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Introduction

[1] David: Welcome to the 4/2019 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.

If you've ever dreamed of an English countryside full of rolling hills and thatched cottages, look no further than the Cotswolds. We meet one of the many artisans living there in the travel section.

Understanding spoken English can be quite a challenge. But by looking at how native speakers communicate, you can greatly improve your own speaking abilities. Learn some useful techniques in the language section.

And in English at Work, we look at small talk and learn the importance of using the correct grammar forms to discuss the past.

Britain Today

[2] Art is long, and life is short

David: Some people are willing to pay incredibly high prices for top-quality art. Our British

columnist Colin Beaven sees a real opportunity here. Could Britain cut its national debt by turning to the art world for help? Colin outlines the possibilities in Britain Today.

Art galleries are useful places to go when the weather is wet and cold, and lots of them in Britain are free — not just the National Gallery and Tate Modern in London, but others, too, such as the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

Would they be so popular if you had to pay to get in? Perhaps. It's sometimes said that more people go to museums and galleries than to football matches. Whether that's true is not clear, but it's good to know that you don't need money to see art, some of which is very nice. Modern art, on the other hand...

Many of us scratch our heads when we look at work by contemporary British artists. It does have its fans, though. David Hockney's

artisan

► (Kunst-)Handwerker(in)

national debt

► Staatsverschuldung

outline

► umreißen, darstellen

rolling hills

► Hügellandschaft

scratch

► kratzen

thatched cottage

► strohgedecktes Landhaus

painting of two men and a swimming pool became the most expensive painting by a living artist when it was sold in New York in November 2018 for \$90 million.

Wow! That's a fortune! Britain has such enormous debts — more than a trillion pounds — and if pictures are worth millions, they could really help our finances. I'm not suggesting that we should sell off the whole of Tate Modern. I just wonder whether artists could be nationalized. That way, anything they produce would belong to the state. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is always asking us for money. If a tax demand came as a personal letter from David Hockney, we'd gladly pay twice as much just to have a signed piece of his work on the living-room wall.

David Hockney has the same initials as another successful British artist, Damien Hirst, whose work is typically more bizarre than just paintings. He famously put a dead shark in a tank and pickled it. Often the animals he pickles have been cut into pieces. So an exhibition of his work might look more like the display in a delicatessen than in an art gallery. Luckily, Leonardo decided to paint the *Mona Lisa*, whereas Mr Hirst might have turned her into sauerkraut. Still, nationalize him, and the government could sell artistic sharks to every office block in London.

Many would say that there are already enough

sharks in the City of London. Why put a shark on display in the foyer when there are plenty working in the offices upstairs? It's just that selling art seems an easier way of getting hold of money than asking us for tax. It wouldn't be fair to sharks, of course, so maybe one could use old people instead.

Senior citizens like me cost the government a huge amount of money. When the time comes — and it comes to us all — we could choose to become national art treasures, sold to help repay the cost of our pensions and medical treatment.

I was planning to leave my body to science, to give young doctors some practice. But I think that if I left it to art, I'd be worth a bit more. In addition, there's the honour of being pickled like a cucumber and put on show in a London building. After all, there must be some lucky

cucumber ▶ Gurke

debts ▶ Schulden

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs UK

▶ britische Steuer- und Zollbehörde

pickle sth.

▶ etw. (sauer) einlegen

senior citizen

▶ ältere(r) Mitbürger(in)

shark ▶ Hai

tank ▶ Aquarium

tax demand UK

▶ Steuerbescheid

treasure ▶ Schatz

trillion ▶ Billion(en)

person who would like to be immortalized like the gherkin in the Gherkin.

Source: Spotlight 4/2019, page 9

A Day in My Life

[3] Ready for his close-up

David: In a Day in My Life, we meet Shammal Qureshi, who is an entrepreneur and stylist in Lahore, Pakistan. Qureshi owns five hairdressing salons and also runs an academy that teaches hairdressing, make-up application and skincare. Having trained in London, Qureshi returned to Pakistan with the mission of revolutionizing the country's hairdressing industry. Listen now as Qureshi describes his initial experiences when he opened his first salon in Lahore.

When I first came to Lahore, they had this, like, ass-long hair, you know? And it was, crazy because it's, like, working with European hair before, it's finer, it's easier to kind of work with, you know? I remember my first client came to me once, and she said, "Oh, you need to do a hair-up, I'm going to a wedding, yeah?" So I was like, "Sure, you know, I'll do it." So she comes in and she, you know, removes her dupatta, or whatever. And her hair's down to there, yeah? And it's literally, I kid you not, like

I couldn't, my hands won't go around it with, like, both of them together, they weren't, like, touching each other. It's that much hair. And I was, like... And I'm thinking in my head, I'm like, "What kind of hairspray am I going to need to kind of like put this hair up?" You know what I mean? Like, "What rocks would I have to put inside?" So it was a struggle, honestly. Luckily I had a team [that] was already working with Pakistani hair before. So I had to kind of, like, pretend I was doing it, but, like, they were really doing it.

David: So what changes have occurred in local hairstyles in the ten years that Qureshi has been operating in northern Pakistan?

ass-long

• bis zum Hintern lang

dupatta

• Schal
(großes, indisches Umschlagtuch für Frauen)

entrepreneur

• Unternehmer(in)

gherkin UK

• Essiggurke; Name eines Büroturms in der City of London

hair-up

• Hochsteckfrisur

immortalize

• verewigen

kid sb.

