



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISCH



AUDIO

Spotlight

2
17

Spotlight

Romantic
BRITAIN
for lovers and friends

Spotlight Verlag



Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the February 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.

Around the world, people celebrate Valentine's Day on 14 February. In the Society section, you can practise the language of love with exercises and a quiz.

There's no better way to improve your English skills than to live in a country where the language is spoken. Meet a German who's decided to do just that in the Language section.

India is a land where ancient traditions and beliefs thrive in a booming modern economy. Come with us to visit ruined cities and sacred temples in India's spectacular south.

World View

[2] **Beemer over bullets**

David: We begin this month with the sound of gunfire. When a Kurdish soldier in Iraq went to buy a car, he found a BMW with an unusual

safety feature — it was bulletproof. Bullets are the small metal objects fired from a gun. If something is made to stop bullets from passing through it, we say it's bulletproof.

Most people associate automobiles produced by the Bavarian Motor Works with luxury. Not so Ako Abdulrahman. For the Kurdish Peshmerga fighter in the embattled city of Kirkuk, buying a BMW was all about safety — just not in the way you might think.

The 1990s Beemer he bought in an auction for \$10,000 had a special feature: it was bulletproof. "My friends were very happy when I bought the armoured car," he told CNN. "We started driving in it to the front line near Kirkuk, not worried about ISIS drive-by shootings or roadside bombs." When ISIS mounted an especially vicious attack, Abdulrahman

armoured car

► gepanzertes Fahrzeug

bulletproof

► kugelsicher

embattled

► umkämpft

luxury ► Luxus

mount: ~ an attack

► einen Angriff starten

sacred ► heilig

special feature

► Besonderheit

thrive ► gedeihen

vicious

► grausam, brutal

was able to use the car to transport 70 of the wounded to safety, as well as retrieving many bodies of the fallen.

“In my car, I carried Sunni, Shiite, Kurds, Turks and Christians. I felt like I am truly Iraqi, and this is who everyone should be,” he said.

He counts at least 50 bullet marks on the car. To him, these are a source of pride: “I am not a hero. I am only an ordinary Iraqi who wants to defend his country from criminals and killers.”

Source: *Spotlight* 2/2017, page 14

Britain Today

[3] Superwomen, your time has come

David: When there’s a tough job to be done, who should you call? In *Britain Today*, Colin Beaven says we should follow the example of the United Nations and ask a superhero.

How on earth are we going to cope with 2017 if it’s no better than 2016? Should we find someone to teach us some yoga? The trouble is, there’s nothing to stop unqualified amateurs teaching yoga here in Britain. Some people fear that the wrong teacher could actually do more harm than good.

What a shock! We’re used to the idea that we need to try to steer clear of cowboys when we

choose plumbers and electricians. But yoga teachers? Might www.checkatrade.com be the answer? It’s a website about trades and services with lists of comments written by previous customers. It’ll help you find plumbers or electricians who are recommended.

It’s useful protection for the consumer, even if customers are often overcritical when asked for their opinions. They phone a plumber and seem to think they’ll get Superman. Unlike Superman, though, plumbers don’t just fly in through the window to fix the central heating the minute it breaks down. And, unlike Superman, they expect you to make them a cup of tea while they’re working.

Whoops! All this talk of Superman does sound rather sexist, I’m afraid. Wouldn’t Wonder Woman do the job equally well? The trouble is that Wonder Woman has had so little time lately. The United Nations chose her to help promote fairness and equality for women — and then completely changed its mind.

cope with sth.

► mit etw. fertig werden

plumber

► Klempner(in),
Installateur(in)

retrieve ► bergen

steer: ~ clear of sb.

► jmdn. meiden

unlike ► anders als,
im Gegensatz zu

I doubt whether the UN looked her up on www.checkatrade.com. That website probably doesn't have a section about superheroes with comments on their timekeeping, **workmanship** and the value you get for your money. But there's a need for this kind of information. It's always good to let consumers make comparisons. Up to now, the only way to do that with superheroes was to watch the film *Batman v Superman* — a movie with a typically sexist title. It should have been *Batman and Superman Are Lost without Wonder Woman*. I'm not saying Wonder Woman would have been perfect for the job of UN **ambassador**. She's sexy, and would it really help if the UN were to ask women to compare themselves to the stuff of male fantasies? This, ultimately, is why Wonder Woman did not get the job. Wonder Woman is also white, and she wears very American clothing. Would the planet's women have found that representative? She's not exactly real either. What's more, the UN itself has been criticized for not having enough women in **senior** jobs. But then the names of so many UN organizations start with the letters "UN" that it must be hard not to be UN-fair and UNrepresentative. Not that Britain is the best example if you're looking for equality between men and women. The UK doesn't exactly top the international **tables** like those produced by the OECD.

Tables of this kind show women where they

can go to get the best deal internationally. It's just more consumer information — like www.checkatrade.com — and no doubt very useful. Apart from these tables, though, what else would make the world less unfair? If we let men **run** the UN, then it's only fair if the rest of the world were to be run by superheroes or, to use the **technical term** for them: women.

Source: Spotlight 2/2017, page 17

Society

[4] Celebrating Valentine's Day

David: The most romantic day of the year is **approaching** fast! Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world on 14 February. Although the practice of giving flowers and chocolates is a modern invention, this special day for lovers

ambassador

- Botschafter(in)

approach

- näherkommen, heranrücken

run

- hier: leiten, führen

senior

- leitend, hochrangig

table

- Tabelle, Liste

technical term

- Fachausdruck

workmanship

- handwerkliches Können

is a very old tradition.

