12 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO IMPROVE YOUR SPEAKING!

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Attention all Human Resource managers in Europe!
Hot English Language Services offers language training programmes that are guaranteed to improve your employees’ level of English!
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 12 useful expressions to improve your speaking. If you learn how to use these expressions when you’re speaking, you’ll sound a lot more fluent and advanced! But of course, that’s not all! We’re also looking at baseball, Donald Trump, Machiavelli, 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 next month!

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In The News

Bizarre

Is Big Ben Falling Over?

A recent study has confirmed that Big Ben is falling over... although very slowly. The famous London landmark has been tilting 0.65mm each year for several years. But in 2002, the rate of movement suddenly accelerated to 0.9mm per year – and scientists don’t know why. MPs are concerned about the tilt because if the tower topples, it will crush the building where many of them work. But they needn’t worry. Mike McCann, the clock’s keeper, said, ‘Our resident expert believes it will be between 4,000 and 10,000 years before it becomes a problem. So it’s not significant today, but we do need to keep an eye on it’.

Science

Woolly Mammoth

Remember Jurassic Park? Well, it might be about to come true. Russian and Japanese scientists have announced that within five years they may be able to clone a woolly mammoth. One of the prehistoric creature’s bones (in very good condition) was recently found in Siberia. And the scientists believe they can clone the mammoth using DNA from the bone’s marrow. The team plans to impregnate a female elephant to act as the surrogate mother. But the Roslin Institute, which is famous for cloning Dolly the Sheep, doesn’t think it’ll work. They said the DNA has probably deteriorated by now and gave the project a 1-5% chance of succeeding.

Fast fact

Big Ben is actually the nickname for the largest bell within the tower (officially known as the Great Bell). But nowadays, when people say Big Ben, they generally mean the tower itself.

Language focus Expressions with the verb to come

Look at this extract from an article in this section, “it might be about to come true”

The writer has used an expression with ‘come’ (“come true”). If something “comes true”, it actually happens and becomes a reality. Here are some more useful expressions with the verb to come.

- Come clean = to tell the truth: “He eventually came clean and told us what happened.”
- Come about = to happen: “How did all this come about?”
- Come under fire = to be criticised: “She came under fire for her decision to support the new law.”

Glossary

- a landmark: a famous building or object in a city
- to tilt: if something is “tilting”, it is at an angle (10º for example)
- concerned: worried
- to topple: if a building “topples”, it falls
- to crush: if heavy object A “crushes” object B, object A falls on B and destroys it / makes it flat
- to keep an eye on: to watch carefully
- a bell: a round, metal object that makes a sound when it is hit. “Bells” are often found in churches
- DNA: an abbreviation of “deoxyribonucleic acid” – an important substance of the human body
- to impregnate: to make pregnant (if someone is “pregnant”, they have a baby inside them)
- a surrogate mother: a woman who has a child for another person
- deteriorate: to become worse

Fast fact

Woolly mammoths became extinct about 10,000 years ago because of climate change and over-hunting by early humans.
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LET'S TALK ABOUT:
Protests
LEARN SOME USEFUL WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS TO TALK ABOUT PROTESTS!

Other words
- Protest – a situation in which several people are showing publicly that they don’t like something.
- Protester – a person who is protesting against something.
- Leaflet – a little book or a piece of paper with information about something.
- Pamphlet – a very thin book with a paper cover with information about something.
- Crowd – a large group of people in the street.
- Sit-in – a form of protest that involves sitting on the ground and refusing to move.
- Riot – a situation in which people in the street are being violent / burning things, etc.
- Baton charge – a situation in which the police run at protesters with their batons (the long sticks they use to hit people).
- March – when a large group of people “march” for a cause, they all walk together.
- Slogan – a short phrase that explains what something is about.
- Demonstration – a large group of people protesting against something.
- Turn violent – if a situation “turns violent”, it becomes violent and people may get hurt.
- Disperse the crowd – if the police “disperse the crowd”, they do things to break up the group of people.
- Impose a curfew – if the government “impose a curfew”, they say that it’s illegal to leave your house after a certain time (6pm, for example).
- Kettling – a situation in which the police force people into a restricted area and keep them there for a period of time.

Dialogue
MARIANNE AND DECLAN ARE ORGANISING A PROTEST AGAINST PLANS TO TURN A LOCAL PARK INTO A CAR PARK.

Marianne: OK, so what’s the plan?
Declan: Well, they’re going to dig up the park on Monday. So, I thought that we should set up our camp in the park on Sunday night. Then, on Monday morning, we can stage a sit-in.
Marianne: Great! How many people are coming?
Declan: Well, there’s you, and, erm, there’s me.
Marianne: Is that it?
Declan: You don’t think it’s enough?
Marianne: A demonstration needs hundreds, even thousands, of people. Locals are really angry about this issue. We can easily get a big crowd of protestors together. Have you been handing out those leaflets?
Declan: Erm… I’ve been a bit busy with work and stuff.
Marianne: What about the placards? Have you put some catchy slogans on them?
Declan: I’ve got this. (He holds up a small piece of paper. Marianne reads it.)
Marianne: “Save the park.” That isn’t very catchy. And it’s quite small. In fact, I can hardly read it. What about this, “Hands off our trees!”?
Declan: Yeah, that’s great!
Marianne: And we’ll need a megaphone so the crowd can hear us! And let’s chain ourselves to the trees. They’ll have to cut through us with their chainsaws!
Declan: Erm… I was thinking of something a bit more peaceful. What if the riot police come? What if they charge… or throw teargas?
Marianne: Even better! Imagine the publicity.
Declan: Actually, I’ve got to go to work on Monday. So, erm, I’ll be off. (Walking away.) Hey, but good luck, and I hope it all goes well.

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Moody’s (a financial credit ratings agency)
IF SOMEONE IS “MOODY”, THEIR FEELINGS CHANGE A LOT: ONE MINUTE THEY’RE HAPPY, NEXT MINUTE THEY’RE SAD, ETC.
“Yesterday he was happy, today he’s depressed – he’s so moody.”

Rush Limbaugh (American radio talk show host and conservative political commentator)
IF YOU ARE IN A “RUSH”, YOU NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE QUICKLY.
“I can’t talk now, I’m in a rush!”

Taylor Swift (American country-pop singer-songwriter)
SOMETHING “SWIFT” IS QUICK/FAST.
“We need to make a swift decision on this.”

MasterCard
A SERVANT’S “MASTER” IS THE MAN THE SERVANT WORKS FOR. A “CARD” IS A RECTANGULAR PIECE OF PLASTIC YOU USE TO BUY THINGS WITH.
“My master ordered me to prepare his bath.” / “I used my credit card to pay the bill.”

Nine West (fashion company)
“NINE” IS THE NUMBER AFTER “EIGHT”. “WEST” IS ONE OF THE POINTS ON THE COMPASS.
“It’s nine o’clock! We have to go.” / “She says we need to go west.”

Mango (fashion company)
A “MANGO” IS A TYPE OF ORANGE-COLOURED FRUIT.
“I had a delicious mango for breakfast.”

Moody’s

Rush Limbaugh

Taylor Swift

MasterCard

Nine West

Mango
Customer service

A: I say, I say, I say. Who earns money by driving their customers away?

B: I don’t know. Who does earn money by driving their customers away?

A: A taxi driver.

Tip time

Whilst shopping, an elderly lady drops her purse. A little girl notices this and goes to pick it up. Seconds later, she taps the lady on the shoulder. “Excuse me, miss, you dropped this.” “Oh, thank you very much,” the lady says, as she looks through her purse. But very soon, her smile turns to a frown. “Mmm… That’s funny. When I last looked in my purse there was a £20 note. Now there are four £5 notes.” “That’s right,” the little girl quickly explains. “The last time I found a purse, the owner didn’t have any change for a reward!”

Glossary

to drive away phr vb
two meanings: a) to leave a place whilst driving a car; b) if you “drive people away”, you do something that makes them want to leave

a paper shredder: a machine for cutting paper documents into lots of little pieces

a report: a document that includes a description of an event / a record of something, etc.

a purse: a small object women use to carry their money

to pick up phr vb
if you “pick something up”, you take it in your hands

to tap vb
if you “tap” something, it falls from your hands

to turn to exp
to become; to convert to

a frown: if there is a “frown” on someone’s face, the top part of their face has wrinkles (lines) and they look angry

a note: a piece of paper money

a reward: money given to someone for doing something good
Match the words
Match the words (1 to 14) to the pictures (a-n).

1. Police radio
2. CCTV (closed circuit television)
3. Police car
4. Police officer
5. Handcuffs
6. Prisoner
7. Prison / jail
8. Cell / prison cell / jail cell
9. Sniffer dog
10. Burglar alarm
11. Swag bag
12. Crowbar
13. Sawn-off shotgun
14. Knife

**USEFUL LANGUAGE**

LEARN SOME USEFUL WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS.

