



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISH



AUDIO

Spotlight

8
17

Spotlight



Simply better English

MIT DEN BESTEN LERNPRODUKTEN

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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the August 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 Spotlight team recommends the best language products to help improve your English

Travel with us to the west coast of Florida for sunshine, sandy beaches and stunning sunsets.

It's 40 years since Elvis Presley died. Find out about his controversial manager in the Society section.

World View

[2] Electric island

David: So many aspects of modern life depend on technology. Yet for 20 per cent of the world's population, regular access to electricity remains a dream. Could the answer to the problem be found on a tiny Scottish island? Listen to this report from World View to find out more.

The small Scottish island of Eigg has become a model for the developing world. How so? By creating a renewable power system that is completely independent of the national grid. It's an unlikely idea that the 1.3 billion people on the planet who have no regular access to electricity could imitate a system on an island that's home to just 100 souls. But as the BBC reports, experts from Alaska, Brazil and Malawi are making their way to Eigg to see if its model could work back home.

What makes a system like this so special? On Eigg, it's having the right mix of energy sources. Wind is harnessed by four turbines, while sun is captured by photovoltaic panels on top of the rainy island's youth hostel. Hydroelectric power, most of it generated in winter, comes from streams on the island. Using these three imperfect, patchy sources, Eigg can generate and store 90–95 per cent of its own power.

billion ▶ Milliarde(n)

capture ▶ einfangen

grid ▶ Stromnetz

harness

▶ nutzbar machen

imperfect

▶ unvollkommen,
störungsanfällig

patchy ▶ unbeständig,
schwankend

store ▶ speichern

stunning

▶ atemberaubend

Eigg Electric is publicly owned. It was launched in 2008 and is the first off-grid renewable energy system of its kind — thanks to £1.66 million in mostly EU financing. What fascinates those who would imitate the system is that no one on Eigg is an expert on power. The small community learned how to operate the system as it was being built, making sure it could be maintained by the residents in years to come.

Source: Spotlight 8/2017, page 11

A Day in My Life

[3] Emma Anderson, teacher aide

David: In A Day in My Life we meet Emma Anderson, a teacher aide from Brisbane, Australia. A teacher aide helps the main teacher by assisting students who have learning disabilities, like autism, or physical disabilities such as blindness or deafness. Anderson works at her local primary school in the special-education department. She particularly enjoys working with one little boy in first grade. Listen now as Anderson talks about helping the special-education children transition, or change over, from play to work.

At 12 o'clock, I go back and help my little friend who's in grade one. Transitioning is a big part of [the lives of] special-ed kids that I work with. Transitioning is usually a hard thing to do. Going from play to work or from work to play. So I help to transition him back to the class again and get him on task and ready to listen to his classroom teacher. Then again at 1.30 we have our second break of the day. And three days out of the week I will have duty in the special-ed room. So there are students who can't always play out in the playground for various reasons. Mainly because they struggle socially and they can't interact with other kids without there being a problem or they have social anxiety or different things like that. So we have our own play area in the SEP — which is the Special Education Program — that's what it stands for. And the kids play with toys in there, and we just monitor them and help them yet again

anxiety ▶ Angst

deafness

▶ Gehörlosigkeit

learning disability

▶ Lernbehinderung

monitor ▶ beobachten,
beaufsichtigen

off-grid

▶ netzunabhängig

special-ed(ucation)

▶ Sonderpädagogik-

teacher aide

▶ Förderlehrer(in)

take turns and play nicely with each other.

David: Anderson's job is challenging, but can also be rewarding, especially when she sees the improvements her students make.

My favourite part of my job would have to be the successes of the students I work with, whether it just be something small [like] being able to be a part of the group [or] even just sitting on the carpet with their class. Just the simple things that certain children might find difficult. That is just one of my favourite things to see them succeed at that. And, of course, I just love my students, especially my favourite little boy who I work with in grade one. Without him, my job would be not so great, I suppose. It would be more challenging, but he just lightens up my day, every day I see him.

See Spotlight 8/2017, pages 16-17

Britain Today

[4] Just add some slat to your curry

David: The British love a good curry. In fact, the Indian food industry is a big player in the British economy. It's worth an estimated four billion pounds. However, recent government policy has forced many Indian restaurants to

close. Colin Beaven looks at the curry-house crisis in Britain Today.

One of our local Indian restaurants has a new chef. It's clearly very proud of him; he had a Michelin star when he worked in London. They're lucky to have a chef at all. Not all Indian restaurants manage to find one. There's been a shortage in recent years — so much so that curry houses have been closing. One of the reasons is that it's harder for chefs from Asia to get visas these days. Rules on immigration into Britain are tougher than they used to be. It's the problem visitors from the EU will face after Brexit. Businesses in our Asian community have had to live with it for some time. First, pubs started to close because they couldn't make any money. Now, curry houses are closing because they can't make any curry. This is bad news for that traditional British night out: drinks at the pub and a late-night curry afterwards.

billion

► Milliarde(n)

challenging

► anspruchsvoll

chef

► Küchenchef(in)

rewarding

► lohnend

shortage

► Mangel

take turns

► sich abwechseln

You can always try cooking your own, of course. There's the easy option: buying a jar of curry paste from the supermarket. Don't admit to doing this to Asian friends, though. Jars of paste are frowned upon. Alternatively, you can learn to make the real thing. There are courses in Indian cuisine, but if you're really lucky, like us, you have a kind Asian friend who offers to teach you. My wife was keen to have a try. Use fresh spices, he told her, and fry them before you fry the onions. It makes all the difference to the flavour. And make sure you use lots and lots of onions.

