



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISH



AUDIO

Spotlight

16
17

Spotlight



SAFE YOUR
ENGLISH!

*Our superhero
is here to help you*

Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

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

German speakers often make the same mistakes repeatedly in English, and it's usually because of small differences between the languages. Luckily, with our help you can avoid these mistakes in the future.

In the travel section, we escape to Ireland's wild Atlantic coastline for untamed nature and delicious food.

The drama continues in our soap opera, Peggy's Place. Has Peggy left Phil for good? Will the pub be sold? Find out in the latest episode.

In the Spotlight

[2] Wiped away

David: Everyone knows the names of certain male inventors — Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Benjamin Franklin — the list is long. Female inventors, on the other hand, are often ignored by the history books. That doesn't mean that their inventions are any less useful, however. In our first story, we'll hear about a woman who invented a device that's very useful when driving a motor vehicle.

Windshield wipers are not a terribly exciting topic — until you try driving in bad weather without them. That's what their female inventor thought.

During a snowstorm in 1902, a woman riding in a New York City streetcar watched how the

device

- Gerät;
- hier: Vorrichtung

for good

- für immer

streetcar N. Am.

- Straßenbahn

untamed

- ungezähmt

windshield wiper N. Am.

- Scheibenwischer

driver repeatedly had to stop, get out, and clear snow from the glass. When Mary Anderson returned to her home in the Southern state of Alabama, she invented a solution. The next year, she patented a “window cleaning device” (US patent number 743,801) that would, according to the legal paperwork, leave “nothing to mar the usual appearance of the car during fair weather.”

Anderson’s eureka moment remains a point of pride for her family today. But back then, when it should have been welcomed as a much-needed development, the early US automobile industry ignored her invention. As one company wrote, “...we regret to state we do not consider it to be of such commercial value as would warrant our undertaking its sale.”

Anderson, who died in 1953, never made money on her work. However, as National Public Radio (NPR) reports, she has been officially credited with the invention. In 2011, she was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Source: Spotlight 10/2017, page 10

A Day in My Life

[3] Hannah Stuart-Leach, yoga teacher

David: Have you ever gone to a yoga class? Perhaps yoga is an important part of your daily routine. Hannah Stuart-Leach is 34 and teaches yoga and practises Indian head massage in Bristol, in the south-west of England. Stuart-Leach recently retrained to teach restorative yoga. This form of yoga uses props — objects used for support — to help the students keep their balance while holding poses. Listen now as Stuart-Leach describes what happens during one of her classes.

credit

► neu ausbilden

eureka

► Ich hab's!

fair

► hier: heiter, schön

induct

► einführen

mar

► beeinträchtigen, verunstalten

pose

► (Yoga)Haltung

props

► Zubehör

restorative yoga

► restauratives Yoga

retrain

► neu ausbilden

warrant

► hier: würdigen

So, if I'm teaching a yoga class in the evening, I'll head to the studio or wherever I'm teaching it. I've taught it in a chapel before, or all sorts of beautiful spaces. I'll go half an hour early and set up because restorative yoga needs a lot of props, so there'll be bolsters and blankets and blocks. So I'll make sure that's all sorted. I usually like to teach the class by candlelight to make it more relaxing, so I'll light the candles and make sure it's the right atmosphere, really nice and calming. My classes are usually about an hour long. So it'll be quite a quiet class. I usually allow people just to have their own experience and have more of an inward focus, so there's not too much of my talking or people talking to each other; it's much more of a personal experience. That will last for an hour or so, and afterwards I'll give them maybe an herbal tea to take home and just tell them to have a nice bath and take it easy, and hopefully have a really good sleep.

David: Stuart-Leach is planning to open her own retreat soon. A "retreat" is a period of time when a person goes to a quiet place for prayer and thought. The word "retreat" can also be used to describe an organized event at which people can do this. Listen now as Stuart-Leach talks about how she got the idea for the retreat.

My boyfriend and I are going to set up a retreat

in the south-west of the UK. This all started a couple of years ago when we went on holiday to Dorset and we were staying in these beautiful log cabins, very rustic and off-grid, so there was no TV or anything, and we just had such a lovely experience there. We'd get up and watch [the] sunrise and also in the evenings sit out on the beautiful deck that they had and go and walk around barefoot and just have a lovely, very natural experience of being in the countryside. I think from that moment, I thought that I would really like to be able to wake up in the morning and see the sunrise and just have a deeper connection with nature, which I think sometimes you can miss out on in the city. So, the retreat itself is going to be made up of a few differently designed log cabins, and they'll be

block

► Yoga-Block

bolster

► Yoga-Kissen, -Rolle

deck

► Terrasse

head to

► sich auf den Weg machen zu

herbal tea

► Kräutertee

inward

► nach innen gerichtet

log cabin

► Blockhütte

miss out on sth.

► etw. versäumen

off-grid

► hier: abgelegen; ohne Strom

rustic

► ländlich, rustikal

open for people to come and stay in on holiday or just for the weekend, but also open to groups who want to do their own retreats there. People maybe might want to do singing retreats or writing retreats, and obviously I'd love to do some yoga retreats there, too.

See *Spotlight* 10/2017, pages 16–17

Britain Today

[4] Rules for reading

David: What has literature got to do with soccer? Apart from all the biographies of famous players, there doesn't seem much. Nevertheless, both fiction and football are extremely popular and serve as entertainment to countless fans. In this month's *Britain Today*, Colin Beaven wonders if writers couldn't improve their game by following some of the rules of football.

