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Learn **hot** English magazine

No.279

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BRITISH HUMOUR!

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LOS ANGELES!



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PRACTISE!**
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RESPOND TO
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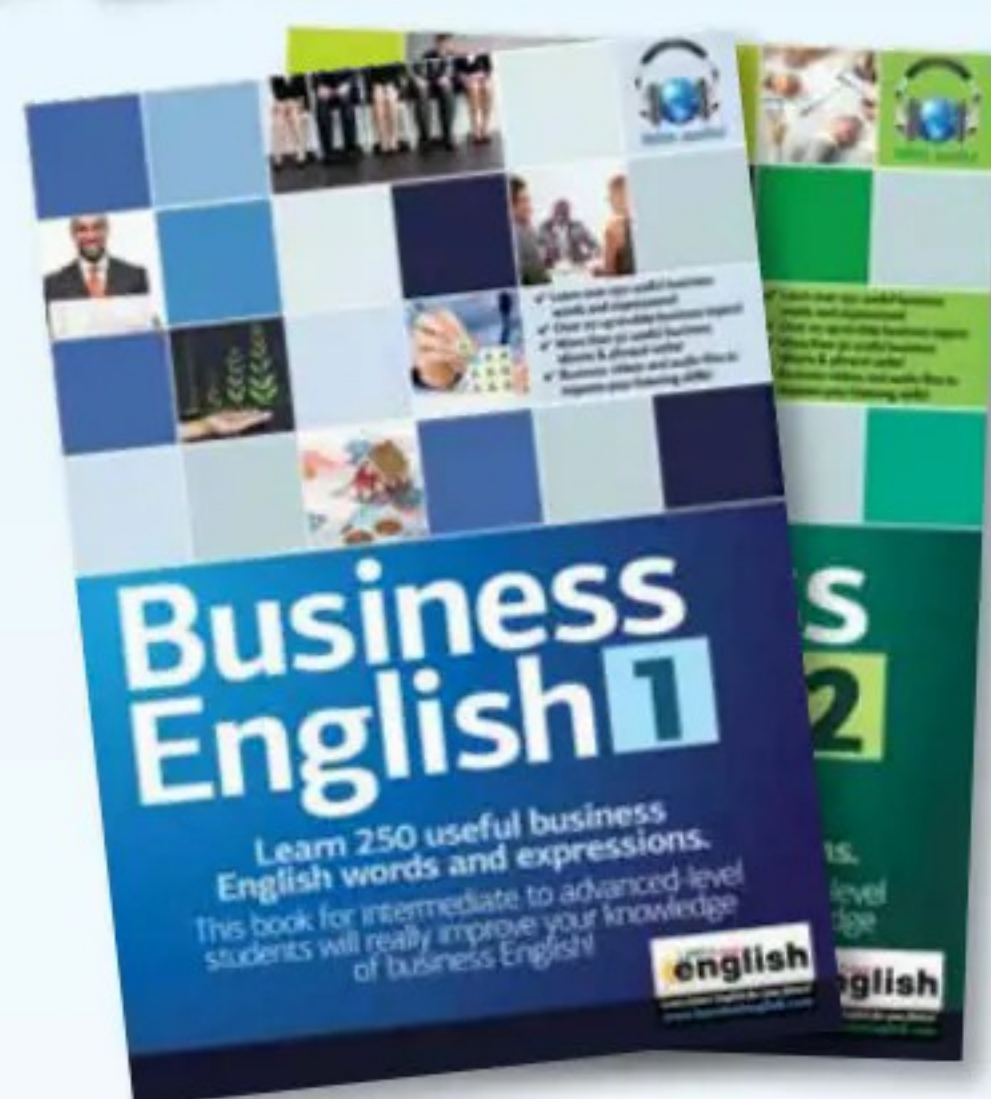
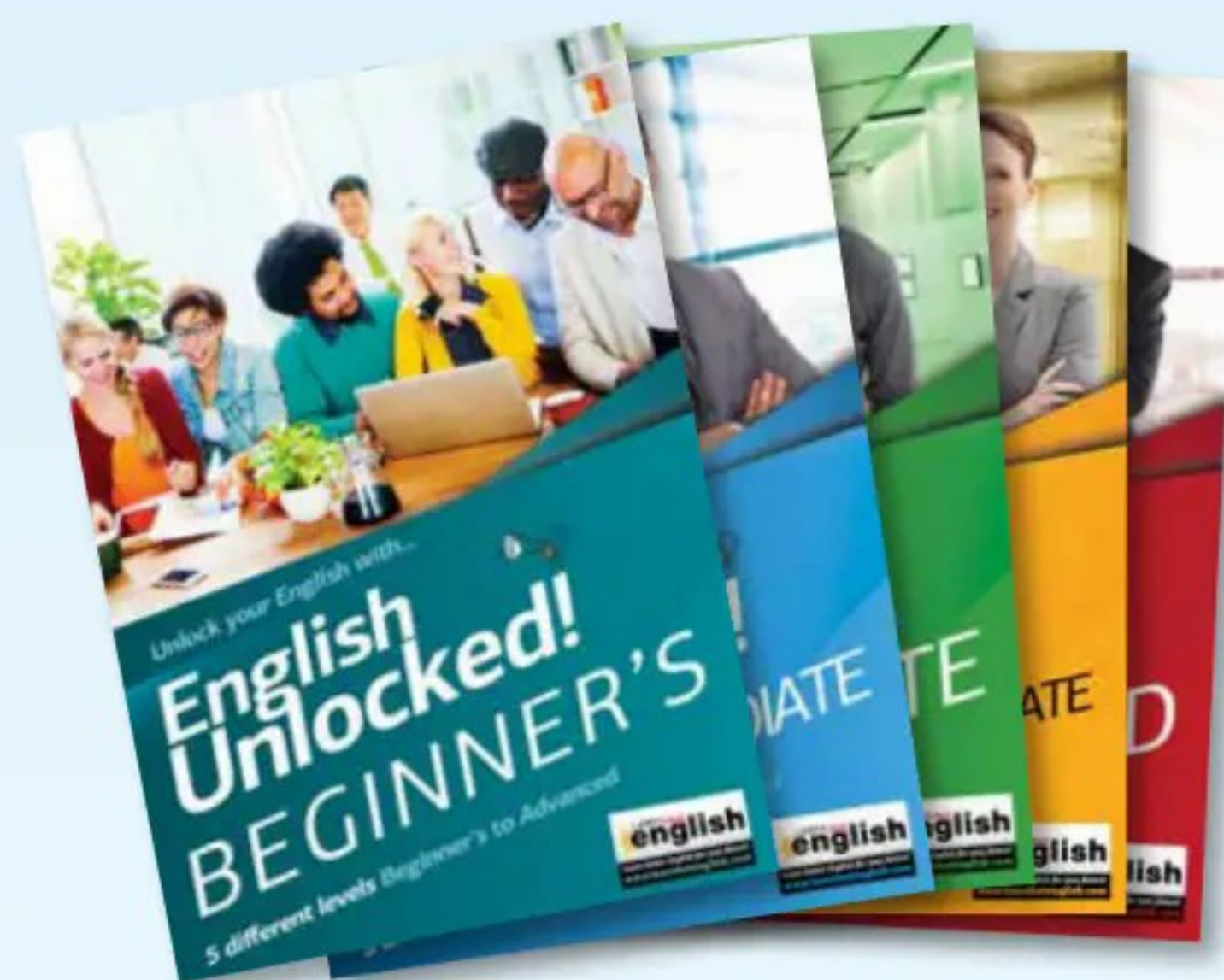
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EDITOR'S INTRO

How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English*. In this month's issue, we'll be looking at how to respond to comments in English. In particular, we'll be looking at some backhanded

compliments. These are compliments with a hidden message. For more information on this, please see the feature section in this month's magazine. Of course, that's not all and we're also looking at British humour, Mr Bean, on the train, Los Angeles, stupid criminals, Rocky, dumb laws, at the post office, staged accidents, sales techniques, Camden Town (London), useful vocabulary, idioms, phrasal verbs and lots, lots more. Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of Learn Hot English. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

Andy

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HotEnglishMagazine

All material in this publication is strictly copyright, and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The views expressed in Hot English Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Hot English Publishing SL. However, we do think that Mr Bean is a bit of a nerd, and if Jade Goody is the face of British youth, I'm never going home.

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AUDIO

The section that makes grammar easy, interesting and fun.

The passive voice: the present perfect Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the passive voice with the present perfect.

The Active & Passive Voices

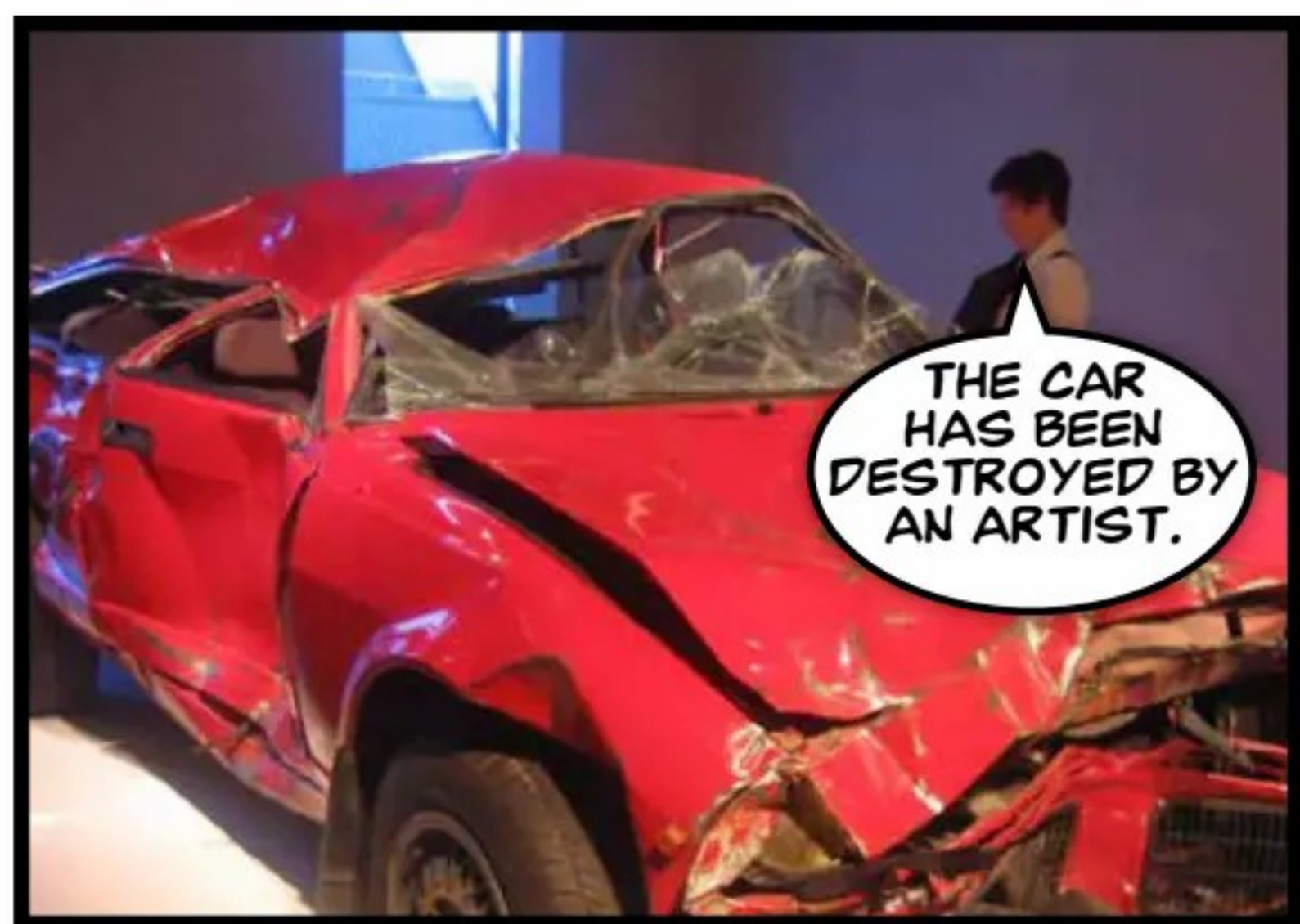
We form the present perfect with "has/have" + a past participle. Remember, we generally use the present perfect to talk about completed actions from



the past *without* saying exactly when they happened. The following example sentences are in the active voice. We use the active voice when the subject of the verb is the thing or person doing the action. For example:

- a) We have painted the walls.
- b) They have finished the work.
- c) They have paid the money.
- d) She has fixed the car.

However, with the passive voice,



the object of the verb becomes the subject. In many cases, it isn't necessary to know who actually did the action. For example:

- a) The walls have been painted (by us).
- b) The work has been finished (by them).
- c) The money has been paid (by them).
- d) The car has been fixed (by her).

As you can see, we form the present perfect passive with "has/have been" + a past participle. For example:

- a) John has destroyed the car. (active)
- b) The car has been destroyed (by John) (passive)

- a) Shirley has finished the project. (active)
- b) The project has been finished (by Shirley). (passive)

- a) Paul has bought the game. (active)
- b) The game has been bought (by Paul). (passive)



- a) Patricia has fired the gun. (active)
- b) The gun has been fired (by Patricia). (passive)

- a) Pete has spent the money. (active)
- b) The money has been spent (by Pete). (passive)

- a) Michael has broken the computer. (active)
- b) The computer has been broken (by Michael). (passive)

- a) Sarah has made the phone call. (active)
- b) The phone call has been made (by Sarah). (passive)

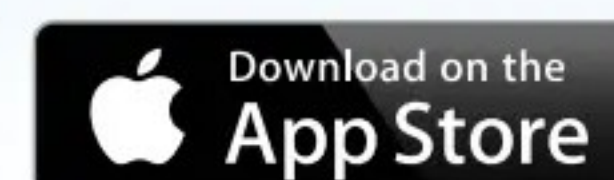
- a) Mary has written the book. (active)
- b) The book has been written (by Mary). (passive) ★

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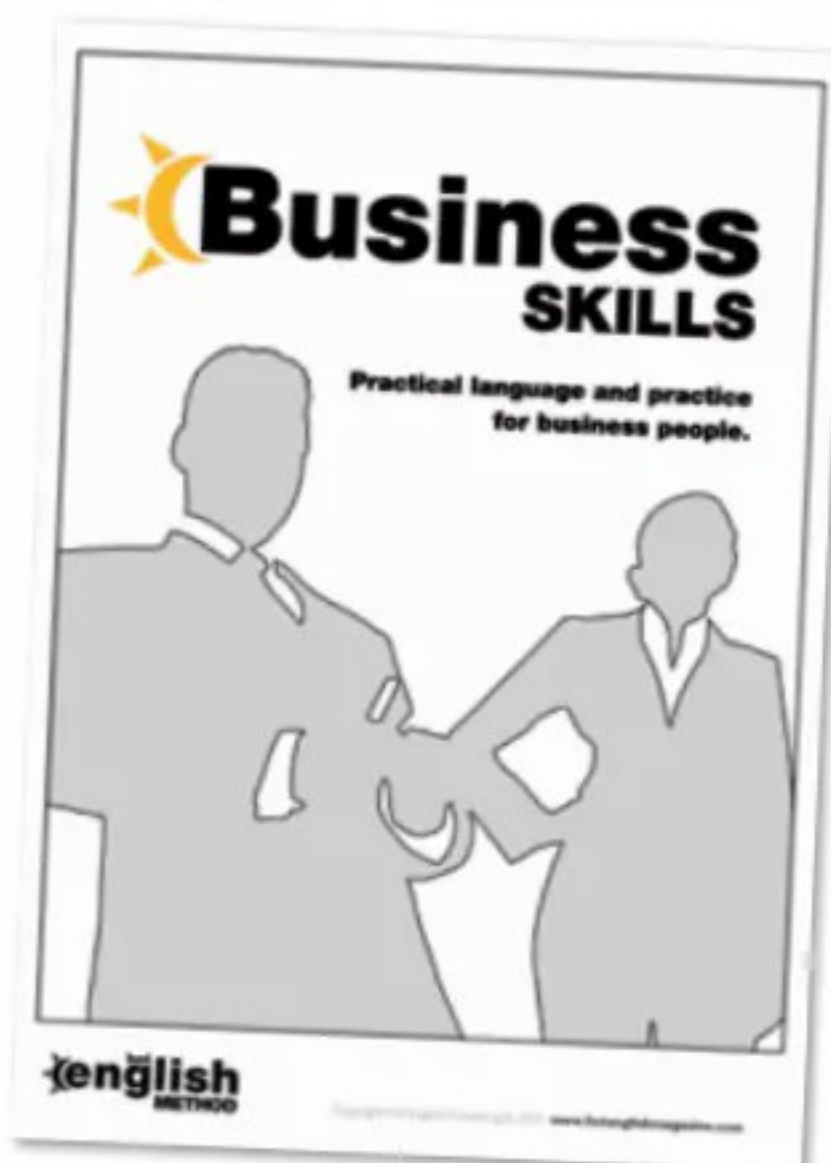


See page 11 for more info.

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AUDIO

Basic English

On the Train

Useful Expressions

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

What you say

- Where can I buy a ticket?
- Where can I make a reservation?
- I'd like a single to London, please.
- I'd like a return to Birmingham, please.
- I'd like to reserve a **berth** in the sleeper to Edinburgh, please.
- I'd like a monthly **season ticket**, please.
- Is this train direct?
- Do I have to change trains?
- Which **platform** is it for the 14:45 to Manchester, please?
- How long does it take?
- What time does it arrive in London?
- Where do I have to change?
- Is this the train for Bath?
- Is there a **left-luggage office**?
- I'm sorry but I've lost my train ticket.
- The **ticket machine** wasn't working properly.
- I've missed my connection.
- When's the next train to Brighton?

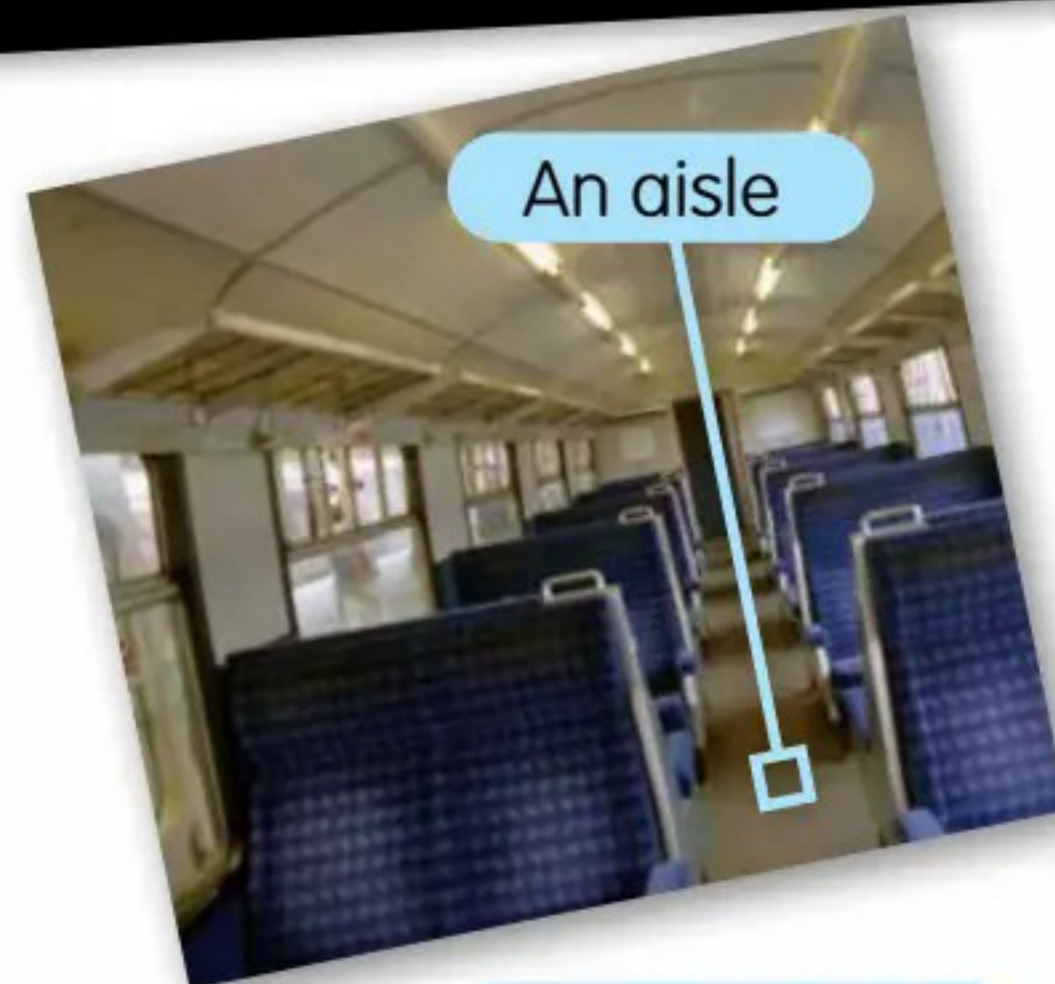
- Is there a waiting room here?
- Is there a lost-luggage office?
- Where's the information desk, please?
- Is there a porter here, please?
- I'd like a **cheap day return** to London, please.
- Is this seat taken?
- I think this is my seat.

What you hear

- I'm sorry but the train is **delayed**.
- The next train arriving on platform 6 is the 13:48 to Brighton.
- You are in carriage number 10.
- This is a non-smoking train.
- Tickets, please.
- You'll have to pay a surcharge. / You'll have to pay an excess fare.

Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise asking and answering questions.



An aisle



A buffet car



A train engine



A train track



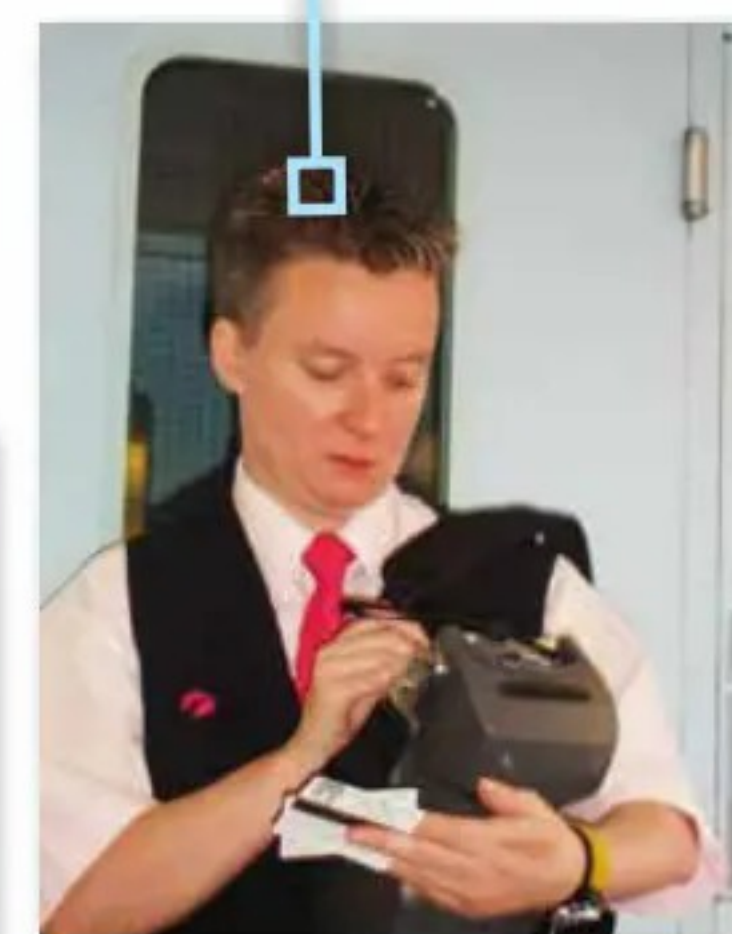
A ticket inspector



A ticket



A monthly pass



A ticket machine



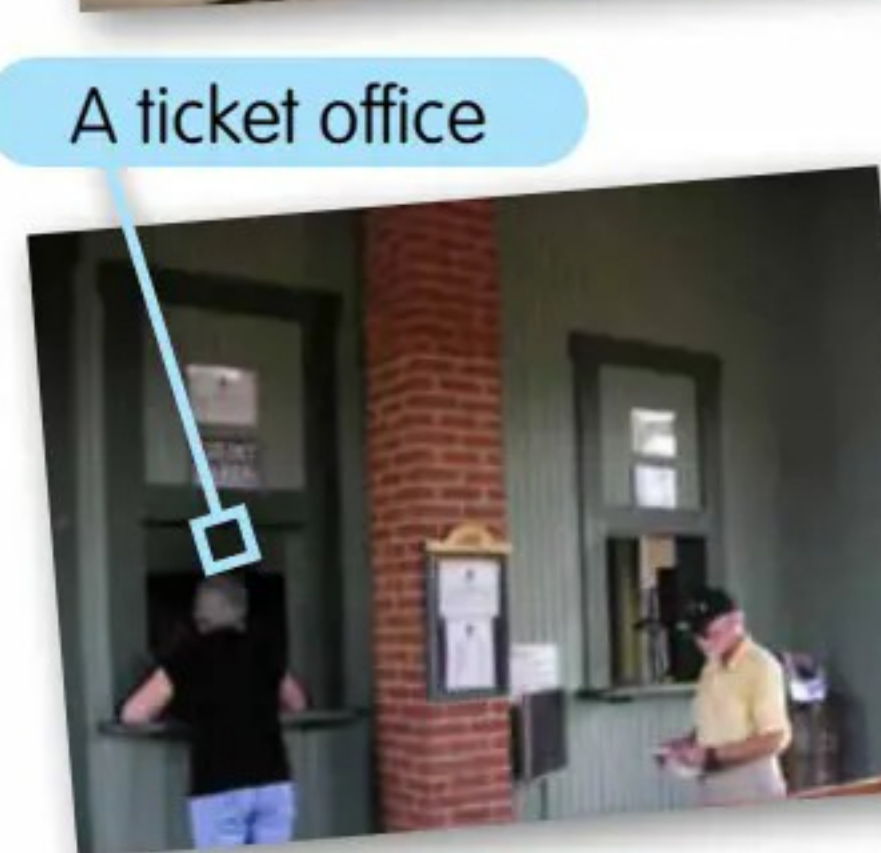
A waiting room



A seat



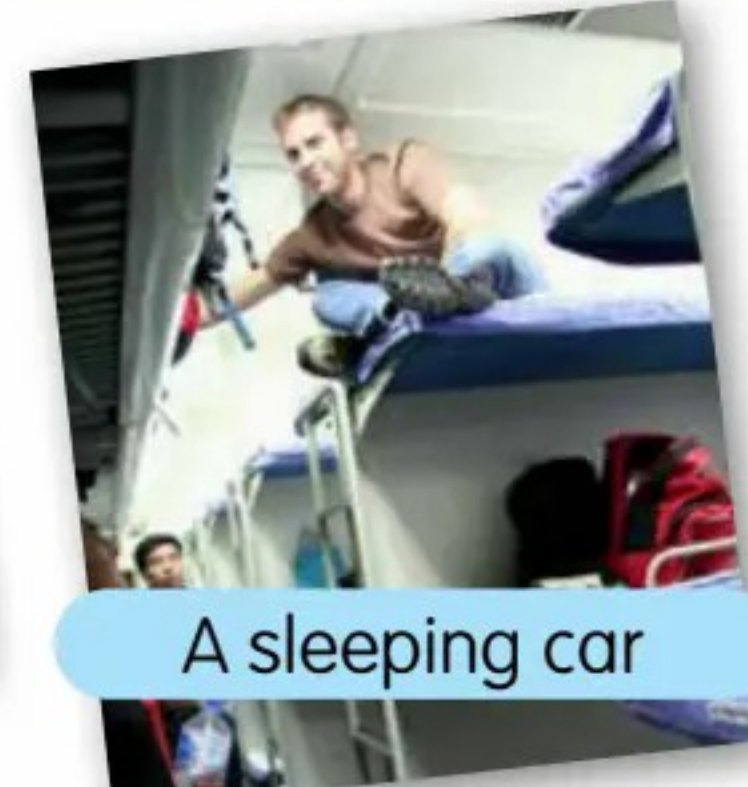
An overhead luggage rack



A ticket office



Left luggage



A sleeping car

A train carriage



A passenger



An information desk



A lost property office



A porter



A platform

GLOSSARY

- a berth** *n*
a bed in a compartment in a train
- a season ticket** *n*
a train ticket you can use for a fixed period of time: three months / six months / one year, etc
- a platform** *n*
the area in the train station where you stand or sit and wait for the train to come
- the left-luggage office** *n*
a place where you can leave bags in lockers
- a ticket machine** *n*
a machine that gives you a ticket
- a cheap day return** *n*
a ticket that is lower in price, and that allows you to travel to a place and return in the same day, but not during rush hour (the busy times)
- delayed** *adj*
if a train is "delayed", it will come later than planned

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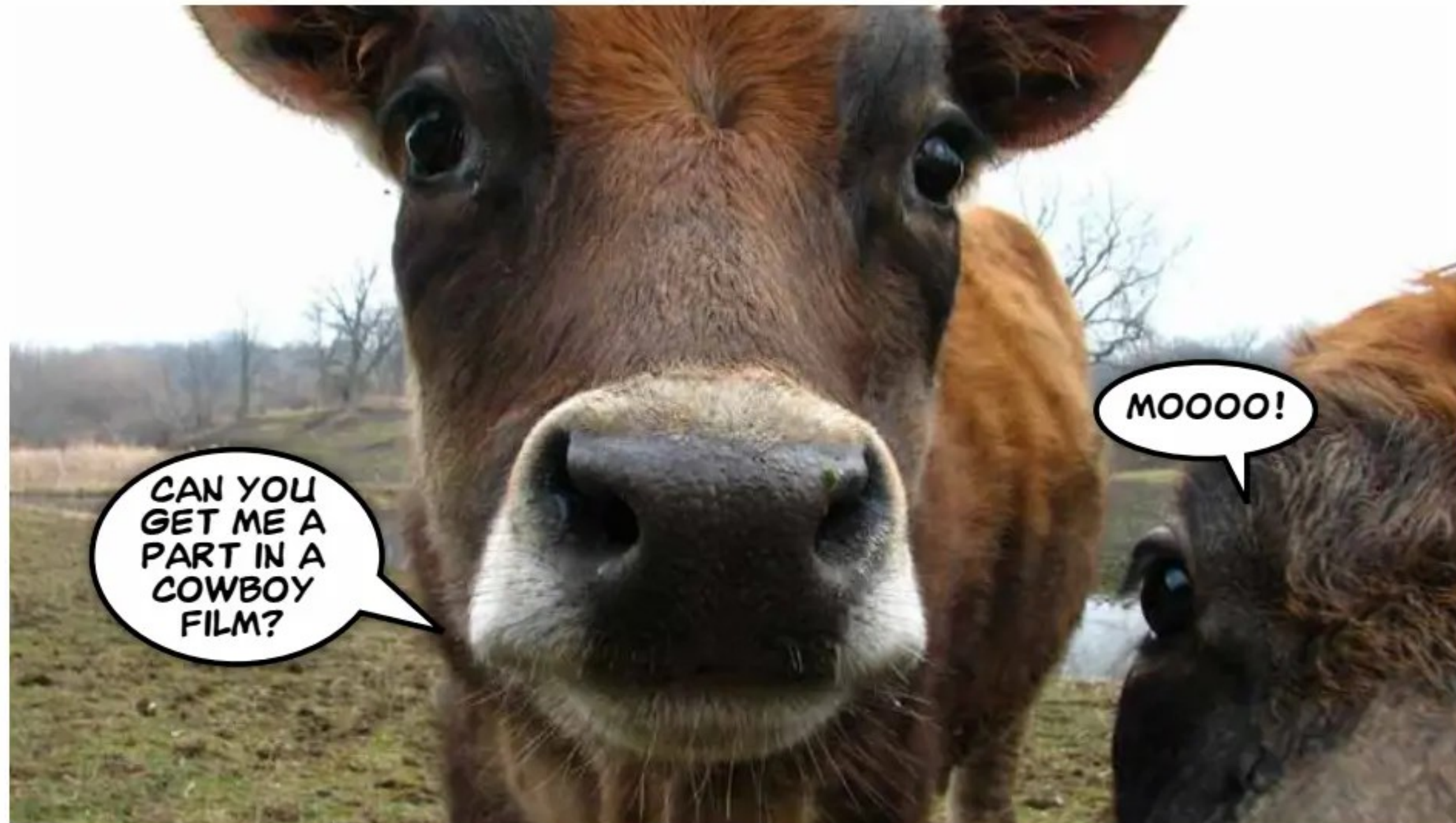


AUDIO

Little Jokes

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

Answers on page 53



1. What animal has two **humps** and is found at the North Pole?
2. What kind of **keys** have **tails**?
3. What type of wild cat should you never play cards with?
4. Why don't leopards escape from the zoo for long?
5. What does a **kitten** become after it is three days old?
6. Why are elephants **wrinkled**?
7. Where do cows go on Saturday nights?
8. What is a crocodile's favourite game?



- A:** A **cheetah**.
- B:** To the moo-vies.
- C:** Four days old.
- D:** A lost camel.
- E:** **Snap**.
- F:** Mon-keys.
- G:** Have you tried to **iron** one?
- H:** Because they are always **spotted**.

GLOSSARY

a hump *n*
the high area of skin on a camel's back

a key *n*
a metal object used to open a locked or closed door

a tail *n*
the long object at the back that a dog/cat/horse, etc has

a kitten *n*
a baby cat

wrinkled *adj*
with many lines on the skin

a cheetah *n*
a type of wild cat. It is the fastest animal on land

snap *n*
two things: a) a game played with cards. When you show the same card as another player, you shout "snap"; b) if a person or animal "snaps", it tries to bite very quickly

to iron *vb*
to move an electrical appliance (known as an iron) over clothes so that the creases (the lines) disappear

spotted *adj*
two things: a) with spots (small circles of colour); seen or observed



AUDIO

GRAFFITI

Here are some more examples of British toilet graffiti.

SOME SAY THE GLASS IS HALF EMPTY.
SOME SAY THE GLASS IS HALF FULL I
SAY, "ARE YOU **GONNA** DRINK THAT?"

LIFT OUT OF ORDER. TRY THE ONE
ACROSS THE STREET.

MATURITY IS KNOWING WHEN AND
WHERE TO BE **IMMATURE**.

**I'D EXPLAIN IT TO
YOU, BUT YOUR BRAIN
WOULD EXPLODE.**

**I USED UP ALL MY
SICK DAYS, SO I'M
CALLING IN DEAD.**

**I'VE GOT TO SIT
DOWN AND WORK
OUT WHERE I STAND.**

GLOSSARY

gonna *exp*
going to

a lift *n*
a device that takes you from one floor to another floor in a building

maturity *n*
the state of acting like an adult

immature *adj*
juvenile; not acting responsibly

to use up *exp*
to use completely

a sick day *n*
a day when you don't go to work because you are sick

to call in (sick) *exp*
to telephone the place where you work and to tell them that you are ill and cannot come to work

to work out *exp*
to understand; to decide

to stand *vb*
where you "stand" on a particular issue or political question is your view or opinion of that issue

