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LEARN 50 USEFUL SLANG EXPRESSIONS!

... FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT!

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I REALLY FANCY HIM. I THINK HE'S GORGEOUS!

THIS PARTY ROCKS!

I THINK I'M IN LUCK - HE ASKED FOR MY PHONE NUMBER.

YOU SHOULD GO HOME. I THINK YOU'VE HAD ONE TOO MANY.



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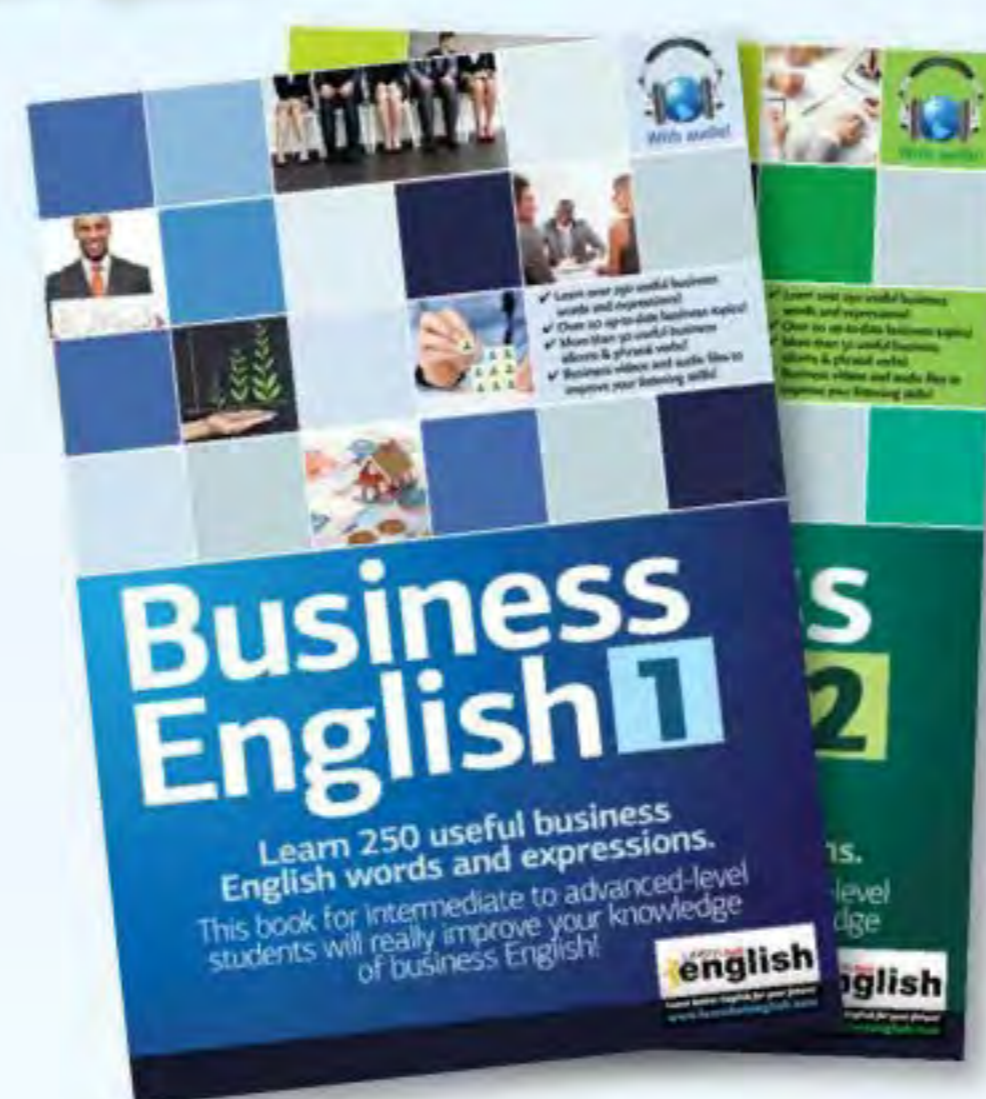
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EDITOR'S INTRO

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the fun magazine for learning English. In this month's issue, we're looking at 50 really useful slang expressions. Do you know any English slang? It's quite common in songs, films and TV

shows, as well as in conversational English. So, it's really important to understand English slang. In this issue, we're giving you 50 useful slang expressions for talking about going out at night. But of course, that's not all and we're also looking at the *Hobbit*, traditional tales, the Present Continuous, the *Hangover* movies, music from the 1980s, superstitions, the Streisand Effect, Hollywood movies, phrasal verbs, idioms, slang, vocabulary, and lots, lots more. Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of *Learn Hot English*. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy

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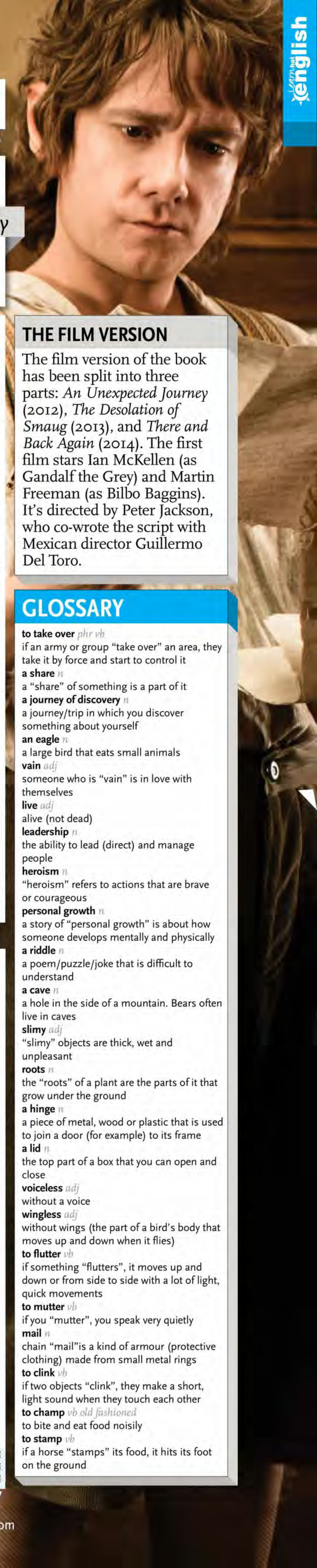
HotEnglishMagazine

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WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE?

SIX WORD GAMES FROM *THE HOBBIT!*

by Georgie Kiely



Pre-reading

Here are some useful words for the article. Which ones had you heard of before? Where from?

- **Hobbit** (a fictional race of humans who live in the lands of Middle-earth)
- **Elf** (a small magical creature who plays tricks on people)
- **Dwarf** (a very small person – a little person)
- **Troll** (a type of monster that lives under a bridge)
- **Goblin** (a small, ugly creature that enjoys causing trouble)
- **Dragon** (an animal like a big lizard with wings and claws)
- **Giant** (an imaginary person who is very big and strong)

The *Hobbit* tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, a young hobbit. He joins a group of dwarves led by Thorin Oakenshield. The dwarves are fighting a dragon called Smaug, who has **taken over** their home: the Lonely Mountain. Bilbo is offered a **share** of the treasure that the dragon is guarding.

Bilbo has never been outside Hobbiton, the town where he lives, and the mission is a **journey of discovery** for him. Along the way, he's captured by goblins, trolls and elves, and he's rescued by some friendly **eagles**. He even talks to the clever but **vain** dragon, Smaug, and learns an important lesson. "Never laugh at **live** dragons!"

The Hobbit was written by JRR Tolkien and was

based on a story he told his children. He began to write it one day while marking school exam papers, beginning with the phrase, "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit." Some of the themes explored include **leadership**, **heroism**, **luck**, **personal growth**, the abuse of power, and our relationship with nature. The book was first published in 1937.

One famous part from the book is the **riddle** scene. After escaping from the goblins, Bilbo gets lost in a **cave** where he meets Gollum, "a small **slimy** creature" who offers to show Bilbo the way out if he can answer some riddles. Try to solve the following six riddles from the book. You'll find the answers at the bottom of the page. ✨

THE FILM VERSION

The film version of the book has been split into three parts: *An Unexpected Journey* (2012), *The Desolation of Smaug* (2013), and *There and Back Again* (2014). The first film stars Ian McKellen (as Gandalf the Grey) and Martin Freeman (as Bilbo Baggins). It's directed by Peter Jackson, who co-wrote the script with Mexican director Guillermo Del Toro.

GLOSSARY

- to take over** *phr vb*
if an army or group "take over" an area, they take it by force and start to control it
- a share** *n*
a "share" of something is a part of it
- a journey of discovery** *n*
a journey/trip in which you discover something about yourself
- an eagle** *n*
a large bird that eats small animals
- vain** *adj*
someone who is "vain" is in love with themselves
- live** *adj*
alive (not dead)
- leadership** *n*
the ability to lead (direct) and manage people
- heroism** *n*
"heroism" refers to actions that are brave or courageous
- personal growth** *n*
a story of "personal growth" is about how someone develops mentally and physically
- a riddle** *n*
a poem/puzzle/joke that is difficult to understand
- a cave** *n*
a hole in the side of a mountain. Bears often live in caves
- slimy** *adj*
"slimy" objects are thick, wet and unpleasant
- roots** *n*
the "roots" of a plant are the parts of it that grow under the ground
- a hinge** *n*
a piece of metal, wood or plastic that is used to join a door (for example) to its frame
- a lid** *n*
the top part of a box that you can open and close
- voiceless** *adj*
without a voice
- wingless** *adj*
without wings (the part of a bird's body that moves up and down when it flies)
- to flutter** *vb*
if something "flutters", it moves up and down or from side to side with a lot of light, quick movements
- to mutter** *vb*
if you "mutter", you speak very quietly
- mail** *n*
chain "mail" is a kind of armour (protective clothing) made from small metal rings
- to clink** *vb*
if two objects "clink", they make a short, light sound when they touch each other
- to champ** *vb old fashioned*
to bite and eat food noisily
- to stamp** *vb*
if a horse "stamps" its food, it hits its foot on the ground

JRR TOLKIEN

JRR Tolkien (1892-1973) was a professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford. During his childhood Tolkien lived in the village of Sarehole in the Worcestershire countryside (near Birmingham). He based Hobbiton on this village. Tolkien served as a Second Lieutenant in the First World War. His experiences of battle inspired him to write several poems, such as *The Lonely Isle*. *The Hobbit* remains popular to this day and is recognised as a classic in the world of children's literature. *The Hobbit* is the prequel to Tolkien's other famous work, *The Lord of the Rings*.



Riddle I

"It cannot be seen,
cannot be felt,
Cannot be heard,
cannot be smelt,
It lies behind stars
and under hills,
And empty holes it fills,
It comes first and
follows after,
Ends life, kills laughter."

Riddle II

What has **roots** as
nobody sees,
Is taller than trees
Up, up it goes,
And yet never grows?



Riddle III

A box without **hinges**,
key or **lid**,
Yet golden treasure
inside is hid.

Riddle IV

Voiceless it cries,
wingless flutters,
Toothless bites,
mouthless **mutters**.

Riddle V

Alive without breath,
as cold as death;
Never thirsty, ever drinking,
all in **mail** never **clinking**.

Riddle VI

Thirty white horses on
a red hill, first they **champ**,
Then they **stamp**,
then they stand still.

Riddle I: Darkness
Riddle II: a mountain
Riddle III: an egg
Riddle IV: the wind
Riddle V: a fish
Riddle VI: teeth

Answers

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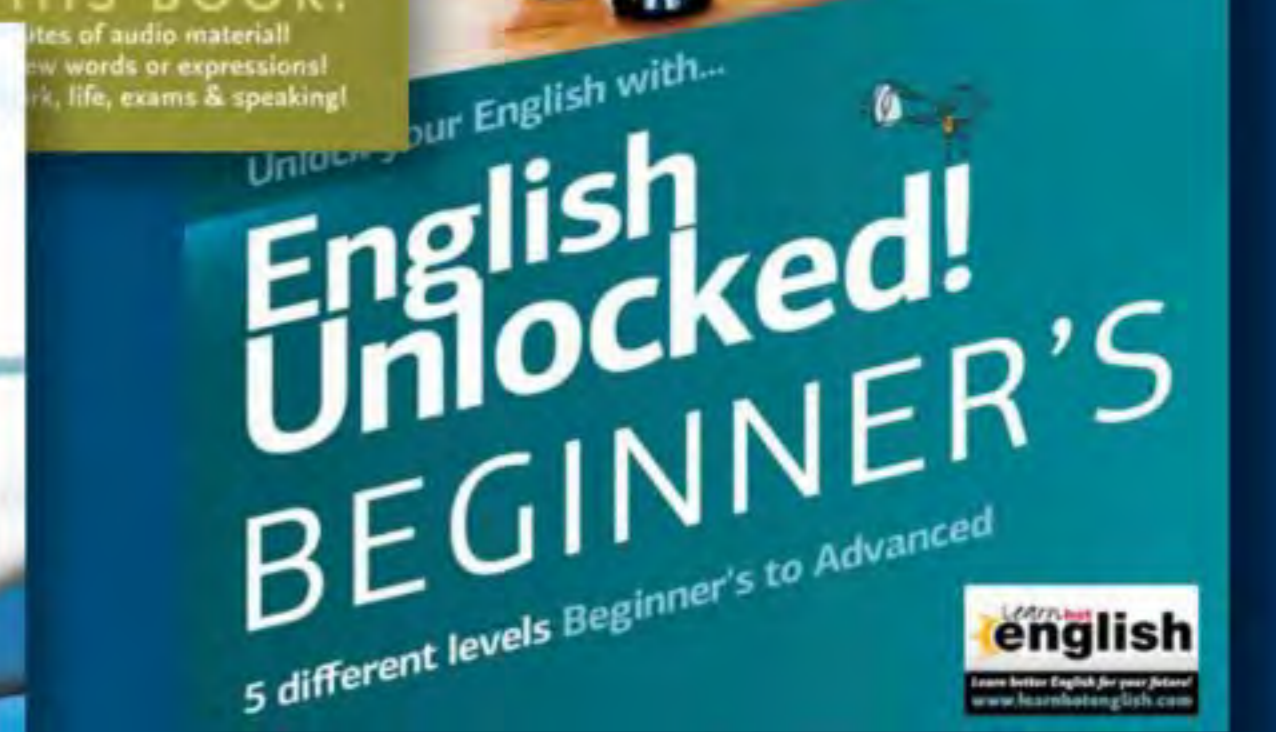
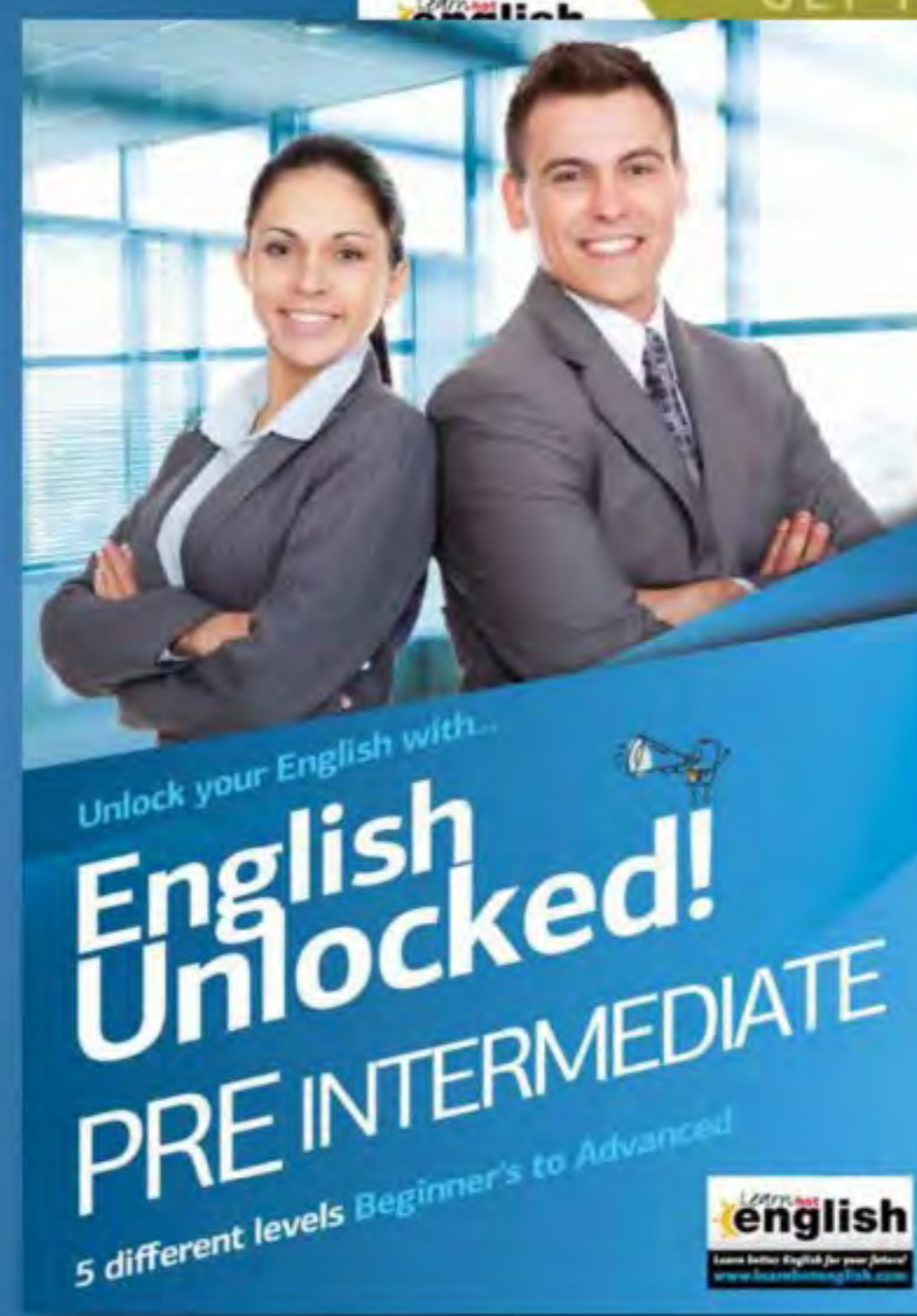
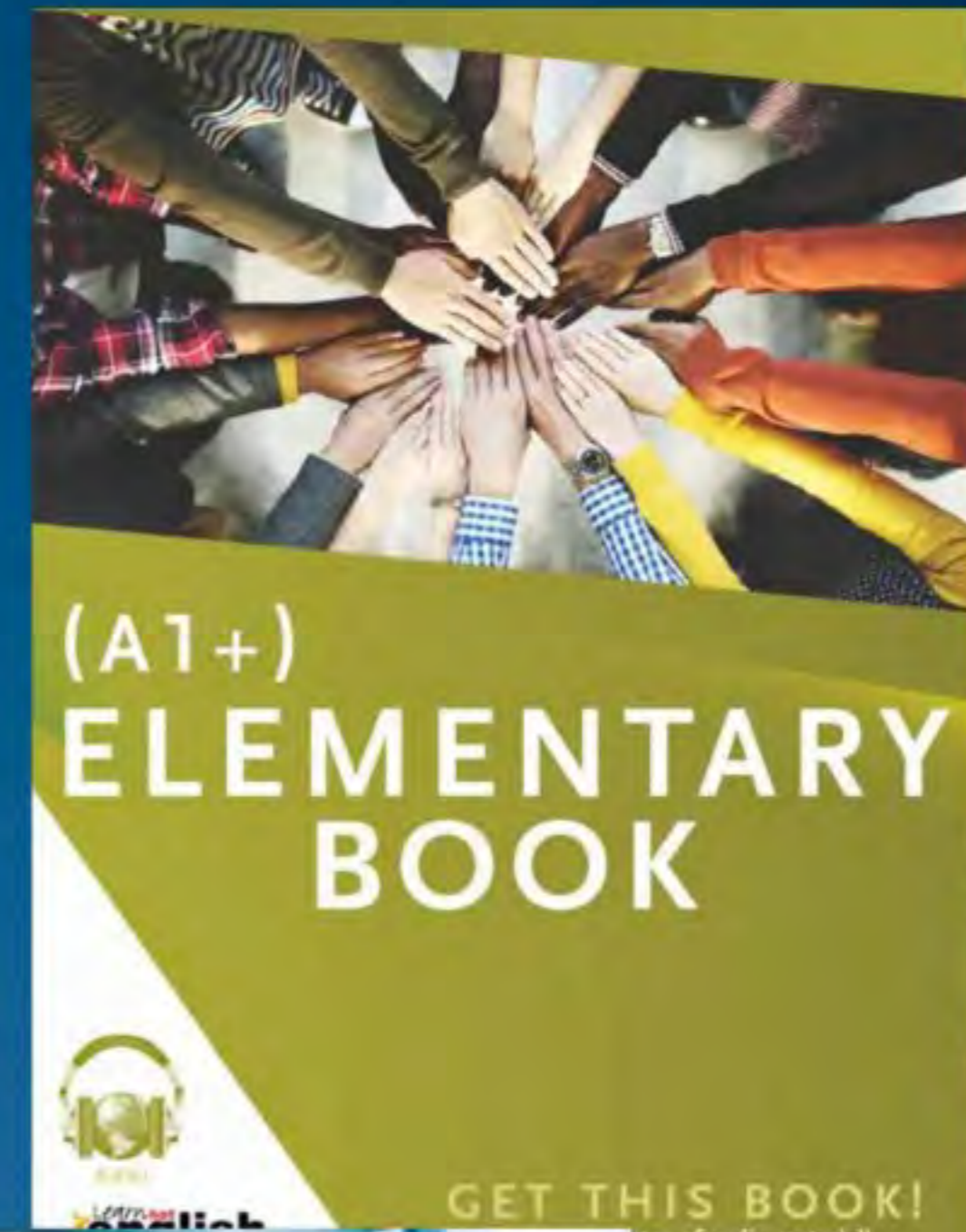
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AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it What were some of your favourite fairy tales? Did any stories ever frighten you as a child? What stories would you read (or did you read) to your children?

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

DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS!

FOUR TERRIFYING TALES

By Danielle Ott

What did your parents read to you as a child? Traditional children's stories are designed to both **entertain** and teach, but they're also often full of violence, **cruelty** and death. Here are four!

The Thumb-Sucker
by Heinrich Hoffman
The Thumb-Sucker is a story that appears in *Struwwelpeter*, a collection of 10 illustrated tales by German author Heinrich Hoffman. It was published in 1845. The story is about a little boy called Conrad who won't stop **sucking** his **thumb**. One day, when his mother is out, Conrad **pops** his thumb **into** his mouth once again. But this time, a **sinister**-looking **tailor** runs in with a giant pair of **scissors** and cuts off Conrad's thumbs. The **moral** of the story? Don't suck your thumbs!

Little Red Riding Hood
by Charles Perrault
In the earliest written account of this famous story by Charles Perrault (1628-1703), Little Red Riding Hood is in the forest when a wolf appears. **Naively**, she tells him that she's going to visit her grandmother. The wolf says goodbye then runs off to the house. He eats the grandmother, puts on her clothes then jumps into bed to wait for Little Red Riding Hood. Eventually, Little Red

Riding Hood gets to the house, and is about to be eaten by the wolf when she's rescued by a passing **hunter**. The moral of the story? Never talk to strangers!

Hansel and Gretel
by the Brothers Grimm
Hansel and Gretel are the young children of a poor **woodcutter**. One day, his second wife takes the children into the woods and leaves them there as there isn't enough food for everyone in the family. After days of **wandering around**, the children find a cottage made of **gingerbread** and sweets. As they're **feasting** on the **goodies**, the door opens and a witch appears. She invites them in, then **locks** Hansel in an iron **cage** and forces Gretel to become her **slave**. She wants to **fatten up** the boy so she can eat him, but Gretel pushes the witch into an open **oven**, where she dies. The moral of the story? Never accept sweets from strangers!

The Little Mermaid
by Hans Christian Andersen
A young **mermaid** falls in love with a prince and wants to marry him. Desperate to change, she visits a sea witch, who gives the mermaid legs in return for her voice. The mermaid also learns that she'll die if the prince marries anyone else. Unfortunately, the prince is in love with another woman and decides to wed her. But just before

the mermaid is about to die, her sisters bring her a knife. They tell her that if she kills the prince, she can become a mermaid again. But the little mermaid **can't bring herself** to do it. Eventually, she **turns into** a spirit and goes into the kingdom of God. The moral of the story? Be careful what you **wish** for!

And they talk about violence on TV! ✨

GLOSSARY

to entertain *vb*
if something "entertains" you, it interests you or makes you laugh

cruelty *n*
behaviour that causes pain to people or animals

to suck *vb*
if someone "sucks" their thumb, they put it in their mouth and pull at it with the muscles in their cheeks and tongue

a thumb *n*
the thickest finger on your hand

to pop into *phr vb*
if you "pop something into" your mouth, you put it in there quickly

sinister *adj*
something that is "sinister" is evil and bad

a tailor *n*
a person whose job is to make or repair clothes

scissors *n*
a small cutting tool with two sharp blades. They're often used to cut paper

a moral *n*
the "moral" of a story is a lesson from it

naively *adv*
if you describe someone as "naive", you think they're innocent or they lack experience. "Naively" is the adverb

a hunter *n*
a person who looks for and kills animals

a woodcutter *n*
a person whose job is to cut down trees

to wander around *phr vb*
to walk in an area with no particular objective

gingerbread *n*
a sweet biscuit that is flavoured with ginger. It is often made in the shape of a man

to feast *vb*
if you "feast" on a particular type of food, you eat a lot of it because you like it

goodies *n*
things that people like to eat: sweets, chocolates, etc.

to lock *vb*
to close a door with a key so no one can get in or out

a cage *n*
a structure with metal bars for keeping birds or animals

a slave *n*
someone who is the property of another person and who has to work for that person

to fatten up *phr vb*
if you "fatten up" an animal, you give it food so it gets fat

an oven *n*
an appliance in the kitchen for cooking. It's like a box with a door at the front

a mermaid *n*
a mythical creature that's half fish and half woman

can't bring herself to *exp*
if you "can't bring yourself to" do something, you can't do it physically or mentally

to turn into *phr vb*
to become

to wish *vb*
the things you "wish" for are the things you want or would like to be true

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading

Look at the titles of the popular stories. What are they about? Can you remember?

2 Reading I

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

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a story next to each statement.

1. A witch wants to eat a little boy.
2. A girl is almost eaten by a wolf.
3. A woman dies and turns into a spirit.
4. A little boy is attacked by a tailor.
5. A woman falls in love with a man who loves another woman.
6. A witch is cooked in an oven.

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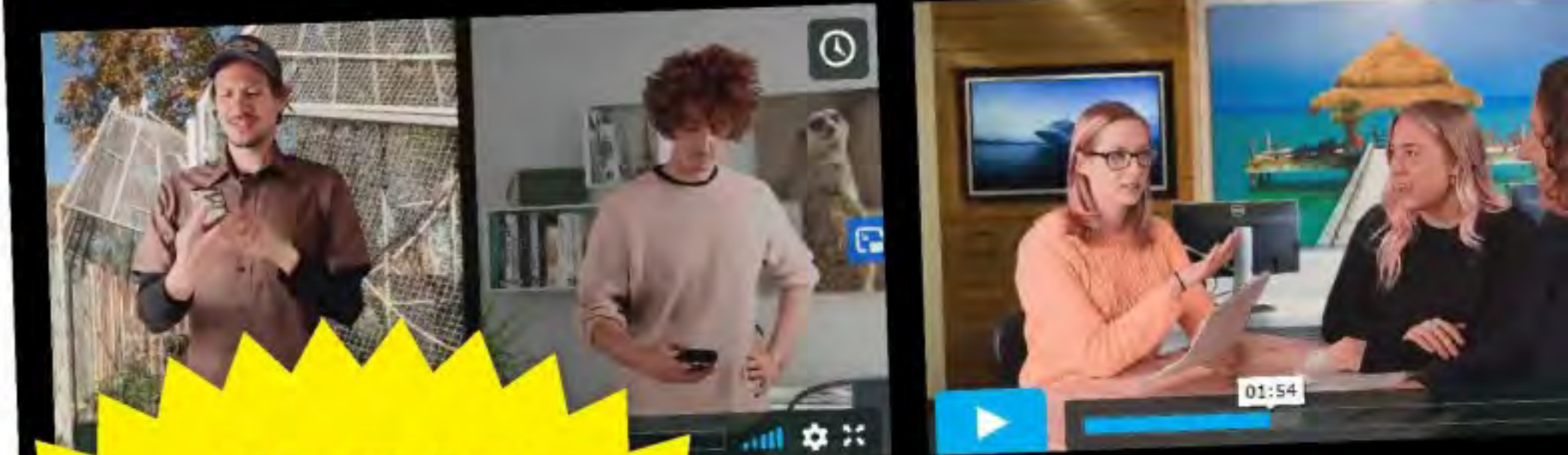
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Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it Have you ever taken home any shampoo or soap from a hotel? What other things would you take without feeling guilty? What would you take from the office without feeling bad?

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

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading I

Look at the list of things below. Which ones would you take without feeling guilty?



