the latest controversy, all three candidates have had their passport files **broken into** in a **breach of national security**. Current Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has apologised for the **violation** of the candidates' privacy. ✪

Little Jokes



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

1. What kind of beans never grow in a garden?
2. Which temperature is faster – hot or cold?
3. What do monsters make with cars?
4. Why did the pony cough?
5. What did one candle say to the other candle?
6. Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?
7. Why did the man run around his bed?
8. What starts with a "p", ends with an "e", and has a million letters in it?

- A:** Because he was a little hoarse.
B: The "Post Office".
C: Because then it would be a foot.
D: Jelly beans.
E: Traffic jam.
F: To catch up on his sleep.
G: Let's go out tonight.
H: Hot – you can catch a cold.



GLOSSARY

a pony *n*
a small horse

to cough *vb*
to push air rapidly out of your mouth/throat; when you are sick or your throat hurts, you "cough"

a candle *n*
a small object made of wax with a string in the centre. When it burns, it produces light

an inch *n*
a unit for measuring length; 1 "inch" is about 2.5 centimetres

hoarse *adj*
if you are "hoarse", your voice is very quiet and your throat usually hurts

a foot *n*
a unit for measuring length; 3 feet are equal to a metre (more or less). There are 12 "inches" in a foot

a traffic jam *exp*
when there are lots of cars on the road and they can't go anywhere; "jam" is also the sweet fruit paste that you put on toast (strawberry jam, raspberry jam, etc)

to catch up on sleep *exp*
to sleep a lot because you have not slept much recently; to "catch up" is also when you are running behind someone and you try to reach them

to go out *phr vb*
to leave home and go to a bar or restaurant; if a candle "goes out", the fire disappears

to catch a cold *exp*
if you "catch a cold", you suddenly have a cold and are sick; if someone is running away from you, you can try to "catch" them

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.



CD track 19 - Irishwoman

HAPPINESS CAN'T BUY YOU MONEY.

LOST: ONE SCIENCE TEACHER AFTER LAST THURSDAY'S EXPERIMENT.

JUST WHEN I WAS GETTING USED TO YESTERDAY, ALONG CAME TODAY.

OLD ACCOUNTANTS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST LOSE THEIR BALANCE.

GLOSSARY

to get used to *exp*
to become accustomed to something; if you are "used to" something it seems normal

to lose balance *exp*
to fall because you become unsteady; in finance, the "balance" is the amount of money to be paid, or an amount that remains after part of the money has been spent

LATE ARRIVAL BY DANIEL COUTOLINE





Bear Soldier



Ex-soldiers want to honour a bear.

He liked a cigarette. He liked a bottle of beer. And he fought in the **army**. His name was Voytek and, incredibly, he was a bear. Known as the Soldier Bear, Voytek ended his days at Edinburgh Zoo. He spent much of his life in Scotland after fighting in World War II. And now there's a **campaign** to build a permanent **memorial** to him. Voytek was adopted in the Middle East by Polish troops in 1943. But eventually, he became much more than a **mascot**. The Polish troops trained him to carry heavy

mortar rounds. But when they were sent to Europe, the only way to take the bear with them was to "**enlist**" him. So, the bear was given a name, rank and number and took part in the Italian campaign. He **saw action** at **Monte Cassino** before being sent to an army camp in Scotland. "He was just like a dog – nobody was **scared** of him," said Polish **veteran** Augustyn Karolewski. Voytek was a major attraction at the zoo until his death in 1963. ☺



Bad Sleep

Your worst night's sleep – revealed.

Do you sleep well on a Sunday night? A new study of 3,500 adults found that nearly 60% of workers have their worst night of sleep on a Sunday while as many as 80% of people **sleep soundest** on a Friday night. So, why is this? As you would imagine, it's all to do with our **body clock**. "Having **lie-ins** and late nights, and not doing much physical or mental activity on a Sunday change our sleep patterns," said Dr Neil Stanley, a doctor from the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Furthermore, for some people the **dread** of going to work the next day to give an important presentation or missing work **deadlines** can also lead to disrupted sleep on Sunday night. The effects of poor sleep can be terrible. It has been **blamed for** a lack of concentration at work, increased **irritability**, and even for falling asleep at the desk. Dr Stanley advised that the best way to **combat insomnia** was to be awake and active on Sunday in order to keep sleep patterns fairly constant. ☺

ONLY TWO HOURS BEFORE I GET UP!

GLOSSARY

- an army** *n*
soldiers who form part of the armed forces of a country
- a campaign** *n*
if there is a "campaign" for a certain idea, people are promoting that idea
- a memorial** *n*
an object (often made of stone) that helps people remember an important person or event
- a mascot** *n*
an animal, person or thing that represents a group or organization
- mortar rounds** *n*
heavy pieces of ammunition, like small bombs
- to enlist** *vb*
if you "enlist" in the army, you join the army
- to see action** *exp*
to be involved in military fighting/ action
- Monte Cassino** *n*
a battle in World War II in Italy, south of Rome
- scared** *adj*
to have fear; to be afraid
- a veteran** *n*
a person who was in the military in the past
- to sleep sound** *exp*
to sleep well or peacefully, with no guilty conscience
- body clock** *exp*
the part of your brain that controls your rhythms for sleep, hunger, etc
- to have a lie-in** *exp*
to stay in bed longer than usual
- dread** *n*
strong fear; usually of something that you expect in the future
- a deadline** *n*
a time limit to complete a project or job
- to blame for** *exp*
if you "blame something/body for" something bad, you say they caused it
- irritability** *n*
if you are "irritable", you get angry easily or you are easily bothered/ annoyed
- to combat** *vb*
to fight against
- insomnia** *n*
a sickness; if you have "insomnia", you cannot sleep

MAY



Come and celebrate the month with us in our series on anniversaries. This month: May.



May 1st 1328
The wars of Scottish Independence end. England recognises

Scotland as an independent nation... but not for long.



May 2nd 1808 The beginning of the Peninsular War: The

people of Madrid **rise up in rebellion** against French occupation.



May 3rd 1937 "Gone with the Wind", a novel by Margaret Mitchell, wins

the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It later becomes a film starring Vivien Leigh.



May 4th 1932 In Atlanta, Georgia, mobster Al Capone begins

-serving an eleven-year prison sentence for **tax evasion**.



May 5th 1954 A **coup d'état** carries General Alfredo Stroessner to

power in Paraguay.

May 6th 1889 The Eiffel Tower is officially opened to the public at the Universal Exposition in Paris.



May 7th 1946 Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering (later renamed

Sony) is **founded** with about 20 employees.



May 8th 1794 **Branded a traitor** during the Reign of Terror by revolutionists,

French chemist Antoine Lavoisier, who was also a **tax collector** with the Ferme Générale, was tried, convicted, and guillotined all on one day in Paris. Poor tax collector!



May 10th 1994 Nelson Mandela is inaugurated as South Africa's first

black president.



May 11th 1949 Siam officially changes its name to Thailand, a name in use

since 1939.



May 12th 2002 Former President Jimmy Carter arrives in Cuba for a

five-day visit with Fidel Castro. He becomes the first President of the United States, in or out of office, to visit the island since Castro's 1959 revolution.



May 15th 1990 "Portrait of Doctor Gachet" by Vincent van Gogh is sold

for a record \$82.5 million.



May 18th 1897 "Dracula", a novel by Irish author Bram Stoker, is published.



May 27th 1939 DC Comics publishes its second superhero in Detective

Comics #27. His name is Batman.



May 28th 1503 The Treaty of Everlasting Peace between Scotland and

England is signed. It lasted 10 years. Anyone who is married knows that ten years is an eternity.



