



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISH

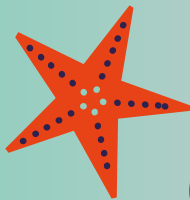


AUDIO

Spotlight

7
18

Spotlight

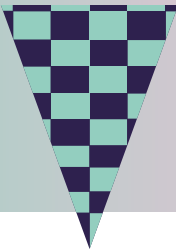


SUMMER QUIZ

*Language
Gamification*

*New Zealand
Bike tour*

*Britain
Small houses*



Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

[1] David: Welcome to the July 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.

Can language learning be fun? If you're a regular reader of Spotlight, you'll know that it certainly can! And this month, we'll be having even more fun with a special quiz issue.

How does riding a mountain bike down an old railway line in New Zealand sound to you? If you're ready for the adventure, it's waiting in the travel section.

In A Day in My Life, we meet a young Puerto Rican interning at Spotlight Verlag. How did he get here? What are his hopes for the future? And what has he found surprising about his time in Germany?

Britain Today

[2] One man's rubbish...

David: Could the millions of tons of plastic produced each year have historic value some

day? In Britain Today, Colin Beaven advises us to be careful how we get rid of our rubbish, just in case future archaeologists get the wrong idea about us.

We're drowning in plastic packaging, but at last we have bins where some of it can be recycled. It's a help, but no doubt plastic bags will still be burned or sent to landfill — or continue to find their way into the sea. In any case, I can only speak for the town where I live. No two parts of the country seem to have the same system for recycling their rubbish.

It's strange. Every town centre in Britain is identical, with identical shops and buildings. But different ways of recycling rubbish are generally treated like ancient crafts, with local variations that are lovingly preserved. Surprisingly, the plastic that ends up in our

ancient

- ▶ altertümlich

bin UK

- ▶ Abfallcontainer, Abfallbehälter

craft

- ▶ Handwerk

drown

- ▶ ertrinken; hier: ersticken

intern N. Am.

- ▶ als Praktikant(in) arbeiten

landfill

- ▶ Mülldeponie

preserve

- ▶ erhalten

seas itself gives us opportunities for individuality. We just have to wait for it to be washed up on the beach, and we can go beachcombing. A friend of mine who's had a lifelong passion for archaeology always finds something unusual when he's out for a walk by the seaside. You need talent to be a good beachcomber.

I've tried it. All I found were combs, ironically. They were all different colours, and made of very pretty plastic, but unlikely to interest the British Museum. Clever beachcombers, though, find all sorts of things: toys, for example, like dolls, aliens and monsters. Even though they're made of plastic, not gold, brass or marble, these surreal little figures have a story to tell, like all archaeological finds.

Archaeological stories are not always as clear as they could be, though. When I was visiting a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall, up in Northumbria, I remember we were shown an old well where decorative things had been found; clearly, we were told, it was a place where the Romans made offerings.

A little girl in our group leaned forward to have a closer look and dropped the marble she was holding. It disappeared into the water, and she burst into tears. It was her favourite marble. But it was unrealistic to look for it. So it's still in the well, waiting for future archaeologists to provide an explanation — unlike the German visitor's car keys.

The previous year, it seems, a tourist from Germany had dropped his car keys into the same well. Clearly, it was unrealistic not to look for them. And in the end, he found them. Luckily. It's not just that it would have ruined his holiday if he hadn't. Future archaeologists might have misinterpreted the evidence.

There are stories of bored middle-class couples entertaining themselves by wife-swapping. They all threw their car keys into the middle of the room and then picked up someone else's. It was their way of choosing a new partner for the evening.

Roman soldiers who lived on Hadrian's Wall no doubt had to find ways of passing the time and keeping warm in cold Northumbrian winters. But one wouldn't want to start a rumour that they threw car keys into a mini-version of

beachcomb

- Strandgut sammeln

brass

- Messing

burst: ~ into tears

- in Tränen ausbrechen

doll

- Puppe

marble

- Marmor; auch: Murrel

offering

- (Opfer-)Gabe

rumour: start a ~

- ein Gerücht in die Welt setzen

well

- Brunnen

wife-swapping *ifm!*

- Partnertausch

the Trevi Fountain just to make their sex lives more exciting.

Source: *Spotlight* 7/2018, page 11

A Day in My Life

[3] Between languages and cultures

David: Spotlight Verlag has always been a multicultural workplace. Right now, the company employs people from around 20 countries. In *A Day in My Life*, we meet Pedro Molina Parrilla from Puerto Rico. The 24-year-old translation student is currently taking part in a year-long exchange programme that allows young people from the US to study at a German university and then intern at a German company — in this case, Spotlight. As part of the online editorial team, Molina Parilla posts articles and language exercises on the magazines' websites.

Listen now as the student tells *Spotlight* about the exchange programme that brought him to Germany.

So, yeah, I'm here in Germany as part of a scholarship. It's basically a cultural exchange program. It's called Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program — CBYX for short — and the idea behind it is that 75 Americans

come here to Germany for a year to experience the school, or the university, and the work environment here in Germany. So, we spent two months in a language school, then we spent about four or five months in a university, studying, the equivalent of a semester — I think the Wintersemester. And then we have our internships, and that's why I'm also here in *Spotlight*.

David: Molina Parilla had never lived outside of Puerto Rico before, so spending a year in Germany has been quite an experience. What differences does he see between his hometown, San Juan, which is the capital of Puerto Rico, and the city he's been living in, Munich?

So, I'm from Puerto Rico. I was born and raised there, and I'm from the capital. It's definitely very different than here in Germany. Like, over there, for example, the public transportation

**Congress-Bundestag
Youth Exchange
program**

- Parlamentarisches
-Patenschafts-Programm

editorial

- Redaktions-

intern N. Am.

