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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to edition 10/2019 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.

How would you describe your favourite photograph? Spotlight looks at the essential words and phrases you'll need to master this task.

Come with us to Mumbai, where colonial architecture, Bollywood and some of Asia's biggest slums exist together in a city that never sleeps.

The world is getting fatter and people's health is being affected. Meet a British chef who says we need to rethink our approach to obesity and being overweight.

Britain Today

[2] Sun, sea and stones

David: It's been a long time since our British columnist Colin Beaven last visited Croatia. Back then, he took home a special souvenir and now wonders if that wasn't a mistake. It couldn't get him in trouble after so many years, could it?

“Is this your first trip to Pula?” the driver asked us as we travelled in the taxi from the airport. This was at the start of our holiday in Croatia. “No, as it happens,” I said, “I was here

55 years ago.”

“I see,” was the answer. He could have sounded more impressed; I was hoping for some compliments, like “Wow! That's amazing! You must have been incredibly young at the time.” I was. I was ten. One of the teachers at the girls' school where my mother worked was organizing a big foreign adventure, and my mother, my sister and I were allowed to join in. It meant taking a train across Europe from Ostend to Salzburg, and a coach from Austria to Lovran, where we stayed.

Pula was a day trip. Somewhere, I still have a photo of our coach, with the amphitheatre in the background. It was roughly 19 centuries old. By the time we were driving past it in the taxi, on the way into town from the airport, its age was roughly 19 and a half.

Virgilio and Mario are in that photo — the drivers who took it in turn to get us across the mountains to the Adriatic. Hearts fluttered non-stop during the journey, partly because of the hairpin bends, and partly because the

affect ► beeinträchtigen

approach ► Haltung, Einstellung

coach UK ► Reisebus

flutter ► flattern, rasen

hairpin bend ► Haarnadelkurve

obesity ► Fettleibigkeit

turn: take in ~ ► sich abwechseln

coach was full of British teenage schoolgirls. How could they not fall in love with those charming smiles from Mario, those winning looks from Virgilio and those stylish Italian sunglasses?

All very romantic, but most of my memories revolve around food. And drink: my first taste of real coffee in the *Pension* near Salzburg, where we stayed overnight; peaches from a stall by the roadside in Italy; the fruity taste of Yugoslavian cola.

Did we bring back a souvenir? Yes, though I'm embarrassed to admit it: a small white square stone. It's a piece of mosaic. While we were in Pula, someone found it, picked it up and kept it.

I still have it. When we booked our holiday, I wondered whether I ought to take it back. I know: it's a small white stone, not the Elgin Marbles — the decorative sculptures Lord Elgin took from the top of the Parthenon in the early 19th century. They found their way to the British Museum in 1816, and have been there ever since. The Greeks want them returned to Athens. They've kept a space ready and waiting in the Acropolis Museum.

I didn't really expect to find an enormous mosaic in Pula with a single piece missing, and a sign asking the vandal who thought he was a second Lord Elgin to kindly return it.

We did find mosaics, but none with any

obvious gap for my stone. It's a good thing I hadn't put it in my luggage; I'd only have had to bring it home again. That might have been hard to explain when my bag was checked at the airport.

So, the stone's still here in Britain. Like many other things that probably shouldn't be. I keep it next to a bit of Roman pot that — well, if I'm honest — I haven't a clue where it came from.

Source: *Spotlight* 10/2019, page 11

A Day in My Life

[3] Manuscript maven

David: In *A Day in My Life* we meet Kristine Rose-Beers. The 38-year-old is the senior conservator at the Chester Beatty Library, which is based in the grounds of the historic Dublin Castle in Ireland. Her job involves the preservation and conservation of art objects within the extensive collection. In the first part of the interview, Rose-Beers talks about what kind

clue: to not have a ~ ifml.

► keine blasse Ahnung haben

embarrassed: be ~ to do

sth. ► sich genießen,

etw. zu tun

peach ► Pfirsich

preservation ► Erhaltung, Schutz

revolve ► sich drehen um

stall ► Verkaufstand

of damage she looks for when examining an object.

Rose-Beers: When I'm looking at an object, I'm trying to think about who needs this object, why have I been asked to look at it and what does the object need? So, is it showing signs of physical damage, such as a book which might have been opened too wide or strained in opening, perhaps the pages have become torn. It could be insect damage. Has this object been weakened through an insect that has nibbled his way through the pages hundreds of years ago? Or is it a chemical damage? Are the materials that the book was made with now suffering because of light or changes in humidity and temperature? All of these factors play into what we're looking for.

David: So what kind of approach does the Chester Beatty Library employ when working to conserve an object?

Rose-Beers: The decision, then, is what to do about it, and we have an approach here of minimal intervention. So, we're really trying to make the smallest intervention necessary to stabilize the object. I really like this approach because I think it preserves the integrity of the object. It's about making sure that we're not trying to fool anyone into believing that any object has not had a long and adventurous life. It's much more about saying, OK, this is a book which is a thousand years old, and you can see

evidence of that on its pages. However, we can ensure that you can still enjoy it through display in our galleries or access as a scholar in the reading room.

David: Although every project is different, Rose-Beers gives an example of how long a current project has taken her to complete.

Rose-Beers: The time that a project takes really varies. It's sort of as long as a piece of string. The manuscript that's on my bench today dates to 1380. It's Italian and it's beautifully illuminated and the treatment, thankfully, has only taken about three days. All it needed was localized consolidation of the pigments that it was painted with. Some of the areas of pigment had begun to lift and flake away from the surface. So, working under a microscope, I insert adhesive beneath the flakes to bring them

adhesive ► Klebstoff
Haftmittel

consolidation ► Festigung, Verstärkung

flake away ► abblättern

fool sb. ► jmdn. täuschen, jmdm. etw. vormachen

illuminated ► hier: mit Ornamenten und Initialen verziert, illuminiert

nibble ► knabbern, nagen

scholar ► Wissenschaftler(in)

strain ► überdehnen, beanspruchen

surface ► Oberfläche

back down to the surface of the parchment and ensure that they stay there, hopefully.

