



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISH



AUDIO

Spotlight

4  
17

# Spotlight



*Keep calm  
and  
play politics*



Spotlight Verlag

## Introduction

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

Love them or hate them, politicians are important. They make decisions that affect lives. Now thanks to Trump and Brexit, politicians from English-speaking countries are affecting the lives of people throughout the world. Meet some of the big players in our Society section.

Clean waters, sandy beaches, palm trees — if you're looking for a treasure island, the Bahamas has over 700 of them. And many really are treasure islands — after all, this was where the real-life pirates of the Caribbean used to sail the waves.

“Can I take you to lunch?” It's a simple question that a colleague or business partner might ask. But does the person intend to pay for you or will you be expected to? We translate the language of invitations in English at Work.

## World View

### [2] A community fix

**David:** Have you ever heard of the Centennial Light? Well, it's actually a light bulb — the world's longest-lasting light bulb, to be precise. And it's been burning since 1901. You'll find it in a fire station in Livermore, California. So why don't the light bulbs you buy in shops last anywhere near as long? The answer may be “planned obsolescence”. That describes when a company makes a product in such a way that it will need to be replaced within a certain period of time. This could be done through releasing new products that are more fashionable or have better technology. However, it can also be done by using poor-quality materials. But some people are fighting back against planned obsolescence and products that break easily. Listen now to find out about the Repair Café.

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**affect** • beeinflussen

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**centennial**

• hundertjährig

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**light bulb**

• Glühbirne

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**near: not anywhere** •

• nicht annähernd

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**obsolescence**

• Veralterung

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**throughout**

• überall (in), in ganz

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**treasure** • Schatz

Is your coffeemaker kaput, your toaster toast-ed? Do you have a lamp that leaves you in the dark? If the answer to any of these is “yes,” go directly to the Repair Café nearest you.

In the US, they exist in 11 states. Worldwide, says the foundation’s website, there are more than 1,200 of them in 30 countries. Repair Café gatherings match people with broken toys, ripped clothes and defective electronics to those who may be able to fix them — for free.

“One of the things that makes it challenging and interesting is that we don’t know what people are going to bring,” Ray Pfau, a Repair Café organizer in the US state of Massachusetts, told *The New York Times*.

Former journalist Martine Postma created the Repair Café concept in Amsterdam, starting the nonprofit organization in 2009. Her idea was to push back against throwaway culture: because repair costs are high, people often take broken things to the dump and then simply buy something new. Guidelines and tips for people who want to open new locations can be found on [repaircafe.org](http://repaircafe.org)

There is no cost to participants, but the profits in terms of community are tremendous. Liz Pickett, who is raising four children on her own (two of them teenagers), visited the Repair Café in the town of New Paltz, New York. She needed help with busted headphones and a computer.

“It opened my eyes to the fact that this stuff is built to fail,” she said, adding that the proprietary way in which some products are built can make it tough even to take them apart. But try she must.

“I would not be able to replace every single thing they break,” Pickett said, referring to her children. “Are you kidding me?”

Source: *Spotlight* 4/2017, page 13

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**busted** *ifml.* ➔ kaputt

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**coffeemaker**

➔ Kaffeemaschine

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**dump: take sth. to the ~**

➔ entsorgen

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**kid sb.**

➔ jmdn. veräppeln

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**nonprofit organization**

➔ gemeinnützige

Gesellschaft

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**participant**

➔ Teilnehmer(in),  
Beteiligte(r)

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**proprietary**

➔ (urheberrechtlich)  
geschützt

---

**push back against sth.**

➔ gegen etw. ankämpfen

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**ripped** ➔ zerrissen

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**toasted: be ~ ifml.**

➔ erledigt sein

## A Day in My Life

### [3] Landscape gardener Jason Wyatt

**David:** In a Day in My Life, we meet landscape gardener Jason Wyatt. The 43-year-old works for a local council in Adelaide, South Australia. Listen now as Wyatt talks about how his day begins. As you listen, try to answer this question: What kind of a team does Wyatt work for?

Usually I wake up pretty early in the morning, at about 5.30. I have a shower, then have some cereal for breakfast and get dressed for work in my work uniform. I ride my motorbike to work most of the year, but if it's raining or too cold in winter, I'll drive my car. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes to get to work, depending on the traffic situation. I like to arrive early and relax in the staff room before I start work at 6.30. After we're told our tasks for the day by my supervisor, it takes about 15 minutes to get my head around exactly what we're doing. I work with a biodiversity team. With the biodiversity teams our jobs vary. So when we get to work in the mornings, we tend to need to have to prioritize things on what needs to be done for the day.

**David:** Were you able to answer the question? What kind of a team does Wyatt work for? He works for a biodiversity team. "Biodiversity"

refers to nature and to the many different types of plants, animals and habitats that make up a balanced environment. The biodiversity team works to protect vegetation, restore habitats and increase understanding and awareness of urban nature. In the second recording, Wyatt discusses some of the jobs that the biodiversity team do. Here's some useful vocabulary. "Whipper-snipping" involves cutting grass with a machine that has a cutting head at the end of a long shaft with a handle. The machine uses a fast-turning piece of plastic string to cut the grass. "Garden mulching" involves putting organic material around a plant to protect its base and roots. Mulching can also be used to improve the quality of soil or to stop

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#### biodiversity

► Artenvielfalt

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**cereal** ► Müsli,

Cornflakes

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**habitat** ► Lebensraum

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**head: get one's ~ around**

**sth.** ► etw. verstehen,

durchschauen

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#### landscape gardener

► Landschaftsgärtner(in)

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**pretty** ► ziemlich

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**shaft** ► Stiel

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**soil** ► Boden, Erde

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**staff** ► Personal-

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**supervisor**

► Vorgesetzte(r)

weeds growing. Now listen and try to answer this question: Who helps the biodiversity team with planting vegetation?

