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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the 5/2019 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.

How well do you know your English tenses? We examine this challenging aspect of grammar in a special roundtable discussion.

Do you dream of taking a road trip along a lonely American highway? Then you'll enjoy an inspiring story in the travel section.

The classic story of *Cinderella* gets a modern makeover in a new episode of Grammar Tales.

Britain Today

[2] Wembley vs Assembly

David: There's a lot of travel involved if you're a serious football fan. In Britain, as in many European countries, fans travel hundreds of miles to support their team. Our Britain Today columnist, Colin Beaven, believes that fans should take a break every now and again as they travel to and from matches — and he has

some interesting sightseeing tips. Afternoon tea, anyone?

If you're planning a journey by rail, it pays to know that trains in Britain basically all travel to London and back. But there's one company whose trains run directly from north to south without going near the capital: Cross-Country Trains. It means, for example, that if one of Manchester's football clubs plays an away match on the south coast, at either Bournemouth or Southampton, its fans can take a direct train to go and see it.

This recently happened and, just by chance, the other south-coast team was playing the other Manchester team in Manchester on the very same day. So, a train travelling north full of Bournemouth supporters on their way to see their team play Manchester United must have met the train full of Manchester City supporters heading south to see the match against Southampton.

Did the fans have time to wave and exchange a friendly greeting as one train sped past the other? Not really. They would have had to break

away match UK
➤ Auswärtsspiel

makeover ➤ Über-
arbeitung, Neufassung

their journey and stretch their legs. Where, though? I'd recommend Leamington, a beautiful town not far from Birmingham. It's halfway on the route from north to south. True, it looks like the sort of place where more time's been spent playing cards than football — especially in the days when it was a fashionable spa.

The middle classes arrived there in the early 19th century to play whist and bathe in its salty mineral water. Even Queen Victoria visited when she was a princess, so the full name is Royal Leamington Spa.

It's full of elegant Regency buildings that would be quite at home in a novel by Jane Austen. She certainly knew what spas were like. She lived for a while in Bath, and wrote with a critical eye about the lifestyle of its middle class in the pages of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*.

Would it take a lot of persuasion to get football supporters to spend an hour or two in a spa town on match days? They often have a couple of drinks in the pub before kick-off. It might be a nice change to take afternoon tea in the graceful Georgian atmosphere of the Pump Room or the Assembly Rooms, eating delicate cakes and little sandwiches.

After all, a number of Britain's Georgian towns and cities, such as Bath, Norwich, Newcastle and Edinburgh, still have their Assembly

Rooms, a place where balls were held as an opportunity for visitors to dance and socialize. Leamington also has a lovely hall called the Assembly, though it was built rather later. It's mainly used for pop concerts, but I'm sure they wouldn't mind holding a ball for the fans.

To be honest, I think the fans would probably rather be at Wembley than the Assembly. Wembley Stadium: the proud home of English football, where all teams dream of winning the FA Cup Final.

Of course, you can't hold a ball at Wembley; there'd be loud cries of protest, and the ref would award a free kick against you.

Source: Spotlight 5/2019, page 11

award ► geben;
hier: entscheiden

bathe ► baden (gehen)

delicate
► köstlich, lecker

free kick ► Freistoß

graceful
► elegant, ansprechend

kick-off ► Anpfiff

novel ► Roman

persuasion ► Überzeugungskraft, gutes Zureden

ref (referee) *ifml.*
► Schiri, Schiedsrichter(in)

socialize
► unter Leute kommen

spa ► Kurort

stretch: ~ one's legs
► hier: einen kleinen Spaziergang machen

though ► aber, allerdings

whist ► Whist (ein Vorläufer des Bridge-Spiels)

A Day in My Life

[3] The right medicine

David: In a Day in My Life, we meet Helena Kelly, who is a senior lecturer and principal investigator in the School of Pharmacy at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland. One of the many parts of her varied job involves developing a new treatment for pancreatic cancer. In the following part of the interview, Kelly describes how an advanced type of hydrogel could help patients with this type of cancer.

So I have been involved in the development of what we call a hydrogel. The easiest way to describe a hydrogel is to think of the gel that you put in your hair. So essentially they're like clear, transparent gels and that's a hydrogel. But we work with very advanced forms of these hydrogels that actually change form when they change temperature. So at room temperature the gel will actually be a liquid, so it will flow something like olive oil. But then when it reaches body temperature, it actually becomes a semi-solid, so it becomes like a gel and what that means is that we can deliver it into a tumour where it will then solidify. We can load it with anti-cancer drugs, which then release within the tumour and help kill the tumour.

And the specific application we're looking at for this gel at the moment is pancreatic cancer, which is a very severe cancer that has poor survival rates at the moment, so there is a need for new treatments in this area.

See *Spotlight* 5/2019, pages 12–13

Travel

[4] An American adventure on Route 50

David: Have you ever dreamed of taking a road trip in the US? Well, *Spotlight* Deputy Editor Claudine Weber-Hof has had her fair share of adventures travelling through the States.

deputy editor

• stellvertretende(r)
Chefredakteur(in)

drug • hier: Medikament, Wirkstoff

pancreatic cancer

• Bauchspeicheldrüsenkrebs

principal investigator

• Leiter(in) der klinischen Prüfung

release • hier: abgegeben, freigesetzt werden

semi-solid

• halbfester Stoff

senior lecturer

• Hochschuldozent(in)

share: one's fair ~ *ifml.*

• ganz schön viel

solidify • fest werden, sich verfestigen

surgeon • Chirurg(in)

Her latest trip saw her renting an RV — that’s short for “recreational vehicle” — and setting off, free as a bird, through Nevada and Utah along the famous Route 50. In the following excerpt, we catch up with Claudine on Day 3 of her journey as she arrives at Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

[from Day 3]

11 a.m.

