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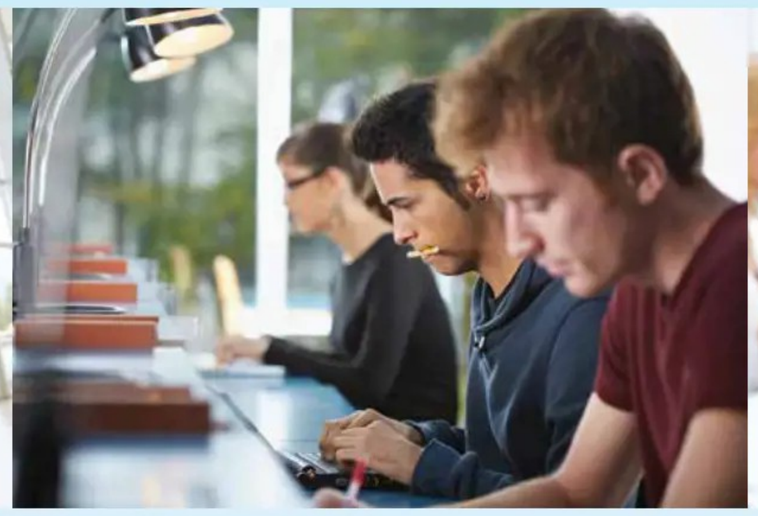

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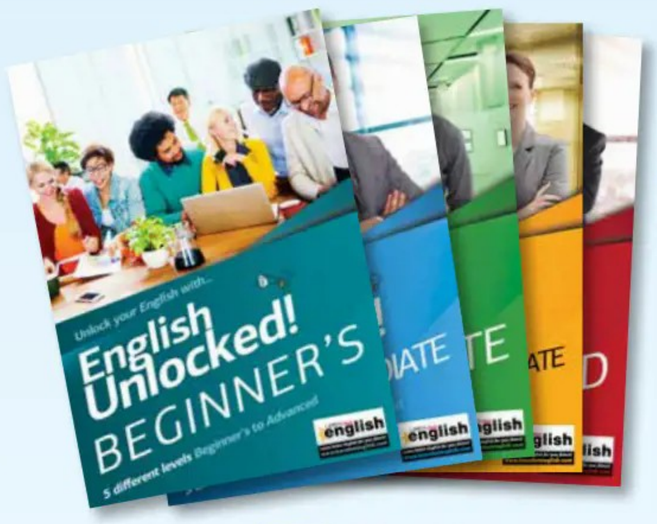

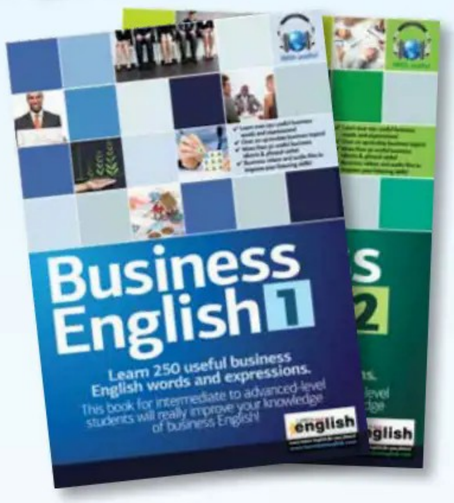

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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with Hot English magazine

Why are you learning English? To get a better job, to pass an official English exam, to travel, or just to communicate in English? Hot English magazine helps with all this.

1. **Increase your vocabulary.** In every issue of Hot English you'll learn over 350 English words and expressions! Plus you'll learn lots of idioms, phrasal verbs, grammar and more.
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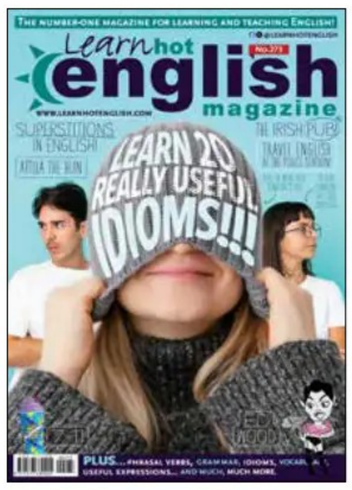
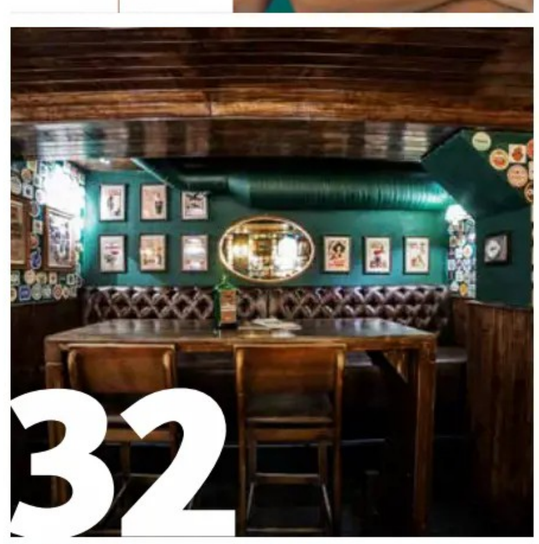
6. **Social English.** How do native English speakers really talk? Learn with our natural English conversations. Also, learn English slang. Plus, in Hot English you'll read about current events (news, culture, music, films) so you can make conversation with native English speakers.
7. **Want to learn even more?** Get an English Unlocked book. You'll learn extra vocabulary, grammar, social English and business English. The English Unlocked books are linked to the topics in Hot English magazine. Visit our website for more details.



Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the fun magazine for learning English. In this month's issue, we're looking at **20 really useful idioms!** Native English speakers use idioms all the time, but do you know what these ones mean? Learning them will really improve your English level, and impress your teacher, colleagues and customers or clients. But of course, that's not all and we're also looking at things we can't live without, the police, slang, dance moves, socially awkward moments, the Irish pub, James Joyce, Ed Wood, superstitions, the Cranberries, Atila the Hun, useful vocabulary, idioms, phrasal verbs, slang, vocabulary, and lots, lots more. Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month! *Andy*

PS Remember to sign up for our newsletter so you can receive lots of FREE language lessons, and find out what we're doing. Just visit our website **(www.learnhotenglish.com)** and enter your name and e-mail address in the box on the right-hand side of the page. Don't forget to check out the blog on our website: **www.learnhotenglish.com/blog** for free lessons and articles on how to learn English. Or "like" us on Facebook or Twitter (**@LearnHotEnglish**) so you can keep up with our latest news.



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AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it

When was the last time you bought some bread? What type of bread was it? What are some of your favourite types of bread? Why do you like them? When do you eat bread? How much bread do you eat a day/week?

Answers on page 63

1 Pre-reading

Match the types of bread and cake, etc.

1. Loaf of bread (plural: *loaves*) ☐
2. French loaf ☐
3. Baguette ☐
4. Pita bread ☐
5. Bagel ☐
6. Wrap ☐
7. Muffin ☐
8. Cup cake ☐
9. Sliced bread ☐
10. Focaccia (flat bread) ☐

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. What type of bread has become less popular? What type of bread is becoming more popular?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What percentage of sales do pre-packed loaves account for?
2. How much sliced bread was sold in 2008 (in kilograms)?
3. What's the name of the chain of bakeries that Tesco bought?
4. How many in-store bakeries has Sainsbury's got?
5. When did Marks & Spencer launch its in-store bakeries?
6. Which TV show has helped to make homemade bread more popular?

4 Language focus

Few versus *Less*

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...British people are buying *fewer* sliced loaves..." **The writer has used *fewer* with a countable noun. Remember, we use *few* with countable nouns, and *less* with uncountable nouns:**

a) We're eating *fewer* loaves of bread.

b) We're eating *less* bread.

IN THE NEWS

SLICED BREAD OR BAGELS: WHAT'S MORE POPULAR?

What type of bread do you eat? According to a **survey** by **research group** Mintel, British people are buying fewer **sliced** loaves and more **alternatives** to bread such as pita, wraps and bagels.

"Pre-packed loaves still **account for** 62% of sales," said Heidi Lanschützer, a food and drink analyst with Mintel. "But British people are buying less and less of it, with the volume of sliced bread having fallen by almost 8% to 1,372 million kg since 2008," she added.

Supermarkets have been quick to respond. Tesco recently bought a **chain** of **bakeries** called Euphorium, which they've now opened in their **stores**. They sell a whole **range of baked goods**, including black olive bread, baguettes, **pastries**, brownies, muffins and cup cakes.

At Sainsbury's, sales of products from the supermarket's 400 **in-store** bakeries are growing fast – at roughly twice the rate of those goods baked in factories, according to group commercial director Mike Coupe. "There's a move away from what we call 'plant bread' towards **artisanal products** baked **in-house**," he added. Marks & Spencer launched its in-store bakeries in 2011. Just recently, they reported record sales of **speciality bread – up by** 60% year on year.

Homemade bread is also becoming popular. Almost a third of Britons have made their own bread, the Mintel report found. Many see this as a result of the popularity of the TV show, *The Great British Bake Off*. In this BBC TV game show, 13 **bakers** compete to win the title Best **Amateur** Baker. The **judges** are cookery writer Mary Berry and professional baker Paul Hollywood. In each episode, contestants have to make cakes, pastries and different types of bread in a series of competitions.

Sandwich, anyone?

RECIPE

See our "Recipe" page (page 27) for instructions on how to make focaccia by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay.

GLOSSARY

a survey *n*
if you carry out a "survey", you ask people questions in order to get information

a research group *n*
a company that investigates the market and finds out information

sliced *adj*
"sliced" bread has been cut into thin pieces

an alternative *n*
an "alternative" to A is something different to A

account for *exp*
represent, are equivalent to, etc.

a chain *n*
a "chain" of bakeries is a number of bakeries owned by the same company

a bakery *n*
a shop where bread and cakes are sold and/or made

a store *n US*
a shop

a range of *exp*
a "range of" baked goods (for example) is a number of baked goods of the same general kind

baked goods *n*
an expression to refer to things that are cooked in an oven (an electrical appliance in the kitchen for cooking things) such as bread, cakes, etc.

a pastry *n*
a small cake

in-store *adj*
inside the shop

artisanal products *adj*
food that is made by small companies operating alone – not in large industrial-sized factories

in-house *adj*
if food is cooked "in-house", it's prepared in the shop / supermarket, etc. – not in a factory

speciality bread *n*
unusual and special types of bread that are prepared in small shops / restaurants

up by *exp*
if a figure is "up by" a certain percentage, it has increased by that percentage.

a baker *n*
a person whose job is to make bread, cakes, etc.

an amateur *n*
someone who does something for fun or as a hobby, not as part of their job

a judge *n*
a person who decides who the winner is in a competition

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AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you went on a foreign holiday? Which drinks do you really like? When do you have them? What are some of your favourite dishes or meals? What type of car have you got? What type would you like? Why?

Exams This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

Answers on page 63

1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of people's "bare necessities" from a recent study. Which 5 things are important in your life? What would you add to the list?

Top 20 necessities

1. An internet connection
2. Television
3. A cuddle
4. A trustworthy best friend
5. A daily shower
6. Central heating
7. A cup of tea
8. An "I love you" every now and then
9. A solid marriage
10. A car
11. Spectacles (glasses)
12. Coffee
13. Chocolate
14. A night in on the sofa
15. A glass of wine
16. A good cry every now and then
17. A full English breakfast (eggs, bacon, sausages...)
18. A foreign holiday once a year
19. An iPhone
20. A pint at the pub

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How many people took part in the poll?
2. Who commissioned the poll?
3. What does the writer list as "treats"?
4. According to the writer, what need does "a good cry" satisfy?
5. What percentage of people admit to overlooking the essential things in life such as love and friendship?
6. What have seven in 10 people found as they get older?

20 THINGS WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT!

What are the most important things in your life – the things you just couldn't **live without**?

A recent study has revealed the top 20 **necessities** of modern life. The **poll**, which was **carried out** among 2,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 65, was **commissioned** by Disney to mark the Blu-ray **release** of the movie *The Jungle Book*. Respondents were asked about their "**bare necessities**", to tie in with the famous song from the film.

Some of the things that Brits simply cannot do without include a television, a fast internet connection and an iPhone, as well as **essentials** such as a daily shower, a pair of glasses and central heating.

Treats include a car, a foreign holiday, a full English breakfast and a pint at the pub. Other drinks that featured in the list were a glass of wine, a **mug** of tea and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

Things to satisfy our **emotional needs** also appeared on the list, including a **cuddle**, a **trustworthy** friend, a night on the sofa, a good cry, a solid marriage and an "I love you" every now and then.

Interestingly, 77% of those interviewed agreed that **material items** are **replaceable**. And 86% believe that people often **overlook** the essential things in life such as love and friendship in favour of material things. Seven in 10 also claim they have become less **materialistic** as they get older.

Do any of your "bare necessities" appear on the list?

VIDEO

YouTube

Read and sing along to the song *The Bare Necessities* from the film *The Jungle Book*. Search YouTube for "The Bare Necessities - The Jungle Book (with Lyrics)"

Look for the bare necessities,
The simple bare necessities,
Forget about your worries and your ***strife****,*
I mean the bare necessities,
Old Mother Nature's recipes,
That brings the bare necessities of life.

GLOSSARY

live without *exp*
if you can't "live without" something, you must have that thing in your life
a necessity *n*
something you really need
a poll *n*
a "poll" is a series of questions that a company asks in order to get information
to carry out *phr vb*
if you "carry out" a poll, you ask people questions in order to get information
to commission *vb*
if you "commission" something, you pay someone to do it for you
a release *n*
if there's a "release" of a DVD (for example), the DVD appears in shops and you can buy it
a bare necessity *n*
a basic thing that you need in your life
essential *adj*
something "essential" is very important and necessary for you
a treat *n*
if you give yourself a "treat", you give yourself something nice
a mug *n*
a large, thick cup for drinking tea/coffee
emotional needs *n*
your "emotional needs" refers to your need for love, attention, affection, etc.
a cuddle *n*
if you give someone a "cuddle", you put your arms around them in a loving way
trustworthy *adj*
if someone is "trustworthy", they are honest and you can believe what they say
material items *exp*
possessions, objects, money, etc.
replaceable *adj*
something "replaceable" isn't really important and can be replaced with something else
to overlook *vb*
if you "overlook" something, you don't notice or see it
materialistic *adj*
someone who is "materialistic" thinks that money and possessions are really important
strife *n*
a general word to refer to your problems or difficulties in life

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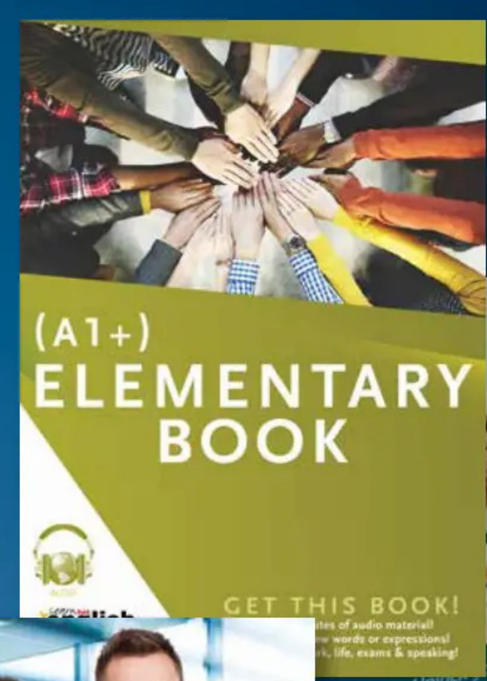
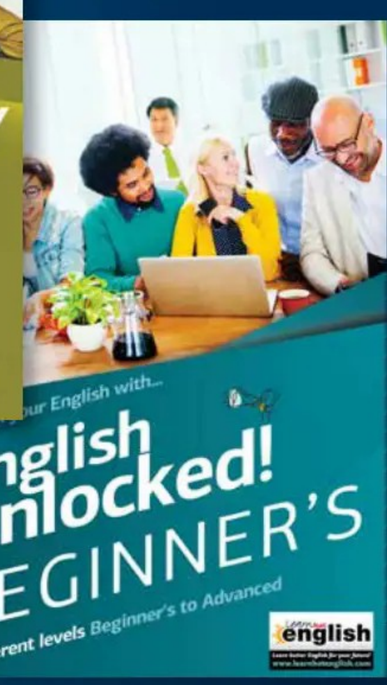
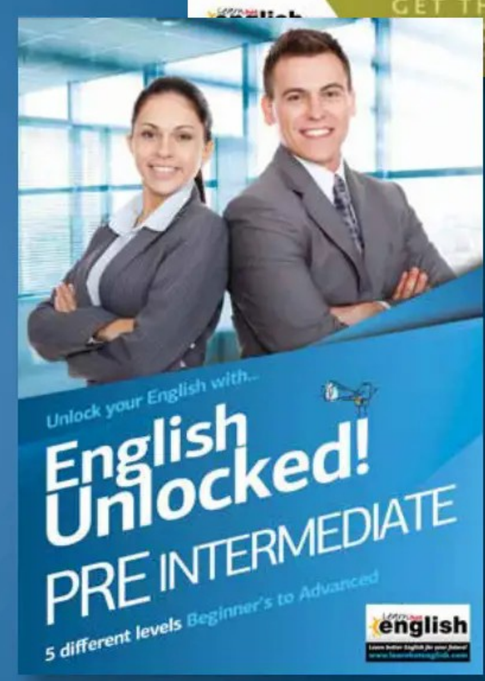
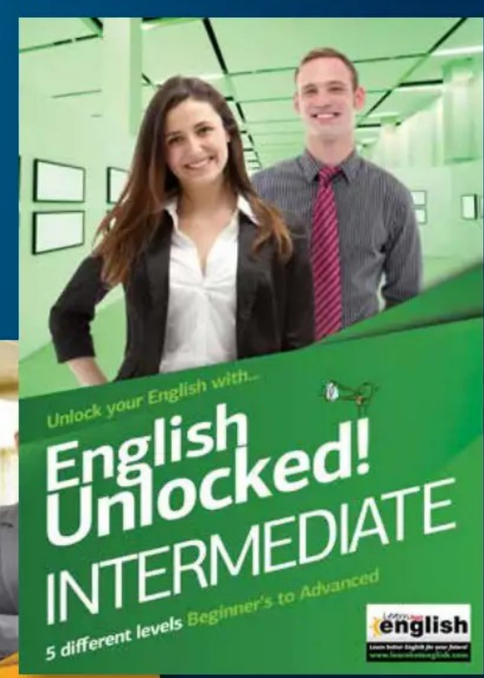
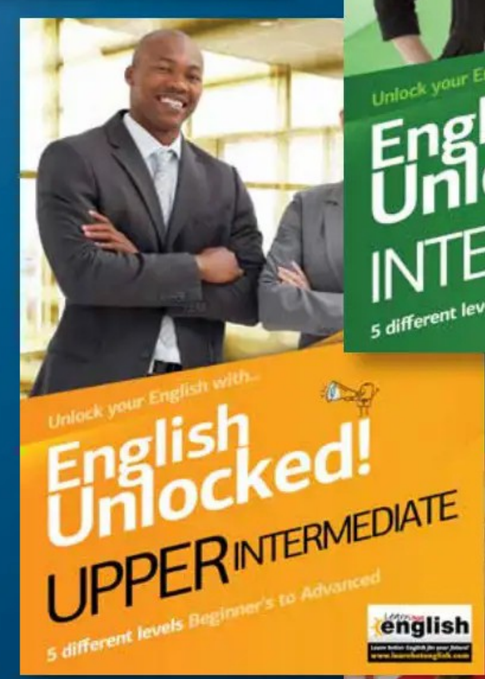
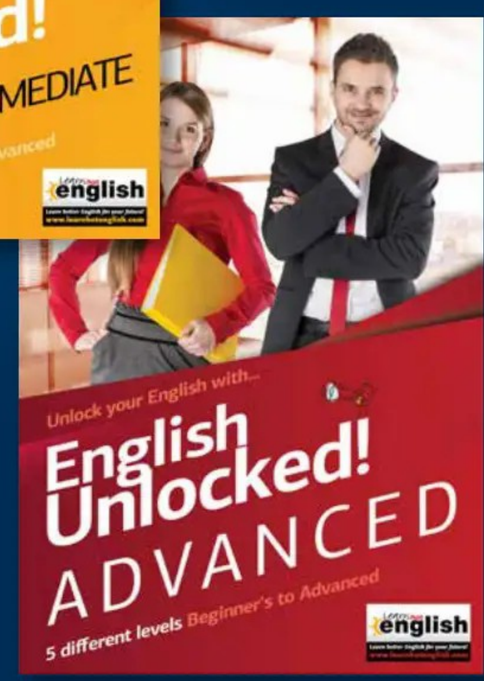












Tap here to buy!

AUDIO

Objective To learn some useful words and expressions for talking about buildings and structures.

Think about it

Are there any skyscrapers in your city? How tall are they? Is there a palace near where you live? Who lives there? Are there any famous castles in your country? Who lives/lived there? What are some of your favourite buildings?

ENGLISH IN ACTION...

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Learn 20 words & expressions for talking about buildings and structures!

Useful words

Skyscraper / high-rise building

Palace

Factory

Dam

Suspension bridge

Bridge

Tunnel

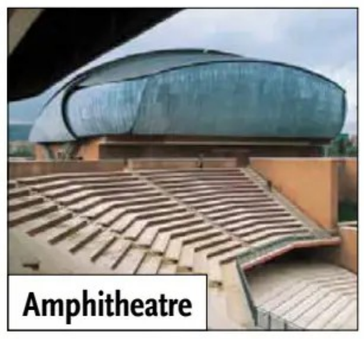
Viaduct

Castle

Tower / clock tower

Church

Pyramid


Amphitheatre

More words

- **Court house** – a building where legal trials are held. In a trial, the judge and jury (12 people) decide whether someone is innocent or guilty.
- **Parliament building** – a building where MPs (members of parliament) debate laws.
- **Cathedral** – a large, important church.
- **Mosque** – a special building for Muslims (people who follow the religion Islam).
- **Synagogue** – a special building for Jewish people.
- **Temple** – a building used for the worship of a god or gods.
- **Viaduct** – a long bridge, often with a series of arches, that goes over a valley or low ground.
- **Aqueduct** – a bridge that carries water.
- **Warehouse** – a large building for storing food or manufactured goods for a company or supermarket, etc.

Graffiti on the bridge

Musicians Randy and Flynn are in a band. They're both on a motorway bridge. Flynn wants to spray paint the bridge as a way of promoting the album.

[Complete the conversation with the correct words.]

F=Flynn R=Randy

F: Ready?
R: I guess so.
F: So, all you need to do is to spray paint the band name on the **(1)** _____ . OK?
R: Ah huh.
F: OK, right, climb onto the **ledge** and I'll lower you down with the **(2)** _____ . Once we've done this, we can **tag** all the other places on the list.
R: List? What list?
F: The list of all the places we need to put our band name on. After the bridge, we're going to do the **(3)** _____ .
R: I'm not climbing up that!
F: Then, we'll do the **(4)** _____ .
R: You're joking!
F: And then we'll tag the **(5)** _____ .
R: I'll get arrested.
F: Then, it's off to the **(6)** _____ !
R: There are armed police there!
F: Followed by the **(7)** _____ . And if there's still time after that, we'll do the **(8)** _____ .
R: This is ridiculous. Hey, by the way, why do I have to do all the graffiti?
F: Because you're a better artist than I am. Right, climb down and hurry up! We haven't got all day.
R: All right. All right! *[Flynn lowers Randy down so he can paint on the bridge.]*
F: *[shouting down]* Everything OK?
R: *[shouting from below]* Yes.
F: Then, start spraying! *[the sound of a police car]* The police! Run!
R: Oi! Help me up!
F: I've got to go. I'll see you back at home.
R: But I'm stuck! Help!

GLOSSARY

a ledge *n*
a ledge is a narrow shelf along the bottom edge of a window.
to tag *vb*
if you "tag" a wall, for example, you put your name or special sign on it in the form of a colourful work of graffiti.

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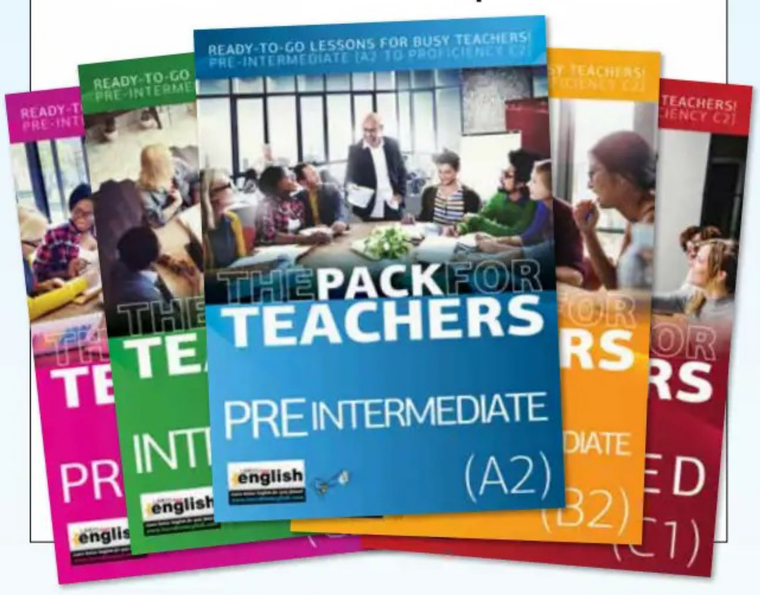

See page 11 for more info.

2

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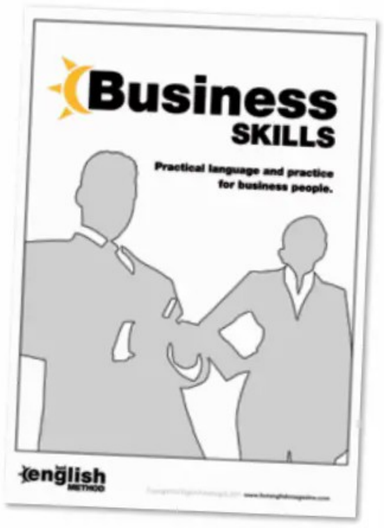

3

Games Pack

Our fantastic Games Pack comes with some great ideas to motivate your students and provide a new way of learning language. Four levels and hundreds of fantastic games and activities to help your students learn quickly and easily!

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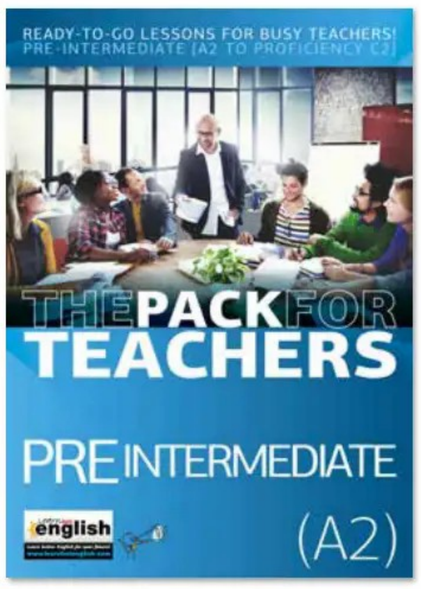

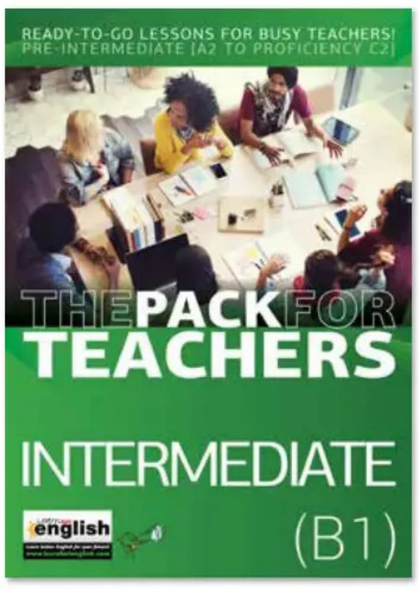

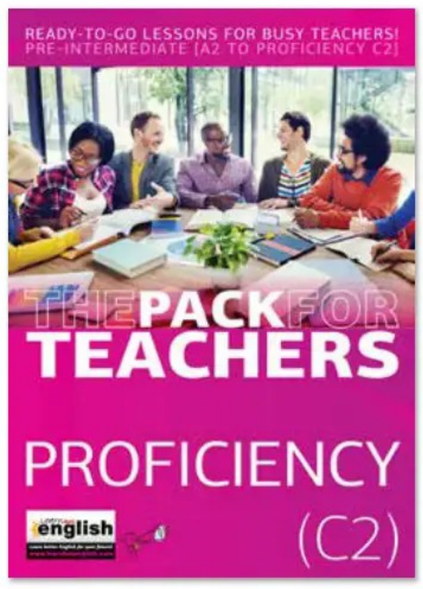

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NATURAL ENGLISH

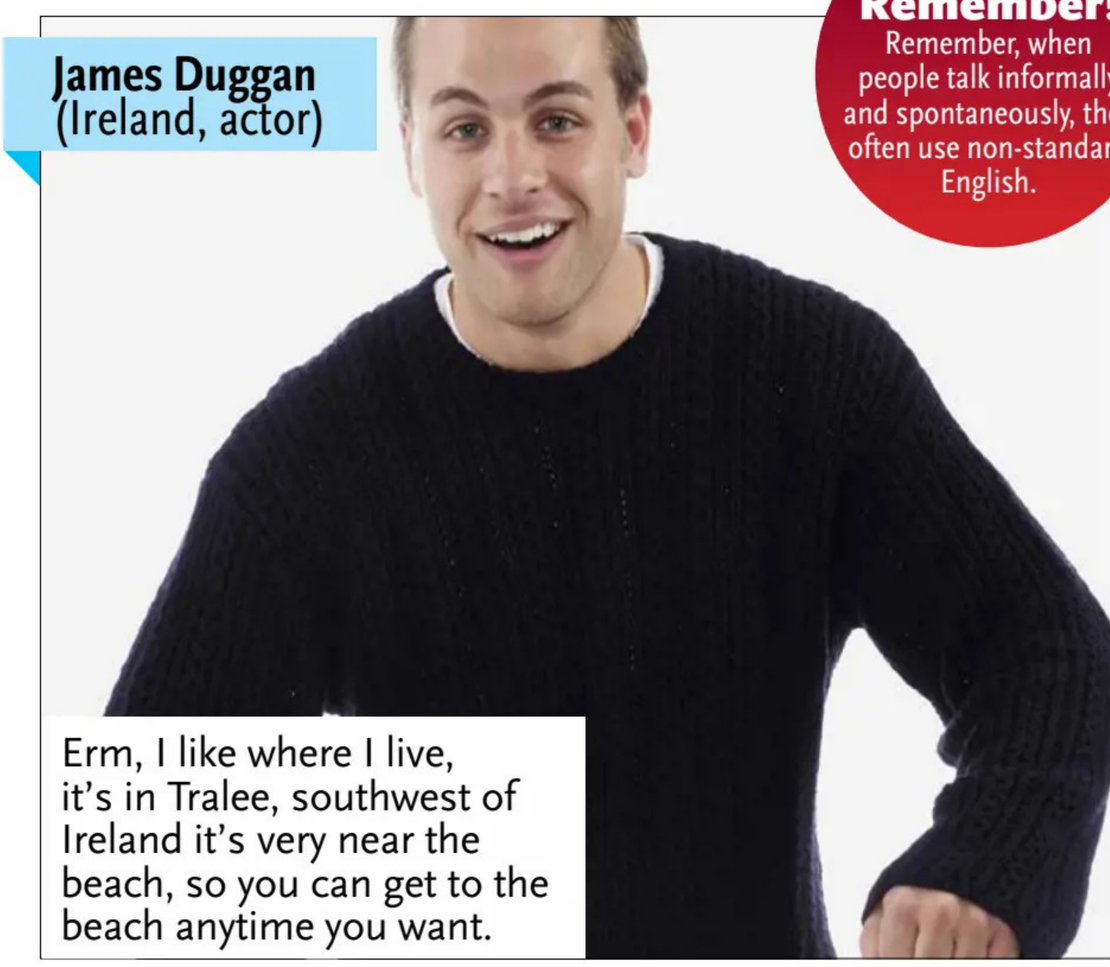
Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

WHAT DO YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE ABOUT THE TOWN OR CITY WHERE YOU LIVE?