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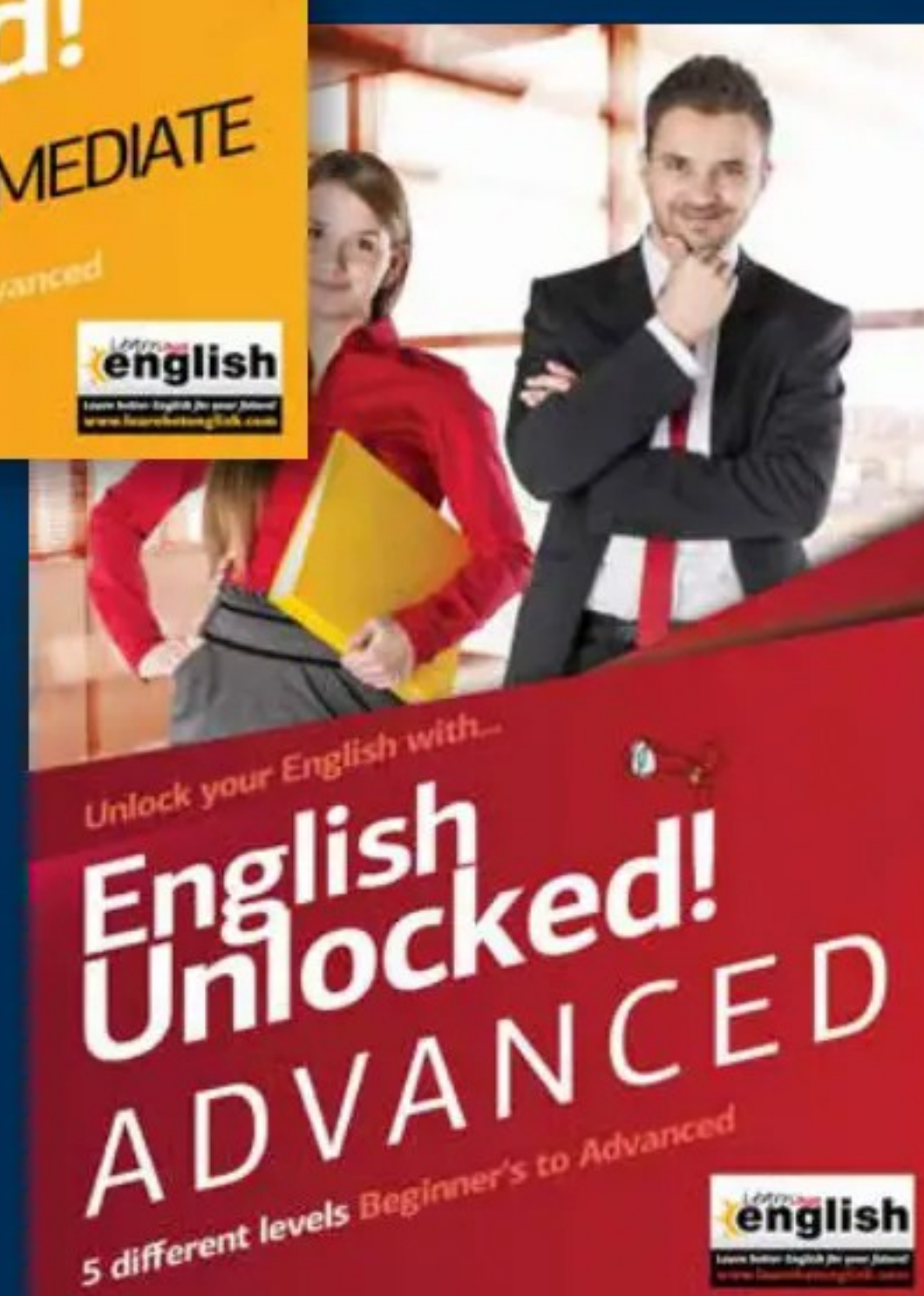
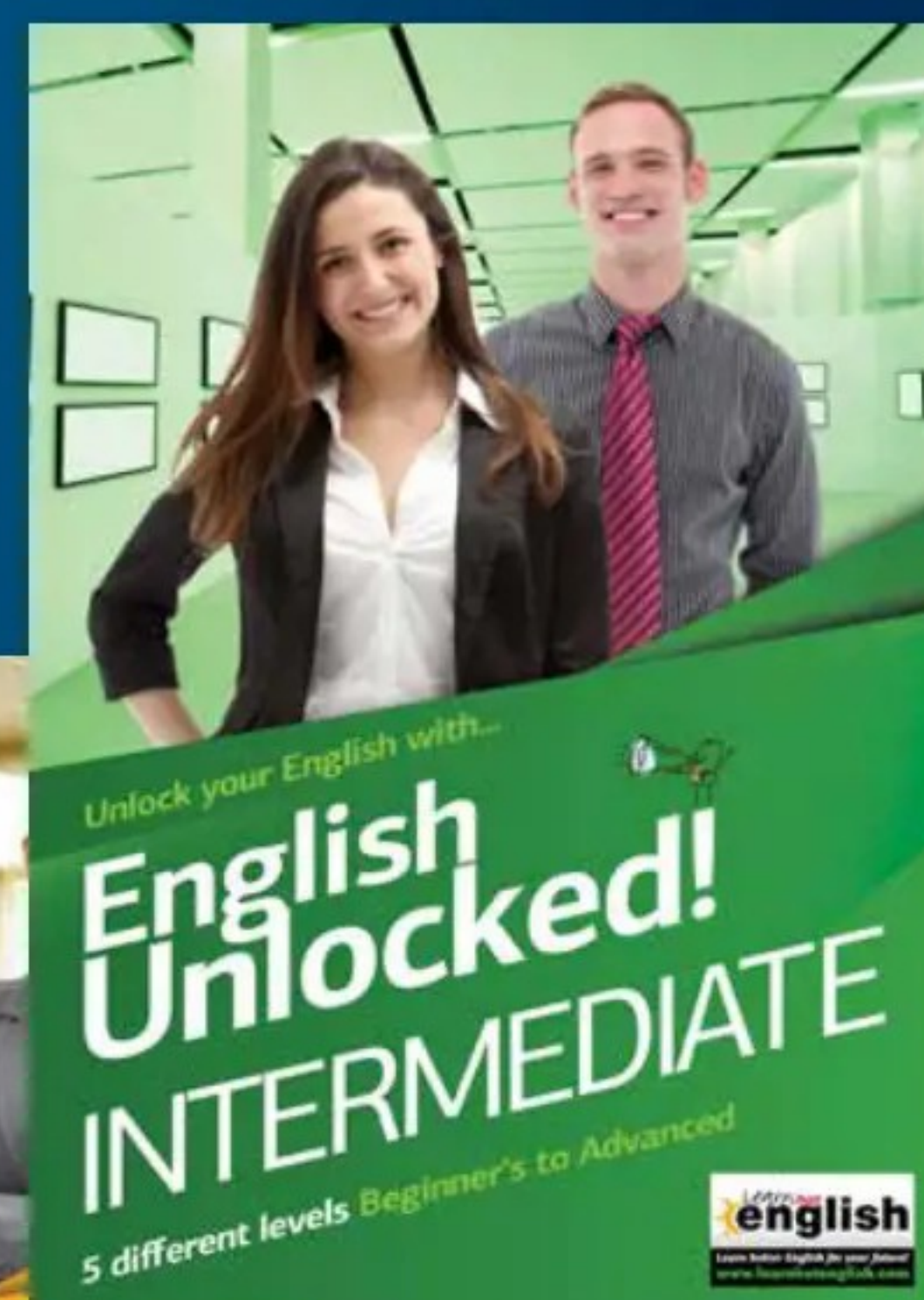
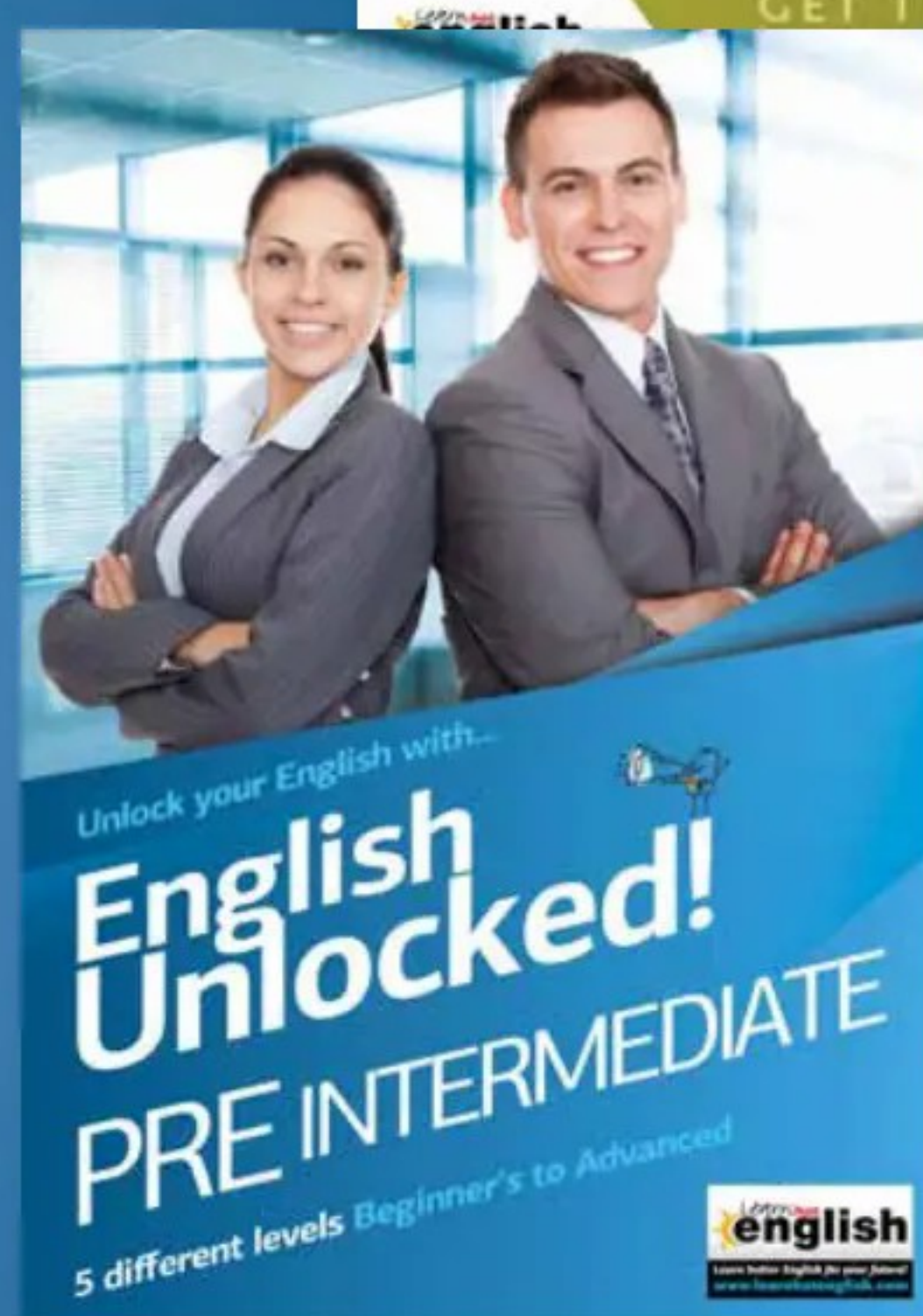
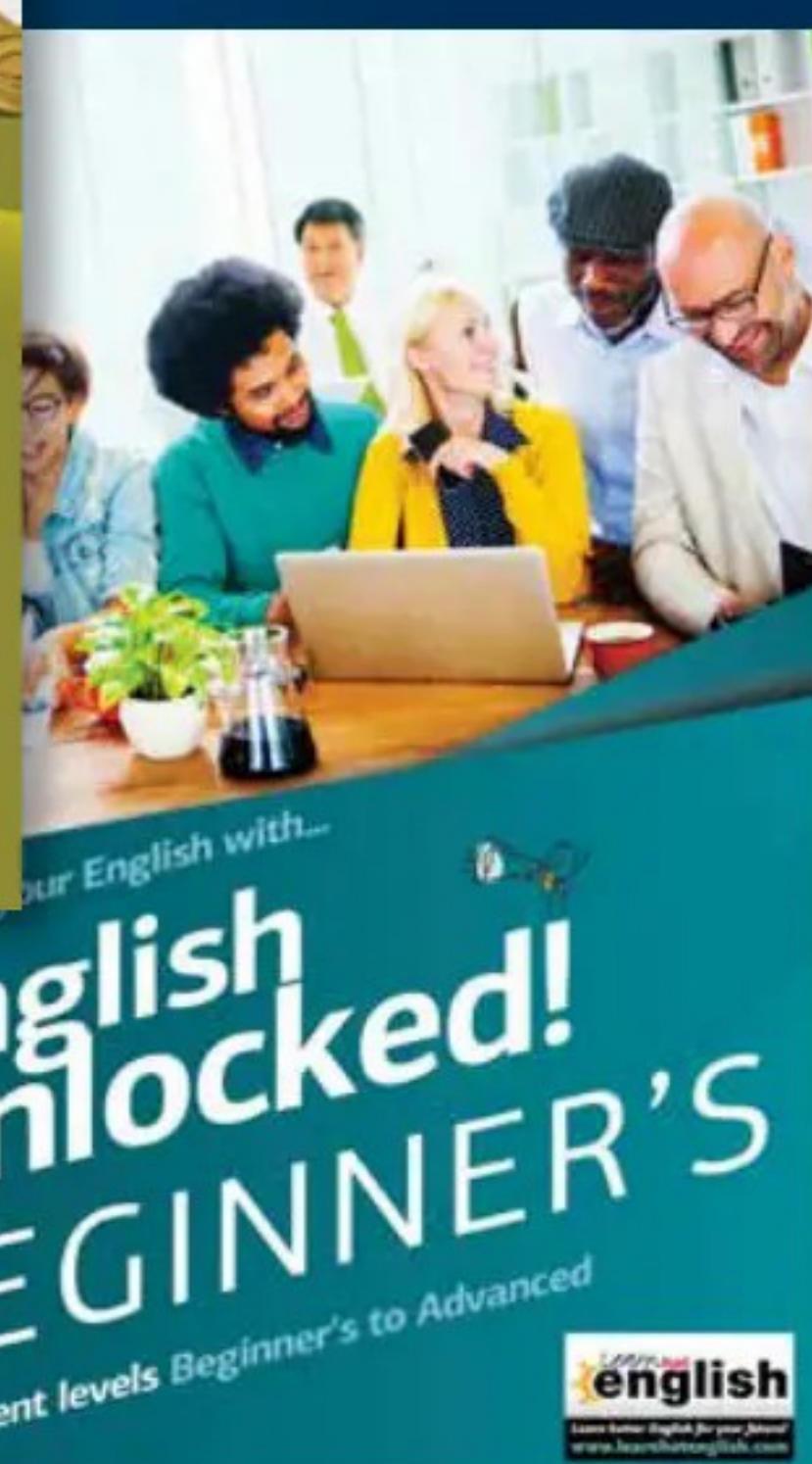
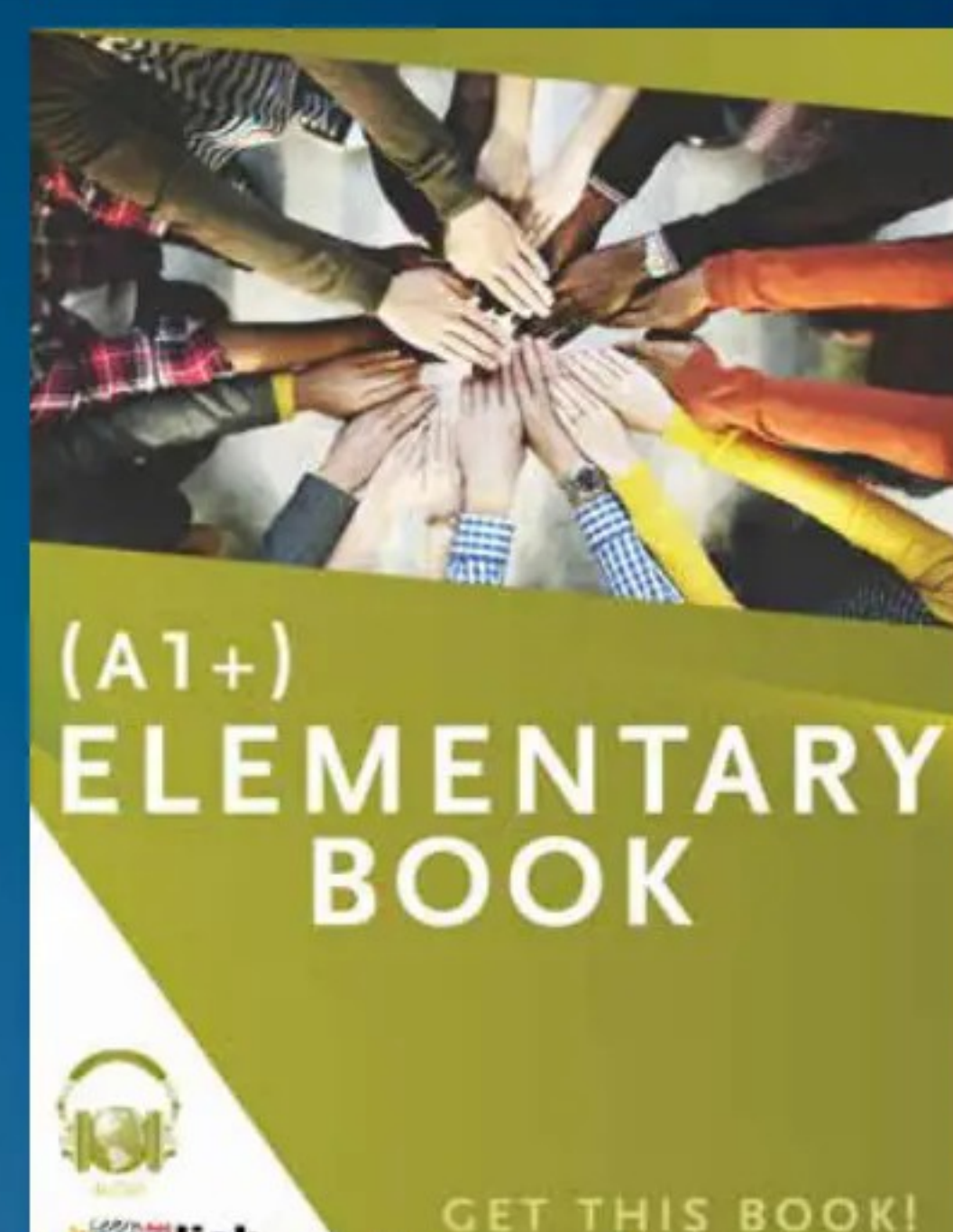
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DR FINGERS' ERROR CORRECTION CLINIC



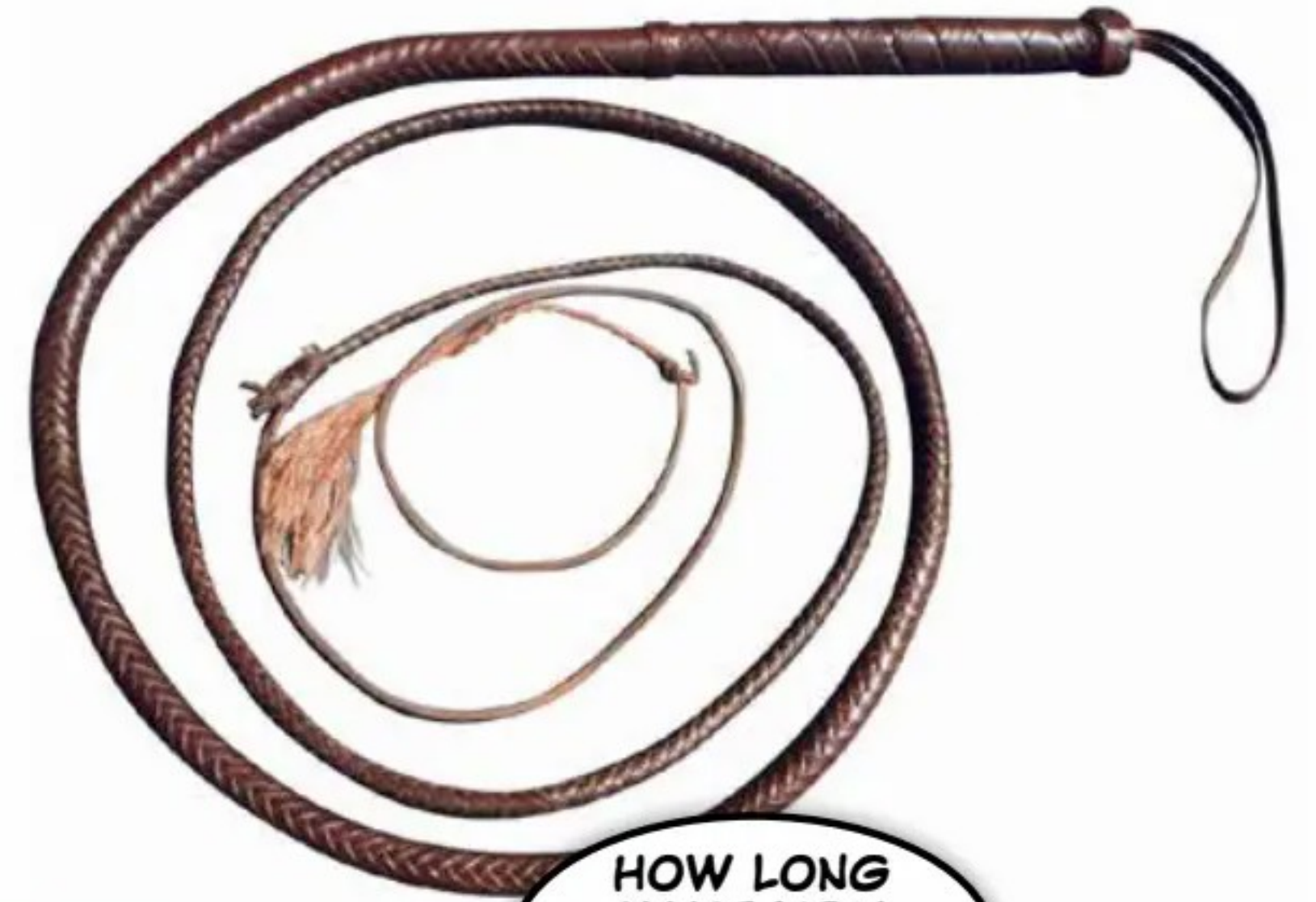
The start of a new section in which Dr Fingers corrects typical English errors.



Activity

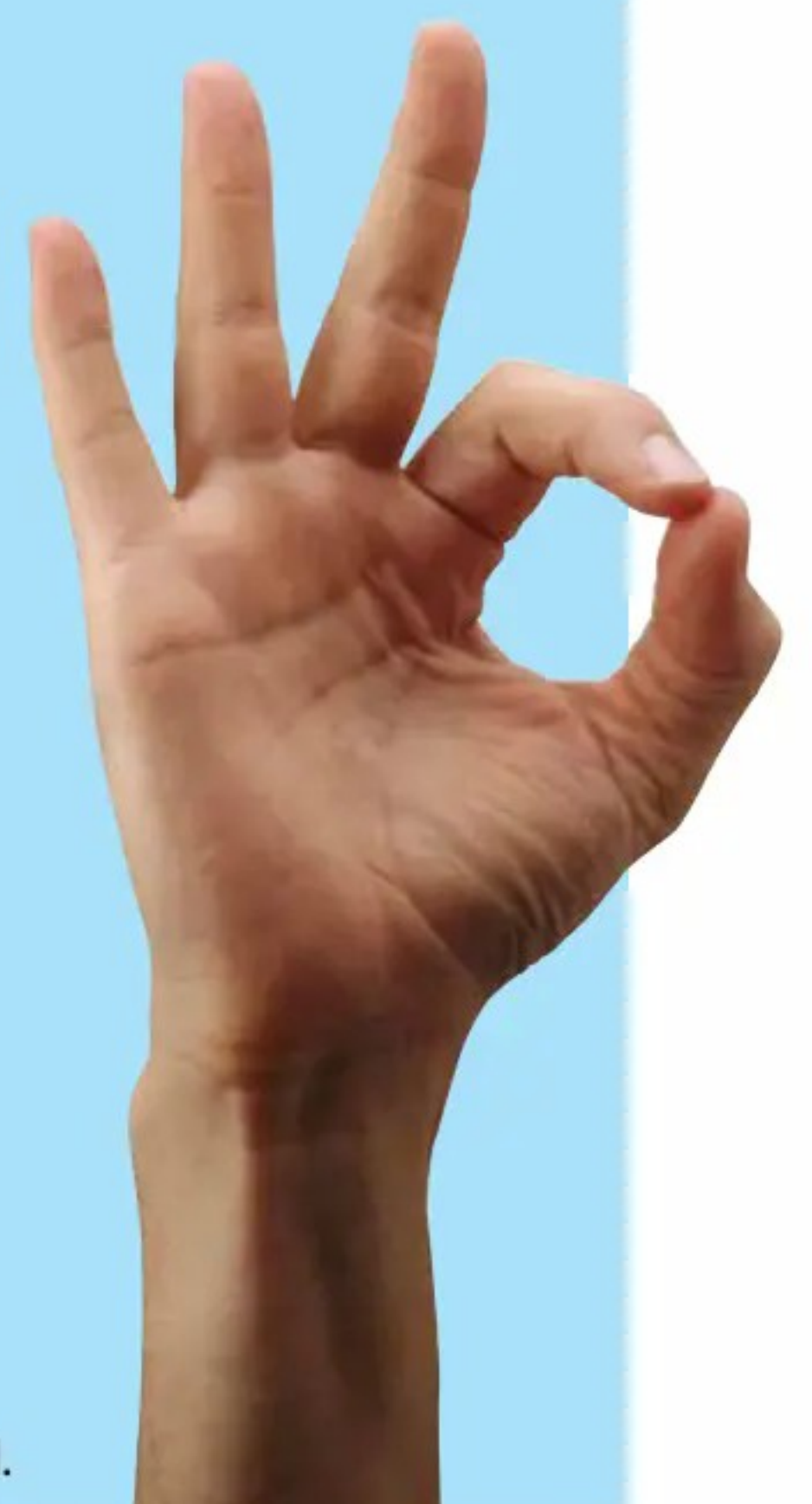
Read the sentences, find the errors and correct the sentences. Then listen to the CD to check your answers. Good luck! Afterwards, you can read the error analysis section.

1. I am learning English for five years.
2. I was working during four hours last night.
3. I lived in Paris during three months.
4. I played a lot of tennis during holidays.
5. I fell asleep the exam.
6. She was talking three hours.
7. I told her that she comes.
8. I told him that he gives the drink to me.
9. I told them that they go.
10. She is good at all.
11. All of us didn't want to go there.
12. We all were really happy with the results.
13. All is going really well.
14. I like the all kinds of music.
15. I didn't like the food and couldn't eat all.



Error Analysis

1. Remember, we use the present perfect (or present perfect continuous) to refer to actions that started in the past and continued until now.
2. We use "for" with periods of time (not "during").
3. We use "for" with periods of time (not "during").
4. We say "during the holidays".
5. We use "during" with nouns (during the exam).
6. We use "for" with periods of time.
7. For reported commands, we use this formula: "told" + object pronoun + infinitive.
8. For reported commands, we use this formula: "told" + object pronoun + infinitive.
9. For reported commands, we use this formula: "told" + object pronoun + infinitive.
10. We use the word "everything".
11. To say that no one wanted to go, you can use "none of us".
12. This is a problem of word order: we were all really happy...
13. We use the word "everything".
14. The article "the" isn't necessary.
15. There's a missing pronoun (it) in this sentence: couldn't eat it all.



AMAZING WORLD

Sunny Los Angeles is located on the southwestern coast of America in the state of California. Like most big cities in the United States, it is very **spread out**, but even more so than most others; and having a car is definitely necessary for getting around. Los Angeles is divided into Hollywood and its **downtown area** (where people work), and the suburbs (known to the locals as "the valley"), where people live. Including all of its counties, Los Angeles (also known as L.A.) has a population of 20.6 million people. By Johnna Shwartz.



Hollywood

Los Angeles is probably most famous because it **is home to** Hollywood and the movie studios. Movies are filmed and edited at these studios, and because of this many famous movie stars live in Los Angeles. Hollywood has several famous **landmarks**. For example, on a clear day driving down Hollywood Boulevard, you can see one of the most famous images of Los Angeles: the big white "Hollywood" sign in the **hills**. Hollywood is also the location of the famous Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where many movie stars have left their hand and footprints in the **cement** in front of the theatre.



The Weather

Los Angeles has some of the best year-round weather in the world. Thanks to its location close to the Pacific Ocean, most of the time the weather is warm or temperate. In the summer it can get very hot, up to 37 degrees Celsius. But the rest of the time, the temperature usually stays between 7 and 24 degrees. It doesn't rain very often in Los Angeles, and it never snows.

Sports

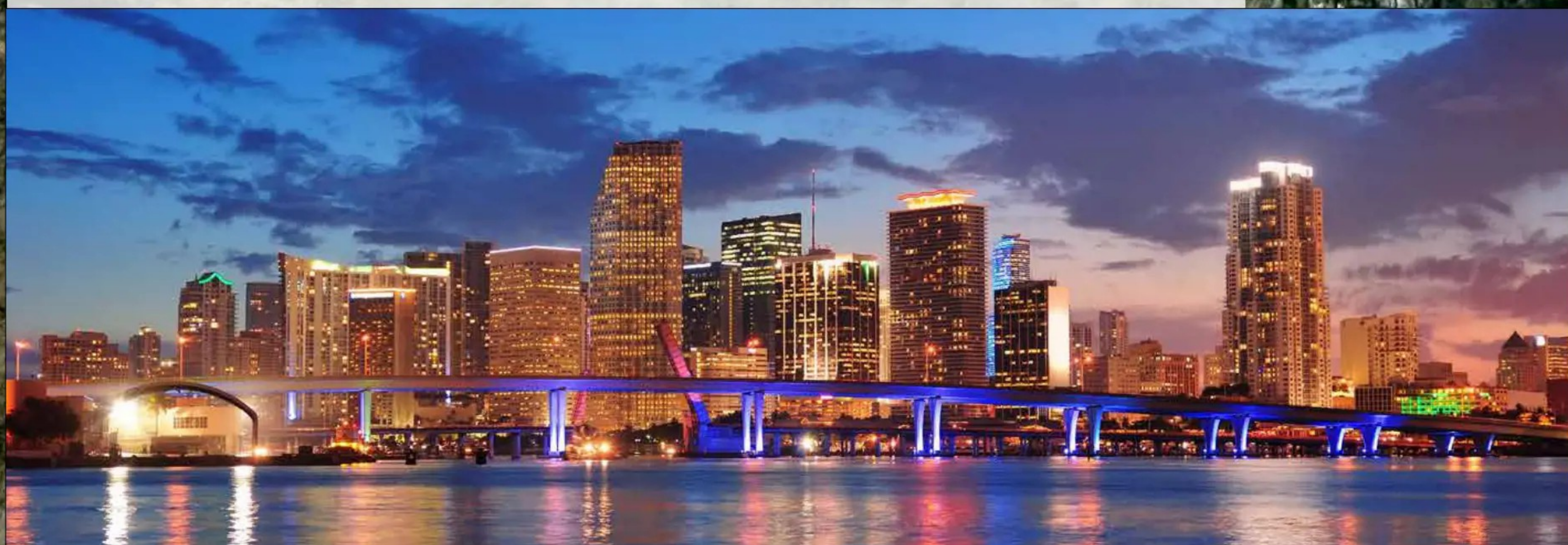
The biggest sports in Los Angeles are basketball and baseball. Everyone here is a **huge fan** of the L.A. Lakers, the basketball team that has had famous players such as Shaquille O'Neal and Magic Johnson.

Basketball games are great fun because the crowd gets



The Beach

Of course, Los Angeles is also famous for its fantastic weather and numerous beaches. Surfing and swimming are popular activities here, as well as spending the whole day lying on the sand and **getting a tan**. One of the best areas to **soak up the sun** is Venice Beach. Here you'll find a beautiful beach lined with restaurants, shops, and artists selling their creations.



LOS ANGELES

really excited and you'll probably even see a few celebrities in the **stands**. Of course, the resident baseball team, the L.A. Dodgers, is also very popular.

The Sites

There's more to see in Los Angeles than just the famous sites in Hollywood. Here you can find a variety of museums for every taste; in fact, Los Angeles has over 300 museums. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Getty Center are two large art museums featuring collections including ancient and contemporary art. In addition you'll find the Natural History Museum and the California ScienCenter, where you can learn about animals or how the human body works.

The Food

Because Los Angeles is so close to the border of Mexico, you can find delicious Mexican food here. Some of the best Mexican dishes include nachos (tortilla chips covered with cheese and other **toppings**) and burritos (tortillas filled with beans, cheese, and meat). But you can also find pretty much any type of food. Other popular meals include

sushi, Italian, and Chinese food. To find some great restaurants, just head to Ventura Boulevard or the 3rd Street Promenade, which have almost every type of restaurant imaginable.



Shopping

Another popular activity among the locals of Los Angeles is shopping. You'll find some of the most expensive shopping in America. Those who have a lot of money to spend head to Rodeo Drive, a paradise for designer clothing fans. Designer stores such as Louis Vuitton and Gucci line this street, and it is almost impossible to find an article of clothing under \$500. For those of us who **can't afford** the clothing, **window shopping** is always fun along Rodeo. There are also many **malls** throughout Los Angeles that provide a variety of cheaper shopping. Will you be going to Los Angeles? 🌟

*The taping of a show

Would you like to be on TV? In Los Angeles, it's easy. Here's how: www.tvtix.com offers free TV tickets to a number of TV shows and offers opportunities to be extras in movies.

You can also get tickets for the Tonight Show with Jay Leno:

Here's the website address for the Tonight Show tickets: http://www.nbc.com/The_Tonight_Show_with_Jay_Leno/about/tickets.shtml

If you plan your trip to Los Angeles more than 2 weeks in advance, you can write a letter to *the Tonight Show* and get sent tickets in the mail.

Otherwise, you have to go to the ticket office at 7 in the morning on the day of the show you want to see. Going to a TV show taping is kind of an all day thing. For example, to get good seats on *the Tonight Show*, you have to show up at NBC studios around one in the afternoon on any weekday. Then around 3 they start seating, around 4 the show starts taping, and you get out at 5. Bring a picnic and eat lunch **in line** to pass the time.

Top 10 things to do in Los Angeles

1. Go to the beach. Los Angeles has miles of beaches, especially in Santa Monica and Malibu. **Grab** a towel and a picnic basket and spend a day relaxing in the sun. During the summer, the ocean is warm enough to swim in.

2. Grauman's Chinese Theatre. This is definitely one of the biggest tourist destinations in Los Angeles. Check to see if your hands are as big as Arnold Schwarzenegger's with the handprints in the cement in front of the theatre.

3. Go to a basketball or baseball game. When the Lakers play in Los Angeles, they play in the Staples Center, a huge stadium. You'll have fun **rooting the team on**.

4. Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The museum has a huge permanent collection of art and always has some interesting exhibitions. Some past exhibitions have included paintings from the artists Klimt and Magritte.

5. Natural History Museum. This museum covers everything from dinosaurs to prehistoric art. It even has a section just on California history.

6. Dine on Mexican food. Los Angeles is one of the best places to go for good, traditional Mexican food.

7. Go to see the **taping of a show***. Many American television shows are filmed in Los Angeles and if you are

lucky, you can be in the audience. This is the best way to see a movie or television star while you are here.

8. Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. The aquarium is about an hour's drive from Los Angeles but has some beautiful fish tanks. The shark lagoon and the jellyfish exhibit are especially interesting.

9. The Hollywood Bowl. The Hollywood Bowl is a huge venue for shows, and it features concerts of all types of music from classical to jazz. This can be a great start to spending the night out in Hollywood.

10. Shopping on Rodeo Drive. Go to spend money or just window shop. Either way, chances are you'll see a celebrity.



GLOSSARY

spread out *exp*

if a city is "spread out", it covers a very large area and it is far from one point to the other

the downtown area *n*

the area in the centre of the city

is home to *exp*

has

a landmark *n*

a building or object that you can see from far away

a hill *n*

a small mountain

cement *n*

a grey powder which is mixed with sand and water to make concrete (which is used to make buildings)

to get a tan *exp*

if you "get a tan", your skin colour becomes brown after lying in the sun

to soak up the sun *exp*

to lie in the sun, enjoying the warmth

a huge fan *n*

a big supporter

the stands *n*

the area where people sit and watch a game of baseball/basketball, etc

a topping *n*

food that is placed on top of pizza

can't afford *exp*

don't have enough money for

window shopping *n*

looking at things in the windows of shops, without buying anything

a mall *n*

a large building with many shops in it

to grab *vb*

to take suddenly and with your hands

to root a team on *exp US*

to support a team and to shout words of encouragement

in line *exp*

in a line of people waiting to be served



AUDIO

LIVING ABROAD: LA

What's it like living in Los Angeles? We talked to Michelle Brinks, who went to **school** there. By Johnna Shwartz (US English)

MORE MAGAZINES: XSAVA.XYZ

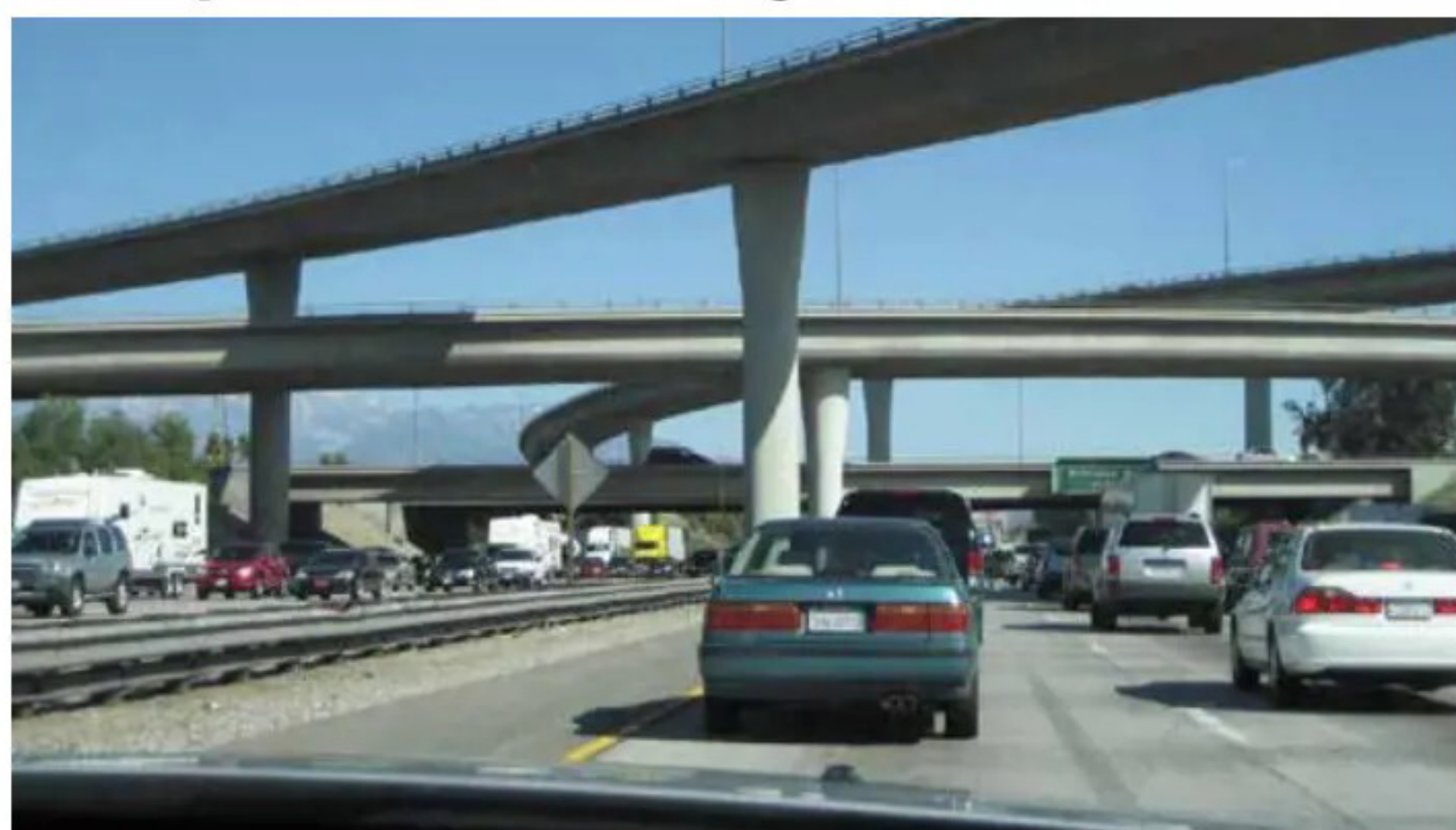
What were the best things about Los Angeles?

One of my favorite things about Los Angeles is the weather. I hate the cold and it never really gets that cold there. Plus, most of the time it's usually sunny. I also loved going to the beach during the summer. There's so much to do at the beach, but my favorite thing was going with my friends and having a picnic on the **sand**.



What were the worst things about being there?

I definitely disliked that you had to drive everywhere to **get around** because the city is so **spread out**. Los Angeles has a **ton of**



traffic and sometimes it takes a long time to get somewhere **close by** just because the streets are so **congested**. Also, a lot of people complain about the **pollution**.

Was it easy to meet people?

I think people there are pretty nice in general, but normally you only meet people through school or through work. I went to school there so that's how I met most of my friends. **I guess** you could also try meeting people by going out to clubs or bars.

What did you usually do there?

If I was with my friends, we'd go out to dinner, see a **movie**, or sometimes go out to a club. There's always something to see or do in Los Angeles whether it's a museum exhibit or a concert, so we were rarely bored.

Did you have any problems there?

Just the normal problems of living in any city, like watching out for **pickpockets**. Some people think Los Angeles has a lot of crime, but I think it's as safe as any other big city. Also, many people think driving is difficult in

Los Angeles because there is a lot of traffic and **road rage**, but it just takes a little practice and a lot of patience.

Do you ever see celebrities in Los Angeles?

I actually saw many celebrities living in Los Angeles. The easiest way to see them is to go to a **television show taping**. That was one of the best things I ever did in Los Angeles. I went to the *Tonight Show* a few times. It has interviews with celebrities, and I've **seen** Quentin Tarantino, Will Smith and Ewan McGregor **close up**, which is very cool. I also saw lots of celebrities at basketball games because even the stars enjoy **cheering on the Lakers**.



What are the people like in Los Angeles?

There are all types of people in Los Angeles since the city is pretty diverse. For the most part, though, most of the people are friendly and **laid-back**. Some people say that everyone in Los Angeles is beautiful, but I think that's just a stereotype.

Would you go back to Los Angeles?

Definitely. Los Angeles is one of my favorite cities in the world. I love that it has all the nightlife and shopping of a big city, but also has access to beaches, parks, mountains, and other places you can't usually find in metropolitan areas. Between the weather and the beaches and all the fun things to do, it's a great place to be. ★



GLOSSARY

school *n* US

in American English, "school" is often used to refer to university or college

sand *n*

extremely small pieces of stone or shell on the beach

to get around *phr vb*

to go from one place to another

spread out *exp*

if a city is "spread out", it covers a very wide area

a ton of *exp inform*

a lot of

close by *exp*

near; close to

congested *adj*

if the roads are "congested", there is a lot of traffic

pollution *n*

if there is "pollution", the air is dirty and contaminated

I guess *exp*

I think

a movie *n* US

a film

a pickpocket *n*

a person who steals money or wallets from people's pockets

road rage *n*

if you experience "road rage", you become extremely angry and violent while you are driving

a television show taping *exp*

the filming of a television show

to see something/someone close up *exp*

to be able to see something/someone from a very short distance

to cheer someone on *exp*

to shout words of encouragement for a team

the Lakers *n*

a professional basketball team from Los Angeles

laid-back *adj*

calm and relaxed



AUDIO



Job offers

Job offer expressions and their true meaning.

1. Some **overtime** required = you will be working 15 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2. **Duties** will vary = you will do anything and everything.
3. Must have an **eye for detail** = there is no **quality control** so you'll have to check everything yourself.
4. A wide variety of experience = three of our employees have just left and we need someone desperately to cover all these three vacant positions.
5. **Apply** in person = we want to see what you look like.
6. Requires **leadership skills** = you will have all the responsibilities of a manager without the pay or respect.
7. Competitive salary = we pay less than our competitors.
8. Good communication skills needed = we tell you what to do and you will listen.
9. Problem-solving skills **a must** = this office is a disaster and we need someone to **sort it out**.
10. Flexible hours = be prepared to work **all the hours under the sun**.
11. Ability to handle a **heavy workload** = you complain, you're **fired**.
12. Must be **self-starter** = you'll be working on your own without any help.
13. Competitive environment = it's **every man for himself**.
14. Some public relations skills required = when our company **gets in trouble**, you'll be on TV trying to **get us out of it**. ☆



GLOSSARY

overtime *n*
if you work "overtime", you work extra hours in addition to your normal hours

a duty *n*
a job you must do as part of your work

an eye for detail *exp*
an ability to notice details

quality control *n*
if there is "quality control", someone is checking that everything is OK

to apply (for a job) *exp*
to try to get a job by sending in a letter or CV and attending an interview

leadership skills *n*
the ability to lead and manage other people

a must *n*
something that you have to do

to sort out *exp*
to find a solution to a problem

all the hours under the sun *exp*
every hour in the day

a heavy workload *n*
a lot of work

to fire *vb*
to tell someone to leave a job

a self-starter *n*
a person who can think for him/herself

it's every man for himself *exp*
a situation in which everyone is in competition with one another

to get into trouble *exp*
to create problems for yourself

to get someone out of (trouble) *exp*
to help someone who is in a difficult situation

THANKS FOR OFFERING ME THE JOB OF MOUSE CONTROL OFFICER.



AUDIO

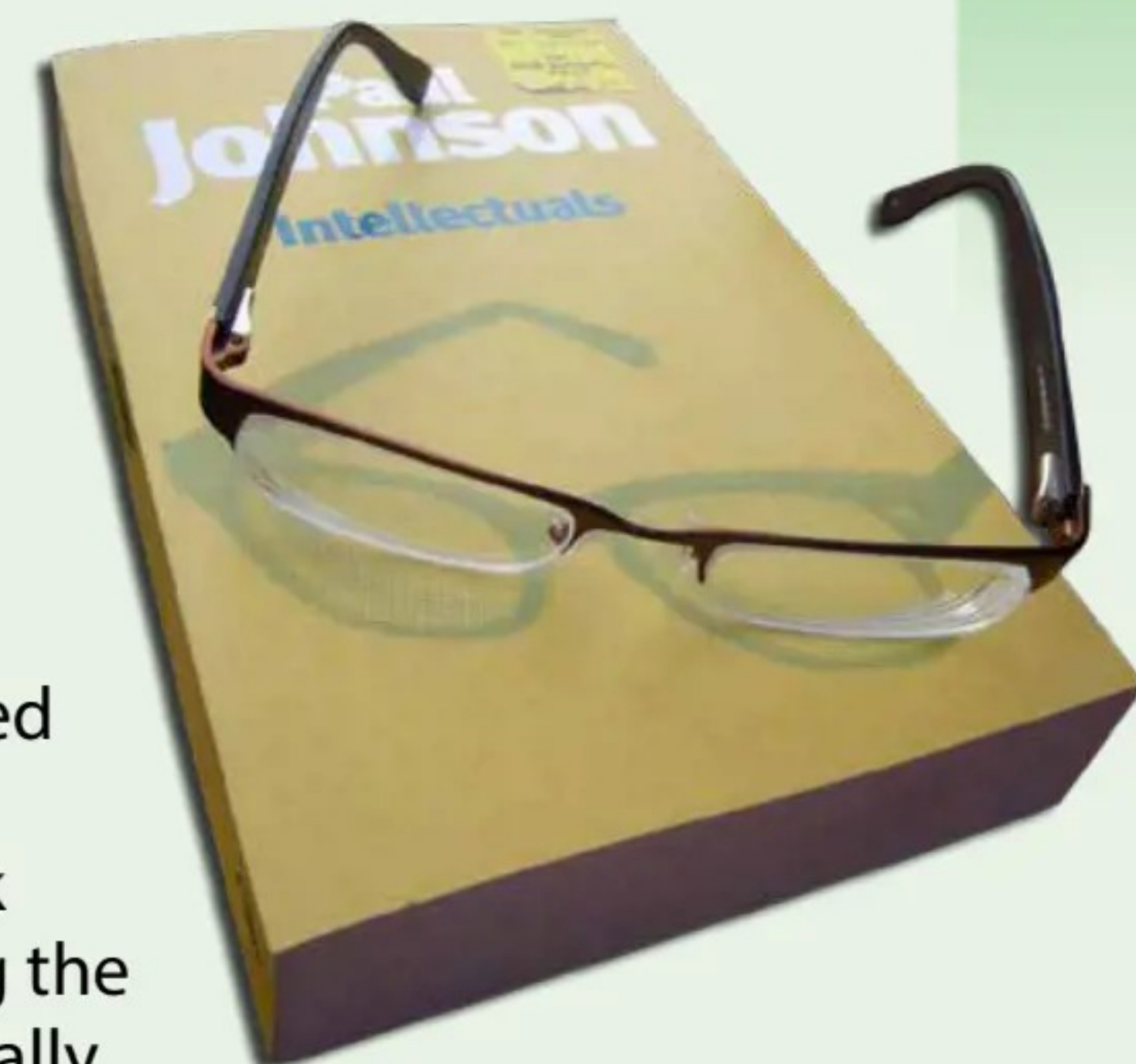
USEFUL ADVICE



HOW TO BE INTELLECTUAL

Learn how to appear intellectual. Guaranteed to impress your friends.