- als Praktikant arbeiten

internship

- Praktikum

scholarship

- Stipendium

system sucks in Puerto Rico. We have, like, one line. It would be the equivalent of a single U-Bahn line and it gets us nowhere. But I think it's still a good beginning, you know. Because I heard like, I'm pretty sure like the public transportation, like, the underground system here [in Munich] didn't start, you know, with the, I don't know, the seven lines — I don't know how many lines they have [there are currently the lines U1–U8]. You start small and then you work your way up.

David: Soon, Molina Parilla will leave Spotlight and Germany and return to Puerto Rico to continue his studies. He is planning a career as a translator. This seems like a better option than going to the US, where studying at a university can be extremely expensive.

Yeah, so, what I really want to do is, like, be a writer. But translation is something that I like as well. In the University of Puerto Rico, there's a really good graduate translation program. So, I figured, why not take the opportunity, because in Puerto Rico, university is fairly cheap as well. It's not like in the US where you have to spend, I don't know, \$30,000 a single semester; in Puerto Rico you spend like \$1,000 per semester for graduate school, which is pretty cheap, considering. And, yeah, I figured why not take the opportunity to study translation,

which right now would be a more intelligent step for me.

See Spotlight 7/2018, pages 14–15

[4] Quiz

David: It's quiz time! I'm going to ask you some questions about the sections you've just heard. You have to decide if what I say is true or false. Ready?

The same system for waste disposal is used throughout Britain.

False. There are many different waste disposal systems around the country.

The old Roman fort that Colin Beaven visited is located on Hadrian's Wall.

This is true.

Puerto Rico has a highly developed public transportation system.

figure

• denken

graduate: ~ program

• (Hochschul-)Studien-gang

suck ifml.

• mies sein, nerven

waste disposal

• Abfallentsorgung

False. The capital of San Juan only has one underground train line.

It is much cheaper to go to university in Puerto Rico than in the United States.
True.

Travel

[5] Off the rails

David: Do you dream of escaping the rat race and getting back to nature? Well, there's one country in the southern hemisphere that offers the perfect solution. New Zealand's incredible forests, mountains and lakes make it one of the world's best outdoor destinations. In the July issue, *Spotlight* author Barbara Hiller travels to Queenstown on South Island for a four-day cycle tour of the Otago Central Rail Trail. You're about to hear an extract from the feature. In the next track, there are quiz questions on what you've heard.

It's a long way to New Zealand and, yes, the flight is hell: it's expensive, it's long, and there is nowhere to put your legs. Flying out of Munich, it takes about six hours to Dubai and then another 16 to Auckland. But when you arrive, the world has, literally, been turned upside

down. What you knew as 12 midnight has become 12 noon; you drive on the left-hand side of the road instead of the right; and, most importantly, it's no longer winter, but summer — or the other way round.

As we land in Auckland, we are welcomed by sunshine. My aunt picks us up. It's far too dangerous to drive directly following such a long flight. After a few days of catching up with friends and family, we head down to Queens-town on the South Island.

Queenstown, probably New Zealand's most famous city, is nicknamed "the adventure capital". The world's first commercial bungee jump was set up here in 1988, and jetboating was invented by a Queenstown farmer. Now the number of high-adrenaline activities is mind-blowing: skydiving, parasailing, zip

catch up with sb.

- jmdn. treffen, mit jmdm. Neuigkeiten austauschen

extract

- Auszug

incredible

- wunderbar, unglaublich

jetboating

- Strahlbootfahren

literally

- buchstäblich

mind-blowing ifml.

- überwältigend

nicknamed

- mit dem Spitznamen

rat race

- ewiger Konkurrenzkampf; hier: Alltagstrott, Tretmühle

lining, white-water rafting — the list goes on. We're here for only a day this time, so we decide to take it easy and walk up Bob's Peak. The view of the city, the lake and the mountains is great, but it's almost impossible to stay out of other tourists' photographs. In the evening, the restaurants are crowded, too, so we do the Kiwi thing and eat takeaway fish 'n' chips by the lakeside.

The next morning, a minivan takes us to Clyde, a small town in the Central Otago region. "Central", as the Kiwis call it, is known for its hot, dry summers and cold, dry winters. Both the highest and the lowest temperatures ever recorded in New Zealand were measured here. It's the perfect place to grow stone fruit such as peaches and plums, and it's also becoming more and more known for its wines, particularly Pinot Noir. But outside the tourist towns of Queenstown and Wanaka, the population is sparse.

This wasn't always the case. In the 1860s, the Australian prospector Gabriel Read discovered gold in a creek bed about 80 kilometres west of the city of Dunedin. A huge gold rush followed. At its high point, 18,000 miners were trying to find their fortune in Central Otago. Apart from a lucky few, the people who made the most money were not the miners, but those who provided them with food, water, accommodation, banks, post offices, pubs and transport. In

1879, the construction of a railway line from Dunedin, the main starting point for miners, to the gold towns in Central Otago was begun. It took 28 years until it reached Clyde. The train transported both people and freight: mostly livestock, wool and fruit.

As the gold ran out, the population dropped again. Trains were used to transport material for the construction of the Clyde Dam in the 1980s, but in 1990, the railway line was closed, and the tracks were removed. Only a small section remains between Dunedin and Pukaki — the Taieri Gorge Railway, which is now a tourist attraction.

