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Introduction

[1] David: Welcome to edition 9/2019 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.

Big, brash and exhilarating, New York is our destination in the travel section — and things are getting steamy as we visit one of the oldest bathhouses in the city.

If you think grammar is boring, think again. Spotlight talks to a language expert who's out on the streets of New York bringing grammar back to the people.

There may be times in work where you have to refuse a request. Learn how to say “no” in the most polite and reasonable way in English at Work.

Britain Today

[2] The post-Brexit burger

David: The many questions surrounding Brexit are still far from answered. However, if Britain does leave the EU, there's a good

chance a new trade deal with the United States will quickly follow. Our UK columnist Colin Beaven smells trouble. In Britain Today, he wonders if food from across the Atlantic will agree with the British palate.

I'm off to the theatre this month to see *Oklahoma!* — one of those wonderful Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals. They may seem dated, but with their dramatic stories and unforgettable songs, they're still popular. Two years ago, London had a revival of *Carousel*; last year, it was *The King and I*.

As it happens, McDonald's has been using a song from *Oklahoma!* in one of its latest TV ads. It shows British farmers starting their working day, with a cheerful American voice in the background singing “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'”. It's a little curious; the ad stresses that here in the UK, McDonald's buys from farms that are nowhere near the American Midwest — they're British.

brash ▶ aufdringlich;
hier: schrill

dated ▶ überholt,
veraltet

exhilarating
▶ spannend, begeistert

palate ▶ Gaumen,
Geschmack

revival
▶ Wiederaufführung

steamy ▶ dampfig

Will that change? Those who supported Brexit have often claimed that we'd get a new trade deal with the US as a prize for leaving the EU. It's clear, though, that in any new deal, the US would insist on selling us food.

So after Brexit, we could expect to see delicacies from America in supermarkets that couldn't be imported previously because of EU rules about pesticides, growth hormones and genetically modified organisms.

Will the British be so worried about the quality of American meat that they'll eat fewer burgers? Or will they eat more because they'll be cheaper? I'm no fan of burgers. I can't get enthusiastic about something that looks like the sole of a sandal. The bun it's served in doesn't help either: it looks like a tea towel that's been too near the oven.

During my first visit to the US, I worked in a children's summer camp, where you might think everyone lived on burgers. Yet all the food was home-made and delicious. Burgers did appear on the menu once or twice to stop the children rebelling, but they were all freshly cooked (the burgers, not the children). If we don't want to eat beef from the US, we could always eat its chlorinated chicken. American chicken farmers use chlorinated water to wash their animals after slaughter. Not everyone agrees that this makes them safer to eat, but at least they've been washed. Can the same be

said of a sandal?

You do wonder whether chlorine affects the taste. It will certainly affect restaurant menus. Expensive ones generally have different sections for meat and fish, labelled "from the land" and "from the sea". They'll presumably need a new label: "from the swimming pool".

I don't imagine American chickens actually have webbed feet and swim in chlorinated water. If they did, the traditional question in families where Sunday lunch is a roast chicken might have to change from "Would you prefer breast or leg?" to "Would you prefer breast or flipper?"

Even if imported meat is cheaper, we may need more ads to persuade us to eat it. Perhaps with

affect ► beeinflussen, beeinträchtigen

bun ► Brötchen

chlorinated ► gechlort, chloriert

claim ► behaupten

delicacy ► Köstlichkeit, Delikatesse

flipper ► Flosse; hier: Schwimmfuß

persuade ► überzeugen

presumably ► vermutlich, voraussichtlich

roast ► Brat-

slaughter ► Schlachtung

tea towel UK ► Geschirrtuch

webbed ► mit Schwimmhäuten

a song from another classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Is there one called *The Burger King and I*?

Source: Spotlight 9/2019, page 13

A Day in My Life

[3] In an emergency

David: Have you ever thought about the people who answer the phone when you call an emergency number? These people are called dispatchers, and they play a very important role in the smooth running of emergency services. In *A Day in My Life*, we meet Jeanette Zavala. The 35-year-old works as a 911 dispatcher in South Pasadena, which is a city of about 26,000 people in Los Angeles County. You're about to hear excerpts from an interview with Zavala. In the first excerpt, she explains what happens when a call comes in.

OK, once we get a phone call, everything in the dispatch center is based on policy, so let's say we received a 911 phone call. The first thing is to ask where's your emergency. The most important thing in dispatch is asking where because you can know everything else and not know where you're sending your officers.

David: In the next excerpt from the interview, Zavala describes how she sends a police officer to the scene of a crime.

So, what we do is once we type it up, we save it. It goes into a system, the CAD [computer-aided dispatch] system, and that's when it helps to have a partner because once it's in the system, the partner can see it, and she can dispatch it out. In the event that my dispatcher took the day off or she called in sick, and I'm alone, we do have a mute button on the phone, and we'll tell them, "I'm going to dispatch an officer. It's going to go quiet. Do not hang up. Stay on the line." I mute it and then I immediately have either a foot pedal on the floor that I use for my headset or I use the old-school radio and I just click the mic and I tell them "units respond". Code 3 means with lights

call in sick ▶ sich krank melden

day off: take a ~ ▶ sich einen Tag frei nehmen

dispatcher
▶ Disponent(in)

excerpt ▶ Auszug

headset ▶ Kopfhörer

mic ▶ Mikrofon

mute button
▶ Stummschalttaste

radio ▶ hier: Funk (gerät)

save ▶ hier: speichern

smooth ▶ reibungslos

type up ▶ tippen, eingeben

and sirens. If I won't say Code 3, they know it's the regular response. Respond to this address. I say the address twice, and then I tell them the crime and tell them to stand by for further information.