The RV rolls into Baker Creek Campsite, a proper place to hook up the RV and camp in Great Basin National Park. Our elevation is 2,350 meters, and we have plenty of what makes camping in the US so serene: space. Our closest neighbor is 30 meters away. Sitting at the kitchen table, I read the park information sheet. People come here to see 3,000-year-old bristlecone pines, a night sky that’s been named an International Dark Sky Park, the Lehman Caves stalactites, and Wheeler Peak Glacier. A knock comes at the camper door. I get up to see who’s there.

I step outside and soon see the source of the loud knocking sound: it’s a big wild turkey. The male bird, tail feathers spread out in a fearsome fan, is hammering at its reflection in the chrome bumper. A harem of hens watches in fascination. I wave them away with a laugh. The expression “birdbrain” has to come from somewhere. Time for a sandwich in the RV.

4:10 p.m.

With water and rain gear in our packs, we make our way to Baker Creek Trail. At the trailhead, we sign the park register — for safety, and to make the start of the hike feel official. Small wooden bridges take us over streams and past aspen. Just ahead, two large deer are on the path. Slowly, the animals move off into the forest.

Day 4

8 a.m.

The turkeys march past the camper again, this time without incident. Today, nature has a new

aspen ▶ Espe

birdbrain *ifml.*

▶ Spatzenhirn

bristlecone pine

▶ Borstenkiefer

bumper N. Am.

▶ Stoßstange

deer ▶ Reh, Rotwild

elevation ▶ Höhe

excerpt ▶ Auszug

fan ▶ Fächer

fearsome

▶ furchterregend

hike ▶ Wanderung

incident ▶ Vorfall

rain gear

▶ Regenkleidung

RV (recreational vehicle) N. Am. ▶ Wohnmobil

serene

▶ ruhig, entspannt

source ▶ Quelle

trailhead ▶ Ausgangspunkt des Wanderwegs

act, too: a gang of pinyon jays, also called “blue crows,” in the trees outside the camper. One works a pinecone like a lion with a fresh kill; it complains loudly when other birds come too close.

We have another hike planned, this time, a four-hour route on the Pole Canyon Trail. On the way to the trailhead, we pass campers drinking coffee. They live near Lake Tahoe, on the California border.

“There are two things people don’t realize about Nevada,” one of them says. “It’s the most mountainous state in the lower 48 [the contiguous US] and has the largest forest in the lower 48.” My idea of Nevada used to be Las Vegas. Route 50 has shown me a completely new side to the state.

3 p.m.

After the long, quiet hike in the woods, we stop at the visitor center. I buy a book about the park, turn around, and meet its author: Gretchen Baker, Great Basin National Park ecologist. “When I go to the city, I can’t wait to get back out here,” she says. “The isolation really grows on you.” I ask her if she has ever seen a mountain lion in these parts. “Just once,” she says. That would be one time too many for me, I say. We laugh and wave goodbye.

That evening, I look forward to another night of deep, uninterrupted sleep in the RV. It’s a

terrific way to travel: slowly, like a snail with its house on its back. At times, this house has little internet access and miserable phone reception. Perfect.

Day 5

11:30 a.m.

To cross into Utah, Nevada’s neighbor to the east, is to travel through time. You lose an hour simply by going from the Pacific to the Mountain time zone (for example, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.). Expectations change here, too, as many of the country’s best-loved national parks are in this state. As in Nevada, distances are great, so we ready ourselves for a full day of driving. Soon, we’ve left US 50 and are driving south-east into Utah, “the Mormon state.”

2:30 p.m.

After passing through a dust storm on Interstate 15 near a place called Parowan, a former outpost of Mormon pioneers, we reach Cedar

contiguous

► zusammenhängend;
hier: kontinental

crow ► Krähe

grow on sb. ► jmdm. ans Herz wachsen

pinecone

► Pinienzapfen

pinyon jay

► Nacktschnabelhäher

snail ► Schnecke

City, home of Southern Utah University. At 30,000 people, this is, for the region, a big city. We eat burgers at the All American Diner on Main Street, a tip from a local. People here, many of them Mormons, are very friendly. It's a big plus for travelers.

Source: *Spotlight* 5/2019, pages 28–34

[5] Camping in the USA

David: As you heard in the [previous](#) track, going camping with a recreational vehicle in the United States has many advantages. Claudine Weber-Hof has long been a fan and she joins us now in the studio to tell us what RV camping is all about.

Claudine: People ask me, “Why is it that you so enjoy traveling in an RV? What is it about an RV vacation that’s so different and so special that you tend to do it time and again?” Well, I would say there are many aspects to that concept. For example, when you go on vacation, in my [humble](#) personal opinion, I think it’s really important just to change everything. Break up your routine, get away from the things that you do on a daily basis, and what’s more effective in that regard than renting what is, [in essence](#), a massive [tin can](#), getting on board, and driving out across the [vast](#) landscape. I find that America is perfect for this kind of an experience. You fly into San Francisco or some other wonderful city, you

pick up your RV out in a [suburb](#), and then you just start to drive. To me, this is a dream vacation. The thing that makes America so great, too, to do RV camping is the space. I mean, let’s face it. If you try to do camping in Europe, it’s going to be, for the most part, tight. In the United States of America, no, totally different thing. You’ve got loads of space all around you. You may have trees next to your camper; you may have a view of a [sparkling](#) lake; your neighbors are going to be off at a distance. You don’t have to deal with them. Just wave. Just be nice, wave, nice and friendly to them. Everything is good. You have your own space to enjoy the [great outdoors](#) and to come down from your working routine. To me, this is what RV camping is all about.

