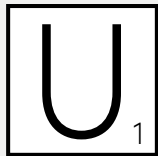
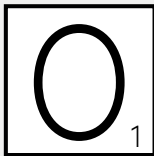
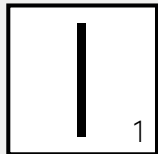
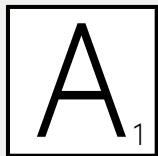




Spotlight

**BESSER
ENGLISCH
LERNEN!**

Travel:
Washington, DC
English at Work:
discussing Brexit



Introduction

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

Are you looking for new ways to improve your English? The *Spotlight* team discusses the most effective techniques in a roundtable debate.

Washington, DC, is the centre of politics in the United States. Take a tour through the halls of power in the travel section.

Stand-up paddling is one of the fastest growing water sports in the world. Learn words and phrases to do with this activity in Everyday English.

In the Spotlight

[2] **Shopbot, you're fired**

David: What will automation mean for the job market of the future? Could there be a time when robots carry out most of the work that humans do today? Well, there's no need to worry about mass unemployment just yet.

You'll understand why after listening to the sad story of Fabio, Britain's first robot shop assistant.

“What is it called when one cow spies on another cow?” asked the robot. After a pause came the answer: “A steak-out.” Cute as it was, the machine's humour failed to help a shopper who needed to find a wine to go with steak.

And so Fabio, a robot that spoke to shoppers in sweet, childlike tones, was fired. It had worked at an Edinburgh supermarket for only one week. The famous Interaction Lab at the Scottish capital's Heriot-Watt University had arranged for the robot's job at a Margiotta store as part of a test run earlier this year.

The chain's Elena Margiotta said that bringing a “shopbot” into the aisles to help customers find products seemed like a fun addition to the consumer experience — until customers began staying out of Fabio's way.

“Conversations didn't always go well,” Margiotta told *The Telegraph*. “An issue we had was the movement limitations of the robot. It was not able to move around the shop and direct

aisle

► Gang

cute

► niedlich, süß

spy on sb.

► jmdn. ausspionieren

steak-out *ifml.*

► Wortspiel zu „stake out“: Observierung

customers to the items they were looking for.” Employees reacted differently, though. When the robot learned that it was being fired and sent back to the university, it asked its human boss, “Are you angry?” This caused one shop assistant to burst into tears.

Source: *Spotlight* 5/2018, page 10

A Day in My Life

[3] Resi Polixa, park ranger

David: In *A Day in My Life*, we meet Resi Polixa. The 28-year-old is a park ranger at the Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, Massachusetts. The park is made up of various sites in and around the city. Most of the sites are related to the era of textile manufacturing during the Industrial Revolution. Listen now as Polixa describes some of her daily tasks.

It’s an interesting national park because we’re in an urban location, so we don’t have forests but we have a lot of buildings, a lot of museums, [and] historic sites that we have to staff. So, that’s what our assignments are every day: where we’re staffing. So some days, after the morning meeting, I might be downstairs selling stuff or working on selling passes to people or greeting visitors when they come in or

I might be staffing a museum building, so I’d have to run over there and open the building, turn everything on and get the exhibits set up and ready for people to come in. It changes every day. There are other tasks that we do. We are the mail carriers for the park, so we have to bring the mail around to the different offices. That’s a morning task that happens usually. Otherwise, we sometimes are able to have free project time to work on other projects, that we can work on at our desks.

David: In the next part of the interview, Polixa tells *Spotlight* about her job title and what she does. She also explains the duties of some of the other workers at the national park.

Right now, I’m just Park Ranger Interpretation, is my title. Interpretation is the division that I work in. At the National Park, there are a bunch of different divisions for staff. [In] Interpretation, we’re always the people who greet visitors. We’re the people in the museums. We’re the people leading tours. We’re the people developing programs. We’re the

assignment

► Aufgabe

bunch

► Haufen

burst: ~ into tears

► in Tränen ausbrechen

staff

► (mit Personal)
besetzen

public-facing [part] of the park. Not all [we do is] public-facing, but a good part of it. There is also a maintenance division. They take care of the buildings. They take care of the landscape. They make everything possible for everything else to happen. We also have a law enforcement division to make sure nothing goes wrong on the historic properties. We have a cultural resources division. They're the division that takes care of all of the stuff in the museums, all of the cool artifacts, all the cool documents. They're the division that takes care of all that. And then we have an administrative division as well, [that] makes all the other stuff possible, too.

David: In the final part of the interview, Polixa talks about one of the best parts of her job: working with the community in Lowell.

I think it's cool that we get to be a big part of the community here. I think that really makes me excited. So far, I've got to experience that on different levels, which is really neat. I only started to get more involved with the youth programs a few months ago, so I was actually put on a detail. A detail is a temporary re-assignment or a temporary job change for a few months. I was on detail as the youth and volunteer coordinator. I got to experience the community on a whole different level while I was working that job. That was pretty neat.

Before that, I also got to work with the community through special events. The park is a presence in a lot of special events in the city. There are a lot of festivals going on. We just had our big Lowell Folk Festival. That's a big example of how we're part of the community. Throughout the year, other community groups put on festivals and they invite us to be part of that, which is really cool. I get to help plan our presence at these events. There's this big thing in the museum world right now that we're trying to get into more here at the park called the pop-up museum. We're developing a pop-up museum program that we can bring to different community events when we're invited. It's a lot of fun to be able to experiment with making museum objects and museum experiences more fun in an informal way at a community event.