- Wear glasses. They're guaranteed to make you appear more intellectual.
- Wear **tweed jackets**, a **top hat** and start smoking a pipe.
- Adopt a **posh** British accent.
- Start carrying a **walking stick**.
- Add letters to the end of your name: MBA, Phd, MSc, CIA, NASA, FBI, etc.
- Carry copies of **classic novels** around with you at all times.
- Memorise some **clever-sounding quotes** and use them as often as possible.
- Surround yourself with idiots – that way you'll appear much more intelligent and sophisticated in comparison.
- If in doubt, just don't speak and appear to be analysing the situation. People will naturally think you are clever.
- **Cite famous works of literature** or respected publications, even if you haven't read them: "From what Einstein says in his book, I believe... I believe Nietzsche said it best... According to the *Economist*..."



What fun! ☆



GLOSSARY

a tweed jacket *n*
a jacket made from tweed (a rough, woollen fabric). Prince Charles has a few

a top hat *n*
a large, tall hat

posh *adj*
very sophisticated

a walking stick *n*
a stick some people use to help them walk

a classic novel *n*
a high-quality novel such as ones by Dickens, Cervantes, Victor Hugo, etc

clever-sounding *adj*
that sounds intelligent and intellectual

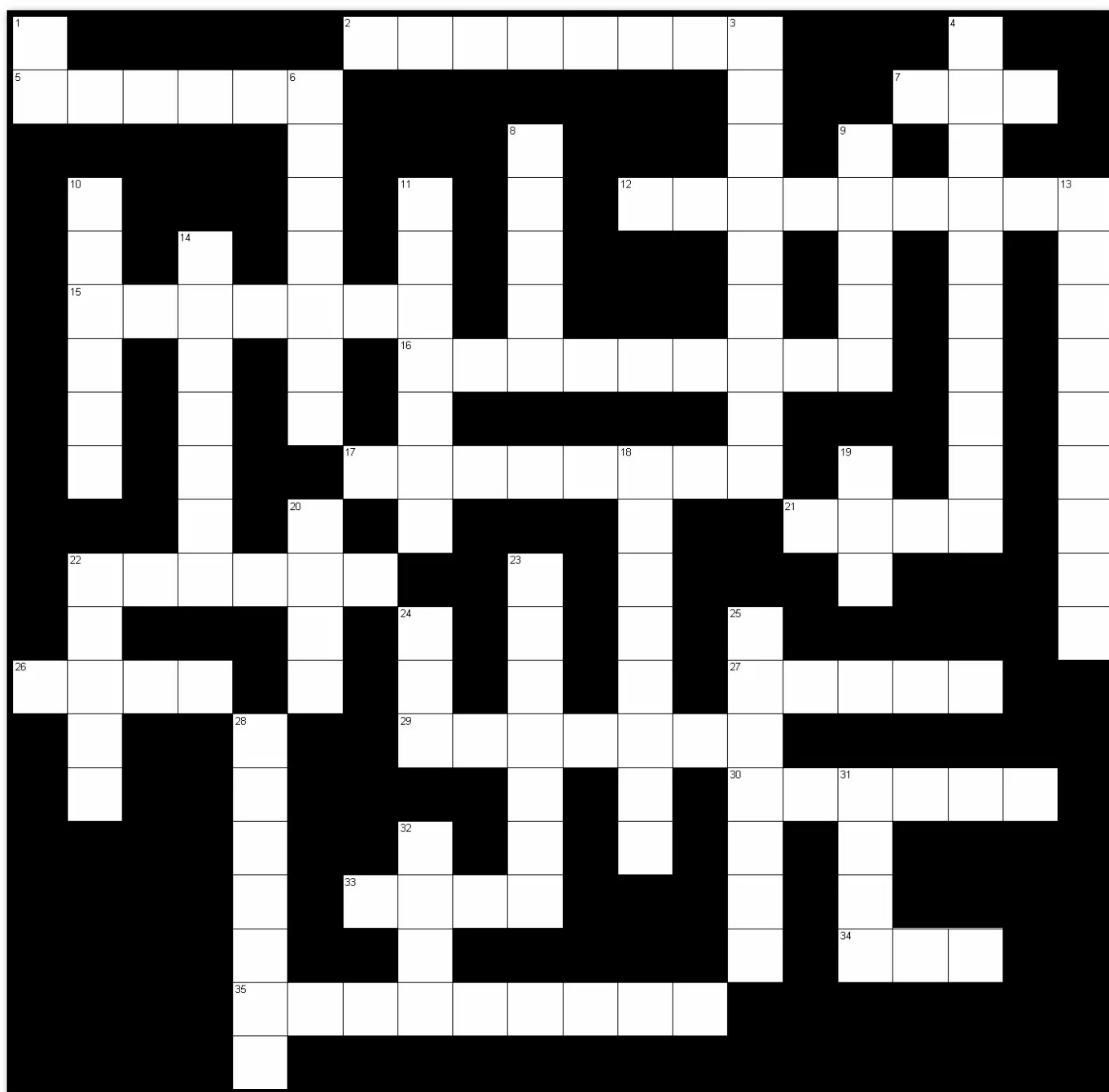
a quote *n*
a phrase or sentence that is famous

to cite famous works of literature *exp*
to mention things from famous books as a way of illustrating something

CROSSWORD

ANSWERS ON PAGE 53

CROSSWORD



Across

- 2:** This type of injury causes damage to your neck because the car has stopped suddenly = a whi_____ injury
- 5:** A toy that looks like a person and that has strings that control it = a pu_____.
- 7:** A vehicle used to pull broken cars with a rope = a t_____ truck.
- 12:** A company that offers you protection and possibly compensation in case you have an accident = an ins_____ company.
- 15:** To stop feeling angry with someone and to accept their

apology = to for_____ someone.

16: To act badly or rudely = to mis_____.

17: A large bag for carrying clothes, etc when you go on holiday = a sui_____.

21: To participate in an election and to give your vote to a person or party = to c_____ a vote.

22: If a city is like this, it covers a very large area = spr_____ out.

26: If a road is like this, there are many, many cars on it = a bu_____ road.

27: Frightening = sc_____.

29: A person who sees

an accident or crime = a wit_____.

30: Don't have enough money for something = can't aff_____ something.

33: Increasing = on the ri_____.

34: A chemical used to change the colour of hair/ fabric, etc = d_____.

35: To say that you are sorry = to apo_____.

Down

1: It is your decision = it is _____ to you.

3: A person is living in the Big Brother house = a housem_____.

4: A round object in the road. Cars drive around it in order to take a different road = a round_____.

6: Food (such as a cheese) that goes on top of pizza = top_____.

8: Not real; false = bo_____.

9: To stop the car suddenly by pushing a pedal = to br_____ suddenly.

10: To say that you will not do something = to re_____ to do something.

11: The amount you pay in order to have insurance = a prem_____.

13: To try to convince someone to do something = to enc_____ someone to do something.

14: A short film that advertises another film = a trai_____.

18: A verbal fight with someone = an argu_____.

19: If you do this, your skin becomes brown after lying in the sun = to get a t_____.

20: Paper or metal money = ca_____.

22: The poor areas of a city where people live in shacks or under cardboard boxes with no electricity, etc = the sl_____.

23: Images from a film or video = foot_____.

24: A verbal fight with someone = a r_____.

25: To attack someone physically = to assa_____.

28: A robber who enters a building with the intention of stealing = a bur_____.

31: A family conflict = a family fe_____.

32: A small mountain = a hi_____.

idioms



These eBooks will guarantee you learn and remember over 500 idioms! Try one out for yourself, it's pure magic!

Tap here to buy!

Phrasal verbs booklets



These fantastic eBooks come with over 500 really useful phrasal verbs + images + audio files + example sentences to help you remember them!

Tap here to buy!

Aprende inglés de manera fácil

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



¡Haz clic aquí!

Todo sobre la gramática inglesa de manera sencilla y amena. Aprende sobre la estructura sintáctica de la oración, modelos de conjugación, y la función de las frases verbales, entre muchas otras cosas.



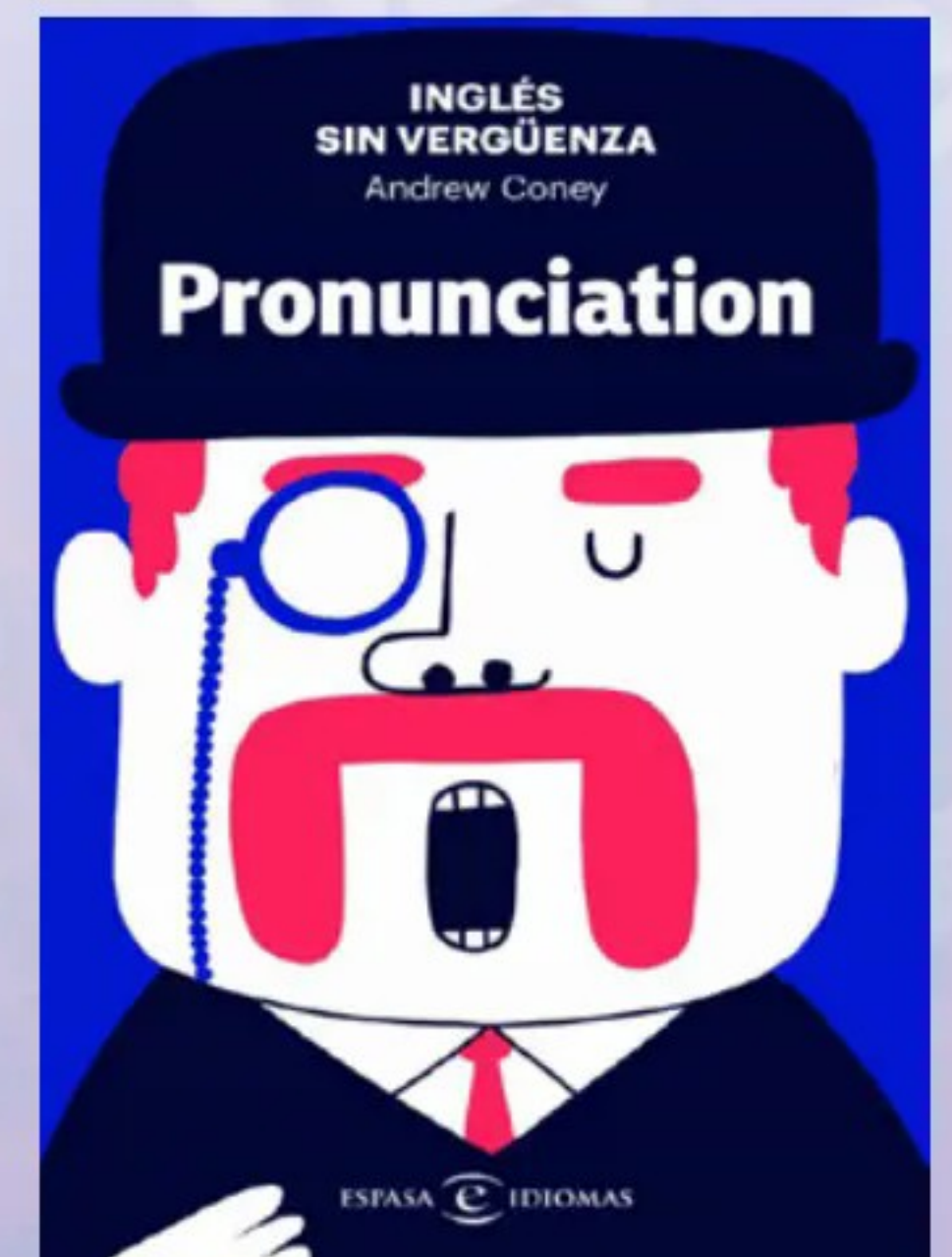
¡Haz clic aquí!

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



¡Haz clic aquí!

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



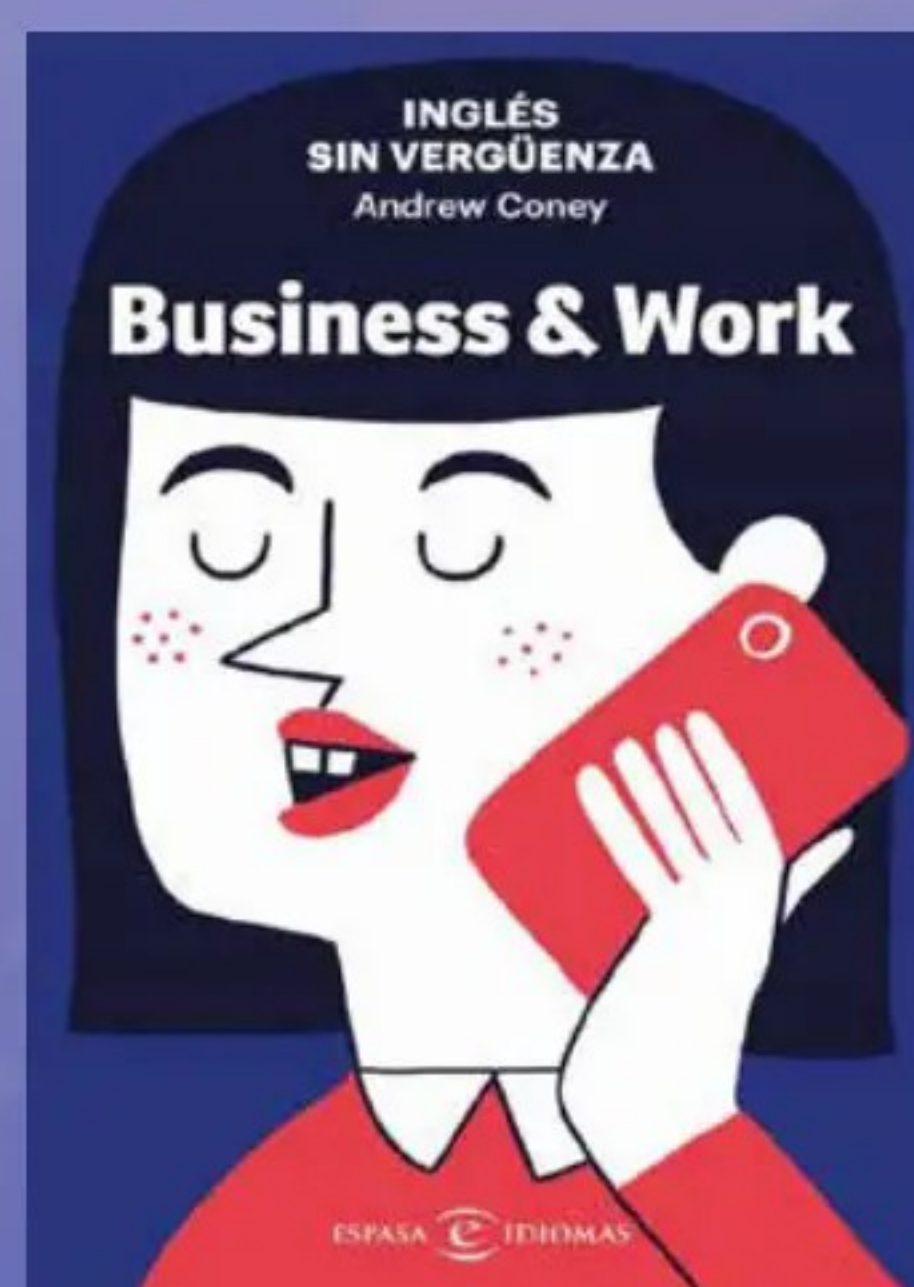
¡Haz clic aquí!

Este libro te ayudará a sonar más natural y pronunciar mejor las palabras. Aprenderás los sonidos vocales y consonantes, la acentuación de las palabras y frases, y la entonación entre otras cosas.



¡Haz clic aquí!

Con este libro, aprenderás las 1000 palabras más importantes y útiles en inglés, clasificadas en 25 áreas temáticas. Esto te ayudará a entender mejor el inglés hablado, y expresarse con más fluidez.



¡Haz clic aquí!

Este libro te ayudará a desenvolverte en reuniones, negociaciones, entrevistas, presentaciones y llamadas telefónicas de trabajo. Todo el vocabulario que necesitas para comunicarte con fluidez en contextos profesionales.



¡Haz clic aquí!

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



¡Haz clic aquí!

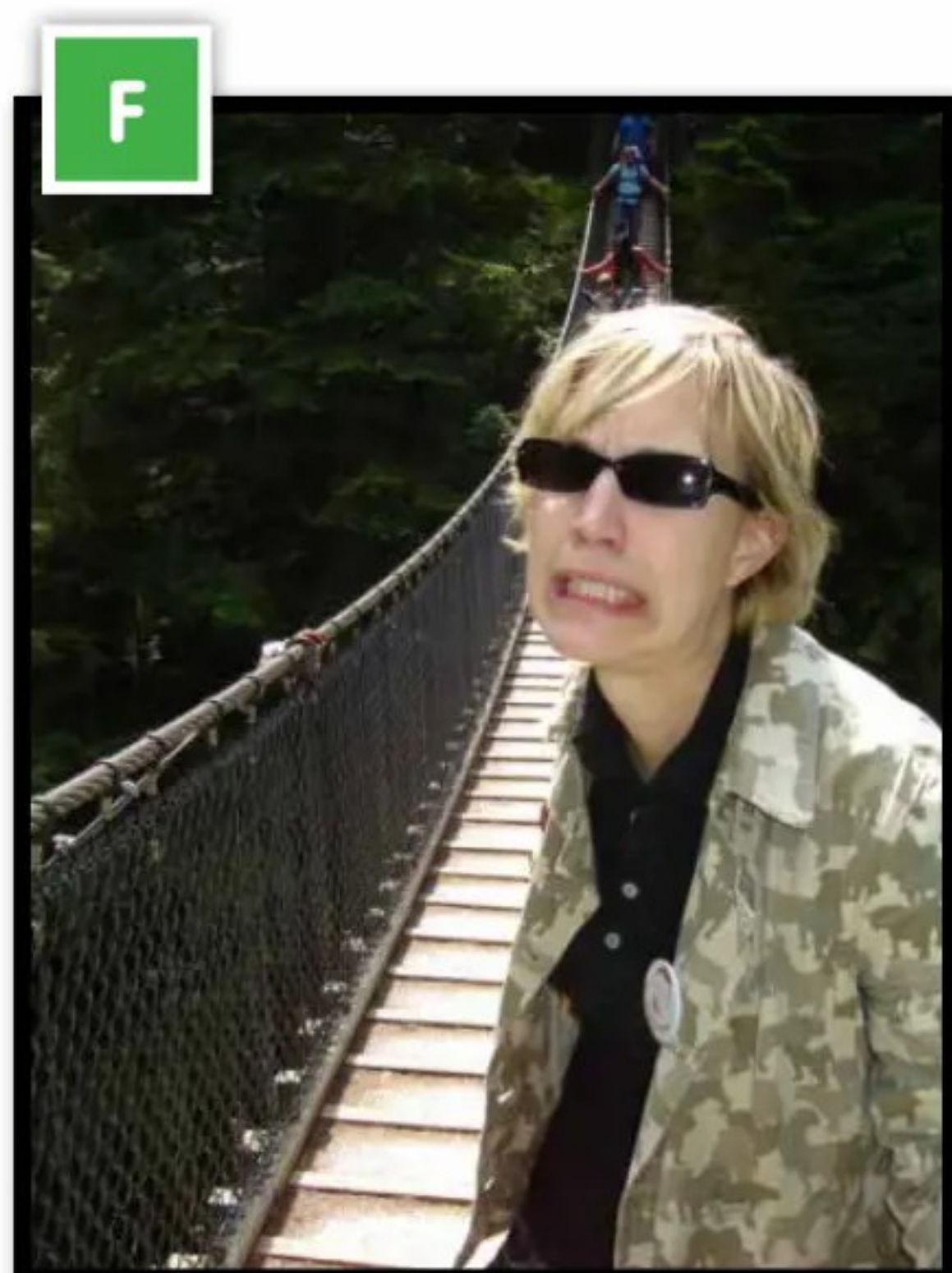
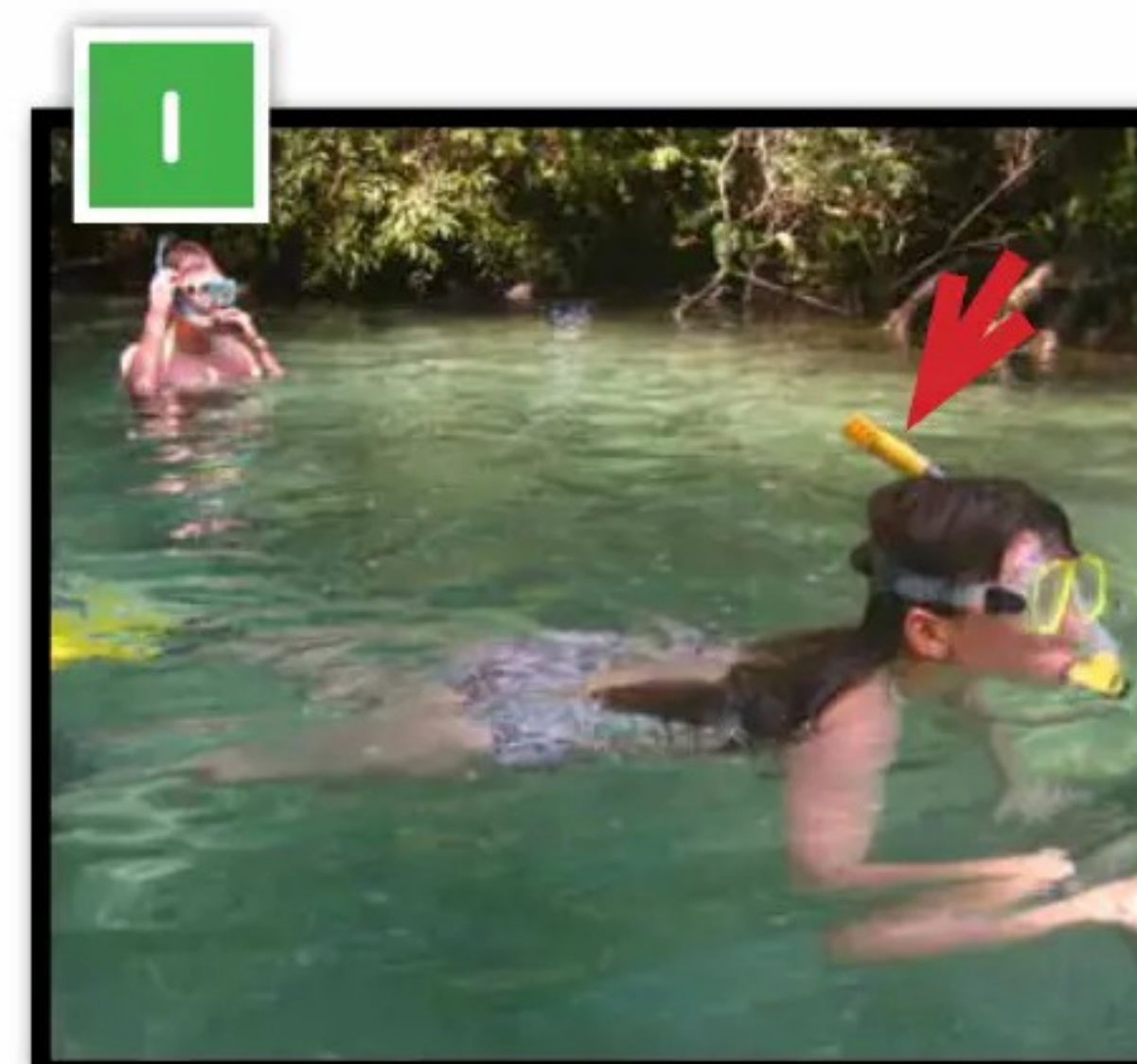
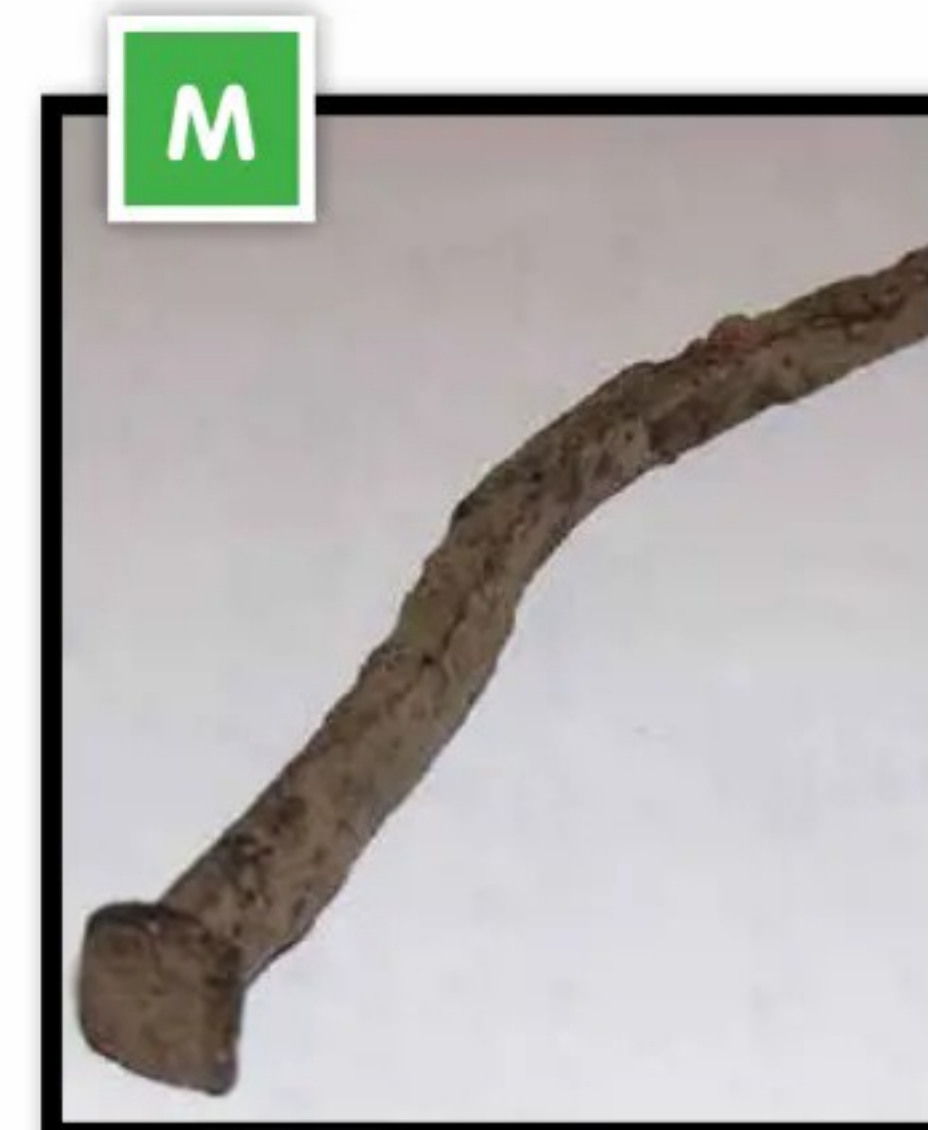
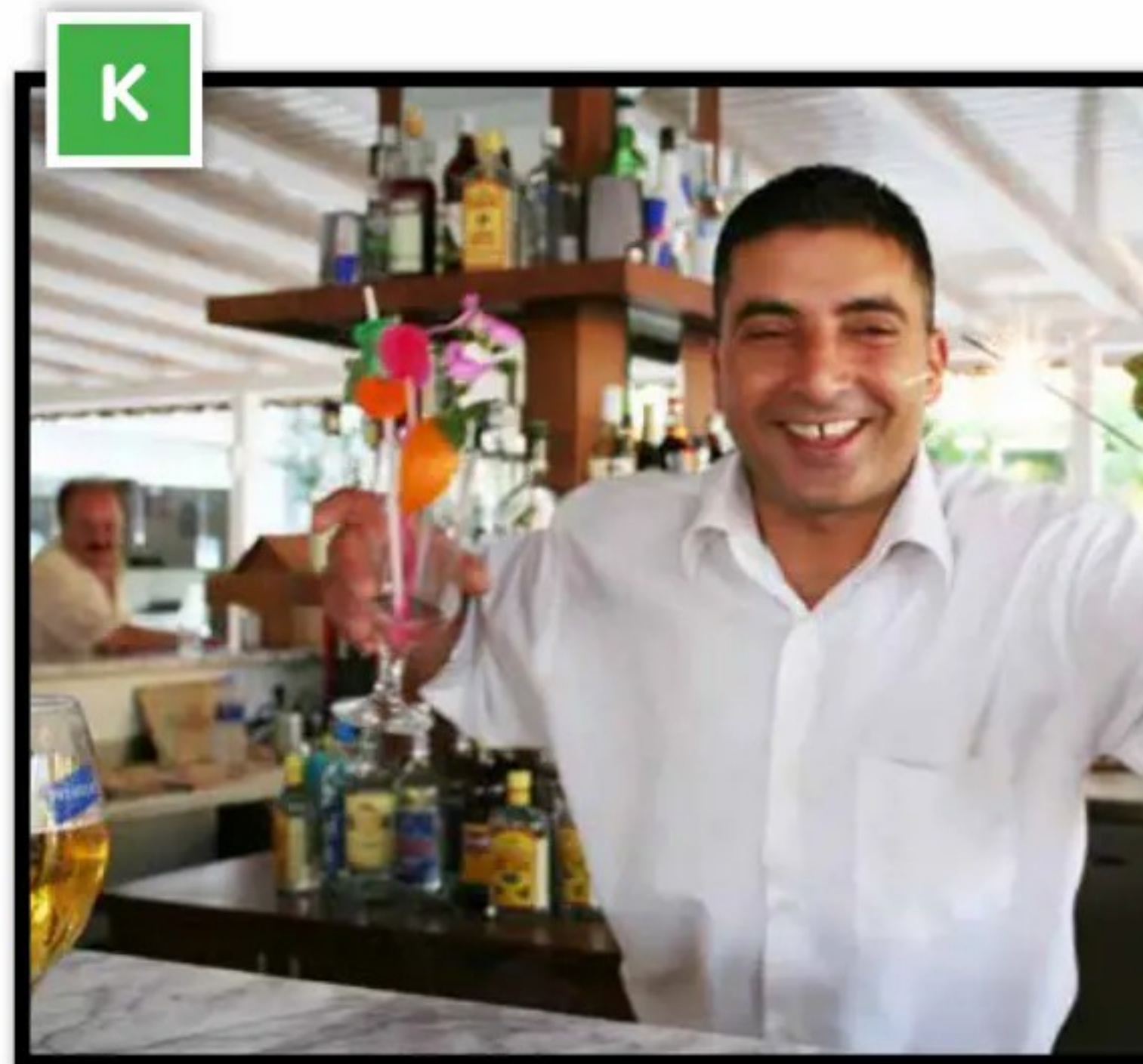
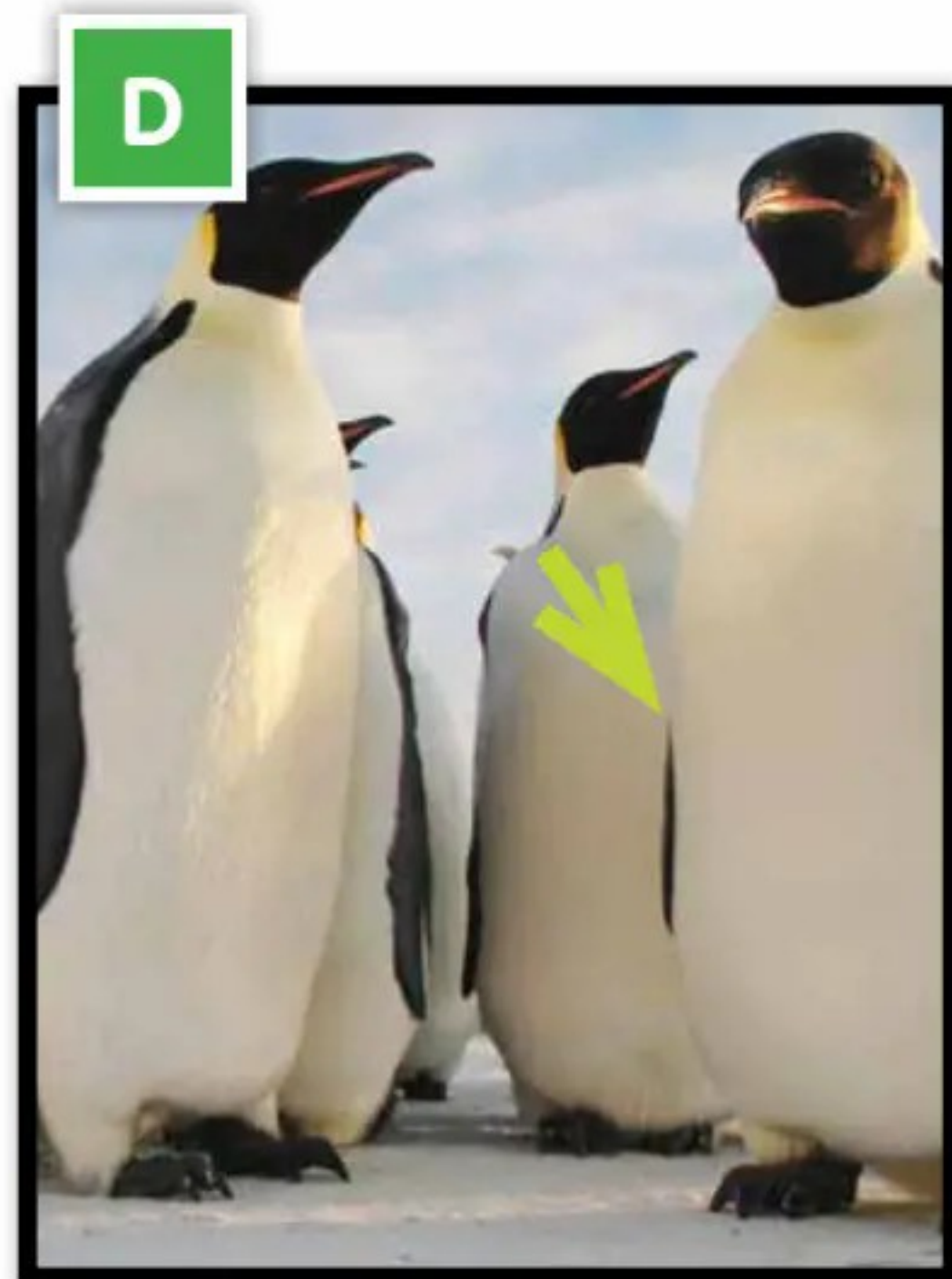
Aprende a utilizar los verbos ingleses con soltura. Te explica sobre los tiempos, modos, usos y modelos de conjugación de verbos regulares e irregulares. Además, aprenderás de los phrasal verbs más utilizados.

Trivia Matching

Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 13), and the photos (A-M). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** also on page 55

1. Penguins
2. A spider
3. A bartender
4. Mice
5. A cow
6. A bull
7. Dilated pupils
8. An iron nail
9. An elephant's trunk
10. A snorkel
11. A scaredy-cat
12. Letters
13. A giant





Weird Trivia

This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world was so unusual?



An apple, not a cup of coffee, is better at waking you up in the morning. Apple, anyone?

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts. Remember that next time you're **getting her dressed**.

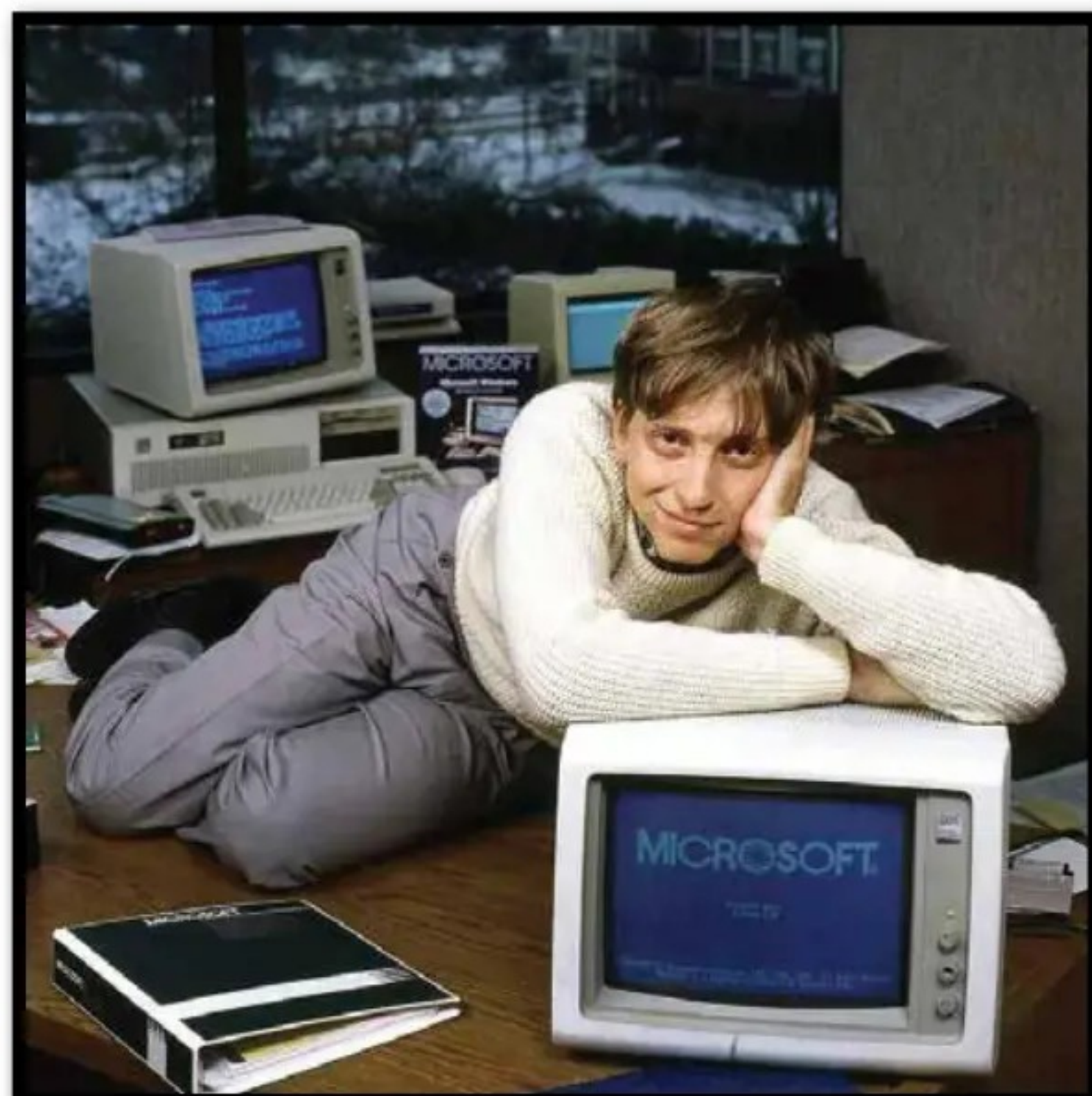


Walt Disney was **afraid of** mice. 

A group of twelve or more cows is called a "flock". A group of twelve or more bulls is known as "run for your life!"



Alligators cannot move backwards, which is good to know.



Bill Gates' first business was Traff-O-Data, a company that manufactured machines that recorded the number of cars passing a given point on a road.

When you're looking at someone you love, your pupils **dilate**. However, the same thing happens with someone you hate. How confusing!

Your body contains the same amount of iron as an iron **nail**. For a healthy constitution, eat nails.

The dot on top of the letter "i" is called a "tittle".

The only number in English with the same number of **letters** as the number itself is "four". As you can see, it's number "4" and it has "four" letters. Fascinating!

Elephants are capable of swimming about thirty kilometres a day. They use their **trunks** as natural **snorkels**. Isn't nature clever?



Emperor Penguins can **dive** to a depth of about 450 metres under water. They can also stay under water for a long time. The maximum time recorded has been 18 minutes. What clever penguins!

King Henry III of France, Louis XVI of France and Napoleon all suffered from "ailurophobia", which is a fear of cats. What **scaredy-cats**!

Have you ever been in an **earthquake**? The Ancient Greeks believed that earthquakes were caused by **giants** fighting under the ground. And the Ancient Japanese thought there was a giant **spider** living under the earth, and that every time it moved it caused the earth to **tremble**. How **quaint**!

