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IMPORTANT
PROVERBS AND SAYINGS!

PLUS

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Taylor Swift

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English – the fun magazine for learning English.

In this month’s issue, we’re looking at how to improve your speaking by learning about some proverbs and sayings. These are typical expressions that people often use in conversation. We’ve got a fun exercise for you that should help you learn what they mean.

Talking about learning language, what are your top tips for learning really difficult words? You know – those really complicated words that you just can’t seem to learn or remember. This month, we’re looking at how visual mnemonics can help you with this.

Of course, that’s not all, we’re also looking at how to end a phone conversation, embarrassing things parents do, mysteries, fashion, mood-boosting snacks, ridiculous lawsuits and famous landmarks, to mention just a few. Plus, you can learn some useful expressions for negotiating, visiting someone’s house and chatting about other people.

Happy learning!

See you next month!

Andy

Don’t forget to check out the blog on our website: blog.learnhotenglish.com for free lessons and articles on how to learn English. Or “like” us on Facebook or Twitter (@LearnHotEnglish) so you can keep up with our latest news.

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UNUSUAL “FASHION” VOCABULARY

Here’s some fashion vocabulary for you to learn.

“Fashion is about dressing according to what’s fashionable. Style is more about being yourself.” Oscar de la Renta

- Glasses
- Socks
- Sandals
- Baseball cap
- Slippers
- Football shirt
- Hooded top
- Tracksuit
- Oversized sunglasses
- Skinny jeans
- Cargo shorts
- Harem pants
- Crop top
- Gladiator sandals
- Bum-bag (“fanny pack” in US English)
- Jumpsuit
- Saggy jeans
- Gold necklace
- Ugg boots
- Mankini
- Thong
THINGS WE HATE ABOUT FASHION!

Are there any fashions you hate? Here are a few things some people really don't like.

My granddad goes for the “English-man-abroad” look with his socks-and-sandals combo. He often wears a bum-bag too! So not cool! [Amy, 22]

My aunt wears harem pants – you know those trousers with a really low gusset that make you look like you’re wearing a big nappy. Sometimes, she wears a crop top too, even though she’s got a bit of a belly. [Ben, 28]

My brother has the hipster look with his beard, skinny jeans and glasses (even though he can see perfectly well!). He says he dresses like that because he’s got a job in a coffee shop and “needs” that look. Yeah, right! [Jessica, 19]

My cousin and his mates are really into rap, and walk around with saggy jeans, fake gold necklaces, hooded tops and baseball caps turned around. They think they look so cool. [Henry, 29]

My boyfriend wears cargo shorts. He says they’re really comfortable and practical with the really big pockets, but I think they just look like a mess, especially as they’re too big for him. [Chloe, 24]

My mum has a pair of those oversized sunglasses. Dad says she looks like she’s hiding something, such as a drink problem or bags under the eyes. The other day she had a jumpsuit on too. She said it was like one that Victoria Beckham modelled. She’s becoming more and more like her every day! [Dave, 26]

Glossary

- combo: a combination of two things that go well together: socks and sandals, in this case to take ages to put on or take a long time
- hooligan: someone (such as a football fan) who is noisy and violent in a public place
- fake: “fake” objects aren’t real – they’re a copy of the original
- raccoon dog: an animal related to foxes and wolves. They have soft fur (hair on their bodies)
- gusset: an attention seeker - someone who does things so that people notice him/her
- belly: a piece of cloth added to clothing to make them looser or bigger. A trouser “gusset” is placed between the legs to give you more room there
- drink problem: someone with a “drink problem” consumes too much alcohol
Can a student exchange help you learn?

Have you ever been on a student exchange? How useful was it? Did it help you improve your knowledge of the language you were studying? We asked three people for their opinions.

Ellen
I spent 8 days in Stuttgart (Germany) when I was studying for my A levels. I went to school with my exchange partner every day, and spent the evenings with her family. It was great because I had to speak German all the time. However, the most useful thing was that I was focusing more on communicating with the language, rather than speaking perfectly correct German. It also made me more confident because people could understand what I was talking about. I’d definitely recommend it to other students studying languages.

Alice
I took part in a French exchange. It lasted one week and I stayed with my exchange family in a small town just outside Paris. I’m quite a shy person, so the first few days were a bit scary, but once I’d settled in, it was fine. I was studying French A-level at the time; I love the language and had a reasonably good level. But the exchange really helped develop my speaking skills, and made me a much more confident person in general. It felt great to be able to chat to native French people, knowing we could communicate with each other. I also found that everyone who took part in the exchange did a lot better in their end-of-year exams. I would definitely recommend an exchange – in fact, I think it should be compulsory.

Frank
I went on an exchange with my class for a week in Madrid (Spain). I stayed with my exchange family in their house and went to school with the host family’s daughter, who was the same age as me. My other friends from the UK were also at the same school. Before the exchange, I think my understanding of grammar was pretty good, but I struggled with listening and speaking. So, it was good to be in a place where I had no choice but to use my language skills. It also helped me learn the kind of Spanish that people use when they’re speaking, rather than the language from books. If I had the opportunity, I’d definitely take part in another language exchange.

Glossary

Student exchange: if you’re on a “student exchange” programme, you study at a different school or university (often in another country) for a period of time. It’s an “exchange” because people from the school you visited may come to study at your school.

A level: a school qualification in a subject (such as Maths, History, English, etc.) typically taken by students aged 16–18. Students typically study for three A-levels.

Exchange partner: a student who you visit as part of a student exchange programme.

Host family: the family of the exchange student you’re visiting and staying with.

To struggle: if you “struggle” to do something, you find it difficult.

To last: if something “lasts” for one week (for example), it happens for one week.

To settle in: if you “settle in”, you become comfortable living in a new place.

To chat: to talk to someone in a friendly, informal way about things that aren’t important.

Compulsory: if something is “compulsory”, you have to do it.
8 SNACKS TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

Feeling a bit down? Need something to lift you up? Why not try one of these mood-boosting snacks.

1. Berries
Berries are full of antioxidants and amino acids that can reduce stress. For a healthy option, drink it plain. For a sweeter version, add a bit of sugar.

2. Kale
Kale is rich in vitamin D and magnesium which regulates serotonin – the chemical in your brain that makes you happy. For a great salad, mix some kale, pine nuts and feta cheese.

3. Eggs
Eggs are rich in vitamin D and produce serotonin in your brain. Start your day with some delicious scrambled eggs, or have a fried one on toast when you get home in the evening.

4. Walnuts
Walnuts are high in essential fats, which lower cholesterol and promote an overall sense of health by improving your blood flow. Eat them plain or slice them in the oven for half an hour with some sugar and butter to make candied walnuts. Delicious!

5. Greek yogurt
Greek yoghurt is full of protein, which can increase levels of pleasure-boosting neurotransmitters such as dopamine. Have some Greek yoghurt with honey, or add the berries mentioned earlier and include two mood-boosting snacks in one!

Get happy!

Glossary

- **antioxidant**: a substance that prevents the damage that oxygen can cause. Foods with antioxidants are thought to be very good for you.
- **amino acids**: substances containing nitrogen and hydrogen. They are found in proteins and occur naturally in the body.
- **berries**: full of antioxidants and amino acids that can reduce stress. For a healthy option, drink it plain.
- **chocolate**: improves the way your brain functions. It can also slow down the production of stress hormones. Have some grated over oatmeal, or mixed with fruit for breakfast.
- **granola**: a type of salty, white cheese made from goats’ or sheep’s milk. It’s typically from Greece.
- **honey**: a type of sweetener made from bees’ nectar.
- **feta cheese**: a type of white cheese made from goats’ milk, or sheep’s milk. It’s typically from Greece.
- **serotonin**: a chemical produced naturally in your brain that affects the way you feel. It can make you feel happier, calmer, less hungry.
- **tocopherol**: a type of vitamin that is present in red meat and eggs.

- **to slice**: to cut food (for example) into thin pieces
- **to grate**: to cut food (for example) into thin pieces

Track 3: Englishman & Irishman

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The Present Perfect Passive

Affirmative
- I've been told.
- You've been told.
- He's been told.
- She's been told.
- It's been told.
- We've been told.
- They've been told.

Negative
- I haven't been told.
- You haven't been told.
- He hasn't been told.
- She hasn't been told.
- It hasn't been told.
- We haven't been told.
- They haven't been told.

Interrogative
- Have I been told?
- Have you been told?
- Has he been told?
- Has she been told?
- Has it been told?
- Have we been told?
- Have they been told?

The full forms are: I've = I have, you've = you have, we've = we have, they've = have not, hasn't = has not.

We form the present perfect passive with have been / has been + a past participle. For example:
- a) The e-mail has been sent.
- b) The windows have been cleaned.

We form negatives with haven't been / hasn't been + a past participle. For example:
- a) The e-mail hasn't been sent.
- b) The windows haven't been cleaned.

We use the passive when...
- a) ...we don't know who has performed the action = “The chair has been repaired.”
- b) ...it isn't important who has performed the action = “The work has been completed.”
- c) ...it's obvious who has performed the action = “The woman has been arrested.” [Obviously, the police have arrested the woman.]

In active sentences, the person or thing doing the action is the subject of the sentence. For example:
- a) Jack (subject) + has prepared (verb) + the food (object)
- b) Pete and Jenny (subject) + have checked (verb)+ the documents (object)

However, with passives, the person or thing receiving the action is the main focus of the sentence. For example:
- a) The food has been prepared by Jack.
- b) The documents have been checked by Pete and Jenny.

Notice how the person who does the action can appear at the end of the sentence after the word “by”. You don’t have to add this information if you don’t need to. For example, “The food has been prepared (by Jack).”

We use the passive when...
- a) ...we don't know who has performed the action = “The chair has been repaired.”
- b) ...it isn’t important who has performed the action = “The work has been completed.”
- c) ...it's obvious who has performed the action = “The woman has been arrested.” [Obviously, the police have arrested the woman.]