Where would English football be without players whose names sound like mineral water? Überkinger, Perrier, Volvic, Apollinaris: I'm sure they all played for Chelsea last season. Managers are no different. The current manager of our team here in Southampton really is called Pellegrino. Are we talking about football or a drinks menu?

I hope the word “current” is still accurate. Managers so often lose their jobs. A bottle of non-sparkling mineral water usually has a label that says “still water”. What about the manager of a non-sparkling football team? He's lucky if he's still manager.

Life is no easier for managers in the US. The sport may be different, but American football is just as unforgiving. There's even a day at the end of the season when clubs like to fire their managers. It's called Black Monday.

British clubs are happy to fire their managers on any day of the week. But there is one event that the UK has taken over from the American calendar: Black Friday. This is the day at the end of November when there are even more special offers in the shops than usual. The idea is to generate a bit of Christmas shopping and to increase footfall in shopping centres — no, not “football” in shopping centres, but “footfall”: in other words, the number of customers who walk through the door.

footfall

► hier: Kundenfrequenz

non-sparkling

► still, nicht-spritzig

unforgiving

► gnadenlos, unerbittlich

Actually, though, football does have ideas that shopping centres might find useful, such as showing the red card when shoppers get too enthusiastic. Sometimes, for example, when they're running after bargains, they really do need to be sent off. Above all, bookshops need to adopt rules from football. The books they sell are all so long, and no two are the same length. How are you supposed to decide which one is the winner?

Football matches all last about 90 minutes, so it's always possible to compare like with like. If only literary prizes were as fair as that!

The winner of last year's Man Booker Prize, which is generally announced in October, was *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty. With more than 300 pages, it's far too long to finish on a Saturday afternoon as an alternative to watching Arsenal play Manchester United.

How about a maximum of 180 or — let's be generous — even 200 pages, just to allow for injury time? Injury time on the pitch, that is. One needs to be quite clear about this. Someone I know needed time away from work when she drifted off to sleep and her Kindle fell on her face.

Why stop there? With novels reduced to an acceptable length, we could standardize stage plays, too. Ninety minutes seem perfectly reasonable for an evening at the theatre, plus another 15 minutes for the “interval” — which

is the name the theatre world has given to half-time. We also need an offside rule that stops actors from improvising and dragging things out. That way, the audience would have a chance of getting home in time for the “News at Ten”.

True, the news these days is so grim that you're better off in the theatre. But at least you wouldn't miss the bit that shows you highlights from the day's football.

Source: Spotlight 10/2017, page 15

bargain

- Schnäppchen

drag: ~ sth. out

- etw. in die Länge ziehen

drift off

- hinüberdämmern

generous

- großzügig

grim

- trostlos, düster

injury time

- Nachspielzeit

novel

- Roman

offside rule

- Abseitsregel

pitch UK

- Spielfeld

supposed: be ~ to do sth.

- etw. tun sollen

Travel

[5] Off the grid in Ireland

David: The west of Ireland has long been a favourite destination for those wishing to escape the stress of modern life. With its wild nature and dramatic coastline, Ireland's west offers great touring opportunities. And after all that activity, you'll have quite an appetite. Luckily for you, the area is famous for its fine food. **Spotlight** correspondent Guy Archer was in search of escape and travelled to Ireland to sample the best of the Atlantic coast. In the following excerpt from the article, Guy takes a ferry to the small island of Inishbofin in the company of local archaeologist Gerry McCloskey.

Inishbofin is tiny, only about five and a half by three kilometres, with dramatic coves and cliffs on its western and northern coastlines, and small, pleasant beaches on its east side. There are no trees on the island, all cut for heating fuel when it was first settled — probably some time during the Bronze Age, though possibly earlier. The landscape is made up generally of marshes, bogs and dry and wet heath. The island's folklore and history are rich. Saint Colman of Lindisfarne founded a monastery here in AD 665; today the site is marked by a stone chapel built in the 14th century and

surrounded by the island's graveyard. Later, the "pirate queen" Grace O'Malley (c. 1530–c. 1603), captured it. According to local tradition, she entered into an alliance with the Spanish corsair Don Alonzo Bosco, until Queen Elizabeth I's forces took the island. During the English Civil War (1642–51), Inishbofin was one of the last strongholds for Royalists, though finally it succumbed to Oliver Cromwell's forces, who built a giant fortress in the island's harbour.

alliance

- Bündnis

bog

- Moor

capture

- erobern

corsair

- Seeräuber

cove

- Bucht

excerpt

- Auszug

fortress

- Festung

graveyard

- Friedhof

heath

- Heide

heating fuel

- Heizmaterial

marsh

- Sumpf

monastery

- Kloster

sample

- ausprobieren, erleben

stronghold

- Festung, Bollwerk

succumb

- unterliegen

Coming into the harbour on the ferry, we passed the ruin of Cromwell's Barracks, as the Civil War-era prison is now known. Today, only about 180 people live on the island. Houses can be seen here and there, but mostly along Inishbofin's eastern side. (A large section of the island and its habitat are protected as a Special Area of Conservation.) The near constant presence of fog was dramatic, as was the basic simplicity of all the local buildings. I walked about a kilometre to our hotel to drop my bags off, then joined McCloskey and some others for a walk around the entire island.

