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No.163

How to end a conversation in English!

Is there too much sex and violence in movies?

How to avoid problems with the comma!

How to speak Franglais!

8 useful slang terms.

Hear lots of different English accents!

Henry VIII
England’s bloodiest king!

Plus... phrasal verbs, grammar, idioms, vocabulary, useful expressions... and much, much more.
Hi everybody and welcome to another issue of Learn Hot English magazine – the fun magazine for learning English. This month, find out how to end a conversation in English. This is extremely useful, especially if you want to stop someone talking. We’ll also be showing you lots of different ways to signal the end of the conversation and how to actually say goodbye. Of course, that’s not all and we’ve got lots more fun things for you to read and listen to so you can learn lots of useful English. In our history section, we’ll be looking at England’s bloodiest king: King Henry VIII. Find out about his wives (including the ones he had executed) and how he broke with the Catholic Church to form the Church of England. On the topic of language, we’re looking at some problems with the comma, and you can find out how to speak Franglais – a mixture of English and French! Plus lots, lots more! Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy

AUDIO FILES

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"I think Georgie only wants the letters; but sometimes, she bites the postman’s fingers too,” said Jane Goody, whose cat had attacked a number of postal workers. As a result of the attacks, Jane, 34, moved her post box to the end of her drive. Now the Royal Mail (the British postal service) are demanding that more people move their post boxes away from the front door. “We record about 5,000 animal attacks a year,” said a spokesperson for the Royal Mail. “The vast majority being dogs but it’s not uncommon for our postmen and women to be attacked by cats, birds and any other animal protecting its territory. Most pet owners are very responsible; and in this case Ms Goody has taken action to allow the postman to deliver letters without injury.”

Postal workers afraid to work.

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*Royal Mail

The Royal Mail is Britain’s postal service. It was founded in 1660. Their slogan is “With us, it’s personal.” They deliver 84 million items every day. Britain was the first country to issue stamps (in 1840). These first stamps were called Penny Blacks (for the price of one penny, you could send a letter anywhere in Britain).

Traditionally, post boxes have the Latin initials of the king or queen who is reigning at the time of installation. So, you can find some with VR (for Victoria Regina – Queen Victoria) or ER VII (for Edwardvs Rex the seventh – King Edward VII). As most people in Britain live in houses, postal workers have to deliver the letters directly to people’s houses through the letter box – a small hole in the door.
How many words do you know in English? You probably know a lot - a lot more than you realise. Just think of all the famous people and products from English-speaking countries that you know, buy or have heard. Many of these names are actually real English words. And, although you may not know what they mean, you already know the word. This section will help explain the meaning behind many of these interesting names. This is the first part of a new series on names and words. More next month.

**Brooke Shields**
A “shield” is a piece of metal that soldiers used in the past for protecting their bodies. For example: “The warrior used the shield to defend herself against the sword.”

**Britney Spears**
A “spear” is a long, thin weapon with a sharp point at the end. For example: “The soldiers threw spears at us, but we had shields so we could protect ourselves.”

**Counting Crows**
A “crow” is a type of black bird with a big beak. For example: “The black crow was in the garden looking for worms.”

**The Carpenters**
A “carpenter” is someone who makes things with wood as part of his/her job. For example: “The carpenter made this table and bed.”

**James Blunt**
If a knife is “blunt” it isn’t very sharp and doesn’t cut well. For example: “This knife is blunt - we need to sharpen it.”

**Smart Car**
If you are “smart”, you are very intelligent. For example: “He isn’t very good at sport, but he is extremely smart.”

**Procter & Gamble**
If you “gamble”, you play games for money. For example: “She loves to gamble on horseraces.”

**Robin Hood**
A “hood” is the part of the jacket that you wear over your head. For example: “Put your hood up as it’s really cold.”

**Courtney Love**
OK, this one is easy, and we all know what “love” is, even if it’s hard to define it. For example: “He is in love with you.”

**Blur**
If an image is “blurred”, it is not clear or in focus and it is hard to see what it is. For example: “The picture was blurred and it was hard to see who she was kissing.”

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A: This battle was fought on 18th June 1815 between the French Empire army (under Napoleon Bonaparte) and the British army (under the Duke of Wellington) and various German states including Prussia.

B: This battle was fought in southern Russia on 25th October 1854 during the Crimean War. The British, French and Ottoman Empire (Turkey, more or less) were fighting against Russia.

C: This battle was fought in 1940. The Luftwaffe (the German air force) were trying to destroy the RAF (the British air force).

D: This battle was fought on 21st October 1805. During the battle, the British navy defeated the French and Spanish fleets.

E: This battle was fought on 14th October 1066 between Duke William of Normandy and King Harold II of England. The Normans won and invaded England.

Have you ever found an error in a guidebook? Shop workers in England recently found a fairly big mistake in a guidebook. The error was a historical one concerning the Duke of Wellington (1769-1852). Wellington was one of England’s greatest generals. He fought at the Battle of Waterloo (in 1815). However, the guidebook claims that he fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

The Battle of Hastings took place in the south of England. During this battle, William the Conqueror (from Normandy, in France) beat King Harold (from England). The guide book says that it was Wellington who fought the English, even though this was about 700 years before the Duke was even born. One shop worker who noticed the mistake said, “I think it’s quite funny. It’s a big mess-up. Obviously someone didn’t proofread it properly.”

Another shop worker said, “The book is a good idea. It looks really good, but what a shame they did not get it proofread first. I suppose they got it wrong because both names start with a “w”.

The publishers have apologised for the mistake. They said, “We are aware there is an error on the Battle map and guide and we will deal with it as soon as possible.”

New Zealand Guide
This isn’t the first time a guidebook has been printed with errors. Just recently, a 120-page guide produced in Australia (and distributed to the top hotels in New Zealand) had quite a few mistakes. This included spelling errors and geographical gaffes. In one case, there were pictures of the North Island above captions from the South Island.

Glossary
an air force n the part of a country’s armed forces that is concerned with fighting in the air
the navy n the part of a country’s armed forces that is concerned with fighting at sea
fairly big adj quite big
to beat vb to defeat; to win against
to proofread vb to read a book or article before it is published in order to find and mark mistakes that need to be corrected
to apologise vb to say sorry
to deal with n to give your attention to something or someone so that a problem can be solved or a decision can be made
caption n the words printed underneath a picture which explain what the picture is about

Who wants a fight?
The dangers of going on a cruise!

Pre listening
Read the following advertisements for three cruise holidays. Imagine you have won €2,000 in a competition and you want to go on a cruise holiday. Which holiday (1 to 3) would you choose to go on, and why?

2. Cruise around the Antarctic. See whales, polar bears, penguins and icebergs. Two-week cruise: €1,200.

Listening I
You are going to listen to an article about a cruise ship. Listen once and answer the following questions:
1. What is the name of the ship?
2. How many people on the ship got sick?

Listening II
Solve the anagrams, then listen again to check your answers.

1. Today we’re talking to Sally Fields about a new cruise (HIPS = __________).
2. Normally, ships with the name of a queen are launched by a real (GINK = __________) or queen.
3. The champagne (BELTOT = __________) used to name the ship didn’t break.
4. That’s supposed to be bad (CULK = __________).
5. Just three weeks later, nearly 80 (GASSENPERS = __________) got sick.
6. The (VISUR = __________) is transmitted from hand to mouth.
Wordsearch

The Bank

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

Answers on page 42

PIN (number – a personal identification number)
ATM (automated teller machine)
Clerk (the person who serves you in the bank)
Cashier (see above)
Teller (the US word for a bank clerk/cashier)
Safe
Coin
Note
Bill
Credit
Debit
Card
Cheque
Cash
Purse
Wallet
Currency
Alarm
Vault
Slip (a paying-in slip)
Pound
Dollar
Euro
Yen
Mortgage
Loan
Account
Balance
Transaction
Statement
Transfer
Charges
Overdraft
Interest
Rate
Change (coins)
Exchange (rate)
Commission (rate)
Overdrawn
Funds
Signature

[Image of PIN number, cash, purse, vault, and teller]

This is another part in our series on nursery rhymes and their fascinating origins.

Mary had a little lamb
The words to this song were written by Sarah Hale (of Boston) in 1830. It’s apparently based on a real-life incident in which a girl named Mary Sawyer took her pet lamb to school. This nursery rhyme is good for children as it introduces the concept of similes (“white as snow” for example). Incidentally the words “Mary had a little lamb” were the first words ever recorded by Thomas Edison on his phonograph.

Mary had a little lamb
Mary had a little lamb, Little lamb, little lamb, Mary had a little lamb, It’s fleece was white as snow.

And everywhere that Mary went, Mary went, Mary went, Everywhere that Mary went, The lamb was sure to go.

Mary, Mary quite contrary
The Mary in this traditional nursery rhyme is Mary Tudor, also known as “Bloody Mary” (born 18th February 1516 – died 17th November 1558). She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and she reigned from (19th July 1553 until her death in 1558). Queen Mary was a Catholic and was famous for her persecution of Protestants. The “garden” in the rhyme refers to graveyards. In the rhyme it is said the graves were growing in size, presumably with all the bodies of Protestant martyrs.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary
Mary, Mary quite contrary, How does your garden grow? With silver bells and cockle shells, And pretty maids all in a row.

Old King Cole
The origin of this nursery rhyme dates back to the 3rd century. Historians believe that Old King Cole is referring to a Celtic King of Britain, but no one is sure exactly which king it was. Much of the evidence for this comes from the book “Historia Regum Britanniae” (A History of the Kings of Britain) by Geoffrey of Monmouth (1110-1155). In this book, Coel Godhebog (Cole the Magnificent – born 220 AD) was the Lord of Colchester (the word Colchester means “Cole’s Castle”). The Romans had conquered Britain during this period and Coel Godhebog was a Decurion – a type of local governor. The Tudor dynasty, starting with King Henry VII, claimed to descend from Old King Cole. This was used as a way of legitimising the Royal House of Tudor’s claim to the English throne.

Old King Cole
Old King Cole was a merry old soul, And a merry old soul was he, He called for his pipe, And he called for his bowl, And he called for his fiddlers three.

GLOSSARY
- a lamb: a baby sheep
- a simile: something which compares two things, often by introducing the comparison with “as” or “like”
- Thomas Edison: the scientist who is famous for inventing the light bulb
- a phonograph: a type of machine for playing records before record players
- a fleece: a coat of wool on a sheep or a lamb
- persecution: cruel treatment towards a group of people because of their religious or political beliefs
- a graveyard: a place where dead people are buried. Often it is located next to a church
- a martyr: somebody who is prepared to die rather than change his/her religious or political beliefs
- contrary: things that are contrary to each other are completely different from each other
- a cockle: a small type of shellfish that you can eat
- a shell: the hard coating that surrounds something
- a maid: a young girl or woman
- a row: if people are standing in “a row” it means that they are standing next to each other in a line
- to be merry: to be happy
- a soul: your spirit
- a pipe: a tool used for smoking; b) an instrument that you blow into for creating music
- a fiddler: a person who plays a violin

9
Here are some useful words to help you understand the jokes before reading them. Match each word (1 to 8) with its meaning (A-H). Answers on page 42

1. A fun fair
2. A ride
3. A milkshake
4. Popcorn
5. French fries
6. Sick
7. A cruise
8. A dress

A: A mixture of milk (or ice cream) with a flavour such as strawberry/chocolate, etc.
B: A journey in a luxury ship.
C: A park with many fun things to do and rides to go on.
D: Fried pieces of potato.
E: Clothing worn by women to cover their legs – usually as far as the knees.
F: Not well; ill.
G: A type of snack made by cooking corn/maize.
H: An attraction at a fun fair. For example, a rollercoaster (a very fast train) is one.

