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No.172

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MUSIC IN ENGLISH

MICHAEL JACKSON



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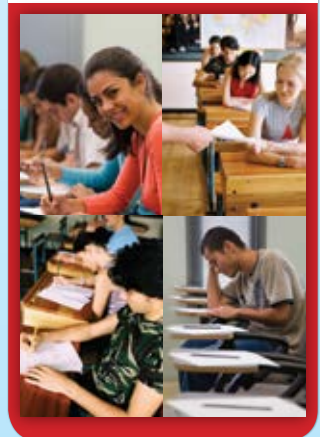
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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with *Learn Hot English* magazine

WHY ARE YOU LEARNING ENGLISH? TO GET A BETTER JOB, TO PASS AN OFFICIAL ENGLISH EXAM, TO TRAVEL, OR JUST TO COMMUNICATE IN ENGLISH? LEARN HOT ENGLISH MAGAZINE HELPS WITH ALL THIS.

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Hi, everybody and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, we're looking at 12 useful phrases to improve your spoken English. They'll help you sound more natural, fluent and native! Of course, that's not all

and we've got lots more fun things for you to read and listen to so you can learn lots of useful English. We'll be looking at toilet stories, Airbnb, baseball, travel apps, books, Michael Jackson, team building exercises, famous photos, 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



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COFFEE & TEA DRINKS

Here are some typical drinks that people get from tea or coffee shops.



White coffee
An ordinary coffee with milk.



Black coffee
An ordinary coffee with no milk.



Espresso
A type of strong black coffee served in a small cup.



Latte
An espresso with steamed milk with a ratio of 1:3 (one part espresso to three parts milk).



Americano
An espresso coffee with extra water to make it weaker.



Cappuccino
A coffee with frothy milk and powdered chocolate on top.



Decaf / decaffeinated coffee
A type of coffee with no caffeine in it.



Iced coffee
A cup of coffee served with ice.



Macchiato
An espresso made with frothy, steamed milk.



Earl Grey tea
A blend of tea flavoured with bergamot oil.



Black tea
A type of strong tea made from black tea leaves. Typical English breakfast tea is made from a blend of black tea. As in the picture, people often drink black tea with milk.



Green tea
A slightly bitter Asian tea said to have healing properties.



Smoothie
A drink made by blending various pieces of fruit with ice or yoghurt.



Chai Latte
A coffee made with frothy milk and Indian spices.



Matcha tea
This type of tea is made from the powder of green tea.



Rose Latte
A type of coffee made with rose oil.

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What's your favourite type of tea or coffee? Where do you usually have it? How often do you go to a café or coffee shop? What do you usually eat there? What do you prefer: coffee or tea at home, or in a café, etc.? Why?

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

© TRACK 1: US MAN & US WOMAN

TIME FOR A
CUPE OF TEA!

TIME FOR A CUP
OF COFFEE!

By Charlene Hippolyte

WHAT WILL IT BE: COFFEE OR TEA?

Tea and coffee are two of the world's most popular drinks. But there are several varieties. We asked a few people from around the world what they preferred.

"I usually get a latte in a coffee shop. My favourite is a Matcha Latte with a slice of cheesecake. Another one of my favourites is a Rose Latte. In Hong Kong, I often go to coffee shops such as Café Habitu or Pacific Coffee, which is my favorite. It's the one I used to go to when I was at university." **Yiu Siu, Hong-Kong**

"I often have a **Hazelnut** Cappuccino or a smoothie with a **cinnamon roll** or a piece of carrot cake to have with it. I could have that any time of the day! I normally go to a coffee shop twice a week when I meet up with my friends. I really like the chain Costa Coffee or a French one called *La Croissanterie*." **Charles, France**

"I love cold coffee, especially iced caramel macchiato. I could drink it any time of the day – morning or night.

I often have one with friends when we meet up, usually on Fridays. It's delicious with a **muffin**. I usually get it from Starbucks, which is my favourite coffee shop, and the one closest to where I live. It's expensive, I know, but as long as it tastes good, I don't mind!" **Cherine, Egypt**

"If I've got a choice between coffee and tea, I'll usually have tea. Or if I go to a café, I'll order a hot chocolate. I usually drink tea in the evening at home, and once or twice a week with some chocolate cookies from Dunkin Donuts. I also really like Nestea. It's got a lot of sugar, I know, but it's awesome." **Willie, Spain**

"My favourite drink is probably Earl Grey tea with honey and lemon, but I also enjoy lattes and fruit smoothies. I often have those with my breakfast along with a **croissant**. In the evening, I like to have an espresso after dinner with a dessert such as chocolate or **crème brûlée**. I usually drink coffee in the morning. Most often, I get it from either Starbucks or another place

called Le Pain Quotidien. However, my favorite coffee is from the restaurant Sant Ambroeus on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, New York City, where I live. I usually go to coffee shops to meet up with my friends. Oh, and another one of my favourites is a Vanilla Chai Latte with cinnamon. Yummy!" **Alex, the USA** ✪

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Answer the questions in the "Think about it" section at the top of this page. Use the words on the vocabulary page (page 4) to help you.

2 Reading I

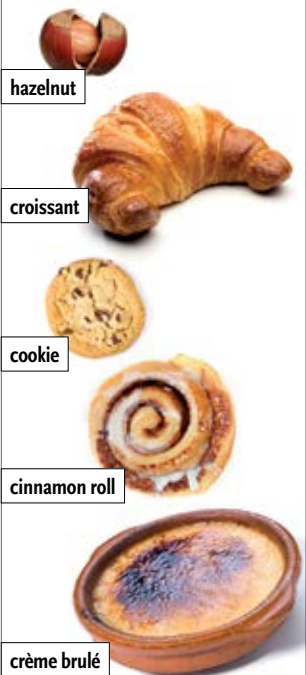
Read or listen to the article once. Were any of the things you like mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a name next to each statement. This person...

1. ...often has a Hazelnut Cappuccino.
2. ...really likes Nestea.
3. ...often has a slice of cheesecake with their drink.
4. ...sometimes has a Vanilla Chai Latte.
5. ...likes the coffee chain Costa Coffee.
6. ...loves an iced caramel macchiato.
7. ...sometimes goes to a coffee shop called Pacific Coffee.

GLOSSARY



Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it Do politicians ever use songs during political campaigns in your country? What songs do they use? What songs do you think your president or prime minister would like? What songs do you think the prime minister of the UK would like? What about the USA? Do you think politicians should ask before using a song? Why?

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

TRACK 2 ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN



IT'S MY SONG!

I DON'T CARE!



MUSICIANS VERSUS POLITICIANS!

Politicians like to play music at rallies, speeches and conventions. It's the perfect way to get their supporters all **fired up**. But not all musicians like the idea of politicians using their songs. Here are some examples of musicians who feel they have been **song-jacked** by politicians.

Neil Young versus Donald Trump

Neil Young once protested about the use by Donald Trump of his song *Rockin' in the Free World*. The song was originally released on his 1989 album *Freedom*. In a **statement** Neil released to the press, he said he had "nothing against Trump" but simply wanted to be given approval of the decision.

Rockin' in the Free World
*Got a man of the people,
says keep hope alive
Got fuel to burn, got roads
to drive.
Keep on rockin' in the free
world.*

Jackson Browne versus John McCain

Jackson Browne once **sued** Republican candidate John McCain for using his song *Running on Empty* during the 2008 US presidential **campaign**. The song, which is the title track to his 1977 **live album**, describes a musician's day-to-day life

on the road. It appeared in the 1994 film *Forrest Gump* in the scene where Forrest is running across the United States.

Running on Empty

*Running on, running on empty,
Running on, running blind,
Running on, running into
the sun,
But I'm running behind.*

Bruce Springsteen versus Ronald Reagan

Bruce Springsteen once complained about President Ronald Reagan using *Born in the USA* in his 1984 re-election campaign. Although the 1984 song may sound **patriotic**, it actually **addresses issues** such as the effects of the Vietnam War on American soldiers, and the treatment of **veterans** on their return home.

Born in the USA

*I'm ten years burning
down the road,
Nowhere to run ain't got
nowhere to go,
Born in the USA, I was...*

Bobby McFerrin versus George HW Bush

In 1988, Republican candidate George HW Bush used Bobby McFerrin's song *Don't Worry, Be Happy* as his presidential campaign **theme tune**. McFerrin, who supported rival candidate Michael Dukakis told team Bush to stop. The song was

first released in September 1988 and became the first **a cappella** tune to reach number-one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The song's title is taken from a quote by Indian **mystic** Meher Baba.

Don't Worry, Be Happy

*'Cause when you worry,
your face will frown,
And that will bring
everybody down,
So don't worry, be happy. ♪*

GLOSSARY

a rally *n*
a large public meeting to show support for a political party, etc.
to fire up *phr vb*
if you "fire people up", you make them feel excited about something
to song-jack *vb*
to use a song for an event without asking permission first
a statement *n*
an official message that someone gives to the press, etc.
to sue *vb*
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation (money, etc.)
a campaign *n*
a planned set of activities over a period of time (e.g. to win an election, etc.)
live *adj*
a "live" album is one that is recorded during a concert, not in a recording studio
on the road *n*
when a band is "on the road", it is travelling from city to city, doing concerts
running on empty *exp*
if you're "running on empty", you have no energy, money, etc.
running blind *exp*
running without seeing where you're going
patriotic *adj*
a "patriotic" person loves their country
to address an issue *exp*
to try to find a solution to a problem
a veteran *n*
a soldier who fought in a war in the past
a theme tune *n*
a song or piece of music that is always played on a TV series, event, etc.
a cappella *exp*
singing without any musical instruments
a mystic *n*
a person who believes in "mysticism"
- a religious practice in which people search for truth, knowledge, etc. through meditation and prayer

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Look at the songs in the article. Why do you think politicians might like them? What do you think the songs are like (if you haven't heard them)? Make notes.

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What's the name of the Neil Young song that Donald Trump used?
2. Which film did Jackson Browne's song appear in?
3. When was *Born in the USA* released?
4. Which war is the song about?
5. Who is the song *Don't Worry, Be Happy* sung by?
6. Who is the inspiration for the title of Bobby McFerrin's song?

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What do you think people use a toilet for (apart from going to the toilet)? Have you ever made a phone call in the toilet? Who to? What did you talk about? Have you ever fallen asleep in a toilet? How long for? Have you ever watched a TV series or played a game in a toilet? What was it? What else could a toilet be used for?

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

© TRACK 3: ENGLISHMAN & USWOMAN

TIME FOR A
LITTLE NAP!

TOILET STORIES!

A toilet is a place where you go to the toilet, right? Yes, but not always, as these toilet-related confessions clearly show.

Connected

"I work in an open-plan office, and if you ever start checking your e-mails or anything, you get **dirty looks**. So, any time I want a break to check my Facebook page, I'll go to the toilet." **Jessica, 25**

Chatting

"If I want to make a private call, I often go to the toilets on the third floor. They're sort of **out of the way**, so hardly anyone uses them. But once I was talking to a friend when someone in another stall **flushed** the toilet. It was really embarrassing as I never knew they were there. Also, my friend immediately realised that I was on the toilet too!" **Jeff, 31**

TV

"If I want a break at work, I'll take my iPad and **head off to the toilet** to watch some TV or read an eBook. I once sat there for about 40 minutes watching an episode of Game of Thrones. I'd made a great sale that day, so I felt I

deserved a bit of time for myself." **Patricia, 32**

Yoga

"I'm stuck behind a desk all day and I often get **stiff**. So, sometimes, I'll go and do a bit of **stretching** in the toilets. If it's early in the morning or later in the afternoon and there aren't so many people around, I'll even do a bit of yoga on the floor. Once, I was doing a **downward dog*** when a guy walked in. I quickly pretended that I was looking for something on the floor. He didn't say a word." **Mike, 57**

Peace and quiet

"It gets quite stressful at work, so sometimes I need to go and relax a bit or play a game of Candy Crush, so I'll **pop off to the toilet**. Once, I stayed there for about 40 minutes. Luckily, before leaving my desk, I'd told my boss I needed to go and speak to someone in the finance department, so she never said anything." **Beth, 29**

Sleep

"If I'm ever feeling a bit tired, I'll **head off to the toilet** for a quick **nap**. I've perfected the art of sleeping on the toilet seat. I sit on the closed seat and **lean back** with my head against the back wall.

Once I got so comfortable that I managed to sleep for over half an hour. Another time I came into work with a terrible **hangover**. I felt so bad that I went to the **disabled toilet**, put my jacket on the floor and slept for about an hour. No one even noticed." **Nigel, 27**

*DOWNWARD DOG



GLOSSARY

a dirty look *exp*
if someone gives you a "dirty look", they look at you in an angry way

out of the way *exp*
if a place is "out of the way", it is far away from other people, buildings, cities, etc.

to flush *vb*
when you "flush" a toilet, you press a button so that water goes into the toilet to clean it

to head off to *exp*
to go to

to deserve *vb*
if you think you "deserve" something, you think you should have that thing because you've been good, etc.

stiff *adj*
if you're "stiff", your muscles or joints hurt when you move

to stretch *vb*
when you "stretch", you put your arms or legs out straight

to pop off to *exp*
to go to quickly or for a short period of time

a nap *n*
a short sleep

to lean back *phr vb*
to push your body back

a hangover *n*
a terrible feeling in the morning after a night out drinking a lot of alcohol

a disabled toilet *n*
a toilet for disabled people – people who have a physical problem with their body (e.g. they can't walk, etc.)

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Think of three things that people could do in a toilet – apart from going to the toilet.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What did Jessica check on the toilet?
2. What was Jeff doing when someone flushed the toilet?
3. What did Patricia watch in the toilet?
4. What does Mike sometimes do in the toilet?
5. What does Beth play in the toilet?
6. What did Nigel do for about an hour in the toilet once?

GRAMMAR BOOSTER

MODAL VERBS

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I can see it.	I can't see it.	Can I see it?
You can see it.	You can't see it.	Can you see it?
He can see it.	He can't see it.	Can he see it?
She can see it.	She can't see it.	Can she see it?
It can see it.	It can't see it.	Can it see it?
We can see it.	We can't see it.	Can we see it?
They can see it.	They can't see it.	Can they see it?

Some of the most common modal verbs are: *can, could, should, must, may, might*. All modal verbs are used in the same way as the one shown in the table. Notice how verbs following modal verbs have no "to" (*I can see it*, **NOT** *I can to see it*); and for negatives we simply add *not* after the verb.

We often use contractions with the negative forms of modal verbs. For example: *can not = can't (or cannot)*; *could not = couldn't*; *should not = shouldn't*; *must not = mustn't*. However, it isn't common to use contracted forms with *might / may*.

We use modal verbs for a variety of functions. Here are a few of them:

Advice

- You should do more exercise.
- You should go and see a doctor.

Suggestions

- We should probably leave in about 10 minutes.
- I think they should send the e-mail today.

Strong advice

- You mustn't do that.
- You must remember to thank them.

Ability

- I can speak three languages.
- He can juggle with six balls.

Ability in the past

- I could hear it.
- She couldn't see it.

I CAN JUGGLE WITH LOTS OF BALLS!



Possibility

- It may rain later.
- He might not like it.

Obligation

- She must tell us about it.
- They must get here before 6pm.

Prohibition

- You can't sit there.
- He mustn't speak like that.

Dialogue: The new girl

Lorna is fairly new at her job. She's working at her desk when Tim (an assistant manager) comes to speak to her. He's got some important things to tell her. [Listen and complete the dialogue with the correct verbs.] T=Tim L=Lorna

YOU SHOULD BE WORKING!



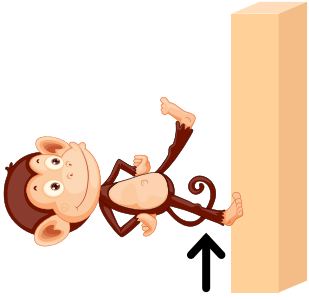
- T: You're new here, aren't you?
L: Well, I've been here for about four weeks.
T: Tim Best, I'm the assistant manager to the regional manager.
L: Oh, right.
T: Yeah, well, I've been watching over you a bit and there were a couple of things that I thought I should (1) _____ .
L: Oh, right.
T: Yeah, well, you shouldn't put your coffee cup next to the computer. You might (2) _____ it over and it could damage the computer.
L: OK.
T: And when you leave to go home, you should (3) _____ off your computer. You left it on last night.
L: Really?
T: Yes, and another thing, you shouldn't (4) _____ your shoes off while you're working. If there's a fire, it could (5) _____ you from getting out of the building quickly.
- L: Has there ever been a fire here?
T: No, but, erm, you never know. Oh, and you can't (6) _____ personal calls during work time.
L: I haven't made any personal calls.
T: Well, I (7) _____ you speaking to someone in the toilets.
L: How did you know I was speaking to someone in the toilets?
T: Oh, erm, someone, erm, someone told me.
L: Who?
T: I'm not at liberty to divulge that information. Anyway, erm, we're going out for some drinks later tonight. Do you (8) _____ coming along?
L: No, thanks. I'm going out with my boyfriend.
T: Oh, well, just asking. So, I'll leave you to get on with your work.
L: Yeah.
T: Bye!
L: Goodbye. ✨

PREPOSITIONS OF MOVEMENT

This month we're looking at some prepositions of movement.

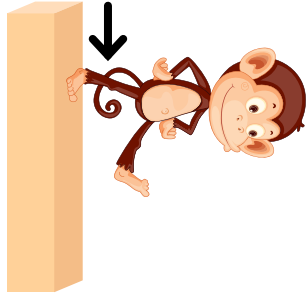
1

She went **up** the box.