Dialogue: the museum

Jennifer Givens, a minister from the Department of Culture, is talking to Frank Jones, the director of the Natural History museum. She wants an update on the current situation. Listen and complete the dialogue with the correct participles. J=Jennifer F=Frank

J: So, I see the Tyrannosaurus Rex has been (1) ________ from the entrance.
F: Yes, it's been sold.
J: Sold?
F: Yes, we had some expenses that we needed to cover.
J: Expenses?
F: Well, some of the staff hadn’t been (2) ________ for a while. The money from the sale of the dinosaur has been (3) ________ for that.
J: Oh, right. And the replica blue whale that was such a popular attraction?
F: It's been (4) ________ to another museum. We couldn't afford to keep the room open any longer – the heating and lighting bills were really high.
J: Right, so, why has the “Romans in Britain” exhibition been (5) ________?
F: Cleaning work.
J: Hopefully it won’t take too long. Now, on a positive note, I see that sales from the museum shop have (6) ________.
F: Yes, well, we’re offering a lot more products now.
J: That’s great. And I also see that the museum restaurant is doing quite well.
F: Yes, it’s now the most popular part of the museum. We’re offering a three-course meal for just £6.
J: Can we make a profit on that?
F: Not really, but it gets the visitors in – and as they have to pay £3 for the entrance fee, it works out quite well.
J: Ah, I see. Very clever. Now, where’s that exhibition on Early Man?
F: It’s been (7) ________ down for repairs. The Neanderthal man’s arms fell off, and the sabre-toothed tiger has been (8) ________.
J: Stolen?
F: Yes.
J: Where was the security guard at the time?
F: We don’t know, but he’s been (9) ________.
J: Fired? Why?
F: Well, police think that he might have (10) ________ it.
J: What on earth would he want that for?
F: We also noticed that a stuffed lion has (11) ________ missing. The two thefts might be connected. The police are looking into it. Apparently the guard is really into hunting.
J: Oh, right. Now, what’s happened to... [fades out]
Here are 16 really useful prepositions of place.

1. The owl is **in** the box.
2. The owl is **on** the box.
3. The owl is **under** the box.
4. The owl is **behind** the box.
5. The owl is **in front of** the box.
6. The owl is **next to** the box.
7. The blue owl is **near** the green owl.
8. The blue owl is **below** the green owl.
9. The owl is **above** the box.
10. The blue owl is **far from** the green owl.
11. The owl is **between** two boxes.
12. The blue owl is **opposite** the green one.
13. The owl is **by** the tree.
14. The owl is **beside** the box.
15. The blue owl is **among** some other owls.
16. The boxes are **around** the owl.
Objective: To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it: When was the last time you had a phone call with someone? What were you talking about? How did the conversation end? Who ended it? What do you say when you want to end a call? What are some other typical phrases or ways to end a call? Do you speak much on the phone? How many minutes per day?

1 Pre-listening

Put the expressions below into the table.

Column “A” is for expressions that are used for wrapping up a conversation – for signalling that a conversation is about to end.

Column “B” is for expressions that are used at the end of the conversation to say goodbye.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I’m sorry but I’ve got a meeting to go to.</th>
<th>See you next week.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See you later.</td>
<td>Just let me know if there’s anything else I can do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak soon.</td>
<td>We’ll get back to you just as soon as we can.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We’ll get back to you just as soon as we can.</td>
<td>Goodbye.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So, we’ll talk about this next week then.</td>
<td>OK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take care.</td>
<td>Bye.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anyway, I must apologise for taking up so much of your time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Listening I

You’re going to listen to four phone calls. Listen once. Did you hear any of the expressions from the previous activity? Which ones?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

Dialogue 1
1. How had they been communicating up until now?
2. What is one of the speakers going to send?

Dialogue 2
3. When does the speaker’s class start?
4. When are they going to see each other?

Dialogue 3
5. What is one of the speakers going to send next week?
6. What is the female speaker going to e-mail the other speaker?

Dialogue 4
7. What electronic device is giving the caller an electric shock?
8. How long has he had it for?

4 Phone dialogues

1 Ellis: Well, I know you’re busy, so I don’t want to keep you any longer.
Zoe: No problem. It was really nice talking to you.
Ellis: Yeah, it’s great to finally speak over the phone after communicating by e-mail all these years.
Zoe: We’ll have to meet up in person next time!
Ellis: Definitely.
Zoe: OK. So, I’ll write up that report and send it as soon as I can.
Ellis: Yeah, thanks, great.
Zoe: Bye.

2 Eddie: Well, it’s been great chatting to you but I’ve really got to go. My class starts in about half an hour and I need to get the train.
Oscar: Of course. I’ve got to get to the post office before it closes too.
Eddie: OK. So, then I’ll see you next week.
Oscar: Yeah, Thursday at 6pm in the Horse and Hounds.
Eddie: Perfect.
Oscar: See you later.
Eddie: Bye.
Oscar: Bye.

3 Kate: Anyway, I must apologise for taking up so much of your time.
Jake: No problem at all. I’m glad to help. Just let me know if there’s anything else I can do.
Kate: I will, thanks so much.
Jake: I’ll send those documents tomorrow afternoon.
Kate: Great! And I’ll e-mail you the plans for the new development.
Jake: Yes, that would be great. I’d like to look over those.
Kate: OK. Speak soon.
Jake: Bye.
Kate: Bye.

4 Toby: ...and every time I touched one of the metal parts on the dishwasher, I got an electric shock.
Erin: Oh, I am sorry about that. We’ll have someone come around to check it out as soon as possible.
Toby: Do you have any idea when they might come round?
Erin: Well, I just need to process the information, and as soon as that’s completed, someone will phone you to arrange a time to pop round.
Toby: Well, it’s rather urgent as we can’t use it at the moment. We’ve only had it a couple of days.
Erin: I’ll process it right now, and we’ll get back to you just as soon as we can.
Toby: OK. Thanks.
Erin: Thanks so much for calling. Have a nice day.
Toby: Bye.
Erin: Goodbye!
What’s your favourite item of clothing?

Photos and interviews by Georgie & Danielle

Duncan McQueen (England, chef)

Probably a pair of sandals I bought a couple of summers ago. I’ve always found it really difficult to find a comfortable pair.

James Duggan (Ireland, actor)

Erm, maybe a leather jacket because I can put it on with anything else.

Melissa Armstrong (Puerto Rico, food critic)

My favourite item of clothing would be shoes, erm, they are my addiction and I like them because I think they can make or break an outfit, erm, and also you can mix them up from one day to the next.

Anne Lydon (Ireland, theatre director)

My favourite item of clothing are jeans because they’re the most comfortable and you can wear them anywhere.

Rayna Taylor (USA, marketing executive)

My absolute favourite items of clothing, which is kind of like clothing but it’s not, are my headphones, which I wear everyday and they go with everything.

Lindsay MacNaughton (Scotland, translator)

My favourite item of clothing is a sweatshirt designed by a friend of mine. He’s a street artist in Paris so it’s quite trendy. It’s big and comfortable and looks cool.

Remember!
Remember, when people talk informally and spontaneously, they often use non-standard English.

Glossary
- to make or break
  if something can “make or break” an outfit, it can either make the outfit look amazing (make) or terrible (break)
- an outfit
  a set of clothes, often with the trousers (or skirt) and jacket of the same material, colour, etc.
- to go with
  if item of clothing A “goes well with” item of clothing B, the two items look good together

trendy adj
fashionable
Objective: To improve your listening skills.

Think about it: Have you seen any old friends lately? Who? Why hadn’t you seen them for such a long time? What did you talk about? What did he/she ask you? What did you ask him/her? Where were you? When do you think you’ll see them again?

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

Catching up!

Audio script

Hugo: Libby, isn’t it?
Libby: That’s right. And you are...?
Hugo: Hugo. Hugo Smith. We were at that Leipzig (1) _______ together. That was about two years ago, wasn’t it?
Libby: Oh, yes, Hugo. That’s right! Wow! Doesn’t time fly?
Hugo: It sure does. You were in the process of getting a (2) ________ in London last time we spoke, weren’t you?
Libby: Oh, no, Hugo. That’s right! Wow! Doesn’t time fly?
Hugo: Libby has bought a little apartment overlooking the (3) ________.
Libby: Oh, yes, Hugo. That’s right! Wow! Doesn’t time fly?
Hugo: I bought a house in a little village.
Libby: Very nice.
Hugo: I know the one. I used to go there quite a lot.
Libby: Very nice.
Hugo: I bought a house in a little village.
Libby: Very nice. But I miss the (5) ________.
Libby: It’s just a little bit too quiet at times.
Libby: I can imagine. So, what are you doing here in Manchester?
Hugo: I’m just back here for the (6) ________ .
Libby: I’m visiting friends and family.
Hugo: So am I!
Libby: Anyway, what about the other guys? I’m friends with Chloe on Facebook.
Hugo: So I am! But we haven’t seen each other since the last (8) ________.
Libby: No, me neither. Hey, have you got time for a coffee?
Hugo: Yeah, sure!
Libby: There used to be a really nice (9) ________ in Canal Street.
Libby: I know the one. I used to go there quite a lot.
Libby: So did I! It’s got a lovely old (10) ________.
Hugo: That’s it.
Libby: I’m so glad I bumped into you.
Libby: Me too. I’ve been meaning to get in touch. So, tell me, what did you... [fades out]
Objective: To improve your range of vocabulary and your listening skills.

Think about it!
When was the last time you arranged to meet someone? Who was it? Why did you need to meet them? What time did you meet? Where did you meet? What did you talk about? When was the last time you had to reschedule a meeting? Why did you have to reschedule it? What was the original time or date? What was the new one?

PRACTICAL ENGLISH

HOW TO ARRANGE A MEETING

Learn how to arrange a meeting in English.

Arranging a meeting
- Could we meet at 10 to discuss the new project?
- Are you available at 1pm on Friday?
- Are you free on Friday morning?
- How’s Tuesday afternoon looking for you?
- What’s your schedule like on Tuesday morning?
- Are you busy on Thursday morning?
- When would be convenient for you?
- How about meeting on Tuesday at 3pm?
- Does Monday afternoon at 6pm sound good to you?
- Would Thursday at 4pm work for you?
- Will you be able to make it to the meeting at 5pm?

Saying no
- I’m afraid I won’t be able to make it at that time.
- I’m sorry but I’m really busy this week.
- I’m sorry but I’m going to be busy all day on Friday.
- I’m afraid I’ve got an early morning meeting on Thursday.
- I’m sorry but I’m all tied up on Monday.

Offering an alternative
- Could we meet on Wednesday at 3pm instead?
- If you don’t mind, I’d rather meet up sometime next week.
- I could possibly re-arrange my three o’clock appointment.
- I may be able to re-schedule my Tuesday lunch.

Confirming information
- That’s great!
- That’s perfect!
- OK, I’ll see you then.
- That would suit me just fine.
- I’ll see you on Tuesday 4th May at 11am.

Answers on page 44

Listening I
You’re going to listen to a conversation between two colleagues at work. They’re trying to arrange a time for a meeting. Listen once. Which day do they eventually decide to meet on?

Dialogue: Arranging a meeting

Oliver: Oliver speaking.
Megan: Oh, hi, Oliver, it’s Megan.
Oliver: Hi, Megan. How’s it going?
Megan: Not too bad, thanks. Look, I’m trying to find time for a meeting this week. Are you free on Thursday?
Oliver: Erm, let me just check. No, sorry I’ve got a sales conference to go to all day on Thursday.
Megan: Erm, how about Friday afternoon? Are you free any time then?
Oliver: Yes, that should be OK. How about 4:30?
Megan: Oh, no, wait a minute. I forgot I have a meeting at 4pm. What’s Friday morning looking like for you? Could you make it at 11am, for example?
Oliver: Friday mornings are never good for me. Could we meet up sometime next week?
Megan: OK, I had arranged to meet a work colleague, but it isn’t that urgent so I can probably reschedule it. So, let’s say Tuesday afternoon at 4pm, but I’ll need to confirm that first, but I don’t think it should be a problem.
Oliver: OK. Perfect. Just send me an e-mail to confirm and I’ll write it into my diary.
Oliver: Bye.
HOW STUPID CAN YOU GET?

