



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISCH



AUDIO

Spotlight

11
17

Spotlight

AMERICA...
still our friend

Wie junge Amerikaner
für die Ideale
ihrer Nation kämpfen

Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

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

Have you been listening to the rhetoric and following the policies of the US government under President Trump? Then you may be asking yourself if the Americans still have the same values as Europeans. But the US we know and love is still there. We hear from a young US politician who is fighting to really make America great again.

On the same theme, members of the *Spotlight* and *Business Spotlight* teams take part in a round-table discussion on the direction in which US politics and society are heading.

We stay in the US for our Everyday English section where we look at words and phrases Americans use to talk about Thanksgiving.

In the Spotlight

[2] The Shed

David: There's never been a shortage of ambitious projects in New York. But even in the city that never sleeps, a new arts centre on Manhattan's West Side is making jaws drop. Listen now to find out more about the Shed.

It's a terrific addition to the High Line: a six-story tall performing-arts space on wheels. The site, a park built on a disused elevated train line, is well-known as a showcase for art and architecture in New York City. This building straddles the two and just may take the cake. Designed by the New York firm of Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the unprepossessingly named "Shed" is taking shape on 30th

cake: take the ~
N. Am. ifml.

➤ den Preis davontragen

disused

➤ stillgelegt, ausgedient

elevated train

➤ Hochbahn-

head

➤ hier: gehen, steuern

jaw: make ~s drop
ifml.

➤ vom Hocker hauen

straddle sth.

➤ dazwischen liegen, überspannen

unprepossessingly

➤ unscheinbar

Street — right where the High Line meets a big building project called Hudson Yards. The Shed’s most exciting aspect is a “nesting” effect, reports *The New York Times*: The structure’s transparent outer shell can be rolled away from the permanent part, doubling the floor space and creating a performance hangar on what is otherwise an outdoor plaza. The Shed is due to open in 2019.

Source: Spotlight 11/2017, page 11

A Day in My Life

[3] Joe DeMarco, volunteer pilot

David: Sometimes angels really do have wings. Joe DeMarco used to work in the building industry in New York and fly planes as a hobby. Then a request to fly a two-year-old boy with cancer to New York City for an emergency operation changed DeMarco’s life. He closed his construction company and set up the charity organization Wings Flights of Hope. The charity includes a group of pilots that fly patients to and from their hospital appointments for free. This can mean the difference between life and death for those who can’t travel on commercial flights because of the risk of infection and also for transplant patients when donor organs become suddenly available far away. Listen now

as DeMarco talks about why the job means so much to him.

It’s a great feeling when you hear the good stories — people that are cancer-free now and live a normal life. You know, you see the people that are at the worst part of their life, but they’re happy that someone’s giving them hope. Some people do say to me, “How do you... Isn’t that depressing? I mean, you’re flying people that are terminal.” A lot of people are terminal and, you know, you fly people for three years and then they pass on. But, you know, we’re giving them a chance. I see the spirit they have. You know, you sleep [well] at night [when] you’re part of someone’s fight to survive.

David: DeMarco flies out of Teterboro Airport, located in the US state of New Jersey. As Teterboro is only 20 kilometres from Midtown Manhattan, the airport is a popular destination

cancer

► Krebs

donor

► Spender-

for free

► kostenlos

nesting

► hier: ineinander
verschachtelt

pass on

► sterben

terminal (ly ill)

► unheilbar krank

for those flying with private and corporate aircraft. Listen now as DeMarco talks about the rich and famous people who use the airport. By the way, JetBlue is an American budget airline.

Yeah, you don't know who you're going to see here. Bon Jovi was here last Friday when I was here. Donald Trump came through. Before he was even nominated, and I thought it was really nice, he came through with his people, and he came back in and saw a young little guy with cancer. He came back in and wished the kid good luck and took a picture with him. I thought that was very nice. I saw Prince here about a week before he passed. He didn't look very well. You don't know who you're going to see, but this is how everybody travels. They don't go with JetBlue.

We're going to hear from one of DeMarco's passengers now. Crystal McClear has thyroid cancer. As there was no suitable option for treatment in her hometown, DeMarco's charity brings her to where she can be properly looked after. Listen now as McClear talks about her situation.

I've been going here since June for my cancer treatment. It's my fifth reoccurrence. It's tough some days, but you try and do your normal stuff and pretend it's not there sometimes. It's

an aggressive thyroid cancer. We'll find out tomorrow the results. I'm still anxious every time I have to get results. Hopefully, the cancer is being good, and we can just continue our life.

See Spotlight 11/2017, pages 16–17

Britain Today

[4] A half-eaten mess

David: In the UK, there's a strong link between private boarding education and future leadership. For children whose parents are wealthy enough, there's a traditional path leading from schools like Eton and Harrow to Oxford or Cambridge University and then on to top positions in the world of law, the army, finance and politics. In this month's Britain Today, Colin Beaven wonders if such traditions really do the country much good.

boarding education

- Internatserziehung

budget airline

- Billigflieger

by the way

- übrigens

corporate aircraft

ifml.

- Firmenflieger

reoccurrence

- Wiederauftreten;
- hier: Rückfall

thyroid

- Schilddrüsen-

Would you like to see the dessert menu? Most of us nod when asked that question. The British have such a sweet tooth. Now, what shall we choose? Bread-and-butter pudding, sticky toffee pudding, cheesecake or Eton mess?