It's certainly easy enough to find freshly ground spices like cumin, coriander, turmeric and ginger — more than enough to send smells from your kitchen that drive everyone crazy with hunger. They're worth the extra effort.

Our gastronomic guru also sent his recipe to some of his German friends. When they wrote back, they said they'd managed to find almost all the spices they needed, but not the last on the list: slat. They'd asked in specialist shops, but nobody sold it. Would it be possible to send some over?

Well, "slat" was actually a typing mistake — not an exotic spice. The final ingredient in the curry wasn't a little bit of slat, but a little bit of salt.

Our cookery lesson was a revelation. We'd always wanted to learn some of the secrets of a home-made curry. For several years, an Asian

family lived next to us. The smells from their kitchen were so appetizing that it was hard not to knock on their door and ask for food. They felt sorry for us and invited us to dinner. The conversation turned to their plans for the garden. They wanted to grow fresh coriander, and plant lots of bulbs — not onions, but daffodils and tulips.

They called bulbs bul-e-be-ze: four syllables instead of one. I'd never realized it was such a difficult word to pronounce. The meal was delicious, with lots of fresh spices, of course, a little slat, no doubt, and lots and lots of garlic. More than one clove. A whole bulb, perhaps?

bulb

► Knolle, Blumenzwiebel

clove

► hier: Knoblauchzehe

cumin ► Kreuzkümmel

daffodil ► Narzisse

frown upon sth.

► etw. missbilligen

ginger ► Ingwer

ground ► gemahlen

ingredient

► Zutat, Inhaltsstoff

jar ► Glas

keen: be ~ to do sth. UK

► etw. unbedingt tun wollen

recipe ► Kochrezept

revelation ► Enthüllung, Offenbarung

spice ► Gewürz

tulip ► Tulpe

turmeric ► Kurkuma

typing mistake

► Tippfehler

Possibly, though I doubt whether it was several bul-e-be-ze.

Source: *Spotlight* 8/2017, page 15

Travel

[5] To the beach and beyond

David: There's a lot more to Florida than theme parks and Miami Beach. *Spotlight* sent correspondent Toby Skingsley to explore the pleasures of the Sunshine State's south-west coast. Listen to this excerpt from the August travel article. We join Toby on his first evening in the small town of Fort Myers Beach.

The sand is cool as I let the fine grains trickle through my fingers. I look across the spar-kling blue ocean towards the horizon. The sun touches the water, sending a mix of yellows, oranges, and reds across the sky. When it finally disappears beyond the edge of the world, there's a refreshing coolness in the air and in the colors around me.

It's my first evening in the small town of Fort Myers Beach, but I can already see why it is such a hit with vacationers. Located in south-western Florida on the Gulf of Mexico, the town has year-round sunshine, sandy beaches, and stunning sunsets. But as I soon discover,

the region offers so much more, including fascinating history and culture, a wealth of wild-life, and spots of perfect tranquillity.

Ask any local about the history of the nearby city of Fort Myers, and the answer will almost always include the name Thomas Edison. Wanting to escape the cold winters of New Jersey, the great inventor — best known for creating the first practical light bulb and the phonograph — came to southwestern Florida in 1885 looking for a place to build his winter estate. He found it in Fort Myers, where he bought a piece of land on the Caloosahatchee River.

A farming community of just 350 people at the time, Fort Myers was forever changed by Edison's arrival. Soon, friends like car manufacturer Henry Ford came to visit him. Ford loved Fort Myers so much that, in 1916, he bought the house next door to Edison's, called The Mangoes. As true superstars of the era, Edison

estate ▶ Anwesen;
hier: Domizil

excerpt ▶ Ausschnitt

light bulb ▶ Glühbirne

sparkling ▶ funkelnd

stunning

▶ atemberaubend

theme park

▶ Freizeit-, Themenpark

trickle ▶ rieseln

and Ford put Fort Myers on the map, paving the way for its transformation into the region's urban and cultural center.

Today, the Edison and Ford Winter Estates are among the ten most-visited historic homes in the US — reason enough, I decide, to make the short drive from Fort Myers Beach and take a look for myself.

The grounds are enormous: Edison's and Ford's beautiful homes are located among green palm, citrus, and mango trees. But there's also Edison's study building with its wonderful Moonlight Garden, and the large museum displaying ingenious inventions and vintage cars.

The real highlight for me, however, is the botanic research laboratory, not least because of the unexpected history it reveals. Few people are aware that the inventor also carried out botanical research. Together with Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone, founder of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Edison experimented with thousands of plants in the late 1920s in search of a source of rubber. He eventually found it in the goldenrod.

The most stunning specimen here, however, has to be the rubber-producing banyan tree that still stands on the estate. The banyan can spread over huge areas and looks more like an area of woodland than a single tree. Today, Edison's banyan covers about 4,000 square

meters. It must be the biggest living thing I have ever seen.

Fort Myers has the nickname the “City of Palms,” and as I drive down McGregor Boulevard, I can see why: The grand avenue that leads to the city is lined with beautiful, tall palm trees as far as the eye can see.

The palms continue along First Street, which, with its pastel-colored buildings, gives the city center a tropical, Latin American feel. Known as the River District, the area close to the Caloosahatchee has recently been revitalized. I walk past small stores, boutiques, and restaurants before stopping at The Franklin Shops on the corner of First Street and Broadway.

Expecting a department store, I'm surprised to find an indoor marketplace for artists and local businesses. There are pieces of handmade jewelry, clothes, and home accessories, and I even

banyan tree

► Banyanbaum,
Indischer Feigenbaum

department store

► Kaufhaus

goldenrod

► Goldrute

ingenious

► genial

lined

► gesäumt

put: ~ sth. on the map

► etw. bekannt machen

reveal

► enthüllen, zeigen

source

► Quelle

vintage car

► Oldtimer

woodland

► Waldgebiet

get to view an exhibition of works by local painters. It's a great platform for artistic talent.

