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Learn hot English magazine

No.169

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TRAIN ROBBERS!
CONFUSING
WORDS

SILLY
SPELLING!



I love her because she more in her own way



THE KOOKS

OASIS



8

ONE DIRECTION



COLDPLAY

THE KAISER CHIEFS



Brit pop

RADIOHEAD



SONGS

TO
HELP
YOU

LEARN ENGLISH

BRIT POP
AND HOW TO
RECOGNISE IT!

BLUR



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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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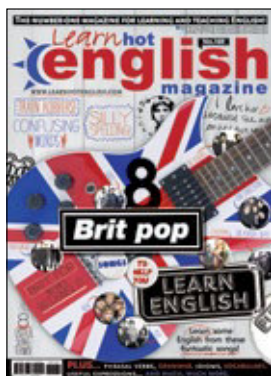
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7 Want to learn even more? Get a Skills Booklet! You'll learn extra vocabulary, grammar, social English and business English. The Skills Booklets are linked to the topics in Hot English magazine. They're sold separately – see page 25 for more information.



Hi, everybody and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, you can learn some English from some fantastic Brit pop songs. By listening to these song extracts, you can learn about spoken

English, slang, idioms, phrasal verbs and lots, lots more. Listening to music is a great way to improve your English and these songs will really help you.

Of course, that's not all and we've lots more fun things for you to read and listen to so you can learn lots of useful English. We'll be looking at road rage, brave animals, witches, celebrity requests, names with meanings, idioms, phrasal verbs, useful vocabulary and lots, lots more! Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy

PS Remember to sign up for our newsletter so you can receive lots of FREE language lessons, and find out what we're doing. Just visit our website (www.learnhotenglish.com) and enter your name and e-mail address in the box on the right-hand side of the page.



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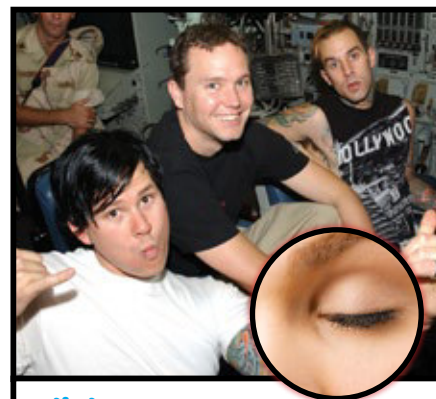
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The Name Game

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES OF FAMOUS NAMES WITH MEANING. MORE NEXT MONTH.



Blink-182 (American group)
To blink is to close your eyes quickly.
"I blinked when she took my photograph."



Jimmy Buffet (American singer)
A "buffet" is a type of restaurant in which you pay a fixed price and then serve yourself to any kind of food that is available.
"I ate three pieces of pumpkin pie, a slice of pizza and a salad at the buffet."



Keith Sweat (American R & B singer)
"Sweat" is a liquid released through the skin when you are hot, sick, playing sports or scared.
"I am sweating so much because I have just run 10 kilometres."



50 Cent (American Rapper)
"50 cents" is half of one dollar.
"This pack of gum costs 50 cents."



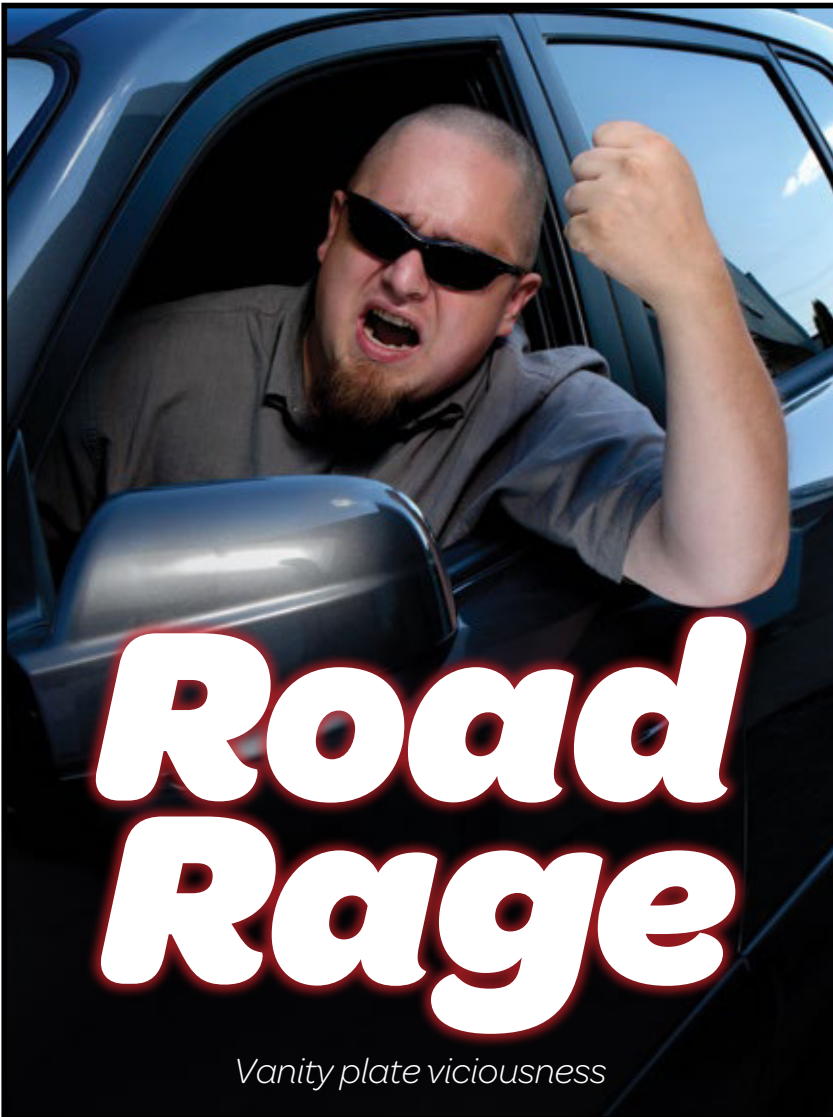
Sting (British singer)
If a bee "stings" you, it bites you and leaves its "sting" in you.
"This type of bee doesn't sting, but that other type does. Run!"



Status Quo (British band)
The "status quo" is the state of affairs at a present time
"We want to maintain the status quo; we don't want any changes to occur."



Dusty Springfield (American actress)
"Dusty" means to be covered with pieces of sand or earth. For example, "We found an old dusty record player in our attic."
"Spring" is the season in between summer and winter. A "spring" is also a coil made of wire which maintains its original shape even after being twisted. A "field" is an open area of grassy land that can be used for sports or for growing crops.



Road Rage

Vanity plate viciousness

Have you ever experienced extreme anger whilst driving? If you have, you've probably been a victim of "road rage". This form of anger, and, in some cases, violent behaviour, is usually caused by stress. However, according to a recent **survey**, some people are more **prone to** road rage than others. Psychologists found that people who use **vanity plates** (licence plates with phrases or names on them) suffer more from road rage than any others. "These drivers are territorial, and are more likely to get angry easily," says Jacob B Enfield, who led the study. "Plates with aggressive phrases such as 'I'll **sue** you' definitely say a lot more about a driver than you think. Anything you do to make your car feel like your territory will make you more upset when someone steals your **parking space** or cuts you off on the road."

Road rage is a big problem in America. Every year, it is responsible for over 20,000 injuries and 370 deaths. Not all of these drivers have vanity plates, but many do. And now, states such as North Dakota are trying to make vanity plates illegal. The state has a large problem with angry drivers, and authorities agree that vanity plates are connected with road rage. "License plates are causing us a lot of trouble, and they're definitely connected with road rage," says the director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Tell that to the 9.3 million American car owners with vanity plates. That's a lot of road rage! ⚡

1 Discussion

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1. What do you think road rage means?
2. Have you ever experienced extreme anger whilst driving? Have you ever seen an incident of road rage? What happened?
3. What are the causes and effects of road rage?
4. What do you understand by the term "vanity plates"?

Phrasal verb alert

Look at the three examples of the use of "to cut off". What's the difference?

- a. to cut someone off on a road
- b. to be cut off whilst talking on the phone
- c. to cut someone off in a conversation



GLOSSARY

road rage *n*
extreme anger experienced whilst driving

a survey *n*
a questionnaire to find out about people's opinions

prone to *exp*
if you are "prone to" do something, you have a natural inclination towards doing that thing

a vanity plate *n*
a customised series of numbers / letters on your licence plate

a licence plate *n*
an object with letters and numbers on the back of your car – used for identification

territorial *adj*
concerned or obsessed with an area of land / your property / your home

to sue someone *exp*
to begin a legal case against someone in order to get compensation

a parking space *n*
a place to park a car
to cut someone off *exp*
to drive in front of another car – taking their place on the road

2 Pre reading

Look at the following adjectives from the article. How do they relate to road rage? Give examples:

- a. violent
- b. aggressive
- c. territorial



3 Reading I

Now read and check your answers.

4 Reading II

What does the article say about the following?

1. vanity plates
2. America in general
3. North Dakota, in particular

Grammar spot

To get angry

These drivers are territorial, and more likely to get angry easily.

We can use "get" with lots more adjectives to talk about the process of becoming something. For example: to get tired = I get tired when I work long hours.

Let's be



friends

(if we aren't already!)

Pets of Honour

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Match the words

Match A (a bird) to B (a picture).

1. a pigeon d
2. an eagle _____
3. a vulture _____
4. an ostrich _____
5. a falcon _____
6. a dove _____



Most countries have medals for brave soldiers. Americans have the 'Medal of Honor' and Britain has the 'Victoria Cross'. But what about brave animals? Many animals go to war: horses, dogs, cows and pigeons, to name a few. Is there any award for them?

In fact, there is. It's called the Dickin Medal, and it's given to animals who show bravery and **devotion to duty** whilst serving with the armed forces or civil emergency services. The award was created by (and named after) Maria Dickin in 1943. She had previously established the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) – an organisation that took care of **injured** animals. During the Second World War, many animals were given the Dickin Medal, including 1 cat, 3 horses, 18 dogs and 32 pigeons.

Pigeons? You ask. Yes, pigeons. OK, so they may seem like unlikely candidates for a bravery medal, but they were very important to the war effort. During the Second World War, communications weren't what they are today. There was no internet, no e-mail, no mobile phones and no satellites. So, on many occasions, soldiers had to use **homing pigeons** to pass on messages. These are specially-bred pigeons with

an **innate ability** to find their way home, even if they are quite far away. During the war, homing pigeons were used to carry messages. These messages were usually written on small pieces of paper, which are tied to their legs.

One of the most famous pigeons to win the medal was Paddy. He was an Irish pigeon, and one of the first pigeons to return to base out of hundreds launched. He was bringing news of the successful **D-Day landings** in Normandy. He crossed the English Channel in just 4 hours and 5 minutes (a record).

Another famous pigeon was G.I. Joe. He worked for the United States Army Pigeon service. G.I. Joe saved the lives of the inhabitants and allied soldiers of the village of Calvi Veccia, Italy. The village had been captured by allied soldiers. But the air force didn't know this and was about to **bomb** it. G.I. Joe was given a message to take, and it arrived just in time to **avoid** the bombing.

The only cat to have received the award was called Simon. He was on a Royal Navy ship HMS Amethyst. He was originally found in Hong Kong and was taken on board the ship. He **got rid of** rats on the ship. In 1949, (during the **Yangtze Incident**), the ship was attacked and Simon was injured. He soon recovered and returned to his duty of rat catching. He was also used to **raise the morale** of injured teenage soldiers.

Some fairly recent awards were given to non-military animals. In 2002, two guide dogs successfully led their owners out of the World Trade Center during the attacks of September 11th. And more recently, brave animals have been given awards in Iraq and Afghanistan. ✪

Valiant

These pigeons and many others like them inspired the 2005 movie, *Valiant*, which was a tribute to all of the pigeons used in war. This was the UK's first computer generated animation film.



GLOSSARY

- devotion to duty** *exp* dedication and a sense of responsibility to do the things you should do
- injured** *adj* physically hurt
- a homing pigeon** *n* a bird that is trained to return to a certain place
- specially-bred** *adj* if an animal is "specially-bred" it is raised / trained to do a specific job
- innate** *adj* internal; instinctual; natural
- an ability** *n* a talent or a skill
- the D-Day landings** *n* the day on 6th June 1944 when allied forces landed in northern France
- to bomb** *vb* to attack a place with explosive weapons
- to avoid** *vb* if you "avoid" something, you don't do / see it
- to get rid of** *phr vb* to eliminate completely
- Yangtze Incident** *n* in 1949, a British ship was attacked in the Chinese city of Nanking
- to raise morale** *exp* to make people feel happier and more confident



USEFUL VOCABULARY

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SECTION ON USEFUL VOCABULARY.
THIS MONTH: ADJECTIVES.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Match the words

Match the words below to the pictures.

1. big e
2. tall _____
3. rich _____
4. slow _____
5. short _____
6. fast _____
7. poor _____
8. little _____
9. old _____
10. new _____



2 Wordsearch

Now find these words in the wordsearch.

big	tall
rich	slow
short	fast
poor	little
old new	



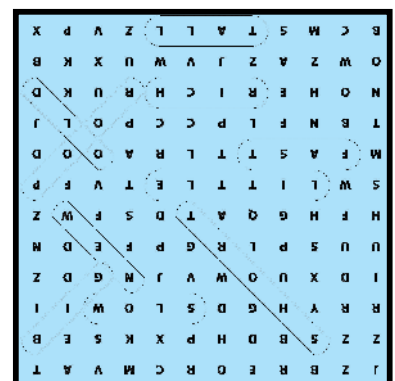
3 Guess the word

Make a sentence with each place. Ask your partner to guess the word.



IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF BIG.

LITTLE!



USEFUL VERBS & EXPRESSIONS

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR ON USEFUL VERBS AND EXPRESSIONS.
THIS MONTH: FOOD AND DRINK.

TO HAVE BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER
TO EAT SOMETHING FOR BREAKFAST /
LUNCH / DINNER.



HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT / DRINK
TO EAT OR DRINK SOMETHING.



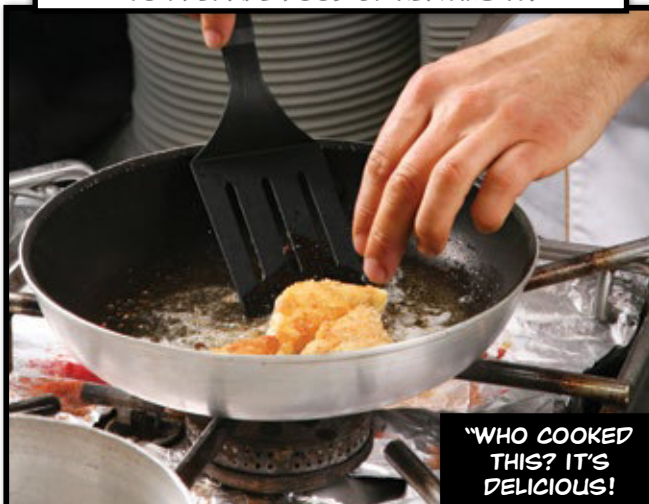
LAY THE TABLE
TO PUT THE PLATES, KNIVES, FORKS,
SPOONS, ETC ON THE TABLE.



MAKE FOOD
TO PREPARE FOOD BY COMBINING INGREDIENTS.



COOK FOOD
TO PREPARE FOOD BY HEATING IT.



DO THE WASHING UP
TO CLEAN THE PLATES, KNIVES, FORKS,
SPOONS, ETC.



Headline News

Headline News N° 1

The voice of the people

London 2016

Train Robber

The life and times of the UK's most famous robber.

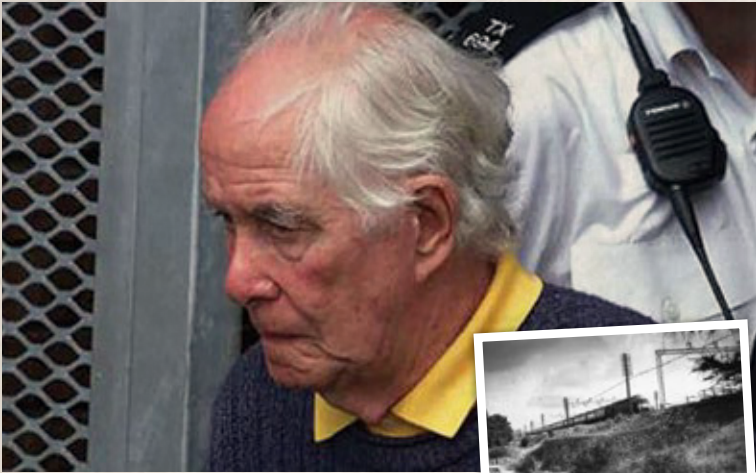
Is it right to put old people in prison? Is it right to keep prisoners in jail even though they are old and sick. This is a difficult question. Especially when it comes to someone like Ronnie Biggs.

Ronnie Biggs is one of England's most notorious criminals. Biggs, an English **gangster**, was part of one of the most famous robberies in British history. In 1963, fifteen robbers **hijacked** the Post Office train travelling between Glasgow and

London. £2,631,784 was stolen from the train and the driver was seriously **assaulted**. The **equivalent** of this in today's money would be £40 million. Hardly any of the money was recovered. The robbery became known as the Great Train Robbery. Thirteen members of the gang were later caught after a **tip-off**. Their fingerprints were found on a Monopoly board. They had been playing the game with real money!

After a year and a half in prison, Ronnie Biggs escaped and **fled** to Australia. At the time of the escape, he was outside in the **yard**. He climbed a ten-metre wall after someone

outside the prison threw a ladder over the wall. Biggs took much of the money with him. He later went to Rio de Janeiro where



he was safe from **extradition**. There was no agreement between Brazil and Britain so he lived freely until 2001 when he returned voluntarily to prison in the UK. Many people thought he did this because he couldn't afford his medical bills. However, his son, Michael, said that he wanted to **do his time** and have a drink in an English pub before he died. Ronnie Biggs said that he just wanted to die close to his family.

