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14 REALLY USEFUL EXPRESSIONS FOR

PASSING OFFICIAL EXAMS!

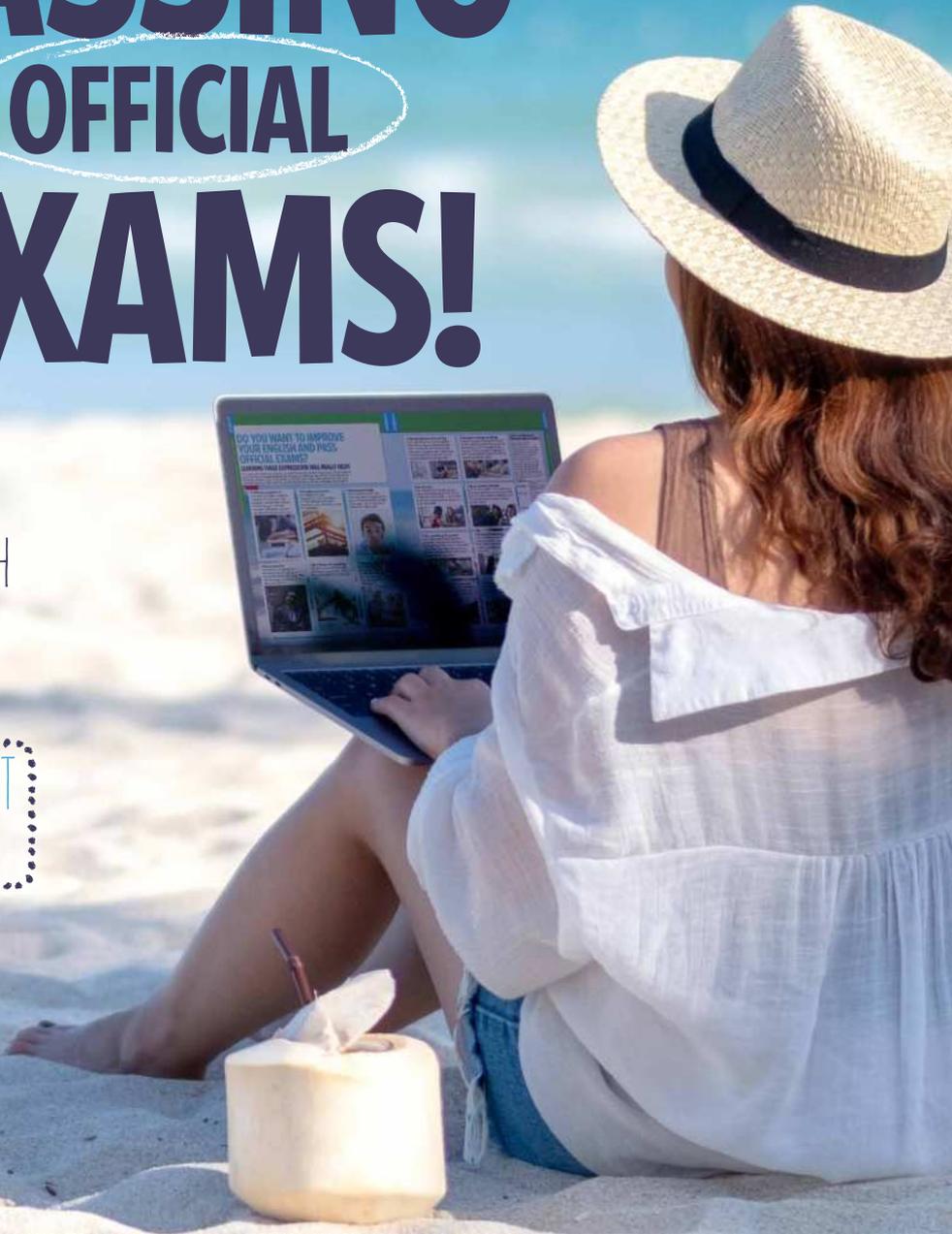
US BAR CHAT
WEDDINGS!

BEACH
Special

TRAVEL TRIVIA!

TALKING ABOUT
THE WEEKEND!

CHICK
FLICKS



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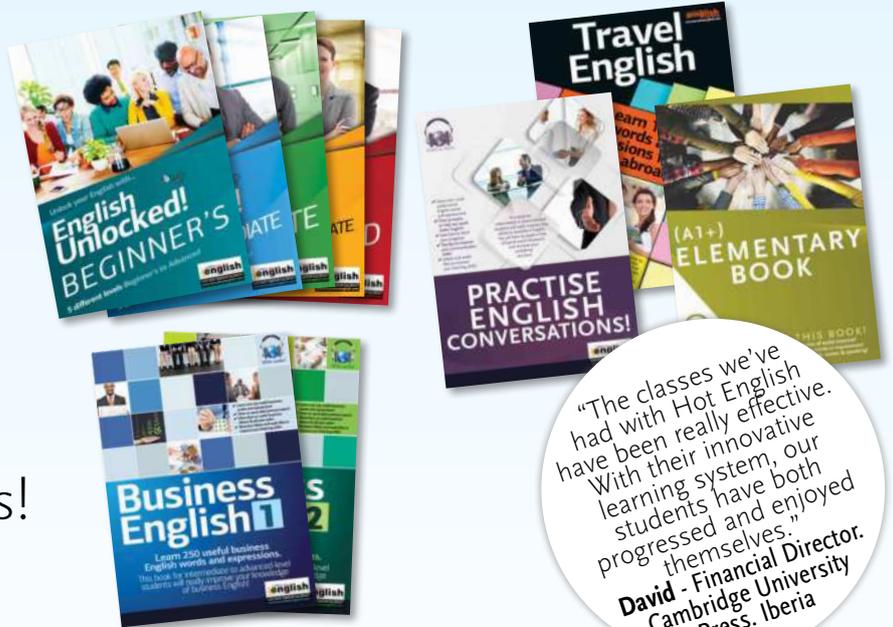


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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the fun magazine for learning English. In this month's issue, we're looking at some really useful expressions to improve your speaking

and help you pass official exams. These are all typical expressions that you'll find in exams such as First Certificate or Cambridge Advanced. Of course, that's not all and we're also looking at Chick Flicks, irregular past tense verbs, weddings, travel vocabulary, indirect speech, phrasal verbs, idioms, slang, vocabulary, UK-US word differences, a business topic, and lots, lots more. Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy

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In this section Dr Fingers identifies and corrects typical errors... and ensures that they are NEVER, EVER repeated.



DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC

Hello everybody, and welcome to my "Error Correction" clinic. You know just the other day I heard and recorded the following conversation in one of my classes. There are some errors. See if you can find them.

Dr Fingers:

Good morning, class. Right, who has stolen my glasses? They were here on my desk just a minute ago and now they've disappeared. Right, I will count to three, and I expect the "thief" to put them back. One, two... oh, here they are, on my head. How silly! OK, class, now we're going to do a little exercise.

Class: Oh, no!

Dr Fingers: Yes! Now, be quiet! Right, Petra, come to the front of the class.

Now, Petra, here is a list of sentences. I want you to say these sentences in indirect speech. Remember, we use indirect speech to report what someone has said. Use the verb "to tell", and make the sentence using "I" as the subject.

Petra: OK, that's easy:

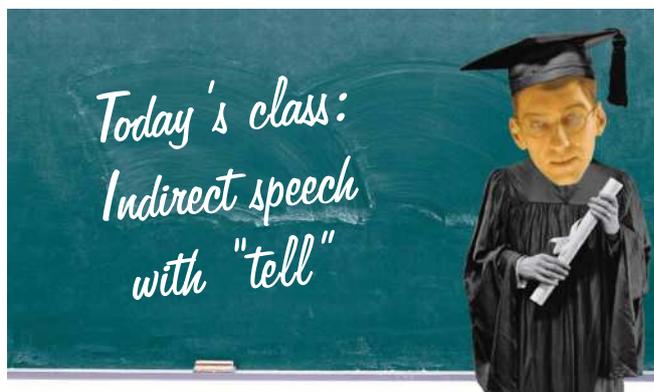
1. "Come!" - and the answer is, **"I told her that she comes"**;
2. "Give the drink to me!" - and the answer is, **"I told him that he gives the drink to me"**; and,
3. "Go!" - and the answer is **"I told them that they go"**.

Dr Fingers: OK, class... (*fades out*)

Problems

Did you hear the mistakes? Poor Petra got all her sentences wrong. These are very typical errors and we have to help her. When we use the verb "tell" to report what someone has told us to do, the construction goes like this:

"Tell + object + infinitive with "to". For example:



Direct speech

"Go away!"
"Eat it!"
"Drive slowly!"

Indirect speech

"She told me to go away"
"He told me to eat it"
"They told us to drive slowly"

Solutions

Later, I disciplined my student privately for a few hours, and now I think she understands the rule. Let's listen to her again:

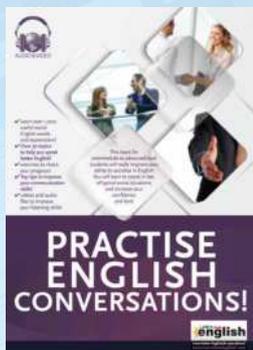
- Petra:**
1. "Come!" - and the answer is, "I told her to come";
 2. "Give the drink to me!" - and the answer is, "I told him to give the drink to me"; and,
 3. "Go!" - and the answer is "I told them to go".

Dr Fingers: Well done, Petra. As I always say, "no pain, no gain".

OK, that's all for today, bye for now and may you have an error-free month.

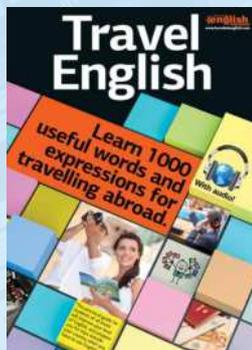


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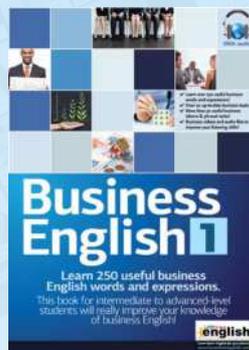
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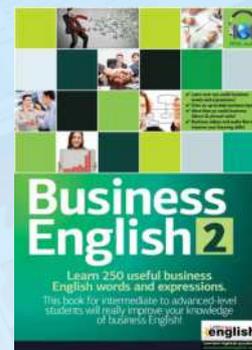
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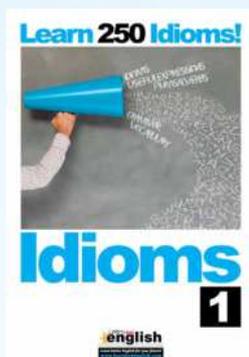
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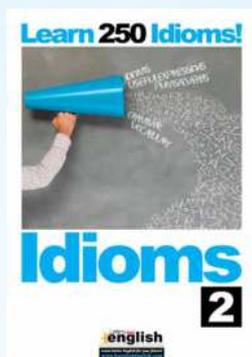
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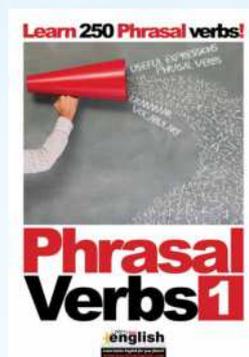
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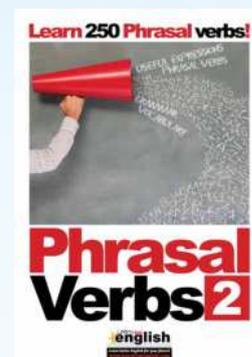
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DR FINGERS' PRONUNCIATION



Hello everyone and welcome to my English pronunciation course! OK, let's get pronouncing! (The answers to the exercise are on page 46)



Irregular Past Tense Verbs

This is the second part in our series on irregular past tense verbs and their pronunciation. This month I have decided to show off my musical ability and I will be performing a rap. My good friend DJ Stokes has kindly **laid down a drum 'n' bass rhythm** and I will be rapping over this. I hope you enjoy it, especially as the language focus of my rap is based on the pronunciation of past tense verbs.

Dr Fingers' Rap - "Bad Day"

Yesterday I began to drink,
In fact I drank a bottle of gin,
I had a bath, and sang a song,
I thought, 'this is good', but I was wrong.

Two hours later the phone rang,
I thought of staying, but then I ran,
Dripping wet, I picked up the phone,
It was my wife, she was leaving home.