*You're nicked! (informal) = You're arrested!*
Drunk driving / drink driving / driving under the influence (DUI) – The act of driving a motor vehicle under the effects of alcohol.

“She was stopped by the police for drunk driving.”

Assault (person “assailant”; verb “to assault”) A physical attack on another person.

“She was charged with assault after hitting the man.”

Hijacking (person “hijacker”; verb “to hijack”) To take control of a plane or ship with violence.

“They hijacked the plane and forced the pilot to land it in another city.”

Robbery (person “robber”; verb “to rob”) To steal from a building or person (the object of the verb is a person or place).

“They robbed a bank. / They robbed a man in the street.”

Theft (person “thief”; verb “to steal”) The crime of taking something (the object of the verb is the thing that is taken away).

“They stole some money from the bank. / They stole a briefcase from a man in the street.”

Blackmail (person “blackmailer”; verb “to blackmail”) If person A “blackmails” person B, person A demands money in return for not revealing a secret.

“The photos of the man were used to blackmail him.”

Murder (person “murderer”; verb “to murder”) If someone is “murdered”, they are killed.

“The murderer was sentenced to life in prison.”

Burglary (person “burglar”; verb “to burgle”) If a house is “burgled”, a robber enters the house through a window, etc. and steals things.

“The burglar got in through a window on the ground floor.”

Smuggling (person “smuggler”; verb “to smuggle”) “Smuggling” is the crime of taking goods illegally from one country to another.

“They smuggled the counterfeit money in by hiding it in a briefcase.”

Arson (person “arsonist”; verb “to commit arson”) “Arson” involves the deliberate destruction of property by fire.

“They carried out a number of arson attacks throughout the city.”

Shoplifting (person “shoplifter”; verb “to shoplift”) “Shoplifting” is the crime of stealing things from shops.

“She was arrested for shoplifting after stealing clothes in a department store.”

Fraud (person “fraudster”; verb “to commit fraud”) “Fraud” is the crime of gaining money by tricking people.

“Whilst working as an accountant, he committed a number of acts of fraud.”

Drug trafficking (person “drug trafficker”; verb “to traffic in drugs”) “Drug trafficking” is the crime of buying and selling illegal drugs.

“They were accused of drug trafficking and taken into custody.”

Kidnapping (person “kidnapper”; verb “to kidnap”) If someone is “kidnapped”, they are taken and held illegally. The kidnappers often demand money for the safe return of the victims.

“They were accused of drug trafficking and taken into custody.”

Useful Language

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Pre-listening

In just two minutes, think of as many typical restaurant starters, main courses and desserts as you can.

Listening I

You're going to listen to a conversation between a customer and a waiter. Listen once. In the end, what does the customer order?

Listening II

Complete the sentences with the correct words. Then, listen again to check your answers.

1. The pea and ______ soup is excellent, madam.
2. I'm sorry but we don't have any pea and ham soup ______.
3. I'm afraid the chef who makes the soup doesn't work on ______.
4. I'll have the steak and ______ please.
5. I'm sorry but we don't have any ______.
6. I'm afraid the chef's just informed me that we don't have any ______ at all.

Language focus Quantifiers

Look at this extract from the transcript of the recording Food Glorious Food!: “...I'd like some soup...” The speaker has used the quantifier “some”. Complete the following sentences with the correct words. In some cases, more than one answer may be possible.

1. I don't want ______ more soup. I'm full!
2. I'd really like ______ of that cake, if you don't mind.
3. Do you have ______ potatoes?
4. I think it needs ______ more sugar in it.

Discussion

1. What's the worst restaurant you've ever been to? Why was it so bad?
2. Have you ever been served by a bad or rude waiter/waitress? What happened?
3. Have you ever complained in a restaurant? Why?
FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE
Dealing with interruptions

Last month we looked at some ways of interrupting. This month, we’re looking at ways of dealing with interruptions.

**Stopping an interruption**
- If you don’t mind, I’d just like to go through the points in order...
- I’m sorry but would you mind bringing that up at the end?
- I’d rather deal with that after we’ve finished this.
- I can see that’s important, but if we talk about that now, we won’t have time to...
- If you don’t mind, I’ll come back to that a bit later.
- Can I get back to that later?
- Can I please just finish what I was saying?
- If I may just finish what I was saying.
- Can we leave that to another discussion?
- I’m afraid I can’t agree with you on that. As I was saying...
- Would you please keep any comments till the end?
- Would you mind waiting for your turn, please?

**More direct ways of stopping an interruption**
- Just let me finish what I’m saying and then you can have your say.
- We’ve already heard your opinion. It’s my turn now.
- You’ll all get your chance to speak.
- Stick to item number one if you don’t mind.
- Let’s do this in order.
- Hold on! I’m speaking now.
- Please stop interrupting me!
- That’s all very well, but you’re ignoring the fact that...
- I hardly think that’s important at this stage.
- That’s completely irrelevant.
- Please let me finish...
- If I may finish this point...
- That’s not really relevant at this stage...
- Stop talking over me!
- If you’d just let me get a word in edgeways
- I had the decency to hear your opinion, now please have the courtesy to let me speak.
- You had your chance to speak, now why don’t you let me...?
- You didn’t let me finish.
- I think we’ve been over that before.

Sometimes, someone may interrupt you and then stop. Here are some expressions for encouraging them to continue with their interruption.
- No, that’s fine. Go ahead!
- Yes, I think you’ve got something there.
- Yes, I’m inclined to agree with you on that one.
- Yes, go ahead.
- Good point! Please carry on!

**Dialogue**

Barry and Jessica, co-owners of a toy company, are in a meeting. Barry has just given his suggestions for increasing profits. Now it’s Jessica’s turn.

**Jessica:** Thanks for your thoughts, Barry. I’ve got a few ideas too. Firstly, product packaging. Personally, I think...

**Barry:** …before you get started, I forgot to suggest that I think we should definitely raise the price.

**Jessica:** Yes, thanks for that Barry. I agree with you there. Prices are a bit low. Anyway, as I was saying, I think we need some really colourful packaging so that we can...

**Barry:** Colour! Yes! How about blue for boys’ toys, and pink for girls’ toys?

**Jessica:** Yes, well, I can just finish… I think we need some colourful packaging throughout the range. Our products really need to stand out in toy stores. Secondly, the size of our product range is very important because...

**Barry:** You know, we should really discuss the upcoming client lunch.

**Jessica:** Sorry, but can we leave that to another discussion? I’d like to get through my three points. Now, where was I? Oh, yes, I also think that we should reduce the number of items in our product range. Personally, I think that we have far too many and that...

**Barry:** Yes, I think you’re onto something there. But maybe...

**Jessica:** I’ve already heard your thoughts, Barry. It’s my turn now. So, let’s reduce the product range by 30%...

**Barry:** That’s quite a big reduction, maybe we should…

**Jessica:** Hold on Barry! Can you please let me finish! If we reduce the range by 30%, we’ll be able to cut costs by...

**Barry:** No, I don’t think you’re on the right track there, Jessica. I think…

**Jessica:** Will you please stop interrupting me! Oh, forget it. I quit!

**Barry:** You can’t quit. You own the company!
Trip Fun

Some of the world’s best campsites.

Thinking about going camping? You might want to try one of these campsites for quality and comfort!

1. **Le Val de Cantobre, Aveyron (France)**
   - France’s number-one campsite is in the Grands Causses Regional Park in the Tarn area. The campsite is in the grounds of a medieval house. There’s a swimming pool, a river and a pizzeria all onsite. The scenery around the park is beautiful and great for walking. A week’s stay will cost you about €300. For more information go to www.eurocamp.co.uk

2. **Four Seasons Tented Camp, Golden Triangle (Thailand)**
   - This must be one of the most exclusive campsites in the world. Instead of tents, there are “canvas cabins” with showers and modern conveniences. Plus, there’s a gourmet restaurant, a spa and a pool. There are only 15 of cabins to rent so you’ll have to book early. The camp is only accessible by river boat, but once there you can learn to ride an elephant. Unfortunately, this sort of luxury isn’t cheap, and two nights at the Four Seasons will cost you about €1,500! For more information go to www.fourseasons.com/goldentriangle

3. **Three Cliffs Bay, Gower (Wales)**
   - The Three Cliffs Bay is in a beautiful part of the country, and it won’t cost you much either: a family tent (2 adults, 2 children) is about €28 a day. There’s a camp shop where you can buy food and drinks, and there are pubs and restaurants nearby so you won’t even have to cook. You can water-ski from the beach, or go walking along the Gower Way, a 50-kilometre nature trail which passes close to the campsite. For more information go to www.threeclifsbay.com

4. **Longitude 131, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Australia)**
   - Situated in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, near the massive red rock formerly known as Ayer’s Rock, this is more like a hotel than a campsite. Accommodation is in “canvas rooms”, and there’s a restaurant, a pool and even a library. The only problem is it’s a bit expensive – around €1,500 a night. For more information go to www.longitude131.com.au

5. **Playa Montroig Camping Resort, Tarragona (Spain)**
   - This Spanish campsite is a great family destination, with prices starting from around €20 a night. You’ll be able to enjoy the beach by day, and you’ll have time to explore historic Tarragona in the evenings. The site has restaurants and bars and also offers lots of activities for adults and children. In fact, there’s something for everybody. For more information go to www.playamontroig.com

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What sort of pets do people have in your country? Dogs? Cats? How about a duck, hippo or lion? Here are a few cases of animal owners with unusual pets.

