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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the 3/2019 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.

The west of Ireland is home to some of the country's best and most beautiful natural wonders. Sample the sights and enjoy the craic in the travel section.

British designers and architects are world-famous for their imagination, inventiveness and idiosyncrasy. Join the Spotlight team as we discuss British style.

In another humorous retelling of a famous fairy tale, Spotlight looks at the story of *The Three Little Pigs*.

Britain Today

[2] What's the deal?

David: With not much time to go before the Brexit deadline, millions of people are trying to understand how the country's future will take shape. Britain Today columnist Colin Beaven

offers us no easy solutions to this complex situation. However, he does have a few amusing ideas on how things could unfold.

Not long to go now: only a few weeks until 29 March, the date when Britain said it would leave the European Union. I can't help feeling that for February 2019, the last full month in which the UK is definitely part of the EU, this column should try to be special.

How does one write about Brexit, though, when everyone is still in the dark? True, by the time these words reach you, we probably won't be any more. So perhaps you could help by answering a number of questions.

Is Theresa May still prime minister? Did her cabinet colleagues support her agreement with the EU? If they did, did parliament here accept it? Or did so many MPs vote "no" that the UK will be leaving without a deal? What about the idea of a second referendum? It

craic

- Spaß, Vergnügen

fairy tale

- Märchen

idiosyncrasy

- Eigenheit, persönliche Eigenart

inventiveness

- Ideenreichtum, Kreativität

MP (Member of Parliament)

- Abgeordnete(r)

unfold

- sich entfalten

certainly seems like an option, but no doubt it didn't happen. And anyway, would the result have made things any clearer?

I just wonder if there's still time for radical compromise at this late stage. Why can't Britain stay in the EU from Mondays to Thursdays, and leave every Friday in time for the weekend? Or could we have night-time membership, when it would be easier to cope with all the extra traffic on the roads that would probably come with free movement of people? What about quantum Brexit? If we could reclassify Britain as a subatomic particle, physicists might decide that we're both in and out of the EU at one and the same time.

If there's really no other way to change our silly decision to leave, what about a last-minute letter from the Queen? Not possible, sadly. It works only in *The Threepenny Opera*, where a last-minute message from the Queen stops Macheath from being hanged. Hooray! Undemocratic, but a small price to pay for a really happy ending. (Just to be quite clear: I meant Brecht's play in that last sentence, not membership of the EU.) Macheath is the criminal anti-hero — also known as Mack the Knife. He's not to be confused with Ted Heath, who was Conservative prime minister when Britain entered the EEC back in 1973.

Heath, whose first name was really Edward, loved music. When the UK finally joined, he

was so emotional that he sat and played Bach's C major prelude on the piano. What irony: Britain had the Well-Tempered Clavier when it joined the EU, and a bad-tempered referendum when it left.

I've checked again. We're still no clearer about Brexit day. It reminds me of a science-fiction film from 1961: *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*. After problems caused by nuclear explosions, scientists must try to stop the Earth from falling into the sun. Will their desperate efforts succeed?

At the end of the film, we see two editions of the following day's newspaper. One says "World Saved", the other "World Doomed". We don't find out which edition goes to print.

bad-tempered

► gereizt, schlecht gelaunt

C major

► C-Dur

confuse

► hier: verwechseln

cope

► klarkommen, es schaffen

desperate

► verzweifelt

doomed

► dem Untergang geweiht

physicist

► Physiker(in)

quantum

► Quanten

subatomic particle

► subatomares Teilchen

Well-Tempered Clavier

► Wohltemperiertes Klavier

One should try to be optimistic. But on Brexit Day, I suspect we'll need a newspaper with a headline that says "UK Doomed".

Source: Spotlight 3/2019, page 11

A Day in My Life

[3] A shoulder to cry on

David: In A Day in My Life, we meet a woman committed to giving people a perfect final farewell. Susana Alba is a funeral arranger for a funeral home in Los Angeles. Alba talks about how her job and having so much to do with death has affected her world view.

I appreciate things more and I tolerate things less. I appreciate everything: food, I love food, I appreciate my daughter, my husband, my home, my parents. I give my parents everything I can. I would literally give them the food out of my mouth because I don't know. Every time I hang up on somebody, I always say, "Be safe and I love you," because I don't know, you know? And I tolerate less. Like if I feel like somebody's being mean to me, or they're taking advantage of me, I don't tolerate it because I feel like I give a lot. I give them a lot, I give people a lot, I give society a lot, and I don't expect the same in return, I just expect

to be considered, that's all. Consideration. And I'm not scared of death. I know you asked what my view of death is; I'm not scared of death. I don't fear what will happen to me when I die. I fear what will happen to my family, how my mom will react, how my daughter will react. Essentially, when someone passes away, they go on their own journey on their own. The people that are left behind are the people that are left to suffer, and that's my fear of death, is for my family, not what will happen to me.

See Spotlight 3/2019, pages 12–13

effect

- beeinflussen

appreciate sth.

- etw. schätzen, für etwas dankbar sein

committed

- engagiert

consider

- beachten, berücksichtigen

essentially

- im Grunde genommen

farewell

- Abschied

funeral arranger

- Bestattungs- und Trauerbegleiter(in)

literally

- buchstäblich

mean

- fies, mies

pass away

- sterben

scared: be ~ of sth.

- vor etw. Angst haben

take advantage of sb.