Biggs spent several years in prison, then was released in 2009. He died in 2013. Many people thought he should have stayed in jail because of what happened to the driver, Jack Mills, who suffered badly after the robbery. Despite this, no one knows which robber actually attacked and hit the driver. ☺

Ronnie Biggs
Born on 8th August 1929 in Lambeth, England. He was a member of the Great Train Robbery gang of 1963. He escaped prison and went to live in Brazil. He died in 2013.



GLOSSARY

- a gangster** *n*
a member of an organised criminal network
- to hijack** *vb*
to attack a vehicle and to hold it (with the people inside) whilst robbing it
- to assault** *vb*
to attack
- the equivalent** *n*
the same as
- a tip-off** *n*
information for the police giving details of a crime
- to flee** *vb*
to escape
- a yard** *n*
a patio; an area outside where prisoners can exercise
- extradition** *n*
legally transferring a criminal from one country to another
- to do time** *exp*
to spend time in prison

Story Time

JOKES, ANECDOTES AND STORIES AS TOLD BY NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS.



Complaints

Boss: I've had **complaints** about you, Johnny, from all your line managers. What have you been doing?

Johnny: Nothing.

Boss: Exactly.

Hidden Money

There was once a man who loved money. When he got it, he wouldn't spend it. Instead, he took it to the bank and put it in a savings account. In fact, he was so **tight-fisted** that once he said to his wife, "When I die, I want you to **bury** my money with me". So when he died, his wife did just that. On the day of the funeral, she was sitting beside her sister with her husband lying in the **coffin** in front of them. When the **undertakers** had closed the coffin, her sister said, "Did you really bury all that money with Fred? You must be crazy!" And the woman replied, "Yes, of course, I did. I always **keep my promises**. So, after he died, I went to the bank, put the money in my account and then wrote him a cheque. He's got it with him right now."

The Zoo

A **mime artist** is performing outside a zoo one day when a **zookeeper** invites him into his office. The zookeeper tells the man that the main attraction, a gorilla, has died recently and he needs to **replace** it. So the zoo keeper offers the mime a job. Basically, the guy has to put on a gorilla **costume** and pretend he's the gorilla. The mime thinks about it for a bit, but then accepts the job. Amazingly, none of the visitors notice the difference. The gorilla is as popular as ever and the man is

earning plenty of money. But eventually, the crowds become bored of the **ape** and **switch** their attention to the lion beside the ape's cage. The man doesn't like this, so, one day, he climbs on top of the lion's cage and **makes fun of** the lion. The lion gets very angry and the crowds love it. But all of a sudden, the man **slips** and falls into the lion's cage. He's terrified and starts running around the cage screaming, "Help me, help me!" The lion eventually catches him and lies on top of him and says to the mime, "Shut up, you idiot, or we'll both **get the sack!**"



GLOSSARY

- a complaint** *n*
if you make a "complaint", you tell someone that you are unhappy with something
- a line manager** *n*
the person in charge of a specific department or division at work
- tight-fisted** *adj inform*
used to describe a person who does not like to spend money
- to bury** *vb*
to put a something in a hole in the ground
- a coffin** *n*
a thick box in which to put a dead person
- an undertaker** *n*
a person who prepares the bodies of dead people and makes funeral arrangements
- to keep a promise** *exp*
to do what you say you will do
- a mime artist** *n*
a person who entertains people by using body movements but no words
- a zookeeper** *n*
a person who feeds the animals at the zoo
- to replace** *vb*
if you replace A with B, you put A instead of B
- a costume** *n*
clothes that are used to make you look like someone – a gorilla in this case
- to earn** *vb*
to make money from working
- an ape** *n*
a member of the family of mammals that includes chimpanzees and gorillas
- to switch** *vb*
to change
- to make fun of someone** *exp*
to mock another person; to laugh at another person
- to slip** *vb*
to lose your balance
- to get the sack** *vb exp*
to lose your job

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

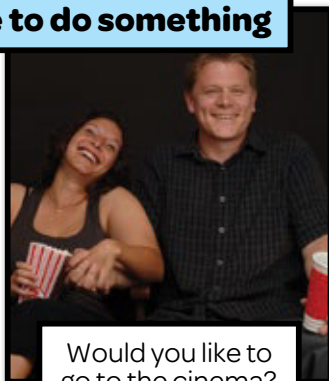
Inviting someone to do something



Can I get you a coffee?



Would you like to have lunch with us?



Would you like to go to the cinema?



I'm having a party later. Would you like to come?



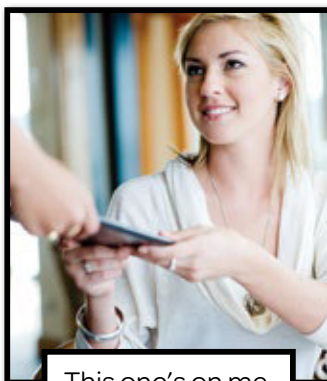
How about coming to my house for dinner on Friday?



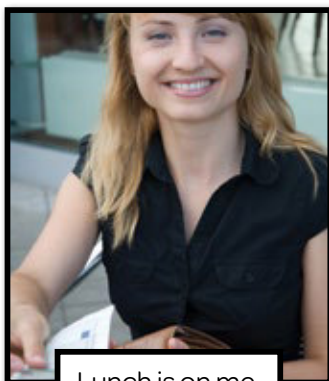
I'll get this one.

invitations

Reacting to an invitation



This one's on me.



Lunch is on me.



I'd like to invite you for lunch.



I'll get this one. You get the next one.



Would you like to come up for a coffee?

Reacting to an invitation

- OK.
- I'd love to.
- No, let me get this one.
- But you paid last time.
- I'm sorry, but I really don't have the time.
- I'm afraid I'm a bit busy at the moment.
- I'm sorry but I'm not going to be able to make it. ☹
- That sounds like a good idea.
- That would be fantastic.
- Yes, OK.
- OK. I'll get the next one.
- That's a good idea.

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



IN THIS SECTION DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



1 Activity

Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1. What time are you wake up?
What time do you wake up? _____
2. She like the film?

3. I drink normally coffee in the morning.

4. She does often not go home by bus.

5. He reads the newspaper never.

6. How long does take you to get home?

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Sunken Treasure

500 year old treasure found.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Discussion

1. Have they found any treasure in your country recently?
2. What stories of treasure have you heard about or read about?
3. What films about treasure have you seen?

2 Pre listening

What types of things would you expect to hear on a programme such as *History today*?

3 Listening I

Listen once and check your answers. Did you guess correctly?

4 Listening II

Choose the correct answers.

1. A shipwreck was found off the coast of...
a. Thailand. b. Namibia.
2. They were searching for...
a. gold. b. diamonds.
3. The ship was carrying treasure of gold coins, copper, ivory and...
a. cannons. b. guns.
4. The ship dates back to the...
a. 14th century. b. 15th century.
5. The area is described as rocky and...
a. foggy. b. dirty.
6. The captain could have been a...
a. prince. b. pirate.

Phrasal verb alert

The phrasal verb "to go down" has a number of different meanings.

Can you think of any meanings related to the following things?

- a. a ship
- prices in shops
- a sports team
- a computer

Grammar spot

There are a number of examples of the past passive in the conversation. What is the difference between these two sentences?

- A shipwreck was found.
- The shipwreck was found by diamond miners.

The section that makes grammar easy, interesting, and fun.

GRAMMAR FUN

Confusing Words

IN THIS MONTH'S GRAMMAR FUN SECTION WE'LL BE LOOKING AT SOME CONFUSING WORDS.



“threw” versus “through”

“Threw” is the past tense of “throw”. For example:

- a. Paul threw the ball at me.
- b. She threw the chair at it.

“Through” can be used as a preposition. It is often used to refer to the process of passing from one side of something to the other side of it. For example:

- a. She walked through the door.
- b. They walked through the forest.
- c. Paul worked all through the night.
- d. The bird flew in through the window.

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“they’re” versus “there”

As we saw last month, “they’re” is a contraction of “they are”. For example:

- a. Paul and John work here. They’re our colleagues.
- b. Petra and Jane are here. They’re talking in the dining room.

“There” is often used to indicate place or position. For example:

- a. My new car is over there.
- b. He is there – in the garden.
- c. There are three of them on the roof.



Exercise

Choose the correct answers.

1. Nigel threw / through the apple at Paul.
2. Sam and Ben are here. There / They’re discussing the project.
3. My new bike is over there / they’re.
4. We think there / they’re is too much colour on the picture.
5. There are too / to many tables and not enough chairs.
6. He listened too / to the instructions.
7. They walked through / threw the forest.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

Luke Pittard loves his job. So much so that he came back to work after winning 1.3 million pounds on the National Lottery 18 months ago. He **missed** his job at McDonald's, and got bored doing nothing. "To be honest, there's only so much relaxing you can do. I'm still young and a bit of hard work never **did** anyone any **harm**," Pittard says. He and wife Emma met working at McDonalds, years before their **windfall**. After a number of holidays, a big wedding and buying a new house, Pittard got a bit bored. "My workmates all think I'm a bit mad, but I tell them there's more to life than money." His manager is **thrilled** to have the millionaire back **behind the counter**.

However, his wife doesn't feel the same way. Emma doesn't mind staying at home with their three-year-old daughter, Chloe. And she enjoys her millionaire status. However, she does understand why her husband misses the job. "We both really enjoyed working at McDonald's and still have good friends there. It was really **familiar** for us, and something for him to **look forward to**," she explained.

Luke isn't the first Lotto winner to go back to work. According to a survey one in three **big winners** go back to work, and half go back to working full-time. Like Luke, most get bored staying at home. Even a job like **flipping burgers** at the local McDonald's can keep a millionaire content. ✪



The Working McMillionaire

Lottery winner returns to work.



1 Discussion.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

- Do you ever buy lottery tickets? When? How often?
- Have you ever won anything on the lottery? How much? When?
- What do you the following sayings mean? How can you translate them into your language? Do you agree with them?
 - There's more to life than money.
 - Money doesn't bring you happiness.
 - Money doesn't grow on trees.
 - A bit of hard work never did anyone any harm.
- What would you do if you won the lottery? Do you think you would you return to work? Why? Why not?

2 Pre reading

Why do you think some people return to work after winning the lottery?

3 Reading I

Read the article and check your answers.

4 Reading II

Choose the correct answers.

- Luke Pittard was bored / happy in his job at MacDonal'd's.
- Luke had a number of holidays, a big wedding and he bought a new house / car.
- Luke's workmates think he is mad / right.
- Emma thinks her husband did the right thing / is completely mad.
- About one in three / five big lottery winners go back to work.

Grammar spot

What does this expression mean?

Emma **doesn't mind** staying at home.

- She hates staying at home.
- She loves staying at home.
- It's OK for her to stay at home.

The verb "to mind" is followed by...

- ...the gerund.
- ...the infinitive.

GLOSSARY

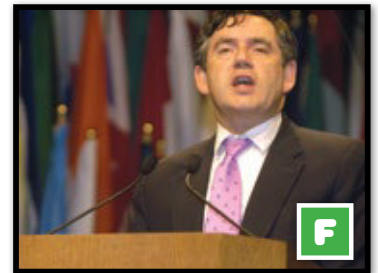
- to miss something** *exp*
to wish you still had something
- to do harm** *exp*
to hurt someone or something
- a windfall** *n*
money you receive unexpectedly or by luck
- mad** *adj*
In British English, crazy
- thrilled** *adj*
very, very happy
- behind the counter** *exp*
in a fast food restaurant, the workers stand behind a barrier to take the customer's orders
- familiar** *adj*
closely intimate or personal
- to look forward to something** *exp*
to be excited about something that is going to happen
- a big winner** *n*
a person who wins a huge prize, like a lot of money or something of very high value
- to flip burgers** *exp*
to turn hamburgers over on a grill, often a responsibility of a fast food worker

TRIVIA MATCHING

1 Exercise

SEE IF YOU CAN DO THIS MATCHING EXERCISE. LOOK AT THE LIST OF THINGS (1 TO 13), AND THE PHOTOS (A - M). WRITE A LETTER NEXT TO THE NAME OF EACH THING IN THE LIST BELOW. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1. standing up
2. scissors
3. star
4. mountain
5. beard
6. moustache
7. badge (of police officer)
8. thumb
9. eyeball
10. logo
11. rye
12. detective
13. Prime Minister



WEIRD TRIVIA

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR MINI-SERIES ON STRANGE FACTS. WHOEVER THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS SO OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY?



The writer Virginia Woolf wrote all her books standing up.



Leonardo Da Vinci invented the **scissors**.



There are 22 stars surrounding the mountain on the Paramount Pictures' logo.



John Lennon's **assassin** was carrying a copy of the book *The Catcher in the Rye* (by J.D. Salinger) when he shot the famous Beatle in 1980.



The only member of ZZ Top to not have a **beard** has the last name Beard (Frank Beard). He does have a moustache though.

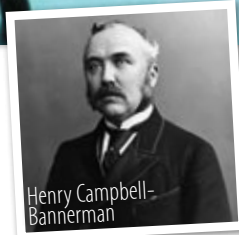


The Beatles **broke up** more than 25 years ago, but they continue to sell more records than the Rolling Stones.



Harry's badge number is 2211.

If you're ever in trouble and find yourself being attacked by a **crocodile**, you should push your thumbs into the beast's



difficult. The title of "Prime Minister" has only been used officially in the United Kingdom for 100 years – since 1905, to be precise. In the 18th century, the British political leader had many different names, "The Lord Chancellor, First Lord or the Lord Privy Seal" being one of the more **high-winded** examples. The term "Prime Minister"

GLOSSARY

- scissors** *n*
an object with two sharp blades used for cutting paper
- an assassin** *n*
a person who kills a famous or prominent person (a celebrity or political figure)
- a beard** *n*
hair on the lower part of the face
- a moustache** *n*
a line of hair above your top lip
- to break up** *phr vb*
to separate; to stop being together
- a crocodile** *n*
a large reptile with a very long mouth; similar to an alligator
- an eyeball** *n*
the part of your eye that you use for seeing
- to let go of** *phr vb*
to stop holding
- to run in zig-zags** *exp*
to run from side to side
- to outrun** *vb*
to run faster than an opponent / enemy / competitor
- an alligator** *n*
a reptile that is similar to a crocodile
- in straight lines** *n*
lines that are direct, with no curves or turns
- high-winded** *adj*
trying to appear important and sophisticated
- to adopt** *vb*
to be used officially

eyeballs... it will **let go of** you immediately. It is also said that if you run in **zig-zags**, you will be able to **outrun** a crocodile or **alligator**.



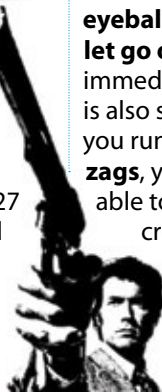
These reptiles run very fast **in straight lines** but find turning corners somewhat

came into use near the end of the 18th century, and was officially **adopted** at the start of the 20th century. 🍀



Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Jim Morrison were all 27 years old when they died.

Movie detective Dirty





Dear Dr Fingers,

Please help me. I have two questions.

1. Which sentence is correct?
 - a) The meeting has been fixed on the 14th March.
 - b) The meeting has been fixed for the 14th March.
2. Which sentence is correct?
 - a) I look forward to hearing from you.
 - b) I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much,
Geo Thermals

CONFUSING WORDS



Dear Mr Thermals,

Thank you so much for your e-mail. Of course, I would be delighted to help you. Let's look at each of your problems in turn.

1

- a) The meeting has been fixed on the 14th March.
- b) The meeting has been fixed for the 14th March.

Only sentence "b" is grammatically correct. The expression is "to fix a date for" – with the preposition

"for" (not "on"). For example, "We need to fix a date for the party."

Of course, we could say, "The meeting is on 14th March." While we are on the topic of dates, please remember that there is a difference between the way we say and write dates. Look at this example:

Written: We are going on 21st April.

Spoken: We are going on the 21st of April.

Notice how we don't need to include "the" and "of" when writing dates.

Also, remember, in US English, they often put the month first, "We are going on April 21st."

2

- a) I look forward to hearing from you.
- b) I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Both of these sentences are correct. The difference is very subtle and depends how the speaker perceives the action: as a whole; or as a continuous process. The choice of the terms is entirely up to the speaker and is not correct or incorrect. Does he / she see it as a fixed, whole, complete unit of thought (I look forward to...)? Or as an activity in progress (I'm looking forward to...)? These differences are very, very subtle and are not worth worrying about as there is no real difference there.

Well, Mr Thermals, I hope that has brightened up your day.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

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Corny Criminals

HERE'S ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES ON GOOD, BAD AND FUNNY CRIMINALS.



The Jedi Church

The Jedi Church is now an official religion. It is dedicated to the doctrines of the Jedi. Followers believe that there is one powerful force that binds all things in the universe together. The Jedi Church accepts races and species from all over the universe as potential members of the religion.



Drunken Darth

A number of Star Wars fans have been involved in a fight. The incident took place outside a **Jedi Church*** in Holyhead, Wales. Two men dressed in Star Wars' costumes were **duelling** with light sabres as they filmed a documentary. "All of a sudden, this guy dressed as Darth Vader appeared and started attacking us," said one of the men. "No-one was safe as we were attacked by the most evil man in cinema history," he added.

Apparently, the man, 27-year-old Arwel Jones, used a **crutch** as a **light sabre**. Jones, who has a drink problem, was given a **fine** and a **suspended sentence**. During the attack he shouted "Darth Vader" as he hit one man on the head with the crutch and **punched** the other. However, this man was quite lucky as the real Darth Vader got his hand cut off in the film by Luke Skywalker then killed by a **bolt of lightning**.

driving and the unlicensed operation of a vehicle.