Barrie Hayman has a pet duck called Star. Barrie adopted Star after his siblings shunned him at birth. Barrie, a duck breeder, realised the duckling needed special attention. So, he began taking Star with him everywhere he went. "I would put him in my pocket while I did my shopping," said Barrie. Now, at five months, Star is too big for Barrie's pocket, but the two are still inseparable. They watch sport together and even share a drink together, as Star stands on the bar while Barrie enjoys a pint at his local. Barrie commented, "He's one fantastic duck – I've never known any like it." Star even has his own Facebook page, with more than 2,000 Facebook friends.

Then there's the case of Tonie and Shirley Joubert of South Africa. They live with their pet hippo, Jessica. Tonie, a game warden, rescued Jessica from floodwaters when she was only a day old. Jessica lives outside their riverside property, but she knows how to open the kitchen door, and often goes there for a snack. Tonie recently commented, "I don't know whether [Jessica] sees me as a hippo, or whether she sees herself as a human." Shirley is more certain, "Jessica sees herself as our child… and I see Jessica as my daughter… I can't imagine my life without Jessica." Jessica is free to leave, but she always returns home at night. Jessica's website notes that she has three hippo boyfriends, but one in particular, Fred, is her favourite. They often go grazing together and Fred has recently moved onto the Jouberts' property as well.

But people with unusual pets is nothing new. In London in 1969, flatmates Anthony and John bought a lion cub from Harrods Department Store (yes, Harrods sold lions back then!). The lion was called Christian and he lived with Anthony and John in their apartment above the furniture shop they owned (which, ironically, was called Sophisticat). By day, Christian would play in the furniture store, and at night he'd sit on their knees while they read or watched TV. But Christian quickly grew too large for the shop, and he was starting to frighten the customers. So, the two men took Christian to Kenya where a game warden re-introduced him to the wild. A year on, Anthony and John missed Christian terribly, so they decided to visit him. They were told that their former (now fully-grown) housemate wouldn't recognise them. But the two men went anyway. In Kenya, the game warden took Anthony and John to where Christian had last been seen. Very soon the lion appeared. He paused for a few seconds, then broke into a run and leapt onto Anthony and John’s arms. The three spent two blissful days walking and lying in the shade together.

GLOSSARY
a sibling n a brother or sister
a breeder n someone who keeps animals for the purpose of producing more
inseparable adj if two people are "inseparable," they can never separate or be apart
in the local adj someone's "local" is the pub they always go to
a game warden n a person whose job is to protect animals in a nature reserve
floodwaters n water produced from a flood—when there is a "flood", there is water on the ground, often after heavy rain
riverside adj next to a river
a herd n a group of animals that remain together
to graze vb when animals are "grazing" they are eating grass/plants
a cub n a baby lion
furniture n a general word to refer to objects such as tables, chairs, beds, etc.
to own vb if you "own" something, it is yours
re-introduce to the wild exp to take an animal from a zoo or house and to put it in a forest / jungle, etc.
housemate n someone who lives with you in your house
break into a run exp to start running suddenly
leap vb to jump
blissful adj happy
the shade n the area of land not touched by sunlight—often under a tree or beside a building
Let’s be friends

and learn lots of new words

www.facebook.com/LearnHotEnglish
What’s the best way to improve your speaking skills? Apart from practising a lot, you need to learn lots of fixed expressions. If you can use fixed expressions when speaking, you’ll sound more fluent and advanced. So, just to help you, here are 12 useful expressions to improve your speaking! Good luck!

1. **24/7**
   - If a shop is open “24/7”, it’s open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
   - “You can get some milk from the shop in the garage. It’s open 24/7.”

2. **Go through the roof**
   - If prices “go through the roof”, they increase to an extremely high level.
   - “Housing prices have gone through the roof since this time last year.”

3. **Catch someone off guard**
   - If you “catch someone off guard”, you surprise them.
   - “The question about where she got the money to buy the house really caught her off-guard.”

4. **Back to the drawing board**
   - If you have to go “back to the drawing board”, you have to plan something again because it isn’t working, or it hasn’t been successful.
   - “This idea is never going to work. I think we need to go back to the drawing board.”
Behind the scenes

If something happens “behind the scenes”, it happens in secret, and not in front of the public.
“Behind the scenes, negotiators were working hard to secure a new peace deal.”

Big picture

The “big picture” refers to everything involved in a particular situation – not just the small details.
“When you’re deciding what to do, you need to keep your eye on the big picture and not just the small details.”

By the book

If you do things “by the book”, you follow the rules and do things properly.
“We were fined last year for unpaid tax, so we’re very careful about doing things by the book these days.”

Call it a day

If you decide to “call it a day”, you decide to stop working on something or you stop it altogether. 
“After six years of running the restaurant they decided to call it a day. They never managed to attract enough customers.”

ASAP

If you ask for something “asap”, you’re asking for it really quickly. ASAP stands for “as soon as possible”. You can pronounce it as one word (ASAP) or you can say each individual letter: asap.
“I need that report asap!”

Money down the drain

“Money down the drain” is money that has been wasted or lost.
“Paying for the repairs to the car was like throwing money down the drain as it broke down the following month, and we had to get a new one anyway.”

Cut corners

If you “cut corners”, you do something the easy or cheap way instead of the proper (and often more expensive) way.
“You should never cut any corners in the building industry as it can lead to unsafe structures or accidents.”

Think outside the box

If you “think outside the box”, you think in a more creative way to solve a problem.
“In order to come up with a solution to this problem, you’ll really need to think outside the box.”
12 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO IMPROVE YOUR SPEAKING!

EXERCISES

Let's see how much you can remember!

1 Word choice
Choose the correct words to complete each sentence.
Can you remember what the expressions mean?
1. I think we need to go back to the drawing board / table.
2. Behind the shadows / scenes, they were trying to reach an agreement.
3. We’d rather do it all by the book / contract these days.
4. Prices have gone through the ceiling / roof since this time last year.
5. They eventually decided to call it a day / month as things weren’t going well.
6. The question really captured / caught me off-guard.

3 Memory challenge
Now see if you can remember the expressions without any help!
1. Keep your ________ on the big picture.
2. Prices went through the ________.
3. It was like throwing money down the ________.
4. The shop is open ________.
5. We had to go back to the drawing ________.
6. They need to think outside the ________.
7. They never cut ________ – they do things properly.
8. They decided to call it a ________.
9. They were working hard behind the ________.
10. The client needs those documents ________ or we could lose the contract!
11. We prefer to do things by the ________.
12. The question ________ me off-guard.

2 Gap fill
Complete each sentence with the correct words from below.
Can you remember what the expressions mean?
- picture | box | 24/7 | drain | corners | asap
1. You can go there any time because the shop is open ________.
2. It's always tempting to cut ________ when you don't have enough time to do things properly.
3. You need to keep your eye on the big ________, not just the small details.
4. I know you're busy, but I need those documents ________!
5. Paying for those repairs was like throwing money down the ________.
6. We'll really need to think outside the ________ to solve this issue.
Phrasal Verb Particles

Find out how particles (prepositions / adverbs) can really help you understand phrasal verbs. This is the last part of our mini-series on phrasal verb particles.

Out (not inside, away, not forming part of something)

a) A: Where’s Jessica?
   B: She’s gone out.

b) They went out for dinner.

c) The prisoners broke out of jail.

d) He was left out of the team.

Over (movement from one side to another – often in the air)

a) The plane flew over the house.

b) The holidays are over.

c) I had a terrible cold but I managed to get over it.

d) They talked it over before making a decision.

Up (movement to a higher level, improvement)

a) Prices have gone up.

b) They did up the house.

c) I was up all last night.

d) She came up to me and told me what she thought.

With (accompanying something, associated with something)

a) I’ll be with you in just a minute.

b) We agree with you.

c) I’ll go with you to the shops.

d) This hat goes well with the dress.

Together (with something else, forming a group, uniting things)

a) They left together.

b) They put the two pieces together.

c) They got together to discuss the project.

d) The police are trying to piece together the facts.