What do you think Sandra Bullock, Chevy Chase, Bill Cosby, Kris Kristofferson, Bruce Willis, and, possibly, yourself, all have in common? Well, before they became famous, they all worked as **bartenders**. 🍸

GLOSSARY

- to get someone dressed** *exp*
to put clothes on someone
- afraid of something** *exp*
frightened of something
- to dilate** *vb*
if you pupils "dilate", they become bigger
- a nail** *n*
a thin piece of metal with a pointed end and a flat end. You hit the flat end to push the nail into a wall
- a letter** *n*
a letter from the alphabet: A, B, C
- a trunk** *n*
an elephant's long, thin nose
- a snorkel** *n*
a long, thin plastic tube that you can use for breathing under water
- to dive** *vb*
to jump into water (or under water) with your head first
- a scaredy-cat** *n inform*
a person who is easily frightened
- an earthquake** *n*
when there is an "earthquake", the ground moves violently
- a giant** *n*
an imaginary person who is very big, very tall and very strong
- a spider** *n*
an insect with 8 legs. They can spin webs
- to tremble** *vb*
if the earth "trembles", it shakes (it makes rapid movements)
- how quaint** *exp*
how nice; how cute
- a bartender** *n*
a person who works in a bar/pub serving drinks

VOCABULARY THE POST OFFICE

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about the post office and the postal service.

The post ("mail" in the US) – the system by which letters and parcels are collected and **delivered**.



The postal service (The USPS – United States Postal Service) – this is the organisation that sends and delivers letters. These days, it's known as "**snail mail**" because it can be so slow. After internet and e-mail became so popular, everybody thought that the postal service would disappear, but now that everyone's buying things on the internet, the postal service is doing very well delivering packages all around the world.

A post office – a place where you go to buy stamps, send letters and wait in long queues for someone to serve you.



A letter – a written form of communication. These days, most letters are **bills** and Christmas cards.

A stamp – this is the little square paper object with a value on it that you **stick on** an envelope. Stamps haven't evolved much since the 19th century and you still need to **lick** the back of the stamp with your tongue. How primitive! Stamp collecting is the hobby that involves collecting... stamps.

An envelope – this is the object in which you place a letter or card. These days most envelopes are "self-adhesive", which means you don't have to lick them.



A postal worker (a clerk) – a person who works in a post office. Postal workers sell stamps, **weigh** parcels, and answer silly questions such as, "Why hasn't my parcel arrived yet?" or "Why haven't I received any letters recently?"

Letterbox – the small **slot** in your front door where the postman or postwoman leaves letters. In an **apartment block**, letterboxes are in the entrance to the building, and each letterbox has a name and apartment number on it for your letters.

A postman / postwoman – the person who takes the letters to your house and puts them in the letterbox.

A post van – the red vehicle that postmen and women drive in order to take the letters and parcels to your house.

A postcard – a card with a picture on one side and space for some text on the other. Don't you just hate getting postcards from exotic parts of the world especially when you're working in a stressful office?

A parcel/package – a box that is **wrapped** in paper and sent by post. Don't you just love receiving parcels?

A registered letter – a letter that is sent by a special postal service for which you pay extra money. This **insures** it in case they lose it. Non-registered letters have no such guarantee, and may get lost, along with the other 16 million letters that disappear in Britain every year.



Scales – the object used to weigh your letter. Just one extra sheet of paper on the scales will put your letter into a higher and more expensive postal category.



A post box (a "mail box" in US English) – an object in the street in which postmen and women place letters. Traditional British post boxes are red and big enough for a man to climb inside. Did you see the Mr Bean episode when he gets inside one? American ones are on long poles and only big enough for a bird or two. Incidentally, there's a "sport" in America called "mail box baseball". This consists of driving in your car and destroying mail boxes with a baseball bat. What fun!

A stamp machine – a machine that gives you stamps when you insert money in it.



GLOSSARY

- to deliver** *vb*
if you "deliver" something, you take it to that place
- a snail** *n*
a little animal with a shell on its back
- a bill** *n*
a letter informing you how much money you owe
- to stick on** *phr vb*
to put on with glue
- to lick** *vb*
to touch with your tongue
- to weigh** *vb*
to use scales to see how heavy something is
- a slot** *n*
a small, narrow opening
- an apartment block** *n*
a large building with many flats in it
- to wrap** *vb*
to cover in paper
- to insure** *vb*
to pay a company so that something is protected in case of fire, loss, theft, etc
- mercenary** *adj*
only interested in money



AUDIO

Typical Dialogues

THE POST OFFICE

Listen to this dialogue and learn some useful vocabulary and expressions.

In this conversation Nigel is in the post office talking to a clerk. Listen to the conversation and answer these two questions.

1. What does Nigel buy?
2. Who is he trying to send? **Answers** on page 53

A post mark – the mark with the date on it that the postal service place on your stamp.

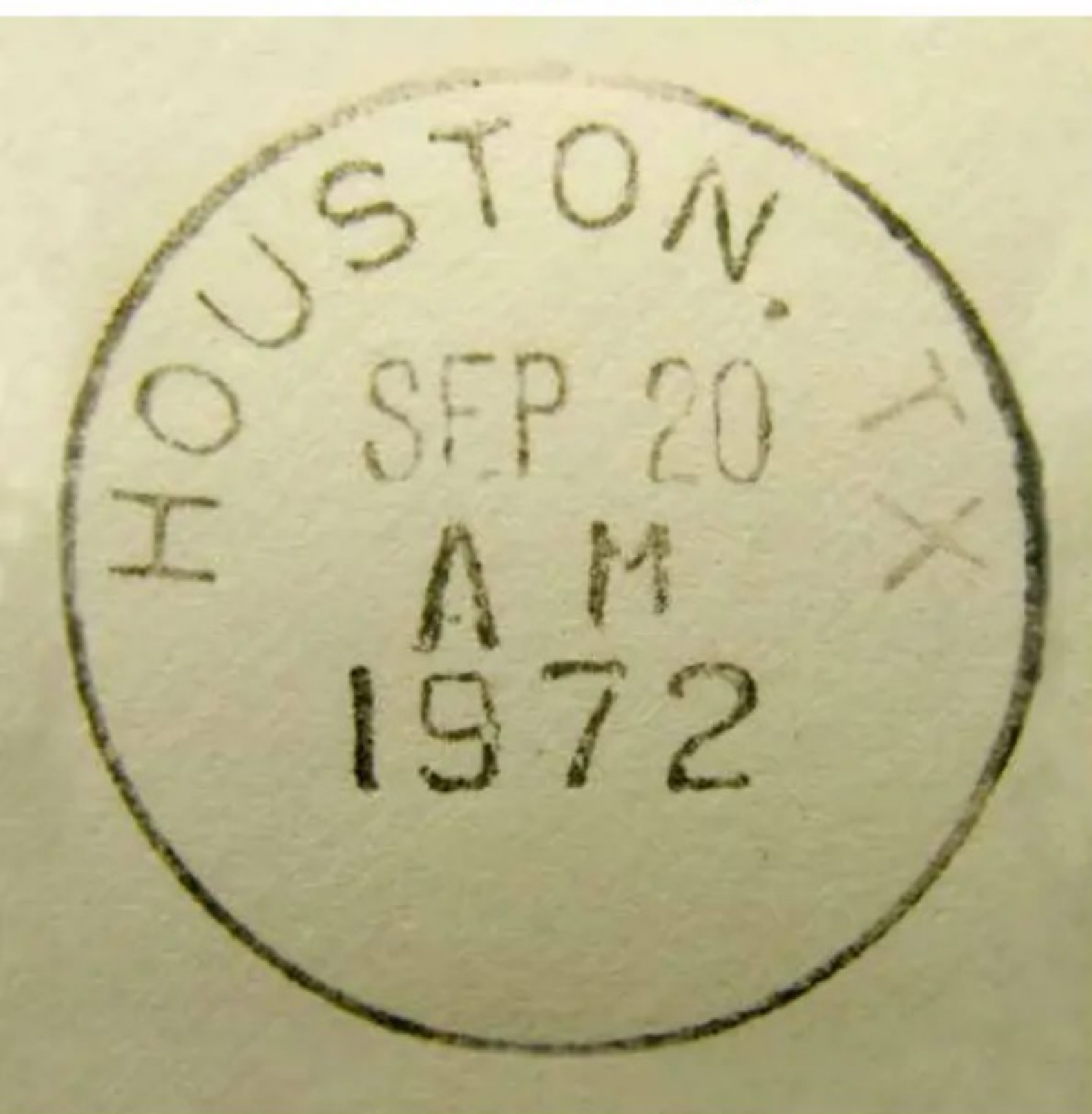
This is to ensure that you don't try to use the stamp again. How **mercenary**!

A notification slip – the note

However, most people don't see this.

Cash on delivery (COD) – if a company sends you something COD, the post office deliver the letter or parcel to your house, and you pay the postman or postwoman for it.

A queue – a line of people found waiting to be served in the post office. If you only have one simple letter to send, you are guaranteed to find yourself at the back of a very long queue. ☆



you get from the post office informing you that there is a parcel waiting for you at the post office. The small print on the notification slip tells you not to go on the same day that you receive the slip.



Clerk: Good afternoon, how may I help you?

Nigel: Yes, erm, well, there are a number of things. Firstly, I haven't been receiving my letters.

Clerk: Well, maybe no one is writing to you.

Nigel: Very funny. I'd like you to investigate it.

Clerk: Do you live in an **apartment block**?

Nigel: Yes, I do. How did you know?

Clerk: Well, maybe someone has been stealing **mail** from your **letterbox**.

Nigel: Yes, that would explain it. Yes, thank you.

Clerk: Anything else, sir?

Nigel: Yes, I'd like sixteen **stamps** for Japan, please.

Clerk: Here you are.

Nigel: Is there a **post box** near here where I can send these letters?

Clerk: You can leave them with us.

Nigel: Are you sure they won't get lost?

Clerk: No, they're perfectly safe with us. Anything else?

Nigel: Yes, I'd like to send this **parcel registered post** to New York.

(Nigel places the parcel on the counter. It is very heavy.)

Clerk: That's a very large package, sir. It's going to be very expensive to send. You might like to consider using a worldwide express service to **deliver** it.

Nigel: No, no.

Boy: *(A voice from inside the parcel.)* Dad, dad, can I come out now?

Nigel: *(Speaking to the parcel.)* Shhh... I told you to **keep quiet**.

Clerk: I'm sorry, sir, but do you have a small child **wrapped up** in that parcel?

Nigel: No.

Boy: *(From inside the parcel.)* Dad, I think I need to go to the toilet.

Clerk: Who's that? Who's in the parcel?

Nigel: It's my son. I was hoping to send him to the States to see his grandma.

Clerk: Oh, that's all right. Why didn't you say so in the first place? Would you like to send him first class or second class?

Nigel: Erm, second, I think. ☆

GLOSSARY

a clerk *n*

a person who works in a post office serving people: selling stamps, etc

an apartment block *n*

a large building with many flats in it

mail *n*

letters and parcels

a letterbox *n*

a small box with your name and apartment number on it. Letters and post are placed in it

a stamp *n*

a little square object with a value on it that is placed on an envelope

a post box *n*

an object in the street in which you can place letters. Later, postal workers collect the letters and send them

a parcel *n*

a large box that you send by post

registered post *n*

if you send a letter "registered post", you pay extra so that there is a guarantee that the letter will arrive

to deliver *vb*

if a letter is "delivered", it is taken to its destination

to keep quiet *exp*

not to talk

to wrap up *exp*

to put paper around an object so you can send it or give it as a present

WORDSEARCH

ANSWERS ON PAGE 53

POST
OFFICE

In the Post Office

See if you can identify the word.
Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck!

(Read the vocabulary page 20/21 before doing this)

J	O	Q	P	N	W	D	D	I	E	Z	A	X	S
B	F	Y	D	R	A	C	T	S	O	P	A	O	D
S	E	L	A	C	S	P	M	A	T	S	Y	B	V
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	F	I	T	O	N	R	E
E	R	D	N	W	E	Z	K	P	P	R	G	E	E
N	E	P	O	S	T	M	A	N	O	K	O	T	P
I	T	P	A	R	C	E	L	X	S	R	L	T	O
H	T	A	D	G	B	A	V	F	T	A	Q	E	L
C	E	L	Q	Y	S	U	G	R	B	M	Y	L	E
A	L	R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R	E	D	I	V
M	Z	G	Y	Y	N	H	P	O	S	T	A	L	N
V	N	O	K	Z	A	W	O	Q	L	B	O	X	E
S	Q	M	Y	U	V	C	X	D	D	E	X	F	K

1. A place where you go to buy stamps and send letters = a _____ office.
2. A written form of communication that you send in an envelope.
3. A little square paper object with a value on it that you stick on an envelope.
4. The paper object in which you place a letter or card.
5. A person who works in a post office = a _____ worker.
6. The small slot in your front door where the postman or postwoman leaves letters.
7. A man who takes the letters to your house and puts them in the letterbox.
8. A vehicle that postmen and women drive in order to take the letters and parcels to your house = a postal _____.
9. A card with a picture on one side and space for some text on the other.
10. A large box that is wrapped in paper.
11. A letter that is sent by a special postal service for which you pay extra money = a _____ letter.
12. The object used to weigh your letter.
13. An object in the street in which you can place letters = a post _____.
14. A machine that gives you stamps when you insert money in it = a stamp _____.
15. A mark with the date on it that the postal service place on your stamp = a post _____.
16. A note you get from the post office informing you that there is a parcel waiting for you at the post office = a _____ slip.

THE FORTUNE TELLER BY DANIEL COUTOUNE



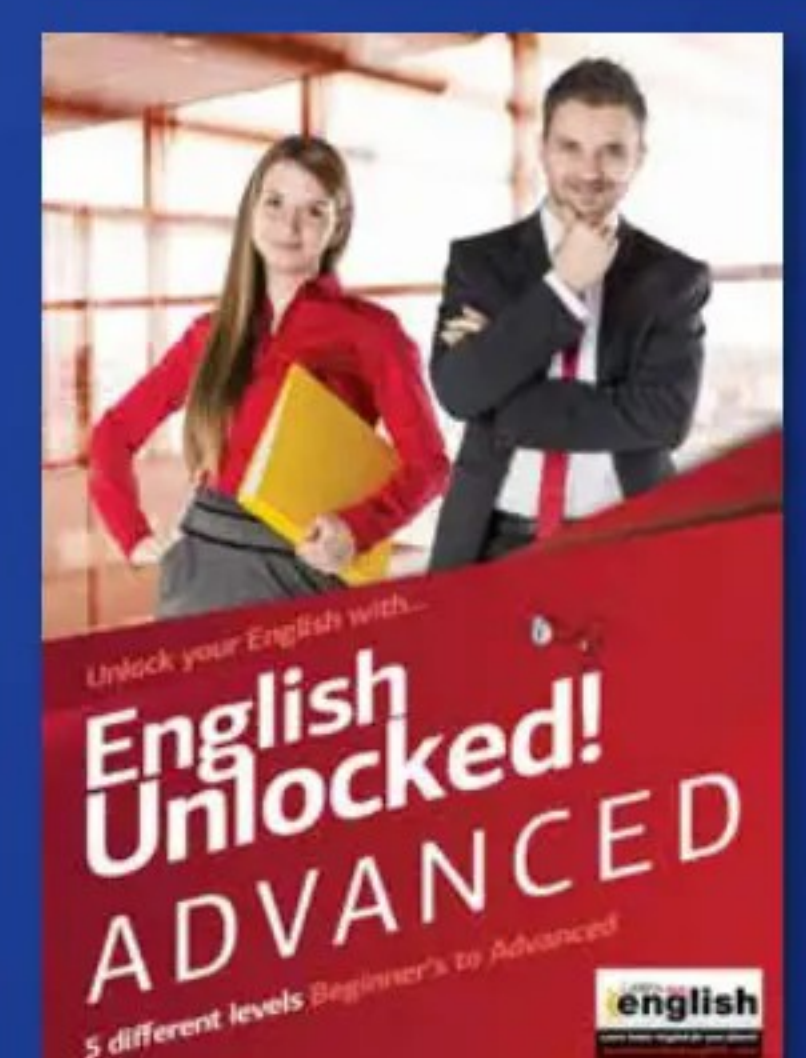
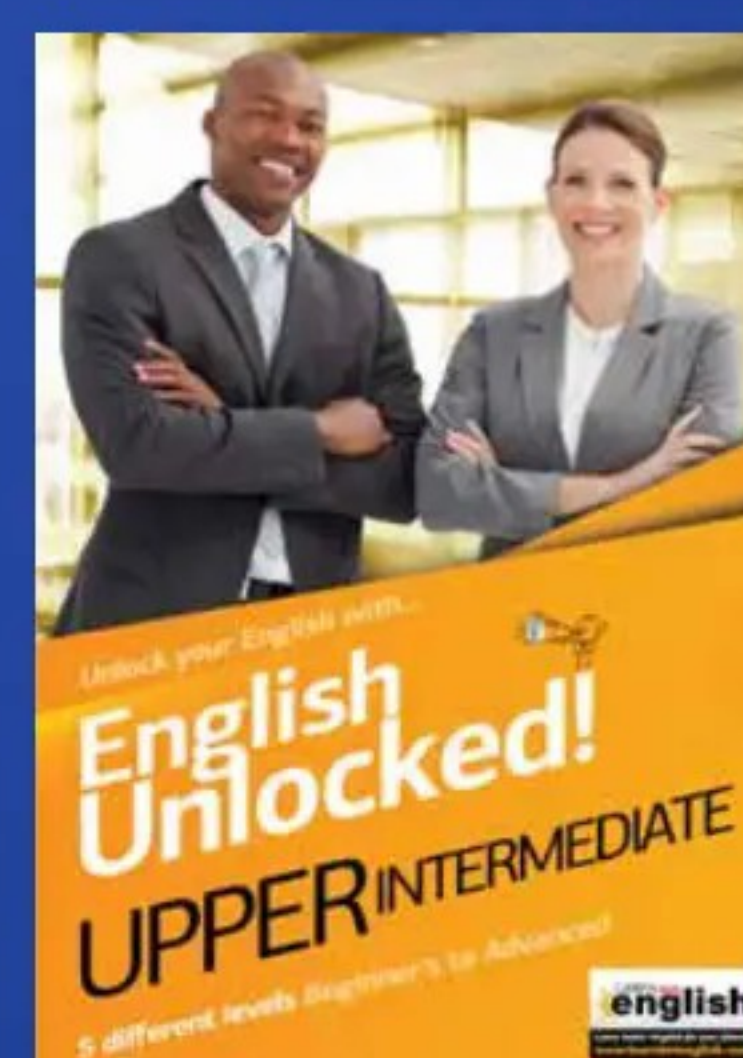
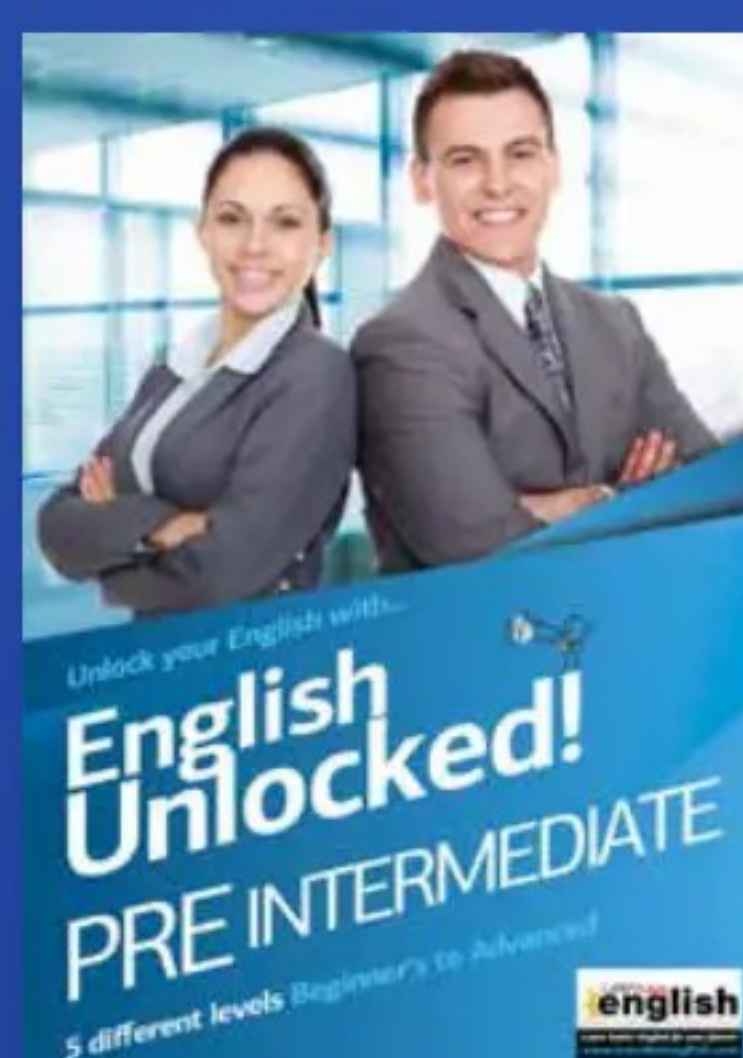
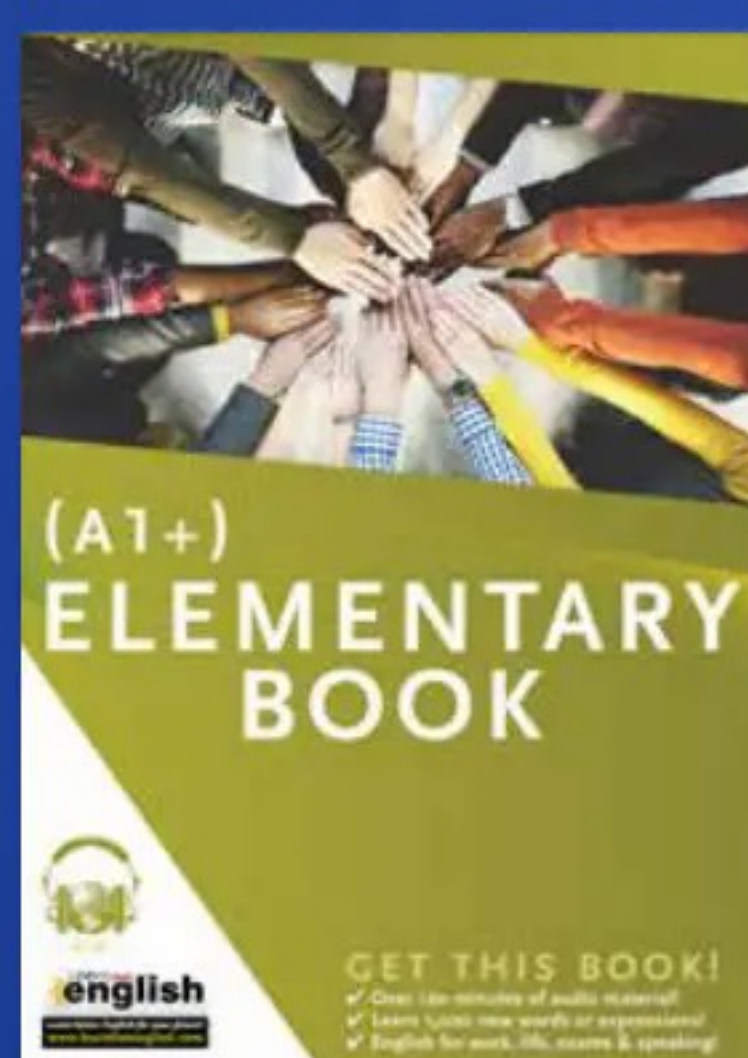
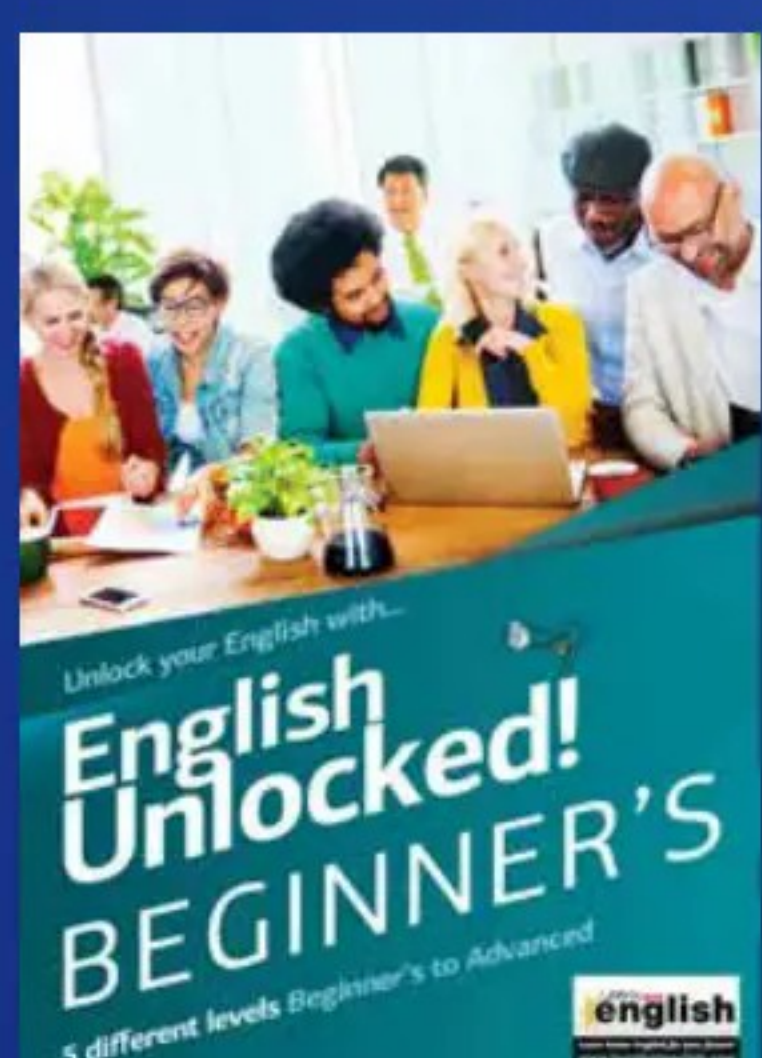
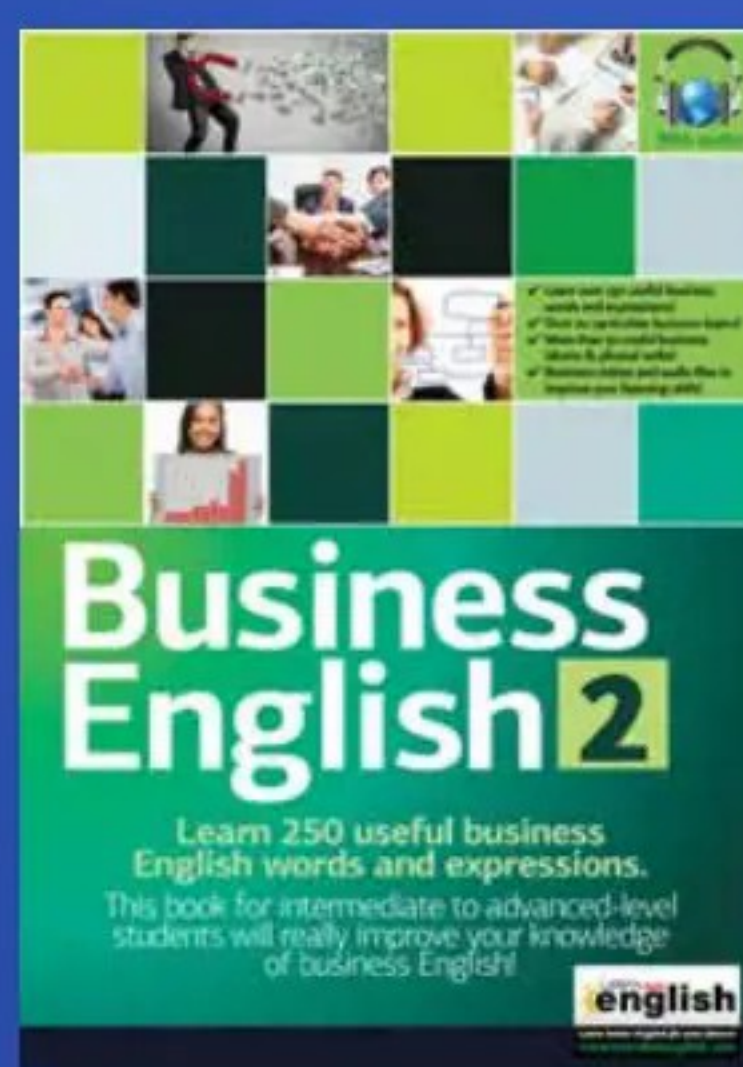
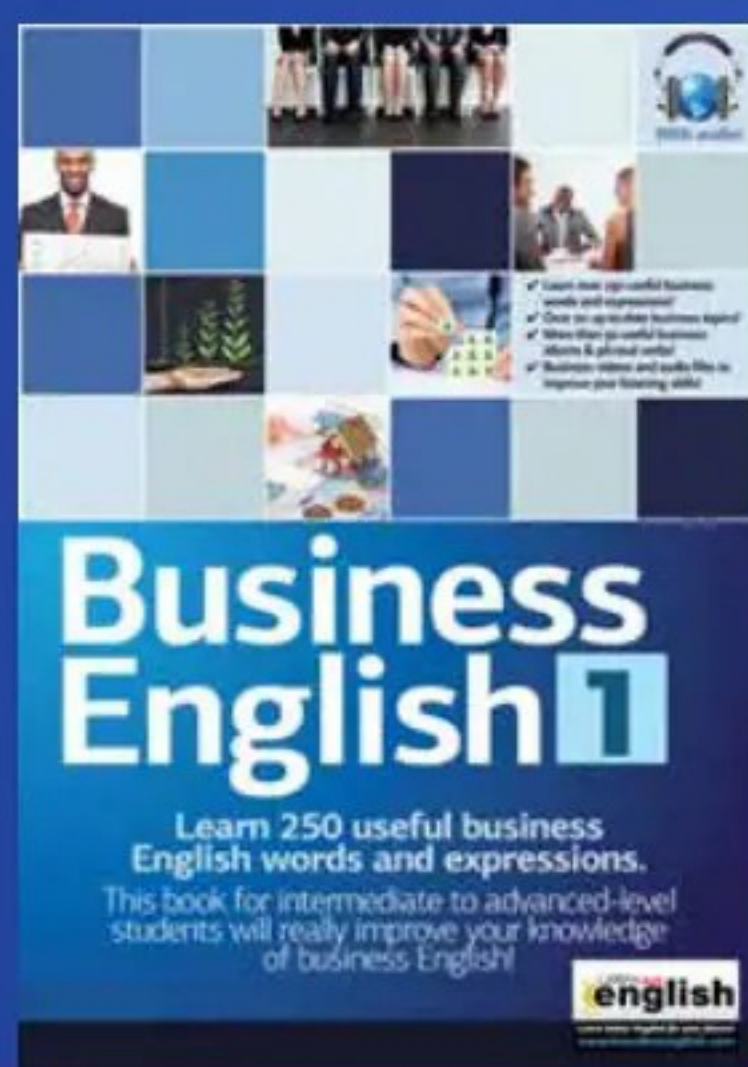
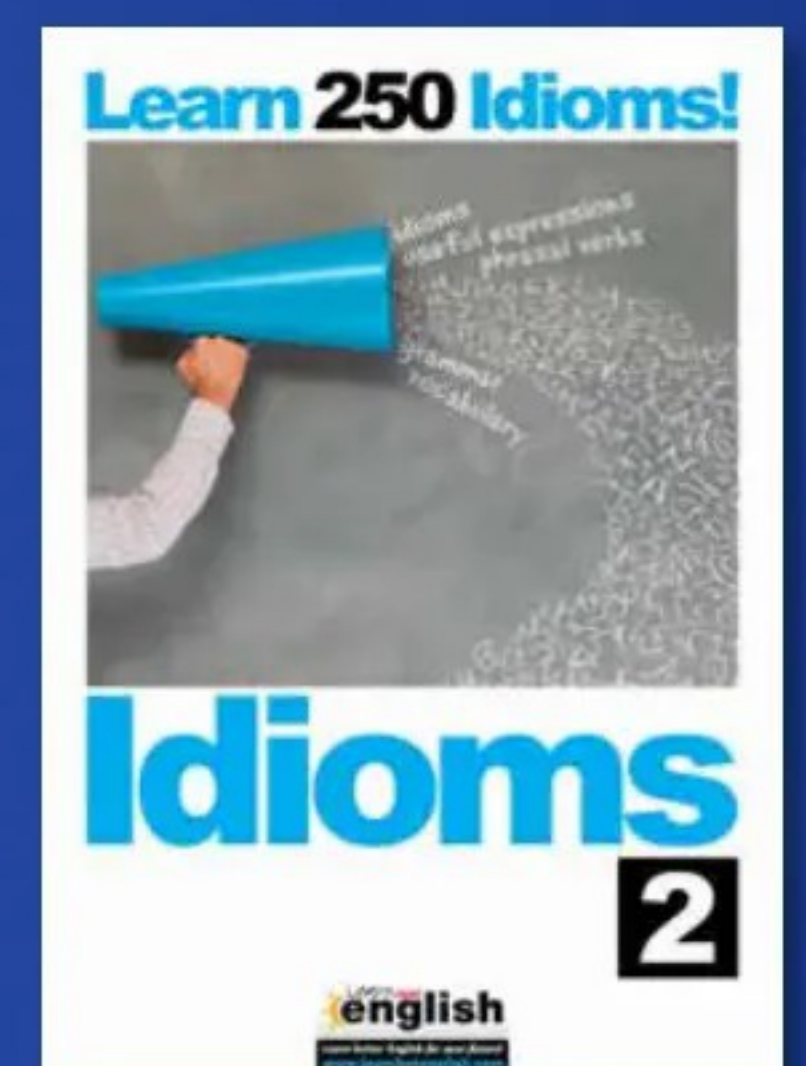
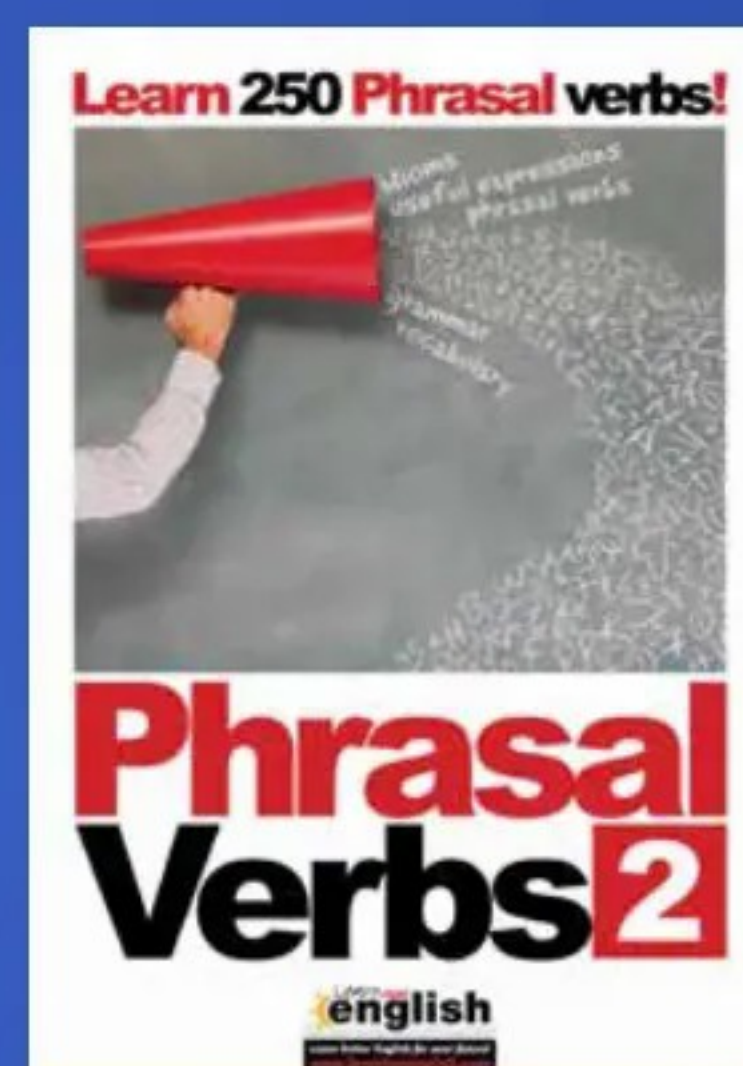
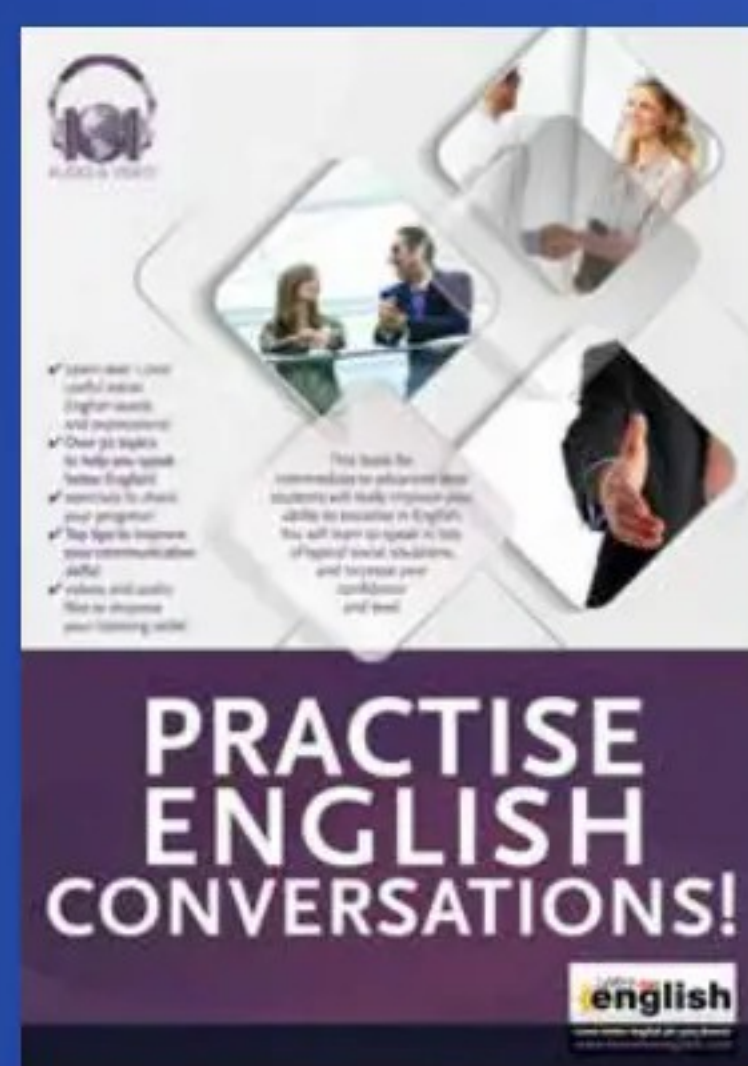
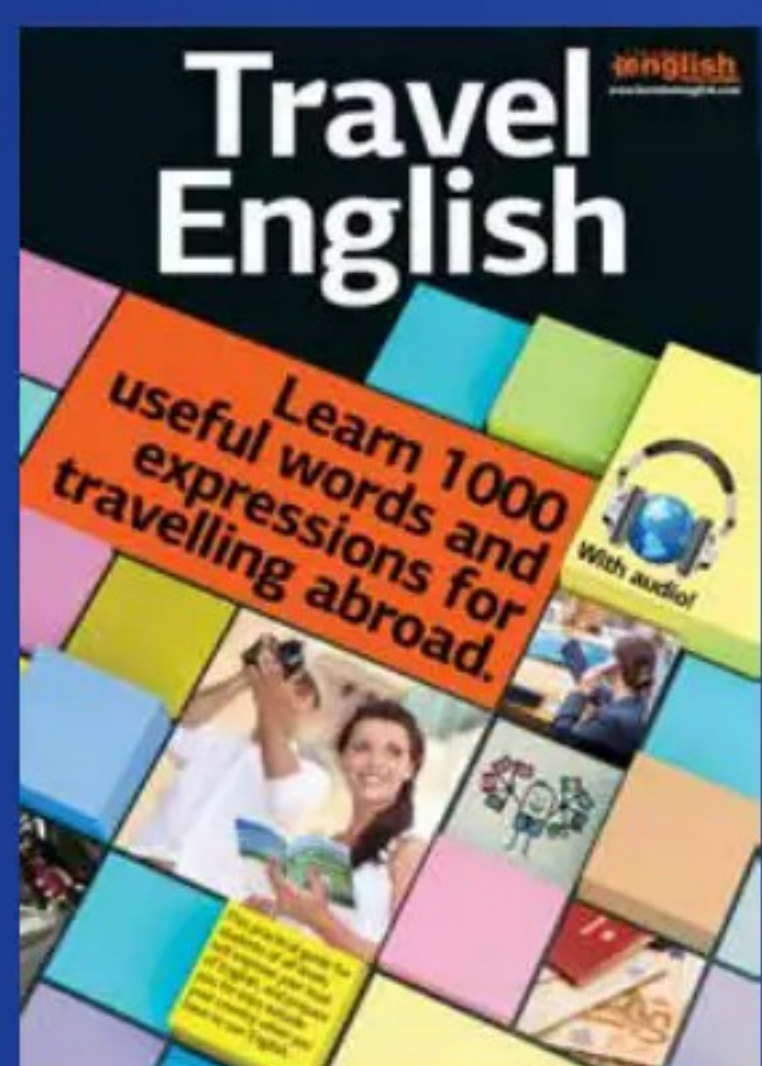
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ENGLISH CONVERSATION EXPRESSIONS: BACKHANDED COMPLIMENTS!



When was the last time someone said something nice to you? It's great to hear **compliments**. But not all compliments are genuine. Sometimes a compliment has a hidden negative message. We refer to these types of comments as '**backhanded compliments**' – where the insult is 'hiding' behind the compliment. In this lesson, you'll learn some typical backhanded compliments and how to respond to them, which will really improve your spoken English. But first, let's see an example of a backhanded compliment, with the 'translation' to show its true meaning:

Backhanded compliment: Your shoes look really comfortable.

Translation: Your shoes are ugly.

So, how should you respond to a backhanded compliment? There are several strategies, but we think the best one is to smile, say thanks and then make a positive comment of your own – simply ignoring the criticism. For example:

Backhanded compliment: Your shoes look really comfortable.

