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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to edition 13/2019 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.

Thanks to an exciting TV show, Ireland has become fascinated with its Viking past. We investigate the history and visit a city founded by the Nordic invaders.

To coincide with our “Readers’ issue” travel tips, the Spotlight team discuss their favourite holiday destinations in the English-speaking world.

Successful communication isn’t just about the words you use. Find out in English at Work how important stress and emphasis are for getting your message across.

Britain Today

[2] The name game

David: Though many are fascinated by the British royal family, not everyone knows that their family name of Windsor used to be Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. It was changed in 1917 because of anti-German sentiment in the British Empire during World War I. But what’s in a name anyway? Well, perhaps more than you might think, as you’ll find out in the latest edition of Britain Today.

Yet another anniversary? I’m afraid so. It’s 200 years since the birth of Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. They were born in the same year, and their wedding, in 1840, was almost the start of a fairy tale. But while prince and princess live happily ever after in fairy stories, Albert died young, and Victoria was left to live on for 40 years as his widow.

As well as bringing the UK his many talents and interests, he brought us a very long name: the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. It sounds more like a bus route than a royal dynasty.

That’s the title I learned at school, and you still find it on the royal family’s website. Other sources prefer Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Well, if your surname needs a conjunction, surely that proves it’s too long. And if you add his first names — Francis Albert Augustus Charles Emmanuel — you’re tempted to stop halfway through and start a new paragraph.

coincide

- zusammentreffen, sich decken

fairy tale

- Märchen

sentiment

- Stimmung

source

- Quelle

stress

- hier: Betonung

tempted

- verleitet, versucht

widow

- Witwe

Anyway, how are we to pronounce Albert's surname? Do we try to make it sound more German and rhyme it with "quota"? Or more English and rhyme it more or less with "bother"? It's important if you're trying to write limericks: "A prince with more names than his quota / Came to Britain from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha." Or: "A name can cause far too much bother / When the wretched thing's Saxe-Coburg-Gotha."

Victoria and Albert passed the problem on to their nine children. Their fourth, Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, has a name and title you could sing to that famous song from Disney's film *Mary Poppins*: "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious". Try it!

So, names were clearly taken seriously. But a visit to Osborne House, Victoria and Albert's holiday home on the Isle of Wight, shows that there was also room for fun when the children were out in the gardens — playing at the Swiss Cottage (or "fort"). Princess Beatrice, for example, is said to have locked her governess in the fort and wouldn't let her out till she barked like a dog. It's shocking, of course, when a little girl behaves like a spoiled and bossy princess. It's also rather funny — and not untypical of some girls today, which may be the fault of all those Disney princess films. There seems to be no lack of Cinderellas who think they've been taken to the ball.

Disney even used to have a specialist beauty salon at Harrods, one of London's poshest department stores. The salon created princesses out of Cinderellas for parents with lots and lots of money.

For Cinderellas whose parents aren't rich, there's already the Victoria and Albert Museum, just a 10-minute walk down the road. The V&A is a fabulous building with wonderful collections of dresses, jewellery, shoes and countless other beautiful things — and it's free!

The museum first opened in 1852. Without Albert's enthusiastic lobbying, that probably would never have happened.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, page 11

bark

- bellen

bossy

- rechthaberisch, störrisch

bother

- belästigen

department store

- Kaufhaus

fabulous ifml.

- fabelhaft, sagenhaft

fort

- Festung

governess

- Erzieherin, Hauslehrerin

lack

- Mangel

posh ifml.

- nobel, schick

quota

- Anteil, Quote

spoilt

- verwöhnt, verzogen

wretched

- elend, miserabel

A Day in My Life

[3] More than skin-deep

David: Beauty, as they say, is only skin-deep. And for those who want to keep their skin beautiful, dermal technician Tracey Jones is the person to see. The 49-year-old works at a skin clinic in Brisbane in Queensland, Australia, advising clients on solving various skin issues and offering treatment options. In the first part of our interview with Jones, she gives some examples of her daily tasks.

On any single day, my tasks in the clinic can include as diverse a range as a luxurious pampering facial for a lady in her thirties, in which case we might spend an hour in each other's company. I will be chatting with [the client] about the best ways to implement Environ Skin Care — which we supply here at the clinic, putting that into their daily life and skincare routines — through to laser therapies we perform here.

David: So, what common issues do Australians have with their skin? Jones talks about concerns she often deals with.

Hair removal is a big one here in Australia, because we do spend a lot of time in the outdoors. A lot of vascular issues arise: facial vascular lesions, legs and that sort of thing. Pigment is another big topic here in Australia.

We all have freckles. We all have spots from spending way too much time in the sun. I'm able to help people address those issues. Particularly as they age, they become more apparent on the skin. The laser is here to help with those. So, those are a couple of the tasks.

David: In the beauty industry, the use of Botox and dermal fillers has become commonplace. The clinic where Jones works has a suite for

address

- angehen, in Angriff nehmen

apparent

- sichtbar

commonplace

- üblich, gängig

dermal filler

- Hautfüllstoff

dermal technician

- etwa: medizinisch-technische(r) Assistent(in) für Dermatologie

diverse

- vielfältig

facial

- kosmetische Gesichtsbehandlung

freckle

- Sommersprosse

implement

- hier: anwenden

issue

- hier: Problem

lesion

- Verletzung; hier: (Gefäß-)erweiterung

pampering

- verwöhnend

vascular

- Gefäß-

such cosmetic injectables. However, it's important to discuss the operation carefully with the client beforehand.

We also have a cosmetic injectables suite here at the clinic. I do in-depth consultations with ladies. We like to ensure that they have a healthy sense of well-being leading into those types of treatments and making sure their mindset is in a positive frame as well.

