



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISCH



AUDIO

Spotlight

12
17

Spotlight

Authentic England

DEVON: Das Land, das einst
Agatha Christie und Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle inspirierte



Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

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

Come with us to the literary landscapes of Devon — an English county that's inspired writers like Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

What better way to get through the winter than curling up with some great books? The Spotlight team shares its recommendations in the language section.

For hundreds of years, British couples have been coming to a small Scottish village to get married. Find out what all the fuss is about in *A Day in My Life*.

In the Spotlight

[2] **Shalom, Netflix**

David: Let's begin with a story from Israel. This small Middle-Eastern country has been producing top-quality TV shows for years. And

thanks to streaming services like Netflix, these shows can now be seen by an international audience. Listen now to find out more.

In the world of television production, small budgets are an extremely limiting factor — but not so in Israel, TV critic Einav Schiff told *The Economist*.

Instead, the country has gone from strength to strength in a TV-hungry market, says Schiff, with “complex series created in frugal conditions — making the most of them”. The result has been a number of TV shows that have done well internationally. Examples include the short-lived series *Prisoners of War*, which was reimaged as the US mega-hit *Homeland*. An entertaining Israeli quiz show called *Still Standing* — its highlight, a trap door that opens to “disappear” unspectacular contestants — has exported 5,000 episodes to 15 countries.

audience

► Publikum, Zuschauer

contestant

► Mitbewerber(in),
Kandidat(in)

curl up ► es sich gemütlich machen

frugal ► bescheiden

fuss ► Aufhebens, Getue

strength: go from ~ to strength

► sich immer stärker entwickeln

trap door ► Falltür

“Producers here work much harder at adapting to the world,” said Tel Aviv-based TV producer Avi Armoza, who manages the show.

If Netflix is any measure of the global potential of a series, then Israel seems to be doing all right, even in Hebrew. The shows, which are all subtitled, tend to lean heavily on this small country’s reputation for riveting spy thrillers.

Source: Spotlight 12/2017, page 9

A Day in My Life

[3] Michelle Hall, wedding planner

David: There’s a village in Scotland that’s long been famous for runaway weddings. Runaway weddings? Well, it all started in 1754. A change in English law allowed parents of someone under the age of 21 to stop their child marrying. The law didn’t apply to Scotland, however, so young couples would elope there — in other words, they’d run away to get married there. The village of Gretna Green was just over the Scottish-English border and soon became the main destination for eloping couples. There aren’t any legal reasons for marrying in Gretna Green anymore, but the village is still a popular site for weddings. In A Day in My Life, we meet Michelle Hall, who manages a team of 15 wedding planners in Gretna Green. What

part of her profession gives Hall the most satisfaction?

I think it would have to be steering towards the hospitality part of it, and the career of the hospitality part within the wedding planning when you have dealt with somebody from start to finish. The day that they’re leaving, as husband and wife, they ask to speak with you, and it becomes quite a personal relationship. You get a big hug and a thank you, and you see them back in a year’s time, and they are so happy together.

For instance, we had one of my loveliest, loveliest moments, and I’m sure the couple wouldn’t mind me talking about this. We had a young couple from the south of England arrive here. And I think she was 32-weeks pregnant, and they were getting married for the example

adapt ▶ sich anpassen

apply to sth.
▶ für etw. gelten

elope ▶ weglaufen,
durchbrennen

Hebrew ▶ Hebräisch

hug ▶ Umarmung

pregnant ▶ schwanger

reputation ▶ Ruf

riveting ▶ fesselnd

steer towards sth.
▶ auf etw. zusteuern

I gave prior, where they wanted to bring the child into a family. And they were both teachers, [and it was] the start of her maternity leave. So they arrived the day before their wedding. [I] spoke with them and ran through how their day would be. And I went home that evening and I came back early, as I do, only to read the duty manager's book and find out that unfortunately [the bride] had gone into early labour. And she had baby Elias, who then had to be in an incubator in special care. And as a team within the hotel, we said, "Do not worry about anything." From memory, I think it was probably the Wednesday or the Thursday evening — probably the Wednesday evening — that that actually happened. So we offered the husband, well, there wasn't a husband at that point, he was still the fiancé, to stay over with us complimentary while his fiancée was in the maternity unit with the baby until they were able to transfer the baby back. We then managed to get them married on the Sunday. So she got discharged from hospital. So while baby Elias was being looked after in special care, she made the short journey back. [She] got married in her wedding dress. We got the beauticians in on their days off, and she still had all her hair and make-up done. She looked absolutely amazing having just given birth. They came back last year with baby Elias, who was one year old. [They] stayed with us, and I

got lots of cuddles, so [it was] very special. That was a very, very special couple.

See Spotlight 12/2017, pages 16–17

Britain Today

[4] Rebuilding Britain — brick by plastic brick

David: Since 1949, the Danish toy company Lego has been producing its famous plastic bricks. All these years later, Lego is still one of the most successful toy brands in the world.

beautician

► Kosmetiker(in)

brand ► Marke

brick ► Ziegel;

hier: Baustein

complimentary

► kostenlos

cuddle ► Umarmung

day off

► (arbeits)freier Tag

discharge ► entlassen

duty manager

► diensthabende(r)
Manager(in)

fiancé(e) ► Verlobte(r)

labour: go into early ~

► vorzeitige Wehen haben

maternity leave

► Mutterschaftsurlaub

maternity unit

► Entbindungsstation

prior ► früher, vorher

special care

► (Neugeborenen)
Intensivstation

In Britain Today, Colin Beaven wonders if rebuilding the UK would be any easier if Lego bricks were used.

As long as Father Christmas brings Lego, everyone is sure to be happy. What enormous quantities he must have to carry so that children can open their presents on Christmas morning and say to their parents: “Wow! He’s brought the one you wanted.”

