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EDITOR'S INTRO

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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 speeches by famous people, the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans in the USA, what it takes to be a great leader and some "embarrassing moments" stories that you'll enjoy listening to. Of course, that's not all. We've also got articles on supermarkets, freedom of information, comparatives, an unpopular logo, politics, film director Michael Moore and scams, as well as the latest episode of our murder mystery, The Whitechapel Trousersnatcher. Have a great month, learn lots of English and see you again soon,
Yours,

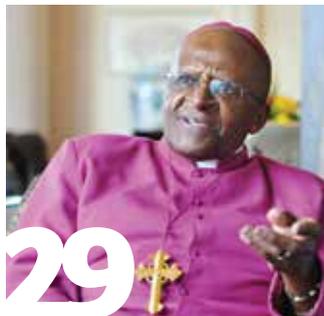
Andy



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Weather Words

See if you can find the following "weather" words in the wordsearch.



Answers on page 49

- Forecast
- Breeze
- Cloud
- Cold
- Drizzle
- Dry
- Flood
- Foggy
- Frost
- Hail
- Hot
- Humid
- Hurricane
- Ice
- Lightning
- Mist
- Overcast
- Rain
- Rainbow
- Shower
- Sky
- Sleet
- Slush
- Smog
- Snow
- Storm
- Sunny
- Thunder
- Tornado
- Typhoon
- Weather
- Wind
- Windy

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



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Saggy Trousers

A new law against some types of trousers.

What kind of **trousers** do you like to wear? **Tight** ones? **Baggy** ones? Ordinary ones? Some people like to wear **saggy** ones. But a new law in the US may soon stop this.



Indecent exposure

"If you expose your **underwear**, you'll get a **fine**," said Mayor Carol Broussard of the US state of Louisiana. He was referring to a new law that makes saggy trousers illegal. He argued that they were an "act of **indecent exposure**". And people who are **caught with their trousers down**, could pay a fine of **up to US\$500**. The Delcambre town council passed the law. The law makes it a crime to wear trousers that show your underwear. Offenders could go to jail for up to six months.



Mr Broussard added, "They're better off taking the **pants** off and just wearing a dress."

Fashionable

But many people are angry about the new law. Some say that the law **targets** African-Americans. Many African-American hip hop fans wear **low-slung trousers**. However, Mr Broussard denied that the law was racially motivated. "White people wear sagging pants, too," he said. A town lawyer added, "This new law adds underwear to the list of **forbidden exposures**. It's all about not showing off your underwear in public." ❄️

Hip Hop clothing

Here is some more fashionable clothing.
A baseball cap
Trainers ("sneakers" US English)
Hoods
Boxer shorts
T-shirt



Trousers versus pants

In American English, they use the word "pants" to refer to trousers. However, be careful, because "pants" in British English refers to the clothing you wear under your trousers.



GLOSSARY

- trousers** *n*
clothing you wear to cover your legs
- tight** *adj*
"tight" clothing is very close to your body
- baggy** *adj*
"baggy" clothing is too big for you
- saggy** *adj*
"saggy" clothing keeps falling down
- underwear** *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers
- a fine** *n*
money you must pay because you have committed a crime
- indecent exposure** *n*
showing private parts of your body in public
- caught with your trousers down** *exp*
two meanings: with your trousers not covering your legs; caught in an embarrassing or illegal situation
- up to US\$500** *exp*
all the numbers including and before US\$500
- pants** *n* US
an American English word for trousers
- a target** *n*
the object of an attack or criticism
- low-slung trousers** *n*
trousers that are very low on the body and appear to be falling down
- forbidden** *adj*
prohibited
- an exposure** *n*
if there is "an exposure", a part of your body is showing
- a belt** *n*
an accessory used to hold your trousers around your body

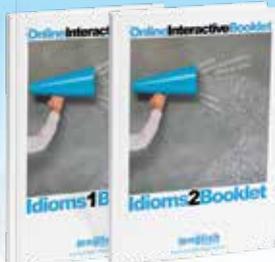
Saggy trouser origins

Saggy trousers were originally worn by prisoners in US prisons. In many prisons, prisoners cannot wear **belts**. This is to prevent suicide attempts, and it is also as a way of humiliating the prisoner. And, of course, it means that their trousers are very saggy.



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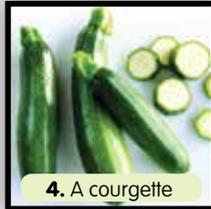
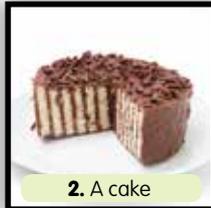
Supermarket

Shock

Answers on page 49

Pre-listening

Match each item (1 to 5) with the corresponding shop (A-E).



- A: A bakery
- B: A hardware store / an ironmonger's
- C: A greengrocer's
- D: A chemist's
- E: A butcher's

Discussion: Shopping

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. Where do you buy your food?
2. What's your favourite local shop? Why do you like it?
3. Do you think it is important to support local shops? Why?
4. What's your favourite supermarket? Why?
5. What do you like about supermarkets? What do you dislike?

Listening

You are going to listen to a conversation about how supermarkets are affecting towns and cities. Read the questions below, then listen and try to answer the questions. Listen as many times as you like.

1. What effect are large supermarkets having on small towns?
2. What used to happen in the past?
3. Why are so many small businesses having to close down?
4. What effect is this having on town centres?
5. Why are supermarkets bad for the environment?

Language focus

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets ().

1. What effect are they (have) _____ on small towns?
2. They're (destroy) _____ small towns.
3. These days, you can (buy) _____ just about everything from supermarkets.
4. In the past, people (use) _____ to get these things from specialist shops.
5. Many shops (have) _____ to close down.
6. A supermarket can (buy) _____ in bulk.

7. A supermarket (offer) _____ more choice at a cheaper price.
8. This means that people have (leave) _____ the centre of the town.
9. Lots of the small businesses have (close) _____ down.
10. More and more people (have) _____ to use their car to do the shopping.

Audio script G=Gary S=Sarah

G: Hello, I am Gary Smith and you're listening to Radio 2. Today, we're going to talk about the growth of the supermarket and the effect that it's having on small communities. I want to introduce Sarah, who is here with us in the studio today.

S: Hello.

G: So, what effect are large supermarkets having on small towns?

S: Well, some people say that they're destroying small towns. These days, you can buy just about everything from supermarkets. In the past, people used to get these things from specialist shops in the town centre. But now these specialist shops, places such as the greengrocer's, the butcher's and the baker's, are having to close down because people are shopping in supermarkets instead.

G: Why is this?

S: Well, supermarkets offer a wider selection of goods. Prices are also usually lower because a supermarket can buy in bulk and therefore save money. So, in short a supermarket offers more choice at a cheaper price, which is bad news for small shops.

G: OK, but how are these supermarkets destroying town centres? Surely, it just means that people are going to a different place to buy things.

S: Well, by nature, supermarkets

have to be big. In many cases they can't be in the centre of a town because there isn't enough room. So, big supermarkets such as Tescos and Sainsburys buy large areas of land on the outskirts of the town. This means that people have to leave the centre of the town. And the result is that lots of the small businesses have to close, leaving the town centre like a ghost town, with no one to be found there during the day. It's quite sad really, and many people preferred life before. It's also bad for the environment as more and more people have to use their car to do the shopping.

G: Well, that does sound quite sad. We can see how communities are changing quickly. Thank you for coming here to talk to us about this.

S: No problem. Thanks for having me.



Freedom of Information

Answers on page 49

Discussion: Internet Shops

1. Have you ever bought anything online? What?
2. How often do you buy things through websites?
3. Are you careful about giving away confidential information on the internet? How? Why?

Listening I

You are going to listen to a conversation about internet sites and gaining access to confidential information. Listen to the conversation once. What is unusual about the Swedish website?

Listening II

Read the sentences below. Listen to the conversation again and complete each sentence with the correct words.

1. Many companies exploit this information and sell it on to others for _____.
2. The average supermarket knows more about you than _____.
3. The difference is that now we have less _____.
4. Before, it was simply a matter of not saying anything to people about _____.
5. But these days, we're giving out information _____.
6. There was a website in Sweden where you could access _____.

Language focus

Look at this extract from the conversation: "...you could log on to this internet site...". The speaker has used the phrasal verb "to log on to". We are going to look at some more "computing" phrasal verbs.

- **Type in / key in** – to write text or numbers on the computer screen by using the keyboard.
- **Switch on/off** – to press a button so a computer turns on/off.
- **Run out of** – if you "run out of" something, you have no more of that thing.
- **Back up** – to make a copy of your files for security purposes.
- **Scroll down / scroll up** – if you "scroll up", you move the text or image on the



computer screen up in order to find what you are looking for. If you "scroll down", you move the text or image on a computer screen down.

- **Log on** – to gain access to a computer or internet website by typing in your username or password or both.
- **Be on/off** – if a computer is "on", it is connected to the electricity and it is working. The opposite is "off".
- **Click on** – if you "click on" an image or button, you press a button on the mouse in order to activate something.

Exercise

Complete each sentence with the correct preposition.

1. We've run _____ paper for the printer. Could you get some more, please?
2. Is that printer still _____? I thought I told you to turn it off.
3. You need to click _____ the icon in order to go to the next page.
4. It won't let you see those pages because you haven't logged _____.
5. You need to scroll _____ a bit more to see the message.
6. You need to key _____ your username and password.
7. I need to print something. Could you switch the printer _____, please?
8. Don't forget to back _____ your files on a memory stick before you go home.

Audio script H=Harriet F=Frank

H: Now it's time for Society Today. In this edition of the programme we're looking at freedom of information in the age of computers. Here in the studio with me to talk about this is Frank Good. Hello, Frank.

F: Hi, nice to be here.

H: No problem. Now, sharing information is something which we have less control over nowadays. Often companies store information about us, and this can be dangerous, can't it?

F: Yes, that's right. Many companies exploit this information and sell it on to others for their marketing campaigns, or use it themselves. In fact, they say that in England the average supermarket knows more about you than M15 or the security services.

H: I see. Do we have a long history of information sharing?

F: In some senses yes. But the difference is that now we have less control over this. Before, it was simply a matter of not saying anything to people about your wage or your home life. But these days, we're giving out information left right and centre. And we simply have to trust other organisations to look after that

information in a responsible manner. But as it's all stored electronically, it's so easy to pass it on to others.

H: I've heard all about this website in Sweden that's been causing quite a fuss recently?

F: Yes, there was a website in Sweden where you could access information about just about anyone. Sweden has a long tradition of openness, but this was taking things too far. Basically, you could log on to this internet site and find out how much someone made in a year, how much they paid in tax and even where they lived. It's been closed down now, but it just goes to show how far things have really come.

H: Interesting. So, what are the laws like in the UK for controlling the distribution of information?

F: Well, the laws are fairly strict with regard to this. A company or organisation must have explicit permission before it can spread or pass on any confidential information. And if they do act irresponsibly, they can be sued, or face a large fine.

H: OK, thank you very much for coming in today.

F: No problem. See you again soon.



DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



In this section Dr Fingers identifies and corrects typical errors.

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 asked them to give me the informations.
2. She is about to start her university careerer.
3. I would like to discuss about the problem with you, please.
4. She opened the top by a screwdriver.
5. He lives in small town by Manchester.
6. Could you call to me tomorrow, please?
7. Please phone call me as soon as you get this message.
8. She asked him to call her with number 0892 45978.
9. We will can watch television on our mobile phones in the future.
10. The meeting is cancelled until next Friday.
11. He is not capable to do this job.
12. You need special capacities for this job.
13. This vase needs a special care and attention.
14. Take care of not catching a cold.
15. He stayed at home to take care after the children.



Error Analysis

1. "Information" is an uncountable noun, so there is no plural form.
2. Your "careerer" is a professional job that requires training and that you choose to do for the majority of your life.
3. There is no preposition with the verb "to discuss".
4. You do something "with" a tool.
5. We often use "by" to mean that something is right next to you, almost touching you.
6. We call someone (not "to" someone).
7. You can either "phone" someone or "call" someone, but not "phone call" someone.
8. You call someone "on" a particular number.
9. The future of "can" is "will be able to".
10. If you "cancel" something, it will never take place; if you "postpone" something, you plan to do it at a later date.
11. The expression is "capable of" + verb-ing.
12. "Capacity" is the quality that someone has to experience, give or receive. For example, "He has a great capacity for love." The things you learn in order to do a job are "skills".
13. "Care" is an uncountable noun.
14. The negative form is "take care not to...".
15. You can use either "take care of", or "look after".



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Story Time

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



Golf Dream

Jen and Mary are playing golf. Jen stands over the **tee** for a long time, deciding how best to hit the ball. Finally, Mary asks, "Why are you taking so long?" And Jen replies, "My husband is up there watching me from the **clubhouse**. I want to do the perfect **shot**." "Oh," Mary says, "It's going to be really **hard** to hit him from here."



Angry Bear

The three **bears** return home one Sunday morning after a walk in the **woods**. When they arrive home, they see that

the door of their little house is open. Cautiously, they go inside. After a while, big daddy bear says, "Someone has been eating my **porridge**!" And mummy bear says, "And look, someone has been eating my porridge." And little baby bear runs in and shouts, "Forget the porridge. Someone has stolen the DVD player!"



Fly Sale

A man goes into a **pet shop** and walks up to the **counter**.

"Good morning, sir. Can I help you?" asks the **shop assistant**. "I'd like a **fly**, please," says the man.

"You'd like a what?" asks the assistant, looking confused.

"I'd like a fly, please," he repeats.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't sell flies here."

"Well, there's one in the window."



Patient Patience

A man is **recovering** from surgery when a nurse asks him how he is

feeling.

The man replies, "I'm all right, but I didn't like the **four-letter word** the doctor used in surgery."

And the nurse asks, "What did he say?"

"**Oops!**"

Tommy Cooper Jokes

(Tommy Cooper was a famous British comedian from the 1970s.)

You know, somebody actually **complimented** me on my driving today. They left a little note on the **windscreen**, it said "Parking **Fine**". So that was nice.



So, I got home, and the phone was ringing. I **picked it up**, and said, "Who's speaking please?" And a voice said, "You are."



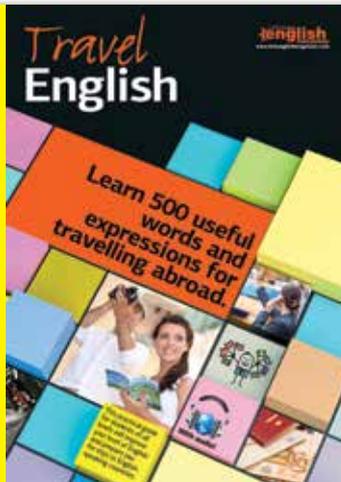
So I went to the dentist. He said, "Say aaah." I said, "Why?" He said, "My dog died." ❖



GLOSSARY

- a tee** *n*
a small piece of wood or plastic used to hold the ball during a game of golf
- a clubhouse** *n*
the place where golfers have a drink, get changed, etc
- a shot** *n*
if you take a "shot", you hit the ball with the golf club
- hard** *adj*
difficult
- a bear** *n*
a large animal that lives in the woods and likes to eat honey
- the woods** *n*
an area with many trees
- porridge** *n*
food that is made from oats (a type of cereal) that are cooked in water or milk
- a pet shop** *n*
a shop that sells animals
- the counter** *n*
the long table in a shop where you are served
- a shop assistant** *n*
a person who works in a shop serving customers
- a fly** *n*
an insect with wings
- to recover** *vb*
to rest after an operation
- a four-letter word** *n*
two meanings: a word with four letters in it; a swear word (a word that is insulting)
- oops** *exp*
an exclamation of surprise
- to compliment** *vb*
to say good and positive things about someone
- a windscreen** *n*
the piece of glass at the front of a car that a driver looks out of
- a fine** *n*
money you must pay because you have committed a crime
- to pick up** *phr vb*
to answer the phone

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Unpleasant Customs

The problem of getting into Britain.



Have you applied for a visa? What did they ask you? What did you say? Some say the British visa application process is both complicated and unfair.



No English, no entry
“Have you ever been to Britain? If you have, why did you go?” A report shows that people who don’t answer this question “correctly” are often **denied** a visa. Other visa applications are **rejected** because a visitor has planned a holiday for “no particular purpose other than **sightseeing**”. Some are denied because visitors said it was “the first time I have **travelled abroad**”. And others are rejected because the visitors couldn’t speak English.

Ridiculous reasons
Many people have criticised this. “Some of the reasons for rejecting visas are completely ridiculous,” said Linda Costos, who works for an organisation that **monitors** UK visas. “Rejecting a visa because it is the first time that someone travels abroad is simply silly. There is a first time for everyone who has gone abroad on a holiday. Not having done it before is an acceptable reason for travel,” she said. “Denying a visa because the trip is just for sightseeing is

just unbelievable. That’s what the UK is famous for: sights worth seeing,” she added.

More examples
One case involved a young woman from Russia. The customs officer rejected her because “you have little or no idea what you plan to see or do in Britain”. This young woman had answered a question on the form asking why she was going to the UK. She had written “**annual leave vacation**”. A perfectly sensible response, surely? A tourist from Japan wrote, “I just want a holiday, and I want to visit the **seaside**.” And the officer who rejected the applicant wrote, “You have not named any places you will see.” Erm, what about the seaside?
In one case, a man from Brazil was refused a visa because the officer didn’t believe his story. The officer thought it was not credible that the Brazilian tourist was going to stay in a hotel that was more than 20 miles from his friends.

