

## Introduction

**[1] David:** Welcome to the 2/2019 edition of Spotlight Audio. This is David Creedon from Britain. Join me now for a 60-minute expedition around the English-speaking world — with stories, language tips and exercises.

English grammar can be tricky to master. Luckily, *Spotlight* has some useful advice to help you improve your skills.

Believe it or not, it's possible to get around Los Angeles without a car. Come with us on a trip around the City of Angels and skip the traffic jam.

And the fairy tale *Sleeping Beauty* gets a modern media reworking in this edition's Grammar Tales.

## Britain Today

### [2] Animal magic

**David:** As online shopping becomes more popular, fewer people are going to the shops. Could this spell the end of the high street as we know it? Not if our Britain Today columnist, Colin Beaven, has anything to do with it. He's

counting on cats and hamsters to work their magic.

Life isn't getting any easier for the high street. People do so much shopping online these days that Britain's town-centre shops are struggling, or worse still, closing down. House of Fraser has decided to shut some of its branches, and Debenhams has announced plans to close 50 of its stores.

Ironically, even the shops that still exist seem to want you to shop online. You often walk away from a supermarket with a voucher to spend on your first online delivery. This sounds a little like turkeys voting for Christmas. But is it safe if more and more of us have clothes and

#### branch

- Filiale

#### fairy tale

- Märchen

#### high street

- Haupteinkaufsstraße

#### magic: work ~

- zaubern

#### reworking

- Überarbeitung

#### skip sth.

- etw. umgehen

#### Sleeping Beauty

- Dornröschen

#### spell sth.

- etw. bedeuten

#### traffic jam

- Verkehrsstau

#### tricky

- knifflig, schwierig

#### voucher

- Gutschein

groceries delivered to our front door?

I don't want to put ideas into anyone's head, but cyberattacks on banks seem to happen a lot. What if we wake up one day to find that our online orders for baked beans and bananas have been hacked? There'll be no shops left for traditional shopping.

Well, not quite. There are still networks of little local shops like the Co-op, where you can pick up a ready meal and a pint of milk in person. And if you can't be bothered to go and buy things yourself, you can always get the cat to go and fetch them.

You may think that's ridiculous, but I've actually seen a cat walk into a branch of the Co-op and come out ten minutes later with the person it had gone there to meet — presumably its owner. If cats can be trained to meet their owners at the end of their shift, they can be trained to get groceries.

It's true that if the computer system has been hacked, then the tills won't work either. But again, the Co-op has the answer. Visit the museum at Beamish near Newcastle, and you'll see an old town centre complete with some old-fashioned shops. One of them is part of a Co-op that still has the system where cash is put into a ball and rolled down a track to the office. As well as the money, the ball contained a note of the customer's number. This was important, because members of the Co-op — and that's still the case

today — got money back as a share of the profits. The system was clever enough to need no electricity; the balls of cash rolling round the shop always rolled downhill. But I'm sure you could get the same effect using hamsters. They seem to feel at home running round and round in cages. Give them a ball of cash to push, and they'd soon get the idea.

Stop, you'll say. These animals have rights. You can't treat them like unpaid actors in some macabre remake of a *Tom and Jerry* cartoon. It would be cruel. But how else do you motivate a cat to go and do the shopping if you don't use hamsters to put on a show when they get there? Cats would soon queue up to watch hamsters doing cabaret tricks.

#### bothered: sb. can't be ~

- jmd. hat keine Lust

#### cage

- Käfig

#### cruel

- grausam

#### either: not ... ~

- auch nicht

#### groceries

- Lebensmittel, Einkäufe

#### presumably

- vermutlich

#### ready meal UK

- Fertiggericht

#### ridiculous

- lächerlich

#### share

- Anteil

#### shift

- Schicht

#### till

- Kasse

#### track

- Spur, Bahn

What a strange world we live in, where to do the shopping, we often rely on the click of a mouse — and if that doesn't work, the trick of a hamster.

Source: Spotlight 2/2019, page 13

## A Day in My Life

### [3] Keeping the lights on

**David:** Have you ever thought how reliant we all are on electricity? Most of us only notice how much we need electricity when it's suddenly not there. Brad Abrahams, a 29-year-old self-employed electrician from Brisbane, Australia, knows all about electrical repairs and emergencies. In A Day in My Life, he describes his — very energetic — morning routine.

Before I started my own business as an electrician, I used to work freelance for other companies doing longer-term jobs. These days, I mainly do short-term jobs but find my days are generally really full up with work. I start my day off by waking up to my alarm, which goes off about 4 a.m. I guess you could say I'm a morning person. I get up and have a cup of coffee to kick-start me into action. My wife and three kids are asleep still, so I make sure I'm quiet. Then most days of the week, I'll head

to the gym and do a session with my mates for about 40 minutes or so. Then, if I have a job to go to, I'll meet one of my labourers at my house. These guys are like pre-apprentices who are trained up and then, after three months, I decide whether I want to take on one of them as my own apprentice. So anyway, we head out to the job in my van, which is decked out with shelves in the back to hold all the hardware like electrical cords, drills and so on. I usually do jobs in my area but sometimes I drive further for a job so I don't restrict myself.

