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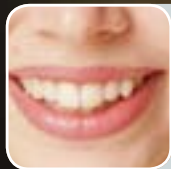
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# Editor's intro

Hi, everybody, and welcome to another issue of Hot English. Where did you go last time you visited England? To London? Manchester? Bath? Well, in our section called Amazing World, we're taking a look at Birmingham. Now, some people will find it a bit strange that we've used the words Birmingham and "amazing" in the same sentence. However, Jayne is here to tell us why it should be on every tourist's list of places to visit.

This month we're also looking at a very special prize-giving ceremony known as the Ig Nobels. They're designed to reward unusual scientific research. And this year's winners were certainly unusual. Have you ever been in England on 5th November? If you have, you'll have noticed at the bonfires. They're actually part of a celebration that dates back to the 17th century. This was a time when being a Catholic or celebrating Mass could mean a death sentence. Find out more in our articles on Guy Fawkes. Talking of England, I was back there recently, looking through some old school notebooks of mine. In one of my English books, I noticed a number of interesting spelling mistakes, such as the classic "I've taken it" (which should be "I've taken it") and, even worse, "This is are problem" (which should be, "This is our problem"). As we've said before, making mistakes is all part of language learning. And as you can see, even native English speakers (and future editors) have problems with the complex spellings and verb tense formation that English has to offer. Finally, we're taking a look at the mobile phone this month. You'll be able to learn lots of "cool" text messaging abbreviations. So, with that in mind, I'll "CU nxt mth 4 sm more edukayshn & humor" (which means, "See you next month for some more education and humour"). Bye,

## "Blond" versus "blonde"



Interestingly, "blond" is one of the few adjectives (and nouns) in English with masculine and feminine forms. According to many dictionary definitions, we should use "blond" to refer to men (a blond man, a blond), and "blonde" (with the "e") to refer to women (a blonde woman, a blonde). However, many people (and publications) use only one spelling, regardless of the

gender of the person being referred to. Be careful using the term "a blonde" to refer to a woman as many people find it offensive. For some reason "a blonde" has come to imply that the person is stupid, hence the expression "a dumb blonde". The original "dumb" blondes were Marilyn Monroe and Jean Harlow, but obviously neither of them were stupid. Psychologists say that we naturally associate "blonde" with being childish, especially as many children are born blonde, even though later their hair may darken. But that sounds a bit far-fetched to me.

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# PHRASAL VERBS STICK

The verb "to stick" has many different uses. However, we generally use this verb in reference to putting something in a place casually. For example, "Could you stick that book on my desk, please?" Now let's look at some phrasal verbs with the verb "to stick".

**STICK BY A PROMISE TO DO WHAT YOU PROMISED TO DO.**



**STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE TO PUSH YOUR TONGUE OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, OFTEN AS A WAY OF MAKING FUN OF SOMEONE.**



**STICK OUT TO BE EASILY NOTICEABLE BECAUSE OF YOUR CLOTHES OR APPEARANCE.**



**STICK UP ON TO FIX ONTO THE WALL / A SURFACE, ETC.**



**STICKING UP (HAIR) IF YOUR HAIR IS "STICKING UP", IT IS IN A VERTICAL POSITION.**



**STICK UP FOR SOMEONE TO DEFEND SOMEONE, OFTEN SOMEONE WHO IS BEING CRITICISED.**





# Basic English

Learn lots of useful words and expressions. Just listen and repeat.

### Things you say

- How many rooms has it got?
- Is it near the **Underground**?
- Does it include the **service charge**?
- Does it have a garage, a swimming pool or a gym?
- Does it have a nice view?
- Does it get much natural light?
- How much is the **deposit**?
- Do we have to sign a contract?
- How much is the rent per month?
- Does it get hot in the summer? Is it cold in the winter?
- What are the neighbours like?
- Is it **furnished**?
- Can I keep my pet snake there?
- Does it have air conditioning, a fridge, a washing machine or an oven?

- How much is the service charge?
- What type of **flooring** does it have?
- Could I have a **look around**?
- When's it **available**?

### Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise asking about a flat.

#### GLOSSARY

**the Underground** *n*  
the underground train system in London

**a service charge** *n*  
money you pay to the local government for services such as collecting rubbish, policing, etc

**a deposit** *n*  
money you pay the landlord as a guarantee that you will pay the rent in the future. In theory, this money will be returned

**furnished** *adj*  
with furniture such as beds, a sofa, tables, chairs, etc

**flooring** *n*  
the type of material on the floor (wood, stone, etc)

**to look around** *phr vb*  
to inspect the rooms in a building

**available** *adj*  
that is ready and that can be used/bought, etc



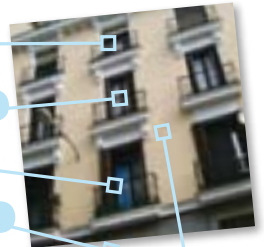
Bills

The third floor

The second floor

The first floor

The ground floor



An apartment/flat



A classified ad

A "For Sale" sign

A window

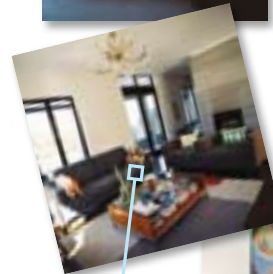


A studio flat

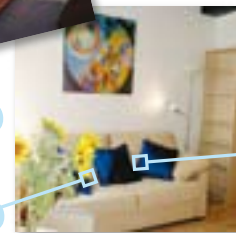
An attic flat

A kitchen

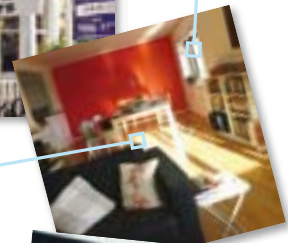
Heating



A living room



A furnished flat



Furniture

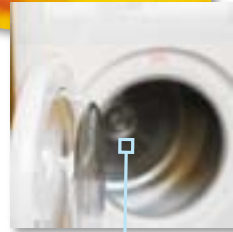
A bathroom



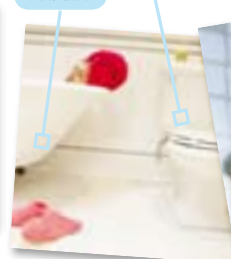
A fan

A toilet

A bath



A washing machine



A shower

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# GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.



CD track 3 Englishwoman & US woman

**KEEP DEATH OFF THE ROADS. DRIVE ON THE PAVEMENT.**

**WHY DO MEN CALL WOMEN "BIRDS"? IS IT BECAUSE THEY PICK UP WORMS?**

**I'M CURED OF SCHIZOPHRENIA, BUT WHERE AM I WHEN I NEED ME?**

**CONSTIPATION IS THE THIEF OF TIME. DIARRHOEA WAITS FOR NO MAN.**

**AMAZE THE BUS CONDUCTOR. GIVE THE RIGHT CHANGE.**

## GLOSSARY

**a pavement** *n*  
the part of the road that people can walk on  
**to pick someone up** *phr vb*  
to start going out with someone  
**a worm** *n*  
a small animal with a long, thin body. Birds eat them  
**constipation** *n*  
a medical condition which makes it difficult to go to the toilet  
**to amaze someone** *exp*  
to do something that surprises someone  
**the right change** *n*  
the exact amount of money in coins or notes

# How to annoy your flatmate

Have you ever shared a flat or apartment with someone? Are you sharing now? Here are some fun ways to really **annoy** your **flatmate**.



CD track 4 Englishwoman & US woman

- Walk into the flat, look at your flatmate and **say in disgust**, "Are you still here?"
- Create an imaginary cat for a pet. Talk to it every night. After two weeks say that your cat is missing. Accuse your flatmate of having done something to it.
- Smile all the time. This can be very **disturbing**.
- Leave **memos** on your flatmate's bed saying things like, "I know it was you".
- When someone knocks on the door, answer the phone.
- Stop talking and just communicate in **sign language**.
- Have a very loud conversation on the phone for three hours with an imaginary friend. Keep saying, "Yes, yes, I know."
- Order six pizzas. Then, when the **pizza delivery guy** comes, **deny any knowledge of** the pizzas, refuse to pay, and blame your flatmate.
- Every time you go past your flatmate **mutter**, "You shouldn't have done that".
- **Pretend** to be asleep and talk loudly.
- Run into the living room and tell your flatmate that his bed is on fire. Then, calmly sit down and wait for him to come back. ✪

WHY ARE THEY CALLED "APARTMENTS" ("APART-MENTS") WHEN THEY'RE STUCK TOGETHER?



**Flat Joke**



## GLOSSARY

**to annoy** *vb*  
to irritate  
**a flatmate** *n*  
someone who shares a flat with you  
**say in disgust** *exp*  
say something in a tone of voice that shows you don't like something  
**disturbing** *adj*  
worrying; alarming  
**a memo** *n*  
a note  
**sign language** *n*  
a form of communication that involves using your hands  
**the pizza delivery guy** *n*  
the person who takes pizza to your house from a restaurant to deny any knowledge  
**of something** *exp*  
to say that you know nothing about a situation  
**to mutter** *vb*  
to speak in a low, soft voice  
**to pretend** *vb*  
to act as if something is true even though it isn't

# RICHMOND READERS

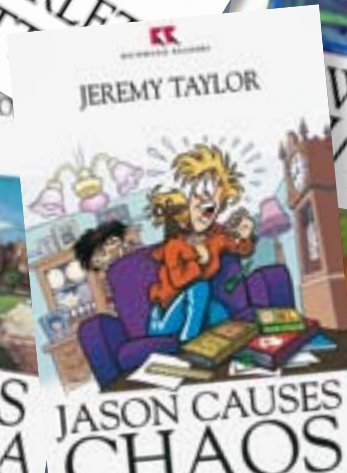
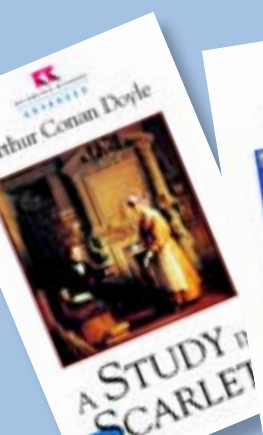
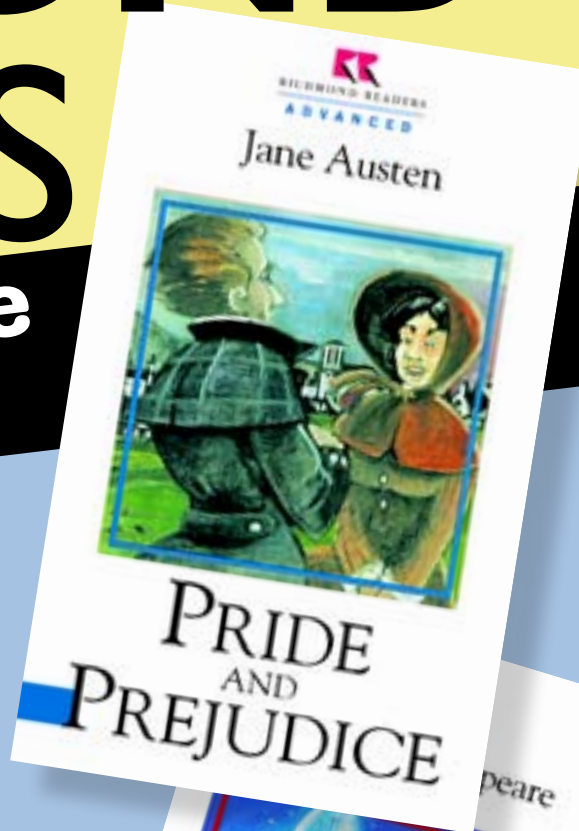
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# DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: COLLOCATIONS



Exercise



CD track 5 Englishman & US woman

Here are some more useful **collocations**\* for you to learn. The images will help you associate each expression with its meaning.

## SPEAKING AND TALKING



### Read someone the riot act

To get very angry with someone.  
"Her pupils were behaving really badly so she decided to read them the riot act."



### Off the record

If you say something "off the record", you don't want anyone to publish what you have said.  
"Off the record, the president hasn't been very well recently."



### My lips are sealed

I will not tell this to anyone.  
"Your secret is safe with me. My lips are sealed."



### Shoot your mouth off

To talk about something that is secret; to talk a lot; to talk too much.  
"This is top secret, so don't go shooting your mouth off about it."



### Tell it like it is

To speak honestly about something.  
"If you're going to split up with Jim, there's no point in trying to be nice to him. The best thing is to tell him like it is."



### Blind somebody with science

To try to confuse someone by using lots of jargon or technical expressions.  
"Just give me a very basic overview of the situation in plain language. And don't try to blind me with science."



### Speak volumes

If something "speaks volumes", it makes a situation very clear without the use of words.  
"She didn't say anything, but the furious expression on her face spoke volumes."



### Not to mince your words

To speak clearly, even if you make others sad or angry.  
"He described the president as selfish and arrogant. He's never one to mince his words."

### \* Collocations

A collocation is a sequence of two or more words that go together to form fixed expressions ("heavy rain", for example). Learning lots of collocations will improve your level of English, and help you with exams such as First Certificate, Advanced and Proficiency, which test your knowledge of these things.



# FUNNY PRODUCT LABELS



CD track 6 - American woman & Englishwoman

Our mini-series on funny signs from English-speaking countries. Here's another part in our series on funny **product labels**. Some companies seem to think we're a bit **dim**.



**1** On the packaging for a **pram**: "Caution: Remove infant before **folding**." But folding him up is just such a great way of keeping him quiet.



**3** On an electronic **massaging device**: "Do not use while sleeping." But the **buzzing sound** in my ear **sends me to sleep**.

**2** On the packaging for a **knife-sharpening stone**: "Warning: knives are sharp." What? You mean they might cut something?



**4** On a can of air freshener: "For use by **trained personnel** only." So, where can I get the necessary training?



**7** On the **dashboard** of a **refuse-collection vehicle**: "Look before driving." Oh, thanks for that.

**5** On the packaging for some **Silly Putty**: "Do not use as **ear plugs**." What? Sorry, but I can't hear what you're saying with all this Silly Putty in my ears?



**6** On a **spray can** of deodorant: "Not for use on the face." But what if my eyes need **freshening up**?



**8** On a sign at a railroad station: "Beware! **High-voltage electric fence**. Anyone caught **tampering with these wires** will be prosecuted." And who will be prosecuting me? God?

**9** On the package for some **dice**: "Not for human consumption." But those little cubes look so **tasty**."



## GLOSSARY

- a product label** *n*  
a piece of paper on a product with information about that product
- dim** *adj*  
stupid; not intelligent
- a pram** *n*  
a bed with wheels for pushing a baby
- to fold** *vb*  
if you "fold" a pram, you make it smaller by bending it or closing parts of it
- a knife-sharpening stone** *n*  
a stone that is used for making a knife sharp
- a massaging device** *n*  
a piece of electrical equipment used to give you a massage
- a buzzing sound** *n*  
a low continuous noise made by a machine when it vibrates
- sends me to sleep** *exp*  
makes me sleep
- trained personnel** *n*  
employees who have been taught how to do a special job
- Silly Putty** *n*  
a type of soft, coloured substance that children use to make things
- an ear plug** *n*  
a small object you put in your ears to block noise
- a spray can** *n*  
a container for a liquid that comes out in many small drops when you press a button
- to freshen up** *phr vb*  
to wash/clean yourself after a long journey
- a dashboard** *n*  
the inside part of a car in front of the driver with all the controls on it
- a refuse-collection vehicle** *n*  
a large vehicle used for collecting rubbish
- a high-voltage electric fence** *n*  
a barrier that is connected to electricity and that will probably kill you if you touch it
- to tamper with something** *exp*  
to interfere with something and to try to change it
- a wire** *n*  
a piece of metal used to conduct electricity
- dice** *n*  
small cubes with dots (small circles) on them. Dice are used for playing games
- tasty** *adj*  
delicious; that tastes nice

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# Dictionary of slang






CD track 7 - Canadian & English accents



Exercise

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

↓ Situation	 Formal	 Relaxed	 Informal
You tell someone to call you later.	Please contact me by telephone at a later date.	Give me a call later.	Give me a <b>bell</b> later; give me a <b>buzz</b> later.
You tell someone that you haven't spoken German for a long time.	My German doesn't <b>roll off the tongue</b> quite so smoothly as it once did.	My German isn't as good as it used to be.	My German's a bit <b>rusty</b> .
You're describing a friend who is an eccentric scientist.	He obsessed with his scientific experiments.	He is a real scientist.	He's a <b>boffin</b> .
You are describing your mobile phone, which is just an ordinary one without any gadgets.	It's just an average mobile phone.	It's a fairly standard mobile phone.	It's a <b>bog</b> -standard mobile phone.
Your friend was in a bar last night looking for some "emotional company".	She was attempting to establish contact with strangers.	She was trying to pick someone up.	She was on the <b>pull</b> .
Your boss is shouting at you and being aggressive. You decide that it is time for her to stop.	This aggressive shouting is disturbing me.	This is too much for me.	I don't need this <b>aggro</b> .