For much of the morning and afternoon, we walked among the crags and bogs, viewing the remains of an Iron Age promontory fort and Bronze Age field systems, a grey-seal colony swimming out in the distance, sea arches with giant cormorants flying along the cliffs, sandy beaches and quiet villages, the old graveyard. The constant sound of the wind and the sea made it all the more mesmerizing.

That evening, I stayed in the Doonmore Hotel, a single-storey affair that looked more like a motel — very plain, though very charming. Some guests I spoke to complained that the rooms were a bit too spartan, but to me, the place was perfect. By keeping things simple, there was little more to do than enjoy the natural beauty and the fog and breezes off the water — not to mention the grand company in

the hotel pub and the exquisite food.

The Doonmore's Murray Pub is where I had my first Guinness in Ireland, and my second, and even perhaps third. The pub has an aroma of fresh stews and other local specialties. Later, in the hotel's small restaurant, I enjoyed a perfect meal — again, local oysters and lobster. The lobsters out of that part of the Atlantic, probably because they are smaller, have a sweeter taste than other lobsters. I also had

cormorant

- Kormoran

crag

- Klippe, Felswand

entire

- ganz, gesamt

grey seal

- Kegelrobben-

Iron Age

- eisenzeitlich

lobster

- Hummer

mesmerizing

- faszinierend

oyster

- Auster

promontory fort

- Festung auf einer steilen Klippe

sea arch

- Brandungstor

single-storey

- einstöckig

spartan

- spartanisch

stew

- Eintopfgericht

some Connemara lamb followed by a rhubarb crisp for dessert. The dining room was plain, warm and friendly, with no music, just the noise of knives and forks and people talking to one another. And then, after the day's walks and meals, with the sound of waves, I enjoyed a perfect sleep.

Source: *Spotlight* 10/2017, pages 24–31

[6] Comprehension questions

David: How well did you understand the excerpt from the travel feature? Let's test you with some comprehension questions. Are you ready? Let's start.

Why are there no trees on Inishbofin? Is it because there isn't enough good land, they were cut down for fuel by the first settlers or because it's too windy there? It's because they were cut down for fuel by the first settlers — probably during the Bronze Age.

Here's the next question. During the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell took over the island and built a fortress there. What name does the building have today? Is it Cromwell's Prison, Cromwell's Barracks or Cromwell's Folly? It's called Cromwell's Barracks.

Now try this one. How many people live on Inishbofin? Is it around 80, 180 or 800? It's around 180.

Here's the next one. What adjective describes something that is simple and without any comfort? Is it spartan, barren or bleak? It's spartan.

And here's the final question. Why does the author think that local lobsters taste sweeter than other lobsters? It is because they're bigger, smaller or have a different diet? The author thinks it's probably because they're smaller.

See *Spotlight* 10/2017, pages 24–31

barren

• unwirtlich

bleak

• kahl, öde

rhubarb crisp

• Rhabarberstreuselkuchen

Everyday English

[7] Going to the cinema

David: If you're a movie buff—in other words, a fan of everything to do with films — this month's Everyday English is for you. We'll be looking at words and phrases to do with going to the cinema. In the first dialogue, we meet Claire and Lewis, who are planning an evening out. Here's some vocabulary you'll encounter. If you really don't like something, you can say, "I can't stand it!" Anything that's described as "feel-good" should make you feel happy and pleased with life. And the word "cast" describes all the people who perform in a film, play or TV series. As you listen, try to answer this question. Why are there so many horror films in the cinema at the moment?

Claire: Do you fancy going out after work on Friday — dinner and a movie maybe?

Lewis: Sounds good. We haven't been to the cinema for ages. Is there anything on?

Claire: I'm just having a look. There are an awful lot of horror movies.

Lewis: Because of Halloween, I suppose. You know I can't stand horror films. Aren't there any feel-good films on?

Claire: I don't see any. There's a dark comedy... You've got that trailer app on your phone. Can

you check whether there's anything you want to see on that?

Lewis: Oh, yeah! I forgot about that. I saw a trailer the other day for a film that looked interesting. I can't remember what it was called, but it had a great cast. I'll see if I can find it.

David: Were you able to answer the question? Why are there so many horror films in the cinema at the moment? It's because it's Halloween. In the second dialogue, Lewis and Claire are deciding which film they would like to see. Here's some vocabulary you'll need to know. If you're "not keen on" something, you don't like it. "Sci-fi" is short for "science fiction". And a "sequel" is a book, film or play that continues the story of an earlier one. As you listen, try to answer this question. Why doesn't Claire want to see the new *Blade Runner* film?

Lewis: OK, so there's *Blade Runner 2049*, but you weren't keen on the first one, were you?

buff

► Fan, Enthusiast

for ages

► seit einer Ewigkeit

Claire: Not really. I know it's a cult movie, but I'm not a fan of sci-fi, nor sequels for that matter — unless you want to see it...

Lewis: No, I wouldn't enjoy it if I knew that you weren't happy. What about *Geostorm*? It's a fantasy thriller about natural disasters.

Claire: That doesn't sound like fun. Who's in it?

Lewis: Gerard Butler. You like him.

Claire: Yes, I do like him. Hmm! What about *Three Billboards*? Have you heard of it? It's on at the Odeon.

Lewis: Oh, yeah! That's the one I meant earlier. It has Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson in it. It looks quite good. I wouldn't mind seeing that.