See Spotlight 2/2019, pages 64–65

#### cord

- Kabel

#### decked out

- hier: ausgestattet

#### drill

- Bohrer

#### freelance

- freiberuflich

#### gym

- Fitnessstudio

#### labourer

- (ungelernte(r), Hilfs-) Arbeiter(in)

#### mate UK, Aus. ifml.

- Kumpel

#### pre-apprentice

- Lehrlingsanwärter(in)

#### reliant: be ~ on sth.

- auf etw. angewiesen, von etw. abhängig sein

#### restrict oneself

- sich einschränken

#### self-employed

- selbstständig

#### train up

- heranbilden

#### trick

- Kunststück

## Travel

### [4] Los Angeles without (gasp!) a car

**David:** Today's travel story takes us to the City of Angels, the town of sparkling stars and big-screen dreams: Los Angeles! This coastal California city is also the place where a 10-mile drive can take you two hours. LA's traffic congestion is infamous. Our writer Talitha Linehan is well aware of how bad the traffic can be, so she's tried something quite daring: to explore LA without a car! As you listen to the audio of Talitha's third day of her journey, try to answer the following questions: The Hollywood sign is an iconic LA landmark, but what was its original name? Next, how can tourists get to Griffith Park in the Santa Monica Mountains without a car? Finally, Griffith Observatory is a popular tourist destination. What recent Oscar-winning film features a dance scene at the observatory?

From Union Station, I take the Red Line to Hollywood and walk less than a block to LA Fly Rides. Opened in 2016, this store offers electric bike tours of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Griffith Park, as well as e-bike rentals, sales, and services. After a quick lesson, our tour guide, JD, leads four of us away from the busy streets of Hollywood and onto the quiet

roads that wind through the Hollywood Hills. We stop off at several vantage points to look out over the city, before reaching the iconic Hollywood sign. As JD explains, the original sign said "Hollywoodland" and was installed in 1923 to advertise a housing development of that name. After it fell into disrepair, a group of local celebrities stepped in to save it, and it was replaced with today's sign in 1978. After taking the essential selfie, we cycle back to the store, using the electric motor to ride up the steep hills.

The Hollywood Hills are in the Santa Monica Mountains, a range that runs parallel to the coast and is home to another top attraction, Griffith Park. I hop back on the Red Line and take it three stops to the Vermont/Sunset Metro station, where I get on the DASH

#### daring

- gewagt

#### disrepair: fall into ~

- verfallen

#### iconic

- kultig

#### infamous

- berühmt-berüchtigt

#### landmark

- Wahrzeichen

#### sparkling

- funkelnd

#### steep

- steil

#### traffic congestion

- Verkehrsstau

#### vantage point

- Aussichtspunkt

Observatory bus. This service is operated by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, which has a network of over 300 buses in the city. The bus meanders through Hollywood and into Griffith Park, one of the biggest urban parks in North America.

I get off the bus with most of the other passengers at the park's most iconic attraction, Griffith Observatory. Since it opened in 1935, it has become the world's most visited public observatory, and best of all, entry is free. Inside is a wonderland of exhibits that explore everything from the origin of the universe to the composition of a meteorite. I enjoy stepping onto one scale after another to see how much I'd weigh on the other planets in our solar system, and looking down at the enormous Foucault pendulum, which demonstrates the Earth's rotation. My favorite attraction, however, is the planetarium, where Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone dance through the air in the Oscar-winning movie *La La Land*. I lie under a domed ceiling gazing up at spectacular projections of the night sky while listening to stories of man's history and our place in the grand scheme of things.

As the sky darkens, I climb the steps to the roof of the observatory and look out over the freeways that flow through our city like golden arteries. LA is already changing, making more

places easily accessible without a car for the first time in a generation. It's exciting to think how it will continue to transform in the future, to become the public-transport mecca it was perhaps always destined to be.

**David:** So, what's the story behind Hollywood's iconic mountainside sign? It was initially called "Hollywoodland" and was put up to advertise a housing development of the same name.

How can tourists get to Griffith Park without a car? The park can be reached by taking a DASH Observatory bus.

And finally, what recent Oscar-winning film features a dance scene at Griffith Observatory? The film is *La La Land*.

Source: Spotlight 2/2019, pages 28–35

**destined: be ~**

• bestimmt sein

**domed**

• überkuppelt

**gaze**

• blicken

**grand: ~ scheme of things**

• das große Ganze

**initially**

• ursprünglich, anfangs

**meander**

• sich schlängeln

**scale**

• Waage

## [5] Out and about in LA

**David:** Los Angeles is the reigning champion when it comes to the city with the worst traffic congestion in the US. But lately, LA is also appearing at the top of lists for worst traffic in the world. As the city's metropolitan area continues to grow, it's becoming obvious that something has to change. The agency most likely to bring about that change is the LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or Metro for short. The agency operates public transportation in the LA metropolitan area. Spotlight talked to Metro spokesperson Dave Sotero about the agency's plans for the future. In the first part of the interview, Sotero details the current transport challenges facing Los Angeles.

As everybody that drives in LA well knows, it's an extremely anxiety-producing experience to try to get from point A to point B on the LA freeway system any part of the day, but the rush hour is unbelievable. *LA Times* described it as a "soul-crushing experience." And LA is not unique in that respect. There's traffic all over the world, but LA has the onerous distinction as having some of the nation's worst traffic and probably the world's worst traffic. So, that's really why transit, and what we're doing in LA to improve transit, is so important for the future.

We anticipate that we're going to get 2.3 million more residents over the coming decades, and so the situation is not going to improve. We're going to have more residents and more residents that will want to purchase cars, so we have to proactively build out our transit system and make the transit option as well as other multi-modes of travel more beneficial, so people can have a really good alternative to driving.

