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How to IMPROVE YOUR READING SKILLS!



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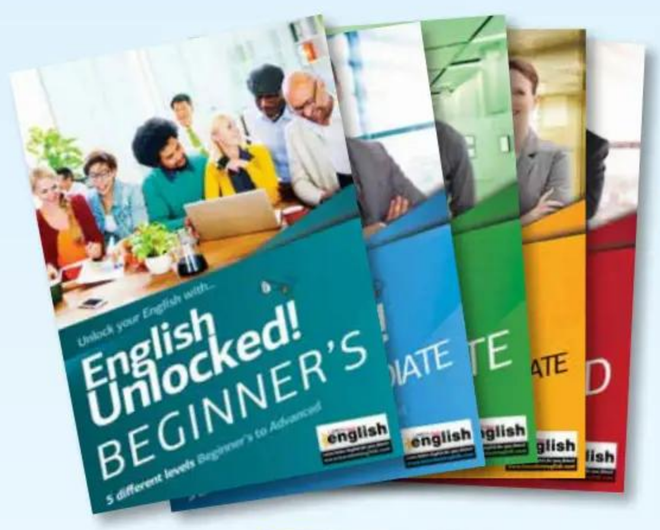


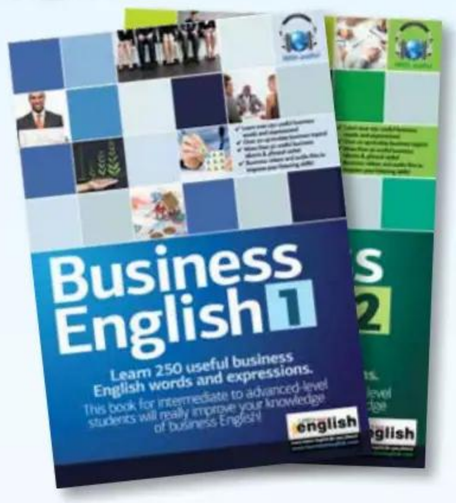


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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the practical magazine for learning English. In this month's issue, we're looking at 16 really useful 'water' idioms for work and life. Native English speakers use idioms all the time. So, you need to understand them if you want to follow conversations. In this lesson, you'll learn some really useful 'water' idioms to use in business, work and life in general.
Of course, that's not all and we're also looking at a quiz, Brighton, Grunge music, living abroad, King Arthur, science, songs, the movie *Philadelphia*, the group Nirvana, an unusual story, white elephants (useless buildings), rap music, dumb laws, weather words, idioms, phrasal verbs, useful vocabulary and lots, lots more. Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy

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









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WORDSEARCH

ANSWERS ON PAGE 63



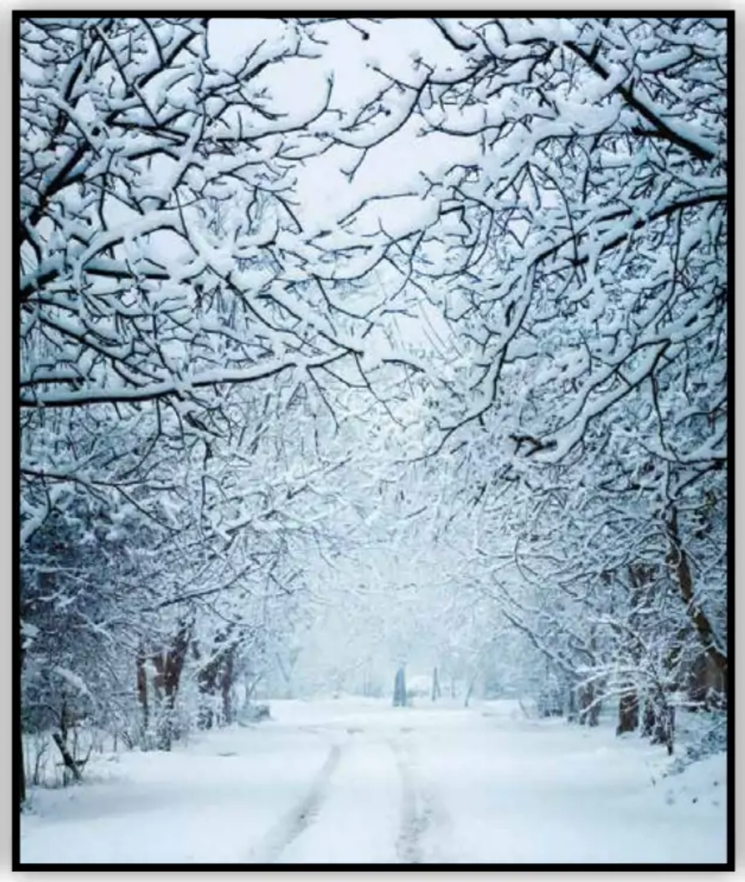
Weather Words

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

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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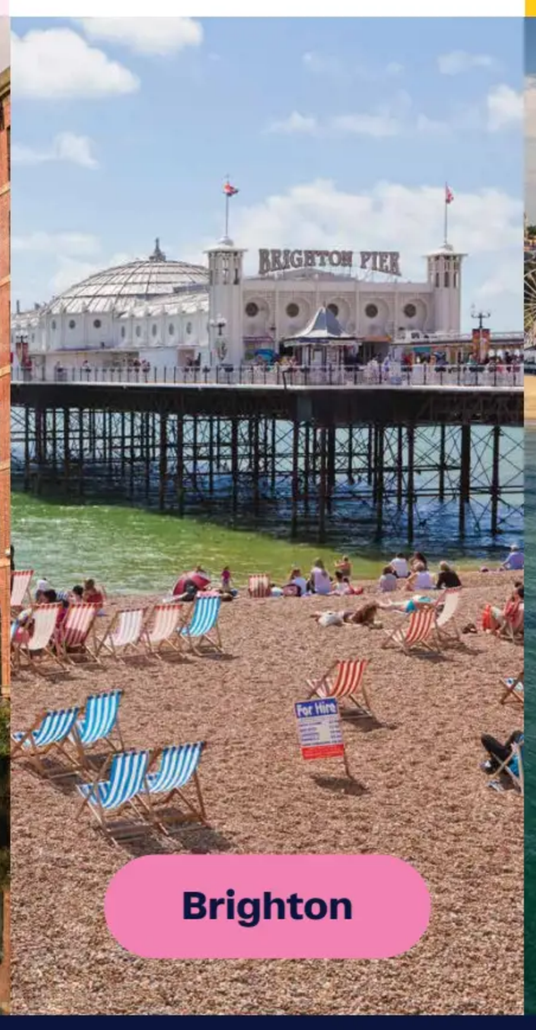
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AUDIO

GRAMMAR BOOSTER

HOW TO USE THE PRESENT SIMPLE PASSIVE TO EXPLAIN A PROCESS

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I'm paid in dollars.	*I'm not paid in dollars.*	*Am I paid in dollars?*
You're paid in dollars.	*You aren't paid in dollars.*	*Are you paid in dollars?*
He's paid in dollars.	*He isn't paid in dollars.*	*Is he paid in dollars?*
She's paid in dollars.	*She isn't paid in dollars.*	*Is she paid in dollars?*
It's paid in dollars.	*It isn't paid in dollars.*	*Is it paid in dollars?*
We're paid in dollars.	*We aren't paid in dollars.*	*Are we paid in dollars?*
They're paid in dollars.	*They aren't paid in dollars.*	*Are they paid in dollars?*

The full forms are: *I'm = I am, you're = you are; he's = he is; she's = she is; it's = it is; we're = we are; they're = they are*
Negative contractions: *isn't = is not; aren't = are not*

We form the Present Simple Passive with is/are and a past participle. For example:

a) The wine **is produced** here.
b) The rooms **are cleaned** every week.

We form negatives with *isn't / aren't* and a past participle. For example

a) The wine **isn't** produced here.
b) The rooms **aren't** cleaned every week.

In active sentences, the person or thing doing the action is the subject of the sentence. For example:

a) Jack prepares the food at midday = *Jack* (subject) + *prepares* (verb) + *the food* (object)
b) Ellie sends the e-mails every day = *Ellie* (subject) + *sends* (verb) + *the e-mails* (object)

However, with passives, the person or thing receiving the action is the main focus of the sentence. For example:

a) The food is prepared at midday by Jack.
b) The e-mails are sent every day by Ellie.

Notice how the person who does the action can appear at the end of the sentence after the word "by". You don't have to add this information. For example, "The food is prepared at midday."

We use the passive when...

a) ...we don't know who performs the action = "The goods are sent by train."
b) ...it isn't important who performs the action = "Breakfast is served at 7am."
c) ...it's obvious who performs the action = "Cereal is grown here." [Obviously, farmers grow the cereal.]
d) ...we want to distance ourselves from something = "Mistakes are made." [This is instead of saying, "I make mistakes", which implies personal responsibility.]
e) ...we need to explain a process = "The chemical is placed in a test tube. Then, it's mixed with another substance."



Dialogue: Starting a new job

Erin has just started a new job as an accountant at a glass factory. It's her first day and she's getting a tour of the factory floor. Jack Bates, one of the owners, is showing her around. **[Complete the dialogue with the correct past participles.]**

Jack: So, this is where the champagne glasses are **(1)** _____ .
Erin: Incredible!
Jack: Once the glasses are ready, they're **(2)** _____ on these tables over here. *[They walk over to the table.]*
Erin: Very impressive.
Jack: And then they're **(3)** _____ individually. Any glasses that aren't up to standard are discarded.
Erin: OK.
Jack: And then they're **(4)** _____ in bubble wrap and placed in boxes ready to be shipped out.
Erin: Very good. So, how does the purchasing system work?
Jack: Well, when someone puts in an order for champagne glasses from our website, an e-mail is **(5)** _____ to the accounts department. And this is where you'll be working.
Erin: OK.
Jack: Your job is to process the orders and make sure the information is **(6)** _____ down to the factory floor. *[Jack leans on one of the tables with the glasses on it.]* Oh, I wouldn't lean on that table.
Erin: What?
Jack: *[shouting]* I said, I wouldn't lean on that table! *[The table breaks and all the glasses are smashed.]*
Erin: Whoops! Sorry.
Jack: What have you done?

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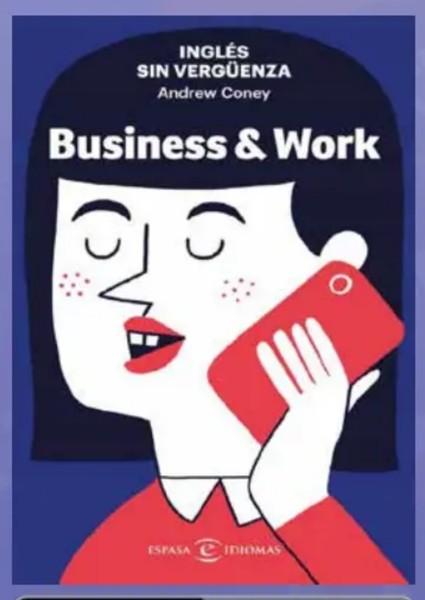
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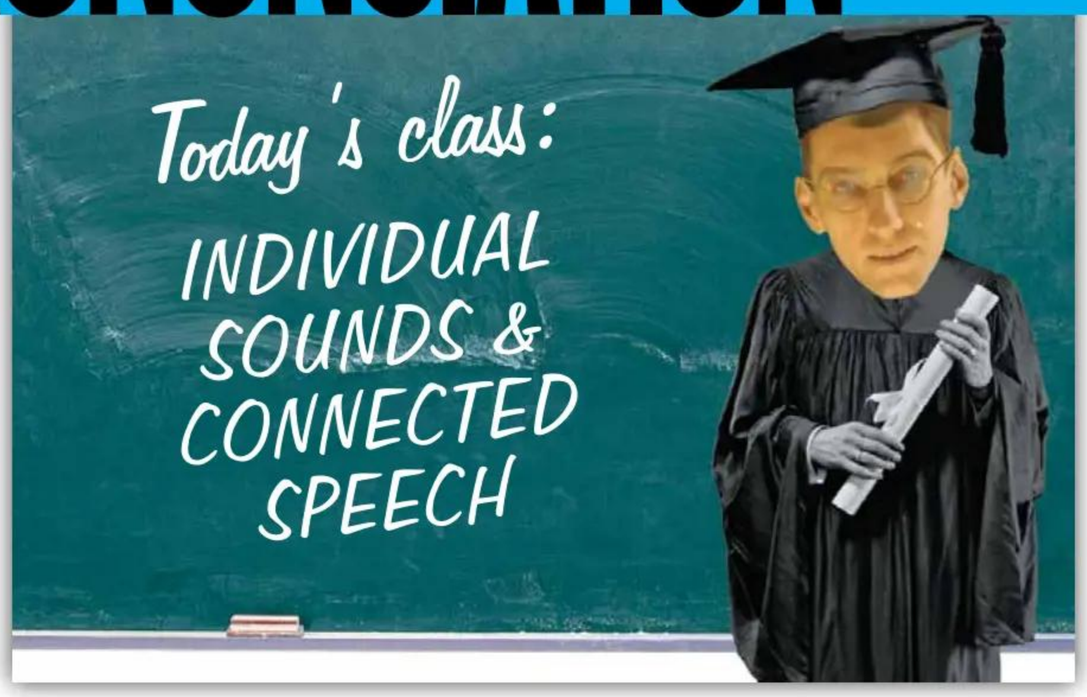
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DR FINGERS' PRONUNCIATION

AUDIO

Hello, everybody and welcome to my pronunciation course. Every month, I will be helping you with different aspects of pronunciation. OK, let's get started.



Part I
Individual Sounds

In this section, I'll be telling you all about the pronunciation of the long sound in words such as "sh**ee**p". This is a very difficult sound and it can cause a lot of difficulties, especially for sheep farmers who have to say the word "sheep" several times a day. Pronouncing this sound incorrectly could also be very embarrassing. There is a big difference between the word "sheep", which has the long sound, and "ship", which has the short sound. Imagine you are talking to a friend and you want to say the following:
"I have a pet sheep."
But you pronounce it incorrectly and your friend understands:
"I have a pet ship."
Now if you do that, your friend will probably think you are completely mad and refuse to speak to you ever again. So, in order to avoid any embarrassing situations, you will need to learn how to pronounce the long sound in the word "sheep". Let's practise saying a few words with the long sound and the short sound. The first word (in the left-hand column) has a long sound. You must emphasise this sound and stretch it out; and the second word (in the right-hand column) has the short sound:



Cheek	**Chick**
Bean	Bin
Eat	It
Seat	Sit
Sheep	Ship
Meet	**Mitt**
Cheap	Chip



This sound is also important with numbers. For example, all the "teens" (thirteen, fourteen, etc) have the long sound; and multiples of ten, such as sixty and seventy, have the short sound. Practise saying these numbers. The first number (in the left-hand column) has the long sound; and the second number (in the right-hand column) has the short sound:

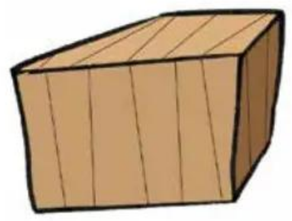
Thirteen	Thirty
Fourteen	Forty
Fifteen	Fifty
Sixteen	Sixty
Seventeen	Seventy

(There is an exercise on the CD to practise these different sounds.)

Part I
Connected Speech

Now let's look at another aspect of spoken English - connected speech. When you hear words in sentences, you will notice how some words are joined together and some of the sounds are not produced. Understanding all about connected speech will really help with your listening skills. For example, in the expression "a lot of" the "t" at the end of the word "lot" gets mixed up with the word "of" to produce a new word that sounds like "tof": "a lo tof". Now in the following sentences you have to guess where the connection between the words is. For example:
I'm a teacher = I ma teacher

Exercise Connected Speech



1. It's a box. _____
2. It's over.
3. She said it.
4. He did it on a table.
5. She's a doctor from a town in America. _____



So, what is the rule? Well, when one word finishes with a consonant sound and the next begins with a vowel sound, the consonant sound moves to the beginning of the second word. For example, "I'm a… " becomes "I ma… "
Well, that's enough for today. Bye for now and happy talking!



GLOSSARY

a cheek *n*
the part of your face on the side
a chick *n*
a baby chicken
a mitt *n*
clothing that covers your hands to keep them warm

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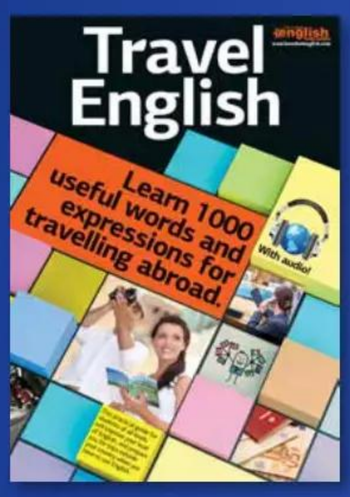


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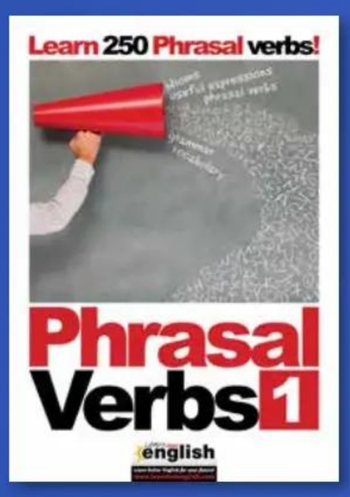
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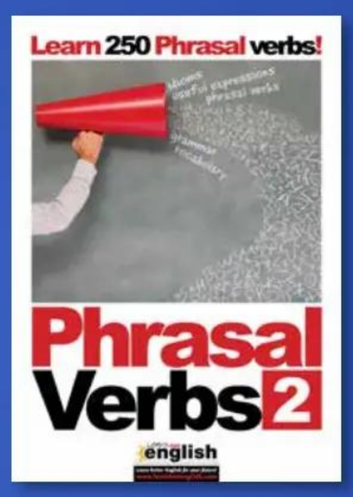
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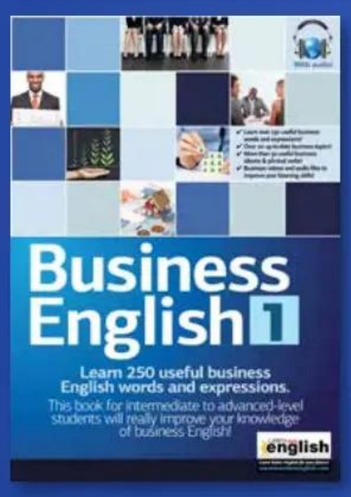


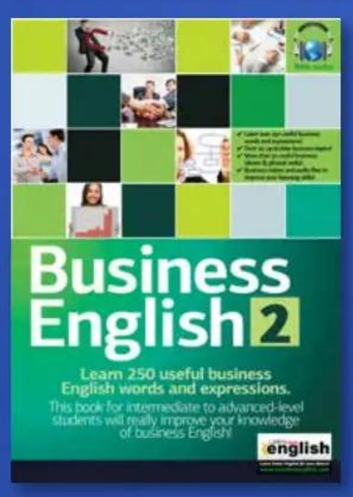






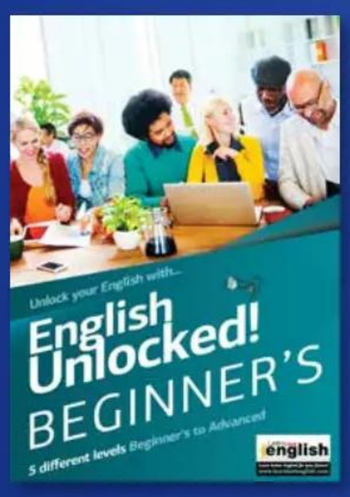


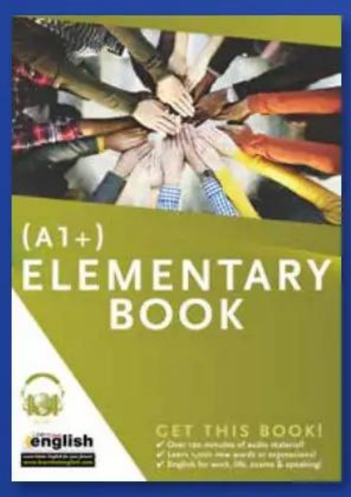


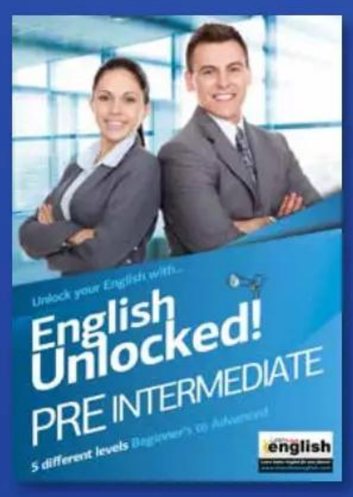




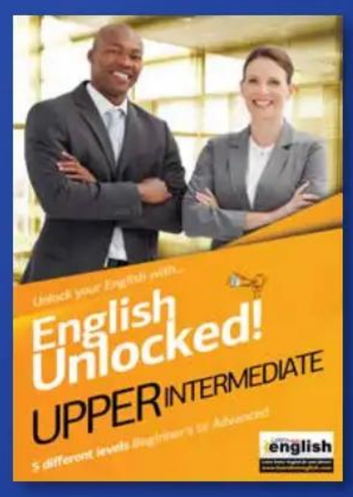


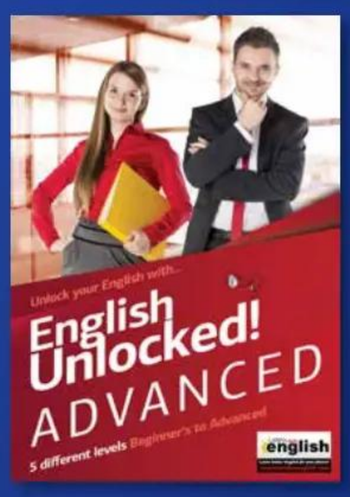












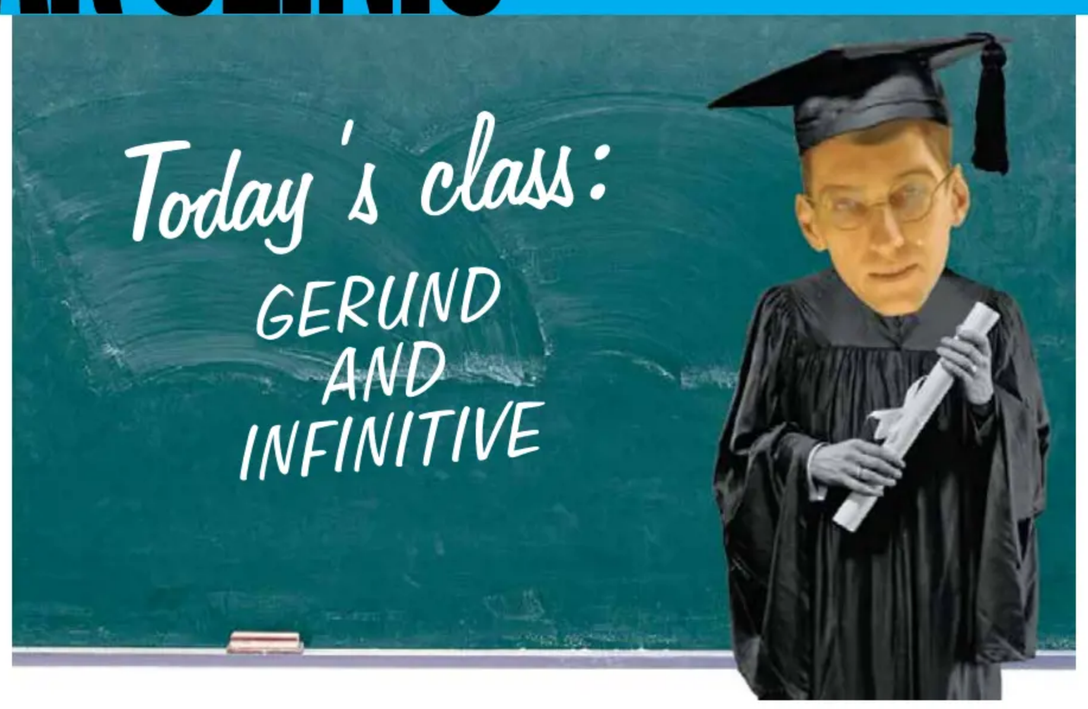
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DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC



Dear Readers,
Two months ago I received a letter from Jaime Corral asking me about the gerund and infinitive. Since then, we've been looking at examples of verbs that are followed by both the gerund and the infinitive. This month we'll be continuing with this and looking at the verbs "to go on", "to regret" and "interested". Next month, we'll be looking at more examples of verbs that are followed by the infinitive and the gerund.

1 To Go On

1A To go on + a gerund

To go on + a gerund is used to talk about continuing what you have been doing. Here are some examples for you:
"They **went on playing** football all night."
"We'll **go on eating** the chocolate until we die."
"I **went on working** a long time after the others had stopped."

1B To go on + an infinitive

If you **go on to do** something, you stop what you were doing and begin to do something different. Look at these examples:
"They **went on to talk** about politics." = "They stopped what they were doing and started to talk about politics."
"She **went on to form** a successful company after leaving her job." = "She left her job and formed a successful company."



2 To Regret

2A To regret + a gerund

This is used to talk about things you did in the past that you feel bad about:
"I **regret talking** to him like that."
"She **regrets taking** the car."
"She **regrets having taken** the car."
Notice how the last sentence uses the auxiliary verb "have" in the gerund. It is followed by a participle. It means exactly the same as, "she regrets taking the car." Look at these two examples. The meaning of both the sentences is exactly the same and they are both referring to the past:
a) "He **regrets working** there."
b) "He **regrets having worked** there."

2B To regret + an infinitive

You use **to regret** + an infinitive to say that you feel bad or are sorry about something that has happened or will happen:
"I **regret to inform** you but we will be unable to offer you the job."

3 To Be Interested

3A Interested + a gerund

We use **interested** + a gerund to talk about our intentions:
"I am **interested in working** in America sometime in the near future."
"She is **interested in finding out** what happened."
You can also use it to talk about hobbies:
"I'm **interested in going** to the cinema."

3B Interested + an infinitive

We use **interested** + an infinitive to talk about things that you are curious about:
"I was **interested to read** all about that new company the other day."
"I was **interested to hear** about her progress."

Goodbye for now and see you all next month.





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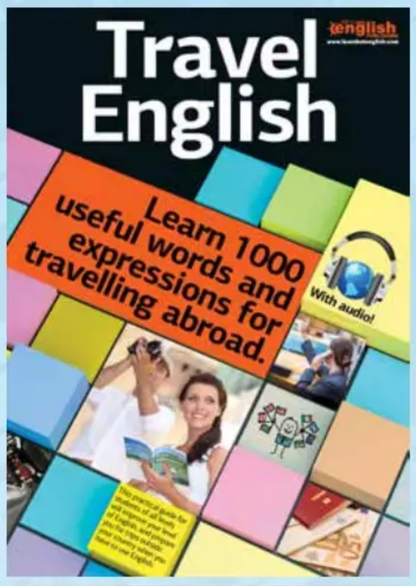
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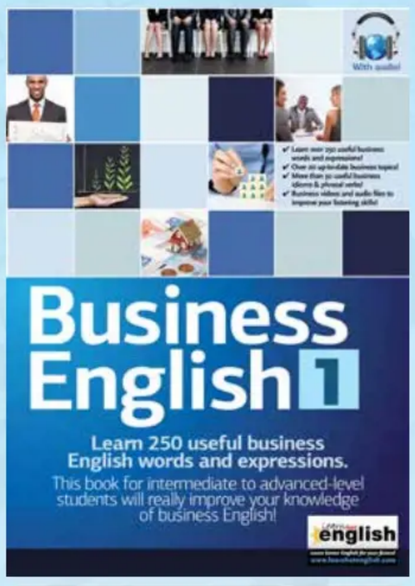
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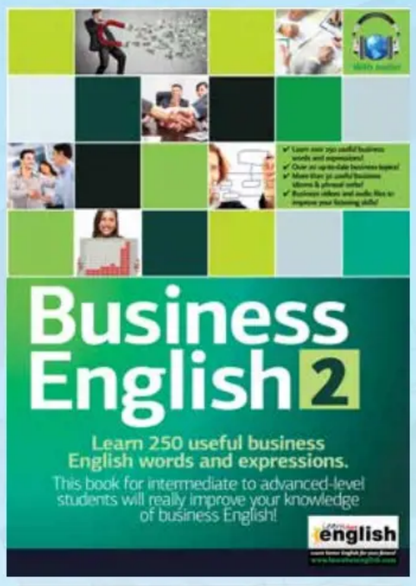
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AUDIO

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 63

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.