## GLOSSARY

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

**a bell** *n*  
a device that makes a ringing sound

**to roll off the tongue** *exp*  
if language "rolls off the tongue", you say the words easily and fluently

**rusty** *adj*  
if metal is "rusty", it has a brown substance on it, formed when it comes in contact with water

**a bog** *n*  
an area of land which is wet and muddy

**aggro** *n inform abbr*  
this is an abbreviation of "aggravation" (something that thing annoys you)

# Air Guitar



Imagine being a rock star. The money. The **groupies**. The music. What fun! If only we could all do it. But there's usually one important thing that separates us from the true stars: guitar-playing talent. But there's an alternative: air guitar. What is it? Who does it? And why? By Janet Illott.

## Self-inflicted glory



Playing air guitar is easy. Put on your favourite rock song, imagine you're up **on stage**, then

start playing the guitar - well, **pretending** to play, at least. Make wild, exaggerated movements on your **pretend-guitar**, **strum** the imaginary **chords**, and **pick the notes** for the **solo**. All the time, you should be jumping up and down, and singing loudly.

Welcome to the world of air guitar.

## More serious than you'd think

For some people, air guitar is a serious hobby. Many air guitarists **take pride in** their ability to mimic a real artist. In fact, there are even organised air guitar competitions. Since 1996, the *Annual Air Guitar World Championship* contest has been a part of the *Oulu Music Video Festival* in Oulu, Finland. The first organised air guitar competition in the UK **was held in** 1994, in Australia in 2002, and in the United States in 2003. Some artists have even



started using air guitar in their **performances**. The music video for Swedish extreme metal band *Meshuggahs* (for their song "New Millennium Cyanide Christ") shows the five band members sitting in their **tour bus** performing the song on air guitars, air **drums**, and an air microphone (which is actually a red pen).

## High-tech air guitars

But now there's good news for air guitarists. Scientists from Finland have invented a software system that can translate those hand movements into real electric guitar sounds. It's known as the Virtual Air Guitar, and it's incredibly easy to use. All you need are the special orange **gloves**, a camera and a computer. **Slip on** the gloves, stand in front of the camera and let the music take control. The software reads your hand movements and translates them into music. There are two basic programmes: chords and solo. For the solo option you just **wiggle your fingers** in a vague imitation of playing a guitar solo and, **hey presto**, you're a guitar-playing genius. 🍀

## GLOSSARY

- a groupie** *n*  
a person who really likes a pop group and who follows them around, going to all their concerts
- on stage** *exp*  
on the raised platform where musicians perform in front of audiences
- to pretend** *vb*  
to act as if something is true, even if it isn't
- a pretend-guitar** *n*  
an imaginary guitar
- to strum** *vb*  
to play a guitar by moving your fingers up and down across the strings
- a chord** *n*  
a number of musical notes on a guitar that are played at the same time
- to pick the notes** *exp*  
to play the musical notes individually
- a solo** *n*  
a part of the song that is performed by the guitarist in which the guitar is the most prominent instrument
- to take pride in something** *exp*  
to be very pleased about something you can do
- was held in** *exp*  
happened in
- a performance** *n*  
if a musician gives a "performance", he/she sings or plays in front of an audience
- a tour bus** *n*  
a private bus that takes a band or group to different cities so they can play concerts
- drums** *n*  
percussion instruments that are played by hitting them with special sticks or with the hands
- gloves** *n*  
clothing for the hands
- to slip on** *phr vb*  
to put on casually
- to wiggle your fingers** *exp*  
to move your fingers using small, quick movements
- hey presto** *exp*  
people often use this expression when something seems to happen by magic

Mike Wilmat

"Think of me as a hooker. you'll have a ball and when you leave you'll tell no one." M. Wilmat

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# Guy Fawkes

## The original 'bad guy'

Think of England's famous Parliament buildings and Big Ben. Think of Queen Elizabeth, Tony Blair, and think of the entire House of Lords and all the politicians of Great Britain. Now, imagine that they are all suddenly destroyed in one terrible explosion. Four hundred years ago, someone did try to blow up the King and Parliament. This terrorist **plot** became known as the **Gunpowder Plot**. Who was behind it? And why? By Rob Julian.

### Second-Class Citizens

Like September 11, The Gunpowder Plot was an ambitious terrorist plan. It was put together by a group of people who were unhappy with the government. They



obtained a huge amount of explosives and a weapons expert. So, what was the problem? Well, in the early 1600s, around the time of Shakespeare, England's Catholics were unhappy – very unhappy. They weren't allowed to vote, they weren't allowed to **hold mass**, they weren't allowed to join the army, they couldn't practise law, receive a university degree or vote in local elections. All this on top of having to go to Anglican churches in order to baptise their children or be **buried**.

In effect, the Catholics were second-class citizens. Things were fairly bad during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558 to 1603). But when she died, Catholics thought things would change. However, the new king, James the First (who reigned from 1603 to 1625), was no different. He was a Protestant too. And now the Catholics were worried that they would never get the rights they deserved.



### The Plan

Some influential Catholics of the day **came up with** a spectacular plot. They decided to blow up Parliament on its opening day,

when the King would be there, as well as the Prime Minister and all the government and opposition ministers. Not only that,



they planned to **kidnap** the children of the royal family. They hoped this would start a revolution so that a Catholic king would once again rule the country.

### The Man

The **plotters** included Guy Fawkes, an ex-military man and weapons expert. Fawkes



managed to obtain a huge amount of gunpowder – about 36 **barrels**. First, the plotters **rented** an empty house next to Parliament.

The plotters started to **dig a tunnel** to put the gunpowder under the Parliament building. But then they had some good luck. They were able to rent a **coal cellar** directly beneath Parliament. The gunpowder was taken down to the cellar a long time before, so nobody would notice. When the last barrel was delivered, they covered it with wood so that it couldn't be seen. All they had to do was to wait until the opening day of Parliament and "Ka-Boom!" – everyone inside would be **blown up**.

### The Wait

But they had to wait a long time. By chance, the opening day of Parliament was **delayed**, not once, but twice. The plotters were getting nervous. Every day they had to wait, the chances that the plot would be discovered increased. Then there was another problem. Some of the Catholic plotters were worried about other Catholics who would die in the explosion. One of the plotters, Francis Tresham, tried to warn his brother-in-law, Lord Monteagle, in a letter.

### GLOSSARY

- a (terrorist) plot** *n*  
a plan to commit a crime / to kill people
- gunpowder** *n*  
an explosive substance
- to hold mass** *exp*  
to conduct a Catholic service
- to bury** *vb*  
to put a body in a hole
- to come up with (an idea)** *exp*  
to think of an idea
- to kidnap** *vb*  
to take someone illegally and with force, and to demand money or something in return
- a plotter** *n*  
someone who plans to commit an act of terrorism
- a barrel** *n*  
a large container that is often used for beer
- to rent** *vb*  
to pay money to use something for a period of time
- to dig a tunnel** *exp*  
to make a long hole in the ground
- a coal cellar** *n*  
a room under a house where coal is kept. Coal is a hard, black substance used for burning, etc
- to blow up** *phr vb*  
to explode
- to delay** *vb*  
if something is "delayed", it happens at a later time
- to attend** *vb*  
to go to
- to search** *vb*  
to look for something carefully
- to refuse** *vb*  
to say that you won't do something
- to flee** *n* (past: fled)  
to run away; to escape
- to go into hiding** *exp*  
to hide because the authorities are looking for you
- a trial** *n*  
a legal process for deciding if someone is innocent or guilty
- to judge someone guilty** *exp*  
to say that someone has committed a crime
- a major event** *n*  
a very important occasion with many people attending
- to hang someone** *vb*  
to kill someone by putting a rope around their neck
- guts** *n*  
the organs inside someone's body
- a bonfire** *n*  
a large fire outside, often as part of a celebration
- a dummy** *n*  
a model of a person, often the same size as that person
- straw** *n*  
dried yellow grass that animals eat

He wrote, "I advise you to devise some excuse not to **attend** this parliament, for they shall receive a terrible blow, and yet shall not see who hurts them."

### The Discovery

Monteagle showed the letter to the authorities. They **searched** the Parliament in the early morning of the 5th of November. They found the gunpowder. And they found Guy Fawkes. He was carrying a box of matches.

Fawkes was arrested and brought to the King, who asked Fawkes to explain why he wanted to kill him. Then, Fawkes was taken to the Tower of London. He **refused** to give the names of the other plotters, so he was tortured. Fawkes eventually confessed the names of the others. But by then, they had already **fled** from London and had **gone into hiding** all over the country. But one by one, they were all arrested or killed.

### The Penalty

During a one-day **trial**, on 26th January 1606, the plotters were all **judged guilty** and sentenced to death. The execution was a **major event**. Tickets were sold for record prices. It is even said that the King and Queen secretly attended the event. Fawkes and the others were **hung** by the neck, drawn (their **guts** were taken out) and their bodies quartered (cut into four pieces). The Gunpowder Plot was finished. But the memory of it lives on.

### The Memory

That night on 5th November 1605, hundreds of people across the country lit **bonfires** to celebrate the news of the discovery of the plot that had prevented the deaths of many people. Incredibly, this tradition has survived, and every 5th November there are bonfires and fireworks all over England. This festival is known as "Guy Fawkes Night" or "Bonfire Night". At the end of the night, the



figure of a man is thrown onto every fire. This figure is known as a "guy", and is a **dummy** of Guy Fawkes, often made from old clothes and **straw**. So, next time you find yourself in England on 5th November, you'll know what's happening. ✖

# Do you speak English?



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# Guy Fawkes Trivia



CD track 9 - Englishmen

Here are some interesting things about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot.

At the time of the plot, Guy Fawkes' name was actually Guido Fawkes. However, he is always referred to as Guy Fawkes.



For many centuries now, Guy Fawkes has been considered the **main culprit**. However, he wasn't one of the principal leaders.

By the 19th century, the word "guy" was used to describe a strangely dressed person. Today, in informal language, "guy" is used to refer to any male person.

For Bonfire Night, it is typical for children to make their own "guys" with straw and old clothes. Some children take their guys around the streets with signs on them saying, "a penny for the Guy", before burning the Guys on the night of 5th November.

The most famous Bonfire Night celebrations in England are those of Lewes in East Sussex. In 1994, there were **effigies** of Mrs Thatcher,



John Major and Michael Howard, as well as Guy Fawkes. Eighty thousand people attended.

These days there are five Bonfire Societies in Lewes.

For the special night, many members wear historical **fancy dress**. However, only one of them, the Cliffe Bonfire Society, still burns an effigy of the Pope (but the Cliffe is careful to make it clear that it is a 17th-century Pope, not the present one).



For most people, the celebrations in Lewes are a night of **wildness** and fun, although there will always be some people who feel uncomfortable seeing a **banner** across the street with the words "**No Popery**".

In 2005, a British television station made a documentary programme about the gunpowder plot. They decided to build a **replica** of the Parliament building and then blow it up, to test the power of the gunpowder used by Guy Fawkes. The explosion was enormous. From the test, they concluded that everyone in the building would have been killed instantly. And anybody within 100 metres of the building would also have died.

For many years, Catholic priests had to hide

from the authorities. If they were caught, they could be executed. Many English country manor houses had (and still have) secret



**passageways**, hidden doors and rooms which the priests used. Baddesley Clinton is a typical example. It is about a hundred miles from London, and has enough hiding places for twelve priests.

In 1613, there was a proposal for a law in the House of Commons to force Catholics to wear a red hat (as the Jews in Rome did), or coloured **stockings** (as clowns did), so they could easily be distinguished or humiliated. In the end, it wasn't adopted, but it shows something of the **mood of the country**.

As a result of the failed attempt, the **vaults** of the House of Lords are still searched **on the eve of** the Opening of Parliament.

In the 19th century, some historians claimed that there was never any plot to blow up Parliament. They argued that the government invented it in order to create an excuse to attack and **repress** Catholics. Interestingly, many Muslims make similar claims with regard to the September 11th attacks.

Were the Gunpowder Plotters terrorists or freedom fighters? At the time, many people thought that blowing up Parliament was the right thing to do given the circumstances. But obviously others would say that this is a blatant act of terrorism. What do you think? 🗳️



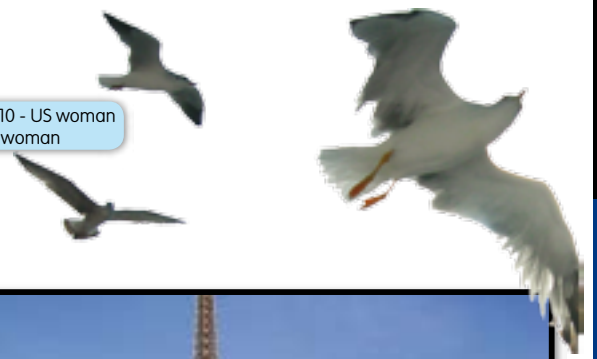
## GLOSSARY

- the main culprit** *n*  
the person who is most responsible for a crime
- an effigy** *n*  
a figure of a famous person made to look funny or silly. It is often of a politician who no one likes
- fancy dress** *n*  
clothing people wear to parties so they look like pirates, Romans, etc
- wildness** *n*  
craziness, insanity
- a banner** *n*  
a long strip of cloth with a message on it
- No Popery** *exp*  
an anti-Catholic slogan used by extremist Protestants
- a replica** *n*  
a model of a building
- a passageway** *n*  
a corridor in a building
- stockings** *n*  
long socks that go to the top of the leg
- the mood of the country** *n*  
the atmosphere in the country
- a vault** *n*  
a room for storage or burial, often in the lowest level of a building
- on the eve of** *exp*  
the day before
- to repress** *vb*  
to attack and restrict someone's freedom

# BIRD IDIOMS



CD track 10 - US woman & Englishwoman



This month we are looking at some general bird idioms.



## As bald as a coot

To be completely bald; to have absolutely no hair on your head.  
"He had to shave his head for the film and now he's as bald as a coot."



## Learn something parrot-fashion

If you "learn something parrot-fashion", you can repeat the words, but you do not understand the meaning.  
"When I was at school, we had to learn French grammar parrot-fashion."



## As sick as a parrot

To be very sad and disappointed about something.  
"When they told me that I hadn't been accepted for the series *Big Brother*, I was as sick as a parrot."



## As dead as a dodo

If something is "as dead as a dodo", it is no longer important or popular any more.  
"Who cares about communism? As a political concept, it's as dead as a dodo."



## A night owl

Someone who often goes to bed late because they prefer to do things at night.  
"He never goes to bed before 3 am – he's a bit of a night owl."



## A culture vulture

Someone who really likes seeing and experiencing art, theatre, music, etc.  
"He loves visiting cities with lots of art museums. He's a bit of a culture vulture."



# JAMES BOND

Beautiful women. Great music. Fast cars. Amazing **stunts**. Wicked **baddies**. The James Bond films have it all. Otherwise known as 007, Bond is the **archetypal** British hero. He averts global catastrophe. He swims with the sharks. And he always gets his girl. What's your favourite Bond film? Join us on a nostalgic tour of some truly classic Bond films.

## Goldfinger (1964) (points: 10/10)



This was the third James Bond film. It stars Sean Connery (as James Bond) and Honor Blackman (as Pussy Galore). After destroying a heroin plant in Latin America, Bond is sent to investigate international jeweller Auric Goldfinger (played by Gert Frobe). The

British suspect he's **smuggling** gold illegally. Bond eventually learns of Goldfinger's plan to **raid** the US **gold depository** at Fort Knox. Bond's only hope is to **turn** Goldfinger's personal pilot Pussy Galore **against** her boss. But the **stakes are raised** when Bond discovers that Goldfinger's scheme is even more dangerous. Soon, Bond is involved in a **race against time** to save the world economy from destruction.