See Spotlight 5/2018, pages 22–23

law enforcement

► Strafverfolgung; hier: Ordnungskräfte

maintenance

► Wartung, Pflege

neat

► nett, prima

public-facing

► öffentlich

reassignment

► Versetzung, neuer Arbeitsauftrag

temporary

► vorübergehend, zeitlich begrenzt

volunteer

► Freiwilligen-, Ehrenamtlichen-

Britain Today

[4] A BBC drama

David: For over 90 years, the BBC has been one of Britain's most important and influential organizations. Yet despite its reputation for fairness and integrity, the BBC has often been troubled by controversy. In Britain Today, Colin Beaven looks at the latest scandal involving the UK's national broadcaster.

What do we think of the BBC — the “Beeb”, as it is known? We generally have mixed feelings about Britain's national broadcaster. Are its programmes any better than the ones we see on commercial channels, whether they're free ones, like ITV, or one we have to pay for to watch *Game of Thrones*?

Overall, they probably are. But why must the BBC give its top people so much money? It gets its income from what we pay for our TV licences, and a lot of it goes to overpaid bosses, presenters and journalists.

As for its journalists, are they as independent as they like us to think? They get very cross if you suggest that they're too close to the state. On the other hand, Conservative politicians like to accuse the BBC of being anti-government. And it's true that the BBC is a home for satirical programmes like *Have I Got News for*

You, which is a good source of political jokes and attacks on the government.

So, in spite of everything, we're fond of it. When, for example, a popular programme like *The Great British Bake Off* left the BBC for Channel 4 — to earn more money — we all felt let down. *Bake Off* is a competition to find out who bakes the best cakes, scones and so on. I'm surprised that, when it moved to Channel 4, it wasn't renamed *Game of Scones*.

When it comes to equality, though, the BBC does shoot itself in the foot. A while ago, there were complaints that it replaced older female presenters with younger ones, while

accuse

- beschuldigen

broadcaster

- Sender

cross

- verärgert, sauer

fond: be ~ of sth.

- etw. lieben

foot: shoot oneself in the ~ if/ml.

- sich ins Knie schießen, sich ins eigene Fleisch schneiden

let down

- im Stich lassen, enttäuschen

presenter

- Moderator(in)

reputation

- Ruf

scone

- engl. Teegebäck

source

- Quelle

it continued to employ older males. The latest gender issue was (un)equal pay. Not everyone who works for the BBC is overpaid, it seems. Some women presenters earn much less than their male colleagues and have protested.

Members of Parliament were worried when they heard about possible gender discrimination. The director general of the BBC had to go to Westminster to answer questions that were asked by a committee of MPs. A woman reporter who had protested went along, too. It was a meeting with a gender agenda.

Whenever there's a national scandal, MPs need to find someone they can blame. Since things go wrong so regularly, they get lots of practice at sitting in committees and asking difficult questions. It's ironic. There aren't enough women in the British Houses of Parliament. So if MPs criticize you for gender inequality, you are definitely in trouble.

It's also ironic because you'd expect reporters to be asking politicians questions, not the other way round. Perhaps MPs are secretly hoping for jobs with the BBC. Would they like to be on TV every night, holding a microphone under other politicians' noses?

They'd certainly earn more if they had jobs as top BBC journalists. But they have too much to lose, since MPs are the ones who make the rules. If, for example, they thought the BBC went too far with its attacks on the

government, then the government could also threaten attacks, like a tax on BBC salaries — ideally, though, only on the men's.

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, page 71

Travel

[5] All eyes on Washington

David: If the world had a capital city, what would it be? When it comes to politics, the answer could very well be Washington, DC. Unlike other great American cities, Washington is relatively small, with a population of around 700,000. Yet this is where national and international politics take place in the United States. The president, Congress and the Supreme Court are here, along with the Pentagon, State Department and numerous

gender discrimination

► Geschlechterdiskriminierung

gender issue

► Gleichstellungsfrage

MP (Member of Parliament) UK

► Abgeordnete(r)

salary

► Gehalt

State Department US

► Außenministerium

Supreme Court US

► Oberster Gerichtshof

international organizations like the World Bank and the IMF.

Washington isn't just about current politics, however. For anyone interested in history, the city is a gold mine. Washington's museums, monuments and memorials are second to none, and on a tour of the city you can, for example, see the United States Declaration of Independence, stand where Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech and visit the theatre where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

Over the next two tracks, you'll hear excerpts from the May travel feature, in which correspondent Jessica Mann visits the US capital. For each excerpt, there'll be three questions to test your understanding of what you've heard.

See Spotlight 5/2018, pages 34–41

[6] The halls of power

David: In the first excerpt, our correspondent visits the Capitol Building. This is the home of the United States Congress, which is the legislative branch of the federal government. As you listen, try to answer these questions.

In English, what is the traditional motto of the United States?

What's the name of the round room at the centre of the Capitol Building?

And: the US Congress is broken up into two parts. What are these parts called?

Remember, you can look at the audio booklet if you need to remind yourself of a question. Now listen to the first excerpt.

I start my tour in the home of Congress itself: the domed Capitol Building. The tour begins in the visitor center. Completed in 2008, the Capitol Visitor Center welcomes its guests in large theaters below the main building itself, past many statues and paintings of important figures and scenes from American history. A short film called *Out of Many, One* — a translation of the Latin *E pluribus unum*, the traditional motto of the United States — gives visitors a quick overview of the building itself. It also explains the revolutionary nature of the US Congress's beginnings and highlights the role the

assassinate sb.

► einen Anschlag auf jmdn. verüben

Declaration of Independence

► Unabhängigkeitserklärung

domed

► überkuppelt

excerpt

► Auszug

IMF (International Money Fund)

► Internationaler Währungsfonds

legislative branch

► Legislative

second to none

► unübertroffen

legislative body has in American life. Beyond its function as the home of the legislature, the site is also important for ceremonial purposes, as scenes from presidential inaugurations and State of the Union speeches emphasize.