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NATURAL ENGLISH

AUDIO

What are some of the best holidays you've been on?

Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

Cecilia (Denmark, sociologist)



The best holidays I've had have been with my friends, with really **good company** especially my holiday in New York was really really cool because there were so many things to see and it was just a great experience.

Jack (USA, actor)



My favorite holiday I ever took was to the Grand Canyon in the United States, in the west. And we took a river **raft** down the Colorado River, and slept on the side of the Canyon for one week.

Remember!
When people talk informally, they often use non-standard English.

Jerneja (Slovenia, occupational therapist)



I don't know, probably in Turkey, erm, in September because in September my country is not warm anymore so we were there enjoying the beach and **having fun**.

Megan (England, fashion sales adviser)



I just love going on family holidays. They may not be the most exciting, fun thing that you might do, but spending time **relaxing** with your family at the beach, **round** the **pool**, or going to the **local markets**, **exploring** where you're staying is what I love. I've been to the south of France that was beautiful, exploring all that area. And that was one of my favorite holidays. We drove to the south of France and it took a very long time. When we got there, it was the most relaxing holiday I've ever been on. It was beautiful.

Jorge (Spain, freelance translator)



The best holidays I've been on were the Canary Islands because, well, I was really tired before and I could relax. Everything was very cheap, the beaches were very nice, the mountains, the Teide Mountain and I really enjoyed it because I was with my friends and it was the first time I went with them, so we really had a good time.

Indre (Lithuania, photographer)



I think it was in Canada. Er, I was only travelling there one week. We went to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa. Why for me it was so amazing **cos**, erm, I speak some French and I really admire the language and I felt so, so good when I was somewhere in North America and people could speak French to me and, erm, the country has so many beautiful places there, like thousands of islands as well where they have little houses in the middle of the lake. And it has so much nature and the people are so friendly. I really loved Canada and I really **wanna** come back.

GLOSSARY

good company *exp*
if someone is "good company", they're nice and fun and you like being with them
a raft *n*
an object made of wood or rubber that you sit in so you can go down a river
to have fun *exp*
if you "have fun", you're happy because you're doing something you like
to relax *vb*
if you "relax", you feel calm and you aren't worried or stressed
round *adj*
if you sit "round" the pool, you sit on the edge of the pool, or near the pool
a pool *n*
a swimming pool – a hole in the ground filled with water
a local market *n*
a "market" is a place outside where you can buy things (fruit, vegetables, toys, etc.). A "local market" is in the area you're talking about
to explore *vb*
if you "explore" a place, you travel around it and discover things about it
cos *exp inform*
because
wanna *exp inform*
want to

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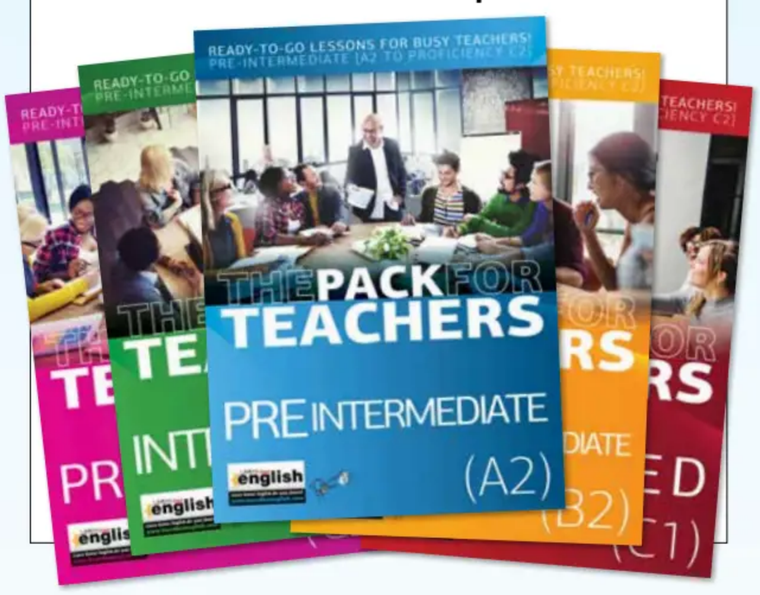


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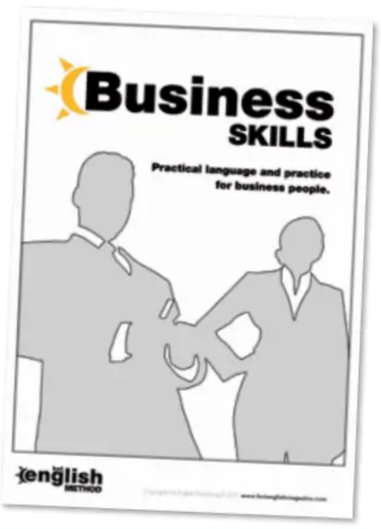


See page 11 for more info.

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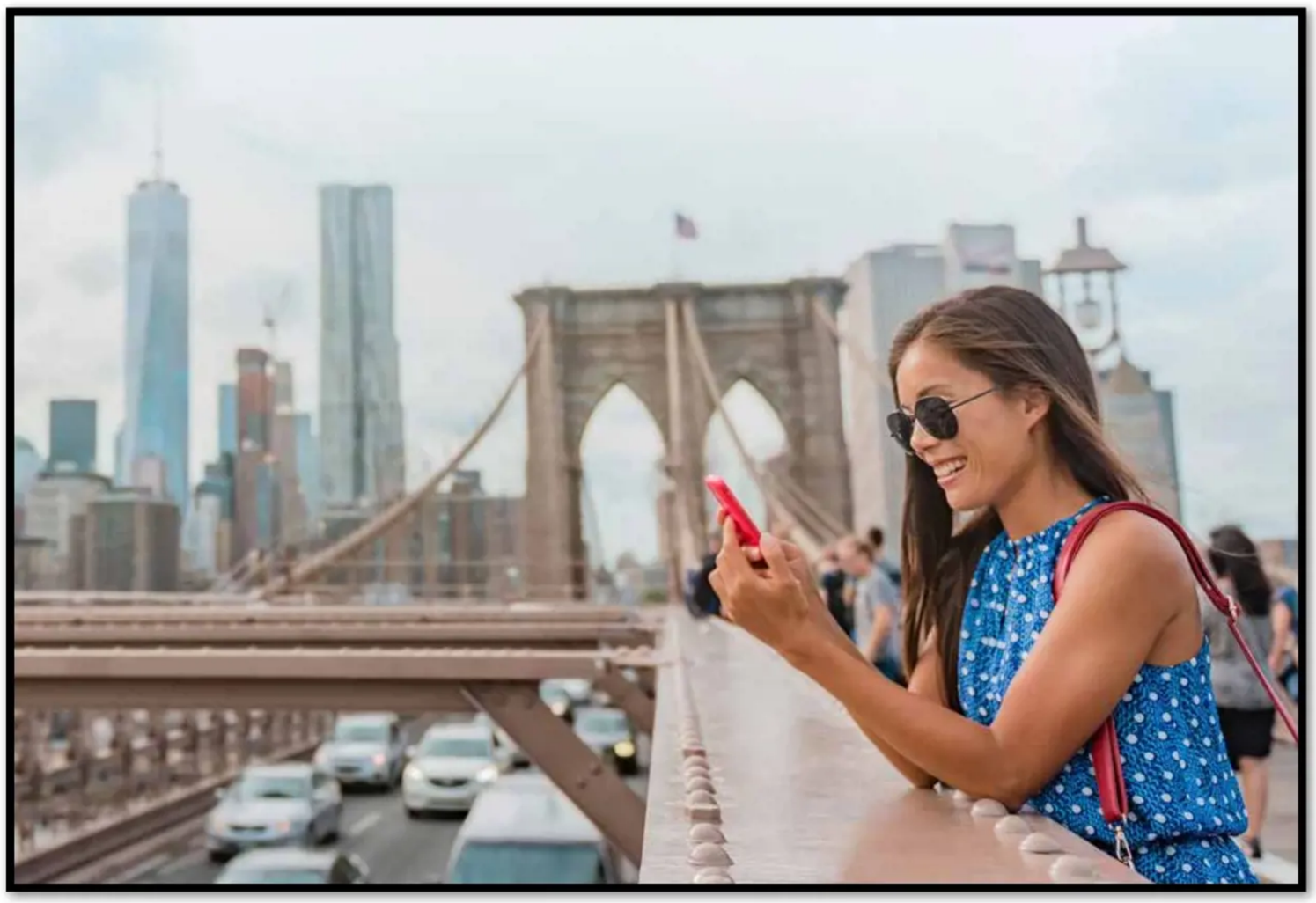
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AUDIO

TALKING ABOUT A HOLIDAY!



Pre-listening: New York!

Make a list of words or places that are associated with New York City. How many can you think of in one minute? For example: *Manhattan, Central Park, yellow taxi cabs, Times Square...*

Pre-listening discussion: New York City

- What do you know about New York City?
- What films or series are set in New York City?
- What would you like to see in New York City if you went there? Why?
- Which city would you like to visit in the United States? Why?
- Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the United States? Why?

Listening 1

Max and Pete are in a coffee shop, talking about their holidays. Pete went to New York City. How would you describe his trip there?

a) He had a terrible time.
b) He really enjoyed it.
c) He met a famous person there.

Answers on page 63

Listening 2

Listen again. Then, answer the questions below.

1. How long did Pete go to New York for?
2. What is third on this list of favourite places?
3. What is number 2 on his list?
4. What is number 1 on his list?
5. What does Pete show Max at the end of the conversation?

4 Discussion: Holidays & trips!

Discuss these questions in pairs.

- Where do you usually go on holiday?
- Who do you usually travel with?
- What do you like doing on holiday?
- Where do you want to go next?
- How do you usually book your trips?
- Where did you go on your last holiday?
- What did you do there?
- What was your favourite moment?
- Would you like to go back? Why? Why not?

Audio script M=Max P=Pete

M: So, how was your holiday?
P: Ah, it was great. I went to New York City for a week.
M: New York? Amazing! Tell me all about it!
P: Well, I've been there before, so I was already familiar with it.
M: Yeah, so, what were some of the best places you visited?
P: That's hard to choose, but I have a top three.
M: Go ahead.
P: Well, third on my list is Central Park. It's so beautiful with all the trees. We walked for almost three hours through the park. There's a big lake right in the middle and we rented a boat, which was great.
M: OK, so what's your next one after that?
P: Number two on my list is Times Square. There are lots of bright lights and people, and it's just like in the films, so for me, it's the perfect representation of New York City.
M: Oh, I've always wanted to go to Times Square!
P: Yeah, and number one isn't even a place at all – it's a type of food.
M: Let me guess, is it New York pizza?
P: Hey! How did you know?
M: Everybody knows that New York has the best pizza!
P: Yeah, well, the slice of pizza that I got it was huge.
M: Next time you go there, you have to take me with you!
P: Of course! Oh, here, look at the photos I got. This one was taken from… *[fades out]*



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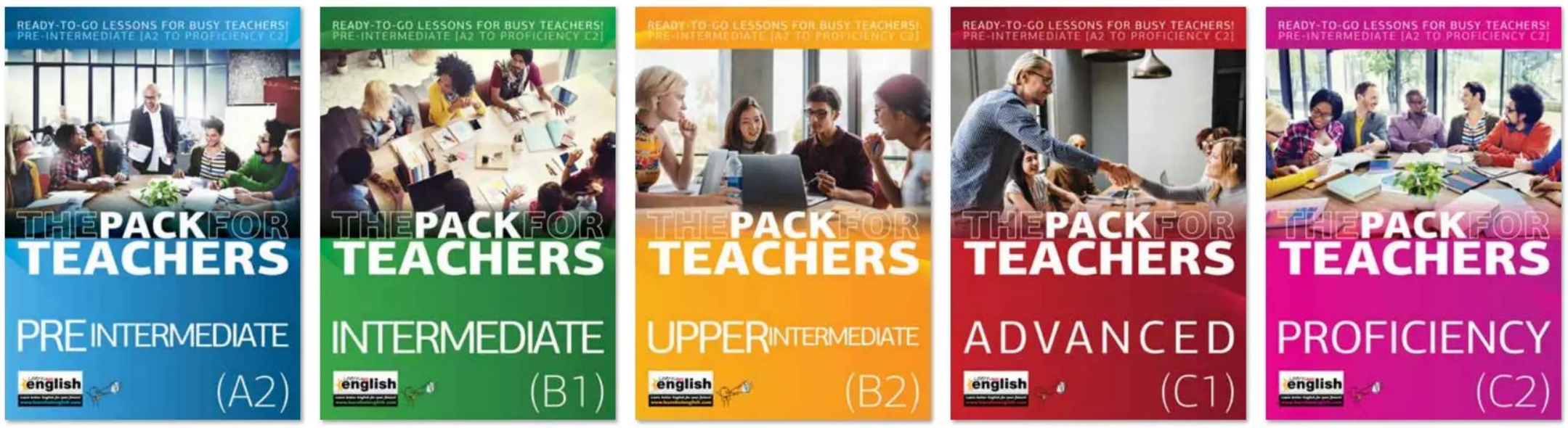
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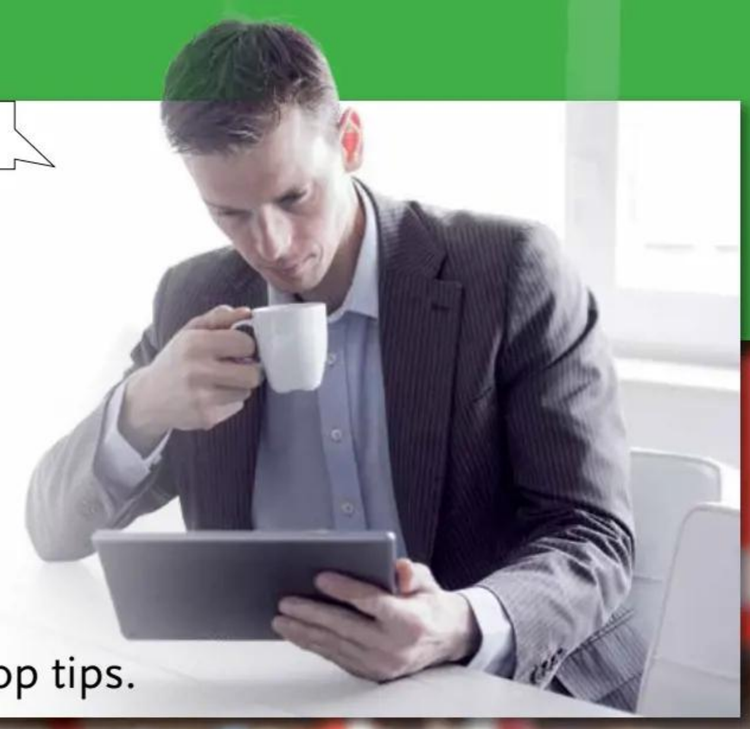
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HOW TO **IMPROVE** YOUR **READING SKILLS**



What's the best way to improve your reading skills? Here are a few of our top tips.

1 Why you should read!

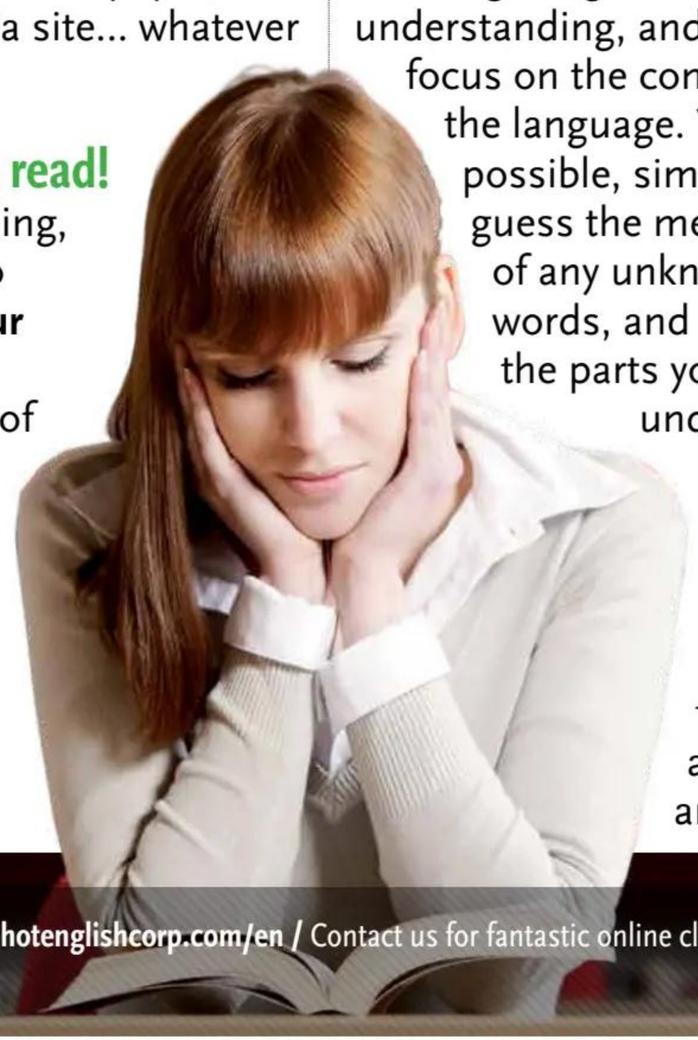
Reading can really help you learn a language. As you're reading something, you're learning hundreds of useful words and expressions without even realising it. You're also seeing how words **fit together** and how language structures are used. Plus, as you're reading, you're finding out about interesting things, which could give you something to talk about in conversation.

2 What to read!

The key is to read things you *want* to read. When you're interested in something, you **focus on** the content *not* the language. This means you learn without even realising it – the language simply **flows in** and **gets registered** in your brain. So, choose a topic that motivates you: sport, film, music, marketing, politics, economics, travel, business, technology... the options are limitless. And choose a format that suits you too: a book, a magazine, a website, a newspaper, a social media site... whatever you want.

3 How to read!

Before reading, you need to **activate your existing knowledge** of the topic. When you do this, you "connect" with the text, and your understanding of it will increase. You'll also find it easier to **guess** the meaning of any new words and expressions. For example, if you're going to read an article on skiing, you could start by thinking about all the words you know related to this theme; or you could answer discussion questions on the topic. Then, when you start reading, you'll find it easier to follow the text.



4 Let the text help you!

Before reading, look carefully at the page. Is there a title? Are there any pictures? Is there an introduction? Are there any paragraph titles? Is there a text box that summarises the information in a few words? All these things will give you a general understanding of the text, and help activate your existing knowledge of the topic. And then it'll be much easier for you to read.

5 While you're reading

The first time you read something do it quickly. **Aim** to get a general understanding, and try to focus on the content, not the language. Where possible, simply guess the meaning of any unknown words, and **skip** the parts you don't understand. Of course, later, you can go over the text again and read it more carefully. But when you do that, only use a dictionary *after* you've made an effort to **work out** the meaning of any difficult words. By trying to understand words from the **context**, you'll learn them more effectively.

6 Top tips

Here are some more top tips on how to improve your reading skills.

When you've finished reading something, make a note of five to 10 words or expressions you'd like to remember or learn. Write them down in sentences and include any other information such as how to pronounce them or any **synonyms** and **antonyms**.

Read a bit every day: before you go to sleep, on your way to work, during your lunch break... And **set** mini-objectives. For example, if you're reading a book, aim to read 10 pages a day.

If possible, read things in your own language first, and then try them in English. As you're already familiar with the topic or story, you'll find it easier to read in English. You could do this with news reports, books, film reviews, novels, articles... anything that you can find in both languages.

Reading should be fun, so choose texts that aren't too difficult for you. The best thing is to read at your level or slightly higher. If reading feels too much like work, it'll stop being enjoyable.

Reading is great. We all know that. So, find something you're interested in, and read about it in English. You'll learn so much!

WHAT TO READ

So, what can you read? Here are some of our ideas: **graded readers**, children's books, audio books, books designed for secondary school students from English-speaking countries, magazine articles, bestsellers (rather than classics as the language in classics is often complex or outdated), "how to" guides, websites, Facebook posts, Twitter messages, the comments section on websites, slogans, newspaper headlines from online newspapers, online forums, recommendations from friends... the list is endless.

GLOSSARY

to fit together *exp*
the way that words "fit together" is the way they join together or connect
to focus on *exp*
if you "focus on" something, you only concentrate on that thing
to flow in *exp*
if something "flows in", it enters something in a slow, continuous movement
to get registered *exp*
if information "gets registered", it becomes recorded
to activate your existing knowledge *exp*
if you "activate your existing knowledge" of a topic, you think about all the things you already know about this topic
to guess *vb*
if you "guess" the meaning of a word, you say what you think it means, even though you aren't sure
to aim *vb*
if you "aim" to do something, you want to do that thing and it's your objective
to skip *vb*
if you "skip" over a part of the text, you don't read it
to work out *phr vb*
if you "work out" the meaning of a word, you discover its meaning
the context *exp*
if you understand a word from "the context", you understand it by looking at the words before or after it. These words can help make its meaning clear
a synonym *n*
a word which means the same as another word
an antonym *n*
a word which means the opposite of another word
to set *vb*
if you "set" an objective, you decide what that objective will be
a graded reader *n*
a book for language learners. The language in the book is easier than in the original

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MUSIC... IN ENGLISH

AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What rap songs have you heard? Which ones do you like? Do you ever listen to rap? Why? Why not? What do you think of rap music? Are there any famous rappers from your country? What do they rap about?



Rap music

Rap music (also hip hop*) started in New York during the 1970s. Very basically, it consists of an electronic **beat** and a **vocalist** who speaks the words (instead of singing them). Famous rappers include Tupac, The Notorious B.I.G., Jay-Z, Dr Dre and Snoop Dogg.



The Sugarhill Gang

One of the first rap songs was *Rapper's Delight* (1979) by The Sugarhill Gang. It was also the first rap song to make it into the **top 40**. The Sugarhill Gang consisted of Michael Wright (Wonder Mike), Henry Jackson (Big Bank Hank) and Guy O'Brien (Master Gee). They were originally from Englewood, New Jersey.

Rapper's Delight

*Now, what you hear is not a test, I'm **rapping** to the beat,*
*And me, the **groove**, and my friends are **gonna** try to move your feet.*
See, I am Wonder Mike, and I'd like to say hello,
To the black, to the white, the red and the brown,
The purple and yellow, but first, I gotta...



Run–D.M.C.

Run–D.M.C. were formed in 1981. The group consisted of Joseph Simmons, Darryl McDaniels and Jam Master Jay. They **split up** when Simmons announced he wanted to **quit** while they were on tour with Aerosmith in 2002. On the 30th October, 2002, Jam-Master Jay was shot and killed in a **recording studio** by an unknown **assailant**. In 2004, *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked Run–D.M.C. number 48 in their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

Rock Box

*Took a test to become an **MC** and didn't fail.*
*I couldn't wait to demonstrate all the super **def** rhymes that I create,*
*I'm a **wizard** of a word, that's what you heard,*
*And anything else is quite **absurd**,*
*I'm the master of a **mic**, that's what I say,*
And if I didn't say that, you'd say it anyway...



Eminem

Eminem (born Marshall Bruce Mathers in October 1972) is an American rapper, songwriter and record producer. *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked him 82nd in their list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. His second album *The Slim Shady LP* was a commercial success and also earned him his first **Grammy Award** for Best Rap Album. His single *Lose Yourself* was featured in the film *8 Mile*, which Eminem also starred in.

Lose Yourself

His palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy,
There's vomit on his sweater already, mom's spaghetti,
*He's nervous, but on the surface he looks calm and ready to **drop bombs**,*
But he keeps on forgetting what he wrote down,
The whole crowd goes so loud,
He opens his mouth, but the words won't come out,
*He's **choking** how, everybody's joking now,*
The clock's run out, time's up, over, blast,
***Snap back to reality**, oh, there goes gravity!*



Public Enemy

Public Enemy is an American group that was formed in Long Island (New York) in 1982. Their songs are often critical of American politics and the media. In 2004, *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked the group number 44 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

Fight the Power

*Listen if you're missing **y'all**,*
***Swinging** while I'm singing,*
Giving what you getting,
Knowing what I know,
*While the black bands **sweating**,*
And the rhythm rhymes rolling,
Got to give us what we want,
Gotta give us what we need,
Our freedom of speech is freedom or death,
We got to fight the powers that be. Fight the power. ✪

*RAP VERSUS HIP HOP

There's an ongoing debate on the difference between rap music and hip hop. Some say that hip hop is defined by a more positive message and the music is designed to get you dancing. On the other hand, rap is more concerned with what's going on in popular culture, with rap stars like Eminem, 50 Cent and Lil' Wayne rapping about more serious issues such as drugs, violence or politics.

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch Public Enemy in a video. Search YouTube for "**Public Enemy - Fight The Power**".

GLOSSARY

a beat *n*
the "beat" of a piece of music is the main rhythm that it has
a vocalist *n*
a person who sings (in a band)
the top 40 *n*
the 40 most popular songs of a particular type of music (rap, in this case)
to rap *vb*
when someone "raps", they say the words in a song (they don't sing them) in a fast, rhythmic way
the groove *n*
the "groove" of the music is its rhythm
gonna *abbr*
going to
to split up *phr vb*
if a band "splits up", they stop playing together
to quit *vb*
if someone "quits" a band, he/she stops playing or singing in the band
a recording studio *n*
a room or building where musicians can record songs and producers can edit them
an assailant *n*
an attacker
an MC *abbr*
this is an abbreviation of "master of ceremonies" or "mic controller" – the main rapper during a rap concert
def *informal*
cool, fashionable, well-done
a wizard *n*
if you're a "wizard" at something, you're very good at it
absurd *adj*
ridiculous, stupid
a mic *n*
a microphone – a device that you hold in your hands and sing into to make your voice sound louder
a Grammy Award *n*
an award (prize) by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States for musicians, bands, etc. Also known as a Grammy
to drop bombs *exp*
in this song, "to drop bombs" means to sing or rap about someone else
to choke *vb*
when you "choke", you cannot breathe properly or get enough air in your lungs
to snap back to reality *exp*
if you "snap back to reality", you suddenly stop dreaming and wake up
y'all *contraction*
this is a contraction of "you all", which means "everyone". A typical greeting in the southern states of the US is "how y'all doing?", which means, "How are you all doing?"
to swing *vb*
if you're "swinging, you're moving repeatedly backwards and forwards or from side to side
to sweat *vb*
when you "sweat", you lose liquid from your body because you're hot

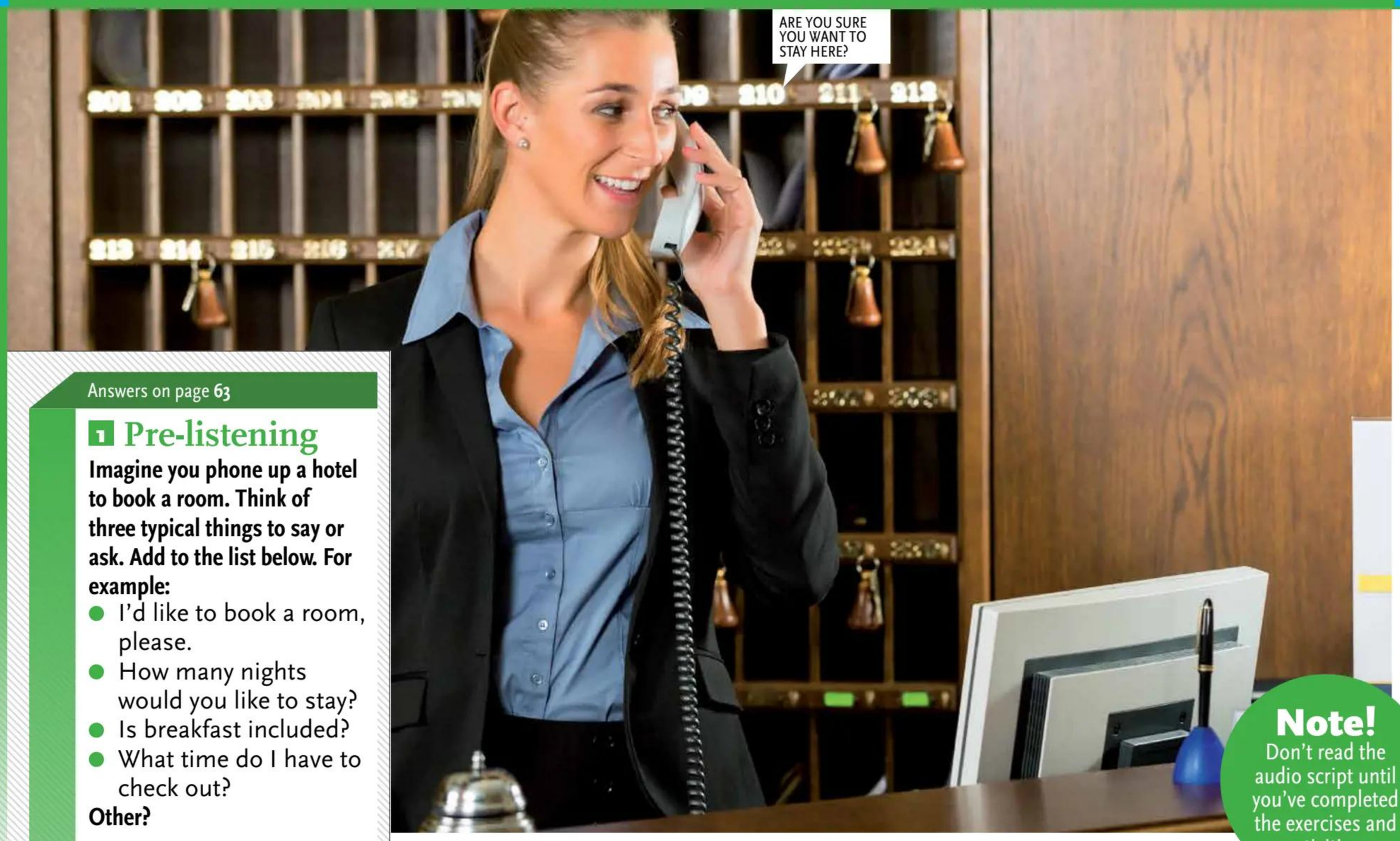
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Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you booked up a hotel room? Which hotel was it? Where was it? How many nights did you stay there for? What was it like? Which room had they reserved for you? What was it like? Was it how you expected it to be? How much did you have to pay for it?

