

Spotlight

1 | 2017

AUDIO EINFACH ENGLISCH!

We want to be **GERMAN!**

*From British to Deutsch
because of Brexit*



35
Jahre
Spotlight Verlag
Besser mit Sprachen.

Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the January 2017 edition of Spotlight Audio. I'm David Creedon from Britain. Join me now for a 60-minute expedition around the English-speaking world — with stories, language tips and exercises.

When Britain voted to leave the European Union last year, the future for UK citizens living in other member countries became uncertain. In a Brexit special, the chief editors of *Spotlight* and *Business Spotlight* look at the consequences of the vote for Brits abroad.

There's a treat this month for all fans of detective fiction. In a three-part short story, an English woman tries to solve a mysterious crime committed in Germany.

Scottish cuisine? What's that? Well, don't worry. There's something far more delicious than haggis on the menu in our travel section on gourmet Scotland.

World View

[2] Oceans of hope

David: Oceans cover nearly 71 per cent of the Earth's surface. For humans, these huge areas of water have served as a supply of food, a transport route and also, unfortunately, as a place to drop waste. Yet it's only in the last few decades that people have pushed oceans to their limits. Overfishing, pollution and the effects of coastal development threaten not just marine habitats and species, but also our own health, security and way of life. However, new attempts to protect the Earth's oceans have led to the creation of a conservation area just off Antarctica. Listen now to find out more.

“There's massive momentum in the world right now to protect our oceans,” said Luis Morago of activist group Avaaz. “Governments have just set the landmark target of protecting 30 per cent of our oceans — and

attempt

► Versuch, Bestrebung

commit

► begehren, verüben

surface ► Oberfläche

treat

► Leckerbissen; hier: besonderes Vergnügen

yet ► hier: dennoch

millions of people all over the world are pushing for more protected areas to achieve that goal. The Ross Sea is just the start.”

Few places rival the Ross Sea, a deep-water bay off Antarctica, in terms of ecological health. It is one of the most pristine areas left on the planet, reports *The Guardian*. After five years of hard bargaining, an international coalition has closed a deal to make it into an extremely large conservation area. The move is being lauded as historic.

The Ross Sea will be the world’s biggest marine park, and the first to be established in international waters on such a vast scale. As such, it is a boon to researchers. Its waters are enormously plankton-rich, making it valuable as a living laboratory for the study of whales, penguins and seabirds. The EU plus 24 more countries have agreed to respect its protected status for 35 years — a period scientists are certain will be extended.

Antarctica’s Southern Ocean may seem in little need of protection, as it is so remote. However, some fear that the Chinese and the Russians would overfish the extremely biodiverse bay. New Zealand, the closest country geographically to the Ross Sea, helped lead the charge to establish the park, with strong support from the US. Numerous environmental groups, aided by actor Leonardo DiCaprio, also campaigned for the protection of these 1.55

million square kilometres of ocean.

The passion for the place would make James Clark Ross proud. The British explorer led an important expedition to Antarctica from 1839 to 1843. During that time, he mapped a major coastal ice shelf and this bay, both of which bear his name.

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, page 13

A Day in My Life

[3] Doll-store owner Charlene Hess

David: In *A Day in My Life*, we meet Charlene Hess. The 60-year-old is the owner of Dee’s Place of Dolls, a store in Los Angeles, California, where dolls are repaired and sold.

bargaining

► Verhandeln, Handeln

biodiverse ► artenreich

boon ► Segen, Wohltat

doll ► Puppe

in terms of

► in Bezug auf

laud

► loben, rühmen, preisen

lead the charge ► hier:

die Führung übernehmen

map ► kartographieren

pristine ► unberührt, unverdorben

remote ► weit weg

vast ► gewaltig, enorm

In the following excerpt from the interview, Hess talks about why dolls can mean so much to people.

I think that dolls have a special place in people's hearts because a lot of them are given to them by special people. They have special memories [for] them and stuff, and a lot of them feel they love them, and they keep them with them forever. There are people who come in here who are 80 years old, and they still have their childhood doll and they still love them and so they want to fix them up.

David: We asked Hess if she thinks there's still a place for dolls in today's world of technology. Here's what she had to say.

There should be. Technology, I think, is OK for certain stuff, but you can't love technology. I mean, you can't hold it. You can't share special moments with it or anything like that. So I think dolls are still going to be needed, and they're still going to be someone's lovely toy and stuff.

David: Finally, Hess gives us an example of the kinds of doll repairs she carries out. Hess mentions Shirley Temple dolls. The American actress was Hollywood's top box-office attraction from 1935 to 1938. Many Shirley Temple products were manufactured during this time. The most popular product was the Shirley

Temple doll complete with curly golden hair and outfits from her movies.

Just about everything I do — hair, if they need to be reset, like the Shirley Temples, or cleaning the hair, resetting them. I do redo the eyes, because a lot of the dolls have — especially the ones [from] the 30s — have rosin eyes and they have a tendency [to crack]. So I reset new eyes into the old eyes but [with a] new colour part of them. Also a lot of times, the dolls fingers will get [broken] off, so I'll replace the fingers and put them on. Like, I just did some for a dolly. I do the repainting of the Barbie dolls' faces when their lips chip off and eyebrows get wiped off and stuff. I repaint the vintage Barbie dolls.

See Spotlight 1/2017, pages 38–39

box-office attraction

► Filmstar (box office: Kinokasse)

chip off ► absplittern

curly

► lockig, gelockt

excerpt ► Auszug

fix: ~ sth. up ifml.

► etwas reparieren

reset ► hier: erneuern

rosin ► Harz-

vintage

► klassisch, alt

wiped off ► abwischen

Britain Today

[4] Caring about health care

David: British people are concerned about the future of the National Health Service. In a recent survey, those questioned identified the NHS as the biggest issue facing Britain, beating immigration and Brexit into second and third place. Among the major problems facing the NHS are waiting times and funding. Another big challenge is the unhappiness among junior doctors about new working hours. To find out more, listen to this month's Britain Today.

