



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISH



AUDIO

Spotlight

7
17

Spotlight



Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

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

The holiday season is almost upon us. If you're going abroad, the most important thing to take with you may be your English skills. Test your travel English in the language section.

Since September 1993, *Spotlight* has been welcoming guests to the magazine's very own London pub — Peggy's Place. This month, we get the inside story on this fine example of British cultural life.

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday by taking a trip with us through the Prairie Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

World View

[2] For the love of a river

David: Let's begin with an unusual story from New Zealand, where a river has been given the same legal rights as a person.

The longest court battle in the history of New Zealand has come to an end. The winner of this Herculean contest? A river.

For at least 150 years, the Maori people have been fighting to have New Zealand's third-longest river, the Whanganui, recognized legally as a living being. The river — of enormous spiritual meaning to the indigenous peoples — was, in fact, recently granted official recognition as a legal entity by New Zealand's parliament. The waterway's interests will be represented by two persons: one from the Maori people and one from the government.

"I know the initial inclination of some people will say it's pretty strange to give a natural resource a legal personality," Treaty Negotiations Minister Chris Finlayson told the BBC. "But it's no stranger than family trusts, or companies or incorporated societies."

The new law is the first of its kind in the world and should help the Maori to keep control over

grant: -recognition

► Anerkennung
gewähren

Herculean ► herkulisch,
übermenschlich

inclination ► Tendenz,
Neigung

incorporated society

► eingetragener Verein

indigenous ► uransässig,
eingeboren

legal entity ► juristische
Person

treaty negotiations

► Vertragsverhandlungs-

the river for environmental and religious reasons. The *Washington Post* reports that, following the ruling, a court in India declared that the Ganges and the Yamuna Rivers must be given the same legal status as people.

Source: *Spotlight* 7/2017, page 11

Britain Today

[3] Nothing has changed for donkey's years

David: Since 4000 BC, humans have used the humble donkey as a beast of burden — that's an animal that does heavy work. A common English idiom is “to do the donkey work” — that's the difficult, boring work in a process or activity. Another common idiom is “for donkey's years”, which means for a very long time. “We've known each other for donkey's years,” you might say. But what are donkey's years? Well, it's actually a pun — a play on words. You see, donkeys have very long ears and the word “ears” rhymes with “years”. So “long ears” became “long years”. Nowadays, machines carry out the work previously done by donkeys, so the poor animals are often unemployed. But as Colin Beaven explains in *Britain Today*, some donkeys have still got a job.

Next time you're in the south of England, why not visit the New Forest? It's a large piece of open country near the coast. One of its attractions is the fact that beautiful ponies live there wild.

There are cows, too, of course, and in the autumn, you'll even see pigs running about. They're sent to eat acorns. There are donkeys as well, although generally, they simply stand in the road and get in the way of the tourists. Don't the donkeys have anything better to do than hold up traffic? I suppose you can't really blame them. What's the alternative? Where is a donkey to find work these days?

One of the few places that does still offer them career opportunities is Carisbrooke Castle. It's on the Isle of Wight, a bit further south and across the water, just a few miles from the New Forest.

Carisbrooke Castle's famous because of its link with King Charles I. He stayed there in 1647 during the English Civil War, first as a visitor, then as a prisoner. After that, he was sent to London, where Parliament decided to cut off his head.

acorn ▶ Eichel

donkey ▶ Esel

humble ▶ bescheiden,
einfach

previously ▶ früher

suppose ▶ vermuten,
annehmen

The castle is also famous for its donkeys, however. They're still given the job of drawing water from the well by walking round on a treadmill. It's a tradition that's been kept alive for the tourists.

It sounds like hard work, but don't be misled. There's room for only one donkey on the treadmill. The rest simply get time off. Even the one on the treadmill has to work for only a couple of minutes, so it's not a hard life. Still, the world of work has changed since the days of Charles I, and you wonder whether working donkeys get the benefit.

I don't just mean the obvious things like sick pay, holidays and pensions. These are the basics. But what about a little badge to wear round their necks — a card with a digital photo to prove they're official?

More important still, who's their line manager? They need someone who sits down with them once a year to discuss their individual performance — what they've achieved and where they can improve on it. Their line manager also needs to agree their targets for the next 12 months. This is a key way of motivating your workforce. Gone are the days when managers relied simply on sticks and carrots to get the best out of people. There are more subtle ways of motivating them — and of motivating donkeys.

For example, they could be given more hay to

eat if they get positive feedback from visitors. It would be a variant of that classic management technique called “performance-related pay”. In this case, it would be “performance-related hay”.

What about representation? When she became prime minister in 2016, Theresa May said that she wanted to see workers' representatives on the boards of British companies. It's as if she wished to imitate industrial democracy in Germany.

Well, we're streets ahead of the Federal Republic when it comes to donkeys; we've already got plenty of them on the boards of British companies.

Source: Spotlight 7/2017, page 15

badge ▶ Dienstmarke

benefit: get the ~ ▶ die Vorteile genießen

board ▶ Vorstand

hay ▶ Heu

line manager UK ▶ direkte(r) Vorgesetzte(r)

mislead ▶ irreführen, täuschen

sick pay ▶ Lohnfortzahlung im Krankheitsfall

sticks and carrots ▶

Zuckerbrot und Peitsche

subtle ▶ raffiniert, subtil

time off: get ~

▶ freibekommen

treadmill ▶ Tretmühle

well ▶ Brunnen

workforce

▶ Arbeitskräfte

A Day in My Life

[4] Carrie Goldberg, sexual privacy lawyer

David: Technology has become a central part of our everyday lives — at home, at work and even in our relationships. In many cases, our private lives are becoming increasingly more public. Sometimes this can happen without our permission. The term “revenge porn” describes sexually explicit images of a person that are posted online without that person’s consent. In many cases, the images are posted as a form of revenge or harassment, for instance by an ex-partner. Such an act can destroy a victim’s life, yet the police are often powerless to take down the images.