At work the next day I came in late,
I was really sick from what I ate,
I fell down and missed the train,
And felt so sad because of the rain.

I sat at my desk and heard a noise,
And saw I'd broken my daughter's toys,
My boss came in and gave me a note,
She said I was **sacked** so I got my coat.

Now I know all this may seem quite sad,
But deep down I was really quite glad,
I decided right then to leave the **rat race**,
And travel off to outer space.

By Dr Fingers - copyright, 2004.

Listen & Repeat

Now let's get on with some pronouncing. Listen and repeat these verbs and their irregular pasts:

Infinitive	Past
Begin	Began
Drink	Drank
Ring	Rang
Run	Ran
Sing	Sang
Sit	Sat
Have	Had
Become	Became
Come	Came
Eat	Ate
Give	Gave
Lie	Lay
Made	Made
Feed	Fed
Fall	Fell
Feel	Felt
Spell	Spelt
Spread	Spread

Connected Speech

Now let's look at these verbs in connected speech. Many of these irregular verbs end with a consonant sound. Now, when the following word starts with a vowel, these consonant sounds connect with the vowel to form a new sound. For example:

"We began on Friday", which is like this in connected speech, "we bega non Friday".

Listen to some more examples:

1. She drank it = she dran kit.
2. They became afraid = they beca mafraid.
3. He ate it all = he a ti tall.

4. They spread it around = they spre di taround.

Exercise

Now let's try an exercise. Listen to the following sentences and repeat them with me. Then, listen again and try to write the sentence in two ways: firstly in the normal fashion, and then in connected speech. We've done the first one for you. Good luck!

1. The phone rang at six =
the phone ran gat six.

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

OK, that's all for today. Bye for now, and happy talking!

GLOSSARY

to lay down (music) phr vb
to record music

a drum 'n' bass rhythm n
a musical rhythm with drum (percussion) and bass (a guitar with four strings)

dripping wet n
very wet. If water is "dripping", it is falling from a place

to pick up the phone exp
to take the phone when it is ringing so you can start talking

sacked adj
if you are "sacked", you lose your job and you have to leave the company

the rat race n
this refers to the aggressive competitiveness that there is in the world of business and work in general

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LISTENING TALKING ABOUT THE WEEKEND!

1 Pre-listening

Think of six typical things that people do at the weekend.

2 Listening I

You're going to listen to a conversation with two people talking about their weekends. One person went to a theme park. What do you think he/she is going to say? Think of two things. For example, "We had a great time!" Then, listen once to compare your ideas.

3 Listening II

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- Which theme park did Bob go to?
 - Park Asterix
 - Disney World
- Which city is it near?
 - Paris
 - Lyon
- What was the weather like?
 - good
 - terrible

Discussion Ask and answer the questions.

- What did you do last weekend?
- Where did you go?
- What time did you get up?
- Who were you with on Saturday?
- What about on Sunday?
- What did you have for breakfast?
- What about lunch and dinner?
- Did you go out at all?
- Where did you go?
- Who did you go with?
- What's your idea of the perfect weekend?



The pronunciation of was and were

A

There are two ways of pronouncing *was* and *were*.

Was

We often use the strong form *was* /woz/ for emphasis in speech:

- I *was* at home.
- She *was* in the living room.

And we use the weak form *was* /wəz/ in casual speech:

- I *was* at home.
- She *was* in the living room.

Were

We often use the strong form *were* /wɜː/ for emphasis in speech:

- They *were* at home.
- We *were* in the office.

And we use the weak form *were* /wə/ in casual speech:

- They *were* at home.
- We *were* in the office.

B

Now listen and repeat these sentences with weak forms

- He *was* in the office.
- She *was* at the factory.
- They *were* in the cinema.
- We *were* in the garden.

C

Now listen and write the sentences you hear. They've all got weak forms.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



VOCABULARY THE DEPARTMENT STORE



Aisle



Toilets / bathroom



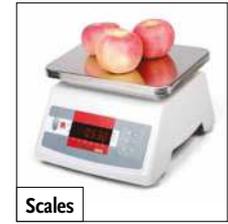
Shelf



Credit/debit card



Receipt



Scales



(Shopping) trolley



Escalator



Exit



Plastic bag / carrier bag



(Shopping) basket



Coins



Notes / banknotes



(Shop/store) manager



Checkout assistant



Checkout till / cash till



Self-checkout / self-service checkout



Sales assistant / shop assistant

Extra words

- **Department store** – a very large shop with different sections: toys, food, etc.
- **Shopping centre** – a large building with many separate shops. “Shopping mall” in US English
- **Floor** – a level in a shop: ground floor, first floor, second floor, etc.
- **Menswear/womenswear department** – the place in the shop where there are clothes for men/women.
- **Changing rooms** – a little room where you can try on clothes.
- **Cafeteria** – a restaurant where you can buy a coffee / a sandwich, etc.
- **Store card** – a card that gives you points every time you buy something.
- **Refund** – if you get a “refund”, you return an item you bought and the shop returns your money.
- **Discount** – if there’s a “discount”, a product costs less than normal.
- **Coupon** – a little piece of paper with a discount on a particular product.

What you ask

- Where’s the sports department, please?
- I’d like to return this skirt, please.
- Is the café on the second floor?
- Where can I get toothpaste, please?
- What time do you close, please?
- Are you open on Sundays?
- Is there somewhere I can try this on, please?
- Do you have this in a larger/smaller size,

What you hear

- Have you got a store card?
- Shall I wrap it for you?
- Will you be paying by cash or credit card?
- We’re open from 9am till 6pm, all through the week.
- The changing rooms are just over there.
- You can bring it back and get a refund if you keep the receipt.

1 Listening

Bob is in a department store. He needs some help so he's speaking to a shop assistant.

Listen once. Which department store sections does he ask about?

2 Listening

Listen again. Then, choose the correct answers.

- Where are the toilets? On the...
a) second floor b) third floor
- Where’s the sports department? On the...
a) second floor b) third floor
- Where’s the cafeteria? It’s on the...
a) fifth floor b) sixth floor
- Are they open on Sundays?
a) yes b) no
- Where’s the menswear department? On the...
a) fourth floor b) fifth floor
- What does the assistant have to go and stack?
a) some tins of food b) some boxes

3 Speaking activity

Use the phrases to act out a role play in a department store.



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Story time

In this section you can hear two native English speakers telling each other jokes. This authentic conversation will really help with your listening skills. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions.

"Little Johnny" & "The Drunk Driver"

1. What does Little Johnny want for his birthday?
2. What has the man in the second joke been doing all day?

John: So I heard another good **Little Johnny joke** the other day.

Rupert: Oh, good, I like those.

John: So, it goes like this. Little Johnny is heard **praying** in a loud voice a week before his birthday.

Rupert: Yeah, asking for presents, is he?

John: He says:
"Dear God, I pray that I will get a computer game for my birthday".
And then his mother **goes, overhears** him, and says "why are you **shouting**, Johnny?"

John: Yeah, good question.

Rupert: And he goes, she, the mother says to Johnny, "Well, God's not **deaf**."

John: And then Johnny replies, "but **Granny** is."

Rupert: Ah Granny's got to hear. OK, oh, I, **erm**, yeah, I heard an equally bad one actually about a **traffic cop**. He **pulls over** this drunk driver and, erm...

John: ... what's he say?

Rupert: Yeah he goes, "excuse me, sir, have you been drinking?"
And the guy, the driver goes, "yeah, of course I have. I had five pints of Guinness with my **mates** at lunch time, then I had the afternoon in the bar drinking whiskey..."

John: That's a lot of drinking.

Rupert: Then in the evening I had six brandies. And the police officer says, "I see, sir. I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to **step out** of the car and take a **breathalyser test**."

John: Wow!

Rupert: And the guy, the whiskey guy goes, "why? Don't you believe me?" - **stinking of booze**.



GLOSSARY

a Little Johnny joke *n*

a joke about an imaginary bad boy called "Little Johnny"

to pray *vb*

when you "pray", you talk to God and say little poems to Him (Her?)

to go *vb inform*

in this case it means "to say"

to overhear *vb*

to secretly hear a conversation

to shout *vb*

to speak in a very loud voice

deaf *adj*

with no ability to hear

granny *n inform*

grandmother

erm *n*

this is the sound that people make when

they are thinking about what to say

a traffic cop *n*

a police officer who works on the roads, controlling the traffic and drivers

to pull someone over *phr vb*

to tell a driver to stop

a mate *n inform*

a friend

to step out *phr vb*

to get out. Literally, to "step" is to put your foot on the ground as you are walking

a breathalyser test *n*

a test to see if you have been drinking alcohol. You must breathe into a tube and the police analyse the results

to stink of booze *exp*

to smell strongly of alcohol

USEFUL VOCABULARY

to help you with the story:



a computer game



a traffic cop



a pint of Guinness



a grandmother

idioms



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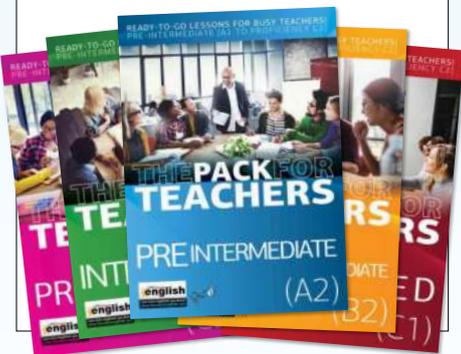


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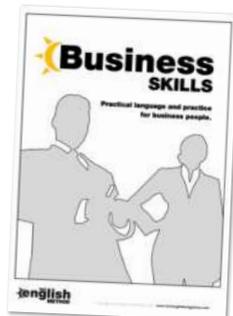
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Crank Calls

Here are some more crank calls - those funny telephone calls that are designed to **wind** people up. Have fun listening to these two. (answers on page 46)



Crank Call I - The Television Set

For this call we pretended to be German and we phoned up an **electrical store**. We claimed to have a problem with a **television set** that we had bought there just recently. Listen to the conversation and answer this question:

How does the man get injured?

Shop: Eddie's Electrical store, how can I help you?

Hot: Hello, I am German.

Shop: Oh, really...

Hot: ... and I have a problem.

Shop: What's that, sir?

Hot: I recently **purchased** a television from your shop.

Shop: Yes.

Hot: And it doesn't work well. I have **taken off** the **back**.

Shop: Oh, sir, I wouldn't do that.

Hot: Now, I am touching the **wires** at the back and the picture is not working.

Shop: Sir, I'd stop that if I were you. The guarantee is invalid if you attempt to...

Hot: And now I am touching... (a loud bang) Ah!!!!!!

Shop: Hello?

Hot: Ah! I am in pain and consequently cannot move... Ah!

Shop: Jeff! This, this guy here on the phone's hurt himself...

Hot: Please, please what is the number of the ambulance?

Shop: **Nine, nine, nine** (999).

Hot: **Nein**? Why won't you help me? Please, I need an ambulance.



Crank Call II - The Robbery

For this call we phoned the police with some very important information concerning a recent bank robbery. Listen to the conversation and answer this question:

What information does the man offer the police?

Police: Hello, Smithfield police department, how can I help?

Hot: Hi, I have some information **regarding** the High Street robbery.

Police: OK, sir. Do you know anyone involved in this crime?

Hot: **Not as such**, but I would just like to eliminate myself from the **enquiries**.

Police: **I beg your pardon**.

Hot: I would like to eliminate myself from the enquiries - I have a **witness** who can **prove** that I was nowhere near the scene of the crime when it occurred.

Police: May I have your name, sir?

Hot: Are you going to arrest me?

Police: I would just like to remind you that **wasting police time** is a serious offence...

Hot: ... I know. Bye!

More next month.

GLOSSARY

to wind someone up *phr vb*
to irritate someone and make them angry
an electrical store *n*
a shop that sells electrical goods such as cassette recorders and televisions
a television set *n*
the box that you look at when you watch television
to purchase *vb*
to buy
to take off *phr vb*
to remove, to take away an object that is

fixed to another object
the back *n*
the piece of plastic at the back of a television. Inside it there are lots of electrical wires
a wire *n*
a thin piece of metal that carries electricity
nine, nine, nine *exp*
this is the number of the emergency services in England. "9" sounds the same as "nein", which is a German word that

means "no"
nein *exp German*
"no" - the pronunciation is "9"
regarding *exp*
about, concerning
not as such *exp*
this is a way of saying "no" - people use it when they don't really want to admit the answer is "no"
an enquiry *n*
an investigation
I beg your pardon? *exp*

what? (the polite version)
a witness *n*
a person who sees a crime and can identify people
to prove *vb*
to demonstrate, to show
wasting police time *exp*
using police time unnecessarily; forcing the police to use their time on stupid things

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BEACH BUMS

If you go to the States during the summer and go to the beach, you'll see all sorts of different people there. Who are they? And what are they like? This is a comprehensive guide to the types of people you can find on an American beach.



