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Hi everybody and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English... and getting a better job, and improving your range of vocabulary, and increasing your listening ability, and passing exams... and lots, lots more. This month we’ve got lots of great content for you. We’re looking at some books that you could read to improve your English. We’re also taking a look at some famous authors whose books you might like to read, as well as the author of the Harry Potter books, JK Rowling. Of course, that’s not all. We’ve also got articles on embarrassing moments, tribute bands, idioms, child actors, vocabulary, a famous witch, phrasal verbs, scientology, scams (tricks), English grammar, online security... and lots, lots more. Have a great month, learn lots of English and see you again soon,

Yours,

Andy

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We can use “used to” + an infinitive to talk about past habits or states. If we say that we “used to do” something, it means that we did it frequently in the past, but that we don’t do it now. For example:

a) I used to play lots of tennis when I was younger.
b) She used to go swimming every Saturday afternoon.

For questions and negatives, we use the auxiliaries “do/does”. For example:

a) Did you use to come to this club much?
b) Did she use to play in this team?
c) We didn’t use to eat much.
d) They didn’t use to do much sport.

We can also use “used to” to talk about past states or the existence of something in the past. For example:

a) I used to be really shy, but now I’m quite confident.
b) The dog used to be a bit aggressive, but she’s really calm now.
c) There used to be a church here, but they knocked it down.
d) There used to be three houses here, but now there’s just one.

To express the same idea of frequency in the present, we often use the simple present tense. We can also use an adverb such as “usually”. For example:

a) I play lots of board games.
b) She usually goes swimming every Saturday afternoon.
c) They go to this club quite a lot.
d) She usually plays in this team.

You can NOT use “used to” to talk about how often something happened or how long it took. For example:

a) INCORRECT: I used to go to Germany seven times. CORRECT: I went to Germany seven times.
b) INCORRECT: She used to live in New York for six years. CORRECT: She lived in New York for six years.

In this month’s grammar fun section we’ll be looking at “used to”.

We used to have long hair.
We used to play baseball when I was a young man.
But now I go fishing with my son.
My hobby used to be sailing, but now I go fishing with my son.
We usually catch a big salmon.
I used to be very short.
I used to play baseball when I was a young man.
I used to play a lot of tennis when I was younger.
I used to go swimming every Saturday afternoon.
I used to be really shy, but now I’m quite confident.
I used to go to Germany a lot.
I used to live in New York for six years.
I used to be a bit aggressive, but now I’m really calm.
There used to be a church here, but they knocked it down.
There used to be three houses here, but now there’s just one.

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There used to be three houses here, but now there’s just one.
Dear Ms Bolt,

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

1. “To mean” can be used to say “to intend”. In these cases, the verb is followed by an infinitive with “to”. For example:
   a) I didn’t mean to hit you.
   b) I meant to come earlier, but the traffic was terrible.
   c) She didn’t mean to insult you.
   d) We didn’t mean to cause you any trouble.

   However, when “to mean” is used as a way of describing the meaning of something, it is followed by a noun or by a clause. For example:
   a) The abbreviation “US” means the “United States”.
   b) This word means “short” in English.
   c) This means that we will earn more money.
   d) That means that we won’t be able to go.

2. The word “sometimes” is an adverb of frequency that says how often you do something. For example:
   a) I go to the cinema sometimes.
   b) She sometimes calls me.
   c) Sometimes, I clean my room.

   However, “sometime” means “at some point” or “at some moment”. For example:
   a) I’ll visit you sometime this week.
   b) She’ll do it sometime this month.
   c) We’ll talk about it sometime next week.

3. And finally, let’s look at the numerical symbol 0.
   In British English, we sometimes pronounce “0” as “oh” when we say the numbers figure by figure (in American English they use the word “zero”). For example:
   a) British: 109 = One, nine.
      American: 109 = One, zero, nine.
   b) British: 38076 = Three, eight, seven, six.
      American: 38076 = Three, eight, zero, seven, six.

   With measurements of temperature, we use the word zero (in both British and American English). For example:
   a) 0°C = Zero degrees centigrade.
   b) -4°C = Four degrees below zero.

   And finally, some other ways of saying “0”.
   Zero scores in British English are called nil. For example: 10-0 = ten nil.

   In tennis, table tennis and other similar games, the word “love” is used to mean zero. This comes from the French “l’oeuf”, which means “the egg”. Presumably, this is because a zero looks a bit like an egg. For example: 30-0 = Thirty love.

Well, Ms Bolt, I hope that has helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to: clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com
Tribute Bands

A look at some unusual British bands.

The Dead Hot Chili Peppers. Oasish. Pink Fraud. They almost sound like famous bands, but they aren’t. They’re **tribute bands**. And the fans love them. Find out more.

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**Fast fame**

“**If you want to play on a big stage** with an adoring crowd, then **this is the way forward**,” said Mr Haveron of Psycho Management, a company that represents tribute bands. “**Unfortunately, when you take off the wig and step off stage, people don’t know who you are, and it is a bit disappointing,**” he added.

Welcome to the world of tribute bands. Hundreds of groups which look like the original, sound like the original and even act like the original group, but which aren’t the original. And the place to see these bands is the **Glastonbudget Music Festival** – a cheap music festival, and an alternative to the better known **Glastonbury Festival**. It has the tents, rain clouds and bizarre fashions you would expect at the annual Glastonbury festival.

However, it’s not the **Red Hot Chili Peppers** who are playing – it’s the **Dead Hot Chili Peppers**. Rather than **Oasis**, it’s **Oasish**. And instead of **Pink Floyd**, it’s **Pink Fraud**.

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**Serious fun**

They may not be the genuine stars, but you do get the band playing all the classics, which is what most fans want to hear anyway. Patrick Haveron, of Psycho Management, represents 237 tribute bands and is creating more. “We now have four **Take That tributes** and they are all **selling out**. I don’t understand why four **blokes** singing to a **backing track** is so popular, but it is,” explains Mr Haveron.

Some bands take it all very seriously. **Pink Fraud** have some of **Pink Floyd’s** original clothing, and the guitarist has one of David Gilmour’s own **plectrums**. What began as a shared passion for Pink Floyd’s ‘70s albums has turned into an elaborate attempt to recreate the look, sound and feel of being at a Floyd **gig** in 1975.

---

**Going back in time**

For many people, seeing a tribute band is a unique experience. “I remember seeing a band called The Bootleg Beatles in a small club in London,” said Nigel Haversham. “It was **packed** and it was just incredible. They looked just like the Beatles, and they played all the classics (**I Wanna Hold your Hand, Love, Love me Do**, etc), and it just felt like I’d gone back in time to the late fifties, early sixties in Hamburg or Liverpool. I’ll never forget it.”

---

**The start**

So, where did it all start? Actually, tribute bands began in Australia. It was seen as a solution to the problem of bands not touring over there. In Britain, it is largely a small-town phenomenon. And it gives fans a chance to see bands from many years ago. For example, Kurt Cobain died in 1994, but fans of **Nirvana** can now see Burt Cocaine in the band **Teen Spirit**. It’s also a very competitive market. There are, according to the latest statistics, more than 30 **Pink Floyd** tribute bands in Britain, with more appearing all the time. Will you be going to see a tribute band?
Activity

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section.

1. I am very boring here.
2. His name is John and he born in Wales.
3. Our baby daughter has been born three weeks ago.
4. I asked him to borrow me some money.
5. I borrowed him some books.
6. Both of them haven’t paid me yet.
7. Michael and Sandra both are engineers.
8. She went to buy a fresh bread.
9. The police broke the door so they could get in.
10. After the breakfast, we went out for a walk.
11. She always drinks water before she has a lunch.
12. I can bring you home if you like.
13. She went inside to bring her bag.
14. I’m sorry I can’t do it now because I have very busy.
15. I am here on businesses.

Error Analysis

1. We use “boring” to describe someone’s character or a film; we use “bored” to describe how we feel about something.
2. In English, we use the past tense of the verb “to be” with “born”.
3. With expressions such as “three weeks ago”, we use the past tense.
4. In English, you “lend” someone some money.
5. You borrow something “from” someone.
6. We use “neither of them” and an affirmative verb to describe a negative situation.
7. We place “both” after the verb “to be”.
8. “Bread” is uncountable and is used with “some/any”.
9. You can use force to “break down” a door.
10. When speaking generally, we don’t use “the/a/an” with words such as “breakfast, lunch” and “dinner”.
11. When speaking generally, we don’t use “the/a/an” with words such as “breakfast, lunch” and “dinner”.
12. If you “take” something, you go with that thing; if you “bring” something, you come with that thing.
13. If you “fetch” something, you go to a place, take something then come back with it.
14. In English, you “are” busy.
15. In English, you go somewhere on “business” (in the singular).
Story Time

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

Penguin Joke
A penguin walks into a bar and asks the barman, “Have you seen my father?” And the barman replies, “What does he look like?”

Clever Dog
The manager of a small business puts a sign in the window: “HELP WANTED. You must be a fast typist, have good computer skills and be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.”

Mr Thickie
Three men are running down the street, trying to escape from a police officer. All of a sudden, they come across three sacks and decide to hide in them. When the police officer discovers the sacks, he kicks the first one. “Meow,” the first man says, pretending to be a sack full of cats.

Glossary
- a barman: a man who works in a bar serving drinks
- to come across something: to find something unexpectedly
- a sack: a material container for potatoes, money, etc
- to kick: to hit with your foot
- meow: the noise a cat makes
- to pretend: to act as if something is true even though it isn’t
- woof: the noise a dog makes
- a typist: a person who writes on a computer or typewriter
- to wag a tail: the “tail” is the long object at the back of a dog’s body. When a dog “wags” its tail, the tail moves from one side to another
- to paw at: a dog’s “paws” are its hands. If a dog “paws” at something, it touches that thing with its paws
- to hire: to employ
- stunned (adj): shocked, really surprised
- a spreadsheet: a computer file with figures, numbers and calculations
- dumbfounded (adj): shocked; so surprised that you cannot speak

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Useful Expressions – The Office

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

- Could you send this by fax, please?
- Could you make me six copies of this, please?
- You’ve got a phone call.
- Can you staple these together, please?
- Could you take this paper down to the recycling bin, please?
- Which drawer does this go in?
- Can I borrow your pen, please?
- Is this scrap paper?
- Just take a message, please.
- Could you file these documents, please?
- Put it in the top drawer, please.
- Have you got a pen I could borrow, please?
- Stick a post-it note on it.
- The photocopier has run out of paper.
- Could you order some more toner for the photocopier, please?
- What’s the fax number, please?
- Put it in my in-tray.

GLOSSARY

- to staple: vb to fix pages together by using a staple (a small, thin piece of metal that looks like a little bridge)
- a recycling bin: n a container for rubbish (old paper, cartons, glass, etc) that can be recycled
- a drawer: n a box that is part of a piece of furniture, and in which you can place things
- to borrow: vb if you “borrow” something from someone, you take that thing (with permission) for a limited period of time
- scrap paper: n old paper that can be used for another purpose, or for rough notes
- to file: vb to put a document/paper/contract, etc into a box or folder
- to stick: vb to put to run out of: exp if you “run out of something”, you have no more of that thing
- toner: n ink (a black, chemical substance) for a photocopier or printer
- an in-tray: n a box where people can place letters/documents/external notes, etc for you to read
**7 books to help you learn English**

Reading books is a great way to improve your English. As you’re enjoying the story, you’re learning hundreds of useful words, phrases and expressions without even realising it. Plus, you’re improving your knowledge of grammar. You can read graded readers (simplified versions of books) or the original versions (if you’ve got a high level of English). The following are some books recommended by students of English.

