



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISHCH



AUDIO

Spotlight

2
18

Spotlight



The British in Germany

British communities in
Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt
and Berlin

Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the February 2018 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.

You might not realize it, but there are vibrant British communities in Germany. And since Brexit, the number of Britons becoming German citizens has greatly increased. In a *Spotlight* special, we meet one of those expat communities full of tradition — and hope for the future.

The expression “good things come in small packages” fits Wales perfectly. Long white sandy beaches, towering mountains and hundreds of castles, the country is perfect for exploring. Find out more in the travel section.

Are social media companies like Facebook and Twitter taking enough responsibility for the content on their sites? We look at the issue in *Replay*.

Britain Today

[2] The price of a new shop

David: British consumers are in love with German discount stores Lidl and Aldi. As customer numbers continue to rise, both companies are opening more stores in the UK. But not every new supermarket is welcome. In Britain Today, Colin Beaven talks about the controversy surrounding the building of a new Lidl.

The British have fallen in love with Lidl and Aldi, which have such low prices. When people talk about their favourite shops, all you hear is Lidl Aldi Lidl Aldi Lidl Aldi. It sounds as if they're all trying to yodel. But the discounters from Germany have a long way to go to catch up with Tesco, which is Britain's biggest supermarket chain and five times their size.

All these chains want to grow bigger and bigger. Yet Tesco has opened more “Express” shops, which are local and small. Perhaps Tesco believes its own advertising slogan: “Every

catch up with sb.

► jmdn. einholen

expat

► ständig im Ausland lebende(r)

vibrant

► lebendig, aktiv

yodel

► jodeln

little helps”. Lidl, meanwhile, wants to close our local branch and build a bigger one a hundred yards up the road. It seems to have a similar motto: “Every Lidl helps.”

For many, of course, a bigger Lidl sounds like an excellent idea. To build this one, all they have to do is to knock down an empty old police station — and cut down the yew tree outside. Presumably that’s not because Lidl wants to start selling firewood, nor because IKEA needs the wood to make sideboards. It’s just that they don’t want their shops to be small. That’s the whole point of building the new one. Lots of locals have complained. You can’t just chop down a yew tree that’s probably more than a hundred years old and that might grow to be more than a thousand. Visit Kyre Park in Worcestershire, for example. It’s a beautiful 18th-century landscape garden with a yew tree that’s said to be almost 2,000 years old.

Britain can’t afford to lose any trees. In Germany, they cover a third of the country; here, it’s a third of a third — about 11 per cent. In England, the number is even smaller — about eight per cent. Cut down this yew, and the eight will no doubt be seven.

It’s true that yews are poisonous. Perhaps that’s not ideal near a food shop. But they’re mystical and need a bit of respect. Almost every churchyard in the country has a yew tree in it. Our local churchyard has a whole avenue

of them, and I don’t think anyone’s ever managed to count all the trees there.

It’s like a prehistoric stone circle. Visit Great Rollright in Oxfordshire; no one can ever count the stones there — if you believe the legend. The truth is that ancient spirits watch over these places and make you lose your concentration when you try. And ancient spirits turn nasty when you upset them. We’ve all seen horror movies: builders dig holes and disturb ancient spirits that get angry and smash up a supermarket.

Ultimately, it’s no doubt a battle that Lidl will win. What’s one yew tree compared to what

ancient

- ▶ uralt, vorzeitlich

avenue

- ▶ Allee

branch

- ▶ Filiale, Niederlassung

chop down

- ▶ fällen, umhauen

churchyard

- ▶ Friedhof, Kirchhof

nasty: turn ~

- ▶ unangenehm werden

presumably

- ▶ vermutlich, wahrscheinlich

sideboard

- ▶ Anrichte

smash up

- ▶ kurz und klein schlagen

ultimately

- ▶ letztendlich

upset

- ▶ stören, verärgern

yew tree

- ▶ Eibe

happens on Amazon sites? (I mean places in the rainforest, not a web page for shopping.) Still, in the end, I might decide to avoid our new Lidl — not as a boycott, but because I hear strange voices whispering: a tree that's cut down could fall on someone, and it could be yew.

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, page 15

A Day in My Life

[3] John O'Connell, distillery manager

David: In our A Day in My Life section, we meet John O'Connell. He's a manager of West Cork Distillers, a company that produces whiskey and other spirits in the town of Skibbereen in south-west Ireland. O'Connell set up the business with two close friends, Denis and Ger McCarthy, in 2003. The distillery makes its own brands of Irish whiskey, gin, vodka, liqueurs and poitin, which is an Irish spirit usually made from potatoes. O'Connell has a background in chemistry and his two business partners used to be deep-sea fishermen. So why did they choose to start producing spirits?

We did have a fascination with spirits [at] the time. The Irish spirits industry is an industry ingrained with a lot of history. West Cork here

would have been a hotbed for illegal poitin manufacture going back hundreds of years, so there was probably a natural progression there as well. And the one thing that attracted us to the area is [that] whiskey and spirit production is a lovely blend between science, productivity and also the artisan skill of making good spirits. So [it's] a nice sort of mixture and balance between science and artisan production.

David: O'Connell talks about the production of whiskey. In a crowded market, how difficult is it to meet the demands of international tastes and requirements?