• jmdn. veräppeln

literally

• wörtlich

pretend

• vortäuschen, vorgeben

run • hier: führen, leiten

That's still the idea that kind of, like, you know, they have that kind of, like, long pretty [hair]. But it's changing. You know, since we came ten years, fast forward ten years, a lot of girls have short hair. It's crazy because I actually feel like we, in the ten years we're there — I mean I don't want to blow my own horn — but we've actually changed the way the province has actually... wears their hair now. Now I go to, like, a wedding or something, I see girls with short hair. Most of them we've cut from our salon. So for me, I feel really like I've done something, because honestly that's the way it is. But if you go outside of, say, Lahore or Karachi, whatever, you still see these women with really, really long hair.

See *Spotlight* 4/2019, pages 20–21

Travel

[4] Cotswolds crafters

David: Spread across six counties in the south of England, the Cotswolds is a region famous for its rolling hills, honey-coloured villages and lively market towns. The Cotswolds is also famous for the many creative people who have chosen to make this beautiful area their home. In the current travel feature, *Spotlight* correspondent Wendy Johnson meets a chair

maker, a textile designer and a stained-glass artist who all take inspiration from this special place. In the following excerpt from the feature, artist Susie Hetherington describes how her appreciation of the Cotswolds influenced her to start a new career handcrafting block-print designs.

Leaving the towering trees of the arboretum behind, I travel a short distance north and discover beauty of a very different kind. This is landscape that has been shaped by the success of the wool trade — once a successful industry here in the Cotswolds — and my journey into the Stroud valleys reveals many former wool-len cloth mills. Only a couple of mills here are still producing cloth, while many others have

appreciation

- Wertschätzung

arboretum

- Baumgarten

chair maker

- Stuhlmacher(in)

cloth mill

- Tuchfabrik

excerpt

- (Text-)Auszug

feature ► Artikel

horn: blow one's own ~

- sich selbst loben

lively ► lebhaft

reveal

- erkennen lassen

rolling hills

- Hügellandschaft

stained-glass artist

- Glasmaler(in)

become homes, work spaces or places to shop and eat. Some, like Dunkirk Mill in Nailsworth, have been preserved and are open to visitors at certain times of the year, with working demonstrations from the historic machinery offering a fascinating glimpse of the past.

Today, there are Cotswolds artists and crafters specializing in textiles, and I'm going to the village of Amberley outside Stroud to meet one of them. Susie Hetherington works from her home, where the countryside stretches out from her back garden. She tells me it is a huge source of inspiration for her designs.

“Our little village is on National Trust common land, so we have free-roaming cows. It's a really special place,” she says. “We bought this house for its view, and that really has inspired me to draw. The hills here — they call it the Five Valleys — are like cliffs. There's a walk just down the road that we describe as the headland. It feels as if you're going around the corner off a cliff looking out to sea. But you're not; you're looking out to a beautiful valley. That was really alluring to me.”

Once a graphic designer by trade, Susie changed the direction of her career after having her three daughters. She found herself photographing and drawing the nature near her home, while her children were napping in the pushchair or car.

“I didn't know what I was doing with these

things,” she says. “It wasn't work-based, it was just something to kill some time to get me through motherhood.” Inspired and encouraged by Dorset-based designer Cameron Short, she eventually decided to try lino printing.

“It was basically me taking one of those first drawings — I think it was of a bird and a plant from my garden — and then working out a repeat,” she says. “I was quite pleased with it, carved it into lino, and Cameron said all the right things, which was just what I needed. It went from there. I lino printed in my kitchen on the floor, standing on my block. This was all while the children were in bed, so late at night I couldn't see what I was doing,” she laughs. Now Susie's fascinating patterns — based on the nature on her doorstep — can be found on

alluring ▶ faszinierend

carve

▶ einritzen, schneiden

eventually

▶ schließlich

free-roaming

▶ freilaufend

glimpse ▶ Einblick

headland ▶ Landzunge

lino printing

▶ Linoldruck

nap ▶ schlummern, ein

Nickerchen machen

pattern ▶ Muster

preserve ▶ erhalten

pushchair

▶ Kinderwagen, Buggy

source ▶ Quelle

fabrics, cushions, lampshades, tea towels and much more. They are even on the packaging of local organic-soap company Soap Folk, a collaboration that is typical of the Cotswolds, where craftspeople commonly work together and support each other.

“When we came here, I didn’t anticipate the creative industry that was going on all round these Five Valleys,” she says. “There’s this big textiles past and great organizations like Stroud International Textiles. Lots of people come here to do talks, and there are the open studios trails.”

As a small market town, Stroud is a good size for making connections with fellow artists. Susie says there is a high concentration of artists here, and that it is easy to collaborate with people, thanks to “a sort of like-mindedness — it’s quite an arty, bohemian vibe”. She has tapped into the creative vibe in her village, which brings together artists, sculptors, designers, jewellery makers and more.

“A couple of years ago, I had a conversation with some friends about starting our own little collective,” she says. “When we began, everybody was in the village, so we called ourselves the Amberley Artisans, and it covers a real mix of creative people.”

Living in a spot of such rich natural beauty, she says the inspiration and designs never run out: “I can’t leave the house without seeing something I want to photograph and draw. My

children go to the village school, so we walk, and it’s a daily thing. There just aren’t enough hours in the day to design with them.”