- jmdn. ausnutzen

Travel

[4] A family adventure in Ireland's west

David: Our travel feature this month takes us to Ireland's spectacular west coast. This is a place world-famous for its beautiful scenery: there are spectacular cliffs, which face on to the wild Atlantic Ocean, and historic sights, such as ancient tombs standing on broad, windswept landscapes. And, of course, this being Ireland, hospitality here is outstanding. People are friendly and always ready to share a joke over a pint of Guinness.

Luckily for our author, Jessica Mann, the places she visits on her route are also very welcoming to children. It was her idea to take a family road trip to explore the west coast of Ireland. That means that her young son is along for the journey, and she must do her best to keep him entertained along the way. It works a charm. As you listen to an excerpt from Jessica's story, try to answer the following questions: What is the Ring of Kerry? And which enormously popular movie franchise used the rocky and remote Skellig Islands as filming locations?

The next morning, we explore the streets of Ennis for a little while after breakfast. It's a pretty town, with brightly coloured flowers hanging from the lamp posts. We don't have

much time to stay, though, since we're off to-day to County Kerry. Our goal is to drive the Ring of Kerry anticlockwise — the best direction for avoiding getting stuck behind tour buses, or so I've read.

The Ring of Kerry is another highlight for tourists in Ireland. It's a scenic drive around the Iveragh Peninsula, the largest peninsula in the south-western corner of the country. Once on the drive, it quickly becomes clear why it is so popular — the constantly alternating views of stunning beaches, islands and the deep-blue Atlantic are astonishing.

One of the highlights of the Ring of Kerry is the view of the rocky Skellig Islands and, in particular, Skellig Michael, the larger of the two. Skellig Michael was home to monks

ancient

• uralt

anticlockwise UK

• entgegen dem Uhrzeigersinn

astonishing

• erstaunlich

hospitality

• Gastfreundschaft

lamp post

• Laternenmast

remote

• abgelegen

scenery

• Landschaft

tomb

• Grabmal

windswept

• windgepeitscht

work a charm

• hervorragend klappen

who lived in isolation there from the sixth to the 12th century. They built beehive-shaped stone structures, cut hundreds of steps into the mountainside and lived among the seabirds, practically cut off from the rest of the world. The islands were recently used as a filming location for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* — and the nerd in me is excited to see them in part because of this recent fame.

David: So what exactly is the Ring of Kerry? It is a very popular scenic drive around the Iveragh Peninsula with fantastic views of beaches, islands and the Atlantic Ocean. And which movie franchise does the author mention as being associated with the Skellig Islands? It's *Star Wars*! According to news reports, the connection to *Star Wars* movies has brought in more tourists to the Irish coast. This has been good for local businesses.

[5] Where puffins rule

David: It sounds like Jessica's road trip is going well. She and her family have been able to take in some of the very famous sights and to spend quality time together in places such as Ennis, a charming town on the River Fergus in County Clare. Now, listen closely to the next part of Jessica's story and try to answer the following

questions: What is the name of the Irish TV show that Jessica's son loves so much? Next, where does the author decide to go as an alternative to attempting to visit the Skellig Islands with her young child?

My son is excited to see the islands, too, but not because of *Star Wars*. He's a fan of the Irish children's TV show *Puffin Rock*. Narrated by the wonderful Irish actor and comedian Chris O'Dowd, the show follows a family of cartoon puffins living on an island off the Irish coast. Since it's tricky to visit the Skellig Islands themselves with a small child — the terrain is rocky and steep, and I'm not even sure we could stomach another Atlantic boat cruise — I figure that the next best thing is to visit the Skellig Experience exhibition. As we near the end of the peninsula, in Portmagee, we cross

beehive-

► Bienenstock-

scenic

► landschaftlich reizvoll

narrate

► erzählen

steep

► steil

puffin

► Papageientaucher

stomach

► hier: ertragen

quality time

► eine schöne gemeinsame Zeit

tricky

► schwierig

the bridge on to Valentia Island to get to it. The Skellig Experience includes a film that gives viewers an overview of the islands, the monks who lived there and features many sweet little puffins.

I'm finally ready to see the real thing for myself, if only from a distance. We drive back across the bridge to Portmagee and then head on to a portion of the Skellig Ring, a smaller, 18-kilometre ring within the much-longer Ring of Kerry.

The road takes us higher and higher, until we reach a car park with signs claiming to offer County Kerry's best views. We take the bait, park the car and follow other tourists to the edge of the cliffs. The sun is gleaming off the ocean and the ragged outline of Skellig Michael becomes visible in the distance. "Puffin rock!" my son exclaims in delight. This has indeed been a trip to remember.

David: Did you catch the name of the TV show that Jessica's little boy likes? It's called *Puffin Rock*. The narrator, Chris O'Dowd, is a renowned actor. You may know him from a very funny British TV series called *The IT Crowd*. And what alternative does Jessica find to going out on a boat trip to the Skellig Islands? She decides to take her family to the Skellig Experience, which has exhibitions explaining the history and archaeology of the islands, as

well as the bird colonies and sea life of the area. It's a great place for kids! No wonder Jessica ends her story of the family journey on such a positive note.

Source: Spotlight 3/2019, pages 28–35

Everyday English

[6] Misunderstandings

David: In Everyday English, we look in on Elaine, who is sitting in a restaurant alone. She is waiting for her date to arrive. In this context, a date is a meeting with someone you are romantically interested in. Elaine is clearly quite uncomfortable sitting there on her own. What drink does she order while she waits? And does Elaine try to contact her date?

bait: take the ~

► sich ködern lassen

context

► Zusammenhang

delight

► Entzücken,
Begeisterung

exclaim

► ausrufen

feature

► zeigen

gleam

► funkeln, leuchten

outline ► Umriss

ragged ► zerklüftet

renowned

► berühmt

Waiter: Are you sure I can't get you anything while you're waiting for your date? A Prosecco maybe? How about some olives?