It's New Year — a time to be positive, a time to wish everyone health, wealth and happiness. It would help, though, if I didn't keep getting letters about funeral plans. There's a very persistent company that's trying very hard to sell me one.

No one's immortal, but letters that ask you to pay for your funeral in advance aren't really wishing you health, wealth or happiness. They do more or less the opposite. They are an absolute pain in the neck — like all junk mail and the people who send it.

Then again, life is full of pains in the neck, and there's little one can do about it. It's no use asking for medical help. Tell a doctor you suffer from a pain in the neck, and you'll get

the response: "You and me both." Why is that? Doctors here are having a lot of trouble with the minister for health, Jeremy Hunt. He's bringing in new contracts for "junior doctors" — doctors in the first ten or so years of their career. The contracts mean that they will have to work more weekends — something to which the doctors never agreed. They even tried going on strike in protest.

In a way, it's nice to hear that the government wants to see doctors in hospitals seven days a week. But what is needed, surely, is more staff and more money. You can, of course, get an ambulance at the weekend, or you can go to A & E — the accident and emergency department of a hospital. But the government wants to see doctors in the wards.

funding ▶ Finanzierung

funeral ▶ Beerdigung

funeral plan ▶ Sterbegeldversicherung

immortal ▶ unsterblich

National Health Service (NHS) ▶ staatlicher Gesundheitsdienst

neck: be a pain in the ~ ifml. ▶ auf die Nerven gehen

persistent ▶ hartnäckig, aufdringlich

staff

▶ Personal, Mitarbeiter

ward

▶ Krankenhausstation

you and me both

▶ ich auch

This extra work will put even more pressure on Britain's National Health Service (NHS). If people say they can't cope, though, the health minister seems unwilling to listen. He talks instead. When you hear him in interviews, it's not long before your own neck starts to feel really, really sore.

The health minister isn't a doctor. He used to be a businessman when he was younger. For example, he tried selling marmalade to the Japanese — without much success. Interestingly, though, one of his cabinet colleagues, Liam Fox, is a doctor. Dr Fox is minister for international trade. He's part of the team that's trying to organize Brexit.

Shouldn't these two just swap jobs? I'm not saying that Mr Hunt will be able to persuade the Japanese to start eating British marmalade after Brexit. But I do think it would help if Dr Fox spent his weekends seeing patients. What would he say when they told him their symptoms?

"I keep getting these terrible pains, doctor."

"What sort of pains? Headaches? Tummy aches? Pains in the shoulder?"

"No. They're all pains in the neck."

"You and me both. Try working with Boris Johnson. He's an even worse pain in the neck now that he's foreign secretary."

With its unhappy doctors, its shortage of money, not to mention the problem of finding

qualified staff after Brexit, Britain's NHS doesn't have a very rosy future. So I guess its patients don't either.

Where did I put that letter that wants to sell me a funeral plan?

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, page 29

Travel

[5] Gourmet Scotland

David: What do you think of when you hear the words "Scottish food"? Maybe a steaming bowl of porridge, shortbread fingers on a plate or even that most feared of meals: the haggis.

cope ► es schaffen

foreign secretary

UK ► Außenminister(in)

persuade ► überreden

shortage ► Mangel,

Knaptheit

shortbread fingers

► Mürbeteig-Kekse

sore ► schmerzend,

wund

swap ► tauschen

tummy ache

ifml. ► Bauchschmerzen

unwilling ► nicht bereit,

nicht gewillt

Well, it turns out there's much more to Scottish cuisine than that. Even correspondent Lorraine Mallinder was pleasantly surprised as she travelled around her native Scotland in search of gastronomic goodies. In this excerpt from the article, Lorraine travels to the Highlands to sample some exceptional chocolates.

The clock says it's only 11 a.m., but the skies are dark with low-lying clouds. I've got my fog lights on as I drive up into the hills and glens on the way to the Scottish Highlands.

Typical Scottish weather, you might say. Indeed, the only word that could be used to describe the blanket of rain over the landscape is the Scottish term "dreich", which looks much the same as it sounds — completely miserable. But then a miracle occurs. The clouds part and a beam of silvery sunlight illuminates the majestic River Tummel and the hills beyond. The landscape is transformed from a palette of dark greys to bright oranges, browns and greens — a perfect Highland moment.

I may be Scottish, but this is a journey into the unknown for me, since I'm about to discover the country's little known gourmet food scene. "Gourmet" is not a word I'd usually associate with my homeland. For many, Scottish cuisine begins and ends with haggis — a creation made from sheep's liver, heart and lungs, onion, suet, spices and salt in a sheep's stomach. It

may seem about as appetizing as eating a sock, but it never did me any harm.

Haggis aside, ask your typical Scot what he or she thinks of the nation's culinary achievements, and you're likely to get a jokey reference to a deep-fried Mars bar or Irn-Bru, which, after Scotch, is our "other national drink". This orange beverage with a vaguely nuclear aftertaste is said to help with hangovers.

Maybe the tourists know better than we do, though. After an official campaign to improve Scotland's foodie image, they have been racing to the land of the majestic stag and the leaping salmon, with numbers up by a million last year alone.

Time to find out what it's all about: I start in the pretty village of Grandtully in Perthshire,

beam ▶ Strahl

beverage ▶ Getränk

deep-fried ▶ frittiert

excerpt ▶ Auszug

foodie

▶ Feinschmecker-

glen ▶ Bergschlucht, Tal

goodies ▶ Leckereien

leaping ▶ springend

miracle ▶ Wunder

more: there's ~ to it than ... ▶ ... ist noch lange nicht alles

salmon ▶ Lachs

stag ▶ Hirsch(bock)

suet ▶ Nierenfett

turn out ▶ sich herausstellen

about 90 minutes north of Edinburgh. Cocoa beans may not grow in Scotland, but I've heard that some of the best chocolate in the world is being produced here by Iain Burnett, the "Highland chocolatier". Entering the Scottish Chocolate Centre, I immediately see the "Monarch of the Glen": a pair of chocolate antlers decorated with rhinestones. Burnett doesn't just make chocolate; he also sculpts it. I catch him designing a chocolate for the queen. "Taste this," he says, handing me a purple filling made with fruit from the royal estate. Still at an early stage, the flavours go from creamy to sharp. It brings to mind the changing flavours of the three-course gobstopper in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Burnett himself reminds me a bit of Willy Wonka, constantly experimenting in his very clean, laboratory-like kitchen, creating unusual combinations such as raspberry and black pepper, or infusing cream with smoke from burning hay.