Carrie Goldberg is a lawyer based in Brooklyn who specializes in sexual privacy. Victims turn to her to get the pictures off the Internet and to identify and prosecute those responsible for posting them in the first place. Spotlight spoke to Goldberg about her job and about revenge porn. First of all, the lawyer made clear that sharing intimate pictures is not a problem in itself.

There’s nothing unusual about sharing intimate images. That’s a kind of a time-honoured behaviour that dates back to when people

would go off to war with a pin-up in their pocket, and it’s natural that tech would become part of our basic dating, mating rituals, and there’s nothing perverted about it.

David: The real problem comes when the person who received the images decides to post them online for others to see. Goldberg describes a common scenario.

Revenge porn is most frequently thought about as a response that a jilted ex-lover has. He can’t deal with a break-up and so he lashes out to settle the score and then sends naked pictures of his partner, which were originally consensually shared, he sends them to all her friends and family, posts them online.

consensually

► einvernehmlich

consent ► Zustimmung

dating ► Partnersuche

harassment ► Schikane, Belästigung

jilted ► sitzengelassen

lash out ► um sich schlagen

mating ► Paarungs-

perverted ► abartig, pervers

prosecute ► strafrechtlich verfolgen

revenge ► Rache

sexually explicit
► sexuell freizügig

time-honoured
► althergebracht

David: Naturally, victims feel like their life has been turned upside down. In some cases, the victim's identity is also revealed, which can lead to being contacted by complete strangers who have seen the images online.

When clients contact me, they are in the middle of the hurricane, and they don't know what to do. They don't know how the Internet works. They've never thought about revenge porn or probably even know the term. They're in a state of shame and shock and fear. And they're not just dealing with their own sexual privacy and exposure; they're also dealing with the downstream harassment that they're getting from people who consume the revenge porn.

David: So is it possible to remove revenge porn images once they're online? Goldberg explains how she goes about it.

It's not impossible if it's caught in time. And a lot of it involves going to the source, figuring out who the original offender is, sometimes a boyfriend, but sometimes [someone] the victim doesn't even know. And then it's also doing the damage control, figuring out everywhere on the Internet where it's living, doing whatever we can. We have got great relationships with social media. We can get content off social media. And sometimes our clients' pictures end

up on mainstream porn sites, which creates a major viral problem just because of the volume of people. There are four billion hits on PornHub and its sister websites a month. So just because of that volume, any single person that goes to those websites has the ability to download the content and then repost it somewhere else and that does happen.

See Spotlight 7/2017, pages 16–17

Society

[5] Welcome to Peggy's Place

David: If you're a regular reader of Spotlight magazine or a listener of Spotlight Audio, you'll know about our monthly soap opera, Peggy's Place. Set in a fictional pub located in the heart of London's East End, Peggy's Place features a lively cast of characters, including

billion ▶ Milliarde

mainstream ▶ populär

cast ▶ Besetzung

offender ▶ Täter(in)

downstream
▶ nachfolgend

repost ▶ hier: weiter verteilen

exposure ▶ Bloßstellung

reveal ▶ offenlegen

figure out
▶ herausfinden

the owner Peggy, her husband, Phil, and regular customers George and Helen.

Peggy's Place is a traditional British pub, but in recent years it's also developed a bit of a reputation as a gastropub — a pub that serves high-quality food. Peggy's Place was introduced in the magazine in September 1993. That opening episode starred Peggy and George, making them the two longest running characters in the series.

Since 2004, Peggy's Place has been written by Inez Sharp, who also happens to be *Spotlight's* editor-in-chief. In this Peggy's Place special, Inez interviews Jenny Evans, the actress who has provided the voice for Peggy from the very beginning.

Inez: Right, Jenny. You're the voice of Peggy, but before we talk about her, tell us about yourself. You do have, as we know, a very interesting life beyond the *Spotlight* pub.

Jenny: That's right. I'm best known as a jazz vocalist. I've recorded 11 CDs and my concerts have been broadcast on radio and television, not just in Germany but also in the Netherlands, Russia and Romania. I'm also an actress, however. Although I've appeared on stage and television, I really enjoy doing studio work as a speaker. As a singer, I always try to be authentic, but as a speaker, I'm anonymous. At least I was until now!

Inez: The first episode of Peggy's Place appeared in the magazine in 1993 and was available to listen to by phone, if you can imagine. Were you the voice of Peggy from the beginning?

Jenny: If it was 1993, I probably was. The funny thing is, Peggy's Place is not a really typical pub name. However, I had a jazz club in the 1980s that was called Jenny's Place. Maybe someone from *Spotlight* had been there.

Inez: That's possible. We're still trying to solve that mystery. Tell us about the atmosphere in the recording studio.

Jenny: The atmosphere in the studio has always been good. The mainstay of the audio production, Charly Braun, has been working for *Spotlight* since the recordings started. He's always calm. When he directs, he's very subtle. Sometimes, he has to delete my swearing when I make a mistake, but he never complains. The cast of Peggy's Place has developed. Characters have come and gone. You know, I'd love to listen to the first Peggy's Place. Nick Lloyd, who plays Phil, well I've known him

delete ► löschen

editor-in-chief

► Chefredakteur(in)

mainstay ► Hauptstütze, wichtigstes Standbein

subtle ► geschickt, feinsinnig

swearing ► Fluchen

vocalist ► Sänger(in)

since the 1980s when we were in a two-hander play called Educating Rita. It's always fun when speakers can record together. I can remember us recording the song "Peggy's Place". That must have been in the early '90s.