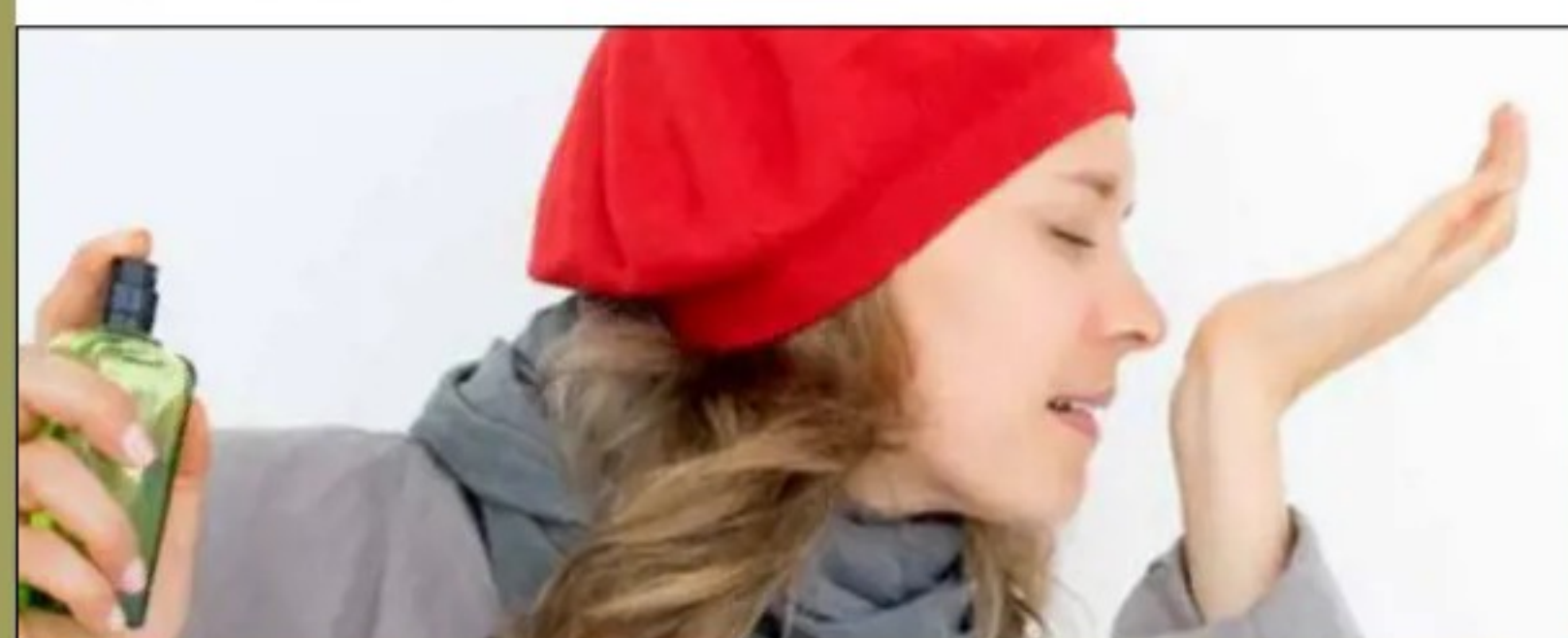
Response: Thanks for noticing! Function over style – that's my motto!

Now, read over the following backhanded compliments with their translations and sample responses. Can you think of any other responses? Then, do the exercise on the following page.

Backhanded compliment: Wow! Your cologne is powerful!

Translation: Your cologne smells terrible.

Response: Nice observation! I like to stand out.



BC: I didn't recognise you! You look beautiful today!

T: You normally look terrible.

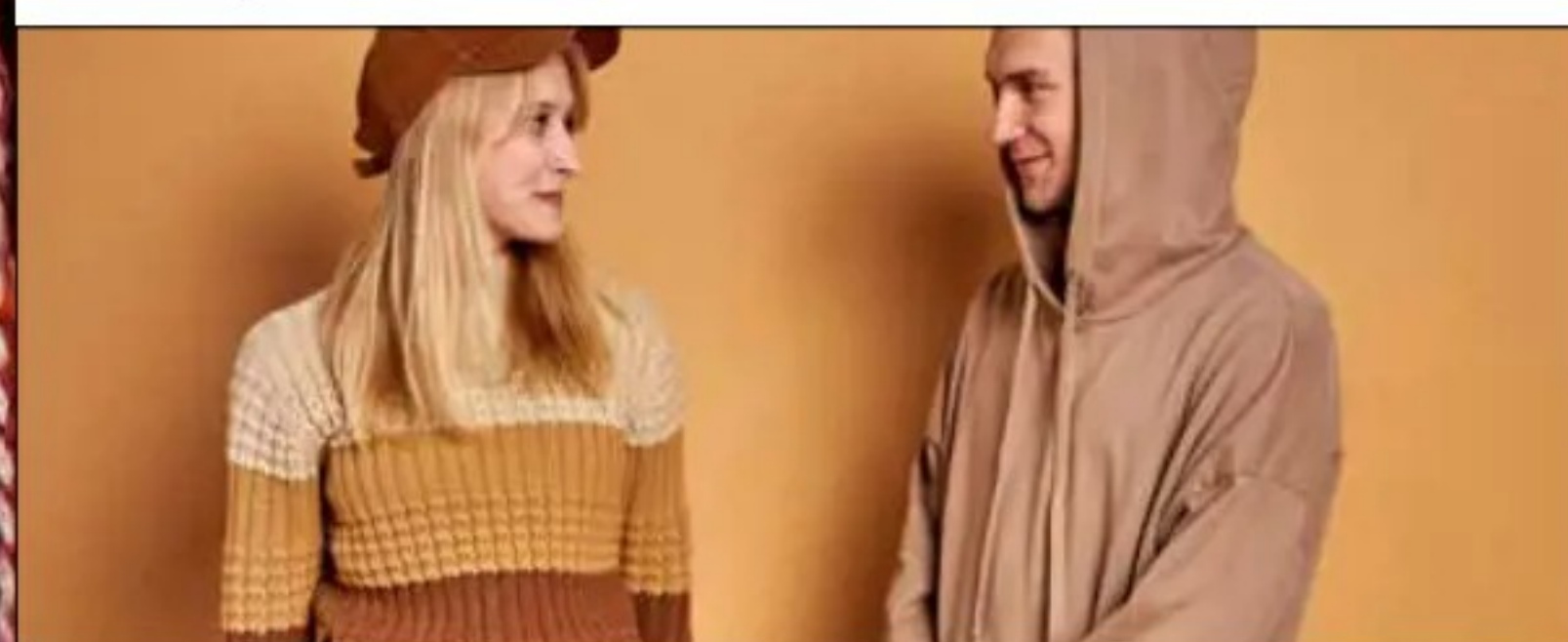
R: Thanks for noticing! The Botox is obviously working! 😊



BC: Discount clothes look really good on you.

T: Your clothes are cheap and horrible.

R: Thanks for noticing! I love finding great deals.



BC: You're really **photogenic**.

T: You look so much better in photos than in real life.

R: Thanks for pointing that out! The camera and I are best friends.



BC: You're so brave to wear an outfit like that.

T: I **wouldn't be seen dead** in something like that.

R: As they say, fashion is an attitude.



BC: You've done quite well for someone of your educational level.

T: You're an uneducated **fool**.

R: Nice observation! I've worked hard to get here!



BC: You're so normal compared to the last person I **dated**.

T: You're boring.

R: I feel honoured! Where would we be without normal people?



BC: You look like you've been eating well.

T: You've put on some weight.

R: Thanks! It's hard to resist food when I'm such a good cook.



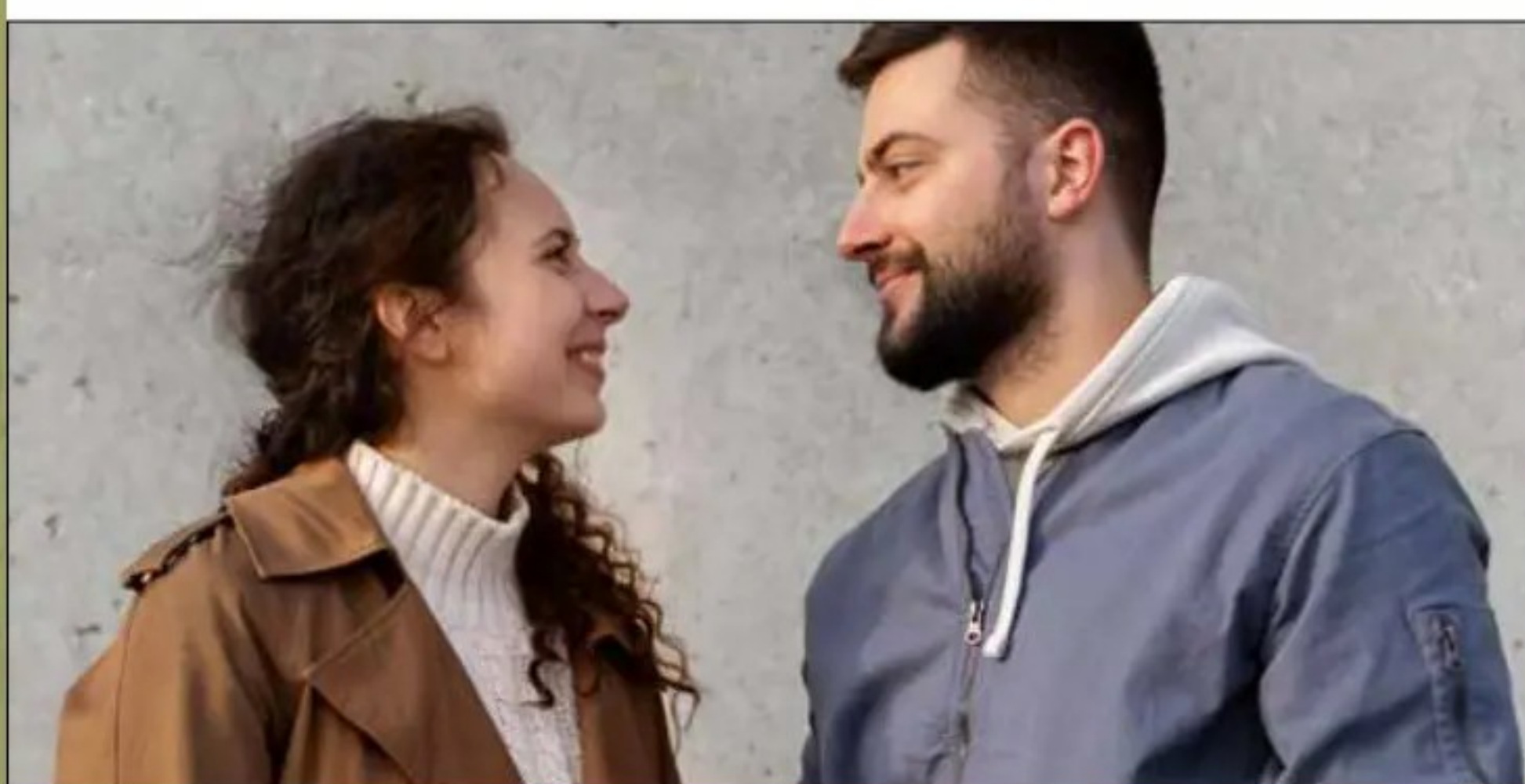
BC: You're a lot of fun when you've had a drink!

T: You're boring when you're **sober**.

R: Nice observation! I like to make an impression!



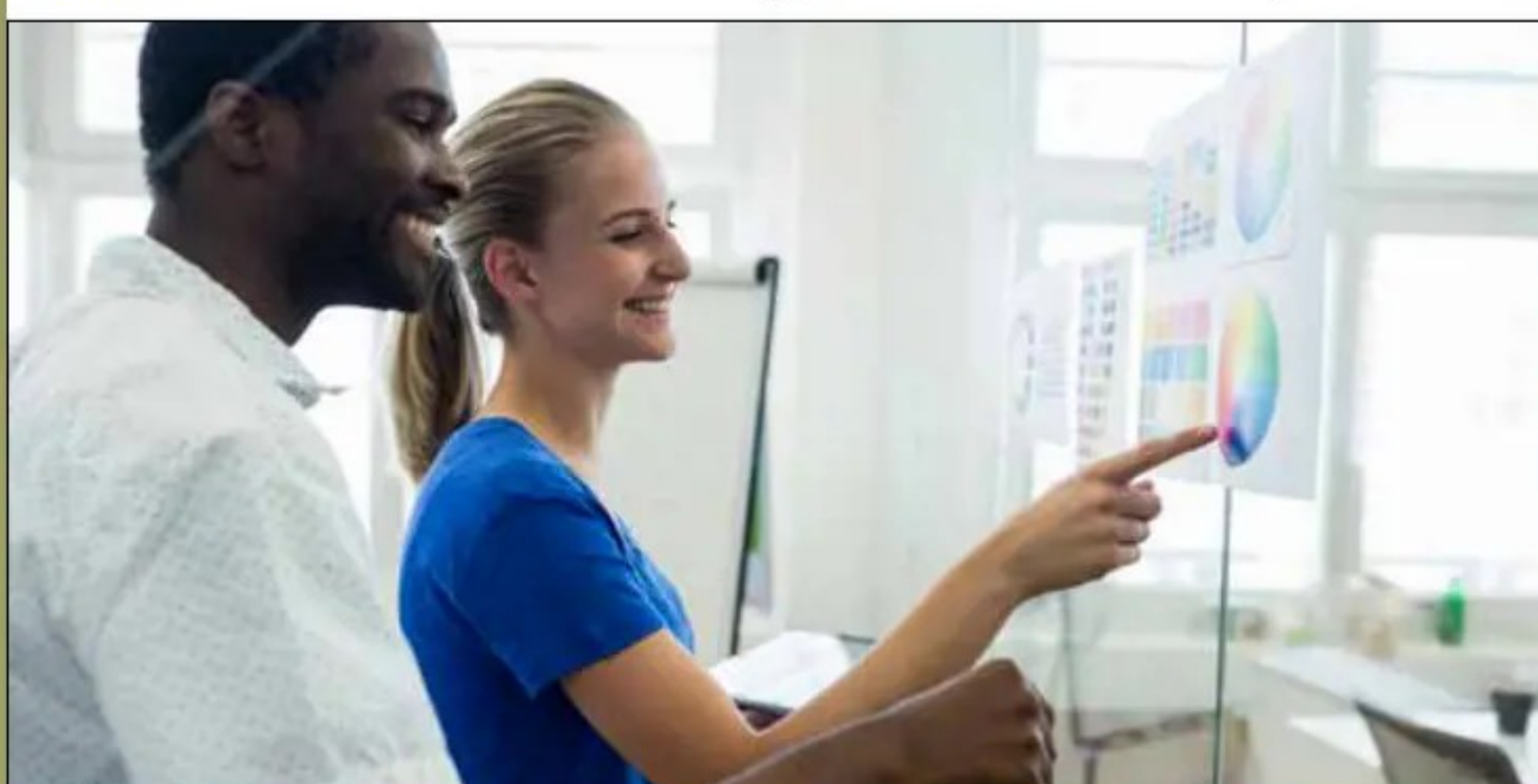
BC: I love how you're not worried about style.
T: You dress like a **tramp**.
R: Thanks for pointing that out! Comfort first! That's what I say.



BC: Your new haircut makes your face look really slim.
T: You have a fat face.
R: I appreciate the observation! The hairstyle is obviously working its magic.



BC: Your presentation was surprisingly good.
T: I didn't think you would be capable of speaking in public!
R: Thanks for noticing. I'm full of surprises!



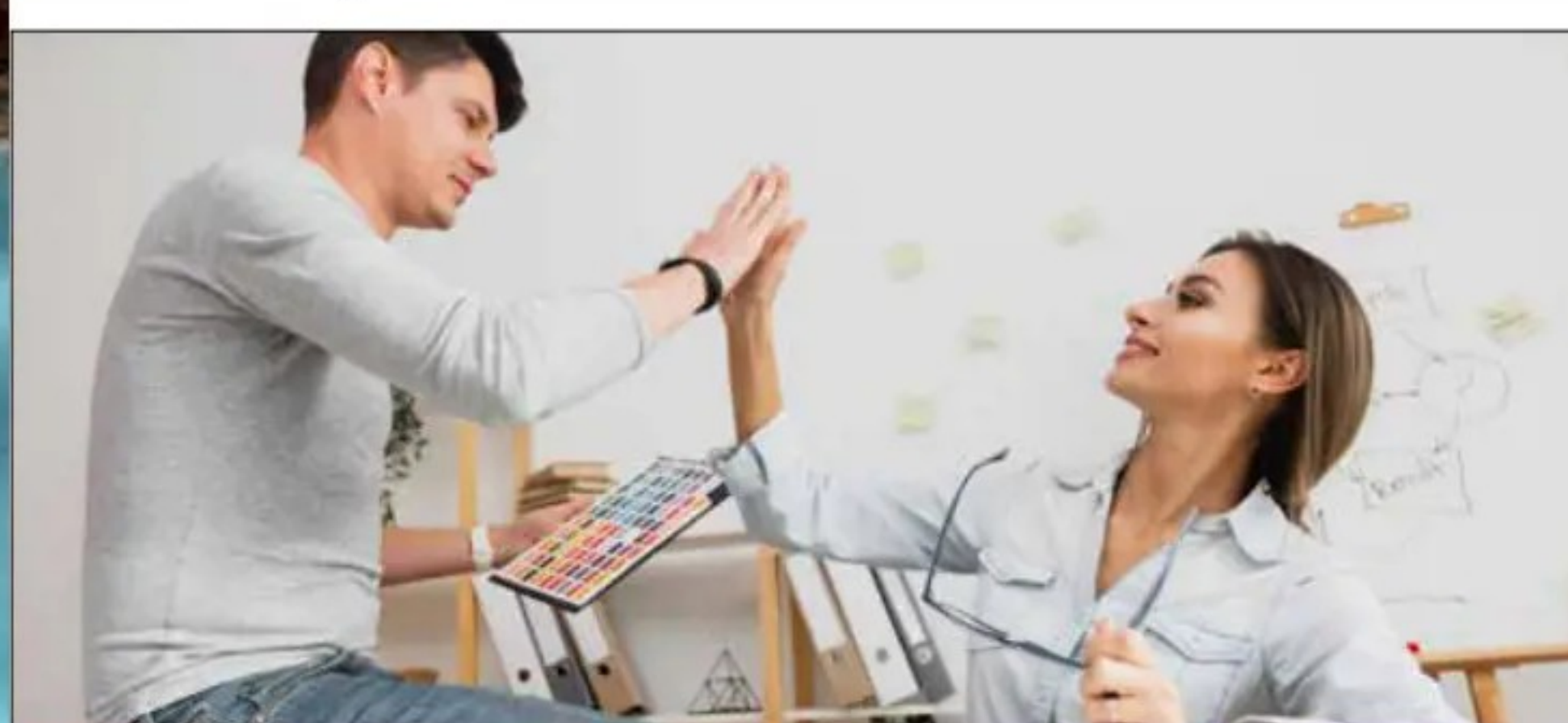
BC: I love how you're not afraid to be yourself.
T: You're weird and strange.
R: Nice observation! It's all part of my charm.



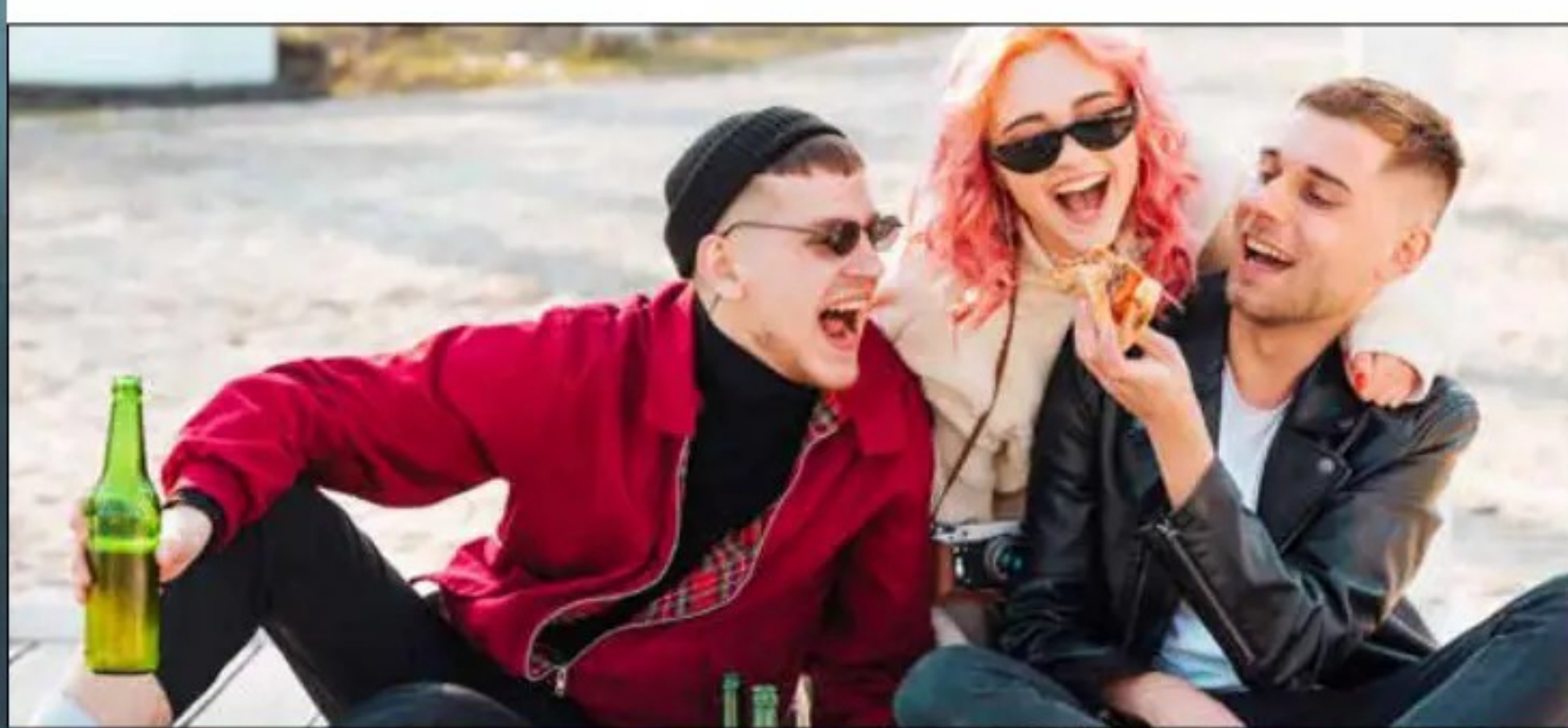
BC: You're lucky you don't have to deal with the stress of a high-paying job.
T: You're a nobody with a terrible job.
R: I appreciate the observation! Who needs stress when you can have peace, right?



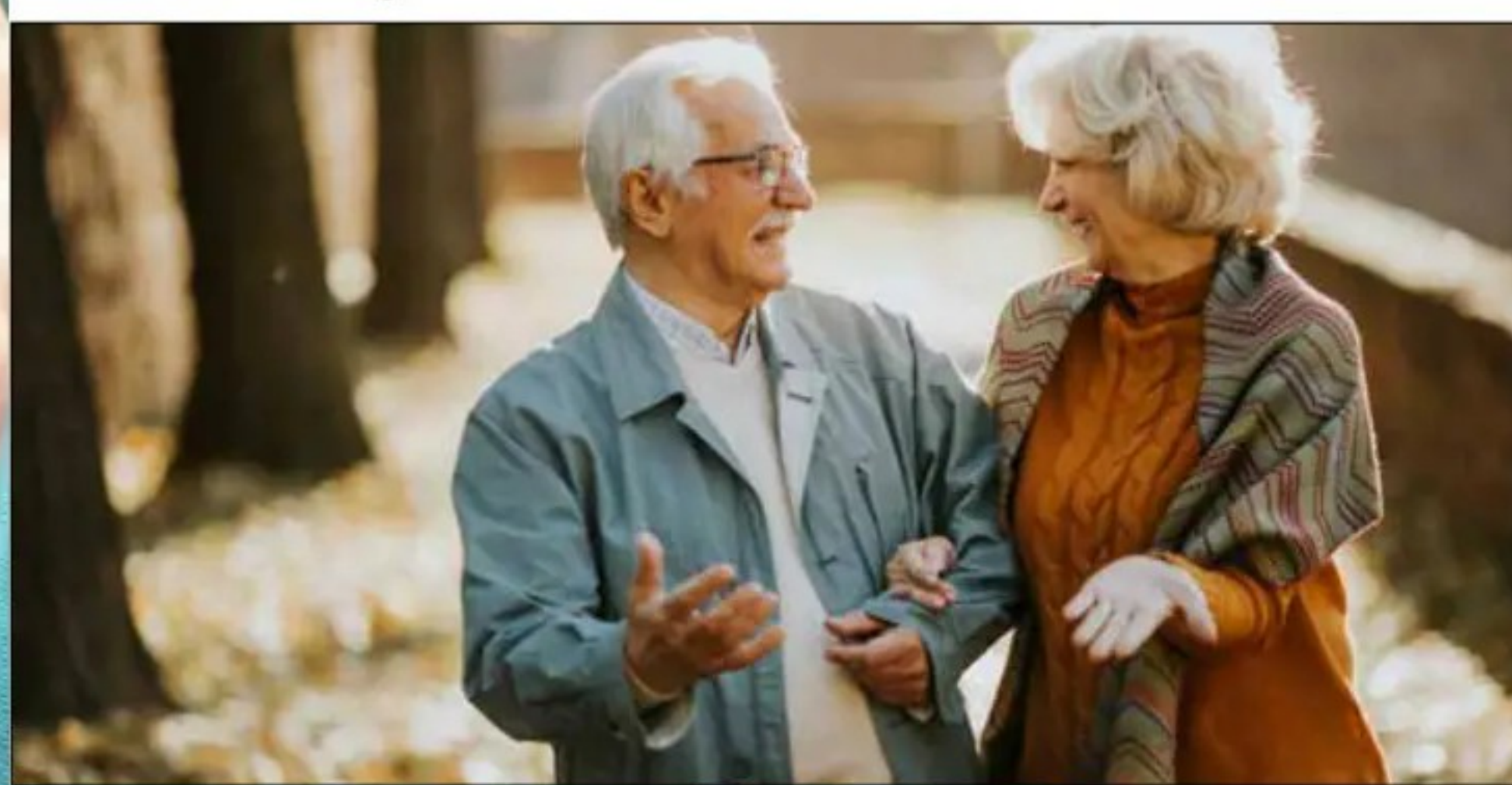
BC: You're so good at staying positive, even when things don't go well for you.
T: Your life is a disaster.
R: Thanks for noticing! Optimism is the key to my life.



BC: You're good at making friends, even if they aren't the best people.
T: Your friends are a disaster.
R: Nice observation! They certainly make my life interesting, that's for sure!



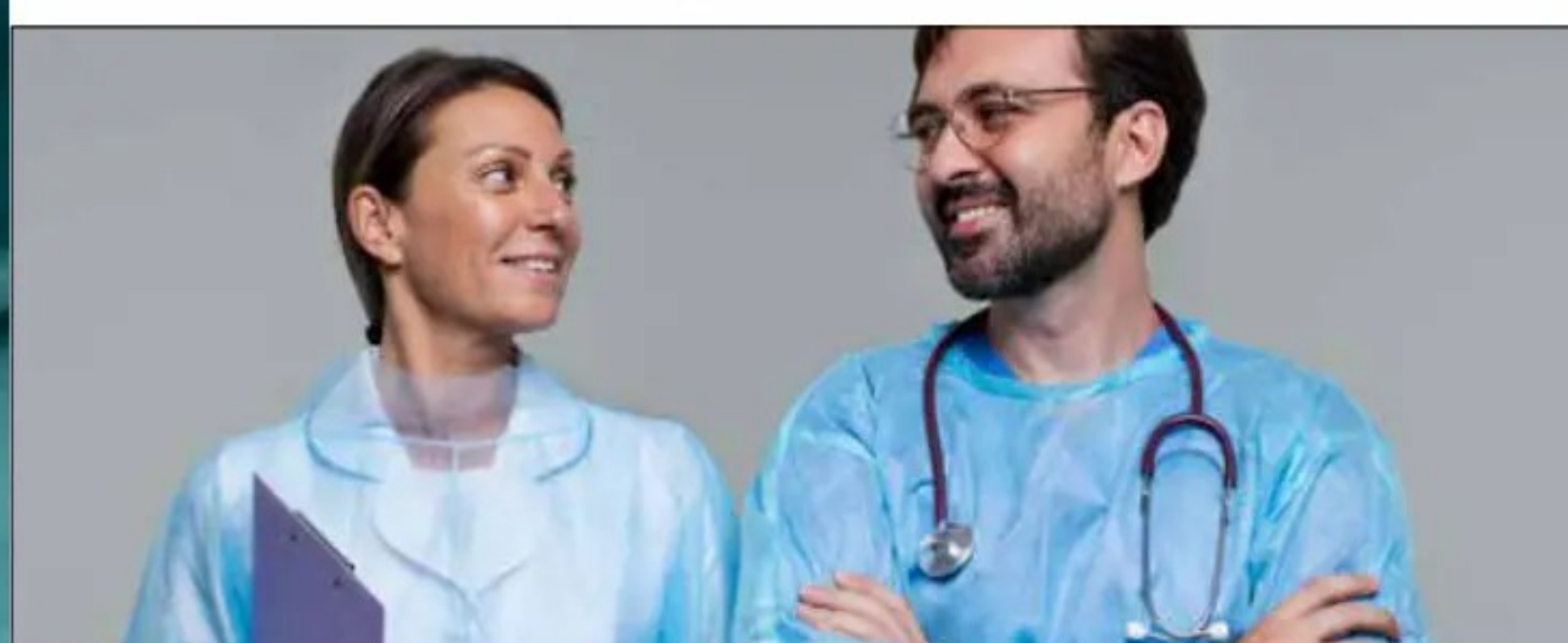
BC: You look great for your age.
T: You're old!
R: Thanks! I'm like a fine wine – I get better with age.



BC: You're lucky you don't have to worry about being popular.
T: You're really unpopular.
R: Nice! I see you noticed that my 'Friends Club' is pretty exclusive.



BC: I'd have never guessed that you were a surgeon.
T: You don't seem to be clever enough to be a surgeon.
R: Thanks for pointing that out! Surgeons come in all shapes and sizes.



GLOSSARY

a compliment *n*
something nice that you say to someone to show that you like what they've done, what they're wearing, etc.

photogenic *adj*
someone who is "photogenic" looks good in photos

I wouldn't be seen dead in... *exp*
I would never wear...

a fool *adj*
an idiot; a stupid person

to date *vb*
if you're "dating" someone, you're having a romantic relationship with them

sober *adj*
someone who is "sober" hasn't had any alcohol and they aren't drunk

a tramp *n*
a poor person with no house who lives in the street

BACKHANDED COMPLIMENTS! EXERCISE

Now it's your turn. Choose 1 or 2 of the backhanded compliments from below and see if you can translate them and think of a response for them.



Answers on page 48

Backhanded compliment:

Your shoes look really comfortable.

Translation:

Response: Nice observation! I like to stand out.

BC: Wow! Your cologne is powerful!

T: _____

R: _____

BC: I didn't recognise you! You look beautiful today!

T: _____

R: _____

BC: Discount clothes look really good on you.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're really photogenic.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're so brave to wear an outfit like that.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You've done quite well for someone of your educational level.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're so normal compared to the last person I dated.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You look like you've been eating well.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're a lot of fun when you've had a drink!

T: _____

R: _____

BC: I love how you're not worried about style.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: Your new haircut makes your face look really slim.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: Your presentation was surprisingly good.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: I love how you're not afraid to be yourself.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're lucky you don't have to deal with the stress of a high-paying job.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're so good at staying positive, even when things don't go well for you.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're good at making friends, even if they aren't the best people.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You look great for your age.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: You're lucky you don't have to worry about being popular.

T: _____

R: _____

BC: I'd have never guessed that you were a surgeon.

T: _____

R: _____

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PHRASAL VERBS THROW

We generally use the verb "to throw" to refer to the action of using your hands to make an object fly through the air. For example, "I threw a plate at his head." Now let's look at some phrasal verbs with the verb "to throw".

THROW SOMETHING AWAY
TO PUT SOMETHING OLD OR DIRTY IN THE RUBBISH BIN; TO GET RID OF SOMETHING OLD.



THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND SOMEONE
TO HOLD SOMEONE IN AN EMOTIONAL WAY BY PUTTING YOUR ARMS AROUND THEM QUICKLY AND SUDDENLY.



THROW SOMEONE IN JAIL/PRISON
TO SEND SOMEONE TO JAIL/PRISON.



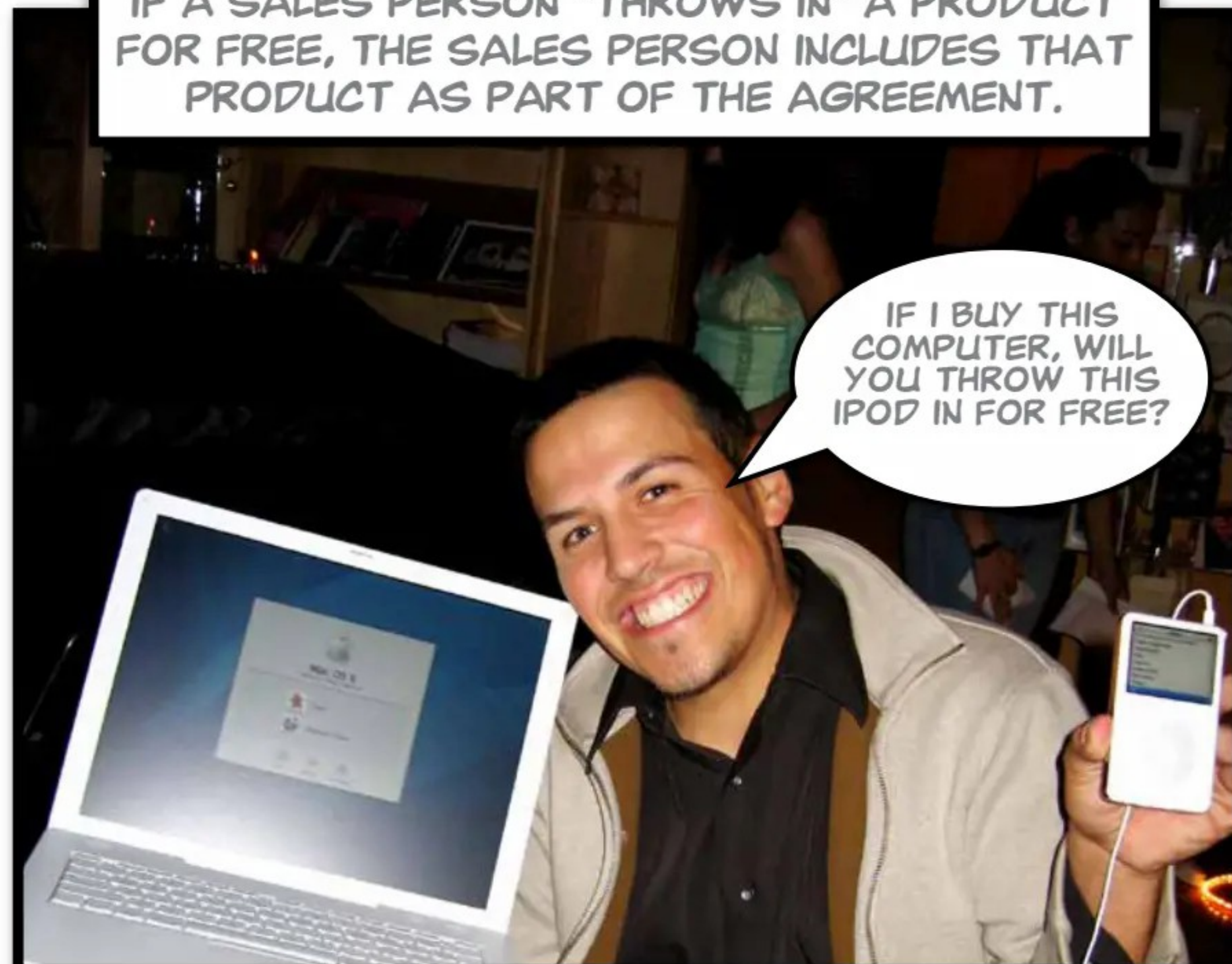
THROW SOMETHING AT SOMEONE
TO THROW SOMETHING SO IT HITS SOMEONE.



THROW MONEY AT A PROBLEM
TO USE MONEY TO TRY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM.



THROW IN A PRODUCT (FOR FREE)
IF A SALES PERSON "THROWS IN" A PRODUCT FOR FREE, THE SALES PERSON INCLUDES THAT PRODUCT AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT.