David: The Chester Beatty Library contains a wealth of manuscripts, paintings, prints, drawings, rare books and decorative arts. How does the library decide which objects to work on?

Rose-Beers: We're very much driven by exhibitions and loans. This is one of our key driving factors. This particular Italian book, it was required for digitization after exhibition, so that's the reason it had become a priority. The other project which I'm working on is a much longer project, and it will take a lot longer before it's ready to go. That's an early eighth-century Koran manuscript on parchment. It's a really fascinating object. I've been working on that now for over four years.

See Spotlight 10/2019, pages 12–13

Travel

[4] 48 hours in Mumbai

David: In this edition, Spotlight travels to beautiful India, a country rich in culture, delicious food and friendly people. Travel writer Aparna Pednekar introduces us to the city of Mumbai. She recommends getting an early start and discovering Mumbai by bike. As you listen to the first extract from the travel feature, try to find the answer to this question. Why is it recommended to visit the city's markets and bazaars early in the day?

Take advantage of any jet lag by pre-booking an early-morning bicycle ride in South Mumbai. It's a rare opportunity to see a relatively peaceful side to a city that never sleeps. South Mumbai is home to the city's prettiest spots and most enduring landmarks. A slow cycle along some of its wide roads will take you past majestic art-deco buildings from the days of the British Raj, allowing you a glimpse of the architectural beauty and soul of the city that is otherwise lost among the enormous daytime crowds.

Head first to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (locals still call it "VT", short for "Victoria Terminus"), one of India's busiest railway stations. Admire this Victorian Gothic-style UNESCO World Heritage Site with tall arches, Mughal

arch ▶ Bogen, Gewölbe

digitization ▶ Digitalisierung

enduring ▶ beständig

extract ▶ Auszug

glimpse ▶ kurzer Blick

landmark ▶ Wahrzeichen

loan ▶ Leihgabe

parchment ▶ Pergament

Raj: British ▶ Britische Kolonialherrschaft in Indien

World Heritage Site
▶ Weltkulturerbe

domes, gargoyles, turrets and arcades, before an estimated three million commuters pass through it — every day. Take a look at the city's wholesale markets, Crawford Market and the bazaars at Kalbadevi and Bhuleshwar, before it becomes impossible to squeeze through the crowds.

In Bhuleshwar, stop to see Bombay Panjrapole, the city's oldest animal shelter, which houses over 350 cows and other homeless animals, and the Mumba Devi Temple, dedicated to the city's patron goddess. End your ride at Marine Drive, the 3.6-kilometre seaside boulevard that defines Mumbai's landscape.

David: So, why should tourists visit Mumbai's bazaars and markets early? It's because later in the day it will become impossible to squeeze through the crowds. Our tour now takes us to Mumbai's most famous — or infamous — slum, Dharavi. Listen to the excerpt and answer this question. Why might visitors be surprised by what they find in Dharavi?

Most tourists are curious about Mumbai's slums and poverty, which coexist with soaring skyscrapers and all manner of prosperity. Forget anything anyone has told you about slums (remember instead the advice about keeping an open mind), put on your walking shoes and some sunblock, and get ready to be surprised

by Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums. Dharavi bustles with life and Mumbai's indomitable enterprising spirit. You'll pass charity-funded schools, plastic and waste recycling plants, and an ocean of tiny workshops housing small industries that, together, have a yearly turnover estimated at around \$1 billion. With more than 5,000 businesses and 15,000 single-room factories, Dharavi employs workers from across the country, and will certainly change any notions

animal shelter ▶ Tierheim

billion ▶ Milliarde(n)

bustle: ~ with life ▶ mit Leben erfüllt sein

commuter ▶ Pendler(in)

dedicate ▶ widmen, weihen

enterprising spirit
▶ Unternehmergeist, Einfallsreichtum

gargoyle ▶ Wasserspeier

indomitable ▶ unbezwingbar, unbezähmbar

infamous ▶ berüchtigt

notion ▶ Vorstellung

patron goddess
▶ Schutzgöttin

prosperity ▶ Wohlstand, Reichtum

soaring ▶ hoch aufragend

squeeze ▶ sich (hindurch)quetschen

turnover ▶ Umsatz

turret ▶ Mauerturm, Türmchen

wholesale ▶ Großhandels-

you may have of a desolate “slum”.

David: So, why might visitors be surprised by what they find in Dharavi? Rather than being a desolate slum, there are actually thousands of businesses, small factories, schools and even recycling plants where people study and work in search of a better life.

Source: *Spotlight* 10/2019, pages 26–34

Spotlight sound bites

[5] Cool pix!

David: On social media, photographs are everywhere. But describing what you see in a photograph requires particular language skills. In the current language feature in *Spotlight*, you can learn these valuable skills and find out what kind of vocabulary is typical for different types of photograph. In a new episode of *Spotlight* sound bites, we hear how our colleagues describe their favourite picture.

Owen: Hello, this is Owen Connors, the audio editor from *Spotlight*, and today we are going around the *Spotlight* offices and asking some of our colleagues about their favourite picture, and if they would describe that picture to us. And the first person we are going to talk to is Dr Ian McMaster, the chief editor at *Business Spotlight*. Hello, Ian.

Ian: Owen, hi!

Owen: What is your favourite photograph, and could you describe it for us?