It isn't particularly difficult, well it wasn't for us, I don't think, in that the production of Irish whiskey is highly regulated, as such. There [are] parameters you have to operate within. The

artisan

- handwerklich

blend

- Mischung

hotbed

- Brutstätte

ingrained

- verwurzelt

poitin

- irischer Gerstenschaps

whisper

- flüstern

yew

- Eibe; hier: Wortspiel mit „you“

one interesting thing is that, within reason, there's no such thing as a bad whiskey. It's all about just trying different things, changing maturation conditions and wood types, etc. So it's quite easy to produce interesting products that some sectors of society will like. There are particular variants of whiskey, such as the peaty whiskey, that aren't to everybody's taste, but the general whiskey consumer is interested in new and different products, and we hope to meet that requirement.

David: Finally, O'Connell talks about why West Cork means so much to him.

I suppose everyone to some degree or another thinks where they come from is a very special place; I'm no different in that regard. I do think West Cork is quite special. The environment and the scenery [are] quite beautiful; the food, I think, is second to none. But without a doubt it's the people of West Cork. They're friendly people, very, very clever people, very resourceful and it's just a great place to live. You know, you're five minutes from work at any one time; you've beautiful beaches at your doorstep; the weather isn't too hot or too cold. It's a nice, balanced place where you can actually live a very good lifestyle without spending a fortune and without being extravagant.

See *Spotlight* 2/2018, pages 16–17

The UK in Germany

[4] The British in Germany

David: There are about 100,000 Britons living in Germany. Since the Brexit vote, a record number of them have taken German citizenship. In 2016, the number was 2,865, an increase of 361 per cent over the previous year. So with more Brits than ever making Germany their permanent home, *Spotlight* takes a look at the British community in four German cities: Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin. You can now listen to an excerpt from the article as we discover why Hamburg is the most British city in Germany.

citizenship

- Staatsangehörigkeit

excerpt

- Auszug

maturation

- Reife

peaty

- torfig

previous

- vorherig

resourceful

- kreativ, erfinderisch

scenery

- Landschaft

second to none

- das Beste

to some degree or another

- mehr oder weniger

within reason

- in einem vernünftigen Rahmen

Nowhere is the locals' love of Britain on live-liner display than at the Hamburger Polo Club during summertime's British Flair. Formerly the "British Days", the three-day event organized by Friends of Britain comes complete with fish and chips, Cornish pasties, a London bus cafe and a bar pouring Pimm's. The playing fields in the suburb Klein Flottbek host a show arena, a shopping mile and tents for Anglophile organizations.

Between the tents and arena is where I saw a row of classic automobiles, among them, a shiny 51-year-old Morris Minor. Its owner, Andreas Grube, organizer of the British Flair motor rally, told me he fell in love with British cars when he lived for four years in Durham, in England's north.

"I think Hamburg is more British than Britain," Grube said. "There is a longstanding tradition of contact with the north-east [of England] — Sunderland, Newcastle, the shipbuilding part — which was very dominant in Hamburg as well in the 1950s and 60s. The Hamburg way of life, preferring understatement, is very English. There's a strong connection between London and Hamburg [because of trade] ... so there is a strong link to the British, and British lifestyle."

Anke Redhead, Grube's partner, used to be married to a Brit, which explains her surname, she said. She has "a nice patchwork" of British

family, and visits the London area once or twice a year. Talk turned briefly to divorce — Brexit, that is. "I recall the interview with [British politician] Boris Johnson right after the vote," Grube said. "You could see in his face that he really didn't count on leaving the EU." We said goodbye, and I walked towards the arena. There, Highland Games were in full swing: big men in kilts were performing the caber toss, in which a man attempts to hurl a long log into the air so that it flips end over end. On my way to watch them, I passed the welly toss organized by Hamburg's Caledonian Society. A boy tried throwing a rubber wellington boot down the field and on to a pike. Instead,

caber toss

► Scot. Baumstammwerfen

count on sth.

► mit etw. rechnen

flip

► sich drehen

hurl

► schleudern

log

► Holzblock; hier: -stamm

pasty

► Pastete, Teigtasche

pike

► Spieß

recall sth.

► sich an etw. erinnern

swing: be in full ~

► in vollem Gang sein

toss

► Wurf

welly UK ifml.

► Gummistiefel

the boot hit his mother — behind him. Then a man in a T-shirt that read “Born to ride” gave it a go, but he, it seems, was not born to throw. Next, I met two men in kilts. “Good afternoon, gents,” I said, expecting a very British response. Instead, I got shy smiles and a Teutonic Hallo: the bagpipers were from Germany’s north. We chatted a bit before I moved on. In the arena, the Parson Jack Russell race was about to begin.

Once released from their leads, the high-energy terriers took off after a “rabbit” made of packing tape that raced at high speed round the field, thanks to a bicycle-powered contraption. It was eccentric. It was chaotic. It was — dare I say it? — typically British. “Look at the puppy, Mummy,” said an English girl in the crowd. “*Valentin, sofort hierher!*” said another mother to her non-British subject. Behind me, boys watched a man doing a cricket demonstration, their smiles wider than the English Channel.

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, pages 18–32

[5] Reverend Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel

David: We also spoke to Reverend Canon Dr Leslie Nathaniel. Father Leslie is the chaplain at the St Thomas Becket Church, an Anglican church on the Zeughausmarkt in the centre of

Hamburg. Anglicanism is a branch of the Protestant Reformation and is loosely organized in the Anglican Communion, a worldwide family of religious bodies connected to the Church of England.

Father Leslie leads a congregation of 130 members representing over 15 nationalities. He says that the church helps to bring the British community in Hamburg together, particularly on special occasions.

I think there are times when one meets, you know. And we meet on special occasions and, for example, [on] Remembrance Sunday the church is packed. Christmas and all these

chaplain

- Kaplan

congregation

- Gemeinde

contraption

- Vorrichtung

gent ifml.