The man had told the officer that he didn’t want to stay with his friends for the entire 28-day visit.

The solution
Many organisations are fighting to **improve** the British visa service. They are also hoping that some of the rejected applicants will be sent an **apology**. “We also want to see an improvement in the language used to explain refusals to applicants. But there is still a **long way to go**.” Just recently, a UK university found itself in a battle with immigration officials. Almost 70 “**bona fide**” Chinese students would have **missed** their course if senior staff hadn’t intervened. And in another case, 57 qualified teachers, who were due to start a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course at the university, were refused visas to enter the UK. ❌



GLOSSARY

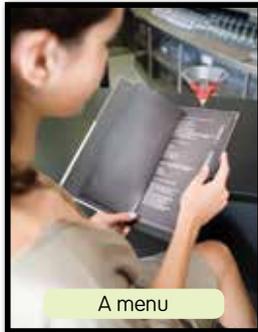
- to deny** *vb*
to say that something isn’t true
- to reject** *vb*
if an application is “rejected”, it is not accepted
- sightseeing** *n*
visiting the tourist attractions in a city/country
- to travel abroad** *exp*
to go to another country
- to monitor** *vb*
to watch, observe and evaluate
- annual leave** *n*
a holiday you get once a year as part of your job
- a vacation** *n US*
a holiday
- the seaside** *n*
the area next to the sea where people go for their holidays
- to improve** *vb*
to make better; to increase the quality of
- an apology** *n*
if you make an “apology”, you say sorry
- a long way to go** *n*
if there is a “long way to go”, there are still many things that need doing
- bona fide** *n*
genuine; real
- to miss** *vb*
if you “miss” a course, you are unable to go on it



the restaurant



A table



A menu



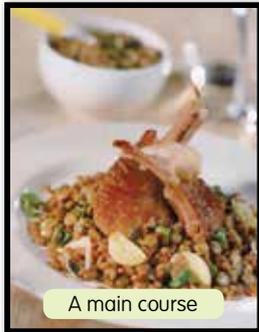
A salt pot



A bottle of ketchup



A starter



A main course



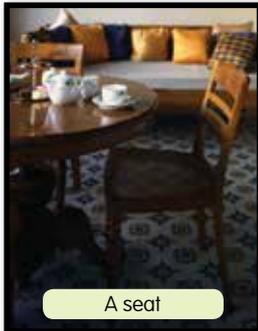
A dessert



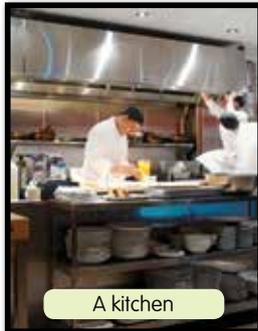
A toilet/bathroom/
restroom (US English)



A bill



A seat



A kitchen



A waiter



A manager



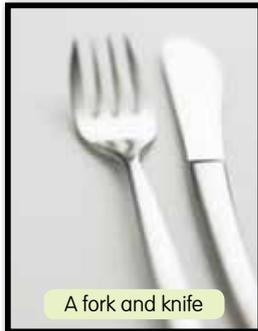
The non-smoking section



A drink



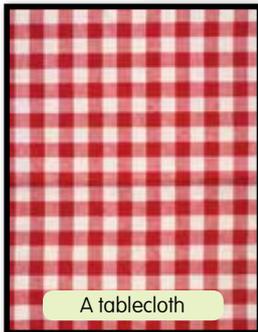
A glass



A fork and knife



A spoon



A tablecloth



A napkin



A toothpick



A cup of coffee



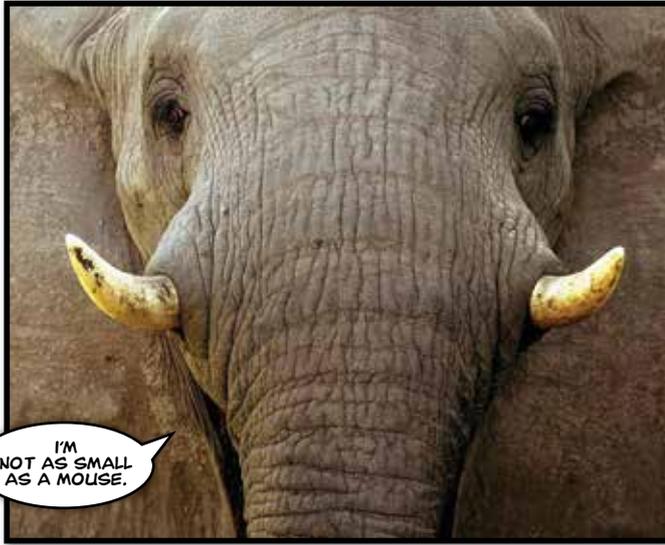
A tip



The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

AS... AS COMPARATIVES

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at "as... as" to make comparatives.



We can use "as... as" to say that two things are the same in some way.

- a) She is as tall as Gordon.
- b) This elephant is as big as the other one.

Adjectives

We can use "as... as" with an adjective. For example:

- a) Mary is as pretty as Jenny.
- b) Bob is as clever as Brian.
- c) It's as cold as ice.



- d) He's as interesting as his mother.
- e) She's as bored as her father.



- f) It's as good as the other film.

Adverbs

We can also use this construction with an adverb. For example:

- a) She spoke as fast as I did.
- b) Mike drove as badly as Sally.



- c) He ran as slowly as his brother.
- d) They walked as quickly as each other.



- e) They treated us as fairly as we treated them.

Pronouns

You can use a pronoun after the second "as". Some say it should be a personal

pronoun (I, you, he, she, we, they), but it is much more common to use an object pronoun (me, you, him, her, us, them). For example:

- a) She is as intelligent as me. (I)



- b) They are as careful as us. (we)
- c) He is as tall as her. (she)

Clauses

We can add a clause after the second "as". For example:

- a) This exercise is as easy as the one I did last year.
- b) This exam is as difficult as the first one I did.

Negative comparisons

We can also make negative comparisons using "not as... as" ("not so... as" is also possible) with both adjectives and adverbs. For example:

- a) Mary isn't as pretty as Jenny.
- b) Bob isn't as clever as Brian.
- c) He isn't as interesting as his mother.
- d) She didn't speak as fast as I did.
- e) Mike didn't drive as fast as Sally.

Nouns

We can use "as many... as" with countable nouns; and "as much... as" with uncountable nouns. For example:

- a) They don't have as many children as us.
- b) He doesn't have as many houses as me.
- c) She hasn't got as much money as Brian.
- d) We don't have as much time as we would like. ☺

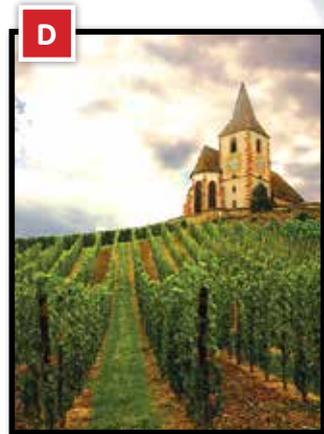


TRIVIA MATCHING

Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 12), and the photos (A-L). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers on page 49**

1. Brazil nut
2. A toilet/bathroom ("restroom" in US English)
3. A tennis court
4. A breed of dog
5. A bride
6. A pelican
7. A sign
8. Celery
9. A grape
10. Raisins
11. A giraffe
12. A vineyard



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

The biggest exporter of Brazil nuts is not Brazil but Bolivia.



Only 55% of men wash their hands after going to the toilet. Now, getting those statistics must have been a **fun job**... not.



If you fill a **matchbox** with gold, it could be **flattened** to cover an entire **tennis court**.

Jamaica is the largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean.



Britain's oldest **breed** of dog is the Bearded Collie.



Dalmatian dogs are born white and without the spots. Guaranteed protection from Cruella de Ville.

The Chinese eat about 50% of the world's **pork**.

Chinese **brides** get married in red.



Alcatraz prison got its name from a native word meaning pelican.

The Hollywood sign cost \$21,000 to build.



Bruce Willis was born in Germany.

You use more calories eating **celery** than there are in the celery itself.

Most vegetables and virtually all fruit juices contain a small amount of alcohol.



The longest-running animated series on TV is *The Simpsons*.



It takes about 5,000 litres of water to produce 1 kilo of rice; and it takes about 2.5 kilos of **grapes** to make half a kilo of **raisins**.

The largest McDonald's is in Beijing, China. It has twenty nine **cash registers** and covers an area of about 9,000 square metres.



A giraffe can clean its ears with its 8-cm tongue. Incidentally, mummy giraffes give birth standing up. The baby falls from a height of about two metres and without being hurt, usually.

The **soil** of one famous **vineyard** in France is considered so precious that vineyard workers are required to clean it from their shoes before they leave for home each night. ✪

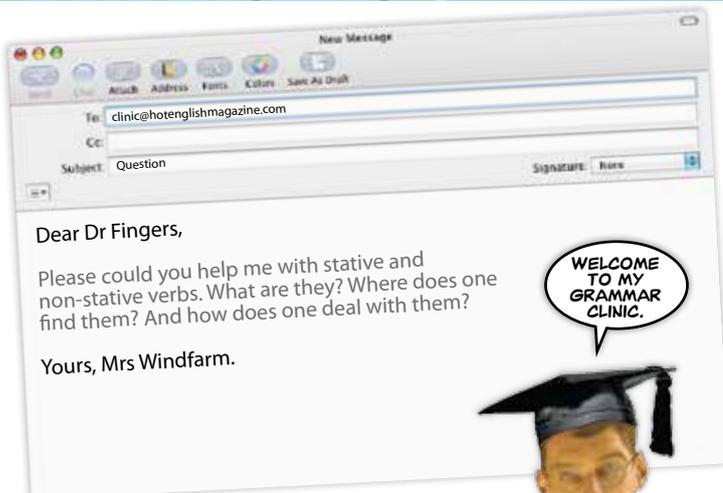


GLOSSARY

- a fun job** *exp* an interesting and entertaining job
- a matchbox** *n* a small box that contains matches (little wooden sticks used for creating fire)
- to flatten** *vb* to make flat (level and smooth)
- a tennis court** *n* an area of ground where you play tennis
- a breed** *n* a "breed" of dog is a particular type of dog
- pork** *n* meat from pigs
- a bride** *n* a woman who is going to get married in a wedding
- celery** *n* a type of vegetable. It has long, green stalks (the long thin part that joins it to the plant or tree)
- a grape** *n* a type of fruit used to make wine
- a raisin** *n* a dried grape
- a cash register** *n* a type of computer that records what you buy in a shop and prints out a receipt
- soil** *n* the earth
- a vineyard** *n* an area where grapes are grown for making wine



DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Dear Dr Fingers,

Please could you help me with stative and non-stative verbs. What are they? Where does one find them? And how does one deal with them?

Yours, Mrs Windfarm.

Dear Mrs Windfarm,

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

There are some verbs in English that cannot be used in the continuous form. Many of these verbs are related to cognitive activities (mental processes) - what you hate, like, prefer, know, understand, believe, and how you analyse and create logic from the world. For example, you cannot say the following:

- a) **INCORRECT:** I am knowing the answer. (Correct: I know the answer.)
- b) **INCORRECT:** They are liking the food. (Correct: They like the food.)



The following verbs are not normally used in the continuous form. They are often referred to as "stative verbs" as they describe a fixed state. For example:

- Like: I really like this film.
- Love: She loves that story you told her.
- Hate: I hate this drink.
- Want: They really want to go.
- Need: We need a change of scenery.
- Prefer: I prefer this book to the other one.
- Know: We know what you are thinking.
- Realise: I didn't realise what you meant.
- Suppose: I suppose it's the right one.
- Mean: You don't really mean that, do you?
- Understand: They understand what we said.
- Believe: I don't believe this.
- Remember: Do you remember what I told you?
- Belong: This belongs to Sam.
- Contain: It contains a list of the most popular songs.
- Consist: What does it consist of?
- Depend: It all depends on your personal beliefs.
- Seem: She seems to be sad.
- Be: It is the best one yet.

Stative and non-stative verbs

There are a few verbs that can be both stative and non-stative. For example, when "think" refers to your beliefs, thoughts and ideas, it is stative. For example:

- a) I think it is a good idea.
- b) She thinks you are nice.

However, when "think" refers to the action and process of thinking, it can be used in a continuous sense. For example:

- a) I was thinking about you.
- b) We are thinking about doing it.

When "to have" means "possess", it is used as a stative verb. For example:

- a) She has a house in the country.
- b) We have a cat.

However, when "have" is part of a verbal structure, it can be used in the continuous form. For example:

- a) We're having a great time.
- b) He's having a bath.

When the verb "to be" refers to someone's character, it is used as a stative verb. For example:

- a) He is the most intelligent person I know.
- b) She is really beautiful.

However, when "to be" refers to a temporary state, or an action in progress, it can be used in the continuous form. For example:

- a) He is being silly.
- b) She is being selfish.

Well, Mrs Windfarm, I hope that has helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to:
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Corny Criminals

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

Drunk Driver

A drunk driver literally took himself to jail. Bergen Jerken was **three times over the limit** when he crashed his car through the walls of a police station in Switzerland. Police say 36-year-old Jerken lost control and **skidded** off



the road, crashing straight through the side of the police station. A police spokesman added, "He was unhurt, which is more than can be said for the car and the police station. He can **say goodbye to** his licence for a long, long time."

Light Hands

"I couldn't see in the dark, so I turned on the lights," said Jim Bumble, who was arrested after **breaking into** a sports club. "I had no **torch** so I turned on the first light switch that I could find. Unfortunately, this was the switch to the **floodlights** of the club's football pitch." Local residents who saw the lights from their nearby homes, called the police. "I



tried to turn the lights off, but I couldn't," Bumble added. Bumble also managed to **switch on** the football pitch **sprinkler system**.

Robin Hood Bank Manager

A German bank manager has been jailed after stealing money from the rich to give to the poor. Michael Hooden took money from rich clients' **bank accounts** and **transferred** the money electronically to clients who had problems with **debts**. In total, the 52-year-old banker moved more than 2 million

euros in the bank where he worked in the small town of Richentaun. He decided that poor people needed it more than the rich. He helped all sorts of people, including **single mothers**, pensioners, and even a young man who lost his job because of ill



health. Suddenly, these poor people found thousands of euros in their accounts. And no one ever said anything about it. Hooden eventually **turned himself in** after he realised he could not **cover up** what he had done any longer. He has been sentenced to 34 months in prison. He said, "I felt for the unemployed and the poor and wanted to help them." *

GLOSSARY

- three times over the limit** *exp*
with three times more alcohol than is permitted when driving
- to skid** *vb*
if a car "skids", it goes out of control and moves sideways, often on a wet road
- to say goodbye to something** *exp*
if you have to "say goodbye to something", that thing is taken from you
- to break into a building** *exp*
to enter a building illegally and with the intention of robbing
- a torch** *n*
a small electric light which is powered by batteries
- the floodlights** *n*
large, powerful lights for illuminating a football pitch / stadium, etc
- to switch on** *phr vb*
to turn on; to connect to the electricity so it works
- a sprinkler system** *n*
a device to water plants or an area of grass or to extinguish a fire
- a bank account** *n*
a place in the bank where you can leave money or take it out
- to transfer** *vb*
to move money from one account to another
- a debt** *n*
money that you owe someone
- a single mother** *n*
a mother with no husband or partner
- to turn yourself in** *exp*
to go to the police voluntarily and to admit to a crime
- to cover up** *phr vb*
to hide information so that people do not discover the truth

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A look at the two political parties in the US.

ELEPHANTS & DONKEYS

As you probably already know, US politics is dominated by two political parties: the Democrats and the Republicans. Every four years, they join in the electoral fight to decide who will be the president of the United States. Let's look at the two parties.

The Start

The origins of the US political system go back to the 4th July 1776. Back then, a group of American politicians known as the "founding fathers" issued the "Declaration of Independence". Thirteen years later, after the War of Independence (against Britain), George Washington became the first President, and since then, the US has had 55 presidential elections and 43 different presidents.



The Democrats

The oldest political party is The Democrats. Interestingly when this party was founded in 1792 they were called the Democratic-Republican Party.

Many of the most famous names in US history are connected with this party. Thomas Jefferson was one. He was the author of much of the "Declaration of Independence", and later became the 3rd president. Another name which is associated strongly with the Democrat Party is John F Kennedy. He was a young and **charismatic** leader when he became the President in 1961, and the US nation was shocked when he was **assassinated** in 1963. The 9th US president, Andrew Jackson, also played an important part in Democrat history. When Jackson was **campaigning** in the presidential elections of the 1820s, his opponents called him a "donkey" as a form of disrespect. Later, the Democrats used the donkey as their unofficial logo. Traditionally, the Democrats are the party of the **political left** as they have liberal policies, and have often supported workers, farmers, ethnic minorities and the poor.