Eton mess? It's a mixture of meringue, cream and strawberries. And, yes, it does look a mess. As for Eton, it's the elite private school that's produced 19 British prime ministers, the last of them David Cameron. The story goes that Eton mess was invented there.

You may remember David Cameron. He left politics when he lost the Brexit referendum. He certainly left us a mess, but perhaps it's unfair to blame his school. Maybe it's only half-fair, in which case, he left us a half-eaten mess. Not all prime ministers went to Eton. Its traditional rival is Harrow, which is where Winston Churchill went to school.

Will David Cameron make a political comeback in the way that Churchill did? Having lost the election in 1945, Churchill was back as prime minister in 1951. It's unlikely. But there may be a way he could still use his talent for translating a popular pudding into politics. If you visit Churchill's old home at Chartwell, you'll see a letter of congratulations from Buckingham Palace, sent when Churchill was head of some organization that was celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

The congratulations come from Prince Philip,

with a puzzling extra comment. He writes along these lines: some things have no use or value, but people still keep them because they give pleasure and satisfaction. In other words, Churchill's organization was pointless, but it made people feel better. It's not much of a compliment, but as Prince Philip was no doubt aware, he was almost describing his own job, too — perhaps even his wife's.

If the monarchy really is nothing more than a bit of harmless fun, you might feel it doesn't matter that it's passed from parent to child without checking for talent. Or you might feel there are better ways of choosing heads of state.

But then, if we had a president instead, you might not want to copy the Americans and choose someone who's completely new to politics. So would we have no choice but to

matter: not ~

• nicht wichtig sein

meringue

• Baiser

mess

• Chaos, Kuddelmuddel

nod

• nicken

pointless

• zwecklos

pudding

• Nachspeise, Auflauf

puzzling

• rätselhaft, verwirrend

sticky toffee pudding

• süßes Dattel-Karamell-Küchlein

put a recycled prime minister in Buckingham Palace? Like... David Cameron?

Or, even worse, Tony Blair? When he was prime minister, Blair wanted Britain to be a meritocracy. Perhaps there really is someone somewhere who deserves to be head of state. I can't imagine he'd want the job, but Professor Stephen Hawking would be ideal; he already has the word "king" in his name.

Even if David Cameron doesn't become president, we can expect to see more Eton mess in British politics. The foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, also went to school there.

How on earth do we get out of this mess? We could stop choosing politicians from the elite, and find new ones from ordinary schools and more bread-and-butter backgrounds.

Source: Spotlight 11/2017, page 15

Society

[5] Making America good again

David: Just what's going on in America right now? It seems that with each new demonstration, riot or scandal, the country becomes more divided — between black and white, conservative and liberal, rich and poor, male and female — where will all this conflict lead? And ruling over the chaos is one of the most divisive

presidents ever to occupy the White House. In the November issue of *Spotlight*, journalists Talitha Linehan and Alex Kingsbury set out to rediscover the America we used to know and love. On her journey through California and Nevada, Talitha was lucky enough to interview Ammar Campa-Najjar. The 28-year-old is making history as the first Latino-Arab American to run for Congress. Campa-Najjar has a very interesting story. He was born in San Diego County, but grew up in Palestine and finally returned to the US just weeks before 9/11. Prior to becoming a candidate for Congress, Campa-Najjar worked on President Barack Obama's re-election campaign in 2012, then became an intern at the White House and went on to work for the Labor Department.

bread-and-butter

► Lebensunterhalt;
hier: gewöhnlich

divisive

► Uneinigkeit schaffend,
spaltend

foreign secretary UK

► Außenminister(in)

intern

► Praktikant(in)

Labor Department US

► Arbeitsministerium

meritocracy

► Leistungsgesellschaft

prior to

► bevor

riot

► Unruhen

run for

► kandidieren

Listen now as Campa-Najjar describes how his unique journey led him to become politically active.

I always talk about how, you know, growing up, I was never considered Latino enough for the barrio, I wasn't Arab enough in Gaza, and then on the eve of 9/11, when I came back, I certainly wasn't considered American enough after what happened. So that was a really difficult part of my childhood, but the silver lining is that it kind of made me have to step outside of my own identity and kind of look at things from a panoramic perspective, and it kind of made me appreciate everyone's struggles, not just my own. And I had to be really astute about looking at the way people think and feel about the world, differently than my own, to be able to adapt. And my political activism, really, was born out of that existential identity question.

David: Being both Hispanic and Arab, Campa-Najjar is particularly concerned about President Trump's attempts to impose a travel ban on people from certain Muslim countries, as well as his plans to build a wall along the US and Mexico border.

I'm a Latino-Arab American, and what was said in 2016, the campaign pledges that were

made in 2016, seeing them become, you know, the governing policies of our country is concerning. When people talk about the ban and the wall, it's not an abstraction to me, it's not even symbolism. It's personal because it really reminds me of my family, the struggles that we still go through today, trying to break down stereotypes.

See Spotlight 11/2017, pages 30–41

[6] US politician Ammar Campa-Najjar

David: Now for the second part of the interview with up-and-coming US politician Ammar Campa-Najjar. One of Donald Trump's most effective strategies during the 2016 campaign was appealing to working-class, blue-collar Americans who weren't benefiting from globalization or technology. Rather

astute

► scharfsinnig, bewusst

benefit from sth.