Second opinion
Doctor to patient: “You are very sick.”
Patient to doctor: “Can I get a second opinion?”
Doctor again: “Yes, you’re ugly too.”

Starting Salary
Sally has just finished university and she’s in a job interview. After about half an hour, the interviewer asks one last question, “So, Sally, what starting salary were you hoping for?” Sally thinks for a minute then says, “About 150,000 euros a year, depending on the benefits package.” The interviewer thinks for a second then says, “I’d love to be ten again.” So, on the morning of her birthday, the man gets her up early and takes his wife to the local fun fair. He puts her on every ride in the park. Five hours later, he takes her to McDonald’s, where he orders her a double Big Mac with French fries and a strawberry shake. Then, they go to a movie and see the latest Disney film, with lots of popcorn, Pepsi and sweets. What a fabulous adventure of a day. Finally, he takes her home and they both collapse onto the bed. Just before sleeping, he leans over and says, “Well, dear, what was it like being ten again?” And the woman opens her eyes, sits up slowly and says, “You idiot! I meant dress size!”

Ten again
“What would you most like for your birthday?” a man asks his wife. She thinks for a minute then says, “I’d love to be ten again.” So, on the morning of her birthday, the man gets her up early and takes his wife to the local fun fair. He puts her on every ride in the park. Five hours later, he takes her to McDonald’s, where he orders her a double Big Mac with French fries and a strawberry shake. Then, they go to a movie and see the latest Disney film, with lots of popcorn, Pepsi and sweets. What a fabulous adventure of a day. Finally, he takes her home and they both collapse onto the bed. Just before sleeping, he leans over and says, “Well, dear, what was it like being ten again?” And the woman opens her eyes, sits up slowly and says, “You idiot! I meant dress size!”

GLOSSARY

- to be sick: vb
- to be ill: vb
- to be ugly: vb
- to be unattractive: a
- a starting salary: n
- the initial amount of money you are paid each month by your employer
- a benefits package: n
- the payments or benefits you receive in addition to your salary
- insurance: n
- an arrangement whereby you pay money to a company, and they pay money to you if something unpleasant happens to you or you lose something
- a company car: n
- a car given to you by your company
- a cruise: n
- a holiday during which you travel on a big ship and visit a number of places
- a fun fair: n
- a place outside with many fun things to do: roller coasters (fast trains), etc
- a ride: n
- an attraction at a fun fair – often a type of fast train
- a shake: n
- a cold drink made by mixing milk with a flavouring, and sometimes also ice cream
- popcorn: n
- food that people often eat at the cinema. It consists of corn that is heated until it explodes and becomes large and light
- to lean over: phr vb
- to bend your body towards someone so that you are very close to them
**FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE**

This month: saying goodbye.

**Saying goodbye after a meeting/party, etc.**
- It was nice seeing you.
- (It was) nice meeting you.
- It was great to see you again.
- Bye. / Goodbye.
- See you soon. / See you later. / See you.
- See you tomorrow. / See you next week.
- A: See you later alligator. B: In a while, crocodile.

**Saying goodbye at night (before going to bed)**
- Good night.
- Sleep tight.
- Sleep well.
- Get a good night’s sleep.

**Escaping from a conversation (on the phone, etc)**
- Well, I really should be going.
- I’ve got another call.
- Well, I really must be going.
- Well, it was great talking to you.
- I’m sorry but I’ve got to get going. / I’d better get going.

**Saying goodbye for a long time**
- Farewell.
- All the best.
- I’ll miss you.
- See you soon, I hope.
- It was great knowing you.
- Have a nice life!

Complete each space with the correct word.

1. Person I: It was nice meeting you.
   Person II: Yes, it was nice __________ you too.

2. Person I: So, then, Brian says to me, ‘Hey, where are you going?’ and I said...
   Person II: Hey, I’m sorry to interrupt you, but I really should be ____________

3. Person I: Farewell, my love.
   Person II: Bye. I’ll __________ you.

4. Person I: Goodbye. I suppose we won’t see each other again then.
   Person II: Yeah, have a nice ____________.

**Answers** on page 42

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**PHONE SECTION**

**How to order something over the phone!**

**Listening I**

You are going to listen to a telephone conversation. Sarah is ordering some olive oil. Listen once and write down the following numbers:

1. The product number: __________________________
2. The postcode: __________________________

**Listening II**

See if you can complete the text with the right words or expressions. Then, listen again to check your answers.

**Reception:** Saragosa Oil. (1)
**Caller:** Hi, this is Sarah Smith from the Food Emporium.
**Sales:** How are you?
**Caller:** (2) ______________
**Sales:** So, what can I do for you?
**Caller:** (3) ______________ 700 one-litre bottles of olive oil product number 0783-467.
**Sales:** OK. When do you need it to be delivered by?
**Caller:** We’d like it in the warehouse by Friday 14th May, if possible.
**Sales:** That shouldn’t be a problem. (4) ______________ will you be using?
**Caller:** Just charge it to the company account, please.
**Sales:** Could I (5) ______________, please?
**Caller:** Yes, our warehouse is The Food Emporium, 13, Barwell Street, Hanton, Middlesex KT22 OLR.
**Sales:** Yes, that’s the address we have. (6) ______________ to confirm the order, please?
**Caller:** Yes, certainly. Is your fax number the same as the telephone number?
**Sales:** No, it’s 00 34 93 678 9201.
**Caller:** OK. (7) ______________
**Sales:** Bye.
clothes

Trousers ("pants" in US English)
A shirt
A dress
A suit

A skirt
A jacket
A blouse
A blazer

A sweater (pullover, jersey, jumper)
Overalls
A cardigan
A raincoat

Shorts
A waistcoat
Shoes
Socks
This month: The Clothes Shop. Listen and repeat these expressions.

**What you say**
- Have you got these trousers in blue?
- I'm looking for a size 32.
- Is it 100% cotton?
- Where's the checkout counter?
- I'm looking for a size ten dress.
- Have you got this in a bigger/larger/smaller size, please?
- Where are the changing rooms, please?
- Could I try these on, please?
- Do you have this in a different colour?
- I'd like to take these trousers back, please.
- Do you take credit cards?
- Have you got this in a different colour?
- Have you got any trousers to match this shirt?

**What you hear**
- What shirt size do you take?
- What shoe size are you?
- Shall I get you a bigger size?
- The changing rooms are just over there.
- You can get a refund if you keep the receipt.
- We take all major credit cards.
- There's a 25% reduction on the price.

Now listen to this dialogue. In this conversation, Betty is in the clothes shop.

**Assistant:** Good afternoon, can I help you?
**Betty:** Yes, I was looking for a pair of trousers.
**Assistant:** What waist size are you?
**Betty:** 28.
**Assistant:** And what colour were you looking for?
**Betty:** Black or dark blue.
**Assistant:** Here you are. (She gives her a pair of trousers.)
**Betty:** Can I try them on?
**Assistant:** Yes, certainly. The changing rooms are over there. (She points to the changing rooms.)
**Betty:** Can I try a size 30 too, please? Just in case.
**Assistant:** Certainly. Here you are. (5 minutes later Betty comes out.) How are they?
**Betty:** Fine thanks. I think I need the size 30 – I must have put on some weight recently.
**Assistant:** Anything else?
**Betty:** Yes, I was also looking for a shirt to go with the trousers.
**Assistant:** How about these shirts here?
**Betty:** Yes, they look nice. Could I try one on, please?
**Assistant:** Yes, here, these should fit you.
**Betty:** Great. Actually, I think I’ll just take them because I’m in a bit of a rush.
**Assistant:** OK. That’ll be 68 pounds, please.
**Betty:** Here you are. (Betty gives the assistant her card.)

**GLOSSARY**
- **checkout counter**
  - the place in a shop where you pay and receive a receipt
- **match**
  - if one piece of clothing matches another, they go well together
- **put on some weight**
  - to become a bit fatter
- **go with**
  - if A “goes with” B, A goes well with B

**TRACK 07**

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How much time do you spend on housework? Just recently, a survey of 4,000 British houseworkers found that the average homemaker works nine hours every day. So, as the average salary in the UK is €30,000, a British houseworker would earn about €40,000 if they were employed. Also in the survey, 71% of houseworkers said that running the family-home was a full-time job. An average houseworker spends 273 minutes every day looking after the children. A nanny in the UK would earn about €48 a day for the same job. Cleaning and tidying for one hour would earn a cleaner almost €8. And for more than an hour of cooking, a chef would earn €20. Carolyn Morris, a spokeswoman for the website, said, “The survey clearly demonstrates that not only do houseworkers deserve a wage for their efforts, they also need a break from the daily grind.”
Does the government know too much about us?

Pre listening

Look at the following list below.

What information should be considered confidential? What information does the government have a right to know? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Favourite colour
- Blood group
- Shoe size
- Car type
- Favourite colour
- Race
- Criminal convictions
- Date of birth
- Favourite colour
- Height
- Electricity consumption
- Details of phone calls
- DNA
- Mortgage payments
- Relocation
- Sports

Listening I

You are going to listen to a conversation about government surveillance in Britain. Listen once and write down three types of information about people the government wants to obtain?

Listening II

Match the beginning of each sentence (1-5) with the correct ending (A-E).

1. Is England becoming like... ____
2. Very shortly, they will be sending out questionnaires to... ____
3. The idea is to get information on... ____
4. The government say they need this information to... ____
5. Many people feel that local councils should spend this money on improving services, not by poking their noses into... ____

A: everyone in the country
B: our private lives
C: Soviet Russia
D: promote greater numbers of councillors from minority groups
E: our children, mortgage payments, ethnic background, religion and sexual orientation

Audio script - Scandal as government orders local councils to “spy” on residents.

Presenter: Good afternoon. You are listening to England Today and my name is Geoffrey Gamer. Is England becoming like Soviet Russia? Some think so. Here with me in the studio is Penny Purser to discuss this.

Penny: Good afternoon.

Presenter: So, as I understand it, the government wants to find out even more about us.

Penny: Yes, that’s right. Very shortly, they will be sending out questionnaires to everyone in the country. The idea is to get information on our children, mortgage payments, ethnic background, religion and sexual orientation. It’ll also ask questions on our attitudes to libraries, rubbish collection and schools.

Presenter: Why?

Penny: Well, the government say they need this information to decide whether to promote greater numbers of local councillors from minority groups. But many people are worried about how this confidential information will be stored and used. Worst of all, the New Place Survey, as it’s known, is expected to cost at least £15 million.

Presenter: That’s a lot of money.

Penny: Yes. Many people feel that local councils should spend this money on improving services, not by poking their noses into our private lives.

Presenter: Yes, there are certainly better things that they could do with the money.

Penny: Exactly. Civil rights campaigners are calling the survey “intrusive and very sinister”, pointing out that any information handed over will not be kept confidential. This is an especially sensitive area after one government department recently managed to lose millions of files with confidential bank details.

Presenter: Yes, I can imagine why people are worried about this. OK, Penny. Thanks very much for that. Lots to talk about here, I think.
Exercise
See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 14), and the photos (A-N). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. Answers on page 42.

