

Introduction

[1] **Meredith:** Welcome to the 11/2018 edition of Spotlight Audio. This is Meredith Hoffmann-Thomson, standing in this month for David Creedon. Join me now for a 60-minute expedition around the English-speaking world — with stories, language tips and exercises.

Canada's so big it seems more like a continent than a country. To help you plan your next trip, we've made a list of the very best things to see and do.

Think fairy tales are just for children? Think again! Beginning this month, we are presenting a modern interpretation of the most famous of these stories. As each one contains an important point of grammar, we hope they will entertain you and improve your English, too.

The differences between English and German can lead to all sorts of confusion. We take a look at some of the more amusing misunderstandings in the Culture section.

In the Spotlight

[2] **Jamie Lee Curtis**

Meredith: Let's begin by celebrating the 60th birthday of the American actress and author Jamie Lee Curtis. Though Curtis became famous by appearing in horror films, it turns out she doesn't enjoy being scared at all.

Jamie Lee Curtis is much more likely to appear in a horror movie than to watch one. The actress, who became famous for her role in the first *Halloween* movie, in 1978, told reporters this summer: "It's not a genre I'm a fan of... I scare easily. I'm emotional. So if something is super sad or violent, I react."

Curtis was born in Los Angeles, California, to actors Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, who starred in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* and acted in two horror films with her daughter, *The Fog* (1980) and *Halloween H20* (1998).

Jamie Lee Curtis became interested in acting while still at university, which she left to start her career. After her first movie, *Halloween*, she was in a series of horror films and became

fairy tale ▶ Märchen

scare ▶ sich erschrecken

stand in for sb.

▶ jmdn vertreten

known as the “scream queen.” She also found success starring in other popular films, such as *Trading Places* (1983), *A Fish Called Wanda* (1988), and *True Lies* (1994), as well as in the 2015 TV series *Scream Queens*. Curtis is known as a writer of children’s books, too.

Forty years after her first movie, she stars in a new *Halloween*, now showing in cinemas. She told *Variety* magazine: “My obituary is going to read, ‘*Halloween* actress dead.’ I know that, I respect that, and I’m just eternally grateful to have been a part of the films.” Curtis will be 60 on November 22.

Source: *Spotlight* 11/2018, page 10

A Day in My Life

[3] On the night shift

Meredith: In *A Day in My Life*, we meet Emily Cox. The 35-year-old nurse works at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. She’s a shift worker who’s currently active on the spinal injuries unit at the hospital. Listen now as Cox lists the main causes of the injuries she treats.

As I mentioned, I work in the spinal unit, which [has] a very big variety of injuries from low-level to high-level. Most of our injuries

are actually after car and motorbike accidents. Some of them can also be due to skiing accidents. Generally, [these ones] are overseas, so they all get flown back to the PA Hospital for surgery and then move onto our ward, which is rehab. So they’re there to try and work out ways to improve their life quality to be able to get back home and get back to work.

Meredith: In the next part of the interview, Cox talks about those patients who have to be put on ventilators.

Some of our patients are also on ventilators, meaning that they are on a machine that actually breathes for them. Most of the time, when they are on these machines, that’s them for the rest of their life. So we’re there to try to help them to adjust to be able to try to do some

adjust ▶ sich anpassen, umstellen

eternally ▶ ewig

obituary ▶ Todesanzeige, Nachruf

rehab *ifml.* ▶ Reha

scream ▶ Schrei

shift ▶ Schicht

spinal injury

▶ Wirbelsäulenverletzung

surgery ▶ Operation

unit ▶ Abteilung, Station

ventilator

▶ Beatmungsgerät

ward ▶ Abteilung

things for themselves, or they're with us while they work out a way to be able to get home to have carers to be able to look after them at home.

See Spotlight 11/2018, pages 22–23

Britain Today

[4] The return of mother's ruin

Meredith: Britain's current political situation might be easier to understand with the help of a strong drink. Perhaps that explains the country's current love for gin. But according to columnist Colin Beaven, the popularity of gin may be a case of history repeating itself.

In this fast-moving world, it's nice when something slows you down — like the person in front of you in the queue at the bar. And if that person plans to order a gin, it really helps not to be in a hurry.

In the past it wasn't really important what brand you got when you asked for a gin and tonic. You were probably given Gordon's, which was the only one most of us had heard of. Now there are hundreds to choose from: local gin, craft gin, gin you drink with lemon, gin you drink with cucumber, gin made with spices, fruit, flowers and no doubt weeds.

So when the barman asked the woman in front of me what particular gin she wanted, it took her a while to make up her mind.

“Gordon's?” she said, tentatively. The choice seemed unimaginative.

“Sorry, we don't have that one,” said the barman. Silly me for thinking that the wait was finally over.

It can't be good for us to be making so much gin. We've been here before. In the 18th century, gin was sold everywhere. The population was never sober. The working classes were the non-working classes. A picture called *Gin Lane* by William Hogarth shows family life in ruins, with women so drunk they can't look after their children.

The government had actually encouraged the production of gin, because it helped to keep the price of grain high. But by 1736, people were drinking so much that a law was passed to try to limit sales.

brand ▶ Marke

carer ▶ Assistent(in),
Betreuer(in)

cucumber ▶ Gurke

mother's ruin ▶ Gin

Silly me!

▶ Ich Dummerchen!

sober ▶ nüchtern

spice ▶ Gewürz

tentatively ▶ zögernd

weed ▶ Unkraut

It's like diesel cars today. First the government wanted us to buy them, because they give off less CO₂ than petrol ones. But they forgot that diesel engines give off **fumes**, and now they have to find ways of limiting air pollution. Would it help to make craft diesel flavoured with herbs, fruit and spices?

You might think the 1700s were no more than history. But watch out for Jacob Rees-Mogg, another **embarrassing** British politician. He's a Conservative member of parliament — the MP for North East Somerset. For fun, though, his colleagues call him “the MP for the 18th century”.

Why? We're not saying he's never heard of modern inventions like mobile phones and Australia. It's just that he looks so old-fashioned and sounds so reactionary. And some say he could be our next prime minister. In that case, a gin shop on every corner would be the only way to make life **bearable**.