Ian: Well, in fact, I have two favourite photographs, but they are connected, and I can see both of them sitting here from my desk. The main photo is from 1970 from the Football World Cup, which took place in Mexico. I was 11 at the time. England played against Brazil in a group game that Brazil won 1–0, but the photo is of a save by the English goalkeeper Gordon Banks, who sadly died earlier this year. Banks made a save from a header by Pelé, the Brazilian player, who was the greatest player at the time, and nobody could understand how Gordon Banks had saved this header. The ball did not end up in the net, and there’s a very famous photo of that save, which I can see here in front of me. The second photo is also Gordon Banks, the English goalkeeper, but this is in a league game in England and instead of saving a ball, he’s catching a dog that had run across the pitch. So, in the picture you see Gordon Banks diving and with a dog in his hands.

chief editor ▶ Chef-
redakteur(in)

desolate ▶ trostlos,
hoffnungslos

goalkeeper ▶ Torwart

header ▶ Kopfball

league game ▶ Ligaspiel

pitch ▶ Spielfeld

save ▶ hier: Ballabwehr

So, these two pictures go together, and they're my favourite photos.

Owen: Thank you very much, Ian. And next we have our picture editor, Sarah Gough. Sarah could you tell us about your favourite photograph?

Sarah: I don't have one favourite photograph, obviously, but one of my favourite photographers is Martin Parr. He has an eye for what I call the quirky moments of everyday life. And in this shot I picked out, it's a horizontal shot, you're at a beach, probably in England because the weather's really bad. And you see two men from the back, and not complete close-up, but slight close up. One of them is a Sikh with a bright orange turban, and he's doing stretching exercises. The other is an elderly gentleman in shorts standing with his hands behind his back looking at the Sikh in a slightly puzzled manner. It seems as if he were dying to join in, but he can't find the courage to do it. And I just find this image very touching. On the one hand, it's slightly cruel, but it's also very tender, and most of Martin's photographs are like that.

Owen: Wonderful! Thank you, Sarah. And we are also in the office of Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of Spotlight. And Inez, would you tell us about your favourite photograph and describe it for us, please.

Inez: Yes, I'm happy to. So, this picture is by the Russian photographer Alexander Rodchenko,

and I used to teach design many, many, many years ago, and Alexander Rodchenko somehow turned up in this design course, don't ask me why. And I saw, in a collection of photographs, one image that he had taken of a woman walking up some steps. And it's a black-and-white photograph, probably from the 1920s or '30s, and it's a very graphic picture in the sense that these steps are black and white going all across the image, and they're very clearly delineated, and on these steps, you have this gentle shape of this woman with this baby as a contrast to it. She's holding the child in her arms; you can only see her from the back. It's a day where the sun is shining very clearly, probably not such a warm day. She's wearing a coat and

close-up ► Nahaufnahme

delineated: clearly ~
► klar abgegrenzt

die to do sth. ► etw. wahnsinnig gern tun wollen

editor-in-chief ► Chefredakteur(in)

elderly ► älter

horizontal ► hier: Querformat-

picture editor ► Bildredakteur(in)

puzzled ► verwundert

quirky ► skurril, ungewöhnlich

shot ► Aufnahme

stretching ► Dehn-

tender ► zart, liebevoll

she's holding the child quite close, but you can see the child, and I printed out... actually, I cut out — I never do this normally — I cut this out of a book and hung it on my son's wall when he was a baby, and it hung on the wall of his bedroom until he moved out when he was 19. And he took the picture with him, and it now hangs on his wall wherever he happens to be living at the moment in Lisbon. So, yeah, that picture by Alexander Rodchenko, probably because of this sense of being a new mother when [my son] was born, and I loved the contrast. I love Alexander Rodchenko's photographs anyway.

Owen: Thank you very much, Inez. And we are now in the office of Claudine Weber-Hof, the deputy editor of Spotlight. Claudine, could you tell us about your favourite picture and could you describe it for us?

Claudine: It would be my distinct pleasure to do so, Mr Connors. In fact, my favourite photo is right here along the hallowed halls of Spotlight Verlag. Join me! So, we're walking down the hall to the bit of wall that's just across from our picture desk, and rightly so, because what I'm looking at is an oversized photo of the Mediterranean. This photograph inspires me every time I pass by, and you would understand it if you could see it, too, because it is this expansive seascape showing you the brilliant blue of the Mediterranean, the shimmering water, the cool white rock of cliffs that are

going down into the sea. Brilliant green pines reaching up towards the sun. This particular photo was used on the cover of *Adesso*, our sister magazine here at Spotlight Verlag, and I have to say, you've got to give them credit. They have such beautiful covers, covers that really inspire you to want to travel to Italy.

Owen: Super! Thank you so much, Claudine. Well, I hope you've enjoyed this tour around the Spotlight offices and hearing from our colleagues, and I hope this has inspired you to think about your favourite pictures and how you would describe them. Thank you. Bye, bye.

See Spotlight 10/2019, pages 42–45

credit: give ~ to sb.

► jmdm. Anerkennung zollen

deputy editor ► stellvertretende(r) Chefredakteur(in)

distinct ► besonders, ausgesprochen(e,s,r)

expansive ► weitläufig

hallowed halls ► heilige Hallen

picture desk ► Bildredaktion

pine ► Kiefer, Pinie

seascape ► Meerespanorama

Everyday English

[6] An online course

David: Many people spend years working in the same job and often wonder if there's anything else out there for them. In Everyday English, we meet Ben who knows exactly how this feels. He's talking to his friend Kate about finding something new. Listen to their conversation and try to answer these questions. Why hasn't Ben done anything to change his work situation yet? And what is Kate doing to improve her professional skills?