Elaine: Yes, good idea — I'll just have a Prosecco, please. I hate olives. I don't know where he is. I'm sure we said eight o'clock and it's half past now.

Waiter: Have you tried calling him?

Elaine: Yes. There's no answer — it just goes straight to voicemail. I hope nothing's happened. Maybe I've been stood up.

Waiter: Oh, I'm sure there's a good reason he hasn't **turned up**. He's probably on his way. Traffic can be terrible at this time of night.

Elaine: I think I'll wait another half hour and then I'll go home.

Waiter: I'll get you that Prosecco.

David: What did Elaine end up ordering? That's right: it was a glass of Prosecco. And did Elaine do anything to try and contact her date? Indeed she did: she called his phone and left a message on his **voicemail**. The next morning, Elaine's friend Chrissy asks to hear all about the evening. Elaine tells her how disappointed she is. Elaine never got a call back or a **text** explaining why her date stood her up. To "stand someone up" means to fail to keep an appointment. As Chrissy tells Elaine about her own experiences with dates that have gone wrong, Elaine receives a text from the man she

was supposed to meet. Listen to the friends' conversation and try to answer this question: why didn't Elaine's date ever make it to the restaurant?

Chrissy: I was stood up once. I sat on my own in the restaurant for ages. I'd spent a fortune on a new dress and shoes, and on my hair. I felt like a real loser. But then, he turned up, an hour late.

Elaine: Why? Did he get the time wrong?

Chrissy: No, he'd fallen asleep. He'd just got back from the States and had jetlag. Was that your phone or mine?

Elaine: Mine, I think.

Chrissy: Maybe it's him.

Elaine: It is. Huh. He didn't stand me up. He says we'd arranged to meet next week. He wouldn't have arranged anything for yesterday because he had a football match, which was why I couldn't reach him.

Chrissy: There you go. That explains it!

David: So, what reason did Elaine's date give for not meeting her at the restaurant? That's right: he thought the date was for the

text

► SMS

turn up

► aufkreuzen

voicemail

► Mailbox, Sprachbox

following week. Elaine agrees to give him another chance, and they plan another date at the same restaurant. After all, it was a big misunderstanding.

Source: Spotlight 3/2019, pages 54–55

Grammar Tales

[7] “The three little pigs”

David: Now it’s time for a new episode in our series of fairy tales for the 21st century. In this retelling of *The Three Little Pigs*, a real-estate developer causes trouble by trying to buy up popular pubs. And in this episode, our grammar focus is on the modal verb “may”. Listen out for examples of “may” and the way it is used in the story.

Once upon a time, there were three brothers, called Mark, Ted and Steve Bacon.

The Bacon brothers were the landlords of three pubs in the town they had grown up in. Mark, or Pinky to his friends, ran The Straw House. Ted, better known as Perky, ran The Stick House and Steve, who was just called Steve, was the landlord of The Brick House.

Life as a publican wasn’t easy. Hours were long, and the brothers always had to work in the evenings and at weekends. People came to

the brothers’ pubs at the end of a long day, or a long week, to meet with friends, to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, or just for a bit of company and a chat. The Bacon brothers loved their job. Providing a service for the community they lived in was something they strongly believed in.

In the ten years the brothers had been in business, the town had changed dramatically. More and more high-net-worth individuals were moving out of the city and into pretty towns like theirs, which were within easy commuting distance of the city. Property prices in the Bacon brothers’ town had gone through the roof. It didn’t take property developers long to realize that The Straw House was sitting on prime

brick

► Ziegelstein, Backstein

commuting distance

► Pendelentfernung

high-net-worth individual

► hochvermögende Person

landlord ► (Gast)Wirt

prime ► erstklassig

property developer

► Bauträger(in)

publican UK

► Gastwirt

real-estate developer

► Bauträger, Immobilienentwickler

roof: go through the

~ jfml.

► explodieren, immer weiter steigen

stick ► Stock

straw

► Stroh

real estate and that there was lots of money to be made by demolishing the pub and replacing it with luxury flats.

One evening, a smart young developer walked into The Straw House. He introduced himself as Wolfi Woolsey and got straight to the point. “Let me buy your pub,” said Wolfi.

“No! You may not buy my pub. Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin,” laughed Pinky. Wolfi raised an eyebrow. “Then I’ll offer, offer, offer...,” he stuttered. “I’ll offer you so much that you can’t refuse.” And with that, he pulled a thick wad of bills from his pocket and placed it on the bar in front of Pinky. And there and then, Pinky sold The Straw House. He bought himself a small flat and went to work for his brothers, Perky and Steve.

A couple of weeks later, Wolfi visited Perky in The Stick House. He ordered a gin and tonic and a packet of peanuts. “Let me buy your pub,” he said.

“No! You may not buy my pub. Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin,” snorted Perky. “Then I’ll offer, offer, offer...,” Wolfi wheezed. “I’ll make you an offer you can’t refuse.” He threw down a wad of cash on the bar. Perky could see that it was much more money than Wolfi had offered Pinky for his pub. Perky sold The Stick House. He bought himself a cottage and went to work for his brother Steve.

The Straw House and The Stick House weren’t

the only pubs that had closed in the area, and Steve’s pub, The Brick House, was getting the extra business. It was more popular than ever. The three brothers worked well together and had more time to spend with their families. The Brick House had become the community pub — an oasis of old-fashioned values surrounded by expensive cafes, artisan bakeries and shops selling scented candles. The pub was a meeting point for hard-working, fun-loving families who had lived in the area for generations.