2

She went **down** the box.



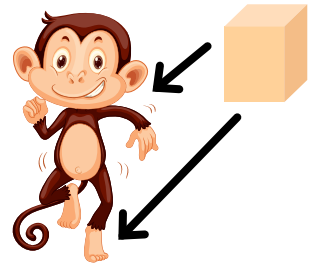
3

She jumped **over** the box.



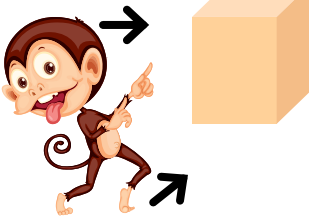
4

She ran away **from** the box.



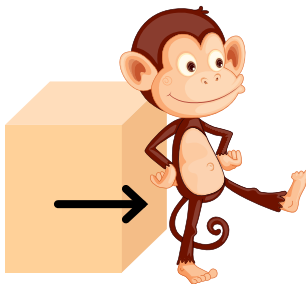
5

She went **towards** the box.



6

She walked **past** the box.



7

She went **into** the box.



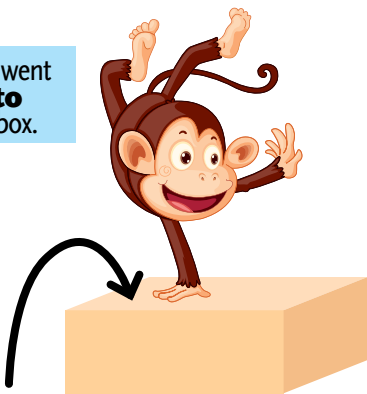
8

She walked **out** of the box.



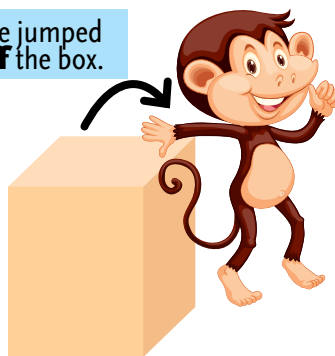
9

She went **onto** the box.



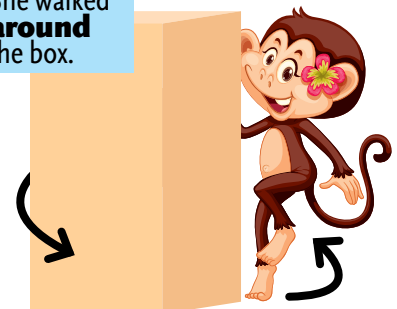
10

She jumped **off** the box.



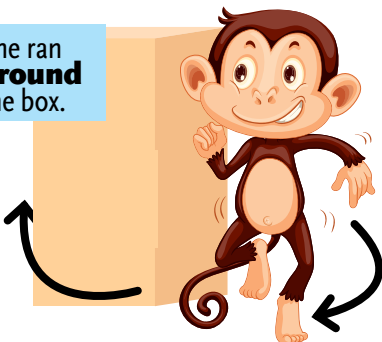
11

She walked **around** the box.



12

She ran **around** the box.



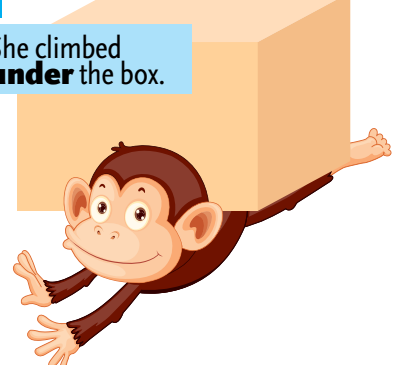
13

She went **through** the box.



14

She climbed **under** the box.



ENGLISH IN ACTION...

HOW SOUND BITES CAN IMPROVE YOUR SPOKEN ENGLISH!

A sound bite can help other people remember what you say; and they can make you sound more interesting. So, firstly, what is a sound bite? Basically, a sound bite is a short piece of text (either written or spoken) that's funny or clever.

For example:
"iPod. One thousand songs in your pocket."
Steve Jobs on introducing the world to the iPod.

"What is MacBook Air? In a sentence, it's the world's thinnest notebook."
Steve Jobs presenting the MacBook Air.

Some people deliberately create sound bites for their speeches or writing. This is a clever way of making sure that other people will remember what they have said, or that journalists will repeat it in a newspaper report. Speaking in sound bites is common with politicians, businesspeople, marketers and salespeople.

You can use sound bites to make your speaking or writing more interesting too. But how? Simple! Think about what you want to say, then convert it into a sound bite. So, rather than talking about the technical features of a product, think of a way of summing up all the benefits in a nice, clear, simple sentence. Remember, a sound bite should be short, funny, witty and punchy and should summarise what you want to say in a very few words.



Speech I

I'd like to introduce you to WashPerfect – the world's quietest and lightest washing machine.

We take energy efficiency to new levels. In fact, the level for our energy efficiency hasn't been invented yet!

WashPerfect is a washing machine giant! It can wash more clothes than any other washing machine on the market.

It's also the washing machine that loves clothes. With our super-soft setting, your clothes will be treated with the respect they deserve.

WashPerfect gives you more for less: less water, less energy, less time.

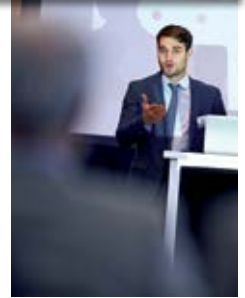
And this will help you save money, water and energy – so you can benefit personally and help protect the environment!

WASHPERFECT – THE ENVIRONMENT'S BEST FRIEND FOREVER!

Speech II

I'm Nigel Mathews and in today's speech, I'll be telling you all about WashPerfect, our latest washing machine. I'll be taking any questions at the end. WashPerfect

is a great new washing machine with a lot of special features. For example, our special programmes include the SuperQuick setting, which will clean your clothes in just 15 minutes. It has a 20 kg wash capacity, 15 programmes and a 15-minute quick wash. All our products come with a two-year guarantee and the actual machine weighs just 30kg. It has an energy efficiency class A+++ rating and a maximum spin speed of 2200rpm. Its spinning performance rating is C and its washing performance rating is A. All our products are inspected before being shipped out. Thank you. Does anyone have any questions?



Answers on page 44

1 Listening I

You're going to listen to two sales presentations for a new washing machine. Listen once. Which one has sound bites in it? How can you tell? What do you remember about each speech?

2 Listening II

Listen again. Then, try to complete the sentences with the correct words.

a) Speech I

- We take energy efficiency to new _____.
- It's also the washing machine that loves _____.
- WashPerfect gives you more for less: less water, less energy, less _____.
- Washperfect – the environment's best friend _____!

b) Speech II

- Our special programmes include the SuperQuick _____.
- It has a 20 kg wash capacity, 15 programmes and a 15-minute quick _____.
- All our products come with a two-year _____.
- All our products are inspected before being _____.

NATURAL ENGLISH

TRACK 6: DANISH WOMAN, AMERICAN MAN, SLOVENIAN WOMAN, ENGLISH WOMAN, SPANISH MAN, LITHUANIAN WOMAN

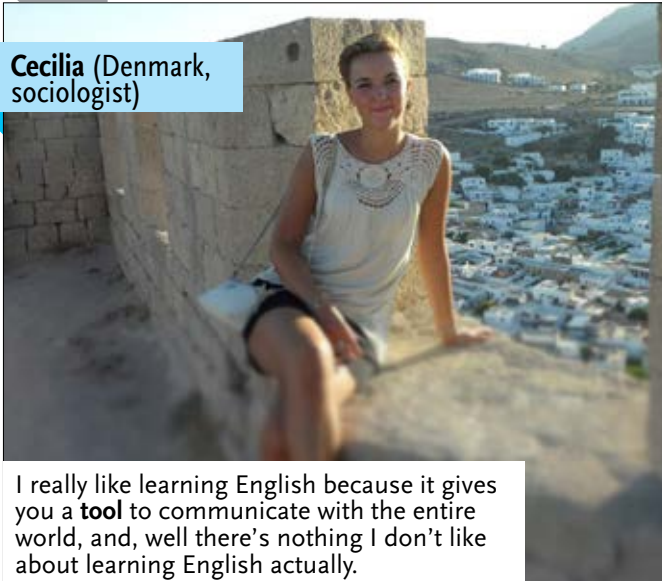
What do you like or dislike about learning languages?

Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

Remember!

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

Cecilia (Denmark, sociologist)



I really like learning English because it gives you a **tool** to communicate with the entire world, and, well there's nothing I don't like about learning English actually.

Jack (USA, actor)



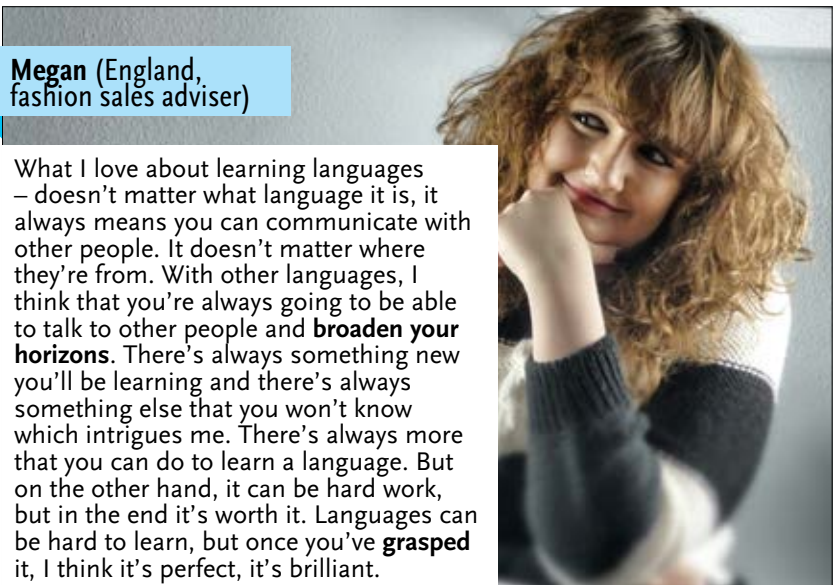
The **hardest** part about learning a language for me, is how quickly the native speakers speak. It's almost impossible for me to understand them.

Jerneja (Slovenia, occupational therapist)



About English, erm, or other languages, I don't like, er, some tenses or stuff or the correct ways of saying or spelling. So, at the beginning of learning, new language is pretty hard.

Megan (England, fashion sales adviser)



What I love about learning languages – doesn't matter what language it is, it always means you can communicate with other people. It doesn't matter where they're from. With other languages, I think that you're always going to be able to talk to other people and **broaden your horizons**. There's always something new you'll be learning and there's always something else that you won't know which intrigues me. There's always more that you can do to learn a language. But on the other hand, it can be hard work, but in the end it's worth it. Languages can be hard to learn, but once you've **grasped** it, I think it's perfect, it's brilliant.

Jorge (Spain, freelance translator)



What I like about learning English is that you can learn a new accent, new slang, expressions, new **colloquial** sentences, etc. And English is a very rich language about it. So the most important thing I think is that most of the films and songs and most of the culture produced nowadays is produced in English. So, we really can enjoy learning because of these things.

Indre (Lithuania, photographer)



I really like learning English, I've been learning English for probably fifteen years – it's a lot. And the thing that I like about learning English is it can be so different. It has so many different accents, and I think that's what makes English so unique is that you can speak English in so many different ways. And for me, of course, British accent is the most beautiful one, even sometimes it can be hard to understand it.

GLOSSARY

a tool *n*
something that helps you do a job or other activity

hard *adj*
difficult

to broaden your horizons *exp*
if an activity "broadens your horizons", it increases the amount of things you know or that you've experienced

to grasp *vb*
if you "grasp" something, you understand it

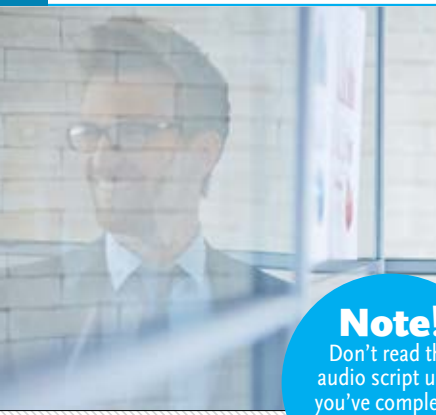
colloquial *adj*
"colloquial" words and phrases are informal and used mainly in conversation

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you had a conversation with several friends? What were you talking about? How did you contribute to the conversation? How do you know if it's your turn to speak in your language? What clues are there? What do you say if you want to "jump" into a conversation in your language? Is it acceptable to do this?

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

TRACK 7: ENGLISH ACCENTS



Six clues it could be your turn to speak

1. The speaker's intonation goes down at the end, indicating that they have finished.
2. The speaker asks a direct question, so you can answer it.
3. The speaker seems a bit uncertain and is using "erm" a lot, so you can jump in.
4. The speaker uses an expression to say that they have finished talking, such as "and that's all I've got to say!"
5. The speaker asks another person a direct question, such as, "Jessica, what do you think?"
6. The speaker says he/she has had two (or more) points to make and has made them all.

Note!

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

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-listening

Imagine you're arranging a leaving party for a member of staff. What would you have to arrange in particular? Think of three questions to ask. Use the following prompts to help you: the venue, the food, the speeches, the date, the time, a leaving present...

For example: *Who is going to give the speech?*

2 Listening I

Listen once. Were any of your questions or ideas mentioned?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer these questions.

1. Where do they decide to go to lunch?
2. When did the speaker who doesn't like the food go there?
3. When did the speaker who likes the food go there?
4. What two days are suggested for the meal?
5. Which day do they choose?
6. Who is selected to give the speech?

4 Listening III

Look at the information on the top right-hand corner of this page - the six clues that it could be your turn to speak. See if you can find examples of these in the audio script. You might need to read and listen to it again.

How to take turns in conversations

Audio script

Paul: So, we're here to discuss Carol's leaving party. We have to decide on two things: the restaurant and when to go; and the speech and who's going to give it. So, first on the agenda, where shall we go for lunch and when?

Kate: Shall I go first?

Paul: Yeah, sure.

Kate: Well, I really like that Italian place in the high street, Santini's. It's got a great atmosphere, it's quite big and the food is fantastic.

Greg: Personally, I think it's too small and it's, erm, it's...

Kate: ...it's got a really big room at the back that's big enough for everyone here.

Greg: Do you mind if I just finish?

Kate: Yeah, sure. Go ahead.

Greg: As I was saying, I think it's too small and I don't think the food is that great. I went there a few months ago and it was truly awful.

Kate: Well, I went there a couple of days ago and I thought the food was pretty good. I think they've changed chefs recently.

Paul: Right, Santini's it is. So, when shall we go?

Greg: I'd say Friday because it's the end of the week and we can stay on later afterwards.

Kate: Personally, I'd go for Thursday because, erm...

Paul: ...yeah, and give everyone the option of not having to come back afterwards. That sounds good to me. Thursday it is. Right, the speech. Any ideas?

Kate: I could put something together, and, erm...

Greg: Sorry to interrupt here, but I've erm, I've already written something.

Kate: ...If you'd just let me finish...

Paul: Yes, Greg, please do stop interrupting.

Kate: So, what I was saying is that as I've been working with her here in the marketing department, I could put something together that could really sum up what's she's achieved here, and, erm, show her that we really appreciate everything she's done. So, erm, that's all I had to say, really.

Paul: Good, erm, Jim, what do you think? I'd like to hear your opinion on this. What have you got to say about it?

Jim: Well, I think Kate's idea sounds good. She probably knows Carol better than anyone else here, so I'd give my vote to her, and erm, that's all I've got to say, really.

Paul: OK, Kate, you're doing the speech. Now, let's look at... [fades out] 🎧

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Think about it

When was the last time you had an argument with someone? What were you arguing about? Why were you arguing about it? What was your point of view? Who were you arguing with? How heated did the argument get? What did you say? What did the other person/people say? What happened in the end?

PRACTICAL ENGLISH

HOW TO DEAL WITH AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR IN MEETINGS

Some meetings can get heated. So, what can you do if someone starts attacking or shouting at you? Here are some useful expressions to use.

Attacking someone

- You said that you'd do it.
- You promised that you'd...
- You're always forgetting to...
- You never remember to...

Reacting calmly

- I can see that this has affected you. So....
- Maybe we should discuss this another time.
- I think we should stay focused on the main issues here and not get side-tracked.

Reacting angrily

- Are you serious?
- I beg your pardon?
- I can't believe you just said that.
- You've got to be kidding!
- Who the hell do you think you are?
- That's typical of you!

Reacting defensively

- I didn't do that.
- That wasn't me.
- No, I didn't take it.
- I was the one who took it back to the shop.

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to a conversation in a meeting. They're talking about the launch of a product. Rory is angry with Mark. What could he be angry about? Use the following prompts to think of ideas: the launch date, the product name, the materials, etc.

2 Listening I

Listen once to compare your ideas from the Pre-listening task.

3 Listening II

Listen again and choose the correct answers.

1. We can't possibly have it ready for the
a) autumn b) spring BusinessExpo!
2. This is going to take up all our a) time b) resources.
3. I've heard that you're proposing we a) increase b) lower the price.
4. And they interviewed over a) 500 b) 1,000 people to get that information.
5. You commissioned the a) report b) survey without consulting me.
6. What were you trying to do? Get all the credit so you can get a a) promotion b) pay rise!