See Spotlight 13/2019, pages 66–67

Travel

[4] A Viking visit to Ireland

David: A number of major invasions during the Middle Ages changed the course of Irish history. So, for example, the Viking invasion, which began in the 790s, helped establish some of the most important towns and cities in the country. For the current travel article, Spotlight correspondent Paul Wheatley visited the Republic of Ireland to find out more about the country's Viking past. In the following excerpt from the article, Paul visits Waterford on the south-east coast. Waterford is the oldest city in Ireland and was founded by Viking raiders in 914. As you listen, try to answer these questions. What is Waterford's main tourist district known as? In what year did Viking control of Waterford come to an end? What is Reginald's Tower used as today?

In the “Viking Triangle”

For more than two centuries, Waterford was world-famous as a centre for the production of high-quality crystal glass. When the company closed in 2009, it was a big loss not only to the city's economy, but also to its prestige. The crystal connection is not forgotten, however, and visitors to the House of Waterford Crystal can see artisans at work from the design stage onward. They use traditional glass-blowing techniques to make vases and jugs, and then finish them with complex engravings.

The House of Waterford Crystal lies in the city's main tourist district, now known as the “Viking Triangle”. It's a riverside area that was once surrounded by the original 10th-century Viking-era city walls. The triangle

artisan

- Kunsthandwerker(in)

consultation

- Beratung

engraving

- Gravur, Gravierung

excerpt

- Auszug

injectable

- Unterspritzung, Injektion

jug

- Krug, Kanne

Middle Ages

- Mittelalter

mindset

- Einstellung, Haltung

raider

- Angreifer, Plünderer

refers to three sites: Reginald's Tower, the Medieval Museum and the Bishop's Palace.

I'm a bit sceptical at first about the idea of "Viking Waterford". Yes, Vikings settled here, just as they did in areas of Iceland, Britain, Italy, Turkey and elsewhere. The Viking Age began in 790, when the earliest raids — attacks on coastal Irish monasteries, the taking of slaves — are known to have occurred. By around 840, their longboats had made it inland on the major river systems and the Vikings were able to build bases. The era ended in 1066 with the Norman conquest of England. For 300 years, the Vikings had been a truly international force. By the end of the 11th century, the kingdoms of Denmark, Sweden and Norway had begun to take shape, and the societies that had produced the Vikings were changing in fundamental ways.

So, although Ireland is obviously a great place to visit, is the Viking link anything more than a branding exercise?

In 2012, the Irish government gave Waterford €1.9 million to upgrade the Viking Triangle. My early impressions are that it's money well spent — and not only because of all the publicity connected to the big-budget TV series Vikings, which tells the tale of Ragnar Lothbrok, a fictitious Viking hero. Filming of the series for the History Channel began that same year at Ireland's own Ashford Studios, an hour

south of Dublin. One of the Triangle highlights is Reginald's Tower, a 16.5-metre-high, circular Anglo-Norman structure built in the 12th or 13th century on top of a Viking fort. It's thought to be named after Ragnall, a Viking king of the settlement, and is home to the city's Viking treasures.

Ireland's Viking past — like much of Viking history itself — is murky and complex. What seems to be uncontested, though, is the establishment of Waterford as a port for Norse seamen. The Viking kings of Waterford ruled until 1170, when they were unseated by the Cambro-Normans — that is to say, Anglo-Normans who had settled in the south of Wales after 1066 ("Cambrian" means "Welsh"). In 1171,

branding exercise

- Image-, Marken-kampagne

conquest

- Eroberung

medieval

- mittelalterlich

monastery

- Kloster

murky

- düster; hier: unergründlich, unklar

Norman

- normannisch

raid

- Überfall, Raubzug

treasure

- Schatz, Kostbarkeit

uncontested

- unbestritten

unseat

- absetzen

King Henry II of England set foot in Waterford, making the change of leadership official. Over the centuries, explains curator Donnchadh O’Ceallachain, Reginald’s Tower was used as part of the city’s defences, then as a prison and today serves as a riverside museum of Viking history and culture. Displayed across three floors are Viking warrior weapons found in Woodstown, about five kilometres from Waterford and an important archaeological site, as well as artefacts found in Waterford itself, such as wood and bone pieces belonging to a board game — *hnefatafl*, which in Old Norse means “fist table” and is similar to chess — and a silver-and-gold brooch described as “the finest piece of 12th-century secular metal-work ever found in Ireland”.

David: Were you able to find the answers? What is Waterford’s main tourist district known as? It’s known as the Viking Triangle. In what year did Viking control of Waterford come to an end? In 1170. And what is Reginald’s Tower used as today? It is used as a museum for Viking-era artefacts and history.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, pages 26–32

Roundtable

[5] Our top travel tips

David: For our special “readers’ issue”, we have collected the top ten travel recommendations from our loyal readers. In the current magazine, they write about their favourite holiday destinations in the English-speaking world. Here at Spotlight Audio, we thought we would get in on the action, too, in another episode of Roundtable.

Inez: Hello, and welcome to Roundtable. I’m Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief of Spotlight magazine, and with me in the studio today are Claudine Weber-Hof, our deputy editor, and Owen Connors, who’s our audio editor. Our focus, as you just heard David mention, is travel and our favourite destinations in the English-speaking world. So, let’s see what my colleagues have to say, and we’re going to start off with Owen. Owen, where are you going to take us?

brooch

- Brosche

chess

- Schach

deputy editor

- stellvertretende(r)
Chefredakteur(in)

display

- ausstellen, zeigen

editor-in-chief

- Chefredakteur(in)

fist

- Faust

Owen: Well, I'm from Ireland, so, of course, I have to stay loyal to my home country and I will take you, of course, to Ireland. And it's a fantastic country with so many great places but my favourite and my top tip, is Mayo. Mayo is a county to the north of Galway on the west coast and it's really just superb. The great thing about Mayo is that not many tourists actually go there; they don't know about it. I think they've heard of Cork and Kerry and Galway itself, but Mayo is really something special. If you are interested in rugged, spectacular, untamed nature, then this is the place for you. Arguably, in Mayo the highlight is Achill Island, and this is the biggest island off the coast of Ireland.

