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WEIRD & WACKY

Is it art?

CELEBRITY REQUESTS

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VOCABULARY & EXPRESSIONS

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Wanted!

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gun power with



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Editor's intro



Hello everyone, and welcome to another issue of Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. First of all, we hope you had a great summer holiday.

This month, we've got an article on spelling difficulties in English. If you think English spelling is hard, don't worry – you aren't alone. Even native speakers have problems with English spelling. There's no logic. Just the other day, I discovered that the word "lasso" has just one "o" (I always thought it was "lassoo" with two "o's"). On a similar note, I tried an online grammar test recently. Much to my annoyance I didn't get 20 out of 20, failing to recognise the correct spelling of "accommodation" – I always thought it was one "m". Anyway, why does it have two "m's"? The extra "m" doesn't really **bring anything to the table**, does it? Ah!

This month, we're also looking at some misheard lyrics – those confusing words in songs. Try our quiz to see how good you are at understanding the lyrics.

It's easy to misunderstand things when you're learning a language. As a teacher, I always used to say "First of all..." at the start of my classes. At the end of the year, one of my students asked me, "By the way, why do you always say 'festival' ('first of all') at the start of the class?" As you know, some song lyrics are notoriously difficult to understand – for both native speakers and language learners.

Anyway, we hope you have a great time, learn a lot and see you all next month.

All the best,

Andy

PS Remember, if you're looking for lots more free content, please visit Dr Fingers' blog www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog

GLOSSARY

to bring something to the table

exp

to add something new, innovative and useful to another thing

CD index

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

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Pre-Intermediate

Intermediate

Upper Intermediate

Advanced

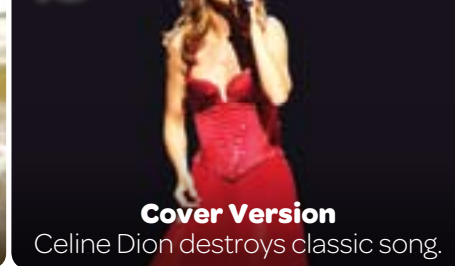
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Sunken Treasure

500 year old treasure found.

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Cover Version

Celine Dion destroys classic song.

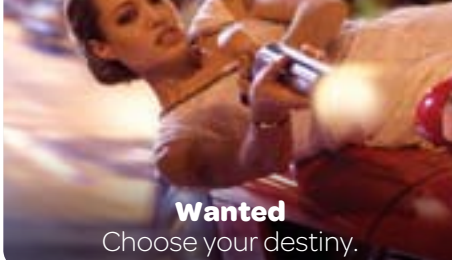
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Art Eggxhibit

Breakfast-inspired art.

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Wanted

Choose your destiny.

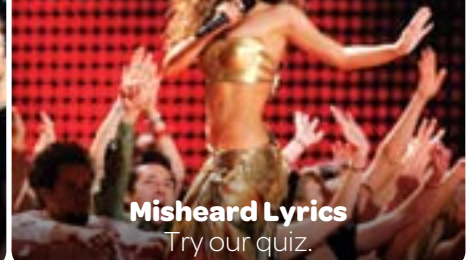
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British Music

A look at the current music scene.

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Misheard Lyrics

Try our quiz.



Advertising

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Rich taste

\$175 hamburger

A burger better be good for \$175! In New York City's Lower Manhattan district, you can get a **gourmet** burger that is a "work of art". A Kobe beef burger comes **topped with** black **truffles**, foie gras and Gruyere cheese. However, without the truffles (which are seasonal and very expensive), it only costs \$32. So, who orders these burgers? "**Wall Street types**," says Helen Tierney, the owner of The Burger Shoppe where they are sold. "They come in for a beer and get the hamburger to **show off** in front of their friends," she added. "Others see it as a prize for **stock brokers** when they've had a good day on the market. Wall Street has good days and bad days. We wanted to have the everyday burger (for \$4)... and then something special if you really have a good day," Tierney explains. The restaurant sells hundreds of the \$4-burgers daily, but only around 25 of the \$175-burgers per month. "Our burger is not about the price," she says. "It's all about quality. If you're concerned about your **wallet**, you are in the wrong shop." ☺



Expensive Food

This hamburger may be expensive, but it isn't the most expensive food in the world. Iranian beluga caviar costs about \$48,750 for a 2-kilo container. In 2006, a British chef made the most expensive pie in the world. It also had truffles and was served with a glass of champagne. A piece of the pie cost \$1,990. The whole thing was \$15,900. New York's Grand Opulence ice cream store has the most expensive ice cream on the planet. It sells for \$1,000 a serving. Another Manhattan luxury is \$125 for a slice of pizza at Nino Bellissima's. The most expensive food ever was a fruitcake. It sold for \$1.6 million in 2005. It was covered with 223 small diamonds, and it was created by a Tokyo pastry chef. It was part of an exhibit called "Diamonds, Nature's Miracle".

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

- How often do you eat fast food? What do you eat? Where do you go?
- How do you like your burger? What ingredients do you like?
- Where would you go for a good burger in your city? Why is it so good?

2 Pre reading

Predict what a \$175 burger looks like. What does it have in it?

3 Reading I

Now read and check your answers.

4 Reading II

What do the following prices refer to?

- \$175
- \$32
- \$4

5 Reading III

Answer these questions.

- Who consumes most of these gourmet burgers?
- Why and when do they have them?



Phrasal verb of the day

to show off
They come in for a beer and get the hamburger to **show off** in front of their friends.
What do you think "to show off" means?

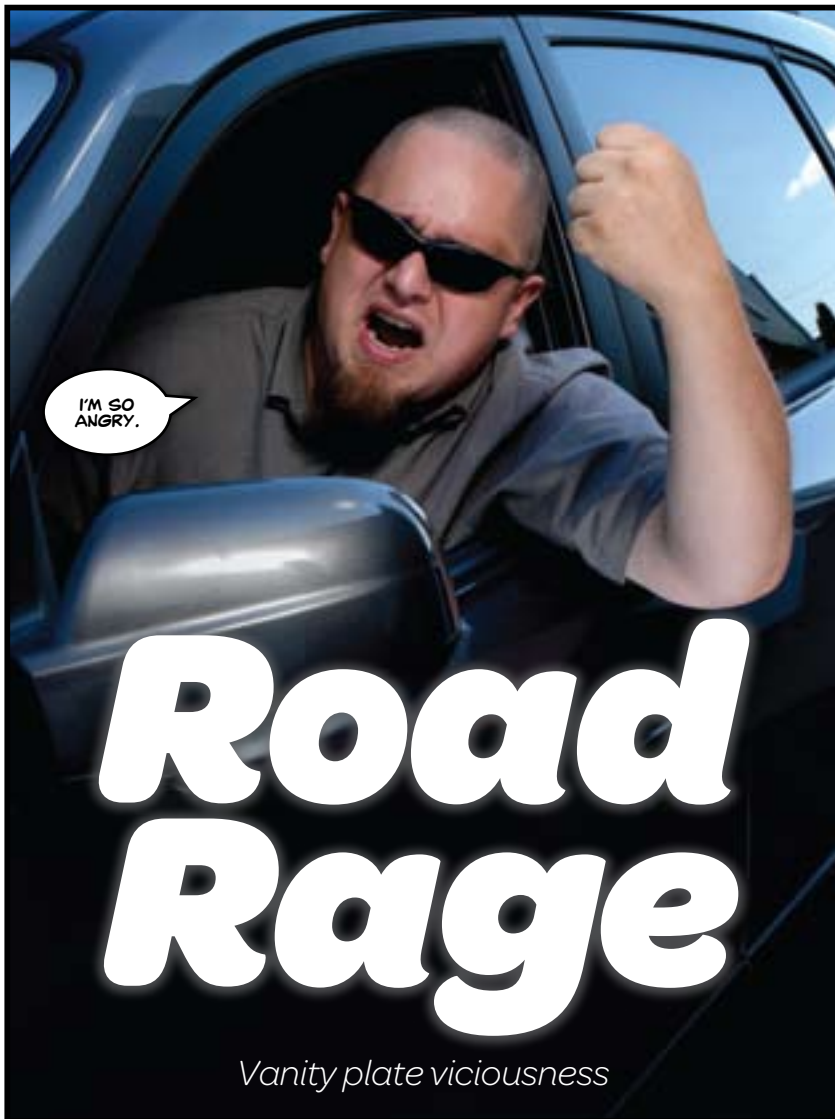


Language spot

"To have a good day" is another useful expression. But what tense is used with it in the article?
Others see it as a prize for stock brokers when **they've had a good day**.

GLOSSARY

- Gourmet (food)** *exp*
high quality and well-prepared food
- topped with** *exp*
if food is "topped with" cheese, tomato, etc, it has that on top of it
- truffles** *n*
a very expensive fungus similar to a mushroom
- a Wall Street type** *n*
a person who works on Wall Street – in the financial district of NYC
- to show off** *phr vb*
to try to impress others by displaying something you have such as money or a talent
- a stock broker** *n*
a person who buys and sells stocks for investors
- a wallet** *n*
an object for putting your money, credit cards, etc – usually for a man



Road Rage

Vanity plate viciousness

Have you ever experienced extreme anger whilst driving? If you have, you've probably been a victim of "road rage". This form of anger, and, in some cases, violent behaviour, is usually caused by stress. However, according to a recent **survey**, some people are more **prone to** road rage than others. Psychologists found that people who use **vanity plates** (licence plates with phrases or names on them) suffer more from road rage than any others. "These drivers are **territorial**, and are more likely to get angry easily," says Jacob enfield, who led the study. "Plates with aggressive phrases such as 'I'll **sue** you' definitely say a lot more about a driver than you think. Anything you do to make your car feel like your territory will make you more upset when someone steals your **parking space** or **cuts you off** on the road."

Road rage is a big problem in America. Every year, it is responsible for over 20,000 injuries and 370 deaths. Not all of these drivers have vanity plates, but many do. And now, states such as North Dakota are trying to make vanity plates illegal. The state has a large problem with angry drivers, and authorities agree that vanity plates are connected with road rage. "License plates are causing us a lot of trouble, and they're definitely connected with road rage," says the director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Tell that to the 9.3 million American car owners with vanity plates. That's a lot of road rage! ☘

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. What do you think "road rage" means?
2. Have you ever experienced extreme anger whilst driving? Have you ever seen an incident of road rage? What happened?
3. What are the causes and effects of road rage?
4. What do you understand by the term "vanity plates"?

Phrasal verb alert

Look at the three examples of the use of "to cut off". What's the difference?

- a. to cut someone off on a road
- b. to be cut off whilst talking on the phone
- c. to cut someone off in a conversation



GLOSSARY

- road rage** *n*
extreme anger experienced whilst driving
- a survey** *n*
a questionnaire to find out about people's opinions
- prone to** *exp*
if you are "prone to" do something, you have a natural inclination towards doing that thing
- a vanity plate** *n*
a customised series of numbers / letters on your licence plate
- a licence plate** *n*
an object with letters and numbers on the back and front of your car – used for identification
- territorial** *adj*
concerned and possessive about your land / property / home
- to sue someone** *exp*
to begin a legal case against someone in order to get compensation
- a parking space** *n*
a place to park a car
- to cut someone off / up** *exp*
if you "cut someone off", you drive your car in front of another car – taking their place on the road

2 Pre reading

Look at the following adjectives from the article. How do they relate to road rage? Give examples.

- a. violent
- b. aggressive
- c. territorial

2 Q T 4 U 79



3 Reading I

Now read and check your answers.

4 Reading II

What does the article say about the following?

1. vanity plates
2. America in general
3. North Dakota in particular

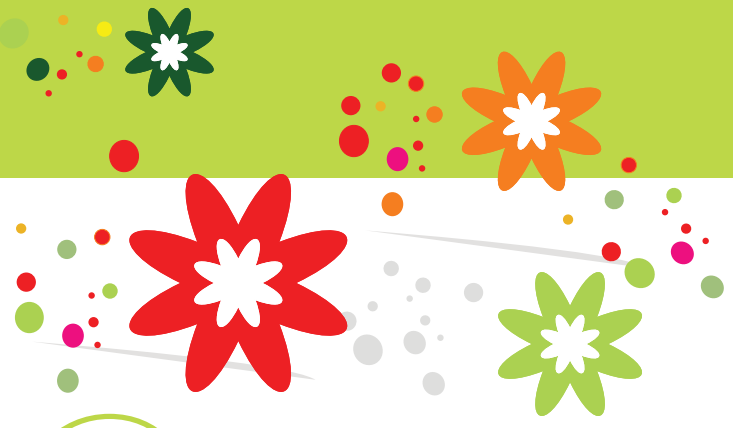
Grammar spot

To get angry

These drivers are territorial, and more likely to get angry easily.

We can use "get" with lots more adjectives to talk about the process of becoming something. For example: to get tired = I get tired when I work long hours.

The Name Game



THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES OF FAMOUS NAMES WITH MEANING. MORE NEXT MONTH.



Blink-182 (American group)
To blink is to close your eyes quickly.
"I blinked when she took my photograph."



Jimmy Buffet (American singer)
A "buffet" is a type of restaurant in which you pay a fixed price and then serve yourself any kind of food that is available.
"I ate three pieces of pumpkin pie, a slice of pizza and a salad at the buffet."



Keith Sweat (American R & B singer)
"Sweat" is a liquid released through the skin when you are hot, sick, playing sports or scared.
"I am sweating so much because I have just run 10 kilometres."



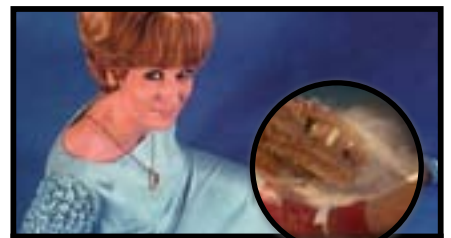
50 Cent (American rapper)
"50 cents" is half of one dollar.
"This pack of gum costs 50 cents."



Sting (British singer)
If a bee "stings" you, it bites you and leaves its "sting" in you.
"This type of bee doesn't sting, but that other type does. Run!"



Status Quo (British band)
The "status quo" is the state of affairs at a present time
"We want to maintain the status quo; we don't want any changes to occur."



Dusty Springfield (British singer)
If something is "dusty", it is covered with very fine dirt/earth, etc. For example, "We found an old dusty record player in our attic."
"Spring" is the season in between summer and winter. A "spring" is also a coil made of wire which maintains its original shape even after being twisted. A "field" is an open area of grassy land that can be used for sports or for growing crops.

Pets of Honour

1 Match the words

Match A (a bird) to B (a picture).

1. a pigeon d
2. an eagle
3. a vulture
4. an ostrich
5. a falcon
6. a dove



ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

Most countries have medals for brave soldiers. Americans have the 'Medal of Honor' and Britain has the 'Victoria Cross'. But what about brave animals? Many animals go to war: horses, dogs, cows and pigeons, to name a few. Is there any award for them?

In fact, there is. It's called the Dickin Medal, and it's given to animals who show bravery and **devotion to duty** whilst serving with the armed forces or civil emergency services. The award was created by (and named after) Maria Dickin in 1943. She had previously established the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) – an organisation that took care of **injured** animals. During the Second World War, many animals were given the Dickin Medal, including 1 cat, 3 horses, 18 dogs and 32 pigeons.

Pigeons? You ask. Yes, pigeons. OK, so they may seem like unlikely candidates for a bravery medal, but they were very important to the war effort. During the Second World War, communications weren't what they are today. There was no internet, no e-mail, no mobile phones and no satellites. So, on many occasions, soldiers had to use **homing pigeons** to pass on messages. These are **specialty-bred** pigeons with

an **innate ability** to find their way home, even if they are quite far away. During the war, homing pigeons were used to carry messages. These messages were usually written on small pieces of paper, which were tied to their legs.

One of the most famous pigeons to win the medal was Paddy. He was an Irish pigeon, and one of the first pigeons to return to base out of hundreds launched. He was bringing news of the successful **D-Day landings** in Normandy. He crossed the English Channel in a very short time.

Another famous pigeon was G.I. Joe. He worked for the United States Army Pigeon service. G.I. Joe saved the lives of the inhabitants and allied soldiers in the village of Calvi Vecchia, Italy. The village had been captured by allied soldiers. But the air force didn't know this and was about to **bomb** it. G.I. Joe was given a message to take, and it arrived just in time to **avoid** the bombing.

The only cat to have received the award was called Simon. He was on a Royal Navy ship HMS Amethyst. He was originally found in Hong Kong and was taken on board the ship. He **got rid of** rats on the ship. In 1949, (during the **Yangtze Incident**), the ship was attacked and Simon was injured. He soon recovered and returned to his duty of rat catching. He was also used to **raise the morale** of injured teenage soldiers.

Some of the most recent awards were given to non-military animals. In 2002, two guide dogs successfully led their owners out of the World Trade Center during the attacks of September 11th. And more recently, brave animals have been given awards in Iraq and Afghanistan. 🌟

Valiant

These pigeons and many others like them inspired the 2005 movie, *Valiant*, which was a tribute to all of the pigeons used in war. This was the UK's first computer generated animation film.



GLOSSARY

- devotion to duty** *exp*
dedication and a sense of responsibility regarding the things you have to do
- injured** *adj*
physically hurt
- a homing pigeon** *n*
a bird that is trained to return to a certain place
- specialty-bred** *adj*
if an animal is "specialty-bred" it is raised / trained to do a specific job
- innate** *adj*
internal; instinctual; natural
- an ability** *n*
a talent or a skill
- the D-Day landings** *n*
the day on 6th June 1944 when allied forces landed in northern France
- to bomb** *vb*
to attack a place with explosive weapons
- to avoid** *vb*
if you "avoid" something, you don't do / see it
- to get rid of** *phr vb*
to eliminate completely
- Yangtze Incident** *n*
in 1949, a British ship was attacked near the Chinese city of Nanking
- to raise morale** *exp*
to make people feel happier and more optimistic



I'M SO BRAVE.

USEFUL VOCABULARY

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VOCABULARY.
THIS MONTH: ADJECTIVES. ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Match the words

Match the words below to the pictures.

1. big e
2. tall _____
3. rich _____
4. slow _____
5. short _____
6. fast _____
7. poor _____
8. little _____
9. old _____
10. new _____



2 Wordsearch

Now find these words in the wordsearch.

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| big | tall |
| rich | slow |
| short | fast |
| poor | little |
| old | new |

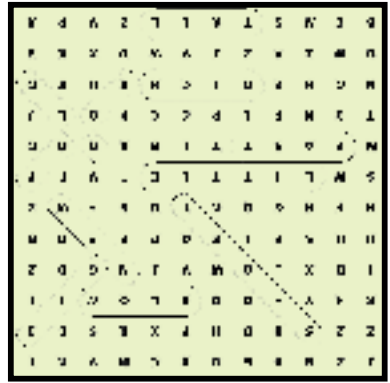


3 Guess the word

Make a sentence with each place. Ask your partner to guess the word.



LITTLE!



USEFUL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR ON USEFUL VERBS AND EXPRESSIONS.
THIS MONTH: FOOD AND DRINK.

TO HAVE BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER
TO EAT SOMETHING FOR BREAKFAST /
LUNCH / DINNER.



**"WHAT TIME DID YOU HAVE
BREAKFAST THIS MORNING?"**

HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT / DRINK
TO EAT OR DRINK SOMETHING.



**"WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HAVE
SOMETHING
TO EAT?"**

LAY THE TABLE
TO PUT THE PLATES, KNIVES, FORKS,
SPOONS, ETC ON THE TABLE.



**"COULD YOU LAY THE
TABLE, PLEASE?"**

MAKE FOOD
TO PREPARE FOOD BY COMBINING INGREDIENTS.



**"WHO MADE
THIS? IT'S
DELICIOUS!"**

COOK FOOD
TO PREPARE FOOD BY HEATING IT.



**"I'M COOKING
THE FOOD."**

DO THE WASHING UP
TO CLEAN THE PLATES, KNIVES, FORKS,
SPOONS, ETC.



**"DO YOU WANT ANY
HELP DOING THE
WASHING UP?"**

Headline News

Headline News N° 1

The voice of the people

London 2008

Train Robber

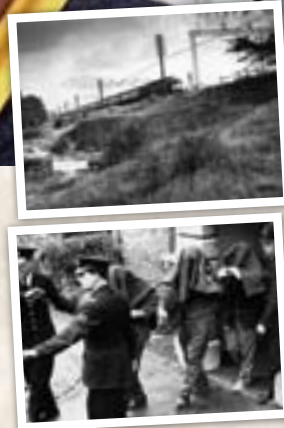
Great train robber to be released.

Is it right to put old people in prison? Is it right to keep prisoners in jail even though they are old and sick? This is a difficult question. Especially when it comes to someone like Ronnie Biggs.

Ronnie Biggs is one of England's most notorious criminals. Biggs, an English **gangster**, took part in one of the most famous robberies in British history. In 1963, fifteen robbers **hijacked** the Post Office train travelling between Glasgow and London. £2,631,784 was stolen from the train and the driver was seriously **assaulted**. The **equivalent** of this in today's money would be £40 million. Hardly any of the money was recovered. The robbery became known as the Great Train Robbery. Thirteen members of the gang were later caught after a **tip-off**. Their fingerprints were found on a Monopoly board. They had been playing the game with real money!

