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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to edition 2/2020 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. If you find English small talk a bit scary, don't worry! It's a lot more straightforward than it seems. And as we find out in a roundtable discussion, it's all about social connection.

Beginning just below Sydney, Australia's South Coast is a paradise for nature lovers. Come with us to sample the region's treasures. It's easy to mix up the words “technique”, “technology” and “technical”. Listen to our English at Work section, and you'll be sure to choose the right word in future.

Britain Today

[2] Moving with the times

David: It's amazing the amount of stuff people collect over their lives. Often it takes a big event, like moving home, to make them take a long hard look at all that stuff and decide to do something about it. Britain Today columnist Colin Beaven had this exact experience recently. The big question for Colin was, what on earth to do with all his beloved books and furniture?

My wife and I have moved! Moving is always traumatic; it's even worse when you've lived in the same place for 24 years. We now live somewhere smaller, so we had to get rid of all the old furniture that wasn't going to fit.

It really was old — not valuable, just “brown furniture”, the sort of thing antique shops used to sell so much of: Victorian and Edwardian mahogany, all now completely out of fashion. Which is why there aren't as many antique shops as there once were. But there's still Des. He should have retired long ago, but he loves restoring antique furniture, so he's still in business. He told us what we expected to hear: nobody wants the stuff.

He's always been more enthusiastic about selling than buying, but even making allowances for that, we knew he was right. We just hoped he could sell our furniture on to someone who wouldn't paint it and turn it into coffee tables: someone who'd enjoy it.

Or use it for film sets. We contacted Nathan, who came to have a look. Nathan buys stuff

allowances: make ~ for sth.

- etw. berücksichtigen

mahogany

- Mahagoni

sample

- ausprobieren, erleben

scary

- unheimlich

straightforward

- direkt, einfach

he thinks could be used on film sets — not *Star Wars* or *Fast & Furious*, but films that take place in the past.

There must be old couples in cinemas all over the country saying: “Look, that’s our old wardrobe they’re using.” Before we moved, we saw *Pain and Glory*, Pedro Almodóvar’s latest film. The hero’s bright red kitchen looked exactly like ours. “Bloody Nathan!” we said. “He’s taken our kitchen.” And we rushed back home, only to find that he hadn’t taken anything. Thankfully, friends of Des came to our rescue. They were old-school dealers — out to make a profit, but gentlemen.

Getting rid of furniture’s bad enough, but books are even worse. Hundreds of them had to go to charity shops, which is where many of them came from in the first place. Why did I have so many? It was clearly *tsundoku*, the Japanese word for buying books you never read. Or perhaps it was judo, possibly jujitsu. After all, I was fighting — fighting my genes. With a librarian for a father, I was always going to be a black belt at *tsundoku*.

Now, though, the Oxfam shop is full of my second-rate novels and out-of-date textbooks, like *Europe since 1939 to the Present* — the “present” being the 1990s, when Britain was excited about 1992, the single market and expanding the EU, and when there was a market for books on the subject.

Now, they’re even less use than brown furniture. With hindsight, it would have been simpler to turn the whole house into an Oxfam shop, with absolutely everything for sale, including me.

I still think it was short-sighted of Nathan not to make us an offer. Even the *Fast & Furious* films will one day come to an end. Our books and furniture could be useful for the set of Hollywood’s next film franchise. Not if it’s futuristic or action-packed, but ideal if they call it *Past & Curious*.

Source: Spotlight 2/2020, page 11

bloody UK *ifml.*

► verdammt

charity shop

► karitativer

Second-Hand-Laden

librarian

► Bibliothekar(in)

rush

► hetzen, eilen

second-rate

► zweitklassig

short-sighted

► kurzsichtig

single market

► Binnenmarkt

with hindsight

► rückblickend,
im Nachhinein

A Day in My Life

[3] Sticking to tradition

David: Like the shamrock, the harp and the Celtic cross, the shillelagh is one of the most recognizable symbols of Ireland. Often seen as purely a walking stick, the shillelagh is also used in the ancient martial art of stick fighting. In A Day in My Life, we meet Liam O Caidhla who runs Olde Shillelagh Stickmakers in the small village of Shillelagh, deep in Ireland's Wicklow Mountains. O Caidhla's family has been making these sticks for generations. Listen now as he explains how his great-grandfather crafted the walking sticks that the company still produces today.

Most of the techniques came from my father's grandfather, who was a master stickmaker way back. He would have made mostly weapons. But he designed the walking stick that we make today, and as far as we know we're the only stickmakers in the world that actually make the type of stick that we make, which is a crafted walking stick. [When] he began, he was asked by the local lord, Lord Fitzwilliam, who would be the descendant of the people who built Wicklow and Dublin and owned Fitzwilliam Square and were former Lord Lieutenants of Ireland and all this kind of thing, very wealthy and influential people. But he began making crafted walking sticks

for Lord Fitzwilliam, and [Lord Fitzwilliam] as a young gentleman did his service in the British Army, and gradually many of his friends and acquaintances began to use these as their officer's canes and over some period of time most of the officers of Irish regiments in the British army would carry shillelaghs or walking sticks as their regimental canes.

David: In the next part of the interview, O Caidhla explains why people expect shillelaghs to be black and shiny, whereas the

craft

- kunstvoll fertigen

descendant

- Nachfahre

gradually

- nach und nach, allmählich

harp

- Harfe

Lord Lieutenant

- Lordleutnant (höchster Beamter einer Grafschaft)

martial art

- Kampfkunst

officer's cane

- Offiziers-, Korporalsstock

shamrock

- Kleeblatt

shillelagh

- irischer Prügel- oder Wanderstock

stickmaker

- Stockmacher(in), Stockmacherei

way back

- vor langer Zeit

traditional stick is the natural colour of the wood.