Talking of gin, has the woman in front of me finally chosen? No, she's still **humming and hawing**. I know there's a queue, but there comes a point where you have to **barge in**. “Excuse me, I'm sorry to barge in...”

“**Bar** gin? You seriously want to bar us from drinking gin?”

Of course not. It wouldn't be human, nor practical. But could we at least bar people from voting for politicians who make us so depressed

that we can't stop drinking it? It's a bit undemocratic, but just think of how good it would be for our health.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, page 13

Travel

[5] Oh, Canada!

Meredith: Canada is the second-biggest country in the world and offers an endless amount of things to see and do. How can anyone choose from all that variety? Well, Spotlight has picked out the 10 very best events, sights and cultural tips to help you with your travel plans. You're about to hear some **excerpts** from the travel feature. The first excerpt is about the city of Vancouver. As you listen, try to answer this question. In which park in Vancouver can you find a rainforest and an aquarium?

bar ▶ hier: verbieten

barge in ▶ sich einmischen

bearable ▶ erträglich

embarrassing ▶ peinlich

excerpt ▶ Auszug

fumes ▶ Abgase

hum and haw

▶ herumdrucken

Best city for kids: Vancouver

Vancouver, Canada's coastal metropolis in the west, is an adventure playground for children and adults alike with many natural attractions. Close to the glassy skyscrapers of downtown is Stanley Park, a 1,000-acre oasis within a 22-kilometre sea wall. Kids will love the miniature train ride through the rainforest and the aquarium, home to 70,000 creatures, including acrobatic dolphins, sea lions and walruss.

Cross the Burrard Inlet to North Vancouver and visit the Capilano Suspension Bridge, where you can bounce your way over the tops of evergreen trees and (gulp!) a gigantic gorge. Save some pocket money for Granville Island, an arts and crafts paradise that includes a children's market in an old factory.

Take a day trip to the provincial capital, Victoria, a short ferry ride over the Strait of Georgia to Vancouver Island. There, you can treat your little princes and princesses to afternoon tea with elegant cucumber sandwiches and small cakes at the Empress Hotel on the waterfront. Or order yourself a brinner — “breakfast for dinner”, the hot new food trend — at the Blue Fox Cafe.

Meredith: Were you able to answer the question? In which park in Vancouver can you find a rainforest and an aquarium? The answer is

Stanley Park. In the following excerpt, you'll hear about the small, but very popular, butter tart. Listen out for the answer to this question. Which three countries are listed as possible origins of the butter tart?

Best comfort food: butter tart

No one knows the exact origin of the butter tart. It could be that this Canadian treat first appeared in the 1600s, when French colonists settled Quebec. Or the recipe could have arrived a century later from Scotland, where a sweet pastry called the Ecclefechan border tart was popular. It could even (horrors!) have

acre ▶ Morgen
(4,047 m²)

arts and crafts
▶ Kunsthandwerks-

bounce ▶ springen,
hüpfen

cucumber ▶ Gurken-

evergreen
▶ immergrün

gorge ▶ Schlucht

gulp! ▶ Schluck!

pastry ▶ Gebäck

sea wall ▶ Damm,
Ufermauer

suspension
▶ hier: Hänge-

tart ▶ hier: Törtchen

treat ▶ hier: Lecker-
bissen, Süßigkeit

walrus ▶ Walross

waterfront: on the ~
▶ am Wasser

infiltrated Canadian kitchens from the US, home of the pecan pie.

One thing everyone agrees on is that butter tarts are delicious. The basic recipe involves baking small pastry shells containing a mixture of melted butter, brown sugar (or maple syrup) and a dash of vinegar. Individual variations abound and can lead to heated debates.

Should the filling be firm or runny? Ought one to add raisins, or how about walnuts?

You can buy butter tarts in supermarkets, but locals say the best come from Betty's Pies & Tarts in Cobourg on Lake Ontario, little more than an hour's drive from Toronto. Still hungry? The Ontario town of Midland on Georgian Bay holds a butter-tart festival every year in June.

Meredith: Were you able to answer the question? Which three countries are listed as possible origins of the butter tart? The countries are France, Scotland and the US.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, pages 32–38

Everyday English

[6] A weekend away

Meredith: Isn't it wonderful to get away for the weekend and explore a new city or

landscape? Well, in Everyday English we go travelling with Ellie and Marika. The two friends want to spend a weekend in Edinburgh. In the first dialogue, they talk about the upcoming trip. They are travelling from Euston railway station, in central London. How long will the journey to Edinburgh take?

Ellie: Hi, Marika! How's it going?

Marika: Fine, thanks. Funny, I was just going to call you.

Ellie: Ah, great minds and all that. Listen! I'm just about to book my train ticket, and I wanted to check that the time is OK for you. You haven't booked yet, have you?

Marika: No, not yet. How much is it going to be?

Ellie: With our railcards, it'll be £196.60 for the two of us.

Marika: That's not too bad. So, what time does the train leave?

Ellie: Hang on a minute... Ah, here it is. We

abound ► reichlich vorhanden sein

dash ► Schuss

firm ► fest

pastry shell

► Mürbeteig-Tartelette

pecan pie ► Kuchen mit Pekannüssen

raisin ► Sultanine, Rosine

vinegar ► Essig

leave from Euston at 17.40, and we arrive in Edinburgh Waverley at 22.19.

Marika: Perfect! That's not long at all, is it?

Ellie: Nope. Four hours and 39 minutes.

Meredith: Could you find the answer? How long will the journey from London to Edinburgh take? The journey will take four hours and 39 minutes. In the next dialogue, the friends are in Edinburgh. It's Saturday morning, and they're having breakfast at the hotel where they're staying. Ellie and Marika try some local specialties. The hotel serves haggis. This Scottish dish is made from the insides of sheep. It contains lungs, liver, heart, oats and spices. Ellie isn't interested in haggis. What does she eat instead?

Ellie: The buffet's amazing! There are so many different things. What did you get?