After a year and a half in prison, Ronnie Biggs escaped and **fled** to Australia. At the time of the escape, he was outside in the **yard**. He climbed a ten-metre wall after someone

outside the prison threw a ladder over the wall. Biggs took much of the money with him. He later went to Rio de Janeiro where

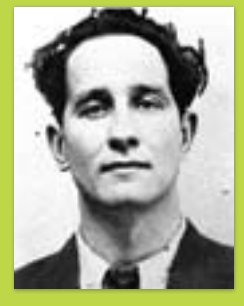


he was safe from **extradition**. There was no agreement between Brazil and Britain so he lived freely until 2001 when he returned voluntarily to prison in the UK. Many people thought he did this because he couldn't afford his medical bills. However, his son, Michael, said that he wanted to **do his time** and have a drink in an English pub before he died.

Ronnie Biggs is now 78 and says that he just wants to die close to his family. Many people think that he should stay in jail because of what happened to the driver, Jack Mills. The driver suffered badly after the robbery and died seven years later. Despite this, no one knows which robber attacked and hit the driver. Biggs is **eligible for parole** as he has served one-third of his **sentence**. ✪

Ronnie Biggs

Born on 8th August 1929 in Lambeth, England. He was a member of the Great Train Robbery gang of 1963. He escaped prison and went to live in Brazil. He is 78 years old and is still serving his time in prison.



GLOSSARY

- a gangster** *n*
a member of an organised criminal network / gang
- to hijack** *vb*
to attack a vehicle and to take control of it illegally
- to assault** *vb*
to attack
- the equivalent of** *exp*
the same as
- a tip-off** *n*
information for the police giving details of a crime
- to flee** *vb*
to escape
- a yard** *n*
a patio; an area outside where prisoners can exercise
- extradition** *n*
legally transferring a criminal back to his / her country of origin
- to do time** *exp inform*
to spend time in prison
- eligible for** *exp*
if you are "eligible for" something, it is your right / time to have it
- parole** *n*
to be released from prison for good behaviour
- a sentence** *n*
a legal punishment – often involving a period of time in prison



Story Time

JOKES, ANECDOTES AND STORIES AS TOLD BY NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS.



Complaints

Boss: I've had **complaints** about you, Johnny, from all your **line managers**. What have you been doing?

Johnny: Nothing.

Boss: Exactly.

Hidden Money

There was once a man who loved money. When he got it, he wouldn't spend it. Instead, he took it to the bank and put it in a savings account. In fact, he was so **tight-fisted** that once he said to his wife, "When I die, I want you to **bury** my money with me". So when he died, his wife did just that. On the day of the funeral, she was sitting beside her sister with her husband lying in the **coffin** in front of them. When the **undertakers** had closed the coffin, her sister said, "Did you really bury all that money with Fred? You must be crazy!" And the woman replied, "Yes, of course, I did. I always **keep my promises**. So, after he died, I went to the bank, put the money in my account and then wrote him a cheque. He's got it with him right now."

The Zoo

A **mime artist** is performing outside a zoo one day when a **zookeeper** invites him into his office. The zookeeper tells the man that the main attraction, a gorilla, has died recently and he needs to **replace** it. So the zoo keeper offers the mime a job. Basically, the guy has to put on a gorilla **costume** and pretend he's the gorilla. The mime thinks about it for a bit, but then accepts the job. Amazingly, none of the visitors notice the difference. The gorilla is as popular as ever and the man is

earning plenty of money. But eventually, the crowds become bored of the **ape** and **switch** their attention to the lion beside the ape's cage. The man doesn't like this, so, one day, he climbs on top of the lion's cage and **makes fun** of the lion. The lion gets very angry and the crowds love it. But all of a sudden, the man **slips** and falls into the lion's cage. He's terrified and starts

running around the cage screaming, "Help me, help me!" The lion eventually catches him and lies on top of him and says to the mime, "Shut up, you idiot, or we'll both **get the sack!**" ☆



GLOSSARY

- a complaint** *n*
if you make a "complaint", you tell someone that you are unhappy about a situation / service
- a line manager** *n*
the person in charge of a specific department or division at work
- tight-fisted** *adj inform*
a "tight-fisted" person does not like to spend money
- to bury** *vb*
to put something in a hole in the ground
- a coffin** *n*
a container for a dead person
- an undertaker** *n*
a person who prepares the bodies of dead people and makes funeral arrangements
- to keep a promise** *exp*
to do what you say you will do
- a mime artist** *n*
a person who entertains people by using body movements but no words
- a zookeeper** *n*
a person who feeds the animals at the zoo
- to replace** *vb*
if you replace A with B, you put A instead of B
- a costume** *n*
clothes that are used to make you look like someone
- to earn** *vb*
to make money from working
- an ape** *n*
a member of the family of mammals that includes chimpanzees and gorillas
- to switch** *vb*
to change
- to make fun of someone** *exp*
to mock another person; to laugh at another person
- to slip** *vb*
to lose your balance; to fall
- to get the sack** *vb exp*
to lose your job

BASIC ENGLISH

musical instruments



Electric guitar



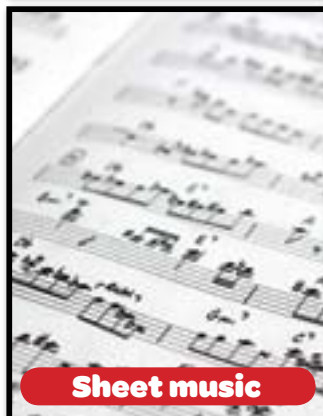
Acoustic guitar



Amp



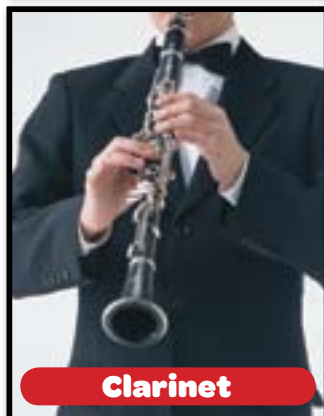
Bass guitar



Sheet music



Trombone



Clarinet



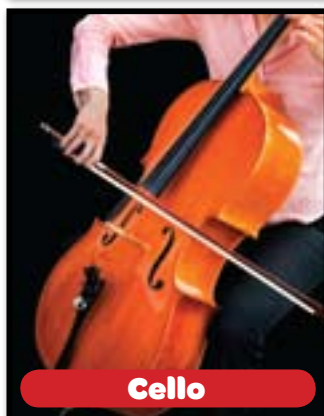
Harmonica



Drums



Saxophone



Cello



Violin



Accordion



Piano



Trumpet



Flute



struments

LISTEN AND REPEAT THESE EXPRESSIONS.

Asking about music

- Can you play the guitar?
- Are you good at the piano?
- Do you know how to play any songs on the trumpet?
- Which instrument would you like to learn?
- Can you play those songs on the guitar?
- She's really good at the piano.



At the shop

- I'm looking for a guitar.
- Have you got any sheet music?
- Have you got a Beatles song book?
- I need some strings for my electric guitar.
- Do you sell guitar amps?
- Do you have any strings for a cello?
- I need to get my piano **tuned**.
- What make of guitar would you like? ♻️



GLOSSARY

to tune *vb*
to adjust a musical instrument so it produces the correct notes
bottom-of-the-range *adj*
cheap
mid-range *adj*
not cheap and not expensive; middle-of the range

Part II

NOW LISTEN TO THIS DIALOGUE. IN THIS CONVERSATION, SARAH IS IN A MUSIC SHOP. SHE WANTS TO BUY A GUITAR.

- Assistant:** Good morning. How may I help you?
Sarah: Hi, I'm interested in buying a guitar.
Assistant: What type of guitar?
Sarah: An electric guitar.
Assistant: Any particular make?
Sarah: No, I don't mind.
Assistant: Well, we've got a **basic bottom-of-the-range** one for 80 euros.
Sarah: I was looking to spend a bit more than that.
Assistant: OK. Then we've got a **mid-range** guitar for 240 euros. It's very good. Would you like to try it?
Sarah: Yes, OK.
Assistant: It's an Ibanez and it comes in three colours: black, red or green.
Sarah: (She tries it.) Yes, it's very good. I think I'll take this one. Does it come with a guitar case?
Assistant: Yes, of course. Would you like an amp with it, too?
Sarah: No, I've got one already, thanks.
Assistant: That's 240 euros, please. Are you paying by credit card?
Sarah: Yes, here you are.
Assistant: Thanks.





Useful language for successful communication.

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

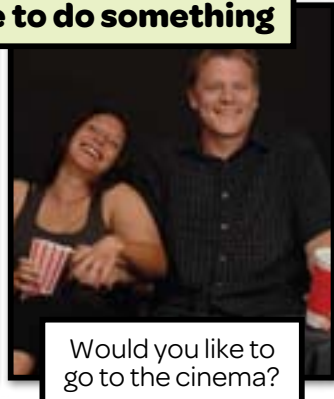
Inviting someone to do something



Can I get you a coffee?



Would you like to have lunch with us?



Would you like to go to the cinema?



I'm having a party later. Would you like to come?



How about coming to my house for dinner on Friday?



I'll get this one.

invitations



This one's on me.



Lunch is on me.



I'd like to invite you for lunch.



I'll get this one. You get the next one.



Would you like to come up for a coffee?

Reacting to an invitation

- That sounds like a good idea.
- That would be fantastic.
- Yes, OK.
- OK. I'll get the next one.
- That's a good idea.
- OK.
- I'd love to.
- No, let me get this one.
- But you paid last time.
- I'm sorry, but I really don't have the time.
- I'm afraid I'm a bit busy at the moment.
- I'm sorry but I'm not going to be able to make it. 🍀



CD track 7



CD track 8
Englishwoman & US woman

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

IN THIS SECTION DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Activity

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1. What time are you wake up?
What time do you wake up? _____
2. She like the film?

3. I drink normally coffee in the morning.

4. She does often not go home by bus.

5. He reads the newspaper never.

6. How long does take you to get home?

PRE INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION

Sunken Treasure

500-year-old treasure found.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. Has any treasure been found in your country recently?
2. What stories of treasure have you heard about or read about?
3. What films or documentaries about the discovery of treasure have you seen?

2 Pre listening

What types of things would you expect to hear on a programme such as *History today*?

3 Listening I

Listen once and check your answers. Did you guess correctly?

4 Listening II

Choose the correct answers.

1. A shipwreck was found off the coast of...
a. Thailand. b. Namibia.
2. They were searching for...
a. gold. b. diamonds.
3. The ship was carrying treasure of gold coins, copper, ivory and...
a. cannons. b. guns.
4. The ship dates back to the...
a. 14th century. b. 15th century.
5. The area is described as rocky and...
a. foggy. b. dirty.
6. The captain could have been a...
a. prince. b. pirate.

Phrasal verb alert

The phrasal verb "to go down" has a number of different meanings.

Can you think of any meanings related to the following things?

- a. a ship
- prices in shops
- a sports team
- a computer

Grammar spot

There are a number of examples of the past passive in the conversation. What is the difference between these two sentences?

- A shipwreck was found.
- Diamond miners found the shipwreck.

Spanish and English Language
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y algo más

GRAMMAR FUN

Confusing Words

IN THIS MONTH'S GRAMMAR FUN SECTION WE'RE LOOKING AT SOME CONFUSING WORDS.



I THREW THE LAST BALL THROUGH THE WINDOW.

“to” versus “too”

Basically, “to” is a preposition. For example:

- a. She listened to the music.
- b. I spoke to her.
- c. We wrote a letter to him.

“Too” has a number of meanings. It can mean “as well”. For example:

- a. We went to the party and Nigel went too.
- b. Sam danced to the music too.

“Too much” or “too many” means that there is an excess of something. We use “too much” for uncountable nouns, and “too many” for countable nouns. For example:

- a. I think there is too much sugar in this coffee.
- b. There are too many people in this room.

“threw” versus “through”

“Threw” is the past tense of “throw”. For example:

- a. Paul threw the ball at me.
- b. She threw the chair at it.

“Through” can be used as a preposition. It is often used to refer to the process of passing from one side of something to the other side of it. For example:

- a. She walked through the door.
- b. They walked through the forest.
- c. Paul worked all through the night.
- d. The bird flew in through the window.

“they’re” versus “there”

As we saw last month, “they’re” is a contraction of “they are”. For example:

- a. Paul and John work here. They’re our colleagues.
- b. Petra and Jane are here. They’re talking in the dining room.

“There” is often used to indicate place or position. For example:

- a. My new car is over there.
- b. He is there – in the garden.
- c. There are three of them on the roof.



Exercise

Choose the correct answers.

1. Nigel threw / through the apple at Paul.
2. Sam and Ben are here. There / They’re discussing the project.
3. My new bike is over there / they’re.
4. We think there / they’re is too much colour on the picture.
5. There are too / to many tables and not enough chairs.
6. He listened too / to the instructions.
7. They walked through / threw the forest.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

Headline News

Headline News N° 2

The voice of the people

London 2008

Rebel Tory

Conservative in civil liberty campaign.



David Davis

Born 23rd December 1948. British political figure and member of the Conservative Party. His voting history resembles a typical hard-line Conservative: he supports the death penalty and is against gay adoption.



Imagine you're accused of a crime. You're completely innocent, but the police aren't convinced. They think you're a terrorist. So, they're going to hold you for 42 days without even charging you. Eventually, they let you out, but you've lost 42 days of your life. And there's nothing you can do about it.

Human rights groups say that these powers could be used against people who are protesting legally. In general, left-wingers have protested against this type of legislation but now a **Conservative** has joined them. The Tories are generally known for their strong ideas on crime and punishment. This makes David Davis' action more surprising. He has been given support by left-wing Labour MP Tony Benn.

A rebel conservative MP in The United Kingdom has resigned his **seat** in a campaign over this question. David Davis of the **Tories** has left the Houses of Parliament in an attempt to force a **by-election**. He says that he wants to force a nationwide debate on the **curbing** of civil rights. It comes at a time when the government is trying to introduce laws to detain terrorist suspects without **charge**. At the moment in England and Wales a suspect can be held for 42 days without formal charges. This used to be 28 days and now many people are becoming **uneasy** by what they believe are **draconian laws**.



MP Tony Benn

The UK has always had strong anti-terrorism laws. The Prevention of Terrorism Acts were a series of laws used during **The Troubles** in Northern Ireland. These laws were used to detain people even though they hadn't committed a crime. Many people felt that these laws were used and abused to help the British government's position in that war. ✪

GLOSSARY

- a seat** *n*
if you have a "seat" in parliament, you have been elected to parliament
- a Tory** *n*
a member of the British Conservative Party (the Tory party) – a traditional, centre to right-wing party
- a by-election** *n*
an election where a single seat is voted for – often because of the death or resignation of the member of parliament
- to curb** *vb*
to limit
- a charge** *n*
a formal accusation of a crime
- uneasy** *adj*
unhappy and uncomfortable
- draconian laws** *n*
very severe / strict laws
- a Conservative** *n*
a member of the Conservative party – a traditional, centre to right-wing party
- the Troubles** *n*
the war in Northern Ireland from 1969 until about 1998 between republicans / nationalists and the British army and unionists

Headline News

Headline News N° 3

The voice of the people

London 2008



Celine Dion destroys classic song.

What's the worst song you've heard? There was a **poll** recently to find the world's worst **cover version** ever. And the winner is... Celine Dion's version of AC/DC's classic song "You Shook Me All Night Long".

The poll was **carried out** by Total Guitar Magazine. They asked experts what the best and worst covers ever were. Jimi Hendrix's version of Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower" was voted the best followed by The Beatles version of "Twist and Shout" (originally by The Top Notes). But Celine Dion's version of the AC/DC **number** was described as a "musical offence". Other appalling covers included Westlife's version of "More than Words", originally by Extreme.

AC/DC themselves originally did cover versions, usually of old blues or rock 'n' roll

songs. They can be seen on the internet playing "Johnny B. Goode", which was originally by Chuck Berry. They also recorded "Baby Please Don't Go" by Big Joe Williams, an old time blues musician. In general, rock bands are thought by many to be much better at cover versions of rock or blues numbers. Despite this, some pop musicians have recorded good versions of classic songs. One of the most original bands is a reggae band with an Elvis impersonator on vocals. The band, Dread Zeppelin, do covers of Led Zeppelin songs. Many musicians have made successful careers singing other peoples songs. Most **boy bands**, for instance, sing updated versions of classic songs. *



Dread Zeppelin

Celine Dion

Celine Dion was born in Quebec, Canada in 1968. She is a singer and songwriter, best known for her ballads "Because You Loved Me" from the film *Up, Close and Personal* as well as "My Heart Will Go On" from the movie *Titanic*. Her influences include Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson and The Bee Gees, and she has sung with all of them. She sings in both English and French.



SHALL I SING YOU A COVER SONG?

GLOSSARY

- a poll** *n*
a series of questions to find out people's opinions
- a cover version / song** *n*
a group's / singer's version of someone else's song
- to carry out** *phr vb*
to do
- a number** *n*
a song
- a boy band** *n*
a pop group (often created "artificially") that consists of young, attractive men



Air Rage

Supermodel convicted over air rage incident.

Naomi Campbell

A British supermodel and actress. She was born on 22nd May 1970 in south London. She studied at the London Academy for Performing Arts. She is an interesting mix of Jamaican and Chinese nationalities. She has been modelling for over two decades and has appeared in music videos for George Michael and Jay-Z. Naomi Campbell has also had success as a singer in Japan and sold over 1 million copies of her album *Baby Woman*.

Supermodel Naomi Campbell is in the news again. This time she has accused British Airways of racism. This comes after she was convicted in court of an **air rage** incident.

Campbell was tried for charges arising from an incident at Heathrow Airport in London. One of her bags had gone missing when she started screaming abuse at the captain of the aeroplane. She then assaulted two police officers who had arrived to **deal with** the situation. She has been ordered to pay approximately £3,000 in fines and compensation. She has also **been sentenced** to 200 hours of **community service** after the **trial** at Uxbridge Magistrates Court in London.

Afterwards, she made the allegations of racism to

Sky News in an interview. Campbell accused them of making racially-offensive comments and called the airline "disgusting". Despite this, she did admit that she had gone too far. British Airways **flatly denied** the accusations.

Campbell isn't just famous for being a model. The **feisty** supermodel has also had a successful career as an author and singer. However, the book which she is credited with **penning** was actually written by another person, author Caroline Upcher. Campbell said that the book was written by someone else because she didn't have time. But despite her achievements in modelling and literature, she is best known for her violent behaviour towards others and her **string** of related convictions. ✪



Related incident

In a related incident, a British presenter for Sky, Kay Burley, was involved in an incident of reporter rage. At the time, Burley was with other journalists waiting outside the courtroom for news of the Naomi verdict. All of a sudden, a camerawoman, Kirsty Wigglesworth, accidentally hit Burley in the face with her camera. Immediately, Burley grabbed Wigglesworth by the **throat**. The incident was filmed by other journalists waiting outside, much to the embarrassment of Burley.



GLOSSARY

- air rage** *vb*
an incident involving violence / aggression on an aeroplane
- to deal with** *phr vb*
to manage; to find a solution to
- to be sentenced** *vb*
to be convicted in court; to receive a punishment
- community service** *n*
a punishment that involves doing jobs in the community
- a trial** *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is guilty or innocent
- to flatly deny** *exp*
to say that there is no truth in something; to say that something absolutely isn't true
- feisty** *adj*
bad-tempered and troublesome
- to pen** *vb*
to write
- a string** *n*
a series
- a throat** *n*
the front part of your neck – the part of your body that connects your mouth to your stomach



Happy Hour

European drinking hours

Work stress is a big problem. So, what's the solution? Many people find relaxing at the pub is the answer. A recent study of European drinking habits shows that the British start drinking at about 6:14 pm and leave the pub at about 10:30 pm. The study also showed that the most popular day is Friday, and that they mainly drink beer.

On the other hand, French and Spanish people start a bit later, at around 7 pm. But out of the 15 countries surveyed, it's the Danes who do the most drinking – they get to the bar at 4:40 pm and don't leave till about 10:45 pm – that's over six hours of drinking. However, **alcohol abuse** is more of a problem in the UK.

In 2005, the UK government passed the 24-hour drinking

law. They did this in the hope that "**rowdy**" pubs would change into café-style **venues**, as in other European countries. Many felt that Britain's problems with alcohol were, in part, **due to** the pubs closing at 11 pm, because people drank too much, too quickly and too early on. However, since the change to 24-hour drinking, alcohol-related violence in many cities and towns has increased; and some hospitals report that alcohol-related **admissions** are **up** as well. At present, the government has no plans to change the laws, but they are trying to **create awareness** of the dangers of alcohol abuse with ad campaigns. As the evidence shows, **extended drinking hours** may be affecting British drinkers with more than just a **hangover** the next morning. ☺



WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. Do you ever go out for a drink during the week? What time? Which day? How long for? What do you drink?
2. What are the typical drinking hours in your country?
3. What do you understand by the expression "happy hour"? What is the purpose of happy hour?

2 Pre reading

What do you think the typical drinking hours are in the following countries?

- a. Great Britain
- b. France
- c. Denmark



3 Reading I

Now read and check your answers.

4 Reading II

True or false?

1. English people typically go drinking on a Friday.
2. Alcohol abuse is a big problem in Spain.
3. With the 24-hour drinking law, the government hoped to make the pub scene more European.
4. The law has been successful in reducing alcohol-related violence.



Language spot

On the other hand the French and Spanish start a **bit** later, at around 7.

A bit is very common in English. But does it mean "a lot" or "a little"?