The Republicans

The Republicans have won the last two American presidential elections, and the current president, George W Bush, is a member of the Republican Party. The Republican Party is not as old as The Democrat Party but it is considered to be more traditional. The Republican Party



was **founded** in 1854 by anti-**slavery** protesters, and soon had its first president, Abraham Lincoln. The party is often supported by white middle-class Americans, and politically it is **right of centre**. Ronald Reagan, a Republican, is considered one of the most popular US presidents ever. He started life as a Hollywood actor, and later moved into politics. One of his important policies was giving more power to companies during the 1980s. Since then, the Republican Party has had a strong connection with big companies such as Exxon Mobil, which is the richest company in the world.



The Forthcoming Election

American elections are always interesting. The candidates often say silly things by mistake (as in the case of George W Bush), and often film and music superstars **get involved** in the election campaign. In the 2004 election, Britney Spears supported Bush saying, "I think we should support our president in everything he does," whilst Ben Affleck and singer Stevie Wonder supported John Kerry. In the 2012 election, Obama had the support of Oprah Winfrey, the Jonas Brothers, Jessica Alba and George Clooney. Let's see what happens in the next election! ⚡



When Jackson was campaigning in the presidential elections of the 1820s, his opponents called him a "donkey" as a form of disrespect.

GLOSSARY
charismatic *adj* with an ability to attract and influence people
to assassinate *vb* to kill an important political leader
to campaign *vb* to do things in order to create more support for a political party
the political left *n* people with liberal, socialist ideas
to found *vb* to start a group or organisation
slavery *n* the system by which people are owned by other people as slaves
right of centre *adj* with conservative, traditional ideas
to get involved *exp* to participate

HOW TO GIVE A GREAT SPEECH!

Winston Churchill, Martin Luther King, JFK – they were all great public speakers. But what singles out a fantastic orator from a mediocre one? [Listen and complete the speech extracts with the words from below.] Answers on page 49

time intelligence free read online difference friendships
powerful grandparents future marches idea alive

For a start, great speakers often talk with passion and energy; and they use highly **visual, evocative** language, such as Winston Churchill's, "We shall fight on the beaches", or JFK's observation during his **inaugural address** (in January 1961) that, "The **torch** has been passed to a new generation of Americans". More importantly, they're able to inspire and motivate by using stories from their own lives, or the lives of others. They often use these personal anecdotes to show how they accomplished their **goals, overcame** a difficulty, or **triumphed in spite of all the odds**. Here are seven great speakers who delivered killer speeches.

Barack Obama

In 2004, Barack Obama made a speech that helped put him on the political map. He would later go onto become the 44th President of the United States in 2009. In this extract from the speech, he talks about what makes America great.



*If there's a child on the south side of Chicago who can't (1) _____, that matters to me even if it's not my child. If there's a **senior citizen** somewhere who can't pay for their **prescription drugs** and having to choose between the medicine and the rent, that makes my life poor even if it's not my (2) _____. It is that **fundamental belief**, "I am my*

*brother's **keeper**, I am my sister's keeper," that makes this country work.*

JK Rowling

JK Rowling is the author of the hugely successful Harry Potter books. However, she hasn't always been so well off, and at the time of writing the first book, she was a **single mum** without a job. In a 2008 speech at Harvard University, she talked about the importance of believing in yourself, following your dreams and not being afraid to make mistakes.



*Had I really succeeded at anything else, I might never have found the **determination** to succeed in the one **arena** where I believed I truly belonged. I was set free because my greatest fear had been **realised** and I was still (3) _____ and I still had a daughter whom I adored and I had an old typewriter and a big (4) _____, and so **rock bottom** became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life.*

Oprah Winfrey

In 2013, **talk show host** Oprah Winfrey gave a speech at the 22nd annual Women in Entertainment awards ceremony. She talked about the difficulties women face in today's world.



And this is what I've been reflecting



about. Do you know what kind of woman you have to be to **rise** in an all-**male** run, all-male controlled, all-male executed, all-male domain, all men, all the (5) _____? Do you know what kind of woman you have to be to survive? Do you know what kind of woman you had to be in 1980? You gotta be (6) _____!

Hillary Clinton

In 2011, former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave a speech at George Washington University. She used the **Arab Spring** (and events in Egypt in particular) as an example of the power of the internet and the importance of freedom.



The protest continued despite the internet **shutdown**. People organised (7) _____ through **flyers** and word-of-mouth and used **dial-up modems** and fax machines to communicate with the world. After five days, the government **relented**, and Egypt came back (8) _____.

John F. Kennedy

In 1963, US president John F. Kennedy gave a speech in front of thousands of west-Berliners. It's probably most famous for Kennedy's quote, "Ich bin ein Berliner."



Interestingly, in German a "Berliner" is actually a type of biscuit, not a person from Berlin. There are many people in the world who really don't understand – or say they don't – what is the great issue between the (9) _____ world and the communist world. Let them come to Berlin!

Steve Jobs

In 2005, Steve Jobs, the former CEO of Apple, gave a speech to students at Stanford University. He talked about his **upbringing** and the importance of finding your true passion in life.



[fades in]...ten years later, again you can't **connect the dots** looking forward, you can only connect them looking backwards. So, you have to **trust** that the dots will somehow connect in your (10) _____. You have to trust in something: your **gut**, destiny, life, **karma**, whatever. Because believing that the dots will connect **down the road**, will give you the confidence to **follow your heart**, even when it leads you off the **well-worn path**. And that makes all the (11) _____.

Bill Gates

In 2007, Bill Gates gave a speech for graduates at Harvard University. Referring to himself as "Harvard's most successful **dropout**", Bill talked about his time as a student there, what an



inspirational place it was for him, and how those who attend have a **duty** to help solve some of the world's most **pressing challenges**.

What I remember, above all about Harvard, was being in the midst of so much energy and (12) _____. It could be **exhilarating, intimidating, and sometimes even discouraging** but always **challenging**. It was an amazing privilege, and though I left early, I was **transformed** by my years at Harvard, the (13) _____ I made and the ideas I worked on. ✨

It could be exhilarating, intimidating, and sometimes even discouraging but always challenging.

GLOSSARY

- to single out** *phr vb* if something "singles you out", it shows how special or different you are
- an orator** *n* someone who is very good at speaking in public
- mediocre** *adj* someone who is "mediocre" is of average quality – they aren't anything special
- passion** *n* someone who speaks with "passion" speaks with a lot of energy because they really believe in what they're saying
- visual** *adj* if someone uses "visual" language, they describe things in a way that allows you to see images through the descriptions
- evocative** *adj* "evocative" language produces pleasant memories, ideas, emotions and responses
- an inaugural address** *n* a speech at the start of a ceremony, event, etc.
- a goal** *n* an objective, something you want to do or achieve
- to overcome** *vb* if you "overcome" a difficulty, you find a solution to that difficulty
- to triumph** *vb* to win or be successful
- in spite of all the odds** *exp* if you do something "in spite of all the odds", you do it even though it's really difficult
- a senior citizen** *n* an elderly person (usually over the age of 65)
- a prescription drug** *n* a drug you can buy at the chemist's with a note from the doctor

- a fundamental belief** *n* the things you really believe in
- a keeper** *n* your "keeper" is someone who protects, supports and helps you
- a single mum** *n* a woman with a child but no husband or partner
- an arena** *n* an area in life where you must compete or work
- to realise** *vb* if your fears are "realised", they become true
- rock bottom** *n* the lowest possible point you can be at
- a talk show host** *n* a person who interviews guests on a TV show
- to rise** *vb* to move up in life; to become successful
- male** *adj* belonging to or associated with men (not women)
- the Arab Spring** *n* a series of protests that started in December 2010 against governments in Middle Eastern countries such as Libya, Tunisia, Jordan, etc.
- a shutdown** *n* if there's an internet "shutdown", they internet stops working or it's turned off
- a flyer** *n* a piece of paper with information on it about an event or company, etc.
- a dial-up modem** *n* a device that allows you to connect to the internet through a telephone
- to relent** *vb* if you "relent", you let someone do something that you didn't let them do before
- a CEO** *abbr* a Chief Executive Officer – the most important person in a business
- an upbringing** *n* your "upbringing" is the way you were brought up and educated by your parents
- to connect the dots** *exp* to understand the relationship between different ideas or events
- to trust** *vb* to believe
- your gut** *n* if you let your "gut" decide, you let your instinct (your natural feelings) choose for you
- karma** *n* a belief that your actions in this life will affect your future lives
- down the road** *exp* in the future
- to follow your heart** *exp* to do what you feel is right in your heart
- the well-worn path** *exp* the path (road) that everyone else travels on; the things that everyone else does
- a dropout** *n* someone who leaves school, college, university, etc. before completing their studies or taking the final exam
- a duty** *n* something you have to do because it's part of your responsibility
- pressing** *adj* important or urgent
- a challenge** *n* something that's new and difficult for you
- exhilarating** *adj* exciting
- intimidating** *adj* frightening
- discouraging** *adj* something "discouraging" makes you depressed or makes you lose enthusiasm
- to transform** *vb* to change

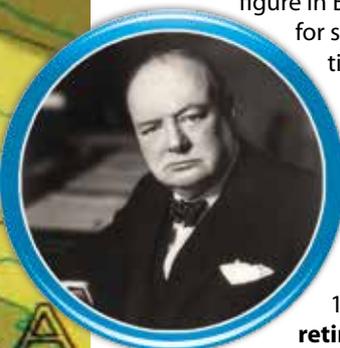
A look at what makes a good leader.

LUCKY

Welcome to the first part of our mini series on leaders. This month, we're looking at a few of the most famous leaders in history, and some who work in modern day business. So, what is it that makes a good leader? Have a look for yourself.

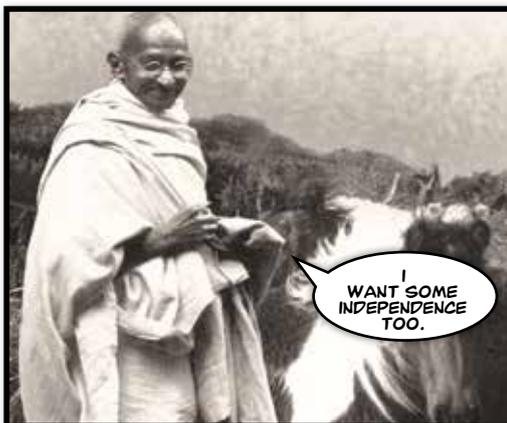
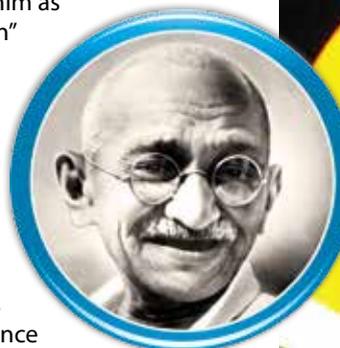
Winston Churchill

One of Winston Churchill's strongest characteristics was **durability**. He was a major figure in British politics in total for sixty years. During this time, he served in many important positions in the government – the most important of which was his period as prime minister between 10th May 1940 and 27th July 1945. He eventually **retired** as a member of parliament in 1964 at the age of 89. However, Churchill's most important leadership characteristic was his **conviction**. In one of the darkest moments in British history, on 4th June 1940, when a German invasion seemed imminent, he made a **speech** which characterised his strength and conviction. He said that if Britain was invaded, "We shall fight them on the **landing ground**. We shall fight them on the beaches. We shall fight in the fields and in the street. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." That was enough to unite the nation.



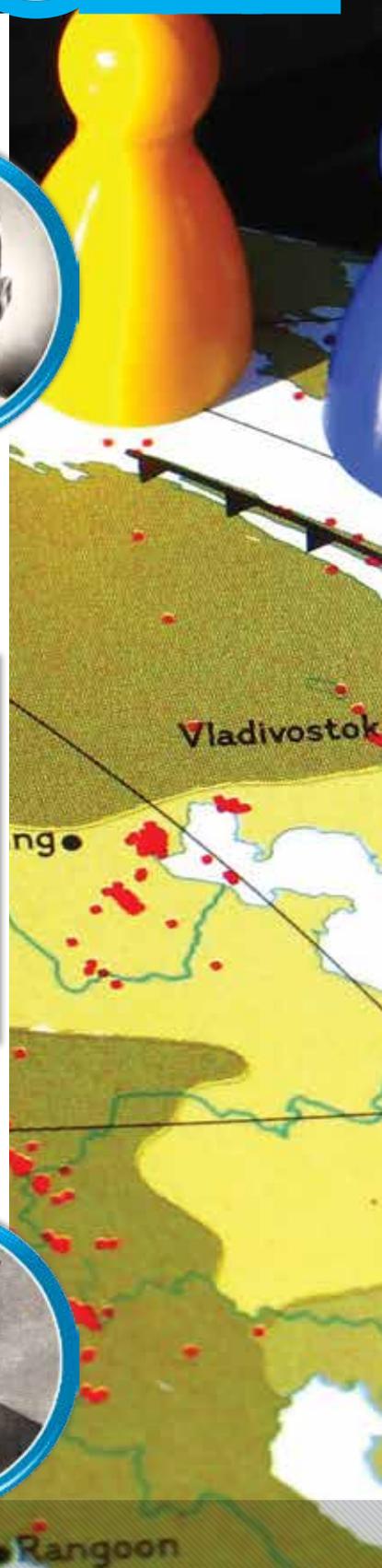
Gandhi

Gandhi is remembered by many for his ability to bring together people of all backgrounds. Indians like to refer to him as the "father of the nation" because of his success in bringing Indians of different religions and ethnic groups together in the political movement. Gandhi had a belief in **collective disobedience** and was against the use of violence in his attempt to evict the British colonialists. One of Gandhi's strongest leadership characteristics was his ability to work towards a common cause. He spent much of his life campaigning for an independent India and even at the time of his death he was trying to unite Hindu and Muslim Indians.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus is generally regarded as the first European to discover the Americas. His most important leadership qualities include **bravery** and **perseverance**. Columbus had an idea to sail westwards across the "Ocean Sea" in order to find a better way to reach the Indies. This was after the defeat of Constantinople, which had made the old land route impractical. To make his idea work,



LEADERS



Columbus needed money. So, he had to persevere for many years before he eventually got the financial support of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain: Ferdinand and Isabelle. Then, he started a voyage into the unknown. At the time, there were many stories of monsters and pirates, and there were theories that the world was **flat**. However, Columbus showed that he was a determined and brave leader. On the 12th October 1492, a Spanish sailor from Seville called Rodrigo de Triana saw America for the first time. Although Columbus was mistaken and had not found a "quick" way to India, he had made one of the most important discoveries in human history.

Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi

She has achieved much of her success as a leader through hard work and ability. She was educated in her native India and later at Yale School of Management in the USA. She was a successful businesswoman with the companies Motorola and ABB before she moved to PepsiCo.



Whilst working with PepsiCo, she created a new brand called *Yum! Brands Inc.* and she was also an important person in the **takeover** of Tropicana in 1998. Because of her excellent performance, she has now been **promoted** to the position of chairwoman and chief executive of PepsiCo. *Time Magazine* have said she is one of the 100 Most Influential People in the world today and *Fortune Magazine* have said that she is the world's most powerful businesswoman.

Sir Richard Branson

Richard Branson is a very talented **marketer**. He has a natural ability to sell his products and create successful brands. He left school early after receiving poor academic results and created



his first business, a magazine called *Student*. He later sold cheap records from the back of his car before he started his own record shop called *Virgin Records*. From this record shop, Branson has created a £4 billion brand called Virgin which includes Virgin Rail and Virgin Airways. One of Branson's greatest leadership qualities is his ability to see an opportunity. He is also good at self publicity: he often appears on television to promote himself.



King John of England (1199-1216)

And now for an example of a very poor leader. King John is famous for having a disastrous reign as King of England. He lost most of the English land in France, started a civil war amongst English barons and annoyed the **pope**. Apart from this, he also lost a war to his grandmother. And when he tried to transport the crown jewels across England, they sank into a **swamp**. The name John is so closely connected with disaster and failure that, since then, there has never been another King John of England. King John had very little in the way of luck (which is always important for successful leaders) and was also dishonest and very bad at making decisions. ✪



"We shall fight them on the landing ground. We shall fight them on the beaches. We shall fight in the fields and in the street. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender." That was enough to unite the nation

GLOSSARY

- durability** *n*
the ability to survive and last for a long time
- to retire** *vb*
to stop working because you are 65
- conviction** *n*
with great confidence in your beliefs or ability
- a speech** *n*
a formal talk to a group of people / an audience
- a landing ground** *n*
in this case: the place where enemy soldiers arrive on the beaches as part of an invasion
- collective** *adj*
"collective" beliefs, for example, are shared by many different people
- disobedience** *n*
acting against the wishes of the government or an authority
- bravery** *n*
acting decisively in a dangerous situation and not considering your own safety
- perseverance** *n*
the ability to continue doing something even though it is difficult
- flat** *adj*
level and smooth
- a takeover** *n*
if there is a "takeover", one company buys another company
- to promote someone** *exp*
to give someone more job responsibilities and a bigger salary
- a marketer** *n*
someone whose job involves marketing
- the pope** *n*
the head of the Catholic church
- a swamp** *n*
an area of very wet ground

Design Flaw

The controversy surrounding the new British Olympics logo.

It cost more than 400,000 pounds to produce. Fifty thousand people signed an **online petition** calling for it to be **scrapped**, and some versions of it were **withdrawn** online after they **triggered** epileptic fits. The logo for the 2012 Olympics caused a huge **controversy**.