So, from that point on, when gentlemen began to use them — up to that point a lot of stick-makers would have made their own — but when they became a saleable commodity, other people began making them then for sale in markets and fairs. But because it takes so long to make them, many of them tried to speed up the process. So, they began putting them up the chimneys of open fires to dry them out more quickly and seal them and turn them around more quickly, and when they came out of the chimneys they were caked in soot. So rather than scrape the soot off, they simply buttered or varnished over the stick and that gave it this black, shiny appearance. So, the general population of Ireland then, the only time they had seen shillelaghs, they were black and shiny in markets and fairs for sale. So, everyone nowadays expects a shillelagh to be black and shiny, whereas the original ones actually would have been the natural colour of the wood.

See Spotlight 2/2020, pages 12–13

Travel

[4] An insider's guide to Australia's Far South Coast

David: While much of the northern hemisphere struggles through winter, it's summer time in Australia. Visions of exotic animals, the vast outback and glorious beaches come to mind. In the current issue of *Spotlight*, Australian columnist Peter Flynn takes us on a personal tour of the region he grew up in — the Far South Coast of New South Wales. In the following excerpt from the feature, Peter introduces us to a beautiful area known as the “Sapphire Coast”. As you listen to the first part of the excerpt, try to answer this question: What

caked

- ▶ voll von, verkrustet

chimney

- ▶ Kamin

commodity

- ▶ Konsumware

excerpt

- ▶ Auszug

fair

- ▶ Markt, Messe

glorious

- ▶ wunderbar

saleable

- ▶ marktfähig, gut verkäuflich

scrape

- ▶ abkratzen, abschaben

seal

- ▶ versiegeln

soot

- ▶ Ruß

varnish

- ▶ lackieren

vast

- ▶ riesig, weit

is the spiritual significance of Mount Gulaga for the indigenous Yuin people?

Bega Valley, the “Sapphire Coast”

Farther south are villages and coastal towns, such as Bermagui, in Bega Valley Shire — also called the “Sapphire Coast” — where the continental shelf is just a few kilometres from land, making the deep waters a good game fishing destination and boat harbour.

Inland, among rolling hills, is the beautiful village of Central Tilba. The artisan community shows off its local foods and wares and the old pub serves great meals. The brightly painted cottages and the rich scenery remind me of Cork, in Ireland.

From here, you can take a cultural tour with indigenous rangers, who will explain the spiritual significance of Mount Gulaga, an extinct volcano that rises 800 metres above the township. The mountain is a sort of ancestral mother spirit for all Yuin people. Bushwalkers and experienced trekkers can take the steep track up the mountain, passing through thick rainforest to get spectacular ocean views from atop the summit. Built in the 1890s for gold miners, the trail is still graded as difficult, and it takes about five hours to cover the return trip of roughly 15 kilometres.

David: What is the spiritual significance of

Mount Gulaga for the indigenous Yuin people? The mountain is a sort of ancestral mother spirit for the Yuin. In the next part of the excerpt, you’ll hear more about the Yuin. As you listen, try to answer this question: When the author was a boy, why would young Aboriginal kids at his school miss days of class?

The Far South Coast has been home to Aboriginal clans of the Yuin people for 20,000 years. The Yuin — who refer to themselves as Koori — live by the coast or in the mountainous hinterland. Their numbers decreased during white settlement, probably after catching influenza from European settlers rather than through massacres, and they were largely integrated between the 1880s and the early 20th

ancestral mother

- Ahnin, Mutterfigur

artisan

- Kunsthandwerker

bushwalker

- Wanderer, Wanderin

continental shelf

- Festlandssockel

extinct

- erloschen

game fishing

- Sportfischen

indigenous

- einheimisch, eingeboren

rolling hills

- Hügellandschaft

show off

- zur Schau stellen

trail

- Pfad, Wanderweg

century. Their traditional fishing rights were recognized 50 years ago, and several Aboriginal families continue to this day to be commercial fishers.

Contrary to their unfounded reputation as being hostile, the early encounters with the Yuin people were relatively peaceful. The white settlers quickly learned that the equal distribution of blankets to both the coastal and mountain clans stopped them hunting the cattle. There are documented stories from the 1790s of the Yuin helping lost explorers and even swimming through the surf to rescue survivors of a shipwreck near Broulee Island. There's no doubt the Koori have long suffered disadvantage. When I was in primary school, young Aboriginal kids would miss days of class to help their parents labour as pea and bean pickers. Only in this century are many getting opportunities to attend university and find skilled jobs.

David: When the author was a boy, why would young Aboriginal kids at his school miss days of class? It was because they had to help their parents work as pea and bean pickers. In the final part of the excerpt, you'll hear about the southern coastal tourist villages. Try to answer this question: What is the absolute must-do attraction in the old whaling town of Eden?

Farther south, coastal tourist villages like Merimbula, Pambula and Tathra invite you to stop in as you head towards the regional centre of Bega, known internationally for its cheese-making. The factory still operates and offers tasting tours. A few years ago, the Bega Cheese company purchased the rights to the famous Vegemite brand, which had briefly gone into global ownership.

You must visit the old whaling town of Eden and enjoy the excellent views of Twofold Bay. It's now a destination for cruise ships, but the absolute must-do attraction is the Killer Whale Museum. Here, you can learn the unusual story from early last century of the Davidson whaling family and a large pod of killer whales. The orcas would help to push the baleen whale towards the harpoon boat and be given whale tongues to eat in return. The story was well documented as far back as 1920 and the skeleton of the orca leader, Old Tom, is there on display.

David: What is the absolute must-do attraction in the old whaling town of Eden? According to the author, it's the Killer Whale Museum.