Another thing people ask me about traveling to the United States these days is the following: “Now why would you want to go to the US, when our politics are in such [turmoil](#)?” I think that’s not a bad question. I think it’s an

great outdoors

► freie Natur

humble: in my ~ opinion

► meiner bescheidenen Meinung nach

in essence ► im Grunde

previous

► vorhergehend

sparkling ► glitzernd

suburb ► Vorort

tin can ► Blechdose

turmoil

► Unruhe, Chaos

vast ► riesig, weit

OK question, but more to the point, I would ask a question in response and that is, “Why would you want to miss out on such a wonderful experience?” Going to the United States, especially the West, I would recommend, is a once-in-a-lifetime thing to do. Of course, you can do it many times during your lifetime, and I highly recommend that, but consider the national parks of the American West. Consider even the wonderful state park system in places like Utah — Kodachrome Basin State Park, which I mention in the article. These places are wonders of nature. Why would you let the current occupant of the Oval Office keep you from seeing these things? So my response to you is go to the United States. Enjoy yourself. Have your vacation. Forget about politics for five minutes... and rent an RV.

See *Spotlight* 5/2019, pages 28–34

Everyday English

[6] At an art exhibition

David: Do you like going to art exhibitions? Well, in Everyday English, we accompany Emma and her partner, Rob, as they visit an exhibition of paintings by Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh. The exhibition is on at London’s Tate Modern — Britain’s national gallery of

modern art. In the following dialogue, Emma and Rob have arrived at the museum. They’ve booked their tickets for 3 o’clock and are amazed by how many people are at the museum. As you listen, try to answer the following questions. What things does Emma want to do before they go into the exhibition? And what does she need from Rob before she can do them?

Emma: Oh, my goodness! Look how crowded it is. I wasn’t expecting so many people to be here.

Rob: It was bound to be a popular exhibition. And it is Saturday afternoon. No wonder there weren’t many options left when I booked the tickets. I suppose we could have gone out during the week — one evening after work.

Emma: Oh, don’t worry. We’ve got our tickets, after all. What time is it, Rob?

Rob: Eh, it’s... ten to. Why?

Emma: I want to pop to the loo and leave my coat and bag in the cloakroom downstairs. You wouldn’t have a pound coin handy, would you?

after all ▶ schließlich

cloakroom ▶ Garderobe

Dutch ▶ niederländisch

miss out on sth.

▶ etw. verpassen

occupant ▶ Inhaber

suppose

▶ annehmen, vermuten

I gave my change to that homeless guy.

Rob: Yep, here you go. I'll wait for you here.

David: Were you able to answer the questions? What things does Emma want to do before they go into the exhibition? She says she wants to “pop to the loo”, which is a polite way of saying she’s going to the toilet. She also wants to leave her cloak and bag in the cloakroom. And what does she need from Rob before she can do these things? She needs a pound coin. In the next dialogue, Emma and Rob are walking around the van Gogh exhibition, which features many of the painter’s masterpieces. A “masterpiece” is a work of art that is of very high quality. Listen to the dialogue and try to answer these questions. Which painting do Emma and Rob look at first? And where does this painting come from?

Emma: Quick! Let’s go and have a look at his *Sunflowers* while there’s no one standing in front of it. Oh my goodness, isn’t it beautiful!

Rob: This is one of the most famous paintings in the world. It’s quite a privilege to stand in front of it.

Emma: It’s a masterpiece! I hadn’t realized it was so yellow. There’s only a little bit of green and then these light blue lines here. Didn’t someone buy it for, like, millions a few years ago?

Rob: Not this one. This one is on loan from the National Gallery. Van Gogh painted quite a few still lifes of sunflowers. I think a Japanese guy bought one of them for almost \$40 million back in the 1980s.

David: If you said that Emma and Rob first look at van Gogh’s *Sunflowers*, you’re correct! And where does this painting come from? It’s on loan from the National Gallery. “On loan” means it’s being borrowed from another museum or a private collection.

Source: Spotlight 5/2019, pages 54–55

Grammar Tales

[7] “The glass slipper”

David: In a new episode of our series of fairy tales for the 21st century, author Dagmar Taylor reinterprets the classic folk story of Cinderella. The language focus this time is on grammar structures with the verb “wish”. Listen out for examples of this in the story.

change ▶ hier: Kleingeld

feature ▶ zeigen

Cinderella

▶ Aschenputtel

reinterpret

▶ neu interpretieren

fairy tale ▶ Märchen

Once upon a time, a young woman called Cinderella was sitting on her bed watching a make-up tutorial on her laptop.

“Oh my God, darling! You look gorgeous!” said one of the presenters.

“I love your contouring! It’s perfect!” screamed the other.

The self-styled “beauty gurus” were Cinderella’s stepsisters, Bella and Bonnie. They looked like they were wearing cheap masks. Cinderella rolled her eyes and slapped the laptop shut. She longed for the days when it had been just her, her father and her sweet mum. As she looked at the photo of her mum beside her bed, she said quietly:

“I wish you were here. I wish Dad had never met my stepmother.” Why hadn’t he seen through her like everyone else had? He’d seen through her now — he was never home. He practically lived in his goldsmith’s workshop. Cinderella touched the necklace with the tiny glass slipper that her father had given her on her sixteenth birthday.

“I wish I could get out of here,” she thought. “CINDERELLA!” her stepmother screamed from downstairs. Cinderella got up.

“What is it?” she called down the stairs.

“Come and help me get tickets for the concert on Friday. I can’t see how to pay for them online. And hurry up — there are only three left!”

“Is that the ‘Heart of Gold’ concert?” asked

Cinderella.

“Well, it’s not Phil Collins!” snorted her stepmother sarcastically. “Hurry up!”