So the first thing we look at [is] called a CSR, which is a Customer Service Request. This is where residents who live in our council area have made a complaint or have a concern over something that needs to be addressed. So we all look at these issues first. If the CSRs have been discussed, or there aren't any to be done, that's when we look at which normal duties we have to do. One of these duties is getting areas prepared for volunteer groups to do some plantings. Because with the biodiversity team we look after areas where the plants or native vegetation will attract native fauna to come to that area. Then at about a quarter to seven we leave for the site. The types of jobs I do on site are things like whipper-snipping, weed poisoning, mulching and planting new trees and shrubs. We have a truck [that] is called a dual cab, which is a tipper truck, which has all the materials and tools that we need to do a lot of variety of work. We pretty much drive straight out to the job site, which can be far out from the depot or close by. The council I work for isn't very large, so it takes about 30 minutes maximum to get to the work site. At around 7 or 7.30, we'll prepare our area.

**David:** Were you able to answer the question? Who helps the biodiversity team with planting vegetation? The answer is: volunteer groups.

See Spotlight 4/2017, 18–19

## Britain Today

### [4] Stationary at the station

**David:** In the summer of 2016, the British Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, was involved in a bit of a scandal. You see, Mr Corbyn wants to renationalize British trains. He thinks a “People’s Railway” could offer better and more efficient services along with cheaper tickets. To support this argument, he released a video in which he was forced to sit on the floor of a Virgin train because he couldn't find a free seat.

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**depot** ➤ Lagerhalle

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**shrub** ➤ Busch, Strauch

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**dual cab (truck)**

➤ Doppelkopffahrzeug

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**tipper truck**

➤ Kippwagen

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**on site** ➤ vor Ort

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**volunteer**

➤ Freiwilligen-

---

**poisoning**

➤ hier: Vernichtung

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**weed** ➤ Unkraut

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**resident**

➤ Anwohner(in)

The train company replied with a video from that day showing Corbyn passing through a carriage of empty seats. Of course, the company failed to mention that these were reserved seats. In the end, neither side came out of it looking good. What became clear, though, is that many people are unhappy with the train service in the UK. In Britain Today, Colin Beaven points out that the service wasn't all that good before privatization, either.

When you're waiting for a train at one of London's big stations, what can you do to kill time? You could look at the statues — like the one of Sir Nigel Gresley at King's Cross. King's Cross is the terminal station at the end of the line from Edinburgh, and Sir Nigel designed beautiful locomotives, like the Flying Scotsman and the Mallard.

Why choose the name “mallard”, a type of duck? Sir Nigel liked ducks. He had lots of them. At one point, there were plans to include a duck as part of his statue, but in the end, it was felt to be too frivolous.

Britain's railways continue to get busier and busier, but their passengers don't get any happier. They complain about the high cost of fares and the low standard of service.

Certainly, the service could be better. But it wasn't great in the days before privatization either. In the 1990s, I remember a confused

American tourist who was travelling to Paddington — another of London's terminal stations. The lady clearly didn't know that, however.

“Excuse me,” she asked the guard. “Does this train stop at Paddington?”

“Well, God help us if it doesn't,” he replied. Nowadays, you'd get a friendlier answer. In fact, today's guards never stop telling you where you're going.

The service wasn't great when I used to wait at Victoria — yet another London terminus — for the boat train to Dover. If you were on your way to the ferris heading for France or Belgium, you'd have to wait ages for someone to open the gates to the platform.

So lots of exhausted passengers used to sit on the ground with their luggage. Once, they left a tiny gap in the solid sea of suitcases. Into this tiny gap, something fell from the back end of a pigeon that was sitting up in the roof.

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**carriage** ▶ Wagen, Abteil

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**pigeon** ▶ Taube

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**exhausted** ▶ erschöpft

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**point out** ▶ aufzeigen, hinweisen auf

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**fare** ▶ Fahrpreis

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**terminal** ▶ Endstation, Endhaltestelle

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**ferry** ▶ Fähre

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**tiny** ▶ winzig

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**frivolous** ▶ albern

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**mallard** ▶ Stockente

Was the pigeon showing off? Did it think this was the height of skill? Or possibly the height of bad luck? Either way, it reminds me that the railways used to have pigeons as well as mail-lards. Not everything was perfect.

What about the tradition of having to wait for platforms to open? It's still alive and well, no doubt because the stations are so busy. Waterloo — another London terminus — is Britain's busiest, with almost 100 million passengers a year. With so many trains competing for platforms, it must be hard to say in advance which one gets which.

Or is it just that it's fun to make passengers wait, and then watch them burst into life like greyhounds at a race track when they find out where they have to go to catch their train?

Whatever the reason, London's big stations are full of passengers standing absolutely motionless, holding their Starbucks coffee cups and watching the departure boards. They look like the living statues that entertain tourists on the streets of big cities.

Perhaps they really are living statues, attempting to make money as entertainment for visitors. If you tried putting coins in their coffee cups, you'd no doubt find out.

Source: Spotlight 4/2017, page 17

## Travel

### [5] Postcards from a mailboat

**David:** The name Bahamas comes from the Spanish *baja mar*, which means “shallow sea”. And that's exactly what you'll mostly find around the country's more than 700 islands. Though the Bahamas is often seen as a Caribbean country, it is actually located in the Atlantic Ocean, north of Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic and south-east of the US state of Florida. The capital city of the Bahamas is Nassau on the island of New Providence. Nassau is where most people live and where most tourists go. It's got big hotels, a wide choice of restaurants and an exciting nightlife. But there's much more to the Bahamas than Nassau. For the April issue of *Spotlight*, author Franz Marc Frei hopped on a mailboat and set sail for the more distant islands of the archipelago. In the following excerpt, you'll hear about

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**archipelago**

► Inselgruppe

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**burst into life**

► zum Leben erwachen,  
in Schwung kommen

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**either way** ► so oder so

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**excerpt** ► (Text-)Auszug

**greyhound** ► Windhund

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**shallow** ► seicht, flach

**show off** ► angeben

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**treasure** ► Schatz-

the Bahamas' history of pirates and what their treasure islands are like nowadays.

### Captain Blackbeard and the Republic of Pirates

The Bahamas and the Americas are inextricably linked. When, on 12 October 1492, Christopher Columbus sighted the Bahamian island that he named San Salvador — the first place where the explorer landed in the New World — it was inhabited by the Lucayans. Centuries before, these native peoples had emigrated from Hispaniola (the island that hosts the sovereign nations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti) to the Bahamas.