It took him three years to develop his speciality "velvet truffle", a square of chocolate combined with cream that holds its shape without the help of a crisp chocolate exterior.

Top chefs across the UK went wild over the truffle, which is made with chocolate from the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe and cream from the next valley from here. Burnett tells me that each truffle takes about two days to make — all that effort, just to be eaten in two

seconds. I'm sure they're meant to be enjoyed slowly, but my greed is simply a tribute to their excellence.

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, pages 30–36

Everyday English

[6] Good neighbours

David: In Everyday English, we're looking at neighbours helping each other. What words and phrases might people use in this situation? In the first dialogue, Eric finds his neighbour Maggie lying on the pavement outside her house. A "pavement" is part of the side of a road for people to walk on. Before we hear the dialogue, let's look at some of the vocabulary

antler ▶ Geweih

estate ▶ Anwesen,
Landgut

gobstopper UK
▶ Wunderkugel
(eine Süßigkeit)

greed ▶ Gier, Verlangen

hay ▶ Heu

infuse

▶ durchziehen lassen

raspberry

▶ Himbeere

rhinestone

▶ Glaskristallstein

sculpt ▶ formen

vaguely ▶ schwach,
vage

velvet ▶ samtweich

used. If you “pop” somewhere, you go there quickly or for a short time. When someone says, “I don’t want to put you to any trouble,” he or she means they don’t want to create any work for you. And a “day off” is a day when you don’t have to work.

Eric: Maggie, are you all right? What happened?

Maggie: I slipped on the ice. I just wanted to pop to the shop and get some milk for my tea.

Eric: And I was just on my way round to put some grit on the pavement. Have you hurt yourself? Do you think you can get up? Let me help you.

Maggie: Oh, my side hurts.

Eric: OK, don’t move. I think we should call for an ambulance. Here, take my coat — it’ll keep you warm. Don’t worry, I’ll stay with you.

Maggie: I’m sorry, Eric. You probably need to get to work. I don’t want to put you to any trouble.

Eric: Now, don’t you worry about that. I’ve got a day off today.

David: In the second dialogue, Maggie’s daughter, Jean, calls Eric. Let’s look at some of the vocabulary now. “I’m sorry to hear that” is a way of expressing sadness or sympathy for someone because something bad has happened to him or her. When you say that

something is probably “for the best”, you mean that although something may appear bad now, it’ll be OK in the end. Finally, when you want to ask politely for something, you can start the question with “Would you mind...?” For example, “Would you mind closing the window?” A polite response would be “Not at all.”

Jean: Hello, Eric? This is Jean.

Eric: Oh, hello, Jean. How’s your mum?

Jean: She’s fine now, thanks. Nothing’s broken, thank goodness. But her ribs are quite badly bruised on one side.

Eric: Oh, I’m sorry to hear that. Will she have to stay in hospital?

Jean: They’re going to keep her in tonight for observation, but they’ll let her out tomorrow. I’m going to take her to stay with me for a few days until she feels stronger.

Eric: Yes, that’s probably for the best. We can take care of the cat.

Jean: Oh, I’d forgotten all about the cat. Would you mind?

Eric: Not at all — we’re happy to help.

Jean: And Eric, thanks again for helping my mum this morning.

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, pages 46–47

bruised ▶ geprellt

rib ▶ Rippe

grit ▶ Splitt, Streusand

Society

[7] Brexiles in Germany

Inez: When, on 24 June 2016, the votes had been counted and it was clear that Britain would leave the EU, many expat Brits decided to apply for dual German-British nationality and become “Brexiles”. Hello, I’m Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of *Spotlight* magazine, and today we’re going to talk to Ian McMaster, editor-in-chief of *Business Spotlight* about becoming a Brexile.

Ian: A Brexile? Well, I wouldn’t actually use that term, although I think it’s quite amusing. I would describe myself as an English person, a British person and as a European who’s been living in Germany for the past 27 years.

Inez: So you applied for German citizenship, dual citizenship, but this was not as a result of Brexit, is that right?

Ian: That’s right. I put in my application for dual citizenship about nine months before the referendum, nine months before the vote for Brexit. The referendum was only one of the reasons why I decided to apply for dual nationality.

Inez: But you were aware that this was coming up. You were aware that if Brexit actually went through, it might change your situation as a British person with British nationality living in Germany.

Ian: My main motivation for applying for dual nationality was first that I became aware that this was possible, which it wasn’t for a long time. Second, I felt that after living and working in Germany for over 20 years and paying taxes but not being able to vote in the German elections, I wanted to correct that. I wanted to be able to vote. And the third thing was the possibility that if Britain voted for Brexit, which I didn’t think was very likely at the time, but I didn’t like the idea that I would not be a citizen of the European Union. That was the third reason for applying for dual citizenship.

Inez: Can you remember your thoughts the day after the Brexit vote?

Ian: It was a shock. I’d gone to bed the night before thinking that Britain had voted to stay in the EU. I spent most of the next day thinking about this result and to be honest, still couldn’t really believe it and realized that now my application for dual citizenship was even more important than it had been at the time I applied.

aware: to be ~

► sich bewusst sein

Brexile

► Wortschöpfung aus „Brexite“ und „Exile“ (im Exil Lebende(r))

dual citizenship

► doppelte Staatsbürgerschaft

editor-in-chief

► Chefredakteur(in)

likely ► wahrscheinlich

Inez: How far down the line are you? Do you already have dual citizenship or are you still in the process?

Ian: Well, it's a long process. I first made contact with the authorities in Germany in October 2015 — so nine months before the referendum. I finished all my paperwork in May 2016 — a month before the referendum. They told me then it could take a year before this application is processed. I'm still waiting to hear back from them as to whether I've been successful in getting the dual citizenship.