Yes, choosing Lego is at least as much fun for parents as for children. And once the wrapping paper has been removed, it’s a race to roll up your sleeves and start building — be it a police station, service station, bus station or, best of all, a pizzeria.

Are there enough of these kits to make a complete Lego town as Christmases go by and more and more presents arrive? No, but of course, that isn’t important. If you want to create an accurate plastic model of a modern British town, you reuse what you’ve already got. Britain’s buildings get recycled, and so should your Lego.

Something as permanent as a church, for example, can easily become a wine bar if it’s no longer needed. It’s a sad moment when the vicar has to go and leaves the corkscrew behind that was used at Communion services. Still, it makes a nice house-warming present for the church’s new owners.

Paradoxically, cinemas can become churches — at least the modern sort where people seem to have fun. But that’s the minority; the majority become bingo halls, or they simply get demolished. Schools, though, have generally been quite stable. Since the 1970s, most have been comprehensive: they accept children whether their marks are high or low. Before that, children were divided. The brighter ones went to grammar schools; the rest went to secondary moderns.

There are still a few grammar schools, and before the election in June, Theresa May said she wanted lots more — which would have turned comprehensives into secondary moderns, since the brighter children wouldn’t be there. These plans were soon dropped, however. But

comprehensive (school)

► hier: Gesamtschule

corkscrew

► Korkenzieher

grammar school UK

► Gymnasium

house-warming

► Einweihungs-

mark ► hier: Schulnote

reuse

► wiederverwenden

secondary modern (school) UK

► Mittelschule, Realschule

service station

► Reparaturwerkstatt, Tankstelle

sleeve ► Ärmel

vicar ► Pfarrer

wrapping paper

► Geschenkpapier

what if Lego had already started to produce grammar-school kits as this year's essential Christmas present? Not to worry; someone in the factory would have had great fun taking them all to pieces and turning them into something different.

We do, after all, have plenty of other sorts of school to choose from: academies, faith schools and free schools. The name “free school” doesn't mean that the other sorts are schools you have to pay for. Free schools are simply free from the control of local councils. But most schools in Britain are still comprehensive, and they're now so short of money that many have had to sack teachers. Teachers are one thing it's hard to make out of old Lego material.

In case it helps, though, schools could try copying Durham Cathedral. This wonderful building now has a wonderful model of itself made with Lego — 300,000 bricks of it, all paid for by visitors, at a cost of £1 per brick.

Source: *Spotlight* 12/2017, page 15

Travel

[5] Devon Stories

David: There are some parts of Britain that particularly inspire writers. Just think of the Brontë sisters and Yorkshire, the Dorset Thomas Hardy and Daphne du Maurier's Cornwall. Another literary location is Devon, in the south-west of England. The county is home to the wild landscapes of Exmoor and Dartmoor, while to the north and south are beautiful coastlines. In the December issue of *Spotlight*, Editor-in-Chief Inez Sharp visits the places that inspired Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write some of their most famous tales.

Over the next two tracks, you'll hear excerpts from the travel feature. First listen to the excerpt. Afterwards, you'll hear a number of questions. Then, restart the track and listen to the excerpt again to find the answers. You'll hear the correct answers at the end of the track.

See *Spotlight* 12/2017, pages 18–26

editor-in-chief

► Chefredakteur(in)

excerpt ► Auszug

faith ► Glaubens-

sack sb. ifml.

► entlassen

[6] Burgh Island

David: Listen now to the first excerpt.

We set off on the 90-minute drive to Burgh Island — our first story destination. On this miniature tidal island is the Burgh Island Hotel, a lovingly renovated art-deco building. We park above Bigbury Beach, a wide strip of sand that joins the mainland and the island. Certain that we have plenty of time to walk the couple of hundred metres to our destination, H. and I cross the beach chatting and enjoying the salty air. But the sea is already lapping at us from both sides, and soon we have to take off our shoes and walk through pools of seawater. By the time we reach the island, the route back is flooded.

Perhaps it is the abrupt isolation of Burgh Island caused by the tide that drew Agatha Christie here. It is the perfect place for a crime and, in the 1930s, the queen of crime writing stayed at the hotel for weeks at a time. Christie wrote two stories set on a fictionalized version of the island, *And Then There Were None* (1939) and *Evil under the Sun* (1941).

H. and I walk up a small hill past a pub called the Pilchard Inn and there, framed by an arching cedar tree, is the Burgh Island Hotel. Building began in 1929, and to walk into the foyer is to be transported back to an age of cocktails,

chrome detailing and Noël Coward elegance. It is easy to see how the black-and-silver bar with its mirrored back wall inspired the kind of conspiratorial conversations Christie wrote.

“‘So you’re the famous sleuth, eh?’ They were in the cocktail bar, a favourite haunt of Mr Blatt’s. Hercule Poirot acknowledged the remark with his usual lack of modesty. Mr Blatt went on. ‘And what are you doing down here — on a job?’”

Evil under the Sun

David: Here are the questions.

- 1) In what style is the Burgh Island Hotel designed?
- 2) In what decade did Agatha Christie pay visits to the island?

acknowledge

► quittieren, würdigen, erwidern

arching ► sich biegend

cedar tree ► Zeder

conspiratorial

► verschwörerisch

haunt

► Platz, Treff, Ort

lack ► Mangel

lap ► hier: plätschern

modesty

► Bescheidenheit

sleuth if/mf.

► Spürhund, Detektiv

strip ► Streifen

tidal ► Gezeiten-

3) Which famous detective stars in Agatha Christie's novel *Evil under the Sun*?

If you haven't answered the questions already, listen to the excerpt again by restarting the track.

Were you able to answer the questions? Here are the answers.

