

THE NUMBER-ONE MAGAZINE FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING ENGLISH!

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# Learn **hot** English magazine

No.17

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## 10 USEFUL IDIOMS FROM POPULAR SONG TITLES!

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN

LET'S GO CRAZY

SHAKE IT OFF

PRACTICAL VOCABULARY:

THE FLAT & THE PUB!

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HALLOWEEN JOKES!



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# EDITOR'S INTRO

## How you learn English with Hot English magazine

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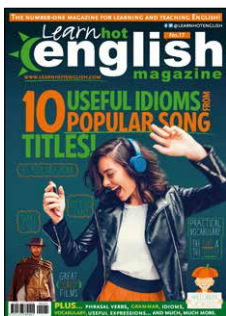
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Hi, and welcome to another issue of *Learn Hot English* – the fun magazine for learning English. In this month's issue, we're looking at 10 idioms from popular song titles. Songs are a great way to learn English. They can

help with your pronunciation, especially the way word sounds join; but you can also learn lots of useful words and expressions from songs – especially idioms. Of course, that's not all we're looking, there are also pages on cowboys, Jesse James, the pub, phrasal verbs, graffiti, product labels, slang, crank calls, grammar, noises and sounds, conversations, jokes and lots, lots more. Well, we hope you enjoy reading and listening to this issue of *Learn Hot English*. Have fun, learn lots of English and see you all next month!

*Andy*

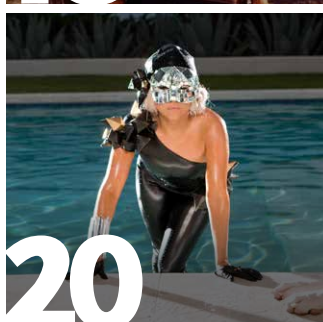
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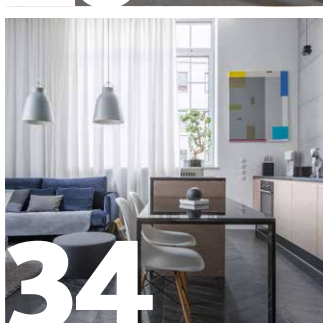
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# "Yet" & "Still"

## Grammar fun

In this month's grammar fun section, we'll be looking at the difference between the "yet" and "still" with the present perfect.

### Yet

We often use "yet" with the present perfect in negative sentences. We use it to say that something hasn't happened up to the present time, but that we expect it to happen. We usually put "yet" at the end of the sentence.

- I haven't taken the dog for a walk yet (but I'm going to).
- I haven't eaten yet (but I'm going to).
- She hasn't fixed the car yet (but she's going to).
- We haven't done it yet (but we're going to).
- They haven't decided yet (but they're going to).

We can also use "yet" with the present perfect to ask if something has happened because we expect that thing to happen soon. We place "yet" at the end of the question. For example:

- Has she gone yet?
- Have you eaten yet?
- Has she passed her test yet?
- Have you decided what to do yet?
- Has he taken the letters to the post office yet?

### Still

We can use "still" in affirmative sentences to say that a situation continues to exist. For example:

- It is still raining.
- She is still living there.
- We still have a lot to do.

We can also use "still" in negative sentences to say that a situation is

the same and hasn't changed. We place "still" in front of the auxiliary "have/has". For example:

- He still hasn't finished reading the book.
- She still hasn't told me the answer.
- I still don't understand it.

We often use "still" in questions to express anger or surprise that something is continuing to happen, or hasn't stopped. For example:

- Is he still here?
- Are they still working on it?
- Is it still raining?

### "Yet" & "Still" – a comparison

So, what's the difference? Well, in some cases, the meaning is very similar, although there are subtle differences. For example, these two sentences mean more or less the same thing:

- I haven't seen it yet (but I'm going to).
- I still haven't seen it. (The situation is still the same and hasn't changed.)

However, we can use "still" in affirmative sentences ("yet" is not possible) when we want to say that something is continuing to happen.

For example:

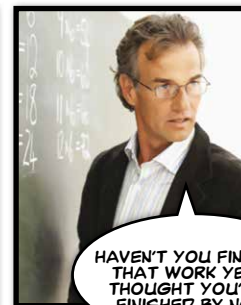
- It is still raining.
- He still seems to like it.
- They are still lying there.



WE HAVEN'T EATEN YET, BUT WE'D LIKE TO.



I HAVEN'T PASSED MY TEST YET, BUT I'M GOING TO ONE DAY.



HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED THAT WORK YET? I THOUGHT YOU'D BE FINISHED BY NOW.



IS IT STILL RAINING?



ARE YOU STILL WEARING THOSE TROUSERS?



ARE YOU STILL HERE?

THAT'S NOT VERY NICE.

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# Basic English

Learn lots of useful words and expressions. Just listen and repeat.

## Useful Expressions

Listen and repeat these useful expressions.

## Things you say

- What time does the pub close?
- I'll have a pint of **lager**, please.
- I'll have a straight whisky, please (a whisky with no ice).
- I'll have a non-alcoholic beer, and a vodka and orange, please.
- Where are the toilets, please?
- A bottle of **Bud**, please.
- Is this chair taken?
- Can I smoke here?
- Is there a non-smoking section?
- Do you have **darts** here?
- Is there a pool table?
- Do you serve food?
- Can I see the **menu**, please?
- Are there any **live bands** playing tonight?
- Do you have quiz nights?
- How much is that, please?
- Do you have Sky sports? (the digital channel that shows live sports games).
- Are you going to be showing the Scotland-Ireland game?
- Cheers (this can mean "thanks", or as a way of celebrating the moment by touching your glass against the other person's glass)

## Things you hear

- What would you like?
- What will you be having then?
- Would you like anything to eat with that?
- A pint or a half?
- Sorry, but smoking is prohibited here.
- The smoking section is at the back.
- The toilets are down the stairs and on the right.
- That'll be twenty two pounds and six pence, please.
- Last orders, please (This means the pub is about to close, so you have to order quickly.)
- Time, ladies and gentlemen (This means the pub is closing, so you have to stop drinking.)

## Speaking

Now use these expressions to practise ordering drinks in a pub.

### GLOSSARY

**lager** *n* a golden-coloured, fizzy (with bubbles) beer that is served cold

**Bud** *n* a Budweiser – a type of American beer

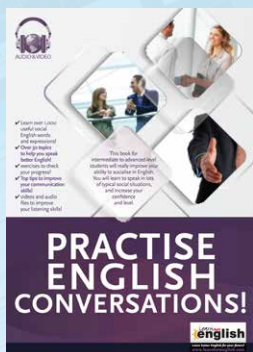
**darts** *n* a game played that consists of throwing pointed sticks at a board

**a menu** *n* a list of the food served in a restaurant

**a live band** *n* a band that plays in front of an audience

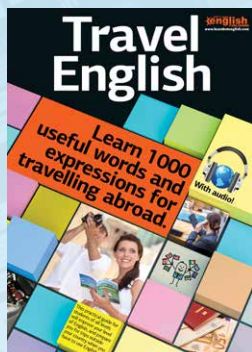


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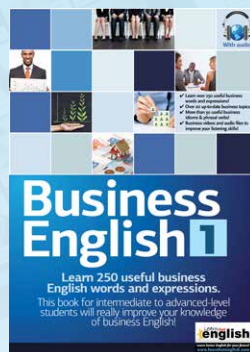
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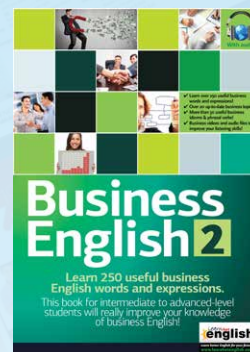
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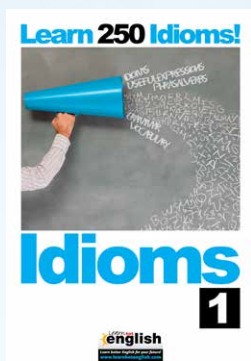
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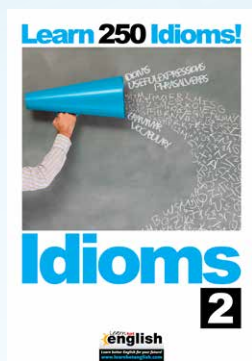
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# DR FINGERS' DESCRIPTIVE NOISE



# "NOISE NUISANCE"

Here's another part in our special "noise" class. **ANSWERS ALSO ON PAGE 40**

## Part I

Listen to each noise sentence and the accompanying noise. Repeat each sentence as you hear it.

1. She was *whistling* while she was working.
2. He was *sobbing* because the film was so sad.
3. The children were *sniggering* because the teacher fell over.
4. I packed my bag then *snapped* the plastic clip closed.
5. Some people *grind* their teeth at night while they're sleeping.
6. When he saw the men had come for the money, he *gulped*.
7. She was all blocked up so she *blew her nose*.
8. As soon as he tasted the drink, he *spat* it out.
9. After brushing my teeth, I like to *gargle* every morning.
10. He was happily *humming* a song to himself.

## Part II

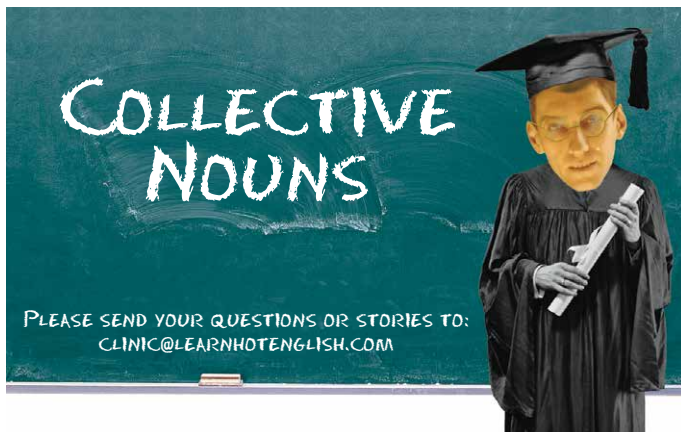
Now, look at the following sentences. In each one there's a missing "noise word". Listen to the sound on the CD, then write in the correct word that describes the sound. Choose from the words below.

snapped	spat out
sniggering	grinds
blew	hummed
whistling	gargle
sobbing	gulped

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ the disgusting food.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ a song to herself.
3. He \_\_\_\_\_, then apologized to her.
4. I like to \_\_\_\_\_ every morning.
5. She \_\_\_\_\_ her teeth at night.
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ his nose.
7. He was \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ the clip closed.
9. She was \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The children were \_\_\_\_\_.







Hello, everybody, and welcome to my grammar clinic. This is the last part in our mini-series on confusing nouns. OK, let's get grammatical.

### Money & Time

There are some plural words that are followed by a singular verb. Many of these words refer to money, distance and time, and include "pounds / dollars / miles / kilometres / weeks / minutes / seconds / months / years / kilos / grams", etc. For example:

- Where is that five pounds I lent you?
- Fifty miles is a long way to walk in one day.
- Two pints of beer isn't enough for me.
- Three weeks is a long time to be alone.
- Twenty minutes with him is like an eternity.
- 100 kilos is far too much for a man your size.



### Singular & Plural

Words such as "anybody / anyone / somebody / someone / nobody / no one / everybody / everyone" are used with singular verbs. However, we often use plural pronouns and possessive adjectives (they, them, their) to refer to these words. By doing this, it isn't necessary to specify the sex of the person, and it avoids having to say things such as "him/her" or "he/she". For example:

- If anybody calls, tell them I'm out.
- Nobody came, did they?
- Someone left their umbrella here.
- Everyone thinks they're the centre of attention.
- Whoever comes, tell them to go away.
- If anyone asks where I am, tell them I've gone out.
- No one called, did they?
- Everybody should take their own bags with them.
- Somebody rang and left their number for you.

### Unusual plurals

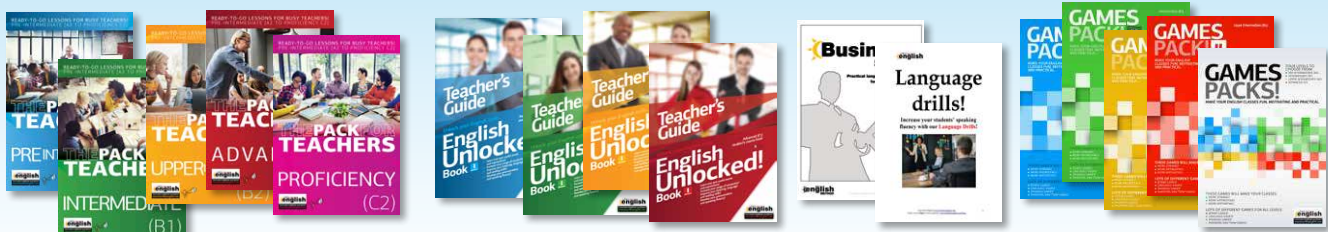
Some singular nouns have special plurals (fungus/fungi; formula/formulae; phenomenon/phenomena). For example:

- A mushroom is a type of fungus / These plants are fungi.
- What is the formula for this mixture? They developed a number of formulae.
- It is a very strange phenomenon / they are strange phenomena.



Well, I hope that has helped you. See you all next month. Yours, Dr Fingers. Please send your questions or stories to: [clinic@learnhotenglish.com](mailto:clinic@learnhotenglish.com)

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Here's another part in our mini-series on things your parents used to say to you as a child. Do you recognise any of these expressions?