May 31st 1884 John Harvey Kellogg patents Corn Flakes. Breakfast will

never be the same again. ☘



International Public Holidays

- May 1st** May Day (Europe)
- May 5th** Children's Day (Japan, South Korea)
- May 6th** Lag Ba'omer (Judaism)
- May 24th** Victoria Day (Canada)
- May 25th** African Liberation Day
- May 26th** National Sorry Day (Australia)
- May 27th** Children's Day (Nigeria)



Forthcoming events for May 2008

- May 1st** The UEFA Cup Final to be held at the City of Manchester Stadium in Manchester.
- May 16th** Dominican Republic presidential elections.
- May 21st** The UEFA Champions League Final to be held at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.
- May 24th** The Eurovision Song Contest 2008 Final will take place in Belgrade, Serbia.
- May 25th** NASA's Phoenix spacecraft will land on Mars.



GLOSSARY

- to rise up in rebellion** *exp* to attack the government or the people who control a country
- tax-evasion** *n* the crime of not giving the money to the government that you should pay for services; police, education, etc
- a coup d'état** *n* a sudden and often violent change in the government of a country
- to found** *vb* to establish; to create or begin a company or organisation
- to be branded a traitor** *exp* to be publicly/formally called a "traitor" (a person who does something against their own country)
- a tax collector** *n* a person who works for the government taking and counting money that people pay for services; police, education, etc

Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE



ROCKY VS RAMBO

This month, we're looking at two action heroes. Rocky versus Rambo.

Lately, a **spate of action heroes** have **made a comeback** to the **silver screen**, including Indiana Jones and John McClane (played by Bruce Willis) of *Diehard*. Two of the most famous, Rocky Balboa and John Rambo, both played by Sylvester Stallone, have been part of the **renaissance** of action movie returns. But who's the **hardest**?

JOHN RAMBO

Rambo first appeared in the cinema in the film *First Blood*. John Rambo was a veteran of the Vietnam War who had become a **vagrant**, travelling from place to place. He **got on the wrong side of** a town **sheriff** (played by actor Brian Dennehy) who put him in jail. Rambo escaped and fled up a mountain, **pursued** by the police. He eventually had to

be **enticed** to come down by his commander from Vietnam and went to jail. In *Rambo II*, he returns to Vietnam where he frees many American POWs and kills a lot of communists. The same happens in *Rambo III* but this time he's in Afghanistan helping the Mujahideen who, ironically, are now the **sworn enemies** of America (otherwise known as the Taliban). In his latest film, *John Rambo*, Rambo kills over 300 people in Burma trying to save hostages.

ROCKY BALBOA

Rocky was the typical **all-American** hero. This man, a **rags-to-riches** boxer, usually gets **beaten senseless** by a psychopathic opponent, such as Mr. T in *Rocky III*. But Rocky would always come back to beat his opponents in the final

round with **guidance** from his best friend and trainer, Mickey. His original **nemesis**, Apollo Creed, became his friend and was killed by an evil communist in *Rocky IV*. Rocky had to save democracy and teach the evil commie a lesson; and by *Rocky V* he was training other boxers. In the latest **instalment** *Rocky Balboa*, the boxer, now 60, **beats up** a younger opponent to prove himself as the greatest movie boxer ever.

CONCLUSION

This fight is almost **too close to call**. Rambo is an insane special forces soldier, trained to kill without **remorse**. But Rocky has great fighting spirit, and he has the ability to come back **against the odds**. And so, our verdict is Rambo 8 / 10, Rocky 9 / 10. ✨

GLOSSARY

- a spate of** *exp*
a lot of
- an action hero** *n*
a film character who does dangerous things
- to make a comeback** *exp*
to return after a period away from something
- the silver screen** *n*
the cinema
- renaissance** *n*
a return of interest in something within a culture
- the hardest** *exp*
the most difficult
- a vagrant** *n*
a person who doesn't live anywhere and travels from place to place
- to get on the wrong side of someone** *exp*
to make someone angry
- a sheriff** *n*
the leader/chief of police in a town (often an American town)
- to pursue** *vb*
to chase; to follow someone and try to catch them
- to entice** *vb*
to convince/persuade someone to do something by giving them hope of a reward
- a sworn enemy** *n*
your worst enemy
- all-American** *exp*
representative of the typical aspects of American culture (an "all-American" family, etc)
- from rags to riches** *exp*
from being poor to being rich
- to beat senseless** *exp*
to hit someone until they are unconscious
- guidance** *n*
advice or instructions
- a nemesis** *n*
an enemy that cannot be beaten or defeated
- a commie** *abbr*
a Communist (often negative/derogatory)
- an instalment** *n*
an episode; one part of a long series of something
- to beat up** *phr vb*
to attack and hit many times
- too close to call** *exp*
very equal
- remorse** *n*
if you have "remorse" you feel sorry about something you have done
- against the odds** *exp*
if something is "against the odds", it is probable that it will not happen/succeed



When it comes

By Garrett Wall

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Let's get out of here before we start,
Telling each other we won't break our **respective** hearts,
I **swear** to you that we **won't stand a chance**,
If we **succumb** to what we **pray** will be some **blind romance**,
All I want is to be clear, now is that too much to ask?
If all I am is not enough, then there's no more to be said.

We might be **thankful** in a year or two,
Not to have **wasted** them on what would have been me and you,
I'll try to save you with some good advice,
Just drive the car and don't you **dare** to even look back twice,
Should it be so hard you see that's the problem we have to solve.

Loves comes along it might come unexpected,
Like a long lost friend you can't make **feel rejected**,
It might come too late and it's so unfair,
But when it comes to love who cares?

Let's spend the night and see what morning brings,
Just don't make promises **we're better off without those things**,

I've seen it all and I'd say I'd been and gone,
But there's no substitute for learning right by doing wrong,
Will we say at the end of the day it wouldn't have worked?
Caught in time prevention is the best medicine you can't buy.

When love comes along it might come unexpected,
Like a big **freight train** you sure as **hell** must respect it,
It won't wait for you and you must pay the fare,
But when it comes to love who cares?

Love comes along it might come unexpected,
But you can't always live knowing where it's directed,
It's never up to and however unfair,
When it comes to love who cares?

GLOSSARY

respective *adj*
relating to individuals who are part of a pair/group

to swear *vb*
to make a strong promise; to say that you are certain of something

won't stand a chance *exp*
if you "won't stand a chance", there is no possibility that you will succeed

to succumb *vb*
to submit or consent to something that is more powerful than you

to pray *vb*
to hope; (religious) to ask a god for something

blind romance *exp*
strong feelings of love that are illogical or irrational

thankful *adj*
to feel happy about something you receive or about something good that happens to you

to waste *vb*
to spend time, money, etc doing useless things that don't produce results

to dare *vb*
if you "dare" to do something, you do it even though it is difficult or dangerous

to feel rejected *exp*
to have the sensation that you are not wanted, loved, or cared for

to be better off without *exp*
if you are "better off without something", your life is better if you do not have that thing

a freight train *n*
a train that carries large quantities of commercial products or cargo

as hell *exp*
an expression used to emphasise an adjective (i.e. fast as hell, cold as hell, etc)

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VOCABULARY

THE BAND PART II

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about bands.

Recording studio – a place with lots of musical instruments and electronic equipment where you record music to make a CD.

Rehearsal studio – a place where you go to practise music before you record it on a CD.

Fan – if you are a “fan” of something, you like that thing very much.

Supporting act – the person or group that performs/sings before the primary/main group.

Manager – a person who organises concerts, and controls the finances, etc of a group or singer.

Album – a group of songs (usually about 12) recorded and published together on a CD.

Music download – a song that is taken from the internet and put onto your computer.

Pirated copy – an illegal copy of something; a copy that you do not pay for or have permission to make.

Tour – a series of similar concerts in lots of different cities.

Record label/company – a company that manages music groups and does the recording, marketing, advertising, etc.

Recording contract – a contract/agreement between a music artist and a record label to record an album.

Album cover/sleeve – a piece of paper that covers a CD and has information about the artist, songs, label, etc.