Inez: Do you have a favourite episode in Peggy's Place?

Jenny: I must admit, I can't really remember the episodes. There have been quite a few. Let's see: 12 episodes a year for 23 years. That's about 270. I do remember when Prince Charles came to Peggy's Place, though. Peggy could hardly say a word. The speaker, David Ingram, did a perfect impression of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

Inez: One final question, Jenny. If you could write an episode yourself, what would happen?

Jenny: Well, I think that Peggy doesn't laugh enough. You know, it would be great if something ridiculous happened, and we could hear her guffawing. I don't know, Phil hanging Christmas decorations in the window and his braces snap and everyone can see his Santa boxer shorts. Or maybe Peggy could decide she's had enough of boring old husband, Phil, and does actually take the initiative and tries to seduce one of the men she has a crush on. That'd be an idea.

Inez: OK, Jenny. Thank you very much. Those are two wonderful ideas. Listen out, all Peggy's Place fans. Now, let's finish with a typical pub

song, Jenny. I think we both know at least one: "My Old Man Said Follow the Van".

Jenny: Why not?

Inez: OK. Off we go.

Jenny and Inez: My old man said follow the van and don't dilly-dally on the way. Off went the van with my old man in it. I followed on with my old cock linnet, and I dillied, I dallied, I dallied and I dillied. Lost my way and don't know where to roam. Well you can't find a copper like an old-time special, when you can't find your way home. Oh no!

See Spotlight 7/2017, pages 18–22

braces ▶ Hosenträger

cock linnet ▶ Fink

copper *ifml.* ▶ Polizist

crush: have a ~ on sb.
ifml. ▶ in jmdn. verknallt sein

dilly-dally *ifml.* ▶ herumtrödeln

guffaw ▶ laut lachen

His Royal Highness
▶ Seine Königliche Hoheit

old man ▶ Vater; auch: Ehemann

ridiculous ▶ lächerlich

roam ▶ herumwandern, -streunen

seduce ▶ verführen

snap ▶ reißen

special (constabulary)
UK ▶ Gendarm

two-hander play ▶ Stück für zwei Personen

van ▶ Lastwagen

Peggy's Place

[6] Sick and fired

David: Now you've got the inside story on the history of Peggy's Place, it's time to pay a visit to our favourite London pub. If you remember, last month Peggy's daughter, Jane, got a job serving champagne with strawberries and cream at the tennis championships at Wimbledon. Well, things didn't go quite as planned, and now it seems Jane's got something bigger to worry about than being unemployed again.

Sean: That's terrible!

Peggy: Yeah, she won't even get a single day's pay.

Sean: Probably didn't get many tips either, did she?

Peggy: It was her first customer, and some of the sick ended up in the woman's designer handbag.

Sean: Ouch!

Peggy: So now she's got a cleaning bill to pay, too.

Phil: Hi, everyone! Where the hell is Jane? The school just called and asked me to pick up Simone from the school trip because they couldn't reach her mother.

Peggy: Jane's probably at home in bed resting.

Phil: One day at work, and she's already exhausted. That doesn't bode well for your daughter's career in hospitality. Hi, George!

George: It's a real scorcher out there. Give me

a shandy, will you? I'm parched.

Peggy: Coming up.

George: How's Jane's new job going? Must be awful in this weather.

Sean: There has been a slight mishap.

Peggy: It seems she was already feeling a bit queasy when she arrived at work. Then, just as she was serving her first customer, she was sick on the woman's strawberries and into her open handbag as well.

Phil: Your daughter! Honestly!

Peggy: You can imagine how awful it was. One of those snobby types arriving at Wimbledon dressed up to the nines so that she'll get snapped by the paps.

bode well

► Gutes verheißen

exhausted ► erschöpft

hospitality

► hier: Gastgewerbe

mishap ► Missgeschick

nines: dressed up to

the ~ ► aufgetakelt

pap (paparazzi)

ifml. ► Paparazzi

parched ► ausgetrocknet, ausgedörrt

queasy ► schlecht, übel

scorcher ifml.

► eine Affenhitze

shandy UK ► Radler, Biermischgetränk

sick UK ifml.

► hier: Erbrochenes

snap ifml. ► knipsen

tip ► hier: Trinkgeld

Sean: From what Peggy was saying, Jane made it worse by blaming the woman.

Phil: How did she manage that?

Peggy: Jane turned towards the woman and said, and I quote: “It was that silly cow’s cheap scant that made me puke.”

George: She does have an amazing talent for making a bad situation worse.

Sean: Yes, she was fired on the spot.

Phil: Is that your phone, Peggy?

Peggy: Yes. I’ll take the call in the kitchen.

Sean: Things will look better in a few days, when Jane’s back on her feet. You know how feisty she is.

George: Peggy’s the one I feel sorry for. In all the years I’ve known Jane, it’s been one disaster after another.

Phil: My concern is for Simone. Jane is such an unreliable mother, and you can see Simone always trying to manage her expectations.

Sean: Well, see it this way: at least she has just the one kid. One is not too much work for you and Peggy.

Phil: You’re right there.

George: Sometimes, it’s better if there are more siblings for support.

Phil: Believe me: that would have been a disaster.

Peggy: That was Jane on the phone.

Sean: Is she feeling better?

Peggy: No, I’m afraid not. Do you remember

she had some bad news for us last time she was in here?

Phil: That’s right, I do remember, but she never got to tell us anything, because you had to leave for your tennis lesson.

Peggy: Let’s put it this way: Jane will feel better, but it could take, let’s see, about seven months — if you get my drift.

George: You’re saying she’s pregnant?

Source: Spotlight 7/2017, page 14

Travel

[7] Happy birthday, Canada!