My parents taught me about **sadism**:  
"I'll hit you if you don't stop crying."

My parents taught me economics:  
"Turn that light off. We're not made of money, you know."

My parents taught me about inferiority:  
"Close the door! You weren't born in a **barn**, were you?"

My parents taught me about science:  
"Money doesn't grow on trees, you know."

My parents taught me body language:  
"**Elbows off** the table when you're eating."

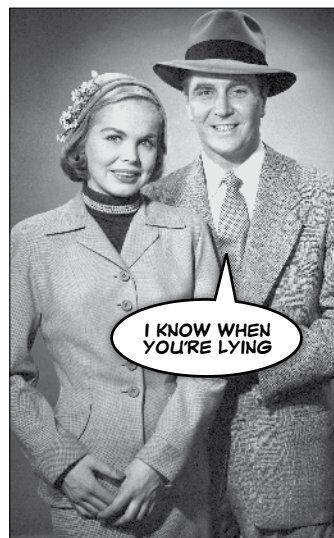
My parents taught me about **cloning**:  
"I hope when you have kids, you have one just like you!"

My parents taught me about **ESP**:  
"I know when you're lying."

My parents taught me about **guilt**:  
"You will sit there and finish that food. Do you know how many children there are **starving** in the world?"

My parents taught me about the **generation gap**:  
"We'd never do that when I was your age."

My parents taught me about self-reflection:  
"What were you thinking?"



#### GLOSSARY

**sadism** *n*  
a type of behaviour in which someone enjoys causing pain

**a barn** *n*  
a large building for animals on a farm

**an elbow** *n*  
the joint in the middle of your arm

**off** *exp*  
if you say "off", it means "take it off"

**cloning** *n*  
the process of creating an exact copy of a human or animal

**ESP** *abbr*  
extra sensory perception - an ability to know what someone is thinking

**guilt** *n*  
feeling bad about something you have done

**to starve** *vb*  
if someone is "starving", they are dying because they haven't eaten

**the generation gap** *n*  
the emotional/psychological division between parents and children

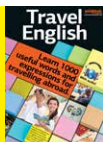
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## GRAFFITI

I COULDN'T CARE  
LESS ABOUT  
APATHY.

AMERICA  
NEEDS GAS.  
EAT MORE  
BEANS.

"MAKE LOVE  
NOT WAR"  
I'M MARRIED.  
I DO BOTH



I USED TO BE  
CONCEITED  
BUT NOW I'M  
ABSOLUTELY  
PERFECT.

BAD SPELLERS  
OF THE WORLD,  
UNTIE!

DEATH IS  
HEREDITARY.

## GLOSSARY

**apathy** *n*  
if someone is in a state of "apathy", they are not interested or enthusiastic about anything

**conceited** *adj*  
feeling very pleased (but in a bad/proud way) about your abilities

**a bad speller** *n*  
someone who cannot write words correctly

**untie** *exp*  
this is a deliberate misspelling of the word "unite" (to join together). Literally, if you "untie" something, you loosen the string/cord/rope holding it

Crank

Call



Telephone conversations to help improve your listening skills.

Here are some more crank calls - those funny telephone calls that are designed to **wind** people **up**. Answers also on page 24

## The Classified Love Ad

For this call, we phoned up someone who had a **classified ad** in the **Lonely Hearts** section. The ad read: "Young **male**. Looking for some company. Enjoys reading, walking and cinema. Will you be **my other half**?"

Listen to the conversation and answer this question: Why isn't the man interested in our call?

- Victim: Hello, Pete James speaking.  
Hot: Oh, hello, I was calling about the ad.  
Victim: The ad?  
Hot: The one you have in the **local paper**. You are the "young **male seeking** fun and friendship. Interested in reading, cinema and walking", aren't you?  
Victim: Oh, right, but, erm...  
Hot: I like reading too. What's the best book you've ever read?  
Victim: Well, I was really looking for...  
Hot: I like walking too. I could walk to your house right now.  
Victim: No, no, you don't understand...  
Hot: And I like cinema. Shall we go and **catch a movie**? I really feel like going out.  
Victim: Is this a joke?  
Hot: What's wrong. Aren't you looking for friendship?  
Victim: No, I really was looking for...  
Hot: You don't like me?  
Victim: No, it's not that, it's, it's I was just looking for a woman.  
Hot: Oh, well, my sister's quite nice. I could invite her over too.  
Victim: No, it's all right thanks. Goodbye.

## GLOSSARY

**to wind someone up** *phr vb*  
to really annoy and irritate someone

**a classified ad** *n*  
a small advert in a newspaper offering something for sale, or asking for something

**the Lonely Hearts section** *exp*  
the section in the newspaper where people put ads looking for partners or friends

**a male** *n*  
a man

**my other half** *exp*  
the person who is perfect for me in a romantic sense

**a local paper** *n*  
a newspaper from the area you are referring to

**seeking** *exp*  
looking for

**to catch a movie** *exp inform*  
to go and see a film in the cinema



# Halloween



## Jokes

Look at these Halloween jokes. Match each beginning (1-11) with each ending (A-K). Then, listen to the CD to see if you were correct.

Answers on page 40

### Questions

1. What kind of key should you always take to a haunted house?
2. What kind of streets do zombies like?
3. What was the witch's favourite subject in school?
4. What did the pharaoh say when he got lost?
5. Why didn't the ghost go to the party?
6. What does a vampire fear most?
7. What do you call a monster **chasing** a train full of people?
8. Why do witches use **brooms** to fly?
9. What's it like to be kissed by a vampire?
10. What does a ghost have for dessert?
11. What do monsters call human beings?

### Responses

- A: I want my mummy.
- B: I – scream.
- C: A "skeleton" key.
- D: Because he had no "body" to go with.
- E: Because **vacuum cleaners** are too heavy.
- F: Tooth decay.
- G: Spell-ing.
- H: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- I: It's a **pain in the neck**.
- J: **Dead ends**.
- K: Hungry.



### GLOSSARY

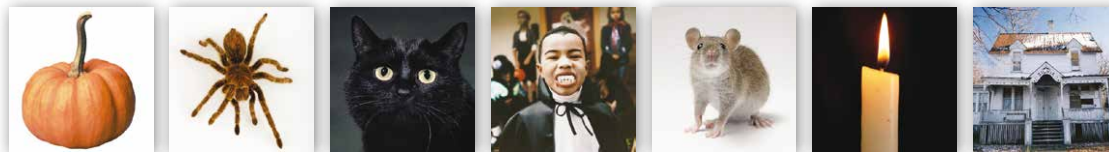
**to chase** *vb*  
to run behind someone in order to catch them  
**a broom** *n*  
a kind of brush with a long handle used for sweeping the floor (cleaning the dust from the floor)  
**a vacuum cleaner** *n*  
an electrical object used for cleaning the floor or a carpet  
**a pain in the neck** *exp*  
an annoying/irritating thing  
**a dead end** *n*  
a street that ends and doesn't lead to another street

## Creepy Words

Write a word below each picture. Choose from the words at the right. We've done the first one for you. Then, listen to the CD for the answers. Answers also on page 24



1 owl 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_



8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_



15 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_

- Haunted house  
cemetery  
rat  
coffin  
vampire  
werewolf  
Mummy  
candle  
grave stone  
snake  
broomstick  
skeleton  
owl 1  
Jack O' Lantern  
black cat  
owl 2  
witch  
bat  
pumpkin  
ghost  
spider

# Trivia

Here are some interesting things about that **spooky, scary** festival Halloween (31st of October). Will you be celebrating?

Halloween is celebrated on the last day of October (the 31st). To celebrate, people often dress up as witches, ghosts and devils, or famous people such as Superman and Spiderman.

One popular Halloween activity is "trick-or-treating". Children **dress up** in their costumes then go to people's houses. They knock on the door and say "trick or treat?" This means, give us a treat (usually some sweets), or we'll **play a trick on you**. Most people give the sweets.



American teenagers often celebrate Halloween with a costume party. They may also watch horror movies, listen to music, or tell each other ghost stories. Visiting **haunted houses** is also a popular activity.



One of the most important Halloween symbols is the "Jack O'Lantern". This is a **pumpkin** that has been cut to form a face. A candle is often placed inside it and people put the lantern in front windows so others can see it.

Another popular Halloween game is a "**scavenger hunt**". This is a team game that is played outside. Each team is given a list of things to collect (such as a large vegetable, a part of a car, a bicycle, a basketball, etc.). The first team to collect all the things is the winner. It's often played at night with torches.

One popular Halloween game is "apple bobbing". This consists of putting some apples in a large **basin of water**. The objective is to use your teeth to take one of the apples out of the basin.



The most common Halloween food is the "toffee apple" (also known as the "candy apple"). This is basically an apple that has been covered in **sticky sugar syrup**.

Here are some interesting things about that spooky, scary festival Halloween (31st of October). Will you be celebrating?

The festival of Halloween has Celtic origins and is more than 2000 years old. For the ancient Celts (people from Britain, Ireland and northern Europe), October 31st was seen as the last day of the bright half of the year, and the start of winter. They associated this period with death, and believed that this was a night when the dead **roamed** the living world. The Celts often wore **masks** and costumes to **avoid being recognised** as humans.

They also left **gifts** and treats to help **pacify** the evil spirits. This custom later evolved into "trick-or-treating" (see previous entry). Halloween was known as "All-hallow-even", and can also be spelt "Hallowe'en".

The first of November is an important date in the Christian calendar and is known as "All Saints Day". It was a day to convert pagans to Christianity. The Catholic church also honours its saints on this day. The night before was known as "All Hallows Eve".



Anoka, Minnesota (in America) is known as the "Halloween Capital of the World". They celebrate Halloween with a **huge parade**. New York City also has a big Halloween celebration. It attracts over 2 million, as well as 4 million television viewers. In America, it's typical to dress up as a famous person, very often a politician. George Bush and Bin Laden face masks have recently been very popular.

One superstition says that seeing a spider on Halloween is a sign that the spirit of a loved one is watching over you. Another says that if the **flame of a candle flickers**



and then turns blue, there's a spirit in the room. **Crows** are also seen as bad omens on Halloween, and if you hear them **caw**, it means that death is near. ✨



## GLOSSARY

- spooky** *adj*  
frightening
- scary** *adj*  
frightening
- to dress up** *phr vb*  
to put on clothes so you look different
- to play a trick on someone** *exp*  
to do something "bad" to someone as part of a joke
- a haunted house** *n*  
a house with ghosts/evil spirits in it
- a pumpkin** *n*  
a large, round orange vegetable
- a scavenger** *n*  
someone who collects things by looking amongst rubbish/unwanted things
- a basin of water** *n*  
a large and deep bowl filled with water
- sticky** *adj*  
that can attach itself easily to other things
- sugar syrup** *n*  
a sweet liquid made by cooking sugar
- to roam** *vb*  
to go from place to place with no particular purpose
- a mask** *n*  
an object you wear over your face in order to disguise yourself
- to avoid being recognised** *exp*  
to do something so others don't know who you are
- a gift** *n*  
a present
- to pacify** *vb*  
to calm someone who is angry
- huge** *adj*  
very, very big
- a parade** *n*  
a procession of people or vehicles that are part of a celebration
- a flame** *n*  
a long, bright part of a fire
- a candle** *n*  
a wax stick you burn to produce light
- to flicker** *vb*  
if a flame "flickers", it shines unsteadily, moving from side to side
- a crow** *n*  
a large black bird
- to caw** *vb*  
the noise a crow makes

# DR FINGERS' VOCABULARY CLINIC: SPEAKING & TALKING



Here are some more useful expressions for you to learn. The images will help you associate the expression with its meaning.



### Get your lines/wires crossed

If two people "get their lines crossed", they do not understand each other correctly.

"I thought the party was on 3rd March, and Mary thought it was on 5th – I think we got our lines crossed."



### Beat about/around the bush

Avoid talking directly about something; avoid talking about a difficult topic.

"I'm not interested in what you did on the weekend. Stop beating about the **bush** and get to the point."



### Speak your mind

Say what you want to say; to be honest.

"He'll tell you exactly what he thinks. He's never afraid to speak his **mind**."



### Not get a word in edgeways

Not be able to say something in a conversation because others are talking too much.

"She was talking non-stop and I couldn't get a word in edgeways."



### A slip of the tongue

A mistake you make when you are speaking.

"Did I say twenty? Sorry, **slip** of the tongue. I meant to say thirty."



### A heart-to-heart

An intimate and very personal conversation with someone.

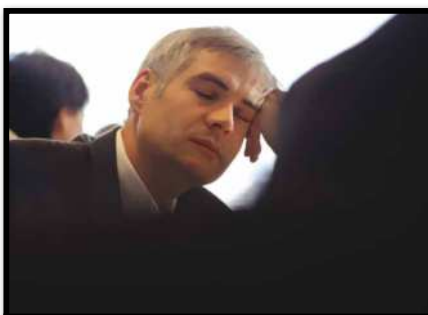
"We had a good heart-to-heart and sorted out all our problems."



### Spread the word

Tell everyone about something.

"There's a party on Saturday so spread the word."



### Bore someone to death

To talk non-stop and to make someone feel very bored.