Shampoo
(from a hotel bathroom)



Sachet of ketchup
(from a restaurant)



Stapler (from the office)

Coffee
(from a colleague at work)



Pencil (from IKEA)



Extra apple
(from the supermarket)



Flowers (from a park)

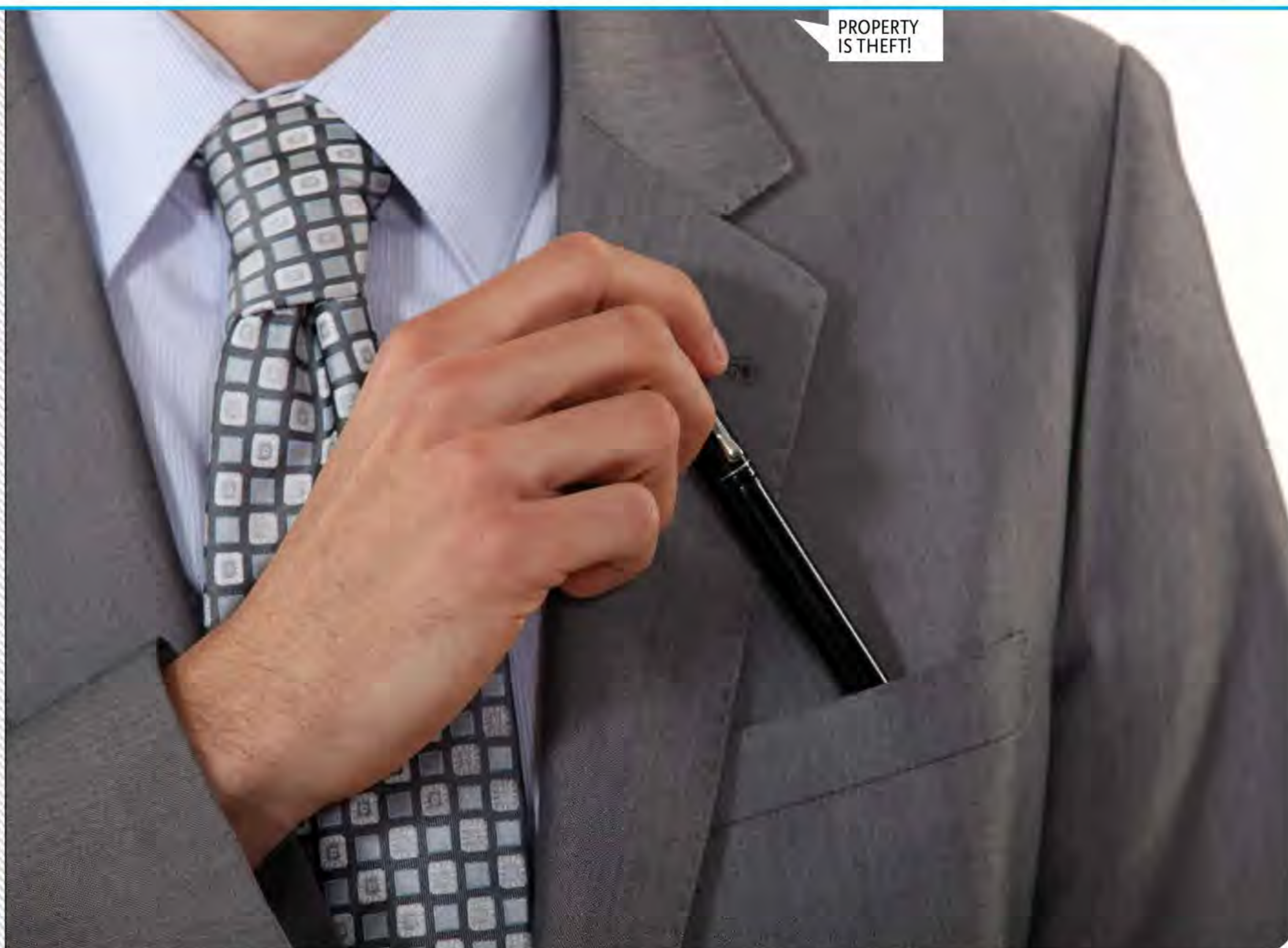
2 Reading I

Read the article once. Which statistic is the most surprising? Why?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. What percentage of people think it's OK to take...

- ...unsecured internet?
- ...restaurant condiments?
- ...office stationery?
- ...a colleague's tea or coffee?
- ...an extra apple at the supermarket?
- ...park flowers?



THE THINGS WE THINK IT'S OK TO STEAL!

Theft is a crime, isn't it? Well, not always. According to a recent survey carried out by paintballing.co.uk, there are some things that people think it's all right to take.

As part of the poll, 1,000 adults were asked what they felt was acceptable to steal without **feeling guilty**. Top of the list were hotel "**freebies**" such as shampoo, soap, towels, razors, hairbrushes and bathrobes, with 93% believing that it was "all part of staying at the hotel".

Next on the list was **unsecured internet**, with 88% saying they'd **have no qualms** about accessing a neighbour's network if it wasn't **password-protected**.

This is followed by restaurant condiments, with 55% feeling that it was perfectly acceptable to **walk off with** sachets of ketchup and mustard as they'd "already paid for them in the

price of the meal".

At work, 27% felt it was OK to take home office **stationery**, with 22% also thinking there was nothing wrong with **helping themselves to** a colleague's tea, coffee or biscuits.

Out shopping, 17% felt it was all right to eat **pick-and-mix sweets** as they were going to buy some anyway. Eleven percent saw nothing wrong with taking the odd extra apple at the supermarket fruit counter **after** weighing their fruit. Ten percent thought it was OK to weigh expensive food items (such as avocados) as cheaper ones (like tomatoes). And 8% said they wouldn't feel guilty for walking off with pens or pencils from shops such as IKEA as it was a form of publicity for the company as the pens had their logos on.

Finally, three percent admitted to having taken

home park flowers to decorate the house or to give as **gifts** to friends or relatives.

What would you take without feeling guilty? ★

GLOSSARY

to feel guilty *exp*
if you "feel guilty" about something you did in the past, you feel bad about it

a freebie *n*
something you're given for free. Often a product with the name and logo of a company on it

unsecured internet *exp*
if access to someone's internet is "unsecured", you don't need a password to use it

to have no qualms *exp*
if you "don't have any qualms" about something, you aren't worried about it being wrong or bad

password-protected *exp*
if access to someone's internet is "password-protected", you need a password to use it

to walk off with *phr vb*
if someone "walks off with" something, they take it without asking permission and with no intention of returning it

stationery *n*
equipment used in an office: paper, pens, pencils, rubbers, rulers, etc.

to help yourself to *exp*
if you "help yourself to" something, you take it without asking permission first

pick-and-mix sweets *n*
a selection of sweets that you can buy in a shop. You choose the sweets you want and put them in a little plastic bag

a gift *n*
a present; something that someone gives you

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¿Quieres hablar mejor inglés? Estos 8 libros, escritos por el editor de Learn Hot English, te ayudarán a aprender inglés fácilmente. Hay **ejercicios** para practicar y **audios** para que puedas mejorar tu comprensión oral. Haz clic en el libro que te interese para comprarlo o saber más. ¡A qué esperes!



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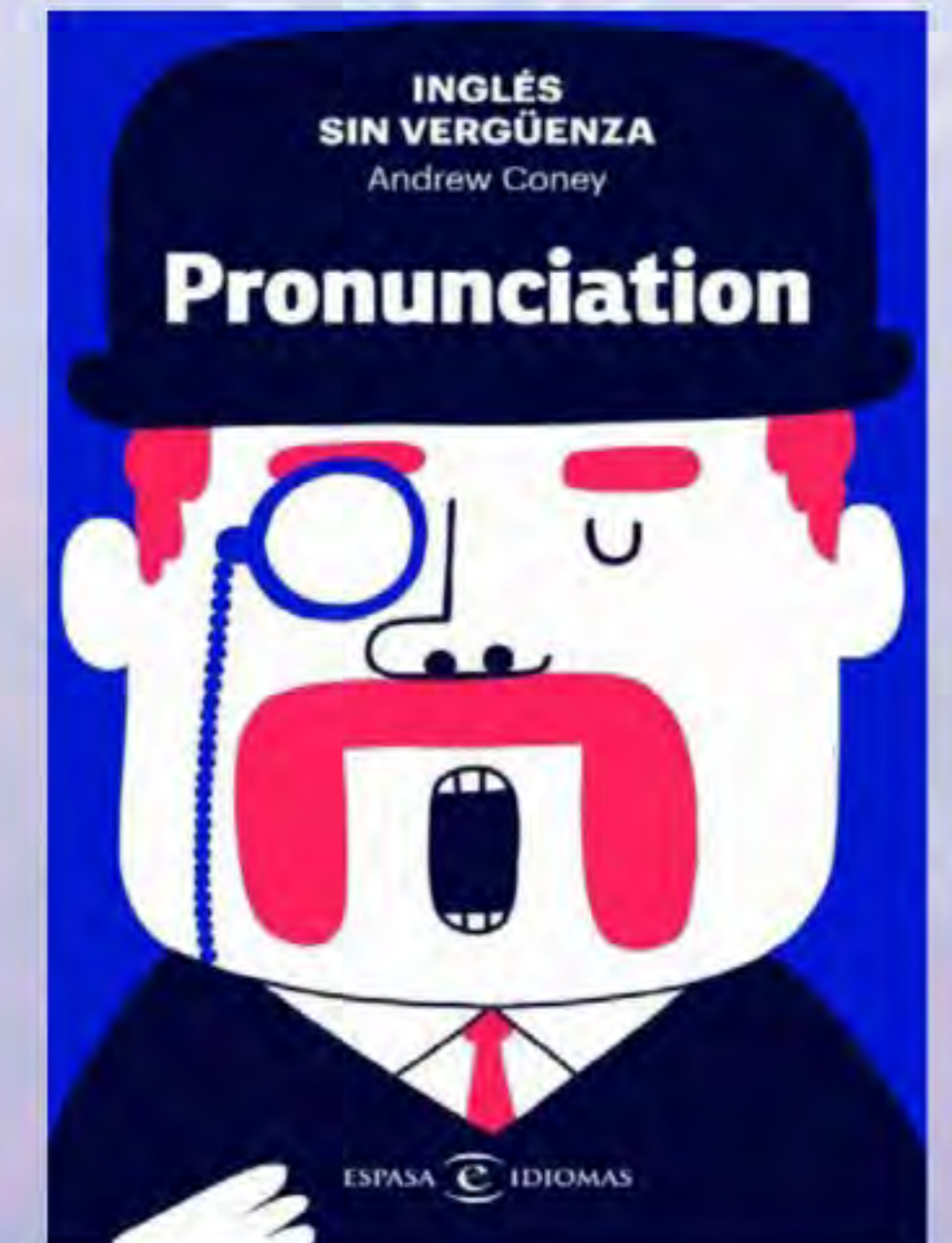
¡Haz clic aquí!

¿Quieres hablar mejor inglés? Este libro, te enseñará a saber qué decir en situaciones habituales, expresar lo que quieres decir fácilmente y mantener una conversación, entre otras cosas.



¡Haz clic aquí!

La comprensión auditiva es la clave para dominar un idioma. Una vez que entiendas lo hablado, aprenderás nuevos términos con rapidez. En este libro aprenderás trucos para poder entender mucho mejor.



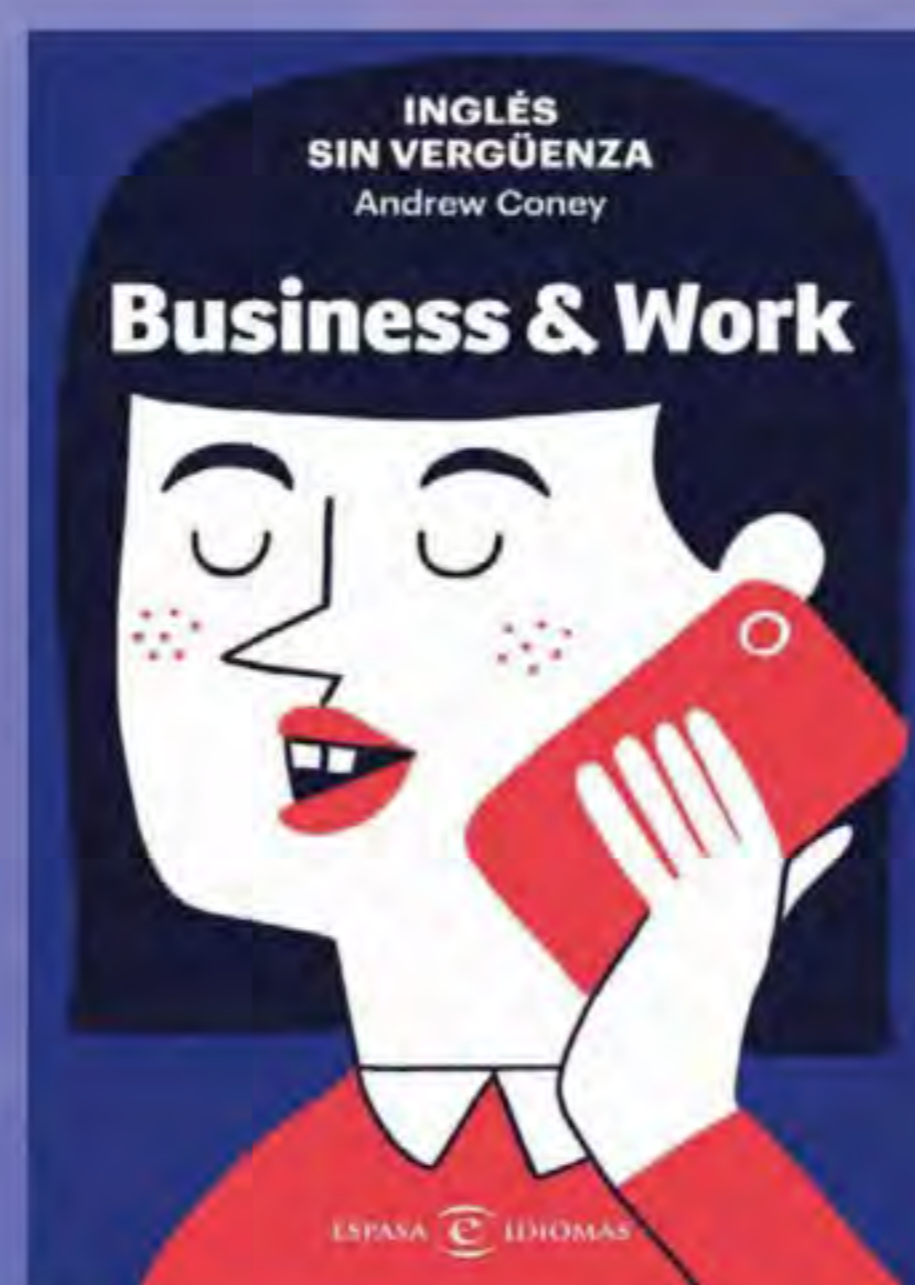
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¡Haz clic aquí!

Este libro es ideal si quieres iniciarse en inglés. Te ayudará a desenvolverte en todo tipo de situaciones: en el hotel, en un banco, en el taxi, en la peluquería, en el restaurante, en el cine, con el médico...



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Aprende a utilizar los verbos ingleses con soltura. Te explica sobre los tiempos, modos, usos y modelos de conjugación de verbos regulares e irregulares. Además, aprenderás de los phrasal verbs más utilizados.



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THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS FOR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
<i>I'm seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>I'm not seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Am I seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>
<i>You're seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>You aren't seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Are you seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>
<i>He's seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>He isn't seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Is he seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>
<i>She's seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>She isn't seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Is she seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>
<i>It's seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>It isn't seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Is it seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>
<i>We're seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>We aren't seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Are we seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>
<i>They're seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>They aren't seeing Zoe at 6pm.</i>	<i>Are they seeing Zoe at 6pm?</i>

Present Continuous

We can use the Present Continuous to talk about future arrangements with other people at specific times. For example:

- I'm seeing Jack at 6pm.
- We're meeting at 11am.

We use this tense for plans that are fixed at a certain time in the future. For example:

- She's leaving at 9pm.
- Paul and Caitlin are coming to the party this Sunday.
- We're going skiing next week.

Dialogue: Meeting up

Lauren and Alfie are talking about meeting up. **[Listen and complete with the correct words.]**

Lauren: So, what are you doing (1) _____ Sunday?

Alfie: Oh, nothing much. Why?

Lauren: Well, we're having a barbecue if you want to come (2) _____.

Alfie: Sounds good. What time?

Lauren: About 1pm.

Alfie: Great. Shall I bring (3) _____?

Lauren: Just yourself!

Alfie: Perfect!

Lauren: Oh, and I'm meeting up with Jenny and Mike later (4) _____ if you fancy joining us.

Alfie: OK. What time?

Lauren: 7pm in the Fox and Hound – you know, that pub on the (5) _____ of Argyll Street.

Alfie: Yeah, I've been there.

Erm, I've got a doctor's appointment at 6pm, but I should be finished by then.

Lauren: Great. Oh, and what are you doing next Saturday (6) _____?

Alfie: I'm not sure. Why?

Lauren: Well, Ben's moving (7) _____. I told him we'd be able to help.

Alfie: We? But I can't. I've got, erm, I've got a dental appointment in the morning. They're taking a tooth out. And then I'm playing (8) _____ with Karl.

Lauren: Oh, right. Well, you'd better phone Ben to tell him you can't make it. He was counting on you.

Alfie: OK, erm, I, er, I will.



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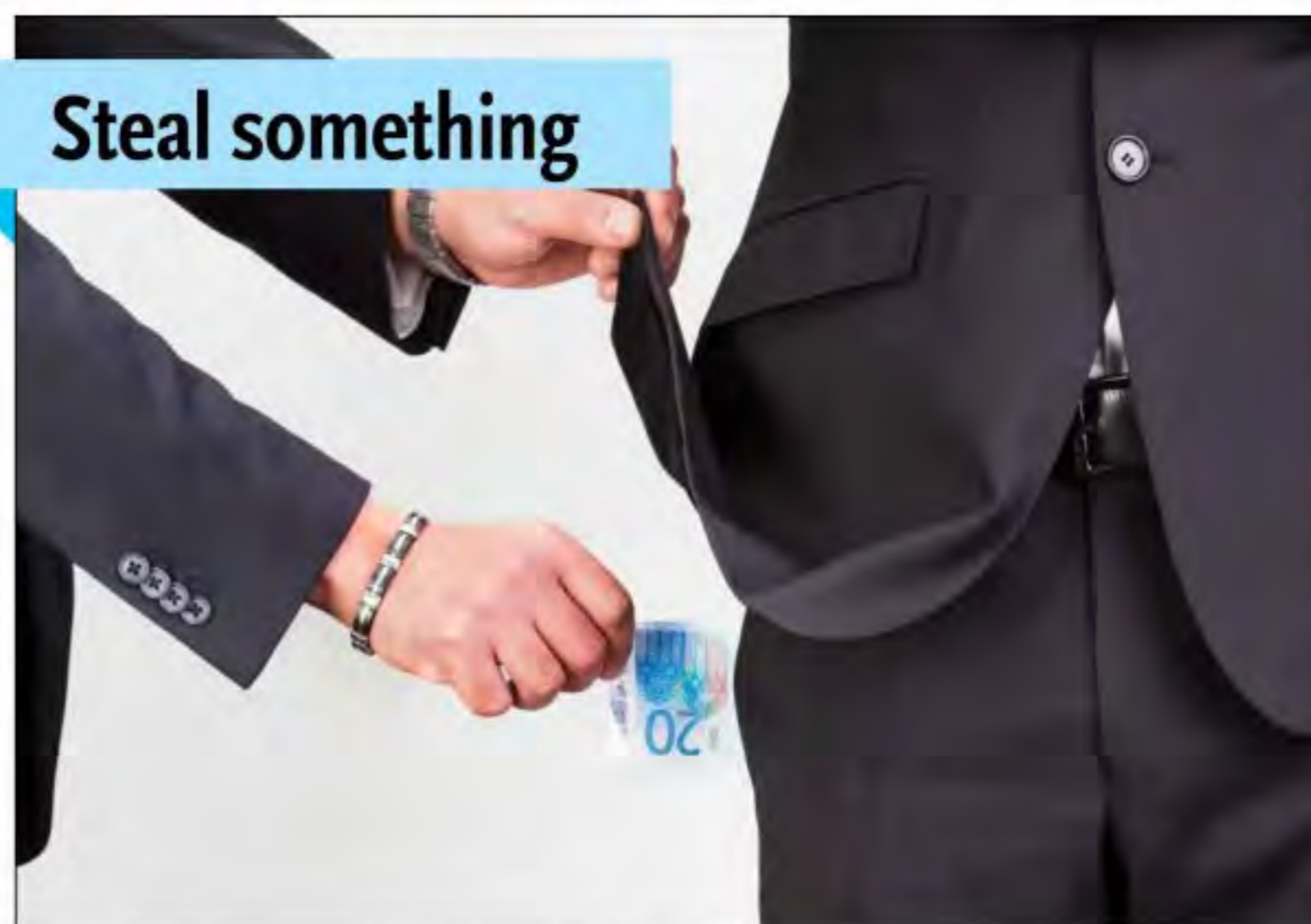
CRIME VERBS

Commit a crime



If someone "commits a crime", they do something illegal.
"He committed a number of crimes."

Steal something



If someone "steals" something, they take it without permission and without intending to return it.
"He stole the money."

Jail



If someone is "jailed", they're sent to prison.
"She was jailed for six months."

Rob a bank



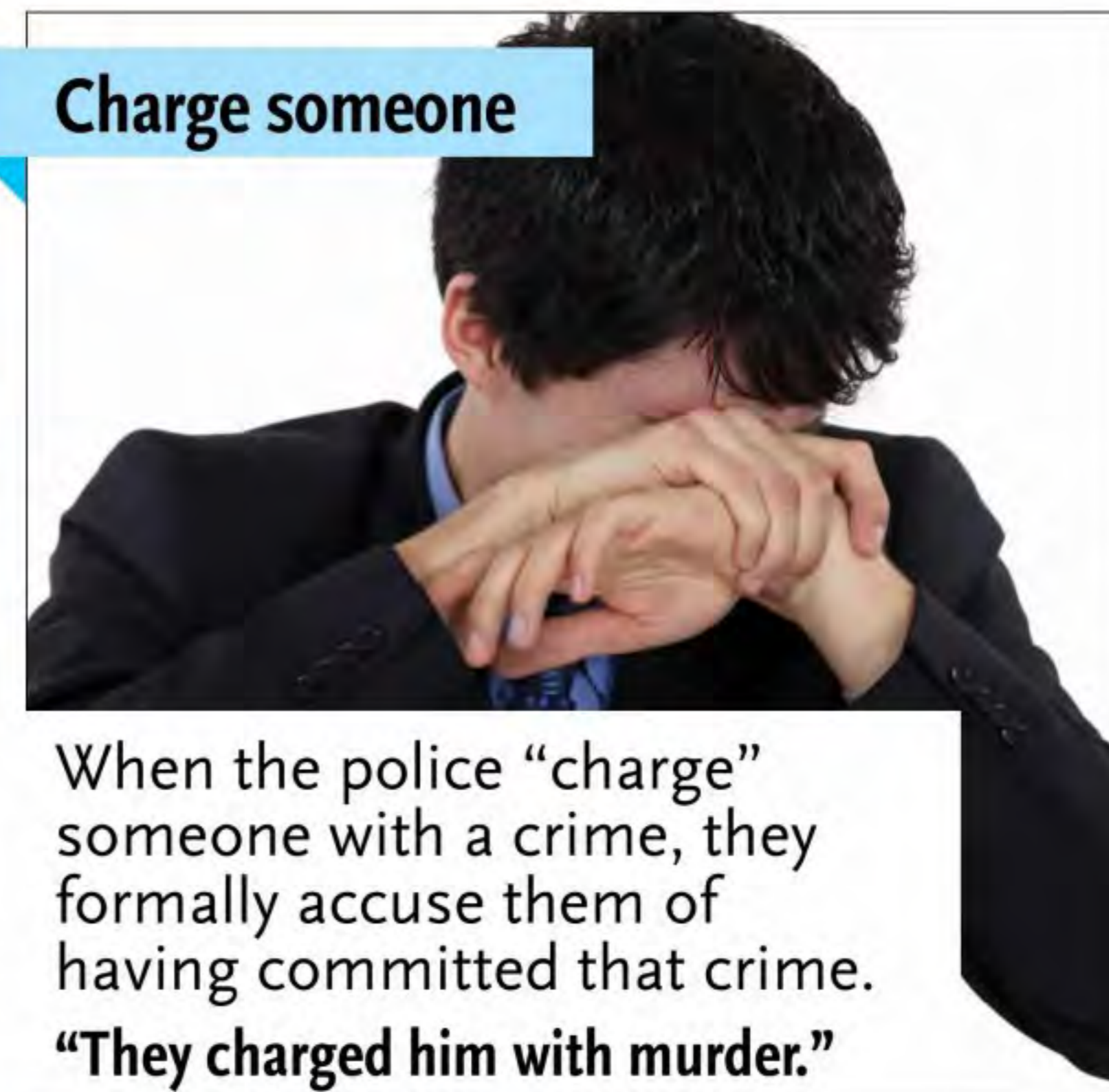
If someone "robs" a bank, they steal money from the bank.
"He robbed more than \$40,000 from the bank."

Rob a person



If someone is "robbed", a thief takes money or property from them.
"They were robbed while they were asleep."

Charge someone



When the police "charge" someone with a crime, they formally accuse them of having committed that crime.
"They charged him with murder."

Arrest someone



If the police "arrest" someone, they take them to the police station and charge them.
"Police arrested five people in connection with the robbery."

Burgle



If a building is "burgled", a thief enters it illegally and steals things.
"Our house was burgled while we were on holiday."

Murder someone



If A "murders" B, A kills B, often for money.
"It's the story of a murder that takes place in a small village."

Investigate a crime



If the police "investigate" a crime, they try to find out what happened.
"They're investigating the cause of the explosion."

Loot



If people "loot" shops or houses, they steal things from those shops / houses, often during a war or riot.
"At about 6pm, they started smashing up cars and looting shops."

Kidnap



If A "kidnaps" B, A takes B as a prisoner and makes demands. If the demands aren't met, A may kill B.
"They kidnapped her and demanded \$3 million for her safe return."

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Objective To learn some useful words and expressions for talking about disasters and emergencies in English.

Think about it

Have you ever been in an emergency? What happened and how did you react? How do you think you would respond in a natural disaster?



AUDIO

ENGLISH IN ACTION... DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES

Useful words



Fire engine



Helicopter



GPS / SatNav



Ambulance



Mountain rescue dog



Paramedic



Lifeguard



Ladder



Stretcher



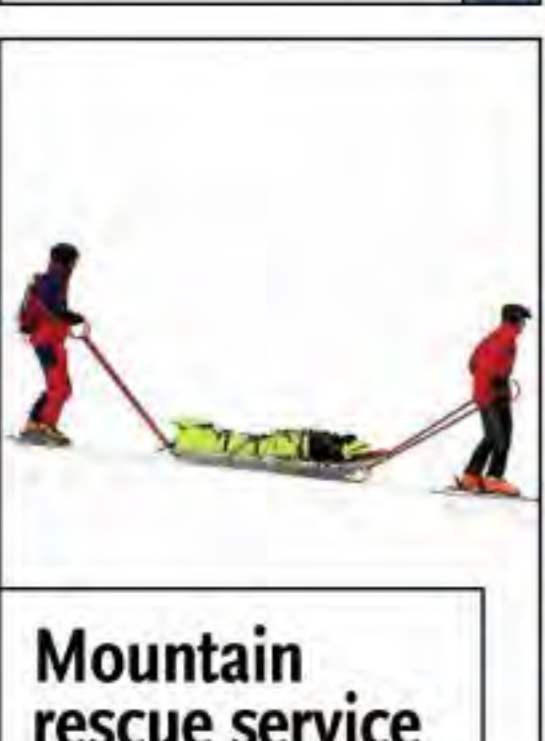
Lifeboat



Air and sea rescue service



Coastguard



Mountain rescue service



Bottle of water



Blanket



Helmet

More words

- **SOS** – a signal people send when they're in danger. In Morse Code, it consists of a continuous sequence of three-dits / three-dahs / three-dits.
- **Shelter** – a place where you can protect yourself from the cold / rain, etc.
- **Victim** – a person who has been hurt in an accident.
- **Avalanche** – a large mass of snow that falls down the side of a mountain.
- **Drought** – if there's a "drought", it doesn't rain for a long period of time.
- **Flood** – when there's a "flood", there's water in the streets, etc. because it has rained a lot.
- **Hurricane** – an extremely violent wind or storm.
- **Wildfire** – a fire in a forest or area of land.
- **Earthquake** – a violent movement of the earth.
- **Tsunami / tidal wave** – a large mass of water in the sea that flows onto the land and destroys things.
- **Blizzard / snow storm** – when there's a "blizzard", it snows a lot and there are strong winds.
- **Landslide** – a large amount of earth that falls down the side of a mountain.
- **Smoke signal** – a message that you create by using smoke from a fire.
- **Casualty** – someone who has died, or an injured person.
- **Evacuate** – if you "evacuate" an area, you leave that area.
- **Air-sea rescue service / search and rescue service (SAR) / search and rescue team** – an organisation that uses helicopters and specialists to find people in the mountains or the sea
- **Survivor** – a person who continues to live after being in serious danger.

Dialogue: Lost!



Randy and Flynn are in a rock band. While filming their music video in the mountains, they've managed to get lost. Also, Randy has fallen and hurt his arm and leg. **[Listen and complete with the correct words.]**

R=Randy F=Flynn

- R: Ow! My arm really hurts. I'll never be able to play the guitar again.
- F: You couldn't play in the first place!
- R: Very funny!
- F: Can you walk?
- R: Let me try... Ow! No! I think my (1) _____ is broken.
- F: *[uncaring]* What a disaster... we'll never finish this video.
- R: It's your fault we got lost. The film crew was right behind us, but you wanted to run ahead to look for a good (2) _____.
- F: My fault! It was your idea to shoot the video in the mountains. I wanted to do it in the studio. Much safer.
- R: Call the paramedics!
- F: Paramedics! Are you kidding? An ambulance can't get up here. We need the air-sea rescue service. They've got (3) _____!
- R: Well, call them! I'm in pain.
- F: Stop exaggerating! *[He tries calling on his mobile.]* Oh, no. My phone's dead.
- R: I know! Let's make a fire. We can send smoke signals.
- F: No way! We'll probably start a forest (4) _____.
- R: Erm... Then make a stretcher out of some tree branches and carry me down.
- F: Are you crazy? I can't carry you by myself, especially not with all that weight you've put on.
- R: Well, think of something! I don't want to die in the mountains.
- F: Relax. It's just a sore (5) _____ and leg.
- R: Broken arm and leg *actually*.
- F: Whatever. Just be thankful we weren't caught in an avalanche.
- R: Very comforting...
- F: I've got an idea. I'll leave you here with my bottle of water and my (6) _____ as a blanket, and I'll go and look for some help. I should be back in a day or two.
- R: No way! Don't leave me here. There are wolves!
- F: There aren't any wolves!
- R: *[begging]* Please!
- F: OK. How about I make you a shelter out of branches and (7) _____ and then I...? *[wolf howls in the distance]* Wait, what's that?
- R: Wolves? *[more howling]*
- F: No... Sniffer dogs!
- R: Oh, thank god. I'm saved! *[wolf howls in the distance]*
- F: Oh no, you're right. It's wolves. Quick, run! *[He starts running.]*
- RUN! Run for your life!
- R: Wait!