Dialogue

Product managers Bob and Rory are in a meeting. They're talking about a new product: the DrySmart hairdryer. Rory isn't happy about the situation.

Audio script

Bob: *[fades in]* ...which is why I think we should have our DrySmart hairdryer ready for the BusinessExpo show in October. It's going to be our star product.

Rory: What? Are you kidding? That's ridiculous, Bob, and you know it! We can't possibly have it ready for the autumn BusinessExpo! Is anyone else naively optimistic enough to think we'll be able to launch it in October? I can't believe you're even suggesting this. This is going to take up all our resources and leave us with no time to get on with anything else. Are you going to put everything else on hold just for this?

Bob: I'm just trying to ensure we get the best possible exposure for this product.

Rory: Also, I've heard that you're proposing we lower the price. Our price reflects quality. We can't drop it. Are you mad?

Bob: Research from the marketing department has found that this is the price people are willing to pay for a product like this. And they interviewed over 500 people to get that information. Obviously no

survey is 100% accurate, but it's better than plucking a figure out of thin air.

Rory: You went right over my head on this one. You commissioned the survey without consulting me. You spoke to the CEO about the launch, you went to the marketing department to get the date you needed to lower the price, and you made sure DrySmart was in next year's catalogue. You're always doing that. You should have consulted me on this. What were you trying to do? Get all the credit so you can get a promotion! You're pathetic!

Bob: I did what I felt was the right thing to do to make sure we gave this product the best possible chance.

Rory: You don't care about this product or the success of the company. All you care about is your promotion – trying to make sure you get all the credit for this decision.

Bob: Frankly, I'm surprised at you making personal attacks like this. I think it would be better if we stuck to the main issue. And besides... *[fades out]* ☺

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it Have you ever seen any films involving robots? What were they about? What do you think robots of the future will be able to do? What jobs do you think robots will take over from us? How important do you think robots will be in the future? Do you have any concerns regarding robots? What are they? How will robots be able to help us?

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



Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

How do you think robots are being used in the following fields? Make notes.

- medicine
- agriculture
- climatology
- defence
- security
- schools
- business

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas from the Pre-reading activity mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, complete the sentences with the words from below. Try to do it without referring back to the article.

- weeds
- machines
- robots
- autism
- prospects
- drones
- competition
- seismic activity

- Teaching robotics can help students with their future job _____.
- By 2025, 40% of jobs will be carried out by _____.
- More than 15,000 _____ are sold every month in North America.
- Milo is a robot that helps children with _____.
- In agriculture, robots can be used to selectively spray _____.
- In the ocean, robots can be used to monitor _____.
- First Lego League (FLL) is an international robotics _____.
- It aims to get children involved in designing, building, and programming _____.

WHY TEACHING ROBOTICS IS A GREAT IDEA!

From the USA, to Australia and Europe, children all over the world are learning about robotics. But why?

One of the major benefits of teaching robotics is that it can help students with their future job prospects. According to experts such as Professor Leon Sterling of Swinburne University of Technology, activities based around robotics easily **lend themselves to** other emerging technologies such as smartphones and 3D printers. It's a **link** he's anxious to establish, particularly after a report released in 2015 predicted that by 2025, 40% of jobs will be **carried out** by machines.

Robotics is fast becoming an essential component in a number of industries. For example, one innovation linked to robotics is the drone. According to estimates **put forward** by *The Economist*, more than 15,000 of these machines are sold every month in North America. A staggering number, but also an indication of a thriving market with the potential for expansion... and the creation of new jobs.

Medical robots have already started to appear in hospitals and medical facilities, particularly in

the US. For example, the company RoboKind has designed a robot specifically manufactured to support children with **autism**. The results so far have been very **promising**. The robot, called Milo, displays emotions and monitors the child's reaction providing **feedback**, and helping them develop and improve social skills.

In agriculture, robots can be used to selectively **spray weeds**, reducing the amount of **herbicides** required. In the ocean, robots can be used to monitor seismic activity, submarines and the weather. And in the fields of defence and security, robots are being used to **defuse** bombs, help in hostage negotiations and even fight on the battlefield.

So, how are schools preparing their students for this new challenge? Institutions around the world are trying to promote the learning of science, maths and engineering through robotics. A lot of the information and resources they use to do this have found their way onto the internet in the hope of inspiring an interest in robots, not just in children, but in parents and teachers as well.

Big companies have been **getting in on the act** too.

Lego, Vex, and Albedaran have been exploring these avenues and so far have had a great deal of success. In fact, Lego have launched an initiative called the First Lego League (FLL). This is an international robotics competition which aims to get children involved in designing, building, and programming robots.

Get programming! 🤖

Richmond

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GLOSSARY

- to lend itself to** *exp*
if A "lends itself to" B, A can be used by B, or A is useful or helpful for B
- a link** *n*
a connection
- to carry out** *phr vb*
if you "carry out" a job, you do that job
- to put forward** *phr vb*
if you "put forward" an idea, you tell people about it
- autism** *n*
a mental disorder that affects children, particularly their ability to relate to other people
- promising** *adj*
if something is "promising", it seems to be very good
- feedback** *n*
if you give someone "feedback", you tell them how well they did at something and offer some helpful criticism
- to spray** *vb*
if you "spray" a liquid somewhere, little parts of the liquid cover that place
- a weed** *n*
a wild plant that grows in gardens
- a herbicide** *n*
a chemical that is used to destroy plants, especially weeds.
- to defuse** *vb*
if you "defuse" a bomb, you take a part out of it so it won't explode
- to get in on the act** *exp*
to become involved in something

Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you went to an interview? How did it go? Did you get the job? Why? Why not? Has anything unusual ever happened to you during an interview? What was it? What can go wrong in an interview?

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

TRACK 10: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN



INTERVIEW HORROR

When was the last time you had an interview? How did it go? Probably not as badly as it did for these candidates.

The candidate for an interview who...

...once asked the interviewer for a **ride** home after the interview.

... called up three hours late to say that she was **stuck in traffic**.

...told the interviewer he had once been fired for **beating up** his boss.

...said she was a "people person" not a "numbers person" in her interview for an accounting position.

...took out a hair brush and **brushed** her hair during the interview and **carried on** as if nothing was wrong.

...arrived at his interview with food **stains** on his tie.

...was seen smelling his **armpits** on the way to the interview room.

...once answered his phone and asked if the interviewer

wouldn't mind leaving the office because it was a private call.

...after a 15-minute conversation apologised and asked the interviewer what her name was.

...told the interviewer he probably wouldn't stay at the company for long because he thought he might get an **inheritance** from his uncle, and his uncle "wasn't looking too good".

...got up to say goodbye at the end of a 50-minute interview and in a moment of misplaced enthusiasm **hugged** the interviewer.

...excused himself to go to the toilet during the interview then failed to return. After about 10 minutes, the interviewer went looking for him, only to find the toilet window was open and the candidate was nowhere to be seen.

...got into a **heated argument** with the interviewer over a parking space. A few minutes before the interview, the candidate was parking when another

car swerved in front of her and took the space. The candidate **swore at** the other driver and made a **rude gesture**. Minutes later, on walking into the interview room, the candidate saw that the person she'd had the argument with in the street was the man who was supposed to be interviewing her! ✪

GLOSSARY

a ride *n*
if you give someone a "ride", you take them somewhere in your car

stuck in traffic *exp*
if you're "stuck in traffic" while you're driving, you can't move because there are so many cars on the road

to beat up *phr vb*
if A "beats up" B, A hits B many, many times

to brush *vb*
if you "brush" your hair, you use a hairbrush to make your hair look nice and in place

to carry on *phr vb*
to continue

a stain *n*
a mark on clothing, etc. made by food, oil, etc.

an armpit *n*
the inside part of your arm where your arm joins your body

an inheritance *n*
money, property, etc. you receive when someone dies

to hug *vb*
to hold someone in your arms in an emotional way because you like them, etc.

a heated argument *exp*
a violent discussion (talk) between two people

to swear at *exp*
if you "swear at" someone, you say a rude, bad word to them

a rude gesture *exp*
if you make a "rude gesture", you use your hands, fingers or arms to say something horrible or not nice to another person

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Think of three things that can go wrong in an interview.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again.

Then, answer the questions.

1. How late was the candidate who was stuck in traffic?
2. What position was the woman applying for who said she was a "people person"?
3. Where did one candidate have some food stains?
4. What was one interviewee seen smelling before the interview?
5. Who was one candidate expecting to get an inheritance from?
6. What did one candidate do to the interviewer at the end of a 50-minute interview?

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it Have you ever worked in an office? What was it like? What did you like or dislike about it? What are the pros and cons of working in an office? When you worked in an office, were there any annoying people there? What did they do? What other annoying things were there? Why were they so annoying?

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

TRACK 11: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN



Answers on page 44

Pre-reading

Look at the following words. In what way do you think they are related to annoying things in the office? Think and make notes.



headphones



apple



Cheetos



money



a toilet sink

Reading I

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

Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. There's one question for each story and the questions go in order.

1. What do people in Aimee's office have to do if they want to talk to each other?
2. What was the worst thing about Brian's co-worker when he was eating?
3. What annoying thing did Shirley's co-worker do during a meeting?
4. How many pieces of pizza did John's colleague really have?
5. Why was Paula so annoyed about helping her co-worker?

REALLY ANNOYING THINGS IN THE OFFICE!

Is there anything that you find annoying in the office? We asked a few people to share their ideas with us.

"We have this real **loud** talker at work and it's **unbearable**. If he's in the room and he's talking, you can't get anything done. We've mentioned it to him, but he just thinks it's a joke. These days, most people wear **noise-reduction headphones**.

So, if you want to get someone's attention, you have to message them."

Aimee, Salem

"I once had to sit next to this guy at work who just ate all the time. Biscuits, vegetables, fruit, crisps... you name it, he ate it. The worst part was all the noise. **Munching** sounds as he drank hot tea, or the irritating **twang** as he spat cherry **pips** into a metal bin. Luckily, he got transferred to another office." **Brian, Milwaukee.**

"There's this girl where I work who just loves crisps. She's really generous with them and often hands them round, but the thing

is she makes such a mess. Once, we were in a meeting with a few other colleagues discussing a report. During the meeting, she ate two bags of Cheetos, and managed to cover most of the pages in orange Cheetos **fingerprints**."

Shirley, New York City

"There's this girl at work who is really **tight**. For example, if we go out to lunch, she'll **chip in** less than she owes. And she'll often ask to borrow money and then "forget" to pay it back. It's so annoying. Just the other day we ordered some pizzas to have in the office. She said she was just going to have one slice, but I noticed that she had at least three. Of course, when it was time to pay, she reminded us that she'd only had **one**." **John, London**

"There's this guy at work who is always asking for help. Once, he asked me to help him finish a report as the **deadline** was really **tight**. I offered to go over half of it while he did the other half. But after a few minutes, I saw him on Facebook chatting away to a friend. Oh, and

another thing is that he never washes his hands. I've seen him come out of a **stall** and just walk straight out of the toilets. Now that isn't pleasant at all! We all have to share equipment: photocopiers, pens, coffee machine, fridge door, etc. Every time I think of that it makes me feel a bit sick."

Paula, Ontario ☺

GLOSSARY

loud *adj*

not quiet – making a lot of noise

unbearable *adj*

if something is "unbearable", you don't like it and can't accept it any longer

noise-reduction headphones *n*

objects you wear over your ears to listen to music, etc. They reduce or cut out the noise around you

munching *adj*

when people make "munching" sounds, they make a noise when they're eating something slowly and chewing it a lot

slurpy *adj*

when people make "slurpy" sounds, they make a noise when they drink a liquid

a twang *n*

the loud, ringing noise something makes when it hits another object

a pip *n*

the little stone in the middle of a cherry or other fruit

a fingerprint *n*

the mark you make with the end part of your fingers when you touch something

tight *adj informal*

someone who is "tight" doesn't like to spend money

to chip in *phr vb*

if everyone "chips in", everyone pays an amount of money for something

a deadline *n*

a time when you must finish a job or task

tight *adj*

if a deadline is "tight", there isn't much time to finish the work

a stall *n*

a little "room" in a public toilet with a door and a toilet where you can sit down

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you went to a meeting? What did you talk about? What different opinions did people have? Were there any arguments? What decisions were taken? How did the meeting end? What happened after the meeting? What did you have to do in the meeting? In what way did you participate?

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

TRACK 12: ENGLISH ACCENTS

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-listening

What makes a successful meeting? Write one or two more ideas for each of the two categories below.

The meeting went well

People contributed with ideas.
Everyone listened to other people.
The chairperson seemed to be in control.

The meeting went badly

Not many people contributed.
Participants weren't paying attention.
Everyone seemed pleased that the meeting was over.

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to three different meeting endings. Listen and put the descriptions of the meetings in the correct order, according to the recordings: Meeting I, Meeting II, Meeting III.

- **Meeting** _____ = the person chairing this meeting seems to be extremely bossy.
- **Meeting** _____ = everyone seems to be pleased with the way this meeting went.
- **Meeting** _____ = this meeting doesn't seem to be very well structured and the participants aren't really paying attention.

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, complete the sentences from the audio script with the correct words.

- **Meeting I**
- 1. I think everyone has had a chance to air their _____.
- 2. It was great to finally have a chance to discuss the _____.
- 3. Thanks again for coming along and being so positive and _____.
- **Meeting II**
- 4. Well, that's just about all we've got time for... for _____.
- 5. So, does anyone have anything else to _____?
- **Meeting III**
- 6. To summarise, we launch the new product in _____.
- 7. Jack, I need you to write up the _____.
- 8. I'll send through my recommendations for that sometime next _____.



How to end a meeting!

There are lots of different ways to end a meeting. In this lesson, we'll be looking at three meetings and how they come to an end.

Ending the meeting

Meeting I

John: Well, I think everyone has had a chance to air their views, haven't they?

Paula: Yes, it was great to finally have a chance to discuss the issues. I think we should meet up again soon.

John: Yes, good idea. We could look at some other aspects of the project. I'll work out a time and send round an e-mail.

Paula: Sounds great.

John: Oh, Paula, don't forget to send us all a copy of that report.

Paula: Will do.

John: Thanks again for coming along and being so positive and helpful, well done. I think it was a really productive meeting.

Paula: Thanks! [sound of moving chairs, general chat, etc.]

Meeting II

Well, that's just about all we've got time for... for today. So, just to summarise...

[whispering in the back] Erm, Josh, do you mind, I'm talking. Well, I think you've all had a chance to air your views. So, if... [laughing and talking] Josh, is there something you'd like to share with us? [a phone goes off - sound of talking in background] So, I'll be sending the notes from the meeting around and then... [laughing and talking] Josh, please. I'm trying to wrap up this

meeting. So, does anyone have anything else to say? No? Well, then, I think we can call it a day. So, thanks again and see you all next Monday for our weekly meeting. Next week, I'm hoping to... [fades out]

Meeting III

Poppy: Well, that's just about all we've got time for today. To summarise, we launch the new product in October and we'll need all the marketing material ready by early September. Mike, could you put the screen back over there? Jack, pick up the papers and empty the rubbish bins and get those coffee cups on the table, please.

Jack: OK.

Poppy: Oh, and Jack, I need you to write up the notes and I'll need them by tomorrow at 10am. Can you manage that?

Jack: I think so.

Poppy: Good. And I also need you to come in this Friday at 5pm so we can draw up the schedule.

Jack: OK.

Poppy: I'll send through my recommendations for that sometime next week. Anyway, thanks again for coming in and listening. See you after lunch. Bye. ☺

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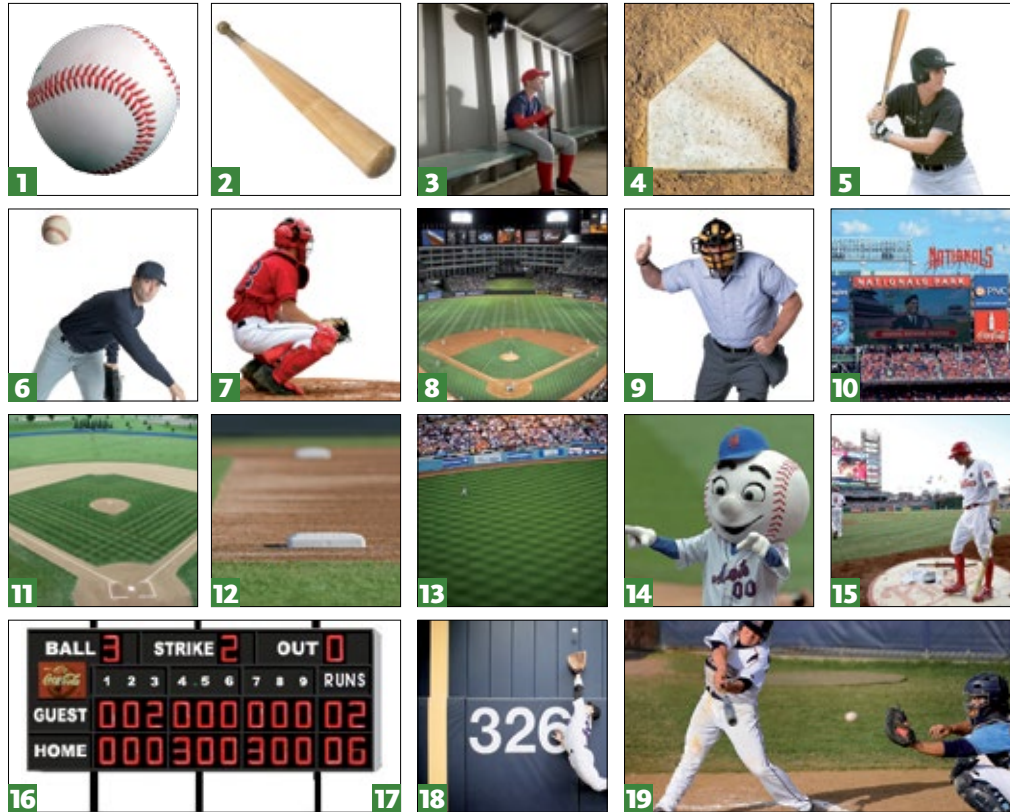
TRAVEL ENGLISH

AT THE BASEBALL GAME

By Sarah Asch

Learn over 15 useful words and expressions for when you go to a baseball game.