Here are three stories of stupidity.

**The police car**
A woman was arrested after trying to steal a police car... with two police officers inside. The 32-year-old was reportedly drunk when she tried to get into the driver’s seat of the unmarked car in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She told the two plain-clothes officers in the back that she wanted to drive their car to where she'd left her vehicle earlier – but the officers arrested her on the spot. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette the woman had “an overwhelming odour of alcoholic beverage emanating from her person”. She was later charged with robbery and public drunkenness.

**The drugs**
French police officers managed to lose 51kg of cocaine from their own headquarters. The drugs, worth an estimated €2.5m vanished from the force’s famous Paris HQ at 36 Quai des Orfèvres. The cocaine “bricks” were seized after officers smashed a drug-trafficking network in the capital. They were later placed in numbered evidence bags, and were last seen in a locked room in the building. Officials say the cocaine was definitely still in the secured store room on 23rd July when it was last checked, but was missing the following week.

**The sculpture**
An exchange student had to be rescued by fire fighters after he got stuck in a giant marble statue. The young man climbed into the stone sculpture of a woman’s private parts for a bit of a laugh, but soon realised he couldn’t get out again. Twenty-two fire fighters in five vehicles were called to the scene in the grounds of the Tubingen University Institute of Microbiology (in Germany). Named Pi-Chacán, which means “making love”, the sculpture has been at the institute for 13 years and is the work of Peruvian artist Fernando de la Jara. There was no damage to the erotic structure, and the student was released unharmed, although somewhat embarrassed. Social media users were quick to comment on the incident. One joker tweeted, “It’s a boy!”

How stupid! 🤦‍♂️

**GLOSSARY**
- an unmarked car: n an ordinary-looking car that the police use. It doesn’t have the “police” sign on it or the flashing light
- a plain-clothes officer: n a police officer who isn’t wearing a uniform and who is dressed as an ordinary person on the spot
- immediately: adv very powerful and strong
- an odour: n a smell
- a beverage: n a drink
- to emanate: vb if a smell is “emanating” from a place, it’s coming from that place
- a headquarters: n the main office of an organisation. The abbreviated form is “HQ”
- to vanish: vb to disappear
- a laugh: n to take, often with force
- to smash: vb if a group is “smashed”, it is destroyed
- a drug-trafficking network: n an organisation that buys (or produces) and sells illegal drugs
- stuck: vb if you’re “stuck” somewhere, you can’t get out of that place
- private parts: n the external sexual organs
- a laugh: n if you do something for a “laugh”, you do it for fun
- the grounds: n the “grounds” of a large or important building (such as a university) are the gardens or areas of land around it
- somewhat: adv more or less

Answers on page 44

1. **Pre-reading**
   Look at the story titles. In what way might someone have been “stupid”? Think of at least one idea per story. Make notes.

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

3. **Reading II**
   Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.
   1. How many police officers were in the unmarked car?
   2. Where did the woman say she wanted to drive the car?
   3. How many kilos of cocaine did the police lose?
   4. Where were the bags of cocaine last seen?
   5. When were they last seen there?
   6. Why did the man climb into the sculpture?
   7. How many fire-fighters came to help him get out?
   8. How long has the sculpture been at the university?

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

**Objective**
To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it**
When was the last time you did something stupid? What did you do? How did you resolve it? Have you heard any stories of people doing stupid things? What happened? Have you ever lost anything? What was it? Did you eventually find it? Where was it? Have you ever been stuck somewhere? What happened?
5 MOVIES FOR KIDS YOU WON’T HATE!

Here are five films that you’re sure to love, no matter how old you are.

**Inside Out**
*Inside Out is* about an 11-year-old girl called Riley. The film follows the adventures of her emotions: Joy, Sadness, Fear, Anger and Disgust. When Joy and Sadness (who are each played by different characters) get lost in Riley’s mind, her life is turned upside down. Kids will love all the funny jokes and bright colours. However, adults will enjoy the way the film deals with important themes such as love, honesty and accepting change in a completely original way.

**Shrek**
*Shrek* is about an ogre who is on a mission to rescue a princess. Kids love it because it’s full of fairytale characters, including the big bad wolf, the gingerbread man and Snow White. Adults will enjoy listening to the funny characters, especially Shrek’s companion Donkey, who is voiced by Eddie Murphy. He turns his dialogue into a hilarious stand-up routine. “Before this is over I’m gonna need a whole lot of pavement pictures. Adults will appreciate the subtle ironies. For example, the song *Sister Suffragette* is sung by Mrs Banks who is fighting for women’s rights... when she isn’t being a devoted housewife.

**Frozen**
*Frozen* is about two princesses, Elsa and Anna. Elsa has a secret power, and accidentally uses it to cast a spell on the kingdom, placing it in an eternal winter. Horrified, she runs away, leaving the city covered in snow and ice. Anna joins up with mountaineer Kristoff and his reindeer sidekick to find Elsa and break the spell. Children will love the jokes and songs. However, adults will appreciate the movie for its ironic touches on Disney stereotypes. For example, the song *Love is an Open Door* jokes about the idea of falling in love at first sight and living happily ever after.

**Glossary**
- **joy**: happiness
- **disgust**: a feeling of very strong dislike
- **to turn upside down**: if your life is “turned upside down”, everything changes in it
- **way of life**: if you say that something is a “way of life”, you’re saying that it’s the normal or usual thing that people do
- **to befriend**: to make friends with
- **a fiery beast**: a dragon; a monster that breathes fire
- **score**: the music for a film
- **a pavement picture**: a drawing that someone has done on the pavement (the part of the road that you walk on)
- **suffragettes**: were women who fought for the right for women to vote in the early 20th century. Some women were given the vote in 1918 in the UK, and all women over 21 were allowed to vote in 1928.
- **a devoted husband or wife, loves his/her partner a lot**: a woman who works at home, doing the cleaning, cooking, etc.
- **a sidekick**: a person who accompanies or helps an important or powerful person
- **an example in a story of something that is unusual or funny because it shows a contradiction, a contrast, an unusual situation, etc**: a stereotype

Pre-reading: Look at the film titles in the text. Have you seen any of the movies? What are they about? What did you think of them?

Reading I: Read or listen to the article once. Which movie sounds the most interesting? Why?

Reading II: Read the article again. Then, write the name of a film next to each statement.

1. It’s about an English nanny who can perform magic.
2. It’s about an 11-year-old girl and her emotions.
3. One of the main stars places her kingdom in an eternal winter.
4. The plot is based around a mythical creature that flies.
5. It features a song about falling in love.
6. It features a talking donkey and lots of fairytale characters.
7. The film deals with issues such as accepting change.

Exams: This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.
Here are two spooky mysteries to keep you awake at night.

**The footprints**
During the winter of 1855, much of England was covered in snow. On the night of 8th February, strange footprints appeared around East and South Devon (an area in the south of England). The unusual prints were about 6 cm deep, and there was a distance of about 20 cm between them. Curiously, they continued on a more or less straight path for over 150 km, passing over any obstacle: rooftops, walls, hills, frozen rivers... On top of that, during that same period, several witnesses in the area claimed that they’d seen a “diabolical figure”.

Recently, in March 2009, similar traces appeared in the same area. There have been several explanations. Some claim it may have been a rat or mouse, others say it could have been an escaped kangaroo, but many are convinced it was the work of the devil.

**The bridge**
Overtoun Bridge is an arched bridge in West Dumbartonshire (Scotland). It lies within the estate of Overtoun House, a 19th-century country manor that overlooks the village of Milton. Built around 1860, it was donated to the people of Dumbarton in 1938. However, since then, it has become famous as a place where dogs, for no logical reason, commit suicide. The incidents were first recorded around the 1950s when it was noticed that dogs would suddenly jump off the bridge and fall the 16 metres to their deaths. In some cases, the dogs would survive, get better then leap off the bridge again. What makes this even more mysterious is that many of the dogs jump from the same side and from almost the same spot: between the final two parapets on the right-hand side of the bridge. Some believe that the bridge is haunted. In 1994, a man threw his baby son off the bridge, claiming he was the anti-Christ. Later, the man attempted to kill himself by jumping off the same bridge.

**Glossary**
- spooky: scary or frightening
- a footprint: a mark in the ground or snow made by someone’s foot or shoe
- a path: a long strip of ground that you walk along
- an obstacle: an object that makes it difficult for you to go where you want to go, or something that stops you from progressing
- a witness: someone who sees a crime or incident
- diabolical: very bad or horrible
- to commit suicide: to kill yourself
- to overlook: to see the village from the building, often because it’s on a high point
- a trace: a “trace” of something is a small amount of it
- the devil: the most powerful evil spirit in Christianity
- an arch: a curved building (for example), you can see the village from the building, often because it’s on a high point
- to donate: to give it to someone, often in order to help
- an estate: a large area of land in the country which is owned by a person, family, etc.
- a manor: a large private house in the country, often from the Middle Ages. It includes the land and smaller buildings around it
- to overlook: if a building “overlooks” a village (for example), you can see the village from the building, often because it’s on a high point
- to donate: to give it to someone, often in order to help
- to commit suicide: to kill yourself
- to survive: if you “survive” an accident, you don’t die in that accident
- to leap off: to jump off
- to jump off: to leap off
- a spot: a place
- a parapet: a low wall along the edge of a bridge or roof
- the anti-Christ: the devil (see above)
Getting into the city

Audio script

Karl and Dave are having a chat in a pub. They’re talking about the congestion charge – an amount of money you pay if you want to drive into London.

Dave: So, you got any plans for the weekend?
Karl: Not really, I think I’ll just, erm, you know, take it easy. It’s been a bit of a busy week.
Dave: Yeah, I know what you mean.
Karl: Oh, but, erm, I’ve some tickets for a theatre show on Sunday (1). I’ve got a spare ticket if you fancy coming along.
Dave: That sounds good. What’s the (2)?
Karl: It’s some sort of comedy – nothing special. It’s in, like, this little (3) just off Marley Street. My cousin’s in it – that’s how I got the (4).
Dave: Oh, right, that sounds great.
Karl: We could meet up just outside the theatre at, like, 5pm. It starts at, erm, 6:15, I think.
Dave: Great.
Karl: I’ll send you the details by (5).
Dave: OK. So, erm, how will you be getting into the centre?
Karl: Well, I was gonna drive, but, like, with the congestion charge plus (6), it’s just too expensive.
Dave: Yeah, tell me about it. I heard that they’re planning to increase the (7) too.
Karl: It’s like 10 pounds now, isn’t it?
Dave: Something like that, but I got fined last time for not paying in (8) – it cost me 50 pounds!
Karl: Fifty pounds! That’s outrageous. Although I do, like, think it’s a good idea in principle. I mean, it’s gonna reduce the number of cars in the centre and cut down on (9) .
Dave: Yeah, but some people who work there need to drive in. So, it’s bad for business, isn’t it?
Karl: Well, I don’t know about that – I mean, the public transport (10) is pretty good, but what I like is that there’ll be fewer cars, and, like, less pollution. Hopefully, they’ll pedestrianise more areas too, and make it more, erm, people-friendly.
Dave: Yeah, but lots of small business owners need to get their goods to the (11). You know, shops need to have deliveries.
Karl: I guess so, but I think they’ve got, like, a reduced rate for people with businesses in the centre.
Dave: Yeah, maybe, so what time... [fades out]
VISITING SOMEONE’S HOUSE

Learn over 15 useful words and expressions to use when you visit someone’s house.