## Dr No (1962) (points: 9/10)



This was the first Bond film, and starred Sean Connery and Ursula Andress (as Honey Ryder).

Bond is sent by M on a **rest cure** to Jamaica to investigate the disappearance of Strangways, the **head** of Kingston station. Bond soon learns that Strangways had been investigating the activities of Dr Julius No, a Chinese-German who lives on an island called Crab Key, which is **home to** a vicious dragon. With help of the beautiful Honey Ryder, who visits the island to collect valuable shells, Bond discovers that Dr No is in fact working

with the Russians. The Soviets have supplied Dr No with equipment to **sabotage** nearby American missile tests. Bond goes to the island, but is captured by Dr No.

## From Russia with Love (1963)



(points: 8/10)  
This was the second James Bond movie, and it starred Sean Connery and Daniela

Bianchi. Soviet **cryptographer** Tatiana Romanova tells British intelligence she wants to **defect** to the West. She offers to bring a top secret **decoding machine** with her. Bond is sent to Istanbul to take her and the device across the **Iron Curtain**. But Bond soon discovers that **SPECTRE** is also trying to get hold of the machine.

## The Man with the Golden Gun (1974)

(points: 7/10)



This was the ninth Bond film and it stars Roger Moore and Britt Ekland (as Mary Goodnight). Bond is sent to Jamaica to **gain the confidence** of Francisco "Pistols" Scaramanga, an **assassin** known as "the man with the golden gun", because of his golden .45 calibre revolver.

However, in mid-assignment, Bond learns that Scaramanga is involved with a syndicate of American gangsters and the KGB, who are working on several schemes, including the destabilisation of Western interests in the Caribbean.



## PRIZE QUIZ

Win tickets to the *James Bond Experience* exhibition at the *National Motor Museum* in England. They're showing some of the legendary vehicles from the 007 series, including the Lotus submarine car from *The Spy Who Loved Me*, and the amazing jumping boat from *Live and Let Die*. To enter the prize draw, just answer the following question correctly: What's the name of the actor who stars as James Bond in the forthcoming *Casino Royale*? Please send your answer by e-mail to: [james@answerenglish.com](mailto:james@answerenglish.com). The draw will be made in January 2007. The exhibition runs until December 2007 and is a fantastic day out for Bond lovers, both young and old. The museum itself is in Beaulieu, about two hours from London. To find out more about Bond at Beaulieu visit: [www.beaulieu.co.uk](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk)

Bond discovers that Goldfinger's scheme is even more dangerous. Soon, Bond is involved in a race against time to save the world economy from destruction.

DO YOU THINK I'D MAKE A GOOD BOND?

### For Your Eyes Only (1981) (points: 7/10)



This is another one of Roger Moore's films as James Bond. A British spy ship with a piece of top secret military hardware aboard **sinks** in the Adriatic Sea. The British plan to recover the device fails. Bond is assigned to investigate. **He**

**teams up** with Melina Havelock (played by Carole Bouquet) in Greece before travelling to Italy. Later, he discovers that someone is trying to sell the top secret device to the Soviets. Bond and Melina are soon caught up in a race to stop the device from falling into Soviet hands.

### Casino Royale (2006)



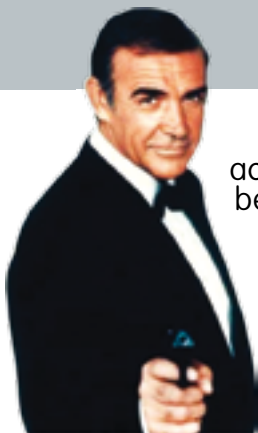
The latest Bond film is *Casino Royale*. It stars Daniel Craig as the first "blond" Bond. It's directed by Martin Campbell, and is, once again, based on a novel by Ian Fleming. In this film, we see Bond before he holds his licence to kill. But he's no

less dangerous, and with two professional **assassinations in quick succession** he's elevated to "00" status. Bond's first 007 mission takes him to Madagascar, where he's told to spy on a terrorist, Mollaka (Sebastien Foucan). Not everything goes to plan, and Bond decides to track down the rest of the terrorist cell. ✪

### GLOSSARY

- a stunt** *n*  
a dangerous action performed during the shooting of a film
- a baddie** *n*  
the bad person in a film
- archetypal** *adj*  
typical and representative
- to smuggle** *vb*  
to take goods illegally from one country to another
- to raid** *vb*  
to attack
- a gold depository** *n*  
a safe building where gold is kept
- to turn someone against another person** *exp*  
to make one person hate or attack another person
- the stakes are raised** *exp*  
things become more dangerous
- a race against time** *exp*  
a situation in which you must try to do something within a fixed period of time. If you don't do this, something really bad could happen
- a rest cure** *n*  
a period when you are resting after an injury or bad experience
- the head** *n*  
the boss
- home to** *exp*  
if a place is "home to" a particular thing, that thing is/lives there
- to sabotage** *vb*  
to damage something deliberately
- a cryptographer** *n*  
a person who deciphers secret messages or codes
- to defect** *vb*  
to leave your country or political party and go to another country or political party
- a decoding machine** *n*  
a machine that deciphers secret messages or codes
- the Iron Curtain** *n*  
the border that separated the Soviet Union from the West
- SPECTRE** *abbr*  
SPecial Executive for Counter-intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion. An organisation led by Ernst Stavro Blofeld. The organisation first appeared in the novel *Thunderball*, and subsequently in a number of James Bond films including the very first, *Dr No*
- to gain the confidence of someone** *exp*  
to make someone trust you
- an assassin** *n*  
a person who does political killings
- to sink** *vb*  
if a ship "sinks", it goes under water
- to team up with someone** *exp*  
to join a group
- an assassination** *n*  
a political killing
- in quick succession** *exp*  
with one event coming very soon after the other

# BOND QUOTES



So, who's your favourite Bond actor? For many it's a close contest between Sean Connery and Roger Moore. Join us for the battle between Connery and Moore.



## SEAN CONNERY vs ROGER MOORE

(born 25th August 1920 in Edinburgh, Scotland)  
He's an attractive, cold-blooded killer with a **suave** Scottish accent. Here are some Sean Connery "Bond" quotes:

- James Bond: I admire your courage, Miss...?  
 Sylvia Trench: Trench. Sylvia Trench. I admire your luck, Mr...?  
 James Bond: Bond. James Bond.
- Honey Ryder: Are you looking for **shells** too?  
 James Bond: No, I'm just looking.
- Miss Moneypenny: You've never taken me to dinner looking like this. You've never take me to dinner, **period**.  
 James Bond: I would, you know. Only I'd be **court-martialled** for **tampering with** government property.
- Miss Taro: What should I say to an invitation from a strange gentleman?  
 James Bond: You should say yes.
- Sylvia Trench: When did you say you had to leave?  
 James Bond: Immediately... almost immediately ❖

(born 14th October 1927 in London, England)  
He's funny, charming, and charismatic. He's the **archetypal, smooth-talking** English gent. Here are some Roger Moore "Bond" quotes:

- James Bond: What did Columbo **whisper** to you at the restaurant?  
 Countess: That you were a spy, and to find out more about you.  
 James Bond: And have you?
- Vicar: Mr Bond, Mr Bond. I'm so glad I caught you. Your office called. They're sending a helicopter to **pick you up**. Some sort of emergency.  
 James Bond: It usually is. Thank you.
- Blofeld: Put me down! Put me down! (*Blofeld is being dangled from a helicopter.*)  
 James Bond: Oh, you want to get off?
- James Bond: Who'd want to **put a contract on me**?  
**Jealous husbands!**  
**Outraged tailors!**  
 The list is **endless!**

### GLOSSARY

**suave** *adj*  
someone who is "suave" is charming and polite in an attractive way

**a shell** *n*  
a hard object found on the beach. It is the covering of a sea creature

**period** *exp*  
some people use this at the end of a statement for emphasis, and as a way of saying that something is definitely true

**to court-martial**  
if a member of the armed forces is "court-martialled", he/she is tried by a military court

**to tamper with something** *exp*  
to touch or change something

**archetypal** *adj*  
typical and representative

**smooth-talking** *adj*  
if someone is "smooth-talking", they can charm people by the way they talk

**to whisper** *vb*  
to speak in a very soft voice so most people can't hear you

**to pick someone up** *exp*  
to collect someone from a place

**to dangle** *vb*  
to hold someone from a height

**to put a contract on someone** *exp*  
to pay someone to kill another person

**outraged** *adj*  
very angry

**a chef** *n*  
a person who cooks in a restaurant, often a top-quality one

**a tailor** *n*  
a person who makes clothes as his/her job

**endless** *adj*  
that never ends

**to get pleasure out of something** *exp*  
to enjoy something

- Scaramanga: You **get as much pleasure out of** killing as I do, so why don't you admit it?  
 James Bond: I admit killing you would be a pleasure. ❖



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# Crank

# Call



CD track 11  
Englishmen

Telephone conversations to help improve your listening skills. Here are some more crank calls - those funny telephone calls that are designed to **wind** people **up**. Answers also on page 29

## The Vacuum Cleaner

For this call, we phoned up the technical service department of an **electrical shop**. We asked to speak to someone about our **vacuum cleaner**. Listen to the conversation and answer this question: What is the exact nature of the problem?

Message: Good morning. You have reached Shork's Electrical Supplies. For any enquiries regarding our products, please press one. For our **technical service department** please press two. For any other **enquiries**, please hold, and an operator will deal with your call in just a minute. (After a few seconds.)



- Victim: Hello. Technical service department.  
 Hot: (Loud noise of a vacuum cleaner in the background.) Hello?  
 Victim: Hello.  
 Hot: Hello? Is that the technical service department?  
 Victim: Yes, but I can't hear you very well.  
 Hot: Hello? What?  
 Victim: Erm, can you turn that machine off?  
 Hot: Hello? (The vacuum cleaner is turned off.)  
 Victim: What seems to be the problem?  
 Hot: I recently **purchased** a vacuum cleaner and it doesn't work.  
 Victim: Erm, wasn't that the vacuum cleaner making all that noise?  
 Hot: Oh, yes, I see what you mean. Erm, it won't clean properly.  
 Victim: Sounds good to me.  
 Hot: Well, I don't think it cleans very well.  
 Victim: Just bring it in and we'll **take a look**.  
 Hot: Can't you come and **pick it up**?  
 Victim: No, you'll have to **bring it round**.  
 Hot: OK. Thank you very much. I appreciate your kind attention.  
 Victim: Bye.  
 Hot: Yes, goodbye. ☺

### GLOSSARY

**to wind someone up** *exp*  
to annoy someone  
**an electrical shop** *n*  
a shop that sells stereos, etc  
**a vacuum cleaner** *n*  
a machine for cleaning the floor  
**the technical service department** *n*  
the department that helps resolve problems with machines, etc  
**an enquiry** *n*  
a question you ask in order to get information  
**to purchase** *vb*  
to buy  
**to take a look** *exp*  
to inspect  
**to pick up** *phr vb*  
to collect  
**to bring something round** *phr vb*  
to take something to the place where someone else is

# USEFUL ADVICE



CD track 12 - crazy man



## HOW NOT TO BE BORED

Learn how to entertain yourself with these fun activities.

Have a water drinking contest. See who can drink the most water in three minutes.

Move all your **furniture** from one room to the next. Then move it back again. The exercise will be good for you, plus you'll finally **get to** clean behind that old **wardrobe**.

**Step off** the **pavement curb** with your eyes shut and imagine that it's a **cliff**. Don't step off immediately, but stand there waiting, imagining the long **drop** below. When you jump, shout "ahhhhhh!" as you "**leap** to your death".

Imitate a vacuum cleaner. Make loud noises and **move about the house crashing into** furniture. Try doing it at two in the morning. See how long it takes the neighbours to complain.

What fun! ☺



### GLOSSARY

**furniture** *n*  
tables, chairs, etc  
**to get to do something** *exp*  
to have the opportunity to do something  
**a wardrobe** *n*  
a large, tall piece of furniture where you can keep clothes  
**to step off (a place)** *exp*  
if you "step off" a place, you walk and fall to a lower level  
**the pavement curb** *n*  
the edge of the pavement (the place next to a road where people walk)  
**a cliff** *n*  
a high area of land next to the sea  
**a drop** *n*  
if there is a "drop", there is a space where you can fall  
**to leap** *vb*  
to jump  
**to move about the house** *exp*  
to move in the house going from one room to another  
**to crash into things** *exp*  
to hit things (furniture) as you are walking

# DR FINGERS' DESCRIPTIVE NOISE



# "NOISE NUISANCE"

Here's another part in our special "noise" class. Answers on page 24



CD track 13 - US woman & Englishman

## Part I

Listen to each noise sentence and the accompanying noise. Repeat each sentence as you hear it.

1. He was *huffing and puffing*.
2. The stone went *plop* when it hit the water.
3. The birds were *twittering*.
4. I heard a *shot gun blast*.
5. The speaker was *droning on* and on and on about something.
6. The cat was *purring*.
7. She was *slurping* her tea.
8. I was *breathing heavily* because I had been running so fast.
9. She was *cracking* her fingers.
10. I *sneezed* during the concert.



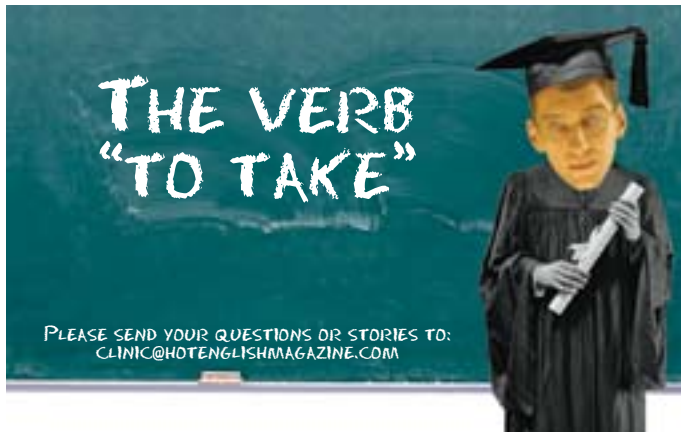
## Part II

Now, look at the following sentences. In each one there's a missing "noise word/s". Listen to the sound on the CD, then write in the correct word that describes the sound. Choose from the words below.

breathing heavily	huffing and puffing
plop	twittering
blast	sneezed
slurping	cracking
droning	purring

1. He was \_\_\_\_\_ his tea.
2. Our manager was \_\_\_\_\_ on and on during the meeting.
3. He introduced himself then \_\_\_\_\_ loudly.
4. The cat was happy because it was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The little child was \_\_\_\_\_ his fingers.
6. He was \_\_\_\_\_ heavily because he had walked up the stairs.
7. It was the first day of spring and the birds were \_\_\_\_\_.
8. He was \_\_\_\_\_ because he was angry about the price.
9. There was the sound of a shot gun \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The stone went \_\_\_\_\_ when it hit the water. ☺





Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic. This month we'll be looking at some of the uses of a very important verb "to take".

## "Take" with nouns

"Take" can be used in combination with a number of nouns. For example:

- a) Take care (be careful): There are lots of pickpockets around here so take care.
- b) Take a photograph: She took a photo of me.
- c) Take control: She took control of the situation.
- d) Take the blame (accept that you are responsible for something bad): Stephen took the blame for the mistakes in the brochure.
- e) Take a phone call (speak with a person who phones): Who is going to take this call?
- f) Take a car/train/bus, etc: It's too far to walk. Let's take the bus.



I'M GOING TO TAKE A TRAIN.

## "Take" with time

We often use "take" to say how long something lasts. We often use "it" and an object pronoun (me, him, her, etc). For example:

- a) It took us ten minutes to get there.
- b) It took him all night to finish it.
- c) It will take us a long time to do it.

## More uses of "take"

Here are some more interesting uses of the verb "to take":

- a) If a place or container "takes" a particular amount, there is enough space for that amount or number: This club takes about 4,000 people.
- b) If a business/club/restaurant, etc "takes" an amount of money, that amount is made: We took three thousand euros at the weekend.
- c) If you "take" food or drink, you eat or drink it: Do you take any milk in your coffee?
- d) If you "take" a particular shoe or clothes size, that size fits you: What shoe size do you take?
- e) If you "take" something that is offered to you, you accept that thing: They offered us a new contract and we decided to take it.
- f) If you cannot "take" something difficult, painful or annoying, you cannot endure or tolerate it: Don't ever ask me to work in that office again. I just can't take all the stress and tension. ☹

Well, I hope that has helped you. See you all next month. Yours, Dr Fingers. Please send your questions or stories to: [clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com](mailto:clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com)

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# British bar chat

## Banning 4X4

This month two British people are talking about **banning 4X4** from the roads. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions.

