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Introduction

[1] David: Welcome to edition 6/2019 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.

American firms might get all the headlines, but there's a technology boom in the UK as well. Come with us to visit what they're calling Britain's Silicon Valley.

The UK pub industry is in trouble. But a new grass-roots revolution might be able to save the great British boozier. We talk to a publican who's leading the way.

Using English in an international environment can be more challenging than you think. Learn the best approaches to communicating in English at Work.

Britain Today

[2] That's (not) what I meant!

David: When it comes to love and relationships, there are plenty of people willing to offer advice. However, few of them are as helpful as

our columnist Colin Beaven. In Britain Today, he gives some useful recommendations on how to avoid a divorce — and it all comes down to one small word.

What's the worst mistake you can make? Perhaps it's to forget the word "not" in a sentence that needs it.

It can happen to anyone. It happened to Donald Trump at his Helsinki press conference. He cleared Russia of interfering with the US presidential election. Afterwards, he said he'd meant to say the opposite, but unfortunately he'd forgotten the word "not".

It even happened in the Bible, or rather, in an unusual version from 1631 that was recently on show at the British Museum. When you looked closely at one of the Ten Commandments, this is what you read: "Thou shalt

approach ► Methode, Vorgehensweise

boozier UK, ifml.
► Kneipe

grass-roots ► von unten, von der Basis

headline ► Schlagzeile

interfere ► Einfluss nehmen, sich einmischen

publican ► Gastwirt(in)

shalt veralt. ► sollst

Ten Commandments
► Zehn Gebote

thou veralt. ► du

commit adultery.” Just to be clear, there’s a word missing: “not”. Was this an error? A joke? Or even a special edition — one intended for VIPs, perhaps?

Over the years since 1631, many have behaved as if they were using this unconventional version of the Commandments. Not just members of the British royal family; even today, adultery’s the reason given for about one in ten British divorces. The royal family’s big, but not that big.

Still, only one in ten. It just shows how things have changed. For much of the 20th century, your partner’s adultery, if you could prove it, was more or less the only way to get a divorce. Nowadays, couples can just agree to go their different ways.

But agreement’s less common than you might think. The number of divorces caused by unreasonable behaviour is almost twice the number agreed by consent, and four times the number blamed on adultery. The trouble, of course, is that you hear a lot of promises when you get married, but you just don’t know whether they have a Trump-style silent “not” in them. And it’s hard to get objective external advice. There are mugs on sale in gift shops with messages like “world’s best husband”, but you can’t really trust them. Nobody seems to make mugs that say “not the world’s best husband”. Just think of the number of those you could sell. They

carry such a valuable warning, and in any case, we all need mugs. Married couples have to replace the ones they throw at each other when they’re having a fight in the kitchen.

Ideally, you’d be able to identify the people you want to divorce before they ask you to marry them. As a rule of thumb, it pays to avoid celebrities, such as politicians who speak and misspeak at press conferences.

The same probably goes for the rich and famous from other categories, too. One would leave out many from the world of business. Plus the media, entertainment and sport. Then there’s the boss, of course, and the people next door. You end up with a long list of individuals who’d make you go directly to divorce court if ever you tied the knot with them. That’s an alternative expression for “getting married”; this time it’s “knot” with a “k”.

Never throw that list away. It’ll always cheer

adultery ► Ehebruch

cheer: ~ sb. up

► jmdn. aufheitern

commit ► begehen

consent

► Einvernehmen

divorce court

► Scheidungsgericht,
Familiengericht

misspeak

► sich versprechen

mug

► Becher, Tasse

rule of thumb

► Faustregel

tie the knot *ifml.* ► den
Bund der Ehe schließen

you up to think of all the dreadful people you're not married to.

Source: Spotlight 6/2019, page 11

A Day in My Life

[3] Baby talk

David: In A Day in My Life we meet sign-language teacher Claire Owen. The 47-year-old lives in Gloucestershire in the UK and teaches signing to babies and toddlers. Her classes are part of the TinyTalk baby-signing programme, which teaches young children how to communicate using British Sign Language. Listen now as Owen talks about how she started her career as a sign-language teacher.

I started signing with my son at home, actually, when he was very little. There weren't any programmes around near me, but when he was about three, I wanted to do something different in my work life, and I thought [about] what was important to me so far in my life. I really loved singing, I really loved signing with my baby, I wanted to support mums and children, and I decided to teach baby sign language. And I looked into franchises and found TinyTalk, which is the best around.

David: Owen is committed to her career, and

in the following part of the interview she explains what teaching signing means to her.

So, I really love teaching TinyTalk. I found signing really beneficial for me and my son. Not only because he could tell me what he needed, but because he could tell me things he noticed and enjoyed, like the birds singing out of the window while he was eating his food. Little things like that which really helped our connection and our bond together, and I find that with mums in class. When they tell me stories about when their child has signed, it's usually in that kind of situation that delights them so much. I really love that I bring joy to families, that I help facilitate that for those people who really take to signing, and I really enjoy the classes themselves because I enjoy entertaining and imparting knowledge to

beneficial

► nützlich, hilfreich

committed ► engagiert

dreadful

► furchtbar, entsetzlich

facilitate ► erleichtern

impart

► vermitteln

sign ► gebärden, Gebärdensprache verwenden

sign-language

► Gebärdensprache

take to sth.

► etw. mögen, an etw. Gefallen finden

toddler

► Kleinkind

people. The babies are gorgeous, the mums are happy with their babies and it uplifts me. It's such an honour to be doing this kind of work.