Inez: And there are lots of islands.

Owen: Many, many islands. The great thing about Achill, as well, is that there is a bridge across, so you don't have to brave the wild Atlantic Ocean. And Achill is a landscape of peat bogs and craggy mountains, towering sea cliffs; it's really a very special place. It is also home to some of the most beautiful beaches I've ever seen, and you'd be surprised in Ireland to find such amazing beaches. Of course, the water is freezing.

Inez: Well, you don't have to go into the water. You can just sit on the beach and enjoy.

Owen: Also in Achill are the highest cliffs in Ireland and the third highest in Europe.

They're really spectacular.

Claudine: You're lying now, you're lying.

Owen: The Cliffs of Moher are down the coast a little, they're very famous, but the Achill ones are higher. It's cheating a bit because these cliffs are actually the side of a mountain.

Claudine: Yeah, that's cheating, that's cheating.

Owen: But the side does go down into the sea.

Inez: Did you go there as a child or have you been there recently?

Owen: Actually, I was never there as a child, again because, even in Ireland, Mayo is not a particularly popular destination, but I started investigating Ireland once I'd become an adult and I went everywhere by car, every weekend I'd go to a new place with my girlfriend at the

arguably

- wohl

brave

- trotzen, die Stirn bieten

cheat

- schwindeln, schummeln

craggy

- felsig, zerklüftet

off

- hier: vor

peat bog

- Torfmoor, Hochmoor

rugged

- rau, wild

superb

- großartig

towering

- hoch aufragend

untamed

- unzähmt, wild

time, and we found Mayo one time, and it was spectacular, and we fell in love with it and I still love the place today.

Inez: OK, a fantastic tip from Owen, and we are going to go from Ireland to somewhere quite nearby.

Claudine: Yes, in fact as we were preparing the content, the photos and the text, for the “readers’ issue” this month, I was impressed by the various contributions sent in by our readers; in particular one, and I’ll tell you why. I love Scotland, I’m a big fan of the Highlands, Isle of Skye, the people are funny, they like whisky, I don’t mind a dram, and one of our readers wrote in and said, this is one Ursula Jung, I believe she is a subscriber of ours, she wants to introduce us to a special part of the UK known as the NC500. I had never heard of this and I am ashamed to say that, because I do read a lot of travel literature, but this is the North Coast 500, the NC500, which is a 500-mile route around the north coast of Scotland. It was launched in 2015 as a tourism initiative to bring people...

Inez: ...to that area of Scotland.

Claudine: Up to the north, yeah. You’ve got Edinburgh and Glasgow down below and you’ve got the Highlands smack in the middle, it’s lovely, but what do you do way up in the north, well... it’s a little bit like Ireland but maybe a touch better.

Owen: Never!

Claudine: You go around the coast and enjoy yourself. You’ve got beautiful views, of course, amazing seafood. I did already mention the whisky, of course, but this is what Ms Jung recommends to us, and I myself, I can’t wait to try it out. It starts and ends at Inverness Castle and, of course, you can easily take a side trip to the Isle of Skye, to other places that you’ve heard of. It’s also something for cyclists, believe it or not, so you could do a really nice, long, highly sporty cycling holiday, I suppose. I’m intrigued, so I would say my favourite place in general is Scotland, but I am maybe going to develop a more regional focus to that and try to go off and explore the north coast.

Inez: Fabulous. That sounds like a great idea.

Claudine: Now, Inez, I’ve been thinking the whole time we’ve been chatting with Owen that maybe we should ask you what’s your favourite travel destination.

contribution

► Beitrag

dram

► Schlückchen

fabulous

► großartig, wunderbar

intrigued

► fasziniert

launch

► eröffnen

smack: ~ in the middle

US ifml.

► mitten in

subscriber

► Abonnent(in)

Inez: OK. Well, by absolute coincidence I do have a favourite travel destination. A few years ago, I was lucky enough to go to Florida, and it wasn't a holiday that I planned myself and I was a little bit sceptical, but there were two highlights, absolute highlights; one of them was one night in the Biltmore Hotel in Miami. I'd already been and spent a couple of days previously, or nights previously, in one of the Art Deco hotels, which was fabulous, it was very, very nice, but the Biltmore, it has something special about it. It's a big dream of a hotel. You get a sense that the person who conceived this had a very big vision, and I'm also a very keen swimmer and I was just intrigued to find out that Johnny Weissmuller, aka Tarzan, had given swimming lessons at the Biltmore, so I put on my cossie and jumped in the pool and swam up and down and pretended I was being coached by Johnny Weissmuller. I don't know if anybody noticed. It's a beautiful hotel, beautifully appointed, good food as well, very, very nice food and an enormous breakfast, and then I went and swam it off in the pool. It was just a very, very special experience and then from there, the person I was on holiday with, we drove down together to Key West and it was also another place I thought, yeah, take it or leave it kind of thing, it turned out to be fantastic. I loved Key West, I loved Ernest Hemingway's house. It is crowded, obviously.

Lots of people go there. They want to see the place. Nonetheless, it's a wonderful home and really well looked after and the whole ambience of Key West I really liked, I have to say. So, that would be a place, Florida, those two places, Miami and Key West I would go straight back to. I'm not quite sure how long I would be able to afford to stay at the Biltmore, but I'd certainly go there at least for a meal. Thank you very much indeed everybody.