Meanwhile, Wolfi’s property portfolio was growing. Most of the year, he lived in a tiny European country, where he paid no tax, but now and then, he would return to the brothers’

artisan

► hier: handwerkliche
Traditions-

chinny: not by the hair of my ~ chin chin ifml.

► hier: nur über meine
Leiche

demolish

► abreißen

real estate N. Am.

► Grundbesitz;
Immobilie

scented

► Duft-

snort

► schnauben

stutter

► stottern

wad of bills ifml.

► Notenbündel

wheeze

► keuchen, schnaufen

town to see what else he could get his grubby paws on. One night, he turned up at The Brick House.

“I’ll have a gin and tonic,” said Wolfi.

“Will that be all?” said Steve, as he placed the drink on the bar.

“Well, no, actually,” replied Wolfi. “Since you ask, I was wondering whether you’d sell me your pub.”

“The answer’s ‘no,’” said Steve. “You may not buy my pub.”

“Not by the hair of your chinny chin chin?” sneered Wolfi. “Forgive me, but I’ve heard that before. Everyone has their price!”

“Not this time,” replied Steve. “This pub is all our community has left, thanks to developers like you. People like you get away with murder because you say you’re providing jobs and boosting the economy, but the reality is that you don’t even hire locally and you pay your workers almost nothing! But why would any of that matter to you? You’re in it to make as much money as you can and you care about no one but yourself.”

Wolfi took a big brown envelope out of the deep pocket in his fur coat and tipped out two fat wads of notes. He narrowed his eyes and fixed Steve with a nasty look. “Then I’ll offer, offer, offer...,” Wolfi spluttered. “I’ll buy this place,” he said, and took a big gulp of his drink. “Listen, mate,” began Steve, “this property

is listed. You won’t be allowed to make any changes without conservation authorities getting involved, and you certainly won’t be allowed to demolish it!”

“Since when is it listed?” said Wolfi, helping himself to a handful of peanuts.

“The interior of this building is from the 1850s. Last week, we were given Grade II listed status,” said Steve.

Wolfi turned purple with anger. He jumped up and started shouting, but one of the peanuts was caught in his throat and he started to choke. There was nothing the three brothers could do. By the time the first responders got to the pub, Wolfi was dead.

boost ▶ ankurbeln

choke ▶ würgen

conservation authority

▶ Denkmalschutzbehörde

first responder

▶ Ersthelfer(in)

fur ▶ Pelz-

grubby

▶ schmutzig, schmierig

gulp ▶ Schluck

listed

▶ hier: denkmalgeschützt

mate UK *ifml.*

▶ Kumpel

paw ▶ Pfote

sneer

▶ grinsen, spotten

splutter

▶ hervorstoßen

tip sth. out

▶ etw. auskippen

Steve made Perky and Pinky partners, re-named the pub The Three Little Pigs and the brothers lived happily ever after.

Source: Spotlight 3/2019, 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:

In the west, being able to buy inexpensive clothing is helpful for families with little money. But it is often the workers who make these clothes that are paying the price — sometimes even with their lives.

[9] Ultracheap clothes: costly to society

Inez: The rise of fast fashion has changed the way many people approach clothing. Rather than buying carefully and keeping good-quality pieces for a longer period of time, they prefer to buy more clothes and dispose of them quickly. This approach, however, is bad for the environment, with harmful factors such as increased water pollution, the use of toxic chemicals and high levels of textile waste.

The enormous exploitation of the workers who produce the clothing is perhaps the most obviously negative aspect.

In an opinion piece for the British Guardian newspaper, the editorial writers discuss the current situation of garment workers around the world. They also point out that consumers have a responsibility, too, especially as concerns the prices they're willing to pay for garments. You're about to hear three excerpts from the editorial. Before you listen to the first part, let's look at some of the more challenging words and phrases. The number of people killed in an accident, a war or some other kind of disaster is called a "death toll". And a "pit-tance" is a very small amount of money that somebody receives for doing a job. Let's listen to the first extract.

Most of us are dimly and uncomfortably aware of the [clothing] industry's true costs. ... Five years ago, the Rana Plaza factory complex in

approach sth.

• an etw. herangehen

dimly: be ~ aware of sth.

• sich etw. vage bewusst sein

dispose of sth.

• etw. entsorgen

editorial writer

• Leitartikelschreiber

exploitation

• Ausbeutung

garment

• Bekleidungs-

Bangladesh collapsed, killing 1,134 people. The death toll ... shocked the world into a reluctant recognition that labourers earning a pittance for clothing western consumers are often doing so in unsafe circumstances.

Inez: In the second excerpt from the editorial, the writers discuss the consequences of the Rana Plaza tragedy and warn against a return to the bad old days. Now let's look at some vocabulary. A strong feeling of shock and anger can be called "outrage". And "remediation" describes the process of improving something or correcting something that is wrong. Now listen to the second excerpt.

The outrage led to the Bangladesh Accord, a legally binding international agreement on fire and building safety backed by major western brands. It covers both independent inspections and remediation. Worker empowerment and trade union involvement are key components. The improvements have been dramatic, and its five-year term was extended to 2021. Now it is under threat. ... Bangladeshi ministers have argued it's time to regain control of inspections, insisting it is doing better than competitor nations. Observers are sceptical, saying that existing domestic inspections are inadequate ... and that the industry's influence ... poses obvious problems. ...