Bad logo

"It's either brilliant or **awful**," said Tony Blair. "I think it's a joke," said the **mayor** of London, Ken Livingstone. "It looks like a kid made it," said 15-year-old Lee. These are just some of the opinions on the logo for the 2012 Olympics. A survey on the logo also produced some interesting comments. The survey group was asked why they thought the logo was so unpopular. Thirty percent said it was because the design "doesn't say anything about the UK"; 24% said it "doesn't say anything about London";

32% simply said it "wasn't a very good logo"; and 14% thought it was because adults do not understand it. Several respondents were also concerned with the fact that the logo cost £400,000 to develop. Seventeen-year-old Matt said, "It makes London look like it has no design talent to do the promoting." Overall, the survey found that 68% of respondents said they "hate" the design.

Holding up

Of course, there have been some who have defended the logo. The original idea

was to **tap into** the youth market. One respondent said, "I think it's a brilliant way of introducing the newer generations to the Olympics because it's quite a modern design."

However, Caron, 17, took a much wider view of the whole logo issue: "It doesn't make a difference; the Olympics in London is an amazing thing." A spokesperson for the survey said, "We were pleased to see more than three-quarters of the young people we surveyed were excited about the Olympics in London. Our survey respondents had clearly given the matter of the logo itself a lot of thought, and their comments showed quite a sophisticated level of understanding design and marketing and its **purpose**."

Official response

At the same time, the government was **keen to** defend the logo. Culture secretary Tessa Jowell insisted that the logo was worth every penny. "At least it's got people talking," she said in its defence, as well as describing it as "**terrific**". Ms Jowell admitted that the graffiti-style logo had "**caused a storm**", but she said that it was "adaptable" and could be used in a "variety of different contexts". She **ended on a defiant note**, "The logo will be the logo for the Olympic games."

Later, in a press conference, the mayor of London repeated his insistence that the designers should not be paid, but admitted that the logo "**may grow on you**". ☘



GLOSSARY

an online petition *n*
a document on a website that is signed by a lot of people. It contains demands for changes

to scrap *vb*
to cancel something

to withdraw *vb*
to take away

to trigger *vb*
to cause

a controversy *n*
a scandal; something that causes a division of opinions

awful *adj*
terrible; horrible

a mayor *n*
an elected leader of a town or city

to tap into *phr vb*
if you "tap into" a particular market, you try to enter that market and sell things

a purpose *n*
a reason

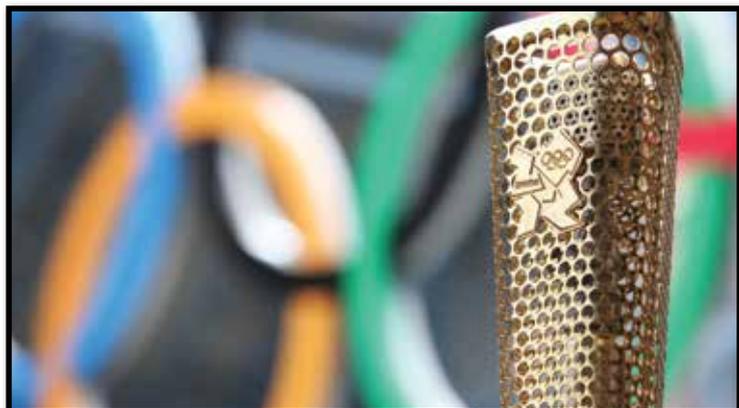
keen to *exp*
if you are "keen to" do something, you really want to do that thing

terrific *adj*
wonderful; fantastic. Remember, this word has positive connotations

to cause a storm *exp*
to create a scandal or a wide division of opinion

to end on a defiant note *exp*
if you "end on a defiant note", you end your talk/speech in a definitive, aggressive and final way

to grow on you *exp*
if something "grows on you", you start to like it even though you didn't like it at first



The Restaurant

Social English

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

What you say

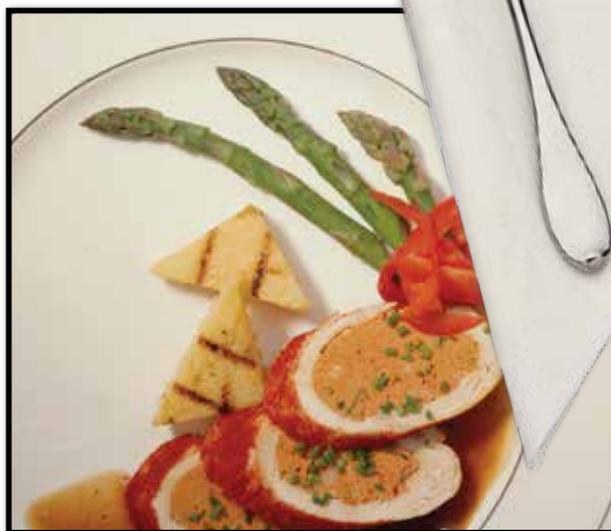
- We'd like a table for two, please.
- I have a reservation under the name of Jones.
- Could you bring us the menu, please?
- Do you have a **set menu**?
- Could you bring us the salt/pepper/ketchup/vinegar, please?
- I'll have the soup as a **starter**.
- I'll have the steak for the **main course**.
- I'll have it **rare** / medium rare / medium / **well done**, please.
- Where's the toilet/bathroom/restroom (US English), please?
- Could I have the **bill**, please?

What you hear

- Do you have a reservation?
- Smoking, or non-smoking?
- Can I get you a drink while you're waiting?
- Are you ready to order yet?
- What would you like for a starter?
- What do you want for the main course?
- What would you like to drink with your meal?
- Would you like any wine with that?
- **Red** or white?
- What would you like to drink?
- How would you like your steak? Rare, medium or well-done?
- Would you like any dessert?
- Would you like any coffee?

What you say

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions. ✚



Part II Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Sal is ordering some food at the restaurant.

Waiter: Good afternoon, sir.

Sal: A table for one, please.

Waiter: Certainly. Come this way, please. *(He sits down.)* Here's the menu. *(The waiter gives him the menu.)* Our special today is **mussels** in white wine sauce, and roast beef with **sautéed potatoes**.

Sal: OK.

Waiter: *(After a few minutes the waiter returns.)* Are you ready to order now?

Sal: Yes, thanks. For a starter, I'll have the prawn cocktail.

Waiter: And for the main course?

Sal: I'll have the steak, please.

Waiter: And how would you like your steak?

Sal: I'll have it medium, please.

Waiter: Would you like anything to drink with your meal, sir?

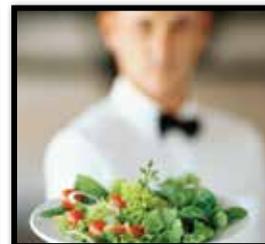
Sal: I'll have a bottle of red wine, please.

Waiter: OK. Your food will be with you in just a minute.

(Half an hour later Sal has finished.) Was everything OK?

Sal: Yes, that was delicious thank you. Could you bring me the bill, please?

Waiter: Right away.



GLOSSARY

a set menu *n*

a menu with a fixed choice of food and a fixed price for the starter, main course and dessert

a starter *n*

the first dish of food that you eat – often a small amount of food

a main course *n*

the principal dish of food, often consisting of meat or fish

rare *adj*

if a steak is "rare", it has been cooked for a very short period of time

well done *adj*

if a steak is "well done", it has been cooked for a longer period of time

the bill *n*

the piece of paper that tells you how much you must pay for your meal

red (wine) *n*

wine that is dark red in colour. Other types of wine are "white wine" and "rosé"

mussels *n*

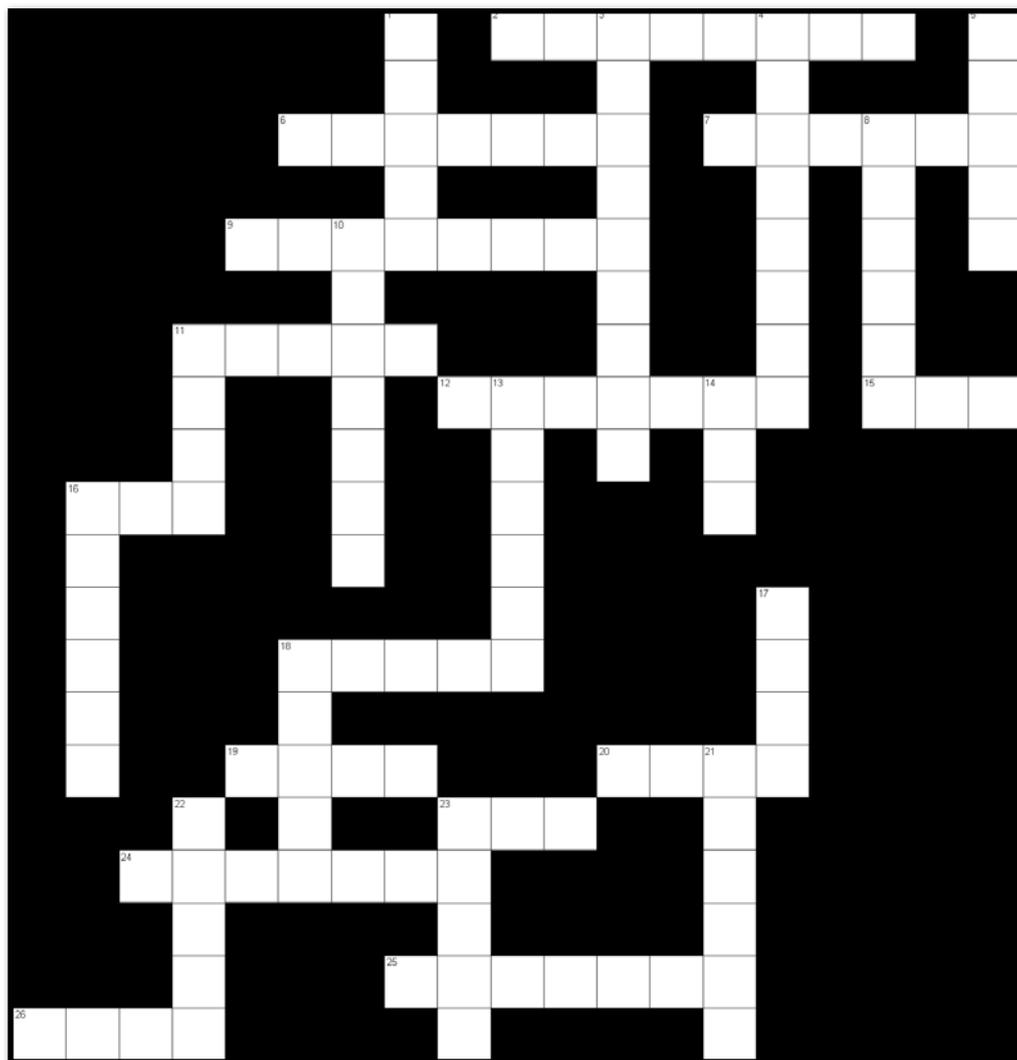
a type of seafood that is orange inside and often cooked in wine

sautéed potatoes *n*

thin slices of potato that have been cooked quickly in hot oil

"SMOKE" CROSSWORD

Answers on page 49



- 13: A person who smokes = a sm_____.
- 14: The grey, powdery substance that is produced after a cigarette has burnt = a_____.
- 16: If a room is full of smoke, it is a smoke-fi_____ room.
- 17: To stop smoking = to gi_____ up smoking.
- 18: If you smoke too much, you may be affected by this minor illness = a smoker's co_____.
- 21: A box that contains 20 cigarettes = a pac_____ of cigarettes.
- 22: A question you can ask when you need "fire" = Have you got a li_____?
- 23: A pause during work in order to have a cigarette = a cigarette bre_____.

Across

- 2: A chemical contained in cigarettes = nic_____.
- 6: Smoking the smoke of other smokers = passive sm_____.
- 7: A person who absolutely must have a cigarette = a smoking ad_____.
- 9: A device that detects when there is smoke = a smoke det_____.
- 11: A group that tries to influence politicians to ban smoking = the anti-smoking lo_____.
- 12: A glass or metal object in which you put finished cigarettes = an as_____.
- 15: The small part of a cigarette that is left when you have finished smoking it = a cigarette en_____.

16: A British slang word for a cigarette = a fa_____.

18: A large cigarette made of dried tobacco leaves = a cig_____.

19: Another word for the small part of a cigarette that is left when you have finished smoking it = a cigarette bu_____.

20: An object for smoking tobacco. It has a long tube and a circular area for tobacco = a pi_____.

23: A smoking prohibition = a smoking b_____.

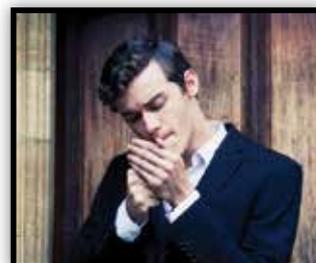
24: An object used for lighting a cigarette = a ligh_____.

25: A person who smokes other people's smoke = a pas_____ smoker.

26: To stop smoking = to qu_____ smoking.

Down

- 1: The gas that goes into the air when a cigarette burns = sm_____.
- 3: A long, thin object with tobacco in it that you smoke = a ciga_____.
- 4: A word used to describe the companies involved in the production, marketing and selling of cigarettes = the tobacco in_____.
- 5: A small, thin stick used for creating fire = a ma_____.
- 8: To take smoke from your mouth and into your lungs = to inh_____.
- 10: The dried leaves of a plant that people smoke = toba_____.
- 11: An organ in your body (there are two) used for breathing = a lu_____.



Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. *Answers on page 49*

1. What did the turkey say before it was roasted? _____
2. Why did the police arrest the turkey? _____
3. Which side of the turkey has the most **feathers**? _____
4. Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? _____
5. Why did the turkey cross the road? _____
6. What "key" has legs and can't open doors? _____
7. Why do turkeys go "gobble, gobble"? _____
8. What goes, "gobble, gobble, ha-ha-ha, plop"? _____



GLOSSARY
a feather *n*
 birds' bodies are covered in feathers
a day off *n*
 if you have a "day off", you don't go to work because you are sick
foul play *n*
 criminal violence, or an action that causes someone's death. "Foul" is pronounced the same as "fowl", which is a bird that can be eaten (turkey, duck, chicken, etc)
stuffed *adj*
 two meanings: completely full because you have eaten a lot; if a turkey is "stuffed", it has food inside (a mixture of bread, herbs, onion, etc) for cooking
to laugh your head off *exp*
 two meanings: to laugh very, very much; literally, to laugh so much that your head falls off

- A:** Yes. A building can't jump at all.
B: Because they never learned to talk.
C: It was the chicken's **day off**.
D: They suspected it of **foul play**.
E: Boy, I'm **stuffed**.
F: A turkey **laughing its head off**.
G: A turkey.
H: The outside.

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

I DON'T HAVE A SOLUTION BUT I ADMIRE THE PROBLEM.

NOT ONLY IS THERE NO GOD, BUT JUST TRY GETTING A PLUMBER AT WEEKENDS.

WHY IS THERE ONLY ONE MONOPOLIES COMMISSION?

A CONSERVATIVE IS SOMEONE WHO ADMIRES RADICALS A CENTURY AFTER THEY'RE DEAD.

IF YOU'RE NOT CONFUSED BY ECONOMICS, YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION.

IF ONE SYNCHRONISED SWIMMER DROWNS, DO THE REST HAVE TO DROWN TOO?

GLOSSARY
a plumber *n*
 a person whose job is to fix pipes, toilets, bathrooms, etc
a synchronised swimmer *n*
 a swimmer who swims as part of a group in competitions / the Olympics
to drown *vb*
 to die in water because you cannot breathe

DOG MATTERS BY DANIEL COUTOLNE

Mrs Lowdmowf, as your lawyer, I'm afraid I cannot represent you in your action for slander.

Why?

Well, you accuse your neighbour of calling you a two-faced, hypocritical liar. Correct?

Yes, that's right.

Well, having met you on several occasions, I have to agree with your neighbour.

GLOSSARY
slander *n*
 untrue things that are said about someone and that are designed to damage their reputation
two-faced *adj*
 hypocritical – acting as if you have certain positive qualities (honesty, nobility, etc) that you don't really have

Phone call



Pre-listening

Read these sentences about cameras. Write "true" or "false" next to each one. Discuss with a partner.

1. The term "camera" comes from "camera obscura", which is Latin for "dark chamber". _____
2. The camera obscura was first invented by the Iraqi scientist Ibn al-Haytham in the 15th century. _____
3. English scientists Robert Boyle and Robert Hooke invented a portable camera obscura in 1665-1666. _____
4. The size of the aperture controls the amount of light that enters the camera. _____
5. The shutter controls the length of time that the light hits the recording surface. _____
6. The first camera for practical photography was built by Johann Zahn in 1885. _____
7. The first permanent photograph was made in 1826 by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce. _____
8. The first colour photograph was made by James Clerk Maxwell in 1921. _____

Answers on page 49

Listening I

Listen to the telephone conversation once and complete the information.

1. What camera is he looking for?
2. How many do they have in stock?
3. What colours do they have in stock?
4. Which one does he want?
5. How much is it?
6. What do you get for an extra £100?
7. Where can he order one?

Listening II

Listen again and complete each sentence with the correct word/words.