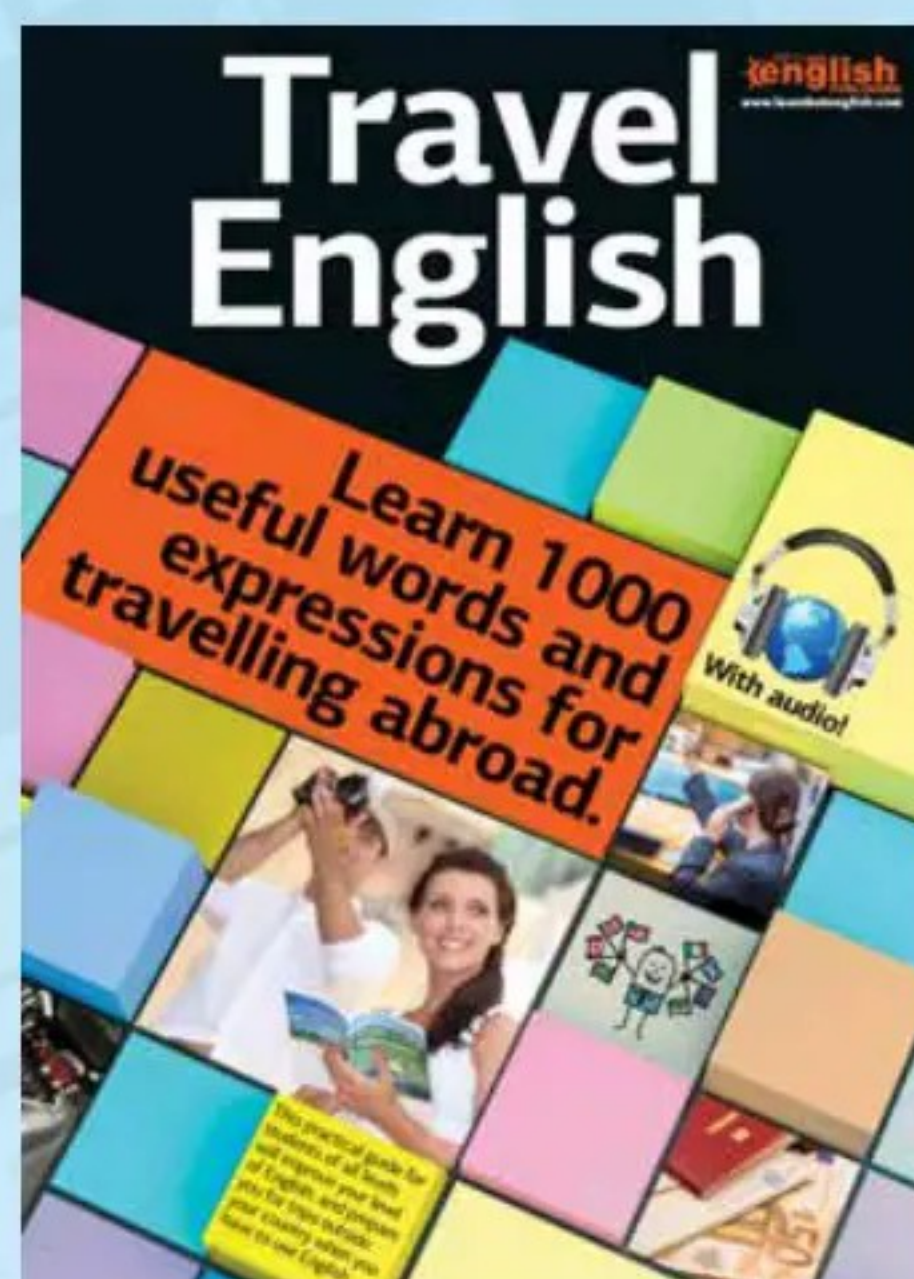


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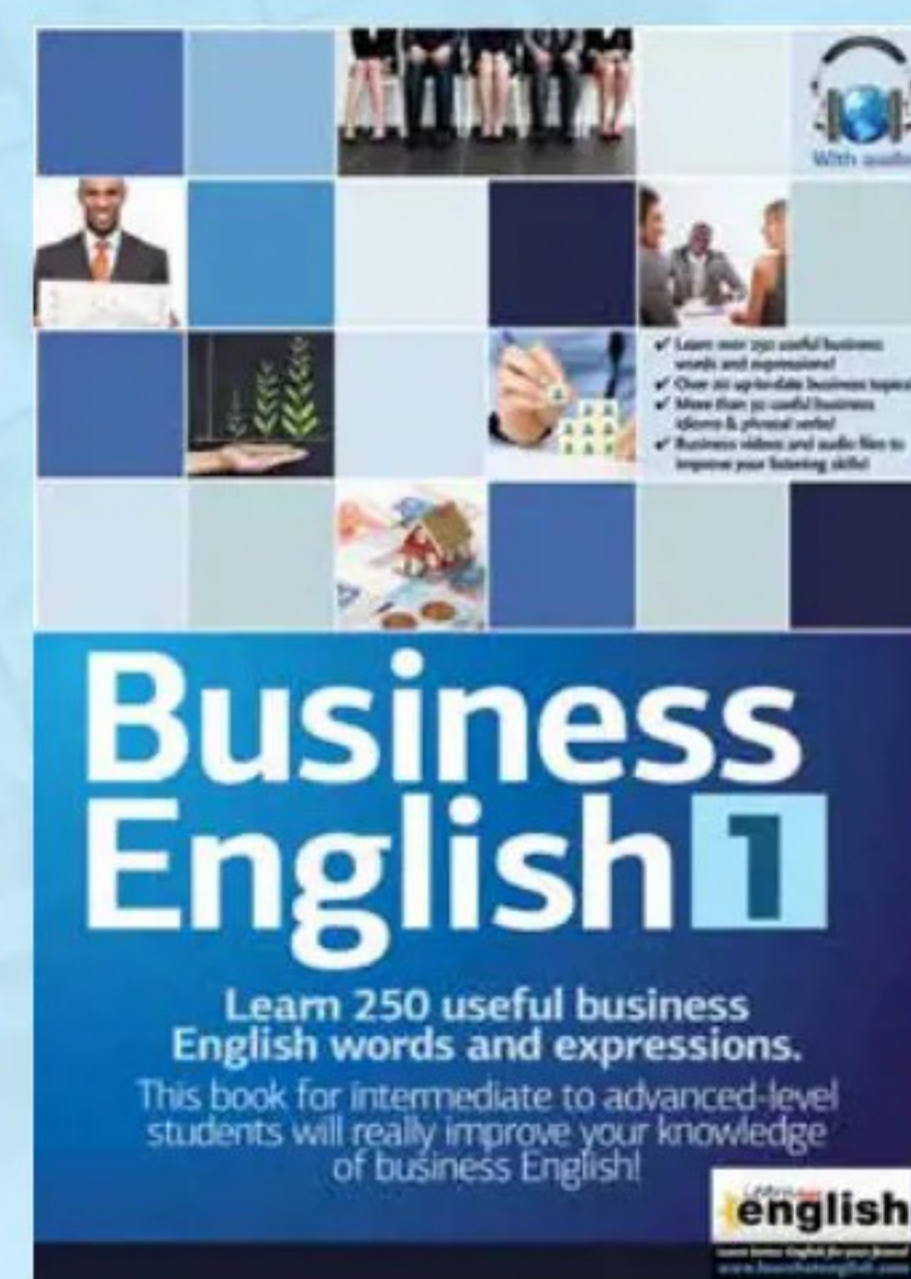
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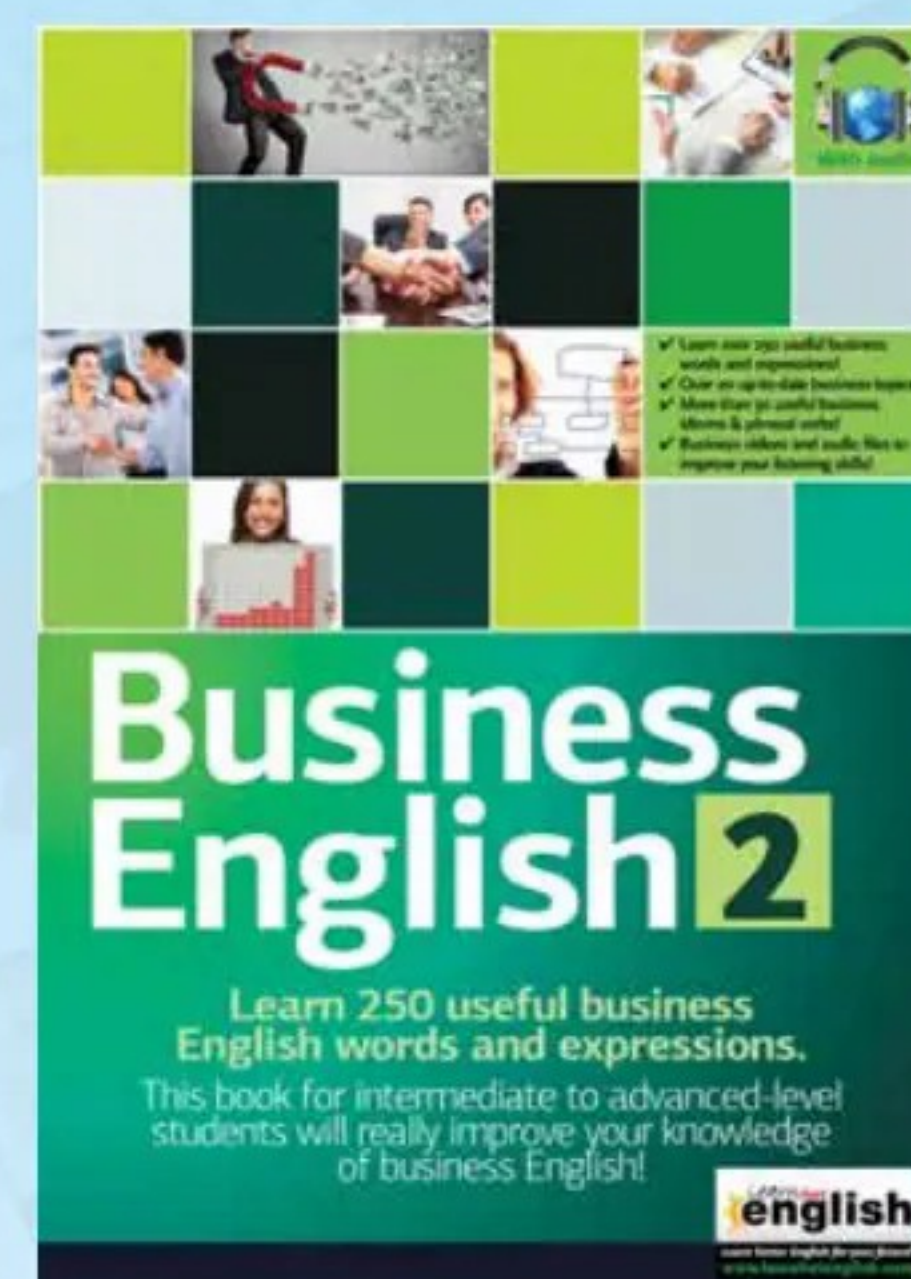
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AUDIO

INSECTIDIOMS

GLOSSARY

a bee *n*
a little black and yellow insect that makes honey

a bonnet *n*
a hat with ribbons that are tied under the chin (the bottom part of your face)

a mess *n*
if things are "in a mess", they are disordered and not tidy

snug *adj*
if you are "snug", you feel warm, secure and comfortable

a bug *n US*
an insect

a rug *n*
a piece of material on the floor. It is similar to a carpet, but it covers a smaller area

rubbish/litter *n*
old things that you throw away: bits of paper, food, etc

This month we are looking at some more insect idioms.



Have a bee in your bonnet

To keep talking about something again and again because you think it is important. However, no one else thinks it is so important.

"He's got a **bee** in his **bonnet** about people leaving a **mess** on their desk. I wish he'd shut up about it."



The birds and the bees

If you tell a child about the "birds and the bees", you tell him/her about sexual reproduction.

"My parents didn't tell me about the birds and bees until I was fifteen."



As snug as a bug in a rug

To feel very comfortable and warm because you are in bed or under a cover.

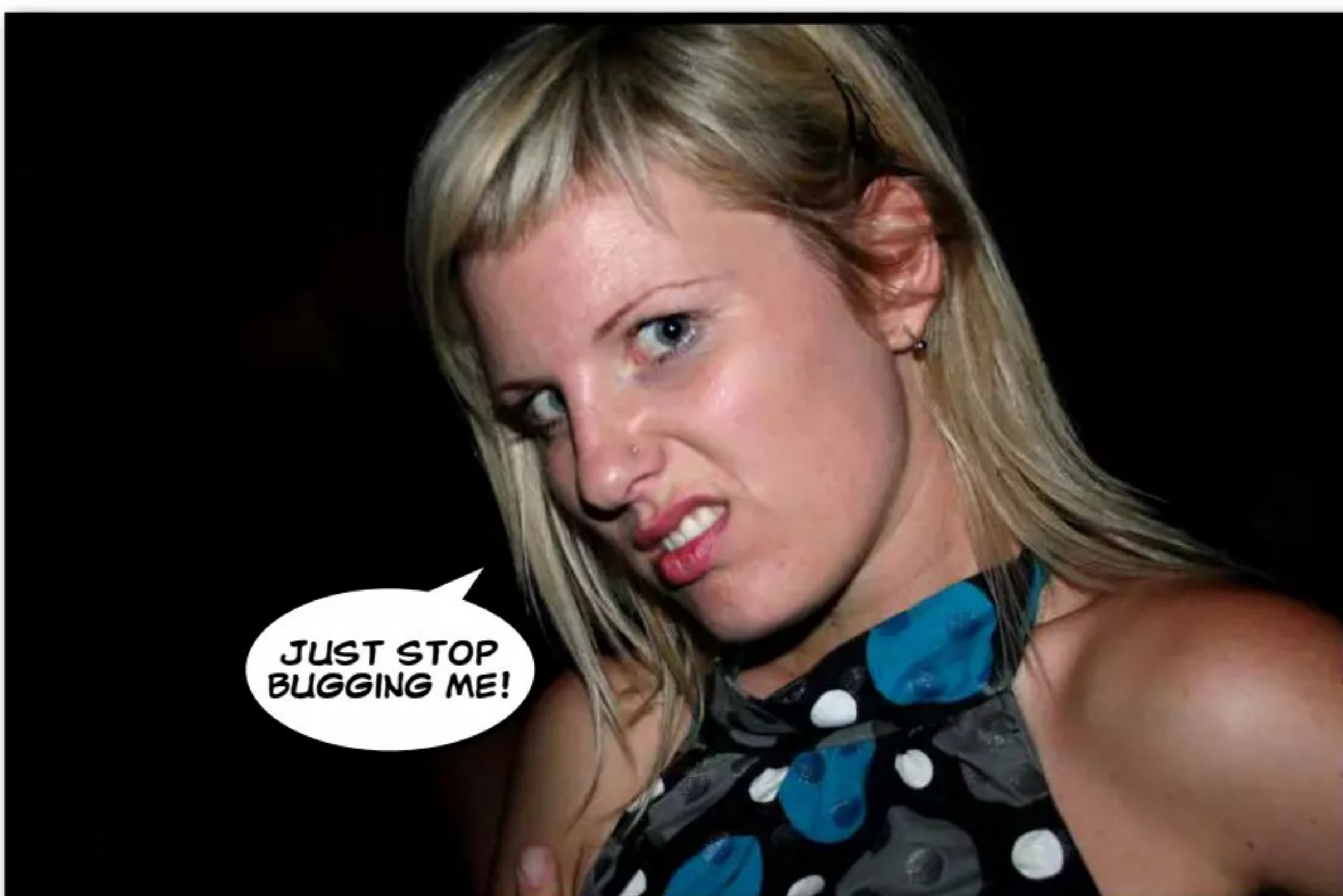
"I spent all weekend in bed watching TV and playing with my PSP portable. I was as **snug** as a **bug** in a **rug**."



A litter bug

Someone who throws rubbish on the floor.

"This street is disgusting with all this **rubbish** everywhere. The government has to do something about **litter** bugs."



Bug someone

To annoy or irritate someone.

"No, I won't play that game with you – I'm busy. Now go away and stop **bugging** me!"



Bug in the system

If there is a bug in a computer programme, there is an error in it.

"The programme doesn't work properly. I think there's a **bug** in the software."

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AUDIO

DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: FAILURE EXPRESSIONS



This month, we are looking at some expressions to do with "failure".



A dead duck

Something that is not successful or useful; something that will fail.
"This project was a **dead duck** right from the start because of a lack of funding."



A no-win situation

A difficult situation in which whatever happens the result will be bad.
"We're in a bit of a no-win situation. Whatever we do, no one is going to be satisfied."



A sinking ship

A company or organisation that is failing.
"I've had a look at the accounts and they're **in a complete mess**. In fact, I'd say that this company is a **sinking ship**."



Go pear-shaped

If a plan "goes pear-shaped", it fails or goes badly.
"We had planned to finish the project this week, but everything has gone pear-shaped."



Go/fall to pieces

To fail suddenly and completely; to start playing or doing really badly.
"The football team did really well last year, but this year they have gone to pieces."



Not set the world on fire

Not to be very exciting or successful.
"This new club is good, but it's just like every other club. It won't **set the world on fire**."



Sod's law

Bad things will happen if there is any possibility of them happening.
"The one time I arrive late for work, the boss happens to notice. It's **sod's law**."



Murphy's law

An unwritten law that says that if something can go badly, it will go badly.
"I'm a great believer in Murphy's law: what can go wrong, will go wrong."

GLOSSARY

a duck *n*
a type of bird that lives in water. Donald Duck was one
in a complete mess *exp*
if things are "in a complete mess", they are not ordered or neat
a sinking ship *n*
a ship that is going under water because there is a hole in it
to set something on fire *exp*
to burn something



Fluency Practice

Listen to this master class. Answers on page 53

A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.

"Sick, slick, slim sycamore saplings."



B: Dictation

Listen to these sentences and write down what you hear.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

C: Connected speech

Look at these sentences. See if you can say them with connected speech. Then, listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. What do you like about it?
2. Do you live here alone?
3. What do you know about it?
4. Do you like it?
5. Do you know where it is?
6. What do you do at the weekend?

D: Pronunciation – the "a" sound

Look at the sentences containing words with the "a" sound (axe, man, sad, bag, etc). Try to say the words in each sentence correctly. Then listen to the CD to check your answers.

1. The man has an axe.
2. Magnus left his bag on the sack.
3. The pan has a can in it.
4. The man looked sad.
5. Anne lives in Amsterdam.

E: Answering questions: the car

Answer these questions as quickly as you can. Answer the first four in the affirmative, and the second lot of four in the negative.

1. Do you like driving?
2. Have you ever had an accident?
3. Have you ever picked up a hitch-hiker?

4. Have you ever driven through a red light?
5. Do you always find a parking space near your home?
6. Do you ever use the car horn?
7. Have you ever driven really far?
8. Do you listen to CDs while you are driving?



F: Question formation – the car

Make questions according to the instructions. Be as quick as you can and try not to think too much.

1. Ask me what kind of car I drive.
2. Ask me what kind of car I would like to drive.
3. Ask me if I like driving.
4. Ask me how often I use my car.
5. Ask me what I like to do while I'm driving.
6. Ask me if I've ever had a bad experience whilst driving.
7. Ask me if I've ever driven abroad.
8. Ask me if I've ever been stopped by a traffic police officer.

G: Revision Drills – Going to

This drill is designed to practise using "going to" with the future. Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and answer with full answers.

1. What are you going to eat tonight?
2. What are you going to watch on TV tonight?
3. What time are you going to turn off the television?
4. Who are you going to telephone tonight?
5. What are you going to clean before you go to bed?
6. What are you going to prepare before you go to bed?
7. When are you going to go to bed tonight?
8. What are you going to read before you sleep? ☆





British humour



A sense of humour is central to the British identity. And as every comedian knows, to be funny you need good material. By Rob Julian

Luckily, Britain is a society that has great material. From the famously bad weather, to the mysterious class system, to politicians and celebrities – there's so much to laugh at. As the old **saying** goes, "If you didn't laugh, you'd cry". But perhaps **Oscar Wilde** said it best, "Life is far too important to be taken seriously". Here's a look at some of the things that Britain laughs at.

Class

Britain's ancient **class system** has always been a mystery to foreigners, and a source of fascination, and humour, to the British. In the past, the British were expected to "know their place". That meant they had to accept their status as working class, middle class or upper class, and to **behave** appropriately. People who acted and spoke as if they belonged

to a higher social class were laughed at. Television comedies such as *Steptoe and Son*, *The Good Life* and *Keeping Up Appearances* used class as the basis of their humour.

Sex

Sex and sexuality is often **repressed** in Britain. As a result, it's the source of

a great amount of humour. But because of **censorship**, sexual humour on the stage or screen had always had to be indirect and very subtle. And this is why **innuendo** or "double entendre" (the double meaning of words) became central to British humour, especially in the 1960s and '70s. The *Carry On* movies became famous for jokes that had a sexual implication. But



they aren't the only ones to use "double entendre". Virgin Atlantic airlines used it in an advert, with their slogan "you never forget your first time". On TV, *The Benny Hill Show* was a **huge hit**. For two decades, British audiences loved to see this fat, middle-aged man being chased by half-naked women.

Violence

Violence is nothing to laugh about, especially if it's happening to you. But



fictional violence can be funny as it is energetic and visually exciting. The **slapstick** tradition with people falling down or hitting each other, but never really getting hurt, has been popular for decades, even centuries. *Fawlty Towers* is a classic British **sitcom** that is full of "fun" violence. Who can forget the sight of Basil Fawlty assaulting his waiter Manuel? This childish form of slapstick violence continued with shows such as *The Young Ones*.

Work

Everyone who has a job knows that workplaces are often **absurd**. In the seventies and early eighties, the sitcom *Are You Being Served?* was **set in** a large, old-fashioned **department store**, a great place for **gags**. But no British



comedy has represented the workplace as successfully as *The Office*. Like too many bosses, manager David Brent is **vain**, self-important and **insensitive**. He is so funny because he is so recognisable. He manages to offend everyone who works for him.

Family

Families can be a source of love, but families can also be a pain. That's why we're fascinated how other families work. Family conflicts make great drama in film and television, but they can also be a source of humour. British sitcoms often use the **dysfunctional family** as a favourite theme. This can be seen in comedies such as *The Royle Family*. They constantly **get at** each other while watching the television. Brothers Del-Boy and Rodney Trotter in *Only Fools and Horses* are typical **sibling rivals** as they fight with each other but are also **loyal** to one other and to their grandfather. In *Absolutely Fabulous* mother and daughter have changed roles. Teenager Saffi is **dependable** and **sensible**,



and her fashion-obsessed mother Edina and her friend Patsy are **irresponsible** and self-absorbed.

Fools and losers

The British love a **loser**. If life is difficult, it always helps to know that there's someone

worse off than yourself.

Losers are the victims of their own ambitions. They try, they fail, then they try again, all for our entertainment. This can be seen in programmes such as *Mr Bean* and *Blackadder*, the bad-tempered Basil Fawlty of *Fawlty Towers*, Frank Spencer, the unintelligent hero of 1970's sitcom *Some Mothers Do Have 'Em*, The ridiculous part time soldiers of *Dad's Army* – there's a love of the fool in British humour.



Madness and Surrealism

The British are famous for their eccentricity and British humour can be very **weird**. Of course, cartoons and animation are perfect for the strange and surreal. *Bonzo the Dog* was Britain's first animated success. Bonzo took a journey to the moon and a trip to Hollywood on a radio wave. *The Magic Roundabout* was all about an enchanted garden populated by talking dogs and rabbits who played the guitar. More recently, there has been *Wallace and Grommit* which is all about a cheese-loving inventor and his faithful dog. In the 1950s, radio show *The Goons* was full of funny voices and ridiculous situations. *Monty Python's Flying Circus* combined weird **skits** with the playful imagination of animator Terry Gilliam. The team's feature films included *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Life of Brian* and *The Meaning of Life*. Meanwhile



on TV, the anarchic *Kenny Everett Video Show* was a **ratings success**. By the turn of the 21st century,

the madness was getting darker. *The League of Gentlemen* introduced the nightmare world of Royston Vasey. The disturbing *Jam* was perhaps the strangest ever seen on television, with television sets full of seven-year-old schoolgirl killers and professional baby-fighting.

Race

One of the greatest changes of the past half-century has been the transformation of Britain into a multiracial society, following a process of immigration beginning in the late 1940s. Unfortunately, classic sitcoms from the sixties and seventies now seem very racist. *Love Thy Neighbour* **made light of** the anxieties of a white couple when an African family moves in next door. *Mind Your Language*, set in an English language class for non-native speakers, had something to offend almost everyone with its simplistic **stereotypes**. One of the most controversial figures is Ali G from *Da Ali G Show*. He was created by comedian Sacha Baron-Cohen. The character has divided opinions, but managed to attract huge audiences. ☺

GLOSSARY

- a saying** *n*
a memorable sentence that people often say
- Oscar Wilde** *n*
a famous Irish writer
- the class system** *n*
the way that society is divided into working-class, middle-class and upper-class people
- to behave** *vb*
to act
- repressed** *adj*
a "repressed" feeling or emotion is hidden and not talked about
- censorship** *n*
the process of examining films/books, etc and eliminating "offensive" text/scenes, etc
- innuendo** *n*
the indirect reference to something rude or sexual
- a huge hit** *n*
a very popular film
- slapstick** *n*
a type of humour that involves falling down, hitting people, etc
- a sitcom** *abbr*
a situation comedy - a television series about a group of people
- absurd** *adj*
strange, ridiculous, etc
- set in a place** *exp*
if a film is "set in a place", it happens in that place
- a department store** *n*
a large shop with many different departments: men's clothing, women's clothing, etc
- a gag** *n*
a joke - often one told by a professional comedian
- vain** *adj*
obsessed with his/her physical appearance
- insensitive** *adj*
not thinking about the feelings of others
- a dysfunctional family** *n*
a family with many problems
- to get at one another** *exp*
to attack one another verbally
- sibling rivals** *n*
two brothers who are in competition
- loyal** *adj*
faithful, supportive, honest
- dependable** *adj*
someone who is "dependable" will always do what he/she says she will do and at the right time
- sensible** *adj*
someone who is "sensible" acts in a responsible and controlled manner
- irresponsible** *adj*
not acting in a responsible way
- a loser** *n*
a person who is very unsuccessful in life
- worse off** *adj*
if someone is "worse off" than you, they are in a worse situation
- weird** *adj*
strange and unusual
- a skit** *n*
a short act in which actors make fun of people by imitating them
- a ratings success** *n*
a programme that is very popular
- to make light of something** *exp*
to make fun of something; to laugh at something
- a stereotype** *n*
a fixed, general image of a nationality/race, etc. It is often an exaggerated and negative image

Mr Bean

The man with the rubber face.

He's ugly, but he's **cute**. He's weird but he's clever. He's **childlike**, but he dresses like an old man. He has revolting personal habits, but likes things to be **neat and tidy**. He's a **walking disaster** in a **tweed** coat. He's Mr Bean. Just hope he isn't anywhere near you!

How Bean was Born

Two feature films, and several **long-running** TV series and a cartoon series as well – Mr Bean is a superstar. The **antics** of this weird little man have been delighting audiences for over fifteen years.

In the first series, Mr Bean falls to earth in a ray of light. But in reality it took a while for Mr Bean to be born.

The man behind Mr Bean is British comic actor Rowan Atkinson.

As a child, Atkinson had a **stutter**, a condition which sometimes returns when he is in stressful situations. However, Atkinson has since used his mispronunciation for comic effect from time to time.

The seed that became a bean

Atkinson was born in Durham in north-east England and studied electrical engineering at Newcastle University before doing his masters degree at Oxford University. At Oxford,

he met the writer Richard Curtis and collaborated with him writing **sketches**. His first success in comedy was writing for the sketch show *Not the Nine O'clock News*. Atkinson first developed the Bean character while he was a student at Oxford. This **prototype** Mr Bean made an appearance at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in the 1980s.

Blackadder

But before Bean became a big hit, there was *Blackadder*. Atkinson and Richard Curtis wrote and starred in the first of the *Blackadder* series. *Blackadder* is all about a character (Blackadder) who appears in different historical periods. The first series was set in 15th-century England. *Blackadder II* took place in the Elizabethan era (during the 16th century), and included a descendent of the original Blackadder.

The same pattern was repeated in

Blackadder the Third, set during the 18th

century, and in *Blackadder Goes Forth*, which is set during the First World War. Much of the humour is based around Blackadder's **sarcastic** and **witty** comments, and his cruelty to his **sidekick**, Baldrick. The *Blackadder* series went on to become one of the most successful BBC situation comedies of the 1980s, and it was voted the second-best British sitcom of all time, beaten by *Only Fools and Horses*.

Monsieur Hulot – the original French Bean

Atkinson launched the first Mr Bean TV series in 1990, and has never looked

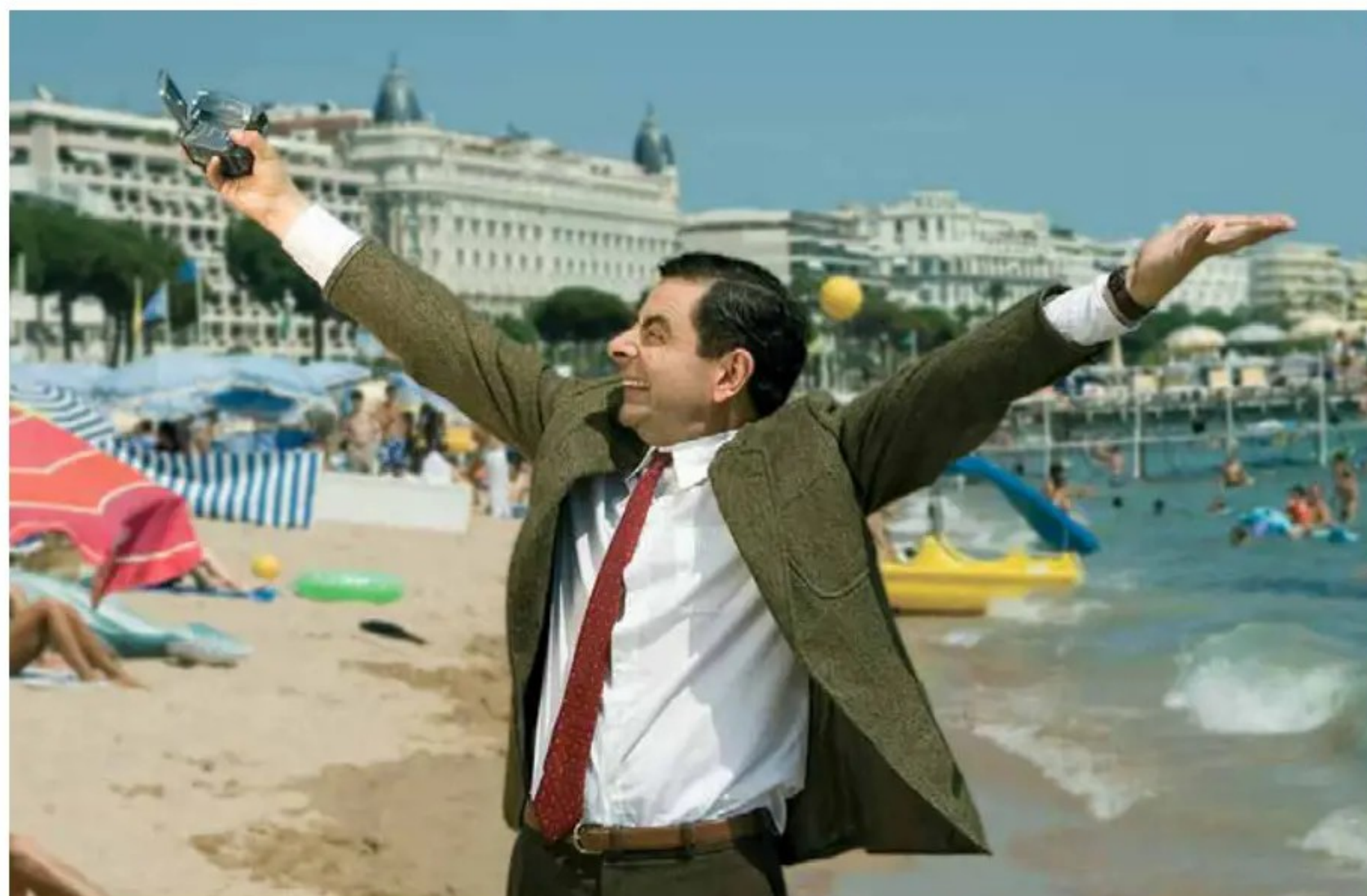
“Mr Hulot” used physical humour more than dialogue, and Bean is the same. Bean hardly ever says anything clearly. He **grunts** and makes strange noises most of the time. Perhaps that's why he is so popular internationally.

A car nut

Atkinson is now a millionaire with an estimated wealth of 60 million pounds. His major hobby is fast cars. He loves Aston Martins and has a large private collection. In 2003, Atkinson starred in a James Bond spoof called *Johnny English*. Atkinson owns the same Aston Martin DB7 he drove in the movie. ☆

GLOSSARY

cute *adj*
pretty and attractive
childlike *adj*
if someone is “childlike” they appear to be a child because of the way they act/talk, etc
neat and tidy *exp*
if things are “neat and tidy”, those things are ordered and in their place
a walking disaster *n*
a person who has many accidents
tweed *n*
a type of thick woollen material
long-running *adj*
that has been happening for a long time
antics *n*
funny or silly ways of behaving
a stutter *n*
if someone has a “stutter”, they repeat the same sound many times when speaking
a sketch *n*
a short, humorous piece of acting that is part of a show
a prototype *n*
a model of something; the first version
sarcastic *adj*
if someone is “sarcastic”, they say things that have the opposite meaning. For example, they say, “that's nice”, when they really mean to say that it is horrible
witty *adj*
with an ability to say funny things, or to respond quickly to a comment
a sidekick *n*
a person who accompanies the main star and who is inferior, less important, less intelligent, etc
to grunt *vb*
to make sounds instead of speaking



back. Atkinson has said that Bean was influenced by the “Mr Hulot” character of the French comic actor and director Jacques Tati.

The World of Bean

All about the movie *Mr Bean's Holiday*.



Mr Bean's Teddy

"Teddy" is Mr Bean's best friend. Bean seems to think Teddy is a real person. He tries not to wake him in the mornings, he buys him Christmas presents, and looks after him like a child. But sometimes, often in an emergency, Bean has to use him as a **dish cloth** or paint brush.

Mr Bean's Mini

Mr Bean's lime green Mini is very important to him. He uses it to **get himself into and out of trouble**. He drives it while he gets dressed. And he looks after it carefully. For example, sometimes he removes the **steering wheel** instead of the key when he parks it. Other times he hides the key under the **car bonnet**. The key for the bonnet is kept in the boot, the key for the boot is hidden somewhere else.

Mr Bean's Girlfriend

Mr Bean's "girlfriend", Irma Gobb, appears in a number of episodes. She isn't treated well by Bean. He seems to think of her more as a friend and companion than a love interest. However, he becomes jealous when she dances with another man at a disco in *Mr Bean Goes to Town*. And she certainly

expects him to propose to her on Christmas Day in *Merry Christmas, Mr Bean*. But he doesn't, so Irma leaves him.

The Animated series

In 2002 an animated version of the series was launched. The series also introduced some additional characters, featuring Mr Bean's unpleasant **landlady**, Mrs Wicket and her **evil** one-eyed cat, Scrapper. Rowan Atkinson provided the voice for Bean, and all of the animated Bean actions are taken from Atkinson himself.

Bean in the Movies

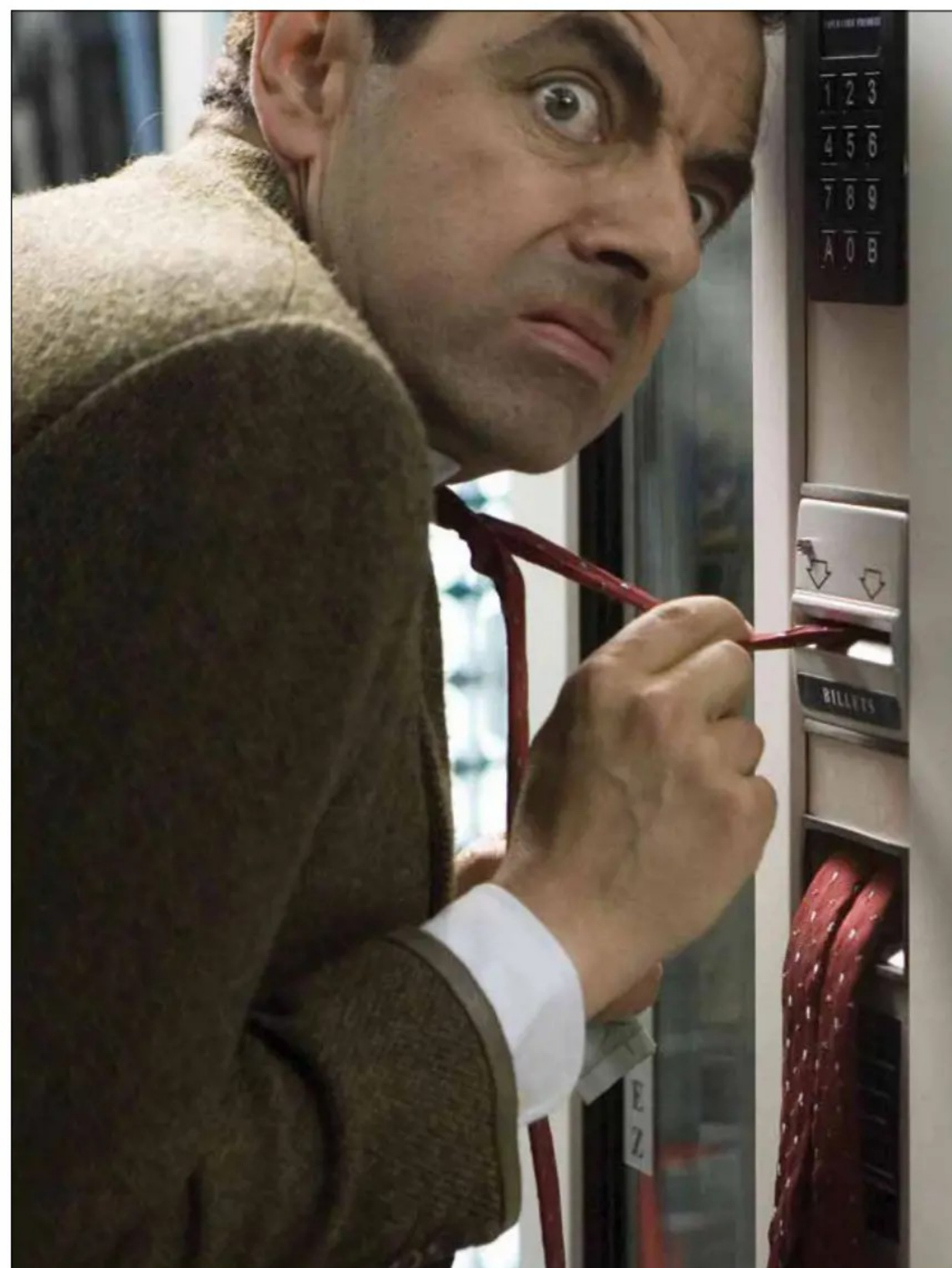
In 1997, *Bean* (directed by Mel Smith), also known as *Bean: The Ultimate Disaster Movie*, made US \$230 million on a **budget** of only around US \$22 million. In the movie, Mr Bean works as a security guard for an important London art gallery. By mistake, he is chosen to transfer a painting ("Whistler's Mother") from the gallery's collection to a US gallery. After a number of disasters, Bean accidentally destroys the painting. But with a bit of creativity and some **varnish**, Bean puts a photographic reproduction of the painting in the original **frame**. When it is exhibited for the first time, nobody knows the difference.

Bean now

Mr Bean's holiday is written by Rowan Atkinson and Richard Curtis (Curtis wrote the script for *Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Notting Hill*). Atkinson famously said that *Mr Bean's Holiday* would be the last Mr Bean movie. However, Mr. Bean hasn't completely disappeared. Atkinson has occasionally appeared as Mr Bean for special occasions, such as the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony. In the movie, Mr Bean is heading to the Riviera on the southern coast of France for a holiday. However, his journey becomes chaotic after he meets Romanian film director Emil and his 8-year-old son Stefan, on a train. They eventually find themselves in a small village. There, they meet Sabine, a pretty young girl. They also meet a **film crew**, which results in an unexpected **screening** of Bean's video diary at the Cannes Film Festival. ☺

GLOSSARY

a dish cloth *n*
a piece of material used to clean plates or surfaces in the house
to get yourself into trouble *exp*
to create problems for yourself
to get yourself out of trouble *exp*
to do something so you aren't in a difficult situation
a steering wheel *n*
the round object in a car that you hold and use to change direction
a car bonnet *n*
the metal cover over the car engine
a landlady *n*
a woman who rents rooms in a building/house/flat
evil *adj*
bad, cruel, etc
a budget *n*
money allocated for a project
varnish *n*
a liquid used to cover wood in order to preserve it
a frame *n*
the metal/wooden border that is fitted around a painting/picture
a film crew *n*
the people who are involved in making a film: the director, the lighting specialist, etc
a screening *n*
if there is a "screening" of a film, that film is shown to the public





STUPID CRIMINALS

Here's another part in our series on stupid criminals. Learn how not to do it.

Feast Away

An English **burglar** **broke into** a social club in Brighton. He was **intending** to steal music and video equipment. However, once inside, he found a chicken in the fridge. So, he cooked and ate it, **washing it down** with two bottles of wine. Later, he **stretched out** on the floor and went to sleep. Next morning, he woke up to find himself under arrest.

Dyeing Out

When Paul Broke from Tennessee robbed a bank, he **got off to a bad start**. He had a **slip of paper** with the writing "This is a hold-up" on it. Unfortunately, the paper also had his name and address on it. Then, the clerk handed him a package, telling the robber that it was full of money. However, it was really a **booby-trap** that exploded and covered the man in red **dye**. He ran out of the building, **trailing** red dust, and made his escape on a bicycle. Police later found him at the side of the road, breathing heavily and with a **trail of** red dye behind him.



Frogs can swim

In Bordeaux, France, a thief in a **frogman's suit** walked into a bank right next to a river. He was carrying a **suitcase** in which he **pretended** to have a bomb. He got £20,000, ran out of the bank, jumped into a river and swam two kilometres underwater towards his **getaway car**. It seemed like the perfect escape, but for one thing: every time he breathed, he left a trail of **bubbles**. Police followed the bubbles and arrested him as he **climbed ashore**.

Call for Help

A man from Scotland managed to break into the basement of a bank by climbing through a **street-level window**. However, in the process, he cut himself up **pretty badly**. He then realised that:

- He couldn't get to the money from where he was.
- He couldn't climb out of the window through which he had entered.
- He was **bleeding** pretty badly.