1. A squirrel □
2. A dragonfly □
3. A frog □
4. A kangaroo □
5. A goose (plural: geese) □
6. An almond □
7. A peach □
8. A crown □
9. Cheese □
10. An egg □
11. A hammerhead shark □
12. A dish / plate □
13. Salt □
14. An evil spirit □
This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Who ever thought the world was so unusual?

The average squirrel lives for about nine years. A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.

The Poison Arrow frog has enough poison to kill 2,201 people.

A group of kangaroos is called a mob. And a group of geese is called a gaggle.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

Maine is the only state whose name has just one syllable.

The most common part of your body that is bitten by insects is your foot.

The most common time for a wake-up call is 7 am.

There are seven points on the Statue of Liberty’s crown.

The average person goes to the bathroom 6 times a day.

France has the highest per capita consumption of cheese.

Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel with over 50,000 words in it, none of which contained the letter “e”. Incidentally, a new book is published every 13 minutes in America.

Many sharks lay eggs, but hammerheads give birth to live babies. Young hammerheads are usually born headfirst, with the tip of their hammer-shaped head folded backwards to make them more streamlined.

Businessman Cornelius Vanderbilt was an insomniac. And, he wasn’t able to fall asleep unless each leg of his bed was placed in a dish filled with salt. He thought this would keep evil spirits away.

Walt Disney named Mickey Mouse after the actor Mickey Rooney, whose mother he dated for some time.

Glossary

- lifespan: a period of time that a person, animal or plant is expected to live
- mob: a large, disorganised and often violent crowd of people
- gaggle: a group of geese
- wake-up call: if you get a “wake-up call”, someone wakes you up in the morning because you asked to be woken up
- per capita: the “per capita” amount of something is the total amount of it in a country or area divided by the number of people in that country or area
- dating: if you are “dating” someone, you are going out with them
- headfirst: if you move “headfirst” in a particular direction, your head is the part of your body that is furthest forward as you are moving
- folded backwards: if you “fold something backwards”, you bend it so that the front part covers the back part
- streamlined: an animal that is “streamlined” has a body shape that allows it to move quickly through water or air
- insomniac: someone who finds it very difficult to sleep
- fall asleep: to start sleeping
Dear Wall Bracket,

Of course, I would be delighted to help you.

OK, here goes.

1. To “put off” can have a variety of different meanings. Here are a few of them:
   a) To “put off” can mean “to delay”. For example: “They have put off the match until next week because of all the bad weather.”
   b) If a food or smell “puts you off” eating, it makes you not want to eat. For example, “The disgusting smell of that milk put me off my lunch.”
   c) If someone “puts you off”, they distract you. For example, “She put me off as I was about to serve in the tennis game.”
   d) And finally, if you “put someone off doing something”, you convince them not to do it – you dissuade them from doing it. For example, “They put me off travelling alone – they made it sound too dangerous.”

2. The use of the gerund or the infinitive doesn’t really change the meaning of the verb “to feel”. In general, the use of the gerund indicates that the action has not finished. For example, “I felt the table moving as the airplane flew over.” On the other hand, the use of the infinitive (without “to”) indicates that the action was complete and finished. For example, “I felt the bullet brush across my arm.” Basically, there is no right or wrong answer – it depends what you want to refer to: an action in progress, or a completed action.

3. Basically, “few” means “not many” – it has a negative feel to it. For example, “There were few people at the concert – it was a bit disappointing.” And “a few” is more positive and means “some”. For example, “There were quite a few people at the concert – we were really pleased.”

4. Finally, “to advise” is often followed by a noun or an object pronoun when we are referring to someone specific. For example:
   a) We advised her to give up smoking.
   b) They advised him to leave early.

However, when the advice is given in general and is not directed to anyone in particular, we use the gerund. For example:
   a) She advised giving up smoking.
   b) They advised leaving early.

Well, Wall Bracket, I hope that has helped you.

Yours,
Dr Fingers.
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Corny Criminals

Here’s another part in our series on good, bad and funny criminals.

Speedy González
Man stopped in unusual vehicle.

A German man was stopped by police after he was doing more than 60kph down a high street… in an electric wheelchair. Guenther Eichmann, 54, who is an engineer, told police that he had modified the wheelchair’s electric engine so it could go faster. He was stopped in the wheelchair doing twice the speed limit. His vehicle was confiscated and he was given a €400 fine.

The Great Escape
When Steffi said that she was going to escape from the jail, we just laughed, “a high street… in an electric wheelchair!” When Stei said that she was gone. At first we thought she must still be somewhere in the prison, and began searching for her. But she wasn’t here. Gradually, we realised what must have happened. A fellow inmate called Karin was released on the same day, and the suitcase she left with was unusually heavy. In fact, it was so heavy that another warden had to help her with it. Steffi is quite small and it’s obvious now that she must have been hiding inside the suitcase. Police are currently looking for both teenagers.

Court Ban
Judge suspended after bizarre incident.

“They tried to find the phone but failed. After a brief break, Judge Restaino returned and again asked whose phone it was. When no-one said anything, the judge arrested the entire courtroom audience of 46 people and set bail at $1,500 per person. One defendant told the judge, “This isn’t fair to the rest of us.” To which the judge replied, “I know it isn’t.” The defendants were then taken to a jail, where they were searched and pushed into cells. Fourteen people who could not post bail were later shackled and transported to another prison. It was only later in the afternoon, when reporters began to ask questions about the ruling, that Judge Restaino ordered their release. Judge Restaino has been suspended. An enquiry is expected to follow.”

Glossary

a wheelchair n a chair with wheels that you use if you cannot walk properly

to modify v to change something slightly in order to improve it

an engine n the machine in a car that produces the power which makes the car move

a speed limit n the maximum speed at which you are allowed to drive

a fine n a sum of money that you are ordered to pay if you have done something illegal

a warden n a person whose job is to look after prisoners and make sure that they obey the rules

to search v to look for

a suitcase n a bag or box with a handle in which you carry your clothes when you are travelling

to go off v to leave your job temporarily until a decision is made about you

to own up to v to admit that you are responsible for something bad

to break v a period of time in which things stop

to set bail at n to decide that the arrested person must pay $1500 in order to be released while they are waiting for their trial

to be searched v if you are “searched”, the police or someone looks for illegal things in your clothes, body or possessions

to be shackled v to have a shackle (two metal rings joined by a chain) put around your wrists or ankles in order to stop you from escaping

to own v a period of time in which things stop

to be suspended v if you are “suspended”, you must leave your job temporarily until a decision is made about you

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Glossary

GLOSSARY

to peel vb to take the skin of fruit/vegetables
to dial (a number) vb to press buttons on a phone so you can call a number
to local n that is in the area you are referring to

Call I – The Glasses
Operator: Police. Can I help you?
Caller: Erm, yes, look, I’ve lost my glasses.
Operator: Right.
Caller: And I’m trying to get my lunch and I can’t peel my potatoes very well.
Operator: Right... but you’re through to the police.
Caller: I know...
Operator: Well, I can’t come and look for your glasses.
Caller: But I still need them.
Operator: Well, you don’t ring 999 for your glasses.
Caller: Well, I couldn’t get through to... I couldn’t find the local police number.
Operator: It’s in the phone book under “p” for police, but the police can’t help you either.
Caller: No... but I mean... I could go to the police station, I suppose, to see if they’re there.
Operator: Right, well I’m afraid this is a 999 line and I can’t help you with your glasses. Goodbye.

Call II – The Bus
Operator: Police. Can I help you?
Caller: Could you put me through to Southmead Police Station please?
Operator: I can’t...
Caller: I’m very angry...
Operator: But listen, sir, you’ve dialled 999 you need to tell me what your emergency is.
Caller: There are no buses in Crow Lane...
Operator: Are you phoning 999 to report the fact that there are no buses in Crow Lane?
Caller: Exactly. Exactly. Because the police are doing nothing about this. All this aggro that’s going on. I’m a visitor here.
Operator: Excuse me, sir, I can’t take a complaint about no bus services on 999...
Caller: Well, would you put me through to Southmead Police Station, please?
Operator: I will give you the correct number for you to dial, sir.
Caller: That’s lovely.

Recipe

JENNA’S “DOWN HOME” MEATBALLS

By Jenna DiMaria

Ingredients (for 10-12 meatballs)
- ½ a kilo of minced meat.
- 250 grams of green olives stuffed with anchovies.
- ½ a small onion.
- 1 egg.
- Breadcrumbs.

Method
- Preheat the oven to 175ºC.
- Cut the olives and onion into tiny pieces.
- Put the olives and onion into a bowl with the minced meat and the egg.
- Squish the mixture with your fingers until the ingredients are all mixed together.
- Add some breadcrumbs and use your hands to form meatball shapes.
- Put the meatballs on an oven tray.
- Put the tray in the preheated oven and cook for 30-40 minutes.

Served with spaghetti, or slices of fried potato and a side salad. Great for lunch.
**TO BE LIKE**

In this month’s grammar fun section we’ll be looking at the use of “to be like”.

Now, compare these sentences:

A: How is Betty?  
B: She’s fine thanks. She only broke her arm. It could have been much worse.

A: What is Betty like?  
B: She’s very organised and highly motivated.

In the first set of sentences, the speaker is asking about Betty in general: her personality, character, physical appearance, etc.

And finally, don’t confuse “to be like” with the verb “to like”. Compare these two sentences:

A: What is she like?  
B: She’s really nice.

A: What does she like doing at the weekend?  
B: She likes going to the cinema at the weekend.

**What... is he/she like?**

We often use the question “what is X like?” to ask about someone’s character or personality. For example:

A: What is Bob like?  
B: He’s a lovely man, but not very reliable – he often forgets about important appointments.

A: What is Sarah like?  
B: Well, she’s generally really nice, but she loses her temper and starts shouting every now and then.

With answers to questions with “to be like”, we can also include information about someone’s physical appearance. For example:

A: What is Sam like?  
B: Oh, he’s really funny, and quite tall too.

A: What is Petra like?  
B: She’s got blonde hair and she’s highly intelligent.

This question can also be used to ask about a film, an experience, a trip, etc. For example:

A: What was the film like?  
B: Pretty boring.

A: What was your trip abroad like?  
B: Disastrous – our bag was stolen three times!

Some people confuse “what... like?” with “how”. Remember, we use “how” in questions to ask about things which change – moods, health, etc. For example:

A: How’s work these days?  
B: Oh, great thanks. I really like my boss.

A: How’s Bob?  
B: Oh, he’s fine – much better thanks.

A: How’s Sarah doing?  
B: Oh, not too bad, although she doesn’t like her new job much.
Henry VIII was perhaps the largest, bloodiest and most promiscuous king in British history. He was King of England from 1509 until his death in 1547. Later, he also became King of Ireland. He is most famous for having six wives. But he also had a great impact as a monarch, and under his rule England saw many changes.

Henry VIII was very good at sports. As a young man, he was outstanding at jousting and hunting. However, later in life, an injury to his leg prevented him from exercising and he became overweight. Henry was very well educated. He spoke fluent Latin, French and Spanish. And he was an excellent musician, author and poet. Henry was also involved in the construction and restoration of some of England’s most famous and beautiful buildings, including King’s College Chapel in Cambridge.

Henry was the second son of King Henry VII. It was expected that his older brother, Arthur, would become King and that Henry would have a career in the Church. However, in 1502 Arthur died and Henry therefore became heir to the throne. Henry’s father wanted to maintain an excellent relationship between England and Spain. So, Henry was married to Arthur’s widow, Catherine of Aragon, who was the daughter of King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile. Henry married Catherine in June 1509.