- 1) The Burgh Island Hotel is designed in an art-deco style.
- 2) Agatha Christie paid visits to the island during the 1930s.
- 3) The famous detective that stars in *Evil under the Sun* is Hercule Poirot.

Source: Spotlight 12/2017, pages 18–26

[7] Hope Cove

David: Listen now to the second excerpt.

The hotel allows only paying guests and those with dinner reservations past reception, but I explain that we are on a research trip. H. and I are immediately handed a glass of sherry and invited to look around.

After admiring the art-deco panels in the ballroom, we sit down for a few minutes on the terrace to drink in the atmosphere. As we cannot see the rooms, I take out an old paperback

and, to the gentle sound of waves, start reading.

“A perfect bedroom. ... Off-white rugs on gleaming parquet floor — faintly tinted walls — a long mirror surrounded by lights.”
And Then There Were None

Had we thought to book a table in the ballroom, we could have stayed on to take in more Agatha Christie moments. Instead, we hurry down to the beach. There, we board a cross between a tractor and a monster truck, a “sea tractor” that swooshes us through the seawater back to the mainland.

H. and I drive through a rosy sunset to nearby Hope Cove. We check in at the Cottage Hotel on a hillside above the bay and then wander down to the Hope & Anchor pub for dinner. It consists of a big crab salad, a glass of the local beer and views of the sandy beach. This is about as good as it gets! We work off dinner

crab ▶ Krabben-

faintly

▶ schwach, leicht

gleaming

▶ glänzend, schimmernd

off-white

▶ cremefarben

rug ▶ Teppich, Vorleger

swoosh

▶ brausen, rauschen

tinted ▶ getönt

by taking a short walk along the South West Coast Path, which passes within a few steps of the pub. It takes us up to cliffs with a panoramic view of the cove.

The next morning, after a delicious full English breakfast, I notice a poster advertising murder mystery weekends at the hotel. “This weekend?” I ask hopefully. The friendly lady at reception laughs and shakes her head. “No, I’m afraid they are booked out months in advance, but I can give you the dates for 2018.”

So I am deprived of a chance to act out my Agatha Christie fantasies, not to mention an opportunity for H. to practise some very specific English phrases: “Sir, where exactly did you find the body?”

David: And here are the questions.

- 1) How does Inez get past the reception at the Burgh Island Hotel?
- 2) What phrasal verb means to get rid of some weight by taking physical exercise?
- 3) What is the poster advertising in the hotel in Hope Cove?

If you haven’t answered the questions already, listen to the excerpt again by restarting the track.

Were you able to answer the questions? Here are the answers.

- 1) Inez gets past the hotel reception by explaining that she and her friend are on a research trip.
- 2) The phrasal verb that means to get rid of some weight by taking physical exercise is “to work off”.
- 3) The poster is advertising murder mystery weekends at the hotel in Hope Cove.

Source: Spotlight 12/2017, pages 18–26

Everyday English

[8] Decorating for Christmas

David: Christmas is fast approaching, and in Everyday English, Carol and her teenage son Fergus are decorating the house. In the first dialogue, Carol is singing carols — these are religious songs sung at Christmas. Unfortunately, Fergus isn’t in the mood — that means he doesn’t feel like celebrating.

Before you listen, you’ll need to know some vocabulary. A “Grinch” is someone who doesn’t like Christmas. The name comes from

approach ► herannahen

get rid of sth.

► etw. loswerden

deprived: be ~ of sth.

► um etw. gebracht werden

a character in the story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by the American writer Dr Seuss. “Holly” is a plant with shiny, prickly leaves and bright red berries. And “tinsel” is a type of Christmas decoration made from pieces of shiny material. As you listen, try to answer this question. What’s the name of the part of the house just below the roof that’s often used for storing things?

Carol: Deck the halls with boughs of holly...

Fergus: Mum! Stop it! I’m not in the mood.

Carol: Don’t be such a Grinch, Fergus! I’m feeling all festive. I thought we could decorate the house today. Maybe that’ll help get you in the mood for Christmas.

Fergus: I doubt it. I’m not feeling Christmassy at all.

Carol: Hmm! So I noticed. Anyway, I’ve got all the decorations down from the attic. Look! You used to love tinsel. You could help me decorate the mantelpiece.

Fergus: OK. But I want you to know it’ll give me no pleasure.

Carol: There you go. That’s the spirit. We could go and get the tree afterwards.

Fergus: Already? Isn’t it a bit early?

David: Were you able to answer the question? What’s the name of the part of the house just below the roof that’s often used for storing

things? It’s the attic. In the second dialogue, Carol and Fergus are on their way to buy a Christmas tree. Here’s some vocabulary you’ll need to know. A “fir” is a type of tree with leaves like needles. If something is described as “naff”, it may not be stylish or tasteful. And if someone says a product or service is “a bit steep”, they mean it’s expensive. As you listen to the dialogue, try to answer this question. What informal word describes one pound in money?

Carol: So you see, if we get a Nordmann fir, the needles won’t fall, and it won’t be a problem that we’ve bought it so early. Anyway, it’s not that early. Half the street has its trees up.

Fergus: Maybe you’re right. But why don’t we get a fake tree? It seems such a shame to cut down all those trees.

Carol: Yeah, I thought about that. But we can’t have a naff plastic tree. They’ve got some really

attic ▶ Dachboden

berry ▶ Beere

bough ▶ Ast, Zweig

deck the halls UK
▶ schmückt das Heim
(Liedzeile eines engl.
Weihnachtsliedes)

festive ▶ festlich;
hier: weihnachtlich

mantelpiece
▶ Kaminsims

needles
▶ (Baum)Nadeln

prickly ▶ stachelig

nice ones at John Lewis, but they cost something like 500 quid.

Fergus: Wow! That's a bit steep.

Carol: That includes the lights.

Fergus: So how much is a real tree?

