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No.142

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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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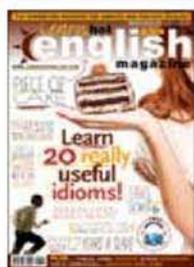
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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* magazine – the practical magazine for learning English.

In this month's issue, we've got lots of great material to help you improve your English. Learn 20 of the most important idioms in English, and read about the fascinating true story behind the film *12 Years a Slave*.

Of course, that's not all. We've also got articles on how to improve your pronunciation, world food records, tasers, famous dances, how to greet people on special days, the comedy group Monty Python, an unusual British festival, Jeff Bezos (the founder of Amazon.com), tall buildings in London, the Slow Movement and Shakespeare... to mention just a few.

Don't forget to check out the blog on our website: [blog.learnhotenglish.com](http://blog.learnhotenglish.com) for free lessons and articles on how to learn English.

Remember, from now on, the printed version of Hot English will be bi-monthly. However, our online version (from the App Store and Google Play) comes out 12 months a year!



### AUDIO FILES

Download the MP3 audio files for this issue for FREE from our website: [www.learnhotenglish.com/mp3s](http://www.learnhotenglish.com/mp3s)

Enjoy the magazine, learn lots of English and see you all next time,

Yours,

*Andy*

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### Pre-Intermediate (CEF level: A2)

- 3 Editorial
- 4 In the News TRACK 1
- 5 How to improve your pronunciation
- 6 Food records TRACK 2
- 7 Bare necessities TRACK 3
- 8 Grammar Booster: Will TRACK 4
- 9 Word Booster: Expressions with take
- 10 English in Action... Buildings & structures TRACK 5
- 11 Natural English: My town / city TRACK 6
- 12 Listening activity: Buying a house TRACK 7
- 13 Practical English: Greetings TRACK 8
- 14 Tasers TRACK 9

### Intermediate (CEF level: B1)

- 15 Slang TRACK 10
- 16 Monty Python TRACK 11
- 17 Dance TRACK 12
- 18 Listening activity: Chatting at work TRACK 13
- 19 Business English: Tourism TRACK 14
- 20 Festivals: The Cotswolds Olympic Games TRACK 15
- 21 Music... in English: Frank Sinatra TRACK 16
- 22 Travel English: At the police station TRACK 17
- 23 Film review: *12 Years a Slave*
- 24 20 really useful idioms
- 26 Entrepreneur Corner: Jeff Bezos: Mr Amazon

### Upper Intermediate (CEF level: B2)

- 27 Recipe: Focaccia bread / Film Script: Monty Python
- 28 London buildings TRACK 18
- 29 Robots TRACK 19
- 30 Awkward moments TRACK 20
- 31 Vocabulary Clinic: Medicine & Health
- 32 Quirky News: The Slow Movement TRACK 21
- 33 Directory
- 34 Listening activity: Hypocrisy TRACK 22
- 35 Idioms: Health & sickness

### Advanced (CEF level: C1)

- 36 Group Talk: Setting up a business TRACK 23
- 37 Slang Conversation: Relationships TRACK 24
- 38 Caught on Camera TRACK 25
- 39 Twitter animals TRACK 26
- 40 Shakespeare TRACK 27
- 41 Listening activity: Dumb criminals TRACK 28
- 42 Phrasal Verb Themes: Buying a house
- 43 Subscriptions
- 44 Answers
- 45 Crossword
- 46 Story Time TRACK 29

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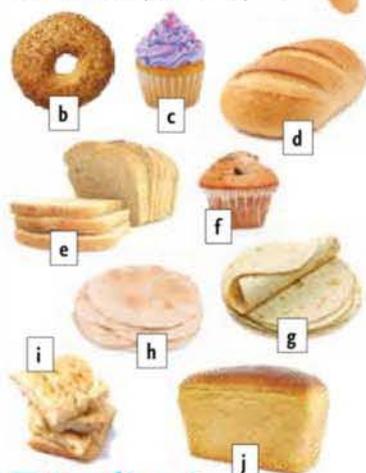
All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing SL. However, we do think that Monty Python is funny, tasers are shocking and Shakespeare was a clever chap.

Answers on page 44

**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.

**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?

IN THE NEWS

SLICED BREAD OR BAGELS: WHAT'S MORE POPULAR?



**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

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? ☺

# 8 EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR PRONUNCIATION!

Here are 8 things you can do to really improve your English pronunciation.

## 1 Set a goal!

When it comes to pronunciation, the most important thing is that people can understand you. You're never going to sound like a native speaker. But that isn't a problem. English is a universal language with hundreds of different accents (both native and non-native ones). So, aim to make your accent as clear and understandable as possible.

## 2 Listen!

Listening is the key to improving your pronunciation. Basically, the more you listen to English, the more you'll understand; and the more you understand, the easier it'll be for you to imitate sounds and improve your pronunciation. You can listen to audio novels, podcasts, audio files from language courses, the news in English, television shows, films, the radio, YouTube videos, songs... the options are limitless. Try to listen to English for at least 10 minutes at day.

## 3 Learn the phonetic alphabet!

As part of improving your pronunciation, you'll need to know how to pronounce individual words. However, with English this is never easy as there are 26 letters in the English alphabet, but many more sounds. So, you need to learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (the IPA). This is a collection of

symbols that represent the different sounds. For example the word *face* appears as / feɪs / in phonetic script. Learning this will really help you understand these sounds.

## 4 Identify problem sounds!

Among the many different sounds in English, there will be some that you find more difficult than others. For example, French and German learners of English often find it difficult to pronounce words that begin with the / ð / sound such as *this*, *those* and *these*. Once you've identified the sounds that are difficult for you, focus on improving them.

## 5 Listen out for connected speech!

When you learn a new word, you also need to find how it's pronounced in sentences with *other* words. And you'll notice that sometimes the pronunciation of the word might change. For example, the verb *forget* is pronounced / fɔ:ɡɪt /. However, when you put it in a sentence with other words, it changes as the last consonant sound / t / often merges with the first vowel sound of the following word. So, the phrase *Don't forget it!* becomes *Don't forge\_tit!* This is known as connected speech.

## 6 Be aware of word stress!

Another important aspect of pronunciation is word stress. Every word has a different stress

pattern. For example the word *amazing* has the stress on the second syllable: *amazing*. When you look up a word in the dictionary, you can see where the stress goes. This is extremely important. If you put the stress on the wrong part of the word, other people will find it hard to understand you.

## 7 Learn about sentence stress!

Another important aspect of pronunciation is sentence stress. English is a stress-timed language. This means that the stress falls on specific words in a sentence while quickly **gliding over** other non-stressed words. Stressed words mostly include nouns (*dog*, *table*, etc.), verbs (*sit*, *run*, etc.), adjectives (*beautiful*, *wonderful*, etc.) and adverbs (*quickly*, *slowly*, etc.). For example, a native speaker would probably stress these words (marked in bold) in the following sentence: *I **left at midday** to **catch the train**.* If you put the stress on the other words, people might not understand you.

## 8 Practise!

A lot of sounds in English may be completely new for you and difficult to pronounce. So, you're going to have to practise saying them until they feel natural and comfortable. Here are some ideas of little exercises that you can do to improve your pronunciation:

- Speak the language out loud. Read paragraphs from online articles, newspapers

and books, or sing along to your favourite songs. Transferring language from your mind to your mouth is an effective technique for improving your pronunciation.

- Find a recording of a conversation or article. Then, practise saying it to yourself. When you're ready, record yourself reading it out loud. Then, compare your version with the original. When you listen to yourself speaking English, you'll be able to identify any problem areas.
- Listen to people on the news, on TV shows or in films and try to copy the way they speak. Watch the position of their mouth and try to follow what they're saying. Newsreaders are good as they speak directly to the camera. Hear how the **pitch** goes up and down, and try to copy the intonation.
- Get a recording (about three minutes long) of someone speaking in English. Listen to it a few times to get familiar with it. Then, play the first sentence again. As you listen, say the sentence out loud at the same time as the person on the recording. Try to copy the intonation, pronunciation and stress patterns. Do it several times. Then, move on to the next sentence. Keep going till you get to the end. And then start the whole process again until you can do it all by heart.

Good luck improving your English pronunciation! ✨

## GLOSSARY

**to glide over** *glɪd v*  
if you "glide over" words, you say them smoothly and quickly without placing any emphasis on them  
**pitch** *n*  
the "pitch" of a sound is how high or low it is



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever made a pizza? What did you put on it? What are your favourite cocktails? Why do you like them? When was the last time you had some champagne? What were you celebrating?

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

TRACK 2 ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

# 9 INCREDIBLE WORLD FOOD RECORDS!

Here are 9 amazing food records from around the world.



## Pizza base

In 2006, Tony Gemignani (US) spun 500 grams of dough for two minutes to form a pizza base with a width of 84.33cm.



## Chocolate egg

The most expensive chocolate egg to sell at auction was created by a team of six Brits and a Japanese woman. The non-jewelled egg sold for £7,000.



## Big Macs

On 11th October 2012, Donald Gorske of the United States ate his 26,000th McDonald's Big Mac after eating the burgers every day for a period of 40 years! Surprisingly, he's quite slim.



## Chocolate coin

The largest chocolate coin was presented at the Cioccoshow Exhibition (in Bologna, Italy) on 15th November 2012 to celebrate Guinness World Records

Day. It weighed an incredible 658kg.



## Cocktail

The world's most expensive cocktail was created by Salvatore Calabrese at Salvatore's Bar in London on 11th October 2012. It was made from (among other things) a liqueur from 1770 and a Cognac that dates back to 1788. It sold for an amazing £5,500.



## Whisky

The most expensive bottle of whisky ever was sold at auction in Sotheby's (New York) on 15th November 2010. The rare bottle of 64-year-old Macallan single malt whisky went for a staggering £291,125.



## Coffee bean mosaic

Saimir Strati from Albania created the world's largest coffee bean mosaic at the Rogner Europa Park Hotel in Tirana on 12th December 2011. The mosaic measured 25.18 square metres.



**Champagne fountain**  
Luuk Broos and his team

created the world's biggest champagne fountain at the Shopping Center Wijnegem in Belgium on 25th January 2008. The fountain consisted of 43,680 glasses, and was 63 storeys high.



## Sandwich

The world's longest sandwich was created by members of three teams in Hazmieh village (Beirut, Lebanon) on 22nd May 2011. The sandwich measured 735 metres in length.

Incredible! 🍴

## GLOSSARY

**to spin** *vb* *past: spun/spun*

if you "spin" something, you turn it around many times

**dough** *n*

a mixture of flour and water (and possibly fat and sugar) that is used to make bread, pastry, biscuits, etc.

**width** *n*

the "width" of something is the distance it measures from one side to the other

**at auction** *exp*

at a public sale – the person who offers the most money can buy the object

**a Brit** *n* *informal*

a British person

**non-jewelled** *adj*

without any jewels (precious stones) on it

**slim** *adj*

attractively thin – the perfect size

**to date back to** *exp*

if A "dates back to" 1788 (for example), it was invented or made in 1788

**single malt** *adj*

a "single malt" whisky only has malted barley (a type of grain); a "malt" is a substance made from grain that has been kept in water, then dried in a hot oven

**staggering** *adj*

incredible / unbelievable / amazing

**a mosaic** *n*

a design which consists of lots of small pieces of something (coloured glass, for example)

**to measure** *vb*

if an object "measures" 6 metres (for example), it is 6 metres long

**a square metre** *n*

a square with sides that measure exactly one metre

**a champagne fountain** *n*

an object (often in the shape of a pyramid) formed by glasses, with one glass on top of the other. Champagne is poured onto the top glasses and it falls down through all the other glasses

**a storey** *n*

a "storey" in a building is one of its different levels or floors

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the paragraph titles in the article. What do you think the world food records are for?

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity. Which world food record is the most impressive? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Who won the pizza base record in 2006?
2. How much did the world's most expensive chocolate egg sell for?
3. What's surprising about Donald Gorske?
4. Who created the world's most expensive cocktail?
5. Where was the world's most expensive bottle of whisky sold?
6. Where was the world's largest coffee bean mosaic displayed?
7. When was the world's longest sandwich created?

**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.

TRACK 3: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

Answers on page 44

## 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!

**W**hat 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 vbr*  
if you "carry out" a poll, you ask people questions in order to get information

**to commission** *phr vbr*  
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** *phr vbr*  
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



GRAMMAR BOOSTER

# HOW TO EXPRESS THE FUTURE WITH WILL

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I'll go there.	I won't go there.	Will I go there?
You'll go there.	You won't go there.	Will you go there?
He'll go there.	He won't go there.	Will he go there?
She'll go there.	She won't go there.	Will she go there?
It'll go there.	It won't go there.	Will it go there?
We'll go there.	We won't go there.	Will we go there?
They'll go there.	They won't go there.	Will they go there?

The full forms are:  
I'll = I will; you'll = you will;  
he'll = he will;  
she'll = she will; it'll = it will;  
we'll = we will;  
they'll = they will.  
Negatives: won't = will not.

We can use *will* to make personal predictions about the future. For example:

- a) I think it'll snow tomorrow.
- b) I'm sure they'll send it later this week.

We can also use *will* to talk about our probable plans for the future. For example:

- a) I probably won't go to the wedding.
- b) I'll probably leave at about six.

We can also use *will* for spontaneous / quick / unplanned decisions made at the moment of speaking. For example:

- A: Which one do you want?  
B: I'll have the red one, please.

Finally, we can use question words (*who, when, what, why, where, etc.*) with *will*. For example:

- a) What do you think you'll have for dinner tonight?
- b) Who do you think you'll talk to?

### Dialogue: The phone call

Jeff is at home when his mum calls. **[Listen and complete the text with the correct words.]**

**Mum:** Hi, Jeff. Is that you?  
**Jeff:** Yes, mum.  
**Mum:** How are you?  
**Jeff:** All right, thanks.  
**Mum:** How's the (1) \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Jeff:** Fine.  
**Mum:** I told you to wear your helmet when you go (2) \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Jeff:** Mum, I'm 42. I think I can look after myself.  
**Mum:** You've got to be careful.  
**Jeff:** OK.  
**Mum:** Anyway, I've just made a big (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of spaghetti Bolognese. Do you want me to bring some round?  
**Jeff:** No, I'm fine, thanks.  
**Mum:** I could go to the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for you.  
**Jeff:** No, I'll be all right. I did some shopping on the way home.  
**Mum:** Don't tell me you're already back at (5) \_\_\_\_\_!  
**Jeff:** Yes.  
**Mum:** Look, I haven't got much to do this (6) \_\_\_\_\_. I could come around to see how you are.  
**Jeff:** I'm fine, honestly.  
**Mum:** I'll bring a pizza and a few bottles of beer. We could have a (7) \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Jeff:** Mum, no. I've got a friend coming over.

**Mum:** Oh. Who's that then?  
**Jeff:** Just a (8) \_\_\_\_\_. I'll tell you about it later – but not now.  
**Mum:** OK. Then, I'll call again later to see how you are.  
**Jeff:** All right.  
**Mum:** OK. Bye then, and let me know if there's anything you need... anything.

**Jeff:** I will. Bye.  
**Mum:** Take care and...  
*[He hangs up.]*  
*[A few seconds later, the phone rings again.]*  
**Jeff:** Jessica? Is that you?  
**Mum:** Hi, it's your mum again. I forgot to ask. Did you want...  
*[fades out]* ☺



# 12 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS WITH TAKE



Free lessons to improve your English, and articles on learning English!  
[blog.learnhotenglish.com](http://blog.learnhotenglish.com)

The verb *to take* is extremely useful. It can be used in a number of expressions. Here are 12.

## Take (time)



The amount of time you "take" to do an activity is the amount of time it lasts.

**A:** How long did it take you to get there?  
**B:** It took us about 45 minutes!

## Take out



If you "take" A "out" of B, you remove A from B so A isn't in B anymore.

**"You need to take the boxes out of the room so there's more space."**

## Take a photo



To use your camera to capture an image of something.

**"He took a lovely photo of us together."**

## Take a look



If you "take a look" at something, you look at it.  
**"I think you should take a look at this."**

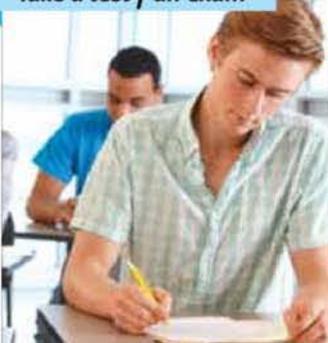
## Take someone out



If you "take someone out", you take them somewhere nice (such as a restaurant).

**"I took my parents out to a nice restaurant just outside town."**

## Take a test / an exam



To do a test or exam.