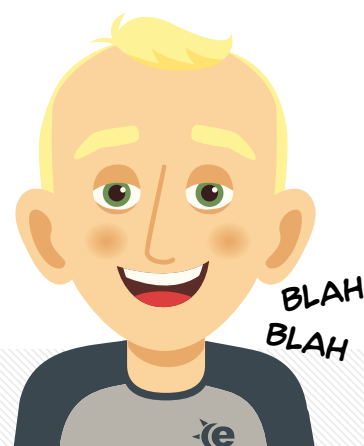
"He was boring me to death, talking non-stop about his really 'exciting' job."

### GLOSSARY

**a bush** *n* a small tree, and a US president

**a mind** *n* the part of your body in your head that you use for thinking

**to slip** *vb* literally, to "slip" is to fall, usually because you have stepped on ice / a banana skin, etc



# FUNNY PRODUCT LABELS

Our mini-series on funny signs from English-speaking countries. Here's another part in our series on **funny product labels**. Some companies seem to think we're a bit **wet behind the ears**.

**1** On a birthday card with "Happy First Birthday" written on it: "Not suitable for children under 36 months of age." I'm not very good at maths, but...



**3** On the packing of an **ink cartridge** for a **laser printer**: "This product is not **edible**." Oh, and I thought it would make the perfect food colouring.



**2** Warning label on a bottle of underarm **deodorant**: "Caution: Do not **spray** in eyes." So how am I supposed to keep my eyes smelling nice then?



**7** On a pair of **shin guards** for footballers: "For shin protection only." Oh, what a pity because they're perfect as a self-defence **device**.

**4** On a bottle of shampoo for dogs: "The contents of this bottle should not be fed to fish." Oh, and I was hoping to **kill two birds with one stone** – clean the dog and feed the fish.



**5** On the **packaging** for a **curling iron**: "Warning: This product can damage eyes." So how am I supposed to **curl** my **eyelashes** then?



**6** Warning sign at a toilet in a public sports facility: "Water from the **toilet bowl** is **not fit for** human consumption." But with all this sport one **builds up** a terrible **thirst**.

**8** Warning sign on a **wheelbarrow**: "Not intended for highway use." So, how am I supposed to transport my kids to school then?



## GLOSSARY

- deodorant** *n*  
a substance used to hide the smell of perspiration on the body
- to spray** *vb*  
if you "spray" a liquid on something, you cover that thing with liquid
- an ink cartridge** *n*  
an object placed inside a printer. It contains ink (the coloured liquid used for printing)
- a laser printer** *n*  
a printer that produces high-quality text and images when you print
- edible** *adj*  
that you can eat
- to feed** *vb*  
to give food to something
- to kill two birds with one stone** *exp*  
to do two jobs at the same time
- the packaging** *n*  
the plastic/paper, etc. that covers a product in a shop
- a curling iron** *n*  
an object used to make your hair curl (form little circles)
- to curl** *vb*  
to form circles
- eyelashes** *n*  
the hairs that grow from the lids of your eyes
- a toilet bowl** *n*  
the inside part of a toilet where the water is
- not fit for** *exp*  
that is not suitable/good for
- to build up** *phr vb*  
to produce
- a thirst** *n*  
if you have "a thirst", you want to drink
- a shin guard** *n*  
an object that protects your shin (the front part of your leg between your knee and your foot)
- a device** *n*  
an object that has been invented for a particular purpose
- a wheelbarrow** *n*  
a cart with handles and one wheel, used for carrying things in the garden
- a recreational object** *n*  
an object used for entertainment or sport
- an electric cattle prod** *n*  
an object that produces an electrical shock. Often used for cattle (cows)

**9** On the packaging for a Frisbee: "This **recreational object** contains no moving parts." Oh, and I thought I was buying a mechanical Frisbee.



**10** On the packaging for an **electric cattle prod**: "For use on animals only." But what if my husband won't get up in the morning?

# Let's be



# friends

(if we aren't already!)

[www.facebook.com/LearnHotEnglish](http://www.facebook.com/LearnHotEnglish)



# JESSE JAMES

DOES ANYONE  
KNOW WHERE THE  
NEAREST BANK IS?

## Jesse James

The story of Jesse James is the story of an American legend. He was hated by some, and admired by others. There's a new film out about him called *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, which stars actor Brad Pitt. Who was Jesse James? And why is he such a controversial figure?

## Ambiguity

Few historical figures have attracted such world-wide fascination as the **outlaw**, Jesse James. Some see him as America's Robin Hood – a man who robbed from the rich (the banks) and gave to the poor (his family); others see him as a **cold-blooded killer**, who killed innocent people during his robberies. So, where did it all start?

## The Start

Jesse James was born in Centerville (later renamed "Kearney"), Missouri. His father, Robert James, was a farmer who died while Jesse was still young. Jesse's mother, Zerelda, later married again, first to a **wealthy** man, then to a timid doctor named Reuben Samuel, who **moved into** the James home. They had a total of seven slaves and **grew tobacco** on their farm. They were true **southerners**.

## War

During the Civil War Missouri was badly divided between the Confederates (soldiers from the southern states fighting to keep their slave-labour farming system, and to **secede** from the north), and the Union forces (soldiers from the northern states who wanted to maintain the union between the north and the south).

The war in Missouri was a war with **atrocities** on both sides, with Unionist **militia** fighting against Confederate **insurgents**, and which often saw neighbours fighting against neighbours. At the start, Union army forces quickly **drove** the Confederate army units **out** of Missouri. But irregular gangs of Confederate **guerrillas** continued the fight. Jesse's brother, Frank eventually joined a Confederate group of fighters known as Quantrill's Raiders, and was involved in a massacre of 200 men and boys known as the Lawrence Massacre.

## Jesses joins up

In 1864, the sixteen-year-old Jesse joined his brother. In September 1864, **he took part in** another massacre, known as the Centralia Massacre, in which 22 unarmed Union soldiers returning home **on leave** were pulled from a train and executed.

At the end of the war, Missouri was **in a mess**. Its people were bitter and divided. A militant minority, the Radicals, took control of the state government, excluding former Confederates from voting or **holding public office**. Meanwhile, some of Jesse's old guerrilla comrades **refused** to return to peaceful life and started **holding up** banks.

## A new group

Some time around 1868, Frank and Jesse James joined the gang. Their first robbery with the group was of a bank in Kentucky. But Jesse didn't become famous until December 1869, when he and Frank **staged a robbery** in Gallatin, Missouri. During the robbery, Jesse shot the cashier. Jesse claimed he thought it was Samuel Cox, a militia officer who had killed Jesse's commander during the Civil War. Jesse's attempt at **revenge** for an incident during the Civil War, and the **daring escape** he and Frank made, put his name in the newspapers for the first time.

## Fame

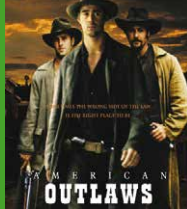
The gang grew and it eventually became known as James-Younger Gang, as it was formed by the James brothers and Cole Younger and his brothers. The gang robbed banks, **stagecoaches**, and even a fair in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1873, they started robbing trains. Some of their later train robberies had a touch of humour to them; and Jesse James rarely robbed passengers, limiting himself to the **safe**. Such techniques helped create Jesse James' Robin Hood image.

## Capture

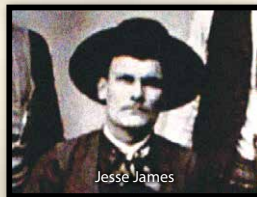
Eventually, a detective agency was contracted to catch the gang members. Allan Pinkerton took the case on as a **personal vendetta** after a couple of his detectives were murdered by the James-Younger gang. On 25th January 1875, Pinkerton **raided** the James family farm.



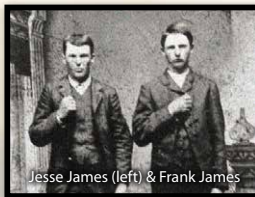


**Film Information: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford**

This film, the latest Jesse James film, tells the story of the outlaw and the young, tormented gang member Robert Ford who shot Jesse James in cold blood. The film stars Brad Pitt (as Jesse James), and Casey Affleck (as Robert Ford). It is directed by Andrew Dominik. Other films about Jesse James include: The 1921 silent film *Jesse James Under the Black Flag* (starring Jesse James' own son). The 1939 film *Jesse James* (starring Tyrone Power). The 1972 film *The Great Northfield, Minnesota Raid* (starring Robert Duvall). The 2001 film *American Outlaws* (starring Colin Farrell).



Jesse James



Jesse James (left) & Frank James

An incendiary device was thrown inside, which killed Jesse's half-brother Archie and wounded Jesse's mother, but Jesse wasn't there. On 7th September 1876, the James-Younger gang attempted their most daring raid to date, on the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota. However, the robbery went wrong when a **clerk** refused to open the safe. One of the gang members shot and killed the man. And when the bandits left (**empty-handed**), they found their **accomplices** outside all dead or wounded. Townspeople had confronted the bandits, ran to get their arms, and started shooting behind the cover of windows and buildings. The gang barely escaped. A massive **manhunt** started. The James brothers eventually **split** from the others, and escaped to Missouri after a long ride. The Youngers and one other bandit, Charlie Pitts, were soon discovered; a **gunfight** left Pitts dead and the Youngers all prisoners. Except for Frank and Jesse James, the James-Younger Gang was destroyed.

**Death**

With his gang reduced by arrests and deaths, Jesse thought he only had two men left he could **trust**: brothers Robert and Charley Ford. For added protection, Jesse asked the Ford brothers to move in with him and his family. But Bob Ford had been having secret meetings with the Missouri governor, Thomas Crittenden, about **bringing in** Jesse James. It all came to an end on 3rd April 1882. As Jesse prepared for yet another robbery, he climbed a chair to dust a picture. It was a rare moment. The Fords drew their revolvers and fired. Bob was the fastest, killing Jesse instantly with a shot just behind Jesse's ear. The killing proved a national sensation. The Fords **surrendered** to the authorities, were sentenced to hang, but were immediately **pardoned** by the governor. But it all ended badly for them too. In May 1884, Charley Ford committed suicide; and in June 1892, Robert Ford was killed in his saloon in Colorado. His killer, Edward Capehart O'Kelley, was sentenced to just two years in prison. So ended the life of Jesse James, the man even President Theodore Roosevelt called "America's Robin Hood".

**GLOSSARY**

- an outlaw** *n*  
a criminal who is hiding from the authorities
- a cold-blooded killer** *n*  
a person who kills with no emotion
- wealthy** *adj*  
rich; with a lot of money
- to move into (a house)** *exp*  
to enter a house and to start living there
- to grow tobacco** *exp*  
to produce tobacco on a farm
- a southerner** *n*  
a person from the southern states of the US (Texas, Florida, etc)
- to secede** *vb*  
to separate from
- an atrocity** *n*  
a very cruel and shocking action
- a militia** *n*  
an organisation that operates like an army, but whose members aren't professional soldiers
- an insurgent** *n*  
someone who fights against the army or government in their country
- to drive out** *phr vb*  
to force to leave a place
- a guerrilla** *n*  
someone who fights as part of an unofficial army
- to take part in something** *exp*  
to participate in something
- on leave** *exp*  
if you are "on leave", you are on holiday. Often used to refer to soldiers and police officers
- in a mess** *exp*  
not organised; not tidy
- to hold public office** *exp*  
to work in government or a government-run organisation
- to refuse to do something** *vb*  
to say that you will not do something
- to hold up (a bank)** *exp*  
to rob a bank, often using guns
- to stage a robbery** *exp*  
to rob a place or person, often using guns
- revenge** *n*  
the act of doing something bad to someone who has done something bad to you
- a daring escape** *n*  
an escape that is difficult and dangerous
- a stagecoach** *n*  
large carriages pulled by horses. Used for transporting passengers
- a safe** *n*  
a strong box for keeping money/jewels, etc
- a personal vendetta** *n*  
a desire to hurt someone because they hurt you in the past
- to raid** *vb*  
to attack
- a clerk** *n*  
someone who does administrative work in a bank or an office
- empty-handed** *adj*  
with nothing
- an accomplice** *n*  
a person who helps others commit a crime
- a manhunt** *n*  
an attempt to find someone (often an escaped criminal)
- to split** *vb*  
to separate
- a gunfight** *n*  
a battle with lots of shooting
- to trust someone** *vb*  
to believe in someone
- to bring someone in** *exp*  
to arrest someone
- to surrender** *vb*  
to stop fighting and to permit the authorities to arrest you
- to pardon** *vb*  
to permit someone to be free, even though they have committed a crime

Jesse James rarely robbed passengers, limiting himself to the safe. Such techniques helped create Jesse James' Robin Hood image.

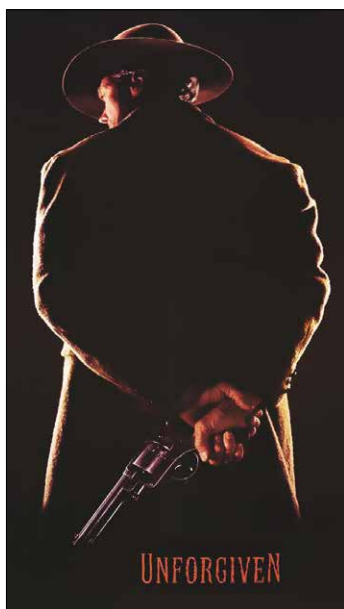
# GREAT COWBOY FILMS

There's a new cowboy film out all about the legendary character Jesse James (*The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*). It stars Brad Pitt. So, what's your favourite cowboy film? Here's a selection of our favourites. Have you seen any of them?