Henry’s main ambition was to produce a son. But by 1525, the only child to have survived after birth was their daughter Mary. Henry wanted a divorce from Catherine, and the easiest way to do this was to break from the Catholic Church. This act saw the creation of the Church of England, which is also known as the Anglican Church.

Henry had become very interested in a young lady in the court named Anne Boleyn. Henry married Anne in 1533 and Anne soon gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth. However, Anne did not produce a son and the relationship quickly broke down. In 1536, Anne was arrested on charges of adultery. She was beheaded on 19th May 1536.

Henry then became engaged to Jane Seymour. Jane was one of Anne’s ladies-in-waiting. They were married just 11 days after Anne’s execution. At about the same time, Henry passed a law that led to the union of England and Wales. In 1537, Henry’s wish finally came true – Jane gave birth to a son, Prince Edward. But Jane sadly died from an infection during childbirth. Henry considered Jane to be his “true” wife, being the only one who had given him a male heir to the throne. He was buried next to Jane at his death.

Henry later married Anne of Cleves. He was encouraged to marry her by his chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, as she was the daughter of an important ally, the Duke of Cleves. However, Henry found Anne to be “untractable” and they divorced after six months. From that point, Cromwell began to fall out of favour with the king and he was executed in 1540.

In July 1540, Henry married Catherine Howard. Henry was very happy with his new queen. But shortly after their marriage, she had several affairs with other courtiers. Henry was furious and ordered her to be executed. She was beheaded in 1542 when she was about 18 years old. Henry married his last wife, the wealthy widow Catherine Parr, in 1543. He remained married to Catherine until his death in 1547.

Henry’s reign was marked by his cruelty. He executed many people – estimates put the number at 72,000. But Henry also made sure that the greatest act of his reign – his break from the Roman Catholic Church – was one of the most radical of any English monarch. It led to the transformation of England into a Protestant society, and to the large decrease in the economic and political power of the Church.

When Henry died, his great ambition was fulfilled. His son Edward succeeded the throne. However, Edward’s reign didn’t last long. He died at the age of 15, and Henry’s eldest daughter Mary then became Queen. Mary died five years later and was succeeded by Henry’s other daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth reigned from 1558 until her death in 1603. Her reign is known as the “Elizabethan era” and is an extremely important period in history. It is therefore an irony that after so desperately wanting a son, it was actually one of Henry’s daughters who would become both his most prominent heir, and one of the greatest monarchs in British history.
One of England’s most famous kings was King Henry VIII. And he is probably most famous for his six wives, particularly his second wife, Anne Boleyn. She was beheaded in May 1536. But did you know that Anne had a sister called Mary who was the king’s mistress? A famous film looks at the relationship between the two sisters, Anne and Mary, and Henry. It’s called The Other Boleyn Girl and stars Natalie Portman as Anne, Scarlett Johansson as Mary, and Eric Bana as King Henry VIII. The film is based on the popular book of the same name, which is written by British author Philippa Gregory. In the story, Anne and Mary compete for the love of the handsome king.

The story begins in 1521. Both the Boleyn sisters are extremely beautiful. At just 13 years old, Mary is married to the wealthy courtier, Sir William Carey. However, Mary’s life is changed forever when King Henry takes an interest in her. At that time, the king is married to his first wife, Queen Catherine of Aragon (Catalina de Aragón y Castilla), and Mary is one of her ladies-in-waiting. Mary is reluctant to have an affair but she gives in and becomes the king’s mistress. Soon, Mary is pregnant with the king’s child. However, while she is pregnant, her sister Anne seduces Henry and steals him away.

Mary’s heart is broken as, at this point, she has fallen in love with the king.

By 1527, the king decides he wants to divorce his wife, Catherine, and marry Anne. Mary is quietly ignored and becomes “the other Boleyn girl”. Later, Mary is forced to become Anne’s lady-in-waiting. Anne becomes obsessed with her ambition to become queen.

In 1532, Mary falls in love with a handsome servant, William Stafford. Mary and William marry in secret. A year later, Anne becomes queen. When Anne discovers that her sister, Mary, has secretly married a commoner and is pregnant with his child, she immediately sends Mary away from the court. At the same time, their brother George is in an unhappy marriage and is secretly having a homosexual affair.

Life soon becomes very difficult for Anne. The king desperately wants a son. After Anne gives birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1533, Anne suffers two miscarriages. When Mary returns to the court in 1535, she begins to suspect that Anne and George are having an incestuous affair in order to help Anne conceive again.

Anne is arrested the following year, and so is George. George and his male lover are executed as Anne’s supposed lovers. Mary is uncertain what to do – she is sure that people are telling lies about her sister, but she is also afraid that they may be true. Finally, Anne is executed on 19 May 1536. Mary, “the other Boleyn girl”, lives out the rest of her life in peace with her common-born husband, William Stafford.
Natalie Portman

“She new Audrey Hepburn” is how some people have described her. Natalie Portman was born in Israel in 1981 and moved to the United States a few years later. She turned down the opportunity of becoming a child model in favour of acting. Her first film role was in 1994, but she only became well-known when she appeared in Star Wars some years later. In 2005, she was nominated for an Oscar award for her role in Closer. Portman has a degree in Psychology from Harvard University. She has said that she would “rather be smart than a movie star”. And she doesn’t want to be an actress all her life – she once said that when she is older, she wants to pursue a career in psychology. She is a vegetarian and a firm supporter of animal rights. She also campaigns for environmental causes.

Scarlett Johansson

Scarlett Johansson is a strong supporter of Barack Obama, and an active campaigner for the Democratic Party. She was born in New York in 1984. She became famous when she acted in the 1998 film The Horse Whisperer. She has since gone on to star in several well-known films including Lost in Translation. Johansson is the face of several famous brands including L’Oreal. She is also a Global Ambassador for the aid and development agency, Oxfam. She loves eating cheese and has often criticised Hollywood for promoting an image that causes unhealthy dieting in women. In addition to acting, Johansson is starting a musical career. In May 2008 she released her first album, Anywhere I Lay My Head.

Eric Bana

As a motor racing enthusiast, Eric Bana always dreamed of becoming a professional racing car driver. But his father advised him not to pursue his hobby as a career. Bana was born in Melbourne in 1968 to a Croatian father and German mother. He started his acting career as a comedian on Australian television. He became famous after starring in the film Chopper in 2000. Since then, he has starred in several Hollywood films including Hulk, Munich and Troy.

Bana is a supporter of various different charities including the Australian Childhood Foundation. He is married with two young children. He participates in motor racing competitions in Australia, and he is a strong supporter of Australian football.
How to end a CONVERSATION

1 Pre-listening
What reason or excuse can you give for ending a conversation? Add at least three more ideas to the list below. You...

...have to prepare the dinner.
...have got a train to catch.
...are busy and you have to get back to work.
...are going on a long journey home by plane.
...are moving abroad permanently and you’ve got a plane to catch.

2 Listening I
You’re going to listen to five conversations in which people say goodbye. Listen once and match the ideas from the Pre-listening activity to the conversations below.

1. AT THE PUB
Henry: ...and then he asked me to work at the weekend.
Abbie: That’s so annoying.
Henry: Tell me about it. [silence]
Abbie: Well, look, I’d better get going. I’ve got to get dinner ready and the kids will be back in about half an hour.
Henry: OK. Of course.
Abbie: Right, so, I’ll see you on Friday.
Henry: Yes, at three o’clock.
Abbie: Perfect! See you then.
Henry: OK. Bye.
Abbie: Bye.

2. IN THE STREET
George: ...and that’s why I decided to leave.
Megan: Good decision.
George: Best I’ve ever made.
Megan: Well, it was lovely talking to you, but I’ve got to run. My train leaves in about 10 minutes.
George: No problem. Have a good one!
Megan: Yeah, sure. Hey, why don’t we get together sometime this week for a coffee or something?
George: Good idea. I’ll give you a call.
Megan: OK. Speak later. Take care.
George: Bye.
Megan: Bye.

Answers on page 42
3. IN AN OFFICE
Harvey: I can’t believe you’re actually going. It’s been, what, like six years, hasn’t it?
Mandy: That’s right. It’s just flown by.
Harvey: I know. It feels like only yesterday when we started here. I’m really gonna miss you.
Mandy: I’ll miss you too. Keep in touch.
Harvey: I will. It was wonderful to finally meet your family and everything.
Mandy: Thanks. So, goodbye then.
Harvey: Bye. Take care and send me a text message when you get to Chicago.
Mandy: I will! Good luck.
Harvey: And you. Bye.
Mandy: Bye.

4. IN A RESTAURANT
Morgan: OK, so I’ll call the distributors while you prepare the contract, and we’ll talk again next week.
Poppy: Sounds good!
Morgan: Great! So, have a nice trip back to Sydney.
Poppy: I will.
Morgan: And don’t forget to e-mail me that information.
Poppy: Of course!
Morgan: Thanks again for everything.
Morgan: Bye.

5. IN AN OFFICE
Nicole: So, I’ll send you over that proposal and you can tell me what you think of it sometime next week.
Nicole: And I’ll let you know when the report comes out.
Luke: Perfect!
Nicole: Oh, before I go, I just remembered, we’re going for a drink after work tomorrow if you fancy coming along.
Nicole: We’re meeting up at the Fox & Hounds at about 6pm.
Luke: Oh, great. I’ll see you there.
Nicole: OK. See you later then. Bye.
The tragic tale of Princess Caroline – an 18th century story.

Back in the 18th century, Prince George (the Prince of Wales, who later became King George IV) was involved in a controversy that captured the interest of the press and the public. This is the story of Prince George and Princess Caroline.

Poor Princess

The wedding between the Prince George and his German wife was anything but romantic. The ceremony took place on 8th April 1795 when Prince George (the Prince of Wales) married a German princess named Caroline Amelia of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel. But it was no wedding of love. During the wedding, the 32-year-old prince was apparently so drunk that he had to be held up by his servants. And in the words of one eye-witness, he “looked like death.”

He continued to drink after the ceremony and spent his wedding night on the bedroom floor.

So, why did Prince George get married? Well, George was famous for his gambling, womanising and large debts. George and his new bride were first cousins, and they had met just three days before they became man and wife. George didn’t want to get married, but agreed to it after his father (King George III) promised to pay off Prince George’s debts. If that seemed bad enough, at the time of his marriage to Caroline, Prince George was already married to another woman: an older, twice-widowed Roman Catholic commoner called Maria Fitzherbert. The marriage wasn’t actually legal because Prince George didn’t have his father’s permission to marry. It was also illegal for anyone who was married to a Catholic to inherit the throne.

Prince George and Princess Caroline never got on very well. When he wasn’t drinking, the Prince was interested in clothes, architecture and art; according to some, the princess had no “intellectual” interests and was also “sarcastic and vulgar” (apparently she never bathed either). George and Caroline spent their honeymoon in a rented house filled with George’s friends. According to Caroline, they “were constantly drunk and filthy”. George had also brought along his mistress, Lady Jersey. Caroline later said that the house resembled “a bad brothel”.

Somehow, George and Caroline managed to consummate the marriage; and on 7th January 1796 (nine months after the wedding) their only daughter Charlotte was born. Two days later, George wrote a will in which he left all his property to Maria Fitzherbert. To Caroline, he left a single shilling. He also said that Caroline could have nothing to do with raising Charlotte. At the time, women had no right to custody of their children, and when Caroline left George in December 1797 she was forced to leave her daughter behind as well. At first, the two were happy to be separated. George went back to Maria Fitzherbert, while Caroline had a number of affairs.