See Spotlight 9/2019, pages 40–41

Travel

[4] Time traveling in New York

David: One of the world's most popular travel destinations is “the city that never sleeps” — New York! The town is diverse, lively and always on the go. It's also a place that's famous for its incredible ethnic diversity, where generations of immigrants have left their cultural mark. There's a great example of this in Spotlight's current travel feature: a Russian and Turkish bathhouse that has existed since 1892. As you listen to the following recording, try to answer these questions. What food can you order at the lunch counter? And who originally brought the custom of bathhouses with them to New York?

From outside, the building is unimposing, nestled in a residential block on 10th Street, at the edge of Alphabet City. Except for the words “Russian & Turkish Baths since 1892”

carved above the door, it could be just another apartment building. But when you walk up the stairs, you're in a space that looks a little like a set from a Wes Anderson movie: low-ceilinged, cluttered, and quaintly anachronistic, as if the decor hasn't been updated for decades. To the left is the front counter, where they take your wallet and hand you a locker key. To your right is a lunch counter, where you can order blini with caviar, and a little cafeteria area with folded news clippings on the walls. The 10th Street baths are one of the city's living fossils, the last survivor from a time when Ashkenazi Jews brought the custom with them from Eastern

blini

► russische Pfannkuchen

carved ► eingemeißelt

clipping ► Ausschnitt

cluttered ► überladen; unaufgeräumt

counter ► Tresen, Theke

diverse ► facettenreich

diversity ► Vielfalt

folded ► verblichen

go: on the ~ ► aktiv, umtriebig; hier: es ist ständig was los

low-ceilinged ► niedrig

lunch counter
► (Imbiss)Theke

nestled ► eingebettet

quaintly ► originell, kurios

residential block
► Wohnblock

unimposing
► unscheinbar

Europe. Back in the day, Jewish gangsters did business here, and the masseurs were deaf and so unable to pass on tips to the cops.

Today, the place is jointly owned by two men who hate each other; they alternate weeks, running the baths separately, so that they never have to interact. If you have a “David” pass to the baths, it won’t get you in during a “Boris” week, and vice versa. Either way, once you have your key, you’re directed to the men’s and women’s changing rooms, where you put your bathing suit on (if it’s mixed hours; nudity is fine for single-sex hours). You can help yourself to one of the many clean brown towels or a sleeveless blue robe made of thin cotton, or use one of the pairs of plastic slippers that are mostly falling apart and seem like they’ll probably get you killed on the slippery stairs. Good thing you brought your own flip-flops.

Down the stairs and you’re in a tiled corridor with doors opening to various sauna rooms. The heat in them is mind-numbing. Some of the sauna rooms are darkened and quiet, like the Redwood Sauna room, where the wooden benches are silky smooth and hot as an oven. In other rooms, like the Turkish Sauna room, people are happy to kibitz through the steam. Public displays of affection are forbidden, but there’s a lot of joking. An older Italian guy is trying to get his friend to set him up with a younger woman: “She needs a nice Sicilian

guy who’s not involved with the Mob. Maybe a florist.”

David: So, what food can you order at the lunch counter? You can order blini with caviar. And who originally brought the custom of bathhouses with them to New York? According to the article, Ashkenazi Jews brought the custom with them from Eastern Europe.

Source: *Spotlight* 9/2019, pages 28–35

Interview

[5] New York’s grammar queen

David: Just when you think you’ve seen it all, New York comes up with another surprise for

affection ▶ Zuneigung

alternate ▶ sich abwechseln

kibitz N. Am.; jiddisch
▶ plaudern, sich locker unterhalten

mind-numbing
▶ atemberaubend

robe ▶ hier: Bademantel

set: ~ sb. up with ifml.
▶ jmdn. verkuppeln

slipper ▶ Hausschuh; Schlappen

slippery ▶ rutschig, glatt

tiled ▶ gefliest

vice versa ▶ umgekehrt

you. Ellen Jovin runs a communication skills training firm, but when she's not helping business people to speak and write more effectively, she's on the streets of New York giving out free grammar advice. Her Grammar Table has become an institution in her neighbourhood, and the go-to place for anyone who wants to know more about conjunctions, gerunds and Oxford commas. *Spotlight* talked to Jovin about Grammar Table and her love for the complexities of language. So how and when did she get the idea for Grammar Table?

Last summer, I was idling about in the heat, and I spend a lot of time on the internet connecting with language learners from around the world, language enthusiasts from around the world, and I just thought it would be cool to stick a table and do what I do online — I basically ask questions and people participate in conversations — it would be fun to do that in person.

David: Is Jovin surprised by the positive reaction to her Grammar Table?

First of all, I feel very friendly. So, I think it's really fun, and funny, when people come up. But also helping is that it's so dorky. People just look at it and they kind of laugh and they're like, "What're you doing?" It apparently seems

weirder to people than I thought it was when I decided to do it, because I was like, of course! This would be a good idea! Put a grammar table on the street, and we can talk about grammar. That just seems like a very logical idea to me. So, apparently not everyone thinks that's a natural decision.

David: Jovin is very open-minded when it comes to grammar. For her, language is constantly changing and evolving. How does she see this reflected in her experiences with Grammar Table?

I often have literally like ten different books sitting in front of me because I really like to think broadly. I've added a linguistics book recently so that I can be even more representative of different points of view. But English is of the world now. There are multiple Englishes.

communication skills training ► Kommunikationstraining

dorky *ifml.* ► doof, idiotisch

evolving ► sich kontinuierlich entwickelnd

idle about ► faulenzten

literally ► buchstäblich

neighbourhood
► hier: Gegend, Viertel

participate
► teilnehmen

weird ► sonderbar, komisch

English is out of our hands now. So, even if I say, “OK, in my little neighbourhood in New York you would never hear that.” First of all, I don’t even really know that. But, in general, what I think might be incorrect for here might be perfectly reasonable in India. And I’m not going to know, because I don’t live there.

