

Spotlight

Spotlight

NEW

Food stories and fabulous recipes from the *Spotlight* team

Magic! It's simple to

write better English!

IRELAND

Take a trip along the panoramic Atlantic coast – from Limerick to the Burren

AGATHA IS BACK!
Why Christie-style crime stories are everywhere

LETTER FROM NEW YORK
Little animals at home in the Big Apple

TIME OUT
Andreas Lebert, editor-in-chief of *ZEIT Wissen*, on Bavarian English

Important words and phrases for e-mails, texts and letters



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Write on with *Spotlight*

Once, a few years ago, I accidentally sent my bank manager an affectionate e-mail intended for a friend. I hadn't checked the name that popped up as the addressee. Our language special "Write better English!" (pages 50–53) may not help with this kind of problem, but if you stick to the advice of our author, Vanessa Clark, and use the helpful phrases she provides, your writing will be clear and well formulated. You may even want to pull out this feature and hang it on the wall.

While on the topic of writing, from this issue on, you'll find a short letter in our Names and News section – a kind of update from a city in the English-speaking world. This time, Heike Buchter, correspondent for *DIE ZEIT* in New York, tells us about her unpleasant neighbours (page 10).

Finally, we've cooked up a delicious new column for *Spotlight*. In Food Stories, *Spotlight*'s editors and authors share their favourite dishes with you. I'm proud to be the first contributor. Find out more on page 18.

accidentally

[æksr'dentəli]
→ versehentlich

affectionate [ə'fekʃənət]

→ herzlich, liebevoll

cook sth. up *ifml.*

→ etw. aushecken, sich
etw. ausdenken



Inez Sharp

INEZ SHARP, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Travel feature



Join John Stanley on a spectacular road trip along Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, from the time-honoured city of Limerick, along the dramatic coast, to the ancient limestone landscape that inspired Tolkien.



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49–68 The language section

How to use *Spotlight*

What we do

EASY

Spotlight magazine helps you to improve your English and keeps you up to date on what's happening in the English-speaking world.

This magazine has two parts. The first has news stories, travel reports, columns and interviews, some with exercises. Part two is the language section, in which useful vocabulary and grammar are explained. Many of these pages include exercises.

British spelling and punctuation are used in all texts except those marked as being in US English with this symbol: **US**

Every text has been written or adapted to one of three language levels.

The levels are: **EASY** **MEDIUM** **ADVANCED**
A2 B1-B2 C1-C2

These correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The level is given at the top of the page. This text, for example, is Easy (see above). Choose texts at your level of English or try difficult ones that challenge you.

Difficult words and phrases are underlined, and the German translations of these words are given in a list on each page. Words that are hard to pronounce come with phonetic symbols. After some of these words, you'll find a *US* tag, indicating that the word is used mainly in the United States. Words marked with a *N. Am.* tag are used in both the United States and Canada.

Better at English with *Spotlight*

Here are some tips on how to use the magazine effectively:

- Interesting and useful words and phrases are highlighted in yellow and explained.
- For every article you read, mark the words that are useful to you. Write down five to ten words from every issue in a notebook and test yourself regularly.
- You'll find recordings, for example of *Everyday English* and *Britain Today*, on the *Spotlight Audio* CD/download. Look for this symbol: 
- Support your learning by doing exercises in our *Spotlight plus* booklet. Grammar, vocabulary and cultural extras are all covered in *plus*. Look for this symbol: 

What we write about

In the first part of *Spotlight*, we report on events and people from the English-speaking world. So, we cover countries where English is the main language, or where English is an important language. Those countries include:

 the United Kingdom	 Australia
 Ireland	 the United States
 Canada	 South Africa
 India	 Pakistan



22 Looking at Lives **M**

Read about Zahra Joya, the award-winning Hazara journalist from Afghanistan, who fled to London and now runs her media news agency from there.

50 Language feature **M**

Do you need to send someone a reminder or decline an invitation? Follow our magically simple advice on which words and phrases can help you write better e-mails, letters and texts.





IN THE PICTURE





Floating farms

Am Golf von Bengalen zwingt der Klimawandel die Menschen, traditionelle Anbaumethoden wiederzubeleben.

Von MARTHA PARIS

MEDIUM

Mohammad Ibrahim farms in the coastal region of Bangladesh that is being hard hit by climate change. “I still can remember I used to play football in the land that now goes underwater during the normal tide,” he told Reuters.

In fact, almost 75 per cent of Bangladesh is below sea level and now, rising waters, combined with storms, erosion and longer monsoon seasons, have made farming impossible in some regions.

In response to the crisis, some farmers are returning to a method of cultivation practised by their grandfathers. On so-called floating farms – where long rafts of water hyacinths are packed close together and used as soil-free beds – locals grow okra, spinach and other vegetables.

It is, though, hard and tiring work. “I can’t sleep at night due to waist pain,” says mother of two Kajol Begum. “But what else will I do when water is everywhere most of the time?”

INFO TO GO

Britain ruled India, including the region that is now Bangladesh, from the 1700s until 1947. After the British left, Bangladesh became East Pakistan. Then, following a violent struggle, it gained its independence in 1971.

bed

↳ Beet

raft

↳ Floß

sea level

↳ Meeresspiegel

soil-free

↳ ohne Erdboden

spinach

[ˈspɪndʒ]
↳ Spinat

tide

↳ Flut

waist

↳ Hüfte

water hyacinth

[ˈhærəsinθ]
↳ Wasserhyazinthe



Texts by TALITHA LINEHAN



billion

- Milliarde(n)

commit to sth.

- sich für etw. engagieren, sich um etw. bemühen

forage: ~ for food

- auf Nahrungssuche sein

shareholder ['ʃer,hoʊldər]

- Anteilseigner(in)

ACTIVISM

WHO EXACTLY IS... YVON CHOUINARD?

MEDIUM US AUDIO

Earth is now our only shareholder,” announced Yvon Chouinard, founder of the clothing and sports equipment company Patagonia, last year. He went on to explain that he was giving the company to a trust, so that all the money made by Patagonia can be used to fight climate change.

Born in Lewiston, Maine, Chouinard, who is 84, said in the letter that he had “never wanted to be a businessman”. He spent his youth climbing mountains, often foraging for food and sleeping

in the wild. He made climbing tools to finance his travels. This led to his first company, which later became the multibillion-dollar business Patagonia.

An environmentalist and philanthropist, Chouinard has used his company’s success to finance his activism and has been giving one percent of its profits to charity since the 1980s. He ended his letter with a message of hope: “We can save our planet if we commit to it,” he said.



Diesen Text hier kostenlos anhören! www.spotlight-online.de/audio-gratis/01

cheat on sb.

- jmdn. betrügen

conclude [kən'klu:d]

- zum Schluss kommen

dying species ['spi:ʃi:z]

- aussterbende Art

wife guy ['gaɪ]

- klingt wie „wise guy“ (Schlaumeier)



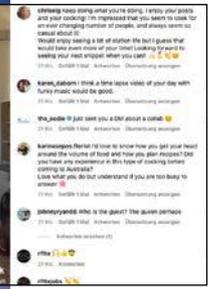
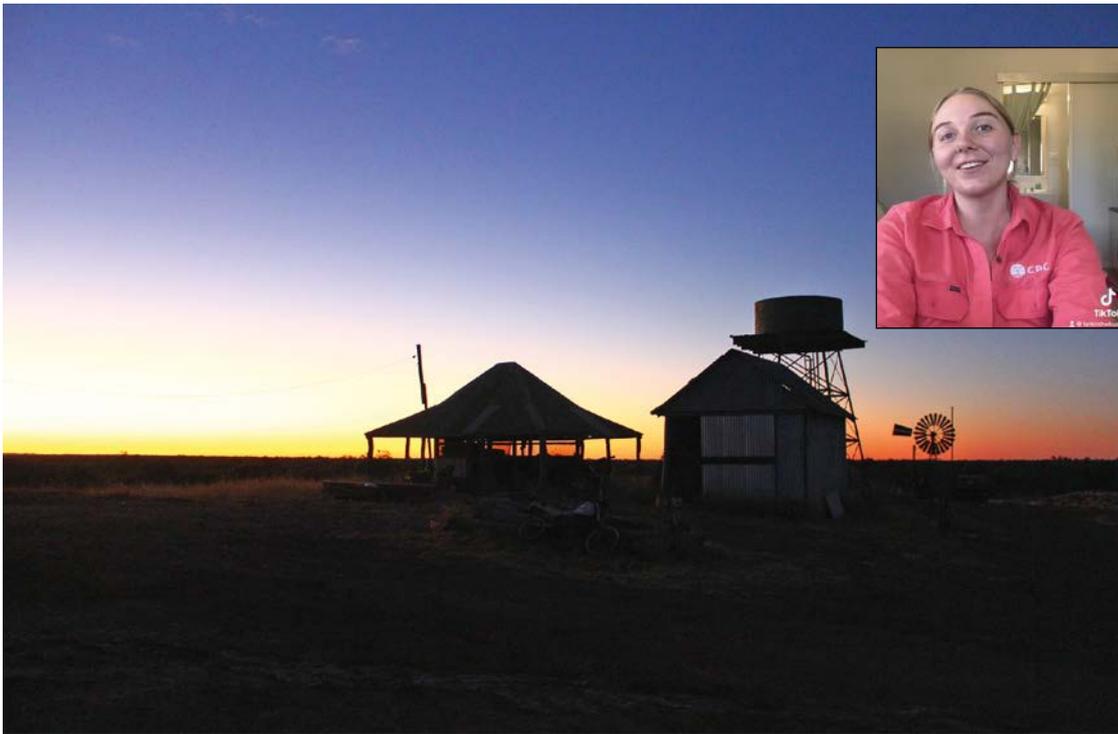
WEIRD WORDS

language that’s making the news

WIFE GUY

EASY

A “wife guy” is a man who posts online about how much he loves his wife, often to become famous. Sadly, several wife guys have been accused of cheating on their wives, leading some people to conclude that they are a dying species.



LIFESTYLE

Out in the wilds

MEDIUM

Australia's Outback:
Ellie's new home

On a cattle station in a remote part of Australia's Northern Territory are 60,000 cows, more than 40 staff members and a young British cook called Ellie Daborn. She took the job at the

station over three years ago to extend her visa and fell in love with the way of life there. Daborn now posts as britinthebush on TikTok, with more than 50,000 followers. She told ABC

News that working at a cattle station "forces you out of your comfort zone", but the stories she can tell her family "are like nothing they've heard before and it feels like a world away".

- cattle station**
- große Rinderfarm
- remote**
- abgelegen

ART

Appetizing art

EASY

Varuna Sridhar's paintings of food look good enough to eat! The artist from Chennai, India, paints in a hyper-realistic style that makes her subjects seem almost three-dimensional. She likes to focus on food and drinks popular in her home state of Tamil Nadu. When she posted a painting of filter coffee, it went viral. Sridhar, 21, told the BBC that Indians around the world are now buying her paintings and she hopes "to make a name for myself in art history".

viral: go ~ ['vaɪrəl]
➤ sich rasant (wie ein Virus) im Internet verbreiten

Coffee: art that looks real enough to drink





LETTER FROM NEW YORK

MEDIUM US



Dear Spotlight readers

You can't call yourself a real New Yorker unless you have at least one anecdote about our less popular neighbors. Like my experience the other day on my way home from dinner, when I stepped on something soft and fluffy.

It was a rat, and it seemed at least as surprised as I was. Otherwise, it looked fine. It's estimated that two million rats live in the city, and since the pandemic, either their numbers have increased or – as many of my neighbors and friends believe – they've lost any sense of fear. But it's more than a fascination with disgust that connects the humans of New York to the vermin of NYC. Take the popular Pizza Rat video, which shows a determined rat dragging a slice of pizza nearly twice its size down the steps to the subway (www.spotlight-online.de/rat).