Source: Spotlight 2/2020, pages 28–35

baleen whale

► Bartenwal

pod

► hier: kleine Gruppe

Everyday English

[5] Being friendly

David: One of the joys of travelling alone is meeting new and interesting people. In Everyday English, we accompany Tegan on a hiking holiday. Along the way, she passes the time of day with a number of strangers. In the first dialogue, she has just arrived at her hostel and is checking in. Listen and answer these questions: What does the receptionist first ask Tegan? And what are Tegan's plans for the next day?

Tegan: Hi there. Could I check in, please? My name's Tegan Ellis.

Receptionist: Of course. Welcome. Here's the key for room 203. Would you like breakfast tomorrow morning? The continental breakfast is £5.99 or you can have a cooked breakfast for £7.99.

Tegan: The continental breakfast, please. How early do you serve it?

Receptionist: From 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. What have you got planned for tomorrow?

Tegan: I'm going up Ben Nevis. I'm really excited.

Receptionist: Ah, wonderful! You'll want to be up early then.

Tegan: I know. That'll be the worst bit.

Receptionist: I'm not sure about that. It's quite a hike! Anyway, have a great day tomorrow.

Tegan: Thanks! I'll tell you all about it.

David: The receptionist first asks Tegan if she wants breakfast the following morning. She gives her two options, and Tegan chooses the continental breakfast. And what about Tegan's plans for the next day? She wants to hike up Ben Nevis, which is the highest mountain in the British Isles. In the second dialogue, Tegan sets out to walk up the mountain. Listen and answer these questions: What time did she get up in the morning? And what time did the man she meets get up?

Walker 2: Morning! The view from the top is stunning today.

Tegan: I don't believe this! Are you already on your way down?

Walker 2: Yes. I was up early this morning.

Tegan: You must have been up at three in the morning or something.

Walker 2: That's right. You've got to beat the crowds, you see. There's nothing like watching the sunrise from the top of a mountain — and I wasn't the only person up there either.

Tegan: That's amazing! And here I was feeling virtuous about getting up at 5.30! I'll have to get up earlier next time.

Walker 2: It's definitely worth it. Enjoy the rest of the walk.

Tegan: Thanks. Bye!

David: Tegan got up at 5.30 in the morning. But the man she meets got up much earlier — at three in the morning. It sounds like it will be a long day for Tegan. Perhaps she should have ordered the cooked breakfast after all!

Source: *Spotlight* 2/2020, pages 54–55

Roundtable

[6] The art of small talk

David: Although the name “small talk” makes informal conversations sound somewhat trivial, they actually serve a very important function — social connection. In a roundtable discussion, members of the *Spotlight* team talk about the culture of small talk in their countries.

Inez: Hello and welcome to this edition of Roundtable. Our topic today is small talk, and we’re going to look at small talk from three parts of the English-speaking world: from America, from Britain and from Ireland. I’m going to start off by asking *Spotlight*’s deputy editor, who’s here in the studio with me, Claudine Weber-Hof, what do the Americans think of small talk? How do they make it? How does she define it?

Claudine: Oh, thank you, Inez. Well, small talk in the United States is a big deal. If you go to a party or even just a family gathering, and you don’t make small talk, then that sort of

raises the question how do you connect with the people around you. And small talk is not about wasting time or just being sort of sur-facy as a human being. It is really about showing other people that you care enough to find out a little bit about their lives. For example, I was just at a family gathering in upstate New York and I met up with cousins I hadn’t seen in years, with uncles... I had to warm up to, say, my stepmother again, who is a wonderful person. The only way you can do this is by finding topics that you are interested in, that you hold in common, and having a nice little conversation. If later there are more serious topics to be discussed, fine. But without small talk, I don’t know, Inez, how honestly you would do it.

Inez: No, I mean, I agree. Our other guest here in the studio is Owen Connors, who’s our audio editor, and he’s from Ireland. Do you see small talk in the same way, Owen? What’s the Irish take?

big deal

- große Sache, etwas Wichtiges

common: hold sth. in ~

- etw. gemeinsam haben

deputy editor

- stellvertretende(r) Chefredakteur(in)

surfacy ifml.

- oberflächlich

take

- Einstellung, Interpretation

upstate

- im nördlichen Teil von

Owen: Yes, in Ireland we have a great love for small talk. We love a good chat. We're a very friendly bunch in general. And whether you're sitting at a bus stop, out for a walk, on a park bench, in a pub, you may well be approached, and people will start up a conversation with you. Of course, the main topic of conversation is weather. We're obsessed with it and all its eccentricities. "Oh, the rain is terrible today, isn't it?", "There's a grand stretch in the evenings", "It's weather for ducks!" and so on. So, yeah, the weather is, first off, non-committal and non-pressurizing, so you can kind of test the water and see does the person want to speak or not. In all aspects of Irish society, talking is important, although we're quite a shy people, so we go carefully at first. But we'll talk about sport, of course, football, traffic, but the problem with traffic is you end up with politics very quickly and politics is dangerous territory. So you've two topics to watch out for: no politics and no religion. And sometimes they're quite connected in Irish society, so you have to watch out.

Inez: I think, as an English person, the cardinal sin, and that's what you're avoiding when you make small talk, is awkwardness. You just don't want awkwardness, and, of course, because you don't want it, you often end up with it. But you do try and make small talk in order to oil the wheels to make the other person feel

comfortable to take away any feeling of awkwardness, awkwardness and bluntness, maybe, as well. In England, it's similar [to Ireland]. You are not going to launch into a political tirade early on in a conversation with somebody, nor probably are you going to talk about other controversial topics. Something like people's pay, or whatever, anything people earn, whatever, that's all far too close. Are there other topics in

awkwardness

- Unbeholfenheit, Peinlichkeit

bench

- Bank

bluntness

- Direktheit, Unverblümtheit

bunch *ifml.*

- Haufen

cardinal sin

- Todsünde

controversial

- umstritten

eccentricity

- Laune, Macke

first off

- zuallererst

grand stretch: there is a ~ in the evenings

- die Tage werden wieder länger

non-committal

- unverfänglich

non-pressurizing

- unverbindlich

obsessed: be ~ with sth.