Ben: Ah! That's better. What a day! Sometimes, I hate my job. I really need to start looking for something else.

Kate: You've been saying that for years. What on earth is stopping you?

Ben: I just never get round to it, I suppose.

Kate: You know what they say... there's no time like the present.

Ben: I know, I know. Maybe I'll update my CV this weekend. How's your online course going?

Kate: Changing the subject, are we? Yeah, the course is really good. Definitely better than I expected.

Ben: What is it you're doing again?

Kate: I'm doing a short course in bookkeeping for personal and business accounting.

Ben: Oh, wow! That sounds very grown up.

David: Were you able to find the answers? Ben told Kate that he has just never got round to looking for a new job. This means that he has never found the time to do it. Kate, on the other hand, is taking online courses to improve her bookkeeping skills and explains the advantages of such courses to Ben. Listen to the conversation and try to answer these questions. Why does Kate think an online course might be good for Ben? And can you list some of the features of Kate's course?

Kate: You know, you should take a look at all the online courses on offer. Maybe you'd find something that would inspire you to try something totally different.

Ben: I hadn't thought about doing a course, but maybe it would help me think about what I'd like to do.

Kate: You can do almost anything. I'm just doing a short course, but they also have in-depth programmes for professional accreditation and they even have whole degree courses. The course I'm doing is really well designed, I think. The tutor explains things in short

accounting ► Buchhaltung, Buchführung

CV (curriculum vitae)
► Lebenslauf

degree course ► Studiengang

designed ► konzipiert, gestaltet

videos, and you get a task to complete afterwards. And there's even a forum for exchanging ideas with other students.

David: If you said that Kate believes that an online course might inspire Ben to try something new, you're correct! During the conversation, Kate lists some of the features of her course. These include short video tutorials, tasks to complete afterwards and a forum for exchanging ideas with other students. Now all Ben has to do is get around to picking a subject, and he might be on his way to a new career.

Source: Spotlight 10/2019, pages 54–55

Food

[7] Why we're getting fatter

David: Obesity has become a public health emergency in the UK, and no solution to the problem has yet been found. In an interview with *Spotlight*, British chef and author Anthony Warner presents a very different view of what healthy eating really means. In the first excerpt from the interview, Warner talks about what drives him to write about food.

Warner: I guess the heart of my writing is always that food is a pleasure and it's a joy. I'm a cook, I'm a chef at heart, and I enjoy eating and I enjoy food, and I think it's a great source of pleasure for people. And, really, the reason for my writing, more than anything, is that I feel that [food] has become a battleground.

It's become a really difficult, complex place for people to navigate. It's become full of anxiety and worry and stress.

David: Warner believes we have become prejudiced against overweight people and that this prejudice is based on a major misconception about weight.

Warner: Probably the biggest misconception of all is that people's weight is somehow a signifier of their will power, and their moral strength. Really, weight is, genetically, one of the most heritable characteristics that's ever been studied, and I think people don't really understand it. When food is freely available, the heritability of someone's body weight is about 70 per cent, height is about 80 per cent. Plenty of things that we think of as being extremely heritable are far less than that.

anxiety ► Besorgnis,
Ängstlichkeit

excerpt ► Auszug

heart: at ~ ► im Grunde

heritable ► erblich

misconception ►
falsche Vorstellung

navigate ► hier: sich
zurechtfinden

obesity ► Fettleibigkeit

signifier ► Anzeichen

David: As a fierce critic of the diet industry, Warner believes that failure is built into its business model.

Warner: All [diets] can produce a short-term loss of weight, because that's really easy to do, but generally people's weight rebounds in the long term. And the diet industry depends on that. If it worked, it would stop existing within a very short period of time, because people would just lose weight and lose interest in diets. The genius of the diet industry is that it almost always fails, but it also manages to convince people that when it fails, that's their fault, and they need to go back and just try again and try harder or try a new product or buy a new thing.

David: For Warner, the problems of unhealthy eating and obesity are rooted in social and psychological issues.

Warner: It's a difficult problem. But I think, really, if you're worried about people's health, and you're worried about people's well being, and you're worried about so-called lifestyle diseases, you need to improve people's lives. You need to improve people's lives from the bottom up. I talked about the project in Holland which looked at tackling childhood obesity, and it really had a bottom-up approach, worked with the most vulnerable people, and the most vulnerable children especially, and helped them in their lives, and gave them

strategies which worked for them. And did all those complex, difficult things on the ground, which you need to do if you're going to help people improve their health.

See Spotlight 10/2019, pages 36–38

Grammar Tales

[8] “The shoemaker”

David: How easy life would be were all your work done by magic while you got the success and rewards. That's what happens in the Grimm's Fairy Tales classic *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. Spotlight puts a modern twist on the story in this edition's Grammar Tales. And our grammar focus this time is on using the structure **could have + past participle** to say that it's possible that something happened or was true in the past. Listen out for examples of this as you listen to the story.

bottom-up ▶ aufwärtsgerichtet: hier: erfolgversprechend

fierce ▶ heftig, scharf

genius ▶ Geniestreich

rebound ▶ wieder ansteigen

tackle ▶ in Angriff nehmen

term: in the long ~ ▶ auf lange Sicht

twist ▶ Wendung, Interpretation

vulnerable ▶ empfindlich, verletzbar

Once upon a time there was a shoemaker called Humphrey, who lived with his wife, Mabel, in a small market town. He loved making shoes and worked hard, but it was becoming more and more difficult to make a living. High street shops had been hit by the financial crisis, and then there were online shops and large supermarkets. Things were so bad that Humphrey couldn't afford to buy more leather to make shoes. He had only enough to make one last pair. Carefully, he cut the leather and put the pieces on his workbench so that he could sew them together the next morning.