Drunken Dad

A strange case **came to light** in Alice Springs, Australia. A man has been **finned** for **strapping** a case of beer **into** his car with a **seat-belt** while his 7-year-old son was left **unrestrained**. When police stopped the car, the child was sitting in the back of the car. However, a box of 30 cans of beer was strapped in. When questioned about it, the man **stared blankly** at police officers and said he didn't know anything about it. The police gave the driver a **spot fine** of \$750. "We've never seen anything like it," one of the officers said. According to Australian law, it is the driver's responsibility to make sure all passengers are strapped in. And as far as we know, there is no mention of applying this to a case of beer. ☺



Drunken Gardener

In another incident, a **tuxedo-clad** man in New York was caught driving a **lawnmower** while drunk. The man, who had been banned from driving, was caught at 1 am. He has been **charged** with drunken



GLOSSARY

- to duel** *vb*
to fight with swords
- a crutch** *n*
a stick used to support injured people
- a light sabre** *n*
the laser swords used in Star Wars
- a fine** *n*
a cash penalty
- a suspended sentence** *n*
a prison sentence that is only served if the criminal commits another crime
- to punch** *vb*
to hit someone with your fist
- a bolt of lightning** *n*
a flash of light in a thunderstorm
- tuxedo-clad** *adj*
wearing a very formal suit
- a lawnmower** *n*
a machine used to cut grass
- to be charged with** *exp*
to be formally accused of a crime by the police
- to come to light** *exp*
to become revealed or discovered
- to fine** *vb*
if someone is "finned", they must pay money to the government as a punishment for committing a crime
- to strap into** *phr vb*
if you "strap something into" a car, you put a seat belt around it
- a seat-belt** *n*
a safety strap on a car seat
- unrestrained** *adj*
without protection or control
- to stare blankly** *exp*
to look at someone with no expression on your face
- a spot fine** *n*
an amount of money you must pay for committing a crime. It is given by police at the scene of a crime

HERE'S ANOTHER RECIPE FOR YOU TO TRY AT HOME. **THIS MONTH: THE HOT ENGLISH BURGER** – PERFECT FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON BARBECUE.

hot english burger



Ingredients

- 500 grams of **ground beef**
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 **cloves of garlic**, pressed
- 2 **avocado pears**
- 1 red onion, **sliced** thin
- 1 jar roasted red peppers
- 6 large bread rolls
- Tabasco sauce

Method

- Mix ground beef, minced onion and pressed garlic together.
- Make burger **patties**.
- Cook the burgers (preferably on the barbecue)
- Place hamburger patties on bread rolls and top with red onion, roasted red peppers and avocado slices
- Sprinkle Tabasco sauce over the top ✪



GLOSSARY

ground beef *n*
a socially incompetent

a clove of garlic *n*
one section of a garlic bulb

an avocado pear *n*
a round, green vegetable with a large stone in the middle. Used for making guacamole

to slice *vb*
to cut thinly

a patty *n US*
a small, round meat pie

a slice *n*
a thin piece of something

Nobel Nobility

Oldest Nobel winner

1 Exercise

Here are some famous Nobel prize winners. Do you know anything about them? Where are they from? Why were they awarded the prize?



1 Doris Lessing



2 Jean Paul Sartre



3 Samuel Beckett



4 Pablo Neruda

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Listening I

Listen once and answer the questions.

1. Which noble prize winner is being discussed?
2. What was she famous for?

2 Listening II

Complete the fact file. Write down what happened in each year.

1. 1919 = _____
2. 1937 = _____
3. 1943 = _____
4. 1949 = _____
5. 1960 = _____

Word alert

"Upbringing" in the text is used as a noun but it is also a phrasal verb, "to bring up"; but what does it mean? Answer the questions to help you guess.

1. Who do you think brings you up?
2. At what time in your life are you brought up?



1 Don't Look Back in Anger, by Oasis

Learn some examples of spoken English from this song. Notice the use of *cos* (because), *ain't* (aren't) and *gonna* (going to).

*So I start a revolution from my bed,
'Cos you said the brains I had went to my head.
Step outside, summertime's in bloom,
Stand up beside the fireplace,
Take that look from off your face,
You ain't ever gonna burn my heart out.*

2 Adventure of a Lifetime, by Coldplay

Find out about the use of conjunctions. In this song, *like* is used as a conjunction to mean as if (*I feel like I'm alive...*).

*...we are diamonds,
Now I feel my heart beating,
I feel my heart underneath my skin,
And I feel my heart beating,
Oh, you make me feel like I'm alive again,
Alive again, oh you make me feel like I'm alive again.*

3 Perfect, by One Direction

Improve your knowledge of verbs in English. In this song, the verb *tell* is used to mean *see*, *understand* or *realise*, etc. (*I could tell that...*).

*When I first saw you,
From across the room,
I could tell that you were curious, oh, yeah,
Girl, I hope you're sure,
What you're looking for,
'Cause I'm not good at making promises,*

4 Parklife, by Blur

Learn some useful verbs + prepositions. This song includes the use of the prepositional phrase *think about*: (*and I think about leaving the house*).

*I get up when I want except on Wednesdays,
when I get rudely awakened by the dustman, [Parklife]
I put my trousers on, have a cup of tea,
and I think about leaving the house, [Parklife]
I feed the pigeons, I sometimes feed the sparrows too,
it gives me a sense of enormous well being, [Parklife]
And then I'm happy for the rest of the day,
safe in the knowledge there will always be a bit
of my heart devoted to it. [Parklife]*

8

Brit pop

SONGS

TO HELP YOU

LEARN
ENGLISH

Find
out how
8 Brit pop
songs can
really
improve
your
English.

KAISER CHIEFS



5 Ruby, by The Kaiser Chiefs

Learn some useful phrasal verbs. The phrasal verb *find out* appears in this song. It means *to discover or learn*: (finding out what...).

*Due to lack of interest, tomorrow is cancelled,
Let the clocks be reset and the pendulums held,
'Cause there's nothing at all except the space in between,
Finding out what you're called and repeating your name.*



6 She Moves in her Own Way, by The Kooks

Learn some idioms in English. This song has lots of idioms, including *pull someone's strings*, which means to control someone (*you don't pull my strings...*).



*So now you pour your heart out,
You're telling me you're far out,
You're not about to lie down for your cause,
'Cos I'm a better man,
Moving on to better things.*

I love her because she moves in her own way



GLOSSARY

- brains** *n*
intelligence
- to go to your head** *exp*
if something "goes to your head", it makes you feel very important
- in bloom** *n*
a plant that is "in bloom" has flowers on it
- to beat** *vb*
when your heart is "beating", it is making regular rhythmic movements
- to get rudely awakened** *exp*
if you "get rudely awakened", someone wakes you up in a loud or aggressive manner
- a dustman** *n*
a person whose job is to collect the rubbish
- devoted to** *exp*
if you're "devoted to" something, you like or love that thing very much
- due to** *exp*
because of
- to reset** *vb*
if you "reset" a clock, you change the time on it
- a pendulum** *n*
the "pendulum" is a part of a clock with a long piece of metal with a weight at the end which swings from side to side in order to make the clock work
- to pour your heart out** *exp*
to tell someone your secret feelings
- far out** *exp slang*
a slang expression that means "good"
- to lie down for your cause** *exp*
to be prepared to die for your cause
- a stink** *n*
a very bad smell
- to hang around** *phr vb*
if a smell (for example) "hangs around" for a long time, it stays there for a long time
- sucker** *vb inform*
if someone "suckers" you, they trick you
- a thirst for** *exp*
if you have a "thirst for" something, you really want that thing
- to catch someone's eye** *exp*
if you "catch someone's eye", they notice or see you

7 Just, by Radiohead

Learn some grammar from Radiohead. This song features the use of the present perfect continuous (*have/has + been + verb -ing*) to talk about an action that's been continuing for a period of time up until now (*it's been hanging round...*).



*Can't get the stink off,
It's been hanging round for days,
Comes like a comet,
Suckered you but not your friends,
One day he'll get to you,
And teach you how to be a holy cow.
You do it to yourself, you do...*

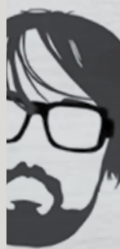


8 Common People, by Pulp

Learn some slang. This song includes the use of the slang term *loaded*, which means rich.

*She came from Greece, she had a thirst for knowledge,
She studied sculpture at Saint Martin's College,
That's where I caught her eye,
She told me that her dad was loaded, I said,
in that case I'll have a rum and Coca-Cola, she said fine,
And in thirty seconds time she said,
'I want to live like common people...'*

[There have been rumours that the mystery woman in the song is Danae Stratou, the wife of ex Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis.]





British Music

HERE ARE SOME BRIT POP BANDS AND SINGERS FOR YOU TO READ ABOUT.

Pete Doherty

Pete Doherty is an English singer-songwriter of Irish-Jewish descent. He became famous when he performed with a band called *The Libertines* from 1997 until 2004. They were a garage rock band, which is a type of very **funky** rock influenced by punk. They had a UK number-one album but **broke up** due to Doherty's problems with heroin. Later he formed the band Babyshambles, which plays various types of music, including punk and ska. This is a form of Caribbean music similar to reggae. However,

Pete Doherty has become more famous for his continuing problems with drugs and his **fiery** relationship with top model Kate Moss. They had a very public relationship until 2007 and were constantly in the **tabloid press**. He has spent time in prison and has been in and out of drug rehabilitation clinics. Despite this, he is a very talented musician and is very popular with young music fans. ❄️



Amy Winehouse

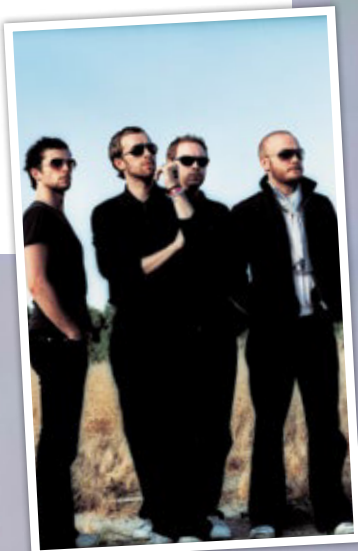
Amy Winehouse was a singer who wrote and performed a mixture of jazz, blues and rhythm and blues music. Unfortunately, she also had a number of problems with drugs and alcohol. And news of her **mental health** was often in the papers. She once appeared in a YouTube video playing with mice, prompting worries that she was going insane. Pete Doherty also appeared in the video. Her husband (Blake Fielder-Civil), was once sent to prison, for a violent assault on a pub landlord. Amy, like Pete Doherty, was a very talented musician who was unfortunate to have fallen into the world of drugs. This is something that has happened to many young people in the rock and roll business. She died in 2011. ❄️





Coldplay

Poldplay are a world-famous alternative-rock band and are much less controversial than the previous two stars. They are known, along with their music, for their social activism. Chris Martin, the singer-guitarist-pianist is very public about issues such as human rights and fair trade for third world countries. They were also involved with the Live 8 event in 2006. They have won a Grammy before for their song *Clocks*. Other popular songs are *Yellow* and *Speed of Sound*. Their song *Vida la Vida* was one of the fastest selling singles in history. And their seventh album *A Head Full of Dreams* reached the number-one position in the UK charts and number two in the US, Australia, Canada and Italy. Coldplay's style of music has been compared to Oasis and Radiohead. They themselves have described it as "very heavy soft rock". Some of their music has a very sad feeling to it but it has **struck a chord with** many music fans. One impressive thing that the band have done is to give 10% of their profits to charity. Their activism is well-known and Guy Berryman, the bassist, has said that if it helps people, then they want to do it. 🌟



Oasis

Oasis were formed in 1991, and were part of the Britpop movement of bands. This was a type of music focused on the British style of guitar playing and **lyrics** about things that affect British people. Oasis' second album *What's the Story Morning Glory* is considered by many to be their best. Their singer, Liam Gallagher, is known as a **wildman** and has had many public **bust-ups** with other musicians. They were involved in the "Battle of Britpop" in 1995 with Blur. This was when the British press decided that there was **rivalry** between the bands, and a battle for sales of singles took place. Blur won the battle. When the Britpop

movement ended in the late 1990s, Oasis lost popularity and several band members left. Liam continued with the band until 2014. Noel started a solo career. 🌟



The Prodigy

The Prodigy are one of the biggest electronic music bands in the world. This is a type of heavy dance music. It has sometimes been called "Electronic Punk". Others known for this music are The Chemical Brothers and Fatboy Slim. Although there are three members at the moment, most of the music is written and performed by Liam Howlett. They have caused controversy before with one of their songs. In the US, there was **outrage** as many people thought it was glorifying violence against women.

The music video of the song showed a person on a night out, taking drugs and fighting. It caused even more controversy than their song, but many saw it as **groundbreaking**. The Prodigy have worked with many famous artists including Oasis and Hollywood actress Juliette Lewis, who is also a talented singer. 🌟



GLOSSARY

- funky** *adj*
rhythmic; with strong rhythm
- to break up** *phr vb*
to stop playing together as a band
- fiery** *adj*
aggressive
- the tabloid press** *n*
the newspapers in Britain that print sensational stories
- mental health** *n*
your mind and sanity
- to strike a chord with** *phr vb*
to influence; to please
- the lyrics** *n*
the words in a song
- a wildman** *n*
someone who is crazy or does outrageous things
- a bust-up** *n*
a fight or argument
- rivalry** *n*
competitive feeling between people / organisations, etc
- outrage** *adj*
extreme shock or anger
- groundbreaking** *adj*
very original or modern



Silly Spelling

A study on poor spelling in the UK.

Do you have problems with English spelling? It's **notoriously** difficult. And in many cases there is very little connection between the pronunciation of the word and the way it is written. But you aren't the only ones who find it difficult.

A recent study has shown that native English speakers can't spell either. More than two thousand people took part in the study and the **findings** were very interesting. Forty percent of the respondents could not spell the word "**questionnaire**"; 38% had trouble spelling "accommodate" and 37% also had problems spelling "definitely". Other difficult words included "**liaison**", "existence" and "occurrence". Even relatively simple words such as "calendar", "**embarrass**", "library" and "**receipt**" caused difficulties.

So, why is this? Two-thirds of those in the study **blamed** mobile phones for their inability to spell. Abbreviations in texting are leading to a new type of English ("coz" instead of "because"; "4" instead of "for", etc). But this doesn't seem to worry many people. Nearly a

third thought their spelling was "brilliant", and 46% said it was just "good". Alarming, 14% did not think it was vital to spell correctly, and 11% were not worried by colleagues' spelling mistakes. Twenty percent said that they'd avoid writing documents by hand because their spelling was inadequate, and 59% said they **relied** on their computer's spell-checker to get things right. Amazingly, 6% had lost a job because their spelling was so poor.

James Margate, who was in charge of the study said, "It's worrying how weak our spelling has become, especially with regard to simple, everyday words. It's interesting to see that despite getting basic words wrong, a huge majority still regard their spelling skills as excellent or good. It's inexcusable to see badly-written documents in a work environment. If something isn't done in this generation, spelling standards will only **decline** further." A member of the Plain English campaign said, "People seem **less inclined** to consider correct spelling important. When we spell words incorrectly, it is **bound** to cause confusion and make writing more difficult to read." ♻️

Difficult words

The 20 simple words the English are unable to spell:

1. questionnaire
2. accommodate
3. definitely
4. liaison
5. existence
6. occurrence
7. referring
8. occurred
9. millennium
10. embarrass
11. calendar
12. receive
13. necessary
14. separate
15. cemetery
16. library
17. accidentally
18. independent
19. occasionally
20. receipt



GLOSSARY

- notoriously** *adj*
famous, but for a bad reason
- findings** *n*
results from research
- a questionnaire** *n*
a list of questions in order to find people's opinions of something
- liaison** *n*
cooperation and exchange of information and ideas between two companies or parts of an organisation
- to embarrass** *vb*
to make someone feel ashamed or uncomfortable
- a receipt** *n*
a piece of paper given in a shop after you buy something
- to blame** *vb*
to say someone is responsible for something bad
- to rely on** *phr vb*
to depend on
- to decline** *vb*
to decrease
- to be less inclined to** *exp*
to have less desire to do something
- bound to** *exp*
likely to; probably going to

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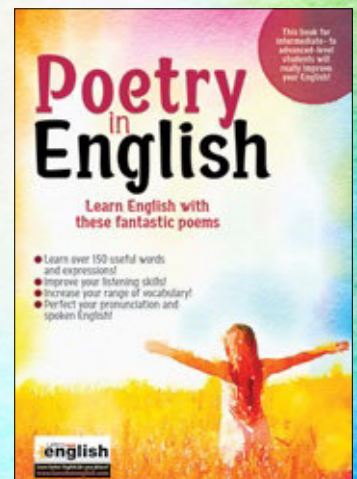
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Don Arden

THE MUSIC INDUSTRY IS A HARD PLACE TO DO BUSINESS. MUSIC MANAGERS, PROMOTERS AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR **RUTHLESSNESS**. ONE OF THE WORST IN THE HISTORY OF BRITISH MUSIC WAS DON ARDEN, **AKA** "THE AL CAPONE OF POP".

Born as Harry Levy in 1926, Arden went into **showbiz** at the age of 13. He did **stand-up comedy** and singing during the war years. Don Arden was Jewish so he began his career in management by organising Hebrew folk music competitions. By the 1960s, he had moved into **full-blown** management and was organising British tours for American performers such as Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley.

His first major group was The Small Faces. The group liked his enthusiasm and, in a short time, were **signed up**. They had a chart **hit** but it entered the charts illegally – supposedly by **fixing** it. But his **foul play** with The Small Faces wasn't over yet. In 1966, Robert Stigwood, another music manager spoke to The Small Faces about changing managers. Arden went to "teach him a lesson" with some friends and threatened to throw Stigwood out a window. He also tried to strangle a musician and throw him out a window.

In the 1970s, Don Arden became manager of rock legends Black Sabbath and ELO. Arden's problems really began to grow here. In 1979, Arden had Sabbath's singer Ozzy Osbourne thrown out of the band for drink and drug problems. Arden's daughter, Sharon, began to

date and manage Ozzy. In an attempt to split them up, Arden told Ozzy that Sharon had tried to **seduce** him, her own father. After this failed, he **set loose** his dogs on Sharon, who was pregnant. She had a **miscarriage** and didn't speak to her father for over 20 years until Ozzy **reconciled** the two.