See Spotlight 9/2019, pages 42–45

Roundtable

[6] Enamoured of grammar

David: Here at Spotlight, we couldn’t help being inspired by Ellen Jovin and her wonderful Grammar Table. That’s why we’re discussing the importance of grammar for language learning in a new episode of Roundtable.

Inez: Welcome to Spotlight Roundtable. Our topic for this issue is grammar. Now, many people’s hearts seem to sink when this topic is mentioned, but if you’ve been listening to the rest of our audio, you’ll know that there’s at least one person who’s a grammar enthusiast out there — Ellen Jovin. And she took a table and put it out on the streets in New York and started talking to people about grammar, and what’s turned out is that people actually do like to talk about this topic and they are

interested in it. In that vein, we’re going to talk about grammar today, and I have with me in the studio Claudine Weber-Hof, who is the deputy editor at Spotlight, and our Audio Editor Owen Connors, and they’re going to give us a little bit of their impressions, their feelings about grammar. We’re going to start off with Claudine.

Claudine: Thanks, Inez. Well, I have to say I really enjoyed this interview that Judith Gilbert did with Ellen Jovin, and what impressed me so much is that Ellen would go out on the streets of the Upper West Side and just set up her table and talk to strangers about the language. What she says in the interview, too, is she’s not there to criticize people’s grammar; she’s there to talk about language. I really love that. One anecdote, in particular, really stuck with me, and that is she said a 10-year-old girl, early in her Grammar Table days, came up to her and asked, “Why do people say ‘There’s things to do’, when actually the correct sentence would be ‘There are things to do?’”

can’t help doing sth.

► nicht umhin können
etw. zu tun, etw. einfach
tun müssen

deputy editor

► stellvertretende(r)
Chefredakteur(in)

first of all ► zuerst

einmal

vein: in that ◀ in dieser

Art und Weise

Inez: That's right, yeah.

Claudine: And this speaks directly to the flexibility of English because, of course, "There are things to do" is correct. But in spoken English, we do say "There's things to do". Conversationally we say that, and at Spotlight, in our magazine, we don't correct that anymore when it's in a dialogue. We leave it. "There's things to do."

Inez: Yes, that makes perfect sense. As always, when you're teaching people, as well, they say, "Well, I heard that on the radio," or "That was in a song. Why is it wrong?" And then the question is, is it wrong, you know? Who's saying that it's wrong?

Owen: Yes, and that's exactly what I was thinking, as well, when I was reading the interview and listening, as well, to the recording — her open-mindedness to different types of grammar and different varieties or flavours of English from around the world. And I know that students can be very disappointed when they discover that there aren't exactly strict rules for most things. But that's the way English is nowadays. It's an international language. It's growing separately in different places, but nevertheless, I do think it's important that one understands the standard English that is spoken in say Britain and America, and that this is a generally accepted way to speak.

Inez: I think that makes it easier for learners, as

well, if they think, well, OK, there is a standard. There's going to be stuff which goes outside the standard, but, you know, in everyday use I know that I can apply these rules. That makes me feel a little bit more secure.

Claudine: And American English is, of course, superior to all other Englishes, as we all will agree.

Owen: Well, I would say they have excellent style guides.

Inez: That's true, that's true. They have excellent style guides. Yeah, I mean, well, there's some very beautiful writing in American English, very beautiful writing that I go back to again and again in literature. So, I can't really... I don't know about the best, but it's up there with British English.

Claudine: What do you think about this topic then in general?

Inez: When I read novels or even when I read the newspaper these days, when I listen to the radio, I'm so interested in how language is changing, and how people being interviewed, for example, on the radio, they often sound — somebody on the street, for example — almost

conversationally

• im Gespräch, in normaler Alltagssprache

open-mindedness

• Offenheit, Aufgeschlossenheit

incoherent. And I wonder did this use to be the case? Did people use to speak... was it so sort of messy? You can hear me struggling to find words now already. Were people not interviewed spontaneously in the past? What's happening in books when you read a novel and you think, "Ah, OK, I don't actually quite understand that sentence because the author is being quite experimental." When I read *Vanity Fair*, which I sometimes do, it's an American magazine, and I notice that the whole sentence constructions are strange to me, but they're fascinating to me. I love it. I think it's so interesting what it does to one.

Claudine: They're superior...

Inez: Well, on that note of American superiority, I think we'll close our grammar topic. Thank you very much, Claudine, thank you, Owen, and yeah, if you have any feedback for us on grammar, please get in touch. Thank you. Bye, bye.

See Spotlight 9/2019, pages 42–45

Everyday English

[7] A day at the loch

David: In Everyday English, we meet Stuart and his girlfriend, Marie, who are on holiday in beautiful Scotland. They're spending some

time at Loch Lomond, which is a freshwater loch about 25 kilometres north-west of Glasgow. Loch Lomond is also Great Britain's largest lake. Stuart and Marie are about to set off on a boat that will take them to one of the islands in the loch. As you listen to their conversation, try to answer these questions. Why does Marie already know the area? And what do the couple have planned once they get to the island?

Marie: I love Loch Lomond! I came here on holiday with my family when I was about four, I think. I don't remember much.

Stuart: The air smells so fresh! Have you got the tickets for the boat?

Marie: I thought you had them. Didn't you put them in your pocket?

Stuart: Oh, aye. So I did. Looks like there are quite a few passengers today.

Marie: How long is the cruise?

Stuart: I think it's about 45 minutes, and then you can stay on the island as long as you want. Well, until the last boat goes back to Luss, at half past three.