However, by 1805, Caroline’s reputation was so “bad” that the government launched an investigation into her private life, which was known officially as the “Delicate Investigation”. At the time, Caroline had adopted a little boy. Many said it was actually her own illegitimate son. George hoped this was true so he could get divorced, but there was no evidence that the princess had committed adultery.

To make matters worse, George refused to be in the same room with Caroline, got newspapers to publish stories about her sex life, and refused to let Caroline see their daughter more than once a week (this was later reduced to once every two weeks). Fed up with the situation, Caroline decided to leave England in 1814. She spent the next several years travelling around Europe. She ran up huge debts, and had a number of affairs with her servants. In 1818, Caroline’s daughter died. Now, there was no heir to the throne, and Caroline was afraid that George would kill her so he could remarry.

But George was more interested in divorce, especially after his father’s death in 1820. The prince was now King George IV, and he was determined to prevent Caroline from becoming queen. Caroline was equally determined that she would be crowned. It was the beginning of a royal battle.

PRINCESS CAROLINE

Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel was born on 17th May 1768. She died on 7th August 1821. She was the wife of the Prince of Wales (who later became King George IV).

PRINCE GEORGE

George was born on 17th August 1762. He was the eldest son of King George III and Queen Charlotte. He was famous for his extravagant lifestyle, his love of women and his fondness for art and architecture. In 1785, he secretly (and illegally) married a Roman Catholic, Maria Fitzherbert. In 1795, he was officially married to Princess Caroline of Brunswick. The marriage was a disaster. In 1811, George became regent after his father was declared insane. George became King George IV in 1820. George died on 26th June 1830. His only child, Princess Charlotte, died in 1817. On George’s death, the crown passed to his brother, who became King William IV.

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Caroline returned to England in 1820. Most ordinary people were on her side. Large crowds were on the streets shouting, “Long live the queen!” and attacking those who refused to join in. In fact, things were so bad that many thought there would be a revolution. But George remained obstinate, and a bill was introduced to “deprive Her Majesty, Caroline Amelia Elizabeth, of the Title, Prerogatives, Rights, Privileges, and Exemptions of Queen Consort of this Realm; and to dissolve the Marriage between His Majesty and said Caroline Amelia Elizabeth”.

The debate over this bill lasted more than three months and was, in effect, the public trial of Queen Caroline. The hearings were covered closely by the newspapers, and Caroline herself attended almost every day. Much of the focus was on Caroline’s relationship with an Italian servant. Apparently, he had slept in her tent and even shared a bath with her. But public opinion remained with Caroline. In the end, the bill was defeated by a vote of 123 to 95. The king would not get his divorce, but Caroline would not get her crown. On the day of the ceremony, in a scene right out of a movie, Caroline arrived at Westminster Abbey and went from door to door, demanding entrance, but was refused every time.

A few weeks later Caroline fell ill. “I know I am dying – they have killed me at last!” she said. She even went so far as to say that she thought she had been poisoned. She finally died on 7th August 1821 at the age of 53. George IV lived another nine years, but never finally died on 7th August 1821 at the age of 53. George IV lived another nine years, but never
**Headline News**

**Unhealthy Anger**

A new study finds that angry people take longer to heal.

Are you an angry or a calm person? A new scientific study says that calm people heal faster than angry people. Nearly 100 participants took part in the study. Scientists tested participants’ ability to control their anger. And scientists monitored the speed at which participants recovered from a **blister**. Angry people were four times more likely to take a minimum of five days to heal. Whether a person directed their anger externally or internally had no influence on recovery – the important factor was how much control the person had over their feelings.

Angry people produced higher levels of stress hormones. Steve Bloom, a professor of medicine at Imperial College London, said stress was now recognised as a factor in **recovery** rates. “Your body **prioritises** and **sorts** one thing **out** at a time, so if you are stressed – angry in this case – your body works through that before it gets on with the process of healing.” Scientists suggest that therapies such as relaxation could help angry people make a quicker recovery. ⚡

---

**Violin Disaster**

Professional violinist breaks his $1 million violin.

“I’m not happy about it at all, but it kind of saved my life,” said David Garrett, a professional violinist. Garrett, 26, is a famous classical musician. Last Christmas, he fell down some stairs. He **landed** on his violin **case**. The violin case probably saved his life, but the fall broke his $1 million violin inside. The violin was made in Italy in 1772. The instrument will take eight months to repair and will cost €80,000. “I think it’s **worth the money**,” said Garrett. “You want to have the best repair possible done, which is never the cheapest solution. Certain instruments just work very well with the violinist... I just loved the violin very, very much.” In the meantime, Garrett is **borrowing** a Stradivarius violin, worth more than €3 million. 🎻

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**GLOSSARY**

- **a blister**: a painful liquid bubble on the surface of the skin - often on the feet
- **a recovery**: if a sick person makes a recovery, s/he becomes well again
- **to prioritise**: to decide which tasks are the most important, and to do them first
- **to sort out**: to do what is necessary to solve a problem or get something done
- **to land on**: to fall on
- **a case**: a container that holds or protects something
- **worth the money**: to be good value for the money you pay
- **to borrow**: to take something with permission and return it later
Little Jokes

Match each joke beginning (1 to 8) with its ending (A-H). Then, listen to check your answers. Answers on page 42.

1. On which side do chickens have most feathers? □
2. What kind of paper likes music? □
3. What’s white and goes up? □
4. What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts? □
5. Did you hear about the man who bought a paper shop? □
6. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert? □
7. What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine’s Day? □
8. Did you hear about the magic tractor? □

A: It turned into a field.
B: Lost.
C: On the outside.
D: Annette (“a net”).
E: I’m stuck on you.
F: A confused snowflake.
G: It blew away.
H: Wrapping paper.

THE PHONE CALL

BY DANIEL COUTOUNE

SO, YOU FINALLY FINISHED ON THE PHONE. CAN I USE IT?

20 MINUTES! THAT WAS A SHORT CALL. YOU USUALLY TALK FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS.

Yeah.

I know...

Yeah, I know...

...it was a wrong number.

Glossary

a feather n a bird’s feathers are the soft objects on its body
a paper shop n a shop that sells newspapers/magazines, etc
a stamp n a small piece of paper that you stick onto an envelope or parcel before you post it, to pay for the cost of the postage
an envelope n a rectangular paper container for a letter
to turn into phr vb to become something else; to change from one thing to another
to be stuck on someone phr vb to have strong feelings of love or passion for someone
a snowflake n a soft piece of frozen water that falls as snow
wrapping paper n special paper for covering objects so you can give them as presents

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

WHATEVER IT IS, I DIDN’T DO IT!

REMEMBER: NEVER INSULT THE ALLIGATOR TILL AFTER YOU CROSS THE RIVER.

HE WHO LAUGHS LAST DIDN’T GET IT.

AN AMBASSADOR IS AN HONEST PERSON WHO IS SENT ABROAD TO LIE IN THE INTERESTS OF THEIR COUNTRY.

CAN WE HAVE A NEW WALL, PLEASE?

(GRAFFITI ARTISTS UNITED)

Graffiti

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

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Glossary

didn’t get it exp didn’t understand it
to lie in to say something that isn’t true
Pre listening

In what professions would you find the following health and safety hazards? Which do you think are the most dangerous hazards? What can you do to prevent them from happening?

Dangerous machinery  Chemicals  Fire  Noise  Eye strain  Lifting heavy objects  Electricity  Inhaling substances  A lack of light

Listening I

You are going to listen to a conversation about government health and safety instructions. Listen once and say what three professions are mentioned?

Listening II

Listen again and complete each space with the correct missing words.

1. What do you do when a light bulb breaks? According to new guidelines from the department of health and safety, you should follow a new ________.

2. This is just the latest example of ________ from the Department of Health and Safety.

3. If you want to change a bulb, you will need ________, a sturdy box, ________ or paper, a ________, sticky tape, labels, a pen or pencil, and a mask.

4. Plus the law against picking up a computer without ________, or the decision to replace hundreds of ________ because they are too low.

5. The government think they are too low for ________, who may injure themselves when they get off them.
December 1st 1955
Rosa Parks was arrested for violating racial segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama, after refusing to give her seat to a white man on a bus. This started the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

December 2nd 1956
A yacht called Granma carried Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and 80 other members of the 26th of July Movement from Mexico to Cuba. The Cuban revolution had started.

December 3rd 1967
A medical team led by Christiana Barnard at a hospital in Cape Town, South Africa performed the first successful human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky. I wonder how many unsuccessful attempts had been made before that?

December 4th 1676
In an area north of Lund, Sweden, forces led by Swedish Field Marshal Simon Grundel-Helmfelt defeated the invading Danish army under the command of King Christian V of Denmark. The Swedes then celebrated the conclusion of what was known as the Scanian War.

December 5th 1933
Prohibition officially ended when the 21st Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. Most Americans celebrated with a glass of the hard stuff, except for poor old Al Capone, who had to find an alternative source of income apart from supplying illegal liquor.

December 8th 1980
Mark Chapman fatally shot former Beatle John Lennon outside the Dakota apartments in New York City.

December 10th 1868
The first traffic lights were installed outside the Houses of Parliament in London.

December 11th 1868
The first traffic jam occurred outside the Houses of Parliament in London.

December 12th 1901
Guglielmo Marconi received the first trans-Atlantic radio signal. The signal travelled from Cornwall (in England) to Newfoundland (in Canada).

December 13th 2003
Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was found hiding in a hole during Operation Red Dawn. The bearded dictator was captured alive.

December 14th 1911
Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team became the first people to reach the South Pole. Immediately following them were the British, who were the first to get to the South Pole and not make it back again.

December 16th 1773
As part of a protest against the British Tea Act, Americans dumped crates of tea into Boston Harbour in what became known as the Boston Tea Party.

December 17th 1818
Silent Night, a Christmas carol by Josef Mohr and Franz Gruber, was first performed in a church in Austria.

December 17th 1889
The Simpsons made its debut as an animated series on the Fox television network.

December 19th 1972
Eugene Cerman, Ronald Evans, and Harrison Schmitt returned to Earth on Apollo 17 after visiting the moon. Apparently they couldn’t find a McDonald’s so it wasn’t worth staying. No human has visited the Moon since.

December 20th 1803
As part of the Louisiana Purchase, New Orleans was transferred from France to the United States. In total, the French sold vast areas of land in America for just $15 million. The French have been regretting it ever since.

December 23rd 1888
During a bout of mental illness, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh famously cut off the lower part of his own left ear and gave it to a prostitute. Apparently, she preferred the ear to one of his paintings.

December 25th 1815
The Battle of Austerlitz was fought between Napoleon and the Austrian and Russian armies. Napoleon won.

December 25th 1915
Peter Pan Cup in Hyde Park, London.

December 25th 1933
Grundel-Helmfelt defeated the irst successful human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky. I wonder how many unsuccessful attempts had been made before that?

December 25th 1945
The irst successful human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky. I wonder how many unsuccessful attempts had been made before that?

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Silent Night, a Christmas carol by Josef Mohr and Franz Gruber, was first performed in a church in Austria.
Lord Longford was an aristocrat who defended one of England’s most notorious killers, Myra Hindley. His relationship with her is the subject of a fascinating film (Longford 2006), which stars English actor Jim Broadbent.