**David:** One of the biggest challenges facing Metro is convincing Angelinos to use public transport and leave their cars at home. In the following part of the interview, Sotero

**anticipate**

• erwarten

**beneficial**

• nutzbringend

**detail**

• ausführlich beschreiben

**freeway** US

• Autobahn

**onerous**

• drückend

**proactively**

• vorausschauend

**reigning champion**

• Titelverteidiger

**resident**

• Einwohner(in)

**soul-crushing**

• zutiefst zermürend

**spokesperson**

• Sprecher(in)

**unique**

• einzigartig, alleine

talks about dealing with changing traffic patterns. The term “uberization” refers to the ride-sharing company Uber, as well as companies like it.

You know, every transit agency in the country has faced the issue of the changing travel patterns of the public — how they get around and the “uberization” of transportation. So, you know, transit agencies are faced with the challenges of attracting riders back to the system. Some of the ridership has gone down over the years because of the ride-share movement. So, we’re really looking at a lot of different ways that we can attract ridership and help Angelinos make that decision, that, you know what, it is easier to leave the car at home. I’m going to go ahead and take this transit line because it’s closer to where I need to get to and it’s more convenient and it’s faster. That’s really the triumvirate of benefits that get people out of their cars.

See Spotlight 2/2019, pages 28–35

## Everyday English

### [6] Mental health

**David:** In Everyday English, we meet Kate and Harry. They work at an insurance company

and are discussing their colleague Emily, who’s been out of the office for a long time with an anxiety disorder. This is a type of mental illness in which a person is so anxious that it affects his or her normal life. One of Kate’s friends also has this illness. Listen to how Kate describes her friend’s battle with anxiety disorder. Then try to list some of the symptoms.

**Kate:** A friend of mine had anxiety disorder and was constantly on edge. She felt restless and couldn’t concentrate. She also felt sick all the time and hardly ate. I think the symptoms can vary from person to person, though.

**Harry:** That sounds awful. But don’t we all feel like that from time to time? You just have to get on with it, don’t you?

**Kate:** Well, sure, but if you’re suffering from

#### affect

• beeinträchtigen

#### anxiety disorder

• Angststörung

#### convenient

• bequem

#### insurance company

• Versicherungsgesellschaft

#### mental

• psychisch

#### restless

• ruhelos

#### ridership

• Fahrgastzahlen

#### traffic pattern

• Verkehrsmuster, -verhalten

anxiety disorder, it’s impossible to control your feelings. Sufferers have low self-esteem, so they tend to withdraw from social contact and feel even more isolated.

**Harry:** I’d never heard about the illness before, and I don’t know anyone who has it — apart from Emily, that is. Is there a cure?

**David:** So, what were some of the symptoms Kate’s friend experienced? She was constantly on edge, was restless and felt sick. She also didn’t have any appetite. Kate is surprised Harry had never heard of anxiety disorder before. In their next conversation she tries to educate him on what can be done to help people deal with the illness. Can you list the kinds of treatment she mentions?

**Kate:** When my friend was diagnosed with anxiety disorder — I think they call it GAD these days...

**Harry:** What does “GAD” stand for?

**Kate:** “Generalized anxiety disorder”. Anyway, my friend was advised to try psychotherapy and also relaxation therapy.

**Harry:** And did it help?

**Kate:** I think it did a little, yeah. But she didn’t start to feel better until she began taking some medication.

**Harry:** Didn’t they prescribe medication immediately?

**Kate:** Well, no. Her specialist wanted her to try therapy first. When she did start medication, she was lucky not to feel any side effects. She says she still doesn’t feel a hundred per cent, but much better than before.

**David:** What kinds of treatment for anxiety disorder did Kate mention? She talked about psychotherapy, relaxation techniques and the prescription of medication.

Source: Spotlight 2/2019, pages 54–55

## Grammar Tales

### [7] “Sleeping Beauty”

**David:** Now it’s time for a new episode in our series of fairy tales for the 21st century. In this retelling of Sleeping Beauty, we imagine how modern media would report the marriage of the prince and princess. And in this episode,

#### educate sb. on sth.

• jmdn. über etw. aufklären

#### fairy tale

• Märchen

#### prescribe

• verschreiben

#### Sleeping Beauty

• Dornröschen

#### withdraw

• sich zurückziehen

our grammar focus is on the differences between the modal verbs “shall” and “will”. Listen out for examples of these verbs and the way they are used in the story.

Once upon a time, a bright-eyed young reporter — recently promoted to royal correspondent — was standing outside the palace, where the wedding of the century was taking place. “I’m here, among a sea of well-wishers, all waiting to see the newly-weds on the palace balcony,” the reporter, Christopher Rose, excitedly announced to the camera. “Earlier today, Princess Talia — better known as Sleeping Beauty — exchanged vows with Prince Lutgen, the good-looking young prince who woke her from her 100-year sleep with a kiss. The 118-year-old princess looked stunning in a snow-white silk dress, while the 25-year-old prince charmed the crowds in a red King’s Guard uniform. As we wait for the royal couple to kiss for the first time in public, let us remind ourselves of the fascinating story behind this fairy-tale marriage,” gushed Christopher. “Beside me is historian David Thorne. David, thank you so much for joining us this morning.”

“My pleasure,” replied David in a serious tone. “David, remind us again, if you will, why it was that the princess fell asleep for 100 years. That’s quite a long power nap if you ask me,”

said Christopher.