Music critic – a person who writes reviews of concerts, songs, etc.

Music producer – a person who supervises and controls the recording of a CD.

Songwriter – a person who writes and creates songs (often another person sings their songs).

Singer-songwriter – a person who writes and sings/ plays songs.

Group / band – a group of people who play/ sing music together.

Solo artist – a person who sings/performs alone (without a group of other singers).

Bodyguard – a person who is paid to protect another (usually famous or important) person.

Talent scout – a person who searches for new musical artists that are good; usually works for a record label.

Charts – an official list that says how popular a song is at a certain time (Hot 100, Top 40, etc).

Number-one hit – a song that is number one on any of the official charts. ☺



TYPICAL DIALOGUES

THE BAND PART II

In this conversation, Stella, the lead singer of the band Broken Wings, is having a meeting with the band’s manager, Rob Rock. They are discussing plans for the following year.

Stella: It’s freezing in here. Turn the heating up. This **fur coat** is useless.

Rob: But it’s 20 degrees in here.

Stella: Just do it.

Rob: OK. (*He turns up the heat.*) Good news: the dates for the tour have been confirmed. Four concerts over four nights.

Stella: Four? I thought we had twelve dates.

Rob: We’ve had to cancel a few. Ticket sales were slow.

Stella: Slow? Why?

Rob: There wasn’t enough publicity.

Stella: I told you. I told you.

Rob: The new album isn’t selling very well either. It’s **dropped** six places to number 47. I think it’s already **peaked**.

Stella: Peaked? Peaked? Are they playing the song on the radio?

Rob: Not much. No. We should offer it as a free download.

Stella: A download? Are you mad?

Rob: That’s how they do things these days.

Stella: **No way!** These free downloads **eat into my sales**.

Rob: OK. Next point. The question of security for the tour. We can’t afford to have six bodyguards.

Stella: I need them. I am a **target**. There are people out there who want to **assassinate** me.

Rob: **You’re being paranoid**.

Stella: Who’s the supporting act for the tour?

Rob: The band “Ten’s Up”.

Stella: I want a bad band. A bad band. I don’t want them **showing me up** or anything.

Rob: We’ll make sure the sound quality isn’t as good as yours.

Stella: (*She sees a bowl of M&Ms on the desk.*) What’s this?

Rob: Your bowl of M&Ms.

Stella: There are RED M&Ms in the bowl. Red! Red! You know I hate the red ones.

Rob: I’m sorry.

Stella: This is TYPICAL! TYPICAL of your attitude towards me. NO... RED... M&Ms. How many times do I have to tell you?

Rob: I’m sorry. We’ll get rid of them.

Stella: No more red ones! I hate them! I hate them! (*She throws the bowl of M&Ms across the room.*) ☺

GLOSSARY

to drop *vb*
to decrease; to go down; if a song “drops” on the charts (the list of the most popular songs), it is less popular

to peak *vb*
to reach the highest point possible
no way! *exp*
a surprised or emphatic expression for saying “no”, or “that’s impossible”
to eat into sales *exp*
if something “eats into your sales”, it reduces your sales

a target *n*
if you are a “target”, people are trying to kill you

to assassinate *vb*
to murder/kill a very important person, often for political reasons
to be paranoid *exp*
to have unrealistic fear; to be scared/ afraid of unrealistic things

to show up *phr vb*
if you “show someone up”, you do something better than them



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: STOPPING



CD track 25 -
Irishwoman

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.



Change hands

When a business/company/shop, etc "changes hands", there is a new owner. "This restaurant has changed hands three times over the past six months."



Call it a day

To stop doing something because it is obviously not going to be successful. "I've had enough of all this stress. Let's call it a day and go home."



Have a change of heart

To decide to do something differently; to change your mind. "She originally said that she wanted to join our band, but since then she has had a change of heart."



Kick the habit

To stop doing something; to give up something (often a bad habit). "I hate smoking and I've been trying to kick the habit for ages."



Here today, gone tomorrow

If something is "here today, gone tomorrow", it only exists for a very short period of time. "She had quite a few boyfriends, but they were always here today, gone tomorrow."



Give up the ghost

To stop doing something because you know that it won't be successful. "She's never going to marry you. Why don't you just give up the ghost and move on with your life?"



It's curtains for someone/ something

Someone/something is finished; Someone/something is going to die. "They found out that Jim was a police informer, so it's curtains for him."

THE INDIAN

In the mid-nineteenth century, the British Empire stretched far across the world. There were colonies on all the continents and the **resources** of each colony **flowed** back to London. India, one of the largest of the Empire's colonies was rich in products such as tea and opium. But in 1857 Indians attacked the British, and for a while, it seemed as if Britain was going to lose her colony.

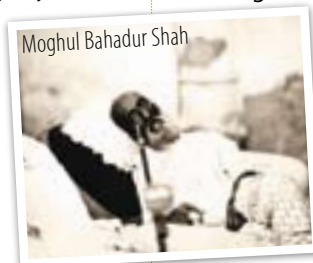
At the time, Britain ruled India through the Honourable East India Company. There was no major competition as the French had been defeated many years before. The company was an independent corporation with its own army, which was even bigger than the regular British Army. Although most of the army's troops were native Indians, the officers were all British.



The final straw happened in March 1857 at Barrackpore. A sepoy shot at an officer and then attacked him with a sword. When the general arrived on the scene, the sepoy tried unsuccessfully to kill himself. He was later hanged because of the incident. Indian soldiers were **embittered** over the episode but it was only the beginning.

For many years, things were working well; but during the mid-19th century, there were **rumblings of discontent**. The British had been in India for about 200 years and their Asian possessions stretched from the Khyber Pass (on the Afghan border) to Burma. Indians were suspicious of Christian missionaries who showed little respect for the ancient culture and traditions of the subcontinent, and laws **concerning** inheritance caused anger among the natives. **On top of this**, people started to talk about a **prophecy**. It said that 100 years after the Battle of Plassey (1757), the rule of the company would come to an end. But how?

The cause of the rebellion was a rifle. The British soldiers were using the Enfield rifle. In the 19th century, the rifle was modernised so that it could be easily loaded. To help the process the **cartridge** was greased with animal fat. Muslim and Hindu **sepoys** were **outraged** when they heard that this was a mixture of cow and pig fat as they had to touch the grease. The cow was sacred to the Hindus, and the pig was considered unclean by Muslims. The British realised their mistake, and told the soldiers to use the grease of their choice but the incident had gone too far already. Nobody trusted the **Brits** by now.



In Meerut, 85 soldiers were **court-martialled** and sentenced to 10 years **hard labour** for refusing to handle the offending cartridges. To make matters worse, the British **publicly** humiliated these soldiers, stripping them of their uniforms and chaining them as they took the men to prison. A riot **ensued** and local Indians **went on the rampage**, killing any Europeans they could find. The Indians then **fled** to Delhi.

Delhi didn't have many troops and any British that the rebels found were killed. The local Indian leader, the **Moghul** Bahadur Shah, was unwilling to help but took leadership when no British help arrived. The British marched on Delhi, murdering anyone disloyal on the way and met the rebels outside the city. The British won but they didn't destroy the resistance, who retreated back to the heavily protected city.

Soon after, the British organised a column of **Sikhs** to march against Delhi. They were reinforced by regiments from the regular British Army who had arrived from the **Crimean War**, and the **Gurkhas** had also joined the force. The British eventually took Delhi and arrested the Moghul. Later, an officer, William Hodson, murdered the Moghul's three sons. Hodson,



THE INDIAN MUTINY

An attack by Indians against the British in India in 1857. The major cause was the use of cow and pig grease on cartridges for the Lee Enfield rifle. Hindus and Muslims found this offensive. The British won, but the repression caused long-lasting hatred. The British only lasted another 100 years and eventually left India in 1947.