Pope Gelasius declared the first official Valentine's Day in the year 496. The choice of February wasn't an accident. The Church wanted to replace the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was also held in mid-February and celebrated spring with a pagan fertility ceremony. Now test how much you know about Valentine's Day with a quiz. Here's the first question. Are you ready?

According to legend, the original Saint Valentine was executed about AD 270 by the Roman emperor Claudius II. But why was he executed? Was it because he...

a) had an affair with the wife of an important Roman senator, b) was becoming more important than the emperor or c) married young couples while it was against the law?

The answer is c). The legend says that Valentine performed secret Christian marriages for soldiers who were forbidden to marry. Apparently, the emperor believed that married men made bad fighters. While awaiting execution, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter and sent her a note signed "from your Valentine".

Here's the next question. The oldest surviving Valentine's Day card was sent by the Duke of Orleans to his wife in 1415. At the time, the Duke was in prison in which place? Was it...

a) the Tower of London, b) the Doge's Palace

in Venice or c) the Imperial Castle in Nuremberg?

It was a) the Tower of London. The Duke had been captured at the famous Battle of Agincourt in France.

Now try this question. Every Valentine's Day, about a thousand letters addressed to Juliet arrive at the Italian city in which Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* is set. What's the name of the city?

Is it a) Rome, b) Milan or c) Verona?

The answer is c) Verona. Valentine's Day is actually mentioned by the character of Ophelia in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*.

Here's the next one. Traditionally, people leave Valentine's Day cards anonymous. This trend was started by the Victorians. But why did they do it? Was it because...

accident ➔ hier: Zufall

apparently

➔ anscheinend

capture

➔ gefangen nehmen

duke ➔ Herzog

emperor ➔ Kaiser

execute ➔ hinrichten

fertility

➔ Fruchtbarkeits-

jailer ➔ Kerkermeister

pagan ➔ heidnisch

a) they thought it was bad luck to sign cards with their names, b) they were afraid it would cause a scandal if anyone found out they'd sent a card or c) a famous poet said it would be more romantic?

The answer is a). The Victorians thought it was bad luck to sign cards with their names. They also started the trend for giving roses, which were the favourite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.

And here's the last question. About how many Valentine's Day cards are sent each year worldwide? Is it...

a) 100 million, b) 500 million or c) one billion? About a billion cards are exchanged every year. In the 19th century, printed cards began to replace hand-written ones. When Hallmark Cards of Kansas City began mass-producing Valentine's cards in 1913, the holiday began to become more heavily commercialized — and love would never be the same again.

See Spotlight 2/2017, pages 30–37

[5] How romantic is your English?

David: Hopefully, our Valentine's Day quiz has put you in the mood for romance. In that case, it's the perfect time to test your knowledge of the language of love — in English, of course.

Choose the correct word or expression to complete these sentences.

"When Emma and Oliver met, it was love at first sigh/sign/sight."

"When Emma and Oliver met, it was love at first sight."

"Love at first sight" means that you fall in love with someone when you see him or her for the first time.

To say romantic things is to "whisper sweet somethings/nothings/sayings."

To say romantic things is to "whisper sweet nothings."

You may "whisper sweet nothings" in someone's ear, for example.

"Sofia isn't afraid to show her feelings. She always wears her heart on her shoulder/head/sleeve."

"She always wears her heart on her sleeve."

"To wear your heart on your sleeve" means to allow your feelings to be seen by other people.

"Lucy got an anonymous Valentine's card. She must have a secret fan/admirer/friend."

"She must have a secret admirer."

"To admire" someone is to think very highly of

bad luck ▶ Unglück

billion ▶ Milliarde(n)

goddess ▶ Göttin

love: fall in ~

▶ sich verlieben

sleeve ▶ Ärmel

whisper ▶ flüstern

them. Other types of admirer include a “suitor” and a “wooer”. Both words describe men that want to go out with or marry a woman.

“Every time Heather smiles at him, Eric’s heart blows a gasket/catches a wave/skips a beat.”

“Every time Heather smiles at him, Eric’s heart skips a beat.”

Your heart can also “miss a beat”. You can be “broken-hearted” when somebody you love has died or left you and your “heart’s desire” is something — or someone — you want very much.

See Spotlight 2/2017, pages 30–37

[6] Happy forever?

David: For some, love grows and blossoms; for others, it wilts and dies. Here are some descriptions of relationships. Say which statements are positive and which are negative.

“After five years, Lucas and Zoey are still going strong.” Positive.

“To be going strong” is to continue to be successful as a couple in a relationship.

“It looks like Andrew and Victoria are going to tie the knot.” Positive.

When you get married, you “tie the knot”.

“Julia and I are on a break right now.” Negative.

If you and your partner are “on a break”, you’ve decided to take time apart from each other.

This usually happens when a relationship isn’t working.

“Steve and Molly have decided to call it quits.”

Negative.

“To call it quits” means to break up with someone. In other words, to end a relationship with them.

“Those two just can’t keep their hands off each other.” Positive.

If two people can’t keep their hands off each other, they keep kissing and touching each other.

“Elena and Jason’s relationship is on the rocks.” Negative.

A relationship that’s on the rocks is having difficulties and is likely to fail soon.

Not every romance can last a lifetime. Choose the correct word to complete these sentences about things coming to an end.

“We tried to patch/plaster/fill things up, but it was already too late.”

“We tried to patch things up, but it was already too late.”

“To patch things up” is to try to fix the cracks in a relationship or to become friends again after a fight.

blossom ▶ (er)blühen

crack ▶ Riss

gasket: blow a ~

▶ vor Wut platzen

(gasket = Dichtungsring)

wilt ▶ (ver)welken

“It’s about time Ella dumped/removed/deposited that horrible guy.”