"What are we going to do?" asked Mabel. "Will we have to sell the shop?"

"Don't worry," said Humphrey. "We'll manage somehow. I'll make the shoes tomorrow and when we sell them, we'll have money to buy more leather."

The next morning, Humphrey woke up early and went down to his workshop. There, on the workbench, sat the most exquisite pair of shoes. Humphrey rubbed his eyes. Was he dreaming? The way the shoes had been sewn together was so precise and the stitching so fine that Humphrey knew that he couldn't have made them. "Mabel?" called the shoemaker, unable to take his eyes off the shoes. "Mabel?" he shouted again, a little louder.

"What's the matter?" asked Mabel as she appeared in the doorway. She could see that

her husband was staring at the shoes on the workbench. "Have you finished them already? When did you get up?" she asked.

"I didn't make them," Humphrey replied.

"What? That's weird!" said Mabel. "Who else could have made these shoes?"

"I don't know," said the shoemaker, as he placed the shoes in the window. The shoemaker was still trying to find an answer when a fancy-looking gentleman entered the shop and asked to try on the shoes. He said they were the most comfortable shoes he had ever worn. He thrust a wad of cash into the shoemaker's hand and left.

Humphrey and Mabel hugged each other and laughed in relief. Mabel immediately went to the farmers' market to buy food and Humphrey went to buy more leather at the local tannery.

fancy ► schick, nobel

high street UK ► hier:
in der Hauptstraße

hug ► umarmen

relief ► Erleichterung

sew ► nähen

stitching ► Ver-
steppung; Naht

tannery ► Gerberei

thrust ► stecken

wad of cash *ifml.*
► Geldbündel

weird *ifml.* ► seltsam,
merkwürdig

That afternoon, the shoemaker cut out two pairs of shoes and laid all the pieces on the workbench so that he could sew them the next day.

When he found two pairs of beautifully finished shoes on his workbench the next morning, he was flabbergasted. “Who could have made such exquisite shoes?” he asked his wife. “No idea,” said Mabel. Humphrey put the shoes in the window, and soon, a wealthy-looking couple came in and bought both pairs. “Quality like this is hard to find,” said the lady. “Indeed,” said Humphrey. As soon as the customers had left, he shut up the shop and went to buy more leather.

For the next few weeks, the shoemaker would cut out leather for the shoes and the following morning, he would find beautifully made shoes on the workbench. The first thing he asked himself each morning was, “Who could have made such exquisite shoes?”

Soon, the shoemaker’s shelves were filled with hundreds of pairs of beautiful shoes. The couple rebranded the shop Little Stitches and every day, they would post pictures of new shoes on Instagram. Very soon, they had over a million followers.

One evening after dinner, Humphrey said, “I’d really like to know who’s making the shoes. We owe them so much.”

“I know,” said Mabel. “I was wondering

whether we should hide in the workshop one night. Maybe we’ll see who it is.”

So one night, instead of going to bed, the couple hid. As the clock struck 12, the shoemaker and his wife heard a noise. They watched in amazement as two tiny men squeezed through a crack under the door. The elves, barefoot and dressed in rags, worked all night, turning the leather into fine shoes, and at dawn, they left.

“Elves?” said Humphrey, as they sat down for a cuppa.

“I didn’t think there were such things as elves,” said Mabel.

“Now I understand why the stitching is so fine,” continued the shoemaker.

“I feel so sorry that they don’t have warm clothes or shoes,” said Mabel. “They work all night to provide for us but have nothing themselves. Let’s make them some clothes and shoes.”

crack ► Spalt

cuppa UK *ifml*.

► Tasse Tee

dawn ► Morgendämmerung

flabbergasted *ifml*.

► verblüfft, entgeistert

owe ► schulden

provide for sb. ► für jmdn. sorgen

rag ► Fetzen, Lumpen

rebrand ► umfirmieren

squeeze ► hier: sich hindurchquetschen

The couple worked all day and in the evening, they laid two tiny jackets, two pairs of trousers and two pairs of shoes on the workbench. Then they hid and waited to see what would happen. At the stroke of midnight, the elves appeared. When they saw the clothes and shoes, they jumped with joy, got dressed and then climbed down from the workbench, before disappearing under the door.

The next day, the shoemaker cut out the leather for shoes as always, but the two elves never returned.

“I suppose they’re afraid of being seen,” the shoemaker said. “I’ll miss their help. My stitches will never be as fine and small as theirs, but I have a feeling we’ll live happily ever after anyway.”

Source: Spotlight 10/2019, 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:

The planet is on the edge of a pollution catastrophe. An effort by UK supermarkets to reduce plastic waste is welcome, but will it be enough to stop the public buying products wrapped in plastic?

[10] On packaging: back to the plastic-free future

Inez: Waitrose is one of Britain’s leading grocery chains. In a new move to combat plastic waste, one of its branches is offering customers the option of refills. In this case, that means loose or unpackaged grocery products that can be carried away using customers’ own containers. In an opinion piece from Britain’s *Guardian* newspaper, the writers point out that, although refills may seem outdated, they are now at retail’s cutting edge — in other words, the newest, most advanced stage in something’s development. However, the writers wonder if such measures will tempt customers away from standard packaged products. Let’s listen to the first excerpt from the article.

branch ▶ Zweigstelle, Filiale

combat ▶ bekämpfen

grocery ▶ Lebensmittel-

opinion piece ▶ Kommentar

outdated ▶ altmodisch, überholt

retail ▶ Einzelhandel

stroke ▶ Schlag

suppose ▶ vermuten, annehmen

tempt: ~ away ▶ weglocken

wrap ▶ einwickeln

What until recently would have looked like a quaint throwback to an old-fashioned high street is, at a Waitrose branch in Oxford, now at food retail's cutting edge. The supermarket has unveiled a scheme that follows the example of a growing number of independent eco-grocers, but could ... have a much bigger impact if successful. The pilot store will offer 48 products as refills [for the first few months]. Plastic will be removed from flowers, along with 160 varieties of fruit and vegetables. ... Increasingly, people say they dislike excessive packaging. But when offered the choice between grabbing a bag from a shelf, or refilling a carton from a larger container ... what will they do?