See Spotlight 6/2019, pages 12–13

Travel

[4] Start me up

David: The south-west of Britain is known as the nation's technology hub. Along the M4 motorway, which runs from London to South Wales, you'll find towns and cities that have become major entrepreneurial centres, such as Swindon, Bath and Bristol. For the current travel feature, correspondent Julian Earwaker visits the area to find out if the M4 corridor really deserves the title "Britain's Silicon Valley". In the following extract, you can hear about the town of Swindon. Once central to the British railway system, the town's economy is now driven by electronics, pharmaceuticals and financial services. As you listen, try to answer the following questions. What was the name of the great British engineer and railway pioneer who established Swindon's railway works? And where is the innovation hub called the Workshed located?

Some 120 kilometres from London, Swindon is a gateway to the South-West. In 1840, the

engineer and railway pioneer Isambard Kingdom Brunel chose to establish his Great Western Railway carriage works here. The railway remained central to the town's fortunes until 1986, when competition and the demand for land led to the closure of the railway works. Today, Swindon, population 182,000, is part of the "M4 corridor", also called the UK's Silicon Valley, which has been driving technological development westwards along the M4 motorway from London. It might lie within touching distance of the Cotswolds, but there's nothing picturesque about the town. When I step out of the railway station, the first thing I notice is the ugly, abandoned office block behind it. The redevelopment of Swindon town centre is far from complete.

abandoned

➤ verlassen, aufgegeben

carriage works

➤ Waggonwerk

closure ➤ Schließung

demand

➤ Nachfrage, Forderung

entrepreneurial

➤ unternehmerisch, Unternehmens-

extract ➤ Auszug

fortunes ➤ Schicksal

gorgeous

➤ großartig, toll

hub

➤ Knotenpunkt, Zentrum

motorway

➤ Autobahn

picturesque ➤ malerisch

uplift sb.

➤ jmdm. Auftrieb geben

I follow the solid stone Victorian railway embankment. Opposite is what's left of the Mechanics' Institute, which spread knowledge and culture to railway workers when it opened in the 1850s. Soon, I'm at the entrance to the Workshed, where I meet Jolyon Rose, centre manager of this exciting £2-million innovation hub. Housed in part of Brunel's original carriage works, the workspace for start-ups is airy and stylish, with small offices and 150 co-working desk spaces.

"It's a friendly place, where people can share ideas, collaborate and work together," says Rose. He once lived in Berlin and finds that innovators are attracted to Swindon now just as they were to the German capital 20 years ago. "I often say Swindon is the Berlin of South-West England," he says. "It's an exciting place to be."

One of the Workshed's earliest occupants is the Carto Group, which sells geographic information systems to the planning and construction industries. "I've completely bought into the Workshed vision," Tim Hughes, Carto's CEO, told the press during an open day here last year. "Swindon needs this tech hub very badly if we're to stake our claim as being part of the UK's 'Silicon Valley'."

If Brunel were around today, I ask Rose, what would he think of all this new technology? "Brunel would be excited. The guy was an

innovator," he says. "He'd be aware that railways are still important. But he'd know that where the economy and innovation is now is in the knowledge economy. It's in the digital world."

The next morning, I walk from my hotel past the restored Victorian stone cottages of New Town, built for railway workers. A pedestrian tunnel leads underneath the rail tracks. On the other side, I find that buildings once filled by Brunel's engineering innovation are today home to start-ups and organizations such as English Heritage and the National Trust. At STEAM, the Museum of the Great Western Railway, I meet Chris, a volunteer, busy polishing brass on one of the locomotives. "Sadly, a lot of people here wouldn't know we were ever a railway town," he says. Chris tells me that his

airy ► luftig, lässig

attract

► anziehen, anlocken

brass ► Messing

CEO (chief executive officer)

► Geschäftsführer(in)

occupant ► Besitzer(in), Nutzer(in)

pedestrian

► Fußgänger-

rail track ► Bahngleis

railway embankment

► Bahndamm

stake: ~ one's claim

► seinen Anspruch auf etw. erheben

volunteer

► Ehrenamtliche(r)

father came to Swindon to work in the semiconductor industry. “That was new technology then,” he says. “It’s constantly evolving.”

David: Were you able to answer the questions? What was the name of the great British engineer and railway pioneer who established Swindon’s railway works? It was Isambard Kingdom Brunel. And where is the innovation hub called the Workshed located? It’s located in part of Brunel’s original Great Western Railway carriage works.

Source: *Spotlight* 6/2019, pages 28–32

[5] At the cutting edge

David: As you heard in the previous track, the Workshed is Swindon’s new workspace for entrepreneurs and innovators. In an interview with *Spotlight* correspondent Julian Earwaker, Workshed centre manager Jolyon Rose explains why Swindon is such a great place to start a business.

You know, the great thing about Swindon is that there’s a lot of potential. Some of the other towns in the area — Bath — they’re beautiful places, but they’ve been developed and they’ve been preserved. They’re chocolate-box villages. But you can’t do much new there. The properties are all taken; they’re hugely expensive.

Bristol, which was at one point a kind of place where you could get in as a new business and do stuff, is also reaching saturation. Prices are going very high these days. Therefore, the possibility to innovate, to do something new and creative, which you’re not quite sure if you’re going to be able to make money from, they are getting more and more limited. Swindon, as you’ve said, we’ve still got lots of boarded-up buildings; we’ve still got a lot of potential. Therefore, the prices to start something are very low, relatively speaking. It’s a place where you’ve got the feeling that you can do stuff in Swindon.