See Spotlight 13/2019, pages 34–38

Everyday English

[6] Early retirement

David: Early retirement is a dream for many — but for some it becomes a reality. Keith and Dougie are two of the lucky ones. We meet them on the golf course. Listen to the following dialogue and try to answer these questions. What does Dougie mean when he asks if Keith

aka (also known as)

- alias

appointed

- ausgestattet

coincidence: as a ~

- zufällig, wie es der Zufall will

conceive

- konzipieren, planen

cossie ifml.

- Badeanzug

nonetheless

- nichtsdestoweniger, trotzdem

previously

- früher

has been “rushed off his feet” since retiring? And why is Keith so happy to have left his job as a software tester?

Dougie: So, how’s life treating you, Keith? Have you been rushed off your feet since you retired?

Keith: Kind of. I really don’t know how I ever had time to work.

Dougie: What’s the best thing about being retired then?

Keith: I can honestly say — without hesitation — that it’s not having to go to work ever again.

Dougie: Was it really that bad?

Keith: Eh, yes! As you know, I was a software tester, but because of all the offshoring, I wasn’t doing any testing. I was just sorting things out when they went wrong. And that was all the time! It was so frustrating.

Dougie: Sounds like you made the right decision.

Keith: Without a doubt!

David: When Dougie asks Keith if he’s been rushed off his feet since retiring, he wants to know if Keith has been extremely busy since leaving work. And Keith says he didn’t like his job as a software tester anymore because he wasn’t doing any testing, just sorting things out when they went wrong. In the next dialogue, the friends talk about how Dougie was

able to retire early. Listen and try to answer these questions. Why did Dougie have difficulties adjusting to retirement? And what did Keith do to cope with no longer having to go to work?

Keith: What about you? When did you retire?

Dougie: I was offered early retirement about five years ago. I actually liked my job, but they made me such a good offer that I couldn’t say no.

Keith: How old were you?

Dougie: Fifty-seven. I thought I’d be working for ten more years.

Keith: So, how did you adjust to retirement?

Dougie: I’ll be honest with you: it wasn’t easy. I really didn’t know what to do with myself for the first six months. I hadn’t prepared for retirement at all.

Keith: Being prepared is so important. My boss warned me about that, and he basically nagged me to start preparing myself. He’s the reason I joined the golf club.

David: If you answered that Dougie liked his job and didn’t know what to do with himself after he retired, you would be correct. And what did Keith do to prepare himself

adjust

► hier: sich gewöhnen

cope with sth.

► mit etw. fertig werden

for retirement? He joined the golf club. So it seems likely that these two men of leisure will be joining up for another game of golf in the near future.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, pages 54–55

Around Oz

[7] 1969: the Australian view

David: The 1960s were a time of massive social change around the world. And it was the final year of the decade — 1969 — that featured some of the era’s most important moments. Australian correspondent Peter Flynn celebrates the 50th anniversary of this extraordinary year in the latest edition of *Around Oz*.

There’s been a lot of nostalgia lately about what a great year 1969 was: the 50th anniversary of man landing on the moon, the Woodstock music festival and the famous photo on The Beatles’ *Abbey Road* album.

Quentin Tarantino’s latest movie, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, is set against the backdrop of 1969, at the height of the hippie counterculture. For me, though, and I remember 1969 quite well, watching the moon landing with my science class in the school theatrette was overshadowed by an increasing realization that I could be drafted into the army and sent off to Vietnam when I turned 18 — something that previously happened only to my friends’

older brothers. Now, I was getting fearful, as happens when reality overtakes innocence. At my boarding school, we all had to take part in the Army Cadets — a sort of junior military — which required us to put on uniforms and play soldier, including carrying around .303 calibre rifles left over from the Second World War. Every Friday, 200 students took out their .303s from the armoury in a bunker under the junior science laboratory. The armoury also housed thousands of rounds of live ammunition.

Instead of Woodstock, I remember classmates sitting around and cleaning those rifles, using “pull throughs” — a piece of oiled flannel on a

armoury

- Waffenkammer

backdrop

- Hintergrund, Kulisse

boarding school

- Internatsschule

bunker

- Geschützbunker

counterculture

- Gegenkultur, Gegenbewegung

draft sb.

- jmdn. (zum Militärdienst) einziehen

flannel

- Flanell; hier: Tuch, Lappen

man of leisure

- Müßiggänger

rifle

- Gewehr

theatrette UK, Aus.

- kleines Theater; hier: Schulbühne

long string — to shine the inside of the barrel. During the regular afternoon classes, the rifles were left on our dormitory beds, ready for us to take to the parade ground.

By this time, I'd also been to proper military training camps, supervised by Australian Army trainers, where there were fake Vietnamese villages, booby traps with purple smoke bombs and jungle exercises using modern, all-black SLR rifles and dummy bullets. From playing soldiers, we had moved up to proper war games. And we had to dig our own latrines, sleep in tents and live off army rations (which, I think, were also left over from the Second World War).

Towards the end of 1969, I was asked to attend a “sergeants’ school” with the regular army. I declined, saying I didn’t want to give up my summer holidays. The truth was that I could feel a trap being set. What’s more, most Australians had turned against the Vietnam War. Our school exercise books were more likely to be covered with peace symbols than pictures of sports stars or pretty girls.