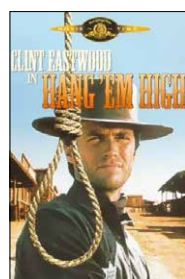
## Unforgiven (1992)

William Munny is raising his two kids on a Wyoming pig farm after his wife dies of **smallpox**. One day, the "Schofield Kid" (Jaimz Woolvett) comes along with news of a \$1,000 reward for killing two cowboys who had cut up a prostitute. Munny rides off to Big Whiskey, Wyoming, to collect the reward. Starring and directed by Clint Eastwood.



## Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)

Butch and Sundance are the two leaders of the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang. After one robbery too many, a **posse** goes **in search** of them. Based on the exploits of the historical characters. Starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Directed by George Roy Hill.



## Hang 'em High (1968)

An innocent man is **hung**, by some **vigilantes**. But they make two

mistakes: they hang the wrong man, and they don't **finish the job**. Later, the man returns as a **lawman**, determined to **bring** the vigilantes **to justice**. Starring Clint Eastwood. Directed by Ted Post.



## The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)

The "Good" is Blondie, a **wandering gunman**,

the "Bad" is Angel Eyes, a sadistic **hitman**, and the "Ugly" is Tuco, a bandit. During the Civil War, they search for a fortune in gold that is **buried** in a **graveyard**. For a while, they're all dependent on each other; but none are particularly **inclined** to share. Starring Clint Eastwood. Directed by Sergio Leone.



## Worst Film

The prize for the worst ever "cowboy" film would have to go to

this "**gem**", *Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter*, a low-budget film from 1966. ☆



## GLOSSARY

- smallpox** *n*  
a serious infectious disease that affects the skin
- a posse** *n*  
a group of people (often on horses) trying to catch a criminal
- in search of something** *exp* looking for something
- to hang** *vb* (past: hung)  
to kill by putting a rope around the neck
- a vigilante** *n*  
a person who is part of an unofficial group and who is trying to catch a criminal
- to finish the job** *exp*  
to complete the work
- a lawman** *n*  
a person who works in a police organisation; a sheriff
- to bring someone to justice** *exp*  
to arrest someone and hand them over to the justice department
- wandering** *adj*  
going from place to place with no particular purpose
- a gunman** *n*  
a person who uses a gun to commit a crime
- a hitman** *n*  
a person who is paid to kill others
- to bury** *vb*  
to put something in a hole in the ground as a way of hiding it
- a graveyard** *n*  
an official area where many dead people are buried
- inclined** *adj*  
if you are not "inclined" to do something, you don't want to do that thing
- a gem** *n*  
a wonderful example

# THINGS WE'VE LEARNT FROM WESTERNS

Do you remember all those **westerns** with cowboys and Indians? Here are some things we all learnt from those films.



Ranch owners are always the **baddies**.

The 7th Cavalry will arrive just in time, unless you're Custer.

All bandits wear large hats, sleep in the midday **shade**, and refer to Americans as "gringos".

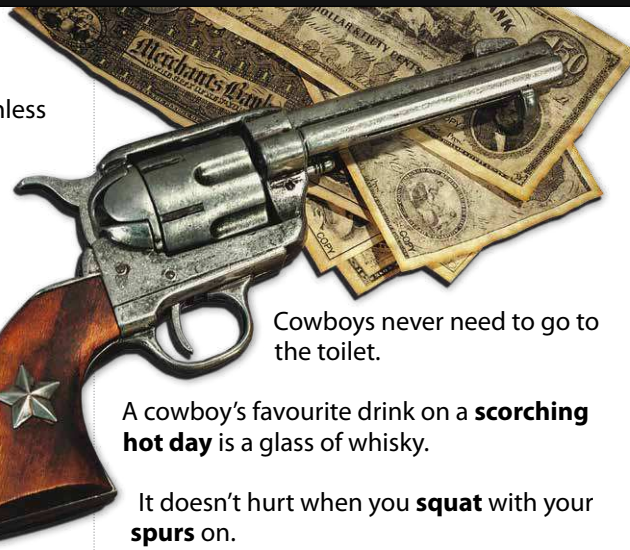
Saloon furniture is remarkably fragile and will break easily if you **smash** it over someone's head, which doesn't hurt much.

Getting thrown through the **saloon** window won't cut you up.

The bartender in the saloon will always **dive under the bar** when a **fight breaks out**.

Cowboys **cheat** at cards, and secretly keep cards in their **sleeves**.

Cowboys riding through a **dried-up river valley** will **get ambushed**. Only the **goody** can **shoot straight**.



Cowboys never need to go to the toilet.

A cowboy's favourite drink on a **scorching hot day** is a glass of whisky.

It doesn't hurt when you **squat** with your **spurs** on.

Horses can travel for miles and miles across the desert without rest or water.

Cowboys never get haircuts, but often **have a shave** at the **barber's**.

Cowboys never get **saddle sore**, despite sitting on the horse for up to 12 hours a day.

The enemy will never see your campfire at night.

All cowboys use the following expressions with great frequency: "Howdy, partner" ("hello, friend") and "Hands up, real slow". 🌟

## GLOSSARY

- a western** *n*  
a film with cowboys and Indians
- a baddy** *n*  
the bad person in the film
- the shade** *n*  
an area where the light from the sun is blocked
- to smash** *vb*  
to destroy something by hitting it against another object
- a saloon** *n*  
a bar where alcoholic drinks are served
- to dive under the bar** *exp*  
to jump quickly under the bar
- to break out (a fight)** *exp*  
if a fight "breaks out", it starts
- to cheat** *vb*  
to do "illegal" things during a game
- a sleeve** *n*  
the part of your shirt that covers your arms
- a dried-up river valley** *n*  
a valley that has no river running through it because it is too hot
- to get ambushed** *exp*  
to be attacked suddenly and without warning
- a goody** *n*  
the good person in the film; the hero
- to shoot straight** *exp*  
to shoot and hit the target
- a scorching hot day** *n*  
a very, very hot day
- to squat** *vb*  
to sit very low by bending your knees and toes
- spurs** *n*  
sharp metal objects people wear on their shoes/boots to hit a horse and make it go faster
- to have a shave** *exp*  
to permit someone to cut the hair from your face
- a barber** *n*  
a person whose job is to cut hair
- saddle sore** *n*  
with a pain on your bottom because you have been sitting on a saddle (the seat on a horse) for too long

# 10 USEFUL IDIOMS FROM POPULAR SONG TITLES!

Songs are a great way to learn English. They can help with your pronunciation and show you how word sounds join together; but they can also help you learn lots of useful words and expressions – especially idioms\*. We use idioms all the time in English. However, they aren't always easy to understand. But don't worry, in this article, we'll help you learn **10 useful idioms from popular song titles!** by Danielle Mistretta



## 1 Let it go

**Song:** *Let It Go* (2013) on Disney's *Frozen* soundtrack.

**Meaning:** If you "let go" of a bad feeling or memory, you stop thinking about it, or being **upset** by it; literally, if you "let go" of something, you stop holding onto it with your hands.

**Example:** "I know you're upset that she left you, but you have to **let it go** and **get on with** your life."

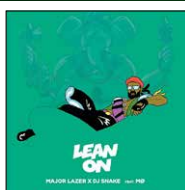


## 2 Turn the page

**Song:** *Turn the Page* (1973) on the album *Back in '72* by Bob Seger.

**Meaning:** If you "turn the page", you forget about the past and start your life again after a bad period. Literally, if you "turn the page" while reading, you go to the next page in a book and start reading that one.

**Example:** "Six months after her divorce, she decided to **turn the page** and start a new relationship."



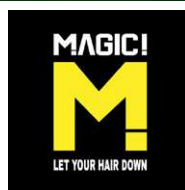
## 3 Lean on

**Song:** *Lean on* (2015) on the album *Peace is the Mission* by Major Lazer & DJ Snake.

**Meaning:** If you "lean on" someone, you use them for emotional **support** when you're feeling sad or depressed. Literally, if you "lean on" something (such as a wall), you put your body against it so it can support your weight.

**Example:** "Good friends are people you can **lean**

**on** when you're feeling a bit sad or upset."



## 4 Let your hair down

**Song:** *Let Your Hair Down* (2014) on the album *Don't Kill the Magic* by Magic.

**Meaning:** If you "let your hair down", you act more freely than usual and really enjoy yourself. Literally, if someone with long hair "lets their hair down", they **untie** it and let it fall freely.

**Example:** "Come on, this is a party! **Let your hair down** and have some fun!"



## 5 Go crazy

**Song:** *Let's Go Crazy* (1984) on the album *Purple Rain* by Prince and the Revolution.

**Meaning:** If you "go crazy", you act in an excited, wild way and have a really good time. Literally, if someone "goes crazy", they become **mentally ill**.

**Example:** "The audience **went crazy** when the singer came on **stage**."





### 6 Shake it off

**Song:** *Shake it Off* (2014) on the album *1989* by Taylor Swift.

**Meaning:** If you “shake off” something (such as a bad feeling or unwanted thought), you make it go away and start doing something else, or you start thinking about another thing. Literally, if you “shake something off” (such as **breadcrumbs** from a **tablecloth**), you move the tablecloth up and down or from side to side so the breadcrumbs fall off.

**Example:** “I **shook off** my fear of small spaces and went into the cave.”



### 7 Poker face

**Song:** *Poker Face* (2008) on the album *The Fame* by Lady Gaga.

**Meaning:** If you have a “poker face”, you have a neutral expression on your face that doesn’t show an emotion, and which doesn’t let other people know what you’re thinking or feeling. Literally, during a game of poker, players often have a “poker face” (a neutral expression), so they don’t give other players any information about which cards they might have.

**Example:** “It’s often useful to keep a **poker face** during business negotiations.”



### 8 Keep your head up

**Song:** *Keep your Head Up* (2011) on the album *Andy Grammer* by Andy Grammer.

**Meaning:** If you “keep your head up”, you stay strong and you don’t feel sad or upset even though you’re in a bad situation. Literally, when we’re feeling sad, we often have our head looking down towards the ground; and when we’re feeling happy and confident, we have our head up in a more vertical position.

**Example:** I know you’re **disappointed** you lost the game, but you need to **keep your head up** and focus on the next one.”



### \*IDIOMS

An idioms is a group of words with a meaning that is different from the meanings of the individual words. For example, if something **costs an arm and a leg**, it’s expensive. Of, if you’re **over the moon**, you’re happy.

### GLOSSARY

#### upset *adj*

if you’re “upset”, you feel sad and a bit angry

#### to get on with *exp*

if you “get on with” your work or life (for example), you continue working or living normally

#### support *n*

if someone gives you “support”, they help you by listening to you, or talking to you about your problems, or they help you financially by lending or giving you money, etc.

#### to untie *vb*

if you “untie” something, you remove any rope or string that is used to tie (fix) that thing

#### mentally ill *exp*

if someone is “mentally ill”, they have problems in their head: they become very depressed, they can’t think logically, they act strangely...

#### a stage *n*

the high area in a theatre or stadium where a singer sings, an actor acts, a musician sings...

#### breadcrumbs *n*

very little pieces of bread

#### a tablecloth *adj*

a fabric object you put on a table to protect it or make it look nice for lunch, etc.

#### disappointed *adj*

if you feel “disappointed”, you feel sad or angry about the result of something

#### a breath *n*

if you take a “breath”, you take some air inside your body and into your lungs (the organs inside your chest that allow oxygen to pass to your blood)

#### to breathe *vb*

when you “breathe”, you take air inside your body and into your lungs



### 9 Rock the boat

**Song:** *Rock the Boat* (1974) on the album *Freedom for the Stallion* by The Hues Corporation.

**Meaning:** If you “rock the boat”, you do or say something that might upset people or cause problems or trouble. Literally, if you “rock a boat” (a small one), you move it from side to side, often to frighten other people.

**Example:** “During the dinner, I didn’t want to **rock the boat**, so I kept quiet about the terrible money situation.”



### 10 Hold your breath

**Song:** *I’ll Hold My Breath* (2010) on the album *Lights* by Ellie Goulding.

**Meaning:** If you’re “holding your breath”, you’re waiting for something good to happen. We often use this expression negatively to mean that we don’t expect something good to happen. For example, “They said they’d be here at 6pm, but I’m not holding my breath” = “They said they’d be here at 6pm, but I don’t expect them to be here at that time.” Literally, if you “hold your breath”, you stop **breathing**.

**Example:** “They said they’d let me know sometime next week whether I’ve been selected for the job position, but I’m **not holding my breath**.”



# 10 USEFUL IDIOMS FROM POPULAR SONG TITLES! EXERCISES

Now try these exercises to see how much you can remember!



Answers on page 40

## 1 Description completion

Write a word from below next to each definition.

page boat breath crazy head

poker lean shake hair go

1. A neutral expression on your face that doesn't show any emotion = a \_\_\_\_\_ face.
2. To act more freely than usual and really enjoy yourself = to let your \_\_\_\_\_ down.
3. If you don't expect something good to happen, you aren't holding your \_\_\_\_\_.