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Objective To improve your reading skills.

Think about it Have you ever raised any money for charity? What did you do? Have you ever donated any money to a charity? Which one? Why?

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

DO YOU
LIKE MY
JEANS?

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading

Look at the paragraph titles. What do you think the charity events consist of?

2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a charity or event next to each statement.

1. It takes place in US colleges.
2. It took them three days to raise \$1,000.
3. It takes place in November.
4. The money raised was for the Akanshka Foundation.
5. Participants aren't allowed to drink alcohol.
6. They've raised more than £33 million since 1996.

Language focus Enough

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...students had donated enough money..." The writer has used "enough" + a noun. Choose the correct options for each sentence.

1. I don't think he's **good enough / enough good** for the team.
2. We don't have **money enough / enough money** for the project.
3. I think they've got **food enough / enough food** for the party.
4. I don't think he's **well enough / enough well** for the competition.

6 unusual ways to raise money for charity!

By Georgie Kiely

Every year, thousands of people around the world raise money for charity. Typical events include going on a sponsored walk, run or trip. But there are lots of other ways to help out, as these 6 unusual events clearly show.

1 Movember

Every November, thousands of men across the world grow a moustache for charity. The idea is to increase awareness of men's health problems such as prostate cancer, and to raise as much money as they can. Participants invite friends to sponsor them as they grow their moustache. Movember started in Melbourne, Australia, but is now a global phenomenon.

2 Dryathlon

As part of this event for Cancer Research UK, participants spend a month without drinking any alcohol. In 2012, more than 30,000 participants helped raise over three million pounds. One person who took part said it was "an emotional, wonderful and, most importantly, dry journey!"

3 Axe Undie Run

The aim of this event is to see which US colleges can donate the most clothes to local charities. University students strip off, drop their clothes into collection bins, then race around the campus in their underwear. "Charity will never be the same!" is the slogan for this fun run.

4 Jeans for Genes

As part of Jeans for Genes, participants from offices, schools and sports clubs are sponsored to wear their jeans for a day. The aim is to raise money for children with genetic disorders. "Genies" (as the volunteers are known) promote the event, collect donations and sell merchandise. Jeans for Genes has raised more than £33 million since 1996.

5 Pay to stop Baby

Students at Evanston Township High School convinced school administrators to let them play Justin Bieber's song *Baby* non-stop over the loudspeakers for a week, or until they'd raised \$1,000... but within just three days, students had donated enough money to stop the music. In the song, Bieber sings the word "baby" more than 50 times. The money was used to support a local charity.

6 One dress, one year

New York woman Sheena Matheiken was sponsored to wear the same dress for 12 months. She wanted to raise money for the Akanshka Foundation, which gives the poorest children in India an education. By the end of the year, she'd managed to raise an impressive \$100,000. She had seven copies of the dress and washed them regularly!

Which event would you support? ☆

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AUDIO

YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.**Think about it** Have you read about any predictions for the end of the world? What were they? Have you heard of any other unusual predictions? What are your predictions for the next ten years for the world, the economy, technology, etc.?**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

IS THE WORLD ABOUT TO END?

Asteroid attacks. Famine. Nuclear disaster. People have been making **predictions** about the end of the world for centuries. Here are a few of the most famous ones.

One of the earliest **prophecies** came from Christopher Columbus. He declared that the world would end in 1658. His calculations were based on the fact that the planet was going to **last** just 7,000 years and that it had been created in 5342 **BC**. Of course, that wouldn't be his only major mistake. In 1642, he thought he'd landed in India when it was actually America!

Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder of the Worldwide Church of God, told his **congregation** that the world was going to end in 1936, and that only *they* would be saved. After the prophecy failed, he changed the date three more times before finally **giving up**.

Jim Jones, the founder of the Peoples [sic] Temple Agricultural Project, claimed he had visions that a nuclear holocaust was going to take place in 1967. Later, on 18th November 1978, he convinced his followers to commit mass suicide in north-western Guyana. Known as the Jonestown Massacre, more than 900 people died from cyanide poisoning. After **overseeing** the deaths, Jones shot himself in the head.

In 1966, Jehovah's Witnesses declared that 1975 marked 6000 years since man's creation, and that this would be "the end

of our existence on earth". Later, they said it was only a "possibility", though some continued to **affirm** that 1975 would "probably" be the end.

Hon-Ming Chen, the leader of the Taiwanese cult God's Salvation Church, claimed that God would appear on Channel 18 on every TV set in the US on 25th March 1998. Then, at 10:00am on 31st March, God would come to Earth in a **flying saucer**. On top of that, God would have the same physical appearance as Chen himself. Chen chose to base his cult in Garland, Texas, because he thought "Garland" sounded like "God's Land".

Philip Berg, dean of the worldwide Kabbalah Centre, said that a ball of fire would **descend** on earth on 11th September 1999, destroying almost all forms of life.

The world-renowned linguist Charles Berlitz predicted that the world would end in 1999. He didn't specify how, but he said that it could involve nuclear devastation, asteroid impact, **pole shift** or other earth changes.

One of the most recent predictions came from the Mayans, an ancient civilization that ruled over areas of what is now southern Mexico, Guatemala and Belize between 1000 BC and 1519 AD. According to several interpretations of their calendar, the world was going to end on 21st December 2012. Many people around the world took the **warnings** seriously, and one man even built his

very own "Noah's Ark".

Beware of false prophets! ✪

NOSTRADAMUS

One of the most famous seers (someone who predicts the future) of all time was Michel de Nostredame, **aka** Nostradamus (1503-1566). A French author, translator and astrological consultant from the 16th century, Nostradamus is best known for his book *Les Propheties* (*The Prophecies*), the first edition of which appeared in 1555. This consisted of almost 1,000 four-line verses called quatrains. In one, he seems to have predicted the Great Fire of London, which took place in 1666 – about 100 years after Nostradamus died. He wrote:

The blood of the just will be demanded of London, burnt by the fire in the year '66.

There are also apparent references to Napoleon, Hitler and the September 11th (2001) attack on the Twin Towers in New York. Impressive? Not really, as the experts say that these predictions are largely the result of misinterpretations, mistranslations and the twisting of words.

GLOSSARY

- a prediction** *n*
if you make a "prediction", you say what you think will happen in the future
- a prophecy** *n*
a prediction (see previous entry)
- to last** *v*
the time that something "lasts" is the time that it exists or is alive
- BC** *n*
Before Christ – the time before the birth of Jesus Christ – about 2,000 years ago
- a congregation** *n*
the people who regularly go to a church service
- to give up** *phr vb*
if you "give up" trying to do something, you stop trying to do it
- to oversee** *vb*
if someone in authority "oversees" a job or an activity, they make sure that others do it properly
- to affirm** *vb*
if you "affirm" that something is true, you say firmly and publicly that it's true
- a flying saucer** *n*
an alien spaceship. From a distance, it looks like a flying plate
- to descend** *vb*
if something "descends" to earth, it comes to earth
- pole shift** *n*
a theory that the poles (the South Pole / North Pole) could change position
- a warning** *n*
a written or spoken message that tells people about a possible danger
- a prophet** *n*
someone who predicts that something will happen in the future; also, a person who is believed to be chosen by God to say the things that God wants to tell people
- aka** *abbr*
also known as – often used to say that someone has another name

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading

Which predictions for the end of the world have you heard about before?

- Ball of fire
- Asteroid attack
- Alien attack
- Famine (no food)
- Floods (heavy rain)
- War
- Nuclear destruction

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Which prediction is the most ridiculous? Why?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions. Who...

1. ...said that the world would end in 1658?
2. ...told his followers that the world would end in 1936?
3. ...said there would be a nuclear holocaust in 1967?
4. ...thought the world would probably end in 1975?
5. ...said that God would come to Earth in a flying saucer?
6. ...predicted the world was going to end in 2012?

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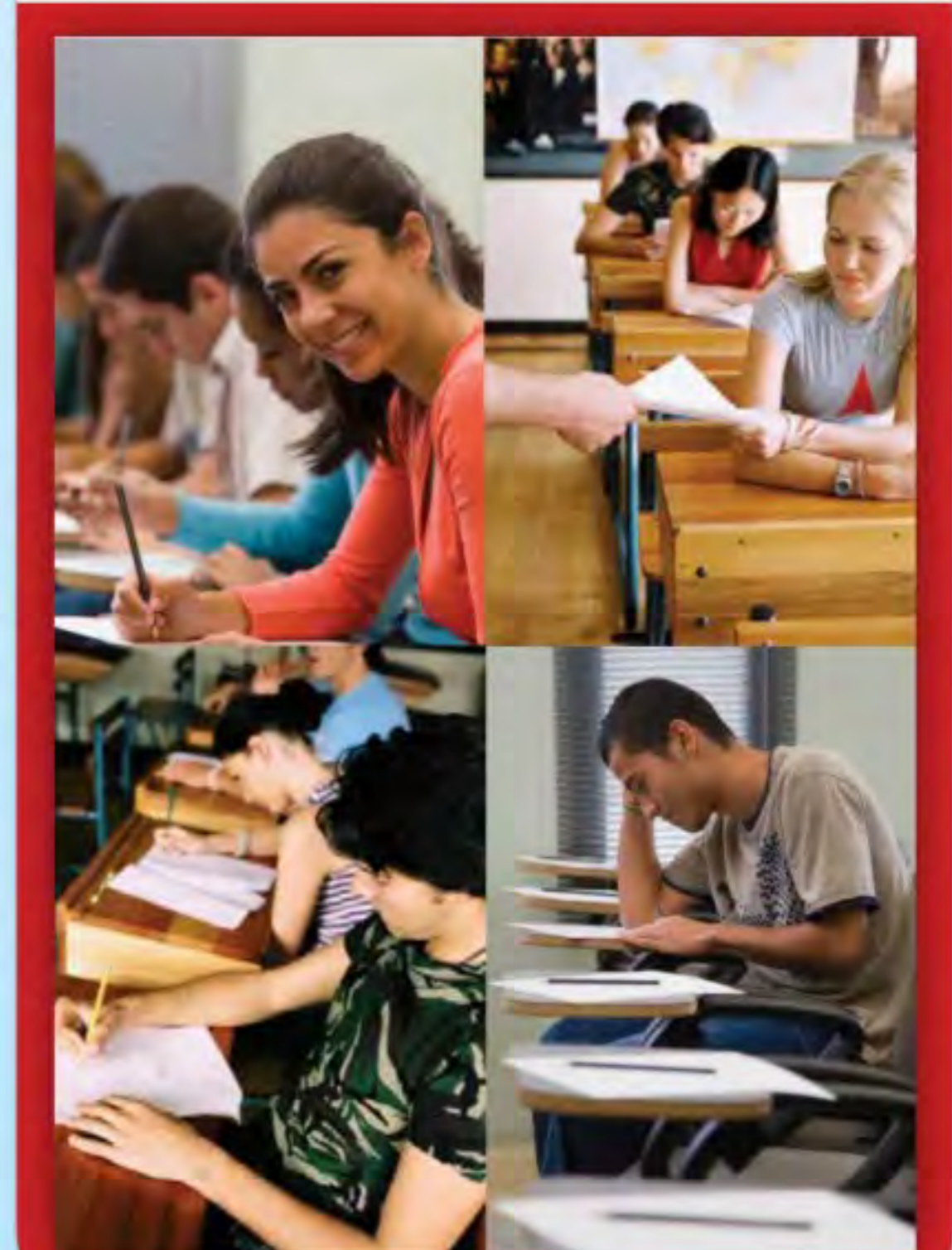
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Objective To improve your reading skills and to learn about an aspect of culture from many English-speaking countries.

Think about it Why do you think some people drink in excess? Have you seen any of *The Hangover* movies? What did you think about them? What's your favourite comedy? What do you like about it?

ARE YOU HUNGOVER TOO?



VIDEO Check out the trailer for *The Hangover Part III*. Search YouTube for "Hangover III trailer"

GLOSSARY

a hangover *n*
if someone has a "hangover", they feel sick and have a headache because they drank a lot of alcohol the night before
to relate to *exp*
if you can "relate to" something, you can understand it, often because it's happened to you before
to release *vb*
when a film is "released", it appears in cinemas and you can see it
a stag do *exp*
a party for a man who is going to get married. Often, the guests are his male friends
a groom *n*
the "groom" is the man in a wedding who is going to get married
a bachelor party *n*
see previous "stag do" entry
to black out *phr vb*
if someone "blacks out", they lose consciousness (often after drinking too much or being hit on the head) and appear to be sleeping
to revive *vb*
if you "revive" someone who was unconscious, you make them wake up
to threaten *vb*
if something is "threatening" you, it's a danger for you or it's something bad for you
a bill *n*
a piece of paper with information about how much you must pay for something
a smash hit *n*
an extremely successful film / song, etc.
a sequel *n*
a "sequel" to a previous film is the second part of it – it continues the story
a plot *n*
the "plot" of a film (for example) is the story it tells
resistant to *exp*
if you're "resistant to" something, you aren't harmed by it
fatigue *n*
if you're suffering from "fatigue", you feel very tired and weak
dehydration *n*
if you're suffering from "dehydration", you feel weak or ill because you've lost a lot of water
nausea *n*
if you're suffering from "nausea", you feel sick and as if you're going to vomit
sensitivity to *exp*
if you have a lot of "sensitivity to" light, you don't like the light as it affects you in a bad way, often hurting you

THE HANGOVER FILMS

Have you ever had a **hangover**? Research shows 75% of us have had at least one in our lives. Maybe that's why *The Hangover* series of films has been so popular. Almost everyone can **relate to** them!

blacked out. And when I was **revived**, I was in a club being **threatened** with a very, very large **bill**. It was not a fun experience at the time, but it made for a funny story," he said.

Back in 2009, the movie *The Hangover* was **released**. It's a comedy about four friends who go to Las Vegas on a **stag do**. They get extremely drunk and wake up the next morning with terrible hangovers and little memory of the night before. But that's not all. The **groom** is missing and the remaining three have to find him before the wedding that afternoon. In the course of the film, the friends steal a tiger, meet boxing legend Mike Tyson, and get shot at by drug dealers.

Sound unbelievable? Well, the movie was actually based on a true story. Tripp Vinson, one of the producers, went to Vegas for his **bachelor party**. During the night, he drank so much that he fell unconscious. "I got separated from my friends, and I

5 hangover symptoms
Did you know 25% of people are naturally **resistant to** hangovers? For the rest of us, here are the five main symptoms: **fatigue**, **dehydration**, a headache, **nausea**, **sensitivity to** light and sound.

The hangover cure
In theory, there's no cure for a hangover, but there are plenty of ideas of what you can do to prevent one from occurring. Make sure you eat before you start drinking, and order a glass of water between each alcoholic drink (this prevents dehydration). If you do have a hangover, you can reduce the symptoms by getting plenty of sleep, doing some light exercise and eating a big breakfast including, if possible, bacon and baked beans (apparently these items of food help reduce the effects of the hangover). Some say that drinking some more alcohol the next day can also help. This "special" cure is known as "the hair of the dog".

The Hangover was a **smash hit**. It made \$460 million at the box office and the critics loved it, with one writing, "The movie's stupid fun is worth experiencing at least once." Given the film's success, the filmmakers decided to make a **sequel**. *The Hangover Part II* has a similar storyline, but this time the guys are on a stag do in Bangkok. "What happens in Bangkok isn't as much fun as when it happened in Vegas," said one reviewer, "but it's still worth the trip."

And now the four friends are back for one final party. The third instalment is set in Las Vegas again, but the story is different this time around. So, what could possibly go wrong?" Of course, plenty can – and will – go wrong!

But you'll have to see it for yourself to find out! ★

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AUDIO

Objective To improve your listening skills.**Think about it** How often do you travel on public transport? What do you use: the bus, the train, the underground? How often do you take the car? What do you use it for?**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to two transport-related stories. Look at the pictures of some of the people who appear in the stories. What do you think the stories will be about? Make notes.



Busker

Shopper

Viking



Pirate

Thief

Businessman

2 Listening I

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

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- The man in the first story often does a bit of shopping on Saturday...
a) morning b) afternoon
- The busker sings songs by...
a) Elvis Presley b) Dire Straits
- The speaker went to visit a client last...
a) Monday b) Tuesday
- The busker and the man in the suit were...
a) different people b) the same person
- The man in the second story was on a...
a) train b) bus
- The woman was robbed about...
a) five minutes into the journey
b) 10 minutes into the journey
- The thief was stopped by a pirate and a...
a) Viking b) vampire
- In the end, the woman...
a) got her bag back b) lost her bag

4 Language focus Adverbs

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording Transport Time: "...He was talking excitedly to a group of colleagues..." The speaker has used an adverb ("excitedly"). Read through the audio script and see if you can find four more adverbs.

5 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

Audio script

Two transport stories

Tram ride

I often get the tram into town on Saturday morning to do a bit of shopping. There's a busker who's usually at the tram (1) _____ playing the guitar and singing. He does covers of famous songs by Elvis Presley or the Beatles and he's quite good so I sometimes give him a bit of spare change. Anyway, last Tuesday, my (2) _____ sent me out to visit a client in an office in the centre. Just as I was going in, I walked past this well-dressed guy in an expensive suit and shiny black shoes. He was talking excitedly to a group of (3) _____. I thought I recognised him, but I couldn't quite remember where I knew him from. About an hour later, as I was leaving the (4) _____, I saw the same guy again and it was then that I suddenly remembered who he was: the busker from the tram station. Of course, he didn't look anything like the long-haired guy in scruffy (5) _____ and a dirty old T-shirt that I knew. How strange!

**Bus trip**

I was on the bus last week and it was full of people dressed up for a fancy-dress (6) _____. There were pirates, vampires, ghosts, Vikings – you name it, they were there. Anyway, about 10 minutes into the journey, there was some shouting from the top of the (7) _____, "Thief! Thief! Stop, thief!" a woman was screaming desperately. Seconds later, a man came crashing down the stairs with a (8) _____ in his hand. Immediately, two of the party-goers jumped up and stood in his path. One was a pirate with an eye-patch and a sword, and the other was a Viking with an axe and a (9) _____ with horns. "Hand it over!" the pirate said forcefully, with his sword drawn. Incredibly, the man just gave them the bag, then pushed his way past them and jumped off the bus. I guess he felt a bit intimidated. Later, the pirate and Viking gave the bag back to the (10) _____, then calmly sat down again.

Weird!