My rebellious spirit was growing and it was to be only one more year before the school told my parents I was a “corrosive force undermining Christian principles and general discipline” and asked them to take me home. Mum was proud of that. The birthday-lottery drafting of 18-year-olds was stopped the year

before I left school — and the rest, as they say, is history.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, page 39

Grammar Tales

[8] “Hans and Greta”

David: Now it’s time for another episode of Grammar Tales — classic fairy stories with a modern twist. In this edition, *Hansel and Gretel* gets the Spotlight treatment. Published by the Brothers Grimm in 1812, *Hansel and Gretel* belongs to a group of fairy tales that are believed to have originated in the medieval period of the Great European Famine, in which millions died. Beginning in 1315 and ending in 1322, the famine became notorious for incidences

barrel

- hier: Gewehrlauf

booby trap

- versteckter Sprengsatz

corrosive

- zersetzend, zerstörend

decline

- ablehnen

dormitory

- Schlafsaal-

dummy

- unecht

fairy tale

- Märchen

famine

- Hungersnot

medieval

- mittelalterlich

modern twist: with a ~

- modern, neu interpretiert

notorious

- berüchtigt

of cannibalism and infanticide, both of which are central themes in *Hansel and Gretel*. Well, with that cheery information, let's listen to the story, shall we?

Once upon a time deep in the woods, famous actor Luna La Beale lived in a house made of gingerbread and sweets. Luna had become famous playing superhero Medusa in the most successful film franchise ever, and children around the world loved her. Nothing much had been heard of the star recently, however. Rumour had it that she was suffering from some sort of eating disorder and was living alone somewhere in the countryside.

Normally, a house made of gingerbread wouldn't stand up to the elements, but luckily for Luna, it hadn't rained for years and her house was still as perfect as the day it was built. Until, that is, a couple of lost, hungry kids discovered the sweet house and couldn't resist helping themselves.

"Try this bit, Greta," said her brother, Hans. "I've never eaten anything so delicious."

"Jusht a shec," said Greta with her mouth full. Hans pulled off a bit of the roof made of salted caramel fudge and gave it to his little sister.

"Hans? Isn't this someone's house? Maybe we shouldn't be eating it," said the girl thoughtfully. "Eh...?" said Hans. But before he could think of anything intelligent to say, a face the

children recognized popped out of one of the sugar-glass windows.

"Help yourselves, why don't you?" said the familiar face. "Are you trying to eat me out of house and home?"

The children froze. They'd been caught red-handed, and worse still, they'd been caught red-handed by Luna La Beale.

"Aren't you, aren't you...?" mumbled Hans. "Aren't you Medusa?"

"Might be," said Luna. "Tell me who you are and what you're doing here and I'll tell you who I am."

"We're lost. Our stepmother hates us and made our dad abandon us in the woods. We found our way home the first time, but now

abandon

- verlassen; hier: aussetzen

cheery

- heiter, fröhlich

disorder

- Störung

freeze

- erstarren

gingerbread

- Lebkuchen, Pfefferkuchen

infanticide

- Kindebstötung

jusht a shec

- soll heißen: „just a sec“ (Sekunde noch, Moment)

mumble

- murmeln

pop out of sth.

- aus etw. auftauchen

red-handed: be caught ~

- auf frischer Tat ertappt werden

we're really lost," explained Hans.

"Hmm, interesting," said Luna. "You must be starving. Why don't you come in and have some nice hot chicken soup?"

"Thank you," said Greta, star-struck.

The brother and sister grinned at each other and followed Luna into the house. No sooner had the children stepped into the gingerbread house than Luna grabbed Hans and locked him in a cage.

"Why did you do that?" asked Hans.

"Don't worry," said Luna. "I'll still feed you. And when you're fat enough, I'm going to eat you." Greta began to cry. "Is this a joke?" asked Hans, who couldn't believe that the film star, loved by children the world over, would... well... want to eat one of her fans.

"I'm afraid not," said Luna. "I've been hungering for a Hansburger for years."

"You're horrible!" said Greta, trembling. "You're the one who should be locked up, not Hans."

Luna sighed. "Think yourself lucky I'm not going to eat you, too! Now, make yourself useful and clean the floor."

That night, when Luna was asleep, Hans and Greta tried to think of a way to escape. "You have to try to get the key to the cage," whispered Hans.

"But I can't," hissed Greta. "She wears it around her neck."

"Maybe you could distract her if she ever opens the cage, and I can make a run for it," said Hans.

"Yes, I'll try," said Greta.

A few days passed and Hans still wasn't fat enough for Luna — or so she thought. The eating disorder had clearly affected her eyesight, because each time she inspected the boy, he held out a twig he had found on the floor of the cage and each time Luna mumbled, "No, you're nothing but skin and bone, boy! It's awful what some parents feed their children."

One morning, the children awoke to the sound of wood being chopped. "Greta!" Luna called. "Help me take the wood to the oven. I can't

affected

- beeinträchtigen, beeinflussen

chop

- hacken

distract

- ablenken

grab

- packen, ergreifen

grin

- grinsen

hiss

- zischen

star-struck

- fasziniert, stark beeindruckt von einem Star

starve

- vor Hunger sterben

tremble

- zittern

twig

- dünner Zweig, Ästchen

whisper

- flüstern

wait any longer.” Greta, feeling sick, got up to help.

“Right, Greta. You have to help me!” shouted Luna. “I’ll get your brother, you hold open the door of the oven.”

“No!” screamed Greta.

“Do it!” Luna screamed back, as she pulled Hans out of the cage and lifted him over towards the oven.

Then Greta suddenly heard herself say, “You’ll never get him in there. There’s too much wood. Look for yourself.”

Luna dropped Hans, walked over to the oven and peered inside. Quick as lightning, Greta shoved Luna into the oven. It was a bit of a struggle, but somehow, she managed to push Luna all the way in and close the door. “You saved my life, Greta!” said Hans.

“I’ve killed her,” sobbed Greta.