See Spotlight 1/2017, pages 18–23

[8] Applying for citizenship

Inez: Can you just take me through the main parts of that process. What did you have to do in order to be able to apply?

Ian: There were a number of steps. One is you have to sit a citizenship test in which you answer questions about Germany, its political system, the way its bureaucracy works and also its history. That test, you have to go to a test centre and sit it, although you can prepare for it online. That test is not particularly difficult if you've lived in Germany for a while and you have shown some interest in the way the country works. The second thing you have to do is, you have to prove that your German is

of a sufficient level, and you either have to sit a test now or you have to have a piece of paper from the past that proves that. I had a piece of paper from an exam I'd taken when I first came here in 1990 and that was accepted by the authorities for the language test. The third thing you have to do is provide a lot of paperwork: proof of your income, your pension arrangements, your savings, your living arrangements — what you pay for your flat or your house. That is a lot of paperwork; it's very thorough. Clearly they want to know that you're not going to be a burden on the state if you're given citizenship.

Inez: You have family in Britain still, or in the English-speaking world. Do they know that you're applying for dual nationality? Have you told them about it? How did they react?

burden ▶ Belastung, Bürde

citizenship test
▶ Einbürgerungstest

line: how far down the ~?
▶ Wie weit (voran)gekommen, fortgeschritten?

paperwork
▶ Formalitäten, Papierkram

pension arrangements
▶ Altersvorsorge

proof ▶ hier: Nachweis

sit ▶ hier: ablegen

the authorities
▶ die Behörden

thorough
▶ gründlich, umfassend

Ian: I think most people understand why one would want to have dual nationality if you're living in a country for a long time. For example, my older brother lives in Australia. He's been living there for 25 years. He also has dual nationality. I think it makes sense if you're living in a country for a longer time, you then become a full member of that community. So, of course, in England there are jokes about, "You're becoming German. Will you be supporting the German football team?", etc. So that's just the British humour. That's our way of dealing with topics like this. But I haven't had any negative reaction from anybody.

Inez: Emotionally, how does it feel? Have you thought about this at all? Or do you think there might be an emotional moment when they hand you over your certificate of citizenship? So far, [is it] just a mental process or have you lain awake at night and thought, "Oh, I wonder whether this is the right decision? Do I really want to be part German?"

Ian: Well, this isn't a topic that's kept me awake at night. I believe it is the right decision. In terms of the identity, as you know, British people are very capable of having multiple identities. As I said earlier, I feel English, I feel British and for about the past 10, 15 years or so, I've also increasingly felt European. So we can live with all these identities. So having one more aspect of that through having a

German passport, I don't think will make a big difference. But we'll see when the day finally comes, and I go to the ceremony and receive my citizenship, how that feels then. It's really quite difficult to say now what I'll feel at that moment.

Inez: Thank you very much indeed, Ian.

Ian: My pleasure.

See Spotlight 1/2017, pages 18–23

Around Oz

[9] Here's to the bad old ways

David: Celebrating Christmas and New Year in Australia is a strange experience. Instead of roasting chestnuts, people like to barbecue prawns — especially at the beach. But some things about the festive season stay the same no matter where you are: people tend to eat and drink far too much. Australian correspondent Peter Flynn talks about the headaches and the guilt in this month's Around Oz.

barbecue ▶ grillen

chestnut ▶ Kastanie

festive season
▶ (Weihnachts)Feiertage

hand: ~ sth. over
▶ etwas übergeben

no matter ▶ ganz egal

prawn ▶ Garnele

I'm already feeling guilty. Every year, I eat too much over Christmas, and usually drink way too much as well. Yes, I know it's called the "festive season", but I always get this guilty feeling before New Year's Eve.

I'll spend a warm night on the beach with friends, overindulge in food and booze, and wake to the early sun with a sore head that is not even helped by a refreshing swim in the ocean. Worse still, we'll return to the house before the middle of the day and prepare for more feasting, because we're all on holiday.

True, most people in Australia call this the "silly season", but some are smarter. The wiser ones will have started "Dry January", during which they will not drink any alcohol. They'll have many benefits from this. They'll save lots of money, lose weight and sleep much better, I'm told. In addition, they will have sharper minds and be a whole lot more productive at work and in the home.

Oh, my God! I should be part of that. But I won't be, because I don't do dry months. Yes, I will feel guilty and wonder if I'm just a functioning alcoholic.

Some people wait until February, I reckon, because it's the shortest month. Their well-being movement is called "febfast", and people can give up alcohol or sugar for the month to raise money for disadvantaged young people.

The febfast website and Facebook pages are

pretty slick, but I resisted the temptation to join this trend. Febfast reminds me too much of my childhood and of Lent (the six weeks before Easter in the Christian tradition), when we were not allowed to eat red meat or sweets. That was tough for a kid.

Another group of wowers observes "Dry July" — just because the words rhyme. They are not do-gooders, just a miserable lot who want people to give up booze in the middle of the football season.

Then there's the "Ocsober" movement, which waits until just after the end-of-September grand finals weekend before asking people to give up booze and stay sober in October. This cause grew out of the seedy red-light district of Kings Cross in Sydney. Its focus is to raise money for programmes that teach kids about healthy choices in life.

booze *ifml.* ▶ Alkohol

Lent ▶ Bußzeit, Fastenzeit

overindulge ▶ hier: zu viel konsumieren

raise ▶ beschaffen, besorgen

reckon ▶ glauben

seedy ▶ schäbig, heruntergekommen

slick

▶ schlau, clever, raffiniert

sober ▶ nüchtern

sore ▶ schmerzend

temptation

▶ Versuchung

wowser *Aus., NZ ifml.*

▶ Puritaner(in)

It's a pity they didn't offer classes of that kind when I was young. But you know, I shouldn't feel so bad. I read a report in the business pages the other day that alcohol consumption in Australia has fallen to a 50-year low and will continue to drop over the next 10 years.