By the mid 17th century, the English had begun to settle the islands, too. Pirates knew that the Bahamas lay on the route used by French and Spanish ships transporting gold and other valuables stolen from New World civilizations. The islands soon came to be valued by the pirates as ideal places to hide their booty. The notorious Captain Blackbeard was in real life Mr Edward Teach (or Thatch), an Englishman with, yes, a thick black beard. He helped to run the “Republic of Pirates” based on New Providence. In 1717, he attacked 15 ships in Chesapeake Bay and off the coast of New York City and Philadelphia. At that time, he was the most-feared pirate in the world. In 1718, the Bahamas became a Crown Colony,

part of the British West Indies. That same year, Blackbeard's career came to a sudden end when colonial soldiers killed him at Ocracoke Island, North Carolina.

Treasure, overgrown with coral and half-hidden in the sand, could still be lying among the many shipwrecks in Bahamian waters. Green Turtle Cay, a small strip of land in the Abaco Out Islands, was one of Blackbeard's lairs. New Plymouth, located on it, is truly beautiful. With its colourful houses with painted fences and its lost little alleyways, it's a sleepy corner that feels empty, as if it were the backdrop to a theatre production the stagehands had forgotten to take down after the show. No complaints from me: very few tourists appear to have discovered the place.

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**alleyway** ▶ Gasse

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**backdrop** ▶ Kulisse, Hintergrund

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**booty** ▶ Beute(gut)

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**host** ▶ beherbergen

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**inextricably**  
▶ untrennbar

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**inhabited** ▶ bewohnt

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**lair** ▶ Versteck, Schlupfwinkel

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**notorious**  
▶ berühmt-berüchtigt

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**stagehand**  
▶ Bühnenarbeiter(in)

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**strip of land**  
▶ kleiner Landstrich



Elbow Cay in the Abaco Islands is a completely different matter. The island's North End is one of the top addresses in the Bahamas. Hope Town, its main settlement, has sensational views from its red-and-white striped lighthouse and houses reminiscent of America's eastern seaboard. No wonder: the settlers who arrived here from the United States in 1785 came from Charleston, South Carolina, and preferred to remain loyal to Britain. Among them were plantation owners who had brought their slaves with them. The Bahamas abolished slavery in the 1830s. Today, 95 per cent of Bahamians are of African descent. As I get ready to fly back to Nassau, I think of all the people I've met and the places I've seen. Britain's former King Edward VIII became governor of the Bahamas in 1940. He and his "scandalous" American wife, Wallis Simpson, spent five years on these islands, few of them happy, though. If I had the chance to live here, happiness would hardly be a problem. Now, if I can just get my hands on enough treasure to buy myself an island...

Source: Spotlight 4/2017, pages 20–26

## [6] Listening comprehension

**David:** How well did you understand the excerpt from the article? Let's test your

understanding now with some comprehension questions. Here's the first one. Are you ready?

What did Christopher Columbus name the first island on which he landed in the New World?

Was it a) Eleuthera, b) Andros or c) San Salvador?

The answer is c) San Salvador. The island was the first land he sighted and visited on 12 October 1492. He named it after Christ the Saviour.

Here's the next question. Which two nations share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola?

Is it a) the Dominican Republic and Haiti, b) Antigua and Barbuda or c) St Kitts and Nevis?

The answer is a) the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Hispaniola is the second-largest island in the Caribbean after Cuba and was the site of Columbus's first permanent settlement in the Americas.

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**abolish** ▶ abschaffen

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**descent**

▶ Abstammung

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**matter**

▶ Angelegenheit

---

**reminiscent: be ~ of sth.**

▶ an etw. erinnern

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**saviour**

▶ Erlöser, Heiland

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**seaboard**

▶ Meeresküste

Now try this one. What was the name of the notorious pirate base in Nassau on the Bahamian island of New Providence?

Was it a) Pirate Nation, b) the Republic of Pirates or c) Walk-the-Plank Castle?

The answer is b) the Republic of Pirates. The base lasted from 1706 to 1718 when King George I sent a new governor to the Bahamas to restore British control. The Republic operated as a kind of democracy with its own code of conduct. Treasure was shared equally and captains could be elected and removed by popular vote.

Now try to answer this question. What exactly is a “cay”?

Is it a) a low, sandy island on the surface of a coral reef, b) a piece of land sticking out into the sea or c) a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas?

It's a). A cay is a low, sandy island on the surface of a coral reef. There are examples of cays in tropical environments throughout the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, as well as in the Caribbean.

And here's the last question. Britain's former king Edward VIII became governor of the Bahamas in 1940. Four years before, he had abdicated — in other words, he had given up being king. Why did he choose to do this? Was it a) because he was a supporter of the Nazi party, b) to marry a woman who had already

divorced two husbands or c) he was suffering from ill health?

The answer is b). Edward had fallen in love with an American called Wallis Simpson. However, politicians opposed the marriage because Simpson had two living ex-husbands. To marry the woman he loved, Edward chose to give up the crown. Actually, both Edward and his new wife were believed to be supporters of Adolf Hitler, and so he was sent to the Bahamas during the Second World War to keep him out of trouble.

See Spotlight 4/2017, pages 20–26

## Everyday English

### [7] Buying a new laptop

**David:** We've already heard about Repair Cafés and the fight against planned obsolescence. However, in the area of computers, improvements in technology happen so fast, it's almost impossible to stop products becoming old-fashioned. That's what's happened with

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**abdicate** ▶ abdanken

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**code of conduct**

▶ Verhaltensregeln

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**obsolescence**

▶ Veralterung

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**throughout**

▶ überall (in), in ganz

Olive and her old laptop in this month's Everyday English. Not only is the battery burning out, but the computer is also very heavy compared to newer models. Now, Olive and her partner, Jimmy, are talking about buying her a new laptop. Before you listen to the first dialogue, here's some important vocabulary. A "detachable" keyboard is one that can be taken off the "screen". The screen is the section of a computer on which you see pictures and information. Both parts continue to work together through a Bluetooth connection. "Battery life" is a measure of battery performance and how long the battery lasts without needing to be charged again with electricity.