“Well, Christopher, as you know, the king and queen had waited a long time to have a child, so when at last the princess was born, they were delighted, and they held a banquet to celebrate the fact. Back then — more than a century ago — many fairies lived in this land. Sadly, because of the drastic increase in carbon emissions, they are now extinct. Anyway, the king invited the seven fairies who lived in his court, so that each might give the infant princess a gift. But there was an eighth fairy who had been forgotten. She had not been seen for

#### carbon

• Kohlendioxid-

#### delighted

• überglücklich

#### exchange vows

• sich das Ja-Wort geben

#### extinct

• ausgestorben

#### gush

• heraussprudeln, schwärmen

#### infant

• Kleinkind; hier: Baby-

#### modal verb

• modales Hilfsverb

#### my pleasure

• gern geschehen

#### newly-weds

• frisch Verheiratete

#### power nap

• erfrischendes Nickerchen

#### stunning

• atemberaubend, umwerfend

#### well-wisher

• Gratulant(in)

many years, and everyone thought she had died. She was alive, though, and... well, let’s just say she had some mental-health issues. She stormed into the banqueting hall, demanding to be seated. The servants quickly found a place for her, but the old fairy was still very angry. Towards the end of the festivities, the fairies each presented the baby princess with their gifts.

‘The princess shall be the most beautiful woman in the world,’ said the first fairy.

‘She shall be as sweet-natured as an angel,’ said the second.

‘She shall have a natural grace in all that she does,’ said the third.

‘She shall sing as if nobody’s listening,’ said the fourth.

‘And she shall dance as if nobody’s watching,’ said the fifth.

‘She shall play music like a virtuoso,’ said the sixth.

Suddenly, the old fairy stood up, her eyes flashing. ‘When the princess is 17 years old, she shall prick her finger on a spindle and die,’ she spat.

The guests were horrified, and the queen began to cry.

‘What is a spindle?’ asked the king.

‘It’s a thin pointed thing used for spinning wool into thread,’ explained the fairy, who had not yet given her gift. ‘Your daughter

shall not die,’ she continued, gently touching the queen’s arm. ‘The princess shall indeed prick her finger on the spindle — that I cannot change — but she shall not die. She shall fall asleep for 100 years, and so shall all the court. She will open her eyes the moment a prince wakes her with a kiss.’ And with that, the fairies disappeared.

The next day, the king had all the spinning wheels in the kingdom destroyed. But on the princess’s seventeenth birthday, as she danced around the castle, singing to herself, she noticed a half-hidden door. She opened it to find an old woman spinning. The princess had never seen a spinning wheel and asked the old lady how to use it. No sooner had she sat down at the wheel than she pricked her

#### court

• Hof(staat)

#### flashing

• Funken versprühend

#### grace

• Anmut

#### mental-health issues

• Probleme mit der psychischen Gesundheit

#### prick

• stechen

#### spindle

• Spindel

#### spit

• fauchen

#### storm

• stürmen

#### sweet-natured

• herzengut

#### thread

• Garn

finger on the spindle and fell to the floor. The king and queen, having followed the princess's sweet voice, found her. Gently, they laid her on her bed, then immediately fell asleep themselves — as did the guards, the servants and the corgis.”

“How come no one tried to wake her?” Christopher asked. “Is modern medicine no match for an old-fashioned curse?”

“The king had left strict instructions with his lawyers that, if the curse came true, no one was to enter the palace for 100 years. He feared that any tampering with the curse might have serious consequences,” explained David as patiently as he could.

“Ah, that makes sense,” said Christopher. “Thank you, David. You do tell that story marvellously, I must say.”

“You’re very kind,” said David.

“Right. Fast-forward 100 years... Prince Lutgen cuts through the thorny hedge — thwack, thwack! — and wakes Princess Talia with a kiss... Ah, I’m just getting word that the happy couple is stepping out on to the balcony this very moment,” said Christopher. “There they are: Princess Talia and Prince Lutgen... and the king and queen, who I believe are 167 and 159 respectively — and looking very well indeed! The crowd is chanting: ‘Kiss! Kiss!’ Yes, and there it is — the kiss we’ve all been waiting for. The bride looks absolutely radiant for her age,

and the groom seems very much in love. They look very happy indeed. And I dare say, they’ll live happily ever after. This has been Christopher Rose for XY NEWS. It’s back to the studio now for the weather.”

Source: Spotlight 2/2019, pages 22–24

## Replay

### [8] 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:

#### bride

► Braut

#### curse

► Fluch

#### fast-forward

► schneller Vorlauf,  
Zeitraffer

#### groom

► Bräutigam

#### hedge

► Hecke

#### I dare say

► ich vermute

#### marvellously

► wunderbar

#### radiant

► strahlend

#### respectively

► beziehungsweise

#### tamper with sth

► etw. manipulieren

#### thorny

► dornig

An increasing number of people are turning to a vegan diet. This change in lifestyle could have benefits for the environment as well as for health.

### [9] On vegans: a dietary challenge

**Inez:** In the UK, there has been a big increase in the number of those following a vegan diet. Even conservative figures over a four-year period show a fourfold increase. So what is a vegan diet? In this case, the word “diet” doesn’t refer to trying to lose weight. Instead, it describes the kind of food that a person eats every day. Well, vegans don’t eat any animal products — obviously, that means no meat, but it also means no honey or dairy products — this is the general term for all animal-milk products, including cheese and yogurt. What implications does this movement away from meat-eating to veganism have for society? Let’s listen to the first excerpt.