Source: *Spotlight* 8/2017, pages 18–24

Everyday English

[6] Caravanning

David: Do you love to spend your holidays on the open road, moving from place to place? Well, what about a holiday in a caravan, motorhome or camper van? In Everyday English, we're looking at words and phrases that deal with exactly this kind of vacation. So what's actually the difference between these three types of vehicle? A caravan doesn't have an engine. Instead, it has to be pulled by a car. A motorhome is a large vehicle with an engine and anything up to six berths, or places to sleep. It usually includes a kitchen, bathroom facilities and other features normally found in a home. A camper van is smaller than a motorhome with two or three berths, but it may still have a bathroom and kitchen. In North America, "recreational vehicle" or "RV" is used as a general term for both motorhomes and camper vans. Now let's listen to the first dialogue. Hugh and Celia are a couple whose children have left home. We join them as they're having a cup of tea and talking about getting a caravan. As you

listen, try to answer this question. What noun describes a wide path or private road that leads from the street to a house?

Celia: What's the matter, Hugh? You look pre-occupied.

Hugh: Hmm! What do you think about getting a caravan or a motorhome, Celia? I think we should travel and get out more now that the kids have moved out.

Celia: That's funny — I was thinking the same thing recently. Would you like more tea?

Hugh: Yes, please. And could you pass me another biscuit, please?

Celia: Here you are... Only, I was thinking about a camper van. It would look much cuter in the drive.

Hugh: Well, to be honest, I hadn't considered what it would look like parked in the drive. Don't you think a caravan would be more comfortable, though?

berth

► Schlafkoje

camper van UK

► Wohnmobil

caravan

► Wohnwagen

cute

► hübsch

drive

► Hauseinfahrt

motorhome US

► Wohnmobil

preoccupied

► geistesabwesend,
zerstreut

Celia: Probably. Why don't we talk to Bill and Jean? They have a caravan at Pitlochry.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What noun describes a wide path or private road that leads from the street to a house? It's a "drive". In the second dialogue, we return to Hugh and Celia. They have talked to their friends Bill and Jean. The couple have offered to let Hugh and Celia stay in their caravan at Pitlochry, which is a popular tourist destination in Scotland. Here's some vocabulary you'll need to know. A "seasonal pitch" is a space where you can park a caravan during either the summer or winter season. "To tow" a car or boat is to pull it behind another vehicle with a rope or chain. And when you "manoeuvre" something, you move or turn it carefully into place. As you listen, try to answer this question. What adjective describes having all the necessary supplies and facilities?

Celia: I wonder why Bill and Jean opted for a seasonal pitch. Surely the main attraction of a caravan is to be fancy-free. I wouldn't want to go to the same place all the time.

Hugh: I imagine it's much easier to keep it in one place. You don't need to get a bigger car to tow it, and you don't have to worry about manoeuvring it into place. And this is a six-berth caravan. I wouldn't want such a big one.

Celia: It smells funny — musty and damp. But it's certainly well equipped. Look! There's even a microwave.

Hugh: And they've got a great pitch. Look at that view!

Celia: It is lovely here.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What adjective describes having all the necessary supplies and facilities? The answer is "well equipped".

Source: Spotlight 8/2017, pages 44–45

Society

[7] Elvis and the Colonel

David: There's only one King of Rock 'n' Roll — Elvis Presley, of course. Elvis became a star after scoring his first Number One with "Heartbreak Hotel" in 1956. Global fame soon followed. Despite spending most of the 1960s making forgettable movies and later playing shows in Las Vegas before dying aged only 42

fancy-free

► frei und ungebunden

musty

► modrig, muffig

opt for sth. ► sich für etw. entscheiden

score

► erlangen, erreichen

in 1977, Elvis remains a cultural icon. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Elvis's death. Spotlight celebrates the life and legacy of the King in the August issue with an Elvis special. One aspect of Elvis's success that can't be underestimated was the influence of his controversial manager, Tom Parker. As Elvis said, "I don't think I'd have ever been very big if it wasn't for him. He's a very smart man." However, Parker has also been blamed for the many bad career choices Elvis made in the 1960s and '70s. Listen now to find out more about the man they called "the Colonel".

The cigar-chomping Colonel Tom Parker was already a music promoter when he came across Elvis, signing him as his sole client in 1955. Widely reported to be an illegal immigrant from the Netherlands, he claimed to be a native of West Virginia who had run away from home to join the circus. Whatever the case, his past was without a doubt colourful. Critics accuse him of being a control freak with dollar signs in his eyes who may have overseen Elvis's meteoric rise, but also steered him into some dodgy career moves. Elvis could have been making music throughout the '60s but ended up stuck in sausage-factory movie production. And, after the '68 Comeback, he should have been touring the world, they say. Instead, he was confined to the US and the

slow death of the Vegas years.

The Colonel's supporters say he was a tough negotiator, who was entitled to take half of Elvis's earnings. And, like Elvis, he was feeling his way as he went along, so he was bound to make mistakes. It was Elvis himself who called the Colonel and his wife the "finest people in the world".

See Spotlight 8/2017, pages 30–36

bound: be ~ to do sth.

► etw. zwangsläufig tun

chomp ► kauen

come across sb.