So, he picked up one of the office phones and called the **emergency services**.. ☆



GLOSSARY

- a burglar** *n*
a person who enters property with the intention of stealing
- to break into a place** *exp*
to enter a building illegally
- to intend (to do something)** *exp*
to plan to do something
- to wash (food) down** *phr vb*
if you "wash your food down" with wine, you have wine with your food
- to stretch out** *phr vb*
to extend your arms and legs
- to get off to a bad start** *exp*
to begin with a mistake or error
- a slip of paper** *n*
a small strip of paper
- a booby-trap** *n*
a box with a hidden bomb or trick inside it
- dye** *n*
a chemical substance that changes the colour of hair/skin, etc
- to trail** *vb*
if you are "trailing" red dust, there is a line of red dust behind you
- a trail of something** *n*
a line of something behind you
- a frogman's suit** *n*
a rubber suit used by people who swim under water
- a suitcase** *n*
a large bag for carrying clothes, etc when you go on holiday
- to pretend** *vb*
to act as if something is true even if it isn't
- a getaway car** *n*
a car used to drive away quickly from a robbery
- bubbles** *n*
small, round circles of air in the water
- to climb ashore** *exp*
to go from the water onto land
- a street-level window** *n*
a window that is at the same height as the street
- pretty badly** *exp*
quite badly
- to bleed** *vb*
if you are "bleeding", blood (the red liquid) is coming out of your body
- the emergency services** *n*
the police, the fire service and the ambulance service

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AUDIO



Here are some more crazy laws from the US.
(US English spelling)

★ **Raffling** a dog as a gift in a public place is strictly prohibited. (California)

★ Children may not wear a Halloween mask unless they get a special permit from the sheriff. (California)



★ Males may not dress as a female unless special **permission is granted** by the sheriff. (California)

★ It is forbidden to mutilate a rock in a state park. (California)

★ It is illegal to permit a **llama** to **graze** on city property. (Colorado)

★ **Boulders** may not be **rolled** on city property. (Colorado)

★ It is illegal to bring your horse above the **ground floor** of any building. (Colorado)

★ It is unlawful to **lend** your **vacuum cleaner** to a next-door neighbor. (Colorado)

★ You may not drive a black car on Sundays. (Colorado)

★ It is illegal to **mistreat** rats. (Colorado)

★ It is illegal for a man to kiss a woman while she is asleep. (Colorado)

★ Residents may not **own** chickens, but may own **up to three** turkeys. (Colorado)

★ Cats may not **run loose** without a **taillight**. (Colorado)

★ It is unlawful to walk backwards after **sunset**. (Connecticut)

★ Crossing a street while **walking on your hands** is strictly prohibited. (Connecticut)

★ You may not educate dogs. (Connecticut)



★ It is illegal for **fire trucks** to exceed 25mph, even when going to a fire. (Connecticut)

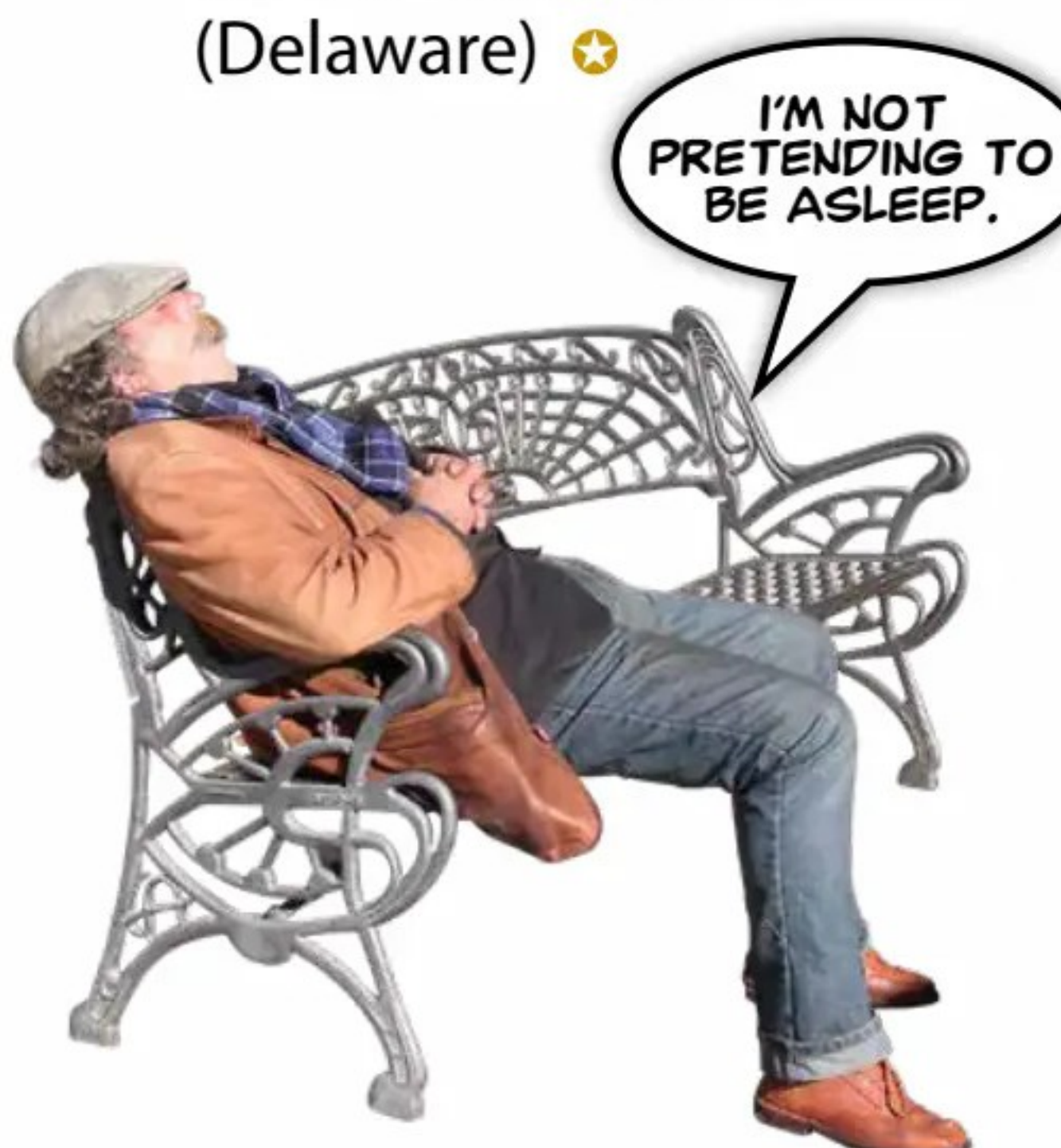
★ It is illegal for any **beautician** to **hum**, **whistle**, or sing while working on a customer. (Connecticut)

★ Persons may not change clothes in their car. (Delaware)

★ It is illegal to wear **pants** that are **firm fitting** around the **waist**. (Delaware)

★ One may not **whisper** in church. (Delaware)

★ No person shall pretend to sleep on a **bench** on the **boardwalk**. (Delaware) ★



GLOSSARY

to raffle *vb*
to give as a prize in a competition
to grant permission *exp*
to allow someone to do something
a llama *n*
a type of South American goat
to graze *vb*
if animals are "grazing", they are eating grass
a boulder *n*
a large rock
to roll *vb*
to move an object by turning it over and over in circular movements
ground floor *n*
the floor in a building that is at the same level as the street or ground
to lend *vb*
to give for a limited period of time
a vacuum cleaner *n*
an electrical appliance for cleaning the floor
to mistreat *vb*
to act in a bad way towards something/someone
to own *vb*
to possess
up to three *exp*
any number including or below three
to run loose *exp*
if an animal is "running loose", it is not controlled in any way and is free
a taillight *n*
a light at the back of a car for driving at night
a sunset *n*
the time when the sun goes down before it is night
to walk on your hands *exp*
to put your hands on the ground and your legs in the air, and then to move by using your hands
a fire truck *n US*
a large vehicle that contains water. A "fire engine" in British English
a beautician *n*
a person who works in a beautician's and who treats people's faces, etc
to hum *vb*
to sing to yourself by making a low, continuous sound
to whistle *vb*
to sing to yourself by blowing air out of your mouth
pants *n US*
trousers
firm fitting *exp*
that are very close to the body
a waist *n*
the area around your stomach
to whisper *vb*
to speak in a very low voice so others can't hear you
a bench *n*
a long seat for three or four people
the boardwalk *n*
a wooden path (often next to the sea) for people to walk on



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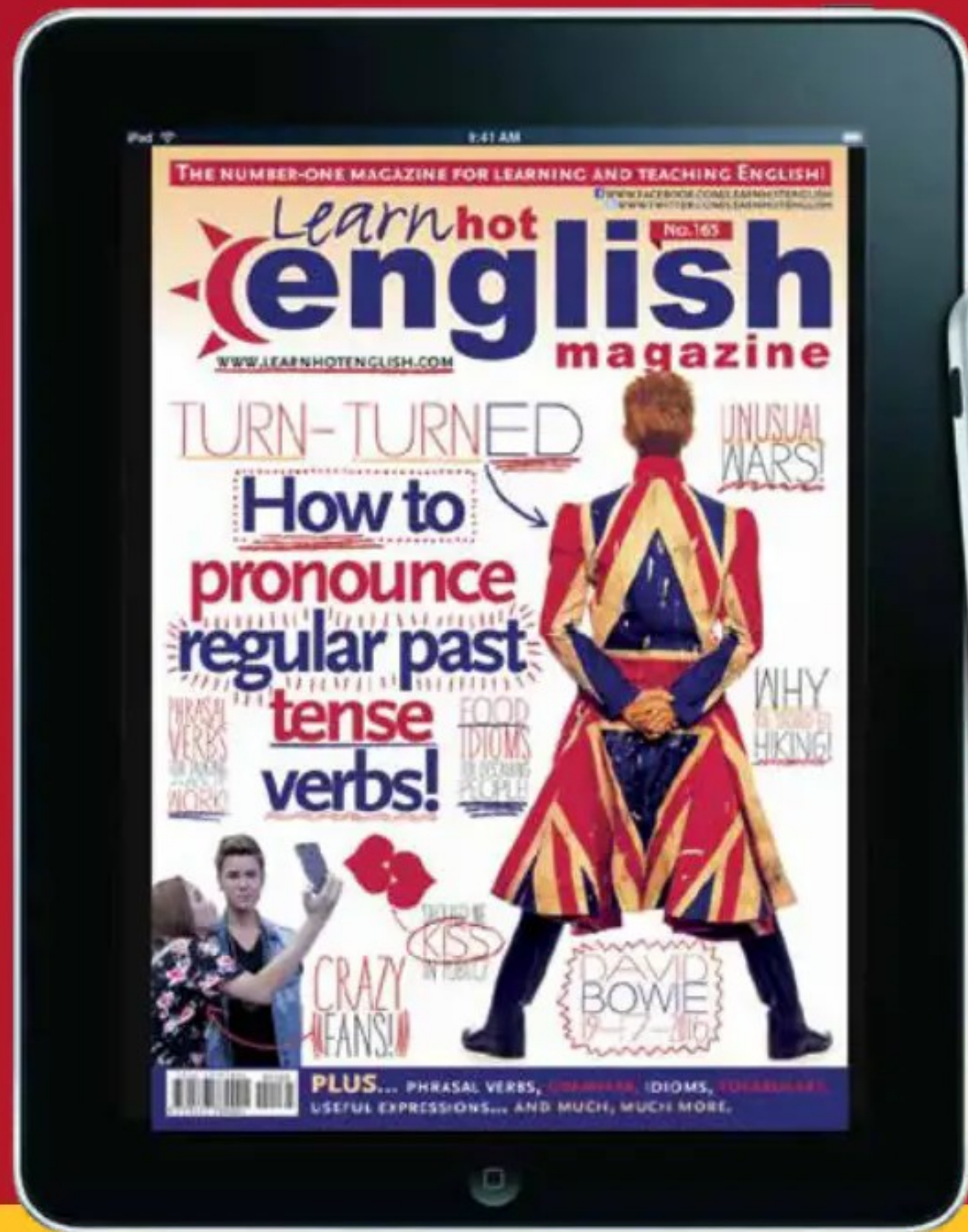
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AUDIO

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British bar chat



Ikea Homes

This month two British people are talking about Ikea homes. Listen to the conversation and answer these questions.



1. What does one of the speakers say in favour of Ikea homes?

2. What does one of the speakers say against Ikea homes?

Jim: Hi, Jen. Have you heard, Ikea are **launching** a new **range of** homes, would you believe?

Jen: Yeah, I did here about that, but, I think, don't really like the idea. I mean everything looks the same from Ikea.

Jim: Not sure I'd really want an Ikea home. But these are **gonna** be homes, you know, with everything in it so you don't have to worry about **furniture**.

Jen: But **that's my point**. Every Ikea kitchen looks exactly the same.

Jim: Well, I mean, there is a range of kitchens you don't have to, you know, you can get different colours different, different doors on your kitchen. The basic structure is the same but the doors can look different, different colours, different **wood grains** and things like that. And these homes

[yeah, I suppose] are gonna be really **well-insulated** so they're gonna be **energy efficient** and...

Jen: Energy efficient? They're made of wood, paper. [Yeah, I know] They're probably fly away the next hurricane That's the most energy efficient thing. It's, it's a **timber frame** with fibre glass insulation inside, and it's gonna, you're gonna be really snug inside these homes.

Jen: What's wrong with a **brick** house?

Jim: Well, they're more expensive for one. I mean buying a home anywhere in the south-east of England and you'll be paying for it for the rest of your life. I mean, the **mortgage doesn't come into it**. You'll be paying it not for the rest of your life, but for the rest of your grandchildren's lives.

Jen: But wouldn't you rather save your money and invest in something that will actually last for a hundred years rather than an Ikea paper house that's gonna **blow away** the next minute. I don't think they'll blow away, I mean, these, these, these homes will stop the hurricanes, will stop the **global warming** and, er, they'll make the **environment** better. I think they're really a, they're really a great things.

Jen: Actually, I was gonna go and have a look at one. Do you want to come along with me?

Jim: Oh, OK then. ☆

GLOSSARY

to launch *vb*

to put a product into shops so people can buy it

a range of something *exp*

a number of products of the same type but with slight differences

gonna *abbr*

going to

furniture *n*

tables, chairs, etc

that's my point *exp*

that is what I am trying to say

a wood grain *n*

the lines on the wood

well-insulated *adj*

with a layer of a material inside the walls that keeps the house warm

energy efficient *adj*

that doesn't waste electricity

a timber frame *n*

the wooden structure of the house

brick *n*

a small, rectangular piece of baked clay used for building houses

a mortgage *n*

the money you borrow from the bank to build a house

X doesn't come into it *exp*

X is not a part of it

to blow away *phr vb*

if the wind "blows something away", it moves that thing to another place

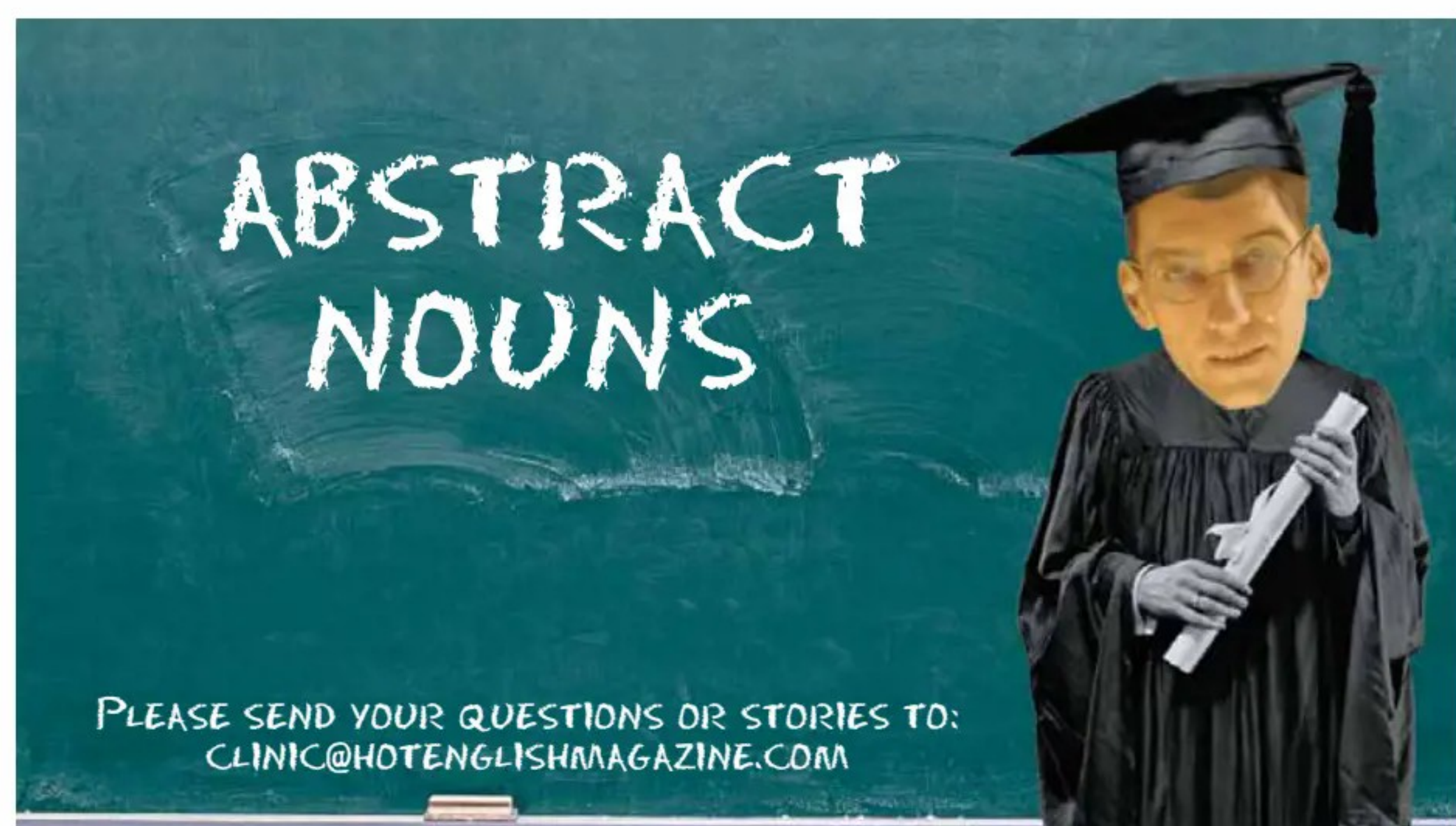
global warming *n*

the increases in temperature caused by pollution of the environment

the environment *n*

the natural world: the air, the land, the sea, plants, animals, etc





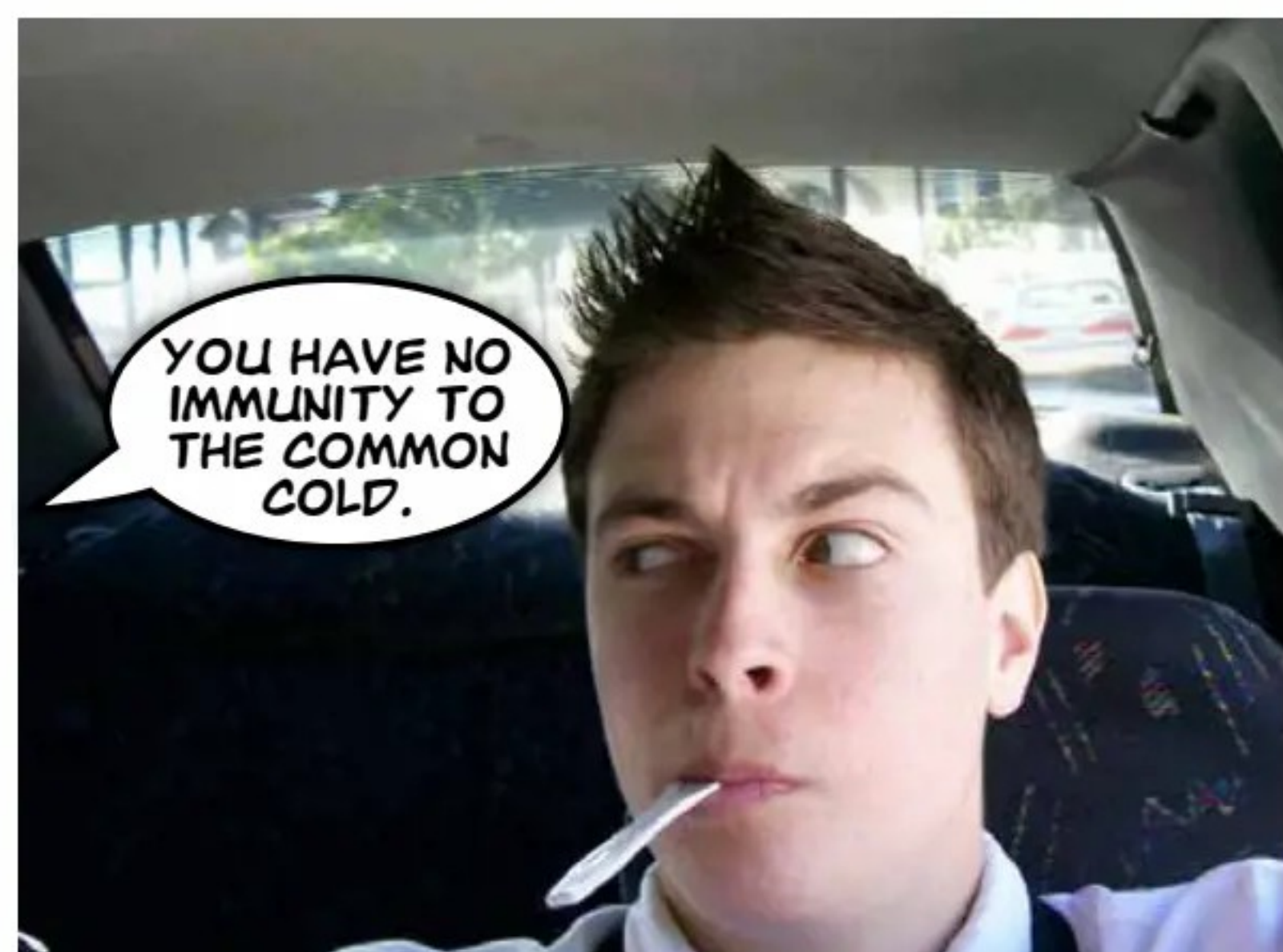
Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic.

Dear Carbon Emissions,

Thank you very much for your e-mail. Of course, I would be delighted to help you with your question.

As we saw last month, an abstract noun is a noun that often refers to a quality, a state, a concept, or a feeling – things that don't have any physical existence. For example:

- a) **Relevance:** This report has no relevance to us.
- b) **Remedy:** There is no real remedy for a common cold.

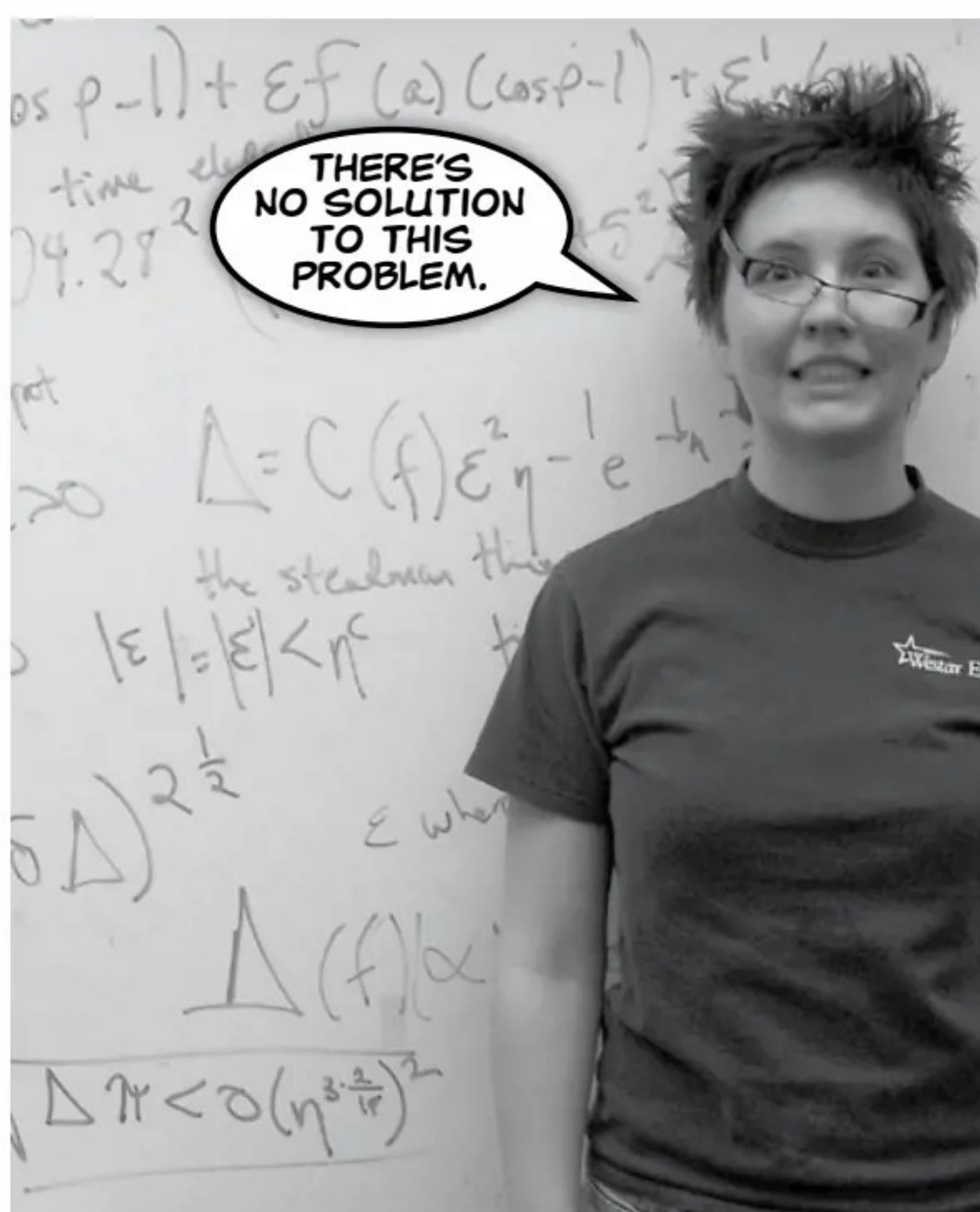


As you rightly point out, many of these abstract nouns have prepositions that go with them. However, the bad news is that there are no rules concerning which preposition goes with which noun. So, you'll just have to learn them as fixed phrases. Here are a few abstract nouns that usually have the preposition "to" after them.

Abstract nouns and the preposition "to"

- a) **Access to:** They don't have access to these classified files.
- b) **Addiction to:** This substance creates an addiction to other drugs.

- c) **Alternative to:** There is no alternative to this solution.
- d) **Answer to:** There is no answer to this problem.
- e) **Damage to:** There wasn't much damage to the car.
- f) **Exception to:** We will make an exception to that rule.
- g) **Contribution to:** They made a contribution to the fund.
- h) **Devotion to:** They show great devotion to their leader.
- i) **Immunity to:** They don't have any immunity to this disease.



- j) **Resistance to:** There was some resistance to the change.
- k) **Solution to:** There is a solution to this problem.
- l) **Witness to:** He was a witness to the crime.
- m) **Sequel to:** This film is a sequel to another one.
- n) **Introduction to:** There was no introduction to the book.

Well, Carbon Emissions, I really hope my explanations have helped you.

Yours, Dr Fingers.

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





AUDIO

Dictionary of slang

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



Situation



Formal



Relaxed



Informal

You think a friend has taken your pen without permission.

Did you appropriate my pen?

Did you take my pen without permission?

Did you nick my pen? Did you **pinch** my pen?

The television isn't working again. You tell a friend.

The television is not functioning satisfactorily.

The TV isn't working.

The TV's **on the blink**.

A friend won 6,000 euros on the lottery. However, she spent it all in one night.

My friend dispensed of all her money in one night.

My friend spent all her money in one night.

My mate **blew** all her money in one night.

You decided to buy yourself a really expensive jacket.

I bestowed an expensive jacket upon myself.

I bought an expensive jacket for myself.

I **splashed out** and bought a **wicked** jacket.

You need to go to the toilet.

I need to pay a visit to the men's room.

I need to go to the toilet.

I need to go to the **bog**; I need to spend a penny; I need to go to the khazi.

You would like to go dancing tonight.

I would like to engage in some bodily movement at a discotheque tonight.

I'd like to go out dancing tonight.

I fancy a boogie tonight.



GLOSSARY

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

to pinch *vb inform*
to steal. Literally, to take skin between your fingers and to apply pressure as a way of hurting someone

on the blink *exp inform*
functioning badly. To "blink" is to open and close your eyes quickly

to blow (money) *exp inform*
to spend money quickly. Literally, if something is "blown" it moves because air is pushing against it

to splash out *exp inform*
to spend money generously and with little control. Literally, to "splash" is to cause water to fly in the air, often by making movements with your hands

wicked *adj inform*
very good. In standard English, "wicked" means evil, bad or cruel

a bog *n inform*
a toilet. In standard English, a "bog" is an area of wet land



Quirky News

Funny news stories from around the world.

Photo Fury

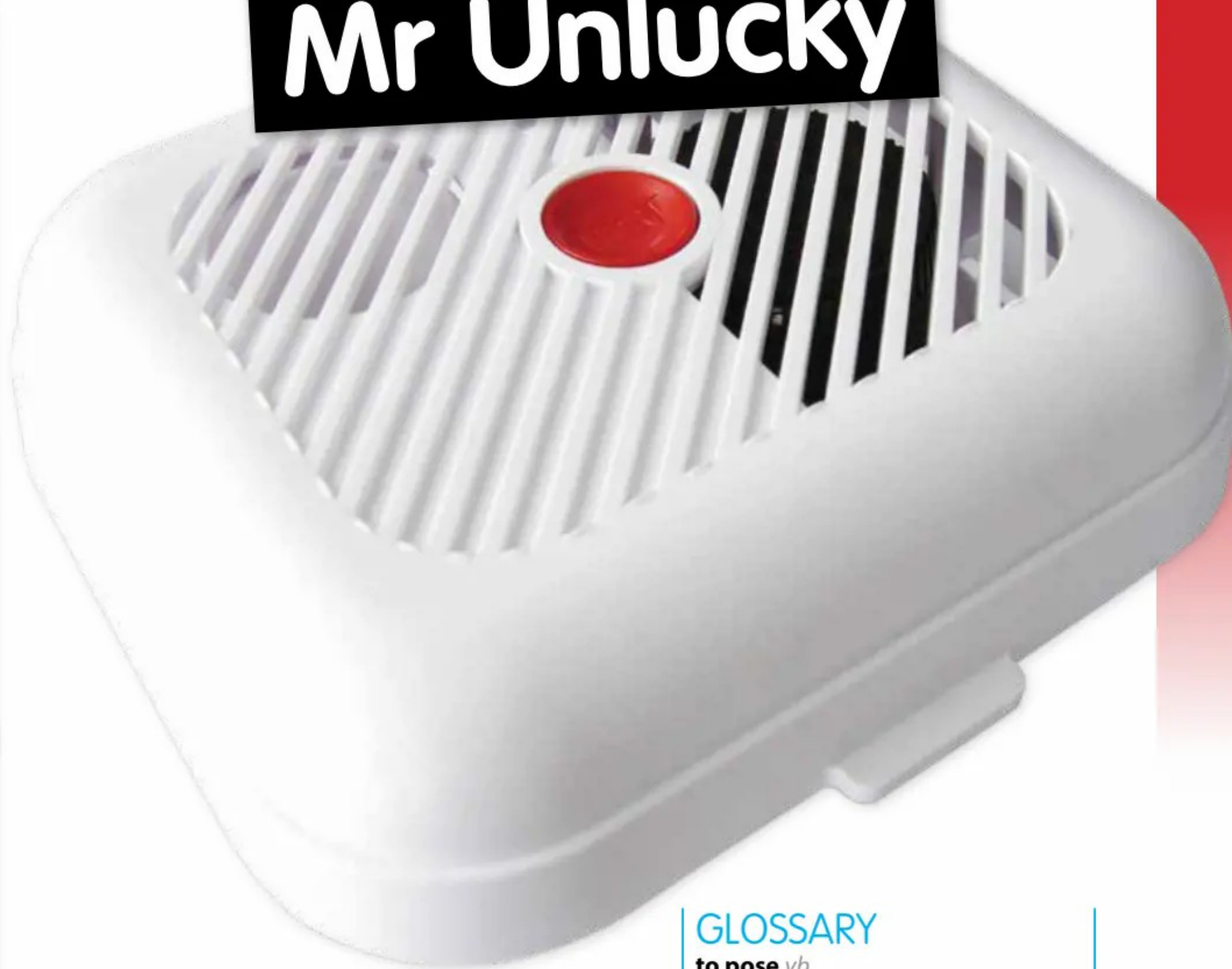


“There is no problem with taking pictures with tourists but not that kind of photo,” said Rio de Janeiro police commander Felipe Angelo, who was referring to a series of photos that showed two police officers **posing** with three blonde tourists. In the pictures, one of the women was **handcuffed**, and the other two were playing with police rifles. The photos were posted on a **photo-sharing website**, “I think that the officers **let vanity get the better of them**,” Commander Angelo said.

“The uniform is **sacred**, as is the policeman’s gun. That is not something you play with.”

The pictures were taken near the resort of Parati. They were reportedly placed online by a Peruvian tourist who was accompanying the three women, who are believed to be **Dutch**. The photos have since been **removed** from the website. The officers have been allowed to continue working while the investigation is in progress.

Mr Unlucky



“This is even worse than last year,” said Nigel Nofortune after fire investigators determined the cause of a fire that destroyed his \$127,000 home last month: a **short circuit** in his **smoke detector**. The previous year, someone **broke into** Nofortune’s house and stole his new security system.

GLOSSARY

- to pose** *vb*
to stand in a position so someone can take a photo
- handcuffed** *adj*
with handcuffs on – metal objects placed around the wrists (the joints between your arms and hands)
- a photo-sharing website** *n*
a website where people put photos
- vanity** *n*
a strong belief in your attractiveness and beauty
- to let something get the better of you** *exp*
to permit an emotion to dominate you or your feelings
- sacred** *adj*
considered of great religious or spiritual value
- Dutch** *adj*
from Holland
- to remove** *vb*
to take away
- a short circuit** *n*
damage to an electrical object caused by a fault in the electrics
- a smoke detector** *n*
an electrical appliance that makes a sound when there is smoke
- to break into** *exp*
to enter a place illegally
- a ring** *n*
a round, metal piece of jewellery worn on the finger
- to report** *vb*
to tell the police about a crime
- in mind** *exp*
if something is “in mind”, you are thinking about it
- to prove someone right** *exp*
to demonstrate that you were correct
- a belly** *n inform*
a stomach
- a VCR** *abbr*
a video cassette recorder
- an earring** *n*
a piece of jewellery worn on the ear
- to bring up** *phr vb*
to vomit
- to swallow** *vb*
to take from your mouth to your stomach

Hungry Dog



When Margory Anille couldn’t find her 5,000-dollar wedding **ring**, she was convinced that someone had stolen it. So, she went to **report** it to the police. But Anille’s grandmother already had a suspect **in mind**: the family dog. And X-rays **proved the grandmother right**. The valuable ring was inside the **belly** of Anille’s pit bull terrier, Sugar. “I couldn’t believe it,” Anille said. “But it made sense since Sugar has been caught eating **VCRs**, electric blankets and even my diamond **earrings**.” Dr Linda Spu helped the dog to **bring up** the ring by giving it some peroxide. The ring emerged intact. “Animals **swallow** a lot of stuff,” said Dr Spu. “It’s not an unusual thing.”

KENYA'S BLOC

A LOOK AT BRITAIN'S COLONIAL PAST IN KENYA AND A SCANDAL THAT IS COMING TO LIGHT.

What comes to mind when you think of Kenya? The savannah? Lions? Elephants? Tea **plantations**? That's the traditional image of Kenya. A quiet, peaceful African country. But Kenya holds dark secrets. It was once part of the British Empire, and a terrible war left thousands dead. Many of the survivors or that war are demanding compensation. And there's even talk of a **trial** for war crimes.

Special Kenya

For the British, Kenya was the perfect place. It had **fertile land**, it was free of malaria, there were blue skies year round and it had exotic **wildlife**. Thousands of British people **settled** there during the early part of the 20th century. Many of these immigrants were from the top echelons of society: aristocrats, **ex-Etonians**, students from the top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, and many others who simply pretended that they were aristocrats or ex-Oxbridge graduates. By 1939, Kenya had a "white" community of 21,000 people.

Happy Valley

During the early part of the 20th century, life in Kenya was one long party for the **settlers**. The press came up with the term "Happy Valley" to refer to this time in Kenya's colonial history. Mainly, it is a reference to the **party-going lifestyle** of those who made the Rift Valley (also known as the Kenyan highlands) their home. It was a time of wild parties and drugs. There was even a saying at the time, "Are you married, or are you from Kenya?"

Relationship

But for many native Africans, it wasn't such a "happy" time. In just over a generation, the Africans were reduced to a society of **squatters** or pushed into **tribal reserves**. They had lost their political freedom and become a servile class.

And after the Second World War, the situation got worse. Many Africans fought against the Japanese in Burma, and against Fascism in Europe and Africa. But when they returned home, they were greeted as potential **troublemakers**.

By the early 1950s, few Kenyans could ignore the "winds of change": Indonesia and India had gained independence, and the pro-British Egyptian monarchy was **overthrown**. In short, Kenya, like most other colonies, was ready for some political change. But no one could have predicted the level of violence.

The Mau Mau

The war started in the early 1950s. It was known by the British as "The Emergency", and it was fought against a secret organisation known as the Land and Freedom Army. Members of this secret organisation had to **swear an oath of secrecy**. This gave it an almost religious aura.

The British referred to these freedom fighters as Mau Mau, a **derogatory term** of unknown origin. In early 1952, there were **guerrilla-style military operations**, aimed at settlers in isolated farms.

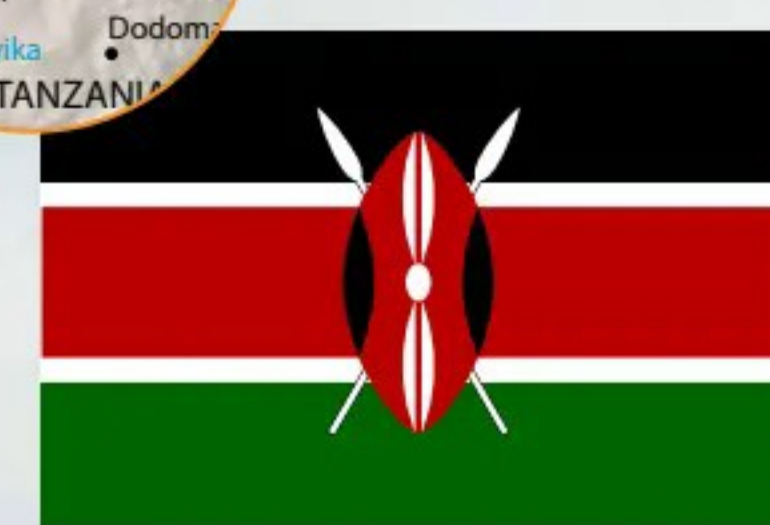
War

The turning point in the war came on 21st October 1952. A well-known **loyalist chief** was murdered. As a response, the British governor,



Evelyn Baring, declared a state of emergency. During the **crackdown**, many, many Africans were kept in camps in **appalling** conditions, camps which were quite similar to the concentration camps from the Second World War.

Those who suffered most were people from the Kikuyu tribe. Almost 1.5 million Kikuyus, almost the entire population, were **resettled** in 804 special villages with **barbed wire** surrounding them. This was to cut off any support for the fighters in the forests of Kenya.



Kenyan history

- From October 1952 to December 1959, Kenya is under a state of emergency because of the Mau Mau rebellion against British rule.
- During 1954, Mau Mau supporters are moved to detention camps
- Kenya becomes independent in 1963. The Kenya African National Union (KANU) of Jomo Kenyatta forms a government. He allows white farmers to stay in the country.
- 1978, Daniel arap Moi becomes President.
- December 2002, there are democratic and open elections.

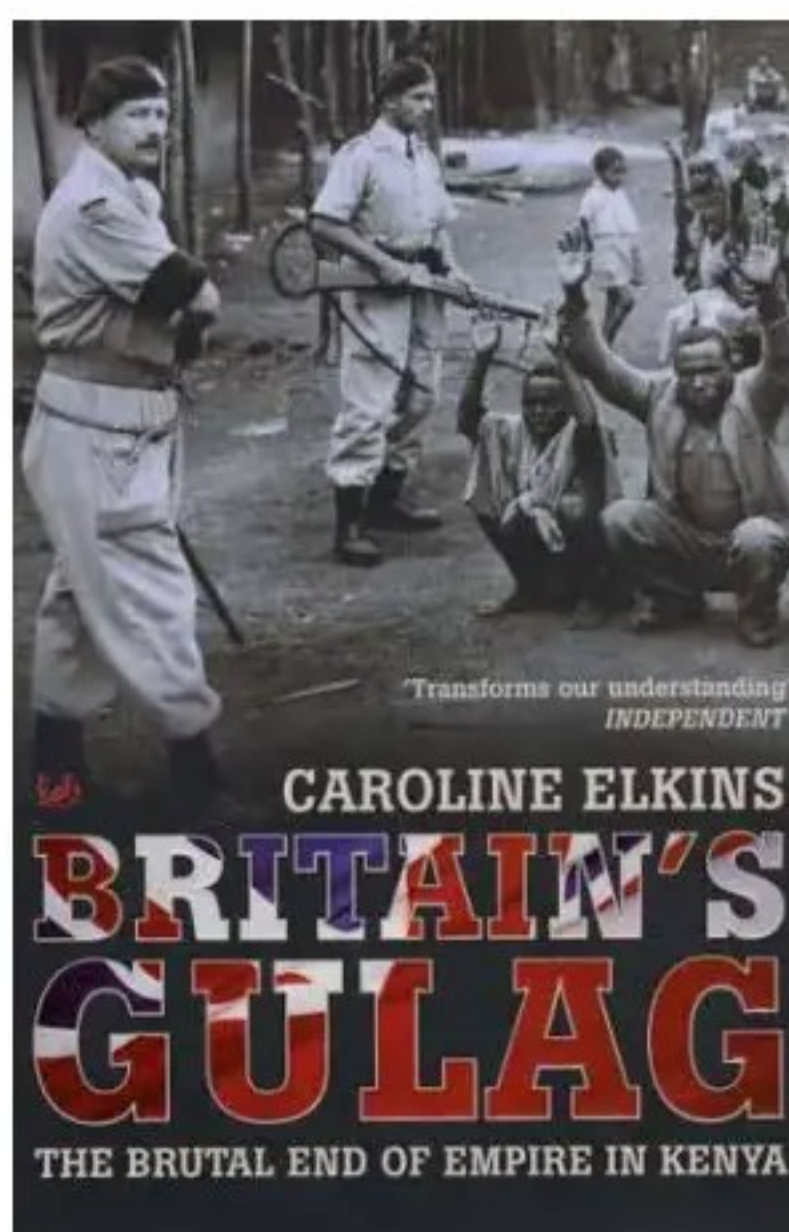
Recent news

There's a murder trail in Kenya against a British aristocrat. Thomas Cholmondeley, 45, is accused of killing an African game warden. If convicted, Cholmondeley could face the death sentence. Cholmondeley inherited his massive 100,000-acre farm from his great-grandfather, who was one of Kenya's first white settlers. Some local Kenyans are demanding the return of all the land that was taken from them during the British colonial era. Much of this land is still in the hands of white farmers.

OD LEGACY

Horror

Much of the horror of the war is told by writer Caroline Elkins in her book *Kenya: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. She tells the history of the **anti-insurgency** tactics of the British settlers, which included executions, torture with electric shock, mass killings, deportations, slave labour, the burning down of villages, **starvation**, and the use of concentration camps to hold the prisoners – all the things that Britain had supposedly been fighting against during the Second World War.



Witnesses

It wasn't long before news of the atrocities began **filtering back** to Britain. John Nottingham, a colonial officer at the time, said "What went on in the Kenya camps and the Kenya villages was brutal, savage torture by people who have to be condemned as war criminals. I feel ashamed to have come from a Britain that did what it did." Another liberal police chief in Kenya claimed that conditions in the detention camps were far worse than those he had suffered as a Japanese **POW**. Comparisons were also made with the Soviet **gulags**.

Bloody Legacy

There is some dispute about the numbers killed. Official records show that Mau Mau supporters killed at least 2,000 African civilians, and killed some 200 army and police. In all, 32 white settlers died in the rebellion. Official figures talk of 12,000 dying. But unofficial figures are between 100,000 and 300,000 people killed.

The End

Eventually, the British government **lost patience with** the settlers. Churchill thought the settlers were as much "the problem" as the Mau Mau. In fact, Churchill had a favourable view of the Kikuyu. He once said, "They are not the primitive **cowardly** people which many imagined them to be, but people of considerable fibre, ability and steel." By 1960, even the most **reactionary** in Britain were too embarrassed by the "excesses" to defend the settlers any longer. And many on

Film: White Mischief

The film *White Mischief* is all about Kenya during the 1940s.

Rich landowner Sir John Broughton and his young wife Diana arrive in Kenya to escape the war. They live a life of drugs and parties. However, Diana falls in love with the Earl of Erroll. Things come to a head when Erroll is murdered. The prime suspect is Diana's husband, Jock. The film stars Joss Ackland, Greta Scacchi and Charles Dance, and it was directed by Michael Radford.



the **left** were fighting hard for Kenyan rights. One such person was Barbara Castle, a Labour politician of the time. Castle and others were helped by a letters from missionaries, judges, soldiers and policemen in Kenya who **couldn't turn a blind eye**.