David: Having opened in 2018, the Workshed is a co-working and innovation hub for Swindon’s cutting-edge companies. Rose describes what the Workshed can offer new businesses.

What we’ve got in the Workshed is a mix of

boarded-up

► mit Brettern vernagelt

chocolate-box village

► idyllisches Dorf

cutting-edge ► Spitzen-

evolve ► sich entwickeln

preserve ► erhalten

previous

► vorhergehend

property

► Immobilie

saturation

► Sättigung

semiconductor

► Halbleiter-

co-working space and fixed office space. So for the people who are just starting their business, maybe they're working from home or they haven't really got an office. The co-working space is a great offer for them. From 75 pounds a month, you can have access to facilities, the Wi-Fi, the chill-out areas, the networking areas. You come in. You plug in. You're in the communal co-working space. But you've got your own desk. You can work away. When businesses get larger, and if they need their own enclosed space that they can lock up and not be in some more open area, then we've got the offices. We've got small offices starting at 600 pounds a month and going up to much larger ones.

David: So what types of companies does the Workshed cater for? In the final part of the interview, Rose shows how diverse the range of businesses in this hub really is. By the way, Nationwide is a major British building society that has its headquarters in Swindon.

The kind of businesses we've got in here? We have a geospatial and augmented reality business. We've got a branding and design company. We've got a couple of social media and digital marketing companies. We've got a furniture design and planning company. Nationwide have taken a space for their new

innovation programme. So they've got a mentoring scheme going and offering space here for their mentees. So, one of those companies is a software development company. Another one is a training and skills development company. So, that gives you an idea, I think, of the kind of range of businesses.

See Spotlight 6/2019, pages 28–32

Everyday English

[6] Finding a new home

David: Finding a new place to live can often be a challenge. Especially when you're looking to

branding ▶ Werbe-

by the way ▶ übrigens

cater for sb./sth.

▶ jmdn./etw. versorgen, auf jmdn./etw. ausgerichtet sein

diverse ▶ vielseitig

enclosed

▶ abgeschlossen

geospatial ▶ raumbezogen, Geodaten-

headquarters

▶ Zentrale, Hauptgeschäftsstelle

mentee

▶ Mentee, Schützling

mentoring ▶ Beratungs-

plugin ▶ (Stromkabel) einstecken, einstöpseln

work away

▶ drauflosarbeiten

buy a property. In Everyday English, we meet Phil and his wife, Rachel. They're on the lookout for a new home, but their budget is limited. Luckily, Phil's colleague Kirsty has some interesting information for him. Listen to the following conversation and try to answer this question. How many bedrooms does the flat next door to Kirsty have?

Kirsty: Hi, Phil? This is Kirsty from work.

Phil: Hi, Kirsty. How's it going?

Kirsty: Good, thanks. Listen, I might have a property for you. There's a three-bed flat next door going on the market soon. It belonged to an elderly man and it's been empty for a while now. I was speaking to Calum this morning — he's one of his sons — and he said he and his brothers have decided to sell. The asking price sounded really reasonable and I know that they'd like a quick sale. Would you be interested?

Phil: Yes! Of course. But I doubt that it'll be within our budget.

Kirsty: If I understood correctly, Calum said they were hoping for somewhere in the region of £450,000.

Phil: Really? That sounds too good to be true for that area.

David: If you said that the flat has three bedrooms, you're correct. The expression used was

a "three-bed flat". Now Phil and Rachel have to inspect the apartment. As they walk through the rooms, they comment on what they like and dislike. Listen to their conversation. What doesn't Phil like about the flat?

Rachel: I actually like the fact that this is a basement flat. You can open the door and have a coffee outside, or hang out the washing.

Phil: Don't you think it's a bit dark?

Rachel: Well, it is today, but it's actually east-facing, so we'll get the sun in the morning and most of the afternoon.

Phil: We would have to redo the bathrooms and the kitchen. We're going to have to get a quote from an architect, I think. If we're going to make changes, we might as well do it properly. Jean's an architect, isn't she?

Rachel: Yes. I'll give her a ring later. Can you take some more photos of the kitchen so that I can show her?

Phil: Yes, OK. So, do you think we should go for it?

Rachel: Absolutely!

east-facing ► nach Osten ausgerichtet

elderly ► älter, betagt

lookout: be on the ~ for sth. ► nach etw. Ausschau halten

property ► Immobilie

David: So, what doesn't Phil like about the apartment? He doesn't like that it's a bit dark. Phil was very lucky his work colleague told him about the property. Let's hope he and Rachel get to move in soon and enjoy many happy years in their new home.

Source: Spotlight 6/2019, pages 54–55

American Life

[7] Florida, here I come

David: Every year, many Americans choose to get away from the cold and head south for the winter. Among their favourite destinations are Arizona, California and Texas. But it's the state of Florida that attracts most of these so-called "snowbirds". Our American Life columnist Ginger Kuenzel has also spread her wings and is surprised by how much she enjoys the southern lifestyle.

This was the year that I decided to go to Florida for a few months to escape the cold time of the year.

I didn't actually consider it to be a scary thing to do, though friends kept telling me how brave they thought I was. Brave? Well, I've parachuted out of an airplane, given birth in a VW bus, and gotten arrested in East Germany.

So, striking out on my own for parts unknown was not something that could scare me.

No, I viewed this as just another adventure, something to push me out of my comfort zone. Many friends offered advice — most of which wasn't all that useful. But perhaps the strangest advice came from a woman I had recently met, who told me she had a lot of travel experience. Her words of wisdom? Keep your guns close and don't hang any clothes in your car window. I did neither.