MUTINY

GLOSSARY

resources *n*
the money, metal, food, oil, gas, etc of a country

to flow *vb*
to move constantly, like water in a river

rumblings of discontent *exp*
signs that a person or group is becoming unhappy

concerning *prep*
relating to, regarding

on top of this *ph*
also

a prophecy *n*
a prediction about the future that is spiritually inspired

a cartridge *n*
the metal cylinder on the outside of bullets/ammunition

a sepoy *n*
an Indian soldier in the British Army

outraged *adj*
very angry

a Brit *abbr*
a person from Britain (short for British)

the final straw *exp*
the last thing that can be tolerated before something negative happens

embittered *adj*
annoyed, angry

to be court-martialled *exp*
to be tried in a military court

hard labour *n*
a prison sentence where you are forced to work

publicly *adv*
in front of a lot of people

to chain *vb*
to put chains (lines of metal rings) around someone's feet and/or arms

to ensue *vb*
to follow as a consequence of something

to go on the rampage *exp*
to become angry and to do things with uncontrolled violence and destruction

to flee *vb*
to run away; to try to escape

a Moghul *n*
a member of the Muslim dynasty that ruled India from 1526 to 1857

Sikhs *n*
an Indian religious group from the Punjab

the Crimean War *n*
a war in which Russia fought Great Britain, France, and Turkey

a Gurkha *n*
a person from Nepal who fights in the British army

a clergyman *n*
an official religious minister

to spare *vb*
not to kill; to allow to continue living

to send into exile *exp*
to force someone to live in another country

naively *adj*
innocently; not intelligently

to join forces *exp*
to join with another person or group in order to become stronger

a nobleman *n*
a lord; an aristocrat

a siege *n*
if there is a "siege", a city is surrounded by an enemy army

to strike a deal *exp*
to make an agreement

a hostage *n*
if a "hostage" is taken, someone is taken prisoner.

This prisoner is often used to negotiate with the enemy

to barricade *vb*
to put barriers in a place so nobody can come or go

a compound *n*
an enclosed area of land where people can live

a Highlander *n*
a soldier from northern Scotland

to take back *phr vb*
to regain possession of

to loot *vb*
to steal, typically during a riot, war, etc

by the way, was the son of a **clergyman**. The Moghul was **spared**, but was **sent into exile** in Rangoon, where he died in 1862.

The next major confrontation was at Cawnpore. The general in this town **naively** thought his troops were loyal to him but they **joined forces** with an Indian **nobleman**, Naha Sahib who led them in a **siege** of the town fortress. After many days, and with the British inside the fortress starving and thirsty, **a deal was struck**: the people inside the fortress could leave. The pathetic column of British men, women and children left the fortress, but when they got to the river, things went horribly wrong. For some reason, the British opened fire on the Indian boatmen. In return, the rebels also opened fire, then took the women and children **hostage**. Later, they were killed in cold blood. This caused an outrage in Britain, and the British responded violently. Naha Sahib escaped, never to be seen again. Lucknow was the last major hope of victory for the rebels. The British had **barricaded**



themselves into a **compound** within the city. The siege, which lasted about five months, was defeated when **Highlanders** arrived to help the British residents.

In the months that followed, the British **took back** what they had lost and went on the rampage across northern India. They killed and **looted** entire villages and many British families became rich because of this. This time of attacks became known as "The Devil's Wind". Anything the rebels did was repeated many more times by the British.

As a result of all this, the British government decided to form a government department to rule India. It was too big a colony for a private company, so the India Office was created. Eventually, India won its freedom in 1947 because of the successful independence movement led by the great Mahatma Gandhi. Ironically, the prophecy about the end of the East India Company's rule came true, even though it was a hundred years later. ❖

SACRED COWS

Hindu groups against the government over a cow.

As you know, the cow is sacred for Hindus. It cannot be killed, it cannot be hurt and it certainly cannot be eaten. Just recently, British Hindu groups were concerned over the killing of a cow named Gangotri by the RSPCA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). The cow was being kept at the Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple in Hertfordshire, England. On 13th December 2007, RSPCA inspectors and a government vet arrived at the temple and gave the cow a lethal injection. The cow had damaged her back legs and could not stand. Hindus were furious. The RSPCA claimed that the cow was killed to prevent further suffering. However, Temple officials claim that the cow was being

treated by vets, and was being cared for specially. The temple was donated in 1973 by ex-Beatle George Harrison. Staff at the temple run the Cow Protection Project where cows and bulls are allowed to die naturally. ❖





CD track 26 - Englishman & Englishwoman

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

Dream Meal

A couple discover more than they expected in their dinner.

"That was the best **seafood** dinner we ever had," said a young couple after they found a rare purple **pearl** in their food. Simon and Leslie Brock were eating **clams** when they made the discovery. Halfway through the meal at the restaurant Pete's Last Resort, Mr Brock bit on something hard. "I pulled it out of my mouth and discovered a beautiful purple pearl. I **couldn't believe my luck**," Mr Brock said. Experts say the pearl could be worth thousands of dollars. "I've never seen anything like it," said **gemmologist** Antoinette Matlins. "I think

they have found something precious and lovely and valuable," she added. Purple pearls are most commonly found in large New England "quahogs" (clams known for the violet colouring on the inside of their **shells**). "The dinner cost us 20 dollars, but it was worth a lot more than that," Mr Brock said. "We'll definitely be coming back to this restaurant." ❖



SHE'S A DIAMOND.

Swearing Nun

Children in shock after nun swears at them.

"We were just sitting in **assembly**, when Sister Montfort started saying all these **swear words**," said Kylie Nichols, 9, who was describing an incident that occurred at a Catholic school. The children were shocked when the head **nun** read out a list of **banned** swear words. Sister Montfort told the students that she had a **zero-tolerance policy** for **cursing**. And just in case anyone was not sure what she was talking about, she read a list of the words and phrases that she was banning.

Some parents were shocked, but others **applauded** the measure.

"In a way, you would think a nun would **shy away from** something like that, but she's very open with the children, very clear in her messages," said Margaret

Loache, one of the parents. Mrs Loache's son was there when Sister Montfort read the list of banned words. "When I asked my son to give me a sample of the words, he said, 'Oh, no, I can't say those words,' I thought it was great," she added. ❖



GLOSSARY

- seafood** *n*
any fish or animal from the sea that you eat
- a pearl** *n*
a small round jewel that you find inside a clam; often used for necklaces
- a clam** *n*
a round shellfish with a top and a bottom that open and close like a mouth
- I couldn't believe my luck** *exp*
something you say when a very good and unexpected thing happens to you
- a gemmologist** *n*
a person who studies gems (precious stones that you find in nature)
- a shell** *n*
a hard part that covers an animal, nut, egg, etc
- assembly** *n*
a meeting in a school (often in the morning) with students and staff
- swear words** *exp*
words that are not socially acceptable or polite
- a nun** *n*
a religious woman dedicated to the church. Nuns often live in nunneries or work in schools
- banned** *adj*
prohibited
- zero-tolerance policy** *exp*
if there is a "zero-tolerance policy", someone (an authority) is very strict about a rule or law
- to curse** *vb*
to use swear words
- to applaud** *vb*
to clap (to hit your hands together) because you like something
- to shy away from** *exp*
to avoid doing something



British bar chat

Deadlines

This month, Tori and Ann are talking about **deadlines**.