After being divided into groups, we make our way to the Rotunda at the center of the building. The mainly ceremonial space gives off a grand vibe with its high ceilings and gleaming walls reminiscent of classical architecture. Some 180 feet (55 meters) above our heads, its ceiling features the first president, George Washington, sitting among godlike figures up to 15 feet (4.5 meters) tall who represent various ideals of American democracy and innovation. The *Apotheosis of Washington* was painted by Italian-American artist Constantino Brumidi over the course of nearly a year at the end of the Civil War, in 1865. The artist is said to have incorporated the struggle among the states into the work by showing some figures purposely looking away from George Washington.

From the Rotunda, we move on to the halls of the building, where the legislative branch of the American government has debated and decided the laws of the land since 1800. Congress currently includes 435 members in the House of Representatives and 100 in the Senate. While the chambers of the House and Senate are closed for the day, the building

seems anything but empty thanks to the presence of statues in every room.

David: How did you do? Here are the questions and answers.

In English, what is the traditional motto of the United States? The answer is: Out of Many, One.

Here's the next question. What is the name of the round room at the centre of the Capitol Building? It's called the Rotunda.

And the final question. The US Congress is broken up into two parts. What are these parts called? Congress consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, pages 34–41

feature

- darstellen, zeigen

gleaming

- glänzend, schimmernd

grand

- eindrucksvoll

inauguration

- Amtsantritt, Amtseinführung

legislative body

- Gesetzgebungsorgan

reminiscent: be ~ of sth.

- an etw. erinnern

rotunda

- Rundbau

vibe ifml.

- Atmosphäre

[7] A difficult history

David: In the second excerpt from the feature, you'll hear about the National Museum of African American History and Culture. As you listen, try to answer these three questions. Which US president inaugurated the museum when it first opened to the public? What adjective refers to a policy of separating groups because of race? And finally, what two African American musicians are mentioned in the article?

I start the next day on a different note: The most recently opened Smithsonian museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, is dedicated to the African American experience. It is the only national museum in the US with that focus, and its establishment by an Act of Congress in 2003 followed a struggle that began as early as 1915, when African American war veterans started to push for recognition on the National Mall. The museum opened in 2016, and was inaugurated by President Obama. In his speech, he quoted the African American poet Langston Hughes, declaring, "I, too, am America." The museum is immensely popular with visitors, and it can be difficult to get a pass to visit it. I feel lucky to have been able to get one, but I also know that the visit itself will be difficult,

as the exhibition looks head on at some of the most horrific chapters of American history. The first part of the historical section begins in the recreated bowels of a slave ship and leads ever upward, past artifacts ranging from tiny shackles used on a child to a reconstructed slave cabin and, later, a segregated railroad car. A multimedia deli counter shows images of the civil rights movement. The exhibition reveals the many years of struggle following the end of slavery and doesn't shy away from the terror and violence that defined much of that struggle. It also addresses the challenges faced by African Americans now, as the fight for racial equity continues.

artifact US

► Gegenstand

bowels

► Eingeweide, Innenleben

dedicated to sth.

► speziell für etw. vorgesehen

deli counter ifml.

► Bedientheke

inaugurate

► eröffnen, einweihen

past

► vorbei an

racial equity

► ethnische Chancengleichheit

recreated

► nachgebaut

segregated

► nach Rassen getrennt

shackles

► (Fuß-)Fesseln

shy: ~ away from sth.

► vor etw. zurückschrecken

The experience is extremely moving and emotional. I feel transported to another place and time — a difficult one.

I don't quite feel ready to move on from the museum, so I stop for lunch at its restaurant, Sweet Home Café, a place with dishes that highlight African American culture in various regions of the United States. The offerings are divided into regional groups, including “the agricultural South” and “the creole coast.” I take comfort in the food and admire the photos on the walls of the café. Then I head upstairs to see the rest of the museum, which focuses on the achievements of African Americans in the arts, sports, culture, and society. It is full of memorabilia, such as Chuck Berry's Cadillac convertible and one of Prince's flashy costumes.

David: Were you able to answer the questions? Listen now for the answers.

Which US president inaugurated the museum when it first opened to the public? It was Barack Obama.

What adjective refers to a policy of separating groups because of race? The adjective is “segregated”.

And the last question: what two African American musicians are mentioned in the article?

The musicians are Chuck Berry and Prince.

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, pages 34–41

Everyday English

[8] Stand-up paddling

David: Have you ever tried stand-up paddling? It's a sport that becoming increasingly popular. You stand on a long flat board and use a paddle to move across the water. In Everyday English, Carol has convinced her friend Peter to try stand-up paddling. In the first dialogue, they're on the way to a nearby lake, where she's promised to show him the basics.

Here's some useful vocabulary. If you “keep your balance”, you remain steady and don't fall over. When water's “choppy”, there are lots of small waves made by the wind. And something that's “inflatable” has to be filled with air so you can use it.

As you listen, try to answer this question. What expression does Carol use to describe a very hot day?

Peter: Isn't it really hard to keep your balance on the board?

Carol: Well, maybe at the beginning, or if the

admire

- bewundern

memorabilia

- Erinnerungsstücke

offering

- Angebot

take comfort

- sich trösten lassen, Trost finden

water's choppy. But you'll soon get used to it. You'll see. And the wider the board, the less wobbly it feels.

Peter: I didn't realize the boards come in different sizes.

Carol: Oh, yeah. There are different boards for different conditions. There are even inflatable boards for river paddling and for taking on holiday with you.

Peter: Oh, right. Do you know what kind of boards we'll be hiring today?