1. **Three Men In A Boat**  
   *by* Jerome K. Jerome  
   This book is about three friends (Jerome, Harris, and George) who decide to go on a trip down the River Thames with their dog, Montmorency. As they travel along the water, they get into all sorts of trouble. The thing you’ll love about this book is the humour as it’s written in an ironic style.  
   **Amal (from India)**

2. **An Officer and a Spy**  
   *by* Robert Harris  
   Georges Picquart runs a top-secret department in the French secret service. He finds that the evidence against a man called Alfred Dreyfus for spying is false. While Picquart investigates the case, he risks his career and his life to prove that Dreyfus is innocent. This book is based on a true story known as the “Dreyfus affair”. I found it really interesting and I enjoyed reading it.  
   **Yuki (from Japan)**

3. **Dracula**  
   *by* Bram Stoker  
   Dracula was first published in 1897 and has been an inspiration for many writers and film producers. The writer, Bram Stoker, based the character of Dracula on a 15th-century prince called Vlad Dracul. The book is mostly written as a series of letters and diary extracts. Events in the novel take place in England and Transylvania during 1893. I love horror stories, but this is definitely one of my favourites.  
   **By Chen (from China)**
7 books to help you learn English

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Love Actually
by Richard Curtis
Love Actually has nine mini-stories all about the importance of love. It takes place a few weeks before Christmas and jumps from story to story. Some of the characters who appear in the book include Daniel, who has just lost his wife in a tragic accident, Harry, who starts an affair with a colleague, Jamie, who falls in love with his Portuguese maid after his wife leaves him, and Billy, who is an aging rock star. This book is actually the screenplay for the film, so it isn’t like an ordinary book. However, I like romantic stories, and loved the movie, so this book was perfect for me.
Amelie (from France)

Sons of Fortune
by Jeffrey Archer
Two twins are separated at birth and lead very different lives. One brother, Nat, grows up with a school teacher and insurance salesperson as parents. After graduating from university, he serves in the Vietnam War. The other brother, Fletcher, grows up with multimillionaire parents and becomes a criminal defence lawyer. Both brothers continue on their separate paths until one has to defend the other for a murder he didn’t commit. This is a great book and really exciting.
Carmen (from Spain)

1984
by George Orwell
Winston Smith lives in the fictitious country of Oceania, which is ruled by a dictator called Big Brother. The world is divided into three zones that cover the entire globe: Oceania, Eurasia, and Eastasia. Big Brother is at constant war with the two other super states. He also watches over his citizens at all times. I really like politics so this book was great for me.
Edgardo (from Argentina)

The Da Vinci Code
by Dan Brown
While in Paris on business, Harvard professor Robert Langdon receives an urgent call from the French police. They want him to decode a cryptic message left by the murdered curator of the Louvre museum. Robert solves it and discovers that the message leads to a number of clues hidden in works of art by the Italian artist Leonardo Da Vinci. Langdon joins forces with French cryptologist Sophie Neveu, the granddaughter of the murdered curator. If you like mysteries, you’ll love this book.
Gustavo (Brazil)
JK Rowling and Harry Potter have the same birthday. Book six of the Harry Potter series earned Rowling a Guinness World Records Award for being the fastest-selling book ever, selling more copies in 24 hours than *The Da Vinci Code* sold in a year.

Rowling worked on the seventh book (Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows) while staying at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh. On 11th January 2007, she wrote on a statue in the room she was staying in (room 652), saying that she finished writing the book there.

In a press conference, authors Stephen King and John Irving once asked Rowling not to kill off Harry. At the time, Rowling remained ambiguous regarding Harry’s fate.

In June 2006, the British public named Rowling “The greatest living British writer” in a poll by The Book Magazine. Rowling topped the poll, receiving nearly three times as many votes as the second-place author, fantasy writer Terry Pratchett.

In July 2006, Rowling received an honorary degree from the University of Aberdeen for her “significan contribution to many charitable causes” and “her many contributions to society.”

Rowling demanded that Hollywood studios Warner Bros. *shoot* the *Harry Potter* films in Britain with an all-British cast. Rowling also demanded that one of the film’s sponsors, Coca Cola, donate $18 million to the American charity *Reading is Fundamental*.

The first four films were scripted by Steve Kloves; Rowling assisted him in the writing process, ensuring that his scripts did not contradict future books in the series. She once admitted that she had told him more about the later books than anybody else, but not everything.

She also said that during filming, she told actors Alan Rickman (Snape) and Robbie Coltrane (Hagrid) certain secrets about their characters that had not been revealed to anyone else.

Rowling’s first choice for the director of the first Harry Potter film had been Terry Gilliam (of *Monty Python*). Warner Bros. studios wanted a more family-friendly film, however. Both parties eventually *settled* for Chris Columbus.

Rowling has contributed money and support to many charitable causes, especially the research and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

**Glossary**

*a boarding school*: a school in which the children live
*a plaque*: a piece of metal/wood, etc. that is fixed to a wall and that has information on it
*a make of car*: a type of car
*a scar*: a mark on your body where you were once cut
*mischivious*: naughty and badly behaved
*April Fool’s Day*: the 1st April – a day on which British people play jokes on one another to *kill off*: to destroy, to eliminate
*a poll*: a series of questions in order to discover people’s opinions
*to shoot*: to film
*a cast*: the people who are acting in the film
*to settle for*: to decide to accept
Daniel Jacob Radcliffe is best known for his role as the wizard Harry Potter in the films based on the best-selling Harry Potter books. Let’s find out more about him.

Early Life
Radcliffe was born in London on 23rd July 1989. He was the only child of Alan Radcliffe and Marcia Gresham. Radcliffe first expressed a desire to act at the age of five. In December 1999, he made his acting debut in the BBC’s televised two-part version of the Charles Dickens’ novel David Copperfield. He played the lead role.

In August 2000, after several auditions, he was selected for his most prominent role to date: Harry Potter. However, before that, Radcliffe made his film debut in 2001 with a supporting role alongside Pierce Brosnan in The Tailor of Panama, while the first Harry Potter film, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone was released later that year.

Potter Films

The Transition
Unlike many other child stars, Daniel has managed to make the transition from child star to adult star. In 2002, he appeared as a guest in the West End production The Play What I Wrote directed by Kenneth Branagh. And in 2006, he appeared in the television series Extras as a parody of himself, as well as filming the independent Australian drama December Boys. In February 2007, he starred in a revival of Peter Shaffer’s play Equus as Alan Strang, a boy who has an obsession with horses. Radcliffe appears nude in one scene in the play. Reviewers were really impressed, and some wrote, “Brilliant Radcliffe throws off Harry Potter’s cloak.” Another wrote, “He is a thrilling stage actor.”

He also starred in the 2011 Broadway musical How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. And has appeared in several films such as the 2012 horror movie The Woman in Black, and the 2013 film Kill Your Darlings, in which he plays the part of beat poet Allen Ginsberg.

GLOSSARY
- a wizard n a man/boy with magic powers
- a lead role n the most important part in the film
- to make your film debut exp to be in a film for the first time
- to sign on for exp to put your name on a contract; to agree to formally
- high box office returns exp if there are “high box office returns”, the film makes a lot of money
- a parody of yourself exp if you do a “parody of yourself”, you imitate yourself in a funny way
- nude adj with no clothes on
- thrilling adj exciting
- a portrait n a painting of someone’s head and face
- the set n the furniture or scenery on a stage where a film is being shot
- fellow cast members n other people who are acting in the film

Daniel Radcliffe went to an all-boys school: the Sussex House School.

Radcliffe plays bass guitar and was taught by Gary Oldman.

He is a fan of punk rock

He is also a fan of Fulham Football Club.

While on the set, he enjoyed playing table tennis

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Daniel Radcliffe, the star of the Harry Potter films, has made the transition from child actor to adult star. But what about other child stars? What happened to them?

**Christina Ricci** (born 12th February 1980)
Christina Ricci is probably most famous for her role as Wednesday Addams in the film *Addams Family* (1991) and its sequel *Addams Family Values* (1993). She made her movie debut at the age of 10, starring with Cher and Winona Ryder in the 1990 film *Mermaids*.

As an adult, Ricci began appearing in more mature roles, particularly *The Ice Storm* (1997). She has starred in many low-budget (but critically acclaimed) independent films, such as *The Opposite of Sex* (1998), and *Pumpkin* (2002). She also starred in major blockbusters such as *Sleepy Hollow* (1999) and *Monster* (2003).

**Elijah Wood** (born 28th January 1981)
Elijah Wood is best known for his role as Frodo in *The Lord of the Rings*. This made him a star. He began acting at the age of nine, with a minor part in *Back to the Future Part II* (1989), Wood secured his first starring role in *Paradise* (1991), in which he played a young boy who reunites a couple (played by Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson). His biggest break came with the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, directed by Peter Jackson. In the films, Wood plays the part of Frodo Baggins. Wood also seems to be making the transition from child star to adult star. His most recent films are Emilio Estevez’s *Bobby* (2006), and *The Passenger* (2007), a biopic about pop singer Iggy Pop.

**Jodie Foster** (born 19th November 1962)
Jodie Foster became famous for her role as a teenage prostitute in *Taxi Driver* (1976), receiving an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. She was just 14 at the time. Later, she won an Oscar for Best Actress in 1988 for playing a rape victim in *The Accused*. And in 1991, she starred in *The Silence of the Lambs* as Clarice Starling, a gifted FBI agent investigating a serial killer. Foster is another child star who has seen a lot of success as an adult actress. For many years, she was stalked by a deranged fan, John Hinckley Jr. On 30th March 1981, he shot US President Ronald Reagan and three other people, claiming that his motive was to impress Foster.

**Shirley Temple** (born 23rd April 1928)
Shirley Temple is an Academy Award-winning former child actress. She starred in over 40 films during the 1930s. Her career began at the age of 3. In late 1933, Temple signed to 20th Century Fox, where she stayed until 1940. She became the studio’s most lucrative actress. Even at the age of five, she always had her lines memorised and dance steps prepared when shooting began.

In 1940, Temple left Fox. She had some success as an older actress, starring with John Wayne in *Fort Apache*, but she eventually retired in 1949, claiming that she wanted to raise her family. Others said it was because the public couldn’t accept her appearing in adult roles. In the 1960s, she became involved in the Republican Party and went on to hold several diplomatic posts.

**Judy Garland** (born 10th June 1922; died 22nd June 1969)
Judy Garland is best known for her role as Dorothy in the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*. In 1935, she was signed to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. After a number of minor roles, she got the leading role of Dorothy in the MGM film *The Wizard of Oz* at the age of 16. Afterwards, she starred with fellow child star Mickey Rooney in a number of musicals. In order to keep up with the frantic film making, Garland, Rooney, and other young performers were given drugs, such as amphetamines. Sadly, this would lead to addiction. And later in life, Garland had a number of breakdowns, and even made a few suicide attempts.

**Tatum O’Neal** (born 5th November 1963)
In 1974, Tatum O’Neal became the youngest person ever to win an Oscar for her performance in the film *Paper Moon*. O’Neal played the role of Addie Loggins, a child con artist who travels around the US with her uncle (played by her real-life father, Ryan O’Neal). She was 10 years old at the time she won the award. After *Paper Moon*, she starred in a number of films, including *International Velvet* (1978), and *Little Darlings* (1980). She married tennis star John McEnroe, with whom she had three children. The couple eventually divorced. She has had a confictive relationship with her father, and problems with drug abuse.

**GLOSSARY**
- to make your film debut: to be in a film for the first time
- a couple: two people in a relationship
- to stalk: if a famous person is “stalked”, they are followed quietly and carefully
- a deranged fan: a fan with psychological problems
- to keep up with: to maintain the same speed as
- a breakdown: if someone has a “breakdown”, they suffer a deep depression
- a con artist: a person who tricks other people in order to get money

**Tiny Stars**
Film stars who started their careers as children.
JK Rowling

All about the author of the Harry Potter books.

She’s author of the Harry Potter fantasy series. She’s internationally famous. And her books have sold over 400 million copies worldwide. JK Rowling is one of the world’s most successful writers.

Success
In February 2004, Forbes magazine estimated Rowling’s fortune to be 576 million pounds; and in 2006, Forbes named her the second richest female entertainer in the world, after talk show host Oprah Winfrey. So, how did she get there? Rowling was born near Bristol, England. As a child, she enjoyed writing stories, which she often read to her sister. At school, Rowling was good at languages, but didn’t like sports or maths.

After studying French and Classics at the University of Exeter (with a year of study in Paris), she moved to London to work as a researcher and bilingual secretary for Amnesty International. One day, while she was on a four-hour delayed-train trip between Manchester and London, she developed the idea for a story of a young boy who goes to a school of wizardry. As soon as she got home, she began writing.

Portugal
A few months later, Rowling moved to Porto (in Portugal) to teach English as a foreign language. While there, she married Portuguese television journalist Jorge Arantes on 16th October 1992. They had one child, Jessica, who was named after Rowling’s heroine, Jessica Milford (an early 20th century political radical from an upper-class family). They divorced in 1993.