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

AUDIO



Answers on page 63

1 Pre-listening

Imagine you phone up a hotel to book a room. Think of three typical things to say or ask. Add to the list below. For example:

- I'd like to book a room, please.
- How many nights would you like to stay?
- Is breakfast included?
- What time do I have to check out?

Other?

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a phone conversation between a woman and a hotel receptionist. Listen once. Were any of the things you thought of for the Pre-listening activity mentioned?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What's the caller's first name?
2. What's her surname?
3. How many rooms are booked?
4. Which day are they booked for?
5. How many single rooms did the caller want?
6. How many single rooms are booked?
7. How many nights are the rooms booked for?
8. How many nights does the caller want to stay for?

4 Listening III

Listen again and complete the audio script with the correct verbs.

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

The mix-up

Audio script

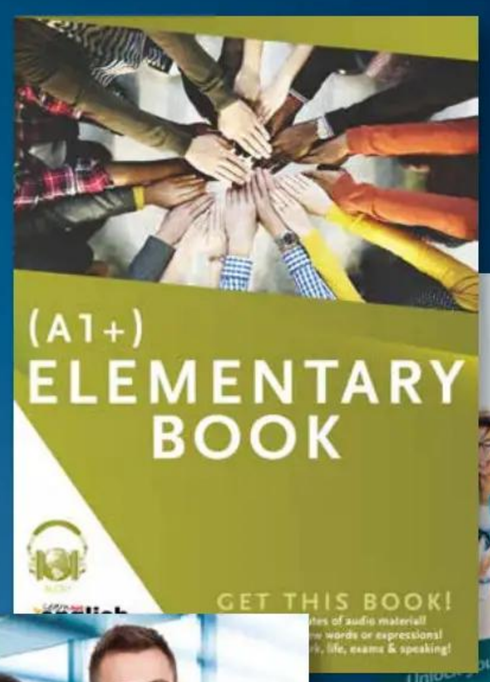
Receptionist: The Greystone Hotel. Richard Penton speaking. How may I help you?
Guest: Oh, hi. I was just calling up to confirm a booking I'd **(1)** _____ a few weeks ago.
Receptionist: Certainly. Could I have your name and surname, please?
Guest: Yes, it's Charlotte Simmonds.
Receptionist: Could you **(2)** _____ your last name, please?
Guest: Yes, that's S I M M O N D S.
Receptionist: Yes, I can see that there are three rooms booked for the 24th under your name.
Guest: Could you just **(3)** _____ that it's two double rooms with twin beds and a single room?
Receptionist: Erm, no, I'm sorry but we've got a booking for two single rooms and a double room with a double bed.
Guest: Oh, I'm not sure what **(4)** _____ there, but it should be two double rooms with twin beds, and a single room.
Receptionist: OK, so, that's two double rooms with twin beds and a single room.
Guest: Perfect. Could you confirm the dates too, please?
Receptionist: Yes, the booking is for 24th March. Just the one night.
Guest: Actually, we **(5)** _____ to stay for three nights. From Monday 24th until Thursday 27th – we'll be leaving on the morning of the 27th.
Receptionist: OK. So that's three nights – the 24th, 25th and 26th.
Guest: Yes, that's right.
Receptionist: Oh, I'm afraid we haven't got any single rooms available for the 26th.
Guest: Well, erm, could you **(6)** _____ us three double rooms then – all with twin beds?
Receptionist: Let me just check... yes, that's fine. So, you'll be **(7)** _____ out on Thursday morning, won't you?
Guest: That's it. Is breakfast included?
Receptionist: Yes, it is.
Guest: Perfect. And what time is it served?
Receptionist: From 7am until 10am. Would there be anything else?
Guest: No, that's all thanks.
Receptionist: OK. Great, then that's all **(8)** _____ up for you.
Guest: Thanks a lot. Bye.
Receptionist: Bye! Have a nice day!
Guest: Thanks.

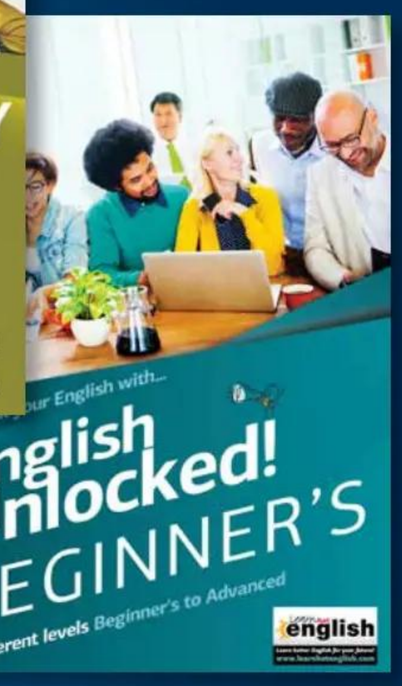
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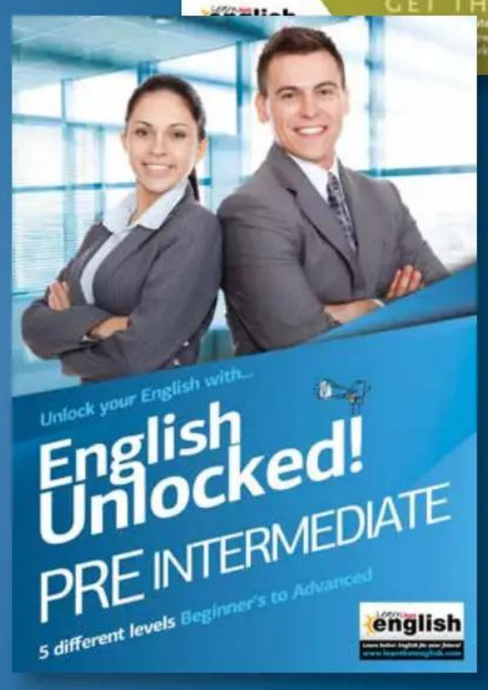
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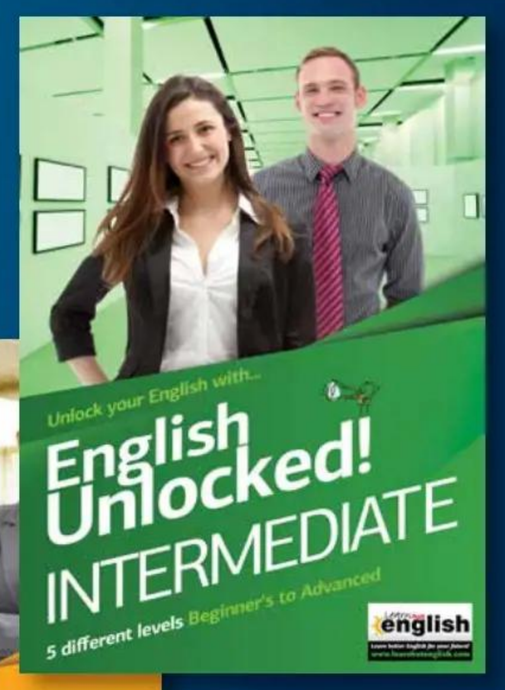




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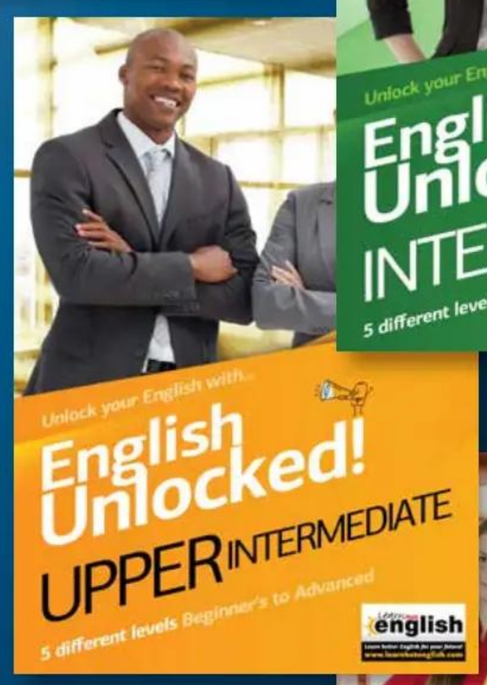
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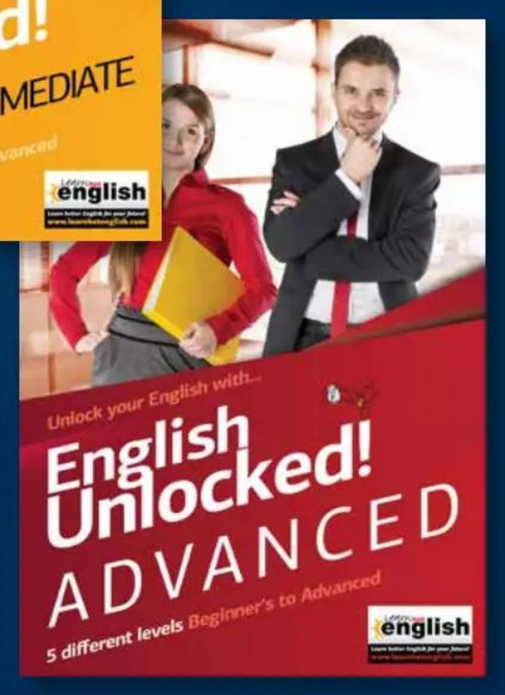
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16 USEFUL 'WATER' IDIOMS FOR WORK & LIFE!

Native English speakers use idioms all the time. So, you need to understand them if you want to follow conversations. In this lesson, you'll learn some really useful 'water' idioms to use in business, work and life in general. Practise using them so you can sound more like a native English speaker! First, read over the information, then try the exercises on the next page. Good luck! 😊

Be in hot water

If someone is 'in hot water', they're in trouble because they've done something wrong:
'He's in hot water with his boss because he missed the deadline again.'



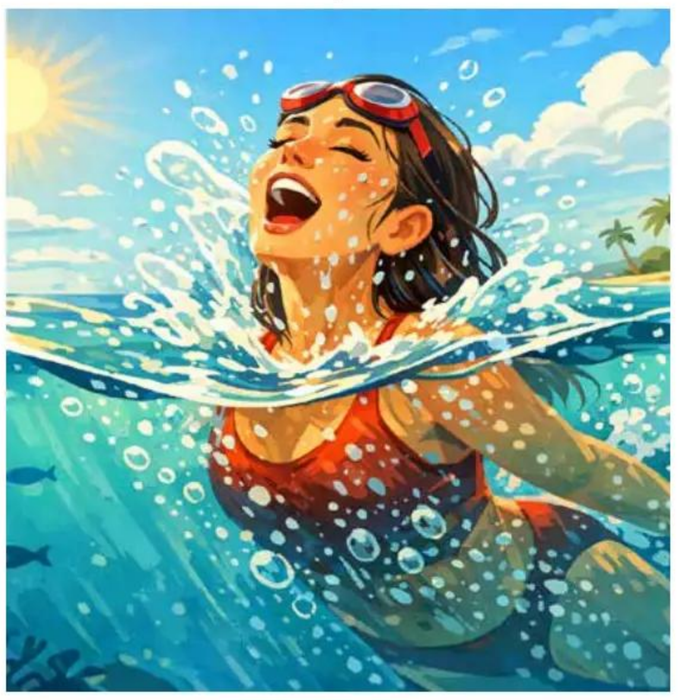
In over your head

If you're 'in over your head', you're involved in something that's too difficult for you:
'I don't have the necessary skills or experience for this job. I'm totally in over my head.'



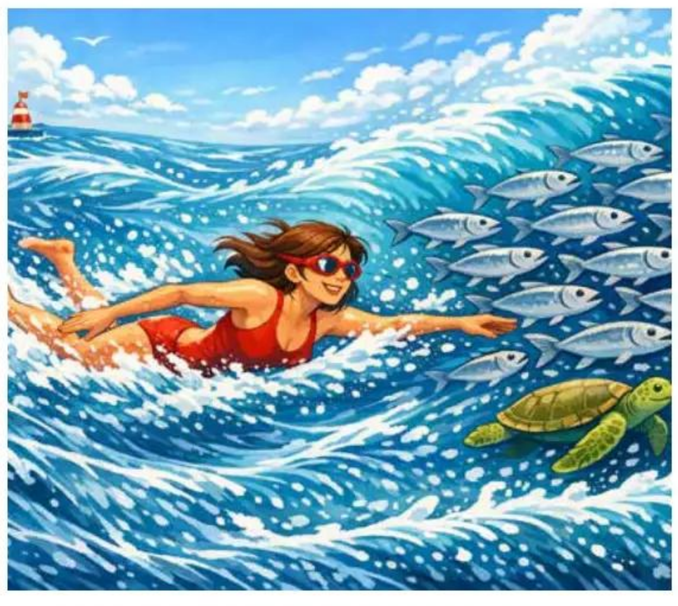
Come up for air

If you 'come up for air', you take a break from some intense work or a high-pressure activity:
'I've been working non-stop for 3 days – I need to come up for a bit of air.'



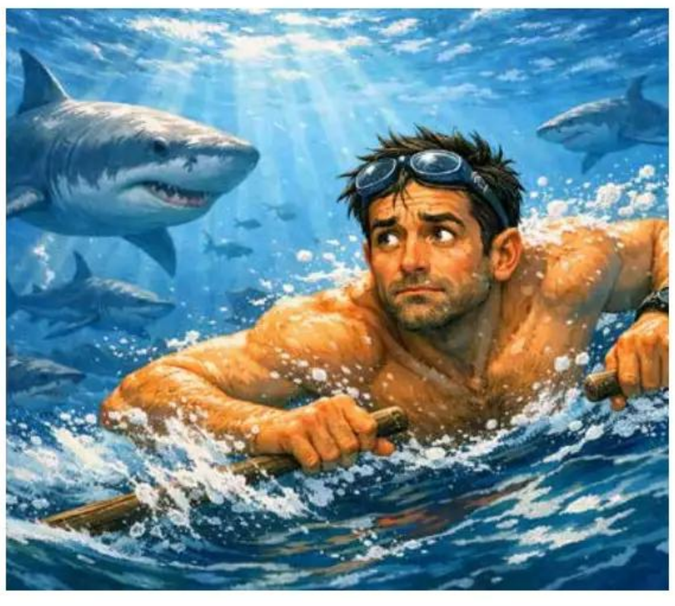
Swim against the tide / Swim against the current

If you 'swim against the tide', you act or think in a way that's different to what most people think, accept or expect:
'She swam against the tide by refusing to open an account on any social media platforms.'



Swim with the sharks

If you're 'swimming with the sharks', you're dealing with powerful, aggressive or dangerous people in an intense environment:
'When you work in high level finance, you have to be ready to swim with the sharks.'



In the same boat

If 2 (or more) people are 'in the same boat', they're in the same difficult situation:
A My boss just gave me a new deadline that's going to be impossible to meet.
B Don't worry. It's the same for us in the marketing department – we're all in the same boat.



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Make waves

If someone 'makes waves', they attract a lot of attention, often by doing something new or different:
'She's new in the team, but she's already making waves with her original and creative ideas.'



Blow someone out of the water

If you 'blow someone out of the water', you completely defeat them or do much better than them:
'The company's new product was a big hit, and it completely blew the competition out of the water.'



Jump in at the deep end

If you 'jump in at the deep end', you start doing something new or difficult without any training or preparation:
'I didn't know much about the job or how to do it, but I just jumped in at the deep end and tried to do my best.'



Throw someone in at the deep end

If a company 'throws someone in at the deep end', they give that person something difficult to do without any preparation, support or help:
'I didn't get any training for the new job – they just threw me in at the deep end.'



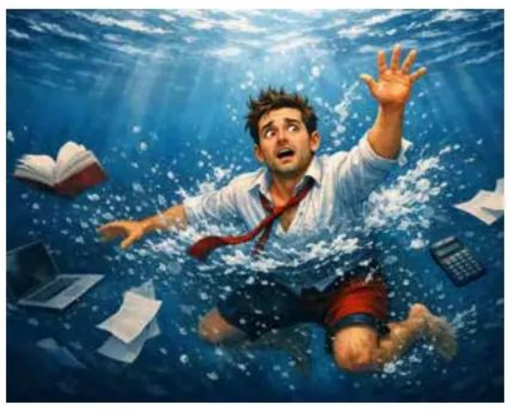
Sink or swim

If you describe a situation as 'sink or swim', it's a difficult situation in which you will either sink (fail) or swim (succeed):
'On my first day at the new job, I had no support, and there was no one to help me. It was a case of sink or swim.'



Be out of your depth

If you're 'out of your depth', you're in a situation that's too complicated or difficult for you because you don't have the necessary experience or skills to deal with it:
'They left me alone with the new system without any help or support, and I didn't know what to do. I was totally out of my depth.'



Keep your head above water

If you 'keep your head above water' in a desperate situation, you manage to survive:
'The economy is doing really badly, and no one is spending any money. As a result, many small businesses are finding it hard to keep their heads above water.'



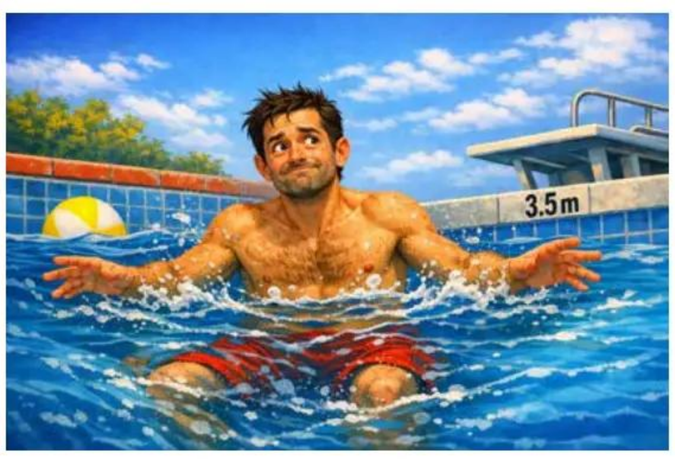
Throw someone a lifeline

If you 'throw someone a lifeline', you help or support them when they're having difficulties:
'I was really behind with all my deadlines, and I was in a desperate situation until a work colleague threw me a lifeline and offered to help.'



Tread water

If you 'tread water', you stay in the same position without making any progress, often waiting for something to change:
'I'm just treading water at work until a better opportunity comes up.'
Literally, if you 'tread water', you stay in one place in the water by moving your arms and legs continuously, so you don't sink.



Be swept away

If you're 'swept away' by something, you're affected emotionally by that thing (often in a positive sense):
'She was swept away by the beauty of the place.'
Literally, if you're 'swept away', you're pushed, moved or carried by a strong force (such as a wave, the wind or a water current) without being able to stop it.



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16 USEFUL ‘WATER’ IDIOMS FOR WORK & LIFE! EXERCISES!



Answers on page 63

Exercise 1

Complete the definitions with the words from below.

depth	sharks	lifeline	tide	air
waves	water	head		

1. If you “come up for _____”, you take a break from intense work or pressure.
2. If you “swim with the _____”, you deal with powerful or dangerous people.
3. If you “make _____”, you attract attention by doing something new or different.
4. If you’re “out of your _____”, you’re in a situation that’s too difficult or complicated for you.
5. If you “throw someone a _____”, you help or support them when they’re having difficulties.
6. If you “swim against the _____”, you act differently from what most people expect or accept.
7. If you “keep your _____ above water”, you manage to survive in a difficult situation.
8. If you’re “in hot _____”, you’re in trouble because you’ve done something wrong.



Exercise 2

Add letters to the words to complete the definitions.

1. If you “blow someone out of the **wa_ _ _**”, you completely defeat them or do much better than them.
2. If you “jump in at the **d_ _ _** end”, you start doing something difficult without preparation.
3. If you’re “in **o_ _ _** your head”, you’re involved in something that’s too difficult for you.
4. If a company “throws someone in at the deep **e_ _**”, they give them something difficult with no support.
5. If you describe a situation as “sink or **sw_ _**”, you mean you will either fail or succeed.
6. If you “**tr_ _ _** water”, you stay in the same position without making progress.
7. If two people are “in the same **b_ _ _**”, they’re in the same difficult situation.
8. If you’re “**swe_ _** away” by something, you’re emotionally affected by it, often in a positive way.



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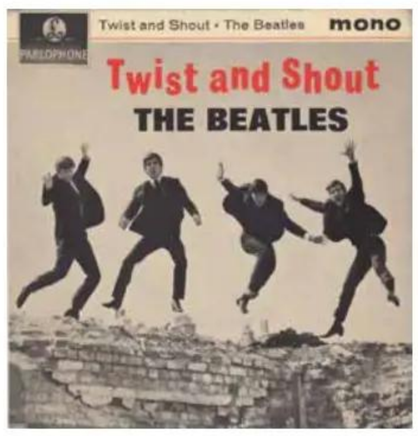
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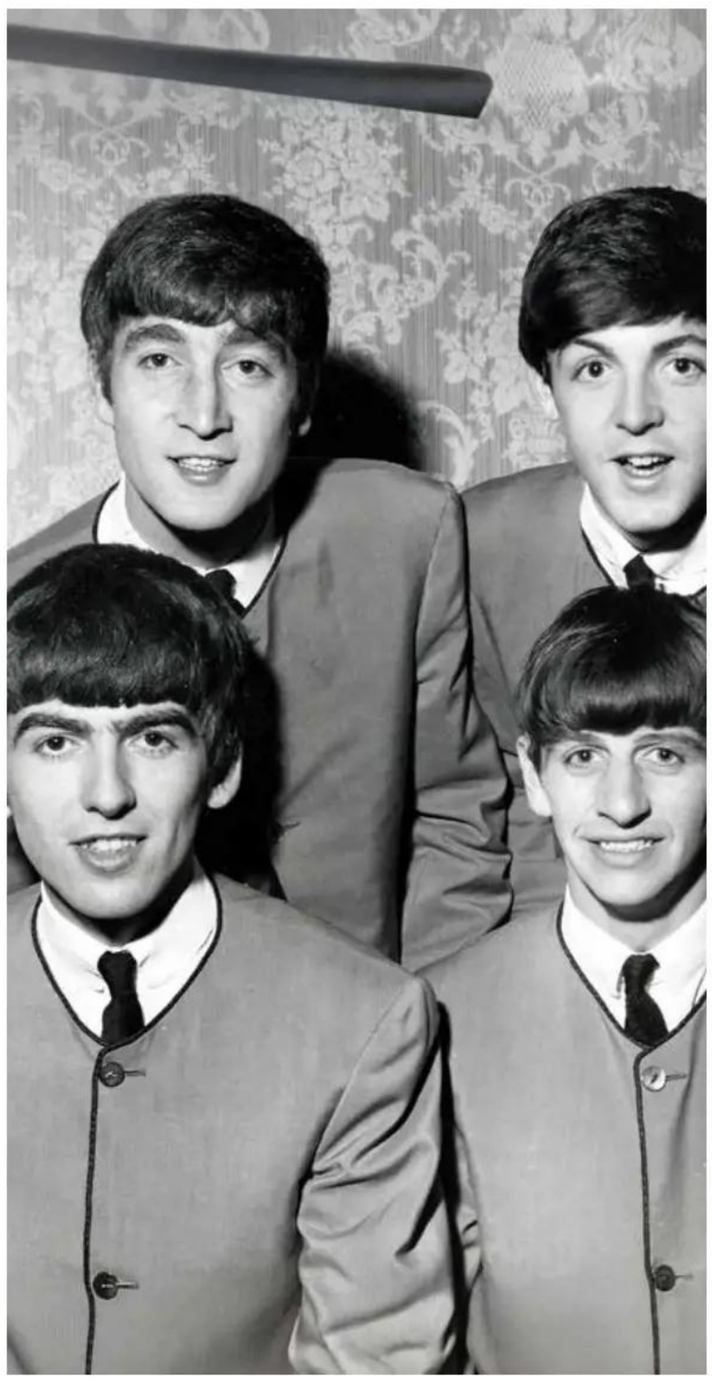
SING ALONG

Here are some more classic songs from the world of pop and rock. Have fun singing along with them.



"Twist And Shout" - The Beatles

Well **shake it up** baby now, **twist** and shout,
Come on, come on, come on baby, now **work it on out**,
Well work it on out, you know you look so good,
You know you **got me going** now, just like you knew you would.
Ahh, ahh, ahh, ahh, ahh.
Well shake it up baby now, twist and shout,
Come on, come on, come on baby, now work it on out.



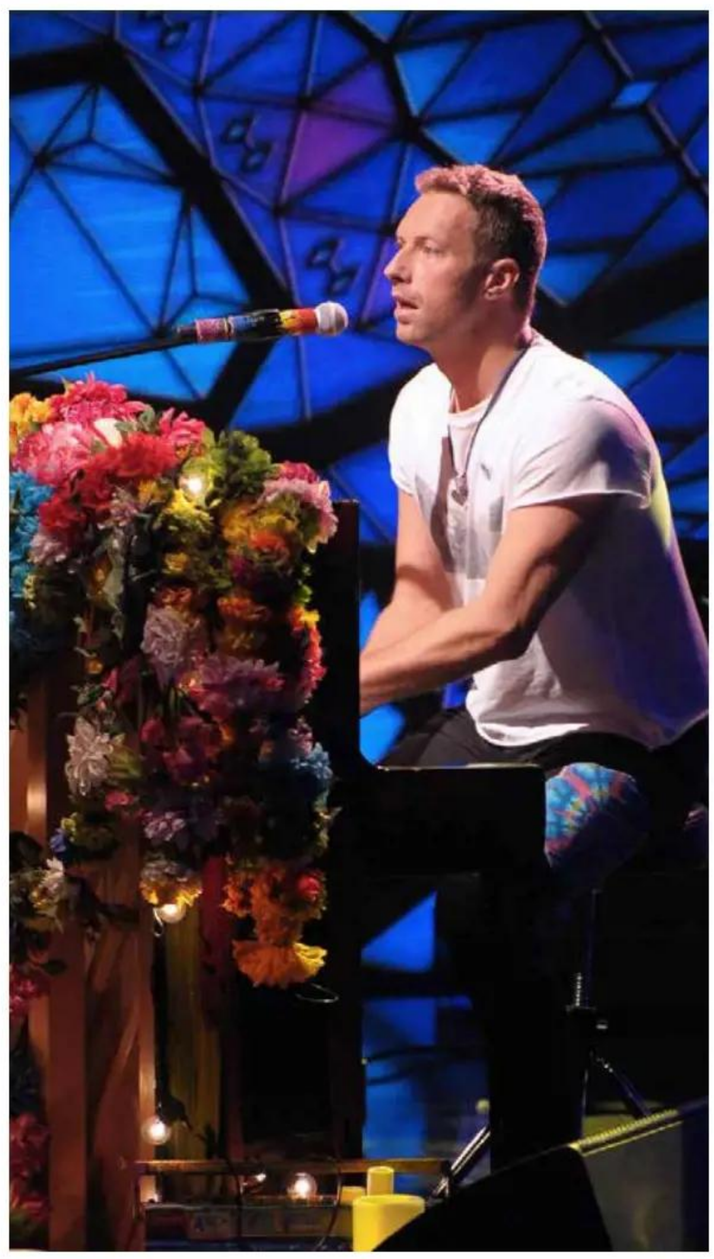
GLOSSARY

to shake it up *phr vb*
to move something up and down with rapid movements
to twist *vb*
to turn your body around many times when you are dancing
to work it on out *exp*
to do a lot of physical activity
to get you going *exp*
to get you excited



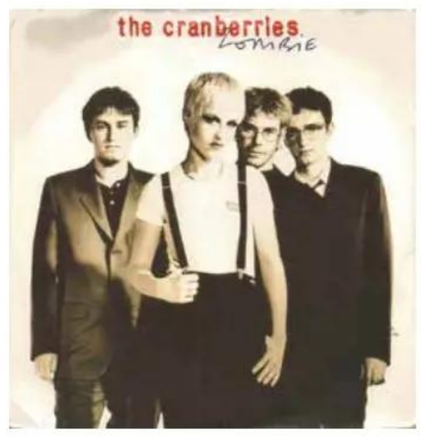
"In My Place" - Coldplay

In my place,
in my place,
Were **lines** that I couldn't change,
I was lost,
oh **yeah**.
I was lost, I was lost,
Crossed lines I shouldn't have crossed,
I was lost, oh yeah.
Yeah, how long must you wait for him?
Yeah, how long must you wait for him?
Yeah, how long must you wait for him?
I was **scared**, I was scared,
Tired and under-prepared,
But I wait for you.