1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of 4X4s?
2. What does the other speaker say against 4X4s? (Answers on page 24)

**Andy:** So, I heard the government are thinking about banning 4X4s on the street. It's such a, **you know**... what right have they got to tell us what we can drive?

**Chris:** What? I mean, you're **actually** in favour of them? You would actually want to **own** one of these "**Chelsea Tractors**"?

**Andy:** Yeah, of course. You know they're great. You can **fit**, you can fit your dog in the back. You can put your **tools** in there...

**Chris:** Get an **estate car** or something. You know, **I mean, they're meant for** the country, they're meant for farmers. They're 4X4s for **off-road driving**, they're not meant for the city.

**Andy:** Yeah, but I want people to **look up to me** and they're great. It's like being in a tank. You just **drive around**, you can **push people around**.

**Chris:** They look up to you because you're **like** five feet in the air. You can't see children behind cars.

**Andy:** Well, they're cool, they're cool. You know, you drive one of those and everyone's looking at you, it's great, you know. You get

all the attention I never really used to...

**Chris:** Everyone's looking at you and thinking you're a **fool**.

**Andy:** Well, you know, you get some idiot on the road, you want to **teach him a lesson**, you can just, like, **edge up against him** and...

**Chris:** Yeah, I know, that's just the type of driver who drives them. I mean, they're really inconsiderate. They're meant for like mothers who are driving their kids to school, they're getting distracted and they're driving really badly and they don't want anybody **slamming into them**, so they've got these massive **bumpers** in the front, and they just **shove** everyone else out of the road, including pedestrians.

**Andy:** Well, well we've all got a right to drive what we want. I don't see how the government can tell us what we can drive. If I **wanna** just buy one of these big cars and....

**Chris:** The statistics say that people who get hit by one of these things with the ball bars on the front... they die. You know, they're really dangerous, they kill people...

**Andy:** Anyway, I'm just going down to the shops, **you fancy a lift?**

**Chris:** OK, then. ✪

### GLOSSARY

**to ban** *vb*  
to prohibit

**a 4X4** *n*  
a large car often used for driving in the country

**you know** *exp*  
people often use this expression to check that others are understanding

**actually** *exp*  
really

**to own something** *exp*  
to possess something

**a Chelsea Tractor** *exp inform*  
a term used to refer to a 4X4 car. Chelsea is a rich area of London

**to fit** *vb*  
if something "fits" in a space, it can go in that space

**tools** *n*  
objects used to do jobs

**an estate car** *n*  
a car with a long body, a door at the back, and space behind the back seats

**I mean** *exp*  
this expression is used to correct yourself and it is like saying, "I wanted to say..."

**they're meant for** *exp*  
they are supposed to be for

**off-road driving** *n*  
driving in the country (not on roads)

**to look up to someone** *exp*  
to admire someone

**to drive around** *phr vb*  
to go from one place to another, driving

**to push people around** *exp*  
to use force to dominate others

**like** *exp*  
people often use this word in speech to fill space. As such, it doesn't really mean anything

**a fool** *n*  
an idiot

**to teach someone a lesson** *exp*  
to do something bad to someone as a way of warning them not to repeat an action

**to edge up against someone** *exp*  
to get close to someone slowly, moving towards the side of them

**to slam into someone** *exp*  
to hit / crash into someone with violence

**a bumper** *n*  
a protective piece at the front and back of a car

**to shove** *exp*  
to push

**wanna** *abbr*  
want to

**you fancy a lift?** *exp inform*  
would you like me to take you in my car?

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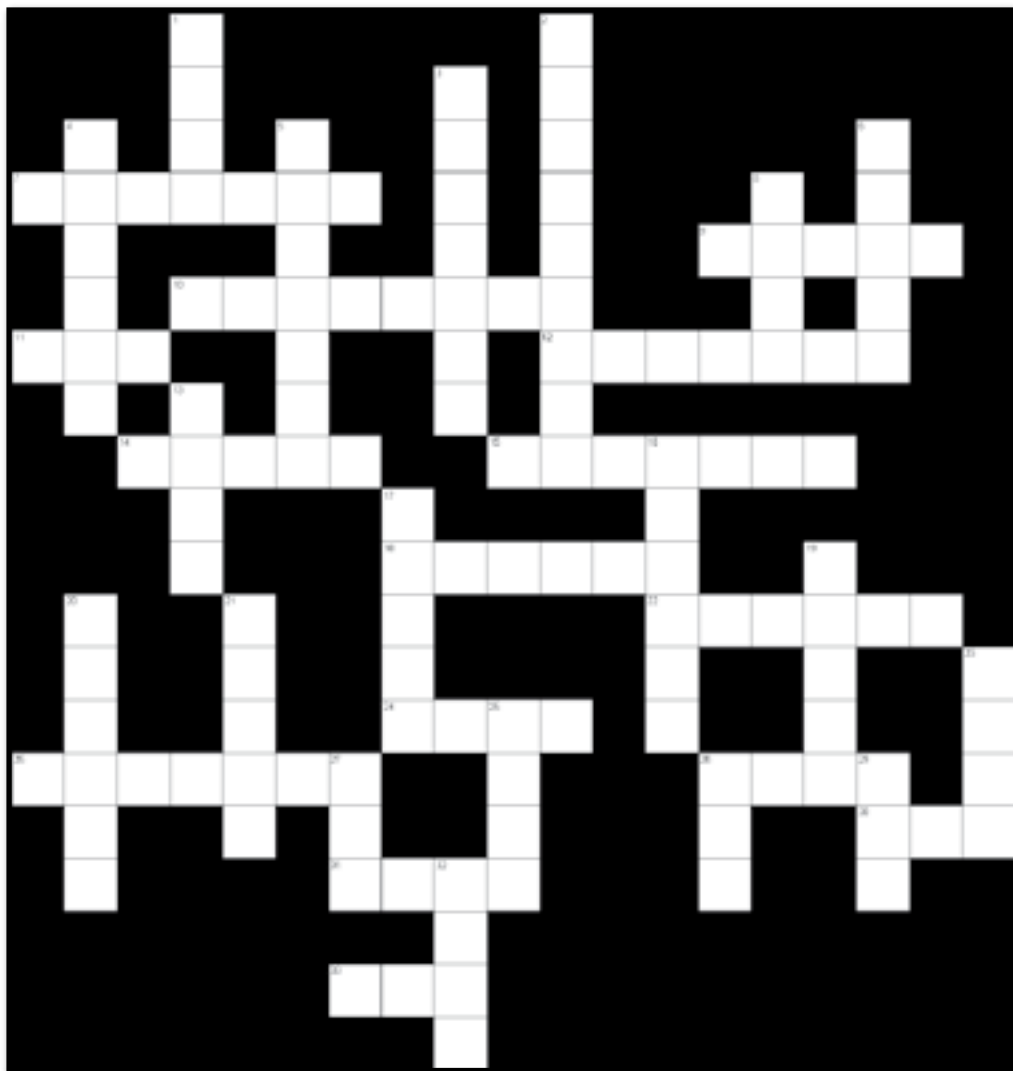
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# CROSSWORD

Answers on page 33



## Down

- 1: If this happens to a suggestion, no one pays any attention to it = to fall on d\_\_\_\_\_ ears
- 2: A substance used to make explosions
- 3: Burnt to a black colour = char\_\_\_\_\_
- 4: A person who tricks other people in order to get money = a co\_\_\_\_\_
- 5: To act as if something is true, even if it isn't = to pre\_\_\_\_\_
- 6: Clothing people wear to parties so they appear to be a famous person, etc = fan\_\_\_\_\_ dress
- 8: To make a funny face = to p\_\_\_\_\_ a face
- 13: To say that you know nothing about a particular situation or event = to d\_\_\_\_\_ any knowledge of something
- 16: To tell stories about someone's private life = to sp\_\_\_\_\_ rumours
- 17: Yellow, dried grass = st\_\_\_\_\_
- 19: Haven't stopped hoping = haven't gi\_\_\_\_\_ up hope
- 20: A ticket that permits you to return to the station where you left from = a re\_\_\_\_\_ ticket
- 21: To leave a building/room very angrily, making a lot of noise = to sto\_\_\_\_\_ out
- 23: To destroy a building by causing it to explode = to bl\_\_\_\_\_ a building up
- 25: To happen = ta\_\_\_\_\_ place
- 27: A piece of advice = a t\_\_\_\_\_
- 28: To prohibit = to b\_\_\_\_\_
- 29: The day before = on the e\_\_\_\_\_ of
- 32: A solid piece of something = a lu\_\_\_\_\_ of something

## Across

- 7: A large fire outside, often as part of a celebration = a bonf\_\_\_\_\_
- 9: To laugh at something, even though it appears to be bad/tragic = to see the fu\_\_\_\_\_ side of something
- 10: To take money out of the bank = to wit\_\_\_\_\_ money
- 11: We were going there = we were on our w\_\_\_\_\_ there
- 12: A piece of furniture for showing trophies or objects of value = a dis\_\_\_\_\_ case
- 14: It makes me sleep = it s\_\_\_\_\_ me to sleep
- 15: To wash your face, etc after a long journey = to fre\_\_\_\_\_ up
- 18: To interfere with something and to try to change it = to tam\_\_\_\_\_ with something
- 22: A figure of a famous person made to look funny or silly. It is often of a politician = an ef\_\_\_\_\_
- 24: To think of an idea = to come up \_\_\_\_\_ an idea
- 26: The person who is most responsible for a crime = the main cul\_\_\_\_\_
- 28: To have a problem that you would like to discuss with someone = to have a b\_\_\_\_\_ to pick with someone
- 30: A promise not to speak = a v\_\_\_\_\_ of silence
- 31: Many tests with one on top of the other = a p\_\_\_\_\_ of tests
- 33: An amount of money = a s\_\_\_\_\_ of money

### Noise Nuisance

1. slurping
2. droning
3. sneezed
4. purring
5. cracking
6. breathing
7. twittering
8. huffing and puffing
9. blast
10. plop

### Bar Chats

1. One of the speakers says that increased airline security is good because it's necessary, it's just a temporary situation, and there was an alleged plot to blow up airliners.

2. The other says that airline security isn't good because people need to take hand luggage, it may stop people wanting to travel, we're safe enough at the moment, the restrictions make travel unacceptable.

### Trivia Matching

1H 2D 3I 4E 5C 6F 7M 8J 9L 10K 11A 12G 13B

### Typical Dialogues

1. They get angry because the man on the phone is making a lot of noise.
2. The woman wants to know what happened to Bob (the subject of the mobile telephone conversation).

### Quiz

Mostly "a" = Take your blood pressure immediately. You may be about to explode.  
Mostly "b" = You have a normal, healthy attitude to life.

### Fluency Practice

- B**
1. He's as bald as a coot.
  2. We learnt it parrot-fashion.
  3. I was as sick as a parrot.
  4. It's as dead as a dodo.
  5. She's a night owl.
  6. He's a bit of a culture vulture.

### D

1. What are you frightened of?
2. Who are you frightened of?
3. What's the most frightening film you've ever seen?
4. What were you frightened of as a child?

### E

1. I'll stick by my promise.
2. She stuck her tongue out at me.
3. We really stick out with these hats on.
4. I'll stick up for you.
5. She'll stick the photo up on

the wall.

6. His hair was sticking up.

### F

1. Across
2. Down
3. Up
4. Down
5. From
6. Off
7. On
8. Out
9. Through
10. To
11. At
12. Up



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CD track 18 US woman & Englishwoman

Here's another part in our mini-series on things your parents used to say to you as a child. Do you recognise any of these expressions?

My parents taught me the true meaning of love:  
"I just want what's best for you."

My parents taught me patience:  
"You'll sit there until you've finished your homework."

My parents helped me improve my memory:  
"What did I just tell you?"

My parents taught me about sharing:  
"I have a bone to pick with you."

My parents taught me about being patient:  
"Just wait until your father gets home."

My parents taught me about **metamorphosis**:  
"Eat your spinach and

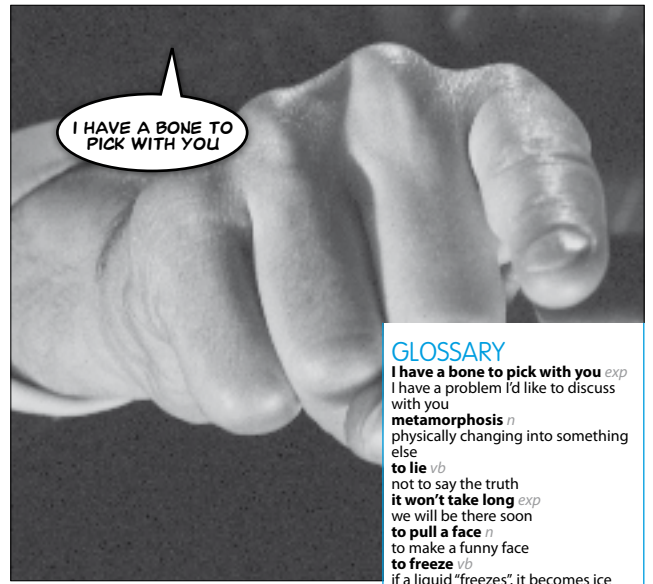
you'll be strong just like Popeye."

My parents showed me how easy it is to **lie**:  
"We're almost there – it **won't take long**."

My parents taught me how genes can be passed from one generation to the next:  
"Stop acting like your father!"

My parents taught me about the wonders of science:  
"If you don't stop **pulling that face**, it's going to **freeze** like that."

My parents taught me about negativity:  
"The answer is NO!" ❗



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# GREAT MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY



CD track 19 Englishman & US woman



The US doesn't have a long history compared to other countries; but it's certainly not **short on** scandal, triumph and **bloodshed**. Here's the first part of a mini-series on America's key moments in history. This month: witches and revolutionaries.

By Laura Warrell. (US English spelling)

## The Salem Witch Trials

In 1692 in Salem, Massachusetts, Elizabeth Parris, 9, and Abigail Williams, 11, began to act strangely. The girls screamed, their bodies **shook**, and they **fell into trances**. At first, doctors thought they were ill. But further research showed that the girls were under the influence of Satan. The community **prayed**, **fasted** and hoped that the evil forces would leave. **Fat chance**. Satan stayed. After being pressured, the girls **blamed** their behavior on three women who they said were witches. The women were arrested and the famous Salem Witch **Trials** began. Historians blame sexism and religious Puritanism for the **witch hunt**, which by its end in 1693, had killed twenty-four people, nineteen of them hanged. Any woman, or occasionally man, who showed strange behavior, or gave anyone reason to believe they weren't good Christians, was **put on trial**. If the **judge** decided they were witches, they were hanged, burned alive or **crushed to death**.

## The American Revolution

When they weren't burning witches, the American colonists were getting angry with the British imperialists who controlled them. The Brits **ruled over** the the colonies, making laws and creating limitations that made the colonists unhappy. These laws included **imposing duties on** products like sugar, tea and stamps.

In response, the colonists started **gathering arms**. Then, one day in 1775, British soldiers were sent to Massachusetts to **seize** some of the weapons. And that was the start of the American Revolution, which the British lost.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was **signed**. The Declaration includes one of the most famous American quotes, "We hold these truths to be **self-evident** that all Men are created equal, that they **are endowed** by their Creator **with** certain **inalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

However, although the document mentioned "all Men", this was never meant to include women, black people, Indians, gays, poor people and witches. But that's another story.