Major League Baseball has 29 teams across the United States (plus one in Canada). Each team plays several games in a season before the play offs begin. The play offs are a competition between the top teams to determine the league champion.



- 1 Baseball** – the ball that the game is played with.
- 2 Bat** – the player swings this object at the ball.
- 3 Dugout** – this is where players who aren't on the field sit.
- 4 Bases** – the field has four bases which are called first, second, third, and home plate. The batter stands at home plate.
- 5 Batter** – the player who is currently trying to hit the ball with the bat.
- 6 Pitcher** – the player who is throwing “pitches” (balls) for the batter to hit.
- 7 Catcher** – the player who sits behind home plate and catches pitches that the batter doesn't hit. The pitcher and the catcher are on the same team.

- 8 Ballpark / stadium** – the place where the game is played.
- 9 Umpire** – the person who controls the game and decides the result of a play.
- 10 Jumbotron** – the big screen over the field.
- 11 Baseball diamond** – the area where the game is played.
- 12 In field** – the part of the field with no grass (just earth) where the bases are.
- 13 Out field** – the rest of the field that is covered in grass.
- 14 Mascot** – a person in costume who represents the team.
- 15 On Deck**: If a player is “on deck” it means that they are up next.

- 16 Inning** – a section of the game. Each baseball game has 9 innings unless there is a tie at the end.
- 17 Top of the inning** – each inning has two halves: the top and the bottom. During the top of the inning the visiting team bats, and during the bottom the home team bats.
- 18 Home Run** – when the batter hits the ball so hard that it goes outside the ballpark and the player automatically scores.
- 19 Strike (strike out)** – a strike is when the pitch goes over home plate but the batter doesn't hit it. If a batter gets three strikes, they are out.

Dialogue

At the baseball stadium

American Greg is explaining the rules of baseball to his English friend Mike, who is at his first game. Listen once, then complete the text with the correct words.

M=Mike G=Greg

- M:** This is amazing! What a great atmosphere.
- G:** Yeah, so, when the batter hits the (1) _____, he tries to run to first base. The goal of the game is to get around all the (2) _____ in order. If you can get back to home plate before the inning is over, you score a (3) _____.
- M:** Erm, what's a homerun?
- G:** If a batter hits a homerun, that means he's able to get back to (4) _____ plate and score in the space of one play. And if there are players on base when the homerun happens, they get to run to home and (5) _____ too. But as the outfielders can throw really far, homeruns usually only happen when the batter hits the ball so hard that it goes over the (6) _____ into the stands.
- M:** So, if the bases are loaded when a home run happens, the team batting gets four points?
- G:** Exactly.
- M:** Oh, OK. So, erm, how can a player get out when there wasn't a home run?
- G:** The team that is playing the field can tag him with the ball – you know, just by touching him. Or by throwing the ball to the next base before the (7) _____ gets there. That's why it's so hard to run more than one base at a time. These guys can (8) _____ pretty far!
- M:** And only one player is allowed on each base at a time?
- G:** That's it. See? You're getting it already! ☆

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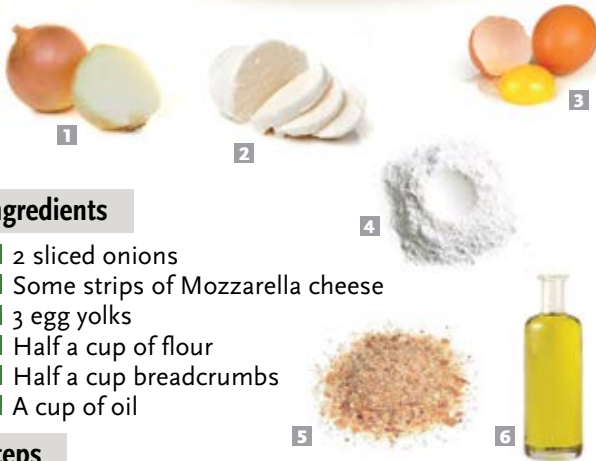
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MOZZARELLA ONION RINGS



Learn to make some delicious mozzarella onion rings.



Ingredients

- 1 2 sliced onions
- 2 Some strips of Mozzarella cheese
- 3 3 egg yolks
- 4 Half a cup of flour
- 5 Half a cup breadcrumbs
- 6 A cup of oil

Steps

1. **Peel** the onions and **slice** them into **rings**.
2. Take the mozzarella cheese and cut it into thin **strips**.
3. Put the mozzarella strips between 2 slices of onion to make a ring.
4. **Freeze** the onion rings for one hour.
5. Put the whole ring in flour, then in egg yolk and then into breadcrumbs; and then again in the egg yolk and the breadcrumbs.
6. **Fry** the rings in hot oil for 2-3 minutes.
7. Once they're cooked, take them out of the frying pan and **garnish** with some parsley.
8. Enjoy your delicious onion rings with tomato ketchup or any other sauce.

Yummy! 🍴

VIDEO



Watch how to make this simple dish. Search YouTube for "Tasty Mozzarella Onion rings".

GLOSSARY

to peel *vb*
to take the skin off fruit or vegetables
to slice *vb*
to cut with a knife
a ring *n*
something that is round in shape with a hole in the middle
to freeze *vb*
if you "freeze" food, you put it in the freezer so it becomes ice
to fry *vb*
to cook food in very hot oil
to garnish *vb* if you "garnish" food, you decorate it by adding other food on top such as herbs, cheese, etc.

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II



Back to the Future Part II is a 1989 American science fiction comedy directed by Robert Zemeckis and written by Bob Gale. It's the **sequel** to the 1985 film *Back to the Future* and the second part in the *Back to the Future* **trilogy**. The film stars Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly and Christopher Lloyd as Dr Emmett "Doc" Brown. In this film, Marty and his friend Dr Emmett travel forward in time to 2015 to prevent McFly's future son from **ending up** in prison. In this scene, Marty is in the garage when his girlfriend, Jennifer, **turns up**.



The script

J=Jennifer M=Marty D=Doc

J: How about a **ride**, mister?
M: Jennifer! Oh, man, you are a **sight for sore eyes!** Let me look at you!
J: Marty, you're acting like you haven't seen me in a week!
M: I haven't.
J: Are you OK? Is everything all right?
M: Oh yeah! Everything is great. *[Doc suddenly appears]*
D: Marty! You've got to come back with me.
M: Where?
D: Back to the future!
M: Wait a minute, what are you doing, Doc?
D: I need **fuel!** Go ahead, quick, get in the car!
M: No, no, no, Doc, I just got here, Jennifer's here – we're gonna take the new truck for a **spin...**
D: Well, bring her along! This concerns her too!
M: Wait a minute, Doc, what are you talking about, Doc? What happens to us in the future? Do we become **assholes** or something?
D: No, no, no. You and Jennifer both **turn out fine**. It's your kids, Marty. Something's gotta be done about your kids!
[Marty and Jennifer exchange a look. Then, they get into the car.]

VIDEO



Watch the clip from the film. Search YouTube for "Back to the Future Part 2 We Don't Need Roads".

GLOSSARY

a sequel *n*
a film that continues the story from another film
a trilogy *n*
a group of three films with the same characters, themes, etc.
to end up *phr vb*
if you "end up" somewhere, you are in that place eventually
to turn up *phr vb*
to arrive
a ride *n*
if you give someone a "ride", you take them in your car, etc.
a sight for sore eyes *exp informal*
an expression people use when they're pleased to see someone
fuel *n*
a substance such as oil, petrol, etc. that is used to create power, heat, energy, etc.
(to take for) a spin *exp informal*
if you "take someone for a spin", you take them in your car
an asshole *exp informal*
an idiot, a stupid person, etc.
to turn out fine *exp*
if things "turn out fine", everything is good in the end
to back up *phr vb*
if you "back up" a car, you make it go backwards – you reverse it

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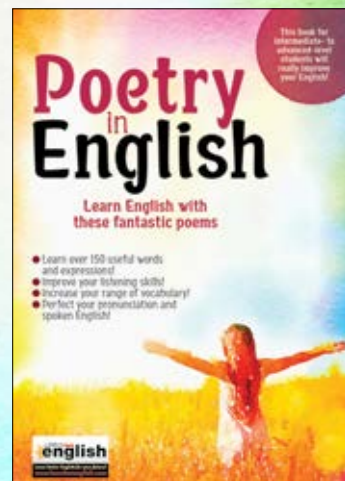
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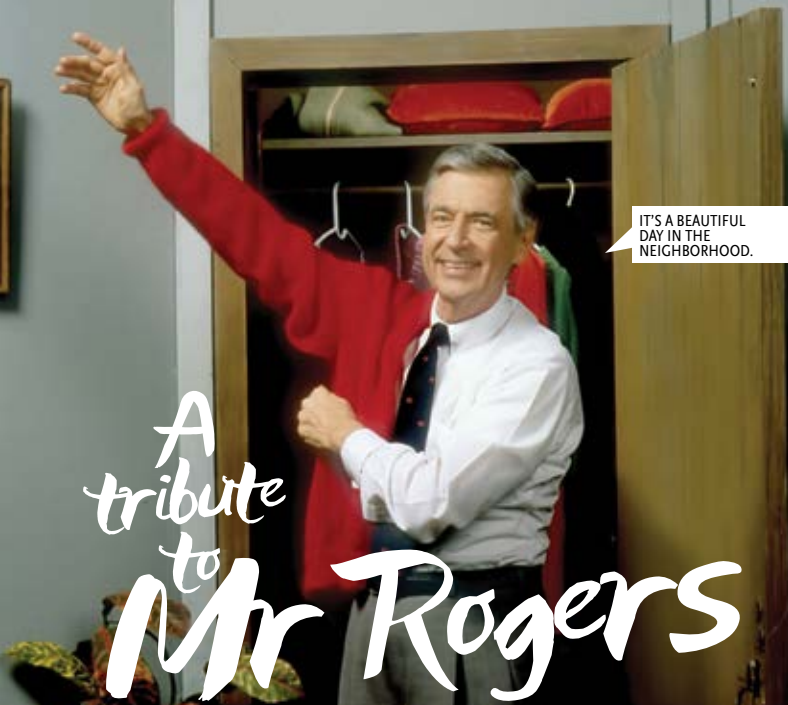
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A tribute to Mr Rogers

A television host. A cultural icon. A friend. A man named Fred Rogers **hosted** the television show Mr Rogers' Neighborhood for 33 seasons. In the United States, 20th March is National "Wear a **Sweater Day**" in honor of Mr Rogers. But why is he worthy of such an honor? And what does wearing a sweater have to do with all of this?

Fred Rogers didn't like television, which is why he decided to dedicate his life to it. "In fact," he said, "I went into television because I hated it, and I thought there was some way of using this fabulous **instrument** to **nurture** those who would watch and listen." That was when he began to work for a local television station in Pittsburgh on a show called *The Children's Corner*. On that show, he did the voices for several **puppets**. After working there, he developed a shorter version of the show *Mr Rogers' Neighborhood*. A longer version eventually aired on PBS in 1968, and stayed there for 33 seasons.

Mr Rogers used his program **to do good**. The messages he taught on the show were a reflection of his real-life beliefs. *Mr Rogers' Neighborhood* had a lot of valuable lessons for **absorbent** minds. He taught children to believe in themselves, gave them self-confidence and told them they were special. Every afternoon, Mr Rogers

invited children and adults alike into his living room. He took off his coat, and put on a sweater. He removed his **dress shoes** and put on casual, blue **boat shoes**. He made himself comfortable. And by doing this simple act, he let people into his life, and made an impact on them at the same time. While changing clothes, he would say, "Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?" And after 33 seasons, he helped **raise** a generation of Americans. Mr Rogers had unbelievable power over people. At the Daytime Emmys in 1997, he received the Lifetime

FRED McFEELY ROGERS

Fred Rogers was born on 20th March 1928 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, US. He died on 27th February 2003 at the age of 74. Rogers was a Presbyterian minister who was best known as the host of the children's television show, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. The show ran in the United States from 1968 to 2001, and covered a wide range of topics and issues such as self-control, building confidence and choosing a career. Rogers married Sara Jayne Byrd in 1952 and they had two children, James and John.

Achievement Award. In his acceptance speech, he asked everyone in the audience to think about "those who cared about you and wanted what's best for you. Take ten seconds. I'll watch the time." In a theatre filled with thousands of people, Fred Rogers managed to **silence** the entire place. The cameras **panned** over the audience of **tear-stained** faces, and then turned back to Mr Rogers. He then concluded, "Thank you for allowing me to be your neighbor all these years." Another example of his positive influence came in 1990. That year, Mr Rogers' car was stolen. He filed a police report and 48 hours later his car was mysteriously returned in the same spot. But that's not all. Attached to the car was a note that said, "If we'd known that this was your car, we never would have taken it." Now that's power.

Fred Rogers was an interesting man. He woke up at five o'clock every morning to go swimming. He weighed 143 pounds (65 kg) for 30 years. He began playing piano when he was five years old. He spoke French. He had an **asteroid** named after him in 2003. He is a **timeless** figure, largely in part to his **soothing** voice and the fact that he always explained things in terms all ages could understand.

The word "celebrity" hardly comes to mind when we think of Mr Rogers. This could be because there is usually a barrier between celebrities and "regular" people. But this wasn't the case with Mr Rogers. He always made us feel like we had a friend. And on 20th March, Mr Rogers' neighbors all over the United States put on their sweaters to show their thanks. 🍀

MR ROGERS QUOTES

"How sad it is that we give up on people who are just like us."

"You know, you don't have to look like everybody else to be acceptable and to feel acceptable."

"If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."

"It's not the honors and the prizes or the **fancy** outsiders of life that ultimately **nourish** our souls. It's the feeling that we can be trusted, that we never have to fear the truth, and that the **bedrock** of our very being is firm."

"The greatest gift we can give to anybody is our honest self."

"Those of us who have a particular vision must continue against all odds."

"The whole idea is to look at the television camera and present as much love as you possibly could to a person who might feel that he or she needs it."

GLOSSARY

- to host** *vb*
if you "host" a television show, you introduce the show and talk to the people on it
- a sweater** *n*
a warm knitted piece of clothing which covers your arms and the upper part of your body
- an instrument** *n*
a tool or device that is used to do a particular task
- to nurture** *vb*
to care for something while it is growing or developing
- a puppet** *n*
a doll that you can move by either pulling strings or putting your hand inside its body and moving your fingers
- to do good** *exp*
if you "do good", you benefit or improve someone else's life
- absorbent** *adj*
if minds are "absorbent", they can learn new things easily
- dress shoes** *n*
shoes for working in a professional setting
- boat shoes** *n*
shoes for working on a boat / ship
- to raise** *vb*
if you "raise" a child, you look after it until it is grown up
- to silence** *vb*
if you "silence" someone, you stop them from speaking or making a noise
- to pan** *vb*
if a television camera "pans" somewhere, it moves slowly across that area in a wide movement
- tear-stained** *adj*
if your face is "tear-stained", you have recently been crying a lot
- an asteroid** *n*
a rocky or metallic object that orbits the Sun but is too small to be considered a planet
- timeless** *adj*
something so good that it is not affected by changes in society or fashion
- soothing** *adj*
calming; making pain or stress disappear
- fancy** *adj*
elaborate; special because it has a lot of decoration or too much
- to nourish** *vb*
if you "nourish" a feeling, you encourage or allow it to grow
- the bedrock** *n*
the principles, ideas or facts on which something is based

12 PHRASES TO IMPROVE YOUR **SPOKEN** ENGLISH!

Learn these phrases to really improve your English. They'll make you sound more fluent, natural and native.

1



Sure!

This is an alternative way of saying "yes".

- A** Can I take this chair?
- B** Sure! Go ahead.

2



Likewise!

You can use this word to say that you feel the same about something.

- A** I'm just so pleased that's over.
- B** Likewise.

3



What have you been up to lately?

This is good as an alternative to "How are you?"

- A** Hey, what have you been up to lately?
- B** Oh, not much.

4



I am indeed!

You can use this phrase instead of just saying "yes".

- A** You're Jeff, aren't you?
- B** I am indeed.

5



Good to see you again!

If you've just met up with an old friend, this phrase is perfect.

- A** Hey, Greg! Good to see you again!
- B** Yeah, it's been a few years.

6



Can't complain!

Next time someone asks you how things are going, use this phrase to say that everything is all right.

- A** How's it going?
- B** Oh, can't complain.



7



Do you mind me asking...?

Use this phrase before you ask a personal question to make it sound a bit more polite.

- A** Do you mind me asking how old you are?
- B** Not at all. I'm twenty-eight.