**Jimmy:** What kind of laptop do you want?

**Olive:** One of those sleek, silver ones. They look so thin and light.

**Jimmy:** You know you could also get a 2-in-1. What about that?

**Olive:** Oh, right. You mean the ones with the detachable keyboards?

**Jimmy:** Yes. A colleague of mine has one. You can switch between tablet mode and clamshell mode.

**Olive:** Clamshell mode? Is that what it's called? I've never heard of that before. Anyway, I've already got a tablet. I just want a nice, light laptop with a long battery life and a decent-sized screen.

**Jimmy:** Sounds good. Would you buy it online?

**Olive:** I wouldn't mind going to have a look in town tomorrow. Would you come with me?

**Jimmy:** Sure. Let's go after breakfast.

**David:** In the second dialogue, Olive and Jimmy are getting advice from a computer salesman about what kind of laptop to buy. An "operating system" is a set of programs that controls the way a computer works. Examples of this are Microsoft Windows or Apple's macOS. "Memory" refers to the amount of space in a computer for storing information. RAM stands for "random-access memory" and acts as the main storage available to the user for programs and data. With RAM, the location of the data doesn't affect how fast it can be found and used.

**Salesman:** OK, so we know what type of operating system you'd prefer. What about the screen size? Will you be working on the laptop all the time or only when you're on the road?

**Olive:** Only when I travel really.

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**affect** ➔ beeinflussen

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**control** ➔ steuern, regeln

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**clamshell**

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**random-access memory**

➔ Muschelschale

➔ Direktzugriffsspeicher

**Salesman:** Right, so a 14-inch screen is probably big enough — like this one over here. I would recommend a full HD screen. Everything is displayed in much more detail, which makes it ideal for watching films.

**Olive:** OK, great! It all makes sense so far.

**Salesman:** Now, what about RAM?

**Olive:** Er... that's the memory, right? What would you recommend?

**Salesman:** Probably a minimum of 8 GB. That means you'll also be able to stream HD films.

Source: *Spotlight* 4/2017, pages 46–47

## American Life

### [8] Too many choices?

**David:** Choice is good for us, right? It gives us freedom, responsibility and a greater chance of getting what we want. But too many options can leave us confused. Then when we've made a choice, there's the fear that it might have been the wrong one. A greater range of options leads to higher expectations. Suddenly we're under more pressure to make the right decision. In this month's *American Life*, Ginger Kuenzel has too many choices — and it's making her wish for a simpler life.

It seems as if people are talking more and more about simplifying their lives these days. There

are plenty of articles — and even a popular magazine called *Real Simple* — which tell you just how to do that. And there have certainly been a lot of innovations that make life easier, many of which are technology-based. Just think of all the smart appliances that are now coming onto the market.

There's one area, though, where things are not becoming simpler. I'm talking about the increasing number of choices we face these days when shopping. Take ice cream, for example. When I was growing up, we were usually offered a choice of chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry. Today, the list of ice-cream flavors is endless. New ones are constantly being introduced, as unpopular ones — such as bubble gum or garlic — go out of fashion.

After eating all that ice cream, you'll need some toothpaste. In the past, you just chose your favorite brand and size. Now, each brand offers not only a huge number of flavors, but also different benefits. You can decide whether you want your toothpaste to whiten your teeth, strengthen them, make your gums healthier, freshen your breath, or eliminate plaque. Some

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**benefit** ▶ Vorteil,  
Nutzen

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**gums** ▶ Zahnfleisch

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**plaque** ▶ Zahnbelag

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**smart appliance**

▶ intelligentes (Haus-  
halts-)Gerät

toothpaste is just for kids — in which case, bubble-gum flavor is still popular — while other types are for people with sensitive teeth. You'll also have to spend a lot of time in the laundry detergent aisle of the supermarket, deciding which one is right for you. Do you want a detergent that gets your clothes clean, or do you prefer one that gets the stains out? Is there a difference? And how should your laundry smell when it comes out of the washer? Like lavender, perhaps? How about “mountain spring”? Or you could just go with the “clean burst” aroma. As far as I know, they're not making detergent that smells like bubble gum — at least not yet. And don't even get me started on choices in lightbulbs: halogen, LED, CFL, fluorescent, floodlight, spotlight, bright white, or soft light. The list goes on.

Even choosing the right peanut butter is a challenge. Do I want all-natural or regular, chunky, crunchy, or smooth, honey-roasted or sugar-free, low-carb or low-sodium? I don't think they've developed a peanut butter for people with peanut allergies yet, but it's probably in the works.

I recently read that having too many choices can be a bad thing. For example, does Amazon really need to offer 1,161 different toilet brushes? If we spend so much time worrying over our options, we might avoid making a decision for fear that we'll make the wrong one. In some

cases, this could be a good thing. If I can't decide on a flavor of ice cream, I'll avoid all those extra calories. On the other hand, the inability to choose the right lightbulb, laundry detergent, or toothpaste could be more problematic.

Source: *Spotlight* 4/2017, page 27

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**aisle** ➔ Gang

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**burst** ➔ hier: Duftexplosion

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**CFL (compact fluorescent lamp)**  
➔ Kompaktleuchtstofflampe

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**chunky** *ifml.*  
➔ mit groben Stückchen

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**crunchy**  
➔ mit Stückchen

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**fluorescent**  
➔ Leuchtstofflampe

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**laundry detergent**  
➔ Waschmittel

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**lightbulb** ➔ Glühbirne

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**low-carb** *ifml.*  
➔ kohlenhydratarm

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**low-sodium**  
➔ natriumarm

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**sensitive** ➔ empfindlich

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**stain** ➔ Fleck

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**washer** *ifml.*  
➔ Waschmaschine

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**works: be in the ~** *ifml.*  
➔ in Arbeit, in der Mache sein

## Replay

### [9] 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:

Britain should be careful as it cuts its links to Europe in a world where protectionism is on the rise.