Inez: This is, of course, the big question. Although the more affluent — those who have a lot of money and a good standard of living — may switch to refills, this nudge or gentle push to use less plastic may not be enough. The editorial writers point out that one approach that has definitely worked to reduce waste is the government's levy — or tax — on plastic bags. Let's hear more in the second excerpt.

The supermarket is presumably hoping that its mainly affluent customers will like the new system. ... But judging from experience, and encouraging though it is when retailers do their

bit (Waitrose came third, behind Iceland and Morrisons, in Greenpeace's most recent plastics league table of supermarkets), Waitrose's nudge is unlikely to shift consumer behaviour all that much.

It took the government's introduction of a 5p levy on plastic bags to cut their use by 85%. And while recycling rates have risen sharply over the past two decades, proving that people will alter their habits, it is now stuck [at] around 45% in England. Wales does better, at 57.3%, but an EU target of 50% by 2020 looks certain to be missed.

approach ▶ Vorgehensweise

bit: do one's ~ ifml.

▶ seinen Beitrag leisten

eco-grocer ▶ Bioladen

editorial writer

▶ Leitartikelverfasser(in)

grab sth. ▶ etw. greifen;
hier: etw. mitnehmen

plastics league table

▶ eine von Greenpeace veröffentlichte Tabelle, in der Supermärkte und deren Umgang mit Plastikverpackungen geführt werden

quaint ▶ kurios, altmodisch

scheme ▶ Plan

throwback ▶ Rückkehr

unveil ▶ bekannt-machen

Inez: In the UK, the scale of the plastic problem has only recently become well-known thanks to the media and documentary films like those from broadcaster David Attenborough. The “scale” of something refers to its size or extent. But will this awareness be enough to bring about real change? Let’s listen to the final excerpt.

It is possible that rising awareness of the scale and effects of plastic pollution could lead to significant changes in shopping habits over time, if initiatives like Waitrose’s were to become widespread... Environmental regulation is needed urgently...

The “[David] Attenborough effect”, as the current plastic panic has been termed [as a result of the naturalist’s inspiring documentary series *Blue Planet*], is real. The wonder is not that people are worried now. It is that it has taken us so long.

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

What can you call loose or unpackaged grocery products that can be carried away using

customers’ own containers? Refills

What adjective describes those who have a lot of money and a good standard of living?
Affluent

What noun is a synonym for tax? Levy

The newest, most advanced stage in something’s development can be called... cutting edge.

The size or extent of something is its... scale.

A gentle push can also be called a... nudge.

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

See Spotlight 10/2019, page 69

American Life

[12] My chipmunk problem

David: There are few things more satisfying than growing your own fruit and vegetables. Our American columnist Ginger Kuenzel is a keen gardener. However, each summer she

keen ► begeistert

scale ► Ausmaß,
Größenordnung

finds herself fighting uninvited guests in her vegetable patch. It's much worse than the occasional slug or worm. In fact, this fight calls for a highly unconventional weapon.

When a friend called recently and asked what I was doing, I told her that I was in the process of ordering fox urine online. This definitely wasn't a response she was expecting. But the thing is this: I'm plagued every summer by chipmunks that consider my vegetable garden to be their own personal dining room. I've tried everything to persuade them to dine elsewhere.

My first thought was to build a fence. But these little animals squeeze right through it or climb over the top. My next solution was to place a rubber snake next to the lettuce. But that only served to scare my daughter-in-law so much that she threatened never to come to my house again. I then bought a "have-a-heart" trap, which catches animals alive. I baited it with peanut butter for the chipmunks to enjoy after a meal of peas and lettuce. All summer long, I would catch one chipmunk at a time, load the trap in my car, and drive to a wooded area. I would then return home, reset the trap, and start the whole process again. Since there are hundreds of chipmunks in these parts, it finally became clear to me that this was not a workable solution.

And so, the fox urine. I had read online that the fox is a natural predator of chipmunks. If these little rodents think that a fox has been in the garden, they understand that this might not be a safe place for them to hang out. They have no fear of humans — I could stand there and scream at the chipmunks until I was blue in the face, and they would just look at me and continue to eat my plants. Foxes, on the other hand, are creatures they want to avoid at all costs. Although there are a lot of foxes in these parts, I decided that trying to catch one and then also figure out how to get it to give me a urine sample was not my cup of tea. Ordering

bait ▶ mit einem Köder versehen

chipmunk ▶ Streifenhörnchen

cup of tea: not my ~ ifml.
▶ nicht mein Ding

fox urine ▶ Fuchsurin

lettuce ▶ Kopfsalat

occasional ▶ gelegentlich, vereinzelt

patch ▶ Beet

pea ▶ Erbse

plagued ▶ geplagt, heimgesucht

predator ▶ Raubtier;
hier: Feind

rodent ▶ Nagetier

sample ▶ Muster, Probe

slug ▶ Nacktschnecke

squeeze ▶ sich drücken, sich quetschen

trap ▶ Falle

the urine online would definitely be money well spent.