- Herr

lead UK

- Hundeleine

packing tape

- Packband

puppy

- Welp

rabbit

- Kaninchen

Remembrance Sunday

UK

- Gedenktag zum Ende des 1. Weltkriegs

subject

- Zielperson

festivals. There is a Victorian Christmas market, as well, and there you'll see it. There is a kind of a community effect. I think that's something I'd like to move towards, that the church becomes the hub of activities, because it's such an inclusive church. Even non-believers come and feel at home.

David: To help develop the church as a cultural centre, or hub, Father Leslie organizes special events to get people involved in issues relevant to the British community, such as Brexit.

I think it could become a cultural hub in terms of offering a spirituality which one won't get elsewhere. A sense of greater belonging; a sense of not just being isolated, but to sort of feel, OK, we're one circle, [which] is the closer-knit British society. But there's another circle, which includes a deeper spirituality, and where you can also meet people you would never meet before, elsewhere, in your own circles. That's what we can offer. And we do things which are interesting. I mean, we've had podium discussions on Brexit. We've had [discussions] on Europe. We've had seminars here with the Bishop of Schleswig [and Holstein] who was here — Bishop Gothart [Magaard] — and both of us discussed various issues, where also the public could ask questions.

David: Before becoming the chaplain at St Thomas Becket, Father Leslie was the international ecumenical secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is the main leader of the Church of England and the symbolic head of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Father Leslie believes that the key to developing an international community at the church lies in the power of the Church of England liturgy — in other words, the fixed set of prayers, music and actions used in the religious service.

It's the liturgy which we use; it's very much part of the Church of England and, as I said, this sort of link, this love for Britain, is visible in that. People — they love this liturgy, they love the hymns we sing. That is attracting a number of people. But I think the liturgy of the Church of England is very empowering. If you see some of one liturgy which I used recently, it talks of "Bless the Earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free". Those are words

archbishop

➤ Erzbischof

closer-knit

➤ enger zusammen-
gewachsen

hub

➤ Zentrum, Knotenpunkt

hymn

➤ Kirchenlied

visible

➤ sichtbar

which resonate very well with many in society. The liturgy draws people if they know some English. You have got some Persians here from Iran, family and others who, even though their English is not so good, they just love to come here. And they listen to these words and some of the words hit them. For example, “Let the oppressed go free”. Some of them are refugees here.

See *Spotlight* 2/2018, pages 18–32

[6] Meeting the British community

David: So what does it really mean to be British in Germany? To discuss the issue and the special feature in the magazine, we’ll hear from *Spotlight*’s editor-in-chief Inez Sharp and deputy editor Claudine Weber-Hof.

Inez: Hello, this is Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of *Spotlight* magazine. So, what does it really mean to be British in Germany? To me, as a Brit, it means having the best of both worlds. Just two examples that come straight to mind are the wonderful food here, good bread; nothing like going to a German baker on a Saturday morning and buying your rolls — delicious, lovely. Coupled with the British sense of humour that I have around me from my family and friends. Good food and a sense of humour

— what a great combination. That’s what it’s like to be a Brit in Germany — at least part of it. And if you’d like to experience that, Claudine, *Spotlight*’s deputy editor, is now going to tell us how the idea for the feature came along — the UK in Germany, where can you meet the Brits in Germany? Claudine?

Claudine: It is a really interesting idea: the concept of meeting members of the British communities that we have here in Germany. In fact, I could tell you a little bit of background as to how this story came together. The feature story in the February issue of *Spotlight* magazine spans four different communities of British citizens in big German cities. We decided to cover Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin. The original idea for this story, I have to credit one of our colleagues from Hamburg. He came to us one day with just a hint,

credit sb.

► jmdm. (etw.)
zuschreiben

deputy editor

► stellvertretende(r)
Chefredakteur(in)

editor-in-chief

► Chefredakteur(in)

refugee

► Flüchtling

resonate

► nachklingen

roll

► Brötchen

span

► umfassen

a suggestion that we might want to consider taking on the idea of exploring the British communities here in Germany. That's a little bit different for us at Spotlight. Usually, our focus is on what's happening in Ireland, what's happening in England, America, Australia and so on. Although I must say we do, of course, have this section in the magazine called The US in Germany, etc., which is dedicated to shorter features about British culture, American culture and so on in Germany. We were a little unsure because, my goodness, we've also lived in Germany for a few years ourselves, and you, Inez, of course, are British. We considered the idea, well, what are these communities? How do you really reach people in these communities? When, in fact, we, ourselves, are actually part of these expatriate communities. So after some consideration, I spoke with a few of our correspondents in each of these cities and sent them out to take up contact with parts of the British community. I think it took on a life of its own after a while. I got a phone call, for example, from our correspondent in Frankfurt, David Jolley, explaining how important he found a certain pub in downtown Frankfurt to be for the British community. He went down to the Fox and Hound pub and spoke with some bankers, who were down there drinking a pint like they might do at home in Britain. The conversation turned to Brexit

troubles, adjusting to life in Germany, that sort of thing. And these anecdotes, it's really these anecdotes collected by the correspondents that bring the piece to life. The same applies to Hamburg. I had the pleasure of attending the British Flair event there in the summer. And seeing for myself how that very vibrant British community in Hamburg comes together and throws open its doors to the Germany public and says, "Come in! Get to know us. Get to know our culture. We're more than just clichés about tea drinking." And it was delightful — it was a very lively and inspiring experience. I hope that's the effect the story will have on the readers of Spotlight and I hope that they will send us letters expressing what they thought and what they felt about the feature story.