Cinderella sat down at the computer. In a matter of minutes, she had paid for the tickets and printed them out.

Her stepmother snatched them from her hand. “Bella! Bonnie! We’re going to the concert!” shouted her stepmother. Her stepsisters screamed as they rushed to join their mother. “They love the lead singer,” explained Cinderella’s stepmother. “What’s his name again?” “Ash,” said Cinderella and her stepsisters in sync. She didn’t know many people who

goldsmith’s workshop

► Goldschmiedewerkstatt

gorgeous ► umwerfend, wunderschön

in sync *ifml.*

► synchron

long for sth.

► sich nach etw. sehnen

matter: in a ~ of minutes

► in Minutenschnelle

necklace ► Halskette

presenter

► Moderator(in)

scream ► schreien

screach

► kreischen, schreien

slap: ~ sth. shut

► etw. zuknallen

slipper ► (Haus-)Schuh

snatch: ~ sth. from sb.

► jmdm. etw. entreißen

snort ► fauchen

didn't love Ash. He had a beautiful voice, he seemed to be a genuinely good person and he was good-looking, too. He gave most of the money raised from his concerts to education charities and spent a lot of his free time lobbying against tax avoidance. "I wish I could go to the concert," thought Cinderella.

As she was getting into bed, Cinderella's phone buzzed. It was a text from her godmother — her mum's best friend, Margaret. Margaret worked for an education charity.

"Want to go and see 'Heart of Gold' with me on Friday? I've got backstage passes," read the text.

"**OMG!** YES!" wrote Cinderella.

"Great!" Margaret wrote back. "I have to be home by midnight, though — early flight next day. See you on Friday, gorgeous girl."

Cinderella hadn't felt this happy in a long time. She and Margaret couldn't stop grinning at each other as they danced at the side of the stage. As another song came to an end, Ash ran off stage to where Cinderella and her godmother were standing. As he reached out to take a bottle of water, he noticed Cinderella. She smiled shyly. He drank and looked at her again. "You look like you're enjoying yourself," he said.

"I am!" beamed Cinderella.

"What's your name?" asked Ash.

She told him. His blue eyes shone as he looked

at her. He wasn't just looking at her, he was seeing her. It felt good to be seen.

Ash ran back on to the stage. "Want to hear a new song?" he shouted into the mic. The crowd roared. He spoke to the band for a moment before they started to play. "I wish you'd dance with me," sang Ash, as he looked back at her. "Woah-oh-oh-oh, Cinderella. I wish you'd be my girl. I wish you'd be my queen. Cinderella. Cinderella."

"Come on, we have to go," said Margaret. "I really wish we could stay longer, but the taxi's here."

"OK," said Cinderella, sadly. She pulled on her jacket and waved to Ash.

"Stay," he mouthed. He ran off the stage and, playfully, he tried to hold on to Cinderella's jacket, but his finger got caught on something. As Cinderella pulled away, Ash realized that he was holding a golden chain with a tiny glass slipper dangling from it. Cinderella was gone.

beam ▶ strahlen

grin ▶ grinsen

buzz ▶ summen

OMG (Oh my God!)
ifml. ▶ Oh mein Gott!

dangle ▶ baumeln

roar ▶ brüllen, grölen

genuinely ▶ wirklich

tax avoidance

godmother

▶ Patentante

▶ Steuervermeidung

text ▶ SMS

After the concert, Ash found out Margaret's number and left dozens of messages. She finally called back and told Ash where he could find Cinderella. The next morning, he went to Cinderella's house to return the necklace. Of course, when he turned up at the door, Bonnie and Bella were madly jealous and tried to make Ash believe that their stepsister had died tragically during the night. But Margaret had texted Cinderella to warn her that Ash was on his way. "Excuse me," said Cinderella as she squeezed between her stepsisters, who were blocking the doorway. She stood in front of Ash and smiled. "Hi," she said. Ash put the necklace round her neck, moving her hair to fasten it. "It fits!" he grinned.

Ash took a year off and he and Cinderella went travelling. They found that they liked each other more each day. When they came home, they rescued Cinderella's father from his awful marriage, and they all lived happily ever after.

Source: *Spotlight* 5/2019, 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:

The use of big data can only be as effective as the information a computer system is being fed. What place, then, does such technology have in criminal justice?

[9] Crime and algorithms: big data makes bigger problems

Inez: Big data and machine learning are playing an ever-increasing role in our daily lives. When this technology is devoted to retail activities, for example, it's a relatively harmless matter. "To devote" means to give most of your time, energy or attention to something. However, when it is used by the police force to predict crime, the situation becomes a lot more serious. In this edition of Replay, we examine an article on the implications of using potentially flawed data with such predictive technology. The "implication" of something is the possible effect or result of an action or decision. Listen now to the first excerpt from the article.

ever-increasing

► immer größer werdend

fasten ► festmachen

flawed data

► fehlerhafte Daten

jealous ► eifersüchtig

predict ► vorhersagen

retail ► Einzelhandels-

squeeze ► hier: sich vorbeidrücken

Some of the best ... minds on the planet are devoted to guessing what we might buy next, and showing us advertisements for it. ... Would we trust the same kind of technology to predict what crimes we might next commit? That is the question raised by the latest report by campaigners at Liberty on the implications of the police's use of big data and machine learning, the technologies usually referred to as artificial intelligence. When they're used to sell us things, they are relatively harmless. When they sell opinions, they can corrupt democracy. When they determine the course of the criminal justice system, they could do immense damage.