“It was self-defence. It’ll be all right. Don’t worry.”

The brother and sister ran through the woods and before long found their father, who had come looking for them. “Thank goodness!” he said, as he held them close. “I’m divorcing your stepmother. Can you ever forgive me?” he asked them. With tears rolling down their cheeks, Hans and Greta nodded. They knew that after a few years of therapy, they would live quite happily ever after.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, pages 20–22

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 crowds being hurried through galleries too often miss out on the experience they came for — but opportunities remain.

[10] On museum culture: take your time

Inez: To appreciate art, you need time. Yet time is exactly what is lacking in many major art galleries and museums, where effective crowd management can mean pushing visitors through the rooms as quickly as possible. In an opinion piece from Britain’s *Guardian* newspaper, the writers discuss the impact of mass

appreciate

- schätzen

impact

- Einfluss, Auswirkungen

lack

- fehlen

miss out on sth.

- etw. verpassen

opinion piece

- Meinungsbeitrag, Kommentar

peer

- spähen, gucken

self-defence

- Notwehr

shove

- schubsen, stoßen

sob

- schluchzen

tourism on the experience of art. They talk about an oversubscribed society where experience has become a commodity. If something is “oversubscribed”, too many people want to use it or to take part in it, and a “commodity” is a product that can be bought and sold. Let’s listen to the first excerpt from the article.

What is the place of art in a culture of inattention? Recent visitors to the Louvre report that tourists can now spend only a minute in front of the *Mona Lisa* before being asked to move on. Much of that time, for some of them, is spent taking photographs not even of the painting but of themselves with the painting in the background.

One view is that we have democratised tourism and gallery-going so much that we have made it effectively impossible to appreciate what we’ve travelled to see. In this oversubscribed society, experience becomes a commodity like any other.

Inez: In such a society, masses of visitors attempt to see as much as they can, moving in haste from experience to experience. “Haste” describes great speed in doing something, especially because you do not have enough time. The writers point out, however, that some art and some sites of cultural pilgrimage are better suited to “throngs” — which is another word

for crowds — than others. A “pilgrimage” is a journey to a place that is connected with somebody or something that you admire or respect. Here’s the second excerpt.

There are queues to climb Everest as well as to see famous paintings. Leisure, thus conceived, is hard labour, and returning to work becomes a well-earned break from the ordeal. What gets lost in this industrialised haste is the quality of looking. ... [But even] in the busiest museums there are many rooms and many pictures worth hours of contemplation which the crowds largely ignore. Sometimes the largest throngs are partly the products of bad management and crowd control; the *Mona Lisa* is such a hurried experience today partly because the museum is being reorganised, so it is in a temporary room. The Uffizi in Florence, another site of cultural pilgrimage, has cut its entry queues down to seven minutes by clever management. And there are some forms of

conceive

- begreifen, verstehen

contemplation

- Betrachtung

excerpt

- Auszug

inattention

- Unaufmerksamkeit, Unachtsamkeit

ordeal

- Tortur, Qual

thus

- so, solcherart

art, those designed to be spectacles as well as objects of contemplation, which can work perfectly well in the face of huge crowds. ...

Inez: In the final part of the article, the writers quote the French novelist Marcel Proust, for whom art and time were key literary themes. Although Proust was able to appreciate the art on display in the Louvre, the writers doubt whether that can be possible today in the middle of a harried crowd. To be “harried” is to be harassed forcibly to move along. Now listen to the third part of the editorial.

Marcel Proust, another lover of the Louvre, wrote: “It is only through art that we can escape from ourselves and know how another person sees a universe which is not the same as our own and whose landscapes would otherwise have remained as unknown as any there may be on the moon.” If any art remains worth seeing, it must lead us to such escapes. But a minute in front of a painting in a hurried, harried crowd won’t do that.

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 noun has the same meaning as “crowds”? Throngs

A journey to a place that’s connected with somebody or something that you admire or respect can be called a... pilgrimage.

To do something in a hurry because there isn’t enough time, is to do it in... haste.

To be harassed forcibly to move along is to be... harried.

If too many people want to use something or take part in something, then it can be said to be... oversubscribed.

A product that can be bought and sold is called a... commodity.

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

See *Spotlight* 13/2019, page 23

harass

• (ständig) drängen,
drangsalieren

quote

• zitieren

English at Work

[12] Stress and emphasis

David: Business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio now with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken discusses the importance of stress and emphasis for successful communication.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. When you're speaking English, it helps your speaking partners if you put stress and emphasis on the key words in your sentences. In fact, by stressing a word, you can change the meaning of what you're saying. Let's take the simple English sentence "I know how you feel about John" as an example and put the stress on different words.

"I know how you feel about John."

That means you've only told me about your feelings.

"I know how you feel about John."

That means you've told me about your feelings several times before.

"I know how you feel about John."

But I don't know how other people feel.

"I know how you feel about John."

But how do you feel about me!

And, finally, there's the sentence with no stress:

"I know how you feel about John."

That gives the feeling that everyone has a rather low opinion of him.

Now you try. We'll use the same sentence "I know how you feel about John."

I'll tell you the meaning you want to get across. In the pause, say the sentence with the stress on the correct word. Then you'll hear my version again. Remember, the sentence is "I know how you feel about John."

Show that you've been told their feelings several times before.

"I know how you feel about John."

Show that you know how they feel about John but don't know how other people feel.

"I know how you feel about John."

Show that only you know about their feelings about John.

"I know how you feel about John."

Show that you know about their feelings about John but not their feelings about you.