The tracks left behind a wide 150-kilometre path without steep inclines. In 1993, New

creek bed

- Bachbett

gold rush

- Goldrausch

incline

- Steigung

lakeside

- Seeufer

livestock

- Vieh, Nutztiere

miner

- Bergarbeiter(in)

peach

- Pfirsich

plum

- Pflaume

prospector

- Goldsucher(in)

sparse

- dünn, spärlich

stone fruit

- Kernobst

Zealand's Department of Conservation decided to buy the rest of the track and turn it into a bike trail. Bridges were repaired, and handrails were added. The department improved the surface and made sure the old tunnels were still safe. The Otago Central Rail Trail became the first of what are now known as "New Zealand's great rides": bike trails throughout the country. If this sounds familiar, you might be thinking of "New Zealand's great walks". These are the most famous walking trails in the country, including the Milford Sound track and the Tongariro Crossing.

Source: Spotlight 7/2018, pages 16–22

[6] Quiz

David: Now it's time to quiz you on what you've just heard. Here are the questions. Ready?

In what year was the world's first commercial bungee jump set up? Was it 1978, 1988 or 1998?

The year was 1988.

What kind of wine grown in the Central Otago region has been particularly successful? Is it Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon or Sauvignon Blanc?

Pinot Noir has been grown very successfully in the Central Otago region.

What purpose does the remaining working section of the Otago Central Railway serve today? Is it used to transport material for the construction of a dam? Is it used by miners travelling to work? Or is it a tourist attraction? It's a tourist attraction.

And here's the final question. The Otago Central Rail Trail became the first of what are now known as... "New Zealand's great routes", "New Zealand's great rides" or "New Zealand's great paths"? It's "New Zealand's great rides".

bike trail

► Radwanderweg

construction

► Bau

handrail

► Geländer

surface

► Oberfläche

throughout

► überall in

Everyday English

[7] Getting ready to go on holiday

David: A relaxing holiday sounds fantastic, but even lying on the beach can be stressful to prepare for. In this month's Everyday English, Elsa and her family are getting ready to go on holiday. In the first dialogue, Elsa is speaking with her neighbour Jeremy about the family cat. She asks him if he "doesn't mind" feeding it — in other words, if it really isn't a problem for him. Here's some more vocabulary you'll need to know. If something "costs an arm and a leg", it's very expensive. And you can say "no trouble at all" to say you're happy to do something for someone. Now listen to the dialogue and try to answer this question. Besides feeding the cat, what else does Elsa ask Jeremy to do?

Jeremy: Hello, Elsa, love! Are you all packed for Majorca?

Elsa: Hello, Jeremy! Not even close to it. But you know us — always a bit last-minute. I've come round to give you the key.

Jeremy: Oh, right. Thanks. Flowers and the cat, correct?

Elsa: Are you sure you don't mind feeding the cat, Jeremy? We could still take her to the cattery.

Jeremy: Of course I don't mind. Those places cost an arm and a leg, and the poor cat will

come home traumatized.

Elsa: She seemed quite happy last time. But you're right, they are expensive. Can I ask you another favour?

Jeremy: Of course. Anything.

Elsa: Would you mind putting the bins out on Monday morning, please?

Jeremy: No trouble at all.

David: Were you able to answer the question? What else does Elsa ask Jeremy to do? She asks him to put the bins out on Monday morning. In the final dialogue, Elsa and her family are waiting for a taxi to take them to the airport. Here's some vocabulary you'll need to know. When you "make sure" that something has been done, you check it again. And you can use a "charger" to load a battery with electricity. As you listen, try to answer this question. What two important items are in Elsa's handbag?

Elsa: OK, everyone! The taxi is going to be here in 20 minutes. Can you make sure that all the windows are shut and all the lights are off?

Chris: Have you got the passports and the boarding passes?

bin UK

• Abfalleimer, Mülltonne

cattery UK

• Katzenpension

Elsa: Yes. The passports are in my handbag, and the boarding passes are on my phone. Is the cat in or out?

Chris: In. She's asleep on the window sill.

Elsa: Have you seen my phone charger?

Chris: Yes. I saw you put it in your handbag. Did you give Jeremy the key?

Elsa: Yes. He's so nice! He's going to put the bins out on Monday, too.

Chris: Good! Just think of it. We're going on holiday: two whole weeks of sunshine!

Elsa: I can't wait!

David: Were you able to answer the question? What two important items are in Elsa's handbag? The passports and her phone charger.

Source: Spotlight 7/2018, pages 46–47

Around Oz

[8] Sweet little lies

David: We may live in the “information age”, but for many people it's getting harder to separate truth from lies and fact from fiction. In Around Oz, Australian columnist Peter Flynn says we should be careful what we believe.

“LIES, LIES, LIES”, screamed the big headline in a city newspaper. Copies of the front page

were waved around federal parliament by opposition members. They were mocking the government's broken election promise on the “fistful of dollars” tax cuts for all Australians. That was back in the late 1970s, when we rather naively believed politicians told the truth — well, most of the time anyway. Today, we don't believe much at all from them, while being flooded with fake news or “alternative” facts from spurious websites and spread globally by social media. Donald Trump certainly doesn't help. His tweeting of untruths in the belief that repetition will make them right is really bizarre.

Little wonder, then, that visits to *The Washington Post*'s fact-checking site have increased by 50 per cent since his election. What's more, independent fact-checking sites have spread around the world, mostly in the past five years. Australia's biggest university, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, has joined forces with the national broadcaster, the

broadcaster

➤ Sender

fistful

➤ Handvoll

mock

➤ verspotten, verhöhnen

spurious

➤ zweifelhaft, gefälscht

tax cut

➤ Steuersenkung

window sill

➤ Fensterbrett

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), to test the everyday accuracy of politicians and pressure groups.