Marika: I went for something healthy: a tattie scone, eggs and haggis. Try some. It's delicious!

Ellie: Haggis? For breakfast? I think I'll stick to my porridge, thanks.

Marika: You don't know what you're missing!

Ellie: It's a pity it's raining so heavily. If we go to the castle now, we'll get soaked.

Marika: How about going to the spa this morning and then having lunch in a cosy pub?

Ellie: Sounds like a brilliant plan. Maybe it'll brighten up this afternoon. You never know.

Marika: Well, I wouldn't hold your breath. It is November, after all.

Meredith: Were you able to answer the question? What does Ellie eat instead of haggis? She eats porridge. Their weekend adventure may be nearly over, but these two friends are surely already planning their next journey.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, pages 54–55

Around Oz

[7] Selling sausages for a good cause

Meredith: Getting people to open their wallet for charity can be a challenge. However, our correspondent Peter Flynn believes he has the perfect recipe for raising money down under. All it takes are fried onions and grilled

get soaked ➤ bis auf die
Haut nass werden

oats ➤ Hafer (flocken)

recipe ➤ Rezept

liver ➤ Leber

spice ➤ Gewürz

lungs ➤ Lunge

wallet ➤ Brieftasche,
Geldbeutel

nope ifml. ➤ nö, nee

sausages. You won't be able to resist the sizzle in our Around Oz.

I've volunteered to work on a Saturday afternoon at a great Australian fundraiser this month: the sausage sizzle. In the course of the day, we will raise about A\$ 1,500 selling barbecued beef sausages in bread rolls topped, if you want, with fried onions, tomato sauce and mustard. The worthy cause this time will be breast cancer research, because one of my friends is a 20-year survivor of the disease, and she has been a supporter of the Cancer Council ever since she recovered. But it could be any charity, community group or sporting club, because across the country, the humble sausage sizzle has become an institution and a top fundraising event.

You may be confident that most people cannot resist the smell of barbecued onions. The prized location these days, though, is just outside the entrance to any of the hundreds of Bunnings hardware stores. These are mega-warehouses that attract thousands of customers on Saturdays and Sundays. For the event, the company provides almost everything from the tent, barbecue and gas to the tables and a sink — though not the sausages and bread rolls themselves. Places are booked up to six months in advance.

My daughter's soccer club was once lucky enough to organize a sausage sizzle on Father's

Day, selling 100 sausages an hour between eight in the morning and four in the afternoon, along with hundreds of cans of soft drink or bottled water. Even though prices are fixed at A\$ 2.50 for the sausage sizzle and A\$ 1.50 for the drinks, the profit margins are huge, thanks to a lot of the food being donated or discounted by local butchers and supermarkets.

In a social-media sensation last year, a bogan tradesman took his entire wedding party to Bunnings for the sausage sizzle. The store manager then gifted the couple a new vacuum cleaner. Another devotee is known regularly to send his drone to fetch him a sausage.

In more recent years, the “democracy sausage sizzle” has become part of elections,

bogan *Aus., NZ* jfmf.

► angeberisch

bread roll ► Brötchen

devotee ► Anhänger(in)

fundraiser ► Benefizveranstaltung

hardware store

► Baumarkt

humble

► bescheiden, einfach

mustard ► Senf

profit margin

► Profitspanne

raise ► hier: einnehmen, aufreiben

sink ► Waschbecken, Spülbecken

sizzle: sausage ~ *Aus., NZ*

► Wohltätigkeitsveranstaltung, auf der Grillwürstchen verkauft werden

worthy ► lobenswert

with compulsory voting here causing long queues at polling booths. Another big day will be outside betting shops on Melbourne Cup Day (always the first Tuesday in November), when having a gamble is almost as compulsory as voting.

No matter what the location is, the procedure is the same for us old hands. Four people per shift is the optimal number: one taking the orders and money, one cooking and two putting the sausages into the rolls wrapped in a paper serviette. People help themselves to the sauce and mustard.

Customers come mainly in two varieties: those who want fried onions (adults generally) and those who don't (usually little kids). Occasionally, they want the sausage only, with no bread (that could be for the dog), and sometimes they want only the onion in a roll but no sausage ("failed vegetarians", I call them). Us workers, though, won't want to see a sausage sizzle for another six months.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, page 46

Grammar Tales

[8] Rumpelpumpkin

Meredith: Fairy tales have been with us for a long time. Early collections date back to

the Italian Renaissance and include versions of "Puss in Boots", "Cinderella" and "Snow White".

In a new series, Spotlight presents its own take on fairy tales. Each story includes a specific grammar structure. That's why we're calling the series Grammar Tales. You're about to hear our new version of "Rumpelstiltskin" or, as we call it, "Rumpelpumpkin". Listen out for examples of first-conditional sentences — for example, "If you guess my name, we'll forget all about it." The first conditional is explained in the booklet, and there's an exercise for you to try, too.

Once upon a time, there was a clever young woman called Gwen, who was in some difficulty...

Gwen looked around the huge room. It had probably once been a beautiful ballroom.

about: be ~ ► im Begriff sein, gleich etw. tun werden

Cinderella
► Aschenputtel

compulsory
► obligatorisch

old hand ► alter Hase

polling booth
► Wahlkabine

Puss in Boots ► Der gestiefelte Kater

Snow White
► Schneewittchen

Dusty chandeliers hung from a golden ceiling. In the centre of the room stood two long tables. They were covered with bottles of chemicals and bags of powder. “Right, Missy,” croaked Mr King, “I want a kilo by tomorrow morning, or your old man’s a goner. Get to work!” The door banged shut.

Mr King was a “business associate” of Gwen’s dad. Her father had been out of work for a few months and had recently been diagnosed with depression. He owed Mr King quite a lot of money. That morning, Mr King had visited her house to collect his money, but her dad didn’t have it. Mr King suggested that Gwen help him out for a few days to repay the debt. Her father had boasted about Gwen getting an A in A-level chemistry.