David: Canada is celebrating its 150th birthday this year. To bring us a sense of the pioneer spirit that helped create this enormous nation, correspondent Eve Lucas travelled through the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, two of Canada’s three Prairie Provinces. Let’s listen now to an excerpt from her article.

drift: get one’s ~ ► verstehen, worauf jmd. hinaus will

puke *ifml.* ► kotzen

excerpt ► Ausschnitt

scant ► Parfüm

feisty *ifml.* ► temperamentvoll, streitsüchtig

siblings ► Geschwister

pregnant ► schwanger

unreliable

► unzuverlässig

This year, on 1 July, Canada turns 150. The day marks the anniversary of the 1867 Constitution Act, which proclaimed the Canadian Confederation of four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. That is why 1 July is also Canada Day, and Canadians all over the country will be celebrating their customs and traditions, their great landscapes and cities — and, of course, themselves.

The 2017 World Happiness Report placed Canada in seventh position, well ahead of the US, Britain and Germany. According to the report, one of the single most important factors for national happiness is generosity. Money is important, and so is health and freedom. But generosity is right up there with these more obvious factors.

I mention this because I've never felt as welcome anywhere as I have in Canada. With a great sense of anticipation I touch down in Calgary to spend a few days in the heart of that country, touring the badlands and prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

These are wide open spaces, and the plan is to cover them by car. Heading south-east from Calgary towards the border with the US, we drive for hours across a huge chessboard of green and yellow fields towards a flat horizon. Now and then, a grain elevator attached to low farm buildings comes into view. Oil pumps and electricity pylons pierce the deep blue sky.

Some cows and a couple of pronghorns stand quietly in the distance, as if waiting for a train. And here it comes, a long snake of freight containers heading west on the Canadian Pacific Railway, a hypnotic sight.

Bumps appear in the distance, slowly turning into the Sweet Grass Hills, which are situated across the border in Montana. Just to the north, on the Canadian side, the Milk River has dug a small valley into sandstone cliffs. We've arrived at the Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, home to the largest collection of rock paintings and carvings in the Great Plains. It's also our first encounter with the "badlands" — a term originally used by travellers to describe

anticipation

► Vorfreude

badlands ► Ödland

bump ► Erhebung

carving ► hier: Felsritzung, -zeichnung

chessboard ► Schachbrett

encounter ► Begegnung

freight ► Fracht-

generosity ► Großzügigkeit, Freigiebigkeit

grain elevator

N. Am. ► Getreidesilo

pierce sth. ► hier: hoch aufragen

proclaim ► verkünden

pronghorn ► Gabelbock

pylon ► Mast

single: the ~ most important factors ► die allerwichtigsten Faktoren

touch down ► landen

an area that was hard to cross. Badlands can refer to buttes — isolated hills such as West Butte in the Sweet Grass Hills — ravines, like the Milk River Valley, or topographical formations created by erosion, such as hoodoos: columns of soft rock topped by caps of harder stone that erode more slowly.

The first to settle here were aboriginal — or First Nations — peoples. Some who still live in this area are part of the Blackfoot Confederacy of tribes. They believe that the badlands around Milk River and the Sweet Grass Hills are holy. For thousands of years, they have come here on “vision quests”, creating and consulting rock art as they try to make contact with ancestral spirits.

It’s warm and very quiet as we walk the art trail with our guide. From time to time, she stops to point out a carving of a teepee or a bison, a shield or a woman giving birth. It’s all about interpretation, she tells us: an endless circle of signs in which meaning becomes apparent when you look for it.

It’s also a history lesson. The oldest carvings are about 2,700 years old. The first horses in the area can only have come with settlers, so carvings of horses reflect the great and relatively recent changes that came with these new arrivals. And here are drawings of a Ford Model T bringing some Blackfoot people and two white visitors to the area in the 1920s.

The sun slowly moves across the sky, and the carvings and pictures slide in and out of the light, creating new combinations and forms. Natosi, the sun god, is working his magic. Returning to our riverside camp, we pass through a forest of hoodoos that throw strange and wonderful shadows on to the sandstone cliffs. Once again, the badlands look like a completely different place.

Source: *Spotlight* 7/2017, pages 24–31

Around Oz

[8] Not exactly the tough stuff

David: It seems to be a common political tactic nowadays: When running the country gets too hard, focus on a populist issue — preferably

ancestral spirit ▶ Geist der Vorfahren

apparent ▶ offensichtlich, sichtbar

art trail
▶ Kunstwanderweg

butte N. Am.
▶ Spitzkuppe, Restberg

hoodoo N. Am.
▶ Felspfeiler

ravine ▶ Schlucht

riverside ▶ am Flussufer gelegen

shield ▶ Schild

tribe ▶ Volksstamm

vision quest
▶ Visionssuche

one that's not too important. Peter Flynn has a great example of this from Australia in this month's Around Oz.

One of the few management lessons I remember receiving was a simple graphic showing a box in the bottom right-hand corner with the word “trivia” inside. There were three other boxes. At the top left was one called “important”, top right was “urgent” and at the bottom left was “important & urgent”.

This simple picture was designed to show that if you don't do the important things, they will become urgent, and if you continue to ignore them, they will become both important and urgent.

The combined “important & urgent” box at the bottom left is an uncomfortable position to be in, full of stress and pressure. Because most people don't like this box, they figuratively jump across the page to the safety of the trivia box. Here, they can avoid the serious things and start planning the office Christmas party instead (even though it's only July) or spend the day deleting old e-mails.

This type of work-avoidance is far more common than you might think, and recently it was on full display publicly when Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull tried to convince us that he and his government were actually doing something.

No, they were not fixing the budget mess or creating jobs; nor were they fixing a looming gas and electricity shortage, because we export most of our liquefied natural gas (LNG) to China and Japan. Oh, and heaven forbid! They weren't getting involved in geopolitical tensions in South East Asia.