Veganism, once widely seen as an alternative, if not an extreme, lifestyle, is now in the mainstream. Exactly how many people in the UK have eliminated animal products including dairy and honey from their diets is uncertain. One recent survey suggested there could be as many as 3.5 million vegans in the UK. The Vegan Society offers the much lower figure

of 600,000 vegans, which still represents a fourfold increase in four years. But either way, and combined with a big increase in vegetarians and occasional meat-eaters (otherwise known as “flexitarians”), a huge shift in eating habits is under way. [A recent] annual food and drink report by the supermarket Waitrose says around a third of people have either cut down on or stopped eating meat altogether.

**Inez:** The Waitrose survey offers one reason for this shift in behaviour: animal welfare. Of course, many people will continue to eat meat from livestock, which is the collective noun for animals such as cows and sheep kept on a farm. However, an increasing number of meat-eaters and vegetarians are also turning to organic and free-range products. Free-range describes animals kept in natural conditions, with freedom of movement. Now, listen to the second excerpt.

There is more than one explanation for this

#### diet

► hier: Ernährung

#### excerpt

► Auszug

#### fourfold

► vierfach

#### implication

► Auswirkung,  
Konsequenz

#### shift

► Verlagerung



change in behaviour. More than half of those surveyed by Waitrose said animal welfare was their motivation for changing their diet. The intensive farming and slaughter of livestock has long aroused feelings of regret and distaste in many people who do not object on principle to eating meat. Such feelings, along with concerns around health and sustainability, have led to a rising demand for organic and free-range products among those who can afford them. ...

**Inez:** Finally, the third excerpt offers a health argument for eating more fruit and vegetables, as they are rich in nutrients, which are also essential for the carnivore, in other words, for someone who eats meat. At the same time, environmentalists warn there must be less meat production, as it leads to the clearing and cutting down of trees, not having enough water, and the use of fertilisers, which are chemicals or natural substances farmers add to the soil to improve food production. Let's listen now to the last excerpt.

[O]ther factors are health and the environment. Expert advice on diet has long focused on a balanced intake of nutrients, and eating more fruit and vegetables and less sugar and fat. There is no simple answer to the question of whether it is healthier to be a carnivore or not. ...

While the health case for vegetarian and vegan diets is inward-looking, the environmental arguments point urgently outwards and forwards in time. [Last autumn] a major international study concluded that huge reductions in meat-eating are essential, especially in the western countries that eat most of it, since food production is a big contributor to global warming ... deforestation, water shortages and pollution from fertilisers. ...

Source: Guardian News & Media 2018

### [10] Words and phrases

**Inez:** Let's see if you can remember the meaning of some of the words and phrases from the

#### arouse

► hervorrufen

#### deforestation

► Abholzung, Kahlschlag

#### distaste

► Abneigung

#### essential

► lebenswichtig

#### intake

► Aufnahme

#### nutrient

► Nährstoff

#### shortage

► Knappheit, Mangel

#### slaughter

► Schlachtung

#### soil

► Erdboden

#### sustainability

► Nachhaltigkeit

text. I'm going to give you a definition. Do you know the word or phrase that fits? Ready?

An everyday intake of food and drink can be called a... diet.

What is the collective noun for products made from milk? Dairy

Animals such as cows and sheep kept on a farm are called... livestock.

An adjective to describe farm animals able to move around freely in natural conditions is... free-range.

What word means a meat-eater? Carnivore

Chemicals or natural substances added to the soil to increase the growth of food crops are called... fertilisers.

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

See Spotlight 2/2019, page 25

## American Life

### [11] Leading by example

**David:** In this month's American Life, we visit the presidential library of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was president of the United States from 1933 to 1945. Columnist Ginger Kuenzel finds comfort in Roosevelt's words as she compares his reflections from decades ago with what certain Washington politicians serve up today.

The language of politicians today is often divisive. Some of them support or even participate in violent behavior. They make statements that are misleading — or, in so many cases, just plain lies. Small wonder that public mistrust of politicians is so common. Of course, that's not a new phenomenon.

Since the founding of the United States, we have had 45 presidents. Some have been great leaders, unifying the country in troubled times. Abraham Lincoln, president during the Civil War, comes to mind. Others have been less good. President Richard Nixon was forced to resign as a result of the Watergate break-in

#### divisive

► polarisierend

#### food crops

► Nutzpflanzen

and cover-up. Our current president shows little interest in uniting the country, preferring divisive rhetoric instead.

All this was on my mind during a recent visit to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidential library in Hyde Park, New York. Serving as president from 1933 to 1945, FDR brought the country together during a time of extreme economic crisis and a world war. People placed their trust in him as a leader, electing him for four terms. (He remains the only president to have served more than two terms.)

When Roosevelt first took office, the unemployment rate was nearly 25 percent. Yet he was able to inspire hope and confidence, telling the American people in his inaugural address, "...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." In that same speech, he noted, "Small wonder that confidence linguishes, for it thrives only on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection, on unselfish performance; without them it cannot live."

As I toured the presidential library, it occurred to me just how much the words and actions of FDR contrast with the tweets and speeches of our current president. One example is FDR's definition of leadership: "A sympathetic understanding of fellow men has ever been the hallmark of a leader." How different this is from what we have today.