Kenya became independent in 1963 and the myth of a "dignified" decolonisation grew. The Mau Mau were never given any recognition (there is still no official memorial to them in Nairobi), many white settlers were allowed to stay, and the British were never criticised. In 2009, a group of elderly Kenyan Mau Mau veterans filed a lawsuit against the British government for the abuse they suffered during the Mau Mau Uprising (1952–1960). In 2013, the British government agreed to pay £19.9 million in compensation to 5,228 claimants. They also issued a formal statement of regret in Parliament. While the UK government did not admit legal liability, the settlement was widely seen as a historic acknowledgment of colonial-era abuses. Justice at last! 🇬🇧



GLOSSARY

- a plantation** *n*
a large piece of land where coffee, tea, sugar, etc is grown
- a trial** *n*
a legal process to decide if someone is guilty or innocent
- fertile land** *n*
land that is very good for growing plants, crops, etc
- wildlife** *n*
animals that live free in the forests, mountains, jungles, etc
- to settle** *vb*
to start living in a place
- an ex-Etonian** *n*
a person who once went to the exclusive English school Eton
- a settler** *n*
a person who starts to live in a place/colony
- a party-going lifestyle** *n*
a way of life that involves going to parties and having fun
- a squatter** *n*
a person who starts living on another person's property
- a tribal reserve** *n*
an area of land where people from a tribe are forced to live
- a troublemaker** *n*
a person who causes problems
- to overthrow** *vb*
if a government is "overthrown", it is destroyed by force
- to swear an oath of secrecy** *exp*
to make a formal promise to be loyal to a group
- a derogatory term** *n*
a word that is used in an insulting way
- a guerrilla-style military operation** *exp*
attacks carried out by small groups of irregular soldiers
- a loyalist chief** *n*
a chief who is loyal to the government
- a crackdown** *n*
strong action taken against people who break the law
- appalling** *adj*
terrible; horrible
- to resettle** *vb*
to force people to live in another area
- barbed wire** *n*
long, thin pieces of metal with sharp points on. Often used for protecting a building, etc
- anti-insurgency** *adj*
against people who are attacking the government
- starvation** *n*
if someone is dying of "starvation", they are dying because they have no food
- to filter back** *phr vb*
to reach someone gradually
- a POW** *abbr*
a prisoner of war
- a gulag** *n*
a labour camp
- to lose patience with someone** *exp*
to become angry with someone after a period of time helping them
- cowardly** *adj*
someone who acts "cowardly" is afraid of danger
- reactionary** *adj*
someone who is "reactionary" doesn't like change
- the left** *n*
people with socialist ideas
- couldn't turn a blind eye** *exp*
couldn't ignore it; couldn't pretend they hadn't noticed it

Staged Accidents

A new crime involving drivers and dishonest insurance claims.



Imagine the scene. You're driving along minding your own business. All of a sudden, the car in front of you suddenly stops and you crash. The next thing you know, the other driver is making an enormous **claim for injuries** against your **insurance company**. What's going on? Well, you may have been the victim of a **staged** accident.

Very little damage

So, what is a staged accident? Basically, a staged car accident is when someone deliberately crashes into an innocent motorist and **claims on insurance** or **demands cash**.

Peter Jones was a victim of a staged crash. "I've always felt really confident of my driving abilities," he explained. "But one day, as I was driving home, the car in front of me **braked sharply** at a **busy roundabout**. I did my best but I crashed into him. We stopped and the other driver gave me his name and address, which he seemed to have written out already. I definitely felt it

was a **scam**. There was very little damage done and yet he claimed about £32,000. This included a **tow truck** when none was needed."

Something isn't quite right

Peter's experience is similar to that of Jim. At the time of the accident, Jim was looking for a parking place near his home. All of a sudden another vehicle crashed into his sports car. "Three men got out of the car, and one of them demanded £50. He threatened to collect it from me at my home later that evening. Of course, I **refused** to give them the money and instead offered my **insurance details**. A month later, I got a letter from the men's solicitor demanding a large sum of money for **whiplash injuries** and damage to the car. I definitely think it was a staged accident, and I reported it to the police."

Let's look into this

The police are investigating this new crime. "There are a number of ways the

criminals operate," says Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott of the City of London Police. "One way is that they will drive with two or three people in their vehicle (in order to make a bigger insurance claim) and will select a fairly new vehicle with one or two people or maybe a family inside. Then, they will deliberately **collide with** it, usually by braking hard in front of the vehicle. They will then claim insurance for whiplash or other injuries." The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB), which was set up by **insurers** last year to deal with fraud cases, says that **bogus** and **inflated claims** like those from deliberate accidents cost more than £1.5 billion a year. They say this adds five per cent to **premiums**.

John Beadle, IFB chairman, said, "Staged motor accidents are **on the rise** and are potentially

extremely dangerous. Not only do they cost honest drivers millions of pounds each year but they also put innocent motorists in danger."

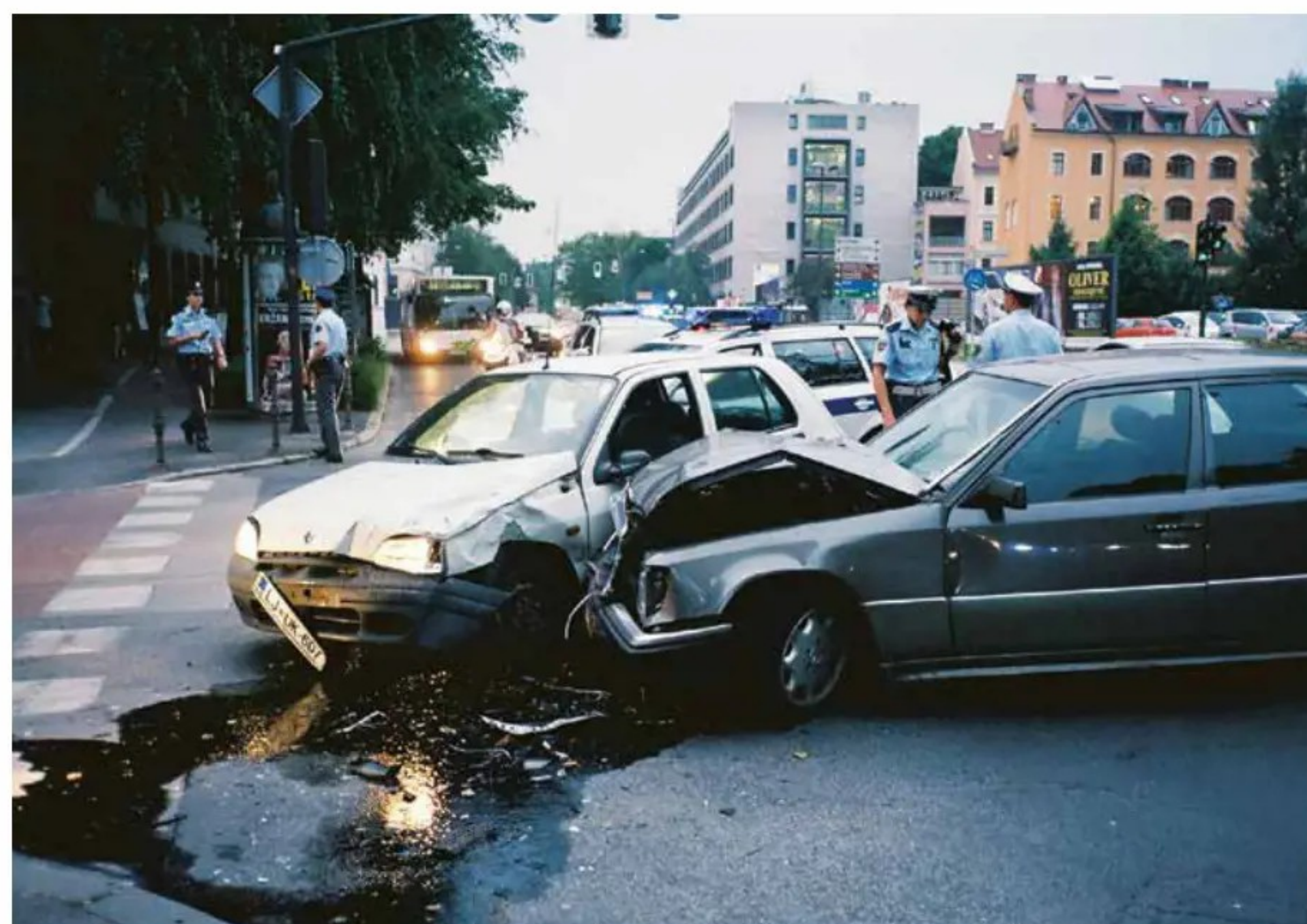
So, watch out for those staged accidents. ★

GLOSSARY

- a claim for injuries** *exp*
a request for money from an insurance company because you were hurt in an accident
- an insurance company** *n*
a company that offers you protection and compensation in case of accidents
- staged** *adj*
if an accident is "staged", it has been prepared and it isn't really an accident
- a claim on insurance** *n*
a demand for compensation from an insurance company because you have suffered a loss or accident
- to demand** *vb*
if you "demand" something, you ask for that thing as if it were your right
- cash** *n*
paper or metal money
- to brake sharply** *exp*
to stop the car suddenly
- busy** *adj*
with a lot of traffic
- a roundabout** *n*
a round object in the road. Cars drive around it in order to go along a different road
- a scam** *n*
a trick, often in order to get money
- a tow truck** *n*
a large vehicle that is used to pull broken cars with a rope
- to refuse** *vb*
to say that you will not do something
- insurance details** *n*
the information about your insurance company: the name, the number, etc.
- whiplash injuries** *n*
damage caused to your neck because the car stopped suddenly
- to collide with something** *exp*
to hit something; to crash against something
- an insurer** *n*
an insurance company
- bogus** *adj*
not real
- an inflated claim** *n*
a claim for compensation that is more than really necessary
- a premium** *n*
an amount you pay to the insurance company so that you are covered by the insurance policy
- on the rise** *exp*
increasing
- a witness** *n*
a person who sees a crime or an accident

Information Box how to deal with a staged crash

- Do not say anything about your suspicions.
- Take photos of cars and passengers.
- Count the number of passengers in the other car.
- Try to find an independent **witness**.
- Tell the police and your insurers about your suspicions.
- Any demands for money should be rejected.
- Exchange insurance details.



Rocky Romp

A village in Serbia that's hoping that Rocky can save it.

One village in Serbia was convinced that it was **jinxed**. And they were probably right. During the early 2000s, they suffered serious **damage** from **floods** and **landslides**. But then they came up with a unique solution.

Rocky to the rescue

The village of Zitiste lies about 55 kilometres north of the Serbian capital Belgrade. "We've had a lot of bad luck in recent years," aid Madic (one of the residents) at the time. "And many of our residents have left the village **in search of** a better future. But now we're going to change all that: we're going to build a giant statue of the film character Rocky. This is the chance to give a better, more positive image to Zitiste," Madic explained. "With this statue, we will **ward off bad luck**."



A fighting man



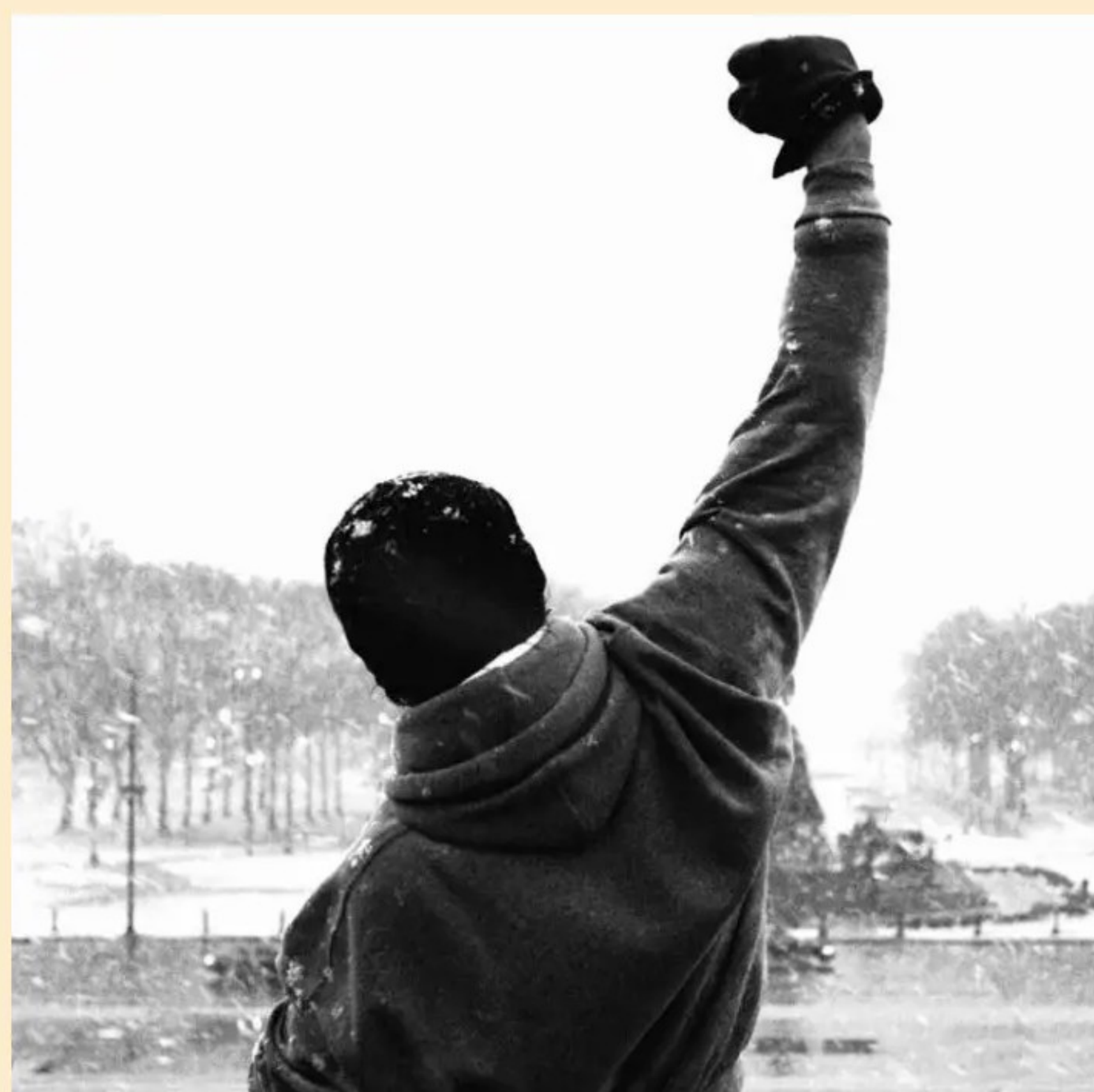
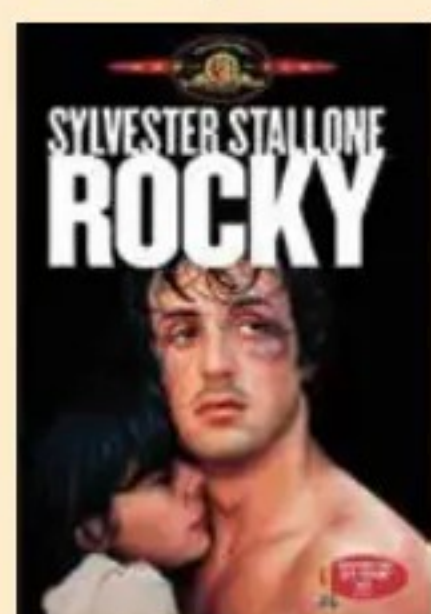
But why Rocky? "I felt as if Rocky has come from our village," Madic explained. "He had to fight to win his place in society. After I saw the latest film, I was convinced it was the right thing to do."

Madic presented his idea to the **local council** and other officials agreed with the plan. Madic said that villagers got **in touch with** officials in the US city of Philadelphia, where a Rocky Balboa monument had already been **erected**.

Finally, in August 2007 the statue was unveiled. It was created by Croatian **sculptor** Boris Staparac, and it was 5 metres tall. The statue was funded by local businesses and embraced by the community as a symbol of perseverance, grit and optimism. While there's no scientific proof that Rocky turned the town's luck around, the statue attracted international media attention and Sylvester Stallone was said to be delighted and honoured. Most importantly, it gave the community and residents a renewed sense of pride. As one local put it, 'We are all Rocky.'

Rocky information

Rocky (1976) is the story of a boxer who **gets the chance** to fight the **reigning champ**. It's the classic story of the **underdog** winning **against all the odds**. It was written by Sylvester Stallone (who also starred in it), and it was directed by John



Avildsen. The film won three Oscars for best picture, best director and best film editing. Due to the film's **low budget**, members of Stallone's family played minor roles in the film: his father rings the bell at the start and end of each boxing round; his brother plays a street corner singer; and his first wife, Sasha, was the **set photographer**.

One of the most famous scenes in the film is of Rocky running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. This scene has become a **cultural icon**. In 1982, a statue of Rocky (commissioned by Stallone for *Rocky III*) was placed at the top of what



are now known as the "Rocky Steps".

There have been five sequels to Rocky: *Rocky II* (1979), *Rocky III* (1982), *Rocky IV* (1985), *Rocky V* (1990), and *Rocky Balboa* (2006), the most recent film. We think that's probably the end of the series, although, who knows?



The real Rocky

The real Rocky was Rocco Francis Marchegiano (1923-1969), better known as "Rocky Marciano". He was an Italian-American boxer who was the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion from 23rd September 1952 to 27th April 1956. He had 43 knockouts to his credit (an 88% KO rate). ★



GLOSSARY

- jinxed** *adj*
if a person or place is "jinxed", many bad things happen to him/her/it
- damage** *n*
destruction
- a flood** *n*
a situation in which there is water on the ground after heavy rains, etc
- a landslide** *n*
a situation in which large areas of earth fall down a mountain or hill
- in search of** *exp*
looking for
- to ward off bad luck** *exp*
to stop bad things happening to you or a place
- a local council** *n*
the government of a town or city that you are referring to
- in touch with** *exp*
communicating with
- to erect** *vb*
to build or create a building/statue
- a sculptor** *n*
a person who creates a work of art using clay, metal, wood, plastic, etc
- to get the chance to** *exp*
to have the opportunity to
- the reigning champ** *n*
the person who is the champion at that time
- the underdog** *n*
the person in an inferior/weaker position during a competition
- against all the odds** *exp*
if you do something "against all the odds", you are successful even though nobody thought you would win
- a low budget** *n*
a little amount of money to finance something
- a set photographer** *n*
a person who takes photos during the making of a movie
- a cultural icon** *n*
a person or place who has become part of a society's culture

PERSUASIVE PRESSURE

A US guru teaches British politicians the art of persuasion.

What's the best way to persuade someone to do something? What's the best way of changing someone's behaviour? Psychology expert Bob Cialdini has the answers with his six principles of persuasion.

Learn the tricks



Bob Cialdini is currently Regents' Professor Emeritus of

Psychology and Marketing at Arizona State University, and the million-selling author of a book called *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*. He's also a successful international speaker, a trainer and a consultant. His company, Influence At Work, has a number of **blue-chip** American corporate clients, and a new UK subsidiary. Here are Cialdini's six principles of persuasion. You could learn from them: **Commitment/consistency** – once people have decided on a **course of action**, it

takes a lot to get them to admit they were wrong. **Authority** – if someone with authority tells you to do something, **you are more likely to do it**. This is why companies often use famous people to help to advertise their products.

Social validation – if you see a lot of people who are similar to you doing something, you are likely to **follow suit**. **Scarcity** – the **rarer** the goods or service, the more we want it. This is why adverts such as "**while stocks last**" work so well.



the goods or service, the more we want it. This is why adverts such as "**while stocks last**" work so well.



Liking/friendship – people are much more likely to say "yes" to someone they



know, or at least like. If you're a teenager, that means you're much more likely to be convinced by another teenager than by a parent, police officer, or politician.

Reciprocation – you have to give something first if you



want something in return. According to Cialdini, this is one reason why Hare Krishna collectors do so well at airports because they offer free flowers.



Problems and solutions

Cialdini's first job was to find a solution to the problem of **missed appointments** in the **National Health Service** (the NHS). Every year, more than seven million NHS appointments are missed. At present, many clinics have posters on

hospital walls describing the situation and saying things like, "257 people this year have missed appointments". This, Cialdini says, has the unintended consequence of **reinforcing the behaviour** in patients' minds. Cialdini's answer was simple: make people commit to **turning up** by asking the patients (not the staff) to **fill in** the **appointment card**. Simple, but effective! "There is recognition of the importance of behaviour change in encouraging public service progress," Cialdini explained. "We must motivate our citizens in ways that are socially beneficial." 🍀

GLOSSARY

a blue-chip company *n*
a large, well-established company
a course of action *exp*
a series of actions you decide to take
you are more likely to do it *exp*
you will probably do it
to follow suit *exp*
to do the same as others
rare *adj*
not common
while stocks last *exp*
while the product is in the shop; until the product is sold out
to miss *vb*
if you "miss" a meeting, you don't go to the meeting
an appointment *n*
a meeting with a doctor
the National Health Service *n*
the government organisation that manages hospitals, doctors, nurses, etc
to reinforce behaviour *exp*
to do things that convinces someone that certain actions are acceptable
to turn up *phr vb*
to arrive
to fill in *phr vb*
to complete
an appointment card *n*
a card with details about the meeting you will have with a doctor



SNEAKY SALES

Learn how to recognise sales tricks and techniques.

Are you easily convinced by sales people? Learn some of the tricks that they use, and be better prepared for next time.

1. The "low price" bait

This consists of advertising a product at a very low price as a way of tempting you into the shop. Of course, when you ask about the product, it isn't **in stock**. However, there is another model (more expensive, of course), which is "just as good".



2. Just say "yes"

All good salespeople are taught that the most important thing is to get the client to say "yes". The trick is to ask you a series of questions that you **are likely to** answer in the affirmative. For example, "Do you want a car that drives smoothly? (of course) Do you want low maintenance costs? (who doesn't?) Is the safety of your family a concern? (erm, yes.) Once you are **set up for saying yes**, yes, yes, the salesperson will ask some important closing questions, such as, "Can I get you into this car today?"

3. "It's the last one"

This is one of the oldest tricks in the book. Typical expressions associated with this tactic include, "Another

couple is looking at this same home", "I've got six more appointments for people to see it", "I know of at least six people who are interested in it". This **plays on your fear of** losing something.

4. "Offer ends today"

This is a variation of the previous tactic, and it just makes it that much more difficult for you to **shop around**. Of course, most promotional offers are for a limited time (nothing lasts forever), but whether the day that you're in the store is actually the last day of the offer is never really clear.



5. And now it's my boss' turn

This is where the salesperson introduces you to someone in higher authority. This person is usually the "store manager", or "sales manager", and is often a very **strong "closer"**. This is another way of putting additional pressure on you.

6. "Would you mind waiting?"

Another way of influencing you is to make you wait. For this trick, the salesperson will put you in a little room and abandon you for a long period of time. They will tell you that they are talking to the "sales manager", trying to get you a **better deal**. In reality, they're in the back eating chocolate or playing cards. This puts you in a weak position, and gives you less time to **comparison shop**.



7. Whoops! I'm terrible at maths

Just before you make your buying decision, the salesperson will offer to give you an estimate of the "total investment". The trick is, they deliberately make a mistake and tell you a **figure** that is actually higher than the real figure. They do this to **gauge your reaction**.

All of a sudden, they will "discover" their error, and, hey presto, you've just "saved" another two hundred dollars. You're supposed to be so excited by this "discovery" and the "lower" price that you agree to buy right then.

8. It's only paperwork

Now it's just a question of making you sign the contract. But salespeople know that they have to be very careful about using the "C" word ("contract"). So, instead, they'll say, "I just need you to 'OK' the paperwork". Of course, the "paperwork", is in fact a **legally-binding contract**.

9. Would you like to spend some more money?

And the grand finale is the **extended warranty**. This is another way of getting even more money out of you. In fact, some companies make all their profit from these extended warranties. They'll use **lines** such as, "You'll sleep better knowing you're protected from costly repair bills." Of course, an extended warranty can

provide valuable protection. But it can also be a waste of money. If the product is so good, why does it need an expensive three-year guarantee?

As the ancient Romans said, "caveat emptor" (Latin for, "let the buyer beware") ★



GLOSSARY

- in stock** *exp*
if a product is "in stock", a shop has that product
- are likely to** *exp*
will probably
- set up for saying yes** *exp*
prepared, controlled and dominated by another person so that you will say yes
- to play on your fear of something** *exp*
to use your fears as a way of persuading you to do something
- to shop around** *exp*
to go to many shops and to compare prices
- a strong closer** *n*
a person who is good at making you decide to buy something
- a better deal** *n*
a cheaper offer
- to comparison shop** *n*
to go to many shops and to compare prices
- a figure** *n*
a number
- to gauge someone's reaction** *exp*
to see what someone thinks of something; to see how someone reacts to something
- a legally-binding contract** *n*
a contract that is valid in a court of law
- an extended warranty** *n*
a contract that offers you assistance if the product stops working
- a line** *n*
a sentence or phrase

CAMDEN TOWN

LONDON'S ALTERNATIVE AREA.

Punks. Doctor Martin boots. The *Madness* song *House of Fun* coming from stereo systems. Camden's **canal**. The Camden **Lock Market**. Camden town is the **bohemian** capital of London. It **bristles with life**, as thousands seek out alternative lifestyles, musical talent and hedonistic pleasure.

Camden Market

One of the main features of Camden town is the market. Well, actually there are two markets – one by the Underground station (Camden Town), and another one by the canal, which is known as the Camden Lock Market. In both of these markets you can find lots of interesting things to buy, including **trendy second-hand clothes**, stylish shoes, music, comics, candles and even antiques. The market by the lock has lots of interesting bars and clubs beside it, some of which have **live music**.



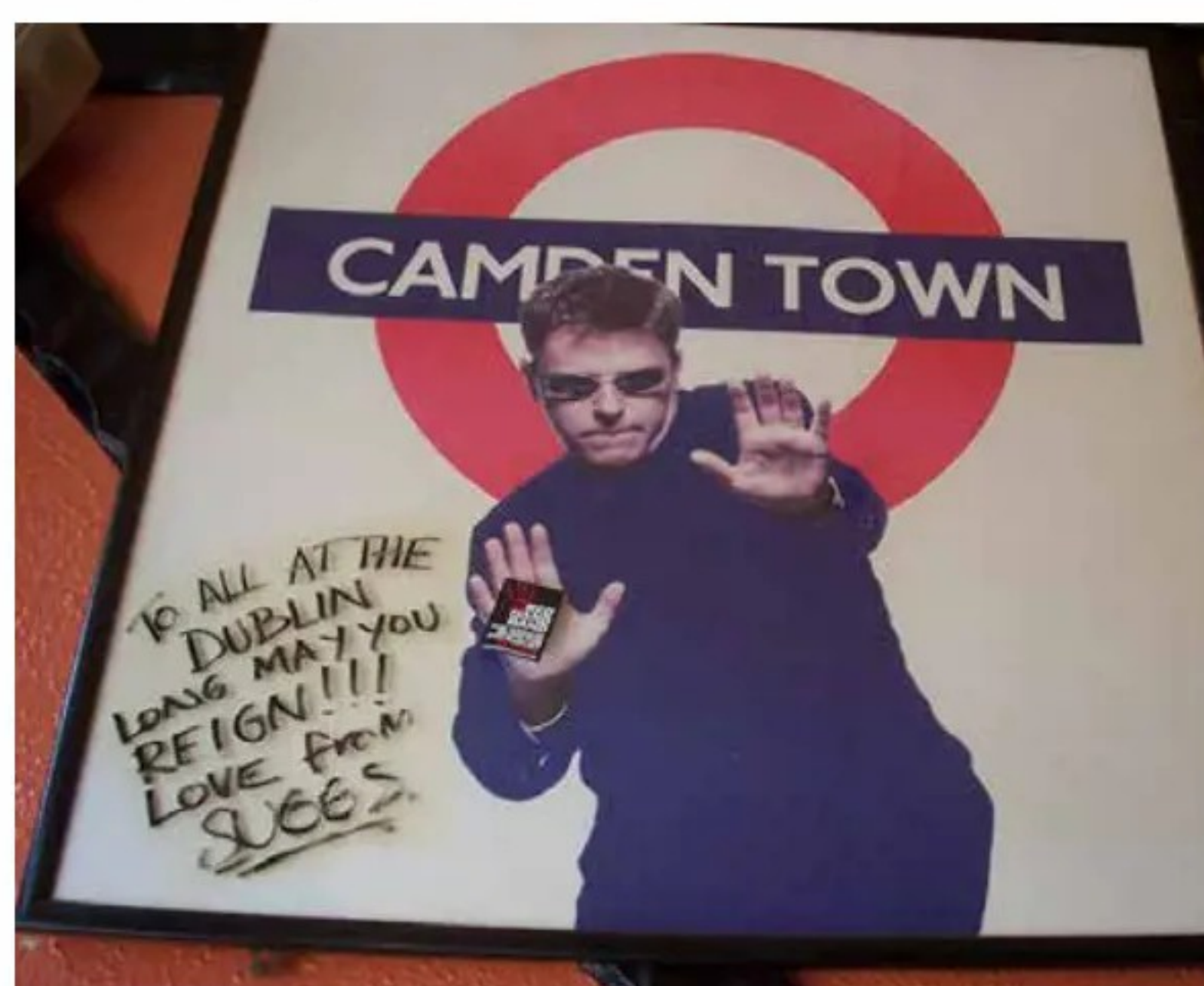
Cult Movie

Over the years, Camden town has had a number of famous literary residents. Mary Shelley who wrote *Frankenstein* was born in Camden, and Charles Dickens who lived on Bayham Street, used south Camden as the **backdrop** for *Oliver Twist*. George Orwell who **penned** 1984 lived in Camden during the 1930's, whilst Welsh poet Dylan Thomas was a contemporary. On the Silver Screen, Scrooge sends a young boy to buy a turkey from Camden in *A Christmas Carol*, whilst cult movie *Withnail and I* starts and ends in the Town.



Madness

Camden has also proved the inspiration for film, books, poetry and many a musical **track**. The 1980's ska band *Madness* lived and shot many of their videos around Camden. The Dublin Castle pub is their spiritual home and Escapade, the fancy dress shop on Camden High Street, features in the video to the song *House of Fun*. Britpop rivals Damon Albarn from *Blur* and Liam Gallagher from *Oasis* both resided in the area in their formative years as musicians. And Camden features in songs such as *Come Back to Camden* by Morrissey, *Sorted for E's and Whizz* by Pulp, and *The Prisoner* by the Clash.



Roundhouse

If you want to step back in Musical Time, you should check out the recently re-opened Roundhouse Theatre. *The Doors* played their one and only UK **gig** there. And in its day, it hosted bands and musicians such as *Pink Floyd*, *Jimi Hendrix*, *The Ramones* and the *Rolling Stones*. By the 1980s, the former **railway shed had fallen into disrepair**. But following a 30-million-pound investment, The Roundhouse Theatre has opened its doors once again to music fans, nostalgia lovers and new audiences alike. The BBC has already held a concert there that featured soul legend *James Brown*, plus Paul Weller and *The Who* **playing to a packed house**. ★



Information

Getting there: Camden Town underground station, on the Northern Line. 
When: On Sundays, the High Street is shut off to traffic, giving pedestrians freedom to roam.
Highlights: Camden Lock Market, Canal, Koko indie club, Roundhouse Theatre.
Exploring the local area: London Zoo, Regent's Park, MTV Studios.

Answer English

If you are interested in taking an English course in Camden, then you should consider studying at Camden College of English. This award-winning language school set in the heart of Camden is an ideal location to learn English and enjoy the Town's attractions. Answer English currently has an exclusive special offer of £20 off their English Language Cultural Experience course.

For more information please call the Answer English offices on: (00 44) 20 7402 8651. Alternatively you can send an e-mail to: james@answerenglish.com or visit: www.answerenglish.com for more information. Answer English helps language students looking for language courses, accommodation and work experience in London.

GLOSSARY

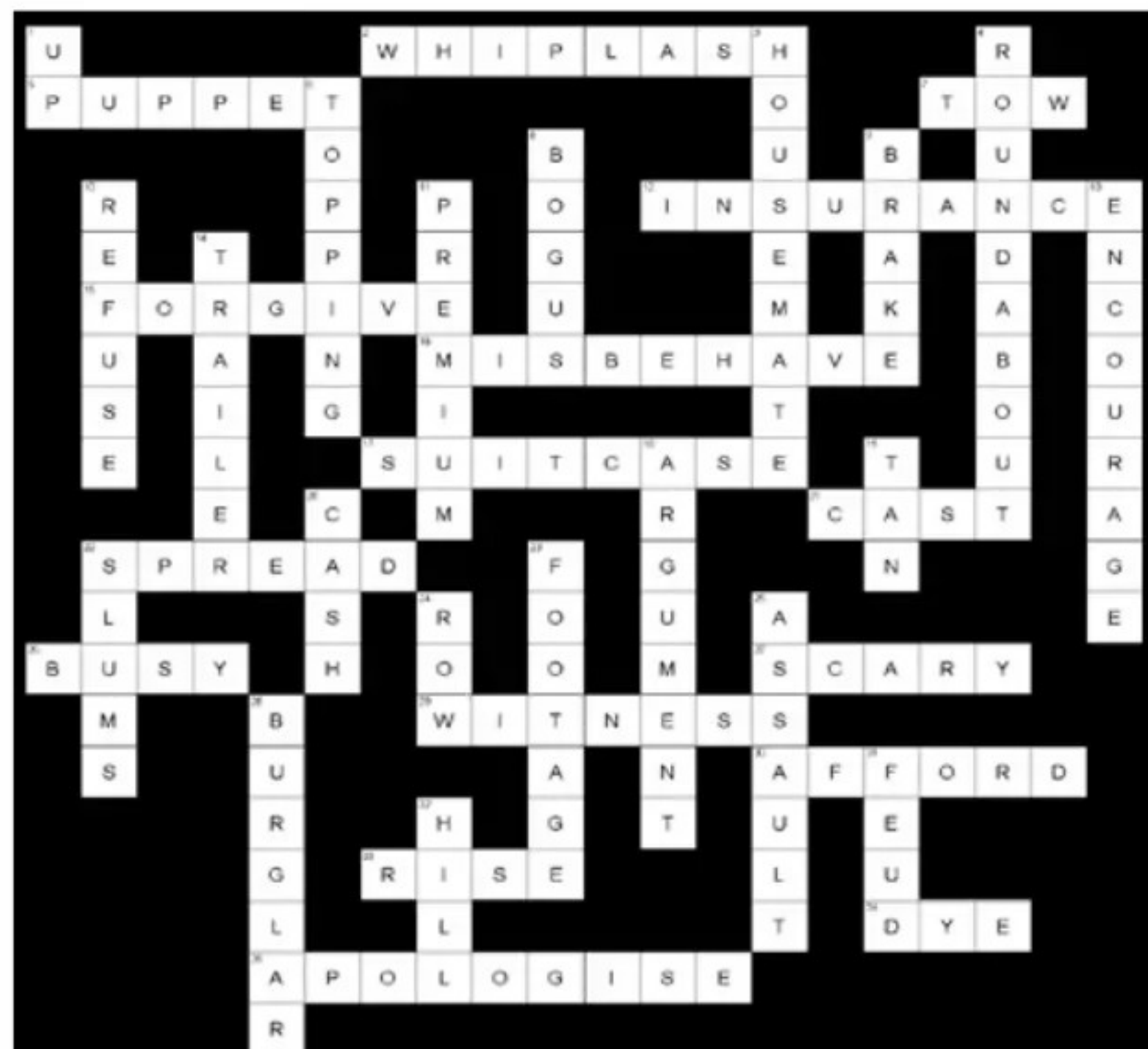
- a canal** *n*
a long, narrow area of water for boats to travel along. Canals are man-made
- a lock** *n*
a place in a canal where boats can move to a higher or lower area of water
- bohemian** *adj*
artistic, unconventional, etc
- to bristle with life** *exp*
to be a place with lots of people, noise, excitement, etc
- trendy** *adj*
fashionable
- second-hand clothes** *n*
clothes that are not new and that were once owned by someone else
- live music** *n*
music played to an audience by a band, singer, etc
- a backdrop** *n*
the "backdrop" to an event, is the general situation in which it happens
- to pen** *vb*
to write
- a track** *n*
a song
- a gig** *n*
a musical concert
- a railway shed** *n*
a large building where trains are kept
- to fall into disrepair** *exp*
to become old and broken
- to play to a packed house** *exp*
to do a concert with many people in the audience

Answers

JOKES

1D 2F 3A 4H 5C 6G 7B 8E

CROSSWORD





AUDIO

BUSINESS ENGLISH

PRODUCTS



This month we are looking at some typical words, expressions collocations and forms related to the word "product". Listen and repeat the following expressions.

Products

1. They're going to **launch** a series of new products.
2. They're planning on **bringing out** a new product.
3. They have a new **product range**.
4. They're thinking of **stepping up** production.
5. They are selling their product at a reduced price.
6. As part of the launch strategy, they've giving away free product information.
7. Imports of **consumer products** rose last month.
8. They have a new **product line**.
9. The new model **went into production** last month.
10. They want to increase the volume of production.
11. The first car **rolled off the production line**

last month.

12. They are considering producing a new version of it.
13. They used **product placement** techniques to advertise the computer.
14. You can get all sorts of software products here.

Business Dialogue

Now listen to this business English telephone dialogue.

- Michael:** Hi, Michael speaking.
Sally: Hi, Michael. This is Sally.
Michael: Oh, hi. How's it going.
Sally: Just wondering if you've seen the new product range our competitors have brought out.
Michael: No. Anything to worry about?
Sally: Well, they're producing a new version of the IZ50, and they're including a number of software products **for free** as part of their new F809 product line.
Michael: Mmm... sounds worrying.
Sally: Yes, I was just wondering what our **short-term plans** were. The sales team are getting worried that

we don't have anything to match these new developments.

Michael: I think the best thing is to **arrange a meeting** to analyse the situation and see what we can do. I know we've got a new version of the P387 coming out soon.

Sally: OK. I'll speak to you later.

Michael: Cheers. Bye.

Sally: Bye. ☆

GLOSSARY

to launch *vb*
to put a product in shops so that people can buy it
to bring out *phr vb*
to put a product in shops so that people can buy it
a product range *n*
the total amount of products that a company offers
to step up *phr vb*
to increase
a consumer product *n*
something that is sold to the public
a product line *n*
a new type of product with many different models
to go into production *exp*
to start manufacturing and making something
to roll off the production line *exp*
if a product "rolls off the production line", it is manufactured in a factory
product placement *n*
positioning products in a film or television programme as a form of subtle advertising
for free *exp*
that is given to you – you don't have to pay for it
short-term plans *n*
plans that cover a period in the future one, three, six or twelve months from now
to arrange a meeting *exp*
to organise a time when you can meet with another person or group of people

Hot Staff

Directors

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

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

Finance

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

Classes Department

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

Teacher Coordinator
Melissa Armstrong
teacherinfo@learnhotenglish.com
Accounts manager
Chelo Requena
classes@learnhotenglish.com

Administration Department

Subscriptions (9:30-13:00)
Jorge Toral
Skype: hotenglishgroup
subs@learnhotenglish.com
payments@learnhotenglish.com
Credit control and administration
9:00 - 2pm (by e-mail thereafter)
Office hours 9:30 - 6 pm (Spanish time)

Barcelona office (Hot English)

barcelona@learnhotenglish.com

Seville office (Hot English)

classes@learnhotenglish.com

Editorial Department

James Blick **assistant editor**
Chris Cooper **design**
Patrick Howarth **writer**
Paul Morrissey **writer**
Christine Saunders **writer**
Louisa Glancy **writer**

Contributors

Magnus Coney **proof reading**
Marcie Lambert **proof reading**
Natalia T. Piekawicz **proof reading**
Laurent Guiard **French depart.**
Danielle Ott **intern**
Georgina Kiely **intern**
Leslie Ann Evans **intern**
Vanessa Simmonds **writer**
Megan Boyle **intern**
JohnMichael Mulderig **intern**
Slim Pickens **special intern**
Nick Hargreaves **writer**

Printing

Printerman

Audio Production

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CD Production

MPO S.A.

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C/Paseo del Rey, 22 - 1ª planta,
oficina 1, Madrid 28008
Phone: (00 34) 91 549 8523
Fax: (00 34) 672 317 912

info@learnhotenglish.com
www.learnhotenglish.com
www.hotenglishgroup.com
Skype: hotenglishgroup
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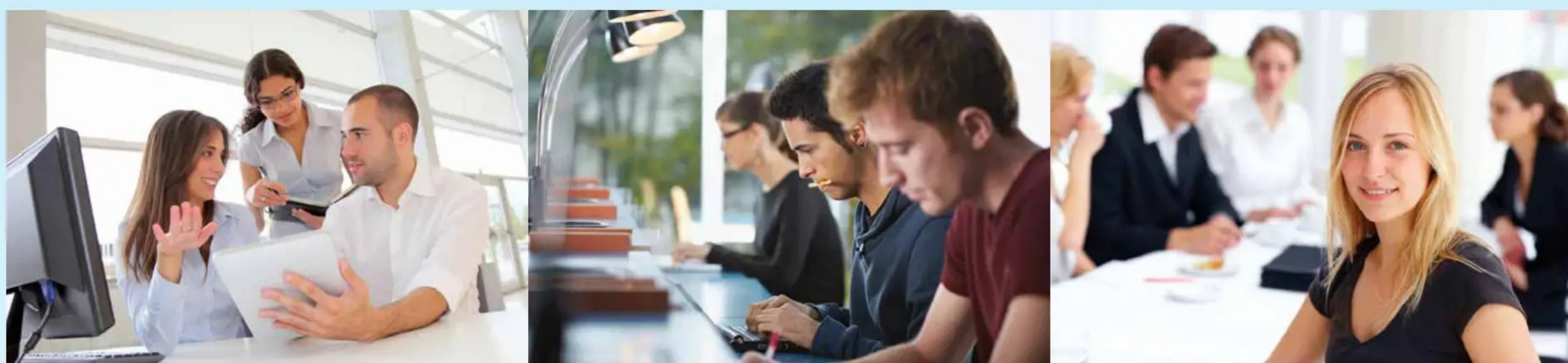
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