Inez: In the final section, the editorial writers examine how ultracheap clothes and fast fashion have changed how consumers shop and treat clothing. The writers remind us that consumers, as well as manufacturers and governments, have a part to play in improving the current situation. Here is some useful vocabulary. A "godsend" is something good that happens to you when you really need it. And "to sacrifice" is to give up something important or valuable in order to get or be able to do something that seems more important. Here's the third excerpt.

For [British] families on a tight budget, a school shirt costing £1.50 is a godsend. But their struggle to clothe their children reflects Britain's political choices. It cannot be right to expect ... disadvantaged people to sacrifice their health, safety and wellbeing... Many of these clothes are bought by shoppers ... with outfits worn a handful of times and thrown away: on some estimates, the number of items bought per consumer has doubled in a decade. ...

binding

• verbindlich

empowerment

• Stärkung

recognition

• Erkenntnis

reluctant

• zögerlich, widerstrebend

Manufacturers complain that brands now demand higher safety and environmental standards yet push them ever harder to cut costs. Pressing garment-exporting countries on working conditions is important. But western governments should also keep a close eye on the behaviour of domestic companies. Consumers too have a part to play. Telling brands they care is important. But so is showing that they do, through the willingness to pay a fair price.

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

The number of people killed in an accident, a war or some other kind of disaster is called a... death toll.

What noun describes the process of improving something or correcting something that is wrong? Remediation

What can we call something good that happens to you when you really need it? A godsend

A very small amount of money that somebody receives for doing a job can be called a... pittance.

What verb means to give up something important or valuable in order to get or be able to do something that seems more important? To sacrifice

A strong feeling of shock and anger can be called... outrage.

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

See Spotlight 3/2019, page 25

American Life

[11] Not exactly easy street

David: The United States is a country that has always depended upon immigrants to drive its growth and success. Yet, many immigrants coming to the US today are being made particularly unwelcome by the current government. In *American Life*, Ginger Kuenzel pleads for a fairer approach

With all the controversy about immigration in the US, I can't help but think back to my days as an immigrant in Germany more than

approach

→ Haltung, Einstellung

plead for sth.

→ für etw. plädieren

40 years ago. Unlike so many of those attempting to come to the US today, I was not fleeing violence or poverty. I didn't have children to protect, clothe, and feed. And I could have returned to the US at any time. In other words, I was not making any sacrifices.

Many of the immigrants coming to the US today are walking hundreds of miles, bringing with them only what they can carry. They are unsure of what awaits them at the end of their journey or even where their next meal will come from. Most have left their families behind, knowing that the chances of ever seeing them again are slight.

What does it take for someone to do this? Clearly, it takes tremendous courage, stamina, and determination. But more than that, it means that their situation was so intolerable that they saw no other option but to sacrifice everything to escape it. And yet so many of my fellow citizens have little compassion for these people. This is true, despite the fact that nearly everyone in the US is descended from immigrants.

Even though my decision to emigrate to Germany in 1974 was not based on economic need or safety concerns, I did not find it easy to come to live in a country that was not my own. It took me a number of years to learn the language well enough not to be worried about making an embarrassing faux pas — like the

time I greeted an elderly neighbor who had just been to the hair salon by saying that her hairdo looked *dämlich*. I mistakenly thought that *dämlich* was a female form of *herrlich*.

Today's immigrants to the US have far greater concerns than I did when I moved to Germany. Learning the language is probably the least of these. They need to find a way to pay for housing and food. Some have had their children taken away from them. They are taking tremendous risks, with no guarantee that they will get into the country and with asylum increasingly difficult to obtain.

With all this in mind, it's hard to understand how anyone could think that immigrants are seeking a life on easy street. Don't get me

attempt

- ▶ versuchen

compassion

- ▶ Mitleid, Mitgefühl

descended: be ~ from sb.

- ▶ von jmdm. abstammen

determination

- ▶ Entschlossenheit

embarrassing

- ▶ peinlich

sacrifice

- ▶ Opfer

seek

- ▶ suchen, anstreben

slight

- ▶ gering

stamina

- ▶ Durchhaltevermögen

tremendous

- ▶ gewaltig, enorm

unlike

- ▶ anders als

wrong. We do need to regulate immigration. But without immigrants, many sectors of our economy would be in deep trouble, particularly agriculture and the service industry. In addition, we owe many of the most important advances in technology, medicine, and other scientific fields to immigrants. Yes, we need immigrants. And what we really need is for our government to put fear-mongering rhetoric aside in order to pass laws that are humane and fair to immigrants while also serving the needs of our nation.

Source: *Spotlight* 3/2019, page 26

Spotlight sound bites

[12] Great British style

David: From building incredible architecture and famous cars to producing iconic imagery and futuristic household products, British designers have shaped the way we see the world. At *Spotlight*, we all love and appreciate the wonders of British design. In this edition of *Spotlight* sound bites, Editor-in-Chief Inez Sharp asks about some of the team's personal favourites.

Inez: Hello, this is Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of *Spotlight* magazine. And for our feature this

month — Great British design — I'm off down the corridors of the *Spotlight* offices to ask people on our team, what does British design mean to you? And I'm going to start, obviously, in our layout department, where I'm going to talk to Anna Werner, who does our wonderful... I'm coming to get you. It's happening right here, Anna, no worries. I'm going to ask you what does British design mean to you. So, Anna does the wonderful layouts that you see in *Spotlight* magazine. Anna, British design, British style?