Marie: Great! That's enough time to go for a

cruise • Schiffsfahrt

incoherent

• unzusammenhängend

messy • chaotisch,
durcheinander

hike and have a picnic. We might even see an otter or two.

David: Were you able to answer the questions? Why does Marie already know the area? Because she visited the area with her family when she was very young. And what do the couple have planned once they get to the island? Once on the island, the couple plan to go for a hike and have a picnic. In the final dialogue, Marie and Stuart have finished exploring the island and are having a picnic on the shore of Loch Lomond. Listen to the conversation and explain what their plans are for a future visit to the loch.

Marie: It's just after three now. The boat should be on its way back.

Stuart: Is that it over there in the distance?

Marie: Yes, I think so. What a pity! I could stay here all day.

Stuart: Me, too. I'd like to come back here and go kayaking. Maybe we could explore the other islands.

Marie: I'd love that. We could come for a long weekend.

Stuart: Let's look into it when we get back. We could maybe even stay at the youth hostel. That shouldn't be too expensive and it's always good fun.

Marie: Good idea. Come on! Let's go for a

paddle before the boat gets here. I'll race you to the water.

Stuart: Oh my God! It's freezing!

Marie: That's Scotland for you.

David: Marie and Stuart talk about coming back to the loch for a long weekend. If you also said they plan to do some kayaking and stay in a youth hostel, well done! Now all the couple need to figure out is how to cope with Scotland's icy waters.

Source: *Spotlight* 9/2019, pages 54–55

Grammar Tales

[8] “The three billy goats Gruff”

David: Aren't trolls annoying? No, I don't mean the ones that make rude comments on the internet. I mean real trolls — the monsters from Scandinavian mythology. Perhaps the most famously annoying troll is the one in the Norwegian fairy tale *The three billy goats Gruff*. That's the story we have chosen to feature in this episode of Grammar Tales — our series of fairy tales with a modern twist. And the

fairy tale ► Märchen

twist: with a modern ~
► modern interpretiert

grammar focus this time is on using **be going to + infinitive** to talk about plans and things we've already decided to do in the future. Listen out for examples in the story.

Once upon a time there were three billy goats who lived on the side of a mountain. The three brothers spent their days eating grass, sleeping, jumping around and then eating more grass. One day, the biggest billy goat suddenly stopped eating and said, "This is hard work. The grass is so short. Remember when we used to have mouthfuls of long, lush grass with each bite?"

"Yes!" said the middle goat. "Now that you mention it."

"Why don't we find a new field?" asked the biggest goat. "Look at the grass on that mountain opposite. It looks so green."

"Mammy used to say, 'The grass is always greener on the other side,'" said the littlest and youngest goat. "But I always thought she meant that we should be happy with what we've got."

"Why don't we go and see for ourselves?" suggested the middle goat.

The littlest goat didn't say anything because he was already running down the side of the mountain. When the three billy goats got to the bottom, they saw that they would have to cross a narrow wooden bridge to get to the

green field opposite. "I'll go first," said the littlest goat. And off he went across the bridge — tip, tap, tip, tap, tip, tap.

Suddenly, an angry voice from below the bridge shouted, "Who's that walking over my bridge?"

The littlest goat knew immediately that it was a nasty troll and stood still. "It's me, little billy goat Gruff," he said. "Sorry to bother you. I just want to get to the other side, where the grass is greener."

"No way!" wheezed the troll. "I'm going to eat you up!"

The little goat was shocked. "What?" he said. "You don't want to eat me. I can't imagine that raw goat tastes very nice."

"Who said anything about raw? I was going to put you in the slow cooker with a couple of carrots and a bay leaf."

"I see," said the littlest goat. "In that case, why don't you wait for my big brothers? There's much more meat on them."

"Fine," said the troll. "I'll wait for them."

bay leaf ▶ Lorbeerblatt

billy goat ▶ Ziegenbock

bother sb. ▶ jmdn. belästigen

lush ▶ saftig

nasty ▶ gemein, hässlich

slow cooker
▶ Schongarer

wheeze ▶ keuchen, schnaufen

The little goat ran off and immediately started eating the long, lush grass.

The other two billy goats had seen what had happened and were thinking about how they would get over the bridge without being eaten by the nasty old troll. They looked under the bridge and saw that the troll was sitting in the dark, playing a video game on his laptop.

“No wonder he’s in a bad mood,” said the middle goat. “He needs to get out in the fresh air and get some exercise.”

“Hmm,” said his big brother. “I don’t think this is going to be a problem. He’s so unfit, he’ll never catch us. You go first.”

Off went the middle goat across the bridge — tip, tap, tip, tap, tip, tap.

“Who’s that walking over my bridge?” shouted the troll.

The middle goat stopped. “It’s only me, middle billy goat Gruff,” he said. “Don’t let me disturb you. I just want to join my brother where the grass is greener.”

“No way!” wheezed the troll. “I’m going to eat you up!”

“But I’m just a kid,” replied the billy goat. “My big brother’s on his way. He’ll make a much bigger meal.”

“Fine!” shouted the troll. “I’ll wait for him.”

The middle goat skipped off to join his little brother eating the long, lush grass.

The biggest billy goat waited until the troll was

engrossed in his video game before starting out across the bridge. Tip, tap, tip, tap, tip, tap, went his hooves.

“Who’s that walking over my bridge?” shouted the troll, as he pulled himself up on to the bridge.

“Oh, hi!” said the goat, staring at the troll’s big, round, nasty face. “It’s me, big billy goat Gruff. I’m awfully sorry. I didn’t mean to disturb you. It’s these bloody hooves! They make such a racket. Now, if you’ll just let me past...”

“No way!” wheezed the troll. “I’m going to eat you up!”