**"I had to take six tests as part of the interview process."**

## Take a bath / shower



You can "take" a shower or a bath.

**"I need to take a shower."**

## Take (shoe size)



The shoe size that you "take" corresponds to the size of your feet (more or less).

**A:** What shoe size do you take?  
**B:** I normally take size 44, but sometimes size 43 – it depends.

## Take care



If you "take care" of someone, you look after them and help them, especially when they're ill.

**"He took care of me while I was sick."**

## Take turns



If you "take turns" doing something, you do it first, then someone else does it after you.

**"I think we need to take turns carrying this bag as it's really heavy."**

## Take a break / rest



To stop doing something for a short period of time as it's making you tired.

**"This is tiring work. I think I need to take a break."**

## Take a call



If you "take a call", you answer the phone when someone rings you, or you agree to speak to that person.

**"I'm really busy so I can't take any calls for the next half an hour."**

## Learning expressions

The best way to learn any words or expressions is by seeing or hearing them in context when you're reading or listening to English. Make a note of any words or expressions that you like (or want to learn) and write these down in sentences. Remember, always record language in phrases or sentences – never as individual words. You should also practise using the words or expressions as often as you can: in conversation, on the phone, in e-mails, etc.

**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**



**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** v  
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.

**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.

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

**Remember!**

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

**Duncan McQueen**  
(England, chef)



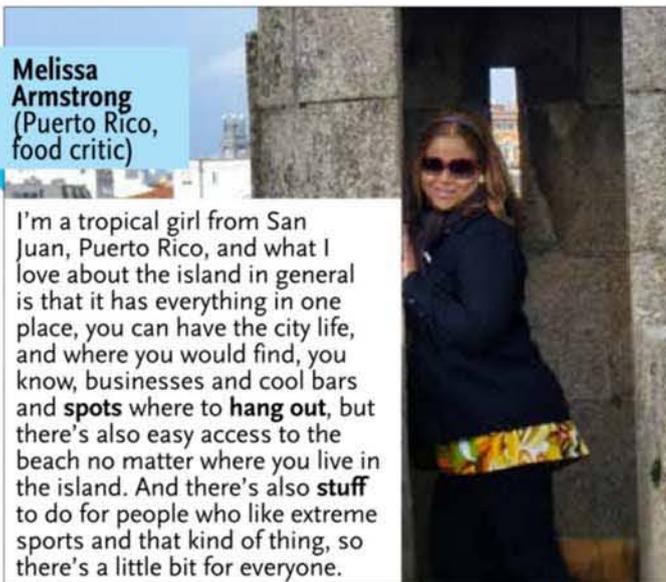
I think the best thing about living in Madrid is the excellent public transport system they have here.

**James Duggan**  
(Ireland, actor)



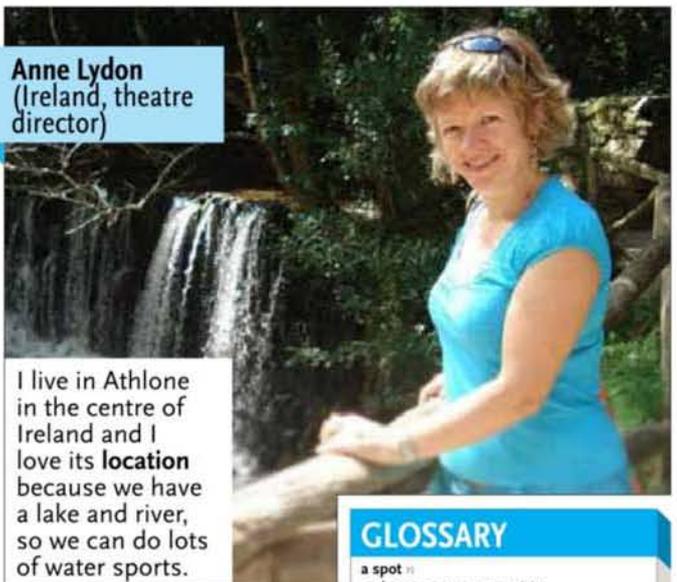
Erm, I like where I live, it's in Tralee, southwest of Ireland it's very near the beach, so you can get to the beach anytime you want.

**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.

**GLOSSARY**

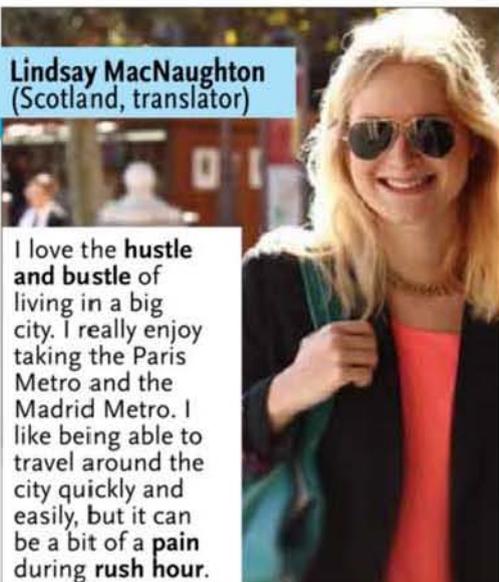
- a spot** *n*  
a place, an area, a town/city
- to hang out** *phr v*  
if you "hang out" in a place, you stay there with friends, talking, etc.
- stuff** *n inform*  
things
- a location** *n*  
a place, an area
- accessibility** *n*  
if a place has good "accessibility", people can go there easily 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

**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**.

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** What are some of the most expensive things you've bought recently? How much did they cost? What costs are there when you buy a house in your country? What's the process when you buy or sell a house in your country?

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

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Match the "house" words (1 to 8) to the definitions (a-h). Can you think of any more "house" words?

1. Flat
2. Mortgage
3. Estate agent
4. Sale price
5. Stamp duty
6. Borrow money
7. Lend someone money
8. Removal firm

- a. The amount that a house or property will cost.
- b. A company that sells houses or property for people.
- c. Money you borrow from the bank to buy a house.
- d. A set of rooms (including a kitchen, bathroom and living room) on one floor (usually) of a large building. Also, an "apartment".
- e. A tax that you pay to the government when you buy a house.
- f. A company that takes your furniture and possessions to another house.
- g. If you do this, you give someone money that they must pay back.
- h. If you do this, you ask someone to lend you some money that you must pay back later.

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a couple who are talking about buying a house. Listen once. Do they decide to buy the house in the end?

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

1. How much does the house cost?  
a) £275,000 b) £355,000
2. What's their limit? a) £290,000 b) £240,000
3. How much can they get a mortgage for if the house costs £250,000? a) £200,000 b) £240,000
4. How much is the stamp duty?  
a) 2% of the sale price b) 7% of the sale price
5. How much can Henry borrow from his dad?  
a) £40,000 b) £200,000
6. How much extra will it cost to drive the kids to school? a) £100 b) £2,000
7. How much is the flat they saw last week?  
a) £250,000 b) £150,000
8. What does Henry want to buy with the money they save? a) a motorbike b) a car

### 4 Language focus Modal verbs

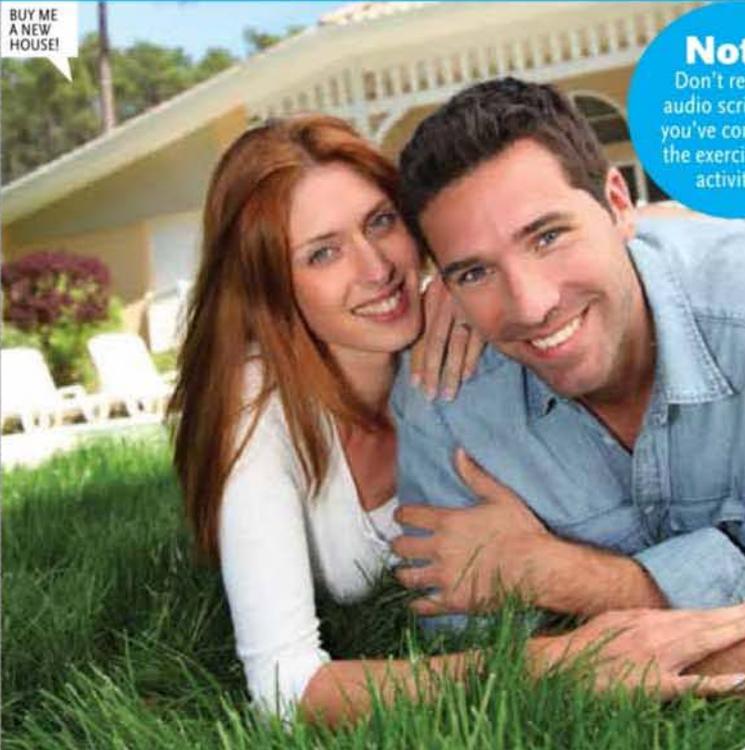
Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording *Buying a house*: "...We could put in an offer for £220,000..." The speaker has used a modal verb: **could**. This verb is often used for talking about possibility. For example:

- a) We *could* go away for the weekend.
- b) You *could* sleep on the sofa if you want.
- c) They *could* have this table.

### 5 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

BUY ME A NEW HOUSE!



**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

# Buying a house!

Henry and Imogen are looking for a house to buy. They've just seen one with a big garden.

### Audio script

**Henry:** So, what did you think of the house? I love the garden.

**Imogen:** Yes, but it's a bit expensive – I mean, they want £275,000 for it.

**Henry:** We could put in an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for £220,000, and I'm sure they'd come down to about £250,000.

**Imogen:** Maybe, but our limit is £240,000.

**Henry:** I thought we had more than that.

**Imogen:** Well, the bank will only give us 80% of the value of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. If the house is £250,000, we could only get a mortgage for £200,000. Then, we're going to need £50,000 to pay for the 20%, plus some money for the removal firm, the (3) \_\_\_\_\_, any renovating, the legal costs, the estate agent fees, which are 2% of the sale price, and stamp duty, which is about 7% of the sale price.

**Henry:** I could borrow some (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from my dad.

He promised to lend me £40,000.

**Imogen:** Look, it's a nice house, but it's just too expensive. It's also a bit out of the way. I mean, we'd have to drive the kids to (5) \_\_\_\_\_. That will cost us an extra £100 a month, at least.

**Henry:** Mmm...

**Imogen:** And just think about all the gardening you'd have to do: cutting the grass, digging up the vegetables, planting (6) \_\_\_\_\_ – gardens are a lot of work!

**Henry:** I guess so. I hadn't thought about all that. So, maybe we should look at that flat again – you know, the one we saw last (7) \_\_\_\_\_. They were asking £150,000 for it, weren't they?

**Imogen:** Yes. Good idea. I'll book an (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Henry:** Great. And with the money we save, we could get a new car. I've been looking at the latest BMW. I think it'd be great for... [fades out]

**Objective** To learn some useful words and expressions for expressing concern.

**Think about it** When was the last time you greeted someone? What was it for? Which greetings from this page have you used before? When? Where were you? In your country, what do you say if it's someone's birthday?

TRACK 8: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISH TEEN

## PRACTICAL ENGLISH

# HOW TO GREET PEOPLE ON SPECIAL DAYS!

This month we're looking at what to say on special days, festivals and holidays.

### Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is an important traditional Chinese holiday celebrated on the first day of the year in the Chinese calendar.

**Greetings:** *Happy Chinese New Year!* / *Gong Xi Fa Cai* (Mandarin) / *Gong Hey Fat Choy* (Cantonese).

### Easter

Easter is a Christian festival and holiday celebrating the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ after his **crucifixion**.

**Greetings:** *Happy Easter!*

### Halloween

Halloween is an ancient Celtic **harvest** festival that's celebrated on 31st October.

**Greetings:** *Happy Halloween!*

### Hanukkah

Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish festival that's known as the Festival of Lights.

**Greetings:** *Happy Hanukkah!*

### Diwali

Diwali is a Hindu festival that's also called the Festival of Lights.

**Greetings:** *Happy Diwali!*

### Eid

Eid is a Muslim festival known as the Festival of the **Sacrifice**.

**Greetings:** *Happy Eid!* / *Eid Mubarak* (Arabic)

### Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is an American festival to give thanks for the harvest.

**Greetings:** *Happy Thanksgiving!*

### Christmas

Christmas is a Christian festival on 25th December to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Greetings:** *Merry Christmas!* / *Happy Christmas!* *Happy winter holiday!*

### Other greetings

Here are some more typical greetings.

- **New Year:** *Happy New Year!*
- **Birthdays:** *Happy birthday! Many happy returns!*

### Funerals / death

- *I was sorry to hear about your loss.*
- *I'd like to offer my condolences.*
- *My deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

### General congratulations

- *Happy 40th wedding anniversary!*
- *Congratulations on the promotion!*
- *Well done for passing the exam!*



### Dialogue: Congratulations!

Greg is in his room, playing on the computer. His parents are having a few friends and relatives over for lunch. His uncle Terry has just arrived. **[Complete the text with the correct prepositions.]** M=Mum G=Greg T=Terry

- M: Greg! Greg! Your uncle Terry is here. Come down and say hello.
- G: Do I have to?
- M: Yes! *[Greg goes downstairs.]*
- T: Greg! Good to see you! Happy New Year!
- G: Thanks.
- T: And happy birthday, too! It's on the third, isn't it?
- G: Yeah.
- T: Did you get lots of (1) \_\_\_\_\_?
- G: Money, mostly.
- T: Oh, right. Oh, I was sorry to hear about your (2) \_\_\_\_\_.
- G: Thanks.
- T: Oh, and congratulations on your exam (3) \_\_\_\_\_.
- G: Right.
- T: Well, erm, I'd better go and say hello to the rest of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_.
- G: Five?
- T: Yes, well, erm, that's all I've got on me at the moment.
- G: Give me twenty or I'll tell auntie Susan that I saw you in (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with that woman you're always with.
- T: Erm, now, come on Greg. There's no need to be like that. Erm, here's 10...
- G: Twenty!
- T: All right. Twenty.
- G: *[to his mum]* Mum! I'm just going out for a bit.
- M: OK, but don't be too long. We're having (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in about half an hour!
- G: OK. *[to his uncle Terry]* Bye, loser!
- T: Right, yes, goodbye.

### GLOSSARY

**the resurrection** || the "resurrection" refers to the time when Jesus Christ came back to life after he had been killed

**a crucifixion** || a way of killing people which was common in the Roman Empire. The victim was tied to a cross and left to die

**a harvest** || when there's a "harvest", farmers collect the crops (wheat, barley and other food) from the fields

**a sacrifice** || if an animal is "sacrificed", it's killed as part of a special religious ceremony

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What sort of reputation do the police have in your country? Do you think they're effective? Why? Why not? How could the police service be improved in your country? What weapons do they carry?

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

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-reading**

Look at the list of police objects. Which ones do the police in your country use, wear or carry on them? What are the pros and cons of each one?



**2 Reading I**

What are the pros and cons of tasers – electrical stun guns? Make notes. Then, read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas.

**3 Reading II**

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. From what distance can you shoot someone with a taser?
2. How many volts can a taser shoot into someone?
3. How many volts do most tasers use?
4. How often do police officers actually have to fire their tasers, according to patrol officer John Griffin?
5. What has a United Nations committee described tasers as?
6. When was University of Florida student Andrew Meyer tased?

**4 Language focus**  
**Transitive verbs**

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...hitting someone with a baton..." The writer has used a transitive verb which requires an object: **to hit someone**. Write objects/nouns next to each of the words (1 to 5) below.

1. pull;
2. incapacitate;
3. stun;
4. use;
5. fire



# How effective are tasers?

These days, more and more police officers are being trained to use **tasers** – electrical **stun guns**. But just how effective are they?

In theory, tasers are **non-lethal**. When you pull the **trigger**, little **probes** shoot out and attach themselves to the **target**. Once contact has been made, a strong electrical shock **incapacitates** the victim. Taser guns can **stun** someone from about 10 metres away, and they're capable of passing a 50,000-volt current through the victim's body (although most guns use about 1,500 volts).

Tasers are seen as an effective option by many **law enforcement agencies**. As Tom Smith, the former Chairman of Taser International, said, "Pepper spray goes on for hours and hours, hitting someone with a baton breaks bones, shooting someone with a firearm causes permanent damage – the intent of those tools is to inflict pain, ... but with the taser, the intent is not to inflict pain, it's to end the **confrontation**. And when it's over, it's over."

Many police officers

also find that they rarely have to use their tasers. "Ninety-nine percent of the time, just pulling it out and saying, 'If you don't cease, you will be **tased**,' is enough," said **patrol officer** John Griffin in a report for the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*.

However, some say they're just too dangerous. An American study found that victims who suffer from heart problems could have a **cardiac arrest** if they're tased. And the United Nations committee against Torture said that the use of tasers "constituted a form of torture".