The fox urine arrived, in multiple layers of packaging. When I finally pulled out the bottle, it was completely clear why chipmunks would not want to get anywhere near this stuff. Neither did I! A number of questions arose in my mind: If this is what foxes smell like, how can other animals bear to live in the same woods with them? Do foxes relieve themselves inside their foxholes or do they step outside? And who was given the lovely task of collecting this urine and getting it to the Amazon warehouse? So many questions, so little time to think about answers. I have to tend my garden, after all, and the vegetables are growing well. I'm pretty sure the fox smell will disappear before I harvest any of them. But when I serve vegetables for dinner, I think it will be best not to mention how I managed to keep the chipmunks away this year.

Source: Spotlight 10/2019, page 35

English at Work

[13] Making your language more formal or polite

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 make your language more formal or polite.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. If you want your language to sound or look more formal or polite, use the words “would” and “could”. These words are often added to statements or questions to make them sound less dogmatic, more tentative and, therefore, more polite. For example, instead of saying, “That is unacceptable”, you add “would” and say, “That would be unacceptable”. This immediately makes the statement more polite and more formal. Now you try. I'll make a statement or ask a question. In the pause, you speak and add “would” or “could” to the sentence. Then you'll hear a model version. OK? We'll begin.

That will be too late.

That would be too late.

We can cancel the meeting.

We could cancel the meeting.

I can't agree.

I couldn't agree.

Finance will be no problem.

Finance would be no problem.

bear ▶ ertragen

relieve: ~ oneself

▶ sich erleichtern

tentative ▶ zögerlich,

vorsichtig

I prefer to meet next week.
I would prefer to meet next week.

We can increase the price.
We could increase the price.

Can you accept that?
Could you accept that?

Won't we need another meeting?
Wouldn't we need another meeting?

Can't you be more specific?
Couldn't you be more specific?

In your work you want to build appropriate relationships with your business partners. But dealing with different people is not always easy. You need to find the right style of approach. Being polite and diplomatic, using “would” and “could”, can help you in that process.

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 10/2019, page 61

Peggy's Place

[14] Community care

David: It's time to pull up a stool at the bar and say hello to our friends at Peggy's Place. In this episode, George is having a hard time at home. He and his wife find themselves balancing life between supporting their grown-up son and taking care of an elderly relative. Luckily, Peggy comes up with a great plan to help.

George: I think the name for people like us is “sandwich carer”.

Sean: What's that supposed to be?

Helen: Sandwich carers are people — actually, it's usually women — who look after their kids and their elderly parents at the same time. You know, sandwiched between the old and the young and giving help to both.

Sean: Isn't your son grown up, George? Ian's his name, right?

Helen: I thought he lived in Bristol.

approach ▶ Haltung, Vorgehensweise

appropriate ▶ angemessen

elderly ▶ älter, betagt

sandwiched ▶ hier: eingeklemmt

stool ▶ Barhocker

time: have a hard ~
▶ es schwer haben, Schwierigkeiten haben

George: No, he's back home. The job in Bristol didn't work out and we thought it'd be easier if he didn't have rent to pay while he was looking for something new.

Helen: But Ian doesn't need looking after exactly.

Peggy: I know what George is saying: when grown-up kids move back in, they start acting like teenagers again.

George: Yeah, only worse. They're bigger and more opinionated. Maggie certainly has more work, washing, cooking, clearing up and so on.

Sean: Couldn't Ian help look after his grandmother? I mean, if he's got time on his hands.

George: Frankly, I wouldn't trust my son to look after a hamster.

Helen: How old's your mother-in-law?

George: She's just turned 87.

Peggy: Does she need much help?

George: Well, she's still got all her marbles, but she's very frail and her knees are bad, so she can't get up the stairs on her own.

Peggy: Surely, you can get someone in to help.

Helen, isn't this your line of work?

Helen: Our local services are completely overstretched. In the last ten years, the care budgets in England have been cut by billions.

Sean: But the government can't just ignore the needs of old people.

Helen: There are government plans to overhaul social care, but like a lot of other stuff, they

got put on the back-burner because of Brexit.

Peggy: I can't imagine what things will be like when we retire.

Sean: We'll look after you, Peggy.

Peggy: That's very kind, but who knows what needs we'll have?

George: I dread getting dementia.

Helen: They're constantly improving the care for dementia patients. I was reading about a care home in Cumbria where the night staff work in their pyjamas so that the residents know it's night-time.

back-burner: put sth. on the ~ N. Am. ► etw. auf Eis legen

billion ► Milliarde(n)

dread sth. ► sich vor etw. fürchten

frail ► gebrechlich

line of work ► Arbeitsgebiet

marbles: still have got all one's ~ if/mtl. ► geistig noch recht fit sein

mother-in-law
► Schwiegermutter

opinionated ► eigenwillig

overhaul ► überarbeiten

overstretched ► überlastet

resident ► Einwohner(in); hier: Heimbewohner(in)

staff ► Personal

time: have ~ on one's hands ► viel Zeit zur Verfügung haben

George: Sometimes, it's the simple, little things that help make a difference.

Helen: Have you thought about putting your mother-in-law in a home? You might have to some day.

George: She'd hate that, and it's not as if we don't like having her around. She's still so spar-ky — especially after a drink or two.

Peggy: Why don't you bring her round here one evening?

George: You know, I think she'd love that.

Peggy: Even better: if she came round in the afternoon when things are quiet, then we'd have time to chat and Maggie would have an hour or two of peace and quiet.

Helen: Your local pub as a care centre for the elderly. Now, that's an interesting concept.

Source: Spotlight 10/2019, page 10

Short Story

[15] "Inside-out man"

David: In this edition's short story, we look at a man deep in a midlife crisis. Confused by a changing world, angered by family and colleagues and unable to communicate his problems to his friends, Frank is a volcano of emotions ready to explode.