Phrasal Verb

Remember, a phrasal verb is formed by a verb and a particle (a preposition or adverb: up, with, to, out, in, etc.). For example:

a) She made up the story. [invented]

b) He gave up smoking. [stopped]
Donald Trump

This is the first in our new series on businesses and entrepreneurs. This month: Donald Trump, current president of the United States.

Real estate tycoon, reality TV star, and president – Donald Trump is a busy man. And also a very rich one. But unlike many American entrepreneurs who make it big, Donald was born with money: his father, Fred, was an important New York real estate mogul.

But it wasn’t always clear that Donald would be as successful as his dad. As a young boy at school, Donald was a troublemaker. His parents decided he needed discipline, so they sent him to the New York Military Academy. At the new school, Donald excelled academically and as a sportsman. But after graduating, he wasn’t sure what to do. For a time, he considered becoming a filmmaker. But eventually, he followed in his father’s footsteps.

While studying business at university, Donald began working at the family Trump Organization. Donald once said, “My father was my mentor and I learned a tremendous amount about every aspect of the construction industry from him.” Donald oversaw the development of large apartment complexes. And he was good at it. His father said, “Everything [Donald] seems to touch turns to gold.”

But Donald wanted to achieve even greater things. His father focused on the residential market, which offered low returns and was very competitive. But Donald wanted to move into commercial real estate where the profits were much higher. His idea was to build high-profile buildings that were architecturally impressive. In the late seventies and early eighties he was involved in several big construction projects – including the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue.

But it wasn’t all easy. In 1987 the stock market crashed and the property market collapsed. Trump’s debts skyrocketed to almost $900 million. And in 1991 he almost went bankrupt. But he managed to survive. By 1997, he was a billionaire again, and his name was on hotels and skyscrapers across the country.

Then, in 2004, came The Apprentice. In the show, young entrepreneurs battle it out for a chance to work in Donald’s company. With his famous catch phrase “You’re fired,” the show was an instant hit, and is still going after eleven seasons. Trump stars in it and is also one of the executive producers. Local versions of the show are now shown all over the world, including an English one featuring the British entrepreneur Alan Sugar.

But Donald clearly wasn’t happy just to rule the world of business. As far back as 2000, he regularly hinted that he wanted to run for president. He even suggested he would stand in the 2012 US elections. In the end he pulled out, and some have suggested he only did it for publicity. He eventually became president of the USA in December 2016, assuming office in January 2017.

Donald’s love life has been just as turbulent. He’s been married three times. His first wife Ivana was a former Czech Olympic athlete and fashion model. They were married in 1977. Ivana worked as Vice President of Interior Design for the Trump Organisation. However, the couple divorced in 1992. In 1993, Trump married American beauty queen Marla Maples. That didn’t last either. And by 1998, the two had split. Then, in 2005, Trump married his current wife, Slovenian Melania Knauss. She’s 24 years his junior and also a former model. Donald has five children from his three marriages. The eldest three haven’t had trouble finding jobs – they all work for him.

So, how much is Donald worth? That appears to be a sensitive topic. In 2006, a reporter claimed the figure was around $200 million. Trump sued the reporter for libel, claiming he was actually worth several billion. In 2011, Forbes magazine assessed Trump’s fortune at $2.9 billion. Again, Donald disagreed. He stated that his true net worth is closer to $7 billion.
**Donald Trump Trivia**

- He doesn’t drink alcohol.
- One of his nicknames is “The Donald”. He got the nickname after then-wife Ivana called him “The Donald” in an interview.
- He doesn’t carry any money on him.
- He has been nominated for two Emmy Awards (for *The Apprentice*).
- He owns the Miss Universe beauty pageant.
- He enjoys playing golf, and usually plays on his own golf courses.

- He called Barack Obama the worst president in US history.
- He isn’t keen on shaking hands because it spreads germs. He has called handshaking a “barbaric” custom.
- He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
- His favourite city is New York.
- Most experts agree that his hair is real.

**Donald Trump Quotes**

**On thinking…**

“You have to think anyway, so why not think big?”

**On women…**

“All of the women on *The Apprentice* flirted with me – consciously or unconsciously. That’s to be expected.”

**On hardship…**

“Going through tough times is a wonderful thing, and everybody should try it. Once.”

**On work-life balance…**

“If you’re interested in ‘balancing work and pleasure,’ stop trying to balance them. Instead make your work more pleasurable.”

**On winning and losing…**

“Sometimes by losing a battle you find a new way to win the war.”

**On politics…**

“One of the key problems today is that politics is such a disgrace; good people don’t go into government.”

**On passion…**

“Without passion you don’t have energy, without energy you have nothing.”

**On his hair…**

“I don’t say my hair is my greatest strength in the world, but it’s not terrible.”

**On fighting…**

“When somebody challenges you, fight back. Be brutal, be tough.”

**On America…**

“Perhaps it’s time America was run like a business.”

**On money…**

“Money was never a big motivation for me, except as a way to keep score. The real excitement is making it big.”

**On work…**

“Everything in life is luck. That’s to be expected.”

**On life…**

“Money was never a big motivation for me, except as a way to keep score. The real excitement is making it big.”

**Donald Trump Bio**

**BORN:** 14th June 1946, in New York. He lives in New York and is one of the world’s highest-profile business moguls and property developers. He has five children and several grandchildren.

**Trump Bio**

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**YouTube**

Take a look inside Donald’s $50 million New York apartment (starts at 1:10): [http://youtu.be/ns5bMU4bYKc](http://youtu.be/ns5bMU4bYKc)

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**Glossary**

- **Trump**
  - A person who operates a business and who makes a profit
  - A tycoon
  - A rich, powerful businessperson
- **Busy**
  - If someone is “busy”, they have a lot of things to do
  - To make it big
  - If you “make it big”, you become rich and successful
- **Mogul**
  - Someone who is very successful in business
- **Troublemaker**
  - Someone who behaves badly and causes trouble (problems)
- **To excel**
  - If you “excel” at school, you do very well
- **A mentor**
  - A powerful, influential person who teaches you things
- **An apartment complex**
  - A large building with many apartments (houses on one floor) in it
- **The residential market**
  - Houses and apartments that can be bought and sold
- **To return**
  - If you make a “return” on your money, you make a profit
- **Commercial real estate**
  - Offices and shop premises that can be bought and sold
- **To crash**
  - If the stock market “crashes”, stocks and shares lose a lot of their value
- **Debt**
  - If you have a “debt”, you owe money to someone else or a bank
- **To skyrocket**
  - To increase a lot and very quickly
- **To go bankrupt**
  - If a person “goes bankrupt”, they have no money and can’t pay back the money they have borrowed
- **A skyscraper**
  - A very tall building in a city
- **To battle it out**
  - To compete with one another
- **An instant hit**
  - A film or TV series that is immediately successful
- **To hint**
  - If you “hint” at something, you suggest it in an indirect way
- **To run for president**
  - To try to become president
- **To pull out**
  - If you “pull out” of a competition, you stop trying to win
- **Turbulent**
  - Not calm / not stable / going up and down
- **To split**
  - To separate
- **A sensitive topic**
  - Something that someone doesn’t want to talk about
- **Libel**
  - Something written that damages/ harms another person’s reputation

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**President Trump**

**Assumed Office:** January 20, 2017

**Status:**
- Head of State
- Head of Government

**Abbreviation:** POTUS

**Head of Government**

- **President**
  - POTUS
  - STYLE
  - Adj

**Head of State**

- **PRESIDENT**
  - POTUS
  - N
  - Exp

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How one man changed baseball.

MONEYBALL

MONEYBALL IS A 2012 DRAMA STARRING BRAD PITT AS BILLY BEANE - THE MANAGER OF THE AMERICAN BASEBALL TEAM, THE OAKLAND A’S. BEANE IS IN TROUBLE AS HIS TEAM ISN’T DOING WELL.

When the film opens, the Oakland A’s have just lost a game to the New York Yankees. And they’re about to lose three of their best players to richer teams. Beane is despondent. He doesn’t have the budget to compete with the big teams. But then he meets Peter Brand, a young Yale graduate and statistics expert.

Brand introduces Beane to sabermetrics*. This is a controversial system for measuring how good a baseball player is. It applies computer-generated statistical analysis to work out a player’s ability. It’s completely different to the more traditional methods of talent spotting that all the other teams are using. With sabermetrics, Beane begins buying players other teams aren’t interested in. And he manages to build a winning team on a shoestring.

Moneyball is based on a true story, although there’s a degree of artistic licence. Characters have been combined, dates changed and some events have been invented all for dramatic effect. For example, Peter Brand, Beane’s assistant, never existed. However, he is largely based on Beane’s former assistant Paul DePodesta. But despite these changes, critics think that Brad Pitt’s portrayal of Beane is right on the money. One journalist wrote, “Pitt nails Beane’s gestures, mannerisms and speech patterns.”

Beane’s use of sabermetrics changed baseball. Now many teams rely on the method. But this form of complex computer-generated statistical analysis is used in business too. And these days, many entrepreneurs and businesses use sabermetrics to help plan their business strategies.