There have been several controversial incidents too. In 2007, University of Florida student Andrew Meyer was tased after repeatedly interrupting US senator John Kerry during a talk at the university. Meyer famously **yelled**, "Don't tase me, bro!" in a video of the incident that **went viral**. In the UK, officers fired a taser into the back of a **blind man**. Apparently, they'd **mistaken** his **white stick** for a samurai sword.

Watch out for those tasers! ☘

**TASER**

The word "taser" is an acronym that stands for "Thomas A. Swift's Electric Rifle".

**VIDEO**



Learn how to fire a taser. Search YouTube for "TASER C2 – Firing".

**GLOSSARY**

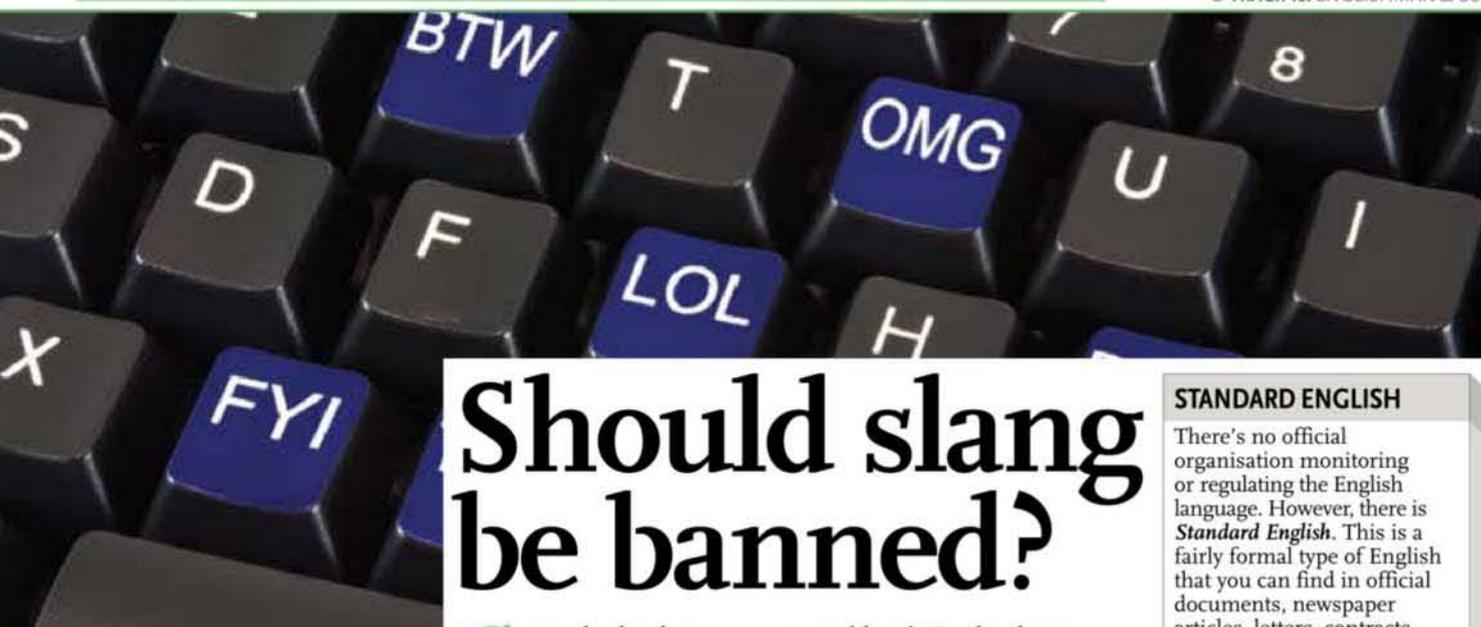
- a taser** *n*: a type of gun that gives you an electrical shock when it's fired
- a stun gun** *n*: a type of gun that gives you an electrical shock
- non-lethal** *adj*: something "non-lethal" won't kill you
- a trigger** *n*: the part of a gun that you pull with your finger when you want to fire it
- a probe** *n*: a thin object that enters your body, often in order to examine it
- a target** *n*: a "target" is the person or thing you are trying to hit when you fire a gun
- to incapacitate** *vb*: if something "incapacitates" you, it makes you feel weak, and you can't move
- to stun** *vb*: if the gun "stuns" you, it gives you an electric shock and stops you from moving
- a law enforcement agency** *n*: the police, the CIA, the FBI, etc.
- a confrontation** *n*: a fight or argument between people
- to tase** *vb*: to shoot with a taser. Also, to "taser" (the past is "tasered")
- a patrol officer** *n*: a police officer who moves in a particular area of a town/city, protecting that area
- a cardiac arrest** *n*: if someone has a "cardiac arrest", their heart stops beating
- to yell** *vb*: to shout; to say in a loud voice
- to go viral** *v*: if a video "goes viral", it becomes very popular on the internet
- blind** *adj*: someone who is "blind" can't see
- to mistake** *vb*: if you "mistake" A for B, you make a mistake and think that A is B, even though it isn't
- a white stick** *n*: a stick that blind people use so they can walk in the street, etc.

**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.

TRACK 10: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN



# 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 XIXS 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? ❖

## 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

Answers on page 44

## 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?

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** What comedy shows do you like? Have you ever seen any Monty Python sketches? What did you think of them? Have you seen any of their films? What did you like/dislike about them?

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

TRACK 11: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

WE'RE JUST SO FUNNY!



# WAS MONTY PYTHON THE BEST COMEDY GROUP EVER?

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at the list of TV comedy shows. Which ones do you like? Which other ones would you add to the list?

*Mr Bean, South Park, The Simpsons, Friends, The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Monty Python's Flying Circus, Cheers, Seinfeld, Frasier, The Office, Extras, The Big Bang Theory, Family Guy, Sponge Bob Square Pants, Two and a Half Men, American Dad, 30 Rock, Beavis and Butthead, Jack Ass, Mork and Mindy, The Cosby Show, Blackadder, MASH...*

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which sketch sounds the funniest? Which one would you like to see? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the paragraph headings next to each statement.

1. Recruits are taught how to defend themselves against an attacker.
2. Four friends are having a chat.
3. One of the tasks includes waking up a sleeping neighbour.
4. Instead of sportspeople there are philosophers.

**B**ritish comedy group Monty Python starred in the television show *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. The programme was broadcast by the BBC from 1969 to 1974, and it was famous for its **surreal** humour. However, there are now rumours that the **surviving** members are about to **reform**. Here are four of our favourite Monty Python sketches.

### 1 Twits

In this **skit**, **posh** English gentlemen compete against one another to become the Upper Class **Twit** of the Year. They have to complete a number of **tasks**, including walking along a straight line without falling over, insulting a waiter and waking up a sleeping neighbour.

### 2 Fruit

In this sketch, an army sergeant is training his troops in the art of defending themselves against an attacker who is **armed with** a piece of fresh fruit. Before the class starts, one of the soldiers reminds the sergeant that they've been doing fruit for the last nine weeks. To which the sergeant responds, "Well, I'll tell you something, **my lad**. When you're walking home tonight and some **homicidal maniac** comes after you with a bunch of **loganberries**, **don't come crying to me**."

### 3 Football

In this alternative version of football, the opposing teams consist of German and Ancient Greek philosophers. There isn't much ball play, but the **commentary** provides the humour. "Nietzsche accuses Confucius of having **no free will**," says the enthusiastic commentator. "There may be no score, but there's certainly no lack of excitement here," he adds later on.

### 4 Yorkshiremen

Four successful **Yorkshiremen** are chatting about what it was like before they became **wealthy**. They're also competing to see who had the **hardest life**. Here's an extract from the conversation:

**Man 4:** Who'd have thought 30 year ago we'd all be sitting here drinking Château de Chasselais, eh?

**Man 1:** In them days we was glad to have the price of a cup of tea.

**Man 2:** A cup of **cold** tea.

**Man 4:** Without milk or sugar.

**Man 3:** Or tea.

**Man 1:** In a **cracked** cup, an' all. ☹

[Note the non-standard examples of English in the dialogue: 30 year ago = 30 years ago  
In them days = in those days.  
We was glad = we were glad.]

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the *Four Yorkshiremen* sketch. Search YouTube for "Monty Python - Four Yorkshiremen".

## MONTY PYTHON

The members of Monty Python were Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin. Monty Python films include *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1974), *Life of Brian* (1979) and *The Meaning of Life* (1983).

## GLOSSARY

**surreal** *adj*  
strange and unusual, almost like a dream

**surviving** *adj*  
the "surviving" members of a group are the ones who are still alive

**to reform** *vb*  
if a group "reforms", the members form the group again

**a sketch** *n*  
a short funny scene that is often part of a comedy show

**a skit** *n*  
a short funny scene that is often part of a comedy show

**posh** *adj*  
someone who is "posh" speaks and acts as if they were from the upper class

**a twit** *n*  
an idiot

**a task** *n*  
something you have to do as part of your job

**armed with** *exp*  
if you're "armed with" a knife, for example, you have a knife in your hand

**my lad** *exp*  
my boy

**a homicidal maniac** *n*  
a crazy person who wants to kill someone

**a loganberry** *n*  
a type of red/purple fruit

**don't come crying to me** *exp*  
don't come to me for help

**a commentary** *n*  
if a radio presenter (for example) gives a "commentary" of an event, he/she explains what is happening

**free will** *exp*  
the ability to decide what to do

**a Yorkshireman** *n*  
a man from the northern English county of Yorkshire

**wealthy** *adj*  
someone who is "wealthy" is rich

**a hard life** *exp*  
a difficult life with no money, etc.

**cracked** *adj*  
if a cup is "cracked", it's a bit broken

**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.

TRACK 12: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN



# 5 POPULAR DANCE MOVES!

Answers on page 44

## 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.

**M**ichael 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

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** What do you do to keep track of your expenses? When was the last time you spent more than £100 (more or less)? What did you buy? How careful are you with your money?

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

**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**

What do people chat about at work or during a break at college, etc.? Think of as many things as you can. What do they typically say about each thing?

*the weather, e-mails, meetings, the boss, other colleagues, lunch, the weekend, holidays, family, their house, studies, hobbies, food, drink, parties...*

**2 Listening I**

You're going to listen to two people (James and Lily) chatting at work. Listen once. Does Lily invite James to her dinner party in the end?

**3 Listening II**

Listen again. Then, answer the questions with short answers.

- Did Lily get the e-mail that James forwarded to her?
- Is Lily's computer working properly now?
- Does Lily have any plans for this evening?
- Is she having a dinner party?
- Has she moved into her new house?
- Did she forget to invite Mike?

**4 Language focus**  
**Short answers**

Write the correct affirmative short answers for the following questions.

- Have they invited him?
- Is Shirley coming to the party?
- Will Bob be there?
- Is Nigel going to come too?

**5 Listening III**

Complete the audio script with the correct words.



# Chatting at work: the dinner party!

**Audio script**

It's Friday and James is at work. He's just popped over to talk to Lily.

**James:** Hi, did you get that e-mail I forwarded on to you?  
**Lily:** No. When did you (1) \_\_\_\_\_ it?  
**James:** This morning.  
**Lily:** Oh, right, my computer has been playing up all day and some of my e-mails didn't get through, but it (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to be all right now. Send it again. Oh, and could you also attach the sales figures for last month. There's something I need to (3) \_\_\_\_\_.  
**James:** OK. So, any plans for this evening?  
**Lily:** I've invited a few people from work over to my place for a dinner party.  
**James:** Oh, right. So, erm, what are you (4) \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Lily:** Salad for starters, salmon for the main course and a delicious ice-cream cake for dessert.  
**James:** Sounds great. So, have you (5) \_\_\_\_\_ into the new house then?  
**Lily:** Yes. This is a kind of house-warming party.  
**James:** Ah huh. So, is, erm, Shirley from accounts (6) \_\_\_\_\_?  
**Lily:** Yes, she is.  
**James:** And will Bob from marketing be there?  
**Lily:** Yes, he will.  
**James:** And Chloe in sales – is she going to be there?  
**Lily:** Yes, she is.  
**James:** What about Mike? Have you (7) \_\_\_\_\_ him?  
**Lily:** Yes, I have.  
**James:** Oh, right, so just about everyone from the office... except me.  
**Lily:** That's right. [silence]. [smiling] Would you like to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to my dinner party?  
**James:** I thought you'd never (9) \_\_\_\_\_!  
**Lily:** Well, then, you're invited.  
**James:** Thank you.  
**Lily:** By the way, I (10) \_\_\_\_\_ you an invite. You obviously didn't get it?  
**James:** No.  
**Lily:** E-mails!  
**James:** Yeah! Send a text next time.  
**Lily:** Mmm... Good idea.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it**

How important is the tourist industry in your country? Is it a growing market? Why? Which nationalities visit your country? What do they do when they visit your country? What are some of the main tourist attractions?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for leading English-language exams.

© TRACK 14: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-reading**

Look at the list of tourist attractions in London. Which ones have you visited? Which ones would you like to visit? Why? What are the top 10 attractions in your capital city?

**Top 10 London attractions**

- **The British Museum** (a collection of artefacts from around the world)
- **The Tate Modern** (a modern art museum)
- **The National Gallery** (an art museum)
- **The Natural History Museum** (a museum with lots of stuffed animals)
- **The London Eye** (a giant ferris wheel that you can ride on)
- **The Victoria and Albert Museum** (a museum of art and design)
- **The Science Museum** (a science museum)
- **The Tower of London** (a historic castle)
- **Madame Tussauds** (a wax museum)
- **The Royal Museums Greenwich** (a collection of museums on shops, stars and time)

**2 Reading I**

Where do you think most visitors to the UK come from? Which group do you think spends the most money? Make notes. Then, read the article once to compare your ideas.

**3 Reading II**

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How much is the tourist industry worth to the UK?
2. What is this equivalent to as a percentage of GDP?
3. How many people from the Netherlands visited the UK?
4. Which group spends the most in the UK?
5. What's one of the fastest growing groups to the UK?
6. Where do most Chinese visitors stay when they visit the UK?

**BUSINESS NEWS**

# HOW IMPORTANT IS TOURISM?



Since 2010, tourism has been the fastest-growing sector in the UK. And in 2013, it was worth around £127 billion, equivalent to about 9% of GDP, according to the website Visitbritain.org. But things have been changing.

Figures from Visitbritain.org show that the top 10 markets for 2012 by volume (in terms of the number of visitors to the UK) were France (3,787,000), Germany (2,967,000), the USA (2,840,000), The Irish Republic (2,453,000), The Netherlands (1,735,000), Spain (1,716,000), Italy (1,521,000), Poland (1,222,000), Belgium (1,113,000) and Australia (993,000).

However, the top 10 markets by value (in terms of the amount tourists spend in millions of pounds in the UK) were: the USA (£2,436 million), France (£1,513 million), Germany (£1,223 million), Australia (£1,018 million), The Irish Republic (£797 million), Spain (£776 million), Italy (£760 million), The Netherlands (£627

million), Canada (£559 million) and Switzerland (£547 million).

The principal markets showing growth (based on their average annual growth in spending between 2008 and 2012) were, in order: France, Australia, Switzerland, the USA and China. According to a report in the *Guardian* newspaper, Chinese tourists are now one of the fastest-growing groups of visitors to the UK – a record 179,000 in 2012 spent a total of £300m.

So, what do Chinese tourists like to do when they're here? According to Visit Britain's International Passenger Survey, the top three "dream activities" for Chinese visitors in the UK are a tour of Buckingham Palace, watching the sunset at Stonehenge and spending a night in a Scottish castle. However, most visitors stick to London, where they also do a lot of shopping.

Is tourism a growing market in your country? 🌱

**\*£127 billion**

This is a combination of direct and indirect revenue.

**TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR TOURISM IN 2012** (source: Wikipedia)

1. France – 83.0 million tourists
2. The United States – 67.0 million tourists
3. China – 57.7 million tourists
4. Spain – 57.7 million tourists
5. Italy – 46.4 million tourists
6. Turkey – 35.7 million tourists
7. Germany – 30.4 million tourists
8. United Kingdom – 29.3 million tourists
9. Russia – 25.7 million tourists
10. Malaysia – 25.0 million tourists

**GLOSSARY**

- a sector** n  
a "sector" of a country's economy is one part of it that's connected with a particular industry
- a billion** n  
a "billion" is a thousand million (1,000,000,000)
- equivalent to** adj  
if amount A is "equivalent to" amount B, amount A is the same as amount B
- GDP** abbr  
Gross Domestic Product – the total value of the goods and services produced within a country in a year
- a market** n  
a "market" is the number of people who want or buy goods or services
- principal** adj  
most important
- growth** n  
if a market is showing "growth", it is increasing in size
- average** n  
an "average" number is the result you get by adding several amounts together, then dividing the total by the number of amounts
- a survey** n  
if you carry out a "survey", you ask people questions in order to get information
- a sunset** n  
the time in the evening when the sun disappears
- to stick to** phr  
if you "stick to" one place (for example), you stay in that place and don't move

**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** When was the last time you went to a sports event? What was it? Which sports events do you like to watch? Why? Which sports events have you taken part in? What did you do?