David: Were you able to answer the question? Why doesn't Claire want to see the new *Blade Runner* film? She's neither a fan of sci-fi nor of sequels.

Source: Spotlight 10/2017, pages 46–47

American Life

[8] One lucky son of a gun

David: As regular readers of Spotlight will know, American Life correspondent Ginger Kuenzel lives in the small town of Hague in upstate New York. However, this normally quiet town was recently the scene of a violent robbery. As Ginger writes, it's a good reminder of the speed with which a person's life can change completely.

Hague, the town where I live, is a sleepy little place. After all, with a population of just 600, how wild can it get? At least, that's what we all thought — until our general store was robbed recently.

general store

► Gemischtwarenladen, Kramladen

matter: for that ~

► übrigens auch

reminder

► Erinnerung, Mahnung

robbery

► Raubüberfall

son of a gun N. Am. ifml.

► Hund, Gauner; hier: Kerl

unless

► es sei denn, außer

upstate US

► im Staat, im Norden (eines US-Staates)

Jim, the owner, was alone in the store, when a young couple wandered in. The woman went for the potato chips, while the man, who was masked, pointed a gun at Jim and told him to hand over the cash. Jim put his hands up and backed away. The robber emptied the cash drawer, managing to take only about \$300. As he was leaving, however, he noticed that his girlfriend was not masked, or perhaps she had taken her mask off to eat the potato chips. Deciding that he needed to eliminate Jim as a witness, the robber fired five shots at him before fleeing.

As Jim tells the story, he fell to the floor, thinking to himself: "So this is what it feels like to be a goner." When he realized, however, that he was still alive and wasn't a goner after all, he dragged himself to the phone and dialed 911. Within minutes, seemingly out of nowhere, numerous state and county police arrived (Hague has no police of its own), along with an ambulance, which rushed Jim to the hospital. Over the next couple of days, he had several operations, but the doctors determined that it would be best to leave all the bullets in his body. Even though he hasn't fully recovered, he is back in the store at the cash register, greeting customers with a smile.

The criminals, on the other hand, are in jail. It seems that they weren't very experienced at their trade. One might expect that they would

have tried to get as far away as possible after thinking they had just murdered someone. Instead, they drove to a nearby town and went out to dinner with the stolen money. They then went to a pet store and bought a gerbil, before checking into a hotel for the night. The next day, they decided to get married and made their way to the town hall to apply for a marriage license.

As luck would have it, one of the detectives investigating the case also happened to be at the town hall on other business. He recognized their car from a video taken near the crime scene and caught the pair, who immediately admitted what they had done.

bullet

- Kugel

cash drawer

- Kassenlade

determine

- beschließen

drag

- schleppen

gerbil

- Wüstenrennmaus

goner: be a ~ jfml.

- geliefert sein

recover

- sich erholen, gesund werden

town hall

- Rathaus, Gemeindeamt

witness

- Zeuge, Zeugin

Jim is incredibly calm when he tells the story. He knows how lucky he is, and he no longer takes life for granted. He wakes up each morning, thankful to be alive and thankful for his family and friends. As one would expect in a small town, the show of support was overwhelming from the moment the news broke. One customer started a GoFundMe site to buy security cameras for the store, raising more than \$1,000 within days. We are a close-knit community, and we come together whenever there is a need. Even though I have never had such a close brush with death, Jim's story is a wake-up call to us all, reminding us that our lives can change in an instant.

Source: Spotlight 10/2017, page 21

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:

Historical novels have become popular again thanks to writers like Hilary Mantel. But why are readers so fascinated by stories set in the past?

[10] Historical fiction: reimagining, not reproducing

Inez: Long seen as a genre full of clichéd tales of romance, historical fiction has been given a new and exciting image by authors like the English writer Hilary Mantel. Mantel gained international fame with her novels about 16th-century English statesman Thomas Cromwell. The first two books of Mantel's Cromwell trilogy — *Wolf Hall* in 2009 and *Bring Up the Bodies* in 2012 — won the highly prestigious Man Booker Prize for literature. Since then, three of the four winners of that prize have been in the category of historical fiction. As a contemporary literary genre, historical fiction has its foundations in the early 19th century with the works of Sir Walter Scott and

brush: a close ~

• intensive(r) Kontakt, Erfahrung

cliché

• klischeehaft

close-knit

• engverbunden

granted: take sth. for ~

• etw. als selbstverständlich ansehen

overwhelming

• überwältigend

prestigious

• angesehen

raise

• hier: sammeln, zusammenbringen

wake-up call

• Warnsignal

his contemporaries. However, the tradition of telling stories about the past goes back to the earliest literature, including classic works such as the *Epic of Gilgamesh* from ancient Mesopotamia, Homer's *Iliad*, Virgil's *Aeneid* — even Shakespeare made his name writing historical works like *Henry V*, *Richard III* and *Macbeth*. In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers look at the current popularity of the historical novel and wonder what readers are looking for in stories of days gone by. In a moment, you can listen to the first part of the editorial. Before that, let's look at some of the language used. When an author creates a new idea of an historical person, event or time period, it can be called a "reimagining". "To set one's cap at something" means you want it and are trying to get it. This is a version of "to set one's cap for someone", which means to pursue someone romantically. Now let's listen to the first section of the editorial.