8

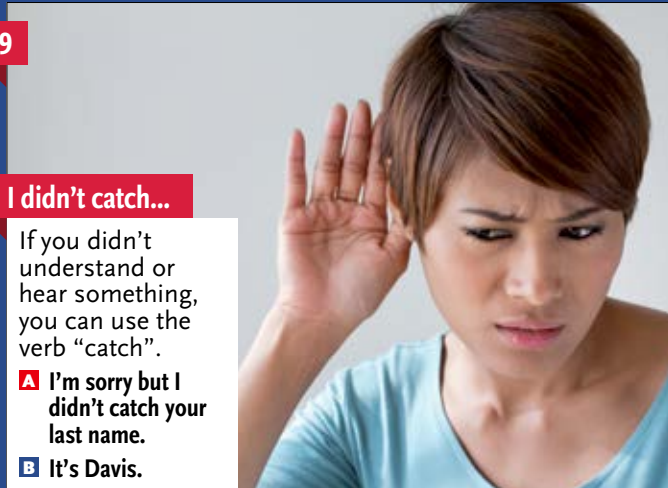


To be honest, ...

Use this expression instead of the usual "in my opinion".

- A** So, what did you think of it?
- B** Well, to be honest, I didn't think it was as good as his last film.

9

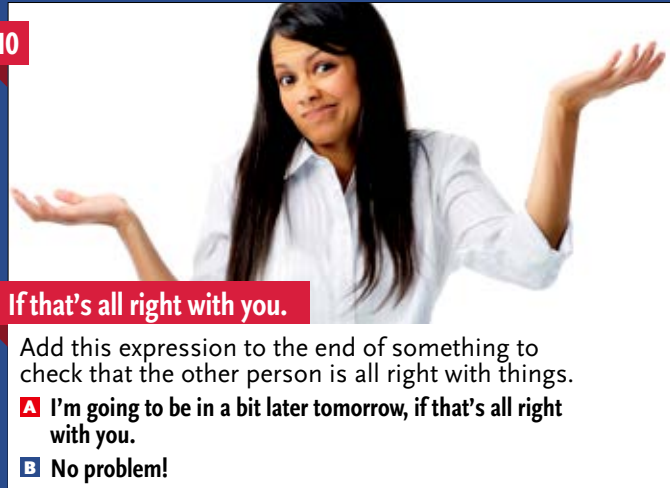


I didn't catch...

If you didn't understand or hear something, you can use the verb "catch".

- A** I'm sorry but I didn't catch your last name.
- B** It's Davis.

10

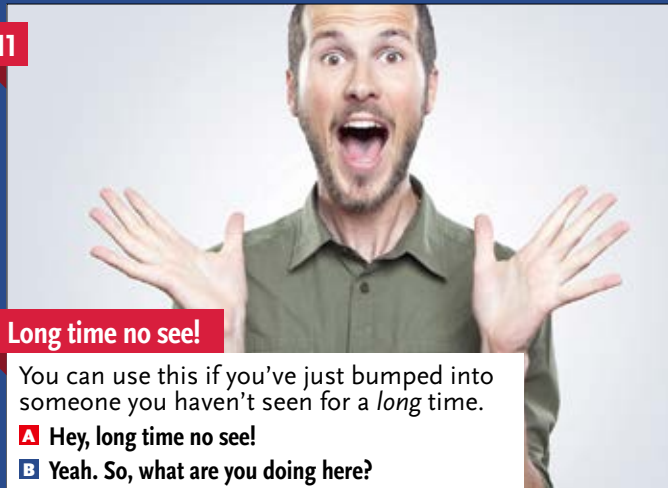


If that's all right with you.

Add this expression to the end of something to check that the other person is all right with things.

- A** I'm going to be in a bit later tomorrow, if that's all right with you.
- B** No problem!

11



Long time no see!

You can use this if you've just bumped into someone you haven't seen for a *long* time.

- A** Hey, long time no see!
- B** Yeah. So, what are you doing here?

12



Stick around!

If you want someone to stay somewhere for longer, tell them to "stick around":

- A** So, I think I'll be heading off.
- B** Oh, come on. Stick around for a bit longer! The band are about to start.

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you stayed in a hotel or apartment? How was it? How would you rate the hotel? Did you have any complaints? What were they? When was the last time you stayed at someone's house? What was it like? What are the pros and cons of using a service such as Airbnb? Have you ever used Airbnb? What happened? How easy was it to use? Would you ever use it? Why? Why not?

TRACK 15: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

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

MAKE YOURSELF
AT HOME!



AIRBNB HELL!

Millions of people have used Airbnb—the online service that lets you **rent** or **let** rooms, apartments or homes. Most people enjoy their travel experiences. But occasionally, things go wrong. Here are some Airbnb horror stories.

The disaster guy

Nigel Bentley rented his furnished **basement suite** on Airbnb to a guest who turned out to be a complete disaster. In his short time there, the guest managed to break the sofa, smash a window, **rip** the curtains and **crack** the TV screen. He also almost burnt down the building after he left a pan cooking then went to sleep; and he managed to **block** the toilet three times and smash the **toilet tank lid**. On the day he left, he took the keys with him.

The party

When Mark and Star King went away for their holiday, they decided to **rent out** their Calgary (Canada) home to a group of four people who said they were in town for a wedding. However, the following day, they received messages from neighbours saying that a party bus had **shown up** outside their house with more than 100 guests. Mark rushed back to find the place still packed with partygoers at 5am. After **kicking them out**, he **surveyed** the damage, which included broken furniture, stained carpets and smashed windows.

The stayers

Jessica Staines from San Francisco rented her apartment to two brothers for six weeks. However, when the time came for them to go, they **refused** to leave. They **cited** California tenant's rights laws, which makes eviction difficult after 30 days without the landlord paying a relocation fee. They eventually left two months later without having paid any rent for that period of time!

The body

Guests at a house in south Paris were shocked to find a **corpse** in the garden of the home they'd rented. The group had hoped to host a party at the house but they had to cancel it after the **macabre** discovery. "Her body was found at the bottom of the property which opens out into some woods," a police source said. No identifying documents were discovered, and police are still investigating the crime.

The dog

Mike Silverman rented a house in Argentina once. After a pleasant evening with the host, he went to bed. There had been no mention of pets, so he was surprised to be woken up the next morning to the sound of heavy breathing. "I opened an eye and there was an enormous Rottweiler staring at me," Mike explained. "As a gesture of friendliness, I put out my hand so he could sniff it, but he just bit down really hard on my **forearm**."

I received a 10cm **gash** and was **rushed** to the hospital, where I was forced to pay cash. However, AirBnB eventually reimbursed me for the surgery." ✨

AIRBNB

Airbnb is an online site that lets you list, find and rent vacation homes for a processing fee. It has over 1,500,000 listings in 34,000 cities and 191 countries. It was founded in August 2008 in San Francisco, California.

GLOSSARY

to rent *vb*
if you "rent" a room, etc., you pay money to stay there

to let *vb*
if you "let" a room, etc., you allow people to stay there in return for money

a basement suite *n*
a "suite" is a set of rooms (often a bedroom, living room and bathroom). The "basement" is the area under a house

to rip *vb*
to break a material or fabric: a shirt, a pair of trousers, etc.

to crack *vb*
if you "crack" a glass screen, you break it and it has a line on it (or several lines)

to block *vb*
if someone "blocks" a toilet, they put too much paper, etc. down it and then the water won't go down

a toilet tank lid *n*
the top part of the toilet that covers the area with all the water

to rent out *phr vb*
if you "rent out" a room, etc., you let people stay there in return for money

to show up *phr vb*
to arrive

to kick out *phr vb*
if you "kick someone out" of a place, you make them leave that place, often with violence

to survey *vb*
if you "survey" an area, you look at it carefully

to refuse *vb*
to say that you won't do something

to cite *vb*
if you "cite" something, you mention it, especially as an example of what you're saying

a corpse *n*
a dead body

macabre *adj*
strange, horrible or upsetting because it involves death, etc.

a forearm *n*
the part of your arm between your elbow and your hand

a gash *n*
a long, deep cut in your skin

to rush *vb*
to go somewhere very quickly

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

You're going to read some stories about people who rented or let rooms, etc. on Airbnb. Look at the paragraph titles. What do you think happened or went wrong? Make notes.

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. There's one question for each story and they go in order.

1. What evidence is there that Nigel's guest was a "complete disaster"? Make a note of three things.
2. What damage did Mark find when he rushed back to his house at 5am?
3. For what period of time did Jessica's guests not pay any rent?
4. What were the guests in Paris shocked to find?
5. Why was Mike surprised to find a dog in his room when he woke up?

Objective To improve your listening and reading skills.

Think about it What do you take with you when you go abroad? What types of maps do you take? What do you use your smartphone, tablet or computer for when you travel abroad? Which apps do you use when you travel? Why do you use them? What type of app would you like to have when you travel abroad? Why?

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

Audio files

Download the MP3 audio files for this issue for FREE from our website: www.learnhotenglish.com/mp3s

TRACK 16: ENGLISHMAN & US MAN



By Alex Lauria-Daley

FIVE GREAT APPS FOR TRAVELLING ABROAD!

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Look at the names of the five apps (see the five paragraph titles in the article). What do you think the apps can do? How do you think they could help you when you're travelling abroad? Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas from the Pre-reading activity mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, try to complete the sentences with the correct words from the article.

1. It can tell you which train to catch and where to _____ trains.
2. You can request a car with a driver to _____ you up anywhere.
3. You can use Pocket Earth to navigate _____ so you don't need any wifi connection.
4. This app also lets you _____ for amenities such as cafés, petrol stations or restaurants.
5. If you're ever lost or _____ in traffic, it'll show you a much faster route.
6. It'll come back with a huge list of results that you can _____ to places near your hotel.

The last thing you want to do on holiday is waste time **figuring out** where to go and how to get there. A trip abroad should be fun and relaxing, not stressful. Here are five apps that could guarantee it's just like that!



CityMapper

CityMapper is a free journey planner. Simply **plug in** any journey and it'll give you lots of options for getting there: on foot, by car, on public transport... And it'll do this for public transport networks in cities around the world. So, imagine you're in Manhattan and you need to get to the **subway** station Columbus Circle. You just type in your destination, and it tells you which train to catch and where to change trains.



Uber

Gone are the days of standing on the street corner, getting **drenched** in a **downpour** for half an hour as you try to **hail** a taxi. With a few clicks on your smartphone, you can **request** an Uber car with a driver to **pick you up** anywhere within a matter of minutes. "Tap the app, get a ride" as their slogan says. So, you can even request a ride home as you're finishing your restaurant dinner!



Pocket Earth

Download a map of the place you're visiting from Pocket Earth and then use it to navigate **offline**. The app is "a traveller's best friend" as they say on their website. You can download maps or guides for cities, regions or countries all over the world. And as you've already downloaded the app, it'll help you get around the city without the need for **wifi**.



Google Maps

Get real-time traffic information and travel estimates for walking, driving and using public transit with Google Maps. This app also lets you search for **amenities** such as cafés, petrol stations or restaurants. And if you're ever lost or **stuck** in traffic, simply turn on Google Maps for navigation and it'll show you a much faster route, plus it'll read the directions **out loud** so you don't even have to **take your eyes off the road**.



Yelp

Yelp can help you find restaurants, bars, cafés, shops... It's basically a social network with millions of customer reviews from all

over the world. So, imagine you're in Dublin and you want to go to a typical Irish pub. Simply type "best Irish pub" into the search bar on Yelp and it'll come back with a huge list of results that you can **filter** to places near your hotel or by **ratings**.

Next time you go away, why not use one of these great apps? ☺

GLOSSARY

to figure out *phr vb*

if you "figure out" something, you understand it

to plug in *phr vb*

if you "plug in" information, you put that information into a computer, etc.

a subway *n*

the underground train system in New York City

drenched *adj*

if you're "drenched", you're very wet

a downpour *n*

a short period of time when it rains a lot

to request *vb*

to ask for

to pick up *phr vb*

if you "pick someone up", you drive to where they are and take them in your car

to tap *vb*

if you "tap" something, you hit it gently with your finger

offline *adv*

when you're "offline", you aren't connected to the internet

wifi *n*

a technology that allows electronic devices to connect to the internet

amenities *n*

things for your enjoyment, comfort, entertainment, etc.: shopping centres, sports centres, restaurants, gyms, etc.

stuck *adj*

if you're "stuck" somewhere, you can't move from that place

out loud *exp*

if you read something "out loud", you read it in a normal voice so people can hear what you're saying

to take your eyes off the road *exp*

if you "take your eyes off the road", you stop looking at the road or where you're driving

to filter *vb*

if you "filter" information, you take out the bits you don't want or don't need

a rating *n*

a score, comment, etc. to show how good or popular something is. If someone has very high "ratings", it is very good or popular

Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it Have you read any good books lately? What were they about? What type of books do you like to read? Why? Have you ever read a self-help book? What was it about? What did you learn from it? What can self-help books help us with? In what way are they useful? Which books would you like to read? Why?

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

© TRACK 17: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

I CAN BE GREAT!



Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Think of three ideas for being successful in life or at work. Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas similar to the ones in the article? Which idea do you like the most? Why? Which ones don't you like? Why?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, complete the sentences with words from the text. Try to do it without looking back at the article.

1. Whatever you believe with feeling becomes your _____.
2. It is impossible to succeed without _____.
3. You'll always get out of life what you put in – and you _____ what you put in.
4. I never hold grudges; while you're holding a grudge, they're out _____.
5. The _____ simply believes what you tell it most.
6. Your success or failure in anything, large or small, will depend on your _____.
7. Belief does not require something to be true. It only requires us to _____ that it's true!
8. Most of what reality is, to each of us, is based on what we have come to believe – whether it's true or _____!

TWO BOOKS TO HELP YOU BE GREAT!

Here are two books that will help you live a better, fuller more successful life.



Maximum Achievement*
by Brian Tracy
Maximum Achievement

is step-by-step guide for success at work or in life in general. The ideas in the book aim to **raise your self-esteem**, improve **personal performance**, and give you complete control over every aspect of your personal and professional life. Author Brian Tracy is the Chairman and CEO of *Brian Tracy International*, a company specialising in the training and development of individuals and organisations. Here are some quotes from the book.

"Whatever you believe with feeling becomes your reality."

"It is impossible to succeed without failing."

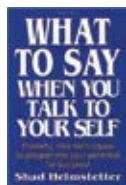
"Your thoughts, vividly imagined and repeated, charged with emotion, become your reality."

"You'll always get out of life what you put in – and you control what you **put in**."

"I never **hold grudges**; while you're holding a grudge, they're out dancing."

"No person or situation can make you feel anything – it's only the way you think about a situation that makes you feel the way you do."

"The greatest problem of human life is fear. It is fear that **robs us of** happiness. It is fear that causes us to **settle for far less** than we are capable of. It is fear that is the root cause of negative emotions, unhappiness and problems in human relationships."



What To Say When You Talk To Yourself
by Shad Helmstetter

Dr. Shad Helmstetter is the best-selling author of numerous books on topics such as **personal growth**, self-esteem, **personal programming** and **goal-setting**. In this book, he looks at the importance of the subconscious mind. Here are some quotes from the book:

"The brain simply believes what you tell it most. And what you tell it about you, it will create. It has no choice."

"After examining the philosophies, the theories, and the practiced methods of influencing human behavior, I was shocked to learn the simplicity of that one small fact: You will

become what you think about most; your success or failure in anything, large or small, will depend on your programming – what you accept from others, and what you say when you talk to yourself."

"Belief does not require something to be true. It only requires us to believe that it's true! That's powerful stuff! That means most of what reality is, to each of us, is based on what we have come to believe – whether it's true or not!" ☺

*MAXIMUM ACHIEVEMENT

The full title is: *Maximum Achievement: Strategies and Skills that Will Unlock Your Hidden Powers to Succeed*

GLOSSARY

to **raise your self-esteem** *exp*

to make you feel more confident

personal performance *exp*

what you can do and how well you can do it

to **put in** *phr vb*

the effort, time, etc. you "put in" to something, is the amount of effort, time, etc. you dedicate to that thing

to **hold a grudge** *exp*

if you "hold a grudge, you feel angry with someone about something, even though that thing happened a long time ago

to **rob you of** *exp*

if A "robs you of" B, A takes B away from you or steals it from you

to **settle for less** *exp*

if you "settle for less", you accept less than you should or want to accept

personal growth *exp*

how you develop as a person and how you improve in general

personal programming *exp*

the messages or things you say to yourself in order to make yourself a better person

goal-setting *exp*

establishing objectives that you want to achieve

THE ENVIRONMENT

Here are some useful words and expressions for talking about helping the environment.

Global warming



The increase in temperatures around the world.
“They started a campaign to put a stop to the process of global warming.”

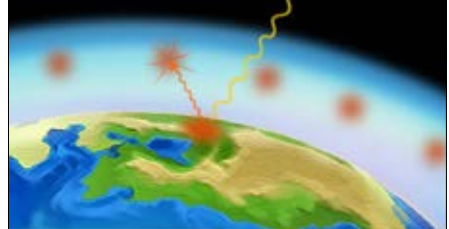
Climate change



A large-scale, long-term change in the planet’s weather patterns or average temperatures.
“Global warming could lead to climate change, which could devastate many areas of the planet.”

The greenhouse effect

The rise in temperature caused by gases in the atmosphere.
“The greenhouse effect could lead to climate change and global warming.”