Carol: Probably about £40 pounds for a six-footer.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What informal word describes one pound in money? The word is “quid”.

Source: *Spotlight* 12/2017, pages 46–47

Around Oz

[9] Is sitting the new smoking?

David: We human beings were not built to sit around for hours at a time. We evolved to be moving all day long. But people nowadays spend most of their lives sitting — both at work and at home. Recent reports have linked this sedentary lifestyle to a number of health risks including cancer, heart disease and diabetes. The media has even called sitting the “new smoking”. In response, people have started investing in desks that you can stand at. Such products don't impress *Spotlight's* Australia correspondent, Peter Flynn. He'd prefer to see people doing some proper exercise.

I am very clear about what I do not want for Christmas, and that is one of those fashionable “sit-stand desks”. My workplace has just been moved into new offices, where every workstation is equipped with a desk that can be raised to let people stand while they work. What a waste of money! These things can cost thousands of dollars, depending on the brand, and I reckon they will fall out of fashion within a couple of years.

The rise of the sit-stand desk — no pun intended — reminds me of the life motto of Karen, one of my early girlfriends. She would ask: “Why stand, when you can lean? Why lean, when you can sit? And why sit, when you can lie?” Ah, how right she was, and still is. I just don't buy the line that “sitting is the new smoking”, something I first heard a couple of

at a time

► am Stück, auf einmal

exercise

► hier: Bewegung, Sport

in response

► als Reaktion

John Lewis UK

► Kaufhauskette der gehobenen Preisklasse

pun ► Wortspiel

quid UK *ifml.*

► ein Pfund Sterling

reckon *ifml.*

► schätzen, denken

sedentary lifestyle

► sitzender Lebensstil

six-footer *ifml.*

► etw. von 1,8m Länge

years ago. Unless you have a back complaint that makes it painful to sit, standing at your workstation will not on its own make you any healthier.

Standing is no alternative to physical activity of moderate intensity for half an hour to one hour per day, as recommended. The big problem is not sitting, but people being too lazy to exercise.

A recent Australian investigation by two university lecturers — one in media studies, the other in public health — exposed the many myths about the role played by sitting, as well as the lack of evidence to support claims that it's better to stand at work. Analysis of news articles from around the world showed that the media had reported the headline claims for the benefits of standing, but not the lack of evidence.

More than a third of the articles incorrectly reported that the benefits of healthy exercise were cancelled out by sitting too much. That's simply untrue. Proper exercise, such as moderate-intensity physical activity, eliminates the increased risk of early death, even if you sit for eight hours a day. People who exercise properly should be able to sit for as long as they like.

Oddly enough, there is a link between standing too long at work and an increased risk of heart disease. What's more, the media did not report that the first guru of sit-stand desks in the

workplace originally failed to disclose his business connection to the sale of these products. Those who promote the sit-stand workplace can't even define a specific amount of sitting time that would be harmful. No, sitting is not the new smoking. Sadly, this twisting of the truth about medical miracles is not just a problem for the mainstream media, but also for medical journals.

I recently heard Australia's most respected medical commentator, Dr Norman Swan, telling national radio that medical research papers increasingly use the introductory, or "abstract", part to make marketing claims that are not supported by the research itself. That reminds me again of my old friend Karen. For her, the sit-stand desk would be replaced by a bed, complete with a keyboard and computer screen that rotated as she turned over.

Source: Spotlight 12/2017, page 81

disclose

► preisgeben, enthüllen

exercise

► Sport machen

expose

► darlegen, offenlegen

lecturer

► Dozent(in)

oddly

► seltsamerweise

Replay

[10] 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:

Thanks to a recent study on carbon pollution, it's now possible to find out which nations and companies are responsible for damaging the climate. How soon will it be before courts decide that polluters must pay for the damage done by global warming?

[11] On climate change: see 11 in court

Inez: Once again, the planet has suffered a year of extreme weather events. In the Caribbean and the United States, huge hurricanes brought chaos and death, monsoon floods affected millions in south Asia, and mudslides and flooding in Africa and South America killed hundreds. Few scientists now dispute the existence of climate change or the role humans play in global warming. The chance of holding anyone accountable for climate change has long seemed unlikely. In recent years, however, scientific reports have

shown that much of the world's greenhouse gas emissions have come from a small number of companies.

The writers of an editorial in Britain's *Guardian* newspaper point to a new wave of legal cases against major climate polluters. If it's now possible to determine who's responsible for climate change, then it's also possible to take them to court and make them pay for the damage done. In a moment, you can listen to the first part of the editorial. Before that, let's look at some of the language used. The word "mitigation" describes a reduction in how bad or serious something is. Climate change mitigation involves actions to limit the amount or rate of long-term climate change. Many states have agreed on "mitigation targets" — in other words, lower pollution levels that will help slow down or stop climate change. The verb "to hijack" has various meanings. One of those

accountable:

hold sb. ~ for sth.

• jmdn. für etw. zur
Verantwortung ziehen

affect

• betreffen, in Mitleiden-
schaft ziehen

carbon ▶ Kohlenstoff,
Kohlendioxid

dispute ▶ bestreiten

editorial ▶ Leitartikel

greenhouse

▶ Treibhaus-

mudslide

▶ Schlammlawine

meanings is to take control of something — for instance, a meeting in order to promote your own aims and interests. Now listen to the first section of the editorial.

Recent [months] have seen Houston, Texas, literally sunk under the sheer weight of rain, Caribbean islands battered by powerful storms barrelling across the Gulf and ... Florida homes blasted by Irma. ... It seems almost certain that man-made climate change has a role in such events. ...