In the first of her recent Reith lectures, Hilary Mantel spoke of the "cultural cringe" of being an historical novelist when she started out in the 1970s, a time when historical fiction meant historical romance and wasn't respectable or respected. How things have changed — and in no little part due to Mantel's own magisterial reimagining of the life of the self-made Tudor courtier Thomas Cromwell, which set its cap

at the higher reaches of literary fiction and was rewarded with two Man Booker prize wins. ...

Source: © *Guardian News & Media* 2017

Inez: In the second section of the editorial, the writers look at what the readers want from an historical novel, and what they're actually getting when they buy one. Here's some of the vocabulary you'll encounter. The adjective "escapist" describes an activity or form of entertainment that helps you forget about unpleasant or boring things. A "faithful" copy or reproduction of something is one that is true and accurate, and in which nothing has been changed.

What do we want from our historical fiction and why are literary novelists so keen to supply it? Part of the answer has to do with our

courtier

► Höfling

cultural cringe *ifml.*

► kulturelles Minderwertigkeitsgefühl

editorial

► Leitartikel

lecture

► Vortrag

magisterial

► meisterhaft, beeindruckend

reach

► hier: Region, Bereich

escapist appetite for stories safely cocooned in the past. Period dramas sell; writers want to be read. But that does not mean that they are pat, predictable time capsules...

The best historical novels do not pretend to provide a faithful record. When you read one, Mantel said, you are not buying a replica, or even a faithful photographic reproduction — you are buying a painting with the brush strokes left in.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the final section of the editorial, the writers wonder if our appetite for historical fiction has anything to do with the effect of modern technology on our ideas of reality. Perhaps we are trying to understand our present through the filter of “a simpler time” — one with which we feel more comfortable and can — or so we think — better understand. Here’s some of the vocabulary you’ll encounter in the third section. If something is “compelling”, it makes you pay attention to it because it’s so interesting and exciting. “To disguise something” is to hide or change it so that it can’t be recognized.

More interesting, perhaps, is the debt owed by such fiction to anxieties about the effect of the swift pace of change on storytelling. It would not have been lost on Thomas Cromwell that,

for novelists, “plot” has two meanings: conspiracy and the construction of it into a compelling, entertaining and — above all — plausible narrative.

Surviving portraits of Cromwell show him looking inscrutably into the distance, his menace and his mystery lacquered into history. Imagine how different this shadowy operator would look in the era of selfies, social media and fast-mutating spying technologies. No sooner might one have captured one reality, than another would have appeared. Is it any

brush stroke

• Pinselstrich

capture

• erfassen, einfangen

cocoon

• einhüllen, verpacken

conspiracy

• Verschwörung

inscrutably

• unergründlich

lacquered

• lackiert; hier: fest verankert

menace

• Drohung

owed

• geschuldet

pat

• hier: einfach

period

• hier: historisch

swift

• schnell, rasant

wonder that two of the most popular fictional genres of our day are historical (*Wolf Hall*) and speculative (*The Handmaid's Tale*)? One filters the present through the past, the other disguises it as what might come to pass.

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?

When an author creates a new idea of an historical person, event or time period, it can be called a...reimagining.

What verb means to hide or change something, so that it can't be recognized? To disguise something

What adjective describes an activity or form of entertainment that helps you forget about unpleasant or boring things? Escapist

This phrase means you want something and are trying to get it. To set one's cap at something

If something makes you pay attention to it because it's so interesting and exciting, it can be described as...compelling.

What adjective describes a true and accurate copy or reproduction of something? Faithful

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

See *Spotlight* 10/2017, page 32

Language

[12] Save your English!

David: There are many similarities between German and English. Both are descended from a common root language — Proto-Germanic — and both have been greatly influenced by French, Latin and Greek. Perhaps it's all these similarities that make it so easy to overlook the ways in which each language has taken a different path.

come to pass

► geschehen, sich ereignen

descend

► abstammen

Proto-Germanic

► urgermanisch

similarity

► Ähnlichkeit

In the October magazine, we introduce you to our new language superhero: *Spotlight Corrector Woman*. She explains some of the most common mistakes that German native speakers make in English. Now, *Spotlight Corrector Woman* will test you on some of the tricky differences between the two languages. The focus of the first section is verbs. She'll say two sentences. In the pause, decide which one is correct. Are you ready? Let's begin.

SCW: "I've been in Boston last year."
"I was in Boston last year."

The second sentence is correct: "I was in Boston last year." The present perfect — "have been" in the first sentence — tells us about the present, the situation up until now. That's why you shouldn't use the present perfect when you talk about a finished time — "last year", in this case. Instead, you have to use a past tense.

"I look forward to hearing from you."
"I look forward to hear from you."

The first sentence is correct: "I look forward to hearing from you." In the expression "look forward to", the "to" isn't a marker for the infinitive form of a verb. It's actually a preposition — you look forward to something. If you follow a preposition with a verb, the verb should normally be in the -ing form, the gerund.

"I drive to work by train."

"I travel to work by train."

The second sentence is correct — unless you're a train driver, of course. The verb "to drive" only refers to being in control of a car, bus, truck or, yes, a train. If you're a passenger, you're travelling with the vehicle. You could also say "I come — or go — to work by train." By the way, you don't drive a bicycle or motor-bike — you ride them.

"Can you borrow me 10 euros?"

"Can you lend me 10 euros?"

The second sentence is correct: "Can you lend me 10 euros?" "To borrow" is to take something from someone for a certain time. "To lend" is to give something to someone for a certain time.