- von etw. besessen sein

test: ~ the water *ifml.*

- die Lage peilen

watch out

- vorsichtig sein

wheels: oil the ~

- etw. erleichtern, in Gang bringen

the United States that people would stay away from, Claudine?

Claudine: Well, politics is definitely one that's avoided at pretty much all costs at family gatherings and, yeah, anything controversial. It's strange because you would think when people come together, what a wonderful opportunity to try to solve problems, but I think as each of us has experienced in our own lives, it just depends on whom you're talking to. If you've got someone who's like-minded, you're going to have an easy time. If you discover by stumbling in and, I don't know, having some kind of small conflict that the person you're seated across from really has a very different perspective, you have to ask yourself, "Oh, dear, why did I go there? Why did I start this?"

Inez: Right. Thank you very much indeed. That's our topic for today, small talk. Thank you to Claudine Weber-Hof and thank you to Owen Connors.

See Spotlight 2/2020, pages 40–46

Grammar Tales

[7] "The enormous avocado"

David: Do you know the story of *The Giant Turnip*? Well, it's a Russian folktale that was collected by Alexander Afanasyev in his *Russian Fairy Tales*, published between 1855 and 1863. In the latest episode of *Spotlight's* Grammar Tales, we have adapted the story for the 21st

century and called it "The enormous avocado". Our grammar focus in the story is on the past continuous. You'll hear it in sentences such as "Shyleen's dad was holding the avocado, her mum was holding her dad and Shyleen was holding her mum."

Once upon a time there was a girl called Shyleen. Like many other young people, Shyleen still lived with her parents because she couldn't afford her own home. Shyleen loved eating mashed avocado on toast for breakfast every morning. The demand for avocados, however, was exceeding supply and the price of avocados had risen dramatically. There was so much money to be made from what farmers were calling "green gold" that even drug cartels were getting involved. Having no scruples,

adapt

- ▶ bearbeiten, umschreiben

costs: at all ~

- ▶ tunlichst, unbedingt

demand

- ▶ Nachfrage

exceed

- ▶ übersteigen

fairy tale

- ▶ Märchen

folktale

- ▶ Märchen

like-minded

- ▶ gleichgesinnt

supply

- ▶ Angebot

turnip

- ▶ Rübe

they cut down ancient species of trees to make space for their illegal plantations. Avocado production became a very corrupt business that led to kidnappings and even murders. It was crazy. “That’s life,” shrugged Sandy, Shyleen’s dad, and he decided to start growing avocados. “What’s wrong with having jam on your toast?” said Shyleen’s mum, Paula.

Sandy watched a “how-to” video online. By sticking toothpicks in an avocado pit, he hung its bottom half in water. After about six weeks, the avocado sprouted. As soon as the delicate young plant was strong enough, Sandy planted it in a sunny spot in the garden. Fifteen years later — lo and behold — the avocado tree produced a single fruit. The avocado grew and grew. Before long, it was the size of an enormous green thing, bigger than any other enormous green thing anyone had ever seen.

“Come on,” said Sandy to his wife one morning. “We’ve waited long enough. It’s time to harvest the avocado.”

“How are we going to do that?” asked Paula. “It’s massive!”

“We’ll just yank it off the tree,” said Sandy. And off they both went to the bottom of the garden. Sandy stood at one side of the giant fruit and Paula stood at the other. They both embraced the enormous avocado, and they pulled and pulled, but it would not come off the tree.

“Go and get Shyleen,” said Sandy.

“I’ll text her,” said Paula.

Shyleen arrived in a matter of minutes, phone in hand. She read: “Comedy hair vest the amorous avocado?”

“Sorry,” said Paula. “I meant, ‘Come and harvest the enormous avocado’.”

“I did wonder,” said Shyleen. “Can we have it for breakfast?”

“We can if we ever get it off the tree,” said Sandy.

So there they were, Shyleen and her parents — her dad was holding the avocado, her mum was holding her dad, Shyleen was holding her

amorous

► hier: verliebt

embrace

► hier: umfassen

lo and behold

► siehe da

matter: arrive in a ~ of minutes

► in Minutenschnelle da sein

pit

► hier: Kern

shrug

► mit den Achseln zucken

sprout

► aufkeimen, austreiben

text sb.

► jmdm. eine SMS schreiben

toothpick

► Zahnstocher

vest

► Unterhemd

yank: ~ off

► abreißen

mum. They pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but the avocado would not come off the tree.

“Shyleen,” said her dad, “go and get the dog.”

“The dog?” said Shyleen. “OK. If you think it’ll help.”

Soon, Shyleen was back with the dog and the family got to work trying to get the avocado off the tree. Her dad was holding the avocado, her mum was holding her dad, Shyleen was holding her mum and the dog was holding Shyleen’s trackie bottoms between his teeth. They pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but the avocado would not come off the tree.

“Right,” said Shyleen’s dad. “We need more pulling power. Go and get the cat.”

“Me?” asked Shyleen.

“Yeah, you,” said Shyleen’s dad.

“I don’t see how the cat can help us,” Shyleen said as she stomped off to the house. She was soon back with the cat.

“Come on, everyone,” said Shyleen’s dad. “Let’s get this bad boy off the tree.”