“Can she make MDMA?” Mr King asked. “Of course!” answered her father, and to Gwen he said: “If you do this little job, we’ll be out of trouble, and you can go to university.” She was desperate to take up her place there, but felt guilty about leaving her dad. He hadn’t been himself since her mum died. “I know it’s a lot to ask, Gwenny,” he pleaded, “but I so want to make a fresh start and get back on track.”

Shaking, Gwen sat down on the ballroom floor. She didn’t have the first idea what MDMA was made of. It wasn’t part of the national curriculum. She was about to google “how to make MDMA” on her phone, when she heard a noise

and looked up to see a strange-looking little man the shape of a pumpkin with rumpled clothes.

“What’s the matter?” he asked. When she told him, he said, “What will you give me if I make it for you?”

“My earrings?” offered Gwen, and the little man agreed. Gwen looked on in awe as he set to work. After a while, she lay down on a pile of straw in the corner of the room and fell asleep. By the time she woke up the next morning, the little man had disappeared. Lots of small

A ▶ Note 1

A-level UK ▶ etwa:
Abitur

awe ▶ Ehrfurcht

bang shut ▶ zuschlagen

boast ▶ angeben,
prahlen

business associate
▶ Geschäftspartner(in)

chandelier
▶ Kronleuchter

croak ▶ krächzen

debt ▶ Schulden

earring ▶ Ohrring

goner: be a ~ ifml.
▶ erledigt sein

MDMA ▶ Ecstasy

pile of straw
▶ Strohballen

plead ▶ (mit Nach-
druck) bitten

pumpkin ▶ Kürbis

rumpled ▶ zerknittert

track: get back on ~
▶ wieder auf die Beine
kommen

bags of powder were neatly stacked on the table. Mr King was very pleased. He was on to a good thing here. He had his men bring more chemicals and told Gwen that he'd be back the following morning. Gwen sat down on the floor in despair and began to cry. Then, as if by magic, the little man appeared. "What will you give me this time if I do the work?" he asked. Gwen offered him her phone, but he shook his head. So she held out her ring. It had been her mother's wedding ring, and she always wore it. He took it.

On the third night, when the little man showed up, she had nothing to give him.

"I know," he said. "I'll take your firstborn child if you marry Mr King."

"What? Ugh!" replied an outraged Gwen. "You can't just go around demanding that girls have babies and then hand them over to you. And Mr King, really!"

"I'm only messin' with you," the little man said and let out a high-pitched giggle. "That would be really strange. Tell you what, if you guess my name, we'll forget all about it."

"Is it Heisenberg?" guessed Gwen.

"No," snorted the little man.

"Günther? Quentin? Hamish?"

"No, no and no," answered the little man, barely looking up from what he was doing. As he worked through the night, Gwen continued to guess. At some point, she fell asleep, and when

she woke up, the little man had disappeared. Gwen wondered if he had forgotten about their deal.

Mr King, pleased with his massive stash of synthetic drugs, said, "Tell your dad we're good," and he ordered Gwen an Uber. At home, she found a note from her father: "Started new job at the mill today. Back by six. Love you, Dad".

After she had showered and had some breakfast, Gwen reached for her phone and sent a picture she'd managed to take of the little man to all her friends. "Ever seen this guy? I need to know his name," she wrote. One by one, her friends replied, but it wasn't until the evening that a friend of a friend sent her a shot of a Tinder profile with the caption, "This him?"

"Oh, my God! That is him!" gasped Gwen.

barely ► kaum

caption

► Bildunterschrift

despair ► Verzweiflung

gasp ► keuchen, nach Luft ringen

giggle ► Kichern

high-pitched ► schrill

mess: ~ with sb.

► jmdn. ärgern

neatly ► sauber

outraged ► empört

snort ► schnauben, prusten

stack ► stapeln

stash *ifml.* ► hier: Vorrat illegaler Drogen

“That’s really his name? You couldn’t have made it up!”

The first term at university had flown by, and in a few days, Gwen would be going home to spend Christmas with her father. Whenever she thought about those scary days in the MDMA lab, she couldn’t believe that it had actually happened.

As she was on her way to a lecture, the strange-looking little man suddenly appeared in a hallway. Gwen felt sick. She hoped he had forgotten all about her.

He flashed his crooked teeth and hissed, “How’s your dad, Gwenny?”

“Much better, thanks,” replied Gwen. Then she blurted out: “I know your name. It’s Rumpelpumpkin!” The little man jumped up and down in rage.

“Who told you?” he demanded. But before Gwen could answer, Rumpelpumpkin stamped his foot on the floor so hard that it went straight through. He disappeared and was never to be seen again. Gwen and her father lived happily ever after.

What did they say?

When Rumpelpumpkin bargains with Gwen, he says: “If you guess my name, we’ll forget all about it.”

This is an example of the first conditional.

First-conditional sentences are formed like this:

Question: What **will** you **give** me if I **make** it for you?

Answer: If you **do** the work, I’ll **give** you my earrings.

An if-clause often refers to a condition — something that must happen in order that something else can happen. An if-clause can come at the beginning or the end of the sentence. If the if-clause comes at the end, you don’t need a comma. Remember not to put **will** in the if-clause:

I’ll **give** you my necklace if you **do** the work.

Instead of **will**, you can also use another modal verb + infinitive:

If you **do** this little job, you **can go** to university.

blurt: ~ sth. out ► mit etw. herausplatzen

crooked ► krumm, schief

flash ► aufblitzen lassen

hiss ► zischen

lecture ► Vorlesung

make: ~ sth. up ► etw. ausdenken

rage ► Wut, Zorn

scary ifml. ► beängstigend, schrecklich

stamp ► stampfen

Exercise

Write down all five examples of the first conditional in the story.

- A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
 D. _____
 E. _____

Try our special worksheet on this topic, which you'll find at www.spotlight-online.de/tales1118

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, pages 28–30

Replay

[9] A look at recent news events

Inez: Welcome to Replay, the listening exercise in which we look at a recent news story, its background and language. In this edition: Despite the US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, the European Union is fighting to keep the agreement alive.