- Tori:** Oh Ann, I've done it again. I've **left everything until the last minute**.
- Ann:** What have you left?
- Tori:** I've got this psychology university assignment to hand in next Wednesday and I've had six weeks to complete it in. And I've left it to the very last weekend before I'm **due to hand it in**.
- Ann:** And why have you left it?
- Tori:** Because I'm an idiot! I'm just... I always **put things off** until the last minute. I just can't seem to organise myself to... to get things done when I should get them done. I just keep saying, "I'll do it tomorrow. I'll start it next weekend. I'll start it the following weekend." And I just put it off and off until it's too late. I've got, what, five days to do it in, now, and I've had six weeks.
- Ann:** So, you find it difficult to **kind of** self-impose a deadline. It's easier probably if somebody else imposes a deadline.
- Tori:** Completely. Well, in this case the university has... has given me a deadline, but because I've had such a long time to do it in I haven't been able to sit myself down at a desk when I get in from work and make myself do it. I just think, "Oh, I'll have a cup of tea then I'll watch a film. Oh, I'll see my friends tomorrow." And I've just put off the work, and put it off until it's just too late.
- Ann:** It's funny isn't it, because I do exactly the same thing. And I remember when I was at the university they'd say, for example, "Hand in your **essay** on the 21st of June at 5:00." And at two minutes to five, I'd be running through the door. [Panting] Kind of like **panting**, handing in my essay. You know having stayed up all night, having drunk 25 cups of black coffee. You know...
- Tori:** That's what I used to do, completely.
- Ann:** It's ridiculous isn't it?
- Tori:** Take caffeine pills. I used to take caffeine pills. ☘

GLOSSARY

deadline *n*
a time limit; the time when you must complete something

to leave everything until the last minute *exp*
if you do this, you do things at the last possible moment

due to *exp*
if something is "due to" happen at a certain time, it has to happen at that time

to hand in *phr vb*
to give something to an official person (your teacher/boss, etc)

put things off *exp*
to delay doing things; to decide you will do things at a later time

kind of *exp*
more or less; a common expression to fill space in a conversation

an essay *n*
a short piece of literature about a specific subject/theme

to pant *vb*
to breathe very hard after doing exercise

US bar chat

Scary Movies

This month, Jenna and Melissa are talking about a frightening film.



- Jenna:** Could you make mine a *double*? I didn't sleep at all last night.
- Melissa:** Why? What **on earth** happened?
- Jenna:** Well, I saw this really **scary** movie. Have you seen *What Lies Beneath*?
- Melissa:** Yeah, but I didn't really think it was that scary.
- Jenna:** Are you serious?
- Melissa:** Well, ok to be honest there were two girls, my friends, sitting next me and they were screaming at the **movie screen** the entire time. "Don't go upstairs! Can't you hear the music? Run away!" So I was laughing. I...it...it was hilarious.
- Jenna:** I don't know why people shout at scary movies, it's not interactive.
- Melissa:** Well, you know they just **got all wrapped up** and everything and they just... they just... they just start screaming.
- Jenna:** I know, but what am I going to do? I... I kept the lights on last night and I'll probably keep them on tonight. I... what... what do I do?
- Melissa:** No, I have the same problem when I watch a scary movie. My **imagination runs wild**, and I keep the lights on; I lock every door. Mmm... I don't know, maybe you should watch something else tonight.
- Jenna:** Yeah maybe *Full House* is on or something for children.
- Melissa:** That should definitely put you to sleep.
- Jenna:** I hope so. ☘



GLOSSARY

on earth *exp*
an expression used for emphasis or to show shock/anger, etc

scary *adj*
if something is "scary", it makes you feel scared/afraid/frightened; it gives you fear

a movie screen *n*
a flat object that you look at in a cinema and that has the film projected onto it

to get all wrapped up *exp*
to become very emotional

imagination runs wild *exp*
if your "imagination runs wild", you think about lots of things that are not real



CD track 31 - US women

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

You cannot eat a doughnut and walk backwards on a city street. (Ohio)

Your duck may not be **paraded** down Ohio Avenue. (Ohio)

It is against the law to roller skate without notifying the police. (Ohio)



It's illegal for a woman to **strip off** her clothing while standing in front of a man's picture. (Ohio)

A policeman may bite a dog to **quiet** him. (Ohio)

Throwing a snake at anyone is illegal. (Ohio)

You may not **run out** of gas. (Ohio)

Riding on the roof of a **taxi cab** is not allowed. (Ohio)



Dogs must have a permit signed by the mayor in order to **congregate** in groups of three or more on private property. (Oklahoma)

Oklahoma will not tolerate anyone **taking a bite out of** another's hamburger. (Oklahoma)



It is against the law to read a comic book while operating a motor vehicle. (Oklahoma)

Whaling is illegal. (Oklahoma)

It is illegal to have the **hind legs** of farm animals in your boots. (Oklahoma)

People who make "ugly faces" at dogs may be fined and/or jailed. (Oklahoma)



It is illegal to wear your boots to bed. (Oklahoma)



Fish may not be contained in fishbowls while on a public bus. (Oklahoma)

No person may own more than two adult cats. (Oklahoma)

It is unlawful to put any **hypnotized** person in a **display window**. (Oklahoma)



No one may walk backwards downtown while eating a hamburger. (Oklahoma)

The mayor may not **go on strike**. (Oklahoma) ☺



GLOSSARY

to parade *vb*
if you "parade" a duck, you walk with it in public

to strip off *phr vb*
to take off your clothing

to quiet *vb*
to cause a person, animal or thing to stop making sound

to run out of *phr vb*
if you "run out of something", you don't have any more of that thing

a taxi cab *n*
a car driven by a taxi driver; you pay him/her to take you where you want to go

to congregate *vb*
if a group of people "congregate", they join together in a group in the same place

to take a bite out of *exp*
to eat a part of something using your teeth

to whale *vb*
to try to catch a whale (a really big mammal) in the sea

hind legs *n*
the legs on the back part of an animal

hypnotized *adj*
if you are "hypnotized", someone else controls your thoughts and actions

a display window *n*
a window in a shop where you can see the things that are for sale

to go on strike *exp*
to refuse to work until you receive something you want, usually more money

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

Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
A friend asks if she can sleep at your house.	May I rest my weary head at your abode tonight?	Can I sleep at your house tonight?	Can I kip at your pad tonight?
A friend loves going out and enjoying herself in bars at night.	She adores the pleasures of the night.	She loves going out at night and having fun.	She's a real party animal.
Someone is touching you. You tell that person to stop.	Please desist from making any physical contact with me.	Please stop touching me.	Get your paws off me!
You ate a lot of ice cream. You tell a friend.	We consumed large quantities of ice cream.	We ate a lot of ice cream.	We pigged out on ice cream.
A friend smoked some marijuana.	He partook of a cigarette that contained an illegal substance.	He smoked some marijuana.	He had a joint; he smoked some weed; he smoked some pot.
Someone you know is a bit wild, and sometimes does things that put himself or others in danger.	He is somewhat mentally unhinged.	He's crazy!	He's a psycho!



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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 paw *n*
literally, an animal's foot

Answers

Train Anger page 6

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

Trivia Matching page 16

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

12G 13D

Little Jokes page 29

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

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



Make yourself at home

This expression is often used as a way of welcoming someone to your house and telling them to behave in a relaxed way – as if it were their own home.
"Sit down and make yourself at home, while I make some tea."



Bring something home to someone

To make someone understand something much more clearly than they did before – often something unpleasant.
"The explicit photographs of violence finally brought the terrible realities of war home to the politicians."



Do your homework

To investigate a topic/area, etc so that you can prepare for something and so that you can know all about it.
"The reporter asked Simon Bates about his latest film. However, if she had done her homework, she would have realised that the film had been cancelled."



Be at home with/in something

If you are "at home with something", you feel confident and happy because it is familiar to you and you know how to deal with it.
"By the end of the week, she was beginning to feel more at home with her new job."



Be at home

If something is "at home in" a particular place, it is suitable for that place and it looks right there.
"This photo would look more at home in an art gallery rather than stuck in someone's living room."