Useful words

Living room  Hall  Kitchen  Bathroom  Bedroom  Dining room  Toilet  Drive  Garden (back garden)  Door  Doorbell  Umbrella  Rug  Carpet  Coat stand  Umbrella stand

Useful expressions

Just arrived

You say...

- Sorry I’m late. The traffic was terrible.
- These (flowers) are for you. / Here’s a little something for you.
- What a lovely house!
- How long have you been living here?

They say...

- Did you get the directions I sent you?
- Here, let me take your coat.
- I could have picked you up from the station.
- Come in and make yourself at home.

Drinks

They say...

- Can I get you anything to drink?
- Would you like a cup of tea? I’ve just put the kettle on.
- Milk and sugar?

You say...

- I’ll have a cup of tea, please.
- Just a bit of milk, please.
- I’ll have whatever you’re having.

Leaving

You say...

- Do you know what time the last train leaves?
- Can I get a taxi from here?
- It’s late. I think we should get going.
- Thank you for such a lovely evening.

They say...

- You must come again sometime.
- Can I give you a lift anywhere?
- Do come again!

Note

If you’re invited to a lunch or dinner, it’s typical to bring something with you such as a bottle of wine, a box of chocolates, some flowers, etc.

Dialogue: the visit

Maria has arrived at Peter’s house for lunch. Complete the dialogue with correct words.

Jack: [The doorbell rings.] Maria. Hi! Sorry I’m late. Maria: Hi, sorry I’m late. Jack: Did you get the (1) ____ I sent? Maria: Yes, thanks, but I came by train in the end, and then walked from the (2) ____ . Jack: You should have told me – I would have come to pick you up. Maria: Oh, well, next time! Jack: Of course. Now, let me take your (3) ____ . And come in. Maria: Thanks! [looking around] Nice garden. Jack: Thanks! It’s a lot of work! Maria: I can imagine. Jack: [Two children come rushing in.] Pleased to meet you. Lily: And this is Lily, she’s 10. Ben: Hi. Lily: Pleased to meet you. Jack: [to Jack] They’re lovely. Maria: They aren’t always this polite. Jack: Oh, just a little something I’m preparing for (4). Maria: Thank you. Jack: [walking into the hall] I love the (5) ____ . Maria: [walking into the hall] Oh, thanks so much. Jack: Thanks. I got it in India. Maria: [walking into the hall] I love the (6) ____ . Jack: Thanks. I got it in India. So, can I get you anything to drink? I was just about to put the (7) ____ on. Maria: Oh, yes, I’d love a cup of (7) ____ , please. Jack: Milk and sugar?

Glossary

- A little something
- A little present
- Directions
- Notes on how to arrive at a place
- To pick up
- To collect someone by car from the train station, etc.
- To make yourself at home
- A kettle
- A metal device for boiling water so you can make tea, coffee, etc.
- To show around
- To show if someone “shows you around”, they show you the rooms in the house
HOW TO LEARN DIFFICULT WORDS IN ENGLISH!

What do you do if you’re having problems learning a word? Next time, you might want to try using some mnemonics.

Some words are easier to learn than others. For example, there are thousands of cognates in English, such as the word “education”, which is almost identical in French (“éducation”) and Spanish (“educación”).

In other cases, you can guess the meaning of words through the context. However, some words are just really hard to learn as they just don’t seem to have any relation to any other words you know. So, what can you do?

Simple! Use mnemonics! Mnemonics are devices to help you remember things. There are a variety of them, including rhymes, spelling acronyms and sentence mnemonics. Visual mnemonics with pictures or images are really good for learning words.

In order to create your own visual mnemonic, you need to think about the word. What does it sound like? What does it make you think of? What does it rhyme with? Once you’ve established this, you can create an image that captures the word in your mind. And in order for this to work, your images need to be clear, distinct, strong and, if possible, a little bit crazy. Finally, write a sentence with your new word to help you remember it. We asked a few people for their examples of visual mnemonics.

1. I was having difficulties with the French word “escargot”, which means “snail”. So, I put together an image of an enormous snail travelling on a cargo ship. [Frank, Australia]

   “The snail went to New York by cargo ship.”

2. I used “oreos” to help me learn the Spanish word “orejas” (which means “ears”). I created a picture of a girl with oreos on her ears. It really helped me. [Abigail, USA]

   “She’s got oreos for ears.”

3. I kept forgetting the word for “trousers” in German, which is “Hose”. So, I came up with a picture of some really dirty trousers that were being cleaned with a garden hose. [Sophie, Scotland]

   “I cleaned my dirty trousers with a garden hose.”

4. I was learning Norwegian and was having problems with the word “mulighet”, which means “opportunity, capability, chance, possibility”, etc. So, I came up with an image using a “mule” because this word sounds a bit like a part of the word I wanted to learn.” [Pete, England]

   “The mule is capable of carrying a heavy load.”

5. I’ve always found the word “abduct” hard to remember. So, I put together an image of a pirate abducting a duck, because “abduct” sounds a bit like duck. [David, Spain]

   “The pirate abducted the duck.”

ONLINE FLASHCARD SOLUTIONS

One good way of testing yourself with your mnemonics is to use flashcards. There are lots of websites that have flashcard programs that are great for learning. One of these is Anki (http://ankisrs.net). It shows you one side of the flashcard and you have to guess what’s on the other side. It also uses “spaced repetition”. For example, if you find one of the cards easy, it won’t ask you again for a while. However, if you found it hard, it’ll ask you again the following day. This program can really help you learn things.

Another great site is memrise (www.memrise.com).

GLOSSARY

A mnemonic - a device or technique for learning or remembering something
A cognate - a word that has the same origin or root in several languages. For example, “garden” (English), “jardin” (French) and “jardín” (Spanish) are all cognates
A context - the context of a word or sentence consists of the topic in general, and the words or sentences before and after it
An acronym - a word composed of the first letters of the words in a phrase. For example, LOL – laughing out loud

For company classes or private tuition, contact: classes@learnhotenglish.com / www.learnhotenglish.com
Vocabulary
You’ll learn lots of words and expressions with English Unlocked. There are specific vocabulary sections. Plus, there are lots of useful words and expressions in the reading and listening articles and recordings, as well as in the language activity texts.

Listening
Listening is key for language learning, so there are lots of listening activities in English Unlocked. The listernings are graded, so lower-level students can benefit from slightly slower speech, and at higher levels there are conversations with several participants and background sounds to simulate real-life situations. The pre-listening activities will activate your existing knowledge of the topic. Then, the initial listening activity is designed to get you to skim the text—to get a general understanding of it. This is followed by vocabulary and comprehension exercises to check that you’ve understood the material. There are also lots of reading exercises in the language sections.

Reading
Reading is another important part of language learning. So, you’ll find lots of reading activities in English Unlocked. The reading texts are graded, so you can read material at your level. The pre-reading activities will activate your existing knowledge of the topic. Then, the initial reading activity is designed to get you to skim the text—to get a general understanding of it. This is followed by vocabulary and comprehension exercises to check that you’ve understood the material. There are also lots of reading exercises in the language sections.

Speaking
There are lots of opportunities to speak in English Unlocked. The free speaking tasks on the last page of each unit allow you to practise what you’ve learnt. While you’re doing this, your teacher will be making notes on an Error Correction Sheet. So, during the speaking task, focus on communicating messages. Later, your teacher will go over any errors. Other speaking activities are designed to build up your confidence and fluency. These include the language drills, the question-answer sessions, the pair-work activities and the discussions.

Writing
Many of the writing activities are linked in directly to other tasks. So, after a listening, reading or speaking activity, there may be a writing task that’s related to this. There are also writing tasks linked into the language activities, and which are often extension exercises based on the task. There are also lots of sample writing texts that you can use as models on which to base your own writing.

Pronunciation
With English Unlocked you’ll learn lots about aspects of pronunciation such as connected speech, sentence stress and intonation. There are also activities to help you distinguish different word sounds, and develop a better ear for the language. This will also benefit your listening skills.

Homework
Doing homework is an excellent way of reinforcing and developing language skills, and as a way for you to take more control of your learning—something that is essential if you want to see real progress. As part of the course, your teacher will set activities that you can do at home.

Testing
The Progress Tests are a way of recording your progress by evaluating your language skills. Each test consists of Reading, Listening and Speaking activities similar to the ones that are carried out in class, the only difference being that the results are recorded, and the activities are under exam conditions. In addition, there are language and writing tasks.
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**RECIPE**

**FRENCH ONION SOUP**

This delicious recipe is said to be perfect for a hangover or a broken heart.

**Ingredients**

1. 5 onions (1 kilo)
2. 2 knobs of butter
3. A drizzle of olive oil
4. Salt, pepper
5. A glass of dry white wine (or apple cider vinegar)
6. Toasted bread
7. A tablespoon of flour
8. One litre of beef stock (or vegetable stock)
9. A bunch of dried herbs like thyme, rosemary and a bayleaf
10. Cognac or brandy (optional)
11. A cup of grated Swiss cheese

**Steps**

1. Slice up the onions into small pieces.
2. Add the butter and oil into a pan and cook the onions on a medium heat.
3. Season with salt. Stir from time to time for about 30 minutes.
4. When the onions are looking nice and brown, pour in the wine.
5. Add a tablespoon of flour. Mix well and stir for about a minute.
6. Add the stock and dried herbs and let the soup simmer for about 20 minutes.
7. Season the soup and add a dash of cognac or brandy for added flavour.
8. Pour the soup into little bowls.
9. Rub the toasted bread with garlic, and float the toast on top of the soup.
10. Sprinkle with grated cheese and put the bowls into a pre-heated oven.
11. When the cheese is golden, the soup is ready.

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**TV SCRIPT**

**FRIENDS**

The TV series *Friends* lasted 10 seasons from September 1994 to May 2004. These days, it’s still popular, with a new generation of fans watching the series online. In this clip from the 10th season, the gang (Rachel, Ross, Phoebe, Joey, Chandler and Monica) have just returned from a trip to Barbados. Rachel has brought her daughter Emma to Ross’s apartment. Rachel needs to talk to Ross, but she’s interrupted by an unexpected disaster.