In the 1980s, Arden had a record company, but it collapsed after legal costs destroyed it. His son, David, seems to have **taken a leaf** from his father's book and went to prison for assaulting an employee. Don was also charged **in relation with** this. Don Arden's violent temper and unethical business practices eventually destroyed his business.

His daughter's business practices are somewhat different. Sharon is more open and she is "**Flying High Again**" to quote one of her husband's songs. She has been involved in court cases involving **royalties** but, in general her methods are **fairly** honest. She once said that her father taught her how to destroy a business and that was the best thing he ever did for her. If you want to succeed in business, you shouldn't alienate too many people. Negative actions have a way of coming back to you. And in the case of Don Arden, losing his family and business are good examples of the saying "**What goes around, comes around**". ✪



Don Arden

Born: 4th January 1926 in Manchester, England
Died: 21st July 2007 in Los Angeles, USA
Known as: "Mr. Big", "The English Godfather" and "The Al Capone of Pop"



GLOSSARY

- AKA** *acronym*
Also Known As
- showbiz** *abb*
show business
- a stand-up comedy** *n*
comedy performance that consist of a single comedian talking to the audience
- full-blown** *adj*
total; complete
- to sign up** *phr vb*
to enlist someone to your company
- a hit** *n*
something that is commercially successful
- to fix** *vb*
to organise / manipulate a result
- foul play** *exp*
unlawful behaviour; illegal activities
- to seduce** *vb*
to persuade someone, often by using charm
- to set loose** *phr vb*
to release; in this case to allow animals to attack someone or something
- a miscarriage** *vb*
the death of a baby during pregnancy
- to reconcile** *vb*
to make friends again after an argument
- to take a leaf from someone's book** *exp*
to do things in a similar way to another person
- in relation with** *exp*
connected to
- flying high** *exp*
doing well
- royalties** *n*
money earned from music sales
- fairly** *adv*
quite
- what goes around, comes around** *exp*
what you do to others will be done to you; if you make others suffer, you will suffer too, one day



If you own a failing business and you need some advice to turn things around, you should look at the career of Ozzy Osbourne.

The ageing English rock star was considered a **dinosaur**. That was until his wife and manager, Sharon, signed the family up for the reality TV series *The Osbournes*. The series was, surprisingly, a **smash hit** around the world and the once-reluctant TV star Ozzy saw his album sales **skyrocket**.

Of course, it would be difficult to survive in show business for so long without two other important things: talent and an ability for self-publicity. Ozzy has both of these **in droves**. When they started in Birmingham at the beginning of the 1970s, Ozzy's band, Black Sabbath, defined a new form of music: heavy metal. Their musical style, lyrics and wild antics **struck a chord with** millions of **disaffected** teenagers. Ozzy was a talented singer and a charismatic frontman for the band, but his personal life became notorious. He had a serious problem with alcohol and drugs which culminated in him trying to kill Sharon. He was also blamed for causing the suicides of two fans. His song *Suicide Solution*, which was actually about alcoholism, was **cited** in court for these deaths but he was **cleared**. His most infamous **stunt** was when he bit the head off a bat on stage. He claims he thought the bat was made of rubber, but the **wildman** myth grew. He has also admitted to killing all his pet cats, about 17, with a shotgun. Nice man!



Nowadays the "Blizzard of Ozz" lives a quieter life. He is a TV personality and Sharon has been a judge on the talent series *The X-Factor* and *America's got Talent*. His son, Louis, from his first marriage is a famous DJ. His children by Sharon, Kelly and Jack, have successful careers stemming from *The Osbournes*. His other daughter, Aimee, has stayed out of the media glare but is successful in her own right as an actress, singer and columnist. She is an impressive character because she has never used her father's fame to help her own career.

A lot of the Osbournes' success is down to efficient marketing. Many observers credit this to Sharon. Ozzy has always been popular with **metallers** but with the Ozzfest tour his music has gained a much wider popularity. Sharon, Ozzy and son Jack organise this multi-band **annual** festival which tours America and, occasionally, Europe. Along with Sharon's career as a **reality TV** presenter, this gives the family Osbourne plenty of media attention. Sharon has, as a rock and roll manager, the talent and opportunities to constantly **grab the public eye**. Although Ozzy is the most famous, the rest of the family has benefited from this intelligent form of marketing. At times, the family appears as a unit and, at others, as individual personalities. And all of this is incredible for a man who was once considered a **pariah** by the media. ✪



GLOSSARY

- a (rock) dinosaur** *n*
a (rock) star who is less popular now, often because of age
- a smash hit** *n*
a successful album, film, TV series, etc
- to skyrocket** *vb*
if sales "skyrocket", they increase quickly and a lot
- in droves** *exp*
in excess; in abundance
- to strike a chord with** *phr vb*
to affect; to be something that others can connect with
- disaffected** *adj*
unhappy or alienated from society
- to cite** *vb*
to accuse formally; to name someone as a suspect
- to clear** *vb*
to be found not guilty
- a stunt** *n*
an action for publicity
- a wildman** *n*
a crazy person
- a metallor** *n inform*
a heavy metal fan
- annual** *adj*
once a year
- reality TV** *n*
unscripted TV; games such as Big Brother, Pop Stars, etc
- to grab the public eye** *exp*
to get public attention
- a pariah** *n*
someone who is disliked by society; an outcast

A look at the movie blockbuster *Wanted*.



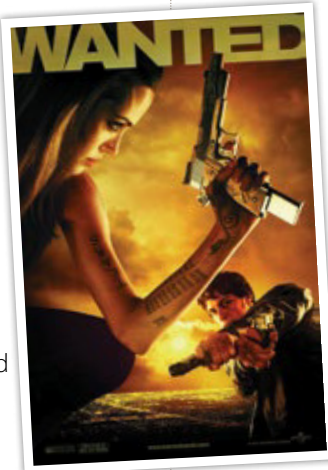
WANTED

Wanted:

Choose your Destiny

What happens when a man goes from having no power to having more than he can **handle**? The action blockbuster *Wanted* is **loosely based on** the comic book mini-series by Mark Millar (also titled *Wanted*) and art by J.G. Jones. The film stars James McAvoy (from *The Last King of Scotland*), Morgan Freeman and Angelina Jolie.

The story starts in a **drug store**. The anxious and passive accounts manager Wesley Gibson (James McAvoy) is waiting for his prescription for anxiety pills. All of a sudden, a mysterious woman, Fox (played by Angelina Jolie) approaches him. The news that she gives him changes his life forever.



Apparently this average guy with no hopes, dreams, or fulfilled life purpose has a very special and untapped ability. Gibson finds

out that he is the son of a recently-deceased **legendary assassin**. As the heir to his new world, he must learn the ways of an assassin to **avenge** the death of his father.

Fox **takes him under her wing**, and brings him to the Fraternity (a secret society of assassins). Gibson, who used to process accounts, is now learning to shoot the wings off flies (literally). Except he already knows how, of course. **Under the tutelage of** Sloan (Morgan Freeman), the leader of the Fraternity, Gibson undergoes brutal training to cultivate his skills. In the process, he becomes more proactive about his life in general and demonstrates that you cannot **deny** your destiny.

This action **flick** is filled with high-quality special effects. So, if you like action movies, this is the one for you. 🌟



GLOSSARY

- to handle** *vb*
to be capable of dealing with; to be able to deal with
- loosely based on** *exp*
more or less the same as
- a drug store** *n US*
a shop where medicine and other articles are sold. A "chemist's" in British English
- an accounts manager** *n*
a person whose job is to deal with the financial transactions in a big company
- approach** *vb*
to walk up to someone
- legendary** *adj*
very famous
- an assassin** *n*
a professional killer
- to avenge** *vb*
to hurt someone who is responsible for doing something wrong to you
- to take someone under your wing** *exp*
to teach someone something and watch out for them; to take care of someone
- under the tutelage of** *exp*
under the care of
- to deny** *vb*
not to accept something
- a flick** *n*
a film
- a priest** *n*
a high-ranking member of a church
- the navy** *n*
the ships and people who fight at sea
- to take on** *phr vb*
if you "take on" a role, you accept that role and play the part
- key** *adj*
important
- a roles** *n*
a part in a film or play or theatrical work
- to fence** *vb*
to fight with swords
- a fire-eater** *n*
a person who puts fire or sticks of fire into their mouths to entertain others
- accolades** *n*
awards
- to go to one's head** *vb*
to become arrogant / big-headed / self-important because of success
- to take a break** *vb*
to stop doing something so you can rest
- soul-searching** *exp*
a period of reflection on your thoughts, feelings, life, etc
- a kid** *n inform*
a child
- humanitarian causes** *n*
acts that are designed to help poor people
- the plight of** *n*
the severe problems related to; the pain and misery of...
- a Goodwill Ambassador** *n*
a celebrity representative who uses their influence to help the poor



James McAvoy

Growing up in Glasgow, Scotland, James McAvoy never thought of becoming a serious actor. He only acted because he was allowed to and he "had to do something". Rather, as a child he wanted to be a **priest** or join the **navy**. Since committing to acting, however, he has **taken on** a variety of characters. He has had **key roles** in sci-fi films, romantic movies, including as the main star in the 2008 action film *Wanted*. His acting versatility reflects his real-life varied interests: he is a skilled boxer, he **fences**, and is also a **fire-eater**. Even though he received a BAFTA Film Award in 2007 for *The Last King of Scotland* and also the 2006 Rising Star Award, he hasn't let these **accolades** to **go to his head**. Despite all the fame and riches, he still drives a modest car, lives in a small apartment and leads a normal life. And he is even thinking of **taking a break** from all the offers to do some **soul-searching** and to "take some 'me' time". 🍀

James McAvoy
 Born: 21st April 1979
 Birthplace: Glasgow, Scotland
 Main films: *The Last King of Scotland, Atonement, X-Men: Apocalypse*



Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie is an actress, filmmaker and humanitarian. She has also been described as one of the world's most beautiful people. She, however, describes herself as someone who will "always be a punk **kid** with tattoos". Despite her self-proclaimed punk personality, Jolie works hard for **humanitarian causes**. She has travelled to African and Asia to promote **the plight of** refugees and has worked as a **Goodwill Ambassador**. She is also quite the fighter. As a mother of three adopted children and three biological children, she is quoted as saying, "If anybody comes into my home and tries to hurt my kids, I've no problem shooting them." Having played numerous action roles in movies such as *Tomb Raider, Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, as well as *Wanted*, she believes that everyone should enrol in some sort of fighting class whether it is "kung-fu, kickboxing or boxing". As for her own children, she believes they need to learn to hold their own in a fight. Just like their mum can. 🍀

Angelina Jolie
 Born: 4th June 1975
 Birthplace: Los Angeles, California, United States
 Main films: *Interrupted, Tomb Raider, Mr and Mrs Smith, The Bone Collector, Unbroken*



Wicked Witch

HAVE YOU EVER REVEALED A SECRET BY MISTAKE? MOST OF US PROBABLY HAVE. BUT IMAGINE BEING PUT IN JAIL BECAUSE OF IT. THIS HAPPENED TO HELEN DUNCAN IN 1941.

Helen Duncan was a medium – someone who communicates with the spirit world. One day during a séance, she spoke with the spirit of a dead sailor. He told Helen that his ship, **HMS Barham***, had **sunk**. She then passed the message on to his family, thinking that she was doing the right thing. The family then contacted the **Admiralty** to verify the news. In turn, the Admiralty demanded to know how the family knew about the ship as it was a secret. It was 1941, at one of the worst moments of the Second World War. Britain was just recovering from the **Blitz***, and there was still the danger of an invasion (although by this time the Germans had started their invasion of the Soviet Union). The British government were paranoid about the country's security. They wanted to keep information about the Barham a secret in order to **maintain troop morale**. So, they decided to arrest Duncan.

At first, they thought she was a spy. How else would she know such top secret information? There was a trial. However, the **prosecution** could not prove that she was working for the Nazis. So, what were they going to do? Simple.

They would **try** her as a witch under the 1735 Witchcraft Act. She was eventually convicted and sentenced to nine months in prison after a highly-publicised **trial**. At the time, many people were against the trial, including the prime minister, Winston Churchill.

The Blitz

This is a shortened version of the German term "Blitz Krieg" ("Lightning War"). It is often used to refer to the extended bombing of Britain by Germany from 7th September 1940 to 10th May 1941. The attack began with the bombing of London for 57 consecutive nights. In total more than over 43,000 civilians were killed during the Blitz, although this was far fewer than the number of German civilians who were killed during allied attacks on Germany in 1944 to 1945.



So, who was Helen Duncan? She was born in Callander, Stirling (Scotland), in November 1897. She was a famous medium and performed séances, contacting the spirits of **recently-deceased** people. She was a mother of six children, and the wife of a wounded **veteran**. During the war, she worked in a **bleach** factory but practised her **craft** to make extra money to support her family. Duncan eventually died in 1956.

Now more than six decades after her arrest, one group is requesting that she be **posthumously pardoned**. Although it has never been officially stated, it is thought that

her trial and unfair arrest led to the **repeal** of the Witchcraft Act in 1951. This was replaced by the Fraudulent Mediums Act which is often used against dishonest mediums who **scam** clients. ✪

HMS Barham

This Royal Navy ship was launched in 1914. During the First World War, it **collided** with her sister ship Warspite. Later, it received five hits in a battle. During the Second World War, the ship was used in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. In March 1941, it received bomb damage during the Battle of Cape Matapan off the coast of Crete. It sank in November 1941 after being hit by three torpedoes from a German submarine.



GLOSSARY

- a sailor** *n*
a person who works on a ship
- to sink** *vb*
to disappear below the surface of the water
- the Admiralty** *n*
the government department that is in charge of the navy (the warships)
- to maintain morale** *exp*
to keep people in a positive frame of mind
- the prosecution** *n*
the lawyers who try to prove that someone is guilty
- to try** *vb*
to try to prove that someone is guilty
- a trial** *n*
a formal meeting in a court of law with a judge
- recently-deceased** *adj*
that has recently died
- a veteran** *n*
a person who served in a war
- bleach** *n*
a chemical that dyes something white or a pale colour; often used for cleaning
- a craft** *n*
a special talent or ability
- posthumously pardoned** *exp*
found innocent after death
- to repeal (a law)** *vb*
to end / cancel / delete a law
- to scam** *vb*
to trick; to deceive in order to get money
- to collide** *vb*
to hit; to crash against

Headline News

Headline News N° 5

The voice of the people

London 2016



Art Eggxhibit

Breakfast inspired art

What's the most unusual piece of environmental art that you've ever seen? In 2008, artist Henk Hofstra, "inspired by his breakfast", created a series of enormous egg sculptures in the centre of Wilhelmina Square. Called "Art Eggsident," (like "art accident") many of the eggs were over 30 metres wide. The egg art was popular with kids, who enjoyed climbing up the 2.3 metre tall sculptures. The enormous eggs had **bloggers** talking too. One person said, "I love it, but it does need bacon. And toast. And coffee." Another blogger said she hope Google Earth would **pick up** the eggs on satellite.

Hofstra hoped so too. The super-sized eggs were his second attempt at a sculpture big enough to **show up** from space on Google Earth satellites. Google Earth is Google's online 3D (three-dimensional) map programme that lets you look at any destination on earth. Hofstra's first try at reaching space with sculpture was with his piece "Water Is Life". He used over 4,000 litres of bright blue paint to cover 1,000 metres of road in Drachten, Holland. The road became a giant, painted river. The artist even added funny details like a car **sinking** into the "water." Unfortunately, Hofstra's river wasn't big enough to be seen from space on Google Earth. 🌱



GLOSSARY

a blogger *n*
a person who keeps an online journal of their personal opinions
to pick up *phr vb*
to notice; to detect
to show up *phr vb*
to appear; to be visible
to sink *vb*
if an object "sinks", it goes below the surface of the water



ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST FAMOUS ROCK BANDS IN HISTORY ARE AUSTRALIA'S AC/DC. THEY HAVE TOURED THE WORLD SINCE THE MID-1970S AND THEIR ALBUMS HAVE GONE **MULTI-PLATINUM**. A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT ABOUT THE ROCKERS IS THAT THEIR ORIGINS ARE IN FACT SCOTTISH, SOMETHING THEY'RE VERY PROUD OF. HERE'S A HISTORY OF THEIR **MADCAP** ANTICS.

Angus and Malcolm Young were born in Glasgow but the family moved to Sydney, Australia, when the boys were young.

Angus' musical career began at the age of five when he **restrung** a banjo as a guitar. Eventually, he got his **trademark** Gibson SG and, since then, has never changed instruments. Their brother George had a band, The Easybeats, and gave his younger brothers guitar lessons when he wasn't **touring**. He would eventually become AC/DC's **producer**.

In 1973, Malcolm and Angus formed AC/DC. They got the band's name from a sewing machine – AC/DC is an electrical reference. They eventually met another

Scottish-born Australian, Bon Scott, who was their driver for a while. After their first singer left, Scott became their **frontman**. He has been voted as the greatest frontman ever in *Classic Rock* magazine.

Part of this success came from his bad-boy image as he had spent time in prison. He was also refused entry into the army for being

"socially maladjusted". Along with Scott's wild stage **antics**, they also gained popularity for Angus' crazy **spasms**, his **mooning** and his other famous trademark: his school uniform. Although their music has been described as heavy metal, they have always hated this reference. Their music is, in fact, ordinary rock 'n' roll, played loud and aggressively. This **straightforward** type of music has kept them popular all through their career.



Their first few albums were popular in Australia but when they released "Let There Be Rock" in 1977 they became world famous. They toured with Black Sabbath. In one incident, Sabbath's **bassist**, Geezer Butler, threatened Malcolm with a knife. Malcolm then reportedly beat him up. Despite this, the two groups remained friendly, and in 2006 Angus **inducted** Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Their next album, "Highway to Hell" made them big in America but trouble was coming.