The Surfer Dude

The Surfer Dudes are the coolest of the cool. They're the good looking guys with tanned bodies, long blonde hair and lots of muscles. They love to **brag** about **catching waves**. They wear trendy beach wear and use phrases such as "righteous",

and "Dude". They are usually so obsessed with themselves that they don't notice anyone else on the beach.



The Lifeguards

Lifeguards are similar to the Surfer Dudes as they're just as muscular, tanned and **aloof**. They **loung** around all day with their sunglasses on beach chairs watching people. Their job consists of staring out to the sea, **blowing their whistle** every

now and then and running into the water to pull out innocent swimmers from the water just to show how cool they are.

The Beach Employees

The Beach Employees are so desperate to be at the beach that they work there. However, they soon realize that they can't



actually participate in the beach activities. Instead, they work in hot kitchens, making hot dogs, serving **soda** and watching everyone else having fun. Other typical jobs include **stacking deckchairs**, **picking up litter** and **flattening the sand**.



The Old People

There are two categories of old people at the beach: the **huddlers** and the **wrinklies**. The huddlers hide under beach umbrellas all day as they too afraid of the sun. They wear **long sleeve shirts**, zinc sun block on their noses and big floppy hats. They spend most of their time reading **thick books**.

The **wrinklies** are those old people who have been tanning themselves all their lives. Their skin is a strange colour and it looks like a kind of brown leather jacket. They spend their time walking up and down the beach.



The Teenagers

These are the youngsters who go to the beach with their parents... but never sit with them. They aren't old enough to drive to the beach by themselves, so they depend on their parents, which they hate.

As soon as they reach the beach they **run off** and pretend not to recognise their parents. They spend their time trying to look cool, although most of the time they just look angry. They are just wishing for the day when they are old enough to be on their own.



The College Students

The college students are the ones who are making all the noise on the beach. They turn up in big groups with loud radio cassettes, and take up as much space as possible. They **set up** volleyball nets and play **rowdy games** in the water such as

Chicken Fights. For this game, the smaller, lighter students climb on the backs of the stronger students. Then, they all have a fight and try to push each other into the water. They play this game all day and get into close physical contact with one another. What fun!



The Families

Families turn up at the beach with absolutely everything inside their **huge coolers**. These often contain sandwiches, drinks and snacks to eat during the day, huge bottles of **sun block**, sand toys and even children. The parents spend most

of their time trying to stop the babies from eating the sand, and trying to put sun cream on their kids. The kids spend most of their time crying, screaming and eating sand.



The Couples

The couples are the most irritating of the beach goers. They spend their time sharing a towel that's too small for them, kissing a lot, holding hands and generally being in love. They take hours rubbing cream on each other's backs and stare into each other's eyes for most of the day. At some point they may walk slowly down to the water's edge and stare out romantically as the sun goes down, or walk slowly along the water's edge. How sickeningly romantic!

So now you know how to identify American beach goers.



GLOSSARY

to brag *vb*

to talk about how good you are at something

to catch a wave *exp* when a surfer "catches a wave", he or she finds a good wave (area of high water in the sea) on which they can surf

aloof *adj*

someone who is "aloof" thinks they are superior to others

to lounge around *exp*

to sit in an area all day doing nothing in particular

to blow a whistle *exp*

a "whistle" is a metal object with a hole in it that you put in your mouth. When you "blow" air through it, it makes a noise to attract attention

soda *n*

a drink like Coca Cola, Sprite, etc

to stack *vb*

to put one thing on top of another

a deckchair *n*

a type of chair on the beach that you can fold (double)

to pick up *phr vb*

to take something in your hands and to take that object from a surface

litter *n*

rubbish - pieces of paper and old things that are on the ground

to flatten sand *exp*

to make sand (the yellow substance on

the beach) flat

a huddler *n*

a person who "huddles". If you "huddle", you have your arms around your body because you are cold or frightened

a wrinkle *n*

a person with "wrinkles". "Wrinkles" are lines that appear on your face because you are old or because you have had too much sun

a long-sleeve shirt *n*

a shirt with material that covers your arms (the sleeve)

a thick book *n*

a very big book

to run off *phr vb*

to escape from a place

to set up *phr vb*

if you "set up" a volleyball net, you fix it in the sand and prepare it so you can play

a rowdy game *n*

a game with lots of noise and shouting

huge *adj*

very big

a cooler *n*

an object like a box with ice in it that is used for keeping food cold

sun block *n*

a cream used to protect you from the sun. It is powerful and blocks the sun

Travel Trivia

Did you go on holiday last year? Where did you go? What did you take with you? Below are the results of a very interesting survey on people's habits and customs when they are on holiday. Are their answers similar to what yours would be?

The most common holiday disasters according to the survey are:

- Flight delays** (43%)
- Running out of money** (24%)
- Being robbed (21%)
- Poor accommodation (17%)
- And falling ill (16%)

When asked what would make their holiday extra special, this is how they answered:

- Unlimited spending money (28%)
- Good weather (22%)
- No **bugs** (21%)
- A free pass to the local nightlife (14%)
- Travelling by Concorde (13%)
- And having someone to carry their luggage (2%)

The ideal "fantasy" holiday companions are Kylie Minogue and David Beckham, closely followed by Brad Pitt and Catherine Zeta-Jones.



The most useful objects that people take with them are:

- Alarm clocks (34%)
- Electric razors** (25%)
- Toilet paper (21%)
- Hair curlers** (13%)
- Cleaning products (7%)

The most useless objects that people take with them on holiday are:

- Spare shoes** (56%)
- Books to study (28%)
- Cutlery** (13%)
- Bed linen** (3%)

45% of respondents had taken an adventure trip in the previous five years. The most popular activities were:

- Skiing (36%)
- Rafting (23%)
- Scuba diving** (22%)
- And mountain biking (19%)



According to the respondents, the most frequent types of holidays were:

- Beach holidays (41%)
- Sight-seeing** holidays (28%)
- Skiing holidays (22%)
- And camping trips (9%)

Incidentally, of those who responded "camping", 26% said they would never go camping again. The average age of the campers was 36.

The most popular activities on holiday are:

- Shopping (32%)
- Relaxing (25%)
- Sight-seeing (24%)
- Keeping fit and doing sport (13%)
- And watching TV (6%)

The biggest spending holiday-makers are **honeymooners**. On average they spend three times more than other holiday-makers.

This is where people got inspiration for their holiday destination:

- On the internet (42%)
- At a travel agency (33%)
- Through friends or family (25%)

For the majority, the most popular "creatures" to take on holiday are:

- Dogs (24%)
- Cats (22%)
- Children (21%)
- Grandparents (12%)
- And other (21%) this category includes rabbits, snakes and fish

Holidays are also a time for meeting people, and sometimes for falling in love. This is what our respondents said:

- 48% say they have never had any luck meeting people on holiday, but that they were extremely hopeful.
- 34% say they've had a "holiday romance" at least once in their life.
- 11% say that they have fallen in love while on holiday.
- And 7% said they met their wives/husbands while on holiday.



The most popular items to buy on holiday are:

- Postcards (30%)
- Souvenirs** (26%)
- Clothes (20%)
- Sun cream (11%)
- Toiletries** (8%)
- And **gifts** for friends (5%)

So what about you? How would you answer all these questions?

GLOSSARY

a flight delay *n*

if there is a "flight delay", the plane leaves later than planned

to run out of something *exp*

if you "run out of money", you use all your money and you have none left

a bug *n*

an insect

an electric razor *n*

a machine you use to cut the hair off your face

a hair curler *n*

a machine you use to make your hair curly (not straight)

spare *adj*

extra

cutlery *n*

knives, forks, spoons, etc

bed linen *n*

pieces of material you put on a bed

scuba diving *n*

a sport which consists of going under water with oxygen tanks on your back

sight-seeing *n*

the action of looking at all the sights and places of cultural and historical interest in a city

a honeymooner *n*

a person who is on his/her "honeymoon" - the holiday you have after you get married

a souvenir *n*

an object you buy to remember a place you have visited

toiletries *n*

toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc

a gift *n*

a present

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Illustration by Cristiano Righi

DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH AND PASS OFFICIAL EXAMS?

LEARNING THESE EXPRESSIONS WILL REALLY HELP!

If you want to improve your English, you need to learn lots of useful expressions. They'll help with your listening, writing and speaking, but they can also help you pass official exams such as First Certificate and Advanced. In this article, you'll learn some really useful expressions. First, read over the meanings. Then, see if you can do the exercises on the following page. Good luck! 😊

1 With the exception of

If something happens "with the exception of" one person (for example), everyone does it apart from this person: "With the exception of Michael, everyone completed their reports on time."



2 Be under construction

If a building is "under construction", they're building it: "The building is still under construction, but it should be ready for September."



3 Be someone's fault

If it's "someone's fault" that something bad has happened, this person is responsible for that bad thing happening: "It was Pete's fault that we were so late."



4 Be to blame for

If someone is "to blame for" something bad, this person is responsible for that bad thing: "The sales manager is to blame for the poor sales results."



5 Be in favour of something

If you're in favour of something, you think it's a good idea: "We're in favour of starting the project next week."



6 Take advantage of

If you "take advantage of" something, you use that thing because you know that it's good for you and it can help you: "You should take advantage of the help they're offering you."



7 Get the most out of something

If you “get the most out of something”, you use that thing as much as possible and get maximum benefit from it because you know that it’s good for you: “I tried to get the most out of the course as I knew it would be good for my job prospects.”

**9 Benefit from**

If you “benefit from” something, you receive something positive from it such as help, assistance, advice...: “You would benefit from listening to their advice – it could really help!”

**11 Take something for granted**

If you “take something for granted”, you accept it without appreciating it or thanking anyone for it – you simply expect it to happen: “She takes her parents for granted and expects them to be there for her when there’s a problem.”

**13 Be nothing to do with someone**

If an event, topic, subject, etc. is nothing to do with someone, it isn’t related or connected to them: “This mistake has nothing to do with me.”

**8 No point in doing something**

If there’s “no point in doing something”, you can’t see any reason why you should do it because it won’t change or help in any way: “There’s no point in talking to him – he has decided what he wants and he won’t change his mind.”

**10 Be in someone’s interest**

If it’s “in your interest” to do something, this thing is good for you as you can learn from it, or you can receive something from it: “It’s in your interest to listen to what they’re saying.”

**12 Be short of something**

If you’re “short of something” (such as money), you don’t have enough of that thing: “We’re a bit short of money this month, so could you pay this time?” Also, “short on”.

**14 Be of no concern to someone**

If a subject is “of no concern to someone”, it isn’t related or connected to them, so they have no right to know about it: “This topic is of no concern to you.”

**USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!**

Many exams such as First Certificate and Advanced include key word transformation exercises (see examples on the following page). In order to do these exercises, you need to know everything about the expressions you learn: their meanings, grammar (what tenses or prepositions are used with the expression, etc.), and typical collocations (the other words that typically go with the expressions). For example:

Expression: *Not see the point in something*

Example: *I don't see the point in talking to them about it.*

Meaning: if you “don’t see the point in doing something”, you can’t understand why it’s important to do it.

Grammar: We often use this expression in negative forms; a verb that follows the preposition *in* goes in the gerund (-ing)...

Collocations: We typically use an action verb with this expression: *I don't see the point in... talking, going, walking, listening...*



So, how can you learn these useful expressions? Apart from doing key word transformation exercises like the ones on the next page, you should read and listen to English as much as possible! By doing this, the language will flow into your brain effortlessly, and you’ll learn a lot of expressions subconsciously. Then, in exams, you can rely on your intuition to help you with any exercises involving useful expressions.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU REMEMBER?

USEFUL EXPRESSION EXERCISES!

Answers on page 46

1 Prepositions

Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- You would benefit _____ listening to their advice – it could really help!
- We're _____ favour of starting the project next week.
- _____ the exception of Michael, everyone completed their reports on time.
- We're a bit short _____ money this month, so could you pay this time?
- There's no point _____ talking to him – he has decided what he wants and he won't change his mind.
- This topic is _____ no concern to you.
- The sales manager is to blame _____ the poor sales results.
- I tried to get the most _____ of the course as I knew it would be good for my job prospects.
- It's _____ your interest to listen to what they're saying.
- This mistake has nothing to do _____ me.
- You should take advantage _____ the help they're offering you.
- The building is still _____ construction, but it should be ready for September.
- She takes her parents _____ granted and expects them to be there for her when there's a problem."
- It was Pete's fault that we were so late – he was responsible _____ organising the taxis.