Anna: Well, I must admit that I do not know too much about British design in general, but what I did notice some years ago when I went to London was that people in Britain, or designers in Britain, do know how to do packaging design very well and actually much better than the rest of the world, I think. And you can

appreciate

► schätzen, mögen

editor-in-chief

► Chefredakteur(in)

fear-mongering

► Panikmache-

humane

► menschlich, menschenwürdig

iconic

► ikonisch, kultig

imagery

► bildliche Darstellung

owe

► hier: verdanken

packaging

► Verpackungs-

really tell that there is a significant amount of creativity being put in everyday products such as tea or butter or... I wouldn't say everything is well designed, but much more than here, and I really enjoy looking at products and it made me personally want to buy specific products that I would probably normally not even need, but I bought them for the design.

Inez: Anna, thank you very much indeed.

Anna: You're welcome! Thank you!

Inez: Right. OK. Let's see who else we can find. I'm turning the corner now to go back to the main Spotlight offices, where I hope to find Owen Connors, who's our audio editor. Let's see what he has to say about Great British design. Hello, Owen. Here I come with the microphone. Owen, Great British design, Great British style, what does it mean to you?

Owen: For me, Great British style, I usually have encountered that through pop culture especially, and particularly British subcultures. For instance, the Mods. The Mods were a very fashion-conscious, music-conscious subculture from the late 50s, up to the 70s, 80s, they're still around.

Inez: Was that not in the film *Quadrophenia*? Was that not about Mods?

Owen: That's exactly about Mods. That's the ultimate Mod film. And their sense of style was very strong, but what they'd also do would be that they'd incorporate famous designs like

the British Union Jack or also, especially, the British Air Force roundel, which is a bit like a bullseye, you have a red circle within a white circle within a blue circle. And they would put that on their parkas and their Lambretta scooters. So that imagery was very strong. Also the punk movement had a lot of really strong design. Punk grew up around the shop that Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren had in Chelsea.

Inez: That's right, I remember that. A very daring place that was.

Owen: Yes, exactly, and the designs they used were very provocative. They'd have swastikas

British Union Jack

► brit. Nationalflagge

bullseye

► Zielscheibe

daring

► abenteuerlich

encounter

► begegnen, kennenlernen

for instance

► zum Beispiel

incorporate

► einbeziehen, integrieren

roundel

► Flugzeugkardar, -abzeichen

scooter

► Motorroller

significant

► bedeutend

swastika

► Hakenkreuz

and safety pins and a lot of tartan. It was very provocative designs, but very strong. Also I think the Sex Pistols covers at that time were also really good. They were from a British designer called Jamie Reid, and he designed that “ransom note” look where you had cut-out letters from newspaper headlines, and that’s still around today. It was very influential.

Inez: I remember the covers of their records back then, the 45s as they were, with that design on them, which was very bold and quite aggressive.

Owen: Yeah, exactly.

Inez: OK, thank you very much indeed, Owen. Right, that’s it, although actually Owen has followed me out of the office. I think he has a question for me now.

Owen: Yes, indeed! Now the tables are turned. And we have to ask, Inez, what does British design and style mean to you?

Inez: Interestingly, in one of my previous incarnations I taught design history. I was living in Japan at the time, and I taught for three or four years at a school for design, and the topic was the history of British design. And I was really in love, actually, with this topic. I was in love with, particularly I have to say, with all the fabric designs. From William Morris’s design, which is in our feature, in our story, the “Strawberry Thief”. These are very sophisticated, but very busy designs. I’m not sure that I would

hang them up in my home. But I love the attention to detail and the playfulness of them. All the way through to, I think it’s pronounced “Calyx”, by Lucienne Day, which was a fabric that she designed for the Festival of Britain. And I have to say, while I was living in Japan — there’s a lovely story attached to this — I was walking along in one of the shopping centres and I saw a shirt in this fabric. And, I mean, the fabric is really old, it’s 1951 was the Festival of Britain, and I just didn’t care whether the shirt suited me or not. I just went in and bought it because it was a chance to own this fabric. So,

attached to sth.

► mit etw. verbunden, zusammenhängen

busy

► hier: unruhig

fabric

► Stoff

headline

► Schlagzeile, Überschrift

incarnation

► hier: Leben

previous

► früher

ransom note

► Lösegeldbrief

safety pin

► Sicherheitsnadel

suit

► passen, stehen

tables: the ~ are turned

► jetzt wird der Spieß umgedreht

tartan

► kariertter Schottenstoff, Karomuster

fabrics are really my thing, particularly by British designers. It's kind of hard to sum up one particular style because, and this is something we talk about in the feature, as well, British style is very idiosyncratic. Everybody does their thing. It's very individual. But of course, that's what I love about it, because it's just so varied. It's an important part of my life. There are lots of British design objects in my home, from lamps to fabrics, for example Designers Guild, and so on and so forth, so yeah, as I say, a big part of my life.

See Spotlight 3/2019, pages 14–20

English at Work

[13] Introducing yourself

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 advice on how best to introduce yourself to others.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. When you meet people for the first time, it's important that they know who you are and what to call you. How you do this depends partly on the practical situation and partly on the level of formality needed. Let's practice

introducing yourself. First I'll describe a situation. You'll then hear a model version. Then there's a pause for you to repeat the model but using your own name. Finally I'll explain the reason for using that self-introduction. OK? You want to introduce yourself at the start of a formal presentation.

Speaker: Let me introduce myself. I'm Mark Wright.

Ken: "Let me introduce myself..." sounds more formal than "My name is..."

The facilitator of a meeting suggests everyone says who they are.

Speaker: My name is Mark Wright.

Ken: "My name is..." is appropriate here as it's short and to the point.

You want to introduce yourself on the phone.

Speaker: Good morning. This is Mark Wright.

Ken: "This is..." sounds authoritative and professional.