Inez: Artificial intelligence learns from and builds on whatever samples of data it has been given. A "sample" is a small part of something that is examined in order to find out about the whole. These samples are based on past patterns, so any previous bias is amplified. "Bias" is a strong feeling in favour of, or against, another person, an opinion or a group of people. In the second excerpt from the article, we hear that police forces in England and Wales are already using software to predict crime.

Because machine learning can only detect patterns in the data that it is given, any bias in the original sample will only be amplified. So if

past practice has been to discriminate against women or minorities, any algorithm fed on previous experience will continue this pattern, but this time with the apparent authority of science behind it. ...

The civil liberties group says it found at least 14 police forces in England and Wales are using or have used software to predict crimes in particular areas; three are attempting to use the same technology on individuals in order to predict their likelihood of reoffending.

Inez: In the final section, the article argues that such technology will perpetuate and entrench any discrimination already present in the original data. "To perpetuate" means to keep a belief alive or continue a bad situation indefinitely. And "to entrench" means to establish an idea firmly, so that it is difficult to change.

... But it is easy to see that the use of such software can perpetuate and entrench patterns of unjust discrimination. Because crimes are

amplify ➔ verstärken

corrupt ➔ zerstören

devoted: be ~ to sth.

➔ sich etw. widmen, sich mit etw. befassen

previous

➔ vorherig, früher

raise: ~ a question

➔ eine Frage aufwerfen

reoffend ➔ erneut straffällig werden

detected more often where there are police to detect them, the areas in which police are concentrated will tend to have higher recorded crime rates. ... Only constant human attention will keep the technology focused where it is useful.

Society does have a vital interest in being able to predict who is most likely to offend or to reoffend, and to help them away from temptation. But the idea that algorithms could substitute for probation officers or the traditional human intelligence of police officers is absurd and wrong. ...

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?

What verb means to establish an idea firmly, so that it is difficult to change? To entrench

The possible effect or result of an action or decision can be called the... implication.

What verb means to give most of your time, energy or attention to something? To devote

A strong feeling in favour of, or against, another person, an opinion or a group of people can be called a... bias.

What verb means to keep a belief alive or continue a bad situation indefinitely? To perpetuate

What noun describes a small part of something that is examined in order to find out about the whole? A sample

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

See *Spotlight* 5/2019, page 25

Around Oz

[11] Eight simple tests

David: If you got the chance to find out how much time you had left to live, would you want to know? Our Australian columnist Peter Flynn has a birthday coming up, so longevity is

longevity

► Langlebigkeit

probation officer

► Bewährungshelfer(in)

substitute ► ersetzen

temptation ► Versuchung, Verlockung

vital ► lebenswichtig

on his mind. And he's discovered some useful tests to help him judge his current health level. Find out more in Around Oz.

Great moments need great challenges. I will be 65 in a couple of months and have chosen eight simple tests to check my health.

The first was to see how long I could stand on one leg, which, according to a Japanese university study, will show if signals from my brain are still functioning properly. The target time was 20 seconds (nobody in the study of 1,400 men and women lasted more than one minute) and I just made it.

The next bit was harder: you had to do the same but with eyes closed. I got to eight seconds — on my left leg this time — much better than the two-seconds result that forecasts you'll be dead in 12 months.

But, having to stand on one leg is why I gave up yoga after my first class more than 25 years ago. I felt about as useless as a one-legged man in an ass-kicking competition. Now, I went to YouTube to see even how the next exercise could be done. Out of Brazil, the sit-and-rise test can rather weirdly predict how long you will live. You stand in an open space, cross your feet (that's yoga again) and lower yourself until your bum hits the ground. Then stand up without putting your hands, arms or knees on the ground.

I scored zero, zip and zilch. I'd be safer sitting in a boat, and probably live longer according to this test published in *The Times* early this year. Before going on, I sought help from my local Sunday tabloid newspaper, from the "Body & Soul" section, telling me health science says proper "activewear", especially if it is bright red, might help. (I passed on the tight silver shorts the girls in the photos were wearing.)

Dressed in an old red T-shirt, I smashed the 25 squats in a minute challenge. That means my heart and lungs are working well together, but more importantly, that I will still be able to have a shit in the forest. Similarly, I just breezed through the fast-walking test of three kilometres in 30 minutes, because you want to get as far away from that place as quickly as possible.

Then there was the test for the number of push-ups you could do without stopping, the target of excellence being just 18. I held myself

breeze through sth. *ifml.*

► etw. spielend schaffen

pass on sth.

► auf etw. verzichten

score

► erzielen, erreichen

smash *ifml.*

► hier: bewältigen

squat ► Kniebeuge

tabloid ► Boulevard-

zilch *ifml.* ► null

zip *ifml.* ► gar nichts

together at 25, to see if I could manage a bead of sweat to drop off the end of my nose precisely on to one of the ants I'd be carefully studying during the exercise. I don't like ants.

Then I had to scratch my back, from behind, and join my index fingers while my other arm reached down over my shoulder. OK, I could only do it with my left arm behind, but if there's a real itch, you'll always find a way to scratch.

Fat? Not with my born-skinny genes and decades of unhealthy living, getting a body mass index (BMI) of 19. Yep, you, too, can have a body like mine — if you neglect your own — and accept the challenge to have a laugh at yourself.

Source: *Spotlight* 5/2019, page 63

Roundtable

[12] Test your tenses

David: Saying “I listen to jazz” is not the same as saying “I am listening to jazz.” So, how can you tell the difference? Well, that's why a thorough understanding of English tenses is so important. In the 5/19 issue, language author Vanessa Clarke takes you on a tour of England and, at the same time, tests your understanding of tenses. Now, we'll be looking

at some of the challenges that English tenses present to language learners in a new episode of Roundtable.