I was also inspired by other quotes from FDR that remain relevant and serve as a guiding light for our democracy in these troubled times: "The value of truth and sincerity is always stronger than the value of lies and cynicism." And: "...any nation or group of nations which employs hatred eventually is torn to pieces by hatred within itself." Also: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

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#### abundance

- Reichtum, Überfluss

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#### eventually

- schließlich, irgendwann

---

#### faithful

- treu, loyal

---

#### fellow man

- Mitmensch

---

#### hallmark

- Gütesiegel, Kennzeichen

---

#### inaugural address

- Ansprache zur Amtseinführung

---

#### linguish

- erlahmen, schwach werden

---

#### sacredness

- Heiligkeit

---

#### sympathetic

- mitfühlend, verständnisvoll

---

#### term

- Amtszeit

---

#### thrive

- gedeihen

---

#### unselfish

- selbstlos

It's interesting to note that the concept of a presidential library started with FDR and has continued with every president since. But I have to wonder whether there will be a library for Trump? What on earth would they put in it?

Source: *Spotlight* 2/2019, page 26

## Spotlight Sound Bites

### [12] Grammar made simple

**David:** Love it or hate it, grammar is at the heart of language learning. In the current issue, *Spotlight* presents the most important grammar rules in a clear and simple way. There are also useful tips to help you follow these rules. In a new section called *Spotlight Sound Bites*, we talk to people about their take on grammar. Asking the questions is *Spotlight editor-in-chief* Inez Sharp.

**Inez:** OK, so this is Inez Sharp, from *Spotlight* magazine, and I'm prowling the corridors of the *Spotlight* offices. And I'm going to go and talk to willing victims who want to talk about grammar. OK, in front of me I have Owen Connors, our audio editor.

**Owen:** Hello!

**Inez:** Owen, what does the word grammar do to you?

**Owen:** Grammar is quite an intimidating word, actually. But I've learned to love it.

**Inez:** Is that the truth?

**Owen:** It is, actually. Especially English grammar, which I have a chance of understanding.

**Inez:** As opposed to German grammar.

**Owen:** Yeah, for instance.

**Inez:** Do you have a favourite piece of grammar that you say, OK, this is my absolute favourite thing about grammar?

**Owen:** Grammar is... because it describes what a language does, and the structures of the language, at least it is something one can follow. There are some rules there, or at least there are forms there one can follow, and that gives you a hope of understanding the language. Because in school, we didn't really get taught grammar exactly. I really only came into English grammar when I became a teacher and I started learning that kind of stuff. But at the same time, I've realized that what grammar English learners learn is standard English. For

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#### editor-in-chief

- Chefredakteur(in)

---

#### for instance

- zum Beispiel

---

#### intimidating

- furchterregend, einschüchternd

---

#### opposed: as ~ to

- im Gegensatz zu

---

#### prowl

- herumstreichen, sich anpirschen

---

#### take

- hier: Einstellung



instance, because I come from Ireland, I'm aware that there can be other grammar, which can be rather amusing. For instance, there's such a thing as the "Irish past tense".

**Inez:** Which is?

**Owen:** Basically, what you do is, you put "after" with the present continuous. So: "Ah, sure I'm after hitting the car." Or...

**Inez:** That means you've actually hit the car?

**Owen:** Yes, this is now past.

**Inez:** Doesn't sound like it.

**Owen:** "I'm only after getting here," which means "I've just got here."

**Inez:** That's really interesting.

**Owen:** Now, this would not be considered standard or even acceptable, indeed.

**Inez:** Except in Ireland.

**Owen:** Except in Ireland.

**Inez:** Thank you, Owen. So, next victim. Who can we find here? We have Petra Daniell. Hi Petra, are you going to tell us about grammar?

**Petra:** I suppose so. I'd actually love to con-tradict Owen, but I have to agree with him. I absolutely adore grammar, as well. I'm one of these really sad people who like to sit down with a grammar book and flick through it and be fascinated by it.

**Inez:** That is sad!

**Petra:** You shouldn't admit to that, I know. What I find fascinating is comparing different grammars, because you look at the grammar

book and you think, "Oh, yeah, this is how it's got to be." And then you look at a grammar book in a different language and you think, "Ah, well, they do it completely differently, but why?" And I find the concept fascinating that grammar kind of reflects what you see in a certain language. Grammar almost describes what you as a speaker of a certain language experience around you. And that could be different things, and you could pack it in different grammar.

**Inez:** I get it, I get it. So why does English have a present perfect and a present perfect continuous, whereas German doesn't?

**Petra:** Exactly, exactly! And a couple of my students don't grasp the present perfect at all. It's just impossible, and I always find myself saying, "Well, think about which aspect you want to emphasize. It didn't just happen. It does something to you; it does something to the present." And they look at me wide-eyed and they're like, "What?" And I think you

#### adore

• über alles lieben

#### contradict

• widersprechen

#### emphasize

• betonen

#### flick through

• durchblättern

#### grasp

• begreifen

cannot describe that. It's something that you experience. And then you find a grammatical structure to reflect that and not the other way around, and that is amazing to me.

**Inez:** Great insights there from Petra, our language editor and production manager, thank you!

See Spotlight 2/2019, pages 40–46

## English at Work

### [13] Talking about the future

**David:** In each edition, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken has tips on talking about the future.

**Ken:** There's a well-known saying in English — "The future never comes". We use it to suggest that it's no use worrying about what will happen in the future.

There are many expressions we use to talk about the future. Let's see if you know some of them. I'll use an expression about the future. You'll then hear two explanations, a and b. In the pause, decide which of the alternatives best matches the expression. Then you'll hear the correct answer. Let's start.

It's just around the corner. Does this mean:

a. Something's definitely going to happen very soon.

Or

b. Something surprising is going to happen.

A is correct. It's just around the corner means that something is definitely going to happen very soon.