1. Yes, Jenny speaking, _____
2. I wanted to ask if you had the ESL4000 _____.
3. Yes, we have two in stock _____.
4. It was the silver that _____.
5. Well that sounds interesting. _____ one now?
6. We like to _____ people to our webpage.
7. You can also _____ your order from there until it reaches the door.
8. Brilliant. I'll _____ it out.

Audio script R=Richard J=Jenny

R: Hi is that Erikson cameras?

J: Yes, Jenny speaking, how can I help you?

R: Well, I was just looking through your brochure and I wanted to ask if you had the ESL4000 in stock.

J: Well, give me a minute, I'll just check on the system.

R: Thanks...

J: Yes, we have two in stock at the moment. It comes in three different colours as I am sure you know. At the moment we have metallic silver and black.

R: Good, good. It was the silver that I was after.

J: Well, it retails for £399.99, and for an extra £100 you can get a full set of lenses that usually cost around £250 in the shop.

R: Well, that sounds interesting. Can I order one now?

J: You can, but we like to direct people to our webpage. You can also track your order from there until it reaches the door.

R: Brilliant. I'll check it out.

J: It is very easy.

www.eriksoncamera.com

R: Thanks for your help.

J: And thank you for calling. Have a nice day.



FEBRUARY



Come and celebrate February with us in our series on anniversaries. This month: February. By Mark Pierro.



February 4th 1862
One of the world's largest rum producers (Bacardi) is **founded** as a small **distillery** in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Thirsty pirates in the Caribbean were **delighted**.



February 5th 1885
King Leopold II of Belgium establishes the Congo Free State as his personal possession in Africa. Of course, it isn't "free" for the inhabitants.



February 6th 1840
The British and the **Maori sign** the Treaty of Waitangi after years of violence. This leads to the foundation of modern-day New Zealand. Of course, the Maori had been there for hundreds of years before the British arrived with their little bits of paper to sign.



February 9th 474
Zeno is **crowned** as the co-emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire. Seven-year-old Leo II was supposed to be king, but they thought he was a bit too young to rule. **Wise** decision!



February 10th 1258
Hulagu Khan and the Mongols **sack** and burn Baghdad, a cultural and commercial centre of the Islamic world at the time. Of course, this wouldn't be the last time a violent, **money-grabbing lunatic** would destroy Baghdad.



February 12th 1818
Chile **proclaims** its independence from Spain. The victorious Chileans were led by the revolutionary leader Bernardo O'Higgins, who was the son of a Spanish officer of Irish descent. Incidentally, there's a statue of him in London (in Richmond), and **plaques** to commemorate him in Spain, Ireland and Chile.



February 15th 1989
The Soviet Union officially announces that all of its troops had left Afghanistan. If the USSR had to do that, what chance does NATO have?



February 16th 1923
Howard Carter **unseals** the burial chamber of the Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamen. Carter also releases an ancient **curse**, which kills a number of people.



February 18th 1861
Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont, Savoy and Sardinia assumes the title of King of Italy under a newly-unified Italian state.



February 22nd 1997
Scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland announce the birth of the cloned sheep Dolly.



February 23rd 1997
Dolly is voted "Cutest Sheep of the Year" in an online survey.



February 24th 1946
Colonel Juan Perón is elected President of Argentina.



February 25th 1946
Eva Perón, Juan's wife, prepares herself for a life of stardom, which includes being the inspiration for the musical, Evita.



February 25th 1986
Corazon Aquino is inaugurated as President of the Philippines, as Ferdinand Marcos **flees** the nation after 20 years of rule and much of the country's wealth spent on his wife's collection of shoes.



February 26th 1991
The world's first **web browser**, WorldWideWeb, is introduced.



February 27th 1991
The world's first **hacker** hacks into the world's first web browser.



February 29th 1988
South African archbishop Desmond Tutu is arrested along with 100 clergymen during a five-day anti-apartheid demonstration in Cape Town. Apparently, the priests had become tired of praying for an end to discrimination and decided to take action themselves. ✪

Events for February 2015

February 1st
Super Bowl XLIX held at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

February 6th Waitangi Day (New Zealand)

February 19th
Spring Festival (China)

February 14th
Valentine's Day

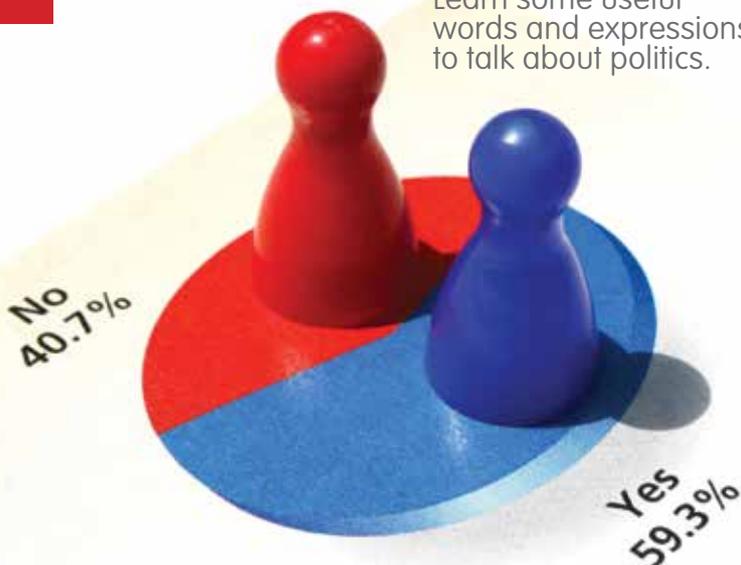
February 22th
The 87th Academy Awards (the Oscars) will take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

GLOSSARY

to found *vb*
to establish
a distillery *n*
a factory for making alcohol
delighted *adj*
very happy
the Maori *n*
the native people of New Zealand
to sign *vb*
to write your name on a document/contract/form, etc
to crown *vb*
if someone is "crowned" king, they become king. The "crown" is the King's "hat"
wise *adj*
intelligent and clever
to sack *vb*
to destroy completely
money-grabbing *adj*
with a desire for lots of money and wealth
a lunatic *n*
a mad/crazy/insane person
to proclaim *vb*
to say formally and officially
a plaque *n*
a piece of metal fixed to a wall with information on it (often about a famous person)
to unseal *vb*
to open something that has been closed hermetically (so no air can get in/out)
a curse *n*
an evil, bad, supernatural power
to flee *vb*
to run away; to escape
a web browser *n*
a programme used to find web pages (Internet Explorer, for example)
a hacker *n*
a person who enters the secure area of a website illegally

VOCABULARY POLITICS

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about politics.



Voter – someone who votes in an election.

Polling station – the place (often a room in a building) where people go to vote during an election. Election day is also known as “polling day”.

Ballot box – the box where you place your vote during an election. The voting slip (the paper with your choice of candidate on it) is also known as a “ballot”.



Voting/polling booth – the compartment in a polling station where you can put your vote in the ballot box.

Election – if there is an “election”, people vote for candidates from different political parties.

Right-wing & left-wing – very generally, right-wing parties or politicians are traditional and support a capitalist economy; left-wing are more socialist in their thinking.

Party – a political organisation. In Britain the main parties are the Conservatives (the right-wing party), and the Labour Party (the left-wing party). In America, it’s the Republicans and Democrats respectively.

Parliament – the group of people who are elected and who have a seat in the building where parliament sits. In Britain, parliament sits in the Houses of Parliament, in London.

Seat – a place in parliament for people who are elected and have won a “seat”.

MP – a member of parliament: someone who has been elected and won a seat in parliament.

Electorate – the people who have the right to vote in an election. Each individual voter is known as an “elector”.

Politically correct (pc) – if you are “politically correct”, you are careful with the

type of language you use and try not to offend any group, minority or ethnic association. The opposite is “politically incorrect” (non-pc).

Lobby group – a group who wants to influence politicians. In America, the gun lobby is one of the most powerful lobbies. They try to persuade politicians to allow free access to guns.



Silent majority – the mass of voters who don’t often protest or voice their opinions, but who have enormous power. They are often typical middle class voters.

To spin – to attempt to change the way the public

sees events and things. This can be done by lying, changing the facts, or simply choosing which facts to mention. Political advisers who “spin” events are known as “spin doctors”. Here’s an example sentence with “spin” in it: “They put some spin on the terrible news so it didn’t appear to be so bad.”

Swing vote – the undecided section of the electorate who can “swing” (change) the outcome of an election one way or the other.

Whip – the member of parliament who makes sure that all other members of his/her party vote the way they are supposed to vote. ☺



SONG

Century by Garrett Wall
by Garrett Wall
© Garrett Wall 2007

We've come so close so many times, you'd think we'd learn,
Still I find that time will see the **tables turned**,
And all around the masses **live in ignorance**,
Their lives controlled by lotteries of **providence**.

I can't ignore the daily news of **shattered lives**,
The innocent, old and young so victimised,
No longer safe, we've **swapped** our smiles for locked doors,
And sit inside and **marvel at** these TV wars.

Yeah, century.

We take much more than we'll ever need and still we **crave**,
A moment's **lust** for a lifetimes trust in **shallow graves**,
We hold our hearts religiously but we **hold our tongues**,
And stand in line for **firing squads** and ignore the young.



Garrett Wall

For more information on Garrett Wall, please visit:
www.facebook.com/garrettwall



GLOSSARY

tables turned *exp*
if the "tables have turned", a situation is completely different or the opposite from before

to live in ignorance *exp*
to be in a situation in which you have a lack of knowledge about things

providence *n*
God or a force which is believed to control the things that happen to us

shattered lives *n*
lives that have been destroyed and ruined

to swap *vb*
if you "swap" something with another person, you give that person one thing and they give you something else in return

to marvel at *exp*
to express great surprise, wonder or admiration for something

to crave *vb*
to want something very much

lust *n*
strong desire for something or someone

a shallow grave *n*
a small hole (not very deep) in the ground for a dead body

to hold your tongue *exp*
not to speak, even though you want to say something

a firing squad *n*
a line of soldiers who execute someone by firing their guns at him/her



Survival Techniques

Here are some techniques for surviving in the office.

- Never walk down the hall without a document in your hands. People with documents in their hands look like hardworking employees **heading for** important meetings.



- Use computers to look busy. Any time you use a computer, it looks like work to the casual observer. In reality, you can send and receive personal e-mail, calculate your finances and generally **have a blast** without doing anything remotely related to work.

- Top management can **get away with** a clean desk. For the rest of us, it looks like we're not working hard enough. Build huge **piles** of documents around your workspace and give your desk that special, busy, **messy** look.



- Never **have anything to hand**. If you know somebody is coming to your office to pick something up, **bury** the document under a pile of papers and spend time looking for it.

- Never answer your phone if you have **voicemail**. People don't call you just because they want to give you something – they call because they want YOU to do something for THEM. **Screen all your calls** through voicemail.

- If somebody leaves a voice-mail message for you and it sounds like **impending work**, respond during the lunch hour and leave your own message, "Hi, I got your message, just calling you back." That way, you **put the ball back in their court**, and you give the impression of a hardworking and conscientious employee. If you are lucky, they'll soon give up or look for a solution that doesn't involve you. ☺

GLOSSARY

to head for *phr vb*
to go to

to have a blast *exp inform*
to have a really good time

to get away with something *exp*
to do something illegal and to escape the negative consequences

a pile *n*
if there is a "pile" of papers, there are many papers with one on top of the other

messy *adj*
with things on the floor and not ordered

to have something to hand *exp*
to have something close to you so you can use it

to bury *vb*
to put in a hole in the ground; to hide something

voicemail *n*
a machine in your phone that records oral messages

to screen calls *exp*
to check who is telephoning you before answering the call

impending work *n*
work that must be done

to put the ball back in someone's court *exp*
if the "ball is in someone's court", that person must do something before things can progress; to give the responsibility of deciding what to do back to someone

TYPICAL DIALOGUES POLITICS

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



GLOSSARY
a baldie *n inform*
 an informal word for a person with no hair on his/her head
to stand for *phrvb*
 the ideas that a group "stands for" are the ideas they support
a creed *n*
 a belief
follically-challenged *exp inform*
 an informal expression that means "with very little hair". Literally, a "hair follicle" is part of the skin from which hair grows
to stand up for something *exp*
 to defend something or someone
to call for something *exp*
 to demand something
discrimination *n*
 treating one person or group of people less fairly than another group
ridicule *n*
 if someone is the object of "ridicule", other people laugh at him/her
a ban *n*
 a prohibition
fair *adj*
 just; being equal to everyone
an aim *n*
 an objective
a seat in parliament *n*
 if you get a "seat in parliament", you are elected to parliament
a tax rebate *n*
 an amount of money that is paid back to you because you paid too much tax
a pass *n*
 a monthly or annual ticket that allows you to use the bus, train, etc
to shave off *phrvb*
 to cut off hair
to out *vb*
 to inform the press / the public about the secret life of a person
closet *adj*
 if you are a "closet" baldie, for example, you hide the fact that you are bald by wearing a wig, etc
a political stunt *n*
 an action designed to generate publicity for a political party
proud *adj*
 if you feel "proud" about something you have done, you are pleased with yourself
a wig *n*
 a piece of false hair that covers your head
a toupee *n*
 a piece of false hair that covers a part of your head

In this conversation a television journalist is interviewing Gordon Slaped, a spokesperson for Power for the **Baldies** political party. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.
 1. Who does Gordon represent?
 2. What happens to the interviewer in the end?
Answers on page 49.

Interviewer: So, Gordon, first of all, thank you so much for coming to talk to us.
 Gordon: My pleasure.
 Interviewer: Well, my first question is, what exactly do Power for the Baldies **stand for**?
 Gordon: We stand for equal rights and equal opportunities for all bald people, regardless of race, **creed** or ethnic background.
 Interviewer: Interesting.
 Gordon: We represent the millions of **follically-challenged** people around the country who feel it is time to **stand up for** their rights and demand social justice.
 Interviewer: And what exactly are you **calling for**?
 Gordon: We demand an end to **discrimination** against baldies, an end to rejection, humiliation and **ridicule**, and, more specifically, a complete **ban** on all jokes about bald men. It isn't funny. It isn't clever. And it isn't **fair**.
 Interviewer: And what are you hoping to achieve in this election?
 Gordon: Our **aim** is to get enough votes for a couple of **seats in parliament**. We will then be pressurising the



government for **tax rebates** for baldies, free housing for baldies, and reduced-rate public transport **passes** for elderly baldies.
 Interviewer: Now, critics say that your policies are somewhat radical. What do you have to say about that?
 Gordon: We say, come and join us. **Shave off** your hair, and become a baldie.
 Interviewer: Some of your more radical policies include **outing closet** baldies. Do you really need to go to such extremes? Or is it just a **political stunt**?
 Gordon: Absolutely not. We feel that the time has come to say, "I am bald and I am **proud**." Throw away that **wig**, tear off that **toupee** and knock off that hat. You are bald, and you should not be ashamed. Now, what about you, Teresa? Don't you have something you'd like to share with us?
 Interviewer: What?
 Gordon: I think you know what I'm talking about.
 Interviewer: What? What's going on?
 Gordon: Come on, admit it, Teresa. You are a baldie too, aren't you?
 Interviewer: But... (Gordon pulls off the interviewer's wig.)
 Gordon: There. Look, now that wasn't so painful, was it?
 Interviewer: Oh, yes. That feels much better. Freedom at last. Thank you very much.
 Gordon: My pleasure. Now, how about becoming a member of our little club? 🗳️



Phrasal verbs booklets

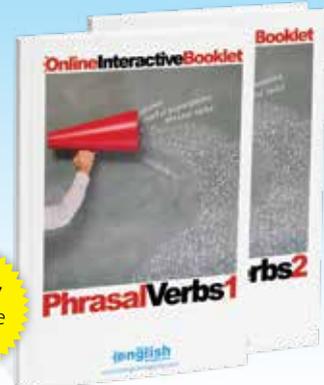
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DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: SUCCESS

The images will help you associate the expression with its meaning. This month: success.



Be riding high

To be very successful.
"With 2 **hit singles** in the **charts**, the band are riding high."



Go from strength to strength

To become better and better or more and more successful.
"Since she took over as president, the company has gone from strength to strength."



Pass with flying colours

To complete a difficult activity very successfully; to pass an exam with a very high score.
"The course was very difficult, but she passed with flying colours."



Claw your way back from something

To succeed in improving your situation by making a very determined effort.
"The team were losing 6-0, but they managed to **claw** their way **back** from defeat to win 6-9."



Win something hands down

To win easily.
"I **challenged** her to a game of chess, but she beat me hands down."



Lead the field

To be better and more successful than all the people who are competing against you.
"The British scientific team lead the field in nano technology development."



Make or break something

To make something a success or a failure.
"This new, expensive but innovative product will either make or break the company."



Sink or swim

To fail or to succeed.
"The new sales team were given absolutely no training. They were left to either **sink** or swim."

GLOSSARY

- a hit single** *n*
a song that is very popular
- the charts** *n*
the official list that shows which songs are the most popular
- to claw back** *phr vb*
to get something that you had previously lost. Literally, a "claw" of an animal or bird are the thin, hard, curved nails
- to challenge** *vb*
to invite someone to fight or compete with you
- to sink** *vb*
if a ship "sinks", it goes under the water

Embarrassing

A look at some more of those embarrassing moments.

moments

Lift Down

I had my most embarrassing moment in an **elevator**. We were staying in a hotel. One day, I was going down in the elevator when another person, who I didn't know, started talking to me. He asked, "So, how are you?" and I answered, "Fine", somewhat surprised that he was talking to me so enthusiastically. He then asked me, "What else are you up to?" and I replied, "Nothing much".