Lord Longford (born Francis Aungier Pakenham on 5th December 1905) was a politician, an author and a social reformer. However, he’s probably most famous for his campaign for the release of sadistic murderer Myra Hindley.*

As you would expect, Lord Longford had a privileged upbringing. He was educated at Eton College and New College, Oxford. He graduated with a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. He married on 3rd November 1931 and had a total of eight children.

Longford first appeared in the news during the 1970s. At this time, he was a leading figure in the Nationwide Festival of Light – an organisation that was protesting against the commercial exploitation of sex and violence, but particularly sex!

As part of the anti-pornography campaigning, Lord Longford went on a tour of sex shops, strip clubs and topless bars. This made him a subject of derision and he became known as “Lord Porn”.

It was also around this time that Longford started making contact with Myra Hindley. Hindley was in prison for the murder of a number of children and teenagers. In 1977, Lord Longford appeared on television and spoke openly of his belief that Hindley should be released from prison (despite only having served 12 years of a life sentence) as she had repented for her sins and was “no longer a danger to the public”.

In 1985, Longford condemned the decision not to review Hindley’s case for another five years as “barbaric”, and his campaign for Hindley continued even after she admitted to two more murders in 1986. On a radio talk show to promote his new book about saints, he was asked by a caller whether he regretted having helped Myra Hindley. “Not at all,” he said. “As a matter of fact, I consider my visiting Myra Hindley, and indeed, all the other prisoners I’ve visited for over fifty years, to be one of the great blessings of my life.”

Was Lord Longford a compassionate reformer or a deranged fool? You’ll have to see the film to decide for yourself.

Glossary
sadistic adj someone who is “sadistic” enjoys hurting other people and causing pain
upbringing n your “upbringing” is the way that your parents treat you and the things that they teach you when you are a child
regret vb if you “regret” something you have done, you feel bad about it and wish that you hadn’t done it
blessing n something good for which you are thankful
compassionate adj someone who is “compassionate” wants to help people who are sick, poor, hurt, etc.
deranged adj strange, crazy, insane
moor n an area of high land that is mostly covered by wild grass

Longford is a television film. It is directed by Tom Hooper and stars English actor Jim Broadbent (as Lord Longford) and Samantha Morton (as Myra Hindley).
SONG

Superhero, sometimes

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

You gotta learn, to roll when you fall,
‘Cos when you get burned, there’s no feeling at all,
It’s what I’ve tried to tell you all this time,
But you don’t listen no, you’ve got God knows on your mind.

You never think before you act,
You never wait you just react,
You’re in a rush to save the world,
‘Cos you think you’ll get the girl,
Superhero, sometimes.

And everyone knows what to defend,
‘Cos everybody waits to get used
in the end,
It’s nothing new, you’ve heard it all before,
Still you go on and choose to ignore it all the more.

Well you think you’ve got it made,
The man of steel, as tough as nails,
And when you’re hurt you never bruise,
What the hell you trying to prove,
Superhero, sometimes.

You gotta learn, to take it in your stride,
‘Cos you can’t win’em all, no, no matter how you try.

You never think before you act,
You never wait you just react,
You’re in a rush to save the world,
‘Cos you think you’ll get the girl,
Superhero, sometimes.

GLOSSARY

**gotta**
abbr 
`have got to`

**God knows**
exp
we use this expression to show that
you are annoyed, angry, worried,
surprised, disappointed, etc

**to be in a rush**
phr vb
if you are “in a rush”, you have to
leave quickly because you need to
be somewhere else

to have got it made
exp
to be certain that you are going to
be rich or successful

to be as tough as nails
exp
to be extremely strong or
aggressive
to bruise
vb
if you “bruise”, an injury appears
on your body as a purple mark,
although the skin is not broken

to take something in your stride
exp
to deal with a problem calmly
and easily

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*New*! Check out **book II of English Unlocked**!
In this conversation, Nigella (the guitarist) and Stan (the lead singer) have just finished playing a concert with their band, Broken Wings.

**Nigella:** That was awful. You were so out of tune.

**Stan:** What? You can talk! Your guitar string broke, you got all the chords wrong in the final song, and you blew the amp.

**Nigella:** I just turned the volume up for my guitar solo. At least I didn’t forget the chorus to “Rockbumption”. I mean, come on, how many times have we rehearsed this song?

**Stan:** You put me off with all that leaping about on stage.

**Nigella:** It’s part of my act. The fans expect it. At least I didn’t fall off stage.

**Stan:** I didn’t fall. That was a stage dive.

**Nigella:** Yeah, but no one caught you.

**Stan:** They didn’t see me coming.

**Nigella:** They let you fall. So, how much did we make tonight then?

**Stan:** About 400 pounds.

**Nigella:** Oh, right. That’s not bad – about 100 pounds each then.

**Stan:** Erm, well, not exactly. After paying for the transport, the rent-a-crowd…

**Nigella:** Rent-a-crowd?

**Stan:** Yeah, where do you think all those people came from?

**Nigella:** Oh, right. And what other expenses did we have?

**Stan:** The free tickets for all our friends, the publicity…

**Nigella:** Publicity? We only had a poster.

**Stan:** Well, that costs money, you know. Anyway, after all that, we’re left with the grand total of 5 pounds and 23 pence.

**Nigella:** Mmm… Wanna share a pint?

**Stan:** Yeah. OK. Let’s go. I think the bar is still open.
Here are some more useful and interesting expressions for you to learn. This month we are looking at some expressions to describe the act of stopping.

**Run out of steam**
To lose the energy to do something or your interest in something.
“I can’t take anymore of this non-stop stress. I’ve just run out of steam.”

**Stop somebody in their tracks**
If something “stops you in your tracks”, it makes you stop what you are doing suddenly.
“A loud noise stopped me in my tracks.”

**Call it quits**
To decide that you have had enough of something.
“Look this awful situation has been going on for too long – let’s just go home and call it quits.”

**Throw in the sponge/towel**
To stop doing something.
“This is going to be my last race – I’m going to throw in the towel.”

**Wash your hands of somebody/something**
To stop having anything to do with a situation or person because it causes you too many problems.
“I’m going to wash my hands of him – he’s non-stop trouble.”

**The game’s up**
We know your secrets; we know what you are really doing; we understand what you are really doing.
“You can stop pretending to be a British agent. We know all about your true identity. The game’s up.”

**Drop everything**
To stop what you are doing suddenly.
“Drop everything! I’ve got some good news.”

---

**GLOSSARY**

**steam**
water vapour

**to pretend**
To act as if something is true, even though it isn’t really true.
DIRTY MOVIES?

There are often images of violence and sex on television or in films. And for some it’s a big problem, especially with kids. But don’t worry! Help is at hand. There are now a number of websites that can tell you exactly how much sex and violence there is in the film. In order to show you how it works, why don’t you play our little game? Read over the following descriptions of popular films (1 to 6) according to some of the websites. Can you guess what each film is? Choose from the movies below.

**WEBSITES (TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT FILM)**
- www.movieguide.org
- www.christiananswers.net
- www.parentpreviews.com
- www.childrensfilms.org
- www.kids-in-mind.com
- www.screenit.com

Answers on page 42

1. Some wooden **puppets** wear clothes that expose parts of their body. A female dragon falls in love with a donkey. A gingerbread cookie (shaped like a man) is tortured by being **dunked** into a glass of milk. An ogre showers with **mud**. The film is: **The Simpsons Movie**

2. A home-made porn film is partially seen and heard. There is male **full-frontal** and **rear nudity**. There is a lot of sexually-related comedy, some of which involves prostitutes. The overall way in which the protagonist speaks might be **enticing** for some kids to imitate. Bad attitudes are expressed (on purpose), including racism and **misogyny**. Violence-based comedy is present including a man-on-man scene in which a dog is **electrocuted** and **wrestled** with. The film is: **Shrek**

3. There is a lot of sexual humour in this film, including an extended scene dealing with a man who gets a certain part of his body **stuck** in his **zipper**. In another scene, one of the bad guys gives a dog some illegal substances. There is another scene in which a dog is **electrocuted** and **wrestled** with. The film is: **Borat**

4. The death of a character is discussed, and we see a bloodied face. Most of the violence is through the manipulation of magic and people being **knocked over** by metaphysical forces. Sexual content is present with a kiss. Parents sensitive to depictions of satanic-like themes may not find this film suitable for their children. The film is: **Casino Royale**

5. The father of the family is often rude to his wife and children. At one point he is physically abusive to his son (attempting to **strangle** him). The father also **dares** his son to skateboard **naked** through the town. He later denies this to the police, lying to them. The son is briefly completely nude. In another scene, a man considers kissing a pig, and there are offensive comments made about Christians. Two rude **anatomical terms** are used. The film is: **Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix**

6. There are many scenes of hand-to-hand combat, with people being shot and a naked man subjected to torture. **Perilous stunts** are shown throughout the film. The main character is shown consuming **fancy** alcoholic drinks and usually drives in a **reckless** manner. The film is: **There’s Something About Mary**

**GLOSSARY**

- puppet: a doll/human that looks like a person
- dunk: if something “dunks” into a drink, you put it into the drink before eating it
- mud: the sticky brown mixture of earth and water
- full-frontal: the front part of a naked body
- rear nudity: the back part of a naked body
- enticing: to try to persuade someone to do something
- misogyny: a strong and irrational dislike of women
- stuck: not to be able to move
- zipper: a metal device on clothes that is used to open and close them
- electrocute: to hurt or kill an animal or person by using electricity
- wrestle: if you “wrestle” with a person or an animal, you fight them
- knock over: if something “knocks you over”, it hits you and pushes you to the ground
- strangle: to kill someone by applying pressure to their neck so that they cannot breathe
- dare: to try something dangerous, you ask them if they are brave enough to do it
- naked: without any clothes
- anatomical term: a word or expression that relates to a part of the body
- perilous: very dangerous
- stunt: an action that is designed to attract attention or publicity
- fancy: special or expensive
- reckless: with no care for the safety of someone or something

For Skype / Phone speaking classes, e-mail classes@learnhotenglish.com
Quirky News
Unusual news stories from around the world.

Cane You
Self-defence classes for the elderly.

"We don’t teach lots of complicated techniques. It’s basic stuff – stuff you can remember," said Kevin Garwood, a martial arts expert who has set up self-defence classes for pensioners. And many of the techniques involve teaching them how to use their walking sticks. Kevin, 58, said, “I am not trying to make grey-haired ninjas, but what the classes do is give them tremendous confidence.” Classes begin with a warm-up, focusing on gentle movements of the hands, wrists, arms and bodies and going on to turning and twirling the stick. Pupils practice sets of movements and learn simple strangeholds, arm locks and throws, using their walking sticks. And the lessons are already paying off. Just recently, one elderly woman was attacked by two men. The men grabbed her arm and her handbag. But she hit them with her stick and they ran off.

Kind Driver
A helpful driver found himself in a sticky situation.

"I was just trying to be helpful," said a German driver after he moved out of the way to allow a police car with flashing lights to pass. But seconds later, Hans-Peter Wagner found himself trapped in setting concrete. “I didn’t see the road ahead, and before I knew it, the car was stuck in concrete.” Wagner, 62, was driving in northern Germany when he saw a police car trying to get past him. So, he pulled over but went straight into a stretch of road that had just been freshly laid with concrete. Seconds later, the concrete set around the car wheels. Police had to pull the car out. “It looked like a regular road, and I didn’t see it was wet concrete,” Wagner added. “That’s what you get for trying to be nice.”