THE COMPLETE



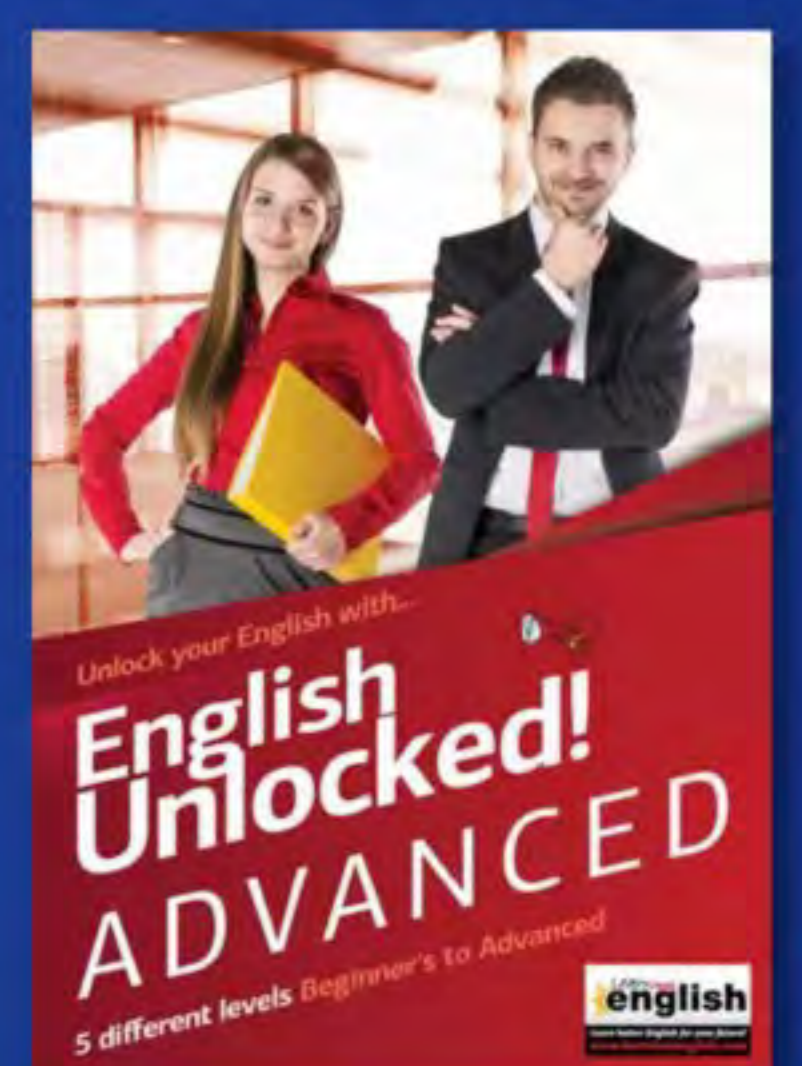
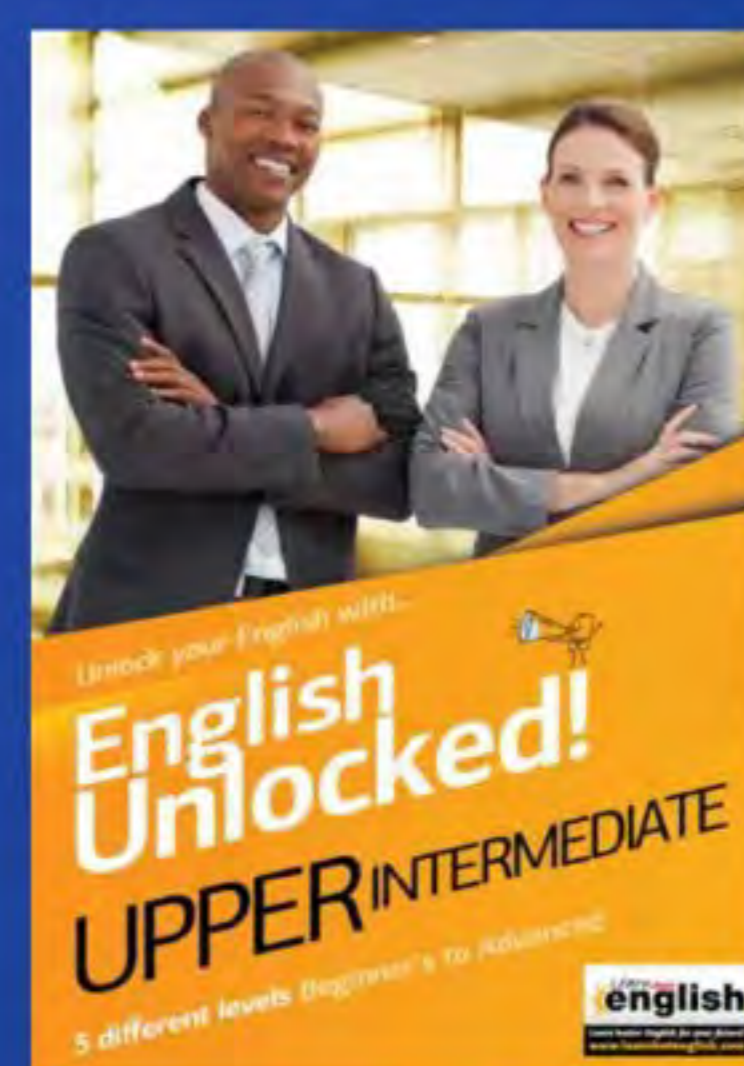
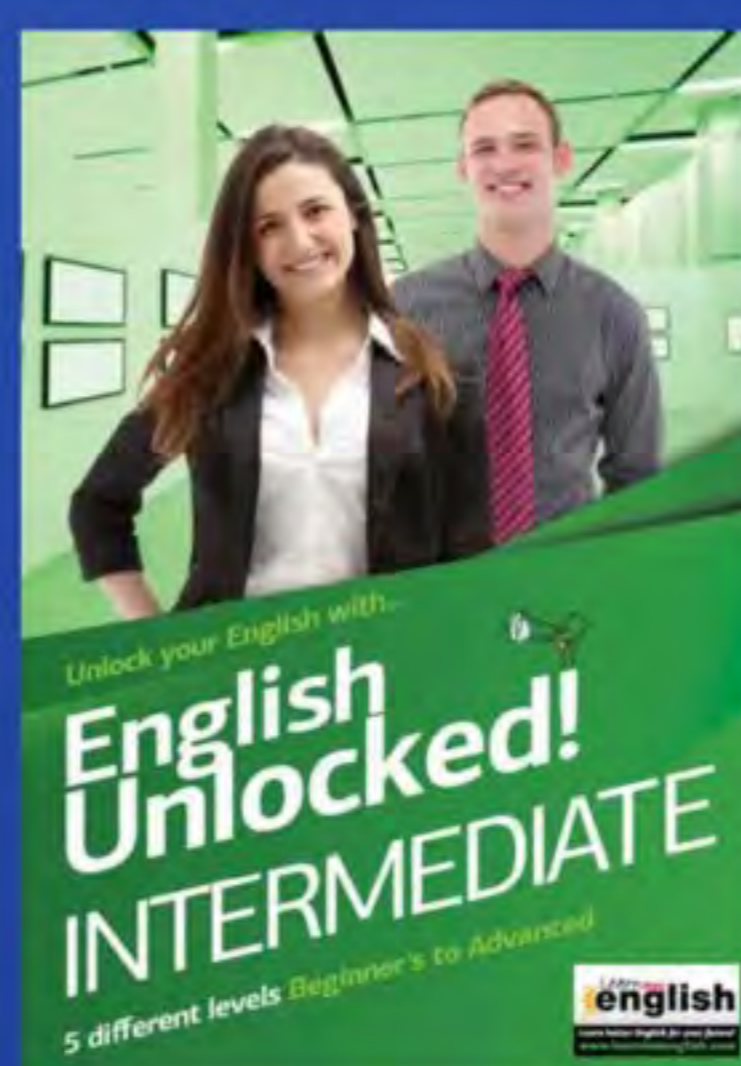
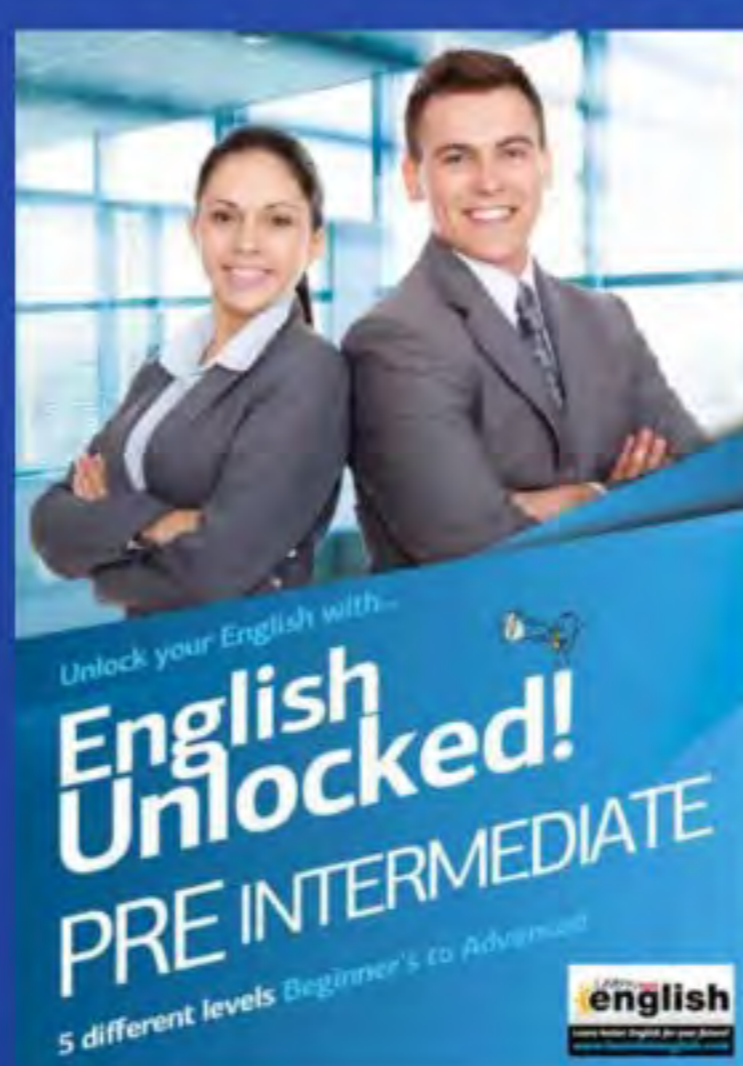
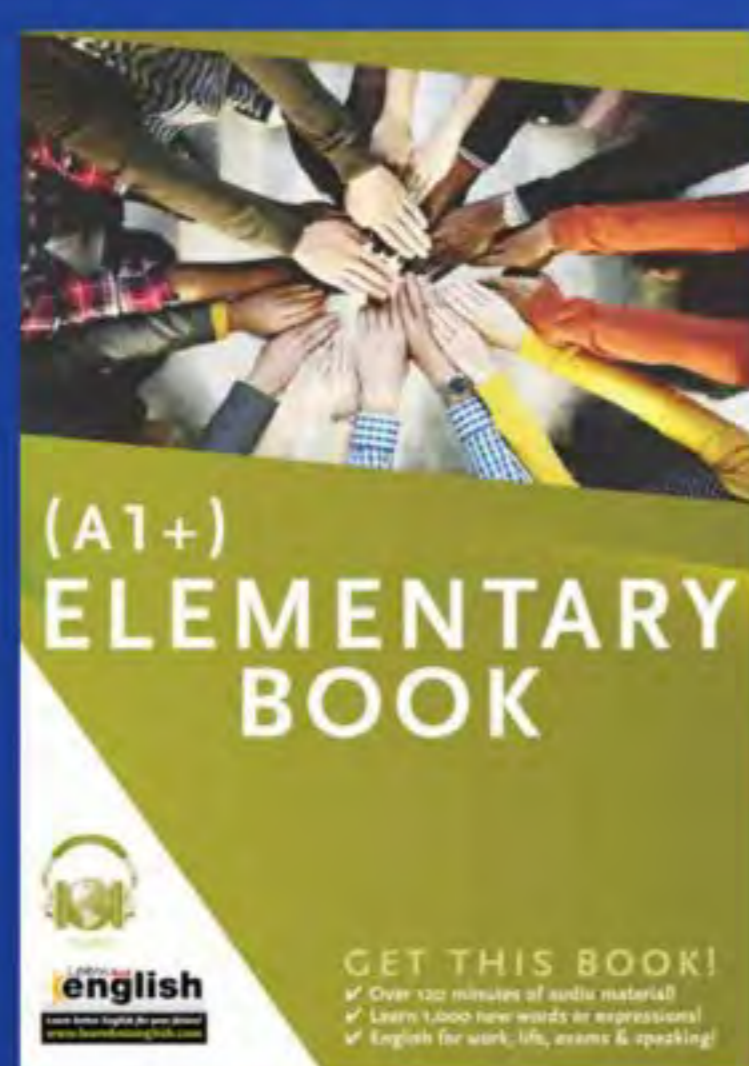
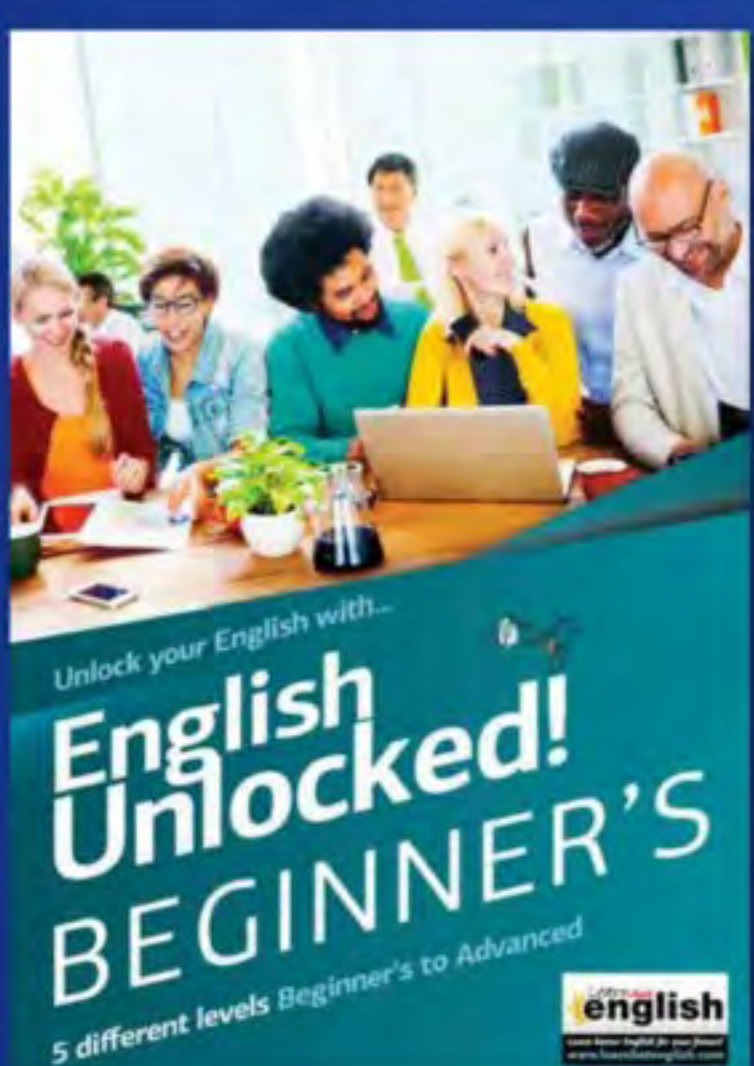
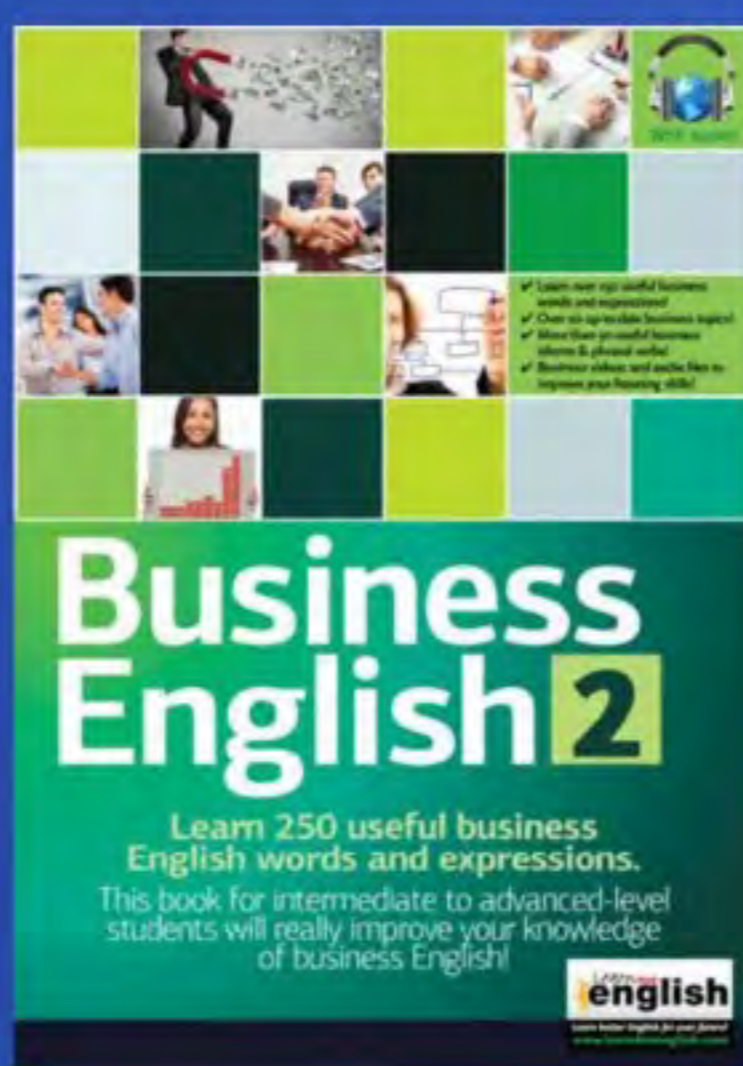
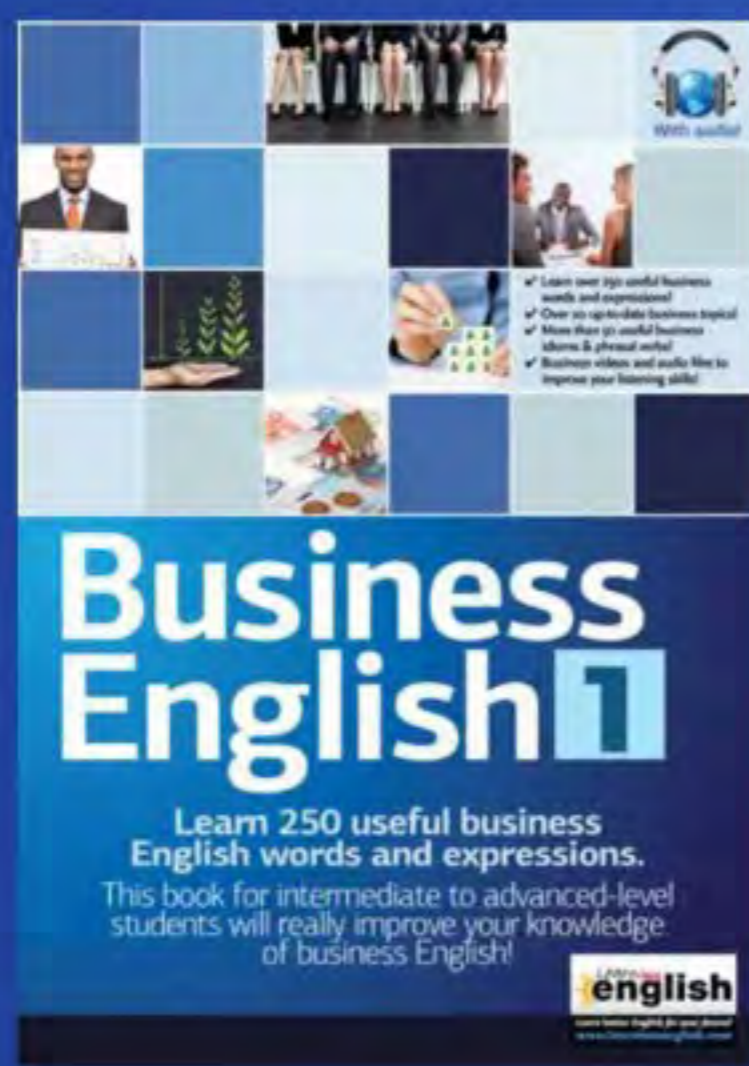
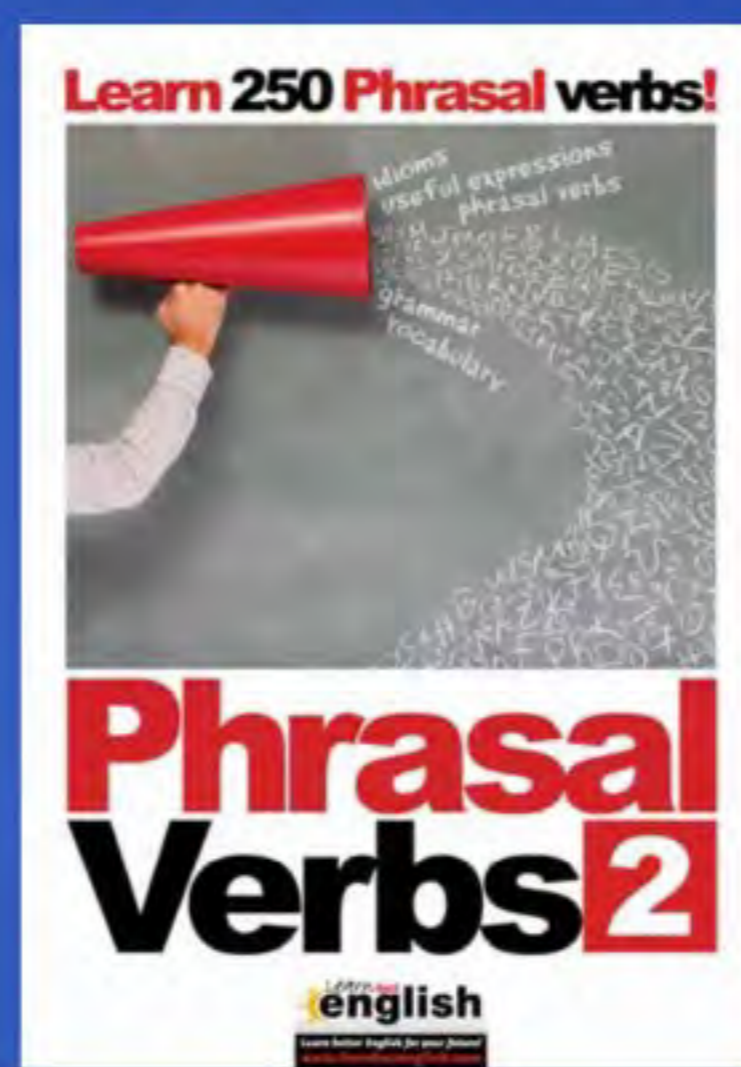
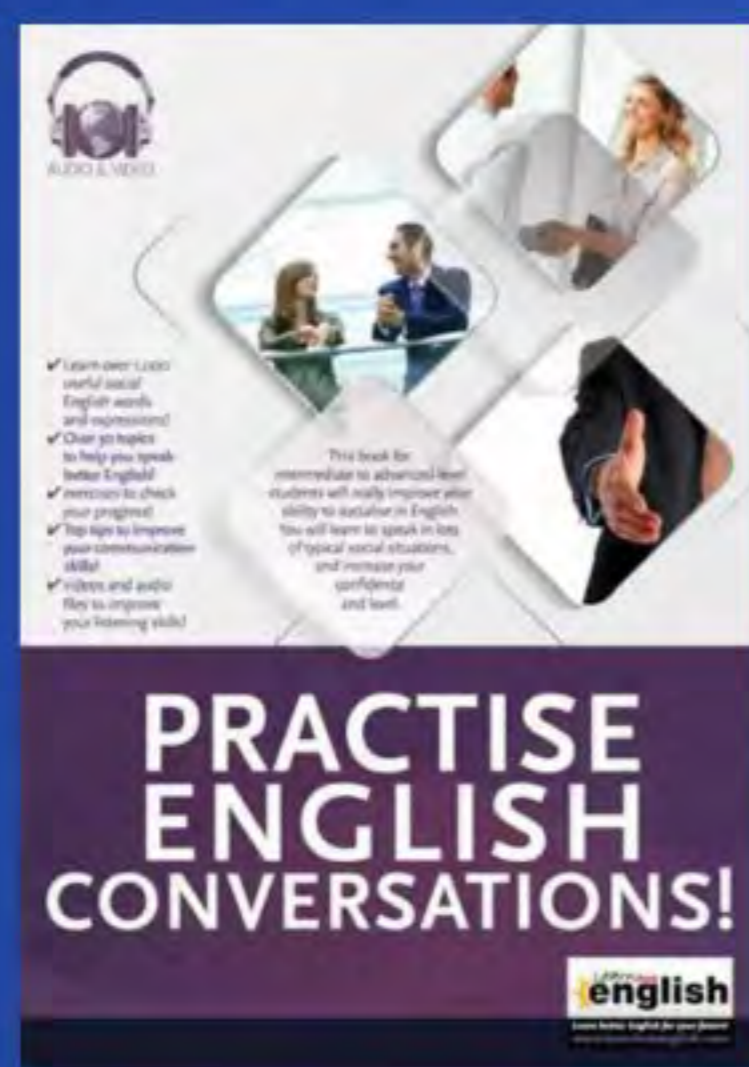
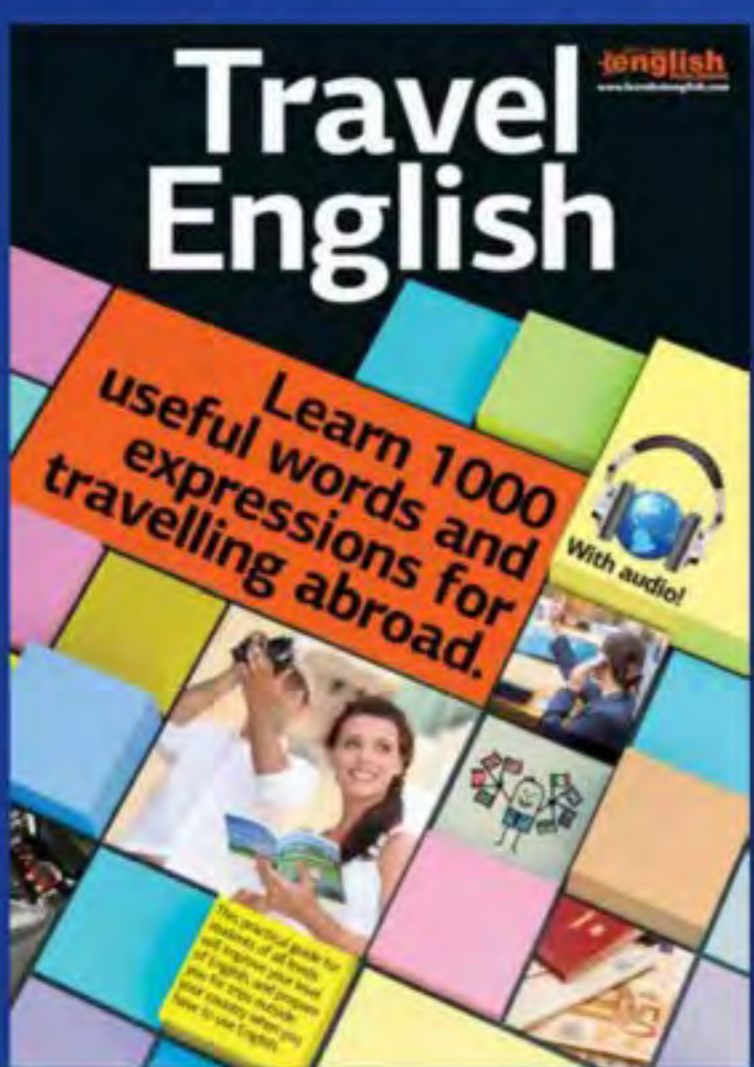
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TRAVEL ENGLISH

AT THE HOTEL

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Vocabulary



Lift / elevator



Receptionist



Double room (with a double bed)



Single room (with a single bed)



Twin room (with two single beds)



Porter / bellboy



Key



Key card



Pillow



Mini-bar



Trouser press



Cot



Safety-deposit box / safe

More words

- **Reception / front desk** – the area in the hotel entrance where you can book rooms or ask questions. The receptionist is usually behind a long table
- **Guest** – a person who is staying in a hotel.
- **Lobby** – the large area near the entrance just when you walk into a hotel.
- **Room service** – if a hotel has “room service”, it will bring food / drinks to your room.
- **Suite** – the most luxurious room in a hotel
- **Bill** – a piece of paper with information about how much you have to pay for the hotel room.
- **Hotel manager** – the person in charge of the hotel and the staff who work there.
- **Air-conditioning** – a machine that produces cold air.
- **Heating** – a machine that produces warm air.
- **Balcony** – an area on the outside of a room with a railing (a guard or barrier) around it.
- **View** – what you can see from the hotel window: the land, sea, mountains, etc.
- **Floor** – the second “floor” of a building (for example) refers to the second level of that building with all the rooms on it.
- **Check in** – when you “check in” to a hotel, you go to the front desk and tell them that you’ve arrived.
- **Check out** – when you “check out”, you go to the front desk and tell them that you’re leaving. You often pay at this point.
- **Wake-up call** – a telephone call from the hotel that will wake you up at a certain time.

Useful expressions

What you say

- I'd like a room for two nights, please.
- I'd like a single room, please.
- I have a reservation under the name of Smith.
- Does the hotel have a swimming pool?
- Is breakfast included?
- We need a cot for the baby, please.
- Could I have a wake-up call at 6am, please?
- What time do we have to check out?

What you hear

- What name was the reservation made under?
- Here's your key. It's room 458.
- It's on the fourth floor.
- The lift is just over there.
- Would you like someone to help you with your bags?
- Breakfast is served between 7 and 11.
- Check-out is at midday.
- Shall I call a taxi for you?

Dialogue: Checking in

Melissa has just arrived at the hotel where she's staying. She's at the front desk.



- Receptionist:** Hi, can I help you?
Melissa: Yes, I made a reservation a couple of weeks ago.
Receptionist: What name did you make it under, please?
Melissa: Simmonds, Melissa Simmonds.
Receptionist: Ah, yes, a single room for two nights.
Melissa: Actually, it was a double room for three nights.
Receptionist: Oh, I'm sorry about that. I'll just change the booking. Right, so that's a double room for three nights.
Melissa: Yes, I'll be checking out on Monday morning.
Receptionist: Could I have your credit card and passport, please?
Melissa: Yes, here you are.
Receptionist: Thanks. You're in room 625, which is on the sixth floor. Here's your key card, and the lift is just over there.
Melissa: Great. What time is the restaurant open for breakfast, please?
Receptionist: Between 7am and 10am.
Melissa: OK, and is there a swimming pool here?
Receptionist: Yes, just down those stairs over there on the right. We've got some pool towels if you need one.
Melissa: Perfect.
Receptionist: And let me know if there's anything else you need. Enjoy your stay.
Melissa: Thanks.

4

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN

ENGLISH SLANG

Slang is an important part of English. It's used a lot in native-speaker conversations, and appears in films, songs and TV shows. Here are four reasons why you should learn English slang*.

1 NATIVE SPEAKERS

If you want to **interact** with native English speakers, you'll need to be familiar with a lot of slang terms. For example, you may have learnt the expression "How are you?" but in informal situations, English-speakers would use something like "How's it going?"

2 FILMS AND TV

Slang terms appear in a lot in films and TV shows, even in fairly **mainstream** ones. Here are just a few of the many slang expressions you can hear in an episode of *Friends* (*The One With the Monkey*) from season one:

- a) You wanna say hi? = Do you want to say hello?
- b) Hey, Joey. Hey, buddy! = Hello, Joey. Hello, my friend.
- c) So, how'd it go? = How did it go? / How was it?
- d) I dunno. = I don't know.

3 MUSIC

There's a lot of slang in songs too. You'll find common terms such as "wanna" (want to) or "gonna" (going to) in most songs, but lots of other slang expressions too. For example, in the Dire Straits song *The Sultans of Swing*, there's the line, "He's got a daytime job, he's doin' alright" where they've used the expression "He's doin' alright", which means, "Things are going well for him."

In other songs, you'll find some more **obscure** terms. For example, rapper MC Hammer uses terms such as "kicks" for **sneakers** and "ghetto bird" for "police helicopter", although they're both terms

that you could probably **work out** the meaning of if you thought about them a bit.

4 FUN + FUNNY

Finally, slang is a fun, visual, playful, exciting and interesting form of language. And some slang expressions are even quite funny. For example:

- A) He's as thick as two planks. = He's really stupid.
- B) I wouldn't trust her as far as I could spit. = I don't trust her at all.
- C) He's as graceful as a pig on ice = He isn't very graceful.

So, what's the best way to learn English slang? Simple! Listen to songs and native speaker conversations, and watch films and TV shows. **Sitcoms** are the best as there's usually a lot of dialogue. Shows to watch could include *The Simpsons*, *South Park*, *Friends*, *The Sopranos* and *Seinfeld*.

Finally, what's the best way to learn slang terms? Well, when you come across an expression you aren't sure of, don't panic! Remember, slang terms in any language are used to express the same basic emotions of excitement, joy, fear, disgust and anger. So, the best thing is to try to guess what the speaker is saying. Simply stop, think, use your imagination and think about the context and the topic. Also, look for any facial expressions, **gestures** and reactions from the other speakers. For example, imagine you ask someone what they thought of a film and they say, "It was wicked!" Now, you may know that "wicked" means "evil" and "bad", but if you see that your friend is smiling and looking enthusiastic, you'll soon realise that "wicked" means "good"!

There's nothing complicated or mystical about slang terms. They're basically common words that are used in a fun, imaginative way. And if you really want to improve your English, you should learn a few of them!

Catch ya later! ✨

*SLANG

What is slang? Very basically, slang is informal language that's often used in conversational English. Of course, there are different types of slang ranging from words that are understood more or less all over the English-speaking world, to more obscure terms that are only used in a particular area or region; and mild terms that can be used in most informal situations, to extremely offensive ones that are hardly ever appropriate.

GLOSSARY

- to interact** *vb*
if two or more people "interact", they talk to one another
- mainstream** *adj*
"mainstream" programmes (for example) are the most typical and popular TV programmes that people watch
- obscure** *adj*
an "obscure" word is only known by a few people
- a sneaker** *n US*
a shoe for doing sport (running, playing football / basketball, etc.). "Trainers" in British English
- to work out** *phr vb*
if you "work out" the meaning of a word, you understand what it means
- a plank** *n*
literally, a "plank" is a long, flat, rectangular piece of wood
- to trust** *vb*
if you "trust" someone, you believe that they are honest and truthful
- to spit** *vb*
to force liquid out of your mouth
- graceful** *adj*
someone who is "graceful" moves in a smooth and controlled way
- a sitcom** *n*
a funny television series about the lives of a group of people
- a gesture** *n*
a movement you make with a part of your body, often in order to express an emotion

50

USEFUL

SLANG

EXPRESSIONS

FOR

A

BIG NIGHT OUT

Do you know what “kip”, “knackered” and “going Dutch” mean? They’re three fairly common English slang expressions. Here are 50 useful English slang expressions to describe going out at night.

PLANNING THE NIGHT

NOT BE BOTHERED

If you “can’t be bothered” to do something, you don’t want to do it, often because you don’t have the energy or you’re feeling lazy.

“I can’t be bothered to go into town – let’s just go to the pub round the corner.”

KIP

A short sleep, often in the afternoon.

“I think I’ll have a kip before we head out.”

TO GET DOLLED UP

To put on nice clothes for a special occasion (usually for women).

“I’m going to get dolled up for the party.”

TO PUT YOUR FACE ON

To put make-up on (usually for women).

“Wait! I’ve got to put my face on!”

TO HAVE PRE-DRINKS

To have some drinks at home before going to a club or pub (often as a way of saving money!). Also, “to pre-drink”.

“Let’s have a few pre-drinks before going out!”

MAKE IT

If you can’t “make it” somewhere, you aren’t able to go there.

“Thanks for the invite, but I don’t think I can make it as I’ve got a conference to go to the next day.”

MEETING UP

A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

People often use this expression when they

meet up with someone they haven’t seen for a long time.

“You’re a sight for sore eyes! Last time I saw you was at Brad’s wedding.”

YOU MUST BE MAD / YOU MUST BE MENTAL

People often use these expressions to say that they’d never do the thing they’re talking about. It’s a way of emphasising what you want to say.

“You must be mad if you think I’m going to drink that”, which means, “I’d never drink that!”

TO HANG OUT

If you “hang out” with people, you spend time with them, chatting, drinking, socialising, etc.

“We’re going to hang out with Jamie and Harriet before going to the party if you fancy coming along.”

TO TAKE A CHILL PILL / TO CHILL OUT

If you tell someone to “chill out”, you’re telling them to relax and be calm.

A: If we don’t leave soon, we’ll be late.

B: Chill out! We’ll be fine.

TO BE GUTTED

If you’re “gutted” about something, you’re unhappy and disappointed about it.

“I’m gutted they cancelled the concert. I was really looking forward to it.”

AT THE RESTAURANT

TO BE STARVING

To be really hungry.

“I hope the food comes soon. I’m starving.”

TO EAT A HORSE

If say you could “eat a horse”, you’re saying that you’re really hungry.

“Let’s order now. I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.”

TO SCOFF

If someone “scoffs” food, they eat all of it very quickly.

A: I didn’t get any of the starters.

B: That’s ‘cos Bryan scoffed them all.

TO WOLF DOWN

To eat food very quickly.

“You must have been hungry. You wolfed that pizza down in seconds!”

TO BE STUFFED

If you’re “stuffed”, you feel full because you’ve eaten too much.

“I never should have had that dessert. I’m stuffed.”

TO GO DUTCH

To divide a bill equally between the people who are there. For example, if there are two people, each pays 50% of the bill.

“Let’s go Dutch!”

TO DO A RUNNER

To leave a bar or restaurant without paying the bill.

“Quick, the waiter isn’t looking! Let’s do a runner!”

AT THE BAR/CLUB

KITTY

An amount of money that everyone contributes to and that is used to pay for drinks, etc.

“Everybody has to put ten euros into the kitty.”

TO SPLASH OUT

To spend a lot of money, often in order to celebrate something.

“Let’s get a bottle of champagne. I feel like splashing out.”

TO DOWN IN ONE

To drink all the contents of a glass without stopping or pausing.

“Look, everyone! I’m going to down this pint of beer in one.”

HIT THE SPOT

If something “hits the spot”, it’s perfect for you.

“Mmm... That cold beer really hit the spot.”

TO BE WASTED / PLASTERED / HAMMERED / SLAUGHTERED / PISSED (UK)

To be very drunk

“He can’t even stand up. He’s wasted!”

NOTE: In Britain “to be pissed” means to be drunk, but in the USA it means “to be angry”.

TO HAVE HAD ONE TOO MANY

If you say that someone has had “one too many”, you’re saying that they’ve had too much alcohol.

The “one” refers to a glass of beer / wine / whisky, etc.

“You should go home. I think you’ve had one too many.”

TO GET THE DRINKS IN

To buy drinks for everyone in the group you’re with.

“I think it’s my turn to get the drinks in. What are you having?”

ROUND

A “round” of drinks is a selection of drinks for everyone in the group you’re with.

“I’ll get this round! / It’s my round!”

TIGHT / STINGY

If you say that someone is “tight”, you’re saying that they never spend money.

“He never gets anyone else a drink. He’s just so tight.”

TO SPLIT THE COST

If you “split the cost” of something, you share the cost, often dividing it in half.

“Let’s split the cost!”

THE PARTY

HOUSE-WARMING PARTY / HOUSE-WARMING

A party someone has soon after moving into a new house/flat.

“We moved in last Thursday, and we’re having the house-warming party on Saturday night if you want to come along.”

TO GATECRASH

To go to a party you weren’t invited to.

“They gatecrashed a party in the town centre.”

Objective: To learn some English slang.

Think about it!

Do you use a lot of slang when speaking in your language? In what situations do you use slang, and in what situations should you avoid it? Is English slang difficult to learn? Why? Why not? Why is it a good idea to learn English slang?

TO ROCK

If something “rocks”, it’s great / fantastic.

“This party rocks!”

TO BE AWESOME

To be great / fantastic.

“The party was awesome!”

TO BE LAME / TO SUCK

If something is “lame” or if it “sucks”, it’s terrible.