During my drive to Florida, I encountered a number of real characters. There was the guy in the convenience store in southern Virginia who, out of the blue, while I was filling my coffee cup, began to rant about people on welfare

convenience store

► Gemischtwarenladen

encounter

► begegnen, treffen

head for ► aufbrechen, sich auf den Weg machen

out of the blue

ifml. ► aus heiterem Himmel

parachute ► mit dem Fallschirm springen

rant ► schimpfen

snowbird US

► jmd., der den Winter im Süden der USA verbringt

spread: ~ one's wings

► etwas Neues wagen, sich aufmachen

strike out: ~ on one's own ► allein losziehen

wisdom: words of ~

► gute Ratschläge, weise Worte

and how much tax he is paying. Despite his rant, and his obvious disdain for Northerners — I guess he had noticed my New York license plate — he did call me “ma’am” several times. As I ventured deeper into the South, I became more impressed with the people I was meeting. I imagine this is because everyone was calling me “ma’am.” I liked that. I can’t recall anyone in my northern town ever using that term with me. The waitress in the breakfast room at the Quality Inn near Savannah, Georgia, not only called me “ma’am,” but she also called me “sugar” (or more accurately, *shoogah*). And “honey.” I was definitely feeling the Southern hospitality. Upon arriving in Florida, it didn’t take me long to find the perfect town to settle into as my temporary home. With miles of sandy Gulf Coast beaches and tiki huts with live music, a blues bar, music in the park, and street festivals, it’s my kind of place. And because it’s somewhat off the beaten path, it doesn’t have the crowds that many other Florida towns have at this time of year. No traffic jams, just laid-back, friendly people taking life slow. I could definitely get used to this lifestyle. I discovered that a great way to meet people when you move to a new town and know nobody is to walk around wearing a cap or sweatshirt from your home region. At the beach, while shopping, at the gym, in the library — so many people have started a conversation with

me about the area I’m from. I also sometimes wear my cap from Munich, which leads to people telling me about their experiences at Munich’s “Hofbrau House” (as Americans call it), and even a few discussions in German.

Source: Spotlight 6/2019, page 69

Grammar Tales

[8] “Rapunzel”

David: Now it’s time for another in our series of fairy tales for the 21st century. In this episode, the classic story of Rapunzel provides ideal content for a reality TV show. And the grammar focus is on making polite requests.

beaten path: off the ~

► abgelegen, ab vom Schuss

disdain ► Verachtung

fairy tale ► Märchen

gym ► Fitnessstudio

hospitality

► Gastfreundlichkeit

laid-back *ifml.*

► locker, lässig

license plate N. Am.

► Autokennzeichen

recall ► sich erinnern

take life slow

► das Leben langsam angehen lassen

venture ► sich wagen

Once upon a time a young lady with a short bob was introducing herself on a television show called Reunited at Last. “My name’s Rapunzel and I’m looking for my biological parents,” she said.

“Welcome to the show, Rapunzel,” said Lavinia, the presenter. “The story of your adoption is really quite unusual, isn’t it?”

“You could say that,” replied Rapunzel. “I wasn’t adopted. When I was five days old, my parents gave me away to an old lady who lived next door. They didn’t want to, but she had demanded it.” The studio audience gasped. “The old woman, whose name was Gothel, caught my father stealing some herbs from her garden,” Rapunzel continued. “My mother had terrible morning sickness and these herbs were the only thing that helped. Thinking that the old woman would never follow through on the outrageous demand, my father agreed to hand me over when I was born.”

“And how do you know all this?” asked the presenter.

“Gothel told me. I always knew. And because she had told me when I was very young, I thought it was normal, I suppose,” said Rapunzel. “I thought that one day, my parents would come and get me. But they never did.” Rapunzel wiped her eyes. Lavinia handed her a tissue. “This is such an upsetting story,” said the presenter. “You were kept in a tower, weren’t

you? You were completely cut off from the real world. Tell us about that.”

“On my twelfth birthday,” Rapunzel said, “Gothel locked me up in a high tower, to keep me safe, she said. The tower had no stairs and I had to let down my long hair for her to climb up. It hurt so much!”

“That’s unbelievable,” said Lavinia. “It’s like something out of a fairy tale!”

“I asked her if she would mind using a ladder,” continued Rapunzel. “But she said that anyone passing would be able to climb up and it wouldn’t be safe. Every morning and evening when she brought me my food, she would shout up, ‘Rapunzel, Rapunzel, would you mind letting down your long, golden hair?’”

bob ▶ Bubikopf

follow through on sth.

▶ etw. durchziehen

gasp

▶ nach Luft schnappen, scharf die Luft einziehen

herb ▶ Kraut

morning sickness

▶ Morgenübelkeit

outrageous

▶ ungeheuerlich

presenter

▶ Moderator(in)

reunited

▶ wiedervereint

suppose

▶ vermuten, annehmen

tissue

▶ Papiertaschentuch

upsetting ▶ bestürzend,

erschütternd

“That sounds quite polite,” commented Lavinia.

“Yes,” Rapunzel laughed sadly. “If you ignore the fact that Gothel stole me from my parents and kept me locked up in a tower, you could say she was quite a nice person, really. But my therapist says that’s the Stockholm syndrome talking.” Rapunzel’s eyes twinkled and the audience laughed gently.