Carol: I think they're inflatables. They're probably all-rounders, which are great for starting on, because they're nice and wide. I hope I remembered to pack the sunscreen. It's a real scorcher today.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What expression does Carol use to describe a really hot day? She says the day's a "real scorcher". In the next dialogue, Carol and Peter are paddling on the lake. Here's some vocabulary you'll meet. A "stroke" is the repeated movement you make through the water with a paddle. And a "blade" is the thin, flat part of a paddle that you put into the water.

As you listen, try to answer this question. What does Carol advise Peter to do with his arms to make longer strokes and go faster?

Peter: Woohoo! I'm getting the hang of it. I'm not as wobbly as I thought I would be.

Carol: Stretch your arms out straight in front of you. That way, you'll be able to make longer strokes and go faster.

Peter: Like this, you mean?

Carol: Yes, but hold your paddle the other way round. The blade should slope away from you.

Peter: Oh, yeah. Sorry! You've mentioned that a few times now.

Carol: It's normal. There's a lot to think about when you start. What do you feel so far? Do you like it?

Peter: It's amazing! You're right. It's fantastic actually being on the water, free to go wherever you want.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What does Carol advise Peter to do with his arms to make longer strokes and go faster? She tells him to stretch his arms out straight in front of him.

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, pages 54–55

hang: get the ~ of it

• den Bogen raus haben

wobbly

• wackelig

slope

• geneigt sein

American Life

[9] The end of time

David: When a loved one dies, it can be a terrible shock to family and friends. In this month's American Life, columnist Ginger Kuenzel shares a very personal story about a recent loss she suffered.

Mom passed away recently. She was 97, and death at that age isn't exactly unexpected. But then again, when the end does come, it's still a jarring shock for those left behind: so final. But at least she died the way we would all like to go — quickly and painlessly, according to the doctor.

Years ago, she said that she was ready to go whenever her time came. She wasn't depressed about it, just realistic. In fact, she made many preparations during the final decades of her life. When Dad died in 1982, she ordered a gravestone carved with both his and her names and birth dates plus his date of death. "You can just add my date of death later," she said. "It's cheaper and easier that way."

She also wrote her own obituary years ago. I wondered if she didn't trust us to get it right, or if she was just trying to make things easy for us. As for the photo to go with it, she wanted one in which she looked good, but not too

good. After all, she said, people should know that she had lived to be as old as she was. She hated reading the obituary of a woman who was 90-something juxtaposed with a photo of a glamorous young girl. We were not to do that for her, she instructed.

As Mom grew older, her aches and pains became debilitating, and her eyesight failed. She needed help to get dressed, to go to the bathroom, and even to eat. This downward spiral was hard on her, a woman who had always been fiercely independent. But perhaps the most difficult thing for her was when she started, over the past year, to lose her mental sharpness. Some days were worse than others. At first, it was rather comical, and she laughed with us about it. She saw boxes and books everywhere in her apartment and couldn't

ache

- Schmerz

carve

- hier: einmeißeln

debilitating

- belastend, kräftezehrend

fiercely

- leidenschaftlich, hochgradig

jarring

- irritierend; hier: schmerzlich

juxtaposed

- neben, in Verbindung mit

obituary

- Nachruf, Todesanzeige

pass away

- sterben, dahinscheiden

stand the mess. We told her they weren't really there, that she had only imagined them. She said she knew it, but she still saw them. We joked with her that, back in the 1960s, we had paid good money for drugs to get us to the state she was in.

In the last months, she became obsessed with time. While helping her organize the imaginary boxes and books one day, my brother and I found five timers — along with many watches and clocks — in drawers and on shelves. “What do you need all these for, Mom?” we asked. “Well, I just want to be sure I have plenty of time,” she replied with a wry smile.

We also found enough rubber bands and paper clips to stock an office supply store. Perhaps she needed these to hold things together as it all started to fall apart. Our joking was not insensitive — she laughed with us, finding humor in little things, even when life got really tough. “Teach your children well,” goes the song. And that's what she did, showing us how to live life to the fullest. Here's to Mom, to a life well lived — and to the memories that will always live on.

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, page 46

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. In this edition:

Every year in Britain, the public gives more than nine billion pounds to charity. Yet recent scandals have badly damaged people's trust in the charity sector. Confidence can only be won back through effective monitoring of charities' activities.

apart

- auseinander

billion

- Milliarde

insensitive

- unsensibel, gefühllos

monitor

- überwachen, kontrollieren

obsessed

- besessen, zwanghaft

paper clip

- Büroklammer

rubber band

- Gummiband

stock

- ausstatten

timer

- Zeitschaltuhr

wry

- schief, verlegen

[11] The Charity Commission: guarantor of public generosity

Inez: The British charity sector is in crisis. After years of scandals involving financial mismanagement, poor fundraising practices and inappropriate data sharing, the public's trust in charities had already been weakened. Then in February came news that Oxfam, one of Britain's largest and most respected charities, had tried to cover up a serious scandal involving some of its staff.

Senior Oxfam aid workers stationed in Haiti in 2011 had been accused of sexual exploitation, the downloading of pornography, bullying and intimidation. Although Oxfam sacked four of the men, three others were allowed to resign. In England and Wales, a government department called the Charity Commission regulates registered charities. In 2012, Oxfam informed the Commission about the allegations, but was allowed to deal with the issue internally. At the time, the Charity Commission didn't ask for further information. Now that the issue has become public, the Commission has launched an official inquiry.

In the wake of the scandal, Oxfam lost 7,000 donors and its deputy chief executive, Penny Lawrence, resigned. Soon after the revelations, many more accusations of misconduct were made — not just against Oxfam, but also

against other UK charities. In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers say that the Charity Commission must be more thorough in investigating charities and punishing them when necessary.