### GLOSSARY

- short on something** *exp*  
if you are "short on" something, you don't have much of that thing
- bloodshed** *n*  
with lots of killing and blood
- to shake** *vb* (past: shook)  
to tremble
- to fall into a trance** *exp*  
if you "fall into a trance", you seem to be asleep but you aren't
- to pray** *vb*  
to speak to God
- to fast** *vb*  
to stop eating temporarily
- fat chance** *exp inform*  
that will never happen
- to blame** *vb*  
to say that someone is responsible for a crime
- a trial** *n*  
a legal process for deciding if someone is guilty or innocent
- a witch hunt** *n*  
an attempt to find and punish a particular group of people
- to put someone on trial** *exp*  
to accuse someone of a crime in a formal legal process
- a judge** *n*  
the person who controls and conducts a trial
- to crush someone to death** *exp*  
to kill someone by putting weights on them
- to rule over someone** *exp*  
to dominate someone either legally or through the use of force
- to impose duties on something** *exp*  
to put a tax on a product
- to gather arms** *exp*  
to start collecting guns, etc because you want to attack the authorities
- to seize** *vb*  
to take with force
- to sign** *vb*  
to put your name on a legal document
- self-evident** *adj*  
obvious
- are endowed with** *exp*  
if you say that someone is "endowed with" a certain right, you think they must have that right
- inalienable rights** *exp*  
rights that no one can take from you



I PREFER TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A FREEDOM FIGHTER.

YES, EVEN WE PURITANS ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE FUN.





# Story Time



## Exam Cheat

In a school, a group of students are taking a very difficult essay exam. At the end of the test, the teacher asks the students to **put their pencils down and hand in** their tests. They all stop except one student, who keeps **writing furiously**. "Stop writing!" the teacher says again. But the student ignores the warning and continues writing until he finishes. "Here you are," the student says. "No, I'm not taking that test. It's too late," the teacher explains. "Do you know who I am?" the student asks. "No, and I don't care," the teacher replies. "Are you sure you don't know who I am?" the student asks again. "No, I don't know who you are." "Good," says the student as he walks over to the **pile of tests**, places his in the middle, then throws the papers in the air. Weeks later, he gets a letter saying that he has passed the test.

## Moaning Monk

A man wants to become a **monk**, so he goes to the **monastery** and talks to the **head monk**. The head monk says, "You must take a **vow of silence** and can only say two words every three years." The man agrees, and after the first three years, the head monk comes to him and says, "What are your two words?" "Food cold!" the man replies. Three more years go by, and the head monk comes to him and says, "What are your two words?" "Room dirty!" the man says. Three more years go by, and the head monk comes to him and says, "What are your two words?" "I **quit!**" says the man. "Well, I'm not surprised," the head monk replies. "You've done nothing but **complain** ever since you got here!"

## Penguin Film

A driver is taking 200 penguins to London Zoo. But while she's driving, her **lorry breaks down** on the **motorway**. She gets out and looks at the engine. Just then, a second lorry driver appears. He stops and asks if she needs help. "I was just taking these penguins to the zoo," the first driver explains. "Would you mind taking them for me?" "OK, no problem," says the other driver. And he takes the penguins to the zoo. But a few hours later, the first driver sees the other lorry driver **driving back along the motorway**. And the penguins are still on the lorry, looking very happy. "What are you doing?" the woman asks. "I thought I asked you to take those penguins to the zoo." And the second driver replies, "Yeah, well, **we were on our way**, but I suddenly realised that I had some extra money, so we decided to go to the cinema." ✨

## GLOSSARY

- to put your pencil down** *exp*  
to stop writing and to put your pencil on the table
- to hand something in** *exp*  
to give something to someone
- to write furiously** *exp*  
to write very quickly
- a pile of tests** *exp*  
many tests, with one on top of the other
- a monk** *n*  
a religious person who works in a monastery
- a monastery** *n*  
a building in which monks live
- the head monk** *n*  
the monk who is in charge of the other monks
- a vow of silence** *n*  
a promise not to speak
- to quit** *vb*  
to stop doing something
- to complain** *vb*  
to tell someone about the things you are not happy about
- a lorry** *n*  
a large vehicle for transporting goods
- to break down** *phr vb*  
if a car "breaks down", it stops working
- a motorway** *n*  
a major road with many lanes (lines of traffic)
- driving back along the motorway** *exp*  
returning to the point where someone left you on the motorway
- we were on our way (to)** *exp*  
we were going (to)

## Phone Words

See if you can identify the word. Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck! (Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this.)



1. The hand-held object you use to make phone calls = a \_\_\_\_\_ phone.
2. An American English word for a mobile phone (four letters) = a \_\_\_\_\_ phone.
3. The noises that your phone can make when someone calls, etc = a **rin**\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The object you use to charge your mobile phone batteries = a **ch**\_\_\_\_\_.
5. If you have this, you can use your mobile phone because you can pick up the signal = **co**\_\_\_\_\_.
6. The object in the phone that powers the phone. It can run flat if you aren't careful = a **bat**\_\_\_\_\_.
7. A phone that you can use without having to hold it = a **han**\_\_\_\_\_ phone.
8. A message you can send by mobile phone = a **t**\_\_\_\_\_ message.
9. An option that your mobile phone provider can offer that allows you to make calls when you are in another country = **roa**\_\_\_\_\_.
10. This option allows you to speak to two other people at the same time = three-**w**\_\_\_\_\_ calling.
11. Some phones can also be used to take pictures because they have built-in **d**\_\_\_\_\_ cameras.
12. A feature in your mobile phone that allows someone to leave a spoken message = **voi**\_\_\_\_\_.
13. The secret number that you key in after turning on your mobile phone (three letters) = a \_\_\_\_\_ number.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION BY DANIEL COUTOLINE



# Trivia Matching



Exercise

## Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 13), and the photos (A-L). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** also on page 24

1. An electric chair
2. A dentist
3. A chicken
4. A hippo
5. A pillow
6. Bubble gum
7. A budget airline
8. A dolphin
9. A shark
10. Pants (underwear)
11. Pants (US trousers)
12. A car door
13. Officer cadets





This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world could be so startling?

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.



A hippo can open its mouth wide enough for a small child to climb inside.

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 60 cm tongue. Now, wouldn't it be useful if we could all do that?

Ancient Egyptians slept on **pillows** made of stone, which is probably better than a **bed of nails**.

In the original Sherlock Holmes books, Holmes never said, "Elementary, my dear Watson".



Bubble gum contains rubber, which is probably why you shouldn't **swallow** it.

Charles Lindbergh took only four sandwiches with him on his famous trans-Atlantic flight, which is more than you get on an average **budget airline's** flight.



Dolphins sleep with one eye open, which is **just as well** when you're **surrounded by sharks**.

Bank robber John Dillinger played professional baseball. Apparently, his **bat-swinging skills came in handy** for his bank robberies too.

In England, in the 1880s, "**pants**" was considered a dirty word.

In Switzerland, it was once against the law to **slam your car door** in a city. Oh, those peace-loving Swiss.



Seven percent of Americans don't know the first nine words of the American anthem, but know the first seven of the Canadian anthem. How unpatriotic!

The Oscar for the shortest **performance** went to Sylvia Miles for her role in the film *Midnight Cowboy*. Her appearance in the movie lasted just six minutes.

The US government keeps the nation's silver at West Point, the top military academy, where it is supposedly safe **in the hands of** young officer cadets. ✪



## GLOSSARY

- a pillow** *n*  
a soft object for your head that you use while you are sleeping
- a bed of nails** *n*  
a bed that has many nails (thin, sharp metal objects) on it
- to swallow something** *exp*  
to take food/drink through your mouth to your stomach
- a budget airline** *n*  
an airline that offers cheap and basic flights
- just as well** *exp*  
you can use this expression to say that it is good that something happened the way that it did
- surrounded by** *exp*  
if you are "surrounded by" something, that thing is all around you
- a shark** *n*  
a large fish with big teeth
- bat-swinging skills** *n*  
abilities to use a bat for hitting a ball
- to come in handy** *exp*  
to be useful
- pants** *n*  
clothing you wear under your trousers
- to slam the car door (shut)** *exp*  
to close the door by using a lot of force
- a performance** *n*  
a piece of acting or singing in a film
- in the hands of** *exp*  
if something is "in the hands of" someone, that person has control of that thing

# VOCABULARY MOBILE PHONES

Learn some useful words and expressions related to mobile phones.



**A mobile phone** (cell/cellular phone in US English) – this is the object that you carry with you and that you use to make phone calls. In the past, the average mobile phone was the size of a **brick**. These days, they're so small that you can **slip** them into your **wallet**.

**A ringtone** – this is the noise that your phone makes. Don't you just hate the sound of someone **fiddling with** their ringtones?

**A charger** – this is the object you use to charge your mobile phone batteries. **You're guaranteed to** lose your charger when you most need it.

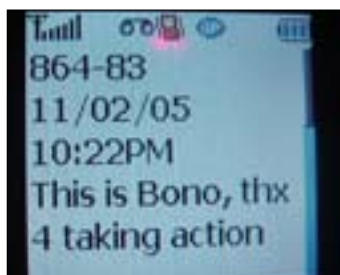
**Coverage** – if you have "coverage", your mobile phone can connect to the phone system and you can make or receive calls. However, in some remote rural areas you won't get any coverage. Learn the following phrases for those moments when the coverage is poor: "I'm losing you. The line is cracking up! Help!"

**A battery** – the object in the phone that powers the phone. Batteries are guaranteed to

**run flat** in the middle of an important, interesting or urgent phone call.

**A handsfree phone** – a phone that you can use without having to hold it. Thanks to handsfree phones, speaking to yourself in the street is now an acceptable custom.

**An SMS (Short Message Service)** – a text message you send by mobile phone. Learn lots of cool, hip abbreviations to impress your friends (see list below).



2 = to / too / two  
2day = today  
2moro = tomorrow  
2nite = tonight  
4 = for / four  
4eva = forever  
@ = at  
asap = as soon as possible  
b = be  
b4 = before  
brb = be right back  
btw = by the way  
cn = can  
cu = see you  
cud = could  
cul8r = see you later  
cuz = because  
evry1 = everyone  
ez = easy  
FYI = for your information

fone = phone  
gd = good  
gr8 = great  
l8 = late  
l8r = later  
luv = love you  
msg = message  
ne1 = anyone  
neway = anyway  
no1 = no one  
pls = please  
ppl = people  
sn = soon  
spksn = speak soon  
txt = text  
thx = thanks  
u = you  
ur = you are  
v = very  
w = with  
yr = why  
yr = your / you're



**Roaming** – this is an option that your mobile phone provider can offer. It allows you to make calls when you are in another country so you're never out of touch, or **out of reach**, even when you're on holiday.

**Call waiting** – this is a feature on a phone that tells you when someone has called while you are calling another person.

**Three-way calling** – this option allows you to speak to two other people at the same time. With **gadgets** like this, who needs to meet real people for a chat?

## GLOSSARY

**a brick** *n*  
a rectangular block of baked clay that is used for building walls, houses, etc  
**to slip** *vb*  
to put casually in a place  
**a wallet** *n*  
an object men use to carry money, credit cards, etc  
**to fiddle with something** *exp*  
if you "fiddle" with an object, you keep moving it or touching it with your hands  
**you're guaranteed to** *exp*  
you will certainly  
**to run flat** *exp*  
if a battery "runs flat", all the power disappears from it  
**out of reach** *exp*  
that cannot be touched/contacted  
**a gadget** *n*  
a small machine or device that does something useful  
**a cash-point machine** *n*  
a machine that is part of the bank and that permits you to take money out of the bank  
**to clog something up** *phr vb*  
to block something so it doesn't work



CD track 20 - US woman & Australian man

**A phone card** – some mobile phones have cards that you can charge at a **cash-point machine**. These are known as pre-paid phone cards. Other people prefer a contract with the mobile phone company.

**Voicemail** – this is an option to leave a spoken message on someone's phone. **Clog up** your friend's voicemail with useless messages such as this one: "Hi. This is John. I'm just leaving work and now I'm walking down the street. Bye."

**A PIN number** – this is your Personal Identification Number. It's supposed to be a secret, and kept in a safe place, but most people just keep a note of it in their wallet.

**An address book** – this is where you keep all your mobile phone numbers.

**A screen** – this is the part of the phone that you look at when reading messages.

**An answer button** – this is the button you press to answer a call. It's usually green.

**An end-call button** – this is the button you press to end a call. It's usually red.

**Mobile phone etiquette** – this refers to all the unofficial rules and regulations regarding the use of a mobile phone. These rules include not having loud conversations when you're on public transport, and not answering the phone when you're on the toilet. ☘



**Wordsearch answers**

**Phone Words, page 29**

1. Mobile
2. Cell
3. Ringtone
4. Charger
5. Coverage
6. Battery
7. Handsfree
8. Text
9. Roaming
10. Way
11. Digital
12. Voicemail
13. PIN



**Crossword page 24**

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# TYPICAL DIALOGUES MOBILE PHONES

Listen to this dialogue and learn lots of useful vocabulary and expressions. **This month: mobiles**



CD track 22 - Englishmen & Canadian



## FREE COFFEE WITH HOT ENGLISH

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In this conversation, Jeff and Jill are travelling on the train. All of a sudden, another passenger makes a call with his mobile phone. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. Why do the couple get angry?
2. What does the woman want to know in the end? **Answers** on page 24



Jeff: This is nice, on the train.  
 Jill: Yes, it is. So civilised. Sandwich?  
 Jeff: Oh, yes. What about a game of cards?  
 Jill: Yes, that would be...  
*(The noise of someone playing with his mobile phone ringtones.)*  
 Passenger: (Speaking on his mobile phone.) Hello? Hello? Can you hear me? I don't seem to have any **coverage** here. **The line is cracking up.** It must be the tunnel. Or maybe my battery's **flat**.  
*(To Jill)* Oi, you got a **charger** for a Siemens?  
 Jill: No, I don't. And by the way, do you mind speaking a little less loudly. We're trying to play a game of cards here.  
 Passenger: (Speaking on his mobile phone again.) Hello? Oh, good, there you are. Yeah, we've just passed through a station. Let's see, erm.  
*(To Jill)* Hey, do you know what station that was?  
 Jill: Withersham, I think.  
 Passenger: (Speaking on his mobile phone again.) Yeah, this lady here says it was Withersham. Another four **stops**, I think. Oh, that's hilarious. So, I heard that Bob **got into a bit of trouble** last night. Yeah? Really? Oh, my God! He didn't, did he? I told you he was a bit like that? Did he... Oh, my God. I can't believe it. He's a **nutter**. What did the police say? Really? When? Oh, right? That must be terrible for his family. Is Betty going to leave him then?  
 Jill: Excuse me?  
 Passenger: *(To Jill)* Do you mind? I'm trying to have a conversation here.  
*(On his mobile phone.)* Nothing, just this woman here on the train. Anyway, so what did the police say?  
 Jill: Excuse me, please...  
 Passenger: *(To Jill)* Shut up!  
 Jill: No, I mean, what did your friend do? Your friend, Bob. **I'm just so intrigued to know** what he did.  
 Passenger: Oh, right, wait. I'll tell you after I've finished my call. ☺



### GLOSSARY

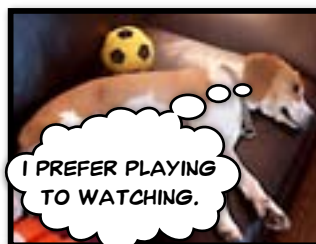
**a ringtone** *n*  
the sound or melody a mobile phone makes when someone calls you  
**coverage** *n*  
if you have "coverage", someone can call you and you can connect to the phone system  
**the line is cracking up** *exp*  
your voice is "breaking" because there is no coverage  
**flat** *adj*  
if a battery is "flat", it has no power  
**oi** *exp inform*  
this is a rude way of trying to get someone's attention  
**a charger** *n*  
a device for powering or recharging batteries  
**a stop** *n*  
a place where buses or trains stop  
**to get into trouble** *exp*  
to do something that creates problems with the police, authorities, etc  
**a nutter** *n inform*  
a crazy person  
**I'm just so intrigued to know** *exp*  
I really want to know



# TV sport chat

Learn the kind of English you need for social occasions. This month: talking about sport.  
**Part I:** Listen and repeat these expressions.

- What sport **are you into**?
- What team do you support?
- Did you see the game last night?
- What did you think of it?
- That was never a goal.
- That goal should have been **disallowed**.
- Where are they in the league?
- Who will you be supporting tonight?
- They've been playing really badly recently.
- That was a **shocking** game.
- We've got tickets for the game.
- He should have been **sent off**!
- Are you gonna watch the game down at the bar?
- **Do you fancy coming** to the game with us tonight?
- Hey, **guess who's playing** tonight on Sky Sport?
- Are they showing the game on TV?