“Tell us how you escaped,” prompted Lavinia. “Well, one day, about an hour after Gothel had brought me my dinner, a voice shouted up again: ‘Rapunzel, Rapunzel, would you mind letting down your long, golden hair?’ I was surprised that she had come back, but I thought she might have forgotten something, so I let down my hair. When I looked down, I was suddenly able to make out a man’s face appearing through the dusk. I nearly died of fright. When he got to the window, though, I could see that he had kind eyes and that he didn’t want to harm me. He told me that his name was Christian. He was from the village and had been walking in the woods with his dogs when he heard Gothel call: ‘Rapunzel, Rapunzel, would you mind letting down your long, golden hair?’ He watched her as she climbed up my hair. He didn’t think it was right to keep a young girl in a tower, so he decided to see what was going on. It didn’t take him long to persuade me to escape with him. We cut off my hair with his

knife, tied it to the hook at the window and we climbed down. And then we ran. Christian and his father went back to the tower the next day to try to find Gothel, but there was no trace of her and, weirdly, the tower had vanished.”

“That is strange,” said Lavinia. “Now, since your escape, you’ve been staying with Christian and his family and you’ve been going to school.”

“Yes,” nodded Rapunzel, smiling. “Christian and his family have been amazing. I’m so grateful to them for all their support.” Rapunzel looked into the audience, and the camera swung round to focus on Christian and his parents. They smiled kindly. “I would love to find my parents and let them know I’m OK,” continued Rapunzel. “I can’t imagine what they must have gone through when they had to give me away. I’ve tried to find them, but it’s as though they vanished into thin air.”

“Which is why you contacted us,” said Lavinia, taking up the story. “Now, your parents names are Ethel and Gordon Zopf. Unfortunately, we

dusk

► Abenddämmerung

hook ► Haken

prompt

► auffordern, ermuntern

trace ► Spur

twinkle ► zwinkern

vanish ► verschwinden

weirdly *ifml.*

► seltsamerweise

found no trace of any Zopfs in this country, so we had to search internationally. We managed to find out that your parents emigrated about six months after you were taken. It wasn't easy, but we were eventually able to track them down on the other side of the world. Rapunzel, we've found your parents."

Rapunzel sobbed. "Really?" she managed to ask, tears streaming down her face. The presenter nodded.

"Are they OK?" asked Rapunzel.

"Yes, they are," Lavinia said. "Life hasn't been easy for them, but they're OK. Perhaps you'd like to see for yourself."

"Do you have a photo of them?" asked Rapunzel.

"Your parents are here!" The audience clapped and cheered as Rapunzel's parents entered the studio. Rapunzel ran towards them and the three embraced.

After the show, Ethel and Gordon decided to move back to the village and asked Rapunzel to live with them. Re-united with her parents, Rapunzel lived happily ever after.

Source: *Spotlight* 6/2019, pages 24–26

Replay

[9] A look at recent news events

Inez: Welcome to Replay, the listening exercise in which we look at a recent news story, its background and language. In this edition: In English schools, compulsory lessons about relationships and health are long overdue. But government funding may not be enough for the training necessary to teach them properly.

[10] Sex education: the facts of life are just the start

Inez: Despite the protests of some parents, English schools will greatly expand sex and relationship education. The Department of Education has said that the curriculum will include information on staying safe online, mental and physical health and LGBT issues.

cheer ▶ jubeln

clap ▶ klatschen

compulsory
▶ verbindlich, Pflicht-

embrace
▶ sich umarmen

eventually
▶ schließlich

mental ▶ psychisch

overdue ▶ überfällig

sob ▶ aufschluchzen

track: ~ sb. down
▶ jmdn. aufspüren

According to an editorial in Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, these new proposals are long overdue. However, the writers point out that the government's budget of six million pounds is far too little to cover the cost of the necessary teacher training.

In the first of three excerpts from the editorial, the writers argue that educating children about health and relationships should involve teachers as well as parents and carers. Carers are people who look after children but who are not their parents. Of course, another major influence is a young person's classmates — those children in the same class as them. In a child's development, all of these figures play a crucial role, meaning an extremely important role. Now listen to the first excerpt.

The introduction of compulsory health and relationships education in English primary schools should be applauded. Children are entitled to be informed about themselves and the world, as part of their schooling. As well as the facts about bodies, minds, human differences and similarities, they should be taught to think about their feelings for other people. Parents, carers and wider networks of friends and relatives have a crucial role in socialising the next generation. But input from teachers and classmates is also essential. Schools are ... the place where young people start to make

their way in the world as individuals, learn to manage themselves in a peer group, and separate from their families. The ideas that shape such experiences are part of growing up. They deserve to be part of the curriculum.

Inez: In the next part of the editorial, the writers discuss the importance of the new lessons. They point out that since sex education guidelines were last revised in 2000, there's now a lot of catching up to do — this means there's a need to improve the guidelines and reach the necessary current standard. Let's listen to the second excerpt.

In many classrooms across the country, these kinds of lessons already happen, in both primary and secondary schools, under the PSHE (personal, social, health, and economic education) heading. It would have been preferable for the government to [have made] PSHE compulsory. But the new guidance from the

editorial

► Leitartikel

entitled: be ~ to sth.

► ein Recht auf etw. haben

excerpt

► Auszug

peer group

► Gleichaltrigengruppe

revise

► überarbeiten

Department for Education, which covers sex education in secondary schools ... is still a big step.

Since official guidance on sex education was last updated in 2000 there is ... much catching up to do. ...[T]he role of technology requires urgent attention. ... It makes sense to instruct children in such issues directly, and supply them with the tools to think about their behaviour...

Inez: The main problem the writers see with the new curriculum is the paltry amount of money the government has budgeted for its implementation. The adjective “paltry” is used when talking about an amount of money that is too small to be considered as important or useful. A lack of proper training will especially be an issue when teachers tackle — or deal with — the more sensitive aspects of the subject. So let’s listen to the third and final part.