See *Spotlight 10/2017*, pages 34–41

tricky

• knifflig

[13] Prepositions and conjunctions

David: In the second part of our exercises, we'll look at prepositions and conjunctions with Spotlight Corrector Woman. Listen to these two sentences and decide which is correct.

SCW: "I have to finish my report until Thursday."

"I have to finish my report by Thursday."

The second sentence is correct: "I have to finish my report by Thursday." The word "by" means "not later than the time mentioned" — for example, "Can you finish the work by six o'clock?" "Until" means "up to the point in time mentioned" — for example, "You're not going out until you've finished the washing."

"I've lived in London since five years."

"I've lived in London for five years."

The second sentence is correct: "I've lived in London for five years." Both "for" and "since" are used to describe how long something has been happening, but they are not the same. We use "for" with a period of time — "John has been working here for six months." "Since" is used with the start of a period of time — "John has been working here since April."

"If you have any problems, just call me."

"When you have any problems, just call me."

The first sentence is correct: "If you have any problems, just call me." We use "when" for things that are sure to happen — "When Peter comes back from New York, we'll have a party." In this example, the speaker is sure Peter will come back. We use "if" for things that might happen — "If I ever go to New York, I'll visit the Statue of Liberty." In this example, the speaker might go to New York in the future, but it isn't certain.

And here are the final sentences:

"I work for Siemens."

"I work by Siemens."

The first sentence is correct: "I work for Siemens." In English, you work "for" a company, not "by" one.

See Spotlight 10/2017, pages 34–41

[14] Aspects of vocabulary

David: In the final part of our exercises, Spotlight Corrector Woman looks at aspects of vocabulary. Here are the first sentences:

SCW: "Our headquarter is in Vienna."

"Our headquarters is in Vienna."

The second sentence is correct: "Our headquarters is in Vienna." This has nothing to do with

singular or plural — the “s” at the end of “headquarters” is a part of the word. In fact, “headquarters” can take either a singular or plural verb: “Our headquarters is in Vienna” or “Our headquarters are in Vienna.”

“The film was dubbed into English.”

“The film was synchronized into English.”

The first sentence is correct: “The film was dubbed into English.” In English, to replace the original speech in a film or television programme with words in another language is “to dub”.

“Could I have the menu card, please?”

“Could I have the menu, please?”

The second sentence is correct: “Could I have the menu, please?” In English, you use the word “menu” to describe a list of the food that’s available at a restaurant. There may be a separate menu for wine and other drinks. This is called the “wine list”.

“I’ll send you all the informations you asked for as soon as possible.”

“I’ll send you all the information you asked for as soon as possible.”

The second sentence is correct: “I’ll send you all the information you asked for as soon as possible.” In English, “information” is an uncountable noun, which means there’s never

an “s” at the end. There’s also an informal version — “info” — this is also uncountable, so the word “infos” doesn’t exist.

David: Thank you, Spotlight Corrector Woman! You’ve saved the day once again. We hope you’ll be back to help us soon.

See Spotlight 10/2017, pages 34–41

Peggy’s Place

[15] A “thank you” to Susi

David: Now it’s time to pay a visit to Spotlight’s very own London pub, Peggy’s Place. If you’ve been following the story recently, you’ll know that there’s been a lot of drama at the pub. Peggy has fallen in love with a businessman called Alan. She’s even left her husband, Phil, and is going to sell the pub. Could anything change Peggy’s mind before it’s too late? Let’s find out in this month’s episode of Peggy’s Place.

pay a visit

► einen Besuch abstatten

Peggy: Here we go again!

George: You make it sound as if this happens every day.

Peggy: That's the way it feels.

George: Come off it! How often have you really been in this situation?

Peggy: More often than I care to remember, George.

George: It just seems that way to you. Nobody else can remember the last time this happened.

Peggy: Women don't forget these things. Men, bless them, do.

George: You're certainly right there.

Peggy: Sometimes I am more like my daughter, Jane, than I care to believe.

George: When did you start to think that something might be wrong?

Peggy: It's the strangest story.

George: Tell me. I've got all the time in the world. Maggie's gone to her Scottish dancing class this evening.

Peggy: She still does that?

George: Yes, I know. I try to keep mum about it. But anyway, your story...

Peggy: Well, I was walking home from the shops to Alan's place, when there was a terrible thunderstorm.

George: I remember. Last week, it was.

Peggy: Anyway, it was bucketing down, and the lightning was really close. I was in the middle of the park when it started.

George: You don't like thunderstorms, do you?

Peggy: I'm petrified of them. So I went and stood in that old bandstand.

George: Wasn't it pulled it down.

Peggy: No. It's still there. Anyway, I'm standing there shivering and shaking, when I notice a woman by one of the pillars. She smiles at me, and we get chatting.

George: It's good to have company.

Peggy: She said her name was Susi. We struck up an immediate rapport and — you know what it's like sometimes with strangers — I started telling her all about Alan.

bandstand

► Bühne, Musikpavillon

bucket down *ifml.*

► in Strömen gießen

Come off it! *ifml.*

► Jetzt hör mal auf damit!

keep mum about sth.

► über etw. Stillschweigen bewahren

petrified: be ~ of sth.

► eine Heidenangst vor etw. haben

pillar

► Säule, Pfeiler

pull: ~ sth. down

► etw. abreißen

rapport

► innere Beziehung

shiver

► schlottern

strike up

► anknüpfen

George: I thought you and him were blissfully happy.