You want to introduce yourself in an e-mail to someone who has no idea who you are.

Speaker: My name is Mark Wright. I'm the sales manager at Arco International.

Ken: Here you need to add your job title to give a professional feeling.

appropriate

• passend, angemessen

facilitator

• Moderator(in)

authoritative

• verbindlich

You want to indicate that people should call you by your first name.

Speaker: My name is Mark, Mark Wright.

Ken: By saying your first name twice, you show that you want people to use it.

Now indicate that you want people to call you by your family name.

Speaker: My name is Wright, Mark Wright.

Ken: This is the James Bond approach! Introduce yourself in this way when you expect people to be using titles and family names.

You are meeting someone for the first time and you want to emphasize that you prefer to use first names.

Speaker: My name is Mark Wright. Please call me Mark.

Ken: The other person now has to use your first name.

Your self-introduction should be appropriate and match the situation you find yourself in. We know our own names so well that we often say them too quickly. So remember to say your name slowly and clearly in an international setting where your name may be unfamiliar. If you are saying both your first and family names, pause slightly between them. Otherwise people might not be able to differentiate between the two names.

David: If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to language@spotlight-verlag.de If

Ken chooses your question to print in *Spotlight* magazine, you'll receive a free copy of his book, *Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English*.

See *Spotlight* 3/2019, page 61

Peggy's Place

[14] A sign of the times?

David: Work continues at our favourite pub, Peggy's Place, as our friends put in long hours to repair the damage left by a violent storm. But now it's George who's had an upsetting experience, and he can't wait to tell everyone about it. Pull up a chair, grab a pint and listen in.

Helen: The repairs are coming along really quickly. You're almost back to normal.

differentiate

► unterscheiden

emphasize ► betonen

grab ► sich schnappen

hours: put in long ~

► Überstunden machen

indicate ► signalisieren

match sth.

► zu etw. passen

pint

► eine Halbe (Bier)

upsetting

► aufregend,
beruhigend

Peggy: Yeah, Phil's been on it — been working day and night.

Helen: How's Sean?

Peggy: He was really lucky. Got away with just a couple of scratches.

Helen: What's the name of Jane's new boyfriend?

Peggy: You mean Sam. If he hadn't been here, Sean would have been in a lot more trouble.

Helen: So many people were injured in that storm.

Peggy: I know. Sam had to go and help at five other places. He's a bloody hero!

Helen: He is a fireman. I mean it's his job.

Peggy: Don't matter. He's still a hero to me. Hello, George! You're looking a bit peaky, my dear.

George: So would you be if someone had threatened you with a knife.

Helen: Someone pulled a knife on you? Seriously?

George: Why would I joke about something like that?

Helen: So, where was this?

George: On Bedford Lane yesterday. It was getting dark, but there were people around, just not anyone close to me.

Peggy: You must have been terrified.

George: I was, and don't let anyone tell you that they would know how to react in a crisis if they haven't already experienced a similar situation.

Helen: So, what happened exactly?

George: I was on my way to the dry cleaners and this guy pulls up on a moped.

Peggy: Couldn't you just have run away?

George: No, the bloke drove up on the pavement in front of me.

Helen: And then...

George: He's got a knife in his hand and says — really quietly — “Give me your bag”.

Helen: What was in the bag?

George: Three dirty shirts.

Helen: Why would he want those?

George: Well, he didn't, of course.

Peggy: And he's pointing the knife at you.

George: Exactly. Anyway, he thought I was bluffing and kept jabbing the knife at my chest and saying, “Give me the bag”, and trying to grab it.

Peggy: Surely, someone must have noticed.

George: Yeah, some really old guy was coming towards us.

bloke UK *ifml.*

► Kerl, Typ

bloody UK *ifml.*

► verflucht

chest ► Brust

grab ► packen, greifen

jab ► stoßen

pavement UK

► Gehsteig

peaky UK

► blass, kränklich

point

► richten

Helen: OK, so not much help.

George: Then suddenly, out of nowhere, there's screaming police sirens and it's like a scene from *Miami Vice*.

Helen: Miami what?

George: You're too young to remember.

Peggy: Did they catch him?

George: Yep! Red-handed. Someone had been watching from a window and called the police.

Helen: Why did he pick on you?

George: The police think it was a case of mistaken identity.

Helen: That's not much comfort, is it?

Peggy: How do you feel now?

George: Shaken, very shaken!

Peggy: Nothing can prepare you for an experience like that.

Helen: There are a few things you can do.

George: Like what?

Helen: Well, Peggy, you should have a bleed control kit handy.

Peggy: It's a sad sign of the times, but I'll order one tomorrow.

Source: Spotlight 3/2019, page 10

Short Story

[15] "DNA is destiny"

David: Health-tracking technology is here to stay. From gadgets you wear on your wrist to microchips placed in your body, the idea is to help people stay fit. In this edition's short story, author Claudine Weber-Hof imagines a situation in which what is well-meant takes on a more sinister quality.

bleed control kit

- Wundversorgungsset

comfort

- Trost

destiny

- Schicksal, Bestimmung

gadget

- Gerät, technische Spielerei

handy: have sth. ~

- etw. zur Hand haben

health-tracking technology

- digitale Messtechnik zur Überwachung von Körperfunktionen und Gesundheitsstatus

mistaken identity

- Verwechslung von Personen

pick on sb.

- jmdn. drangsalieren

red-handed

- in flagrant

shaken

- aufgewühlt, erschüttert

sinister

- unheimlich

wrist

- Handgelenk

Melina signed her name at the bottom of the contract. Inwardly, though, she balked. The chip in her hand was supposed to be a simple arrangement. She'd be able to use it to pay for certain things. It sounded easy enough. So why, she wondered, did she have to attend a BEK talk on “collective consciousness” as one of the terms of her user contract?