I'm counting the days until... Does this mean:

a. You're anxiously waiting for something you want to happen soon.

Or

b. You know exactly when something is going to happen.

A is correct. I'm counting the days until... means that you're anxiously waiting for something you want to happen soon.

I'll get around to it. Does this mean:

a. I'm going to do it immediately.

Or

b. I'll do it when I have the time.

B is correct. I'll get around to it means that I'll do it when I have the time.

Time will tell. Does this mean:

a. The situation now is uncertain, but it will become clear in the future.

#### match sth.

• zu etw. passen

Or

b. Nothing stays the same.

A is correct. Time will tell means that the situation now is uncertain, but it will become clear in the future.

It's a taste of things to come. Does this mean:

a. This is the latest fashion.

Or

b. Something has happened that indicates what the future will be like.

B is correct. It's a taste of things to come means that something has happened that indicates what the future will be like.

Sooner or later. Does this mean:

a. It will definitely happen sometime in the future.

Or

b. It might happen sometime in the future.

A is correct. Sooner or later means that it will definitely happen sometime in the future.

I'll get right on it. Does this mean:

a. I'm already doing it.

Or

b. I'll start doing it immediately.

B is correct. I'll get right on it means that I'll start doing it immediately.

It won't happen in our lifetime. Does this

mean:

a. It will never happen.

Or

b. It won't happen for 40 or 50 years.

B is correct. It won't happen in our lifetime means it won't happen for 40 or 50 years.

Good. Did you know most of these expressions? They're all useful when talking about the future. Go back and learn any that you didn't know. And remember another well-known saying — "The future starts today, not tomorrow".

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

See Spotlight 2/2019, page 61

## Peggy's Place

### [14] Stormy weather

**David:** Although the customers are ready for a drink, none are being served at Peggy's Place. Our favourite London pub has been badly damaged by a violent storm. And not

everyone's willing to get their hands dirty cleaning up.

**Sean:** Here, Peggy! Let me help you with that ladder.

**Peggy:** Thanks, love! Could you take the bucket and empty it in the kitchen?

**Sean:** Sure. I'll be back in a moment.

**George:** Wow! Helen said you'd been hit hard by the storm, but this place is a real mess.

**Phil:** Yeah, sorry. We can't serve any drinks until we've tidied up a bit.

**George:** That's fine. I've actually come to help. Is there anything I can do?

**Peggy:** Let's see... Most of the damage is to the saloon. Come with me.

**George:** No kidding!

**Phil:** Yes, the tree smashed through our bedroom wall upstairs and brought the ceiling down.

**George:** That's major structural damage, then.  
**Peggy:** Only to this side of the building. The bar's fine, except for the water damage, but that probably won't be too difficult to fix.

**George:** Does your insurance cover it?

**Phil:** We hope so.

**Jane:** Hello, Mum! God, this place looks awful.

**Peggy:** Yes, so everyone keeps saying. Now, love, have you come for some shock and awe, or are you here to help?

**Jane:** Of course I'm here to help, but if you're

going to get shirty with me...

**Peggy:** Here's a mop and bucket. You can start cleaning under the tables by the back wall.

**George:** Let me do that. Maybe Jane can help Sean in the kitchen. Then she's out from under your feet.

**Peggy:** Good idea. Off you go, Jane. I bet Sean will have lots for you to do.

**Jane:** I've asked my new boyfriend to come and help, too. He should be here in a few minutes.

**Phil:** I hope he's prepared to muck in.

**Jane:** Course! And he's a fireman, so he's used to seeing places that look like this.

**George:** How did you meet?

**Jane:** He was a pin-up on my charity advent calendar. I just thought he was amazing looking, so I went round to the fire station and introduced myself.

**Peggy:** I hate to be rude, but...

**George:** Sorry, where's the bucket? Then I can get started.

---

**major**

• hier: schwer

---

**muck in** UK ifml.

• mit anpacken

---

**No kidding** ifml.

• Echt jetzt?

---

**rude**

• unhöflich

---

**shirty: get ~ with sb.**

UK ifml.

• auf jmdn. böse werden

---

**shock and awe**

• Furcht und Schrecken

---

**smash through sth.**

• etw. durchschlagen

**Fireman Sam:** Excuse me, my name's Sam. You must be Peggy. Jane said you might be needing some assistance.

**Peggy:** Sam, it's lovely to meet you. Yes, we need all the help we can get.

**Jane:** Hi, sexy! I see you've met my mum.

**Peggy:** Didn't you want to help Sean in the kitchen?

**Jane:** I forgot to ask: how much are you paying me for this? And would it be hourly or just a lump sum?

**Sam:** You're joking, right?

**Phil:** Hello! My name's Phil. I'm Jane's stepdad — and the answer to your question is “no”.

**Sam:** Well, I won't be charging you.

**Jane:** I just remembered, I need to go and pick up Simone. See you later, everyone.

**Peggy:** You're really willing to help?

**Sam:** Of course. Is the bar through here?

**Phil:** Yes, let me go with you. So, Jane tells us that you are a fireman.

**Sam:** Whoa! Step back! Look at that wall. It's going to collapse any minute. Everyone out! Now! Peggy, is there anyone in the kitchen?

Source: Spotlight 2/2019, page 12

## Short Story

### [15] “The nature of man”

**David:** Sometimes it takes a great effort to separate fact from fiction. That's certainly the case in politics, on social media and even with religion. In a thought-provoking short story, author Talitha Linehan describes a society that can't agree on the truth — a situation that leads to terrible consequences.