► von etw. profitieren

blue-collar

► Arbeiter-

impose

► anordnen

on the eve

► unmittelbar vor

pledge

► Versprechen

silver lining

► gute Seite

unique

► einzigartig, einmalig

than, like Trump, looking to revive out-dated industries, Campa-Najjar hopes to help workers retrain for industries where there are real job opportunities. He uses the expression “new-collar jobs” — these are jobs in which workers need a specific technical skill set that doesn’t necessarily come from a four-year degree course. Examples can be found in the fields of healthcare, engineering and programming.

A lot of traditional, working-class, blue-collar jobs are just being supplanted by automation, and then, other more traditional fields like agriculture don’t provide a decent wage because there are immigrants who will do the job, and you’re seeing this phenomenon not just in America, it’s across the world. The question now is how do we transition entire communities from blue-collar to new-collar jobs?

In the 2018 midterm elections, Campa-Najjar will be challenging Republican representative Duncan Hunter in California’s 50th congressional district, which includes many of San Diego’s northern and eastern suburbs. Campa-Najjar hopes that, if elected, he will have enough independence and power to implement meaningful policies. One of the advantages he has is that his financial backing comes from private and not corporate donors.

Politicians, all they care about is fundraising, and the parties, all they care about is fundraising. So, we’ve been able to raise more than the incumbent this last quarter. No challenger in the district’s history has done that, and all of it’s been no corporate money, no pacts, no special interest. We haven’t got a single endorsement from the establishment because they don’t think a brown kid with a funny name could win and they forget that we’ve done it before actually, but they just don’t have a lot of faith now, and that’s fine. But we’ve already done that, and I think if I win on those terms, I won’t be worried about, you know, getting a phone

corporate donor

- Firmensponsor

decent

- angemessen

degree course

- Studium

endorsement

- Sponsoring

implement

- umsetzen

incumbent

- Amtsinhaber

retrain

- umschulen, sich neu ausbilden

revive

- wiederbeleben

supplanted

- verdrängt

transition

- überleiten

wage

- Lohn

call from a donor who's from big pharma or oil or whatever, saying, like, if you go too far down this road, we're not going to fund your campaign, we'll fund your adversary and you have no treasure chest to win. If I do that, I think I'll enter into office as the first, you know, Latino-Arab in Congress in the Trump era.

See Spotlight 11/2017, pages pages 30–41

[7] Round-table discussion

David: Continuing with our theme of making America good again, we now have a round-table discussion featuring members of the Spotlight and Business Spotlight teams.

Inez: Hello, this is Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of Spotlight magazine. A lot of people in Europe, particularly in Germany, are looking at what's happening in the US, they're listening to the rhetoric of President Donald Trump, and asking themselves, "What has happened to the United States that we thought we knew? What has happened to the country that we, historically, had such a connection to?" In essence, they're actually asking themselves, "America, are you still my friend?" So this month in Spotlight, we talked to two correspondents, we commissioned two correspondents in the US, one on the East Coast and one on the West Coast,

to find out where is America going. Spotlight's deputy editor, Claudine Weber-Hof, commissioned the article and she's going to give us some background. Claudine.

Claudine: Thank you. That was a good description, I think, of the European perspective that we hear about every day in the press over here in Germany. When I spoke with the two correspondents, and I said to them, "Look, people over here are asking themselves, 'Is America still our friend?'" their response was, "What are you talking about? Of course America is still a friend to Europe. Of course, to Germany in particular." And from the American perspective, the crisis in politics that we're seeing right now, it's existed for quite a while. The country's been polarized for many, many years, under President Obama, very much so. But they also added that having Donald Trump in office just brings it all to a head. I then asked them if they

adversary

• Gegner(in), Konkurrent(in)

commission sb.

• jmdn. beauftragen

deputy editor

• stellvertretende(r) Chefredakteur(in)

editor-in-chief

• Chefredakteur(in)

head: bring it to a ~

• auf die Spitze treiben

in essence

• im Wesentlichen

could please go out and find three interviewees, people to speak with, who are involved in grass-roots activism. Not necessarily very far left on the political spectrum, but somewhere in the middle, fighting for causes that have to do with the Dakota pipeline, getting people into Congress who represent regions better, issues such as gerrymandering, a little bit of insider baseball in politics. What's come out is, I think, a nice wide-ranging report that shows how multifaceted the country is and that, yeah, the America that we know and love is still there. It's changing. We're seeing a lot of the change in the press, and it'll be really interesting to see where we end up.

Inez: Right. OK. Thank you, Claudine. We've also asked Ian McMaster, the editor-in-chief of *Business Spotlight* to come into the studio today. Ian, *Business Spotlight* has also been following the Trump presidency, obviously. Do you think there's an ideological rift opening between Europe and America, specifically maybe Germany and the United States?

Ian: I think that people in Europe, and Germany in particular, have a very strange view of America. They see a part of America that they want to see. Most Europeans who visit the States go either to the West Coast, to California, for example, or they go to the East Coast, to places like New York or Boston. They don't typically go to the middle of America, which is

a different country. So they have a one-sided view of America and were, therefore, surprised by the election of Donald Trump in a way that they possibly wouldn't have been if they'd looked more closely at what was going on in places like Michigan or places that I visited like Iowa or Ohio — a steel-industry state. I think it's very difficult to generalize about America because, as we heard, it's always been, or it's long been, a polarized country. In fact, it's been polarized back into the 19th and probably 18th century. So, it's not a new phenomenon, but we are seeing a new dimension of it. I think the polarization is more obvious through the personality of President Trump.