Dumped former Prime Minister Tony Abbott recently told a conservative radio host that 400 white South African farmers had been brutally murdered in the past year. He wanted an increased humanitarian immigration programme, but not for black Africans from that continent's many hot spots. The fact is that about 50 white farmers were killed — hardly persecution compared with other minorities in Africa.

The trade union movement is just as careless, claiming that rising casual employment is creating an insecurity crisis. Forget for a moment that a “casual loading” — a higher hourly rate than equivalent employees — of about 25 per cent is paid to these workers to make up for lost annual leave or sick days. The fact is that the number of casual workers, about one in four, has remained steady for at least 20 years. “The first casualty when war comes is truth”, so Republican Senator for California Hiram W. Johnson supposedly said in 1917. Although we're not sure he actually said those words, it makes you think: we must be at war. Similarly, both Mark Twain and Winston Churchill have been credited with saying that “a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on”. The truth is that

neither said any such thing. (“Falsehood flies, and the truth comes limping after it,” wrote Jonathan Swift in 1710.) Nor did George Washington say: “I cannot tell a lie, I cut down the cherry tree.” His biographer made that up after Washington died.

This reminds me of Fleetwood Mac's 1980s hit lyrics: “Tell me lies, tell me sweet little lies.” No, that's not Stevie Nicks on lead vocals, but keyboard player Christine McVie, who composed the song with her then-husband. — That's a fact.

Source: Spotlight 7/2018, page 67

annual leave

- Jahresurlaub

casual employment

- Gelegenheitsarbeit

casualty

- (Todes-)Opfer

credit: ~ sb. with sth.

- jmdm. etw. zuschreiben

dumped ifml.

- abserviert

hit lyrics

- Songtext

limp

- humpeln, hinken

loading

- hier: Zuschlag

persecution

- Verfolgung

pressure group

- Aktionsgruppe

supposedly

- angeblich

[9] Quiz

David: How well were you paying attention during the last two tracks? I'm going to quiz you on some of the vocabulary used. I'll give you a sentence with a missing word or phrase. From two options, decide which piece of vocabulary correctly fits the sentence. Are you ready?

"We want to redecorate our living room, but I'm afraid it's going to... cost an arm and a leg/ be dirt cheap."

"We want to redecorate our living room, but I'm afraid it's going to cost an arm and a leg." This expression means that something is going to cost a lot of money. "Dirt cheap" means to cost very little.

"The child climbed up on the... windowpane/ window sill ...and looked down on the street below."

"The child climbed up on the window sill and looked down on the street below." A "window sill" is a narrow shelf below a window. A "windowpane" is a piece of glass in a window.

"The BBC is Britain's national public service... controller/broadcaster."

"The BBC is Britain's national public service broadcaster." A "broadcaster" is a company or

organization that sends out television or radio programmes. "Controller" is the person who directs or regulates TV or radio programmes.

"Further investigation has proved that his claims are... infamous/spurious."

"Further investigation has proved that his claims are spurious." When something is false or fake, it can be called "spurious". "Infamous" describes someone or something well known for a bad quality or action.

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:

Homes in Britain are becoming ever smaller. Is it time to bring back and update the minimum space requirements that were ended by Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s?

[11] Shoe-box Britain: space is good for us

Inez: Housing in the United Kingdom continues to be one of the biggest social and political issues of the day. While much attention is given to the limited availability of affordable homes to rent or buy, another aspect is equally critical — the actual size of new homes being built has been steadily decreasing for decades. According to a survey by LABC Warranty, which provides warranties for newly built homes, Britain's houses have never been smaller — or at least not since the 1930s, which is as far back as the survey goes. From an average of 83.3 square metres in the 1970s, house sizes have dropped to an average of 67.8 square metres today. This is comparable to 1940s housing with an average size of 68.1 square metres. In an opinion piece from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the editorial writers call for a return to mandatory space requirements for new homes. 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. "Overcrowding" describes a situation in which there are too many people or things in one place. And a "profound" effect is one felt or experienced very strongly. Now listen to the first excerpt.

Housing is the defining domestic political issue of the day. It's the nearest that most voters get, personally, to the wider economy. The latest research shows that many families are cramming into new homes that a generation ago would have been thought too small to live in. Despite televisions getting bigger, living rooms are a third smaller than [in] the 1970s. ...[K]itchens are 13% smaller than in the 1960s. According to the LABC Warranty study, homes are now being built not just with smaller rooms, but fewer of them. ... What is agreed is that England has the smallest homes by floor space area of any EU country. It's also not in doubt that extreme

affordable

- bezahlbar
-

cram into sth.

- sich in etw. hinein-
pferchen
-

defining

- prägend, entscheidend
-

editorial

- Leitartikel
-

excerpt

- Auszug

LABC (Local Authority Building Control) UK

- lokale Bauaufsicht
-

mandatory

- vorgeschrieben,
verbindlich
-

opinion piece

- Stellungnahme
-

warranty

- Berechtigung

overcrowding can have profound effects on family health and social cohesion.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2018

Inez: It was no accident that housing in the 1970s was more spacious than that of today. In 1961, the Central Housing Advisory Committee led by Sir Parker Morris published a report on creating minimum criteria for suitable space, design and facilities in new housing. In 1967, the so-called “Parker Morris standard” became mandatory for all housing built in towns. Two years later, this was extended to all council housing. In 1980, however, the newly elected Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher decided to end the mandatory nature of the standards, seeing them as outdated and too expensive. Since then, no binding minimum space standards have been in effect in Britain. Here’s some useful vocabulary to help with words you’ll hear in the second excerpt. A “ruse” is an action designed to trick someone. And “public housing” is housing built by the government for people who don’t have enough money to pay for accommodation themselves. Here’s the second excerpt.