Drive/Hammer something home

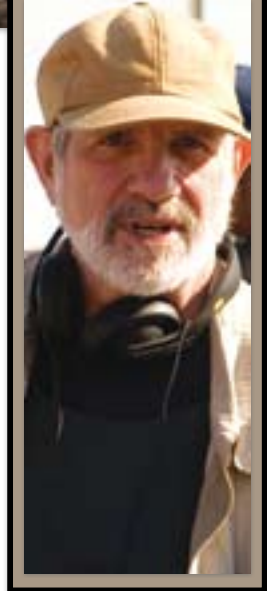
To say something very clearly and with a lot of force, often repeating it several times so that you are sure that people understand it.
"We really had to drive home the message to them that drinking and driving is highly dangerous."

A controversial film by Brian de Palma.

REDACTED



BRIAN DE PALMA
American film director. Born 11th September 1940 in Newark, New Jersey. Most famous films include *Scarface* and *Dressed to Kill*. Most recent film: *Redacted*.



Director Brian de Palma's latest film *Redacted* has been **causing a stir** since it was released. De Palma, whose movies aren't for the **faint hearted**, is now the target of the **American Right** and television presenters such as Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. So, what's all the **fuss** about?

Brian de Palma's best-known film is *Scarface*. The film stars Al Pacino as a **deranged** Cuban gangster. This film is extremely violent and, in general, Brian de Palma's films have the **recurring themes** of violence and **the dark side** of humanity. Brian de Palma got into trouble in the 1980s with feminists because of his film *Dressed to Kill*, and he has also been **branded** a traitor for his Vietnam War film *Casualties of War*. *Redacted* has similar **subject matter** to *Casualties of War* but now the reaction to the movie is much stronger. A website, BoycottRedacted.com, is dedicated to attacking the film. As a result, the film hasn't done well at the **box office**. When it was released in the American cinema last year, only 15 places showed it.



Some think that the problem is the **timing** of the film given that the war in Iraq is still **going on**. *Casualties of War* was released in 1989, about 15 years after the end of the Vietnam War. This has probably got a lot to do with the film's problems. People don't want to see a war that their **tax** is paying for and people don't want to see pictures of death when it's going on right now. But that is the point of the movie, according to De Palma. Especially as the **corporate media** refuses to show the true picture. The word "redacted" itself means "changed" or "edited" so that it is suitable for release.

The main theme of the film is the same as many other war films: war is pointless, it is brutal and it solves nothing. The soldiers themselves are poor and are manipulated by politicians. But people don't want to hear about this. Other films about Iraq have also **flopped** at the box office and the only relatively successful

movie similar to it, *The Kingdom*, has been successful because it is an action movie.

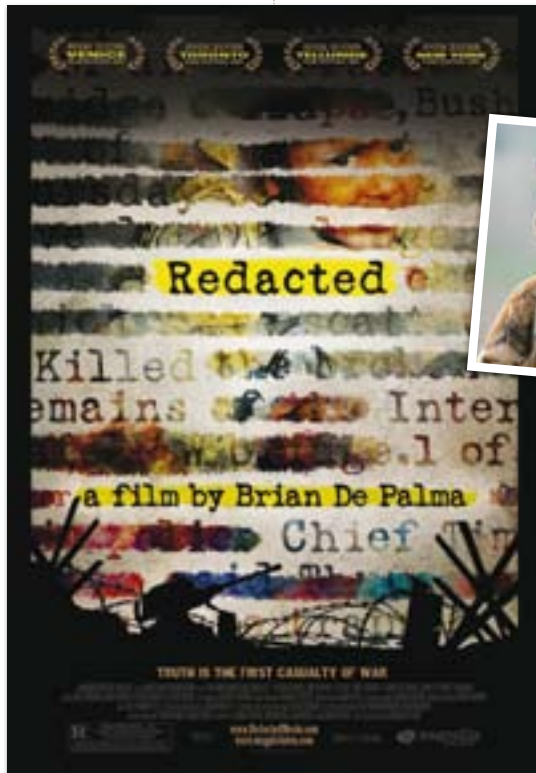
Despite its **dismal**

performance in the cinema, Brian De Palma has won a **prestigious**

award for the film at the Venice Film Festival, the Silver Lion Award for Best Director.

It seems that many people don't want to see true images of the war, especially as it is a war which is going on right now. This, according to De Palma, is the **paradox**. ❄

The storyline is based on the rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl by American soldiers in 2006. The soldiers then murdered her younger sister and parents. In the film, there is a lot of violence, including the beheading of a soldier by militants, and roadside bombs. This film is not for the faint hearted. Everything in the film is based on fact. But what has changed? Americans don't want to see this film. *Casualties of War* has the same theme: a young Vietnamese girl is raped and murdered by American soldiers, but that film was quite successful. So, what's the difference?



GLOSSARY

- to cause a stir** *exp*
to create trouble or debate
- faint hearted** *adj*
easily upset; weak; not strong
- the American Right** *n*
politically conservative people in the USA
- a fuss** *n*
trouble; problems; debate
- deranged** *adj*
violently insane; crazy and dangerous
- a recurring theme** *n*
a concept or idea that you see repeatedly
- the dark side** *n*
the ideas or part of humanity that is negative/evil/violent, etc
- to brand** *v*
to call someone a name or accuse them officially/publicly of being something
- the subject matter** *n*
what something (a film, book, speech etc) is about
- the box office** *n*
the front of a cinema where you pay for admission; if a film makes a lot at the "box office", a lot of people see it at the cinema
- the timing** *n*
the moment when something happens
- to go on** *phr vb*
to continue
- tax** *n*
the money that you pay to the government for services: the police, education, etc
- corporate media** *n*
the section of the newspapers, news channels etc that are controlled by large businesses
- to flop** *vb inform*
to fail or do badly
- dismal** *adj*
really, really bad
- prestigious** *n*
very important, elite; desired by a lot of people
- a paradox** *n*
something that seems to contradict logic

PHRASAL VERB THEMES: SPORT

GLOSSARY

to foul *vb*
to commit an "illegal" act during a game
to tackle *vb*
to attempt to take the ball off someone by using your feet

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

WARM UP

TO DO LIGHT EXERCISES BEFORE DOING SPORT IN ORDER TO PREPARE YOUR BODY.



"IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO DO A FEW WARM UP EXERCISES BEFORE DOING ANY SPORT."

WORK OUT

TO GO TO THE GYM AND TO DO EXERCISES IN ORDER TO GET INTO SHAPE.



"SHE WORKS OUT AT THE GYM THREE TIMES A WEEK."

KNOCK OUT

TO ELIMINATE FROM A COMPETITION.



"AS USUAL, ENGLAND WERE KNOCKED OUT OF THE COMPETITION IN THE FIRST ROUND."

PULL AHEAD

TO GET IN FRONT OF ANOTHER PERSON IN A RACE.



"MARTA AND JANE WERE RUNNING AT THE SAME SPEED FOR MOST OF THE RACE UNTIL THE LAST 200 METRES WHEN MARTA PULLED AHEAD."

BURN OFF (FAT)

TO DO EXERCISE THAT ELIMINATES FAT.



"A FEW SESSIONS DOWN AT THE GYM SHOULD BURN OFF ANY EXCESS FAT YOU'VE ACQUIRED OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD."

SEND OFF

TO TELL A PLAYER TO LEAVE A FOOTBALL PITCH BECAUSE HE/SHE HAS FOULED SOMEONE.



HE WAS SENT OFF FOR DANGEROUS TACKLING."

GO FORWARD (TO THE NEXT ROUND)

TO PASS ONE STAGE AND TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE.



"AFTER WINNING OUR FIRST THREE GAMES, WE ARE GOING FORWARD TO THE NEXT ROUND."

GO FOR

IF YOU "GO FOR" SOMETHING, YOU TRY TO ACHIEVE IT.



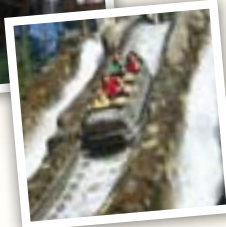
"SHE IS GOING FOR GOLD IN THE OLYMPICS SWIMMING COMPETITION."

A true American amusement park.
By Jenna DiMaria. US English.