“This party is totally lame!”

TO CHECK OUT

If you tell A to “check something (or someone) out”, you’re telling A to look at that thing or person.

“Check out that guy on the dance floor – he’s really cute.”

TALENT

This word is used to refer to attractive people in general.

A: Shall we go?

B: No way! There’s loads of talent here.

LOOKING FOR LOVE

TO BE ON THE PULL

If someone is “on the pull”, they’re looking for “romance”.

“Mark split up with his girlfriend last week so I think he’s on the pull.”

FIT / HOT

Good-looking

“Wow! That guy over there is really fit!”

TO CHAT SOMEONE UP

To talk to someone in a playful, fun way because you think they’re attractive.

“I think that girl was trying to chat me up!”

TO BE IN LUCK

If you’re “in luck”, someone seems to be interested in you.

“I think I’m in luck – he asked for my phone number.”

TO SNOG

To kiss someone intimately and for a long time.

“They were snogging.”

TO FANCY SOMEONE

To find someone attractive.

“I really fancy him. I think he’s gorgeous!”

GOING HOME

TO HIT THE ROAD / TO GET GOING / TO GET MOVING / TO MAKE TRACKS

To leave a place / to go home

“I think I’m going to hit the road. I’ve got to get up early tomorrow.”

TO HAVE A BLAST

If you “have a blast”, you have a great time.

“I had a blast last night! Let’s do it again sometime!”

KNACKERED / SHATTERED

If you’re “knackered”, you’re very tired.

“I’m going home. I’m knackered!”

TO HIT THE SACK / HAY

To go to bed

“I can’t wait to get home and hit the sack.”

TO SHARE A CAB

If you “share a cab” with someone who is going in the same direction as you, you both take the same taxi and divide the cost.

“I don’t fancy walking home. Why don’t we share a cab?”

THE NEXT DAY

NOT REMEMBER A THING

If you “can’t remember a thing”, you can’t remember anything.

“Did I make a fool of myself last night? I can’t remember a thing.”

THUMPING HEADACHE

If you’ve got a “thumping headache”, your head is hurting a lot.

“I’ve got a thumping headache. Have you got an aspirin?”

TO FACE THE MUSIC

To deal with the consequences of something bad that you’ve done.

“I got drunk and swore at my boss last night. On Monday I’ll have to face the music.”

TO TAKE IT EASY

To relax.

“I’ve got a terrible hangover. I think I’m gonna go and lie down and take it easy.” ☺



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CHRISTINE LAGARDE:

The money boss!



IMB - I'M THE BOSS!

Christine Lagarde has had an amazing career. She's a French politician and lawyer who has served as President of the European Central Bank since 2019. She previously served as the 11th Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2011 to 2019 – effectively being responsible for the economy of the entire world! She was the first woman in history to hold this position. So, what are Ms Lagarde's top tips for success?

Travel

"Travel the world. Be citizens of the world." That's the first piece of advice Christine gave to business students at a recent conference. Although Christine is French, she spent time studying and working in the United States. Of course, you don't have to **live overseas** to do well in business. But simply going on holiday to new countries will **expand your horizons**.

Preparation

There's a saying in English: "If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail." Christine makes sure she's ready for whatever **challenges lie ahead**. To get the IMF job she had to attend 24 different interviews. So, even though she was busy at the time as the French Minister of Finance, she studied hard and prepared exhaustively. And, of course, she got the job.

English

English is the international language of business. If you have a strong command of English, you're more likely to get a good job or be promoted. Christine has an excellent level of English and it has certainly helped her **get to** where she is today. So, read in English as much as possible, and watch English-language TV series, movies with subtitles and listen to English music.

Health

Christine is known for her incredible **stamina**. Whether its all-night negotiations or long, boring meetings, she just **keeps on going**. How does she do it? By **staying fit**. She told reporters that

staying in shape is extremely important for achieving success. Christine is a former **synchronised swimmer** and she **jogs**, swims and cycles whenever possible.

Perspective

No matter how bad things seem, it's important to stay calm. Christine once said, "When I sit in meetings and things are very tense and people are taking things extremely seriously, I sometimes think to myself, 'Come on, you know, there's life and there's death and there's love.'" She says that so many of the problems we face are "nonsense" when compared to those three important things.

Success

Christine told a French newspaper "success is never complete. It's an **endless combat**. Each morning one must put one's capacities to the test again." Remember that success is not an objective that you will one day **reach**. Instead, think of your quest for excellence as a journey that will last your whole life.

Problems

"When everything is going wrong, just **grit your teeth** and smile." That was the piece of advice that Christine's synchronised swimming coach gave her many years ago. So even when nothing is going your way, remember to stay positive and keep going! ⭐

Objective

To improve your reading comprehension and learn business tips in English.

Think about it

What challenges do you think women business leaders face? What are your tips for finding the right work-life balance? What do you know about Christine Lagarde and the IMF?

GLOSSARY

- the IMF** *abbr*
the International Monetary Fund – an organisation made up of 185 countries that supervises global financial processes and offers financial help when necessary
- to live overseas** *exp*
to live in a country that isn't the country you were born in or where you normally live
- to expand your horizons** *exp*
to gain more experience
- a challenge** *n*
something that is difficult for you
- to lie ahead** *exp*
if something "lies ahead", it could possibly happen in the future
- to get to** *exp*
if you "get to" a certain position, you arrive there, often after hard work
- stamina** *n*
the energy you have to continue doing something
- to keep on going** *exp*
if you "keep on going", you don't get tired and continue doing something
- to stay fit** *exp*
if you "stay fit" you do exercise so you're strong and healthy
- a synchronised swimmer** *n*
a sports person who swims in a team of swimmers. They swim in a swimming pool in time to music
- to jog** *vb*
to run as a form of exercise
- endless** *adj*
if something is "endless", it never stops
- combat** *n*
if you say that something is a "combat" (or a "struggle"), you're saying that it's difficult
- to reach (an objective)** *exp*
if you "reach" an objective, you do what you said you would do (you achieve it)
- to grit your teeth** *exp*
to accept a difficult situation and to deal with it in a determined way. Literally, to push your top teeth down on your bottom teeth

RECIPE GORDON RAMSAY'S STICKY LEMON CHICKEN

Try this delicious chicken recipe by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay.



Ingredients

- 500 grams of chicken **drumsticks** and **thighs**
- ½ a lemon, **sliced**
- 1 tablespoon of vinegar (preferably sherry vinegar)
- 3 tablespoons of **soy sauce**
- 1 tablespoon of honey
- 4 tablespoons of water
- Olive oil
- **Bunch** of fresh **thyme**
- Bunch of fresh **parsley**
- Salt and pepper

Process

1. **Heat** the oil in a large pan. **Add** the chicken pieces to the pan and season them with salt and pepper. Brown the chicken pieces for about five minutes, turning them regularly.
2. Add the soy sauce, vinegar and sliced lemon to the pan. **Squeeze** a little extra lemon juice over the chicken. Add the water. Continue to cook for another 5 minutes. The liquid will **reduce down** and become **syrupey**.
3. Add the fresh thyme and honey to the pan. Season the chicken a little more and **stir** all the ingredients together. Cook for another couple of minutes.
4. Mix the fresh parsley in with the chicken.
5. When it's ready, serve it with some **mashed potato**. ★

VIDEO



Search YouTube for "**Gordon Ramsay lemon chicken**"

GLOSSARY

- a drumstick** *n*
the lower part of a chicken leg
- a thigh** *n*
the upper part of a chicken leg
- to slice** *vb*
to cut into thin pieces
- soy sauce** *n*
a dark brown liquid made from soya beans. It's often used in Chinese cooking
- a bunch of** *exp*
a small amount of (literally, a group of things growing closely together)
- thyme** *n*
a herb with small leaves. It's often used in sauces
- parsley** *n*
a green plant that is often used as garnish (decoration for food)
- to heat** *vb*
if you "heat" food, you make it warmer
- to add** *vb*
if you "add" food to a pot, you put the food in the pot
- to squeeze** *vb*
if you "squeeze" a lemon, you use pressure/force to make the juice come out
- to reduce down** *phr vb*
if you "reduce down" a liquid, you cook it until the liquid has disappeared
- syrupey** *adv*
liquid that's "syrupey" is sweet and thick
- to stir** *vb*
if you "stir" food, you move it with a spoon
- mashed potato** *n*
potato that has been cooked and that is a soft mass

Real Language in action

FILM SCRIPT ARGO



Argo is about six US **diplomats** who escaped from Tehran (Iran) during the 1979 **hostage crisis***. Ben Affleck plays Tony Mendez, the **CIA** agent in charge of rescuing the six. Mendez's plan is to go to Tehran and convince the authorities there that he's a director making a science-fiction movie (called *Argo*). He hopes to get the

diplomats out of the country by **pretending** they're part of his **film crew**. In order to make his story even more credible, he organises a **launch party** for the film, hires a producer, creates a **storyboard** and even prints off posters and **brochures**. In this scene, Mendez is trying to convince Hollywood producer Lester Siegel to help him with his plan. Also present at the meeting is Hollywood make-up artist John Chambers (played by John Goodman), who has put Mendez in contact with Siegel.

ARGO

Argo won three Oscars, including Best Picture.



VIDEO



To watch and read along, search YouTube for "**Argo 'The Plan' Clip**"

GLOSSARY

- a diplomat** *n*
a senior official who represents a country and who works in an embassy
- a hostage** *n*
if A takes B "hostage", A captures B and makes demands to a government, etc. If the demands aren't met, A may kill B
- the CIA** *abbr*
the Central Intelligence Agency, a US spy agency
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true, even though it isn't
- the film crew** *n*
the people who work on a film: the sound engineers, the lighting technicians, etc.
- a launch party** *n*
a party to celebrate a new film, book, etc.
- a storyboard** *n*
a set of pictures which show what will happen in a film
- a brochure** *n*
a thin book with pictures and information about a product or service
- to hide out** *phr vb*
if someone is "hiding out" in a city (for example), they're in a secret place where the police, etc. can't find them
- the live-long day** *n*
an unusual way of saying "all day"
- to set up** *phr vb*
if you "set up" a film, you plan and arrange it and make sure that it can happen
- to lie** *vb*
if you "lie" to someone, you tell them something that isn't true
- for a living** *exp*
the things you do "for a living" are the things you do to earn money
- to sneak** *vb*
if you "sneak" into a place, you enter there secretly and quietly
- the Brady Bunch** *n*
an American television series about a family with six children
- a militia** *n*
an organisation that operates like an army but whose members are not professional soldiers
- I gotta tell you** *abbr inform*
I have got to tell you / I must say
- a suicide mission** *n*
a mission in which the soldiers taking part will probably die
- odds** *n*
if something has good "odds", it'll probably be successful

The Script

Siegel (to Chambers):

OK, you got six people **hiding out** in a town of what... four million people, all of whom chant "Death to America!" all the **live-long day**. You want to **set up** a movie in a week, you want to **lie** to Hollywood... a town where everybody lies **for a living**. Then you're going to **sneak** over here [referring to Mendez] into a country that wants CIA blood on their breakfast cereal, and you're going to walk the **Brady Bunch** out of the most watched city in the world.

Mendez: Past about a hundred **militia** at the airport. That's right.

Lester: Right. Look, **I gotta tell you**. We did **suicide missions** in the army that had better **odds** than this.



***The hostage crisis** began on 4th November 1979 when 52 Americans were taken hostage in the American embassy in Tehran (Iran). They were held until 20th January 1981. At the time, many Iranians were angry at America's support for the last shah (king) of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He was overthrown by the Iranian Revolution on 11th February 1979.

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.**Think about it** What superstitions are there in your country? Which ones do you believe in? How superstitious are you? Which superstitions from this article exist in your country?**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as FCE, IELTS and TOEFL.

7 SUPERSTITIONS FROM ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Are you **superstitious**? Here are the origins of seven common superstitions from English-speaking countries.

If you break a mirror, you'll have seven years' bad luck

It was an ancient belief that mirrors could capture your **soul**, so breaking a mirror was like damaging your spirit. The only way to **counter** the bad luck is to **bury** the broken pieces in a hole and to cover them up with mud.

If you spill some salt, throw it over your left shoulder or you'll have bad luck

In the past, many people believed that **spilling** salt could lead to bad luck. The only way to stop this was to throw salt over your left shoulder, which is where they believed the **devil** was often **lurking**. The belief was that you could neutralise the bad luck by throwing salt into the devil's eyes.

If a black cat crosses your path, bad luck will follow

During the Middle Ages, people thought black cats were witches **in disguise**. And a black cat crossing your path was a sign that the devil was watching you.

It's good luck to find a horseshoe in an open field

If you find a horseshoe in an open field, you need to **pick it up** with your right hand, make a **wish**, then throw it over your left shoulder. The ancient Greeks considered the horseshoe a symbol of **fertility** and good fortune. In England in the Middle Ages people often hung an **upside-down** horseshoe on

doors to **frighten off** witches or demons.

Knock on wood to stop bad things from happening

If you're talking about something and you don't want it to happen, you need to knock on a piece of wood and say "touch wood!" For example, if you say, "I've never had an accident", you need to tap on a piece of wood so you don't actually have an accident yourself. This comes from an ancient belief that good spirits lived in trees. However, when the tree was cut down, the spirits inside would die and evil spirits would **take over**. By knocking on the wood, you could **drive away** the evil spirits, and prevent any **misfortune**.

The number 13 will bring you bad luck

In many English-speaking countries, the number 13 is considered unlucky. And Friday 13th is *the* day for misfortune. This superstition is so common that some hotels avoid having a 13th floor, and airlines don't give tickets for the 13th row. But why? Apparently, the origins are religious. At Jesus Christ's **Last Supper**, there were thirteen people around the table (including Christ and the twelve **apostles**); and Friday was the day that Christ was **crucified**. Fear of the number 13 (**triskaidekaphobia**) is a specifically-recognised phobia.

Walking under a ladder will bring you bad luck

The origins of this superstition are also religious. In Christianity, the triangle is a **sacred** symbol that represents the Holy

Trinity of the **Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**. A ladder against a building forms the shape of a triangle. So, by walking under it, you "break" the triangle. Of course, apart from that, it also seems logical that if you walk under a ladder, something could fall on your head! ☺

GLOSSARY

superstitious *adj*

people who are "superstitious" believe in magic or things that aren't real

a soul *n*

the part of you that consists of your mind, character, thoughts and feelings

to counter *vb*

if you "counter" an action or process, you create an opposite effect and stop it happening (or reduce its power)

to bury *vb*

to put in a hole in the ground

to spill *vb*

if you "spill" liquid (for example), a bit of it falls from a container

the devil *n*

the most powerful evil spirit

to lurk *vb*

if someone "lurks" somewhere, they wait there secretly, often in order to do something bad

in disguise *exp*

if someone is "in disguise", they're wearing different clothes so you don't recognise them

to pick up *phr vb*

if you "pick something up", you take it in your hands

a wish *n*

if you "make a wish", you ask for something that you'd like

fertility *n*

the ability to reproduce and have babies

upside down *exp*

if something is "upside down", the top part is at the bottom, and the bottom part is at the top

to frighten off *phr vb*

to do something to frighten someone and to make them leave a place

to take over *phr vb*

if A "takes over" an area, A starts to dominate and control that area

to drive away *phr vb*

if you "drive someone away", you make them leave a place

misfortune *n*

something unpleasant or unlucky that happens

the Last Supper *n*

the last meal that Jesus had with his followers before he was crucified (see other entry)

an apostle *n*

a person who followed Jesus Christ and who told people about him and tried to persuade them to become Christians. The 12 apostles were the 12 people chosen by Jesus to carry on his work after his death

to crucify *vb*

if someone is "crucified", they're killed by being tied or nailed to a cross and left to die

sacred *adj*

"sacred" objects have a special connection with God

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit *exp*

the Father (God), the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Jesus' spirit after he died)

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading

Think of three superstitions from your country.

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Were any of your superstitions mentioned? Are they exactly the same in your country?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions without referring back to the article.

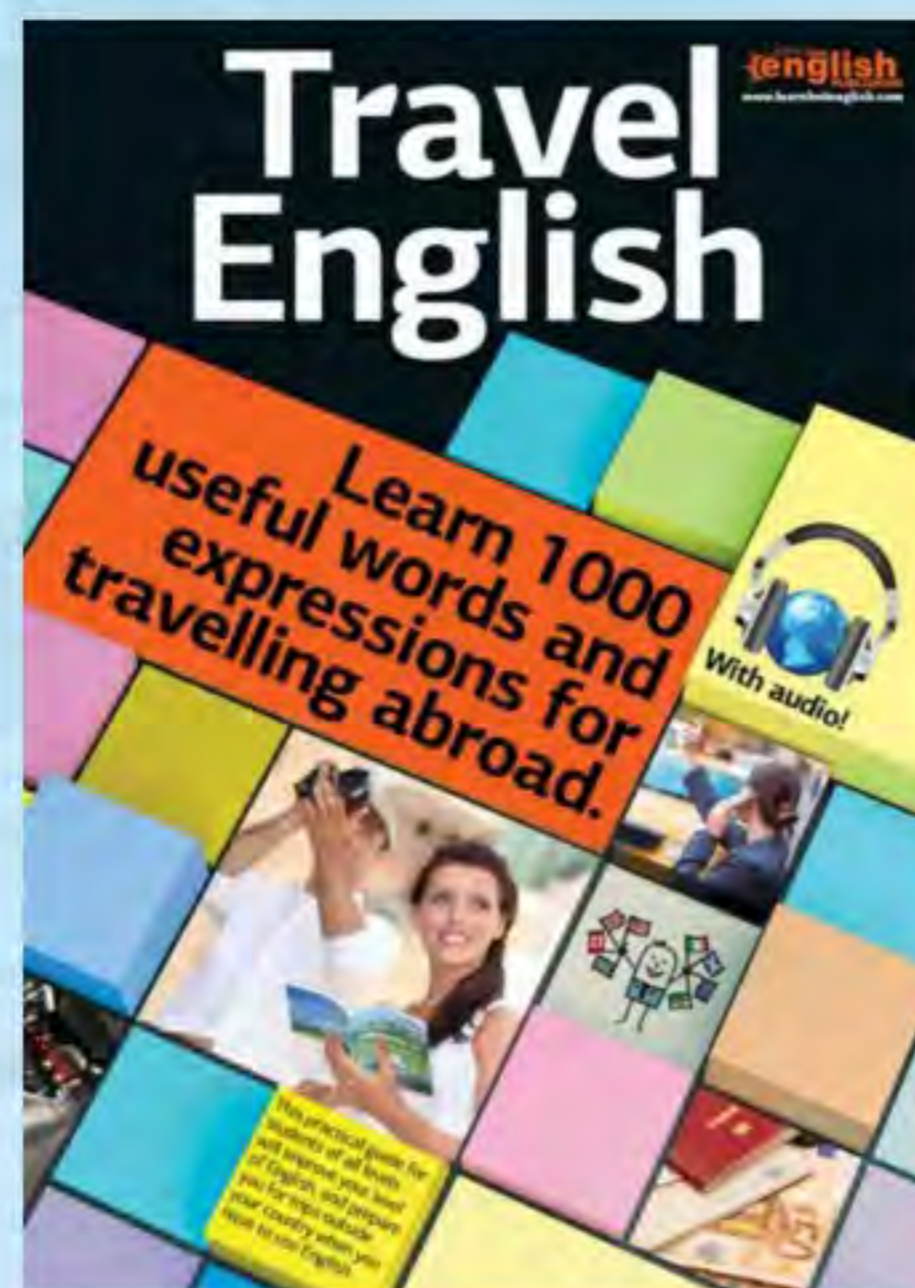
- How many years' bad luck will you have if you break a mirror?
- What should you throw over your left shoulder if you spill some salt?
- What should you do if you find a horseshoe in an open field?
- What are the origins of the "unlucky" number 13?
- What are the origins of the "walking under a ladder" superstition?

Learn better English for your future... FAST



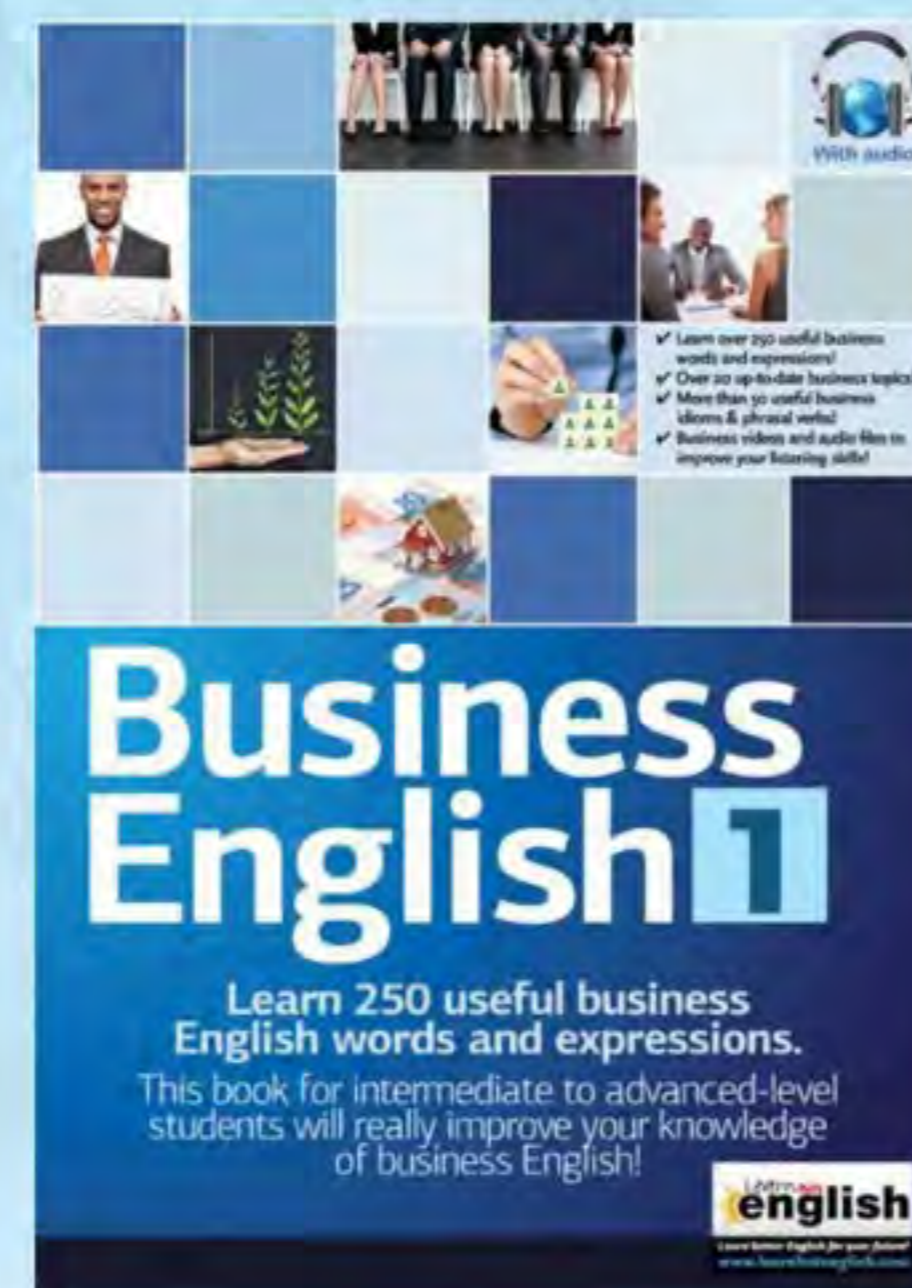
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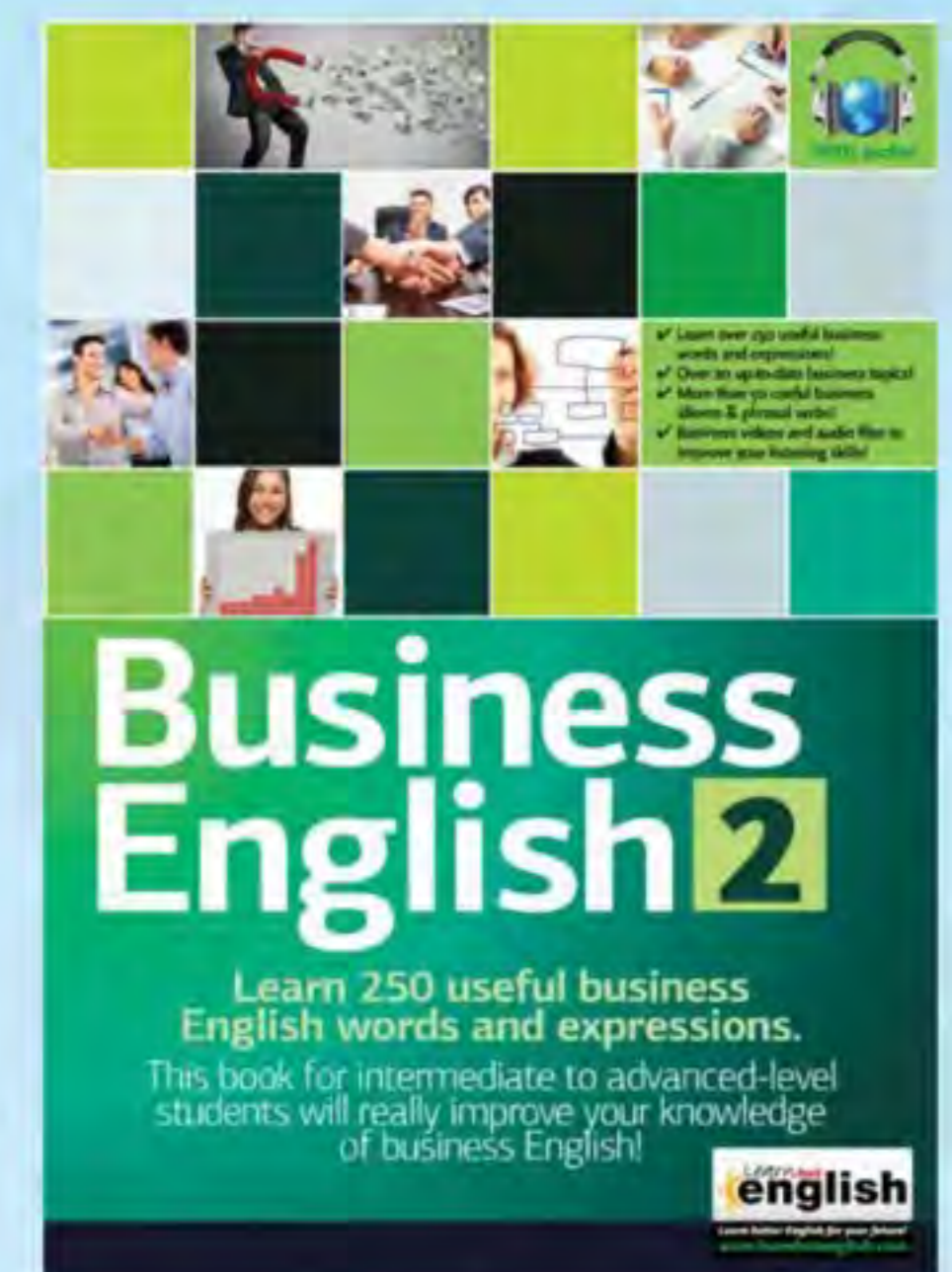
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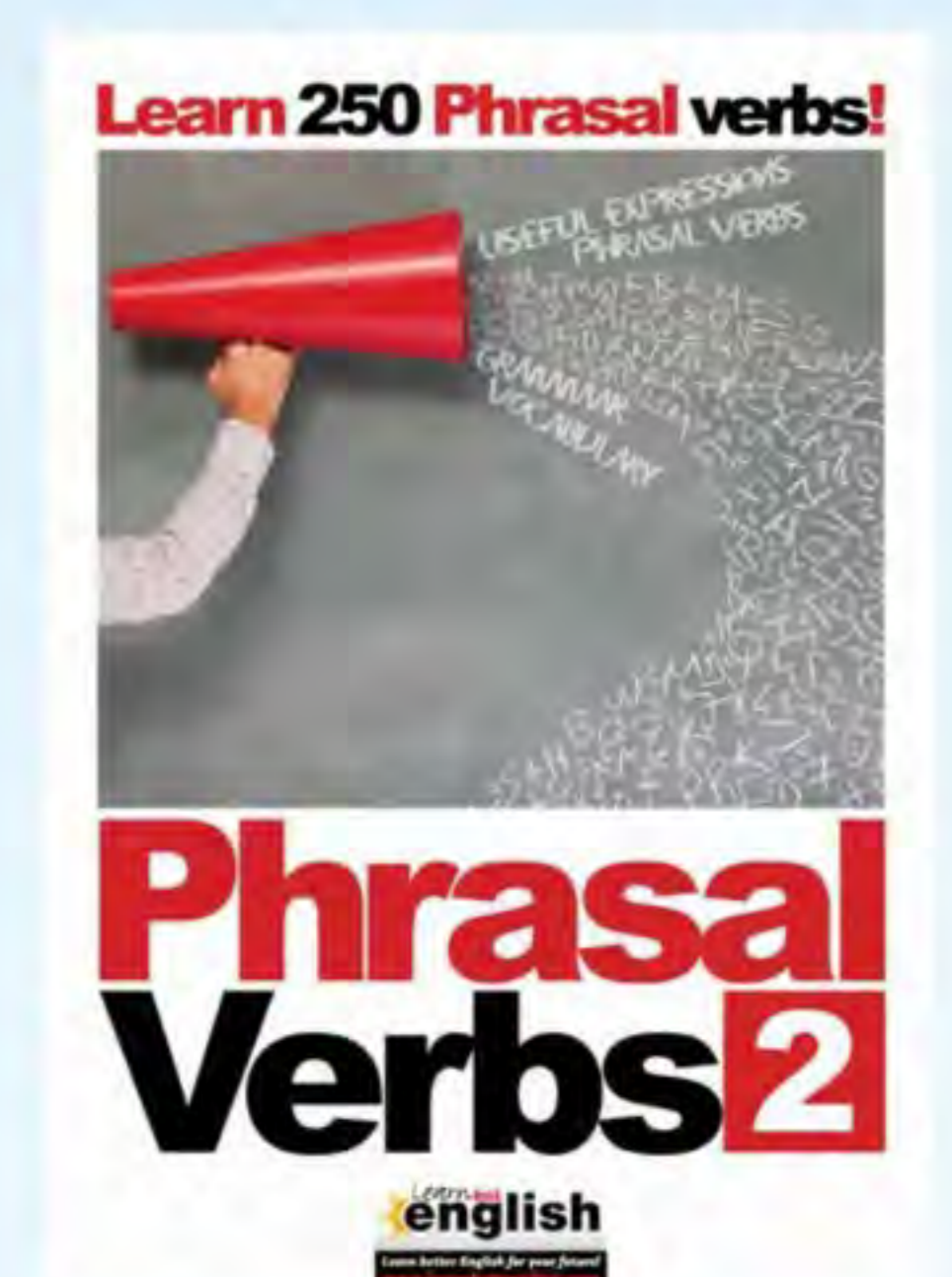
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VOCABULARY CLINIC

UK / US WORDS - COMMON EXPRESSIONS



1

British English: A: Here's your coffee. B: Cheers!
American English: A: I paid the money into your account. B: Thanks.