► jmdm. zufällig begegnen

confined ► gebunden, eingeschränkt

dodgy UK *ifml.*

► fragwürdig

entitled

► befugt

icon

► Idol

if it wasn't for him/her

► wenn es ihn/sie nicht gäbe, ohne ihn/sie

legacy ► Vermächtnis

meteoric

► kometenhaft

oversee

► betreuen, managen

sausage-factory

► hier: wie am Schnürchen, Fließband-

sole

► einzig, ausschließlich

steer

► lenken, steuern

Peggy's Place

[8] So you're the father?

David: What on earth is going on at Spotlight's favourite London pub? First, Peggy's daughter, Jane, gets fired from her job. Then it seems that Jane might be pregnant. Now things become even more complicated when a stranger turns up at the bar of Peggy's Place.

Peggy: Can I get you another drink?

Man: Eh... sorry?

Peggy: Don't let me disturb you. I simply asked if you'd like another drink.

Man: I must apologize. I was just...

Peggy: ...really absorbed in what you were reading. No worries.

Man: I can't remember a time when politics was so fascinating. Not always good — in fact, often just terrifying — but definitely gripping.

Peggy: Are you a journalist?

Man: No, good heavens! Just a boring old businessman who likes to try to keep up with the news.

Peggy: Well, I think it's an admirable quality. I wish there were more people who took an interest in current affairs. Take my daughter. She's in her 30s...

Man: You have a daughter in her 30s? I don't believe it.

Peggy: I did have her quite young. Anyway, I'm not even sure she knows who the prime minister is.

Man: I know. It's a terrible pity. I probably sound like an old fogey, but I'm often simply shocked at young people's indifference to anything beyond what's happening on their smartphones.

Peggy: Not to mention their manners. I did my best with my daughter, but if the rudeness is so...

Man: Pervasive?

Peggy: Exactly! But I mustn't keep you from your newspaper.

admirable

► bewundernswert

beyond ► außerhalb

current affairs

► aktuelle Nachrichten, Zeitgeschehen

er ► ähm

fogey: old ~ ifml.

► altmodischer Kauz

good heavens

► gütiger Himmel

gripping

► fesselnd, spannend

indifference

► Gleichgültigkeit

manners ► Manieren, Umgangsformen

no worries

► kein Problem

pervasive

► allgegenwärtig

pregnant ► schwanger

rudeness

► Unhöflichkeit

Man: Actually, I'd rather chat to you — unless, of course, you're busy.

Peggy: No, business is very slow today. It must be the heat. Normally on a Friday the place is full.

Man: So, you run this place by yourself?

Peggy: Mostly. I have some help from our chef, Sean. This is him now.

Sean: Don't let me disturb you. Just checking on the snacks.

Man: That's amazing! A lovely single lady like yourself running a great big pub.

Peggy: You may need a glass of water for that cough, Sean.

Man: Can't leave much time for social life.

Peggy: Well, I don't mind. How about yourself,... er...?

Man: Oh, sorry. Alan's the name.

Peggy: I'm Peggy. Pleased to meet you.

Alan: If you'll excuse me for a moment. I must have left my phone in the car. I was supposed to meet someone here. Maybe she has called.

Sean: Peggy! What the hell was that? You're single and running the pub alone?

Peggy: I didn't actually say that. Shh! He's coming back.

Alan: No message, although, truth be told, I'd be happy if she didn't turn up.

Peggy: Are you on a date?

Alan: No, not a date exactly. I met a young lady a couple of months ago. Not really my type, but

we went out once, and since then, she hasn't stopped calling me.

Peggy: Some people just don't get the message, do they?

Jane: Hi, mum! I see you've already met Alan. That makes things easier.

Alan: Peggy's your mum?

Jane: That's right, can't you see the similarity? So, Alan, I have some news for you.

Alan: Perhaps I can begin...

Peggy: So you're... the... father! Sean, back in the kitchen!

Alan: Father?

Sean: Why do I always miss the drama?

Source: Spotlight 8/2017, page 14

chef

► Küchenchef

cough

► Husten

mind sth.

► etw. dagegen haben

run

► leiten, führen

supposed: be ~ to do sth.

► etw. tun sollen

truth be told

► ehrlich gesagt

turn up

► auftauchen

unless

► außer

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:

Universities in Britain are treated as businesses. What future does this model have if Brexit cuts student numbers greatly?

[10] On higher education: trouble ahead

Inez: There has been a radical change in the way UK universities operate in recent years. Once clearly part of the education sector, universities have in many cases become nationalized businesses. Successive governments have focused on turning learning into cash. This has led to a more business-minded approach to running centres of higher education. There's now a steady growth in income from sponsored research, consultancy, use of facilities and intellectual property. Universities even produce spin-off companies that look to profit from work carried out by students or staff. This change has paralleled the idea of treating students as customers. Institutions now

aim to provide a high-quality university experience in order to attract more learners. Investment in better services and a focus on attaining top academic results are not measures aimed purely at pleasing current students. They're also essential in boosting the institution's scores in surveys and league tables. In this way, a university can improve its position in the marketplace and attract new students. The logic behind this is clear: Students from the UK and the EU pay relatively large university fees. Of course, greater sums can be earned from students from outside the EU, who pay much more money for tuition.

An editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper predicts major problems for UK universities that follow this business model. According to the writers, the threat comes from both Brexit and the Conservative government's

attain ▶ Erlangen

boost

▶ steigern, erhöhen

consultancy

▶ Beratung

editorial ▶ Leitartikel

facility ▶ Einrichtung

fee ▶ Gebühr

intellectual property

▶ geistiges Eigentum

league table ▶ Rangliste

predict ▶ prophezeien

spin-off ▶ Ableger-

successive

▶ aufeinanderfolgend

tuition

▶ Unterricht, Studium

approach to it. 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. A "notion" is an idea, belief or understanding of something. For example, you can say that someone who has unusual ideas has "some very odd notions." Another useful word is "earnings". This describes the money you get for the work you do. Now, let's listen to the first extract.