In December 1994, Rowling and her daughter moved to be near Rowling’s sister in Edinburgh, Scotland. At the time, she was unemployed and living on state benefits.

Harry Potter
In 1995, Rowling completed her manuscript for Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone on an old typewriter. After good reviews of the book by a professional reader, Rowling found an agency to represent her. Shortly afterwards, the book was sent to twelve publishing houses. All of them rejected it.

A year later, Rowling was given a £1,500 advance by the editor, Barry Cunningham, from the small publisher Bloomsbury. Apparently, Bloomsbury agreed to publish the book after 8-year-old Alice Newton (the daughter of the company chairman) read the first chapter and then immediately demanded the next one. Cunningham advised Rowling to get a day job, as she had little chance of making money in children’s books. Soon afterwards, Rowling received an £8,000 grant from the Scottish Arts Council to enable her to continue writing.

At the time, Bloomsbury were worried that the target audience of young boys might not want to buy books by a female author. So, they asked Rowling to use two initials (rather than reveal her first name, Joanne). As she had no middle name, Rowling chose K from her grandmother’s name Kathleen, as the second initial of her pseudonym.

US Rights
The following spring, the US rights to the book were sold to a publisher in America. There was an auction, which was won by Scholastic Inc. Scholastic paid Rowling more than $100,000. Rowling said she “nearly died” when she heard the news. In June 1997, Bloomsbury published Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone with an initial print run of only one-thousand copies (five-hundred of which were given to libraries). Today, these copies are worth between £16,000 and £25,000. The book soon started winning awards. And in October 1998, Scholastic Inc published the book in the US under the title Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. And the rest is history.

Information Box

In October 2010, JK Rowling was named the “Most Influential Woman in Britain” by leading magazine editors. She has supported numerous charities including Comic Relief, One Parent Families, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Lomas (formerly the Children’s High Level Group).

Quotes
“Anything’s possible if you’ve got enough nerve.”

“Death is just life’s next big adventure.”

“I really don’t believe in magic.”
Here are some famous authors. Have you read any of their books?

**Roald Dahl** (born 13th September 1916, died 23rd November 1990)
Roald Dahl is famous as a writer for both children’s literature and adults. His parents were both Norwegian. His most popular books include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, The Witches, The BFG, and Kiss Kiss.* Many of the characters in his books are cruel adults. He says that the inspiration for these came from his experiences at *boarding school,* which he hated. Later, Dahl fought as a *fighter pilot* in the Second World War, shooting down a number of enemy planes.

**A A Milne** (born 18th January 1882, died 31st January 1956)
Alan Alexander Milne is an English author best known for his books about the teddy bear Winnie-the-Pooh. He fought as an officer in the First World War (1914-18). The inspiration for Christopher Robin and his *animal friends* came from Milne’s own son and his son’s stuffed animals, most notably the bear named Winnie the Pooh. The source of the name was a real Canadian black bear called Winnipeg Bear. This real-life bear was a *mascot* for the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (a Canadian Infantry Regiment in World War I).

**JM Barrie** (born 9th May 1860, died 19th June 1937)
JM Barrie is most famous for his book and theatre play *Peter Pan.* Barrie was the ninth of ten children, and he grew up with stories of pirates and adventure. When Barrie was six, something happened that would affect him for the rest of his life: his brother David (who was 14 at the time) died in an accident. Barrie’s mother fell into a depression as David had been her favourite child. Barrie was only six at the time, but he wrote about his desire to “become so like David that even my mother should not know the difference”. This idea of everlasting childhood stayed with Barrie for the rest of his life. It also became the inspiration for his most famous play and book, *Peter Pan.*

**Enid Blyton** (born 11th August 1897, died 28th November 1968)
Enid Mary Blyton was a popular English writer of children’s literature. She is most famous for her series of books, which include *The Famous Five* (consisting of 21 novels based on four children and their dog who have various adventures), and *The Secret Seven* (which consists of 15 novels about a society of seven children who solve various mysteries). Her books have sold more than 400 million copies all over the world. In 2007, Blyton was named the fifth most popular author in the world.

**Beatrix Potter**
(28th July 1866, died 22nd December 1943)
Helen Beatrix Potter is famous for her books about little animal characters. As a child, she was educated at home and had little opportunity to mix with other children. So, she made friends with *pet animals:* frogs, rabbits and even a *bat.* Her first rabbit was Benjamin, whom she described as “an *impudent, cheeky* little thing”, while her second was Peter. She took Peter everywhere with her, even on trains. Potter eventually wrote 23 books. These were published in a small format, easy for a child to hold and read. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902) is the 27th best-selling book of all time, with 45 million copies sold.

**JRR Tolkien**
(born 3rd January 1892, died 2nd September 1973)
John Ronald Reuel Tolkien is most famous as the author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings.* Interestingly, Tolkien never expected his stories to become popular. However, in 1937, he was persuaded to publish a book that he had written for his own children called *The Hobbit.* The book became really popular and attracted both young and adult readers. Tolkien’s publisher asked him to work on a sequel. Soon afterwards, Tolkien began to write what would become his most famous work: the epic three-volume novel *The Lord of the Rings* (published 1954–55).
This is the last part of our series on 21 things to do in the US. By Ayelet Drori (US English spelling)

Blueberries
July is blueberry month in the States. Go and pick your own in America’s blueberry state: Michigan. Michigan produces about 32% of the blueberries for the United States. Visit farms such as the Blueberries Galore Farm, and pick some yourself. Use the berries in blueberry pies or just eat them fresh. Not only do they taste great, but apparently blueberries are a wonderful source of vitamins and nutrients that prevent aging.

Crater Lake
Come see the most amazing lake in the world: Crater Lake. It’s in the state of Oregon, and the best view of the lake is from the top. As the deepest (and probably least-polluted) lake in the US, Crater Lake gets its name from the volcano that it once was. Apparently, the tip of the volcano fell in after an eruption, and then it was filled with rain and melted snow. There are so many different ways to enjoy the view. You can drive along the rim, hike up Mt Scott, take a boat ride on the lake, or have a snack in a lodge on the rim. For more information, check out this website: www.crater.lake.national-park.com

Mt Rainier
For another great trip, hike up Mt Rainier and see the glacier. You can also get beautiful pictures of the alpine prairies that surround the trail. Summer is a great time to make the trip because all the flowers are in bloom. While the rest of the United States is scorching hot, Seattle, Washington, is refreshingly cool. You can see the silhouette of Mt Rainier from the city.

Giant Redwoods
Wander around the tallest trees in the world in The Redwood National State Park. The park is along the Pacific Coast in northern California. It protects 45% of the remaining groves of coastal redwood trees. It’s a lot of fun to camp there too.

The Grand Canyon
The Grand Canyon is a steep gorge created by the Colorado River. It’s in the state of Arizona and is part of the Grand Canyon National Park. There are hundreds of trails along the top. And, of course, you can’t leave the park without hearing your echo as you shout down into the canyon. For more information, check out www.nps.gov/grca

GLOSSARY

- a blueberry: a small, dark blue fruit found in North America.
- to pick: vb to take fruit from a tree.
- a pie: food that consists of fruit in pastry.
- to prevent: vb to stop something from happening.
- aging: the process by which we become old.
- a crater: a large hole caused by a volcano exploding.
- deep: adj if something is “deep”, it goes a long way down.
- the tip: the “tip” of something, is the long, narrow end of it.
- an eruption: if there is “an eruption”, the volcano explodes and throws out lava and hot dust.
- the rim: the edge to hike.
- to hike: vb to go walking in the mountains, hills, etc.
- a boat ride: a trip in a boat.
- a snack: a small amount of food you eat between meals.
- a lodge: a small house or hut in the country.
- alpine: adj “alpine” scene is one that is typical of the Alps region in Europe, with mountains, grass and pine trees.
- a prairie: a large area of flat, grassy land in North America.
- to surround: vb to be all around a place/thing, etc.
- a trail: a small road for people to walk along.
- to scorching hot: vb very, very hot.
- to wander around: vb to walk in an area with no particular objective.
- a grove: an area with a group of trees that are close together.
- steep: adj a “steep” mountain has very high sides.
- a gorge: a deep, narrow valley with very steep sides.
Stupid criminals

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

YouTube Catch
Computer shop owner Thomas Karer was tired of people stealing from his shop. So, he installed video surveillance cameras in his store. One of the cameras caught two teenage thieves stealing a 2,000-euro laptop. The video showed how one of the teenagers kept watch while the other one put the computer under his jacket. Karer, 45, then put the CCTV footage on YouTube, with a note to get in contact if anyone recognised the pair. Within a few days, a man called Kaere rang and gave information on the identity of the mystery teenagers. Immediately, Karer informed the police, who arrested the two teens.

Helpful Mother
“I was so worried about what might happen to him that I went along to make sure he would be safe,” a German woman said after admitting that she had driven her son to a jewellery shop so he could rob it. “He was determined to do it and I could not talk him out of it, so I offered to drive him there to keep an eye on him. I was worried about him,” Brigitte Schwammer, 39, told the court.
Schwammer’s son, 18-year-old Bruno, told her what he was going to do. So, Schwammer went with him to a DIY store to buy some latex gloves “so he wouldn’t leave any fingerprints”. Schwammer, a mother of three, also acted as look-out while her son and two other men broke in and stole £25,000 worth of jewellery. The crooks were caught after they set off a silent alarm connected to the police station.

Imaginary Cops
“Come quick! They’re gonna kill me,” a man told the emergency services in Wisconsin, US. The 33 year old, Gordon Stayswim, rang the police to complain that drug squad officers were chasing him. Eventually, Stayswim had climbed up a tree, which was where he was when he phoned the police. When the police arrived at the scene, they found Stayswim up the tree, holding onto his mobile phone, but with no sign of any drug squad officers in the vicinity.
Police soon realised that the man was hallucinating. They tried to convince him to come down, but the man lost his grip and fell out. He was taken to hospital for minor injuries, and later arrested on a drugs offence.
Let’s be friends
(if we aren’t already!)

www.facebook.com/LearnHotEnglish
Trivia Matching

Exercise
See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 13), and the photos (A–M). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. Answers on page 22

1. A monkey ___
2. Earth/soil ___
3. A poodle ___
4. A tomato ___
5. A reindeer ___
6. A mosquito ___
7. Pearls ___
8. Vinegar ___
9. A pulse ___
10. Wings ___
11. A punch bowl ___
12. Nutmeg ___
13. A vine ___
This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so unusual?

The heaviest land mammal in the world is the African elephant.

Australia was once called New Holland.

Brazil has more species of monkey than any other country.

In the US, there’s a lawsuit every thirty seconds.

In Europe, poodles were once used as hunting dogs.

A cat can jump up to seven times its height, which must be useful when hunting birds.

Hawaii is the only state in the US that grows coffee.

In Ghana, the expression “Merry Christmas” is translated as “Afshapa”.

The film Mary Poppins was shot entirely indoors.

Tom Cruise’s name at birth was Thomas Cruise Mapother IV.

The world’s most popular fruit is the tomato.

Reindeer milk has more fat than the milk from cows.

Ironically, poor soil will produce better wines. Apparently, the vines have to “work harder” when the soil is poor, thus producing better wine.

Mosquito repellents don’t really repel mosquitoes. What they do is “hide” you as the spray blocks the mosquito’s sensors so they don’t know you’re there.

Pears melt in vinegar.

The state of Florida is bigger than England.

George Washington died while taking his own pulse.

Insects don’t make noises with their voices. The noise of bees, mosquitoes and other buzzing insects is caused by their wings moving rapidly.

The fear of going to school is known as “didaskaleinophobia”.

William III of England (who reigned from 1689-1702) had a mini lake in his garden that was used as a giant punch bowl. The punch consisted of 560 gallons of brandy, 1,200 pounds of sugar, 25,000 lemons, 20 gallons of lime juice, and five pounds of nutmeg. The bartender rowed in a small boat, filling up guests’ punch cups. How decadent!