Many New Yorkers can relate well to Pizza Rat; most human residents schlepp their shopping home with similar difficulty. Only half of the city's three million households own a car.

A video of a cockroach trying to pull a cigarette butt through the grate of a manhole cover became similarly popular (www.spotlight-online.de/cockroach). "You try having a family of 10,000 in this economy," wrote one commentator. The admiration for our animal fellow citizens expresses the pride of making it in this often inhumane city. As Frank Sinatra sang: "If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere." No matter how many legs you have.

Best

Heike Buchter

Heike Buchter is a correspondent in the New York office of DIE ZEIT.

“ New York is not a city, it's a world ”

Iman Abdulmajid, Somali fashion model
and entrepreneur



WEIRD WORDS

language that's making the news

MEDIUM

LIFESTYLE CREEP

Carrie Bradshaw, a character in *Sex and the City*, often spends any extra money she has on expensive shoes and bags. This habit of being extravagant is called "lifestyle creep".

cigarette butt

- Zigarettenstummel

cockroach

- Küchenschabe

determined [di'tɜ:mɪnd]

- entschlossen

disgust

- Ekel

fluffy

- flauschig, pelzig

grate

- Gitter

manhole cover

- Kanaldeckel

relate to sth.

- etw. verstehen

vermin ['vɜ:mən]

- Schädling



Fotos: CSA Images, phanasitti, Isaxar/Stock.com, Matteo Chinelatto/Shutterstock.com



Freedom fighters and holiday homes

Die jahrhundertealten Spannungen zwischen England und Wales wirken bis heute nach. Kann der neue Prinz von Wales daran etwas ändern?

MEDIUM AUDIO



COLIN BEAVEN is a freelance writer. He lives and works in Southampton on the south coast of England.

carpenter
- Zimmerer, Zimmerin

Duchess
- Herzogin

Duke [dju:k]
- Herzog

forward sth. ['fɔ:wəd]
- etw. nachsenden

Good Friday
- Karfreitag

holiday let UK
- Ferienwohnung

insensitive [in'sensətɪv]
- unsensibel

let UK
- vermieten

mean UK
- geizig

reign [reɪn]
- Herrschaft

resort [rɪ'zɔ:t]
- Urlaubsort

royalty ['rɔɪəlti]
- Mitglied des Königs-hauses

sarcophagus
[sɑ:'kɒfəgəs]
- Sarkophag

say: have one's ~
- mitreden

trough [trɒf]
- Wassertrog

wary: be ~ of sb. ['weəri]
- sich vor jmdm. hüten



If we sent the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge a postcard, would the post office have to forward it to them? William is now the Prince of Wales – he was given an upgrade when Charles became king and didn't need the title any more. And Kate is now the Princess of Wales.

Usually, people who move from Cambridge to Wales pay the post office to send on their mail, but royalty probably don't need to do that when their titles change.

How did the Welsh feel about their new prince? Were they happy that Charles had passed the title on to his son? Some would have liked a say in the decision, although Charles did make an effort to win hearts and minds, with compliments about Wales when he visited at the start of his reign.

Again, not everyone was happy. Was it insensitive to visit on 16 September? That's Owain Glyndŵr Day, named after the last Prince of Wales, who actually came from Wales – a national hero who fought against the English.

By chance, I was also in Wales on that September day, not with Charles in Cardiff, but in the north, visiting Beaumaris – a beautiful town on the island of Anglesey, with a lovely 13th-century castle.

It's one of several built by Edward I to try to dominate the Welsh. At the castle in Conwy, a town across the water from Beaumaris, an information centre takes great pride in telling you that Glyndŵr's "freedom fighters" captured it in 1401, by dressing up as carpenters on Good Friday, when most of the English were at church.

Walking down a narrow street outside Conwy Castle, I was held up by a large car that was moving slowly forward. A lady came out of her house to complain about visitors who hire holiday cottages but are too mean to use the car park.

Except she didn't call them "visitors". She used another, not-so-nice word. "We used to have a community," she said. "Now, the houses are holiday lets. That one's been bought by a man from Manchester."

She didn't sound Welsh, but if the man from Manchester wants any building work done on his holiday home, he should be wary of anyone dressed as a carpenter.

North Wales needs English invaders, and buses full of tourists come to fill the Victorian hotels and guest houses in beautiful resorts like Llandudno. Does it also need investors who let cottages on Airbnb?

The church in Beaumaris has a sarcophagus that may be that of Joan, wife of Llywelyn, another Welsh Prince of Wales, who's a national hero. Joan died in 1237, and her father was King John of England.

Despite this family connection, John's behaviour in Wales wasn't much more civilized than Edward's. And Joan's sarcophagus was used as a horse trough until the 18th century. At least it wasn't bought by a man from Manchester who wanted to rent it out to tourists on Airbnb.



FILM | DRAMA

ADVANCED

Monarchy is enjoying a comeback. And there is no clearer sign of our fascination with the topic than the number of series currently dealing with royal history. For viewers interested in a legendary monarch, we recommend *Becoming Elizabeth* (Starzplay, available on Amazon).

The series follows the children of Henry VIII – Edward, Mary and Elizabeth – as they deal with power struggles after their father’s death. Edward VI is a boy-king. **Wilful** and **pious**, he’s determined to defend the Protestant faith. His sister Mary is a **devout** Catholic. Elizabeth must navigate between the two while trying to honour her father’s wishes for his kingdom. All three find themselves in need of a good lobby – **courtiers** who will support them, but all have their own power games to play. Showing these strategies is where the series really shines. These nobles become as familiar as family – one that suddenly finds itself in the boxing ring. So, choose your corner, and start cheering.



Alicia von Rittberg as young Elizabeth Tudor

courtier [ˈkɔːrtiə]

↳ Höfling

devout [diˈvaʊt]

↳ strenggläubig

pious [ˈpiːəs]

↳ fromm

wilful

↳ eigensinnig

detective novel

[diˈtektɪv ,nɔːvəl]

↳ Kriminalroman

gripping

↳ fesselnd

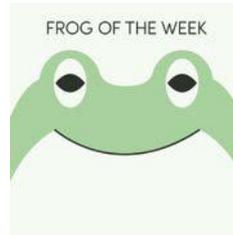
gruesomely

[ˈɡruːsəməli]

↳ grausam

revenge

↳ Rache



PODCAST | NATURE

MEDIUM

With weekly three-minute episodes, the *Frog of the Week* podcast will take you straight into the wonderful world of frogs and **toads**. The difference between frogs and toads is complex, but

there’s one easy way to tell them apart. Toads look like small, **grumpy** football players. Frogs nearly always smile. This fact is just one of many that will make listeners smile, too – as presenter Kim Jepsen softly and slowly tells us about frogs and toads that **chuckle** when they **croak** or show their fashion sense when they **leap**. Frogs have made their way into **fairy tales** and proverbs. To find out why, kiss this prince of podcasts here: <https://frogpod.online>

chuckle [ˈtʃʌkəl]

↳ glucksen

croak

↳ quaken

fairy tale

↳ Märchen

grumpy

↳ mürrisch

leap

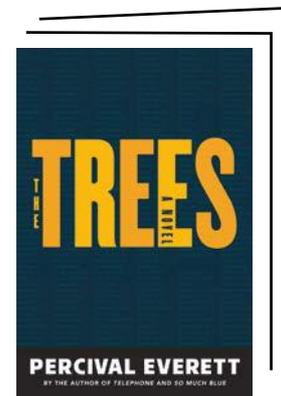
↳ springen

toad

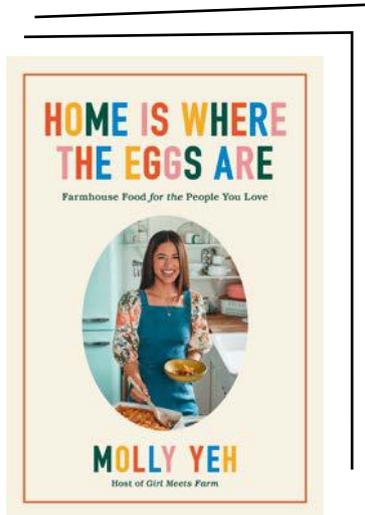
↳ Kröte

BOOK | NOVEL

MEDIUM US



The Trees by Black U.S. writer Percival Everett is a successful mix of **detective novel** and history. Set in contemporary Mississippi, it looks at the delayed reaction to the 1955 lynching of Black American teenager Emmett Till. As three family members of a white, working-class family are found **gruesomely** killed, Till’s murder over 60 years earlier is shown to be an open wound. Black FBI detectives arrive to investigate – and find a connection to murders taking place in other parts of the U.S. Is this **revenge**? **Gripping** and thoughtful, Everett turns an unusual idea into something plausible. It’s a sure sign of excellence. Influx Press, €12.25



COOKBOOK

EASY US

Home Is Where the Eggs Are is a cookbook for busy parents – and anyone else who likes simple home cooking, which may or may not include eggs. Food writer Molly Yeh, who lives on a farm in Minnesota, brings both her Jewish and Chinese background to the choice of recipes, and the influence of her husband's Scandinavian ancestors is also on display. Ham and potato pizza, hand-pulled noodles with potsticker filling sauce and orange blossom smoothies are just some of Yeh's recipes, but the favorite of this reviewer is salmon avocado smørrebrød with lemon cream. Delicious! William Morrow Cookbooks, €38.83

ancestor ['ænsɛstər]

• Vorfahr

blossom ['blɔ:səm]

• Blüte

Jewish ['dʒu:ɪʃ]

• jüdisch

potsticker

• Teigtasche

salmon ['sæmən]

• Lachs



Derry Girls: Northern Irish humour at its best

FILM | COMEDY

MEDIUM

Season three of *Derry Girls* has become available on Netflix. If you haven't watched the first two seasons, it's definitely time to catch up. Set in the (mainly Catholic) northern Irish city of Derry, the series follows four Catholic girls (plus one boy) during the 1990s and the time of the Northern Ireland peace process.

News and TV footage provides context, but the action is in the girls' homes

and includes confused mums and dads – and a wonderfully cool mother superior at the local convent school. Season three ends with the Irish-British Good Friday Agreement – and the 1998 Agreement referendum on which the Irish and Northern Irish voted. With a great use of music and short, often very funny dialogues, the series will keep you laughing – and cheerful. Some stories just do have a happy end.

Agreement referendum

• Annahme des Referendums

catch up

• aufholen

convent ['kɒnvənt]

• Kloster

footage ['fʊtɪdʒ]

• Filmmaterial

Good Friday Agreement

• Karfreitagsabkommen

mother superior

['mʌðə su:piəriə]

• Mutter Oberin

season N. Am.

• Staffel



Why does skin wrinkle in water?

Wissenschaftler haben herausgefunden, dass uns die runzlige Haut an Fingern und Zehen eine bessere Haftung auf nassen Oberflächen ermöglicht, ähnlich der Wirkung eines Autoreifens auf der Straßenoberfläche. CAROLINE EVANS erklärt die Zusammenhänge.

MEDIUM

The next time you take a bath or go to the swimming pool, have a good look at the skin on your hands and feet. Wrinkled-looking skin can be a sign that you've stayed in the water for too long. It's probably time to get out and dry yourself off.

But have you ever wondered why the skin on your hands and feet looks so wrinkled after a long time underwater?