So it is bizarre that the UK is one of the few western European nations to have no mandatory minimum space standards for housing. ... Ministers did introduce voluntary space

standards for new homes in 2015, but as these could be ignored they only gave the appearance of solidity to pure wind. When this ruse was called out in 2016, the government said it would review how these were operating. Nothing has appeared. Part of this is to do with a rightwing legacy: Margaret Thatcher got rid of rules that set a reasonable internal size for public housing. Reintroducing legal standards in the interests of society is the right thing to do....

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2018

Inez: In the final part of the editorial, the Guardian writers describe the enormous inequality that now exists in British housing. Before you listen, here’s some important vocabulary. The adjective “untrammelled” describes something that’s not restricted or

appearance: give the ~ of solidity to pure wind

➤ heiße Luft als solide Fakten verkaufen

call out

➤ hier: aufdecken

cohesion

➤ Zusammenhalt

council housing UK

➤ öffentlicher, sozialer Wohnungsbau

extend

➤ erweitern

facilities

➤ Ausstattung

inequality

➤ Ungleichheit

outdated

➤ veraltet, überholt

spacious

➤ geräumig

limited in any way. And a careful and thorough examination can be called “scrutiny”. Here’s the third excerpt.

Under the Conservatives, housing interventions designed to promote social solidarity almost disappeared. The distribution of housing space is dominated by a largely untrammelled market in land. This has led to re-emergence of a housing inequality in space. By some calculations, the most spaciouly housed tenth of the population have five times as many rooms per person than the most overcrowded tenth. The counter argument is that market mechanisms will sort this out... Yet this reasoning does not stand up to scrutiny....

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?

A situation in which there are too many people or things in one place is called... overcrowding.

What adjective describes something that’s not restricted or limited in any way?

Untrammelled

An action designed to trick someone can be called a... ruse.

What adjective describes something that’s felt or experienced very strongly? Profound

A careful and thorough examination can be called... scrutiny.

What term describes homes built by the government for people who don’t have enough money to pay for accommodation themselves? Public housing

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

See Spotlight 7/2018, page 71

counter

➤ Gegen-

re-emergence

➤ Wiederauftauchen

Language

[13] Roundtable

David: As you may have noticed, quizzes, puzzles and games are the theme for the July issue of *Spotlight*. The inspiration for this comes from a concept that is currently revolutionizing language learning — gamification. The term simply means to make a game out of something. Gamification has become extremely popular lately thanks to the many language apps that use the concept to help users learn. We're joined now by members of the *Spotlight* team to discuss the issue in this month's Roundtable.

Inez Sharp: Hello! Welcome to today's Roundtable. I have in the studio with me Susanne Krause from the *Spotlight* online team and Petra Daniell, who is our language editor at *Spotlight*. The topic for today is gamification, specifically how you learn languages with games. Now, in a previous incarnation, I was actually an English teacher, and I loved to use games. For example, I would teach businessmen, bored businessmen and businesswomen, by sending them on imaginary trips to London where they had neither a plane ticket nor a conference centre nor a hotel room — nothing — and then they had to kind of make the things up as they went along. They had pieces

of paper with little bits of information, but basically they were playing. I played betting games — I'm sure that's actually not legal — but people would put money on wrong sentences or correct sentences, and it's amazing how mean people get when they have to bet their own money on an incorrect or correct sentence. It was a lot of fun. I had a sense that people were learning. In fact, recently I met one of my former students on the street and asked him, you know, what did he actually remember. It was a long time ago that we were in a classroom together. What does he actually remember? I used to teach my students vocabulary through very silly sentences, and he remembered all of these absolutely ridiculous and pointless sentences, but he also remembered the vocabulary that was in there. So to me, a playful approach to learning is key. As I say, we have here Susanne Krause as well, and

approach

- Ansatz

betting game

- Wettspiel

incarnation

- hier: Leben

key

- wichtig, wesentlich

mean

- knickerig, fies

previous

- früher

ridiculous

- albern, verrückt

Susanne, you're a fan of games in general and of gamification. Can you give us your take on this topic?

Susanne Krause: So I, from school, still remember that we played a lot of "Taboo" in English, and I think this is something that really helped me because it's a game that forces you to talk and it forces you to talk without thinking a lot. That's usually something that's very hard for students because you don't really want to talk. You're afraid that you [will] make mistakes. But [with] that kind of game, you want to win, and competition, I think, in that sense, can really help you to overcome the fear of speaking.

Inez: Right. How does "Taboo" work?

Susanne: It's a game where you have to explain a term or sometimes a name, but you cannot use certain words and usually [these are] the kind of words that you would like to use in order to explain that word. So, for example, you might have to explain "flower", but then you cannot say "green" and you cannot say "pot" or whatever. So that forces you to use a lot vocabulary and be creative.

Inez: OK, right. But you're also interested in gamification at a digital level. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Susanne: So I have been working for a virtual reality start-up, and there I've had contact with lots of teachers who use virtual reality in the

classroom, which is still a very new topic. It's not widely spread, but it's really interesting to talk to those teachers who already use it and who use it for language learning. So, for example, I've talked to a teacher from Portland, and they have been building with their students little digital exhibition rooms where they put up images, and then they added the vocabulary that fits the image. So basically, they created an exhibition where they put up pictures and they labelled them with the name of the vocabulary, but they did that digitally and then they put on virtual reality goggles and walked through that. I know it sounds very spacey!

Inez: It does a little bit, but fun!