[Remember, when a verb follows a preposition, it goes in the gerund (verb -ing)]



2 Key word transformation

Write the sentences again using the KEY WORD in bold capitals.

You must add between 3 and 5 words, one of which must be the KEY WORD. Contractions count as two words. You cannot change the KEY WORD in any way at all. For example:

Everyone paid the money apart from Jessica. **EXCEPTION**
Everyone paid the money _____ Jessica.

Answer: Everyone paid the money **with the EXCEPTION of** Jessica.

- She thought it would be a good idea to start the project next week. **FAVOUR**
She was _____ the project next week.
- He should take advantage of their help. **MOST**
He should _____ the help they're offering him.
- It isn't her fault that we lost the contract. **BLAME**
She isn't to _____ the contract.
- It isn't worth talking to her because she won't change her mind. **POINT**
_____ talking to her because she won't change her mind.
- This topic has nothing to do with you. **CONCERN**
This topic _____ you.
- The company would benefit from expanding overseas. **INTERESTS**
It would be _____ to expand overseas.
- They don't appreciate anything. **GRANTED**
They _____.
- We don't have a lot of money right now. **SHORT**
We _____ money right now.
- Everyone handed in their reports on time apart from Rob. **EXCEPTION**
Everyone handed in their reports on time _____ Rob.
- They are building a new sports complex. **CONSTRUCTION**
The new sports complex _____.



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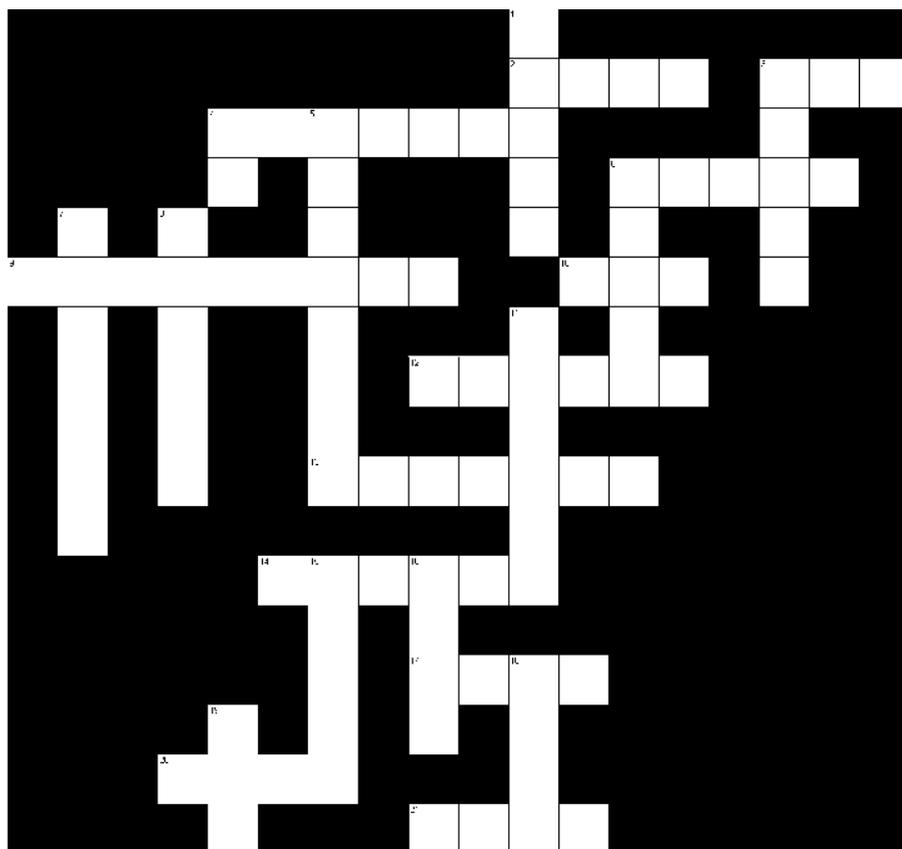
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CROSSWORD

ANSWERS ON PAGE 46



Across

- 2: To go somewhere very quickly. To r_____
- 3: To cry
- 4: Something that you think is terrible, horrible and disgraceful. An ou_____
- 6: If you don't kill someone, you _____ that person's life
- 9: To invite someone to have a fight with you. To _____ that person
- 10: A chemical that police use and that makes you cry. Tear _____
- 12: To speak to yourself in a low voice, usually when you are angry. To

m_____

- 13: A situation in which there are many people in the street acting in a violent way
- 14: The bad character in a film - not the hero
- 17: To think of an idea. To come up _____ an idea
- 20: If you are like this, you have lots of things to do and very little time. You are b_____
- 21: To have something very close to you so you can use it. To have something to _____

Down

- 1: To enter a place very quietly and secretly. To _____ into a place
- 3: To hit the ball during a game of tennis at the start of each point. To s_____
- 4: Tired of a situation = fed up _____ that situation
- 5: To put money from one bank account to another one. To make a bank _____
- 6: To look at someone or something continuously
- 7: To make a tune or melody by blowing air out of your mouth. To w_____
- 8: If you are like this, you keep dropping things
- 11: To stop working = to go on _____
- 15: To be relevant to you. To a _____ to you
- 16: To break a door in order to open it. To break a door _____
- 18: To suddenly arrive at a place. To _____ up
- 19: If you are going to leave at a certain time, you are _____ to leave at that time



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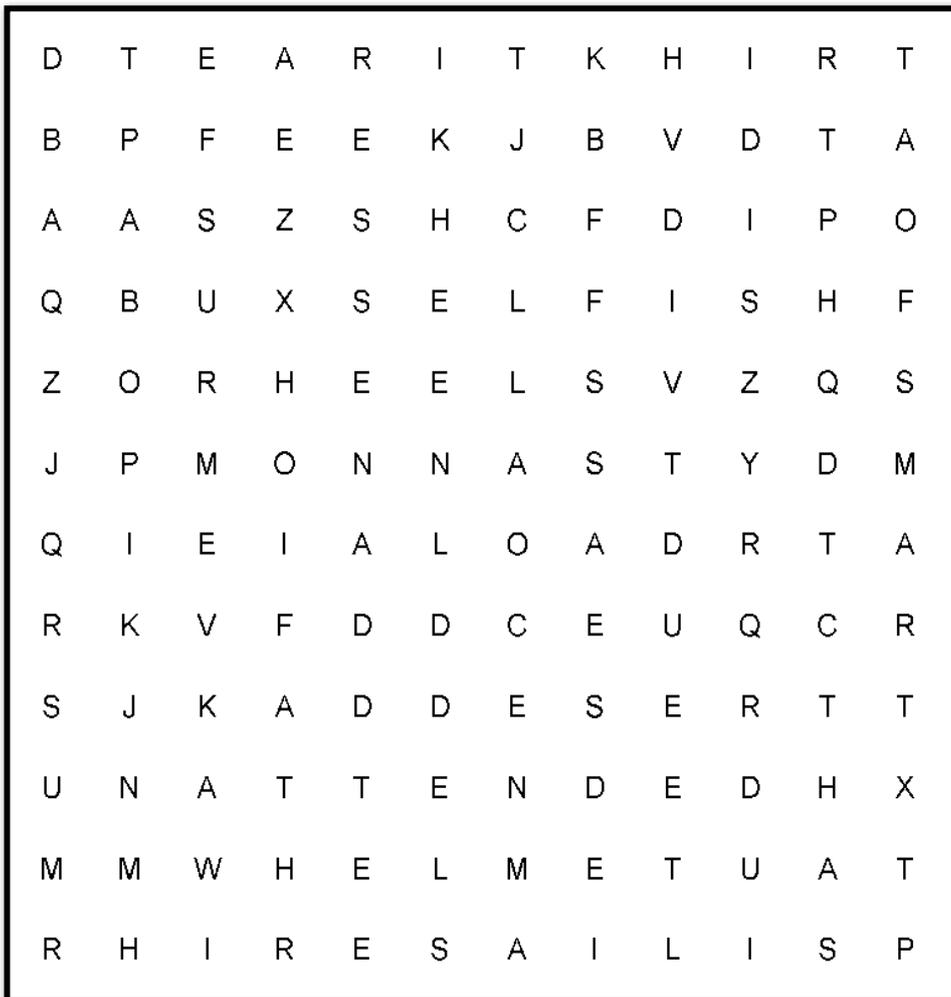
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WORDSEARCH

See if you can identify the word below. Then, try to find these words (here on the right) in the Wordsearch. Good luck! Answers on page 46.



SELFISH	HEEL
DESERT	HIRE
ABROAD	FEE
UNATTENDED	NASTY
TEAR	SMART
SAIL	LOAD
DIP	HELMET



MATCHING

See if you can match the two columns. Answers on page 46.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| A: Selfish | 1. The back part of your foot |
| B: To desert | 2. An object you wear on your head to protect your head |
| C: To go abroad | 3. Horrible |
| D: Unattended | 4. If you are like this, you only think about yourself |
| E: Tear | 5. To pay money to use something for a limited period of time |
| F: To sail | 6. An amount of dirty clothes you put in the washing machine |
| G: To dip | 7. A small amount of liquid that comes out of your eye |
| H: A heel | 8. To abandon someone |
| I: To hire | 9. Well-dressed and formal |
| J: A fee | 10. To put someone/something in a liquid for a short period of time |
| K: Nasty | 11. Not being watched |
| L: Smart | 12. To go to another country |
| M: A load | 13. An amount of money you pay for a service |
| N: A helmet | 14. To go on a journey by ship |



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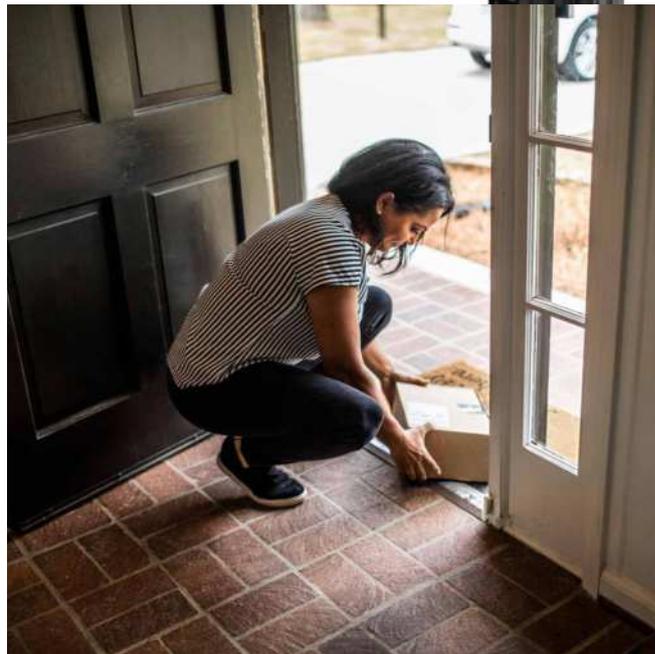
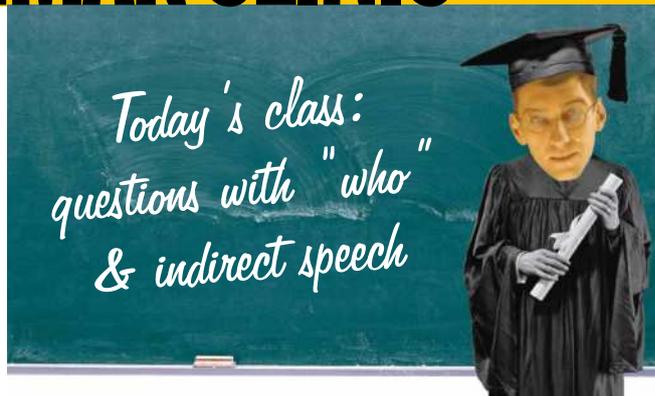
DR FINGERS' GRAMMAR CLINIC

Dear Dr Fingers,
 Last month you told us about direct and indirect objects. I wanted to know what happened to these objects in questions with "who". For example, look at the following sentence:
 "Michael gave a box to the teacher."
 Now if you make a question from this it is like this, I think:
 "Who did Michael give the box to?"
 Is that correct? And if it is correct, why do we have to use the preposition "to" at the end?
 Conchi (by e-mail).