GLOSSARY

a lawsuit n if you start a “lawsuit” against someone, you start legal proceedings against them in order to get compensation
a poodle n a type of dog with thick, curly hair
a hunting dog n a type of dog used for catching and killing other animals
to shoot v to film
soil n earth from the ground
a repellent n a spray used to kill insects or make them go away
a sensor n an object used to detect something
a pearl n a beautiful stone formed by oysters
(a type of shellfish)
to melt v if a solid “melts”, it becomes liquid
a punch bowl n a container for punch (a drink that is formed by mixing many other drinks, often alcoholic drinks)
to row v to move oars in a small boat so that the boat moves
**Crossword**

**Across**

2: To talk continuously and without stopping = to talk end____.
5: To leave a place suddenly, angrily and dramatically = to st____ out.
7: Something that makes you feel timid, shy or ashamed = emb____.
9: To do something that causes an alarm to make a sound = to s____ off an alarm.
11: If you do this, your hands slip and you fall = to lose your gr____.
14: The amount of carbon you produce = your carbon foo____.
15: To hit someone on the face with an open hand = to sl____.
16: An objective = an a____.
18: A small room next to a kitchen for keeping food = a lar____.
19: A small room in a toilet where you can sit down = a cub____.
22: A sad, pathetic, unsuccessful person = a lo____.
24: To become red in the face because you are embarrassed = to bl____.
26: To change television channels = to sw____ channels.
28: To jump = to le____.
29: A prediction = a fore____.

**Down**

1: Happily = chee____.
3: To stop a fire = to ext____ a fire.
4: A small amount of medicine = a d____ of medicine.
5: To reduce the amount of money you must spend = to make sav____.
6: An action = a mo____.
8: Reducing and controlling the amount of carbon you produce = carbon rat____.
10: To go near to = to app____.
12: An object that you turn with your hand in order to operate a machine = a han____.
13: To use more of something than you really need = to wa____.
17: A criminal = a cro____.
20: To increase = to bo____.
21: A portable computer = a lap____.
23: To watch someone carefully because you are worried/suspicious about them = to keep an _____ on someone.
25: To abandon an idea = to sc____ a plan.
27: If you leave a place in this type of mood, you leave the place in a very bad mood = in a h____.
28: A person who watches to see if the police come while another person commits a crime = a l____-out.

**Trivia Matching**

1E   2C   3G   4A    5F    6I   7H   8L    9K   10J   11D
12B   13M

**Typical Dialogues**

1. The agent doesn’t like any of Seth’s books.
2. The agent is interested in the biography idea.

**Jokes**

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

The Whitechapel Trouser Snatcher

First Listening

The answer is "T"

Second Listening

1: Satisfactorily.
2: In his Welsh-English dictionary.
3: Jack the Rip-your-Breeches-off.
4: You get a good name, you get a conviction.
5: The Whitechapel Trouser Snatcher.
6: Because the victim was found in Whitechapel (an area of London).
7: Two.
8: A name for the villain.

Answers on page 31
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La primera revista puede tardar entre cuatro y seis semanas en llegar.
The Bell Witch

Are there any famous ghosts from your country? What about witches? One of the most famous ghosts (and witches) from America was the Bell Witch. She first appeared in the 19th century. She was the inspiration for the film The Blair Witch Project and An American Haunting. She even managed to frighten US President Andrew Jackson. Who was the Bell Witch? And what did she do?

Strange events
It all started in 1817. A farmer, John Bell saw a strange animal in a cornfield on his property. He described the creature as having the body of a dog and the head of a rabbit. John shot at it and it disappeared. He thought nothing more of it. But then a few days later, he heard some mysterious banging noises in his house. One night, his sheets were pulled off the bed and thrown onto the floor by an invisible force.

A voice started to appear too. It sounded like a woman's voice. The voice laughed and sung loudly and cheerfully. But that wasn't the end.

A return visit
Before the ghost left, it told Lucy Bell that it would return in 1828. And it did. The ghost spent another three weeks at the house, and spoke with John Bell Junior (John Bell's son). During the conversations, the ghost predicted the American Civil War, the Great Depression and both World Wars. According to legend, the spirit said it would return again in 107 years, in 1935.

Another visit
In 1935, the ghost appeared in the former Bell property; and it has remained there ever since. Even today, people say that the sounds of people talking and children playing can sometimes be heard in the area; and it is very difficult to take a good picture there. So, who was the Bell Witch? Some say it was Kate Batts, an eccentric neighbour of John Bell's. She had sued John for cheating her in a land deal. There are documents about a conflict involving John Bell, but they don't appear to have any connection to Kate Batts. Others say that the Bell home had been built on a Native American burial ground. Would you like to visit the area?

Not so friendly
At first, it was thought that the ghost was friendly. But she soon became more sinister. The ghost said that she wanted to kill John Bell. And she did. He died on 20th December 1820. A small vial of poison was found near his body. When the remaining contents were given to the family cat, it too died. That night, the ghost said, "I gave old John a big dose of that last night, and that fixed him."

Later, at Bell's burial, the spirit laughed and sung loudly. "I gave old John a big dose of poison. I fixed him."

After saying that, he slaps the ground and it disappeared. He thought nothing more of it. But then a few days later, he heard some mysterious banging noises in his house. One night, his sheets were pulled off the bed and thrown onto the floor by an invisible force.

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A voice started to appear too. It sounded like a woman's voice. Soon afterwards, Betsy Bell, the only daughter still living at home, was violently attacked: her hair was pulled and her face was slapped.

Screaming
Very soon, the Bell house became famous in all the area. Even the future president of America, Andrew Jackson (president from 1829 to 1837), heard about the Bell Witch. And in 1819, he decided to go and investigate it in person. But on approaching the Bell property, Jackson and his group noticed an invisible presence that stopped the wagon. One of the men in the group claimed to be a witch tamer. He said he was going to kill the spirit. However, just after saying that, he began screaming as if in pain. Jackson and his group left the Bell property the following day. Jackson later said, "I'd rather fight the entire British Army than to deal with the Bell Witch."

GLOSSARY

banging noise a noise made by someone hitting something
sheet a piece of material (usually white) that you sleep on in a bed
dose a small amount (of medicine) you drink
vial a small glass container filled with poison (a liquid that kills if you drink it)
cheat to trick someone in order to get something for less than what it is worth
cheerfully in this case: to kill
dominate to fix
tamer a person who can control and dominate witches, supposedly
courageous to deal with
cheating a person who is "eccentric" is strange and different from other people
land deal an agreement between two people or parties to sell land
cheerfully： to start a legal process against someone

The Bell Witch Haunting is a 2004 horror film written and directed by Ric White. It stars Doug Moore and Stephanie Love and is based on the book The Authenticated History of the Bell Witch by M.V. Ingram.
Social English

Car emergencies

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions.
This month: car emergencies. Listen and repeat these expressions.

What you say
• My car won’t start.
• I have a flat tyre.
• I’m out of gas.
• I’ve run out of petrol.
• The battery is dead.
• The car is overheating.
• I’ve locked the keys inside the car.
• I need to change the tyre.
• I need to change the oil.
• There’s something wrong with the gears.
• There’s a strange sound coming from the engine.
• There’s smoke coming out of the bonnet.
• I’ve put diesel in the petrol tank.
• I’ve put petrol in the diesel tank.
• How long will this take?
• How much will it cost?

What you hear
• This is going to be expensive.
• This is going to take a long time.
• I’ll have to phone for some spare parts.
• Have you tried using the throttle?
• We’ll have to jump-start your car.
• You need to put some petrol in the tank.
• It’s going to take quite a while.
• I’ll let you know how much it’s going to cost.
• We’ll have to tow the car to the garage.
• Your tyre pressure is low.

Part II
Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Sally is talking to a car mechanic about the problems she’s been having with her car.

Mechanic: Morning.
Sally: Good morning.
Mechanic: What’s up, then?
Sally: I’m having a few problems with the car. I can’t seem to start it.
Mechanic: Let’s try. (She tries to start the engine.) Mmm… I’d say the brakes need replacing. Your oil pressure is also really low, and we’ll probably need to replace a few wheels too — and possibly the engine due to internal wear.
Sally: Surely, it’s just something to do with the starter, isn’t it?
Mechanic: Well, if you know so much, what are you doing talking to me? Have you checked to see if there’s any petrol in the tank?
Sally: Er, no, not yet.
Mechanic: Look, the tank’s empty. You need to fill it up.
Sally: Oh, OK. And all those other things you mentioned.
Mechanic: Oh, well, we’ll look at that later.
Sally: Thanks.

GLOSSARY
a tyre n the round, rubber object that is part of a wheel
to run out of something exp if you “run out of something”, you have no more of that thing
a battery n an object used to power the electrics in a car
dead adj if a battery is “dead”, it has no more power in it
to overheat vb to become hot
gears n most cars have 6 gears: one reverse gear, and five forward gears
the bonnet n the metal door that covers the engine
the petrol tank n the container in the car for petrol
the throttle n an object you can use to increase the amount of petrol flowing through the car
to jump-start (a car) exp to start a car by connecting it to a battery in another car
to tow vb to pull a car by attaching a rope between this car and another car
due to exp because of
to internal wear exp if a car suffers from “internal wear”, it is broken and old because it has been used so much
the starter n the motor that starts the car

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Books and writing

See if you can identify the word. Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck!
(Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this. Answers on page 31)

1. A person who writes material that is sold in the form of books, articles, etc = a _____.
2. An inability to write = writer’s bl_____.
3. A machine for writing text = a typ_____.
4. A story about imaginary people or events = a n_____.
5. The story of someone’s life, written by the person who it is about = an au_____.
6. The story of someone’s life, written by another person = a bi_____.
7. An early, unedited version of a story = a dr_____ version.
8. The general story in the book = the sto_____.
9. A connected series of events used to create a story = the pl_____.
10. A person in a story = a cha_____.
11. The main person in the story = the pro_____.
12. This represents the emotional changes that happen to a character during a story = the character a_____.
13. The sense of excitement created in the story = sus_____.
14. Payments made to authors when their work is sold = roy_____.
15. To steal other people’s ideas and claim that they are your ideas = plagi_____.
16. The person who checks and corrects texts before they are published = the p_____-
reader.
17. The person who collects pieces of writing by different authors and prepares them for publication in a book or a series of books = the ed_____.
18. A company or person who publishes books = a pub_____.

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**WORDSEARCH**

**Books and writing**

See if you can identify the word. Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck!
(Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this. Answers on page 31)

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**DOG MATTERS**

**By Daniel Coutoune**

All the other dogs say that the woman in this house isn’t my real mummy. Could it be? I mean her eyes are blue, but mine are dark.

And her hair is black and mine is brown and white.

No, she can’t be my real mother.

---

**Answers** on page 31

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Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. Answers on page 22

1. What did one wall say to the other?
A: An Eskimo house without a loo.
B: About six carriages, sir.
C: No. It will be round and flat, sir.
D: Because it was run down.
E: Wake up.
F: Only once, sir.
G: A horse.
H: I’ll meet you at the corner.

2. Which animal always goes to bed with its shoes on?
I: I never met a chocolate I never liked.
J: I didn’t kiss your boyfriend, I just told his lips a secret.
K: I would stop eating chocolate, but I’m not a quitter.
L: Don’t go to the toilet in my pool, and I won’t swim in your toilet.

3. What is the first thing you do every morning?

4. What is an ig?

5. Waiter! Will my hamburger be long?

6. How often do planes of this type crash?

7. Guard, how long will the next train be?

8. Why did the clock get sick?

A: An Eskimo house without a loo.
B: About six carriages, sir.
C: No. It will be round and flat, sir.
D: Because it was run down.
E: Wake up.
F: Only once, sir.
G: A horse.
H: I’ll meet you at the corner.

Glossary

- A quitter: someone who gives up, someone who stops an activity because it is too hard/difficult
- How long…?
  - How much time will it take?
  - How long is it in metres/kilometres, etc?
- A loo: a toilet. Incidentally, an Eskimo house is called an igloo.
- Run down:
  - Two meanings:
  - A) If you are feeling “run down”, you feel a bit tired/ill.
  - B) If a clock is “run down”, it has stopped and you need to wind it up (turn a key so it starts working).

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A dispute between Scientology and the BBC.

What is Scientology? A religion or a cult? Scientology is often in the news, but not always for the right reasons.

Two faces
For some, including the rich and famous, Scientology is a religion and a way of life. For others, it’s a cult, and it is associated with the words “mind control” and “brainwashing.”

In 1984, a judge characterised Scientology as “corrupt, sinister and dangerous.” Many journalists have found that Scientology has two faces: the nice, smiley one for the public; and the sinister, dark one reserved for anyone who tries to investigate the organisation.

For many, the worst thing about the religion are the “disconnects”. This is when members of Scientology cut themselves off from all family members and friends so they can spend more time with an organisation. As part of this process, Scientology members send out a “disconnect” letter to a member of their family or a friend. This letter informs the person that they have been “disconnected” from the Scientologist member’s life.