Source: Spotlight 4/2019, pages 28–34

[5] A tradition of textiles

David: As you heard in the previous track, textile designer Susie Hetherington takes ideas for her patterns from the beautiful Cotswolds region where she lives. In an interview with Spotlight, Hetherington talks about some of her favourite places to find design concepts. First, she talks about some new prints she’s working on and what has motivated her.

anticipate

► erwarten, ahnen

artisan

► Kunsthandwerker(in)

bohemian

► unkonventionell

collaborate

► zusammenarbeiten

cushion ► Kissen

fabric ► Stoff

lampshade

► Lampenschirm

like-mindedness

► Gleichgesintheit

pattern ► Muster

tap into sth.

► etw. anzapfen, sich etw. nutzbar machen

tea towel UK

► Geschirrtuch

trail ► Pfad, Weg

vibe ► Atmosphäre, Schwingung

So, I think my favourite place, really, is Minchinhampton and Rodborough Common, where we live, because that's where I've found most of my inspiration. But further than that, I'm really inspired by lots of the period properties around here. I've been doing some prints recently that aren't patterns and aren't fabric, but they involve, usually, images of the views, but with a sliver of a house and there's some beautiful architecture. That's another slight obsession with the photos I take when I'm walking. There's no shortage of really, really attractive buildings round here.

David: The National Trust is an independent charity for environmental and heritage conservation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Listen as Hetherington describes how a room in a local National Trust property was the inspiration for one of her designs.

Also, National Trust properties. I'm a member of the National Trust and really enjoy, wherever we are, trying to visit National Trust houses. Some of those buildings have definitely crept their way into my work, or things I've seen in the interiors have crept their way into my work. I've got one design called "Newark Swans". There's a local National Trust property here called Newark Park, it's an old hunting lodge. It's quite a scruffy National Trust

property, it's not very, very grand, and that's really appealing to me, I'm not into grand. But it's just charming and one of the bedrooms is called the Swan Bedroom, and it's absolutely full of ceramic swan ornaments. I think there's even a quiz for children, and you have to count how many swans are in this one room — I think it's called the Swan Bedroom. Anyway, those swans feature in one of my designs.

David: Hetherington talks about The Museum in the Park, which is located in a historic mansion in Stratford Park in the area of Stroud, in Gloucestershire. The museum has a particular importance for the designer as it contains a lot of information about the history of the area's textile industry.

appealing

► ansprechend, reizvoll

creep ► kriechen

feature ► vorkommen

grand ► prachtvoll,

beeindruckend

heritage conservation

► Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes

hunting lodge

► Jagdhütte

mansion

► Villa, Herrenhaus

obsession ► fixe Idee

scruffy ► un gepflegt, verwerhlost

sliver ► kleines Stück

swan ► Schwanen-

The entire museum is set up about local history, which is something I'm really into, so lots of the things on the wall there, there's lots of art, some beautiful art, that involves the actual textile industry history. For example, there's this picture, this painting, of a view from Rodborough Fort up here on the Commons, and you can see in this picture Stroud cloth, which was the red felted cloth that's used in military uniforms. The painting actually shows how, when that was made here locally, they would dry it on, I guess, sort of long restles in the fields. So, you've got what looks like a normal scene, but in the fields there's lots of these red stripes, and I love that. I think that's really inspiring that that sort of thing went on here. So, the whole museum is absolutely full of things like that.

See Spotlight 4/2019, pages 28–34

Everyday English

[6] Reading

David: There's nothing like getting lost in a good book. At least that's how Flora and Nadiya feel. We'll be listening in on a discussion between the two friends in Everyday English. In the first dialogue, Nadiya is unhappy because she doesn't have any time for herself — not

even to read. This is because of her busy work schedule. Listen to the dialogue and try to find an expression that people use to talk about a book that held their attention completely.

Flora: It's so good to see you! How are you? Still as busy as ever?

Nadiya: Yes, it's crazy. I have no time for myself — I'm going to have to find a different job. I don't even have time to read any more, and you know how much I love reading.

Flora: Oh, that's too bad. It's so important to have time for yourself.

Nadiya: I know. Are you reading anything good at the moment?

Flora: I've just finished a really good book, actually. I couldn't put it down. It's called *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*.

Nadiya: I haven't heard of it. Who's it by?

Flora: The author's name is Gail Honeyman. This is her first novel and it's been a runaway success.

Nadiya: Sounds interesting. What's it about?

David: Were you able to find an expression that people use to talk about a book that held

cloth ▶ Tuch

restle ▶ Gestell

entire ▶ gesamt, ganz

work schedule

felted ▶ Filz-

▶ Arbeitszeitplan

their attention completely? Flora says she's just finished reading a book and that she "couldn't put it down". In the next dialogue, the two friends continue discussing their passion for reading. Flora has just recommended a book to Nadiya, who isn't certain it's right for her. What phrase does she use to explain to Flora that she doesn't like certain types of books?

Nadiya: That doesn't sound like the sort of book I'd normally read, but if you liked it so much, I'll give it a go.

Flora: I can lend it to you if you like. What sorts of books do you usually read?

Nadiya: I'm not keen on crime novels — I find them too disturbing. I like novels that are beautifully written, such as historical thrillers or novels set in exotic places, like Africa or India.

Flora: What was the last book you read?

Nadiya: Gosh. It was a while ago... Ah, I remember! It was a William Boyd novel. I think it was called Sweet Caress.

Flora: Oh, I've read that, too! I loved it. It was so moving at the end that I even had to have a little cry.

David: What phrase does Nadiya use to explain that she doesn't like certain types of books? She says she isn't keen on crime novels.

When someone "isn't keen on something", it means they don't enjoy or like it. Nadiya prefers historical thrillers, which are novels with exciting storylines that take place in the past. She also likes novels that are set in, or take place in, exotic locations. Now that Nadiya has a new book, all she has to do is find the time to relax and start reading.