**The script**

Ro: [looking in his bag] Oh, it’s [Ross continues to empty his bag.]
Ra: Oh, yeah. OK, look it’s about me and...
Ro: Oh, not another one! Oh, my... and this is moisturiser. It’s even harder to clean! Why? Why do bad things happen to good people?
Ra: Wow! Well, clearly this is not a good time.
Ro: YOU THINK? 😊

---

**GLOSSARY**

**shampoo explosion**

A special bed for a baby

**anti-depressants**

A drug that is used to treat people who are suffering from depression

**moisturiser**

A cream that you put on your skin to make it feel softer and smoother

**Search YouTube for “Friends shampoo explosion”**

**Search YouTube for “Classic French Onion Soup | French Guy Cooking”**
Every culture has its sayings and proverbs – phrases that offer little pieces of advice or wisdom. Here are some common ones from English-speaking countries. Read over the proverbs and see if you can guess the meaning. Then, listen to the article to check your answers. Notice how in many cases we don’t say the entire proverb – just a part of it.

1. “There’s no such thing as a free lunch.”
   Nothing in life is free – there’s always a condition or hidden cost.
   A: Hey, they’re offering a free iPad to everyone who turns up.
   B: Yeah, but then you probably have to sign up for their mobile network in order to get it. There’s no such thing as a free lunch!

2. “People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones.”
   Don’t criticise other people if you aren’t perfect yourself.
   A: That’s the third time she’s arrived late for the meeting!
   B: Yeah, but you aren’t the most punctual person in the world. As they say, people in glass houses...

3. “Good things come to those who wait.”
   Be patient and something good will happen to you.
   A: Are we there yet? We’ve been in the car for ages!
   B: Only twenty minutes more. The view is worth it, I promise. Good things come to those who wait.

4. “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”
   Don’t depend on just one thing; don’t put all your money into one investment because you could lose it all.
   A: I was thinking about investing my savings in this new tech company.
   B: I wouldn’t put all my eggs in one basket if I were you.

5. “Two heads are better than one.”
   When people work in a team, they can achieve better results.
   A: Can you help me with this? I just can’t work it out.
   B: Of course. You know what they say – two heads are better than one.

6. “Absence makes the heart grow fonder.”
   You start to love people or places more when you’re away from them.
   A: So, do you miss your family much?
   B: Yes, especially as I don’t see them so often! Absence really does make the heart grow fonder.
“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.”
You can try to help someone, but they won’t always take your advice.
A I’ve told him a hundred times about doing that course, but he just won’t listen.
B Stop fretting over it. You can lead a horse to water...

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.”

“Too many cooks spoil the broth.”
When there are too many people in charge of something the results won’t be good.
A I don’t know how we’re ever going to get this done in time with all these people here.
B Yes, too many cooks...

“Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves.”
If you’re careful with small amounts of money, those small amounts will soon grow into bigger amounts.
A Why do you bother with all those supermarket coupons?
B Every bit counts. Remember what they say, if you take care of the pennies...

“Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves.”

“If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again.”
Don’t give up if you fail the first time. Just keep trying and you’ll succeed in the end.
A I give up. I just can’t do it.
B Remember what they say, if at first you don’t succeed...

“If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again.”

“Honesty is the best policy.”
The best thing is to tell the truth.
A I don’t know whether I should tell her what I really think of her boyfriend.
B I’ve always found that honesty is the best policy.

“Honesty is the best policy.”
Feeling angry with someone? Want to get your revenge? Why not build a spite home? They’re specially designed to annoy your neighbours. Here are a couple of famous ones from the US.

**1. The Nevada Spite House** *(Nevada)*
A Nevada man bought an area of land next door to one of his enemies. Then built his own home less than half a metre away. This blocked his neighbour’s view and cut off any ventilation for that side of the house.

**2. The Tyler Spite House** *(Maryland)*
A local doctor built the Tyler Spite House in 1814 to prevent the town from building a road along the planned route. So, the clever doctor quickly got to work on his mansion.

**3. The Alameda Spite House** *(California)*
The Alameda Spite House in northern California is 6.1 metres high, 3 metres wide and 16 metres long. A local legend says that the owner of the house next door sold a small parcel of land to a local carpenter. Some years later, there was an argument between the two men. As a result, the carpenter built a house with a solid wall facing his neighbour’s house, just out of spite!

**4. The Hollensbury Spite House** *(Virginia)*
Built in 1830, the Hollensbury Spite House is just 2.1 metres wide. It was constructed by the owner of one of the buildings next door. Apparently, he was fed up of people using the alley next to his house as a place to loiter.

**5. Equality House** *(Kansas)*
Equality House is directly opposite the Westboro Baptist Church, whose members are known for their extreme anti-gay views. Aaron Jackson, who runs the non-profit group Planting Peace, deliberately chose the home because of its location, and painted it in the bright rainbow colours of the Gay Pride flag. It was finally completed and unveiled in March 2013.

How spiteful!

**GLOSSARY**

- **spite home**: a house that someone builds to annoy another person (see below for literal definition of spite)
- **to cut off** vb: if you “cut off” light (for example) in a building, you stop light from entering that building.
- **ventilation** n: if a house has good “ventilation”, fresh air can enter it.
- **to loiter** vb: to loiter in a place, you stay, wait or stop.
- **fed up of** exp: if you’re “fed up of” (or “with”) something, you’re tired of that thing and want it to stop.
- **skinny** adj: very thin.
- **storey** n: a level of a house. For example, a “three-storey” house has three levels to run.
- ** When something new (such as a home, for example) is “unveiled”, it is shown to the public for the first time. Sometimes, this involves pulling away a curtain to reveal it.
FOUR RIDICULOUS LAWSUITS

Having a working justice system is important. However, sometimes things can get a bit silly, as these four lawsuits clearly show.

The employee
A woman tried to sue the owner of the building where she worked because she was attacked by a seagull. Cathie Kelly, who was injured as she was leaving work, took two weeks’ sick leave after the attack. She claims that the owner of the building is to blame for “not taking sufficient care” of it. However, the court dismissed her case because the gull had probably come from a nearby rubbish dump.

The pimp
Sigrigorio Sanford Clardy once tried to sue Nike for $100 million. Clardy, who was a pimp, had been given a 100-year prison sentence for a crime he committed while wearing a pair of Nike Air Jordan sneakers. He reportedly kicked a customer who was trying to leave a Portland motel without paying. In the trial, Clardy claimed that the shoes he was wearing should have come with a warning label, advising wearers that when used as a weapon, they could cause serious damage. The judge threw the case out.

The customer
A customer at McDonald’s tried to sue the firm for $1.5 million because he was only given one napkin in his order. Webster Lucas, 59, claims that when he asked for more, the manager became rude and unhelpful. The two men got into an argument, which quickly escalated. Lucas claimed that he suffered “undue mental anguish” as a result after he was given just one napkin. “I am an immaculately clean person,” Lucas told the Huffington Post. “I saw food particles on the table and wanted to clean them up.”

The flood victim
Floods in the Denver area in September 2014 caused substantial destruction. But thanks to the efforts of rescue workers the death toll wasn’t as high as it might have been. One such victim, Roy Ortiz, was trapped in his car when rescue workers risked their lives to save his. However, Ortiz then went on to sue them for $500,000. Ortiz claims rescue workers didn’t arrive fast enough while he was trapped inside his car, and that his pleas for help via mobile phone were ignored.

How ridiculous!

GLOSSARY

To sue: If you “suit” someone, you start a legal process against them in order to get compensation (money, etc.)

A seagull: A large grey and white bird that lives near the sea

Sick leave: If you take “sick leave”, you spend time away from work because you’re sick or ill

To blame: If you say that someone is “to blame” for a bad thing, you’re saying that this person is responsible for this bad thing

To dismiss: If a judge “dismisses” a case, he/she says that the case cannot continue because there’s no evidence, etc.

Rubbish dump: An area of land where rubbish is placed

A pimp: A person who manages and controls prostitutes. As part of their work, they get clients, take money from the prostitutes, etc.

Sneakers: Shoes you wear to do sports. “Trainers” in British English

To throw out: If a judge “throws out” a case, he/she says that the trial/case cannot continue because there’s no evidence, etc.

A napkin: A small piece of soft paper you use to clean your face/hands, etc. when you’re eating

To escalate: If a bad situation “escalates”, it becomes worse, bigger, more serious, etc.

Undue: If you say that something is “undue”, you mean that it’s greater or more extreme than you think is reasonable or appropriate

Mental anguish: If something causes you “mental anguish”, it makes you suffer and feel mental pain

Death toll: The number of people who have died in an incident. For example, if the “death toll” is 10, then 10 people have died

To risk your life: If you “risk your life”, you do something dangerous that could kill you

A plea for help: If there’s a “plea for help”, someone asks for help desperately because they’re in danger
1. Who built the pyramids? When did Big Ben start ticking? And what was Stonehenge used for? Here are some interesting facts about famous landmarks.

2. Why did the Golden Gate Bridge sink over two metres? Why is it called the “golden” Gate Bridge, so many people walked across it that the middle of the bridge sank over two metres. The bridge (which was opened in 1937) is actually red, but is called “golden” because gold was discovered in California.

3. Why is it called the “Golden” Gate Bridge when it’s red? Experts are fairly certain that Stonehenge was built around 4,000 years ago. However, nobody knows what it was used for. Some believe it was a sacred burial ground. Others think it was built to study astronomy, and some are under the impression that it was used as a place to cure sick people.

4. What’s unusual about La Sagrada Familia? The building is being financed by donations.

5. What’s unusual about the Great Wall of China? You’ve probably heard that you can see the Great Wall of China from space. That’s technically true, though you need a strong telescope, but did you know that there are people buried inside the wall? The Great Wall of China was built over many centuries to protect China from invaders; and when workers died, they were often buried within the stone.

6. Why do people think Stonehenge might have been used for? If an object “sinks”, it moves to a lower weight and keep the clock on time.

7. Who completed St Basil’s cathedral? Construction began in 1882, but over 100 years later, it still isn’t finished. The building is being financed by donations.

8. What unusual fact is given regarding the Great Wall of China? Construction of St Basil’s cathedral (a Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow) was completed in 1561 by the first Czar of Russia – Ivan the Terrible. St Basil is actually a nickname, and its full title is “The Cathedral of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos on the Moat.”
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE FAMOUS LANDMARKS?

**Condition**

Something which must happen in order for something else to be possible.

“It sounds good in principle, but there are a number of conditions we’d like to include in the contract.”

**Compromise**

If you reach a “compromise” with the other party, you both accept something different to what you’d originally wanted.

“They wanted $40,000 and we could only pay $30,000 so we reached a compromise and agreed on $35,000.”