Our fingertips, the palms of our hands, the underside of our toes and the soles of our feet are all hairless. These naturally smooth areas are called "glabrous skin", as opposed to "hirsute skin", which can grow hair. After a while in the bath or swimming pool, it's only the hairless areas that begin to look wrinkled.

ancestor ['ænsɛstə]

► Vorfahr, Ahne

bare [beə]

► bloß, nackt

glabrous ['gleibrəs]

► haarlos, unbehaart

grasp

► greifen

hirsute ['hɜ:sju:t]

► behaart

palm ['pɑ:m]

► Handfläche

steady grip [ˌstedi 'grɪp]

► fester Griff, gute Haftung

surface ['sɜ:fsɪs]

► Oberfläche

wrinkled ['rɪŋkəld]

► runzlig

Get a grip

Scientists have found that this wrinkled skin is part of our human evolution. Our distant ancestors would have needed their hands to be able to grasp wet objects securely and their bare feet to keep a steady grip on surfaces when they walked around. This would have been especially important in rainy weather, when surfaces are harder to grip with bare feet.

A team of biologists studied the reaction of our skin when we soak it in water and published their findings in 2013, in the British journal *Biology Letters*.

The scientists discovered that when the nerves directly under the skin sense that the skin's surface has been in contact with water for a long time, they react



automatically by tightening the blood vessels. This creates the wrinkled effect.

Think of the grooved surface of a car tyre, which prevents the car from skidding on wet road surfaces. By wrinkling, our hands and feet naturally form similar grooves, helping the skin to drain off excess water. This allows us to get a better grip on objects we hold in our hands and the surfaces we walk on in wet conditions.

Hold tight

The scientists carried out many experiments, including one in which people had to pick up glass marbles underwater. They compared whether it was easier to pick up the marbles when people's hands had been underwater for a while, so the skin was wrinkled, or when they had "dry"



INFO TO GO

Skin is the body's largest organ. On average, it weighs 15 per cent of our body weight. It's water-proof – keeping moisture out and body fluids in.

blood vessel

['blʌd ,vesl]
• Blutgefäß

body fluid

• Körperflüssigkeit

drain off

• hier: ablaufen lassen

excess ['ekses]

• überschüssig

grooved

• hier: profiliert

marble

• Marmor

moisture ['mɔɪstʃə]

• Feuchtigkeit

skid

• rutschen

tighten ['taɪtən]

• zusammenziehen

hands with unwrinkled skin. They found that it was much easier for people to pick up the slippery marbles when the skin was wrinkled.

This led the scientists to conclude that the ability of our skin to wrinkle after being underwater for a period of time may have played an important role in human evolution. Maybe the survival of our ancestors even depended on it.

They certainly would have needed to walk and climb with bare feet to reach their food, and to grasp it firmly with their hands. The gripping effect of their wrinkled fingers and toes would have helped them to gather this food during wet weather, or while walking on stones or wet wood when they were crossing streams and rivers.





Cornishware

Diese zeitlose Geschirrschere bringt seit 100 Jahren maritimes Flair in britische Küchen. Noch heute werden die weiß-blauen Tassen, Teller und Schüsseln mit Ton aus Cornwall geformt. Von JULIAN EARWAKER

EASY AUDIO

The blue-and-white bands are cheerful. The material is long-lasting ceramic. Cornishware is made from St Austell clay, fired at 1,130 °C, and finished by hand.

It began with a 19th-century romance. Businessman Thomas Goodwin Green from Boston, England, married Mary Tenniel in 1862. On their honeymoon, Green bought a pottery in Church Gresley, Derbyshire. T. G. Green & Co. Ltd successfully sold teapots, pudding bowls and “nappies” (cooking dishes).

The firm began selling its blue-banded Cornishware in 1923 – reputedly after a salesman said the colours symbolized the Cornish sky and surf. The range was modernized in the 1960s. Sadly, the company had to close in 2007 – its products were no longer competitive. Cornishware was later made in Asia, but in 2017, most of the manufacturing moved back to the UK. Different colours have been added to the range of mugs, jugs and plates, but it’s the blue and white design that brings the sea and sky into the kitchen.

- clay**
• Ton
- Derbyshire** ['dɑ:biʃə]
• (wg. Aussprache)
- fire**
• hier: brennen
- jug**
• Krug, Kanne
- mug**
• Becher
- pottery**
• Töpferei
- range**
• Sortiment
- reputedly** [ri'pjʊ:tɪdli]
• angeblich
- surf**
• Brandung



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Lamb in pastry

In dieser neuen Kolumne erzählen *Spotlight*-Redakteurinnen und -Autoren von ihren Lieblingsrezepten. Diesmal schwelgt Chefredakteurin Inez Sharp in Kindheitserinnerungen. Von LORRAINE MALLINDER

ADVANCED



Spotlight's editor-in-chief, Inez Sharp, as a little girl

Picture the scene. We're in an English garden filled with apple and pear trees, red brick walls on either side. A little girl wearing a green-and-white striped dress joins her family at a table in the shade of a large arbutus tree. Sunday lunch has just been served: a magnificent slice of lamb in puff pastry, with fresh runner beans, crispy roast potatoes and a salad.

The little girl in question, dear reader, is *Spotlight's* editor, Inez Sharp. And this lunch, served in the orchard garden of her Essex childhood home, was her favourite meal. It brought the little girl, her big sister and her parents to a happy place, united in the joy of sharing the food they loved.

Mum was German, a "fantastic cook". Perhaps she had inherited the recipe for this rather English dish from her lovely mother-in-law, Inez is not sure. She does, though, remember her mum cutting notches into the meat, stuffing them with garlic and rosemary before wrapping the whole thing up in puff pastry. When the golden package was sliced, a wonderful aroma would waft through the garden, filling everyone with excitement.

Inez remembers every detail of eating her favourite dish: the sensation of flaky pastry on her lips, the thrill of biting into little pieces of garlic and rosemary, and the delicious sudden burst of flavour. Her mother always parboiled the potatoes before roasting them with

the lamb fat, so that they came out of the oven soft on the inside but with a "gorgeous, golden, crisp outer coating". And she'd add a German touch – salads with a sweet, tangy sauce.

After dinner, Mum may have had a snooze and Dad would get back to "planting blue poppies and other extravagant flowers in the garden".

For Inez and her sister, though, it would be time to do the washing-up. "Much as we loved the food, we knew we'd soon be up to our elbows in soap and suds."

arbutus tree [ɑ:ˈbjʊ:təs]
• Erdbeerbaum

brick
• Ziegel, Backstein

flaky
• blättrig

gorgeous [ˈɡɔ:dʒəs] *ifml.*
• wunderbar

inherit sth. [ɪnˈhɛrɪt]
• etw. erben

mother-in-law
• Schwiegermutter

notch [ˈnɒtʃ]
• Kerbe, Einschnitt

orchard [ˈɔ:tʃəd]
• Obstgarten

parboil sth. [ˈpɑ:bɔɪl]
• etw. halb kochen

pastry [ˈpeɪstri]
• Teig; hier: Pastete

pear
• Birne

poppy [ˈpɒpi]
• Mohnblume

puff pastry [ˈpeɪstri]
• Blätterteig

rosemary
• Rosmarin

runner bean UK
• Stangenbohne

sensation
• Gefühl

snooze
• Nickerchen

suds [ˈsʌdz]
• Waschlauge;
hier: Schaum

tangy [ˈtæŋi]
• würzig

waft [ˈwɑ:ft]
• wehen, ziehen

LAMB IN PASTRY

INGREDIENTS

- one shoulder or leg of lamb, deboned
- two cloves of garlic, thinly sliced
- several sprigs of rosemary
- salt and pepper
- 500 g puff pastry
- olive oil
- two egg yolks

RECIPE (serves 4 to 6)

Peel the garlic and cut into thin slices. Prepare 12 to 15 very small bundles of garlic and rosemary. Use a sharp knife to cut the meat in 12 to 15 places and push the garlic and rosemary deep into it. Pre-heat the oven to about 200 °C. Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan. Rub some salt and pepper into the lamb and fry for around ten minutes. Allow it to rest for ten minutes. Meanwhile, roll all but a small part of the pastry into a rectangle three times the size of the lamb. Dry any excess liquid from the lamb and place the meat on the pastry. Wrap the pastry around the lamb and seal it like a parcel. To decorate, apply pastry "leaves" on top. Beat the egg yolks with water and use it to brush the pastry. Place in an ovenproof dish and roast for 45 minutes for a pinkish result, or an hour if you prefer the meat well done. Serve with green beans, small potatoes and a salad.

debone

- entbeinen

egg yolk

- Eigelb

excess

- überschüssig

ovenproof

- hitzebeständig

rectangle

- Rechteck

rest

- ruhen

seal

- fest verschließen

sprig

- Zweig



Animal-assisted therapy

– improving mental health

Eine Wahl-Schottin hilft Menschen durch die Arbeit mit Tieren oder im Garten. Sie hat TALITHA LINEHAN von ihrem Alltag erzählt.

MEDIUM **AUDIO** **PLUS**

“We wanted to share our love of animals and crafts”

My name is Lara Armitage and I'm 46. I'm the director of an animal-assisted activity and crafting centre in the Scottish Borders, called At Birkhill House CIC. I'm from the Boston area in the US, but have lived in Scotland since 1994. My husband is a vet and we have two teenage children. We love animals and crafts, and we wanted to share that love with others. So, in 2017, we bought the nine-acre estate Birkhill House and we run workshops out of four renovated stables here.

I get up between 6.30 and 7.30, drink tea and play Wordle and other games to kick my brain into gear. I then go around the estate checking on the animals, which include alpacas, sheep, goats, cats, dogs, chickens and peacocks.

animal-assisted

– tiergestützt

crafting ['krɑ:ftɪŋ]

– Handwerken, Basteln

estate [ɪ'steɪt]

– Grund, Anwesen

gear: kick sth. into ~ ifml.

– etw. in die Gänge bekommen

goat

– Ziege

peacock

– Pfau

stable

– Stall

vet (veterinarian)

– Tierarzt, Tierärztin





Local experts run creative workshops on traditional crafts, for both adults and children – assisted by animals, of course!



Just being with animals can have a therapeutic effect, often helping to improve mental health



Fibre from alpaca wool is used in workshops on fleece processing



Fruit and veg are grown in polytunnels, which are similar to greenhouses

We have a part-time animal-care assistant and 14 regular volunteers to feed the animals. Afterwards, I check my e-mails, sort through bookings and do paperwork. We're a non-profit, so we are always filling out paperwork to get funding.

On most days, I lead group sessions, which can take up to three hours. Our motto is improving mental health in the Scottish Borders through caring and creativity. We collaborate with support and recovery groups. People come to us for the therapeutic benefits of crafting, gardening or animal-assisted activities, or a combination of these.

Local experts run workshops on traditional crafts – everything from pewter casting to leatherwork – and we offer workshops on fleece processing, using the fibre from our alpacas. We recently started a dye garden, where we grow the plants to dye our yarns, so some people want to work there or in our polytunnels, planting or harvesting fruit and vegetables. A group might want to participate in animal-assisted activities, which means just being with the animals, grooming them, filling up their hay feeders and so on.

The afternoon is an endless loop of tasks. For example, I'll help a chicken who's got her foot tangled in some string and then I'll card alpaca fibre to spin into yarn. After that, I'll clear a stable for a knitting workshop and then look at faecal samples under a microscope to make sure the animals are healthy. I'm always multitasking!