“It’s about time Ella dumped that horrible guy.”

“To dump” someone is to break up with them.

“I can’t forgive Jack for having an event/evening/affair with my best friend.”

“I can’t forgive Jack for having an affair with my best friend.”

Other words that can describe an affair include “liaison”, “fling” or “hook up”.

See Spotlight 2/2017, pages 30–37

Everyday English

[7] Pancake Day

David: Shrove Tuesday is the day in February or March just before Lent begins. The holiday is celebrated in some countries by eating pancakes, so the day is also known as Pancake Tuesday or just Pancake Day.

Let’s listen to two dialogues about Shrove Tuesday traditions now. In the first dialogue, Eddie and his mum, Val, are talking about a pancake race. Here is some vocabulary you’ll hear. An organization for helping people in need is called a “charity”. And the expression “to toss a pancake” describes throwing a pancake into the air so that it turns fully over and lands again in the pan.

Eddie: Have you got a good recipe for pancakes?

Val: Yeah. Oh, wait! Do you mean the thin ones or the thick ones?

Eddie: The thin ones — the ones you eat with lemon juice and sugar.

Val: I should have a recipe somewhere. Why? Are you making pancakes?

Eddie: They’re for Pancake Day. I’m taking part in a pancake race at college. The student union is organizing a race to raise money for charity. It sounds like a laugh, so I thought: why not?

Val: Don’t you have to run and toss your pancake at the same time? I’d be rubbish at that. The last time I tried to toss a pancake, it stuck to the ceiling. Afterwards, it dropped down and landed on the dog — and then in his mouth.

David: In the second dialogue, Val and Eddie are finding out more about Lent. The word “merrymaking” describes a cheerful celebration with singing, laughing and drinking.

Lent ▶ Fastenzeit

recipe ▶ Rezept

raise

▶ beschaffen, sammeln

A “penance” is a punishment that a person chooses to suffer to show he or she is sorry for something done. “To fast” is to go without food, especially for religious reasons. The noun is “fasting”.

Val: I know so little about these traditions. I mean, I know that Pancake Day is also called Shrove Tuesday, but why? I’m going to google it.

Eddie: Good idea. I guess if you’re not religious, you don’t learn about these customs.

Val: I guess not. It says here that it’s a day of celebration and merrymaking before going to confession at the beginning of Lent. Oh, and “shrove” is from “shrive”, which means to give a penance.

Eddie: Ah, right. And how long is Lent? It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter, doesn’t it?

Val: Yes, it says it ends on the day before Easter Sunday, because fasting is not done on Sundays. So, it lasts a total of 40 days.

See Spotlight 2/2017, pages 60–61

Travel

[8] Two faces of India

David: India is a land of contrasts. In this huge land, with a total area of over 3 million square kilometres, you’ll find deserts, mountains, beaches and jungles. The population of around 1.2 billion people is made up of many different ethnic groups and religions speaking 15 official languages and hundreds of other languages and dialects. India is now a world player in information technology and software, yet around half of the workforce still depends on agriculture. The gap between rich and poor can often be shocking.

In the February issue of *Spotlight*, correspondent Eve Lucas explores two very different places in the south of India — the tourist mecca of Goa and the temple town of Hampi. While Goa is one of the richest states in India, Hampi is an important religious centre with monuments that have been designated a UNESCO

agriculture

► Landwirtschaft

billion ► Milliarde(n)

confession ► Beichte

designated

► ausgewiesen (als)

made up: be ~ of

► bestehen, sich zusammensetzen aus

workforce

► Arbeitskräfte

World Heritage Site. In the following excerpt from the article, you'll hear more about the ruins at Hampi.

As we travel east into the afternoon, I gain many different impressions of India: uniformed schoolgirls swing their plaits on their way home in Dharwad, where some 200,000 people live; and a Brahmin dressed in white walks along a lakeside path in the much larger sister city of Hubballi with a population of 1.35 million. Later, near the small city of Hospet, a group of young men rushes out between the gates of a steel factory.

Suddenly it's dark, and we've arrived at the Hotel Heritage Resort in the village of Hampi, close to the ruins of the imperial city of Hampi-Vijayanagara. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and that promises quite a bit. But will it be worth the 12 hours we have had to sit in a coach?

The answer comes quickly the next morning. Ten minutes after leaving the hotel, our minibus turns a corner to one of the site entrances. The flat land and low trees fall away. In their place, a symphony of temples, statues and rocks in grey, pink and orange granite rises from the plain. It is unlike anything I have ever seen.

This landscape has been eroded for three billion years — first underground and then, when

it rose, by the forces of sun, wind and rain. It is ancient, a place where the word “forever” feels like a little splash in the oceans of time. Humans probably didn't arrive here until about 3,000 years ago, when the area became associated with Indian myths. Parts of the famous *Ramayana* — an old Indian epic poem — are said to have taken place here, and it is believed that the Hindu God Shiva met his wife Parvati on a nearby hill.

Great battles were fought for this land between Hindu kingdoms and invading Muslim sultans based in Delhi. Then, in the early 14th century, two brothers from a local family of Hindu rulers gained control of the area. To show that they were the new masters, they began to worship at a shrine dedicated to Virupaksha, an avatar of Shiva. They started building a complex of temples, palaces, roads and irrigation systems that covered more than

dedicated ▶ geweiht

excerpt

▶ (Text-)Auszug

invading

▶ eindringend

plait

▶ geflochtener Zopf

shrine

▶ Schrein, geheiligte
Stätte

splash ▶ Spritzer

unlike ▶ anders als

World Heritage Site

▶ Weltkulturerbe

worship ▶ verehren

25 square kilometres, an area nearly a third the size of the island of Manhattan. They called it Vijayanagar, the City of Victory.