## Part II

Now listen to this social English dialogue. In this conversation, Jane and John are in a bar waiting for their colleagues to arrive.

Jane: So, did you see the game last night?  
 John: Yes, it was terrible.  
 Jane: The **ref** deserves to be shot.  
 John: Four-two, wasn't it?  
 Jane: Didn't you stay up to see the end?  
 John: No, I was **dead tired**.  
 Jane: Yeah, they got a goal right at the last minute, but it was too late by then.  
 John: Oh well, we've got the **return match** to look forward to.  
 Jane: Yeah. Revenge!  
 John: Fancy a drink?  
 Jane: Yeah, go on then. I'll have a pint.

## GLOSSARY

- to be into something** *exp*  
to really like something
- disallowed** *adj*  
if a goal is "disallowed", it is not accepted or counted
- shocking** *adj*  
terrible, horrible, very bad
- sent off** *exp*  
if a player is "sent off", he/she is forced to leave the pitch
- do you fancy coming...** *exp*  
would you like to come...
- guess who's playing...** *exp*  
try to imagine who is playing...
- a ref** *n abbr*  
a referee – the person in charge of the game and who controls the players
- dead tired** *adj*  
very, very tired
- a return match** *n*  
in many competitions each pair of teams play two games: one at home, and the other at the other team's stadium. The "return match" is the second game played between each pair

# QUIZ ARE YOU A FANATIC?

Are you fanatical? Or do you have a more philosophical approach to life? Do our quiz and find out whether you are a fanatic or not. **Answers** on page 24



CD track 24 - Englishmen



- After I die I will:
  - Go to paradise where I will live a life of luxury and pleasure.
  - Who knows?
- People who don't believe in the same things as me...:
  - Will burn in hell.
  - Are perfectly acceptable human beings.



- You are in conversation with someone when they express an opinion that you don't agree with. What do you do?
  - I tell them that they are wrong.
  - Nothing. Everyone's **entitled** to their own opinions.

- How do you feel when someone speaks about the existence of other gods?
  - There is only one God – mine!
  - Fine. That's OK.
- Where do humans come from?
  - Dirt.**
  - We've evolved from apes.

- An act of kindness is:
  - Praying** for someone's soul.
  - Giving money to the **poor and needy.**
- Being a **martyr** means:
  - Dying for my **cause.**
  - Staying at home to clean the house while everyone else has gone out to have a good time. ✪



## GLOSSARY

**hell** *n*  
the place underground where the devil lives

**entitled to something** *exp*  
having the right to keep or enjoy something

**dirt** *n*  
earth

**to pray** *vb*  
to speak to God

**the poor and needy** *n*  
people who are unable to get sufficient food, clothing, housing and health care

**a martyr** *n*  
a person who dies because of his/her religion

**a cause** *n*  
a reason/objective a group has for fighting or dying



CD track 25 US woman & Englishwoman

# Quirky News

Funny news stories from around the world.

## Boy Buy



A three-year-old boy managed to buy a 12,000-euro car on the internet. The boy's parents found out when they received a congratulations message from the website about the pink Nissan Figaro. The boy's mother said, "We couldn't understand what was happening. Neither of us had bought anything. So we checked and saw it was a Barbie-pink car which we'd bought for £8,999. **We flew into a panic.**"

The following morning the boy, Jack, woke and told his parents, "I've bought a car."

Jack's mother added, "I must have left my eBay password in my computer. Jack's a **whiz on** the PC and just pressed all the right buttons."

Luckily, the buyer **saw the funny side** and said he would re-advertise the car.

## Robber Advice



A **would-be** robber was arrested after asking staff for **tips** on how to rob their bank. The robber had tried to rob the bank three times before, but had **failed** on every occasion. He reportedly asked the **bank cashier**, "Do you have any ideas on how to rob a bank?"

Police arrested the 62-year-old unemployed man for illegally carrying a weapon into the bank.

## Naked

## Debt

In India, a company called "Unique Services" has an unusual way of collecting debts. They hire people to go the defaulters' houses and start **undressing**.

And the stripper won't stop until the money is repaid. It seems that most people would rather pay the money than **face naked flesh**.



## Anger Anguish



A woman in an "**Anger Management**" class was expelled after starting a fight. Barbara Frate, 36, hit another student after an argument over a chair. "I'm going to kill you and send you to heaven", the woman screamed. Frate then **stormed out** of the school building, breaking a **display case**, and **punching** a door. A spokesperson at the "**Anger Management**" course hadn't officially started when the incident **took place**.

### GLOSSARY

- we flew into a panic** *exp*
- we started to worry a lot
- a whiz on something** *exp inform*
- an expert at something
- to see the funny side of something** *exp*
- to laugh at something, even though it was initially difficult
- to undress** *vb*
- to take off your clothes
- to face something** *exp*
- if you "face" a problem or an object, you must look at it and deal with it
- naked flesh** *n*
- skin with no clothes covering it
- a would-be (robber)** *n*
- a person who tries/wants to be a robber
- a tip** *n*
- a piece of advice
- to fail** *vb*
- not to succeed
- a bank cashier** *n*
- a person who works in a bank, assisting customers
- anger management** *n*
- an attempt to control your anger
- to storm out of a place** *exp*
- to leave a place very angrily
- a display case** *n*
- a piece of furniture for showing trophies, medals, silverware, objects of value, etc
- to punch** *vb*
- to hit with a closed hand
- an adult-learning centre** *n*
- a school for adults
- to take place** *phr vb*
- to happen

# LONDON ON FILM

## London on Film

Red Buses. Phone Boxes. **Pigeons** in Trafalgar Square. St Paul's Cathedral. Punks. They're all images from London, and they've all been used in films. Let's find out more about London in famous films.



## On Location

London has provided the **backdrop** for an impressive number of **motion pictures**, including films **set in the Swinging Sixties** like *Alfie* (1966 – starring Michael Caine) and a *Hard Day's Night* (1964), the Victorian age with *Oliver Twist* (1948) and *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992), or the 20th century with *Trainspotting* (1996).



London has also been used for children's classics such as *Mary Poppins* (1964) and *101 Dalmatians* (1997), or with **action blockbusters** such as *Mission Impossible* (1996).

## East End Boys

The East End of London has been used to great effect in **crime thrillers** such as *The Krays* (1990) and *The Long Good Friday* (1980). In *The Krays* you are **taken back** to the world of gangster **twins** Reggie and Ronnie Kray. As the East End of London had been redeveloped since the Krays ruled the streets, a lot of the filming went on in Greenwich along Caradoc Street. These days, Greenwich is a pleasant place to go at the weekend. You can take a boat from Westminster, see the *Cutty Sark* (an old ship) or enjoy Greenwich Park.



## West End Girls

If gangsters **aren't your scene**, then **head west** for some romantic comedies. Both *Notting Hill* (1999) and *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001) were **shot** in west London. In *Notting Hill* Hugh Grant, the **archetypal** British middle-class boy, plays the part of William Thacker, a travel bookshop owner. The film was shot in the area of Notting Hill, which is famous for the street market Portobello Market, and an annual Caribbean carnival. Take a walk around and see the vivid contrast between the Victorian **terraced houses**, boutique shops and restaurants around Westbourne Grove, and the more **deprived**, alternative and positively bohemian area of Ladbroke Grove.



## Coming to a Cinema Near You

Just recently Woody Allen shot two feature films in London: *Match Point* and *Scoop*, both starring Scarlett Johansson. The action-thriller film *V for Vendetta* about Britain in the near future also features London heavily. And soon, there will be a new film out called *Brick Lane*, which is an adaptation of Monica Ali's book about an 18-year-old Bangladeshi girl sent to London for an **arranged marriage** to a man twice her age. Brick Lane is a very interesting street in the East End which has a market. It has traditionally been an area for newly-arrived immigrants. For a time it was a Jewish area. And then later the **Huguenots** arrived. Right now, it's the heart of the Bangladeshi community, and it's a great place for cheap Indian restaurants.



## Bond in London

London has featured in many James Bond films too. In *Diamonds Are Forever* Bond stayed at the Ritz Hotel in London (near Trafalgar Square). The MI6 building where Money Penny works and where Bond meets M is in Vauxhall. In the film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* Bond goes to The College of Arms (near St Paul's Cathedral) where he **checks up on** Blofeld's ancestry. And finally, Buckingham Palace makes an appearance in *Die Another Day* when Gustav Graves flies in by helicopter to receive his **knighthood**. In this same film, Bond makes a trip to his **gentleman's club**, Blades, where he disappears underground to meet with Q. So, next time you're in London, you can do a special film tour. ☺



## Information Box

If you are interested in film production, then you should consider taking Wimbledon School of English's "English for Film Makers" course. For more information, call the Answer English offices (00 44) 20 7402 8651, or send an e-mail to [james@answerenglish.com](mailto:james@answerenglish.com). Answer English helps language students looking for language courses, accommodation and work experience in London.



## GLOSSARY

- a pigeon** *n* a fat grey bird that lives in cities
- the backdrop** *n* the background
- a motion picture** *n* a film
- set in** *exp* if a film is "set in" a particular place, the action happens there
- the Swinging Sixties** *n* the 1960s
- an action blockbuster** *n* an action film that is very successful
- a crime thriller** *n* a film that involves a murder/robbery and that is very exciting
- to take someone back to (a period/time)** *exp* to remind someone of an earlier time, using sounds and images from the period
- twins** *n* two people who are born at the same time and from the same mother
- aren't your scene** *exp* aren't the kind of things you do
- to head somewhere** *exp* to go somewhere
- to shoot (a film)** *exp* to make a film
- archetypal** *adj* a perfect example of a type of person
- terraced houses** *n* a line of houses with all the houses joined together
- deprived** *adj* a "deprived" area is a poor area
- an arranged marriage** *n* a marriage that is arranged and demanded by the parents or relatives of the people getting married
- the Huguenots** *n* Protestants who were persecuted in France. They arrived in Britain in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century
- to check up on someone** *exp* to investigate something
- to make an appearance** *exp* to appear
- a knighthood** *n* a title given by the queen for service to the country
- a gentleman's club** *n* a special and exclusive club for men

# BOND 007 GADGETS

Where would Bond be without his **gadgets**? The exploding **briefcase**. The shooting **lighter**. The car with the rockets. Thanks to Q, Bond has it all. Here are some more gadgets that never made it into Bond films, but we think they should have. This is the first of a two-part series. More next month.

**Exploding Trousers:** set the **timer** and BOOM! your trousers will destroy anything within a radius of 50 metres.

**Hat Radar:** this hat comes complete with a **built-in** radar. The **beacon** will allow planes to **home in on** you. Ideal for rescue operations.

**GPS & Nav Sat Cumberbund:** this will provide you with instant information on your location. You may be dressed for dinner, but you'll never get lost, even when you're in the mountains.

**Beard Trimmer Night Vision Goggles:** flick a switch and convert your portable beard trimmer into a **handy** pair of night vision goggles. You'll see everything.

**Walking Stick Geiger Counter:** be the first to know whether a nuclear weapon has been detonated by using this **craftily-disguised** radiation detector.

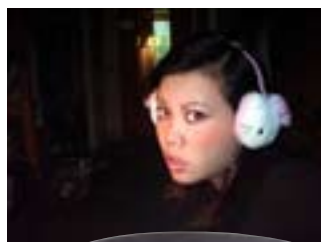
**Toilet Paper Telescope:** this telescope is built into a roll of toilet paper. Now you can sit and spy at the same time.

**Infra-Red Vibrating Bed:** rest in peace at night with this incredible bed. As soon as an **intruder** is detected, the bed will start vibrating, **warning** you of imminent danger.

**Ear Muff Wi-fi Detector:** with these ear muffs you'll always know when you can pick up the right signal for your portable computer.

**Zip Transmitter:** now you can talk to base wherever you are. Simply connect the radar and cable to your **zipper** and start talking through the microphone.

**Tanga Slingshot:** slip off your tanga, place a stone in the pouch, and use the straps to fire your weapon. Lethal! ✖



EARLY TESTS BY MI5 INTO WALKING STICK GEIGER COUNTERS.

## GLOSSARY

- a gadget** *n*  
a small device or machine that does something useful
- a briefcase** *n*  
a case used for carrying documents
- a lighter** *n*  
a small device that produces a flame which you can use to light cigarettes
- to set** *vb*  
to programme
- a timer** *n*  
a device that measures time and that is part of a machine
- built-in** *adj*  
included as part of the device/machine
- a beacon** *n*  
an object which acts as a signal or warning to other objects/people
- to home in on** *exp*  
to locate and use as a reference point
- a cumberbund** *n*  
a wide piece of material worn around the waist as part of a man's formal clothing
- handy** *adj*  
useful
- craftily-disguised** *exp*  
hidden in a clever and intelligent way
- an intruder** *n*  
a person who enters a house/building illegally
- a warning** *n*  
if someone gives you a "warning", they tell you about a danger
- a zipper** *n*  
the long metal object with "teeth" that you use to open or close your trousers



# Hot Science



## The Benefits

Experts have found that there are clear health benefits to drinking tea. **Research has led to the discovery** that antioxidants found in tea can help **prevent cell damage**. And there is clear evidence that drinking three to four cups of tea a day will reduce the chances of having a heart attack. Other health benefits included **bone strengthening** and protection against **tooth plaque**. A further study even suggested that tea consumption protected against cancer. "Drinking tea is actually better for you than drinking water," said one doctor.



## Re-hydration

There was also some interesting information on the properties of tea. The research **dispels the myth** that tea is dehydrating. "Everyone assumes that caffeine-containing **beverages** (such as tea) dehydrate," a leading expert explained. "But even if you had a really, really strong cup of tea, you would still have a **net gain of fluid**. In terms of **fluid intake**, we recommend 1.5 to 2 litres per day, and that can include tea. Tea is not dehydrating. It's a healthy drink."

## The Negative Side

There was only one bit of bad news about tea. Research suggests that tea can affect the body's ability to absorb iron from food. This means that people **at risk of** anaemia should avoid drinking tea around **mealtimes**.

So, will you be having a **cuppa**?

FANCY A CUPPA?

## TEA JOKES

WHY WAS THE TEACHER ANGRY WITH THE TEAPOT?  
BECAUSE HE WAS "NAUGHTEA".

WHAT DID THE TEAPOT WEAR TO BED?  
A "NIGHTEA".

WHAT IS THE TEAPOT'S FAVOURITE MOVIE?  
E.T.

## Tea Facts

Here are some truly amazing tea facts.

- Tea comes from the leaves of a tree called *camellia sinensis*. The tree can grow over 10 metres tall. However, it is cut short so that the leaves can be taken easily.
- Eighty percent of the caffeine in tea can be **removed** by **pouring** hot water over the leaves.
- Darjeeling is called the "Champagne of Teas". It is grown in India's Himalayas. ☀
- Tea is grown in India, Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, Argentina, Kenya, Japan, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Uganda, Malawi, Turkey, Iran, Brazil and Tanzania. India is the world's largest tea producer.

## GLOSSARY

**research** *n*  
scientific investigation  
**has led to the discovery** *exp*  
has helped scientists understand that  
**to prevent** *vb*  
to stop something from happening  
**cell damage** *n*  
if there is "cell damage", body cells are affected in a negative way  
**bone strengthening** *exp*  
making your bones stronger  
**tooth plaque** *n*  
a substance that forms on the surface of your teeth  
**to dispel a myth** *exp*  
to prove that a myth is not really true  
**a beverage** *n*  
a drink  
**a net gain of fluid** *exp*  
more fluid taken than lost  
**fluid intake** *n*  
the fluid that enters your body  
**at risk of** *exp*  
at danger of  
**mealtimes** *n*  
times when you have food such as lunch, dinner, etc  
**to remove something** *exp*  
to take something away  
**to pour** *vb*  
to put liquid from one container to another  
**a teapot** *n*  
a container for serving tea  
**"naughtea"** *n*  
naughty – bad, not well-behaved  
**a "nightea"** *n*  
a nightie – a night dress (something that women wear at night)  
**a cuppa** *n* *inform*  
a cup of tea

# CLEVER CRIMINALS



CD track 27 - Englishwoman & US woman

Here's another part in our series on intelligent criminals. Learn from the best.

## A Disappearing Act

One man discovered the perfect way to rob a bank. Jim Notes invented some incredible "**dissolving** cheques" that literally disappeared after about four hours.