Susanne: Yes, and this is also the feedback that I got from those teachers. They said they can't tell if it works a lot better than other methods, but it's definitely more fun and engages students and also students who maybe don't really like learning languages a lot.

exhibition

- Ausstellungs-

label

- beschriften, kennzeichnen

overcome

- überwinden

spacey ifml.

- abgefahren

virtual reality goggles

- 3D-Brille

Inez: Petra, our language editor, you have a different take on gamification.

Petra Daniell: Well, to be honest, listening to you and to Susanne, I'm not actually sure I'm the right person to take part in this conversation at all, because I think personally I have some deep-seated games-in-the-classroom trauma.

Inez: OK! Bring it on!

Petra: Well, you know, when I was learning languages at school, playing games in the classroom was considered... it was rather exotic. But I did have one French teacher, and she was very young and she was very enthusiastic, but she kept bringing a tennis ball to lessons and honestly the moment I saw that tennis ball, I used to break out in a cold sweat — seriously! Over and over, this teacher would throw the ball into the classroom and the poor pupil who caught it then had to do various tasks. Now that could be anything like conjugate a verb or talk about their weekend or, worst of all, translate a German number into French.

Inez: Oh dear! That does sound traumatic!

Petra: I mean, none of us could do that even at the best of times. Like, I mean, imagine having to say 135, 267 in French. I mean, it's just impossible. But to me, being hit on the head by a tennis ball beforehand really added insult to injury.

Inez: It didn't wake you up; it just traumatized you.

Petra: No, no, no! On the contrary, I just wanted to leave; I just wanted to flee. And the fact is, I still can't do French numbers to this day, but I very, very vividly [remember] the humiliation of not catching the ball, of dropping the ball, of getting hit by the ball! I mean, balls are my nightmare, in general. Seeing them in the classroom, to me, it was a disaster! So, I mean, what I'm trying to say, I suppose, is that it's fantastic that there are so many enthusiastic teachers out there, and the ideas they come up with, they're wonderful. But in order to really make them work, I think teachers need to keep an eye out for whether their pupils actually look comfortable. I certainly didn't. You know,

beforehand

- zuvor

bring it on

- leg los

conjugate

- konjugieren

contrary: on the ~

- im Gegenteil

deep-seated

- tiefstehend

humiliation

- Demütigung

in general

- ganz allgemein

insult: add ~ to injury

- das Ganze noch schlimmer machen

nightmare

- Alptraum

sweat

- Schweiß

vividly

- lebhaft

whether they have picked the right game for the group or whether they should maybe make an effort to find something else.

Inez: Right. Maybe get feedback from the students after they've tried a game out or...

Petra: Exactly! I mean, my feedback was clear enough, you know. My teacher could have noticed the sheen of sweat on my brow, and it would have been obvious to her that I certainly wasn't comfortable and I certainly didn't get anything out of it. But I think that's the challenge, you know, finding the right game for the right kind of learner you have in front of you.

Inez: Right. Well, if you look into Spotlight magazine this month, you'll see lots of games and puzzles that you can actually try out without having a teacher in front of you. We hope you enjoy them. Thank you for listening. We'll be back next month!

See Spotlight 7/2018, pages 36–43

English at Work

[14] Time out!

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken has advice on how to suggest a time out during a negotiation.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Negotiating internationally in a second language is extremely demanding. It can be very hard to keep in mind everything you want from the negotiation. And this can be even more difficult if you have to work together in a negotiating team. If you or your team feel lost in the process or need an internal discussion for any reason, don't hesitate to take a time out. Listen to how Gregory, the leader of a negotiating team, does this.

Gregory: Sorry to interrupt at this point, but I suggest we take a short time out. I need to discuss with my team the implications of what's been proposed. But just before we do, can I summarize where we are? Our original suggestion was €475 per batch of 100 items.

batch

- Partie, Liefermenge

brow

- Augenbraue; hier: Stirn

challenge

- Herausforderung, Aufgabe

demanding

- anspruchsvoll

implication

- Auswirkung, Folge

item

- Artikel

obvious

- offensichtlich, klar

sheen

- Glanz

summarize

- zusammenfassen

We definitely require just-in-time delivery. We also proposed 45 days payment terms. You've proposed a price of €500 per batch with just-in-time delivery and 60 days payment terms. Our team needs to discuss this. Shall we reconvene in half an hour? Is that OK for you?

Ken: Gregory has done three things. First, he makes a clear statement about the need for a time out.

Gregory: Sorry to interrupt at this point, but I suggest we take a short time out. I need to discuss with my team the implications of what's been proposed.

Ken: Then he summarizes where they are in the negotiation.

Gregory: But just before we do, can I summarize where we are?

Ken: Finally, he suggests a time when the meeting should reconvene.

Gregory: Shall we reconvene in half an hour? Is that OK for you?

Ken: The situation is now crystal clear to both sides. Now it's up to Gregory to use the 30-minute time out effectively with his team and to decide on the next steps in the process. Now you try. Put yourself in Gregory's shoes. We'll take his input a sentence at a time. I'll tell you what to say. You speak in the pause. Then you'll hear Gregory's version again. Good. We'll begin. Apologize for the interruption and propose a time out.

Gregory: Sorry to interrupt at this point, but I suggest we take a short time out.

Ken: Explain that you need to discuss the other side's proposal with your team.

Gregory: I need to discuss with my team the implications of what's been proposed.

Ken: Say that you want to summarize where you are in the negotiation before taking the time out.

Gregory: But just before we do, can I summarize where we are?

Ken: Mention the price of €475 per batch of 100 items.