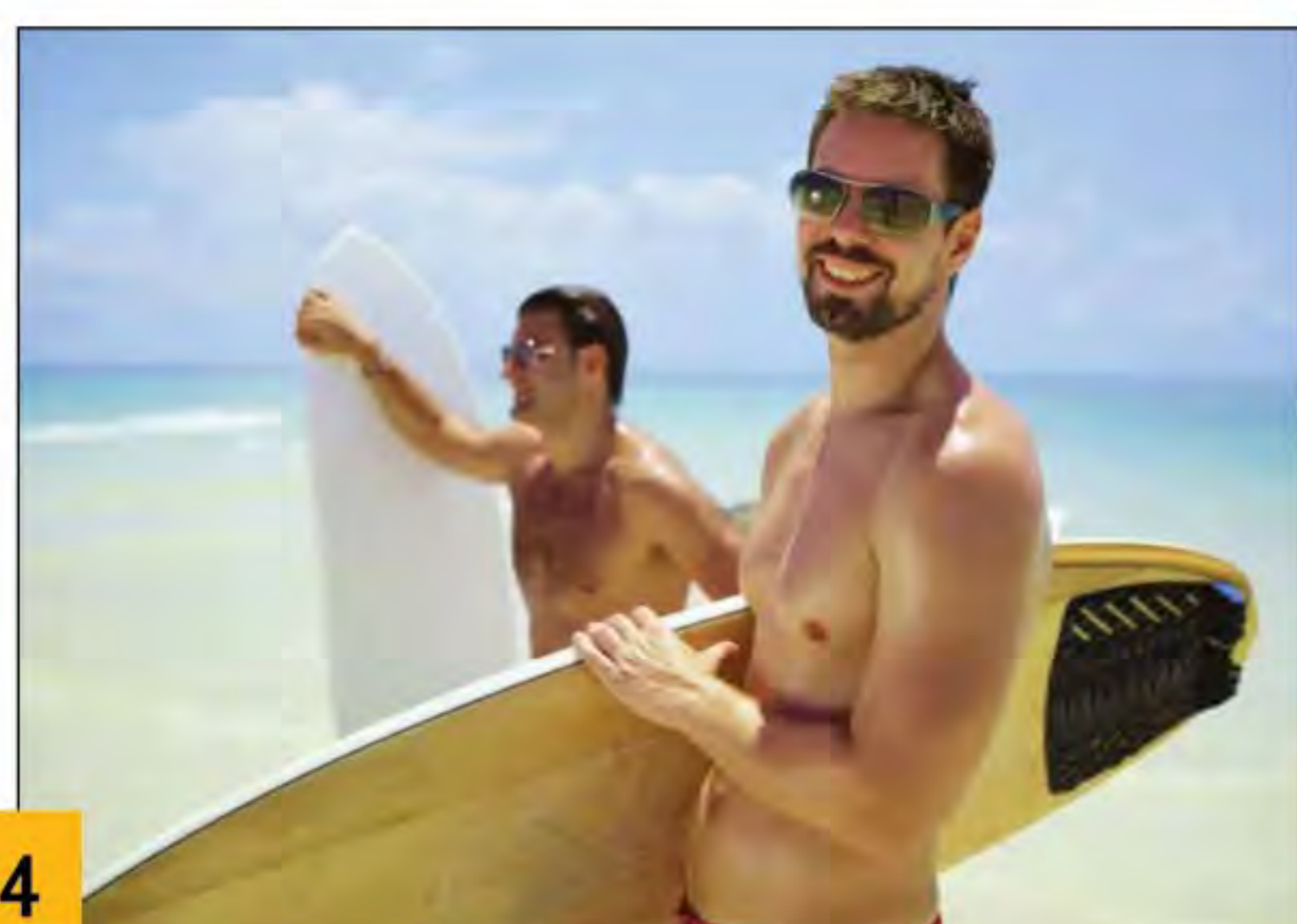
2

British English: We're going away for a **fortnight** (a period of 2 weeks).
American English: We stayed there for **two weeks**.



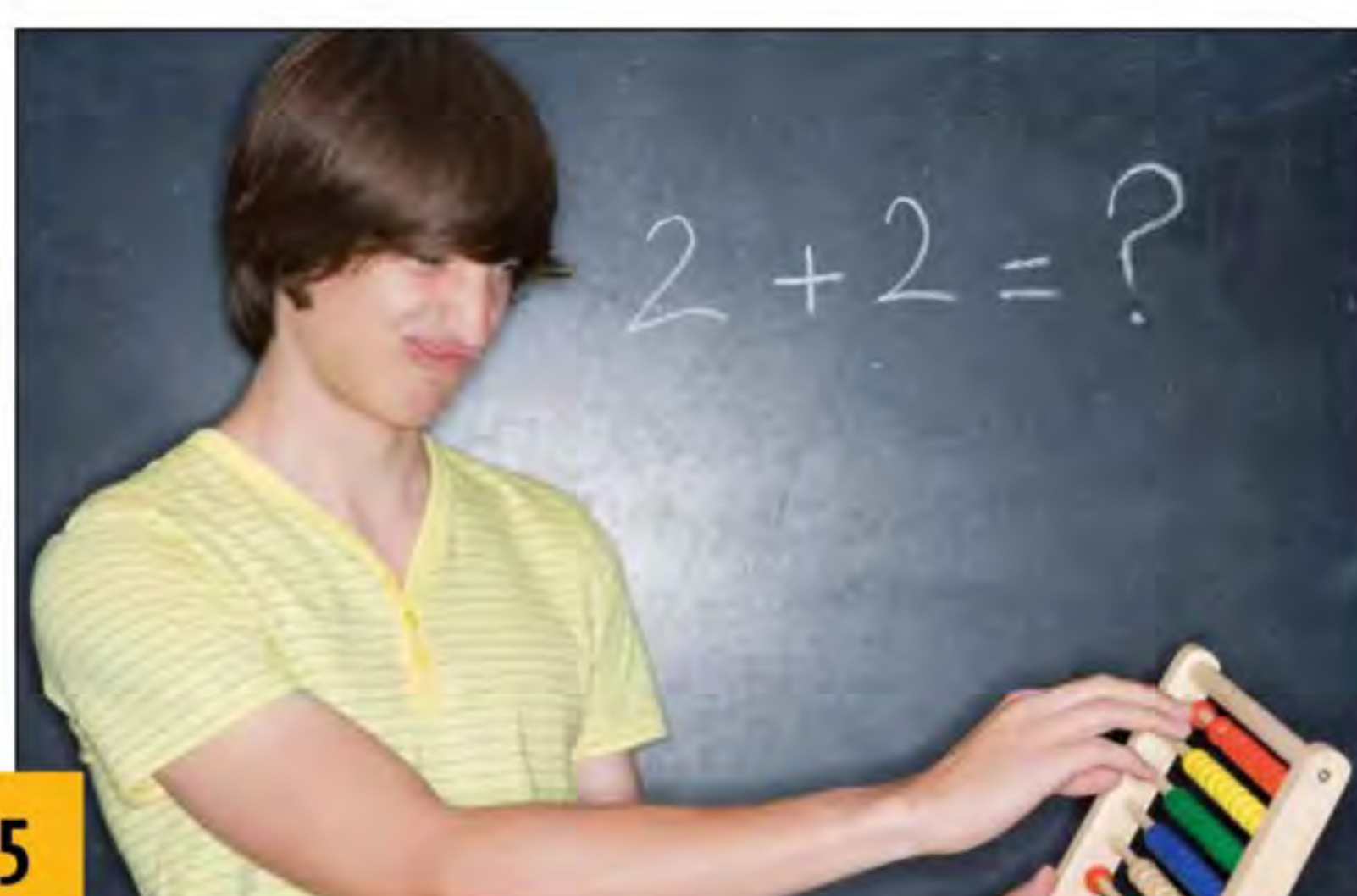
3

British English: She's really **angry** with us.
American English: She's **mad** at us. [Americans also use the word "angry". In British English, "mad" means "crazy" or "insane".]



4

British English: I took a couple of my **mates** to the party. [friends]
American English: I went to the beach with my **buddy**.



5

British English: He studied **maths** at university.
American English: I was never very good at **math**. [Americans don't use the plural form.]



6

British English: I love it in the **autumn** when the leaves turn brown.
American English: **Fall** is one of my favourite seasons.



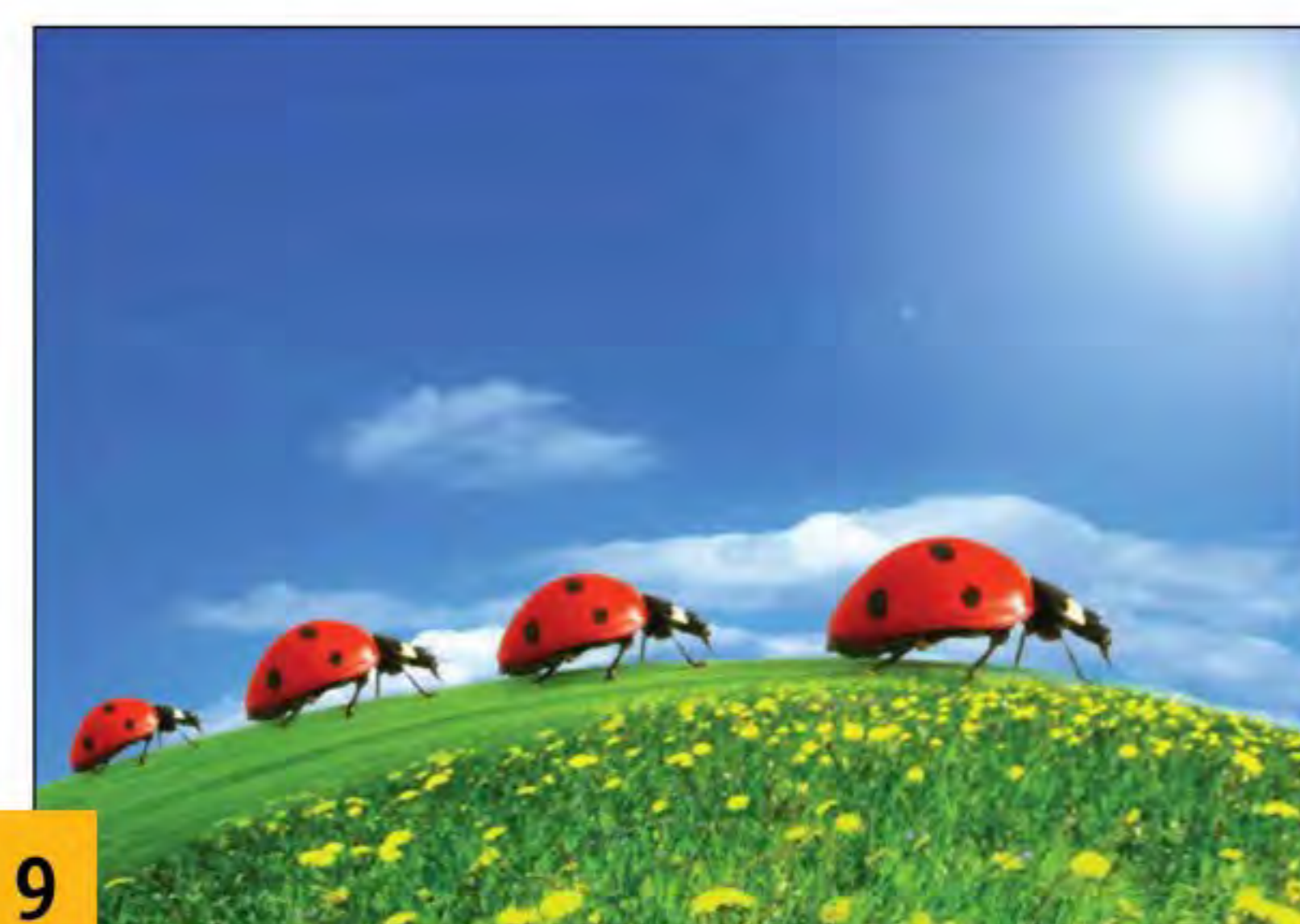
7

British English: I'll give you a call on my **mobile**.
American English: Have you seen my **cell phone** anywhere?



8

British English: She was trying to **chat me up!** [to speak to someone in a playful, friendly way because you like them]
American English: He was trying to **pick me up!**



9

British English: I found an **insect** in my salad.
American English: The house was full of **bugs**.



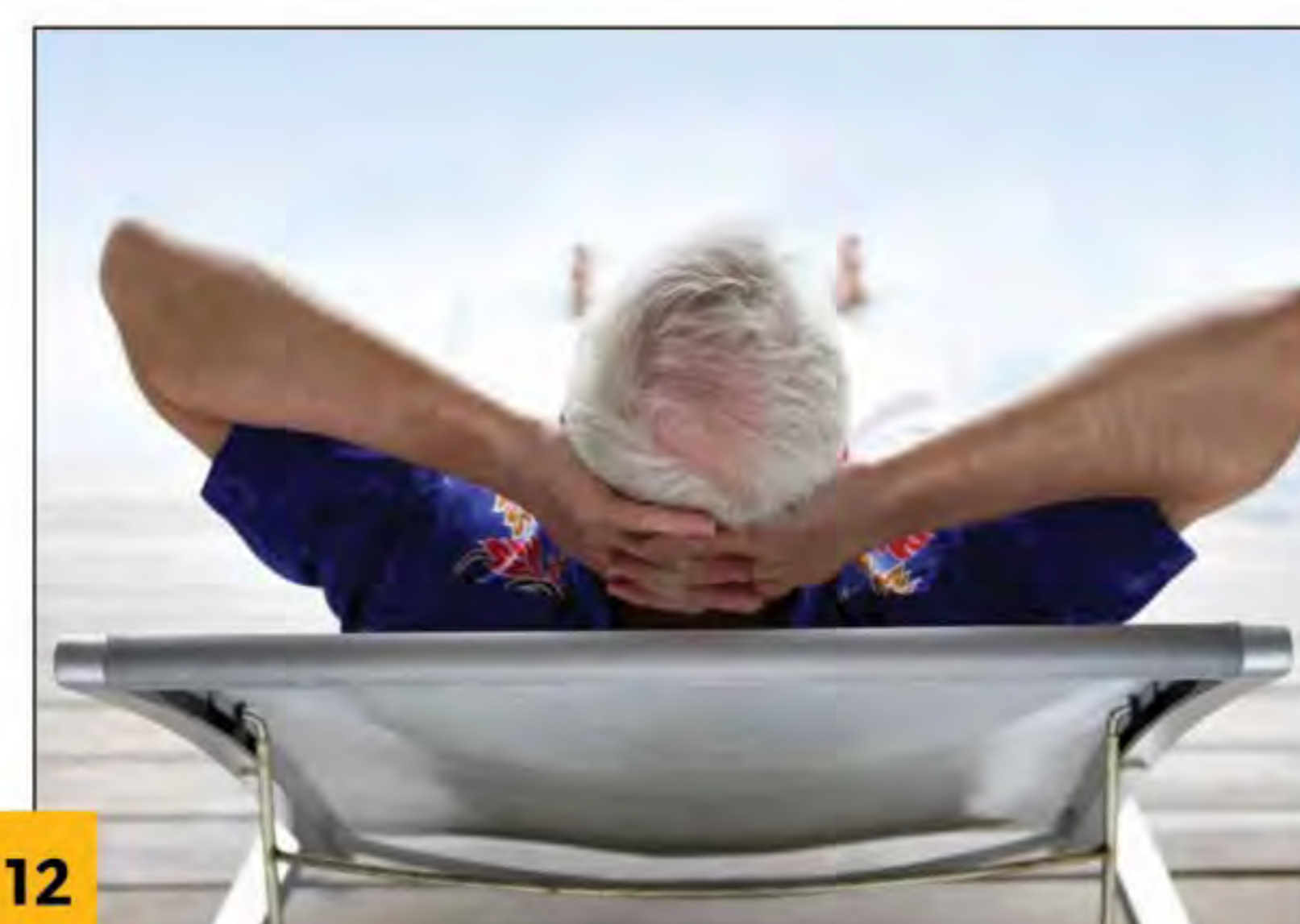
10

British English: Where are the **toilets**, please? [this term is used for public toilets in the street, a restaurant, shopping centre, etc.]
American English: She just went to the **restroom**.



11

British English: There's a new **cinema** in the centre.
American English: We met up at the **movie theater**.



12

British English: Where are you going for your **holiday**?
American English: We just got back from our **vacation!**

Objective To improve your reading skills.

Think about it Have you seen any funny videos or photos online recently? Have you heard about any other stories of someone trying to censor something? What happened?

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

by John Michael Mulderig

How to avoid the Streisand Effect!

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading

You're going to read three stories about things that went wrong for a famous singer, a well-known basketball player and a council. What do you think could have happened? Make notes.

2 Reading I

Read the article once and compare your ideas from the Pre-reading task.

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write *Beyoncé*, *Argyll* or *James* next to each statement.

1. A young girl took some photos of food.
2. Some of the photos were turned into memes.
3. It happened during a basketball camp for young players.
4. Photos from a concert were at the centre of this controversy.
5. Someone filmed part of a sports game.
6. Some photos taken by a nine-year-old girl caused concern.

4 Language focus

To get

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "... But when web users got news of this..." The writer has used an expression with the verb "to get" ("get news of something"), which means "to find out about something". What do the expressions with get mean (more or less) in the following sentences?

1. The news soon **got out**. =
2. She **got lucky!** =
3. It **got** the event even more publicity. =

Trying to censor something can often backfire, as singer Beyoncé Knowles, basketball player LeBron James, and the council of Argyll and Bute in Scotland all found out.



Beyoncé Knowles

When pop star Beyoncé performed at the Super Bowl XLVII half-time show in February 2013, she received rave reviews. Within hours, the website BuzzFeed.com had posted photos of the singer in action. However, Beyoncé's publicist thought the pictures were unflattering and demanded their removal. But when web users got news of this, the photos went viral. Some were turned into **memes***, with Beyoncé photo-shopped green to look like the Incredible Hulk, and her face superimposed onto just about every cartoon and movie character imaginable. Now if only they'd just ignored it!



Argyll and Bute council

In 2012, nine-year-old Martha Payne started posting photos of her **school dinners*** on her blog, NeverSeconds, as part of a school writing project. Every

day, she asked the small number of visitors to rate the nutritional value of the food. However, the Scottish council of Argyll and Bute (who are responsible for the school) took offence. They were concerned about the possible negative effect that this could have on the catering staff. So, they told Martha to stop publishing the photos. But their attempts to bully a young girl backfired spectacularly and ended up generating attention from news stations, famous people (including celebrity chef Jamie Oliver) and millions of web users from around the world. Martha's blog now has over eight million followers, and has collected more than £115,000, which has been given to Mary's Meals, a charity that helps impoverished children.



LeBron James

In the summer of 2009, Nike and National Basketball Association (NBA) superstar LeBron James co-sponsored a basketball camp for young players. During one of the games, college sophomore, Jordan Crawford, out-manoeuvred, then **dunked*** on LeBron James. Immediately, there were attempts to confiscate video footage taken of this. Officials wanted to prevent it getting out and harming James' reputation. But as website www.rivals.com noted, "By censoring the tape, LeBron turn(ed)

the dunk into a legend." Eventually, the video was leaked and appeared all over the internet. Most saw the dunk as a young kid who got lucky against a basketball star who probably wasn't even trying that hard. However, the attempts to suppress it got the event more publicity than it would have received otherwise. Jordan Crawford currently plays for the NBA.

There are always some things that we'd like to keep private, but once they appear online, the best course of action seems to be to turn a blind eye... if you don't want a small problem to turn into a big deal. ☺

***Meme** = an adapted video or photo that becomes popular online.

***School dinner** = the food that children eat at lunchtime – around 1pm.

***Dunk** = if a basketball player "dunks", he/she jumps into the air and pushes the ball into the basket from above.

THE STREISAND EFFECT

The "Streisand effect" describes what happens when someone tries to suppress information and this ends up creating even more publicity for it. The term refers to an incident involving singer and actress Barbra Streisand. In 2003, photos of her beachfront



property appeared on a website. Streisand sued the owners of the site, but wasn't successful. And as a result, public knowledge of the picture increased substantially, with more than 400,000 people visiting the site to see the photo of Barbra's house.



Think about it

What's the strangest hotel, city or place you've ever stayed the night? What was special or different about it? Do you think most people are honest? Why? Why not? If you found a valuable ring in the street, what would you do with it?

QUIRKY NEWS

Unusual news stories from around the world.

A Prison fun!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to go to prison? Now's your chance. A former maximum security jail in Holland has just been turned into a luxury hotel. Het Arresthuis – which is Dutch for “The Judgement House” – was one of the Netherlands' most notorious prisons. But now its 105 cells have been turned into 40 chic and spacious suites. Each room has free WIFI, a flat-screen TV and a coffee machine, and the hotel has a gym, sauna and an organic

PRISON ISN'T SO BAD!



herb garden. The designers have also kept some parts of the original jailhouse, including the solid metal doors and the bars across the windows. In the evening, the hotel serves special “prison” dinners, where guests dress up as inmates and eat together at a communal table. One guest wrote on TripAdvisor, “We loved our stay in cell #9 and would certainly ‘do time’ there again.”



Answers on page 46

A Questions!

1. What has the former jail been turned into?
2. What was the name of the prison in Dutch?
3. How many rooms are there in the hotel?
4. Where do guests eat in the evening?
5. In which room did the guest who wrote on TripAdvisor stay?

B Questions!

1. Where is Bill Ray Harris from?
2. What did Sarah Darling drop into his cup?
3. What was she trying to do at the time?
4. When did Sarah come back for the missing item?
5. How much money has she raised for him so far?

GLOSSARY

to wonder *vb*
if you “wonder” about something, you think about it and ask questions about it

a chance *n*
an opportunity; a special time to do something

to turn into *phr vb*
if a prison (for example) is “turned into” a hotel, it becomes a hotel

notorious *adj*
famous for something bad

a cell *n*
a room in a prison for prisoners

chic *adj*
fashionable and sophisticated

a suite *n*
a special, large room in a hotel

bars *n*
long, thin pieces of metal in a window to stop people getting in or out

an inmate *n*
a prisoner

a communal table *n*
a long table where everyone can eat

to do time *exp*
if someone “does time”, they go to prison

honesty is the best policy *exp*
being honest or truthful is always the best thing to do

homeless *adj*
a “homeless” person lives in the street and has no home

to beg *vb*
to ask for money or food

to drop *vb*
if you “drop” something, it falls out of your hand/pocket, etc.

an engagement ring *n*
a “ring” is a piece of jewellery you wear around a finger. An “engagement ring” is for someone who is getting married

change *n*
money in the form of loose coins (metal money)

takings *n*
the “takings” refers to the amount of money that a business (for example) gets from selling things during a particular period

to set up *phr vb*
if you “set up” a webpage, you create it

to raise money *exp*
if you “raise money”, you collect that money by asking people to give it to you

to donate *vb*
if you “donate” money to a charity, you give money to that charity

charitable *adj*
a “charitable” person gives money to organisations that help poor people, etc.

FAST FACT:

At the Poseidon Resort in the Bahamas you can sleep in a glass room 13 metres underwater.

B Honest man

They say honesty is the best policy. It certainly was for Bill Ray Harris, a homeless man from Kansas who lives under a bridge. He spends his days begging by the side of the road. Just recently, local woman Sarah Darling accidentally dropped her engagement ring into his cup while she was giving him some change. Later on, while Bill was counting the day's takings, he found the platinum and diamond ring. “The ring was so big that I knew if it was real, it was expensive,” he said. But instead of selling it, he kept it in case Sarah came back. Two days later, she did, and he returned the ring. “It was a miracle,” Sarah said. And now she's set up a page on the internet to raise money for Bill to help him start a new life. So far, over 8,000 people have donated a total of \$200,000.



FAST FACT:

America is officially the most charitable nation in the world, with Ireland in second place and Australia in third (in proportion to their populations).



Objective: To improve your English by reading about music and listening to song lyrics.

Think about it!

Do you ever listen to music from the 1980s? Which songs? Why do you think 80s music is still very popular?

MUSIC... IN ENGLISH

1980s pop songs

THOSE WERE THE DAYS!



Many of the biggest **hits** from the 1980s are still popular today. Three songs that **defined** the decade are Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean*, A-ha's *Take On Me* and Cyndi Lauper's *Time After Time*.



1 Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson's music **career** began in 1964. Back then, he was only seven years old and was part of The Jackson Five with four of

his brothers. Later, Michael **went solo**, and became so popular in the 1980s that people started calling him the "King of Pop".

Song

Billie Jean was one of the best-selling **singles** of 1983. It comes from Michael Jackson's second (and most successful) album, *Thriller*. The song is about all the female **groupies** who used to follow Michael around, sometimes claiming that he was the father of their child.

Song extract

*Billie Jean is not my lover,
She's just a girl who claims that I am the one,
But the kid is not my son.*



2 A-ha

A-ha were a Norwegian pop band. Formed in 1982, they **released** their biggest-selling album *Hunting High and Low* in 1985.

The disc **went triple platinum**. The fact that A-ha sang all their songs in English contributed to their international success. The band's members were lead **vocalist** Morten Harket, guitarist Paul Waaktaar-Savoy and **keyboardist** Magne Furuholmen.

Song

Take On Me was A-ha's first ever single. It's a love song, but the actual meaning of the **lyrics** is unclear. The band made an animated music video for the **track**, and it was played repeatedly on MTV. Many artists have covered the song, including Madonna, Tori Amos and the Jonas Brothers.

Song extract

*I'll be coming for your love, OK?
Take on me, (take on me) take me on (take on me),
I'll be gone,
In a day or two.*



3 Cyndi Lauper

Cyndi Lauper is an American pop star. She **kicked off** her career in the 1970s, singing **covers** in New York clubs. Record executives

were impressed by her **distinctive** singing voice and original fashion sense, and **signed her up** for a **record deal**. She won the Grammy for Best New Artist in 1985, and she continues **performing** today.

Song

One night, Cyndi saw the 1979 science-fiction movie *Time After Time*. She was inspired by the film title and stayed up all night writing a song with the same name. The lyrics are about two people who are in a relationship but who are **growing apart**. Music critic Scott Floman called the track "one of the decade's finest **ballads**."

Song extract

*I can't hear what you've said,
Then you say, go slow,
I fall behind, the **second hand** unwinds,
If you're lost, you can look and you will find me,
Time after time, if you fall, I will catch you...* ♡

VIDEO

YouTube

Check out the music video for A-ha's *Take On Me*. Search YouTube: "Take on Me A-ha"

LEARNING ENGLISH WITH SONGS

Listening to music is a great way to learn English. As you sing along to your favourite songs, you learn lots of words, and also improve your pronunciation.

GLOSSARY

- a hit** *n*
a very successful song
- to define** *vb*
if a song "defines" a decade (for example), it seems to describe that decade and show what it was like
- a decade** *n*
a period of 10 years
- a career** *n*
someone's music "career" is the part of their life that they spend writing/playing music
- to go solo** *exp*
if a musician in a band "goes solo", he/she leaves the band and starts singing/playing, etc. on their own
- a single** *n*
a song from an album that is often sold individually. You can refer to the main song on a CD as a single
- a groupie** *n*
someone (usually a young woman) who is a fan of a particular pop group or singer. "Groupies" often follow bands around the country
- to release** *vb*
when a song is "released", it appears in shops and you can buy it
- to go triple platinum** *n*
if an album "goes platinum", one million copies of it are sold. If it's "triple platinum", three million copies are sold
- a vocalist** *n*
a person who sings (in a band)
- a keyboardist** *n*
a person who plays the keyboard (a type of piano)
- lyrics** *n*
the words for a song
- a track** *n*
a song on an album
- MTV** *abbr*
Music Television – an American TV channel launched in 1981 that played music videos. These days, it produces TV shows too
- take on me** *exp*
this seems to be a version of "take me on", which means something like "accept me / go out with me / be with me", etc.
- to kick off** *phr vb*
to start
- a cover** *n*
a version of a famous song
- distinctive** *adj*
different / special
- to sign up** *phr vb*
if a musician "signs up" for a record deal, they sign a contract to produce music with a record company
- a record deal** *n*
a legal agreement to produce music for a record company. In return, the record company will market and sell the music
- to perform** *vb*
if a musician (for example) "performs", he/she plays or sings in a concert
- to grow apart** *exp*
if two people "grow apart", they stop loving each other
- a ballad** *n*
a romantic song that often tells a story
- the second hand** *n*
the "hand" on a clock or watch that marks the seconds
- the second hand unwinds** *exp*
The meaning of this isn't entirely clear. It could be: *time passes; we go back in time; time goes backwards*



Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it When was the last time you complained about something? What was it? Have you ever had a problem with your internet provider? What happened? Have you ever complained about something in a restaurant? What?