Duncan McQueen
(England, chef)

I think the best thing about living in Madrid is the excellent public transport system they have here.

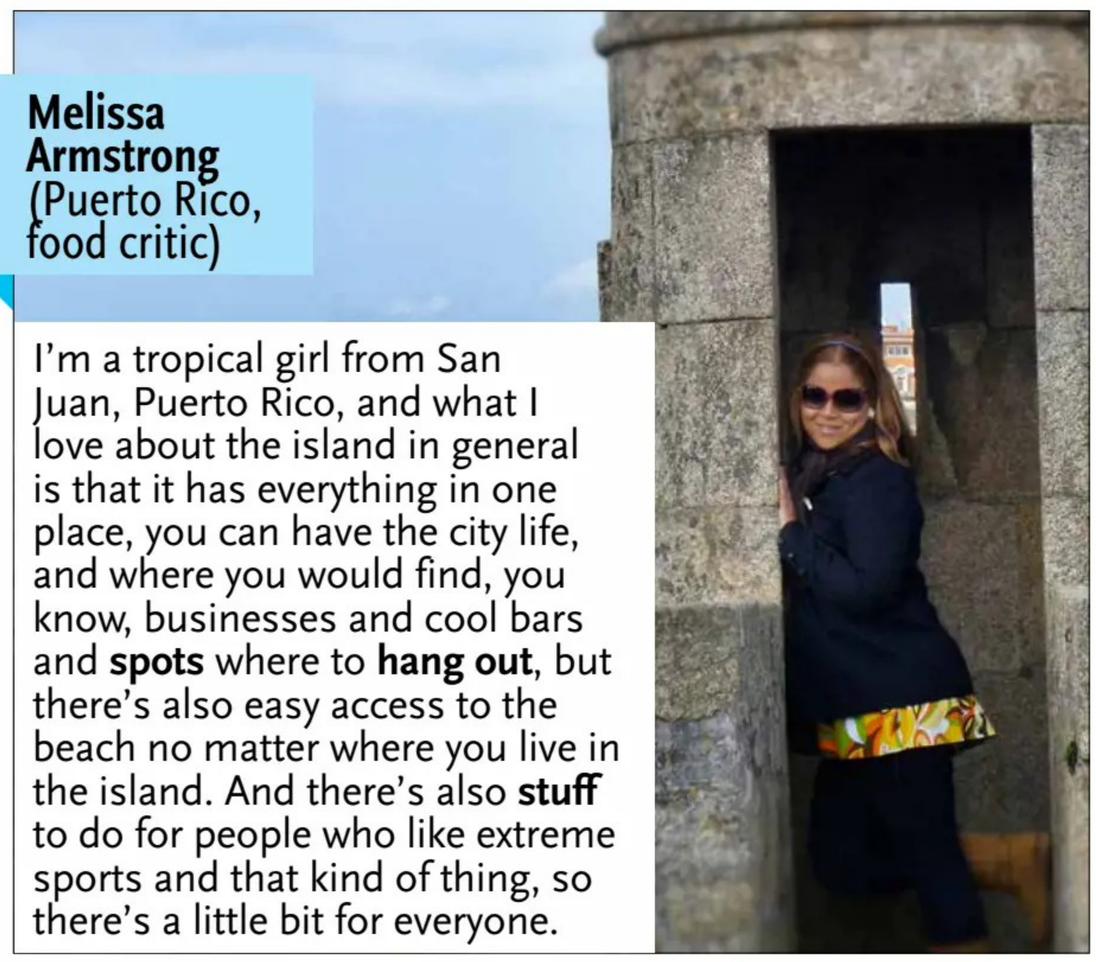
James Duggan
(Ireland, actor)



Erm, I like where I live, it's in Tralee, southwest of Ireland it's very near the beach, so you can get to the beach anytime you want.

Remember!
Remember, when people talk informally and spontaneously, they often use non-standard English.

Melissa Armstrong
(Puerto Rico, food critic)



I'm a tropical girl from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and what I love about the island in general is that it has everything in one place, you can have the city life, and where you would find, you know, businesses and cool bars and **spots** where to **hang out**, but there's also easy access to the beach no matter where you live in the island. And there's also **stuff** to do for people who like extreme sports and that kind of thing, so there's a little bit for everyone.

Anne Lydon
(Ireland, theatre director)

I live in Athlone in the centre of Ireland and I love its **location** because we have a lake and river, so we can do lots of water sports.

Rayna Taylor
(USA, marketing executive)

My favourite thing about New York City is the variety that it has in **accessibility**. You can take a train anywhere you need to go, you don't need a car, and there are different **stores** for whatever your needs may be. What I don't like about New York are the laws that limit people's freedoms, like the Food and **Beverage** Act, which is trying to reduce the size and the place where citizens can buy beverages, erm, and the Stop and **Frisk** Law is a law that allows New York City Police Officers to stop any person that they **deem suspicious** and frisk them.

Lindsay MacNaughton
(Scotland, translator)

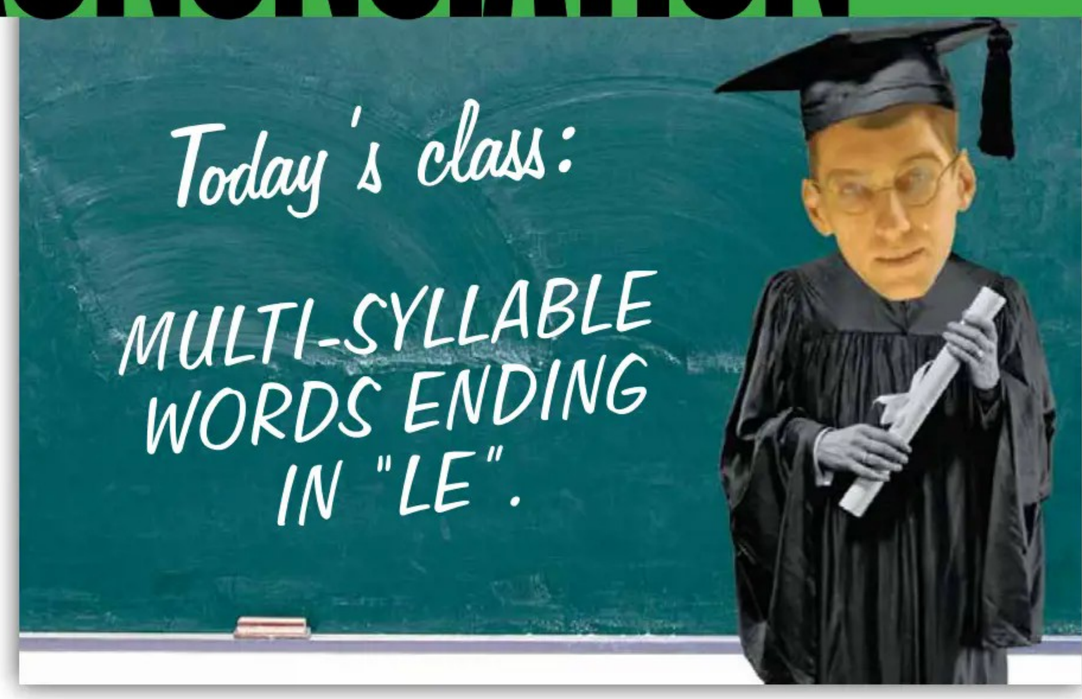
I love the **hustle and bustle** of living in a big city. I really enjoy taking the Paris Metro and the Madrid Metro. I like being able to travel around the city quickly and easily, but it can be a bit of a **pain** during **rush hour**.

GLOSSARY

a spot *n*
a place, an area, a town/city
to hang out *phr vb*
if you "hang out" in a place, you stay there with friends, talking, etc.
stuff *n inform*
things
a location *n*
a place, an area
accessibility *n*
if a place has good "accessibility", people can go there easily by public transport, etc.
a store *n US*
a shop
a beverage *n*
a drink
to frisk *vb*
if the police "frisk" you, they look in your clothes to try to find things
to deem *vb*
if you "deem" something suspicious (for example), you think it's suspicious
suspicious *adj*
if you think someone is "suspicious", you think they could be doing something illegal
the hustle and bustle *exp*
the "hustle and bustle" of a city is the noise and activity in it
a pain *n*
something that's a "pain" is annoying
rush hour *exp*
the time when people go to work or return home from work – usually at 9am and 6pm

AUDIO

DR FINGERS' PRONUNCIATION



Part I

This month we are going to be looking at the pronunciation of multi-syllable words ending in "le". This is a weak sound that has the schwa sound. Listen and repeat:

Trouble
Bicycle
Ankle
Fiddle
Fashionable
Irritable
Capable
Stable
Able
Fable
Maple
Saleable
Terrible
Horrible

Exercise

Now let's try an exercise with these words. In each sentence there is a gap. You have to choose one of the words from above to go in the space. Take a couple of minutes to do this. In some cases there may be several possibilities, but try to choose the most logical one. Alternatively, you can listen to the sentences and put in the word that you hear:

1. I think I've twisted my _____ .
2. She's never in a good mood and she's really _____ in the morning.
3. I wanted to _____ with the long object.
4. I hated that film – it was _____ .
5. She broke her arm when she fell off her _____ .
6. The horse ran out of the _____ .
7. She's very competent and _____ of achieving a lot.
8. You broke that window and now you're in _____ .

Part II – Connected Speech

This month we are going to look at some more words with strong and weak sounds. These include, "you", "them", "but", "or" "than".

Strong forms

The strong forms of these words are:
"you", "them", "but", "or", "than"
As we've mentioned before, the strong form is often used for emphasising and when you are speaking clearly or deliberately slowly:
"I wasn't looking at you, I was looking at him."
"No, I didn't give it to her, I gave it to them."
"I don't really know what to do. But, if there is time, I think we should visit the castle."
"We could leave now. Or, we could wait a bit longer and catch the next bus."
A: "I think this is much better than that one."
B: "Than that one! You must be mad!"

Weak Forms

The weak forms of these words are:
"you", "them", "but", "or", "than"
They all have the schwa sound. These forms are often used in connected speech when there is no need for emphasis:

"What are you going to do about it?"
"I gave it to them last week."
"I didn't really like it but I bought it anyway."
"I asked them if they wanted meat or fish."
"This is much better than the last one."

Now look at this example to see the difference between the two sounds:
A: "What are you going to do about it?"
B: "No! What are you going to do about it?"

A: "I gave it to them last week."
B: "Who did you give it to?"
A: "To them."

OK, that's enough for today. Bye for now and happy talking!

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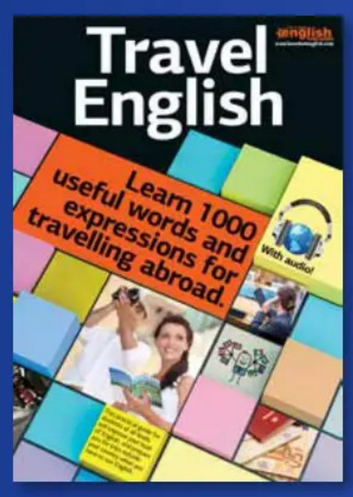

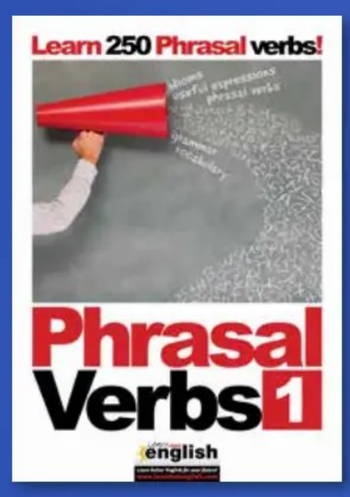

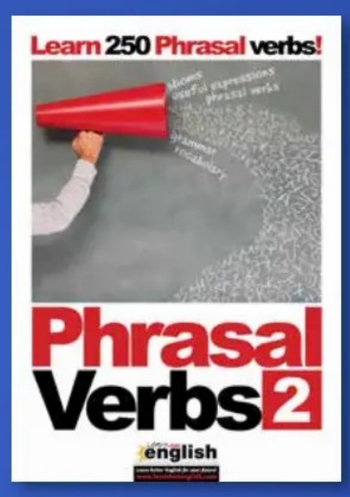

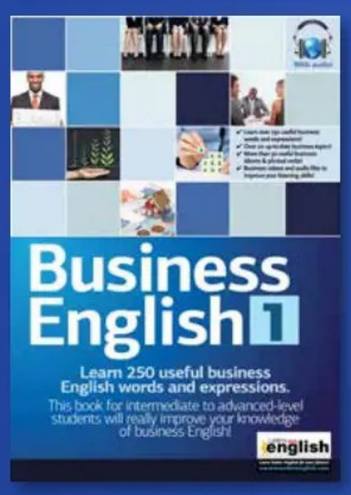

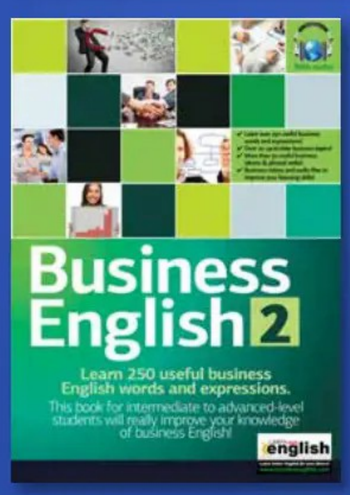

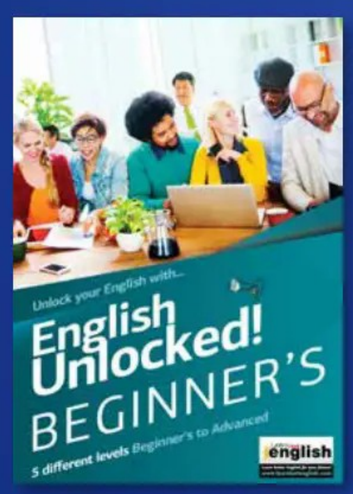

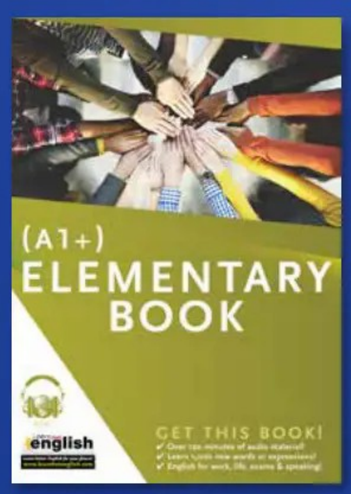

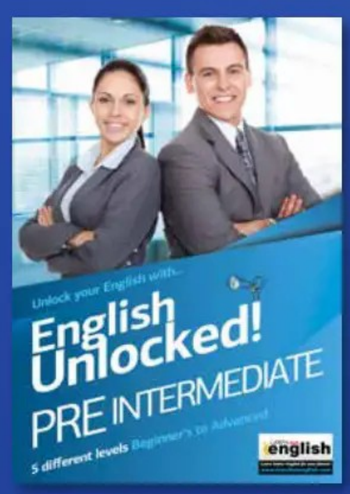

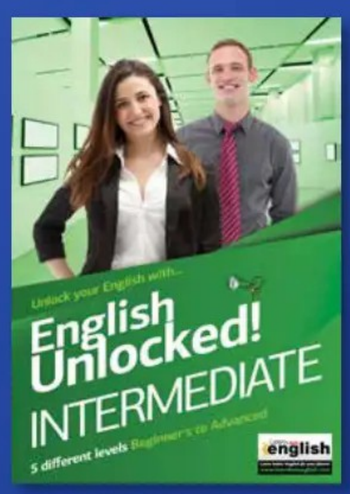

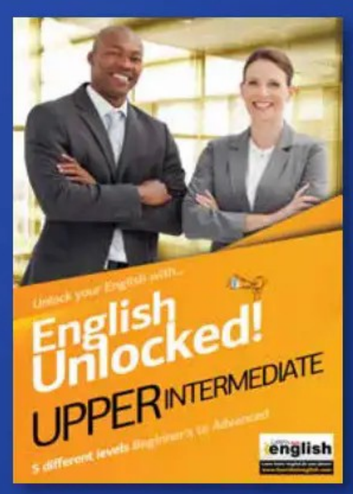

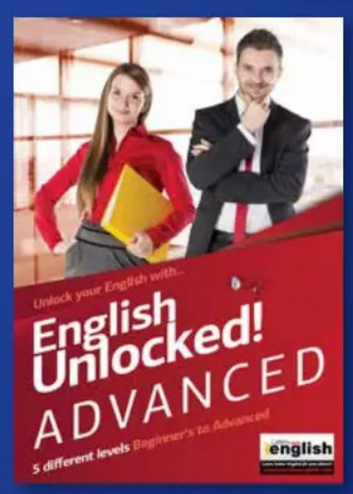

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AUDIO

SUPERSTITIONS VI

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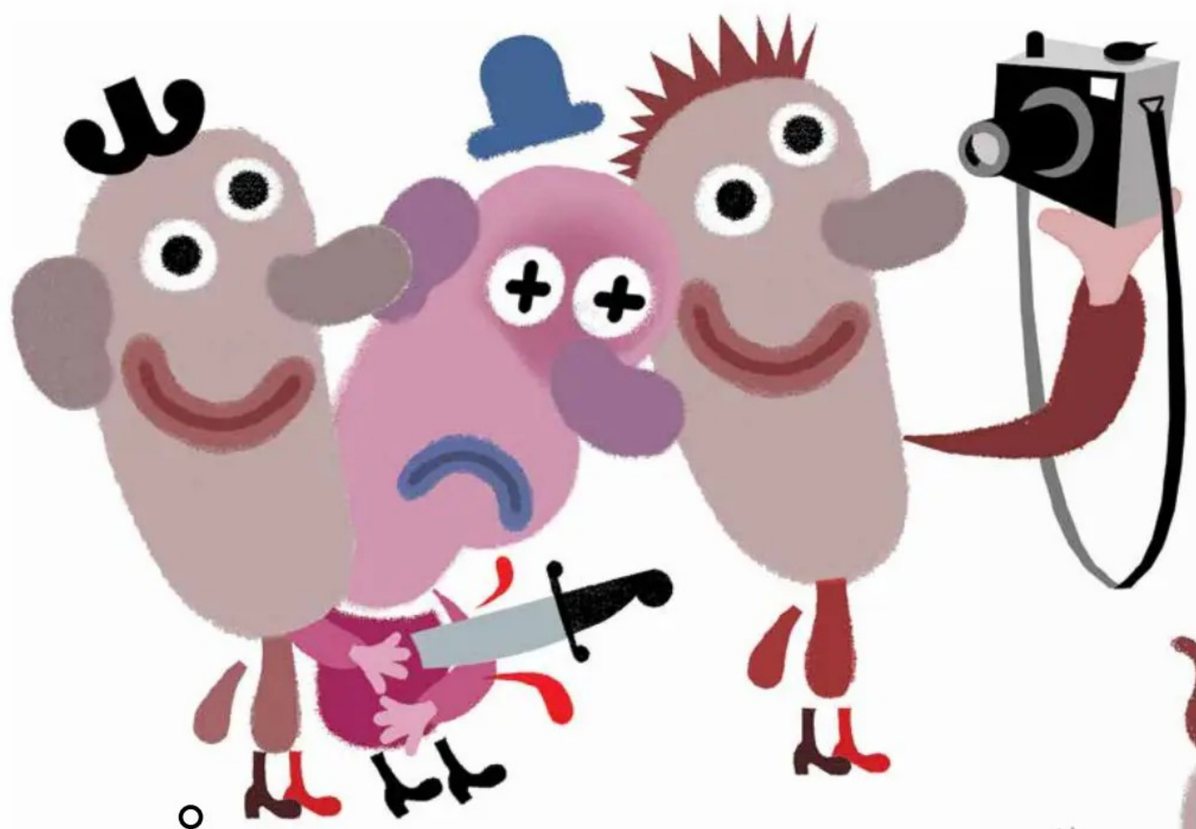
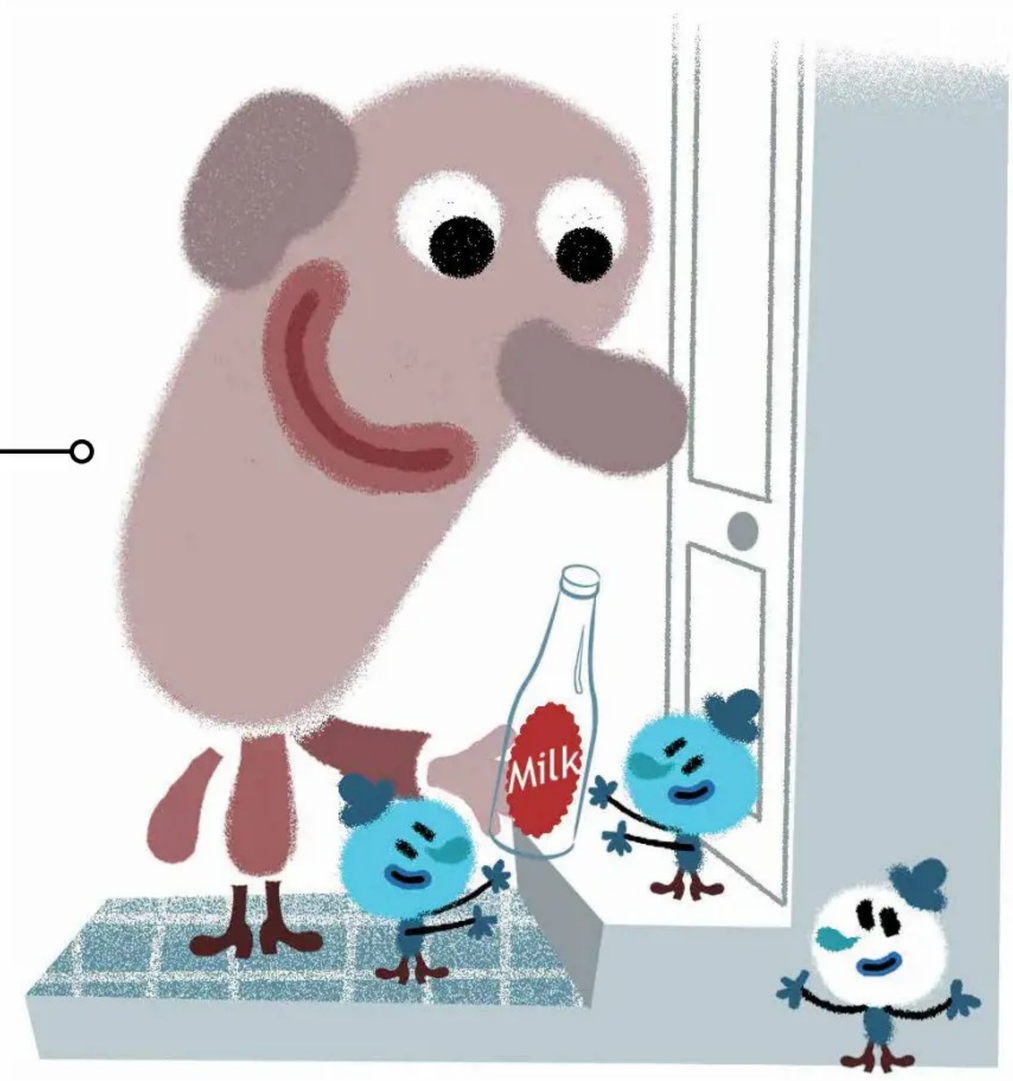


If three people are photographed together, the one in the middle will die first. Always make sure you stand on the sides when someone produces a camera and you find yourself between two friends. Use violence if necessary.

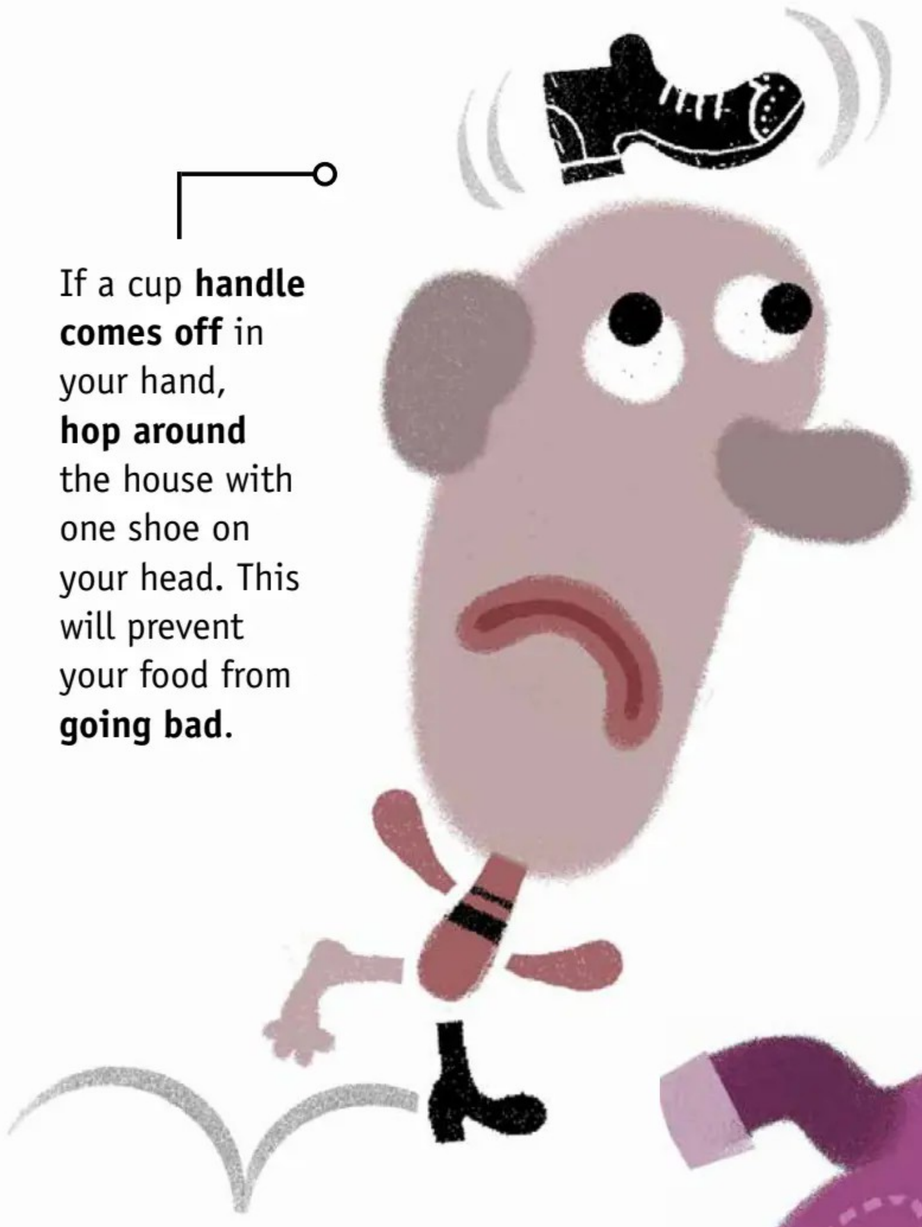
Never open a book from the back and start reading the last chapter. If you do, a devil will appear before you within 27 days. Also, you won't enjoy the book as you'll already know the ending.

Before going to bed, leave some bread and a little milk by the back door. This is for the **elves** who come out at night. If you don't, they may **play tricks on** you.

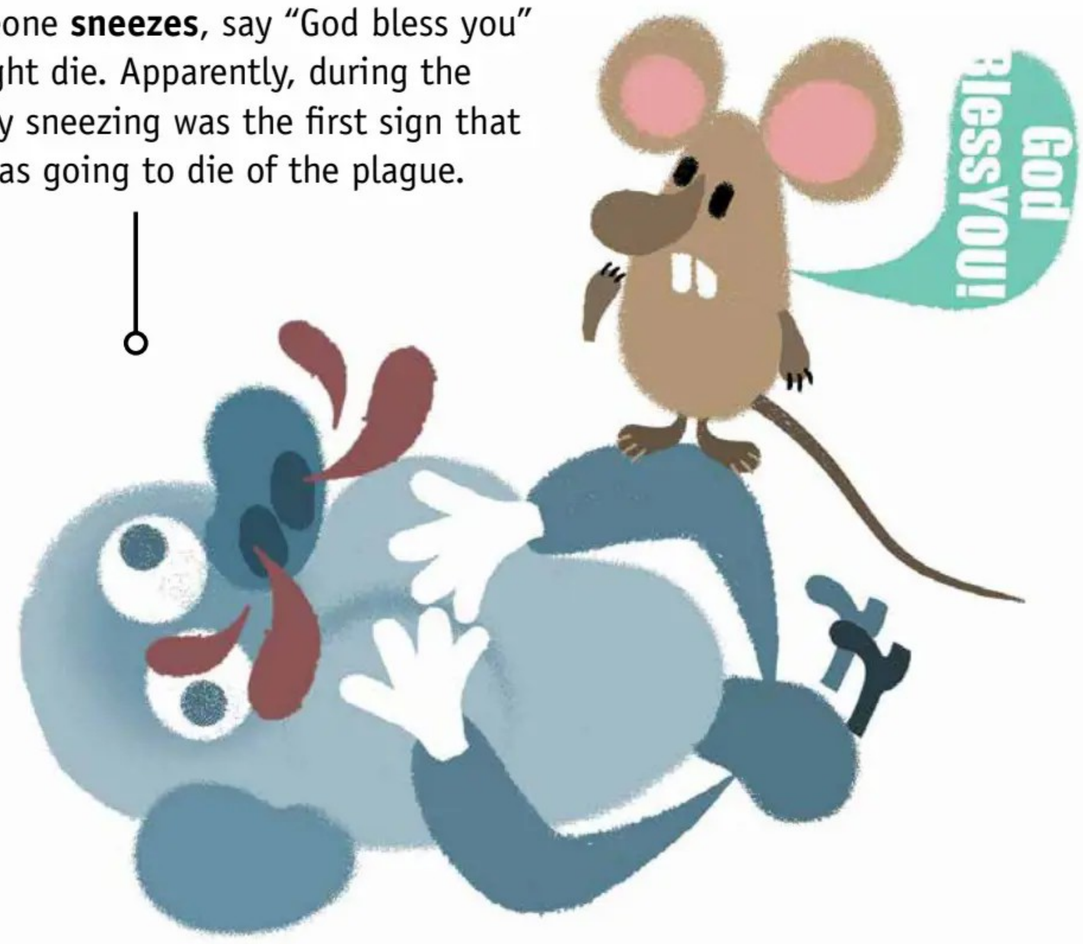


Never walk under a **ladder** as it will bring you bad luck. This superstition originated from the 16th-century when they used to **hang witches** from ladders. If you walked under a ladder, a witch could fall on your head. These days a witch **isn't likely to fall** on your head, but a pot of paint might.