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



Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-reading**

Look at the images at the top of this page. What do you think is happening? What are the people doing? What do you think the festival consists of? Make notes.

**2 Reading I**

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

**3 Reading II**

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. When were the first games held?
2. What prizes were given?
3. Who disapproved of the games back then?
4. In which year were the games revived in the 20th century?
5. Who opens the modern version of the games?
6. What's the name of the competition that involves throwing a long pole?

**4 Language focus**  
**Reported speech**

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...many 17th-century Puritans disapproved of festivals such as these..." The writer has used a reporting verb: *to disapprove*. Rewrite the following sentences using this verb.

1. "They don't like the film." = *They disapproved of...*
2. "I'm not keen on the idea." = I...
3. "I didn't think the language is appropriate." = He...
4. "She won't think the image is right." = She...

# An unusual spring festival!

The British are famous for their **bizarre** festivals... and the Cotswold Olimpick Games is no exception.

The Games (as they're commonly known) were started by **local** lawyer Robert Dover in 1612. They were held in a natural **amphitheatre** just outside the town of Chipping Campden in the **Cotswolds**. As part of the celebrations, a temporary wooden structure (called Dover Castle) was built. Small cannons were fired from the "castle" to mark the start of the games.

The event itself lasted about two weeks, and there were all sorts of competitions, including horse-racing, dancing, **wrestling**, **sledgehammer** throwing and **sword** fighting. Prizes included silver trophies and money. There were also tents where people could play games such as chess and cards.

However, many 17th-century **Puritans** disapproved of festivals such as these, especially when they took place on a Sunday or a church holiday. And after the **English Civil War** (1642 to 1651), the games were prohibited. However, with the **Restoration** of 1660, the Games started again and

continued until 1852 when the land was sold off. Finally, they were **revived** again in 1966, and have been held every year since then.

The modern version of the event takes place on the first Friday after the Spring Bank Holiday (usually in May). An actor dressed as Robert Dover arrives **on horseback** to open the games. After **dusk**, there's a **bonfire** and a **torchlight procession** to the square in Chipping Campden, where the entertainment continues late into the night.

The competitions last just two hours and include "the standing jump" (competitors see who can jump the furthest from a standing position), "spurning the barre" (contestants throw a long wooden pole as far as they can) and the utterly **bizarre** "shin-kicking".

Shin-kicking is a type of wrestling match in which competitors dress up in white coats, **stuff straw** down their trousers (to protect their shins), and then try to knock their opponent to the ground, often by kicking them as **hard** as they can.

Next time you're in England, come and see the Games for yourself! 🍀

**VIDEO**

Watch some shin-kickers in action during the Cotswold Olimpick Games. Search YouTube for "Shin Kicking".

**GLOSSARY**

- bizarre** *adj*  
very strange and unusual
- local** *adj*  
from the area you're referring to
- an amphitheatre** *n*  
a large open, semi-circle area where you can watch a theatre play. A natural amphitheatre is one that has been created by the form of ground
- the Cotswolds** *n*  
a range of hills in central England
- wrestling** *n*  
a sport in which two people fight and try to push/throw each other to the ground
- a sledgehammer** *n*  
a large hammer with a long handle. It's often used for breaking rocks
- a sword** *n*  
a weapon with a handle and a long metal part. It's like a big knife
- a Puritan** *n*  
a group of English Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries who were very religious and who lived a strict life
- the English Civil War** *n*  
a war in England (from 1644-1651) between the Parliamentarians (under Cromwell) and the Royalists (who supported Charles I)
- the Restoration** *n*  
the time in 1660 when Charles II became the King of England
- to revive** *vb*  
if you "revive" an event that had stopped (for example), you organise the event again
- on horseback** *exp*  
if someone is "on horseback", they're riding a horse
- dusk** *n*  
the time just before night when the sun has almost disappeared and it's getting dark
- a bonfire** *n*  
a large fire outside that's part of a celebration
- a torchlight procession** *exp*  
a group of people who are walking with torches (burning sticks)
- a shin** *n*  
the front parts of your legs between your knees and your feet
- to stuff** *vb inform*  
to put
- straw** *n*  
dried, yellow grass
- hard** *adv*  
if you kick someone "hard", you kick them with a lot of force

I DID IT  
MY WAY!**Objective**

To improve your English by reading about music and listening to song lyrics.

**Think about it**

Do you ever listen to any Frank Sinatra songs? What are some of your favourites? Have you seen any of his films? What did you think of them? Which other singers from the 1940s-60s do you like? Why do you like them?

**FRANK SINATRA**

Frank Sinatra (12th December 1915 – 14th May 1998) was an American singer and actor. He was the only child of Italian immigrants Anthony Sinatra (who later worked as a New York fireman) and Natalie Garavanta (a **midwife**). Sinatra made several films with Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr, such as *Ocean's Eleven* (1960) and *The Detective* (1968). Together, the three singers were known as The Rat Pack.

**GLOSSARY**

- a hit song** <sup>1</sup>
- a very popular and successful song
- a track** <sup>1</sup>
- a song
- upbeat** <sup>adj</sup>
- an "upbeat" song is happy and positive
- a llama** <sup>1</sup>
- a South American animal with thick hair. It looks a bit like a small camel
- to toot** <sup>vb</sup>
- if you "toot" a flute (see next entry), you make a short, sharp sound with the flute
- a flute** <sup>1</sup>
- a wooden musical instrument. You play it by blowing over a hole near one end while holding it sideways to your mouth
- the blue** <sup>1</sup>
- the sky
- the charts** <sup>1</sup>
- the list of the most popular songs in a country
- a Grammy Award** <sup>1</sup>
- an American award for musicians, bands, singers, etc
- to exchange glances** <sup>exp</sup>
- if you "exchange glances" with someone, you both look at one another quickly
- to wonder** <sup>vb</sup>
- If you "wonder" about something, you think about it
- through** <sup>adj</sup>
- if the night (for example) is "through", it has ended
- to make it** <sup>exp</sup>
- if you "make it", you become successful
- it's up to you** <sup>exp</sup>
- it's your decision; you decide
- an anthem** <sup>1</sup>
- a song which is used to represent a country, city, etc.
- to perform** <sup>vb</sup>
- if you "perform" a piece of music (for example), you sing it in front of an audience
- lyrics** <sup>1</sup>
- the words to a song
- to spread** <sup>vb</sup>
- if you "spread" news, you tell people about that piece of news
- a midwife** <sup>1</sup>
- a nurse who helps women when they have a baby, and who gives advice to pregnant women

# Frank Sinatra

by Olivia Spector

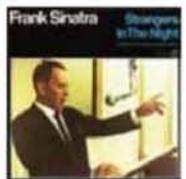
**A**merican Frank Sinatra is one of the world's top selling artists of all time. He's sold over 150 million copies of his albums, and he's starred in several films, including the 1953 movie *From Here to Eternity*, for which he won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Here are three of Frank Sinatra's most famous songs.

**Come Fly With Me**

This song was first recorded for Sinatra's 1958 album of the same name. It was one of the few **hit songs** that was actually written for him (as opposed to being a **cover** of a previously-recorded track). *Come Fly With Me* is an **upbeat**, love song that's about exotic adventures in Bombay, Peru, and Acapulco Bay.

**Lyrics**

*Come fly with me, let's float down to Peru,  
In llama land there's a one-man band,  
And he'll toot his flute for you,  
Come on fly with me, let's take off in the blue.*

**Strangers In The Night**

This song was made famous by Frank Sinatra in 1966. It was hugely successful, reaching number one in the UK Singles **Charts**, as well as winning multiple **Grammy** awards. However, Sinatra

reportedly hated it and once said, "It's the worst song that I've ever heard." Of course, his fans didn't agree with him.

**Lyrics**

*Strangers in the night exchanging glances,  
Wondering in the night what were the chances,  
We'd be sharing love before the night was through.*

**New York, New York**

"If I can **make it** there, I'll make it anywhere, it's **up to you** New York, New York."

These words have become an **anthem** for New York City. The track was originally written as the theme song for the 1977 movie *New York, New York* and was **performed** by Liza Minnelli. However, it didn't become a hit until 1978, when Sinatra performed it at Radio City Music Hall (in New York City), and then later recorded it on his album *Trilogy: Past Present Future* (where he also changed some of the lyrics). The New York Yankees (a professional baseball team) play it after every home game, and it's also typically played on New Year's Eve as part of the celebrations.

**Lyrics**

*Start spreading the news,  
I'm leaving today,  
I want to be a part of it,  
New York, New York.* 🎵

TRAVEL ENGLISH

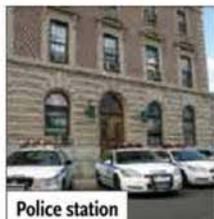
# AT THE POLICE STATION

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]



# 12 YEARS A SLAVE

Solomon Northup was a married man with two children living in New York when he was **kidnapped** and sold into **slavery**. Twelve years later, he managed to escape. On returning home, he wrote a story about his experience called *Twelve Years a Slave*. This has just been made into a film that's directed by Steve McQueen and which stars Chiwetel Ejiofor (as Solomon), Michael Fassbender and Benedict Cumberbatch. Here's the incredible and true story of Solomon Northup.

Solomon Northup was an African-American man born in 1808. His father, Mintus, had been a **slave**. However, when Mintus' **master** (Henry Northup) died, Mintus became a free man and took the surname Northup as his own. So, when Solomon was born, he too was a free man. At the time, slavery had been **abolished** in most states in the northern part of the US; however, it was still legal in many of the southern states.

In 1829, Solomon Northup married Anne Hampton. They had three children and owned a farm in Hebron in the state of New York. After selling the property in 1834, the Northups moved 20 miles to Saratoga Springs (also in New York). Solomon had various jobs, including working as a **raftsman** and a **fiddler**, often playing in local dances.

Sometime in 1841, Solomon met two men. They introduced themselves as Merrill Brown and Abram Hamilton. They claimed to be members of a circus company, and they offered Solomon a job as a fiddler in New York City, and later in Washington DC (where slavery was still legal). They also promised him a substantial amount of money and the cost of his return trip home.

However, during a meal to celebrate the deal, Brown and Hamilton **drugged** Solomon. They then sold him to a **slave trader** called James H. Birch for \$650, explaining that Solomon was a **fugitive** slave. At this time, 20 years before the American Civil War (1861-1865), there was a demand for slaves due to an expansion of the cotton

market. As the **slave trade** across the Atlantic was illegal, free African-Americans from the north were often kidnapped and forced to work in the **Deep South**.

From Washington, Solomon was **shipped** to New Orleans, where he was sold as a slave. Over the following years, Solomon (who had been renamed Platt) had a series of masters, eventually ending up with Edwin Epps. Epps was a cruel man who frequently **whipped** his slaves if they didn't meet the **work quota** he'd set.

In 1852, Solomon met Samuel Bass, a **carpenter** from Canada who was doing some work for Epps. After hearing Samuel **speak out against** slavery and in favour of **abolition**, Solomon felt safe enough to **confide** in him. Solomon told Samuel about his past as a free man and how he had been kidnapped. Samuel agreed to send on letters to Solomon's friends in New York.

Fortunately, one of the letters found its way to Henry B. Northup – the son of Solomon's father's former master. Henry eventually located Solomon and convinced Epps to release him. Finally, on 4th January 1853, four months after meeting Samuel, Solomon was free again.

Back in New York, Solomon published an account of his experiences, *Twelve Years a Slave* (1853). It sold 30,000 copies within three years, and helped identify the kidnappers, whose real names were Alexander Merrill and Joseph Russell. However, they were never convicted of anything. The circumstances surrounding Solomon's death are still unclear. Some say he died a natural death, but there were also reports that he'd been murdered or even kidnapped again.

Solomon's account is an important document on slavery in the south. But only Solomon could possibly know what it was really like. And as he said in the conclusion to his book, "This is no fiction, no **exaggeration**. If I have failed in anything, it has been in presenting to the reader too **prominently** the bright side of the picture." 🌱

## 12 YEARS A SLAVE



*12 Years a Slave* is a 2013 British-American historical drama. It's an adaptation of the 1853 book of the same

name by Solomon Northup. The film is directed by Steve McQueen, and stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, Benedict Cumberbatch and Brad Pitt.

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the trailer for the film. Search YouTube for "12 Years a Slave - Official Trailer".

## GLOSSARY

to kidnap

if A "kidnaps" B, A takes B and holds B as a prisoner

slavery

a system that allows one group of people to own/possess other people who have to work for free

a slave

someone who is the property of another person and who has to work for free

a master

a slave's "master" is the person who owns/possesses the slave

to abolish

if the government "abolishes" something, they stop it and make it illegal

a raftsman

a person whose job was to transport logs (tree trunks) along the river

a fiddler

someone who plays the violin

to drug

if A "drugs" B, A gives B a drug so that B falls asleep or becomes sick

a slave trader

someone who buys and sells slaves

a fugitive

someone who has escaped from prison; in this case, an escaped slave

the slave trade

the buying and selling of slaves

the Deep South

the southeastern region of the United States: South Carolina, Georgia, etc.

Slavery was legal here before the Civil War

to ship

if someone is "shipped" to a place, they're sent there by ship

to whip

to hit someone with a whip: a long piece of rope or leather

a work quota

a "work quota" is an amount of work you must do in a certain period of time

a carpenter

a person whose job is making and repairing wooden things

to speak out against

if you "speak out against" something, you tell people that you don't like it

abolition

the "abolition" of slavery (for example) is the prohibition of slavery (the end of it)

to confide in

if you "confide in" someone, you tell them a secret

an exaggeration

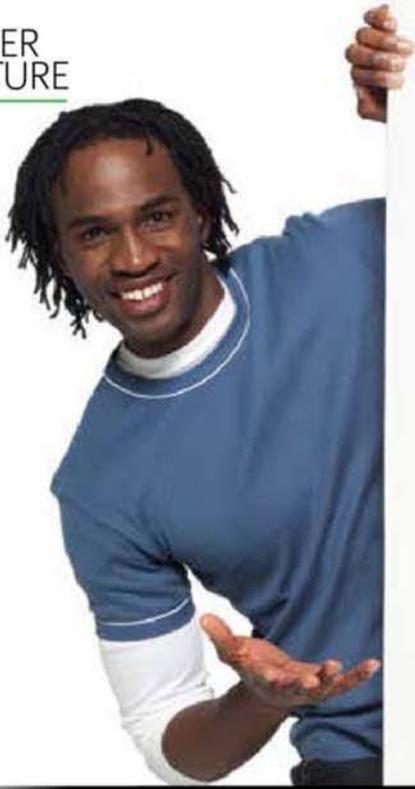
if there's an "exaggeration", something sounds a lot worse or better than it really is

prominently

if something is presented "prominently", it's easy to see or notice it

the bright side of something

the positive or good side of something



# 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

## CORNERS

### 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

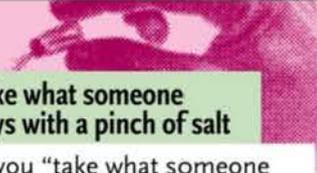


### The last straw

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

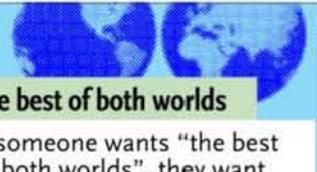


### Sit on the fence

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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# JEFF BEZOS MR AMAZON!

**A**mazon.com is the world's largest online shop and sells just about everything from books, to clothes, to films and music. The man behind all this is Jeff Bezos. Here are 5 of his top tips for success.

## 1 Believe in yourself

From the start, Amazon had one important goal: to sell almost every book online, with the **tagline**, "Earth's biggest book store!" Before launching the site, Jeff spoke to publishing experts about his idea. They suggested just focussing on best-selling books and a **handful of** popular **genres**. "Every well-intentioned, high-judgment person we asked told us not to do it," he explained. Of course, Jeff ignored the advice, and by offering a wide range of books, Amazon managed to **fill a gap** in the market. If Jeff had launched a **scaled-down** version of the site, Amazon may never have become so popular so quickly.

## 2 Be customer oriented

According to Jeff, the people who **drive** the business **forward** are the customers.