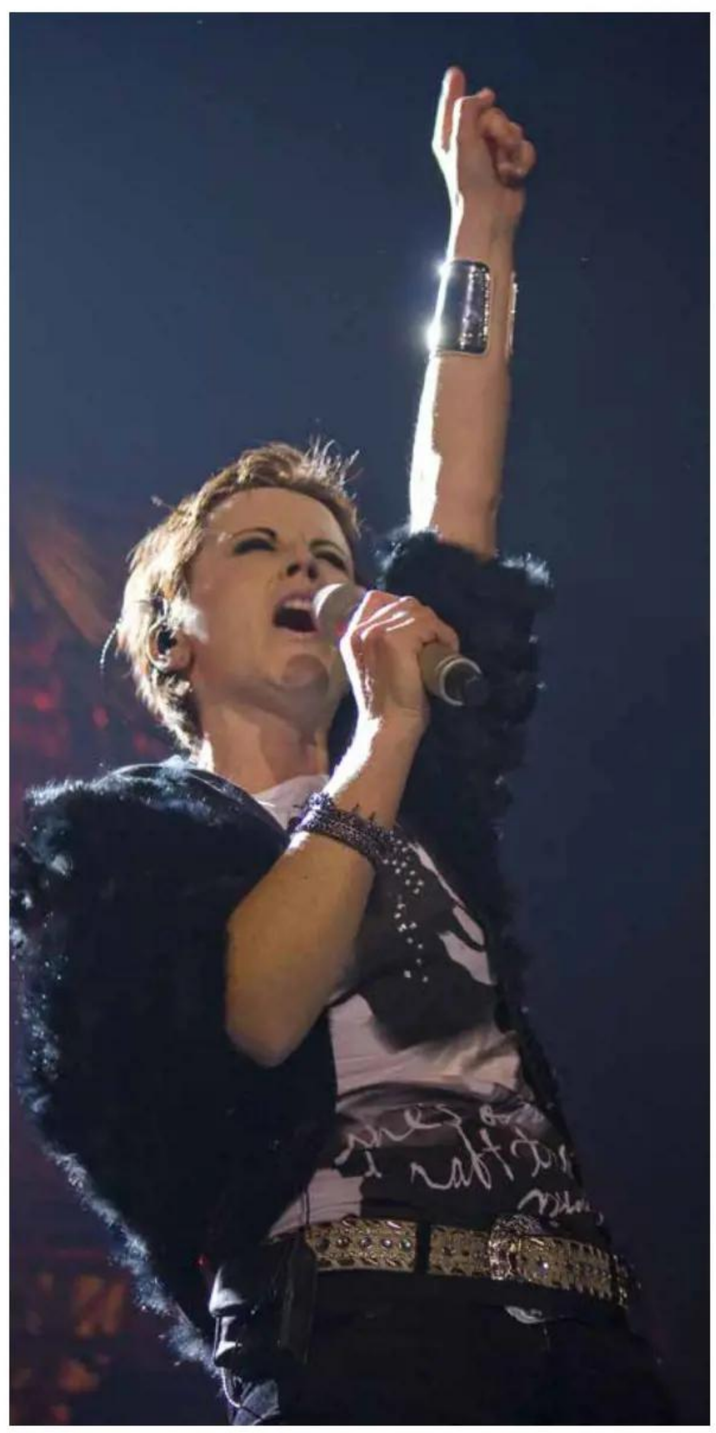
GLOSSARY

lines *n*
we think this could be referring to rules, regulations and moral limits
yeah *n*
yes
crossed lines I shouldn't have crossed *exp*
there is an expression in English, "to cross the line", that means, "to do something that is not morally permitted
scared *adj*
frightened



"Zombie" - The Cranberries

Another head **hangs lowly**,
child is slowly taken,
And the violence caused such silence, who are we **mistaking**,
But you see it's not me, it's not my family,
In your head, in your head,
They are fighting, with their tanks and their bombs,
And their bombs and their guns,
In your head, in your head they are crying,
In your head, **Zombie**, what's in your head, in your head, zombie.



GLOSSARY

to hang lowly *vb*
if your head "hangs lowly", you look very sad
to mistake *vb*
to make a mistake
a zombie *n*
in horror films, a "zombie" is a dead person who is alive again; in this context it is a person with little activity in their head

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"Is This It" - The Strokes

Can't you see
I'm trying, I
don't even
like it,
I'd just like
to get to your
apartment,
Now I'm staying there for **just a while**,
I can't think **cos** I'm just **way** too tired.
Is this it?
Is this it?
Is this it?



GLOSSARY

just a while *exp*
for a short time
cos *abbr*
because
way *adj*
if you say you are "way" too tired, you are saying that you are very, very tired



"Candle In The Wind" - Elton John

(this song is all about Marilyn Monroe)
Goodbye **Norma Jean**,
Though I never knew you at all,
You had the **grace** to **hold yourself**,
While those around you **crawled**,
And they **crawled out of the woodwork**,
And they **whispered** into your brain,
They **set you on the treadmill**,
And they made you change your name.

And it seems to me you lived your life,
Like a candle in the wind,
Never knowing who to **cling to**,
When the rain set in,
And I would have liked to have known you,
But I was just a **kid**,
Your candle **burned out** long before, Your legend ever did.

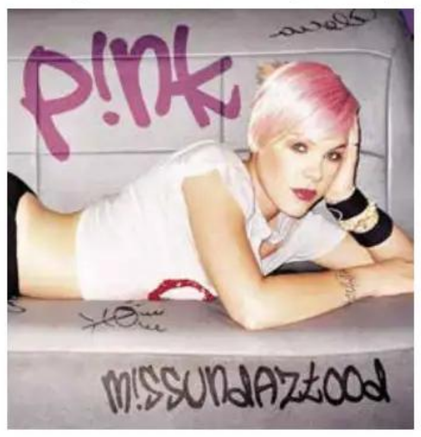


GLOSSARY

Norma Jean *n*
Marilyn Monroe's real name
grace *n*
if you behave with "grace", you are polite, pleasant and dignified
to hold yourself *exp*
to control yourself
to crawl *vb*
to act in an undignified way. Literally, "to move forward on the floor by using your hands and knees
to crawl out of the woodwork *exp*
to appear after a long time in order to do something unpleasant
to whisper *vb*
to speak very softly
to set someone on the treadmill *exp*
to make someone do unpleasant and horrible jobs. A "treadmill" is the exercise machine in a gym that you run on
like a candle in the wind *exp*
a "candle" is a stick of wax that you burn to give you light. We think this means that Marilyn was very delicate and living in a dangerous world
to cling to someone *exp*
to hold someone emotionally
a kid *n*
a child
to burn out *phr vb*
this means "die" in this context

"Missundaztood" - Pink

I might be the way everybody likes to say,



I know what
you're thinking
about me,
There might be
a day you might
have a certain
way,

But you don't in my **luxuries**, and it's me, I know I know my name,
Cuz I say it proud, everything I want I always do,
Lookin' for the **right track**, always **on the wrong track**,
But **all you're catchin' are these tracks that I'm layin' down for you.**

There's a song I was listenin' to up all night,
There's a voice I am hearin' sayin' it's alright,
When I'm happy, I'm sad, but everything is good,
Its not that complicated I'm just **missundaztood**.

GLOSSARY

luxuries *n*
expensive goods, the nice things in life
cuz *abbr*
because
the right track *n*
if you are on "the right track", you are leading a good life and doing things that are good for you
on the wrong track *exp*
if you are "on the wrong track", you are doing things that are bad for you
all you're catchin' are these tracks that I'm layin' down for you *exp*
we think this might mean: "you are using me; you are abusing me to get what you want"
missundaztood *adj*
this is Pink's version of the word "misunderstood", meaning "not understood"

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Illustration by Vanesa Carosia

QUIZ: Are you mean?

Illustrations by Vanesa Carosia



Are you **mean**? Are you the sort of person who doesn't care about others? The sort of person who enjoys hurting people and making them feel bad? Or are you kind, gentle and considerate? The sort of person who thinks about other people and has feelings of compassion for them? Read on and find out whether you are mean, or not.

1 You're having an argument when your **partner** starts crying. You say:

a) "Oh, I am sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you"
b) "Let's go to a party"
c) "I'm going out for a walk. Call me when you've finished **blubbing**"



2 Your friend desperately needs some money to pay for an urgent operation. When he asks you for money, you say:

a) "Yeah, sure. How much do you need?"
b) "You must be joking! We're buying a new car this month"
c) "OK, but I'll need it back by next week - with interest"



3 Why did you **break up with** your last partner?:

a) Because you were **messy** and lazy
b) Because of **irreconcilable differences**
c) Because you were **unfaithful**

4 You want to stop a relationship with someone. You say:

a) "Bye! Have a nice life!"
b) "Look, it's nothing to do with you. It's me - I'm just a hopeless lover"
c) "Sorry, but this is just not working"



5 Your boss **takes you aside** and says: "I've got some good news and bad news. The good news is that I'm giving you a promotion. The bad news is that you're going to have to **fire** Paula." You say:

a) "Sorry, I can't do that. Paula's a good friend of mine"
b) "Wow, that's **heavy**. Can I think about this?"
c) "Where's Paula?"

6 One of your friends tells you she's going to hospital to cure an alcohol addiction. You say:

a) "OK, let's celebrate. I'll have champagne and you can have water"
b) "Hey, I'm really proud of you"
c) "Oh that's a bit annoying. Do you know anyone else who wants to go out for a drink?"

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7 You see a school bus **racing** down the hill, completely out of control. As it's **approaching**, you say:

a) "Oh no! My new car! I'll kill them if it's damaged!"
b) "Those poor, poor children"
c) "Somebody call the police!"



8 You are eating in an expensive restaurant when a hungry child asks you for some money for food. You say:

a) "Go away! Can't you see I'm busy?"
b) "I've just given some money to your friend down the road"
c) "Yes, here you are little girl, have 50 euros"

9 You are walking in the street, looking for a post office when suddenly, you see an old man fall down. As he is lying there, you:

a) Ask him where the post office is
b) Help him up and phone for an ambulance
c) Ignore him



10 You have just read in the newspaper about terrible **flooding** in Central Europe. You say:

a) "That's terrible. Do we know anyone there?"
b) "Oh very interesting. Now what's for dinner?"
c) "Oh how **awful**! Is there a **relief fund** to make a donation to?"

11 You are the boss of a small company. A new employee asks you if she can **have some time off** to visit her dying grandmother. You say:

a) "Of course. Take this money and buy her some flowers"
b) "What? You must be joking. This is a business not a charity!"
c) "OK, but just finish this first, would you?"

12 You are part of an international business that has just bought a factory. You plan to:

a) Sell the factory and make a huge profit, even if it means that 400 people will lose their jobs
b) Invest some money in modernising the factory
c) **Keep the factory going** as it is

SCORE

Calculate your score, then read the analysis below to find out...

1 a1 b2 c3
2 a1 b3 c2
3 a2 b1 c3
4 a3 b1 c2
5 a1 b2 c3
6 a2 b1 c3
7 a3 b1 c2
8 a3 b2 c1
9 a2 b1 c3
10 a2 b3 c1
11 a1 b3 c2
12 a3 b1 c2

1-12
You are kind, patient and helpful person. You care about other people and you are not afraid to show this

13-24
You are basically a nice person, but you say and do some strange things at times

25-36
You are a mean, heartless, selfish, hard-hearted arrogant twat. You have no feelings and compassion for other people. Consider a change of personality



GLOSSARY

mean *adj*
cruel
a partner *n*
your boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife
to blub *vb inform*
to cry a lot
to break up with someone *exp*
to stop having a relationship with someone
messy *adj*
a person who is dirty and leaves their things on the floor, etc
irreconcilable differences *n*
problems with someone which are impossible to resolve
unfaithful *adj*
someone who is 'unfaithful' has a relationship with another person who isn't their husband, wife, partner....
to take someone aside *exp*
to ask someone to come somewhere quiet with you so you can talk
to fire *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job
heavy *adj inform*
serious and difficult
to race down the hill exp to go down the hill very fast
to approach *vb*
to come close
flooding *n*
when it rains a lot and there is water in the streets, etc
awful *adj*
terrible
a relief fund *n*
money that is collected to donate to poor people or people in need
to have some time off *exp*
to have permission to leave your job for a period of time - usually a short time
to keep it going *exp*
to maintain it, to help it to continue

Now test your English. Good luck! Answers on page 63.

Exercises

PHRASAL VERBS

Last month we looked at some phrasal verbs with the preposition **away**. This month we'll be continuing with this preposition.

1 We can use **away** to say that something has disappeared. Look at these examples:

"The water has **boiled away**."
This means that the water has boiled so much that it has all disappeared. Here is another example:
"The bird has **flown away**."
This means that the bird has disappeared by flying to another place.
Here is another example with this meaning:
"He **passed away**", which means, "he died".

2 We can also use **away** to say that an activity continues over an extended period of time. Here are a few examples for you:

"We **worked away** all night."
This means that we worked continuously throughout the night.
Here is another example:
"He was **puffing away**", which means, "he was smoking without stopping".



PHRASAL VERBS MATCHING

See if you can match the two sentences. The numbered sentences have a phrasal verb with the preposition **away**:

1. The sound died away.
2. The ice melted away
3. The water boiled away.
4. She was working away all afternoon.
5. We were slaving away while he was sitting there.
6. The guns were blasting away.
7. She was puffing away at the cigarette.
8. The rain and weather has worn the name away.

A: The water became very hot and disappeared completely.
B: The guns were firing continuously.
C: She was doing her job, finishing tasks all afternoon.
D: The sound gradually disappeared.
E: The ice continued melting until it all disappeared.
F: She was smoking continuously.
G: The name disappeared because of the rain and weather.
H: We were working hard without stopping while he was just sitting there.

PHRASAL VERBS PLACING

Now see if you can put one of the following verbs in the spaces:
Ticking, passed, melted, boiled, puffing, died, firing, slaving

1. The soldiers were _____ away.

2. The water in the pan _____ away until there was nothing left.

3. The sound eventually _____ away.

4. Her uncle _____ away in the middle of the night.

5. We've been _____ away all day and the work still isn't finished.

6. He's over there - _____ away on that pipe of his.

7. You can't go skating because the ice has all _____ away.

8. We'll have to do something soon - time is _____ away.



GRAMMAR "GERUND" & "INFINITIVE"

Now let's try a few exercises to practise the gerund and infinitive. Decide if the verb in brackets ( ) should be either a gerund or an infinitive. Good luck and the answers are on page 5:

1. They will go on (act) _____ like that all their lives - they can't help it.

2. I regret (inform) _____ you but your cat has died.

3. I really regret not (take) _____ that job.

4. I was interested (hear) _____about your new business project.

5. I'm really interested in (learn)_____ about Hindu culture.

6. The lead singer went on (form)_____ her own group after she left the band, "The Flaming Flamingos".

7. I regret (shout) _____ at him the way I did.

8. The police are interested in (locate) _____ the missing person.

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WORDSEARCH

Now see if you can find these:

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

PIER
MAZE
FLOOD
BEG
DOME
ABSURD
FLEE

DISGUISE
STRAIGHT
MOCK
POLL
AUCTION
GREED
GUM



MATCHING 2

See if you can match the letter with the number:

Answers on page 63.

A: A pier
B: A maze
C: To flood
D: To beg
E: A dome
F: Absurd
G: To flee
H: To disguise
I: Straight
J: To mock
K: A poll
L: An auction
M: Greed
N: A gum

1. To escape from a place
2. Wanting lots of things
3. A structure that goes into the sea - you can walk on it
4. When it rains a lot and there is water on the ground
5. The pink area inside your mouth where your teeth are
6. Not gay
7. A round roof
8. To ask for money or help
9. A public sale
10. A study to see how popular something or someone is
11. Ridiculous
12. A large number of streets connected in a complicated way
13. To laugh at someone and make fun of them
14. To wear clothes so you look different



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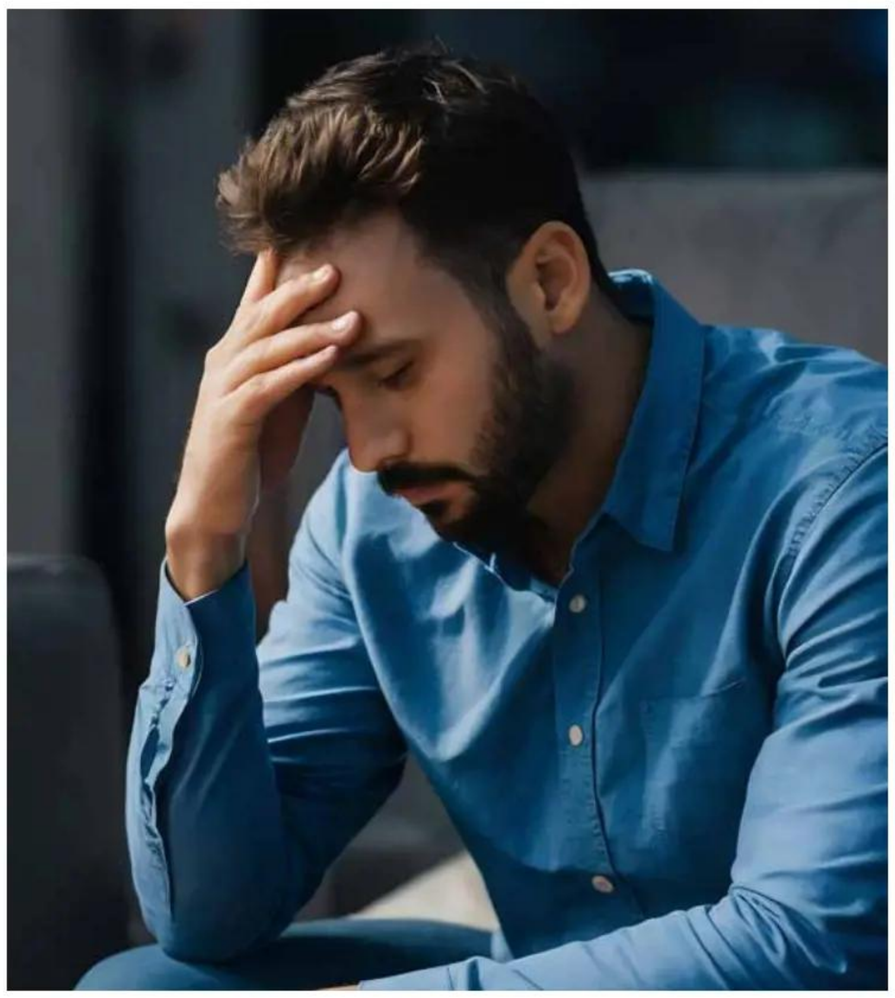
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FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

SADNESS



Expression	True Meaning
She feels depressed	She feels sad
I'm feeling a bit blue	I feel sad
He's down in the dumps	He feels sad
She's got a long face	She's sad
He's out of sorts	He's sad
She's a misery guts	She's always sad
He's a party pooper	He never enjoys himself at parties and he spoils it for everyone else
She's really down	She's really sad
That really hit me where it hurts	That made me sad
That was a kick in the teeth	That made me sad
I've lost enthusiasm for everything	I feel depressed
She's gloomy	She's always depressed
He's miserable	He's always depressed
He's a miserable sod	He's always depressed
She's a bit down in the mouth	She's feeling sad
She's fed up	She's feeling sad



A typically sad expression

THE STRANGE CASE OF MR FARTHING



George Farthing, a British man living in America, was recently **diagnosed** as clinically depressed and was about to receive controversial electric shock therapy when doctors realized he wasn't depressed at all - he was just British.

At first, doctors in the States were confused. "It was incredible," said Dr Mathews, who first treated the patient. "This man had a sense of pessimism about everything and we diagnosed him as having 'Pervasive Negative Anticipation'. This is a belief that everything will **turn out for the worst**.

"We put him on drugs. But he kept telling us it was all **pointless** and that nothing would work.

"Soon after this, we referred him to a psychotherapist. We learnt all about Mr. Farthing's family history and **couldn't believe our ears**. This poor man grew up in a little grey town in the north of England where it rained every day and he spent his youth passionately **backing a football team** that never won anything.

He also had an obsession with talking about the weather and complaining about how miserable and cold it was in winter and how hot and uncomfortable it was in summer.

"Unfortunately, the psychotherapy had no effect whatsoever so we decided to try Shock Therapy. However, just as we were about to start, one of the nurses suddenly told us to stop. She had spent some time in England and she had noticed how Mr Farthing kept repeating the typically British phrase, "**I mustn't grumble**". It was then that we realised that this man was not depressed at all but was suffering from the effects of being British. Typical symptoms of this condition include a firm belief that trains will arrive late, England will never win any international sports event and that everything is hopeless. In the States this is seen as a serious psychological disorder but in Britain this is considered perfectly normal and even funny. In fact, many British comedy characters are based on people just like Mr Farthing. Identifying Mr. Farthing as British changed our diagnosis from "clinical depression" to "rather **quaint** and charming". We released Mr Farthing shortly afterwards and gave him an "I love New York" T- Shirt in an attempt to **cheer him up**."

GLOSSARY

to diagnose *vb*
to identify a medical problem
to turn out for the worst *exp*
to be really bad in the end
pointless *adj*
useless, hopeless
we couldn't believe our ears *exp*
we couldn't believe what we were hearing
backing a football team *exp*
supporting a football team and wanting it to win all the time
I mustn't grumble *exp*
I mustn't complain
quaint *adj*
attractive because it is unusual and old
to cheer someone up *phr vb*
to make someone happy

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Functional Language In Action

THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST!

We've given you some language for talking about sadness. Now you can see some of this language in action. In this scene, Mr Woofles has come to see Dr Hans Maind about his depression.

GLOSSARY

down *adj*
depressed
a couch *n*
a sofa



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AUDIO



GRUNGE

This month we are continuing with our series on urban tribes and looking at the grunger. A grunger is someone who listens to grunge music and wears grunge fashion. Let's find out all about them.

Generation X

Grunge started in Seattle, which is in the state of Washington in the north west of the US. In the 1980s Seattle was a rich town with a **thriving business centre**. But not everyone was happy with their lives there. There was a group of angry youngsters who **thought their lives sucked** and they hated the wealthy yuppies who were everywhere in the city. They were **angst-ridden**, depressed and melancholic. They often saw drugs as a means of escape from their emotional distress. People who felt like this were said to belong to "Generation X". They desperately needed an **outlet** for their anger and **rage** and grunge music was the answer.

Grunge Bands

Most experts say grunge music started with two bands: Green River and Soundgarden. Later, grunge music became a national sensation with the release of two albums: "Nevermind" by Nirvana and "Ten" by Pearl Jam (this album was apparently called "Ten" as a way of informing buyers that there were ten songs on the album. However, there were actually eleven songs - but that's just a typical example of the level of a grunger's mathematical skill). Other top grunge bands include Alice In Chains and Mudhoney. Seattle eventually became known as "grungetown" as a lot of these bands came from there.

Grunge Music

The original grunge sound was often called garage music, because it sounded as if it had been recorded in a garage. There was no clean production of the recordings and this primitive sound was assisted by the quantities of cheap beer and drugs consumed by the grunge musicians.

Grunge songs were about very personal matters. There were songs about pet dogs, problems with friends, parents, psychological problems and drugs. There were not usually any political messages. All those angry young people from Seattle felt they could relate to the anger, rage and confusion that grunge bands were singing about. For many, the grunge music and lifestyle was a cheap form of therapy. Grunge was also an attack against **mainstream music**. It was a form of rebellion, much like punk was in the 1970s.

Grunge Fashion

Grunge men and women wear more or less the same clothes and grunge fashion consists of the following: **torn jeans**, **checked shirts** made of hard cloth, **ripped cardigans**, baseball caps worn the opposite way around, combat boots and long hair. Grungers wanted to wear the clothes that made them feel most comfortable. They didn't want anyone telling them what to wear. Ironically, grunge fashion eventually became standard, which meant there were rules that dictated what you had to wear if you wanted to be a grunger.

Grunge Shows

Grunge shows were generally wild. The bands would often destroy their instruments - usually at the end of the show. There was a lot of energy and the concerts were like an outlet for the fans' anger and hate. Most of the action took place in the "mosh pit", which is the area directly in front of the **stage**. Here are some typical grunge "hobbies":

a) **Pogo dancing**: this is a modern form of dance that consists of jumping up and down aggressively. It was also popular at punk concerts.
b) **Surfing:** this consists of lying on people's hands and being carried around. The hands form the sea and the body is the surf board.
c) **Stage diving:** this is a dangerous sport where a member of the public goes onto the stage, runs very fast and jumps into the crowd. Hopefully, the audience will remember to catch the stage diver.

The End

Grunge officially came to an end with the suicide of Kurt Cobain, the lead singer of the band Nirvana. Shortly after, Pearl Jam released an album of Indian chants and **Christmas carols**; and the band Alice In Chains, announced that they were unable to record any other albums because the lead singer had developed a fear of microphones. And that meant the end of grunge, although some grungers are still here with us. ✪

GLOSSARY

a thriving business centre *n*
a business area that is doing very well
thought their lives sucked *exp US*
thought their lives were very bad
angst-ridden *adj*
confused and full of worries and emotional problems
an outlet *n*
a way of expressing your feelings and emotions
rage *n*
anger and hatred
mainstream music *n*
popular music that is seen as normal, typical and conventional
torn jeans *n*
jeans with holes
a checked shirt *n*
a shirt with coloured squares on it
a ripped cardigan *n*
a "cardigan" is a type of sweater or jumper with buttons at the front. A "ripped cardigan" has holes in it
a stage *n*
the area where musicians play during a concert
a Christmas carol *n*
a song that is sung at Christmas time

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AUDIO



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



NIRVANA

Nirvana were one of the most influential bands of the 20th century. They helped start the **grunge** phenomenon and the lead singer, Kurt Cobain, became a cult figure, along with Jim Morrison and Jimi Hendrix, after he committed suicide.
Just before shooting himself, Kurt wrote a note in which he said:
"I'm pretty much of an **erratic, moody person** and I don't have the passion anymore."
So what went wrong? And why did such a talented and popular musician decide to end his life?

The Boy Who Formed A Band

Kurt Cobain was born in 1967 and he was a normal kid until the age of seven when his parents got divorced. This separation really affected him. As Kurt once said:
"I was a seriously depressed kid. Every night at one point, I'd go to bed **bawling my head off**. I used to try to make my head explode by **holding my breath**, thinking if I **blew up** my head, they'd be sorry... I wanted to die. I wanted to kill. I wanted to **smash** things."
However, Kurt had one **outlet** for his aggression and anger: music. As a teenager he formed a band called Fecall Matter, with Dale Crever and Greg Hokanson. Kurt left shortly afterwards and formed another band called The Stiff Woodies. The band changed names many times (Bliss, Throat Oyster, Pen Cap Chew) until they finally decided on Nirvana. At that time Kurt was on **drums**, his friend Novoselik was on **bass** and whoever was there played the guitar. In 1987 Kurt moved to vocals and guitar, and they found a new drummer called Dave Grohl in 1990, who came from the band Scream. And this was the final **line-up** for Nirvana.

