How to greet the interviewer in English!

New words
Interesting words and expressions for this year!

Slang
Learn 8 useful slang terms.

Ireland special
Find out all about Irish history, Irish films, the Celts, and Irish sports.

Murder mystery!
Listen to the final part of our 10-part murder-mystery The Trouser Snatcher.

Crime special
Read about one of the UK’s most famous criminals.

Twins
Read some fascinating stories about twins!

PLUS... PHRASAL VERBS, GRAMMAR, IDIOMS, VOCABULARY, USEFUL EXPRESSIONS... AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.
Hi everybody and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, you can find out how to greet an interviewer in English. This is really useful as our opinions of people are formed in the first few minutes of meeting them. So, it’s extremely important that you make a good impression. These mini-dialogues should help you with that. Our main focus this month is Ireland. Find out about Irish history, Irish films and Irish sports, among many other things. Also this month, we’re looking at one of Britain’s most famous criminal cases: the story of Dr Crippen. Find out what he got up to and how he became so infamous. On another note, you may have seen a dubbed film or television series with Will Smith, but have you ever heard him speaking English? Well, now you can find out what he sounds like...
See if you can find the following words in the wordsearch.

Answers on page 53

Hotel
Receptionist
Room
Guest
Porter
Bellboy
Lobby
Key
Cot
Bill
Card
Restaurant
Bathroom
Shower
Window
Pillow
Blanket
Duvet
Manager
Heating
Television
Balcony
Bar
Pool
Gym
Floor
Bed
View

Hotel
Receptionist
Room
Guest
Porter
Bellboy
Lobby
Key
Cot
Bill
Card
Restaurant
Bathroom
Shower
Window
Pillow
Blanket
Duvet
Manager
Heating
Television
Balcony
Bar
Pool
Gym
Floor
Bed
View
Spaniel Superstar

A dog has won an award. Ghillie, a Springer spaniel, saved his owner’s life after she collapsed. Ghillie started to bark when he saw his owner on the floor. And he didn’t stop until some people arrived to help. One of the rescuers said, “The only reason that we came to help the lady is because the dog would not shut up. It just barked and barked and in the end we decided that we had to go and see what the problem was”. Mrs Wilson was taken to hospital in an ambulance where she made a complete recovery. Now, the community are going to give an award to Ghillie. “He saved my life,” said Mrs Wilson.

Poetry in English

Learn lots of English with these fantastic poems.

- Learn over 150 useful words and expressions!
- Improve your listening skills!
- Increase your range of vocabulary!
- Perfect your pronunciation and spoken English!

This book is perfect for learners of all ages, parents of children learning English, teachers of English!

It includes:
- A selection of poems by George Szirtes.
- Activities to increase your range of vocabulary.
- Audio files to improve your listening skills.
- A wide variety of topics and themes related to English-language culture.
- Comprehension exercises so you can check your understanding.
- Pronunciation activities to perfect your speaking skills.
- Glossaries in English so you can learn the meaning of new words.

This book for intermediate- to advanced-level students will really improve your English! Visit our website for more information: products.learnhotenglish.com/poetry-in-english

www.learnhotenglish.com
Pre-listening
See if you can say the following phone numbers.
1. 0176 546 3468
2. 0137 842 4096
3. 0172 336 6708
4. 0329 487 5529
5. 0945 228 3564

Listening I
You are going to listen to a telephone conversation. Listen once and write down the following telephone numbers.
1. His office number. ___________________________
2. His mobile number. ___________________________

Listening II
See if you can put the telephone conversation in order. Then, listen again to check your answers.
A: Reception: Yes, his office number is 976 243 087. _____
B: Reception: Oh, good morning, Mrs Smith. What can I do for you? _____
C: Reception: BYD Computing. How may I help you? _____
D: Caller: Oh, could you save me a few copies, please? I’ll be in later to pick them up. _____
E: Caller: Hi, this is Sarah Smith. _____
F: Caller: I was just wondering if you had Bob’s number. _____
G: Caller: And have you got his mobile number? _____
H: Caller: Thanks very much. I’ll see you later. _____
I: Caller: Oh, and I was just wondering if the copies of the brochure were back from the printer yet. _____
J: Reception: Yes, they are here in reception. _____
K: Caller: Thanks very much. _____
L: Reception: No problem. _____
M: Reception: OK. I’ll put some just under my desk. _____
N: Reception: Yes, it’s 649 021 445. _____
O: Reception: Bye. _____

Low Level
1. He like to speak about himself.
2. She doesn’t eats fish.
3. This one is biggest that the other one.
4. I like this ones.
5. She is swimming in this moment.
6. That chairs are ours.

High Level
1. We saw each other the last night.
2. Have you got one pen that you could lend me?
3. Sally is doctor – just like her father.
4. I worked like a barman last year.
5. We often listen to radio in the car.
6. We went to beach for our summer holidays.
7. The dogs are very sociable animals.

How to say telephone numbers!

Saying telephone numbers
Remember the following:
In British English we say “oh” for “0” (the Americans use the word “zero”). For example: “019” is “oh, 19.”
For double figures, British speakers often say “double + the number.” For example: “66” is “double six.”
Remember, when saying numbers the objective is to make it easy for the other person to write down the number. So, say them as clearly as possible, and group them into twos or threes. For example: “493 276 44 62.”

Error Terror
Correct the mistakes in the sentences. Then, listen to check your answers.

LOW LEVEL
1. He like to speak about himself.
2. She doesn’t eats fish.
3. This one is biggest that the other one.
4. I like this ones.
5. She is swimming in this moment.
6. That chairs are ours.

HIGH LEVEL
1. We saw each other the last night.
2. Have you got one pen that you could lend me?
3. Sally is doctor – just like her father.
4. I worked like a barman last year.
5. We often listen to radio in the car.
6. We went to beach for our summer holidays.
7. The dogs are very sociable animals.
How much do you earn? Have you ever compared your salary to other professions? A new study on salaries has some interesting results.

The average British salary is about £30,000 a year. People earning below the average include cleaners (on about £9,000 a year), farmers (£28,000 a year), vicars (£24,000) and carpenters (£28,000). Those earning slightly more than the average include nurses (who are on about £31,000 a year), vets (about £38,000 a year) and teachers (£39,000).

A bit higher in the pay scales you can find architects (who earn about £52,000 a year), solicitors (£53,000), financial advisers (£54,000), and dentists (£63,000). Those in the top 10%, who earn a salary of more than £75,000 include MPs, doctors and airline pilots.

At the very top, there are people such as Prime Minister David Cameron (who is on about £160,000 a year), BBC boss Tony Hall (around £500,000 a year), and the queen (who gets about £46 million a year). Other high earners include actors, singers and footballers, some of whom are on seven-figure salaries.

Britain’s highest-paid executive is Sir Martin Sorrell. He’s the CEO of WPP, a British multinational advertising and public relations company. Sir Martin earns about £1.7 million a year, but with bonuses his overall salary is over £40 million.

Lucky him!
If you want to get a better job, travel more, pass exams or speak more fluently, start improving your English with Learn Hot English NOW! Visit the shop on our website www.learnhotenglish.com/shop

Learn better English for your future!

Magazines, books, classes, online solutions... Learn Hot English has everything you need to improve your English. And there’s so much to choose from:

- Learn Hot English magazine – reading and listening activities on language, film, culture, music, travel, the news, business, pronunciation...
- English Unlocked! – a four-level course with listening, reading, pronunciation, grammar, speaking and vocabulary activities.
- Phrasal Verbs and Idioms Booklets – hundreds of useful idioms and phrasal verbs with audio files, images and sample sentences.
- Travel English – all the English you need for travelling abroad with dialogues, images, exercises and vocabulary activities.
- Skype-Phone classes – speaking classes from anywhere in the world with trained native English teachers and free materials!
- Business English – learn hundreds of the most useful business English words and expressions, complete with videos, listening activities and language exercises.

Plus, lots, lots more!
All our products are available in digital formats too!
www.learnhotenglish.com/shop

Or for some fantastic discounts, contact subscriptions@learnhotenglish.com

Learn better English for your future! www.learnhotenglish.com
This is another part in our series on nursery rhymes and their fascinating origins.

**Little Miss Muffet**
This rhyme is all about a little girl called Little Miss Muffet. The rhyme is based on a real girl whose name was Patience Muffet. Her stepfather, Dr Muffet (1553-1604), was a famous entomologist (an insect scientist) who wrote the first catalogue of British insects.

No one is sure if the poem is based on a true story, but you can imagine it happening.

*Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, Eating her curds and whey, Along came a big spider, Who sat down beside her, And frightened Miss Muffet away.*

**Little Bo Peep**
This song is all about a little shepherdess called Bo Peep. She falls asleep while she is working. The **moral** of the story is that you should take responsibility for your work or face the consequences. Some of the words in other verses of the rhyme have almost completely disappeared from the English language. These include words such as “espied” (saw) and “hillocks” (small hills).

*Little Bo peep has lost her sheep, And doesn’t know where to find them. Leave them alone and they’ll come home, Wagging their tails behind them.*

**Little Boy Blue**
There is a theory that “Little Boy Blue” refers to Cardinal Thomas Wolsey (1475-1530). He was an important figure during the reign of King Henry VIII. Wolsey was famous for being extremely rich and arrogant. He had many enemies and was unpopular with the people of England. He was called the “Boy Bachelor” after he received his degree from Oxford University at the age of fifteen. The expression “to blow your horn” can mean “to brag” – something that Cardinal Wolsey often did. Between 1514 and 1525, Wolsey transformed a medieval manor into the magnificent Hampton Court Palace, which you can still visit today.

At this time, England was a rich country mostly because of the wool trade and the export of wool. The reference to “the little boy who looks after the sheep” could refer to Wolsey’s concern to make money personally from the wool tax. And the reference to “blue” could come from Wolsey’s coat of arms, which included the blue faces of four leopards. Many historians see this rhyme as a form of indirect criticism of Wolsey. Of course, any open and direct criticism of Wolsey at the time would have meant imprisonment or even death. Eventually, Wolsey fell out of favour, and in 1529 Henry VIII confiscated all of Wolsey’s lands and possessions.

*Little Boy Blue come blow your horn, The sheep’s in the meadow, the cow’s in the corn. Where is the boy who looks after the sheep? He’s under a haystack fast asleep.*

GLOSSARY

- **a tuffet** n an old word that refers to a unit of measurement - half a basket, more or less. So, the girl was sitting on a basket.
- **curds** n a dairy product similar to yoghurt
- **whey** n a liquid that is produced when milk is curdled (processed)
- **a shepherdess** n a woman who looks after sheep who are in the mountains/hills, etc
- **to fall asleep** exp to start sleeping
- **moral** n a lesson you learn from a story/experience
- **a hill** n a small mountain
- **a tail** n the long part of an animal’s body that comes out of its back
- **arrogant** adj with ideas of superiority about yourself
- **a bachelor** n a man who hasn’t married
- **a degree** n a university qualification
- **to brag** exp to say things about how good you are
- **the wool trade** n the business of buying and selling wool (sheep’s hair)
- **a tax** n money you pay to the government for services: the police, education, etc
- **to fall out of favour** exp to become unpopular
- **a coat of arms** n an emblem (series of images) that represents a family/person/organisation
- **meadow** n an area of grass or farmland
- **haystack** n lots of hay (dried grass) in one pile
**Hair Cut**
A man is getting his hair cut. All of a sudden, he asks the barber, “Hey, I’ve got a two-year-old son. When would be the best time to bring him in?” And the barber answers, “When he’s four.”

**Single man**
Jim is 53 years old and still single. One day a friend asks, “Hey, Jim. Why aren’t you married? Can’t you find anyone?” And Jim replies, “Actually, I’ve found many women I wanted to marry, but when I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn’t like them.”

His friend thinks for a moment and says, “I’ve got the perfect solution: just find a girl who is just like your mother.” “OK,” says Jim. “That sounds like a good idea.”

A few months later, the two friends meet again and Jim’s friend says, “Hey, Jim, did you find the perfect girl then? Did your mother like her?” “Yes, I found the perfect girl,” said Jim. “She was just like my mother. You were right. My mother liked her very much.” And the friend says, “Well, then, what’s the problem? Why aren’t you married?” And Jim replies, “My father doesn’t like her.”

---

**Strong Man**
The young man at a construction site is talking about how strong he is. After several minutes, one of the older workers says, “I’ll bet you a week’s wages that I can carry something in a wheelbarrow over to that building over there that you won’t be able to wheel back.” “OK,” says the young man. “You’re on.”

So, the old man grabs the wheelbarrow by the handles and then says to the young man, “Right, get in.”

---

**GLOSSARY**
- a barber: n - a man who cuts men’s hair
- a construction site: n - an area of land where they are building something
- to bet: vb - to play a game for money
- to carry: vb - to take something in your arms from one place to another
- a wheelbarrow: n - a little cart for carrying things. It has one or more little wheels
- to wheel: vb - to push something in an object that has wheels
- you’re on: exp - I accept your offer
- to grab: vb - to use your hands to take suddenly and with force
- a handle: n - a part of a door/machine, etc that is designed to be held/operated by your hand
- single: n - not married

---

**Phrasal verbs booklets**
Learn hundreds of phrasal verbs, really improve your English and speak like a native speaker! Booklet comes with listening files!

Get your Phrasal verbs booklets from...
www.learnhotenglish.com/shop
This month: saying sorry.

**Saying sorry for doing something wrong**
- I’m sorry about that.
- I’m sorry that I broke your tennis racket.
- I’m sorry.
- Sorry. (If you tread on someone or bump into someone.)
- Whoops! (informal)
- I’m really sorry about crashing your car.
- Sorry about the mess. I’ll clear it up later.
- I’d like to apologise for the way I spoke to you earlier.
- Sorry that I lied to you.

**Saying sorry for someone else**
- I’m sorry but little Sally is always smashing things.
- I’m sorry about Jim’s behaviour last night.

**Responding to an apology**
- Never mind.
- It’s OK. / That’s OK.
- Don’t worry about it.
- We’ll be all right.
- No harm done.
- It could have happened to anyone.
- No worries. (informal)

**GLOSSARY**
- tread vb to put your foot on
- to bump into someone exp to hit someone with your body or a part of your body accidentally
- to smash vb to break glass; to break completely and into small pieces

---

**English Unlocked!**

Learn over 500 words and move up a level with the course book English Unlocked! Your complete, self-study English learning pack. Learning guaranteed!

- Increase your range of vocabulary!
- Improve your listening skills!
- Perfect your pronunciation!
- Develop your reading skills!