For 200 years, its rulers lived here in great splendour. Visitors from Italy and Portugal wrote of experiencing this place, which was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, with 40,000 horsemen and 400 elephants, with fortified towers and elegant streets and markets where rubies, diamonds, emeralds and pearls were sold.

Then the sultans of Delhi returned, conquering Vijayanagara in 1565 in fiercely fought wars. I start my tour at Hemakuta Hill, where many temples are dedicated to Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction. He is closely linked with Vijayanagara.

My guide is Viru, a wonderful storyteller. As we walk slowly up the hill, he explains that, as well as Brahma and Vishnu — the gods of creation and preservation — Shiva also has many faces: not only of destruction, but of regeneration, too.

The temples around us are proof of that. These are ruins, but pilgrims still come to worship, standing quietly in the shadows. Some temples are small, but many are huge, cut out of the granite by inserting wooden wedges into holes, wetting them and waiting for them to expand and crack the rock. We see two that were built around monolithic sculptures of

Shiva's son, the elephant-faced Ganesha. The royal palaces and merchant's bazaars are impressive, too. It's here, in the shade of columns and massive stone ceilings, that Hampi feels authentic: a place where human effort and the landscape combine to create a mythical territory.

The spiritual centre of this place is the Virupaksha Temple complex at the foot of Hemakuta Hill. We enter through a huge gateway, or gopura, and come into a large walled courtyard. It's quiet here: the temple elephant standing in a corner is majestic. Passing through a second gateway to the inner area, we take off our shoes and walk around an early 16th-century temple porch, coming into the main shrine from a side entrance. Unexpectedly, the centre of this once

courtyard ▶ Hof

emerald ▶ Smaragd

fiercely

▶ heftig, erbittert

horseman ▶ Reiter

insert

▶ einfügen, einsetzen

merchant ▶ Händler-

pearl ▶ Perle

preservation

▶ Erhaltung, Schutz

ruby ▶ Rubin

splendour

▶ Pracht, Prunk, Glanz

wedge ▶ Keil

powerful kingdom is tiny and dark. Shiva is represented by a face mask. Following Viru and a group of Indian pilgrims, I bow quickly, and continue on, back into the daylight, through the gopuras and out on to the rocks. From here, I walk to the Tungabhadra River, where I see a few women and children sitting by the water, washing each other's hair. Their saris shimmer in the sun. And as I stand there, I realize that these impressions of India will become memories I shall value for a lifetime.

Source: *Spotlight 2/2017*, pages 18–25

American Life

[9] New York love story

David: Some men tend to be quite enthusiastic with presents when they fall in love. In American Life, you'll hear about a New Yorker who went completely over the top with a gift for his new wife.

For romantics, February means Valentine's Day. It's the time for cards, flowers, chocolates, dinners by candlelight, and maybe even some sparkly jewelry.

There are, of course, men who like to lavish gifts on their true love throughout the year, not just on February 14. And George Boldt, an

American hotelier born in Bergen auf Rügen, was one of them. Boldt, a self-made millionaire who was also the proprietor of the famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, is credited with bringing many innovations to the hospitality industry, including room service, an orchestra in the lobby, and velvet ropes to create an opulent atmosphere.

Louise Kehler, whom George married when she was just 15 years old, was the love of his life. When the couple vacationed in New York State's Thousand Islands region on the St. Lawrence River, they enjoyed the area so much that they decided to build a vacation home there. Never one to do things in a small

bow ▶ sich verbeugen

hospitality industry

▶ Hotel- und Gastgewerbe

lavish: ~ sth. on sb.

▶ jmdn. mit etw. überhäufen

love: fall in ~

▶ sich verlieben

pilgrim ▶ Pilger(in)

proprietor

▶ Eigentümer, Besitzer

sparkly N.Am.:

▶ funkelnd

throughout: ~ the year

▶ im ganzen Jahr

top: go over the ~

▶ übertreiben

velvet ▶ samten, Samt-

way, George decided to purchase an island and build a castle there as a tribute to Louise. He planned to present it to her on Valentine's Day, which also happened to be her birthday.

Construction of the six-story, 120-room fairy-tale castle began in 1900. Boldt spared no expense, hiring 300 workers and even reshaping the island into a heart form and changing the name from Hart to Heart Island. But tragedy struck in 1904, when Louise died of heart failure. George was brokenhearted, and he sent a telegram to the construction foreman, telling him to halt work on the castle immediately.

George never set foot on the island again, and the castle stood abandoned until 1977, when the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority purchased it for \$1. Since then, some \$15 million have been spent on restoring the castle and other buildings. Today, visitors can take a short boat ride to the island, where they can tour the opulent complex and the beautiful grounds. Many couples have held their weddings on the island, perhaps inspired by George and Louise's captivating love story.

My grandfather also had a romantic streak. He purchased a lovely wooded lot, just across the lake from his summer home, and presented it to his wife on their first wedding anniversary. I'm sure she was flattered by this lavish symbol of his love. However, my grandfather had ulterior motives as well: the property had a hidden

bay, which, he thought, would make a perfect place to build a boathouse, and there he could put his racing boats. That way, he could keep them out of view of friends and competitors who also had summer homes on the lake.

I remember taking a boyfriend into that bay many years ago and pointing out the boathouse. I said that the bar was set high in our family when it came to gift-giving. By the way, in case you're wondering, my relationship with that boyfriend didn't last.