“Bad boy,” muttered Shyleen, rolling her eyes.

“OK,” she said, as she got into position. So there they were. Her dad was holding the avocado, her mum was holding her dad, Shyleen was holding her mum, the dog was holding on to Shyleen’s trackie bottoms and the cat was holding on to the dog’s tail with its paws. They all pulled and pulled and pulled, but the

avocado would not come off the f***** tree.

Suddenly, a little mouse popped its head up from the undergrowth. “I’ll help,” it squeaked.

Shyleen, her dad, her mum, the dog and the cat all stared at the mouse in amazement. “I’m quite strong,” said the mouse persuasively.

“Why not?” said Shyleen’s dad. “Let’s give it a go.”

“A talking mouse?” said Shyleen.

So, there they were. Shyleen’s dad was holding the avocado, her mum was holding her dad, Shyleen was holding her mum, the dog was holding on to Shyleen’s trackie bottoms, the cat was holding on to the dog’s tail with its paws and the mouse was clinging on to the

cling

- klammern, sich festhalten

go: give sth. a ~ ifml.

- etw. ausprobieren

mutter

- murmeln, brummen

paw

- Pfote

persuasively

- überzeugend

pop: ~ up

- auftauchen; hier: herausstrecken

roll

- hier: verdrehen

squeak

- fiepen, piepsen

stomp off

- wegstapfen

trackie bottoms UK ifml.

- Jogginghose

undergrowth

- Dickicht, Gestrüpp

cat's tail. They all pulled and pulled and pulled with all their might, and suddenly, the avocado popped off the tree. Shyleen, her dad, her mum, the dog, the cat and the mouse all fell to the ground with a bump.

Sandy quickly freed himself from under the enormous avocado and everyone laughed, happy that the ordeal was over.

Shyleen's family had to wait for a week or so for the avocado to ripen, but when it was ready to eat, they invited the whole town for a delicious breakfast of mashed avocado on toast. "I can't wait for the next avocado to ripen," said Shyleen, and they all lived happily ever after in eager anticipation.

Source: Spotlight 2/2020, pages 24–26

Replay

[8] A look at recent news events

Inez: Welcome to Replay, the listening exercise in which we look at a recent news story, its background and language. In this edition: Those seeking treatment for health problems should take care when dealing with alternative medicines.

[9] Alternative medicines: handle with care

Inez: Have there been times when you've been dissatisfied with the medical treatment you've received from a doctor or hospital? Perhaps

you've then visited a homeopathic doctor in search of a more natural or effective remedy — a "remedy" is a treatment or medicine to cure a disease or reduce pain. If so, what were your experiences of the remedy and the "practitioner", who is someone who works as a doctor? In an opinion piece for the *Guardian* newspaper from Britain, the editorial writers warn those that turn to unconventional treatments that they should do so with the understanding that these treatments haven't been proven to work. Let's listen now to the first excerpt from the editorial.

Human health is complicated, and while the history of medicine is often represented as a triumphant march from darkness into light,

anticipation: in eager ~

► in gespannter Erwartung

bump

► dumpfer Schlag

editorial writer

► Leitartikler(in)

excerpt

► Auszug

might

► hier: Kraft, Macht

opinion piece

► Meinungsbeitrag, Kommentar

ordeal

► Qual, Tortur

ripen

► reif werden

seek sth.

► auf der Suche sein nach etw.

for many people it doesn't feel like that. ... Sometimes a visit to the doctor doesn't make us, or our loved ones, feel better. There is nothing wrong with looking beyond conventional medicine for activities or remedies that may help. ... While manufacturers, practitioners and users of treatments including herbs and osteopathy may make claims about their effectiveness, the public should treat such claims with healthy scepticism: try something by all means, but do not mistake heartfelt testimonies or lengthy appointments for evidence-based medicine.

Inez: Although there has generally been acceptance for anyone choosing to opt out of standard medical treatment, in recent years this approach has been challenged. If you decide not to take part in something, you “opt out”. In the second excerpt from the editorial, the writers discuss the more dangerous aspects of alternative medicine, including the fall in childhood vaccinations. A “vaccination” is a type of treatment by which someone is given a substance that stops them getting a disease. Here's the second excerpt.

There has long been a minority of members of the public who opted out of orthodoxy in medicine as in other areas of life. Until recently this was generally viewed as a personal

choice. ... That this tradition of tolerance is now being questioned is largely due to recent falls in the take-up of childhood vaccinations. [Last autumn] Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, went public with “serious concerns” about homeopathy, and a decision to renew the accreditation of the Society of Homeopaths is being challenged after it was discovered that some members promoted a nonexistent “cure” for autism.

Inez: In the third excerpt, the editorial writers discuss how the internet has become a powerful platform for alternative beliefs. They mention “anti-vaxx”, which is when someone does not agree with vaccinations. The writers state that people do not need to choose between rationality and “open-mindedness”, which is the willingness to consider and accept other people's ideas and opinions. Instead, awareness of

accreditation

- Zulassung

approach

- Ansatz, Haltung

heartfelt

- tiefempfunden, innig

herbs

- Kräuter

lengthy

- ausführlich

NHS (National Health Service) UK

- staatlicher Gesundheitsdienst

testimony

- Bezeugung, Bekundung

what is being offered is essential to the safety of patients. Now listen to the final part of the article.

The situation is not unique to the UK, with the internet providing conduits for anti-vaxx and other myths that did not previously exist. ... There is also a more general cause for concern if the market for alternative medicine is growing because people are choosing magic over science. Rationality matters in principle. But it need not crowd out curiosity or open-mindedness. Placebo effects are well documented, as is the human need for attention. Unconventional ideas and methods can help people, as long as they understand the difference between what is tested, and proven to be effective, and what is neither.