In the evening, I cook dinner. I make big hotpots, or lasagna, chillis and stews, using the food we grow here and locally produced meat. My husband comes home and the kids come in and they tell me about their day. And then we all watch something fantastical together, like *Game of Thrones*, while I do some knitting. I usually go to bed at 11 and read for an hour. I studied English literature at university and I'm always reading some great novel that somebody amazing wrote. Right now, it's *Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende.

card

- kardinieren

cast

- gießen

collaborate

- zusammenarbeiten

dye garden [daɪ]

- Färbegarten

faecal sample ['fi:kəl]

- Kotprobe

feeder

- Futtertrog

fibre ['faɪbə]

- Faser

fleece processing

- hier: Wollverarbeitung

groom

- pflegen, striegeln

hay

- Heu

hotpot

- Eintopf

knitting ['nɪtɪŋ]

- Strick-

loop

- Schleife

mental health

- [,mentəl 'heɪθ]
- psychische Gesundheit

non-profit

- gemeinnützig

participate [pɑ:'tɪsɪpeɪt]

- teilnehmen

pewter ['pi:tu:tə]

- Zinngeschirr

polytunnel

- ['pɒlɪtʌnəl] UK
- Folientunnel

stew

- Schmorgericht, Eintopf

tangle

- sich verfangen

volunteer [ˌvɒləntɪə]

- Freiwillige(r), Ehrenamtliche(r)

yarn

- Garn



“It seemed impossible”

Zahra Joya ging während der ersten Talibanherrschaft zur Schule – verkleidet als Junge. Zwanzig Jahre später sind die Taliban wieder an der Macht. Und Joya im Exil: Von London aus verleiht ihre Nachrichtenagentur afghanischen Frauen eine Stimme. Von LORRAINE MALLINDER

MEDIUM

Back in Kabul, in the good old days, Zahra Joya would rush home from work every evening to drink tea with her family. Everyone would gather in a little circle around the pot, sharing their stories. It was her favourite part of the day. “It was a simple life, but it was a very beautiful life,” she says.

That existence was blown apart in 2021, when international forces pulled out of Afghanistan. Now in London, the founder of Rukhshana Media spends every waking moment publishing the stories of women and girls who live under Taliban rule. On some level, she’s still there, managing her team of journalists, who risk their lives to ensure the world never forgets.

“Physically, I’m in the UK and safe,” she says. “Mentally, I’m not. I’m in Afghanistan.”

The return of the Taliban

Listening to Joya, it’s as though she’s stuck in a bad dream from which she can’t awaken. Back in 2020, when she set up Rukhshana with her personal savings, recruiting female journalists from around the country, she believed Afghanistan’s best days were yet to come. The agency was named in honour of a girl who had been stoned to death after trying to escape a forced marriage.

Nearly two decades on from the US-led invasion, the country had changed

beyond recognition, making huge progress on women’s rights and media freedoms. Memories of the Taliban’s brutal reign had started to fade. “Nobody in Afghanistan ever imagined that Kabul would fall and the Taliban would come back overnight,” says Joya. “It seemed impossible.”

Joya is still struggling to process what followed – the chaos of those final terrifying days at Kabul Airport, from where she was airlifted out of the country by the UK government, along with her three sisters, her brother and her niece. Who can forget those haunting images of desperate Afghans clinging to the side of a US Air Force plane, falling to their deaths after it took off? Within days, the Taliban had seized back power.

Before the US pulled out

Joya’s remarkable life reflects the country’s recent history, spanning the first phase of Taliban rule and that dawning of a new era of hope and optimism. Born in Bamyán Province in the central highlands, location of the ancient Buddha statues blown up by the Taliban in early 2001, she was spared the worst of the regime. As a member of the Hazara community, an ethnic group with relatively liberal values, she received an education – though she had to disguise herself as a boy to attend school.

Back then, she was known as Mohammed. Every day, she would dress in



Name: Zahra Joya
Born: 1992
Famous for: Founding Rukhshana Media, Afghanistan’s first feminist news agency
Recognition: One of 12 women named as *Time* magazine’s Women of the Year, 2022
Website: <https://rukhshana.com/en>

airlift

• auf dem Luftweg transportieren

blow sth. up

• etw. in die Luft sprengen

cling to sth.

• sich an etw. festklammern

dawning

[ˈdɔːnɪŋ]
 • Anbrechen

disguise

[dɪsˈɡaɪz]
 • sich verkleiden

fade

• verblassen

forced marriage

• Zwangshe

forces

• Truppen

haunting

[ˈhɔːntɪŋ]
 • tief bewegend, eindringlich

recruit

[rɪˈkrʊt]
 • anwerben

reign

[reɪn]
 • Regime

seize sth. back

[ˌsiːz ˈbæk]
 • etw. zurückerobern

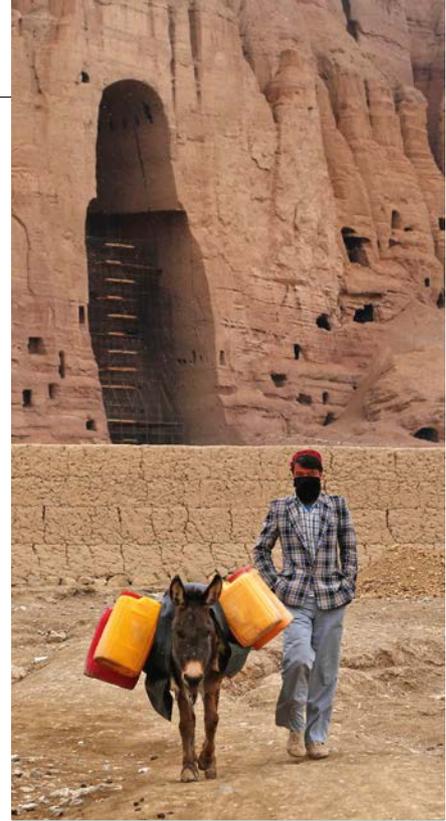
span

• umfassen

spared: be ~ sth.

• von etw. verschont bleiben

An Afghan man fetches water from a canal



her boy's outfit and walk two hours to school in Sultan Rabat village, where she joined her peers in games of football. To this day, she is grateful for her parents' courage. "In Hazara families, they will prefer to buy books over food," she says. "In our community, women still have their own rights."

Under the US-backed regime, the Hazara prospered. Joya studied law at university, later discovering her passion for journalism. "We passed through 20 years of freedom, building a life," she says. "Before, there was no freedom, no technology. But we got educated, started to rebuild." By 2021, the nation had grown in confidence, started to believe in a better future. At least that's what Joya thought before the US, against all logic, decided to pull out.

Kandahar, 2022: a Taliban banner says that Muslim women who don't wear an Islamic hijab are trying to look like animals



Now, dreams are turning to dust

The return of the Taliban has been a bitter pill. Joya speaks of her 12-year-old cousin, now unable to finish her final year of elementary school. This is her last year of education. "It's very sad. She has no motivation," she says. What future awaits this child, who may now be destined for a life of domestic servitude? Joya's pain at seeing a young relative's dreams turned to dust is palpable.

"The young generation is very vulnerable, especially because they started out as free women," she says. "Now, there are lots of stories about young girls who are not allowed to go to school and have fallen into a very deep depression."

Joya was dismayed to see the Taliban play the Western media, attempting to convince the world that things would be different this time round. Soon, however, the regime began to show its true colours, requiring women to cover themselves from head to toe, forbidding them to travel without male escorts and banning teenage girls from attending school.

Under international pressure, the Taliban momentarily buckled, announcing that it would be reopening girls' high schools in the spring. But the movement's hardline factions won, and

the decision was quickly reversed, leaving girls in tears at the school gates. According to UNICEF, three million girls are now unable to finish high school, a policy that increases their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

Human rights in danger

With the best and brightest now gone, it's as if the regime were on a mission to destroy the country it rules. Now in a diplomatic deep freeze, it has seen its central bank reserves, held in US and European accounts, blocked. The country's aid-dependent economy has been starved of billions of dollars in funding, equivalent to 40 per cent of its GDP. The UN and other agencies estimate that 20 million people are going hungry.

As if all this weren't bad enough, terror groups with ambitions for global ihad, such as Al Qaeda and Islamic State, are now flourishing again. The recent CIA killing of Al Qaeda's leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was hailed as a victory for the Biden administration, keen to improve its reputation after the disastrous pullout. But with little on-the-ground intelligence, many believe the group is far from vanquished.

Beneath the grief, the anger, the frustration, there's a genuine sense of puzzlement. To many Afghans, the

abuse [ə'bu:ʒs]
- Missbrauch

aid-dependent
- auf Hilfen angewiesen

await
- erwarten

billion
- Milliarde(n)

buckle
- nachgeben

destined: be - for sth.
- für etw. bestimmt sein

dismay
- schockieren

domestic servitude
[ˈsɜːvɪt.juːd]
- häusliche Sklaverei

elementary school
[ˌɛlɪˈmentəri sku:l]
- Grundschule

equivalent: be - to sth.
[ɪˈkwɪvələnt]
- etw. entsprechen

escort [ˈeskɔ:t]
- Begleitung

exploitation
- Ausbeutung

faction
- Splittergruppe

flourish [ˈflaʊrɪʃ]
- florieren

GDP (gross domestic product)
- BIP (Bruttoinlandsprodukt)

genuine [ˈdʒenjuɪn]
- echt, wirklich

grief
- Trauer

hail sth.
- etw. begrüßen, feiern

intelligence
- (geheimdienstliche) Information(en)

ihad [dʒɪˈhæd]
- Dschihad

keen UK
- hier: mit dem Ziel

law
- hier: Jura

on-the-ground
- vor Ort, lokal

palpable
- offensichtlich

peer
- hier: Mitschüler

prosper
- gedeihen, gutgehen

puzzlement
- Verwirrung

reserves [rɪˈzɜːvz]
- Reserven, Vermögen

reverse sth.
- etw. rückgängig machen

vanquish [ˈvæŋkwɪʃ]
- bezwingen

vulnerable [ˈvʌlnərəbəl]
- verletzbar



Afghan women working in a garments factory, Kandahar, 2022

US's abrupt exit simply doesn't add up. "They came in 2001, and they said: 'We are here, we will stand by you,'" says Joya. "Why did America leave everything behind? They signed the agreement without the ideas of the Afghan people. They never asked what our views were."

The most baffling foreign policy decision of our times was negotiated jointly by the Trump administration and the Taliban. "When Western countries left, they made a very big mistake. Terror groups are now empowered. They are active and have good support. Human rights, women's rights, all are in danger now," says Joya. "Our rights and freedom were a political game."

"I hope the women will be free again and have their own voice"

For now, all that Joya can do is keep reporting. Armed with a steely resolve, she has battled against the odds to keep her agency alive. Up to the time of our interview, she was working from a

tiny hotel room in London, which she shared with a relative. She would rise early to start the day with her journalists in Afghanistan, reporting on issues like corruption, domestic violence, rape and murder. Shortly after our interview, she was finally given a flat, which she plans to transform into a permanent HQ for Rukhshana.

Joya has won plaudits for her work, notably from *Time* magazine, which recently named her as one of its Women of the Year. But it's clear she would rather none of this had ever happened. Reminiscing about life in Kabul, about meeting friends for tea in the cafes, she remembers how she used to feel. "Your mind was relaxed, physically relaxed," she says.

She longs for that carefree version of herself. It's difficult to have a big dream now, she says. "I hope the women will be free again and have their own voice and their own rights. I hope they stand up again, fighting for their rights." It may seem like an impossible dream, but, as Joya says, "It's the dream we have."



Girls study in a secret school somewhere in Afghanistan, 2022

add up *ifml*.

• hier: Sinn ergeben

baffling

• rätselhaft

carefree

• sorglos

domestic violence

['væɪələns]

• häusliche Gewalt

foreign policy *['fɒrən]*

• außenpolitisch

HQ (headquarters)

• Hauptsitz

notably

• besonders

odds *[ɒdz]*

• hier: Schwierigkeiten

plaudit *['plɔ:dt]*

• Beifall

rape

• Vergewaltigung

reminisce about sth.

['remɪ'nɪs]

• an etw. zurückdenken

resolve *['rɪ'zɒlv]*

• Entschlossenheit

steely

• eisern, unbeugsam

transform sth.