Such thinking should be a wake up call for the world... While governments have, via the Paris agreement, signalled the end of the fossil-fuel era, the political processes by which states will decide how to meet their mitigation targets have been hijacked and influenced by Big Carbon.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: The Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement in June highlighted the role that lobbying by major energy companies plays in such policy decisions. The Republican Party has long been in the business of climate-change denial, funded by major donors from the oil, gas and coal industries. Now let's look at some of the vocabulary you'll encounter in the second excerpt. The term "hydrocarbon" describes a chemical combination

of hydrogen and carbon. There are different hydrocarbons found in oil, coal and natural gas. And if something's clever and complicated in the way that it works or is presented, it can be described as "sophisticated". Here's the second excerpt.

Fossil-fuel companies, hydrocarbon billionaires and their allies ... have for years now been funding a massive and sophisticated campaign to mislead voters about the environmental harm caused by carbon pollution. They have good reason to: a landmark study released earlier this year revealed that 50 corporations account for more than one-fifth of all carbon

account for sth.

► etw. ausmachen

barrel ► rasen

batter

► schlagen, übel zurichten

billionaire

► Milliardär(in)

blast ► vernichten

denial ► Leugnung

donor ►

Spender(in)

hydrogen

► Wasserstoff

landmark study

► richtungsweisende Studie

natural gas ► Erdgas

reveal

► ergeben, offenbaren

sheer

► schier, allein durch

withdrawal ► Rückzug;

hier: Austritt

released into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution began.... These polluters privatised the fossil-fuel profits and socialised the cost to the world's poor, global taxpayers and future generations....

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Inez: In the final excerpt, the writers talk about three court cases taken against some of the major polluters being blamed for climate change. Let's look at some vocabulary. A company that supplies electricity, gas, or water to the public is called a "utility company". And the process of making or defending a claim in court is called "litigation". Now listen to the final excerpt.

Three major legal actions will test such thinking. First in the Philippines, where it is being determined whether polluters violated the human rights of Filipinos for their role in creating the conditions for Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest ever tropical storm to make landfall, which left more than 7,000 dead. Second in Germany, where a German utility company is being sued for costs associated with glacial lake flooding in Peru. Last in the US, where two California counties are suing 37 oil, gas and coal companies, claiming they knew their products would cause sea-level rise and coastal flooding, but failed to reduce their greenhouse gases.

Fossil-fuel companies should be held accountable for the effects of climate change. ... Climate litigation is the inevitable result of a failure of two decades of talks. But it is also an important way of reframing the climate crisis as a human rights emergency.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

[12] 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?

What term describes lower pollution levels that countries agree on to help slow down or stop climate change? Mitigation targets

What verb means to take control of something in order to promote your own aims and interests? To hijack

glacial ➤ Gletscher-

landfall: make ~
➤ Land erreichen

reframe
➤ hier: neu definieren

sue ➤ verklagen,
belangen

violate ➤ verletzen

The process of making or defending a claim in court is called...litigation.

What do you call a company that supplies electricity, gas or water to the public? A utility company

If something's clever and complicated in the way that it works or is presented, it can be described as...sophisticated.

What term describes a chemical combination of hydrogen and carbon found in oil, coal and natural gas? Hydrocarbon

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

See *Spotlight* 12/2017, page 82

Language

[13] Winter reading

David: The weather outside may be cold and even snowy, but inside is a cosy couch to curl up on. Even better would be a good book to get lost in. Luckily, the *Spotlight* team has found some exciting stories to get you through the winter months. Joining us in the studio now

are members of the team to discuss their choices.

Inez: Hello, this is Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of *Spotlight* magazine. And in the studio today with me are Petra Daniell, *Spotlight's* language editor, and Owen Connors, who's the *Spotlight* audio editor. This time we're looking at the book reviews. You'll find the long version of the book reviews in the magazine in December. But we're just going to tell you a little bit about the books that we wrote about, the books that we reviewed, and we had to read, obviously. We're going to begin with Petra, who's going to tell you about her book of choice.

Petra: Well, when I saw Inez's reading list for our December book feature, I straight away pointed at the name Anthony Horowitz and said, "I'll have that!" I hadn't read any books by him before but I knew that he'd written the screenplay for one of my favourite British TV series — *Foyle's War*. What can I say? I wasn't disappointed. *Magpie Murders* is basically a book within a book. One plot is set in present-day London where Susan Ryeland, editor

cosy ▶ gemütlich

editor ▶ Redakteur(in)

plot ▶ Handlung

screenplay ▶ Drehbuch

at a small London publishing house, reads the latest manuscript of a famous crime writer. Well, just like Susan, I took *Magpie Murders* home with me on a Friday night, curled up on the sofa, and started reading. At which point, I found myself in the second plot, which is a classic Agatha Christie-style murder mystery. But then, just as it got really exciting, and I was about to find out who committed the gruesome murder at the manor house, the manuscript ended abruptly, and I was back in the present, and in Susan's London flat. Next thing Susan and I hear is that the author of the manuscript has actually committed suicide. Well, guess the rest. Of course, he was murdered and, of course, the missing pages of his manuscript reveal a lot more than you think. But read for yourself.

Inez: OK, Petra, thank you very much for that. That sounds very exciting. Right, and now we go over to Owen Connors, who had a rather more serious book to review.

Owen: Yeah, I read *American War* by the Egyptian-born Canadian journalist Omar El Akkad. And it's a dystopian, post-apocalyptic story. So it's set in the future, at the end of the 21st century in America. Anyway, there's been a second civil war between the North and the South. This time it's not about slavery, it's about resources, it's about oil. Basically, there's been huge global warming, the sea level has risen,

Florida is gone, that's underwater, and the government says, "OK, enough with the climate change, we have to stop fossil fuel usage." But the South disagrees and secedes from the Union, and there's war. Of course, this is devastating. There's disease and displacement, and so on. Our hero in this story, or, I can't really call her the hero...

Inez: Is it an anti-hero?

Owen: She's the central character anyway.