GLOSSARY

- alcohol abuse** *n*
drinking too much alcohol
- rowdy** *adj*
noisy, rough, disorderly
- a venue** *n*
a place where an event takes place
- due to** *exp*
because of
- an admission** *n*
a sick person who is taken to a hospital for treatment
- to be up** *exp*
to have increased
- to create awareness** *exp*
to bring an important issue to the public's attention
- extended** *adj*
continued or prolonged
- drinking hours** *n*
the times in a bar when people can drink legally
- a hangover** *n*
feeling sick the next morning after drinking a lot of alcohol the night before

Luke Pittard loves his job. So much so that he came back to work after winning 1.3 million pounds on the National Lottery 18 months ago. He **missed** his job at McDonald's, and got bored doing nothing. "To be honest, there's only so much relaxing you can do. I'm still young and a bit of hard work never **did** anyone any **harm**," Pittard says. He and wife Emma met working at McDonalds, years before their **windfall**. After a number of holidays, a big wedding and buying a new house, Pittard got a bit bored. "My workmates all think I'm a bit **mad**, but I tell them there's more to life than money." His manager is **thrilled** to have the millionaire back **behind the counter**.

However, his wife doesn't feel the same way. Emma doesn't mind staying at home with their three-year-old daughter, Chloe. And she enjoys her millionaire status. However, she does understand why her husband misses the job. "We both really enjoyed working at McDonald's and still have good friends there. It was really **familiar** for us, and something for him to **look forward to**," she explained.

Luke isn't the first Lotto winner to go back to work. According to a survey, one in three **big winners** go back to work, and half go back to working full-time. Like Luke, most get bored staying at home. Even a job like **flipping burgers** at the local McDonald's can keep a millionaire content. ✪



IT'S BORING AT HOME.

The Working McMillionaire

Lottery winner returns to work.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62



GLOSSARY

- to miss something** *exp*
to wish you still had something
- to do harm** *exp*
to hurt someone or something
- a windfall** *n*
money you receive unexpectedly or by luck
- mad** *adj*
in British English, crazy
- thrilled** *adj*
very, very happy
- behind the counter** *exp*
the people working "behind the counter" are the people who serve you in a fast-food restaurant
- familiar** *adj*
if something is "familiar" to you, you recognise it and you know it well
- to look forward to something** *exp*
to be excited about something that is going to happen
- a big winner** *n*
a person who wins a big prize, such as a lot of money
- to flip burgers** *exp*
to turn hamburgers over on a grill / fire, often in a fast-food restaurant

1 Discussion.

1. Do you ever buy lottery tickets? When? How often?
2. Have you ever won anything on the lottery? How much? When?
3. What do the following sayings mean? How can you translate them into your language? Do you agree with them?
 - a. There's more to life than money.
 - b. Money doesn't bring you happiness.
 - c. Money doesn't grow on trees.
 - d. A bit of hard work never did anyone any harm.
4. What would you do if you won the lottery? Do you think you would return to work? Why? Why not?

2 Pre reading

Why do you think some people return to work after winning the lottery?

3 Reading I

Read the article and find out why Luke went back to work.

4 Reading II

Choose the correct answers.

1. Luke Pittard was bored / happy in his job at McDonald's.
2. Luke had a number of holidays, a big wedding and he bought a new house / car.
3. Luke's workmates think his decision was wrong / right.
4. Emma thinks her husband did the right thing / is completely mad.
5. About one in three / five big lottery winners go back to work.

Grammar spot

What does this expression mean?

Emma **doesn't mind** staying at home.

- a. She hates staying at home.
- b. She loves staying at home.
- c. It's OK for her to stay at home.

The verb "to mind" is followed by...

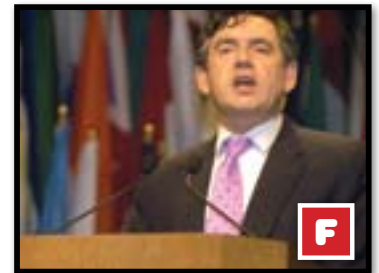
- a. ...the gerund (verb "-ing").
- b. ...the infinitive ("to" + verb).

TRIVIA MATCHING

1 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 62

1. standing up
2. scissors
3. star
4. mountain
5. beard
6. moustache
7. badge (of police officer)
8. thumb
9. eyeball
10. logo
11. rye
12. detective
13. Prime Minister



WEIRD TRIVIA



CD track 13
Irishwoman & Englishman

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR MINI-SERIES ON STRANGE FACTS. WHOEVER THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS SO OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY?



The writer Virginia Woolf wrote all her books standing up.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented **scissors**.



There are 22 stars surrounding the mountain on the Paramount Pictures' logo.



John Lennon's **assassin** was carrying a copy of the book *The Catcher in the Rye* (by J.D. Salinger) when he shot the famous Beatle in 1980.



The only member of ZZ Top to not have a **beard** has the last name Beard (Frank Beard). He does have a **moustache** though.

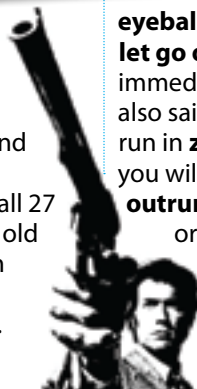


The Beatles **broke up** more than 25 years ago, but they continue to sell more records than the Rolling Stones.



If you're ever in trouble and find yourself being attacked by a **crocodile**, you should push your thumbs into the beast's

eyeballs... it will **let go of** you immediately. It is also said that if you run in **zig-zags**, you will be able to **outrun** a crocodile or **alligator**.



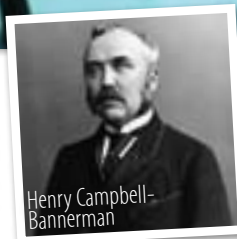
Movie detective Dirty

These reptiles run very fast **in straight lines** but find turning corners somewhat difficult.



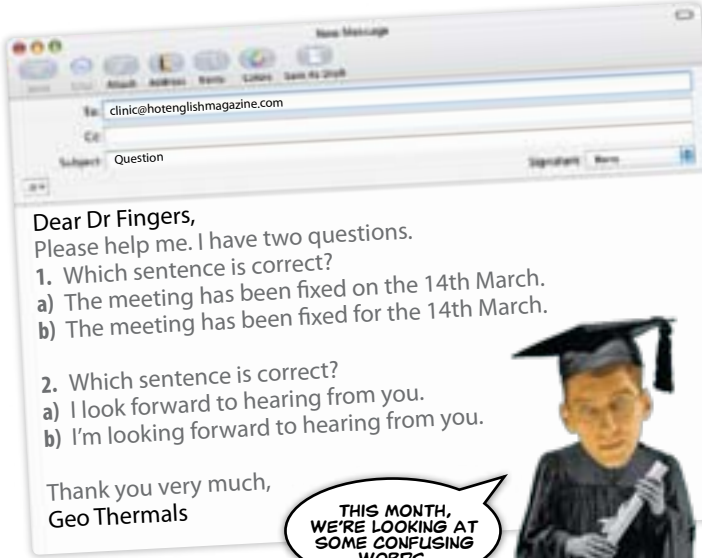
Harry's badge number is 2211.

The title of "Prime Minister" has only been used officially in the United Kingdom for 100 years – since 1905, to be precise. In the 18th century, the British political leader had many different names, "The Lord Chancellor, First Lord or the Lord Privy Seal" being one of the more **long-winded** examples. The term "Prime Minister" came into use near the end of the 18th century, and was officially **adopted** at the start of the 20th century. *



GLOSSARY

- scissors** *n*
an object with two sharp blades used for cutting paper
- an assassin** *n*
a person who kills a famous or prominent person (a celebrity or political figure)
- a beard** *n*
hair on the lower part of the face
- a moustache** *n*
a line of hair above your top lip
- to break up** *phr vb*
to separate; to stop being together
- a crocodile** *n*
a large reptile with a very long mouth; similar to an alligator
- an eyeball** *n*
the part of your eye that you use for seeing
- to let go of** *phr vb*
to stop holding
- to run in zig-zags** *exp*
to run from side to side
- to outrun** *vb*
to run faster than an opponent / enemy / competitor
- an alligator** *n*
a reptile that is similar to a crocodile
- in straight lines** *n*
in lines that are direct, with no curves or turns
- long-winded** *adj*
trying to appear important and sophisticated
- to adopt** *vb*
to be used officially



THIS MONTH, WE'RE LOOKING AT SOME CONFUSING WORDS.

Dear Dr Fingers,

Please help me. I have two questions.

1. Which sentence is correct?

- a) The meeting has been fixed on the 14th March.
- b) The meeting has been fixed for the 14th March.

2. Which sentence is correct?

- a) I look forward to hearing from you.
- b) I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much,
Geo Thermals

Dear Mr Thermals,

Thank you so much for your e-mail. Of course, I would be delighted to help you. Let's look at each of your problems in turn.

1

- a) The meeting has been fixed on the 14th March.
- b) The meeting has been fixed for the 14th March.

Only sentence "b" is grammatically correct. The expression is "to fix a date for" – with the preposition

"for" (not "on"). For example, "We need to fix a date for the party."

Of course, we could say, "The meeting is on 14th March." While we are on the topic of dates, please remember that there is a difference between the way we say dates and write them. Look at this example:

Written: We are going on 21st April.

Spoken: We are going on the 21st of April.

Notice how we don't need to include "the" and "of" when writing dates.

Also, remember, in US English, we often put the month first, "We are going on April 21st."

2

- a) I look forward to hearing from you.
- b) I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Both of these sentences are correct. The difference is very subtle and depends on how the speaker perceives the action. The choice of tense is entirely up to the speaker - it is not a question of being correct or incorrect. Does the speaker see it as a fixed, whole, complete unit of thought (I look forward to...)? Or as an activity in progress (I'm looking forward to...)? These differences are very, very subtle and are not worth worrying about as there is no real difference.

Well, Mr Thermals, I hope that has brightened up your day.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to:

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Corny Criminals

HERE'S ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES ON GOOD, BAD AND FUNNY CRIMINALS.



NO ONE IS SAFE.

Drunken Darth

A number of Star Wars fans have been involved in a fight. The incident took place outside a **Jedi Church*** in Holyhead, Wales. Two men dressed in Star Wars' costumes were **duelling** with light sabres as they filmed a documentary. "All of a sudden, this guy dressed as Darth Vader appeared and started attacking us," said one of the men. "No-one was safe as we were attacked by the most evil man in cinema history," he added.

Apparently, the man, 27-year-old Arwel Jones, used a **crutch** as a **light sabre**. Jones, who has a drink problem, was given a **fine** and a **suspended sentence**. During the attack he shouted "Darth Vader" as he hit one man on the head with the crutch and **punched** the other. However, this man was quite lucky as the real Darth Vader got his hand cut off in the film by Luke Skywalker then killed by a **bolt of lightning**.

driving and the unlicensed operation of a vehicle.

Drunken Dad

A strange case **came to light** in Alice Springs, Australia. A man has been **finned** for **strapping** a case of beer **into** his car with a **seat-belt** while his 7-year-old son was **left unrestrained**. When police stopped the car, the child was sitting in the back of the car. However, a box of 30 cans of beer was strapped in. When questioned about it, the man **stared blankly** at police officers and said he didn't know anything about it. The police gave the driver a **spot fine** of \$750. "We've never seen anything like it," one of the officers said. According to Australian law, it is the driver's responsibility to make sure all passengers are strapped in. And as far as we know, there is no mention of applying this to a case of beer. ♣



The Jedi Church

The Jedi Church is now an official religion. It is dedicated to the doctrines of the Jedi. Followers believe that there is one powerful force that binds all things in the universe together. The Jedi Church accepts races and species from all over the universe as potential members of the religion.



COME AND JOIN MY CHURCH.

GLOSSARY

- to duel** *vb*
to fight with swords
- a crutch** *n*
a stick used to support injured people
- a light sabre** *n*
the laser swords used in Star Wars
- a fine** *n*
a cash penalty; money you pay as a punishment
- a suspended sentence** *n*
a prison sentence that is only served if another crime is committed
- to punch** *vb*
to hit someone with your fist
- a bolt of lightning** *n*
a flash of light in a thunderstorm
- tuxedo-clad** *adj*
wearing a very formal, dark suit
- a lawnmower** *n*
a machine used to cut grass
- to be charged with** *exp*
to be formally accused of a crime
- to come to light** *exp*
if something "comes to light", people find out about it
- to fine** *vb*
if someone is "finned", they must pay money as punishment for a crime
- to strap into** *phr vb*
if you "strap something into" a car, you put a seat belt around it
- a seat-belt** *n*
a safety strap on a car seat that goes around your body
- unrestrained** *adj*
without protection or control
- to stare blankly** *exp*
to look at someone with no expression on your face
- a spot fine** *n*
an amount of money you must pay for committing a crime. It is given by police at the scene of a crime

Drunken Gardener

In another incident, a **tuxedo-clad** man in New York was caught driving a **lawnmower** while drunk. The man, who had been banned from driving, was caught at 1 am. He has been **charged with** drunken





HERE'S ANOTHER RECIPE FOR YOU TO TRY AT HOME. **THIS MONTH: THE HOT ENGLISH BURGER** – PERFECT FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON BARBECUE.

hot english burger



Ingredients

- 500 grams of **ground beef**
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- **2 cloves of garlic**, pressed
- **2 avocado pears**
- 1 red onion, **sliced** thin
- 1 jar of roasted red peppers
- 6 large bread rolls
- Tabasco sauce (optional)

Method

- Mix the ground beef, minced onion and pressed garlic together.
- Make burger **patties**.
- Cook the burgers (preferably on the barbecue).
- Place hamburger patties on bread rolls and top with red onion, roasted red peppers and avocado **slices**.
- Sprinkle Tabasco sauce over the top (optional). ☆



GLOSSARY

- ground beef** *n*
meat (from a cow) that has been cut into very small pieces
- a clove of garlic** *n*
one section of a garlic bulb
- an avocado pear** *n*
a round, green vegetable with a large stone in the middle. Used for making guacamole
- to slice** *vb*
to cut thinly
- a patty** *n* *US*
a small, round piece of meat (often for making hamburgers)
- a slice** *n*
a thin piece of something

Nobel Nobility

Oldest Nobel winner

1 Pre listening

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

Here are some famous Nobel prize winners. Do you know anything about them? Where are they from? Why were they awarded the prize?



1
Doris Lessing



2
Jean Paul Sartre



3
Samuel Beckett



4
Pablo Neruda

1 Listening I

Listen once and answer the questions.

1. Which noble prize winner is being discussed?
2. What makes her special?

2 Listening II

Complete the fact file. Write down what happened in each year.

1. 1919 = _____
2. 1937 = _____
3. 1943 = _____
4. 1949 = _____
5. 1960s = _____

Word alert

"Upbringing"

In the text, "upbringing" is used as a noun but it is also a phrasal verb, "to bring up". What does it mean? Answer the questions to help you guess.

1. Who do you think brings you up?
2. At what time in your life are you brought up?

WHO WANTS A PRIZE?





HMS Barham

This Royal Navy ship was launched in 1914. During the First World War, she **collided** with her sister ship Warspite. Later, she received five hits in a battle. During the Second World War, the ship was used in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. In March 1941, she received bomb damage during the Battle of Cape Matapan off the coast of Crete. She sank in November 1941 after being hit by three torpedoes from a German submarine.



HAVE YOU EVER REVEALED A SECRET BY MISTAKE? MOST OF US PROBABLY HAVE. BUT IMAGINE BEING PUT IN JAIL BECAUSE OF IT. THIS HAPPENED TO HELEN DUNCAN IN 1941.

Helen Duncan was a medium – someone who communicates with the spirit world. One day during a **séance**,

she spoke with the spirit of a dead **sailor**. He told Helen that his ship, **HMS Barham***, had **sunk**. She then passed the message on to his family, thinking that she was doing the right thing. The family then contacted the **Admiralty** to verify the news. In turn, the Admiralty demanded to know how the family knew about the ship as it was a secret. It was 1941, at one of the worst moments of the Second World War. Britain was just recovering from the **Blitz***, and there was still the danger of an invasion (although by this time the Germans had started their invasion of the Soviet Union). The British government were paranoid about the country's security. They wanted to keep information about the ship a secret in order to **maintain** troop **morale**. So, they decided to arrest Duncan.

At first, they thought Duncan was a spy. How else would she know such top secret information? There was a trial. However, the **prosecution** could not prove that she was working for the Nazis. So, what were they

going to do? Simple. They would **try** her as a witch under the 1735 Witchcraft Act. She was eventually convicted and sentenced to nine months in prison after a highly-publicised **trial**. At the time, many people were against the trial, including the prime minister, Winston Churchill.

The Blitz

This is a shortened version of the German term "Blitz Krieg" ("Lightning War"). It is often used to refer to the extended bombing of Britain by Germany from 7th September 1940 to 10th May 1941. The attack began with the bombing of London for 57 consecutive nights. In total more than over 43,000 civilians were killed during the Blitz, although this was far fewer than the number of German civilians who were killed during allied attacks on Germany in 1944 to 1945.



So, who was Helen Duncan? She was born in Callander, Stirling (Scotland), in November 1897. She was a famous medium and performed **séances**, contacting the spirits of **recently-deceased** people. She was a mother of six children, and the wife of a wounded **veteran**. During the war, she worked in a **bleach** factory but practised her **craft** to make extra money to support her family. Duncan eventually died in 1956.

Now more than six decades after her arrest, one group is requesting that she be **posthumously pardoned**. Although it has never been officially stated, it is thought that

her trial and unfair arrest led to the **repeal** of the Witchcraft Act in 1951. This was replaced by the Fraudulent Mediums Act which is often used against dishonest mediums who **scam** clients. ☺

GLOSSARY

- a séance** *n*
a conversation with the spirit of a dead person
- a sailor** *n*
a person who works on a ship
- to sink** *vb*
to disappear below the surface of the water
- the Admiralty** *n*
the government department that is in charge of the navy (the warships)
- to maintain morale** *exp*
to keep people feeling positive / optimistic
- the prosecution** *n*
the lawyers who try to prove that someone is guilty
- to try** *vb*
to try to prove that someone is guilty
- a trial** *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is guilty or innocent
- recently-deceased** *adj*
if someone is "recently-deceased", they have died recently
- a veteran** *n*
a person who served in a war
- bleach** *n*
a chemical that dyes something white or a pale colour. It is often used for cleaning
- a craft** *n*
a special talent or ability
- posthumously pardoned** *exp*
declared innocent after death
- to repeal (a law)** *vb*
to end / cancel / delete a law
- to scam** *vb*
to trick; to deceive in order to get money
- to collide** *vb*
to hit; to crash against

Headline News

Headline News N° 5

The voice of the people

London 2008



Unusual Art

Lego Art

While most artists use paintbrushes and a canvas, New York artist Nathan Sawaya takes a different approach to his art. For the past five years, Sawaya has been creating sculptures, mosaic portraits and even advertising logos using his material of choice: Lego. He has sculpted many different things, including political comedian Steve Colbert, a tyrannosaurus rex and the human heart. Currently, he is touring the North American museum circuit with a show called "The Art of the Brick".

Dirt + Grime = Inspiration Time

A famous person once said, "Discovery lies in seeing something new in what everyone else accepts as commonplace." While we may see just a dirty rear window of a car, artist Scott Wade sees the Mona Lisa. One day, Wade saw through layers of grime and mud on his car and came up with Dirty Car Art. He has painted Albert Einstein, Ronaldhino and even a version of the classic dogs playing poker portrait (originally by Cassius Marcellus Coolidge) . . . all on the back of cars. Growing up in Wimberley, Texas in the United States, Scott says, "I lived on a long dirt road for 20 years. Since my cars were always dirty, I just had to use that 'blank canvas'."

Art Eggxhibit

Breakfast inspired art

Ever dream of eggs for breakfast? Residents of Leeuwarden, Holland wake up with visions of eggs every day. Artist Henk Hofstra, "inspired by his breakfast", created a series of enormous egg sculptures in the centre of Wilhelmina Square. Called "Art Eggsident," (like "art accident") many of the eggs are over 30 metres wide. The egg art is popular with kids, who love climbing up the 2.3 metre tall sculptures. The enormous eggs have **bloggers** talking too. One person says, "I love it, but it does need bacon. And toast. And coffee." Looks like everyone loves a **hearty** breakfast. Another blogger says she "hopes Google Earth will **pick up** the eggs on satellite."

Hofstra hoped so too. The super-sized eggs are his second attempt at a sculpture big enough to **show up** from space on Google

Earth satellites. Google Earth is Google's online 3D (three-dimensional) map programme that lets you look at any destination on Earth. Hofstra's first try at reaching space with sculpture was with his piece "Water Is Life". He used over 4,000 litres of bright blue paint to cover 1,000 metres of road in Drachten, Holland. The road became a giant, painted river. The artist even added funny details such as a car **sinking** into the "water." Unfortunately, Hofstra's river wasn't big enough to be seen from space on Google Earth. Restaurant chain Kentucky Fried Chicken **beat** Hofstra **to it**; their ads can be seen from space. Will Hofstra keep trying? As they say, "Try and try again – **you can't make an omelette without breaking any eggs.**"



GLOSSARY

a blogger *n*
a person who keeps an online journal of their personal opinions

hearty *adj*
substantial; providing a lot of nourishment

to pick up *phrvb*
to notice; to detect

to show up *phrvb*
to appear; to be visible

to sink *vb*
if an object "sinks", it goes below the surface of the water

to beat (someone) to (something) *exp*
do something before someone else

you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs *exp*
sometimes people get hurt or bad things happen when you are trying to achieve / do something difficult



Silly Spelling

A study on poor spelling in the UK.