Source: *Guardian News & Media* 2019

[10] Words and phrases

Inez: Let's see if you can remember the meanings 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?

If you decide not to take part in something, you... opt out.

What noun describes the willingness to consider and accept other people's ideas and

opinions? Open-mindedness

What is another word for describing someone who works as a doctor? Practitioner

A type of treatment by which someone is given a substance that stops them getting a disease is called a... vaccination.

What name describes when someone does not agree with vaccinating people? Anti-vaxx

What noun refers to a treatment or medicine to cure a disease or reduce pain? Remedy

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

See *Spotlight* 2/2020, page 27

conduit

► Kanal

crowd out

► verdrängen

American Life

[11] Those were the days

David: Nowadays, going to music festivals has become a well-established part of the summer routine for millions of people around the world. Not so 50 years ago, however, when the Woodstock festival became a pivotal moment in popular culture. In American Life, columnist Ginger Kuenzel looks back at this historic event.

On an August weekend in 1969, young folks from around the country rolled into the small town of Bethel in rural New York for the Woodstock music festival. Organizers expected 50,000 to 100,000 people, which would have been a big crowd for a field in the middle of nowhere. But nobody wanted to miss this party. According to estimates, more than 400,000 came. There were massive traffic problems, and food, drink, parking, bathroom facilities, and medical services were in short supply. More than 30 bands had to get their equipment in and out of the area, too.

It could easily have been a total disaster, but it wasn't. Organizers, attendees, vendors, and even some of the local residents worked together to maintain an atmosphere of peace and love. Even the military helped out, providing helicopters for the performers and for medical care.

Although I missed the original Woodstock, I recently visited the museum dedicated to it at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, located at the concert site. The exhibits offer a wealth of information on the event itself and put it into context. Visitors can find out what was happening in the years leading up to 1969, how the concert was put together, and learn some fascinating trivia about the performers. Film clips show Woodstock attendees describing their experiences. They remember the details vividly — but then there's a saying: "If you remember the '60s, you weren't really there." The Woodstock organizers faced many difficulties, like when the town of Wallkill, the

attendee

- Besucher(in)

dedicate

- widmen

maintain

- aufrechterhalten

pivotal moment

- Wendepunkt, prägendes Ereignis

routine

- hier: Programm

rural

- ländlich

saying

- Spruch

supply: be in short ~

- knapp sein

trivia

- Einzelheiten, Fakten

vendor

- Anbieter(in)

vividly

- lebhaft

original festival venue, pulled out just a month before the event. Hurrying to find a new site, organizer Michael Lang came upon Max Yasgur, a conservative dairy farmer in Bethel, who offered the use of his farm. His neighbors protested vehemently, but Max held firm and the kids poured in. During the concert, Max was asked to say a few words to the crowd: “You’ve proven something to the world,” he said, “...that half a million young people can get together for fun and music and have nothing but fun and music...”

Here’s some of the music trivia I learned. The highest-paid performer was Jimi Hendrix, who earned \$18,000. Bob Dylan had a home in nearby Woodstock, but chose not to appear. It was just the second concert appearance for Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. Carlos Santana, a complete unknown at the time, thrilled the crowds. Richie Havens, who was supposed to be the fifth act, became the opening act when the other bands got stuck in traffic. He remained on stage performing song after song as he waited for the bands to arrive. When he ran out of songs, he improvised the song “Freedom,” which became a Woodstock anthem. There are many more stories from the bands, attendees, and organizers — and the museum is a great place to experience them. It’s almost like being there.

Source: Spotlight 2/2020, page 62

English at Work

[12] Technique, technology and technical

David: Business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio now with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken presents guidelines on using the words “technique”, “technology” and “technical”.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. It’s very easy to mix up the words “technique”, “technology” and “technical”. The word “technique” describes a way of doing something. The word “technology” describes practical methods or systems that are the result of scientific knowledge. The word “technical” is an adjective which describes the knowledge or methods used in science or industry. Listen to this short dialogue between two colleagues discussing the introduction of a new logistics software programme. John and Frances will

anthem

- Hymne

pour in

- herbeiströmen

pull out

- einen Rückzieher machen

run out of sth.

- etw. ausgehen

supposed: be ~ to be sth.

- etw. sein sollen

thrill

- begeistern, mitreißen

venue

- Veranstaltungsort

use the words “technique”, “technology” and “technical”.

John: Frances, do you have a minute? I just can't get my head around the new software. I'm not sure what to input where!

Frances: It is a bit complicated.

John: I just don't have a technical background like you.

Frances: Let me sit with you and go through the process step by step.

John: I find any new technology confusing at first.

Frances: You'll soon get the hang of it with a bit of practice. It's like learning to play a musical instrument. The more you practise, the better your technique becomes.

John: I wish I had your technical expertise. I need to find a better technique for dealing with new technology.

Ken: Let's now practice the use of these three words. You will hear a sentence. Each sentence has a missing word indicated by this sound. In the following pause, choose one of the three words — “technique”, “technology” or “technical” — to complete the sentence correctly. Then you will hear the full sentence. There will then be a pause for you to repeat the sentence. Good. We'll start. Remember, replace the missing word with one of the words “technique”,

“technology” or “technical”.

Modern makes our work easier.

Modern technology makes our work easier.

John had lessons to improve his tennis

John had lessons to improve his tennis technique.

I didn't understand some of the terms he used.

I didn't understand some of the technical terms he used.

She had an excellent for dealing with customers.

She had an excellent technique for dealing with customers.

We offer 24-hour support to our customers.

expertise

► Fachwissen, Kompetenz

hang: get the ~ of it ifml.