“Huh?” said the goat. “Well, you learn something new every day. I thought trolls were vegan.”

The goat shook his head in mock disbelief. “Vegan?” said the troll. “What’s vegan?”

“Vegan. You know? It’s when you don’t eat any

engrossed ► vertieft, versunken

exercise ► hier: Bewegung

hoof (plural: hooves) ► Huf/Hufe

huh? *ifml.* ► hä?, was?

kid ► Zicklein; Wortspiel mit „Kind“

mock ► vorgetäuscht

racket ► Lärm

skip off ► fortspringen

start out ► sich aufmachen

animal products like meat or milk. Actually, eggs are off the menu, too.”

“You can’t tell me what not to eat!” shouted the troll. “Who do you think you are?”

“I’m sorry. You’re right. I shouldn’t interfere,” said the billy goat. “It’s just that the health benefits of a plant-based diet are well documented, and you soon get used to the flatulence.”

While he had been talking, the big billy goat had been slowly edging his way across the bridge. The troll stared, his mouth wide open, as the last goat to cross the bridge now made a final leap into the lush meadow on the other side.

“Goodbye, Mr Troll!” bleated the three goats. “Mammy was right,” laughed the littlest billy goat Gruff. “The grass is greener on the other side!”

Source: *Spotlight* 9/2019, pages 22–24

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:

A notorious British TV show has been cancelled after the death of a guest. Now

questions are being asked about broadcasters’ moral responsibility towards those appearing on screen.

[10] *The Jeremy Kyle Show*: TV with no moral compass

Inez: *The Jeremy Kyle Show* was one of British TV’s most-watched daytime programmes, regularly attracting an audience of more than one million. Based on the concept of placing guests in confrontational situations with each other, the show was always controversial. Yet after 14 years and more than 3,000 episodes, the programme has been cancelled by the television network ITV. The cancellation is a

bleat ▶ meckern

controversial

▶ umstritten

edge: ~ one’s way ▶ sich langsam voranarbeiten

flatulence ▶ Blähungen

health benefits

▶ gesundheitliche Vorteile

interfere ▶ sich einmischen

leap ▶ Sprung

meadow ▶ Wiese

menu ▶ Speiseplan

notorious

▶ berühmt-berüchtigt

plant-based diet

▶ pflanzliche Ernährung

direct consequence of the suspected suicide of a 63-year-old man who had appeared on the show days before. After the incident, concerns were raised about TV producers' dereliction of duty towards their guests, and the potential repercussions of appearing on such shows for people's lives. "Dereliction of duty" is a deliberate or accidental failure to do what you should do as part of your job, and a "repercussion" is an indirect and usually negative result that follows an action or event. In an opinion piece from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers argue that although boundaries of taste change over time, this doesn't excuse broadcasters from a duty of care to people who appear on screen. Let's find out more as we listen to the first part of the editorial.

The availability of an audience is not, in itself, justification for putting on a spectacle. There are things people would be quite prepared to watch that are illegal to display. There are many more things that the law does not prohibit, but that broadcasters choose not to show. The *Jeremy Kyle Show* ... joined that number, cancelled [this spring] by ITV after the death of a participant in the programme. [The man was found dead in a suspected suicide after growing concerns about the repercussions of his appearance on the programme.] It is the right decision, taken tragically too late.

The 14-year-old show has attracted controversy before. In 2007, a judge described it as "human bear-baiting" in the trial of a man convicted of assault on set. The programme's producers have subsequently faced many accusations of ... dereliction of duty towards the people invited to share the most intimate aspects of their private lives with a million-strong daytime audience.

Inez: Sadly, bad behaviour on reality TV programmes often increases their popularity, while social media adds a further dimension. A single embarrassing moment can be watched repeatedly by millions of viewers online. That has the potential to ruin the life of someone vulnerable — in other words, someone who's

assault ▶ Angriff, Körperverletzung

bear-baiting
▶ Bärenhetze

boundaries of taste
▶ die Grenzen des guten Geschmacks

deliberate ▶ absichtlich, bewusst

embarrassing
▶ peinlich

participant
▶ Teilnehmer(in)

prohibit ▶ verbieten, untersagen

subsequently
▶ anschließend

suicide ▶ Selbstmord

suspected
▶ mutmaßlich

weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally. Producers defend themselves by saying that every participant gives their consent to appear, which means they give their permission to take part. But as a wave of recent suicides of reality participants in the UK indicates, more must be done to protect their future well-being. Let's listen to the second excerpt.

Repeats and viral YouTube segments significantly increase the exposure. A vulnerable person can have their life defined — some say ruined — by a single moment of bad behaviour. The broadcaster's first defence is that people give their consent to appear on air and might benefit from the experience. The follow-up line is that criticism comes from intellectual snobs who aren't obliged to watch. ...

Inez: Critics accuse programmes like *The Jeremy Kyle Show* of preying on unhappy people. "To prey on" someone is to take advantage of them or harm them. The editorial writers describe this as the "commodification of misery", in other words, the act of turning suffering into a product that can be bought and sold. Though the shows themselves may be traumatic for the participants, the writers point out that it is only afterwards that the real problems start. Now listen to the third and final excerpt.

The consent defence is a slippery one when people have no way to fairly judge the risks. The *Jeremy Kyle Show* needed a steady supply of vulnerable, unhappy people, and producers had every incentive to provoke extreme reactions, prey on insecurity and turn a blind eye to mental health problems. Human weakness is TV ratings fuel... Cruelty is in the business model. ...

[T]he whole enterprise was premised on the commodification of misery. The problem is not what appears on screen ..., but what happens off screen — what becomes of the participants, their families, their mental health. ...