Peggy: I had started noticing stuff about his behaviour.

George: Like what?

Peggy: Wait! I'll explain. This woman Susi had the loveliest eyes, and she was just watching me, so it all came pouring out. Alan might be great at making big speeches, but there's nothing behind it. He has no money, no friends and, worst of all, no character.

George: That was pretty clear to all of us.

Peggy: Maybe this woman was a Buddhist or something; she was just so calm. When I'd finished talking, she simply said, "Trust your instincts" and gave me a hug.

George: Sounds like someone you should be friends with.

Peggy: That's the really strange part. The storm was over, so I shook out my jacket and, when I turned back, she had gone.

George: Well, she told you what you needed to know.

Peggy: Exactly. I went straight home and confronted Alan. It turns out he has three other women on the go, and he has begun seeing Jane behind my back.

George: What are you going to do now?

Peggy: I will have to make a great big humble pie and eat it and hope Phil takes me back.

George: Can I have some of that pie?

Peggy: We'll see. But one thing's for sure: it will have the name "Susi" written in great big letters on the top.

Source: Spotlight 10/2017, page 14

English at Work

[16] Organizing a telephone conference

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time Ken gives tips on organizing a telephone conference.

blissfully happy

► glücklich

hug

► Umarmung

humble pie: eat ~

► jmdn. demütig um Vergebung bitten

on the go *ifml*.

► hier: etw. am Laufen haben

pouring: come ~ out

► heraussprudeln

pretty

► ziemlich

turn out

► sich herausstellen

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. If you ever have to organize and facilitate a telephone conference, it's good to have a simple checklist to start off the conference in the right way. In a moment, you'll hear how Alice uses a five-step approach to start her telephone conference in a friendly but professional way.

Let's practise this five-step approach together. First of all, think of your own work situation and decide on a reason for a telephone conference. Now we'll go through the start of Alice's conference, and of yours, step by step.

First, I'll tell you the step. Then you'll hear Alice. Afterwards, there'll be a pause for you to speak. Use Alice's inputs as a model for the start of your telephone conference.

Step 1. The opening and the roll call. You need to know who's logged in.

Alice: OK. This is Alice Grant, your chair for today. Shall we start?

Let's first check who's with us. I'll call out your names one by one. Could you say "Yes" when you hear your name?

Ken: Step 2. Aims and motivation. Make a general statement of aims and encourage the participants.

Alice: As you know, the main items we have to

discuss today concern standardizing our staff recruitment process.

It's important to get this issue resolved as soon as possible. I'm sure we all have a lot of good ideas and suggestions we can add to our discussions.

Ken: Step 3. Names protocol. If people aren't very familiar with each other, you might ask them what they want to be called.

Alice: So before we actually start, there's one practicality we need to discuss. Shall we use first or last names?

approach

- ▶ Ansatz, Methode

chair

- ▶ Leiter(in), Vorsitzende(r)

facilitate

- ▶ einrichten, moderieren

log in

- ▶ sich einloggen, anmelden

participant

- ▶ Teilnehmer(in)

practicality

- ▶ Zweckmäßigkeit, Sache

resolve

- ▶ beschließen, lösen

roll call

- ▶ Anwesenheitsüberprüfung

staff recruitment

- ▶ Personalbeschaffung

Ken: Step 4. Review the agenda. Experts on business meetings suggest that additional items should only be included if an urgent decision is needed or if the information is of considerable interest or importance to the group.

Alice: Everyone should have received the agenda. Do you all have it on screen in front of you now?

Does anyone have any comments or suggestions for last-minute changes or additions?

Ken: Step 5. Time problems. Find out if anyone is logging out early or whether someone is logging in later. Stress the need for keeping inputs brief.

Alice: A couple of final practical issues before we start. Does anyone have to leave early? John? When do you have to log out? OK. We should have dealt with most of the issues by then.

And do you know if anyone is joining us later?

Alice: Finally, do remember to keep your inputs brief and to the point, so that we can finish on time.

Ken: Good. Did you manage to follow the five steps? International telephone conferences often need even greater meeting discipline than face-to-face meetings. Being the conference

facilitator is a very demanding role because you're often dealing with peers rather than subordinates, which means your authority is limited and temporary. But if you get the conference off to a good start, the other participants are more likely to relax and be active and supportive in the rest of the meeting.

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* 10/2017, page 55

brief

► kurz, knapp

copy

► Exemplar

demanding

► anspruchsvoll

on time

► rechtzeitig

subordinate

► Untergebene(r)

Short Story

[17] “A day to remember”

David: Our 60 minutes are almost up, but before then, why not sit back and listen to this month’s short story. In “A day to remember”, a young man is confronted by the madness of war while fighting for the Allies in Italy in 1944.

The morning I took the most extraordinary aeroplane ride of my life was on a spring day in Italy. The sky was clear, the sun was warm and all around, the earth was regenerating. Close by, the Mediterranean, beautifully blue after the winter storms, sent little waves on to a long, white beach.

Although we didn’t know it, on this lovely day, I and 216 other men were on a mission to kill. It was 1944, and I was 18, a gunner in the South African Air Force, taking part in the Allied invasion of Italy.

In her spring clothing, the country looked calm and peaceful as we flew northwards over the green fields. Down below, military trucks drove end to end along the road to the front line. In the small towns and villages, we could clearly see Italians eating and drinking at outdoor cafes and going about their daily lives in the streets.