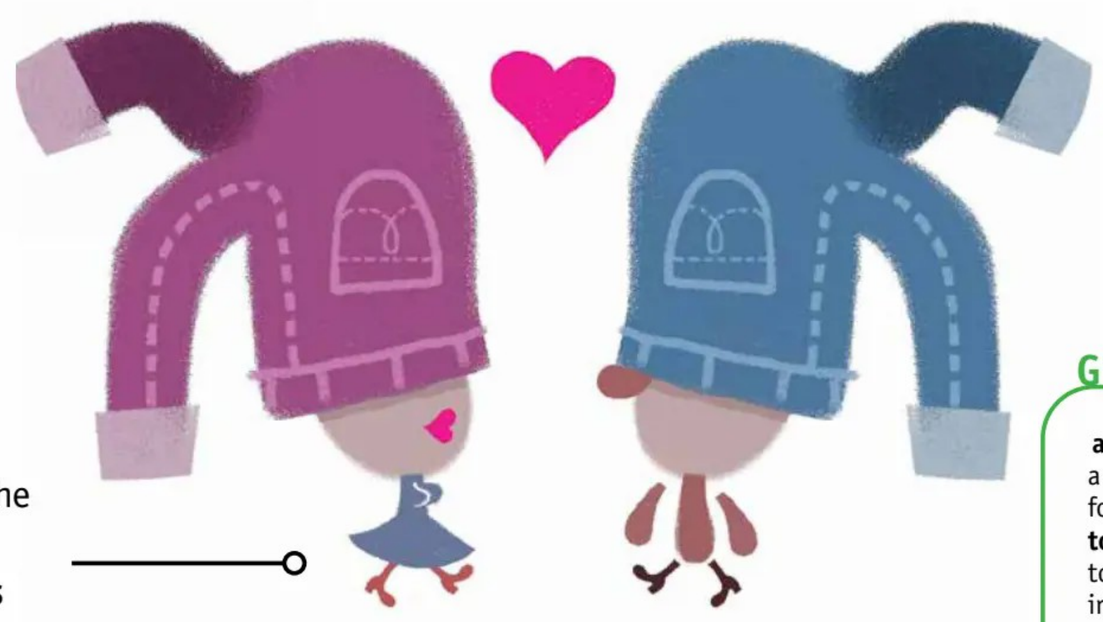
If a cup **handle comes off** in your hand, **hop around** the house with one shoe on your head. This will prevent your food from **going bad**.



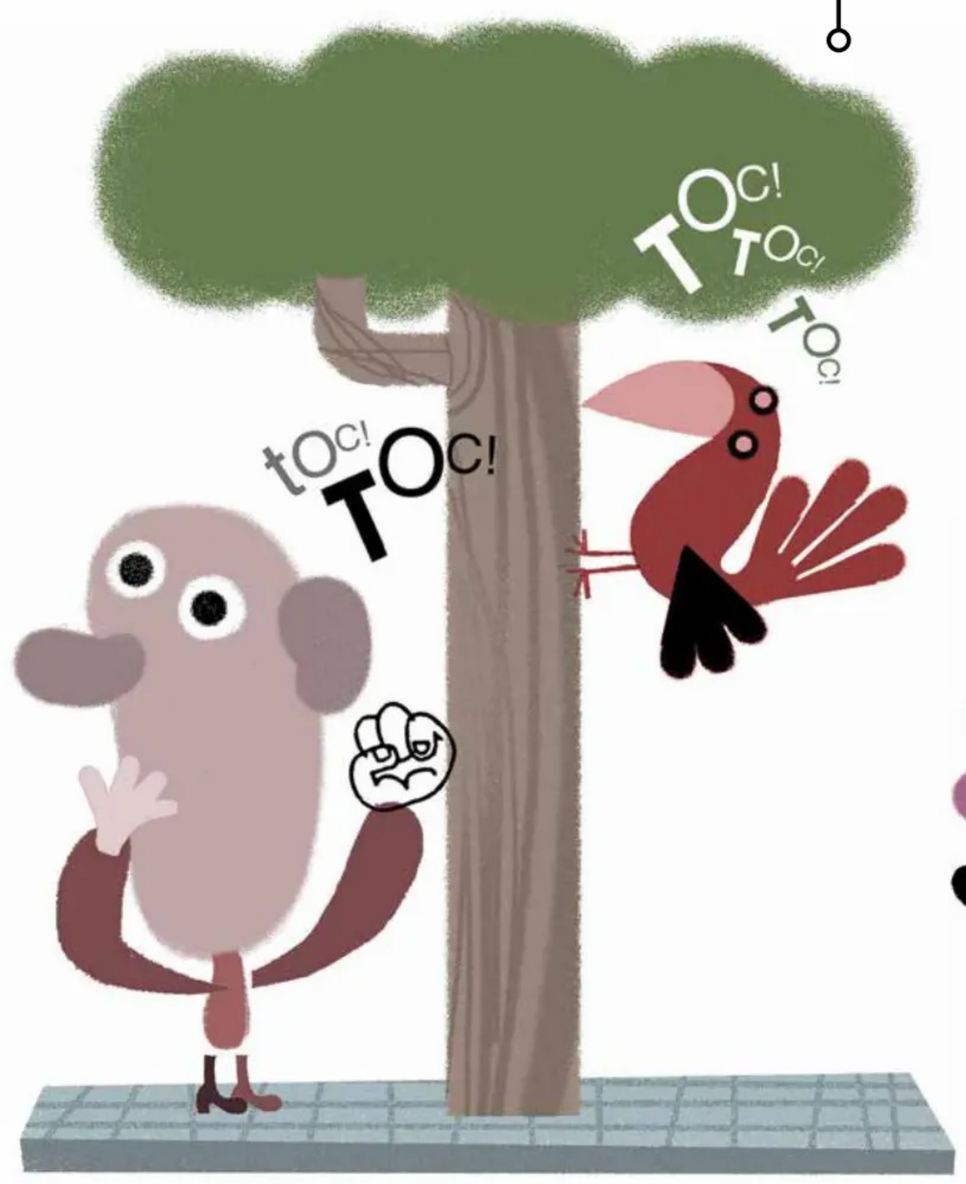
When someone **sneezes**, say "God bless you" or they might die. Apparently, during the 16th-century sneezing was the first sign that someone was going to die of the plague.



Always leave home with clean **underwear** in case you have an accident and have to be **rushed** to hospital. Evil spirits rest in dirty underwear and they may influence the **outcome** of any surgical operation. Incidentally, wearing a pair of **pants** on your head for one day in public will bring you 6 years of good luck.



Knock on wood to prevent something that you say from happening. The knocking temporarily **stuns** any evil spirits that may be living in the wood. If you don't do this, the evil spirits may use this information to bring you bad luck.



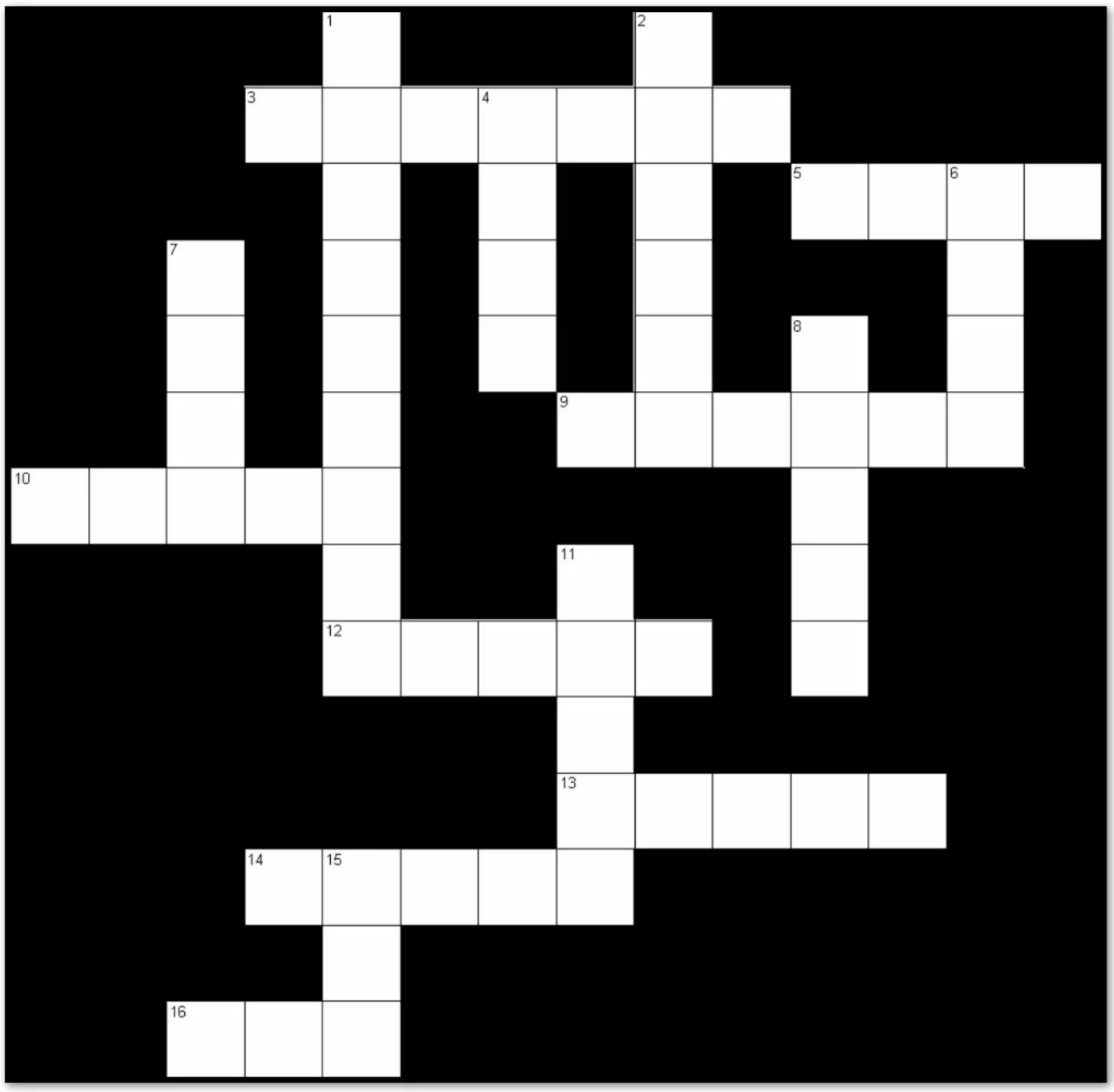
Always **stir** coffee and tea in a **clockwise direction**. This will make the devil leave the cup. If you don't do this, the devil may poison your beverage.

GLOSSARY

an elf *n*
a little fantasy person who lives in a forest
to play a trick on someone *exp*
to do something to someone in order to irritate that person
a ladder *n*
an object used to climb walls, or buildings. It has steps
to hang *vb*
to kill someone by putting a rope around their neck
a witch *n*
a woman who knows how to use magic
isn't likely to fall *exp*
probably won't fall
a handle *n*
the part of a cup that you hold when you drink from it
to come off *phr vb*
if something «comes off» in your hand, it breaks while you are holding if
to hop around *phr vb*
to jump around on one foot
to go bad *exp*
if food goes bad, it is not a good idea to eat it
to sneeze *vb*
an involuntary action from your nose when air comes out
underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers or skirt
to rush *vb*
to take someone to a place very quickly
the outcome *n*
the result
pants *n US*
trousers - clothing you wear on your legs
to knock on wood *exp*
to hit a piece of wood
to stun *vb*
to paralyse temporarily
to stir *vb*
to move and mix a liquid with a spoon
a clockwise direction *n*
in the same direction that a clock moves

CROSSWORD

Answers on page 63



Across

3: A newspaper that often has articles about celebrities and scandal
5: Extreme anger
9: To leave your job voluntarily
10: A flat piece of wood or metal that is fixed to a wall. You can put books and things on it
12: An American English word for a shop
13: Not fresh (food)
14: A building where there are legal processes
16: A child

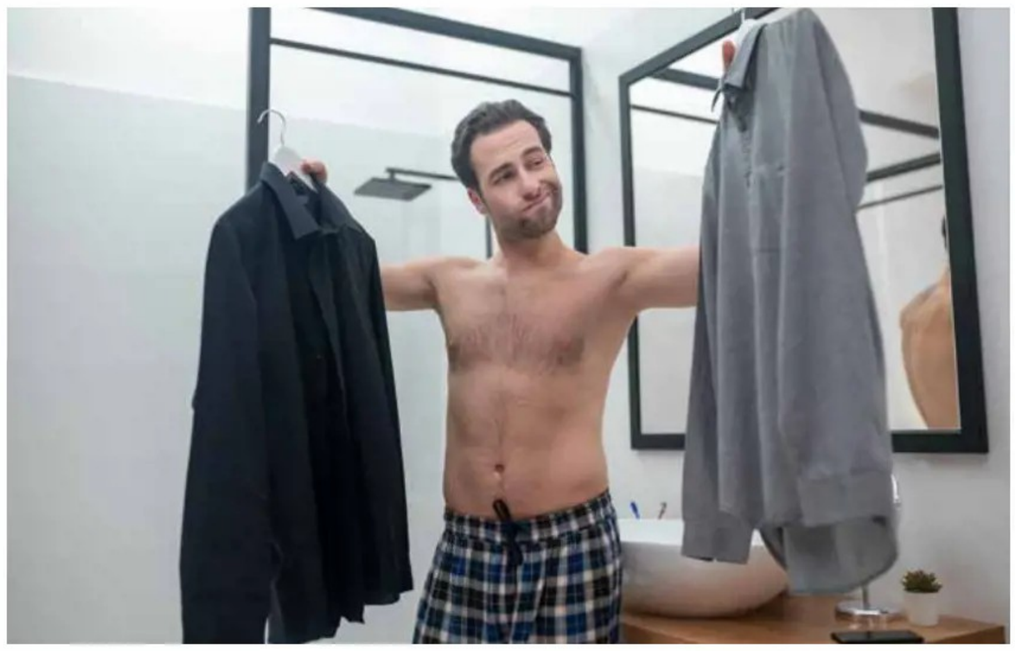
Down

1: Metal objects that police put around the hands of criminals
2: To laugh in a silly and uncontrollable way
4: A large piece of bread usually in the shape of a rectangle
6: An elegant dress for formal occasions
7: Not real, false
8: A corridor in a shop or aeroplane
11: To believe in someone and think that they are honest
15: Strange and unusual

WORD GAME

Here is a ten-letter word. See how many English words with four or more letters you can make from the letters in this word. You can only use each letter once in each word.

M A N A G E M E N T



ANAGRAM

Here is one word that has been mixed up to make three new words. The original word has come from a topic in this month's magazine. See if you can discover the real word. Write the letters in a circle. This will help you find the word.

W E R U N D E A R

GRAMMAR

"Will" (from "Quotes" page)
Match the two halves of the sentences:

1. What do you want to drink?
2. What do you want to eat?
3. When will you do it?
4. Can you help?
5. What happened?

A: I'll have a hamburger.
B: I'll tell you later.
C: Yes, I'll hold the baby while you prepare the food.
D: I'll do it after lunch.
E: I'll have a Coke.

"Would" (from "Dr Fingers' Grammar Clinic" page)
Make a similar sentence with "would":

1. I used to get up early.
2. She used to go out very late on Saturdays.
3. They used to get angry all the time.
4. They used to spend their holidays in Florida.

"Actually" (from "Dr Fingers' Grammar Clinic" page)
Put either "actually" or "at the moment" in the spaces:

1. A: Hi Frank, how are you?
   B: _____ my name's Nigel.
2. I didn't have much work to do last week, but _____ I'm really busy.
3. A: This letter goes in this box, doesn't it?
   B: _____ , it goes in that one.
4. I was really fat last year, but _____ I've got my weight under control.

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WORDSEARCH

Now see if you can find the following words in the wordsearch: Good luck! Answers on page 63.

E	L	G	G	U	M	S	Y	R	M	C	G	I	P
E	R	H	B	N	O	T	O	R	I	O	U	S	O
V	S	Y	R	E	G	A	V	A	S	W	I	L	D
O	T	H	Q	M	S	E	G	N	I	R	F	W	J
S	T	R	E	A	K	L	L	I	B	G	N	G	K
X	M	J	J	I	Y	I	Q	B	M	M	G	K	E
C	E	V	A	R	G	F	W	C	V	J	M	C	R
D	H	S	N	W	L	R	E	V	I	H	S	Y	R
Y	I	X	S	R	H	A	N	K	N	O	M	T	C
E	Z	R	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	O	U	S	M
Z	V	Q	N	J	A	U	A	Z	I	D	W	L	X
I	H	I	V	P	Q	J	Q	L	C	A	L	L	N
W	G	W	L	J	S	I	G	N	X	W	B	D	E
V	H	P	Z	P	B	O	D	J	B	Y	R	N	X

EVIL
FRINGES
NOTORIOUS
SAVAGERY
WILD
MONK
SMUGGLE
SHIVER
COURAGEOUS
SIGN
STREAK
GRAVE
BILL
CALL

MATCHING

See if you can match the two columns.
Answers on page 63.

A: Evil
B: The fringes
C: Notorious
D: Savagery
E: Wild
F: A monk
G: To smuggle
H: To shiver
I: Courageous
J: A sign
K: To streak
L: A grave
M: A bill
N: A call

1. Brutality
2. When your body moves involuntarily because you are cold or frightened
3. A piece of wood or metal with information written on it
4. A letter that tells you how much money you have to pay for a service
5. Very, very bad
6. Famous for negative reasons
7. To take something secretly from one place to another
8. Brave – not afraid of danger
9. A place in a cemetery that marks where a body is
10. A telephone call
11. The edges
12. Primitive
13. A man who dedicates his life to religion
14. To take off your clothes and run around a place

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AUDIO

TRAVEL ENGLISH

AT THE POLICE STATION

Learn over 20 useful words for reporting a theft!

Useful words

Police officer

Police station

Police car

Suitcase

Passport

Plane ticket

Backpack

Handbag (usually for a woman)

Wallet (for a man)

Purse (for a woman)

Mobile phone / cell phone (US)

Extra words

- **Thief** – someone who takes something without permission: "The thief walked off with my bag while I wasn't looking."
- **Theft** – if there's been a "theft", someone has stolen something.
- **Robber** – someone who takes something, often with violence or the threat of violence. We often use "robber" to refer to someone who robs a bank: "The robber stole a lot of money from the bank."
- **To rob** – to use violence or the threat of violence to take something from someone: "They robbed me while I was on my way home."
- **Burglar** – someone who enters a property illegally with the intention of stealing something: "The burglar got in through an open window."
- **Pick pocket** – someone who steals money or a wallet from your pocket: "The pickpocket took her wallet as she was getting onto the train."
- **To steal** – to take something from someone: "The thief stole my camera while I wasn't looking."
- **Belongings** – your "belongings" are your possessions – the things you own.
- **Suspect** – someone who could be guilty of a crime.
- **Victim** – someone who has been robbed, etc.
- **Identity card (ID card)** – an official card with your photo on it and information about you.
- **Insurance policy** – a formal agreement with an insurance company: you pay the company an amount of money; in return, you receive compensation (money, etc.) if you're robbed or injured or if you lose something.
- **To report a crime** – to tell the police about a crime.
- **Crime incident report form** – a form that you must complete, with details about the crime.
- **To fill out a form** – to complete a form.
- **To file an insurance claim** – to inform the insurance company officially about a loss or injury so you can get compensation (money, etc.) .
- **CCTV (closed-circuit television)** – television cameras in the street that record everything that happens.
- ***Help!*** – what you need to shout if you're in trouble or being robbed.

Dialogue: Reporting a theft

Marco is in the police station. He's reporting a theft.
[Complete the dialogue with the correct words.]

Police officer: Good afternoon.
Marco: Oh, hi, I'd like to report a **(1)** _____, please.
Police officer: OK. You'll need to fill out this crime incident report **(2)** _____ then.
Marco: Will I be able to use that to file an insurance **(3)** _____ when I get back to Italy?
Police officer: Yes. OK, now, can you give me your name and **(4)** _____, please?
Marco: Yes, it's Marco Spinetti and I'm staying at the Grosvenor Hotel at 13 Marlborough Street.
Police officer: And your passport or ID card **(5)** _____?
Marco: My passport number is B783 4689Z.
Police officer: And have you got a contact number?
Marco: Yes, my **(6)** _____ number is 00 29 876 349.
Police officer: OK, and what items were stolen?
Marco: Erm, just a **(7)** _____, I think.
Police officer: When was this?
Marco: At about 2pm yesterday **(8)** _____.
Police officer: And where were you at the time.
Marco: I was in Victoria Station.
Police officer: And could you describe what happened?
Marco: Yes, well, I was waiting in a queue to get a **(9)** _____ , but when I came to pay, I realised that my wallet was missing. I think someone must have picked my pocket as I was in the queue.
Police officer: Did you notice anyone acting suspiciously at the time?
Marco: Yes, well, there was an elderly **(10)** _____ with a walking stick behind me. He kept bumping into me. I'm sure it was him. *[fades out]*

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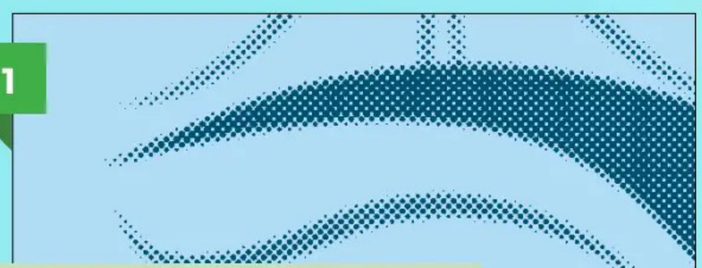
TOP 20 IDIOMS!

Here are 20 really useful idioms for you to learn!

1

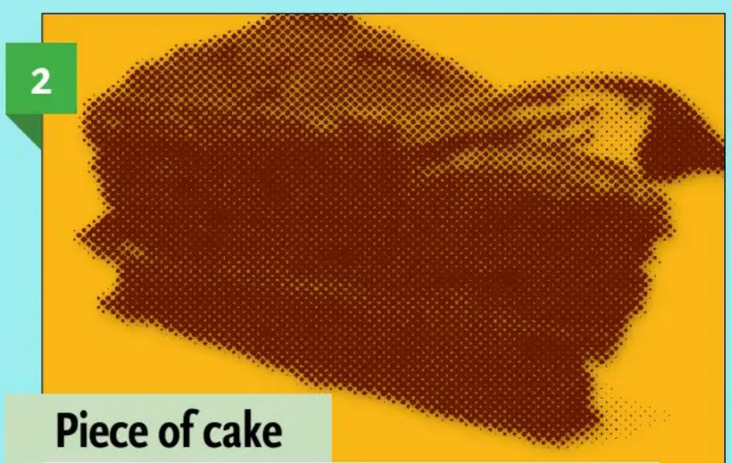


Water under the bridge

This expression is used to refer to something from the past that is no longer important.

"What's done is done and there's nothing we can do about it – it's all water under the bridge now."

2

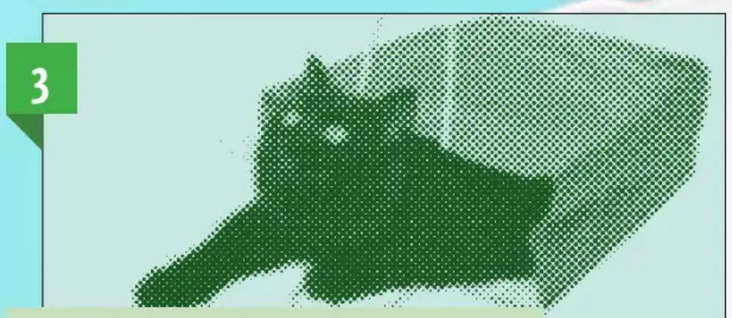


Piece of cake

Something that's a "piece of cake" is very easy to do.

"That exam was a piece of cake."

3

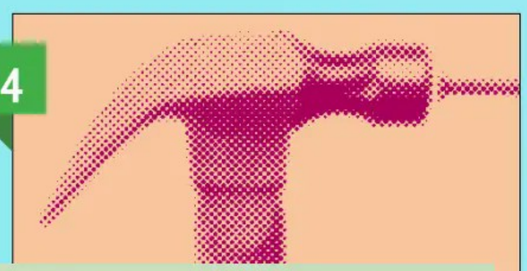


Let the cat out of the bag

To reveal a secret; to tell someone about a secret.

"We're throwing a party for Michelle tonight, but don't let the cat out of the bag – it's supposed to be a surprise!"

4



Hit the nail on the head

To describe something perfectly.

"I think you really hit the nail on the head when you said that what we're lacking is confidence and motivation."

5

You can't judge a book by its cover

You can't tell what someone is like from their appearance.

"She comes across as quite cold and hard, but she's actually quite warm and loving – you can't judge a book by its cover."

6

Don't bite off more than you can chew

Don't try to do more than you can do.

"I think you need to build the business up slowly and try not to bite off more than you can chew."

7

You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours

You do me a favour and I'll do you a favour in return.

"If you lend me the money right now, I'll use my contacts to help you get the job you want – you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

8

Add insult to injury

If someone "adds insult to injury", they make a bad situation even worse, often by doing something else bad.

"She arrived an hour late for the dinner party, then, just to add insult to injury, she complained about the food."

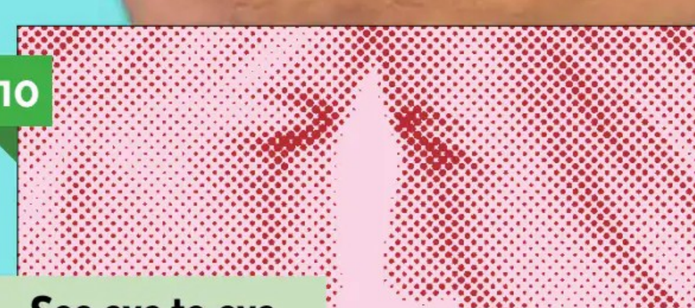
9

Once in a blue moon

Very rarely; not very often.

"With three kids to look after, I only get to go out every once in a blue moon."

10



See eye to eye

If two people "see eye to eye", they agree on things and see things the same way.

"There are some moments of tension, but we generally see eye to eye on most things."

11

Kill two birds with one stone

To manage to do two things at the same time.

"During the trip to Scotland I met up with some old school friends and went to my brother's wedding – I managed to kill two birds with one stone."

12

Cut corners

If you "cut corners", you do something the easiest, quickest or cheapest way. This often affects the quality of the work.

"I don't think we should cut any corners. We need to produce a quality product for the client if we want to keep them happy."

13

The last straw

The final problem in a series of problems.

"I knew the company had difficulties, so I accepted all the extra work. However, when they proposed reducing my salary that was the last straw and I quit."

14

Take what someone says with a pinch of salt

If you "take what someone says with a pinch of salt", you don't take it very seriously – often because you don't believe it.

"I'd take everything she tells you with a pinch of salt – she often exaggerates and frequently lies."

15

Sit on the fence

If someone is "sitting on the fence", they don't take sides in an argument or they avoid making a decision.

"I don't think you can just sit on the fence over this issue – you have to tell us what you think."

16

The best of both worlds

If someone wants "the best of both worlds", they want all the advantages of two different situations.

"She wants to keep her manager's salary but she doesn't want any of the responsibilities. She wants the best of both worlds, but that just isn't possible."

17

Pull the wool over someone's eyes

To try to trick or deceive someone into believing something.

"You can't pull the wool over my eyes. I know what you're trying to do and you won't get away with it."

18

Speak of the devil! / Talk of the devil!

This is something we say when the person we're talking about appears.

Josh: I heard that Jessica was going to go off to Canada for a year.

Ana: Speak of the devil – that's Jessica over there, isn't it?

Josh: Hi, Jessica, we were just talking about you.

19

To give someone the cold shoulder

If someone is "giving you the cold shoulder", they're ignoring you or being unfriendly to you, often for no apparent reason.

"I wanted to have a word with Morgan in the party, but he was giving me the cold shoulder. Do you know what's wrong?"

20

A lot on your plate

If you've got "a lot on your plate", you've got a lot of work to do and you're very busy.

"I don't think I'll be able to go to the party this Friday as I've got a lot on my plate right now."

Idioms Idioms are expressions that are formed by groups of words. Idioms are very visual, colourful forms of language that describe common experiences and situations. The general meaning of the idiom doesn't usually have much to do with the individual meaning of the words in the idiom. For example: "She's over the moon!" = She's very happy.

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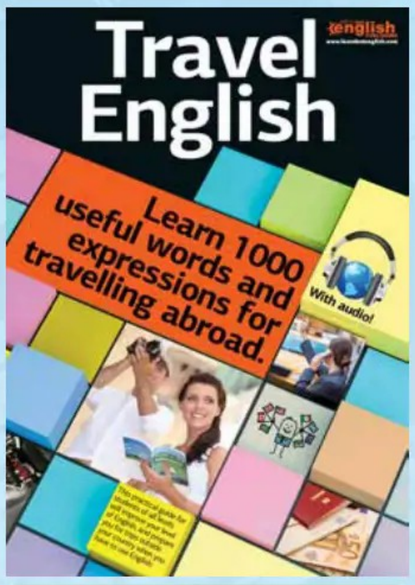

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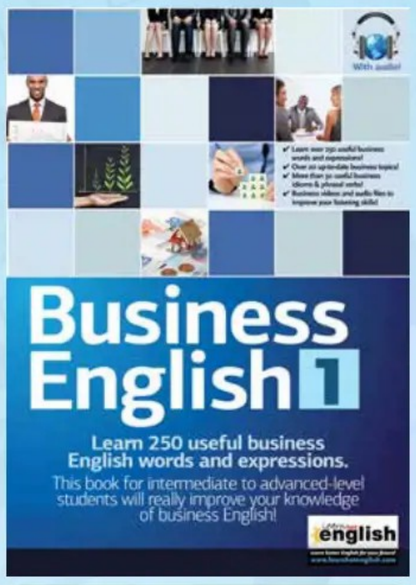

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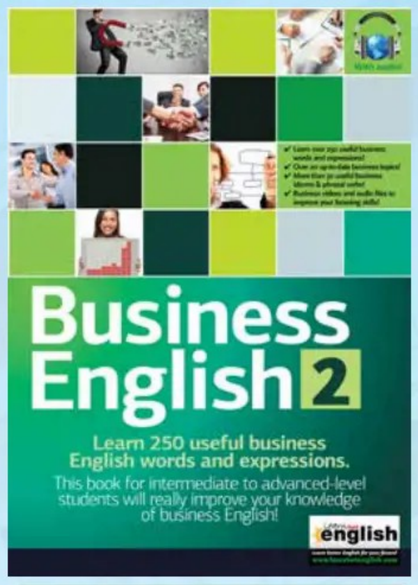

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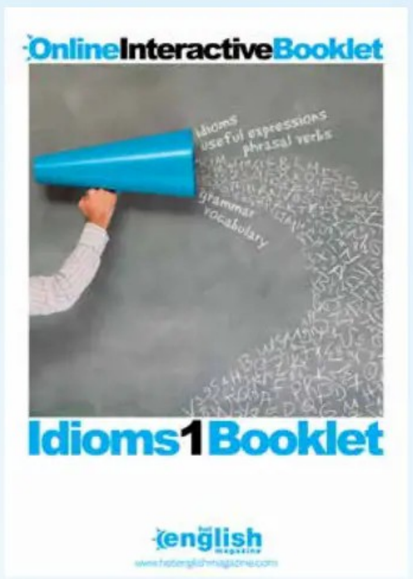

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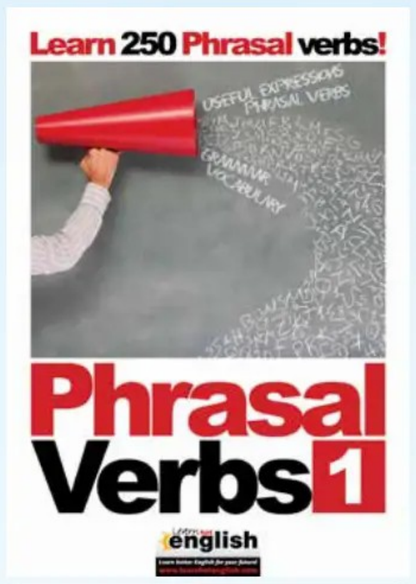

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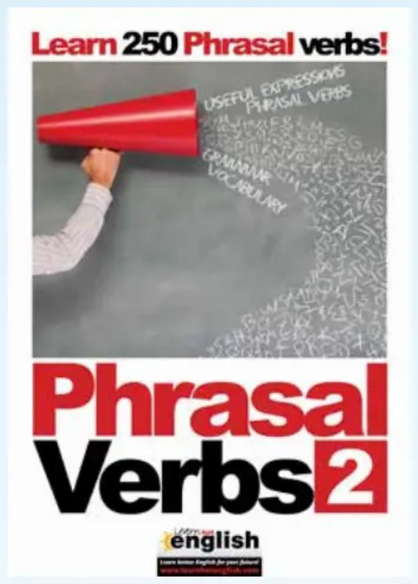

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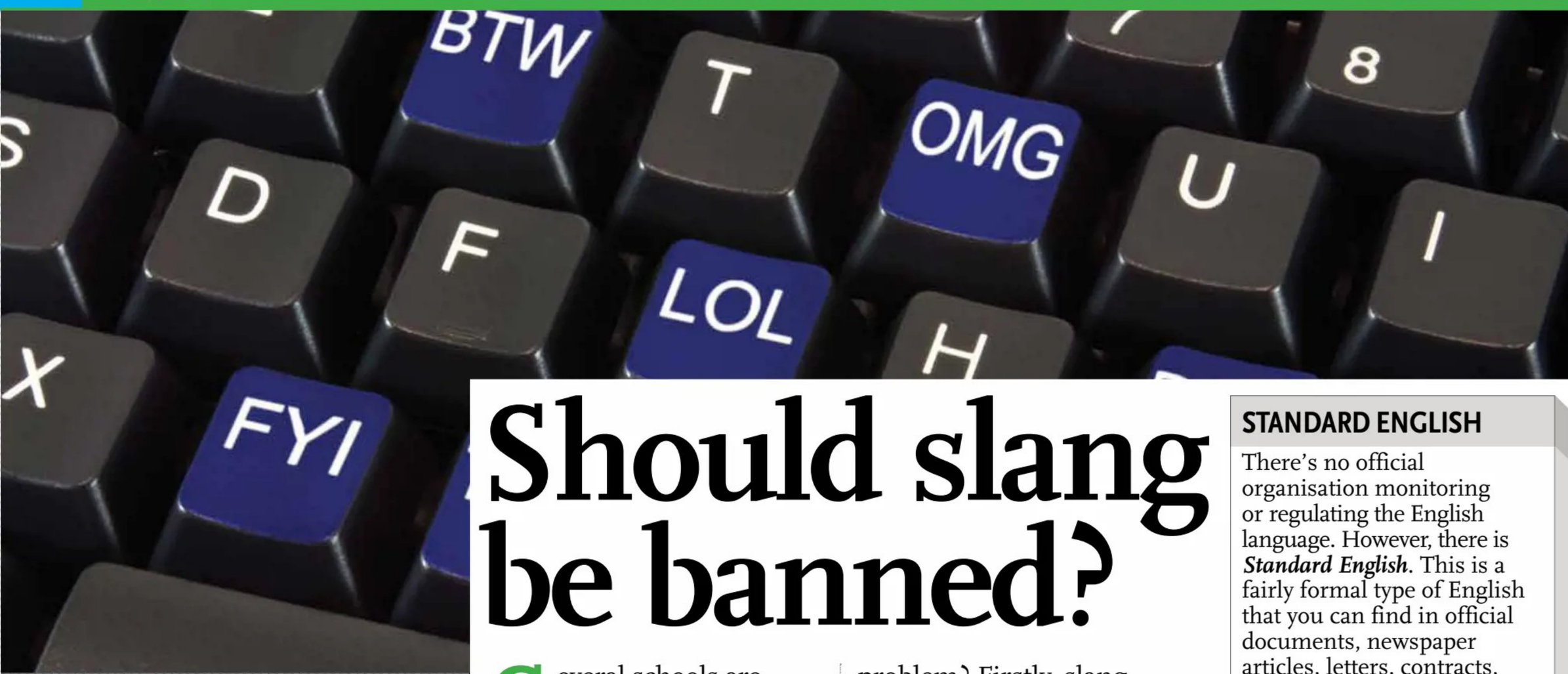
AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading skills.