Some cases
There are a number of documented cases of “disconnect”. Rosemary was an ordinary mum living in England. She had two children and one died. Then, her surviving daughter joined Scientology and her mother saw less and less of her. Two years later, Rosemary received a “disconnect” letter. And after that, Rosemary received no Christmas cards, no birthday cards, no Mother’s Day cards and no telephone calls from her daughter.

The case of Mike Henderson and his wife Donna Shannon is similar. They spent $1m over three decades on Scientology’s “path to superhuman powers”. When Mike and Donna left, they were disconnected from other relatives who were still members of Scientology. Even Mike’s father (who is also “disconnected” and who is dying), can’t speak to five out of his six children because they are still inside Scientology.

A verbal fight
A famous incident took place during an investigation by BBC reporter John Sweeney. While making the report for the news programme Panorama, Sweeney found that he too was being investigated and followed by members of Scientology. In an article published on the BBC website, Sweeney said, “Strangers called on my neighbours and my mother-in-law’s house, and someone spied on my wedding and fled the moment he was challenged.”

In Sweeney’s hotel in America, a stranger spent every breakfast listening to him. In all, the BBC crew counted 13 people who were following them. Scientology denied sending any private investigators after the BBC.

Exploding tomatoes
Things came to a head during an interview. Sweeney had previously been shown a Scientology exhibition about psychiatry (Scientologists are against any form of psychiatry), which showed images of torture. Then, during an interview with Scientology representative Tommy Davis, Davis accused Sweeney of being too soft on a critic of Scientology.

At this point, Sweeney snapped and started shouting aggressively at Davis. Meanwhile, another member of Scientology was filming the incident. The clip was later posted on the internet site YouTube. Sweeney, later saw the film and apologised for his outburst. “I looked like an exploding tomato,” he added.

Provocation?
Some have argued that the BBC were deliberately provoking Scientologists. The word “cult” was repeatedly used during the interviews – something which is bound to irritate Scientologists – and many from the organisation say that the religion didn’t receive the respect it deserved.

Immediately after the verbal attack by Sweeney, copies of the incident were sent to Sweeney’s boss, the Director-General of the BBC. Scientologists also prepared a video attacking BBC methods, and there was talk of 100,000 copies being released.
Scientology was founded in 1954 in California by L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986).

It has 77,000 members (or millions, according to Scientology figures).

Scientologists believe in reincarnation.

Celebrities John Travolta, Lisa Marie Presley, and Tom Cruise are members of Scientology.

A top officer from the City of London police helped open a new £20 million Scientology centre in central London.

The Charity Commission in Britain does not class Scientology as a religion.

Scientologists believe that a person is an immortal spiritual being (termed a “thetan”) who possesses a mind and a body. The thetan has lived through many past lives and will continue to live beyond the death of the body.

When you have paid as much as £100,000, you get to Operating Thetan Level Three and learn about "The Incident". This is based around the story that 75 million years ago an alien space lord called Xenu kidnapped Thetans, took them to earth, dumped them in volcanoes, and blew them up with atomic bombs.

The purpose of Scientology is to gain spiritual freedom. This is done by getting rid of "engrams" (forms of negative energy) from your mind. Through the Scientology process of "auditing" you can free oneself of "engrams" and "implants" to reach the state of "clear", and, after that, the state of "Operating Thetan", for a price, of course.

A person is basically good, but becomes "aberrated" by moments of pain and unconsciousness in his or her life.

Narconon is Scientology's drug rehab programme. Treatment includes an intensive programme of running, massive doses of vitamins and very long sauna sessions designed to "run out" drugs and radiation from the body.

Psychiatry and psychology are considered destructive and abusive practices. There is a Scientology exhibition in Los Angeles called "Psychiatry: Industry of Death". It is full of graphic images of patients undergoing psychiatric treatment, such as electric shocks and brain operations.

Tom Cruise was born Thomas Cruise Mapother IV (born 3rd July 1962). He's Hollywood's most famous member of the Church of Scientology. He became involved with Scientology through his first wife, Mimi Rogers.

Cruise has publicly said that Scientology helped him overcome his dyslexia. By 2003, Tom Cruise had become an active campaigner for Scientology. He lobbied politicians in France and Germany, where the legal system regards Scientology as a cult and business. In 2005, the Paris city council described Cruise as a militant for Scientology, and prohibited any further dealings with him. There was a controversy in 2005 after he criticised actress Brooke Shields for using anti-depressant drugs after she suffered postpartum depression. Brooke Shields responded to the comments by calling them "irresponsible and dangerous". In late August of 2006, Cruise apologised in person to Shields for his comments.

Information Box

Tom Cruise

Tom Cruise

Glossary

cult

a secret organisation, a sect

to brainwash

if you "brainwash" someone, you tell them continuously that something is true until they accept and believe it.

lunatics

bad, evil and harmful

face

one aspect of someone's (or an organisation's) character

to cut yourself off from

to isolate yourself from.

path

a line/way that takes you to a particular place

to call on someone

to go to someone's house

to spy on someone

to watch and observe someone secretly

to flee (fled)

to run away, to escape

to challenge someone

to demand to know what someone is doing or who they are

to deny

to say that something isn't true

to say to someone: "if you believe in "reincarnation", you believe that you will live again after you have died"

to be soft on someone

not to be too critical of someone; to treat someone kindly/mildly

to snap

very angry suddenly

to post something on an internet site

to put a music, data, text or sound file on a website

to write a postcard

if there is an "outburst", someone gets very angry suddenly and starts shouting

reincarnation

if you believe in "reincarnation", you believe that you will live again after you have died

to dump

to place something in a place casually and without care

to get rid of

to eliminate

to undergo treatment

to have medical treatment

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Vocabulary BOOKS AND WRITING

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about books and writing.

Writer – a person who writes material that is sold in the form of books, articles, etc.

Writer’s block – an inability to write because of stress, pressure, drunkenness, or a lack of ideas.

Computer – an essential tool for all modern-day writers, although some still insist on using the typewriter.

Books – pages that are bound together and that contain stories, poems, etc. There are a number of different types of books:

- Novel – a story about imaginary people or events.
- Historical novel – a story that is set in a certain period of history.
- Autobiography – the story of someone’s life, written by the person who it is about.
- Biography – the story of someone’s life, written by another person.

Draft version – an early, unedited version of a story.

Character – a person in a story.

Protagonist – the main person in the story.

Character arc – the emotional changes that happen to a character during a story. For example, in the beginning the character is a selfish person, but an experience makes him/her less selfish.

Story arc – a story that continues over various books or episodes.

Suspense – the sense of excitement in the story.

Royalties – payments made to authors when their work is sold. Authors usually receive a fixed percentage of the profits from these sales – often about 5%.

Plot – a connected series of events used to create a story. The plot is designed to create dramatic tension and keep the reader interested. Most plots follow this basic structure:

1. The main character has a goal or mission.
2. There is an obstacle.
3. The protagonist overcomes the obstacle.
4. There is another obstacle.
5. The protagonist overcomes it once again.
6. The protagonist faces a catastrophe (possible death, etc.).
7. The protagonist resolves the situation and everything is OK.

Storyline – the general story in the book.

There is a theory that all novels come from just seven basic stories. Here they are:

1. Man/woman versus nature.
3. Man/woman versus the environment.
5. Man/woman versus the supernatural.
7. Man/woman versus god/religion.

Writing – the process of creating a story.

George Orwell (Animal Farm, 1984), the famous British author, developed a list of tips for good writing. Here is a summarised version:

1. For every sentence, a good writer should ask him/herself five questions:
   • What am I trying to say?
   • What words will express it?
   • What image or idiom will make it clearer?
   • Is this image fresh enough to have an effect?
   • Could I put it more Concisely?
2. Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech, which you have seen in print many times before.
3. Never use a long word where a short one will do.
4. If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
5. Never use the passive where you can use the active.
6. Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
7. Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

GLOSSARY

- a tool: an instrument that you use to help you do a job
- a typewriter: a machine for writing text on paper
- to bind together: the pages are joined to form a book
- selfish: only thinking about yourself
- an e-book: a book that you access on the internet
- leather: made from animal skin
- hardback: a book with a hard cover. The book is often large too
- paperback: a book with a soft cover
- a tip: a piece of advice
- a figure of speech: an expression that is used with a figurative (metaphorical) meaning
- in print: published in a book, magazine, etc
- outright barbarous: really bad; insane; ridiculous; a crime against X; very primitive
- a goal: an objective
- an obstacle: something that prevents you from doing what you want to do
- to overcome: to find a solution to a problem; to deal with a problem successfully
Publishing house – a company which publishes books.

Book format – the way that the book is presented: a large-format book, an e-book, a pocket-sized book, etc.

Dust-jacket – a loose paper cover which is put on a book to protect it. It often contains information about the book and the author.

Wordsearch page 26

1. Writer
2. Block
3. Typewriter
4. Novel
5. Autobiography
6. Biography
7. Draft
8. Storyline
9. Plot
10. Character
11. Protagonist
12. Arc
13. Suspense
14. Royalties
15. Plagiarise
16. Proof
17. Editor
18. Publisher

Crossword page 22

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Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions.

In this conversation Seth is talking to his literary agent about some books he’s written. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. What does the agent think of Seth’s books?
2. Which project is the agent interested in?

Answers on page 22

Seth: So, I was just wondering what you were doing about promoting my books?
Agent: Well, frankly, we aren’t sure we can represent you any longer.
Seth: Why’s that? What’s wrong?
Agent: Well, your latest book, A History of Stools in Pre-Revolutionary France, isn’t exactly selling well. I mean, who exactly is it appealing to?
Seth: Well, erm, French… people… erm, historians, who…
Agent: Exactly. And what about this autobiography, Greg Barnes: His Life. His Story. We’ve sold precisely 16 copies so far in six months. The remaining 299,984 copies will be pulped. Who is Greg Barnes, anyway?
Seth: He was the best friend of the husband of that girl who was in Big Brother about four years ago.
Agent: It was a rhetorical question. Who cares about Greg Barnes?

Seth: Well, his wife probably does.
Agent: They’re divorced. Now, let’s move on to your “children’s” book, Finance and Economics for the Under 5s. It’s not really appropriate for that age group.
Seth: But there were lots of fun cartoons.
Agent: Oh, come on! What parent in their right mind would buy that for their child?
Seth: What about my novel? Surely…
Agent: Your novel. Yes, your novel. Sizzling Pigs. It started off well, sort of, but there’s no ending.
Seth: Oh, right, so you don’t want to see my latest proposal, then?
Agent: No. Erm, what is it?
Seth: It’s a biography.
Agent: A biography. Erm, whose biography?
Seth: It’s a biography about you.
Agent: Really? Oh. That’s nice. That sounds great. Very nice. Let’s have a look. (She looks through the book.) Yes, yes. We can definitely do something with this. Did you remember to mention the time when I met the queen’s uncle back in 2004 when I was…

Glossary

- **a literary agent**: a person who represents a writer and who negotiates deals with publishers, etc.
- **to promote**: to do things to try to increase the sales of a product
- **frankly**: honestly
- **a stool**: a chair with just three legs
- **to appeal to someone**: if something “appeals to” you, you like it
- **to pulp (a book)**: to destroy a book
- **a rhetorical question**: a question that requires no answer
- **an age group**: people who are born within a particular period of time
- **come on**: an expression used to show that you don’t agree with someone, or if you think someone has said something silly
- **nobody** in their right mind would: nobody would ever…; only a stupid person would…
- **an ending**: the conclusion to a story
- **to publish**: to print a book and sell it in shops, etc.
- **a proposal**: an idea

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**DR FINGERS’ VOCABULARY CLINIC: SUCCESS**

This month: Success

**Hit the jackpot**
To become very successful or very rich. “When the second album came out, they hit the **jackpot**.”

**Steal the show**
To be the most popular or the best person among the rest. “All the dancers were good but Kirsty really stole the show.”

**Bring the house down**
To do something that really pleases the audience in a theatre. “The comedian was hilarious and really brought the house down.”

**In the bag**
If something is “in the bag”, it is certain to be successful in the end. “That new contract is in the bag.”

**Come up trumps; turn up trumps**
To complete an activity successfully or to produce a good result, especially when it wasn’t expected. “We thought we’d never get a flight home but Sam’s boyfriend came up **trumps** and found us a cheap one at the last minute.”