In a moment, you can listen to the first part of the editorial. Before that, let's look at some of the language used. "To reassure" is to say or do something that makes somebody less worried. And "to tackle" something is to try to deal with

aid worker

- ▶ Entwicklungshelfer(in)

allegations

- ▶ Beschuldigungen

bully

- ▶ schikanieren

deputy chief executive

- ▶ stellvertretende(r) Geschäftsführer(in)

donor

- ▶ Spender(in)

editorial

- ▶ Leitartikel

exploitation

- ▶ Ausbeutung

inappropriate

- ▶ unangemessen

intimidation

- ▶ Einschüchterung

launch

- ▶ in Gang setzen

misconduct

- ▶ Fehlverhalten

resign

- ▶ zurücktreten, kündigen

revelation

- ▶ Enthüllung

sack ifml.

- ▶ feuern

senior

- ▶ leitend

wake: in the ~ of sth.

- ▶ im Zuge der/des

a difficult problem or situation. Now let's listen to the first section of the editorial.

The Charity Commission has launched a statutory inquiry into Oxfam as part of its duty to promote trust and public confidence in charities. That is necessary. But the Commission also has to reassure an increasingly sceptical audience that its own regulatory culture is rigorous and sceptical enough to deserve trust and confidence....

The Commission accuses Oxfam of being less than open; but in the end, the inadequacy of the response to sexual exploitation by senior aid workers in Haiti must lie at the regulator's door. In the light of its response, it is little surprise that in November parliament's auditors, the NAO, found there was still work to be done, five years after an excoriating report revealed that the Commission was failing to use the powers it has to hold charities to account, or to tackle abuse effectively. Its new chair, the Tory peer Tina Stowell, will face some hard questions when she appears before MPs...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2018

Inez: A former government minister, Tina Stowell was a far from welcome choice for the role of Charity Commission chair. In fact, a cross-party committee of MPs refused to support her appointment, saying she lacked “any real insight, knowledge or vision” for

the job. However, the government decided to ignore the committee's verdict. As you'll hear in the second excerpt, Stowell will have a difficult time repairing the charity sector's image. Here's some useful vocabulary. The adjective “unbiased” describes someone or something that's fair and not influenced by anyone's personal opinion. And a “cash shortage” is a situation in which there's not enough money to

account: hold sb. to ~

- jmdn. zur Verantwortung ziehen

appointment

- Ernennung

auditor

- Prüfer(in)

chair

- Vorsitzende(r)

cross-party

- parteiübergreifend

excoriating

- vernichtend

lack

- nicht haben

MP (Member of Parliament) UK

- Abgeordnete(r)

peer

- Mitglied des House of Lords

regulator

- aufsichtsführende Person, Aufsichtsinstanz

reveal

- enthüllen

rigorous

- streng, strikt

statutory

- satzungsgemäß, gesetzlich vorgeschrieben

verdict

- Urteil

pay for the things that are needed. Here's the second excerpt.

Lady Stowell ... will need to shake off past loyalties if she is to bring an unbiased approach to her new organisation's struggle to police 160,000 registered charities after a budget cut of 40%, followed by a four-year freeze. Yet the acute cash shortage is not enough on its own to explain the degree of regulatory capture that appears to have blunted its response to the Oxfam scandal.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2018

Inez: In the third excerpt, the *Guardian* writers express their fear that the Oxfam scandal will provide a winning argument for those who criticize government spending on aid. Before listening, you should know these words. A “narrative” is a particular way of explaining or understanding events. And “to reconsider” is to think about a decision again and decide if you want to change it. Now listen to the final excerpt.

Like a cancer, the damage this terrible saga has done spreads out beyond the charitable sector. Undermining confidence in the work of one aid agency plays directly into the anti-aid narrative of a populist right that believes charity doesn't just begin at home, it ends there too....
Oxfam, the charity started in 1942 to campaign

against Churchill's naval blockade of occupied Greece that was leaving thousands of people to starve, has been a champion of “good aid”. Now it might lose more than £60m of funding as both the UK and the EU reconsider their support. ...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2018

[12] 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 verb describes saying or doing something that makes somebody less worried? To reassure

A particular way of explaining or understanding events can be called a... narrative.

When there's not enough money to pay for

blunt

► (ab)schwächen

capture

► Vereinnahmung

freeze hier:

► Nullrunde

naval

► See-

police hier:

► überwachen

the things that are needed, there's a... cash shortage.

What verb describes trying to deal with a difficult problem or situation? To tackle something

When you do this, you think about a decision again and decide if you want to change it. To reconsider

What adjective can be used to talk about someone or something that's fair and not influenced by anyone's personal opinion? Unbiased

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

See *Spotlight* 5/2018, page 63

Language

[13] Simply better English

David: Have you ever asked yourself the question, "What can I do to improve my English skills?" If so, you're sure to enjoy the language feature in this month's magazine. *Spotlight* has put together a collection of easy but effective strategies to help you improve your language abilities. Entitled "Simply better English", the

feature includes useful tips from language author Vanessa Clark. And renowned linguist Professor Vivian Cook talks about the advantages of learning a second language. Here in the studio to discuss the feature are members of the *Spotlight* team.