At this point, he turned to me and said, "Do you mind, I'm on the phone?" It was then that I realised he was talking on his mobile.

Jena, Boston.

Wardrobe Wonder

I was in a hotel in Japan once. I had one of those cameras with film in it. Anyway, the roll of film was **jammed** in my camera and I wanted to get it out. However, I needed to do it



in a dark room to protect the pictures I'd already taken. So, I got into the **wardrobe** and carefully **removed** the film and **wound it up**. However, while I was in the wardrobe, a **maid** came into the room. Imagine her surprise as she saw me coming out of the wardrobe



for no apparent reason. How embarrassing!

Sam, Tokyo.

Shower Singing

My brother really embarrassed me in front of my friends. I was in the shower once and, as usual, I was singing away. Without realising it, my brother was recording me with a little MP3 recorder. I was singing a terribly bad version of *Macho Man* by the *Village People*. Anyway, a few months later, I was at a party when I suddenly heard this terrible version of *Macho Man* coming from the stereo system. And, yes, you guessed it, it was me singing. All my friends thought it was hilarious, but I was just so embarrassed.

Sally, Birmingham.

Toilet Terror

I was in a **public toilet** once

when I had an embarrassing experience. I'd been walking in the park and my shoes were really muddy. So, I went into a toilet in a department store to get some **toilet paper** so I could clean them. So, there I



was, standing next to the sink with a piece of very dirty-looking toilet paper in my hand when this man walks in. He takes one look at me and walks out, **muttering** "disgusting" under his breath.

Bob, Brighton.

Ski Run

I once went skiing with a group of friends. It was the first time we'd been skiing



together. For years, I'd been telling everyone what a great skier I was. Anyway, on our first day on the slopes, we were all waiting by the ski lift when I suddenly **lost my balance** and skied right into a plastic fence. My skis got stuck in the holes in the **fence** and three ski monitors had to come out and help me. I was so embarrassed.

Anita, Sweden. ❄️

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GLOSSARY

- an elevator** *n* US a device that carries you from one floor to another floor in a building.
- A "lift"** in British English
- jammed** *adj* if a machine becomes "jammed", it becomes fixed in a position and you can't move or use it
- a wardrobe** *n* a tall piece of furniture in which you can hang your clothes
- to remove** *vb* to take out
- to wind up (film)** *phr vb* to turn a button on the camera so that the film goes around a reel. Once the film is "wound up", you can take it out
- a maid** *n* a person who cleans the rooms in a hotel
- a public toilet** *n* a place with little rooms where you can go to the toilet
- toilet paper** *n* paper used for cleaning yourself in a toilet
- to mutter** *vb* to say something very quietly so you cannot be heard properly
- to lose your balance** *n* to fall down
- a fence** *n* a barrier made of wood or plastic between two areas of land

Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

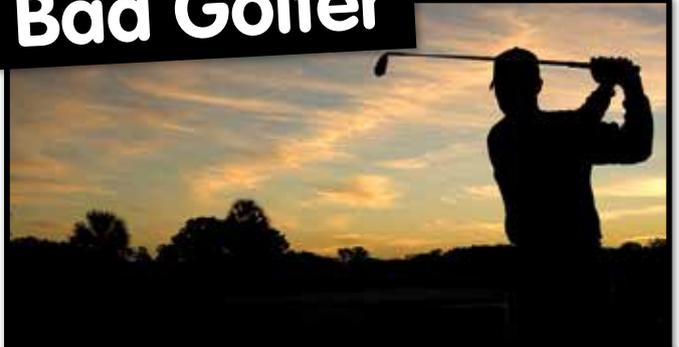
For Real



A New Zealand couple are having some problems registering their new baby's name. Paul and Sally Cheeka wanted to name their baby son "4real". However, they were told that "4real" can't be used on a birth certificate because numerals are not allowed.

The government office has opened negotiations with the parents. This is because of a law that says that all unusual names must be given case-by-case consideration. A government spokesperson said, "The name has not at this stage been **rejected**. We are currently **in discussions** with the parents to **clarify the situation**." Under New Zealand law, all children must be registered within two months of birth. The baby will be registered as "Real" if no **compromise is reached**.

Bad Golfer



A golfer who hit a bad shot started a 20-acre fire. Jim Palo knocked his ball into the grass outside a golf course in New Mexico. However, when he tried to hit the ball back onto the course, his club **struck** a stone that created a **spark** that started the fire. After a few minutes trying to **put out** the fire, Jim gave up and called the fire service.

"He was totally honest about it," a fire chief told journalists. Within hours, about 50 fire fighters and fire engines were in the area and spent hours putting out the **blaze**.

"We had a lot of equipment out there," the spokesperson said. "Eventually, we got the fire under control."

Unlawful Destruction



A taxi driver who tried to help some accident victims watched in horror as his cab was completely destroyed. "I was the first person to stop at the accident scene," Sam Crier explained, "so I got out of my car and assisted the injured. It was minus 25°C, so I let two slightly-injured victims sit in my Mercedes taxi while we waited for the rescue services to come. When the **fire brigade** arrived, they asked me where the victims were, so I **pointed to** my car. However, before I could explain to them that my taxi had not been involved in the crash, they took out their **axes** and started cutting the **roof** off, without asking the survivors if they could simply get out through the doors." As a result, the taxi was completely destroyed, and now, poor Mr Crier is trying to convince the **insurance company** that he did not **make up** the story.

GLOSSARY

- to reject** *vb*
if you "reject" something, you do not accept it
- in discussions** *exp*
if you are "in discussions", you are talking and negotiating with someone
- to clarify a situation** *exp*
to make a situation clear
- to reach a compromise** *exp*
to come to an agreement with someone
- to strike (struck)** *vb*
to hit
- a spark** *n*
a very small piece of burning material
- to put out** *phr vb*
to extinguish (a fire)
- a blaze** *n*
a very big and powerful fire
- the fire brigade** *n*
the organisation that deals with fires and tries to put them out
- to point to** *phr vb*
to use your finger to indicate something
- an axe** *n*
a large tool with a wooden handle and a piece of sharp metal at the end – often used for cutting trees
- a roof** *n*
the top part of a house outside the house
- an insurance company** *n*
a company that pays you money if you have an accident, etc
- to make up** *phr vb*
to invent (a story)

* 4 Real

The expression "for real" has a number of meanings in colloquial, slang English. For example:

A: Sam is a really bad man.

B: For real. (Yes, I know.)

A: I just won the lottery.

B: For real? (Really?)

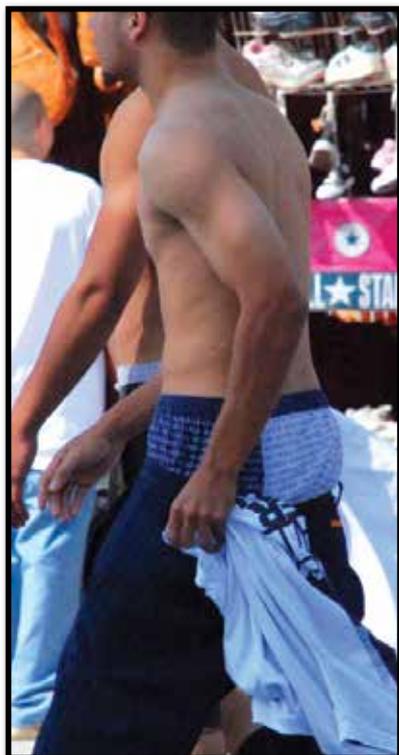


British bar chat

Saggy Trousers

This month Rob and Aifric are talking about **saggy trousers**.

- Mike:** Hey, Aifric, how are you going?
Aifric: Hi, Rob, how are you?
Rob: Good. Really good. Good to see you again.
Aifric: Yeah, **likewise**.
Rob: Hey, listen, have you heard what's going on in Madrid? You know these, erm, saggy trousers, the trousers that kind of fall down by the **ankles**. They're trying to **ban** them.
Aifric: What?
Rob: Yeah, I know it's ridiculous. **I mean**, I think they're, well, they're, they're all right. I think, I haven't got any problems with them.
Aifric: Well, God, well, I think it's a great idea to ban them personally. I'm **sick of** walking behind people on the metro and having to look at some 15-year-old's **stripy boxers**.
Rob: Well, as long as they've got boxers on, I mean, it could be worse if they were **going commando**.
Aifric: Yes, that's true, I suppose. Well, I don't know, I think it's a good idea to ban them anyway. It's a ridiculous **trend**.
Rob: Well, I don't know. I disagree. Whilst I'm not a particular fan of them, I think, you know, people have the right to wear whatever they like. Freedom of expression and all that. I think this is **dangerous ground** for the government to be on, to be honest.
Aifric: Mmm... **that's fair enough**, I suppose. But what about the, er, **indecent exposure**?
Rob: Well, like I say, **as long as** they're wearing **underwear**. They're not really exposing themselves, are they?
Aifric: Mmm... I don't know, I think you have to **draw the line** somewhere.
Rob: Mmm... draw the line at the **visible panty line**. ❖



US bar chat

Flexitime

This month Jackie and Mary are talking about **flexitime**.

- Jackie:** Hey, what's up? How's it going?
Mary: Hi, how are you? You're a bit late tonight.
Jackie: I know. **My gosh**. My day's been crazy. All day I've been running late. I got to work late today too.
Mary: Did you?
Jackie: Yeah, but, you know, I think it's crazy. I don't think we should have to come in at a certain time every day. I think we should have more flexibility.
Mary: Did you get into trouble because you arrived so late?
Jackie: Well, no but just, you know, I got one of those **stares** where I could feel that it wasn't right that I got there late. And, you know, things happen. You know, er, my dog got, ran out and I couldn't find him. And I was so worried, and, you know, life happens sometimes. You can't always get there at the same exact time.
Mary: Yeah, you need flexibility. But, I have flexitime where I can come in at any time and then make up the hours, but I don't actually like it because it doesn't give me any motivation to get up in the morning and get going.
Jackie: Really? You don't like it?
Mary: No, I'd prefer to have a fixed schedule: 9 to 5 and get out of there.
Jackie: Well, I would love the flexi schedule.
Mary: Is that why you're late tonight? Did you have to **make up** your hours?
Jackie: Erm, well, yeah, I just, you know, I had more work to get done. I got there late, and I, I still wasn't done by the time that I had to leave. So, I had to stay later, yeah. ❖



GLOSSARY

- saggy trousers** *n*
trousers that hang down very low on the body
likewise *exp*
the same
an ankle *n*
the joint between your foot and your leg
to ban *vb*
to prohibit
I mean *exp*
people often use this word for emphasis in a conversation
to be sick of something *exp*
to be tired of something
stripy *adj*
with lines of colour that are different from the area of colour next to them
boxers *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers. They are like mini shorts
to go commando *exp inform*
to wear nothing under your trousers; to wear no underwear
a trend *n*
a fashion
dangerous ground *exp*
if you are on "dangerous ground", you are doing something potentially illegal
that's fair enough *exp*
that's OK; that's all right
indecent exposure *n*
showing private parts of your body
as long as *exp*
provided that
underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers
to draw the line *exp*
to set limits
a visible panty line *n*
the line created by women's underwear (panties) that can be seen under trousers or a skirt
flexitime *n*
if a company has a policy of "flexitime", you can come into work when you like and do your hours when you like
my gosh *exp*
an exclamation of surprise or shock
a stare *n*
if someone gives you "a stare", they look at you continuously
to make up *phr vb*
to invent

Moore Attack

Michael Moore silences his critics.



Michael Moore. You either love him or hate him. He wins film awards, he has lots of fans. At the same time, there are also numerous anti-Michael Moore websites. However, some time ago, he managed to **outmanoeuvre** one of his greatest opponents. Find out how.

Desperate

Jim Kenefick spent years attacking Michael Moore. Kenefick's work consisted of trying to expose Moore's "**deceptions** and **half-truths**". He did this through the website www.moorewatch.com with the objective of "Watching Michael Moore's every move". But some time later Mr Kenefick found himself in a difficult situation.

The story began in 2006, when Mr Kenefick was **struggling** to pay for **healthcare** for his wife. She was recovering from a neurological disorder and had no medical insurance. In desperation, Mr Kenefick, whose site is one of the most popular anti-Moore blogs, **posted a note** on the homepage. "If you can help, I will be **in your debt** for all of time," it said.

Help

On 1st May, Mr Kenefick received a cheque from an anonymous individual. The 12,000 dollars was the equivalent to a year's medical fees for his wife. It was enough to ease the crisis and ensure the continuation of the website. So, Mr Kenefick **banked the cheque** and put

up a thank-you note to the person he called his "**guardian angel**".

For a while, Kenefick had no idea who the mystery person was. But eventually, someone left a message on Mr Kenefick's **answer machine**. "I am the donor," he said, adding, "I wish you my best." And the mystery man's name was? Yes, you guessed it: Michael Moore. Later Mr Kenefick explained why he accepted the cheque. "I was **led to believe** this was a private individual who wanted to remain anonymous who just wanted to help me. What kind of **moron** turns down a free 12 grand?"

Oh, dear

Mr Kenefick soon got in touch with Moore though. "Nice try, **dude**. But I'm not going to play your game. My accepting that donation has absolutely **no bearing on** the larger debate about healthcare in America." But Mr Kenefick later **softened his attitude**. In an interview with Newsweek, he said he had no issue with Moore as a human. "Mike's not the devil or anything. It's not like Joe Stalin made me an offer." Yeah, right. ☺

Michael Moore

Michael Moore was born in Flint, Michigan April 23 1954. He studied journalism at the University of Michigan-Flint. His first film was *Roger & Me* (1989). His first big **hit** was *Bowling for Columbine* (2002), which was an attack on the gun lobby in the States and the NRA (the National Rifle Association), and the even bigger hit *Fahrenheit 9/11* (2004), which made fun of President Bush.



GLOSSARY

- to outmanoeuvre someone** *exp* to gain an advantage over your opponent in a clever way
- deception** *n* the act of tricking someone or lying to them
- a half-truth** *n* a lie
- to struggle** *vb* to try desperately to do something
- healthcare** *n* medical assistance provided by the government
- to post a note** *exp* to put a message (on a website)
- in someone's debt** *exp* if you are "in someone's debt", that person has done you a big, big favour and you owe them a favour in return
- to bank a cheque** *exp* to take a cheque to the bank and to put the amount into your account
- a guardian angel** *n* a person who protects you
- an answer machine** *n* a machine that is part of a telephone for voice messages. Also known as an "answering machine"
- led to believe something** *exp* tricked into believing something
- a moron** *n inform* an idiot
- a grand** *n inform* one thousand
- dude** *n inform US* friend
- no bearing on** *exp* no relation to; no connection with
- to soften your attitude** *exp* to become less critical
- an insurance company** *n* a company that pays you money if you have an accident, etc
- a hit** *n* a very successful film, song, etc

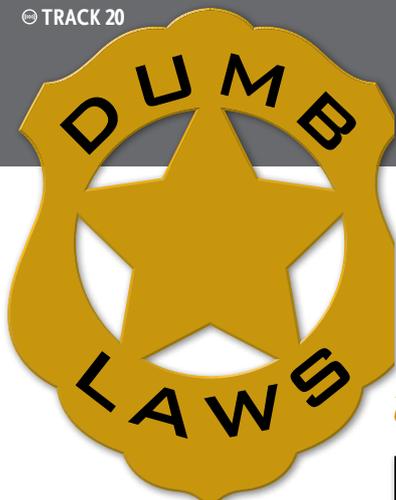
Sicko



Sicko is directed by Michael Moore and is a documentary about the highly-profitable American healthcare industry. The film investigates the US healthcare system with a focus on the behaviour of large health **insurance companies**. Its main message is that the US health-care system is designed to maximise profit by minimising the care delivered to patients.

Stories in the documentary include those of people who died because the insurance company refused treatment, or others who had to pay large bills after receiving treatment.

One scene shows a clip of Dr Linda Peeno, a former medical reviewer for a health insurer, saying that her job was to save money for the company by denying necessary operations. Also during the film, the American system is compared to systems in Canada, Britain and France, which have free and full coverage for their citizens.