After it was all over, everyone blamed everyone else for what had happened, but really, only one person was to blame. Of course, he or she didn't know that. All that person knew was that something was wrong.

The first person to realize that something was wrong was Matilda. She was the oldest member of the community and often had difficulty sleeping. She was awake for every one of the nightly rainfalls, and now she lay waiting for the sun to shine through the window of the

#### charge sb.

• jmdm. eine Rechnung schreiben

#### lump sum

• Pauschalbetrag

#### thought-provoking

• zum Nachdenken anregend

schoolhouse, just as it had every morning of the 85 years of her life. On this morning, however, the sun didn't shine. This morning remained as dark as night.

After making sure she hadn't suddenly gone blind, Matilda lit a candle and went outside. By now, other people had woken up, too, and were wandering around, staring up at where the sun should be and asking why it wasn't there.

After some discussion, they all agreed to go to the community centre, so they could try to figure out what was happening and why. There they sat, as they always sat, with the elders in the middle and the other men, women and children gathered around. As the oldest elder, it was Matilda's job to speak first.

“The fact is,” she said, “we don't know why this is happening, because it has never happened before.”

“Oh, I know why,” said Elder Jacob, who always thought he knew everything. “The Sun God is angry.”

This was Jacob's explanation for everything: the gods made it happen.

“Let's present only the facts,” said Matilda, who always emphasized the importance of facts to her students, “not speculation.”

“How dare you discredit the Old Word!” said Jacob.

“The Old Word is a myth, not a historical account.”

The Old Word was a fictional story about how their community came into existence. It described their ancestors as other-worldly beings, whom Jacob interpreted to be gods.

Matilda knew that some people believed him, and this worried her. Most of the time, their beliefs were harmless, but in times of fear and uncertainty, they could manifest themselves in dangerous ways.

“We were right last time,” said Jacob, referring to the Great Flood, when it had rained non-stop for 12 hours. That time, he said, the Rain God had been angry and had told everyone to climb on top of the water tank to worship him.

“We don't know why the Great Flood began or ended,” said Matilda. “It is a mystery to this day. But it did stop raining after 12 hours, so perhaps the sun will shine again tomorrow, too.”

After further discussion, it was agreed that people should go about their day as best they

#### account

• Darstellung, Bericht

#### ancestor

• Vorfahr(in)

#### dare

• wagen, sich trauen

#### discredit

• anzweifeln

#### elders

• die Ältesten

#### emphasize

• betonen, hervorheben

#### other-worldly

• von einer anderen Welt

could, and if the sun didn't rise the next morning, they would meet again. The problem was that they didn't like not knowing, and as Matilda was later to realize, they preferred any answer to no answer, even if it was based on nothing more than one man's baseless claim. As the day continued in darkness, people's fear, which was at first mild and uncertain, grew. And when the sun didn't rise the next morning either, the first waves of panic swept through the community. It wasn't the darkness that scared people as much as the thought that it would never end.

"I can't live like this," shouted one lady in the crowd when everyone gathered again.

Matilda tried to establish a certain order, but whenever she spoke, more cries came, not only cries of fear, but also of anger — anger at her for not giving the answers people wanted, and even worse, for dismissing the only answer they were being given, namely Jacob's answer. It was only when he began to speak himself that the crowd quietened.

"My people," he said, "she cannot see what she cannot see. Do not be angry with her. Let us show her the truth."

"What do you know about truth?" shouted Matilda over the crowd, which was now crying out for more answers: "How do we show her the truth, Elder Jacob?" "How can we stop the Sun God being angry?" "Tell us what to do!"

"It is not only our elders we must enlighten," said Jacob, "but all non-believers. We must end the culture of disbelief that is endemic to our community."

He took up one of the burning torches that was lighting the community centre and told "his people" to do the same. "By the light of fire, we shall destroy the schoolhouse, this institution of lies," he said, "and in its place, we shall build a temple to our gods."

The crowd roared and, to the horror of Matilda and the other elders, did as Jacob said. Soon the schoolhouse was in flames, and as the fire began to spread, burning up homes, even people, so did the frenzy.

Jacob was on his knees, now shouting at the sky. "Take our school! Take our homes! Take our lives! But please, give us a sign!"

It was at that very moment that someone

---

#### baseless claim

- unbegründete Behauptung

---

#### dismiss

- ablehnen, verwerfen

---

#### endemic

- vorherrschend

---

#### enlighten

- erleuchten

---

#### frenzy

- Ekstase, Rausch

---

#### roar

- brüllen

---

#### torch

- Fackel

changed a light bulb. That someone was the other-worldly being responsible for the human colony that his father, a space scientist, had acquired after the confederation ended all human experimentation.

"You really must be more careful," his father told him. "First, you leave the water on all day, and now you let their solar light burn out."

"What happened?" asked the son, looking into the burning colony in dismay.

"Oh, who knows?" said his father. "Perhaps we should have returned them to Earth, but their planet was in such a bad state, I thought they'd have a better chance here."

"I'm so sorry, father."

"There, there. It's not your fault. Humans are inherently self-destructive. Even if we give them everything — language, culture, food, medicine, a perfect community — they will find a way to destroy themselves. This is the nature of man."

Source: Spotlight 2/2019, pages 70–71

## Conclusion

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

---

#### acquire

- erwerben, kaufen

---

#### dismay

- Bestürzung, Entsetzen

---

#### inherently

- von Natur aus

---

#### light bulb

- Glühbirne

---

#### subscriber

- Abonnent(in)

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