• etw. umgestalten



Murder mystery boom

Klassische Kriminalgeschichten im Stil von Agatha Christie erleben gerade eine Renaissance. Was macht das Genre so reizvoll? Von VANESSA THORPE

MEDIUM

A brilliant Greek sun beats down on Daniel Craig and his co-stars Kate Hudson, Edward Norton and Janelle Monáe in the follow-up to *Knives Out*, the surprise whodunnit hit of 2019. When *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* arrived in UK cinemas in November 2022, audiences were introduced in the time-honoured manner to a handful of prime suspects, with Daniel Craig's gentlemanly detective, Benoit Blanc, setting out to solve the crime.

But those glossy *Knives Out* films are not the only recent releases to stretch the framework of the traditional whodunnit into blockbuster territory. Film producers are now prepared to risk huge sums on the sort of classic crime that used only to be found on Sunday afternoon television.

"This kind of drama is a global phenomenon now," says James Prichard, Agatha Christie's great-grandson, who's chairman and chief executive of Agatha Christie Ltd. "It all changed with Kenneth Branagh and his *Murder on the Orient Express*. Fox did something amazing when it put in all that money. It showed that people still want murder mysteries."

Glass Onion (the title is taken from a Beatles song and from the transparent dome structure that dominates the film's island location) came out just months after Kenneth Branagh's stellar line-up of actors had sailed

downriver together in his remake of Christie's *Death on the Nile*.

The US director and writer of the *Knives Out* films, Rian Johnson, described *Glass Onion* as "an equal, not a sequel" at its London premiere. But although Johnson claims that both screenplays were inspired by Christie's work, the second film is clearly the direct result of the commercial success of the first. The budget is spent on spectacle; the high-tech world it creates brings Daniel Craig closer to the clever gadgetry he played with as James Bond than to the deductive skills of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.

A booming genre

James Prichard is right about the new global reach of the whodunnit template. The summer of 2022 saw the release of a Chinese series called *Checkmate*, based on Agatha Christie's Poirot stories, and in September 2022, British cinema audiences turned out in large numbers for the feature film *See How They Run*. A playful twist on the classic format, this mystery revolved around Christie's West End play *The Mousetrap*, which has been running for 70 years. November 2022 saw the airing of *They Were Ten*, a stylish French take on one of Christie's most famous books, now known as *And Then There Were None*.

"If murder mystery is booming, then we inevitably play an important part in that," says Prichard. "But I hate

airing ['eəriŋ]

• Sendung, Ausstrahlung

blockbuster /fml.

• Kinohit

chairman ['tʃeəməŋ]

• Vorsitzender

chief executive

[ˌtʃi:f ɪg'zɛkjʊtɪv]

• Geschäftsführer(in)

deductive [di'dʌktɪv]

• kombinatorisch

director [daɪ'rektə]

• Regisseur(in)

dome structure

• Kuppelbau

follow-up

• Fortsetzung

gadgetry ['gædʒɪtri]

• Gerätschaften, technische Spielereien

glossy

• glatt, strahlend

inevitably [ɪ'nevətəbli]

• unweigerlich

Knives Out ['naɪvz]

• dt. Titel: Mord ist Familiensache

line-up

• Besetzung

murder mystery

• Kriminalgeschichte

screenplay

• Drehbuch

sequel ['si:kwəl]

• Folge

stellar /fml.

• ausgezeichnet, brilliant

suspect ['sʌspekt]

• Verdächtige(r)

template ['templɪt]

• Vorlage

time-honoured ['tɪnəd]

• altertümlich

twist

• Dreh, Pepp

whodunnit [ˌhu:'dʌnɪt] /fml.

• Krimi

the phrase ‘cosy crime’. Looking at the books with the writer Sarah Phelps for her recent BBC adaptations taught me a lot. They are not just crossword puzzles. The murders matter and are rarely excused. There are some very nasty people killed in her books, but it is not condoned.”

Indeed, after the pandemic and with economic troubles looming, it seems that viewers like the certainties of a neat, conventional mystery. The violence in these films tends to happen off-screen, and there are none of the grim tropes of “Scandi noir” features.

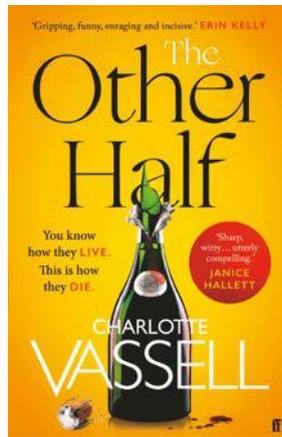
At this “comfier” end of the murder market, Hugh Laurie successfully brought a fresh version of the Christie mystery *Why Didn't They Ask Evans?* to BritBox (an online video subscription service), also in 2022. It proved that, a century on, the question in Christie's title was still worth asking. Film stars Emma Thompson and Jim Broadbent were happy to join Laurie's fun because whodunnits now attract so many viewers: their often rather stylized form of suspense can more than hold its own against gritty police documentaries and the gore of true crime.

In times of trouble

So, if we gather around the fireplace, with the evidence laid out before us, what do we see? A sudden glut of screen reworkings of whodunnit formulas and new interpretations of Christie classics.

The verdict is clear for first-time crime writer Charlotte Vassell: the reason why murder mysteries are so popular at the moment is because they're an unbeatable way to look at society. “A murder is an aberration of the social contract. So as a crime writer, you set up the part of society you want to study and then pull it all apart. We are all just nosy, really,” she says.

Vassell's debut novel, *The Other Half*, published in January 2023, tells the contemporary story of the hidden wall of wealth behind a London murder. “As a reader, you look at all the characters' motivations and are often confounded



Charlotte Vassell wrote her murder mystery as an “escape” during lockdown



by your own prejudices. It allows you to look at class and at race,” she says, adding that Christie was always “meticulous” about setting up the social worlds she was about to destroy.

Vassell, aged 32, wrote her new mystery “as an escape” during lockdown. “It was a way to get me up in the mornings,” she says. And while we may not all have written our own whodunnits, James Prichard suspects it's the challenges of the last three years that have led readers and viewers back to the genre.

“One of the bizarre things is how the book sales absolutely took off in lockdown,” he says. “My father said at the beginning of it all that in times of trouble, people turn to Agatha Christie, and he was right. There really is something cathartic there, considering she herself wrote them after the horrors of war.”

Christie's incredible legacy

The recipe for a convincing mystery is harder to concoct than perhaps most



Knives Out was the surprise whodunnit hit of 2019, with a stellar cast including Daniel Craig and Jamie Lee Curtis

aberration [æbə'teɪʃən]
 - Abweichung

adaptation
 [ˌædæp'teɪʃən]
 - Bearbeitung

comfy ['kʌmfɪ] ifml.
 - gemütlich, bequem

concoct [kən'kɒkt]
 - sich ausdenken

condone sth.
 - billigen, gutheissen

confound
 - verwirren, irritieren

cosy crime ifml.
 - etwa: Kuschelkrimi

documentary
 [ˌdɒk.ju'mentəri]
 - Dokumentarfilm

fireplace
 - offener Kamin

glut [glʌt]
 - Überangebot

gore
 - Blutvergießen

grim
 - düster

gritty
 - hart

legacy ['legəsi]
 - Vermächtnis

loom
 - sich abzeichnen, drohen

meticulous [mə'tɪkjələs]
 - akribisch

nasty
 - böse, schlimm

neat
 - ordentlich, richtig

nosy ['nəʊzi] ifml.
 - neugierig

prejudice ['preɪdʒʊdɪs]
 - Vorurteil

recipe ['resəpi]
 - Rezeptur

Scandi noir ['nwa:]
 - skandinavische Krimis, die besonders düster sind

social contract
 - gesellschaftliche Grundlage

subscription
 [ˌsʌb'skrɪpʃən]
 - Abo

suspense
 - Spannung

trope
 - (typisches) Motiv

verdict ['vɜːdɪkt]
 - Erkenntnis



Gal Gadot and Armie Hammer in *Death on the Nile* (2022)

fans think. But for young people who might like to try, there's an opportunity coming up. To celebrate the anniversary of *The Mousetrap's* world-beating run, the production has set up a Young Mystery Writers programme, designed to inspire the next generation of budding crime writers.

Working with the National Literacy Trust and more than 30 secondary schools across Britain, the scheme focuses and supports young students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they attempt to write their own short whodunnit. It also offers them the chance to experience a West End show. Those who take part will see their work published in a celebratory anthology.

"This partnership will use Agatha Christie's incredible legacy to encourage a love of writing – a key literacy skill – in 600 students from disadvantaged backgrounds," says Tim Judge, head of schools programmes at the National Literacy Trust. "Christie is the bestselling novelist of all time and Young Mystery Writers will continue to serve as an inspiration."

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Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot in *Death on the Nile*

budding

➤ angehend

celebratory

[,selə'breɪtəri]

➤ festlich

National Literacy Trust

➤ unabhängige Wohltätigkeitsorganisation zur Förderung von Lese- und Schreibfähigkeit

secondary school UK

➤ weiterführende Schule



Good luck, Phil!

Immer diese Frauen! Oder? In *Spotlight's* ganz eigenem Pub offenbart ein Gespräch unter Männern, dass das Problem an anderer Stelle liegt... Von INEZ SHARP

MEDIUM AUDIO

Phil: Hello, George! What can I do for you?

George: Actually, I've just come in to get away from **the missus**.

Phil: Maggie giving you grief?

George: Yes, but I can't blame her. Our finances are still a mess, business is slow and most weekends, I can't be **arsed** to get off the sofa. It just all feels like too much.

Phil: Nothing that a pint of our best can't fix.

George: If only it were that simple. Where's Peggy?

Phil: Well, if you think Maggie's in a **strop**, wait till you see my wife.

George: What's happened?

Phil: She's been in a terrible mood since this morning. Definitely got out of bed on the wrong side.

George: It'll pass.

Phil: That's what I kept telling myself, but then things got really bad at lunchtime, when she heard me referring to her as "**the old girl**".

George: Oops!

Phil: Precisely. I was talking to a customer and I thought she was out back in the

“You need to start getting respectful”

kitchen, but she was right behind me. Since then, she's been like a **witch** on wheels with her hair on fire.

George: That's a bit harsh!

Phil: Yes, but there's no talking to her in this kind of mood.

George: No, I meant you. No wonder Peggy's hurt.

Phil: Why are women so often **offended**?

George: You just don't get it, do you? We've moved on. Times have changed. You need to start getting respectful towards women. I can't remember how many times we've had this conversation.

Sean: Hi, George! Phil, what did you say to Peggy? She's in a terrible mood.

Phil: Where is she?

Sean: In the kitchen. I've been **run** off my feet today and I asked if she could help **chop** some vegetables for the quiche.

Phil: And?

Sean: Put it this **way**: she's not chopping the veg, she's massacring it. I couldn't bear to watch. Those poor carrots.

Phil: I might have been a bit – how shall I put this – a bit **insensitive** earlier.

Sean: But she's been like this all day. I can hardly get a **civil** word out of her.

George: Do you think she's had some bad news?

Phil: No, she would have said something. At least, I think she would.

George: Why not do something nice, like getting her some flowers or taking her out to dinner?

Phil: She'd probably think I'd done something terrible and get **suspicious**.

George: Better than doing nothing, Phil.

Sean: Look, I can't stand here chatting all day. I've got meals to cook and at some point, I need to run out to the post office and get a birthday card for my granny.

Phil: Oh, no! That's it!

George: What are you talking about?

Phil: Let me look at my phone. Yes, it's Peggy's birthday today – and our wedding anniversary! I completely forgot!

Sean: You're going to need more than flowers to fix that. Good luck!

George: Yes, you'll need it.

arsed: I can't be ~ [ɑ:st]

UK vulg.