Inez: Ian, you were in the United States in the run-up to the election, I believe. Can you tell us the kinds of experiences you had there, the impressions you had there?

Ian: I visited New Hampshire during the primary season, which was in February 2016. I went to hear most of the candidates speak

generalize

• verallgemeinern

gerrymander

• manipulieren

multifaceted

• vielschichtig

primary season

• Vorwahlen

rift

• Kluft

run-up

• Vorfeld

on the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, and on the Republican side there was a whole range of candidates including Donald Trump. My impression, actually, was that neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump were particularly good speakers. There were other candidates who were better speakers — Bernie Sanders, for example, or even on the Republican side, Ted Cruz is a much better orator than Donald Trump. But what I did get the sense of in both camps was this incredible polarization; a complete lack of engagement and understanding for, and even a loathing for, the other side. This was very clear. I think in Europe, people didn't get that same impression, at least not in regards to Hilary Clinton. People here in Europe feel comfortable with Hillary Clinton and, therefore, didn't realize the degree of antipathy that was there on the Republican side. In the same way that from the Democrats was there, for example, when George Bush was president.

Inez: Thank you, Claudine. Thank you, Ian. If you want to know what our correspondents found out, then you'll find the feature in this month's copy of Spotlight magazine. Thank you.

See Spotlight 11/2017, pages pages 30-41

Everyday English

[8] Thanksgiving

David: On the fourth Thursday of November every year, families in the United States get together to eat roast turkey and pumpkin pie, and watch American football. The national holiday is called Thanksgiving, and this year it falls on 23 November. Most government offices, businesses and schools close, while many big cities and towns hold a Thanksgiving parade. The idea of the holiday is to give thanks for a successful harvest and for other good things from the past year. The tradition is modelled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the Native American tribes of the area. In Everyday English, we meet New Yorkers Alice and Bobby, who have just moved to

copy

- Exemplar

feast

- Fest(essen)

lack of

- Mangel an, Fehlen von

loathing

- Abscheu

orator

- Redner(in)

pumpkin

- Kürbis

roast turkey

- Truthahnbraten

London. They are talking about how to celebrate Thanksgiving. By the way, “pumpkin pie” is a sweet dessert with a spicy pumpkin filling. The pumpkin is a symbol of harvest time, and pumpkin pie is usually prepared for Thanksgiving. As you listen, try to answer this question. Why do Bobby and Alice choose to celebrate Thanksgiving on Saturday rather than on Thursday?

Bobby: What’s up with you? You look sad.

Alice: This is the first year that I won’t be with my family for Thanksgiving.

Bobby: Oh, honey! Hey! Why don’t we invite the neighbours for Thanksgiving this year? It would be fun to cook for them, as well as ourselves.

Alice: True. But it’s not a holiday here in the UK, so no one will have time on the Thursday probably.

Bobby: We could have it on the Saturday. That would be the 25th of November.

Alice: Yeah, OK. I’ll start making a shopping list. I’ll have to get my mom’s recipe for pumpkin pie. I hope I can find the ingredients here.

Bobby: I’ll ask Sadiq and Mel next door if they have time.

David: Were you able to answer the question? Why do Bobby and Alice choose to celebrate Thanksgiving on Saturday rather than on

Thursday? It’s because Thanksgiving isn’t a holiday in the UK, so their guests won’t have time on the Thursday. In the second dialogue, Alice and Bobby are making plans for their Thanksgiving celebrations. Here’s some vocabulary you’ll need to know. “To stuff something” is to fill a vegetable or meat dish with another type of food. A “squash” is a type of vegetable that grows on the ground. And a “casserole” is a hot dish made with meat and vegetables that are cooked slowly in liquid in an oven. As you listen, try to answer this question. What informal phrase means that a statement shouldn’t be taken seriously?

Bobby: Honey? OK, Sadiq and Mel are free on Saturday and would love to join us for our Thanksgiving celebration. There’s only one thing: both of them are vegetarians.

Alice: Oh, no problem. I’ll just make stuffed squash for them.

Bobby: I can make that sweet potato casserole with marshmallows. That’s vegetarian.

Alice: Yeah, you have to make that. It wouldn’t be Thanksgiving without it. But who’s going to eat all the turkey?

by the way
• übrigens

sweet potato
• Süßkartoffel

Bobby: You know what? Why don't we invite everyone we know? The more the merrier!

Alice: OK, I'm up for it if you are. Oh, and my sisters want us to join the Thanksgiving celebrations by video call.

Bobby: Great! We get to watch them eating all that delicious food. Just kidding. That sounds like fun.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What informal phrase means that a statement shouldn't be taken seriously? The phrase is "just kidding".

Source: *Spotlight* 11/2017, pages 48–49

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:

Discount stores operating in the UK are improving their image by selling high-quality products.

[10] On grocery wars: Lidl Britain

Inez: Although the idea once seemed laughable, German discount supermarkets are now major players in the UK market. Recent data from consumer consultancy Kantar Worldpanel show that Aldi and Lidl are the UK's fastest growing supermarkets. Between them, the two companies control nearly 11 per cent of the UK grocery market, with local players Tesco, Sainsbury's and Asda all losing market share.

So how are the foreign discounters managing to win over British shoppers? Despite entering the UK market in the early 1990s, Aldi and Lidl found that cheaper prices alone didn't help them capture much of the big chains' market share. However, the world economic downturn in 2008, combined with a policy of sourcing more fresh produce from British suppliers, began a discount revolution in British shopping.