**Go like a bomb**
To be very successful. “Judging from the noise they’re making in there, that party is going like a bomb.”

**By miles**
Much better; much superior to other things. They were better by miles.

**Have the luck of the devil**
To be very lucky. “She always goes out with the best looking men. She’s got the luck of the devil.”

**Glossary**
- **jackpot**: the most valuable prize in a game or lottery.
- **trumps**: in a game of cards, “trumps” is the suit (diamonds, hearts, clubs, spades) which is chosen to have the highest value.
The eternal flame
Ray Crozier’s book is full of interesting examples of embarrassing moments. He tells of the time when German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was attending a ceremony at Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Schroeder was invited to turn a handle to boost the eternal flame commemorating the Holocaust. However, to the embarrassment of everyone present, the chancellor turned the handle the wrong way and extinguished the flame.

Past glory

**Funny Fact:** People are said to go ‘beetroot’ red when they show embarrassment and their cheeks blush. Beetroot is a root vegetable whose juice can stain the skin red.

Another story involves Star Trek star, Patrick Stewart. Stewart recalls a time when he was watching television alone in a hotel room. He was switching channels when he suddenly found an episode of Next Generation. “I started watching it and I had forgotten that I’d ordered room service,” he explains. “All of a sudden, this man arrives with my food. He looks at the television and looks at me watching myself on television, then shakes his head and gives me a look of pity. He must have thought I was a real loser watching my past glories.”

Dealing with embarrassment

So, what can be done about it? “The best way to deal with embarrassment is to talk about it,” says workplace psychologist Gary Fitzgibbon. “If you walk off, you’re left with it. You mustn’t let the embarrassment dominate. Once you admit to what’s happened and talk about it, everyone will feel much more relaxed and they’ll be laughing with you rather than at you.”

**GLOSSARY**

**embarrassing** adj something that makes you feel timid, shy or ashamed
**handle** n an object you turn with your hand
**boost** vt to increase
**flame** n a hot, bright line of burning gas
**extinguish** vt if you “extinguish” a fire, you stop the fire from burning
**switch channels** vt to change channels on a television
**pity** n something great you did in the past
**look of pity** n a look of pity
**boost** vt to try not to become involved in a fight or argument with someone
**cubicule** n a little room with a toilet in it. There are often several cubicles in a toilet

**Embarassing-moment stories**

Have you ever had an embarrassing moment? Here are a few of ours.

**Toilet torment**
I was once in a public toilet. I wanted to use the cubicle but it was occupied. I waited for a couple of minutes, but there was no noise coming from inside. After another minute, I decided to knock on the door. “Is anyone there?” I asked. No answer. I knocked again. There was still no answer. In the end, I decided to have a look under the gap at the bottom of the door. And just as I was doing so, another man walked into the toilet. He saw what I was doing and walked out before I had a chance to explain myself. Jim, Bournemouth.

**Safety first**
I accidentally stabbed my boss on my first day at work. We were queuing up to go into the conference room, and my boss was standing just in front of me. I had a pair of scissors in my hands and someone pushed me, and the scissors went into my boss’ backside. He needed stitches… and a new pair of trousers. Incidentally, the meeting was supposed to be on safety in the workplace.

**Leaving with dignity**
I was at a friend’s house with a couple of mates. We were sitting around the kitchen table when we started arguing about something really stupid. In a huff, I stormed out. Unfortunately, my exit wasn’t as dramatic as I had intended because I ended up walking into the kitchen larder. I had to ask for directions out of the kitchen (there were three doors in total).
An Englishman had a lucky escape. Forty-six-year-old Gordon Texford was in a toilet in a train station when he heard his train pulling out. So, he ran out, and jumped onto the back of the train. Miraculously, he clung on for six minutes before falling off. Texford, even managed to answer a mobile phone call from friends who were inside a carriage on the train as it reached speeds of up to 70kph. Texford escaped with minor injuries to his leg, but may face prosecution for his action. Texford, who was on the Manchester to London train, left the train at a station in order to go to the toilet. A spokesman for British Transport police said, “It was a very silly thing to do.”

An emu sparked an international incident after it escaped from police. The emu was first spotted in Germany. Vets, local zoo staff and officers in patrol cars, all tried to catch it but failed. After several hours, the bird leapt into neighbouring Switzerland, and German police informed their colleagues over the border. But even with the combined efforts of both German and Swiss police, the emu, which was running at speeds over 50kph, still managed to avoid capture. In the end, German police shot the bird when it crossed the border again. A police spokesman said, “We managed to shoot the bird, but we are still trying to find out how it got here in the first place. No bird farms or zoos in the area say they are missing an emu. It is a mystery.”

Of course, this isn’t the first time that animals have been dealt with in such a callous manner. Just recently, German hunters shot a bear that appeared in the Alps for the first time in 200 years. And a few months later, there were plans to put down a baby polar bear which had lost its parents.

Glossary:
- to pull out: vb if a train is “pulling out”, it is leaving the station
- to cling on: vb to hold on desperately
- to go out with someone for the purpose of romance
- to spot: vb to notice/see
- to avoid capture: exp if an animal “avoids capture”, it isn’t caught
- callous: adj mean, cruel, unkind
- to put down: vb to kill for supposedly humane, rational reasons
- to talk endlessly: exp to speak without stopping
- to rule out: phr vb if you “rule something out”, you say that it will never happen
- to scrap a plan: exp if you “scrap a plan”, you abandon it and stop doing it
- to fail: vb if something “fails”, it isn’t successful
- to leap into: vb to jump into
- to shift: vb if something “shifts”, it moves

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Mike: Hey, Jen, you know, like, er, Harry Potter, next month it's out, the last book, I'm really, well, I'm gonna get it as soon as it's in the shops.

Jen: Are you going to be one of these people who sleeps outside the bookshops?

Mike: Well, you know, you can only be young once, but you can be immature forever. That's what, that's what I say and I stand by it. Harry Potter's great.

Jen: I don't know. It's all right, but I, I prefer Roald Dahl as an author.

Mike: You just called me immature and you're talking about Roald Dahl and crocodiles and people with worms on their heads? That's just silly. I'm talking about advanced wizardry.

Jen: Well, Roald Dahl wrote about the witches long before JK Rowling ever thought of Harry Potter. Harry Potter’s just, I don’t know, he’s, he’s such a boring character.

Mike: Boring? He survived Voldemort’s attacks on him at least five times and I bet you couldn’t have done. Jen: Well, I notice she has to give that explanation in every single book.

Mike: Yeah, but, like, come on, let’s put Harry Potter against Charlie Bucket. Come on, who’s more, who’s more impressive? Charlie Bucket who eats chocolate. Harry Potter has powers. He’s like Quidditch champion, whatever.

Jen: And he’s got…

Mike: Charlie Bucket just got lucky.

Jen: And funny glasses.

Mike: Funny glasses, exactly. Anyway, I’m, I’m going to convince you of this. And I think you’re just being a bit stubborn, basically.

Jen: So, shall I go and get you some tickets, then?

Mike: Erm, yeah, and I’m going to get you a book and you’re gonna love it.

Jen: Can’t wait. 

Glossary:

out: if a book is “out” it is in the shops and you can buy it.

immature: someone who is “immature” acts like a child and not like an adult.

worm: a small animal that lives in the earth.

wizardry: the subject of magic and potions. A “wizard” is a man who knows magic.

bet: I’m sure, I’m certain.

come on: this expression is used to show that you think something is silly or not true.

to put one person (up) against another: to put two people in a situation in which they must compete.

Quidditch: a game played by the characters in the Harry Potter books and films to get lucky.

to get lucky: to obtain something that you want, to get the things that you want.

stubborn: someone who is “stubborn” is determined to get what they want, even if it is not good for them or for anyone else.

Illegal street parties

Carmen and Christine are talking about illegal street parties (“botellones” in Spanish).

Carmen: Cheers.

Christine: Cheers.

Carmen: Cheers. Congratulations on the new job.

Christine: Thank you very much. How are you doing today?

Carmen: Well, I’m all right, but to be honest I haven’t slept much.

Christine: Why not?

Carmen: Well, you know the noise. That stupid botellón.

Christine: The stupid botellón?

Carmen: Every night on the weekends, it’s just, until 6, 7 in the morning no sleep.

Christine: You have to understand. Those people need some place to go.

Carmen: Understand? I wake up in the morning, I go outside and there is bottles everywhere, rubbish on the floor. It’s just not good.

Christine: You’re right, they need to solve the problem about your nation. However, erm, they also need to solve the problem about where can all these people go. Everything has gotten so expensive.

Carmen: Well, you know, there’s, what about house parties? That’s an option. I mean, you know, to drink just to get drunk.

Christine: Well, would you like a house party, in your next door, in your next door neighbour?

Carmen: Well, I suppose, but really every single weekend it’s the same thing, and those bottles, it’s just, they’re all out there, cracked glass.

Christine: Well, where do you think they should go?

Carmen: The bars.

Christine: But the bars are so expensive. Do you know how much it costs now to have one drink?

Carmen: Oh, come on.

Christine: Six, seven euros for a drink.

Carmen: Well, they can get a good drink and enjoy it. You don’t have to drink to get drunk.

Christine: I agree. You don’t have to drink to get drunk. However, you, but the Spanish mentality, they, they love to be in the streets, the air, the fresh air.

Carmen: All right, well, I don’t know.

Christine: I just, I think I’m gonna need another coffee at this point.

Carmen: How about another drink? I’ll invite. But this time in the street.

Christine: No way. 

Glossary:

botellón: an illegal party that takes place in a public place: the street, a park, etc.

has gotten: has become.

bottled: has become; has got.

cracked glass: broken glass.

never! 

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Office Humour

Work-related phrases
Here are some typical work-related phrases and what they really mean.

• Your request is being processed. = It is actually in the bin.

• The project co-ordinator deals with all complaints. = I don’t want to listen to you – talk to someone else.

• Your application is currently under consideration. = Who are you?

• The proposal is under active consideration. = We’ve lost the file.

• A reliable source told me. = This guy I just met told me.

• An informed source has told me. = A friend of the guy I just met just told me.

• We’ll discuss it later. = Hopefully, you’ll forget about it.

• Let’s get together on this. = I’m really confused about this so I need a face-to-face.

• We’d like to hear what you think. = You can tell us what you think as long as it doesn’t interfere with what we’ve already decided to do.

• I’ll put you in the picture. = I’ll give you a long, confused and inaccurate statement of what’s going on.

• We’ll advise you in due course. = If we find out what the hell is going on, we’ll let you know.

• I’ll get back to you. = I’ve already deleted your e-mail.

GLOSSARY
the bin n
a container for rubbish (old bits of paper, etc)
to deal with phv vb
if you “deal with” something, you try to find a solution to it
a complaint n
if someone makes a “complaint”, they tell you that they aren’t happy with the service reliable adj
if something is “reliable”, you can trust it to do what it says it will do
a source n
someone who gives you information
a face-to-face n
a meeting in person
inaccurate adj
not correct; with errors
the hell exp
an expression used to show that you are angry
to go on phv vb
to happen
to get back to someone exp
to contact someone who has contacted you

Chorus
There’s a girl that makes me smile,
Van Gogh’s paint the height of style,
And all it takes to say hello,
And Michelle fell for yellow.

I know this world can be absurd,
Forget the things you might have heard,
Put your faith in what you know,
That Michelle fell for yellow.

Sunflowers say to me,
There’s more to life than we can see,
Simple things can be so clear,
Freedom lives to kill our fear.

There’s a girl that makes me smile,
Van Gogh’s paint the height of style,
And all it takes to say hello,
And Michelle fell for yellow.

Cardigans and Renault fours,
Yellow painted front doors,
All the things she wants to have,
I love it when she makes me laugh, she makes me laugh.

There’s a girl that makes me smile,
Van Gogh’s paint the height of style,
And all it takes to say hello,
And Michelle fell for yellow.

I know this world can be absurd,
Forget the things you might have heard,
Put your faith in what you know,
That Michelle fell for yellow.

GLOSSARY
the height of style exp
the most stylish/fashionable
to fall for something exp
if you “fall for something”, you become strongly attracted to it absurd exp
ridiculous; strange
to put your faith in something exp
to believe in something
a sunflower n
a very tall plant with yellow flowers
a cardigan n
warm clothing (similar to a jumper/sweater) worn on the upper part of your body. It has buttons down the front.