Think about it How common is slang in your country? Where do you hear it? What slang terms do you use in your own language? What do you think of the use of slang? Should schools ban the use of slang? Why?

Exams **This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.**



Should slang be banned?

Several schools are trying to **clamp down on** the use of slang. But is it worth it?

The Harris Academy in Upper Norwood (London) is one school that's taking action. Students there are **banned** from using terms such as *coz* (*because*), *ain't* (*isn't / aren't*, etc.) and *yeah* (*yes*) when they're speaking. Signs have been **put up** with a list of banned words, and a letter has been sent to parents explaining the decision, according to an article in the *Daily Mail*.

But why? "The big problem is that many of these terms are appearing in written work," explained a teacher. "This puts many children at a severe **disadvantage**... You don't want the children to lose their **identity**, but you do want them to be able to communicate properly with people and be understood. We are going to teach them the rules. If they decide not to use these rules with friends that is fine, but I want them to know that when they are **filling in application forms** and speaking in a formal situation they should use **Standard English***."

So, what's causing the problem? Firstly, slang is just about everywhere these days: in TV **soaps**, **reality shows**, songs, films... And with more and more people using it in conversations with friends and work colleagues, it's becoming more acceptable. The increase in the use of mobile phones and social networking sites is also having an effect. **Texting** often involves using abbreviations or **phonetic** forms of words, such as *wot (what), dat (that), dis (this), n (and), w (with), gonna (going to) and wanna (want to)*.

However, many see any attempts to control language as completely **pointless**. "The very nature of English is its **flexibility**," said Jamaican poet xɪxʃ in a recent interview. "It's a **ban** that would be impossible to achieve as there's no official language police... you can't control the type of language that people use," he added. "The reason why English is such a popular language is because it evolves and adapts well to fit the way it is being used," a language expert explained.

Is the "war" on slang worth fighting?

Answers on page 63

1 Pre-reading

Look at list of Non-Standard English terms below. See if you can translate them into Standard English.

1. I dunno =
2. Gizit ere =
3. I done that =
4. I seen that... =
5. I dunno =
6. Coz I want to =
7. It's mine, innit! =
8. They're yours, innit? =
9. Yeah =
10. Cheers / ta =
11. I ain't going =
12. She ain't got it =
13. She was sat there first =

2 Reading I

Do you think slang or Non-Standard English should be banned at school? Why? Think of the arguments in favour or against this. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why are some teachers worried that students are using slang?
2. What seems to be causing the problem?
3. Why do some people think it would be pointless to ban slang?

STANDARD ENGLISH

There's no official organisation monitoring or regulating the English language. However, there is ***Standard English***. This is a fairly formal type of English that you can find in official documents, newspaper articles, letters, contracts, reports, etc. Standard English is created through usage – how the language is used by English speakers: writers, journalists, ordinary people, etc. ***Non-Standard English*** is everything else: slang, informal English, casual spoken English, dialects, etc. All types of English (Standard and Non-Standard) are valid and accepted forms of language. Over time a slang term can become Standard English if it's used frequently.

GLOSSARY

to clamp down on *exp*
if an organisation (the police, for example), "clamps down on" an activity, they try to stop that activity
to ban *vb*
to prohibit; to say that you cannot do something
to put up *phr vb*
if you "put up" a sign, you fix the sign to a wall (for example)
a disadvantage *n*
a problem or difficulty you have
an identity *n*
your "identity" refers to the things about you that make you different or unique
to fill in *phr vb*
if you "fill in" a form, you complete it
an application form *n*
a form you complete so you can apply for a job, join an organisation, etc.
a soap *n*
a television series about the lives of a group of people who live in a particular place. Also known as a "soap opera"
a reality show *n*
a TV programme about a group of ordinary people (not actors) in typical situations
to text *vb*
to send a message with words, etc. on a mobile phone
phonetic *adj*
the "phonetic" form of a word is the way it sounds (not necessarily the way it's usually spelt)
pointless *adj*
if you think that something is "pointless", you don't think there's a good reason to do it
flexibility *n*
something with a lot of "flexibility" can be changed a lot
a ban *n*
if there's a "ban" on something, you can't do that thing

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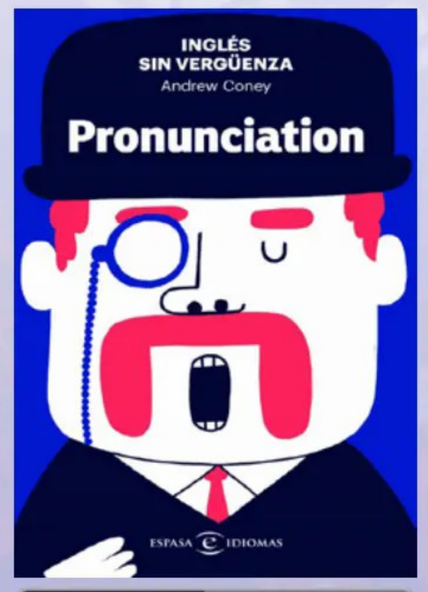

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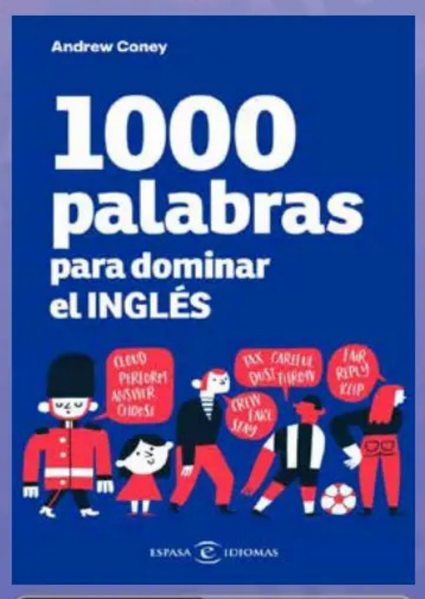

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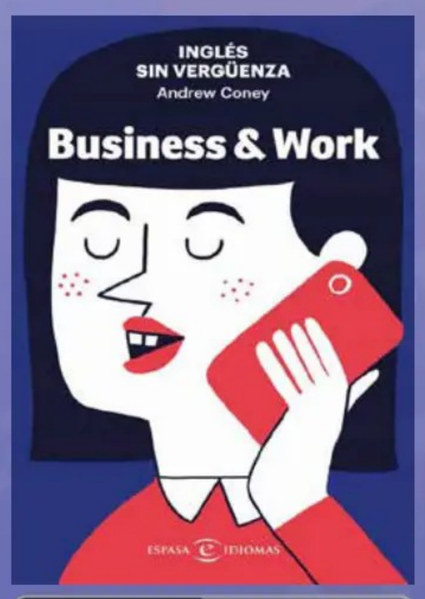

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AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you danced? Where were you? What type of dancing was it? How often do you dance? Where do you dance? What do you like/dislike about dancing?

Exams **This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.**

5 POPULAR DANCE MOVES!

Answers on page 63

1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of dances below. Which ones have you done? Which ones would you like to learn? Which ones do you like to watch? Which ones would you add to the list?

hip hop dancing, street dancing, the waltz, disco dancing, line dancing, jazz dancing, tap dancing, traditional/folk dances, ballroom dancing, robot dancing, ballet, Flamenco, the twist, belly dancing, swing dancing...

2 Reading I

Look at the paragraph titles in the article. What do you know about these dances? What do you think they involve? Make notes. Then, read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a dance next to each statement.

1. It involves passing a hand through your hair.
2. They're both hip hop dance moves.
3. The dance appeared in an ad for a car.
4. A famous singer did it in an award show.
5. It's been banned in many schools.

Michael Jackson gave us the moonwalk. Billy Ray Cyrus made **line dancing** popular with *Achy Breaky Heart* (1992). And more recently Psy showed us the horse dance in his song *Gangnam Style* (2013). Here are five more dances you might like to learn.

1 Shuffling

Shuffling consists of **dragging** your feet on the ground as if you're running, but without actually going anywhere. The dance was made famous with the song and viral video, *Everyday I'm Shuffling*. The song also appeared in a video ad for the **Kia Soul** car, complete with dancing hamsters.

2 The Dougie

The Dougie originated in Dallas (Texas), taking its name from **dance moves** by 1980s' rapper Doug E. Fresh. However, it really **took off** in 2007 with rapper Lil' Wil's **hit song** *My Dougie*. The dance mostly consists of passing a hand through your hair as you're dancing.

3 Grinding

Grinding is a type of close dance in which two partners **bump** and **rub** their bodies against each other. The dance became popular in night clubs, then moved onto high school and middle school dances in the US and Canada. However, many school authorities have banned it because of its **explicit** nature.

4 Locking & popping

Locking and popping are two **hip hop** dance moves. Locking involves **performing** a quick movement then holding your body in a fixed position for a few seconds. Popping consists of quickly **contracting** then relaxing your muscles to cause a sudden movement, referred to as a pop or a hit. Locking and popping moves are done to the rhythm of the music.

5 Twerking

Twerking is a type of dancing in which the dancer (usually a woman) moves her **hips** up and down in a sort of **bouncing movement**. According to the Oxford Dictionary Online, to twerk is "to dance to popular music in a sexually-**provocative** manner involving **thrusting** hip movements and a low, **squatting stance**". Miley Cyrus caused a controversy just recently when she twerked in a silver **spacesuit** to her hit song *We Can't Stop* at the opening to MTV's Europe Music Awards.

Let's dance!

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch some dancing hamsters. Search YouTube for "**KIA Soul Hamster Commercial HD - Everyday I'm Shuffling**"

GLOSSARY

line dancing *n*
a type of dancing to Country and Western music
to shuffle *vb*
if you "shuffle" somewhere, you walk there without lifting your feet
to drag *vb*
if you "drag" your feet on the ground, you pull them along the ground
a Kia Soul *n*
a small car manufactured by Kia Motors
a dance move *n*
a type of movement with your body that is part of a dance
to take off *phr vb*
if something "takes off", it becomes popular
a hit song *n*
a very popular and successful song
to bump *vb*
if you "bump" into someone, you hit your body against their body
to rub *vb*
if you "rub" your body against someone else's body , you push and move your body against their body
explicit *adj*
something that is "explicit" is sexual
hip hop *n*
a type of rap music with electronic drums, rapping, etc.
to perform *vb*
if you "perform" a dance, you do it
to contract *vb*
if you "contract" a part of your body, you make it smaller
hips *n*
your "hips" are the two areas at the sides of your body between the tops of your legs and your stomach
a bouncing movement *exp*
a movement that involves going up and down
provocative *adj*
something "provocative" is sexual in nature
thrusting *adj*
a "thrusting" movement is one that moves forward with a lot of force
a squatting stance *exp*
a low position of your body with your knees bent and close to the ground
a spacesuit *n*
a special protective suit (often silver in colour) that astronauts wear in space

AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it Has anything embarrassing happened to you lately? What was it? What type of awkward/difficult situations are there at work? What about in the street or on public transport?

Exams **This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.**

Answers on page 63

1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of situations below. What embarrassing things could happen there? Think of as many as you can.
in the street, in a café, on the train, on a bus, on a plane, in a taxi, at a party, at a business lunch, at work, in a shop, in a hotel, in the street, in a bar, in the toilet, at a meeting...

2 Reading I

Read over the situations (1 to 6) in the article. What would you do? Make notes. Then, read the "rules" once to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. Try to do it without referring back to the article.

1. What does the writer suggest you do if you can't remember someone's name when you're supposed to be introducing them?
2. How often should you raise your hand if you're about 100 metres away from someone while walking towards them?
3. When is it all right to make a dash for an empty seat on a train?
4. What should the last person out of a restaurant do if you're both walking in the same direction?
5. What should happen if you're both wearing the same outfit in a party?
6. What should the last person on a bus do if you're obliged to sit next to someone you only vaguely know?

6 SOCIALLY-AWKWARD SITUATIONS!

Have you ever told a joke then forgotten the **punch-line**? Or waved at someone you thought you knew, then realised it was a complete stranger? Or told someone a story then suddenly remembered that they'd told it to you in the first place? If you have, then this mini-guide on socially-awkward situations should help. *[Based on an article by BuzzFeed.com]*

1 You're chatting to someone at a party when a friend comes along. You want to introduce them to each other but you can't remember one of the names.
Rule: Introduce the person you know by name, then excuse yourself as quickly as possible. Hopefully, they'll work it out by themselves.

2 You spot someone you know on the street and wave at them. The problem is, they're still 100 metres away. Where do you look? Are you supposed to smile at them the entire time?
Rule: Put your head down after the first wave, then follow up by **raising** your hand every 10 metres until you meet up.

3 You've just got on the train and you notice a free seat. However, there's another passenger about the same distance away as you who also wants to sit down.
Rule: Do you know this person? Are you acquainted with any of the other passengers on the train? If the answer to these two questions is "no", then **make a dash for** the seat even if it results in a loss of **dignity**!

4 You've just been to a lunch and said goodbye to everyone, but as you head off home, you realise that one of the guests is walking off in the same direction.
Rule: If you're both already walking together, the last person out has to invent an excuse for going in the opposite direction. Otherwise, the last person to leave has to spend five minutes "window shopping" to give the other person enough time to get ahead.

5 You're at a party and there's someone else there with the exact same outfit as you!
Rule: **Flip a coin** to decide who has to go home and get changed.

6 Your bus has finally arrived and all you want to do is sit down and listen to some music. However, as you're getting on, you lock eyes with someone you vaguely know from work. And the only free seat is next to them.
Rule: The last person on board has to get off at the next stop then wait for another bus.

GLOSSARY

a punch-line *n*
the end part of a joke that's supposed to be funny
to raise *vb*
if you "raise" a hand, you put it into a higher position
to make a dash for something *exp*
to move towards something very quickly
dignity *n*
if someone loses their "dignity", they do something that makes them look a bit stupid or silly
to flip a coin *exp*
to throw a coin in the air. This is often done as a game: people choose "heads" or "tails" – the person who chooses correctly wins something

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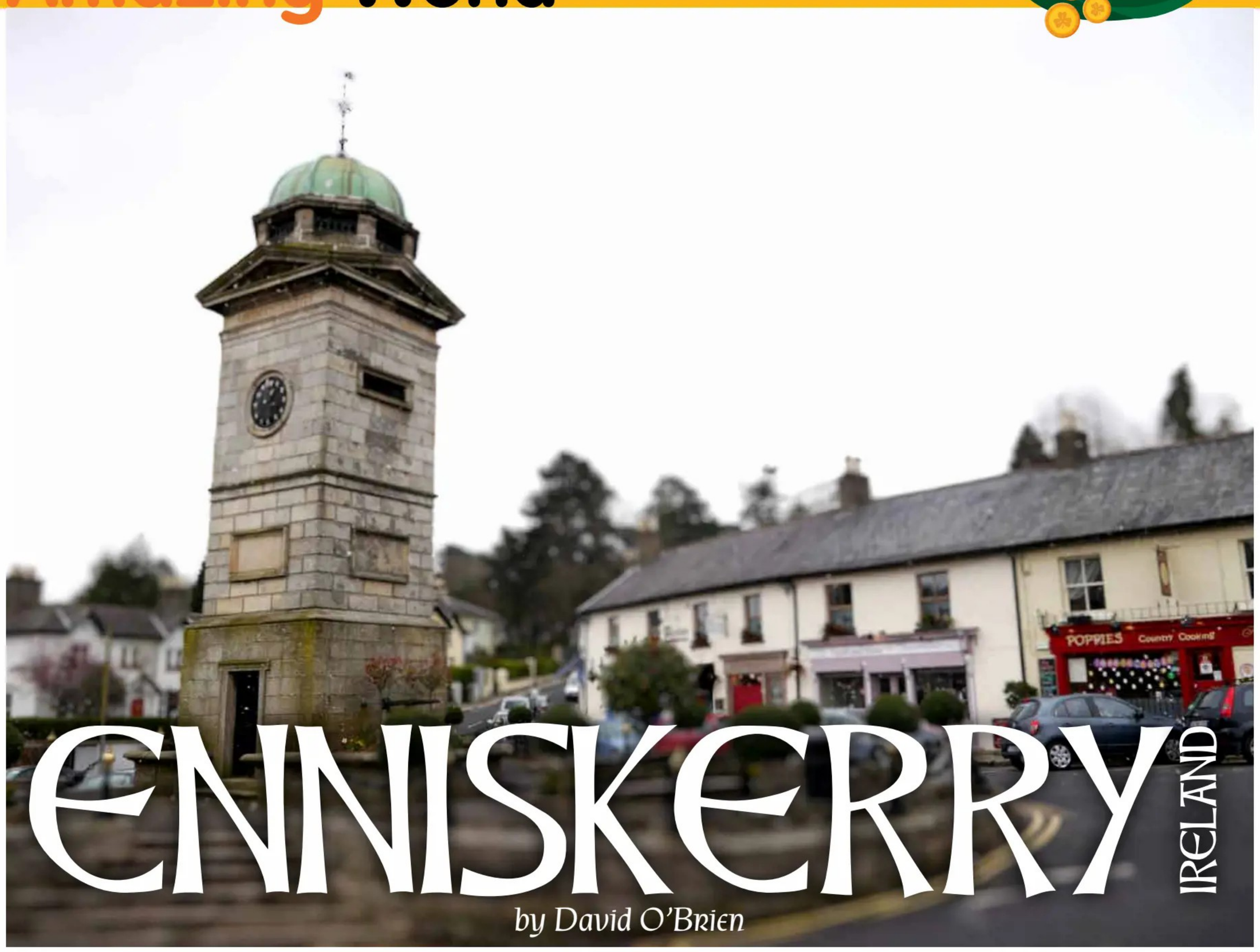
Amazing World



So you've finally got yourself to Ireland, and you're in Dublin after all those years of talking about it, and making yourself promises like, "I'm definitely going – next summer, I **swear**!" But be careful! It's very easy to go into a bar, get lost in the nightlife and find yourself on the plane home without ever having gone outside the city limits. Don't let that happen! There are lots of things to see and places to go to which aren't far from Dublin. And to reach many of them you don't even need a car. Enniskerry is a great example.

Charming

Enniskerry is a **charming** village in the Wicklow Mountains just 12 km south of Dublin. It was once part of the **estate** of the "Lords of Powerscourt". They were extremely rich Protestant aristocrats who ruled the area from the 14th-century until the 20th-century. The father of the present Lord Powerscourt eventually sold the houses to the villagers. The name of the village comes from the Irish word "Áth na sceire", which means "the **ford** of the rocky place". As you might guess from this, Enniskerry is on a **shallow** part of a river called the River Dargle.

Horses

Enniskerry is in the heart of some of the most picturesque landscapes in Ireland. It is an ideal place to visit for the day. It is also just a **stone's throw from** the city – a mere half an hour by car. There is public transport to and from Dublin – both for the tourists and the many local people who work in Dublin, making the town a mini-satellite of the city. In fact, there is a long history of such public transport. The first daily **stagecoach** to the city started in 1817 and continues today. Of course, there aren't any horses - it's a double-decker bus now. However, the sensation is similar, as the journey seems to take nearly as long.

Powerscourt House & Gardens

The Lords of Powerscourt lived in a large house called "Powerscourt House". This was built in 1740 around a 14th-century castle. The house was designed by the leading architect at the time, the German, Richard Cassels. He also built the Powerscourt's Town House in Dublin, which is now a **chic** shopping centre.
The country house was going to be opened to the public in 1974, but **it was gutted by a fire** the day before. Fortunately, it is now almost completely rebuilt and restored, and open to the pubic.
The gardens are the most spectacular thing about the house. They were one of the last great gardens to be **laid out** in Europe. There are over 45 acres with **lawns**, lakes, formal gardens and **rambling walks**. In front of the house there is an artificial lake, and fantastic views of "Great Sugarloaf Mountain", which is actually a **hill** in the shape of a mountain. It's also another popular destination for tourists.

Woods

Just outside Enniskerry you can find "Knocksink Woods". This is a great place to **stroll around** in. It is important because it is one of the few remaining semi-natural forests in the country.
A huge effort has been made in recent years to eradicate the Rhododendron **bushes** that grow there. These were planted in Powerscourt House gardens, and at the time nobody knew the disastrous effect they would have on local woods. The bushes

spread into the woods and blocked out the light and killed all the young trees and flowers. Fortunately, in Knocksink, the flowers and other plants have returned. The area is now so valued, that an ecology laboratory has been built there to help educate school kids about their environment.

A Waterfall

A few kilometres from Powerscourt house, is "Powerscourt **Waterfall**". This is where the River Dargle **plummets down** on its way to the sea. It falls over one hundred metres and is the highest waterfall in Ireland. It is a favourite destination for day-trippers from Dublin, and a perfect **spot** for a picnic.

The King Is Coming

Lord Powerscourt once invited the king of England to visit his house. The lord wanted to show the king how wonderful the waterfall was and decided to create a show. He thought it would be a good idea to **dam** the river above the waterfall and then release the water when the king was watching. He ordered his servants to build a bridge across the river so that the king would be able to see the water. The servants did as they were told, but unfortunately the king got ill and couldn't go.

The lord was extremely disappointed. Later, he told his servants to open the dam anyway. Many people went to see this and watched as the water was released and went over the waterfall, **smashing the bridge to smithereens** and **washing it away**. The king had luckily avoided a certain death – an accident which would have been a tragedy for the English, but very popular with most of the townspeople.

Deer

The area around the waterfall is known as the "**Deer** Park". This is where Lord Powerscourt kept his deer, including a special Japanese species of deer. This new species **mated** with the normal red deer found in Britain and Ireland. In 1921, during the **War Of Independence**, the walls of the park were destroyed by the townspeople and the deer escaped into the Wicklow mountains. This makes Enniskerry one of the only towns in Ireland where you have to drive carefully and make sure you don't hit a deer.

Pub

Not far away, is the **hamlet** of Glencullen. This is where you can find a pub called "Johnny Foxes", which is the highest pub in Ireland, and one of the most popular **drinking holes** in the country. Both tourists and Dubliners **make the trek** up along the **winding roads** to get there and have a pint, especially in summer. Sometimes, the pub owners have to **turn people away** as it gets

INFORMATION BOX – THE HISTORY OF ENNISKERRY

Enniskerry was founded in 1760, when the Lord Powerscourt at the time said to himself, "mmm… I think I'll make a village for the **tenants**, so they won't have to walk through my fields to get to each other's houses."

This also meant the lord wouldn't have to see these peasants while out riding across his lands. So, the lord cut down the trees and sold the wood to the British so they could make boats. This was a favourite hobby of the British in Ireland, and thanks to them, there aren't many trees left these days.

The lord also cut down the local forest at Kilgarron, and built a village in its place. None of the original houses are still there - probably because the lord used such cheap building materials. Nevertheless, there are many buildings in the village which date back to the 1800s. The most important is the central clock tower, built in 1843. This was used by the villagers until a **local** won the "World **Ploughing** Championship" in 1964 and the village celebrated by buying an electric clock.

PLACES TO STAY

There are lots of great places to stay in Enniskerry. Here are a few of them:

"The Powerscourt Arms Hotel": this has 12 rooms and is very cheap

"Coolakay House": this is a **B&B** on the road to the waterfall

"Ferndale B&B": this is in the village square. It is an old Victorian house

"Summerhill House Hotel": this is just a short distance from the village. It's a 3 star hotel

GLOSSARY

to swear *vb*
to promise
charming *adj*
nice and attractive
an estate *n*
a large area of land that usually belongs to a lord or lady
a ford *n*
a place in a river where you can cross by foot
shallow *adj*
not deep
a stone's-throw *adv*
very close to
a stagecoach *n*
a vehicle that is pulled by horses
chic *adj*
fashionable
it was gutted by fire *exp*
it was destroyed by fire
to lay out *phr vb*
to design (gardens)
a lawn *n*
an area of grass that is very flat and cared for
a rambling walk *n*
a long walk
a hill *n*
a small mountain
to stroll around *phr vb*
to walk around with no particular purpose
a bush *n*
a small tree
a waterfall *n*
where the water from a river suddenly falls down from a high area
to plummet down *phr vb*
to fall down from a great height
a spot *n*
a place
a dam *n*
a wall that is used to stop water from moving
to smash to smithereens *exp*
to destroy completely
to wash away *phr vb*
to destroy with the water
a deer *n*
an animal like Bambi
to mate *vb*
when two animals get together to make babies
the War Of Independence *n*
Ireland used to be part of the British Empire. There was a short war against the British in 1921 and the southern part of Ireland became independent
a hamlet *n*
a very small village
a drinking hole *n inform*
a pub
to make the trek *exp*
to walk a long way to find a place
a winding road *n*
a road with many curves
to turn people away *exp*
to tell people they cannot enter a place because it is too busy
a tenant *n*
a person who pays money to live in a house
a local *n*
a person who is from an area you are referring to
to plough *vb*
to turn over the land and prepare it for planting
a B&B *abbr*
a Bed & Breakfast - a type of small hotel

AUDIO

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THE IRISH PUB

By David O'Brien (from Dublin)

Unique

Irish pubs are unique. There is at least one somewhere in nearly every country in the world. But why are they so popular? Why aren't there lots of German bars, or Portuguese taverns? Well, the most obvious reason is there are lots of Irish people in nearly every country in the world. They are a people who travel widely. However, they never forget their **homeland** and usually remain **nostalgic** for the nights at the pub they used to enjoy. Another reason is that the Irish are big drinkers. So, no matter where they are, they like to **sink** a few **pints** in an evening. And finally, Irish pubs are great places for **Paddies** in need of conversation. Because of the great atmosphere, or **craic**, as they say in Ireland, these pubs are also popular with other English speakers such as Brits, Yanks, **Kiwis** and **Aussies**. And in turn, this attracts the locals who want to practise their English.

Old Junk

Irish pubs are easily **spotted**. They are nearly always called "Murphy's", or "O'Brien's" or some other Irish name. They all look the same too. When you walk into an Irish pub, the first thing you notice is that it's all decorated in wood – usually pine. Secondly, and most characteristically, the **shelves** are filled with old **stuff** – the sort of stuff that an ordinary person might consider throwing out or burning.

You may think you could start a new business selling old **junk** to Irish pubs. Well, you're wrong. If you go into a bar and say, "here, I have some old **shite** that you might like to put up on a shelf over the bar", the pub owner will look at you like you've had **one too many** and tell you to get **the hell** off the **premises**.

Genuine

Of course, not all Irish pubs are genuine or full of real Irish junk. Many non-Irish pub owners are trying to fill their pubs with **fake** Irish goods. So how can you recognise the real from the fake? Well, firstly, there has to be some kind of stout (black beer like Guinness or Murhpy's) **on tap**. Secondly, the bar staff must be Irish, or at least some of them. So if you say something like, "a pint of the **black stuff**, please", and the barmaid or barman looks confused, you can be sure that you aren't in a genuine Irish pub. And if there are no Irish drinkers, there won't be much craic, nor many other Anglophones either. I have found a number of these around the world. One I went to in Paris was a small pub, which looked lovely, but was empty on **St Patrick's Day** last year – a sure sign that something is wrong. Another I entered, in Madrid had three clocks on the wall showing the time in Madrid, New York, and Dublin. However, the clock for Dublin was one hour ahead, instead of one hour behind, making the time there the same as in Greece instead of Ireland. Be careful!

The Real Thing?

But are these Irish bars in Munich and Madrid really like pubs back in Ireland? Not exactly. So what can you expect from a real Irish pub? Well, the traditional Irish pub in Ireland is small, full of people and serves good beer. The decor is normally **rustic** with simple **stools** and sofas. There are usually two rooms: the bar and the lounge. The old men normally drink in the bar, sitting up on stools, reading the newspaper. Young men and children play **pool** and **darts** there. The room is often small, cold and simple with stone or plastic **tiles** on the floor.

However, the lounge is normally much bigger, warmer and more comfortable, with a **carpet**, sofas and chairs with cushions. You can find all types of people in the lounge, including families, couples, and young men and women. And on the shelves, you can find some things that the barmen have collected over the years: signed photos of famous people, banknotes from other countries, beer bottles and **beer mats** – somewhat different to the junk you find in Irish pubs around the world.