In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers point out that the triumph of the discounters makes clear that customers care for value as well as for price. The problem for the older supermarkets now is how to

up: be ~ for it ifml.

➔ dabei sein

compete on price without reducing the quality of the produce. 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 you "cater for somebody", you provide the things that person needs or wants. And if somebody is "hard up", they've very little money. Listen now to the first extract.

British supermarkets were once an established social ecosystem: Waitrose and Marks & Spencer catered for the wealthy, Asda for the hard up, and Tesco and Sainsbury's for everyone in between. Then ... [i]n the early 1990s, German discount stores Lidl and Aldi arrived in Britain, catering mostly for those who couldn't afford to go anywhere else. Now they respectively make up 5.2% and 7% of the market, and are stuffed with middle-class shoppers, who shun Sainsbury's Pimm's for "Jeeves", Lidl's own brand version. On Tuesday Lidl overtook Waitrose to become Britain's seventh largest grocer. It now has plans to open 60 new UK shops a year.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the second segment, the writers explain how the discounters have benefitted from the economic recession. Here are some words you'll need to know. Something that's not developing, growing or changing can be

described as "stagnant". And when a government has a policy to reduce the amount of money it spends, it can be called "austerity".

The success of these budget shops can be partly explained by a decade of stagnant incomes and government austerity. The depth of the recession, and now rising food price inflation, encouraged people to hunt down the cheap deals (one survey claims Lidl beats other stores on price by some 15%)...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the final excerpt from the editorial, the writers say that the rise of the discounters is a warning that the big British supermarkets shouldn't ignore. Here's some vocabulary you should know. Products that are expensive and are also of high quality can be called "upmarket". "To outpace" is to move or develop faster than someone or something else.

But the rise of Lidl and Aldi reveals something more surprising about British shoppers: look beneath the surface of the triumph of the discounters and it is clear they care for value as

grocer

• Lebensmittelhändler(in)

shun

• meiden

well as price. A decade ago, when these shops were equally good value, but sold cheap food in bleak Teutonic surroundings, they did not attract many customers. Only when they made efforts to compete on quality did their current boom begin. So now they are sourcing fresh fish from Scotland; they claim to produce own-brand nappies of equal quality to more expensive brands such as Pampers. ... And since the summer of 2013 their combined market share has grown nearly 80%. ...

The older names are going to have to move fast to stay ahead. They are already struggling to deal with a threat from Amazon, which recently bought upmarket food store Whole Foods, and threatens to outpace them with innovative new delivery methods. ...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

[11] Replay: Words and phrases

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

If somebody has very little money, they can be described as... hard-up.

If something isn't developing, growing or

changing, it can be called... stagnant.

What verb means to move or develop faster than someone or something else? To outpace

When you provide things that a person needs or wants, you... cater for that person.

What adjective describes products that are expensive and of high quality? Upmarket

When a government has a policy to reduce the amount of money it spends, it can be called... austerity.

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

See Spotlight 11/2017, page 26

bleak

→ kahl, öde, trostlos

source sth.

→ etw.beziehen

nappy UK

→ Windel

Language

[12] Perfect punctuation

David: Language is all about communication. When speaking, we try to string suitable words together to get our meaning across. But that's not all we do. We use body language to give information that vocabulary and grammar can't fully express. The listener knows we're asking a question when we raise the tone of our voice slightly at the end of a sentence. We talk more loudly or shout to show strong emotion and make shorter or longer pauses to indicate a break in or an end to a piece of information. What do you make of the following speech?

"Listen carefully leave the house right away oh and you better go out by the back door."

Though the listener might get the meaning of what is said, no person would ever speak this way. It simply doesn't sound right, in other words, natural and clear. Try this version instead:

"Listen carefully. Leave the house right away — oh, and you better go out by the back door."

To help communicate this kind of information on the page, writers use punctuation marks. Commas, dashes, question marks, exclamation

marks and quotation marks are visual aids for the reader. They provide rhythm to sentences and often show how words should be interpreted.

In the November issue of *Spotlight*, language author Vanessa Clark helps you perfect your punctuation. In *Spotlight Audio*, we'll be looking at probably the most common punctuation mark, the comma. Not only is the comma used in many different ways to convey meaning in writing, it can also be heard when we speak.

See *Spotlight* 11/2017, pages 42–45

convey

- übermitteln

dash

- Bindestrich

exclamation mark

- Ausrufungszeichen

indicate

- andeuten

punctuation mark

- Satzzeichen

question mark

- Fragezeichen

quotation marks

- Anführungsstriche

[13] Careful with commas

David: A comma indicates only a slight pause in speech, but what a difference it makes. There are many amusing examples that show the power of the comma.

Here are two sentences. Can you hear how the removal of the short pause, which would be indicated by a comma in writing, changes the meaning?

“Most of the time, travellers worry about their luggage.”

And now without the pause:

“Most of the time travellers worry about their luggage.”

Were you able to hear how the meaning changed? In the first sentence, the introductory phrase, “most of the time”, is separated from the main clause, “travellers worry about their luggage”, by a pause (a comma in writing). In the second sentence, there’s no pause between the words “time” and “travellers”, which creates an entirely new meaning. Now we have: “Most of the time travellers worry about their luggage.” A “time traveller” is someone who can move between different times in the past or future — like the science fiction character Doctor Who from the British television series of the same name.