Inez: And maybe some secret tips that we

adjust to sth.

► sich an etw. gewöhnen,
auf etw. umstellen

apply to sth.

► für etw. gelten

dedicated

► bestimmt, vorgesehen

expatriate

► im Ausland lebende(r)

my goodness

► (Du) meine Güte

take: ~ on a life of its**own**

► sich selbstständig

vibrant

► lebendig

weren't able to include, but that maybe our readers only know about. Thank you, Claudine.

Claudine: Oh, you're very welcome.

See Spotlight 2/2018, pages 18–32

Peggy's Place

[7] Annie, get your glass!

David: Now it's time for the Spotlight soap opera set in a London pub. Last month, pub owner Peggy and her husband, Phil, were worried about the arrival of Annie, a 16-year-old exchange student from New York. An over-achieving schoolgirl from a Republican-voting family, Annie didn't seem like the type who would fit in at the pub. But things didn't turn out as expected, as we'll hear in the latest episode of Peggy's Place.

Phil: Well, it's been an eye-opener. That I can say for sure.

George: Yes, Annie has definitely enriched our lives.

Phil: She's certainly had a great influence on Simone.

Peggy: Hi, George! Let me guess: we're talking about Annie?

George: That's right. Everyone's going to miss her, especially Simone.

Peggy: Who'd have thought that my lovely, but — let's face it — lazy, teenage granddaughter would suddenly become such a hard-working, focused little person.

George: Sometimes kids just need a role model.

Phil: Yes, and that's not something her mother is ever going to be.

Peggy: I don't think kids really see their parents as role models — at least not at the age of 14.

George: Peggy's right, you know. Someone slightly older who they can admire and emulate is a better bet. Annie is exactly two years older than Simone. It's the perfect fit.

Phil: We've decided to have a leaving party for Annie tomorrow.

Peggy: Simone has organized everything. She contacted the caterers and ordered a cake, wrote a little speech... Incredible!

George: When is Annie actually leaving?

Phil: On Sunday, and we wanted to take her on

admire

► bewundern

bet: be a better ~

► eine bessere Wahl sein

caterer

► hier: Partyservice

emulate

► nachahmen

enrich

► bereichern

face: let's ~ it

► seien wir mal ehrlich

an outing on Saturday. But where?

George: Let me guess: there's nowhere to go that Annie doesn't know more about than you do.

Peggy: That's right. We went to Hampton Court last weekend, and she kept correcting the guide. It was a bit embarrassing.

Annie: I'm sorry. I didn't mean to embarrass you guys.

Phil: There you are. Weren't you supposed to start packing, love?

Annie: All done. I was looking for Sean. He promised to make me fish and chips one last time. I'm going to miss his cooking so much.

Peggy: We were thinking that we'd like to take you on an outing on Saturday. Is there anything you'd especially like to do?

Annie: You know there is, but I'm not sure you're going to like it.

Phil: How bad can it be?

Annie: OK, here goes: I want to drink a glass of wine and smoke a cigarette.

Peggy: Why would you want to do that?

Annie: Well, my parents are, like, really strict about that sort of thing. And in the States, I can't legally have a drink until I'm 21. That's such a long way off.

Phil: I wouldn't feel happy going behind your parents' backs.

Annie: Oh, please! It's not like I'd be doing it in complete secrecy.

Peggy: You'll be grown up soon enough, Annie.

Annie: Come on, you guys! It would be so cool to say I had my first drink in a real London pub and my first cigarette on a London street — and that I was totally underage at the time.

Peggy: How about a compromise? You can have a sip of shandy here at the bar now, but the smoking is a no go.

Annie: Awesome! You're the best!

Peggy: Here you go. Steady on! I said a sip, not the whole glass!

George: Well, how was it?

Annie: Totally disgusting! Can I have a Coke to get rid of the taste?

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, page 14

a long way off

► weit weg, noch lang hin

awesome *ifml.*

► toll, spitze

disgusting

► ekelhaft

embarrassing

► peinlich

like *ifml.*

► hier: (Füllwort, in etwa:) irgendwie

outing

► Ausflug

shandy UK

► Radler

sip

► Schlückchen

steady on UK

► immer sachte

supposed: be ~ to do sth.

► etw. tun sollen

underage

► minderjährig

Around Oz

[8] Painkillers that are killing us

David: Codeine is one of the world's most common painkillers. It is also an opioid and can be highly addictive. Following the example of the US and most European countries, Australia has decided to make codeine a prescription-only medication from 1 February 2018. "Prescription-only" describes medication that can only be bought with a note — known as a prescription — from the doctor. Any medicine that you buy without a prescription is described as "over-the-counter". In Around Oz, Peter Flynn looks at the dangers of over-the-counter painkillers.

You might think me stupid or, at best, a little naive, but it's only in recent years that I have come to appreciate that codeine is bad medicine. The immediate relevance is that, from the beginning of February this year, Australians will need a doctor's prescription to buy any medicine containing codeine. That's in line with most of Europe and the United States. Here, though, the impact will be quite great. It's estimated that about one million Australians are taking drugs containing codeine which they buy over the counter from pharmacies. About 50,000 people at any time are being

treated for codeine dependency or addiction, as well as longer-term liver, kidney or heart problems.