Source: Spotlight 4/2019, pages 54–55

Grammar Tales

[7] "The Emperor's new work of art"

David: In a new episode of our series of fairytales for the 21st century, author Dagmar Taylor retells Hans Christian Andersen's classic story of *The Emperor's New Clothes*. In our version, it's now called "The Emperor's new work of art". The grammar focus this time is on superlative adjectives, such as "richest", "best",

caress ➔ Liebkosung,
Umarmung

disturbing
➔ beunruhigend

fairytale
➔ Märchen

go: give sth. a ~
➔ etw. ausprobieren

gosh ➔ Mensch! Du
meine Güte!

keen on: be ~ sth.
➔ auf etw. scharf sein

or “most intelligent”. Pay attention for other examples as you listen.

Once upon a time there was an emperor who was very vain and very, very rich. The emperor loved showing off his wealth. He lived in a golden tower filled with golden ornaments, and he owned lots of property. He made sure everyone knew how successful he was and liked to remind everyone that this was because he was so intelligent.

“I am the richest emperor, the most successful emperor and the very best emperor,” he would tell his subjects. “Nobody knows more than I do. I am the most intelligent emperor.” He had heard that if you repeated something often enough, people would believe it. It certainly worked for him.

The emperor had no friends, only business associates and advisers whom he chose according to their willingness to carry out his wishes without arguing. If an adviser dared to contradict him, the emperor would fire him or her on the spot and sulk like a child. Nobody stood up to the emperor. His advisers could not afford to lose their jobs. One morning, the emperor’s private secretary — a sycophant called Douglas — announced the arrival of an art broker.

“Who?” barked the emperor, without looking up from his mindfulness colouring book.

“Raphael Vegas, Your Imperial Majesty. Do you

remember? You asked him to advise you about investment opportunities.” Now that the property bubble had burst, the emperor had turned to the art world to boost his fortune.

“Send him in,” grunted the emperor.

“It’s an honour to meet you, Your Imperial Majesty,” fawned Raphael. “May I say you are the best emperor this country has ever known?” Raphael was a charlatan, but a very charming one. “I think you are a genius!”

bark ▶ bellen, blaffen

boost

▶ erhöhen, vermehren

burst ▶ platzen

business associate

▶ Geschäftspartner(in)

charming

▶ charmant, bezaubernd

contradict

▶ widersprechen

dare ▶ wagen, riskieren

emperor ▶ Kaiser

fawn ▶ schleimen

fortune ▶ Vermögen

grunt ▶ knurren

mindfulness

▶ Achtsamkeits-

property bubble

▶ Immobilienblase

show off sth.

▶ mit etw. prahlen

spot: on the ~

▶ sofort, auf der Stelle

stand up to sb.

▶ jmdm. Paroli bieten

subject ▶ Untertan(in)

sulk ▶ schmollen

sycophant

▶ Schleimer(in)

vain ▶ eitel

“Yes. So do I!” replied the emperor. “You’re clearly a man who knows what he’s talking about. I like you.”

Raphael smiled. He took out his phone to show the emperor drawings of a work by the art world’s newest star.

“That really is quite something,” said the emperor, squinting. He knew nothing about art, but he added: “Nobody knows more about art than I do,” so that Raphael would be sure he knew what he was talking about.

“Yes. It’s very special,” said Raphael. “It’s very clever the way the work represents a critique of consumer culture in the age of neoliberal capitalism.”

“How much is it?” asked the emperor, quickly changing the subject.

“Forty-five million,” answered Raphael.

“Phew!” whistled the emperor.

“I would expect a work of this quality to quadruple its value within the next ten years,” said Raphael.

The emperor nodded. “When will the work be finished?” he asked.

“In a couple of months,” said Raphael. “Obviously,” he continued, “the work will be even more valuable if it is kept completely secret. The work will be delivered and installed in the tower under cover of darkness, and a grand viewing will be held the following day to celebrate.”

“That seems fitting. After all, I am the richest emperor, the most successful emperor and the best emperor. Nobody knows more than I do. I am the most intelligent emperor.”

Raphael bowed. “Your Majesty,” he said and left.

Two months passed, and the emperor grew curious. “Douglas? DOUGLAS!” he shouted. Douglas came running.

“Your Majesty?”

“There’s no sign of this artwork. I need to know when it will be installed, and I want proof that it is as amazing as whatshisface said it would be. Arrange to see the work, and then report back to me.”

“Yes, Your Majesty,” said Douglas.

The next day, the emperor asked Douglas if he had seen the work of art.

“Yes,” said Douglas.

“And?” asked the emperor.

“It’s... em... interesting,” said Douglas. “It has quite a strong smell, but Raphael said that was

bow ▶ sich verbeugen

curious ▶ neugierig

fitting ▶ passend,
geeignet

phew! ▶ puh!

quadruple

▶ vervierfachen

squint ▶ blinzeln

whatshisface

▶ der Dings

whistle ▶ pfeifen

because it wasn't dry yet."

"And when will it be installed?"

"He wouldn't say when exactly, but he said he would tweet the date and the time of the grand viewing in good time," replied Douglas.

"Aha!" said the emperor. "I don't suppose you were allowed to take a photo?"

"No," said Douglas nervously.

"Well, of course not. That could compromise the value of the work. We shall wait. I'm very patient. I'm probably the most patient person ever."

The day of the grand viewing finally arrived. The golden foyer of the emperor's tower was filled with people curious to see the amazing new work of art. A strong smell hung in the air. There was silence as the emperor entered.