*English Unlocked! will give you the English you need for travel, work, exams (FCE, IELTS, TOEFL...) and life!*

- 4 levels to choose from!
- More than 50 hours of learning material!
- Over 100 pages divided into 8 units!
- 3 hours of listening material!
- Videos with exercises!
- A variety of English accents!

Read and listen to this product on an iPad, iPhone, smartphone, tablet computer, PC, Mac...TOEFL...) and life!

To buy your copy, visit our shop at: [www.learnhotenglish.com](http://www.learnhotenglish.com)

“Best money I ever spent on an English course. My English is so much better now because of this English Unlocked. Thanks Hot English!” - Daniel K (Cologne, Germany)
The bank

A bank
A bank manager
A PIN number
A cash machine (an "ATM" automated teller machine in US English)
A cashier
A safe

A coin
A note / bill
A credit card
A cheque

A cheque book
A traveller’s cheque
A cash machine
A piggy bank
A purse

A wallet
A bag of money
An alarm
A security guard

A vault
Pounds
Dollars
Euros
Yen
This month: the bank. Listen and repeat these expressions.

**What you say**
- I'd like to pay this money into my account, please.
- I'd like to take 600 euros out, please.
- What's my bank balance, please? / Could you give me a bank statement, please?
- I'd like to transfer some money from my current account, please.
- Are there any bank charges?
- I'd like to cash this cheque, please.
- I'd like to apply for a mortgage. / I'd like to apply for an overdraft, please.
- How much interest does it pay? / What's the interest rate?
- I've lost my credit card. / I need to cancel my credit card urgently.
- I'd like to apply for a new credit card, please.
- I'm sorry but I've forgotten my PIN number.
- Could you change this note for me, please?
- Could I have some larger bills and small bills, please?
- Please give it to me in 20-euro notes.
- Could I have the rest in change, please?
- What's the exchange rate for euros to British pounds, please?

**What you hear**
- The exchange rate for euros to British pounds is 0.748.
- We charge a 2% commission rate.
- The current interest rate is 4%.
- There are no bank charges.
- I'm afraid the account is overdrawn.
- I'm afraid there are no funds in the account.
- Which account would you like to transfer the money from?
- Could you sign and date the cheque, please?
- You'll have to apply for a new PIN number.

Now listen to this dialogue. In this conversation, Jane is in the bank.

**Cashier:** Good morning.

**Jane:** Good morning. I'd like to pay this money into my account, please.

**Cashier:** Have you filled in a paying-in slip.

**Jane:** No, I didn't see them.

**Cashier:** Here you are. (He gives Jane a slip.)

**Jane:** (Jane fills it out.) I'd also like to apply for a credit card.

**Cashier:** You'll need to fill out this form. (He gives Jane a form.) Then, we'll process your application.

**Jane:** I've also got these US dollars on me. Can I change them here?

**Cashier:** Yes, that won't be a problem.

**Jane:** What's the exchange rate for dollars to pounds?

**Cashier:** It's 0.50615 pence. That means that one dollar is worth 50.615 pence.

**Jane:** So, if I change 100 US dollars, I'll get about 50 pounds, right?

**Cashier:** Yes, 50 pounds and 61.5 pence, to be precise.

**Jane:** And are there any charges?

**Cashier:** There's a 2.5% commission charge on all transactions.

**Jane:** OK. I'll think I'll just keep them for my next trip to the states.

**Cashier:** OK. Have a nice day.

**Jane:** Bye.
Have you heard of these new words?

The English language is constantly changing. And new words come into existence from year to year. Here are a few that have appeared in dictionaries in recent times.

- **Password fatigue** – the stress and frustration caused by having to learn so many different passwords.
- **Man flu** – a minor cold contracted by a man who then exaggerates the symptoms in order to avoid going to work.
- **Globesity** – the problem of rising obesity around the globe.
- **A floordrobe** – a floor space that is used as a place for keeping your clothes.
- **A salad dodger** – an overweight person. Literally, someone who “dodges” (avoids) salads.
- **Manscaping** – removing all the hair off a man’s body.
- **Tanorexia** – an obsessive desire to have tanned skin.
- **A griefer** – an online computer game player who deliberately sabotages the game.

- **To binge-watch** – to watch multiple episodes of a TV series, watching one episode after another.
- **A bro hug** – a friendly embrace between two men.
- **Clickbait** – content on a website whose main purpose is to attract attention and tempt users to click on a link.
- **To hate-watch** – to watch a television programme you don’t like because you enjoy mocking or criticising it.
- **A hot mess** – a person or thing that is a complete disaster.
- **A listicle** – an internet article presented in the form of a numbered or bullet-pointed list (a bit like this one!).
- **To live-tweet** – to post comments about something on Twitter while the event is taking place.
- **To vape** – to inhale and exhale the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette.

Whatever next? ☺️
**TELEPHONE 999**

Here’s another part of our mini-series on ridiculous but real emergency phone calls.

### Call I – The Wrong Trousers

**Operator:** Police. Can I help you?

**Caller:** Yes, hello. Is that the police?

**Operator:** Yes.

**Caller:** Er, I’m just calling because I’ve just bought these trousers.

**Operator:** This is an emergency number. Yes, and the trousers don’t fit. But I can’t find the receipt.

**Caller:** What rights do I have?

**Operator:** I don’t know, but you’re wasting police time.

**Caller:** But do they have to accept the return of the trousers? They just don’t fit. I wanted a size...

**Operator:** I’m terminating this call.

### Call II – The Wrong Club

**Operator:** Police. Can I help you?

**Caller:** Yeah, I’d like to report this guy who works in Bojolly’s, the nightclub in Harden Street.

**Operator:** Is this an emergency?

**Caller:** Well, this guy got all aggressive with me and he starting coming on.

**Operator:** Where did this happen?

**Caller:** Like I said, in Bojolly’s. I was out with my mates and we tried to get into this club...

**Operator:** Yes, I know. Bojolly’s.

**Caller:** Yes, and this guy wouldn’t let us in. He said it was cos I wasn’t wearing shoes, but I had these well-cool trainers on...

**Operator:** This is not a police matter, and it certainly isn’t an emergency.

**Caller:** So, what am I supposed to do?

**Operator:** I don’t care.

---

**PANCAKES**

Every year, the English celebrate Pancake Day. This is held on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent (the 40 days before **Easter**). This year, Pancake Day was on 5th February. Pancakes are traditionally eaten on Pancake Day. However, you can eat them at any time during the year, and they are perfect for a late breakfast, or an afternoon snack. To make your own pancakes, you’ll need a bowl for mixing the ingredients, a wooden spoon, a container for pouring the pancake mixture, a frying pan and a plate. Here is our recipe for pancakes.

### Ingredients

This is what you’ll need to make 6 large pancakes.

- 100 grams of **flour**.
- A **pinch** of salt.
- One egg.
- 250 ml of milk.
- Butter.

### Preparation

- Mix the flour and the salt in the bowl.
- Add the egg and half the milk, and when it’s all well mixed, add the rest of the milk.
- Leave the mixture to stand for about 20 minutes.
- Heat up a little butter in the frying pan. Then, add enough mixture to cover the bottom of the pan.
- Turn the pancake over once then **remove**. Put the pancake on a plate and make another one.

Traditionally the pancake is filled or covered with lemon and sugar, but they can also be served with cheese, ham, jam, chocolate or any mixture of those things. Delicious!
Exercise
See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 14), and the photos A – N. Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below.

Answers on page 53

1. An armadillo □
2. A bat □
3. A tomb □
4. A pharaoh □
5. A deer □
6. Hay □
7. A gorilla □
8. A bullet-proof vest □
9. A laser printer □
10. A rattlesnake □
11. An oyster □
12. Cabbage □
13. A canary □
14. A cork □
This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so phenomenal?

Armadillos have four babies at a time and they are always all the same sex.

Bats have only one baby a year.

Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs is edible, despite being thousands of years old.

Deer can’t eat hay.

Human birth control pills work on gorillas. Incidentally, gorillas sleep as much as fourteen hours per day. What a life!

Bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers were all invented by women.

The drink 7-UP was created in 1929. But where did the name come from? Well, “7” was selected because the original containers were 7 ounces. And “UP” indicated the direction of the bubbles.

Alcohol mixed with a carbonated drink is absorbed into the body more quickly than a straight shot.

Gopher snakes in Arizona are not poisonous, but when frightened they may hiss and shake their tails like rattlesnakes.

North American oysters do not make pearls of any value. Useless creatures!

What do you do if you have a hangover? Here are some international cures. The ancient Greeks thought that eating cabbage would cure it and the ancient Romans preferred eating fried canaries. Today, some Germans eat a breakfast of red meat and bananas, the French drink strong coffee with salt, the Chinese drink spinach tea, the Puerto Ricans rub half a lemon under their drinking arm, Hawaiians stick 13 black-headed needles into the cork of the bottle from which they drank, and Russians drink vodka as a hair-of-the-dog cure. Which one would you like to try next time?
Drinking Bribes
Driver loses her licence minutes after passing her test.
It was an important day for Kristen Andrews as she was taking her driving test. Like most people, she was very nervous. But luckily, her examiner was a friendly chap, so they started chatting. “I promised to buy him a drink if I got my licence, and he said that would be lovely,” 24-year-old Kristen explained.

Anyway, I passed (surprise, surprise) and we went to a café where we had a couple of wines. Then, I offered to drive him home. I was so happy I just didn’t think about the drink-drive rules.” Kristen, who is from the village of Marling, was stopped by police a few metres down the road for erratic driving. After taking a breath test, police found that both she and the examiner, Ivan Finn, 48, were three times over the limit. “I was supposed to be happy, but now I’ve lost my licence and I can’t take the test again for another six months,” Kristen said.

Beer Thief
What I don’t understand is, what could they possibly want with all that beer?” said a member of the Gardai (the Irish police) after a thief drove a truck into the Guinness Brewery in Dublin and made off with a trailer full of beer. “That guy drove away with 180 kegs of Guinness, 180 kegs of Budweiser and 90 kegs of Carlsberg which means about 40,000 pints. It’s worth an estimated £45,000,” a spokesperson for the brewery said.

“This is the first time such a robbery has taken place on the company’s premises. We’ve never had such a breach of security before this and we’re taking it extremely seriously,” the spokesperson added. “All CCTV footage is being viewed.” The Gardai have appealed for information.

Flash in the Pan
Man in unusual protest.
I wanted to protest against my sentence, so I took my clothes off in public,” said Marcus Wagner, who was in court for... taking his clothes off in public. The 60-year-old had previously run onto a football pitch naked during a soccer match. At the time, he was protesting against a decision by the referee that went against his football team. The latest incident took place during Wagner’s appeal against a conviction for indecent exposure. A witness said, “The court withdrew for deliberations and during the break this guy took his clothes off right in front of us.” The man’s lawyer said, “My client sees himself as a living work of art. I demand a reprieve of this sentence.”

Travel English
- Learn over 500 useful words and expressions for travelling abroad.
- 40 topic areas covering a wide range of typical situations.
- Over 400 images to help you learn the words and expressions.
- More than 30 dialogues so you can hear the language in action.

For more information, visit: www.learnhotenglish.com/shop
SUBSCRIPTIONS!

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM EUROPE / REST OF THE WORLD (ROW) (NOT INCLUDING SPAIN)

☐ Option 1: Hot English for Students. Includes:
12 Hot English magazines + audio MP3s + 1 English Unlocked Book.
(100 pages, 4 levels: Pre-Intermediate / Intermediate / Upper Intermediate / Advanced): Europe €63.70 / ROW €72.90.

Indicate the English Unlocked level you require (one book included in price):

☐ Pre-Intermediate
☐ Intermediate
☐ Upper Intermediate
☐ Advanced

☐ Option 2: Hot English for Teachers. Includes:
12 Hot English magazines + audio MP3s + 1 Teacher’s English Unlocked Book.
(110 pages, 4 levels: Pre-Intermediate / Intermediate / Upper Intermediate / Advanced): Europe €63.70 / ROW €80.90.

Indicate the English Unlocked level you require (one book included in price):

☐ Pre-Intermediate
☐ Intermediate
☐ Upper Intermediate
☐ Advanced

☐ Option 3: Standard. Includes:
12 magazines + audio MP3s = Europe €79.70 / ROW €95.40

☐ Option 4: Web School. Videos, readings, listenings, online exercises. 4 levels. Indicate the level you require: Pre-Intermediate; Intermediate; Upper Intermediate; Advanced. Code is valid for one level and one year = €24.99.

Access to all levels: one year = €59.97.

☐ English Unlocked. Your complete self-study solution for learning English at home. With audio MP3s and video MP4s! Choose from 4 levels: Pre-Intermediate; Intermediate; Upper Intermediate; Advanced. Student or Teacher.

Student’s/Teacher’s Book: Europe = €18.95 / ROW €19.95.

All four levels (10% discount) Europe €73.80 / ROW €90.

☐ Phrasal verbs / Idioms. Booklets with 150 phrasal verbs or idioms + images + audio MP3s. Phrasal verbs I, Idioms I, Idioms II.

Europe per book = €17.95 / ROW per book €18.95.

All four books (10% discount) Europe €66.25 / ROW €74.50.

☐ Phrasal verbs / Idioms. Libros con 150 verbos y frases + imágenes + audios MP3.

Phrasal verbs I, Idioms I, Idioms II.

Por libro = €15,99.

Los cuatro libros (descuento 10%) = €59,10.


Para estudiantes ☐ o profesores ☐

Todos los niveles (descuento 10%) = €59.10.


Para estudiantes ☐ o profesores ☐

Todos los niveles (descuento 10%) = €59.10.

☐ Phrasal verbs / Idioms. Libros con 150 verbos y frases + imágenes + audios MP3.

Phrasal verbs I, Idioms I, Idioms II.

Por libro = €10,99.

12 Hot English magazines + audio MP3s + 1 English Unlocked Book.

Indica el nivel que desea (incluye 1 libro en el precio):

☐ Pre-Intermediate
☐ Intermediate
☐ Upper Intermediate
☐ Advanced

☐ Option 3: Estándar.
12 revistas + audio MP3s = €64.50.

☐ Option 4: Web School.
Videos, lecturas, grabaciones, ejercicios online. 4 niveles. Indica el nivel que desea: Pre-Intermediate; Intermediate; Upper Intermediate; Advanced.


Para estudiantes ☐ o profesores ☐

Todos los niveles (descuento 10%) = €59.10.

☐ Mis datos personales son: (Por favor, escribe de una manera clara y en mayúsculas)
Nombre: __________________________ Surname: __________________________
Dirección: __________________________
Código Postal: ____________ Población: __________________________
Número de teléfono: __________________________
E-mail: __________________________
Fecha de nacimiento: ____________
DNI/NIF: __________________________

☐ Por favor, marca esta casilla si no deseas recibir nuestro newsletter semanal gratuito.