Popular

Real Irish Pubs often get very busy, and it's usually impossible to sit down. But it doesn't **bother** most people, since the most important factor in deciding on a pub is how far away from your house it is.

Other important factors are the general atmosphere, the other customers and the quality of the beer. When I say beer, I mean **stout**. Put simply, the pubs where the barmen can serve a good pint of Guinness are the most popular. Some examples of these in Dublin, which you should try to visit, are "Mulligan's", "Neery's", "The Duke", "The Long Hall" and "The Stag's Head". Don't expect to get a seat, but do expect to get the best pint of the black stuff you have ever had in your life.

The Modern Irish Pub

Unfortunately, the old, traditional pub is **under threat**. Many have been **knocked down** and rebuilt. The new pubs are much bigger and decorated with the old shite that's typical in international Irish pubs. This is even happening in Dublin and other Irish cities. The main reason is a shortage of licences to sell alcohol – there are only a limited number of them, and the government is **reluctant** to **hand out** more. So it is easier, and more profitable for pub owners to have a small number of huge pubs, rather than open new **cosier** ones. Most of these new super-pubs are all very alike, and characterless and cold. They have even lost the ability to **pour** a decent pint of Guinness. Not all of them are bad, such as "The Foggy Dew" and "The Playwright", but most are awful. So when in Ireland, the only thing you need ask people if you want to find a real Irish pub, is, "where can I get a good pint of stout?". ✪

your homeland *n*
the country where you were born and used to live
nostalgic *adj*
with many memories about the past
to sink *vb inform*
to drink
a pint *n*
a measure of liquid – it is about half a litre
a Paddy *n offens*
an informal word to refer to someone from Ireland. Never use this word yourself as it can be insulting
a craic *n Ir*
a good time, a fun experience
a Kiwi *n*
an informal word to refer to someone from New Zealand
an Aussie *n*
an informal word to refer to someone from Australia
to spot *vb*
to see, to notice
a shelf (pl **shelves**) *n*
a piece of wood or metal on which you can put things
junk *n*
rubbish – things you should throw away
shite *n offens*
rubbish – things you should throw away
one too many *exp*
if you have had «one too many», you have had too much alcohol
the hell *exp offens*
this expression is used to show you are angry
the premises *n*
the area where there is a pub, restaurant or shop
a fake *n*
not real, false
on tap *exp*
you press a "tap" in order to get beer or other drinks in a pub. The tap is connected to a tube and the tube is connected to a container with the alcohol
the black stuff *n*
black beer like Guinness or Murphy's
St Patrick's Day *n*
St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. St Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland
rustic *n*
with a rural atmosphere
a stool *n*
a type of chair with no back
pool *n*
a game that is similar to billiards
darts *n*
a game you play with little sharp objects. You throw the darts at a board in order to get points
a tile *n*
a ceramic square that is used to decorate floors or walls
a carpet *n*
a large piece of fabric that is used to cover the floor
a beer mat *n*
a small round object that you put on a table. You put your glass on the mat in order to protect the table
to bother *vb*
to annoy, to irritate, to make angry
stout *n*
a type of beer that's darker and thicker than other beer
under threat *n*
in danger
to knock down *phr vb*
to break and destroy a building
reluctant *adj*
if you are "reluctant" to do something, you don't really want to do it
to hand out *phr vb*
to give
cosy *adj*
nice, warm and attractive
to pour *vb*
to put a liquid from one container into another

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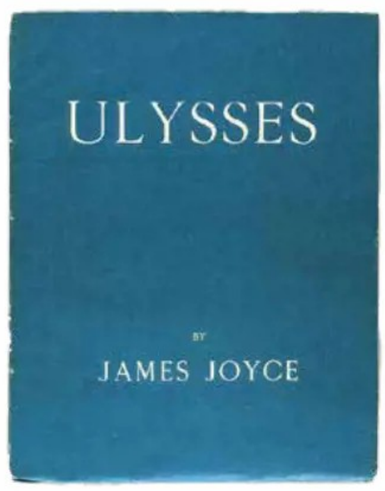
JAMES JOYCE

By David O'Brien

James Joyce is one of Ireland's most important writers. He wrote several novels and short stories, such as "Finnegan's Wake", "Dubliners" and his most famous book, "Ulysses". He is the Irish equivalent of Shakespeare or Cervantes. Books by these two writers, such as "Hamlet" and "Don Quixote", are often on the school curriculum in their native countries. However, Ulysses is not required reading in school in Ireland, or any other country in the world. Why is this?



Complicated

In fact, there are not many Irish people who have even read "Ulysses". It's one of those books that everyone intends to read one day, but never seems to **get around to doing**. It is also one of those books that people start reading but never actually finish. In fact, it must hold the Guinness World Record for the number of people who have tried to read it and failed. One of the reasons for this is that it is very long and unbelievably complicated. Just take a look at this extract, which is the first part of the book. Readers are welcome to write in with their own interpretations:

God, he said quietly. Isn't the sea what Algy calls it: a grey sweet mother? The snotgreen sea. The scrotumtightening sea. Epi oinopa ponton. Ah, Dedalus, the Greeks. I must teach you. You must read them in the original. Thalatta! Thalatta! She is our great sweet mother. Come and look.

The book also contains a 38-page section without any punctuation - not one comma, colon or full stop!

The Story

The story is about a day in the life of Leopold Bloom – not a very common name in Dublin, by the way, since Bloom was Jewish. During the day, Bloom talks to a number of people, including his wife Molly and his friend Stephen Dedalus – not your average Irish name either. It sounds simple enough, but Joyce uses words that most people – even native English speakers – have never heard or seen in their lives.

Banned

When "Ulysses" was published in 1922, it was **banned** in several countries, including Ireland, Britain and the United States because it was so "obscene".

Despite being banned, the book made Joyce internationally famous, which just goes to show that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Even now, Ulysses is considered to be one of the most important books of the 20th-century. It is also something you just have to read, apparently, if you visit Ireland, or if you have Irish relatives. At least, that is what some people believe. They think that by reading Joyce you will discover something about the Irish **psyche**. I've lost count of the number of foreigners who've said to me: "you're Irish? **Cool**! I've read Ulysses, you know! James Joyce - great guy!"
I usually reply, "that's nice," and quickly look for someone else to talk to.

Joyce

So what do we know about Joyce? Here is a bit of a biography:
Joyce was born in Rathgar, Dublin in 1882, to a **well-to-do** family. Unfortunately, his father was a bit of a **spendthrift**, so the family was soon poor. They **couldn't afford** to stay in one area for very long, and moved from place to place round the city for most of James's childhood. Joyce attended **posh** schools and a university, though he didn't have the same comforts as his schoolmates and fellow intellectuals at university. Instead of spending money in bars and other pursuits, he spent most of his time **roaming around** Dublin and planning how to get out of Ireland.

Escape

Joyce first went to Paris in 1902. He came back soon afterwards, but was desperate to escape again. He had a low opinion of the literary scene in Dublin at the time. In 1903, his mother died, and the following year, Joyce decided the time had come to get away **for good**, so he and Nora Barnacle (a girl from Galway) went to France and **lived in sin** - something which was scandalous in those days in Catholic Ireland.

They had a couple of babies and spent most of their time in Italy, where Joyce wrote his autobiographical novel, "A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man", and his famous book of short stories, "Dubliners".

The last time he visited Ireland was in 1912, when he had a **row** with his publisher about the short stories and never went back again. Though he felt **disowned** by Dublin, he nevertheless **set** most of his stories there – proving the old saying that "you can take the man out of Ireland, but you can't take Ireland out of the man".

Private Life

After World War One, during which Joyce and his wife escaped to Zurich, they **settled** in Paris and lived there for the next twenty years. However, it seems that Joyce never forgot his childhood in Dublin, because he was forever **restless** and moved apartments at least once a year.

Joyce didn't like to give interviews or make public appearances. And he never became a part of any political, social or even literary movement. Maybe if he had spent less time moving house, and more time writing, he might have written his next book a little bit quicker. "Finnegan's Wake" took 17 years to write. Then again the reason it took so long might have been the fact that he made this book much longer and even more complicated than "Ulysses". This too, though, has been **hailed as a masterpiece**. It was lucky that he actually got it finished in 1939, because Joyce died soon afterwards. He died of peritonitis (blood poisoning) in 1941, in Zurich, where the family had returned to **sit out** the Second World War.

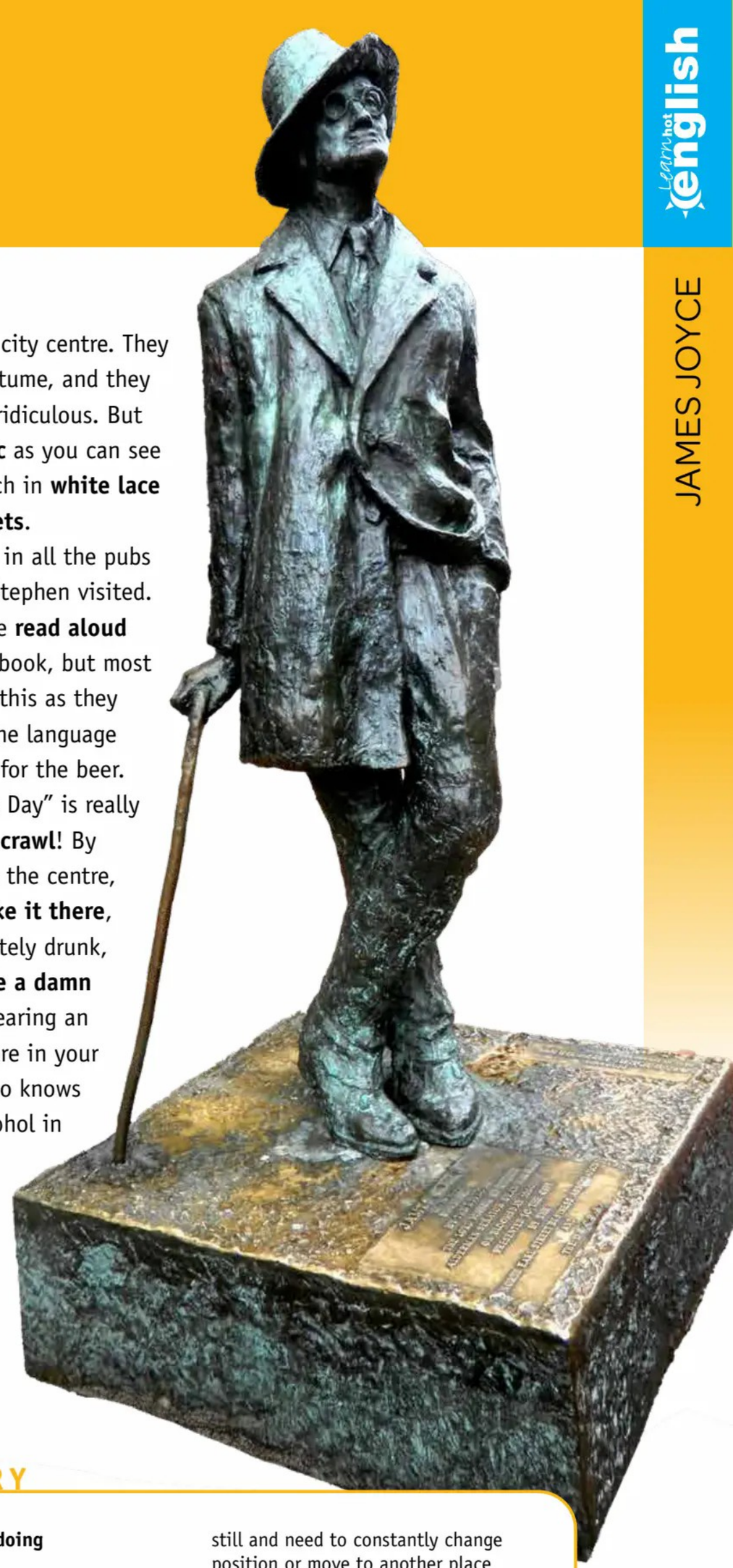
Bloom's Day

Writing the most important book of the century is all very well; but what have you and I got to thank Joyce for? Well, one thing is "Bloom's Day". This is possibly his most important contribution to Dublin, and possibly the world. So what is "Bloom's Day"?

Well, it is basically a holiday in memory of Joyce. It is celebrated in almost every Irish Pub around the globe on 16th June, the day that "Ulysses" was set in 1904. Traditionally, academics, scholars of Joyce, intellectuals of all kinds and anyone else who feels like it, **retraces the steps of** Leopold and Stephen through Dublin.

If you are ever in Dublin on this day, you simply must join in. The **trek** starts from where the book begins, in an old **watchtower** in Sandycove, which used to be a small seaside village. The watchtower has now been converted into a museum dedicated to Joyce. People walk from the watchtower to the city centre. They dress in period costume, and they usually look fairly ridiculous. But it's all a great **craic** as you can see people on the beach in **white lace dresses** and **bonnets**.

The idea is to stop in all the pubs that Leopold and Stephen visited. In the pubs, people **read aloud** passages from the book, but most people just ignore this as they don't understand the language and are only there for the beer. In effect, "Bloom's Day" is really one great big **pub-crawl**! By the time you reach the centre, if you actually **make it there**, you will be completely drunk, and **you won't give a damn** whether you are wearing an old brown suit or are in your underwear. And who knows – with enough alcohol in your system, you might actually understand what Joyce was talking about!



Glossary

to get around to doing something *exp*
to eventually do something
to ban *vb*
to prohibit
psyche *n*
the mentality and psychology of a person or group of people
cool *excl*
great
well-to-do *adj*
rich
a spendthrift *n*
a person who buys many things and spends all their money
couldn't afford *exp*
didn't have enough money for
posh *adj*
rich and from the «upper» class
to roam around *phr vb*
to move about a place with no particular objective
for good *exp*
for ever
to live in sin exp old fashioned
to live together without getting married. This is an old expression
a row *n*
an argument or violent discussion
disowned *adj*
rejected
to set *vb*
if you "set" a book in a particular place, the story happens in that place
to settle *vb*
to start to live in one place after a period of moving around a lot
restless *adj*
if you are "restless", you cannot be still and need to constantly change position or move to another place
hailed as a masterpiece *exp*
if something is "hailed as a masterpiece", it is considered to be a classic
to sit out *phr vb*
to stay in a place and wait for something to finish
to retrace the steps of *exp*
to do a similar journey that someone had done previously
a trek *n*
a journey by foot
a watchtower *n*
a tall construction that is used to observe what is happening
a craic *n Ir*
a good time, a fun experience
a white lace dress *n*
a typical 19th century dress
a bonnet *n*
a large hat for women that was popular in the 19th century
to read aloud *exp*
to read something so everyone can hear it
a pub-crawl *n*
visiting many pubs in a short period of time. To "crawl" is to move along the floor by pulling yourself, just like babies do. Many people do this after drinking a lot of alcohol
to make it somewhere *exp*
to arrive at a place finally
you won't give a damn *exp inform*
you won't care

AUDIO

Living Abroad

learn hot english

IRELAND

Marta in Ireland

What were your first impressions?

It was all really beautiful and really green, very rural. I think I was expecting something bigger. The centre of Dublin is like any other city centre, but once you **drive out** a little bit, you're in the country. The roads in the country around Dublin are really **narrow** with hardly any **pavement**. As you're driving along there are trees and **bushes** all along the edges and it makes the roads seem even narrower.

Where did you stay?

I was staying with an Irish family. They were really kind to me and I **ended up** feeling like part of the family.

What did you do there?

I was working as an **au-pair** looking after children – two, to be precise. One of them was three-years-old and the other was a 6-month-old baby.

The truth is, I learnt **loads** from the three year old. He was really clever and **bright** for his age and he always corrected me when I made a mistake. He also taught me how to use **question tags**. I think I was really lucky in that respect.

How did you get the job?

I got everything organised from Spain through an agency. They found a family for me and later put me in contact with the family. They also organised the flight and a language course.

Did you meet many people?

Oh yes, lots, although most of them were au-pairs like me. I also met lots of people in the language academy where I was studying. There were people from all over the world, which was great as I could practise my English with them too.

And what were the best things about being in Ireland?

Dublin is really beautiful. It's really small and you can find your way about quite easily and you get a good idea where everything is quite quickly. There are lots of really interesting museums too such as the National Museum, which has lots of treasures from ancient Ireland. Trinity College is also worth visiting. But the thing I liked most was travelling around Dublin and going on day trips as the **scenery** is spectacular.

One day we went to an island called "Ireland's Eye". No one lives there and you need to get a boat from the port at Howth to visit it. It's really beautiful as there's a bird sanctuary and the ruins of a sixth-century church.

The pubs in Dublin are also great and really good fun. Guinness is delicious and even if you think you don't like it, you'll soon become addicted. They have lots of **live music** in the pubs, which is also great. Some of the bars are open really late and you can **stay up** drinking and chatting.

Was it easy to meet people?

Irish people are really open and friendly and it's easy to get talking to them. You can also meet lots of foreigners in the pubs and other places. I met a lot of people on the organised trips as they were mostly people who were like me, just there on holiday or working and didn't know anyone either.

In general the Irish treated me really well. This may have something to do with the fact that in many ways the Spanish and the Irish are quite similar as we're open, friendly people.

What were the worst things about being there?

The weather and the food. The weather **gets you down** at times. I remember that right in the middle of August I had to wear a

woolly jumper and that it rained non-stop. The weather changes really quickly too. You can wake up to a sunny day, but then by midday it's raining. Then in the afternoon the sun might come out for a bit.

The thing I didn't like about the food was that it was a bit repetitive. Everything had potatoes with it. I haven't got a **sweet tooth**, but I began to eat lots of chocolate and cake just to satisfy my hunger. In the end I put on lots of weight – about 8 kg, I think. Actually, for me that was great as I'm quite thin. And I must say, they had the best bread, butter and milk I've ever tried in my life.

How were the people different?

There are lots of different customs. For example, in Spain we have a big lunch at about 3pm, but in Ireland they eat about 1pm. Oh yes, and the Irish love singing. In fact, they sing everywhere, in pubs, in the street and even on the train.

What was the funniest thing that happened to you?

Well, one night I was invited to eat out in a restaurant by the family I was staying with. It was my birthday and they wanted to celebrate it with me. We went to a restaurant in the centre of Dublin. Just as we were waiting for the food to arrive, the Australian actor Mel Gibson appeared and sat down right next to our table.

I couldn't believe it and sat there in shock. I've always liked him and there he was, right next to me and **I couldn't take my eyes off him**. Later, I **found out** that he was there filming "Braveheart". I never got the courage to ask him for an autograph, but a friend of mine did take a photo of us with him in the background. Unfortunately it didn't come out very well and you can't see him very clearly.

Did you have any problems with the language?

At first I was just trying to **get by** as best I could. It's quite hard to make yourself understood at times and you get nervous and then your mind starts playing tricks on you. At times it seems that you can't speak English at all and you just end up **mumbling** something that no one understands. You can get quite frustrated and angry with yourself and think that you're just stupid and that all those hours of class have been completely useless. But that was just the first week. After a while you start getting used to speaking in English and you start to relax a bit more.

I made quite a few funny mistakes and got into a number of embarrassing situations because of my English. For example, when I was saying goodbye to my host family I said, "thank you for your **hostility**", instead of "thank you for your hospitality". We all laughed a lot at that one.

What advice would you give to somebody who is thinking of going to work in Dublin?

I think the best thing is to get everything organised from here. You should read all the information very carefully and make sure you get exactly what you're looking for. But **at the end of the day** you shouldn't worry too much as the people are really friendly, and they're always willing to **help you out** and make life easy for you. It's also quite easy to find work, especially in bars and pubs, so you've got that option in case you run out of money.

Would you go back?

I'd love to go back, although next time I'd prefer to go as a tourist and really see all the country. I suppose it's changed a lot since I first went there, and I've heard that the Irish economy is doing really well now. Anyway, I'd love to go back and visit all those places I didn't get a chance to see last time. So one day I'll be making that trip again. ✪

GLOSSARY

to drive out *phr vb*
to drive out of a city or area
narrow *adj*
not wide - thin
a pavement *n*
the area next to a road where you can walk
a bush *n*
a small tree. Also, a president of the US
to end up *phr vb*
if something "ends up" happening, it eventually happens
an au-pair *n*
a person who works with a family looking after the children
loads *adv*
lots
bright *adj*
intelligent, clever
a question tag *n*
a grammatical term: "you're French, aren't you?". The question tag is "aren't you?"
scenery *n*
the land, plants, trees and general view that you can see around you in the country
live music *n*
music that is played by musicians – it is not recorded music
to stay up *phr vb*
not to go to bed
to get you down *exp*
to make you depressed
woolly *adj*
made of wool (sheep hair)
a jumper *n*
clothing you wear on the top part of your body to keep you warm. You normally wear it over your shirt when it's cold
a sweet tooth *n*
if you have a "sweet tooth", you love sweet things
I couldn't take my eyes off him *exp*
I couldn't stop looking at him
to find out *phr vb*
to discover
to get by *exp*
to survive
to mumble *vb*
to say things that are not clear and are difficult to understand
hostility *n*
aggression
at the end of the day *exp* this is something you say before you say something important. It is a way of introducing the most important fact of a situation
to help out *phr vb*
to help someone with a difficult problem

THE CRANBERRIES

By Laura Del Rio

The **Cranberries** were an Irish rock band formed in 1989 in Limerick, Ireland. They gained international fame in the 1990s with hits like 'Zombie' and 'Linger'. The band consisted of Dolores O'Riordan (vocals), Noel Hogan (guitar), Mike Hogan (bass), and Fergal Lawler (drums). The band split up in 2019 following the death of their lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, in January 2018. They released a final album, 'In the End', as a tribute to her. Let's find out more about them.

The Start

Lead singer Dolores O'Riordan started singing when she was very young:
"One of my earliest memories is being about five", she says, "I was at school and the **headmistress** brought me out of my class and up into the 5th class where the 12-year-old girls were. She sat me up on the teacher's **desk** and told me to sing for them. I loved it. Singing was something I had that could **win people over**."
She joined up with Noel, Mike Hogan and Fergal Lawler in a band called "The Cranberry Saw Us". Later on, they changed their name to the "Cranberries".

Concerts

Six months later the "Cranberries" had enough songs to play **gigs** in the town of Limerick. They recorded their first **demo tape** in a local studio. There were just three songs and they produced a limited edition of about 300 copies, which **sold out** in a couple of days. They also sent copies of the demo to some record companies and in 1991 they **signed with** Island Records.

Depression

In October that same year, they **released** their first ever EP (Extended Play), called "Uncertain". The press described it as a second-rate song:
"That was an awful time for us when the debut single didn't do too well", remembers Dolores. "I still had **faith** in the band but I had no faith in the music industry. I lost faith in the world. I was 18 and I got really depressed."

Fighting

But they didn't **give up**. In 1992 the band began work on their first album called "Everyone Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?". Their debut single was "Dreams", released in September 1992. This time, the reviews of the single were very positive and by March it was number one in the UK. It reached the same position in the US a few months later.

Accidents & Bombs

Soon after the success of the album, Dolores had an accident. She was skiing in France when she fell and seriously damaged her right knee. Her leg had to be re-built but in July she was well enough for her wedding to Canadian Don Burton, production manager for the group "Duran Duran".
The "Cranberries" biggest moment came with the release of their single, "Zombie", and their second album, "No Need To Argue", in

September 1994. The success was immediate and the album sold one million copies in its first three weeks of release. "Zombie" got an MTV award for the best single of 1994. Dolores explained what the song was about:
"Zombie was written about the same time of the Warrington bombing in Britain (an IRA bomb in the north of England that killed two young children)", says Dolores. "It's not actually about the north of Ireland, it's about a child who died in England because of the situation in the north."
The band appeared on the cover of "Rolling Stone Magazine" that year too.

Pressure

But all the pressure of recording, tours, concerts and interviews was starting to affect them. "In the middle of all that we were completely lost", says Dolores, "And when the band were really **huge** I don't think we were enjoying it at the time. All we wanted to do was come off **stage** and get drunk. We didn't sit down and talk to each other very much".
"The press were okay at the start", adds Fergal, "but after the second album it got really **scary**. It just got so big. **There was no breathing space** around."

Negative

But they had to continue. They went back to the studio to record their third album, "To The Faithful Departed". But they were really tired and didn't care much about it - they just did it because they had to: "The third album reflected the feelings that I and the band were **going through**," says Dolores. "It was the most negative and depressing album. We realised we needed a **break**, but we were afraid to take that break, in case you turn around and all your fans are gone and **you're history**."

Cancellation

In 1996 they went on tour, but had to cancel it half-way through. During one of the shows in Australia, Dolores **landed** badly on her knee. On medical advice, the first part of the tour was cancelled. And during the US tour, she was advised to **pull** some shows and rest. She felt tired and looked weak. They finally decided to cancel the tour altogether in October 1996. It was a difficult decision but it was the right one for them:
"If we had **gone through** with that whole tour, and not taken the break, we'd probably have **spilt up**," says Noel.
For the rest of the year they went their separate ways, and most of them took a long holiday.

Back

A year later they came back. They released their album, "**Bury The Hatchet**" in 1998, and the band made their first live appearance at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Norway:
"It was a strange gig", says Dolores, "There we were, **pumped up** for our return to the stage, and we played to a bunch of polite people in suits. Very nice - but very quiet."
The album did really well and reached the number one position across the globe. They also went on a new tour:
"It wasn't a long tour", says Fergal, "We would play for a few weeks in one territory and then we'd take a break for a few weeks to go back home and be normal again. Then we'd get back on the stage for another few weeks. It felt really good that way."
The Cranberries finally split up in 2019 after the tragic death of their lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, in January 2018. However, their music lives on! ✪

«DREAMING MY DREAMS» – THE CRANBERRIES

All the things you said to me today,
Change my perspective in every way,
These things count to mean so much to me,
Into my faith, you and your baby.

It's out there. It's out there.
It's out there. If you want me I'll be here.

I'll be dreaming my dreams with you, I'll be dreaming my dreams with you, And there's no other place, That I'd lay down my face, I'll be dreaming my dreams with you.

It's out there. It's out there.
It's out there. If you want me I'll be here...

GLOSSARY

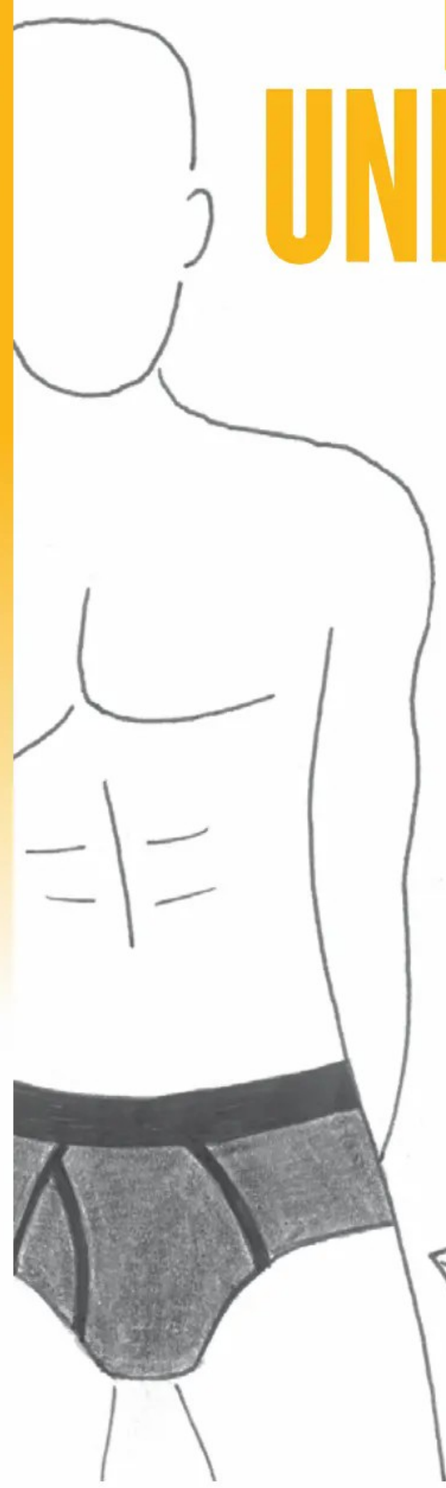
a cranberry *n*
a type of fruit from the Americas
a lead singer *n*
the principal singer
a headmistress *n*
a director of a school
a desk *n*
a table in an office where people can work
to win people over *exp* to make people like you
a gig *n*
a concert
a demo tape *n*
a demonstration tape - a cassette with one or two of your songs. Also known as a «demo»
to sell out *phr vb*
to sell everything
to sign with *phr vb*
to sign a contract with
to release *vb* to put on the market so people can buy it
faith *n*
if you have "faith" in someone or something, you believe in that person or thing
to give up *phr vb*
to stop doing something
huge *adj*
very big
a stage *n*
the high area where a band plays during a concert
scary *adj*
frightening
there was no breathing space *n*
there was no freedom, people were following us all the time, we had no peace
to go through *phr vb*
to experience
a break *n*
a rest, time away from your usual activities
you're history *exp*
you are not important any more
to land *vb*
to come down to the ground after you have jumped
to pull *vb*
to take out, to remove, to eliminate
to go through *phr vb*
to continue
to split up *phr vb*
to separate
to bury *vb*
to put a dead body in the ground
a hatchet *n*
an object for cutting trees. It has a sharp, curved end and a wooden handle. It is like an axe but it is smaller. To "bury the hatchet" is an expression that means "to make peace and stop fighting"
pumped up *adj*
ready to play

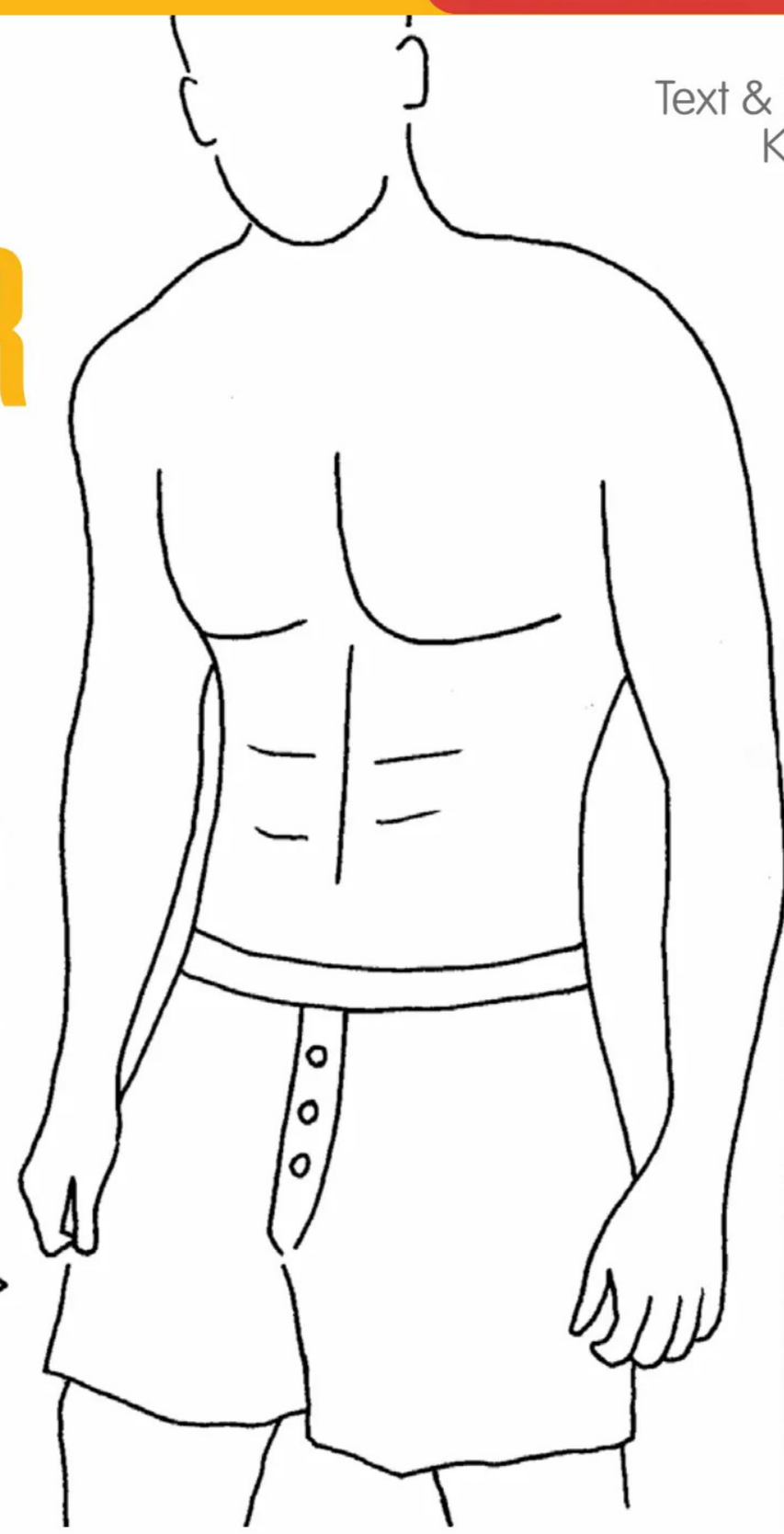
WARNING
This article contains topics, themes and language that some people may find offensive. Please feel free to ignore it if you're easily offended! :)

The history of MEN'S UNDERWEAR

Text & illustrations by Kath Walk

This month our fashion correspondent Kath Walk has been **looking into** men's **underwear**. She spent many happy hours studying what men choose to cover their **lunchbox**. What did she discover?
(words with an asterisk (*) have a picture)





The 18th-Century

For many centuries, only the very richest people wore underwear. This explains why large areas of London smelt so bad. Then, in the 18th-century, new cheaper materials became available. This meant that the poor could also afford to wear underwear, which also led to an improvement in the quality of the air, particularly in London. Most men wore breeches, which are like short trousers. They also wore an undershirt with no **sleeves** or **collar**. The underwear was made of **rough** fabric so it would have been very uncomfortable. These days the fabrics are much softer, but men still **scratch** themselves.