Inez: Welcome to Roundtable. Our topic for this time is grammar, specifically the English tenses. You've probably had to learn them over the years — present perfect, present continuous, present simple — and they're not always easy, which is why we're looking at them today. And with me in the studio to talk about this topic are Lynda Hübner, one of our authors, and Dagmar Taylor, also an author for *Spotlight*. Welcome! Let me start off with the slightly, I think, provocative question — is it actually worth teaching tenses to English learners? I'm going to start with you, Lynda. I asked the question because sometimes when I look at the way people send text messages these days, when I look at rock songs and so on and so forth, they have blatant disregard for tenses, and I can see that for my students it's often

ant ▶ Ameise

bead of sweat
▶ Schweißtropfen

blatant
▶ eklatant, offenkundig

disregard
▶ Nichtbeachtung

itch ▶ Juckreiz

neglect
▶ vernachlässigen

skinny ▶ spindeldürr

text message ▶ SMS

thorough ▶ gründlich

difficult. Do you think it's still an important part of teaching?

Lynda: Totally. For one thing we don't speak as we text and nor do we speak like pop songs. There is still a standard English that we ought to be promoting. What people do with this language once they have mastered it is up to them, but I don't think we should be only presenting our students with something which is basically substandard, and it's used for a certain type of communication which is not speaking. And on the other hand, I also think that our students, in Germany particularly or in German-speaking countries, they're used to a very traditional way of learning grammar, and there is the expectation of learning tenses. So, we're fulfilling not only a need in the language, but also a need our students have.

Inez: Right. OK. Dagmar, do you see it in the same way, or...

Dagmar: Yes, I think so, absolutely. I think if students aren't getting the tenses right, it can make their English sound as if it's a much lower level. So, I've often met people who have fantastic vocabularies and sound like they're a C1 or a B2, but they're making mistakes with language that they've learned at a very young age when they were perhaps A1, and it gives a very strange picture of their English knowledge.

Inez: What about specific issues for German

speakers? I mean, the one that I remember from my teaching is the present perfect, which was always a challenge. Dagmar, how do you see it?

Dagmar: Yeah, there are a few issues, and it's particularly with the tenses that there are great differences between German and English, starting with the present simple and the present continuous, getting questions right in the present simple, getting the negative right using "do" and "don't" and "does" correctly, and that's one of the first lessons, so it's vital that learners get enough practice at that stage. Otherwise, they're going to carry mistakes forward when they're at a higher level.

Inez: Lynda, how do you see this?

Lynda: I'm a great fan of the present perfect. Let's face it, a lot of teachers would be out of work if we didn't have the present perfect.

Inez: That's a great observation.

Lynda: We spend ages on it, and I do sometimes wonder though if we're spending perhaps a little bit too much time on it because certainly in America, they're not as strict with the use of present perfect as we tend to be.

let's face it

► seien wir ehrlich

master ► beherrschen

text ► SMS, Kurznachricht schreiben

vital

► unbedingt notwendig

Also, I think it's not taught awfully well very often because there are so many aspects to the present perfect that I think very often it is not only overwhelming for the student but also for the teacher. Therefore, when we are writing books or teaching courses, we have to be very, very careful not to overburden the teachers or the students with this.

Inez: OK. How have you taught tenses in a classroom environment? Let's go back to you, Lynda. Do you have special methods? I mean...

Lynda: I teach it enthusiastically. I love teaching grammar and I really adore the logic and the originality of English tenses. Of course, one tries to teach everything in a functional context, but nevertheless we do find that we have to have a certain amount of repetition and not to be afraid of this because our students here don't have the reinforcement of an English-speaking community once they leave the classroom, so we have to provide it.

Inez: Right. OK. So not to be afraid of repetition.

Lynda: Exactly.

Inez: OK, OK. Dagmar, how do you see this?

Dagmar: I agree completely. I think in my early days as a teacher, I was very afraid of boring my students by getting them to do the same exercises, but I should be more worried that they're going out of my classroom not being able to speak English. There are lots of different ways

in which you can approach grammar and tenses, and find interesting and fun ways to package teaching them and drilling them at the end of the day.

Inez: I mean, I used to teach the present perfect simple or continuous with *Goldilocks*. That's how I got the idea for the Grammar Tales because there's always this lovely repetition: "Who's been sitting on my chair?" "Who's been lying in my bed?" And we would read *Goldilocks* over and over again with businessmen thinking, "Why on earth am I reading this?" and I just thought maybe it will stick in their brains somehow through this repetition. So, thank you very much for your contributions. Thank you.

See Spotlight 5/2019, pages 40–45

adore

► über alles lieben

approach ► angehen

contribution ► Beitrag

drill ► üben

functional context

► sachlicher Zusammenhang

nevertheless

► trotzdem

overburden

► überlasten

overwhelming

► überwältigend, erdrückend

reinforcement

► Intensivierung

English at Work

[13] Facilitating an international meeting

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 some tips on facilitating an international meeting in English.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Facilitating an international meeting is a difficult task — especially if you're doing it in a second language. It helps if you know some key vocabulary that can help you describe the meeting process. Let's see if you know some of the words you might need. I'll give a description. Then you'll hear two alternatives, a and b. In the pause, you choose the correct meeting word that matches the description. Good. Let's start.

A written list of what is to be discussed in a meeting.

Is this...

- a. the agenda?
- b. the report?

A., the agenda, is correct. It's the written list of what is to be discussed.

One point on the agenda.

Is this...

- a. a bullet point?
- b. an item?

B., an item, is correct. It's one point on the agenda.

The written record of the meeting.

Is that...

- a. the minutes?
- b. the seconds?

The written record of the meeting is the minutes. So A. is correct.

An early version of written ideas.

Is this...

- a. a draft?
- b. an outcast?