Universities have been so transformed by 30 years of reform that the language around higher education can appear emptied of its traditional meaning. The inherited notion of universities as a protected space devoted to the development of the individual capacity for creativity and deeper understanding has been hollowed out. In a world where students are consumers, who measure success by the class of their degree and their future earnings, the pursuit of knowledge is a marginal preoccupation. The experience of intellectual excitement that a good teacher can provoke is nothing compared with finding a job that justifies the accumulation of a vast debt. ... [S]tudents have become economic agents, and the dreaming spires have been replaced by the shiny glass headquarters of global knowledge corporations.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the second extract, the writers point out the positive aspects that have come from the commercialisation of universities. The editorial refers to the Higher Education Act. Introduced in 2004, the act made a major change to the funding of universities and the operation of tuition fees. These changes only affected England and Wales, as Scotland and Northern Ireland have independent control over such matters. The act allowed universities to set the level of fees for each course. This replaced the previous fixed rate of fees. Before you listen, you should know that "facilities" are buildings, services and equipment that are provided for a particular purpose.

affect ► betreffen

dreaming spires

► Bezeichnung für Oxford; hier: Universitäten

economic agent

► Wirtschaftssubjekt

excerpt ► Ausschnitt

hollow out ► aushöhlen

inherited

► übernommen

marginal

► nebensächlich

odd ► sonderbar

preoccupation

► Sorge, Beschäftigung

previous

► vorherig, früher

pursuit of

► Streben nach

vast ► enorm, gewaltig

This transformation was radical, but it has allowed a huge increase in student numbers. Universities are rich; facilities have been upgraded. In some places, like Lincoln, they have unlocked dramatic economic regeneration. And until now the new regime completed by the Higher Education Act at least has had a certain internal coherence. Today, however, the question is whether this model can survive the consequences of Brexit and the Tory approach to it.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the final excerpt, the writers look at the potential consequences of Brexit and Tory, or Conservative Party, policy on universities. By the way, a vice-chancellor is the head of a university in Britain. She or he is in charge of running the university. Here is some vocabulary you'll encounter. A "whammy" is an unpleasant situation or event that causes problems for somebody. It's normally used with the words "double" or "triple" to mean that two or three situations or events are happening at the same time. "To undermine" means to make something gradually weaker or less effective. You can undermine someone's confidence or authority, for example. And if you're "adamant" about something, you're determined not to change your mind about it.

Universities face a triple whammy. The number of students from the UK is set to fall until 2020, and it won't reach the levels of 2010 until 2027. Brexit threatens funding for research and collaborative ventures with EU academics, and high quality research is critical to the world rankings. That could undermine Britain's status as the home of more top-10 universities than any country except the US. Most threatening of all is Theresa May's adamant refusal to take students out of immigration figures while cutting net migration to the tens of thousands. This year, applications from the EU dropped 7%. No wonder that after the boom years, some vice-chancellors are beginning to fear for their universities' bank balances.

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?

bank balance

► Kontostand

collaborative venture

► Gemeinschaftsprojekt

regime ► System

set: be ~ to ► hier:

sicherlich ... werden

What noun describes the money that you get for the work that you do? Earnings

What verb means to make something gradually weaker or less effective? To undermine

If you're determined not to change your mind about something, you're... adamant.

What word describes buildings, services and equipment that are provided for a particular purpose? Facilities

An unpleasant situation or event that causes problems for somebody can be described as a... whammy.

This noun describes an idea, belief or understanding of something. Notion

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

See Spotlight 8/2017, page 59

American Life

[12] Don't fence me in

David: As last year's presidential election showed, America is more of a divided country than ever. That divide isn't just because of Democrats and Republicans, however. It often comes down to a question of priorities. That's what our American Life columnist Ginger Kuenzel discovered when she visited her brother in Wyoming, a state in the mountain region of the western United States.

A trip to Wyoming can be an eye-opener. I'm not just talking about the magnificent Rocky Mountains or the laid-back lifestyle. After all, I'm accustomed to laid-back. I live in a small town where having more than five cars on the road is considered heavy traffic.

Wyoming is 70 percent the size of Germany, but with only 586,000 people. It's the least-populous state in the nation, and people

accustomed: be ~ sth.

► an etw. gewöhnt sein

after all ► schließlich

gradually ► allmählich

laid-back *ifml.*

► lässig, cool

magnificent ► großartig

populous

► einwohnerstark,
dichtbesiedelt

there tend to have a different perspective from that in the East. This became clear to me when I attended a neighborhood barbecue while visiting my brother, who lives in western Wyoming.

Discussions with my friends back East tend to center mainly on politics these days. The topics of conversation in Wyoming were more along the lines of when they'll be able to put the horses out to pasture or their anger at those who would like to protect the wolf population. One fellow called wolves vermin, and suggested they should all be shot. He's in luck: It recently became legal to shoot wolves on sight in Wyoming. And as nearly everyone in the state has at least one firearm from an early age, the wolves had better watch out.

Life here is not for the weak. Temperatures in winter can drop far below freezing for days at a time. One can only count on frost-free nights from late June to mid-August.

The culture of Wyoming is one of intense independence and self-reliance. In times of drastic need, people here might turn to friends and neighbors for help — but only very reluctantly. They definitely do not want the government involved in their lives, and they have little patience with people who are looking for government help. As far as they're concerned, the best government is no government at all. And although Wyoming hasn't totally abolished

state government, its legislature is restricted to meeting for a maximum of 40 days in odd-numbered years and about 20 days in even-numbered years.