### [10] Post-Brexit trade: sharing pain and gain

**Inez:** On 1 February this year, British members of parliament voted overwhelmingly to support the Conservative government's European Union Bill. In effect, this means that Brexit is one major step closer to becoming reality. The vote came after the January ruling from the UK Supreme Court that the government couldn't begin Brexit proceedings without the support of parliament. Now that Prime Minister Theresa May has gained this support, her plan to bring Article 50 into effect by 31 March looks like a real possibility. Article 50 is actually a part of the Treaty of Lisbon, which was signed by European Union

member states in 2007 and became law in 2009. The article lists the rules for exit from the EU. By bringing Article 50 into effect, Britain would be formally notifying the bloc of its intention to withdraw. Of course, no country has ever left the EU before, and what awaits Britain and the other 27 EU members during the coming negotiations is worryingly unclear. What is clear, though, is that each member state will have the power to veto the final conditions of a Brexit — as will the British parliament itself. In such a situation, Britain may end up leaving the EU without any formal agreement at all.

In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers warn that the world outside of the EU will be a tough place for Britain, and that signing useful international trade deals won't be easy. That's why getting the best deal possible when leaving is so important. In a moment, you can listen to three excerpts from the editorial. Before that, let's look at some of

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#### editorial

► Leitartikel, redaktioneller Beitrag

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#### excerpt

► (Text-)Auszug

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#### overwhelmingly

► hier: mit großer Mehrheit

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#### Supreme Court

► Oberster Gerichtshof

veto sth. ► gegen etw. Einspruch erheben

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#### withdraw

► sich zurückziehen

the language used in the first excerpt. Something can be called “comprehensive” when it includes all, or almost all, of the things that are concerned. One of the deals that Britain could make with the EU is to create a “customs union”. This is a group of states that agree to have the same taxes on imported goods. Now let’s listen to the first excerpt.

This country appears to be taking a great leap backward in leaving the European Union. Or at least that is the conclusion one would reach upon reading a damning House of Lords report on post-Brexit trade options. Noting the vote to “take back control”, peers caution over the balance between politics and economics. The more comprehensive the trade relationship with the EU, the greater the curtailment of national sovereignty Britain will bear. Little wonder that [Prime Minister] Theresa May wants a “bespoke agreement”. The trouble is, the possible options considered — a reformed European Economic Area membership; a customs union deal; a free trade agreement; and world trade rules — would leave Britain worse off. Little wonder that peers say a transitional deal would “almost certainly be necessary”, and urge ministers to publish “specific proposals as to what form it should take”.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2016

**Inez:** In the second excerpt, the writers talk about the current situation in a world in which political leaders like US President Donald Trump are critical of open markets and support protectionist policies. The verb “to trigger” is often used in relation to Article 50 — for example: “Theresa May plans to trigger Article 50 at the end of March.” “To trigger something” is to cause it to start working. You can trigger an alarm, a bomb, a headache or a fight, for example. A “framework” is the structure of a particular system. For example: “The book gives a general framework for understanding modern economics.” Here’s the second excerpt.

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**bespoke**

► maßgeschneidert

---

**caution** ► warnen,  
ermahnen

---

**curtailment**  
► Einschränkung

---

**damning** ► vernichtend

---

**leap: take a -**

► einen Sprung machen

---

**peer** ► hier: Mitglied des  
britischen Oberhauses

---

**sovereignty**  
► Souveränität, Hoheits-  
gewalt

---

**urge** ► drängen

... None of this should surprise. The central sentence of article 50, the instrument by which Britain triggers its departure, is unambiguous: leaving the EU must take into account the framework for a future relationship. The world that Britain must prepare for will be one in which protectionist sentiment is rising and global deals on trade are a distant prospect. ...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2016

**Inez:** In the final excerpt, the *Guardian* writers talk about the rise of “new” economic powers like China, and how old powers like Britain have seen their wealth and power affected by globalization. Britain must find a way to prosper in the future without the political and trading opportunities that the EU offers. One option for the UK is to become a “tax haven”. This is a place where people go to live and companies go to operate in order to avoid paying high taxes. EU members such as Ireland and the Netherlands have already attracted many multinational companies by offering low business tax rates. But tax avoidance often involves financial trickery. The writers describe one such trick as “a wheeze”. This is a British English expression that describes a clever scheme or idea. Now listen to the final excerpt.

As the economist Richard Baldwin points out, since 1990 a century’s worth of rich nations’

rise has been reversed. The G7’s share of world wealth is now back to where it was in 1914 — and six developing nations account for the rich world’s decline. Our wealth in part came from cheap, unregulated Chinese labour harnessed by western technology. Britain faces a world of global supply chains — and its poorest regions must have ways of attracting a slice of jobs and investment. ... A post-Brexit Britain should argue for global minimum standards to regulate labour, tax havens and corporate wheezes like transfer pricing. Whatever happens next, Britain will need policies that share globalisation’s gains and pains fairly.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2016

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**account for sth.**

► für etw. verantwortlich sein

---

**affect** ► beeinflussen

---

**decline** ► Niedergang

---

**harness sth.** ► sich etw. zunutze machen

---

**prospect** ► Aussicht, Perspektive

---

**prosper**  
► gedeihen, erfolgreich sein

---

**unambiguous**  
► unmissverständlich, eindeutig



## [11] 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?

This is a place where people go to live and companies go to operate in order to avoid paying high taxes: tax haven

When something includes all, or almost all, of the things concerned, it can be called... comprehensive.

What verb means to cause something to start working? To trigger

What British English expression describes a clever scheme, trick or idea? A wheeze

What noun describes the structure of a particular system? Framework

What do we call a group of states that agree to have the same taxes on imported goods? A customs union

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

## Society

### [12] Fun with politics — part one

**David:** The ability to speak well is a politician's most useful tool. But in the current world of alternative facts and fake news, what politicians say is being examined more closely than ever. That's why in this month's *Spotlight*, we test your knowledge of the most important political leaders in the English-speaking world and look at the language and jargon they use in their speeches.

You may be able to identify these powerful people by their pictures, but do you know what they sound like? You'll hear a short recording from a famous politician from the English-speaking world. Then I'll give you four hints to help you guess who it is. See how fast you can identify the politician.