Gregory: Our original suggestion was €475 per batch of 100 items.

Ken: Say you need just-in-time delivery.

Gregory: We definitely require just-in-time delivery.

Ken: Say you proposed a payment time of 45 days.

Gregory: We also proposed 45 days payment terms.

just-in-time delivery

• bedarfsorientierte
Lieferung

payment terms

• Zahlungsbedingungen

reconvene

• wieder zusammen-
kommen

Ken: Now say that your team needs to discuss this.

Gregory: Our team needs to discuss this.

Ken: Suggest you reconvene in half an hour and ask if that's OK.

Gregory: Shall we reconvene in half an hour? Is that OK for you?

Ken: How did you get on? Don't worry if your version was slightly different to Gregory's as long as you got the main message across. Use time outs regularly whenever you need time to think or discuss things internally. A time out is a very useful negotiating tool.

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* 7/2018, page 49

Peggy's Place

[15] The heat is on

David: It's getting hot in the kitchen. In fact, it's getting hot everywhere this month at our favourite London pub, Peggy's Place. Despite

the summer heat, though, pub owner Peggy isn't interested in getting air conditioning. Is there anything that could change her mind?

Helen: I swear I'll never complain about cold weather again.

Sean: I know what you mean. I've got three fans going in the kitchen, and it still feels as if I'm being roasted alive.

Helen: Have you never considered getting air conditioning, Peggy?

Peggy: Not likely! Honestly, I'm disappointed to hear that kind of talk from you.

Helen: But it's scorching. The streets are melting. Anyway, if you're so against a cooling breeze, why is Sean allowed to have fans running in the kitchen?

Peggy: He was worried that the food would go off.

Sean: It's true!

Helen: Oh, come on!

Peggy: Well, we don't want the health inspectors in here.

fan

• Ventilator

go off UK

• schlecht werden

scorching

• brütend heiß

Sean: Honestly, Peggy! It would be nice to have anyone in here. Just look at the place. It's empty.

Peggy: It's always like this when the weather is hot. People go straight home.

Helen: No, they don't! They go straight to the Hope and Anchor, where the air conditioning is on 24/7.

Peggy: It's my opinion that air conditioning is for softies. People with a bit of backbone don't complain about the weather. Look at the queen. Do you see her hiding in the shade when the temperatures go up? No. There she is, impeccably dressed, smiling and waving and being gracious whatever the weather.

Helen: OK, I admit that's admirable, but she also knows that there is a palace full of flunkies waiting at home with a cool drink and a plate of cucumber sandwiches.

Peggy: Hello, George! You look terrible! What's the matter?

George: It's the heat. Ever since the Sainsbury's/Asda merger, management has gone mad. They're desperate to maintain our market share. We've had one marketing campaign after another... I really feel quite faint.

Peggy: What can I get you?... George?

Helen: Someone catch him. Quick! He's passed out!

Sean: OK, I've got him. Let's ease him on to one of the seats.

Peggy: You're a nurse, Helen. What should we do?

Helen: I think he's fainted, but it's probably best to call an ambulance, just in case. Now, let's lay him down... Gently!

Peggy: I've called the ambulance.

Helen: He's coming round. George? Can you hear me?

Peggy: They'll be here in just a moment.

Helen: Bring me a cold, wet towel and a glass of water.

Peggy: Do you think he'll be OK? Could it be a heart attack?

admirable

- bewundernswert

backbone

- Rückgrat

cucumber

- Gurke

ease

- hier: vorsichtig ablegen

faint

- schwach; bewusstlos werden

flunkiy

- Lakai

gracious

- vornehm, elegant

impeccably

- tadellos

market share

- Marktanteil

merger

- Fusion

pass out

- bewusstlos werden

Sainsbury's/Asda

- brit. Supermarktketten

Sean: Look, here comes the ambulance.

Peggy: Thank goodness!

Ambulance man: Evening! Where's the patient? **Blimey!** It's **bloody** boiling in here. Has your air conditioning broken down, missus?

Peggy: I'll get it fixed tomorrow.

Helen and Sean: Peggy!

Helen: How can you tell such a massive **fib**?

Peggy: I don't know. I panicked.

Ambulance man: It looks as if he'll be fine, but to be honest, this place is a **health hazard** at these temperatures.

Peggy: I promise I'll get it fixed.

Sean: Can I have that in writing?

Source: Spotlight 7/2018, page 12

Short Story

[16] “Election madness — A Ms Winslow investigation, Chapter 2”

David: Now it's time for this month's short story. Amateur detective Dorothy Winslow is visiting her niece, Lucy, in the German village of Heroldstein. As the campaigning for the local church election gets underway, Ms Winslow realizes what the wrong result could mean for the community. Let's listen now to the second part of “Election madness”.

The inside of the church was well lit by large windows and simply decorated, in tune with the Lutheran faith of the people in the area. Dorothy and Frau Apfelbaum sat together in a pew, while Trotsky dozed on the stone floor and the vicar told her about the history of the building. Dorothy admired its architecture, but Frau Apfelbaum only sighed and pulled a face. “Yes, it's beautiful, but not very practical. In winter, it's so cold, and then people stay away on Sundays. But if we put in heaters, we have to make sure we follow all sorts of regulations in order not to change the appearance, which makes it expensive, you know? I was hoping

admire

► bewundern

blimey UK ifml.

► verdammt

bloody UK ifml.

► echt

doze

► dösen, schlummern

faith

► Glaube

fib

► Flunkerei

get underway

► beginnen

health hazard

► Gesundheitsrisiko

in tune

► im Einklang

pew

► Kirchenbank

pull a face

► eine Grimasse schneiden

well lit

► hell erleuchtet

that the new church council would raise the money, but with either Frau Moser or Herr von Weiden as the likely leaders, I'm not optimistic..." Frau Apfelbaum stopped and gave another sigh.