Do you have problems with English spelling? It's **notoriously** difficult. And in many cases there is very little connection between the pronunciation of the word and the way it is written. But you aren't the only ones who find it tough.

A recent study has shown that native English speakers can't spell either. More than two thousand people took part in the study and the **findings** were very interesting. Forty percent of the respondents could not spell the word "**questionnaire**", 38% had trouble spelling "accommodate" and 37% also had problems spelling "definitely". Other difficult words included "**liaison**", "existence" and "occurrence". Even relatively simple words such as "calendar", "**embarrass**", "library" and "**receipt**" caused confusion.

So, why is this? Two-thirds of those in the study **blamed** mobile phones for their inability to spell. Abbreviations in texting are leading to a new type of English ("coz" instead of "because"; "4" instead of "for", etc). But this doesn't seem to worry many people. Nearly a

third thought their spelling was "brilliant", and 46% said it was just "good". Alarming, 14% did not think it was vital to spell correctly, and 11% were not worried by colleagues' spelling mistakes. Twenty percent said that they'd avoid writing documents by hand because their spelling was inadequate, and 59% said they **relied** on their computer's spell-checker to get things right. Amazingly, 6% had lost a job because their spelling was so poor.

James Margate, who was in charge of the study said, "It's worrying how weak our spelling has become, especially with regard to simple, everyday words. It's interesting to see that despite getting basic words wrong, a huge majority still regard their spelling skills as excellent or good. It's inexcusable to see badly-written documents in a work environment. If something isn't done in this generation, spelling standards will only **decline** further." A member of the Plain English campaign said, "People seem **less inclined** to consider correct spelling important. When we spell words incorrectly, it is **bound** to cause confusion and make writing more difficult to read." ☺

Difficult words

The 20 simple words the English are unable to spell:

1. questionnaire
2. accommodate
3. definitely
4. liaison
5. existence
6. occurrence
7. referring
8. occurred
9. millennium
10. embarrass
11. calendar
12. receive
13. necessary
14. separate
15. cemetery
16. library
17. accidentally
18. independent
19. occasionally
20. receipt



GLOSSARY

- notoriously** *adj*
famous, but for a bad reason
- findings** *n*
results from research
- a questionnaire** *n*
a list of questions in order to find out people's opinions of something
- liaison** *n*
cooperation and exchange of information and ideas between two companies or parts of an organisation
- to embarrass** *vb*
to make someone feel ashamed or uncomfortable
- a receipt** *n*
a piece of paper given in a shop after you buy something
- to blame** *vb*
to say someone is responsible for something bad
- to rely on** *phr vb*
to depend on
- to decline** *vb*
to decrease
- to be less inclined to** *exp*
to have less desire to do something
- bound to** *exp*
likely to; probably going to



Superman Comics

This isn't the first case of a spectacular marketing turnaround. In 1993, and in an effort to revive Superman comic book sales, D.C. Comics published "The Death of Superman" to get public attention. The media coverage was extensive and dramatic. As a result of the build-up, the public waited anxiously for the book to appear in shops and newsstands. On the first day that the comic was released, it sold out. Subsequent issues of the comic sold well too, such as Funeral for a Friend, and The Return of Superman. Not only did this marketing tactic rejuvenate a fresh interest in the Superman comics, but it also earned D.C. Comics millions of dollars.



Purrrfect Job

Cat promoted

Does your boss **purr** when he's happy? The new Station Master at western Japan's Kishikawa train station does. She's a nine-year-old tabby cat named Tama, who has **climbed the corporate ladder**. The Kishikawa train line was losing major money – 4.9 million yen a year – as the number of passengers per day fell to under 5,000. So, Kishikawa made Tama the Station's **mascot**... and saved the day.

In Japan, cats are considered lucky, and they bring prosperity and good fortune. Since the cat was appointed Station Manager, Kishikawa's luck has changed. People come from all over Japan to see and have their photo taken with the famous feline. The number of passengers is up 10% due to Tama's popularity, so she was **promoted** to "Super-



Tama

Station Master". Not bad for a cat who was **homeless** not long ago. Tama lived in a store next to Kishi Station, but the store was **pulled down**. She'll never have to worry about finding a place to sleep again.

Tama's job description includes wearing the Station Master's **cap**, and sleeping near the main entrance of the station. She has a **product line** as well. You can buy postcards, **erasers** and notebooks with a photo of Tama. However, her **rise to fame** hasn't **gone to her head**. "She never complains, even though passengers touch her all the time. She is an amazing cat. She has patience and **charisma**," says railway spokeswoman Yoshiko Yamaki. "She is the perfect Station Master." Tama's Christmas bonus was paid entirely in cat food. ♡

GLOSSARY

- to purr** *vb*
when cats "purr", they make a soft vibrating sound
- to climb the corporate ladder** *exp*
to reach the top position in a company
- a mascot** *n*
a person, animal, or object believed to bring good luck, especially one kept as the symbol of an organisation such as a sports team
- to promote** *vb*
if you are "promoted", you are given a more important and better-paid job
- homeless** *adj*
with no home
- to pull down** *phr vb*
to destroy; demolish
- a cap** *n*
a type of hat with a visor at the front
- a product line** *n*
a series of products that are all related
- an eraser** *n US*
an object for deleting marks made by a pencil. A "rubber" in British English
- a rise to fame** *exp*
a situation in which you become famous quickly
- to go to your head** *exp*
if fame "goes to your head", you become self-important and proud because you are famous
- charisma** *n*
special charm or appeal; an ability to make people like you



Don Arden

THE MUSIC INDUSTRY IS A HARD PLACE TO DO BUSINESS. MUSIC MANAGERS, PROMOTERS AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR **RUTHLESSNESS**. ONE OF THE WORST IN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH MUSIC WAS DON ARDEN, **AKA** "THE AL CAPONE OF POP".

Born as Harry Levy in 1926, Arden went into **showbiz** at the age of 13. He did **stand-up comedy** and singing during the war years. Don Arden was Jewish and he began his career in management by organising Hebrew folk music competitions. By the 1960s, he had moved into **full-blown** management and was organising British tours for American performers such as Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley.

His first major group was The Small Faces. The group liked his enthusiasm and, in a short time, were **signed up**. They had a chart **hit** but it entered the charts illegally – supposedly by **fixing** it. But his **foul play** with The Small Faces wasn't over yet. In 1966, Robert Stigwood, another music manager spoke to The Small Faces about changing managers. Arden went to "teach him a lesson" with some friends and threatened to throw Stigwood out a window. He also tried to strangle one of the musicians and throw him out of a window.

In the 1970s, Don Arden became manager of rock legends Black Sabbath and ELO. Arden's problems really began to grow. In 1979, Arden had Sabbath's singer Ozzy Osbourne thrown out of the band for drink and drug problems. Arden's daughter, Sharon, began to date and manage



Ozzy. In an attempt to split them up, Arden told Ozzy that Sharon had tried to **seduce** him, her own father. After this failed, Arden **set loose** his dogs on Sharon, who was pregnant. She had a **miscarriage** and didn't speak to her father for over 20 years until Ozzy **reconciled** the two.

In the 1980s, Arden had a record company, but it collapsed after legal costs destroyed it. His son, David, seems to have **taken a leaf** from his father's book and went to prison for assaulting an employee. Don was also **charged in relation with** this. Don Arden's violent temper and unethical business practices eventually destroyed his business.

His daughter's business practices are somewhat different. Sharon is more open and is "**Flying High Again**" to quote one of her husband's songs. She has been involved in court cases involving **royalties** but, in general her methods are **fairly** honest. She once said that her father taught her how to destroy a business and that was the best thing he ever did for her. If you want to succeed in business, you shouldn't alienate too many people. Negative actions have a way of coming back to you. And in the case of Don Arden, losing his family and business are good examples of the saying, "**What goes around, comes around**". ★

Don Arden

Born: 4th January 1926 in Manchester, England
Died: 21st July 2007 in Los Angeles, USA
Known as: "Mr. Big", "The English Godfather" and "The Al Capone of Pop"



GLOSSARY

ruthlessness *n*
if you act with "ruthlessness", you have no pity or sympathy for others

AKA *acronym*
Also Known As
showbiz *abb inform*
show business

a stand-up comedy *n*
a comedy performance that consists of a single comedian talking to the audience

full-blown *adj*

total; complete

to sign up *phr vb*

to enlist / recruit someone to a company

a hit *n*

something that is commercially successful

to fix *vb*

to organise / manipulate a result

foul play *exp*

unlawful behaviour; illegal activities

to seduce *vb*

to persuade someone to do something, often by charming them

to set loose *phr vb*

to release; to free (caged animals, etc)

a miscarriage *vb*

the death of a baby during pregnancy

to reconcile *vb*

to make friends again after an argument

to take a leaf from someone's

book *exp*

to do things in a similar way to another person

in relation with *exp*

connected to

flying high *exp*

doing well

royalties *n*

money earned from music sales

fairly *adv*

quite

what goes around, comes

around *exp*

what you do to others will be done to you; if you make others suffer, you

will suffer too, one day



If you own a failing business and you need some advice to turn things around, you should look at the career of Ozzy Osbourne. The ageing English rock star was considered a **dinosaur** until a couple of years ago. That was until his wife and manager, Sharon, signed the family up for the reality TV series *The Osbournes*. The series was, surprisingly, a **smash hit** around the world and the once-reluctant TV star Ozzy saw his album sales **skyrocket**.

Of course, it would be difficult to survive in show business for long without two other important things: talent and an ability for self-publicity. Ozzy has both of these **in droves**. When they started in Birmingham at the beginning of the 1970s, Ozzy's band, Black Sabbath, defined a new form of music: heavy metal. Their musical style, lyrics and wild antics **struck a chord with** millions of **disaffected** teenagers. Ozzy was a talented singer and a charismatic frontman for the band, but his personal life became notorious. He had a serious problem with alcohol and drugs which culminated in him trying to kill Sharon. He was also blamed for causing the suicides of two fans. His song *Suicide Solution*, which was actually about alcoholism, was **cited** in court for these deaths but he was **cleared**. His most infamous **stunt** was when he bit the head off a bat on stage. He claims he thought the bat was made of rubber, but the **wildman** myth grew. He has also admitted to killing all his

pet cats, about 17, with a shotgun. Nowadays, the "Blizzard of Ozz" lives a quieter life. He is a TV personality. His son, Louis, from his first marriage is a famous DJ. His children by Sharon, Kelly and Jack, have successful careers stemming from *The Osbournes*. His other daughter, Aimee, has stayed out of the media glare but is successful in her own right as an actress, singer and columnist. She is an impressive character because she has never used her father's fame to help her own career.

A lot of the Osbournes' success is down to efficient marketing. Many observers credit this to Sharon. Ozzy has always been popular with **metallers** but with the Ozzfest tour his music has gained a much wider popularity. Sharon,

Ozzy and son Jack organise this multi-band **annual** festival which tours America and, occasionally, Europe. Along with Sharon's career as a **reality TV** presenter, this gives the family Osbourne plenty of media attention. Sharon has, as a rock and roll manager, the talent and opportunities to constantly **grab the public's eye**. Although Ozzy is the most famous, the rest of the family has benefited from this intelligent form of marketing. At times, the family appears as a unit and, at others, as individual personalities. It seems that, for a man once considered a **pariah** by the media, things have never been so good. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a (rock) dinosaur** *n*
a (rock) star who is less popular now, often because of age
- a smash hit** *n*
a successful album, film, TV series, etc
- to skyrocket** *vb*
if sales "skyrocket", they increase quickly and by a lot
- in droves** *exp*
in excess; in abundance
- to strike a chord with** *phr vb*
to affect; to be something that others can connect with
- disaffected** *adj*
unhappy or alienated from society
- to cite** *vb*
to accuse formally; to name someone as a suspect
- to clear** *vb*
to be found not guilty
- a stunt** *n*
an action for publicity
- a wildman** *n*
a crazy person
- a metallor** *n* *inform*
a heavy metal fan
- annual** *adj*
once a year
- reality TV** *n*
unscripted TV; programmes such as Big Brother, Pop Stars, etc
- to grab the public's eye** *exp*
to get public attention
- a pariah** *n*
someone who is disliked by society; an outcast



Wanted:

Choose your Destiny

What happens when a man goes from having no power to having more than he can handle? This summer's action blockbuster *Wanted* is loosely based on the comic book mini-series by Mark Millar (also titled *Wanted*) and art by J.G. Jones. The film stars James McAvoy (from *The Last King of Scotland*), Morgan Freeman and Angelina Jolie.

The story starts in a drug store. The anxious and passive accounts manager Wesley Gibson (James McAvoy) is waiting for his prescription for anxiety pills. All of a sudden, a mysterious woman, Fox (played by Angelina Jolie) approaches him. The news that she gives him changes his life forever.



that he is the son of a recently-deceased legendary assassin. And he must learn the ways of an assassin to avenge the death of his father.

Fox takes him under her wing, and brings him to the Fraternity (a secret society of assassins). Gibson, who used to process accounts, is now learning to shoot the wings off flies (literally). Except he already knows how, of course. Under the tutelage of Sloan (Morgan Freeman), the leader of the Fraternity, Gibson undergoes brutal training to cultivate his skills. In the process, he becomes more proactive about his life in general and demonstrates that you cannot deny your destiny.

Apparently this average guy with no hopes, dreams, or fulfilled life purpose has a very special and untapped ability. He finds out

This action flick is filled with high-quality special effects. So, if you like action movies, this is the one for you. ✨



GLOSSARY
to handle *vb*
to be capable of dealing with; to be able to deal with
loosely based on *exp*
more or less the same as
a drug store *n US*
a shop where medicine and other articles are sold. A "chemist's" in British English
an accounts manager *n*
a person whose job is to deal with the financial transactions in a big company
approach *vb*
to go close to someone
legendary *adj*
very famous
an assassin *n*
a professional killer
to avenge *vb*
to hurt someone who is responsible for doing something wrong to you
to take someone under your wing *exp*
to teach someone something and watch out for them; to take care of someone
under the tutelage of *exp*
under the care of
to deny *vb*
not to accept something
a flick *n inform*
a film
a priest *n*
a high-ranking member of a church
the navy *n*
the ships and people who fight at sea
to take on *phr vb*
if you "take on" a role, you accept that role and play the part
key *adj*
important
a roles *n*
a part in a film or play
to fence *vb*
to fight with swords
a fire-eater *n*
a person who puts fire or sticks of fire into their mouths to entertain others
accolades *n*
awards
to go to your head *vb*
to become arrogant / big-headed / self-important because of success
to take a break *vb*
to stop doing something so you can rest
soul-searching *exp*
a period of reflection on your thoughts, feelings, life, etc
a kid *n inform*
a child
humanitarian causes *n*
acts that are designed to help poor people
the plight of *n*
the severe problems related to; the pain and misery of...
a Goodwill Ambassador *n*
a celebrity representative who uses their influence to help the poor



Growing up in Glasgow, Scotland, James McAvoy never thought of becoming a serious actor. He only acted because he was allowed to and he "had to do something". Rather, as a child he wanted to be a **priest** or join the **navy**. Since committing to acting, however, he has **taken on** a variety of characters. He has had **key roles** in sci-fi films, romantic movies, and is now the main star in the 2008 action film *Wanted*. His acting versatility reflects his real-life varied interests: he is a skilled boxer, he **fences**, and is also a **fire-eater**. Even though he received a BAFTA Film Award in 2007 for *The Last King of Scotland* and also the 2006 Rising Star Award, he hasn't let these **accolades go to his head**. Despite all the fame and riches, he still drives a modest car, lives in a small apartment and leads a normal life. And he is even thinking of **taking a break** from all the offers to do some **soul-searching** and to "take some 'me' time". ☺

James McAvoy

Born: 21st April 1979
 Birthplace: Glasgow, Scotland
 Main films: *The Last King of Scotland*, *Atonement*, *Becoming Jane*



Angelina Jolie is described as one of the world's most beautiful people. However, she describes herself as someone who will "always be a punk **kid** with tattoos". Despite her self-proclaimed punk personality, Jolie works hard for **humanitarian causes**. She has travelled to African and Asia to promote **the plight** of refugees and has worked as a **Goodwill Ambassador**. She is also quite the fighter. As a mother of three adopted children, one biological child, and currently pregnant with twins, she is quoted as saying, "If anybody comes into my home and tries to hurt my kids, I've no problem shooting them." Having played numerous action roles in movies such as *Tomb Raider*, *Mr and Mrs Smith*, as well as her most recent undertaking, *Wanted*, she thinks that everyone should enrol in some sort of fighting class whether it is "kung-fu, kickboxing or boxing". As for her own children, she believes they need to learn to hold their own in a fight. Just like their mum can. ☺

Angelina Jolie

Born: 4th June 1975
 Birthplace: Los Angeles, California, United States
 Main films: *Girl, Interrupted*, *Tomb Raider*, *Mr and Mrs Smith*, *The Bone Collector*



British Music

THE BRITISH MUSIC SCENE HAS ALWAYS BEEN **PRETTY LIVELY**. MANY TYPES OF MUSIC HAVE EITHER ORIGINATED FROM OR DONE WELL IN THE BRITISH MARKET. HERE ARE SOME OF THE **MAJOR PLAYERS** AT THE MOMENT.

Pete Doherty

Pete Doherty is an English singer-songwriter of Irish-Jewish descent. He became famous when he performed with a band called *The Libertines* from 1997 until 2004. They were a garage rock band, which is a type of very **funky** rock influenced by punk. They had a UK number-one album but **broke up** due to Doherty's problems with heroin. Later he formed the band *Babyshambles*, which plays various types of music, including punk and ska. This is a form of Caribbean music similar to reggae. However,

Pete Doherty has become more famous for his continuing problems with drugs and his **fiery** relationship with top model Kate Moss. They had a very public relationship until 2007 and were constantly in the **tabloid press**. He has spent time in prison and is in and out of drug rehabilitation clinics. Despite this, he is a very talented musician and is very popular with young music fans. ✨

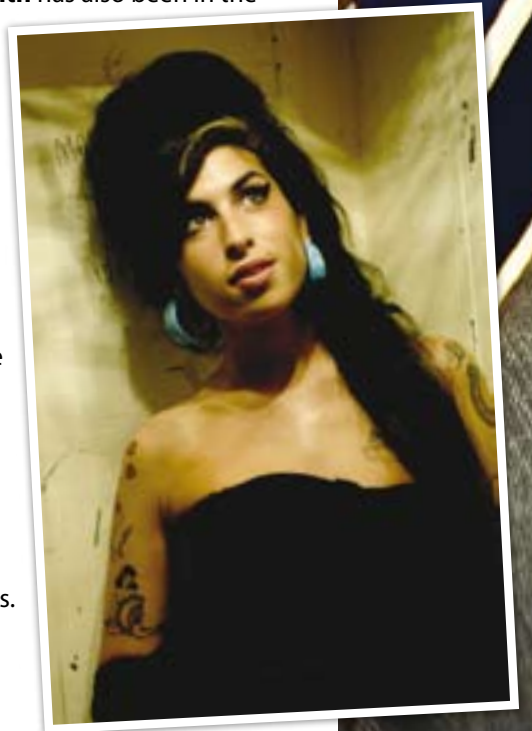


I'VE FORGOTTEN MY LINES.

Amy Winehouse

Amy Winehouse is a **Cockney** singer who writes and performs a mixture of rhythm and blues, jazz and blues music. She has also had problems with drugs and alcohol. News of her **mental health** has also been in the headlines. Recently

Winehouse and Pete Doherty appeared in a YouTube video playing with mice, prompting worries that she was going insane. Her husband (Blake Fielder-Civil), who is in prison, reportedly offered to pay for someone to attack Doherty. Amy, like Pete Doherty, is a very talented musician who is unfortunate to have fallen into the world of drugs. This is something that has happened to many young people in the rock and roll business. Amy was recently filmed in Glastonbury festival hitting a fan who had annoyed her. ✨

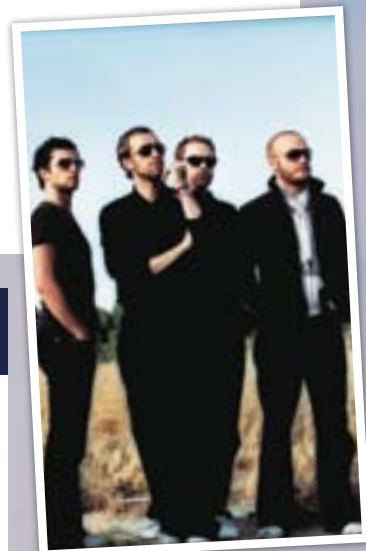




Coldplay

Coldplay are a world-famous alternative-rock band and are much less controversial than other stars. They are known, along with their music, for their social activism. Chris Martin, the singer-guitarist-pianist who is married to Gwyneth Paltrow, is very public about issues such as human rights and fair trade for third world countries. Coldplay were also involved with the Live 8 event in 2006. They have won a Grammy for their song "Clocks". Other popular songs are "Yellow" and "Speed of Sound". At the moment, their song "Vida la Vida" is proving to be very popular. Their latest album "Vida la Vida or Death and all his Friends" was released in June and has been very successful.