During my visit to Wyoming, we took a road trip to Montana, the state to the north. My brother owns property there in a settlement called Ovando. The sign at the entrance to the place says it all: "Population: about 50. Dogs: over 100." They have a cafe called "The Stray Bullet," with a small hole in the wall as evidence of how the name came about. Fortunately, the Wild West is tame today, and we didn't have to worry about gunplay at breakfast. Although the museum there was closed, a friendly fellow opened it for us and shared

abolish ▶ abschaffen

even-numbered: ~ years

▶ Jahre mit gerader
Jahreszahl

firearm

▶ Schusswaffe

gunplay

▶ Schießerei

odd-numbered: ~ years

▶ Jahre mit ungerader
Jahreszahl

on sight

▶ bei Sichtkontakt, ohne
weiteres

pasture ▶ Weide

reluctantly

▶ ungern, widerstrebend

self-reliance

▶ Eigenverantwortung,
Selbständigkeit

stray bullet

▶ verirrte Kugel, Irrläufer

vermin ▶ Schädling(e)

with us many colorful stories from Ovando's past.

Yes, for anyone planning a visit to the American West, the region's natural beauty is the main attraction. But perhaps even more than that, it's the people. Look for the small, out-of-the-way places, meet the locals, and listen to their stories. You may be surprised at how different their thoughts and ideas are from yours, but you'll certainly get to know America a lot better.

Source: *Spotlight* 8/2017, page 25

Language

[13] Language product round table

David: At *Spotlight*, we're dedicated to finding and using language-learning products. We know how effective they are in helping our readers and listeners improve their English skills. Of course, language learning is a crowded market and there are many types of product that can be useful. Yet it's hard to know which products are really going to make a difference, and which might be a waste of time and money. In the August issue of *Spotlight*, the team review essential reference guides, as well as looking at bestselling products to help you improve your abilities. To discuss the article,

Spotlight Audio is hosting a round-table discussion with editor-in-chief, Inez Sharp, deputy chief editor, Claudine Weber-Hof and language editor, Petra Daniell.

Inez: Hello, everybody. Welcome to our round-table discussion today. I'd like to introduce my colleagues, Petra Daniell, who is our language editor, and Claudine Weber-Hof, who is our deputy editor at *Spotlight*. We're going to talk today about three of our favourite products. We spend a lot of time reading and reviewing products for you, the reader / listener, and there are definitely products that stay the course, that are such good quality and are so useful that we'd like to recommend them to you and talk a little bit about them today.

course: stay the ~

➤ durchhalten; hier: sich durchsetzen

dedicated: be ~ to do sth.

➤ etw. mit Leib und Seele tun

deputy chief editor

➤ stellvertretende(r) Chefredakteur(in)

difference: make a ~

➤ etw. bewegen, verändern

editor-in-chief

➤ Chefredakteur(in)

essential

➤ unverzichtbar

host ➤ veranstalten

language editor

➤ Sprachredakteur(in)

reference guide

➤ Nachschlagewerk

We're going to begin with Petra, who I believe has brought along a well-known dictionary, and she's going to give us some background on that and why it's such a good learning tool. Perhaps you'd like to begin.

Petra: That's right. I brought the *Collins Cobuild Dictionary*, and it's not only well known, it's actually very, very big. It's about 2,000 pages and it's been accompanying me for the last 20 years. It's always on my desk. I just absolutely adore it. The stuff you find in there is amazing. Generally, not only the stuff you've been looking for in the first place, but just other stuff, you know. You open it up, you look at things, and before you know it, you've learned 10 different new words and synonyms and collocations and I just love it. The amazing thing about it is that it's actually based on a language corpus of 4.5 billion words. I mean, imagine that. And it's all authentic language, so they take it from newscasts, the press, TV programmes. So whatever you find in this dictionary is actually real English, not made-up, but the English you find day-to-day.

Inez: Right, OK. Petra, thanks very much indeed. I have to say, we all have a copy of this dictionary on our desks, and they're well thumbed in every case. Right. And on to my esteemed colleague, Claudine Weber-Hof, our deputy, and she's going to tell us about some fiction.

Claudine: Yes, I've been reading *The Murderer Next Door*, which is a very nice, A1-level, easy mystery story, or set of stories. We've got three mystery stories, each of them very different and each of them quite exciting. I have to say. It is offered by Compact, which is a publishing house here in Germany. And native-speaking authors are invited to contribute stories to the series. This particular edition is their bestseller, and I have to say, I understand why. After having read it, I totally get it. It's got a really lively concept. For example, of the three crime stories, my favourite was one about an English prison. And the reason I like it is that it really builds up the suspense. And as a learner, you're with it the whole time. You're following along, you're in it. You don't even notice that you're learning. It's little bit like *Spotlight* that way.

Inez: OK, and you like murder stories generally. You're a mystery fan.

adore sth. ▶ etw. heiß und innig lieben

billion ▶ Milliarde(n)

contribute ▶ beitragen

copy ▶ Exemplar

corpus ▶ Sammlung

esteemed
▶ (hoch)geschätzt

newscast
▶ Nachrichtensendung

publishing house
▶ Verlag

suspense ▶ Spannung

thumbed ▶ abgegriffen

Claudine: I do. I mean, I think also out there in the reading public, who doesn't like crime? Who doesn't like crime? So as a way to learn, it's a really easy way in. Also the exercises — the actual sort of learning aspect — the exercises are built into the text. So as you're reading along, the reader is told, OK, there's a fight. Here comes the guard. What's going to happen next? Oh, OK, the fight's been broken up. Everyone in the prison has been sent to bed. Ah, but one of the prisoners is hungry and wants to go to the kitchen. Now suddenly in the text, you're asked to complete the verb, so that the story can proceed. For example, "Joanna _____ to the cafeteria." You're supposed to take the verb "go" and put it into the correct tense. So the story is just going along, but it's got these different little exercises incorporated, and it doesn't really break up the action, but you're learning as you're going.