Source: Spotlight 2/2017, page 29

abandoned ► verlassen

bar: set the ~ high

► die Messlatte hoch legen

captivating ► fesselnd

fairy-tale ► Märchen-

flattered

► geschmeichelt

lot N.A.m.:

► hier: Grundstück

spare ► hier: scheuen

-story N.A.m.:

► -geschossig

streak ► Charakterzug, Ader

ulterior motive

► Hintergedanke

Replay

[10] A look at recent news events

Inez: Welcome to Replay, the listening exercise in which we look at a recent news story, its background and language. I'm Inez Sharp. In this edition:

The importance of improving footpaths in England and Wales.

[11] On public health: walking to happiness

Inez: Walking is one of the best ways to stay mentally and physically healthy. It carries few risks and can be done by people of almost any age or fitness level. All you need are a pair of good walking shoes and some safe paths to walk on. Unfortunately for people in England and Wales, almost half of the paths across the countryside are not being looked after.

In these two countries, public rights of way are paths on which the general public have a legal right to travel. These paths are often over private land and may be hundreds of years old. Rights of way only exist where the local council has officially recognized them.

In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian*

newspaper, the writers talk about the importance of maintaining this network of paths. In a moment, you can listen to three excerpts from the editorial. Before that, let's look at some of the language used in the first excerpt. The writers describe routes that "meander" across the landscape. This means that the routes curve a lot rather than going in a straight line. A river can also meander. When the writers call a route "scenic", they mean it passes through beautiful natural scenery. By the way, to "ramble" means to walk for pleasure, especially in the countryside.

Across England and Wales 140,000 miles of ... rights of way roll and ramble across some of the two nations' finest landscapes. They meander from pub to hamlet and farm to school,

carry

► hier: mit sich bringen

editorial

► Leitartikel, redaktioneller Beitrag

excerpt

► (Text-)Auszug

hamlet

► Dörfchen, Weiler

maintain

► erhalten, instand halten

roll and ramble across sth.

► etw. durchziehen

or sometimes just from suburb to suburb by the scenic route. Now, over a little more than a year and helped by more than 3,000 citizen's surveys, Ramblers (formerly the Ramblers' Association) has mapped the condition of enough of these sometimes ancient routes to conclude that more than half are in a good condition...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the second excerpt, the writers of the editorial say that ten per cent of the rights of way are in serious “disrepair”. In other words, the paths have not been taken care of and are in bad condition. It's a local council's responsibility to maintain the rights of way. However, many are now “impassable”. That means they're impossible to travel on and may be blocked by something. According to the *Guardian* editorial, government budget cuts are to blame.

But the picture is uneven. Where the landowner is the National Trust, the National Forest or a national park, the story is usually good — streams with stepping stones, fences with working gates. But as many as a tenth are in serious disrepair...That is 14,000 miles of rambling that hovers between the difficult and the impassable. No surprise that these paths are often in areas where local councils,

responsible for maintaining rights of way, have experienced the worst cuts. How obvious it must seem, when faced with the choice between closing a day centre or maintaining 100 miles of footpaths, to let the axe fall first on what seems inessential.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the final excerpt, the *Guardian* writers note that MPs, or Members of Parliament, have begun investigating the effects of budget cuts on parks in England. If there's less investment in facilities for improving the nation's health, sooner or later there'll be a price to pay for the National Health Service. The messages are “bleak” — in other words, they're not encouraging, do not give reason to hope. Another word to listen out for is “redundant”. This means to no longer be employed because there's no more work available.

axe: let the - fall first

► hier: den Rotstift
zuerst ansetzen

conclude ► einen
Schluss ziehen, folgern

facility ► Einrichtung

hover ► schwanken

stepping stone
► Trittstein

suburb ► Vorort

Yet, as the Ramblers point out, walking is probably the best single way of promoting both physical and mental health yet to be devised. If everyone walked for two and a half hours a week, fewer people would need doctors and the NHS [National Health Service] could be nearly £2bn better off. It is something that almost everyone can do. No special equipment is needed — just paths there to walk on, safe, traffic-free and easy to reach. ...

MPs on the communities and local government committee have just launched an inquiry into the state of parks in England. They are hearing bleak messages about play areas closed because councils can no longer afford to maintain them and about park wardens, who kept spaces safe, made redundant. To that toll can now be added thousands of miles of rights of way that, like parks and play areas, should be playing their part in keeping the NHS solvent by making us all healthier.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

[12] Words and phrases

Inez: Let's see if you can remember the meanings of some of the words and phrases from the text. I'm going to give you a definition. Do you know the word or phrase that fits? Ready?

What word describes a route that's impossible to travel on and may be blocked by something? impassable

If something's not encouraging or giving any reason for hope, we can say it is... bleak.

What adjective describes something that has beautiful natural scenery? Scenic

If something's not been taken care of and is in a bad condition, we can say it's in... disrepair.

If you're no longer employed because there's no more work available for you, you've been made... redundant.

What verb describes something that curves a lot rather than going in a straight line? To meander

bn (billion)

► Milliarde(n)

devise

► ausdenken, ausarbeiten

inquiry ► Untersuchung

launch ► starten

solvent

► flüssig, zahlungsfähig

toll

► hier: die Verlustziffer

warden

► Aufseher, Wächter

With that, we end Replay for this month. We hope you've found our explanations useful. Till next month: goodbye.

Language

[13] Working and studying abroad — part one

David: It's one thing to spend your vacation in an English-speaking country. It's quite another to work or study there. In the February issue of *Spotlight*, correspondent Rita Forbes talks to five people who took the plunge. They left their homes behind to spend months and even years abroad.

So what are the advantages of working or studying in another land? First of all, there's no better way to improve your English skills than living in a country where the language is spoken. Spending some real time in another country also lets you properly get to know its culture and people. The experience you gain will boost your self-confidence. Plus, it looks great on your CV.