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

★ Hotel sheets must be exactly **99 inches** long and 81 inches wide. (Indiana)

★ It is forbidden to eat watermelon in the park. (Indiana)



★ It is illegal for barbers to **threaten** to cut off kid's ears. (Indiana)

★ Within four hours of eating garlic, a



person may not enter a movie house, theater, or ride a public **streetcar**. (Indiana)

★ It is illegal to make a monkey smoke a cigarette. (Indiana)



★ No one may throw an old computer across the street at their neighbor. (Indiana)



★ Anyone 14 or older who **profanely curses**, **damns** or **swears** by the name of God, Jesus Christ or the Holy Ghost, shall be fined one to three dollars for each offense, with a maximum fine of

ten dollars per day. (Indiana)

★ One-armed piano players must **perform** for free. (Iowa)

★ Kisses may last for no more than five minutes. (Iowa)



★ The fire department is required to practice fire fighting for fifteen minutes before **attending** a fire. (Iowa)

★ Horses are forbidden to eat **fire hydrants**. (Iowa)



★ One must obtain written permission from the City Council before throwing

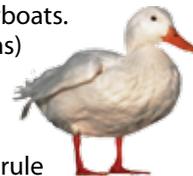
bricks into a highway. (Iowa)

★ Within the city limits, a man may not **wink** at any woman he does not know. (Iowa)



★ Rabbits may not be shot from motorboats. (Kansas)

★ The state game rule prohibits the use of **mules** to hunt ducks. (Kansas)



★ Hitting a **venting machine** that stole your money is illegal. (Kansas)

★ Riding an animal down any road is against the law. (Kansas)

★ All cars entering the city limits must first sound their **horn** to warn the horses of their arrival. (Kansas)

★ No one may wear a **bee** in their hat. (Kansas) ✨



GLOSSARY

- an inch** *n*
a measurement – about 3 cm
- to threaten** *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone if they don't do what you want
- a streetcar** *n* *US*
a type of electric train for carrying people in a city. A "tram" in British English
- profanely** *adv*
showing disrespect for someone's religion
- to curse / damn / swear** *vb*
to use rude or offensive language
- to perform** *vb*
to act/sing/dance, etc in front of an audience
- to attend** *vb*
to go to
- a fire hydrant** *n*
a pipe in the street from which fire fighters can get water
- a brick** *n*
a rectangular piece of baked clay (often orange in colour) used for building houses
- to wink** *vb*
to close and open one of your eyes as a way of communicating with someone
- a mule** *n*
an animal that is half horse and half donkey
- a vending machine** *n*
a machine that sells tobacco, chocolate, crisps, drinks, etc
- a horn** *n*
an object on a car that makes a sound when you press it. It is used as a way of communicating with other drivers
- a bee** *n*
a black and yellow insect that makes honey

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DICTIONARY OF SLANG

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

 Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
A friend earns one thousand euros a week.	She receives one thousand euros every week in compensation for her labour.	She gets a thousand a week.	She's pulling in a grand a week.
You went to see a psychiatrist.	I underwent a session on the couch with a psychiatrist.	I went to see a psychiatrist.	I saw a shrink.
A friend is acting in a silly and irritating way.	Stop acting in an immature and juvenile manner.	Stop messing around.	Stop goofing around.
You suggest going to the cinema.	Would you like to spend a pleasurable hour observing a cinematographic production?	Would you like to go to the cinema?	Fancy seeing a flick? Fancy going to the movies?
You went to Paris for the weekend and the company paid.	I didn't have to contribute in any way to the sojourn to Paris.	The company paid for the trip to Paris.	The trip to Paris was a freebie.
You don't understand what someone is saying.	I'm sorry but I fail to grasp your meaning.	I don't understand what you're saying.	I don't get it.



GLOSSARY

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

a couch *n*

a sofa

fancy seeing... *exp*

would you like to see?

ANIMAL IDIOMS

This month we are looking at some Animal idioms.



Like a bear with a sore head

IF SOMEONE IS "LIKE A BEAR WITH A SORE HEAD", THEY'RE ANGRY AND IN A BAD MOOD.
 "If he doesn't eat when he's hungry, he's like a bear with a sore head."



A leopard can't/doesn't change its spots

A PERSON'S CHARACTER (ESPECIALLY A BAD CHARACTER) WILL NEVER CHANGE, EVEN IF THEY PRETEND THAT IT HAS.
 "They say he's much nicer now, but I doubt he's that much different. As they say, a leopard can't change its spots."



As cunning as a fox

SOMEONE WHO'S "AS CUNNING AS A FOX" IS VERY CLEVER AND GOOD AT GETTING WHAT THEY WANT.
 "He comes across as really nice and friendly, but be careful because he's as cunning as a fox."



Be a scapegoat

IF YOU'RE A "SCAPEGOAT", YOU'RE PUNISHED FOR SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T DO, OR YOU'RE BLAMED FOR SOMETHING BAD.
 "I don't think I deserve to be the scapegoat for the poor sales results."



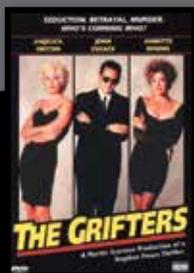
Run with the hare and hunt with the hounds

TO SUPPORT TWO COMPETING SIDES IN AN ARGUMENT.
 "You've got to decide where you stand on this issue. You can't run with the hare and hunt with the hounds."



Kill the fatted calf

TO CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN FOR A LONG TIME. THIS COMES FROM A STORY IN THE BIBLE IN WHICH A FATHER KILLS A YOUNG COW IN ORDER TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF HIS SON, WHO HE THOUGHT WAS DEAD.
 "John's coming home. Let's kill the fatted calf!"



Scam City

Clever, but illegal, ways and means of getting money.



This is the second part of our series on **scams**. Learn from the pros.



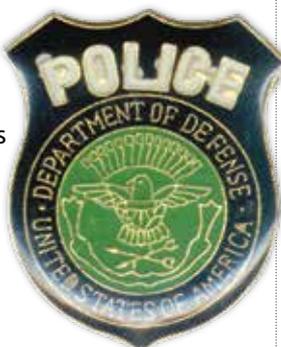
The Beijing tea scam

This is a famous scam in and around Beijing, China. The con artists (usually female

and working in pairs) will approach tourists and try to make friends. After chatting, they will suggest a trip to see a Chinese tea ceremony, claiming that they have never seen one before. Once they are in the tearoom (which is usually a house or restaurant that belongs to **accomplices** of the other con artists), the victim is served a cup of very cheap tea by someone dressed in a traditional Chinese costume. After the ceremony, the victim is presented with a **bill**, charging upwards of 50 euros **per head**. The con artists will then hand over their money, and the tourist is obliged to do the same.

The undercover cop

For this scam, the con artist **pretends** to be an **undercover police officer**. The con artist will stop a car on a motorway and show a **fake badge**. He may ask to see the victim's **wallet notes**. The con artist then gets into the fake police car and drives away with the victim's money. Other variations include taking the victim's luggage to the police car, and then driving away.



The worthless prize scam

This involves **cold calling** potential victims and offering them a chance to enter a fantastic competition. The winning prize is something of great value such as a **top-of-the-range car**

or even a house. Other prizes are of a lesser value. However, in order to enter the competition, the victims must first pay a sum of money. Of course, the victims never win the big prize, and if they do win, it is always a prize of a lower value than the amount of money they have paid.



The confusing change ruse

This scam has been featured in a number of films (including *The Grifters* and *Paper Moon*). It's quite complicated. The con artist buys something in a shop that costs, for example, \$4.20. He pays with a



20-dollar bill and gets \$15.80 change. He leaves, but then comes back a few

minutes later with 20 cents saying, "Hey, could you give me a 20-dollar-note because I don't want to carry so much change around with me." Usually, the shopkeeper is so confused that he/she will give the con artist another twenty-dollar bill. In the end, the victim gives change twice.

The rabid dog scam

For this scam, the con artist is in the park and waits for a dog to come along. When the owner isn't looking, the con artist screams and pretends that the dog has



bitten him, **spreading** a bit of fake blood over his arm or leg. He then threatens to go to the police unless the victim pays a lot of money. Most victims pay because they are afraid of having their dog **put down**.



The bricks in the box scam

The con artist offers a top-of-the-range TV or DVD player for a very low price.

The victim buys it and is given a box that supposedly contains the TV or DVD player. Of course, when the victim takes it home, he discovers that the box is full of **bricks**.

GLOSSARY

- a scam** *n*
a trick designed to make money dishonestly/illegally
- an accomplice** *n*
someone who helps another person commit a crime
- a bill** *n*
a piece of paper informing you how much you must pay
- per head** *exp*
for each person
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true even though it isn't
- an undercover police officer** *n*
a police officer who wears ordinary clothes for work on a secret operation
- fake** *adj*
not real; a copy
- a badge** *n*
a small piece of metal that shows that you belong to a particular organisation
- a wallet** *n*
an object men use to carry money, credit cards, etc
- counterfeit notes** *n*
paper money that is not real but that appears to be real
- to cold call** *exp*
to telephone a person from a list of unknown people in order to sell them something
- a top-of-the-range car** *n*
the most exclusive car in a series of cars of the same make
- to spread** *vb*
to put a substance all over a surface so there is a thin layer
- to put down** *phr vb*
to kill humanely and in a controlled manner (in reference to an animal)
- a brick** *n*
a rectangular piece of baked clay used for building houses



PHRASAL VERB THEMES: DRIVING II

This month we are looking at some more phrasal verbs related to driving.

RUN OUT OF PETROL
TO HAVE NO MORE PETROL IN THE PETROL TANK.

"OH, NO. WE'VE RUN OUT OF PETROL. I TOLD YOU TO STOP AT THAT GARAGE BACK THERE."

WRITE OFF A CAR
TO COMPLETELY DESTROY A CAR SO THAT IT CANNOT BE USED ANY LONGER.

"WE HAD A CRASH AND COMPLETELY WROTE OFF THE CAR."

DROP SOMEONE OFF
TO LET SOMEONE GET OUT OF A CAR.

"JUST DROP ME OFF AT THE TRAIN STATION, IF THAT'S OK WITH YOU."

SET OFF ON A JOURNEY
TO START A JOURNEY.

"WE SET OFF AT 6AM THIS MORNING AND STARTED THE WALK ABOUT 10 MINUTES AGO."

TURN OFF
TO LEAVE A MOTORWAY OR ROAD AS YOU ARE DRIVING.

"YOU NEED TO TURN OFF AT JUNCTION 36. THEN, YOU NEED TO TAKE THE FIRST TURNING ON THE RIGHT."

DO UP A SEAT BELT
TO FASTEN A SEAT BELT SO IT IS FIXED AROUND YOUR BODY.

"EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SITTING IN THE BACK, YOU STILL HAVE TO DO UP YOUR SEAT BELT."

CAUGHT UP IN TRAFFIC
TO BE TRAPPED ON A ROAD WITH LOTS OF CARS WHICH ARE MOVING VERY SLOWLY.

"I'M SORRY I'M LATE. I'M CAUGHT UP IN TRAFFIC."

LET DOWN (TYRES)
IF YOU "LET DOWN" SOMEONE'S TYRES, YOU OPEN A VALVE AND LET THE AIR OUT.

"HE THINKS THAT SOMEONE LET HIS TYRES DOWN."

The Whitechapel Trousers 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?

Answers on page 49
Audio script on next page

First listening

In this scene, Inspector Nottingham Forest and Sergeant Hamilton are about to interview a witness to the crime. Listen once. What important information does the witness have?

Second listening

Listen again. Then, answer these questions.

1. How long has Inspector Nottingham Forest been in the police force?
2. Where does Inspector Nottingham Forest send Constable Vale?
3. What does Constable Vale have to do there?
4. Where are Inspector Nottingham Forest and Sergeant Hamilton going?
5. When will Inspector Nottingham Forest be back?
6. Who threw a pail of latrine water in Inspector Nottingham Forest's face?
7. In what part of the Guttersnipe's body does Inspector Nottingham Forest have his foot?
8. Why does Inspector Nottingham Forest tell the Guttersnipe to lay still?
9. What did the gent do to the Guttersnipe?



Disastrous

Grotesque

Pathetic

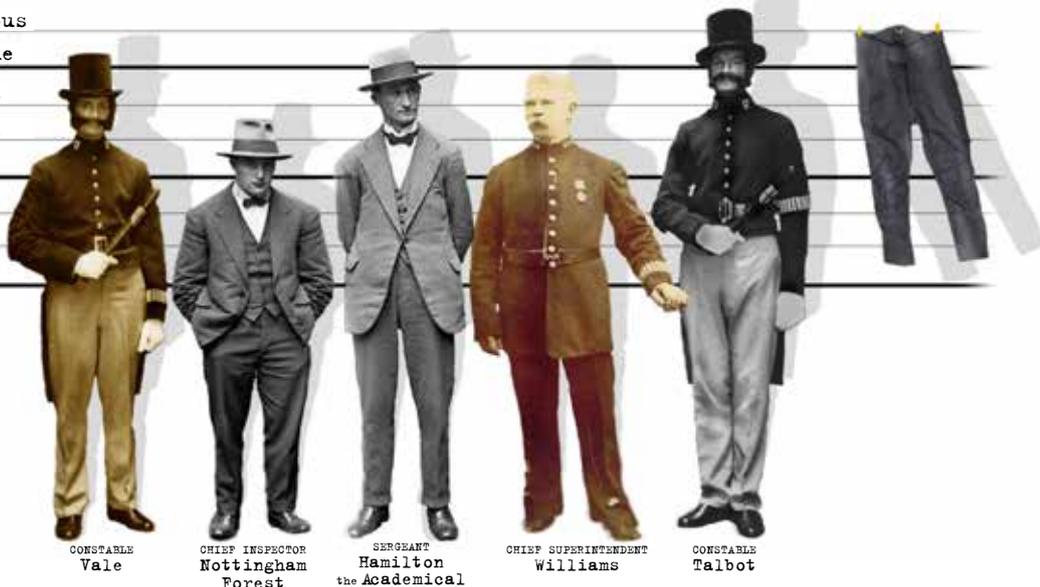
Dreadful

Rubbish

Cheap

Awful

Pap



CONSTABLE
Vale

CHIEF INSPECTOR
Nottingham
Forest

SERGEANT
Hamilton
the Academical

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
Williams

CONSTABLE
Talbot

TRANSCRIPT

Part IV

Narrator: In the last episode we met Inspector Nottingham Forest and his trusted **sidekick** Hamilton the Academical. They were investigating the **foul** and horrid murder of a Victorian city gent whose **breeches** were torn off him in a public place. In this episode, our heroes meet the only **witness** to the foul crime whilst being **urinated** on my Hamilton's trusted dog Ranger.

H= Hamilton
N= Notts Forest
Na= Narrator
N= Con Talbot
R= Ranger
G= Guttersnipe

Scene 4 -

Inspector Forest and Sergeant Hamilton are outside Scotland Yard and are about to get in a **carriage** to drive to the scene of the crime. Constables Vale and Talbot are awaiting orders. Hamilton's dog Ranger is sitting next to him.

H: I understand this case is influenced from the top, Inspector Forest. Why's it so important?
 NP: Oh, Hamilton, Windbag **refused** to tell me, you know what he's like mixing in those **political circles**, it could be anything.
 H: What do you think it is all about Inspector?
 NP: I don't know Sergeant Hamilton. I'm going to have to investigate it. More work. Been here twenty years and all they can do is send me running around London like some obedient **ferret**.
 C: Oh, I've got a ferret.
 NP: Shut up, Constable Vale and get yourself down to the **mortuary**...
 C: (interrupting) Ooh am I dead?
 NP: ...and find out if Dr O'Midlothian has found any **clues** from the victim. Hamilton and I are off to that **stinking latrine, Whitechapel**.
 C: Ooh have they installed the latrine in Whitechapel?
 NP: Constable Talbot?
 C: Inspector.
 NP: I have a feeling this case may be a **tricky** one. So, stay here and see if you can **falsify** some **evidence**. I will be back in about two hours, Sergeant Hamilton?
 H: Yes Inspector.
 NP: Is there a reason why your **hound** is **peeing** on my trouser?
 R: Woof! Woof!
 NP: Er, I think it's because he likes you inspector. He only does **wee-wees** on people he likes.
 NP: Really, Hamilton, and why is it that he only likes me?
 H: Er, well, he respects **authority**.
 NP: Respect. I don't regard **expelling waste body matter** on someone as a sign of respect.
 H: It is in dog language.
 NP: Well, I don't speak dog language, do I Hamilton?

H: Well, how come I saw your wife throwing a **pail** of **latrine water** in your face when I **dropped you home** last Tuesday?
 NP: Sergeant.
 H: Oh dear, come on, Ranger, hurry up and finish, quick as you can, there's a good boy.
 NP: I'm not a violent man, Hamilton.
 H: Oh yes you are. [They travel by carriage to interview the witness.]

Inspector Nottingham Forest and Hamilton the Academical are at the scene of the crime to interview a witness.