A Cult Following

Their success came with **the release of the album** "Nevermind". They had previously **signed** with the **record label** Sub Pop Records and recorded their first single "Love Buzz/Big Cheese", and their debut album "Bleach", in December 1988. But after the release of "Bleach", Sub Pop Records began to have financial problems and the band looked for another label to release its second album. They signed with Geffen Records in 1991, and released "Nevermind", which went triple platinum.
"Nevermind" also helped the band launch world-wide with the opening track "Smells Like Teen Spirit", which reached the UK Top 10. At the time, Kurt tried to explain what his songs were all about:
"Most of the music is really personal as far as the emotion and the experiences that I've had in my life, but most of the themes in our songs aren't that personal. They're more just stories from TV or books."

Hell On Earth

Kurt's personal problems started in 1992. He had taken heroin before but now it was becoming a habit. Kurt never liked what he was doing and he once said:
"I think people who **glamorize drugs** are **fucking assholes** and, if there's a hell, they'll go there."
Kurt **got used to** taking heroin as a way of relieving pain; and it didn't take long before he was really addicted. Kurt always tried to keep it a secret:
"I never **went out of my way** to say anything about my drug use. I tried to hide it as long as I could," he said.

Marriage

There was a brief period of hope when Kurt met Courtney Love. Courtney was the lead singer of the punk band Hole. Just after Kurt and Courtney got married in Waikiki, Hawai, Kurt said:
"I'm just happier than I've ever been. I finally found someone that

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A Nirvana Song

I'm compatible with. It doesn't matter whether she's a male, female or hermaphrodite or a donkey. We're compatible."
And soon after the wedding, their daughter Frances was born.
But then everything went wrong again. The magazine Vanity Fair published an article alleging that Courtney had taken heroin while she was pregnant. The government interceded on the child's behalf and Kurt and Courtney were not allowed to be alone with their child during her first month. They eventually recovered custody of their child and shortly afterwards, Nirvana released the album "In Utero". It was never as successful as "Nevermind", but it did quite well.



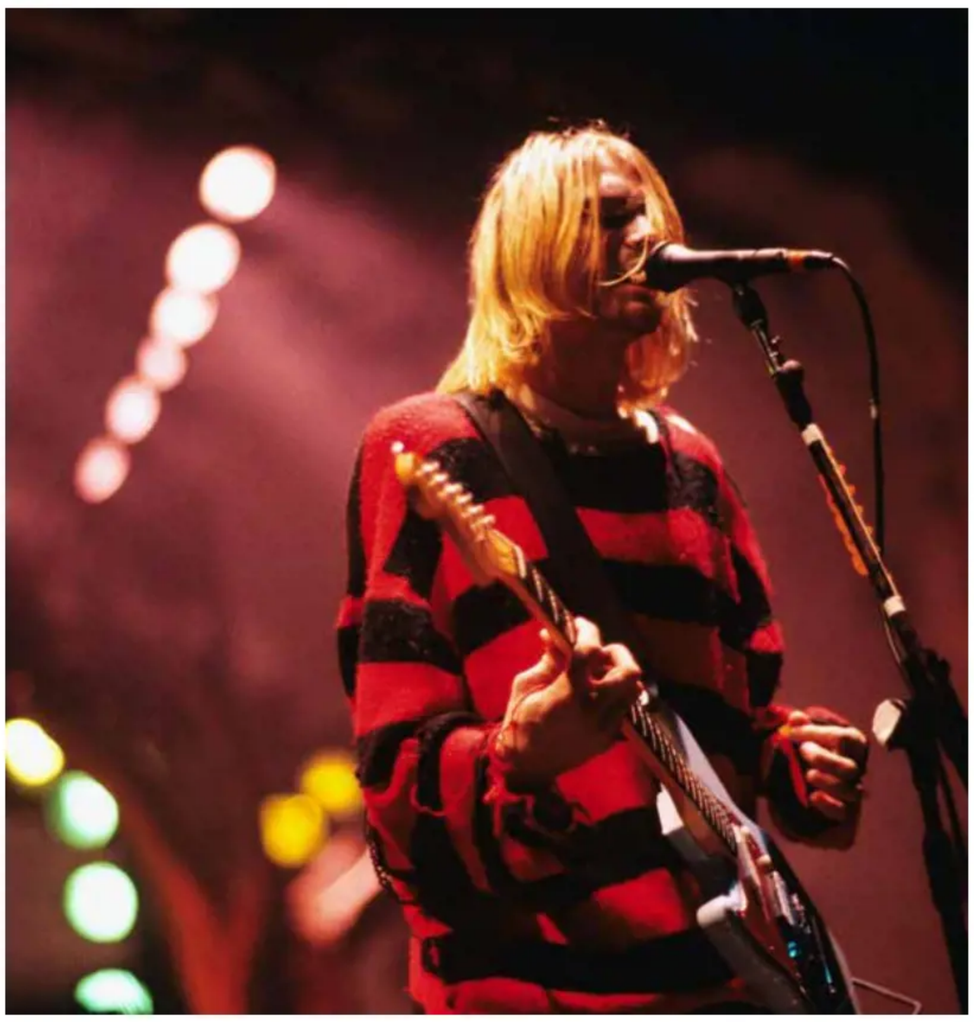
Self-Destruction

By this time Kurt was getting more and more depressed. In March 1994, while on tour in Europe, Kurt fell into a coma that lasted for 20 hours. Later, doctors found 50 doses of a valium-like prescription-drug in his stomach. It looked like a suicide attempt, although Kurt denied it.
For the first time, Courtney was afraid that Kurt might try to kill himself - especially as Kurt kept guns at home. Kurt assured her that he had them for security reasons. As he once said:
"It's for protection. I don't have **bodyguards**. And sometimes it's fun to go out and shoot, but just as a sport."
Back in the US, Kurt **checked into** a drug-rehabilitation centre called the Exodus Recovery Center. But after just one day, he escaped and **headed back** to Seattle.

Suicide

And in April it all came to an end. On the afternoon of 5th April, Kurt **barricaded himself** in the room above the garage of his Seattle home, wrote a note in red ink addressed to Boddah, his imaginary childhood friend, and shot himself with his gun. He was just 27. His dead body was found two days later by an electrician who had come to install a security system in the house.
In the note, Kurt spoke about his lack of enthusiasm for life:
"I haven't felt the excitement of listening to as well as creating music for too many years now."
And he added:
"The worst crime I can think of would be to **rip people off** by **faking it** and **pretending** as if I'm having 100% fun".
He ended the letter, "Peace. Love. Empathy. Kurt Cobain", and **begged** Courtney to look after their daughter:
"Please keep going Courtney, for Frances, for her life, which will be so much happier without me. I love you, I love you."
After Kurt's death Grohl formed the band Foo-Fighters, and Novoselik formed the band Weet 75 early in 1997 and Eyes Adrift in 2001. And that was the end of Nirvana, and the start of the legend. ✪

"On A Plain" from the album Nevermind
I'll **start this off** without any words,
I got so high that I **scratched** 'til I **bled**,
I love myself better than you,
I know it's wrong so what should I do?
The finest day that I ever had,
Was when I learned to **cry on command**,
I love myself better than you,
I know it's wrong so what should I do?
I'm on a plain, I can't complain,
I'm on a plain.



GLOSSARY

grunge *n*
a type of music and a fashion a bit like punk
an erratic, moody person *n*
a person who is always changing - one minute they're happy, the next minute they're sad
to bawl your head off *exp*
to cry very much
to hold your breath *exp*
to stop breathing
to blow up *phr vb*
to explode
to smash *vb*
to break and destroy
an outlet *n*
a way of expressing feelings and emotions
drums *n*
a percussion instrument that you play with little sticks
a bass *n*
a guitar with four thick strings
a line-up *n*
the group of people in a band
the release of the album *n*
when the album is put in shops
to sign with a record label *exp*
to sign a contract with a record company
to glamorize drugs *exp*
to say that drugs are great and a good thing
a fucking asshole *n offens*
an insult for someone who you hate
to get used to *exp*
to become accustomed to
to go out of your way to do something *exp*
to make a big effort to do something
a bodyguard *n*
a person who protects famous people
to check into *exp*
to stay in a hotel or hospital
to head back *exp*
to go back
to barricade yourself in a place *exp*
to go to a place and lock the door so no one can enter
to rip people off *exp*
to trick people and make people them believe something that isn't true in order to make money
to fake it *exp*
to act as if something is true that isn't true
to pretend *vb*
to act as if something is true that isn't true
to beg *vb*
to ask for money or help
to start off *phr vb*
to start
I got so high *exp*
I became "drunk" because I took drugs
to scratch *vb*
to move the ends of your fingers over your skin many times
to bleed *vb*
when you lose blood (the red liquid) from your body
to cry on command *exp*
to cry when someone tells you to cry
I'm on a plain *exp*
we think this means: "I'm trapped in a bad situation"

A look at some cool places from around the world.

AUDIO

In The News

Cruelty To Children

A teacher from South Wales was suspended from duty recently after an incident during a school excursion. Three teachers and two classes were walking in the **hills** near the school when the teacher in charge, Miss Hewell, became worried about the behaviour of some of her pupils: "They were **going wild** and they weren't paying any attention to me. I was worried they were going to get lost so I decided to **tie** the **naughty** ones **together** so they couldn't run off," she explained.

The pupils were forced to stand in a line while Miss Hewell, and another teacher tied the pupils together with a long piece of **rope**. "It was a bit funny at first," said Matthew aged 12, a pupil from the school who watched the incident. "But then it was probably painful and embarrassing too," he added.



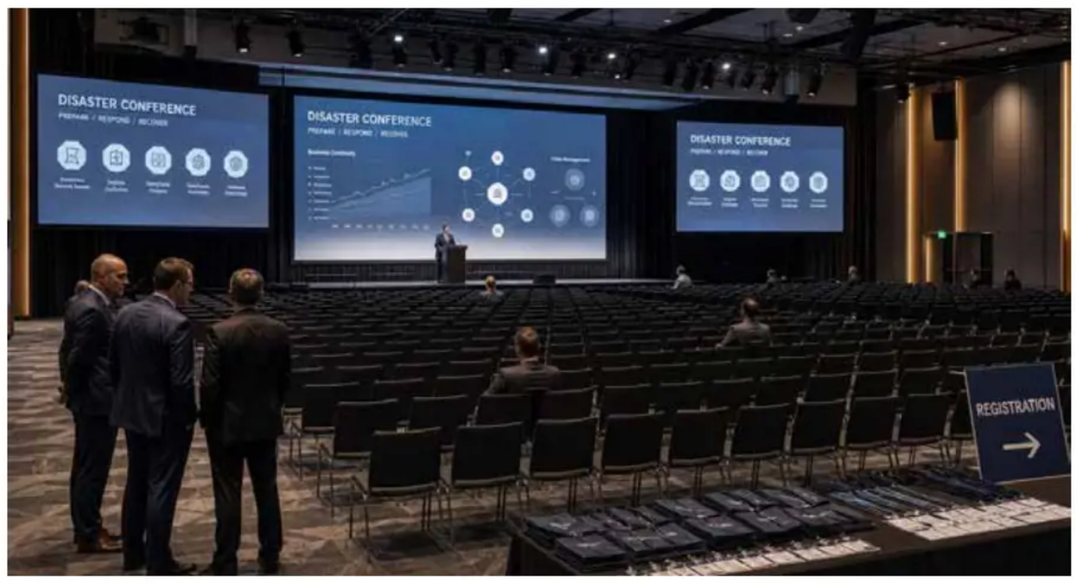
No Police

People who had to call the police in New York one day last month were surprised to hear the following recorded message: "You have reached the New York City Police Department. For any real emergencies, dial 119. Anyone else - we're a little busy right now eating some **doughnuts** and having coffee." The NYPD had no official explanation, but they think it may have been **phone hackers**.



Disaster

The first international "Disaster Conference" ever to be held in the US has turned out to be a complete... disaster. The conference **was due to start** this month, but was cancelled after only a few people said they would attend. Organisers of the conference had hoped that representatives of governments and business would come **en masse**. People attending the conference would have heard about things such as "What To Do When Computer Systems Fail" or "How To **Steer** A Company Through A Leadership Crisis". But people weren't interested. "Disaster happens to be a topic people **would rather not** face," explained one of the organisers.



All The Queen's Horses

A plan to make horses wear **nappies** as they pull Royal carriages through the streets of London has provoked an angry response from animal rights protesters.

Martin Greene, one of the organisers of a demonstration against the proposal, said:

"The diapers would restrict the horses' movement and would **rub**, causing **wounds**."

As part of the protest, animal rights activists put on nappies and **lined up** in front of Buckingham Palace.

A royal official commented:

"It's very embarrassing for the Queen to sit there while her horse **does its business**."



GLOSSARY

a hill *n*
a small mountain
to go wild *exp*
to act in a very bad way with no control
to tie together *exp*
to use a rope to attach people or things to one another
naughty *adj*
someone who behaves badly with little control
rope *n*
thick cord used for tying things
a doughnut *n*
a small, round type of cake
a phone hacker *n*
a person who enters a phone system illegally
was due to start *exp*
was planned to start
en masse *adv*
in large numbers
to steer *vb*
to guide
would rather not *exp*
would prefer not to
a nappy *n*
clothing that babies wear to protect their bottoms
to rub vb
when one part of your body moves backwards and forwards against something
a wound *n*
a cut or hole in your body
to line up *phr vb*
to form a line
to do its business *exp*
to go to the toilet
to ship *vb*
to send - by plane or by ship

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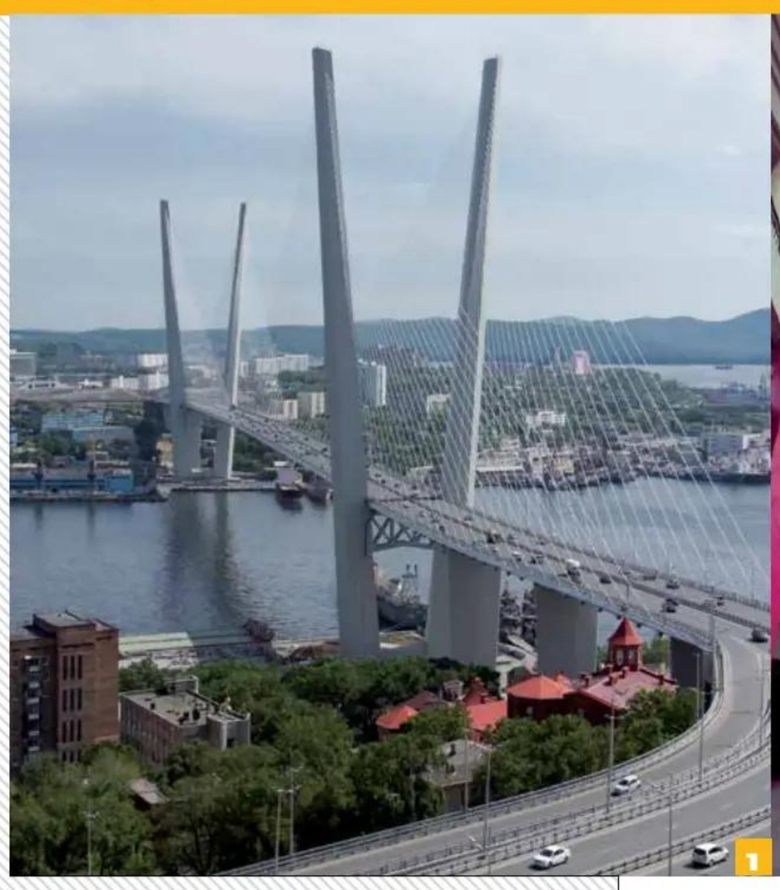
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Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What are some of the biggest buildings or structures in your country? What are they for? What are some of the most impressive buildings or structures in your country? What are they used for? Are there many old buildings in your city or country? How well preserved are they? What are they being used for now? What do you think of modern architecture?

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

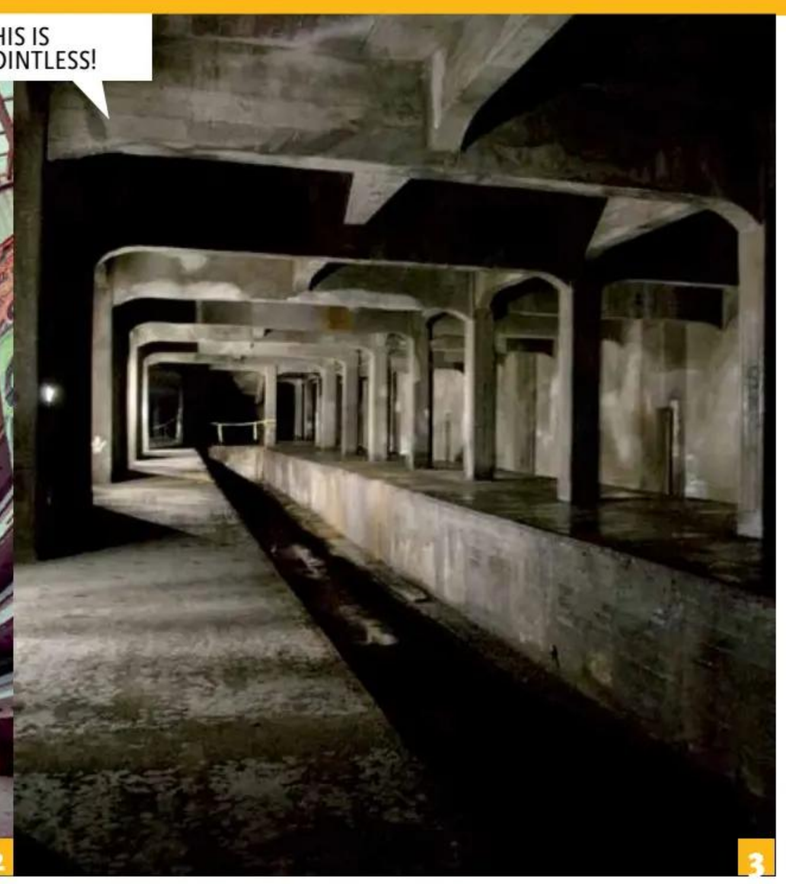
AUDIO



1



2



3

Answers on page 63

1 Pre-reading

Are there any shopping malls, bridges, hotels, airports, underground train systems, tram stations or lines near where you live? How successful, popular or commercially viable are they? Do you think they're underused in any way? Do they serve a good purpose? Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which "white elephant" is the most useless? Why?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write Bridge, Mall or Subway next to each statement.

1. It includes replicas of famous landmarks.
2. It was opened by an important government official.
3. Only about half of it was ever completed.
4. It was built for an international meeting.
5. It was originally going to open about 100 years ago.
6. Only about 1% of it is being used.
7. You can get access to it a couple of times a year.
8. Capacity for it far exceeds possible demand.
9. It's the largest of its kind in the world.

THREE FAMOUS "WHITE ELEPHANTS"!

Hotels that never open. Train lines to nowhere. Airports with no planes. Are there any **white elephants** in your country – expensive buildings or structures that are never used, opened or finished? Here are some famous ones from around the world. [source, Wikipedia]

1 The bridge

The Russky Bridge **links** the 5,000 inhabitants of Russky Island with the larger city of Vladivostok (population 600,000). The bridge cost more than $1bn and was built as part of preparations for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit of 2012, which lasted just two days. Completed in July of that year, it was opened by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. It's the world's longest **cable-stayed bridge**, with a 1,104 metre long **central span**. Capacity for the bridge is 50,000 cars per day, which is 10 times the total population of Russky Island!

2 The shopping mall

The New South China Mall is the world's largest **shopping mall**, but unfortunately, it's mostly empty. It was opened in the city of Dongguan (in China) in 2005 and was expected to have about 100,000 visitors a day. However, although it has space for about 2,300 shops, 99% of these are **vacant**. The mall has seven zones modelled on international cities, nations and regions, including Amsterdam, Paris, Rome, Venice, Egypt, the Caribbean, and California. There's a 25-metre **replica** of the Arc de Triomphe, a model of Venice's St Mark's bell tower, a 2.1-kilometre canal with **gondolas**, and a 553-metre indoor-outdoor **roller coaster**. All for nothing!

3 The subway

Planning for the Cincinnati (Ohio) subway was approved in 1916. However, only about 18 kilometres of the proposed 26-kilometre route was ever completed, and it was never officially opened. There are now **derelict** tunnels, stations and train lines under the city streets. Experts have estimated that it would cost around $2 million over five years to maintain the tunnels as they currently are, or $19 million to fill them in with dirt. However, twice a year, citizens do have the opportunity to explore the historic subway, through tours operated by the Cincinnati Museum Center. So it isn't completely **useless**!

Beware of the white elephants!

VIDEO YouTube

Watch a video on the Cincinnati subway. Search YouTube for "**Cincinnati's Subway**".

GLOSSARY

a white elephant *n*
a building or structure that is never finished, completed, opened, etc.
to link *vb*
to connect, to join
a cable-stayed bridge *n*
a bridge in which the weight of the bridge is supported by cables that go to one or more towers
a central span *n*
the distance between the suspension towers on a bridge
a shopping mall *n*
a large building with many shops in it. A "shopping centre" in British English
vacant *adj*
if a building is "vacant", no one is living in it or using it
a replica *n*
a copy
a gondola *n*
a boat from the canals of Venice (Italy)
a roller coaster *n*
a type of small train at a fun fair that goes up and down really quickly
derelict *adj*
if a building is "derelict", it's empty and in a very bad condition
useless *adj*
something "useless" can't be used and serves no purpose

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Quirky News

Unusual news stories from around the world.

For Real



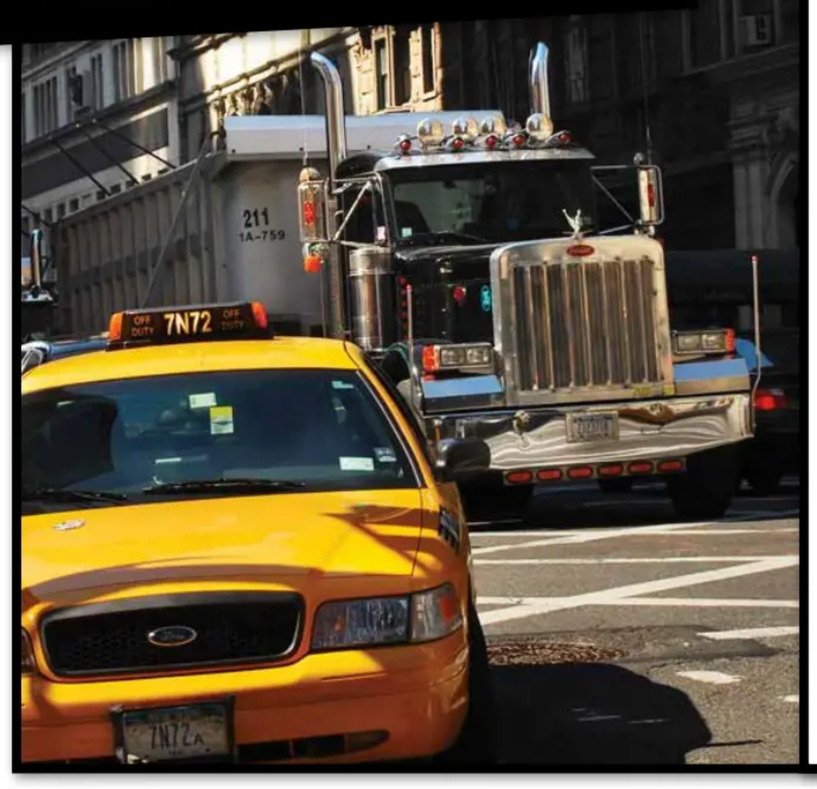
A New Zealand couple are having some problems registering their new baby's name.
Paul and Sally Cheeka wanted to name their baby son "4real*". However, they were told that "**4real***" can't be used on a birth certificate because numerals are not allowed.
The government office has opened negotiations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

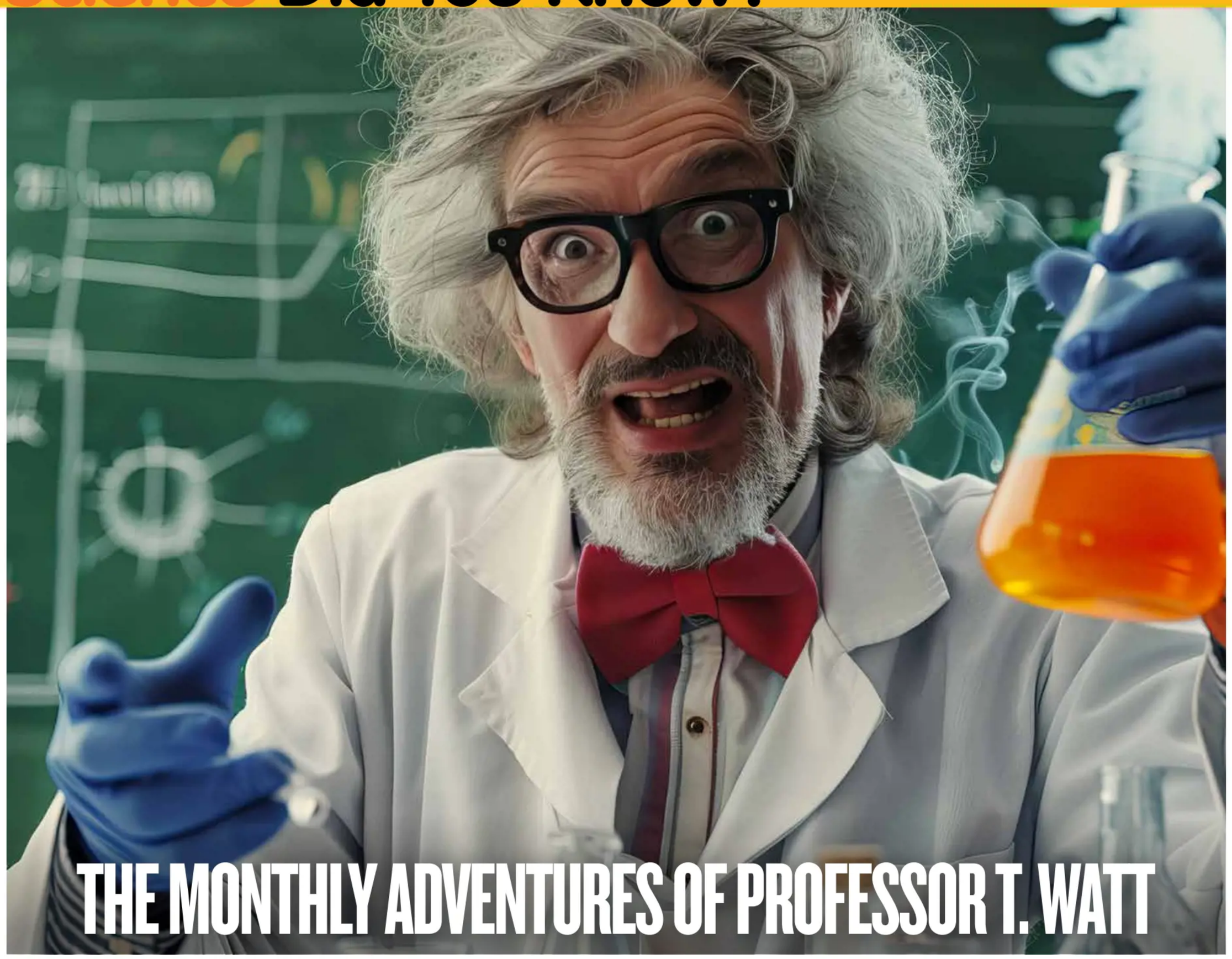
The expression "for real" has a number of meanings in colloquial, slang English. For example:

A: Sam is a really bad man.
B: For real. (Yes, I know.)

A: I just won the lottery.
B: For real? (Really?)

The monthly adventures of Professor T. Watt

Science Did You Know?



Last month we invited you to write in with your science-related problems. Here are Professor T. Watt's answers. If you have any further questions, please write in at: twat@hotenglishmagazine.com

Dear Professor T. Watt,

I often find white **spots** on my **nails** and I was wondering why? Do I have a rare disease? Please help.
Ms Purfekt.

Many people believe that the presence of white spots on nails is a sign of calcium deficiency. This is not true. White spots appear after you hit your nails against something. I recently conducted an experiment to prove this theory of mine. It went something like this:
I hit Subject A repeatedly with a large **hammer** on his nails. White spots appeared two days later.
I did not hit Subject B with a large hammer on his nails. No white spots appeared.
This proved conclusively that only violence and over-enthusiastic **manicuring** can cause white spots. A more tranquil lifestyle will prevent any further spots appearing.

Dear T. Watt,

I have heard that soya is very good for you but I am allergic to it. What can I do? I would like to be able to eat it.
Mr Gumbelle.