• ich hab keinen Bock

chop

• hacken, klein schneiden

civil ['sɪvəl]

• zivilisiert, höflich

grief: give sb. ~ UK

• jmdm. Ärger machen

insensitive [ɪn'sensətɪv]

• unsensibel

offend sb.

• jmdn. beleidigen

run: be ~ off one's feet ifml.

• sich die Hacken ablaufen

strop: be in a ~ UK ifml.

• schlechte Laune haben

suspicious [sə'spɪʃəs]

• misstrauisch

way: put it this ~

• sagen wir mal so

witch: like a ~ on wheels with her hair on fire ifml.

• wie eine Furie



PHRASES TO GO
 “The missus” [ˈmɪsɪz] and “the old girl” are just two of many informal expressions some men use to talk about their wives. Not all women find them acceptable!



Sean

Sean, from Ireland, is the chef at Peggy’s Place. Sean is unconventional but a genius in the kitchen. He’s also a bit hot-headed.



George

George, who’s Scottish, has been coming to Peggy’s Place for years. He has a business as an events manager. George is married to Maggie and has a grown-up son, Ian.



Phil

Phil is in his 60s. He’s married to Peggy. Once a London cabbie, he now helps out at the pub. Phil can be a bit grumpy but he’s a good person. Unfortunately, he’s not much of a businessman.



Peggy

Peggy is the owner of the pub. Now in her 60s, she’s kind and reliable, and loves the British royal family. Peggy is happy in her second marriage, to Phil.



Helen

Helen, a regular at the pub, works as a nurse and is currently single. She’s organized, punctual and sensible.



Jane

Jane, Peggy’s daughter, is egocentric and lazy. She’s a single mother – she has a daughter, Simone – but she’s not good at taking on responsibility. Jane never stays in one job for long.



cabbie *ifml.*
 - Taxifahrer(in)
chef
 - Küchenchef(in)

grumpy
 - mürrisch, grantig
sensible
 - vernünftig

Answers
 A. the missus
 B. be run off one’s feet
 C. give someone grief
 D. strop

NOW, TRY THIS!



Match these informal words and phrases used in the dialogue to their definitions.

be run off one’s feet | give someone grief | strop | the missus

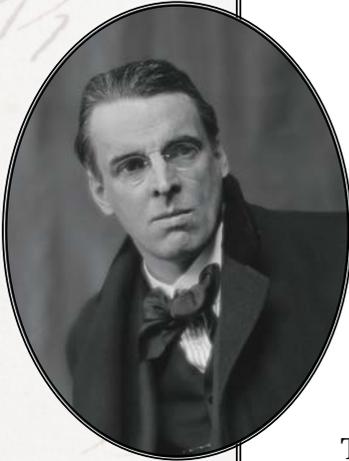
- A. an informal expression for a wife
- B. have a lot of work to do – especially physical work
- C. criticize someone
- D. a bad mood



Der irische Dichter William Butler Yeats malt ein düsteres Bild der Zukunft – und lässt viel Spielraum für Interpretation.

Von VANESSA CLARK

ADVANCED AUDIO PLUS



These Are the Clouds

by W. B. Yeats (1865–1939)

These are the clouds about the fallen sun,
 The majesty that shuts his burning eye:
 The weak lay hand on what the strong has done,
 Till that be tumbled that was lifted high
 And discord follow upon unison,
 And all things at one common level lie.
 And therefore, friend, if your great race were run
 And these things came, So much the more thereby
 Have you made greatness your companion,
 Although it be for children that you sigh:
 These are the clouds about the fallen sun,
 The majesty that shuts his burning eye.

companion

[kəm'pænjən]

- Begleiter(in), Gefährte, Gefährtin

discord

['dɪskɔ:d]

- Zwietracht, Streit

sigh

[saɪ]

- seufzen

thereby

[ˌðeə'baɪ]

- dadurch

tumble

- fallen, stürzen

unison

['juːnɪsən]

- Einklang



What's it about?

This poem is about total destruction. The sun has fallen from the sky. It was a great “burning eye” but is now closed and covered by clouds. Chaos replaces harmony (“discord follow upon unison”). The weak attack the work of the strong. Everything high is pulled down (“tumbled”). All is now “at one common level”, which could be negative (everything is at the lowest level) but is also open to a positive interpretation (everything is equal).

Yeats presents these powerful images neutrally, so we're not sure whether he sees them as a dream or as a nightmare.

Then he speaks to us as a friend. He says that if these things really happened (“these things came”) before our lives ended (“your great race were run”), then we would have achieved greatness (“made greatness your companion”), even if we had concerns or regrets (“for children ... sigh”). We therefore start to wonder whether Yeats wants us to try to achieve this destruction. When he repeats the image of the fallen sun at the end, the poet may be trying to make it sound more positive – like a goal.

Good to know

This poem was published in 1916, when the Irish were rising up against British rule in Ireland. Yeats was an Irish nationalist, and the poem is perhaps imagining the collapse of British power in his country. However, Yeats always said he was against the use of violence, so he may be dreaming that destruction could simply fall from the sky.

Did you notice, by the way, that when Yeats refers to the sun, he uses the masculine possessive form (“his burning eye”)? In English, the so-called poetic (or metaphorical) gender is often taken from Romanic languages (where the sun is masculine and the moon is feminine) rather than from Germanic languages.



INFO TO GO

Be careful with the pronunciation of the name Yeats: it's [jɛɪts], not [jɪ:ts].

If you liked this poem...

This poem is open to different interpretations. Could it have other messages or warnings for us? If you'd like to tell us what it means to you, write to p.daniell@spotlight-verlag.de and your interpretation might be included on our Feedback page!

gender ['dʒɛndə]
- Geschlecht

nightmare ['naɪtmɛə]
- Alpträum



The editor's choice



Völlig realitätsfern! Ein Verleger lehnt das Manuskript eines Star-Autors ab ... zu voreilig? Eine Kurzgeschichte von J. B. HUTCHINSON

ADVANCED US AUDIO

Dan Milman was not looking forward to this meeting. Working with bestselling authors was a pleasure when you were giving them good news. When you weren't, well, that was another story. Bestselling authors didn't always take rejection well. Telling Jack Falk that his new suspense thriller was not suspenseful and not thrilling was going to be as much fun as getting a root canal.

Milman was an editor at Bay Pacific, one of the nation's oldest and most respected publishers. Mostly, they published non-fiction: politics, history, social sciences, biography. Fiction was not their focus, but they did represent a few serious authors.

Jack Falk was unique. He wrote thrillers that sold unbelievably well. Their brilliance lay in the fact that they were nuanced, intelligent, and well researched, based on fact and history. He was Bay Pacific's most profitable author. His last thriller, *Dispatched*, was the bestselling book of 2011.

Now, Milman had to tell him that Bay Pacific would not publish his latest manuscript. It was March 15, 2012 – the **ides of March**.

Falk had already taken a seat with the relaxation, familiarity, and confidence one would expect of Bay Pacific's hottest author. Milman looked out of his panorama windows at the Golden Gate Bridge.

"Jack, I'll get right to the point," Milman said. "We can't do it. *The President's Rampage* is just not you. It's not your best work."

"What do you mean it's not me?" Falk asked. "It's very much me."

"No. It's not."

"Dan, it's an intelligent, well-told story. It builds an **arc**, it has complex character development, **intrigue**, and plot twists. A **climax** at the seat of power. What's your problem?!"

Milman took a deep breath. "It's ridiculous! That's my problem. It's unrealistic. Your signature is **sophistication**, realism. Not **outrageous**, unrealistic **pulp** that's better suited to a Hollywood action movie!"

Falk shifted in his chair. He wondered if Milman was serious, if this wasn't some kind of a joke. "You'll have to be more specific. What's unrealistic?" he asked cautiously.

"First of all," Milman said, "there's the main character and the title: *The President's Rampage*. For most of the book, President Sheeran is a fat **oaf** in **seersuckers** on the golf course! Where's the **rampage**? Put him back in the White House! No president governs from a golf course more than half the time. That's just stupid. The book's supposed to be marketed as a thriller, not a comedy."

"Yes, but what if a president did? What if a guy gets elected to the highest office in the land and then says, 'Well, **fuck it!**? No one can tell me what to do. I'm president of the United States. I'll golf if I want to.'"

Milman had never had to deal with this kind of argument with an author. At least when he did disagree with authors, he usually was able to see the other guy's point, even if he didn't like it. But this? Falk was out of his **mind**. Fame had changed him.

"Jack," Milman said, "golfing and **rampage** just don't go well together. Golf is not a

arc

→ Bogen, Brücke

climax ['klɪmæks]

→ Höhepunkt

fuck it vulg.

→ was soll's, Scheiß drauf

ides: the ~ of March

→ die Iden des März

intrigue ['ɪntri:g]

→ Machenschaften, Intrige

mind: be out of one's ~

→ verrückt sein

nuanced ['nu:ɑ:nst]

→ nuanciert

oaf

→ Idiot

outrageous [aʊt'reɪdʒəs]

→ unfassbar

pulp

→ hier: Schundliteratur

rampage

→ Randal

relaxation

→ Entspannung

root canal: get a ~

→ sich einer Wurzelbehandlung unterziehen

seersuckers ['sɪr,səkərz]

→ Krepfhose

sophistication

[sə,'fɪstɪ'keɪʃən]

→ Differenziertheit, guter Stil

violent sport. This president's not a boxer, or an F1 driver, there's nothing sexy or macho about this guy. I know that's just the title, we can change that. But still, it's symptomatic of all the other problems with the manuscript."

Falk had not expected this. Milman was usually a lot more insightful.

"But that's the genius of it!" Falk said. "You have a president who starts off as an ugly reality-show star and then turns out to be a monster who incites terrorism against his own government, his own nation. That's not ridiculous or unrealistic. That's brilliant. That's different."

"Yeah, it's different all right!" Milman said, shaking his head in disappointment. "It's the kind of 'different' that's going to cheapen our reputation. Bay Pacific's catalogue has a certain standard. Quality. Intelligence. Class. And that's another thing: What's this about his being a reality TV show host?"

"Well, why not? Look at what Americans watch. Look at what gets ratings. Sheeran's supposed to be familiar to the people. It's social commentary."

Milman wasn't buying it.

"Come on!" he said. "I know Reagan was an actor. Schwarzenegger – a bodybuilder, an Austrian! – became governor. But a reality TV star? That's just ... well, I don't know what that is, but it's not up to your standard, Jack."

"It's a wolf in a clown suit! Bozo Hitler! It's the zeitgeist! In the end, Sheeran stands on Pennsylvania Avenue and incites his supporters to storm the Capitol. A climax, a crescendo of American madness! And..."

Milman put his head in his hands. No one wants to read about American madness when they get home from work and put their feet up, Milman thought. Falk continued.

"...And leading the way is a naked guy wearing horns and animal skin, who ends up sitting on the vice president's chair on the Senate dais."

Milman took a deep breath. He spoke slowly, as if to a child, or to a foreigner who didn't speak English very well.

"Jack, I know it's fiction, I know it's a novel. But are you out of your mind?! Give us

something with depth. Give us something that shows the complexities and the brilliance of the American political system. Give us something that will sell well in translation and stoke the fire of everybody's American dream around the world. Give us what you're good at. Not this Rambo fantasy. This is drivel! A naked guy in bull horns? Jesus!"

"It's not drivel. It's American Originalism. It's American Animalism. It's the essence of American manhood."

"It's a fucking comic book!"

"It's the American psyche."

And so it went on.

Bay Pacific passed on Jack Falk's manuscript of *The President's Rampage*. Acton House, a younger but equally serious publisher, picked it up. When it came out, the book's sales surged, but not as much as the author's previous thriller. Then the reviews came out. They were not great – weak, in fact. But it was by Jack Falk, so the reviews didn't really matter – his name sold the book. For Acton, it was a great success in 2013.