"I am the richest emperor, the most successful emperor and the best emperor," said the ruler. "Nobody knows more than I do. I am the most intelligent emperor. I shall now unveil the greatest work of art, the most expensive work of art the world has ever seen." There was a fanfare of trumpets, and the emperor and his aides pulled off the cover. "Look, Mama! It's a huge pile of old rubbish!" cried a little boy in the crowd. The crowd began to mutter.

"How much did he pay for it?" asked a man.

"Forty-five million!" scoffed another.

Slowly, laughter began to ripple through the hall. Completely humiliated, the emperor retired from his duties and was never seen

in public again. He kept to his private chambers, where he liked nothing more than to eat bacon sandwiches naked in bed while he binge-watched *The Sopranos* on Netflix. In other words, he lived quite happily ever after.

Source: *Spotlight* 4/2019, 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:

One hundred and fifty years ago, the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev presented the first periodic table of the elements. This milestone

aide ► Helfer(in)

pile ► Haufen

binge-watch

► nonstop ansehen

retire

► sich zurückziehen

humiliate ► demütigen,
beschämen

ripple

► hier: sich verbreiten

mutter ► murmeln

scoff ► spotten

periodic table

► Periodensystem

tweet ► twittern

unveil ► enthüllen

in the history of science started an intellectual revolution that made today's world possible.

[9] The periodic table: better living through chemistry

Inez: Science has had its big-name heroes; yet despite the importance of his work, few people have heard of the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev. His scientific breakthrough in 1869 was the creation of the first periodic table, which is a list of all the chemical elements, arranged according to their atomic number. However, Mendeleev also accepted that his table was incomplete. In an updated version in 1871, he left gaps in the table where he believed unknown elements should fit. He was even able to correctly predict the values of some of those undiscovered elements.

In an opinion piece for the British *Guardian* newspaper, the editorial writers discuss the importance of Mendeleev's discovery. Let's listen now to the first excerpt from the editorial.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery, or invention, of the periodic table of the elements, one of the most important, if least dramatic, of all scientific breakthroughs. Chemistry has a bad reputation among non-chemists... There is not even a hero figure like Darwin, Newton or Einstein whose

story can dramatise our understanding of the subject. If there were, it would be Dmitri Mendeleev, the Russian who first organised the known elements into an arrangement which not only fitted them together but had predictive value: it suggested new elements that might be discovered, and what their qualities would be.

Inez: Knowledge of the elements dates back to when primitive human societies first discovered native substances. One example is gold, which would have been washed out of the many small stones called gravel found in riverbeds. Gold is also an example of something that is irreducible, in other words, something that can't be made smaller or simpler. Of course,

editorial

► Leitartikel, redaktioneller Beitrag

editorial writer

► Leitartikler(in)

excerpt

► (Text-)Auszug

fit: ~ together

► zusammenfügen

gravel

► Kies, Schotter

native

► heimisch, inländisch

opinion piece

► Stellungnahme

predictive value

► Vorhersagewert

reputation ► Ruf

subject ► Fach

suggest

► hier: nahelegen

before being scientifically proved, the idea that substances could be made up of a combination of elements seemed fanciful, so based on imagination and not on facts or reason. Let's hear more about this in the second excerpt.

This was not a complete theoretical understanding, but it exposed the phenomena which a theory must explain. In some sense the elements had been known since gold was first washed out of gravel, long before writing was invented. But the existence of some simple and apparently irreducible kinds of stuff did not prove and might not even imply that every substance in the world was made from simpler elements combined. The idea that water is really the combination of two gases, themselves never found in a pure state in nature, seems entirely fanciful until it is proved by experiment. ...

Inez: In the third excerpt, the *Guardian* writers describe how central the periodic table has been to modern life. The table breaks the world down to its constituents, that is, down to all the single parts that combine to form a whole. The table also shows how those parts can be recombined to form new substances. We can now see how, by controlling the processes that go into creating life, living things can be tweaked for the better — to tweak means to

make slight changes to something to improve it. Here's the final excerpt.

The periodic table made possible the modern industrial world. It didn't just break down the world into its constituents; it supplied the knowledge needed to recombine these elements in new ways, ... from medicines to plastic. ...

...At the extreme edge of present-day science lies the creation of new elements that can only be produced artificially: the most recent, oganesson, has only been observed as six short-lived atoms. But long before then, chemical analysis and understanding had been turned inwards, on to the bodies of living things. These techniques, widely available, make it

apparently

► offensichtlich, anscheinend

artificially ► künstlich

constituent

► Bestandteil

edge ► Kante, Grenze

entirely

► komplett, vollständig

expose ► zeigen

fanciful ► fantastisch, unrealistisch

imply

► bedeuten, implizieren

observe

► beobachten

reason

► Verstand

tweak ► optimieren, fein einstellen

possible to understand all the processes of life as interlocking reactions which can be tweaked to our advantage. ...

Source: Guardian News & Media 2019

[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 list of all the chemical elements, arranged according to their atomic number, is called... the periodic table.

What is another name for very small stones, for example, those found in a riverbed? Gravel

Small parts that combine to make a whole are known as... constituents.

If something can't be reduced or simplified, it is... irreducible.

Something that is based on imagination and not facts or reason can be called... fanciful.

What verb means to make very slight changes to improve something? To tweak

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

See Spotlight 4/2018, page 25

American Life

[11] Time to play

David: When it comes to sports in the US, American football, basketball and baseball are by far the most popular. However, that doesn't mean that more unusual sports aren't getting attention. One of the fastest-growing games in America today is pickleball. If you're wondering what that is, don't worry! Our US correspondent Ginger Kuenzel is more than just a fan — she's become a seasoned player. To find out more about pickleball, listen now to American Life.