4. If you stop being upset about something bad, you let it \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If you make a new start after a period of difficulties, you turn the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If you make a bad feeling or unwanted thought go away, you \_\_\_\_\_ it off.
7. If you stay strong and don't feel sad or upset during a bad period, you keep your \_\_\_\_\_ up.
8. If you do or say something that might upset people, you rock the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. If you depend on someone for emotional support, you \_\_\_\_\_ on them.
10. If you act in an excited, wild way and have a good time, you go \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 Expressions completion

Complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. If you've got a fear of heights, just \_\_\_\_\_ it off and start climbing the mountain.
2. Good friends are people you can \_\_\_\_\_ on when you're feeling a bit sad or upset.
3. They said they'd let me know whether I've been selected for the position next week, but I'm not holding my \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I know you're upset that she left you, but you just have to let it \_\_\_\_\_ and get on with your life.
5. Come on, this is a party! Let your \_\_\_\_\_ down and have some fun!
6. I didn't want to rock the \_\_\_\_\_, so I just kept quiet about the drunken incident.
7. It's often useful to keep a \_\_\_\_\_ face during business negotiations.
8. I know you're disappointed you lost the game, but you need to keep your \_\_\_\_\_ up and focus on winning the next one.
9. If I don't go outside to get some fresh air soon, I think I'll go \_\_\_\_\_!
10. After 10 years at a job I didn't like, I turned the \_\_\_\_\_ and found a new one.



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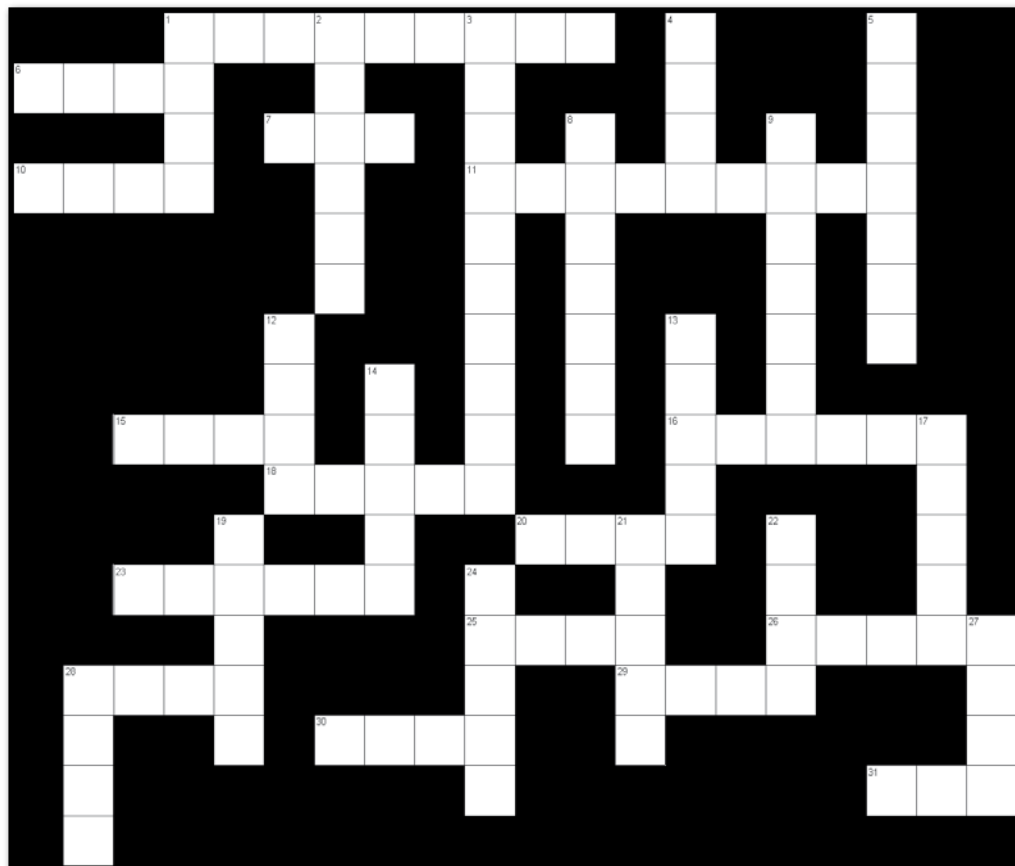
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## CROSSWORD

ANSWERS ON PAGE 40



## Across

1. A mini-shop on the pavement that sells newspapers and magazines = a n\_\_\_\_\_.
6. To enter a house and to start living there = to move \_\_\_\_\_ a house.
7. To wash the floor with an object that has a long handle and a sponge at the end = to m\_\_\_\_\_.
10. If an animal does this, a baby comes out of it = to \_\_\_\_\_ birth
11. If you are in this situation, you have taken out more money from the bank than you have.
15. A formal letter informing you how much money you owe for something.
16. A criminal who is hiding from the authorities = an out\_\_\_\_\_.
18. To force someone to leave a place = to dr\_\_\_\_\_ someone out.
20. To detect a sound = to p\_\_\_\_\_ up a sound.
23. An escape that is difficult and dangerous = a da\_\_\_\_\_ escape.
25. A timetable that shows who has to clean and when they have to do it = a cleaning r\_\_\_\_\_.
26. To clean the floor with a broom (a brush with a long handle) = to sw\_\_\_\_\_.
28. In a disorganised and disordered state = in a m\_\_\_\_\_.
29. The object in a bathroom where you can wash your hands = the si\_\_\_\_\_.
30. To become something = to tu\_\_\_\_\_ into something.
31. A night in which you go to bars/restaurants, etc = a night \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. To pay a lot of money for something = to pay through the n\_\_\_\_\_ for something.
2. Frightening = spo\_\_\_\_\_.
3. A person who helps others commit a crime = an acco\_\_\_\_\_.
4. To go to a place = to h\_\_\_\_\_ off to a place.
5. If a house is like this, it has ghosts in it = a ha\_\_\_\_\_ house.
8. It has been my intention to = 'I've been me \_\_\_\_\_ to.
9. An attempt to find someone (often an escaped criminal) = a manh\_\_\_\_\_.
12. To rob a bank – often with guns and other robbers = to \_\_\_\_\_ up a bank.
13. An unpleasant surprise = a nasty sh\_\_\_\_\_.
14. To arrest someone and to take them to the police station = to br\_\_\_\_\_ someone in.
17. For quite a long time = for a wh\_\_\_\_\_.
19. To put on clothes so you look different = to dr\_\_\_\_\_ up.
21. to run behind someone in an attempt to catch that person = to ch\_\_\_\_\_ someone.
22. An object you wear over your face in order to avoid being recognised = a m\_\_\_\_\_.
24. Something that you have just made or bought = br\_\_\_\_\_ new.
27. To participate in something = to take p\_\_\_\_\_ in something.
28. Angry = in a bad m\_\_\_\_\_.

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# Quirky News

Funny news stories from around the world.

## Robber Cheek



A robber is trying to **sue** his victims after he was **beaten up** by them. Brad Ruck, 48, walked into a store with a semiautomatic pistol. Seconds later, a **clerk grabbed** the gun, and Ruck ran out. Two employees **chased** him and hit him repeatedly with a metal **pipe**. Ruck is suing the store and the men for **emotional distress**.

## In the Red



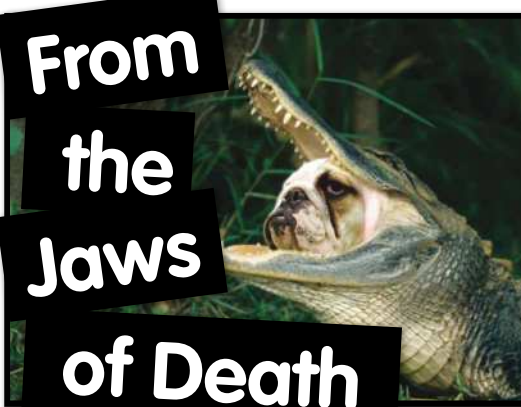
A financial analyst got a **nasty shock** when he stopped to buy some groceries with a new debit card. The card was declined. Minutes later, he called the bank to see what was wrong, and was informed that his account was **overdrawn** by \$7.71 million. "Surely, sir has forgotten to record some of his **transactions?**" one of the bank clerks said. Later, it turned out that the bank had overcharged him for his debit card. "We are very apologetic," said a bank spokesman. "The **key thing** for us is to talk to our customer and see what's going to make it right for him."

## Newsstand Theft



A frustrated newsstand operator stole six **newsstands** from Philadelphia city streets. Mai Lord used a **rented crane** to lift the newsstands and place them in other sites around the city. Lord, 46, had filed 42 applications for newsstand licenses, but they were all rejected. So, in protest, Lord positioned the newsstands on corners where he had hoped to operate. Lord was later charged with theft.

## From the Jaws of Death



A Sunday morning walk **turned** a neighbour **into** a hero. Barry Moore was walking his 9-month-old bulldog when the dog ran ahead, going to the edge of a **pond** in south Florida. Suddenly, Moore heard the dog cry. When he went to check, he saw that his dog's head was inside an alligator's mouth. Without a second thought, Moore jumped in the water and started hitting the **gator** with his **fist**. The reptile **refused to let go** and started **rolling** in the water with the dog still in its mouth. "It was about 3 metres long, and I thought my dog was dead," Moore later said. "But at that point I wasn't going to let him have my dog." Moore eventually **prised open** the gator's mouth and pulled out his dog. He **rushed** it to hospital where it was treated for cuts and **puncture wounds**. The dog is in good condition.

### GLOSSARY

- to sue someone** *exp*  
to start a legal process against someone in order to get compensation
- to beat someone up** *exp*  
to hit someone many times
- a clerk** *n*  
a person who works in a bank/shop doing admin work
- to grab** *vb*  
to take suddenly with your hands
- to chase** *vb*  
to run behind someone in order to catch that person
- a pipe** *n*  
a long, thin piece of hollow metal
- emotional distress** *n*  
psychological problems caused by a stressful or traumatic situation
- a newsstand** *n*  
a mini-shop on the pavement that sells newspapers
- rented** *adj*  
if something is "rented", you have paid an amount of money to use it
- a crane** *n*  
a mechanical object for lifting very heavy loads
- a nasty shock** *n*  
something bad and surprising
- to be overdrawn** *exp*  
if you are "overdrawn", you have taken out more money from the bank than you had
- a transaction** *n*  
a banking operation
- the key thing** *n*  
the most important thing
- to turn into something** *exp*  
to become something
- a pond** *n*  
a small area of water
- a gator** *n abbr*  
an alligator
- a fist** *n*  
a closed hand – often used for hitting
- refused to let go** *exp*  
would not open its mouth to let the dog free
- to roll** *vb*  
to move round and round in circles on the ground
- to prise open** *exp*  
to open something by using force
- to rush** *vb*  
to go quickly
- a puncture wound** *n*  
a small hole in the body, often caused by biting

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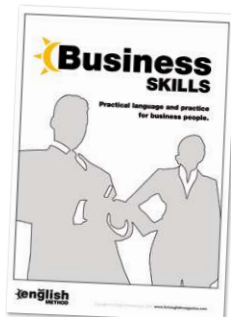
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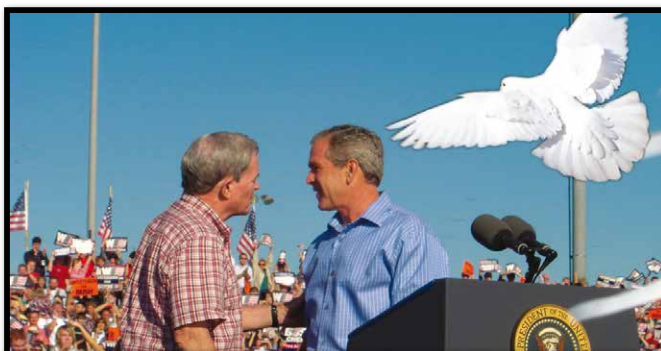
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This month we are looking at some general bird idioms.



### A swan song

The last time that a famous person does something for which they are famous. For example, the last time an actor acts in a theatre play, or the last time a singer sings in a concert.  
"Her appearance with the band in the music festival was her swan song. She never played again."



### A dove

In politics, a dove is someone who believes in using peaceful methods to solve problems.  
"The doves are in the majority in the administration, which is good because it probably means the country won't go to war."



### A hawk

In politics, a hawk is someone who believes in using force and violence to achieve something, rather than using more peaceful or diplomatic methods.  
"There's a clear split in the administration between the hawks and the doves. The hawks favour going to war, whereas the doves want to negotiate."



### Have eyes like a hawk

If someone has "eyes like a hawk", they notice everything.  
"Be careful Ms Marshall doesn't catch you leaving the office early today. She has eyes like a hawk, you know."



### Watch someone like a hawk

To watch someone very carefully, especially because you think they're doing something wrong.  
"I don't trust that new employee one bit. I caught him looking through our classified documents. From now on, I'll be watching him like a hawk."



### Like vultures

If people are waiting "like vultures", they are all waiting to take advantage of someone or attack someone who is in a difficult, weak or desperate situation.  
"The press were waiting like vultures for the star to come out of the courtroom so they could ask her questions about the trial and verdict."

# Story Time

## The Angry Actress

A theatre play is about to start, but the **leading lady** is in a really **bad mood**. Two actors from the play are discussing it. "So, what's the matter with Mrs Ridgebrown?" asks one of the actors.

"I think it's because she only got six **bouquets of flowers** tonight," the other actor answers.