DOLLYWOOD

You've probably heard of Disneyworld and Disneyland and possibly Universal Studios in Hollywood and Orlando. But there is one amusement park in the United States you probably haven't heard of: Dollywood.

Located in the Great Smoky Mountains in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, Dollywood is an unusual theme park. Co-owned by entertainer Dolly Parton, the attractions of the park center on traditions and history from the Appalachian region of the United States. Of course the park has the **roller coasters** and the **cotton candy** and the **water rides**, but it also has a special something that puts Dollywood in a category all of its own.



drops about 40 meters at 80 kph. The coolest part about this ride is that while you are dropping, someone takes your photo, which is for sale at the end of the ride. Another highlight at the park is the Blazing Fury, an indoor rollercoaster. Warning: prepare to get wet!

In between riding the rides, there are numerous shows, activities and shops to enjoy. At Ashley's Photorium, you can choose a costume from the 1880s and get your picture taken. At the Bat Cart, baseball lovers can buy a custom-made engraved bat. There are holiday shows and plays throughout the year at Dollywood, and one of their biggest festivals is the Festival of Nations. This season, the festival includes traditional songs and dances from Ireland, Ecuador, and Zambia.

Dollywood is a wonderful place to go for those looking for something distinctly American. It captures the essence of the Appalachian region of the United States, and is guaranteed to be an unforgettable experience. ✨



The minute you walk through the **turnstile** at Dollywood, you are transported to another world. There is **bluegrass music**, the

sound of an old-fashioned sewing machine, the knocking of a **blacksmith's** hammer, the smell of popcorn and open coal fires roasting almonds. For food, there's Dollywood's homemade ice cream, fried green tomatoes, and freshly-baked cinnamon bread. But before filling up on food, it is best to get in line for the rides. The Tennessee Tornado is a **must-do** at Dollywood. Situated in the mountains, this upside down rollercoaster



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DOLLY PARTON

Singer, actress, songwriter, and philanthropist... there isn't much that Dolly Parton hasn't done. Already in her mid 60s, Dolly has an impressive "body of work", and is showing no signs of stopping. Her latest album "Backwoods Barbie" hit stores in February 2008, and she has just completed a European Tour. Dolly has spent her lifetime showing America and the rest of the world that talent can **withstand the test of time**. Of course, her success did not come to be overnight.



While many of us can instantly recall Dolly's trademark "physical attributes", there is **more to this woman than meets the eye**. For many reasons, she is the perfect example of the American Dream. She was born into **less-than-modest conditions**, and is now a self-made millionaire with an amusement park named after her. The fourth of twelve children, Dolly grew up in a **one-room cabin** with no **running water** in the Appalachian Mountains in East Tennessee. When interviewed about her childhood, she says that her family was "dirt poor". One of her most famous songs "Coat of Many Colors" talks about her humble childhood. The line, "One is only poor only if they choose to be" captures the poise and the class that Dolly has always shown in the face of hardship.

When she was 18, Dolly moved to Nashville and focused her efforts fully on her music career. Starting out as a songwriter in the 1960s, she wrote hits for country legends such as Hank Williams and Skeeter Davis. Before being labeled a country legend herself, she started out singing pop songs, which gained her minor success. In fact, it took her years of failed attempts to **find her footing** in the music business, but with **unwavering** determination and perseverance, she has now published nearly 600 songs, she has won 7 **Grammy Awards** and has had 42 Grammy nominations.

Dolly has also stretched herself beyond the music business into other entertainment fields. She has been on numerous **variety shows**, has made lots of guest appearances, and has even graced the silver screen in feature films such as *Straight Talk* and *9 to 5*. With all of her success, one of the more impressive **facets** of Dolly's character is her **philanthropic spirit**. Dolly's charity, Imagination Library, mails one children's book to a youngster every month from the time they are born up until they start **kindergarten**. This charity has gained tremendous momentum, and has **caught on** across The United States, Canada and Europe.



Dolly is famous for saying, "It takes a lot of money to look this cheap." However, she is living proof that it also takes a lot of strength and heart to have contributed so much to the entertainment business. With all her success, she still feels **humble**, even though she's doing so well. 🍀

GLOSSARY

- a roller coaster** *n*
a ride in an amusement park that looks like a train and that goes really fast
- cotton candy** *n*
a soft, light, sweet substance that looks and feels like cotton and that you can eat. It is often pink or blue
- a water ride** *n*
a ride/attraction in an amusement park that goes through water
- a turnstile** *n*
a mechanical barrier at the entrance to a zoo, football ground, etc
- bluegrass music** *exp*
a type of fast, traditional country music from the southern United States with guitars and banjos
- a blacksmith** *n*
a person who makes things out of metal, usually the metal "shoes" for horses
- a must-do** *exp*
something that others advise you to do or see because it is very important/good, etc
- to drop** *vb*
to fall
- withstand the test of time** *exp*
to last/survive for a really long time without becoming bad
- more to (something) than meets the eye** *exp*
something/somebody has more qualities or characteristics than what you see/notice at first
- less-than-modest conditions** *exp*
a polite expression to say that a person or place is not of a high quality/standard
- a one-room cabin** *n*
a small house in the country, usually built of wood, that only has one room
- running water** *exp*
water that comes into your house through pipes and that comes out through taps
- to find your footing** *exp*
to become comfortable in a place so you can move forward/higher
- unwavering** *adj*
that does not vary
- Grammy Awards** *n*
the official national music awards in the United States; like the "Oscars", but for music
- a variety show** *n*
a show with music, comedy, acting, etc
- a facet** *n*
a part or aspect of something or someone
- a philanthropic spirit** *exp*
if you have a "philanthropic spirit", you do lots of good things for other people
- kindergarten** *n*
a type of pre-school for children between the ages of 4 and 6
- to catch on** *phr vb*
to become popular
- humble** *adj*
modest; with no ideas of superiority

Headline News

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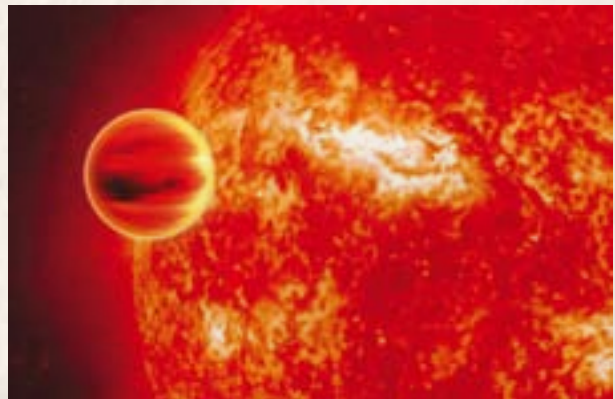
Space Shot

Signs of life on other planets?

Scientists have discovered the gas methane on a planet 63 **light years** away, the British **journal** *Nature* has reported. It is an important discovery because methane is important for life to exist on a planet.

The **nameless** planet, known only as HD189733b to scientists, is very close to its **sun** and has a year which lasts just two days. The planet is located in the Little Fox (Vulpecula) **constellation**. **Astronomers** from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said that it is probable that there is no life on the planet because it is too hot. They did say that what is important is that the technique for **spotting** the methane gas is sound.

They now plan to use the technique in an area of the galaxy known as the "Goldilocks Zone". It is called after



a character in a **fairy tale** who stole food from bears which was not too hot and not too cold. This area in the Milky Way is said to have conditions that are "just right" for life to **evolve**.

NASA used the Hubble space telescope, an **ageing** piece of technology, to conduct this experiment. It, along with the Spitzer telescope, is going to be retired in a few years time as newer technology is developed and astronomers can see further into the **cosmos**. ☺

Star Dating

Date with a star for the highest bidder.