Pickleball is taking America by storm. But how did the silly name come about? Some say it was the name given to a dog that constantly chased the ball when the game was invented.

chase ▶ hinterher jagen

reason ▶ Verstand

interlocking

seasoned ▶ erfahren

▶ ineinandergreifend

Others say that it came from the pickle boat in rowing, with a not particularly well-matched crew of individuals as a team. Since pickleball is a mix of several sports — badminton, tennis, and ping-pong — this has a certain logic to it. The sport was invented in the mid-1960s, when children wanted to play badminton, but didn't have the right equipment. They used basic wooden paddles (like those in ping-pong) and a Wiffle ball; and they lowered the net to make it more like those used in tennis. This is basically what the sport looks like today, though the paddles are larger than ping-pong paddles, and the game is played on a hard surface rather than in a backyard.

Somewhere along the way, rules specific to pickleball developed. Aging baby boomers found the tennis court a bit too large for them to cover easily, and many developed knee or shoulder problems. But they weren't ready to become couch potatoes, so they turned to pickleball, which is played on a much smaller court, with an underhand serve and a slower-moving Wiffle ball.

According to the USA Pickleball Association, there are more than 15,000 indoor and outdoor courts in America, and at least one location in all 50 states. Pickleball is not just for older people. Some schools are starting to integrate it into their sports programs. Even my 11-year-old grandson, Josh, enjoys playing it with me.

Pickleball levels the playing field: Beginners learn the game quickly, and all ability levels and ages can play together without people feeling out of their league. This winter, when I moved temporarily to Florida, it was very easy to find courts to play on, and other players were very welcoming. Thus, not only have I been able to keep active, but pickleball has also proved to be a great way to meet people. When I am asked what the game is like, I say that it's a bit like playing ping-pong while standing on the table. Good players hit the ball low over the net, so that their opponents can't slam it back. Pickleball is normally played as a doubles game, with players standing close

backyard ▶ Hinterhof

league: feel out of one's ~
▶ sich überfordert fühlen

level ▶ hier: Unterschiede ausgleichen

lower
▶ niedriger hängen

paddle ▶ hier: Tischtennis-, Pingpong-Schläger

rather than
▶ statt, und nicht

rowing ▶ Rudern

slam: ~ sth. back
▶ zurückschlagen

surface ▶ Oberfläche

tennis court
▶ Tennisplatz

underhand serve
▶ Unterhandschlag

well-matched ▶ gut aufeinander abgestimmt

to the net. This makes for fast action. But you have to be careful not to stand too close to the net, in an area called “the kitchen.” If you are standing in the kitchen, you are not allowed to hit the ball before it has hit the ground. You must let it bounce. If this all sounds a bit confusing, it really isn’t. The best way to familiarize yourself with the game, and to become addicted to it, is simply to get out there and play. Look for the “pickleball channel” on YouTube. You’ll be a fan in no time.

Source: *Spotlight* 4/2019, page 26

Language

[12] Listen carefully!

David: Spoken English is different from the English you read in books or hear in films. People may speak faster, have strong accents or use expressions you’re unfamiliar with. There are false starts, sentences are unfinished and words like “just”, “sort of” and “kind of” are used as gap fillers.

In the 4/19 language feature, language author Vanessa Clark analyses anecdotes told by members of the *Spotlight* team. She looks at the vocabulary they used and the tricks they employ to keep the listener interested.

Let’s listen to an anecdote now. *Spotlight*

Editor-in-Chief Inez Sharp tells a story from her childhood. We’re going to focus on two things: discourse markers and crutch words. Discourse markers are words such as “however”, “nevertheless” and “anyway” which connect and organize communication. Crutch words are ones that either give us time to think such as “like” and “you know”, or allow us to be vague — “kind of”, “quite frankly” and “stuff” are all examples. Let’s listen to Inez’s story now. Can you hear any discourse markers or crutch words?

Inez: When I was at school, we had to do these assemblies. I was at this Anglo-European school and assembly meant basically that the whole school came together in the morning — I don’t know if they still do this — you had to sing hymns and stuff like that. But because we were an Anglo-European school, and it was all about languages and so on and so forth, we actually, um, had to make presentations, and

addicted

► süchtig

bounce ► hier: aufprallen, aufspringen

crutch word

► Stützwort

discourse marker

► Diskursmarker, Diskurspartikel

gap filler ► Lückenfüller

unfamiliar: be - with sth.

► keine Erfahrung haben mit etw.

the teacher would say, like, you know, so “who’s going to make the presentation?” and I always put my hand up. I was the kid who just could not... you couldn’t get me, you couldn’t get me off the stage with a shotgun. So anyway, um, I said yeah to one particular assembly and it was about the German, I think he’s called a resistance fighter, but anyway, um... his name is Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his life is very sad, at least the end of it’s very sad. He was a very brave man, and I had to give a speech about him, which was fine. I stood up there and had my little piece of paper and I read aloud and I was really happy going along. But for some reason, I got faster and faster and faster and faster, and I knew I was going to have to take a breath at some point and I could only just keep going until I got to the sentence “and then he died”, and it was, like, tragic because he, he died, and everybody in the assembly burst out laughing because they knew that basically if I hadn’t stopped then, I’d have been dead myself. I would have fallen over. So, that was my, that was one of my sort of not so good experiences.

David: Let’s look back at some of those discourse markers and crutch words. Listen.

Inez: You had to sing hymns and stuff like that.