Inez: Welcome to roundtable. This is Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of *Spotlight* magazine and I have with me Claudine Weber-Hof, who is the deputy editor of *Spotlight*, and Owen Connors, who is our audio editor. In preparing for today's roundtable, I thought a lot about my relationship to language as someone who speaks both German and English, more or less the one as well as the other. I realized that for as long as I can remember, I've had a dialogue in my head about which language I'm speaking and about the culture and the colour and the flavour and the atmosphere that that language evokes for me. This dialogue isn't switched on the whole time, but it is there. So, for example, last week I went to a German church service. I don't

deputy editor

→ stellvertretende(r)
Chefredakteur(in)

editor-in-chief

→ Chefredakteur(in)

entitled

→ unter dem Titel

evoke

→ hervorrufen

renowned

→ renommiert, berühmt

go to church very often, but we sang a hymn composed by the German theologian Paul Gerhardt, and I was reminded of how beautiful his songs are. They're quite melancholy, which I think is a style, actually, of melancholy which is very German. And I came back into the office on Monday morning and I tried to tell Claudine about this experience. And because we speak English to one another, I was looking for the vocabulary and I could not find it. It's something that is very specific to German. By contrast, when I go to England, when I go home to Britain, I meet someone on the street, or I meet somebody in a shop, and they call me "love" or "darling" or "sweetheart" even though I've never, ever actually seen this person before. And then I'm reminded that there's a kind of mindset in Britain, a sort of non-confrontational, I'm-coming-at-you-as-a-friend, somebody-friendly kind of mindset that is very specific to the English language culture, and which you probably wouldn't find in Germany. So this is sort of what's going on in my head. Let me ask you Claudine, you're American but you speak excellent German, do you have this dialogue? What happens to you when you're switching from language to language?

Claudine: Well, Inez, I think I have to agree with you. I do have a similar dialogue going on in my mind. For example, I had a visitor over

this weekend, someone from the great state of Virginia. And I was trying to explain to him the debate in German society right now about immigrants and the rise, to a certain extent, of a little bit of casual racism in day-to-day conversation. I wanted to find a word for Ausländerfeindlichkeit. I couldn't! How do you say that in English? There are certain words that occur in German that reflect a problem in society, say, that are very hard, sometimes, to translate. Now the flipside of that is when I go on vacation to the States, to visit my dad, say, in New York State. I arrive. I start speaking English to everyone; I have this feeling of being at home. It's great! I'm immersed in my native tongue. Two days will pass; I'll be chatting with my dad and I'll want to describe to him some kind

by contrast

- im Gegensatz dazu

casual racism

- beiläufiger, nicht offener Rassismus

flipside

- Kehrseite

hymn

- Kirchenlied

immerse

- eintauchen

mindset

- Denkweise, Geisteshaltung

non-confrontational

- ohne Konfrontation

occur

- vorkommen

theologian

- Theologe, Theologin

of experience I've had at the local bank and suddenly my mind will trip. I can't figure out what that word is in English. So context plays a really important role, I think, in how your mind switches from one language to the other.

Inez: Owen, you have two young daughters, twins, who are growing up bilingually. Can you tell me what you observe in that environment?

Owen: Yes, it's very interesting. There's the general conception that children just absorb language and will pick up languages really easily. But we didn't actually find that. Growing up in Germany, they picked up German very easily. However, despite my best efforts, at the start they were not interested in English at all. They knew I understood German and they weren't convinced by my attempts to pretend otherwise, so they refused to speak English. That made us very worried. So what we did was, we put them into a bilingual kindergarten, and they were there with other children who didn't speak a word of German. And, in fact, they were then forced, that if they wanted to talk to these children, they had to speak English. It was a very interesting thing for me to see that suddenly they had a need to speak English. And that need was essential to them actually switching over into bilingualism. And we've kept that going ever since — they're now in a bilingual school. Even still, though, because they're not in a fully English

environment, they still make a lot of mistakes that non-native speakers make. So it's a very interesting thing, that first, I think, for bilingualism, yes, the environment, but there's also got to be the need, the need to actually speak in both languages.

Inez: Right, yes. Especially for children, that's true, that's the survival instinct that comes through.

Claudine: Well, I wanted to pick up on that thread that Owen had brought up. It reminds me of an anecdote from when I was new in Germany. The idea of needing to speak a language, it's such a strong one. I think for anyone who's new in this country, if you're not put into a pressured situation to learn German, it will just take you a very long time. My theory is, if you can find a way to get into the workforce, be it by volunteering or interning or getting your first job here, you will find yourself

bilingually

► zweisprachig

conception

► Vorstellung

context

► Zusammenhang

intern

► als Praktikant(in)
arbeiten

thread

► (Gesprächs-)Faden

trip

► stolpern

volunteer

► freiwillig, ehrenamtlich
arbeiten

learning much more quickly. Simply because of need. My first work situation here in Germany, in a publishing house, I remember the phone ringing on my desk. Terror! I picked up the phone, I listened to the man on the other end, a highly placed man in our organization, and he wanted to know what is the *Betrag* on the bill. I had a bill in front on me. What is the *Betrag*? Well, I didn't know what that was. I hadn't the slightest clue. But I'll never forget that anecdote and I'll never forget that word.

Inez: Yeah, that's the way we learn. It's those experiences that put you on the spot, and then your mind is struggling and somehow that stays with you. Thank you very much indeed, and good luck with your language learning.

See *Spotlight 5/2018*, pages 14–21

English at Work

[14] Discussing Brexit

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time Ken tells you where to find the language you need to discuss Brexit with international business partners.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Britain's decision to leave the European Union

has been in the news for months now. And this Brexit process has been debated and discussed at length. There are some key words that are useful for you to know whenever you discuss Brexit with your international business partners. Let's practice ten of them now. I'll give you a definition of a word you often hear in Brexit debates.

You'll then hear two words A and B. In the pause, choose the word that best fits the definition. Then you will hear the correct answer and an example of how the word is used in a sentence. OK. Ready?

A vote in which people in a particular area are asked whether they agree or disagree with a proposal. Is this...?