Most of these bad medicines have been used for chronic pain relief, such as headaches, or in cold and flu products. That's the way we were raised: mild pain could be treated with paracetamol or aspirin from the supermarket, whereas more severe or lasting pain meant that you had to go to the chemist, where they could sell you the higher-grade version with between five and twenty milligrams of codeine. GSK's Panadol, for example, was boosted to Panadeine and then to Panadeine Extra. The reality, however, is that codeine is not really a good pain reliever in these lower doses. Opioids are best used for "episodic" pain, such as people experience after major surgery.

boost

- ▶ verstärken

counter: buy over the ~

- ▶ rezeptfrei kaufen

episodic

- ▶ in Phasen auftretend

kidney

- ▶ Nieren-

lasting

- ▶ anhaltend

liver

- ▶ Leber-

prescription

- ▶ Rezept

relief

- ▶ Linderung

I had a big operation in hospital a few years ago. Thankfully, I listened to my recovery nurse, who told me that pain management starts with simple things like common analgesics such as paracetamol. She advised me to avoid codeine and similar drugs, even as she handed me a box of oxycodone (also known as oxycontin, or “hillbilly heroin”) as I was leaving the hospital. I took one of those on the first night at home and don’t think I’ve had an opioid-based painkiller since.

In her early twenties, my daughter had surgery for a full knee reconstruction resulting from a serious soccer injury. She was also given a box of “oxycon” when leaving the hospital, but didn’t take a single one, nor even an aspirin. She just put months of work into her physiotherapy, finished her university semester and, within 18 months, was back playing her favourite sport.

Compare that to your typical codeine-dependent Australian who, according to the latest research, takes about 30 of these low-dose opioid painkillers every day. Patients like this need the quick euphoric hit as the body metabolizes codeine into morphine. Some bodies can complete the process faster, increasing the risk even further.

I have a friend like that. He’s a nerdy, non-sporting type who, a couple of years ago, had very similar knee surgery to that of my

daughter. My 40-year-old friend, though, took a couple of months off work, failed to do his recovery exercises and changed physiotherapists as regularly as he changed doctors for “oxycon” prescriptions. Fortunately, he’s clean today, and safer still now that even low-dose codeine isn’t so easily available.

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, page 71

Replay

[9] A look at recent news events

Owen: Welcome to Replay, the listening exercise in which we look at a recent news story, its background and language. In this edition:

Social media companies are running out of excuses when it comes to applying ethical judgments on content.

analgesic

- Schmerzmittel

hillbilly N. Am. ifml.

- Hinterwäldler-

metabolize

- verstoffwechseln

nerdy ifml.

- intelligent, aber sozial etwas unbeholfen

recovery

- hier: Reha-

run out of

- ausgehen, nicht mehr haben

[10] Twitter's blue ticks: a conflict of interest

Owen: Just how much responsibility should social media companies like Facebook and Twitter have for the content distributed on their platforms? Such tech companies have become enormously powerful in a small space of time; but that power can be harnessed to illegal or unscrupulous ends. Take a recent example in which Facebook admitted to selling more than \$100,000 worth of advertising to a Russian company that was trying to influence the 2016 US presidential election.

Despite “fake news” becoming such a serious issue in the last few years, most governments remain undecided on whether to trust tech companies to self-regulate content — or whether to bring in legislation designed to force such companies to comply with certain standards.

In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers look at a case in which Twitter decided to remove official verification from accounts belonging to far-right activists. “Verification” is the act of showing or checking that something is true or accurate. In this case, Twitter verifies that an account really belongs to the person it's supposed to.

In a moment, you can listen to three excerpts from the editorial. Before that, let's look at

some of the language used in the first excerpt. When you “exploit” a situation, you try to get as much out of it as possible, perhaps even in an unfair way. “To acquire” something is to get or gain it. This can be either through effort or ability, or by buying or being given it. Now listen to the first excerpt.

In the early days of the digital revolution, it seemed the old hierarchies might be eliminated. ... The idealism did not last long. Old corporates learned how to exploit the new market; new tech companies acquired huge empires, with their own hierarchies. People with more “friends” and “followers” have more impact. More significantly, the people who run Facebook and Twitter wield phenomenal and

comply with sth.

- etw. erfüllen, etw. befolgen

editorial

- Leitartikel

ends

- Ziele, Zwecke

excerpt

- Auszug

harness sth.

- etw. nutzen

impact

- Einfluss

verification

- Überprüfung

wield power

- Macht ausüben

mostly invisible power over their realms.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Owen: Although famous people and big companies have accounts on Twitter, the site is also full of users pretending to be someone or something they aren't. To help other users tell the difference, Twitter places a blue check mark or tick on the page of a verified account. In 2016, Twitter began allowing anyone to apply for a verified account. This move led to a lot of controversy, as you're about to hear. First, let's look at some vocabulary. "To rescind something" is to state officially that, for example, a law, contract or decision is no longer valid. In this case, Twitter rescinded, or took away, verification from certain accounts. The noun "kudos" comes from Greek and means "praise". It describes the admiration and respect that a person receives as a result of a particular achievement or position. Here's the second excerpt.

Sometimes, the new digital overlords are forced out of the shadows. So it was [in late 2017] when Twitter rescinded "blue tick" verification from accounts belonging to far-right activists, including Jason Kessler, a US white supremacist, and Tommy Robinson, founder of the English Defence League. Those who have been "de-verified" complain that Twitter

is subjecting them to political discrimination. Twitter says that verification, designed to show that high-profile accounts belonged to the named owner and not impostors, had come to be interpreted as approval. The company didn't want to be seen giving that kudos to hate-mongers.