Formas de pago

1. Tarjeta de crédito
Visa/Mastercard
Fecha de Caducidad __________________________
Para el pago con tarjeta, se cobrará un cargo adicional correspondiente al 1% del precio total.

2. Domiciliación bancaria (Sólo España)
Número de cuenta __________________________
Banco: __________________________
Sucursal: __________________________

3. Cheque a Hot English Publishing S.L. (Sólo España)
El paquete puede tardar entre cuatro y seis semanas en llegar.

4. Transferencia bancaria a HOT ENGLISH PUBLISHING SL (sólo España): 0081 5229 71 00011181

For lots more material, visit www.learnhotenglish.com/shop
IRELAND QUIZ
What do you know about Ireland? See if you can answer these questions.
1. What colour do people generally wear on St Patrick’s Day?
2. What drink is popular on St Patrick’s Day?
3. Who was St Patrick?
4. Which countries celebrate St Patrick’s Day?
5. What is an Irish coffee?
6. What are the colours of the Irish flag?
7. What musical instrument is on the Irish flag?
8. What is a shamrock?
9. What is a leprechaun?
10. What symbol did St Patrick use to explain Christianity? Why?

Grow Up
By Garrett Wall
© Garrett Wall 2008.
For more information, visit:
www.garrettwall.net
www.myspace.com/garrettwall
www.junkrecords.es

Glossary
a struggle: a fight
perceive: to notice/see
live and let live: to accept things as they are – not to try to change things
blind: with no ability to see

IRELAND SPECIAL

Give up your struggle,
You know it’s been said,
You’re fighting yourself,
But it’s all in your head,
When will it come to an end?

Leave it all,
Know when to leave it,
Know what it means, yeah,
Really perceive it,
When will you learn?
Oh, when will you learn?

Maybe somebody ought to show you,
The meaning of live and let live,
However, will you be able?
To justify, justify?

Don’t you think things could be better?
Don’t you see how good they could be?
Wake up before you’re left dreaming,
You can look but you don’t always see.

How blind we can be, how blind we can be.

Don’t you think things could be better?
Don’t you see how good they could be?
Wake up before you’re left dreaming,
You can look but you don’t always see.

How blind we can be, how blind we can be.

MAP
How well do you know Ireland?
See if you can put the Irish cities on the map.
Donegal, Galway, Sligo, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.  
7.  
8.  
9.  
10.  

www.irlanguage.com
Jonathan Rhys Meyers was born Jonathan Michael Francis O’Keeffe in Dublin on 27th July 1977. His stage name comes from his mother’s maiden name, Meyers. When Meyers was three years old, his parents separated. His mother raised Jonathan and his brother Alan, while his other two brothers went to live at their grandmother’s house with their father.

Later, Meyers was expelled from school at the age of 16, and spent much of his time in pool halls. One day, casting agents looking for Irish boys to appear in a film spotted Meyers at a pool hall in Cork. He didn’t get a part in that film, but they encouraged him to pursue a career in acting. His first film role came soon afterwards in A Man of No Importance (1994). In 1996, he appeared in the film Michael Collins as Collins’ assassin.

Meyers has other talents as well. He did much of the singing in the film Velvet Goldmine. And he was chosen as the face for the Versace men’s collection of Autumn/Winter 2006 and Spring 2007, plus he was the face of the Hugo Boss men’s fragrance range for several years.

Like many other stars, his personal life has been the topic of many news stories. He has been romantically linked to several actresses in the past including Toni Collette, Rachael Leigh Cook, and Irish model Glenda Gilson. He and Match Point co-star Scarlett Johansson both deny rumours of a romance. He’s also had a few personal problems. In January 2007, Meyers checked into a rehab facility seeking treatment for alcohol abuse. And on 18th November 2007, he was arrested in Dublin Airport and charged with being drunk and in breach of the peace.

His film roles range from a rock star (in Velvet Goldmine –1998) to a girls’ football trainer (in Bend It Like Beckham – 2002). In 2005, Meyers starred in Woody Allen’s film Match Point, for which he received a Chopard Trophy at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2006, he appeared in Mission: Impossible III. Meyers is currently starring in the The Tudors (2007) as young King Henry VIII. He was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor In A Television Series for this role.

For more company classes or private tuition, contact classes@learnhotenglish.com / www.learnhotenglish.com / 21
795 AD: Ireland suffered its first Viking raid when Norwegian long ships attacked Rathlin Island, just off the northeast coast. These raids happened for over 200 years.

852 AD: Dublin was founded by the Vikings, who later built the ports of Waterford and Limerick. These ports were used by the Vikings for raids within Ireland but also as trading centres.

1014: Brian Boru, the “Ard Rí” (High King) of Ireland, finally defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Clontarf. King Brian was killed in the battle. The Vikings eventually mixed with the natives and became Irish.

1169: Norman knights attacked Ireland and conquered Dublin, Wexford and Waterford. This was the beginning of English involvement in Ireland.

1315: In 1314, Robert the Bruce finally defeated the English in Scotland at Bannockburn after an uprising started by the Scotsman William Wallace. The next year, Robert’s brother, Edward, was invited by the Irish to become their High King and help them against the English. Edward brought fighters called “gallowglasses” (foreign warriors) to help.

1367: Many Normans adopted Irish customs and began to speak Gaelic. They became known as the Anglo-Irish. However, the English king passed laws to prevent this, called The Statutes of Kilkenny, and the Anglo-Irish were banned from speaking the native language (amongst other things). The laws were ineffective as nobody in Ireland listened much to the English king.

1536: The Protestant Reformation reached England when King Henry VIII broke from the Roman Catholic Church. The people of England, Scotland and Wales accepted Protestantism but Ireland remained Catholic. Henry tried to subdue the Anglo-Irish and Gaelic lords of Ireland and convert the country to Protestantism. The island was eventually conquered totally by the English but it took a century and constant conflict, ending with the Nine Years War.

1594–1603: The Nine Years War was a rebellion led by the Gaelic chieftains “Red” Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill with the help of Spain. It was finally crushed when a Spanish force was defeated by the English at Kinsale, near Cork in 1601. The two chieftains eventually surrendered and went into exile in Spain where their descendants still live. This event is known as “The Flight of the Earls”.

1641: After the Nine Years War, more Protestants began to settle in Ireland. Their descendants would become the ruling class in Ireland until the twentieth century. Hatred between the Catholic Irish and Protestant British led to centuries of misery. A rebellion by the Irish broke out in the north and massacres were common on both sides.

1649: After the English Civil War (1642 and 1651) the new English leader, Oliver Cromwell, invaded Ireland with his army. This man is probably the most hated person in Irish history. It has been estimated that Cromwell’s actions left 15-20 percent of Ireland in ruins.
the Irish population dead or in exile. War, famine and plague destroyed the country, and the native Irish were given two options, “Go to hell or to Connacht”. In short, if you didn’t go to the province of Connacht (in the west) you would be killed. Many historians agree that if something like this happened today it would be described correctly as genocide.

1689-1691: The Williamite War. This was fought between James I of England (a Catholic) and his son-in-law, William of Orange (who was a Dutch Protestant). James had been deposed as king and William was invited to replace him. James and his army, the Jacobites, fled to Ireland and were defeated in a war against William’s army (who, ironically, had the Popes blessing). This victory is still celebrated today by Irish Unionists and is known as “The 12th” or “The 12th of July”. As a result of the war, many Irish Jacobites left Ireland and joined the Spanish and French armies. They became known as the “Wild Geese”.

1691-1798: After the war, laws (called the Penal Laws) were created to oppress Irish Catholics. These laws meant that Catholics were restricted in religious practice or land ownership. The laws also affected the Dissenters (Presbyterian Protestants) too. The climax of the struggle against the Penal Laws was a Protestant-led rebellion in 1798.

1801: Ireland and Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) became a single state in the Act of Union. The combined nations were known as the United Kingdom (these days, the United Kingdom refers to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

1845-1852: “An Gorta Mór” (The Potato Famine) killed over one million people and around one million people left on ships, mostly to America. The ships were often known as Coffin Ships because most of the passengers died on the voyage.

1916-1923: The Easter Rising broke out in Dublin. This was followed by a war of independence against the British. At the end of this war, Ireland was left semi-independent with the six north-eastern counties still part of Britain and becoming known by Britain as Northern Ireland. The Irish refer to this area as “the six counties” or “the north (of Ireland)” or “the black north”. Loyalists/Unionists (those who want Northern Ireland to remain British) and many British people refer to it as Northern Ireland.

1949: The twenty-six southern counties in the south became a republic known as the Republic of Ireland.

1969: Loyalist mobs led by members of the B-Specials (a police reserve unit) attacked Catholic areas in Belfast and Derry, starting “The Troubles”. Some 3,600 people died during this war that the IRA waged against the British Army and Loyalist paramilitaries.

2007: After years of negotiations, a deal was reached for power sharing in Northern Ireland between Unionists and Nationalists. Success! ☀

GLOSSARY
a raid: an attack
a rebellion: an attack by the rulers/leaders of a country
a chieftain: a leader of a tribe
to crush: to destroy completely
to surrender: to stop fighting because you accept you have lost the war/battle
to go into exile: to go to live in another country because it is too dangerous for you in your own country
a descendant: someone’s “descendants” are the people in later generations who are related to them
the ruling class: the people who rule in a country
misery: suffering, unhappiness, poverty, etc
famine: a situation in which there is no food to eat and people are dying
genocide: the systematic extermination of a whole race/tax/group of people
a son-in-law: the husband of your daughter
to depose: if a ruler or leader is “deposed”, he/she is forced to leave
a Unionist: a person who wants Northern Ireland to be a part of Britain
a mob: a group of people who are going to attack something/someone
the Troubles: a period of Irish history (1963-1985) in which Irish nationalists were fighting against the British army and Unionists
paramilitary: a civilian who is part of a type of military organisation
power sharing: a situation in which two opposing parties are in power. In this case, it is referring to the Unionists and the Nationalists
a Nationalist: a person who wants Ireland to be united
Ireland has had a violent history with many colourful characters. All of this makes for great cinema, which is why Ireland has featured so often as a topic for films. Here are a few films that touch on the topic of Irish history. By Martin Quinn.

**MICHAEL COLLINS** (1996).
Starring Liam Neeson and directed by Neil Jordan, this biopic is about the famous IRA leader and founding father of the modern Irish Republic. It was very controversial at the time of its release. Northern Irish Unionists were furious at the film’s depiction of a man they consider to be a terrorist and a traitor. At the same time, Nationalists praised the film for its portrayal of Collins – someone glorified by Irish people as a courageous guerrilla leader who defeated the British Empire through the use of clever tactics. There were many historical inaccuracies in the film but most viewers accepted that the film and its discrepancies were in the spirit of a time of turmoil and change.

Equally controversial is the film The Wind that Shakes the Barley. It is directed by English director Ken Loach and stars Irish actor Cillian Murphy. This film tells the fictional story of two brothers fighting the British during the War of Independence. Later, the two brothers fight on opposing sides during the Irish Civil War that follows. The film describes the political differences dividing Republican volunteers, the gap between left and right, and the feeling of betrayal by many people after the Anglo-Irish Treaty left the six counties in the north of Ireland to the British. Set at the same point of history as Michael Collins, The Wind that Shakes the Barley won the Palm d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Directed by Terry George and Jim Sheridan and starring Daniel Day Lewis, In the Name of the Father was nominated for eight Oscars and received much critical acclaim. It tells the story of the Guildford Four – the true story of four Irish people falsely convicted and imprisoned for a series of IRA bombings in...
England. The story is told through the eyes of Belfast man Gerry Conlon, who spent 14 years in an English “gaol” [the Gaelic spelling for “jail”] for crimes that were later admitted to by an actual IRA active service unit. The Four were convicted on the basis of confessions that were beaten out of them by English police and doctored police notes. Conlon (played by Daniel Day Lewis) along with Paul Hill, Paddy Armstrong and Carole Richardson were eventually released and their convictions were overturned.

**BLOODY SUNDAY/ SUNDAY.**

Coverage of the recent conflict in Northern Ireland has continued in the form of TV movies. Two of these concentrate on the events of 30th January 1972 in the city of Derry, known as “Bloody Sunday”. This was a massacre of 14 unarmed Nationalist civil-rights protestors and the subsequent cover-up by the British army. This all took place during a time called “The Troubles”. The first film, directed by Paul Greengrass, tells the story through the eyes of Ivan Cooper, the man who organised the march, and from the point of view of Leo Young, brother of John Young, one of the victims. The second film, written by hard-hitting English scriptwriter Jimmy McGovern, also deals with the reaction of many young Nationalists, which often consisted of joining the IRA.

**H3/SOME MOTHER’S SON.**

The story of the 1981 Hunger Strike in Long Kesh prison has also been adapted for the screen. Terry George directed *Some Mother’s Son*, the story of the mother of a hunger striker and the emotional struggle between respecting her son’s wishes and wanting to stop him from dying. The other film, *H3*, was written by Brian Campbell and surviving hunger striker Laurence McKeown. Both films deal with the struggle inside northern Irish prisons between the British authorities and Irish Republicans, who wanted to be treated as prisoners of war. As part of the protest, the prisoners refused to wear uniforms (a symbol of criminality), leaving only blankets to cover themselves. When this failed, a no-wash protest started when they refused to “slop out”. A hunger strike, led by the prisoners’ leader Bobby Sands was the final option. Eventually, ten men died, causing huge riots and sparking world-wide protests.

**GLOSSARY**

- a biopic: a film about someone’s life
- the IRA: the Irish Republican Army – an armed group who were fighting against the British occupation of Ireland
- a Unionist: a person who wants Northern Ireland to remain a part of Britain
- a traitor: a person who acts against his/her country
- a Nationalist: a person who wants Ireland to be unified – with the northern part becoming part of Ireland, too
- to praise: to say good things about something/someone
- courageous: brave, with no fear of danger
- a guerrilla: a fighter who is part of an irregular army (not a state/government army)
- a historical inaccuracy: something that isn’t true according to history
- the War of Independence: a war fought between the Irish and the British (1919-1921). In the end, the south became independent, but the northern part remained a part of Britain
- the Irish Civil War: a war fought in Ireland (1922-1923) as a result of the division of Ireland after the War of Independence
- betrayal: the act of doing something against your country
- the Anglo-Irish Treaty: the agreement signed at the end of the War of Independence. It left Ireland divided between the south and the north
- the Guildford Four: four people accused of being members of the IRA and of planting bombs in the English town of Guildford
- to beat something out of someone: to hit someone many times in order to make them talk
- to overturn a conviction: to say that a previous conviction (sentence) was not valid
- a cover-up: an attempt to hide the truth
- the Troubles: a period of Irish history in which Irish Nationalists were fighting against the British army and Unionists (1963-1985)
- the 1981 Hunger Strike: a protest by Irish Nationalist prisoners who demanded to be treated as prisoners of war
- a hunger striker: a form of protest (often by prisoners) that involves refusing to eat
- to slop out: to empty the toilet (often a bucket) that is in a prisoner’s cell
Learn 4 different ways to greet an interviewer in English.