As with the sensible package announced ... [earlier this year] to address teacher shortages ... [n]one of what has been promised will be delivered to the required standard unless the government increases its paltry offer of £6m. Beyond the nuts and bolts of the facts of life, these are issues that require well-informed and sensitive handling: sexual orientation, gender identity, self-harm, FGM and abuse are deeply

personal and difficult subjects to tackle in a classroom. ...

Source: *Guardian News and Media* 2019

[11] 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?

- A sum of money that is too small to be considered important or useful can be described as... paltry.
- Children in the same class are called... classmates.
- Which verb has the same meaning as “to deal with”? To tackle
- When there’s a need to improve and reach the necessary current standard, there’s a lot of... catching up to do.
- Which adjective can be used to describe something that’s extremely important? Crucial
- People who look after other people’s children are called... carers.

FGM (female genital mutilation)

- WGV (weibliche Genitalverstümmelung)

implementation

- Umsetzung

nuts and bolts *ifml.*

- praktische Grundlagen

sensitive

- sensibel, heikel

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

See Spotlight 6/2019, page 27

English at Work

[12] Global English

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 advice on using English in an international environment.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. When you're learning English as a second language, it's good to think about using your English in an international environment. Listen to the following statements about the English language, about learning it and using it internationally. In the pause after each statement, decide whether you agree or disagree and why. Then you'll hear my opinion. Ready? We'll begin.

There are more than one million words in the English language.

I agree. This is according to research done by Harvard University and Google in 2010.

You only need an active vocabulary of 1,000

words to be able to do your work in English.

I disagree. A vocabulary of 1,000 words is what is known as Basic English. You would probably need something in the range of 3,000 to 5,000 words to feel comfortable when acting professionally.

British English is more sophisticated than American English.

I disagree. Both forms of the language are equally sophisticated or unsophisticated depending on how you use them.

You should try to speak with a British or American accent, as this will be more clearly understood in the international setting.

I disagree. Native speakers have a huge variety of accents. What you mainly should be concerned with is speaking clearly rather than worrying about the accent.

You should not use many idioms internationally.

I agree. Idiomatic language is often difficult to understand.

Second language speakers often find it easier to understand other second language speakers rather than native speakers.

I agree. This is because second language speakers usually don't speak too quickly, keep their sentences short and simple, use familiar

sophisticated

• kultiviert

vocabulary and avoid idiomatic, colloquial expressions.

Native speakers are generally very good at changing their language to help communication in the international setting.

I disagree. It takes an effort to adapt your language to different situations. Many native speakers find this difficult to do.

Second language speakers of English outnumber native speakers by at least two to one.

I agree. No one is sure of how many second-language speakers of English there are, but it's estimated that there are at least twice as many as native speakers.

The English language is no longer the property of native speakers. It has become a global language and is open to influences from other languages and cultures. It's changing and adapting all the time. And second-language speakers play a large part in that process. The English language belongs to you, too.

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 6/2019, page 61

Peggy's Place

[13] A new community spirit?

David: It hasn't been easy for British pubs in recent years. With high taxes on alcohol, less people drinking beer and more people spending their evenings at home, pubs have been closing at a frightening rate. And because of rising property prices, London pubs have been hit particularly hard. *Spotlight's* London pub, Peggy's Place, is also suffering. But hope might be on the way. Could a change in focus be what's needed?

George: I've been meaning to give you this printout. Sorry, it's a bit tatty. I've been carrying it around in my pocket for a few weeks.

Peggy: "The Independent, The Wonston Arms: Hampshire pub saved from closure named best in the UK."

Sean: I heard about this place, too.

Peggy: "A pub in Hampshire has been named

adapt

• anpassen, angleichen

closure ▶ Schließung

copy ▶ Exemplar

outnumber ▶ zahlenmäßig überlegen sein

property ▶ Immobilien-

tatty *ifml.* ▶ schmutzilig, zerfleddert

the National Pub of the Year, four years after it was left derelict.”

Sean: That’s really impressive, don’t you think?

George: Let her finish reading.

Sean: But I could also sum it up for you, if you like, Peggy.

Peggy: OK, go ahead. I can see that you both want me to know about this pub.

Sean: Right, so this businessman, Matt Todd, has turned around his local pub in Winchester...

Peggy: I was in Winchester a couple of weeks ago with Phil on our walking tour.

George: Never mind that. What’s really interesting is here. Look: “Since its reopening, The Wonston Arms has raised more than £25,000 for charity and become a centre for community events such as darts matches, jazz sessions and a photography club.”

Sean: Exactly!

Peggy: Exactly what? What are you trying to tell me?

George: The way to keep pubs like this place going is by turning them into centres for the community.

Peggy: Isn’t that what we’ve been doing for years? Think of all the projects we’ve had: quiz nights, readings, a breakfast service. None of it really came to much.

George: Maybe we just haven’t been trying hard enough. It says here that Matt Todd was

in marketing before he took over the pub.

Sean: George is right. We need someone with expertise to turn this into a project.

Peggy: Just a moment! Comparing this place — what’s it called, The Wonston Arms? — with us, well, it’s like comparing apples and pears. We may both be pubs, but a London pub and a country pub have a whole different set of — what do we call problems today? Ah, yes — challenges.

George: I don’t see the difference. We’re both part of a community.

Peggy: Yes, but our community changes much more quickly than a rural one. Remember when that American bank moved its headquarters to Frankfurt because of the Brexit referendum?