Soya allergy is most likely to affect children under five, although it can also affect adults. It can be severe, and has two unpleasant symptoms: **itchy skin** and diarrhoea. Most of these allergic reactions are caused by a protein in soybeans called Protein34B.
However, your worries are over. A team of top scientists have found a way of eliminating this protein by **genetically modifying** the food. This is proof that technology can make food safer for consumers. Eat **GM food** whenever you can. Professor T. Watt recommends it.



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

Dear T. Watt,

I once heard that a good cure for bad breath was to pull out all my teeth. I did this yesterday. Have I done the right thing?
Ms Toof.

Yes, of course you have. This is a perfect treatment for bad breath. As I have already explained, it is the bacteria between the teeth and the gums that causes bad breath. So, **removing** your teeth is the perfect solution and just imagine what your breath would smell like if you hadn't! Unfortunately, you will have to eat soup for the rest of your life.
Yours, T. Watt.



Dear Professor T. Watt,

I am a farmer and I recently cloned one of my top **bulls**. Can I sell cloned meat? What is the legal situation regarding this question? Please advise.
Yours,
F. Gyles.

As I am sure you already know, research scientists are already producing cloned animals every day. And milk and meat from cloned cows could appear on supermarket **shelves** as early as next year. At present, most farmers and companies are waiting for the US Food & Drug Administration to approve the products.
Personally, I would recommend selling your meat or milk from cloned cows - preferably to the European market, and in particular to the French. By the way, I have a lovely cloned Holstein dairy cow that is producing litres of fresh milk everyday. Unfortunately, I am not a milk drinker myself so cannot benefit from my cow's productiveness, but I would be willing to sell her to any interested parties. Please write to cow@twat.com
Yours, The Professor - at your service night and day. ✪



GLOSSARY

a spot *n*
a small, circular point
a nail *n*
you have "nails" on the ends of your fingers
a hammer *n*
a large tool that has a wooden handle and a heavy metal part
at the end. It is used for hitting things
to manicure *vb*
to care for and decorate your nails
itchy skin *n*
a feeling on your skin that makes you want to touch it and scratch it
to genetically modify *exp*
food that has been changed scientifically
GM food *n*
genetically modified food
to remove *vb*
to take away
a bull *n*
a male cow
a shelf *n*
a flat piece of wood or metal that is attached to the wall for putting things on

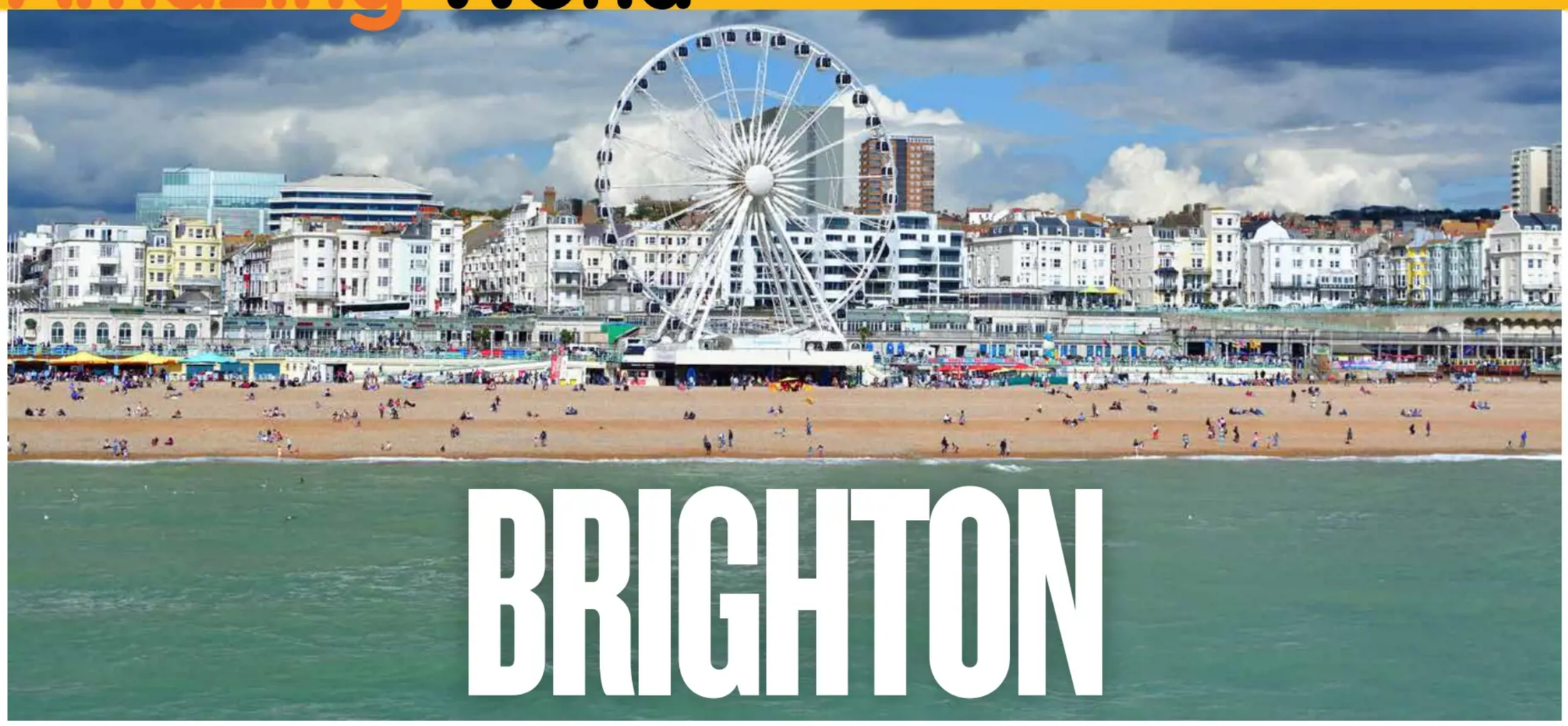
SEX THERAPY

by Daniel Coutoune



A look at some cool places from around the world.

Amazing World



Originally, Brighton was a small fishing village, known as Brighthelmstone. But now it's Britain's **funkiest** and most cosmopolitan seaside city. It has great architecture; cool shops; wonderful cafés; two **piers**; and loads of good nightclubs and restaurants. It's also close to some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain.

By The Sea

Brighton was originally discovered in 1750 when a doctor claimed that sea water was a great cure for all types of illness. Almost overnight Brighton became the fashionable place for London High Society, and the tourist industry was born. At the time, local people from Brighton became known as "**dippers**", because they pushed the visitors into the sea in "bathing machines" (wooden huts on wheels) and then dropped ("dipped") them into the sea. These days you can still enjoy a nice swim, although you may find the water a bit cold.

Brighton Streets

Brighton is also fantastic for walking around. Try the Lanes, which is a **maze** of **narrow** streets and **alleyways** near to the seafront. The Lanes are full of expensive jewellery and antique shops, which are great to visit. Strong winds blow in from the sea and while you're there - it's easy to imagine what it was like in the old days, with the streets full of sailors, **smugglers** and shopkeepers.

Shopping

If you're interested in shopping, Brighton has all the usual high-street stores, plus lots of unique and unusual independent shops and boutiques. Cars are not allowed into the Lanes, so it's a great place to wander around and go **window-shopping** for an afternoon. The North Laine area has got a strange mix of shops, with bohemian clothes boutiques, **trendy** furniture shops and interesting **bric-a-brac shops**. There are also loads of fantastic gift shops where you are certain to find the perfect gift or souvenir.

The Sea Wall

The walk along the **sea front** in Brighton is fantastic. You can go for miles along the sea wall - it's a great way to spend a sunny afternoon. The wall was built in the 18th century after a storm in 1724 **flooded** and destroyed many of the houses in Brighton. Afterwards, the townspeople were given permission to **beg** for money all over England to build a sea wall to prevent the town from flooding again.

A Ghost Train

You can't leave Brighton without visiting one of the two piers: the Palace Pier and the West Pier. The Palace Pier is wonderfully **tacky**. It has something for everyone with video games, **fairground rides**, fast-food restaurants, an exciting ghost train, **deckchairs** and teashops.

The West Pier was built over 130 years ago. It fell into disrepair during World War II, but it has all of its old charm. There were plans to restore it, but it is still in ruins and it is considered beyond restoration.



Architecture

Brighton also has lots of really interesting houses and buildings and some of the best **Regency architecture** in Britain. In the 18th century the Prince of Wales (later to become **Prince Regent** and then King George IV) decided to live in Brighton. As a result, Brighton became really popular and lots of new houses were built. You can still see these elegant Regency townhouses today, and some of them are in beautiful squares.

The Royal Pavillion

The most popular tourist attraction in Brighton is the Royal Pavilion. We strongly recommend you go and see it as it's completely mad. Some people say that it looks like a **turnip** and others say it looks like the Kremlin in Russia. The outside is Indian in style, with **domes** and **minarets**. In total contrast, the inside is Chinese in style, with intricate, multi-coloured decorations.

The Royal Pavilion was the Prince Regent's home in Brighton. At first it was just a small house. Then he hired architects to **extend** it and make improvements. One of these was John Nash, the most famous Regency architect. The building was finally completed in 1823, more than 30 years after it was first started and it cost the Prince Regent over £500,000, which is the equivalent of more than 50 million euros today.

At the time the Royal Pavilion was a **laughing stock**. John Wilson Croker, a writer said:

"It is, I think, an **absurd** waste of money, and will be a ruin in half a century or more."

Queen Victoria agreed and stopped the Royal Pavilion being used as a palace as she thought it would make royalty look silly.

But they were all wrong. The Royal Pavilion has remained popular all this time. Legend says that it has survived because of the dragons on every corner of the Pavilion. In Chinese mythology, dragons symbolise good luck.



A "Fun" Weekend

Brighton is also famous for being the place where people go for a "**romantic weekend**". This was all started by the Prince Regent in the 18th century. The prince had many **mistresses** and he often took them to Brighton for a "fun weekend" at the Royal Pavilion. One of his mistresses was called Maria Fitzherbert. The Prince could never marry her because she was Catholic, so they married secretly in 1785. She did not live at the Royal Pavilion, but at a house that was built for her nearby. The house still stands and it is now the **YMCA**. There are secret **passageways** between the house and the Royal Pavilion.

Eventually, King George III (the Prince's father) forced the Prince to divorce Maria and marry Caroline of Brunswick (Caroline was a Protestant Princess). However, Caroline and the prince hated each other and the marriage was a disaster. The prince would not live with Caroline and even refused to let her into Westminster Abbey for the Coronation when he became King. They had only one child, who **died in childbirth**. The prince later returned to Maria, and when he died in 1830 her **miniature** was found around his neck. Maria died in 1837 and is buried in Brighton, in the chapel of St John the Baptist in St Georges Road.

Special Events - The Royal Escape

Every year in Brighton there is a famous boat race called the "Royal Escape". This race is held in May and goes from Brighton to France. It's supposed to be celebrating a spectacular escape made by King Charles II that took place during the English Civil War in the 17th century. This war was fought between the Royalists (who supported King Charles II) and the Roundheads (who supported Oliver Cromwell). By 1651 the Royalists were losing the war, and King Charles II **fled** and hid in Brighton, **disguised** as a servant. He stayed in the George Inn in West Street (later renamed the King's Head) and soon afterwards escaped to France in a boat. The race is a celebration of his escape.

Gay Brighton

Brighton is home to one of the largest gay communities in Britain. There are all sorts of gay bars from leather bars, to pink palaces, to techno clubs. The gay area of Brighton is a a very friendly place, and you can find all sorts of people there like new-age hippies and travellers. Gay Pride is one of the biggest gay festivals in the UK. It takes place over a two-week period every July, ending up with a parade through the streets, followed by a huge party in Preston Park on the edge of the city.

Food & Nightlife

Brighton is often called "London by the sea" – because the restaurants and clubs are as good as those in London. But the advantage of Brighton is that everything is really close and it's much easier to get around.

After London, Brighton has the greatest concentration of restaurants in the southeast of England. There are some great, inexpensive cafés around the North Laine area. They're perfect for lunch or an early evening snack. The more up-market restaurants are in the Lanes area and along the seafront towards Hove. There are lots of trendy bars and restaurants in the Kemp Town area. There are hundreds of clubs in Brighton, catering to every musical taste. We recommend you check one of the local magazines to find out what's happening.

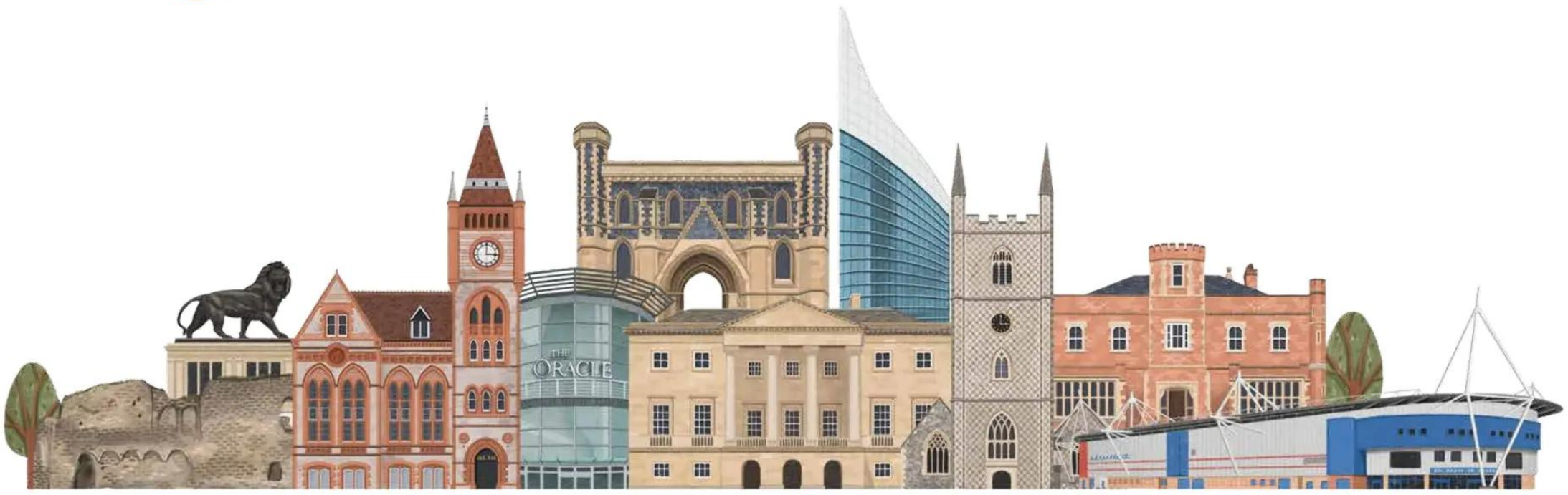
See you in Brighton!

GLOSSARY

funky *adj*
unconventional, unusual
a pier *n*
a long wooden structure that goes out into the sea. You can walk on it
a dipper *n*
this comes from the verb "to dip", that means to put something in a liquid for a short time
a maze *n*
a large number of streets that are connected in a complicated way
narrow *adj*
not wide
an alleyway *n*
a narrow street
a smuggler *n*
a person who brings things illegally into a country in order to sell them
window-shopping *n*
looking at things in shop windows without buying anything
trendy *adj*
fashionable
a bric-a-brac shop *n*
shops that sell small ornamental objects of no value
the sea front *n*
the area by the sea
to flood *vb*
when it rains a lot and there is water on the ground
to beg *vb*
to ask for money or help
tacky *adj*
cheap and vulgar
a fairground ride *n*
"rides" are little machines or trains that you can ride. A "fairground" is a park full of attractions
a deckchair *n*
a chair used for sitting on the beach. You can fold the chair
Regency architecture *n*
buildings from the time of the Prince Regent during the 18th century
the Prince Regent *n*
a prince who rules the country because the king or queen is too ill
a turnip *n*
a vegetable a bit like a potato. Its skin is green/white
a dome *n*
a round roof
a minaret *n*
a tall tower that is part of a mosque (a Muslim temple)
to extend *vb*
to make bigger
a laughing stock *n*
something that makes everyone laugh and people think is ridiculous
absurd *adj*
ridiculous
a romantic weekend *n*
a weekend away from home, having 'fun' with someone who is not your husband, wife or partner
a mistress *n*
a woman that a man has a relationship with. The woman is not his wife or partner
YMCA *abbr*
Young Man's Christian Association – a cheap hotel
a passageway *n*
an underground tunnel
to die in childbirth *exp*
to die at the time of giving birth
a miniature *n*
a small object that you wear around your neck. It has a picture of the person you love in it
to flee (fled) vb
to escape quickly from a place
to disguise vb
to wear clothes so you look different

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Living Abroad



READING

Every month we interview someone who has lived in another country about their experiences and impressions of that country. This month we are speaking to Blanca about her time in Reading, England when she was 23.

Blanca, why did you go to Reading?

Well, my English was very poor at the time. I had been to London four years before going to Reading and I hadn't really learnt much English because I was with other Spanish people. So I went to Reading to improve my English.



And what did you do while you were in Reading?

I was working in a hotel. It was a hard job, but I had a really good time, mostly because of the other people who were working there. Also, it was the first time that I'd lived with people from different cultural backgrounds.

How did you get the job?

Through an agency in Spain. I had to pay about 400 euros to the agency to get the job, which wasn't too bad.



Can you describe a typical day for us?

Well, I had to wake up really early every morning, about seven. And I started work at about eight. Basically I went round the rooms, changing the **sheets**, making the beds, putting clean towels in the bathrooms and generally **tidying** the rooms.

The worst time was during the **Reading Festival**. It's a big music festival with lots of rock groups from all over the world. For about four days there were lots of **grungers** staying at the hotel. They were quite **messy** so it was hard work. There were clothes all over the floor and even bits of **jam** on the beds. That was really strange



because the jam appeared on lots of beds in lots of different rooms. Maybe it was some kind of strange ritual - I don't know and I didn't really want to know. But I have to say they kept the bathrooms quite clean.

Apart from cleaning the rooms I had to help in the kitchens. Quite often the cook wouldn't come to work as he was a bit of an alcoholic and preferred to stay in bed when he had a **hangover**. Once I had to cook breakfast for about 30 people, which was really quite an experience. There were quite a few pieces of **burnt toast** that day!

At about 12pm I had lunch. This was really early for me. And I'm sorry to say, the food was awful. At first we had to eat the food the cook gave us. Quite often he would use meat that was **past its expiry date**. But after a while I just used to take things from the **fridge**. I ate a lot of "**After 8s**", Brie cheese and **ham** for the time I was there.

Did anything funny happen while you were there?

Oh yes, lots of things. Once I was working as a waitress on the **breakfast shift**. There was a big conference that day so there were lots of guests. I went to one of the tables and asked them what they wanted for breakfast. They all wanted **full English breakfasts**, except for one woman who said, "I want an English

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breakfast without **beans**". But unfortunately, I understood "English breakfast with only beans". So I went to the kitchen and got an English breakfast. I took off the egg, bacon and sausage and left just the beans, then I added some more beans because I thought it looked a bit pathetic with just a few beans on the plate. Then I took it to the table. When they saw the plate full of beans they all started laughing. Then I understood that I'd made a mistake and the woman was saying, "I said NO BEANS - I don't like beans, please NO BEANS". Eventually she got her English breakfast without beans.



Did anything else funny happen?

Another time I got into trouble with the manager. In the morning, I often used to sleep in the guests' beds because I was so tired. I would lock the door and just lie down on the bed and have a little sleep. But one of the other cleaners told the manager about this. One day he came up and caught me sleeping. **He kept an eye on me** after that.
Another time the manager was away and we organised a kind of party in the hotel bar. The girls who worked there were French and they were really nice. We **helped ourselves** to drinks, put on some music and started having a good time. We had some cassettes with Spanish Flamenco music, which the French girls really liked and we were all dancing. There was a group of students in the bar too and they were getting really angry because we were making so much noise. Eventually, one of them came over to us and asked us to turn the music down. We said "OK", but when he went back to his place we just turned it up even louder. They all left eventually and we carried on with the party.

What were the worst things about working there?

There wasn't really anything bad about working there, apart from the long hours. Oh yes, and the guests who were a bit rude sometimes. But apart from that, it was great.

Did you have any problems with the language while you were there?

One day I went to a pub and an English **guy** said something to me that I didn't really understand. I was feeling a bit tired at the time and **I couldn't be bothered to** ask him to repeat so I just answered, "no". But later on, my friend told me that the English guy had asked, "do you like English people?" So after that he was really angry with me and he wouldn't talk to me. Every time I walked past him to go to the bar or the toilet **he pointed his finger at me**, like he was **threatening** me. He looked really drunk and I thought he was going to kill me. I tried to explain that it was a misunderstanding, but he was too drunk to listen so I **gave up**. He was a bit of a psycho.
Another time, I went for a walk around the hotel. It was a bit of a dangerous area so I was frightened. Suddenly, as I was arriving back at the hotel, a drunken man came towards me and started shouting and saying things. I didn't really understand him so I started running. He started running too but luckily I could run faster. I never found out what he wanted to say.



And how did you get on with the other people there?

Oh they were really nice. There were lots of French people there and they were great fun. When I left, the French girls in charge of the bar let me go there and choose a few bottles to take home with me. They let me take a bottle of whisky and lots of bottles of beer that I took for my father. It was like a present from them. They also bought me a little **teddy bear**, which was really nice. In the end, I couldn't take all the beer because it was too heavy. I had to leave some of the bottles in one of the rooms. Whoever stayed in that room after me must have been very happy.

OK, thank you very much Blanca. That was really interesting.



GLOSSARY

a sheet *n*
a large piece of cloth that you put on your bed
to tidy *vb*
to order and arrange things and put them in their place
the Reading Festival *n* this is a music festival that is held in the English town of Reading in the summer. Mostly rock and heavy metal groups play there
grunger *adj*
"grunge" is a type of fashion and music. A "grunger" is the person who wears old clothes and listens to groups like Nirvana and Pearl Jam
messy *adj*
to leave things on the floor and be generally dirty
jam *n*
a substance made from fruit and sugar. Often eaten on toast
a hangover *n*
the terrible feeling after drinking too much alcohol
burnt toast *n*
toast that has become black because of too much heat
past its expiry date *exp*
food that is not safe to eat because it is too old
a fridge *n*
a machine for keeping food cold
After 8s *n*
a type of chocolate with mint that comes in a little black envelope - they're very tasty
ham *n*
meat from pigs
the breakfast shift *n*
the period of time that covers breakfast - usually 7 till 11 in the morning
a full English breakfast *n*
a breakfast with sausages, bacon, egg and beans
beans *n*
small, white round pieces of food that are often eaten with a tomato sauce
to keep an eye on someone *exp*
to watch someone carefully
to help yourself *exp*
to serve yourself food or drink
a guy *n*
a man
I couldn't be bothered to *exp*
I didn't have the energy to...
he pointed his finger at me *exp*
he held his finger towards me
to threaten *vb*
to say that you will do something bad to someone
to give up *phr vb*
to stop doing something
a teddy bear *n*
a toy that is soft and looks like a bear

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MARILYN

by Justine Bayod-Espoz

The Russian magazine Nedvela once said:

"When you speak of the American way of life, everybody thinks of chewing gum, Coca-Cola and Marilyn Monroe."

With her platinum blonde hair and her **curves** Marilyn Monroe was a sex symbol and one of the 20th century's biggest icons. During her film career she made 31 movies. Now, over 60 years after her death, you can still buy Marilyn Monroe posters, postcards, recordings and books. Many women have tried to imitate her, such as Madonna in her famous "Material Girl" video.

A Troubled Start

Marilyn was born Norma Jean Mortenson on 1st June 1926 in Los Angeles, California. She never knew who her father was - it might have been her mother's husband, Martin Edward Mortenson, or it could have been C. Stanley Gifford, her mother's lover.

Marilyn had a very troubled childhood. Marilyn's mother had psychological problems and was eventually sent to a mental institution. Marilyn spent years moving in and out of **orphanages** and **foster homes**. It was in one of these foster homes at the age of nine that she was **raped**. In 1937 she was **taken in** by a family friends who took good care of her until 1942 when the family had money problems and **could no longer afford** to take care of her. 16-year-old Marilyn was desperate not to return to an orphanage so she married her 21 year-old neighbour and boyfriend of six months, Jimmy Dougherty.

The Discovery

In 1944 Jimmy joined the Merchant Marines and was sent to the South Pacific. Marilyn took a job working in a factory at the Radio Plane Munitions Factory. It was there that photographer David Conover discovered her. He was taking pictures of women contributing to the war effort for the magazine Yank. Conover began to use Marilyn as his private model and sent other modelling jobs her way. By 1946, she'd already appeared on various **magazine covers**.



That same year, Jimmy returned, and Marilyn was forced to choose between her husband and her career. She chose her career. In June 1946 they divorced, and in August Marilyn signed her first movie studio contract with Twentieth Century Fox. She was paid $125 a week. During her time there, she **dyed her hair** blonde and changed her name to Marilyn **after** Broadway actress Marilyn Miller. "Monroe" was her grandmother's last name.

But the contract didn't last long - just one year. Some say that Marilyn had slept with Darryl Zanuck, one of the studios big bosses. He got tired of her and wanted her out of the way so he **fired** her. In 1948, Marilyn Monroe signed another contract with Columbia Pictures. Columbia paid for Marilyn to take singing leassons, get her teeth straightened, and for **plastic surgery** - she had operations on her nose and **chin**.

Hard Times

Her first year with Columbia was not very productive. Marilyn only appeared in one **movie** and she wasn't making enough money. In a desperate attempt to **pay her bills**, Marilyn called photographer Tom Kelley. She'd worked with him before but had always refused to pose **nude**. But now she was willing to do it, with two exceptions: Tom's wife had to be present; and Tom had to take the pictures in such a way that Marilyn's face would never be recognised. Tom agreed.

One of the photos, that had Marilyn lying **naked** on a red sheet was included in a calendar. In very little time it became famous across the world. Marilyn was paid only $50 for the photo. Three years later, in 1952, a scandal errupted. The press had identified Marilyn as the model in Kelley's picture. Studio bosses suggested that she **deny** it. But Marilyn made a full, public confession. She explained that she needed the money to eat and pay her rent. She spoke about her mother's mental illness and her troubled childhood. As a result of Marilyn's frankness, the American public fell in love with her.

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Marilyn Trivia



Fame

It was Marilyn's performance in the 1953 movie Niagra that launched her career. The magazine Photoplay voted her Best New Actress of 1953 for her work in the film. She had **lead roles** in her next two films, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes and How To Marry A Millionaire, and she became an international star.

However, these films also helped create her image as a **dumb blonde**. Marilyn had to spend the rest of her career trying to prove that she was more than just a sex symbol.

In 1955, Marilyn decided that she wanted to become a "serious actress." She moved from Hollywood to New York City and studied acting at Lee Strasberg's Actors' Studio. In 1956, Marilyn created her own motion picture company called, surprisingly enough, Marilyn Monroe Productions, which produced two of her films, Bus Stop and The Prince And The Showgirl.

Marilyn returned to Hollywood to play Sugar Kane in the film Some Like It Hot. At first, she **turned down** the part. She didn't want to be the dumb blonde again. But director Billy Wilder convinced her to do it. She won the Golden Globe for "Best Actress In A Comedy" for her work in the film. In 1962 she was named "The Female World Film Favorite" at another Golden Globe ceremony.



Husbands

On 14th January 1954, Marilyn married baseball sensation Joe DiMaggio. They'd been a **couple** for two years prior to the marriage. They had their **honeymoon** in Tokyo.

But the marriage didn't last long. While in Asia, Marilyn took the opportunity to **perform** for the American troops in Korea. Joe didn't like the idea of his wife standing in front of thousands of American soldiers in **revealing clothing**. He also **had a fit** when he saw the famous scene in the film The Seven Year Itch, in which Marilyn is standing over a **vent** and her dress goes flying up. In October of that year, Marilyn divorced Joe saying they had a "conflict of careers". Despite their short marriage, they remained good friends. Joe admitted later that he never stopped loving her, but he was just too jealous. In fact, it was Joe who organised Marilyn's funeral after her tragic death, and it was also Joe who arranged for a fresh red rose to be left on her **grave** every day.

Her next marriage was just as short-lived. In June 1956 Marilyn married her third and final husband, the **playwright** Arthur Miller. They divorced after only five years.

There are rumours that Marilyn had actually married four times. Apparently, before marrying Joe DiMaggio, Marilyn had been involved with journalist Bob Slatzer. The story is that in 1953 the two lovers **eloped** to Tijuana, Mexico. Fox Studios paid to have all evidence of the marriage burned - this was in the days when divorces, secret marriages and **affairs** could ruin a movie star's career.