What was at the front of Turnbull's mind was a tough new English-language test for any migrant who could be bothered to apply for Australian citizenship. After all, anybody with “permanent residency” gets all the same social benefits as a citizen.

apply: ~ for ► beantragen

delete ► löschen

figuratively ► buchstäblich

heaven forbid ► Gott bewahre

liquefied natural gas
► Flüssig-Erdgas

looming ► sich abbahrend, drohend

permanent residency
► ständiger Wohnsitz

shortage ► Knappheit, Unterversorgung

tension ► Spannung

trivia ► belangloses Zeug, Kleinigkeiten

Turnbull reckons he is standing up for Australian values, whatever that means. He wants to include a few tricky questions in the citizenship test, such as: “Under what circumstances is it OK to beat your wife, or stop your daughter going to school?” Of course, even the most fundamentalist Muslim is not going to give a stupid answer.

While playing in the trivia box, the PM also decided that anyone who wanted to become a citizen should have been a permanent resident for four years, not just one. Why four? Well, maybe because that’s how many sides there are to the trivia box. Citizenship applicants will also have to show how they have tried to integrate into Australian society by doing things such as becoming members of sporting and community groups.

That means the overwhelming majority of current Australians should be stripped of their citizenship because they don’t belong to any of these. I wonder if going to the pub or the beach counts. That’s truly bloody Australian. Having a “sickie” on Mondays should also be a qualifying criterion.

So, what was the reason for all the PM’s nativist rhetoric? Let’s go back to the management illustration. Maybe the real work of running the country is just too hard. Everything’s important and urgent nowadays, and it’s much easier to sound like Donald Trump. But as

thinker Samuel Johnson observed more than 240 years ago: “Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel!”

Source: Spotlight 7/2017, page 71

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:

The British are known for their ability to “keep calm and carry on”. But how much truth is there to this famous stereotype?

citizenship test

► Einbürgerungstest

overwhelming

► überwältigend

qualifying criterion

► Auswahlkriterium

reckon ► meinen, denken

refuge ► Zufluchtsort

scoundrel ► Schurke, Gauner

sickie: have a ~ UK, Aus, jfml. ► krankfeiern

tricky ► knifflig

[10] On the stiff upper lip

Inez: The “stiff upper lip” has been praised as the character trait that helped Britain to build its empire. But what does it mean, exactly? Well, the expression describes the ability to stay calm and level-headed when confronted with a difficult situation. You see, when a person feels fear or some other strong emotion, one of the first signs is that the upper lip begins to tremble. If you can keep your upper lip firm — or stiff — then it shows you’re in control of your emotions.

The idea of the stiff upper lip came about during the 19th century when schoolboys were educated to play their parts in the British Empire. Following the examples of the Stoics and the Spartans of ancient Greece, the nation took on a code of reason, self-discipline and controlled emotions. During the Victorian era, armies of tough Brits went out to fight wars, explore new territories and spread British values. This policy of “keep calm and carry on” was very useful during the world wars, especially between 1940 and 1941, when Nazi Germany bombed many parts of Britain in what became known as the Blitz.

The stiff upper lip has remained a part of British culture so long that British people are sometimes stereotyped as cold and emotionally repressed. That certainly began to change

after the death of Princess Diana in 1997. Open displays of emotion suddenly became acceptable behaviour as the people said goodbye to their beloved princess. An editorial from Britain’s *Guardian* newspaper points out the irony that it’s now Diana’s children, Princes William and Harry, who are talking about the negative health effects of keeping a stiff upper lip. 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 extract. If you do something “ardently”, you do it in an enthusiastic way because you have strong feelings about it. And “to uphold something” is to support it because you think it’s right and because you want it to continue to exist. Now, let’s listen to the first extract.

The stiff upper lip has been declared overrated by those who are supposed, traditionally, most ardently to uphold it: the royal family, or at any rate the junior members thereof. Speaking

character trait

► Charakterzug

excerpt ► Auszug

level-headed

► nüchtern, besonnen

overrated

► überbewertet

reason ► Vernunft

stiff upper lip ► uner-schütterliche Haltung

tremble ► zittern

about mental health to the charity Campaign Against Living Miserably, the Duke of Cambridge declared that “There may be a time and a place for the ‘stiff upper lip’, but not at the expense of your health.” Prince Harry, too, has told of the damage caused to his own psyche by years of “shutting down my emotions”, culminating in two years of “total chaos”.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the second part of the article, the writers talk about the impact that the death of Princess Diana had on the nation. Since then, it’s been far more acceptable in Britain to show one’s emotions. A “mourner” is someone who attends a funeral, and if you do something “at the drop of a hat”, you do it immediately and without hesitation. Here’s the second excerpt.

The paradox is that the great traumatic event of the princes’ childhoods, the one that caused Prince Harry’s emotional shutdown, was often seen as marking the end of an era of British repression, as tearful mourners lined the streets for the funeral cortege of the princes’ mother and the gates of Kensington Palace were heaped with bouquets. Now lips unstiffen at the faintest provocation, it seems. Judges weep, journalists weep and contestants in TV cooking competitions weep at the drop of a hat.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the final excerpt, the writers look at the history of the stiff upper lip. They wonder whether it was ever really a proper part of the British character. “Blubbing” is another word for crying. And when you have a “propensity” for doing something, you have a tendency to do it.