In February 1980, Bon Scott was found dead in London from alcohol poisoning. The band thought about quitting but eventually replaced Scott with **Geordie** singer Brian Johnson. AC/DC Fans showed their loyalty and their





AC/DC

AC/DC once helped overthrow a brutal dictator! Manuel Noriega, leader of Panama in the 1980s, fled to the Vatican Embassy in 1989 after American troops tried to arrest him. The troops surrounded the embassy and played songs by Van Halen, The Clash and AC/DC **full blast** day and night. The dictator eventually surrendered and was deported to the USA.



Brian Johnson

next album *Back in Black* became one of the biggest selling albums in history. Apparently, Scott admired Johnson's singing. Scott saw Johnson in concert once. During the concert, Johnson fell on stage and started yelling on the floor. The crowd thought it was part of his act but it was actually acute appendicitis. Brian Johnson has become known for his trademark flat cap, which is fashionable in his home town of Newcastle, England.

The 1980s saw AC/DC's popularity drop and their music is seen as being below standard at this time. And there were problems for the band. Malcolm got into another fight, this time with Phil Rudd, the drummer, who then left. For a while, there were rumours that they were a gay band, especially as in some countries, AC/DC is a slang term for "bisexuality", and also because they played **gigs** in gay clubs. They responded saying that they would play gigs anywhere they wanted – the more fans, the better. They had also got into trouble for referring to a real Australian telephone number in a song. This led to the owners of the number receiving thousands of **crank calls**. In the United States a serial killer, Richard Ramirez left an AC/DC hat at a crime scene and was also claimed to be inspired by their song "Night Prowler". Ramirez, **AKA**

"the Night Stalker", was a devil worshipper and now the band were also accused of this. A campaign to **cancel** popular music in the US included AC/DC as targets. Despite this, the group survived and became more popular in the 1990s. They made a comeback and their newer songs are considered a **return to form** for them. They are releasing new material now in September and a world tour is expected.

The band never forgot where they were from and much old footage from their Scottish tours shows the band wearing Scottish football jerseys. Also, one of their songs, *Bonny*, a tribute to Bon Scott is actually a traditional Scottish **air**. Newcastle man Brian Johnson has also strengthened the connection as his home town is close to the Scottish border. Bon Scott has been honoured in his birthplace Kirriemuir, north of Edinburgh. Their 1978 live album "If you want Blood, you Got It" was recorded at a concert in Glasgow. Angus is frequently named as the reason many young people start to learn guitar.



Bon Scott

The band stopped playing after Malcolm left the group in 2014 as a result of health reasons. 🌟

GLOSSARY

- multi-platinum** *adj*
that has sold millions of copies
- madcap** *adj*
crazy; wild
- to restring** *vb*
to change the strings of an instrument – changing their position or turning
- a trademark** *n*
something a person is famous for
- to tour** *vb*
to do a series of concerts in different places / countries
- a producer** *n*
a person whose job is to control album recording, music mixing, music editing, etc
- a frontman** *n*
the singer in a band
- antics** *n*
crazy or controversial actions
- a spasm** *n*
a convulsion; an involuntary movement of the body
- to moon** *vb inform*
to show your backside in public as a sign of disrespect to others, or just for fun
- straightforward** *adj*
uncomplicated
- a bassist** *n*
a bass player plays a guitar with four, thick strings
- to induct** *vb*
to welcome someone officially into a group or society
- a Geordie** *n*
someone from Newcastle, England. Also the name of Brian Johnson's original band
- a crank call** *n*
a phone call made as a joke
- to censor** *vb*
to prohibit partially or totally
- a return to form** *exp*
to become good again; to be as good as before
- an air** *n*
a traditional Celtic song
- full blast** *adj*
at maximum volume

LITTLE JOKES

GRAFFITI

MATCH EACH JOKE BEGINNING (1 TO 8) WITH ITS ENDING (A-H). THEN, LISTEN TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.
ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1. What do you call a python with a great **bedside manner**?
2. **Jane:** What's the difference between Chinese food and Italian food?
Bob: With Chinese food, you're hungry after two hours. With Italian food, you're still...
3. Why did the **raisin** go out with the **prune**?
4. What kind of shoes do you make from banana skins?
5. Why do bananas wear **after-sun lotion**?
6. What is more useful after it is broken?
7. **Boss:** You **missed** work yesterday, didn't you?
8. **Jim:** How did you like your first day at work?
Mary: Going there was fine, and coming home was great too, but I'm not too **keen on**...

- A:** Slippers.
B: ...the time in-between.
C: An egg.
D: A snake charmer.
E: Because he couldn't find a **date**.
F: Because they **peel**.
G: Employee: Not very much!
H: eating after two hours.



GLOSSARY

a bedside manner *n*
the way you behave with someone who is in bed (often sick)
a raisin *n*
a dried grape (the fruit used to make wine)
a prune *n* a dried plum (a round, purple fruit)
after-sun lotion *n*
a type of cream you put on burnt skin
to miss something *exp*
two meanings: a) not to go to something; b) to feel sad because you aren't with certain people, or you aren't at a certain place and you want to be there
keen on something *exp*
if you are "keen on something", you like that thing very much
slippers *n*
soft shoes that you wear in the house. If you "slip", you fall accidentally
a date *n*
two meanings: a) a dark-brown sweet fruit from a date palm; b) a romantic meeting
to peel *vb*
two meanings: a) to take the skin off fruit; b) if your skin "peels", it starts coming off, usually because it has been burnt

HERE ARE SOME MORE EXAMPLES OF BRITISH TOILET GRAFFITI.

DIPLOMACY IS THE PATRIOTIC ART OF LYING FOR ONE'S COUNTRY.

MARRIAGE IS NOT A WORD BUT A SENTENCE.

IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID TO DIE - I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS.

SHAKESPEARE - ALL HE DID WAS STRING TOGETHER A LOT OF OLD, WELL-KNOWN QUOTATIONS.

POLITICIANS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE MEDIA ARE LIKE SHIPS' CAPTAINS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE SEA.

GLOSSARY
a sentence *n*
two meanings: a) a grammatical unit with a subject, verb, etc; b) a legal judgement that involves a punishment
to string something together *exp*
to connect; to join
the media *n*
newspapers, television, radio, etc

SILLY NEIGHBOUR BY DANIEL COLTOUNE

THE SITUATION
A HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE PACKING BOXES IN THEIR FRONT GARDEN. THERE'S A BIG REMOVAL TRUCK PARKED IN THE ROAD, AND THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY MOVING HOUSE. BOB, A NEIGHBOUR, COMES FOR A CHAT.

HEY, JIM, YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HENDERSONS? THEY HAD A FIRE ROUND THEIR PLACE LAST NIGHT.

OH, REALLY?

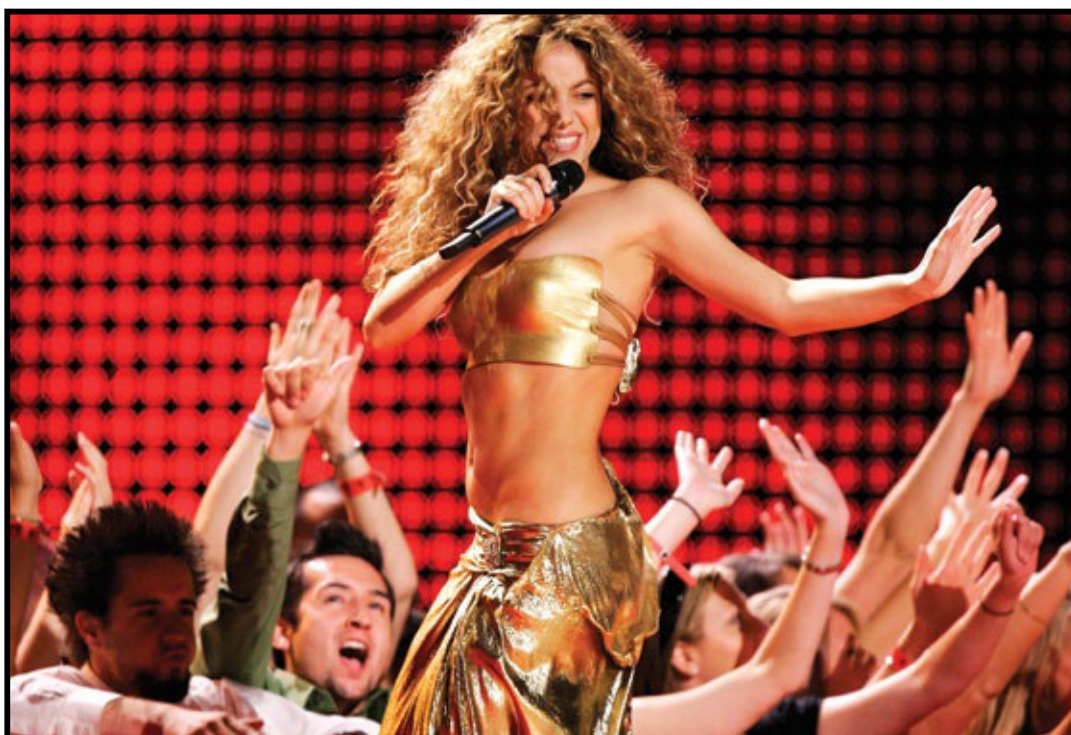
YEAH, IT COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE BUILDING. HEY, ARE YOU MOVING OUT?

NO, WE JUST PUT OUR STUFF IN BOXES EVERY WEEK...

...FOR FUN.

Misheard Lyrics

EVER THINK YOU'RE HEARING SOMETHING IN A SONG, BUT THEY'RE REALLY SINGING SOMETHING ELSE? IF YOU HAVE, THEN YOU'RE A VICTIM OF A "MISHEARD **LYRIC**". TRY OUR QUIZ AND SEE IF YOU CAN CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56



Famous Albums

The most famous misinterpretation of an album is *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen. Many people think it's called *Bohemian Rap City*.



Mondegreens

The word for a badly-understood phrase or expression in a song is a "mondegreen". Apparently, the term comes from a folk song in the 1950s. The singer was singing, "They **slew** the Earl of Morray and **laid** him on the **green**." However, many people understood, "They **slew** the Earl of Morray and Lady **Mondegreen**."

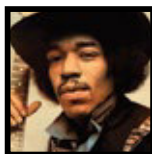
- 1** The song is "Smells like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana. Which of the following is correct?
a. Here we are now, entertain us.
b. Here we are now in containers.



- 5** In the Shakira song "Underneath your Clothes", what does she sing?
a. There's the man I chose, there's my territory.
a. There's the man I chose, there's my **Teletubbie**.



- 2** In the song "Purple Haze" by Jimi Hendrix, he says...
a. 'scuse me while I kiss this guy.
b. 'scuse me while I kiss the sky.



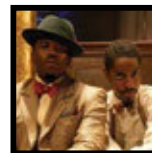
- 6** What do the Beatles sing in the song "Something"?
a. Something in the way she moos attracts me like no other mother.
b. Something in the way she moves attracts me like no other lover.



- 3** Which is the correct lyric for "Hero" by the Foo Fighters?
a. There goes my hero. He's old and hairy.
b. There goes my hero. He's ordinary.



- 7** Outkast's song "Hey Ya" goes...
a. Shake it like a polar bear ninja.
b. Shake it like a Polaroid picture.



- 4** Which is the correct lyric for the Red Hot Chili Peppers song "Can't Stop"?
a. Can't stop the spirits when they need you.
b. Can't stop the **ferrets** when they need food.



- 8** What do the 98 Degrees say in the song "I Do (Cherish You)"?
a. ...your hand **brushes** mine...
b. ...your **hairbrush** is mine...



GLOSSARY

the lyrics *n*
the words to a song
a haze *n*
dust, moisture or vapour in the air that makes it hard to see
a ferret *n*
a long, furry mammal with sharp teeth – often used to hunt rabbits
Teletubbies *n*
fictional and colourful characters from a children's programme who live in a futuristic dome and make irritating noises
to moo *vb*
when cows make a noise, they "moo"
to brush *vb*
to touch lightly
a hairbrush *n*
an object used for making your hair look nice
to slay *n (past: slew)*
to kill
to lay *vb (laid; laid)*
to put in a horizontal position
a green *n*
an area of well-kept grass – often in the middle of a village

Mechanical Martini

Robot Barman

Does “**shaken**, not **stirred**,” mean anything to you? It’s how James Bond orders his Martinis. But how do you tell that to a robot barman? It’s easy. Especially with Chapek, a robot **bartender** at the San Francisco Roboexotica exhibition. He can serve you a cocktail when you choose a drink on his control panel. He makes **screwdrivers**,



Chapek

gin Martinis, vodka Martinis, and gin and juice cocktails. But Chapek is just one of dozens of “barbots” at Roboexotica, the annual robot bartender festival.

Another barbot reads your mind to figure out how you want your drink. Chris Veigl’s Mind Reading Martini Maker creates “customised” Martinis. The robot measures your **alpha brain waves**

to see how dry you want your Martini. This is Roboexotica’s 10th anniversary, and it usually **takes place** in Vienna, Austria. The San Francisco event is smaller than the Vienna botparties, but there are plenty of “boozeslinging” robots to go around. So, will human bartenders have anything to worry about? Apparently not, as barbots

break down often. “El Español Borracho,” a small cylinder robot, makes a strong Spanish coffee, complete with shooting flames... when it works properly. El Borracho’s creator, Davalos, knows about the **trial-and-error** process involved in working with robots. “Last year I **set my arm on fire**,” she says. “And at first I didn’t notice, because the floor was also on fire.” But aside from minor fire-related incidents, Roboexotica is a good time for everyone. “You have liquor, fire and robots, how could we go wrong?” says Roboexotica organizer Johannes Grentfurtherner. ☺



Robots in History

Barbots may be relatively new to the scene, but the idea of a mechanical man is old. The first humanoid robot, Elektro, debuted at the New York World Fair in 1938 and then in 1940. Elektro walked, talked, smoked cigarettes, blew up balloons, and could move its head and arms. Built with a good sense of humour, Elektro said things like, “My brain is bigger than yours,” and, “If you use me well, I can be your slave.”

Films such as Terminator, Robocop, and the Matrix play on our fear of robots taking over. Could robots develop a conscience and motivation to take over or destroy the human race? So far, the greatest danger is malicious programming or unsafe use of robots, experts say. For the time-being, a robot world takeover can be left to Hollywood’s imagination.



Elektro

1 Discussion

1. Do you like cocktails? Why? Why not?
2. What’s your favourite cocktail? How do you make it?
3. What do you associate cocktails with?

2 Pre reading

Here are some famous cocktails. Write the ingredients under each one.



Screwdriver



Mojito



Manhattan

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

fresh mint leaves

vodka

lemon juice

freshly squeezed orange juice

dark rum

bourbon whiskey

angostura bitters

vermouth

lots of sugar

soda water

3 Reading I

Read the article once. Which cocktail is mentioned? What do they say about it?

4 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. How do you choose your cocktail?
2. How does the robot barman know what you want to drink?
3. What is the main drawback of a robot barman?
4. What accident did El Borracho’s creator have last year?

5 Colloquial English.

Look at the sentence from the article again. Can you work out the meaning of the word in bold?

There are plenty of **booze** slinging robots to go around.

As you can see, “boozeslinging” (the noun) refers to alcohol in general. It is also used as an adjective, “It was a boozey night.” (suggesting that there was a lot of alcohol consumed)

GLOSSARY

- to shake** *vb*
to move something up and down quickly
- to stir** *vb*
to move something around in a container using a spoon
- a bartender** *n*
a person who makes drinks at a bar
- a screwdriver** *n*
a drink made of vodka and orange juice
- alpha brain waves** *n*
measurable electrical signals that the brain produces
- to take place** *exp*
to occur / to happen
- to break down** *phr vb*
to stop working; to malfunction
- a trial-and-error process** *n*
a process that involves trying different ways of doing something until you are successful
- to set something on fire** *exp*
to burn something

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VOCABULARY

The Police

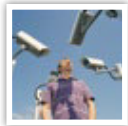
LEARN SOME MORE USEFUL WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS TO TALK ABOUT THE POLICE AND CRIME.

Suspect – someone accused of a crime.

Suspicious – a “suspicious-looking person” is someone who appears to be a criminal.

Police radio – a device police use to communicate.

Police officer – a member of a police force.



CCTV (Closed circuit television) – a system of street video cameras, used for maintaining security.



Sniffer dog (sniff dog) – a dog that is trained to find illegal drugs or explosives through smell.

Alibi – a legal excuse; an explanation of where you were at the time of a crime.

Hold up – to rob a bank or building, often using force or the threat of force.

Break in – to enter a place illegally.



Arrest – to take custody of a person because he / she is a suspect.

Court – the building where legal processes take place to decide if someone is innocent or guilty.

Trial – a legal process

to decide if someone is innocent or guilty.

Innocent – not guilty.

Guilty – not innocent.



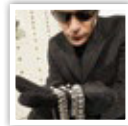
Lawyer – a person who works in the legal system. A solicitor often deals with the paperwork, and a barrister represents people in court during trials.