The **scam** was simple. First, Mr Notes opened a bank account **under a false name**. Then, a couple of days later, he made a deposit with one of his cheques. Hours later, he **withdrew a large sum of money**. Banks in Chicago and Memphis lost nearly \$70,000 before they realised what had happened.



## Special Water

A Texas man made a very nice profit by selling water. Brad Managua from Houston sold more than 600 litres of water he claimed had been brought back from the moon. "People were desperate to buy the stuff – they were practically throwing their money at me," the **conman** later told journalists.

## Falling Rocks

Back in 1979, a farmer in India **came up with** a great way to make money. He told a

neighbour how **debris** from a NASA spaceship had fallen on one of his fields. Just to prove it, he produced a **lump of charred metal**. The farmer told his neighbour, "You can sell this metal to the Americans for a lot of money." And so the neighbour bought the piece of metal for £60.

Soon afterwards, lots of other people in the area heard about the metal. And they all wanted a piece of it. Within a short time, the farmer had made several hundred pounds. Eventually the farmer was caught after one of his victims recognised that the metal was part of an old **stove**. The farmer was arrested on charges of **fraud**.

## Viking Victims

In January 1999, Norwegian conman Magnus Bigaxe was **fined** after tricking tourists. Bigaxe sold **splinters of garden fencing** to tourists after convincing them that the pieces of wood were fragments from a Viking ship. "I told them that the ship had sailed to America before Columbus, and they believed me."



### GLOSSARY

- to dissolve** *vb*  
if a substance "dissolves", it loses its solid form
- a scam** *n*  
a trick
- under a false name** *exp*  
using a name that isn't yours
- to withdraw money** *exp*  
to take money out of the bank
- a large sum of money** *n*  
a large amount of money
- a conman** *n*  
a person who tricks other people in order to get money
- to come up with an idea** *exp*  
to think of an idea
- debris** *n*  
pieces from something that has been destroyed
- a lump of something** *n*  
a solid piece of something
- charred metal** *exp*  
metal that has been burnt and darkened
- a stove** *n*  
an electrical appliance for cooking something
- fraud** *n*  
obtaining money illegally by tricking people
- to fine someone** *vb*  
to force someone to pay money because they have committed a crime
- a splinter** *n*  
a thin, sharp piece of wood or glass that has broken from the main piece
- garden fencing** *n*  
a wooden or plastic barrier for a garden

# IG NOBELS

This year's winners of the world's most bizarre competition



WE THOUGHT AN ALARM CLOCK THAT RUNS AWAY WAS CALLED "A CHICKEN".



HAS ANYONE GOT AN ASPIRIN?

## Unusual

An electrical device for annoying teenagers. A study into why birds don't get **headaches**. What's going on? Is this serious science? Well, yes... and no. These studies were all **awarded prizes** at this year's Ig Nobels, a ceremony to **acknowledge** unusual scientific **research**.

## The Prizes

So, what exactly are the Ig Nobels? Basically, Ig Nobels are prizes given for unusual scientific investigation. All the research is real and is often published in **prestigious journals**. However, unlike the real "Nobel" prizes, the Ig Nobel winners get no cash reward. Marc Abrahams, editor of the magazine *The Annals of Improbable Research*, which co-sponsors the awards, said, "The prizes are intended to celebrate the unusual, honour the imaginative, and **spur people's interest** in science, medicine and technology." And as Abrahams later explained, the prizes honour achievements that "first make people laugh, and then make them think".

## Annoying Teenagers

This year's prize went to **Welsh** engineer Howard Stapleton. He received the 2006 Ig Nobel award for peace after inventing a device to **disperse** gangs of teenagers. The device works by **emitting a piercing noise** that only teenagers can hear. It's called the Mosquito, and is unofficially known as the "teenager repellent".

Basically, it works by **exploiting an ageing effect**: the older we get, the less ability we have to hear high-frequency sounds. In our teens, we can typically hear sounds ranging from 20Hz to 20kHz, but with age, the highest

frequencies we can hear is about 18kHz. "We discovered that the right frequency noise would only be heard by 25s and below, and it was highly annoying after five minutes," Mr Stapleton said. Tests of the unit at a supermarket in south Wales were declared a success after teenagers **pleaded with** the owner to turn it off. Older customers heard nothing.

## Other Winners

In all, ten winners were **honoured** at this year's ceremony. They included Ivan Schwab of the University of California, who received a prize for his paper on how **woodpeckers** avoid headaches. Basile Audoly and Sebastien Neukirch of the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris won the Ig Nobel physics prize for answering the question of why dry spaghetti breaks into more than one piece when it is **bent**. A US-Israeli study won a prize for discovering an unusual cure for **hiccups**. And Nic Svenson and Piers Barnes received an award for research into how many photos must be taken to ensure no one in a **group shot** has their eyes closed. Anyone interested in being nominated for next year's ceremony should visit [www.improbable.com](http://www.improbable.com)

DO WE REALLY NEED ANOTHER CURE FOR HICCUPS?





WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF THIS HAPPENING?

ASK AN IG NOBEL WINNER!



### Ig Nobel Winners

Here are some Ig Nobel winners from previous years.

- Claire Rind and Peter Simmons of Newcastle University for electrically monitoring the activity of brain cells in a locust while that locust was watching scenes from the movie *Star Wars*.

RETURN OF THE JEDI? PLEASE. I WANTED TO SEE THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK.



- Gauri Nanda of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for inventing an alarm clock that runs away and hides, making sure that people get out of bed to turn it off.
- Edward Cussler and Brian Gettelfinger of the University of Minnesota for conducting an experiment to discover who can swim faster: someone in water, or someone in syrup?
- Daisuke Inoue of Hyogo, Japan, for inventing karaoke, providing an entirely new way for people to learn to tolerate each other.
- A group of eminent scientists who catalogued the smells produced by 131 different species of frogs when the frogs were feeling stressed.

HONESTLY, I ONLY CROAKED.



- Dr Yoshiro Nakamats of Tokyo for photographing and analyzing every meal he has consumed during a period of 34 years.
- Jillian Clarke of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences for investigating whether it's safe to eat food that's been dropped on the floor.
- Donald J. Smith and his father for patenting the combover (see Hot English issue 62).
- Edward A. Murphy for inventing Murphy's Law, the principle that if anything can go wrong, it will.
- A group of researchers who produced a report on the forces required to drag sheep over various surfaces.
- Another group who presented evidence that the brains of London taxi drivers are more highly developed than those of other Londoners.

IT'S WHAT WE CABBIES HAVE KNOWN FOR YEARS.



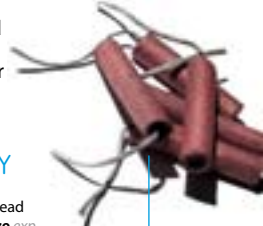
- Yukio Hirose of Kanazawa University for his chemical investigation of a bronze statue that fails to attract pigeons.
- Eduardo Segura of Tarragona, Spain, for inventing a washing machine for cats and dogs.
- Peter Barss of McGill University for his medical report on injuries due to falling coconuts.
- David Schmidt of the University of Massachusetts for his partial solution to the question of why shower curtains blow inwards.★

### Information Box: Ig Nobels

The name of the competition "Ig Nobel" is a double play on words. Firstly, the combination "Ig" and "Nobel" forms an expression that sounds like the English word "ignoble", which is basically the opposite of "noble" (a "noble person" has excellent qualities of character, including honesty, generosity and selflessness). The competition name is also a play on the Nobel prizes. As you may know, these prizes are awarded for achievement in the fields of science, literature and economics, and for the promotion of world peace. This competition was started by Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), who was, ironically, the inventor of dynamite.

### GLOSSARY

- a headache** *n* a pain in your head
- to award a prize** *exp* to give someone a prize as recognition for good work, etc
- to acknowledge something** *exp* to show recognition
- research** *n* scientific investigation
- a prestigious journal** *n* a magazine that is respected by members of the community
- to spur people's interest in something** *exp* to make people become more interested in something
- Welsh** *adj* from the country Wales (next to England, and part of Britain)
- to disperse (a group)** *vb* to make a group of people separate and go in different directions
- to emit (a noise)** *vb* to make a noise
- a piercing noise** *n* a very high-frequency, loud noise
- to exploit** *vb* to take advantage of
- an ageing effect** *n* something that happens when you get older
- to plead with someone** *exp* to ask someone desperately
- to honour** *vb* if someone is "honoured", they are given special praise for work they've done
- a woodpecker** *n* a bird that makes its home in trees by making holes with its beak
- to bend something** *exp* if you "bend" something that is straight, you use force to make it curved
- hiccups** *n* a repeated and involuntary sound produced in your throat
- a group shot** *n* a photo of a group of people



# Birmingham break

Birmingham has a reputation for being England's ugliest city. It isn't on every tourist's list of places to visit in England. But Jayne is here to tell us why it should be. By Jayne Mosley.

## Right in the Centre

Birmingham as a city is the ideal place to visit in England. It's in an area known as the Midlands, right in the centre of England; and it's Britain's second largest city. "What's Birmingham famous for?" You may ask. And to be honest, up until about 20 years ago it was more **infamous** than famous, particularly for its ugly appearance, with its unattractive buildings and poor **city planning**. Oh, but how things have changed. The city is now being **regenerated**, and the previous ugliness of the town centre has all gone.

## Why so ugly?

So, why the poor image? Part of the reason lies in the fact that Birmingham was once **home to the Industrial Revolution**. In fact, Britain's first ever factory was built there back in the 19th century. This made the city **thrive**, but it was hardly something which made it **picturesque**. However, these days, most of the factories and **mines** are



part of Birmingham's history. Outside the city (just a bus ride away) the Black Country Museum shows you how people lived in the 18th and 19th century. You can even go down one of the old coal mines.

If that doesn't interest you, then you could go to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, which is in Chamberlain Square in the city centre. This museum has prehistoric collections, paintings and jewellery. For art lovers there is also the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, which has an **outstanding** collection, and is free to get in. Also in the centre is the National Sea Life Centre, where you can see **otters** and **turtles**, plus there's a **touch pool**.

## Shopping

Birmingham is also a great place to shop. The Bullring is a new **huge shopping centre**, which is the size of twenty six **football pitches**. It has a selection of boutiques, shops

and restaurants. The shopping centre is under a glass roof that's designed to be a reflection of the city's historic street patterns. Impressive! This is a huge change from the image the Bullring had in the past when it was referred to as the ugliest place in Britain. Interestingly, this was the place where **bulls** were **tied up** and **tormented**. The idea was that if you killed a bull when it was angry, the meat would be better. Another interesting shopping centre is the Mailbox, which has the largest selection of designer shops outside London.

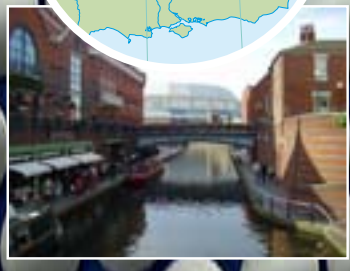
## Close By

Birmingham is also close to lots of fun places to visit for the day. If you want a **scary ride**, then Alton Towers is a great day out. It is a huge **funfair** about half an hour from the city. If you're too scared of the big rides, then a **stroll** round the grounds may be more your style, as the park **is set in** the grounds of a huge **stately home**. Obviously, the most important attraction (I have a **biased opinion**) is Cadbury World. This is a working chocolate factory, just like the one from the book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. So, if you're a **chocoholic** like myself, then you'll love this place. See you there!



Birmingham in a nutshell

**Where?**  
In the middle of England.  
**Famous for?**  
Being an ugly city.  
**But really?**  
A nice place.  
And great for going out.  
**People?**  
Known as Brummies.



**Birmingham Top Nine**

- Here are our top nine things to do in Birmingham.
1. The Barber Institute of Fine Arts: Renaissance masterpieces by Rubens, works by British greats such as Turner, and modern classics by the likes of Picasso.
  2. The Black Country Museum: working with coal is dirty work, and the black faces of the miners gave this area its name (The Black Country). This is a mining village with actors in costumes, and workshops, a cinema, a pub and a mine. Electric trams go around the site, and there's a funfair for kids.
  3. Cadbury World: see how chocolate is produced and marketed, and try a bit for yourself. Also, visit Bournville Village, which was built by the owners of the factory at the beginning of the 20th century. It was created for the workers at the factory.
  4. Canal Tours: Birmingham's canal network goes right through the **heart of the city**. You can also **hire** a boat and have a go for yourself.
  5. Custard Factory: this arts centre is a shopper's delight with craft shops, cafés and trendy restaurants.
  6. Jewellery Quarter: this area has been full of jewellers' workshops since the 16th century.
  7. The Shakespeare Express: England's fastest **steam train**. Take a trip from Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's home town.
  8. Warwick Castle: England's finest medieval castle. Just a 30-minute drive from Birmingham. There's even a **dungeon** and torture chamber.
  9. The West Midland Safari and Leisure Park: drive through animal reserves where you can see elephants, rhinos, giraffes, lions and tigers.

**Riots in Birmingham**

In 1985, Birmingham was hit by riots. Racial tension **led to** the historical Handsworth riots that affected Birmingham between 9th and 11th September. The riots started after a black man was stopped and searched by police.

**Birmingham USA**

There's a Birmingham in the US too (it's the capital of Alabama). Birmingham was founded in 1871, just after the American Civil War, as an industrial enterprise. It was named after Birmingham, the major industrial city in England. Later on, Birmingham

was one of the battlegrounds of the American Civil Rights Movement (1955-1968). Today, Birmingham is one of the most important business centers in the southeastern United States, and is also one of the largest banking centres in the US. Through the middle of the 20th century, Birmingham was the primary industrial centre of the southern United States, and was known as "The Magic City". Birmingham's major industries centred around iron and steel production. The population of the city is 242,820, but there are many more people in the **sprawling suburbs**. ❄

**GLOSSARY**

- infamous** *adj* famous and well-known for something negative
- city planning** *n* the way a city is designed
- to regenerate** *vb* to develop and improve
- home to something** *exp* if a place is "home to" something, that thing is in that place
- the Industrial Revolution** *n* a period of great technological change during the 18th and 19th centuries
- to thrive** *vb* to do very well and to be successful (economically)
- picturesque** *adj* beautiful
- a mine** *n* a tunnel that is built underground in order to obtain metals or minerals
- outstanding** *adj* incredible, amazing
- an otter** *n* an animal that swims well, eats fish and has brown fur and a long tail
- a turtle** *n* an animal that lives in the sea and that has a hard shell on its back
- a touch pool** *n* a pool in a zoo with animals that you can touch
- huge** *adj* very, very big
- a shopping centre** *n* a large area with many shops all under one roof
- a football pitch** *n* a place where football games are played
- a bull** *n* a male cow
- to tie up** *phr vb* to fix with string or rope
- to torment** *vb* to annoy in a cruel way, often with the objective of making angry
- scary** *adj* frightening
- a ride** *n* an attraction in a funfair
- a funfair** *n* a park with many fun things to do
- a stroll** *n* a casual walk
- is set in** *exp* is located in
- a stately home** *n* a large home where a lord lives/lived
- a biased opinion** *n* an opinion that shows obvious favouritism to one thing
- a chocoholic** *n* someone who loves chocolate
- a tram** *n* a type of train that operates in a city
- a canal** *n* a long, narrow area of water where boats can travel
- the heart of the city** *n* the middle of the city
- to hire** *vb* to pay money to use something or a service for a limited period of time
- a steam train** *n* a train that is powered by steam (water vapour)
- a dungeon** *n* a prison in the underground part of a castle
- to lead to** *n* to result in
- sprawling suburbs** *n* a large area of houses/shops/businesses which is part of the city, but which is outside the centre

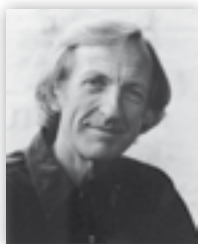
# ISLAND HELL

Think of paradise, and you probably think of a tropical island with blue skies, sandy beaches, and happy people fishing and collecting coconuts, right?

Well, the small Island of Diego Garcia, right in the middle of the Indian Ocean near Mauritius, used to be like that. And until the 1960s, about 2000 people lived happily on the island. Today they're all gone. Why? By Rob Julian.