"Six! But what's wrong with that? I didn't get any. Isn't that enough for her?"

"No, it isn't. Especially since she'd paid for seven."

## Bad News

A couple are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, but the husband isn't really enjoying it.

"There's something that **I've been meaning** to ask you **for a while** now," the husband says.

"Yes, go on," the wife adds.

"Well, it's about our children. I couldn't help noticing that of our eight kids, Michael looks different from all the others. I know it's a terrible thing to ask, but does he have a different father?"

The wife **can't bear** to look him in the eye. "Yes, it's true," she admits. "Michael does have a different father from the other seven."



The husband is shocked. "So, tell me, who is it? Who is the father? Who is Michael's father?" he asks, desperate to find out the truth. And the woman looks at him and replies, "You. It's you."

## The Big Bad Cowboy

In a small town in the Old West a cowboy comes running into the **saloon** and screams, "Big Bad Jeff is coming! Big Bad Jeff

is coming! **We gotta get outta town.**"

Everyone gets up and **takes off** as fast as they can. But unfortunately the **saloonkeeper slips** and knocks himself unconscious. When he wakes up, he sees the biggest, **meanest** guy he's ever seen in his life. The man breaks open both doors, walks up to the bar, **slams his fist down**, and screams, "Gimme a **bucket** of beer."

The saloonkeeper, **trembling, hands** the man a bucket, and watches how he drinks it in three seconds. When he's done with his drink, the man turns around to walk out of the door.

The saloonkeeper asks, "Don't you want another beer?"

The man turns around and says, "**Heck no**, Big Bad Jeff is coming! I gotta get outta town!" 🌟



## GLOSSARY

**a leading lady** *n*  
the most important actress in a play  
**(in) a bad mood** *exp*  
angry

**a bouquet of flowers** *n*  
a selection of flowers presented together

**I've been meaning to** *exp*  
it has been my intention to

**for a while** *exp*  
for quite a long time

**can't bear** *exp*  
if you "can't bear" something, you don't like that thing and it is too much for you

**a saloon** *n US*  
a bar in which alcoholic drinks are served

**we gotta get outta town** *exp inform*  
we have to get out of town

**to take off** *phr vb*  
to leave quickly and suddenly

**a saloonkeeper** *n US*  
a person who works in a bar serving drinks

**to slip** *vb*  
to fall, usually because you have stepped on ice/a banana skin, etc.

**mean** *adj*  
cruel and wicked

**slams his fist down** *exp*  
bangs his closed hand on a surface

**gimme** *exp inform*  
give me

**a bucket** *n*  
a large container for liquids

**to tremble** *vb*  
if you are "trembling", your body is making small, involuntary movements, often because of strong emotions

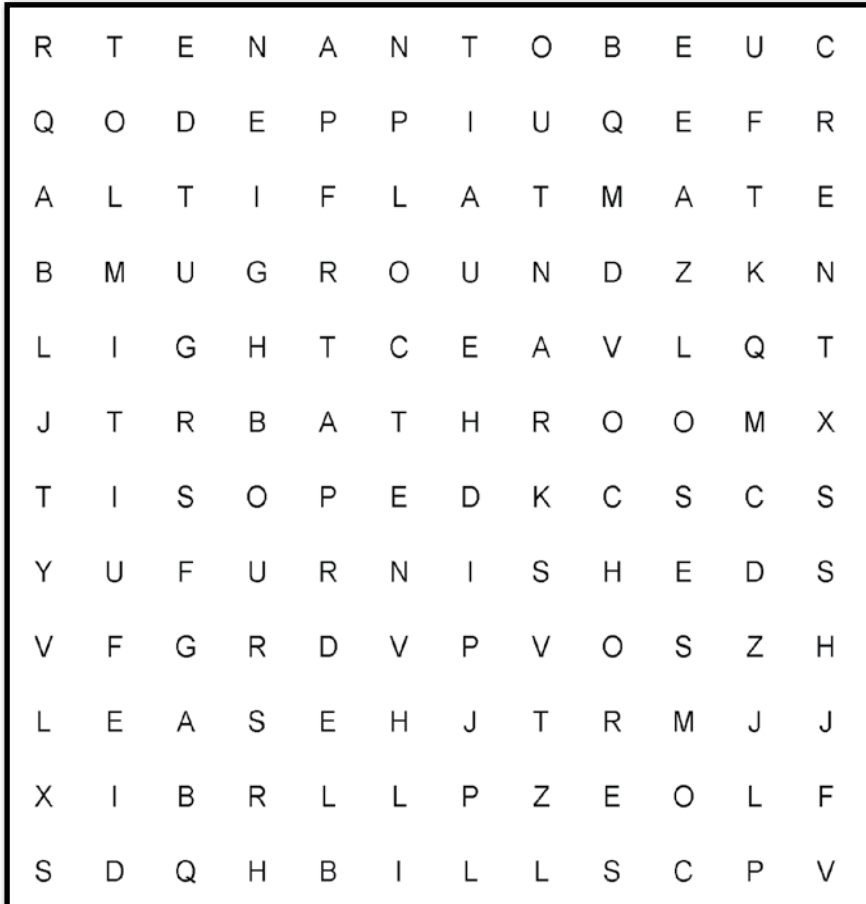
**to hand** *vb*  
to give

**heck no** *exp inform*  
of course not



# Flat Words

See if you can identify the word. Then, try to find the words in the Wordsearch. Good luck! (Read the vocabulary page 32/33 before doing this.)



1. A room or rooms in a building that you can rent = a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The person who lives in the flat = the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The legal contract that refers to the amount of time you can rent the flat. There are short ones and long ones = a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The money you pay for the flat each month = the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An amount of money you give to the landlord before you start living in the flat. This money is supposedly returned at the end of the tenancy = a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A flat that comes complete with all electrical appliances = fully \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A flat that comes with a sofa, chairs, tables and beds = fully \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In British English, the floor that is next to the ground is the = the \_\_\_\_\_ floor.
9. The people who live above, under and next to you are your \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A person who you share the flat with is a \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The written notices informing you how much you must pay for gas, electricity, water, etc. \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The little jobs that are done in the flat, such as cleaning and washing = \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The place to have a shower, bath and cut your nails = the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. A flat with a lot of natural light is a \_\_\_\_\_ flat.

## OH, DOCTOR BY DANIEL COULTONE



# Trivia Matching

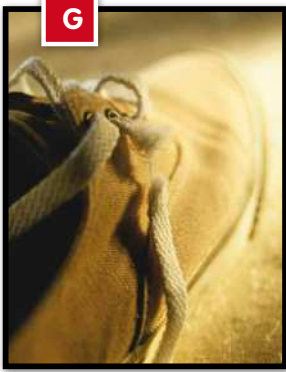
## Exercise

See if you can do this matching exercise. Look at the list of things (1 to 11), and the photos (A-M). Write a letter next to the name of each thing in the list below. **Answers** also on page 40

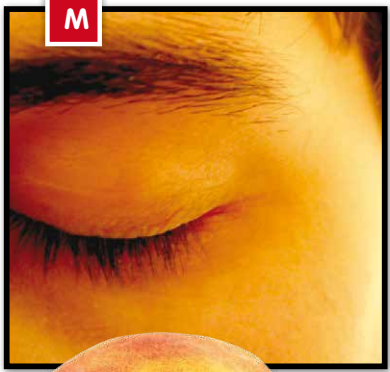
1. Almond
2. Peach
3. Shoelace
4. Bill (note of money)
5. Submarine
6. Mushroom
7. Light bulb
8. Knight
9. Knight's helmet with visor
10. Eyelid
11. Jellyfish
12. Moth
13. Soap



**K**



**G**



**M**



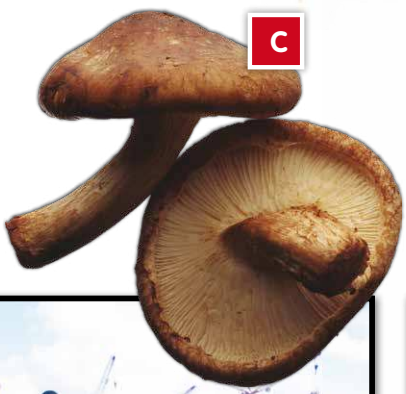
**I**



**L**



**A**



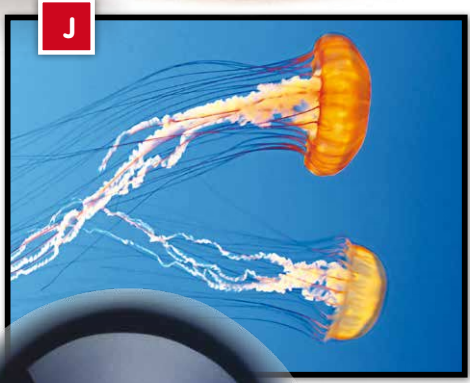
**C**



**F**



**E**



**J**



**D**



**B**

**H**

# Weird Trivia

This is another part in our mini-series on strange facts. Whoever thought the world could be so flabbergasting?

Canada is an Indian word meaning "Big Village".



America's first nudist organization was founded in 1929, by three men. Who else?

Almonds are a member of the peach family, which is strange.

The plastic thing on the end of a **shoelace** is called an "aglet". And I bet you didn't know that!

America once issued a 5-cent **bill**, which is about as useful as a chocolate hat in the desert.

A German World War II submarine once sank because of a malfunction of the toilet. Apparently, it let in too much water.

The largest living thing on the face of the Earth is a mushroom underground in Oregon. It measures about five kilometres in diameter.

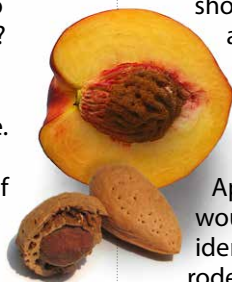


Who invented the light bulb? Most people will say that it was Thomas Edison. However, it was in fact Joseph Swan.



IT WAS ME!

Tourists visiting Iceland should know that it is considered an insult to leave a **tip** in a restaurant.



The military **salute** was invented in medieval times. Apparently, **knights in armour** would raise their **visors** to identify themselves when they rode past their king.

Camels have three **eyelids** to protect themselves from blowing sand. You would've thought that two was enough though.

A **jellyfish** is 95 percent water.



Ever heard the expression "just a jiffy"? It means, "just a second". Well, in fact a "jiffy" is an actual unit of time, and represents 1/100th of a second.

A jumbo jet uses 4,000 gallons of fuel to **take off**. Not the most **environmentally-friendly** way of travelling!



A male emperor **moth** can smell a female emperor moth up to ten kilometres away. How do they do it?



A man named Charles Osborne had the **hiccups** for 6 years. No amount of frightening or **sips of water** could help him.



A mistake in production led to the creation of the incredible floating bar of Ivory soap. When mixing the formula, they added too many air bubbles. This made the bar of soap float. However, customers loved it, so the company decided to keep it that way. 🌟

## GLOSSARY

- a shoelace** *n*  
a piece of string on your shoe that you use to tie your shoe
- a bill** *n US*  
a piece of paper money. A "note" in British English
- a light bulb** *n*  
a round glass object that is connected to the electricity and that produces light
- a tip** *n*  
money you leave a waiter/waitress for good service in a restaurant
- a salute** *n*  
an action soldiers do that consists of moving the right hand to the head as a sign of respect to a superior officer
- a knight** *n*  
a medieval soldier who served a lord or king
- armour** *n*  
metal clothing used to protect medieval soldiers
- a visor** *n*  
a part of a helmet (a hard hat) that can be pulled down to protect the eyes or face
- an eyelid** *n*  
the skin that protects the eye
- a jellyfish** *n*  
a sea creature with a soft, transparent body and tentacles that can sting you
- to take off** *phr vb*  
if a plane "takes off", it leaves the ground in a controlled manner
- environmentally-friendly** *adj*  
that does not cause damage to the environment (the air/sea/water, etc)
- a moth** *n*  
an insect that is similar to a butterfly and that flies at night.
- the hiccups** *n*  
the repeated sounds you make as a result of an uncontrollable jump of the diaphragm
- a sip of water** *n*  
a small amount of water that you drink



LOOK INTO MY EYES.

# Dictionary of slang

Here we've got some examples of how to say things in different situations.

 Situation	Formal 	Relaxed 	Informal 
You think a colleague is stealing money from the office.	I have reason to believe that she is engaging in office theft.	She's stealing from the office.	She's on the take.
You have just read a report. There are a number of typing errors.	There are a number of grammatical and lexical errors.	There are a few spelling mistakes.	There are a few typos.
You need a job finishing urgently.	You will have to deal with this post haste.	This is an urgent job.	I need this <b>asap</b> ; I need this like yesterday.
A colleague is always trying to flirt, but never succeeds, and is always rejected.	He is most unsuccessful in love.	He's not very lucky in love.	What a loser! What a <b>saddo</b> !
A colleague appears to be flirting with you.	Are you attempting to be amorous with me?	Are you flirting with me?	Are you trying to hit on me?
You saw a great film last night that you thought was fantastic.	That was truly superb.	That was incredible.	That was mind-blowing; it was out of this world.



## GLOSSARY

Please note that some of the words in this glossary box are literal translations of parts of idiomatic expressions.