Exercise
Try to complete the conversation extracts with the correct words. Then, listen to check your answers.

Answers on page 53

1.
Sarah: Hi, I'm Sarah Jenkins. I'm here for the interview.
Sarah: Pleased to meet you.
Harry: Can I get you anything to (1) _______? A cup of coffee?
Sarah: I'm all right thanks.
Harry: So, did you have any trouble finding us?
Sarah: No, the (2) _______ you sent were perfect.
Harry: Right, so, erm, if you'd just like to take a (3) _______, I'll be with you in a couple of minutes.
Sarah: OK. Thanks.

2.
Josh: Hi, I'm Josh Bates. I'm here for the interview.
Dan: Oh, hi Josh. Dan Nichols. I'll be interviewing you (4) _______. [They shake hands.] Pleased to meet you.
Josh: Pleased to meet you. Nice view.
Dan: Thanks. Can I get you anything to drink? Coffee? Tea?
Josh: I'll have a cup of (5) _______, if that's all right.
Dan: Milk and sugar?
Josh: Just milk, please.
Dan: OK, I'll be back in just a (6) _______ and we can get started.
Josh: Great.
3.
Sam: Hi, I'm Sam Davies. I've got an interview with Ms Martins.
Deborah: Oh, hi. I'm Deborah Martins. We spoke on the (7) _______ last week. Pleased to meet you.
Sam: Pleased to meet you.
Deborah: So, did you come by car in the end?
Sam: Yes, and thanks for the directions. I thought about taking the (8) _______ , but it's quite far from the station.
Deborah: Yes, a 20-minute walk with this rain wouldn't be pleasant. So, how was the traffic?
Sam: Not too bad for this time of the (9) _______. [silence]
Deborah: So, erm, would you like to take a seat?
Sam: Yes, please.
Deborah: So, erm, tell me, what... [fades out]

4.
Ben: Hi, I'm Ben Staples. I've got an interview with Mr Mathews.
Gordon: I'm Gordon Mathews. How do you do?
Ben: How do you do?
Gordon: Would you like anything to drink?
Ben: No, I'm fine, thanks. [silence] A bit (10) _______ today, isn't it?
Gordon: Oh, yes. It seems like we skipped autumn and went straight to winter. So, if you'd like to come in here. You can put your coat behind the (11) _______.
Ben: Thanks.
Gordon: Have you got a copy of your (12) _______?
Ben: Yes, here you are.
Gordon: That's great. I'll be with you in just a minute.
The Celts in Ireland

The Celts are a mysterious people who have lived in Europe for thousands of years. In Ireland, Celtic culture is considered an important part of the country’s charm. Because of Ireland’s Celtic connection, Ireland has friendly ties with other parts of Western Europe, including Scotland, Wales and Spain. By Martin Quinn.

HISTORY

Although no-one is sure of the origin of the Celts, their original homeland is thought to have been southern Germany and Austria. They moved across Europe and covered a large area from modern-day Turkey to Spain. Irish Celts are thought to have come to Ireland from northern Spain about 3,000 years ago.

When the Celts got to Ireland, they brought many skills and traditions with them, including their use of iron instead of bronze, the Gaelic language and their music. It was here that the culture of the Celts survived in its strongest sense until modern times. One reason for this was the fact that the Romans never invaded Ireland so the culture was left intact for many centuries.

Later on, the Celtic Irish fought with Viking invaders. The Celts finally defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Clontarf, led by the High King, Brian Boru, in 1014. At this time, Ireland, now a Christian country, became known as “the land of saints and scholars” because it was unaffected by the major fighting force in Europe: the Huns. In this period, known as “the Dark Ages”, much knowledge throughout Europe was lost and was only preserved by Irish monks in beautifully decorated texts and drawings. The next group of people to come to Ireland were the Normans (from England and Wales, but originally from northern France) and many of their customs and practices were adopted by the Celts.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Ireland is a land of stories, fairy tales and legends. There are literally thousands of them. They were originally told by storytellers who never wrote anything down but memorised these sagas. Later, they were written down by the monks after Ireland’s conversion to Christianity by Saint Patrick. Many of these stories were about gods and fighting men, war, conquest, love and betrayal. One of the most famous was the Táin bó Cúailnge (the Cattle Raid of Cooley), the story of a war for the ownership of a supernatural bull between the provinces of Ulster (in the north) and Connacht (in the west). The story goes that the army of Connacht, led by the warrior queen Maeve, invaded Ulster while the fighters of that province were affected by a curse. The only warrior not struck down was the greatest of them all, Cúchulainn, the son of the god Lú. Cúchulainn had to defend the narrow entry into Ulster near the modern-day town of Dundalk until the rest of the army recovered. He did this successfully and the army of Ulster won the war, but Maeve never forgave him and planned her revenge. She got this several years later when Cúchulainn, alone again, was killed by her army. As he died, Cúchulainn tied himself to a rock so that he would die standing, facing his enemies, thereby assuring his fame forever.

Another legend tells the story of the settlement of Ireland. Five races of people came, one after the other to the country, the first led by Cessair, the daughter of Noah in the wake of the great flood. The final race came from a place known as the “Land of the Dead” (this is translated from ancient Gaelic as “Spain”), led by their king Mil Espáine who died before he could see Ireland. His wife Scota (who Scotland is named after) led the Milesians to Ireland, where they fought a battle with the Tuatha dé Danaan (the Fairy People) for control of the country, which they won.

These days, if you’re lucky, you can hear these stories over a few pints of Guinness and a glass of John Jameson’s down in the local pub.
ROCK ALBUMS

Jim Fitzpatrick, a native of Dublin, is well-known in Ireland for his Celtic art. Many of the myths and legends of the island have been drawn and published by him and his publishing company De Danaan Press. He has also designed book covers and album sleeves, including the cover of rock band Thin Lizzy’s album *Black Rose*.

¡CHÉ VIVE! – BÁS NO BUA!
(Death or Victory)

Fitzpatrick’s most famous work is his interpretation of Cuban photographer Alberto Korda’s picture of Ché Guevara. It was published just before Ché’s death in Bolivia in 1967. Coincidentally, Ché, the famous revolutionary, also had Irish ancestry (from County Galway). Jim, who knew Ché personally, released the poster copyright-free, in tune with Guevara’s socialist beliefs and ensuring that he never made a penny from one of the most famous images in history. It is now the symbol of revolution, and is often used by revolutionary groups. Paradoxically, it has also been used as a fashion icon in the western world.

CELTIC ARTWORK

However, most of the artist’s work isn’t political, but cultural. His depictions of the mythology, legends and history of ancient Ireland have made him a household name in “the ‘Oul Sod” (Ireland). His *Celtia* series (1975) along with *The Book of Conquests* (1978) and *The Silver Arm* (1981) show the culture of Ireland visually, and accompany the poems, sagas and folk tales of the island. Jim is considered an authority on mythology and has lectured throughout the US and Europe on the matter. The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs has even published some of his work to help promote the country throughout the world.

OTHER WORKS

Jim Fitzpatrick is also closely associated with tragic Irish rock legend Phil Lynott, who died in 1986. Lynott’s band, Thin Lizzy, had some of their album covers designed by Fitzpatrick including *Johnny the Fox* (1976) and *Black Rose* (1979). Jim has also designed book covers, most notably for Irish-American author Morgan Llywelyn’s book *Bard: The Odyssey of the Irish* (1984). He has also compiled a collection of paintings, *Mostly Women*, and has drawn much of the landscape of Ireland.


GLOSSARY

ancestry n
a person who is known by many people

ancestry n
if you have Irish “ancestry”, one of your relations was Irish – you have Irish blood

household name n
a person who is known by many people
to lecture vb
to give a formal talk to the public
The Irish are well known for their love of sports, and many Irish sportspersons and teams have competed successfully on the international stage in popular sports such as football, rugby and boxing. However, the official sport of Ireland is in fact Gaelic Football, a game native to Ireland and generally only played by Irish people. Find out more about Gaelic Football and other native sports of Ireland. By Martin Quinn.

STRUCTURE AND HISTORY
Gaelic sports are coordinated by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). This organisation was started in 1884 to promote games of Irish origin. This was at a time when Irish sports (as well as the Irish language) were dying. Sport has always had a controversial role in the history of the Irish nation. The most infamous incident was the murder by the police of fourteen spectators and a player (Michael Hogan, who has a stand named after him) in Croke Park in 1920 during the War of Independence. However, sport in Ireland is generally better known for its positive contribution to Irish society. In fact, many former Gaelic Football players have become successful football (soccer) players, including former Celtic manager Martin O’Neill and ex-Northern Ireland international and Real Mallorca player Gerry Armstrong.

GAELIC FOOTBALL
Gaelic Football is the most popular of the native games. It is completely amateur. Unlike soccer, the players can handle the ball. It is played by bouncing and toe-tapping the ball. The goals are H-shaped and a point is scored by kicking the ball over the crossbar. A goal (worth three points) is scored when the ball is kicked under the crossbar, as in soccer.

HURLING
Hurling is said to be the fastest team sport in the world and is one of the oldest. It dates back to before the time of Christ and has been mentioned in many ancient Celtic legends. Along with its female counterpart, “camogie”, hurling is played with fifteen players (as with Gaelic football) on each side but with a much smaller ball (called a “sliothar”). The ball is hit with sticks. Players have to flick the ball into their hands (they can’t pick it up) and then balance it on the stick (known as a “camán”) as they run. Goals and points are scored in the same way as Gaelic Football. There is also a competition known as the Poc Fada (long shot) where the competitors attempt to hit the ball across a course in the least number of shots.

Hurling is popular mainly in the province of Munster in the south of Ireland with Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary having very strong sides. These three teams have won the All-Ireland Championship 85 times between them. In the north, the only team of note is Antrim.

ROUNDERS
Rounders is considered to be a game of the schoolyard, and isn’t taken seriously, although there are international matches and rounders associations that exist as far away as Canada and Pakistan. The game is much more famous because of its connection to the origins of baseball in the United States. It is believed to have been brought to the US by Irish immigrants where it underwent numerous rule changes before eventually becoming baseball.

HANDBALL
Handball is similar to squash or La Pelota Vasca, and many people believe that Handball and Pelota are related because of strong trade relations in the past between Galway in the west of Ireland and the Basque Country. It is played by hitting the ball with either of your hands against the walls of a court. It can be played by two, three or four players and only the player that serves can win a point. Unlike other Gaelic sports, handball is played in quite a few countries. A very competitive world championship is held every three years.

GLOSSARY
a stand n an area in a stadium where people can sit
the War of Independence n a war fought between the Irish and the British (1919-1921). In the end, the south became independent, but the northern part remained a part of Britain
an amateur n a sportsperson who doesn’t earn money for playing the sport
to handle vb to touch the ball with your hand
to toe-tap vb to kick the ball gently (so you can catch it) using the end of the boot (where your toes are)
a crossbar n a horizontal piece of metal that goes across the goal. It is held up by two vertical poles
Little Jokes & Graffiti

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. Answers on page 53

1. What did one egg say to the other egg? ☐
2. What gets bigger the more you take away? ☐
3. Why do gorillas have big nostrils? ☐
4. What do the poor have that the rich don’t want? ☐
5. What has four legs but can’t walk? ☐
6. When are cooks cruel? ☐
7. Why didn’t the skeleton cross the road? ☐
8. Why did the maths book have to see a psychologist? ☐

A: Nothing.
B: Because he had so many problems.
C: When they beat the eggs and whip the cream.
D: Let’s get cracking!
E: Because he didn’t have the guts.
F: Because they have big fingers.
G: A hole.
H: A table.

Graffiti

Here are some examples of British toilet graffiti.

1. Behind every successful man is a surprised woman.
2. Everybody wants to go to heaven; but nobody wants to die.
3. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. It’s just that yours is stupid.
4. The world’s worst excuse for not turning in homework: I couldn’t find anyone to copy it from.
5. A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

GLOSSARY

a nostril n
your nose has two nostrils – the holes through which you breathe

beat vb
two meanings: a) to hit many times in order to cause pain; b) if you “beat” an egg, you use a fork or other implement to mix all of the egg together

to whip vb
a) if you “whip” cream, you use a fork (or other implement) to make it thick and frothy; b) to hit with a whip (a long thin piece of leather)

Dancing Audition by Daniel Coutoune

How was I? Did I dance well? Do I get a part in the musical?

Well, erm. I don’t quite know what to say.

Let’s put it like this. You would be a good dancer except for two things.

What two things?

Your feet.
Cat Nap

British cat named one of the world’s oldest.

The owners of a cat from the English county of Shropshire are claiming that it is “one of the oldest in the world”. The cat, called Pussywillow, has lived with the Brown family for 26 years. “When Pussywillow came, my son was four years old and now he’s thirty,” said Mrs Brown. Local vets say that they are “astonished” at Pussywillow’s ability to live so long. Healthy cats usually live to about the age of 18; but it is very unusual for a cat to reach the age of 26. Pussywillow’s habits include curling up in front of the stove. “She has calmed down after surviving an attack from a fox at the age of 22,” Mrs Brown said. Before coming to live with the Browns, Pussywillow was a wild cat. It is thought that one of the reasons for her living so long is the fact that she has had a completely organic diet of freshly-caught meat.

Clever Chimps

Humans out-performed by chimpanzees.

Research from Japan shows that in some areas humans can be out-performed by chimpanzees. The tests carried out by lead researcher Tetsuro Matsuzawa of Tokyo University showed that chimps have incredibly good memory recall – what Matsuzawa dubbed “a photographic memory”. Until now it was assumed that chimps could not match humans mentally in any area, but the new research claims that this is not true. Matsuzawa said that, “There are still many people, including many biologists, who believe that humans are superior to chimpanzees in all cognitive functions. No one can imagine that at the age of five, chimps have a better performance in memory tasks than humans.” The research involved a group of chimpanzees and a group of university students. The two groups were asked to remember the exact position of dots on a screen; and over a period of time the chimps out-performed the students. One news organisation said that it shows for the very first time that chimps have an extraordinary photographic memory that is far superior to ours. Other leading scientists have remarked that the work is an “important breakthrough in psychology”.