This raises the question of why fascists haven't been kicked off the site altogether. ... The real reason is that Twitter (and Facebook) have a conflict of interest: shareable controversy is part of their trade. ...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Owen: In the final excerpt from the editorial, the *Guardian* writers say that tech companies can no longer avoid taking responsibility for how people use the services provided to

controversy

► Diskussion

hate-monger

► Hassprediger(in)

impostor

► Betrüger(in)

invisible

► unsichtbar

overlord

► Herrscher, Hochfürst

supremacist

► Rassist(in)

tick

► Häkchen, Zeichen

valid

► gültig

them. The writers blame the virtual monopolies many of these companies enjoy as one of the reasons it's taken them so long to properly self-regulate content. "To be accountable" is to be responsible for the effects of your actions and to have to explain them or simply tolerate being criticized for them. "To misuse something" is to use it in the wrong way, or for the wrong purpose. Now listen to the third excerpt.

But social media companies ... used to hide behind a defence of tech-neutrality — the idea that tool-makers are not accountable when their tools are misused. No one buys that line any more. Whether it is Nazi agitation, jihadi terrorist recruitment, death threats, Kremlin-funded misinformation or child pornography, it is beyond dispute that the owner of the platform has to take some responsibility for the content being published....

One reason Facebook doesn't clean up its content is a lack of rivals offering a more hygienic service. ... Meanwhile, companies that find themselves in the role of curator to democracy's digital forums must accept that the wild west era of unregulated free-for-all is over.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

[11] Words and phrases

Owen: 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 verb means to try to get as much out of a situation as possible, perhaps even in an unfair way? To exploit

When you're responsible for the effects of your actions and have to explain them or simply tolerate being criticized for them you are... accountable.

What noun describes the admiration and respect that a person receives as a result of a particular achievement or position? Kudos

accountable

► verantwortlich

beyond dispute

► außer Frage

blame

► verantwortlich machen

Kremlin-funded

► vom Krenl gedeckt

recruitment

► Rekrutierung

What verb means to state officially that a law, contract or decision is no longer valid? To rescind

When you use something in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose, you... misuse it.

What verb means to get or gain something? To acquire

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

See Spotlight 2/2018, page 73

Travel

[12] A fairy-tale family holiday in Wales

David: Small but full of dramatic landscapes, Wales offers great opportunities to holiday-makers. In the February *Spotlight*, correspondent Lois Hoyal enjoys a family holiday in Anglesey, the biggest island in Wales. After an exciting swim in the sea, Lois and her husband go horseback riding on the beach. In British English, the expression “to go hacking” means to ride a horse for pleasure. Now listen to the following extract and try to answer these questions. 1) Why don't the couple's two daughters

join them on the ride? 2) Why does Lois have to shut the gate? And 3) what verb describes a horse moving quickly?

After satisfying our thirst for the ocean, we move on to our next activity: horse riding at Anglesey Riding Centre. We all ride regularly, but this time, my husband, Barnaby, and I plan to ride on the beach together.

We arrive early at the stables and meet John, the friendly manager, and his dog, Morph. I immediately feel positive about this location: the horses look happy and relaxed, the stables and yard have been swept clean, and the employees are eager to please.

Normally before a riding lesson, we get our horses ready ourselves, fetching them, grooming them and tacking them up. Here, the work is all done for you.

I can't help feeling like the queen, as my horse, Kiwi, a Welsh cob thoroughbred cross, is led,

cob

• hier: gedrunge(n)es Pferd)

cross

• hier: Kreuzung

groom

• striegeln

stable

• Stall

tack: ~ up

• aufsatteln

thoroughbred

• Vollblutpferd-

already groomed and saddled, towards steps for me to mount him. Someone even comes forward to adjust my stirrups. I could get used to this.

Barnaby joins me. He is riding Gus, a large, dark bay Welsh cob. The girls aren't old enough to ride with us on the beach, as "the ponies tend to go wild there", John tells us. Instead, they're promised a hack on the centre's eight kilometres of private bridleways, followed by a jumping lesson. They ride away with smiles on their faces.

Then it's time for the grown-ups to be put through their paces in the indoor riding centre, as the instructor checks our forward-seat gallop, which we'll need for riding on the beach. Satisfied, the instructors send us off on the hack. We join two other riders and Vicky, who is leading the hack. Riding a new horse is always strange at first, but Kiwi seems calm and capable, and I soon relax.

I'm riding at the back, so I have to shut the gate after us. Just as I'm wondering if I can line Kiwi up accurately to perform my duties, he leans forward and pushes the gate closed himself with his nose. I am in the hands of an old master.

We walk, trot and then canter on the bridleways, enjoying the vista of the Menai Strait, Caernarfon Castle and Snowdonia. Then we approach the sands of Abermenai. It's nearly

time now for the adrenaline-packed part of the ride.

The horses pick their way carefully over rocks and stones before reaching the sandy part of the beach. "Right! You cross two tiny streams, and then comes the gallop," explains Vicky. "The idea is first to walk, then trot, then canter and then gallop, but it doesn't normally happen that way."

I'm worried that I won't recognize the two streams. There are several small pools of water on the beach. Kiwi clearly knows every detail, though. We cross one stream, and he's ready to go. I manage to hold him back to cross the next stream, and then we're off.

It's like being in a proper race, as the horses stretch out their legs for a full-blown gallop across the mile-long sandy expanse. At first, Kiwi keeps behind Gus, before galloping next

adjust

• einstellen, anpassen

bay

• kastanienbraun

bridleway

• Reitweg

canter

• im leichten Galopp reiten

mount

• besteigen, aufsitzen

pace

• Gangart

stirrup

• Steigbügel

to him. There is no one else here, so we are able simply to enjoy the sheer speed.