Inez: We'll limit it to that.

Owen: Yeah. Her name is Sarat Chestnut. So we meet her first as a six-year-old and we follow her as the war shapes her life. The writer, El Akkad, he's actually been a war journalist in Canada and he's been all over. He's reported from the war in Afghanistan, from the military trials in Guantanamo Bay... The descriptions of refugee camps, and war zones, terrorism, it's all

commit sth.

► etw. begehen

devastating

► verheerend

displacement

► Vertreibung

gruesome ► grausam

manor house

► Guts-, Herrenhaus

publishing house

► Verlag

reveal ► enthüllen

secede

► sich abspalten

slavery ► Sklaverei

trial

► Verhandlung, Prozess

really accurate. And he's got a message, too. He wants to show Western readers that revenge and the desire for revenge is universal. It can affect anyone anywhere, and if you are going through certain experiences, like war, yeah, civil war, natural disasters and so on, a lot of hate can build up in you. He brings the experiences of people around the world, the really bad experiences, he brings them right over to America, to a Western, First-World situation, and says, "OK, guys. How would you react if you were in this situation?" It's a tough read, but a very rewarding one.

Inez: Well, we take a big leap now to the book that I reviewed, or one of the books I reviewed; it's called *The Brexit Cookbook*. I got this book, I actually picked it up at a bookshop and started reading and just could not stop laughing and thought, "I need to share this with Spotlight readers." The structure of the book is that you have recipes, or dishes, on two pages — one on the left-hand page that is vetoed because it's non-British, i.e., it can be a crêpe from France, it can be a chilli con carne from South America, it can be anything foreign, what British like to call "foreign muck", and that is vetoed. Or, on the other side of the page, the double page, is an approved dish, beans on toast, for example, cabbage soup versus sauerkraut, and so on and so forth. The author, I can't believe he's a real person, in fact I'm pretty sure he's not,

the gentleman is called Nigel Sewage, gives us a take on why the European, or foreign, dish is absolutely unacceptable to the British palate, and why it's very, very important for post-Brexit Britain to eat in a British manner. I have to say, it's hilarious. Let me give you a little example. We have chilli con carne, which Nigel Sewage calls a "calamity", and the ingredients he lists are peppers, paprika and paint stripper, because Brits aren't really very good with very, very hot food. So this is vetoed. And he says, "The Mexicans discovered chilli con carne when the contents of a spice rack fell into a beef dish. It has since killed millions of

approved

► zugelassen, anerkannt

cabbage ► Kohl

calamity

► Katastrophe

hilarious

► wahnsinnig komisch

hot ► hier: scharf

leap ► Sprung

muck ifml.

► Dreck, Fraß

paint stripper

► Abbeizmittel

palate ► Geschmack

paprika

► Paprika (Gewürz)

pepper

► Paprikaschote

revenge ► Rache

rewarding ► lohnend

spice rack

► Gewürzregal

versus ► gegen

veto ► verbieten

taste buds.” So this is why he says you really, really mustn’t eat this if you’re a Brit. And he also categorizes everything by how foreign it is. Everything that’s foreign has a little foreignness element. And he says, “Chilli con carne’s foreignness: As foreign as Vladimir Putin caught reading a self-help book.” It’s a very, very nice take. And then on the opposite page is beans on toast, and the ingredients listed are “baked beans, buttered toast and magnificent simplicity”. I challenge you to find that in your cupboard at home. And serving suggestions for this very British dish of beans on toast are “Best eaten while throwing copies of the deplorable Human Rights Act on the fire.” So absolutely, please don’t take this seriously, in fact share it with your friends, share it over the dinner table. The *Brexit Cookbook*, a hilarious read. I recommend it — very simple, lots of lovely pictures. As I say, no recipes to follow, but have fun. Thank you very much.

See Spotlight 12/2017, pages 36–42

Peggy’s Place

[14] Sean’s Christmas menu

David: If you’ve been following Spotlight’s soap opera recently, you’ll know that there’s been a lot of drama at our favourite London

pub. Hopefully, the Christmas spirit can bring some peace, joy and goodwill to our friends. Is that just wishful thinking? Let’s find out in this month’s Peggy’s Place.

George: So, no new grandchild for you, Peggy? I am sorry.

Peggy: Thank you. Actually, I’m still trying to decide how I feel about it. On the one hand, it would have been lovely. There’s a nativity scene at St Mary’s. It’s been in the church every Christmas for the past 30 years. Each time I look at the crib, I tear up.

George: And on the other hand?

Peggy: Oh, you know. Jane has struggled to bring up Simone. She really isn’t parent material.

crib ▶ Krippe

deplorable

▶ erbärmlich, elend

magnificent

▶ großartig

nativity scene

▶ Weihnachtskrippe

parent material

▶ hier: ein gutes Elternteil

self-help book

▶ Selbsthilfewerk, Ratgeber

simplicity

▶ Schlichtheit, Unkompliziertheit

taste buds

▶ Geschmacksknospen

tear up ▶ fast in Tränen ausbrechen

wishful thinking

▶ Wunschdenken

George: And Simone isn't out of the woods yet. Remind me, how old is she?

Peggy: She'll be 14 soon. So, yes, Jane's still got quite a few years of parenting ahead of her.

George: And it's not as if there'd be a father to help out this time.

Peggy: No. On balance, it's better this way.

Helen: What's better?

Peggy: Hello, Helen! We were just talking about Jane losing the baby.

George: How's she coping?

Peggy: I'm sorry to say this about my own daughter, but she'll be holding us all to ransom with this topic for months.

Helen: Yeah, I met her at the supermarket yesterday. She said she needed some time out. Told me she was planning a trip to a spa in France and tried to persuade me to go along — and pay for everything.

Sean: Hi, everyone! Who'd like to try the Christmas menu I've created?