The use of commas in the following exercises won’t have such a dramatic impact on the meaning of the sentence. Here’s what will happen: I’ll give you a short sentence with appropriate pauses for commas. You repeat the sentence aloud, noting where the commas would go if writing out the sentence. I’ll then confirm where the commas should be. Here’s the first sentence:

“We weren’t, however, able to reach an agreement.”

Did you hear the pauses? That’s where the commas go in writing: “We weren’t comma however comma able to reach an agreement.”

You should use such pauses when speaking to set off expressions that appear in the middle of sentences. These expressions often add additional information — “nevertheless”, “after all”, “by the way” and so on: “He wasn’t, after all, very well educated.” But you can remove the expression without losing the sense of the main sentence: “He wasn’t very well educated.” If such an expression is used at the start

appropriate

- geeignet, passend

introductory phrase

- Einleitungssatz

impact

- Auswirkung

or end of a sentence, a very short pause should follow or precede it. Like this:

“However, we weren’t able to reach an agreement.”

Or:

“We weren’t able to reach an agreement, however.”

In writing, of course, these short pauses are indicated by a comma.

Now, can you hear where a comma or commas would appear in this sentence if written out?

“California, which has the nation’s largest economy, is on the west coast.”

Did you hear the pauses? That’s where the commas go in writing.

“California comma which has the nation’s largest economy comma is on the west coast.”

When words, clauses and phrases that aren’t essential to the meaning of the main sentence occur in the middle of that sentence, they must be enclosed by commas.

Now try this sentence:

“John, I have some bad news for you.”

The comma marks the pause: “John comma I have some bad news for you.”

In writing, commas are used when you directly address someone by his or her name,

nickname, title or term of endearment, like “old friend”, “honey”, “my dear” and so on. In speech, pauses are used.

And here’s the last sentence:

“The film wasn’t very good, was it?”

“The film wasn’t very good comma was it?”

Question tags are short phrases that you add to the end of a statement to turn it into a question or check that the statement is correct. Examples include “isn’t it?”, “don’t you” and “would you?” You should always use a comma before a question tag in writing, and a quite short pause beforehand when speaking.

Let’s finish this section with another funny example of how important commas are. Listen to these two sentences:

“Let’s eat, Grandad!”

And now without the pause, or comma:

“Let’s eat Grandad!”

As they say, punctuation can save lives.

See Spotlight 11/2017, pages 42–45

nickname

• Spitzname

occur

• vorkommen

precede

• vorangehen

term of endearment

• Kosename

American Life

[14] The good old days

David: American columnist Ginger Kuenzel loves living in the small town of Hague in the state of New York. In this month's American Life, Ginger describes how a chance encounter in Hague's town hall led to her hearing some exciting and surprising stories.

Living in a small town can be inconvenient. The nearest grocery store and gas station, for example, are 15 miles away, and our one restaurant is open only from June to September. There are other drawbacks, too, such as the fact that nearly everyone knows almost everything about everyone else. For me, however, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

I recently ran into a couple of strangers in the lobby of our town hall in Hague, and we began chatting. After a while, the man introduced himself as Kim Fitch and his sister as Giselle. "No way!" I said. "I went to school with you." When I told them my name, they were just as astonished. We hadn't seen each other for nearly six decades. In fact, the last time we had been together might well have been right where we were standing. That's because the town hall was built in the 1980s on the site of our old school.

I invited Kim and Giselle to follow me home for a visit. My log cabin is on the same property where I grew up, so they remembered it well, even though the original house had been torn down years ago. "We used to look for arrowheads on your beach," Kim recalled as we walked around my yard.

What we thought would be just a short visit turned into hours of shared memories. Kim told me about the schoolboy crush he'd had on Darlene: Unrequited love. "Ah, but you're in luck," I said. "She works at the insurance agency in the next town. You could stop by and see

arrowhead

- Pfeilspitze

astonished

- erstaunt, überrascht

chance encounter

- zufällige Begegnung

crush: have a ~ on sb.

- ifml.
- in jmdn. verliebt sein

drawback

- Nachteil

grocery store

- Lebensmittelgeschäft

inconvenient

- unbequem, unpraktisch

log cabin

- Blockhaus

outweigh

- überwiegen

town hall

- Rathaus

unrequited

- unerwidert

if she's interested in you now that you've ma-tured." He remembered sitting next to her on the bus during a school trip to a nearby amuse-ment park. "I wanted to hold her hand, and she kept batting me away," he said. He even offered to share his candy bar with her, but she was not interested.

We had so many stories to share. He told me about his older brother George, one of the people behind the 1988 Jamaican Olympic bobsled team. It seems that George had always wanted to march in the opening ceremony of the Olympics, but was never good enough to make an Olympic team. While in Jamaica with a friend, and while consuming quite a bit of rum, the two came up with the idea of putting together a bobsled team from Jamaica. They invited all interested Jamaicans to attend an informational event, during which they showed bobsleds speeding down a track. The turnout was huge, but by the end of the video, the crowd had shrunk to a handful of people. George and his friend had their team.

Kim also told stories about his grandfather, one of the few foreigners to stay in Nanking, China, to help residents during the massacre of 1937–38. I later watched the movie *Nanking* and learned more about just how brave his grandfather had been.

Life in this small town is never boring. But that's a well-guarded secret that we prefer to

keep to ourselves. After all, we don't want our small town to get too big.