Source: © *Guardian News & 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

editorial writer

► Leitartikel-
Verfasser(in)

excerpt ► Auszug

exposure

► Ausgesetztsein,
Entblößung

incentive ► Anreiz

indicate ► darauf
hinweisen, zeigen

obliged: be ~ to do sth.

► etw. tun müssen

premised ► basiert

slippery ► rutschig;
hier: trügerisch

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

What verb means to take advantage of someone or harm them? To prey on

If you give your permission for something to happen, you give your... consent.

A deliberate or accidental failure to do what you should do as part of your job is called... a dereliction of duty.

Someone who's weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally can be described as... vulnerable.

What do we call the act of turning something into a product that can be bought and sold? Commodification

An indirect and usually negative result that follows an action or event can be called a... repercussion.

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

See Spotlight 9/2019, page 69

Around Oz

[12] Iron man

David: What household chores do you hate the most? Our Around Oz columnist Peter Flynn has a particular hatred for ironing. But those shirts need to be wrinkle-free, so what's an Australian man to do?

Yesterday, I personally ironed my best dress shirts. That will be unremarkable to most people, who probably hate ironing as much as everyone else. Actually, I don't think anybody hates ironing as much as I do.

After decades of ironing for myself and the kids, I decided a few years ago to outsource this household chore to a new business just around the corner called Ling's Ironing and Alterations Services. Ling was a beautiful Chinese immigrant who first charged only \$A 1.50 to iron shirts and \$A 2 for trousers, and gave frequent customers like me bottles of wine for

alterations

► Änderungs-

charge ► berechnen

dress shirt ► Oberhemd, Anzughemd

household chore

► Hausarbeit

ironing ► Bügeln

wrinkle-free
► faltenfrei

Christmas. (Yes, I know it should have been me giving wine to her, but Ling insisted.)

Sadly, she had to go back to China to look after her sick mum and never returned. I stuck by the new owner, but recently realized that the price had more than doubled. And because I'd left the corporate world, almost all those shirts belonged to my sons.

Therefore, I've reacquainted myself with the ironing board and am ready to share a lazy man's advice on how to save time and still look like you didn't sleep in the clothes you're wearing. (By the way, my mum taught me the correct techniques so well — such as doing cuffs and collars first, then sleeves and so on — I don't recall that any of my three ex-wives ever ironed a single thing for me.)

The most important thing is to have a good-quality steam iron and a big ironing board that's at least 40 centimetres at the widest end. And, it has to stand high enough so that you don't need to stoop. No, you can't iron sitting down. Why? Well, just because.

Remember to leave only the top two buttons on your shirts undone before you put them in the washing machine. This will save lots of time when you do the ironing. Next, hang the washing properly (some people say to use coat hangers) so that the wind blows out a lot of the creases during the drying process. When dry, lay your ironing flat on the laundry bench.

I still iron the collar first, and that's the only time I use the narrow end of the ironing board. Then I do the sleeves and cuffs from the front side, with enough heat to iron the back at the same time. Same with the front of the shirt, carefully stretched over the widest part of the board; front and back are ironed at the same time. Some people put aluminium foil under the board cover to get more heat on the back of the shirt.

Since most of us now wear our shirts outside our trousers, you need to pay special attention to the hem and tail. Check the back of the shirt and sleeves to make sure you have those little shoulder and cuff pleats, then hang for three minutes, maximum. Treat good trousers the same way.

coat hanger

► Kleiderbügel

collar ► Kragen

corporate

► Unternehmens-

crease ► Falte

cuff ► Ärmelaufschlag

foil ► Folie

hem ► Saum

pleat ► Falte (mit scharfer Kante)

reacquaint ► sich wieder anfreunden

stoop ► hier: gebückt stehen

tail ► hier: Hemdzipfel

Finally, stop ironing jeans, T-shirts and, seriously, your underwear.

Source: Spotlight 9/2019, page 63

English at Work

[13] Refusing a request

David: In each edition, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken has advice on how to refuse a request politely.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. At work, people often ask you to do things. In some cases, you want to refuse this request. How do you say “no” in a polite, reasonable way? Listen to this short extract from a conversation between Martin, a project team leader, and Jeanette, one of his team members. Listen especially to how Jeanette refuses Martin’s request about presenting the project status to one of the project stakeholders.

Martin: Oh, before I go. One more thing. Friday morning. Brian Mason is coming in. We need to give him a project update. Can you spare thirty minutes around ten o’clock to brief him?

Jeanette: Oh. I’m afraid I can’t, Martin. I’m in Amsterdam meeting with the IT team on Friday.

Martin: Oh, yes. I totally forgot.

Jeanette: I’m really sorry, but perhaps Jack is free. He’s pretty clued up. With your support he should be fine.

Ken: Jeanette uses a four-step approach to refuse Martin’s request. Step 1: Jeanette apologizes using the phrase “I’m afraid”.

Jeanette: Oh. I’m afraid I can’t, Martin.

Ken: When you use the phrase “I’m afraid” in this way, it means that it’s not in your power to help just at the moment. Step 2: Jeanette gives a valid reason for the refusal.

Jeanette: I’m in Amsterdam meeting with the IT team on Friday.

Ken: Her reason needs to be both valid and acceptable to Martin. Step 3: Jeanette empathizes with Martin’s situation.

approach ► Methode, Vorgehensweise

empathize ► Mitgefühl empfinden

brief sb. ► jmdn. kurz informieren

stakeholder
► Beteiligte(r)

clued up: be ~ ► gut informiert sein, gut Bescheid wissen

valid ► stichhaltig, triftig

Jeanette: I'm really sorry.

Ken: Step 4: she tries to offer an alternative solution.

Jeanette: But perhaps Jack is free. He's pretty clued up. With your support he should be fine.