Beer is the worst-hit form of booze. That's because the under-30s are becoming increasingly health-conscious. Even old soaks like me are drinking less. The only growth market is for Australian wine, with companies in that area now getting 40 per cent of their sales from exports. I think it's pretty clear that the brewers need my help — and I can stop feeling guilty then.

Source: *Spotlight* 1/2017, page 73

English at Work

[10] Unhappy team members

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time Ken has tips on how to deal with unhappy team members.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. As a team leader, you sometimes have to deal with team members who are upset or angry. In such situations, it's important that you

keep calm and don't overreact. Listen to this conversation between Connie, a team leader, and Charles, one of the members of her team. Connie deals with the situation by listening carefully to Charles's problem, by showing empathy, by suggesting a solution and by agreeing with Charles on a plan of action.

Charles: Connie! I have to have a word. It's about John. I just can't work with the guy anymore. He's totally impossible!

Connie: OK. Charles, sit down and let's talk about this.

Charles: I told you he'd cause problems. He just can't keep his nose out of other people's business.

Connie: I know you've had some problems in the past. What's happened this time?

Charles: It's the arrangements for the board presentation. You said I should be the coordinator.

Connie: Right. So what exactly is the problem?

Charles: Well, John's sent everyone an e-mail about how it should work that day.

board ▶ Vorstand

soak *ifml.* ▶ Säufer(in)

brewer ▶ Bierbrauer(in)

upset ▶ aufgebracht, verärgert

empathy

▶ Einfühlungsvermögen

word: have a ~ with
▶ mit jmd. reden

Connie: Saying what?

Charles: Giving a detailed schedule for the different presentations.

Connie: I see. Was it done as a proposal?

Charles: It certainly doesn't read like that. Here's a copy.

Connie: Hm! I see what you mean. Look, I can understand why you're feeling so irritated. I'd feel the same in your position. What do you think we should do about it?

Charles: Can't you just get rid of John from the team?

Connie: You know that's not really possible. John's our IT expert and there's no one who can replace him. Let me think for a moment... OK, let me talk to John and explain to him why you and I are unhappy with the e-mail. I'll remind him that you're in charge of the board presentation arrangements and tell him that if he's any suggestions, he should e-mail them to you with cc me — and not to the whole team. How does that sound?

Charles: I suppose that'll have to do. Just as long as you keep him out of my hair for a while!

Ken: Connie handled that pretty well, I think. She reacted calmly. She listened carefully and asked questions. She empathized with Charles's situation. She came up with a reasonable solution and got Charles's agreement

to a course of action. Now you try. First you'll hear Charles. Then I'll tell you what to say. You speak in the pause. Then you'll hear Connie again. OK. We'll begin.

Charles: Connie! I have to have a word. It's about John. I just can't work with the guy anymore. He's totally impossible!

Ken: Ask Charles to sit down and talk about it.

Connie: OK. Charles, sit down and let's talk about this.

Charles: I told you he'd cause problems. He just can't keep his nose out of other people's business.

Ken: Say you know they've had problems in the past and ask what happened this time.

Connie: I know you've had some problems in the past. What's happened this time?

charge: be in ~ of

► für etw. verantwortlich sein, etw. leiten

come: to ~ up with sth.

► sich etwas einfallen lassen

do ► hier: genügen, ausreichen

hair: keep sb. out of one's hair

► sich jmd. vom Leib halten

pretty ► ziemlich

suppose ► annehmen, vermuten

Charles: It's the arrangements for the board presentation. You said I should be the coordinator.

Ken: Ask what the problem is exactly.

Connie: Right. So what exactly is the problem?

Charles: Well, John's sent everyone an e-mail about how it should work that day.

Ken: Ask what it says.

Connie: Saying what?

Charles: Giving a detailed schedule for the different presentations.

Ken: Ask if it was done as a proposal.

Connie: I see. Was it done as a proposal?

Charles: It certainly doesn't read like that. Here's a copy.

Ken: Say that you understand why he's feeling so irritated, and that you would feel the same in his position.

Connie: Look, I can understand why you're feeling so irritated. I'd feel the same in your position.

Ken: Ask what he thinks you should do about it.

Connie: What do you think we should do about it?

Ken: Suggest you talk to John and explain why you are both unhappy with the e-mail.

Connie: Let me talk to John and explain to him why you and I are unhappy with the e-mail.

Ken: Say you'll remind John that Charles is in charge of the board presentation arrangements.

Connie: I'll remind him that you're in charge of the board presentation arrangements.

Ken: Ask how that sounds.

Connie: How does that sound?

Ken: Well done. Did you keep calm and not overreact? In such situations, count to five and work out a considered response. This kind of calm approach reassures your co-workers and gives them confidence in you.

David: If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to language@spotlight-verlag.de If Ken chooses your question to print in *Spotlight* magazine, you'll receive a free copy of his book, *Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English*.

See *Spotlight* 1/2017, page 49

approach

► Vorgehensweise, Haltung

reassure ► beruhigen, beschwichtigen

considered ► wohlüberlegt, durchdacht

Peggy's Place

[11] A cure for Weltschmerz

David: It's almost New Year's Eve at our favourite London pub, Peggy's Place. Everyone's preparing for the big day, but one pub regular isn't in the mood for celebrations.

Helen: I really don't feel like celebrating New Year's Eve tomorrow.

Phil: Oh, everyone says that. Then, when it comes around, we're usually sorry if we don't do nothing.

Helen: That's not what I mean. The world seems to be in such a mess right now: I find it hard to look forward to anything. No one likes to party more than I do, but...

Sean: There's a name for what you're suffering from. It's called "Weltschmerz".

Phil: Oooh! Listen to clever clogs here! Weltschmerz, eh?

Peggy: Take no notice of my husband, Sean. He feels threatened when people use big words he doesn't understand.

Phil: I do not!

Peggy: So tell us about this Welt-whatsit. What are the symptoms?

Sean: I don't know the exact definition...

Helen: Let me google it. Here!... The Oxford Dictionary calls "Weltschmerz" "a feeling of

melancholy and world-weariness".

Sean: Exactly — when the problems of the world seem too much.