"I know how you feel about John."

emphasis

► Betonung, Nachdruck

get sth. across

► etw. verständlich machen, vermitteln

stress

► Betonung, Nachdruck

Did you put the stress in the right place? You can use stress and emphasis to help your listeners stay interested and get the message. Let's practise this some more. Use the following exercise to play with your voice. You'll hear a statement or question. I'll then tell you what you think about the statement or question. In the pause, simply say the word "well" to show what you think. Then you'll hear a model. OK. Let's start.

Speaker: It was a good movie, wasn't it?

Ken: You don't think so.

Well

Speaker: He got married to Helen.

Ken: You're surprised.

Well

Speaker: It's your fault!

Ken: You're insulted.

Well!

Speaker: I've made a decision.

Ken: What is it?

Well?

Speaker: How old is she?

Ken: You're not sure.

Well

Speaker: You're so clever.

Ken: You're flattered.

Well

Well, well! How did that go? If you want people to listen to you, make sure you vary the way you speak — become more stressed!

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 13/2019, page 57

Peggy's Place

[13] Sail on!

David: Now it's time to pay a visit to Spotlight's very own London pub — but wait a minute! We're not in London and this is not a pub. We're on a cruise ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and there are our friends Peggy and her

copy

► hier: Exemplar

cruise ship

► Kreuzfahrtschiff

flattered

► geschmeichelt

insulted

► beleidigt, verletzt

vary

► variieren

husband, Phil. Let's find out what they're up to in a most unusual episode of Peggy's Place.

Peggy: I still can't quite believe it!

Phil: Is that a good thing?

Peggy: Of course! I'm completely overwhelmed.

Phil: But overwhelmed in a good way, right?

Peggy: Yes, that's what I am trying to say. It's wonderful to be here — with you.

Phil: I'm so pleased, love. Now, to help us get our sea legs, I suggest we go and find the ship's pub.

Peggy: Is there a pub? I was looking at the brochure and couldn't see one.

Phil: I checked when I booked the cruise. I think the travel agent thought I was a bit strange. I asked about a pub three times just to be sure.

Peggy: Well then, lead on.

Phil: All these corridors look the same. I think we have to turn right here.

Peggy: No, that's a dead end.

Phil: OK, then straight ahead.

Peggy: That doesn't look right either. Can you see the lift at the end? That's where we came from. Let's ask someone the way.

Phil: No, we're going to find the way ourselves.

Peggy: Here comes someone in uniform. Err, excuse me, can you...?

Phil: That was rude! He ignored you.

Peggy: Actually, I'm not sure that was a

uniform, just someone trying to look nautical.

Phil: Look! There's a plan on this wall. We're here, and to reach deck two, we need to get to the main staircase. Ah, yes, I've got my bearings now.

Peggy: You know what? When we get to this pub, I'm going to have a cocktail.

Phil: Good idea! What's going to be the tippie of your choice?

Peggy: Considering where we're heading, I'll be ordering a Manhattan — Phil, this seems to be another dead end.

Phil: This is ridiculous! By the time we find the pub, we'll be in New York and you can have a real Manhattan.

Peggy: Let me ask someone.

bearings: get one's ~

► sich zurechtfinden, sich orientieren

dead end

► Sackgasse

lead on

► vorausgehen

nautical

► seemännisch

overwhelmed

► überwältigt

ridiculous

► lächerlich

rude

► unhöflich

sea legs: get one's ~

► seefest werden

staircase

► Treppenaufgang

tippie ifml.

► alkoholisches Getränk

travel agent

► Reiseberater(in)

up: be ~ to sth.

► etw. vorhaben

Phil: There's nobody about. What are you doing? You can't just knock on someone's door!

Peggy: Watch me. Hello, I'm terribly sorry to bother you, but we've lost our way. Apparently, there's a pub on this boat somewhere, but we can't seem to find our way there.

Man: No problem! If I remember correctly, it's on deck two. My wife and I were just heading there. Just a moment. Liese?

Liese: Ich komme.

Man: Diese Dame und ihr Mann haben sich verirrt. Wenn du soweit bist...

Peggy: You're German?

Man: Yes, my name's Dieter. My wife and I are from Hamburg.

Peggy: I'm Peggy and this is my husband, Phil. It's so kind of you to show us the way.

Dieter: So, you're travelling to New York. Is this your first visit?

Peggy: I've been there before, but it's the first time for my husband.

Liese: It's my first time, too. I'm so excited.

Dieter: Here we are. This is the pub.

Peggy: That was simple! Thank you. We hope to see you around.

Liese: Yes, that would be lovely. You know where to find us. Bye!

Phil: The humiliation! Being told the way by a German. I'm never going to live this down.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, page 10

Short Story

[14] "Dirty waters"

David: It's been 30 years since the fall of the Wall, yet Cold War Germany remains as fascinating as ever. In this edition's short story, we enter a world of secrecy and deception set in Berlin during the early 1980s. So sit back and relax as I read you "Dirty waters" by Judith Gilbert.

It was hot, he was tired and scared, and he needed to get out of East Berlin.

It's not that he was a defector. No, Maxwell was an art historian who had been visiting the Pergamon Museum in that half of the divided city, the Soviet zone. His work had taken him to Bergama, in western Turkey, where the Pergamon Altar had originally stood, and now he was on one of his many visits to the altar itself.

apparently

- anscheinend

bother sb.

- jmdn. belästigen

deception

- Verschleierung, Täuschung

defector

- Überläufer(in)

down: live sth. ~

- über etw. hinwegkommen

head

- gehen, etw. ansteuern

humiliation

- Blamage, Schmach

secrecy

- Geheimhaltung

The S-Bahn was carrying him from Friedrichstraße in East Berlin over the Spree and back to the West, where he was a visiting professor at the Free University. Now, it was sitting motionless on the rails, in limbo over the river. He asked himself whether this was a new, mysterious method of scaring travellers leaving the secretive German Democratic Republic. Funny, he thought, how countries with the word “Democratic” in their names never were — had never had a whiff of democracy pass over them, not even when the wind was blowing in the right direction.