Community Service – a punitive sentence that requires a convicted person to perform unpaid work for the community in lieu of imprisonment

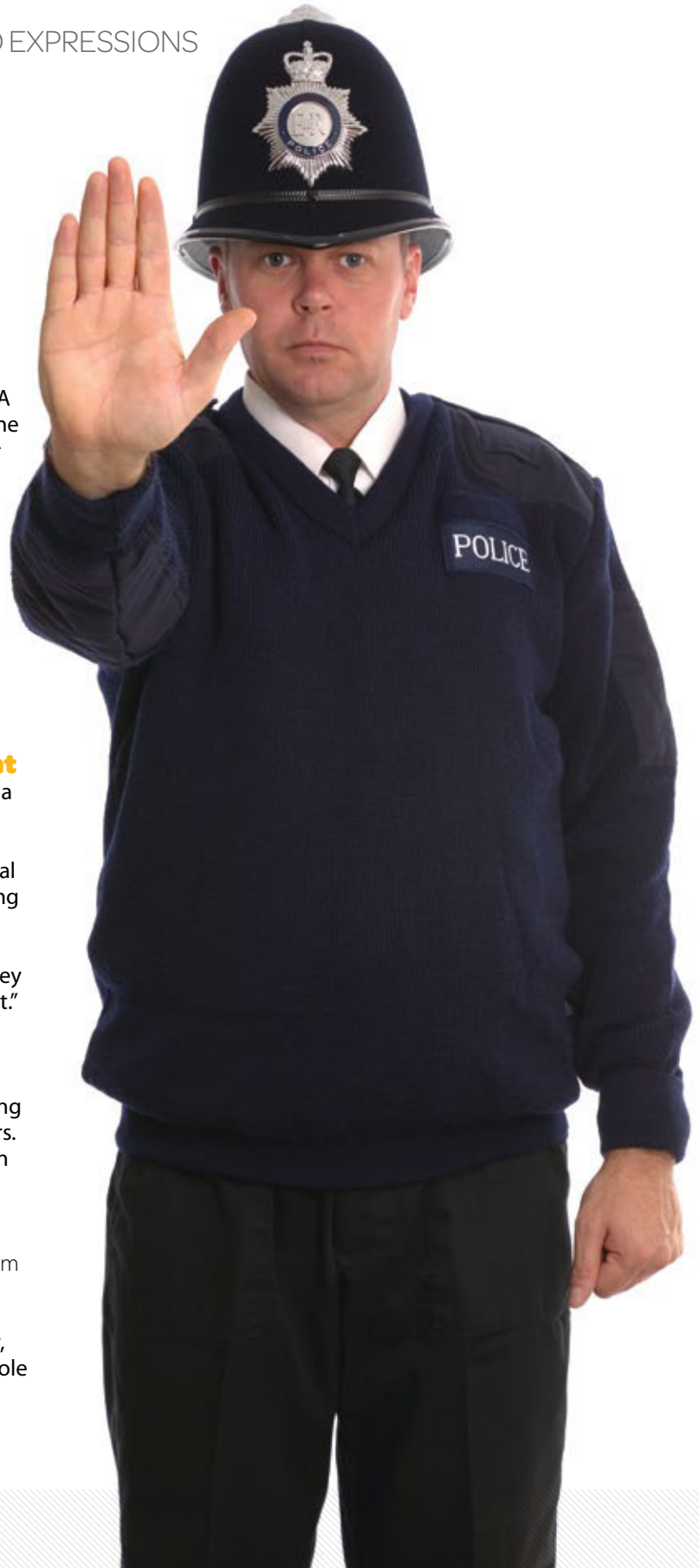
Capital punishment – Punishment by death for a crime; death penalty.



Rob – to steal from a building or person. For example, “They robbed a bank. / They robbed a man in the street.” The noun is “robbery”.



Steal – to take something that isn't yours. “Steal” is often used for things you can carry away. For example:
a) They stole the jewellery.
b) His wallet was stolen from the table.
 The noun is “theft”.
 Be careful! You cannot say, “He stole a bank. / They stole me.” In these cases, you need to use the verb “to rob”. ☺



(NOT SO) TYPICAL DIALOGUES

Police Search

IN THIS CONVERSATION, NIGELLA IS IN THE STREET. IT'S LATE AT NIGHT AND SHE'S ON HER WAY HOME. ALL OF A SUDDEN A POLICE OFFICER WITH A DOG APPEARS.



- Police:** Excuse me.
Nigella: Yes.
Police: Where are you going at this time of night? (dog growling)
Nigella: Well, I'm, erm, I'm going home.
Police: Where do you live? (dog growling)
Nigella: I live in Queen, erm, King, erm, Queen Street.
Police: You don't seem to be very sure. (dog growling)
Nigella: Sorry. It's your dog. He's making me nervous. (dog growling)
Police: (on the police radio) Yeah, there's a suspicious-looking lady here. She matches the description of the woman we're looking for. (on the radio) Yeah, short, fat...
Nigella: Excuse me, I'm not fat.
Police: (to Nigella) I do the talking here, miss. Stand by the car and place your hands on the roof. (on the radio again) Yeah, she's getting a bit cheeky. Could you send some reinforcements? This could get nasty.
Nigella: Could you please tell me what's going on?
Police: I ask the questions here, miss. Open the bag.
Nigella: My bag?
Police: Yes, open the bag.
Nigella: I will not.
Police: Now, look here. We can do this the easy way, or we do this the hard way.
Nigella: What's the hard way?
Police: Pebbles! Here, boy. (dog growling)
Nigella: OK. OK. Here you are. (he opens the bag)
Police: What's all this?
Nigella: It's a leg of lamb and some parsley.
Police: Do you think I'm stupid, or what? This looks like a human leg and some marijuana.
Nigella: It's lamb and parsley, honestly.
Police: Well, what on earth are you doing with a leg of lamb and some parsley on a Saturday night?
Nigella: I'm going home. I was at my restaurant. I am a restaurant owner. And I'm a celebrity chef – a famous one. Perhaps you've seen me on the television.
Police: On the television? Oh, right. Yes, I know. It's you. You're Nigella Gulliver, aren't you?
Nigella: That is correct.
Police: I am sorry. (the sound of a police siren) Please carry on. Can we give you a lift home?
Nigella: No, that's quite all right. I will find my own way home.
Police: Enjoy the lamb! 🍷

GLOSSARY

to growl *vb*
when a dog "growls", it makes a low, angry noise

miss *exp inform*
an informal and sometimes insulting way of referring to a woman. Can be an abbreviation of Mrs or Miss. Also, a term for an unmarried woman / girl

a roof *n*
the top and outside part of a building

cheeky *adj*
disrespectful; disrespectful but also funny

reinforcements *n*
back-up; support; more police officers

to get nasty *exp*
to become violent / difficult, etc

(what) on earth...? *exp*
used to express shock / surprise, etc

a chef *n*
a cook in a restaurant / hotel

to give someone a lift *exp*
to take a person to a place in a car / motorbike, etc

Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.

FACE TO FACE



Led Zeppelin



Pink Floyd

VS

THIS MONTH WE'RE LOOKING AT TWO GREAT BRITISH MONSTERS OF ROCK, LED ZEPPELIN AND PINK FLOYD.

Led Zeppelin

Led Zeppelin was formed in 1968. Originally they were going to be called The New Yardbirds, after an earlier band, The Yardbirds but the name was changed. One story says that guitarist Jimmy Page asked two members of The Who to form a **super-group** with him. They didn't like the idea, saying that it would **go down like a lead balloon**. So, Page formed the band with Robert Plant and renamed it Led **Zeppelin**. They released ten albums, including a **soundtrack** to their film "The Song Remains the Same" but they didn't name their first four albums. Led Zeppelin IV is considered their best, and the song "Stairway to Heaven" is thought of by many rock fans and musicians as a **masterpiece**. This song has several different styles, beginning as a folk song and ending in Heavy Metal style. This is a good description of the band's music as they have never played one style of music. They have played music from the **genres** of Folk, Rock, Reggae and Latin amongst others. They have had a controversial

career and were known for their wild behaviour. They had a reputation for destroying hotel rooms and Jimmy Page had a fascination with the **occult**. Led Zep was even accused of putting **backward messages** on their records and Satan worshipping but the messages are **debatable**. They broke up in 1980 after the death of their drummer John Bonham. They have reunited from time to time, with Bonham's son Jason on drums.

Pink Floyd

Pink Floyd are equally controversial and admired for their music. They were formed in 1964 and their first singer/guitarist was Syd Barrett. Their music was originally **psychedelic** and Syd was known for his drug-induced performances. As he used LSD more and more, Syd's performances became bizarre. He once mixed powder and hair cream then put the mix in his hair before a concert. As the heat of the lights melted the mixture, the audience thought Syd's face was melting. Eventually Syd was

replaced by David Gilmour and **faded into obscurity**. He died in 2006.

As the 1970s progressed, so did the music. "Dark side of the Moon" and "The Wall" are two of the biggest-selling albums in history. The singer/bassist Roger Waters wrote most of the music at this time and songs like "Wish you were Here" and "Comfortably Numb" are world-famous. Roger left in 1983 after a **bust up** with the rest of the band, but **made up** when they performed at Live 8 together. In the time that Roger was gone, they recorded two albums, "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" and "The Division Bell". Roger Waters had a successful **solo career**.

The verdict

Both bands have been very influential with other bands and sold millions of albums. They have both been successful for over 40 years and capable of holding massive sell-out concerts. So, our results are as follows: Led Zeppelin = 10 / 10; Pink Floyd = 10 / 10. A draw! 🍀

Secret messages?

Do you think Led Zeppelin's music contains secret messages? Follow this link and decide for yourself. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgxqgGUDno> Remember that this type of message can be found in practically anything.



GLOSSARY

- a super-group** *n*
a music group which is very famous and with many famous individuals in it
- to go down like a lead balloon** *exp*
failing in a spectacular manner
- a zeppelin** *n*
a type of balloon used for transport
- a soundtrack** *n*
the music for a film / television series, etc
- a masterpiece** *n*
a perfect creation
- a genre** *n*
a type of music
- the occult** *n*
the world of magic, ghosts, spirits, devil worshipping, etc
- a backward message** *n*
a message that can be heard properly when the record / tape / CD is played backwards
- debatable** *adj*
not definite; that can be interpreted in a variety of ways
- psychedelic (music)** *n*
drug-induced music
- to fade into obscurity** *vb exp*
to become unknown after being famous
- a bust up** *n*
a serious argument or separation
- to make up** *phr vb*
to become friends again
- a solo career** *n*
if a musician starts a "solo career", he / she leaves the band and starts playing / singing alone
- a sell-out concert** *n*
an event for which all the tickets have been sold



DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC

being perfect

GLOSSARY

- an alley** *n*
a narrow street between buildings
- gloves** *n*
clothing for the hands
- a charm** *n*
a magic power
- a prayer** *n*
words you say to God – often asking for something

THIS MONTH WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME EXPRESSIONS TO DESCRIBE THE ACT OF BEING PERFECT.



Be right up somebody's alley / street
BE PERFECT FOR SOMEONE.
 That film I saw last night is right up your **alley**.



Fit like a glove (clothing)
TO FIT PERFECTLY.
 These new trousers fit like a **glove**.



Work like a charm
TO WORK VERY WELL.
 This new washing powder works like a **charm**.



Be the answer to someone's prayers
TO BE THE ANSWER YOU WERE HOPING FOR.
 She gets everything done on time – she's the answer to all our **prayers**.



Be just the job / ticket
BE JUST WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR.
 We need someone to help us with this and you seemed to be just the job.



Be as good as new
IF SOMETHING IS "AS GOOD AS NEW", IT SEEMS TO BE NEW, EVEN THOUGH IT ISN'T.
 This car is second hand, but it's as good as new.



Fit the bill
TO BE PERFECT.
 She really fits the bill for this new job.



Have somebody's name written on it
TO BE PERFECT FOR SOMEONE.
 This job has got your name written all over it – you'll love it.



Hit the mark
BE PERFECT; BE CORRECT.
 The way you've done this is perfect. It really hits the mark.

quirky news

Naughty Donkey

A court in a remote village has sent a donkey to jail for assaulting two men. The animal won't be released until the owner pays compensation to the two victims. The men were on a **ranch** when the donkey attacked and bit one of the men on the **chest**. The other man came to the rescue but was kicked by the **feisty** animal and got his **ankle** broke. The owner of the donkey has to pay the man's medical



bills, which amount to about €300. A police officer said, "Around here, if someone commits a crime they go to jail, no matter who they are." Apparently, this isn't the first time that police in the area have sent a crime-committing animal to jail. A few years ago, a dog went to prison for 12 days after biting an elderly woman. More recently a bull **was sent down for a crime wave** that included destroying **stalls** and eating **crops**. ☺

The Great Train Robbery

The Great Train Robbery was one of the largest value robberies in British history. On August 8, 1963, a traveling post office train was stopped at a tampered red light at Bridego Railway Bridge, Ledburn in Buckinghamshire, England. It was robbed by a 15 member gang led by Bruce Reynolds and they escaped with £2.6 million.

GLOSSARY

- a ranch** *n* an extensive farm (often in the US) with large numbers of sheep / cattle, etc
- a chest** *n* the top part of the body at the front
- feisty** *adj* tough, courageous, aggressive, quick
- an ankle** *n* the joint that joins your foot to your leg
- to be sent down for something** *exp* to go to prison for a crime
- a crime wave** *n* a series of connected crimes
- a stall** *n* a place in a barn (a large building for animals) where a horse lives
- crops** *n* plants / cereals that are grown for food
- to get into trouble** *exp* to start to have problems (with the authorities / the police, etc)
- a slum** *n* a very poor residential area with houses with no basic facilities
- a turf war** *n* a war between criminal gangs for control of an area
- troubled areas** *n* the dangerous areas of a city
- down on your luck** *exp* having a lot of problems; having a lot of bad luck
- anti-establishment** *adj* against the government / authorities

Dirty Tours

A company in Rio de Janeiro has **got into trouble** for offering tours of the city's notorious **slums**. The "tourist experience with a difference" includes photo opportunities with members of drug gangs who are often involved in **turf wars** with each other. The head of tourism in the city said that the company, which claims that it isn't the only one to offer the service, didn't have the necessary licences to do this kind of thing. "Rio has more positive things to offer than tours around the city's **troubled**



areas," she said. In the past, visitors to Rio de Janeiro were given the opportunity to have dinner with the infamous Great Train Robber, Ronnie Biggs. **Down on his luck**, Ronnie had run out of money which he had stolen in Britain's biggest robbery at the time. Biggs made a living by getting his photograph taken with **anti-establishment tourists**. But they also had to buy him dinner. Ronnie eventually returned to jail in England. ☺

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bar chats

British US

Tanning

THIS MONTH, GINGER AND ANNE ARE TALKING ABOUT **TANNING**.



Ginger: Hello, Anne, how are you doing?
Anne: Yeah.
Ginger: Yeah, it's lovely, isn't it? You've got a lovely colour there. Where have you been or were you away this weekend, or...?
Anne: Do you think so? I mean my...
Ginger: Yeah!
Anne: Well, my arms aren't bad... they're kind of **yellow-y**. My legs are white. I mean, the weather hasn't been **brilliant**. But you know, years ago, I used to lie in the sun for hours and not worry about tanning creams or anything. Just put on, for example, **chip fat**...
Ginger: You're **kidding me!**
Anne: Did! And used to lie on silver paper and so the sun would be reflected off the silver paper, and I hoped would pr... promote a greater tan...
Ginger: Oh, God, but that's so dangerous now these days.
Anne: And let... but that's the... and I, I realised that that's really dangerous these days.
Ginger: Yeah...
Anne: And now we have these special creams, you know, with factor... 30...
Ginger: Absolutely.
Anne: Yeah. But, I mean, you, for example, I suppose you should actually have quite a high factor, shouldn't you?
Ginger: Yeah, well I have quite **pale skin**, really. Erm, I did once try, try this erm, **spray-on tan** which is an option of, of tanning without actually getting the sun damage. Erm, but that worked out as a complete disaster because, literally, it just started **peeling off**, but wouldn't come off completely, so it looked like I had some sort of horrible skin disease for about a week. Never again, I tell you. ☺

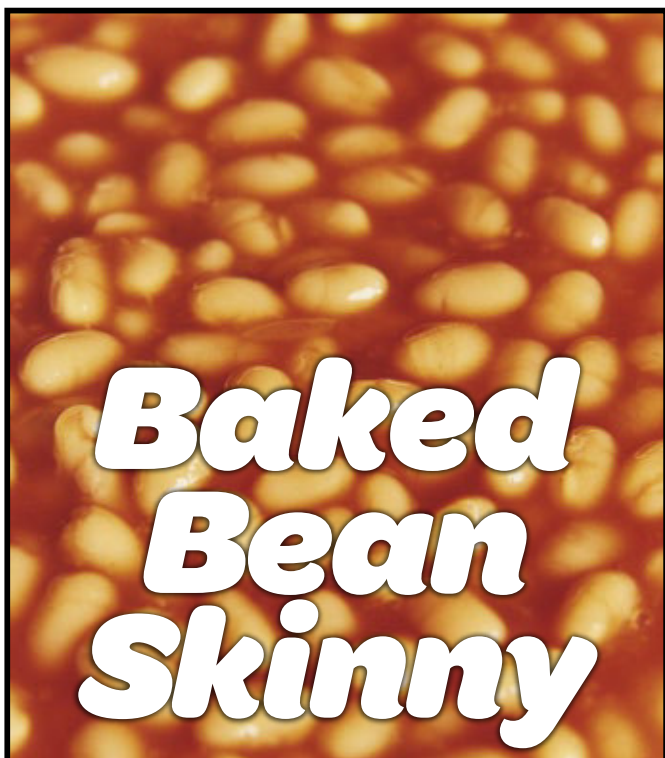
GLOSSARY
yellow-y *adj*
a bit yellow; more or less yellow
brilliant *adj*
excellent; very good
chip fat *n*
the oil used to fry chips (small pieces of potato)
you're kidding me *exp*
you're joking
pale skin *n*
white skin with no colour from the sun
a spray-on tan *n*
if you get a "spray-on tan", you make your skin brown by covering it with a chemical liquid
to peel off *phr vb*
if you skin "peels off", it starts coming off – often because it has been burnt

Trinidad & America

THIS MONTH KEYJAN AND DIANA ARE TALKING ABOUT TRINIDAD AND AMERICA.