Before you listen to our first public servant, there are some words you should know. When someone happily accepts something without thinking about whether it's OK to take, you can say he or she "laps it up". A "sycophant" is someone who praises important or powerful people in order to get something from

them. The term “tribune of the people” comes from Ancient Rome. It refers to a leader who defends people’s rights. Now, who could this politician be?

There was never a union leader in Melbourne that tucked his knees under more billionaires’ tables than the leader of the opposition. He lapped it up. Oh yes, he lapped it up. He was such a sycophant. A social-climbing sycophant, if ever there was one. There has never been a more sycophantic leader of the Labor Party than this one, and he comes here posing as a tribune of the people.

Source: ParView

**David:** Did you hear the speaker mention Melbourne? OK. So we know he’s an Australian. Here’s your second hint: Before becoming a politician, he was an investment banker and partner at Goldman Sachs. Here’s another hint: He’s been the leader of the Liberal Party since 2015. OK, and if you don’t know it by now, here’s a big clue: He’s Australia’s prime minister. How fast did you get the answer? Of course, the speaker is Malcolm Turnbull. He was criticizing the head of the opposition, Labor Party leader Bill Shorten. It’s time for our next famous orator. First, here are some words you should know before you listen. When you’re “impatient”, you want something to happen

soon, preferably right away. And when there’s a lack of agreement between facts, opinions, actions and so on, we say there’s a “contradiction”. Now who could this be?

When we think about integration and success, we can’t be overly impatient. We need to be respectful and keep a solid pressure and forward movement articulated. But we do have to know that the pressures that particularly the second generation will be [facing], especially if you’re not thoughtful about it, of having to choose between their identity and their religion and their community and the school that they’re part of. There shouldn’t be contradictions and conflicts, because we all fundamentally need to aspire to the same shared values of openness, respect, compassion, willingness to work hard, desire to be there for each other, equality, justice, opportunity — these kinds of things are shared by all of us.

Source: The Canadian Press

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**aspire to sth.** ► nach etw. streben

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**billionaire** ► Milliardär

---

**clue** ► Hinweis, Tipp

---

**compassion** ► Mitgefühl

---

**orator** ► Redner(in)

---

**tuck** ► hier: schieben, klemmen

---

**union** ► hier: Gewerkschafts-

**David:** Have you figured it out yet? If not, here's your first hint: He's the current leader of the Liberal Party in his country. His father was also the leader of the Liberal Party. His father was twice prime minister. The speaker's the current prime minister of Canada. Now you know who it is — it's Justin Trudeau. Canada is a multicultural society, and Trudeau often talks about how to successfully integrate people from different countries and cultures.

See Spotlight 4/2017, pages 28–34

### [13] Fun with politics — part two

**David:** Our next politician isn't the most popular in the world — even members of his own party have a problem with him. But he's certainly got a way with words, as you're about to hear. First, here's some useful vocabulary. The tax that businesses pay on their profits is called “corporation tax”. And money that's given to someone to help them pay for the things they need is called a “maintenance allowance”. Now listen to our third speaker.

So this is the deal Labour will offer to business. To help pay for a national education service, we'll ask you to pay a little more in tax. We've already started to set out some of this, pledging

to raise corporation tax by less than 1.5 per cent to give an education maintenance allowance to college students, grants to university students, so that every young learner can afford to support themselves as they develop skills and get qualifications.

Source: ITN

**David:** Did you recognize the voice? If not, here are your hints. Before becoming a politician, he was a trade union representative. He's currently the leader of the opposition. He became leader of his party in 2015. He's the head of the Labour Party in the United Kingdom. Do you know the answer? It's Jeremy Corbyn. In the recording you heard, Corbyn said he would raise business taxes to pay for better education. Now let's listen to our final speaker. She may not be a big name in Europe, but on the other side of the Atlantic, she's a major political figure. As usual, here's some important vocabulary to help you understand. The United States National Security Council is the main forum used by the US president for

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**figure out** ▶ herausfinden, dahinterkommen

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**grant** ▶ Stipendium, Zuschuss

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**pledge** ▶ zusichern, versprechen

---

**way: to have a ~ with words** ▶ redegewandt sein

dealing with national security and foreign policy matters. The Council includes national security advisors and cabinet officials who help the president make decisions. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the highest-ranking and most senior military officer in the United States Armed Forces. The Chairman is the main military advisor to the President. The Director of National Intelligence, on the other hand, heads and oversees the entire United States intelligence community and the programs and agencies within it. He advises the president on intelligence matters. Now let's listen to our final politician.

What's making America less safe is to have a white supremacist named to the National Security Council as a permanent member while the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs [of Staff] and the Director of National Intelligence are told, "Don't call us, we'll call you". They're no longer permanent members. This is... it's a stunning thing that a white supremacist, Bannon, would be a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Source: C-SPAN

**David:** This one could be a bit tricky, so here are the hints. This Italian-American has represented California in the House of Representatives since 1987. From 2007 to 2011, she served as

the first woman speaker of the House. Since 2011, she has been the minority leader of the House. She is a member of the Democratic Party. Do you know who I'm talking about? It's Nancy Pelosi. The person she's referring to in the recording is Steve Bannon. The former head of right-wing news website Breitbart.com is now serving as assistant to the President and White House chief strategist in Donald Trump's administration. If you want to hear other politicians from English-speaking countries in action, try listening to radio stations like the American NPR, the Canadian CBC, ABC NewsRadio from Australia and, of course, BBC Radio 4 from Britain.

See Spotlight 4/2017, pages 28–34

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**advisor** ▶ Berater, (in)

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**head** ▶ leiten, an der Spitze stehen

---

**intelligence**

▶ Geheimdienst

---

**matter** ▶ Angelegenheit

---

**oversee** ▶ überwachen, managen

---

**stunning**

▶ hier: unglaublich

---

**white supremacist**

▶ Rechtsextreme(r), Rassist(in)

## English at Work

### [14] Invitations

**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 making sense of invitations.

**Ken:** Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Imagine you're in the UK. A business acquaintance suggests that you eat lunch together. Can you tell from the language they use whether they intend to pay for the meal or whether they expect each person to pay for their own lunch? Let's find out. You'll hear someone suggesting you eat lunch together. After each suggestion, decide whether they intend to pay for you or whether they expect you to pay for your own food. OK? Let's begin.