Helen: I'd love to. How much is it going to set me back?

Sean: Nothing. It's just a trial run.

George: In that case, I'll have some.

Sean: Don't get too excited. The portions are very small, and I want to have your comments afterwards. I'll be back in a minute.

George: Where's Phil?

Peggy: Out buying Christmas presents with Simone and Jane.

Helen: So Phil's forgiven you?

Peggy: I don't think a relationship ever recovers from infidelity. Strange, really. Now that it's all over, I can't think what I saw in Alan.

George: Well, we're pleased you didn't run off with him. Christmas wouldn't be the same without your smiling face.

Sean: Here you go! This is the Christmas starter. It's a kind of meatball made with chicken and feta.

Jane: That doesn't sound like a very Christmasy starter.

Peggy: Hello, love! I didn't see you come in.

Jane: Mind if I try a couple of these?

Sean: But...

cope ▶ schaffen

infidelity ▶ Untreue

meatball

▶ Fleischklößchen

mind

▶ etw. dagegen haben

on balance

▶ alles in allem

parenting

▶ Kindererziehung

ransom: hold sb. to ~

▶ hier: unter Druck setzen

recover ▶ sich erholen

set: ~ sb. back *ifml.*

▶ jmdn. ärmer machen

spa ▶ Badekurort, Wellness-Einrichtung

trial run ▶ Probelauf

woods: be out of the ~

▶ aus dem Größten heraus sein

Jane: I'm starving. That's what grieving does to you — makes you very hungry.

Sean: I could get you some snacks from the bar.

Jane: Why? This is delicious. But why are the portions so small?

Helen: Give up, Sean. You'll just have to make the menu again.

Jane: Listen! I can hear carol singers.

Peggy: She's right. How lovely!

Helen: Let's go and join in!

George: The last time I sang this, I was in short trousers.

Sean: At least everyone knows the words.

All: We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year...

Source: Spotlight 12/2017, page 14

English at Work

[15] Giving a Christmas speech

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time Ken has tips on giving a speech at the office Christmas party.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Imagine you're attending an official Christmas

party at work. Before the party starts, you're welcomed by a representative of the company. Listen to these two short welcome speeches and decide which you prefer and why. Here's the first one from Doug.

Doug: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our annual Christmas party on behalf of the board. It's a real honour for me to be chosen to represent the board on this special occasion. This year, our sales have increased by five per cent and our profits have gone up by six per cent. This has meant that we could give our shareholders a reasonable dividend this year after three difficult years. The board plans to expand into the Asian market next year to compensate for the weak sales in North America. We have to do better there, Gary and the North American team! I was privileged to meet our new

(executive) board

► Geschäftsführung

behalf: on ~ of

► im Namen von

carol singer

► Sternsinger

compensate for sth.

► etw. ausgleichen

grieve ► trauern

shareholder

► Aktionär(in)

starve ► verhungern

chairman last week who sends his Christmas greetings and looks forward to even greater sales success next year. I'll hand over now to our London office who are responsible for this evening's activities. Thank you. I hope you have a good evening.

Ken: Here's the second one from Tania.

Tania: Welcome everyone to this year's Christmas party. It's great to see you all. Hands up those of you who were here last year. Do you remember the show the Paris office put on? It was terrific, wasn't it? Well, this year it's London's turn. Give them a round of applause... I'll be handing over to John and his team in a moment to get the party started. But just before I do, I have Christmas greetings from our new chairman, Karl Wendling. He would have loved to join in our celebrations, but he's in Argentina finishing off some work from his previous job. He says that after such a successful year we all deserve a good Christmas break — and an excellent end-of-year party! So, John, are you and your team ready? Let's get this party started!

Ken: I don't know about you, but I think I'd rather be at Tania's party — wouldn't you? The key aim of a Christmas welcome speech is simply to create a good atmosphere. You

want to make people smile, feel good and to have a sense of togetherness. The first speaker was too formal for a party. You certainly don't need to spend time on business details at such an event. And he shouldn't have singled out the North American team in a negative way. I also got the impression that the speaker wanted to show his own status in the company. The second speaker made the evening sound like fun. She was informal, enthusiastic and tried to involve people right from the start. Like the first speaker, she mentioned the new chairman but in a more positive and friendly way.

Now it's your turn. Imagine you have to make a short welcome speech at a Christmas party. I'll tell you what to say. You speak in the pause. Try to sound cheerful and enthusiastic. Then you'll hear Tania again as a model. Welcome your guests.

Tania: Welcome everyone to this year's Christmas party.

chairman

► (Vorstands)Vorsitzender

previous ► vorherig

single out sb.

► jmdn. herausheben

Ken: Say that it's great to see them.

Tania: It's great to see you all.

Ken: Ask the people who were here last year to put their hands up.

Tania: Hands up those of you who were here last year.

Ken: Say you'll be handing over to John and his team in a moment to get the party started.

Tania: I'll be handing over to John and his team in a moment to get the party started.

Ken: Say that before you do, you have Christmas greetings from your new chairman, Karl Wendling.

Tania: But just before I do, I have Christmas greetings from our new chairman, Karl Wendling.

Ken: Say that you want to get the party started.

Tania: Let's get this party started!

Ken: Great. Well done. Did you sound cheerful and enthusiastic? Remember that short speeches like this are mainly about creating a positive atmosphere. So it's important that you sound positive, too.

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* 12/2017, page 51

Short Story

[16] "The queen's wish"

David: Our 60 minutes are almost up. Before then, why not sit back and enjoy this month's short story? In "The queen's wish", by Talitha Linehan, an arrogant monarch discovers that there's a lot of truth in the old saying: "Be careful what you wish for, because you might just get it."