But Moneyball isn’t just about facts and figures. It’s also about a personal struggle. Billy Beane himself was once a major-league baseball player. At the start of his career people expected big things from him. But he never lived up to the hype and in 1990 he retired with an average record. This past failure haunts him, and the film is also about whether Beane will finally achieve success in his life.

The critics love Moneyball. One called it “the most soulful of baseball movies”, another described it as a “home run”. And most agree it’s on track for some major awards.

SABERMETRICS

Bill James, a well-known baseball writer and statistician, invented the phrase sabermetrics and created the technique in the 1980s. James defined sabermetrics as, “the search for objective knowledge about baseball”. Sabermetrics is an acronym for “Society for American Baseball Research” plus the word “metrics”.

GLOSSARY

- despondent: sad and depressed
- a budget: the money that is used for one particular activity
- Yale: a prestigious, famous university in the USA
- graduate: someone who has been to university/school
- to work out: to evaluate/assess
- talent spotting: finding people with a lot of talent/ability
- on a shoestring: with very little money
- artistic licence: If a writer/director has used “artistic licence”, they have changed the facts in order to create a story
- for dramatic effect: not to the story is exciting/interesting
- a portrayal: the way an actor shows how a character is right on the money: very good
- to nail: If you “nail” something, you do it perfectly
- a gesture: an involuntary movement of a part of the body (the hands, arms, etc.) that transmits a message or is typical of a person
- a mannerism: something that someone often does with their body that is typical of them
- a speech pattern: the way someone speaks
- a struggle: an attempt to do something to live up to the hype: to be as good as everyone expects you to be
- to retire: to stop working (often at the age of 65)
- to haunt: if a bad thought or memory “haunts” you, you can’t forget about it
- soulful: expressing deep feeling
- a home run: something very successful

Moneyball stars Brad Pitt and Jonas Hill and is directed by Bennett Miller. It’s based on the 2003 book Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game by Michael Lewis. The film tells the story of Billy Beane (Brad Pitt), who is the manager of the Oakland A’s baseball team.
Baseball

Baseball is one of America’s most popular sports and an important part of US culture. But why?

Baseball is known as “the national pastime.” As Jacques Barzun said in his book God’s Country and Mine: A Declaration of Love Spiced with a Few Harsh Words, “Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.”

And it seems to be true. As children, many Americans play baseball in Little League teams. Later, some go on to play in Major League baseball. Others become avid sports fans and follow their team or go to watch matches. Many consider the game a truly democratic game as it can be played by just about anyone, regardless of height, weight, background or ability.

The game itself is fairly easy to play. There are two teams of nine players each. They play on a field with four bases in the shape of a diamond. These bases are about 30 metres apart and are known as first base, second base, third base and home. The part of the field closest to the bases is called the infield. The part further away is the outfield.

During the game, a “pitcher” from one team pitches (throws) a ball to a “batter” (the person holding a baseball bat) from the opposing team. The batter (who is standing on the home plate) tries to hit the ball and run around the bases. If he/she goes around the four bases (touching them in the correct order), it’s a run. The main objective is to score more runs than the opposing team.

The batter gets three “strikes” – three attempts to hit the ball. If he/she doesn’t hit the ball, they’re out. They’re also out if someone catches the ball before it touches the ground, or if they’re tagged with the ball before getting to a base. If a player hits the ball over the outfield fence, it’s an automatic home run.

The first recorded game was played in 1846 in Hoboken, New Jersey. And since then baseball has grown in popularity. In 1992, the sport was introduced as an Olympic game. Some of the most famous players from the past include Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Hank Greenberg, and Jackie Robinson (the first African-American man to play in Major League baseball).

Famous modern players include Alex Rodriguez (aka A-Rod) and Derek Jeter who play for the New York Yankees, Manny Ramirez who played for the Tampa Bay Rays, Joe Mauer who plays for the Minnesota Twins, and Albert Pujols who plays for the St Louis Cardinals. A player doesn’t have to be from the state he/she plays for, so baseball teams are very diverse. For example, Alex Pujols plays for a team in Missouri but is from the Dominican Republic. Every year, the teams trade players.

The official baseball season runs from April to late September. Teams play year-round but only the games played during the official season count toward the World Series (a series of baseball games played between the winning teams of the American League and the National League). These games are as important to baseball as the World Cup is to football, or the Superbowl is to American football.

Game of baseball, anyone?
**BRAD PITT LIVES THE HOLLYWOOD DREAM.**
**HE'S A CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED ACTOR,**
**HE'S BLESSED WITH GOOD LOOKS AND HE'S EXTREMELY RICH...**

Brad grew up in a conservative Christian family in the American Midwest. He studied journalism at university, but loved films and wanted to be an actor. He referred to movies as “a portal to a different world.” So, like many wannabe stars before him, he packed up and moved to Hollywood.

While living in Los Angeles he went to acting classes and worked in a number of odd jobs. This included being a chauffeur, a furniture mover and a restaurant mascot (having to dress up as a chicken to promote the restaurant). Very soon, Brad began getting parts in TV. And then film. And it was his supporting role as a small-time crook in the movie *Thelma & Louise* (1991) that really made him famous.

His personal life has been equally “spectacular”. He married actress Jennifer Aniston in 2000, although they divorced in 2005. In 2014, he married actress Angelina Jolie. Together, they have six children (three adopted internationally). Brad and Angelina were divorced in 2019.

**Born:** 18th December 1963, in Oklahoma, U.S.A. His mother was a high school counselor and his father owned a truck company. Brad is the eldest of three children. His first TV role was in 1987, on the hit TV show *Dallas*. His most famous films include *Interview with the Vampire* (1994), *Se7en* (1995), *Twelve Monkeys* (1995), *Meet Joe Black* (1998), *Mr & Mrs Smith* (2005) and the *Ocean’s* series.
On acting...

"Basically, when you whittle everything away, I’m a grown man who puts on make-up."

On being a father...

"On being a father… I’m one of those people you hate because of genetics."

On equality...

"On equality… We’re pretty much building our own soccer team. We’re going to break / to cut our own country, go to the World Cup, and dominate!"

On his children [three of whom are adopted from different countries]...

"On his children [three of whom are adopted from different countries]… We’re pretty much building our own soccer team. We’re going to create our own country, go to the World Cup, and dominate!"

On equality...

"On equality… We’re pretty much building our own soccer team. We’re going to break / to cut our own country, go to the World Cup, and dominate!"

On getting older...

"I personally like aging. With aging comes wisdom, and I’ll take wisdom over youth any day."

On beauty...

"On beauty… We’re pretty much building our own soccer team. We’re going to break / to cut our own country, go to the World Cup, and dominate!"

On having kids...

"On having kids… You can write a book, you can make a movie, you can paint a painting, but having kids is the most extraordinary thing I’ve ever taken on."

On being a father...

"On being a father… Ultimately, I’m dad. I have the concerns a dad has. Is everyone safe? Am I spending enough time with them? These are the things that keep me awake."

On Angelina Jolie...

"On Angelina Jolie… She is such a great mom. Oh, man, I’m so happy to have her."

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Reporting verbs

In this grammar focus we’re going to be looking at some reporting verbs. This is the first part of a mini-series.

We use reporting verbs with Reported Speech. Reported Speech is a version of what someone has said. We often use this structure with the verbs *say* or *tell*. For example:

**Direct speech:**  “I’ll help you with it.”
**Indirect speech:** She said that she would help us with it.

We can also use a number of other verbs with Reported Speech. These are known as reporting verbs and include the following:

- *agree*, *decide*, *offer*, *promise*, *refuse*, *claim*, *threaten*,
- *advise*, *ask*, *convince*, *persuade*, *tell*, *encourage*, *invite*, *beg*, *order*,
- *remind*, *warn*…

However, they’re used in a variety of different ways.

**Reporting verb + infinitive**

Some reporting verbs are followed by an infinitive. These verbs include: *agree*, *decide*, *offer*, *promise*, *refuse*, *claim*, *threaten*.

For example:

- a) She promised **to do** it next week.
- b) They agreed **to lower** the price.
- c) She offered **to help** us finish it.
- d) They refused **to do** it.
- e) She claimed **to be** a princess.
- f) They threatened **to report** us to the police.

**Reporting verb + object + infinitive**

Other reporting verbs are followed by an object + an infinitive. These include: *advise*, *ask*, *convince*, *persuade*, *tell*, *encourage*, *invite*, *beg*, *order*, *remind*, *warn*. For example:

- a) They advised us **to tell** the police.
- b) She convinced **me to invest** in it.
- c) They persuaded **him to go** with them.
- d) We encouraged **her to sign up** for the course.
- e) They invited **us to have** lunch with them.
- f) She ordered **us to get out**.
- g) We reminded **them to close** the windows.