Coldplay's style of music has been compared to Oasis and Radiohead. They themselves have described it as "very heavy soft rock". Some of their music has a very sad feeling to it but it has **struck a chord with** many music fans. One impressive thing that the band have done is give 10% of their profits to charity. Their activism is well-known and Guy Berryman, the bassist, has said that if it helps people, then they want to do it. ✨



Oasis

Oasis have been about since the early 1990s and were part of the Britpop movement of bands. This was a type of music focused on the British style of guitar playing and **lyrics** about things that affect British people. Oasis' second album *What's the Story Morning Glory* is considered by many to be their best. Their singer, Liam Gallagher, is known as a **wildman** and has had many public **bust-ups** with other musicians. They were involved in the "Battle of Britpop" in 1995 with Blur. This was when the British press decided that there was **rivalry** between the bands, and a battle for sales of singles took place. Blur won the battle.

When the Britpop movement ended in the late 1990s, Oasis lost popularity and several band members left. The best-known members, brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher, are still in the band. Since 2005,

they have had a resurgence of popularity and a new album is to be released in 2008. ✨



The Prodigy

The Prodigy are one of the biggest electronic music bands in the world. This is a type of heavy dance music. It has sometimes been called "Electronic Punk". Others known for this music are The Chemical Brothers and Fatboy Slim. Although there are three members at the moment, most of the music is written and performed by Liam Howlett. They have caused controversy before with one of their songs. In the US, there was **outrage** as many people thought it was glorifying violence against women. The music video of the song showed a person on a night out, taking drugs and fighting. It caused even more controversy than their song, but many saw it as **groundbreaking**.

The Prodigy have worked with many famous artists including Oasis and Hollywood actress Juliette Lewis, who is also a talented singer. Like Oasis, a new album is rumoured for release this year, probably in October. ✨



GLOSSARY

- pretty lively** *exp*
quite active
- a major player** *n*
an important or influential person
- funky** *adj*
rhythmic; with strong rhythm
- to break up** *phr vb*
to stop playing together as a band
- fiery** *adj*
aggressive
- the tabloid press** *n*
the newspapers in Britain that print sensational stories
- a cockney** *slang*
someone who is originally from London and speaks with a cockney (working class) accent
- mental health** *n*
the state of health of your mind
- to strike a chord with** *phr vb*
to influence; to please
- the lyrics** *n*
the words in a song
- a wildman** *n*
someone who is crazy or does outrageous things
- a bust-up** *n inform*
a fight or argument
- rivalry** *n*
competitive feeling between people / organisations, etc
- outrage** *adj*
extreme shock or anger
- groundbreaking** *adj*
very original or modern

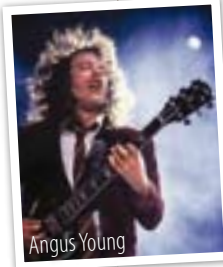


I'M A NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY BOY.



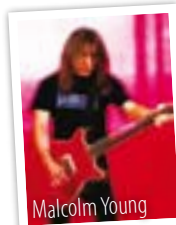
ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST FAMOUS ROCK BANDS IN HISTORY ARE AUSTRALIA'S AC/DC. THEY HAVE TOURED THE WORLD SINCE THE MID-1970S AND THEIR ALBUMS HAVE GONE **MULTI-PLATINUM**. A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ABOUT THE ROCKERS IS THAT THEIR ORIGINS ARE IN FACT SCOTTISH, SOMETHING THEY'RE VERY PROUD OF. HERE'S A HISTORY OF THEIR **MADCAP** ANTICS.

Angus and Malcolm Young were born in Glasgow but the family moved to Sydney, Australia, when the boys were young. Angus' musical career began at the age of five when he **restrung** a banjo as a guitar. Eventually, he got his **trademark** Gibson SG and, since then, has never changed instruments. Their brother George had a band, The Easybeats, and gave his younger brothers guitar lessons when he wasn't **touring**. He would eventually become AC/DC's **producer**.



army for being "socially maladjusted". Along with Scott's wild stage **antics**, they also gained popularity for Angus' crazy **spasms**, his **mooning** and his other famous trademark: his school uniform. Although their music has been described as heavy metal, they have always hated this reference. Their music is, in fact, ordinary rock 'n' roll, played loud and aggressively. This **straightforward** type of music has kept them popular all through their career.

In 1973, Malcolm and Angus formed AC/DC. They got the band's name from a sewing machine – AC/DC is an electrical reference. They eventually met another



Their first few albums were popular in Australia but when they released "Let There Be Rock" in 1977 they became world famous. They toured with Black Sabbath. In one incident, Sabbath's **bassist**, Geezer Butler, threatened Malcolm with a knife. Malcolm then reportedly beat him up. Despite this, the two groups remained friendly, and in 2006 Angus **inducted** Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Their next album, "Highway to Hell" made them big in America but trouble was coming.



Scottish-born Australian, Bon Scott, who was their driver for a while. After their first singer left, Scott became their **frontman**. He has been voted as the greatest frontman ever in *Classic Rock* magazine. Part of this success came from his bad-boy image as he had spent time in prison. He was also refused entry into the

In February 1980, Bon Scott was found dead in London from alcohol poisoning. The band thought about quitting but eventually replaced Scott with **Geordie** singer Brian Johnson. AC/DC Fans showed their loyalty and their next



AC/DC
AC/DC once helped overthrow a brutal dictator: Manuel Noriega, the leader of Panama in the 1980s. Noriega fled to the Vatican Embassy in 1989 after American troops tried to arrest him. The troops surrounded the embassy and played songs by Van Halen, The Clash and AC/DC **full blast** day and night. The dictator eventually surrendered and was deported to the USA.



album *Back in Black* became one of the biggest selling albums in history. Apparently, Scott admired Johnson's singing. Scott saw Johnson in concert once. During the concert, Johnson fell on stage and started yelling on the floor. The crowd thought it was part of his act but it was actually acute appendicitis. Brian Johnson has become known for his trademark flat cap, which is fashionable in his home town of Newcastle, England.

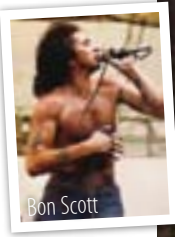


Brian Johnson

Stalker", was a devil worshipper and now the band were also accused of this. A campaign to **cancel** popular music in the US included AC/DC as targets. Despite this, the group survived and became more popular in the 1990s. They made a **comeback** and their latest songs are considered a **return to form** for them. They are releasing new material now in September and a world tour is expected.

The 1980s saw AC/DC's popularity drop and their music is seen as being below standard at this time. And there were problems for the band. Malcolm got into another fight, this time with Phil Rudd, the drummer, who then left. For a while, there were rumours that they were a gay band, especially as in some countries, AC/DC is a slang term for "bisexuality", and also because they played **gigs** in gay clubs. They responded by saying that they would play gigs anywhere they wanted – the more fans, the better. They had also got into trouble for referring to a real Australian telephone number in a song. This led to the owners of the number receiving thousands of **crank calls**. In the United States a serial killer, Richard Ramirez left an AC/DC hat at a crime scene and was also claimed to be inspired by their song "Night Prowler". Ramirez, **AKA** "the Night

The band never forgot where they were from and footage from their Scottish tours shows the band wearing Scottish football jerseys. One of their songs, *Bonny*, which is a tribute to Bon Scott, is actually a traditional Scottish **air**. Bon Scott has been honoured in his birthplace Kirriemuir, north of Edinburgh. Their 1978 live album "If you want Blood, you Got It" was recorded at a concert in Glasgow. Newcastle man Brian Johnson has also strengthened the connection as his hometown is close to the Scottish border.



Bon Scott

Despite the controversy surrounding the band, they continue to be popular and Angus is frequently named as the reason many young people start to learn guitar. Expect sparks when AC/DC go on tour. ✨

GLOSSARY

- multi-platinum** *adj*
that has sold millions of copies
- madcap** *adj*
crazy; wild
- to restring** *vb*
to change the strings of an instrument – changing their position or tuning
- a trademark** *n*
something a person is famous for
- to tour** *vb*
to do a series of concerts in different places / countries
- a producer** *n*
a person whose job is to control album recording, music mixing, music editing, etc
- a frontman** *n*
the singer in a band
- antics** *n*
crazy or controversial actions
- a spasm** *n*
a convulsion; an involuntary movement of the body
- to moon** *vb inform*
to show your backside (bottom) in public as a sign of disrespect to others, or just for fun
- straightforward** *adj*
uncomplicated
- a bassist** *n*
a bass player plays a guitar with four thick strings
- to induct** *vb*
to welcome someone officially into a group or society
- a Geordie** *n inform*
someone from Newcastle, England
- a crank call** *n*
a phone call made as a joke
- to censor** *vb*
to prohibit partially or totally
- a return to form** *exp*
to become good again; to be as good as before
- an air** *n*
a traditional Celtic song
- full blast** *adj*
at maximum volume



CD track 16
US woman & Caribbean man



CD track 17
Caribbean man

LITTLE JOKES

MATCH EACH JOKE BEGINNING (1 TO 8) WITH ITS ENDING (A-H). THEN, LISTEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1. What do you call a python with a great **bedside manner**?
2. **Jane:** What's the difference between Chinese food and Italian food?
Bob: With Chinese food, you're hungry after two hours. With Italian food, you're still...
3. Why did the **raisin** go out with the **prune**?
4. What kind of shoes do you make from banana skins?
5. Why do bananas wear **after-sun lotion**?
6. What is more useful after it is broken?
7. **Boss:** You **missed** work yesterday, didn't you?
8. **Jim:** How did you like your first day at work?
Mary: Going there was fine, and coming home was great too, but I'm not too **keen on**...



GLOSSARY
a bedside manner *n*
the way you behave with someone who is in bed (often sick)
a raisin *n*
a dried grape (the fruit used to make wine)
a prune *n*
a dried plum (a round, purple fruit)
after-sun lotion *n*
a type of cream you put on burnt skin
to miss something *exp*
two meanings: a) not to go to something; b) to feel sad because you aren't with certain people, or you aren't at a certain place and you want to be there
keen on something *exp*
if you are "keen on something", you like that thing very much
slippers *n*
soft shoes that you wear in the house. If you "slip", you fall accidentally
a date *n*
two meanings: a) a dark-brown sweet fruit from a date palm; b) a romantic meeting
to peel *vb*
two meanings: a) to take the skin off fruit; b) if your skin "peels", it starts coming off, usually because it has been burnt

- A:** Slippers.
B: ...the time in-between.
C: An egg.
D: A snake charmer.
E: Because he couldn't find a **date**.
F: Because they **peel**.
G: Employee: Not very much!
H: eating after two hours.

GRAFFITI

HERE ARE SOME MORE EXAMPLES OF BRITISH TOILET GRAFFITI.

DIPLOMACY IS THE PATRIOTIC ART OF LYING FOR ONE'S COUNTRY.

MARRIAGE IS NOT A WORD BUT A SENTENCE.

IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID TO DIE - I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS.

SHAKESPEARE - ALL HE DID WAS STRING TOGETHER A LOT OF OLD, WELL-KNOWN QUOTATIONS.

POLITICIANS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE MEDIA ARE LIKE SHIPS' CAPTAINS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SEA.

GLOSSARY
a sentence *n*
two meanings: a) a grammatical unit with a subject, verb, etc; b) a legal judgement that involves a punishment
to string something together *exp*
to connect; to join
the media *n*
newspapers, television, radio, etc

SILLY NEIGHBOUR BY DANIEL COLTOUNE



Misheard Lyrics

DO YOU LIKE SINGING ALONG TO SONGS IN ENGLISH? IF YOU DO, HOW DO YOU KNOW IF THE WORDS ARE RIGHT? THEY MAY SOUND CORRECT, BUT YOU COULD BE SINGING A "MISHEARD **LYRIC**". TRY OUR LYRICS' QUIZ. ANSWERS ON PAGE 62.



Famous Albums

The most famous misinterpretation of an album is *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen. Many people think it's called *Bohemian Rap City*.



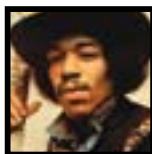
Mondegreens

The word for a badly-understood phrase or expression in a song is a "mondegreen". Apparently, the term comes from a folk song in the 1950s. The singer was singing, "They **slew** the Earl of Morray and **laid** him on the **green**." However, many people understood, "They **slew** the Earl of Morray and Lady Mondegreen."

- 1** In the song "Smells like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana, which of the following is correct?
a. Here we are now, entertain us.
b. Here we are now in containers.



- 2** In the song "Purple Haze" by Jimi Hendrix, he says...
a. Excuse me while I kiss this guy.
b. Excuse me while I kiss the sky.



- 3** Which is the correct lyric for "Hero" by the Foo Fighters?
a. There goes my hero. He's old and hairy.
b. There goes my hero. He's ordinary.



- 4** Which is the correct lyric for the Red Hot Chili Peppers song "Can't Stop"?
a. Can't stop the spirits when they need you.
b. Can't stop the **ferrets** when they need food.



- 5** In the Shakira song "Underneath your Clothes", what does she sing?
a. There's the man I chose. There's my territory.
b. There's the man I chose. There's my **Teletubbie**.



- 6** What do the Beatles sing in the song "Something"?
a. Something in the way she **moos** attracts me like no other mother.
b. Something in the way she moves attracts me like no other lover.



- 7** Outkast's song "Hey Ya" goes...
a. Shake it like a polar bear ninja.
b. Shake it like a Polaroid picture.



- 8** What do the 98 Degrees say in the song "I Do (Cherish You)"?
a. ...your hand **brushes** mine...
b. ...your **hairbrush** is mine...



GLOSSARY

the lyrics *n*
the words to a song
a haze *n*
dust, moisture or vapour in the air that makes it hard to see
a ferret *n*
a long, furry mammal with sharp teeth – often used to hunt rabbits
Teletubbies *n*
fictional and colourful characters from a children's programme who live in a futuristic dome and make irritating noises
to moo *vb*
when cows make a noise, they "moo"
to brush *vb*
to touch lightly / accidentally
a hairbrush *n*
an object used for making your hair look nice
to slay *n (past: slew)*
to kill
to lay *vb (past: laid; laid)*
to put in a horizontal position
a green *n*
an area of well-kept grass – often in the middle of a village



Mechanical Martini

Robot Barman

Robots in History

Barbots may be relatively new to the scene, but the idea of a mechanical person is old. The first humanoid robot, Elektro, debuted at the New York World Fair in 1938 and then in 1940. Elektro walked, talked, smoked cigarettes, blew up balloons, and could move its head and arms. Built with a good sense of humour, Elektro said things like, "My brain is bigger than yours," and, "If you use me well, I can be your slave." Films such as Terminator, Robocop, and the Matrix play on our fear of robots taking over. Could robots develop a conscience and motivation to take over or destroy the human race? So far, the greatest danger is malicious programming or unsafe use of robots, experts say. For the time-being, a robot world takeover can be left to Hollywood's imagination.



Elektro

GLOSSARY
to shake *vb*
to move something up and down quickly
to stir *vb*
to move something around in a container using a spoon
a bartender *n*
a person who makes drinks at a bar
a screwdriver *n*
a drink made of vodka and orange juice
alpha brain waves *n*
measurable electrical signals that the brain produces
to take place *exp*
to occur / to happen
to break down *phr vb*
to stop working; to malfunction
a trial-and-error process *n*
a process that involves trying different ways of doing something until you are successful
to set something on fire *exp*
to burn something

Does "shaken, not stirred," mean anything to you? It's how James Bond orders his Martinis. But how do you tell that to a robot barman? It's easy. Especially with Chapek, a robot bartender at the San Francisco Roboexotica exhibition. He can serve you a cocktail when you choose a drink on his control panel. He makes

to see how dry you want your Martini. This is Roboexotica's 10th anniversary, and it usually takes place in Vienna, Austria. The San Francisco event is smaller than the Vienna botparties, but there are plenty of "boozeslinging" robots to go around. So, will human bartenders have anything to worry about? Apparently not, as barbots

He makes screwdrivers, gin Martinis, vodka Martinis, and gin and juice cocktails. But Chapek is just one of dozens of "barbots" at Roboexotica, the annual robot bartender festival.

break down often. "El Español Borracho," a small cylinder robot, makes a strong Spanish coffee, complete with shooting flames... when it works properly. El Borracho's creator, Davalos, knows about the trial-and-error process involved in working with robots. "Last year I set my arm on fire," she says. "And at first I didn't notice, because the floor was also on fire." But aside from minor fire-related incidents, Roboexotica is a good time for everyone. "You have liquor, fire and robots, how could we go wrong?" says Roboexotica organizer Johannes Grentfurtherner. ✪



Another barbot reads your mind to figure out how you want your drink. Chris Veigl's Mind Reading Martini Maker creates "customised" Martinis. The robot measures your alpha brain waves

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. Do you like cocktails? Why? Why not?
2. What's your favourite cocktail? How do you make it?
3. What do you associate cocktails with?

2 Pre reading

Here are some famous cocktails. Write the ingredients under each one.

		
Screwdriver	Mojito	Manhattan

- fresh mint leaves
- vodka
- lime juice
- freshly-squeezed orange juice
- light rum
- bourbon whiskey
- angostura bitters
- vermouth
- lots of sugar
- soda water

3 Reading I

Read the article once. Which cocktail is mentioned? What do they say about it?

4 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. How do you choose your cocktail?
2. How does the robot barman know what you want to drink?
3. What is the main drawback of a robot barman?
4. What accident did El Borracho's creator have last year?

5 Colloquial English.

Look at this sentence from the article again. Can you work out the meaning of the word in bold?

There are plenty of **boozeslinging** robots to go around.

As you can see, "booze" (the noun) refers to alcohol in general. It is also used as an adjective, "It was a boozy night." (suggesting that there was a lot of alcohol consumed)

Awful England

Travel writers insult Brits.

"As a glance at the **tabloid newspapers** will confirm, England is a nation of overweight, **binge-drinking**, reality-TV addicts," say four Rough Guide travel writers. The authors **give** Britain a **bad rap**, even though all four are British themselves. They **warn** travellers that the English are the "most **contradictory** people imaginable," and that traditional British **reserve** makes attempting to communicate with a stranger "**tantamount to** physical assault." The writers also say there is nowhere "so fascinating, beautiful, and culturally diverse, yet as **insular**, self-important and irritating, as England."

But that wasn't all. "The only certainty for visitors is that however long you spend in England, and however much you see, it still won't be enough to understand the place," the Rough Guide says. In the end though, the authors say, England isn't all bad. "Deeply conservative England is a **safe haven** for political refugees and immigrants, and Brits are animal-loving, tea-drinking charity donors, whose warmth is in the humour." A Rough Guide spokesman said he believed that visitors would see that the commentary was "**tongue-in-cheek**." "After all, our sense of humour is one of the many reasons why, along with our **heritage** and culture, that people come here," he says. ☺

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

Rough Guide to England

The Rough Guide to England is seen by many as the definitive guide to England. It includes a 24-page, full-colour section introducing England's highlights, with reviews of all the best places to stay, eat, drink and party – plus "author's picks" to highlight the very best options. The guide includes accounts of all the top sights including The Eden Project and The Baltic Centre in Newcastle. Plus there are practical tips on everything from cycling coast to coast, to hiking in the Yorkshire Dales. The guide also takes a look at England's culture, politics, history and wildlife.



GLOSSARY

- a tabloid newspaper** *n*
a newspaper that often has sensational stories about the rich and famous
- binge-drinking** *n*
drinking alcohol in excess / quickly
- to give someone a bad rap** *exp inform*
to speak badly about someone; to give someone a bad reputation
- to warn** *vb*
to tell someone of a danger
- contradictory** *adj*
inconsistent; saying one thing and doing another
- reserve** *n*
holding back; acting politely or cautiously
- tantamount to** *exp*
equal to
- insular** *adj*
closed; not willing to think about new ideas
- a safe haven** *n*
a protected, safe place
- tongue-in-cheek** *adj*
ironic / mocking / not serious / intending to be humorous
- a heritage** *n*
the traditions and aspects of culture that are passed on from generation to generation

1 Pre reading

What do you think of the English? Which of the adjectives below best describes them?

- insular
- warm
- reserved
- cold
- passionate
- arrogant
- animal lovers
- open
- boring
- charity givers
- stylish
- creative
- food lovers
- sporty
- big-headed
- pig-headed
- diplomatic
- cautious
- patriotic
- aggressive
- calm
- trendy
- funny
- lively
- fun

2 Reading I

Read the article. Which adjectives are mentioned in relation to the British?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. What do you think the author means by the following? Give examples.

1. "The English are the most contradictory people imaginable."
2. "Traditional British reserve makes attempting to communicate with a stranger tantamount to physical assault."
3. "Deeply conservative England is a safe haven for political refugees and immigrants."

4 Discussion

1. Would you agree with the rough guide writers?
2. Are any of the descriptions applicable to people in your country? What are the similarities / differences?
3. Which adjectives would you use from the list to the left to describe people in your country?

Expression of the day!

What do you think "tongue in cheek" means? Read over the sentence in which it appears again. Can you guess the meaning from the context? As you can see, many expressions may have individual words that you know the meaning of, but the combined expression has a completely different meaning. How does this one translate into your language?

VOCABULARY

The Police

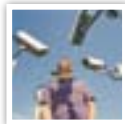
LEARN SOME MORE USEFUL WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS TO TALK ABOUT THE POLICE AND CRIME.

Suspect – someone accused of a crime.

Suspicious – a “suspicious-looking person” is someone who appears to be a criminal.

Police radio – a device police use to communicate.

Police officer – a member of a police force.



CCTV (Closed circuit television) – a system of street video cameras, used for maintaining security.