The 19th-Century

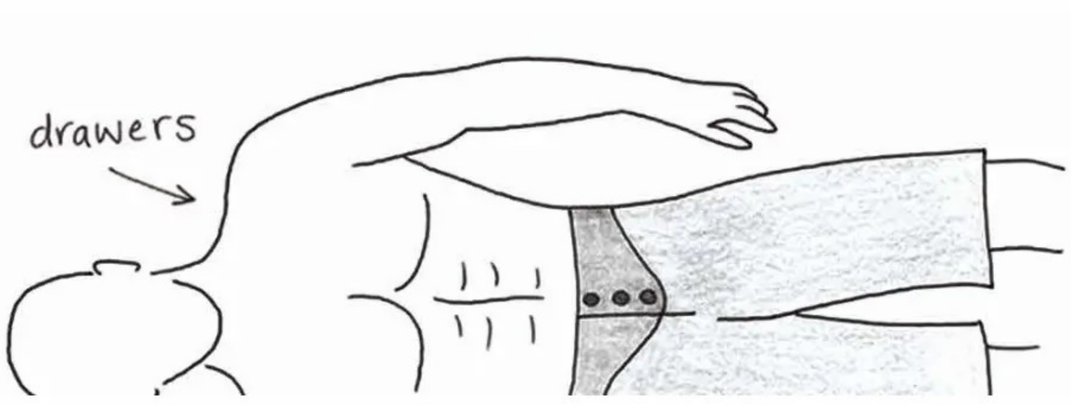
In the late 19th-century, there were more comfortable types of underwear. Men began to wear union suits*. This was a one-piece **garment** with long arms and legs, and **buttons** down the front. The union suit was also worn to bed so it must have got a bit **smelly** after a month.
At the time, people had to go outside to use the toilet. So union suits had **flaps** with buttons in the bottom. This meant that men didn't have to remove the union suit when they sat on the toilet – they just **dropped** the flap. Another version of the union suit, was the "athletic union suit*". It was "athletic" because it gave you more freedom of movement.

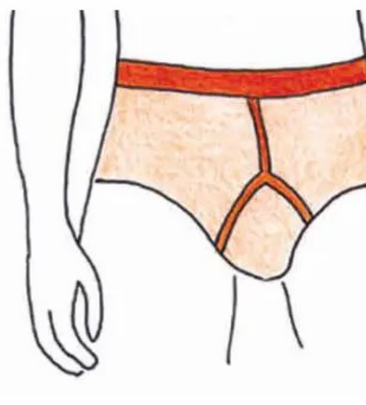
The 20th-Century (the first half)

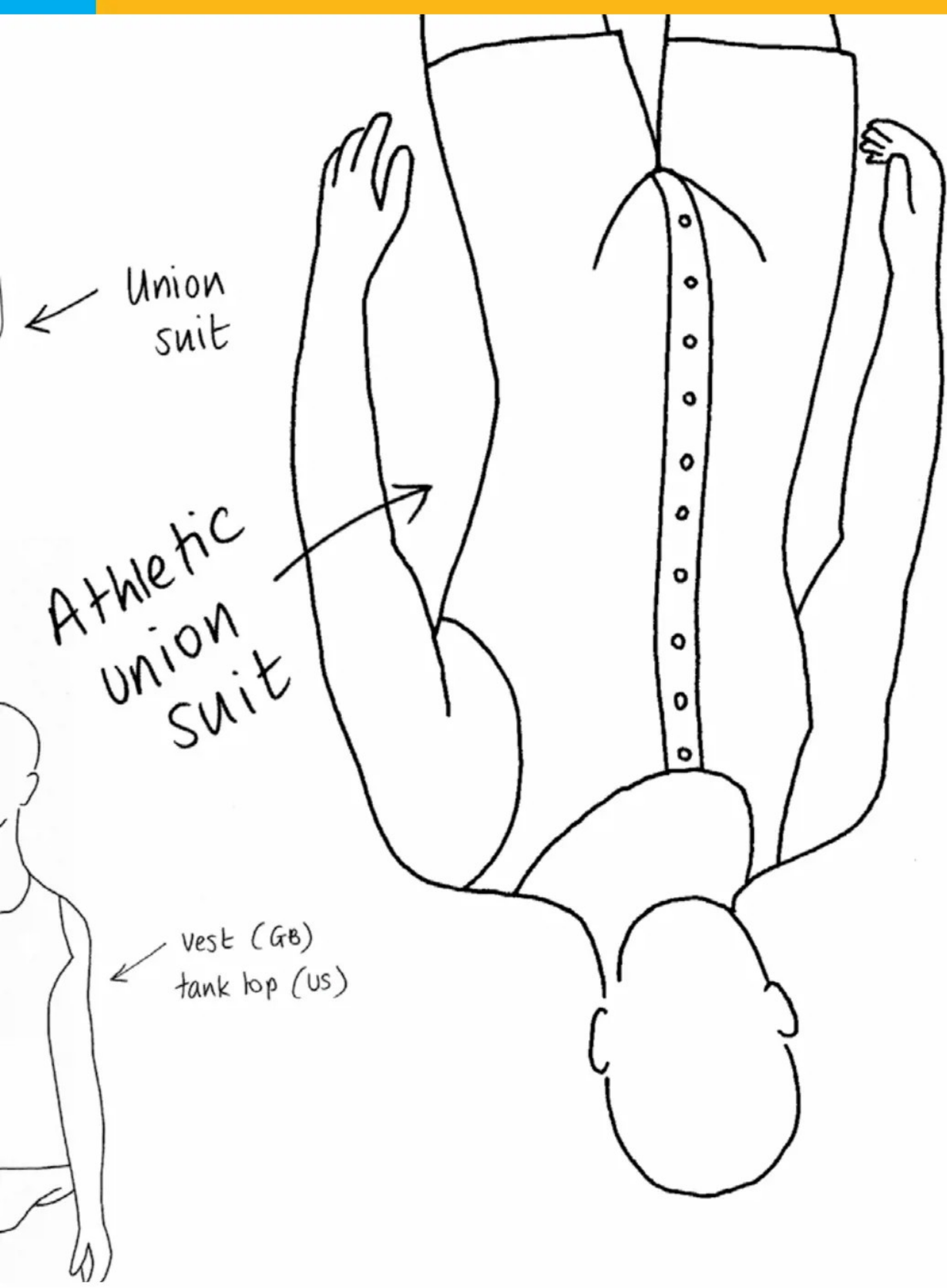
During World War I, soldiers were given drawers*. These were knee-length and had buttons at the **waistband**. These were so popular that the troops continued to wear them when they returned home. Union suits gradually lost their popularity.
In the 1930s, boxer shorts* (also called boxers) became popular. They had an elastic waistband. They were called "boxer" shorts because they were similar to the shorts worn by boxers during boxing matches.
Also in the 1930s, a company in the USA introduced a new form of underwear called the Y-front*. These were sold under the **brand name** "Jockey", and soon became known as "jockey shorts" in the USA. They continued to be called "Y-fronts" in the UK.

The 20th-Century (the second half)

In the 1950s, nylon was invented, and nylon Y-fronts became popular. This fashion soon faded however, as nylon and other







synthetic fabrics are very uncomfortable and don't let the air circulate well. They must have been very **sweaty**.
In the 1990s, fashion designers like Calvin Klein started to produce their own **range** of underwear. They concentrated more on the look and forgot about things like comfort.

Underwear Today

Here's what you can buy in the shops today. Cath Walk has given each one a "Sexy Man" score from 1-10. A "10" means they are very sexy, and a "1" means they are about as sexy as **Benny Hill** in big, **baggy** underwear:

Briefs*

Briefs are close fitting underwear with an elastic waistband. They may or may not have a **fly**. "Jockey" brand Y-fronts are the most popular style. "SEXY MAN" SCORE: 2

Bikini Briefs*

Bikini briefs are like a smaller version of briefs – with a lower waistband. Very popular with Italians. "SEXY MAN" SCORE: 3

Boxer Briefs*

Boxer briefs are like briefs, but with legs extending several inches down your **thigh**. "SEXY MAN" SCORE: 5

Boxer Shorts*

Boxer shorts are loose fitting shorts, with an elastic waistband. They are also called boxers. "SEXY MAN" SCORE: 9 - especially if they are black

Thongs*

A thong is very **skimpy**, with a pouch at the front and a thin strip of material which sits between the **buttocks**.
"SEXY MAN" SCORE: 1

Long Johns*

Long johns cover all your leg. They are referred to as Long Johns because they were first worn by a boxer called John Sullivan. In the early 20th-century they were an alternative to a union suit. Today they are mostly used by climbers, skiers and hikers to keep warm. "SEXY MAN" SCORE: 2

Vest*

A vest is a type of T-shirt without sleeves. It is also known as a "tank top" in the US. Originally vests and T-shirts were only worn as underwear, but since the 1950s they are also worn on their own.
"SEXY MAN" SCORE: 4

GLOSSARY

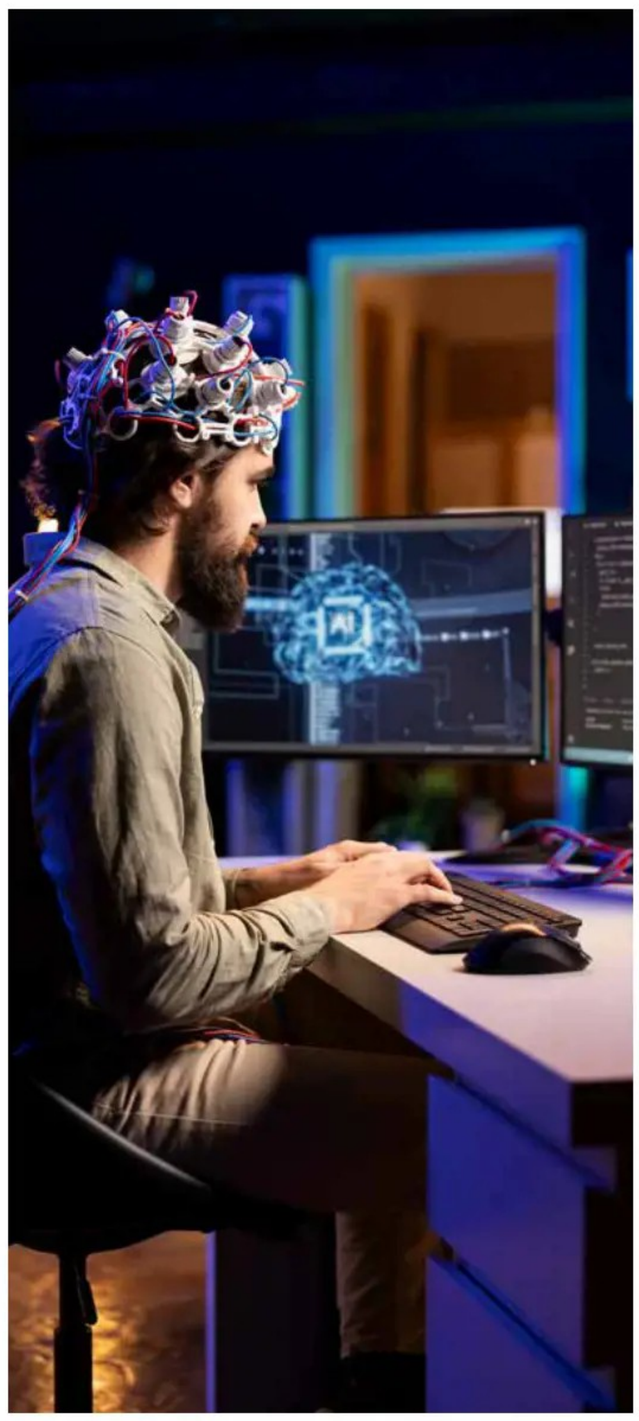
to look into *phr vb*
to investigate (honest!)
underwear *n*
clothing that you wear under your trousers or skirt
a sleeve *n*
the arms of a shirt
a collar *n*
the part of a shirt that goes around your neck
rough *adj*
not soft
to scratch *vb*
to move your hands over a part of your body in order to stop an irritating feeling
a garment *n*
clothing
a button *n*
a small, round object that you use to close your shirt
smelly *adj*
that has an unpleasant odour
a flap *n*
a flat piece of cloth that can move up and down
to drop *vb*
to permit something to fall
a waistband *n*
the middle part of your body below your stomach
a brand name *n*
a famous product name
sweaty *adj*
with lots of sweat (liquid that comes out of your body when you're hot)
a range *n*
a number of things that are similar - a selection of things
Benny Hill *n Culture & Fun*
hilarious British comedian (honest!)
baggy *adj*
clothing that is too big for you
a fly *n US*
the front part of clothing that you can open or close. "Flies" in British English
a thigh *n*
the top part of your leg above your knee
skimpy *adj*
very tight, very short and very sexy
a buttock *n*
you have two buttocks on your bottom and you sit on them

UNDERWEAR VOCABULARY

Here is some useful underwear vocabulary:
"Underpants" = underwear for men ("under shorts" in the US)
"Pants" = the abbreviated form of "underpants". "Pants" means "trousers" in the US
"Unmentionables" = underwear in general. This word comes from Victorian times when it was considered impolite to refer to underwear
Skivvies = underpants (inform)
Kecks = underpants (inform)

Vocabulary
INTELLIGENCE & KNOWLEDGE

A brain box	Very intelligent
A genius	Very intelligent
Brainy	Intelligent
Clever	Intelligent
Quick	Good at learning new things
Quick-witted	Good at being funny and intelligent
Sharp	Intelligent
Smart	Intelligent
A smart arse/ass	Someone who thinks they are intelligent
As bright as a button	Quick at learning
A bright spark	Intelligent
The brains behind something	The person with all the ideas in an organisation
Well-informed	With an understanding ofwhat is happening
A mine of information	Someone with a lot of knowledge
To be in the know	To know what is happening
To know the ropes	To understand something
To know what you're talking about	To understand a subject
A brilliant mind	An intelligent person
Know-how	Knowledge
Bright	Intelligent
Perceptive	Good at seeing connections between things
To know the low-down	With a lot of knowledge
Tipped off	With secret information
Grey matter	Brain cells - very intelligent
An egg head (offens)	An intelligent, studious person
A nerd (offens)	A studious person who is interested in specialised things
Witty	Intelligent and quick at saying clever and funny things
A swot	Someone who studies a lot
A bookworm	Someone who reads a lot



FUNCTIONAL STORY – HOLMES AND WATSON

Just after a particularly difficult case, the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr Watson decide to go camping. One night, Watson cooks a delicious meal and they both drink a bottle of wine. Watson talks and Holmes plays his violin and eventually they both get in the **tent** and lie down to sleep. The next morning they wake up on the ground and Holmes says to Watson:

"Well, Watson, when you look up into the sky, tell me what you see?"

"Oh I don't know," says Watson. "You're much **smarter** than I am, why don't you tell me?"

"No, Watson I insist," Holmes replies.

"But Holmes, you're the **bright spark** around here, you're the one with a brilliant mind. Why don't you tell me?" Watson insists.

"No, I insist, I absolutely insist," Holmes continues.

"OK, Holmes, I can see some birds and clear blue skies."

"And what does that tell us?" Holmes asks.

"That tells us that today is going to be a good day," Watson says.

"No, Watson, you **fool**, that tells us that someone has stolen our tent!"

GLOSSARY

a tent *n*
a "fabric house" that you sleep in when you go camping
smart *adj*
intelligent
a bright spark *n*
a clever, intelligent person
a fool *n*
an idiot

GLOSSARY FOR CARTOON

starving *adj*
very hungry
famished *adj*
very hungry
smart *adj*
very clever
to know the ropes *exp*
to understand a situation
as bright as a button *exp*
very intelligent and clever

Vocabulary In Action

We've given you some language to talk about intelligence. Now you can see that language in action. In this scene, three hungry bats are talking about Frank, the champion bat.

by Vanesa Carosia

AUDIO

US PRESIDENTS & SEX SCANDALS

by Laura Warrell

Endorsed and Approved by

The Republican National Committee

"AMERICA ALWAYS FIRST"

Illustrated by Vanesa Carosia

Americans have always wanted to believe their presidents were models of nobility and proper behavior. However, nearly all American presidents have been **mad sex fiends** behind closed doors. Why? Did their sexual lives affect their presidency? And most importantly, who was best **in the sack**?

WARNING
This article contains topics, themes and language that some people may find offensive. Please feel free to ignore it if you're easily offended! :)

Salaries

These days, football stars make millions and millions of dollars from sponsorship and for playing. But these superstar salaries haven't always been so great. The first East-West championship game in NFL history took place in 1933 between the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants. Players in the Giants were each paid just $140.22; and players for the victorious Chicago Bears were each awarded a bonus: $210.34! Bill Hewitt of the Bears was also given a nice bonus for scoring the winning touchdown: a free coat! Wow!

The Little General

America's first president, General George Washington, is **portrayed** in school books as the revolutionary symbol of American independence. In one legend from his childhood, Washington said, "I cannot tell a lie," and admitted to cutting down his father's favorite cherry tree.
However, it seems that Washington wasn't as honest to his wife Martha. Apparently, Washington was having an affair with his neighbor. On one occasion, Washington responded angrily to rumors of this affair and suggested that the activities of the "Little General" (the little "man" who lived in Washington's **pants**) were private. On another occasion he wrote to his **mistress**:
"The world has no business to know the object of my love."

To England

During the 1800 election, President John Adams was accused of using his vice presidential **running mate** as a **pimp**. Supposedly, Adams sent him to England to get "four pretty girls as mistresses".

Slaves

Thomas Jefferson is known as the Father of the "Declaration Of Independence". He was also the father of countless illegitimate children. Allegedly, Jefferson could be seen approaching single women at White House parties and trying to impress them by saying, "you know the Constitution? I wrote it". Among many other things, he tried to seduce his close friend's wife (he later agreed his behavior was "improper"), had affairs with two married women and fathered children with his slave, Sally Hemings. Jefferson was the hero of future presidents Clinton and Kennedy. Incidentally, Clinton's middle name is also Jefferson.

Prostitute

President Grover Cleveland had a child with a prostitute in Buffalo, New York.

The Man

President Warren Harding had two mistresses. One of them was apparently given a free vacation so she would disappear during the 1920 election; the other one had a child which Harding supported financially. Harding, most famous for establishing a federal budget system, was also known as the first president to get some action in a White House **broom closet**. Bill Clinton later referred to Harding as, "the Man".

Secretaries

President Franklin Roosevelt apparently had affairs with his secretary Missy LeHand, whose surname suggests much about their relationship, and the Crown Princess of Norway. The Norwegian was one of Roosevelt's many lovers who lived in the White House. This was fine with his wife Eleanor. Historians say Eleanor's lovers, mostly women, also lived there. Secret service agents said Roosevelt was often seen going round the White House halls "waiting for some girl on girl action".

The King

Apparently President John Kennedy had an **unstoppable sex drive**. His list of lovers reads like a "**who's who**" of Hollywood sex symbols: Jayne Mansfield, Gloria Swanson, stripper Blaze Starr, and of course, Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn, who famously sang "Happy Birthday" to Kennedy while drunk and with a **see-through gown**, never understood why Johnny didn't love her. In revenge, she allegedly slept with his politician brother, Bobby. When she died, both Kennedy brothers were suspects.
Kennedy also shared a mistress with a Chicago gangster boss, and had affairs with **airline stewardesses**, **political aides** and secretaries. He once had a **threesome** with two secretaries in a White House swimming pool. Despite his success with women, historians suggest Kennedy wasn't the best lover. One former mistress, speaking anonymously, said:
"It was all over in twenty seconds. I didn't even have enough time to get my clothes off."

Cigars

William Jefferson Clinton was always a **ladies' man**. And he would do it with anyone: friends, his wife's friends, waitresses, secretaries, Miss America and famous actresses, including Barbra Streisand – basically, if she was a woman, Clinton was interested. As governor of Arkansas, he allegedly told **highway patrol officers** to bring girls back to his mansion. With his good looks and Elvis-like southern manner, he rarely had trouble **pulling**.
"Throw a rock in Arkansas," a friend once said. "And it'll land on someone Bill Clinton's slept with."
During Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, a singer named Gennifer Flowers told a **tabloid** about their twelve-year affair. She was one of hundreds of women **linked to** Clinton. Paula Jones said Clinton asked her to touch him in a hotel room. Kathryn Willey said Clinton tried to **fondle** her **breast**. There were also allegations of illegitimate children in Arkansas. Amazingly, Clinton's wife, Hillary, supported him throughout. Although **insiders** say that she was just waiting for her own chance at **political stardom** and that it had nothing to do with loyalty and devotion to Bill.

Character Stains

The most famous accusation of all came from Monica Lewinsky, an intern working in the White House. Clinton initially denied the accusations, but later admitted he had a "sexual addiction". He had therapy sessions with famous religious leaders like Jesse Jackson. Later, it was revealed that Jackson had an illegitimate child. This may explain why the healing sessions between Clinton and Jackson included a lot of **giggling** and shouts of "**you the Man!**".

Criticism

So what effect can these affairs have? Marvin Olasky in his book "God, Sex and Statesmanship" says adulterous presidents can't be **trusted**:
"Leaders who break a **vow** to one person find it easy to break small vows to

More

WARNING
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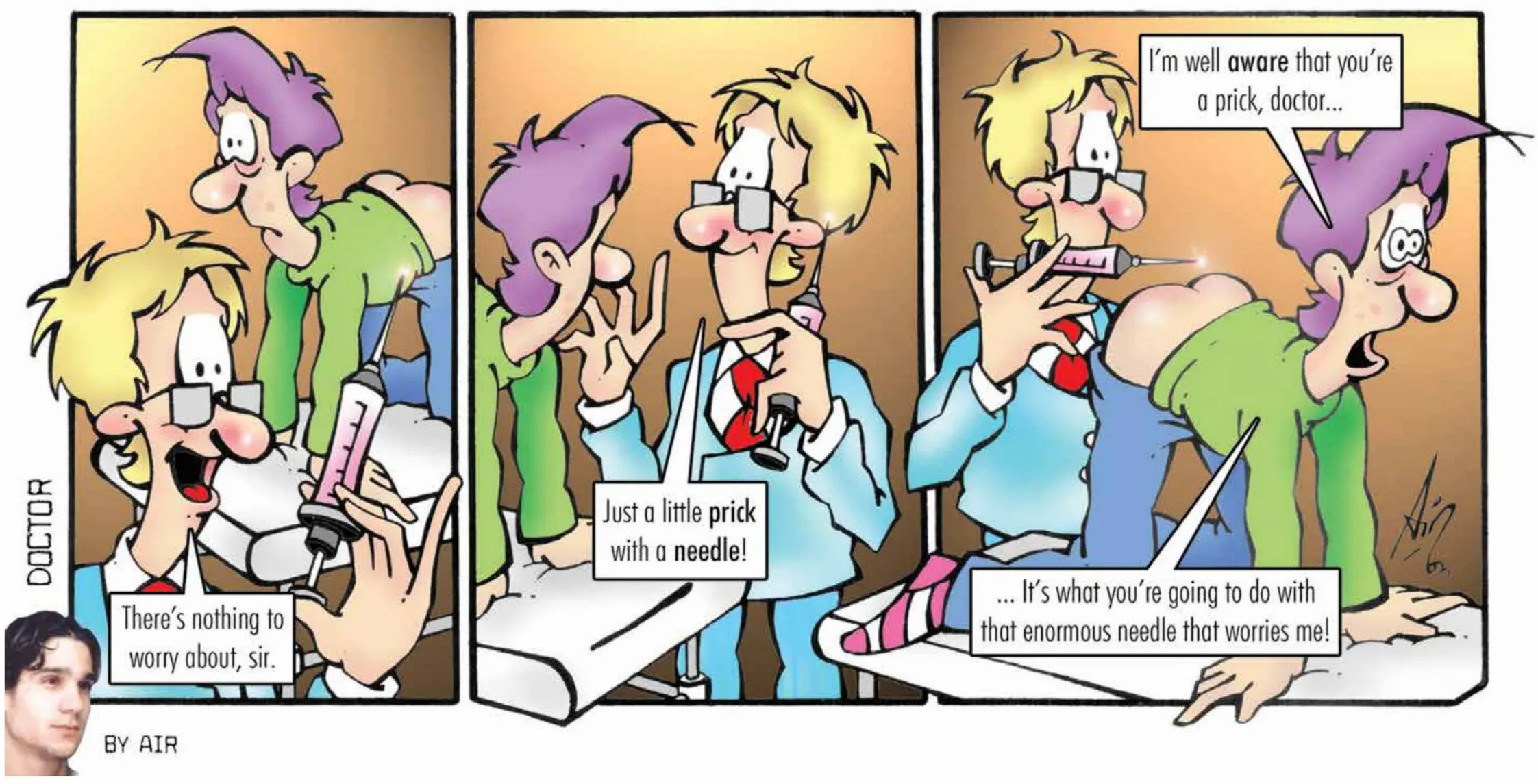
millions," he writes.
And feminists say **womanizers** don't respect women. They argue that a president who **sleeps around** can't have coherent (views on) women's issues.
Some political leaders have even had their careers destroyed. Ted Kennedy's presidential hopes were ruined in 1967 when he drove his car into a lake. The woman with him, supposedly a mistress, **drowned**.
President Jimmy Carter's reputation was damaged when he admitted he had "lust in my heart" for other women. And Gary Hart left the presidential race in the '80s when he was photographed on a yacht with a model.
In 1995, Oregon senator Bob Packwood **resigned** after thirty women said he sexually harassed them. On one occasion he reportedly said:
"Little lady, I'm asking you to **take a prone position** for your fellow Americans". And most recently, California senator Gary Condit got in trouble when the 24-year-old intern he was shagging disappeared. Months later, police found the girl's dead body. Then September 11th happened and America forgot about him.

Conclusion

However, the thing that really counts for most people is what the president's doing to the country. The fact is that most Americans really don't care about the affairs. All of the presidents mentioned have won elections (Roosevelt won four) despite the knowledge of the affairs, and some are considered the greatest leaders in American history.
As one journalist explained:
"The economy is more important than who the president's **banging**. And the fact is that Bill and his girls were more fun than Bush and his boring former problems with alcohol."

GLOSSARY

a mad sex fiend *n*
someone who needs sex all the time
in the sack *n US*
in bed
to portray *vb*
to show; to depict; to describe
pants *n US*
trousers
a mistress *n*
a woman who a man has an affair with
a running mate *n*
the candidate who wants to be a vice president
a pimp n
a person who controls prostitutes
a broom closet *n US*
a small room where you can keep food or cleaning instruments; a "broom cupboard" in British English
unstoppable *adj*
not able to stop
a sex drive *n*
desire to have sex
a who's who *n*
a book that tells you who the most imortant people are
see-through *adj*
transparent
a gown *n*
an elegant dress for a formal occasion
an airline stewardess *n*
a woman who works on a plane serving the passengers
a political aide *n*
a person who helps a politician
a threesome *n*
sex with two other people – three in total
a ladies' man *n*
a man who is popular with women
a highway patrol officer n a police officer who patrols roads
to pull *n*
to find a sexual partner
a tabloid *n*
a newspaper that has many stories about celebrities
to link to *phr vb*
to connect with
to fondle *vb*
to touch sexually
a breast *n*
women have breasts on their chest – babies drink milk from breasts
an insider *n*
a person who works in an orga-nization that you are referring to
political stardom *n*
political fame
to giggle *vb*
to laugh in a silly, uncontrollable way
you the Man! *exp*
«you are the best!» «You are a champion!» This is an African-American expression
to trust *vb*
to believe that someone is honest
a vow *n*
a promise
a womanizer *n*
a man who has affairs with many different women
to sleep around *phr vb*
to sleep and have sex with many different people
to drown *vb*
to die because you cannot breathe – usually because you are under water
to resign *vb*
to leave your job voluntarily
to take a prone position *exp*
to lie down and get ready for action
to bang *vb inform*
to have sex with



FAMOUS LAST WORDS 2

This is the second part in the two-part series on famous last words – the last words you hear before you, or someone physically near to you, is about to die.

1 "Don't worry. I've seen this done on TV."

2 "I'm sure these **mushrooms** are edible."

3 "I'll hold the dynamite, you light the **fuse**."

4 "Let me down the hole slowly."

5 "I won't **let go** of the rope."

6 "It can't possibly rain for forty days and forty nights."

7 "I'm certain this rope is strong enough for both of us."

8 "This has a funny taste – it's a bit like **almonds**."

9 "You look like a nice little **doggie**."

10 "I've done this before."

11 "Well, we've made it this far, nothing can stop us now."

12 "Is that a violin you're carrying in that case?"