Then it's over, as we circle our horses at the end of the beach, and the pace falls back into a trot. We talk excitedly, in good spirits from the experience, as we return to the stables, with more gentle canters and trots on the return ride.

"Can we do it again now?" we ask Vicky, when we get back to the stables. And we're only half joking.

David: Here are the answers to the questions.

1) Why don't the couple's two daughters join them on the ride? Because the riding centre's ponies tend to go wild on the beach. 2) Why does Lois have to shut the gate? Because she's riding at the back of the group going to the beach. And 3) what verb describes a horse moving quickly? The answer is "to gallop".

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, pages 34–40

English at Work

[13] Nice to meet you

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 responding to formal and informal greetings.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. If you listen carefully to the way people greet you, you can get a good idea about how they feel about the level of formality they would like in the relationship. I'll say a greeting. In the following pause, you give the standard reply and decide how formal or informal it sounds. You'll then hear the standard reply and my comment on its formality. OK? Let's start.

Nice to meet you.

Nice to meet you, too.

This greeting is often used in business and is fairly informal.

How do you do?

How do you do?

This is a formal greeting often used in the UK on the first meeting.

How are you?

Fine thanks. And you?

This greeting is often used if you've had some contact before. And it can be formal or less formal, depending on the tone of voice and on what's happened in the past.

sheer

► äußerst

Delighted to make your acquaintance.

You, too.

This is a rather old-fashioned greeting when you first meet. It's very formal.

Hi, there.

Hi.

This is a very informal greeting and it's becoming more and more commonly used, even in business.

How's it going?

Good. You?

Also informal. This greeting was originally more common in the USA but it is now used everywhere.

Hello.

Hello.

This is often followed by another greeting like "How are you?" So the level of formality depends on the follow-up phrase.

It's been ages.

It certainly has.

An informal greeting to show you haven't seen each other for a long time.

Good morning.

Good morning.

It's fairly formal to use the time of day as a

greeting. You can make it less formal by dropping the "good" and simply saying, "morning". And remember, we only say "good night" as a way of saying goodbye. If you meet someone later in the day, use "good evening" to greet him or her.

So listen to your business partner when you first meet to get a feeling for the level of formality. And remember, you can always adjust the formality level if you don't feel comfortable. Like this:

Speaker: How do you do?

Ken: How do you do? Nice to meet you.

Did you hear what I did? I responded to the formal greeting, but then added a less formal one to lower the level of formality. And if you can, take the lead in greeting someone. Then you can choose the level of formality you feel most comfortable with.

acquaintance

• Bekanntschaft

adjust

• anpassen

ages: it's been ~

• es ist eine Ewigkeit her

follow-up

• Folge-

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* 2/2018, page 57

Everyday English

[14] Relationships

David: There's always lots to talk about when it comes to love and relationships. In *Everyday English*, we meet Aimee and Priya, two old friends who are meeting for dinner. Here is some vocabulary you'll need to know. When you "get together" with somebody, you meet with them socially or to discuss something informally. A good way to describe someone who's deeply in love is to say they're "head over heels in love". As you listen to the dialogue, try to answer this question. What problem does Aimee have with her son's new relationship?

Aimee: It's lovely to see you, Priya. You look gorgeous!

Priya: Oh, thank you. You're too kind! I'm so glad we've finally found time to go out

together. I've missed you.

Aimee: I've missed you, too. We really must make more of an effort to get together.

Priya: I know. Life and work just take over, don't they? How are you, though? Anything new?

Aimee: Nothing much... Oh, Milos has a girlfriend.

Priya: What? Wasn't he only five years old about ten minutes ago?

Aimee: Well, he's 16 now, and he's head over heels in love.

Priya: And how is his girlfriend? Do you like her?

Aimee: She's lovely. She's like the daughter I never had. But the problem is they're so young. It'll never last.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What problem does Aimee have with her son's new relationship? The answer is that she really likes her son's girlfriend, but thinks the relationship won't last because they're so young. In the second dialogue, Aimee and Priya are talking about dating. The adjective "cute" can be used to describe someone who's sexually attractive. Here it's used to say that something

copy

• Exemplar

gorgeous

• umwerfend, wunderschön

is charming or delightful. You can use the idiom “a whole different ball game” to talk about a completely new kind of situation. As you listen, try to find the answer to this question. Why is Priya still single?

Aimee: It’s from Milos. He wants to borrow money to buy his girlfriend some roses for Valentine’s Day. That’s young love for you, eh?

Priya: How cute! I can’t remember the last time anyone gave me anything for Valentine’s Day.

Aimee: Oh, Priya! Seriously, I really don’t understand why you’re still single.

Priya: You’re so sweet! I have no idea where to meet nice men. And I’m not trying online dating again. The last guy I went on a date with looked nothing like his profile picture. It was so awkward!

Aimee: I can imagine. It’s easy for kids like Milos. But once you’re in your forties, it’s a whole different ball game.

Priya: Tell me about it!

David: So why is Priya still single? She’s no idea where to meet nice men.

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, pages 54–55

Short Story

[15] “One nation under coffee”

David: What would life be like without a steaming cup of coffee to wake you up and get you through the day? In this month’s short story, author Talitha Linehan wonders what would happen if a politician were able to get his hands on a highly addictive type of coffee. Could the person with the best beans get the most votes?

Franklin was reading the latest poll figures when the door to his office opened. His brother, Abbot, came in and sat down. “Hey, bro, I’m back!” he said, dropping his rucksack on the table.

addictive

- süchtig machend

awkward

- peinlich, unangenehm

bro N. Am. *ifml.*

- Bruder, Kumpel

cute

- niedlich

one nation under...