**Speaker 1:** Shall we meet up for lunch?

**Ken:** You'll probably be expected to pay for your own food.

**Speaker 1:** Shall we go to lunch together?

**Ken:** Again, you'll be expected to pay for your own food.

**Speaker 1:** Let's go for lunch. It's on me.

**Ken:** They intend to pay for you.

**Speaker 1:** Can I take you to lunch?

**Ken:** They probably intend to pay for you.

**Speaker 1:** I know a nice Italian restaurant.

Shall we go Dutch?

**Ken:** They expect each person to pay for their own lunch.

**Speaker 1:** I'd like to invite you to a light lunch.

**Ken:** They intend to pay.

**Speaker 1:** Would you like to join John and me for lunch?

**Ken:** You're probably expected to pay for your own food.

**Speaker 1:** Do you fancy some lunch?

**Ken:** Again you're probably expected to pay for yourself. Now let's look at some phrases for saying yes to the invitation and for saying no. First you'll hear an invitation. Then you'll hear three different ways to say yes. After each reply there is a pause for you to repeat the phrase. Try to match the speaker's intonation. OK? Good. We'll begin.

**Speaker 1:** Would you like to join John and me for lunch?

**Speaker 2:** I'd love to.

---

**acquaintance**

► Bekannte(r)

---

**fancy sth.** ► auf etw.

Lust haben

---

**go dutch ifml.**

► getrennte Kasse

machen

---

**make sense** ► hier:

deuten, verstehen

---

**match** ► hier: nach-

ahmen

**Speaker 2:** That's very kind of you. Thanks.

**Speaker 2:** That sounds great! Thanks.

**Ken:** Now let's practise declining an invitation. Here we need to be polite, say sorry and give a reason. Again you'll hear some phrases in reply to an invitation. Repeat the phrase after the speaker.

**Speaker 1:** Do you fancy coming for a drink after work?

**Speaker 2:** That's very kind of you, but I'm going to the cinema with John.

**Speaker 2:** I'd love to but I'm going to the cinema with John.

**Speaker 2:** I'm really sorry but I'm going to the cinema with John.

**Ken:** Good. Well done. With the phrases you've practised you'll be able to recognize the type of invitation you're getting and you'll be able to say yes or no to it in a polite way.

**David:** If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to [language@spotlight-verlag.de](mailto: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* 4/2017, page 55

## Peggy's Place

### [15] What's in a name?

**David:** The British romance writer Rosamunde Pilcher may be famous in German-speaking countries, but back at home it's a different story. Despite the fact she's sold over 60 million books, the 92-year-old author is far from a household name in Britain. Of course, that doesn't stop great numbers of tourists arriving every year in search of the beautiful scenery and idealized Britishness they've seen in the TV versions of Pilcher's stories. Now our favourite London pub, Peggy's Place, might feature as a location in one of the films. But will Peggy accept the conditions from the filmmakers?

**Man:** Excuse me! Could I have a pint of beer, please?

**Sean:** Sure, what'll it be? A pint of bitter?

**Man:** Bitter sounds good. I hope you don't think I'm being rude, but is this what you call a typical British pub?

---

**decline** ▶ ablehnen

---

**feature** ▶ vorkommen,  
mitwirken

---

**household name**

▶ vertrauter Name

---

**rude** ▶ unhöflich

---

**scenery** ▶ Landschaft

**Sean:** So you're not from here, then?

**Man:** I'm sorry. I don't understand.

**Sean:** What I meant was, if you're asking how British this pub is, then you probably come from somewhere abroad.

**Man:** Ah, I see. This is what is meant by being "indirect" — a very British way of talking.

**Sean:** Now I'm getting confused. But back to your question: yes, I'd say this is your average British pub. Here's the landlady. We can ask her. Peggy, this gentleman here wants to know if this is your typical British pub.

**Peggy:** Well, I'd say we have all the usual requirements of a pub: a bar, tables and seating for the punters, a dartboard...

**Man:** But the name, Peggy's Place, that isn't a typical pub name.

**Peggy:** That's true. It's kind of a quirk of this place.

**Man:** Well, we can change that easily.

**Peggy:** Excuse me?

**Man:** And would you say you were both typical Londoners, then?

**Sean:** I think it's about time we started asking the questions.

**Man:** Yes, of course! How very impolite of me. My name is Jan Friedrichs. I'm here from Germany on a recce.

**Peggy:** On a what?

**Sean:** That means he's checking out places as film locations.

**Jan:** That's right. We're filming a Rosamunde Pilcher novel, and one scene is set in a London pub.

**Sean:** Is that a German writer?

**Peggy:** No, silly! She wrote *The Shell Seekers*. The book sold millions. She must be in her 90s by now.

**Jan:** The Germans really love her stories — and they love the films we make based on her stories.

**Sean:** So, are the films in English?

**Jan:** No, they're in German.

**Peggy:** Isn't that a bit strange?

**Jan:** Not really. It's what I believe you call "the best of both worlds". We have beautiful English landscapes — a lot of the filming is done in Cornwall, but with German actors who are known to the audience.