On the outside, Frank could see that he looked like an average middle-aged Englishman — a bit flabby around the middle, balding and

with less-than-perfect teeth. His colleagues and friends would have described him as af-fable, a nice guy, even funny — after a couple of drinks. On the inside, though, Frank was raging. He wasn't sure when his internal and external personas had separated. He found it hard to admit to himself that there were now, in fact, two Franks and to articulate how this had come about.

Perhaps it had begun when he lost his job ten years ago. Back then, Frank had still been young enough to find a new position easily, and he did — but the job he had wanted so much, the job that had his name written all over it, had gone to a woman. He had no evidence to support this, but Frank was sure that he had lost out because he was a man.

A couple of years after that, his marriage to Julie began to fall apart. No one reason, more a combination of boredom, work pressure and parenting stress. Frank moved out for a couple of months, but for the kids, Ella and Jamie, they

affable ▶ umgänglich, freundlich

balding ▶ mit beginnender Glatze

difference: make a ~
▶ etw. ausmachen

flabby ▶ wabbelig

raging ▶ wütend, außer sich

sparky ▶ spritzig

volcano ▶ Vulkan

decided to give it another try, on the condition — and it was Julie’s condition — that they attend therapy. Frank found the therapy bewildering and disorientating. It seemed Julie had been making lists of complaints against him in her head for years. She rolled out one complaint after the other, each presented with anecdotes that he couldn’t even remember. She seemed to be talking about another marriage — someone else’s — and about another Frank, one who was not very nice at all. In the end, he had agreed to all of Julie’s demands for change in the hope that he could get back to a quiet, ordered life.

Then there was the episode at the office Christmas party. When was that? Maybe three years ago. Everyone had been a bit drunk — that’s what these parties were all about. Alicia from the advertising department had worn a very short, tight dress that she seemed to be falling out of. Alicia was beautiful, and all the men were fighting for her attention. At some point during the evening, Frank and his colleague Andrew had given up and gone to the bar. “Someone’s going to get lucky,” Andrew had said gloomily, looking into his wine glass. “Call that lucky?” Frank had said, perhaps a bit too loudly. “She’s such a slut. And there’s hardly any bit of her that isn’t fake.” Frank hadn’t noticed Alicia standing behind them. The next morning, having been called to HR, he tried

to explain. It sounded defensive — even to Frank, who was still hung-over. He was given a warning and told to apologize personally to the victim.

The word “victim” had stuck in Frank’s memory. It was a word that went with certain crimes — serious crimes. As a boy, all of his father’s friends had talked openly about women in the way that he and Andrew had spoken about Alicia. When had that become a crime?

Frank thought, though, that it was probably a recent fight with his daughter, Ella, that had pushed him over the edge.

Father and daughter had always been close. Ella was like Frank: quiet, happy to be part of the group. When she was small, Frank had often taken her fishing. They had watched the same TV programmes, had liked the same food. Now, Ella was 15. Beyond teenage hormones — which Frank had been expecting — there

bewildering ► irritierend, befremdlich

edge: push sb. over the ~ ifml. ► jmdn. komplett fertig machen, in den Wahnsinn treiben

gloomily ► finster, schwermütig

HR (human resources)

► Personalabteilung, Personalleitung

hung-over: be ~ ► einen Kater haben

slut ifml. ► Schlampe

was something nasty and provocative about her behaviour. Sometimes, he found himself struggling not to hate her, his own child.

Their fight had been about a music festival. Frank said Ella could go, but only for one day. Ella had accused her father of being controlling. Her arguments seemed to imply abuse, even perversion in his behaviour. Frank, who had never hit anyone in his life, smacked his daughter. Only his wife's intervention stopped Ella from calling the police.

Frank went to bed that night feeling broken, but when he awoke the next day, he found that white-hot fury had replaced sadness. When he promised Ella to be more understanding, the inner Frank was screaming, "Stop dressing like you're on the job, you disgusting little troublemaker. In fact, while you're at it, get out of my home."

In the weeks that followed, Frank tried to talk to his friends about his anger issues, but never seemed to find the right moment. He went online to find help, but wasn't sure what exactly he was looking for. Search-engine terms like "men marginalized" brought up newspaper articles showing how white males were, in fact, still the dominating force in society and had nothing to complain about. Once, he typed in "angry men", but the links were to men's therapy groups. Frank had had enough therapy. In the meantime, there seemed to be more

reasons to be angry every day. At his annual health check, the lovely, gentle Dr Rana Patel, whom Frank had been secretly in love with for years, told him, "No woman likes a flabby man. You need to lose weight." The next day, waiting to pay at the supermarket, he had smiled at a little girl wearing an "It's my birthday!" sticker, only to be given a suspicious look by the girl's mother.

abuse ► Misshandlung

disgusting ► widerlich

fury ► Wut

imply ► unterstellen

intervention ► Eingreifen

job: on the ~ ifml. ► wie eine Nutte

marginalized ► benachteiligt

smack sb. ~ ifml.

► jmdm. einen Klaps, eine Ohrfeige geben

suspicious ► misstrauisch

troublemaker

► Störenfried, Unruhestifter(in)

while: ~ you're at it

► bei der Gelegenheit

white-hot ► weißglühend

On the evening of the supermarket incident, Frank decided it was time to act, time to redress the balance. He excused himself from dinner and went out to the garden shed. Flipping open his laptop, he began to formulate a plan.

Source: Spotlight 10/2019, 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.

flip open ► aufklappen

garden shed ► Gartenhäuschen

redress: ~ the balance
► das Gleichgewicht wiederherstellen

subscriber ► Abonent(in)

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