"We see our customers as invited **guests** to a party, and we're the **hosts**. It's our job every day to make every important aspect of the customer experience a little bit better." All new products are also designed with the customer in mind. "Determine what your customers need, and work backwards," Jeff once said. And this is what happened with Amazon's star product, the **Kindle**. "If customers don't want something, it's gone, even if that means breaking apart a once powerful department," Jeff added.

## Bio - Jeff Bezos

Jeff Bezos is an American internet and technology entrepreneur. As the founder and CEO of Amazon.com (the largest **retailer** on the internet) he's played a key role in the growth of **e-commerce**. He was born Jeffrey Preston Jorgensen on 12th January 1964 in Albuquerque (New Mexico, USA). His parents were Jacklyn Gise and Ted Jorgensen. Later, his mother married Miguel Bezos, a Cuban immigrant, who adopted Jeff. Jeff studied electrical engineering and computer science at Princeton University. He founded Amazon.com in 1994, initially setting up the company in his garage.

## 3 Provide the best customer service possible

Customer service is also **key** to the success of the business. "In the old world, you devoted 30% of your time to building a great service and 70% of your time to shouting about it. In the new world, that **inverts**," he explained. It's also important to pass on any savings to the customer. "There are two kinds of companies: those that try to charge more, and those that work to charge less. We will be the second." He's also aware of the dangers of providing a poor service. "Complaints can be devastating in the age of **viral tweets** and blogs," Jeff warned.

## 4 Understand your customers

Jeff is **keen for** his workforce to understand the company's customers. So, he asks thousands of Amazon managers (including himself) to attend two days of **call-centre** training each year. This is designed to create **empathy** for the customer. "By obsessing on serving your customers, you will create a culture in which employees **feed** each other, rather than **feed on** each other," he added.

## 5 Hire the best

Finally, Jeff believes in **hiring** the best. "I'd rather interview 50 people and not hire anyone than hire the wrong person," he once said. "A **mis-hire at the outset** of your company can **irreversibly alter** the **trajectory** of your corporate culture. If you hire **sharks**, you cannot expect them to act like dolphins." Jeff also warns of the dangers of getting it wrong. "If a **critical mass** of new hires enter your organisation with a **self-serving mindset**, **selfish** behaviour will become the **norm** and a **de facto** aspect of your company's culture." 🌱

## Objective

To learn some business tips from world-famous entrepreneurs.

## Think about it

How often do you buy things online? Which websites do you use? What do you like/dislike about shopping online? Have you ever bought anything from Amazon? What was it? What was the customer experience like?

## GLOSSARY

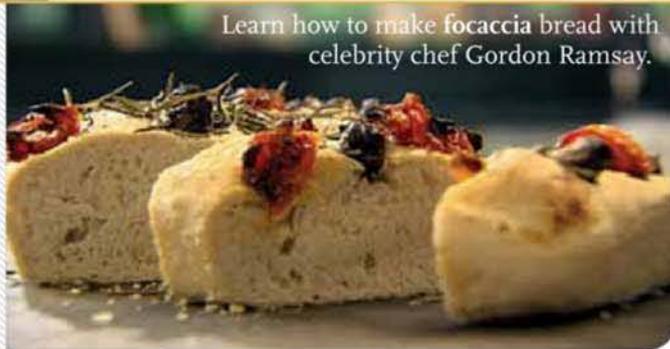
- a tagline** *n*  
a short sentence that describes a product
- a handful of** *exp*  
a few (not many)
- a genre** *n*  
a type of film, book, etc.: horror, science-fiction, comedy, romance, etc.
- to fill a gap** *exp*  
if you "fill a gap in the market", you develop a product that people need and that no other company has produced
- scaled-down** *adj*  
a "scaled-down" version of something is a reduced, smaller version of it
- to drive forward** *exp*  
if something "drives forward" a business, it helps to develop the business
- a guest** *n*  
someone who is invited to a party
- a host** *n*  
someone who organises a party
- Kindle** *n*  
an e-reader developed by Amazon - you can read digital books on it and buy books too
- key to** *exp*  
if something is "key to" your success, it's very important for your success
- to invert** *vb*  
if something "inverts", the opposite happens
- a viral tweet** *n*  
a "tweet" is a message on the social network Twitter. A "viral" tweet becomes very popular
- keen for** *exp*  
if you're "keen for" something to happen, you really want it to happen
- a call-centre** *n*  
a customer service office in a large company in which telephone calls are answered
- empathy** *n*  
the ability to understand other people's feelings and emotions
- to feed / to feed on** *exp*  
if employees "feed" each other, they help one another; if they "feed on" each other, they use each other for their own benefit
- to hire** *vb*  
if you "hire" someone, you give them a job
- a mis-hire** *n*  
if there's a "mis-hire", the company hires someone who isn't good for the company
- at the outset** *exp*  
at the start
- irreversibly** *adv*  
if something happens "irreversibly", you can't change it
- to alter** *vb*  
to change
- a trajectory** *n*  
a path or course that something is moving along
- a shark** *n*  
a "shark" is someone who tricks other people for money or who behaves in a bad/unethical/dishonest way in a company
- a critical mass** *n*  
a "critical mass" of something is an amount of it that makes it possible for something to happen
- a self-serving mindset** *exp*  
someone with a "self-serving mindset" only thinks about him/herself
- selfish** *adj*  
someone who is "selfish" only thinks about him/herself
- the norm** *n*  
the thing that usually happens
- de facto** *adj*  
actual, existing, real
- a retailer** *n*  
a person or business that sells goods to the public
- e-commerce** *n*  
the buying and selling of goods and services on the internet

## RECIPE

# OLIVE, TOMATO & ROSEMARY FOCACCIA



Learn how to make focaccia bread with celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay.



### Ingredients

- 1 Olive oil
- 2 Black olives
- 3 Rosemary
- 4 Salt
- 5 Pepper
- 6 Flour
- 7 Dried cherry tomatoes
- Semolina
- Yeast
- Warm water



### Process

1. First of all, you need to make the **dough**. Put 500 grams of flour, 20 grams of semolina, 15 grams of dried yeast and a pinch of salt into a mixing bowl.
2. Mix 950ml of warm water with 50ml of olive oil. Then, make a hole in the middle of the dough mixture and pour in a bit of the oil and water. Mix together with your hands and keep adding the water. **Knead** it gently until it **hangs together** when you hold it up.
3. Sprinkle some flour onto a chopping board. Then, knead the dough into the shape of a ball until it's nice and smooth. Be careful not to add too much flour or the dough will become dry.
4. Put the dough into a glass bowl and cover with **clingfilm**. Leave it for about half an hour or until it's **doubled** in size.
5. Take a baking tray and **drizzle** some olive oil on the bottom. Also, add some salt. Then, place the dough mixture into the baking tray. Pour some olive oil on the top and gently massage the dough into the baking tray so it goes into all the corners.
6. Push the dried tomatoes and olives into the top of the bread, and season with salt, pepper and rosemary leaves. Then, drizzle some more olive oil on top.
7. Put the bread into the **oven** at 200°C and **bake** the bread for 30-35 minutes.

Now you're ready to eat your delicious focaccia bread! 🍞

### VIDEO

YouTube

Watch Gordon Ramsay make this delicious bread. Search YouTube for "Gordon Ramsay Olive Tomato and Rosemary Focaccia".

### GLOSSARY

**semolina** *n*  
small hard grains of wheat that are used for making sweet things or pasta

**yeast** *n*  
a substance that makes bread rise (become taller) when you cook it

**dough** *n*  
a mixture of flour and water (and sometimes also fat and sugar) that can be used to make bread, cakes and biscuits

**to knead** *vb*  
to press and pull the dough (for example) with your hands so it's ready for cooking

**to hang together** *exp*  
if a mixture "hangs together", it maintains its shape and doesn't separate

**clingfilm** *n*  
a thin, clear plastic that you use to cover food in order to keep it fresh

**to double** *vb*  
if a substance "doubles" in size, it becomes twice its size

**to drizzle** *vb*  
if you "drizzle" oil over food, you put a small amount of the oil over the food

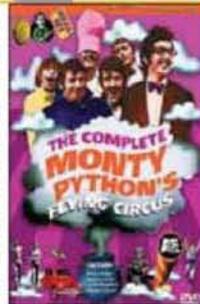
**an oven** *n*  
a device for cooking that is like a box with a door. You heat it and cook food inside it

**to bake** *vb*  
to cook in an oven (see previous entry)

## TV SCRIPTS

# MONTY PYTHON: THE ARGUMENT CLINIC

Real Language in action



Monty Python were a famous comedy group who starred in the television show *Monty Python's Flying Circus* from 1969 to 1974. Here's an extract from one of their famous sketches: *The Argument Clinic*. In this skit, a young man wants to pay to have an **argument**. [Please see our article on page 16 for more information on Monty Python.]

### The Script

R=Receptionist M=Man B= Mr Barnard C= Mr Chapman

R: Yes, sir.  
M: I'd like to have an argument, please.  
R: Certainly sir. Have you been here before?  
M: No, this is my first time.  
R: I see. Do you want to have the full argument, or were you thinking of taking a course?  
M: Well, erm, what would be the cost?  
R: Well, yes, it's one pound for a five-minute argument, but only eight pounds for a course of ten.  
M: Well, I think it's probably best if I start with the one and see how it goes from there, OK?  
R: Fine. I'll see who's free at the moment.  
R: Mr DeBakey's free, but he's a little bit **conciliatory**. Yes, erm, try Mr Barnard, room 12.  
M: Thank you. [He walks down the hall and opens the door.]  
C: WHAT DO YOU WANT?  
M: Well, I was told outside...  
C: Don't give me that, you **snotty-faced heap** of parrot droppings!  
M: What?  
C: Shut your **festering gob**, you tit! Your type makes me **puke**, you **vacuous, toffee-nosed, malodorous pervert!**  
M: Look, I CAME IN HERE FOR AN ARGUMENT!  
C: Oh, oh, oh I'm sorry, this is **abuse**.  
M: Oh, I see, well, that explains it.  
C: Oh, no, you want 12A next door.  
M: I see. Sorry.  
C: Not at all. That's all right. [under his breath] **Stupid git!** [The man walks down the corridor and knocks on the door.]  
B: Come in.  
M: Ah, is this the right room for an argument?  
B: I've told you once.  
M: No, you haven't.  
B: Yes, I have.  
M: When?  
B: Just now.  
M: No, you didn't.  
B: Yes, I did.  
M: You didn't [The argument continues like this.]

### VIDEO

YouTube

To watch and read along to the clip, search YouTube for "Argument Clinic".

### GLOSSARY

**an argument** *n*  
a conversation in which people shout at each other angrily

**conciliatory** *adj*  
if someone is being "conciliatory", they want to stop fighting or arguing

**snotty-faced** *exp inform*  
someone who is "snotty-faced" thinks they are superior or important

**a heap of** *exp*  
a "heap of" things is a quantity of them with one on top of the other

**droppings** *n*  
"droppings" are what a bird produces when it goes to the toilet

**shut your gob** *exp inform*  
shut up! / be quiet! / stop talking!

**festering** *adj*  
if a cut is "festering", it has bacteria on it

**you tit** *exp inform*  
you idiot!

**to puke** *vb inform*  
to vomit; when you "puke", liquid comes out of your mouth, often when you're sick

**vacuous** *adj*  
stupid; empty

**toffee-nosed** *adj*  
someone who is "toffee-nosed" thinks they are superior or very important

**malodorous** *adj*  
someone who is "malodorous" smells bad

**a pervert** *n*  
a "pervert" is someone who always thinks about sex, or who has unacceptable views on sex

**abuse** *n*  
if you suffer "abuse", someone is extremely rude and insulting to you

**stupid git** *exp inform*  
idiot!

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Are there any famous buildings in your capital city? What are they? Are there many skyscrapers? What do you like/dislike about the skyline in your city? How could it be improved?

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

# LONDON'S CHANGING SKYLINE!



Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

Match the names of the buildings (1 to 4) to the buildings in the picture (a-d).

- The Gherkin
- The Cheesegrater
- The Shard
- The Walkie Talkie

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which building is the most impressive? Which one would you like to visit? Why? Which one do you like/dislike? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a building next to each statement. Try to do it without referring back to the article.

- It's got 41 floors.
- It's 160 metres tall.
- It was designed by an Italian architect.
- It's in the shape of an item of food.
- It's got 87 floors.
- It's been destroying things.
- It's 224 metres tall.
- It was designed by the same architect who did the Lloyd's building.

## 4 Language focus Conditionals

Look at the extract from the article on this page, ".... If it's sunny, this really intense..." The writer has used a Zero Conditional structure. Re-write the following sentences as First Conditionals.

- If it's sunny, we go for a walk.
- If they turn it on, it gets hot.
- If you use this one, it's easier.

For centuries, London's skyline has been dominated by St Paul's Cathedral. But in recent years, skyscrapers have been slowly taking over. They come in all shapes and sizes and often have unusual nicknames. Here are four to look out for.

### 1 The Shard

London Bridge Tower is commonly known as The Shard (or the **Shard of Glass**). It's an 87-storey skyscraper in London that forms part of the London Bridge Quarter development. It was designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano. At 310 metres, it's the tallest building in Western Europe. Construction began in March 2009, and it was inaugurated on 5th July 2012. The observation deck (known as the View from the Shard) is open to the public.

### 2 The Cheesegrater

The Leadenhall Building on 122 Leadenhall Street has been dubbed the "Cheesegrater" because of its wedge-like shape. At 224 metres, it became the second tallest building in the City of London. It was designed by Richard Rogers, who is probably most famous for his work on the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The base of the building features a 30-metre high atrium, which is open to the public. There are also exterior glass lifts on the building, similar to the ones in the neighbouring Lloyd's building, which was also designed by Rogers.

### 3 The Gherkin

30 St Mary Axe is known informally as "the Gherkin". It's a skyscraper in London's main financial district, the City of London. It was completed in December 2003 and opened in April 2004. With 41 floors, the tower is 180 metres tall and stands on a street called St Mary Axe. It was designed by Norman Foster and Arup engineers. The building is one of the city's most widely recognised examples of modern architecture.

### 4 The Walkie Talkie

20 Fenchurch Street has been nicknamed The Walkie-Talkie. It's 160 metres tall and was designed by Uruguayan architect Rafael Viñoly. It has a large viewing deck and sky gardens on the top three floors, which are open to the public. However, it's recently been given another nickname: the Walkie Scorchie. This is because the concave shape of the building creates a sun ray that can reach temperatures of up to 70°C. "If it's sunny, this really intense beam of light comes off the building and hits the opposite side of the street," said one city worker. The beam is so powerful that it has melted car bodywork, burnt carpets and started fires. In his defence, Rafael said, "When I first came to London years ago, it wasn't like this... Now you have all these sunny days. So, you should blame this thing on

global warming too, right?"