A. is correct. A draft is an early version of written ideas.

To put off until later.

Is this...

- a. to cancel?
- b. to postpone?

B. is correct. To put off until later is to postpone.

To change a document.

Is that...

a. to amend?

b. to correct?

A. is correct. To amend is to change a document.

A suggestion to be discussed.

Is this...

a. a review?

b. a proposal?

B., a proposal, is correct. It means a suggestion to be discussed.

A general feeling of agreement.

Is this...

a. a majority?

b. a consensus?

B., a consensus, is correct. It's a general feeling of agreement.

To briefly say what the main points of the discussion were.

Is that...

a. to resume?

b. to summarize?

B., to summarize, is correct. If you summarize, you briefly say what the main points of the discussion were.

To end a meeting with the intention of coming back later.

Is that...

a. to adjourn?

b. to pause?

A. is correct. If you adjourn a meeting, you end it with the intention of coming back later.

How did you get on? These words are all useful vocabulary to know when running a meeting. Learn any you didn't know already.

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* 5/2019, page 61

Peggy's Place

[14] A new drinking culture

David: Let's stop by our favourite London pub for a drink of something cold and refreshing. And it doesn't have to be alcohol. In fact, our friends at Peggy's Place are trying to get their heads around the new trend for low- and

no-alcohol products. Could it represent a new business opportunity for the pub?

Peggy: People come in here all the time asking for one of those. I never thought it would catch on.

George: It's selling really well at the supermarket.

Phil: They could have come up with a better name.

Sean: I admit a drink called Fizzawizz is not very manly, but that doesn't seem to stop people ordering it. Maybe we should be thinking more about alcohol-free beverages.

Peggy: It does seem to be the new thing.

Sean: Actually, it has been for a while. We are sometimes a bit slow when it comes to new trends.

Phil: A pub isn't a place for new trends. It's a place where things are unchanging. Where you know what you're going to get and who you're going to meet.

George: I'm sorry, but I can't agree with you there. If, in my job as a supermarket manager, I refused to take new trends seriously, I'd be out of a job tomorrow, and rightly so!

Sean: I do think there's a future for alcohol-free drinks in pubs — even if they sometimes have silly names.

Helen: Hi, everyone. I'll have a Fizzawizz! What? Did I just say something wrong?

George: No, quite the opposite. And all the

statistics show that people in the UK are drinking less alcohol, and then there's catering for a more diverse range of customers.

Phil: What's that supposed to mean?

Peggy: Phil, as you are perfectly aware, there are plenty of cultures in which drinking alcohol is forbidden — and we want to cater to them, too.

Phil: OK, OK! I get your point.

Peggy: Why don't we meet sometime soon to talk about this?

Sean: Great! I say tomorrow.

Peggy: Why the sudden hurry?

George: I think Sean is right. Strike while the iron is hot.

Phil: We need to see what drinks are on the market first.

George: I can help you there. I know all the products from work.

Helen: Why don't you develop your own alcohol-free drink?

George: You could call it Peggy's Punch.

beverage ▶ Getränk

catch on *ifml*.

▶ sich durchsetzen

diverse ▶ breit gefächert

manly ▶ männlich

punch ▶ Bowle; *auch:*
Faustschlag

strike while the iron is hot ▶ das Eisen schmieden, solange es heiß ist

supposed: be ~ to
▶ sollen

Helen: Not sure about that name, but it could be a fun project.

Peggy: Nobody has time for something as work-intensive as that and, anyway, we couldn't compete with the big companies.

Sean: I like Helen's idea. We could start off really small.

Phil: How small is that?

Helen: How about offering homemade lemonade with fresh herbs?

Phil: That sounds like a lot of fiddly work.

Sean: Just picture it, though: a boiling hot summer day — remember last summer? — and a big pitcher of ice-cold lemonade on the counter garnished with fresh mint.

Peggy: Where are we going to get fresh mint every day?

Sean: We have space to plant it out the back. The stuff grows like mad.

Helen: I know I'd try the lemonade!

George: It'd certainly be easier to remember than the name Fizzywizzy.

Helen: I think you mean Fizzawizz — and by the way, where is my drink?

Source: Spotlight 5/2019, page 10

Short Story

[15] “A shaggy dog tale”

David: It's almost time to say goodbye, but before then, why not sit back and listen to a short story? In “A shaggy dog tale”, we meet Claire, who has just inherited a small terrier. But Claire is far from happy about the situation, and it seems as if only a miracle can bring pet and owner closer together.

The alarm on her phone woke her at 6 a.m., as she had set it. But it played Tchaikovsky's 1812 *Overture*, which was definitely not how she had set it. No doubt a nasty joke by one of her colleagues. She must remember never to leave her mobile on her desk for any reason. Within seconds, Claire was wide awake. She wasn't the only one. The noise had woken up Radar, too, who was barking madly. Now in a bad mood, she got out of bed, and shouted at

bark ▶ bellen

counter ▶ Tresen

fiddly UK ifml.
▶ knifflig, fitzellig

garnish ▶ garnieren

herb ▶ Kraut

inherit ▶ erben

mint ▶ Minze

nasty ▶ gemein, fies

pitcher ▶ Krug

shaggy
▶ zottelig; hier: haarig

Radar to shut up. Radar didn't seem to understand human language, though, and kept barking despite her commands. She went into the bathroom and shut the door behind her.

Claire turned the hot water on high so that the bathroom filled with steam. She stood still under the shower, wishing she didn't have to get out. Radar, the West Highland terrier, was a recent addition to her one-person household. He was not a welcome one. Radar had belonged to her friend Shelagh. When Shelagh had had to go to hospital, she asked Claire if she could look after her dog. Claire wasn't really a dog person, but what do you say to your friend who is seriously ill and asks you a favour? And of course, Claire would have done anything for her.