A. A referral, or B. A referendum

B is correct. "A referendum was held in the UK to decide whether to leave or to remain in the European Union."

To discuss in order to come to an agreement. Is this...?

A. To negotiate, or B. To handle

A is correct. "It's hoped that Britain and the EU will negotiate a reasonable agreement after Brexit."

at length

• ausführlich

The right to enter somewhere or use something. Is this...?

A. Access, or B. Accession

A is correct. "Britain would like access to the European Single Market."

What you are legally allowed to do or have. Is that...?

A. Your laws, or B. Your rights

B is correct. "What will be the rights of European citizens living in the UK after Brexit?"

A set of rules used to deal with problems. Is that...?

A. A framework, or B. A frame of mind

A is correct. "The final agreement between Britain and the European Union must have a detailed legal framework."

The way in which different people communicate with and behave towards each other. Is this...?

A. Relations, or B. Relatives

A is correct. "Britain hopes to keep close relations with the European Union."

Conditions included in a law or an agreement. Are these...?

A. Provisions, or B. Proofs

A is correct. "Before Brexit, Britain wanted to be excluded from the provisions in European

law concerning freedom of movement."

A tax on goods coming into a country. Is this...?

A. A fee, or B. A tariff

B is correct. "After Brexit, Britain hopes to avoid having to pay tariffs on goods sold in the European Union."

The movement of people from one area to another. Is this...?

A. Immigration, or B. Migration.

B is correct. "There has been a large migration of people from Africa and the Middle East to Europe."

Brexit is a very interesting subject for small talk. But do remember that some people have very strong opinions on both sides of the discussion. There is a saying that in small talk you should avoid discussing sex, politics and religion. Just bear that in mind when talking about Brexit!

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* 5/2018, page 57

Peggy's Place

[15] Romance in the kitchen?

David: It's time to catch up with all the latest goings-on at Spotlight's very own London pub. If you're a regular listener, you might remember that the pub's chef, Sean, has written a cookery book. Well, his dream of getting published might actually come true if a certain meeting goes according to plan. Find out more in this month's Peggy's Place.

Peggy: What time is the agent coming?

Sean: Any minute now. How do I look?

Phil: Who exactly put you in touch with this person?

Sean: The agent? Her name is Lillian, and it was Jane who set up the meeting today.

Phil: Jane? My stepdaughter, Jane?

Sean: What's the problem?

Phil: I just never saw Jane as a networking businesswoman.

Sean: She said that Lillian often comes into the hotel where she works and meets authors for lunch. Jane got chatting to her one day and mentioned that she knew an aspiring writer.

Peggy: How much do you know about this Lillian woman?

Sean: Not much, but this is just an informal meeting to see if we can work together. That

must be her now. Hello! Lillian? I'm Sean O'Connor.

Lillian: Sean, lovely to meet you. I hear you have a hot manuscript that you want to share with me.

Sean: I'm not sure you'd call it hot exactly.

Lillian: Oh, come on! Don't be so modest. Jane was raving about your writing style. I think the word she used was "steamy".

Sean: Well, I suppose in the context, "steamy" is rather a nice word. Please take a seat. Can I get you a drink?

Lillian: A glass of Pinot, please. I must say it's unusual to have a man working in this genre.

Sean: Really? I thought there were lots of famous...

Lillian: This could be a selling point for you.

Sean: If you say so.

Lillian: So, tell me first: what inspired you?

aspiring

► ehrgeizig, aufstrebend

chef

► Küchenchef(in)

modest

► bescheiden

rave

► schwärmen

set up

► arrangieren, einrichten

steamy

► heiß

suppose

► annehmen, vermuten

Sean: Actually, my inspiration comes from my travels...

Lillian: Ah, I get it! A young man out discovering the world. He finds something dishy in every port.

Sean: Er,... sort of.

Peggy: Excuse me! Sorry to interrupt. I'm Peggy, Sean's boss. I thought you might like to try some of his delicious handmade crisps.

Lillian: Thank you so much. A man of many talents!

Sean: No, just one talent, to be honest.

Lillian: Now, tell me. Just how spicy is this manuscript? Do you have a copy with you?

Sean: Yes, but I should make it clear. It's completely international, so in some places, there's more spice and in others...

Lillian: Look, Sean. I need to know: are we talking about innocent romance — some kissing and canoodling — or full-on sex in your stories?

Sean: Sex? There's no sex in my recipes.

Lillian: Recipes? Your manuscript is a cookery book?

Sean: Yes, I thought Jane told you that.

Lillian: Look, sunny boy! I'm agent to some of the best romance fiction writers in Britain. Why would I waste my time with a cookery book — which, by the way, is a notoriously hard market to get into?

Sean: I'm sorry. It was a mix-up.

Lillian: You got me all the way out here to look at a collection of recipes? You're damn lucky that I'm not charging you for my time.

Peggy: Hey! You can't leave without paying for your wine.

Lillian: Can't I? Just watch me!

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, page 70

Short Story

[16] “The prince of the plantation”

David: It's almost time to say goodbye. Before then, why not sit back and enjoy this month's short story? In the travel section, you heard about a museum dedicated to the African American experience. In “The prince of the plantation”, a young man learns the true nature of freedom when faced with the realities of discrimination.

canoodling *ifml.*

► Knutscherei

charge

► in Rechnung stellen

crisps UK

► Kartoffelchips

dishy UK *ifml.*

► knackig, attraktiv

notoriously

► bekanntermaßen

spicy

► pikant

“Happy Birthday, Mathias,” said Miss Chung in Mandarin. She gave him a Chinese delicacy. She’d bought it that same day in Shanghai, where they had gone to celebrate his sixteenth birthday. He thanked her in English, the language of his childhood.