"Your Majesty, there's talk of an uprising," said Manuel, looking even more nervous than usual. "Your people are not happy."
"Then raise their taxes another ten per cent," said the queen, admiring her reflection in the decorative mirror that covered one wall of her chambers. "Maybe that will teach them a lesson."

admire ▶ bewundern

chamber ▶ Gemach

uprising

▶ Aufstand, Aufruhr

“With all due respect, I fear this will make them even angrier.”

“You fear them, poor, stupid Manuel. I do not fear such riff-raff. They have neither intelligence nor resilience.”

“You are right as always, oh, superior one! But they are wild and brutal. If they storm the castle, we may not be able to defend it. Many of your servants have already left.”

“Traitors, all of them! They will pay for their betrayal. And you, Manuel? Will you leave me?”

At this, poor Manuel fell to his knees and put his hands together. “Oh, Your Highness, most majestic of all! I am your most loyal servant. I would rather die than betray you.”

The queen laughed. “You are a fool, Manuel, but a loyal fool. Perhaps one day you can prove your loyalty to me.”

“There could be no greater privilege,” he said, his eyes glowing with love.

The queen was perfectly aware of her beauty and its effect on men. Her greatest wish was to find a way to preserve it forever, so that future generations could admire and love her, too.

A local sculptor had tried to achieve this by producing a life-size statue of the queen. It stood beside the many enormous portraits of her in the castle — none of which, in her opinion, truly captured her beauty.

“Can you believe that sculptor spent two years working on this poor replica?” she now said to

Manuel. “Then he asked for payment. He’s lucky I didn’t have him executed.”

“Your beauty is such that it is impossible to replicate,” said Manuel, “but if I may be so bold as to say it, perhaps it can be captured.”

The queen stopped fixing her hair for a moment to look at Manuel, who sounded uncharacteristically sure of himself. “Go on!” she said.

“If you can forgive your most loyal servant, I have taken the liberty of contacting the best sculptors in the land. They have told me about a technique called “lifecasting” which, it is said, can produce a bust that is identical to the model. In fact, this was the technique used to produce your father’s bust.”

“Is that so?”

betrayal ▶ Verrat

bold ▶ kühn, verwegen

bust ▶ Büste

capture ▶ einfangen

due: with all - respect

▶ bei allem gebotenen Respekt

glow ▶ leuchten, erhalten, bewahren

liberty ▶ Freiheit

lifecasting

▶ Lebendabformung

replica

▶ Replik, Nachbildung

resilience ▶ Ausdauer, Widerstandsfähigkeit

riff-raff ▶ Gesindel

traitor ▶ Verräter(in)

The queen decided to go down to the cellar to find her father's bust. After he had died and she became queen, she had all portraits and busts of him removed.

Seeing it now was like standing in front of her father again. She could almost hear him criticizing her, as he always did, telling her to be less egotistical and to think of her people.

"You can't tell me what to do now," she said, looking into her father's eyes. "You were a fool for your people, and look how they thank you: turning against your daughter. They deserve to go hungry."

She could almost believe that her father was looking back at her. Manuel was right: the bust looked exactly like him.

"Find me someone who can do this for me, Manuel," she said, putting the bust back in its box, "a replica, not just of my head, but of my entire body."

"As you wish, Your Highness."

A few weeks later, the lifecasting expert arrived at the castle. The queen's handmaids prepared her for the process. They removed her clothes, put her hair in a cap and covered her with an oily substance.

Then the expert began to apply the mould material to her body. He put it on her feet, her legs, her torso, her arms and finally her head, leaving only two openings for her nostrils and two for her ears, so that she could hear him.

The queen would not normally have tolerated such discomfort — having to stand in the same position for an hour, unable to speak — but it would be worth it. She imagined the result, how beautiful it would be, how people would come from all over the world to see and admire it, to see and admire her in all her perfection.

"The first part of the process is finished, Your Highness," said the expert. "Now, we must wait until the mould hardens before we can remove it."

He had just informed her that ten minutes had passed — ten minutes that felt like forever to the queen — when she heard sounds of chaos outside.

"The rebels are here!" someone shouted. "They're storming the castle."

Then she heard the rebels crying for her head. Her handmaids were screaming. The artist was pleading for his life. But his pleas ended suddenly. They had murdered him. They were

discomfort

► Unbequemlichkeit

entire

► ganz, vollständig

handmaid

► Dienerin, Magd

mould material

► Abguss-, Modelliermaterial

nostril ► Nasenloch

plea ► Bitte

plead ► flehen

murdering everyone in the castle. They would murder her, too.

“Find the queen!” shouted one of the rebels, his voice wild and high. “See how she spends our money, on statues of herself. This is why our children are hungry, why our people are dying. Find her! Tonight she will die!”

The queen would have smiled if she could. What fools they were! They were looking at her and didn’t know she was there. She would wait until they left and then free herself.

She waited as long as she could. But when she tried to move, she couldn’t. The mould was too hard. It felt like concrete. She tried to tip herself over and break it, but she was stuck to the ground. At this point, she began to panic.

Then she heard something that lifted her heart: the voice of Manuel, her most loyal servant. But there was another voice, too: the wild voice she had heard earlier. “Tell us where she is!” it cried.

“Yes, tell them,” thought the queen. “I’d rather they hack my head off than die like this, buried alive. Tell them!” She tried to scream, but nothing came out.

“Never!” said Manuel. “I would rather die than betray my queen.”

“Then die you will,” said the rebel.

Both Manuel and the queen screamed at the same time, but no sound was to be heard from her.

Not until hundreds of years later did an archaeologist find the mould and sell it to a famous museum in Paris. People travelled there from all over the world to see and admire it. The queen’s wish had finally come true.

Source: *Spotlight* 12/2017, pages 76–77

Conclusion

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

concrete ➤ Beton

tip: -over ➤ umkippen

subscriber

➤ Abonnent(in)

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