► den Dreh raushaben

head: get one's ~ around sth. ifml.

► etw. verstehen, begreifen

indicate

► andeuten, hinweisen

We offer 24-hour technical support to our customers.

This country needs to invest more in science and

This country needs to invest more in science and technology.

Company profits have increased since the introduction of new

Company profits have increased since the introduction of new technology.

Yoga is an effective for dealing with stress.

Yoga is an effective technique for dealing with stress.

You would need good skills for that job.

You would need good technical skills for that job.

Good. How did you get on? Did you choose the right words? You should now be able to use “technique”, “technology” and “technical” correctly. If you still feel unsure, go back and try the exercise again.

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 2/2020, page 57

Peggy's Place

[13] A fool and his money

David: How frustrating it is when we lose something! And it's so much worse if it's something important. That's exactly how George is feeling as he drops in for a drink at *Spotlight's* very own London pub, *Peggy's Place*. So pull up a chair, grab a pint and let's hear all about George's woes.

Phil: What can I get you, George?

George: I'll have a pint of the usual.

Peggy: You look tired, love.

George: We had a big meeting at headquarters today — and then at the Tube station coming back, I noticed that I'd lost my Oyster card.

Helen: It'll turn up.

drop in

→ kurz vorbeischaun

fool: a ~ and his money are soon parted

→ dem Narren rinnt das Geld zwischen den Fingern hindurch

grab *ifml.*

→ sich schnappen

turn up

→ auftauchen

woe

→ Kummer, Not

George: Nope! I checked my backpack and all my pockets. And then I was so angry with myself that I decided not to buy a ticket and walked here from St Paul's.

Phil: That's quite a trek.

George: Yeah, and I've worked up a thirst...

Phil: Sorry, here's your pint.

Helen: Was there a lot on your card?

George: Yes, 90 quid. I'd topped it up this morning.

Peggy: So, you must have swiped it when you got off at St Paul's.

George: I know. I retraced my steps to our offices, but it's disappeared into thin air.

Helen: What happens to the money if you lose the card? Can you reclaim it?

George: I don't know.

Helen: Didn't you register your card?

George: No, I never got round to it.

Phil: I read in the paper that Transport for London has £400 million on its books. Half of it from the £5 deposit you make when you get an Oyster card and the other half from the balances on cards people stopped using for some reason.

Peggy: Why would people buy a card but not use it?

Phil: Well, think about it. Friends come to stay and get an Oyster card to use during their visit. They pay the £5 deposit, put a bit of money on the card but don't use all of the balance. They

take the card home, forget about it and on their next visit, spend £5 on a new one.

George: What's happening with the £400 million?

Phil: Apparently, it's being spent on improving transport.

Peggy: Is that legal?

George: I suppose it must be.

Helen: What if everyone suddenly wants their money back?

Phil: That won't happen.

George: So, next time I hop on a new bus, or see repairmen at work on the Tube, I'll take

balance

► Guthaben

deposit

► Kaution

hop

► hüpfen, springen

quid UK *ifml.*

► Mäuse, Pfund (Sterling)

reclaim

► zurückfordern, zurückbekommen

retrace: ~ one's steps

► denselben Weg zurückgehen

round: get ~ to sth. UK

► zu etw. kommen

suppose

► annehmen, vermuten

swipe

► hier: durchziehen, an den Kartenleser halten

thin air: disappear into ~

► sich in Luft auflösen

top: ~ up UK

► aufstocken, auffüllen

comfort in the fact that my money is being well used.

Helen: You're like a shareholder in Transport for London.

George: I'd rather just have my card back.

Peggy: Are you sure you checked all your pockets?

George: Yes, and anyway, it's always in my backpack. Right, I'm going home.

Phil: You might want to pay before you rush out.

George: Sorry. £4.50, is it? Here you are.

Phil: And 50p back.

George: Thanks. Bye!

Helen: Hang on, George. You just dropped something.

Peggy: It's your wallet. You must have a hole in the pocket of that jacket.

Source: Spotlight 2/2020, page 10

Short Story

[14] “Tomorrow never knows yesterday”

David: It's not always easy for younger generations to understand those older than them. And that can easily be the case when it comes to culture. In this edition's short story, an American couple travel to Britain with their teenage children. Although the parents want to visit places associated with their favourite band, the children have other ideas. Let's find

out what happens in “Tomorrow never knows yesterday”.

“One small step for mankind, one giant step for Margaret Lovelace,” she said as her foot hit the most famous zebra stripe in the world, in front of Abbey Road Studios in London.

Wilbur and Margaret Lovelace, from Fort Wayne, Indiana, were on the trip of their lifetime. Now in their fifties, they had been Beatles fans since they were teenagers, and had dreamed of coming to London to visit the famous Beatles sites. Now they were.

“Are we the Fab Four?” asked Vickery, their 13-year-old daughter, meaning herself, her parents, and her 16-year-old brother, Sam, as they marched across the zebra stripes.

Wilbur and Margaret had sparked some enthusiasm for their idols in their children, but really, Vickery and Sam were just happy to be in London. Seeing the Tower, the London Eye, and especially the latest Harry Potter in the West End would have been enough for them.

hang on *ifml.*

• warte mal

shareholder

• Aktieninhaber(in)

spark

• entfachen

wallet

• Brieftasche

Going on The Beatles “magical mystery tour,” as Wilbur called it, was just to humor their parents.

Later, the family visited Savile Row, where the Apple Records offices once were. Wilbur and Margaret looked in awe at the building, but a little shocked that it was now an American children’s clothing chain.

“Why get so excited about this place?” Sam asked.

“Honey, this is where it happened — where they played their last concert, on the roof! This was Apple!” Margaret cried, entering the building.