David: “Stuff” is a crutch word. It’s vague and can cover a lot of topics or items. Here’s the next one.

Inez: And it was all about languages and so on and so forth.

David: “And so on and so forth” is similar to “and stuff like that”. The speaker can avoid being too specific. What about this sentence?

Inez: I think he’s called a resistance fighter, but anyway, um...

David: “Anyway” is a discourse marker showing a change in topic or a return to the main topic. Here’s the next example.

Inez: And it was, like, tragic because he, he died, and everybody in the assembly burst out laughing because they knew that basically if I hadn’t stopped then, I’d have been dead myself.

David: “Like” is very common in informal speaking. It can be used to fill in silence like other filler words. Or it can bring attention to what we’re about to say next, especially in relation to quantities and times, for instance, “It was like 12 o’clock when she called.”

See Spotlight 4/2019, pages 40–45

for instance

► zum Beispiel

shotgun

► Gewehr, Schrotflinte

English at Work

[13] Past tenses in small talk

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 using correct grammar forms to talk about the past during small talk.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Talking about the past is a normal part of small talk. But using the correct grammar form to talk about the past is not always easy. German speakers especially mix up the past simple with the present perfect. The past simple is used when talking about actions that have finished, for example: “I lived in Berlin when I was a child.” The present perfect is used to talk about actions in the past that continue in the present or affect the present, for example: “I have lived in Hamburg for ten years.” Let’s practise these two grammar systems now. I’ll give you some key words. In the pause, make up a sentence using these words and changing the verb to either the past simple or to the present perfect. Start each sentence with the word “I”. Then you’ll hear the correct answer. Good. We’ll start.

Not see her since Tuesday

I haven’t seen her since Tuesday.

Work in Spain ten years ago
I worked in Spain ten years ago.

Not hear from him for ages
I haven’t heard from him for ages.

Call you last Friday
I called you last Friday.

Go London last year
I went to London last year.

Live in Munich since 2008
I have lived in Munich since 2008.

Not eat candy since a child
I haven’t eaten candy since I was a child.

Ring his office earlier
I rang his office earlier.

How did you get on? Did you get them all correct? It’s important to know the difference between these two grammar systems because if you mix them up, it can be very confusing.

affect ► betreffen, sich auf etw. auswirken

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* 4/2019, page 61

Peggy's Place

[14] These boots are made for walkin'

David: Everyone needs a break from work occasionally. And it's no different for our friends at *Spotlight's* favourite London pub, Peggy's Place. However, pub-owner Peggy has had to work hard to convince her husband, Phil, to go on holiday, and now even getting out the door seems in doubt. Let's listen in to what's going on.

Sean: Relax! It will all be fine.

Peggy: It's silly, really. We've been away before. You won't remember this, but once we went to the States for three weeks.

Sean: And did anything go horribly wrong while you were away?

Peggy: No, of course not. Maybe it's getting older that's the problem. The holiday seemed

like such a good idea back in January. Now it seems like a big effort.

Sean: It'll only be a week, and you're not even leaving the country.

Peggy: I know, I know...

George: Hi, Peggy! All packed and ready to go?

Peggy: I think so.

George: Are you going or not?

Sean: They are definitely going.

George: And you're running the place while they're away?

Sean: Exactly!

George: So, what's the issue?

Peggy: I don't know. Maybe it's because Phil didn't want to go. I really had to work on him.

Sean: And now you're worried that if he doesn't like it when he gets there, it will all be your fault?

Peggy: Something like that.

George: Where are you going?

Peggy: We're walking part of the South Downs Way, starting from Winchester.

break ▶ Pause

convince ▶ überzeugen

copy ▶ Exemplar

issue ▶ hier: Problem

occasionally

▶ gelegentlich

run ▶ hier: die Leitung übernehmen

work on sb.

▶ jmdn. bearbeiten

George: I'm not surprised you had to work on Phil. We all know he's a bit of a lazy sod.

Peggy: Well, the carrot was a chance to see his old school friend Danny. He lives in Winchester, and he'll be walking some of the way with us.

Sean: I'm sure you'll have a lovely time.

George: The weather forecast isn't great.

Peggy: George!

George: Just saying.

Sean: You've got everything organized. Now you just need to haul Phil into the car...

George: ...and drive off into the sunset.

Peggy: Actually, Phil still needs to find his walking boots.

Sean: Can't you help him look?

Peggy: No, they're somewhere in the spare room, and since Phil declared it his man cave, I'm not allowed in there.

George: Lucky Phil! I'd love to have a room like that, but Maggie won't allow it.

Sean: Can't you just sneak in and have a rummage around?

George: No, she definitely can't! That's the whole point of a man cave: it's a woman-free zone.

Peggy: Yeah, Phil said something similar when I offered to help.

Sean: When exactly are you leaving?

Peggy: Tomorrow at seven.

George: That's not much time. What will you

do if he can't find them?

Peggy: For God's sake, George! Stop being so negative. Has Phil put you up to this?

George: No, of course not.

Sean: You can always buy him another pair.

George: Hi, Phil! You're looking cheerful.

Phil: And why wouldn't I be? In a few hours, I'm off on holiday with my beautiful wife and, to mark the occasion, I have bought myself some new hiking boots and new rucksacks for both of us.

Peggy: Oh, Phil!

George: New boots? You're sure to get terrible blisters.

Source: Spotlight 4/2019, page 13

blister

► (Haut-)Blase

carrot

► hier: Anreiz, Bonbon

cheerful

► fröhlich, gut gelaunt

haul ► verfrachten

hiking ► Wander-

just saying *if ml.*

► ich mein ja nur

lazy sod UK *vulg.*

► fauler Sack

man cave

► Männerheiligtum

put: - sb. up to sth.