Diana: So the other day I was in my apartment and I went into the bathroom and there was a giant cockroach in the toilet.
Keyjan: I'm from Trinidad. It's in the Caribbean.
Diana: Oh, I've been to the Caribbean, but I've never been to Trinidad before. How do you like the US?
Keyjan: I love it. I've been here almost every summer since I was a **kid**.
Diana: Oh, erm, what cities have you been to?
Keyjan: I usually come to **DC**, that's where my aunt lives. But I've travelled all the way down the east coast to Florida on a **road trip** once.
Diana: And I'm sure you went to Disneyworld, then, right?
Keyjan: I did. It was wonderful.
Diana: Erm, actually, I have family in DC as well.
Keyjan: Oh, that's cool.
Diana: So, what do you think about the American girls?
Keyjan: Erm, they're cool. They're, they're almost exactly like you see on TV sometimes.
Diana: Erm, oh, what does that mean?
Keyjan: They, they, they know how to have a good time. They **hang out**, they party, they drink, and then they go home at 2 am.
Diana: Well, what do girls do in Trinidad?
Keyjan: They go out at 2 am, and then they come home at 6.
Diana: Huh...mmm... I wonder if we can do that here...
Keyjan: I'm sure you can, but the bars might have to stay open a little later.
Diana: That's true, they all close really early.
Keyjan: And the drinking age is 21. That's kind of hard. It's 18 where I'm from.
Diana: Ah, well, you know, there... I'm going to a party right now. Do you want to come with me?
Keyjan: Oh, sure. Is it a **college** party?
Diana: No, I **graduated** from college years ago! ☺

GLOSSARY
a kid *n*
a child
DC *abbr*
Washington DC – the capital of the USA
a road trip *n*
a journey by car – often across the USA
to hang out *phr vb*
if you "hang out" with friends, you are with them in a place
college *n US*
a school, often a university
to graduate *vb*
you "graduate" when you have finished your courses at university / college



Baked Bean Skinny

1 Pre listening

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

You are going to hear a conversation from a programme called *Healthy Living*. What do you think they are going to talk about? For example: seasonal illnesses (hay fever), etc.

Make a list of five health issues they might discuss.

2 Listening I

Listen once. Which health issue are they talking about? What do they say about it?

3 Listening II

What are the main benefits of a baked bean diet? Find three ideas.

Complete the sentences with the words from the conversation.

1. You can eat as much as you like, and they fill you up, but you _____.
2. You can eat an unlimited amount of healthy food with them, such as, _____.
3. Not at all. Baked beans are _____.

4 Discussion

Look at the useful collocations in bold. Have you seen them before? Do you know what they mean? Can you guess their meaning from the context provided?

Now answer the questions.

1. What do you think about **fad diets**?
2. Why do people **go on diets**?
3. What is the best way to **lose weight** or **put on weight**?
4. What's the best way to **get fit**?



Top language tip

It is important to learn set phrases. For example, "to lose weight". Learning isolated words is useful, of course, but chunks of language are even more useful.



The Dental Appointment

1 Discussion

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1. How often do you go to the dentist?
2. When was the last time you went?
3. What did you have done?
4. How do you book your appointments?

2 Listening I

Listen once and answer these questions.

1. What time does the caller want an appointment?
a. 09:30 b. 10:00
2. What time does the caller get an appointment for?
a. 09:30 b. 10:00
3. What is the caller's address?
a. 29 Okaysha Road b. 29 Acacia Road

3 Listening II

Listen again and complete the sentences with a word or expression from below.



1. I have a bad toothache and think it's my _____.
2. When would you like _____?
3. Well, Doctor McClean _____ tomorrow.
4. ...but there are some slots _____ if you want.
5. Oh, I'm sorry. I _____ your name?
6. We'll _____ on Friday.

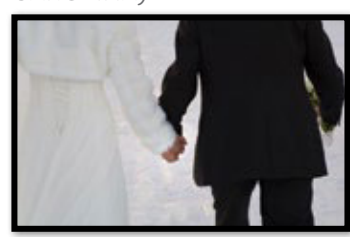


HERE ARE SOME MORE CRAZY LAWS FROM THE US. (US ENGLISH SPELLING)

It is illegal to display a confederate flag on a **courthouse**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



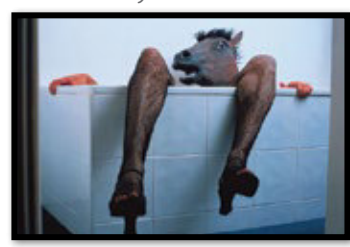
By law, if a man promises to marry an unmarried woman, the marriage must take place. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Railroad companies may be **held liable** in some instances for **scaring** horses. (SOUTH CAROLINA)

Musical instruments may not be sold on Sunday. (SOUTH CAROLINA)

Horses may not be kept in **bathtubs**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



It is illegal to sell any alcoholic **beverages** on Sunday, unless you own a **private club**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



A permit must be obtained to fire a **missile**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)

When approaching a **four-way** or **blind intersection** in a non-horse driven vehicle you must stop 100 ft from the intersection and **discharge a firearm** into the air to warn horse traffic. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Every adult male must bring a **rifle** to church on Sunday in order to **ward off** Indian attacks. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



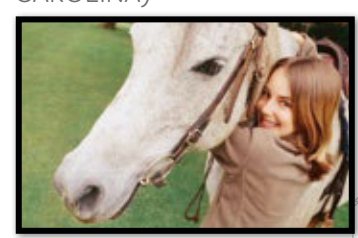
It is a capital offense to inadvertently kill someone while attempting **suicide**. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



The Fire Department may blow up your house. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Horses are to wear **pants** at all times. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



Eating watermelons in the Magnolia Street cemetery is forbidden. (SOUTH CAROLINA)



No horses are allowed into Fountain Inn unless they are wearing **pants**. (SOUTH DAKOTA)

It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep in a **cheese factory**. (SOUTH DAKOTA)



Movies that show police officers being **struck, beaten, or treated in an offensive manner** are forbidden. (SOUTH DAKOTA)



GLOSSARY

- a courthouse** *n*
a place where trails are held
- to hold someone liable for something** *exp*
to say someone is responsible for something
- to scare** *vb*
to frighten, worry
- a bathtub** *n*
a place to take a bath
- a beverage** *n*
any drink
- a four-way intersection** *n*
a place where roads meet and you can go four different directions
- a blind intersection** *n*
a place where roads meet but you can't see cars coming from other directions
- to discharge a firearm** *exp*
to shoot a gun
- to ward someone off** *exp*
to protect yourself from danger
- pants** *n US*
clothing that covers the lower half of the body
- to strike** *vb (past: struck)*
to hit sharply or bluntly
- to beat** *vb*
to repeated hit someone or something

STONE IDIOMS

THIS IS ANOTHER PART IN OUR SERIES ON "STONE" IDIOMS.



Kill two birds with one stone

TO MANAGE TO DO TWO THINGS AT THE SAME TIME.
"I went back home for Christmas and saw my parents *and* my old school friends – I killed two birds with one stone."



Stone-cold

IF SOMETHING IS "STONE-COLD", IT'S VERY COLD.
"This food is stone-cold. I'll have to heat it up!"



People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

YOU SHOULDN'T CRITICISE PEOPLE FOR FAULTS THAT YOU HAVE TOO.
"She's always criticising our work, but hers is no better than ours. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, in my opinion."



Sticks and stones may break my bones (but words will never hurt me)

THIS MEANS THAT THE NASTY / BAD THINGS THAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT YOU CAN'T HURT YOU.
"They can write what they like about my restaurant. As they say, sticks and stones may break my bones, and all that."



Stone deaf

VERY DEAF, OR WITH VERY LITTLE ABILITY TO HEAR.
"You'll have to shout – he's stone deaf."



Stone sober (stone-cold sober)

IF YOU'RE "STONE SOBER", YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY ALCOHOL.
"I was stone-cold sober. I don't know why they thought I was drunk."

DICTIONARY OF SLANG

HERE WE'VE GOT SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW TO SAY THINGS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.

Situation	Formal	Relaxed	Informal
A friend is always nervous about things and can never relax.	He is of an anxious disposition.	He's always nervous about things.	He's really uptight.
You are commenting on a tragic accident in which a number of people died.	A number of people were slain.	A number of people were killed.	Some people got wasted.
A friend wants to ask a man out but is too shy . You tell her to stop being so pathetic.	Please desist from acting in such a pitiful manner.	Stop being so pathetic!	Don't be such a wimp!
A friend of yours is from the USA.	She is a citizen of the United States of America.	She's American.	She's a yank ; she's a septic .
A friend of yours is from the UK.	He is a citizen of the United Kingdom.	He's British.	He's a Brit.
You want a friend to give you all the information concerning an incident.	I beg you to provide me with full details of this incident.	Tell me all about it.	Come on, spill the beans .

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

GLOSSARY
shy *adj*
 timid, not outgoing
septic *n inform*
 this is Cockney rhyming slang for "septic tank" = "yank" (American person). A septic tank is a tank that stores organic waste
to spill beans *exp*
 to reveal information

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DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

IN THIS SECTION DR FINGERS IDENTIFIES AND CORRECTS TYPICAL ERRORS.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Exercise

Read the following sentences. Can you correct them? Then listen to check.

1. I never thought it would be such success.

2. The film was a so boring.

3. A: Will you have time to do it? B: Yes, I hope.

4. She asked me to go to the cinema with her but I didn't want.

5. The article was mostly concerned about environmental issues.

6. He left the room without close the door.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

1 Discussion

1. Have you ever seen a UFO? When? Where?
2. Have there been any UFO sightings in your country? Where? What happened?
3. Do you believe in UFOs or other supernatural beings? Why? Why not?
4. What makes some people believe in these things?

2 Listening I

How many supernatural experiences /sightings are referred to in detail in the conversation?

3 Listening II

Make detailed notes of each incident. Try to answer the questions. Where? Who? What? When? What happened?



Vocabulary focus

Here are some verbs of movement that appear in the listening. What do they mean? How would you translate them into your language?

1. **to swerve** – "We had to swerve to avoid it."
2. **to hover** – "A black mass was hovering in the air."
3. **to spin** – "It was spinning in the air."
4. **to stall** – "All the nearby cars stalled and stopped."

Awful England

Travel writers insult Brits.

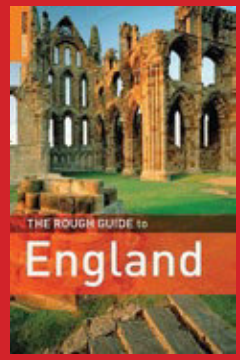


"As a glance at the **tabloid newspapers** will confirm, England is a nation of overweight, **binge-drinking**, reality-TV addicts," say four Rough Guide travel writers. The authors **give** Britain a **bad rap**, even though all four are British themselves. They **warn** travellers that the English are the "most **contradictory** people imaginable," and that traditional British reserve makes attempting to communicate with a stranger "**tantamount to** physical assault." The writers also say there is nowhere "so fascinating, beautiful, and culturally diverse, yet as **insular**, self-important and irritating, as England."

But that wasn't all. "The only certainty for visitors is that however long you spend in England, and however much you see, it still won't be enough to understand the place," the Rough Guide says. In the end though, the authors say, England isn't all bad. "Deeply conservative England is a **safe haven** for political refugees and immigrants, and Brits are animal-loving, tea-drinking charity donors, whose warmth is in the humour." A Rough Guide spokesman said he believed that visitors would see that the commentary was "**tongue-in-cheek**". "After all, our sense of humour is one of the many reasons why, along with our **heritage** and culture, that people come here," he says. ☆

Rough Guide to England

The Rough Guide to England is seen by many as the definitive guide to England. It includes a 24-page, full-colour section introducing England's highlights, with reviews of all the best places to stay, eat, drink and party – plus "author's picks" to highlight the very best options. The guide includes accounts of all the top sights including The Eden Project and The Baltic Centre in Newcastle. Plus there are practical tips on everything from cycling coast to coast, to hiking in the Yorkshire Dales. The guide also takes a look at England's culture, politics, history and wildlife.



1 Pre reading

ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

What do you think of the British? Which of the adjectives below best describes them? Give reasons.

- insular
- warm
- reserved
- cold
- passionate
- arrogant
- animal lovers
- open
- boring
- charity givers
- stylish
- creative
- food lovers
- sporty
- big-headed
- pig-headed
- diplomatic
- cautious
- patriotic
- aggressive
- calm
- trendy
- funny
- lively
- fun

2 Reading I

Read the article. Which adjectives are mentioned in relation to the British?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. What do you think the author means by the following? Give examples.

1. "The English are most contradictory people imaginable."
2. "Traditional British reserve makes attempting to communicate with a stranger tantamount to physical assault."
3. "Deeply conservative England is a safe haven for political refugees and immigrants."

4 Discussion

1. Would you agree with the rough guide writers?
2. Are any of the descriptions applicable to people in your country? What are the similarities / differences?
3. Which adjectives would you use from the list above to describe people from your country?

Expression of the day!

What do you think "tongue in cheek" means? Read over the sentence in which it appears again. Can you guess the meaning from the context? As you can see, many expressions may have individual words that you know the meaning of, but the combined expression has a completely different meaning. How does this one translate into your language?

GLOSSARY

- a tabloid newspaper** *n*
a newspaper that often has sensational stories about the rich and famous
- binge-drinking** *n*
drinking alcohol in excess
- to give someone a bad rap** *exp inform*
to speak badly about someone; to give someone a bad reputation
- to warn** *vb*
to tell someone of a danger
- contradictory** *adj*
inconsistent; saying one thing and doing another
- reserve** *n*
holding back; acting politely or cautiously
- tantamount to** *exp*
equal to
- insular** *adj*
closed; not willing to think about new ideas
- a safe haven** *n*
a protected, safe place
- tongue-in-cheek** *adj*
ironic // mocking // not serious // intending to be humorous
- a heritage** *n*
the traditions and aspects of culture that are passed on from generation to generation

PHRASAL VERB THEMES

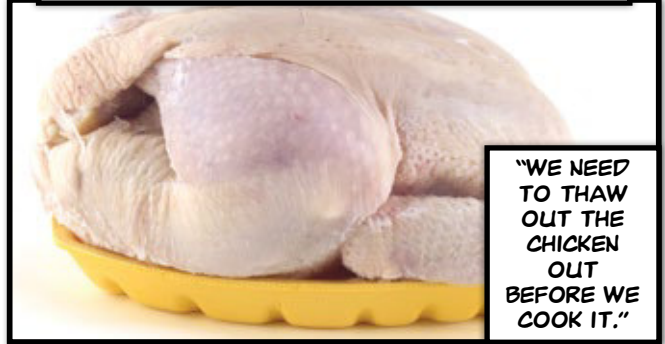
Food and Drink

THIS MONTH WE ARE LOOKING AT SOME PHRASAL VERBS YOU CAN USE TO TALK ABOUT FOOD AND DRINK.

GO OFF (FOOD)
IF FOOD "GOES OFF", IT BECOMES BAD.



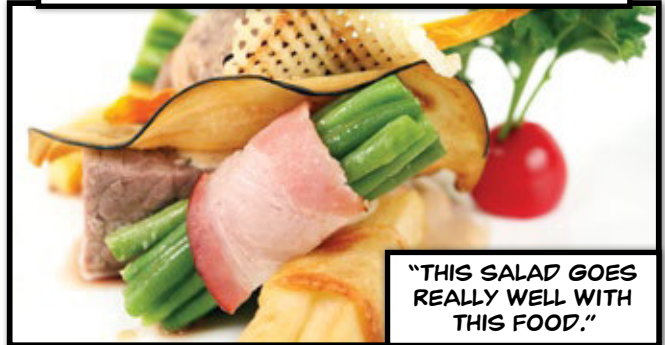
THAW OUT (FROZEN FOOD)
IF FROZEN FOOD "THAWS OUT", THE ICE MELTS.



HEAT UP
TO MAKE WARM.



GO WITH
TO BE A GOOD ACCOMPANIMENT TO.



LEAVE OVER
IF FOOD IS "LEFT OVER", THAT FOOD REMAINS AFTER THE REST HAS BEEN EATEN.



TAKE AWAY (FOOD)
TO BUY FOOD FROM A RESTAURANT IN ORDER TO TAKE IT AWAY SO YOU CAN EAT IT AT HOME.



EAT OUT / EAT IN
EAT OUT = TO EAT AT A RESTAURANT;
EAT IN = TO EAT AT HOME.



LIVE ON / OFF
TO EAT JUST ONE TYPE OF FOOD.



Silly things that the stars demand.

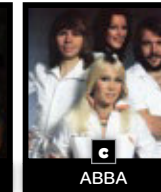
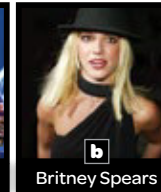
Celebrity Requests

SOME MORE CRAZY BUT TOTALLY TRUE REQUESTS FROM MUSICAL ARTISTS ON TOUR. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE MAKE THESE DEMANDS? SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN GUESS CORRECTLY. ANSWERS ON PAGE 56

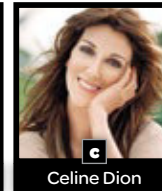
1 I want nineteen **leafy** two-metre **plants** in my dressing room.



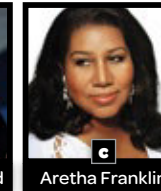
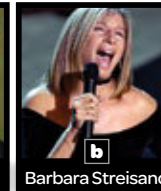
2 All the food that is brought to me must be covered in **plastic wrap**.



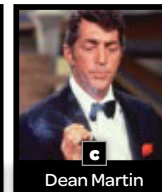
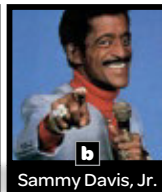
3 I need to have a cardboard, **life-size cut-out** of myself. It is of utmost importance.



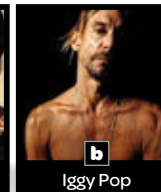
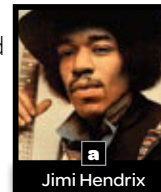
4 I would like to have **rose petals** in my toilet.



5 I need an ear, nose and throat specialist with me at all times.



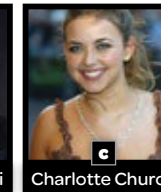
6 I need a security guard for my guitar.



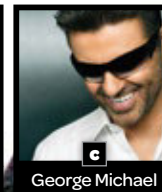
7 I don't need much. Just everything I asked for plus 4 pairs of **boxer shorts**.