Dear Conchi,
 Thank you very much for your question. I would be delighted to try and help you.
 Basically, with your sentence, we can make two questions with "who". The first one could refer to the subject of the sentence, which in this case is Michael:
Question: "Who gave the box to the teacher?"
Answer: "Michael gave the box to the teacher."
 And the second type of question could refer to the indirect object (the person who received the box), which in this case is the teacher. Notice how the preposition is at the end of the sentence:
Question: "Who did Michael give the box to?"
Answer: "Michael gave the box to the teacher."
 So how do we know which preposition to use?

Prepositions & Indirect Objects

In this particular case it is relatively easy. The sentence we were looking at was like this:
 "Michael gave a box **to** the teacher".
 We can immediately see that the preposition is "to". However, in other cases it isn't so easy. Just have a look at this sentence:
 "Peter gave Jane a bicycle."



In this sentence the indirect object (Jane) is not at the end of the sentence, and there is no accompanying preposition. What we have to do, is change the order of the sentence so the indirect object comes at the end:

"Peter gave the bicycle **to Jane**."

Now we can see the indirect object with its correct preposition. And now, if we want to make a question related to this situation we would write it like this:

"Who did Peter give the bicycle **to**?"

Here are some more examples:

"Sarah brought Daniel some food."

"Sarah brought some food **for Daniel**."

"Who did Sarah bring some food **for**?"

And one more:

"Sam wrote Frank a letter."

"Sam wrote a letter **to Frank**."

"Who did Sam write a letter **to**?"

I hope that has answered your question, and I wish you all the best in the future. Well, now I must go and lie down now because I'm so exhausted.

Yours,
 Dr Fingers.

Please send your questions or stories to: clinic@hotenglishmagazine.com

BUSINESS DIALOGUES



THE PAY PROPOSAL

In this dialogue, Chris, from the sales department, is talking to Mike, from distribution, about the latest **pay proposals** from management. Listen to the dialogue and see if you can answer these two questions:

1. Why are Chris and Mike angry?
2. Does the new proposal apply to them both?

Mike: Have you seen the latest proposal from management?
 Chris: Yeah, a **freeze on all pay rises**. What happened to their promise of a 5% increase?
 Mike: Yeah, it's a disgrace. And they think they can **get away with it**.
 Chris: Yeah, there's no justification because **production is up** and **sales are booming**.
 Mike: It's an **outrage**. I say we should **go on strike**.
 Chris: Yeah, if they want a confrontation, we should give them one. Oh look, the financial director has just come out of her office. Quick, you talk to her!
 Mike: (speaking to the director) Excuse me, we've just seen the latest pay proposal and frankly we're not at all happy.
 Director: I'm sorry but I'm very busy at the moment.
 Mike: Oh, right, very well, **I'll let you get on then**.
 Chris: Excuse me. You can't just walk off like that! We want to talk to you.
 Director: Well I'm **busy**. Put your complaints in writing and we'll see what we can do.
 Chris: Look, you can't just go around treating people like that, we demand...
 Director: Hey, wait a minute! What are you talking about? The pay freeze doesn't **apply** to your department - I don't know why you're **making such a fuss**.
 Chris: Oh, so it doesn't apply to me personally, does it?
 Director: That's right. Your department is getting an 8% increase, which is four points above inflation. Isn't that good

enough for you?

Chris: Oh, no, very nice. Thank you very much. So, I'll just let you get to your meeting.
 Mike: Wait a minute. I thought you said that it was an outrage.
 Chris: Yes, of course it's an outrage. It's not a personal outrage - it's a sort of outrage against humanity, but it's just not a personal one. So, how about a coffee?
 Mike: No, I don't think so.

Exercise

Now listen to some extracts from the conversation again. You will notice there are some missing words and a beeping sound. See if you can write the missing word. (The answers are on the page 46.)

1. They can get away _____ it.
2. I say we should go _____ strike.
3. I'm very busy _____ the moment.
4. We want to talk _____ you.
5. The pay freeze doesn't apply _____ your department.

GLOSSARY

a pay proposal *n*
 an idea about pay and salary increases
a freeze on all pay rises *exp*
 no more increases for the workers' salaries. Literally, to "freeze" food, is to make it become ice
to get away with something *exp*
 to do something bad and not to suffer the consequences of this bad action
production is up *exp*
 production has increased
sales are booming *exp*
 sales are increasing a lot
an outrage *n*
 if you say that something is an "outrage", you think it is horrible, disgusting and unfair

to go on strike *exp*
 if workers "go on strike", they stop working and demand better pay or conditions
I'll let you get on then *exp*
 I'll let you continue
busy *adj*
 if you are "busy", you have lots of work to do and little time to do it
to apply *vb*
 if a situation "applies" to you, it is relevant and important for you
to make a fuss *exp*
 to cause problems; to complain

DOGS IDIOMS

This month we are looking at some idioms related to "dogs". This is the first part of a mini-series on animal idioms. Illustrations by Jorge Tarruella

You can't teach an old dog new tricks

It is difficult to teach people a new way of doing something, particularly if that person has been doing that thing for a long time: "I'm 83 and I **refuse** to learn anything about computers - the **typewriter** is fine for me. You can't teach an old dog new tricks."



Every dog has its day

Everyone is successful at some period in their life: "Last week she got promoted, she won a prize for her photos and she was nominated "Salesperson of the year" - every dog has its day."



To be in the dog-house

If you are in the dog-house, people are angry with you because you have done something bad: "Frank isn't allowed out and his wife isn't talking to him because she caught him dancing with another woman. He's in the dog-house."

To be raining cats and dogs

To be raining very heavily: "We were going to go out and play tennis, but we can't because it's raining really hard - in fact, it's raining cats and dogs."



To have a hair of the dog (that bit you)

To drink a glass of alcohol when you have a hangover. Apparently this helps cure the hangover and it makes you feel better. This idiom comes from an old tradition that said that you could cure an **injury** by putting a dog's hair on the injury. Alcoholics love this idiom: A: "You look terrible. You must have drunk too much last night. Would you like a hair of the dog?" B: "Oh, yes, please - it's just what I need. I'll have a glass of whisky, please."



To be as sick as a dog

To be very ill: A: "Are you coming out tonight?" B: "No, I'm feeling really bad. It must have been something I ate last night - I'm as sick as a dog."

GLOSSARY

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

- to refuse** *vb*
if you "refuse" to do something, you say that you will not do that thing
- a typewriter** *n*
a machine that writes when you press the keys with your finger. People used them before computers were available
- a hangover** *n*
the terrible feeling in the morning after a night of drinking lots of alcohol
- an injury** *n*
a cut on your body, or a broken arm or leg

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VOCABULARY TRAVEL

Here is some useful vocabulary related to Travel.



Travel agency - this is the shop where you can organise and buy your holiday. They're great places to go for a chat and lots of customer attention.



Travel agent - this is the person who helps you choose your holiday. They're a **dying breed** as more and more people are booking their holidays on the internet, so **take advantage of** them while you can.



Guidebook - this is the book that's full of useful but **out-of-date information** on the country you plan to visit.



Phrasebook - this is the book that helps you speak a few foreign words in a heavy accent. This provides the **locals** with lots of entertainment.



Transport options - these are the choices you have in deciding how to reach your destination. Here are the pros and cons of each one:

By bus - cheap, but uncomfortable.

By ship - romantic but slow.

By train - comfortable but expensive (unless you're in Britain where they are uncomfortable and very expensive).

By plane - quick and cheap, but where's the pleasure in the journey?

By bike - adventurous but tiring.

On foot - healthy but very slow.



Ticket - this is the little piece of paper that tells you what time your plane/bus/train/ship leaves, and which often gets lost at the last minute.



Brochure - this is the little book with information on possible holiday destinations. They're full of top quality photos which are designed to tempt and **mislead** you.



Passport - this is the official travel document with an old photo of yourself that looks nothing like you any more. Passports have the irritating habit of becoming out-of-date just days before you are going to leave. Renewing them can take weeks, so beware!



First aid kit - this is the little box with lots of medicine that you take with you that **takes up a lot of space** and rarely gets used. You can be sure that if you have a medical problem, you won't find what you need in your first aid kit.



Insect repellent - this is the spray or **ointment** you take with you to keep those hungry insects away. The general smell is often worse than the effects of the insect bite



Sun cream - no matter how much of this protective cream you take, you can be sure you are going to burn yourself on your first day.



Beach resort - this is the area by the sea full of hotels, bars, restaurants, fun places to visit and lots and lots of tourists.



Hotel - this is the building where you stay. **Avoid** ones with empty swimming pools and groups of noisy, English tourists.



Map - this tells you where things are, in theory. When are they going to invent one that tells you where you are in the first place?



GLOSSARY

* These words are all in British English.

a dying breed *n*
a group of people or a social class that is becoming extinct

to take advantage of something *exp*
to use something for your own benefit

out-of-date information *n*
information that is not valid any more

locals *n*
people from the area you are referring to

to mislead *vb*
to trick someone

to take up a lot of space *exp*
if an object "takes up a lot of space", it occupies a lot of an area

an ointment *n*
a cream

to avoid *vb*
if you "avoid" a place, you don't go to that place

TYPICAL DIALOGUES



THE TRAVEL AGENCY

Here's a typical dialogue with lots of useful vocabulary and expressions to use when you go to a travel agency. In this scene Gordon and Margaret are in a travel agency asking about possible destinations. They want to go somewhere exciting. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions: (answers on page 46)

1. Which of the following words best describes the three holidays: relaxing, dangerous, cultural?
2. In the end, where will the man go? And where will the woman go?

Travel agent: Good afternoon. How may I help you?
 Margaret: Yes, we want to go away somewhere exciting. What holidays do you have on offer?
 Travel agent: **You mean** you want to go on an adventure holiday?
 Margaret: Yes, that's right.
 Travel agent: OK, let me see. Ah, yes, here's a good one: two weeks in Kanashogi...
 Gordon: ... where's that? I recognise the name. It's been in the news recently, hasn't it?
 Travel agent: Yes, that's right. There's been **rioting** there for two months now.
 Gordon: Two months!
 Margaret: Perfect!
 Travel agent: As I was saying, two weeks in Kanashogi in the heart of the capital with **full-board**, transport costs covered and all the necessary **equipment**.
 Gordon: Equipment?
 Travel agent: Yes, you know, **riot gear**, **helmet**, **tear gas** and a trained **patrol dog**. It's great fun.
 Margaret: Mmm... I don't think so. What else do you have?
 Travel agent: Erm, let me see, ah yes, the great new adventure sport "Ducky Shooting".
 Gordon: "Ducky Shooting"? What's that?
 Margaret: (to Gordon) Stop interrupting!
 Travel agent: Yes, as I was about to say, this holiday adventure consists of four days in the Nugget Hills in Kentucky, taking part in a sophisticated **hunting** game. We provide you with four experienced hunters, **camping gear**, enough food for two days and a large **net**.
 Margaret: And what kind of wild animals are there to hunt?

Travel agent: Well, now this is the fun part. The hunters will be hunting you.
 Gordon: Us?
 Travel agent: Yes, that's right - you. And if you **survive** the four days and don't **get shot**, we'll give you your money back. Plus, you get a detailed map...
 Gordon: ... Oh good, at least you get a map...
 Travel agent: ... of central Paris.
 Gordon: Oh. Have you got any other holidays on offer?
 Travel agent: Well, the only other holiday we have available is a three-week cruise in the Caribbean **diving** for **sunken treasure**...
 Gordon: ... That sounds fantastic...
 Travel agent: ... in **shark-infested waters**, whilst wearing bright colours and covered in a special paste that **drives those sharks wild**.
 Margaret: Now that is perfect. My husband will be going there. Now young man, what do you have for me? I was thinking about a lovely two-week holiday in the Canary Islands.
 Travel agent: Oh yes, we have a fantastic offer right here. If you'll just care to look at this brochure... (*fades out*).