**Something which must happen in order for something else to be possible.**

“I think our primary objective should be to get them to put in an order for some of our products—however small it is.”

**Proposal**

A plan or idea.

“We listened to their proposal, then went off to discuss it.”

**Quote / quotation**

An estimated price.

“Could you give us a quote for 300 of the cameras, please?”

**Commitment**

If you make a “commitment” to do something, you promise to do that thing.

“We made a commitment to deliver the product before the 20th of every month.”

**Haggle**

If you “haggle” over the price of something, you argue about it constantly.

“We’ve been haggling over costs for weeks. I think we need to think about dropping our price a bit.”

**Win-win**

A “win-win” situation is one in which both parties benefit.

“It was a win-win situation as we both got what we wanted, more or less.”

**Counter proposal / counter offer**

An offer in response to the first proposal.

“We put forward a counter proposal because we thought their initial offer was too low.”

**Compensate**

If you “compensate” someone for something bad or wrong, you do something to make the situation better.

“If you accept the changes, we’ll compensate you by paying you overtime.”

**Flexible**

Someone who is “flexible” is open or willing to change.

“I think we need to be a bit more flexible or they’ll walk out.”

**Objective**

A goal or something you’re trying to achieve or receive.

“If you make a “commitment” to do something, you promise to do that thing. “We made a commitment to deliver the product before the 20th of every month.”

**Condition**

Something which must happen in order for something else to be possible.

“It sounds good in principle, but there are a number of conditions we’d like to include in the contract.”

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“They wanted $40,000 and we could only pay $30,000 so we reached a compromise and agreed on $35,000.”
**Objective**  To improve your listening skills.

**Think about it**  When was the last time you had to introduce yourself? Who were you talking to? What are some polite ways to introduce yourself to people in your language? What do you usually say to friends when you see them after a short period of time? How do you greet them? What about friends you haven’t seen for a long time? What do you say or do?

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

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**Getting to know someone**

1. **Pre-listening**
   - What questions could you ask someone who you've just met? Add at least three more questions to the list below.
     1. What's your name?
     2. Where are you from?
     3. How long are you staying here?
     4. Where are you staying?

2. **Listening I**
   - You're going to listen to a conversation between two people who are at a lunch. Listen once. How many of the questions from the Pre-listening activity did you hear?

3. **Listening II**
   - Listen again. Then, answer the questions.
     1. Where has Judith just come over from?
     2. When is she flying back?
     3. What does Mark have to drink?
     4. What about Judith?
     5. Where is Pauline from?
     6. What about Wolfgang?
     7. How many times has Mark been at the restaurant before?
     8. What does he recommend?
     9. How old was Judith when her parents moved to Brazil?
     10. Which city did she once work in?
     11. Where does Mark think they once met?
     12. What did Judith give a speech on?

4. **Listening III**
   - Complete the audio script with the correct words.

---

**Audio script**

Mark is at a lunch with some overseas visitors. He has just sat down next to one of the guests, Judith.

**Mark:** Hi, I'm Mark Schilling. Pleased to meet you.

**Judith:** Judith Peterson. Pleased to meet you.

**Mark:** You've just come over, haven't you?

**Judith:** Yes, that's right. I fly back next week.

**Waiter:** Hi, can I get you anything to drink?

**Mark:** I'll have an orange juice, please.

**Judith:** And I'll have a glass of white wine, please.

**Mark:** So, let me introduce you to Pauline. She's from France.

**Judith:** And you.

**Pauline:** So, let me introduce you to Pauline. She's from France.

**Judith:** Pleased to meet you.

**Mark:** And this is Wolfgang from Germany, I think you've met, haven't you?

**Judith:** Yes, we have. Good to see you again.

**Wolfgang:** And you!

**Judith:** Nice restaurant. Have you been here before?

**Mark:** Once or twice. It's quite great.

**Judith:** So, what would you recommend?

**Mark:** The lasagne is great.

**Judith:** OK.

**Mark:** You aren't actually from Brazil, are you?

**Judith:** No, not exactly. My parents moved there. I'm originally from the States.

**Mark:** Oh, right. That explains your perfect English! You worked in the Seattle office once, didn't you?

**Judith:** That's right! How did you know?

**Mark:** I think we met there just briefly in a meeting one morning.

**Judith:** Oh, really?

**Mark:** Eerm, weren't you in Washington back in 2013, too?

**Judith:** Yes, that's right.

**Mark:** You on marketing, didn't you?

**Judith:** Yes, that's right. How did I do?

**Mark:** It was really interesting. In fact, it was one of the few talks I had time to go to.

**Judith:** Oh, wait a minute, didn't you come up to me afterwards and ask?

**Mark:** Yes, that's it, and.

**Waiter:** Here are your drinks. The white wine?

**Judith:** Yes, that's for me.

**Waiter:** And the orange juice for you. Are you ready to order now?

**Judith:** Yes, I think so. I'll have the...
If you “go Dutch” in a restaurant, you each pay for half (50% each) of the total cost of the meal.

“I offered to pay for the meal, but she insisted that we go Dutch.”

A young person in a company, team or organisation who is rebellious and difficult to control.

“The party leadership were facing a revolt from the Young Turks, who were demanding changes to the system of voting.”

Someone who seems to be helpful or kind but whose real intention is to trick or harm you. This expression comes from the Trojan War (around 1000 BC) when a small group of Greeks entered the city of Troy hidden inside an enormous wooden horse. They crept out of the horse at night and opened the gates for the Greek army, who defeated the Trojans.

“Many think the rebels will use the peace treaty as a Trojan horse to try and take over large areas of the country.”

This expression is used to describe a situation in which there are too many managers in a company or organisation and not enough people doing any real work. Also, “too many cooks in the kitchen”.

“The trouble with this company is that there are too many cooks in the kitchen.”

If people walk in “Indian file”, they walk in a line, with one person behind the other.

“They walked through the jungle in Indian file.”

If something is “all Greek to you”, it’s really difficult to understand it.

“Did you hear the president’s speech? I didn’t understand a word – it was all Greek to me.”

A situation in which information is passed on by a series of people. As a result, the information often becomes distorted, inaccurate or incorrect in the process. In US English, this is known as “the telephone game”.

“All this talk about the singer getting married is just Chinese Whispers. There’s no truth in it whatsoever.”

This expression is used to describe a situation in which there are too many managers in a company or organisation and not enough people doing any real work. Also, “too many cooks in the kitchen”.

“The trouble with this company is that there are too many cooks in the kitchen.”

An English person’s home is a place where he can do what he wants, and no one has a right to tell him what to do.

“The government has no right to interfere in our private lives. An Englishman’s home is his castle!”
Taylor Swift’s songs are a mixture of pop, rock and country. With her fifth studio album, 1989, selling over a million copies in the first week after its release in October 2014, the American singer-songwriter has been dominating the pop music scene.

Shake it Off
This was the album’s lead single. In the song, Taylor sings about not caring about what people say about her and how she’ll just “shake it off”.

Extract
I’ll never miss a beat. I’m lightning on my feet
And that’s what they don’t see mmm,
That’s what they don’t see mmm,
I’m dancing on my own (dancing on my own),
I make the moves as I go (moves up as I go),
And that’s what they don’t know mmm.

Blank Space
Taylor seems to be making fun of herself as a crazy jealous girlfriend in this song. She implies that she has a long list of ex-boyfriends, but that she’s got a “blank space” on the list and she’s willing to add a new name to it.

Extract
So hey, let’s be friends,
I’m dying to see how this one ends,
Grab your passport and my hand,
I can make the bad guys good for a weekend.

Style
This song is about some sort of forbidden romance as the man is picking her up with “no headlights” on when he drives up. With lyrics about classic red lipstick and James Dean, Taylor romanticises about the past, but also says her love won’t fade because it will never “go out of style.”

坏血
Taylor released this song twice. The second version features rapper Kendrick Lamar, and is about an argument Taylor had with someone, and how they now have “bad blood”.

Extract
Did you think we’d be fine?
Still got scars on my back from your knife,
So don’t think it’s in the past,
These kind of wounds they last and they last now.

最狂的梦
In this song, Taylor sings about a romance she knows won’t last. However, she says that she hopes her romantic interest will remember the good things about her. And she thinks that it’ll all be worth it if they can see each other again, even if it’s just in her “wildest dreams”.

Extract
He said let’s get out of this town,
Drive out of the city,
Away from the crowds,
I thought heaven can’t help me now,
Nothing lasts forever,
But this is gonna take me down.
Young girls drinking, smoking, gambling and being violent. A teenager from 2015? Actually, these are the girls from St Trinian’s school for girls who appeared in a series of cartoons during the 1940s. There have been a number of films about the school, including the 2007 movie, St Trinian’s, starring Colin Firth, Rupert Everett and members of the group Girls Aloud.

The original St Trinian’s cartoons are based on a fictional school called St Trinian’s. The school is a boarding school with wild pupils (often well-armed) and disreputable teachers (or “mistresses”, as female teachers in Britain were often known at the time). The cartoons were created by the British cartoonist Ronald Searle, and they often showed girls gambling, playing pool and smoking, as well as depicting the bodies of murdered school girls.

St Trinian’s is actually based on a real school called St Trinian’s in Edinburgh. This school was established by Miss C. Fraser Lee and opened on 4th October 1922 with sixty girls. The school was based on the Dalton system of education, with an emphasis on self-imposed discipline, rather than school-imposed discipline. This caused many to say that St Trinian’s was the school “where they do what they like”. Eventually, the school moved to another building. It is now part of the University of Edinburgh, and is used for administration and conferences.

One of the rooms in the building is still called “St Trinnean’s” [notice the different spelling]. A number of books with cartoons were produced by Ronald Searle. These include: Hurrah for St Trinian’s (1948); The Female Approach (1950); Back to the Slaughterhouse (1952); and The Terror of St Trinian’s (1953). There have also been a number of comedy films, including The Belles of St Trinian’s (1954 – the first film); Blue Murder at St Trinian’s (1957); and The Pure Hell of St Trinian’s (1960).

In the films, the girls come in two categories: the Fourth Form girls who are mischievous, with the smallest girls being the most dangerous, often armed with a weapon such as a lacrosse stick; and the much older Sixth Form girls (one of them is even married), who wear provocative clothing.

The headmistress of St Trinian’s is Miss Millicent Fritton, whose philosophy is summed up as this, “In other schools girls are sent out quite unprepared into a merciless world, but when our girls leave here, it is the merciless world which has to be prepared.”