## An Interview

The famous political journalist John Pilger recently went to Mauritius. He interviewed a woman there called Charlesia Alexis who used to live on Diego Garcia. He asked her why she moved to Mauritius. Charlesia said that she had travelled there one day in 1967 with her husband. She went to Mauritius because her husband needed special medical treatment. Afterwards, they went to buy the **return ticket** for the **ferry trip** back to Diego Garcia. But the ferry company said they had special orders not to let them go back. They said Diego Garcia had been sold. Sold?



John Pilger

## A Base

What happened to Diego Garcia is still a hot political topic. Today, the only inhabitants are US military personnel. Diego Garcia is now a giant airbase, used by the US military to fly missions to Iraq and Afghanistan. However, Diego Garcia used to be part of the British Empire. Its people were British subjects. In the 18th century, they were taken there from Africa to work on the **plantations** in the islands. By the 1960s, four generations of people had been living there. But during the early 1960s, the US was looking for a base in the Indian Ocean. They didn't have any of their own territories to use. But Diego Garcia was perfect.

## A Deal

In 1965, secret deals were made between the US and the British government. Eventually, Diego Garcia was given to the US, and the original population was forced to leave. Even today, the British government argues that Diego Garcia never had a permanent population. They say that the people living there were "**transient workers**", moving from island to island. Of course, the islanders **claimed** they had every right to live there.

## New Evidence

In the 1990s, new evidence was discovered on the secret negotiations. **Declassified documents** confirmed that **behind-the-door deals** had **taken place to transfer ownership** of Diego Garcia from Britain to the US. The documents also reveal the true attitude of the British

government. In February 1964, a secret Anglo-American conference was held in London, at which the final decision was taken. The British parliament was not informed. The British also made a deal with Mauritius. They granted it independence, but only if the British could keep Diego Garcia. That way, they could give it to the Americans. In 1966, a British government official wrote, "We must surely be very **tough** about this.... There will be no **indigenous population** except **seagulls**."

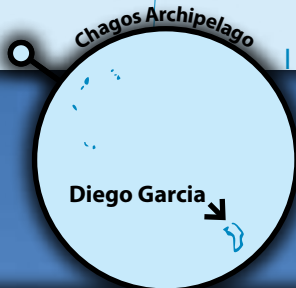
## Further Evidence

The deal was finalised in 1966. And in December of that same year, Lord Chalfont, a Foreign Office minister, signed a contract in Washington giving the Pentagon a 50-year "lease" on Diego Garcia, with an automatic extension of 20 years. But worse still, declassified state department documents obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act in 2005 reveal that the US government wanted the entire population **expelled**. For almost a decade, neither the British parliament nor the US Congress knew anything about the deal, and no journalist revealed it. In fact, BBC newsreaders still refer to US aircraft flying out to bomb Afghanistan and Iraq from the "**uninhabited**" island of Diego Garcia.

## The Move

As a result of the agreement the islanders suffered terribly. Back in 1965, the big problem for the British government was how to move the inhabitants **against their will**. Interviews with the original inhabitants show that life was made impossible for them. Lizette Talate, a former local inhabitant, tells the story. "My great-grandmother was born on Diego, and my grandmother was born there, and my mother was born there, and I was born there. I made six children there.... they tried to **starve** us. The **food ships** stopped arriving, and everything was **scarce**. There was no milk, no dairy products, no oil, no sugar, no salt. When they couldn't starve us out of our homes, they **spread rumours** that we would be bombed."

Along with 180 others, Lizette and her family were forced onto a ship and were taken to Mauritius. "I suppose we took some hope in the promise that in Mauritius we would be granted a house, a piece of land, animals and a sum of money. We got nothing."



### New Arrivals

The former president of Mauritius, Cassam Uteem, was in power when the islanders arrived. "You can't imagine how **bewildered** and terrified they were... These were a people who would sing their way through life; and here they were, **weeping their way through life**, and they are still weeping", he explained.

In 1974 a document sent to US and UK embassy officials around the world asked the question "Is there a native population on the Chagos Islands?" The reply was "no". A Ministry of Defence spokesman **denied** this was a lie. "There is nothing in our files," he said, "about inhabitants or about an evacuation".

### The Future

But the original inhabitants of Diego Garcia, now in exile in Mauritius, **haven't given up hope**. They have been fighting constantly for compensation. Often their protests have **fallen on deaf ears**. But they have made a little progress with financial compensation. Still, what they want most is the right to return to their island.

The case was finally taken to the UK **high court**. In November 2000, the court's **judgement stunned** the government. The **judges** said that it had been unlawful to **remove** the population from the island. But the Blair government had other ideas. That afternoon, the Foreign Office published a new immigration law that **banned** the islanders from returning to Diego Garcia. Once again, "agreements" with Washington were used as the excuse. Since then, there have been constant legal battles, but it seems the British government is determined to keep this little island in the hands of their big friends in Washington. Let's wait and see. ☺



### GLOSSARY

- a return ticket** *n*  
a ticket that permits you to return by bus/train, etc from a place you have travelled to
- a ferry trip** *n*  
a journey in a ferry (a ship that travels regularly between two points)
- a plantation** *n*  
a large piece of land where food is grown
- a deal** *n*  
an agreement
- a transient worker** *n*  
a worker that travels to different places looking for temporary work
- to claim (that something is true)** *vb*  
to say that something is true
- declassified documents** *n*  
documents that are no longer considered secret by the government
- a behind-the-door deal** *n*  
a secret agreement
- to take place** *exp*  
to happen
- to transfer ownership** *exp*  
to give another person legal possession of a property or some land
- tough** *adj*  
strong/determined
- the indigenous population** *n*  
the native population
- a seagull** *n*  
a large bird that lives near the sea
- to expel someone (from a place)** *exp*  
to force someone to leave a place
- uninhabited** *adj*  
with no humans on it
- against their will** *exp*  
if you move people "against their will", you force them to leave a place
- to starve someone** *exp*  
to stop giving food to someone
- a food ship** *n*  
a ship that brings food to an island
- scarce** *adj*  
if something is "scarce", there is very little of that thing
- to spread rumours** *exp*  
to start stories that aren't necessarily true
- bewildered** *adj*  
confused
- weeping their way through life** *exp*  
crying all the time
- to deny something** *exp*  
to say that something isn't true
- haven't given up hope** *exp*  
haven't stopped hoping
- to fall on deaf ears** *exp*  
if something "falls on deaf ears", no one pays any attention to it
- the high court** *n*  
the court of law that deals with very serious crimes or important cases
- a judgement** *n*  
a legal decision
- to stun** *vb*  
to shock
- a judge** *n*  
a person who manages a legal process
- to remove (from a place)** *exp*  
to take away from a place
- to ban something** *exp*  
to prohibit something

The section that makes grammar easy and fun

# "Since" & "For" Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the difference between "since" and "for" with the present perfect and the present perfect continuous.

## General

We can use the present perfect (and the present perfect continuous) to say how long an action has been happening. This action is one that started in the past and has continued until the present. There are basically two words we can use to introduce any time expression with the present perfect and the present perfect continuous: "for" and "since".



## For

We can use "for" with periods of time. For example: for three years, for ten minutes, for six days.

- a) I have lived in this house for eight years.
- b) He has had that watch for twenty years.
- c) She has been waiting for 6 minutes.
- d) They have been working here for



nine months.

We can also use "for" with nouns that represent periods of time. For example: for ages, for a long time, for too long, for years, etc.

- a) I have been living here for ages.
- b) She has been working here for too long.

## Since

We can use "since" to say exactly when an action started in the past. For example: since last year, since last week, since ten days ago, since last Monday, since 1876, etc.

- a) I have known her since 1993.
- b) I haven't had a drink since last week.
- c) We've had this dog since March.
- d) I've been here since 9 o'clock this morning.

"Since" can also be followed by a clause. For example:

- a) He hasn't stopped talking since he got here.
- b) This cat has been living here since it arrived four days ago.
- c) They have stopped smoking since they saw that film about the negative effects of tobacco.



## The Difference

So, what's the difference between "since" and "for"? Well, as you've seen, both words are used to introduce time expressions with the present perfect and present perfect continuous. However, the basic difference is that we use "for" with periods of time, and we use "since" to refer to a specific point in time.



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# Fluency Practice



CD track 28 - Canadian & Englishman

Here are six quick activities for you to improve your pronunciation and fluency. Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and try not to think too much. Later, you can check your answers. You need to study the phrasal verbs and idioms before attempting these exercises. **Answers on page 24**

## A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.

“Three thick tree twigs.”



## B: Pronunciation: Bird Idioms

Listen to these sentences and see if you can write down the words that you hear. Remember, some words are weak sounds and are unstressed, and as a result they are very difficult to hear.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## C: Rapid Response – Fears & Phobias

Answer these questions as quickly as you can. Try not to think too much and just invent the answers if you need to.

1. Do you have any fears or phobias?
2. What are you afraid of at work or school?
3. What are your nightmares about?
4. When was the last time you jumped or screamed? Why?



## D: Sentence Transformation – Fears & Phobias

Listen to these sentences and try to make a question for each one. Do it as quickly as you can. Use the question words in brackets ( ).

1. I'm frightened of spiders.  
(What) \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Probably my boss – he's really scary.  
(Who) \_\_\_\_\_?
3. I think *The Shining* is the most frightening film I've ever seen.  
(What) \_\_\_\_\_?
4. I was afraid of the dark as a child.  
(What) \_\_\_\_\_?

## E: Phrasal Verbs with “Stick”

Listen to each sentence then repeat it with an appropriate phrasal verb. You should try to be as quick as possible.

1. I'll keep my promise.
2. She pushed her tongue out at me.
3. We are really conspicuous with these hats on.
4. I'll defend you.
5. She'll attach the photo to the wall.
6. His hair was in a vertical position.

## F: Revision Drills – prepositions of movement

This revision drill is to practise using prepositions of movement (down, up, onto, into, etc). Listen to the following expressions. Complete each one with a preposition of movement.

1. She ran \_\_\_\_\_ the field.
2. Things are cheaper. Prices are going \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Things are more expensive. Prices are going \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He bent \_\_\_\_\_ to pick up the money.
5. They drove \_\_\_\_\_ Zaragoza to Barcelona.
6. The baby is going to fall. Take it \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
7. You can put the books \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
8. The cat is inside the box. Please take it \_\_\_\_\_ of the box.
9. They walked \_\_\_\_\_ the tunnel.
10. I am going \_\_\_\_\_ Paris tomorrow.
11. I was frightened because the bull was running \_\_\_\_\_ me.
12. The tourist walked \_\_\_\_\_ to me and asked me the time.



# Business English



CD track 29  
Englishwoman & US woman

This month we are looking at some typical "sales" collocations (two words that go together to form a fixed expression). Listen and repeat the following expressions.

1. The sales report covers the fourth quarter sales figures for 2006.
2. She is sales director for a large multi-national company.
3. What's the figure for advertising sales?
4. Is she any good as a sales person?
5. What's his **sales technique** like?
6. You need a good **sales script** if you are going to start selling over the phone.
7. She's in charge of **business-to-business** sales.
8. He works primarily in **business-to-client** sales.

I'M AT THE CLIENT'S. I CAN'T FIND THE SAMPLES. I THINK I'VE LEFT THEM IN THE OFFICE. CAN YOU BRING THEM HERE?



## Business Telephone Conversation

Now listen to this conversation.

You'll hear many of the expressions from this unit.

Jennifer: Hello, Jennifer Childs speaking.  
 Leigh: Hello, Jennifer. This is Leigh.  
 Jennifer: Oh, hi. How's it going?  
 Leigh: Fine, thanks. Hey, I have an interview scheduled at your offices for Monday and I was just wondering if you could tell me a bit more about the job.  
 Jennifer: **Sure. Fire away.**  
 Leigh: Well, I wasn't exactly clear on the **position**.  
 Jennifer: It's for sales director.  
 Leigh: OK, and can you tell me a bit more about the role and what's involved?  
 Jennifer: Well, you'll be producing sales reports, overseeing the other **sales associates, and stuff like that**. You'll be primarily doing business-to-business sales, and you'll be reporting directly to the sales manager.  
 Leigh: OK, and what's a typical **working day** like?  
 Jennifer: Well, it varies really. Usually, we start around 8.30 and we go on till about six in the evening. But you'll have to be prepared to **stay on** to finish work.  
 Leigh: OK, thanks. That sounds great. I'll see you on Monday.  
 Jennifer: See you then.

## GLOSSARY

**a sales technique** *n*  
the things that someone says/does/uses in order to sell something

**a sales script** *n*  
a piece of text explaining what words to say when selling something

**business-to-business sales** *n*  
selling to other businesses. Also known as "B2B"

**business-to-client sales** *n*  
selling to individual people. Also known as "B2C"

**sure** *exp*  
of course

**fire away** *exp*  
start asking or speaking

**a position** *n*  
a job

**sales associates** *n*  
other people in the sales team

**and stuff like that** *n*  
and things or activities like that

**a working day** *n*  
the time spent on the job, often from 9 to 5

**to stay on** *phr vb*  
to stay at work even after the time that the working day officially ends

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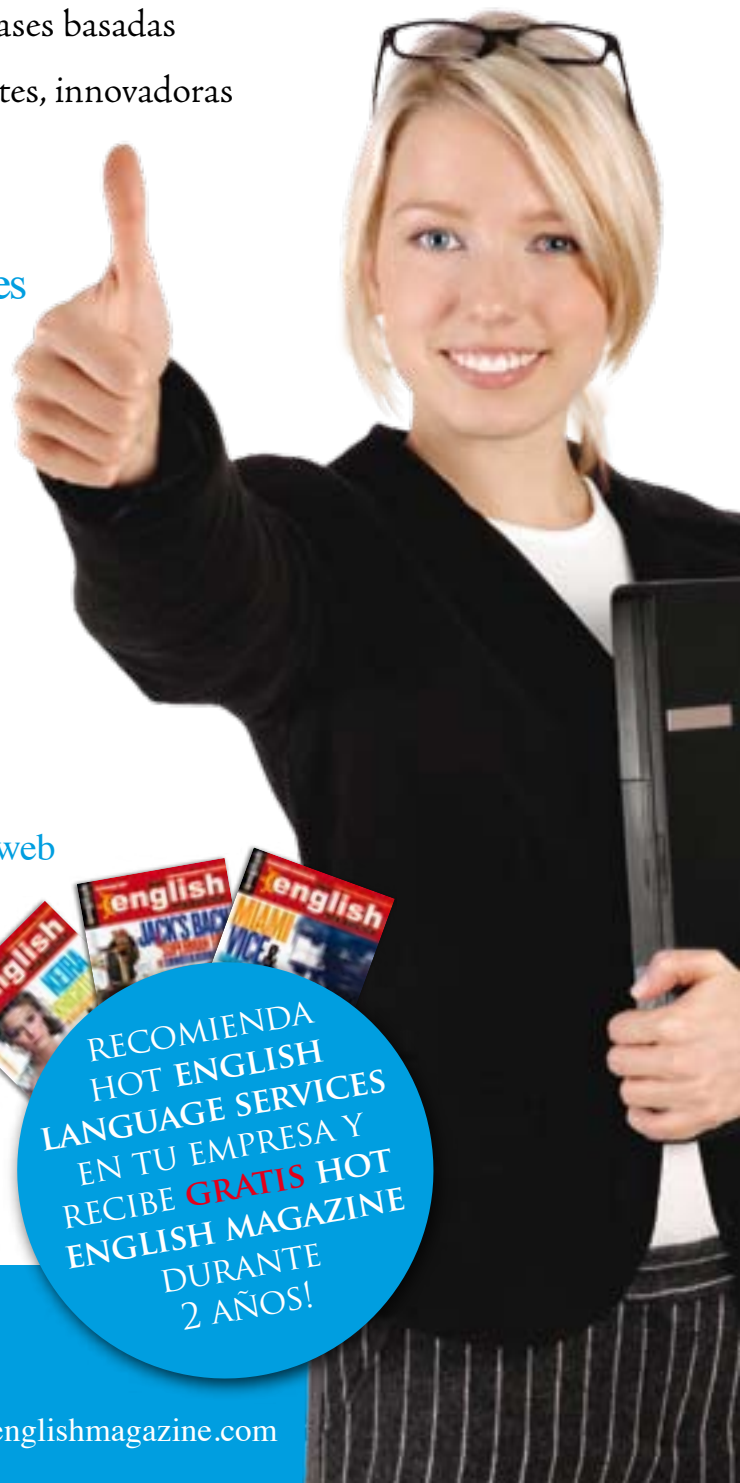
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