Sean: That’s true, of course. We lost a lot of well-heeled customers because of that.

George: There is still a core community, though.

core ► Kern-

derelict

► heruntergekommen

expertise

► Expertenwissen

mind: never ~ that

► Lass es gut damit sein!

pear ► Birne

raise ► sammeln, zusammenkriegen

rural ► ländlich

well-heeled *ifml.*

► betucht

Peggy: Yes, but it's made up of a lot of people whose traditions don't include evenings at the pub.

George: Then we need to start some new traditions.

Sean: Peggy, what are you doing? Covering your ears?

Peggy: Don't get me wrong. Yes, we're struggling, despite the money I have put into this place, and I want to keep the pub open, but sometimes facts need to be faced.

Sean: I won't go down without a fight.

George: It's time to start rethinking this business. I'm in marketing. I'll help you. Now, when can we begin?

Source: Spotlight 6/2019, page 10

[14] The best pub in Britain

David: Did you listen to Peggy's Place on the [previous](#) track? Then you'll know that George and Sean wanted to tell Peggy about a pub called The Wonston Arms. Now Peggy's Place may not be real, but The Wonston Arms definitely is. It's run by Matt Todd. He decided to leave his job in [corporate marketing](#) to buy the [derelict](#) pub near Winchester. Four years on and The Wonston Arms has been awarded the title of best pub in the UK. We spoke to Todd about his mission to [revive](#) this traditional British [boozer](#). How important was the

local community in rescuing the pub, we asked Todd?

Yeah, I do think that that was a really, really important part of it. It wasn't the only part, but it was a really important part. Because I put the money up, and I bought the pub, and I said this is what I'm going to do, but I need you all behind me to, you know, not drink in the pub and not be just drinkers and customers, but help me with the work that's needed to renovate it. Help me market the pub, be proud of it again and be proud of your community centre, and get out there and reach out to everybody to tell them that things are different at The Wonston Arms, and it's going to be a great place.

David: So, how has Matt Todd kept the community involved in The Wonston Arms? Well, along with a [charity](#) cafe, acoustic music nights

boozer UK *ifml*.

► Kneipe

charity ► gemeinnützig,
Spenden-

corporate marketing

► Unternehmens-
marketing

derelict

► verfallen

previous

► vorhergehend

revive

► wieder zum Leben
erwecken

and a photography group, The Wonston offers pop-up food nights.

And then the pop-up food, you know, I don't have a hang up. I don't do food at The Wonston Arms, therefore I'm not competing against myself, and I've teamed up with some of the big-city street-food providers. They're not big providers, but they work out of the big cities, such as Southampton and Portsmouth, and they pop up to The Wonston on evenings and weekends, park their food truck on the beach, as we call it, the local pub beach, and people can swing by, use it, swing by, use it and stay or drive past and not use it at all. It's not a problem for me, but it's a community service that's available to get people out of their houses and mixing, really.

David: Of course, we had to ask Matt Todd what he would suggest to revive the fortunes of Peggy's Place.

So, if a pub in the East End of London was failing, I think it's relatively easy to go in and observe, as a customer, beforehand and see what you see — maybe what the strengths, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threats are within that business and form a business plan to try and see if you could overcome those issues and challenges and how would you do

it. Clearly, getting the community and reaching out for all four corners of the community is what I went and did. Be it a local community in the East End of London, find out where those people are and who they are. I went and reached out, as I explained, to areas of the community that weren't using The Wonston Arms in leafy little Hampshire, and so, you know, the young and the old. I've engaged with local suppliers and brought local products back in, rather than big corporate national brands. I've kicked out the national beer brands to some extent. I've employed local people within the pub, so we've got people coming in, working a few hours a week. And they're bringing their own network of friends and family and colleagues and guests. If I went into the community in the East End of London, I would absolutely seek out those community challenges to

beforehand ► im Voraus

extent: to some ~
► zum Teil

fortunes ► Schicksal

hang up *ifml.*
► festgefahrene Meinung

leafy ► begrünt, lauschig

overcome ► überwinden, bewältigen

pop-up

► kurzfristig und überraschend organisiert

seek out sth.

► nach etw. suchen

swing by

► kurz vorbeischaun

team up

► sich zusammentun

try and raise and generate income from within the community for good causes that are local to the community. The fact that we've raised £27,000 of charity funds through the doors of The Wonston Arms over four years, it's all gone back into local projects.

David: So, what does the future hold for British pubs? Matt Todd has a very positive outlook, especially for community-driven pubs.

I'm very hopeful. I really am. We haven't changed as human beings. We've had more stimulus brought to us, but we're still human beings that need to interact and need to come together in one direction and get things done and live together in harmony, have a good community feeling, have a good joke and help each other out. And that's what the pubs used to be like in the '60s and the '50s. In the UK, we are going to go through a tricky time with changes in how the country interacts with, you know, Europe and the rest of the world. And that is cause for discussion and cause for people saying, well, we're going to muck in together and get this sorted. So, communities are going to need to be strong and pull together and drive in the right direction. If a lot of people go in the same direction, things happen quickly, and I really feel the pubs are part of the DNA of the UK makeup — and in Ireland and in

other countries around the world. It's not just a UK-specific thing. I go to Spain a lot, or I used to, and you see the cafe-bar culture there. You know, on the corner underneath the apartments is what it's about, and lots of business and lots of things are done in those environments, and I see that happening in the UK in this little pub that I've got here. So, I'm quite excited about it.