Sniffer dog (sniff dog) – a dog that is trained to find illegal drugs or explosives through smell.

Alibi – a legal excuse; an explanation of where you were at the time of a crime.

Hold up – to rob a bank or building, often using force or the threat of force.

Break in – to enter a place illegally.



Arrest – to take custody of a person because he / she is a suspect.

Court – the building where legal processes take place to decide if someone is innocent or guilty.

Trial – a legal process

to decide if someone is innocent or guilty.

Innocent – not guilty.

Guilty – not innocent.



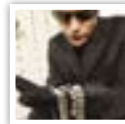
Lawyer – a person who works in the legal system. A solicitor often deals with the paperwork, and a barrister represents people in court during trials.

Community Service – a sentence that requires a convicted person to do unpaid work for the community (cleaning, etc) instead of going to prison.

Capital punishment – punishment by death for a crime (the death penalty).



Rob – to steal from a building or person. For example, “They robbed a bank. / They robbed a man in the street.” The noun is “robbery”.



Steal – to take something that isn't yours. “Steal” is often used for things you can carry away. For example:
a) They stole the jewellery.
b) His wallet was stolen from the table.
 The noun is “theft”.
 Be careful! You cannot say, “He stole a bank. / They stole me.” In these cases, you need to use the verb “to rob”. ✖





(NOT SO) TYPICAL DIALOGUES

Police Search

IN THIS CONVERSATION, NIGELLA IS IN THE STREET. IT'S LATE AT NIGHT AND SHE'S ON HER WAY HOME. ALL OF A SUDDEN A POLICE OFFICER WITH A DOG APPEARS.



- Police:** Excuse me.
Nigella: Yes.
Police: Where are you going at this time of night? (*dog growling*)
Nigella: Well, I'm, erm, I'm going home.
Police: Where do you live? (*dog growling*)
Nigella: I live in Queen, erm, King, erm, Queen Street.
Police: You don't seem to be very sure. (*dog growling*)
Nigella: Sorry. It's your dog. He's making me nervous. (*dog growling*)
Police: (*on the police radio*) Yeah, there's a suspicious-looking lady here. She matches the description of the woman we're looking for. Yeah, short, fat...
Nigella: Excuse me, I'm not fat.
Police: (*to Nigella*) I do the talking here, **miss**. Stand by the car and place your hands on the **roof**. (*on the radio again*) Yeah, she's getting a bit **cheeky**. Could you send some **reinforcements**? This could **get nasty**.
Nigella: Could you please tell me what's going on?
Police: I ask the questions here, miss. Open the bag.
Nigella: My bag?
Police: Yes, open the bag.
Nigella: I will not.
Police: Now, look here. We can do this the easy way, or we do this the hard way.
Nigella: What's the hard way?
Police: Pebbles! Here, boy. (*dog growling*)
Nigella: OK. OK. Here you are. (*she opens the bag*)
Police: What's all this?
Nigella: It's a leg of lamb and some parsley.
Police: Do you think I'm stupid, or what? This looks like a human leg and some marijuana.
Nigella: It's lamb and parsley, honestly.
Police: Well, what **on earth** are you doing with a leg of lamb and some parsley on a Saturday night?
Nigella: I'm going home. I was at my restaurant. I am a restaurant owner. And I'm a celebrity **chef** – a famous one. Perhaps you've seen me on the television.
Police: On the television? Oh, right. Yes, I know you. It's you. You're Nigella Gulliver, aren't you?
Nigella: That is correct.
Police: I am sorry. (*the sound of a police siren*) Please carry on. Can we **give you a lift** home?
Nigella: No, that's quite all right. I will find my own way home.
Police: Enjoy the lamb! ☆

GLOSSARY

to growl *vb*
when a dog "growls", it makes a low, angry noise

miss *exp inform*
an informal and sometimes insulting / disrespectful way of referring to a woman. Can be an abbreviation of Mrs or Miss. Also, a term for an unmarried woman / girl

a roof *n*
the top and outside part of a building

cheeky *adj*
disrespectful; disrespectful but in a funny way

reinforcements *n*
back-up; support; more police officers

to get nasty *exp*
to become violent / difficult, etc

(what) on earth...? *exp*
used to express shock / surprise, etc

a chef *n*
a cook in a restaurant / hotel

to give someone a lift *exp*
to take a person to a place in a car / motorbike, etc

Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE



Led Zeppelin



Pink Floyd

VS

THIS MONTH WE'RE LOOKING AT TWO GREAT BRITISH MONSTERS OF ROCK, LED ZEPPELIN AND PINK FLOYD.

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin were formed in 1968. Originally, they were going to be called The New Yardbirds, after an earlier band, The Yardbirds, but the name was changed. One story says that guitarist Jimmy Page asked two members of The Who to form a **super-group** with him. They didn't like the idea, saying that it would **go down like a lead balloon**. So, Page formed the band with Robert Plant and renamed it Led **Zeppelin**. They released ten albums, including a **soundtrack** to their film "The Song Remains the Same" but they didn't name their first four albums. Led Zeppelin IV is considered their best, and the song "Stairway to Heaven" is thought of by many rock fans and musicians as a **masterpiece**. This song has several different styles, beginning as a folk song and ending in Heavy Metal style. This is a good description of the band's music as they have never played one style of music. They have played music from the **genres** of Folk, Rock, Reggae and Latin amongst others. They have had a controversial

career and were known for their wild behaviour. They had a reputation for destroying hotel rooms and Jimmy Page had a fascination with the **occult**. Led Zep was even accused of putting **backward messages** on their records but the messages are **debatable**. They broke up in 1980 after the death of their drummer John Bonham. They have recently reformed with Bonham's son Jason on drums and a tour is expected.

Pink Floyd

Pink Floyd are equally controversial and admired for their music. They were formed in 1964 and their first singer/guitarist was Syd Barrett. Their music was originally **psychedelic** and Syd was known for his drug-induced performances. As he used LSD more and more, Syd's performances became bizarre. He once mixed powder and hair cream then put the mix in his hair before a concert. As the heat of the lights melted the mixture, the audience thought Syd's face was melting. Eventually Syd was replaced by David Gilmour and

faded into obscurity. He died in 2006.

As the 1970s progressed, so did the music. "Dark side of the Moon" and "The Wall" are two of the biggest-selling albums in history. The singer/bassist Roger Waters wrote most of the music at this time and songs like "Wish you were Here" and "Comfortably Numb" are world-famous. Roger left in 1983 after a **bust up** with the rest of the band. They only **made up** recently when they performed at Live 8 together. In the time that Roger was gone, they recorded two albums, "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" and "The Division Bell". Roger Waters had a successful **solo career**. As with Led Zep, a world tour has recently been rumoured.

The verdict

Both bands have been very influential with other bands and sold millions of albums. They have both been successful for over 40 years and capable of holding massive **sell-out concerts**. So, our results are as follows: Led Zeppelin = 10 / 10; Pink Floyd = 10 / 10. A draw! 🍀

Secret messages?
Do you think Led Zeppelin's music contains secret messages? Follow this link and decide for yourself. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgxqgGUDno>
Remember that this type of message can be found in practically anything.



GLOSSARY

- a super-group** *n*
a music group with many famous individuals in it
- to go down like a lead balloon** *exp*
to fail in a spectacular manner
- a zeppelin** *n*
a type of balloon used as a form of transport
- a soundtrack** *n*
the music for a film / television series, etc
- a masterpiece** *n*
a perfect creation / work of art
- a genre** *n*
a type of music
- the occult** *n*
the world of magic, ghosts, spirits, devil worshipping, etc
- a backward message** *n*
a message that can be heard when the record / tape / CD is played backwards
- debatable** *adj*
not definite; that can be interpreted in a variety of ways
- psychedelic (music)** *n*
drug-induced music
- to fade into obscurity** *vb exp*
to become unknown after being famous
- a bust up** *n*
a serious argument or separation
- to make up** *phr vb*
to become friends again
- a solo career** *n*
if a musician starts a "solo career", he / she leaves the band and starts playing / singing alone
- a sell-out concert** *n*
an event for which all the tickets have been sold



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC

being perfect

GLOSSARY

- an alley** *n*
a narrow street between buildings
- gloves** *n*
clothing for the hands
- a charm** *n*
a magic power
- a prayer** *n*
words you say to God – often asking for something



Be right up somebody's alley / street

BE PERFECT FOR SOMEONE.
That film I saw last night is right up your **alley**.



Fit like a glove (clothing)

TO FIT PERFECTLY.
These new trousers fit like a **glove**.



Work like a charm

TO WORK VERY WELL.
This new washing powder works like a **charm**.



Be the answer to someone's prayers

TO BE THE ANSWER YOU WERE HOPING FOR.
She gets everything done on time – she's the answer to all our **prayers**.



Be just the job / ticket

BE JUST WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR.
We need someone to help us with this and you seemed to be just the **job**.



Be as good as new

IF SOMETHING IS "AS GOOD AS NEW", IT SEEMS TO BE NEW, EVEN THOUGH IT ISN'T.
This car is second hand, but it's as good as **new**.



Fit the bill

TO BE PERFECT.
She really fits the **bill** for this new job.



Have somebody's name written on it

TO BE PERFECT FOR SOMEONE.
This job has got your name written all over it – you'll love it.



Hit the mark

BE PERFECT; BE CORRECT.
The way you've done this is perfect. It really hits the **mark**.



quirky news

Naughty Donkey

A court in a remote village has sent a donkey to jail for assaulting two men. The animal won't be released until the owner pays compensation to the two victims. The men were on a **ranch** when the donkey attacked and bit one of the men on the **chest**. The other man came to the rescue but was kicked by the **feisty** animal and got his **ankle** broke. The owner of the donkey has to pay the man's medical



bills, which amount to about €300. A police officer said, "Around here, if someone commits a crime they go to jail, no matter who they are." Apparently, this isn't the first time that police in the area have sent a crime-committing animal to jail. A few years ago, a dog went to prison for 12 days after biting an elderly woman. More recently a bull **was sent down for a crime wave** that included destroying **stalls** and eating **crops**. ❖

The Great Train Robbery

The Great Train Robbery was one of the largest value robberies in British history. On August 8, 1963, a traveling post office train was stopped at a red light at Bridego Railway Bridge, Ledburn in Buckinghamshire, England. It was robbed by a 15-member gang led by Bruce Reynolds and they escaped with about £2million.



GLOSSARY

- a ranch** *n*
a large farm (often in the US) with large numbers of sheep / cattle, etc
- a chest** *n*
the top part of the body at the front
- feisty** *adj*
tough, courageous, aggressive, quick
- an ankle** *n*
the joint that joins your foot to your leg
- to be sent down for something** *exp*
to go to prison for a crime
- a crime wave** *n*
a series of connected crimes
- a stall** *n*
a little room in a barn (a large building for animals) where a horse / cow, etc lives
- crops** *n*
plants / cereals that are grown for food
- to get into trouble** *exp*
to start to have problems (with the authorities / the police, etc)
- a slum** *n*
a very poor residential area with houses with no water / electricity, etc
- a turf war** *n*
a war between criminal gangs for control of an area
- troubled areas** *n*
the dangerous areas of a city
- down on your luck** *exp*
having a lot of problems; having a lot of bad luck
- anti-establishment** *adj*
against the government / authorities

Dirty Tours

A company in Rio de Janeiro has **got into trouble** for offering tours of the city's notorious **slums**. The "tourist experience with a difference" includes photo opportunities with members of drug gangs who are often involved in **turf wars** with each other. The head of tourism in the city said that the company, which claims that it isn't the only one to offer the service, didn't have the necessary licences to do this kind of thing. "Rio has more positive things to offer than tours around the city's **troubled**

areas," she said. In the past, visitors to Rio de Janeiro were given the opportunity to have dinner with the infamous Great Train Robber, Ronnie Biggs. **Down on his luck**, Ronnie had run out of money which he had stolen in Britain's biggest robbery at the time. Biggs made a living by getting his photograph taken with **anti-establishment tourists**. But they also had to buy him dinner. Ronnie eventually returned to jail in England. ❖



¿HAS SOLICITADO UNA BECA DEL MEC? HOT ENGLISH PUEDE AYUDARTE A ENCONTRAR EL MEJOR CURSO PARA TI

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Marketing & Financial

Marketing English

Sex, the City & Marketing



Benz, Swarovski and Skyy Vodka are part of the **hype**. NYC & Co., New York's official tourist marketing organisation, is also involved, as is Cadbury's and Stella Artois. They all feature in the film as part of **product placement** advertising. The question is, which of these brands has anything to do with the movie or its storyline? Universal Music certainly deserves to be

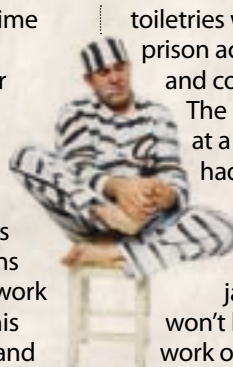
One of Hollywood's major movies this year, *Sex and the City*, has attracted a lot of attention from big companies. Many hope that the story of the four friends (plus New York City) will have a **knock-on effect** on brand names associated with the movie. Companies such as Mercedes-

involved as it is the record label for the **soundtrack**. But these days, product placement has little or nothing to do with the subject matter of the film involved. But if things did work like that, Smith & Wesson Guns would probably be sponsoring *The Sopranos* rather than Budweiser. ☘

Financial English

Prison Pinchers

In a **penny-pinching move**, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has **vetoed** a proposed 37.5% increase to **wages** for prisoners. It would have been the first **pay rise** since 1992, and it would have meant a £1.50 increase to the minimum rate. **As it stands**, the minimum rate in jails for prison work is £4.00 and a rise is needed. Most prisons have a system whereby **inmates** can work and earn money. They can then use this to buy things such as rolling tobacco and



toiletries with credit that accumulates in a prison account. Money in the form of cash and coins is prohibited.

The move to stop the increase comes at a time when British workers have had to accept a below-inflation pay increase. Critics of the move say that this will **deter** prisoners from **seeking work** inside the jails. And it will mean that they won't have the necessary skills to find work on the outside. ☘

GLOSSARY

- a knock-on effect** *n*
a secondary effect
- hype** *n*
the interest that advertisers create to get the public's attention
- product placement** *n*
making a product very visible in a film or television programme as a form of advertising
- a soundtrack** *n*
the music for a film, television series, etc
- a penny-pinching move** *n*
an action designed to save a small amount of money
- to veto** *vb*
to say no to an idea, etc
- a wage** *n*
a standard amount of money people receive for working
- a pay rise** *n*
an increase of someone's salary
- as it stands** *exp*
as it is
- an inmate** *n*
a prisoner
- to deter** *vb*
to discourage someone from doing something
- to seek work** *exp*
to look for a job



CD tracks 27-28
British & US accents

bar chats

British US

Tanning

THIS MONTH, GINGER AND ANNE ARE TALKING ABOUT **TANNING**.



- Ginger:** Hello, Anne, how are you doing?
- Anne:** I'm not bad actually. Quite enjoying this nice weather.
- Ginger:** Yeah, it's lovely, isn't it? You've got a lovely colour there. Where have you been or were you away this weekend, or...?
- Anne:** Do you think so? I mean my...
- Ginger:** Yeah!
- Anne:** Well, my arms aren't bad... they're kind of **yellow-y**. My legs are white. I mean, the weather hasn't been **brilliant**. But you know, years ago, I used to lie in the sun for hours and not worry about tanning creams or anything. Just put on, for example, **chip fat**...
- Ginger:** **You're kidding me!**
- Anne:** Did! And used to lie on silver paper and so the sun would be reflected off the silver paper, and I hoped would pr... promote a greater tan...
- Ginger:** Oh, God, but that's so dangerous now these days.
- Anne:** And let... but that's the... and I, I realised that that's really dangerous these days.
- Ginger:** Yeah...
- Anne:** And now we have these special creams, you know, with factor... 30....
- Ginger:** Absolutely.
- Anne:** Yeah. But, I mean, you, for example, I suppose you should actually have quite a high factor, shouldn't you?
- Ginger:** Yeah, well I have quite **pale skin**, really. Erm, I did once try, try this erm, **spray-on tan** which is an option of, of tanning without actually getting the sun damage. Erm, but that worked out as a complete disaster because, literally, it just started **peeling off**, but wouldn't come off completely, so it looked like I had some sort of horrible skin disease for about a week. Never again, I tell you. ☆

GLOSSARY

tanning *n*
lying in the sun trying to get brown skin

yellow-y *adj*
a bit yellow; more or less yellow

brilliant *adj*
excellent; very good

chip fat *n*
the oil used to fry chips (small pieces of potato)

you're kidding me *exp*
you're joking

pale skin *n*
white skin with no colour from the sun

a spray-on tan *n*
if you get a "spray-on tan", you make your skin brown by covering it with a chemical liquid

to peel off *phr vb*
if your skin "peels off", it starts coming off – often because it has been burnt

Trinidad & America

THIS MONTH KEJAN AND DIANA ARE TALKING ABOUT TRINIDAD AND AMERICA.

- Diana:** I noticed you had an accent. So, where are you from?
- Kejan:** I'm from Trinidad. It's in the Caribbean.
- Diana:** Oh, I've been to the Caribbean, but I've never been to Trinidad before. How do you like the US?
- Kejan:** I love it. I've been here almost every summer since I was a **kid**.
- Diana:** Oh, erm, what cities have you been to?
- Kejan:** I usually come to **DC**, that's where my aunt lives. But I've travelled all the way down the east coast to Florida on a **road trip** once.
- Diana:** And I'm sure you went to Disneyworld, then, right?
- Kejan:** I did. It was wonderful.
- Diana:** Erm, actually, I have family in DC as well.
- Kejan:** Oh, that's cool.
- Diana:** So, what do you think about the American girls?
- Kejan:** Erm, they're cool. They're, they're almost exactly like you see on TV sometimes.
- Diana:** Oh, what does that mean?
- Kejan:** They, they, they know how to have a good time. They **hang out**, they party, they drink, and then they go home at 2 am.
- Diana:** Well, what do girls do in Trinidad?
- Kejan:** They go out at 2 am, and then they come home at 6.
- Diana:** Huh...mmm... I wonder if we can do that here...
- Kejan:** I'm sure you can, but the bars might have to stay open a little later.
- Diana:** That's true, they all close really early.
- Kejan:** And the drinking age is 21. That's kind of hard. It's 18 where I'm from.
- Diana:** Ah, well, you know, there... I'm going to a party right now. Do you want to come with me?
- Kejan:** Oh, sure. Is it a **college** party?
- Diana:** No, I **graduated** from college years ago! ☆

GLOSSARY

a kid *n*
a child

DC *abbr*
Washington DC – the capital of the USA

a road trip *n*
a journey by car – often across the USA

to hang out *phr vb*
if you "hang out" with friends, you relax with them in a place

college *n US*
a school, often a university

to graduate *vb*
you "graduate" when you have finished your courses at university / college



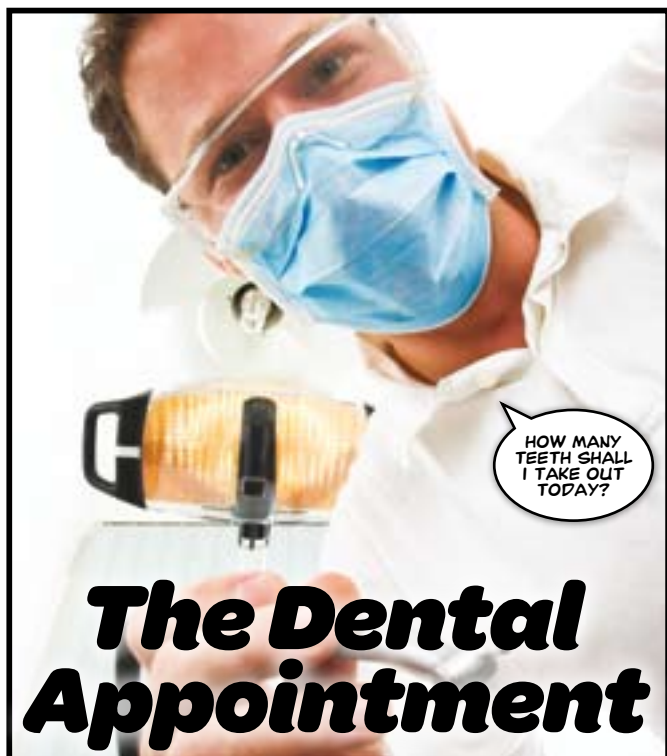
CD track 30
Englishwoman & US woman

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION



CD track 31
Caribbean man & US woman

UPPER INTERMEDIATE LISTENING



The Dental Appointment

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. How often do you go to the dentist?
2. When was the last time you went?
3. What did you have done?
4. How do you book your appointments?

2 Listening I

Listen once and answer these questions.