[10] On Iran and sanctions: the EU stands firm

Inez: In 2015, Iran signed a deal on its nuclear programme with the five permanent members of

the UN Security Council and Germany. The deal came after much suspicion that Iran was trying to develop nuclear weapons. According to the deal, Iran would limit nuclear activities and allow international inspectors into the country. In return, economic sanctions would be lifted.

Now the deal is in danger. After accusing Iran of lying about its nuclear programme, US president Donald Trump decided in May of this year to withdraw from the agreement. France, Germany and Britain, however, have said they will uphold the deal. In an opinion piece from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the editorial writers say that, although the Iran deal was never perfect, it's the best one available. 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. Proof that something is true or that you were right about something is called "vindication". And "hostility" is strong or angry opposition to something. Now listen to the first excerpt.

Three years ago, *The Guardian* welcomed the Iran nuclear deal as a triumph of diplomacy.

editorial ▶ Leitartikel

suspicion ▶ Misstrauen

in return ▶ im Gegenzug

uphold

▶ aufrechterhalten

nuclear deal

▶ Atomabkommen

withdrawal ▶ Rückzug

Though sceptics doubted its value, Iran has complied with its terms — surely a vindication of the patient, painful work invested in it. Yet the agreement has never had a chance to fully mature; and now it is on life support, in the words of one expert. Donald Trump's visceral hostility to any success attached to Barack Obama's name, and the hawkishness of those around him, made America's withdrawal this spring all but inevitable. Now the US administration has reimposed blanket sanctions and will turn up the heat again in November with banking and oil restrictions.

Inez: In the second excerpt, the writers question the motives of the US in withdrawing from the nuclear deal. Before you listen, let's look at some useful vocabulary. "Credibility" is a quality that somebody has that makes people believe or trust them. And "domestically" describes something that is done inside a country rather than internationally. Here's the second excerpt.

The resistance of the EU and especially the "E3" signatories (Germany, France and the UK) is welcome. The question is whether it can save the deal. No one suggests that it is perfect — but it was the best reachable. Now the circumstances are worse: Iran is a stronger force in the region and the moderate president

Hassan Rouhani has lost credibility domestically because the deal barely survives. So few believe that an improved agreement is in sight, and though the US administration denies that its real goal is engineering regime change, both its comments and actions suggest otherwise.

Inez: In the final excerpt, the *Guardian* writers describe the effects of the renewed US sanctions within Iran. Before you listen, here's some important vocabulary. If something is "compulsory", it must be done because of a rule or law. And "intransigence" describes an unwillingness to change your ideas or behaviour.

The Iranian regime is guilty of grotesque human rights abuses at home... But sanctions are

barely ▶ kaum

blanket ▶ hier: alles umfassend

comply with sth.
▶ etw. erfüllen

hawkishness
▶ Angriffslust

life support: be on ~
▶ künstlich am Leben erhalten werden

mature ▶ reif werden, sich entfalten

reimpose
▶ wiederauferlegen

signatory
▶ Vertragsstaat

visceral ▶ tief sitzend

no way to support the legitimate demands of the Iranian people, who are already struggling. The rial has halved in value since April. The prices of essential goods, including medicines, have shot up. This year has already seen demonstrations unprecedented since the 1979 revolution: spurred by anger over issues ranging from high prices to water shortages. Other protesters — such as the women resisting the compulsory hijab rules — are frustrated at the lack of social and political freedoms, due to the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's utter intransigence. ...

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2018

[11] 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? Proof that something is true or that you were right is called... vindication.

If something has to be done because of a rule or law, it is... compulsory.

What adverb describes something that is done inside a country rather than internationally? Domestically

Strong or angry opposition to something can

be called... hostility.

What quality makes people believe or trust someone? Credibility

And what noun describes an unwillingness to change your ideas or behaviour? Intransigence

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

See Spotlight 11/2018, page 20

Culture

[12] ...and then I went to the *Ohrenarzt*

Meredith: No matter how well you know a foreign language, there are always going to be misunderstandings. And some of those misunderstandings can be very amusing. Language author Dagmar Taylor is a native English speaker who has lived in Germany for many years. In an article for *Spotlight*, she looks at some of the subtle differences between the two languages that can cause confusion. First Dagmar will read an excerpt from the article;

shortage ► Knappeheit

spur ► anstacheln,
vorantreiben

unprecedented

► beispiello

utter ► äußerst

then she'll discuss the topic in this edition's Roundtable.

The genuine article

When I began learning German at secondary school at the age of 11, I doubted the need for articles. What, I thought, was the necessity for so many varieties of the definite article, when in English, we happily make do with one: "the"?

Why is it *das Sofa*, but *die Couch*, when, at the end of the day, we're talking about the same piece of furniture? And why is a girl *das Mädchen*? I know that nouns ending in the diminutive suffix *-chen* all take *das* — and believe me, I hold on to rules like this in the land of random article distribution — but why is a girl an "it", while a sausage is a "she"?

It would make sense if different articles were used to help people like me understand the meaning of words that have a number of meanings, such as *die Bank* (the bank) and *die Bank* (the bench). But, no, not even the *Stuhl* you sit on and the *Stuhl* you sit down for have different articles.

Don't get me started on declension either. It's bad enough that nouns can be masculine, feminine or neuter, but that the article changes after certain prepositions, or depending on whether they're the object or the subject in the sentence, is just too much.

At school, having a solution that said "one article fits every situation" seemed the right way to go. Being quite polite at the age of 11, I didn't think it would be a good idea to point out that the Germans had got it wrong, and that they needed to consider reducing their melange of different articles to one definite article, *das*, and one indefinite article, *ein*. I quietly decided for myself that I would simply ignore the articles when I was learning vocabulary. Perhaps the Germans would catch up with my pragmatism at some point.

Back then, I had no idea that I would be spending most of the rest of my days in Germany. After studying German at university, I might have guessed that the language was going to be part of my life in one way or another. Yet I think I still believed that I was going to pick up the articles by osmosis. That assumption clearly wasn't realistic.