GLOSSARY

you mean *exp*

we use "you mean" in a question to check that we have understood something correctly

rioting *n*

if there is "rioting", there are people in the streets acting in a violent way

full-board *n*

with breakfast, lunch and dinner included in the price of the room

equipment *n*

the things you need to do a particular activity

riot gear *n*

clothing that protects you during a riot (a violent protest in the street)

a helmet *n*

an object you wear on your head to protect it. People who ride on motorbikes wear them

tear gas *n*

a type of gas that makes you cry and produce tears (liquid that comes out of your eyes)

a patrol dog *n*

a dog that is used to guard places

hunting *n*

a sport that consists of finding and killing animals

camping gear *n*

the things you need to go camping: a tent, a sleeping bag, etc

a net *n*

a type of material with holes in it. It is often used for catching birds or fish

to survive *vb*

if you "survive" in a dangerous situation, you remain alive

to get shot *exp*

if you "get shot", someone shoots you with a gun

to dive *vb*

to go under the water with oxygen tanks on your back

sunken treasure *n*

treasure (money, gold, etc) that is under the water (sunken)

shark-infested waters *n*

an area of water with lots of sharks (large fish with big teeth)

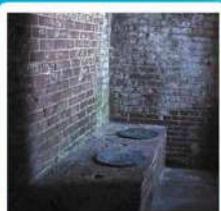
to drive the sharks wild *exp*

to make the shark hysterical, crazy and mad

Joke advert

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THE BANK TRANSFER

In this phone conversation, Paul Spencer has phoned up the bank in order to do a transfer. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions:

1. What form of identification does the telephonist ask for?
2. Why doesn't Paul want to do the bank transfer?

(Phone rings)

Telephonist: Good morning, "Cracky Bank Ltd" how can I help you?

Paul: Oh good morning. I'd like to do a **bank transfer**, please.

Telephonist: Very well, can I have your bank account number please?

Paul: Yes, it's 986 - 254 - 512

Telephonist: And your **PIN number**.

Paul: 2648

Telephonist: OK. Do you have a "Hotline Bank Card" **to hand**?

Paul: Yes.

Telephonist: Good. Could you give me the number for the coordinates "A54".

Paul: Yes, that's 34.

Telephonist: OK, thank you very much Mr Spencer. What was it that you wanted to do?

Paul: A bank transfer.

Telephonist: (*hysterical laughter*)

Paul: I beg your pardon?

Telephonist: Nothing - erm, from which account will you be making the transfer? (*more laughter*)

Paul: From my **current account**. Excuse me, are you talking to someone else?

Telephonist: No.

Paul: I'm sure I can hear someone else there.

Telephonist: No, it must be a **crossed line**. Anyway, could you give me the account number of the bank you'd like to make the transfer to?

Paul: Yes, the sort code is 30 91 23 and the account number is (*more laughter*) 3333 4523 (*more laughter*) 6478 (*more laughter*). Did you hear that right?

Telephonist: Yes. I'll just read it back to you (*more laughter*).
30 91 26...

Paul: No, no, it's 23.

Telephonist: Oh, right (*more laughter*), 23, yes, that's it, sorry. So, once again, the sort code is 30 91 23 and the account number is (*more laughter*) 3333 46...

Paul: No, no, it's a "5", it's "45" not "46". I'm sorry but is there something wrong? You seem to be laughing a lot, and you don't seem to be paying attention...

Telephonist: (*more laughter*) Oh, sorry, what were you saying?

Paul: Nothing, I think I'll phone back later when you aren't so busy.

Telephonist: Yes, of course (*hysterical laughter*). Bye.
(*more hysterical laughter*)

Exercise

Now listen to some extracts from the conversation again. You will notice there are some missing words and a beeping sound. See if you can write the missing word. (The answers are on page 46.)

1. Do you have your "Hotline Bank Card" _____ hand?
2. _____ which account will you be making the transfer?
3. Excuse me, are you talking _____ someone else?
4. I'll just read it back _____ you.
5. You don't seem to be _____ attention.

GLOSSARY

a bank transfer *n*
if you do a "bank transfer", you send money from your account to another account

a PIN number *n*
a Personal Identification Number - the bank gives you this so you can use your bank card

to hand *exp*
if you have something "to hand", you

have it in a place where you can find it easily, or it is close to you

a current account *n*
an ordinary bank account with zero (or a very low) interest rate

a crossed line *n*
if you are talking on the telephone and there is a "crossed line", you can hear someone else speaking on the same line



CHICK FLICKS

Films about emotions

What kind of films do you like? Ones with the Mafia, drug dealers, vampires, aliens or robots, and with lots of fighting, explosions, car chases and sex. Or films about emotions, true love and friendship? If you like the second kind, you're a fan of "Chick Flicks". This is one of the most successful film "genres", and every year millions of innocent partners are **dragged** to watch "Chick Flicks". What makes these movies so popular?

By Laura Warrell (American English spelling)

Queen Meg

One of the biggest Chick Flick stars is Meg Ryan. She regularly appears at the top of the **chart** when women are asked which actress they'd most like to be. And she's built a solid Chick Flick career on her sweet face, her **girlish voice** and **cute** haircuts. Most of Meg's Chick Flicks involve people who are far away from each other, but who come together in the end (see the films, "When Harry Met Sally", "Sleepless In Seattle", and "You've Got Mail").



Finally, filmmakers ran out of locations or situations so, they had to create a story about a man from the 1870s who comes to be with her (see the film, "Kate & Leopold"). Insiders say the next Meg Ryan film will be about an alien from Mars who falls in love with Meg, but can't be with her because he's been ordered to destroy the planet.

Queen Julia

Another Chick Flick celebrity is Julia Roberts. Julia was a minor star until "Pretty Woman", the story of a beautiful, non-drug addicted, disease-free Los Angeles street **hooker** who finds love with an incredibly handsome, rich businessman who looks like



Richard Gere. The movie was an amazing success and Julia went on to charge \$20-million for every film she made after that (which included "My Best Friend's Wedding", "Runaway Bride" and "Notting Hill"). Few of Julia's non-Chick Flick roles have been as successful, with the exception of "Erin Brockovich", for which she won an Oscar.

Chick Flick Guys

If Julia Roberts is the Chick Flick queen, then Hugh Grant is the Chick Flick king. Not only did he appear with Julia in "Notting Hill", but he was also in the Chick Flick classic "Four Weddings And A Funeral". He's still considered the king even after getting caught with a Los Angeles hooker (who looked nothing like Julia Roberts), and playing the parts of **baddies** in films such as "Bridget Jones' Diary" and most recently, "About A Boy". Other famous Chick Flick actors include Leonardo DeCaprio for his part in "Titanic". This film made women all over the world cry, **stick** pictures of Leo on their walls and torture the rest of the population with Celine Dion records.



Love & Death

So what are most of these movies about? Love isn't the only ingredient. "Sleeping With The Enemy" (Julia Roberts) was all about a woman who was trying to get away from an abusive husband. In the film, Julia dances to Van Morrison's song "Brown Eyed Girl" and kisses a nice guy with a **beard**. "Stepmom" (starring Susan Sarandon and Julia Roberts) is all about the problems women have **relating to** their friends and families. Ex-wife Susan Sarandon and new wife Julia Roberts **struggle** with each other as they try to win the love of Sarandon's

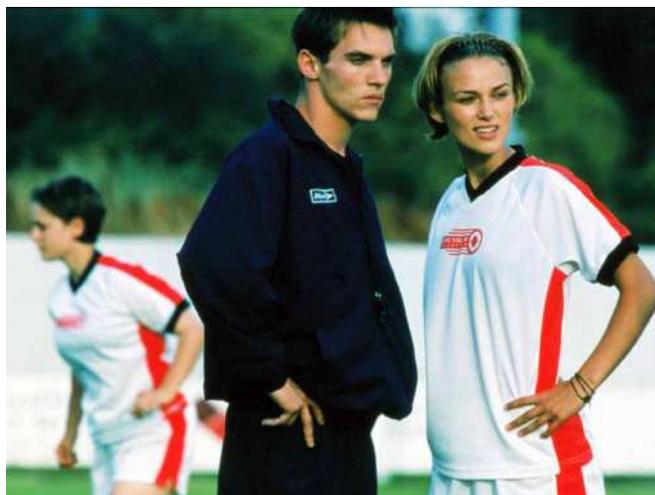


children. In the end, of course, they both **end up making friends**. In "Fried Green Tomatoes", a Chick Flick for older chicks, a woman named Evelyn makes friends with elderly Ninny Threadgoode, who tells a story from the 1920s.

In almost all of these films the characters resolve problems with their families or friends, and learn to be more assertive, trusting and loving. **Sniff, sniff...**

Like Beckham

Another theme in Chick Flicks is about girls' success in a "man's world". In "Bend It Like Beckham" an Indian girl rebels against her family to become a talented football player and **make out with** cute guys. In "Working Girl" actress Melanie Griffiths plays a **smart** secretary who becomes a successful business executive after going to bed with Harrison Ford, oh, and having some kind of clever business plan for her company.



Death is another popular storyline. In "Dying Young" Julia Roberts falls in love with a cancer patient; and in "Autumn In New York" playboy Richard Gere falls in love with Winona Ryder who is a terminally-ill cancer patient. Everyone dies in the end, but the point of these films is to make audience members return to their homes, **sob** into their pillows and **down** a bottle of Jack Daniel's. So which Chick Flick will you be watching?

GLOSSARY

a chick flick *n*

a film about emotions and love. A "chick" is an informal word for a woman; and a "flick" is an informal word for a film

to drag *vb*

to pull someone physically to a place

a chart *n*

a list

a girlish voice *n*

a voice that sounds similar to the voice of a little girl

cute *adj*

attractive and nice

a hooker *n (US)*

a prostitute

a baddie *n*

the bad person in a film

to stick *vb*

if you "stick" something on the wall, you put it there with glue or sellotape

a beard *n*

hair on the bottom part of the face

to relate to someone *exp*

to connect mentally and psychologically with someone; to have a good relationship with someone

to struggle *vb*

to fight - physically or mentally

to end up *phr vb*

if you "end up" doing a certain thing, you do that thing in the end

to make friends *exp*

to become friends again after a fight

sniff, sniff *exp*

these are the words we write to show that someone is crying

to make out with *exp US*

to kiss and get physically close to someone

smart *adj*

clever and intelligent

to sob *vb*

to cry

to down *vb*

to drink

Top 10 Chick Flicks

Here are the top ten Chick Flicks of all time (in no particular order):



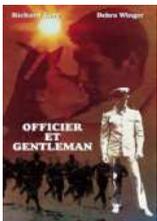
Dirty Dancing

Rich girl Jennifer Grey and poor boy Patrick Swayze (the dance teacher), **fall madly in love** after a few hours on the dance floor. The film has great music, sexy dance moves and confirms the fact that even chicks with big noses can get **hot guys** like Patrick Swayze.



Ghost

Patrick Swayze is a guy who dies but returns to protect the woman he loves. Chick Flick watchers love the idea that even in death, their boyfriends are devoted. Demi Moore cried in Ghost and everyone thought she was a great actress. Then she did a series of movies where she kept taking off her clothes and everyone **changed their minds**.



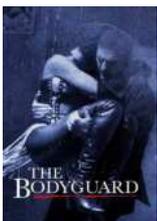
An Officer & A Gentleman

Richard Gere is a military officer who falls in love with Debra Winger, even though she's a **blue collar worker** in a factory. This is arguably one of the most romantic Chick Flicks, even though the two **leads** supposedly hated each other while filming. The most romantic scene is when Richard Gere goes to the factory to carry out Winger in his arms.



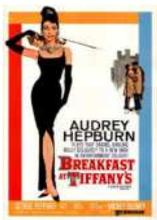
Pillow Talk

This is one of the most famous romantic comedies. It is all about Jan Morrow (Doris Day) and a young **womaniser** played by Rock Hudson. When he meets her, he decides to add her to his **list of conquests**, but of course, falls in love with her instead.



The Bodyguard

Whitney Houston is a gorgeous singer who **hires** Kevin Costner as her **bodyguard**. The movie was a **big hit**. Unfortunately, Ms Houston is still **threatened** by people who "were going to kill themselves if they had to listen to that song, 'I Will Always Love You' one more time".



Breakfast At Tiffany's

Audrey Hepburn plays the part of Holly Golightly who is a high-priced **escort** searching for an older, richer man to marry.



Steel Magnolias

This film features Julia Roberts, Dolly Parton, Darryl Hannah and Sally Field, and it's all about a circle of friends who meet at a **beauty parlor** in the southern United States. They say **sassy** things like, "if you can't find anything good to say about anybody, come sit next to me". In the film, Julia is supposed to be getting married, but then everyone

finds out she's dying. Experts say that female spectators cry every eight minutes while watching this film.