Dan Milman continued his career at Bay Pacific. He was angered at the time when Jack Falk left them, but Milman always believed he had made the right decision about Falk.

For years he never had reason to regret it but wondered if he ever would, if one day, the book would really take off and he'd end like Dick Rowe, the Decca A&R man who didn't sign a young band called the Beatles.

A&R (Artists and Repertoire)

► Marketingabteilung einer Plattenfirma

bozo N. Am. ifml.
► Blödmann

dais ['deɪs]
► Podium

drivel
► Blödsinn, Gefasel

F1
► Formel 1

fucking vulg.
► verdammt, Scheiß-

genius
► Genialität

incite sth. [ɪn'saɪt]
► zu etw. anstiften

insightful [ɪn'saɪtful]
► einsichtig

stoke
► schüren, aufheizen

surge
► stark ansteigen

PHRASE TO GO

"The ides of March" (March 15) was traditionally the date when debts were settled in ancient Rome. It later became famous when Julius Caesar was murdered on that day in 44 BC.

Answers
A. false (they publish mainly non-fiction.)
B. true
C. true
D. false (he goes to another publisher.)

NOW, TRY THIS!

How carefully have you read this short story?
Decide whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
A. Bay Pacific only publishes fiction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Dan Milman doesn't like Jack Falk's new novel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Milman tries to explain his position to Falk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Falk never publishes <i>The President's Rampage</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



EASY

“Youth is when you’re allowed to stay up late on New Year’s Eve. Middle age is when you’re forced to”

Bill Vaughan (1915–1977), American author

New Year’s Eve

• Silvester

The Argyle Sweater



by Scott Hilburn

A bear behind

Two men go bear hunting in Canada. While one man stays in the cabin preparing his equipment, the other goes looking for a grizzly bear. It isn’t long before he finds one. Taking aim, he fires his rifle, but the shot misses. Enraged, the bear charges the hunter, chasing

him all the way back to the cabin. As the hunter reaches the open cabin door, he slips and falls. The bear trips over him and rolls into the cabin. The man leaps up, slams the cabin door shut and yells to his friend inside, “That one’s for you. I’ll go find myself another!”

aim: take ~
• zielen

cabin
• Hütte

charge sb.
• auf jmdn. losgehen

chase
• jagen, verfolgen

enraged
• wütend

leap
• springen

rifle
• Gewehr

slam
• zuschlagen

trip
• stolpern

Clothes shopping

A saleswoman is offering a lot of unwanted advice as a customer is trying on trousers. Each time the customer comes out of the dressing room, the saleswoman has an opinion: “Too short!”, “Too baggy!”, “No, no, no! Wrong colour.” Finally, the customer steps out from behind the curtain and the saleswoman throws up her hands in despair and cries out, “Those are the worst yet!” “These,” the customer replies, “are mine.”

baggy
• sackartig

Christmas Eve
[ˌkrɪsməs ˈiːv]
• Heiligabend

sleigh [sleɪ]
• Schlitten

Peanuts

by Charles M. Schulz





Banning books

In den USA versuchen manche Eltern über die Schulbehörden Bücher aus den Lehrplänen streichen zu lassen. Unsere Korrespondentin sieht darin eine Bedrohung für die Demokratie.

MEDIUM US PLUS



GINGER KUENZEL is a freelance writer who lived in Munich for 20 years. She now divides her time between Florida and a small town in upstate New York.

bidding

► Ansage, Anordnung

bill

► Gesetz

decree

[di'kri:]
► bestimmen, vor-schreiben

exposed: be ~ to sth.

► zu etw. Kontakt, Zugang haben

inequality

[,ini'kwɑ:ləti]
► Ungleichheit

misdeed

[,mɪs'di:d]
► Vergehen, Untat

moral crusader

['mɔ:rəl]
► Moralapostel

recruit

[ri'kru:t]
► anwerben

school board

[bɔ:rd]
► Schulausschuss

straight

[streɪt] jfm.
► hetero

sympathetic

[,sɪmpə'θetɪk]
► wohlgesinnt

targeted: be ~

► anvisiert werden, in der Ziellinie sein

undermine

► untergraben

uphold sth.

► etw. hochhalten



The concept of banning books is not new. In the 17th and 18th centuries in the U.S., books criticizing Christianity were taboo. In the 19th century, Southern states banned books that were critical of slavery. A few decades later, moral crusaders objected to books containing references to sexuality or birth control. This led to a national law being passed in 1873 banning obscene or immoral texts.

The books most frequently targeted today, at least in schools, are those about gender, sexuality, or race. Parents who accept only straight people do not want their children exposed to books or discussions about LGBTQ issues. Many parents are also strongly opposed to any teaching that shines an unfavorable light on our country's misdeeds, past and present, such as our treatment of Native Americans and people of color.

In 2021, 35 states introduced bills dictating how teachers are allowed to talk about race and gender issues. The governor of Texas – defending the need for these restrictions – stated that teaching about inequality in our country can undermine the values America upholds.

School boards are elected by local voters and have considerable power, with broad control over school budgets and the curriculum. Now, parents are showing up at school board meetings to demand that books and discussions on race and gender be banned from classrooms. Whereas in the past, there was little interest in these proceedings, many are now actively recruiting and supporting school board candidates who they feel are sympathetic to their views.

The result is that teachers, who are trained educators and generally see the value of exposing students to a wide range of opinions and topics,

are being prevented from doing so. School board members are not required to have a background in education, which means that the people making decisions about what is best for students are often not qualified to do so.

Packing school boards with conservative activists who decree what students can and cannot be taught seems to me to pose a grave danger to our democracy, which is based on the ideals of freedom of speech and diversity of thought.

If children are exposed to only one point of view, with no opportunities to question that point of view or even discuss certain topics, it's hard to see how they can develop into informed and thoughtful citizens – which a democracy needs to survive. It's far more likely that they will simply believe what those in power tell them and follow their bidding, with no questions asked. We have already seen that happen.





TRAVEL

Wild Atlantic Way

Mit JOHN STANLEY auf einer spektakulären Fahrt entlang der wilden, irischen Westküste. Von dem uralten Städtchen Limerick aus geht es auf der atemberaubenden Küstenstraße bis in eine karstige Mondlandschaft, die wohl schon J. R. R. Tolkien in seinen Romanen inspirierte.

MEDIUM AUDIO PLUS



On this road trip, I'm going to enjoy the scenery along Ireland's west coast, where white sandy beaches and towering cliffs welcome the breakers of the vast Atlantic Ocean. I'll be travelling along one section of the Wild Atlantic Way, a 2,600-kilometre-long coastal route that runs the length of Ireland's west coast. Officially launched in 2014, the route was designed to encourage visitors to explore Ireland beyond the attractions of the capital city, Dublin.

My journey begins in the ancient city of Limerick, where Ireland's longest river, the Shannon, joins the sea at the head of a long estuary. While the city itself was founded by the Vikings in AD 922, people have been living here for much longer. It's Ireland's third-largest city, and one of its most attractive, certainly in terms of the architecture preserved from the medieval era.

I drive out of Limerick on Ennis Road, heading north-west, and cross the border from County Limerick into neighbouring County Clare. With some of the finest scenery to be found on the west coast, Clare also has a lot of evidence of early human activity. Bones of a bear, found in a cave here in 2017, show linear cut-marks that were almost certainly made by humans in the Palaeolithic Period around 10,500 BC.

To the tip of a peninsula

My first stop is Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, a 15th-century castle and a living 19th-century village. A long-established, much-visited tourism centre (the number of coaches in the car park is a telltale sign), this well-run facility may be a little too "touristy" for some tastes, but is still worth a visit.

Original examples of local, traditional architecture have been rebuilt in the village, giving an insight into how people lived in centuries gone by – like an open-air museum. The Cashen fisherman's house, a simple, two-room home of a north Kerry salmon fisherman, is my favourite because of its simplicity. Much of the timber (wood) used in this house would have been salvaged from

the sea, and the floor is of "rammed", or compressed, clay.

My next destination is the county town of Ennis. It lies on the River Fergus, which runs into the Shannon Estuary. This is the largest town in County Clare, and it's a stronghold of traditional Irish music – as are many other towns and villages in the county.

My route now takes me south-east, through farmland, towards the Loop Head Peninsula. Here, vistas open up, and as I drive south from the village of Kilkee, I begin to see the power of the Atlantic Ocean to my right, where huge cliffs stretch as far as the eye can see. Perched at the very tip of the peninsula stands the Loop Head Lighthouse.

There's been a lighthouse here since the year 1670. At first, it was just a coal-burning fire on the roof of the cottage where the lightkeeper lived, and the first tower lighthouse was built in 1802. One of west Clare's most impressive sights, and open to the public, this provides an ideal viewing point for a place so dramatic that it was chosen as one of the locations for the film *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

The ocean on one side is wild

Back in the car and braced by the stiff ocean wind, I'm heading back north now and the brehtaking vastness of the Atlantic is becoming more familiar. After passing through Kilkee again, I head towards the neat little village of Doonbeg, where it's time for coffee and a scone in the aptly named Wild Atlantic Break cafe.

In addition to its two fine beaches, Doonbeg is well known as the location of a golf club owned by former US President Donald Trump. Many in Ireland have ambivalent feelings about this – but it's hard to argue with locals who point out the employment opportunities the club has created.

My next destination is Spanish Point, another small resort with a beautiful sandy beach. After violent storms disrupted the planned invasion of England in September 1588, the Spanish



A lighthouse has been standing at the very tip of the Loop Head Peninsula since the year 1670

ambivalent

• zwiegespalten

aptly

• passenderweise

braced

[breɪst]

• erfrischt

breaker

['breɪkə]

• Brandungswelle

brehtaking

['breθ,teɪkɪŋ]

• atemberaubend

cave

• Höhle

clay

• Ton, Lehm

coach

UK

• hier: Reisebus

disrupt sth.

• etw. stören, zum Erliegen bringen

estuary

['estʃəri]

• Flussmündung

facility

[fə'sɪləti]

• Anlage

heading

• in Richtung nach

launch

[lɔ:ntʃ]

• hier: eröffnen

lighthouse

• Leuchtturm

lightkeeper

• Leuchtturmwärter(in)

linear cut-mark

• linienförmige Einkerbung

medieval era

[,medi'i:vɪl,ɪərə]

• Mittelalter

neat

• hier: hübsch

Palaeolithic Period

[,pæliəʊ'liθɪk pɪəriəd]

• Altsteinzeit

peninsula

[pə'nɪnsjələ]

• Halbinsel

perch

• thronen

preserve

[prɪ'zɜ:v]

• erhalten

resort

[ri'zɔ:t]

• Urlaubs-, Erholungsort

salmon

['sæmən]

• Lachs

salvage

['sælvɪdʒ]

• retten

scenery

['si:nəri]

• Landschaft

scone

[skɒn]

• Teegebäck

stronghold

• Hochburg

telltale sign

• untrügliches Zeichen

towering

• hoch aufragend

vast

• weit, unermesslich

vista

• Ausblick



Bunratty Castle: the 15th-century castle in the centre of Bunratty Folk Park, in County Clare



Bunratty Folk Park is a living museum, where visitors can experience how life was in the past

Armada was driven north around Scotland and then south along Ireland's west coast. Over a thousand men lost their lives when one of the many galleons was wrecked off the coast here at Spanish Point – hence the name.

Driving north-east, I soon come to Miltown Malbay. Traditionally a place where local farmers brought their grain to be milled, three of the town's corn mills can still be seen. But today, Miltown Malbay is best known for its singers, dancers and musicians. A week-long festival to celebrate the town's most famous son, the Irish piper, flute and whistle player Willie Clancy, is held here each year in July.