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Here are some more crazy laws from the US. These ones are from Illinois and Indiana. (US English spelling)

A permit is required for anyone wishing to play baseball at night. (Illinois)

It is against the law to use a slingshot unless you are a law enforcement officer. (Illinois)

A rooster must be at least three hundred feet from any residence if he wishes to crow. (Illinois)

Hens that wish to cackle must be at least two hundred feet from any residence. (Illinois)

Bees are not allowed to fly over the village or through any of Kriland’s streets. (Illinois)

Ice skating at the riverside pond during the months of June and August is prohibited. (Illinois)

There is a ban on unnecessary repetitive driving on 23rd Avenue. (Illinois)

It is against the law to make faces at dogs. (Illinois)

It is illegal for anyone to give lighted cigars to dogs, cats, or any other domesticated animals. (Illinois)

A person must get a referral from a licensed physician if he or she wishes to see a hypnotist unless the desired result is to quit smoking or lose weight. (Indiana)

Baths may not be taken between the months of October and March. (Indiana)

It is illegal to sell cars on Sunday. (Indiana)

It is against the law to pass a horse on the street. (Indiana)

No one may catch a fish with his bare hands. (Indiana)

Drinks on the house are illegal. (Indiana)

You are required to pour your drink into a glass. (Indiana)

Spiteful gossip and talking behind a person’s back are illegal. (Indiana)

Mustaches are illegal if the bearer has a tendency to habitually kiss other humans. (Indiana)

Glossary

- **a slingshot**: an object used to shoot a stone
- **a rooster**: a male chicken that makes a sound in the morning
- **to crow**: if a rooster “crows”, it makes a sound in the morning
- **to cackle**: when chickens are “cackling”, they are making a lot of noise
- **a pond**: a small area of water that is smaller than a lake
- **a ban**: a prohibition
- **to make a face**: to make an unpleasant or funny expression as a way of showing that you don’t like something/someone
- **a lighted cigar**: a cigar (a large cigarette made of tobacco leaves) that is burning
- **a referral**: a letter of recommendation
- **a licensed physician**: a registered doctor
- **to quit smoking**: to stop smoking
- **spiteful**: designed to cause moral or psychological damage
- **gossip**: rumours and stories about someone’s private life
- **a mustache**: hair on a man’s face above the upper lip. “Moustache” in British English

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Learn English!
Here we’ve got some examples of how to say things in different situations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Formal</th>
<th>Relaxed</th>
<th>Informal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A friend was arrested by the police.</td>
<td>He was apprehended by some officers of the law.</td>
<td>He was arrested.</td>
<td>He was nicked; he had his collar felt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You suggest going to the beach in order to go sunbathing.</td>
<td>I suggest a short sojourn to the coast in order to lie in the sun.</td>
<td>Let’s do some sunbathing.</td>
<td>Let’s catch some rays; let’s get some sunshine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You think that your acquaintance is a little bit stupid.</td>
<td>He is somewhat intellectually-challenged.</td>
<td>He’s a bit stupid.</td>
<td>He’s a tad thick; he’s a bit of an idiot; he’s not all there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend has a new BMW.</td>
<td>He has acquired a top of the range German-manufactured automobile.</td>
<td>He’s bought a BMW.</td>
<td>He’s got a beemer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend of yours, Mary, wants to apply for a job but is afraid she will be rejected. You tell her not to be so frightened.</td>
<td>Do not allow your cowardice to hold you back.</td>
<td>Don’t be such a coward.</td>
<td>Don’t be such a chicken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There was a fight in a nightclub. A woman hit a man and caused him to fall.</td>
<td>Her fist came into contact with his face and precipitated a fall.</td>
<td>She punched him and made him fall.</td>
<td>She decked him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Glossary**

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

- **a collar**
  - the part of your shirt that goes around your neck

- **to go sunbathing**
  - to lie in the sun in order to get tanned

- **a ray**
  - a line of sunlight

- **to hold you back**
  - if something “holds you back”, it stops you from doing another thing
This month we are looking at some “worm” idioms.

**Worm your way out of something**
To escape from a problem; not to accept your responsibilities.
“She was supposed to be doing the cleaning today, but she managed to worm her way out of it.”

**Worm your way into something / worm your way to a place**
To become part of a place, organisation or company by tricking people, making people trust you, or by using people.
“She managed to worm her way to the top of the company by using all her old connections.”

**Open up a can of worms**
To create unnecessary complications or problems; to start discussing something that is better not to discuss.
“When management offered to discuss working hours, they really opened up a can of worms – there were arguments ever day after that.”

**The early bird catches the worm**
If you want to be successful, you should do something immediately.
“If you see an apartment advertised in the newspaper, respond to it straightaway. The early bird catches the worm.”

**The worm has turned; the worm turns**
People say this in reference to someone who is normally very patient and passive but who unexpectedly changes and does something bold and daring.
“Mary has decided to start an affair with a married man after what Frank did to her. The worm has turned.”

**A worm’s eye view**
If you have a “worm’s eye view of something”, you only know or understand a part of it, usually the worst or least important part.
“The film is all about the New York underworld and gives a worm’s eye view of society there.”
Scams

Victim recognized him in never be seen again. He was walk off with the watch and would lend him their watches. As soon as they did, he would make money – it’s as simple as that.

The first time the term “confidence man” was used was in 1849. It was used by the press during the trial of William Thompson. Thompson’s scam was simple. He chatted with strangers until they had “become friends”. Then, quite simply, he asked them if they would lend him their watches. As soon as they did, he would walk off with the watch and never be seen again. He was eventually caught when a victim recognized him in the street.

Nothing new
Scams have been around since the day that money was invented. Scams are also known as “confidence tricks” or “swindles”; and the person who does a scam can be referred to as a grafter, a swindler, a scammer, a confidence trickster or a con artist; the victim is called the mark. The objective of all good scams is to make money – it’s as simple as that.

The deceptive contest scam
The victim enters a writing competition. A few weeks later, the victim receives a letter saying that he/she has won and that the story will be included in a book. The victim is then encouraged to order the book (at a very high price, of course).

The fiddle game
A pair of con men work together on this scam. One of the con artists (con artist number 1) dresses up as an elderly man in shabby clothes. He has a meal at the restaurant. All of a sudden, he claims to have left his wallet at home. As collateral, he leaves his only possession: a violin. After he leaves, the second con man (con artist number 2) enters. He examines the violin and says that he will pay an outrageously large amount for the violin (for example, $50,000), leaving his business card for the old man (con artist number 1) to call if he’s interested.

Now, the victim (the restaurant owner) thinks that he can make a lot of money. So, when the old man (con artist number 1) comes back to pay for his meal, the restaurant owner offers to buy the violin. Of course, when the restaurant owner then tries to contact the other con artist (con artist number 2) to sell him the violin, the man has disappeared.

The free pet scam
For this scam, the con artist places a classified ad in a newspaper offering a very cheap or free animal (usually an animal that is hard to get or very expensive). If asked, the con artist explains that he is going to move away from the area. The con artist says that all he wants is for the victim to pay for the shipping costs (which are very high) in order to send the animal to the victim. The victim does so, but, of course, never actually receives the pet.

Good faith
So, how do confidence trickster’s work? They mainly rely on the good faith of the victim. Many people have fallen prey to scams including movie actors, athletes, successful business executives and political leaders. Just recently, there was a story in the news of a scam in Japan. Apparently, Japanese dog-lovers had been tricked into paying hundreds of dollars for pet puppies, only to discover that they had in fact been sold sheep. The scam was exposed when a Japanese actress appeared on television complaining about her new pet “poodle” and how it refused to eat any dog food and would not bark. Maiko Kawakami was stunned to discover that her pet poodle was in fact a baby lamb. The newspaper reported that the sheep were shipped to Japan from the UK and Australia. They were sold via an internet site and advertised as “poodle puppies”.

The coin collecting scam
The con man offers the victim a valuable collection of coins at a very low price. The victim buys the entire collection thinking they are valuable, but, of course, they aren’t.

The baby in the pram
A mother goes into a fur shop with a pram. She tries on a really expensive fur coat. All of a sudden, she claims she has to run out because her husband has just arrived with the car. She leaves the pram in the shop with the “baby” inside. Of course, there is no baby in the pram and the woman never returns to the shop.

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Glossary
a scam – a trick to make money dishonestly/ illegality
a trial – a legal process designed to get compensation
stunned – shocked and surprised
good faith – to depend on
a compromising position – to threaten
shipping costs – to send a package to someone (by ship, air, road, etc)
violin – a type of baby bed with wheels that is used to take the baby for a walk
a poodle – a type of dog with thick, curly hair
fur – animal skin and hair that is used to make clothes
a pram – a baby bed with wheels that is used to take the baby for a walk
blackmail – the action of threatening to reveal a secret or photos unless money is paid
a compromising position – to threaten
an object used by men to keep credit cards, money, etc
blackmail – the action of threatening to reveal a secret or photos unless money is paid
a guarantee – a legal process designed to get compensation
a classified ad – a small piece of publicity in a newspaper offering to buy or sell something
shipping costs – the costs for sending something by air/ship, etc

Have you ever been tricked? Ever been the victim of a scam? Ever paid for something only to find that it isn’t what you wanted? A new report shows that scamming is on the increase.
PHRASAL VERB THEMES: DRIVING

From now on we will be looking at phrasal verb themes. This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs related to driving. This is the first of a two-part series.

**Get In**
To enter a car.

**Get Out**
To leave a car.

**Run Down / Run Over**
If a car "runs someone down", the car hits that person in the road.

**Slow Down**
To drive more slowly.

**Pull Over**
If the police tell you to "pull over", they tell you to stop driving so they can talk to you.

**Break Down**
If your car "breaks down", it stops working.

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GEORGE "DUBYA" BUSHISMS

THE FUNNY THINGS THE U.S. PRESIDENT SAYS

Here are some more wonderful George W. (Dubya) Bush quotes. For some more Bushisms by the man himself, please visit Dr Fingers’ Blog: www.hotenglishmagazine.com/blog/

“And my concern, David, is several.” 2007.

“The solution to Iraq – an Iraq that can govern itself, sustain itself and defend itself – is more than a military mission. Precisely the reason why I sent more troops into Baghdad.” 2007.

“Some call this civil war; others call it emergency; I call it pure evil.” 2007.

“It’s bad in Iraq. Does that help?” George W. Bush, after being asked by a reporter whether he’s in denial about Iraq. 2006.

“I will not withdraw, even if Laura and Barney [his dog] are the only ones supporting me.” 2006.

“I said I was looking for a book to read. Laura said, ‘You ought to try Camus’. I also read three Shakespeares. I’ve got a eckalectic [sic] reading list.” 2006.

“One thing is clear is that relations between America and Russia are good, and they’re important that they be good [sic].” 2006.

“I tell people, let’s don’t fear [sic] the future, let’s shape it.” 2006.

“If people want to get to know me better, they’ve got to know my parents and the values my parents instilled in me, and the fact that I was raised in west Texas, in the middle of the desert, a long way away from anywhere, hardly. There’s a certain set of values you learn in that experience.” 2006.

“People don’t need to worry about security. This deal wouldn’t go forward if we were concerned about the security for the United States of America.” 2006.

“I like my buddies from west Texas. I liked them when I was young. I liked them when I was middle-aged. I liked them before I was president, and I like them during president [sic], and I like them after president [sic].” 2006.

GLOSSARY

to govern itself exp
a country that can “govern itself”, it can manage the country without any help

to sustain itself exp
if a country can “sustain itself”, it can survive without any help/imports

in denial exp
if you are “in denial”, you are trying to ignore something that is affecting you

to withdraw vb
if you “withdraw” troops, you take them away

ecclectic adj
if you have an “eclectic” taste, you have a very varied taste

to instill vb
if you “instill” values in someone, you teach someone those values

to raise vb
if you “raise” a child, you educate a child and to help him/her become an adult

deal n
an agreement

to go forward phr vb
if something “goes forward”, it moves to the next stage of the process

buddy n
inform US
a friend

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The Whitechapel Trouser Snatcher

A radio play by Mark Pierro and Ian Coutts.

Someone is murdering Victorian gentlemen by tearing off their trousers in public places. Can the police catch this villain before he strikes next? And who will the next victim be?