H: This is the last person to see the victim alive, inspector.
 NP: Where?
 H: You're standing on him.
 G: [Inspector Forest has his foot in the Guttersnipe's mouth] I hope I'm not too uncomfortable for you, sir? May I suggest that I remove my mouth from around you foot to make the conversation go more **smoothly**?
 NP: Oh yes, I was wondering who would **spot** that. Please lay completely still. I do not want to lose my balance.
 G: Oh, very good, sir, I am Guttersnipe. How can I help?
 NP: My sergeant informs me that you were here a couple of nights ago and witnessed a foul deed.
 G: Well, that's not entirely right, sir, as I only heard the unfortunate **gent** scream after he had **kicked me senseless** and left.
 NP: I see.
 G: Erm, if you could move your left foot a little, sir, that would be so kind as you're right on top of me face, thank you.
 NP: What else do you remember apart from what you have told Sergeant Hamilton?
 G: Well, you removing your boot from my face, sir, has reminded me that there was a second gent who was walking in the same direction as the victim not a few moments later.
 NP: And, erm, what did he look like? [fades out]

Join us next time for the following episode in this exciting murder mystery. What do you think is going to happen? ☺

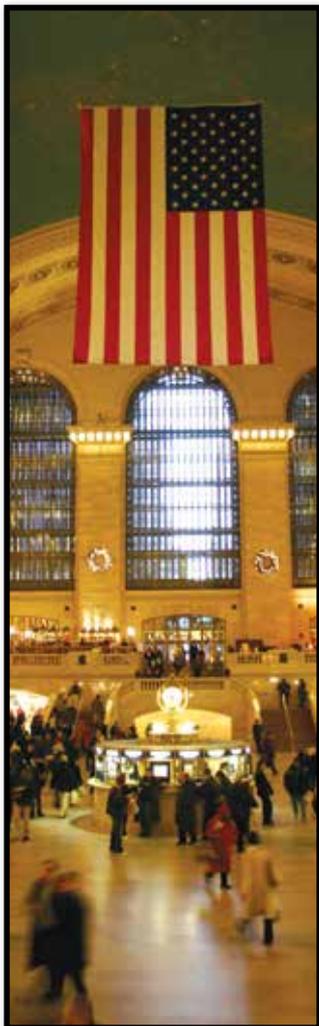
GLOSSARY

a sidekick *n*
a friend or assistant who accompanies a more powerful person on an adventure
foul *adj*
terrible, horrible
breeches *n Old*
trousers
a witness *n*
someone who sees a crime
to urinate *vb*
when someone "urinates", they go to the toilet to remove liquid from their body
a carriage *n*
a vehicle with wheels. It's often pulled by horses
to refuse *vb*
to say that you won't do something
political circles *n*
if you mix in "political circles", you have friends who are politicians or in the government
a ferret *n*
a small, long animal used for hunting rabbits
a mortuary *n*
a room in a hospital (for example) where they keep dead bodies before burying them
a clue *n*
a piece of information that helps you solve a crime
a stinking latrine *n*
a terrible, disgusting, horrible place. Literally, a "latrine" is a toilet
Whitechapel *n*
a working class area in the East End of London
tricky *adj*
difficult
to falsify *vb*
if someone "falsifies" information, they invent or change it
evidence *n*
information used to show that someone is guilty or innocent of a crime
a hound *n*
a dog
to pee *vb informal*
to urinate (see previous entry)
wee-wee *n informal*
the liquid that comes out of someone's body when they urinate
authority *n*
someone in "authority" has power: a police officer, a government official, etc.
to expel waste body matter *exp*
to go to the toilet to remove substances from the body
a pail *n*
a wooden or metal container for water
latrine water *n*
water that has been used to clean toilets, or liquid produced when people go to the toilet
to drop someone home *exp*
if you "drop someone home", you take them to their house in your car (for example)
to hurry up *phr vb*
to be quick
smoothly *adv*
if things go "smoothly", they go well
to spot *vb*
to see or notice
a gent *n*
a gentleman: a man from the upper class of society
to kick senseless *exp*
to kick someone so many times that they lose consciousness

Headline news

Workaholics

A new study claims that US workers are spending too much time at work. Employees across the US have far fewer holiday days than their **European equivalents** and the **survey** suggests that this could have a negative impact on their quality of life. The report said that US culture should change and suggested that Americans "take more time to relax, **kick back** and de-stress". Currently, people in the US work, on average, twenty days a year more than Europeans.



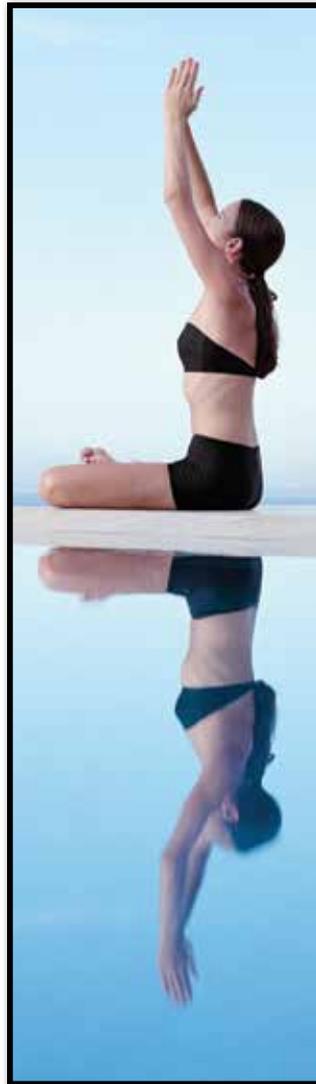
Internet Addiction

Some children in China are being treated for addiction to the internet. Children in Beijing can now attend a clinic for periods of two weeks or one month. The internet has arrived with force in China and many young males are becoming severely **hooked**, usually in internet chat rooms or on on-line games. One teenager Wang Yiming said "I used to **go without food** and sleep; I just couldn't leave it alone".



Back Pain

The potential for yoga to be used to treat lower back pain is being investigated by **researchers**. Millions of people suffer from chronic back pain, and existing treatments have only a limited effect. A team of academics, yoga teachers and practitioners have joined forces to find out if a 12-week course of yoga can **make a difference**. Recent, small studies in the US have shown that yoga can be helpful for back pain sufferers.



Elvis Bottle

It once belonged to Elvis Presley. And now it's been sold for \$28,800. A **prescription drug** bottle, which had previously contained the antihistamine drug Naldecon, was sold at a US **auction**. "We'd planned to sell the bottle with the pills, but the Los Angeles Police Department told us it would be a federal crime to do it, so, sad to say, we had to **remove** the pills," a spokesperson for the auction house said. Other items were also sold at the auction, including Alfred Hitchcock's passport, which sold for \$19,200. ☺



GLOSSARY

- a European equivalent** *n*
someone in Europe who is in the same situation
- a survey** *n*
if you carry out a "survey", you ask people questions in order to get their opinions on something
- to kick back** *phr vb* *inform*
to relax
- to be hooked on something** *exp*
to be addicted to something
- to go without food** *exp*
to live with no food
- a researcher** *n*
an investigator
- to make a difference** *exp*
to have an effect on something
- a prescription drug** *n*
a drug that the doctor gives you permission to take
- an auction** *n*
a public sale
- to remove** *vb*
to take away

Let's be



friends

(if we aren't already!)

Shaken & Stirred

The incredible story of the 1970's Martini girl.

She was a glamorous model. She mixed with the **smart set**. And she led a Bohemian lifestyle. She was the model who represented the **chic** drink of the 1970s, Martini. But her life **took a turn for the worse** and she died a poor, elderly woman in Liverpool. So, what happened?

Martini ads

These days, George Clooney is the ambassador for the most stylish drink in the world: Martini. In the Martini ads, he plays the part of the guy who won't **give up** his bottles of Martini for anything in the world, not even a **stunningly attractive** woman. But back in the 1970s, it was a beautiful model who represented the drink with the **suggestive** catch-phrase "any time, any place, any where". She appeared on a photo next to a pool, and helped to **treble sales** of the drink (assisted, of course, by that other famous Martini drinker: James Bond). So, who was the Martini girl?

Without trace

The model in question was Erica Wills, a 22-year-old former air-hostess. Wills was born in 1949. She was christened Deborah, and was the daughter of Jayne, an **underwear** model, and John, a professional soldier. After an education at St Anne's College for Young Ladies, she trained as stewardess for British Airways. On her **debut flight** as a senior stewardess in first class, she was asked to investigate a young couple who appeared to be making love under an airline **blanket**. The couple in question **turned out to be**

none other than John Lennon and Yoko Ono. The flight was eventually diverted to Rome. Later on, Wills developed an addiction to Valium which **led to claustrophobia**, and which, in turn, forced her to retire from flying. She started modelling after she was "spotted" in a lift in a shop in Edinburgh by Jean Shrimpton (a top model of the day). As a result of becoming the world-famous Martini model, Wills moved in glamorous circles, including holidaying with Tom Jones and lunching with footballer George Best. But in 1972, a year after the famous Martini photo was taken, she suddenly **disappeared without trace**. Where had she gone?

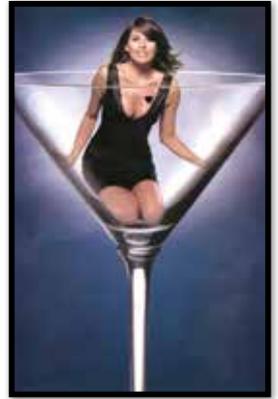
Drugs and dances

Actually, Wills had emigrated to Beirut. And she soon found herself in trouble. She had originally gone to help a friend. However, after a night in a bar, Wills woke up to discover that her passport had been stolen, and that she'd signed a contract forcing her to work as a dancer at the bar, which was a kind of **upmarket brothel**. Several months later, she met Elie Ayache, a Lebanese playboy and son of one of the country's wealthiest and most politically-connected families (they owned the Ferrari

franchise for the Middle East). Ayache fell in love with Wills on the spot, and negotiated to "buy" her for \$5,000. They married in 1975, and remained together for fifteen years. Later on, Wills worked with another model on a **risqué** dance act, which they took to audiences across the Middle East. She also gave birth to two daughters. When the Lebanese civil war broke out, they were living in Muslim West Beirut. During the war, they were forced to live in a basement for six months, with little food, water or electricity.

Escape

Later that year, Wills and her daughters escaped Lebanon on a **hydrofoil** driven by Dutch mercenaries. They went to live near Wills' mother in St Andrews, Scotland, leaving Ayache behind; they were later divorced, and he died in 2004. In Scotland, Wills met and married a local **publican** called Robert Alexander. They **split** just over a decade later after Wills met Neil Jackson, a professor of architecture. Deborah Jackson, as she became, spent the rest of her life in York and Liverpool. On 18th May, she died following a **stroke**, aged 57. And so ended the remarkable life of the original Martini Girl. ☹



GLOSSARY

the smart set *n*
the fashionable, famous people
chic *adj*
fashionable
to take a turn for the worse *exp*
to become even worse
to give up *phr vb*
to stop doing something
stunningly attractive *exp*
very, very attractive/beautiful
suggestive *adj*
that causes you to think about sex
to treble sales *exp*
to sell three times more than before
underwear *n*
clothing you wear under your trousers, skirt, etc
a debut flight *n*
the first time you fly in a plane
a blanket *n*
a large piece of material (often made of wool) used to keep you warm
to turn out to be *exp*
to be something eventually
to lead to *phr vb*
if A leads to B, A causes B
claustrophobia *n*
feelings of anxiety and stress when you are in a closed space
to disappear without trace *exp*
if someone does this, they disappear and no one knows what has happened to them
upmarket *adj*
expensive and of a good quality
a brothel *n*
a house where prostitutes work
risqué *adj*
a bit rude because it refers to sex
a hydrofoil *n*
a boat which can travel on the surface of the water
a publican *n*
a person who manages a pub
to split *vb*
to separate
a stroke *n*
if someone has a "stroke", a blood vessel in their brain bursts (explodes) or gets blocked and they may die or become paralysed

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The increasing number of icebergs that are **breaking off** from Antarctica and **drifting** away into the ocean have become interesting new habitats a recent report has said. A group of American scientists say these icebergs **hold** important nutrients which slowly drift into the sea and attract a large number of different species of fish and seabirds. These micro habitats can exist for up to two miles in any direction

around a large iceberg the report has said. The researchers studied 1,000 different icebergs across 4,300 square miles of the southern oceans as they were performing their **research**. They found that many rare species of seabird were also using the icebergs as "mobile homes" and that they were a good base from which to **hunt** the large number of fish. A further interesting part of the study says that the increased

levels of phytoplankton, which also live around the icebergs, increase the absorption of CO2 gasses in the environment, **meaning** that the icebergs could have a positive effect on the problems caused by global warming. One of the lead researchers, Ken Smith, said, "This is a new and very interesting area for scientists to study." These icebergs are said to increase the productivity of an ecological area by up to 40%. ☺



Floating Ecosystems

Icebergs create new ecological areas.

GLOSSARY

- to break off** *phr vb*
to separate
- to drift** *vb*
when something "drifts", it is carried by the wind or water
- to hold** *vb*
to contain
- research** *n*
investigation
- to hunt** *vb*
to look for something in order to catch or kill it
- to mean** *vb*
if A "means" B, then A leads to B or causes B

Answers

Supermarket Shock page 7

1B 2A 3D 4C 5E

Listening

1. They are destroying small towns.
2. In the past, many people got things from specialist shops in the town centre.
3. Because supermarkets offer a wider selection of goods at lower prices.
4. They are becoming like ghost towns.
5. Because people have to drive there to do their shopping.

Language focus

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets ().

1. Having
2. Destroying
3. Buy
4. Used
5. Have / are having
6. Buy
7. Offers
8. To leave
9. To close
10. Have / are having

Freedom of Information page 8

Listening I

You can access information about anyone.

Listening II

1. Their marketing campaigns
2. MIS or the security services
3. control over this
4. your wage or you home life
5. left right and centre
6. information about just about anyone

Language focus

1. Out of
2. On
3. On
4. On
5. Down/up

6. In
7. On
8. Up

Trivia Matching page 16

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

Speeches page 20

1. read
2. grandparent
3. alive
4. idea
5. time
6. powerful
7. marches
8. online
9. free
10. future
11. difference
12. intelligence
13. friendships

Jokes page 27

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

Phone call page 28

Pre Listening

1. True
2. False: the 11th century
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. False: 1685
7. True
8. False: 1861

Listening I

1. The ESL4000.
2. Two.
3. Metallic silver and black.
4. The silver one.
5. £399.99.
6. Lenses that usually cost around £250 in the shops.

7. From the webpage.

Listening II

1. How can I help you?
2. In stock
3. At the moment
4. I was after
5. Can I order
6. Direct
7. Track
8. Check

Typical Dialogues page 32

1. Gordon represents bald people.
2. Gordon takes off the interviewer's wig.

The Whitechapel Trousers Snatcher page 45

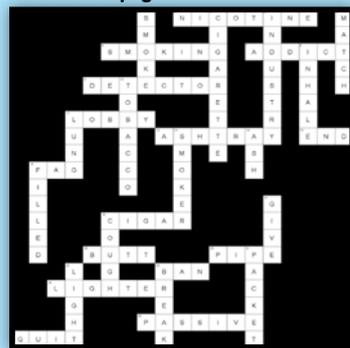
First listening

The witness says that he noticed a second gent walking in the same direction as the victim a few moments later.

Second listening

1. 1. 20 years.
2. To the mortuary.
3. He has to speak to Dr O'Midlothian.
4. To Whitechapel.
5. In about two hours.
6. His wife.
7. In the Guttersnipe's mouth.
8. So that Inspector Nottingham Forest doesn't lose his balance.
9. The gent kicked the Guttersnipe senseless.

Wordsearch page 4



"Smoke" Crossword page 26



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NEW WORDS

Ever felt the **urge** to invent a new word? With all the rapid changes taking place in society, new words are **cropping up** all the time. Just recently, Collins, one of the world's biggest dictionary publishers, launched a website called the Collins Word Exchange. Anyone from around the world can send in their suggestions for new words. Here are some of them, along with a few of our own. This is the first of a new series. More next month.



Tween
this word was recently coined in the US. It refers to a child between the ages of eight and thirteen. **Sam, Minnesota.**



Flexitarian
somebody like a vegetarian who sometimes eats meat for a reason (i.e. it's Thanksgiving Day). Or a non-smoker who has a cigarette after a meal sometimes. **Bob, Texas.**



Drunch
a meal that you eat combining lunch and dinner. Similar to "brunch" (which is a combination of breakfast and lunch). **Greg, New York City.**

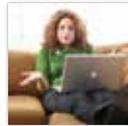


Funner
everybody uses it, but it still hasn't become a real word. Can they just make "funner" a word? Well, they should. **Sally, Wisconsin.**



Blunkettism
blaming the world for one's own self-imposed problems. This word comes from the name of the former

government minister **David Blunkett**. **Paula, England.**



Whoa
I would add this word, which is an expression of **bewilderment**. **Steve, Canada.**



Widget
I'm a fan of using the word "widget" to describe the USB memory keys/sticks that have **stealthily** become completely **indispensable**. **Alyson, Paris.**



Misunderestimate
I believe there are many words that need to be added to the dictionary that President Bush has made up, including "**misunderestimate**". **Mary, Boston.**



Uncoldable
my young son came up with a new word to describe why he didn't need to wear a coat to school: he explained that he was "**uncoldable**" (i.e. he couldn't get cold). **Mark, Dubai.**



Guesstimate
the combination of "to guess" and "to estimate". Wonderful. **Steve, Canada.**



Smirting
as you know, many countries have banned smoking in pubs. As a result, those who can't resist the urge to light up are obliged to stand outside. This has led to a new phenomenon known as "smirting", which is basically a combination of "smoking" and "**flirting**". Many do it, so it should be in the dictionary. **Rory, Dublin. ☆**

GLOSSARY

an urge to do something *exp*
a strong desire to do something
to crop up *phr vb*
to appear suddenly and unexpectedly
funner *n inform*
more fun. Remember, this isn't an accepted English term
David Blunkett *n*
a blind government minister who was forced to resign because of a number of scandals
bewilderment *n*
a feeling of confusion
stealthily *adj*
secretly and steadily
indispensable *adj*
something that is "indispensable" is difficult to live without
to make up *phr vb*
to invent
misunderestimate *vb inform*
a word that has been invented by George Bush that is a mixture of "misunderstand" and "underestimate"
to flirt *vb*
to act in a way that shows you are sexually attracted to someone

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