Negatives are formed by placing not before the infinitive. For example:

- a) They warned him **not to do** it again.
- b) We begged them **not to go** there.
- c) She promised **not to tell** anyone.

**Exercise**

Add letters to the verbs to complete the sentences. They’re all in the past tense.

1. They **of** _ _ _ _ _ _ **to show us** the way to the station.
2. We **per** _ _ _ _ _ _ **him to show us** where the treasure was.
3. They **or** _ _ _ _ _ _ **us to get off** the train.
4. She **ref** _ _ _ _ _ _ **to complete** the work unless we paid her substantially more.
5. They **enc** _ _ _ _ _ _ **us to play** the game with them.
6. They **thre** _ _ _ _ _ _ **to report us** to the police if we ever did it again.
7. They **adv** _ _ _ _ _ _ **us to report** the incident to the police.
8. She **agr** _ _ _ _ **to take off 10% from** the total.

**Glossary**

- *Refuse* if you “refuse” to do something, you say that you won’t do it.
- *Claim* if you “claim” to be someone, you say that you are that person.
- *Threaten* if you “threaten” to do something bad, you promise to do that bad thing.
- *Persuade* if you “persuade” someone to do something, you convince them to do that thing.
- *Remind* if you “remind” someone about something, you tell them about it so they don’t forget it.
The American English Accent

By Jessica Gokhberg

There are lots of varieties of the American English accent, with differences between the East Coast and West Coast accents, and the northern and southern ones. However, there are some characteristics of the accent that you'll find everywhere. Here are five key features of the American English accent.

1. The “r” sound in words

One of the main characteristics of the accent is the “r” sound. This is often heavily pronounced – much more so than with British English. For example: barn, march, bird, bar, heart, shark, fork, pork, cork.

You can hear this in sentences too. For example:

a) There are some sharks near here.
b) There’s a nice bar that isn’t far.
c) There are some birds over there.

2. The final “r” sound

In British English, a schwa sound (ə) is often used with two-syllable words that end with a vowel + the letter “r”. For example: over, never, clever, bother.

However, in American English, the “r” sound is much more distinctive. For example: over, never, clever, bother. You can hear this in sentences too. For example:

a) The film is over.
b) It’s now or never.
c) She’s so clever.

3. The “o” sound

Another big difference is with the “o” sound. In British English, it’s a rounded vowel sound (ɔ). However, in American English it isn’t so rounded. For example: hot, cot, top, box, cod, fox, spot.

You can hear this in sentences too. For example:

a) The food is very hot.
b) It’s on the top.
c) We put it in the box.

4. The “t” sound

In British English, the “t” sound is often pronounced quite clearly. For example: butter, clutter, metal. However, in American English this letter can sound a bit more like a “d” sound. For example: butter, clutter, metal, capital.

Here are some examples in sentences:

a) We put some butter on the toast.
b) It’s made of metal.
c) She lives in the capital.

5. Intonation

British English intonation tends to go up and down quite a lot, making it sound a bit sing-songy, with substantial pitch differences. However, American English is much more constant in terms of intonation with fewer changes in pitch. For example:

a) We left at six and then went to the shops.
b) We drove around the city looking for a restaurant.
c) Did you stay there for long?

Story

Now I’m going to tell you a story in my best American accent.

This past summer in Minnesota was really hot. The hottest day of all came in late June. That day, I called up a few of my friends because I decided that a barbeque in my backyard would be the best way to relax and try to cool off.

To get ready for the BBQ, I went out and bought a bag of charcoal, a small tin of lighting fluid, and some long matches. I left it up to my friends to bring the meat, bread, and sides so it ended up being a type of pot-luck barbeque. One friend brought ground meat to make hamburgers, another hotdogs, and a third person brought all of the buns. Other dishes that people brought were egg salad, condiments like ketchup and mustard, chopped vegetables, potato chips, and soda-pop.

It’s always nice to have friends gather at my house for a summer barbeque. You can find the same types of food at a fast-food restaurant, but there really is nothing like putting in the work to cook the food you’re going to eat. Plus, if the meat is cooked on the grill, you don’t have to worry about all of that unhealthy grease and oil you’d find in a fast-food joint. On top of that, you can stand around and talk to your friends as you take your time cooking. It’s a stress-free way to forget about the suffocating heat and hang out with your friends.

Anyway, just as I was about to begin cooking, my friend James came up to me and said “I hate to be the bearer of bad news but I think it’s about to rain!” And seconds later, there was a giant thunderstorm. The worst part is that once a storm starts on a humid summer day in Minnesota, it doesn’t stop until all the humidity has gone away.

My friends and I decided that it wasn’t worth waiting for the Minnesota storm to stop – we were all too hungry. So, we decided to order some pizza. It rains so much in the summer that delivery restaurants are used to driving in storms. We ordered pizzas with mushroom, sausage, pepperoni, plain cheese, and vegetable, and we still had all the sides to eat too. It wasn’t the barbeque we’d planned on, but it was still a feast. However, just when the pizza delivery man showed up with all the pizzas, the storm cleared up and the sun came out again. Just my luck!

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This month we’re looking at some more words to describe a book or film.

**Fictional**
A “FICTIONAL” CHARACTER OR STORY HAS BEEN INVENTED. BOOKS THAT ARE “FICTION” ARE MADE UP / INVENTED. “NON-FICTION” BOOKS ARE BASED ON FACT OR TRUE STORIES.

“It was a fictional account of a banker from Croydon.”

**Classic (noun)**
A “CLASSIC” IS A BOOK WHICH IS WELL-KNOWN AND CONSIDERED TO BE OF A VERY HIGH LITERARY STANDARD.

“Dickens’ book Great Expectations is one of the classics of English literature.”

**Gory**
A “GORY” FILM, COMPUTER GAME, SCENE OR STORY INVOLVES A LOT OF BLOOD OR KILLING.

“It was a disgusting film with a lot of gory death scenes.”

**Spine-chilling**
A “SPINE-CHILLING” STORY, BOOK OR FILM IS VERY FRIGHTENING.

“It was a spine-chilling tale of a haunted house.”

**Spine-tingling**
A “SPINE-TINGLING” FILM IS ENJOYABLE BECAUSE IT CAUSES YOU TO FEEL A STRONG EMOTION, SUCH AS EXCITEMENT OR FEAR.

“It was a spine-tingling thriller that kept you enthralled from beginning to end.”

**Swashbuckling**
“SWASHBUCKLING” FILMS OR STORIES INVOLVE A LOT OF FIGHTING AND EXCITING ADVENTURES.

“It was a swashbuckling tale of pirates and adventurers.”

**Apocryphal**
An “APOCRYPHAL” STORY IS ONE THAT IS NOT GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE TRUE, BUT WHICH IS USED TO MAKE A POINT OR TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS LIKE.

“There’s a story, probably apocryphal, about a man who got himself into a nasty situation whilst on holiday here.”

**Racy**
A “RACY” STORY, FILM OR PLAY IS SLIGHTLY SHOCKING AND FUNNY IN THE WAY THAT IT DESCRIBES OR SHOWS SEX.

“It was a slightly racy story of a 50-year-old rock star trying to come to terms with his age.”

**Mythical**
SOMETHING “MYTHICAL” EXISTS ONLY IN MYTHS (WELL-KNOWN STORIES WHICH WERE MADE UP IN THE PAST TO EXPLAIN NATURAL EVENTS OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, ETC.).

“It’s the story of a mythical beast that terrorises a village.”

**Tragic**
TRAGIC STORIES (“TRAGEDIES”) ARE SAD, AND THE MAIN CHARACTER OFTEN DIES IN THE END.

“He was the tragic hero of the story.”
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Classical Elephants

A and now for a touching tale from Thailand. Paul Barton, an Englishman, recently dragged a piano up a hill in the Thai jungle to play a concert for a herd of blind elephants. Why? To raise money for the animals, who require constant care because of their condition. Paul and his wife have been living in Thailand and working with the elephants since 1985.

Paul’s fiftieth birthday was coming up and he wanted to do something special for them. But then he had to decide what to play. “I sat down and thought, what do you play to an elephant?” He eventually settled for Beethoven’s Piano Sonata No. 8. Barton said, “I had to drag the piano up a mountain. I have a really bad back now, but I wanted to make the effort so I could feel I had undergone a personal challenge.”

Enjoy Paul’s elephant concert here: http://youtu.be/RKcks_4uLmA
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**RECIPE & MOVIE MAKER**

**RECIPE**

**3. Preparation**

**Ingredients**
- 450 grams of dried pasta (any kind you like).
- 225 grams of smoked salmon (cut into little squares).
- Six cloves of garlic.
- Three handfuls of baby spinach leaves (or large spinach leaves chopped into medium-sized pieces).
- ½ cup of dry white wine (cooking wine is fine).
- One cup of cooking cream.
- Juice of one lemon.
- Spinach leaves chopped into little pieces.
- A pinch of nutmeg.
- A knob of butter.
- 25 grams of Parmesan cheese (grated).
- Salt and black pepper.