When I arrived in Germany "for good", I suddenly became embarrassed at the thought of getting an article wrong in conversation. Obviously I knew some articles and felt quite

declension

► Deklination

diminutive

► verkleinert

noun ► Substantiv,
Nomen

random ► zufällig

suffix ► Endung (eines
Wortes)

confident when I was talking about *das Haus* or *das Auto*, but if the topic turned to something more complex, my only option was to fall silent, or, worse still, to cough while saying the article, so as to hide the fact that I had no idea whether it was *der*, *die* or *das*. It went like this: “*Kannst du mir bitte (cough) Salz reichen?*” After trying this out a few times, I decided that it was even more embarrassing than just admitting I was clueless and asking what the hell the article was. So I did that sometimes, but it didn’t help the flow of conversation.

Sometimes, I just listed all the articles as if I were doing some sort of oral multiple-choice test: “*Es tut mir Leid, aber ich finde den / die / das Zettel nicht mehr.*” This clearly wasn’t a good solution either.

Once, at the English school where I was working, a new student introduced himself to me in German: “*Hallo! Ich bin der Wolfgang.*”

“*Hallo!*” I replied, all smiles. “*Ich bin der Dagmar.*” As soon as I said it, I realized my mistake and turned bright red. I couldn’t even say my name properly, and you don’t actually need articles with names, even if it is common usage in the dialectal madness of southern Germany. But that’s a completely different story.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, pages 64–67

[13] Roundtable

Inez: Welcome to Roundtable. Our topic today is German-English misunderstandings. Those linguistic hurdles that language learners all face, and that can create embarrassing and also hilarious situations. Here to discuss the topic with me today is the author of our feature on that topic, Dagmar Taylor. And I’ll begin by asking, Dagmar, so you had to sit down for the article and think up, or try and remember, those situations. How hard was that?

Dagmar: It wasn’t hard at all, actually, because these embarrassing situations are etched on my memory.

Inez: Is there one that you didn’t include, because we had a focus on specific things. Is there anything there that you can remember?

Dagmar: Yes, one springs to mind. It was when I was a student, and I was living in Eichstätt, and I went and worked in a beer garden for the summer, and one of the guests ordered “*Brotwurst*”. So I went to the kitchen and I ordered a “*Brotwurst*”, and a few, I don’t know, maybe 10 minutes later, I went and picked up the

cough ▶ husten

etch ▶ ätzen; hier:
einbrennen

hilarious ▶ wahnwitzig
komisch

hurdle ▶ Hindernis

Wurstbrot. And so I brought him out the Wurstbrot, and he said he had ordered a Bratwurst. And I didn't understand what the problem was. I'm, like, going, Ja? But it's Brot und Wurst, equals Wurstbrot. And then he went, "Es ist eh schon Wurst!"

Inez: That's really nice!

Dagmar: And it wasn't until a couple of days later, I'm pretty slow I must admit, that I realized that it was the accent that was getting in the way.

Inez: Yeah, that's an additional problem, especially in Bavaria or maybe in Swabia. Right, so no difficulty coming up with these things. Why do you think we're so fascinated by them, Dagmar? What is it about them?

Dagmar: That's a really difficult question.

Inez: My own take is, these are moments when you just feel completely helpless, and it takes you back to childhood in a way. You're back at that point where you really don't know what the next step is going to be. You haven't understood something, and that's why they're in our memories and sharing them with other people is a lovely kind of communality. That would be my take.

Dagmar: Yeah, I agree with you. I think that's what it is. You're so used to being able to communicate: saying something, you get what you want and there's no issue at all. And then, suddenly, you're back to something very simple,

and the communication is not working, it's going wrong. And I just always think it's funny. I think they're great little stories for later.

Inez: I think generally the problem is that one can't laugh at that particular moment. They make much better stories for evenings in the pub or whatever. I had one. That was actually slightly embarrassing. OK, I'm bilingual, so generally my grasp of German was quite good, but there was a lot of language that I didn't actually know because I'd grown up in Britain. So I went to work as a teacher, a student teacher, at a German gymnasium, and the *Direktor* came to visit me in my flat. He was a very nice guy, but he came from the *Bundeswehr* originally. That had been his previous career. And he was a very kind of upright gentleman; great manners and whatever. And he came in, and I said sit down and whatever, and he said, "Wollen Sie mir nicht einen Tee anbieten, als Engländerin?" And I

communality

► Gemeinsamkeit

equal ► gleich sein

grasp ► Verständnis

I'm, like, going *ifml.*

► ich sag also

issue ► Problem

previous ► vorherig, früher

take ► Einstellung

upright ► aufrecht; hier: durch und durch

way: get in the ~
► im Weg sein

said, yes, of course. And what I'd done was that I'd gone out because I couldn't find teabags. I mean this was a while ago, and I couldn't find the teabags I wanted, and so I found one of those little nets with the wire through the top that you kind of drape in your cup. And I bought this together with a friend, a German friend, and she told me it was called a "Tee-Pariser". And so I just kind of held this thing up, and I said, "In England machen wir das nicht mit so einem Tee-Pariser." I didn't know what that was, but I did notice that the guy was completely embarrassed. And so I made him his tea, and as soon as he'd gone, I called a friend of mine, and I said, "What's wrong with this sentence? What did I do wrong?" And he explained it to me. And, of course, I didn't ever want to go back to school again. I was so embarrassed. So, yeah, at that moment, I was purple with embarrassment, and I really didn't want to think about it, but, of course, in retrospect it does make a good story, I have to say.

Dagmar: And I've learned a new word.

Inez: Yes, exactly. Precisely. OK. Thank you very much, indeed, Dagmar. And maybe you'd like to write in, listeners, and tell us your embarrassing linguistic experiences. Thank you. Bye-bye.