Inez: OK. It sounds really fun, and I must say I have reviewed a few of the Compact [books], I think they're called *Lernkrimi* in German, so these murder mysteries and have enjoyed every single one of them so far. Thank you, Claudine. And finally we're going to talk about a grammar-learning book. It's called *English Grammar in Use*, and it's been around since the 1980s. It's by Raymond Murphy. And this is a book that has a history in my life, because I began teaching English

to adults in Germany in the 1980s, and I'd done a fairly short course. I trained to be an English teacher, but it was just a few months. At the beginning I was very nervous in the classroom. Suddenly, I discovered this book, *English Grammar in Use*, and it made all the difference. It was a support for me, as well as for the students, and something that I've been able to recommend because of the clarity with which grammar is explained in this book. It has a very simple system. On one side of every double page is the grammar explanation in timeless language. And on the right-hand page are three or four exercises that practise that grammar effectively. There've been lots of offshoots of this particular book, *English Grammar in Use*. The original is at intermediate level, and there's a simple version, there's an advanced version. There's *English Vocabulary in Use*, I believe, and so on and so forth. Nothing has quite beaten *English Grammar in Use*, the original book. So I want to say it's my Bible, my little gospel of grammar, that I've always enjoyed using and recommended to people. Every student that I've had, every private student that I've had over the years, has been given one of these books to work with at some stage. And people respond very, very positively to it. There've been a lot of imitators; this is the original. *English Grammar in Use* by Raymond Murphy — an excellent

publication. These are the three products that we're recommending here on Spotlight Audio. In the magazine, there are a few more. We hope you've enjoyed the round-table discussion, and we hope you'll find more interesting products for your support in the magazine this month. Thank you very much.

See Spotlight 8/2017, pages 38–41

English at Work

[14] Making better small talk

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 better small talk.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Small talk is an important part of building a good business relationship. But it has to seem natural and spontaneous. One way in which you can make the small-talk process more interactive is to involve the other person by adding a question to any statement you make like this:

Speaker: You speak good English. Where did you learn it?

Ken: Now you try. Imagine you're at a conference and talking over coffee to someone you don't know very well. You'll hear a statement that you could make in this situation. In the following pause, add a question to get the other person involved in conversation. Then compare the question you ask with a model. Don't worry if your questions are not the same as the model. OK? Let's start.

Speaker: This is my first time at one of these events.

Have you been to one before?

I hear you're a friend of Peter's. How did you meet each other?

I notice you're wearing a Rotary badge. How long have you been a member?

I was really interested in what the last speaker said about customer care. What did you think?

badge

• Abzeichen

customer care

• Kundenbetreuung

I saw in the programme that you're one of the speakers.

What will be your main message?

I'm off to Shanghai next week.

Have you ever been there?

I'm trying to learn some Chinese words and phrases before I go.

Do you know any?

I'm staying in the Royal Hotel tonight.

Where are you staying?

I'm thinking of eating in town tonight.

Can you recommend anywhere?

Ken: How did you get on? Did you ask some questions that would get the other person involved in the conversation? Small talk is a two-way activity. The more you both contribute to the conversation, the more you learn about each other and the better chance you have of building a good relationship. So be proactive and involve your business partners in the small talk.

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

Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English.

See Spotlight 8/2017, page 47

Spoken English

[15] Let's start off!

David: In Spoken English, we're looking at using "off" in phrasal verbs. "Off" has a variety of meanings. We'll focus on the most common of these. "Off" can be used to show that somebody is starting a journey or departing from a place. For example:

"What time shall we set off in the morning?"

Another use of "off" is to show that something is beginning.

"The football match kicks off at three o'clock."

"Off" can also be combined with some verbs to show that something has finished.

"I have to finish off this report before I go home."

We can also use "off" to show that something is slowly decreasing in strength or effect. Here's an example:

contribute

• beitragen

proactive: be ~

• die Initiative ergreifen

“My leg really started to hurt when the pain-killers wore off.”

Finally, “off” can be used to give the idea of removing something:

“Take off those dirty shoes before you come in.”

Now I’m going to test you on the uses of “off”. I’ll give you two verbs with “off” followed by a sentence with a gap. You choose which phrasal verb fits the gap. Are you ready? Let’s start. “Call off” or “start off”?

“As soon as we get everything packed, we’ll _____.”

“As soon as we get everything packed, we’ll start off.”

Here’s the next one. “Pay off” or “put off”?

“We hope to _____ all our debts by the end of the year.”

“We hope to pay off all our debts by the end of the year.”

Now try this. “Cut off” or “let off”?

“The photo wouldn’t fit in the frame, so I had to _____ the top.”

“The photo wouldn’t fit in the frame, so I had to cut off the top.”

What about this one? “Slip off” or “take off”?

“Every day, around 300 aeroplanes _____ from the airport.”

“Every day, around 300 aeroplanes take off from the airport.”

And finally — “Ease off” or “cool off”?

“What about going for a swim this evening? We can _____ after the long, hot day.”

“What about going for a swim this evening? We can cool off after the long, hot day.”

How did you do? For more tips on using “off” in phrasal verbs, look at page 46 in the August issue of *Spotlight*.