One of the people Rita spoke to was Silva Hanekamp. The 22-year-old from Rheine in Westphalia is studying European languages at the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne. As her degree requires two years of

study abroad, Silva chose to study in the Irish city of Limerick. She went there through the Erasmus+ programme. The student talked to *Spotlight Audio* over Skype about the benefits and challenges of adjusting to a new life in a foreign country.

This isn't the first time Silva has travelled abroad. She spent a year in Ecuador when she was 16, and she studied in Spain from 2015 to 2016. So why does she enjoy being away from home so much?

I really, really like the challenge of adapting to a completely new and different life, and a new style of life. And I really like the feeling of living abroad, and having a new everyday life, that in the beginning may feel strange, but it becomes yours somehow, and you grow into it. And I really like how it feels and how it affects me.

adapt ► sich anpassen

adjust ► sich anpassen

affect ► beeinflussen

benefit

► Vorteil, Nutzen

boost

► fördern, stärken

CV (curriculum vitae)

► Lebenslauf

degree

► Diplom, Abschluss

plunge: take the ~

► den Sprung wagen

self-confidence

► Selbstbewusstsein

David: We asked Silva if she did anything special to prepare for her time in Ireland. The bureaucracy she talks about is all the paperwork she needed to complete during the application process.

I mean, I did all the bureaucracy stuff. I did it quite early, so I could be relaxed. And I read the material that the University of Limerick sent me in advance, so I had an idea about what to expect, like about the requirements of the university. But normally I'm not much of a preparer. I mean, I googled a bit about Limerick, but I wanted to have an [open] mind when I came here, and I didn't want to have a picture in my head already, or other people's opinions.

See Spotlight 2/2017, pages 40–45

Language

[14] Working and studying abroad — part two

David: Having studied English from a young age, Silva was confident in her language skills. However, there was one aspect of communication she wasn't prepared for. We asked her if she had any difficulties with the language.

Not with the language itself, but maybe with

the accent! Because Irish people, some of them have a very, very difficult accent! Especially the bus drivers, and the cashiers at the supermarket — oh, boy! But I can understand my professors, my lecturers, quite well. They speak really clearly. [They] put effort in it.

David: There were also some aspects of Irish culture that Silva found surprising.

For example, the people don't seem to freeze, I don't know how! I'm even sitting here inside my house with a scarf because it just does not get warm. I was really delighted by the fact that Irish people are so open-minded and so relaxed and so welcoming, and they're just happy and friendly people, like inside themselves. I

cashier ▶ Kassierer(in)

confident

▶ (selbst)sicher

delighted

▶ glücklich, begeistert

lecturer

▶ Dozent(in), Lehrbeauftragte(r)

mind: have an open ~

▶ unvoreingenommen sein

open-minded

▶ aufgeschlossen, offen

paperwork

▶ Formalitäten, Papierkram

scarf ▶ Schal

thought it was just a stereotype, but when I arrived here I quickly noticed. I mean, starting with the bus drivers, but also I've got so many Irish classmates that are really friendly and interested in me, and asking me questions, and smiling when I come. It's so nice, so welcoming, and I really feel good because of it.

David: After finishing her studies, Silva is hoping to stay in Ireland to pursue a career in marketing. What benefits does she feel her time in Ireland has given her for the future?

It develops my person, my personality, because you learn how to act out of character. In German, we say *über seinen Schatten springen*. So, like, to confront new challenges. It's little things that may even seem very small, for example, participating in class. Like when there's a lot of people, and you're not sure about what you're saying, but you kind of want to participate, and you're like, "OK, come on, Silva. Just do it, just do it!" I mean, afterwards it's cool, you're proud that you did it and that you took this challenge.

See Spotlight 2/2017, pages 40–45

English at Work

[15] Saying "thank you"

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 say "thank you" after staying with a business acquaintance.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. If you're ever invited to stay the weekend with the family of a business acquaintance, you need to say thank you at the end of your stay and to offer some form of reciprocation. Keith has been staying the weekend with Greg and Lianne. Greg and Keith work for the same organization but in different regional offices.

acquaintance

- Bekanntschaft

benefit

- Vorteil, Nutzen

classmate

- Klassenkamerad(in); hier: Kommilitone, Kommilitonin

out of character

- untypisch

participate

- teilnehmen, mitmachen

pursue

- verfolgen, anstreben

reciprocation

- Erwidierung, Sich-erkenntlich-zeigen

They'll be seeing each other the following day. Keith had never met Lianne before this weekend.

Lianne: Keith, I think your taxi is here.

Keith: Oh, thanks. I'll just pick up my overnight bag from the hall.

Greg: You'll make the train easily now. And I'll see you in the office bright and early tomorrow morning.

Keith: 8.30 on the dot!

Lianne: Have you got everything?

Keith: I think so. Lianne, Greg — it's been a great weekend. I've really enjoyed myself. Thanks so much for looking after me so well. And for saving me from a lonely weekend in the hotel.

Lianne: We've enjoyed having you here.

Keith: We didn't bore you by talking too much shop, did we?

Lianne: No, you were very good — both of you.

Keith: I really liked the music pub we went to last night. It was great.

Greg: We love live music. Next time bring your guitar — they sometimes have an open-mike evening!

Keith: You haven't heard me play. Look, if you're ever in my neck of the woods — I can't offer you a bed for the night, but I can certainly show you around. And take you to a couple of music hotspots.

Greg: We might well take you up on that.

Keith: I'd better go. I really appreciated your hospitality. Thanks once again, Lianne. See you tomorrow, Greg.