Peggy: I can relate to that. All you need to do is open the paper or switch on the news. That'll bring it on.

Helen: The question is: is there a cure?

Peggy: Doing something meaningful.

Helen: True. The Christmas dinner you did for the homeless really cheered me up.

Phil: And you're a nurse. You help people every day.

Helen: Yeah, but the effect of that wears off pretty quickly.

Peggy: I think spending time around family and friends is the best cure.

bring: ~ sth. on

► zu etw. führen

cheer: ~ sb. up

► jmdn. aufheitern

clever clogs UK

ifml. ► Besserwisser(in)

New Year's Eve

► Silvester(abend)

regular ► Stammgast

relate to sth

► etw. nachvollziehen,
etw. nachempfinden

wear off ►

sich abnutzen, sich legen

weariness ► Überdruß

whatsit UK

ifml. ► Dingsbums

Helen: I don't know about you, but I find my family a bit of a trial.

Sean: When I feel a Weltschmerz mood coming on, I try to distract myself.

Helen: With what?

Sean: A little project. Let me see... the New Year's Eve menu I've been creating, for example. That's fun.

Helen: Really?

Sean: Yes. I've been researching the foods eaten around the world at New Year and based the menu on that.

Phil: And he's come up with some great dishes.

Sean: The main dish is going to be a lentil stew — the Italians eat lentils at New Year. The shapes are like little coins, so the stew is supposed to bring luck and prosperity.

Peggy: I love the dessert ideas. One is called smashing pomegranates.

Sean: Apparently, the Greeks break the fruit on their doorstep at New Year to bring good fortune. So I've made a winter fruit crumble with pomegranates scattered over it.

Phil: And you're making a cake, too.

Sean: Yes. It's a traditional cake that's made in Denmark. I can't remember the name. I think they serve it in Norway, too.

Peggy: It's made of marzipan rings.

Phil: And there are chocolate and almonds on top and some whipped cream.

Sean: I think those bits are optional. Anyway,

you serve it at midnight with a nice tipple.

Peggy: We had so much fun planning all this, and we're booked out — although we'd always find a place for you, Helen.

Sean: So, hasn't the thought of that made your Weltschmerz go away?

Helen: Yes. Now I'm just very hungry.

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, page 16

almond ▶ Mandel

apparently
▶ anscheinend

crumble ▶ Streuselkuchen

distract ▶ ablenken

lentil stew
▶ Linseneintopf

pomegranate
▶ Granatapfel

prosperity
▶ Wohlstand, Erfolg

scattered ▶ gestreut

smashing UK *ifml*.
▶ toll, super; auch: zerschmettern

supposed: be ~ to
▶ sollen

tipple ▶ Drink, alkoholisches Getränk

trial ▶ hier: Plage, Ärgernis

whipped cream
▶ Schlagsahne

Short Story

[12] Ms Winslow investigates — part one

David: Spotlight follows in the great British tradition of detective fiction this month with a special three-part mystery story. Retired from the diplomatic service, Dorothy Winslow is visiting her niece in Germany. Soon, however, the 70-year-old's investigative skills are needed to solve a most unusual crime. Listen now as Inez Sharp reads "Ms Winslow investigates".

Dorothy Winslow entered the kitchen on her first morning in Heroldstein to find her niece Lucy in tears, the twins chasing an escaped hamster around their mother, the air full of the smell of burning jam and Trotsky the dog barking hysterically.

Moving quickly for a 70-year-old, Dorothy turned off the microwave, opened the back door and pushed Trotsky into the garden. Freddie and Rollo she sent upstairs to get dressed, then caught and returned the hamster to its cage before turning on the kettle.

"Lucy, dear. Where do you keep the tea?" she asked.

Dorothy was staying with her niece in Germany while her house in Cambridge was being repaired after flooding earlier in the year.

"Do come, Aunt Dot," Lucy had said when she

heard of her aunt's situation. "Klaus and the twins adore you, you'll love the village and it would be so nice for me, too."

That is what persuaded Dorothy. She had no children of her own and, of all her nephews and nieces, Lucy was her favourite. If Lucy wanted company, then Dorothy would provide it.

They drank some tea and Lucy explained her problem.

"It's the village fete this Saturday. I promised the organizing committee that I would make some jam for the food stall. Every family is supposed to do something..."

Heroldstein had a history of more than a thousand years and, like many such villages, the social hierarchy was not fixed by vulgar indicators such as income or type of car. What mattered was how long your family had lived there.

chase ▶ jagen

bark ▶ bellen

kettle

▶ Wasserkessel, -kocher

adore

▶ anbeten, vergöttern

village fete UK

▶ Dorffest

food stall

▶ Imbissstand

supposed: be ~ to

▶ sollen

fix ▶ festlegen

vulgar UK

▶ abgeschmacht, stillos

matter ▶ wichtig sein

Top of the pyramid, Lucy explained, were three families — the Mosers, the Schnatterers and the von Weidens — who all had ancestors in the church graveyard going back to the 18th century. Next came people such as Lucy's husband, Klaus Tischler, whose family had farmed around Heroldstein since before the First World War. At the bottom came anybody who had moved there since the Second World War. Klaus's status had gone down a little when he decided to work for a company in nearby Ludwigshafen instead of carry on with farming, but everybody knew him and most were happy to welcome the English wife he brought back with him after finishing his studies in Munich.

"The people here are nice," Lucy said, "especially Herr von Weiden. He's a sweetie. But the committee chairperson is Frau Moser, and she doesn't like me. She visited us just after we moved here from Munich and everything was still in chaos. She didn't realize I could speak German and, while I was making coffee, I heard her say to her daughter Charlotte: 'Sie ist ja keine Hausfrau!' Do you know what that means?"

Dorothy nodded. She'd worked in the diplomatic service for many years in many countries and, during a short period in the British embassy in Germany, she'd learned some German.

"The other day, she asked me to make some jam for the fete and I said I would, just to show that I can do 'hausfrauey' things like that. But I got distracted by the bloody hamster and left the microwave on for too long, and now I haven't got any more strawberries. I'm going to look like such an idiot!"