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

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to two customer service stories. What sort of complaints do people typically have with...

- ...their internet provider: *the system doesn't work, it's too slow...*
- ...a restaurant: *the waiter is rude, the food is cold...*

2 Listening I

Listen once. Were any of your ideas mentioned? Which experience can you relate to most? Why?

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

- How long did it take for the first speaker's website to be up and running with the new server?
- Who called about a day after that?
- Who called the following day?
- How many calls did he get in total?
- Why did the second speaker find a table for herself?
- Who popped up as she was about to leave?
- What was she offered as compensation?
- What did she think of the food?

4 Language focus

Linking words

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording **Let's Complain!**: "...However, about a day after that..." The speaker has used a linking word ("however"). Complete the following sentence beginnings with your own ideas.

- Despite not really wanting to go...
- In spite of all the opposition to it...
- However, we did think that...

5 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

Audio script

Two customer service stories

HOW MANY COMPLAINTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE?



Internet provider

I once signed up for a new internet service provider to host my blog and website. They were offering really cheap rates and were going to give me more space, which I needed. Everything seemed to go quite smoothly and within a couple of days my website was up and running on the new server. However, about a day after that, I (1) _____ from someone in the sales department asking whether I was interested in video streaming for the site. I politely told them that I was all right for the moment, but if they wanted to send me through the information and price list by e-mail, (2) _____. The following day, someone from the customer service department called up and asked whether I was happy with the service. I told them I was. And then, the day after that, someone else phoned up and asked me to rate the service (3) _____. I said it was a bit early to do that as I hadn't been with them for long, and could they please stop calling me. Yes, of course, she said, but the following day someone else called up from another department. In fact, for the next week or so, I got about 10 calls (4) _____. Eventually, I asked to speak to the managing director and explained the problem. She apologised and promised that I wouldn't receive any more calls, which was great.

IS THIS WHAT YOU ORDERED?



Restaurant

The other day, I went out to this restaurant with a friend. It wasn't that busy, and we were in a rush, so we were keen to get seated and served (5) _____. We waited a bit but the waiter didn't come over, so we found a table ourselves. A few minutes later, there was still no sign of the waiter, so I started looking around, trying to catch his eye, but every time I seemed to be about to get his attention, (6) _____. After another couple of minutes of that, we'd had enough so we got up to leave, but just as we were about to go out the front door, the manager popped up out of nowhere and asked us (7) _____. We told him what had happened and he went to get the waiter. Seconds later, there was a full-blown shouting match going on between them. Eventually, the waiter stormed off and the manager came back. "I'm really sorry about that, he's a bit temperamental at times. If you stay, we'd be happy to invite you to a free bottle of wine." OK, we thought, (8) _____. A minute or so later, the waiter came over and threw a menu down on our table and mumbled, "I'll be back!" It was just incredible how rude he was, but it was also really funny to watch – like something out of a TV sitcom. Anyway, we enjoyed watching the world's rudest waiter, and the food was great. Of course, we never left a tip!

Note!

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

USEFUL IDIOMS **DISASTER!**

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Spell disaster

If A “spells disaster” for B, A is going to have a very bad effect on B.

“More bad weather like this could spell disaster for farmers across the country.”



Disaster area

If a place is a “disaster area”, it’s very untidy

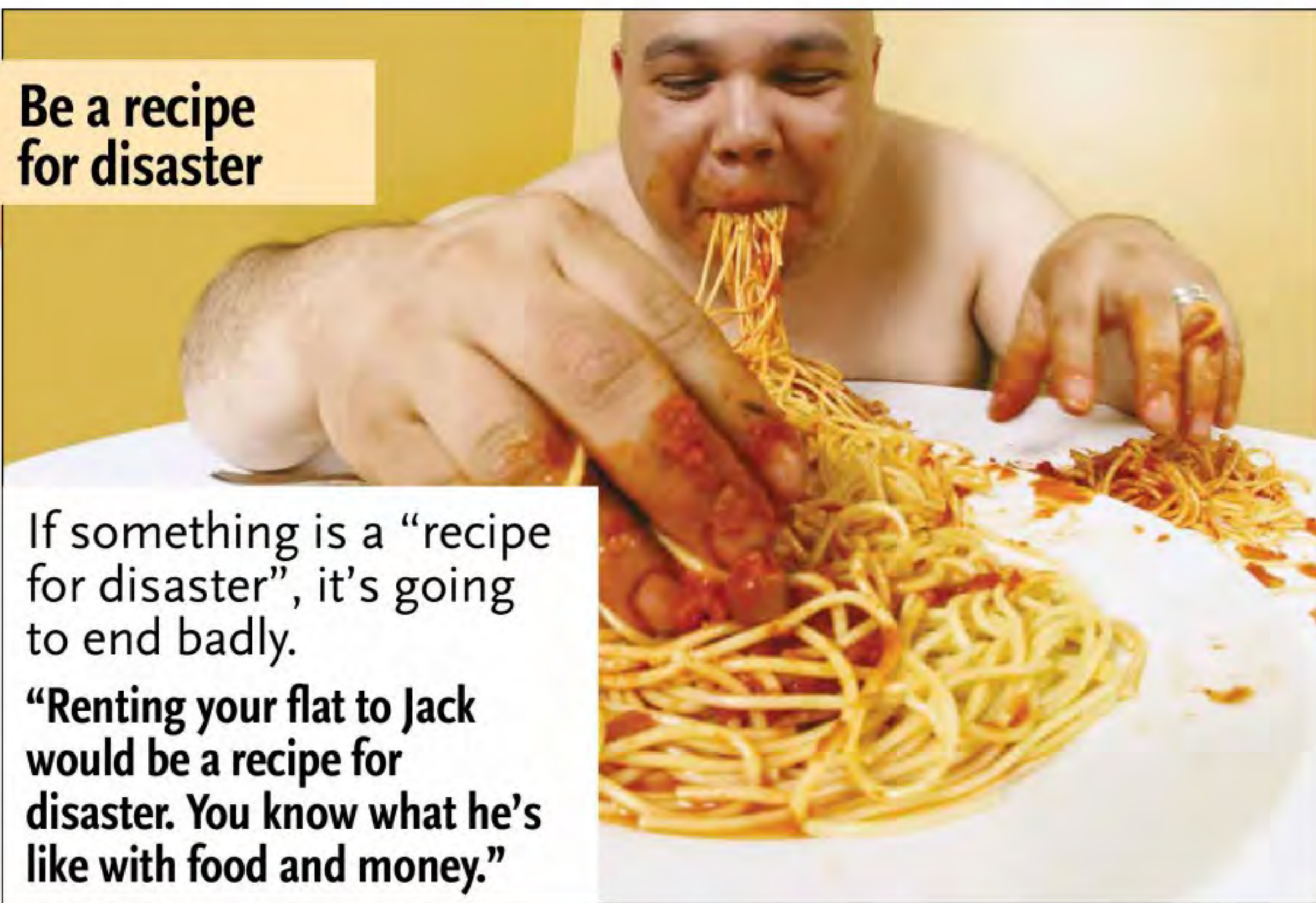
“After the party, the house was a disaster area with dirty plates, cigarette butts and rubbish everywhere.”



Be a recipe for disaster

If something is a “recipe for disaster”, it’s going to end badly.

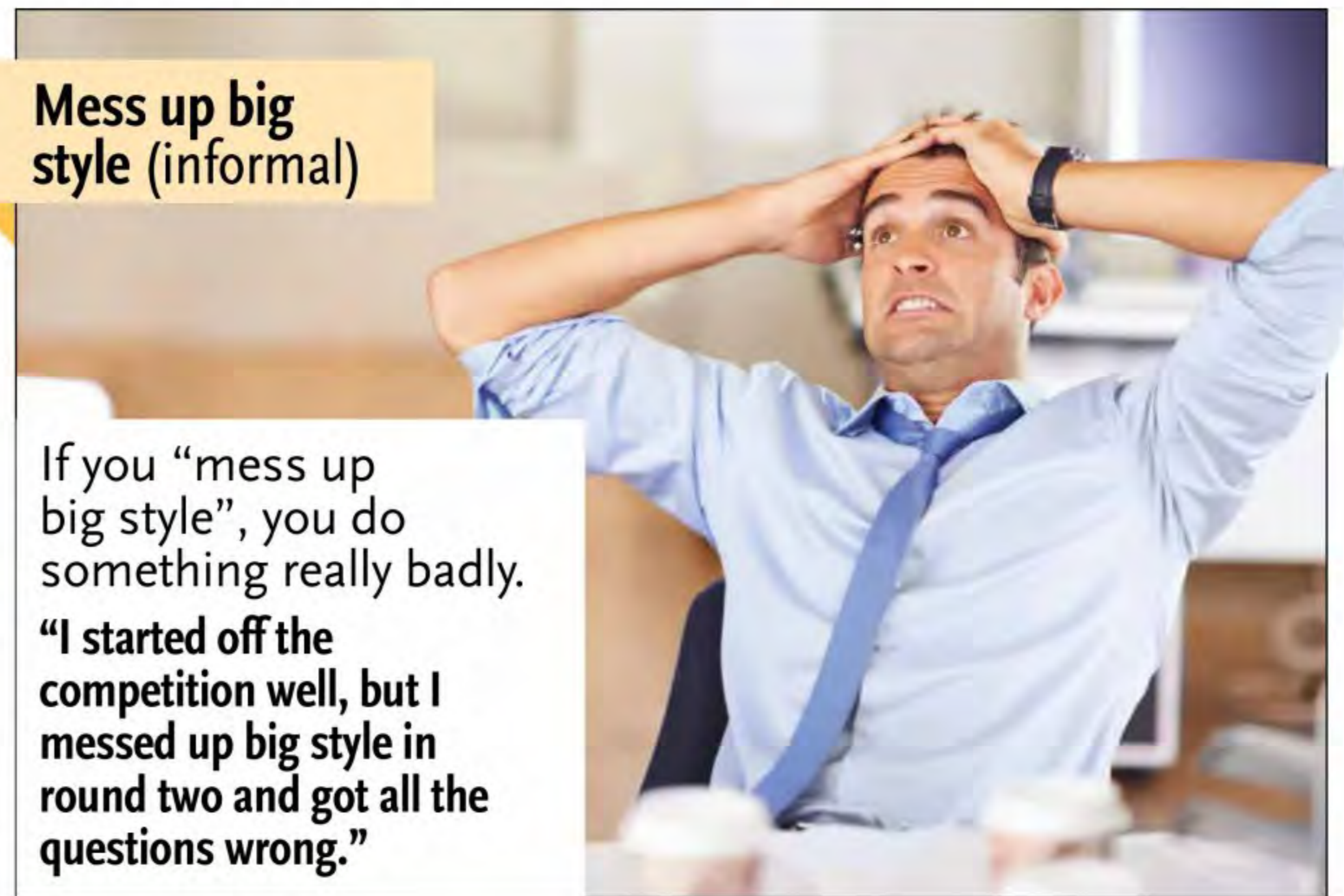
“Renting your flat to Jack would be a recipe for disaster. You know what he’s like with food and money.”



Mess up big style (informal)

If you “mess up big style”, you do something really badly.

“I started off the competition well, but I messed up big style in round two and got all the questions wrong.”



Go from bad to worse

If things “go from bad to worse”, they become even worse than they already were.

“Our team started off well, but one of our players got sent off in the second half and then things just went from bad to worse. We ended up losing 10-2.”



An accident waiting to happen

If there’s an “accident waiting to happen”, the situation is very dangerous.

“They still haven’t repaired the railing around the balcony. It’s an accident waiting to happen.”



More by accident than (by) design

If you do something “more by accident than by design”, you do it accidentally – not really because of any careful planning.

“I don’t know how I managed to fix it, but I just did. It was more by accident than by design.”



Make a pig’s ear of something (British)

To do something very badly.

“Bob made a pig’s ear of fixing the television. Now it won’t even turn on!”





AUDIO

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

What pets do you have? What are the pros and cons of owning a pet? Which animal would you like to have as a pet? Why? What can be done about anti-social pet owners?

Note!

Don't read the audio script until you've completed the exercises. Also, please note that when people chat informally, they often use non-standard English and rarely speak in full sentences.

DO YOU LIKE THE DOG WE BOUGHT FOR YOU?

GROUP TALK

PETS IN THE CITY

Audio script

Sara: So, guys, I've just seen all these dogs around the city and I, I kind of wonder, how can people have dogs in their apartments, 'cause the apartments here are **tiny**.

Tim: They are really small. Yeah, I know for a fact the, erm, my **host mother** doesn't have a dog but her apartment is very small and it could not contain a dog.

Megan: Mine too, and most of the apart, apartments here don't even have gardens so the dogs would just be **holed up** inside the flat all day with nothing to do. So...

Tim: ...and then another thing you see is that a lot of people don't **curb their dogs**, so

you end up having a lot of accidents on the ground that end up being accidents later in the office underneath your shoe.

Sara: Yeah.

Tim: So...

Megan: Yeah that's not a great thing to have when you walk into the office first thing in the morning.

Sara: No. Part of me, like, part of me thinks that a cat would be better right?

Megan: Def, I think here, cats definitely would be better.

Tim: Erm, I'd have to disagree with you because I've never been a cat person myself.

Megan: Yeah, yeah, me neither but I think here, it'd have to be cats.

Tim: Yeah. Maybe, maybe

you know subjective to where we are, [yeah], cats would probably be more efficient.

Sara: Well, I mean I've always been a cat person, my parents have always had cats and I love cats. And I, I could see myself with a cat here in a big city, but a dog?

Megan: Personally, I've never really been a dog person but here, I think, depending on the country I think cats could be a winner.

Tim: Yeah definitely I'd have to agree with you on that.

GLOSSARY**tiny** *adj*

very small

a host mother *n*

a "host mother" is a woman who looks after a student. The student lives with the "host mother" in her house temporarily

holed up *exp*

if someone is "holed up" in a place, they're trapped there and can't leave

to curb a dog *exp*

if a dog owner "curbs a dog", he/she picks up the dog mess from the ground

def *abbr* *inform*

definitely

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-listening

Listen once. Which animal do the three speakers seem to think is best to have in the city?

2 Listening I

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

- Why is one of the speakers surprised that people have dogs in the city?
- What else makes apartments bad for dogs?
- What does one of the men complain about?

Top tip: how to listen

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



AUDIO

Objective To teach you some slang words and expressions.**Think about it**

When was the last time you went to a house party? What was it like? What do you like/dislike about parties?

SLANG CONVERSATION

THE HOUSE PARTY

Luke has just arrived at Zoe's house, where there's a party.

Z=Zoe L=Luke

**Dialogue**Z: Luke! Glad you could **make it**, at last.L: Thanks for the **invite**. Nice **place** you got here!Z: Cheers. There's a flat on the fourth floor that's **up for grabs** if you're interested.L: No, I'm fine where I am, thanks. **Rocking** party. I could hear it two blocks away.Z: Yeah, the music is a bit loud. Here, **chuck** your coat over there and let me get you a drink. A nice cold one?

L: Perfect! So, what's it like living here?

Z: Not too bad. The neighbours are a bit of pain though. The woman in the flat above is a tap dancer and her son's learning the trumpet – what a **racket!**L: Sounds like you're **getting your own back**. Do you think they'll come down to complain?

Z: No, they've gone away for the weekend.

L: Ah, **when the cat's away...** So, what's your new flatmate like?Z: His room's a **pigsty**, he's always leaving his stuff lying around and he helps himself to my food, but he's fairly easy-going, a **good laugh** and he gets me into **gigs** for free as he's a band manager.

L: That's all right then.

Z: Right, let me introduce you to a few people.

L: Actually, have you got any **grub?** I'm **starving!**Z: There were some pizzas, but I think someone's **scoffed** them all. Oh, there's a bit of cake left if you want, and I think there are a few crisps in the living room.L: I think I'll have some of that cake. I **skipped** lunch.

Z: You must be hungry.

L: Yeah, **tell me about it!** So, who are all these friends of yours?Z: A few old school friends, some mates from work. Oh, and there's this girl I've been meaning to introduce you to, Jessica. I know you two guys will **hit it off**. I've been telling her all about you!

L: Hope it was all good.

Z: Of course!

L: So, what's this I've heard about you... [fades out]

Warning

Many of the words and expressions from this section are used in informal situations. Only use in appropriate situations!

GLOSSARY**to make it** *exp*

if you "make it" to a place, you arrive there eventually. "Glad you could make it" means, "I'm pleased you could come"

an invite *n inform*

an invitation

a place *n inform*

a house, building, etc.

up for grabs *exp*

if something is "up for grabs", it's available and you can have it if you want it

rocking *adj inform*

if a party is "rocking", there are a lot of people there having a good time

to chuck *vb inform*

to throw in a casual way

a racket *n inform*

a loud noise

to get your own back *exp*

to get your revenge: to do something bad to someone who did something bad to you

when the cat's away *exp*

this is from the expression "when the cat's away, the mice will play", which means that when the person in authority (the cat) isn't there, those under that person's authority (the mice) will enjoy their freedom and do bad/naughty things

a pigsty *n*

if you describe someone's room as a "pigsty", you're saying that it's dirty and messy. Literally, a "pigsty" is an enclosed area where pigs are kept on a farm.

a good laugh *n inform*

if you say that someone is a "good laugh", you're saying that they're fun to be with

a gig *n inform*

a concert

grub *n inform*

food

starving *adj*

very hungry

to scoff *vb inform*

to eat quickly

to skip *vb*

if you "skip" breakfast (for example), you don't have breakfast

tell me about it! *exp*

I agree! / I know!

to hit it off *exp inform*

if two people "hit it off", they become friends

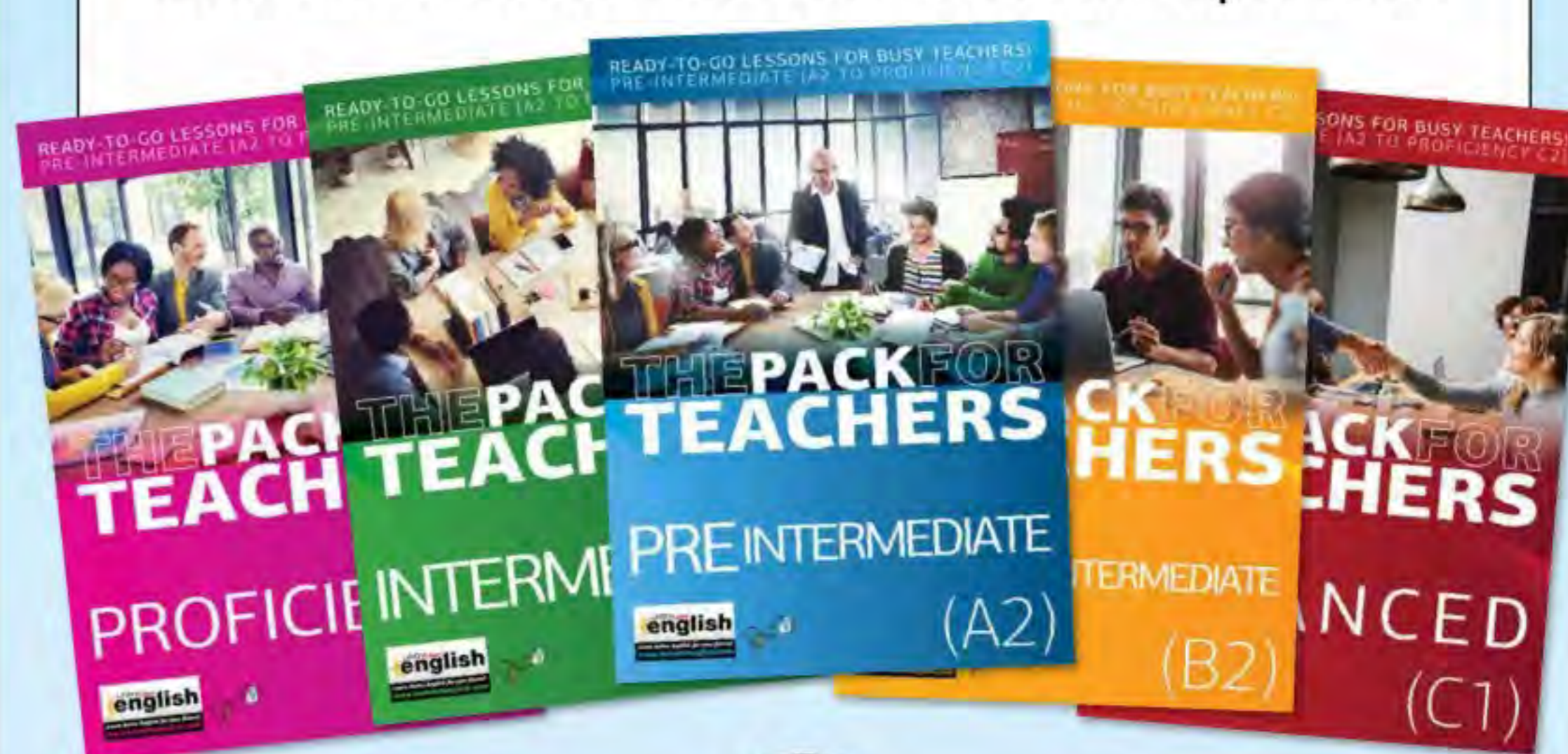
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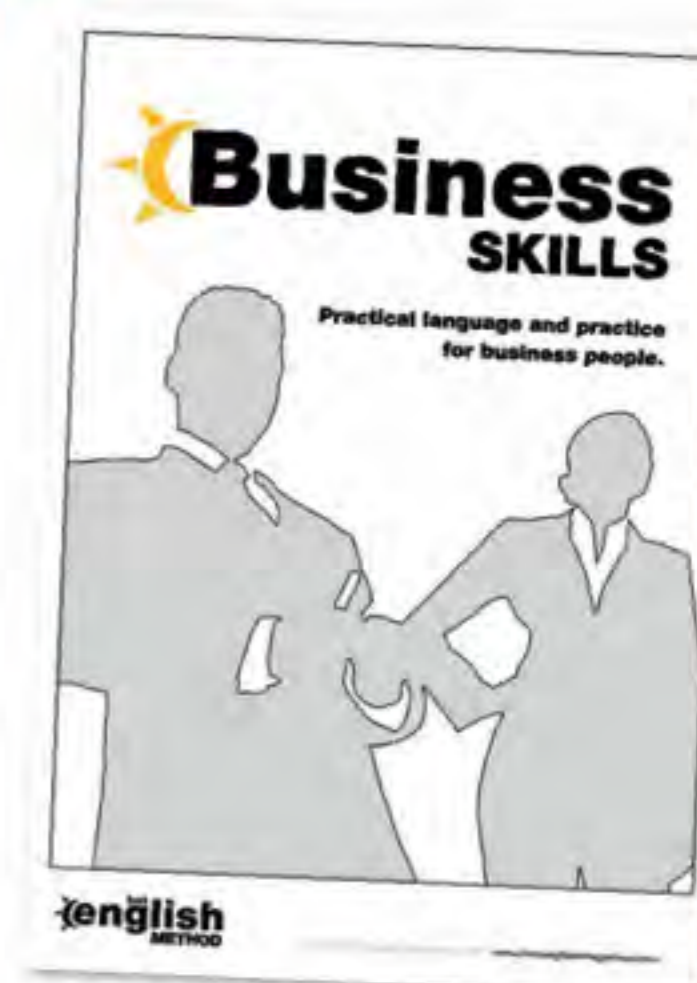
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Objective To improve your listening skills.

Think about it Have you ever had trouble making yourself understood? What happened? Have you ever got into difficulties when speaking a foreign language? What happened?

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

Note!

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

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-listening

You're going to listen to two stories about miscommunication. Look at the pictures of the people below who appear in the stories. What do you think the stories could be about? Make notes.



Environmentalist

Naturist



Estate agent

Lawyer

Ballet dancer



Party guest

Employee

2 Listening I

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

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, answer the questions.

1. Why did the woman from the first story go to England?
2. Where did she get a job?
3. What was she invited to?
4. Which word did she misunderstand and what does it mean?
5. Where did the second speaker get a job?
6. What did everyone keep saying about his wife?
7. Why was he confused about this?
8. Which two words had people mixed up?

4 Language focus

Prepositional phrases

Look at this extract from the audio script of the recording **Communication Problems**: "...in the centre of town..." The speaker has used a prepositional phrase. Complete the following phrases from the audio script with the correct prepositions.

1. Perking _____, he said...
2. I was met _____ the door by...
3. But before stepping _____, I...
4. And it was _____ that point that something...
5. _____ my first week, I...
6. _____ then, I was completely confused...

5 Listening III

Complete the audio script with the correct words.

Audio script

Communication problems & language difficulties: two stories

Nature!

I'm from Norway and about 10 years ago I went to live in London for a couple of years to improve my English. Shortly after arriving, I got a job in an estate agent's in the centre of town. On my first day at work, this guy in his 60s (1) _____ and started chatting. He (2) _____ and told me that he was a "naturist". "That's great," I said innocently. "I'm from Norway and we're really into that too," not fully understanding what I was saying. Perking up, he said that he was having a party that weekend and (3) _____ to come along. Keen to meet a few of the locals, I accepted. So, the following Saturday, I headed off to his house. I guess I (4) _____ "naturist", but assumed it meant that he was into nature or something like that. Well, that turned out to be a big mistake! When I got to the house, I was met at the door by a man in a loosely-fitting bathrobe. That's weird, I thought. But anyway, I told him who I was and he invited me in. But before stepping in, I (5) _____ and out into the back garden where I could see a group of people who were chatting and eating and all completely... naked. And it was at that point that something clicked and I realised that "naturists" weren't actually environmentalists – they were "nudists"! Not wanting to appear rude, I (6) _____ having left my bag at home, and rushed off. It was a bit embarrassing seeing the man at work again, but we just ignored each other after that.

IT WAS ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING!



Ballet!

I got a job in a lawyer's firm in Hong Kong once. In my first week, I was invited to a welcoming party for the new employees in a bar near to the office. The managing director was there (7) _____ from the firm and I joined in on the conversation. He introduced me to everyone, told them where I'd been working before and then mentioned something about my wife, saying, "And his wife is a professional dancer." Strange, I thought. Why does he think my wife's a "dancer", but not wanting to question him in front of everyone else, I just (8) _____ the topic of conversation. Later, someone else mentioned how they'd heard that my wife was a great dancer. By then, I was completely confused because although my wife likes dancing, she's not exactly what I'd call a "dancer". Curious to find out what was going on, I asked a colleague why (9) _____. "Because you told us that she's a ballet dancer," he replied. "But my wife isn't a ballet dancer!" I said. Eventually, we figured out that it was because I'd said that my wife was from "Bali", which is in Indonesia, and that (10) _____ "ballet" and had presumed I was saying that she was a "ballet" dancer, when I'd just been trying to tell them where she was from. Anyway, later, this manager had told everyone about how she was a dancer, and things just went from there. It's incredible how one simple mistake can (11) _____!



IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING!

SIR JOHN SOANE'S Museum

If you're looking for somewhere original to visit in London, we may have the answer for you: Sir John Soane's Museum. The museum is actually in his house and it's one of London's best-kept secrets, and it's well worth a visit. You'll see lots of amazing things, including an original example of a very common piece of household furniture. You'll also learn about the origins of a very common English taboo word. Curious? Read on and find out what we're talking about.



Chaos

Sir John lived in London during the 18th century (1753-1837) and the amazing thing is that his house is exactly as he left it. In fact visiting the house is just like stepping back in time. It's also full of thousands of **weird** and wonderful objects from around the world: antiques, relics and works of art. There's even an Egyptian mummy and some Roman pottery. It's great just to walk about and it's a bit like being on a treasure hunt as you find things hidden away in secret corners of the house. It's not like any other museum. There is a free hour-long tour every Saturday at 2.30pm, but the best thing is just to walk about by yourself. It's a very small place about ten minutes walk from the British Museum. The house itself is in a square called Lincoln's Inn Field and the nearest tube station is Holborn.

Paintings

There are three floors which are open to the public. We recommend that you start on the **first floor**. This was Sir John's work area. You can ask the guards about the paintings on the walls as they tell you something about his family and life. And don't worry about the guards as they are really friendly and helpful.

Toilets

Next, we recommend that you go downstairs to the **ground floor**. His collection of paintings is especially interesting. Ask the guards to explain them to you. There is a series called "The Rake's Progress", which is all about 18th century life in London. In those days Londoners spent most of their time drinking gin and things haven't changed much since then. This floor also has an early example of a very important piece of household furniture – the toilet. This one was designed by Sir Thomas Crapper and is very similar to the ones we use nowadays. Incidentally, Sir Thomas has also contributed to the English language as a variation of his surname has become a very common word: **crap**. This is used literally to describe excrement. It is also used as a **slightly** offensive way of describing something that you don't like, or you think is really bad:

"That film was **crap**."

"The book's a load of **crap**."

"He talks **crap**."

Thank you Sir Thomas Crapper!

These days I don't think there's anyone with this surname, and if there is, they can be **proud** of it, even though it's a bit embarrassing. 🙄



The Best Part

Now comes the best part – the basement. This part of the house was supposed to represent a Roman **burial chamber**. There are lots of sculptures here and plaster models of famous monuments. This is the really weird part of the house. There are lots of macabre things here such as skulls, skeletons and prisoners' chains. There's also the **sarcophagus** of Pharaoh Seti I, who died in 1279 BC – more than 3,000 years ago! It's got hieroglyphics on it that no one understood at the time. These days, historians have deciphered them and they tell the story of a **soul's** journey through the **underworld**. Incidentally, the sarcophagus was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by Giovanni Belzoni, an Italian Egyptologist. He sold it to Sir John in 1824 after the British Museum refused the price of 2,000 pounds. Sir John celebrated its arrival with three evening parties, inviting more than a thousand people. There's lots, lots more in this part of the house, but you'll have to go there yourself to see. We guarantee that it's an experience that you won't forget.