GLOSSARY

a vet: an animal doctor
astonished adj: surprised
to reach vb: if you “reach” a certain age, you become that age
to curl up vb: if you “curl up”, you make your body into the shape of a ball
a stove: an object that provides heat and that you use to cook food or to heat a room
a fox: an animal with red fur (hair), and a bushy tail (a tail with a lot of hair)
an organic diet: a diet that consists of food that hasn’t been processed
a rarity: something unusual and strange
to out-perform vb: if you “out-perform” someone in a task, you do better than them
memory recall: the ability to remember things
to match vb: if you can “match” someone’s abilities, you can do as well as them
cognitive functions: things you do with your brain: classifying, summarising, describing, a dot: a small circle
a breakthrough: a new and important development
October 1st 331 BC
Alexander the Great defeated Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela, and was subsequently crowned the King of Asia in a ceremony in Arbela. Hoorah!

October 4th 1877
After battling US armed forces for more than three months, retreating over 1,000 miles across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, and enduring a five-day siege, Chief Joseph and his Nez Percé tribe finally surrendered.

October 8th 1967
Marxist revolutionary and guerrilla leader Che Guevara was captured and killed near La Higuera, Bolivia.

October 12th 1810
The first Oktoberfest was held in Munich, to celebrate the wedding of Prince Ludwig I of Bavaria. We love the Germans.

October 13th 1917
An estimated 70,000 people witnessed “The Miracle of the Sun” in the Cova da Iria fields near Fátima, Portugal. After a downfall of rain, the sun appeared to be spinning towards the earth.

October 15th 1582
The Gregorian calendar was introduced to replace the Julian calendar, which had been in use since 45 BC. England finally followed suit 170 years later on Wednesday 2nd September 1752. This day was immediately followed by Thursday 14th September, 1752. This traumatic change caused riots and people demanded their eleven days back. Now you know why Britain doesn’t have the Euro.

October 17th 1662
King Charles II of England sold Dunkerque to France for £40,000. You can’t even buy a one-bedroom apartment with that these days.

October 19th 202 BC
Roman general Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Battle of Zama, thus successfully concluding the Second Punic War.

October 20th 1973
The Sydney Opera House in Sydney, (where else?) Australia, was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

October 22nd 1844
There was disappointment for the Millerites and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church after Jesus failed to return to earth on this special day, as predicted by preacher William Miller.

October 23rd 1958
Belgian cartoonist Peyo introduced a new set of comic strip characters called the Smurfs, one of the four things that Belgium is most famous for, alongside Tintin, Hercule Poirot, and Jean-Claude Van-Damme.

October 24th 1929
The start of the Great Depression. Although this may sound like the title for a Leonard Cohen song, it was, in fact, the day The New York Stock Exchange crashed on “Black Thursday”, causing bankruptcies, suicides and a worldwide economic depression.

October 25th 1971
There were confusing changes at the United Nations as The People’s Republic of China officially became known as The Republic of China.

October 27th 1904
The first section of the New York City Subway opened, running between City Hall and the Bronx.

October 28th 1904
The first mugging on the New York City Subway.

October 30th 1831
African American slave Nat Turner was captured after leading a slave rebellion that was brutally suppressed. 

October 29th 1957
The Soviet spacecraft Sputnik I was launched by a rocket in Kazakhstan and became the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth.

October 5th 1582
The Gregorian calendar was introduced to replace the Julian calendar, which had been in use since 45 BC. England finally followed suit 170 years later on Wednesday 2nd September 1752. This day was immediately followed by Thursday 14th September, 1752. This traumatic change caused riots and people demanded their eleven days back. Now you know why Britain doesn’t have the Euro.

October 19th 202 BC
Roman general Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Battle of Zama, thus successfully concluding the Second Punic War.

October 20th 1973
The Sydney Opera House in Sydney, (where else?) Australia, was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

October 22nd 1844
There was disappointment for the Millerites and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church after Jesus failed to return to earth on this special day, as predicted by preacher William Miller.

October 23rd 1958
Belgian cartoonist Peyo introduced a new set of comic strip characters called the Smurfs, one of the four things that Belgium is most famous for, alongside Tintin, Hercule Poirot, and Jean-Claude Van-Damme.

October 24th 1929
The start of the Great Depression. Although this may sound like the title for a Leonard Cohen song, it was, in fact, the day The New York Stock Exchange crashed on “Black Thursday”, causing bankruptcies, suicides and a worldwide economic depression.

October 25th 1971
There were confusing changes at the United Nations as The People’s Republic of China officially became known as The Republic of China.

October 27th 1904
The first section of the New York City Subway opened, running between City Hall and the Bronx.

October 28th 1904
The first mugging on the New York City Subway.

October 30th 1831
African American slave Nat Turner was captured after leading a slave rebellion that was brutally suppressed. 

October 29th 1957
The Soviet spacecraft Sputnik I was launched by a rocket in Kazakhstan and became the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth.

October 5th 1582
The Gregorian calendar was introduced to replace the Julian calendar, which had been in use since 45 BC. England finally followed suit 170 years later on Wednesday 2nd September 1752. This day was immediately followed by Thursday 14th September, 1752. This traumatic change caused riots and people demanded their eleven days back. Now you know why Britain doesn’t have the Euro.

October 19th 202 BC
Roman general Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Battle of Zama, thus successfully concluding the Second Punic War.

October 20th 1973
The Sydney Opera House in Sydney, (where else?) Australia, was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

October 22nd 1844
There was disappointment for the Millerites and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church after Jesus failed to return to earth on this special day, as predicted by preacher William Miller.

October 23rd 1958
Belgian cartoonist Peyo introduced a new set of comic strip characters called the Smurfs, one of the four things that Belgium is most famous for, alongside Tintin, Hercule Poirot, and Jean-Claude Van-Damme.

October 24th 1929
The start of the Great Depression. Although this may sound like the title for a Leonard Cohen song, it was, in fact, the day The New York Stock Exchange crashed on “Black Thursday”, causing bankruptcies, suicides and a worldwide economic depression.

October 25th 1971
There were confusing changes at the United Nations as The People’s Republic of China officially became known as The Republic of China.

October 27th 1904
The first section of the New York City Subway opened, running between City Hall and the Bronx.

October 28th 1904
The first mugging on the New York City Subway.

October 30th 1831
African American slave Nat Turner was captured after leading a slave rebellion that was brutally suppressed. 

October 29th 1957
The Soviet spacecraft Sputnik I was launched by a rocket in Kazakhstan and became the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth.

October 5th 1582
The Gregorian calendar was introduced to replace the Julian calendar, which had been in use since 45 BC. England finally followed suit 170 years later on Wednesday 2nd September 1752. This day was immediately followed by Thursday 14th September, 1752. This traumatic change caused riots and people demanded their eleven days back. Now you know why Britain doesn’t have the Euro.

October 19th 202 BC
Roman general Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal in the Battle of Zama, thus successfully concluding the Second Punic War.

October 20th 1973
The Sydney Opera House in Sydney, (where else?) Australia, was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

October 22nd 1844
There was disappointment for the Millerites and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church after Jesus failed to return to earth on this special day, as predicted by preacher William Miller.

October 23rd 1958
Belgian cartoonist Peyo introduced a new set of comic strip characters called the Smurfs, one of the four things that Belgium is most famous for, alongside Tintin, Hercule Poirot, and Jean-Claude Van-Damme.

October 24th 1929
The start of the Great Depression. Although this may sound like the title for a Leonard Cohen song, it was, in fact, the day The New York Stock Exchange crashed on “Black Thursday”, causing bankruptcies, suicides and a worldwide economic depression.

October 25th 1971
There were confusing changes at the United Nations as The People’s Republic of China officially became known as The Republic of China.

October 27th 1904
The first section of the New York City Subway opened, running between City Hall and the Bronx.

October 28th 1904
The first mugging on the New York City Subway.

October 30th 1831
African American slave Nat Turner was captured after leading a slave rebellion that was brutally suppressed.
See if you can do this crossword that will help you learn lots of useful expressions to use when talking about the theatre.

**Across**

2. The music that accompanies the play/musical = the sc_______.
4. A woman who acts in a film/play = an ac_________.
8. A time at the end of the play when the actors come out to receive applause = a cur_______ call.
10. The building where theatre plays are performed = a t_________.
11. The objects or pieces of furniture that are used by actors in a play = the pr_________.
14. A person who studies one of the roles in case the principal actor gets sick = an under________.
15. To act in front of an audience = to per__________.
17. The final practice for the play before the theatre opens to the public = a d_______ rehearsal.
19. A practice for the play = a reh__________.
21. If this happens, the audience stands up and claps loudly because they are so impressed = a standing ova__________.
22. The people who are watching the play = the aud____________.
24. A break in the play that gives people time to go to the bathroom or get drinks = an int________._

**Down**

1. Actors never say this word as it brings them bad luck = Ma_________.
2. The text for the play = the sc__________.
3. A man who acts in a play = an ac___________.
5. The clothing worn by actors (the plural form) = cos____________.
6. A part in a play = a ro___________.
7. The painted structure on the stage that shows where the action is taking place = the sce___________.
9. This is what actors say to one another before acting as a way of saying “good luck” = break a l_____.
12. A story that is acted in the theatre = a pl_________.
13. A time when actors act in a play in front of an audience = a perf___________.
16. A large piece of painted cloth that shows where the scene is set = a bac___________.
18. The area where actors act in the theatre = a st___________.
20. The text that an individual actor must learn by heart and must say in the play = the li___________.
23. If an actor does this, he/she invents words because he/she has forgotten their lines = to ad l_____.

Answers on page 53
Pre listening
How important is a university education? Match each person (1-5) with the universities they attended (A-E).

1. Hugh Grant!
2. Charles Darwin
3. Prince Felipe of Spain
4. Hillary Clinton
5. Barack Obama

A. Cambridge University
B. Yale University
C. Oxford University
D. Georgetown University
E. Harvard University

Listening I
You are going to listen to a conversation about elite universities. Listen once and say which universities are mentioned?

Listening II
Try to complete each space with a noun. Then, listen again to check your answers.

1. Today we’re going to be looking at two of the top ________ in Britain: Oxford and Cambridge.
2. Government research shows that they’re not doing enough to increase the number of ________ from state schools.
3. Do we have any ________ for this?
4. The main point is that there’s a very big problem and the ________ is not very fair.
5. The ________ say they’ll be looking at the problem next year.
A play (a theatre play) – a story that is acted in the theatre.

A theatre – a building where theatre plays are performed.

An actor (man) / actress (woman) – the people who act in a play. Very often, the word “actor” is used for both men and women.

A performance – a time when actors act in a play in front of an audience. For example: the 3 o’clock performance. / the matinee (afternoon) performance.

A script – the text for the play.

The stage – the area where the actors act. “Stage left” is on an actor’s left as he/she is looking towards the audience (“stage right” is the opposite). “Up stage” is the area next to the audience; and “down-stage” is the area at the back of the theatre (on the stage).

Scenery – the painted structure on the stage that shows where the action is taking place (in the mountains, at a church, etc).

A backdrop – a large piece of painted cloth that shows where the scene is set (in a house, in a desert, etc).

Props – the objects or pieces of furniture that are used by actors in a play.

The audience – the people who are watching the play.

Lines – the text that actors say in a play. Actors have to learn their lines “by heart” (to memorise them).

A rehearsal – a practice for the play with the actors.

A “read-through” (a “cold read”) is the first time the actors sit down to read the play.

A “run-through” is a practice from beginning to end without stopping. A “silent run-through” is a practise from beginning to end without speaking.

A “speed-through” is a practise from beginning to end, acting very quickly.

A “technical run-through” is a practise from beginning to end with all the music, lights and other technology.

A “dress rehearsal” is a final practice before the theatre opens to the public.

To ad lib – if an actor “ad-libs”, he/she invents words because he/she has forgotten their lines. Also, “to improvise”.

Costumes – the clothing worn by actors.

An understudy – an actor who studies one of the roles in case the principal actor gets sick.

A role – a part in a play. The “lead role” is the most important part in the play.

The score – the music that accompanies the play/musical.

An intermission – a break in the play that gives people time to go to the bathroom, or get drinks.

A standing ovation – when the audience stands and claps for the actors because they are so impressed.

A curtain call – a time at the end of the play when the actors come out to receive applause.

THEATRE EXPRESSIONS

“Break a leg” – this is what actors say to one another before acting. They never say “Good luck” or the word “Macbeth” as this will bring them bad luck.

In this conversation, the play is about to start, but one of the characters is unable to go on stage.

Nigel: Come on, the curtain is about to go up for the second act.

Stan: I don’t think Francesca can make it.

Bob: What’s wrong?

Stan: She’s drunk.

Nigel: But she’s the lead role. I told you to keep her away from that bottle of gin.

Stan: She’s upset about some of the reviews she’s been getting.

Nigel: I gave strict instructions for any copies of the Evening Herald to be kept out of the theatre. Who brought them in?

Stan: I don’t know.

Nigel: Where’s the understudy.

We don’t have one. (Drunken singing in the background can be heard.)

Nigel: Tell her to shut up. Throw some water on her face, give her some strong coffee. Do something! (The audience goes quiet.)

Francesca: (Singing drunkenly.) I don’t care what you write or say…

Nigel: Francesca. The audience are waiting. There’s a full house out there.

Francesca: Oh, shut up! You’re all the same, you… critics.

Nigel: Francesca, it’s me – the director. Come on, it’s time to go on stage.

Francesca: I won’t! I won’t! No one loves me.

Nigel: Yes, they do. They adore you. You’re a star. Now, can you remember your lines?

Francesca: I am a professional. I’m an actress. I know all my lines.

Nigel: Well, get on stage and “break a leg”! Come on! That’s it. (Getting desperate.) Please, for the love of God, get on that stage.

Francesca: OK. I’ll go and do some acting. (She trips and falls.) I still have my dignity, you know.

Nigel: OK, everyone. She’s going on. Action stations.

Francesca: (To the audience.) Hello… I… erm… To be or not to be. Erm… (She falls down.)

GLOSSARY

adj upset

exp to make it / to become famous

angry and sad

n review

adj an article about a film/play, etc

for the love of God

exp an expression of desperation/ anger, etc

action stations

exp something you say to tell everyone to get ready because something important is about to start
Here are some more useful and interesting expressions for you to learn. This month we are looking at some more “surprise” expressions.