"Hm!" said Dorothy. "I might have a solution, dear. This is what we're going to do..."

Lucy's 20 jars of home-made jam, nicely decorated with hand-written labels, sold quickly on Saturday. Dorothy stood next to her niece, observing the villagers with interest and smiling kindly.

"Liebe Frau Tischler, das muss Ihre entzückende Tante sein!"

The voice belonged to an elderly man in a navy blue blazer with gold buttons, cream trousers, a silk scarf and a straw panama hat.

"Frau Winslow," he said in excellent English with a slight accent. "Allow me to introduce myself — Armin von Weiden. May I show you around?"

ancestor ▶ Vorfahr(in)

graveyard ▶ Friedhof

distract ▶ ablenken

jar ▶ Einweckglas

elderly ▶ älter, bejahrt

scarf ▶ Schal

embassy ▶ Botschaft

Dorothy had a pleasant afternoon. Armin was amusing, well-informed about everybody in the village and happy to share that information with her. He was also the proud owner of a small museum.

“Tomorrow, I show it to you. We have some pretty things...”

He walked her back to Lucy’s house and they paused outside.

“By the way,” he said, “I tasted some of your niece’s jam earlier, Frau Winslow. Truly excellent!” He looked at Dorothy carefully. “It was very like one of those famous English brands. I bought some in London once. Do you know what it might be called?”

“I’m afraid not,” said Dorothy with her most innocent smile. “I don’t really like jam. Well, thank you for looking after me, Herr von Weiden. See you tomorrow.”

In the kitchen, Dorothy looked at the 20 jars of expensive English jam — now empty — that she and Lucy had bought in a department store in Ludwigshafen earlier that week. Klaus would have to take those glasses to another village to throw away. Nobody must see him putting them in the local bottle bank.

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, pages 24–25

[13] Ms Winslow investigates — part two

Dorothy spent the next day visiting Armin in his museum, on the ground floor of the large house where he lived alone. It contained a mixture of fossils and Stone Age tools from the area, together with landscapes and sculptures by local artists. His pride and joy, though, was a small Renoir sketch of a young girl.

“It was lent to me by an old friend,” he said. “Some day, I must return it, but until then, it’s mine.”

“Where do those come from?” asked Dorothy, pointing at some animal heads on the walls. There was a lion, an elephant and two rhinoceroses. They looked old and dusty.

“Those horrible things? From my grandfather,” answered Armin without turning from the Renoir. “He went on safaris in Namibia.”

“You should get that rhino repaired,” said Dorothy. “Its ear’s coming off!”

Armin looked up, surprised.

“Ach, meine Güte! Thank you, Frau Winslow. I shall arrange it. Did you know...?”

bottle bank UK

► Altglascontainer

brand ► Handelsmarke

by the way ► übrigens

department store

► Kaufhaus

sketch

► Zeichnung, Skizze

Although Armin was a good storyteller, it was difficult to learn much about his past. Lucy and Klaus knew he had once been in politics, but had left the government of Rheinland-Pfalz and returned to Heroldstein.

“People say,” said Klaus, “he had a boyfriend. At that time, it wasn’t possible for a politician to be gay, so the party made him resign. But nobody really knows.”

They spent quite a lot of time together at the museum over the following weeks. Lucy came to visit one day, bringing the twins and another woman.

“Aunt Dot, this is Charlotte Moser, Frau Moser’s daughter.”

Charlotte was visiting home, on leave from her job at a bank in Hong Kong. Armin showed her around while Lucy and Dorothy looked after the children.

“Can’t stand her,” whispered Lucy to her aunt. “She patronizes me just because she works in Hong Kong. Had to bring her here to stop myself hitting her.”

A couple of days later, Dorothy was taking Trotsky for a walk when an agitated Armin hurried up to her outside the church.

“Frau Winslow, I need your advice. Would you come with me?”

They sat on a bench in the graveyard opposite a large collection of von Weiden graves. Trotsky had already fallen asleep on one of them.

“Dear Frau Winslow, something terrible has happened ... es ist einfach schrecklich! The Renoir has been stolen!”

“My word! Have you called the police?” Armin looked nervously over his shoulder. “Someone left a message for me and I don’t know what to do...”

The caller had told him that he could have the Renoir again, in exchange for the rhino head that was being repaired.

“That old rhino head?”

“It’s unbelievable, isn’t it? They took the Renoir and all the animal heads. Only they missed the damaged one, which I had taken down yesterday to send for repair.”

If Armin contacted the police, the thieves would destroy the sketch, he was told. He should drive to Munich with the head on Saturday and they would arrange a meeting place. Armin felt he had no choice. He had to rescue his friend’s picture.

“But why do they want the animal heads and not the Renoir?” asked Dorothy.

“I hoped maybe you might suggest something.”

agitated

► aufgeregt, aufgewühlt

graveyard ► Friedhof

My word!

► Mensch, wirklich!

resign ► zurücktreten

Dorothy shook her head. “But maybe I can find out without you having to go to the police,” she got up. “Come on, Trotsky. Time to go home! Don’t worry, I shall be in touch again very soon.”

At home, Dorothy took an old address book from her suitcase, hurried to the phone and dialled a number. An answering machine asked her to leave a message.

“Frau Winslow needs Herr Otto,” she said firmly. “Midday, tomorrow, the old rendezvous.” Then she hung up.

The next day, Dorothy waited on a bench by the Alster in Hamburg, watching the joggers, dog walkers and baby-buggy pushers. It was pleasant in the sun, but she was thinking of Herr Otto and hoped he had checked his answering machine and would come. She looked across the water at the Hotel Kempinski on the other side. He should be leaving to walk across the Kennedy Bridge now...

“I heard you’d retired,” said a voice, making Dorothy jump. A large man had appeared from nowhere and was sitting on the end of the bench. Dorothy had forgotten how silently Herr Otto could move.

“I have, Herr Otto. But this is something private that I hope you can help me with.”

“Why?”

“Because we’ve helped each other in the past, and you have so many useful connections

— which is why you are such an excellent hotel manager. Let me explain.”