See Spotlight 11/2018, pages 64–67

English at Work

[14] Starting a presentation

Meredith: In each edition, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken has advice on the best way to start a business presentation.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. When I start a business presentation, I avoid clichés like "I'm happy to be here today". People have heard these clichés hundreds of times and aren't really listening to you. I don't even start with the words "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen". I never start with an apology or the word "unfortunately". I want my audience to feel positive about the presentation. If I do have bad news, I first get their attention in a positive way and then give the bad news. I also avoid mentioning a previous speaker. I establish my own competence first. I refer to previous speakers later on in the relevant section of the main body of the presentation. Here's an example of an opening I would not use:

drape ► drapieren; hier:
hängen

in retrospect
► im Nachhinein

purple ► purpurrot

Speaker: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm very happy to have this opportunity of talking to you today about staff development. First of all, I have to apologize that, unfortunately, Janet Green, our HR manager, was called away and asked me to take over at rather short notice, so I haven't had much time to prepare. And 30 minutes is a very short time to cover all the points, but I'll do my best. As Mark Howard put it so cleverly before lunch, we need to plan for the future and develop our staff, and so HR has developed a programme for future staff development.

Ken: This start is typical of many business presentations. It's OK but not very stimulating or motivating. So what would I say instead? There are many ways of starting a presentation in an interesting way. In this case, I'll use four techniques in my opening. I'll start with a rhetorical question. Then I'll ask the audience to use their imagination. I'll then go on to give a clear goal for the presentation. Finally I'll make an initial benefit promise to motivate the audience to listen to me. And I'll give Janet Green's apologies at the end. So I'd say something like this:

What are the main factors in our success as an organization? They're the skills and experience of the people who work here. But just imagine

the changes our business world might face over the next five years and how technological advances might affect the ways in which we work and cooperate. The goal of the next 30 minutes is to look at how the skills and experience of our people can be further developed in order to make sure our success continues in the future. By the end of the presentation, you'll have a clear picture of the four-stage staff development programme put together under the leadership of Janet Green, our HR manager, who, by the way, sends her apologies after being called to a board meeting.

Ken: Now you try. Think of a presentation you've made or are about to make. Plan your opening using the same four techniques that I did. That is: Start with a rhetorical question that you answer yourself. Introduce an imaginary scenario to stimulate the audience. Give a clear goal for the presentation. Finally, use an initial benefit promise to motivate your audience. Stop the track while you plan and practise saying your opening.

affect ▶ beeinflussen

by the way ▶ übrigens

HR (human resources) manager
▶ Personalleiter(in)

promise: initial benefit -
▶ ursprüngliches
Leistungsversprechen

short notice: at -
▶ kurzfristig

How did that go? Were you able to create a good start to your presentation? One final tip. When you've created your good opening, learn it by heart. Then you can concentrate on how you say it rather than searching for the words. It also gives you confidence when you know exactly what you want to say at the start.

Meredith: If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to language@spotlight-verlag.de. If Ken chooses your question to print in *Spotlight* magazine, you'll receive a free copy of his book, *Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English*.

See *Spotlight* 11/2018, page 61

Peggy's Place

[15] Spanners, hoses and body bags

Meredith: The bar at our favourite London pub is open once again. Chef Sean is still trying to find a nutritionist to help him plan the pub's menus. So far, his search has been unsuccessful. But that could all change as a new applicant arrives for an interview at Peggy's Place.

Peggy: So you still haven't found a nutritionist to work with you, Sean?

George: Perhaps you haven't been looking

hard enough.

Sean: That's not the problem. It's just a part time job, but it needs a lot of expertise. Finding that combination is difficult. Also the hours are quite irregular, and we can't offer too much money in the start-up phase.

Peggy: What happened with Helen?

Sean: It's not really an option for her — giving up a well-paid, full-time job in nursing for something that is basically an experiment.

Phil: So where do you go from here?

Sean: I do have one more candidate. Her name's Greta. She's from Germany. She's been doing odd jobs here for a few months, and she's a qualified nutritionist. She's looking for a way to supplement her income.

George: Sounds good.

Sean: Yeah, she's coming by in a few minutes for an informal interview. Right, I need to check the deliveries, Peggy.

Peggy: It's OK. If she turns up, I'll get you. What did you say her name was?

Sean: Greta. Thanks.

applicant

► Bewerber(in)

expertise

► Sachkompetenz

nutritionist

► Ernährungsberater(in)

odd jobs

► Gelegenheitsarbeiten

supplement

► aufbessern

turn up ► auftauchen

Peggy: Do you want another drink, George?

George: Yeah, why not? Maggie won't be home yet.

Greta: Excuse me! Is this Peggy's Place?

Peggy: If that's what it says on the sign outside...

Greta: Sorry?

Peggy: Ah, you must be the candidate for the job with Sean.

Greta: Yes, with the chef, I mean the boss. Or is he the boss and the chef?

Peggy: No, I'm the boss. I'm Peggy. Sean's the chef. I'll go and get him.

Greta: Sorry, but could I have a water first? And maybe I could leave my body bag here.

Phil: Not if there's a body in it.

Greta: Sorry?

Phil: Oh, you mean your backpack.

Greta: Yes, my body bag. May I ask: am I rich enough dressed? I thought about wearing a costume...

George: Why would you wear a costume to an interview?

Greta: But then I thought: Greta, why not just wear a smart hose?

Phil: And that, if I may say so, is one smart hose. Good decision!

Peggy: What on earth is she talking about?

Phil: I really don't know, but it's highly entertaining.

George: Maybe her English just isn't very

good.

Peggy: Here's your glass of water.

Greta: I'm sorry, but I have no money to pay for the water. I'm afraid my Tube ticket wasn't guilty, and I had to buy a new one.

Peggy: That's fine. The water's on the house. I'll go and get Sean.

Phil: So how long have you been in the UK, Greta?

Greta: Since two months. To begin, I didn't like it. I was in an apartment with three boys. They just sit around all day eating food out of Dosen.

George: Dosen?

Greta: You know, round metal boxes.

Phil: Oh, you mean tins.

Greta: Also one of them was a spanner.

Phil: Completely confused. George?

George: Yup! Ah, here comes Sean!

Sean: Hello, Greta! Nice to meet you. I'm Sean.