Then we were over the front line, and now all the trucks were heading south. The men in those trucks leaned out to watch us as we flew overhead. This was my first view of the enemy in real life. These people were different, I thought — not because they were wearing grey instead of khaki uniforms, but because, when they put on those uniforms, their job was to kill people like me.

We flew in close formation, so that I felt I could reach out and touch the gunner in the aircraft next to ours. The gunner’s job was to shoot down enemy fighters that might attack the bomber. But the war here was in its last stages, and the enemy had few planes left to fly. In the two years of war in Italy, none of our gunners had fired a single shot. Our aeroplanes, though, were designed to carry three gunners each, and today there were indeed three gunners in each plane.

The veteran gunner in the aircraft beside us was not like me, drinking in beautiful Italy below us. His eyes were searching for anti-aircraft batteries that could shoot up shells,

Allies

- Alliierte

anti-aircraft battery

- Flugabwehrbatterie

gunner

- Bordschütze, Fliegerschütze

shell

- Granate

designed to explode at a certain altitude. This meant that the enemy on the ground did not have to try to hit any one specific aircraft. Once the shell was fired, it would break into bigger and smaller parts. These could take off an engine or a wing or, as happened to my friend Johnny, slice through the top of both legs.

Apart from the gunner, our aircraft carried a pilot, a co-pilot and an observer. Contrary to his name, the observer's job was to kill, and the murder weapon was situated just under his cabin in the nose of the plane. That day, each of our 36 aeroplanes carried ten bombs. These were new weapons of which the Americans were very proud.

The observer was typically a young man of 21 or 22, who, after the war, might go back to university to study to become a doctor or an architect. Here, his job was to open the bomb bay doors and, when we were over the target, to press a button to let those bombs fall on people below.

We had not planned to kill anyone that day, though. Instead, our job was to destroy a bridge over a river, which the enemy had to cross to reach the front line.

Our aeroplanes flew in perfect formation, thunderous beasts in that blue sky. We followed the river valley — and there it was: a mediaeval bridge with three graceful arches. Several trucks on the bridge, their drivers

having seen us, drove off at high speed. Trucks approaching the bridge skidded to a halt. The men inside jumped out and into ditches.

Thirty-six bomb bay doors opened, and the sun danced on the waters below. In a single operation, each aeroplane released its bright green bombs. I had expected heavy bombs to fall straight down, and I thought, “My God, they've released them much too soon.”

The bombs sailed horizontally for a few moments, though. Then slowly they dropped their noses and fell away from us. But they stayed close together, almost as one body, aimed right at the heart of the bridge. All this took only a

approach

- ▶ sich nähern

arch

- ▶ Bogen, Gewölbe

bomb bay door

- ▶ Bombenschachtklappe

contrary to sth.

- ▶ im Widerspruch zu etw., entgegen etw.

ditch

- ▶ Graben

graceful

- ▶ anmutig

mediaeval

- ▶ mittelalterlich

nose

- ▶ hier: Bug

skid to a halt

- ▶ mit quietschenden Reifen zum Stehen kommen

slice through sth.

- ▶ durch etw. durchschneiden

moment, of course, but it seemed to me like an eternity.

Then we were over the bridge. The bombs were now far behind us — still sailing towards the centre arch. But suddenly, they, too, were over the bridge, flying in unshakeable formation, yet no longer within our control.

The river curved slightly, and there came into view an ancient village, its houses built so closely together that they presented a solid wall to the oncoming weapons. For just a split second, the 360 bombs disappeared into the wall, piercing it like arrows entering flesh.

Then, with one ear-splitting crack, every house disintegrated, and together they rose into the air in a great cloud of dust. The whole village and those within it went up: unshaven old men, who moments before had sat in cafes, housewives at washing tubs, children playing on the streets.

The explosion even shook the aeroplanes. But slowly we dipped our wings and turned south again, away from the river, away from the war zone, back to Italy in her spring glory.

When we landed, the engineer officer was waiting sleepily in his jeep. “Well, how did it go with the bridge?” he asked without real interest. “We fucking missed the thing,” said the lead pilot. “Again!” said the co-pilot. And they got into the jeep and drove off.

Source: Spotlight 10/2017, 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.

dip

• senken

ear-splitting

• ohrenbetäubend

eternity

• Ewigkeit

oncoming

• nahend

pierce

• durchbohren

split second

• Sekundenbruchteil

subscriber

• Abonnent(in)

washing tub

• Waschzuber

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Contents

1. Introduction	1:19	10. Historical fiction: reimagining, not reproducing	5:38
2. In the Spotlight Wiped away	1:55	11. Words and phrases	1:48
3. A Day in My Life Hannah Stuart-Leach, yoga teacher	3:33	12. Language Save your English!	3:21
4. Britain Today Rules for reading	4:53	13. Prepositions and conjunctions	2:49
5. Travel Off the grid in Ireland	4:29	14. Aspects of vocabulary	2:46
6. Comprehension questions	1:50	15. Peggy's Place A "thank you" to Susi	4:15
7. Everyday English Going to the cinema	3:23	16. English at Work Organizing a telephone conference	6:10
8. American Life One lucky son of a gun	4:27	17. Short Story "A day to remember"	6:13
9. Replay: Recent news events Introduction	0:36	18. Conclusion	0:32
		Total playing time	60:06