Thelma & Louise

Thelma and Louise go on a trip to run away from an abusive husband. During the journey they shoot a **rapist** and threaten every man on Route 66. The film was criticised, but a lot of women **cheered** the heroines.



Bridget Jones's Diary

Renee Zellweger plays neurotic, weight-obsessed Bridget Jones, who decides to take control of her life. She keeps a diary of all her problems with men, her weight and her boss. Zellweger put on weight and an English accent to make her part more believable.



Shakespeare In Love

Gwyneth Paltrow plays an actress who **disguises herself** as a man to appear in a theatre play that will one day become "Romeo and Juliet". The film has two Chick Flick themes: a woman struggling in a man's world, and love. Women could also tell their boyfriends watching the film was a cultural experience because of all the references to "that Shakespeare guy".

Oh, and "Love Story" (starring Ryan O'Neal), but sorry, there's no more space. Next time, perhaps.



GLOSSARY

to fall madly in love with someone *exp*
to start to love someone very, very much

a hot guy *n*

a very attractive man

to change your mind *exp* to decide to do something different to what you planned

a blue collar worker *n*

a person who works in a job that requires physical labour

a lead *n*

a person with an important part in a film

a womaniser *n*

a man who tries to start relationships with many different women

a list of conquests *n*

the list of people you have had a relationship with

to hire *vb*

to pay money for someone's services for a limited period of time

a bodyguard *n*

a person who is paid to protect a rich or famous person

a big hit *n*

a very successful film

to threaten *n*

to promise to do something bad to someone

an escort *n*

a person who you pay to accompany you at night

a beauty parlor *n*

a shop where you can have treatment to make you look more beautiful

sassy *adj* *inform US*

clever and intelligent

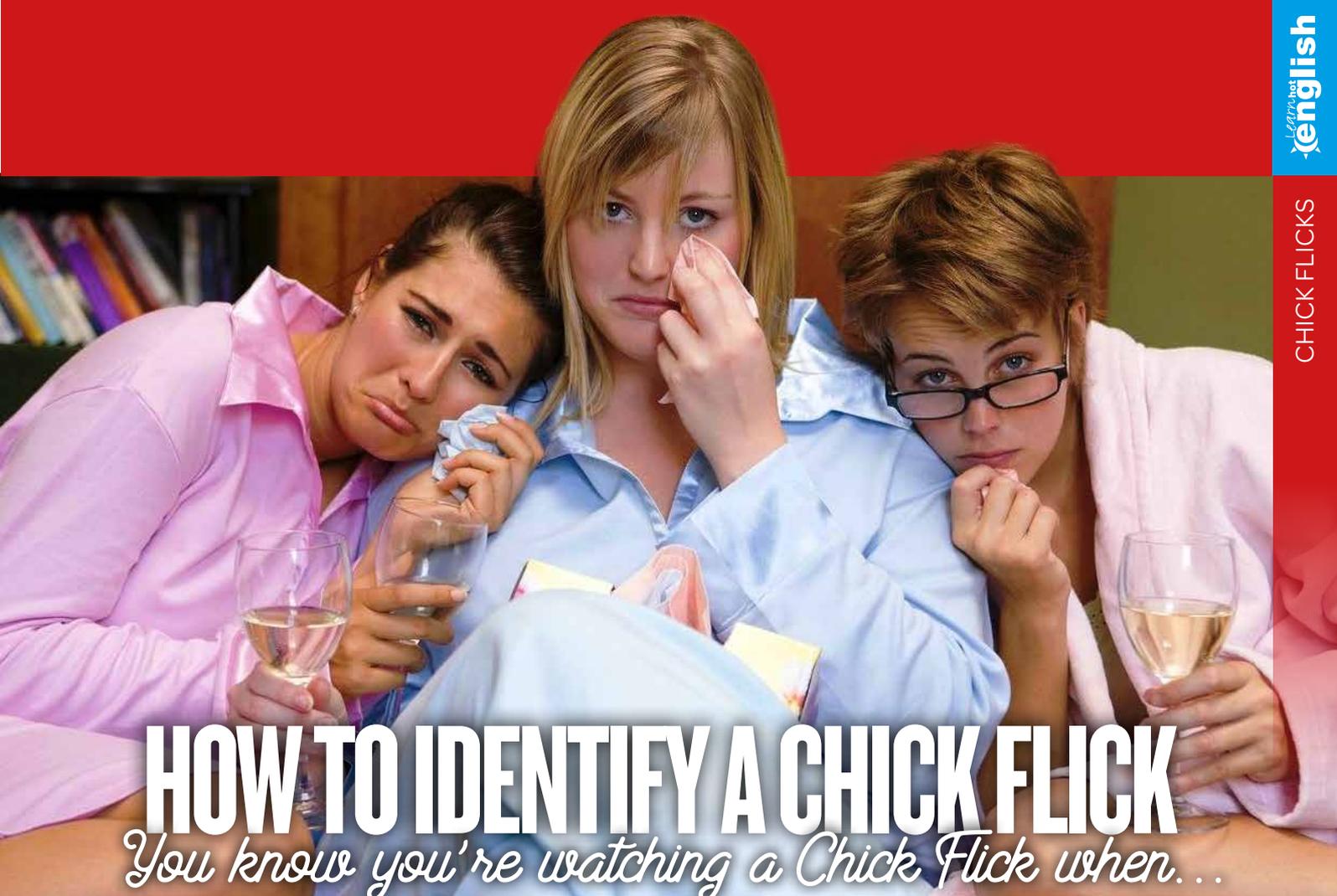
a rapist *n*

a person who sexually attacks another person

to cheer *vb*

to support

to disguise yourself *exp* to wear clothes so you look different and so you hide your true identity



HOW TO IDENTIFY A CHICK FLICK

You know you're watching a Chick Flick when...

You see a pretty lead actress like Julia Roberts, Meg Ryan, Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz or Sandra Bullock, and they don't take their clothes off.

The lead actress is in love with someone who isn't in love with her; however, she gets her man (or some man) in the end.

The star of the film spends the entire movie trying to get some guy's attention. If the movie's a comedy, she'll try to get him by spying on him or falling down in silly ways. In a drama, she'll cry, and if necessary, contract a fatal disease and then he'll feel sorry for her.

The lead actress is madly in love with either:
A **jerk** who treats her badly.
A wonderful guy who hasn't noticed her yet.

The star eventually learns the value of judging people on their personality and not on their looks (which only works if the guy looks like Johnny Depp).

The film ends with the lead man **pledging his eternal love** to her, usually after running through the rain to find her, or during a party where all of her friends and neighbors can watch with envy.

The villains are husbands or boyfriends who **cheat on** their wives or girlfriends, or mean bosses who smoke "evil" cigarettes.

The main chick is surrounded by a group of loyal, but definitely less attractive, girlfriends. These girls help the lead actress **plot** her victory, often while **getting their hair done**.

The star's best male friend is a gay man, just to prove how **politically correct** she is.

The chick's mother makes an appearance to say something clever about love. Then they usually **hug** and cry together.

There is a dance scene, and the lead actress sings a classic rock such as "Brown-Eyed Girl," by Van Morrison or "Respect" by Soul Queen Aretha Franklin.

So now you know!

GLOSSARY

a jerk *n US offens*
an idiot
to pledge eternal love *exp*
to promise to love someone forever
to cheat on someone *exp*
to be unfaithful to your partner/
husband/wife and to have a
relationship with another person
to plot *vb*
to plan - normally to do something
bad
to get your hair done *exp*
if you "get your hair done", you go to

a hairdresser's and they arrange and
cut your hair
politically correct *adj*
someone who is like this, has liberal
and left-wing attitudes concerning
social issues
to hug *vb*
to hold someone in your arms and
to press them against you in an
emotional way

US bar chat



WEDDINGS

This month we are going to listen to two young Americans, Jack and Lanie, who are talking about weddings. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions:

1. Why does one of the speakers think that weddings and marriage in general are good?
2. Why does one of the speakers think that weddings and marriage in general are bad?

Jack: So how was your weekend?

Lanie: **Man**, I just went to this wedding. These **blasted** weddings all weekend.

Jack: Blasted weddings? Why?

Lanie: **Cos** I just don't understand why people feel the need to get married. It's so traditional.

Jack: But marriage is something, yeah exactly, it's traditional. It's something that people do. It's, it's **binding people together**.

Lanie: It's just an excuse to spend a lot of money on a big party. Why don't you just forget about it, and...

Jack: Maybe that's how women feel. I don't know. Men, I don't know. Personally, I think it's something that people do to show publicly that they really are committed to each other and they care about each other; and that they want every one in their families and friends to all celebrate that.

Lanie: So, have a family reunion. What's the, the need for marriage?

It's so **outdated**. It's, it's just a **ring** and a piece of paper and it's...

Jack: Time to get technical. Alright **you get tax exemption**, you get certain tax benefits. It's also by law. So, if you have kids you think twice before divorcing or you think twice before, you know, separating because it's something that's taken seriously.

Lanie: But the rate of divorce now? **Are you kidding me?** **Like**, it's just an extra thing to do. It's like having...

Jack: Alright obviously we're not going to agree on this issue. So tell me, what are your plans for this weekend?

Lanie: I'm actually setting up a **bachelorette party**.

Jack: *(laughter)*

GLOSSARY

man *exp inform*
this expression is used to refer to the person who you are talking to

blasted *adj inform*
this word is used to express anger, or to show that you don't like something

cos *abbr inform*
because

to bind people together *exp*
to bring people into a union; to make people be together

outdated *adj*
old, out-of-date

a ring *n*
a piece of round jewellery that you wear on a finger

you get tax exemption *exp*
you don't have to pay tax (in certain circumstances). Tax is the money all workers pay to the government for services

are you kidding me? *exp*
are you joking?

like *exp*
this word doesn't really mean anything and is used to fill space in the conversation

a bachelorette party *n US*
a party for a woman who is going to get married. In British English a "bachelor" is a man who is not married, or who has no stable partner

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Dictionary of slang

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



Situation

Formal



Relaxed



Informal



A bar owner invites you to a drink, paid for by the bar:

This **establishment** would like to invite you to a drink

Free drinks for everyone, courtesy of the bar!

The drinks are on the house

Your house hasn't been cleaned for six months:

This house is in an appalling state

This house is disgusting

This house is filthy; this house is in a right state; this house is a **shit hole**; this house is a **pigsty**; this house looks like a bomb hit it

You explain to a friend how you started a romance with someone last night:

My attempts at seduction were successful last night

I was lucky last night

I **scored** last night; I **copped** off; I pulled

A friend asks to **borrow** some money. You tell your friend this is not possible:

There is no possibility of me lending you some money

No way

Fat chance; piss off; get the hell out of here; you must be joking; take a **hike**

You saw a film last night. It wasn't very good:

That film was below standard

That film was awful;

what a **load** of **rubbish**
That film wasn't anything to write home about; that film was shite; that film was the **pits**

You want to congratulate a friend who made a good decision:

That was a calculated and judicious decision

That was a clever decision

That was a **smart** move

You are describing how a friend ran away quickly from a place of danger:

She left rapidly

She ran off

She legged it; she got the hell out of there; she scarpered; she did a runner



GLOSSARY

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

an establishment *n*
a pub, club or restaurant
shit *n* *offens*
excrement
a pigsty *n*
a small building where pigs live
to score *vb*

in football, you "score" when you kick the ball into the goal
to cop *vb* *inform*
to catch
to borrow *vb*
if you "borrow" something from someone, you take that thing from them

for a limited period of time
a hike *n*
a long walk in the country
a load of exp
a lot of
rubbish *n*
of poor quality - bad

a pit *n*
a deep hole in the ground
smart *adj*
intelligent, clever

In The News...

Help!

A motorist who claimed to be a traffic policeman found himself in a very difficult situation just the other day. Here is Pauline Perfume to tell us what happened:

"I was driving along the motorway when I saw this traffic policeman behind me telling me to **pull over**. I did so and seconds later he came over to my car and demanded to see my **licence**. I was about to give it to him when I noticed that he was wearing **trainers**. I mean, they aren't exactly standard, are they? So, I asked to see some **ID**, and he said something about 'urgent business' and tried to leave. Then, **I don't know what came over me** but I just jumped out of my car and started hitting him. I've heard about these **guys** who **impersonate police officers** and the

kind of things that they do and I just got furious. **The next thing I know**, this guy is using his mobile phone to call the 'real' police for help. **What a cheek!** That's what I say," Miss Perfume explained.

A young man is currently being charged with impersonating a police officer and faces a six-year prison sentence.