Scene 3 –
Chief Superintendent Williams’ office in Scotland Yard
W = Williams
F = Forest
N = Narrator

W: Come in, Ah, Forest.
F: You wanted to see me, Windbag… Chief?
W: That case you’re working on, the one with the gentleman who had his breeches torn off in public… solved it now, have we?
F: My enquiries are progressing satisfactorily thank you for asking.
W: I’m interested in your use of the word “satisfactorily”. In fact, I’m fascinated by your use of the word “satisfactorily”. Do you not think that that is a fascinating word?
F: Erm, in English or in Welsh?
W: Seeing as you want to be a comedian, I’ll look it up in my fascinating Welsh-English dictionary, shall I?
H: Here we are now… “satisfactorily”… meet expectations, be accepted by as adequate, to fulfill or to comply with, convince or put an end to… I do not see any of these as having relevance to any description whatsoever to our investigations.
F: I am pleased to say that the team of Nottingham Forest have been making some fascinating enquiries and we expect shortly to have a satisfactory conclusion to this most fascinating of cases.
W: Well, I’m pleased to hear it because a less astute man than myself could easily be led to believe that this villain was going to get off scot-free, whilst the force here inspector has got nowhere. What have you come up with, Boyo?
F: We’ve got a witness to…
W: (interrupting) No, no, not a witness.
F: Well, we’ve got a suspect that we’re going to inter…
W: (interrupting) No, no, no, not that useless pack of liars… I mean the name man, you know for the villain. What have you come up with?
F: Well, er, the name, erm, well we thought perhaps erm… How about “Jack the Rip-your-breeches-off”?
W: Poppycock! Call that a name?
F: My mother came up with it.
W: Well, it’s not good enough. I’ve had the press on my back and they want to reassure the God-fearing public with something to scare the wind out of them.
F: It would have to be pretty scary to get the wind out of you.
W: This Jack the rip-your-breeches-off bloke wouldn’t scare my mother, and she has a beard.
F: We based it on your Grandmother.
W: I’ve got a name.
F: (muttering) Windbag.

Glossary
- breeches n Old trousers
- enquiries n if the police make “enquiries”, they investigate the crime satisfactorily adv if something is done “satisfactorily”, it is done to an acceptable standard to look up vb to find the meaning of a word to fulfill vb if you “fulfill” a task or job, you do it properly and completely relevance n something’s “relevance” is its importance, significance or meaning astute adj clever, intelligent a villain n a bad person who has committed a crime to get off scot-free exp if a criminal “gets off scot-free”, he/she escapes without going to prison, etc.
to get nowhere exp if an investigation is “getting nowhere”, it isn’t progressing Boyo n informal a term of address for a boy or man a witness n someone who saw a crime a suspect n someone who the police think committed a crime a pack of liars n a group of dishonest people who don’t tell the truth poppycock exp Old an expression used to say that you think something is stupid, silly, not true, etc.
to come up with exp vb to think of on my back exp if someone is “on your back”, they are annoying you and they keep asking you questions, etc.
god-fearing adj “God-fearing” people are very religious to scare the wind out of someone exp to frighten someone a lot a bloke n a man a conviction n if someone has a “conviction”, they’ve been formally accused of a crime in a court of law a motto n a short sentence or phrase that is like a rule or a piece of advice to strike to attack or kill a perpetrator n someone who has committed a violent crime linked adv connected a misdemeanor n a crime, but not a very serious one to come from on top exp if an order “comes from on top”, it comes from the people in authority: the managers, the president, etc.

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The new type of environmentally-friendly person: the cragger.

Zero polluters

The cragger: turning down include the explained. Other things some free light, “a cragger curtain a bit and you’ve got the morning, just open the streetlamps the light from simple. One trick is to use carbon footprint are really substantial. Some ways of reducing your savings you do? said one cragger. “There are a lot of energy, ” waste you do looking that you realise that you stop and start use. “It's only when you use up a lot of standby switches to the world of carbon rationing.

Climate change
So, just how popular are these measures? A recent poll suggests that only 28% of Britons thought the idea of setting limits on individuals' carbon emissions was acceptable. However, most people do feel that lifestyle changes are needed to reduce the impact of climate change. Although not everyone is prepared to go to the extremes of the craggers, there are things that most people would find acceptable. This includes buying a car that runs on a biodiesel mix, flying less often, using a bicycle for small journeys, and insulating walls. Would you like to become a cragger?

Ways to cut your carbon footprint

- Use a bicycle instead of the car.
- Open the curtain in the morning and use the light from streetlamps.
- Watch less television.
- Turn off appliances at the wall and stop using standby switches.
- Insulate your walls.
- Use a biodiesel car.
- In winter, turn down the heat and wear more clothing.
- Fly less. Take your holidays closer to home.

Craggers
Many people in Britain have decided to do something about the environment. They have signed up to voluntary groups. These groups want to reduce their carbon footprint (to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) they release into the atmosphere). These groups are known as Carbon Rationing Action Groups (Crags), and members of these groups are referred to as “craggers.”

The main aim is to find ways of cutting your personal energy use. “It’s only when you stop and start looking that you realise that you do waste a lot of energy,” said one cragger. “There are things you can do in your life that don’t stop you having a really nice time, and you can still make really substantial savings.” So, what exactly can you do?

Cragging ideas
Some ways of reducing your carbon footprint are really simple. One trick is to use the light from streetlamps in the morning. “If it’s dark in the morning, just open the curtain a bit and you’ve got some free light,” a cragger explained. Other things include turning down the heating in winter, wearing more clothes when it’s cold, turning off the heat altogether from April to October, using less light, turning off electronic equipment at the wall (the standby switches use up a lot of electricity), and flying less. Some craggers go to even further extremes. They may ban television, use a jug to collect hot water in the shower to use for shaving, or only allow DVDs on the weekend and even turn the brightness control down on the television.

Info Box – Crags
Crags (Carbon Rationing Action Groups) are ecological groups who want to reduce the amount of carbon they produce. There are at least 23 crags in Britain. Most individual targets are set at 4.5 metric tons of carbon per person per year. In some crags there is a financial penalty for those who exceed the limit. The objective is to reduce your personal footprint by about 10% a year. The ultimate objective is a 90% cut by 2030.

Mick Jagger CO2
Sir Mick Jagger recently admitted that the band’s carbon footprint was “rather enormous” because of their extensive touring. However, he added that they were taking measures to reduce it.

Glossary
- a carbon footprint: the amount of carbon dioxide you produce. Literally, a “footprint” is the mark you leave on the ground when you walk somewhere.
- to release: if a gas is “released”, it leaves its container and enters the atmosphere.
- the atmosphere: the air and gases around the earth.
- an aim: an objective.
- to waste: to use more of something than you really need.
- to make savings: to reduce the amount of money you spend.
- a streetlamp: a tall post in the street with a light on top of it.
- to turn down: to reduce the level/intensity of something.
- a standby switch: a part of a plug or appliance that remains on, even when you switch off the appliance. This allows you to turn on the appliance with a remote control device.
- to ban: to prohibit.
- a jug: a ceramic container for water.
- the brightness control: the button on the television that controls the amount of light visible on the screen.
- carbon rationing: limiting the amount of carbon dioxide you create.
- a poll: a series of questions asked in order to understand people’s opinions.
- to insulate: to put material in the spaces between walls in order to prevent the building from losing heat.

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How much do you know about computer technology? You probably know what a virus is, but what about a whitehat, a blackhat and a botnet? Here are some of the most up-to-date computer terms that you should be familiar with. (US spelling)

Adware
An unwanted programme that bombards users with adverts after they visit an infected site. Once installed in your computer, it can be very hard to remove.

A blackhat
A hacker who uses his/her skills for criminal purposes.

A botnet
A large number of computers which are being controlled by someone via the net (often in order to send out spam mail). The biggest botnets can have tens of thousands of hijacked computers in them. Each individual computer in a botnet is called a bot or a zombie.

Bullet-proof hosting
A company that guarantees that it will not shut down its servers, even when the request comes from a government or law-enforcement agency. These hosting companies are often located off-shore or in countries where computer crime laws are lax.

A carder
Someone who steals credit card numbers and their associated information.

A dead-drop
A PC or server that is used to store stolen personal data stolen. Criminal hackers prefer to keep any data at a distance as possession of the information is incriminating.

DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service)
This is an attack in which thousands of separate computers bombard a website in order to knock it off the net. DDoS attacks have been used by extortionists who threaten to knock a site offline unless a ransom is paid.

Drive-by download
A malicious program that automatically installs when someone visits a booby-trapped website.

A honeypot
An individual computer (or a network of machines) that appears to be a poorly-protected system, but which, in reality, records every attempt to attack it. This information is then used to track down the hacker.

IP address
The numbers that identify every machine that is using the internet. IP stands for Internet Protocol.

Keylogger
A programme installed on a victim’s machine that records every keystroke that a user makes. This information can be used for stealing login and password details.

Malware
A term for all malicious software. Derived from the words “malicious” and “software”.

Phishing
The practice of sending out e-mail messages which appear to be from a financial institution. The objective is to trick people into giving confidential information such as bank codes and passwords.

Spyware
A malicious programme that steals personal and confidential information.

Trojan
A type of programme or message that appears to be safe but which really conceals a malicious programme. Many of the attachments on virus-carrying e-mail messages have trojans.

Virus
A malicious program that requires action to successfully infect a victim. For instance, opening an e-mail attachment.

Whitehat
A hacker who uses his or her skills for positive ends.

Worm
A malicious programme that scours the web looking for new victims. Worms can infect and take over computers without any help from a victim.

GLOSSARY

to bombard vb to attack continuously

to hijack vb to take control of something illegally or by force

to knock off phr vb to close permanently

to request n if you make a “request”, you ask for something politely

to shut down phr vb a law-enforcement agency : the police, the FBI, the drug squad, etc

not strict adj "incriminating" evidence is evidence that suggests you are involved in a crime

a ransom n money that criminals demand in order to free someone, or to stop doing something bad

an extortionist n a criminal who gets money by force or threats (promises to do something bad)

to knock off phr vb if a website is “knocked off” the internet, it is forced to stop being on the internet

incriminating adj "incriminating" evidence is evidence that suggests you are involved in a crime

extortionist n a criminal who gets money by force or threats (promises to do something bad)

to track down phr vb to find and catch

booby-trapped adj each time you press a key (a number or letter) on the computer keyboard

malicious adj evil and harmful

to conceal vb to hide

attachment n a document or file that is attached to an e-mail message

to scour vb to search an area very thoroughly

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This month we are looking at some typical words, expressions, collocations and forms related to the word “finance”. Listen and repeat the following expressions.

Finance

1. Who is going to finance the project?
2. She’s a financial adviser for a multinational.
3. The company is financially sound.
4. Where are we going to find the financing for a project of this scale?
5. They managed to get some financial backing.
6. This product is a financial liability.
7. The financial markets responded positively to the move.
8. Financial forecasts were in line with our predictions as to where the market was going.
9. They have good financial standing.
10. We aren’t prepared to take any more financial risks.
11. They were hoping for a bit more financial support.
12. There may be up to 12,000 job losses in the coming financial year (“fiscal year” in US English).
13. The company is in financial difficulties.
14. The fund was used to finance the building of a prison.
15. The Minister of Finance recommended raising the tax rate.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English telephone dialogue.

Stan: Stan Bakers. Who’s calling?
Nigel: Hi Stan, Nigel here.
Stan: Oh, hi, Nigel. We got a copy of your business plan. Looks very interesting.
Nigel: Yeah, we just need the financing now.
Stan: Who have you got in line to finance it?
Nigel: There are a number of financial institutions who are very interested. They’re just carrying out a risk assessment at the moment. They just need to be sure that we’re financially sound.
Stan: Yeah. There aren’t many people who are prepared to take any financial risks with dot-com start-ups any more. So, what will you use the finance for, if you get it?
Nigel: It’ll mostly go into developing the site.
Stan: Oh, excuse me, I’ve got another call coming in. Speak later.
Nigel: OK, cheers.
Stan: Bye.

GLOSSARY

financially sound (adj) if a business is “financially sound”, it is earning more money than it spends scale (size) financial backing (n) money to start a business; investment money financial liability (n) something which is costing more than it earns a move (n) an action a forecast (n) a prediction to be in line with to be the same as financial standing (n) the financial condition of a company and how much money it has an investigation into a company to see how much it has a risk assessment (n) the financial condition of a company and how much money it has a start-up (n) a new company that is about to start business

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