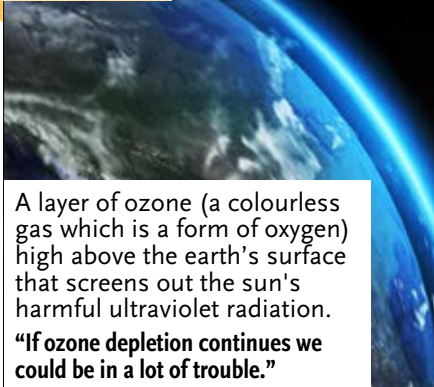


Waste



Material which has been used and is no longer wanted.
“They passed a law to regulate the disposal of toxic waste in rivers.”

Ozone layer



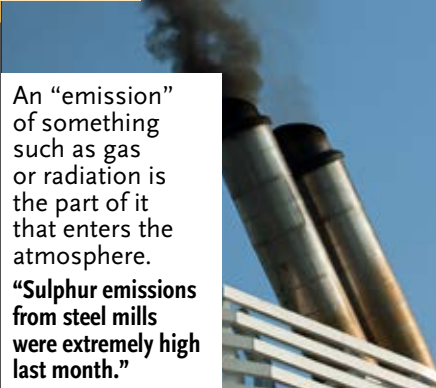
A layer of ozone (a colourless gas which is a form of oxygen) high above the earth’s surface that screens out the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation.
“If ozone depletion continues we could be in a lot of trouble.”

Renewable



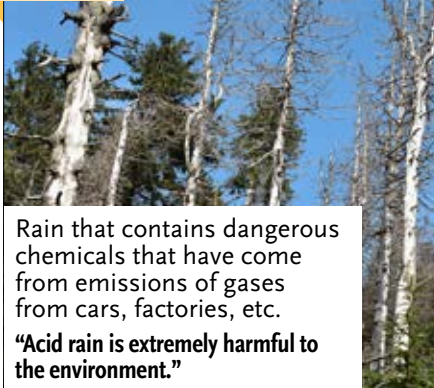
A renewable source of energy is one that is always available: wind, water, sunlight, etc.
“They want to invest more heavily in renewable energy sources.”

Emission



An “emission” of something such as gas or radiation is the part of it that enters the atmosphere.
“Sulphur emissions from steel mills were extremely high last month.”

Acid rain



Rain that contains dangerous chemicals that have come from emissions of gases from cars, factories, etc.
“Acid rain is extremely harmful to the environment.”

Biodegradable



Something that is biodegradable breaks down or decays naturally without any special scientific treatment.
“All their products are biodegradable.”

Biodiversity



The existence of a wide variety of plant and animal species living in their natural environment.
“We have to protect the biodiversity of this special area.”

Environment



The environment is the natural world that consists of the land, sea, air, plants and animals.
“We’ve got to get more people to sign the petition to protect the environment.”

Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you were trying to think of an idea for something? Who were you with? What ideas were proposed? Have you ever been involved in a brainstorming session? What were you trying to achieve? What are your top tips for a successful brainstorming session?

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

How to brainstorm!

Brainstorming is a great way to generate ideas. During a brainstorming session, all participants have to suggest as many ideas as possible for a particular topic, no matter how ridiculous they appear to be. Analysis and discussion of the ideas should only take place when the brainstorming session is over.



Useful language

Suggesting ideas

- I think that we should...
- How about doing... ?
- Let's try to...
- What about...?
- I think it'd be a good idea to...
- It'd be a great idea if we could...
- Why don't we...?
- The one that most caught my attention was...

- We need to stay focused.
- Just five more minutes.

Supportive language

- Good idea.
- I like it.
- Great idea.
- Yes, that's a good idea.
- That's fantastic!
- That sounds great.

Criticising an idea

- That is so corny!
- That sounds ridiculous.
- That doesn't even make sense.
- There's no way our customers will go for that.
- I think you're missing the point.

Controlling the meeting

- Keep the ideas coming!
- Just say what's on your mind!
- Don't worry if you think it sounds a bit silly!
- Make a note of that one.

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-listening

Try to think of a slogan for an online bookshop. Make notes. Use these prompts to help you: books, life, journey, discovery, world, inspiration, change, motivate, learn, teach, excite, emotions, etc.

2 Listening I

Listen once. Which slogan do you like the most? Why? Did anyone mention a slogan that was similar to yours? How would you describe Gordon's attitude? What would you have done about him if you'd been in charge of the meeting?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, try to complete the slogans with the correct words.

1. A great eye for good _____.
2. A world of books for young and _____.
3. Always full of _____.
4. Books to change our _____.
5. Enrich your _____!
6. Inspiration for every _____!
7. What goes into the mind comes out in a _____!
8. What will you discover _____?
9. Where your _____ begins!

Dialogue

Nigel is chairing a meeting at an international bookshop. They're trying to come up with a slogan for their online bookshop.

Audio script

- Nigel:** So, in today's meeting we'll be trying to think of a slogan for our online bookstore. Basically, we've got 20 minutes to brainstorm as many ideas as possible. Simon, make a note of what's said. Right, let's go. Brad, why don't you kick things off?
- Brad:** OK, so, how about, "A great eye for good books"?
- Nigel:** Nice one. That would look good on our website.
- Gordon:** "Good" is so neutral, and it doesn't really say anything about the books.
- Nigel:** Gordon, no negative comments, please.
- Brad:** I've also got, "A world of books for young and old."
- Nigel:** Great stuff. We're appealing to a wide range of readers, so it ticks that box.
- Gordon:** It sounds a bit vague to me. I mean, our target market is the 34-54 age bracket, isn't it?
- Nigel:** Just go with the flow, Gordon, please.
- Anna:** How about, "Always full of inspiration"?
- Nigel:** I like that – we inspire!
- Anna:** Or we could go for something a bit more dramatic like, "Books to change our world."
- Nigel:** Great idea!
- Anna:** Oh, and I've got "Enrich your life!"
- Nigel:** That's perfect. Great, keep them coming...
- Gordon:** It sounds like a slogan for a cooking show to me.
- Nigel:** Gordon, please keep it positive!
- Brad:** I've got "Inspiration for every age!"
- Nigel:** Nice! I like it.
- Brad:** And "What goes into the mind comes out in a life!"
- Nigel:** Very good. Great stuff! Come on, everyone, just keep the ideas coming.
- Brad:** Oh, and, "What will you discover today?"
- Nigel:** That could work. I like the idea of a journey of discovery.
- Gordon:** More like a journey to nowhere.
- Nigel:** Gordon, if you haven't got anything positive to say, please don't be sarcastic.
- Anna:** How about "Where your journey begins!"
- Nigel:** Great! I think it really sums up our message.
- Gordon:** Yeah, right, if we were a travel agency.
- Nigel:** Right, that's it, Gordon, one more comment and you're out! [to the others] So,... *fades out!* ☺

CRIME

Learn more! Get an idioms booklet!
Over 150 useful idioms + audio files. For more information,
visit: products.learnhotenglish.com/idioms-booklet-2

Here are some crime idioms for you.

Behind bars



If someone is "behind bars", they're in prison.
"He spent three years behind bars."

Cat burglar



A thief who enters a building, often by climbing up a wall or over the roof.

"He was known for being a cat burglar who stole from rich residents in exclusive apartments."

On the run



If someone is "on the run", they're trying to escape from the police.

"The escaped convict has been on the run for six weeks now."

In the dock



If someone is "in the dock", they're on trial in court.

"He was in the dock for company fraud."

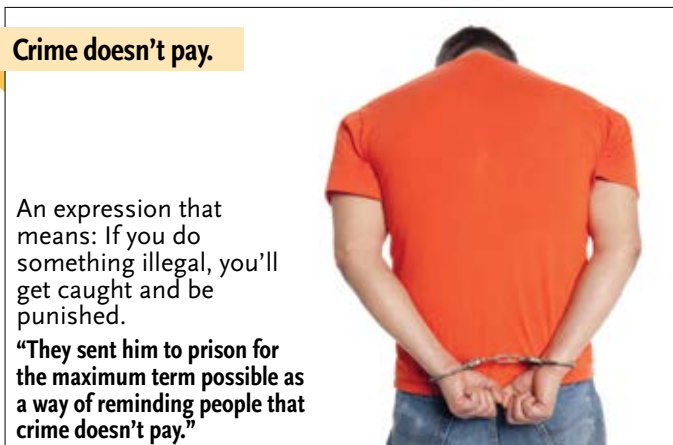
Serve time



If you "serve time" (or "do time"), you spend time in prison.

"After the robber had served time in jail, she got married, found a job and settled down."

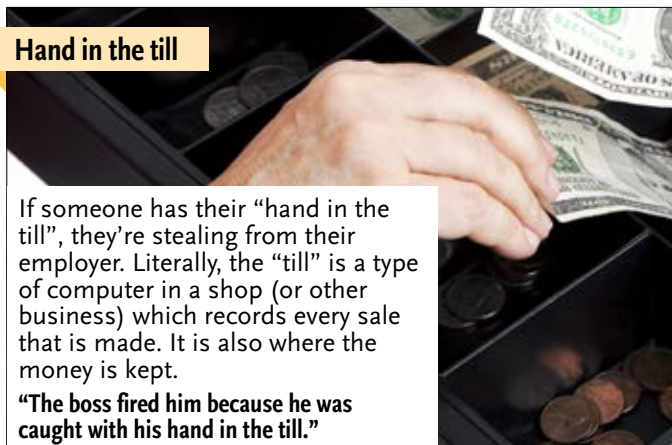
Crime doesn't pay.



An expression that means: If you do something illegal, you'll get caught and be punished.

"They sent him to prison for the maximum term possible as a way of reminding people that crime doesn't pay."

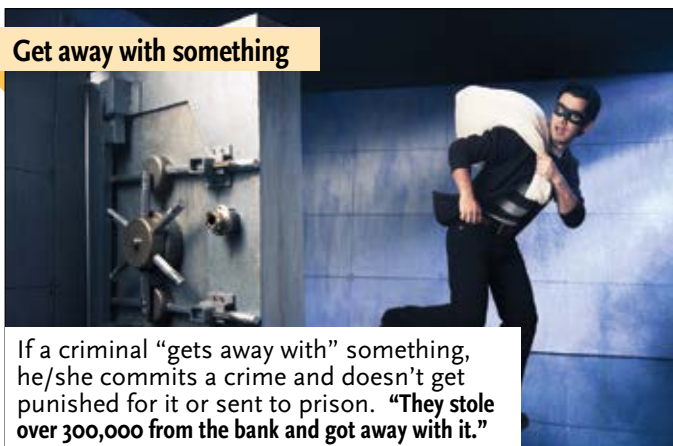
Hand in the till



If someone has their "hand in the till", they're stealing from their employer. Literally, the "till" is a type of computer in a shop (or other business) which records every sale that is made. It is also where the money is kept.

"The boss fired him because he was caught with his hand in the till."

Get away with something



If a criminal "gets away with" something, he/she commits a crime and doesn't get punished for it or sent to prison. **"They stole over 300,000 from the bank and got away with it."**

On the take



If someone is "on the take", they're in a position of authority and they're accepting bribes or illegal sources of money.

"Six customs officials were arrested after it was discovered that they were on the take."

Live from New York... Saturday Night Live

Saturday Night Live (SNL) is a weekly sketch-comedy show in the United States, and is also one of the longest-running television shows in American television history. But what is so special about it?



GOODNIGHT, AND HAVE A PLEASANT TOMORROW.

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch a sketch from Saturday Night Live. Search YouTube for "Disney housewives – Saturday Night Live".

LORNE MICHAELS



Lorne Michaels
Born 17th
November
1944.
A Canadian-born comedian,
writer, and
Emmy-winning producer.

Michaels has produced the American late-night sketch-comedy show *Saturday Night Live* for more than 30 years. Millions of Americans watch the programme and it is certainly a staple of American culture.

Sketches. Music. Comedians. Interviews. Saturday Night Live (SNL) is a weekly comedy show and an important part of American culture. It's also one of the longest-running television programmes in American television history. So, how has it managed to survive for so long?

The show's first **season** featured great talent, including comedians John Belushi, Gilda Radner and Chevy Chase. The first season also saw the start of several SNL traditions, the first of which is Weekend Update. This involves a sketch that **parodies** news events and still **airs** every week.

The show opens each week with a comedy sketch before someone **breaks character** at the end of the sketch to say, "Live from New York... it's Saturday Night!" Additionally, every week, SNL has a celebrity guest **host** and a musical guest. The first celebrity guest was George Carlin and the first musical guests were Janis Ian and Billy Preston.

The show has a complex writing process as it has to be fresh every week. The first day, the **cast** and writers meet with show creator Lorne Michaels and the guest host. They discuss the "big" sketches that will be included in Saturday's show. In the first two days of the week, more than 40 **scripts** are written. Every script that is produced gets read by the actors and in front of Lorne Michaels. Michaels, along with

the guest host, decide which sketches will air that Saturday.

Saturday Night Live has **kick-started** the careers of many famous comedians. In fact, some of the most high-profile comedians started out on the show. Comic geniuses such as Eddie Murphy, Adam Sandler, Chris Farley and Dana Carvey all had notable roles on the programme. Dana Carvey is best known for his **impersonations** of George Bush, Bob Dylan, Woody Allen and Ellen DeGeneres. He also invented the famous "Church Lady" character, who was both **judgemental** and religious.

Adam Sandler joined the cast in 1990, and became famous for his songs about **Hanukkah** and the cafeteria lunch lady. He also played a hilarious "Opera Man", and would sing the news stories in an opera voice on Weekend Update. Eddie Murphy also played numerous male leads.

So, why is the show so successful? Well, it's down to a number of factors: the comic talent they employ, the **topical issues** they make fun of, and, of course, the following they have created after years of entertaining. Many Americans record Saturday Night Live and watch it the following morning. And even those who are not **avid** watchers of the programme still know it by name and can probably even **quote** it.

Now you know what to do on a Saturday night! 🍷



KEND

Saturday Night Live information

First shown in New York City on 11th October 1975, Saturday Night Live was created by Canadian Lorne Michaels, an Emmy-winning writer, television producer and comedian.

Hosts

Saturday Night Live's ability to retain relationships with talented actors contributes to its success. The programme has had numerous entertainers come back to host the show. The hosts who have returned at least five times gain entry to a special club called "The 5-Timers Club". Often, these hosts were once cast members. But others are just famous actors who enjoy the spontaneous nature of the show. Steve Martin has hosted the show the most times (14) and Chevy Chase (a former cast member) has hosted it nine times.

Movies

Many of the sketches on the show have been turned into films. Arguably, the most famous film ever made from the Saturday Night Live sketches is *Wayne's World* (1992). The movie starred Dana Carvey and Mike Myers as two hosts of a local public access cable show. They receive an offer to air their show on primetime television. However, the executive wants to change the nature of the show. Another film from the show was *Night at the Roxbury* (1998). The film stars Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan, and is about two guys who want

to open their own dance club. However, there's a big problem: they aren't cool, and they've got no business sense whatsoever.

Politics

The show often ridicules American politics and politicians. During the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal, Saturday Night Live did a special episode in the middle of the week. During their episode, they had "Bill Clinton" (played by Darrell Hammond), "Monica Lewinsky" (Molly Shannon) and "Sadaam Hussein" (Will Ferrell) having a three-way phone conversation. "Sadaam" says, "Monica, how are you? You never call me anymore!" Later, as they are about to hang up the telephone, "Monica" says, "Oh, Sadaam, thanks for the lovely beret!"

In 2008, the show mocked the Presidential candidates. To impersonate Sarah Palin, SNL asked veteran cast member Tina Fey to return to the show for the presidential coverage. On the show, while Tina Fey was posing as Sarah Palin, the real Sarah Palin appeared. They also did a hilarious song for Sarah Palin performed by Amy Poehler in a Weekend Update segment.

More recently, Darrel Hammond has played Donald Trump in a **skit** that **mocked** his political campaign and especially his comments about women. The skit also made fun of Scottie Nell Hughes, who is a Trump supporter. ✨

DID WE JUST DO THAT ON LIVE TELEVISION?!



GLOSSARY

- a season** *n*
a fixed period of time during which a TV series is shown. Seasons sometimes run from around October to June
- to parody** *vb*
if you "parody" something or an event, you copy it in a funny way
- to air** *vb*
to show on television
- to break character** *exp*
if an actor "breaks character", he/she stops acting and starts talking as the person they are
- to host** *vb*
if you "host" a TV show, you introduce the guests on the show and interview them, etc.
- the cast** *n*
the "cast" of a show or film is all the people who act in it
- a script** *n*
a written version of a play, film, TV show, etc.
- to kick-start** *vb*
if A "kick-starts" B, A makes B happen quickly
- an impersonation** *n*
if you do an "impersonation" of someone, you copy the way they are, often as a way of making fun of them
- judgemental** *adj*
someone who is "judgemental" is very critical of other people
- Hanukkah** *n*
an 8-day Jewish festival – usually in November or December
- a topical issue** *n*
a "topical issue" refers to something that is happening now in society or the world in general
- avid** *adj*
an "avid" supporter of something is very enthusiastic about that thing and likes it a lot
- to quote** *vb*
if you can "quote" a TV show, film, etc., you can repeat what people said in that TV show, film, etc.
- a skit** *n*
a short sketch in which actors make fun of people or events
- to mock** *vb*
if you "mock" someone, you make fun of them and laugh at them

Michael Jackson

This month we're looking at the King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

By Charlene Hippolyte

Michael Jackson was born on 29th August 1958 in Gary, Indiana. In 1964, he started singing with his brothers in the group *The Jackson 5*. They became **hugely popular** after the success of their hit single, *ABC*. In 1971, Michael started a solo career. He **released** the album, *Thriller* in 1982. This has become the best-selling album of all time with estimated sales of over 65 million copies. Michael Jackson died on 25th June 2009 after suffering a cardiac arrest. His **personal physician**, Conrad Murray, was convicted of **involuntary manslaughter**.