Vickery gave Sam a look that said: “Forget it. It’s no use. Let them enjoy their fun.”

“Why did they use the name of a computer company?” Sam asked, checking the messages on his phone as they made their way through the store.

Wilbur rolled his eyes. “No, the record company was here first. Think of the LPs we have at home. They have the Granny Smith apple on the label. The computers came later.”

“How did The Beatles make their music, before computers?”

“They used magnetic tape,” Margaret explained.

“Magnetic? The sound stuck to it?” Vickery asked.

“This is where the recording studios were,”

Margaret said, leading the way down to the basement.

“Mom, it’s kids’ clothing!” Vickery objected. “No, history was made here! Some of the world’s greatest music was recorded right here!” Margaret said. This was not how she expected her journey to be — traveling with iconoclastic children and finding kids’ shorts where “Let It Be” was recorded.

“The Beatles were pioneers,” Wilbur explained. “In ‘Tomorrow Never Knows,’ they strung tapes all around the studios, in loops, then played them backwards. That’s how they made those sounds. And with Leslie speakers.”

“Who’s Leslie? I thought there were only four of them,” Vickery said.

“No, it’s a machine that ... Oh, forget it.” Margaret was giving up.

“They changed the world,” Wilbur added. “All they sang about was love.”

“So?” Sam asked. “People sing about love today.”

awe

► Ehrfurcht

humour sb.

► jmdn. bei Laune halten

iconoclastic

► ketzerisch

loop

► Schlaufe

magnetic tape

► Tonband

string

► spannen

“No, but that’s all they sang about. Not this crap that singers sing about today,” Margaret said with distaste, noticing a Beatles T-shirt for toddlers.

“‘Tomorrow Never Knows’ isn’t a love song,” Sam said. “Sounds pretty wasted to me.”

“It’s about meditation! It’s based on the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*.” Wilbur was losing patience.

“Dad, you’re an air-conditioning salesman from the Midwest, not a Himalayan yogi,” Sam said as they left the store.

“Guys, we were your age once, too. You don’t know who we were,” Margaret said, regretting her words as soon as she spoke them.

The teens looked hurt. They had never considered who their parents had been at their own age.

Seeing her mother trying to orient herself on the tourist map, Vickery changed the subject. “The app says that if we want to go to Carnaby Street, we just have to make a right.”

The family walked in silence to Carnaby Street, where the kids found some of their favorite clothing stores. At one called Maniax, they bought Beatles T-shirts. Sam picked up a book about The Beatles and flipped through it. He stopped dead when he saw an old black-and-white news photo.

Was that young woman his mother, with a flower in her hair, teary-eyed, at a vigil for John Lennon?

“Mom, is that ... you?”

“Yes, dear, that’s me. I didn’t know I was being photographed at the time. I was in college in New York. We all gathered at the Dakota, where he lived.”

“You never told us you were in this photo,” Sam said. “Did you know?”

“Yes, at some point I found out about it. It was very moving. I guess I just didn’t want to share the pain with you.”

“Look at all those people,” Vickery said, looking at the crowds in the photo.

“Our generation lost its spirit. It was terrible,” Wilbur said. Sam and Vickery were still staring at the photo of a mother they never knew, clearly moved.

That night, the Lovelace family went for a meal

crap *ifml.*

• Mist, Müll

distaste

• Abneigung, Widerwille

flip

• blättern

regret

• bedauern

stop dead

• plötzlich stehen bleiben, innehalten

teary-eyed

• mit Tränen in den Augen

toddler

• Kleinkind

vigil

• Mahnwache

wasted

• hier: kaputt; im Drogenrausch entstanden

and to see a *Harry Potter* show in the West End. Among the crowd of excited teens were Wilbur and Margaret — happy to be making their children’s dreams come true with this theatrical event, but also knowing that one day, Sam and Vickery would be grown up with kids of their own, and that this evening, this trip, would be a bittersweet memory for the adult versions of themselves.

Source: *Spotlight 2/2020*, 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.

subscriber

➤ Abonnent(in)

IMPRESSUM

Herausgeber: Jan Henrik Groß

Chefredakteurin: Inez Sharp (V.i.S.d.P.)

Stellvertretende Chefredakteurin: Claudine Weber-Hof

Produktionsredaktion: Petra Daniell

Audioredaktion: Owen Connors

Sprachredaktion: Elisabeth Erpf (frei)

Produktion und Ton: Karl Braun (frei)

Tonstudio: Cebra Studio, Gröbenzell

Gestaltung: Nerina Wilter (frei)

Produktmanagement: Ignacio Rodríguez-Mancheño

Produktion: Dorle Matussek

Leiter Werbevermarktung: Áki Hardarson (DIE ZEIT, V.i.S.d.P.)

Litho: Mohn Media Mohndruck GmbH, 33311 Gütersloh

Druck und Vervielfältigung: optimal media GmbH, D-17207 Röbel/
Müritz

Titel: C. Jenkins/Alamy Stock Photo

Sprecher: Owen Connors (English at Work)

Martin Cooke (Travel)

David Creedon (Anmoderation, Everyday English, Replay, Peggy's Place)

Jenny Evans (Everyday English, English at Work, Peggy's Place)

Tania Higgins (Everyday English, Grammar Tales, Peggy's Place)

Erin Perry (American Life, Short Story)

Nick Lloyd (Britain Today, Peggy's Place)

Inez Sharp (Replay)

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Interviews: John Stanley (A Day in My Life)

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Spotlight Verlag GmbH,

Kistlerhofstr. 172, 81379 München

Kundenservice: abo@spotlight-verlag.de

Redaktion: spotlight@spotlight-verlag.de

Einzelverkaufspreis: € 14,50 (D)

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