GLOSSARY
- a walking stick: a long wooden stick that someone uses to help them walk
- a warm-up: physical exercises that you do before doing sport
- a strangehold: a way of holding someone by putting your arms around their neck
- an arm lock: a way of holding someone by putting your arms around a part of their body
- to pay off: if an action “pays off”, it is successful or profitable after a period of time
- to move out of the way: to change your position so that something or someone can pass
- to set: when concrete “sets” it becomes firm or hard
- concrete: a substance used for building which consists of cement, sand, small stones and water
- to pull over: if you “pull over” while you are driving, you stop the car
- a stretch of road: an area or a length of road

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The Underground

Andy: I went on the Underground today. It was just terrible. It was, just so many people around. I can’t…

Katherine: It’s terrible. [Yeah.] This morning I didn’t even have anywhere to put my feet. Pushing, shoving, pushing, shoving.

Andy: Yeah, I don’t know. I think they should put more like more trains on or something. I don’t know. I don’t know. There’s enough people going on the m… you know the Underground to make it worth their while. And it’s just… everyone’s, everyone’s so bad tempered in the morning. You get such… I don’t know. I hate… I hate people in the Underground.

Katherine: It’s too hot. There’s no air conditioning. Somebody fainted the other day and nobody did anything.

Andy: Nothing? What they just [Nope] like watched?

Katherine: No. They just watched. They called the security, security pull him over. Then more people get on the train, more people get off. Push, shove. Nobody has any respect for anybody anymore.

Andy: Yeah, I guess people are sort of frightened of getting involved in stuff and having to go and make police statements. I don’t know.

Katherine: Frightened of helping someone?

Andy: I don’t know like he could’ve been a druggie. He could’ve been a drunk person.

Katherine: He was in a suit.

Andy: Yeah? That’s a bit unfair though, isn’t it? So, you only help people because they’re in a suit or something, you know. [Well.] What … would you’ve…what…did you do anything?

Katherine: I…I couldn’t.

Andy: Yeah. There you go. There. Wait a minute, you’re criticising other people.

Katherine: There was a lot of people in my way.

The Scouts

Nicholas: Do you have time for another?

Kjersti: Yeah, but just one. I have to pick my nephew up from Boy Scouts.

Nicholas: Oh yeah? Does he like being a Boy Scout?

Kjersti: Absolutely! They go camping and hiking and swimming. He loves the outdoors. Plus it’s a great outlet for all his energy.

Nicholas: I suppose that when kids are kept occupied they have fewer opportunities to act out.

Kjersti: Exactly. I was a Brownie when I was younger and look how great I turned out!

Nicholas: A Brownie?

Kjersti: Yeah, that’s an age group in the Girl Scouts, you know similar to Cub Scouts. So then you’re supposed to work your way up to the top.

Nicholas: So, how long were you in the Girl Scouts?

Kjersti: Erm, one year.

Nicholas: Only one?

Kjersti: Er, yeah! But I got the “Perfect Attendance Patch”.

Nicholas: Well, good for you. Well, you’d better go get your nephew.

Kjersti: Oh, that’s right. See you later!
The serial comma is the comma that is used in lists of words. In most cases, it comes just before the last “and.”

For example:

a) Italy, Germany, and England. (This is written with the serial comma.)
b) Italy, Germany and England. (This is written without the serial comma.)

In the previous example, the meaning of the two sentences is identical. However, in some cases, the use of the comma can change the meaning of the sentence. Look at the following sentence:

“I would like to dedicate this song to my parents, John and Jane.”

In this sentence there is ambiguity. From the way it is written, it could have two distinct meanings:

a) The song is dedicated to the writer’s parents, who are John and Jane.
b) The song is dedicated to the writer’s parents whose names we don’t know, plus two other people: John and Jane.

Here is another example:

“My favourite types of sandwiches are tuna, ham and cheese.”

Without the serial comma, it isn’t clear if the writer likes two or three types of sandwiches:

a) I like two types of sandwiches: tuna sandwiches; and ham and cheese sandwiches.
b) I like three types of sandwiches: tuna sandwiches; ham sandwiches; and cheese sandwiches.

However, if you add the comma, the meaning is less ambiguous if you want to say that you like three sandwiches:

“My favourite types of sandwiches are tuna, ham, and cheese.”

Here is another example:

“I spoke to Sally, a police officer and a cook.”

This sentence is also somewhat ambiguous. Here are the three possible meanings:

a) I spoke to two people: Sally, who is a police officer; and a cook.
b) I spoke to three people: Sally; a police officer; and a cook.
c) I spoke to one person: Sally, who is both a police officer and a cook.

If you add the serial comma, it becomes a bit less ambiguous, although even with the serial comma it’s still a bit confusing. So, in this case it would probably be better to re-write the sentence.

So, what can you do to avoid any problems? Simple! Just think very carefully about what you want to write. If it’s a bit confusing with or without the comma, see if you can think of a better way of writing it so it isn’t ambiguous.
Here are some more crazy laws from the US. (US English spelling)

Persons in possession of illegal substances must pay taxes on them. However, paying taxes on these items does not make them legal. (North Carolina)

Organizations may not hold their meetings while the members present are in costume. (North Carolina)

Bingo games may not last over 5 hours unless they are held at a fair. (North Carolina)

Fights between cats and dogs are prohibited. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to drive cars through cemeteries for pleasure. (North Carolina)

It's against the law to sing off key. (North Carolina)

Elephants may not be used to plough cotton fields. (North Carolina)

The mere possession of a lottery ticket is illegal in North Carolina and may result in a $2,000 fine. (North Carolina)

Cars may not be driven on sidewalks. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to throw rocks at a city street. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep with your shoes on. (North Carolina)

One may be jailed for wearing a hat while dancing, or even for wearing a hat to a function where dancing is taking place. (North Carolina)

It is illegal to fish for whales on Sunday. (Ohio)

It is illegal to get a fish drunk. (Ohio)

No one may be arrested on Sunday or on the Fourth of July. (Ohio)

It is illegal to walk a cow down Lake Road. (Ohio)

If one loses their pet tiger, they must notify the authorities within one hour. (Ohio)

It's illegal to catch mice without a hunting license. (Ohio)

**Glossary**

*to be in costume* phr vb

If an actor is “in costume”, he/she is wearing clothes for a play/film, etc.

*a fair* n

an event held in a public place such as a park, where people come to have fun.

*to plough* phr vb

If you “plough” a field, you use a plough (a large, sharp farming tool) and pull it across the soil to turn the soil over.

*a sidewalk* n

the path at the side of a road for walking. The “pavement” in British English.

*a pet* n

an animal that you keep in your home.
How well do you know your English kings and queens? Write the name of each king or queen in the correct place. The dates refer to the time they were reigning (being king or queen).

English Kings & Queens

Answers on page 42

1066-1087
1199-1216
1413-1422
1509-1547
1558-1603
1625-1649
1760-1820
1837-1901
1952-present

Charles I
He was beheaded during the English Civil War. Oliver Cromwell took over afterwards.

Elizabeth I
She was the one who defeated the Armada. Her reign is known as the Golden Era.

Queen Victoria
She was one of Britain's most powerful monarchs. She was queen during the height of the British Empire.

George III
He was the king who lost America. He also went mad. His son, Prince George (the Prince of Wales), took over.

King John
He was the king when Robin Hood was stealing from the rich and giving to the poor in the forests around Nottingham.

King Henry VIII
He was the English king who broke away from Rome and formed the Church of England (also known as the Anglican Church). He beheaded two of his six wives.

Elizabeth II
She is the current queen, the mother of Prince Charles and grandmother to Prince Henry and Prince Harry.

King William I
This Norman king (from Normandy in the north of France) successfully invaded England, killed King Harold and became England's new king.

King Henry V
He was one of England's greatest kings. He fought in many wars against the French. The actor Kenneth Branagh played King Henry V in a film adaptation of a play by William Shakespeare.

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Dictionary of Slang

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Formal</th>
<th>Relaxed</th>
<th>Informal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A friend has a new mobile phone. You think it is really good.</td>
<td>That’s most innovative.</td>
<td>That’s really cool.</td>
<td>That’s neat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are playing a computer game with a friend. She destroys your base with a nuclear bomb.</td>
<td>She detonated a nuclear device over my base.</td>
<td>She let off a nuclear bomb over my base.</td>
<td>She nuked me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend is a big fan of Portsmouth Football Club.</td>
<td>She is the most ardent supporter of the club.</td>
<td>She’s a big Portsmouth fan.</td>
<td>She’s nuts about Portsmouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people have broken into a shop. The police have just arrived outside.</td>
<td>I suggest we take to our heels.</td>
<td>Let’s run!</td>
<td>Leg it! Scarper!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend is annoying you and asking you the same question over and over again. You ask her to stop.</td>
<td>Please desist from aggravating me emotionally.</td>
<td>Stop annoying me; go and annoy someone else.</td>
<td>Get off my back!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Margaret didn’t go to school today, and she wasn’t ill. You tell a friend about her naughty behaviour.</td>
<td>She evaded her responsibility to attend an educational establishment.</td>
<td>She didn’t go to school.</td>
<td>She skived off school; she played truant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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This is a new part on a series of “home” idioms.

A home from home; a home away from home
A PLACE WHERE YOU FEEL AS COMFORTABLE AS YOU DO IN YOUR OWN HOME.
“This bar is like a home from home for many ex-pat business people.”

Be home and dry
IF YOU’RE “HOME AND DRY”, YOU’VE FINALLY COMPLETED SOMETHING.
“I’ve just got six more e-mails to write, then I’ll be home and dry.”

Be home free
IF YOU’RE “HOME FREE, YOU’RE CERTAIN THAT YOU’RE GOING TO SUCCEED AT SOMETHING BECAUSE YOU’VE FINISHED THE MOST DIFFICULT PART.
“Once you leave this road, you just go over the bridge, then you’re home free – we’re the first house on the left.”

Not be much to write home about
SOMETHING THAT “ISN’T MUCH TO WRITE HOME ABOUT” ISN’T VERY GOOD OR EXCITING.
“The film was OK, but it was nothing much to write home about.”

A home truth
IF YOU TELL SOMEONE A “HOME TRUTH”, YOU TELL THEM AN UNPLEASANT FACT, USUALLY SOMETHING BAD ABOUT THEMSELVES.
“Jim is always criticising us for the way we live, but it’s time that someone told that man a few home truths.”

Bring home the bacon
THE PERSON WHO “BRINGS HOME THE BACON” IS THE PERSON WHO EARN THE MONEY IN A FAMILY.
“Who brings home the bacon in your family?”
Learn lots of useful “travel” words and expressions by doing this crossword.

GROUPS, BANDS & MUSIC

See if you can do this crossword on “band” words.

Across
1. A guitar with four strings = a b_______ guitar.
4. To move your lips as a song is playing so it appears that you are singing it, even though you aren’t = to lip sy_______.
6. A piece of material that a guitarist wears over his/her shoulder to hold the guitar = a guitar st_______.
9. A group of people who play music together = a ba_______.
11. An instrument with six strings = a gui_______.
13. An action that involves jumping from the stage and into the crowd = a stage di_______.
15. A series of notes that make a tune = a mel_______.
18. The singers who accompany the main singer = the bac_______.
19. When this happens, the band plays and the engineer listens to the quality of sound = a sound ch_______.
21. A small piece of plastic that you hold in your hand and use to play the guitar = a ple_______.
23. The words to a song = the ly_______.
24. A person who sings in a band = a sin_______.
25. The songs that a band will play in a concert = a song l_______.