The stiff upper lip, in truth, may never have been as persistent and fundamental a part of British emotional life as it has been cracked up to be, and its high watermark was probably the first half of the 20th century, when a no-blubbing rule was one way (at least in the short term) to deal with the demands of an empire and fighting two world wars. But the

blub *ifml.* ► flennen, plärren

contestant
► Wettkandidat(in)

cracked up: to be ~ to be sth. ► angepriesen worden sein; *hier:* dargestellt worden sein

culminate in sth.
► in etw. gipfeln

drop: at the ~ of a hat
► in null Komma nichts

duke ► Herzog

expense: at the ~ of sth.
► auf Kosten von etw.

faint ► leise, schwach

funeral cortege
► Trauerzug

heap ► überhäufen

impact ► Auswirkungen

line ► säumen

persistent ► hartnäckig, beständig

very fact that lips have been seen as requiring cementing into position suggests that they have had, all along, a propensity to wobble. ... The novels of Charles Dickens brim with tears, and have always elicited them — even when certain scenes, such as Little Nell's deathbed, may also have provoked a snigger from wits such as Oscar Wilde. ...

The greatest works of literature, after all, tell us that real men and women cry. ... In the words of Virgil in the *Aeneid* (and in Robert Fagles's translation): "*sunt lacrimae rerum*" — the world is a world of tears.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

[11] Replay: 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?

If you do something in an enthusiastic way, you do it... ardently.

This is another word for crying. Blubbing

Someone who attends a funeral is called a... mourner.

When you support something, you... uphold it.

When you have a tendency to do something, you have a... propensity to do it.

When you do something immediately and without hesitating, you do it... at the drop of a hat.

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

See Spotlight 7/2017, page 32

Language

[12] Test your travel English

David: Have you already made your summer vacation plans? Where are you going this year? To Spain, the United States or even the Far East? Wherever it is, chances are you'll need to

brim with sth.

► vor etw. überlaufen

elicit ► etw. auslösen

propensity ► Neigung, Tendenz

snigger ► verhaltener Lacher

wit ► geistreicher Mensch

wobble ► wackeln, zittern

use English to get by. After all, it's the international language of travel and tourism. But how fit is your travel English? That's the question language author Vanessa Clarke asks in the July issue of *Spotlight*. She's designed a quiz to test you on essential travel words and phrases. We continue the theme here with more travel-related exercises to help you polish up your skills. In the first one, you'll hear sentences you can use for talking about holiday plans. You have to choose the correct verbs to complete each sentence. Are you ready? Let's start.

When are you going / leaving / landing for Ireland?

When are you leaving for Ireland?

My brother is bringing / leaving / fetching us to the airport.

My brother is bringing us to the airport.

We'll arrive / get / reach to New York early in the morning.

We'll get to New York early in the morning.

We're picking up / receiving / having a car at the airport and riding / driving / departing straight to the beach.

We're picking up a car at the airport and driving straight to the beach.

How did you do? In the next track, you can try another travel-related exercise.

See *Spotlight* 7/2017, pages 38–43

[13] A room with a view

David: Now test your travel English with this exercise. When staying in Britain, it pays to be aware of expressions used by hotels and other types of accommodation to describe their services. Choose the expression that matches each definition.

A private bathroom joined to your bedroom is called...

an en-suite bathroom.

an en masse bathroom.

an en route bathroom.

The answer is an en-suite bathroom. Now try this one.

An electric kettle, cups and tea bags in your room are called...

a tea tray.

electric kettle

► Wasserkocher

pay ► sich auszahlen, lohnen

essential ► unverzichtbar

tea-making facilities.
the hot-water supply.
They're called tea-making facilities.

If all meals are included in the price of your accommodation, this is called...
full service.
half board.
full board.
Full board. Here's another one.

A light breakfast that's not cooked is called...
continental breakfast.
European breakfast.
foreign breakfast.
The answer is continental breakfast. And here's the last one.

A room with two separate single beds is called...
a double room.
a room for two.
a twin-bedded room.
A room with two separate single beds is called a twin-bedded room. Listen to the next track for our final exercise.

See *Spotlight 7/2017*, pages 38–43

[14] Up, up and away!

David: If you're flying in an English-speaking country, a good understanding of airport vocabulary is important. Listen to the following story. To fill each gap, I'll give you two options. Choose the correct one. Then you'll hear the answer. Are you ready? Let's begin.

Joanne and her husband, Peter, are on their way to Canada for their summer holidays. They're flying to Toronto-Pearson from Heathrow. When they arrive at the airport, they go to the check-in desk / duty-free — check-in desk. They show their tickets and passports and check in their hand baggage / luggage — luggage. Afterwards, they go through passport control and security / immigration — security. There are lots of shops in the cockpit / departure lounge — departure lounge. Joanne buys some perfume in the galley / duty-free — duty-free. Then they look for their gate number / overhead locker — gate number. When their flight is called, they show their boarding cards / oxygen masks — boarding cards. Then they get on the runway / plane — plane.

See *Spotlight 7/2017*, pages 38–43

Everyday English

[15] Stargazing

David: Do you ever take the time to look up at the night sky? In Everyday English, we're talking about words and phrases to do with stargazing. This is when you look at or study the stars. In our first dialogue, Patrick and Brenda are talking about their eight-year-old son, Connor, who's an eager astronomer.

Before you listen to the dialogue, here's some vocabulary you'll need. A "lad" is a boy or young man. "To hollow out" something is to make a hole in something by removing part of it. *The Sky at Night* is a long-running television programme on astronomy produced by the BBC. As you listen, try to answer this question. Which three planets are mentioned in the dialogue?

Patrick: Connor seems to be really interested in astronomy at the moment.

Brenda: Yeah, totally. I don't know who he gets it from. I can't tell Saturn from Uranus.

Patrick: It doesn't surprise me. I was interested in the planets when I was a lad. I used to love watching *The Sky at Night* on the BBC. I can't believe some of the things Connor comes out with, though. He was telling me that if you were to hollow out the sun, one million earths

would fit inside it.