GLOSSARY
- to gamble: to play games for money
- a boarding school: a school with rooms and beds where pupils can sleep
- wild: crazy; not under control
- disreputable: not respectable; not honest
- self-imposed: “self-imposed” discipline comes from you, not from some outside authority
- discipline: if you have “discipline”, you can work and live in a controlled and strict way
- mischievous: naughty; badly-behaved; always getting into trouble
- lacrosse: a game similar to hockey played with a stick which has a little net at the end for catching or throwing the ball
- merciless world: a cruel, heartless, unkind, not nice world
- franchise: a film concept (including all the characters) that is copied to make other films, because the idea is so successful
- bankruptcy: a situation in which a business cannot pay its bills (the money it owes) and may have to close
likely many expats, the Brits like to stick together when they’re abroad. One way is through clubs and organisations. And one of the most famous expat organisations is the world’s most eccentric running club: the Hash House Harriers.

So, what is the Hash House Harriers? Very basically, it’s a running and social club. Runs are organised, which are followed by a trip to a bar or pub afterwards for a social get-together. The run is a fun event. A group of people known as the “hares” lay a trail (often using bits of paper, or biodegradable material such as flour). The “pack” (or “hounds” as they’re also known) are the runners. They must follow the trail and try to get to the end. Sounds easy? It can be, but it can also be difficult as the hares may also lay a false trail. In some competitions, the hares leave a few minutes before the hounds and one of the objectives is to catch the hares before they lay the trail. In other competitions, the hares lay the trail the day before and the objective is to reach the end of the trail.

There are now more than 1,500 Hash House Harrier groups, with one in most of the major cities around the world. So, how did it all begin? Hashing began in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), in 1938. A group of British colonial expatriates, Cecil Lee, Frederick “Horse” Thomson, Ronald “Torch” Bennett, and Albert Stephen Ignatius Gispert (a British accountant of Catalan descent) would meet after work on Monday evenings to run. They often followed paper trails through the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. The main objective was to get rid of the excesses of the previous weekend. Although after the run, the exhausted runners would often go to a bar for a few drinks.

Later, they registered their society. Gispert suggested the name “Hash House Harriers”. The name came from the place where they lived as bachelors, the Selangor Club Annex, known locally as the Hash House, because of its boring, unimaginative food.

There are many traditions involved with hashing. Anyone who violates a law or tradition is given a “down-down”. This is when they are obliged to come to the middle of a circle and drink everything they have in their cup or glass (often beer or an alcoholic mixture).

Other traditions include no pointing with fingers (you have to use your elbows), no using real names (you have to use nicknames), and no using new shoes. The traditional symbol of hashing is the outline of a foot with the words “On-On” written on it, which is what hashers shout when they have found the trail.
GROUP TALK
WHICH FAMOUS PEOPLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET?

Audio script

Arthur: So my step-mum said she bumped... well bumped into, no, she saw Colin Firth in the supermarket the other day. She didn’t go up to him or anything.

Simone: Like real Colin Firth?
Arthur: Real Colin Firth, yeah, yeah. Heartthrob Colin Firth.

Natalie: She didn’t come up...
Arthur: No. I think she was too embarrassed or...
Natalie: Oh, wow!
Arthur: I think she said she wanted to go and say thanks for all the films or something like that but then thought it might sound a bit corny.

Simone: I don’t know. I don’t think I’ve ever actually, like, met a real live famous person.

Natalie: Well I have met, actually. I have met erm writers, for example at book fairs.

Simone: Oh, that would be cool.
Natalie: You know you wait with your book in the queue and then they sign the book.

Simone: Oh, that would be cool.
Natalie: You know you wait with your book in the queue and then they sign the book.

Arthur: Which famous, which famous writers?
Natalie: Well I’ve seen, I’ve seen at a book fair, yes, I’ve seen Isabel Allende.
Arthur: Oh, very good.
Simone: She lives right near me.
Natalie: Exactly, exactly. And I have seen the Spanish writer María Dueñas, yes. And yeah, it’s great to compare the picture for example, like at the back of the book with the actual person. Sometimes they’re very different.

Simone: If I could meet any famous person, I would probably have to pick a writer because I like so many famous writers. There’s one called John Green – he writes for teens in the States and he has a bunch of famous books, and then also it’d be, it’d be rather fun to meet JK Rowling, I think. Talk to her about Harry Potter. Cause I grew up reading those.

Natalie: Yeah exactly, then you can really ask questions, right? About the book. Yeah, I think that’s cool.
Arthur: I think I’d like to meet comedians, I don’t know. It’d be more... it’d be fun to talk to them, you know.

Natalie: But who, for example?
Arthur: I don’t know, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller... I don’t know.
Natalie: Oh OK, OK.
Arthur: It’d be fun to... hang out with them and go for a drink at the pub.

Natalie: What about musicians? Like I would love to meet George Michael. Do you have any musicians you would love?
Arthur: George Michael? Why would you... what would you say to George Michael?
Natalie: Well, I would talk to him about the songs, of course.
Arthur: What would you say about his songs?
Natalie: I would ask him about the songs. Yeah.
Arthur: What? Like what they mean? Or...
Natalie: Yeah, yeah. Of course, some of the songs.
Arthur: Which song has been confusing you over the years?

Natalie: No, no, but like the inspiration. Right? Because the lyrics are beautiful. Yeah, I think. Fantastic. As a fan.
Arthur: Do you know any, do you know any lyrics that... tell us some lyrics that you think are good. I can’t remember apart from...

Natalie: Erm well no, I would have to think about that. But I definitely, definitely know the lyrics, definitely. It’s perfect, also, for learning the language.

Arthur: Oh, OK.
Natalie: When you listen to songs, also for Spanish for example, perfect.
Arthur: Yeah, I remember I learnt a lot of Spanish from a song.

Natalie: Yeah?
Arthur: That I used to listen to.
Simone: We used to do that, ermm, in class. We’d have songs of the week. We were meant to learn specific vocabulary.

Arthur: Yeah.
Natalie: Yeah, but especially songs that you like of course, right? That you want to listen to again and again and again. You don’t mind listening to them
Arthur: Well, I quite like it ‘cause the Spanish teacher I had, she explained the meaning behind the song and...

Natalie: Yeah, exactly.
Arthur: ...so it was interesting. It wasn’t the type of song I might have listened to if she hadn’t introduced me to it.

Natalie: Of course.
Arthur: But it was interesting to hear the story behind it and, things like that.

Natalie: Yeah, but if you like the music, the lyrics. Right.

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

SAYING GOODBYE

You're going to listen to a conversation between two friends: Pete and Greg. Listen once. Does Pete have another
drink with his friend in the end? Then, listen again and try to guess the meaning of the following slang
expressions (also marked in bold in the text). Write out a version of them in Standard English:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slang expression</th>
<th>Standard version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 make a move</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 be up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 at the crack of dawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 I haven't got a clue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 nice one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 it's really screwed up my weekend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 banger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 I really must get going</td>
<td></td>
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Dialogue

Pete: Well, I’d better make a move. I’ve got to be up at the crack of dawn.
Greg: Why’s that?
Pete: I’ve got a meeting first thing. I’m supposed to have read through a 100-page report beforehand, but I haven’t got a clue what it’s about.
Greg: Nice one!
Pete: They gave it to me last thing on Friday afternoon – it’s really screwed up my weekend.
Greg: I hate it when they do that.
Pete: Yeah, well, anyway. It was nice talking to you.
Greg: Yes, we must do it again sometime.
Pete: Of course!
Greg: So, erm, drive carefully.
Pete: I will. Bye...

Greg: ...are you still driving that old banger of yours?
Pete: The VW? Yes. Anyway, I really must get going. Bye!
Greg: Oh, if you see Paul, could you say hi from me.
Pete: I will. Bye.
Greg: ...when did you last see him?
Pete: Well, I haven’t seen him in a while now.
Greg: Last time I spoke to him he was in a bit of a huff. Apparently...
Pete: ...look, I’m sorry but I’ve really got to shoot off.
Greg: OK. So, see you around.
Pete: Yeah, bye.
Greg: Have a good game on Sunday.
Pete: Thanks.

Greg: I might come and watch.
Pete: Oh, right. Great. [getting further away]
Greg: It’ll be a piece of cake, I should imagine.
Pete: I hope so.
Greg: So, thanks again for all your help.
Pete: No sweat.
Greg: It was good seeing you.
Pete: Likewise.
Greg: Keep in touch!
Pete: I will.
Greg: Don’t be a stranger.
Pete: I won’t.
Greg: Catch you later!
Pete: Bye! [from afar]
Greg: Hey, do you fancy another drink?
Pete: No, thanks, BYYYYYE.
What do you do if you aren’t feeling well? Go to bed? Visit the doctor? These days, more and more people are using the internet to self-diagnose. But is it such a good idea? Here are several common disorders and illnesses that people often search for online. [Disclaimer – none of the information on this page has been verified by a medical specialist. If you’re feeling bad, consult a doctor!]

**Attention deficit disorder (ADD)**
Attention Deficit Disorder is a mental health issue. Symptoms include an inability to concentrate, forgetting things, acting without thinking and getting fidgety.

**Asperger’s syndrome**
Asperger’s syndrome (AS) is a form of autism. People suffering from it may find it hard to interact socially, understand jokes, read other people’s body language and start or maintain a conversation.

**Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)**
People suffering from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity are sensitive to certain chemicals. Symptoms include nausea, headaches, fatigue, depression, diarrhea, a runny nose... basically anything that falls under the category of “being sick”. The chemicals are also wide-ranging and include solvents, perfumes, petrol, diesel, smoke... just about anything chemical that you can think of!

**Gout**
Gout is a form of arthritis. It occurs when too much uric acid builds up in the body. Symptoms include pain, swelling, redness, heat and stiffness in joints. However, for many people, the first attack of gout occurs in the big toe, which may become very sore, red, warm and swollen. But the next time you feel a little pain in your big toe, don’t let it worry you too much.

**Gluten intolerance**
Gluten is a protein found in wheat, rye and barley. People with celiac disease (an autoimmune disease) will suffer an immune response that attacks the small intestine if they eat gluten. And when this happens, nutrients cannot be absorbed properly into the body and it can lead to serious health complications. Milder forms of this are known as “gluten intolerance” or “gluten sensitivity”. Many people now follow a gluten-free diet in order to avoid any complications, although it’s estimated that gluten sensitivity only affects about 5% of the population. Some of the symptoms of this include gas, diarrhea and constipation, as well as feeling tired or dizzy after eating a meal that contains gluten.

Stay sane!

---

**GLOSSARY**

- **to self-diagnose** vb if you “self-diagnose”, you find out what illness you have by investigating the symptoms online, etc.
- **fidgety adj** if someone is “fidgety”, they can’t sit still or stop moving
- **autism** n a mental disorder that affects someone’s ability to relate to other people or understand them
- **sensitive adj** if someone is “sensitive” to certain chemicals (for example), they’re easily affected by those chemicals
- **arthritis** n a medical condition in which the joints (the knees, elbows, etc.) in someone’s body are swollen and painful
- **protein** n a substance in food (such as meat, eggs, milk, etc.) that helps you to be healthy
- **wheat** n a cereal crop grown for food. It is often used to make flour, bread, etc.
- **rye** n a cereal grown in cold countries. Its grains can be used to make flour, bread, etc.
- **barley** n a cereal grain that is used to make food, beer, whisky, etc.
- **celiac disease** n a disease in which the small intestine is very sensitive to gluten, which makes it very difficult to digest food
- **autoimmune disease** n a disease in which the body produces antibodies that attack its own tissues
- **immune response** n the reaction of the cells and fluids in the presence of a substance in your body which it doesn’t recognise
Really embarrassing parents!