Thriller

Thriller was a single from Michael's 1982 album of the same name. A 14-minute video shows the singer in a Halloween-themed performance, which was first shown on MTV in December 1983. The song features lots of **spooky** sound effects including a **creaking** door, thunder, and **howling** dogs.

Song extract:

*It's close to midnight,
And something evil's lurking in the dark,
Under the moonlight,
You see a sight that almost stops your heart,
You try to scream,
But terror takes the sound before you make it,
You start to freeze,
As horror looks you right between the eyes,
you're paralysed...*



Beat It

Beat It is also from Michael's album *Thriller* (1982). The guitar solo in the song is played by guitarist Eddie Van

Halen. The song received Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Best Male Rock Vocal Performance, as well as two American Music Awards. A music video for the song featured Jackson **bringing** two **rival** gangs **together** through the power of music and dance.

Song extract:

*You have to show them that you're really not scared,
You're playing with your life this ain't no truth or dare,
They'll kick you, then they beat you,
They'll tell you it's fair,
So beat it, but you wanna be bad,
Just beat it, beat it, beat it, beat it,
No one wants to be defeated...*



Billie Jean

Billie Jean, which is from *Thriller* too, was one of the best-selling singles of 1983. There are several interpretations of the song's lyrics. Some say it's about a female fan who claims the father of her child is Michael (or one of his brothers); Michael says the song is just about **groupies**. The song received two Grammy Awards, one American Music Award, and an induction into the Music Video Producers Hall of Fame.

Song extract:

*People always told me, be careful what you do,
Don't go around breaking young girls' hearts,
And mother always told me be careful who you love,
Be careful what you do 'cause the lie becomes the truth,
Billie Jean is not my lover,
She's just a girl who claims that I am the one,
But the kid is not my son... ✨*

GLOSSARY

- hugely popular** *n*
very popular
- to release** *vb*
if a band "releases" an album, it appears in shops, etc. and you can buy it
- a personal physician** *n* *US*
a personal doctor
- involuntary manslaughter** *n*
the act of killing someone accidentally
- spooky** *adj*
scary, frightening
- creaking** *adj*
if a door makes a "creaking" sound, it makes a high-pitched noise as it moves
- howling** *adj*
the long, loud sound that dogs make when they look up at the sky (or moon)
- to lurk** *vb*
if something dangerous is "lurking", it is hiding
- the moonlight** *n*
the light from the moon
- to scream** *vb*
to make a loud, high-pitched sound, often because you're frightened
- to freeze** *vb*
if someone "freezes", they suddenly stop and stand still
- paralysed** *adj*
if you're "paralysed", you can't move
- to bring together** *exp*
if you "bring together" two groups, you make them talk or be peaceful to one another
- rival** *adj*
a "rival" is someone you're competing with or fighting against
- ain't** *exp informal*
"is not" or "are not"
- truth or dare** *exp*
a game in which you have to choose: to either tell the truth about something, or do a funny, dangerous, etc. action
- to beat** *vb*
to hit someone many times
- wanna** *exp informal*
want to
- a groupie** *n*
someone, especially a young woman, who is a fan of a group, singer, etc. and who follows them to concerts, etc.

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

Think about it How often do you clean your house? What are your least favourite jobs? Which ones don't you mind doing? How often do you do any dusting? What do you think of dusting? How often do you sweep and/or mop the floor? Have you ever shared a flat? What was it like? How clean were your flatmates?

TRACK 20: ENGLISH ACCENTS



Answers on page 44

1 Listening I

You're going to listen to some people talking about doing housework. Look at the list of things below. Which ones do you do? How often do you do them? Which ones don't you mind doing? Which ones do you hate doing? Why? Make notes. Then, listen once. Which household chores are mentioned in the conversation?

tidy up, do the washing, do the washing up (do the dishes), do the cleaning, hang up washing, mop the floor, sweep the floor, clean the bathroom, empty the dishwasher, clean the windows, do the dusting, do the hoovering (vacuuming), take out the rubbish, make the beds... Other?

2 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why does one of the speakers like cleaning?
2. What does one of the speakers say about dusting?
3. Why doesn't one of the speakers make her bed?
4. Why does one of the speakers not like making his bed at his grandma's house?
5. What does the same speaker like about his bedclothes at home?

GROUP TALK

HOW CLEAN IS YOUR HOUSE?

Audio script

Neil: So I just spent all weekend cleaning. I hate cleaning the house. It's so annoying. It's just like one of those things. At the weekend I just want to relax. What about you?

Sophie: Yeah I did the same thing. My flat mates and I spent the whole week not doing our dishes so we had to do them all in one day.

Neil: Do you not have a dishwasher?

Sophie: Erm, we do but erm some of our plates can't go in it.

Neil: Yeah.

Chelsea: But don't you like seeing the flat so clean?

Neil: It is nice to see it clean but to spend a whole weekend...

Chelsea: I like cleaning.

Neil: You like cleaning?

Chelsea: I do. I do.

Neil: Which aspect of cleaning do you like?

Chelsea: I like to see my flat look

sparkling clean.

Neil: What's the point, you know? You do the dusting and in two hours the dust has come back.

Chelsea: Erm yeah but it's like okay why bother washing the clothes, then? If, you know, if you're gonna get dirty anyway.

Neil: Yeah but if you've got on dirty clothes that does feel erm feel a bit grubby.

Chelsea: Ahh...

Sophie: I like when you can tell that you've cleaned. Like when a room is truly messy and you can tell that you've cleaned it. That's nice. But I don't do things like make my bed. It's a waste of time.

Chelsea: Oh, you don't?

Sophie: Oh, no.

Chelsea: Oh my goodness.

Sophie: Why would I make my bed? I'm just gonna sleep in it again.

Chelsea: True but...

Neil: I go to my grandma's house and she's got like sheets and blankets and they're so annoying she makes me make it and you have to fold it over properly...

Chelsea: Your pillows have to be fluffy

Neil: Oh, no. At home I just got a duvet like, erm, lie it down and shake it and that's fine.

Chelsea: Oh, okay. Shaking is good. But you have to do more.

Sophie: My friend's mom makes her, makes her bed but she doesn't sleep under the covers. She sleeps on a made bed because it's too much work.

Neil: It's too much work.

Chelsea: Wow.

Neil: That's all right in the summer but not in the winter.

Sophie: Yeah.

Chelsea: Wow. Yeah that's...
fades out ☺

Top tip: how to listen

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

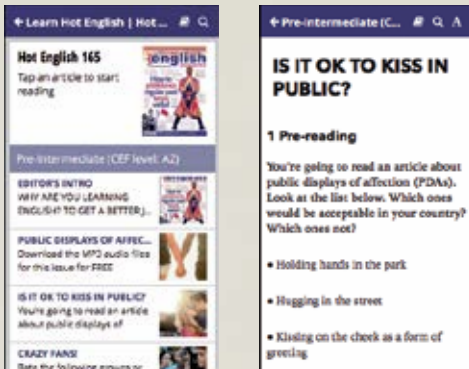
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Objective To improve your listening and reading skills.

Think about it Have you ever had a problem at work? How was it resolved? What is the purpose of team-building exercises? Have you ever been on a team-building exercise? What was it like? What did you have to do? What did you get out of it? If you had to invent a team-building activity, what would it involve? Why? Who would benefit?

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

TRACK 21: ENGLISHMAN & US WOMAN

WHEN SHALL I
CATCH YOU?



FIVE REALLY BAD TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES!

Answers on page 44

Pre-reading

You're going to read an article about team-building activities. Look at the paragraph titles. What do you think the activities involve? Make notes.

Reading I

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

Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What was the aim of the team-building activity that John went on?
2. Why couldn't John and his colleagues take his boss seriously after their team-building?
3. Why did the bosses where Megan worked organise a team-building activity?
4. What was the result of the team-building activity where Megan worked?
5. What did the activities that Steve took part in involve in the morning?
6. Why was Steve a bit wary of doing the stage dive?
7. What was Jacqueline's opinion of the team-building activity she participated in?

What's the best way to motivate a workforce?

Some believe **team building** exercises can help. But not all of these exercises seem to serve such a useful purpose, as these examples clearly show.

Singing

"For our team-building activity, we had an afternoon of karaoke singing. The aim was to "free our **inner spirit**" so we could become more creative" as the organiser explained. The group events were fine, but then we all had to choose a song and sing it by ourselves. Our boss really **got into it** and did the Abba song Mamma Mia. That was embarrassing enough, but there were also costumes that you could use, and he dressed up as Agnetha – the blonde one – complete with a **wig**, **platform shoes** and **bell-bottom jeans**. We never could take him seriously after that." **John, 34**

Criticism

"We were having trouble **getting along** at work, so they brought in someone to help us work together as a team. For the first activity, we had to take it in turns to say what we didn't like about each other. There was

a lot of criticising and some people even started crying. By the end of the day, we went from simply not being able to work together to actively disliking each other."

Megan, 28

Trust

"We went on a team-building event once where the theme was "trust". We did a lot of trust activities in the morning, such as falling back into a colleague's arms. But in the afternoon, the final event was a **stage dive**. As part of this, we were taken into a large auditorium with a two-metre high stage. While most of us were down on the ground level, we had to take it in turns to go up onto the stage and then dive into the crowd. When it was my turn, they were playing ACDC's *Highway to Hell*. I took a few breaths, then ran across the stage and dived into the arms of my colleagues. It was scary as a few of the lads had been drinking, but it was quite good fun actually. I can see why rock stars do it." **Steve, 33**

Animals

"We had a day of really **wacky** exercises to help us "bond as a group". One of these involved voting on what animal each person was. The boss turned out to be a 'lion' (surprise!).

I was told I was a 'monkey', which was great. Then, we had to act out a little scene in our animal selves. The chicken was hilarious, but the cockroach refused to participate. We were supposed to remain in animal character all day, including walking like the animal, talking like it and even eating like it at lunch. It was really, really stupid! I don't know what on earth we were supposed to get out of it, apart from making ourselves look like complete and **utter fools**."

Jacqueline, 26 ☺

GLOSSARY

team building *n*
activities that can help people become more motivated or happier at work

an aim *n*
an objective

an inner spirit *n*
the part of you that is not physical and that consists of your character, feelings, sense of creativity, etc.

to get into something *exp*
if you "get into something", you start to really like it and enjoy it

a wig *n*
a piece of false hair that people wear on their head

platform shoes *n*
shoes with very high soles (the bottom parts) that make you look very tall

bell-bottom jeans *n*
jeans (denim trousers) that are thin at the top (around your waist) and very wide at the bottom (where your feet are)

to get along *phr vb*
if people "get along", they have a good relationship

a stage dive *n*
when a musician or singer does a "stage dive", he/she jumps off the stage (the high area where they play, sing, etc.) and into the crowd of people below

wacky *adj*
crazy, mad, insane, etc.

an utter fool *exp*
a complete idiot

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What do you think of clowns? Do you find them in any way frightening? Why? Why not? Have you ever seen any films or programmes with clowns in them? What were they about? What happened? Why do you think some people are frightened of clowns? What other types of people or monsters are people frightened of?

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

TRACK 22: ENGLISH ACCENTS



BOO!

SUPER SCARY URBAN LEGENDS!

Urban legends are stories that get passed from person to person. They're either very funny or extremely scary. Here's a typical one.

The clown statue

A girl in her teens is babysitting for a family in San Francisco, California. The house is huge, with 12 bedrooms, six bathrooms, three downstairs living rooms, a massive basement area and an enormous attic.

That evening, the parents are going out to the cinema and then a late dinner. The mum tells the babysitter that once the children are in bed that she should go into the living room next to the kitchen and watch TV there as she doesn't really want the babysitter wandering around the house.

At about 6pm, the parents leave. The babysitter plays with the kids for a bit, reads them a story and then **tucks them up** in bed. Once they're asleep, she goes downstairs to watch TV. After a bit of **channel hopping**, she eventually finds a romantic comedy that she wants to watch. But she can't concentrate on it because there's a clown statue in the corner of the room. She tries to ignore it, but it starts **freaking her out**.

After about twenty minutes, she's had enough, so she decides to call the parents. "Hi, it's me. *[speaking]*

yeah, everything is fine, yes, *[speaking]* yes, the kids are in bed *[speaking]*, yes, *erm*, is it okay if I switch rooms?" she asks.

And the dad asks, "Yes, but why?"

"Well," the babysitter says, "There's this clown statue in the corner of the room that's really freaking me out."

As soon as she says that, the dad's voice changes, "Get the kids, go next door and call 911!"

"What's going on?" the babysitter asks.

"Just do it! NOW!"

Immediately, the babysitter runs upstairs, wakes the kids and takes them downstairs. As they're going down, she can hear a noise coming from the living room where she was watching TV and then the door starts slowly opening. Without a second thought, she **grabs** the kids, **rushes** for the front door, **flings** it **open** and runs across the street to the neighbour's house.

Out of breath, she tells the neighbour what has happened and they call the police. When the police are on the way, there's a call. "Did you all get out?" the dad asks desperately. "Yes," says the babysitter, "But what's going on?" "We don't have a clown statue," the dad explains. "The children have been complaining about a clown watching them as they sleep. At first we thought

it was a nightmare or something. But after a while we started to get worried. And when you told me that you'd seen it, I knew it must be true."

Moments later, the police arrive and arrest the "clown statue", who turns out to be a man dressed as a clown. He somehow got into the house and had been living there for several weeks. He would come into the kids' rooms at nights and watch them while they slept and do the same to the adults. As the house was so large, he was able to avoid detection, **surviving off** food in the kitchen. He had been in the room right before the babysitter came in. When she walked in, he didn't have time to hide, so he just froze in place and pretended to be a statue.

The babysitter thought with horror what could have happened if she hadn't got out of the house so quickly! ❗

GLOSSARY

to tuck up *phr vb*
if you "tuck up" children, you put them into bed, and make sure they are warm and comfortable by putting the bed covers over them

to channel hop *exp*
to use the television remote control device to change channels on the TV

to freak out *phr vb*
if something "freaks you out", it makes you feel frightened

to grab *vb*
if you "grab" something, you take it in your hands quickly and with force

to rush *vb*
if you "rush" somewhere, you go there very quickly

to fling open *exp*
if you "fling open" a door, you open it very quickly and with a lot of force

to survive off *phr vb*
if you "survive off" a type of food, you only eat that type of food

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

You're going to hear a story about a babysitter and a spooky clown. What do you think happens? Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the story once. Were any of your ideas mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why did the babysitter have to go in the room next to the kitchen?
2. Why couldn't the babysitter concentrate on the film?
3. Why did she phone the parents?
4. Why did the dad tell the babysitter to get out of the house?
5. How was the clown able to avoid detection and stay for so long?
6. Why did the clown pretend to be a statue?

Think about it When was the last time you took a photo? What was it of? What do you take photos of? What are some of the best photos you've ever taken? Have you ever taken a selfie? Where were you? What did you do with it? Do you ever post photos on social networking sites? Which ones have you posted lately? What are some of the most famous photos from your country?

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

WHEN A PHOTO IS THE NEWS!



Photos are often in the news. But sometimes the photo itself is the news. Here are a few famous ones from recent times.



The burglar

In 2014, British man Ashley Keast and an accomplice **burgled** a house in Rotherham (England) while the occupants were on holiday. Keast, 25, celebrated the burglary by placing his **SIM card** inside a mobile phone stolen from the property then taking photos of himself. Then, he accidentally sent the photo via **WhatsApp** to some of the owner's contacts, one of whom called the police. Police recognised Mr Keast's image and arrested him. He's currently awaiting trial. The householders returned days later to find that several items had been stolen, including electrical goods, jewellery and an Audi A4, together worth around £27,000.



The loris

On a brief break from her Diamonds World tour, singer Rihanna shared an Instagram picture with her more than 30 million fans. The photo showed Rihanna in sunglasses holding up a

slow loris*, a **furry primate** with large eyes and a long tail which is native to south-east Asia. The text said, "Look who was **talking dirty** to me!" However, the slow loris is a protected animal and police used the photo to help them **track down** and arrest two people who were allegedly letting tourists take photos with it. Along with elephants and orangutans, the loris is often used as a photo opportunity for tourists. A 20-year-old man and 16-year-old were arrested during the raid and two lorises confiscated, local media reported. If charged, the pair could face up to four years in jail and a fine of 40,000 baht (about €1,000).



The terrorist

Ben Innes had a photo taken of himself with an airline **hijacker**. The 26-year-old from Leeds was on a flight between Cairo and Alexandria when passenger Seif Eldin Mustafa hijacked the plane. Mustafa, who was wearing what appeared to be a **suicide belt**, ordered the plane to be flown to Larnaca Airport in Cyprus. There was a six-hour **standoff** with authorities there. Eventually, Mustafa let most of the 62 people onboard leave with the exception of several crew members and four foreigners, including Ben. In the end, he **surrendered** without causing any damage or hurting anyone. Ben later described the moment he decided to get

the shot.