A Tragic End

On the morning of 5th August 1962, Marilyn died of an **overdose** of sleeping pills. Three days later she was **laid to rest** in the Corridor Of Memories, number 24, at Westwood Memorial Park in Los Angeles. There's a lot of controversy surrounding her death. No one is sure whether it was an accident or suicide. There are even rumours that it was murder. Some believe that the Kennedys were involved. Marilyn had **affairs** with both Bobby and John Kennedy and the story was that she "knew too much".

A recent **poll** suggested that many Americans thought she had been murdered. Marilyn died at the age of 36.



Marilyn's last film was Something's Got To Give. Film director George Cukor fired Marilyn during the making of this movie because of her **chronic lateness** and drug dependency. She was later re-hired but she died before finishing the film.



In May 1962, Marilyn sang Happy Birthday to President John F. Kennedy in public. The dress she was wearing at the time later sold for $1.2 million.

Marilyn reportedly had affairs with Robert Mitchum, Orson Welles, Howard Hughes (the owner of RKO Studios) and Frank Sinatra. Apparently, Sinatra was about to propose marriage to Marilyn towards the end of her life, in order to "save her from herself".

It is alleged that Groucho Marx once tried to persuade Marilyn to go to bed with him. They had met during the filming of the movie Love Happy. Apparently she refused.

British actress and model Liz Hurley recently said: "I'd kill myself if I was as fat as Marilyn Monroe." (Marilyn's measurements were 90-60-90, which is hardly "fat") American actress Claudia Shear retaliated by saying: "Most of us would kill ourselves if we were as **talent-free** as Elizabeth Hurley."

Before Marilyn died, she asked her friend Lee Strasberg to distribute her possessions "among friends, colleagues and those to whom I am devoted". However, sometime later there was an **auction** of these belongings at a famous auction house. This was probably not what Marilyn had in mind.

Anna Strasberg, who is in charge of the Monroe estate, has devised strict rules for **merchandisers**. No products can show Marilyn wearing **fur** - Marilyn was known to be an animal lover. Also, there must be no references on commercial products to her marriages, her "alleged chemical dependencies" or her death.

These days, Marilyn is seen as a sort of martyr for modern feminism. Erin Johansen, editor of feminist website www.girlchick.com once said: "Marilyn was exploited for her beauty and few people cared about her personal feelings. Her role was as a sex object."

Elton John's song, "Candle In The Wind" is all about Marilyn Monroe. Elton John sang a version of the song at Princess Diana's funeral.



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Monroe Quotes 1926-62

"I started as a **dumb blonde**. I'll end as one." **Marilyn talking about herself.**

"I don't mind living in a man's world as long as I can be a woman in it." **Marilyn talking about herself.**

"Hollywood is a place where they pay you $50,000 for a kiss and 50 cents for your **soul**." **Marilyn Monroe talking about the movie industry.**



" 'Kissing Marilyn was like kissing Hitler' - sure, I said that. It wasn't that bad. But you can **see through** that line, there was this woman, **beautifully endowed**, **treating all men like shit**. Why did I have to take that?" **Actor Tony Curtis talking about a comment he once made about Marilyn.**

"Young lady, I think you're a case of arrested development. With your development, somebody's **bound to** get arrested." **Groucho Marx**

"I've never met anyone as **utterly mean** as Marilyn Monroe. Nor as utterly fabulous on the screen." **Film director Billy Wilder.**



"Marilyn wasn't killed by Hollywood. It was the **goddam** doctors who killed her with their pills." **Film director John Huston talking about Marilyn's death.**

"I'm not just a dumb blonde this time. I'm a crazy dumb blonde. And to think, Arthur did this to me. He was supposed to be writing this for me. He could've written anything and he **came up with** this." **Marilyn Monroe talking about the script for the film the Misfits, written by her third husband Arthur Miller.**

"During the shooting of the film We're Not Married, she came running towards me and asked **breathlessly**: where the **men's room**? I pointed and she **raced off**. I've never understood that." **Actress Petra Clarke**

"Marilyn was **blowing take** after take, either **fluffing** or forgetting a line completely. Every man and woman on the **set** was **loathing** her. I said: 'don't worry darling, that last one looked very good.' Then she looked at me, **puzzled** and said. 'Worry about what?'

I **swore** then that I would never attribute human feelings to her again." **Film director Nunnally Johnson**

"Directing her was like directing Lassie. You need 14 takes to get each one of them right." **Otto Preminger talking about the film, River Of No Return.**

GLOSSARY

curves *n*
the sexy shape of a woman's body
an orphanage *n*
a home for children with no parents
a foster home *n*
a family who agree to look after children
who have no parents
to rape *vb*
to sexually attack
to take in *phr vb*
to permit someone to live in your house
could no longer afford *exp*
didn't have enough money to pay for something
a magazine cover *n*
the front of a magazine
to dye your hair *exp*
to change the colour of your hair
after *exp*
we use "after" to refer to the origins of a name
to fire *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job
plastic surgery *n*
medical operations to change the shape of your body
a chin *n*
the part of your face below your mouth
a movie *n*
a film
to pay her bills *exp*
to pay for all the things you need
nude *adj*
with no clothes
naked *adj*
with no clothes
to deny *vb*
to say that something is not true
a lead role *n*
the star part in a film
a dumb blonde *n*
words used to insult a woman by saying she is stupid and that she is only famous because she is blonde and beautiful
to turn down *phr vb*
to say you do not want to do something
a couple *n*
two people in a romantic relationship
a honeymoon *n*
the holiday you have after you get married
to perform *vb*
to act or sing in public
revealing clothing *n*
clothes that show parts of your body
to have a fit *exp*
to become very angry
a vent *n*
a hole in the ground where air can come out
a grave *n*
the hole in the ground where they put you
when you die
a playwright *n*
a person who writes theatre plays
to elope *vb*
to go away secretly in order to get married
an affair *n*
a sexual relationship with someone who is not your partner
an overdose *n*
too much of a drug
to lay to rest *exp*
to bury (to put a dead body in the ground)
an affair *n*
a sexual relationship with someone who is not your partner
a poll *n*
a study that shows how popular things are or what people think about something
chronic lateness *n*
arriving late all the time
talent-free *adj*
with no talent
an auction *n*
a public sale where things are sold to the person who offers the most money
a merchandiser *n*
a person who sells goods to the public
fur *n*
animal skin with hair
a dumb blonde *n*
words used to insult a woman by saying she is
only famous because she is blonde and beautiful
a soul *n*
the part of you that consists of your mind, character and feelings
to see through *phr vb*
to understand the true meaning of something
beautifully endowed *adj*
with very large breasts
to treat men like shit *exp offens*
to treat men very badly
bound to *exp*
if something is "bound to" happen, it will definitely happen
utterly *adj*
completely
mean *adj*
cruel
goddam *adj offens*
this expression can be used to show you are angry
to come up with *exp*
to think of
breathlessly *adv*
with no breath (because she had been running)
the men's room *n*
the men's toilet
to race off *phr vb*
to leave very quickly
to blow *vb*
to do badly
a take *n*
a short piece of action that is filmed
to fluff *vb*
if you "fluff" something, you do it badly or wrong
the set *n*
the place inside a building where the movie is filmed
to loathe *n*
to hate
puzzled *adj*
confused
to swear *vb*
to promise

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AUDIO

DUMB LAWS

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 **vending 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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BODY IDIOMS

Over the next few months, we'll be looking at some idioms related to parts of the body. Notice how the literal meaning of the idiom is often different from the actual meaning.

[Illustrations by Jorge Tarruella]

GLOSSARY

a witness *n*
someone who has seen a crime

Not to have a leg to stand on

To be in a situation where you cannot prove something is true or false:
"If you don't have a **witness**, you don't have a leg to stand on."

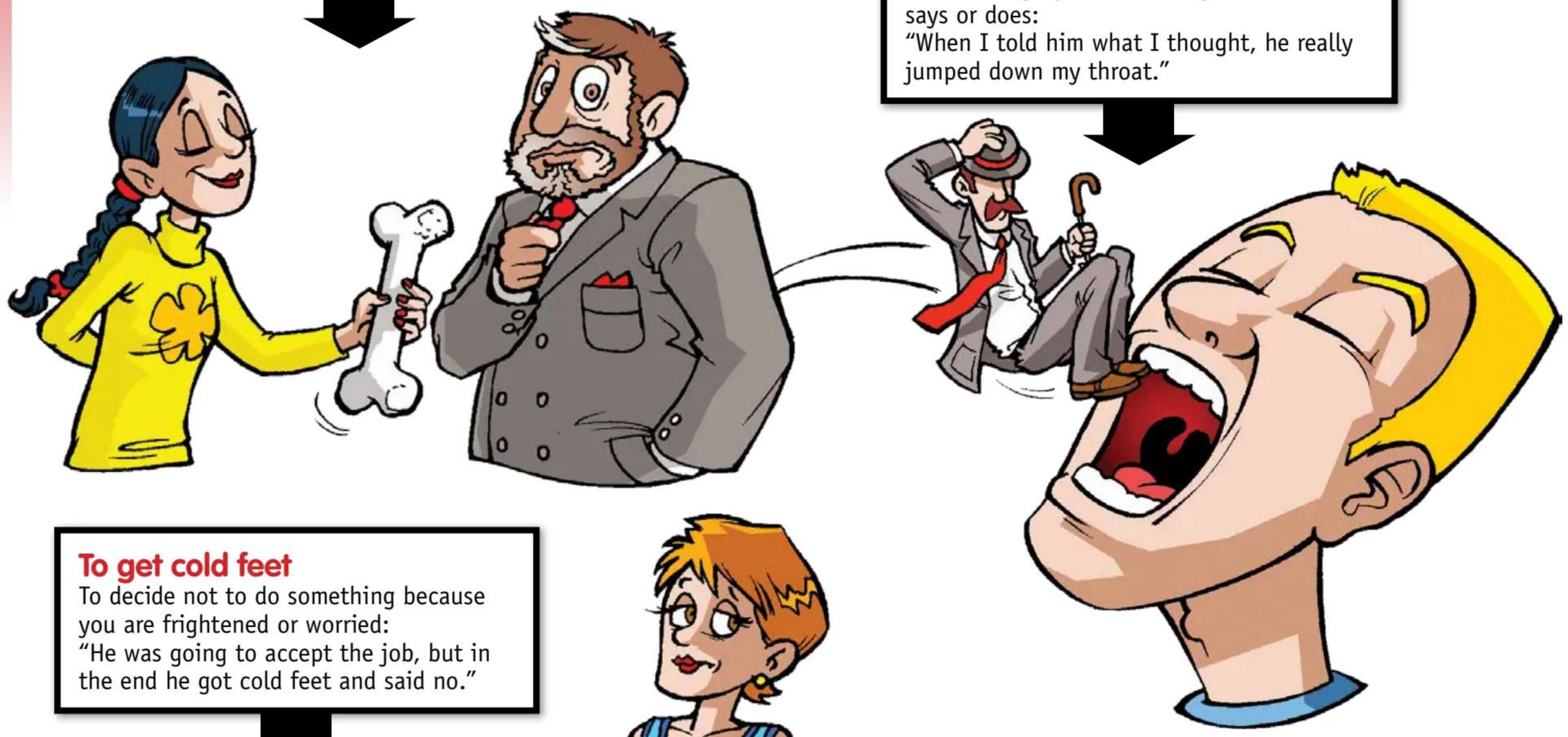


To have a bone to pick with someone

To have something that you would like to discuss with someone – usually something that you're angry about.
"I have a bone to pick with you about the presentation – you didn't mention my part of the project!"

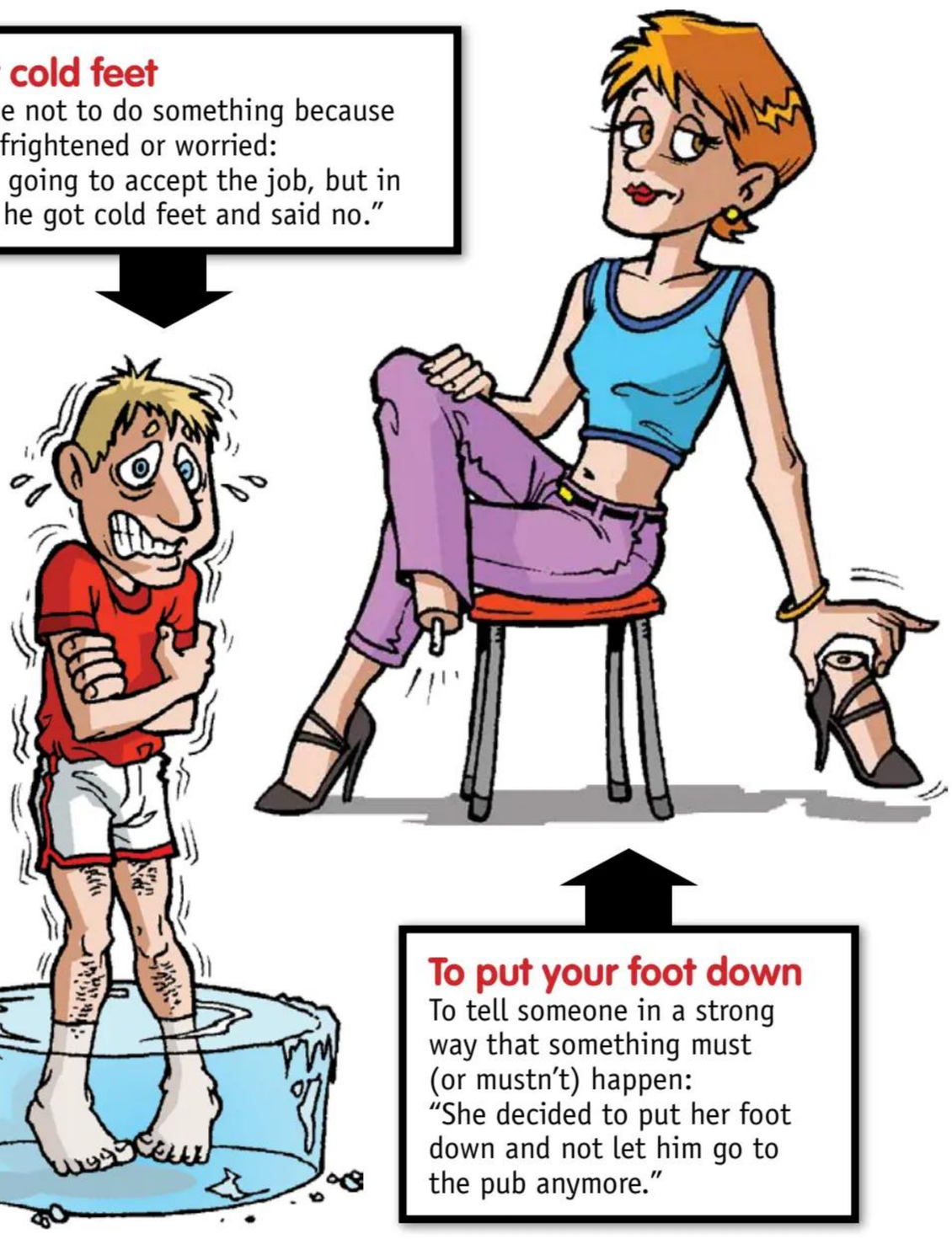
To jump down somebody's throat

To react angrily to something that someone says or does:
"When I told him what I thought, he really jumped down my throat."



To get cold feet

To decide not to do something because you are frightened or worried:
"He was going to accept the job, but in the end he got cold feet and said no."



To cost an arm and a leg

To be very expensive:
"Those new shoes cost him an arm and a leg."



To put your foot down

To tell someone in a strong way that something must (or mustn't) happen:
"She decided to put her foot down and not let him go to the pub anymore."

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Strange BUT True

Murder He Wrote

All about a man, a suicide, a gun and a murder



"This is one of the strangest cases I have ever had to investigate. At first I thought it was suicide, then I thought it was accidental death, and now I think it is murder, but I'm not sure at all," said President Don Harper, a Forensic Scientist, who was commenting on the **bizarre** death of a young man called Ronald.

Dead

One sunny afternoon, Ronald arrived at his office at 9am, as he did everyday. He poured himself a cup of coffee and sat down to write a suicide note. He left the note on his desk then jumped from the top of the **ten-storey building** with the intention of killing himself. However, things didn't go quite as he had planned. As Ronald was falling past the ninth floor window he was killed by a **blast** from a **shotgun** passing through the window. Ronald died instantly and continued falling until he landed in a **safety net** that had been installed on the sixth floor to protect building workers.

Suicide?

Police arrived shortly afterwards and recovered the body from the safety net. At first it looked like an ordinary suicide, but then they noticed the shotgun **wounds**. A forensic scientist, Don Harper, examined the body and made the following statement:
"Ordinarily a person who decides to commit suicide and ultimately succeeds, even though they don't die in exactly the same circumstances as they intended, is still defined as committing suicide. However, in this case, Ronald was shot and killed as he was falling. To further complicate matters, the presence of the safety net meant that Ronald would have survived if he had not been shot."
This was no longer a case of suicide... it was murder. So who shot Ronald?

An Argument

The shot from the ninth floor had come from Mr Opus, an elderly gentleman who was arguing with his wife. Mr Opus was **threatening** his wife with a shotgun, and at some point during the argument he **pulled the trigger**. The shot missed his wife and went through the window, hitting Ronald as he was falling.
Later, police charged Mr Opus with murder. But both Mr Opus and his wife were **adamant** that the shotgun was **unloaded**. "I often threaten my wife with the gun. It is a bad habit of mine, but I can assure you that the gun is never loaded and I have never pulled the trigger before. On this occasion I had no intention of killing my wife or anyone else. It was a terrible coincidence." Therefore, the killing of Ronald appeared to be one of accidental death.
So who loaded the gun?

The Gun

During the investigation, a witness claimed she had seen Mr Opus' son loading the gun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. Miss E. Glide explained:
"I've been working in the family business for years. One morning, I noticed Mr Opus Junior playing with the gun in the office. When Mr Opus Junior saw me, he quickly put the gun away and asked me to get him a coffee. At the time I didn't think anything of it, but I should have said something as everybody in the office knows how Mr Opus Senior uses the gun to threaten his wife."
Later, investigators discovered that Mr Opus Junior had recently **fallen out** with his mother over the family inheritance. Investigators also discovered that Mr Opus Junior had terrible money problems at the time. Police believe that Mr Opus Junior had deliberately loaded the gun in the hope that his father would use it to kill his mother. This would leave Mr Opus Junior free to use the family money. And since the son was aware of this when he loaded the gun, he was in fact guilty of the murder even though he didn't actually pull the trigger himself.

Desperate

And now comes the real **twist to the plot**. Further investigations revealed that the son was in fact... Ronald. Apparently, Ronald (Mr Opus Junior) had become so depressed about his situation that he decided to kill himself. And as Ronald was falling he was killed by a blast from the shotgun that he had loaded himself. The conclusion was that Ronald Opus Junior murdered himself. ✪

GLOSSARY

bizarre *adj*
very strange
a ten-storey building *n*
a building with ten floors (levels)
a blast *n*
an explosion
a shotgun *n*
a gun that is used for shooting birds and animals that fires a lot of small metal balls at
one time
a safety net *n*
a large net that is placed below high buildings to catch people who fall
a wound *n*
damage to a part of your body
to threaten *vb*
to promise to do something bad to someone
to pull the trigger *exp*
to shoot a gun
adamant *adj*
certain
unloaded *adj*
with no bullet in the gun
to fall out *phr vb*
to stop being friends with someone
a twist to the plot *exp*
an unexpected development in the story

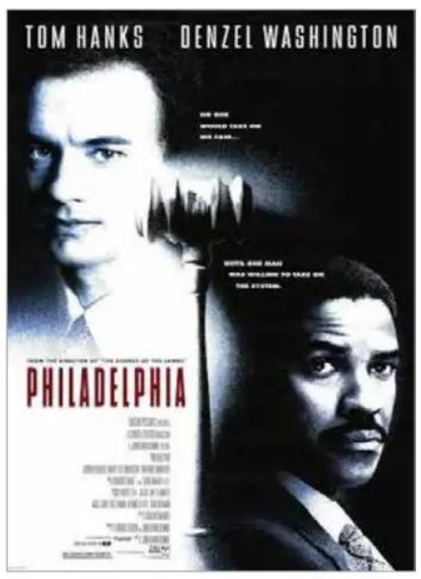
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Films



Illustration by
Edgardo Carosia

PHILADELPHIA



Philadelphia is all about a young **lawyer**, Andrew Beckett (Tom Hanks), who's got **AIDS**. Beckett works in a top law firm and has kept his fatal illness a secret from his employers. While he's working on a new multi-million dollar case he gets ill and has to go to hospital for treatment. The case is **due to start soon** so he leaves a **file** with all the **paperwork** on his computer. But at the last minute, the file goes missing. At first, Beckett thinks he's going crazy, but then miraculously, his colleagues find a copy of the file and get it to court on time.

Beckett's bosses are furious. They accuse Beckett of almost **blowing the case** for them and they decide to **sack** him. Seidman, one of the bosses, explains their decision to Beckett:

It would have been catastrophic for us. **Put yourself in our shoes**, Andy. There's no coming back from an error like that, **regardless of who you are**! I'm sorry, Andy.

A Lawyer

But Beckett is sure he had saved the file on his computer. And he's sure that someone has found out about his illness and that this was the cause of his **dismissal** from the firm and not his supposed **carelessness**. Beckett decides to **sue** the law firm for **unfair dismissal** and goes looking for a lawyer. The problem is that no one wants to represent him. Until he finds Joe.

A New Client

Joe (Denzel Washington) advertises himself on TV and spends his time helping accident victims sue big companies. In this scene Joe is talking to a new client:

Joe: (excited) Explain this to me like I'm a six year old, okay? The entire street is clear except for one small area under construction, with a huge hole that is clearly marked and **blocked off**, and you decide you must cross the street at this spot. You fall into the hole and you want to sue the city for **negligence**?

Woman: (nervous) Yeah. Do I have a case?

Joe: Of course you have a case! Now, I want you to go with my assistant, Iris, and **fill out some forms**. She'll tell you about our **fee** arrangement.



WARNING

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

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Shock

The problem is Joe is **homophobic** and he gets a terrible shock when he finds out that Beckett has AIDS:

Joe: (polite) Beckett, come in. Jesus Christ, what happened to you?
Beckett: (serious) I have AIDS.
Joe: (shocked) **Whoa**! (looking at Beckett's hand) Sorry, I...
Beckett: (serious) It's okay. Can I sit down?

Joe has all the typical anti-gay prejudices and doesn't want anything to do with a gay man suffering from AIDS. However, Joe is finally forced to reassess his feelings about gay people as he gets to see Beckett as a person and not just a "minority". Philadelphia is a suspense-filled **courtroom drama** that takes a sensitive look at the effects of AIDS. Tom Hanks won an Oscar for his role in the film.



Scene I

In this scene Beckett is talking to Joe about his situation:

Beckett: (serious) Joe, from the day I arrived to the day they **fired** me, I performed consistently, thoroughly and with absolute excellence. And if they hadn't fired me, that's what I'd be doing today.
Joe: (sarcastic) OK... **They want you out**. It's against the law to fire you for having AIDS, so they make it look like a **fuck up**. Which leads us to the mysterious, lost file.
Beckett: (serious) They **sabotaged** me.
Joe: (negative) I knew you were going to say that. **I don't buy it**, and I don't see a case.
Beckett: (serious) Look. I know I have a case. If you don't want to take it for personal reasons...
Joe: (serious) Correct. I don't.
Beckett: (serious) Thanks for your time.
Joe: (sincere) Beckett? I'm sorry about... what's happened to you. It's a **fucking kick in the head**.
Beckett: (sarcastic) **Don't send flowers**, Joe. I'm not dead yet.

Scene II

Seidman, Wheeler, Killycoyne and Kenton are four executives from the law firm where Beckett used to work. They have just found out that Beckett is suing them for unfair dismissal. They are deciding how to respond to the charges:

Seidman: (worried) He was doing a great job.
Wheeler: (angry) Bob. I must ask you to **shut the fuck up**. Did Andrew Beckett say "I might not be able to serve our clients to the best of my ability?" He said nothing. And now, Andrew Beckett proposes to **haul me into a court of law**, to **sling accusations** at me, in full view of the entire, Philadelphia judicial establishment. My God.
Wheeler: (confident) Beckett doesn't want to go to court, he's hoping for a quick **tasty settlement**.
Seidman: (worried) A **jury** might decide that Andy has a case.
Wheeler: (worried) Wait a minute. The man was fired for incompetence, not because he has AIDS. You didn't know he was sick, did you, Bob?
Kenton: (angry) **Holy Shit**. Did you, Bob?
Seidman: (nervous) No. Not really. ✪



FILM FACTS

Starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington Directed by Johnathan Demme Released 1993



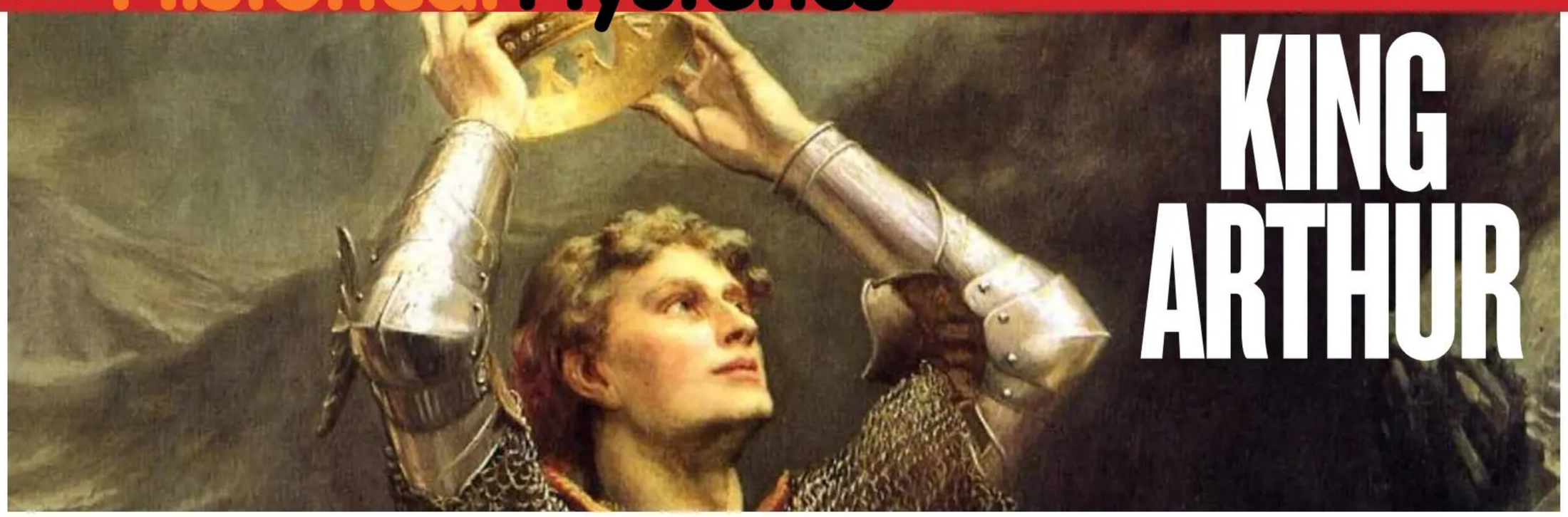
GLOSSARY

a lawyer *n*
someone who works for the legal service
AIDS *abbr*
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome- a sexually transmitted disease that is fatal
due to start soon *exp*
going to start soon, planned to start soon
a file *n*
a collection of information about someone or something. The information can be on paper or on the computer
paperwork *n*
legal documents, reports and files
to blow a case *exp*
to do something wrong and ruin your chances of success
to sack *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job because of a bad work record
put yourself in our shoes *exp*
try to understand our situation
regardless of who you are *exp*
it doesn't matter who you are
dismissal n if you are "dismissed" from your job, you are told to leave your job
carelessness n
not being careful
to sue vb
to start a legal process against a company or someone in order to get compensation
unfair dismissal *n*
losing your job without a good reason
blocked off *adj*
restricted
negligence *n*
not being careful
to fill out a form *exp*
to complete a form
a fee *n*
the money you pay for a service
homophobic *adj*
hating or being afraid of gay people
whoa *excl*
an exclamation that means: "stop!"
a courtroom drama *n*
a drama that happens in a court yet.
to fire *vb*
to tell someone to leave their job
they want you out *exp*
they want you to leave the company
a fuck up *n offens*
a big mistake or error
to sabotage *vb*
to do something to make something go badly
I don't buy it *exp*
I don't believe it
fucking *adj offens*
this word is used to show you are angry or shocked
a kick in the head *n* a terrible situation
don't send flowers *exp* people normally send flowers at funerals. Beckett is being sarcastic
shut the fuck up
exp offens
stop talking; the use of the expression "the fuck" shows you are angry
haul me into a court of law *exp*
take me to court to start a legal process against me
to sling accusations *exp*
to accuse someone of something; "to sling" is to throw
a tasty settlement *n*
a legal decision that gives the victim a lot of money
a jury *n*
the 12 men or women who decide who is guilty in a legal process
holy shit *exp offens*
an expression of anger, surprise or fear

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AUDIO

Historical Hysterics



We've all heard something about the legend of King Arthur. How he pulled a **sword** out of a stone, how he got a sword called Excalibur from a mysterious lady in a lake, how he lived in a castle named Camelot and how he sat with his **knights** at a round table. But is there any truth to this?