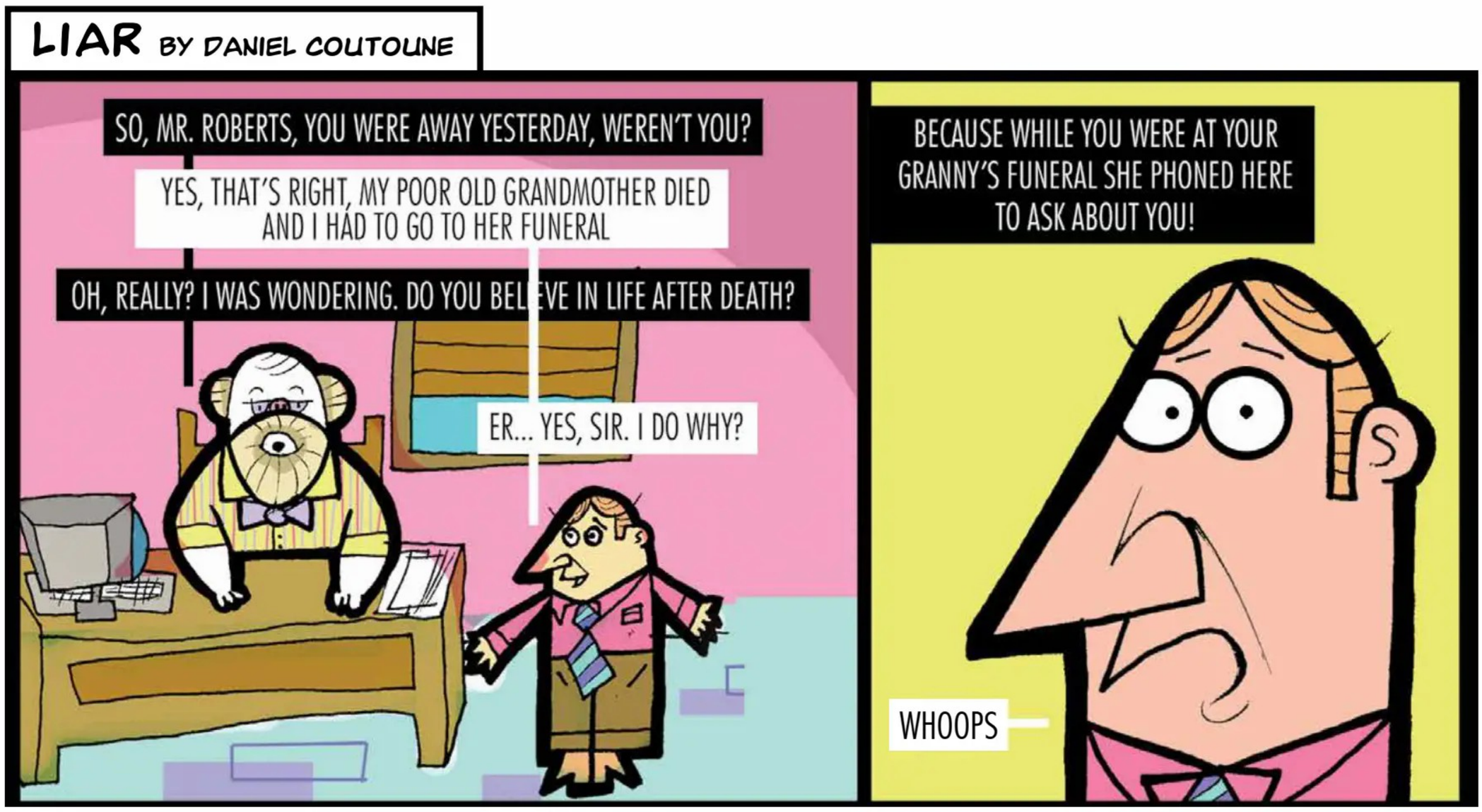
13 "Hey, watch this!"

Grammar Reminder

"I'll hold the dynamite, you light the fuse."
In this grammar reminder we'll be looking at the use of "will". We can use "I will", or the contraction "I'll", to talk about an intention to do something. You decide to do this thing at the moment of speaking – it's like a spontaneous decision. This structure is often used when ordering food:
"I'll have a coffee."
"I'll have a meat sandwich."
"I'll take you to the station."
You can also use it to make offers:
"I'll do it now."
"I'll hold the baby while you get the water."
Or to make a future promise:
"I'll tell you later."
"I'll be there at seven."
"I'll buy one for you."

GLOSSARY

a mushroom *n* a type of fungus that you can eat / **a fuse** *n* you light the "fuse" in order to make the dynamite explode / **to let go** *phr vb* to open your hands and let something leave your hands / **an almond** *n* a type of hard fruit that you can eat. They say that cyanide tastes like almonds / **a doggie** *n inform* a dog



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AUDIO

In The News...

Calling From The Grave

When Mary Towles went to visit the **grave** of her **deceased** husband last month, she found a mysterious letter lying on the ground. On opening it she discovered it was a phone **bill** for 12 cents from the telephone company "Beal Communications". The bill included a 10 cent charge for a **call** placed on 16th February, more than five months after her husband had died.

"Our clients here don't usually get mail," said Nigel Porter, a cemetery worker. "But this letter arrived last week and I decided to leave it on our client's **gravestone**. I wonder if maybe we should start putting mailboxes here."

Mrs Mary Towles called the phone company to demand an explanation and was told that if Mr Towles didn't **deal with** it, his credit could be affected.

Patriot Fever

A lawyer was arrested recently and charged with **trespassing** after **refusing** to take off a T-shirt. Stephen Downs was wearing a T-shirt with the words, "Give Peace A Chance'" that he had just purchased from a shop inside a **shopping mall**.

"I was in a toy shop with my son when I was **confronted** by two security guards and ordered to either take off the T-shirt or leave the mall," said Downs.

When Downs refused, police were called and he was arrested and taken away in **handcuffs**.

"They tried to convince me to remove the T-shirt, but I told them I had every right in the world to wear it. Then they got aggressive and I was **hauled off** to night **court** where I pleaded not guilty," Downs told a news agency.

Downs is waiting for a date to appear in court. He could face up to a year in prison if convicted.

GLOSSARY

a grave *n*
the place in a cemetery where a dead body has been buried
deceased *adj*
dead
a bill *n*
a letter from a company telling you how much money you must pay for a service
a call *n*
a telephone call
a gravestone *n*
the stone in a cemetery that has information about the dead person
to deal with *phr vb*
to find a solution to a problem
to trespass *vb*
to walk on a private area
to refuse to do something *exp*
to say that you will not do something
a shopping mall *n*
a large, covered area with many shops
to confront *vb*
if someone "confronts" you, they come to you in an aggre-ssive way and demand an explanation
handcuffs *n*
metal objects that police put around a suspect's hands
to haul off *phr vb*
to take someone physically away from a place
a court *n*
a building where there is a legal process

Authentic conversations to help improve your listening skills

AUDIO

Bar chat

The legal drinking age

This month we are going to focus on listening for key words again. Remember, key words are basically the most important words in a phrase that are essential for understanding, such as the verbs and nouns. Firstly, we want you to listen to all the conversation about drinking and answer these two simple questions. You don't have to understand every word in order to answer the questions:

1. What arguments do the speakers have about increasing the minimum drinking age?
2. What arguments do the speakers have about decreasing the minimum drinking age?

Now let's practise listening out for key words. Look at the first part of this conversation again (until the end of Bertie's first line) and see if you can mark all the key words. Then check your answers.

Percy: Oh god what a **nightmare** last night... **My, my** daughter came home [**what, what happened?**] Yeah, my daughter came home, **pissed out of her head**, **love bites** all over her neck... God it's terrible, **you know?** Young people these days they're just...

Bertie: Yeah! It's normal though, isn't it? Everyone does that kind of thing.

Percy: It's not normal. It's just, you know, going out and getting drunk like that, at that age, it's just ridiculous.

Bertie: Well its growing up, you know. Come on, kids have got to start **getting a life of their own**, moving away from their parents and going out and getting drunk!

Percy: Well personally [finding a partner, what's wrong with that?] Personally I think they should increase the **legal a...** , you know the drink, legal age to 21 at least [yeah?] It's like the American's do.

Bertie: Ah, it's, it's, it's too high. I think that's part of the problem. I think they should, they should reduce it **if anything**.

Percy: You know young people and drink, it's the most dangerous thing in the world. You know they go out and get their car and crash, crash it, kill themselves, kill other people...

Bertie: Well no, but, but that's the problem isn't it? The problem is, 18 is legal, before that's illegal it looks like something cool and fashionable. **Like** look at your, your French and your continentals, they start drinking when they're five-years-old! And you know it's nothing special to them.

Percy: Yeah and die of heart disease when they're fifty or something, you know?

Bertie: Well that's, that's something else, isn't it? But, no, it's, it's kind of healthy. They've got a healthy attitude to alcohol. In, in, in England people, you know, at 16 they start drinking, they go out, they drink 8 **pints** of beer, they've never had alcohol before, they **get into fights**, they crash cars...

Percy: Well, that, that's, that's why we should, you know, increase the legal minimum age. You know it's just ridiculous. But also you know you get drunk you're having sex, **I mean** it's **outrageous**! I mean...

Bertie: Well I, I think people are more, more relaxed. I think they, you know they'd be more responsible. That's the thing, you know. [**mumble**] It'd be more natural

Percy: Well, er, I'm still, I'm still against it.

Bertie: So, so, how old is your daughter, anyway?

Percy: Oh, erm, 39.

GLOSSARY

a nightmare *n*
a terrible experience or situation

my, my... *exp*
this is an example of repetition – this is very common in conversational speech

[what, what happened] *exp*
this is an example of interruption – this is very common in conversational speech

pissed out of her head *exp*
offens
very, very drunk

a love bite *n*
a mark you make on your boy/girlfriend's neck by kissing and biting them

you know? *exp*
people often say this to check that the other person understands

to get a life of your own *exp*
to start living your own life – not depending on your parents or other people

legal a... *exp*
this is an example of a false start. The speaker starts to say something, makes a mistake then tries again

if anything *exp*
if they do anything at all

like *exp*
people often use this when they are thinking about what to say next. It is used to fill space in a conversation and doesn't mean anything

a pint *n*
a measure of liquid (usually beer). It is about half-a-litre

to get into a fight *exp* to start fighting with someone

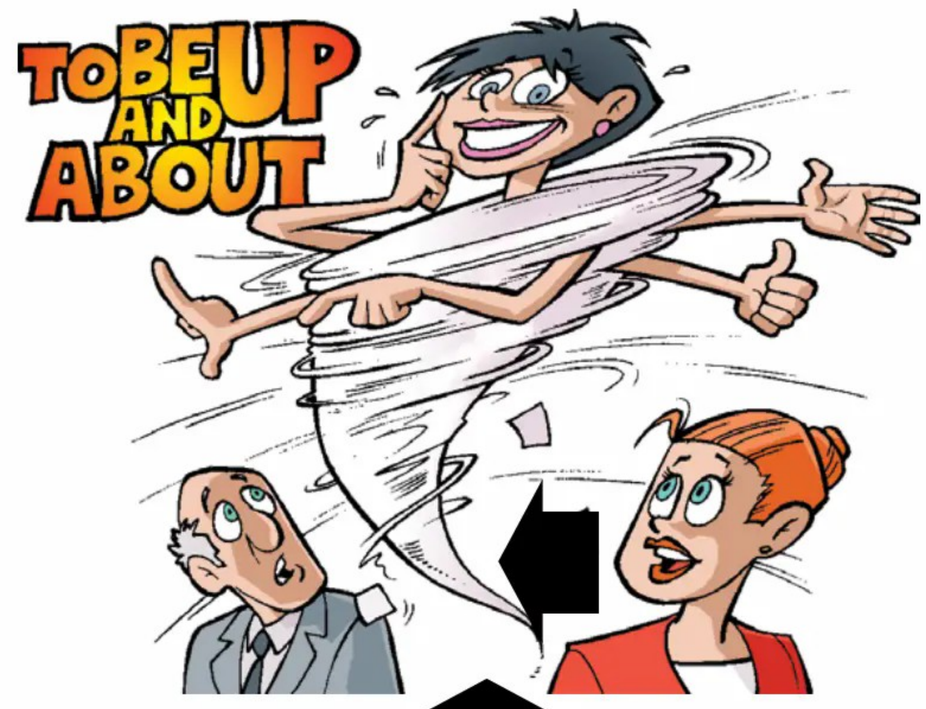
I mean *exp*
this is often used to introduce something important that you want to say

outrageous *adj*
terrible, horrible

to mumble *vb*
to speak in an unclear and quiet way. It is very hard to understand when people do this

IDIOMS

Our monthly look at idioms. Notice how the literal meaning of the complete idiom is often different from the actual meaning of each individual word. Illustrations by Jorge Tarruella



To be a cut above the rest
To be better than other things or other people:
"I've never met anyone as good as him – he's a cut above the rest."

To be up and about
If someone is "up and about" after an illness, they are fit and healthy again:
"She was ill in bed for three weeks, but she's up and about again now."

To be above board
To be honest and legal:
"They don't normally do things legally but that last **deal** was completely above board."

To be a head and shoulders above the rest
To be much better than other similar people or things:
"There are some really good actors and actresses in the film, but the leading actress is a head and shoulders above the rest."

To be an accident waiting to happen
A very dangerous situation in which an accident will probably happen:
"That building is really old and one day it's going to fall down as someone's walking by – it's an accident waiting to happen."

To have an ace up your sleeve
To have an advantage that other people don't know about:
"He's acting as if he's lost, but I think it's just a trick. I'm sure he's got an ace up his sleeve."

GLOSSARY

a shoulder n
the part of your body that joins your arm to your body
a board n
a piece of wood. Also, an object teachers write on in class

A look at how taboo words have been used in famous films

Films

WARNING
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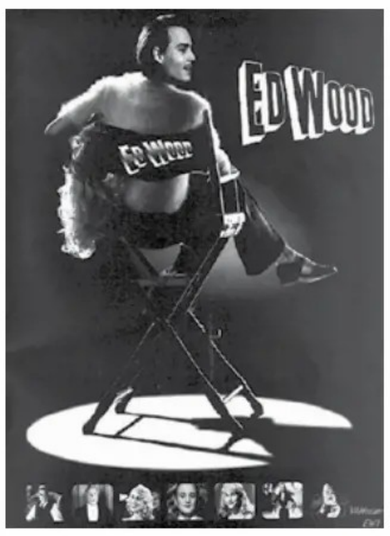
ED WOOD

By David Podbere, Illustration by Edgardo Carosia



A film all about the worst director in the history of cinema

"Ed Wood" is the true story of Hollywood film director Ed Wood, who is famous for being the worst director ever. You may think that sounds like a ridiculous subject for a film, but it's a fascinating study of a man with a **burning passion** to be a director, complete **faith in himself** but absolutely no talent or ability to produce good films.

Criticism

Ed (Johnny Depp) is a young writer, who's desperate to direct his first film. He's already written and directed a theatre play, but that was a complete **flop**. One day he sees a **wanted-ad** in the paper for a director and **scriptwriter** for a new film. Ed phones up and gets an interview.
The producer, George, has already printed the posters for the film "I Changed My Sex", but he has no **script** and no director. He listens to Ed but politely **refuses** to contract him because Ed still doesn't have enough experience.

Lucky

Ed goes away depressed, but that same day he **gets lucky**. As he's walking past a shop he notices the horror-film actor, Bela Lugosi (Martin Landau), star of numerous 1930s Dracula films. Bela is an **out-of-work** drug addict who's desperate for money.
Ed promises Bela he'll **get him back on the screen** and goes to see the producer again. Ed explains how he now has a star for the film. He also explains that he is especially qualified to **shoot this film** (see "scene II" for a fuller explanation). George eventually agrees to **give Ed a chance**.

Changes

Ed gets to work immediately. And within just four days he's completed the film, which is now called "Glen Or Glenda". Ed **casts himself** and his girlfriend Dolores Fuller (Sarah Jessica Parker) in the **lead roles**, with Ed as the transvestite who decides to reveal his secret identity to his girlfriend. Incidentally, this is precisely what happened in real life, as Ed was a transvestite too and one day admitted it to his girlfriend, Dolores.

Bad

Ed's **proud** of the film and takes it around Hollywood in the hope of getting more work. However, the film is a disaster: there is little attention to detail, the film jumps from scene to scene with little or no continuity, the actors are poor and the script is **awful**. Of course, Ed hopes that his audiences will be able to appreciate the overall effect of the film, without concentrating too much on the technical aspects. A group of Hollywood film directors who see the film think that it's a practical joke. And when Ed visits them to ask if they liked it, they **laugh in his face**.

The Optimist

Most people would have probably **given up**, but Ed is different. He's the eternal optimist and decides to continue. This is even more impressive when you consider that everything around him was telling him to stop: his films made little or no money at all, film producers ignored him and his films got **rubbished** by cinema critics. But Ed went on to direct many more films, including "Bride Of The Atom" (later renamed "Bride Of The Monster"), and "Plan Nine from Outer Space", the film that Ed will be remembered for (see page 24 for an analysis of this film).

Scene 1

In this scene Ed and his actors are in a bar. They've just finished a performance of one of Ed's play. They are reading a very negative review of the play:

Bunny: (angry) What does that old **queen** know? He wasn't even there! Sending a **copy boy** to do his **dirty work**. Well **fuck him**!
Dolores: (worried) Do I really have a face like a horse?
Paul: (confused) What does "ostentatious" mean?
Ed: (enthusiastic) Hey. Hey, it's not that bad. You just can't concentrate on the negative. He's got some nice things to say. See, "the soldier costumes are very realistic". That's positive! **Hell**, I've seen a lot worse reviews. I've seen ones where they didn't even like the costumes! Like, that last "Francis the Mule" picture - it got terrible notices. But it was a **huge hit**.
Paul: (in agreement) **Lines around the block**.

Ed: (confident) So don't take it too seriously. We're all doing great work.

Conrad: (serious) You really think so?

Ed: (enthusiastic) Absolutely! It's just the beginning.I promise this: if we **stick together**, one day I'll make every single one of you famous.

Scene 2

In this scene, Ed is talking to a film producer, George Weiss, who's looking for a director and **scriptwriter**. Ed really wants the job:

Ed: (serious) Is there a **script**?

George: (serious) **Fuck no**! But there's a poster. (George pulls out a poster with the title, "I Changed My Sex!") It opens in nine weeks in Tulsa.

Ed: (enthusiastic) Well, Mr. Weiss, I'm your **guy**. I work fast, and I'm a **deal**: I write AND direct. And I'm good. I just did a play in Hollywood, and Victor Crowley praised its realism.

George: (unsure) Hmm. There's five-hundred guys in town who can tell me the same thing. You said on the phone you had some kind of "special qualifications".

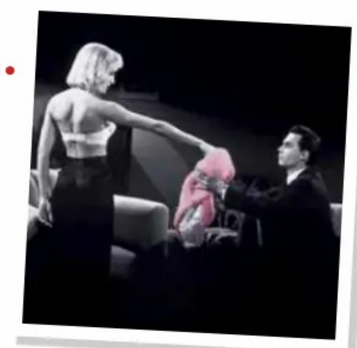
Ed: (pleased) Well, Mr. Weiss, I've never told anyone what I'm about to tell you... but I really want this job. I like to dress in women's clothing.

George: (seriously) Are you a **fruit**?

Ed: (seriously) No, no, not at all! I love women. Wearing their clothes makes me feel closer to them.

FILM FACTS

Country: United States
Director: Tim Burton / Starring: Johnny Depp and Martin Landau /
Release Date: 1994



GLOSSARY

a burning passion *n*
a big desire to do something
faith in yourself *n*
if you have "faith in yourself", you believe in yourself and your abilities
a flop *n*
a failure, not successful
a wanted-ad *n*
a notice in a newspaper asking for something
a scriptwriter *n*
a person who writes the story for a film
a script *n*
the text for a film
to refuse *vb*
to say no
to get lucky *n*
if you "get lucky", something good happens to you
out-of-work *adj*
without work
to get someone back on the screen *exp*
to give someone a part in a film after a long period with no work
to shoot a film *exp*
to make a film
to give someone a chance *exp*
to give someone an opportunity to prove themselves
to cast yourself *exp*
to give yourself a part in a film that you are directing or producing
a lead role *n*
the most important part in a film
proud *adj*
pleased with something you have done or the way you are
awful *adj*
terrible, really bad
to laugh in someone's face *exp*
to humiliate someone by laughing at them
to give up *phr vb*
to stop
to rubbish *vb*
to "destroy" something with bad reviews that ridicule that thing
a queen *n offens*
a word that is used to refer to a male homosexual. It is offensive
a copy boy *n* in a newspaper the copy boy is a very junior journalist
dirty work *n* the work no one wants to do
fuck him *exp offens*
this expression is used to refer to people you are angry with
hell *exp inform*
an exclamation that people use when they are angry or excited or when they want to emphasise what they are about to say
a huge hit *n*
a very successful film
lines around the block *exp*
«there were lines around the block». A "line" is a line of people waiting to do something. A "block" is referring to a block of buildings
to stick together *phr vb*
to remain together, to stay as a group
a scriptwriter *n*
a person who writes the text for a film
a script *n*
the text for a film
fuck no *exp offens*
a way of saying "no" when you are angry
a guy *n inform*
a man
a deal *n*
something that is good value for money
a fruit *n offens*
a gay person

More →

ED WOOD TRIVIA

PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE

"Plan 9 From Outer Space" by Ed Wood is considered one of the worst films in the history of cinema. This film is typical of an Ed Wood film and is a mixture between a science fiction film and a horror film. The basic story is about an alien plan to **take over the world**. The following is a list of "Plan 9" mistakes:

1. In the opening scene a character called Criswell is speaking to the camera. You can see his eyes moving from side to side as he reads his lines from a board behind the camera.
2. In another scene Criswell mentions that it is evening, but the audience can see perfectly well that it is daylight.
3. The **boom mic** drops into view on numerous occasions.
4. During one scene some alien **space ships** attack an airplane. You can clearly see the string holding the space ships.
5. In another scene a police officer knocks over a **tombstone** and bends it. It is quite obviously made of cardboard.
6. One of the characters has to leave a film **set**, banging the door behind him.This causes the whole set to move.
7. Later on in the film the aliens discuss their plan for taking over the earth. At one point the chief alien can be seen picking up his **script** to have a quick read.
8. Some time after the aliens have **landed** there is a **chase scene**. During this scene, a character called Paula falls down and the whole set moves.
9. In one scene a clock reads 8:40. A couple of seconds later, in the same scene, the clock reads 9:10.
10. An object, which one of the aliens claims is a laser gun, is quite clearly a hair dryer.

1. Ironically, Ed Wood films are regarded as classics these days.
2. Tim Burton's film about Ed Wood cost more than all of Ed Wood's movie budgets put together.

3. Tim Burton's film, "Ed Wood" got two Oscars: "Best Supporting Actor" for Martin Landau, who played the part of Bela Lugosi; and "**Make-Up** Effects" for Rick Baker.
4. As a child, Ed spent much of his time at movie theatres, where his favourite films were westerns.
5. At home, Ed's mother used to dress him up in girl's clothes. Later, Ed became obsessed with ladies underwear, and often had on a pair of pink knickers underneath his ordinary clothes.
6. In his early twenties Ed enlisted in the marines just six months after America entered the Second World War. During the war Ed was injured in combat, received a whole host of medals, and lost all his front teeth when they were smashed in by a **rifle butt**.
7. After the war Ed headed for California. He reached Hollywood in 1946, and stayed there for the rest of his life.
8. Ed Wood died an alcoholic at the age of 53. However, his enthusiasm and determination never left him. In some ways Ed is a great inspiration to us all. He kept fighting right to the end and was determined to see his film dreams come true. ✪

GLOSSARY

to take over the world *exp*
to dominate the world
a boom mic *n*
a long microphone used to capture sound
a space ship *n*
a plane that travels in space
a tombstone *n*
a piece of stone in a cemetery that marks where a dead person is
a set *n*
the area where they film a movie
a script *n*
the text of a film or theatre play
to land *vb*
if a plane "lands", it comes down to the ground
a chase scene *n*
a scene in a film where one person is trying to catch another person
make-up *n* paint that you put on your face to make yourself beautiful or ugly
a rifle butt *n* the part of the rifle that you place under your arm in order to shoot

AUDIO

Dictionary of slang

WARNING
This article contains topics, themes and language that some people may find offensive. Please feel free to ignore it if you're easily offended! :)

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

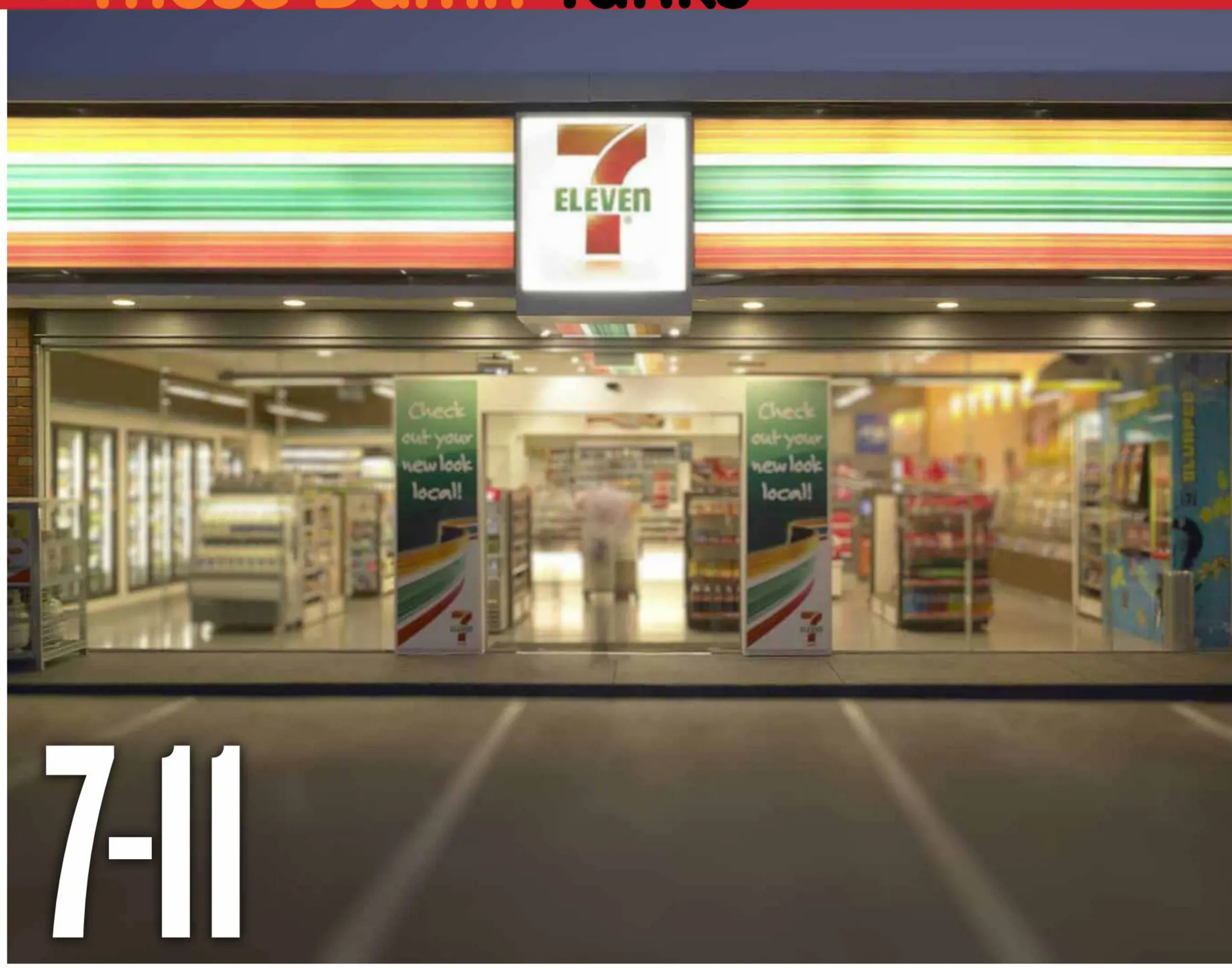
Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
Somebody arrives late. You have been waiting a long time:	You really are very late	Here at last; I thought you'd never make it	About time too; where **the fuck** have you been?; what kept you?; what time do you call this?
Your friend has recovered from an illness and is now much better:	She is well now	She's feeling much better	She's really **perked up**; she's up and about; she's as right as rain; she's her old self again
Someone is acting in a childish and silly way:	Stop being silly	Grow up	Act your age; stop being a **prat**; don't be an **asshole** (US)
Someone is complaining too much about something. You want to tell them to stop:	Stop complaining	Stop going on about it Stop **whining**	Stop **whingeing**; give it a rest, will you?; stop **bitching** (US)
Someone is asking too many questions about your life and criticising you:	You are very curious	Stop being **nosey**	Don't stick your nose in other people's business; what's this, 20 questions?; leave it out, will you?; get off my case (US)
You think someone is wasting their life and time:	Do something useful	Get off your **backside** and do something	Come on, get a life!; sort yourself out; get your act together
You think someone wants to kill you:	They are going to kill me	They're after me	They're after my **blood**; they're gonna kill me; they're out to get me; I'm really **in the shit**; someone's trying to pop a cap in my ass (US)

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

the fuck *exp offens*
this expression is used to show that you are angry
to perk up *phr vb*
to have more energy and feel more positive after an illness
a prat *n offens*
an idiot
an asshole *n offens*
an idiot
to whine/whinge *vb*
to complain
to bitch *vb*
to say bad things about people
nosey *adj*
curious about other people's lives
a backside *n inform*
the part of your body that you sit on
blood *n*
the red liquid that is in your body
in the shit *exp offens*
with many problems

AUDIO

Those Damn Yanks



By Catherine Rice (US English spellings)

Americans love **stores** where they can buy food that is fast, convenient and **pre-packaged**. Yet with all the thousands of stores to choose from, it's a company called "7-11" that gets more customers than any other. What is it that causes six million Americans to visit a "7-11" every day?

The Store

"7-11" is a chain of convenience stores that operates across the US. It's a place where Americans can **grab** a cup of coffee, a bag of **chips** or whatever processed food their bodies might be **craving**. "7-11"s are much bigger than most international convenience stores and carry up to 2,500 different products. They are usually located on street corners and have giant green and orange **signs**. Some "7-11"s have gas stations as well, and all stores are open 24 hours a day. They are even open on holidays.

History

"7-11" was founded in Dallas, Texas in 1927. Originally, it was called "South-land Ice" and was a company that sold blocks of ice to **refrigerate** food. However, one of its employees began **selling** milk, bread, and eggs **on the side** to make extra money. The company **found out** and soon realized that if they sold these products on Sundays and evenings when all the **grocery stores** were closed, they could **make a killing**. And that's how the idea of the "convenience store" was born. In 1946 the store extended its hours and began operating from 7am to 11pm. As a result, they changed the name to "7-11". They also decided to open seven days a week, an idea that was **unheard of** at the time.

The Customers

The best part of a trip to "7-11" is the variety of people you will meet while you are there. Every type of American can be found walking down the stores' **aisles**: business people who stop to buy a donut or a cup of coffee, parents who **pop in** to get **diet sodas** on the way to their **kid**'s soccer game, **homeless** people, famous people and **druggies**.

During lunch time, "7-11"s are packed with high school kids waiting in line at the **slurpee** machine or at the **counter** trying to use **fake IDs** to purchase cigarettes. "7-11" **parking lots** are also quite exciting as you can find all sorts, including drug dealers and churchgoers. "7-11s" are also the perfect meeting place in any town because they are usually right in the center.

Drinks

The most popular item in a "7-11" is the Slurpee. Slurpees are frozen, flavored drinks. They are so popular, in fact, that finding an American who hasn't at least tried one Slurpee in their lives is like finding someone in China who hasn't tried rice. Many stores have tried to **come up with** their own version of the Slurpee, but loyal "7-11" customers will tell you that the "7-11" Slurpee is the best. If you drink a slurpee too fast, it creates a painful sensation in your head. "7-11" actually created the phrase "brain

freeze" to describe this sensation. Slurpees come in all kinds of flavors like cherry, blueberry and even Coca-Cola. The latest "7-11" invention is the Slurpee strata where you can mix a variety of flavors in one cup. It has revolutionized the slurpee-drinking world.

Big Drinks

If you don't think a slurpee will **quench your thirst**, then a "Big Gulp" will. "Big Gulps" are massive soft drinks. The sizes start with the Gulp, a mere 16 ounces (half a liter), and end with the Double Gulp, which is an incredible 64 ounces (almost 2 liters). The Double Gulp looks more like a **bathtub** than a drink. These Big Gulp drinks are usually too big to fit in **car drink holders** but everyday thousands of Americans buy them anyway, risking traffic accidents and eventual **tooth decay**. They are great to have if you need to work all night.

Hot Dogs

"7-11" is also the place to go if you're craving food, especially hot dogs. They sell a huge assortment of **wieners**, including some with cheesy **fillings**, which for some ridiculous reason are called "Cheeseburger Big Bites". You can also buy coffee, beer, chocolate, shampoo, or even postcards. In short, "7-11" has just about everything a person could ever need. In fact you could probably **lock yourself in** one of their stores for 30 years and never get bored or hungry.