Ken: Imagine you're in Keith's situation. I'll tell you what to say. You speak in the pause. Then you'll hear Keith's version again. Tell Greg and Lianne that the weekend was great and that you enjoyed it.

Keith: Lianne, Greg — it's been a great weekend. I've really enjoyed myself.

Ken: Thank them for looking after you and for saving you from a weekend alone in the hotel.

Keith: Thanks so much for looking after me so well. And for saving me from a lonely weekend in the hotel.

appreciate

► schätzen, zu schätzen wissen

bright and early

► in aller Frühe

hospitality

► Gastfreundschaft

my neck of the woods

► meine Gegend, meine Ecke

on the dot ► pünktlich

shop: talk ~

► sich über die Arbeit unterhalten, fachsimpeln

take: ~ sb. up on sth.

► auf das Angebot von jmd. zurückkommen, jmd. beim Wort nehmen

Ken: Ask Lianne if you talked too much about work with Greg.

Keith: We didn't bore you by talking too much shop, did we?

Ken: Tell them that you liked the music pub you went to the previous night.

Keith: I really liked the music pub we went to last night. It was great.

Ken: Offer to show them around your home area but tell them they can't stay with you.

Keith: Look, if you're ever in my neck of the woods — I can't offer you a bed for the night, but I can certainly show you around.

Ken: Say you appreciated their hospitality and thank Lianne again.

Keith: I really appreciated your hospitality. Thanks once again, Lianne.

Ken: How was that? Keith uses some common “thank you” expressions — so you could always go through the exercise a couple of times if you want to learn them. And if your version was different to Keith's, don't worry. When thanking someone, the important thing is that the person receiving the thanks sees that you really mean it.

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*.

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Peggy's Place

[16] An earful for lovers

David: It's time to pay a visit to our favourite London pub, Peggy's Place. In this episode, Peggy's husband, Phil, has gone to the doctor with a strange ear problem. Back at the pub, the others wonder how they can cheer Phil up. But could Phil's real problem be something else entirely?

George: How bad is it?

Peggy: Hard to say. He wouldn't let me look.

Sean: Whyever not?

Peggy: Said it was too painful.

George: On his ear? How bad can it be?

cheer: ~ sb. up

► jmdn. aufheitern

entirely ► völlig, ganz

Peggy: Actually, it's in his ear, not on it.

Sean: When did he first notice there was something wrong?

Peggy: Oh, weeks ago. But you know what he's like about going to the doctor — and it got worse after his heart attack. He'll only go when there's no other option or he's in too much pain. I got an earful, too.

George: Does he have any idea at all of what it could be?

Peggy: He says it's a big pink growth that's painful to the touch, and he's lost his hearing in that ear.

Sean: Sounds nasty.

George: Probably just some kind of infection. It's a shame Helen isn't here. We could have asked her opinion.

Peggy: Frankly, I'm not worried. I just feel bad because Phil's so miserable.

Sean: Can't we do something to cheer him up?

Peggy: I thought as Valentine's Day is coming up, I could organize something really special for him.

George: Like what?

Peggy: That's the problem. I don't have any ideas. I was hoping you could help me: you two are men.

Sean: Oh, that's a tough one. Valentine's Day is a bit of a nightmare for us guys, you know. Whatever we do, we seem to get it wrong.

George: That pretty much describes all my

efforts. I've only had one really great Valentine experience.

Peggy: OK, so what did you do?

George: Nothing special. I'd just met Maggie, and we were so much in love that even the car park at Aldi would have seemed romantic.

Peggy: That's a great help.

Sean: I think what George is trying to say is that you can't be romantic just because it's Valentine's Day.

Peggy: Which leaves me where, exactly?

George: Well, what does Phil really like to do?

Peggy: Let me see... He likes being here at the pub with me, he likes spending time with his granddaughter, and he likes spending time with you guys.

Sean: That's something to go on.

George: We could have an "Everyone loves Phil" Valentine's party and invite all his friends.

Peggy: What if there really is something wrong with him? Then the party's going to fall a bit flat.

earful: get an ~

ifml. ► sich was anhören müssen

flat: fall ~

► nicht gut ankommen

frankly ► offen gesagt

growth

► Gewächs, Geschwulst

nasty ► schlimm, übel

nightmare ► Alptraum

Sean: You can't think like that. Let's wait until he comes back, and then we'll see if he has a diagnosis.

Phil: I do have a diagnosis.

Peggy: When did you come in?

Phil: Only a minute ago, but I've been sitting in the car for the best part of an hour trying to think of a way to break the news.

George: So?

Phil: I just had a small surgical procedure to remove a wax earplug.

Peggy: What?

Phil: Yes, it was my own stupid fault. I must have put the plug in there one evening and then forgotten about it. The more I pressed it, the deeper it went in and the more it hurt.

Peggy: Right, we're making an appointment at the doctor's for you.

Phil: Why? I'm fine now.

Peggy: To get your memory tested.

See Spotlight 2/2017, page 16

Short Story

[17] "Treasure"

David: It's almost time to say goodbye. Before then, why not sit back and enjoy this month's short story from British author Nigel Marsh? Almost four centuries separates two groups

of men that stand in a small field in England. Even though the men couldn't be more different, they're all there for the same reason: buried treasure.

The year was 1643. Two riders leading a horse-drawn wagon clattered along a moonlit lane on a cold night in late February. The winter snow, which had been marked red by the blood of the civil war being fought across England, had now melted away to leave the earth wet and heavy.