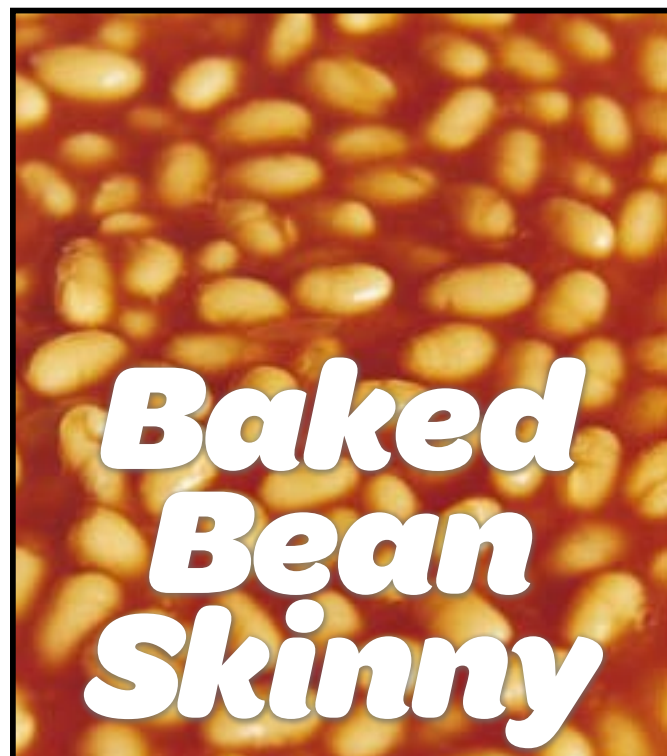
1. What time does the caller want an appointment?
a. 09:30 b. 10:00
2. What time does the caller get an appointment for?
a. 09:30 b. 10:00
3. What is the caller's address?
a. 29 Okaysha Road b. 29 Acacia Road

3 Listening II

Listen again and complete the sentences with a word or expression from below.



1. I have a bad toothache and think it's my _____.
2. When would you like _____?
3. Well, Doctor McClean _____ tomorrow.
4. ...but there are some slots _____ if you want.
5. Oh, I'm sorry. I _____ your name?
6. We'll _____ on Friday.



Baked Bean Skinny

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Pre listening

You are going to hear a conversation from a programme called *Healthy Living*. What do you think they are going to talk about? Make a list of five health issues they might discuss.

2 Listening I

Listen once. Which health issue are they talking about? What do they say about it?

3 Listening II

What are the main benefits of a baked bean diet? Find three ideas.

4 Listening III

Complete the sentences with the words from the conversation.

1. You can eat as much as you like, and they fill you up, but you _____.
2. You can eat an unlimited amount of healthy food with them, such as, _____.
3. Not at all. Baked beans are _____.

4 Discussion

Look at the useful collocations in bold. Have you seen them before? Do you know what they mean? Can you guess their meaning from the context provided?

Now discuss the questions.

1. What do you think about **fad diets**?
2. Why do people **go on diets**?
3. What is the best way to **lose weight** or **put on weight**?
4. What's the best way to **get fit**?

Top language tip

It is important to learn set phrases. For example, "to lose weight". Learning isolated words is useful, of course, but chunks of language are even more useful.





HERE ARE SOME MORE CRAZY LAWS FROM THE US.
(US ENGLISH SPELLING)

It is illegal to display a confederate flag on a **courthouse**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



By law, if a man promises to marry an unmarried woman, the marriage must take place. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Railroad companies may be **held liable** in some instances for **scaring** horses. (SOUTH CAROLINA)

Musical instruments may not be sold on Sunday. (SOUTH CAROLINA)

Horses may not be kept in **bathtubs**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



It is illegal to sell any alcoholic **beverages** on Sunday, unless you own a **private club**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



A permit must be obtained to fire a **missile**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)

When approaching a **four-way** or **blind intersection** in a non-horse driven vehicle you must stop 100 ft from the intersection and **discharge a firearm** into the air to warn horse traffic. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Every adult male must bring a **rifle** to church on Sunday in order to **ward off** Indian attacks. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



It is a capital offense to inadvertently kill someone while attempting **suicide**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



The Fire Department may **blow up** your house. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Horses are to wear **pants** at all times. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Eating watermelons in the Magnolia Street cemetery is **forbidden**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



No horses are allowed into Fountain Inn unless they are wearing **pants**. (SOUTH DAKOTA)

It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep in a **cheese factory**. (SOUTH DAKOTA)



Movies that show police officers being **struck, beaten**, or treated in an offensive manner are **forbidden**. (SOUTH DAKOTA)



GLOSSARY

- a courthouse** *n*
a place where trials (legal processes) are held
- to hold someone liable for something** *exp*
to say someone is responsible for something
- to scare** *vb*
to frighten / worry
- a bathtub** *n*
an object in which you can have a bath
- a beverage** *n*
a drink
- a four-way intersection** *n*
a place where roads meet and you can go in four different directions
- a blind intersection** *n*
a place where roads meet but you can't see cars coming from other directions
- to discharge a firearm** *exp*
to shoot a gun
- to ward someone off** *exp*
to protect yourself from danger by frightening your attacker
- pants** *n* *US*
clothing that covers the lower half of the body
- to strike** *vb* (*past: struck*)
to hit
- to beat** *vb*
to hit many times / repeatedly

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DICTIONARY OF SLANG

HERE WE'VE GOT SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW TO SAY THINGS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.



Situation



Formal



Relaxed



Informal

A friend is always nervous about things and can never relax.

He is of an anxious disposition.

He's always nervous about things.

He's really uptight.

You are commenting on a tragic accident in which a number of people died.

A number of people were slain.

A number of people were killed.

Some people got wasted.

A friend wants to ask a man out but is too **shy**. You tell her to stop being so pathetic.

Please desist from acting in such a pitiful manner.

Stop being so pathetic!

Don't be such a wimp!

A friend of yours is from the USA.

She is a citizen of the United States of America.

She's American.

She's a **yank**; she's a **septic**.

A friend of yours is from the UK.

He is a citizen of the United Kingdom.

He's British.

He's a Brit.

You want a friend to give you all the information concerning an incident.

I beg you to provide me with full details of this incident.

Tell me all about it.

Come on, **spill the beans**.



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

GLOSSARY

shy *adj*
timid, not outgoing
septic *n inform*
this is Cockney rhyming slang for "septic tank" = "yank" (American person). A septic tank is a tank that stores organic waste
to spill beans *exp*
to reveal information

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CD track 34



DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

IN THIS SECTION DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



1 Exercise

Read the following sentences. Can you correct them? Then listen to check. ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

- I never thought it would be such success.

- The film was a so boring.

- A: Will you have time to do it? B: Yes, I hope.

- She asked me to go to the cinema with her but I didn't want.

- The article was mostly concerned about environmental issues.

- He left the room without close the door.



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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September

COME AND CELEBRATE THE MONTH WITH US IN OUR SERIES ON ANNIVERSARIES. THIS MONTH: SEPTEMBER.



1st September 1970

There are several assassination attempts on the leader of Jordan. Subsequent **unrest** erupts into civil war between forces loyal to King Hussein and Palestinian fighters. The fighting between the Jordanians and Palestinian **refugees** lasts until mid-1971 and results in the expulsion of the PLO (the Palestine Liberation Organization) to Lebanon. The events become known as Black September.



7th September 1821

Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela unite to form "Gran Colombia". Simón Bolívar becomes the first president.



11th September 1989

The **Iron Curtain** opens up between Hungary and Austria. Thousands cross the border from the Communist side.



14th September 1607

The two main kings of Ulster, the northernmost province of Ireland, **set sail** for Spain, never to return. Rory O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill try to get Spanish help to re-conquer Ireland from the English. Members of their families eventually marry in Spain and become Spanish **aristocrats**. This is known as the Flight of the Earls.



17th September 1630

In **the New World**, the city of Boston, Massachusetts is founded by English **Puritan** settlers.



19th September 1985

Al Gore's **prudish** wife, Tipper, forms the Parents' Music Resource Centre to pressurise the US government to **cancel** music. Heavy Metal musicians, the intended victims, are **delighted**. It increases both their popularity and record sales amongst **disgruntled** teenagers.



20th September 1187

Saladin, the Islamic king, begins the siege of Jerusalem

against the crusaders. The Muslims eventually re-conquer the city.



21st September 1937

J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, a **prelude** to *The Lord of the Rings*, is published.



23rd September 1905

The political union of Norway and Sweden ends. Norway is free and independent at last!



25th September 1983

The biggest escape in British **penal** history occurs when 38 Irish Republican prisoners **break out** of the Maze Prison. The Maze had been regarded as the most escape-proof in Europe.



29th September 1066

The Duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror, invades England. The country will never be the same again. ❖

Events for September 2008

2nd September

Independence Day in Transnistria, a breakaway part of Moldova. Transnistria's independence isn't recognised internationally.



15th September

Mexican Independence Day



18th September

The birthday of James Gandolfini, AKA Tony Soprano. Ba-da-bing!



19th September

International Talk like a Pirate Day. Shiver me timbers!



GLOSSARY

- unrest** *n*
disorder / protest / rioting in the streets
- a refugee** *n*
a person who is living in another country because he / she has been expelled or forced to leave his / her country of origin
- the Iron Curtain** *n*
the old border between Communist eastern Europe and the West
- to set sail** *phr vb*
to begin a sea journey
- an aristocrat** *n*
someone with very high social rank
- the New World** *n*
North and South America
- a Puritan** *n*
a fundamentalist Protestant
- prudish** *adj*
very conservative; easily shocked
- to censor** *vb*
to ban / prohibit partially or totally
- delighted** *adj*
very happy
- disgruntled** *adj*
unhappy; disillusioned
- a prelude** *n*
an introduction to a more important event or publication
- penal** *adj*
concerning prisons
- to break out** *phr vb*
to escape from prison



STONE IDIOMS

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES ON "STONE" IDIOMS.



Kill two birds with one stone
TO MANAGE TO DO TWO THINGS AT THE SAME TIME.
"I went back home for Christmas and saw my parents and my old friends – I killed two birds with one stone."



Stone-cold
IF SOMETHING IS "STONE-COLD", IT IS VERY, VERY COLD.
"This food is stone-cold. Can you heat it up, please?"



People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones
YOU SHOULDN'T CRITICISE PEOPLE FOR FAULTS YOU HAVE TOO.
"She's always criticising our work, but some of the things she produces are awful. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, in my opinion."



Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE MAY HURT ME, BUT THE BAD THINGS YOU SAY WILL NOT.
"They can write what they like about my restaurant. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me, I say."



Stone deaf
VERY DEAF, OR WITH VERY LITTLE ABILITY TO HEAR.
"You'll have to shout – he's stone deaf."



Stone the crows (Australian & British)
AN EXCLAMATION OF SURPRISE.
"So, you're a rich and successful businesswoman now, are you? Stone the crows!"

Silly things that the stars demand.

Celebrity Requests

SOME MORE CRAZY BUT TOTALLY TRUE REQUESTS FROM MUSICAL ARTISTS ON TOUR. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MAKE THESE DEMANDS? SEE HOW MANY ANSWERS YOU CAN GUESS CORRECTLY. ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 I want nineteen **leafy** two-metre **plants** in my dressing room.



John Lennon



Paul McCartney

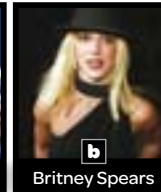


Ozzy Osbourne

6 All the food that is brought to me must be covered in **plastic wrap**.



Prince



Britney Spears



ABBA

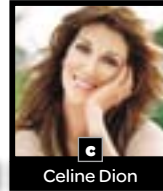
2 I need to have a cardboard, **life-size cut-out** of myself. It is of utmost importance.



Whitney Houston



David Hasselhoff



Celine Dion

7 I would like to have **rose petals** in my toilet.



Jamie Cullum



Barbara Streisand



Aretha Franklin

3 I need an ear, nose and throat specialist with me at all times.



Frank Sinatra



Sammy Davis, Jr.

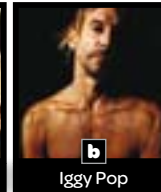


Dean Martin

8 I need a security guard for my guitar.



Jimi Hendrix



Iggy Pop



Bruce Springsteen

4 I don't need much. Just everything I asked for plus 4 pairs of **boxer shorts**.



Nirvana



Foo Fighters



The White Stripes

9 All the sofas in my dressing room must be placed on top of 15-centimetre **risers**.



Michael Bublé



Luciano Pavarotti



Charlotte Church

5 Please provide me with a large arrangement of coloured flowers. There better not be any chrysanthemums, lilies, carnations or daisies mixed in though.



Elton John

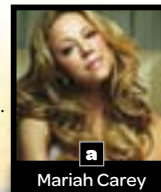


Lenny Kravitz

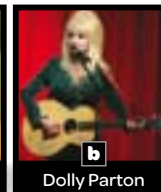


George Michael

10 I need \$25,000 **in cash** every time I perform.



Mariah Carey



Dolly Parton



Aretha Franklin

WHAT DID I SAY?

GLOSSARY

- a leafy plant** *n*
a plant with many leaves
- plastic wrap** *n*
a transparent, thin covering used to keep food fresh
- life-size** *adj*
something that is the same size in real life
- a cut-out** *n*
a shape cut from thick cardboard
- rose petals** *n*
the colored parts that form a flower. In this case, the parts that form a rose
- boxer shorts** *n*
loose underwear for men
- a riser** *n*
an object used to increase the height of something
- in cash** *exp*
if you pay "in cash", you pay with real money (not a credit card)

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Ever climbed up a building? Bounced off walls? Or jumped from **rooftop** to rooftop? Parkour practitioners do it every day. Parkour is the “art of displacement,” or the ability to move from one place to another as fast as possible. You use only your body and there is no safety equipment (as in other extreme sports).

Practitioners, called “traceurs” (which means “to go fast”, in French), say it is an art form – an interaction between the buildings and structures that surround you – combining **aesthetics** and physical control.

These days, Parkour is

popping up everywhere, including Hollywood. The 2006 James Bond film *Casino Royale* opens with a scene featuring parkour “traceur” Sebastien Foucan. He grew up practising parkour in Paris. “I always thought of parkour as an art,” he says in an interview with BBC News. “When I practise my art, I feel a real connection between my body, spirit and my environment.” Traceurs often refer to parkour as a philosophy or a way of life rather than a sport. “In a lot of ways, Parkour is a means of reclaiming what it means to be a human being. It teaches us to move using the natural methods that we should have learned from infancy. It teaches us to touch the world and interact with it, instead of being **sheltered** by it,” says one American “traceur”. ✪



AIN'T NO BUILDING HIGH ENOUGH.

A new sport takes over the city.

Jumping Jacques

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. What sport are you into?
2. Which extreme sports have you tried out?
3. Which extreme sport would you like to have a go at? Why?

2 Pre reading

What do the following sports consist of? Give a brief description of each one.



3 Reading I

Read the article once. Which extreme sport is it about? What does it consist of?

4 Reading II

Read the article again. Then give a one-minute (100-word) summary of the main points. Try to use the following words.

- parkour
- art of displacement
- spirit
- safety equipment
- traceur
- buildings
- Casino Royale
- body
- environment

5 Preposition attack!

There are various prepositions of movement in this article. Complete each sentence with the correct preposition.

1. She climbed _____ to the top.
2. The ball bounced _____ the wall.
3. They jumped _____ rooftop to rooftop.
4. He jumped _____ the box and hid there.
5. The cat sprang _____ the basket and went under the settee.

David Belle

David Belle is credited with being the creator of parkour. He was born in 1973, in Fécamp, France. He was inspired by his father, a fireman. Belle created parkour after finishing French military service and getting a black belt in Kung Fu. He says, “The physical aspect of parkour is getting over all obstacles in your path as you would in an emergency. You want to move in such a way, with any movement, to help you gain the most ground on something, whether escaping from it or running toward it.” Belle describes parkour as “a state of mind, giving you a better knowledge of your body, so you can overcome obstacles in the real world or in a virtual world...”

Parkour clubs include all ages and all types of people. One North American parkour club has members ranging from age 9 to 55. David Belle teaches parkour in Paris. He appears in many French ads and films, as well as in commercials for the BBC, Nike and Nissan.



GLOSSARY

- a rooftop** *n*
the top part of a building
- a practitioner** *n*
a person who does or who specialises in something
- aesthetics** *n*
a study of beauty
- to pop up** *phr vb*
to appear suddenly and unexpectedly
- to shelter** *vb*
to protect; to care for; to offer protection to

Taxing Grandma

Pensioners to pay more.

You already know pensioners have a hard time **making ends meet**. But people who have lost their **spouses** will now suffer even more. A **loophole** in UK tax laws means that **widowed pensioners** are being punished financially for their single status. Jeanne Brown, 76, of Sheffield, found that her taxes **sky-rocketed** after she lost her husband three years ago. "Between us, we had a little over £30,000 a year in state and occupational pensions – roughly half and half. But when he died, I qualified for a widow's pension from British Steel, his former employer, and now my **earnings** are around £25,000 a year," she says. "And on top of that, I must pay more income tax on this smaller sum – much more than if Alec had been alive" she adds.

At 76, she pays £3,484 tax, which is 69% more than a married couple of the same age. "All I could find in the **Revenue** paperwork sent to me was a small note on the back of a form explaining the rules," says Jeanne. "Once I had discovered it, I instinctively thought it was unfair because while two can live as cheaply as one, one can be as, or more, expensive than two. Fuel bills and insurances stay the same and, while **council tax** is a little lower, I may have to pay for someone to do things around the house as my husband isn't here to help."

PricewaterhouseCooper tax expert John Whiting says, "The tax laws are confusing from the start, and often the elderly don't understand why their money is disappearing. Whatever the rights and wrongs about helping people in **retirement** with extra tax allowances, this causes **sheer confusion**. Those **on the receiving end** like Jeanne cannot see why they should be taxed more heavily on each extra £1 than most under 65s. But above all, it punishes widowhood." ❄️



ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Discussion

1. What plans are you making for your retirement? What would you like to do?
2. How well are elderly people cared for in your country?
3. What are the main concerns regarding the elderly in your country?
4. What else can be done to help the aged?

2 Pre reading

What do each of these terms mean? What do they all have in common? Which ones are derogatory?

pensioner old fogey battle axe

wrinkly OAP (old-aged pensioner)

the elderly old person

retired person senior citizen

widow widower

3 Reading 1

You're going to read about a pensioner. What do you think the following numbers refer to? Guess, then read the article to find out.

1. 76
2. £30,000
3. £25,000
4. £3,484
5. £1
6. 69%



4 Reading II

Read the two summaries below. Which one best describes the article?

- a. The article describes the increase and injustices of taxes with regards to elderly people.
- b. The article highlights the emotional and financial difficulties of widowers.

Expression of the day

Look at this expression: *to make ends meet*.

1. What is the literal meaning?
2. What is the metaphorical meaning?
3. How would you translate the expression into your language?

Now make a sentence with the expression.

GLOSSARY

- to make ends meet** *exp*
to have enough money to pay the bills / buy food, etc
- a spouse** *n*
a husband or wife
- a loophole** *n*
a way of escaping a law / difficulty. It is often an ambiguous clause in a contract
- a widowed pensioner** *n*
an elderly (retired) person whose husband / wife has died
- to sky-rocket** *vb*
to increase very quickly
- earnings** *n*
a person's salary
- the (Inland) Revenue** *n*
the British government organisation that collects taxes
- council tax** *n*
taxes that pay for local services
- retirement** *n*
the time in your life when you no longer work – usually after the age of 65
- sheer confusion** *n*
total chaos
- on the receiving end** *exp*
if you are "on the receiving end" of something, you are the one that it happens to or the one affected by it

ANSWERS TAPESCRIPTS

Answers

page 4 Rich Taste
 3) **Reading I**
 black truffles, foie gras and Gruyere cheese
 4) **Reading II**
 1. the cost of a gourmet burger in NYC's Lower Manhattan District
 2. the cost of the gourmet burger without the truffles
 3. the cost of an "everyday" burger at the restaurant
 5) **Reading III**
 1. "Wall Street types" - people who work on Wall Street
 2. To celebrate a good day on Wall Street or to show off in front of fellow colleagues and friends
Phrasal verb: to show off: to try to impress someone with a talent or ability that you have.
Language spot: the present perfect

Page 5 Road Rage
 2) **Pre reading**
 a. behaviour people display when experiencing road rage
 b. people with aggressive phrases on licence plates are more likely to experience road rage
 c. if people decorate their cars and make their car their "territory", they are also likely sufferers of road rage
 4) **Reading II**
 1. people with these customised licence plates are more likely to feel road rage
 2. road rage is a big problem there. According to the article, there are more than 20,000 injuries every year and almost 400 deaths.
 3. trying to make vanity plates illegal because they feel they have a large number of aggressive drivers
Phrasal Verb Alert
 a. to drive in front of someone, even though it is not your turn
 b. to be disconnected
 c. to interrupt someone to express your own ideas

Page 7 Pets of Honour
 1d 2f 3a 4c 5e 6b

Page 8 Useful Vocabulary
 1e 2f 3a 4g 5b 6h 7c 8i 9d 10j

Page 15 Dr Fingers' Error Correction Clinic
 1. What time do you wake up?
 2. Does / Did she like the film?
 3. I normally drink coffee in the morning.
 4. She doesn't often go home by bus.
 5. He never reads the newspaper.
 6. How long does it take you to get home?

Page 15 Sunken Treasure
 3) Discoveries in the present about things from the past
 4) **Listening II**
 1b 2b 3a 4b 5a 6b
Grammar Spot: Sentence "a" is in the past passive; sentence "b" is an active sentence
Phrasal verb alert
 a. to sink
 b. to fall / decrease
 c. to be relegated (move down a division)
 d. to stop working (temporarily)

Page 16 Grammar Fun
 1. threw
 2. They're
 3. there
 4. there
 5. too
 6. to
 7. through

Page 20 Happy Hour
 2) **Pre reading**
 a. 6:14-10:30
 b. they start at 7 pm
 c. 4:40-10:45
Reading II
 True or false?
 1. true
 2. false
 3. true
 4. false
Language spot: a little

Page 21 The Working McMillionaire
 4) **Reading II**
 1. happy
 2. house
 3. wrong
 4. did the right thing
 5. three
Grammar Spot
 c. It's OK for her to stay at home
 a. ... the gerund.