**Sean:** And you're thinking of using this pub in one of the scenes?

**Jan:** Yes, but of course, it should be the kind of place that Germans think of when they imagine a British pub.

**Sean:** It could be quite fun.

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### landlady

► hier: Gastwirtin

---

### punter UK ifml.

► Kunde, -in

---

### quirk

► Eigenart, Marotte

---

### recce UK ifml.

► Erkundungsfahrt; hier: (Film) Locationsuche

**Peggy:** How many days' filming are we talking about?

**Jan:** One, maybe two.

**Sean:** Could we be extras?

**Jan:** We would have to see. There are no speaking parts for British extras. They are mostly done by German actors.

**Peggy:** How many people in Germany watch these films?

**Jan:** A few million for sure.

**Peggy:** And do we get paid for this? After all, we would lose custom in that time.

**Jan:** Yes, and it could be good promotion for the pub.

**Peggy:** Not if you change the name.

**Jan:** I'm sorry, but the name would be changed anyway.

**Peggy:** Then I'm sorry. There's no deal.

**Sean:** Peggy!... Excuse us for a moment. I need to talk to my boss.

Source: Spotlight 4/2017, page 16

## Short Story

### [16] "The unhappy bride (chapter two) — a Ms Winslow investigation"

**David:** The wait is finally over. It's time to find out what happens in the second part of our mystery story, "The unhappy bride". Here's the

story so far: British amateur detective Dorothy Winslow is visiting her niece, Lucy, in Germany. Lucy's university friend, Bettina, is going to marry a German prince. But there's a problem: Someone is blackmailing Bettina and the secret could ruin her marriage. Accompanied by Lucy's neighbour, Armin, Ms Winslow sets out to catch the blackmailer and save the marriage.

Dorothy settled into the passenger seat of Armin von Weiden's old but comfortable Mercedes. She took a mobile phone from her handbag and dialled a number.

"Excuse me a minute, Armin," she said. "I can't do this in front of Lucy. It would make her nervous... Ah! Guten Tag. Darf ich mit Herrn Twigg sprechen? Mr Twigg? My name is Dorothy Winslow. I'm visiting my grandchildren in Munich this week, and I think, after our trip to the zoo today, I'll need a private yoga session to relax a little. Would this afternoon be possible? ... Four o'clock? Super!"

"What are you doing, Dorothy?" Armin asked.

"And why am I your chauffeur today?"

"Well, firstly, you are an excellent driver," answered Dorothy. "But also, I need you to play an important part in a conversation we shall

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**blackmail** ► erpressen

---

**dial** ► wählen

---

**custom** UK

---

**extra**

► Kundschaft

► hier: Komparse, -in



have with Twigg later. Let me explain...”

Dorothy retold Bettina’s story. Including an explanation of what she had learned from her lawyer friend about Charles Twigg, the story lasted until she and Armin were standing in the rain beneath her umbrella outside a building in Goethestrasse in the centre of Munich. “Are you sure this is the right place?” asked Armin, looking at the bazaar-like ambiance of cafes, supermarkets and vegetable shops around them.

“Oh, yes,” she replied. “Twigg can’t afford much rent. That’s why he’s here. Now, we’re too early, but that’s good. We’ll surprise him. You know what to do? Follow me, then.”

They went up the stairs past a dentist’s practice, two dance studios and a travel agency before finally reaching the entrance to the Hatha Yoga Institute.

“Hello?” she called, pushing open the door. “Mr Twigg?”

The room was dirty. It smelt of marijuana and of cooking from the restaurant on the ground floor. It was not a pleasant mixture. Dorothy marched down the corridor to a glass door with Büro written on it. Twigg lay asleep on a yoga mat, the remains of a joint in an ashtray beside him. She poked him hard with her umbrella.

“Good afternoon!” she said. “I’m Dorothy Winslow, and this is Dr Armin von Weiden, the German representative of your father’s

lawyers in London. We need to talk.”

“Now, Mr Twigg,” Dorothy said, once he was properly awake. “I hear that when your father died, he left money to you in a trust fund. Every six months, this fund pays you some money — your allowance. However, there are two conditions: one, you must never return to England, and two, you mustn’t do anything criminal. If you disregard either of these conditions, the allowance is stopped. Is that correct?”

Twigg nodded. “But I haven’t done anything criminal!” he said, then looked at the ashtray. “I mean, not really.”

“Then explain these e-mails you sent to your former girlfriend, Frau Klein,” said Armin, taking out copies from his briefcase. “Blackmail is a serious crime in Germany. Paragraph 253 of the criminal code,” he added, trying his best to sound like a lawyer.

Twigg read the e-mails. “But I never sent these. Look! It’s not my e-mail address.” He showed

---

#### allowance

► finanzielle Zuwendung

---

**ambiance** ► Ambiente, Umgebung

---

**ashtray** ► Aschenbecher

---

**briefcase** ► Aktenkoffer, Aktentasche

---

#### criminal code

► Strafgesetzbuch

---

**disregard** ► missachten

---

**last** ► dauern

---

**poke** ► anstupsen

---

#### trust fund

► Treuhandfonds

them his laptop. It was true. The address was similar to his, but not identical.

“You could have another address,” said Armin. “No, I swear. I never tried to blackmail Bettina.” “But you did make the film, didn’t you?” said Dorothy sternly. “Where’s that now?”

Twigg looked uncomfortable, but said nothing. Dorothy looked at Armin.

“Dr von Weiden, please instruct your London office to stop making these payments, and I will inform the police that...”

“Wait! Wait!” said Twigg. “... I sold it. About two months ago. There were a couple of journalists here, a young man and woman. They said they were from some gossip magazine. They’d heard about Bettina marrying this important guy, and somehow they’d found out about me and her. Anyway, we got talking, had a few drinks and, at some point, I told them about the film. They were really excited and offered €1,000 in cash for exclusive rights to it. Said it would be a great story and I should watch out for it in the next couple of weeks. Never heard from them again. That’s the truth.” They questioned him a bit longer, but his story didn’t change. So, after getting the names of the journalists and frightening Twigg a great deal by saying that the London office would have to make the final decision about his allowance, they left.

“Oh, dear,” said Dorothy, as they drove back to

Heroldstein. “I thought this would be easier.” “But if a magazine has got the film,” asked Armin, “why haven’t they released it yet? And who is sending these blackmail e-mails? I don’t expect that the names of those journalists are real.”

Dorothy nodded and looked out of the window at the passing countryside. In the distance, she could see a small castle on top of a hill, overlooking the area.

“Armin, you know a lot about the German aristocracy. What can you tell me about the prince’s family?” she asked.

Source: Spotlight 4/2017, pages 66–67

## Conclusion

**[17] 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](http://www.spotlight-online.de/ hoeren). Join us again next month, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

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gossip ▶ Klatsch-

sternly ▶ streng, ernst

---

subscriber

▶ Abonnent(in)

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