He thought about his childhood now, as he did every birthday. His memories of that time, of his life in America, were sparse but vivid. They all centered around one person: his beloved father. He could see his father now, sitting in their grand house on the plantation. His father referred to it as their palace, and he called Mathias his little prince.

There were other children who lived on the plantation. Their skin was a different color and they never looked as happy as he was. His father told him they were unfortunate in life, but he, his little prince, was rich and free.

There were other adults on the plantation, too. There was a woman who he saw regularly and who always smiled at him. And there was a man who he seldom saw and who never smiled. Mathias’s father told him never to speak to any of them. This was his most important rule.

Mathias’s life was simple and happy, until the day when everything changed. That was the day he broke his father’s rule for the first time, and also when he saw his father for the last time — two things that Miss Chung said

were not related.

“His accident was not your fault,” she always said.

His father was busy that day with Miss Chung and her father, a rich merchant, who were visiting from China. Mathias was told to play alone. But when he saw the other children playing together, he couldn’t stop himself joining in.

At first, the children looked at him strangely. But they soon accepted him, and they played together all afternoon. He told them about his father and said he was sorry they were so unfortunate. They looked confused and said they didn’t understand. Then, the man who never smiled arrived and shouted at them. The other children ran home, and Mathias ran away and hid.

When Mathias went home that night, his father was lying on the bed bleeding, and Miss Chung was beside him, crying. She told him his father had had an accident, that he was

beloved

► geliebt

delicacy

► Spezialität, Leckerei

merchant

► Händler(in)

sparse

► spärlich

unfortunate

► unglücklich, bedauernd

vivid

► lebhaft

dying. And she said she'd try to be the mother to him that he'd never had.

Mathias held his father, crying uncontrollably. His father spoke: "She will take you. She will give you a good life. Go now, my little prince." They were the last words he ever said.

Mathias cried again at the memory. He had a good life in China with Miss Chung. She lived in a grand house, too, and she treated him like a son. But like his father, she kept him isolated. They travelled to the city only once a year, and whenever they went out together, people looked at him strangely. She said that was because he looked different, because he was American.

Miss Chung had gone to bed early that night, but Mathias wasn't tired. He left their hotel room and walked along the corridor. He heard voices coming from another room. They were the voices from his childhood: men speaking English with an American accent.

He knocked on the door and a man opened it. He and the other men looked shocked at first, and as he spoke, more and more outraged.

"Gentlemen," said Mathias, "do excuse me. I heard your voices and recognized them as the voices of my comrades. I, too, am American."

Confused by their expressions, he tried again to explain himself. He was speaking when one of the men punched him in the face. Then the other men joined in, shouting, saying words he

didn't understand.

There was a loud crack. Miss Chung was at the door, with a pistol in her hand.

"Leave him or I'll shoot you all," she said.

The men backed off, still shouting, and Miss Chung helped Mathias to his room.

"I'm so sorry," she said, washing the blood from his face. "I should have told you."

"Told me what?"

"Why those men hate you. It's simply because of the color of your skin."

"My skin?" Mathias tried to understand the concept. Naturally, he'd known his skin was darker than that of most people he saw. "Why would they hate me because of that?"

Miss Chung sighed. "I made sure you never read books about racism or slavery. I didn't want you to find out that way."

"Find out what?"

"Who you were in your homeland. You and your father, Mathias. You were slaves."

Mathias laughed, despite the pain. "No, we weren't. We were rich. We were free."

back off

► zurückweichen

crack

► Knall

outraged

► aufgebracht

punch

► schlagen, boxen

sigh

► seufzen

“No. This is what your father wanted you to believe. The house you describe as a palace, it was a hut.”

“But the other children, they were the poor ones.”

“Relatively speaking, yes. Their father had lost all their money to gambling. That’s why there were no other slaves. Your father told you that you were rich, and you were. You were loved. And you were free in spirit. That man was heartless, what he did to your father when he saw you with his children...”

“He beat him,” Mathias realized with horror.

“He beat him to death. It was my fault.”

“No. It was the fault of hundreds of years of evil and ignorance, and the fault of one bitter man. Your father said it was the best day of his life, because then you’d be free. That man wanted to beat you, too, but I intervened. I offered him money.”

“You bought me?”

“I bought your freedom. And I promised your father not to tell you who you were until you knew who you were inside. That’s why I kept you isolated. But now you know. Now, you can truly be free. This is what your father wanted you to have more than anything. So, happy birthday, little prince.”

Source: Spotlight 5/2018, pages 66–67

Conclusion

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

intervene

► eingreifen

subscriber

► Abonnent(in)

Impressum

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Vertriebsleitung: Monika Wohlgemuth

Litho: Mohn Media Mohndruck GmbH,
33311 Gütersloh

Druck und Vervielfältigung:

optimal media GmbH, D-17207 Röbel/
Müritz

Sprecher:

Owen Connors (In the Spotlight, Everyday
English, Language, Peggy's Place)

David Creedon (Anmoderation, Replay)

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Place)

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Story)

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Inez Sharp (Language, Replay, Peggy's Place)

Ken Taylor (English at Work)

Claudine Weber-Hof (Language)

Interviews:

Douglas A. Bolduc (A Day in My Life)

Tonstudio: Cebra Studio, Gröbenzell



Order the CD or download at:

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82152 Planegg, Germany

Tel. 089/12 140 710; Fax 089/12 140 711;

www.spotlight-online.de

Kundenservice: abo@spotlight-verlag.de

Redaktion: spotlight@spotlight-verlag.de

Amtsgericht München HRB 179611; Umsatzsteuer-
identifikationsnummer: DE 265 973 410

Geschäftsführer: Rudolf Spindler, Jan Henrik Groß



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