**Preparation**

1. Finely chop the garlic.
2. Melt the butter in a frying pan and fry the garlic over a medium heat for one minute.
3. Add the white wine. Bring the wine to the boil so that it reduces a little.
4. Add the cream, a pinch of nutmeg and season with salt and pepper.
5. Let the sauce simmer for five minutes, until the cream thickens.
6. Stir the salmon and the dill into the sauce. Simmer over a low heat.
7. Bring a pot of water to the boil; add the salt and cook the pasta until it’s al dente.
8. Add the lemon juice and spinach leaves to the sauce. Stir well and cook for one minute.
9. Drain the pasta and mix it in with the sauce.
10. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and serve.

**Glossary**
- a handful of (n) a small amount of (that fits in your hand)
- dill (n) a herb that is often used with fish
- a pinch of (n) a small amount of food that you can hold between two fingers
- a knob of (n) a knob of butter is a small piece of it
- to cut into very small pieces to melt (v)
- to bring it to a boil (v)
- to go down (v) if you “bring food to the boil”, you cook it until it is 100ºC
- to reduce (v) if food “reduces”, the liquid in it disappears
- to simmer (v) to cook food for a long time over a very low heat
- to thicken (v) to cook food until it becomes thicker (with not so much liquid)
- to stir into (v) if you “stir in” food, you add it slowly whilst moving it around or mixing it in
- al dente (adj) if pasta is “al dente” it is firm (but not hard)
- to drain (v) if you “drain” food, you let the liquid come out of it, often by holding the container upside down
- to sprinkle (v) if you “sprinkle” food on top of a dish, you put an amount of that food over the top of that dish

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**LISTENING**

**Movie Maker**

Presenting an idea for a public service video.

**Pre-listening**

This lesson is all about a public service video – a video created by the government to inform the public about something useful or important. The videos aren’t usually produced for profit, and they often deal with issues of health and safety. Look at the list of public service video titles below. What do you think they are about? What are they promoting?

- Let’s play! Let’s grow strong!
- Quick and healthy meals for busy families!
- Adopt a pet!
- Control your anger!
- Be a good sport! Play fair!
- Watch your language!

**Listening I**

You’re going to listen to someone who’s giving a presentation on a public service video. The topic of the video is healthy living for teens. What do you think the video will consist of? Discuss with a partner. Then, listen once to compare your ideas.

**Listening II**

Match the sentence beginnings (1 to 7) to the endings (a-g). Then, listen again to compare your answers.

1. This video forms part of the government’s…
2. This video is designed to deter youngsters from…
3. The video itself follows a few days in the life of…
4. Basically, we want to get across the idea that there’s a cost…
5. As he’s walking down the road, he sees the bus ahead…
6. After school, he borrows money so…
7. There’s a party on Saturday night and his friends are all there…

- a. …arriving at the stop.
- b. …“Healthy Living” campaign…
- c. …enjoying themselves…
- d. …an unhealthy teenager…
- e. …taking up the habit.
- f. …associated with smoking…
- g. …he can buy some cigarettes.

**Language focus**

**Phrasal verb particles**

Look at this extract from the transcript of the recording Movie Maker: “…the number of smokers went down dramatically…” The speaker has used a phrasal verb with the particle “down” (“go down”). Read through the tapescript and find as many phrasal verbs as you can. What do they mean? What purpose do the particles serve?

**Discussion**

1. Have you seen any public service videos lately? What were they about?
2. What’s the worst/funniest/best public service video you’ve ever seen?
3. Can you think of an idea for a public service video? What would it be about? Why?
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### DICTIONARY OF SLANG

**EXAMPLES OF HOW TO SAY THINGS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Formal*</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Informal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You have just met someone who isn't very nice.</td>
<td>He is of a most despicable and evil nature.</td>
<td>He isn't very nice.</td>
<td>He's a real scumbag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You swam in a river with no clothes on.</td>
<td>We bathed in a river bereft of any articles of clothing.</td>
<td>We swam with no clothes on.</td>
<td>We went skinny-dipping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend thinks she's the best.</td>
<td>She has an extremely high opinion of herself.</td>
<td>She thinks she's the best.</td>
<td>She thinks she's the best thing since sliced bread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You've been moving furniture around in the office all day. It's been extremely hard work.</td>
<td>It has been most arduous.</td>
<td>It's been really hard work.</td>
<td>It's been a real slog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You had a good time with some friends last night.</td>
<td>We had a most enjoyable time.</td>
<td>We had a great time.</td>
<td>We had a real laugh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You arrived late at work and a colleague informed the boss.</td>
<td>She informed a high-ranking member of staff about my tardy arrival.</td>
<td>She told the boss that I was late.</td>
<td>She snitched on me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that the “Formal” way of speaking is intended as a joke - no one really speaks like that.*

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- How to learn English easily!
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- 9 ways that poems can help you learn English!
- How to learn English easily!
- 9 unusual world records
- How to improve your reading skills!
- 8 great films for learning English
- The top 10 things we keep losing!
- 10 unusual world records
- Five unusual diets
- 4 stories of revenge!
- Film titles with unusual translations
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This month we’re looking at some idioms that have come from baseball. Most are American in origin, but many are used in British English too. More next month.

**Ballpark figure**  
A general, rather imprecise figure.  
“I need a ballpark figure on what the work is going to cost us.”

**Throw someone a curve/curveball**  
To surprise someone with something unpleasant and unexpected.  
“She really threw me a curveball when she asked me right in front of the boss what I’d been doing last night.”

**Play ball**  
To agree to do what you have been told to do. This often consists of something you don’t really want to do, but feel obliged to do anyway.  
“She was warned to keep quiet and play ball, which is what she did.”

**Touch base with someone**  
To talk to someone about something.  
“I need to touch base with you about this new project.”

**Play hardball**  
To use methods that are unfair or that harm other people. / To behave in an unpleasant, threatening way so that you get what you want.  
“The company is playing hardball with its employees, refusing to pay them until they agree to work overtime for free.”

**Hit or miss**  
If something is “hit or miss,” you cannot be certain of its quality because it’s sometimes good and sometimes bad.  
“We used a different printer for these brochures. The quality was a bit hit or miss but the price was definitely lower.”

**Level the playing field**  
To create a situation that is fair for everyone. / To give everyone the same advantages or opportunities.  
“They offered grants to poorer members of the community in an attempt to level the playing field.”

**Level the playing field**  
A fair situation / A situation in which everyone plays by the same set of rules.  
“Every company should pay the same percentage of tax so it’s a level playing field.”
Machiavelli Madness

Top tips on the art of doing business.

What’s the best way to get ahead in life? You might want to take the advice of Niccolo Machiavelli, a man who wrote a guide more than 400 years ago on how to be successful in the world of politics.

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was a writer, historian, philosopher and diplomat in Florence (a city-republic). Machiavelli rose quickly in the ranks of government. However, when the powerful Medici family seized power, Machiavelli was dismissed from his position. Around 1513, and in order to impress his new rulers, he wrote a book called The Prince. In the book, he talked about how the Medicis could retain power. Unfortunately for Machiavelli, the Medicis weren’t impressed. However, since then, the book has become a classic and is thought to be one of the first works of political science. Here are some of Machiavelli’s ideas that continue to inspire many in the world of politics and business.

[Some of Machiavelli’s language is a bit formal.]

1. **Lead by example!**
Machiavelli quote: “A prince’s good example has such an influence that the good men strive to imitate him, and the wicked are ashamed to lead a life so contrary to his example.”

2. **Watch your back!**
Machiavelli quote: “Hence it comes about that all armed Prophets have been victorious, and all unarmed Prophets have been destroyed.”

3. **Create loyalty through generosity, but don’t overdo it!**
Machiavelli quote: “Benefits should be conferred gradually; and in that way they will taste better.”

4. **Deal implacably with your enemies!**
Machiavelli quote: “Men should be either treated generously or destroyed because they can take revenge for slight injuries – for heavy ones they cannot.”

5. **Treat obstacles as opportunities!**
Machiavelli quote: “Entrepreneurs are simply those who understand that there is little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both to their advantage.”

6. **Be assertive in power!**
Machiavelli quote: “He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command.”

7. **Surprise your enemies!**
Machiavelli quote: “No enterprise is more likely to succeed than one concealed from the enemy until it is ripe for execution.”

8. **Let your subjects fear you rather than like you!**
Machiavelli quote: “It is better to be feared than loved if you cannot be both.”

9. **Be aware of the base nature of people!**
Machiavelli quote: “Of mankind we may say in general they are fickle, hypocritical, and greedy of gain.”

10. **Surround yourself with clever people!**
Machiavelli quote: “The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him.”