Dorothy waited for her to continue, but she just sat there looking depressed. "Why's that?" Dorothy asked finally.

The problem, said Frau Apfelbaum, was that whoever lost the election was certain to spend the next four years blocking anything that the new leader of the church council tried to do. If Herr von Weiden were in charge, Frau Moser would make trouble about the costs to the community and think of ways money could be better spent. If Frau Moser were in charge, Herr von Weiden would complain about the changes being made to the architecture of the church and say it was being vandalized.

"So you see," the vicar continued, "nothing will get done. If only somebody else, like Frau Schnatterer, say, could be the leader, then there'd be no bad feelings, and the church council would actually be helpful. But at the moment, that seems unlikely."

"Hem!" said Dorothy. "Don't despair, vicar. God moves in mysterious ways. I'm sure He'd like the church to be heated if it meant more people coming on Sundays."

They left the building together, and Frau

Apfelbaum hid the key to the door underneath a stone by the entrance.

"Is that safe?" asked Dorothy as the vicar got on to her bicycle. Frau Apfelbaum laughed.

"I know I shouldn't, but there's nothing valuable in the church. When I started here, I forgot to bring the key one Sunday, and nobody could get in. Then somebody told me the previous vicar always put the key under this stone, so I decided to do the same. That was ten years ago, and nothing's gone missing yet, so I'm not worried. *Auf Wiedersehen!*"

That, thought Dorothy as she watched the vicar pedalling away, was the advantage of living in the country.

For the next couple of days, Dorothy followed Armin about as he started a round of door-to-door visits in the village. Not that she understood any of what he said, because he had suddenly begun speaking to everyone in the local dialect.

"What's happened to your normal German?" Dorothy asked him after a long and very boring visit to a farmer. "I can understand most of that."

charge: be in ~

• das Sagen haben

church council

• Kirchenvorstand

despair

• verzweifeln

raise

• aufbringen

"I need people to feel I'm just like them," Armin replied. "I was thinking that tomorrow, I should wear a cravat instead of a tie. What do you...?"

He suddenly stopped and looked over Dorothy's shoulder. Dorothy turned to see Angelika Moser waving to them from across the street. She was wearing a long red skirt with a white apron and had a blue shawl around her shoulders. On her head, she had a little white cap and was carrying a basket with apples and leaflets in it. As a mother and small boy walked past, she handed the woman a leaflet and gave the boy an apple. Then she carried on down the high street and went into the chemist's.

"Goodness me," said Dorothy. "What is she wearing?" Armin looked furious.

"That's the local Tracht!" he spluttered. "Normally she wears that outfit only to the village fete. That woman will stop at nothing to win this election. Well, tomorrow..."

Dorothy excused herself by saying she needed to check on Trotsky, and she went home for lunch.

"This election," she said as she ate a cheese sandwich and Trotsky sat staring at her until she gave him some cheese, too, "is getting ridiculous!"

The next day was Saturday. Dorothy had just finished getting dressed, when there was a knock at the door. It was Armin.

"Dorothy," he announced. "I have the perfect plan to impress the voters of Heroldstein, but I need your help, immediately. Come along! You can bring Trotsky, too."

They hurried off towards the Fischbach, a little stream just outside the village. As they approached, Dorothy saw there were two or three other people already there. She asked who they were.

"Volunteers like you," said Armin, his eyes shining. "I've organized some people to clear up all the rubbish that has collected along the banks of the stream. That'll show everybody who should lead the church council."

Armin distributed gloves and rubbish bags, and they were about to start work when, on

approach

- sich nähern

apron

- Schürze

bank

- hier: Ufer

cravat

- Halstuch (für Herren)

furious

- aufgebracht, wütend

leaflet

- Flugblatt, Werbeschüre

ridiculous

- lächerlich

shawl

- Schultertuch, Umhängetuch

splutter

- stottern; hervorstoßen

volunteer

- Freiwillige(r)

the other side of the stream, a similar group of reluctant villagers were marched up by Frau Moser. Both groups looked at each other across the water.

“Oh, dear!” said Dorothy to Armin. “What are you going to do now?”

Source: Spotlight 7/2018, pages 64–65

[17] Quiz

David: Here’s our final quiz round. I’m going to read some excerpts from Peggy’s Place and the short story. In each excerpt, a word will be missing. I’ll give you three options; choose the correct word to complete the excerpt. Ready?

“People with a bit of _____ don’t complain about the weather.”

(jawbone, backbone, kneecap)

“People with a bit of backbone don’t complain about the weather.”

“It looks as if he’ll be fine, but to be honest, this place is a _____ at these temperatures.”

(health benefit, health hazard, health club)

“It looks as if he’ll be fine, but to be honest, this place is a health hazard at these temperatures.”

“I know I shouldn’t, but there’s nothing _____ in the church.”

(important, interesting, valuable)

“I know I shouldn’t, but there’s nothing valuable in the church.”

“I was thinking that tomorrow, I should wear a _____ instead of a tie.”

(cravat, scarf, bandana)

“I was thinking that tomorrow, I should wear a cravat instead of a tie.”

Conclusion

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

bandana

➤ Halstuch

health benefit

➤ gesundheitlicher Nutzen

jawbone

➤ Kieferknochen

kneecap

➤ Kniescheibe

reluctant

➤ unlustig, zögernd

scarf

➤ Schal

subscriber

➤ Abonnent(in)

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