Has the skyline in your city changed much? ☺

## GLOSSARY

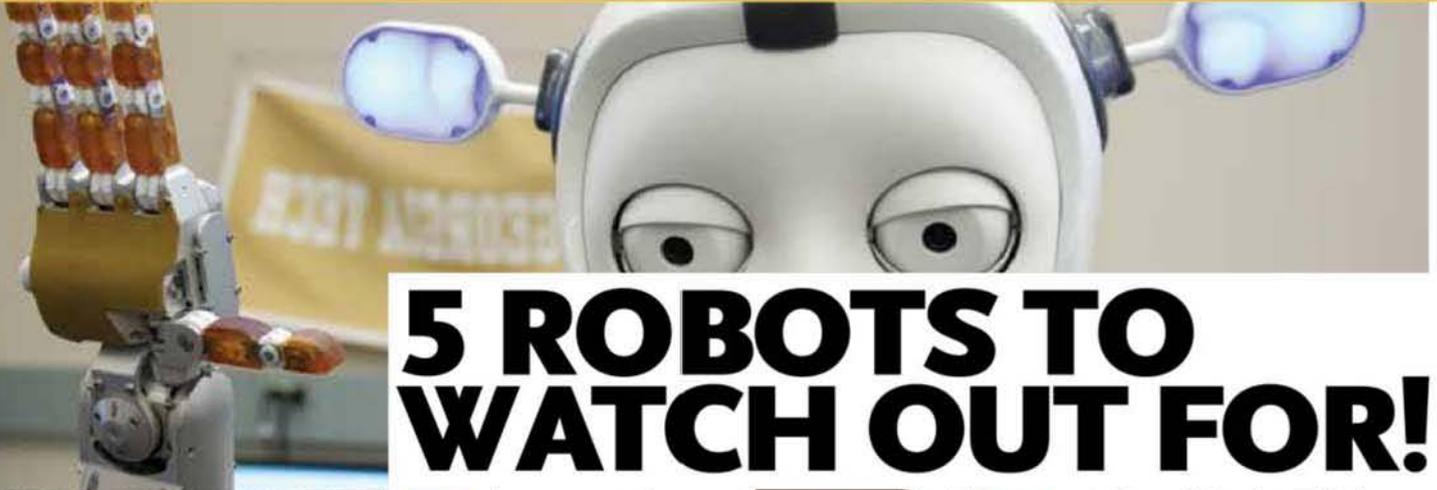
- a skyscraper *n*: a very tall building in a city
- a nickname *n*: an informal name for something
- a shard of glass *n*: a small piece of broken glass
- a storey *n*: one of the levels or floors in a building
- to inaugurate *v*: when a new building is "inaugurated", it's opened in a formal ceremony
- to dub *v*: if you "dub" a building a particular name, you give it that name
- a cheese grater *n*: a metal object for cutting cheese (for example) into very small pieces
- a wedge *n*: an object with a thin end and a thick end. You can put a "wedge" in a door to stop it closing
- an atrium *n*: the entrance to a building that is very high and goes up through several floors. It often has a glass roof
- a lift *n*: an electrical device that takes you up or down inside a tall building
- neighbouring *adj*: a "neighbouring" building is next to the building you're referring to
- a gherkin *n*: a green vegetable that is kept in vinegar. It's like a small cucumber
- a floor *n*: one of the levels in a building
- a walkie-talkie *n*: a small portable radio that you can use to communicate with someone
- a viewing deck *n*: a room or platform at a high point in a building with a view of the city
- a sky garden *n*: a garden on the roof of a building
- "scorchie" *adj*: this comes from the verb "to scorch"; if something is "scorched", it's burnt by a very hot object
- concave *adj*: a surface that is "concave" curves (bends/turns) inwards in the middle
- a ray *n*: a "ray" of light is a thin line of it travelling in one direction
- a beam of light *n*: a "beam" of light is a thin line of it travelling in one direction
- to melt *v*: if the sun "melts" an ice cream (for example), it makes the ice cream become liquid
- bodywork *n*: the "bodywork" of a car is the outside part of it
- global warming *n*: the increase in the earth's temperature caused by high levels of carbon dioxide

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever seen any robot toys? What did you think of them? In what ways are robots used in your country? Have you seen any reports on the use of robots recently? What were they about? What do you think robots will be able to do in the future?

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

TRACK 19: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN



# 5 ROBOTS TO WATCH OUT FOR!

Answers on page 44

## Pre-reading

Look at the list of scary robots, monsters and characters. Which ones are the most frightening? Why?

- Freddy Kruger
- The Terminator
- Chucky
- Predator
- ROBOCOP
- HAL 9000 (from *A Space Odyssey*)
- Replicants (from *Blade Runner*)
- Daleks (mechanical mutants from *Dr Who*)
- Cybermen (cyborgs from *Dr Who*)
- Other?

## Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which robot is the cleverest, scariest or most impressive? Why?

## Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a robot next to each statement. Try to do it without referring back to the article.

1. It's been used to herd cows.
2. It weighs just over 2 kilos.
3. It looks like a baby animal.
4. It can carry things for you.
5. It can potentially kill humans.
6. It can interact with humans.

**R**obots seem to be getting more and more sophisticated, as these five examples clearly show.



### 1 Budgee

Budgee was created by Five Elements

Robotics. With two wheels and a little basket, he can carry things for you while you're at the shops or in the park. You can communicate with him by using an **app** on your phone, and set basic commands such as the distance he has to walk behind you. Budgee can hold up to 22 kilograms and he **folds up** into a small package that weighs just over 2 kilograms.



### 2 Simon the Robot

Simon the Robot was

developed by the Georgia Institute of Technology. He's an upper-torso humanoid robot. Simon the Robot can **grasp** and **release** objects, clean up a workspace and **interact** with humans. In tests, Simon the Robot could tell with close to 80% accuracy whether someone was ignoring him or paying attention.



### 3 Rover

Rover was created by a team at Sydney University

and has been used to **herd** cows from a field to a **dairy**. The **prototype** needs to be operated by a human but in the future they're hoping to develop a fully-automated version. As well as herding cows, Rover can also monitor animals that are about to **give birth**, **gather** data on soil, and detect problems with electric fences.



### 4 Paro

Paro is a baby harp seal robot that was designed

by Takanori Shibata. He's a therapeutic robot that's used on patients in hospitals and nursing homes. He can respond to sounds, learn a name and even show emotions such as surprise, happiness and anger. Unlike a real baby harp seal, he's active during the day and he sleeps at night.



### 5 The Crusher

The Crusher was developed

for America's Department of Defense. He's known as a UGV – an Unmanned

Ground Combat Vehicle. Weighing about six tonnes, this monster is capable of moving across a **battlefield** using a series of **sensors**. During tests in Texas, he was fitted with a machine gun. Many believe that in the future, a new generation of robots will be fully **autonomous** and will be able to decide for themselves when to kill humans.

Watch out for the robots! ◉

## GLOSSARY

- an app** *n*  
a computer program or game for a smartphone, iPhone, iPad, etc.
- to fold up** *phr. vb*  
if you can "fold up" an object, you can put one part of it on top of the other to make it into a small package
- a torso** *n*  
the main part of your body, not including your head, arms and legs
- to grasp** *vb*  
if you "grasp" something, you take it in your hands
- to release** *vb*  
if you "release" something, you stop holding it
- to interact** *vb*  
when people "interact" with each other, they communicate and talk, etc.
- to herd** *vb*  
if you "herd" animals, you move them along as a group
- a dairy** *n*  
a company that sells and makes milk and food made from milk (butter, cream, cheese, etc.)
- a prototype** *n*  
a new type of machine which isn't ready for the public or shops as it's still being developed
- to give birth** *exp*  
when an animal "gives birth", a baby comes out of it
- to gather** *vb*  
if you "gather" data/information, you collect that data/information
- a battlefield** *n*  
a place where a battle (a fight between soldiers/armies) is fought
- a sensor** *n*  
an electronic instrument that can see/detect/notice things around it
- autonomous** *adj*  
an "autonomous" machine can act alone and doesn't need to be controlled by a human

**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.

TRACK 20: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

LIFE CAN BE SO AWKWARD!



Answers on page 44

## 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!

**H**ave 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** <sup>n</sup>  
the end part of a joke that's supposed to be funny

**to raise** <sup>ph</sup>  
if you "raise" a hand, you put it into a higher position

**to make a dash for something** <sup>exp</sup>  
to move towards something very quickly

**dignity** <sup>n</sup>  
if someone loses their "dignity", they do something that makes them look a bit stupid or silly

**to flip a coin** <sup>exp</sup>  
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

# MEDICINE & HEALTH

## Painkiller

A painkiller is a drug which reduces or stops physical pain.  
**"I took a couple of painkillers to stop the terrible pain in my head."**



## Sprain

If you "sprain" your ankle (for example), you accidentally damage it by twisting (turning) it violently.  
**"I sprained my ankle when I was playing basketball."**



## Health insurance

If you've got a "health insurance" policy, you'll get compensation (money, etc.) or free treatment if you're sick or you have to go to hospital. In order to have a health insurance policy, you have to pay an amount of money every month to the insurance company.  
**"I was offered a free health insurance policy as part of my job package."**



## Needle & syringe

A "syringe" is a small tube with a thin end for taking in and pushing out a liquid. You can fit a needle to the end of it. A "needle" is a sharp pointed metal object that can go into your skin. Both these objects are often used for giving people injections or for taking blood samples.  
**"They gave me an injection with a massive needle, but it didn't hurt much."**



## Hiccups

When you've got "hiccups", you make repeated sharp sounds in your throat, often because you've been eating or drinking too quickly.  
**"Sipping water is a good way of getting rid of hiccups."**



## Hypochondriac

A "hypochondriac" is someone who is always worrying about their health, even though there isn't anything wrong with them.  
**"I wouldn't pay too much attention to him – he's a bit of a hypochondriac."**



## (Plaster) cast

A "plaster cast" is a cover made of plaster of Paris (a white powder that forms a paste). The cast is used to protect a broken bone, etc.  
**"I'm afraid we'll have to put your leg in a cast until it heals."**



## Thermometer

An instrument that is used to check your body temperature.  
**"They took my temperature with a digital thermometer."**



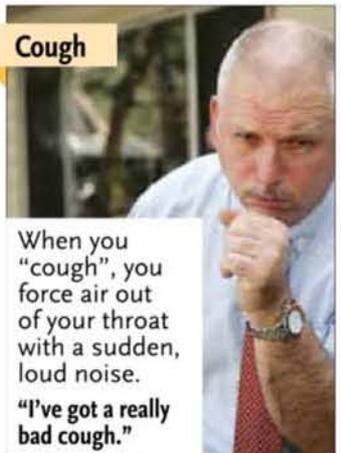
## Sore throat

If you've got a "sore throat", your throat hurts. Your "throat" is the back of your mouth and the top part of the tubes that go down into your stomach.  
**"Drinking hot water with lemon and honey is great for a sore throat."**



## Cough

When you "cough", you force air out of your throat with a sudden, loud noise.  
**"I've got a really bad cough."**



## Ointment

An ointment is a smooth thick substance that you put on your skin to make it better. It's often used to cure a rash – an area of red spots that appear on your skin.  
**"The doctor prescribed an ointment for the rash on my arm."**



## Sneeze

When you "sneeze", you suddenly and automatically breathe in then blow the air down through your nose. This often happens when you've got a cold.  
**"She made me jump because she sneezed so loudly."**



## Bandage

A "bandage" is a strip of cloth that you put around a part of your body where there's a cut or an injury. You do this to protect or support it.  
**"We put a bandage around his wrist."**



## Be off (work)

If you're "off work", you don't go to work because you're sick.  
**"She was off work for three days because of the illness."**



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it**

What do you think of fast food? How often do you have it? How often do you sit down with friends and family for a home-cooked meal? Where do you buy your clothes? What type of TV shows do you like?

TRACK 21: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN

QUIRKY NEWS

Unusual news stories from around the world.

# HOW TO ENJOY LIFE... SLOWLY!

SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE!



Answers on page 44

## Pre-reading

What do you know about the Slow Movement? What do you think it is? What do you think Slow Food, Slow Travel, Slow Fashion and Slow TV is? Make notes.

## Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

## Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Who started the Slow Food movement?
2. When did he start it?
3. Why did he start it?
4. What's the objective of the Slow Food movement?
5. How many members does it have?
6. Who wrote the book *In Praise of Slowness*?
7. What's Slow Fashion?
8. Who broadcast the 12-hour programme on wood burning?

“There's more to life than increasing its speed.” Ghandi

You've probably heard of Slow Food, but now there's a new addition to the global “Slow Movement”: Slow TV. But what's it all about?

Journalist Carlo Petrini started the Slow Food movement in Rome in 1986. It was a form of protest against the proposed opening of a McDonald's restaurant in the Piazza di Spagna (the Spanish Steps) – a famous **tourist site** in the city.

The objective of the Slow Food movement is to promote the use of fresh, **local food** that's grown with **sustainable** farming techniques, and that you can enjoy in the company of friends and family. The movement has over 83,000 members in 50 countries, which are organised into 800 “convivial” [Italian for “local chapters”].

Slow Food soon became part of a more general Slow Movement. In his 2004

book *In Praise of Slowness*, Carl Honoré wrote, “The Slow Movement is a cultural revolution against the notion that faster is always better. The Slow philosophy is not about doing everything **at a snail's pace**. It's about seeking to do everything at the right speed. It's about quality over quantity in everything from work to food to **parenting**.”

There are lots of categories within the movement, including Slow Travel, Slow Gardening, Slow Work and Slow Education. “Slow Fashion” was invented by Kate Fletcher in 2007. It's seen as an alternative to mass-produced clothing (“fast-fashion”). Supporters buy **locally-made** or second-hand clothing, **donate** unwanted **garments** and make their own clothes with recycled fabrics.

But now, there's a new addition to the movement: Slow TV. Norway's NRK recently broadcast a TV programme on wood burning that lasted for 12 hours! The show **featured** specialists

who gave advice on how to **stack** and burn wood.

Other Slow TV shows from Norway include more than 8 hours of televised **knitting**, 18 hours of salmon **spawning** and 130 hours of a cruise ship sailing up the Norwegian coast.

Fascinating stuff! 🍷

## GLOSSARY

- a tourist site** *n*: a place that tourists like to visit because it's interesting
- local food** *n*: food from the area you're referring to
- sustainable** *adj*: “sustainable” farming techniques use the natural resources carefully without damaging the environment (the land, air, water, etc.)
- at a snail's pace** *exp*: very, very slowly. A “snail” is a little animal with a shell on its back
- parenting** *n*: the things that parents do: looking after children, educating them, feeding them, caring for them, etc.
- locally-made** *adj*: made in the area you're referring to (not in a factory many miles away)
- to donate** *vb*: if you “donate” money (for example) to a charity, you give it to the charity
- a garment** *n*: a piece of clothing
- to feature** *vb*: if a TV programme “features” something, it has that thing as part of the programme
- to stack** *vb*: if you “stack” objects, you arrange them into piles, with one on top of the other
- to knit** *vb*: if you “knit” a hat (for example), you make it from wool by using two needles (long, thin, metal objects) or a machine
- to spawn** *vb*: when fish “spawn”, they lay their eggs



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**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you heard any examples of hypocrisy lately? What happened? Have there been any examples of famous people or public figures acting hypocritically? What happened? Do you know anyone who has acted hypocritically lately? Who? How? Have you ever been guilty of hypocrisy? In what way?

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

Answers on page 44

### 1 Pre-listening

Look at the list of people below. In what ways can they be hypocritical: when they say one thing but do the opposite; or when they tell you not to do something but they do it themselves, etc.?

*your boss, the government, your parents, a teacher, a work colleague, a government minister, the president, a celebrity, a musician, a film star, a sports person, a millionaire, a member of the royal family, a film critic, a restaurant critic, left-wing people / socialists, etc., right-wing people / conservatives, etc., strictly religious people...*

### 2 Listening I

You're going to listen to three people talking about hypocrisy. They mention the following types of people: those concerned about the environment, conservative types, televangelists, left-wing politicians, millionaire left-wing politicians. In what ways could these people be hypocritical? Make notes. Then, listen once to the recording to compare your ideas.

### 3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, write **T** (true) or **F** (false) next to each statement, according to what the speakers say in the recording.

- Al Gore got an Oscar for his film *An Inconvenient Truth*.
- The electric bill for his house is 20 times less than the national average.
- Ted Kennedy was in favour of the wind power project.
- The second speaker referred to a case about a minister from the 1980s.
- The minister was throwing away most of the letters he received.
- Tristram Hunt (the education secretary mentioned by the third speaker) will probably send his kids to a private school.
- Extremely rich left-wing politicians are referred to as "champagne socialists".

### 4 Language focus Word formation

Write the correct parts of speech as indicated in brackets.

- Hypocrite = \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective)
- Private = \_\_\_\_\_ (noun)
- Globe = \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective)
- Marriage = \_\_\_\_\_ (verb)
- Illegitimate = \_\_\_\_\_ (affirmative adjective)
- Politician = \_\_\_\_\_ (noun: the topic)

### 5 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

# Talking about... hypocrisy!

We asked three people to talk about hypocrisy.

#### 1 The environment

I think it's funny when all these celebrities go on about saving the planet and being green, but then they fly all over the world (1) \_\_\_\_\_. And then there's Al Gore – he got an Oscar for his film *An Inconvenient Truth* which was all about global warming, but the electric bills (2) \_\_\_\_\_ are apparently more than 20 times the national average. And then there's Ted Kennedy – a senator who spent a lot of his political life promoting solar, hydrogen and wind power, but he opposed the Cape Wind Project (3) \_\_\_\_\_ building wind turbines in a place where his family likes to go sailing! What a bunch of hypocrites!

#### 2 Money

I can't stand all those conservative types who go on about (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and all that, but then you read about how they've been having affairs and they've got illegitimate children. Oh, and those televangelists who preach on TV about living a good life, but it's just so obvious that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ they're interested in is money, and they're often not so perfect themselves. I read about this one minister from the 90s who got people to

send in cheques for \$1,000. And in return, he promised to personally "lobby" God on their behalf. It turns out that he was throwing away (6) \_\_\_\_\_. I just can't understand how people could fall for that!

#### 3 Health & education

It really annoys me the way all these politicians talk about protecting the state health care system, but (7) \_\_\_\_\_, they check into a private clinic. Or when they go on about government-funded schools but put their own kids in the private system! The Labour shadow education secretary Tristram Hunt is a prime example. He recently said (8) \_\_\_\_\_ his three children to private school, and he was educated at a private school himself. Then there are those multi-millionaire left-wing politicians – champagne socialists they call them – who go on about equality and all that, but they all (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and haven't got a clue what life is like for ordinary people – they're far more interested in building up their property portfolios and (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They're all such hypocrites!

#### Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.



# HEALTH & SICKNESS

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## Lose your appetite



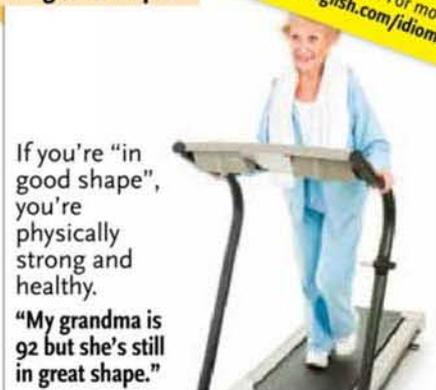
If you've "lost your appetite", you don't feel like eating.  
 "No, thanks. I've lost my appetite."

## Bundle of nerves



If you're a "bundle of nerves", you're very nervous or anxious.  
 "I was a bundle of nerves after watching the horror film."

## In good shape



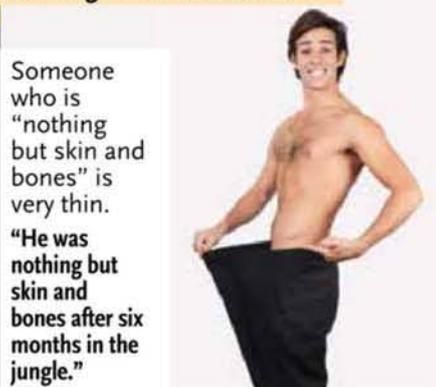
If you're "in good shape", you're physically strong and healthy.  
 "My grandma is 92 but she's still in great shape."

## Look the picture of health



Someone who "looks the picture of health" appears to be very healthy.  
 "She'd been pretty ill for a few months, but now she's the picture of health."

## Nothing but skin and bones



Someone who is "nothing but skin and bones" is very thin.  
 "He was nothing but skin and bones after six months in the jungle."

## Out cold



Someone who is "out cold" is unconscious, or they've fainted.  
 "She was out cold just seconds after having the anaesthetic."

## Out of shape



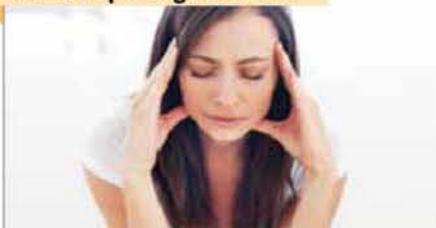
Someone who is "out of shape" isn't in good physical condition and they aren't fit.  
 "I'm a bit out of shape as I haven't done much exercise for the past few months."

## Over the worst



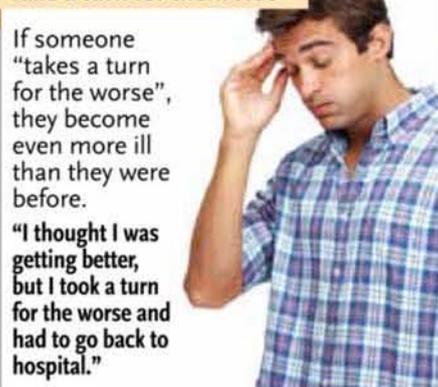
If you've been recovering from an illness and you're "over the worst", you're feeling a lot better as the worst part of the illness has ended.  
 "I've been feeling pretty bad since the operation, but I think I'm over the worst right now."

## Have a splitting headache



If you've got a "splitting headache", you've got a really bad headache that causes you a lot of pain.  
 "I've got a splitting headache that I've had all morning."

## Take a turn for the worse



If someone "takes a turn for the worse", they become even more ill than they were before.  
 "I thought I was getting better, but I took a turn for the worse and had to go back to hospital."

## Pull a sickie (informal)



If you "pull a sickie", you phone someone at work to say that you're sick and can't go in, even though you aren't really sick.  
 "My friend came over to visit so I pulled a sickie so I could spend the day with her."

## Nurse someone back to health



If you "nurse someone back to health", you look after them until they're well again.  
 "I spent six days with her, nursing her back to health."

**Objective** To improve your advanced listening skills by listening to several speakers chatting in an informal setting.

**Think about it**

Have you ever had an idea for setting up a business? What was it? Have any small businesses been set up recently near where you live? What type of businesses are they? How do you think they're doing? Have you bought anything there?

TRACK 23: SEVERAL ENGLISH ACCENTS

BIG THINGS HAVE SMALL BEGINNINGS!

**Note!**

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises. Also, please note that when people chat informally, they often use non-standard English and rarely speak in full sentences.

GROUP TALK

# SETTING UP A SMALL BUSINESS!

**Audio script: Entrepreneur group**

**Kali:** OK. So... I've been... I've had this idea for ages for... for starting a business, and I just wanted to ask you two what you thought about it.

**Nate:** Alright! Let's hear it!

**Ray:** Go! Tell us!

**Kali:** OK. Well, what I'd like to do is do a kind of... erm... mobile service for... erm... basically... like interior design, but also just taking what people already have in their houses and arranging it so that their houses [that's quite a good idea] look nicer. So, it's like a low cost... erm... version of interior design.

**Ray:** Like a house... like a home makeover without...

**Kali:** Like a home makeover, exactly.

**Ray:** For the... For a bad economic situation when nobody's got any money.

**Kali:** Yeah! Just a few little touches that could make the house [That's a great idea!] look better. Do you think that's good? Do you think people would like it?

**Nate:** I think it's a very cool idea. You could do it for families. You could do it for individuals, especially bachelors! Bachelorettes!

**Ray:** Bachelors, [Mhm] exactly! I mean, I... you could do... I mean, I always think, looking at

our lounge, and I'm like, "Something's not quite right. [Mm...] What's got to happen?" And I... I just don't know.

**Kali:** Wow, good. The only thing is I have no business... erm... you know, I'm not an entrepreneur by nature. I don't know how to go about the business side of it. What do you think?

**Ray:** So you've got, like, the creativity side, [Yeah] but you haven't got the business to...

**Kali:** I've got the idea.

**Ray:** You need a business manager. I mean, Nate and I are great with money.

**Nate:** We are fantastic with money [Yeah]. We can set up everything for you.

**Ray:** Yeah!

**Kali:** OK.

**Nate:** And I've got a good friend in marketing that can help you market your business. [So...] That's very, very important as well.

**Kali:** So, that's a really important side of it, isn't it? To publicise and promote your... your business.

**Ray:** Totally. Particularly with social networks now, I think you can do a lot for not a lot of money.

**Nate:** Definitely. It just helps with word-of-mouth.

**Kali:** Yeah. And how do you think... erm... you know...

about giving the... the company a name? Do you think that's really important? The kind of company... the brand and...

**Ray:** Yeah, I think so. I mean, you need something catchy and... you know.

**Nate:** Something people will remember.

**Ray:** Yeah.

**Kali:** Yeah.

**Ray:** Exactly.

**Nate:** Do you have any in mind... any ideas in mind?

**Kali:** Erm... I don't, actually. Well, I... I have a sort of partial list of ideas, but nothing really formulated. That's what I've...

**Ray:** Cheapskate's Makeovers? [fades out]

## GLOSSARY

- for ages** *exp* for a long time
- interior design** *n* a job that involves choosing colours, placing the furniture, etc. in a house, etc.
- a makeover** *n* if a room or person is given a "makeover", their appearance is changed or improved
- a touch** *n* something that you add to another thing in order to improve it: an improvement
- a bachelor** *n* a man who has never married. A "bachelorette" is a woman who has never married
- by nature** *exp* someone who is a businessperson (for example) "by nature" is a very good businessperson naturally
- to set up** *phr* *vb* if you "set up" a business, you create it and start it
- word-of-mouth** *n* advertising by "word-of-mouth" happens when people tell one another about a product
- catchy** *adj* something that's "catchy" is easy to remember
- in mind** *exp* if you have something "in mind", you're thinking about that thing
- a cheapskate** *n* *inform* someone who doesn't like to spend money on things

Answers on page 44

### 1 Listening I

Before listening, make a list of some ideas for small businesses. Then, listen to the conversation once. Did they mention your idea? What do you think of the idea proposed in the conversation? Would it make a good business?

### 2 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions

1. How does the female speaker describe her business idea?
2. What do the other speakers think of it?
3. What do the other speakers say about who the business idea could be aimed at?
4. What does she say about her limitations?
5. What do the other speakers offer to do to help?
6. What do they say about the importance of the name?

### Top tip: how to listen

The most important thing to remember when listening to a conversation is that you won't understand every word. So, you should only listen out for the key words – the most important words in the conversation: the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Then, you can use your intuition to fill in the gaps – just as you do in your own language. Knowing the context and topic of the conversation will help with this.

**Objective** To teach you some slang words and expressions.

**Think about it** What are your top tips for a long-lasting relationship? What do people typically say in your country when they want to split up? What are your top tips for finding a partner? What are some typical things to do on a first date in your country: go to a restaurant, go to the cinema, etc.?

## SLANG CONVERSATION RELATIONSHIPS!

Beth and Toby have been going out for over two years. They've just met up for a drink after work. Listen once and answer these questions:

- Who decides to split up and why?
- What happens in the end?

Then, listen again and try to guess the meaning of the following slang expressions (also marked in bold in the text). Write out a version of them in Standard English:

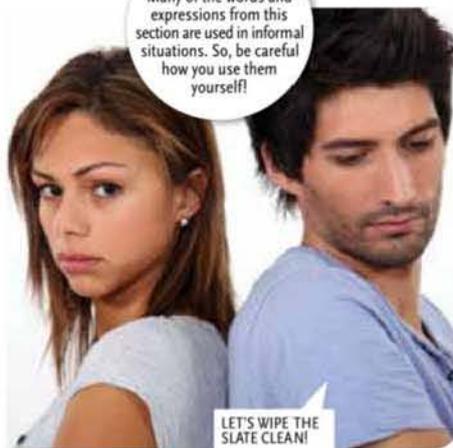
	Slang expression	Standard version
1	To split up with someone	
2	To sort something out	
3	A nightmare	
4	To snog	
5	To hit on someone	
6	To have a thing with someone	
7	To come on strong	
8	To chat up	
9	To make a move on someone	
10	To be out of your head	
11	To cheat on someone	
12	To wipe the slate clean	
13	My place	

### Dialogue B=Beth T=Toby

- B:** So, where were you last night?  
**T:** Out... with friends. Look, I think we need to talk.  
**B:** I don't like the sound of this.  
**T:** Erm, I just think it's just time we went our separate ways.  
**B:** Are you **splitting up** with me?  
**T:** We can still be friends.  
**B:** Oh, right. Was it something I did?  
**T:** It isn't you. It's me. You know, I just need a bit of space – a bit of time to **sort things out**. Besides, it must be a **nightmare** living with me...  
**B:** Are you sure there isn't something you want to talk about?  
**T:** No.  
**B:** Really sure?  
**T:** Well, erm, I did hear from Bob that you'd **snogged** Mike in that party last month.  
**B:** Well, I heard that you'd been **hitting on** Jessica.  
**T:** Paul told me that you and Jack **had a thing** going on.  
**B:** Well, Petra told me that you **came on really strong** to her while I was out.  
**T:** Pete told me that he'd seen you **chatting up** Gordon.  
**B:** Well you **made a move on** my cousin.

### Warning

Many of the words and expressions from this section are used in informal situations. So, be careful how you use them yourself!



- T:** I was **out of my head**!  
**B:** That's no excuse. You **cheated on** me at least six times.  
**T:** Seven! There was that girl in...  
**B:** Look, I know. Why don't we just **wipe the slate clean** – you know, start again, so to speak?  
**T:** Good idea. No more flirting with friends, relatives, family members, strangers...  
**B:** Agreed!  
**T:** Now, how about going out for dinner to celebrate?  
**B:** How about going back to **my place** for a nice bottle of wine on the sofa?  
**T:** Perfect!

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**Objective** To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you seen any videos of public figures caught doing something funny or illegal on video? What were they? What funny videos have you seen online or on YouTube? Are there any controversial public figures in your country? Who are they?

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



# Caught on camera!

You have to be careful what you do in public these days, as someone could be filming it. Here are three cases of people who were caught on camera.

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

What could you be caught doing on camera? Think of as many situations as possible. Which ones would be the most embarrassing? Why?

*shouting at someone, falling over, picking your nose, kissing someone, smoking, drinking, dancing, stealing something, hitting someone, fighting with someone, arguing with someone, being rude to someone, being drunk, acting in a silly manner, making someone cry, crying...*

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which situation is the worst? Why?

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write MP, Flowers or Ford next to each statement. Try to do it without referring back to the article.

1. He's being investigated by the police.
2. He seemed to be treating a serious topic as a joke.
3. In one video, he appeared to want to kill someone.
4. He was filmed paying for some drugs.
5. He's been stripped of most of his powers.
6. He was practising how to play a song.
7. He initially denied the allegations.

### 1 The politician



A Conservative MP was caught on camera playing **air guitar** during a serious parliamentary debate. At the time, Defence Secretary Liam Fox was defending his decision to **sack** 11,000 troops. However, while the minister was explaining how thousands of **service personnel** would soon find themselves **out of a job**, Tory MP Graham Evans was playing air guitar. **Footage** of the incident shows Evans using a rolled up piece of paper as a guitar. Michael Dugher, the **shadow** defence minister, accused the Conservatives of treating job losses among the military "like a joke". It isn't known which song Mr Evans was practising.

### 2 The bank manager



A former **chairman** of The Co-operative Bank was filmed handing over money for **crystal meth** and **cocaine**. The video shows Paul Flowers, who is also a **Methodist** minister, discussing the purchase of the class A drugs. Flowers, 63, can be seen counting out £300 in the car, then **handing** it to someone sitting in the passenger seat so he can buy the substances from a third person. "What's this then, crystal meth you're getting, yeah?"

says the passenger in the video. "Yeah," responds the driver, who is allegedly Mr Flowers. Flowers was suspended indefinitely by the church after news of the video **came to light**, and West Yorkshire Police have opened an investigation.

### 3 The mayor



The **Mayor** of Toronto (Canada) was filmed smoking crack cocaine. Rob Ford (1969), was elected mayor of Toronto in 2010, and took office in December of that year. In the video, a man who is allegedly Ford, can be seen holding a glass pipe in one hand and a lighter in the other. Ford initially denied the allegations, calling them "absolutely not true". But finally **came clean** on 5th November 2013. "Yes, I have smoked crack cocaine," he said in an interview. "But am I an addict? No. Have I tried it? Erm, probably in one of my **drunken stupors**, probably approximately about a year ago." Responding to why the admission took so long, Ford said, "I wasn't lying. You didn't ask the correct questions." On 7th November 2013, another video **surfaced** with Ford shouting, "I need 10 minutes to make sure he's dead!" It isn't clear who Ford was referring to. Since the incident, Ford has been **stripped** of most of his powers and been reduced to the role of a **figurehead**.

Watch out for those hidden cameras! ☹

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch Mayor Rob Ford in action. Search YouTube for "Toronto Mayor Rob Ford Knocks Over Councillor".

## GLOSSARY

- a Conservative** *n*: a member of the Conservative Party – a centre-right political party. Also known as the Tory party
- air guitar** *n*: if you play "air guitar", you play an imaginary guitar, moving your fingers in the air
- to sack** *v*: if someone is "sacked", they lose their job
- service personnel** *n*: people in the armed services: soldiers, sailors, etc.
- out of a job** *exp*: if someone is "out of a job", they don't have a job
- footage** *n*: "footage" of a particular event is a film or video clip of it
- shadow** *adj*: the "shadow" cabinet in British politics is the opposition party. The "shadow" defence minister is the defence minister from the opposition party (the party not in power)
- a chairman/chairwoman** *n*: the chairman of a bank (for example) is the head of it
- crystal meth** *n abbr*: crystal methamphetamine: a powerful drug with strong side effects. Also called "ice"
- cocaine** *n*: a powerful drug that people often take in through their nose
- a Methodist** *n*: a Christian who follows the teachings of John Wesley
- to hand** *v*: if you "hand" something to someone, you give it to them
- to come to light** *exp*: if news of something "comes to light", people learn about it
- a mayor** *n*: the elected leader of a town or city
- to come clean** *exp*: if someone "comes clean", they tell the truth
- a drunken stupor** *n*: if someone is in a "drunken stupor", they're very drunk
- to surface** *v*: if something "surfaces", it appears
- to strip** *v*: if someone is "stripped" of their powers, their powers are taken away
- a figurehead** *n*: the "figurehead" of an organisation is the leader of it, but they don't have any real power

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-reading**

If the following animals could talk, what do you think they'd say?