Glossary:

- to rise in the ranks of: to move up in the ranks of an organisation/government, they become more and more important in that organisation
- to seize power: to take control of the government illegally or violently
- to dismiss: to leave their job
- a classic: a book that many people think is of the highest literary standard
- to strive: to try hard to do something
- the wicked: the evil, bad people
- ashamed: to be embarrassed
- contrary to: if A is “contrary to” B, A is the opposite of B
- unarmed: if someone is “unarmed”, they have no weapons (guns / knives / cannons, etc.) to defend themselves
- a Prophet: a person who expresses the desires of God (although in this case “Prophet” is used to refer to a ruler / leader)
- don’t overdo it: don’t do too much / don’t give them too much
- to confer: to give
- implacably: forcefully and violently – without mercy or pity
- to take revenge: to do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you
- slight: not important or serious
- an obstacle: something that prevents you from moving forward / advancing / progressing
- ripe for execution: if something is “ripe for execution”, it is ready to be done
- a base nature: someone of a “base nature” is bad / not nice
- fickle: someone who is “fickle” often changes
- hypocritical: someone who is “hypocritical” criticises other people for bad things, but then does the same bad things
- greedy of gain: if someone is “greedy of gain”, they want lots of things – even things they don’t need

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**FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD**

**Trying to order some food in a restaurant.**

**Eve:** Waiter: Good evening, madam. Welcome to Chez Fabianne. Can I take your order?

**Eve:** Waiter: Yes. Erm, for the starter, I’d like some soup. Which one would you recommend?

**Eve:** Waiter: The pea and ham soup is excellent, madam.

**Eve:** Waiter: Great. I’ll have that then, please.

**Eve:** Waiter: Erm, I’m sorry but we don’t have any pea and ham soup today.

**Eve:** Waiter: But you just recommended it!

**Eve:** Waiter: Erm, yes, but...

**Eve:** Waiter: Well, I would like some soup. So, which one shall I order?

**Eve:** Waiter: I’m afraid the chef who makes the soup doesn’t work on Tuesdays. So, we don’t have any soup at all.

**Eve:** Waiter: No soup at all?

**Eve:** Waiter: No, I’m afraid not madam. None at all.

**Eve:** Waiter: OK. I’ll skip the starter and go straight onto the main course.

**Eve:** Waiter: Very good, madam. What would you like?

**Eve:** Waiter: I’ll have the steak and chips, please.

**Eve:** Waiter: Erm I’m sorry but we don’t have any steak. There’s been an issue with the local butcher.

**Eve:** Waiter: An issue?

**Eve:** Waiter: Yes, he emigrated.

**Eve:** Waiter: Emigrated? Where did he go?

**Eve:** Waiter: We aren’t sure, but we’re trying to find out. It’s most distressing.

**Eve:** Waiter: Well, do you have any other kind of meat available?

**Eve:** Waiter: No, I’m afraid not, madam. No meat today.

**Eve:** Waiter: OK. What food do you have? I’m hungry and I want some food… any food!

**Eve:** Waiter: Let me just check with the chef, sir. Excuse me one moment. [He goes to talk to the chef.] I’m afraid the chef’s just informed me that we don’t have any food at all. I am most sorry.

**Eve:** Right, I’m leaving!

**Eve:** Waiter: Goodbye, madam.

And please do come again… erm, when we have some food.

**MOVIE MAKER**

**Presenting an idea for a public service video.**

Hi, I’m Melanie and I’m here to present our ideas for an anti-smoking public service video called “Kick it in!” This video forms part of the government’s “Healthy Living” campaign, which aims to promote a more active lifestyle, and to tackle the high levels of obesity and smoking rates amongst teenagers. This video is the first in a series of three that deals with the core issues, the other two being healthy eating and responsible drinking. I’ll take any questions at the end.

As you may know, when the smoking ban came in a few years ago, the number of smokers went down dramatically. However, since then, recent reports show that these figures have been going up again, particularly among the under 20s. This video is designed to deter youngsters from taking up the habit.

The video itself follows a few days in the life of an unhealthy teenager and the effects it’s having on him. This is in sharp contrast to the lives of those of his healthier, more active friends. Basically, we want to get across the idea that there’s a cost associated with smoking – a cost in terms of money, friends and your health.

The video starts off with the teen waking up at home and lighting up before he’s even had breakfast. Later, he’s shown coughing as he’s puffing away on his cigarette with his morning cup of coffee. After breakfast, he leaves home with another cigarette. As he’s walking down the road, he sees the bus ahead arriving at the stop. He runs to catch it, but has to stop, short of breath.

Then we see him at school. He’s looking pale and drawn. He can’t concentrate because he’s feeling sick. During a break at school, his friends are running around playing football and volleyball while he sneaks off for a cigarette behind the bike sheds. After school, he borrows money so he can buy some cigarettes.

At the weekend, he stays inside playing computer games and smoking while his friends are playing tennis, cycling and having fun together. There’s a party on Saturday night and his friends are all there enjoying themselves, dancing and chatting away, but he’s outside smoking. By the end of the weekend he’s looking pretty bad.

As the screen fades away, a caption appears with the words, “Give it up! You’ll feel a whole lot better!” OK, has anybody got any questions?
ANSWERS

USEFUL LANGUAGE
11 2g 3f 4e 5i 6a 7m 8j 9b 10n 11c 12k 13d 14h

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!
3 Listening II
1. ham; 2. today; 3. Tuesdays; 4. chips; 5. steak; 6. food
4 Language focus
1. any; 2. some; 3. any; 4. some

TRIP FUN
1 Pre-reading
1b 2f 3e 4a 5d 6c
3 Reading II
1. Four Seasons Tented Camp
2. Longitude 131
3. Le Val de Cantobre
4. Playa Montroig Camping Resort
5. Three Cliffs Bay

THE WILDLIFE
3 Reading II
1. Jessica
2. Star;
3. Jessica;
4. Christian;
5. Christian;
6. Star

12 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS TO IMPROVE YOUR SPEAKING!
3 Word choice
1. board; 2. scenes; 3. book; 4. roof; 5. day; 6. caught
4 Gap fill
1. 24/7; 2. corners; 3. picture; 4. asap; 5. drain; 6. box
5 Memory challenge
1. eye; 2. roof; 3. drain; 4. 24/7; 5. board; 6. box; 7. corners;
8. day; 9. scenes; 10. asap; 11. book; 12. caught

GRAMMAR FUN
1. offered; 2. persuaded
3. ordered
4. refused
5. encouraged
6. threatened
7. advised
8. agreed

MOVIE MAKER
3 Listening II
1b 2e 3d 4f 5a 6g 7c

PRESSING MATTERS
(answers may vary)
3 Pre-listening
1. robbery; 2. robbers; 3. theft;
4. fraud; 5. smuggling;
6. assault
3 Listening II
1. got away with
2. claimed to have worked
3. no broken windows or doors
4. who were on duty
5. hadn’t been working
6. the owner of the factory

Language focus
1. offered; 2. mentioned; 3. refused;
4. suggesting; 5. claiming

MACHIAVELLI MADNESS
3 Reading II (wording will vary)
1. Be armed.
2. Give generously, but don’t overdo it.
3. Treat them as opportunities.
4. Make them fear you.
5. They’re fickle, hypocritical
and greedy.
6. Choose clever ones.

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**HOW TO... REMEMBER WORDS**

Words are the key to language. And if you want to improve your ability to speak, listen and write in English, you’re going to have to learn lots of them. Here are some ideas to help you.

**Part I – Recording words**

1. **Important words**
   
   Some words are more important than other words. For example, the high-frequency word “rain” is very common and can be found in a number of important expressions. For example: rainbow, raincoat, rainforest, rainy, rain off, pour with rain…
   
   Where possible, focus on learning high-frequency words and all their associated forms.

2. **Sentences**
   
   When you want to record a new word or expression, remember to write it out in an example sentence. This will give you useful information about the way the word or term is used, and the other words often associated with it.
   
   For example:
   
   **a) Rain** = It’s been pouring with rain.
   
   **b) Raincoat** = I put on my raincoat.

**Part II – Learning words**

Some words are easy to learn. For example, the English word “education” is similar in Spanish (educación) and French (éducation). Other words are more difficult, but these ideas might help you.

**a) Word sounds**

Use the power of assonance (the repetition of vowel sounds between words)!

**b) Funny sentences**

Use the power of humour! Simply make a funny or ridiculous sentence with the word. This will help you remember the word more easily. For example: “William the whale was using his tail to sail the boat.”

**c) Pictures**

If you’re really having problems learning your word, use the power of image-word association and draw a picture of your funny sentence (see “b”). This will really help you remember it. And the more ridiculous the picture, the better!

**d) Repetition**

Finally, repeat the sentence many times to get it engraved on your brain. Repetition is a fantastic way of memorising things.

Good luck learning new words!
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