Ken: Now it's your turn to practice refusing a request. First you'll hear Martin asking you to attend the meeting. I'll then remind you of the four steps one by one. After each reminder, there'll be a pause for you to speak. Then you'll hear Jeanette again. OK? Let's try.

Martin: Can you come to a meeting on Friday morning?

Ken: Apologize using "I'm afraid".

Jeanette: Oh. I'm afraid I can't, Martin.

Ken: Now give a valid reason for the refusal.

Jeanette: I'm in Amsterdam meeting with the IT team on Friday.

Ken: Now empathize with Martin.

Jeanette: I'm really sorry.

Ken: Offer an alternative solution.

Jeanette: Perhaps Jack is free. He's pretty clued up. With your support he should be fine.

Ken: Now try refusing in a different situation. Again, you'll first hear Martin's request. I'll remind you of the steps one by one. You speak in the pause. And, finally, Jeanette will give you her version.

Martin: Can you stay on this evening for a couple of hours?

Ken: Apologize using "I'm afraid".

Jeanette: Oh. I'm afraid I can't, Martin.

Ken: Now give a valid reason for the refusal.

Jeanette: I have to pick up my son from after-school club at 5.30.

Ken: Now empathize with Martin.

Jeanette: I'm really sorry.

Ken: Offer an alternative solution.

Jeanette: I can come in earlier tomorrow if that helps.

Ken: Did you make a reasonable and acceptable excuse? And did you offer an alternative solution? You need to be able to say "no" sometimes, and this four-step approach helps you do it in a polite, acceptable way.

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* 9/2019, page 61

Peggy's Place

[14] Simone's on strike

David: Young people around the world have become inspired to save the environment, and it's no different at Spotlight's favourite London pub. Simone, pub-owner Peggy's granddaughter, has started a campaign against plastic at her school. While Peggy is happy to support her granddaughter's efforts, others are not so impressed. Let's grab a drink and listen in to the conversation at Peggy's Place

Jane: I don't know what I did wrong.

George: How do you mean?

Jane: Look, here I am, a smart and savvy woman...

Phil: Hmm, I'll be interested to hear where this is going.

Jane: ...and I've produced a child who's a total drippy hippy.

Phil: Watch it! That's my granddaughter you're talking about.

George: The last time I saw Simone, she looked like every other kid of her age.

Phil: Anyway, just because she doesn't dress the way you want her to, that's no reason to be critical.

George: She's probably just getting a bit rebellious. I think that's very normal.

Jane: Oh, if it was only the clothes, I wouldn't care.

George: So what's the problem?

Jane: Where do I begin? What about this letter I got from her school today?

Phil: Let me have a look. Dear... blah, blah, blah, your daughter... disruptive... bad influence... If this behaviour continues, we will consider suspending Simone from school.

George: Suspension! What exactly has she been doing?

Jane: It all started with that Greta girl from Sweden.

Peggy: I think she's terrific!

George: Hello, Peggy!

Phil: Not if she gets our granddaughter suspended from school.

Peggy: But climate change is really important. I'd be out on the streets demonstrating if I were Simone's age.

Jane: I knew you'd be on her side. Nobody ever thinks about what it's like for me.

Phil: Well, now's your chance.

disruptive ► störend,
Unruhe stiftend

drippy *ifml.*
► gefühlsduselig

grab ► (sich) schnappen

savvy *ifml.* ► clever, klug

smart ► patent, schlau

suspend ► ausschließen

Jane: Since you ask: it's a complete pain living with an environmentalist. Yesterday, she cleaned out the bathroom cabinet. Nail varnish: gone. Facial scrub: gone. Hair gel: gone. I spend a lot of money on grooming. And don't get me started on her being a vegetarian.

George: But why are they threatening to suspend her from school?

Jane: OK, so she started a campaign against plastic in the dining hall. She's organized a sit-in until the school does something about it.

Peggy: That sounds really smart to me.

Phil: Not if it interferes with her school. I'm with Jane on this one. Simone needs a good education.

Jane: I didn't say nothing about her education. It's all the trouble she's causing.

Peggy: You mean all the trouble she's causing you.

George: Have you thought about talking to her? Finding a compromise?

Jane: I've made compromises. I started buying recycled toilet paper — and tissues.

George: It might take a bit more than that to save the environment.

Phil: Would it help if I spoke to Simone?

Peggy: You know what? I think she should have the chance to present her case to all of us.

Jane: How the hell is that going to help?

George: I think Peggy's idea is good. If Simone thinks she's being taken seriously by a group

of adults, she might be willing to dial down her activism a little and concentrate on her schoolwork.

Phil: I agree. Let's give it a try.

Jane: Just please don't count on me being there.

Source: Spotlight 9/2019, page 12

Short Story

[15] “In her shoes”

David: It's almost time to say goodbye, but before then, why not sit back and enjoy this edition's short story? The scene is London in days long gone by; a time when people travelled by horse and carriage and shoes were made by hand and sold directly from the shoemaker's shop. And it's one particular pair of shoes that

carriage ← Kutsche

dial down *ifml.*

→ zurückschalten

dining hall ← Speisesaal, Mensa

facial scrub

→ Gesichtspeeling

grooming

→ Körperpflege

interfere with sth.

→ sich auf etw. auswirken

nail varnish

→ Nagellack

tissue

→ Papiertaschentuch

are at the centre of the following story; a pair of shoes whose life is intertwined with the rich and the poor of the sprawling city.

The shoes felt themselves being brought into existence by the shoemaker's practised hands: their leather being cut and shaped and polished. And when they were finished, they sat in the window of his shop, a pair of bright red leather shoes, looking out at a London street, at men and women, at children and cats and dogs and at carriages and horses.