I: The Legend Of King Arthur

Merlin

The legend begins with Arthur's father, Uther Pendragon - the king of England. Uther had everything he could possibly want except for a child. And he was desperate for one because he needed an **heir for the throne**. He tried everything and was about to **give up** when he met a **wizard** called Merlin.

Merlin was a kindly **chap** with a long white beard and a black **wand** and he offered to help Uther on one condition: that Merlin could **raise the child**. Uther agreed so Merlin **set to work**. First he transformed Uther into a Duke. Then he sent Uther to the Duke's castle. Uther spent the night with the Duke's beautiful wife, Igraine and nine months later she gave birth to a child - Arthur. Merlin wasted no time and went to collect the child.

War

Meanwhile England was falling into chaos. Uther had died and there was no king to rule the country. Merlin had to think of something quick. It didn't take him long. He placed a sword in a stone and said:

"Whoever pulls this sword out of this stone will be king of England."

Many tried and many failed. Then Merlin persuaded Arthur to try and the sword came out first time. Arthur became king.

A Happy King

At first, things went well. Arthur married the beautiful Guinevere, he was given a sword called Excaliber from a mysterious lady in a lake and he spent his time killing Saxons, rebellious Celtic **warlords** and Romans.

Arthur sent his knights out on expeditions to look for the Holy Grail, the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper. One of his knights, Sir Perceval, almost found it, but failed at the last minute. Apparently, only a virgin knight could succeed, and Sir Perceval was no angel.

Back in England, Arthur lived with his knights - Sir Galahad, Sir Perceval and Sir Lancelot - in a castle called Camelot. They all sat at a round table where they felt equal because no one was allowed to be at the head of the table. Things in England were just perfect. But it didn't last long.

A Love Affair

The problems really started when Sir Lancelot fell in love with Queen Guinevere and they had an **affair**. Worried that Arthur would find out about it, Sir Lancelot took Guinevere with him to France. At the time, Arthur was busy fighting, but as soon as he found out he **headed off** to France to find his wife and kill the **randy** knight.

But then things got even worse. Arthur had left his **nephew** Mordred in charge. Mordred was a **nasty** chap who wanted to be king. He started killing Arthur's knights and putting his own knights in positions of power. Arthur had to run back to save his kingdom.

Arthur and Mordred fought a battle and in the end there were just three knights left alive: Arthur, Mordred and Sir Bedivere. Arthur killed Mordred, but as Mordred was dying he managed to **wound** Arthur. Sir Bedivere ran off for help. He came back shortly afterwards with a **barge** and six **wailing women**. He put the injured Arthur into the barge and the six women took Arthur to the island of Avalon. Unfortunately, Arthur died before he got there.

And that is the legend of King Arthur. So where did these stories come from?

II: The True Story Of Arthur

The Stories

There are a number of sources. In the year 600 there was a Welsh poem called Y Gododdin that mentioned a certain "Arturos" who fought against Germanic tribes invading England but it wasn't very successful.

The next time that Arthur is mentioned is in the book Historia Britonum (the History of Britain) in about 850. This was written by another Welshman. But the legend of king Arthur really **took off** after the publication in 1139 of the book Historia Regum Britanniae by the English author Geoffrey of Monmouth. This book was published and distributed throughout England and became a sort of best seller at the time.

So how accurate is the story? The first thing to remember is that this book was written about 600 years after Arthur's death. And it was not based on any physical evidence. So is there any real proof that Arthur existed? Let's see.

The Germans Are Coming!

The first piece of evidence comes from archaeologists. At the time, tribes from Germany were invading England. They arrived in the north and east of England and had come in search of land, money and adventure. Unfortunately, all they found were cows, sheep and

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lots of rain. Anyway, they continued moving slowly down through England. Archaeologists know this because they have found the **remains** of Germanic villages. They can **date** these villages fairly accurately and they can also see how the Germanic villages began replacing the Celtic ones. Then, in the year 518, the Germanic tribes suddenly stopped. Why?

Well, archaeologists say there was a battle in 518 at a place called Badon Hill. They have found remains there of Celtic warriors and Germanic tribesmen. No one knows who won this battle, but for a period of about 50 years after this, there were no more Germanic villages in this area. The fact that the Germanic tribes stopped implies armed resistance. Could Arthur have been the leader who stopped the Germanic tribes? Possibly.

Camelot

So there was probably a Celtic leader who stopped the Germanic invasion for about 50 years. But what about the castle known as Camelot? Well, there is a famous **hill fort** in a place called Cadbury Hill in the south of England. This is a natural defensive position that controls the west of the country. Just recently, archaeologists have found that this fort was **strengthened** around about the year 510. Whoever did this must have had lots of money and manpower. Therefore, we can presume that this must be the place where a very important leader had his castle. And this is where someone stopped the Germanic tribes. Could this have been Arthur? Once again, yes, it is possible.

And what about the name, Camelot? Well, the local river in this area is called the Cam. And nearby there are the villages of West Camel and Queen Camel. And they don't sound too distant from Camelot, do they?

The Round Table

And what about the round table? "**Rubbish**!" say most historians. This was the period of time known as the Dark Ages. There was no democracy and people became leaders for killing, being cruel and acting mean - not sitting in a nice circle and discussing the weather.

The Sword In The Stone

You may think the idea of a sword in a stone sounds incredible, but it isn't. At this time swords and stones did go together. Swords were actually made using stone **moulds**. A sword-shaped hole was cut in the stone, then **molten metal** was poured into the stone. When the metal was hard, the stone was broken apart and the sword was pulled out. Presumably, sometimes, the sword would **get stuck** and it would be difficult to take out. So Arthur may have pulled a sword out of a stone.

Excalibur

Now what about the lady in the lake? **This sounds** like **the stuff of fairy tales**, but there may be some truth to this story too. At the time, **ponds** and **pools** were sacred, perhaps even as sacred as churches are now. A **still water surface** was the only place where you could see your face reflected as there were no mirrors. Native Britons thought the water was an entrance to the world of the dead. When people died, their possessions were thrown into the water with them. This was part of a ceremony celebrating the passing into another life. So Arthur may well have found a sword in a lake. But whether a lady emerged from the lake to give it to him is another question that we cannot answer.



Conclusion

The evidence seems to indicate that there was a strong leader in the early 500s and that many of the stories about Arthur are based on fact. So perhaps the books were right about Arthur. And if they are right then the **epitaph** for the book by Geoffrey of Monmouth, Historia Regum Britanniae, may also be true:

"Hic iacet Arthurus, rex quondam rexque futurus," which means:

"Here lies Arthur, the once and future king."

"Future king" - does this mean that one day Arthur will return to save Britain again? Who knows? ✪

GLOSSARY FOR CARTOON

I'm knackered *exp*
I am very tired
it's a cinch *exp*
it is very easy
invincible *adj*
impossible to win against
to weigh a ton *exp*
to be very heavy
all this stuff *exp offens*
all these things
he's hot stuff *exp*
he is very sexy
to get along fine *exp*
to have a good relationship with someone
to bother *vb*
to irritate or annoy
to get off with *exp*
to have sex with someone
a weapon *n*
something used to kill other people. Also, a part of a man's body that is usually in his trousers
bloody *adj*
a word you can use to show you are angry or just for emphasising something

GLOSSARY

a sword *n*
a long, metal pointed object like a knife that is used to fight
a knight *n*
a type of senior soldier who served a king
an heir for the throne *n*
someone who has the right to become king and sit on the throne (the royal chair)
to give up *phr vb*
to stop doing something
a wizard *n*
a man who can do magic things
a chap *n*
a man
a wand *n*
a magic stick that magicians use
to raise a child *exp*
to educate a child
to set to work *exp*
to start to work
a warlord *n*
an important and powerful person who fights against an authority
an affair *n*
a sexual relationship with someone when you are married or have a partner
to head off to *exp*
to go to
randy *adj*
sexually excited
a nephew n your brother's or sister's male child
nasty *adj*
horrible, cruel, not kind
to wound *vb*
to cut or hurt someone
a barge *n*
a long boat used for carrying things - normally on a river
wailing women *n*
women who are crying a lot
to take off *phr vb*
to become popular
remains *n*
things that have been found in the ground from an earlier period of history
to date *vb*
to say when something happened - to put a date on it
a hill fort *n*
a "fort" is a building used by soldiers. A "hill" is a high area of land like a small mountain
to strengthen *vb*
to make stronger
rubbish *excl*
not true!
a mould *n*
a hole or a container into which you pour a liquid in order to make an object
molten metal *n*
liquid metal that is very hot
to get stuck *exp*
if something "gets stuck", it cannot be moved
this sounds like the stuff of fairy tales *exp*
it sounds impossible. A "fairy tale" is a fantasy story
a pond / pool *n*
an small area of water
a still water surface *n*
water that is not moving
an epitaph *n* a short description, thought or message about someone who is dead

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(GLOSSARY ON PREVIOUS PAGE)

Weird World Cartoon



WARNING
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learn hot english

KING ARTHUR

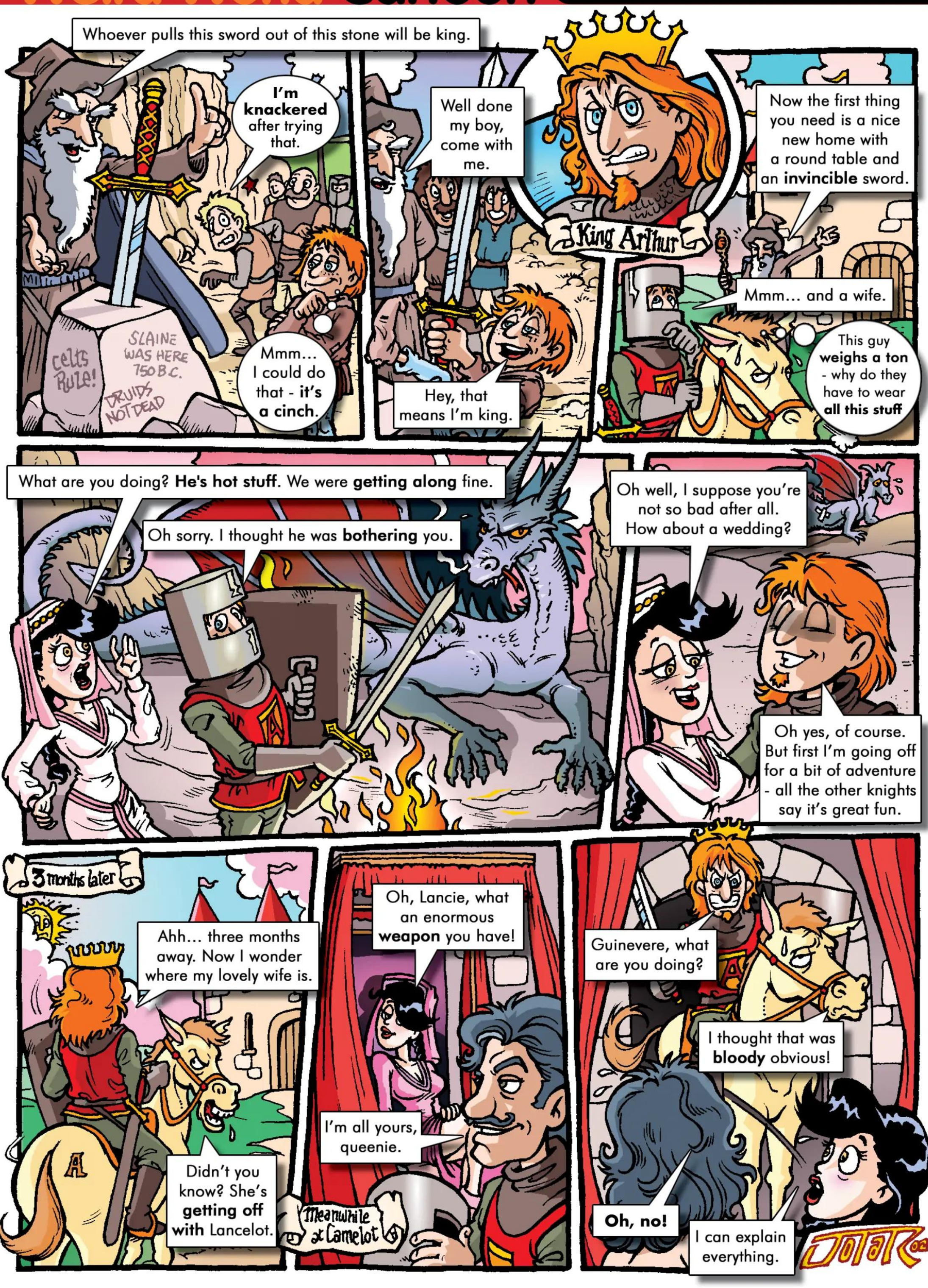


Illustration by Jorge Tarruella



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Interview
ROBIN WILLIAMS

American actor Robin Williams (1951-2014) starred in several blockbusters, including Mrs Doubtfire, Good Morning Vietnam, Good Will Hunting and Dead Poet's Society. One of his most interesting films was Insomnia (2002), which also starred Al Pacino. In the movie, Robin Williams plays Walter Finch a crime writer who is obsessed with cops and is also a suspect in a brutal murder case. Over 20 years ago, Hot English's top reporter, Anne Dee, went to talk to him. This is a transcript of that interview.



Mr Williams, what first attracted you to this film?

The good thing about playing a character who is **evil**, like the one in Insomnia, was that it gave me a chance to do something different. It was fun to play a very quiet, **scary** character because it's the opposite of comedy. But in a **weird** way, playing these quiet characters is also fun, because they're not **bound** by any rules of morality.
It was also great to work with Al Pacino. He's so good that you start to worry about him. When I saw the movie at the **premiere**, I got very sad when I saw what I did to Al, and my wife said, "what are you doing? you hurt him," and I said, "I know, I'm sorry" [everyone in the audience laughs].
All in all it was a great thing to work with Al and it was fun to play a killer, even though that's a weird thing to say.

Did anything funny happen during the filming of Insomnia?

The first day I met Al Pacino I saw how he prepared for his character by making these loud noises like a lion to **get into the role**. It was a really macho noise like, "ahhhh!". And then I responded by making this quiet noise like a sheep, "baaaa!". And he said very angrily, "who did that?". But when he saw it was me he **calmed down** and it was OK, **I guess**.

What gives Robin Williams insomnia?

Press conferences. And lots of coffee. I am a veteran of **Starbuck's**. I like my coffee strong and I don't just have a cappuccino I have an Al Pacino [more laughter]. I also like Columbian coffee. It's very powerful -almost like cocaine. And the other thing that provokes insomnia are my children. They say, "**papa** wake up,", and I say "what's up?" and they answer "nothing, just wake up. I have a pistol" [more laughter]. I am also nocturnal that's why being in Madrid for me is great. You can see people out at three in the morning saying, "hola, Robin". And everything here starts at about ten o'clock, which is great for me - I like that.

Mr Williams, how do you know Spanish?

I live in California, "se necesita hablar español" ["you need to speak Spanish"]. More people speak Spanish there than English. Spanish is the first language, I don't know the percentage, but it's a very popular language. And we have a president who speaks Spanish better than he speaks English. When he gives a speech in Spanish he's really good, but when he speaks English he's really slow, "I believe... this country... " And he reads very slowly like English is his second language.

Doesn't it get tiring being so funny all the time?

Being funny is really easy for me. And I like doing it because it



helps. But I do have a dark side too. I have a **temper**. I have an anger inside me that I kind of keep in control because the comedy allows me to get the anger out without hurting people, which is a great thing for me.

What's it like for your **kids** living with a natural-born comedian?

My kids like to have a good time too and sometimes I'll play. But other times they just want me to be me, and they'll say, "daddy, no voices". One day I have the feeling that they'll **put me up for adoption** and they'll say, "adios, papa, I've found you a family in Korea".

I've heard that you really like playing internet games. Is this true?
Oh yes, very much. I love to play these games because it's different from playing against the computer because when you're on-line, you're playing against other people. And usually it's kids and they're much better than you are, and you can hear them going, "he's no good". And it's great because a human is much more unpredictable than a computer and they'll make a sudden move. Also, you can play against people from all over the world, and that's really interesting for me.

OK, thank you very much, Mr Williams, that was really interesting.
Thank you, Ms Dee.

GLOSSARY

evil *adj*
someone who is very bad, cruel and not kind
scary *adj*
frightening
weird *adj*
very strange
bound *adj*
restricted
a premiere *n*
the first night that a film is shown to the public
to get into *exp*
to prepare yourself for something and learn about it
a role *n*
a part in a film
to calm down *phr vb*
to become more calm
I guess *exp*
I suppose
Starbuck's *n*
a chain of cafeterias
papa *n*
daddy
a temper *n*
a tendency to become very angry
a kid *n*
a child
to put someone up for adoption *exp*
to give a child to a different family because the real family can't or doesn't want to care for the child

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AUDIO

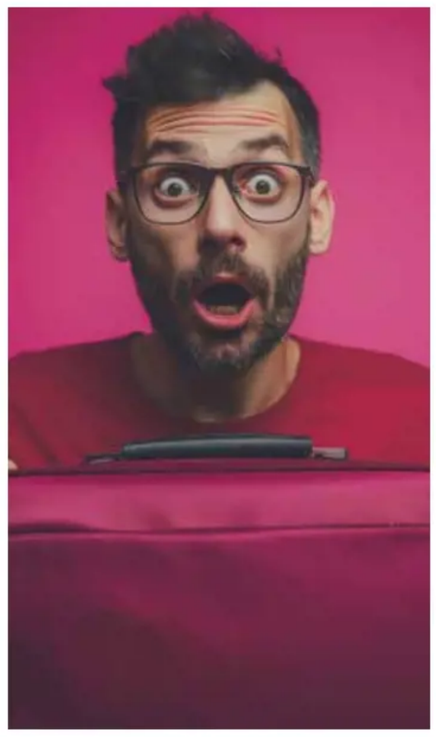
Dictionary of slang

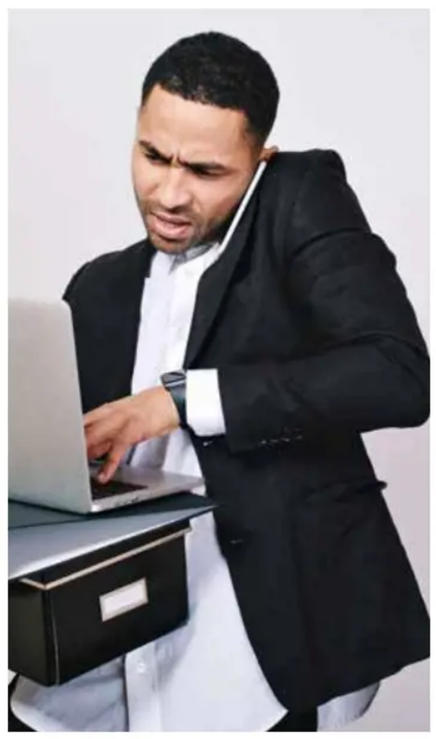


WARNING
This article contains topics, themes and language that some people may find offensive. Please feel free to ignore it if you're easily offended! :)

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

Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
Somebody arrived without warning:	She arrived unexpectedly	She just **showed up**	She **turned up out of the blue; she turned up out of nowhere** (US)
You have been working very hard all day:	I have been very busy all day	I haven't had a moment's peace today; **it's been non-stop**	**I've been running around like a blue-arsed fly**; I've been working like a dog
You say something radical that provokes a violent reaction:	My comments caused a sensation	That really **stirred things up**	That really **rocked the boat**; that **set the cat among the pigeons; that drove them up the wall** (US)
You want to talk about a problem with someone:	I would like to discuss something with you	There's something that's **bothering** me - can we talk about it?	**There's something that I'd like to get off my chest; I've got a bone to pick with you; we've got issues** (US)
Someone proposes doing something illegal. You don't agree	I would like to do this legally	I don't want to get in any kind of trouble	**Let's do this by the book; we should play it straight**
It is very easy to imagine what your friend is thinking	It is very easy to imagine what he is thinking	He's got no secrets from me	**I can see through him; I can read him like a book;**
A friend looks worried. You want to ask what the problem is:	Is something bothering you?	Is something wrong?	**What's up? What's your deal?** (US)





GLOSSARY

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

to show up *phr vb*
to arrive

to turn up out of the blue; to turn up out of nowhere *exp*
to arrive unexpectedly

it's been non-stop; I've been running around like a blue-arsed fly *exp*
I have been very busy

to stir things up; to rock the boat; to set the cat among the pigeons; that drove them up the wall *exp*
to cause a sensation. A "pigeon" is a grey bird that lives in cities

to bother *vb*
to worry

there's something I'd like to get off my chest; I've got a bone to pick with you; we've got issues *exp*
I have a problem that I would like to discuss

to do it by the book; to play it straight exp
to do things correctly and legally

to see through someone; to read someone like a book *exp*
to understand what someone is trying to do

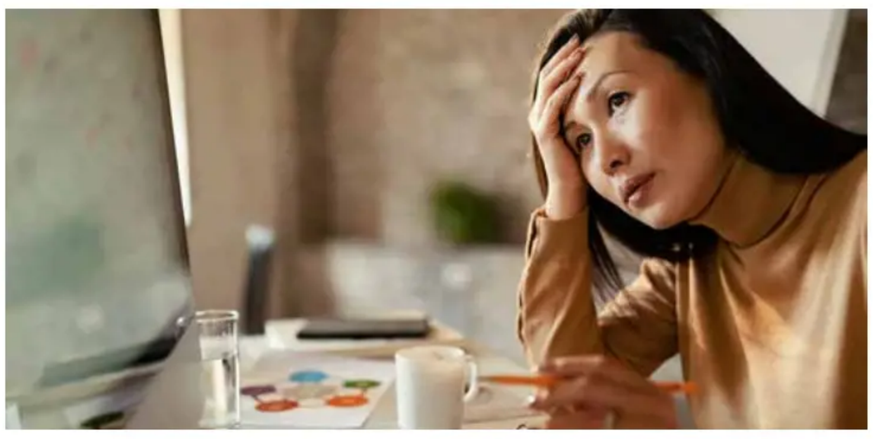
what's up? what's your deal? *exp*
what is the problem?

a snail *n*
a little animal with a house on its back. French people eat them

a tortoise *n*
a larger animal with a larger house on its back

nasty *adj*
horrible and cruel





Answers

WORDSEARCH

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

GRAMMAR BOOSTER

1. produced; **2.** placed; **3.** inspected; **4.** wrapped; **5.** sent; **6.** passed

PHONE CALL

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

TALKING ABOUT A HOLIDAY!

Listening 1

The answer is **b** – He really enjoyed it.

Listening 2

1. one week; **2.** Central Park; **3.** Times Square; **4.** New York pizza; **5.** some photos

HOTEL MIX-UP

3 Listening II

1. Charlotte; **2.** Simmonds; **3.** three; **4.** the 24th; **5.** one; **6.** two; **7.** one; **8.** three

4 Listening III

1. made; **2.** spell; **3.** confirm; **4.** happened; **5.** wanted; **6.** give; **7.** checking; **8.** booked

IDIOMS EXERCISES

Exercise 1

1. air; **2.** sharks; **3.** waves; **4.** depth; **5.** lifeline; **6.** tide; **7.** head; **8.** water

Exercise 2

1. water; **2.** deep; **3.** over; **4.** end; **5.** swim; **6.** tread; **7.** boat; **8.** swept

PHRASAL VERB PLACING

1. Firing
2. Boiled
3. Died
4. Passed
5. Slaving
6. Puffing
7. Melted
8. Ticking

PHRASAL VERB MATCHING

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

GRAMMAR - GERUND & INFINITIVE

1. Acting
2. To inform
3. Taking
4. To hear
5. Learning
6. To form
7. Shouting
8. Locating

WORDSEARCH

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

MATCHING 2

A3 B12 C4 D8 E7 F11 G1 H14 I6 J13 K10 L9 M2 N5

WHITE ELEPHANTS

3 Reading II

1. Mall; **2.** Bridge; **3.** Subway; **4.** Bridge; **5.** Subway; **6.** Mall; **7.** Subway; **8.** Bridge; **9.** Mall

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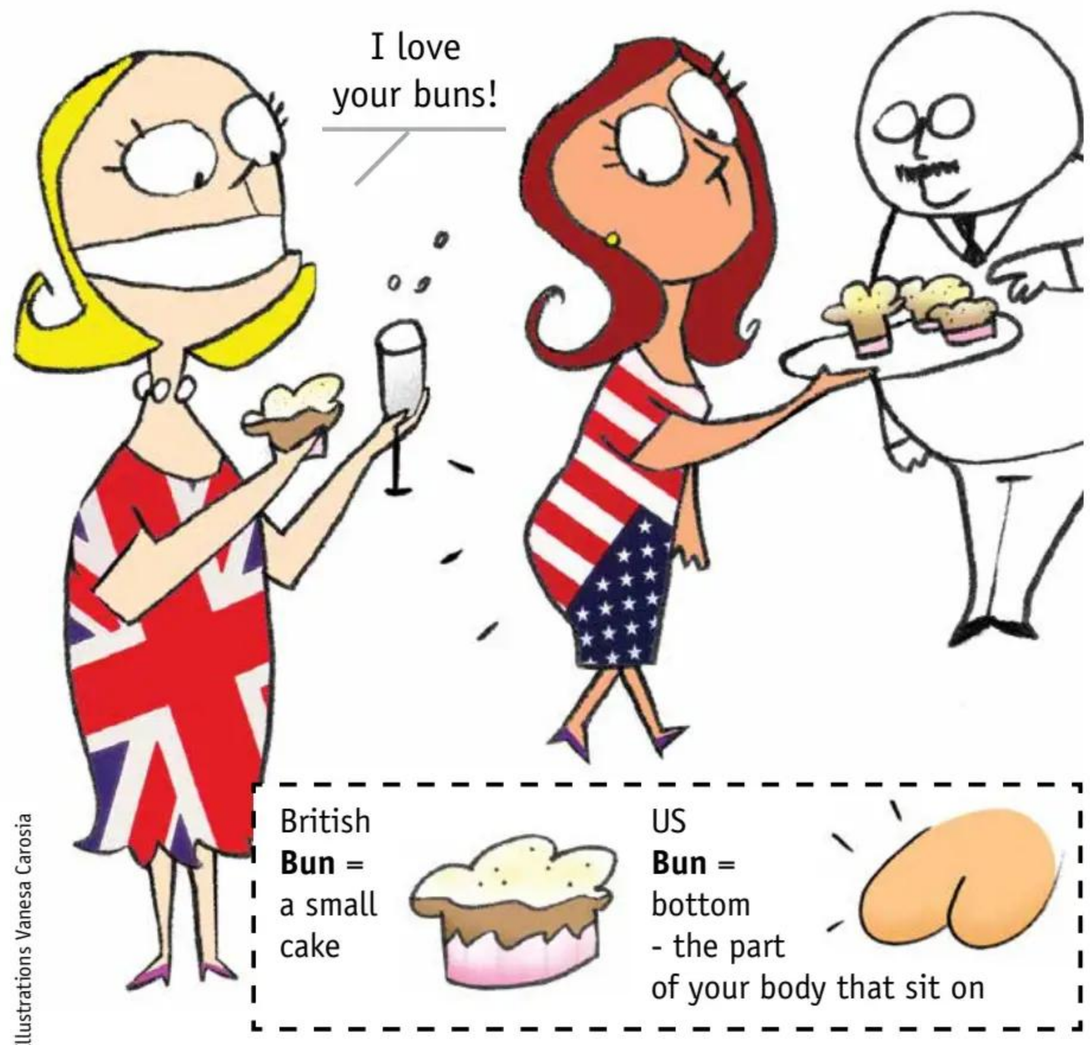
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CLANGERS

A look at some typical errors that occur when Brits try to communicate with Yanks



Illustrations Vanesa Carosia

PHRASAL VERB JOKE

Why should an insomniac lie on the edge of the bed?
'Cos he'll soon **drop off.**

To drop off =
to fall from a place.
The plate dropped off the table.

To drop off =
to go to sleep.
He eventually dropped off.



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