**asap** *abbr*

as soon as possible

**saddo** *adj* *inform*

a pathetic person. This word comes from the adjective "sad"



# Fluency Practice

Here are six quick activities for you to improve your pronunciation and fluency. Answer the questions as quickly as possible, and try not to think too much. Later, you can check your answers. You need to study the phrasal verbs and idioms before attempting these exercises. **Answers** also on page 24

## A: Tongue Twister

Try repeating this ten times as quickly as you can.

"A box of biscuits, a box of mixed biscuits and a biscuit mixer!"



## B: Pronunciation: connected speech with bird idioms

Listen to these sentences and see if you can write down the words that you hear. Remember, some words are weak sounds and are unstressed, and as a result they are very difficult to hear.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## C: Sentence transformation – Animals & Pets

Listen to these sentences and try to make a question for each one. Do it as quickly as you can. Use the question words in brackets ( ).

- I have a cat and a horse. (What pets)  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- A pet keeps you company and gives you a lot of love. (What advantages)  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- I prefer cats. (What / prefer / dogs / cats)  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- I think hamsters because they are easy to look after. (What / pet / best / children)  
\_\_\_\_\_?
- Yes, once. I was bitten by a bulldog. (Have / bitten)  
\_\_\_\_\_?

## D: Rapid response – Animals & Pets

Now answer these questions as quickly as you can. Try not to think too much and just invent answers if you need to.

- What do you think of people keeping exotic pets such as iguanas, snakes, etc?
- What responsibilities do pet owners have?
- What's the funniest experience you've ever had with a pet?
- What's the most intelligent pet you've ever seen?
- Do you think owners are a reflection of their pets? Why? Why not?

## E: Phrasal Verbs with "Stay"

Listen to each sentence, then repeat it with an appropriate phrasal verb. You should try to be as quick as possible.

- Don't ever come near here again.
- I don't want to leave home today.
- We didn't go home last night.
- Can I spend the night here, please?
- We didn't go to bed till late last night.
- Please don't leave me.

## F: Revision Drills – prepositions of place

This revision drill is to practise using prepositions of place.

Remember:

- We use "at" to refer to a specific and precise place ("at the front of the cinema").
- We use "in" to refer to something that is inside a space, often with four walls around it ("in the cupboard").
- We use "on" to say that something is on a horizontal or vertical surface ("on the wall").



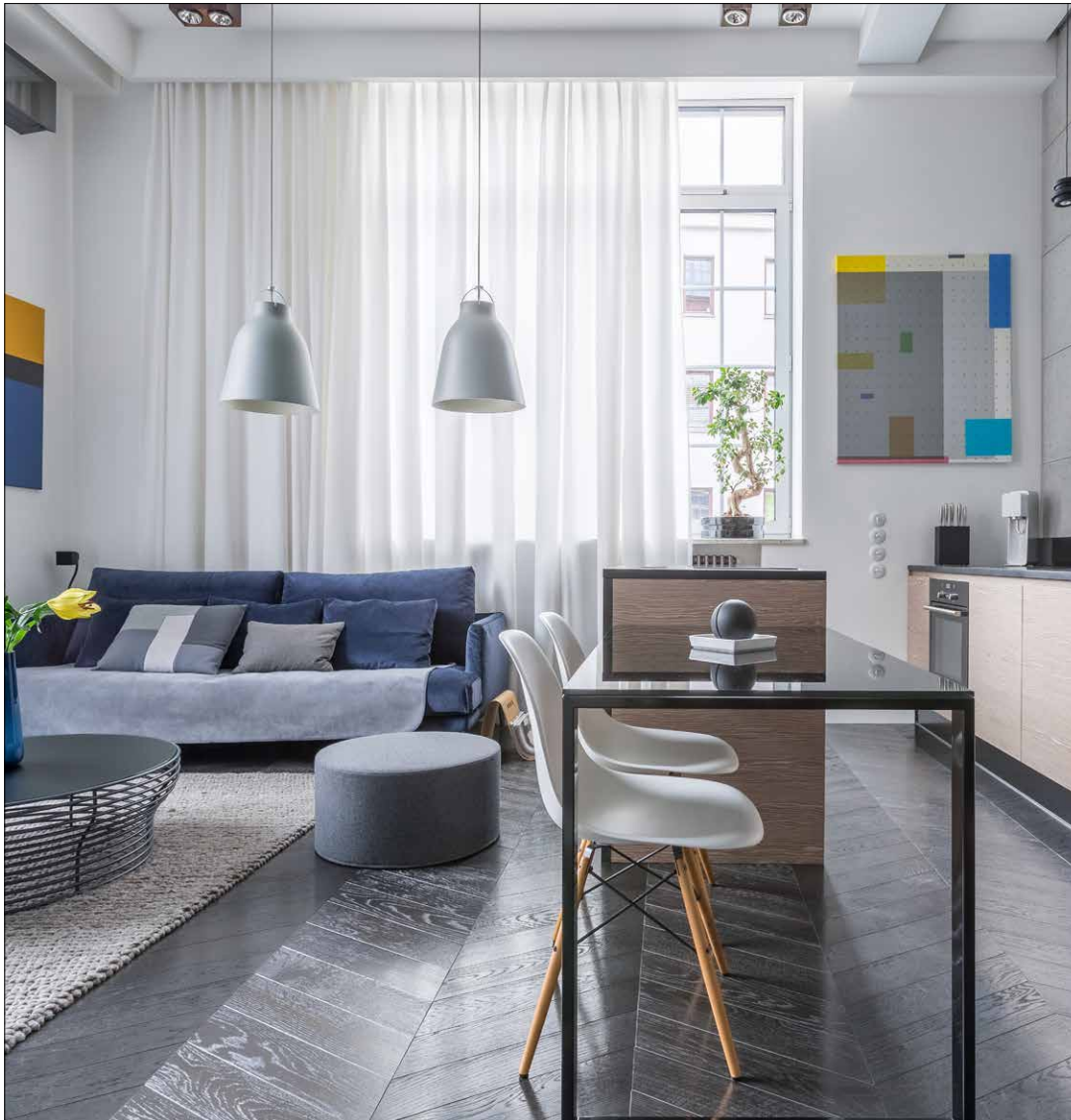
Listen to the following expressions. Listen and say what preposition goes with them.

- The bus stop \_\_\_\_\_
- A closed drawer \_\_\_\_\_
- The airport \_\_\_\_\_
- The top of the page \_\_\_\_\_
- A closed wardrobe \_\_\_\_\_
- The surface of the sea \_\_\_\_\_
- The top of a table \_\_\_\_\_
- A packet of crisps \_\_\_\_\_
- The bottom of a page \_\_\_\_\_



# VOCABULARY THE APARTMENT

Learn some useful words and expressions to talk about flats and apartments.



## Information Box Houses

While we're on the subject of flats, here are some types of houses that you can find:

- A terraced house** – a line of houses that all the same and that are joined together.
- A semi-detached house** – a house that is joined to another house.
- A detached house** – a house that is separate and not joined to another house.
- A chalet** – a mountain house, often found in Switzerland.



**Flat / apartment** – this is a room (or rooms) in a building that you can rent. For a **sweltering** apartment in the summer choose a nice **attic flat**; and for a cold, **damp**, wet apartment in the winter months, choose a **basement** or ground-floor flat.

**Studio flat** – this is a one-bedroom flat with the living room, kitchen, and bedroom all combined. Designed to **drive you crazy** after a few months being trapped in the same room.

**Tenant** – this is the person who rents the flat.

**Landlord / landlady** – this

is the person who owns the flat and who charges you rent every month. Landlords have a tendency to appear every time you **owe** them money, and mysteriously disappear every time something goes wrong with the apartment.

**Lease (or tenancy)** – this is a legal term that refers to the amount of time you can rent the flat. There are “short leases” (3 to 6 months), or “long leases” (9 – 24 months).

**The rent** – this is the money you pay for the flat. It's usually charged on a monthly basis. After years of paying rent, you'll kick yourself for not having bought a flat, as

monthly **mortgage** payments tend to be more or less the same as the rent payments.

**The deposit** – an amount of money you give to the landlord before you start living in the flat. This money is supposedly returned at the end of the tenancy; however, landlords are experts at finding reasons to deduct from the total.

**Fully-equipped** – a “fully-equipped” flat comes complete with everything, including all electrical appliances, such as the cooker (for preparing your gourmet recipes), a fridge (for keeping your food cold), a washing

## GLOSSARY

- sweltering** *adj*  
very, very hot
- an attic flat** *n*  
a flat in the top of the house
- damp** *adj*  
a bit wet
- a basement** *n*  
a room at the bottom of the house, under the ground
- to drive you crazy** *exp*  
to make you angry / feel emotional
- to owe** *vb*  
if you “owe” money to someone, you must pay that person money
- a mortgage** *n*  
money you borrow from a bank in order to pay for a house
- to bark** *vb*  
when dogs are angry or happy, they “bark” (they make a loud noise)
- nightmare** *adj*  
a “nightmare” flatmate is a terrible/horrible/unbearable flatmate
- to sweep** *vb*  
to clean the floor with a broom (a brush with a long handle)
- to mop** *vb*  
to wash the floor with water and a mop (an object with a long handle and a sponge at the end)
- a cleaning rota** *n*  
a timetable that shows who has to clean and when they must do it
- a tile** *n*  
a ceramic square used to cover floors or walls in the bathroom
- sand** *n*  
very small particles of stone and shell that are found on the beach

machine (for washing your clothes), the air conditioning (for keeping your flat cool), and heating (for stopping the water from turning to ice on those cold winter nights).

**Fully-furnished** – a “fully-furnished” flat comes with furniture, often including a sofa, chairs, tables, beds and spoons.

**Ground floor / first floor, etc.** – in British English, the ground floor is the floor that is next to the ground (logically); and the floor above this (after going up one flight of stairs) is the “first floor”. However, in American English it’s all different: the floor on ground level is referred to as the “first floor”; and the floor above this, after going up the stairs, is the “second floor”. Very confusing!

**Neighbours** – these are the people who live

above, under and next to you. Neighbours have a tendency to make all sorts of noises, including banging, shouting, crashing and **barking**.

**Flatmate (“roommate” or “roomie” in the US)** – this is the person who you share the flat with. The ideal flatmate spends his or her weekends away from the flat, works all night, and sleeps during the day, and has a sister or brother who is a model. A **nightmare** flatmate is a complete psycho who never cleans, washes, or pays any bills.

**Bills** – these are the written notices informing you how much you must pay for gas, electricity, water, etc. Bills are great sources of tension, especially the phone bill, as no one can agree on how to divide it. Typical expressions during the negotiation of the bill include, “I’m not paying for that!”

**Chores** – these are the little jobs that are done in the flat, such as cleaning, washing, **sweeping**, and **mopping**. Organised tenants have **cleaning rotas**, which consist of a timetable explaining clearly who has to do what and when. Disorganised flat occupiers just fight.

**Rooms** – most flats come complete with the following rooms:

**A bathroom** – the place to have a shower, bathe and cut your nails.

**Living room** – the place where you relax on the sofa and fight over the television remote control.

**Bedroom** – the place where you sleep, read and entertain guests in privacy.

**Kitchen** – the place where you cook, chat and wash.

**Flooring** – this is the material used to cover the floor. Many flats have carpets. Some have wood,

and some may even have **tiles**. Avoid flats with **sand**.

**The view** – what you can see when you look out the windows. Nice views include the sea, a park or an attractive neighbour; not such nice views include a chemical factory, a prison or a rubbish site.

**Noise levels** – each flat comes complete with its own level of noise. Some particularly nasty noises include arguing neighbours, loud music or radios, heavy traffic and barking dogs; nice noises include singing birds and silence.

**Light** – this refers to the amount of light that a flat has. Flats with lots of natural sunlight are “light”; and interior flats with no natural light are considered dark and recommended for vampires only. ☹️

# Phrasal verbs booklets

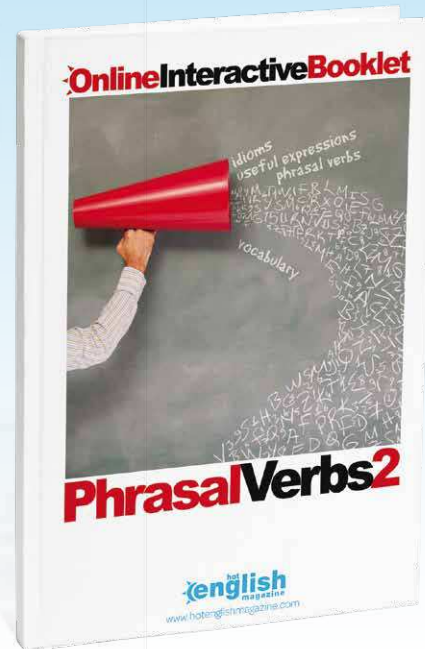
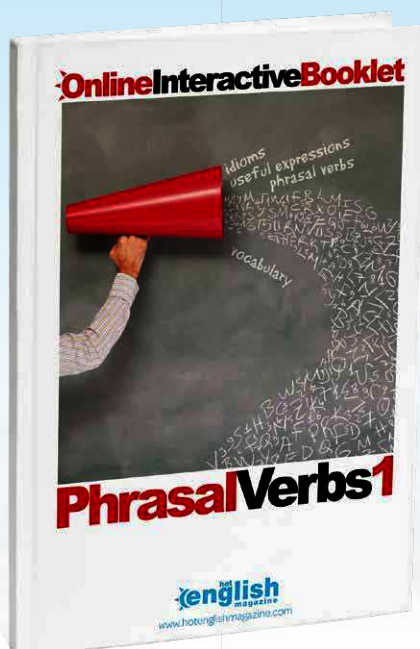
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# TYPICAL DIALOGUES THE FLAT

Listen to this dialogue and learn lots of useful vocabulary and expressions. **This month: The Flat**

Petra has come to look around a flat. She may want to rent it. She is speaking to the landlord and everything seems to be perfect... but is it? Listen to this dialogue and answer these questions.