See Spotlight 6/2019, page 10

Short Story

[15] “The better writer”

David: Many of us feel like we might have a book in us. But writing the next great novel isn't as easy as it sounds. In our short story, we meet Henry, a young man terribly jealous of his talented and successful cousin, the author Frederick Willenheim. If only Henry could have that kind of success! But Henry should be

jealous ▶ eifersüchtig

makeup

▶ Aufbau, Struktur

muck in UK ifml.

▶ mit anpacken

stimulus

▶ Anregung, Anreiz

tricky

▶ schwierig

more careful what he wishes for, as we'll now hear in "The better writer".

"Missing author tops bestseller list." That was the headline on the front page of the newspaper. The story described how the author Frederick Willenheim disappeared from his family home almost a year ago and how his mother, Clarella, found his completed, handwritten manuscript and sent it to a literary agent she had known from her university days. The manuscript was bought by a famous publishing house and was now the bestselling novel in the US.

Frederick's cousin Henry felt sick as he read the story, not because his cousin was missing, but because he was certain his disappearance was a publicity stunt to sell his novel. He, Henry, should be the bestselling author of the family, not Frederick.

The two boys had always wanted to become famous authors, but Henry had been the better writer and got better marks in English. That all changed, however, when they were 17, and Frederick wrote an article for a class project about an author called Ambrose Bierce, who, after writing more than a thousand short stories, had disappeared in the early 1900s and was never seen again.

Frederick even visited some members of Bierce's family, who he said were very helpful

and gave him some of the author's old things. Their teacher loved the article, a fictional account of Bierce's disappearance, so much that she sent it to a local newspaper, which published it.

And so Frederick's writing career began. He was soon publishing short stories in national magazines and planning his first novel. Overnight, Frederick had become a prolific and talented writer, and when Henry asked him how he did it, Frederick told him simply to put pen to paper and wait for the words to flow. But whenever Henry tried this, nothing happened. Discouraged, he gave up on becoming a writer and, over the years, became more and more resentful of his cousin's success.

Now, Henry was certain that the story of Ambrose Bierce's disappearance had inspired Frederick's publicity stunt, which he wanted more than anything to expose to the world. So, later that day, he visited Frederick's family home.

expose

- enthüllen, preisgeben

fictional account

- fiktiver Bericht

mark • hier: Note

prolific

- produktiv, erfolgreich

publicity stunt

- Werbegag

publishing house

- Buchverlag

resentful

- verärgert, verbittert

Frederick's mother answered the door.

"Oh, it's you," said Aunt Clarella. "I thought maybe it was... Never mind. Come in."

Henry followed his aunt inside, shocked by her appearance. She had always been so glamorous, but today she was wearing an old robe and looking sickly thin. He had thought she was in on the publicity stunt, but now he wasn't so sure.

"I'm sorry I didn't come before," he said. "I just kept thinking that Frederick would come home. Maybe if I go through his things, I can find some clue to what happened."

"You can try," said his aunt, with a shrug. "Most of his things are in his writer's hut."

"His writer's hut?"

"In the garden."

"Oh, right, of course."

A writer's hut, thought Henry, with his usual resentment. Who did Frederick think he was? On the desk, there were piles of paper with ideas written all across them in pencil; Frederick was apparently too good to use anything as common as a pen.

Henry was certain he would find proof of his cousin's publicity stunt, but all he found were hundreds of brilliant story ideas that he wished he could develop, as Frederick so easily did. Frustrated, he threw the papers in the air, then took some of the things from his desk, including a rough, old pencil; perhaps he

could sell them online and make some money. There were lots of people who'd pay for things owned by a famous author.

The next day, before his weekly therapy session, Henry sat down to write how he was feeling, which was all he ever wrote about anymore. He used the pencil he'd taken from Frederick's desk to write about how much he hated him: It felt like poetic justice.

As soon as he put pencil to paper, the words began flowing as they never had before, and he found himself developing one of the story ideas he'd come across in Frederick's writing hut, and then another, and then another. By the next day, he'd written dozens of brilliant short stories, which he sent to his cousin's literary agent, boasting about his relationship to Frederick. And a few months later, his stories began appearing in national magazines.

"I'm a writing machine," he told his therapist. He didn't need therapy any more, but it always felt good to boast. "I put pen to paper and the story appears."

"Go on then," said his therapist, giving him a pen.

boast

► sich rühmen, prahlen

clue ► Hinweis

hut ► Hütte

pile ► Stapel, Haufen

robe ► Morgenrock

shrug ► Schulterzucken

“What, now?” Henry shrugged and took the pen, but when he tried to write, nothing happened.

“It’s the pencil,” he told his therapist a week later. “Every time I try writing with anything but the pencil, nothing comes.”

“So, what will you do when the lead runs out?” It was then that Henry realized that the lead never ran out, that he’d never even had to sharpen it. Alarmed, he decided never to use the pencil again. But a newspaper story a few weeks later, about how his cousin’s disappearance had inspired a new movie, changed his mind. Henry had given up on exposing his cousin; now, he only wanted to demonstrate to the world that he was the better writer.

He picked up the pencil and, this time, he wrote not a short story but a novel, about an author who staged his disappearance to popularize his first book. As his hand flew across the page, he poured out all of his frustration, all of himself into the story, until he disappeared into it and there was nothing left but a completed manuscript and an old pencil that was once owned by Ambrose Bierce and was now waiting for the next would-be writer to pick it up.

Source: Spotlight 6/2019, 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.

lead

► Blei; hier: Bleistiftmine

pour out ► ausschütten

sharpen ► anspitzen

subscriber

► Abonnent(in)

would-be ifml.

► Möchtegern-

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