- Bezug auf den “Pledge of Allegiance” (Treueschwur auf die Flagge der Vereinigten Staaten)

poll figures

- Umfragewerte

tell me about it *ifml.*

- wem sagst du das

Franklin hoped none of his colleagues had seen his brother in his ripped jeans and old T-shirt. After their parents had died, Franklin had put all his energy into his political career, while his brother spent his inheritance traveling the world.

“How was your trip?”

“It was... productive. How’s your career?”

“Terrible!” Franklin showed Abbot the poll figures. He was doing well in local politics, but had no chance of being elected to Congress.

“The incumbent is too popular. Nobody will vote for me.”

“They will if you give them these.” Abbot threw something across the table. It was a handful of nuts — no, not nuts, beans.

“Coffee beans? Really, Abbot?”

“They’re special beans. They’re...”

“...Magic beans. You had to climb a beanstalk to get them, right? Listen, I really don’t have time for this today. So, if that’s all...”

“No, listen. These coffee beans... they’re like drugs, but good drugs.”

Franklin stared at him. “Don’t tell me you’re into drugs now.”

Abbot rolled his eyes. “You think I walked through an airport with a bag full of drugs? They’re not illegal. And they’re not dangerous. This guy in Colombia developed them, and the people in his town have been using them for years. Now he wants to sell them to a big

company. I told him someone in the US could pay ten times more than someone in South America.”

“So you’re going to sell them to a US company for a commission. What’s that got to do with me?” Franklin asked.

“No, bro. I want to sell them to you — to us. I want us to be the company. You can be the face of it; that will help your career. And I’ll oversee the logistics.”

“In return for my investment, of course.”

Abbot had spent most of his inheritance, but Franklin still had all of his.

“Well...”

Franklin leaned back in his chair. His brother could be impulsive, but he was no fool. And if he was right about these beans... “We start small,” Abbot told his brother. “We buy in small quantities and sell to local stores. And we’ll see how it goes.”

It went better than even Abbot had expected.

beanstalk

► Bohnenranke

incumbent

► Amtsinhaber(in)

inheritance

► Erbe

ripped

► zerrissen

roll: ~ one’s eyes

► mit den Augen rollen

A month later, their brand of coffee, which they called Kult, was the most popular in town. And six months later, it was the most popular in the county. A year after Abbot had returned from Colombia, the brothers opened their first Kult coffee store.

“I didn’t expect you to sell me,” said Franklin, visiting it for the first time. There was a photo of him on the door, and the house special was named Kult Franklin.

Abbot looked surprised. “I thought that was the idea: to use Kult to strengthen your profile.”

“It was. It is. But not so blatantly. People might find it offensive.”

“You don’t get it, bro. Nobody cares. The power of marketing is that everyone thinks it has no power, that they’re immune to it. The truth is that everyone is controlled. Everyone is conditioned. And that’s the way they like it. They want to be told what to do, how to think, who to vote for.”

“You make it sound as if Kult is, well, a real cult, that we’re controlling people, manipulating them.”

“No, bro, they’re manipulating themselves. They tell themselves they like our coffee because it tastes good. But it’s not how it tastes; it’s how it makes them feel. That’s all people want: to feel good. And now they associate that good feeling with you. When the time comes

to vote, they won’t have to think. You’ll be the only choice.”

Once again, Abbot was right. As more coffee stores opened and the market for Kult grew, so did Franklin’s lead in the polls. He was practically guaranteed a seat in Congress. But then, a month before the election, everything went wrong. People stopped drinking Kult, and Franklin began to lose his lead.

He called his brother in a panic. “I’ve been getting hate mail for the first time in my life. And someone even threw a rock at my car this morning. What’s going on?”

“Sorry, bro, I just... I didn’t know how to tell you. It’s over. We’re done.”

“What are you talking about?”

“There’s no more Kult. We overharvested the beans.”

“So grow more of them. We have the money.”

“But we don’t have our guy anymore. He’s dead. The people in his small Colombian town are all killing each other. It’s the withdrawal from the coffee. It’s making them crazy.”

blatantly

► hier: aufdringlich

brand

► Marke, Sorte

lead

► hier: Vorsprung

overharvest

► überbeanspruchen

withdrawal

► hier: Entzugserscheinungen

Franklin clutched the phone. “Are you telling me people here are going to start killing each other, and that it’s all our fault?”

“Nah. We made the coffee a lot weaker here, and they haven’t been drinking it for as long. I think this is as bad as it’s going to get. Just take it easy and wait for things to blow over.”

Things did blow over. The town went back to normal. Franklin returned to local politics, and Abbot got a job as a barista with a big coffee company.

Franklin visited him at work sometimes. He always bought a cup of coffee, but he never drank it. Connoisseurs said it didn’t even taste good, but Franklin knew that wasn’t the point. This company wasn’t selling a politician. It was selling a political ideology, promoting a liberal agenda. He looked down at his cup, which had an illustration on it of two men holding hands. Then he looked around at the other customers drinking from their branded cups with a vacant look in their eyes. He wondered how their coffee was making them feel, and what would happen if the company ever ran out.

Source: Spotlight 2/2018, pages 66–67

Conclusion

[16] 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.

blow over

- ▶ vorübergehen

clutch

- ▶ umklammern

connoisseur

- ▶ Kenner(in)

ran out

- ▶ hier: nicht mehr liefern können

subscriber

- ▶ Abonnent(in)

vacant

- ▶ leer, ausdruckslos

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