1. Why does Petra like the flat?
2. What is the problem with the flat?

Answers also on page 24



- Petra: Hi, I've **come round** to see the flat.  
 Landlord: Oh, yes, please come in. As you can see, it's **fully furnished**.  
 Petra: Very nice. How well connected is it?  
 Landlord: Well, there's an **Underground** station just down the road; and there are buses into the town centre every fifteen minutes.  
 Petra: Great. Erm, what are the neighbours like?  
 Landlord: Oh, you won't have any problems. They're really nice – no noise, if that's what you were asking. If you'd just like to come through to the kitchen.  
 Petra: Wow! This is nice. I like it.  
 Landlord: Yes, it's **fully equipped** with a fridge, an oven and a washing machine. All **brand new**.  
 Petra: That's great. So, how much is the rent?  
 Landlord: The rent is just 300 pounds per month.  
 Petra: Really? What about the **deposit** and the **bills**?  
 Landlord: Well, I'm going to need one month's rent as deposit. The bills don't amount to much, about 50 pounds a month for water, gas and electricity, plus whatever you spend on the telephone.  
 Petra: This is too good to be true. So, that just leaves the bedroom.  
 Landlord: Yes, please follow me down these stairs.  
 Petra: Oh, downstairs. That means it's in the **basement**.  
 Landlord: Yes, but it's very quiet. Here you are, complete with a bed, a **sink** for washing the dishes and your clothes, and a little **stove** for cooking. You'll never have to go out (*laughing*).  
 Petra: You mean, I have to live down here?  
 Landlord: Yes, upstairs is my flat. I live there, you live here.  
 Petra: No, I can't live here. I'm sorry but it's **damp**, cold and there's no light.  
 Landlord: Who needs light?  
 Petra: I do. Look, I'm sorry but I'm not interested.  
 Landlord: Not even if I **throw in a mattress** for the bed?  
 Petra: No. Goodbye! 🙄



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## GLOSSARY

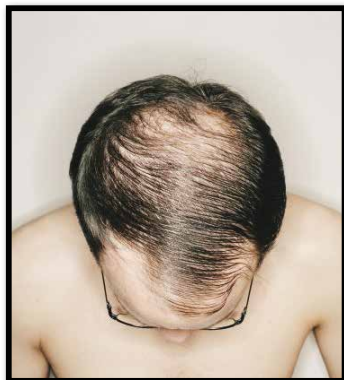
- to come round** *phr vb*  
to visit someone; to go to someone's house
- fully furnished** *adj*  
with all the necessary furniture
- the Underground** *n*  
the underground train system in London
- fully equipped** *adj*  
will all the necessary equipment: fridge, oven, washing machine, etc.
- brand new** *adj*  
if something is "brand new", you have just made or bought it
- a deposit** *n*  
a sum of money which is part of the full price of something
- a bill** *n*  
a formal letter informing you how much money you owe for something
- a basement** *n*  
a room in the bottom of the house, under the ground
- a sink** *n*  
an object in the kitchen or bathroom where you can wash your hands
- a stove** *n*  
an object for cooking food
- damp** *adj*  
a bit wet
- to throw in** *phr vb*  
to include as part of an offer
- a mattress** *n*  
a large, soft object that covers the bed frame. You put sheets on it and sleep on it

# The Combover

How do you like to brush your hair? In the middle? Down the side? Not at all? For men with little hair (myself, for example) there's a style that's designed to hide the fact that you're **going bald**: the combover. What is it? Who does it? And why's it so popular?

## What?

So, what is the combover? Basically, it's a hairstyle worn by **balding men**. The



combover is created by taking hair from one side of the head, and placing it over the top of the head (the bald area). As the name suggests, the long pieces of hair from the side are literally "**combed** over" the bald parts.

A man with a well-constructed combover will



appear to have a full head of hair. However, the combover is a **high-risk proposition**, as a **gust of wind** could easily blow the hair away and reveal the bald patch. Alternatives to the combover are a hat, a **wig**, a **toupé** or a shaved head. And some famous people with combovers include Donald Trump, Senator George Mitchell, Rudy Giuliani (ex Mayor of New York City) and Homer Simpson.

## Incredible, or what?

Amazingly, the combover has been **patented**. A father-and-son team developed it in the 1970s. Frank Smith wanted a solution for his **baldness**. His son, Donald, developed the idea of growing the hair on one side and then combing it over the **exposed pate**. Later, they **filed the patent**, complete with instructional diagrams. The idea was to sell a spray to hold the combover in place. However, the spray was never produced, but the hairstyle was adopted by men the world over. In 2004, the inventors of the combover were **awarded** an "Ig Nobel\* **prize** in engineering. 🚩



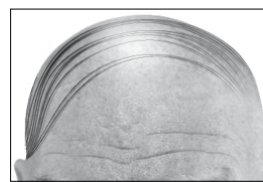
Donald Trump



Senator George Mitchell



Rudy Giuliani



## Information Box **Combover: The Movie**

There's a film about combovers that's directed and produced by Chris Marino and Tim Fenoglio called *Combover: The Movie* (2005). The film involves a journey across the United States filled with interviews with men who have combovers. For Barry, a restaurateur from Chicago, it's "just a habit". And for Rufus, it's a way of "keeping my head warm on cold days". They shot the film over a period of 18 months, and paid \$100 for each "combover" interview.



## GLOSSARY

- to go bald** *exp*  
to lose all the hair on your head
- a balding man** *n*  
a man who is losing the hair on his head
- to comb** *vb*  
to arrange your hair with a "comb" (a flat piece of plastic with little "teeth" that you use to tidy your hair)
- a high-risk proposition** *n*  
a dangerous idea
- a gust of wind** *n*  
a sudden blast of air
- a wig** *n*  
a piece of false hair that covers all your head
- a toupé** *n*  
a small piece of false hair that covers a part of your head
- to patent something** *exp*  
to obtain a legal right to be the only person to produce/sell something / an invention
- baldness** *n*  
the state of being bald (having no hair on the head)
- an exposed pate** *n*  
a head with no hair to protect it
- to file a patent** *exp*  
to register an idea/product legally so you have the rights to that idea/product
- to award a prize** *exp*  
to give someone a prize

\* Ig Nobel Awards

These awards are part of the Annals of Improbable Research. The Igs are given to people who carry out unusual or strange scientific research; and the aim is to encourage interest in science, medicine, and technology.

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# PHRASAL VERBS STAY

The verb "to stay" has many different uses. However, we generally use this verb in reference to remaining in a certain position or place. For example, "I had to stay at home while everyone else went out to the party." Now let's look at some phrasal verbs with the verb "to stay".

**STAY AWAY FROM SOMEONE/A PLACE**  
NOT TO GO NEAR SOMEONE/A PLACE.



**STAY IN**  
NOT TO GO OUT; NOT TO LEAVE HOME.



**STAY OUT: NOT TO GO HOME AT NIGHT, AND TO STAY OUT UNTIL VERY LATE IN BARS/CLUBS, ETC.**



**STAY OVER (FOR THE NIGHT)**  
TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT SOMEONE'S HOUSE.



**STAY UP**  
NOT TO GO TO BED AT NIGHT



**STAY WITH SOMEONE: TO REMAIN WITH SOMEONE; NOT TO LEAVE SOMEONE**



# Answers

## "NOISE NUISANCE" PART II

1. spat out
2. hummed
3. gulped
4. gargle
5. grinds
6. blew
7. sobbing
8. snapped
9. whistling
10. sniggering

## CRANK CALL

The man is looking for some female company, not friendship with a man.

## HALLOWEEN JOKES

1C 2J 3G 4A 5D 6F 7K 8E 9I 10B 11H

## CREEPY WORDS

1. Owl
2. Skeleton
3. Ghost
4. Witch
5. Broomstick
6. Bat
7. Owl
8. Pumpkin
9. Spider
10. Black cat
11. Vampire
12. Rat
13. Candle
14. Haunted house
15. Werewolf
16. Mummy
17. Cemetery
18. Gravestone
19. Coffin
20. Snake
21. Jack O' Lantern

## 10 USEFUL IDIOMS FROM POPULAR SONG TITLES!

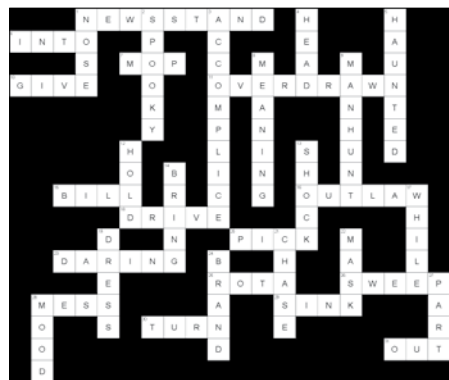
### 1 Definitions completion

1. poker; 2. hair; 3. breath; 4. go; 5. page; 6. shake;
7. head; 8. boat; 9. lean; 10. crazy

### 2 Expressions completion

1. shake; 2. lean; 3. breath; 4. go; 5. hair; 6. boat;
7. poker; 8. head; 9. crazy; 10. page

## CROSSWORD



## WORDSEARCH



## TRIVIA MATCHING

1D 2A 3G 4H 5F 6C 7B 8K 9E 10M 11J  
12I 13L

## FLUENCY PRACTICE

### B

1. That concert was her swan song.
2. The doves have the upper hand.
3. The hawks want to go to war.
4. She's got eyes like a hawk.
5. I'll be watching you like a hawk.
6. The press were waiting like vultures.

### C

1. What pets do you have?
2. What advantages are there of having a pet?
3. What do you prefer, dogs or cats?
4. What pets are best for children?
5. Have you ever been bitten by a pet?

### E

1. Stay away from here.
2. I want to stay in today.
3. We stayed out all night.
4. Can I stay over, please?
5. We stayed up late last night.
6. Please stay with me.

### F

1. At the bus stop
2. In a closed drawer
3. At the airport
4. At the top of the page
5. In a closed wardrobe
6. On the surface of the sea
7. On the top of a table
8. In a packet of crisps
9. At the bottom of a page

## TYPICAL DIALOGUES

1. Petra likes the flat because it is fully furnished, fully equipped, and near the Underground, and it doesn't cost very much.
2. The problem is that her room is in the basement.

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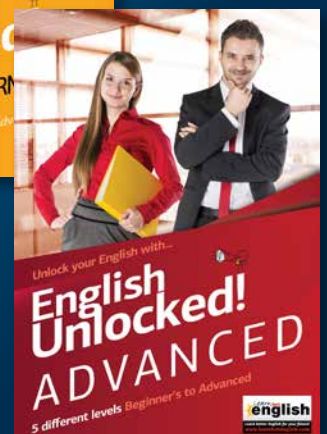
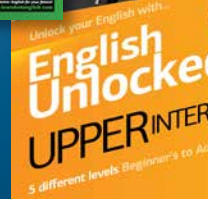
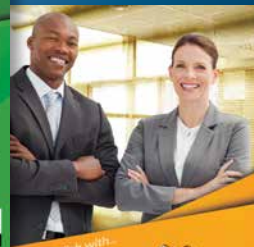
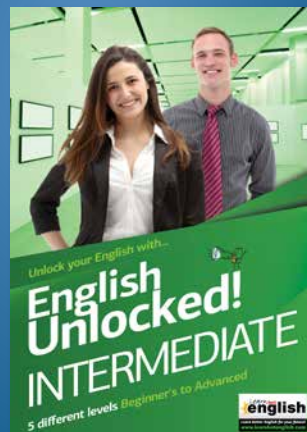
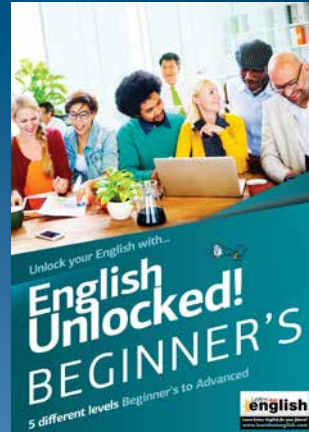
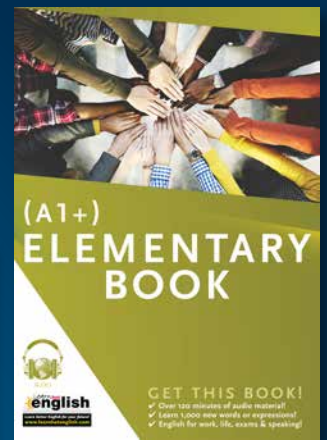
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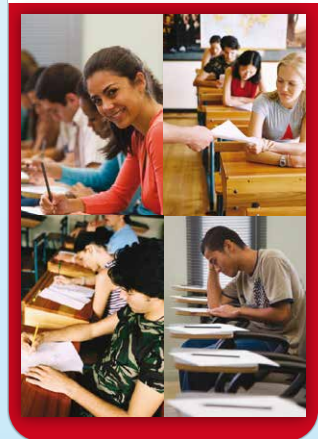
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