Every day on the street, a girl with a baby in her arms sold flowers to people who walked by. Soon, the shoes understood that there were good and bad people beyond the window. There were people who wouldn't look at the flower girl or were nasty to her, and then there were people who smiled and bought a posy of violets from her.

This is how the shoes passed the time, watching and learning about life, until, one day, a woman named Mrs Smyth came into the shoemaker's shop and bought them.

"Oh, Mother, they're beautiful!" said Nancy Smyth when she opened the box and saw the shoes, one of many presents for her sixth birthday. "I'll wear them every day."

"You most certainly will not," said her mother. "Just think what people would say if my daughter wore the same shoes every day."

"See!" Nancy had put them on and was spinning around the room. "Don't they look lovely with my new red dress?"

"Oh dear!" said Mrs Smyth. "You look horribly rotund in that dress, Nancy. No more birthday cake for you."

The shoes were shocked to hear the mother's heartless comments, but soon learned that it was in her nature to be heartless.

A few days later, Mrs Smyth and Nancy were walking home from church when a little girl asked them for something to eat. Nancy took a bag of sweets from her pocket, but before she could give them to the girl, her mother said angrily, "Don't give her anything. We don't talk to people like that. We don't even look at them." "Sorry, Mother," said Nancy, and her red shoes were sorry, too, not because Nancy had done anything wrong, but because she'd tried to do something right and been told it was wrong. Would Nancy ever learn, wondered the shoes, that it was Mrs Smyth who was in the wrong? They didn't get a chance to find out, because

intertwined

• verwoben

nasty • gemein

posy • Blumenstrauß

rotund • rundlich, dick

spin • drehen, wirbeln

sprawling • weitläufig

walk by

• vorübergehen

Nancy soon grew out of the red shoes, and for years, they sat forgotten at the back of her wardrobe.

“Throw out these old shoes,” Mrs Smyth told her maid, Rita, one day.

“Yes, my lady,” said Rita, and wrapped the red shoes in a newspaper.

The shoes were sad and a little frightened to hear that they were to be thrown out. Nancy had worn them only a few times; she would have worn them much more often, but her mother always told her that people would think they were poor if she wore the same shoes every day. The shoes waited to be thrown away, but a few days later, they were taken out of their newspaper wrapping and inspected.

“Oh, Rita, these are quality shoes,” said a woman whose hair was covered in a black cloth. “They look new.”

“They are, or as good as,” said Rita. “I feel bad for not doing what my lady said, God forgive me, but I couldn’t throw them away, knowing that some child would be happy to have them.”

The other woman, whose name was Sister Margaret, and who worked at an orphanage in the East End of London, gave the red shoes to a little girl. The girl was called Dove, and she was so happy to have the shoes that she wore them to bed that night and then all day and every day after that.

One day, Dove was helping Sister Margaret welcome new orphans. One of the children, a boy, offered Dove the last piece of an apple he was eating. The boy’s hands were filthy and Dove refused to take the fruit. But Sister Margaret accepted the apple for her, thanking the boy.

That evening, she told Dove, “I hope you learned an important lesson today, which is that you are no better or worse than anybody else. If someone offers you something, you accept it graciously, and if someone asks you for something, you give it if you can. We cannot afford to refuse kindness from anyone.”

Dove took the lesson to heart. When she grew out of the red leather shoes, she gave them to another child, telling their new owner that the shoes should be passed on once she had outgrown them.

Some years later, an orphan called Lizzie was given the shoes. By now, they were old and worn, and they knew they wouldn’t be of much use for very much longer. Lizzie was out one day with Sister Margaret collecting

cloth ▶ Tuch

filthy ▶ dreckig,
schmutzig

graciously ▶ freundlich

maid ▶ Hausangestellte

orphanage
▶ Waisenhaus

wrap ▶ einwickeln

money for the orphanage when the shoes saw their first owner, Nancy, in the street. She was with a group of young women in smart hats and expensive coats.

“Could you spare some money for the orphans?” asked Sister Margaret, as they neared. “Filthy beggars!” said Nancy, without even looking at them, and pulling a little closer to her friends as she walked past.

The shoes didn’t know if they had a heart, but if they did have one, it broke that day, for the little girl they had once known. The girl who had wanted to give away her sweets but had been told that it was the wrong thing to do had become just as heartless as her mother. As they came to the end of their long life, they realized that if they had seen Nancy from the shoemaker’s shop window, they would have judged her to be bad, but that she was bad through no fault of her own; she had been shaped by her mother, just as the orphans had been shaped by Sister Margaret, and the shoes had been shaped into form by the shoemaker all those years ago. It had taken them a lifetime to learn that lesson, but it was a lesson worth living a lifetime to learn.

Source: Spotlight 9/2019, 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.

beggar ▶ Bettler(in)

judge sb. ▶ jmdn.
beurteilen

spare ▶ erübrigen

subscriber
▶ Abonnent(in)

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Contents

E 1. Introduction	1:18	A 9. Replay: Recent news events	
E 2. Britain Today		Introduction	0:37
The post-Brexit burger	4:52	A 10. The Jeremy Kyle Show:	
A 3. A Day in My Life		TV with no moral compass	5:24
In an emergency	2:12	A 11. Words and phrases	1:41
A 4. Travel		A 12. Around Oz	
Time traveling		Iron man	3:46
in New York	3:58	M 13. English at Work	
A 5. Interview		Refusing a request	6:26
New York's grammar queen	2:37	M 14. Peggy's Place	
E 6. Roundtable		Simone's on strike	3:58
Enamoured of grammar	5:29	M 15. Short Story	
M 7. Everyday English		"In her shoes"	7:23
A day at the loch	3:12	E 16. Conclusion	0:30
M 8. Grammar Tales		Total playing time	62:38
"The three billy goats Gruff"	9:09		