In the wagon, three men were sitting on sacks of straw. The hands and feet of two of the men had been tied together with ropes. Their heads were bowed, their eyes closed. The third man — their guard — looked out at the dark fields they passed. On the floor of the wagon lay a wooden box.

bowed ▶ gesenkt

break: ~ the news

▶ die Nachricht überbringen

clatter ▶ klappern

drawn ▶ gezogen

moonlit ▶ mondhell, mondbeschiene

surgical procedure

▶ chirurgischer Eingriff

treasure ▶ Schatz

wax earplug

▶ Ohrstöpsel aus Wachs

“Stop!” called one of the horsemen, Sir Thomas Letcombe, Earl of Childrey, who was a loyal general of the king. “This way.”

They turned off the lane and into a field that sloped down to the river. Directly in front of them, in the centre of the field, stood a tall stone known as the Long Stone. The horses’ hooves sank deep into the wet ground.

“This is perfect,” said Sir Thomas. “Look across the river. Do you see the church?” His gloved hand pointed at a weathercock shining in the moonlight. It sat on top of a church steeple beyond the trees on the far bank of the river.

“Captain, count ten paces from the Long Stone. Be guided by the church.”

The other horseman dismounted. “I’m always guided by the church, milord,” he joked. Standing with his back to the stone and keeping his eye on the weathercock above the trees, the captain walked forward, counting each step. At a point ten paces away, he pulled his sword from its scabbard and pushed it deep into the ground.

“Bring the prisoners,” called Sir Thomas. The guard drew a knife and cut the ropes from the men’s hands and feet. Gruffly he said to them: “Take the shovels! Go and dig!” Each man took a shovel. The guard walked the men to the spot, holding a pair of pistols, primed and ready to shoot.

Despite the soft ground, the digging was hard,

and the men’s sweat steamed in the moonlight as the hole grew deeper.

“That’ll do!” commanded Sir Thomas. “Fetch the box, but empty it first.” They returned to the wagon, threw bags and bundles out of the box and then brought it to the hole, into which they lowered it.

“Now the bags.”

The bags were small but heavy, and the prisoners struggled to carry them from the wagon to the hole. As they passed the Long Stone, one of the men almost fell, dropping a bag. It split open, and gold and silver coins and pieces of jewellery rolled on to the muddy ground.

“Idiot! Pick it up — all of it!”

bank ▶ Ufer

beyond

▶ jenseits; hier: hinter

dismount ▶ absteigen

gruffly ▶ schroff, barsch

hoof ▶ Huf

pace ▶ Schritt

primed ▶ geladen, schussbereit

scabbard

▶ Schwertscheide

shovel ▶ Schaufel

slope down

▶ schräg abfallen

steeple ▶ Turm

sword ▶ Schwert

weathercock

▶ Wetterhahn

The prisoner gathered up as much of the bag's contents as he could and carried them to the sunken box.

Once all the bags were in the box and had been covered up, the prisoners shovelled the earth back into the hole.

"Thank you for your assistance, gentlemen," said the captain. He nodded to the guard.

Two shots rang out. Sir Thomas's horse reared up in panic, its iron-shod hooves catching at the air. It staggered back away from the sound, losing a shoe as it did so.

Sir Thomas swore violently, then brought his horse under control. "Into the river, captain," he said.

The captain and the guard pulled the men's bodies to the river's edge and rolled them off the bank into the icy water, where they floated gently downstream.

More than 350 years later...

After enjoying a fine Sunday roast in the King's Head pub, David and Chris walked down the sunny lane with their metal detectors and dreamed of lost civil-war treasure and teatime. "This is it!" said David. They climbed over a stile into a field where cows were grazing peacefully by the river. A stone stood tall in the centre of the field. "George found a King Charles gold coin over there last year; and back in '83, someone found the Earl of Childrey's

ring in almost the same place. Executed by the Roundheads, he was."

"Look! This is where George swept last year. Why don't we do the other side, between the stone and the river?"

Chris looked at his watch. "OK, but let's not spend too much time on this. I'd quite like another pint before we go home."

Starting from the tall stone, they switched on their machines and slowly began to sweep the area around them. David took his bearings from the old church steeple with its worn weathercock, which he could see peeping out above the trees on the far side of the river.

Sweep and step. Then sweep. Then another step. Sweep. Nothing. At the eighth step, David's detector beeped. He swept it from side to side: "beep, beep, beeeep", each time over the same spot.

bearings: take one's ~

► sich orientieren

float ► treiben

graze ► grasen

iron-shod

► mit Eisen beschlagen

rear up

► sich aufbäumen

ring out ► erschallen

Roundhead hist.

► Puritaner

shoe ► hier: Hufeisen

stagger ► taumeln

stile ► Zaunübertritt

swear ► fluchen

sweep ► absuchen

“Hey! I’ve got something,” he called to his friend. “Bring over the shovel.”

Chris dug into the earth. Down an inch, down another and then further until “clink”, the sound of metal striking metal. More carefully now, the two men clawed at the earth with their fingers until they were able to pull free the object.

“Nice! Look at that!” They looked thoughtfully at the brown and orange object. A rusted iron horseshoe.

“Shaped like a keyhole inside,” said Chris.

“Yes, and look at the edges,” said David.

“Seventeenth century?”

“I’d say so.”

“It probably belonged to whoever lost that money and the ring back there,” said Chris.

“Some say it was the Earl of Childrey who dropped the ring.”

“Probably right. The Earl of Childrey’s horseshoe, eh, David? The newspapers will like that.”

“Shall we carry on a bit? See what else is lying around here?”

“Let’s call it a day and go for a pint. The Earl of Childrey’s horseshoe, eh? That’s something worth celebrating.”

“You’re right, Chris. A real treasure!”

Source: Spotlight 2/2017, pages 68–69

Conclusion

[18] 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.

claw ▶ kratzen

rusted ▶ verrostet

subscriber

▶ Abonnent(in)

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