Sir John

So who was this man, Sir John Soane? Sir John was born in England in 1753. He was the youngest child of a poor **bricklayer**. At the age

of 15 Sir John became a pupil of the architect George Dance and moved up to London where he studied architecture at the Royal Academy. While there, he won a **scholarship** to study in Italy for two years.

He came back to England in 1780 and got a **commission** to design the Bank of England in 1788. Around this time he also married and had two sons, and in 1792 he bought the house in Lincoln's Inn Fields. A few years later he moved next door into number 13, which he rebuilt as a museum. He started collecting objects of art and antiquities, and eventually opened his museum to the public. It was open to everyone, but a sign on the outside said that visitors were not admitted in "wet or dirty weather" – sensible man! Sir John died in 1837.

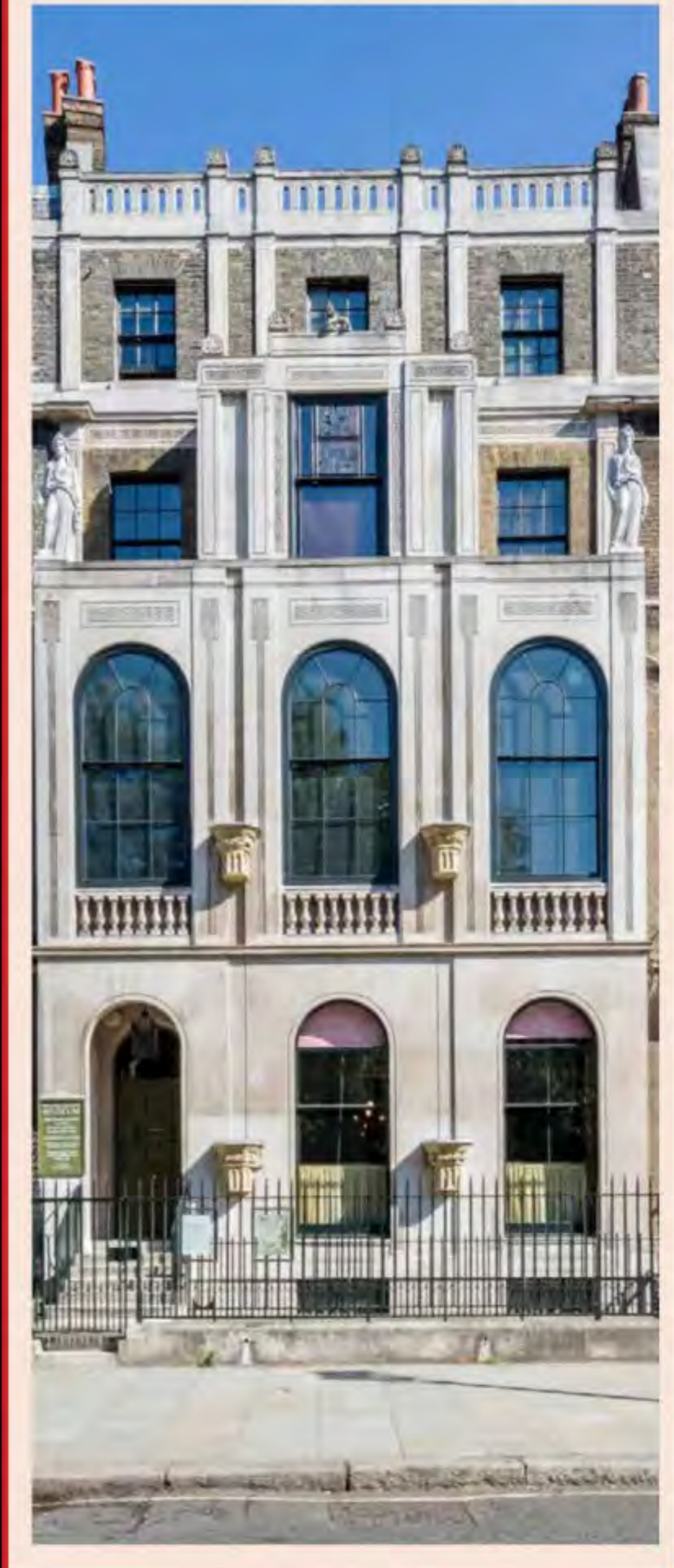
A Social Painter

Sir John Soane's house is also home to works of art by the British painter, William Hogarth. Hogarth did some incredible paintings that made fun of people from 18th century Britain. One set of his paintings was all about the election process. It is a fascinating study of what Britain was like in the 18th century.

Decadence

One of Hogarth's most famous series of

Sir John Soane's house is in 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A (Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm). Free. Nearest tube: Holborn.



GLOSSARY

weird *adj*

strange and unusual

the first floor *n*

in Britain you have to go up some stairs to get to the first floor. In the US the "first floor" is at ground level

the ground floor *n*

in Britain the ground floor is at ground level

slightly *adj*

a little bit

proud *adj*

feeling very good about yourself or the things you have done

spooky *adj*

frightening

a burial chamber *n*

a room where they put a dead body

a sarcophagus *n*

a decorated coffin (the box where they put dead people)

a soul *n*

the part of you that consists of your mind, character, thoughts and feelings

the underworld *n*

some civilisations believe in a type of world that exists under our own world. You go there when you die

a bricklayer *n*

a labourer who builds houses by putting bricks (red, rectangular stones) on top of one another

a scholarship *n*

money to study at a college or in another country

a commission *n*

money to do a particular job or, as in this case, to build something

a rake *n*

an immoral man (old-fashioned)

to go back on something *exp*

to break a promise, to change your mind

to beg *vb*

to ask desperately for something

to hand out *phr vb*

to give

a house of ill-repute *n*

a house where prostitutes work

in debt *exp*

if you are "in debt", you have to pay back money to someone or a bank

a gambling table *n*

a table where people are playing games (usually cards) for money

to curse your bad luck *exp*

to get very angry because you have a lot of bad luck. Literally, to "curse" is to say taboo words

to faint *vb*

to lose consciousness



paintings was "The Rake's Progress" (see pictures), which is all about a rich, young English gentleman who loses everything through his own stupidity (the numbers below refer to the paintings on these pages):

"The Rake's Progress"

Picture I – The Heir

Tom Rakewell had previously seduced a young girl Sarah Young and promised to marry her. However, he **goes back on** his promise after he inherits money. In the painting you can see Sarah's mother **begging** Tom to reconsider. You can also see a lawyer (the man on the far right) robbing Tom.

Picture II – The Levée

Tom uses his inheritance to enter London society. In this painting you can see him surrounded by people who are after his money. Tom is **handing out** money to everyone.

Picture III – The Orgy

At night, Tom visits the Rose Tavern (this pub still exists) in Covent Garden. At the time this was a **house of ill-repute**. These days it's a respectable pub (more or less). Tom is so drunk that he doesn't notice that

he is being robbed by his companion.

Picture IV – The Arrest

Tom has spent all his money and he is arrested for being **in debt**. Sarah kindly offers her money to get Tom out of jail.

Picture V – The Marriage

Tom is out of jail now, but decides to marry a very rich elderly lady with one eye.

Picture VI – The Gaming House

Once again, Tom loses all his money at the **gambling tables** at White's Club. In the painting you can see an angry Tom **cursing his bad luck**.

Picture VII – The Prison

Tom is sent to prison for debt. In the painting you can see his wife shouting at him because he lost all her money. On the left you can see poor Sarah, who has **fainted**.

Picture VIII – The Madhouse

Tom has now gone mad and is sent to Bedlam, a prison for the mentally insane. You can see Sarah crying over him. And that's the end of poor Tom.

So now you know where to go the next time you're in London! ★

PHRASAL VERBS STAGES OF LIFE

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

course tall University lottery school grandfather medicine children

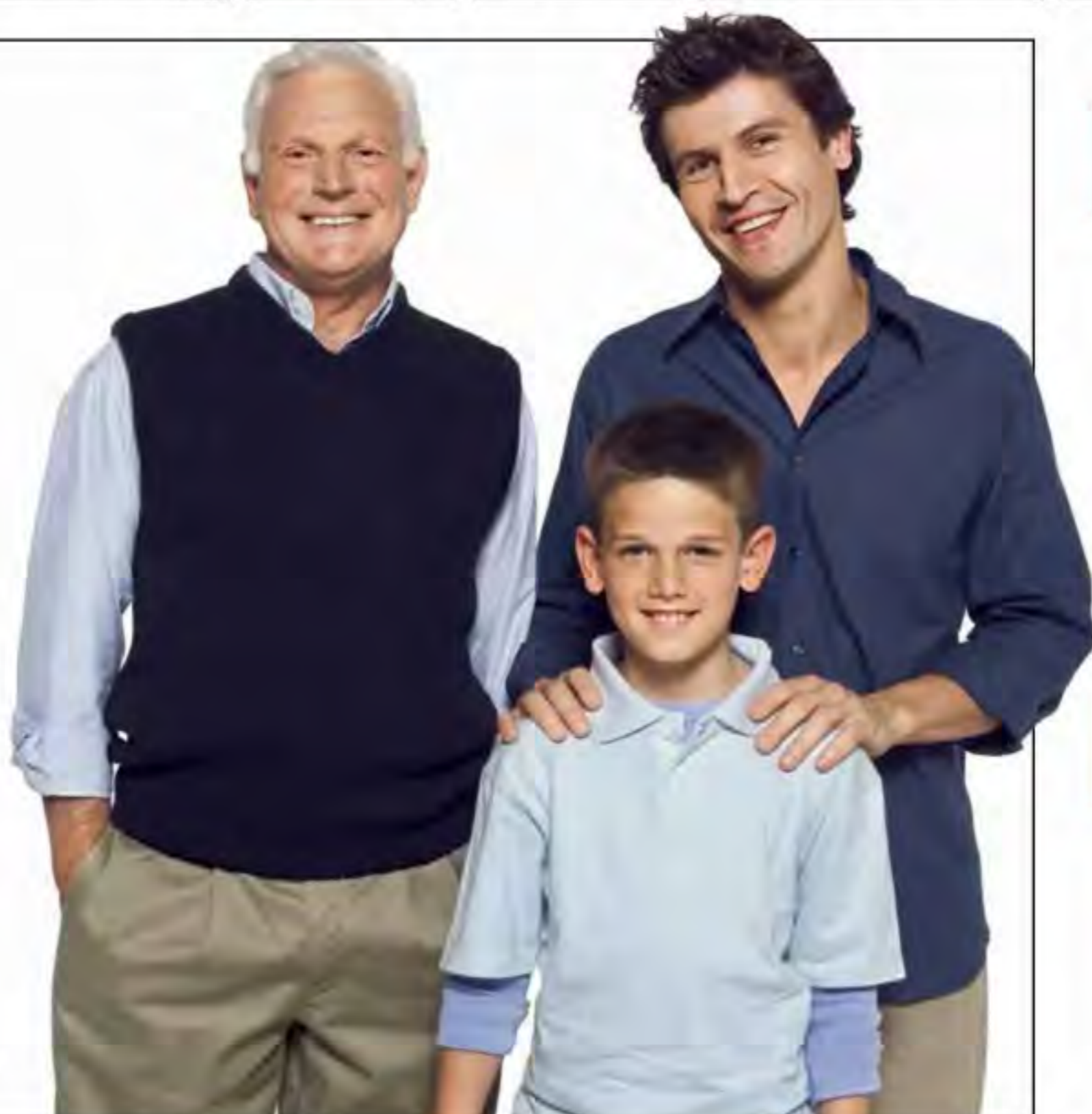
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1

Name after

If you "name" a child "after" someone, you give your child the same name as that person.

"My son is named after my _____."



2

Take after

If you "take after" someone in your family, you're just like them.

"She takes after her dad: she's _____, good looking but also extremely stubborn."



3

Bring up

If you "bring up" a child, you care for and educate that child.

"I brought up six _____ all on my own!"



4

Grow up

The time when you're "growing up" is the time when you go from being a child to becoming a young adult.

"We grew up in a poor area of the town, but after mum won the _____, we moved out to the posh part of the city."

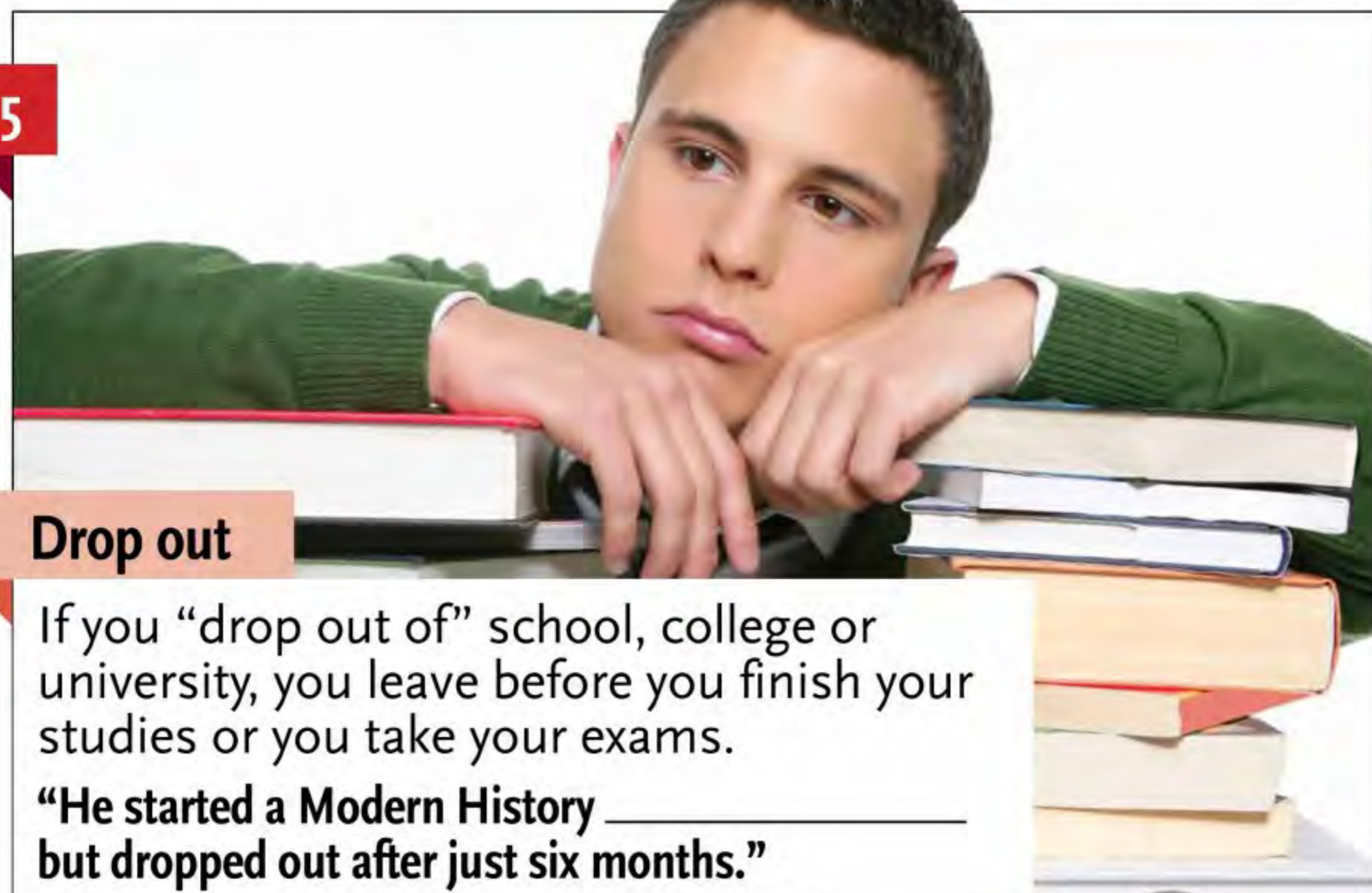


5

Drop out

If you "drop out of" school, college or university, you leave before you finish your studies or you take your exams.

"He started a Modern History _____ but dropped out after just six months."



6

End up / wind up

The place where you "end up" is the place where you are in the end. / The things you "end up" doing are the things you do in the end.

"After university, she went to study _____ in the US, but ended up working in a hospital back in the town where she was born."



7

Turn out

The way someone "turns out" is the way that they are (in terms of their personality and character, etc.) in the end.

"She never studied much at _____, but she turned out to be a really successful businesswoman."



8

Live up to

If you "live up to" other people's expectations, you do as well as people thought you would do.

"He definitely lived up to our expectations: he studied at Oxford _____, did an MBA in Harvard and is now the CEO of a major multinational."





AUDIO

Objective To improve your reading and listening skills.

Think about it Do movie directors have an obligation to make sure that films reflect the truth as accurately as possible? Why? Why not? Have you seen any historical films? How true to real life do you think they were?

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

TRUTH AND LIES: HOW HOLLYWOOD FILMS COMPARE TO REAL LIFE

by John Michael Mulderig

Hollywood films are often based on real-life events. But how close are they to the truth? Here are two movies that were inspired by true stories.

1 The Impossible

In December 2004, the Alvarez-Belon family were enjoying a holiday at their beach side hotel in Phuket (Thailand) when disaster struck. Early in the morning of the 26th, a 10-metre tsunami crashed into the resort, **slamming** Maria, the mother,



into some nearby trees. After the initial shock, she found her eldest son Lucas. Sometime later, villagers carried Maria to a hospital in Takua Pa so that medical staff could operate on her **life-threatening injuries**. Maria's husband and two younger boys were in the swimming pool at the time. Miraculously, they also survived, and the family was **reunited** a few days later. In total, the wave killed over 200,000 people.

The film version of the event captures the terror and destructive power of the tsunami, and was partially filmed at the resort where the family were staying. But despite the similarities, there's one major difference: while the real-life Alvarez-Belon family are Spanish, the family portrayed in the movie are British. In the film, Maria and Quique are played respectively by British actors Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor, with Enrique's name becoming Henry and the family's surname changed to Bennett. Director Juan Antonio Bayona, who is actually Spanish, explained that they needed international actors in order to **raise funds** for the film. He added, "This is not a film of nationality, race or social class. All that was **swept away** by the wave."

2 Argo

On 4th November 1979, radical Iranian militants **took** more than sixty **hostages** from the United States Embassy in Teheran (Iran). Six US

diplomats managed to **evade capture** and were **sheltered** by Canadian Ambassadors Ken Taylor and John Sheardown.



With little chance of escape, Canadian and United States officials needed a plan to get them out. CIA operative Tony Mendez eventually came up with an idea: the six would pretend to be Canadian citizens working on a Hollywood film. Canadian Ambassador Ken Taylor said, "We thought the (Mendez) plan was OK... but we didn't think we really needed something that **intricate**." They had some other more straightforward schemes, but **ultimately** went with the Mendez plan. On 28th January 1980, the diplomats **passed themselves off as** Canadian **film crew** and left Iran safely. The remaining hostages weren't released until a year later on 21st January 1981.

So, how does the film compare to reality? In the film version, CIA operative Tony Mendez is presented as the hero, while the Canadians **take a back seat**, only providing housing for the diplomats. Director Ben Affleck said that this was to provide greater dramatic tension by making it seem as if everything was **resting on** Mendez's **shoulders**. On top of that, British diplomats are shown refusing to help the Americans, something which is **hotly disputed** by those who were actually there at the time. Defending the film, Affleck explained, "Because we say it's *based* on a true story, rather than *this is a true story*, we're allowed to **take** some **dramatic licence**." The late singer-songwriter

John Lennon once said, "Reality leaves a lot to the imagination." It's clear that the directors of the *Impossible* and *Argo* felt this way too. *

THE IMPOSSIBLE (2012)



Starring Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor. Directed by Juan Antonio Bayona.

ARGO (2012)



Starring Ben Affleck and John Goodman. Directed by Ben Affleck. *Argo* is the name of the film they invented as part of the plan to get the Americans out.

GLOSSARY

- to strike** *vb*
if a disaster "strikes", it happens suddenly
- a tsunami** *n*
a very large wave (a mass of water in the sea), often caused by an earthquake (a violent movement of the earth)
- to slam into** *phr vb*
if A "slams into" B, A crashes into B with great force
- life-threatening injuries** *exp*
an "injury" is damage to a person's body. "Life-threatening injuries" can kill you
- to reunite** *vb*
if two people are "reunited", they meet again after being separated
- to raise funds** *exp*
to collect money for something (a charity, etc.) by asking people for that money
- to sweep away** *phr vb*
if someone is "swept away" from an area, they're taken away from that area very quickly (in this case, by the tsunami)
- to take hostage** *exp*
if criminals "take hostages", they catch people and hold them until their demands are met
- to evade capture** *exp*
if you "evade capture", you escape from a place where people are trying to catch you
- to shelter** *vb*
if you "shelter" someone (particularly someone the police are looking for), you give them a place to hide or live
- intricate** *adj*
something that's "intricate" has many small parts or details
- ultimately** *exp*
in the end / eventually
- to pass yourself off as** *exp*
if you "pass yourself off as" a prince (for example), you act as if you're a prince, even though you aren't
- film crew** *n*
the "film crew" are the people who work on a film: the sound engineers, the camera operators, etc.
- to take a back seat** *exp*
if you "take a back seat" during an operation (for example), you don't do much and let others lead it
- to rest on someone's shoulders** *exp*
if responsibility for something "rests on your shoulders", it's your responsibility
- hotly disputed** *exp*
if something is "hotly disputed", people don't agree with it
- to take dramatic licence** *exp*
if a director "takes dramatic licence", they tell the story the way they want to, often ignoring the facts

Answers on page 46

1 Pre-reading

What changes can filmmakers make to real-life stories? Think of as many ideas as you can. They can... **change the dates, change the names of the people, set it in a different country, change the sequence of events...**

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Were any of your ideas from the Pre-reading task mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

- Why was Maria taken to hospital?
- Why was it a miracle that everyone in her family survived?
- What was the major difference between the film and reality?
- What was the film *Argo* based on?
- How did the diplomats get out of the country?
- In the film version, what is one of the major differences?

ANSWERS

TERRIFYING TALES

3 Reading II

1. Hansel and Gretel; 2. Little Red Riding Hood; 3. The Little Mermaid; 4. The Thumb-Sucker; 5. The Little Mermaid; 6. Hansel and Gretel

THINGS TO STEAL

3 Reading II

1. 88%; 2. 55%; 3. 27%; 4. 22%; 5. 11%; 6. 3%

GRAMMAR BOOSTER

1. next; 2. over; 3. anything; 4. today; 5. corner; 6. morning; 7. house; 8. tennis

ENGLISH IN ACTION

1. leg; 2. location; 3. helicopters; 4. fire; 5. arm; 6. jacket; 7. leaves

CHARITIES

3 Reading II

1. Axe Undie Run
2. Pay to stop *Baby*
3. Movember
4. One dress, one year
5. Dryathlon
6. Jeans for Genes

4 Language focus

1. good enough; 2. enough money; 3. enough food; 4. well enough

END OF THE WORLD

3 Reading II

1. Christopher Columbus; 2. Herbert W. Armstrong; 3. Jim Jones; 4. The Jehovah's Witnesses; 5. Hon-Ming Chen; 6. the Mayans

TRANSPORT STORIES

3 Listening II

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

4 Language focus

Four more adverbs:

suddenly, forcefully, incredibly, calmly

5 Listening III

1. station; 2. boss; 3. colleagues; 4. building; 5. jeans; 6. party; 7. bus; 8. bag; 9. helmet; 10. woman

SUPERSTITIONS

3 Reading II (wording may vary)

1. Seven
2. Salt
3. Pick it up with your right hand, make a wish, then throw it over your left shoulder.
4. There were 13 people at the Last Supper.
5. A ladder against a building forms the shape of a triangle, which is a sacred symbol for Christians. By walking under the ladder, you break the triangle.

HOW TO AVOID THE STREISAND EFFECT!

3 Reading II

1. Argyll; 2. Beyoncé; 3. James; 4. Beyoncé; 5. James; 6. Argyll

4 Language focus

1. became known; 2. became lucky; 3. gave

QUIRKY NEWS

A: Questions!

1. a luxury hotel; 2. Het Arresthuis; 3. 40; 4. at a communal table; 5. number nine

B: Questions!

1. Kansas; 2. a ring; 3. give him some change; 4. two days later; 5. \$200,000

CUSTOMER SERVICE STORIES

3 Listening II

1. A couple of days.
2. Someone from the sales department.
3. Someone from the customer service department.
4. About 10.
5. Because the waiter didn't come over.
6. The manager.
7. A free bottle of wine.
8. She thought it was great.

5 Listening III

1. got this call
2. I'd think about it
3. on a scale of one to ten
4. from different people in the company
5. as quickly as possible
6. he looked the other way
7. what the problem was
8. so we went to sit down

GROUP TALK

1 Listening I

A cat.

2 Listening II

1. Because the apartments are so small.
2. There aren't any gardens.
3. Owners not curbing their dogs.

COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS

3 Listening II

1. To improve her English.
2. At an estate agent's.
3. A party.
4. Nativist – it's someone who likes to be naked.
5. In a law firm in Hong Kong.
6. That she was a great dancer.
7. Because although she's a good dancer, she isn't a professional dancer.
8. They'd understood "ballet" when the man had said "Bali".

4 Language focus

1. up; 2. at; 3. in; 4. at; 5. in; 6. by

5 Listening III

1. came over to my desk
2. seemed to be quite friendly
3. wanted to know whether I'd like
4. hadn't really paid much attention to the word
5. peered through the front door
6. made up a feeble excuse about
7. talking to some of the people
8. smiled and tried to change
9. everyone thought my wife was a dancer
10. one of the managers had understood
11. lead to such confusion

PHRASAL VERBS

1. grandfather; 2. tall; 3. children; 4. lottery; 5. course; 6. medicine; 7. school; 8. University

TRUTH AND LIES

3 Reading II (wording may vary)

1. Because she had life-threatening injuries.
2. Because so many people had died.
3. In the film version, the family are British; in reality, they were Spanish.
4. The 1979 Iranian hostage crisis.
5. They pretended to be part of a Canadian film crew.
6. In the film version, Tony Mendez is presented as the hero, and the Canadians take a back seat, but this wasn't entirely true.

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I ALWAYS SPEAK MY MIND!

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Lazy birds

- A:** I say, I say, I say. Why do birds fly south for the winter?
B: I don't know. Why do birds fly south for the winter?
A: Because it's too far to walk!

Tiger fun

A police officer is **patrolling** the streets when he sees a man with a tiger on a **lead**. He stops the man, **takes down his details** and orders him to take the tiger to the zoo. The next day, the police officer sees the same man with the tiger again. "I thought I told you to take the tiger to the zoo," the police officer says. "I did," says the man. "And now I'm taking him to the cinema."

Annoying parrot

A man is on his way to work when he notices a parrot on a **perch** in the front window of a **pet shop**. Stopping to have a look, the parrot suddenly says, "Hey, mister, you're really stupid!" The man **shakes his head** and walks off. On the way home, the same thing happens. This continues for a couple of days. Eventually, the man has had enough and goes into the shop. "Could you tell your parrot to stop insulting me, please?" he asks the store owner. "Oh, I'm sorry," says the owner. "I'll **have a word with him** about it." "Thanks," says the man. "I'd appreciate it." The next day, the man walks past the shop again.

"Hey, mister!" the parrot calls out.
 "Yes?" the man asks, **wondering** what the parrot is going to do. And the parrot says, "You know what you are!" ★

GLOSSARY

- to patrol** *vb*
if the police are "patrolling" in an area, they're in that area, checking that things are all right
- a lead** *n*
a dog's "lead" is the long, thin piece of material that you hold onto. It goes around the dog's neck so you can control it
- to take down details** *exp*
if the police "take down your details", they ask for your name, address, etc.
- a perch** *n*
a bird's "perch" is the stick or piece of wood that it sits on
- a pet shop** *n*
a shop that sells animals that you can buy and keep in your house
- to shake your head** *exp*
to move your head from side to side, often as a way of saying "no" or because you don't like or agree with something
- to have a word with someone** *exp*
to talk to someone about something
- to wonder** *vb*
if you "wonder" about something, you think about it and the reasons for it

Hot Staff

Directors

Managing Director

Thorley Russell (00 34 91 543 3573)
 thorleyr@learnhotenglish.com

Editorial Director

Andy Coney (00 34 91 543 3573)
 andyc@learnhotenglish.com

Finance

Financial Director

Leigh Dante (00 34 91 549 8523)
 leigh@learnhotenglish.com

Classes Department

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

Teacher Coordinator

Melissa Armstrong
 teacherinfo@learnhotenglish.com

Accounts manager

Chelo Requena
 classes@learnhotenglish.com

Administration Department

Subscriptions (9:30-13:00)

Jorge Toral (tel / fax) (00 34 91 549 8523)
 Skype: hotenglishgroup
 subs@learnhotenglish.com
 payments@learnhotenglish.com
 Credit control and administration
 9:00 - 2pm (by e-mail thereafter)
 Office hours 9:30 - 6 pm (Spanish time)

Barcelona office (Hot English)

barcelona@learnhotenglish.com

Seville office (Hot English)

classes@learnhotenglish.com

Editorial Department

James Blick **assistant editor**

Philip McIvor **designer**

Patrick Howarth **writer**

Paul Morrissey **writer**

Christine Saunders **writer**

Louisa Glancy **writer**

Contributors

Blanca San Roman **translation**

Magnus Coney **proof reading**

Marcie Lambert **proof reading**

Natalia T. Piekarowicz **proof reading**

Laurent Guiard **French depart.**

Danielle Ott **intern**

Georgina Kiely **intern**

Leslie Ann Evans **intern**

Vanessa Simmonds **writer**

Megan Boyle **intern**

JohnMichael Mulderig **intern**

Slim Pickens **special intern**

Nick Hargreaves **writer**

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 C/Paseo del Rey, 22 - 1ª planta,
 oficina 1, Madrid 28008

Phone: (00 34) 91 549 8523

Fax: (00 34) 672 317 912

info@learnhotenglish.com

www.learnhotenglish.com

www.hotenglishgroup.com

Skype: hotenglishgroup

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