Source: *Spotlight* 11/2017, page 29

Peggy's Place

[15] Fireworks at the pub

David: Now it's time to visit our favourite London pub, Peggy's Place. If you've been following *Spotlight's* soap opera recently, you'll know that Peggy left her husband, Phil, for another man. The affair didn't last long, however, and now Peggy is back. But can Phil forgive his unfaithful wife?

Helen: Hello! Is anyone there?

Phil: Sorry, we're a bit busy today. Can you come back tomorrow?

amusement park

► Freizeitpark

bat

► schlagen

bobsled

► Rennbob

candy bar

► Schokoladenriegel

mature

► reifer werden

shrink

► zusammenschrumpfen, schwinden

turnout

► Beteiligung

Helen: What do you mean, “We’re a bit busy”? This is a pub. You’re open to everyone, aren’t you? And what are all these boxes?

Phil: I can’t explain now. As I said, you can come back tomorrow if you like.

Helen: You’ll be lucky if I come back at all with an attitude like that.

Peggy: What’s going on here then?

Helen: Your husband has just turned me away. Told me you were too busy to serve anyone a drink.

Peggy: Phil!

Phil: Yeah, what’s your problem?

Peggy: What’s my problem? That’s rich!

Phil: Look, all the weeks you were off gallivanting with your fancy man and I was here running the pub alone...

Peggy: Keep your voice down. I don’t think we need to share our marital troubles with all the customers.

Phil: Why not? Most of them know what you’ve been up to. I got tired of people asking where you were, so I stopped making excuses and just told them the truth.

Helen: So, am I going to get a drink or not?

Peggy: Of course, love. If you can just push that box aside and maybe climb over that one...

Helen: I’d rather not if you don’t mind. It says “Explosives” on the side.

Peggy: Where? You’re right. General Explosive Requirements: no person may accept... blah,

blah, blah.

Helen: Who do the boxes belong to?

Peggy: I’m blessed if I know. Phil?

Phil: Yes.

Peggy: What’s in these boxes? And why are they blocking the door?

Phil: I promised to help at the Bonfire Night party at Simone’s school and they brought the fireworks here because there’s no one at school on a Saturday to accept the delivery.

Peggy: So you thought it would be a good idea just to stack them up by the door. No wonder this place is empty today.

Bonfire Night

► UK Nacht, in der das Scheitern des Attentats auf den engl. König Jakob I im Jahr 1605 gefeiert wird

fancy

► schick

gallivant ifml.

► sich amüsieren, sich herumtreiben, flirten

marital troubles

► Eheprobleme

mind: not ~

► nichts dagegen haben

rich ifml.

► hier: lächerlich, absurd

stack: ~ sth. up

► etw. aufstapeln

turn: ~ sb. away

► jmdn. zurückweisen, wegschicken

up: be ~ to ifml.

► hier: treiben

Phil: You could have moved them hours ago ... no, actually, you couldn't because you were out shopping and drinking coffee with your friends.

Peggy: You knew I was going out. I think this is just another form of sabotage.

Phil: Sabotage?

Peggy: Yes, like telling people that I was, how did you put it, "off gallivanting with my fancy man"?

Helen: As entertaining as it is to listen to the two of you sniping at each other, a drink is what I came here for.

Jane: Hi, Mum! What on earth is all this stuff?

Peggy: You don't want to know. Phil, put the boxes outside for a few minutes, please. I'll help you with them later.

Jane: Don't mind me. I just came to collect Simone. Is she upstairs?

Peggy: Yes, I'll get her.

Jane: I'll be outside having a smoke.

Helen: But you're pregnant!

Jane: I know. I've cut down to three a day. I'll be outside.

Phil: Right, all boxes moved out.

Helen: Maybe we should tell Jane to stay away from the boxes with her cigarette.

Source: Spotlight 11/2017, page 14

English at Work

[16] Meeting notes

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 writing the minutes of a meeting.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. When you write the minutes of a meeting, there are some key verbs you can use to describe discussions and decisions. In this exercise, I'll explain a situation from a meeting and mention a verb you should use. In the pause, construct a sentence to describe the situation using the verb I mentioned. Then you'll hear a model version of what could be written in the minutes. Here's the first situation:

Everyone wants the next meeting to be held in London. Use the verb "decide".

It was decided to hold the next meeting in London.

minutes

- Protokoll

pregnant

- schwanger

snipe

- schießen; scharfe Kritik üben

Mike wants the next meeting to be held on a Tuesday. Use the verb “propose”.

Mike proposed that the next meeting should be held on a Tuesday.

Next situation: John thinks we should only meet twice a month. Use the verb “suggest”.

John suggested that we should only meet twice a month.

Everyone in the meeting thinks it was a good idea to attend the trade fair. Use the verb “agree”.

The meeting agreed that it was a good idea to attend the trade fair.

Helen was told that there would be no problem with the handover. Use the verb “assure”.

Helen was assured that there would be no problem with the handover.

No one agreed with John’s proposal to cut the budget. Use the verb “disagree”.

The meeting disagreed with John’s proposal to cut the budget.

The chair explained the importance of the presentation to the board. Use the verb “emphasize”.

The chair emphasized the importance of the presentation to the board.

Mike thought it was a good idea for John to contact Sales about the problem. Use the verb “recommend”.

Mike recommended that John contact Sales about the problem.