The BEK series — short for “Better Experience through Knowledge” — was immensely popular. The top tech minds in Boston started it after the Great Earthquake of '78 that destroyed California's megacities, killing many great innovators. One of the sponsors of the lecture series was Rice Implants, the maker of the expensive new chip in her hand.

“Ms. Wells?” A young man in a T-shirt announcing “BEKome your best self” stopped Melina on her way out of the electronics shop. “I see you signed up for the BEK talks,” he said. Melina eyed him. He looked young for a salesman and seemed to be preparing to make a pitch.

“I believe this will be your first time at one of our forums?” he continued in a gentle way.

“Yes,” Melina said. Her mind searched for ways of saying no to whatever he was about to ask. The small wound from the chip insertion was causing the skin between her index finger and her thumb to throb.

“I'm Wat,” the boy-man said. “I'll be your ideas

pilot for the first two talks. Then you can decide if we will continue, or if you'd prefer to have another guide for the rest of the series.”

“The rest?” Melina asked.

“Well, there are six parts,” Wat said, “and short lessons that go with them. But you can listen to those as podcasts. The six main talks, though — they're a must. You'll need to be there in person. But it's cool! It's down at Harvard Square at the new BEK Arena. Drinks and swipecy dates or yoga after the show!”

Melina's mind raced back to her chip contract. She remembered the number six, and something about mandatory attendance. But after 50 minutes of arguing over details, by the time they'd gotten to the bit about the BEK talks,

balk

- sich sträuben, zurück-schrecken

consciousness

- Bewusstsein

index finger

- Zeigefinger

insertion

- Einbringung; hier: Implantation

make a pitch

- anpreisen

mandatory attendance

- Anwesenheitspflicht

swipecy

- Swipe- (eine Dating App)

throb

- pochen, pulsieren

she just said yes and signed. She felt a flush of shame as she realized that she would have put her name to anything at that point just to make the process stop. The thing was that she needed the chip. Too many shops and services were moving to the new technology. If she didn't get on board now, she might face longer waits and higher costs later.

"OK," she said. "When's the first talk?"

"Now," Wat replied.

"What — now?" Melina said.

"The first talk is an informal collaborative 'mind grow' — just you and me," Wat said, looking pleased with himself. "It's fun! We'll chat about some of the concepts central to the rest of the series, so you'll be ready for the second talk. Ready? OK! Melina — can I call you Melina? — here's your first lesson: Free will is nothing but an illusion, and Rice Implants is here to help you make the most of this opportunity to... wait for it... join the Rice Collective Consciousness!"

Ah, Melina thought, he's selling me a new religion. Another one! There had been so many since the tech wars of the 2060s. At least this sort of thing is familiar, she thought. I can work with this.

"As your ideas pilot," Wat went on, "it's my job to make sure you are familiar with this idea — and that you know this: Your genetic predisposition to certain behaviors can really work

against you, blocking your path to happiness. But help is on the way: You now have a Rice chip implant!"

With that, Wat fell silent, as if programmed to wait for a response.

Melina played along: "So behaviors like, well, skipping yoga to eat butter with a spoon?"

Wat's face lit up. Ha, Melina thought. He thinks he's got one on the line.

"Precisely!" he said. "Your genetic make-up, coming from Northern and Central Europe, predisposes you to increase your body fat by four to seven percent at certain times of the year. The chip can help! Plus, we add a second small implant, this one in your ear, that will make alternative suggestions to you when you try to buy, for example, butter and a spoon. Not a good choice, Melina! Your healthcare provider can be informed, too, so that incentives may be tailor-made to fit what we call your

collaborative

► partnerschaftlich

flush

► hier: Anfall

healthcare provider

► Gesundheitsdienst-anbieter(in)

incentive

► Anreiz

light up

► aufleuchten

make-up

► Ausstattung

skip

► ausfallen lassen

‘personal areas of improvement.’ You can even qualify for a bonus!”

Melina saw that her Rice Implants salesman (salesbot, more like) was getting excited. He was probably thinking about his bonus, and the chance to tell the other corporate automatons about how he’d tricked yet another overworked female into the punishing Rice food-monitoring system.

I think they’d like it if I were their remote-controlled puppet, Melina thought. She glanced at her handbag and then back at Wat’s face.

“Oh, that’s right,” she said, feigning ignorance. “I already signed with Cornstalk Technologies. Man, I just about forgot. I’ve got the ear implant and the neck one, too — you know, the really small one with the hair-like antenna? It’s totally cured my back pain, man. Brilliant tech.” Wat’s face went blank. He looked at her ear, then her neck, as if trying to see if this news were true.

“You signed the contract, so you’ll have to...” Wat’s words trailed off and his eyes slammed shut. His body then maneuvered itself out of her way, moving quickly to a charging station against a wall.

That’s right, Melina thought. That’s the one part of the contract I did pay attention to: If my body already contains another company’s implants, any new body-tech agreements are limited to a three-centimeter radius around

the new point of implantation. So butter it is. And I already have a spoon.

Source: *Spotlight* 3/2019, 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 Join us again next time, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

automaton

- ▶ Automat, Roboter

charging station

- ▶ Ladestation

feign

- ▶ vortäuschen

puppet

- ▶ Puppe, Marionette

slam shut

- ▶ zuknallen, zuklappen

subscriber

- ▶ Abonnent(in)

trail off

- ▶ allmählich verstummen

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