► jmdn. zu etw. anstiften

rummage: have a ~ around ► herumstöbern

sneak ► schleichen

spare room

► Gästezimmer

Short Story

[15] “The last stop”

David: Have you ever heard the saying “Dreams don’t work unless you do”? Well, our short story is about a man who moved to New York with very big dreams. However, the work he’s doing isn’t helping him fulfil his dreams at all. But then he meets someone who teaches him that it’s never about the destination and always about the journey.

“Keep the change,” said the man, as he gave Devon a \$20 note. The fare on the meter was \$19.70. That left Devon with a 30 cent tip. “Great! Thanks,” he said sarcastically, as the man got out of his taxicab at the most expensive hotel in SoHo.

Devon had taken a job as a taxi driver in Manhattan because this was where the richest New Yorkers lived. He thought he’d make bigger tips here, but he soon learned that rich people don’t get rich by giving their money away. They were often the meanest of people. And yet, he wanted to be one of them — more than anything.

It was this dream that had motivated him to come to New York in the first place, not only to be rich, but to be famous and successful, known the world over as a great songwriter. He had been writing songs since he’d started playing

his first musical instrument at the age of eight. But he hadn’t written anything in months.

He knew great art often came from great misery, but this wasn’t the case for him. He’d written his best songs when he’d been in love or inspired or just thankful to be alive, but he didn’t feel any of these things now; he felt more and more depressed every day.

Instead of becoming a famous musician, he was working as a taxi driver and living in a studio apartment in the Bronx. He was so tired and depressed by the time he finished work and traveled home on the subway every evening that all he wanted to do was watch TV and drink beer. People often said that New York made you hard, and Devon felt it had made him too hard, too cynical ever to write another song. A doorman at one of SoHo’s luxurious apartment blocks signaled at him to stop. Devon parked and helped the doorman to put three big suitcases into his trunk. A few minutes later, an elderly woman wearing a winter coat, despite the mild weather, got into the back of his cab.

mean

► geizig

meter

► Taxameter, Zähler

subway N. Am.

► U-Bahn

tip ► Trinkgeld

trunk ► Kofferraum

Devon hoped she didn't expect him to help her with her suitcases when she got to wherever she was going — probably the airport to go on some expensive vacation, or the harbor to go on a cruise with her rich friends.

"Where to, ma'am?" he asked.

She gave him a list of addresses. "Just start at the top, young man, and work your way down the list."

The first address was in the Bronx, not far from where Devon lived. They drove there in silence, Devon wondering why this rich woman wanted to go to his poor neighborhood. When they arrived at what was a small, shabby house, he waited for her to get out of the car, but she just sat staring out of the window, looking melancholy.

"We're here," he said.

She didn't say anything for a long time, and he began to wonder if perhaps she wasn't right in the head.

"I used to live here," she said at last, "with three other girls. It's the first place I lived when I came to New York." She sighed. "It wasn't what I'd hoped for. It was so small inside, and the plumbing didn't work. But none of that mattered. I was young, and I had my whole life ahead of me. I felt like I could conquer the world."

"And did you?" asked Devon, trying to visualize this woman as a girl, a girl as young and

poor as he was now.

"I felt like I did," she said.

A tear rolled down her face, and Devon felt uncomfortable. He wasn't used to his clients, especially his rich clients, showing any emotion. And he wasn't used to feeling any emotion other than bitterness and misery.

The lady, who told him her name was Mary-Jane, asked him to take her to the next address, which was a restaurant a few blocks away. Devon knew it well. He often went there to get a bagel with cream cheese before going to work. "You used to come here?" he asked.

"I used to work here," she said. "It was my first job in the city."

"Oh, sorry."

"Why sorry? It didn't define me. It was just something I had to do, a means to an end. What I wanted more than anything was to be a fashion designer. I knew it wouldn't happen overnight. I had to do a lot of jobs I hated first, just to make enough money to live here and go to college, but I never gave up." She sighed

conquer sth. ► hier: es mit etw. aufnehmen

means: ~ to an end
► Mittel zum Zweck

plumbing ► Rohrleitungen; auch: Klo

shabby
► heruntergekommen

sigh ► seufzen

again. “Oh, to be young again, so full of life, so full of dreams!”

As they drove away from the restaurant to the next address, the bar where Mary-Jane had met her husband, Devon began to feel ashamed of himself, of who he’d become. He had everything this woman, with her expensive clothes and luxurious apartment, wanted more than anything, but would never have again. Yet all he ever did was feel sorry for himself.

As he drove her to the other addresses on her list (where she’d studied, where she’d started her design agency, where she’d married her husband, where she’d buried him...), she told him more about her life, and he told her about his, about his dream of becoming a songwriter and how hardened he’d become.

The only thing he didn’t ask Mary-Jane was why she wanted to visit all those places today, but the last address on the list answered that question for him. They stopped outside a hospice in Midtown Manhattan.

“This is the last stop for me,” said Mary-Jane, and Devon knew, with a heavy heart, that she meant the last stop forever.

He refused to take a cent from her for the fare, telling her she’d given him something worth much more than money, and he helped her inside the hospice before taking her suitcases to her room. As he drove back to the taxi depot,

a new song, a love letter to New York and to the life he was living there, began to compose itself in his head.

Source: Spotlight 4/2019, 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.

fare ▶ Fahrpreis

hardened

▶ hart, unempfindlich

subscriber

▶ Abonnent(in)

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