Greta: Hello, Sean! I'm really look forward to

body bag

► Leichensack
(sie meint: Rucksack)

chef ► Küchenchef(in)

costume ► Verkleidung
(sie meint: Kostüm)

guilty ► schuldig (sie meint: gültig)

hose ► Schlauch,
Strümpfe (sie meint:
Hose)

spanner

► Schraubenschlüssel
(sie meint: Spanner)

this intercourse with you. I think you'll find I am perfect for the work.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, page 12

Short Story

[16] “Gumboots and dirndls”

Meredith: Our 60 minutes are almost over. Before then, why not sit back and relax with a short story? In “Gumboots and dirndls”, a Londoner is visiting her son in Munich. But things turn deadly serious when the two decide to go hiking in the Alps.

“Why?” I had been asking myself this question since I boarded the plane from London to Munich two days earlier. Yes, it was nice to spend time with my grown-up son. But why had I agreed to go hiking in the mountains? I hate hiking. The only way I like to see mountains is as a panorama behind luxurious chalets photographed for stylish design magazines.

Tom, walking along beside me smiling, didn't make me feel any better. It's OK to walk uphill for hours if you are 6'3", but it's much harder work if you are 5'5" — and shrinking.

“When do we get to the hut?”

Actually, there is one good thing about hiking: you can eat as much as you like afterwards and

not feel bad about it. Bring on the buttery pancakes with raisins, apples and ice cream!

Tom studied his phone. “According to this, we should be there in two hours, but we get to a river in about 45 minutes. It looks as if it might be a good place for a break.”

Bless him! I had tried not to be bad-tempered, but perhaps the fact that I was stomping rather than walking had given me away.

The spot on the river was lovely. In front of us, the water formed a small pool before crashing over rocks into a ravine. The sky was blue overhead, and there was a scent of pines. I had to admit — only to myself, of course, and only for a moment — that hiking could be OK.

Tom took off his boots, placed them next to his rucksack on the rocks and stepped into the pool.

5'5" ▶ ca. 1,65 m

6'3" ▶ ca. 1,92 m

bad-tempered

▶ schlecht gelaunt

bring on *ifml.* ▶ *hier:*

auftischen

go hiking ▶ Wandern

gehen

intercourse

▶ Geschlechtsverkehr
(sie meint: Interview)

pine ▶ Kiefer

raisin ▶ Rosine

ravine ▶ Schlucht

scent ▶ Duft

shrink ▶ kleiner werden

stomp ▶ stapfen

“I think I need some new boots, Mum,” he said splashing about. “Mine are falling apart.”

I sighed.

“You know, when I was young, we hiked in gumboots.”

Tom rolled his eyes.

“Oh, come on, Mum! Nobody walks up a mountain in gumboots.”

“We did — and there was snow, too. Look at my profile pic.”

As Tom waded over to his rucksack to get his phone, I lay back in the grass and thought about that photograph. One summer, my father, a passionate hiker, had taken us all to Austria, where we walked non-stop for two weeks. This might just explain my aversion to mountains. It wasn't an unhappy holiday, just a very tiring one. My mother had also fallen in love with the dirndl look and had dressed me and my sister up in matching versions. For some reason, though, I was attached to the photo of my father, Ava and me out on one of those endless expeditions.

“Oh, my God! You really did wear gumboots. And is Ava wearing a dirndl?”

The next couple of minutes were a blur: Tom laughing hard, then slipping, throwing his arm out to steady himself and falling backwards to the edge of the pool, where he lay stunned. I ran straight into the water and, holding on to a rock, held out a shaking hand to my son.

“Tom!” For a second, he seemed just to lie still and look at my outstretched arm. Then his cold, wet hand grabbed mine, and I pulled him up and away from the edge. Tom staggered to his feet, knocking his boots and rucksack down into the ravine.

Gingerly and shaking, we picked our way to the edge of the pool and looked down. Far, far below, we could see a blue dot that might or might not have been Tom's rucksack. There were no boots in sight.

We debated back and forth for a few minutes. Tom was all for climbing down into the ravine. I threatened to throw myself to the bottom if he so much as put a foot over the edge. Finally, we agreed to hike on to the hut. Even in our wet clothes, it was our only real option. By this time, clouds had begun to gather on the

blur ▶ hier: verschwommene Erinnerung

gingerly ▶ behutsam, vorsichtig

grab ▶ packen, ergreifen

gumboot UK
▶ Gummistiefel

matching ▶ passend

sigh ▶ seufzen

splash about
▶ herumspritzen

stagger ▶ taumeln

steady: ~ oneself
▶ hier: das Gleichgewicht finden

stunned ▶ benommen

wade ▶ waten

horizon — and I was definitely back to hating hiking and mountains.

For the next two hours, Tom bravely picked his way barefoot and shivering along the path. A light rain was falling, and as we climbed higher and higher, the raindrops turned to snowflakes.

“Just think of the great dinner we are going to have,” I said. Tom grinned at me, but his lips were a brilliant shade of blue.

“A big bowl of soup and then one of those great Bavarian desserts.”

“Mum, I live here. I eat that stuff all the time. It’s really not so special for me.”

We fell into silence, and I thought about my father and my son, both madly enthusiastic hikers, and me in the middle — an aberration in all things alpine.

When the hut finally came into sight, a rosy square of light in a darkening landscape, Tom punched the air with his fist.

We fell in through the door, and Tom collapsed on a bench. A motherly-looking woman in a spotless dirndl looked us up and down from behind the bar.

“Wir...” before Tom could get out a word in German, the dirndl lady interrupted us. “English?” she asked. Did I hear a little humour — even sarcasm — in that word? Then she added: “I have a box with clothes. Things people have left here. Follow me.”

An hour later, Tom, in an enormous pair of lederhosen, and I — yes, finally back in a dirndl — were eating sweet slices of pancake and talking up our adventure.

“Gumboots are actually quite comfortable,” said Tom looking under the table at our booted feet.

Source: Spotlight 11/2018, pages 68–69

Conclusion

[17] Meredith: 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 time, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

aberration ▶ Anomalie, Fehlentwicklung

shiver ▶ zittern, frösteln

spotless ▶ makellos

subscriber

▶ Abonnent(in)

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