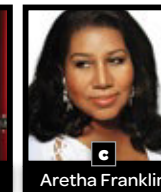
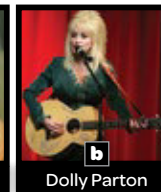
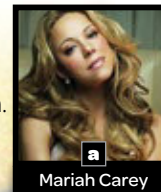
8 All the sofas in my dressing room must be placed on top of 15-centimetre **risers**.



9 Please provide me with a large arrangement of coloured flowers. There better not be any chrysanthemums, lilies, carnations or daisies mixed in though.



10 I need \$25,000 **in cash** every time I perform.



GLOSSARY

- a leafy plant** n a plant with many leaves
- plastic wrap** n transparent and thin covering to keep food fresh
- life-size** adj something that is the same size in real life
- a cut-out** n a shape cut from thick cardboard
- rose petals** n the colored parts that form a flower. In this case, the parts that form a rose
- boxer shorts** n loose underwear for men
- a riser** n an object used to increase the height of something
- in cash** exp if you pay "in cash", you pay with real money (not a credit card)

DUMB DOWN



THIS MONTH WE'RE LOOKING AT THE PHRASAL VERB "TO DUMB DOWN". BASICALLY, IF YOU "DUMB SOMETHING DOWN" YOU DELIBERATELY SIMPLIFY IT SO THAT OTHERS CAN UNDERSTAND IT MORE EASILY.

The main problem with this expression is that it has some very negative connotations. The word "dumb" can be used to mean "stupid". For example:

- a) Sometimes he can be so dumb.
 b) I'm not dumb, you know!

The word is also used in the insulting term "a dumb blonde". This is used to refer to an attractive but supposedly "stupid" blonde woman, with all the resulting **sexist** jokes known as "dumb blonde jokes". "Dumb" is also an old-fashioned and very **non-pc way** of referring to someone who is not able to talk. These days, people with an inability to speak are now known as "speech-impaired"; and the person is known as a "speech-impaired person" or "person suffering from speech-impairment".

However, "dumbing down" is a fairly common practice

these days, particularly in the **mass media**. Some think it's a good idea, others don't like it. Television channels are often accused of "dumbing down" their content in order to appeal to a wider audience.

Critics of this argue that there are more and more meaningless game shows and trivial programmes. Some channels are also accused of "dumbing down" news reports. This is because media owners want to communicate with the masses.

The education system has also been accused of dumbing down certain qualifications. The terms "**Mickey Mouse** Degrees" or "Mickey Mouse exams" are often used to describe courses or exams that people think are too easy, especially compared to exams of the past. Educational ministers argue that they are making courses and exams more practical and less theoretical.

The expression in action

Here are some examples of this month's expression.

- a) They were accused of dumbing down their content in order to appeal to a wider audience.
 b) That's too complicated for me. Could you dumb it down, please?
 c) We're worried about the dumbing down of America.
 d) The BBC has denied it is dumbing down after buying the format for a Japanese game show where contestants are humiliated through a string of tasks.

And here are some examples of the expression in song lyrics.

- a) "They told me I should come down cousin, but I flatly refuse, I ain't dumb down nothing." By the American rapper Lupe Fiasco on his song "Dumb It Down".
 b) "I dumb down for my audience and double my dollars / they criticize me for it; but they all yell 'holla!'" By American rapper Jay-Z on the song "Moment of Clarity". ❄️

GLOSSARY

sexist *adj*
 that is insulting to women
a non-pc way *exp*
 a way that is insulting to some. "PC" is an abbreviation of "politically correct"
the mass media *n*
 the large news channels, newspapers, magazines etc
Mickey Mouse *adj*
 a "Mickey Mouse" exam is one that is too easy to be taken seriously

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ROAD RAGE (PAGE 5)

- 1 Reading I**
 2) Pre reading
 a. behaviour people display when experiencing road rage
 b. people with aggressive phrases on licence plates are more likely to experience road rage
 c. if people decorate their cars and make their car their "territory", they are also likely sufferers of road rage

- 2 Reading II**
 1. people with these customised licence plates are more likely to feel road rage
 2. road rage is a big problem there. According to the article, there are more than 20,000 injuries every year and almost 400 deaths.
 3. trying to make vanity plates illegal because they feel they have a large number of aggressive drivers

Phrasal Verb Alert

- a. to drive in front of someone, even though it is not your turn
 b. to be disconnected
 c. to interrupt someone to express your own ideas

PETS OF HONOUR (PAGE 7)

1d 2f 3a 4c 5e 6b

USEFUL VOCABULARY (PAGE 8)

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

DR FINGERS' ERROR

CORRECTION CLINIC (PAGE 13)

1. What time do you wake up?
2. Does / Did she like the film?
3. I normally drink coffee in the morning.
4. She doesn't often go home by bus.
5. He never reads the newspaper.
6. How long does it take you to get home?

SUNKEN TREASURE (PAGE 13)

- 3) Discoveries in the present about things from the past

1 Listening II

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

Grammar Spot: Sentence "a" is in the past passive; sentence "b" is an active sentence

Phrasal verbs alert

- a. to sink
 b. to fall / decrease
 c. to be relegated (move down a division)
 d. to stop working (temporarily)

GRAMMAR FUN (PAGE 14)

1. threw
2. They're
3. there
4. there
5. too
6. to
7. through

THE WORKING MCMILLIONAIRE (PAGE 15)

1 Reading II

1. happy
2. house
3. wrong
4. did the right thing
5. three

Grammar Spot

- c. It's OK for her to stay at home
 a. ...the gerund.

TRIVIA MATCHING (PAGE 16)

1i 2k 3a 4c 5g 6b 7j 8l 9e 10h 11m 12d 13f

NOBEL NOBILITY (PAGE 21)

1 Pre listening

1. Doris Lessing – Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) She won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007.
2. Jean Paul Sartre – Paris, France The Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964
3. Samuel Beckett – Dublin, Ireland

The Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969

4. Pablo Neruda – Parral, Chile Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971

2 Listening I

1. Doris Lessing
2. She was self-taught and won a Nobel Prize as a feminist writer. She also campaigned against the use of nuclear weapons

3 Listening II

1. the year Doris Lessing was born
2. when she began writing
3. the year her first marriage ended
4. the year her second marriage ended
5. the year the Nobel Academy judges told her she would never win a prize because they didn't like her work

Word Alert

- 1) parents or whoever you live with as a child
- 2) as a child

LITTLE JOKES (PAGE 36)

1d 2h 3e 4a 5f 6c 7g 8b

MISHEARD LYRICS (PAGE 37)

1a 2b 3b 4a 5a 6b 7b 8a

MECHANICAL MARTINI (PAGE 38)

2 Pre reading

- Screwdriver:** vodka, freshly-squeezed orange juice
Mojito: fresh mint leaves, lots of sugar, lime juice, light rum, soda water
Manhattan: bourbon whiskey, angostura bitters, vermouth

3 Reading I

The screwdriver – it is one of the cocktails that the robot bartender can make

4 Reading II

1. There is a control panel for you to choose your cocktail.
2. The barbot reads your mind by measuring your alpha brain waves.
3. The robot barman breaks down a lot.
4. The creator set his arm on fire last year.

BAKED BEAN SKINNY (PAGE 47)

2 Listening I

Losing weight. They say if you go on this diet, which consists of baked beans with a variety of other healthy foods, you are guaranteed to lose weight.

3 Listening II

1. won't get fat
2. fruit, vegetables, pasta, potatoes and lean meat
3. low calorie

PHONE CONVERSATION (PAGE 47)

2 Listening I

1b 2a 3b

3 Listening II

You can lose weight; it's cheap; it's simple

4 Listening III

1. wisdom teeth
2. the appointment
3. is booked up
4. on Friday
5. didn't catch
6. see you

DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC (PAGE 51)

1. I never thought it would be such a success.
2. The film was so boring.
3. A: Will you have time to do it? B: Yes, I hope so.
4. She asked me to go to the cinema with her but I didn't

- want to.
 5. The article was mostly concerned with environmental issues.
 6. He left the room without closing the door.

HIGH-SPEED CHASE (PAGE 51)

2 Listening I

Five incidents are mentioned.

3 Listening II

1. A flying saucer about 2,000 metres in the air. Astrobiologists say it might have been leftover pieces of comets and meteorites.
2. A black mass hovering over Rhyl.
3. A flying disc over Newport.
4. A spinning object with legs above the Rhondda Valley.
5. A UFO landing.

AWFUL ENGLAND (PAGE 52)

2 Reading I

overweight, binge-drinking, reality-TV addicts, contradictory, reserved, culturally diverse, insular, self-important, irritating, animal-loving, tea-drinking, warm, charitable

3 Reading II

1. The article says the English are both insular and culturally diverse, and then self-important yet charity givers.
2. It is very difficult to communicate with British people.
3. Refugees and immigrants feel comfortable in deeply-conservative England.

Expression of the day: Tongue-in-cheek: a comment that may seem serious, but is actually ironic / funny.

CELEBRITY REQUESTS (PAGE 54)

1b 2a 3b 4b 5a 6c 7b 8b 9a 10c

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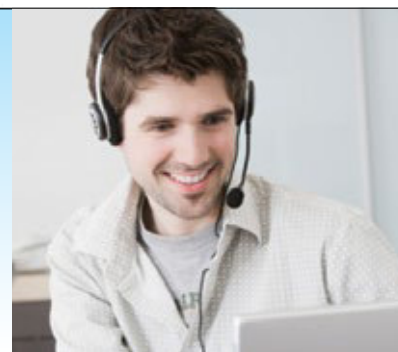
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AUDIO SCRIPTS

SUNKEN TREASURE (PAGE 13) 500 YEAR OLD TREASURE FOUND.

Host: Hi, and welcome to History Today. A shipwreck was just found off the coast of South Africa. I'm speaking with archaeologist Deirdre Noli. Tell me about it, Deirdre.

Deirdre: Yes, well, the ship was found by diamond miners off the coast of Namibia.

Host: What were diamond miners doing at the bottom of the sea?

Deirdre: They were searching for diamonds on the seabed of Namibia's southwest coast. But instead of finding diamonds, they found a 500-year-old wreck filled with treasures.

Host: So, what was the boat doing there in the first place?

Deirdre: Well, it sank about 500 years ago. It was carrying a treasure of gold coins, copper, ivory and cannons.

Host: Where did it come from?

Deirdre: It was probably a Spanish or Portuguese ship from the 15th century, although we aren't certain. The copper we found on the boat probably means the ship was sent by a government looking to make cannons. There was ivory on it too, and this was often used by royal families as a form of payment for goods. So, we think the ship was on official business when it went down.

Host: What happened to it?

Deirdre: Why it sank is a mystery. The area is rocky and often foggy. However, at the time this ship sailed no one knew enough about the area to avoid it. They had very simple navigation tools back then.

Host: What about the treasure?

Deirdre: It's strange that the captain had so many gold coins on board. Either he made a very good deal, or he was a pirate.

Host: Very interesting. And I suppose the big question is, who is going to get all the treasure?

Deirdre: Yes, that's always a difficult one. At the moment, the Namibian government is overseeing things, so we'll have to wait and see.

Host: OK. Thanks very much for that.

Deirdre: No, problem.

NOBEL NOBILITY (PAGE 21) OLDEST NOBEL WINNER

Host: Welcome to Literature Today. I am here with Nigel Parsons. He's here to talk about the Nobel Prize winner, author Doris Lessing. So, tell us something about her.

Nigel: Well, she's the eleventh woman to win a Nobel Prize for literature in the 106 years of Nobel Prize history. And winning was a bit of a surprise for her. Back in the 1960s, the Nobel Academy judges told her they didn't like her work, and that she'd never win a Nobel.

Host: Incredible. So, tell us something about her life.

Nigel: Well, Lessing was born on 22nd October 1919 to Captain Alfred Tayler and Emily Maude Tayler. She had a very traditional upbringing at a single-sex, all-girls school in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). She left school aged 14, and was self-educated. A year later, she left home and worked as a nursemaid, and it was around this time that she started reading material on politics and sociology – books that her employer gave her to read.

Host: So, when did she start writing?

Nigel: She began writing around 1937. She went to Salisbury (the capital of Rhodesia) to work as a telephone operator. And it was there that she married her first husband, Frank Wisdom. They

had two children, before the marriage ended in 1943.

Host: And when did she get involved in politics?

Nigel: Well, following her divorce, Lessing was drawn to the Left Book Club, a Communist book club. And it was here that she met her second husband, Gottfried Lessing. They were married shortly after she joined the group and had a child together, before the marriage also ended in divorce in 1949.

Host: She is most famous as a feminist author, isn't she?

Nigel: Yes, that's it. But also for her campaigning against nuclear arms and South African apartheid. One of her books, *The Golden Notebook* is considered a feminist classic, although she doesn't like the idea of being pigeon-holed as a feminist author.

Host: OK. Thank you very much, Nigel. That was really interesting.

Nigel: My pleasure.

BAKED BEAN SKINNY (PAGE 47) ARE BEANS A MIRACLE DIET?

Host: Welcome to Healthy Living. Here with me in the studio is Skinny World dietician Nancy Smith. She's here to tell us about the baked bean diet. So, what is this new diet all about?

Nancy: Well, this diet is guaranteed to make you lose weight.

Host: But how effective is it?

Nancy: Well, our health programme helped one client lose 60 kilos in 9 months by eating just canned baked beans. He didn't even need to exercise.

Host: Only baked beans? How can you lose weight by eating just baked beans?

Nancy: It's simple. You can eat as much as you like, and they fill you up, but you won't get fat.

Host: But how's that possible? You can't just live off one type of food, can you?

Nancy: Baked beans are full of fibre, and, if you wanted, you could eat just baked beans. But with our diet, you can eat more than just beans. You can eat an unlimited amount of healthy food with them, such as fruit, vegetables, pasta, potatoes and lean meat. These foods are filling but if you always eat baked beans, you won't need to eat so much of this other food.

Host: But doesn't it get a bit boring?

Nancy: Not at all. Our clients seem to like the beans. The man who lost 60 kilos has eaten over half a tonne of beans since June 2007. That's over 1,500 cans. He now eats six cans a day, having beans with rice for lunch and beans with a potato for tea.

Host: But isn't eating all those beans bad for you?

Nancy: Not at all. Baked beans are low calorie. Not to mention they're cheap, and it doesn't matter what brand you buy. It's the ideal diet. Another client lost six kilos a month for six months eating two large cans of baked beans a day. He ate them with bread and pasta.

Host: Is there any medical evidence to back this up?

Nancy: Well, doctors we spoke to suggest limiting your variety of foods to lose weight faster. Eating just baked beans is one way of doing that.

Host: OK, thanks, Nancy, although I don't think I'll be trying this one.

THE DENTAL APPOINTMENT (PAGE 47)

Receptionist: Hello, Thompson and Son's Dental Clinic. What can I do for you?

Ella: Hello, I'd like to make an appointment. I have a bad toothache and think it's my wisdom teeth.

Receptionist: Yes, that's fine. When would you like the appointment?

Ella: As soon as possible if that's OK.

Receptionist: Well, Doctor McClean is booked up tomorrow and Thursday but there are some slots on Friday if you want.

Ella: Friday sounds good. Is it possible in the morning at, say, 10.00?

Receptionist: He has an appointment at 10. What about 9.30?

Ella: Yes! That's perfect.

Receptionist: OK, so I'll put you down for 9.30 am, Friday morning. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't catch your name?

Ella: It's Ella Livingstone.

Receptionist: And your address?

Ella: It's 29 Acacia Road.

Receptionist: Could you spell the name of the road, please?

Ella: Yes it's A-C-A-C-I-A.

Receptionist: Yes I've got that. OK well that's it. We'll see you on Friday.

Ella: Thanks a lot.

Receptionist: Bye.

HIGH-SPEED CHASE (PAGE 51)

Reporter: It's an alien invasion! Police in South Wales just had a run-in with an alleged UFO. We're here in the studio with police officer Mary Clarkson. She claims she saw it all from the air. So, Mary, what did you see?

Mary: We were in the helicopter, on routine work, when a flying saucer almost hit us at about 2,000 metres – just as we were waiting to land at the St Athen's Ministry of Defense base. We had to swerve to avoid it. Once we got over the initial shock, we chased the ship across the Bristol Channel, but it was so fast we lost the trail. It vanished around the coast of North Devon.

Reporter: Astrobiologists say that UFOs are most likely leftover pieces of comets and meteorites heading for earth. Don't you think that what you saw was a meteorite fragment?

Mary: No way. This was a ship. We all got a very close look at it. This isn't the first UFO sighting here. In the past few years, there've been 30 different reports of strange flying objects all over Wales. One person described "a black mass hovering over Rhyl", another saw a "flying disc" over Newport and a third report tells of a "spinning object with legs" seen above the Rhondda Valley.

Reporter: So, is this your first experience of aliens?

Mary: Oh, no. I had another experience back in 1975. Then, I was one of 170 people who witnessed a UFO land. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was a sweltering day, and the sky was a real clear blue. Suddenly, at the crossroads in town a ship landed. It was funny-looking, shaped like a hat. It had to be around 10-metres. It landed and stopped. It stayed there, still for a few minutes. No one who saw it dared to blink even, everyone was so shocked. Something strange happened, when it landed too. All the nearby cars stalled and stopped. I'll never forget it.

Reporter: Wow! That gave me a chill up my spine! Thanks, officer Mary.



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LAS RESPUESTAS:

1. March:

Q: What is the film Pablo Picasso appears in?

A: **The Testament of Orpheus (1962)**, it was a film by Jean Cocteau.

2. April:

Q: What is the connection between a piano piece and a dollhouse?

A: In the book *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* (2001), the author Amy Chua describes some anecdotes related to her daughter in an attempt to explain the term 'Tiger Parent'. **One day, Amy threatened to donate her daughter's dollhouse to the Salvation Army if she couldn't learn a piano piece which was extremely difficult. Amy said that apart from that,** she also said that her daughter could have no dinner, no lunch, no Christmas presents and no birthday parties for four years. Even after that, the poor girl was still getting it wrong.

3. May:

Q: What is the name of the Yoga DVD that can help you to learn more about Slackline yoga?

A: **It is called 'Slacksana', the Art of Slackline Yoga.**

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