Brenda: Oh, yeah, he told me that, too. He must have read about it in that book we got him from the library. He also told me that the sun is a star.

Patrick: Everyone knows that. Didn't you know that?

Brenda: No. It doesn't look like a star.

David: Were you able to answer the question? Which three planets are mentioned in the dialogue? The three planets mentioned are Saturn, Uranus and the earth. In the second dialogue, Patrick and Brenda are discussing their son's interest in astronomy. If you "don't have the faintest idea about something," you don't know anything about it. The noun "light pollution" describes light from cities, vehicles and other artificial sources that makes it difficult to see things in the night sky, such as stars. As you listen to the dialogue, try to find the answer to this question. What pieces of equipment for making far-away things seem bigger are mentioned?

Patrick: You know, if Connor's so into the stars and planets, maybe we should get him a

artificial ▶ künstlich

eager ▶ eifrig, begeistert

stargazing ▶ Sterne
gucken

telescope. What do you think?

Brenda: I don't have the faintest idea about telescopes, but I agree that we should encourage him. Don't we have a pair of binoculars somewhere? I'll look for them later. What about taking him stargazing? We could go to the top of Mormond Hill with a blanket, some cake and some hot drinks.

Patrick: Good idea, but isn't there too much light pollution in the city? Why don't we go camping in Wales — somewhere far away from any city or town?

Brenda: OK. We could go next weekend. I'll have a look on the Internet later. There's probably a stargazing event on somewhere. It doesn't have to be Wales, does it?

David: Were you able to find the answer to the question? What pieces of equipment for making far-away things seem bigger are mentioned in the dialogue? The pieces of equipment mentioned are telescopes and binoculars.

Source: Spotlight 7/2017, pages 46–47

English at Work

[16] Performance appraisal meetings

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 getting through a typical performance appraisal meeting.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Most people want to know how well they're doing at work. A simple performance appraisal system can meet this need. The best appraisal systems encourage an open dialogue between a manager and an employee. The appraisal discussion itself shouldn't contain any surprises for the employee. It should reflect the regular short reviews held between appraisal meetings. Listen to this extract from an appraisal meeting between Dawn, an executive assistant in the purchasing department, and Roger, her manager. Listen especially to the language they use. We'll practise some phrases later.

Roger: OK. We've covered your key work areas, and how far you've reached your goals. Let's now have a look at areas for improvement. As far as your regular tasks are concerned, everything seems to be working very

appraisal

► Beurteilungs-

executive assistant

► Assistenz der Geschäftsführung

pair of binoculars

► Fernglas

purchasing department

► Abteilung Einkauf

well. But you say you're not happy about the special project you have. What's limiting your achievements here?

Dawn: The first project is to lead a small team of executive assistants from across the company. We have to coordinate and standardize our internal reporting systems. We should have reported by the end of last month, but the work is still ongoing.

Roger: Why is that?

Dawn: It's partly a time problem. It's very difficult to arrange face-to-face meetings with the group, and our remote contacts are much slower.

Roger: What could you do to improve the situation and to get the report out this month?

Dawn: Could we get permission to have an awayday in an off-site meeting room? One day should be enough to finalize everything.

Roger: OK. I can't give you the go-ahead right now, but I'll check the budget for something like that. You check prices and dates when everyone would be available. Then we'll see if it's feasible.

Dawn: Great. I'll do that.

Ken: Roger and Dawn certainly seem to have a good, positive relationship and the discussion was an open one. They both used some phrases that are helpful when discussing your work in English. Let's practise some of these now. First,

you'll hear a phrase from the meeting. Then you'll hear two alternative explanations — A and B. In the pause, choose the alternative that best matches the meaning of the phrase. Then you'll hear the correct answer. OK? Here's the first phrase.

Roger: We've covered your key work areas.

Ken: Does this mean...?

A. We've discussed the main things you do in your work.

Or

B. We've decided what the main things are that you should do in the future.

A is correct. "We've covered your key work areas" means we've discussed the main things you do in your work.

Roger: What's limiting your achievements here?

awayday ► Klausurtagung, Teamentwicklungsstag

face-to-face
► persönlich

feasible ► durchführbar

go-ahead
► Genehmigung

off-site ► außerhalb des Geländes, des Unternehmens

ongoing ► noch am Laufen, noch nicht fertiggestellt

Ken: Does Roger mean...?

A. What's preventing you from getting this particular job done properly?

Or

B. What are the limits you've set for the work?

A is correct. "What is limiting your achievements here?" means what is preventing you from getting this particular job done properly.

Dawn: The work is still ongoing.

Ken: Does she mean...?

A. The work has stopped temporarily.

Or

B. The work is continuing.

B is correct. "The work is still ongoing" means the work is continuing.

Dawn: Our virtual contacts are much slower.

Ken: Does this mean...?

A. Our contacts by phone and e-mail are much slower.

Or

B. Contact is slower because we're far away from each other.

A is correct. "Our virtual contacts are much slower" means our contacts by phone and e-mail are much slower.

Dawn: Could we get permission to have an awayday in an off-site meeting room?

Ken: Is Dawn asking...?

A. Can we be allowed to take a day's holiday to have an undisturbed meeting?

Or

B. Can we be allowed to meet for a day somewhere outside of the company?

B is correct. "Could we get permission to have an awayday in an off-site meeting room?" means can we be allowed to meet for a day somewhere outside of the company.

Roger: Then we'll see if it's feasible.

Ken: Does Roger mean...?

A. Then we'll know if it's financially worth doing.

Or

B. Then we'll know if it's possible to do.

B is correct. "Then we'll see if it's feasible" means then we'll know if it's possible to do.

Well done. If there were any phrases you didn't know, go back and learn them. They're useful phrases for talking about your work in an appraisal or for talking about your work in general.

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*.