Of course, what was worrying him now wasn't his studies of Hellenistic architecture, but the passenger watching him from the other end of the carriage. That and the microfilm hidden inside the dummy Ostmark coin in his pocket. Reinhardt had passed him the coin as he paid for a coffee in the museum canteen.

Maxwell had arranged a series of meetings with Reinhardt, a curator at the museum, to discuss the restoration of the altar's Marmara marble. Those meetings were a perfect cover. Reinhardt wanted to defect to the West and had made that known to him two years ago. It had worried Maxwell at the time; surely, Reinhardt couldn't have known that Maxwell had been working for MI6. Did he know or not?

As an art historian, Maxwell had a plausible reason to travel back and forth across the

border to Berlin's Museumsinsel without arousing suspicion — or at least no more suspicion than the East Germans felt towards anyone else. It was a question of prestige for the East German Communist Party that Western scholars travelled to East Berlin's museums, that the treasures of the divided nation were located on their side of the Wall.

Reinhardt had mentioned the subject discreetly in one of their meetings. “You, Professor Maxwell, are a respected scholar. You have connections back home at Cambridge University, at the Freie Universität. Perhaps one of your

arouse

- erwecken, erregen

carriage

- Personenwagen, Eisenbahnwagen

cover

- Tarnung

dummy

- unecht

in limbo

- in Schwebelage, in der Luft hängend

marble

- Marmor

scholar

- Gelehrte(r), Wissenschaftler(in)

secretive

- geheimniskrämerisch

suspicion

- Verdacht

treasure

- Schatz

visiting professor

- Gastprofessor(in)

whiff

- Hauch

colleagues would appreciate my services in exchange for..." He didn't finish the sentence. I never wanted to do this, Maxwell thought. I was approached, like so many, without any particular affinity with intrigue or even politics. "No one will suspect an art historian from Clare College, Cambridge," Jeremy had said. "No one suspected Anthony Blunt, either — until they did," Maxwell had said, referring to the queen's personal art historian, who had been one of the Cambridge Five spies for the Soviets from the 1930s to the 1950s.

"Yes, but he was on the wrong side, old boy!" Jeremy had said cheerfully, as though they were discussing which kind of rose bush to plant in his garden. "You'll be fighting the good fight." His old college friend Jeremy's only goal had been to work his way up in Her Majesty's government. That was in 1977, when he had been well placed at MI6 and making political passes at his college friends.

Now, it was 1983, and Maxwell was handling Reinhardt, who had come to him thinking he was an outsider with possible connections, not a handler. For poor Reinhardt, my being English was enough reason to ask me, Maxwell guessed.

It really is hot in here, Maxwell thought, pulling a handkerchief out of his pocket and wiping his face. No air-conditioning in the old red-and-yellow carriage with its mechanical doors

and wooden seats. The passenger at the end of the carriage was still looking his way.

Maxwell looked out of the window down at the Spree, wondering how far one would drop into the water. In the first years after the war, the Soviets used to throw people out of moving trains on Reichsbahn routes within their zone. And Berlin's waterways had always been famous as a final resting place for the city's undesirables, long before the Soviets got here.

The microfilm Reinhardt had given him came via Reinhardt's wife, who worked as a secretary to General Borodin at the Soviet Military Administration in Karlshorst. She was able to photograph a list of people working for them in the West. Jeremy had made this the condition for their exfiltration: get us that list, we'll check it and, if it's the real thing, we'll get the Reinhardts out. So now, there it was, in the

affinity

- Neigung

appreciate

- schätzen

approach

- ansprechen

exfiltration

- Ausschleusung

handkerchief

- Taschentuch

pass

- Annäherungsversuch

rose bush

- Rosenstock

undesirable

- hier: unerwünschte Person

hollowed-out Ostmark coin in Maxwell's pocket.

He felt the train starting up and pulling slowly across the bridge.

Later, back at his apartment in Charlottenburg, he opened the two halves of the coin and examined the film. He found what he was looking for: his code name on the list. Oh, Jeremy, my boy, if only you knew, he thought — but I'll make sure you never do. He replaced the film with the one that Borodin had given him and put it carefully inside the Ostmark.

That evening, he took his usual walk along the Spree. Checking that no one was watching, he took a small stone out of his pocket, a dummy stone for drops, into which he had inserted Frau Reinhardt's microfilm. Satisfied with himself, if not with the world, he watched the arc it took as he threw it into the depths of Berlin's dirty waters.

Source: Spotlight 13/2019, pages 70–71

Conclusion

[15] 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.

arc

➤ Bogen

hollowed-out

➤ ausgehöhlt

subscriber

➤ Abonnent(in)

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Contents

E 1. Introduction	1:26	A 9. Replay: Recent news events	
		Introduction	0:32
E 2. Britain Today		A 10. On museum culture:	
The name game	4:49	take your time	4:10
A 3. A Day in My Life		A 11. Words and phrases	1:36
More than skin-deep	2:32		
M 4. Travel		M 12. English at Work	
A Viking visit to Ireland	6:20	Stress and emphasis	5:43
E 5. Roundtable		M 13. Peggy's Place	
Our top travel tips	7:01	Sail on!	4:35
M 6. Everyday English		M 14. Short Story	
Early retirement	2:54	"Dirty waters"	6:45
A 7. Around Oz		E 15. Conclusion	0:30
1969: the Australian view	4:08	Total playing time	61:12
M 8. Grammar Tales			
"Hans and Greta"	8:04		