A lucky fan has recently been given the **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to go on a **date** with Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson. The fan from the UK made a **bid** of €25,500 on the auctioning website E-Bay. He won a chance to go to Scarlett's movie **premiere**. The lucky man will be taken in a limousine and will join Scarlett on the red

carpet. It took just ten days for the bids to go from less than €1 to the final price. The money is to go to the **charity** Oxfam.

Scarlett Johansson's latest film *He's Just Not That into You* isn't the only new release for the 23-year-old **up-and-coming** actress. The **multi-talented** star is to release an album in May of cover versions sung originally by American singer Tom Waits. She is to sing just one original song on the album, a number **entitled** *Song for Jo*. There are no plans for Scarlett to perform any live shows yet, but she hasn't **ruled out** the possibility in the future.

The actress is currently dating Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds, who is to appear as the character Deadpool in the upcoming *X-Men* movie. Johansson herself is to star as the tragic Mary, Queen of Scots in a biopic of the executed Scottish leader's life next year. ☺

GLOSSARY

- a light year** *n*
the distance that light travels in one year. Used as a measurement of distance in space
- a journal** *n*
a technical magazine
- nameless** *adj*
without a name
- a sun** *n*
a star with planets
- a constellation** *n*
a group of stars
- an astronomer** *n*
a scientist who studies space
- to spot** *vb*
to see / find
- a fairy tale** *n*
a children's story
- to evolve** *vb*
to develop; to become more complex
- ageing** *n*
the process of getting old
- the cosmos** *n*
space in general: the sun, moon, stars, planets, etc.
- a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** *n*
a unique chance to do something
- a date** *n*
a romantic meeting with someone, a night out with someone
- a bid** *n*
a monetary offer at an auction (a public sale)
- a premiere** *n*
the first showing of a film
- a charity** *n*
an organization that raises money for poor people
- up-and-coming** *adj*
that is becoming more and more famous/important
- multi-talented** *adj*
with many talents
- entitled** *adj*
called; with the name of
- to rule out** *phr vb*
if you "rule something out", you say that it will never happen



Three Little Pigs



Children's nursery rhyme is banned because it is "too offensive".

"Some people from **religious minorities** may find this rhyme **offensive**," said a UK government spokesperson after deciding that a story based on the children's tale The Three Little Pigs would not be included in a **digital book** re-telling the **classic** story. The government is afraid the story could offend some religious groups because "the use of pigs raises cultural issues" (pigs are considered unclean and are not eaten by people of some religions).

The book's creative director, Anne Curtis, said that the idea that including pigs in a story could be interpreted as **racism** was "like a slap in the face". She also said that **banning** such traditional stories would "close minds rather than open them" and questioned whether this meant that schools would have to stop teaching other children's stories that feature pigs, such as Animal Farm.

The government have also attacked the CD-Rom digital version of the traditional story of the three little pigs, called Three Little Cowboy Builders, which is aimed at primary school children. The government warned that the story might "**alienate** parts of the workforce (the building trade)".

Goth Attack



Goth is ordered off a bus after incident with his girlfriend.

Have you ever been ordered off a train or a bus? Just recently, Dani Graves, 25, and his **fiancée**, Tasha Maltby, 19, were told to get off a bus in Yorkshire, England. The **black-clad** couple said they had been told to leave one bus and prevented from boarding another. "We were just minding our own business, when this bus driver suddenly says that we have to get off. It was totally **out of order**," Graves explained. But a **spokesperson** for the bus company said they were invited to leave the bus for health and safety reasons as the girl had a **dog leash** around her neck.

Apparently, the Goth couple often walk around with Dani guiding Tasha with the leash. "We've been doing it for years. She [Tasha] doesn't mind," Graves explained. But a spokesperson from the bus company said, "For us, safety comes first. Other passengers could be put at risk if the bus **braked sharply**. Our primary concern is passenger safety and while the couple are very welcome to travel on our buses, we are asking Miss Maltby to remove her dog leash before **boarding** the bus." The company said it was writing to Mr Graves "to apologise for any **distress** caused by the way this matter was handled".



GLOSSARY

- a religious minority** *n*
a group of people who are part of a religion that is not popular/common
- insulting** *adj*
- a digital book** *n*
a book that is available online
- classic** *adj*
very popular for a long time; traditional
- racism** *n*
discrimination against someone because of their race / ethnic group
- to ban** *vb*
to prohibit; if a book is "banned" from schools, it cannot be used in schools
- to alienate** *vb*
to cause someone to feel separate or different
- a fiancée** *n*
a person who is going to marry another person
- black-clad** *adj*
wearing lots of black clothes
- out of order** *exp*
unexpected and without reason
- a spokesperson** *n*
a person who talks in public to represent a group
- a dog leash** *n*
a rope connected to a dog's collar so it cannot run away
- to brake sharply** *exp*
to stop a vehicle quickly and suddenly
- to board** *vb*
to enter or get on a bus, train, airplane or boat
- distress** *n*
a feeling or sensation of anxiety and/or sadness

Word of the month:

Sleaze

This month's word is "sleaze".

"Sleaze" is often used to describe corruption and scandals in a government. Basically, anything involving sex, drugs, **backhanders** or **cronyism** would be described as sleaze if it involves members of government or **high-ranking** politicians. It is used widely by the tabloid **press** to **sensationalise** news stories or events surrounding **high profile** members of public life.

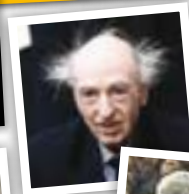
The original sensationalised sleaze story in the British press was the Profumo Affair in the 1960s. A member of the **Tory** government, John Profumo had an **affair** with a **showgirl** called Christine Keeler. Events were made worse when it was reported that Keeler was also sleeping with a Soviet agent thereby **breaching national security** of the UK. Christine Keeler became even more famous a few weeks later when she posed for some semi-erotic photos. A Hollywood film *Scandal* was made about the affair starring Joanne Whalley.

Another **infamous** example of sleaze involved another Tory **MP**, Neil Hamilton. He was involved in the Cash for Questions scandal. This was when Hamilton and another MP supposedly accepted

bribes from the owner of **Harrod's**, Mohammed al Fayed, to ask questions for him in parliament. Hamilton's political career was ruined but he has become a television personality because of it.

Irish politics has been dominated by tribunals in the last 15 years. Many of these involved **allegations** of corruption in the police force and public funds being stolen by politicians. Many of the investigations involved senior members of the main Irish party Fianna Fáil, and one ex-government minister Ray Burke went to jail. The phrases **jobs for the boys** and **dirty brown envelopes** are commonly used to describe these events.

Probably the most infamous political scandal in recent years involved ex-president of the United States Bill Clinton when he had affairs with several White House interns. The best known of these was a girl called Monica Lewinsky. Clinton was **impeached** for lying about the affair. His wife, Hillary, punished him by making him sleep on the sofa for a while. *



GLOSSARY

- a backhander** *n*
money given to a government in return for a favour
- cronyism** *n*
giving jobs and preference to your friends or people who pay you a sum of money
- high-ranking** *adj*
with a very important job
- the press** *n*
newspapers, magazines, etc
- to sensationalise** *vb*
to make something seem more important or scandalous than it really is
- high-profile** *adj*
well known/famous/important
- Tory** *n*
a member of the British Conservative Party (a right-wing, traditional party)
- an affair** *n*
a romantic relationship with someone who isn't your husband/wife
- a showgirl** *n*
a dancer in an erotic club
- to breach national security** *exp*
to endanger/break the security of a country
- infamous** *n*
famous for negative reasons
- an MP** *abbr*
a Member of the British parliament
- a bribe** *n*
a sum of money given to an official in return for a favour
- Harrod's** *n*
a large department store in London
- an allegation** *n*
an accusation
- jobs for the boys** *exp*
the act of giving jobs to your friends, etc
- dirty brown envelopes** *exp*
envelopes that contain money paid to officials in return for favours
- to impeach** *vb*
to prosecute an American president in a trial for doing something illegal

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