See *Spotlight* 8/2017, page 46

Short Story

[16] “The Venetian violin (chapter three) — a Ms Winslow investigation”

David: It’s almost time to say goodbye. Before then, why not sit back and listen to the final part of our mystery story featuring *Spotlight*’s favourite detective, Dorothy Winslow. Ms Winslow and her German friend Armin von Weiden are in Venice on an arts and culture tour. Unfortunately, another member of the group, the annoying Frau Moser, has been

painkiller

➔ Schmerzmittel

cheated out of a lot of money. Can Ms Winslow get the money back and punish the thief? Let's find out in Chapter 3 of "The Venetian violin".

Signor Zucchini was about to close for lunch when the bell rang and his shop door opened.

"Scusi signore, parla inglese?"

A small, elderly English lady with a violin case under her arm came in. Zucchini always knew if a person was a potential customer, and he was sure this one was not. Her hair stuck out untidily from under a very old hat; there was a coffee stain on her blouse; and her shoes badly needed polishing.

"Sì, signora."

"Oh, good. I'm lost. Can you tell me the way to La Fenice theatre? I'm a musician, you see..."

For the next ten minutes, Zucchini explained the way, and it seemed to him that he had never met anybody quite as stupid in his entire life. The lady finally understood, but as she turned to leave, her violin case knocked a teapot from the counter on to the floor. There was a loud crash.

"Oh, I'm so sorry," she said. "Let me pay for that. How much was it?"

"One hundred and sixty euros," replied Zucchini, quickly doubling the price, as he started picking up the broken china. "It was Meissen." The old lady went pale.

"Oh, my," she said. "I don't have that much money on me. I have to go back to my hotel. It's just nearby..."

She moved towards the door, but she found Zucchini blocking her path.

"How do I know you'll return? You have your passport? You leave that here! I give it back when you bring me the money."

"I'm so sorry. That's at the hotel, too. Oh, dear! What shall we do?"

"What about your violin?"

"But it's my most important possession," she said with tears in her eyes. "It's worth much more than the teapot."

"Then get me my money quickly, or..." he picked up the telephone. "...I call the police."

That worked. She placed the violin case carefully on the counter and hurried down the street. Zucchini began whistling as he finished sweeping up the broken pieces of china.

case ▶ Kasten

cheated: to be ~ out of sth. ▶ um etw. gebracht werden

china ▶ Porzellan

counter ▶ Ladentheke

elderly ▶ ältlich

entire ▶ ganz, komplett

pale: go ~ ▶ erbleichen

stain ▶ Fleck

sweep up ▶ aufkehren

whistle ▶ pfeifen

“Silly old bag! That would teach her to be so clumsy.” He had just thrown everything away, when two people came in.

“Signor Zucchini! Lovely to see you again!” said Frau Moser. “May I introduce my good friend Professor Karl von Hoffenheim, the famous violinist? I’ve told him so much about your beautiful shop.”

Thirty minutes later, they left, and Zucchini was practically dancing with excitement. The violin was worth €10,000. The German professor had looked at it. He had even played it a little, and now he wanted to buy it. He’d left his business card to give to that silly woman so she could contact him. But he, Zucchini, had a much better idea. He’d buy it from her and sell it to Professor von — whatever his name was — himself. That was how to do business. The doorbell rang.

“Ah, Signora. So good to see you again!”

Later that afternoon, they all sat together in the hotel bar. Frau Moser was very excited.

“It was wonderful,” she said to Dorothy. “Herr von Weiden was the perfect German professor. I had no idea you could play the violin so well, you naughty man! Why did you never tell me? You must play in the village concert at Christmas.” She turned to Dorothy. “What about you? Did that thief buy the violin? How much did he pay?”

“We bargained a little,” said Dorothy. “After all,

I was selling something very important to me, but I got you your money back, Frau Moser. However, before I give it to you, you need to promise me something: Mr von Weiden will have no more complaints from you — on this trip or any other that you go on.”

“But of course, Frau Winslow,” said Frau Moser, suddenly looking very small. “I give you my word.”

Dorothy handed her an envelope.

“Inside, you will find €1,300,” she added. “I took off €110 for the second-hand violin I had to buy, €10 for the business cards I had printed for Professor von Hoffenheim and another €80 to pay for the teapot I broke in Signor Zucchini’s shop.”

Frau Moser was about to protest, but Dorothy held up her hand and gave one of her steely looks.

“I think a €200 service charge for the trouble you’ve caused is very reasonable, Frau Moser.

bargain

► handeln, feilschen

charge

► Gebühr

clumsy ► ungeschickt, tollpatschig

naughty

► ungezogen, frech

old bag

ifml. ► alte Schachtel

steely

► stahlhart, unbeugsam

And remember, no complaints. You gave me your word.”

After dinner that evening, Dorothy and Armin walked beside the water again. An enormous cruise ship sailed slowly past into Venice, the deck lined with more tourists, ready to flood the city streets and feed the shops and restaurants that waited for them hungrily.

“Did you really sell the violin for only €1,500?” asked Armin.

“Of course I did!” answered Dorothy “We needed to punish Signor Zucchini a little, not cheat him. Otherwise, we’d be just the same as he is.”

“Do you think he’ll change his ways?”

“Will Frau Moser start paying taxes and stop being so bossy?”

Armin shook his head.

“Exactly. And I’m afraid to say I already see trouble for you on the horizon.”

Armin looked surprised. “Really? From her?”

“Don’t you remember? She now knows you can play the violin, so you’ll be playing in the village Christmas concert in December — unless you want to see what Christmas in England is like this year...”

Source: Spotlight 8/2017, 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. Join us again next month, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

bossy

► rechthaberisch,
herrisch

change: ~ one’s ways

► seine Gewohnheiten
ändern

cheat

► betrügen

subscriber

► Abonnent(in)

unless

► es sei denn

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