But when it was clear Shelagh wasn't going to live, she asked Claire for a bigger favour. Would she adopt Radar? Claire hesitated, then suggested she could keep him until maybe a member of Shelagh's family could take him. "No," Shelagh insisted. "Please, Claire. I want you to look after him. I know you'll love him for my sake. And Radar is a special dog. He'll be good for you. I promise. So will you promise me in return that you'll adopt him?"

How long after someone dies do you have to honour a promise? Claire missed Shelagh terribly, but how could she have been so wrong about this? Claire put on her clothes and opened the bathroom door. Radar was

standing in the hall, waiting for her. He barked and wagged his tail, which shot into the air like an antenna as she appeared. Stupid dog.

He watched her while she made coffee, ate her toast and, annoyed, rammed her cup into the dishwasher. It was like she was under surveillance. Minutes later, they were walking in the park. Radar was running about, nose to the ground as though looking for explosives. Claire trudged behind him, listening to a news podcast through her earphones.

"I know you don't like me," the voice in her ear said. "To be honest, I'm not that happy about being with you, either."

This must be a new tactic of John Humphrys' on the BBC. Political broadcasting was getting ugly.

honour

- hier: halten

in return

- im Gegenzug

look after sb.

- sich um jmdn. kümmern

ram

- rammen; hier: knallen

sake: for one's ~

- um jmds. willen

shut up if/ml.

- das Maul halten

surveillance

- Beobachtung, Kontrolle

trudge

- stapfen, trotten

wag

- wedeln

“Neither of us chose this, and we both miss Shelagh, but we’ll have to make do with each other.”

Claire’s eyes **snapped open**. This was not John Humphrys. She looked around nervously.

“It’s me. Why do you think I’m called Radar?” Oh, good God! She was going mad, Claire thought. She stared at Radar, who moved his head from side to side. He was shaking his head for “no”.

“You’re not insane. It’s just me. I can communicate with you through your earphones. And you’ve been communicating with me, although you didn’t know it. Until now.”

Claire started to panic. What was happening? Had someone managed to put hallucinogenic drugs in her coffee? That was unlikely.

“I know you’re lonely. We both miss Shelagh. So, if you don’t mind, I’ve got a plan how we can fix this mess. Are you with me?”

Radar looked up at her. “This can’t be happening,” Claire said aloud. She paused, then spoke again. “I can’t believe I’m actually talking to you now.”

The white terrier wagged his tail happily and nodded his head. “Brilliant!” he said — in her earphones. Then, a normal dog once again, he barked and ran off like a **streak** of lightning.

“Shit!” Claire shouted. “Radar! Come back!” He was racing across the green, with Claire running after him. But nothing runs as fast as

a terrier on a mission.

“**Hold on** there!” said a man on the path on the opposite side of the park. He **grabbed** Radar’s **collar**. Instead of being aggressive, Radar jumped up on the man and licked his hand. The man **cuddled** the dog, while Claire hurried over to them.

“I’m so sorry,” Claire said. He looked up and gave her a **dazzling** smile. She stared back. Her face felt hot. She now wished she had put on her make-up. “I — I don’t know what got into him,” Claire **stammered**.

“No worries,” said the man. “I love dogs. I used to have a Westie myself. Until my ex left and took him with her. I really miss him. Her, not so much.”

“**Gosh**,” said Claire. “I just got him. I don’t know what to do with him. I’ve never had a dog.”

collar ► Hundehalsband

cuddle
► knuddeln, streicheln

dazzling
► umwerfend, strahlend

gosh *ifml*.
► krass, Donnerwetter

grab ► greifen, packen

Hold on! ► Moment mal!

snap open ► aufschnappen, aufreißen

stammer
► stottern, stammeln

streak: like a ~ of lightning ► wie ein Blitz

“Really? They’re great dogs. Aren’t you, little fellow?” the man asked, scratching Radar behind the ears. Radar wagged his tail and looked very pleased.

“I’ll tell you what: I can give you a few tips about taking care of him, if you like. Here’s my phone number,” the man said, handing her a business card. “If you’re free this weekend, give me a call. We can take him for a walk together.”

“Oh. Right. Sure. That would be great,” Claire stuttered. Was this really happening?

“You’d like that, wouldn’t you, little fellow?” the man said, scratching the dog’s ears again.

“What’s his name?”

“Radar,” Claire answered. Radar turned his head towards her. His tongue was hanging out as he panted after his big run. With his mouth open, he looked like he was smiling. And then he closed one eye briefly. If he hadn’t been a dog, Claire thought, she would have been sure that he had just winked at her.

Source: Spotlight 5/2019, 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.

pant ▶ hecheln

stutter

▶ stottern, stammeln

subscriber

▶ Abonnent(in)

wink

▶ zwinkern, blinzeln

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Contents

E 1. Introduction	1:19	A 10. Words and phrases	1:45
E 2. Britain Today Wembley vs Assembly	4:51	A 11. Around Oz Eight simple tests	4:14
A 3. A Day in My Life The right medicine	2:00	M 12. Roundtable Test your tenses	6:13
M 4. Travel An American adventure on Route 50	5:24	M 13. English at Work Facilitating an international meeting	5:23
M 5. Camping in the USA	3:04	M 14. Peggy's Place A new drinking culture	3:39
M 6. Everyday English At an art exhibition	3:31	M 15. Short Story "A shaggy dog tale"	8:10
M 7. Grammar Tales "Cinderella"	6:49	E 16. Conclusion	0:32
A 8. Replay: Recent news events Introduction	0:38		
A 9. Crime and algorithms: big data makes bigger problems	4:18	Total playing time	61:56