**A bolt out of the blue**
Something that really surprises you.
“The news that they had got married was a bolt out of the blue.”

**Frighten / scare someone out of their wits**
To make someone very frightened.
“Don’t do that again! You frightened me out of my wits.”

**Not know what hit you**
To feel very surprised by something that has suddenly happened to you.
“She stood there in amazement, not really knowing what had hit her.”

**Speak/talk of the devil**
Something you say when the person you are talking about actually appears.
“Oh, speak of the devil. We were just talking about you.”

**Appear out of thin air**
To appear suddenly and unexpectedly.
“No one had seen her for ten years. Then, one day, she just appeared out of thin air.”

**On the spur of the moment**
Without reflexion; without thinking; without considering the risks, etc.
“I don’t like to make decisions on the spur of the moment.”

**Drop a bombshell**
To say something that really shocks people.
“My brother dropped a bombshell when he told us that he was off to Panama.”

**Beyond your wildest dreams**
More than you could ever have imagined.
“The results were beyond our wildest dreams.”

GLOSSARY

- **A bolt**
  - a “bolt” of lightning is a flash of light in the sky that happens during a storm
- **Wits**
  - your intelligence
How can we recognise a child genius? Apparently, it’s easy. Psychologist and author Bernadette Tynan has identified six types of children whose talents may later develop into something spectacular. They are:

1. **The Bossy Boots** This type of child loves to organise other children, and will do things such as telling other classmates where to sit. They are potentially future managers.

2. **The Young Tycoon** This is the type of pupil who at a very young age does things such as selling their sweets in order to make money. They could become future business tycoons.

3. **The Enquirer** This is the sort of student who asks a lot of questions non-stop. They are potentially future journalists or scientists.

4. **The Constructor** This is the type of pupil who, when left alone for a few minutes, will build amazing things with Lego. This child is destined to be an architect or designer.

5. **The Fairy Tale Teller** This pupil loves telling or writing stories. They could be the next JK Rowling.

6. **The Turbo-Chatterbox** This type of child loves chatting in class. You can’t stop them. They have an excellent verbal ability. We may see them in the future as a lawyer or on TV as an actor or actress, or talk-show host.

Which one were you as a child?
Quirky News
Unusual news stories from around the world.

Naughty Birdy
A zoo bird is punished.

"You're stupid! Shut up! Go away, idiot!" These are just some of the things that a bird from Guangdong Zoo has been saying to visitors to the zoo. So far, more than six visitors have complained. "She was swearing at them, and calling them all sorts of horrible names," a zoo spokesperson explained. As a result, Mimi, who is an 8-year-old mynah bird, was put into solitary confinement for 15 days. She had to stay in a darkened cage and listen to recordings of polite conversation in a bid to improve her behaviour. "We tried all sorts of things," the zoo spokesperson explained. "When she swore, we would refuse to feed her. But it didn't work. Personally, I don't blame the bird. A lot of visitors think it's funny to teach the bird rude words. But now look what we have to do to poor Mimi."

Return Shock
A woman goes on holiday and returns to a different home.

I'd only gone on holiday for two weeks," complained Marly Zewski to reporters in eastern Europe, "but I couldn't believe what I found when I returned home. The council had built a new road right through my back garden, with a traffic island in the middle, without asking for permission or even telling me they were going to do it. I now have to dodge the traffic every time I feed my chickens who live at the end of my garden. And when I protested, the council officials just laughed. Apparently, they've passed a new law that says they can use private land for road building without asking for the owner's consent or paying compensation. It's disgraceful.

A spokesperson for the local council later said, "I don't know why she's complaining. It's not a very busy road, and she can still get to the back of her garden to feed her chickens easily. What's the problem? Her chickens are all right. She still owns the land. It just has a road running through it now, that's all."

GLOSSARY

- to swear: vb to say rude/taboo words
- solitary confinement: n if someone is in "solitary confinement", they are forced to stay in a place with no other people
- darkened: adj with no or very little light
- a cage: n a structure of wire or metal bars for keeping birds
- in a bid to: exp in an attempt to
- to blame: vb to say that someone is responsible for something bad
- a council: n a group of people who are elected and who represent a town/city, etc
- a traffic island: n an area of land in the middle of a road where cars can't go
- to dodge the traffic: exp to try to avoid the cars/traffic
- to feed: vb to give food to
- disgraceful: adj terrible, horrible
- a busy road: n a road with many cars
- to own: vb to possess

I'd only gone on holiday for two weeks, " complained Marly Zewski to reporters in eastern Europe, "but I couldn't believe what I found when I returned home. The council had built a new road right through my back garden, with a traffic island in the middle, without asking for permission or even telling me they were going to do it. I now have to dodge the traffic every time I feed my chickens who live at the end of my garden. And when I protested, the council officials just laughed. Apparently, they've passed a new law that says they can use private land for road building without asking for the owner's consent or paying compensation. It's disgraceful.

A spokesperson for the local council later said, "I don't know why she's complaining. It's not a very busy road, and she can still get to the back of her garden to feed her chickens easily. What's the problem? Her chickens are all right. She still owns the land. It just has a road running through it now, that's all."

You're stupid! Shut up! Go away, idiot! These are just some of the things that a bird from Guangdong Zoo has been saying to visitors to the zoo. So far, more than six visitors have complained. "She was swearing at them, and calling them all sorts of horrible names," a zoo spokesperson explained. As a result, Mimi, who is an 8-year-old mynah bird, was put into solitary confinement for 15 days. She had to stay in a darkened cage and listen to recordings of polite conversation in a bid to improve her behaviour. "We tried all sorts of things," the zoo spokesperson explained. "When she swore, we would refuse to feed her. But it didn't work. Personally, I don't blame the bird. A lot of visitors think it's funny to teach the bird rude words. But now look what we have to do to poor Mimi."

To subscribe, please visit www.learnhotenglish.com
The King’s Ringtone

This month two Englishmen are talking about the controversy between the king of Spain and the Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez.

John: All right, mate. How’s it going?

Gordon: All right. How’s it going? Yeah, good.

John: Well, I’m, I’m laughing myself, to be honest, cos I’ve just been watching the videoclip of the Spanish king telling the president of Venezuela to shut up [yeah] at an international summit of all things.

Gordon: I heard about that, yeah. Apparently it’s the number-one ringtone now, everyone’s downloading it.

John: Brilliant. I’m really glad that someone got him to shut up at last.

Gordon: No, but he’s got every right to talk. He’s an elected leader. The king’s, you know, he was born into his position. What right has he got to…?

John: Oh, come on. He’s been going on and on and on. It’s blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. I mean, it’s just boring. I suppose the king’s as good as anyone to tell him to shut up.

Gordon: Well, I, it shouldn’t really, it shouldn’t have been the king. I mean, what was the king doing there anyway? It’s, it’s supposed to be a meeting between ministers [well], elected ministers.

John: Well, I like the fact that the king’s the only one that’s got enough courage to make, er, to make him shut up. Do you know what I mean? He, he told him and he, well, fair play to him.

Gordon: Well, you know a lot of people think the king was under a lot of pressure that week. You know, his daughter, I think his daughter was getting divorced or something and…

John: No, I think he’s just, the king, the king, he speaks his mind and, I think that’s brilliant.

Gordon: Well, I think, I think Zapatero should have stood in there and he should have said his bit. And then, the king should have just maybe walked out as a protest, but, I suppose he did that later.

John: Well, another beer anyway?

Gordon: Yeah, let’s go for it.

Will Smith

This month, American actor Will Smith is talking about his latest film I am Legend. We sent one of our reporters, Marvin Palmer, to speak to him. In the film, Robert Neville (Will Smith) is the last person alive on earth, with a dog as a companion. Marvin asked Will what it was like working with the dog. This is what Will said.

The, the… you know it was like probably an hour of the film that it was just the, the dog and I. And what I found is you, you just you give life to anything. Like we, we so desperately need to interact. That was one of the things that I got from the, the research. I talked to a former prisoner of war and, erm, a person who had been in, in solitary confinement. And they were saying that the, it’s a necessity to give life to anything, anything that you can find to give life to. Your mind desperately needs to find some interaction. So, it was, it was, er, it was wonderful with, with Abby [the dog]. Like, somehow…. Like that dog is smart. You know, and you know, because I know we all have dogs and pets at home. And, I mean, some of us have really, really dumb dogs. But it’s, like, Abby, she actually, it was as if she spoke English. It was like she understood. She would look in my eyes and when she would see, like, I would miss one of my lines or something. There was an intelligence there that was extremely helpful in, in interacting in this film. o
Tattoo Acceptance

Pre listening
Do you like tattoos? Match the following famous people (1-5) with the description of their tattoo (A-E).

1. David Beckham
2. Victoria Beckham
3. Angelina Jolie
4. Britney Spears
5. Penelope Cruz

A. The letters DB on her arm.
B. A number on her right ankle.
C. A fairy on her lower back.
D. The Roman numeral VII inside his right arm.
E. A dragon on the outside of her left arm.

Listening I
You are going to listen to a conversation about tattoos. Listen once and write down the names of any professions.

Listening II
Number the following points (1 to 5) in the order in which they are mentioned. Listen again to check your answers.

A. David Beckham and Angelina Jolie are two role models for men and women who are heavily tattooed and deemed to be attractive. _____
B. Some people think the increase in popularity of tattoos is due to the influence of celebrities. _____
C. Over the past few years, tattoos have been becoming more and more popular. _____
D. Over the past twenty years, there’s been a general increase in the standard of tattoo parlours. _____
E. In the past, tattoos were associated with the working class. _____

Audio script - Tattoos hit the mainstream
Helen: Hello, and good morning. You’re listening to Think Radio. Today on the show we’re going to be looking at the rise in popularity of the tattoo. Here with me in the studio to talk about this is Ben Kemp, good morning Ben.
Ben: Good morning.
Helen: So, what can you tell us about tattoos?
Ben: Well, in the past, tattoos were associated with the working class, and particular professions, such as builders and sailors. However, over the past few years they’ve been becoming more and more popular. And these days, lots of people have them, including football players, film stars, models and even politicians.
Helen: So, how did they start to become more culturally acceptable?
Ben: Some people think that it’s the influence of celebrities. David Beckham and Angelina Jolie are two role models for men and women who are heavily tattooed and deemed to be attractive. If tattoos are acceptable for them, then they’re acceptable full stop.
Helen: Are there any other reasons?
Ben: Well, the National Union of Tattooists has said that over the past twenty years there’s been a general increase in the standard of tattoo parlours. They’re now cleaner, friendlier and offer a wider range of designs.
Helen: Thanks for that Ben. Although, I think that I’m happy as I am – tattoo-free.
Ben: I have to agree with you. Bye!

Answers on page 53
Dumb Laws

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

1. Persons may not spit on the steps of the opera house. (New Mexico)
2. One may not lead goats down the sidewalks of the city. (New Mexico)
3. You may not carry a lunchbox down Main Street. (New Mexico)
4. The penalty for jumping off a building is death. (New York)
5. While riding in an elevator, one must not talk to anyone. (New York)
6. Slippers are not to be worn after 10:00pm. (New York)
7. A man can’t go outside while wearing a jacket and pants that do not match. (New York)
8. During a concert, it is illegal to eat peanuts and walk backwards on the sidewalks. (New York)
9. Citizens may not greet each other by putting one’s thumb to the nose and wiggling the fingers. (New York)
10. It is illegal to disrobe in a wagon. (New York)
11. You may only water your lawn if the hose is held in your hand. (New York)

Glossary:
- to spit: vb to force liquid out of your mouth
- to lead: vb to take someone/something and show them the way
- a goat: an animal with horns that gives milk
- a sidewalk: a pavement – the place next to a road where you walk
- a lunchbox: a little container for the food that you eat for lunch
- a fine: money you must pay for committing a crime
to levy (in): if a fine is “levied”, it is given/applied to you
- an elevator: a device in a building for taking you from one floor to another
- slippers: soft, comfortable shoes you wear in the house
- pants: US trousers – clothing you wear over your legs
- to match: vb if clothing “matches”, it goes well together (the colours are the same, etc)
- a thumb: the thickest finger on your hand
- to wiggle: vb if you “wiggle” something, you move it from side to side or up and down in small quick movements
- to disrobe: vb to take off clothing
- a lawn: an area of well-kept grass that is often very flat
- a hose: a long rubber tube through which water can travel – for watering the grass or cleaning a car

Sign up for our newsletter: www.learnhotenglish.com

No Facebook?
Online and magazine advertising (00 34) 91 543 3573

Follow Hot English on Facebook www.facebook.com/LearnHotEnglish
Follow Hot English on Twitter www.twitter.com/LearnHotEnglish
For great private language classes, e-mail classes@learnhotenglish.com / www.learnhotenglish.com / 43

Missing Mystery

Pre listening
Are you good at inventing excuses? What is the most convincing excuse you can think of for each of the following scenarios?
1. You were supposed to finish a report by Monday morning at 11 am. It is now 1pm and you still haven’t finished it.
2. You borrowed a friend’s car and returned it with two flat tyres and a broken window.
3. A friend left his cat with you while he went away on holiday. Now, the cat won’t purr and it is extremely aggressive.
4. You borrowed a friend’s guitar and returned it scratched and with two of the strings missing.
5. A friend asked you to water her plants while she was away for a couple of weeks. When she came back, all her plants had died.
6. A work colleague let you use her portable. When you returned it, it wouldn’t work as it had so many viruses on it.

Listening I
You’re going to listen to a conversation with two people talking about a man who went missing. Listen once. Why did the man “go missing”?

Listening II
Listen again. Then, answer the questions.
1. What did the man claim when he turned up at a police station?
2. What else did the man’s wife do apart from cashing in the life insurance money?
3. Where did she go to live?
4. Where was the photo of the couple on holiday in Panama found?
5. What was the man charged with?
6. What additional cost might he be liable for?
7. Why might his children be angry?