Down
2. A piece of equipment that increases and projects the sound produced by the instruments = an am_______.
3. A piece of music that lasts about 2-3 minutes = a s_______.
5. A series of musical notes played at the same time that produce a combined sound = a ch_______.
6. The elevated area where musicians perform to an audience = the st_______.
7. The American English word for a small piece of plastic that you hold in your hand and use to play the guitar = a pi_______.
8. A guitar has six of these long, thin metal things = a st_______.
10. The noise produced when a microphone or guitar is placed too near an amplifier that has its volume turned up high = feed_______.
12. A performance of a number of songs played in front of an audience = a con_______.
14. The part of a song that comes between the chorus = the ver_______.
16. An abbreviated form of the word “microphone” = a m_______.
17. A musician who plays/sings alone = a sol_______.
20. The part of a song that is often repeated and that forms the basis of the song = the cho_______.
22. A percussion instrument = dr_______.

Answers on page 42
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A CHARMING TALE OF LOVE AND MUSIC!

A surprise winner at the 2007 Academy Awards ceremony was the low-budget Irish film *Once*. Set in Dublin, the film was made for approximately €100,000 and starred Glen Hansard, of the Irish band The Frames, alongside Czech musician Markéta Irglová. The film won the Oscar for Best Original Song. They performed the song “Falling Slowly” at the ceremony to wide adulation. So, what’s the film all about?

**THE PLOT**

The movie starts with the unnamed “Guy” (played by Glen Hansard) busking on Dublin’s Grafton Street, doing cover versions. A junkie tries to steal Guy’s earnings but apologises when Guy catches him. Later, at night, while Guy is performing songs he wrote by himself, a friendly Czech girl (Irglová) who is referred to as “Girl” starts talking to him. When Guy mentions that his real job is repairing vacuum cleaners, Girl mentions that her hoover is broken. Although Guy is unfriendly at first (he has recently split up from his girlfriend), when Girl arrives the next day (with the hoover) they go to a music shop where Girl plays the piano and Guy realises that she is a gifted musician. They soon become friends.

As the film unfolds, we see how the pair live in run-down parts of Dublin; Guy with his grumpy (but ultimately supportive) father, Girl with her mother and daughter. Guy is dreaming of a recording deal and the pair decide to record some songs. They spend a weekend at a recording studio making a CD of Guy’s own songs. At the same time, they talk about their hopes and dreams regarding their love lives: Guy hopes to win back his ex-girlfriend, who lives in London; Girl contemplates giving her marriage another try with her estranged husband who is back in the Czech Republic. Will they win their respective loves back? You’ll have to see the film to find out.

**A MODERN-DAY MUSICAL... OR ROMANCE?**

*Once* is both a musical and a love story with a difference. Unlike ordinary musicals, everyone on screen doesn’t burst into song spontaneously. However, the musicians in the film perform each number while the rest of the actors blend into the backdrop of working-class Dublin. And this is why director John Carney (former bass guitarist with The Frames) described it as a “modern-day musical”. Cillian Murphy, who starred in *28 Days Later* and *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, was supposed to play Guy but Glen Hansard became the final choice. Murphy was a talented musician before he became an actor but, as it turned out, Hansard became the star of the show, thereby turning it round from actor/musician to musician/actor. Glen’s only other major acting performance was in the film *The Commitments* where he played, yes, you guessed it, a guitarist.

The plot of the film is different because it isn’t an ordinary love story. The two characters want to get back with their old flames, not each other, and their only intimate connection is music. And, in fact, the plot of the film is of secondary importance to the music. Glen and Marketa performed the song “Falling Slowly” at the Academy Awards ceremony on 24th February 2007, then won the award for Best Original Song. Marketa said in her acceptance speech that it was proof that struggling musicians everywhere could reach the top. Well, these two did at least. Well done, guys and girls, or should I say Guy and Girl.

**GLOSSARY**

- a guy / Guy - an informal expression for a man
- to busk - to play music in the street in order to earn money
- a cover version - a version of a song by someone different from the original band/singer
- a junkie - a drug addict
- earnings - the money you earn to live (to buy food, to rent a flat, etc)
- a vacuum cleaner - a machine for cleaning the floor in a house. It has a long tube that sucks up the dirt
- to unfold - to develop if a film “unfolds”, the action/story develops
- a “run-down” area is the old, broken, dirty part of a town/city
- an estranged husband - a husband who is no longer living with his wife, and not in communication with her either
- to burst into song - to start singing a song suddenly and spontaneously
- an old flame - an ex; someone who was once your lover/boyfriend/girlfriend

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There are actually two types of Franglais. The first type exists in France and is spoken exclusively by the French. Franglais words consist of English words that the French use as part of their everyday language. For example, the French often use the word “le weekend” to refer to… the weekend. Other words include the following: “le fut” – for “football/soccer”; “les baskets” – to refer to basketball shoes; and “les tennis” to refer to tennis shoes.

Of course, many people in France aren’t happy about this. Some even see it as a cultural attack. And what really concerns them is the creeping advance of English into their language. For example, the French often use the word “le weekend” to refer to their everyday language. For Of course, many people in France aren’t happy about this. Some even see it as a cultural attack. And what really concerns them is the creeping advance of English into their language. For example, the French often use the word “le weekend” to refer to their everyday language. For example, the French often use the word “le weekend” to refer to their everyday language. For example, the French often use the word “le weekend” to refer to their everyday language. For example, the French often use the word “le weekend” to refer to their everyday language.

The other form of Franglais is spoken exclusively by the English. This is an invented language that is a mixture of English and French. It was created by the English journalist Miles Kington (who died in 2008). Speaking Franglais is simple. You just insert as many French words as you know into a sentence, fill in the rest with English, then speak it with absolute conviction and a French accent. Here are some examples:

“Je suis un rock star” = I am a rock star.

“Je voudrais go away ce weekend” = I would like to go away this weekend.

“Je ne suis pas un nutter religieux” = I am not a religious nutter.

“Je voudrais un cup of coffee, please.

“Je ne voudrais un bon sleeper” = I am not a good sleeper.

“Longtemps, pas voir = Long time, no see.

“Je vais driver downtown = I’m going to drive downtown.

“Je suis tired = I am tired.

“Je ne care pas” = I don’t care.

Would you like to speak Franglais? 

FRENCH WORDS USED IN ENGLISH

Of course, it’s not all one way. There are also many, many French words that are used in English. Here are some of the common ones. “Faux pas” = a mistake; “Savoir faire” = knowledge; “fiance” = someone you are engaged to be married to; “la crème de la crème” = the best in a group; “tête a tête” = face-to-face meeting; “rendezvous” = a meeting, often a secret one.

MILES KINGTON

Miles Kington was a writer for the Independent newspaper for more than 20 years. He died at the age of 66 in January 2008. Amongst many other things, he is famous for his books on how to speak “Franglais”.

GLOSSARY

Franglais:

EnGLISH

a crazy person

a store

a clearance sale

a walkie-talkie

a two-way radio used to communicate

a nutter

a self-service restaurant/bar

an e-mail

the score

the point that the teams in a game have

the way something is increasing slowly but surely
to weed out

try to identify it and eliminate it

a mistake

Savoir faire

knowledge

marketing

a group

a self-service restaurant/bar

an e-mail

tête a tête

face-to-face meeting

rendezvous

a meeting, often a secret one.

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# Phrasal Verb Themes: The Home

This month we are looking at some phrasal verbs you can use to talk about the home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrasal Verb</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Move Out</td>
<td>To stop living in a particular house or flat.</td>
<td>&quot;Jane moved out of her house because she thought there was a ghost there.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move In To (Into)</td>
<td>To start living in a new house or flat.</td>
<td>&quot;Paul has moved into his new apartment in the city.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move In Together</td>
<td>To start living in the same house as someone.</td>
<td>&quot;After a three-year relationship, Jennifer and Nigel finally decided to move in together.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put Somebody Up</td>
<td>To let someone stay in your home for a short time.</td>
<td>&quot;She had nowhere to stay so we put her up for a few weeks.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Over</td>
<td>To sleep in someone's house for a night.</td>
<td>&quot;Paul missed the last bus home so he had to sleep over at my place.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do Up</td>
<td>If you “do up” a house, you decorate it and make it nicer.</td>
<td>&quot;The house was looking a bit old so we decided to do it up.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pull Down</td>
<td>To demolish a building, often because it's old or about to fall down.</td>
<td>&quot;They pulled down the old house even though they'd promised not to.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live On (an amount of money)</td>
<td>If you “live on” an amount of money, you only have that amount of money to buy the things you need.</td>
<td>&quot;We can't live on the money we earn.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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(if we aren’t already!)

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King Henry VIII vs Queen Elizabeth I

This month, we’re looking at two great English monarchs: Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

**King Henry VIII**

Henry’s reign was a colourful period in British history. He was famous for having six wives, and for beheading two of them. He had one great ambition in his life: to produce a son to succeed him to the throne. But this was easier said than done. Finally, one of his wives, (Jane Seymour), gave birth to a son, Edward (the future King Edward VI), although he died at a very young age. Henry was known for his cruelty and ruled with an iron fist. People who he considered political or personal opponents were executed. He ordered approximately 72,000 people to be killed during his reign. But Henry also made some of the most radical decisions of any English monarch. Most importantly, he broke away from the Roman Catholic Church to form the Church of England (the Anglican Church). This led to the transformation of England from a Catholic country to a mainly Protestant society. Furthermore, Henry was involved in the construction of several important buildings including King’s College Chapel in Cambridge and Westminster Abbey in London.

**Queen Elizabeth I**

Elizabeth the First’s reign is known as the “Elizabethan era”. It is famous for its literature, in particular the plays of William Shakespeare. Elizabeth was the youngest daughter of Henry VIII by his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Anne was executed when Elizabeth was only three years old. Nevertheless, Elizabeth was well cared for as a child and received an excellent education. Elizabeth’s reign was very different from that of her father. She was known as The Virgin Queen and never married. She ruled conservatively and was careful about entering into alliances. She also surrounded herself with trusted political advisers. The defeat of the Armada in 1588 associated Elizabeth’s name with what is seen as one of the greatest victories in British history. Elizabeth’s long reign provided stability for the kingdom and helped create a sense of national identity.

**The Verdict**

Henry transformed society by breaking away from Rome and the Roman Catholic Church. But he is perhaps even more famous for his cruel and tyrannical reign. On the contrary, Elizabeth was celebrated as the ruler of a “Golden Age”, a view that is still held today. Our verdicts therefore are as follows: Henry VIII = 7/10; Elizabeth I = 9/10.

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**GLOSSARY**

- a colourful period: a time during which many interesting things happen
- a reign: a period of time when a king or queen is ruling
- to behead: if someone is “beheaded”, their head is cut off
- to succeed: the person who “succeeds” a king or queen is the next king or queen
- the throne: the position of being king or queen

- trusted: honest, true to someone
- a political adviser: a person who helps a leader/king/queen, etc decide what to do

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Famous people fight it out in our monthly competition.
DECEMBER

FRIDAY 11th At 19:30
SATURDAY 12th At 16:00 & 19:30
SUNDAY 13th At 12:00 & 16:00

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Written by Paul Flint
Directed by Peter Barton