Have your parents ever embarrassed you? Perhaps they once shouted at you in public, hugged you in front of your friends, or showed your schoolmates photos of you as a baby. Unfortunately, with social media, it’s become even easier to embarrass your kids. Here are some recent examples.

A young man updated his Facebook page with this comment, “Currently staring at the ceiling. It’s fascinating how much we can learn only by staring at random things,” (forgetting the fact that you can’t be staring at the ceiling and writing on a computer at the same time). Minutes later, his dad left this joke comment, “Have you ever considered staring at one of your textbooks?”

Emily Musson, a student from New York City, posted a series of selfies with her new boyfriend. Her mum and dad took this as an opportunity to join in on the fun. They recreated the selfies then posted them online, complete with many of the original poses: duck faces, a fist over the mouth, sticking their tongues out, and more. When Emily saw what her parents had done, she re-tweeted the photos and was shocked when they went viral.

How embarrassing!

Glossary

to hug: if you “hug” someone, you put your arms around them to show that you’re pleased to see them or that you love them

a thug: a violent person or criminal. The “thug” life is a life of violence or crime

to post: if you “post” a picture on a website, you put it on the website

a bathroom selfie: a photo you take of yourself (a selfie) in the bathroom, often using the mirror for extra effect

strip: with stripes (lines of colour) on it

to hook: if you “hook” your thumb (for example) around a belt (for example), you put your thumb around the belt

to stare: if you’re “staring” at something, you’re looking at it continuously

to pose: a particular position you have (or an expression you have) while someone takes a photo of you

duck face: an expression people make with their face. They push their lips together and out to make them look bigger

to make: when you make a “fist”, you close your hand

to re-tweet: if you “re-tweet” a message, you post it on your Twitter account

to go viral: if a picture, video, etc. “goes viral”, it becomes really popular on the internet because many people share it and send it to their friends

matching: if you have a “matching” tattoo (for example), you have the exact same tattoo as another person
IS THIS WHAT WE CALL JUSTICE?

Is there one law for the rich and another for the poor? Sometimes it seems like it.

THE RICH

The MP

MP Margaret Moran fiddled about €72,000 in her parliamentary expenses, but never went to jail. The thieving Labour MP won’t even get a criminal record because she was deemed too “unwell” to stand trial because of a depression. In a case that was heard without her, Moran was found guilty of 15 instances of false accounting. This included claiming more than €2,700 for a phone at her flat when there was no phone line fitted, and putting in a bill for carpets in “three bedrooms” even though her flat had just one room.

THE POOR

The starving woman

A famished woman was fined about €450 for stealing a €1 pack of chocolate after her benefits were stopped. Louisa Sewell pleaded guilty to theft at Kidderminster Magistrates Court. She was fined €100 for the theft, €1 in compensation to the store, €200 in court charges, €115 in prosecution costs and a €30 victim surcharge. Her solicitor Susie Duncan said Ms Sewell’s benefits had been sanctioned and she hadn’t eaten in days when she stole the cheapest food she could find from the store, according to the Kidderminster Shuttle.

The desperate man

Ian Mulholland admitted stealing three packets of steak from a supermarket when he appeared at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court. The court heard he stole the meat to eat after changes to his benefits left him hungry. The 43-year-old, who has difficulty walking, hadn’t eaten in days when he appeared.

How “just” is that?

Answers on page 44

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1 Pre-listening
Imagine you’re visiting a city for the first time. What questions could you ask about it? Add at least three more questions to the list below.
- What do you think I should see?
- Which museums would you recommend?
- Where’s the best place to eat out?
- Which restaurants would you recommend?
Other?

2 Listening I
You’re going to listen to a conversation between two people, Poppy and Ellis. They’re acquaintances who haven’t seen one another for a long time. They’re at a conference during a mid-morning break, waiting to order a drink from the cafeteria in the conference centre. Listen once. Which questions from the Pre-listening activity did you hear?

3 Listening II
Listen again. Then, answer the questions.
1. When did they last meet and where?
2. What does Poppy say was on the walls before?
3. When is Ellis off to New York and why is he going there?
4. What example does Poppy give for how cheap electronics are?
5. How does Ellis describe what happened to his cousin in the States?
6. What are some of the typical things that Poppy mentions that Ellis should do?
7. What is Ellis’ e-mail address?
8. What questions does Poppy give for eating out?
9. What does she tell him about tipping in the States?
10. What happened to her friends when they were over there?

4 Listening III
Listen again and complete the audio script with the correct words.

Audio script

Poppy: How romantic!
Ellis: Very! So, any top tips? (1) ________?
Poppy: Well, for the first couple of days, you’ll want to do all the typical things: the Empire State Building, Madison Square Garden, the Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Station... (2) ________ if you want.
Ellis: Oh, yes, (3) ________ !
Poppy: Is your e-mail the same as before?
Ellis: Yes, e.collins@workstone.com Here, it’s on my card. [He hands her his card.]
Poppy: Great.
Ellis: So, what about eating out?
Poppy: Yes, you have to try one of the typical hot dogs (4) ________. Then, there are just so many great places. I love S’MAC – it’s this hamburger place. Their 4-Cheese hamburger is amazing. I’ll add some restaurants to the list too.
Ellis: Oh, thanks so much.
Poppy: You have to be careful with tipping though.
Ellis: (5) ________, haven’t you?
Poppy: Basically, we’re big tippers, so you have to leave 15% for most things, including taxi drivers. I know this couple who went over there and got into an argument with a restaurant owner after leaving a bit of small change as a tip. He got really angry and (6) ________.
Ellis: Oh, no.
Poppy: Yeah, well, he calmed down when he realised they were from Europe.
Ellis: That was lucky.
Cashier: Hi, can I take your order, please?
Poppy: Oh, yes, I’ll have a latte and one of those cookies, please. [fades out]
Complete the sentences (1 to 8) with the words from below.

**End up**
If you “end up” in a certain place, you go there eventually.
“I heard that Georgia ended up in Canada, of all __________.”

**Put on**
If you “put on” weight, you become fatter or heavier.
“Bill has put on a bit of weight since I last __________ him.”

**Go out**
If two people are “going out”, they’re in a relationship.
“I’ve __________ that Ben and Lauren are going out.”

**Turn down**
If you “turn down” an offer, you don’t accept it.
“Did you hear? Sophie turned down the __________ in Chicago.”

**Make of**
If you don’t know what to “make of” something, you don’t know what to think of it.
“Have you seen that __________ Ellis is in? I’m not quite sure what to make of it.”

**Move in**
If you “move in” with someone, you start living with them. The opposite is “move out”.
“Greg has moved in with his __________, at last.”

**Break up / split up**
If two people in a relationship “break up”, they stop the relationship.
“Madison and Finley broke up after six years together. It’s __________!”

**Find out**
If you “find out” information, you discover it or learn about it.
“Did you ever find out what happened to Zoe? I haven’t __________ or heard from her for ages.”
Learn lots of useful “travel” words and expressions by doing this crossword.

Across

1. A type of illness you get when you travel on a boat.
3. A holiday that includes everything: the flight, hotel, meals, etc. = a ______ holiday
4. A place where you stay. It has rooms, restaurants, a gym, a swimming pool, etc.
6. A bag you carry on your back when you travel somewhere.
8. The area where you show your boarding pass and get on the plane = the boarding ______.
9. A means of transport that flies in the air.
12. The place where you go to catch a plane.
14. A journey that a business person goes on to another city or country = a business ______.
16. A large bag you use to carry all your things. You often have to check it in as it’s too big to take as hand-luggage.
21. When a plane does this, it comes to the ground in a controlled manner.
22. A shop where you can buy holidays = a travel ______ (also, a “travel agent’s”)
25. If this has happened, your plane/train, etc. leaves later than planned.
26. If you do this, you get on a plane.
27. An object you wear to protect your eyes when the sun is bright.
28. A place with hotels, restaurants, etc. where people spend their holidays: a beach ______.

Down

2. The rate at which you can buy a currency = the ______ rate.
5. A means of transport that travels on tracks.
7. A document you need to travel abroad. It has a photo of you in it.
10. A large room in an airport where you can sit before getting on the plane = the departure ______.
11. A trip by car, train, etc. = a train ______.
13. Someone who shows tourists around a place. They explain its history, architecture, etc. = a tour ______.
15. A type of hotel that offers you a bed with breakfast included = a Bed and ______.
17. If this has happened, your plane/train, etc. doesn’t leave or go anywhere.
18. Open shoes you wear when it’s hot.
19. A little bag for your toothbrush, deodorant, etc.
23. The place in an airport where they check your bags for drugs, weapons, etc.
24. An official document or a stamp in your passport which allows you to enter or leave a particular country.
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Questions:

1. What was the weather like in Siberia?

2. What is the name of the restaurant?

3. What is the name of the movie?

4. What is the name of the book?

5. What is the name of the city?

6. What is the name of the country?

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A good trade

A man and a woman find themselves in the same sleeping carriage in a train. After an awkward introduction, they both manage to get to sleep, with the man on the top bunk and the woman on the lower one. Sometime in the middle of the night, the man wakes up, leans out from the top bunk and says, “I’m sorry to bother you but I’m a bit cold and I was wondering whether you could possibly pass me a spare blanket from the cupboard next to you.” The woman wakes up, leans out, and with a smile on her face says, “I’ve got a better idea… let’s pretend we’re married.” “Why not?” giggles the man. “Good,” she replies, “Then jump down and get it yourself!”

GLOSSARY

heavy shopping (adj): someone with “heavy shopping”, has bags with lots of heavy products they’ve bought from a shop, supermarket, etc.
to glance (vb): to look at quickly
to nod (vb): to move your head up and down as a way of saying yes
to trade (vb): if there’s a “trade”, person A gives something to person B, and person B gives another thing to person A.
awkward (adj): uncomfortable and embarrassing
an introduction (n): if there’s an “introduction”, two people greet one another for the first time
an awkward introduction (n): two people greet one another for the first time if there’s an “introduction”, two people greet one another for the first time a bed that is fixed to the wall. Often, there are two beds with one on top of the other to lean out (vb): if you “lean out” of bed (for example), you move your body so that it comes out of the bed spare (adj): extra
a blanket: a thick piece of material (often made of wool) that you use to keep you warm in bed to pretend (vb): if you “pretend” to be someone, you act as if you’re that person, even though you aren’t really to giggle (vb): to laugh in a childlike way, often because you’re nervous or embarrassed.
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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 though 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!

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🌐 www.learnhotenglish.com