Audio script -
Man reappears after five years
David: Good afternoon, my name is David Hughes and this is the Reporters Show. Here with me today is Anna Wright to explain the mystery of the “missing man”.
Anna: Hello, David. Yes, this is the story that has gripped the country. And what a story it is. John Darwin, from the north of England, went missing and everyone thought that he’d died. That was, until he turned up at a police station claiming he didn’t know what’d happened to him.
David: Yes, I’ve read about this.
Anna: But things aren’t as clear as they first appeared. Weeks before Mr Darwin’s reappearance, his wife cashed in the life insurance money, sold their house in the north of England and went to live in Panama.
David: A bit suspicious, I’d say.
Anna: Well, the police certainly think so. Then there were reports that suggested that Mr Darwin had been spotted at various times over the five years that he’d been missing.
David: So, some people think that he might have been lying to the police?
Anna: Well, most people are positive. The worst thing for the couple was when someone came across a photograph of them on holiday in Panama in 2005. They found it on the internet.
David: So, what’s going to happen to them?
Anna: Well, Mr Darwin has been charged with trying to obtain money by deception. Also, Mrs Darwin is implicated in the matter, as it seems she knew that her husband wasn’t dead. There’s also the matter of the search-and-rescue effort for Mr Darwin five years ago, which is said to have cost the authorities almost £50,000. It looks like they could be in a lot of trouble.
David: And what do their family think?
Anna: They aren’t saying much, but they must be very angry. The couple have two sons and they seem to have been under the impression that their father was dead. They will be surprised and angry to find out that he wasn’t.
David: Thank you very much for coming in Anna to talk to us about this.
Anna: My pleasure.
Here we’ve got some examples of how to say things in different situations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Formal</th>
<th>Relaxed</th>
<th>Informal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A friend tells you of an <strong>imminent</strong> danger. You thank her for the warning.</td>
<td>Thank you for warning me of the impending danger.</td>
<td>Thanks for warning me about that.</td>
<td>Thanks for the heads up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are criticising an organisation that you consider to be small and of little importance.</td>
<td>It is of little significance.</td>
<td>It isn’t very important.</td>
<td>It’s a Mickey Mouse organisation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You once had a job that paid really well.</td>
<td>I earned a considerable amount of money.</td>
<td>I earned a lot.</td>
<td>I was making megabucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You tell a friend about a restaurant where they served very large portions of food.</td>
<td>They serve generous helpings of nourishment.</td>
<td>They serve large portions.</td>
<td>You get mega portions; it’s enough to feed a horse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You met someone at a party who later offered you a job at her company. You tell a friend about your good luck.</td>
<td>I was most fortunate in making her acquaintance.</td>
<td>I was lucky to meet her.</td>
<td>I really lucked out in meeting her; that was a real stroke of luck meeting her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend has some excess fat around the waist. You comment on this.</td>
<td>He is somewhat overweight in the region of his waist.</td>
<td>He’s a bit fat around the waist.</td>
<td>He’s got some love handles; he’s got a couple of spare <strong>tyres</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GLOSSARY**

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

- **imminent** adj: that is going to happen very soon
- **a warning** n: if someone gives you a “warning”, he/she tells you of a danger
- **a tyre** n: the thick rubber object that covers a wheel

**The Web School**

**Online learning with the Web School**

Four levels:

- Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate and Advanced
- Listening and video files!
- Reading, speaking, listening, language, vocabulary and writing activities.
- Learn English online whenever you want!
- Monitor your progress!

Try a demo:

- webschool.learnhotenglish.com

Or contact us:

- subs@learnhotenglish.com

Missing a few copies of Hot English magazine?

For some great deals on back issues:

- www.learnhotenglish.com/shop
This is another part in our series of “house” idioms.

**People who live in glass houses (shouldn’t throw stones)**

YOU SHOULDN’T CRITICISE OTHER PEOPLE FOR FAULTS THAT YOU HAVE YOURSELF.

“He’s always criticising us but he’s far from perfect. People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones, I say.”

**Under house arrest**

IF SOMEONE IS “UNDER HOUSE ARREST”, THEY’RE LEGALLY OBLIGED TO STAY AT HOME BECAUSE THEY’RE UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR A CRIME.

“She’s been under house arrest for three weeks and she can’t leave her home after 6pm.”

**Have the run of the house**

IF YOU “HAVE THE RUN OF THE HOUSE”, YOU CAN USE (AND GO IN) ALL THE ROOMS IN THE HOUSE.

“Their pet dog has the run of the house – he can go wherever he wants.”

**A house-warming party**

A PARTY TO CELEBRATE MOVING INTO A NEW HOUSE.

“We moved into our new house last week and we’re having the house-warming party next Saturday. Can you come?”

**There wasn’t a dry eye in the house**

EVERYONE IN THE PLACE YOU’RE REFERRING TO WAS CRYING OR VERY SAD.

“The film was one of the saddest that I’ve ever seen and by the time it had finished, there wasn’t a dry eye in the house.”

**Bring the house down**

IF A COMEDIAN OR ACTOR “BRINGS THE HOUSE DOWN”, HE/SHE MAKES THE AUDIENCE LAUGH A LOT.

“The comedy act with the dog was hilarious and brought the house down every night.”
Dr Crippen

What's the most famous criminal case in your country? In Britain, it's probably the story of Dr Crippen. Who was he? And what did he do?

Harry Harvey Crippen was born in Michigan, USA, in 1862. He was a doctor who emigrated to England with his wife, Cora Turner – a music hall entertainer. In 1900, Crippen was working at the Yale Tooth Specialists, and lived in a house in Camden Town at 39 Hilldrop Crescent. It was a big house with an annual rent of about £58. As Crippen's salary was only £3 a week, this caused a strain on their finances. It was also round about this time that Crippen started an affair with his secretary, Ethel le Neve.

The crisis, which ended with Crippen's execution, came in December 1909. Mrs Crippen knew about Crippen's affair with Ethel and threatened to leave him. This would have been fine for him, but she was also planning on taking their joint savings. On 15th December 1909, Mrs Crippen told the bank that she was going to withdraw the money. A month later, in January 1910, Crippen ordered five grains of hyoscin hydrobromide (a poison). Crippen collected the order on 19th January 1910.

About two months later, Crippen sent a telegram to Mrs Crippen's friends saying that she had died whilst in the US visiting relatives. Mrs Crippen's friends were shocked and some suspected something sinister had happened. One of them, Mr Nash, made a short visit to the US where he made some unsuccessful enquiries about Mrs Crippen. When he returned to London, he spoke to Crippen. He wasn't convinced by Crippen's answers, so he went to the police and told them the story.

A week later, Chief Inspector Dew went to see Dr Crippen. He seemed to believe Crippen, but then for some reason Crippen panicked. The next day, Crippen left for Antwerp (Holland), accompanied by Ethel, who was disguised as a boy. A few days later, Dew returned to the house to check a couple of dates with Crippen, but found the house empty. And after a more thorough search, Dew found the remains of Mrs Crippen. News of the murder hit the newspapers, but where was Dr Crippen? At that very moment he was in a ship on his way to Canada.

The story may have ended there if it hadn't been for the captain of the ship. He became suspicious of the couple's behaviour. Eventually, he sent a wireless telegraph to the police in England saying, "Have strong suspicions that Crippen London cellar murderer and accomplice are among saloon passengers." Immediately, Dew boarded a ship (the faster SS Laurentic) and arrived in Quebec ahead of Crippen.

As Crippen's ship entered the St Lawrence River, Walter Dew came on board. On meeting Crippen again, Dew said, "Good morning, Dr Crippen. Do you know me? I'm Chief Inspector Dew from Scotland Yard." After a pause, Crippen replied, "Thank God it's over. The suspense has been too great. I couldn't stand it any longer." Crippen and Ethel were arrested and taken back to England on the SS Megantic.

Once back in England, it was decided that Crippen and Ethel would be tried separately. Crippen's trial (which began on 18th October 1910) lasted a short time and the jury took just 27 minutes to find Crippen guilty. He was sentenced to death by hanging. Ethel was tried 4 days later and found not guilty.

On 23rd November 1910, Crippen was hanged at Pentonville Prison in London. On the same morning, Ethel sailed for New York, under the name of Miss Allen. Years later, she returned to London and married Stanley Smith. The couple had several children, eventually becoming grandparents. Ethel died in hospital in 1967, aged 84. And what about the house? It was destroyed during an air raid in World War Two.

Glossary

music hall: a form of entertainment from the 19th century that consisted of songs and comic acts
entertainer: a person who acts/sings in front of an audience and who attempts to make them laugh
joint savings: money that you have saved together with another person to withdraw: to take money out of your bank account
disguised as: if you are "disguised as" a boy, you are wearing clothing that makes you look like a boy
wireless telegraph: a system of communication that consisted of sending electrical signals
jury: a group of 12 people who decide if someone is guilty or innocent

Image: Dr Crippen the notorious serial murderer & his mistress Ethel le Neve on trial, in London. This picture was taken around 1910.
This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs you can use to talk about crime.

**Phrasal Verb Themes: Crime**

**Break into**
To enter a place illegally with the intention of stealing.

“Two thieves broke into the jewellery shop and stole diamonds worth more than 40,000 euros.”

**Break out**
To escape from prison.

“Two prisoners broke out of the high-security prison last night.”

**Let off**
Not to punish someone.

“She was caught stealing money from the company but they let her off.”

**Walk away/off with something**
If someone “walks off” with something, they steal it or take it without asking first.

“The robbers walked off with paintings worth more than six million euros.”

**Get away with (a crime)**
If you “get away with” something, you do something bad and don’t get caught or punished.

“She was caught stealing money from the company but they let her off.”

**Beat up**
To hit many times, often causing serious injury.

“He stole 4 million euros and got away with it.”

**Hold up**
If robbers “hold up” a bank, they point guns at people and force them to hand over the money.

“She held up a bank and stole the money.”

**Tip off**
To give police information about a crime that may happen.

“They tipped the police off about the robbery.”

**FREE subscription if you recommend**
Hot English Language Services to your company. E-mail classes@learnhotenglish.com / www.learnhotenglish.com / 47
Three amazing stories about twins.

Here are three incredible stories about twins that have appeared in the news recently.

**HAPPILY REUNITED**

Identical twin girls who were separated at birth.

They lived separate lives. One in West Germany, the other in East Germany. But the two were separated as babies, and remained so for 26 years. But now, Conny (one of the twins) is reunited with her identical sister, Ulrike. Incridibly, and despite living completely separate lives, they are very similar. They both wear the same kind of clothes, they both use identical make-up, and they both have the same hairstyles.

And there have been some amazing similarities in their lives: both twins had their appendixes removed at 16, both had their first child at 19, and both have the same job – event management. They also laugh in the same way, and both are calm, kind and intelligent.

"I've got three children, aged 20, 17 and eight, and Ulrike has four, aged 20, 16, six and two," Conny said. "We even both like the same colour schemes in our houses and often meet up wearing the same or near-identical outfits. We've had the same hairstyle as each other (long hair). However, we do have different taste in men: Ulrike's partner is blond while mine's dark. So, none of our children look alike, though you can tell they're related."

Both Conny and Ulrike ended up living in Berlin, but on either side of the Berlin Wall. That is, until the Berlin Wall came down. Ulrike was raised in West Germany with every modern luxury and freedom, while Conny grew up in communist East Germany.

So, why were they separated? Apparently, their mother was forced by the communist state to put them up for adoption because she was a young mother with three other children. She was struggling because all women at the time were expected to work as well.

The couple who adopted Ulrike originally offered to take both girls, but the orphanage refused because Conny had already been placed with another family. Conny was raised as the only child of a couple in the East German town of Friedrichroda, where she still lives.

Both feel anger at the system that separated them, but have been unable to find an individual to hold responsible. "It's so obviously wrong, unethical and immoral to separate two babies who were meant to be together. We're identical twins. Why split us up, especially when people wanted to adopt both of us?" Conny said. But despite their anger, they are both happy to be together again.

**JIM TOO**

Two boys who were separated at birth.

This is another incredible story of twins who were reared separately. This story is known as the case of the Jim twins. Jim Lewis and Jim Springer were identical twins. They were only four weeks old when they were separated: each infant was taken in by a different adoptive family.

The two were finally reunited at age 39. The similarities the twins shared amazed both one another and researchers. They both have the same name, they are both 183cm tall and they both weigh exactly 82 kilos. But there's more: as youngsters, each Jim had a dog called "Toy". Each Jim has been married twice: the first wives were both called Linda and the second wives were both called Betty. One Jim named his son James Allan and the other Jim named his son James Alan. Both Jims had at one time had part-time jobs as sheriffs. And if that isn't incredible, what is?
Marriage Mix-Up

Separated at birth. United through marriage. Separated again.

"If you start trying to conceal someone's identity, sooner or later the truth will come out," said an MP after a pair of twins who were adopted by separate families as babies got married without knowing they were brother and sister. Later, a court annulled the marriage. An MP used the case to demonstrate the need for children to be able to find out about their biological parents. Their story was used during a debate on the Human Fertility and Embryology Bill.

"They were never told that they were twins," the MP explained. "They met later in life and felt an inevitable attraction. If you don't know you are biologically related to someone, you may become attracted to them and tragedies like this may occur," Psychologists say that we are naturally drawn to people who are quite similar to ourselves. And this story seems to justify the theory.

Twin Facts

Here are some interesting facts about twins.

Up to 22% of twins are left-handed. Generally, only 10% of the population are left-handed.

The chance of having twins is about 1 in 285.

William Shakespeare had a set of boy-girl twins.

Only 14% of women carry multiples past 37 weeks. Most women give birth prematurely and require a c-section.

Of all the twin births, 56% are spontaneous (meaning the couple did not use fertility drugs).

Twins do not necessarily have the same father.

It is possible for a mother to release two eggs separately as much as 24 days apart.

Worldwide there are at least 125 million living multiples.

The United States has one of the highest rates of multiples, while Japan has one of the lowest. In some places, there is a greater possibility of giving birth to twins. For example, in Massachusetts and Connecticut, the twinning rate is 25% higher than the rest of the US; in Nebraska and New Jersey it is 100% higher; but in Hawaii it's 30% lower than in the rest of the US.

The Yoruba tribe in Nigeria has the highest rate of multiple births in the world. No one is sure why, but it could have something to do with the yams they eat.

Elvis Presley was a twin at birth. Tragically, his brother died shortly after being born.

Famous people who have had twins or who are the fathers of twins include James Stewart, Margaret Thatcher, President George W. Bush, Robert DeNiro, Mel Gibson, Muhammad Ali and Denzel Washington.

Twin Stories

The two main types of twins are fraternal twins and identical twins. Fraternal twins (also known as "non-identical twins") are twins that come from separately fertilized ova and who each have a different genetic makeup. They may be of the same or opposite sex. Identical twins come from the same fertilized ovum. At an early stage, the ovum becomes separated into independently growing cells. The result is two individuals of the same sex, identical genetic makeup, and similar appearance. Identical twins are very unusual, and a complete fluke of nature.