Bedroom Practices

A new international **survey** reveals what people like to do in their bedrooms. Here are the results:

The Swedes love their bedrooms, but prefer to sleep in the living room.

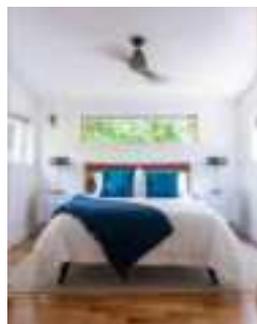
The Chinese don't like their bedrooms, but 99% of them sleep there.

67% of Americans like to sleep with pyjamas; whereas 78% of the French prefer to sleep "**au naturel**".

The Russians are the least satisfied with their bedrooms, and like to spend as little time in them as possible. Incidentally, 87% of the Russian respondents claim that they change their **sheets** more than three times a month.

Spaniards and North Americans are most likely to keep their bedrooms private, while 50% of the Chinese respondents said they allowed their friends access to their bedroom.

Other interesting facts to come out of the survey: three-quarters of the respondents claim they make their bed daily; and the most common object in a bedroom is an alarm clock. So now you know!



GLOSSARY

to pull over *phr vb*
if the police "pull you over", they ask you to stop your car

a licence *n*
an official document that says you can drive

trainers *n*
shoes you use to play sport

your ID *exp*
your identity card

I don't know what came over me *exp*
I don't know what happened to me; I don't know why I acted the way I acted

a guy *n*
a man

to impersonate a police officer *exp*
to act as if you are a police officer

the next thing I know *exp*
suddenly
what a cheek! *exp*
people use this expression when they think someone has done something bad, disrespectful or rude

a survey *n*
if you carry out a "survey", you ask people questions about their habits, customs, opinions, etc
au naturel *exp French*
with no clothes

sheets *n*
large pieces of material you put on your bed to sleep on - they are often white

a witness *n*
a person who sees a crime and can identify the criminals

to adopt *vb*
to take someone into your family and to make that person your son/daughter/pet, etc
to prove *vb*
to demonstrate

Parrots

A 29-year-old man wants to call a very unusual **witness** in a court case: a parrot. Three years ago Mark LeGruff lost his pet parrot, Polly, after she flew out of an open window.

"At the time I was devastated," Mark explained. "But now I think I know where Polly is; and if I just had the chance to question the bird in court, I'd be able to prove that it's mine."

Mark finally discovered the missing bird after phoning animal agencies all over the country, and visiting people who had recently **adopted** abandoned birds. The bird is currently with a 38-year-old woman.

"I can **prove** that bird is mine," Mark said. "Whenever I used to say, 'hello, Polly', she would reply, 'you're the best, Mark. I aim to



demonstrate this in court when I question my parrot in front of witnesses."

The trial is due to be held next week.

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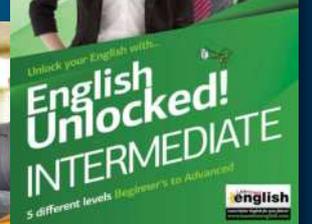
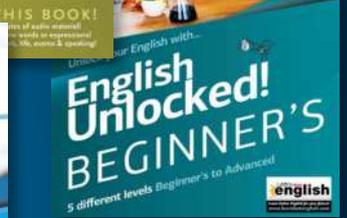
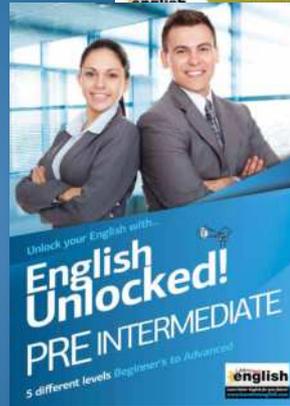
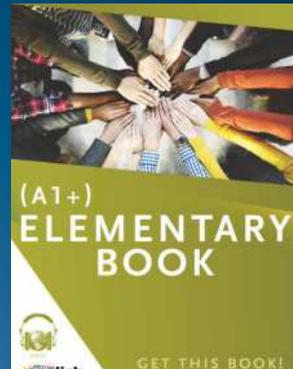
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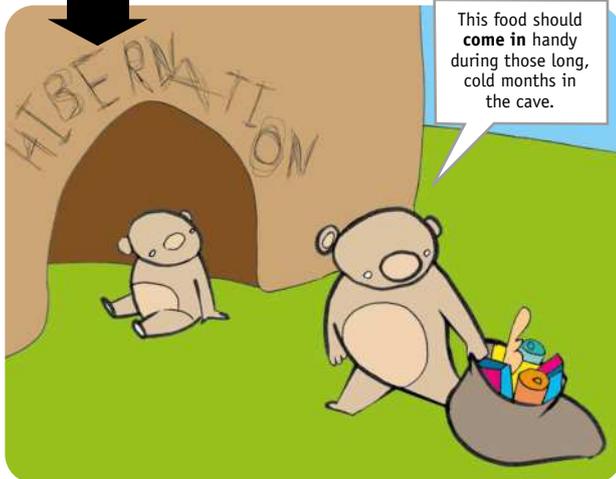
PHRASAL VERBS COME

illustrations
by BANEZKA

The verb "to come" has many different uses. Generally, we use it to describe movement towards the place where you are, or where you are referring to. For example: "Sam came to my house last night." Now let's see some phrasal verbs with the verb "to come".

Come in (handy)

If something "comes in handy", it is useful and good for a particular situation:



Come down with (an illness)

If you "come down with" an illness, you catch that illness and become sick:



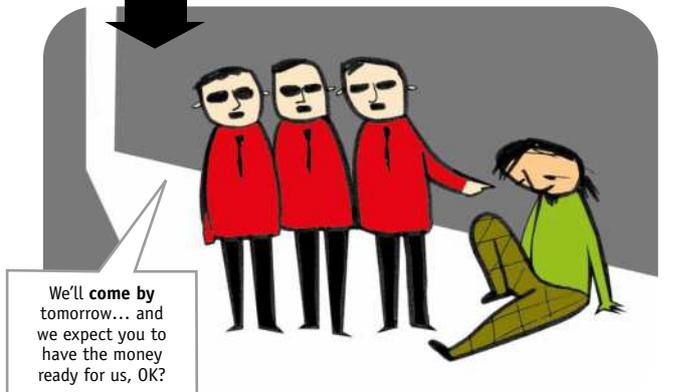
Come across

To find by chance:



Come by

If someone "comes by", they visit you without an invitation for a short period of time and informally:



Come between

If someone or something "comes between" you and your friend, that person causes problems and destroys your friendship:



Come in to (money)

To inherit money:



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Answers & scripts

DR FINGERS' PRONUNCIATION

- The phone rang at six = the phone ran gat six.
- You spelt it incorrectly = you spel ti tincorrectly.
- She lay on the carpet = she la yon the carpet.
- I felt it all over = I fel ti tal lover.
- She fell on it = she fe llo nit.
- I felt a prick = I fel ta prick.
- We fed a cock = we fe da cock.
- They made a new one = they ma d(e)a new one.
- They had a good time = They ha da good time.
- They began at four = they bega nat four.

TALKING ABOUT THE WEEKEND!

1a 2a 3b

Audio script

- Molly:** Hey, hi Bob. How was your weekend? Did you do anything interesting?
- Bob:** Yes, I did actually. Mary, the kids and I went to Park Asterix.
- M:** Park Asterix? What's that?
- B:** Well, you remember the Asterix books?
- M:** No, I never read them.
- B:** You know Asterix the Gaul and his friend Obelix, fighting the Romans. Oh, I read them all when I was a kid and my kids love them now.
- M:** Where is it then?
- B:** It's in Paris. Well, near Paris.
- M:** And what was it like?
- B:** It was pretty good. It was quite expensive but the kids had a great time.
- M:** So, what is there to do there?
- B:** You know, there were rides and stuff.
- M:** Is it worth going to?
- B:** Well, yeah. But everything's in French, which was a bit difficult because we don't speak French. Oh, and don't go at this time of year.
- M:** Why not?
- B:** The weather was terrible. It rained all the time. We had fun though. What about you? How was your weekend?
- M:** Oh, not bad. I went to...
[fades out]

PRONUNCIATION:

- She was in America.
- They were in the garden.
- He was at home.
- You were really good.

LISTENING: THE DEPARTMENT STORE!

2 1b 2a 3b 4a 5a 6b

Audio script

- Customer:** Excuse me, do you know where the cereal is, please?
- Assistant:** Yes, it's down there on the right - three aisles down.
- C:** Oh, and do you know where the toilets are, please?
- A:** They're on the third floor.
- C:** And the fruit and vegetable section?
- A:** It's at the back of the supermarket - just over there.
- C:** Oh, and where's the sports department?
- A:** It's on the 2nd floor.

- C:** And the cafeteria?
- A:** It's on the 6th floor.
- C:** Great. Sorry, but where's the escalator?
- A:** It's just over there.
- C:** Are you open on Sundays?
- A:** Yes, we are.
- C:** Oh, I wanted to try this shirt on. Do you know where the changing rooms are?
- A:** You'll have to go back to the menswear department on the 4th floor and try it on there. This is the supermarket - there aren't any changing rooms here.
- C:** OK. Great. Thanks a lot.
- A:** My pleasure.
- C:** Oh, and just one other thing...
- A:** Excuse me. [to a colleague] Frank! Frank!
- Frank:** Yeah, what?
- A:** Could you deal with this gentleman, please? [to the customer] I'm sorry, but there's been an emergency and I've got to go and stack some boxes.
- C:** Oh, right, well, then, erm, Frank, I was just wondering whether you could tell me...
[fades out]

STORY TIME

- Little Johnny wants a computer game.
- The man in the second joke has been drinking all day.

CRANK CALLS

- Crank call I:** The person in the first call gets an electric shock.
- Crank call II:** The person in the second call wants to eliminate himself from the police investigation.

18 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS WITH THE PREPOSITION AT

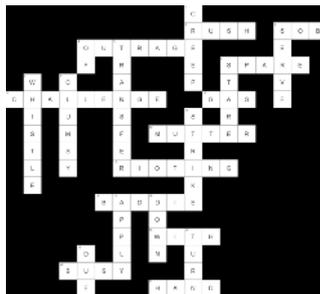
1 Prepositions

- from; 2. in; 3. with; 4. of/on; 5. in; 6. of; 7. for; 8. out; 9. in; 10. with; 11. of; 12. under; 13. for; 14. for

2 Key word transformation

- She was **in FAVOUR** of starting the project next week.
- He should **get/make the MOST** out of the help they're offering him.
- She isn't to **BLAME** for losing the contract. / She isn't to **BLAME** for the loss of the contract.
- There's no **POINT** in talking to her because she won't change her mind.
- This topic **is of no CONCERN** to you.
- It would be **in the company's INTERESTS** to expand overseas.
- They **take everything for GRANTED**.
- We **are a bit SHORT** of/on money right now.
- Everyone handed in their reports on time **with the EXCEPTION** of Rob.
- The new sports complex **is under CONSTRUCTION**.

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MATCHING

- A4 B8 C12 D11 E7 F14 G10
H1 I5 J13 K3 L9 M6 N2

BUSINESS DIALOGUES

THE PAY PROPOSAL

- Mike and Chris are angry because the Director is proposing a pay freeze.
- No, the proposal only applies to one of them.

BUSINESS TALK

THE BANK TRANSFER

- The receptionist asks for Paul's bank code number, his PIN number and some coordinates.
- Paul doesn't want to do the bank transfer because the telephonist is not concentrating.

TYPICAL DIALOGUES

- The three holidays sound "dangerous".
- The man will go to the Caribbean; the woman will go to the Canary Islands.

US BAR CHAT

- One of the speakers thinks weddings are good because they are a way of binding people together, of showing publicly that you are committed. They are also a way of getting tax benefits and they make you think twice before getting divorced.
- One of the speakers thinks weddings are bad because it's a traditional excuse to spend money, it's just a ring and it's just a piece of paper.

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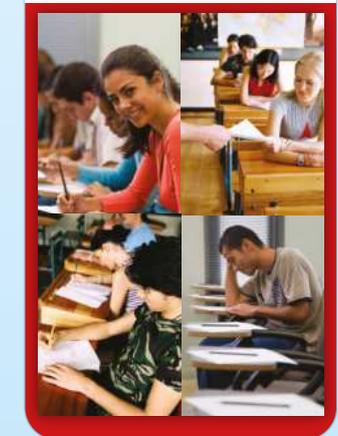
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