Short Story

[17] “The Venetian violin (chapter two) — a Ms Winslow investigation”

David: Now it’s time to sit back and enjoy the second part of our new mystery story featuring Spotlight’s favourite detective, Dorothy Winslow. We catch up with Ms Winslow and her German friend Armin von Weiden in Venice, where they’re part of an arts and culture tour group. Unfortunately, also part of the group is the annoying Frau Moser, who enjoys complaining about everyone and everything. Now, to make matters worse, Frau Moser has been cheated out of a lot of money. But what can Ms Winslow do to help her? Let’s find out in chapter two of “The Venetian violin”.

Frau Moser got lost on her way to find the shop that had been recommended to her, but she found another one that had some attractive antique jewellery in the window. She went inside, but couldn’t decide what to buy and was about to leave when the nice young shop owner, Signor Zucchinielli, asked her to wait a moment. He had something special to show her, something that he didn’t normally show to tourists, but the Signora was so charming and had such good taste that he was going to break his rule.

He went out to the back and returned with a small tray of cameos. They were very pretty, and one in particular caught Frau Moser’s eye. It showed a woman’s head that was white on a dark background. On the gold frame were little pearls, and the woman wore a necklace of tiny diamonds. Frau Moser was enchanted, but not by the price, which was €2,500. She asked if Signor Zucchinielli could reduce it and, at first, he said he couldn’t. The cameo had originally belonged to his own grandmother, so he didn’t really want to part with it; but finally, because he could see the Signora would treat it with love and respect, he agreed on one condition. “The price is so high because here in Italy, we pay too many taxes. All the money goes to those political robbers — *questi ladri!* — in Rome. If we do a private sale with no official paperwork, I can sell it for €1,500. But then you

cameo ► Kamee

charming ► bezaubernd,
charmant

**cheat: ~ sb. out of
sth.** ► jmdn. um etw.
betrügen

enchanted ► entzückt

**matters: to make ~
worse** ► zu allem Übel

necklace ► Halskette

part with sth. ► sich von
etw. trennen

pearl ► Perle

tray ► Tablett

must pay cash, and there won't be a receipt. Do you understand?"

Frau Moser immediately agreed. Signor Zucchini took her to a nearby bank machine so that she could withdraw the money. Then they returned to the shop, he packed the cameo and she set off back to San Marco. But on the way, as she was passing a typical tourist shop, she received a terrible shock. In the window, there were several cameos very similar to the one she'd just bought. She hurried back to the antique shop and found it was now closed.

"Can we have a look?" asked Dorothy. They had moved to the bar of the hotel.

Frau Moser opened the box, and they examined the cameo carefully.

"Maybe your cameo is real and the others are copies," Armin said. "There seems to be a gold stamp on the back, and the material feels real."

"Do you think so?" asked Frau Moser, hopefully. "Maybe you're right!"

"There's a little test we can try," said Dorothy. She looked in her handbag and pulled out a small sewing kit. "Always travel with a needle and thread," she said. "You never know when you might need them." She took a needle and held the tip in the flame of the candle on their table until it was red hot, then pushed it into the surface of the cameo. It went straight in.

"Was machen Sie?" squawked Frau Moser. "You've destroyed it! You heard Herr von

Weiden. Maybe it's real."

"I'm afraid not," answered Dorothy. "Real cameos are made of stone or shell. This is made of plastic."

"I knew it!" said Frau Moser. "The man's a thief, just like the Venetians always have been."

"Well," said Armin, "we must go to the police."

"Yes! Tomorrow morning we..." but then she stopped and looked thoughtful.

"I'll ask at reception," Armin continued. "We probably have to..."

"I'm not sure Frau Moser wants to go to the police, Armin," interrupted Dorothy. "You see, she has no receipt to show she bought the cameo from Signor Zucchini. He can deny everything. But even if the police believe her, they would say she was helping someone steal money from the tax authorities by agreeing to his deal."

Frau Moser said nothing.

"...and if the German tax authorities heard about that, then perhaps they would look more carefully at Herr Moser's tax situation..."

receipt ▶ Quittung, Beleg

set off ▶ sich auf den Weg machen

sewing kit ▶ Nähetafel

shell ▶ Muschel

squawk ▶ kreischen, protestieren

surface ▶ Oberfläche

thread ▶ Faden, Garn

Dorothy paused a moment, as if deciding whether to continue. Then she did: "...or ask if maybe the Moser family had a bank account in Switzerland."

Like a goldfish, Frau Moser opened and shut her mouth twice as she thought about protesting, but the steely look in Dorothy's eye stopped her. She stood up, put the cameo in its box and left.

"My goodness, Dorothy!" said Armin after a moment. "Was that a guess about a bank account in Switzerland?"

"Yes, but I thought it probable. People like Angelika Moser think only stupid people pay their taxes. If you remember, her daughter Charlotte wasn't very honest either."

"Der Apfel fällt nicht weit vom Stamm. But we have to help her."

"Why?"

"Because if we don't, she'll make this week a nightmare for me, tell terrible stories back in Heroldstein and nobody will come on any of my trips again. Don't you have any of your clever ideas?"

Dorothy was silent. It was true: it would be an uncomfortable week in Venice, and she wanted to enjoy herself. She thought hard. How had that confidence trick on a famous restaurant in London worked? One of her friends in the police had told her about it. Could she try that perhaps?

"Oh, all right. But I'm only doing it for you," she said finally. "Go and get Frau Moser. She'll have to help. And tell me, you can play the violin, can't you?"

Source: Spotlight 7/2017, pages 66–67

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.

confidence trick ▶ Trickbetrug, Schwindel

nightmare ▶ Albtraum

steely ▶ stählen, unbeugsam

subscriber
▶ Abonnent(in)

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