- horse pigeon cat
- fox seagull

**2 Reading I**

Read or listen to the article once. Which animal makes the most interesting or the funniest comments? Which one would you like to follow? Why?

**3 Reading II**

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

1. What play on words does Weirid Horse use?
2. What seems to indicate that Jon Pigeon has something against humans?
3. In what way does Larry the Cat imply that flood victims would suffer twice?
4. What does Gus the Fox do to try to get attention?
5. Logically speaking, when do you think Gus the Fox made the comment to the turkey?
6. How did Ivan the Seagull manage to insult a cat?

**4 Language focus**  
**Phrasal verb particles**

Complete the following sentences with the correct particles.

1. They rammed it \_\_\_\_\_ the key hole in an attempt to open it.
2. You need to cut \_\_\_\_\_ the top of the vegetable.
3. She kicked it \_\_\_\_\_ him but it missed.
4. He's got a chip \_\_\_\_\_ his shoulder.
5. They were scavenging \_\_\_\_\_ food.



# 5 unusual people to follow on Twitter!

**L**ooking for some inspiration? Need a new perspective on life? Why not follow one of these Tweeting animals?

**1 Weirid Horse:**  
**@WeiridHorse**

 With almost 200,000 followers, Weirid Horse sings songs, tells stories and offers a unique perspective on life. Here's one of his Tweets:

 Farmer in a mood because I kicked a Happy Meal at him. I think he's got a **chip on his shoulder lol**

**2 Jon Pigeon:**  
**@PigeonJon**

 This angry, foul-mouthed bird with almost 100,000 followers spends his days **scavenging** for food and **bombarding** humans.

 Here is Today's Horoscope. You should ignore Horoscopes.

**3 Larry the Cat:**  
**@Number1ocat**

 With almost 40,000 followers, this 6-year-old **tabby cat**

describes life at **Downing Street**.

 David Cameron is visiting people whose homes have been **flooded** over Christmas. Surely they've suffered enough?

 Two fish in a tank. One says to the other, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"

**4 Gus the Fox:**  
**@GusTheFox**

 With over 100,000 followers, this offensive fox **punches owls** and does **bizarre** things just for fun.

 Just rammed a load of **soil** into my face for a laugh but no one was watching so I went home.

 Just met a turkey called Pat Bunting. Told him that he's going to have his head cut off in about 3 days. He didn't believe me.

**5 Ivan the Seagull:**  
**@ivantheseagull**

 This self-styled "philosopher seagull" with

almost 3,000 followers enjoys smoking and swearing at geese.

 I am eating so much cheese right now. I didn't even think it was possible to eat this much cheese. Cheese is brilliant.

 Was talking to a cat, but he got offended when I told him his head was too small for his body. ☹

## GLOSSARY

**a chip on the shoulder** *exp*  
someone with a "chip on their shoulder" is angry, often because they feel inferior or because they feel they haven't been treated fairly

**lol** *abbr* informal text messages  
"laughing out loud" – people use this to show that they think something is funny  
**to scavenge** *v*  
if animals "scavenge" for food, they look for it in rubbish bins, etc.

**to bombard** *v*  
when soldiers "bombard" a place, they attack it with bombs. In this case, the bird "bombards" its victims by going to toilet on them

**a tabby cat** *n*  
a light-coloured cat with dark stripes (lines) on its fur (hair)

**Downing Street** *n*  
the prime minister of the UK lives at number 10 Downing Street

**to flood** *v*  
if your home is "flooded", water goes into it, often after heavy rain

**to punch** *v*  
if you "punch" someone, you hit them with a closed hand

**an owl** *n*  
a large, nocturnal bird with big eyes

**bizarre** *adj*  
strange, unusual

**soil** *n*  
the substance on the surface of the earth that plants grow in

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you ever seen a Shakespeare play? Which one? Was it performed in a theatre or was it a film? What did you think of it? Are there any famous playwrights from your country? Who are they? What are they famous for?

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

TRACK 27: ENGLISHMAN & ENGLISHWOMAN

SOME ARE BORN GREAT, SOME ACHIEVE GREATNESS AND OTHERS HAVE GREATNESS THRUST UPON THEM.



Answers on page 44

### Pre-reading

What advice would you give on the following things? What are your top tips for dealing with it/them? How would you personally deal with a problem related to any of these things?

*the past, jealousy, doubts, taking action, our thoughts, expectations, clever/stupid people, attractive people/things, life in general...*

### Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task. Which quotes do you like, dislike or agree with? Why?

### Reading II

Read the article again and try to memorise the quotes. Then, without referring back to the article, see if you can recite the following ones.

1. You can't undo the past.
2. The attractive appearance of something isn't an indication of its true nature.
3. Life is a mass of psychological confusion.
4. Jealousy can drive you to do terrible things.
5. If you expect too much, you'll soon be disappointed.

# WAS SHAKESPEARE THE WORLD'S FIRST PSYCHOLOGIST?

**W**illiam Shakespeare's plays are still popular today. But why? Is it the language? The characters? The stories? Some say it's because the **playwright** was such a good observer of human behaviour. Here are a few Shakespeare quotes on the human condition that still **ring true** today. [The plays that the quotes come from are in brackets.]

"To be, or not to be, that is the question." (*Hamlet*)  
Life is a mass of psychological confusion.

"What's done is done."  
(*Macbeth*)  
You can't **undo the past**.

"Expectation is the root of all heartache." (a quote attributed to Shakespeare)  
If you expect too much, you'll soon be disappointed.

"This above all, to **thine** own self be true." (*Hamlet*)  
Do what you feel is right in life, not what other people

tell you to do!

"All that glitters is not gold."  
(*The Merchant of Venice*)  
The attractive appearance of something isn't an indication of its true nature.

"There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so."  
(*Julius Caesar*)  
It's often the way we think about something that determines our opinion of it.

"The lady **doth** protest too much, methinks."  
(*Hamlet*)  
Someone who is protesting excessively probably has something to hide.

"O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; it is the green-eyed monster, which doth mock the meat it feeds on."  
(*Othello*)  
Jealousy can drive you to do terrible things.

"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool."  
(*As You Like It*)  
Stupid people often think they're clever, but really

intelligent people are aware of their **limitations**.

"Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt."  
(*Measure for Measure*)  
Self-doubt often stops us from doing the things we ought or want to do.

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."  
(*All's Well That Ends Well*)  
Love everyone and be kind to them, but never **let your guard down**.

How true! 🗳️

### GLOSSARY

**a playwright** n a person who writes theatre plays  
**to ring true** esp if something "rings true", it sounds true or correct  
**to undo the past** n you can't undo the past = you can't change the past  
**thine** old English esp "your" in very old English  
**doth** old English esp "does" in very old English  
**a limitation** n our "limitations" are the things that stop us from doing certain things. For example, having no money could be a "limitation"  
**to let your guard down** esp if you "let your guard down", you start to relax and you stop looking out for danger



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Have you heard any stories of dumb criminals lately? What happened? Do you like reading about crime? Do you ever watch any crimes series on TV? Why? Why not? Why are crime books/films, etc. so popular?

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

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-listening**  
You're going to listen to five stories about dumb criminals. Look at the objects/places, etc. below that appear in the stories. What do you think happened? How do you think the criminals were caught?

bathroom window    cucumber

chocolate wrapper

pawn shop    marijuana plant

**2 Listening I**  
Listen to the five stories once to compare your ideas from the Pre-listening task.

**3 Listening II**  
Listen again. Then, answer the questions without referring to the script.

1. Why was Finn Sparks desperate for the owner of the house to find him?
2. Why didn't it take police long to catch Kieran Bridges?
3. What word is used to describe the fact that Karl Hansbury was hungry?
4. Why did he avoid a custodial sentence?
5. What made Barry and Claire Holt think that Nigel might have stolen their possessions?
6. Why was it stupid of Benny Smith to report the burglary at his house?

**4 Language focus**  
**Prepositions**

Complete the following sentences with the correct prepositions.

1. He got his head wedged \_\_\_\_\_ the window.
2. He got \_\_\_\_\_ the house while the owner was sleeping.
3. She went \_\_\_\_\_ the toilet at around five in the morning.
4. He took a bite \_\_\_\_\_ of the cucumber.
5. She was arrested \_\_\_\_\_ the scene of the crime.

**5 Listening III**  
Complete the audio script with the correct words.

**Note!**  
Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises and activities.



THIS IS JUST SO SILLY!

# 5 NOT-SO-CLEVER CRIMINALS!

**Audio script** Here are five stories of some pretty dumb criminals.

**1 Help!**  
Bungling burglar Finn Sparks had to ask for help after getting his head wedged in a window. Sparks, 48, had tried to get into the house (1) \_\_\_\_\_. However, he got stuck after trying to squeeze through the tiny window, and had to wait for more than an hour until the house owner went to use the toilet at around 5am. Sparks – who has since been arrested – then (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to dial 999.

**2 Hungry!**  
Hungry burglar Kieran Bridges was caught after he took a bite out of a cucumber and left it (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Bridges, 22, broke into a greenhouse in the village of Preston and stole some gardening equipment. He then burgled the adjacent home, stealing several possessions (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Armed with the DNA evidence, it didn't take police long to catch him.

**3 Chocolate!**  
In a similar incident, Karl Hansbury was caught after he left a chocolate wrapper covered with his fingerprints in a house that he'd burgled. The peckish 18-year-old's snack paper was discovered by police (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Hansbury was apprehended shortly afterwards, but avoided a custodial sentence because of his age.

**4 Newlyweds**  
Newlyweds Barry and Claire Holt returned from their holiday to find that several items from their home were missing. They'd left a friend, Nigel Gibbons, in charge of the house while they went away for their honeymoon. As there was no sign of a break-in, they asked Gibbons (6) \_\_\_\_\_. After initially denying that he had anything to do with it, he eventually admitted that he'd pawned the stolen items. According to a

statement from police, Gibbons, 26, took an X-Box, numerous games and £5,000 worth of jewellery to a pawn shop and (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

**5 Cannabis**  
Hapless crook Benny Smith was arrested for the possession of drugs after reporting a burglary at his home. Smith's television set and DVD player as well as a number of musical instruments (8) \_\_\_\_\_, so he called the police to report it. However, as officers were searching his house for evidence, they came across 200 marijuana plants in the basement. They promptly arrested him. Smith was branded "ridiculous" by his own solicitor, and called "daft" by magistrates. Smith admitted a charge of producing and possessing drugs. He said (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from the internet. "Google is a remarkable thing," he said during the trial. ☺

# BUYING A HOUSE

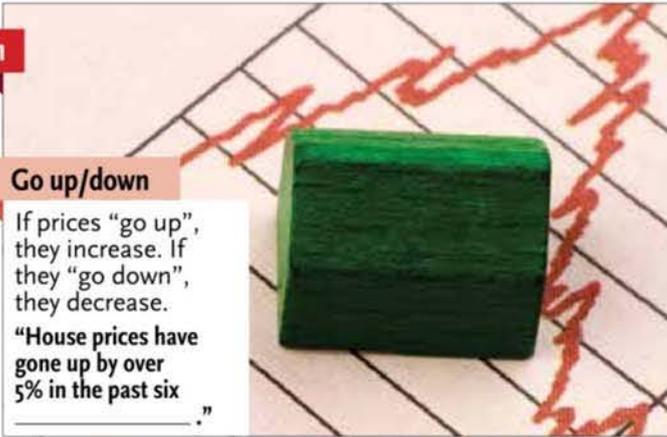
This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs you can use to talk about buying and selling a house.

Complete the sentences (1 to 8) with the words from below.

offer    questions    bathroom    property    twice    wall    months    mortgage

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**1**



**Go up/down**  
If prices "go up", they increase. If they "go down", they decrease.  
"House prices have gone up by over 5% in the past six \_\_\_\_\_."

**2**



**Show around**  
If someone "shows you around" a house that you want to buy, they show you the house and tell you about it.  
"They showed us around and answered all our \_\_\_\_\_."

**3**



**Take out (a mortgage)**  
If you "take out" a mortgage, you borrow money from the bank so you can buy a house.  
"They took out a £150,000 \_\_\_\_\_ so they could buy the house."

**4**



**Ask for (an amount)**  
The amount you're "asking for" is the amount you want to sell something for.  
"They're asking £160,000 for the \_\_\_\_\_."

**5**



**Put in (an offer)**  
If you "put in" an offer for a house, you offer an amount of money for it.  
"They put in an \_\_\_\_\_ for the house."

**6**



**Sell for**  
If a house is "sold for" a certain amount, that's how much it costs to buy it.  
"The house sold for \_\_\_\_\_ its value 10 years ago."

**7**



**Do up**  
If you "do up" a room in a house, you decorate it or repair it.  
"With the money from the inheritance, we decided to do up the \_\_\_\_\_."

**8**



**Knock down**  
If you "knock down" a wall, you use a hammer or other tool to take down the wall so it isn't there anymore – often as a way of making a room bigger.  
"We knocked down the \_\_\_\_\_ between the kitchen and the living room."

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# HOT CROSSWORD

Answers on page 44

See if you can complete this crossword. This crossword is based on words and expressions from the magazine. So, the best thing is to do it after reading all the magazine. Having problems? Refer back to the pages in brackets. How much can you remember?



## Across

3. Someone who is like this can't see. (page 14)
4. If you carry out one of these, you ask people questions in order to get information. (page 4)
6. A mixture of flour and water that's used to make bread, etc. (page 6)
7. To hold someone prisoner and to demand money for their return. (page 23)
8. If you do this, you sing or play an instrument to an audience. (page 21)
9. The part of a gun you pull in order to fire it. (page 14)
10. A short phrase used in marketing or advertising to describe a product. (page 26)
13. An American English word for a shop. (page 4)
14. Something about you that prevents or stops you from doing something. (page 40)
18. To shout (page 14)
19. A shop where they make or sell bread, cakes, etc. (page 4)
20. To collect something: data, crops, etc. (page 29)
21. To tell someone that they must leave their job. (page 38)
22. If bread is like this, it is cut into thin pieces. (page 4)
23. A song. (page 21)
26. The leader of an organisation without any real power. (page 38)
27. The elected leader of a town or city. (page 38)

28. The upper part of your body, not including your head, legs and arms. (page 29)

29. Someone who organises a party. (page 26)
30. To send someone or something to a place by ship. (page 23)

## Down

1. To give someone a substance in order to make them sleep. (page 23)
2. A video clip of an event (or part of it). (page 38)
3. A person whose job is to make bread, cakes, etc. (page 4)
4. A level or floor in a tall building. (page 6)
5. The ability to understand other people's feelings and emotions. (page 26)
8. A new type of machine which isn't ready to be sold yet because it's still being developed. (page 29)
11. A design that consists of lots of little pieces of coloured glass, for example. (page 6)
12. Someone who writes plays. (page 40)
15. The person or thing you're trying to hit with a gun. (page 14)
16. A type of book or film: a horror story, etc. (page 26)
17. The perfect size – not too fat and not too thin. (page 6)
24. The list of the most popular songs. (page 21)
25. Someone who is invited to a party. (page 26)

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



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## Politicians!

- A:** I say, I say, I say. Why is the letter "T" like an island?
- B:** I don't know. Why is the letter "T" like an island?
- A:** Because it's in the middle of "waTer".

## Politicians!

Two politicians are on a plane on their way to an international conference in the north of the country. About half-way there, one of the politicians says, "You know, I could throw a cheque for £1,000 out of the window right now and make somebody really happy. The other politician shrugs her shoulders and says, "Well,

I could throw 10 cheques out of the window for £100 right now and make TEN people really happy." Hearing this, the pilot says to her co-pilot, "That's nothing! I could throw them both out of the window right now and make 30 million people happy."

## Casanova

A young man is in a stationery shop looking at some gift cards. "Can I help you with anything?" the sales assistant asks. "Yes, I'm looking for something for Valentine's Day," says the young man. "Have you got anything really romantic?" The sales assistant looks

through them then says, "Oh, look, here's a lovely one: 'To the only girl I ever loved!'" "Perfect!" says the young man, "I'll take 10 of them!" ☺

## GLOSSARY

- a politician** n  
someone who works in politics, especially a member of parliament (an MP)
- to shrug your shoulders** exp  
if you "shrug your shoulders", you push them up as a sign that you aren't interested in something or that you don't care about it
- a co-pilot** n  
the "co-pilot" in a plane is a pilot who helps the main pilot
- a stationery shop** n  
a shop that sells paper, envelopes, pens, pencils, etc.
- a gift card** n  
a card you can give to someone as a present. It has an amount of money in it that can be spent in the shop. You can select this amount when you buy the card
- (St) Valentine's Day** n  
14th February – traditionally it's a day when lovers express their feelings for one another

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