Helen told the meeting that she would definitely be leaving the team at the end of the month. Use the verb “confirm”.

Helen confirmed that she would be leaving the team at the end of the month.

Mike told everyone about the sales conference in Poland. Use the verb “report”.

Mike reported on the sales conference in Poland.

How did you get on? It’s important to record all the decisions and action points in the minutes of a meeting — who should do what by when. If you don’t, it’s surprisingly easy for decisions to get made and then get lost. The minutes are one way in which you can remind people of what they have agreed to do. They act like an action plan checklist. And in the next

assure

- versichern, zusagen

handover

- Übergabeprotokoll

emphasize

- betonen

meeting, you can easily follow up what has been done or not done.

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* 11/2017, page 57

Short Story

[17] "The gift"

David: It's almost time to say goodbye, but before then, why not sit back and enjoy this month's short story. In "The gift", a generous act from a stranger helps a family in a moment of great need.

Hard as she tries, Sana cannot seem to remember him. She would like to be able to tell people about his warm smile, wavy black hair or dark brown eyes, but she can't. All she can recall is the sound of his voice, in heavily accented English, saying, "Here, take this." For that, she will always be grateful. It all seems so long ago. Sana was 19 then, and is 22 now. On some days, she feels more like 35.

She queues at the bakery for flatbread and rolls, and marvels at how food so simple can smell so heavenly. Outside, the snow is already turning grey from the traffic and pollution. The cold is the one clear memory she has of her arrival. That and her young brother, Amut, crying because he wanted his father.

"How is the English lady this morning?" asks the baker with a smile as she steps up to the counter. It is their morning ritual, this joke that her English is better than his son's. She studies with the baker's son at university.

"Good, thank you, Mr Ayvaz," Sana replies as she takes her bag of bread and pays him. It is early morning and still dark as she starts the short walk home. Chains of Christmas lights stretch across the city streets like glowing spiders' webs. Sana looks at the decorations in the

copy

► Exemplar

counter

► Theke

flatbread

► Fladenbrot

generous

► großzügig

glowing

► leuchtend

marvel

► sich wundern

recall sth.

► sich an etw. erinnern

roll

► hier: Brötchen

wavy

► wellig

shop windows, the colourful lights in the front windows of the houses and apartments.

Sana's father did not believe in education for women. The teachery of the thought pains her. He had worked seven days a week to keep food on the table and clothes on their backs. All he had wanted was for Amut to take over their small farm and for Sana to marry well and produce beautiful grandchildren. That was how life was.

He had refused to believe that the conflict was real until a group of masked men burned down their olive grove. That night, Sana's father bundled his wife and two children into the back of a truck, telling them that he would pray for their safe arrival and would follow soon. He touched his wife's hand for a moment and watched silently as the truck drove off.

As she turns the corner towards home, Sana sees that new graffiti has been sprayed on the wall. "Refugees Welcome" has been painted in white over the top of the right-wing slogans and symbols. She pulls her coat close, feeling small but comforted inside the oversized garment. It is like a walking hug.

Back then, there were people holding signs saying "refugees welcome", but not everyone was pleased to see them. Some shouted abuse, others stood and stared, not knowing quite what to expect from this flood of tired arrivals. People still look at Sana today, especially at her

headscarf. But she has worked hard at learning English. Three years after her arrival, she is almost fluent.

Sana's mother has learned only a few words of the new language. It is as if she believes these foreign words will displace the memories of their old life, the sunshine and warmth, the olive trees and the taste of honey from their beehives. All far away from the sound of traffic and the click-clicking as her son studies the screen of his mobile phone instead of his schoolbooks, fingers tapping in some secret code.

Sometimes, Sana wishes for her own youth back, the life that disappeared in the dust behind the truck. But she studies hard, helps with the housework and cooking, mediates between her mother and brother.

abuse: shout ~

► laut beschimpfen

beehive

► Bienenstock

bundle

► einpacken

displace

► verdrängen

garment

► Kleidungsstück

grove

► Hain

headscarf

► Kopftuch

hug

► Umarmung

mediate

► vermitteln, schlichten

teachery

► Heimtücke

They had queued for hours at the border. She had been shivering violently beside the barbed wire fence when she felt a tap on her shoulder. She saw a young man removing his winter coat, passing it across to her. She wonders how long he stood there without it, how cold he must have felt. For the next six days, they shared the coat between them, Sana, her mother and brother, as the winter weather began to bite hard — until, at last, they reached their destination.

When Sana gets home, she will lay the table and prepare breakfast, wake Amut for school, even though he is old enough to get himself out of bed. She will await the return of their mother from her cleaning job. Then Sana will take her books, head down the stairs and out on to the street, where she will wait to catch the bus to the university. She will stand in the cold, warm in her black, oversized coat. It has aged well, the coat. And as she touches the warm woollen fabric, Sana will think again of the kindness of the young stranger who gave it to her and hope that one day she may remember his face.

Source: Spotlight 11/2017, pages 68–69

Conclusion

[18] David: Thanks for joining us for Spotlight Audio. You'll find more information about becoming a regular subscriber to either our CD or download at www.spotlight-online.de/hoeren. Join us again next month, won't you? Until then: goodbye.

barbed wire fence

➤ Stacheldrahtzaun

fabric

➤ Stoff

head down

➤ nach unten gehen

lay: ~ the table

➤ den Tisch decken

shiver

➤ zittern

subscriber

➤ Abonnent(in)

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