They walked beside the Alster as Dorothy told him about the peculiar theft. Herr Otto asked a few questions, then sat on a bench and made some phone calls. Dorothy stood patiently by the water, watching the elegant Alster swans swim past. Somewhere, she’d read that it was a criminal offence in Hamburg to injure or insult an Alster swan and she began wondering how it was possible to insult a swan. Before she had time to try, Herr Otto had returned.

“Frau Winslow,” he said. “It seems this is about a lot of money. Are you sure you want to carry on?”

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, pages 42–43

criminal offence

► strafbare Handlung

firmly ► bestimmt

injure ► verletzen

insult ► beleidigen,
beschimpfen

peculiar

► seltsam, merkwürdig

retire ► in Rente gehen

silently ► geräuschlos

swan ► Schwan

theft ► Diebstahl

[14] Ms Winslow investigates — part three

Armin was driving Dorothy to Munich early on Saturday morning when the text message from the thieves arrived.

“They want me to drive to Munich airport and park on the top floor of the Terminal 2 car park. At 11 o’clock, I should leave the car unlocked with the rhino head inside, go and have a coffee for an hour and I’ll find instructions for collecting the picture when I come back.”

“Good!” said Dorothy. “Just as I thought.”

“Will you tell me what’s happening? And why didn’t we bring the rhino head?”

“How much is one rhino head worth, Mr von Weiden?”

“Perhaps €200 or €300? What do you think?” Dorothy laughed. “Probably about €360,000!” she said.

Armin pulled the car over into a parking area by the side of the road and stopped.

“Is this some English joke?” he asked. “Why?”

“In China and Vietnam, rich people pay enormous sums of money for rhino horn. It is powdered and added to medicines and drinks. Currently, a kilo of rhino horn sells for €60,000 in Beijing, and an average rhino has about six kilos of horn on its face. They can get a good price for elephant ivory, too.”

“Menschenskinder! But why did they take the Renoir?”

“Because they knew that one of your rhinos was missing. They knew you would do anything to get the sketch back, even though it’s not worth as much as the rhino horn.”

“It’s priceless!” said Armin fiercely.

“To you, but not to them. That’s the point. When they found that one rhino head was missing, they stole the Renoir to put pressure on you.”

“But who?” asked Armin. “It must be someone who knows me, the museum and has contacts in China. There isn’t...” He stopped. Dorothy waited.

“Charlotte Moser, of course!” he said finally. “I shall call the police. I shall...”

“Oh, no, Mr von Weiden! How will village life be for you afterwards if you do that? Frau Moser won’t forgive you and the village committee won’t work any more. I have a better idea...”

Shortly before 11, Dorothy and Armin — accompanied by a large man in an airport security uniform called Faisal — positioned themselves near the service centre in Terminal 2.

“How do you know she’ll come here?” whispered Armin.

fiercely ▶ heftig

ivory ▶ Elfenbein

powder ▶ pulverisieren

sketch

▶ Zeichnung, Skizze

text message ▶ SMS

whisper ▶ flüstern

“There’s a flight to Hong Kong at two o’clock. When her friend telephones to say there’s nothing in your car, Charlotte will come back to get the picture. It has to be here. There’s nowhere else she could safely store it. Ah... look!”

Walking fast and looking angry, Charlotte Moser was going towards the luggage storage desk. She handed over a ticket, collected a parcel in return and turned around to find Faisal, Armin and Dorothy behind her.

“Excuse me, madam,” said Faisal. “Can we have a look at that parcel, please?”

They found a quiet corner in one of the airport cafeterias and sat down. Faisal got them some coffee and went to a nearby table. Armin was so angry he could hardly speak, so Dorothy explained to Charlotte what was going to happen. “Now, Miss Moser. I imagine the ivory and rhino horns you stole have already been sent to Hong Kong. Is that right?”

Charlotte nodded.

“Yes, well, as you know, Herr von Weiden should report this matter to the police. You’ll lose your job, you’ll have a criminal record and you’ll have to leave Hong Kong and live in Heroldstein — with your mother...” Dorothy paused to let the thought sink in, “unless...”

“Unless?” asked Charlotte. She looked desperate. “How much money did you get for the horn and ivory you’ve already shipped? I know the prices; my estimate is about €400,000.”

“No... it was only €240,000. I sold them to a middle-man.”

“I see. And is the money already transferred to some off-shore account?”

Charlotte nodded.

“Good. Well, you have your laptop with you. Show us!” For a moment, it looked as if Charlotte would rebel. “No? Faisal, can you get a policeman to come?”

Charlotte opened her laptop.

Shortly before her flight was due to leave, they let Charlotte go.

“She’ll have to run to catch that,” said Armin with an enormous smile on his face. “Thank you for your help, young man. This is for you!” He gave Faisal a €50 note.

“Vielen Dank, Faisal!” said Dorothy. “I will tell Herr Otto how helpful you were today.”

They walked back to the car.

criminal record

► Vorstrafe

in return ► dafür

luggage storage desk

► Gepäckaufbewahrungsschalter

matter ► Angelegenheit

note UK ► Banknote

parcel

► Päckchen, Paket

store ► aufbewahren

unless

► außer, es sei denn

“An excellent idea of yours, getting her to transfer the €310,000 to the World Wildlife Fund. But how did you know she was lying about the amount of money she’d received?” asked Armin.

“Poker. Any good poker player can tell when someone is lying.”

He laughed. “Of course. You play poker. Nothing surprises me about you, Frau Winslow!”

He stopped and looked serious.

“By the way, after this adventure, I was wondering if I may call you by your first name? You can call me Armin.”

“Why certainly, Mr... I mean Armin. Please call me Dorothy.” She put out her hand and he bent low and kissed it.

“Thank you, Dorothy. I will!”

Source: Spotlight 1/2017, pages 68–69

Conclusion

[15] David: Thanks for joining us for Spotlight Audio. You’ll find more information about becoming a regular subscriber to either our CD or download at www.spotlight-online.de/hoeren. Join us again next month, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

by the way

► übrigens

subscriber

► Abonnent(in)

lie ► lügen

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