Page 22 Trivia Matching
 1i 2k 3a 4c 5g 6h 7j 8e 9o 10h 11m 12d 13f

Page 27 Nobel Nobility
 1) **Pre listening**
 1. Doris Lessing - Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)
 She won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007.
 2. Jean Paul Sartre - Paris, France
 The Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964
 3. Samuel Beckett - Dublin, Ireland
 The Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969
 4. Pablo Neruda - Parari, Chile
 Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971
 2) **Listening I**
 1. Doris Lessing
 2. She was self-taught and won a Nobel Prize as a feminist writer. She also campaigned against the use of nuclear weapons
 3) **Listening II**
 1. the year Doris Lessing was born
 2. when she began writing
 3. the year her first marriage ended
 4. the year her second marriage ended
 5. the year the Nobel Academy judges told her she would never win a prize because they didn't like her work
Word Alert
 1) parents or whoever you live with as a child
 2) as a child

Page 40 Little Jokes
 1d 2h 3e 4a 5f 6c 7g 8b

Page 41 Misheard Lyrics
 1a 2b 3d 4a 5a 6b 7b 8a

Page 42 Mechanical Martini
 2) **Pre reading**
Screwdriver: vodka, freshly-squeezed orange juice
Mojito: fresh mint leaves, lots of sugar, lime juice, light rum, soda water
Manhattan: bourbon whiskey, angostura bitters, vermouth
 3) **Reading I**
 The screwdriver - it is one of the cocktails that the robot bartender can make
 4) **Reading II**
 1. There is a control panel for you to choose your cocktail.
 2. The robot reads your mind by measuring your alpha brain waves.
 3. The robot barman breaks down a lot.
 4. The creator set his arm on fire last year.

Page 43 Awful England
 2) **Reading I**
 overweight, binge-drinking, reality-TV addicts, contradictory, reserved, culturally diverse, insular, self-important, irritating, animal-loving, tea-drinking, warm, charitable
 3) **Reading II**
 1. The article says the English are both insular and culturally diverse, and then self-important yet chatty divers.
 2. It is very difficult to communicate with British people.
 3. Refugees and immigrants feel comfortable in deeply-conservative England.
Expression of the day: Tongue-in-cheek: a comment that may seem serious, but is actually ironic / funny.

Page 51 Telephone Conversation
 2) **Listening I**
 1b 2a 3b
 3) **Listening II**
 You can lose weight; it's cheap; it's simple
 4) **Listening III**
 1. wisdom teeth
 2. the appointment
 3. is booked up
 4. on Friday
 5. didn't catch
 6. see you

Page 51 Baken Bean Skinny
 2) **Listening I**
 Losing weight.
 They say if you go on this diet, which consists of baked beans with a variety of other healthy foods, you are guaranteed to lose weight.
 3) **Listening II**
 1. won't get fat
 2. fruit, vegetables, pasta, potatoes and lean meat
 3. low calorie

Page 55 Dr Fingers' Error Correction Clinic
 1. I never thought it would be such a success.
 2. The film was so boring.
 3. A: Will you have time to do it? B: Yes, I hope so.
 4. She asked me to go to the cinema with her but I didn't want to.
 5. The article was mostly concerned with environmental issues.
 6. He left the room without closing the door.

Page 58 Celebrity Requests
 1b 2b 3a 4b 5a 6b 7c 8b 9b 10c

Page 60 Jumping Jacques
 2) **Pre reading**
motocross-motorcycle riding with an all-terrain vehicle. The courses are off-road on determined routes
surfing-ride waves in the ocean by standing on a surfboard
bungee jumping-jumping off a tall building or bridge using nothing but a harness. A cord bounces you up and down
abseiling-descending from cliffs using a rope
ice climbing-ascending tall pieces of ice
hang gliding-takes place in the air in an aluminium aircraft which pilots control with their body weight.
scuba diving-swimming underwater using an oxygen tank
water skiing-standing on two skis whilst being pulled by a boat
snowboarding-standing on a board and sliding down mountains
parachuting-jumping or dropping down from a high altitude with a parachute
parkour-moving between buildings and structures using only your body
 3) **Reading I**
Parkour - moving between buildings and structures using only your body
 5) **Preposition Attack**
 1. up
 2. against / off
 3. from
 4. into
 5. out of / from

Page 61 Taxing Grandma
 3) **Reading I**
 1. the age of Jeanne Brown, a widowed pensioner
 2. the amount of money she earned with her husband
 3. the amount of money she earns now that her husband is deceased
 4. the amount Jeanne pays in taxes
 5. British widowers are taxed more heavily for every extra pound they earn.
 6. the percentage of tax she pays which is above the amount couples of the same age pay
 4) **Reading II**
 a. the article describes the increase and injustices of taxes with regards to elderly people.
Expression of the day
 1. to put two ends of something (such as a string) together
 2. manage your finances
 3. answers will vary

Page 63 Sweet Slip-Up
 1) **Pre listening**
 1d 2j 3a 4i 5e 6g 7c 8f 9h 10b
 2) **Listening I**
 a. Hold on a second, sweetie
 b. He [Mahatma Gandhi] reminds me of a gas station attendant.
 3) **Listening II**
 1. ...the "most politically-correct campaign in American history".
 2. ...a sexist and demeaning to women.
 3. ...a "bad habit".
 4. ...along the campaign trail.
 5. ...to put his foot in his mouth.
 6. ...telling a tall tale about landing in Tuzla, Serbia.

Tapescripts

page 15 Sunken Treasure
 500 year old treasure found.

Host: Hi, and welcome to History Today. A shipwreck was just found off the coast of South Africa. I'm speaking with archaeologist Deirdre Noli. Tell me about it, Deirdre.

Deirdre: Yes, well, the ship was found by diamond miners off the coast of Namibia.

Host: What were diamond miners doing at the bottom of the sea?

Deirdre: They were searching for diamonds on the seabed of Namibia's southwest coast. But instead of finding diamonds, they found a 500-year-old wreck filled with treasures.

Host: So, what was the boat doing there in the first place?

Deirdre: Well, it sank about 500 years ago. It was carrying a treasure of gold coins, copper, ivory and cannons.

Host: Where did it come from?

Deirdre: It was probably a Spanish or Portuguese ship from the 15th century, although we aren't certain. The copper we found on the boat probably means the ship was sent by a government looking to make cannons. There was ivory on it too, and this was often used by royal families as a form of payment for goods. So, we think the ship was an official business when it went down.

Host: What happened to it?

Deirdre: Why it sank is a mystery. The area is rocky and often foggy. However, at the time this ship sailed no one knew enough about the area to avoid it. They had very simple navigation tools back then.

Host: What about the treasure?

Deirdre: It's strange that the captain had so many gold coins on board. Either he made a very good deal, or he was a pirate.

Host: Very interesting. And I suppose the big question is, who is going to get all the treasure?

Deirdre: Yes, that's always a difficult one. At the moment, the Namibian government is overseeing things, so we'll have to wait and see.

Host: OK. Thanks very much for that.
page 27 Nobel Nobility

Oldest Nobel winner
Host: Welcome to Literature Today. I am here with Nigel Parsons. He's here to talk about the 87-year-old Nobel Prize winner, author Doris Lessing. So, tell us something about her.

Nigel: Well, she's the eleventh woman to win a Nobel Prize for literature in the 106 years of Nobel Prize history. And winning was a bit of a surprise for her. Back in the 1960s, the Nobel Academy judges told her they didn't like her work, and that she'd never win a Nobel.

Host: Incredible. So, tell us something about her life.

Nigel: Well, Lessing was born on 22nd October 1919 to Captain Alfred Tayler and Emily Maude Tayler. She had a very traditional upbringing at a single-sex, all-girls school in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). She left school aged 14, and was self-educated. A year later, she left home and worked as a nursemaid, and it was around this time that she started reading material on politics and sociology - books that her employer gave her to read.

Host: So, when did she start writing?

Nigel: She began writing around 1937. She went to Salisbury (the capital of Rhodesia) to work as a telephone operator. And it was there that she married her first husband, Frank Wisdom. They had two children, before the marriage ended in 1943.

Host: And when did she get involved in politics?

Nigel: Well, following her divorce, Lessing was drawn to the Left Book Club, a Communist book club. And it was here that she met her second husband, Gottfried Lessing. They were married shortly after she joined the group and had a child together, before the marriage also ended in divorce in 1949.

Host: She is most famous as a feminist author, isn't she?

Nigel: Yes, that's it. But also for her campaigning against nuclear arms and South African apartheid. One of her books, *The Golden Notebook* is considered a feminist classic, although she doesn't like the idea of being pigeon-holed as a feminist author.

Host: OK. Thank you very much, Nigel. That was really interesting.
Nigel: My pleasure.

page 51 The Dental Appointment

Receptionist: Hello, Thompson and Son's Dental Clinic. What can I do for you?

Ella: Hello, I'd like to make an appointment. I have a bad toothache and think it's my wisdom teeth.

Receptionist: Yes, that's fine. When would you like the appointment?

Ella: As soon as possible if that's OK.

Receptionist: Well, Doctor McClean is booked up tomorrow and Thursday but there are some slots on Friday if you want.
Ella: Friday sounds good. Is it possible in the morning at, say, 10.00?
Receptionist: He has an appointment at 10. What about 9.30?

Ella: Yes! That's perfect.
Receptionist: OK, so I'll put you down for 9:30 am, Friday morning. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't catch your name?

Ella: It's Ella Livingstone.
Receptionist: And your address?
Ella: It's 29 Acacia Road.
Receptionist: Could you spell the name of the road, please?

Ella: Yes it's A-C-A-C-I-A.
Receptionist: Yes I've got that. OK well that's it. We'll see you on Friday.

Ella: Thanks a lot.
Receptionist: Bye.

page 51 Baked Bean Skinny

Are beans a miracle diet?

Host: Welcome to Healthy Living. Here with me in the studio is Skinny World dietician Nancy Smith. She's here to tell us about the baked bean diet. So, what is this new diet all about?

Nancy: Well, this diet is guaranteed to make you lose weight. **Host:** But how effective is it?
Nancy: Well, our health programme helped one client lose 60 kilos in 9 months by eating just canned baked beans. He didn't even need to exercise.

Host: Only baked beans? How can you lose weight by eating just baked beans?
Nancy: It's simple. You can eat as much as you like, and they fill you up, but you won't get fat.

Host: But how's that possible? You can't just live off one type of food, can you?
Nancy: Baked beans are full of fibre, and, if you wanted, you could eat just baked beans. But with our diet, you can eat more than just beans. You can eat an unlimited amount of healthy food with them, such as fruit, vegetables, pasta, potatoes and lean meat. These foods are filling but if you always eat baked beans, you won't need to eat so much of this other food.

Host: But doesn't it get a bit boring?
Nancy: Not at all. Our clients seem to like the beans. The man who lost 60 kilos has eaten over half a tonne of beans since June 2007. That's over 1,500 cans. He now eats six cans a day, having beans with rice for lunch and beans with a potato for tea.

Host: But isn't eating all those beans bad for you?
Nancy: Not at all. Baked beans are low calorie. Not to mention they're cheap, and it doesn't matter what brand you buy. It's the ideal diet. Another client lost six kilos a month for six months eating two large cans of baked beans a day. He ate them with bread and pasta.

Host: Is there any medical evidence to back this up?
Nancy: Well, doctors we spoke to suggest limiting your variety of foods to lose weight faster. Eating just baked beans is one way of doing that.

Host: OK, thanks, Nancy, although I don't think I'll be trying this one.

page 63 Sweet Slip-Up

Obama calls journalist "sweetie"

Host: Welcome to Politics Today. Here with me in the studio is Sandra Jones. She's here to tell us about a recent incident with Democratic frontrunner Barack Obama. So, Sandra, what happened?

Sandra: Barack Obama's campaign for President of the United States is being called the "most politically-correct campaign in American history". But there was a controversy when he said "hold-on a second, sweetie," to a female journalist at a press conference.

Host: Oh, dear.
Sandra: Yes, many view the term as sexist and demeaning to women.
Host: So, what happened?
Sandra: Well, Obama described this slip-up as a "bad habit". He said that he did it sometimes with all kinds of people, but that he meant no disrespect. However, it seems to be a recurring bad habit because this happened just one month after he said the same thing to a factory worker.
Host: So, what happened?
Sandra: Well, the journalist called to apologise. The journalist, Penny Agar of ABC news, said she got back to the office to find an apologetic phone message from Mr Obama.
Host: So, are political slip ups common?
Sandra: Well, Obama has made a series of political gaffes along the campaign trail, but Obama fans claim they are more "honest mistakes", than gaffes. Not long ago, Obama said America wasn't doing well in Afghanistan because all the translators were over in Baghdad.
Host: What's the problem with that?
Sandra: Well, Iraqis speak Arabic, but he forgot that Afghans don't speak Arabic.
Host: Oh, right.
Sandra: But he's not the only one to put his foot in his mouth. Obama's opponent in the race, New York Senator Hillary Clinton, has made some big blunders. She was blasted by the media for telling a tall tale about landing in Tuzla, Serbia, and running for cover under sniper fire. But video footage of the event shows her smiling as a local girl reads a poem upon her arrival.
Host: What's worse, she once had to apologise for saying that civil rights legend Mahatma Gandhi reminded her of "a gas station attendant".
Host: OK. Thanks for that, Sandra. That was really interesting.



ADVANCED LISTENING



Obama calls journalist "sweetie".

Sweet Slip-Up

I HOPE YOU AREN'T RECORDING THIS.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

1 Pre listening – political gaffes

Match the political gaffes (1-10) to the speakers (A-J). ANSWERS ON PAGE 62

- "Today is now a very good day to get out anything we want to bury."
- "Read my lips: no more taxes."
- "I am not part of the problem. I am a Democrat."
- "Hold on a second, sweetie."
- "He [Mahatma Gandhi] reminds me of a gas station attendant."
- "The American people believe English should be the official language of the government. ... We should replace bilingual education with immersion in English so people learn the common language of the country and they learn the language of prosperity, not the language of living in a ghetto."
- "We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?"
- "I have opinions of my own – strong opinions – but I don't always agree with them."
- "If you take out the killings, Washington actually has a very low crime rate."
- "You know, if I were a single man, I might ask that mummy out. That's a good-looking mummy!"

- A: Vice President Al Gore.
 B: President Bill Clinton, on examining the recently-discovered Inca mummy "Juanita".
 C: Lee Iacocca – ex CEO of Chrysler and Ford.
 D: Jo Moore – Labour government minister advisor. Written in an e-mail just after the World Trade Center bombings in September 2001.
 E: Hillary Clinton.
 F: George W. Bush

- G: Newt Gingrich, Republican politician.
 H: Marion Barry – mayor of Washington, D.C.
 I: Barack Obama, speaking directly to a journalist.
 J: George W. Bush

2 Listening 1

Listen to the conversation once.

Which gaffes from the previous exercise are mentioned? Who said them?

3 Listening II

Listen again and complete the sentences with the exact words.

- Barack Obama's campaign for President of the United States is being called...

- Many view the term as...

- Obama described this slip-up as...

- Obama has made a series of political gaffes...

- But he's not the only one to...

- She [Hillary] was blasted by the media for...

4 Discussion

- Do you think Obama's comment should be considered sexist? Why? Why not?
- Would there be a similar reaction to the incident in your country? Why? Why not?
- Is it important to be careful about the type of language we use? Why? Why not?



Technology & Medicine

Technology

Wireless Living

People going wireless.

Very soon, doctors will be able to monitor your health through a wireless-chip **implant**. "In-body implants," or wi-fi and bluetooth short-range devices, can be used to monitor people recovering from surgery at home, and elderly people who need **assisted-living** services. So, how do they work? "Sensors monitor the patient's movements and vital health signs and use the information to send an **alert** via a home **hub** or mobile phone," says a Tomorrow's Wireless World report.

Family or emergency services are called immediately if there is a problem. Wireless "in-body technology" is currently in **trial phases** in Portsmouth, England. The head of research for Chip Manufacturer Ofcom Mr William Webb says he understands people's concerns about having an internal tracking system. But he stresses that the devices are "very low in power, especially in comparison to a cell phone". He hopes people will see the **overriding benefits** to wireless health care, because it is the future of the medical system. ☺



Medical English

Parkinson Solutions

More money for fight against Parkinson's.

About one million people in the United States have Parkinson's Disease, a condition that affects mainly old people. But it doesn't affect just old people. It has been found in young people too, the most famous **sufferer** being Hollywood actor Michael J. Fox. Now the National Institute of Health wants to provide a **researcher** from Binghamton University (in New York) with \$1.33 million to continue his research into the illness. Christopher Bishop also conducts research into the **side effects** of treatment. Parkinson's sufferers have problems with movement as they suffer from **stiffness**, **tremors** and problems with balance. There are now 50,000 more sufferers of the disease diagnosed in the United States every year and this has been **aggravated** by an **ageing population**. ☺



GLOSSARY

- an implant** *n*
something that is inserted
- assisted living** *n*
assistance and help for the disabled or the elderly. This often consists of a person who helps cook meals, do the cleaning, etc
- an alert** *n*
a warning or an alarm
- a hub** *n*
the central part of something – in this case a machine that monitors other devices in the house
- a trial phase** *n*
a stage of testing a product before it is put on the market
- the overriding benefits** *n*
the good, positive aspects of something
- a sufferer** *n*
a person affected by an illness or condition
- a researcher** *n*
a scientific investigator
- side effects** *n*
negative effects and additional problems after taking medicine
- stiffness** *n*
a condition in which parts of your body (your joints, muscles, etc) move with difficulty
- tremors** *n*
uncontrollable and involuntary shaking / movements of the body
- to aggravate** *vb*
to make worse
- an ageing population** *n*
an increase in the number of elderly people as a percentage of the general population

PHRASAL VERB THEMES

Food and Drink

THIS MONTH WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME PHRASAL VERBS YOU CAN USE TO TALK ABOUT FOOD AND DRINK.

GO OFF (FOOD)
IF FOOD "GOES OFF", IT BECOMES BAD.



THAW OUT (FROZEN FOOD)
IF FROZEN FOOD "THAWS OUT", THE ICE MELTS.



HEAT UP
TO MAKE WARM.



GO WITH
TO BE A GOOD ACCOMPANIMENT TO.



BE LEFT OVER
TO REMAIN.



TAKE AWAY (FOOD)
TO BUY FOOD FROM A RESTAURANT AND TO TAKE IT AWAY TO EAT AT HOME OR SOMEWHERE ELSE.



EAT OUT / EAT IN
EAT OUT = TO EAT AT A RESTAURANT;
EAT IN = TO EAT AT HOME.



LIVE ON / OFF
TO EAT JUST ONE TYPE OF FOOD.



WORD OF THE MONTH

Dumb Down

THIS MONTH WE'RE LOOKING AT THE PHRASAL VERB "TO DUMB DOWN". BASICALLY, IF YOU "DUMB SOMETHING DOWN" YOU DELIBERATELY SIMPLIFY IT SO THAT OTHERS CAN UNDERSTAND IT MORE EASILY.

The main problem with this expression is that it has some very negative connotations. The word "dumb" can be used to mean "stupid". For example:

- a) Sometimes he can be so dumb.
 - b) I'm not dumb, you know!
- The word is also used in the insulting term "a dumb blonde". This is used to refer to an attractive but supposedly "stupid" blonde woman, with all the resulting **sexist** jokes known as "dumb blonde jokes". "Dumb" is also an old-fashioned and very **non-pc way** of referring to someone who is not able to talk. These days, people with an inability to speak are now known as "speech-impaired"; and the person is known as a "speech-impaired person" or "person suffering from speech-impairment".

However, "dumbing down" is a fairly common practice these days, particularly in the **mass media**. Some think it's a good idea, others don't like it. Television channels are often accused of "dumbing down" their content in order to appeal to a wider audience. Critics of this argue that there are more and more meaningless game shows and trivial programmes. Some channels are also accused of "dumbing down" news reports. This is because media owners want to communicate with the masses. The education system has also been accused of dumbing down certain qualifications. The terms "Mickey Mouse Degrees" or "Mickey Mouse exams" are often used to describe courses or exams that people think are too easy, especially compared



I'M NOT DUMB - I'M JUST DRUNK.

to exams in the past. Educational ministers argue that they are making courses and exams more practical and less theoretical.

The expression in action

Here are some examples of this month's expression.

- a) They were accused of dumbing down their content in order to appeal to a wider audience.
- b) That's too complicated for me. Could you dumb it down, please?
- c) We're worried about the dumbing down of America.
- d) The BBC has denied it is dumbing down after buying the format for a Japanese game show where contestants are humiliated through a string of tasks.

And here are some examples of the expression in song lyrics.

- a) "They told me I should come down cousin, but I flatly refuse, I ain't dumb down nothing." By the American rapper Lupe Fiasco on his song "Dumb It Down".
- b) "I dumb down for my audience and double my dollars / they criticize me for it; but they all yell 'holla!'" By American rapper Jay-Z on the song "Moment of Clarity".

GLOSSARY

sexist *adj*
that is insulting to women

a non-pc way *exp*
a way that is insulting to some. "PC" is an abbreviation of "politically correct"

the mass media *n*
the large news channels, newspapers, magazines etc

Mickey Mouse *adj*
a "Mickey Mouse" exam is one that is too easy to be taken seriously

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