"I figured if his bomb was real, I'd nothing to lose anyway, so I took a chance to get a closer look at it. I got one of the cabin crew to translate for me and asked him if I could do a **selfie** with him. He just **shrugged** and said OK, so I stood by him and smiled for the camera while a stewardess did the **snap**. It has to be the best selfie ever." The bomb was later found to be a fake. Ironically, Ben is a **health and safety auditor**. *



GLOSSARY

- to burgle** *vb*
to enter a house secretly and illegally in order to steal things
- a SIM card** *n*
SIM stands for: Subscriber Identity Module. A "SIM card" is a small card with information about your phone number, your user identity, your contacts, etc.
- WhatsApp** *n*
an app that lets you send and receive messages mostly for free
- furry** *adj*
a "furry" animal has thick, soft hair
- a primate** *n*
a group of mammals that includes humans, monkeys, gorillas, etc.
- to talk dirty** *exp*
to talk about sex
- to track down** *phr vb*
to find
- a hijacker** *n*
someone who takes control of a plane illegally
- a suicide belt** *n*
an object terrorists wear (often around their chest) with explosives on it that will explode when activated
- a standoff** *n*
a situation in which two opposing groups don't do or say anything, both waiting for the other side to do something first
- to surrender** *vb*
if you "surrender", you stop fighting and accept that you have lost the battle, etc.
- a selfie** *n*
a photo you take of yourself, often using a smartphone. Strictly speaking, Ben's photo wasn't a selfie because someone else took it
- to shrug** *vb*
if someone "shrugs", they raise their shoulders as a way of saying that they don't care about something
- a health and safety auditor** *n*
a person who checks that everyone and everything is safe at work, school, etc. and there's nothing dangerous that could hurt someone

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

You're going to read about three news stories concerning photos. Look at the titles of the stories. What do you think the stories are about? Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Were any of your ideas from the Pre-reading activity mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What did Ashley accidentally do that led to his arrest?
2. What was the value of the victims' stolen items?
3. What did Rihanna's photo help police do?
4. What sort of punishment could they be facing?
5. How would you describe the outcome of the hijacking?
6. How would you describe the hijacker's attitude towards having his photo taken?

Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it What would you say your strengths are? What about your weaknesses? What opportunities are available to you right now? What about any threats? What strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats are there in the company where you work? How important is it to analyse situations? How regularly should it be done? Why?

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

© TRACK 24: ENGLISH ACCENTS

How to do a SWOT analysis

A **SWOT** analysis is a useful way of analysing a company. As part of this, you look at four areas: **S** = strengths **W** = weaknesses **O** = opportunities and **T** = threats. Here are some useful questions to ask to help you do a SWOT analysis.

Useful language

Strengths

- What are our advantages?
- What do we do well?
- What do other people see as your strengths?
- What makes us better than others?

Weaknesses

- What could we improve?
- What do we do badly?
- What should we avoid doing?

Opportunities

- What real opportunities are present today?
- What is going on around us that seems to be useful?
- What could be done today that isn't being done?

Threats

- What obstacles do we face?
- What is our competition doing?
- Is changing technology threatening our position?
- Do we have bad debt or cash-flow problems?
- Who might cause us problems in the future and how?

IS THIS A STRENGTH OR A WEAKNESS?

Note!

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

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-listening

Imagine you work for UniFest. What types of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats could a music festival for students have? Think of one idea for each area.

2 Listening I

Listen to the conversation once. Were any of your ideas mentioned?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, do the following.

1. What are the company's main strengths according to Sharon?
2. What is the company's slogan?
3. What does Pete see as the company's main weaknesses?
4. What does he say the problem is with the target market?
5. Which opportunities does Sam identify?
6. Which area of the country does she see as potentially interesting for them?
7. What does Paul see as their main threats?
8. What do you think he sees as the most serious threat?

Dialogue

Greg is chairing a meeting. He's doing a SWOT analysis of their events company UniFest. UniFest is a music festival for university students.

Audio script

Greg: So, UniFest is in its third year now. We've been steadily growing but I think it's about time we took a look at where we want to be in the next five years, which is why I want to do this SWOT analysis. Sharon, why don't you start with an analysis of our strengths?

Sharon: Well, I think our main strength is that we've got a simple business model that works: sell low and sell big. UniFest is one of the most popular music festivals for students in the area. We offer a fun experience at affordable prices with cheap beer and great bands – "Beer 'n' Bands" as our slogan goes. We've got costs down to a minimum and we make a healthy profit. Plus, we've got a loyal following.

Greg: That's great. OK, Pete, why don't you go over some of the weaknesses?

Pete: Well, I'd say our major weakness is that we're overly focused on university students, so, we've got a limited target market. We're also dependent on volume and our customers are extremely price sensitive, so we're trapped into these low prices. If numbers drop, our profits will decrease substantially. And if they do, we'd have to increase prices to cover costs.

Greg: OK. That's good. Now, Sam, why don't you

run through a few of the opportunities?

Sam: Well, we could look at expanding to other regions of the country, particularly the north. We're massively under exposed on social media, so we've got great opportunities there to promote the festival. We could further develop our environmentally-friendly image by installing more solar-powered areas, and introducing the eco-toilets next year with organic dissolving agents. And we could also focus on selling more food, drink and souvenirs.

Greg: OK. Great. Now, Paul, why don't you touch on any threats?

Paul: Well, our rental contract for the land is up for renewal. At the moment we're paying extremely low rates, but if the owner decides to increase that, we'll suddenly have more costs to deal with. Security is a big issue too. There was a problem with drug-taking last year. Luckily, it was a minor incident, but if something more serious happens, we could face potential closure. Oh, and there are rumours that the council is planning to build some houses on the land next to our festival site. If that goes ahead, we could face noise restrictions.

Greg: OK, so, now let's... *fades out* ☺

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

morning lead kitchen death hunting horse food bag

1

Run out of

If you "run out of" something, there's no more of that thing available.

"We've run out of dog _____ .
Can you go and get some, please?"



2

Clean up

If you "clean up", you make everything clean again.
"Who's going to clean up the mess that the dog has made in the _____ ? He's opened the rubbish bag!"



3

Pick up

If you "pick up" something, you use your hands to take it off a surface (the floor, a table, etc.).

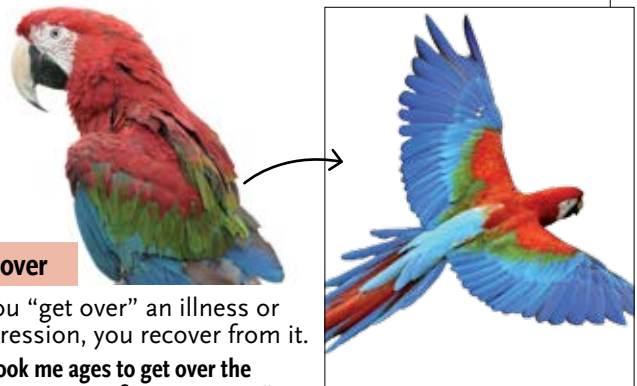
"You should always take a little _____ with you so you can pick up any dog mess."



4

Get over

If you "get over" an illness or depression, you recover from it.
"It took me ages to get over the _____ of my pet parrot."



5

Take out

If you "take a dog out" for a walk, you take it outside so it can walk, go to the toilet, etc."

"I took the dog out because he hadn't been out since the _____ ."



6

Look after / take care of

If you "look after" a pet, you give it food and water, and make sure it's safe, happy, healthy, etc.
"I looked after my best friend's _____ while she was away."



7

Put on / take off

If you "put on" a lead (or leash), you put it around a dog's neck; when you "take it off", you remove it.

"As soon as I took off the _____ , the dog ran away."



8

Lie around

If someone "lies around", they spend all day lying on the sofa or bed, not doing anything.
"The cat spends all day lying around the house, but often goes _____ at night."



World Changers

Some people wait for the world to change. Others just start changing it. Below is a list of people who have changed the world in different yet positive ways. You probably know some of them, but have you heard of all of them? Can you match the person to their **accomplishment**?



1 Nelson Mandela



2 Marie Curie



3 Eugene McDonald Jr.



4 Mr. Rogers



5 Mother Teresa



6 Leonardo da Vinci



7 Oprah Winfrey



8 Sacajawea



9 Homer



10 Tiger Woods

Answers on page 44

- a. Discovered the chemical elements polonium and radium. Doctors now use radium to treat cancer. She was also the first female professor at the University of Paris.
- b. Greek poet who wrote *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Has a **shrine** built in his honor in Alexandria. He is described as a “divinely inspired **reservoir** of all literature”.
- c. Invented the **remote control** in 1950. He was the president and founder of the technology company Zenith.
- d. Contributed to the Lewis and Clark **expedition** and walked thousands of miles from 1804 to 1806 while pregnant. She helped discover the Western United States.
- e. Broke the stereotypes of the golf world. Has won more than 60 PGA Tour events and holds 22 individual professional titles. He has the best career scoring average of any player in PGA history.
- f. America’s favourite **neighbour**. Worked in educational television for 33 seasons and inspired millions to love each other as they are. He also wrote more than 200 songs and has 40 honorary degrees.
- g. She is an actress, talk show host, and a millionaire raised in **utter** poverty. She was voted CNN’s most powerful woman and most influential African-American person in the world.
- h. Known for her life of charity work. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India in 1950.
- i. Inspired by Gandhi, he was an anti-**apartheid** activist. He spent 27 years in prison for fighting against apartheid, and won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
- j. Important contributor to the Renaissance movement. He was a painter, mathematician, and had the ideas for the calculator, the helicopter, and even created a theory of **plate tectonics**. ★

GLOSSARY

- an accomplishment** ¹¹
something really great that has been done
- a shrine** ¹¹
a place of worship associated with a person or object
- a reservoir** ¹¹
a large quantity of something that is available when you need it
- a remote control** ¹¹
a device that you use to control a TV / DVD player, etc. from a distance
- an expedition** ¹¹
an organised journey for the purpose of exploring
- a neighbour** ¹¹
a person who lives near you
- utter** ^{adj}
complete, absolute
- apartheid** ¹¹
a South African political system that divided people by racial groups
- plate tectonics** ¹¹
a technical term in geology that explains the way that large pieces of the earth’s surface move and interact together

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DRINKS (PAGE 5)

Reading II

- Charles; 2. Willie; 3. Yiu Siu;
- Alex; 5. Charles; 6. Cherine;
- Yiu Siu

MUSICIANS (PAGE 6)

Reading II

- Rockin' in the Free World;
- Forrest Gump; 3. In 1984;
- The Vietnam War; 5. Bobby McFerrin;
- Indian Meher Baba.

TOILET STORIES (PAGE 7)

Reading II

- She checked her Facebook page.
- Jeff was talking to a friend.
- She watched an episode of Game of Thrones.
- He sometimes goes there to stretch or do a bit of yoga.
- She plays Candy Crush in the toilet.
- He slept for about an hour.

GRAMMAR BOOSTER (PAGE 8)

- mention; 2. knock; 3. turn;
- take; 5. prevent; 6. make;
- heard; 8. fancy

ENGLISH IN ACTION (PAGE 10)

Listening II

- levels; 2. clothes; 3. time;
- forever; 5. setting; 6. wash;
- guarantee; 8. shipped out

LISTENING (PAGE 12)

Listening II

- Santini's; 2. a few months ago;
 - a couple of days ago;
 - Thursday and Friday;
 - Thursday; 6. Kate
- Listening III**
 Student's own answers.

PRACTICAL ENGLISH (PAGE 13)

Listening II

- 1a 2b 3b 4a 5b 6a

ROBOTICS (PAGE 14)

Reading II

- prospects; 2. machines;
- drones; 4. autism; 5. weeds;
- seismic activity;
- competition; 8. robots

INTERVIEW (PAGE 15)

Reading II

- three hours; 2. an accounting position;
- his tie; 4. his armpits;
- his uncle; 6. the candidate hugged the interviewer

THE OFFICE (PAGE 16)

Reading II

- They have to send them a message first because everyone's wearing headphones.
- The worst thing was all the noise he made as he was eating.
- She got Cheetos fingerprints all over a report.
- John's colleague had at least three slices of pizza.
- Because while she was helping him, he was on Facebook chatting to friends.

LISTENING (PAGE 17)

Listening I

Meeting III = the person chairing this meeting seems to be extremely bossy.

Meeting I = everyone seems to be pleased with the way this meeting went.

Meeting II = this meeting doesn't seem to be very well structured and the participants aren't really paying attention.

Listening II

- views; 2. issues; 3. helpful;
- today; 5. say; 6. October;
- notes; 8. week

TRAVEL ENGLISH (PAGE 18)

- ball; 2. bases; 3. point;
- home; 5. score; 6. field;
- player; 8. throw

AIRBNB (PAGE 26)

Reading II

- He broke the sofa, smashed a window, ripped the curtains, cracked the TV screen, etc. Any of these three things will be sufficient.
- He found broken furniture, stained carpets and smashed windows.
- Jessica's guests didn't pay any rent for two months.
- They were shocked to find a corpse.
- He was surprised because no one had mentioned anything about pets.

TRAVEL APPS (PAGE 27)

Reading II

- change; 2. pick; 3. offline;
- search; 5. stuck; 6. filter

BOOKS (PAGE 28)

Reading II

- reality; 2. failing; 3. control;
- dancing; 5. brain; 6. programming;
- believe; 8. not

LISTENING (PAGE 30)

Listening II

- books; 2. old; 3. inspiration;
- world; 5. life; 6. age; 7. life;
- today; 9. journey

GROUP TALK (PAGE 35)

Listening I

They mention doing the dishes, doing the cleaning, doing the dusting, washing clothes and making the bed.

Listening II

- Because she likes to see the flat looking clean.
- You do the dusting and in two hours the dust has come back.
- Because it's a waste of time.
- Because she's got sheets and blankets that he has to fold.
- He's got a duvet that he just

has to shake and put down on the bed.

TEAM BUILDING (PAGE 37)

Reading II

- The aim was to free their inner spirits so they could be more creative.
- Because he really got into it and dressed up as Agnetha from Abba.
- Because they were having trouble getting along at work.
- People ended up actively disliking each other.
- They involved trust-building activities such as falling back into a colleague's arms.
- Because his colleagues had been drinking.
- She thought the only purpose it served was to make them look like utter fools.

SPOOKY CLOWN (PAGE 38)

Reading II

- Because the mum doesn't want the babysitter wandering around the house.
- Because there was a clown statue that was freaking her out.
- Because she wanted to switch rooms so she didn't have to see the clown statue.
- Because he suddenly realised that what his kids had been telling him about a clown in the house must have been true.
- Because the house was so big and he could live off the food in the kitchen.
- Because the babysitter walked into the room and caught him by surprise.

PHOTOS (PAGE 39)

Reading II

- He sent a message to some of the owner's contacts.
- It was worth around £27,000.
- The photo helped police track

down the people who had the slow loris.

- They could face up to four years in jail and a fine of around €1,000.
- No one was hurt and nothing was damaged so it was a positive outcome.
- He didn't seem to be that bothered about it – he shrugged and said OK, for example.

LISTENING (PAGE 40)

Listening II

- Sample answers
- It's got a simple business model, it's popular, they offer fun at low prices, costs are down to a minimum, and they've got a loyal following.
 - Beer 'n' Bands.
 - They're overly focused on university students, they're dependent on volume and their customers are price sensitive.
 - It's limited.
 - Expanding to other regions, using social media more, developing their environmentally-friendly image, selling more food, drink and souvenirs.
 - The north of the country.
 - The renewal of the rental contract, security, planned construction on the land next to the festival site.
 - Possibly drug taking and the danger that the festival could get shut down.

PHRASAL VERBS (PAGE 41)

- food; 2. kitchen; 3. bag;
- death; 5. morning; 6. horse;
- lead; 8. hunting

WORLD CHANGERS (PAGE 42)

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

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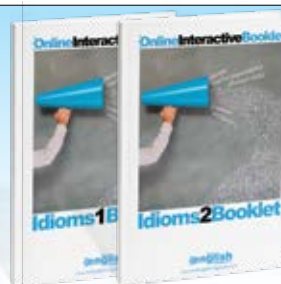
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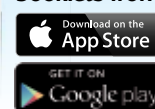
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Computer joke

A: I say, I say, I say, why did the computer go to the doctor?

B: I don't know, why *did* the computer go to the doctor?

A: Because it had a virus!

Camera confusion

A photographer is **positioning** a couple for their wedding photos when he asks, "Hey, have you ever **modelled** before?" The woman turns red and answers, "No, I haven't, but I often thought about it and..." "I wasn't talking to you," the photographer says. "I meant him."

Wrong stuff

A mum and her daughter are at a restaurant. The girl, who is a vegetarian, is eating a sandwich. "Yuk! Why does this sandwich have bacon in it?" she asks. And her mother replies, "Because you ordered a **BLT**." "Oh, no!" she replies. "I thought the "B" stood for bread!"

Kitchen killer!

Six-year-old Ben is talking to his granddad over dinner. "Grandpa, I heard you served in the army during the war," Ben says. "Yes, that's right," the **elderly** man replies. "Wow!" exclaims Ben. "Did you ever kill anyone?" All of a sudden the room

goes quiet. Everyone stops eating. The elderly man puts down his knife and fork and there's a distant look in his eyes. He **shakes his head** gently as the memories **come pouring back**. Then, in a soft voice, he says, "Probably. I was the cook." ❖

GLOSSARY

to position *vb*
if you "position" someone, you move them so they are in the correct place

to model *vb*
if you "model", you act in adverts or fashion shows

a BLT *abbr*
a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich

elderly *adj*
someone who is "elderly" is old – usually over the age of 70

to shake your head *exp*
to move your head from side to side, often as a way of saying no

to come pouring back *exp*
if memories "come pouring back", they return to you quickly and suddenly

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