Fans

"7-11" fans are passionate about their favorite store and would never think of going anywhere else. Some "7-11"s sell T-shirts, bags, beach towels and coffee **mugs** with the "7-11" logo. During the 1960s "7-11" came up with an ad campaign that best describes how the store is viewed in the US. The slogan still **holds true** today- "Oh **Thank Heaven**, For "7-11"!" ✪

"7-11" TRIVIA

1. "7-11" was the first store to operate 24 hours a day and sell freshly made coffee **to go**
2. "7-11" was the first convenience store to sell phone cards
3. The "7-11" store that sells the most Slurpee drinks in the world is in the town of Winnipeg in Canada
4. The store that sells the most "7-11" hot dogs is in Washington DC, and the most Big Gulp drinks are sold in a store in Las Vegas
5. "7-11" sells more coffee than any other product – more than 1 million cups each day. That's more than 10,000 pots of coffee an hour every day of the year
6. "7-11" stores sell almost 33 million gallons of drinks every year. That's enough to fill 75 Olympic-size swimming pools
7. "7-11" sells 60 million fresh-baked donuts per year
8. "7-11" sells 41 million gallons of milk each year
9. The official birthday of "7-11" is July 11th - **7/11***
10. As of 2023, there are over 80,000 7-Eleven stores operating worldwide. Japan has the most 7-Eleven stores, with around 21,000 locations.

***Language Note**

Americans write the date the opposite way to Europeans:
7/11 in the US is July 11th
7/11 in Europe is November 7th

GLOSSARY

a store *n*
a shop
pre-packaged *adj*
food that is in a bag or packet
to grab *vb*
to take in your hands. In this case to order (a coffee)
chips *n US*
pieces of fried potato in a plastic bag. «Crisps» in British English
to crave *vb*
to desire something strongly
a sign *n*
a piece of metal or wood with some written information on it
to refrigerate *vb*
to make food very cold by leaving it in the refrigerator
to sell on the side *exp*
to sell things secretly
to find out *phr vb*
to discover
a grocery store *n*
a shop that sells fruit and vegetables
to make a killing *exp*
to make a lot of money
unheard-of *adj*
never heard of before
an aisle *n*
a narrow corridor in a supermarket where people can walk
to pop in *phr vb*
to enter a place for a short period of time
diet *adj*
a "diet" drink is one that has artificial sugar
soda *n*
a drink like Coca Cola, Sprite or Seven Up
a kid *n*
a child
a homless person *n*
a person with no home
druggies *n*
a person who is addicted to drugs – they usually live on the street
a slurpee *n*
a frozen drink made with sugar and fruit flavours
a counter *n*
the long table in a shop where you pay for things
fake adj
not real, false
an ID *n*
an identity card
a parking lot *n*
an area where you can park a car
to come up with *phr vb*
to invent, to think of
to quench your thirst exp to satisfy your thirst
a bathtub *n*
a container that you fill with water to wash your body
a car drink holder *n*
an object in your car where you can put your drink securely
tooth decay *n*
when your teeth go very bad because you don't look after them
a wiener *n US*
a sausage
a filling *n*
food such as cheese that is put inside other food
to lock yourself in a place *exp*
to put yourself in a room and close the door with a key
to witness first hand *exp* to experience or see something yourself – not just to hear about it
a craze *n*
a fashion
smart *adj*
clever, intelligent
a mug *n*
a large cup for drinking coffee
to hold true *exp*
to be true
thank heaven *excl*
an exclamation of happiness or satisfaction
to go *exp US*
if you order a drink "to go", you buy a drink and take it out of the shop or restaurant

AUDIO

Historical Hysterics

WARNING
This article contains topics, themes and language that some people may find offensive. Please feel free to ignore it if you're easily offended! :)

ATTILA THE HUN

By David O'Brien

Attila the Hun is **infamous** for being **evil**. In his own time, he was known as "the terror of the world", who killed without mercy and **razed the cities** of Europe. But did he deserve this reputation? And was he really all that bad? Let's look at the evidence.

The Huns

The Huns had a terrible reputation even before Attila was born. They were a nomadic people who arrived on the **fringes** of the Roman Empire at the end of the fourth-century AD. They came from the great **steppes** of Asia near the Caspian Sea and they were **notorious** for their **savagery** on the battlefield. They were also **famed for** being difficult to fight as they rode on their warhorses instead of waiting patiently in **ranks** like the Romans did.

Primitive

The Roman historian, Ammianus Marcellinus, described them as **hideous** and **wild** – wilder than any other Barbarians he had met. He added that they only just looked like humans. He also claimed that they didn't use fire, preferring to cook and heat meat by holding it between their legs. And worst of all, they didn't use any **relish** on their food – a definite sign that they were primitive. Eventually the Huns settled down on the Great Hungarian **Plain** along the River Danube and actually helped the Romans with their other enemies. For this, the Romans paid them some money every year starting in the year 420 AD. But things changed when Attila became king.

O Brother!

Attila was much more ambitious and aggressive than the kings before him. He lived from 406 to 453 AD and was king from around 433 AD to the time of his death. At first, he shared the throne with his brother Bleda. But Attila got tired of this and killed poor Bleda. So much for brotherly love!

Attila's first act as king, even before murdering his brother, was to demand an increase in the yearly payments from the Romans. The Emperor at the time, Theodosius II, decided that it would be wise to agree, so he doubled the **subsidy** (a fee).

Evil Eyes

Attila ruled his kingdom through the use of terror. He told people that he owned the sword of Mars, the god of war, and he killed anyone who opposed him and got in his way. Some say he was so **fearsome** that other Barbarian chiefs couldn't look into his eyes without **flinching**. He seemed to enjoy this and had the habit of **rolling his eyes wildly**.

A gothic historian tells us that Attila had a "big head, small, **deep-seated eyes**, a flat nose and not much of a beard". Basically, if you saw him, you would say he looked evil.

Burning Cities

But what about Attila's reputation for destroying the cities of Europe? This is mostly true and Attila burnt down hundreds of towns and villages in Europe. One historian says that after a Hun attack, "there was so much killing that no one could number the dead. The Huns **pillaged** the churches and monasteries, and **slew** the **monks** and virgins". One city still smelt badly of death two years after the killings. No one dared go near it.

Attack

In the year 439 Attila decided to attack the western half of the Roman Empire. Attila was furious at the time. The Romans had suddenly **changed their minds** and refused to pay the annual subsidy (fee).

But this wasn't the only reason why Attila wanted to attack the Western Empire. It seems that the sister of the Western Emperor, Honoria, **was in a spot of trouble**. She had been sleeping with one of her servants. The poor servant was executed for his **cheek**, and the pregnant Honoria was **locked away** in a castle in Paris. She wasn't impressed with all this and **smuggled** a message to Attila, asking him to save her. Attila decided this was a marriage proposal and asked for half the Western Empire as a **dowry**. Honoria agreed and Attila **set off**.

Destruction

Attila travelled with his army to Paris. The army now numbered between 300,000 and 700,000 men, and they brought fear and death with them. They ravaged much of the country and burnt many of the greatest cities in Europe, including Strasbourg, Cologne and Trier. Eventually they stopped at the gates of Paris. They were about to enter when Saint Genvieve, who was in the city at the time, came out and asked the Huns to spare Paris. Attila agreed and as a result he never managed to save Honoria. Nothing more was ever heard of her.

Dead In Bed

Attila's death was very unspectacular. He didn't die on the battlefield, where you would have expected him to do. And nobody got to be "the man who killed the Hun". Eventually, Attila **passed away** in bed on the night he married a new, great-looking young wife. After a lot of drink and sex he **drowned** in his own blood after suffering a **nosebleed**. His new **missus** was found next morning **shivering** in fear.

Soon afterwards, Attila's huge empire fell to pieces and the Ostrogoths and other barbarian tribes rebelled against Attila's sons, who were busy arguing among themselves.

A Real Baddie

So was Attila really as evil as they say? He certainly did have his bad points. He could be really cruel and would kill anyone who got in his way or irritated him. However, he also had some good points. He was **courageous** and daring, and had great leadership

abilities and an **aversion** to killing saints. He was also a very clever man who said many memorable things. On one occasion he declared:
"Every Hun has value – even if only to serve as a bad example."

Attila's Guide To Life

In your life, you may find yourself in a position of responsibility or authority. How are you going to act? The following guide, which is based on the thoughts and philosophy of Attila the Hun, may help you.

Good Hun leaders:

1 Never ask questions they don't want to hear the answers to
2 Can never lead without confidence and security in themselves
3 Always try their best
4 Adapt and never **make compromises**
5 Don't have to be brilliant – they just need a desire to win, and an absolute belief in their cause
6 Know that if they drink with their Huns, they can never **lead** them
7 **Surround themselves** with strong Huns
8 Know that every decision involves a danger
9 Realise that quick decisions are not always the best decisions
10 **Trust** their captains and delegate authority
11 Know that only those on the frontline can take the best decisions
12 Only assign the best Huns for difficult missions
13 Know that delegation is a sign of strength
14 Always try to get the best out of their Huns, and accept some of their **weaknesses**
15 Understand that Huns learn more from **success** than **failure**
16 Realise that Huns learn better when faced with danger
17 Know that they always have to **watch their backs**
18 Only fight wars they can win
19 Know that being a captain isn't easy
20 Will always use diplomacy in order to take things before **resorting to** war
21 Know that hospitality, warmth and courtesy can **overcome** the strongest of enemies
22 Should always assign the most capable Huns to positions of authority
23 Know that **nothing should be left to chance**
24 Realise that being a leader of Huns is a solitary job
25 Understand that they have to lead from the front, and not to stay in a comfortable position away from danger
26 Know that Huns remember you for what they think you did, not for what you really did
27 Should always see problems as opportunities
28 Realise that loyalty is more important than ability

Based on the book "Leadership Secrets Of Attila The Hun"

GLOSSARY FOR CARTOON

your highness *exp*
you say this expression when you talk to a royal person
a couple *n*
two people
busy *adj*
occupied, with many things to do
bloody *exp offens*
this expression is used to show that are angry or surprised
dead cheap *exp offens*
very cheap
goddamn *exp offens*
this expression is used to show that you are angry
filthy *adj*
very dirty
pants *n*
clothing that you wear under your trousers or skirt
I can't take it *exp*
stop, please, it is too much for me

GLOSSARY

infamous *adj*
famous for negative reasons
evil *adj*
very, very bad
to raze a city *exp*
to burn and destroy a city
the fringes *n*
the edges
the steppes *n*
a large area of grassland where there are no trees
notorious *adj*
famous for negative reasons
savagery *n*
brutality
to be famed for *exp*
to be famous for
a rank *n*
a line of soldiers
hideous *adj*
very, very ugly
wild *adj*
primitive and savage
relish *n*
sauces or spices that you add to food to give it more flavour
a plain *n*
a large area of flat land with very few trees
a subsidy *n*
money you pay regularly
fearsome *adj*
frightening
to flinch *vb*
to show you are frightened by turning your body or making an expression on your face
to roll your eyes wildly *exp*
to make your eye ball move around
deep-seated eyes *n*
eyes that are far into the face
to pillage *vb*
to destroy a place and steal things from it
to slay (slew) *vb*
to kill
a monk *n*
a man who dedicates his life to religion
to change your mind *exp*
to decide to do something differently
to be in a spot of trouble *exp*
to have a problem
cheek *n*
you say that someone has a "cheek" when you are angry with them for something they have done
to lock away *phr vb*
to put someone in a place, lock the door and leave them there
to smuggle *vb*
to take something secretly to or from a place
a dowry n
a present of money or objects that the family of a woman gives to a man when they marry
to set off *phr vb*
to start a journey
to pass away *phr vb*
to die
to drown *vb*
to die because you are in a liquid and you cannot breathe
a nosebleed *n*
when blood (the red liquid in your body) comes out of your nose
missus *n inform*
wife
to shiver *vb*
when your body moves involuntarily because you are cold or frightened
courageous n
brave; not afraid of danger
an aversion *n*
if you have an "aversion" to something, you don't like doing that thing
to make a compromise *exp*
to accept something that isn't exactly what you wanted
to lead *vb*
to be in control of a group of people
to surround yourself with something *exp*
if you "surround yourself" with something, you put that thing all around you, or have those people near you at work
to trust *vb*
to believe
a weakness *n*
the qualities that you possess that are not very good or desirable
success *n*
winning
failure *n*
losing
to watch your back *exp* to be careful, to control what is happening around you
to resort to *exp*
if you "resort to" something, you use that thing because you have no other option. You see it as the only way of getting what you want
to overcome *vb*
to defeat, to win, to make someone like you
nothing should be left to chance *exp*
everything should be carefully controlled; nothing should be ignored

(GLOSSARY ON PREVIOUS PAGE)

Weird World Cartoon

WARNING
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Illustration by Jorge Tarruella

Excuse me, **your highness**, but there's a **couple** of Romans here to see you

What? Can't you see I'm **busy**?

Thank God for that. I think I was next.

God I hate those **bloody** Romans. They're just so good looking and tall.

They bring gifts.

Attila the Hun

I must say, I love your dress, Sophilicus.

They say Attila's really gentle.

Thanks - it was **dead cheap**.

What the hell do you want?

Greetings from the emperor. We bring slaves, money and this letter.

Ha, ha, ha!

1 minute later

Why were you laughing?

We just thought it was funny that Attila was so short.

GRRRL!

Ah, you see he has a bit of a complex about his size.

Now what does that **goddamn** letter say?

It's Honoria, she wants you to rescue her.

Paris - 3 months later

I've burnt half of Europe to get to you. Now I want to get out of these **filthy pants**.

Come and get me, big boy.

2 days later

Help! **I can't take it** any more! She's too much!

AUDIO

True stories from around the world that are hard to believe!

Strange BUT True

Illustration by Cristiano Righi

On The Breadline

All about a man, an obsession and some bread

Earlier this year a supermarket in downtown Chicago began to notice something very strange: every day hundreds of **loaves of bread** were being **damaged** or destroyed. What was going on?

Video

Store manager Mark Peters decided to **find out**. He **set up** several video cameras around the bread section. The very next evening he watched the **video footage** and saw how one of the customers **picked up** a loaf of bread, **squeezed** it, **pulled it apart** and put it down, then took another one and did exactly the same.

"I couldn't believe it," said Mark. "This guy was just destroying all our bread."

The very next day, Mark ordered six security guards to arrest the phantom "bread squeezer".

Arrested

The man arrived at eleven that morning and went straight to the bread section. The guards positioned themselves at either end of the **aisle** and moved in to arrest the man, who was busy destroying a whole **shelf** of freshly baked bread. "Sir, would you mind accompanying us?" one of the guards said. The man immediately replied:

"You've got the wrong man. The real bread squeezer is still **on the loose**."

The guards ignored the man and took him to a room at the back of the supermarket. He later admitted to damaging the store goods after being forced to watch the video footage.

Fresh Bread

The arrested man turned out to be Dan Fielman, a thirty-eight-year-old advertising executive. He was charged with causing $80,000 worth of damage to loaves of bread in Chicago supermarkets over a two-year period.

During the trial, he told the court:

"I probably do touch too much bread. Yes, more than the next person. I admit that. Even my wife says that I am a **picky** shopper, but I am only trying to ensure **freshness** for my family. This is the only way I can be sure they the bread isn't **stale** when I buy it. Does that make me a criminal?"

Sentenced

But the judge was not impressed. "You engaged in behaviour that was not just **odd**, it was criminal," Judge John Hangem said as he passed sentence. "Your actions rose to the level of vandalism, and **caused** great **harm** to many people. **I hereby** sentence you to 180 days' **probation**, and order you to pay $1,000."

Psychological Analysis

Mr Fielman later **apologised** to the court and promised to control himself in future. Meanwhile, supermarket managers were **intrigued** to find out the real causes for this obsession with bread. They asked top psychologist, Dr Ludwig Liebrot, to help them.

"This is most interesting," Mr Liebrot said. "I would say that this man is seeking to compensate for feelings of childhood **abandonment** and that the touching of the bread acts as an **outlet** for feelings of aggression and **rage**."

Meanwhile, the supermarket has **banned** Mr Fielman from entering their store again. ✪

GLOSSARY

a loaf of bread *n*
a complete piece of bread before it is cut into pieces
to damage *vb*
to break or physically destroy an object
to find out *phr vb*
to discover
to set up *phr vb*
to put something in a place so that it can start to work
video footage *n*
a film or part of a film
to pick up *phr vb*
to take in your hands
to squeeze *vb*
to press firmly with your hands
to pull apart *phr vb*
to separate things from an object
an aisle *n*
a narrow corridor in a super-market where people can walk between the shelves
a shelf *n*
a flat piece of wood or metal that is fixed to a wall. You can put books and things on the shelves
to be on the loose *n*
to be free because it/he/she has escaped, or has not been captured
picky *adj*
if someone is «picky», it is difficult to satisfy them
freshness *n*
if food is "fresh", it has been made recently
stale *adj*
old and not nice to eat
odd *adj*
strange, unusual
to cause harm *n*
to cause physical or finanacial injury
I hereby... *exp formal*
this expression is used in formal language and means that what you are about to say is official
probation *n*
a period of time when a criminal is supervised by a probation officer. This is an alternative to going to prison
to apologise *vb*
to say sorry
intrigued *adj*
curious
abandonment *n*
if you are "abandoned", people leave you
an outlet *n*
a way to express your feelings
rage *n*
anger
to ban *vb*
to prohibit

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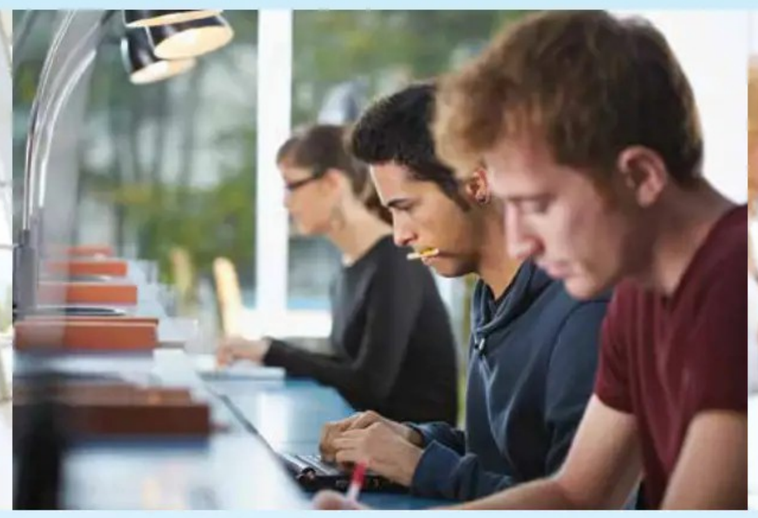

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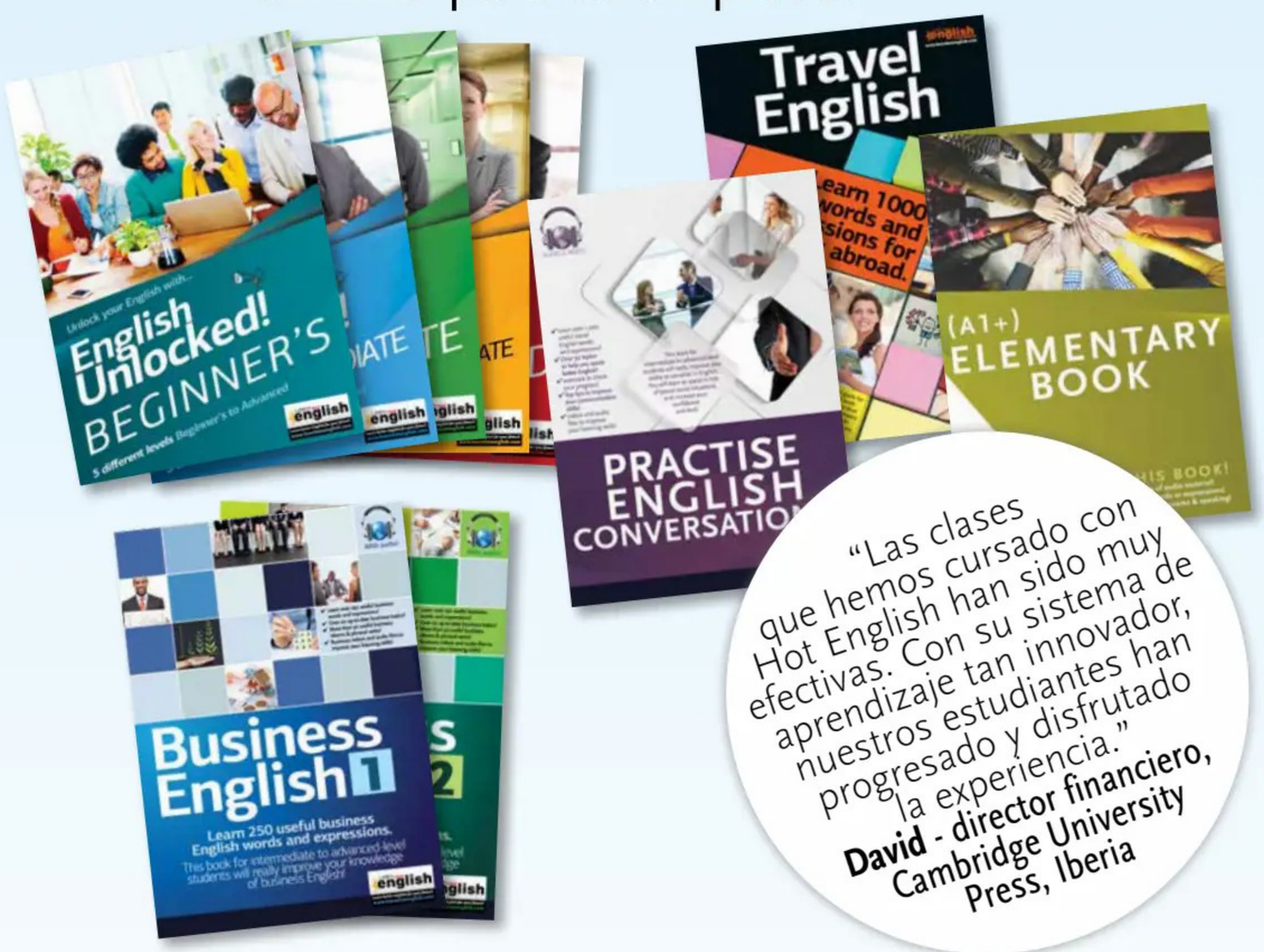

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Answers

IN THE NEWS

1 Pre-reading

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

2 Reading I

Pre-packed loaves; artisanal products baked in-house and homemade bread.

3 Reading II

1. 62%; **2.** 1,372 million kilos; **3.** Euphorium; **4.** 400; **5.** in 2011; **6.** *The Great British Bake Off*

BARE NECESSITIES

3 Reading II

1. 2,000; **2.** Disney; **3.** a car, a foreign holiday, a full English breakfast and a pint at the pub; **4.** an emotional need; **5.** 86%; **6.** that they've become less materialistic

ENGLISH IN ACTION

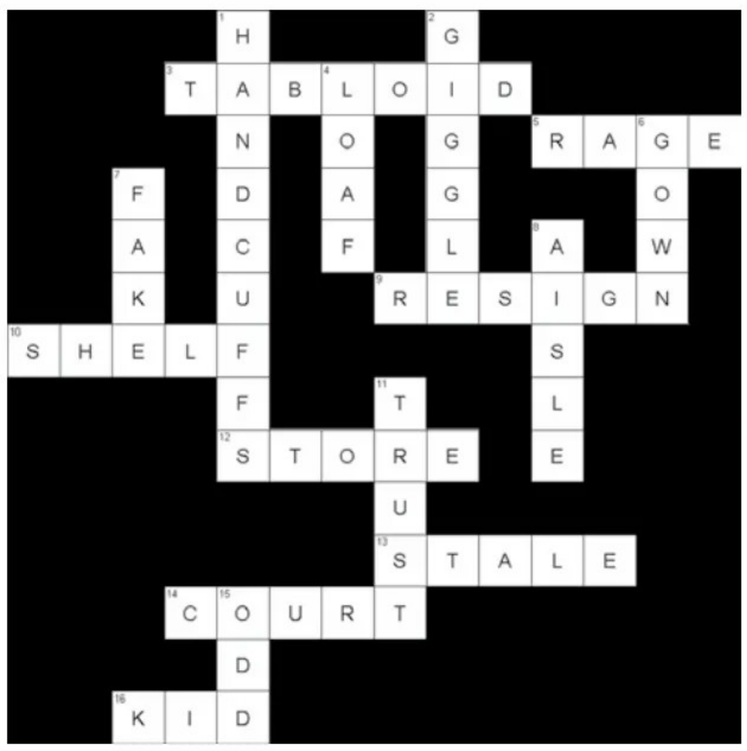
1. bridge; **2.** rope; **3.** clock tower; **4.** church; **5.** parliament building; **6.** palace; **7.** court house; **8.** aqueduct

DR FINGERS' PRONUNCIATION

Exercise

1. I think I've twisted my ankle.
2. She's never in a good mood and she's really irritable in the morning.
3. I wanted to fiddle with the long object.
4. I hated that film – it was terrible.
5. She broke her arm when she fell off her bicycle.
6. The horse ran out of the stable.
7. She's very competent and capable of achieving a lot.
8. You broke that window and now you're in trouble.

CROSSWORD



WORD GAME

(a few possibilities) from the word M A N A G E M E N T:
Manage, meant, team, tang, tame, teem, mean, game, magnet, agent, mate, gate, emanate

ANAGRAM.

underwear

GRAMMAR

"Will "

1E 2A 3D 4C 5B

"Would"

1. I would get up early.
2. She would go out very late on Saturdays.
3. They would get angry all the time.
4. They would spend their holidays in Florida.

"Actually"

1. Actually
2. At the moment
3. Actually
4. At the moment

WORDSEARCH

E	L	G	G	U	M	S	Y	R	M	C	G	I	P
E	R	H	B	N	O	T	O	R	I	O	U	S	O
V	S	Y	R	E	G	A	V	A	S	W	I	L	D
O	T	H	Q	M	S	E	G	N	I	R	F	W	J
S	T	R	E	A	K	L	L	I	B	G	N	G	K
X	M	J	J	I	Y	I	Q	B	M	M	G	K	E
C	E	V	A	R	G	F	W	C	V	J	M	C	R
D	H	S	N	W	L	R	E	V	I	H	S	Y	R
Y	I	X	S	R	H	A	N	K	N	O	M	T	C
E	Z	R	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	O	U	S	M
Z	V	Q	N	J	A	U	A	Z	I	D	W	L	X
I	H	I	V	P	Q	J	Q	L	C	A	L	L	N
W	G	W	L	J	S	I	G	N	X	W	B	D	E
V	H	P	Z	P	B	O	D	J	B	Y	R	N	X

MATCHING

A5 B11 C6 D1 E12 F13 G7 H2 I8 J3 K14 L9 M4 N10

TRAVEL ENGLISH

1. theft; **2.** form; **3.** claim; **4.** address; **5.** number; **6.** mobile phone; **7.** wallet; **8.** afternoon; **9.** train ticket; **10.** man

SLANG

1 Pre-reading

1. I dunno = I don't know.
2. Gizit ere = Give it to me.
3. I done that = I did that.
4. I seen that... = I saw that.
5. I dunno = I don't know.
6. Coz I want to = Because I want to.
7. It's mine, innit! = It is mine, isn't it?
8. They're yours, innit? = They are yours, aren't they?
9. Yeah = Yes.
10. Cheers / ta = Thanks
11. I ain't going = I am not going.
12. She ain't got it = She has not got it.
13. She was sat there first = She sat there first. / She was sitting there first.

3 Reading II (answers may vary)

1. Because it's appearing in written work, it puts children at a disadvantage, they need to know when to use Standard English.
2. You can hear a lot more slang these days. Texting also seems to be having an effect.
3. Because English is a flexible, free language with no official organisation regulating it.

DANCE

3 Reading II

1. The Dougie; **2.** Locking & Popping; **3.** Shuffling; **4.** Twerking; **5.** Grinding

AWKWARD MOMENTS

3 Reading II

1. You should introduce the person you know then leave.
2. You should raise your hand every 10 metres.
3. If the people on the train are all strangers.
4. Invent an excuse for going in the opposite direction.
5. You should flip a coin to see who has to go home to change.
6. Get off at the next stop and wait for another bus.

BAR CHAT

1. Increasing the minimum drinking age will: prevent fights, stop young people having sex too early and cut down the number of drink-related driving accidents
2. Decreasing the minimum drinking age will: teach people to be more responsible about drink, give people a more relaxed attitude to drink and make drinking more acceptable and less "cool"

Answers - Key Words

Were your answers the same as ours? I'm sure they were. The key words that we have identified are marked in bold (**bold**):

Percy: Oh god what a **nightmare last night**... My, my **daughter came home** [what, what happened?] Yeah, my daughter came home, **pissed** out of her head, **love bites** all over her **neck...** God it's **terrible**, you know? **Young people these days** they're just...

Bertie: Yeah! It's **normal** though, isn't it? **Everyone does that** kind of **thing**.

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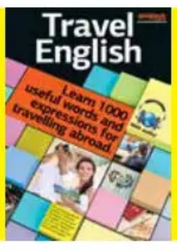

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This month: business collocations: employ.

AUDIO

Business English

Useful Business Expressions

This month we are looking at some typical words or expressions with the word "employ". Listen and repeat the following expressions.

1. She **is employed by** a large multinational corporation.
2. They only **employ** highly-skilled workers here.
3. As production is up, we'll have to look at employing more people.
4. She's highly-**employable**: she's got a degree from Harvard, and she's very hard-working.
5. He's **unemployable** – he is incapable of getting up in the morning and he hasn't got any qualifications.
6. How many **employees** are there here?
7. Is there a high rate of employee satisfaction here?
8. What's the employee **dropout rate** here?
9. What are **employee-employer relations** like here?
10. What is this firm like as an employer?
11. What's the **employment rate** in your country?
12. The **unemployment rate** has been falling **for six months consecutively**.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English dialogue.

Sarah: Sarah speaking. Who's calling?
Jim: Hi, it's Jim. Hey, I was just going over your strategy report for next year and I had a few questions.
Sarah: **Fire away**.
Jim: Your predictions for the unemployment rate next year, where did you get them?
Sarah: Official statistics published by the government.
Jim: OK, so you calculate that we're going to need to **take on** about 300 more employees next year. Why's that?
Sarah: Production is up 200%. **Do the figure work yourself**. We can't **carry on** like this.
Jim: You also predict poorer employee-employer relations and possible **strike action**…
Sarah: If we don't **address key concerns** that have been repeatedly raised by our staff, there will be problems, yes?
Jim: OK, thanks Sarah. Just wanted to **clear** a few things **up**.
Sarah: No problem. Any time. **Catch you later**.
Jim: Yeah, bye.

GLOSSARY

is employed by *exp*
if you "are employed" by a company, you work for that company
to employ someone *exp*
if you "employ someone", you give that person a job
employable *adj*
someone who is very qualified and has many skills
unemployable *adj*
someone who has no qualifications and no skills
an employee *n*
a person who works in a company
a dropout rate *n*
the speed at which people leave a company
employee-employer relations *n*
the relationship between management and the workers
the employment rate *n*
the number of people working
the unemployment rate *n*
the number of people with no jobs
for six months consecutively *n*
every month for six months
fire away *exp inform*
start asking me questions
to take on *phr vb*
to employ
do the figure work yourself *exp*
you do the calculations
to carry on *phr vb*
to continue
strike action *n*
if workers take "strike action", they stop working as a protest
to address key concerns *exp*
to think about things that are worrying people and to try to find solutions
to clear up *phr vb*
to try to understand
catch you later *exp inform*
see you later

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