Glossary

event management: arranging festivals, business conferences, etc
an outfit: a set of clothes (a shirt and trousers) that complement one another
related: of the same family
the Berlin Wall: a wall that separated West and East Berlin during the Cold War (1946-1990) -- a period of conflict between the West and the Soviet Union
to struggle: if you are "struggling," you are having a difficult time
an orphanage: a home for children who have no parents
to raise: if you "raise" a child, you educate and care for that child until he/she is an adult
the Berlin Wall:
to hold someone responsible: to say that someone is responsible for something bad
a sheriff: a type of police officer in charge of a county
an MP: a Member of Parliament -- a person who is elected to represent citizens
to annul: to cancel a biological parent: your mother or father
triplets: three children born at the same time and from the same mother
quads: four children born at the same time and from the same mother
multiples: more than one child (two, three, four, etc) born at the same time and from the same mother
a c-section: a caesarean section -- a form of childbirth which involves a surgical operation
multiple births: more than one child (two, three, four, etc) born at the same time and from the same mother
a yam: a root vegetable which grows in tropical regions. It is similar to a potato
an ovum: the reproductive cells of a woman or female animal (the things that become fertilised). The singular form is "ovum"

A fluke of nature: something completely accidental and unusual

For more company classes or private tuition, contact classes@learnhotenglish.com / www.learnhotenglish.com / 49
Thomas Reeve was born on 28th March 1982 and together with his brother he holds an unusual twin record. We spoke to him about this and his experiences of being a twin.

How did it all start?
I was born in Ulsan, South Korea. At the time, my father was working there and my mother became pregnant. She only found out a few hours before giving birth that she was going to have twins. The doctor gave my parents a very big shock when he told them, “Mr and Mrs Reeve, you will have multiple births”. So, to add to the confusion, it was unclear how many births there were going to be. Luckily, for my mother, there were only two: my brother Pieter and me. Although, for a moment, she thought it could have been more.

So, what's this record you hold?
Well, we were born as British citizens (my father is British and my mother is Dutch), and when my father went to the British consulate to register our births he found out about our strange record: it turned out that we were the first British-born twins in South Korea. A record of which I am very proud.

What's it like being a twin?
Many people ask me this, but of course, I don't know how it's different from not being a twin. Obviously, it's fun to grow up with somebody your own age, although my older sister might disagree with this. We often teamed up against her, which wasn't very fair.

Do people ever confuse you?
No, we aren't identical twins. And besides, my brother is much taller and more handsome than I am. He has dark hair and brown eyes and I have blond hair and blue eyes. However, when we were at school, our teachers would often get our names mixed up. So, to make things easier, my mother used to buy all my clothes in blue and all my brother's clothes in red.

What's the strangest “twin experience” you've ever had?
Well, my brother and I decided that after 18 years sharing the same room we should separate for a bit. So, on our gap-year we went to New Zealand: I went to the North Island and my brother to the South Island. It was a time of great independence. Neither of us bothered to phone home to England, although we did send the odd e-mail. After a month or so, I decided to call up my mother, but I couldn't get through because the line was engaged. Five minutes later, I tried again and my mother picked up the phone. And the first thing she said was, “Wow! That's a coincidence. You’ll never guess who I was just speaking to?” She told me that my brother—who was about 900 kilometres away at the time—had decided to make that first phone call home at exactly the same time as me. That can't be a coincidence, can it?
English Classes
...for your employees!

Hot English Language Services, a leader within the English company class training sector as well as an internationally-recognised publisher, has been offering language training solutions to many of the world's leading companies since 2001. A course with Hot English ensures:

- Motivated students thanks to our dynamic learning materials.
- Clear, measured progress through a structured system and monthly reports.
- Improvement in levels of English across the board.

COURSES OFFERED:
- Dynamic telephone classes through our dedicated platform.
- Europe-wide courses through our extensive network.
- In-company groups and one-to-one classes.
- Practical business English classes and intensives.
- Specific industry courses: Finance, Medicine, Marketing, Human resources... (among many others)
- Online learning through our Web School.
- Residential immersion courses & courses abroad.

OUR MULTI-LINGUAL PROFESSIONAL TEAM PROVIDES A QUALITY SERVICE FOR YOUR HR DEPARTMENT:
- Regular client reporting and examining will demonstrate progress and justify budgets.
- A structured method ensures continuity of service in multiple cities.
- Motivating materials that will inspire your staff and maintain high levels of attendance and learning.

Wherever your company is based, we can help. Contact us NOW and put us to the test!

(00 34) 91 543 3573  Learn hot English  business@learnhotenglish.com  www.learnhotenglish.com
New research shows that teenagers are damaging their health by not getting enough sleep. And a third of 12- to 16-year-olds slept for between four to seven hours a night. Experts recommend eight hours. One of the main causes for the rise of so-called “junk sleep” is gadgets in bedrooms such as computers and TVs. Almost 25% of the teens surveyed admitted they fell asleep watching TV, listening to music or with other equipment still running. More than 60% of those questioned had a phone, music system, games console and TV in their bedroom. While 40% of the teens said they were often tired during the day, just 10% placed much importance on getting a good night’s sleep.

Dr Chris Idzikowski of the Edinburgh Sleep Centre said, “This is an incredibly worrying trend. Youngsters need to be taught a healthy lifestyle includes healthy sleep as well as healthy food. The message is simple: switch off the gadgets and get more sleep.”

Audio script -

New research shows that teenagers are damaging their health by not getting enough sleep. And a third of 12- to 16-year-olds slept for between four to seven hours a night. Experts recommend eight hours. One of the main causes for the rise of so-called “junk sleep” is gadgets in bedrooms such as computers and TVs. Almost 25% of the teens surveyed admitted they fell asleep watching TV, listening to music or with other equipment still running. More than 60% of those questioned had a phone, music system, games console and TV in their bedroom. While 40% of the teens said they were often tired during the day, just 10% placed much importance on getting a good night’s sleep.

Dr Chris Idzikowski of the Edinburgh Sleep Centre said, “This is an incredibly worrying trend. Youngsters need to be taught a healthy lifestyle includes healthy sleep as well as healthy food. The message is simple: switch off the gadgets and get more sleep.”

Pre listening

Discuss the following “Sleep Facts” with a partner. Which of these facts and figures are most alarming? Why?

- Approximately 70 million people in the United States are affected by a sleep problem.
- About 40 million Americans suffer from chronic sleep disorders.
- Sleep deprivation and sleep disorders are estimated to cost Americans over $100 billion annually in lost productivity, medical expenses and sick leave.
- A majority of American adults (63%) do not get the recommended eight hours of sleep needed for good health, safety, and optimum performance.
- Chronic and/or severe insomnia affects about 10-15% of adults.
- Indirect costs of insomnia (such as property damage from accidents) are estimated to be $28 billion.
- Narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder that involves your body’s nervous system. People with narcolepsy experience sudden “sleep attacks” that can occur at any time. Narcolepsy is believed to affect approximately 293,000 people in the US.
- Estimates state that 100,000 car crashes are caused by drowsy drivers each year.

Listening I

You are going to listen to an article about sleep. Listen once and say what these numbers refer to.

1. 25%.
2. 60%.
3. 40%.

Listening II

Try to solve the anagrams. Then, listen again to check your answers.

1. New research shows that teenagers are damaging their (THELAH) __________ by not getting enough sleep.
2. One of the main causes for the rise of so-called “junk sleep” is (STEGDAG) __________ in bedrooms.
3. This is an incredibly worrying (DRENT) __________.
4. Youngsters need to be taught a healthy lifestyle includes healthy (PLEES) __________ as well as healthy food.
5. The (SAGSMEE) __________ is simple: switch off the gadgets and get more sleep.
1. We saw each other the last night. = We saw each other last night.
2. She doesn’t eat fish. = She doesn’t eat fish.
3. This one is biggest that the other one. = This one is biggest than the other one.
4. I like this ones. = I like these ones.
5. That chairs are ours. = Those chairs are ours.
6. We often listen to radio in the car. = We often listen to the radio in the car.

Idioms booklets
Learn hundreds of idioms, really improve your English and speak like a native English speaker! Booklets come with images and audio files.

Skype / telephone English courses
Really improve your English speaking, confidence and comprehension!
Learn when and where you want!
Native English teachers!
Fantastic material!
Classes from only €9 + materials! www.telephone-english.com
A radio play by Mark Pierro and Ian Coutts. Part 10 of 10

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

First listening

In this scene, Inspector Nottingham Forest and Sergeant Hamilton have gone to speak to Chief Superintendent Williams. Listen once. Who do you think the “paymaster” is? [see the glossary box for the definition of “paymaster”] Do the detectives discover who the “paymaster” is in the end?

a) It isn’t clear.
b) Inspector Nottingham Forest
c) Chief Superintendent Williams
d) Ranger the dog

Second listening

Listen again. Then, answer these questions.

1. What is the “ghastly smell”?
2. Who does Inspector Forest say that he’s arrested?
3. Why does he think the Chief Superintendent will be happy about this?
4. Why does the Chief Superintendent want “a name” for the villain?
5. What does Inspector Forest say about the use of the word “idiot”?
6. What was the Chief Superintendent’s plan?
7. What does the Chief Superintendent find funny towards the end?
Scene 10 - Inside the office of Chief Superintendent Williams

CS: [a knock at the door] Come in.
H: [a knock at the door] Come in.
CS: [a knock at the door] Come in! [the door opens]
H: Pardon me but can I come in?
CS: What do you want?
H: Oh, dear.
CS: And what in the Lord's name is that ghastly smell?
H: Oh, that's Inspector Forest. It's awful, isn't it?
Ni: Hamilton, I'm sitting right here.
H: Oh, I didn't see you there, inspector. Oh, dear.
CS: Now then, I understand you've got something to tell me, idiot.
Ni: Come on, Hamilton, out with it.
CS: I was talking to you, Forest.
Ni: Oh, charming.
CS: Well, what is it?
Ni: I am pleased to say that I have apprehended the villain responsible for the death of Mr Shuttle-Mickelbrass.
CS: Who?
Ni: The man who'd had his trousers ripped from his personage.
CS: And?
Ni: Er, well, I thought you would be pleased?
CS: Why would I be pleased?
Ni: Because, er, erm, because it reduces the crime statistics in your area.
CS: Who cares about that? They're all fiddled anyway.
H: Oh dear.
Ni: Well, erm, you, er, get to look good.
CS: Oh, this is terrible. I told you to find a name for this villain, so I can give something to the press. Instead, all you do is waste valuable police time by catching this menace.
Ni: Oh, yes, in my stupidity I was busy apprehending this menace to the general public when I should have been finding a name.
CS: Exactly.
Ni: Well, may I ask what is the point of a modern police force if it isn't to make the general public safe?
CS: It is to make the general public think that they are safe, idiot.
Ni: I don't think 'idiot' is an appropriate term for a working environment, chief superintendent.
H: Everybody else in the office refers to him as 'tosser'.
Ni: Shut up, Hamilton.
H: Oh, dear.
CS: My whole plan was to go out on a high with the press hailing me as the man who caught the Trouser Snatcher. Instead you ruin it all for me by catching this villain.
Ni: The man you caught didn't mention anything about his paymaster having a Welsh accent, did he?
CS: Er, yes he did, as a matter of fact.
H: Oh, dear.
CS: Nor hating you.
Ni: Yes, he did that as well.
H: Oh, dear.
CS: Did he also mention about wanting to be famous and writing his own ticket?
Ni: Yes, he did that to as a matter of fact.
CS: Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! What a fool he must be to say all that.
Ni: But we never did find out who was his paymaster. And it is my intention to find out who it is one way or another.
CS: Ha! Ha! Ha! Erm. Oh, well, erm…
Ni: Well, I don't really see what is funny, chief superintendent.
CS: I do. Hamilton's dog is passing water on you.
Ni: Oh, Hamilton!
H: Oh, dear.

Narrator: You've been listening to The Whitechapel Trouser Snatcher, a murder mystery in ten scenes with me merely inserted between them. To think, once I was a Shakespearean actress. I performed alongside Olivier and Gielgud. I could have been a star. I could have been famous. I could have had the world at my fingertips. Hollywood, Hitchcock, Fellini. It could have been all mine. Instead you have ruined it all for me by catching this villain. And what in the Lord's name is that ghastly smell?

CS: In the Lord's name... exp this expression is often used in questions for emphasis to show that you're angry, shocked, surprised, etc.
Ni: ghastly adj terrible, horrible, disgusting, revolting, very bad
CS: charming adj Informal: very nice, but it's being used sarcastically here
Ni: to apprehend vi to arrest
CS: a villain n a criminal, a bad person
Ni: to personage vi formal: if something is taken from your 'personage', it's taken from you. Basically, 'personage' is a posh way of referring to yourself
CS: to fiddle vi to go out on a high
Ni: a hero n if you "go out on a high," you leave after doing something really good or successful, so everyone remembers you as someone who did their job very well
CS: to hail vi if you're "hauled" as a hero (for example), everyone says that you're a hero
Ni: a paymaster n a person who pays and therefore controls another person or organisation
CS: to write your own ticket exp if you "write your own ticket", you say the way you want things to happen so you have complete control over a situation
Ni: a fool n an idiot
CS: to pass water exp when someone "passes water", they go to the toilet

The end!
EUPHEMISM

Expression of the month:

This month’s word is “euphemism.” Euphemisms are very useful forms of language. Find out more about them.

basically, a euphemism is a substitute word—a polite word or expression that people use when they are talking about something which other people may find unpleasant, upsetting or embarrassing. In other cases, euphemisms can be used to make something sound better than it really is. When we use euphemisms, we are protecting ourselves or others from reality. As you can imagine, many euphemisms refer to sex, bodily functions, war and death. In politics, euphemisms are often used to hide the truth, or to make something bad not appear as bad as it really is. Here are a few examples. The first sentence of each pair is the euphemistic way of saying it; and the second sentence is the more literal translation:

- She passed away last night. = She died last night.
- I need to spend a penny. = I need to go to the toilet.
- I’m a pedagogical instructor. = I’m a teacher.
- That company is in the middle of downsizing. = That company is sacking workers.
- There was a considerable amount of collateral damage during the bombing. = Many civilians were killed during the bombing.
- The prisoner was given a lethal injection. = The prisoner was executed with poison.
- He decided to come out. = He decided to admit to being homosexual.
- She works for a waste recycling company. = She is a rubbish collector.
- He is a sanitation engineer. = He is a janitor.
- She is a transparent-wall maintenance officer. = She is a window cleaner.

GLOSSARY

upsetting (adj) that causes people to be sad or angry to sack sb inform
inform to tell someone to leave their job a janitor
a person who is in charge of the maintenance of a building

What is Hot English?

Trial class
+material!

ONL Y!

But don’t take our word for it, try out a...
...and then choose one of the four courses below.

(00 34) 91 455 0273
telephone-english
classes@learnhotenglish.com

www.learnhotenglish.com