If you arrive here at any time between May and September, as I have, the West Clare Music Makers' Visitor Centre is an easy way to get a sense of what it's all about. The eight-minute film on the stories behind the music provides an appetizer for those who like the sound of the Irish uilleann pipes (the national bagpipe of Ireland).

At the very edge of Ireland

My next stop is the small but welcoming holiday resort of Lahinch, nestling at the head of Liscannor Bay with 1.5 kilometres of golden sandy beach. The shape of the beach forces Atlantic breakers to form some of the best surfing waves to be found in Ireland. Today, the sun has broken out and there are surfers, canoeists and even a couple of paddleboarders, all making it look far easier than it really is to ride the waves. Apart from the wetsuits they're wearing to keep out the cold, and the lack of palm trees, this could almost be Hawaii.

Back in the car, I drive west to Liscannor, famed since the 1800s for the textured grey stone quarried here. It's immediately recognizable by the natural fossils that run through it, and is used extensively in the walls, floors and paving of the more expensive homes and public buildings in Ireland. But I won't delay now, for I'm approaching one of the highlights of my trip.

The Cliffs of Moher are about 5.5 kilometres north-west of the village.

At first, I drive uphill through farmland. The road seems endless, eventually opening out but still out of sight of the sea. Even my arrival at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience car park doesn't suggest what's about to be revealed. For an entry fee, I can go into the visitors' centre and take part in various guided tours – but, most importantly, I've gained access to the paved, walled pathways that now run along the top of these sheer, 215-metre-high cliffs, providing views on to the huge swells crashing into the rocks at their base. No other place on this trip better illustrates the name "Wild Atlantic Way".

As well as being visually stunning, these cliffs are a breeding site for more than 30,000 seabirds, including large numbers of guillemots and razorbills. Swooping overhead are puffins, peregrine falcons, kittiwakes and fulmars (which are related to albatrosses and petrels).

I walk over to O'Brien's Tower, which is included in the entry fee. It was built in 1835 by the local landlord, Sir Cornelius O'Brien as an observation point for English tourists. Sunset is said to be beautiful here, but the cliffs are proving to be very popular; it's time to move on.

In hollow halls beneath the fells

There's a spectacular walking route leading down from the cliffs to the nearby village of Doolin. But it takes



The experience centre at the Cliffs of Moher gives visitors access to paths along the 215-metre-high cliffs

bagpipe

• Dudelsack

breeding site

• Brutplatz

canoeist

• Kanufahrer(in)

eventually

• schließlich

fee

• Gebühr

flute

• Flöte

fulmar

• Eissturmvogel

grain

• Getreide

guillemot

• Trottellumme

hence

• daher

kittiwake

• Dreizehenmöwe

lack

• Fehlen

mill

• mahlen

nestle

• sich anschmiegen

paving

• Bodenfliesen

peregrine falcon

[,perəgrɪn 'fɔ:lkn̩]

• Wanderfalke

petrel

• Sturmvogel

piper

• hier: Dudelsack-spieler(in)

puffin

• Papageitaucher

quarry

• (Gestein) abbauen

razorbill

• Tordalk

reveal

• hier: entdecken

sheer

• steil

stunning

• umwerfend

sunset

• Sonnenuntergang

swell

• Wellengang

swoop

• im Sturzflug herabschießen

textured

• rau

uilleann pipes

• (wg. Aussprache)

wetsuit

• Neoprenanzug

whistle

• hier: irische Blechflöte

wreck

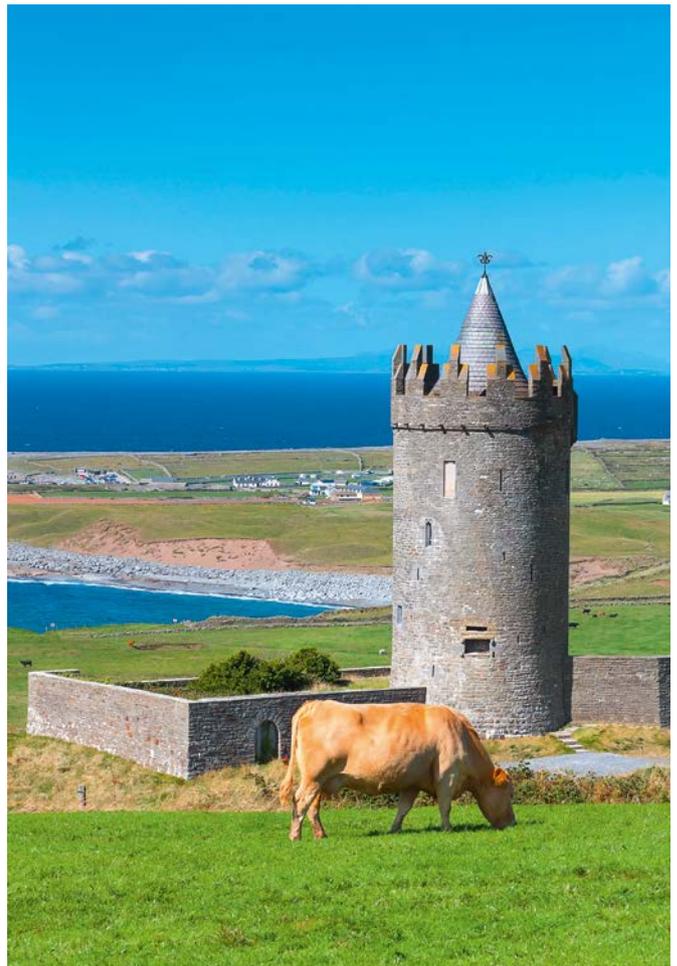
• auf Grund laufen



The colourful coastal village of Doolin, in County Clare



Band in O'Connor's Pub, Doolin



Doonagore Castle: a 16th-century tower house one kilometre south of Doolin



Poul nabrone: a portal tomb in the Burren, one of Ireland's most famous archaeological monuments

an hour and a half, so that's not on my agenda today. Driving down instead, I pass through Doolin and follow the narrow road as it twists through fields and woodlands. The road soon joins the coast again and, quite suddenly, the landscape changes. I've come to another exceptional phenomenon of outstanding natural beauty: the Burren.

This magical karst limestone area of over 300 square kilometres resembles a moonscape. It used to be covered in a mixture of deciduous, pine and yew trees, until Mesolithic and then Neolithic settlers changed the landscape through deforestation, overgrazing and burning, and built stone walls across it. These people also constructed megalithic sites, such as the Poul nabrone Dolmen (portal tomb), which was made between five and six thousand years ago and is one of Ireland's most famous archaeological monuments. There are around 70 megalithic tombs in the Burren area.

The rocky upland rising to our right is also famous for its remarkable flora and fauna. More than 70 per cent of Ireland's species of flowers are found here, including many rare orchids. The permeable rock has created cave systems, too, such as the Aillwee Cave, Burren's oldest, which was formed in a prehistoric ice age. It was discovered by chance in 1944 by a farmer. A kilometre of passages go into the heart of the mountain; there's an underground river and a waterfall, and huge stalactites and stalagmites, as well as the remains of at least one bear. About a third of the cave is open to the public.

The Burren's landscape is indeed entrancing. Its stark beauty almost certainly inspired one visitor, J. R. R. Tolkien, when he was writing his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. One of his best-known characters, Gollum, may well be named after the Poll na Gollum (Hole of Gollum) cave system. At 16 kilometres, it's the longest cave on the island of



The city of Limerick stands at the head of the Shannon Estuary, where the river widens and flows into the Atlantic

deciduous tree

- [di:'sɪdʒjuəs]
 • Laubbaum

deforestation

- [di:,fɒrɪ'steɪʃən]
 • Abholzung

entrancing [ɪn'trɑ:nsɪŋ]

- bezaubernd

karst limestone

- Kalksteingebiet

moonscape

- Mondlandschaft

orchid ['ɔ:kɪd]

- Orchidee

overgrazing

- Überweidung

permeable rock

- Sedimentgestein

pine tree

- Kiefer

portal tomb [tu:m]

- Portalgrab, Dolmen

stark

- hier: rau

twist

- sich schlängeln

yew tree [ju:]

- Eibe

Ireland. And the local Gortaclare Mountain bears an uncanny resemblance to the misty mountains of Middle-earth!

My final destination on this leg of the Wild Atlantic Way is the small harbour of Ballyvaughan. From here, I head due south, back into the Burren, to end my long day with dinner and an overnight stay at the 18th-century manor house that is the luxurious Gregans Castle Hotel.

I've covered about 250 kilometres since I left Limerick nine hours ago, with a total driving time of about four hours. The frequent stop-offs and walks have made this a long but rewarding day. It's also inspired me to undertake another leg of this adventure – sooner rather than later.

Ballyvaughan

[bæli'vɔ:n]
• (wg. Aussprache)

leg

• hier: Etappe

manor house

• Gutshaus

misty

• neblig, nebelverhangen

uncanny [ʌn'kæni]

• frappierend, verblüffend



Tea & Garden Rooms in the Burren, Ballyvaughan, County Clare

The Cliffs of Moher: views on to the huge swells of the Atlantic Ocean



Felis catus

Hauskatzen wurden 1788 von Siedlern nach Australien gebracht. Seitdem kommen sie überall auf dem riesigen Kontinent vor und töten Wildtiere bis hin zu deren Ausrottung. Unser Korrespondent berichtet.

MEDIUM AUDIO

Nowadays, I'm not a cat lover. That can lose you a few friends! But back when I was a boy, we had beautiful sister cats from the same litter. Neither had a name; one was friendly, one wasn't.

The friendly one slept with me most nights, including when I was at high school. And not at the end of the bed: no, she would dig under the blankets by my head, go down to my feet, turn around, stretch out fully and look me in the eye. This was a cat that thought she was human. In the morning, I would wake to her steam breath in my face.

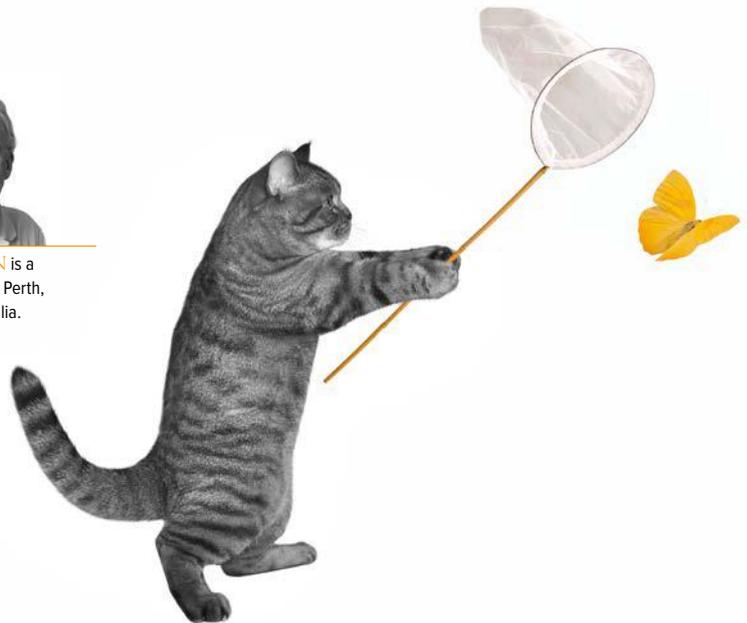
Her sister had a different routine. Like all the cats we know today (Latin name, *Felis catus*), among our cats' ancestors was the African wildcat (*Felis lybica*). The modern cat was domesticated about 4,000 years ago in Egypt and the Middle East, before people moved them all over the world. The first white settlers, from England, introduced them to Australia in 1788. Within 70 years, cats had spread across the entire country, all 7.7 million square kilometres of it, faster and wider than other European animals, such as foxes and rabbits.

So, especially at night, the sister would go hunting. The problem is – and this is a problem all around the world – cats are killing machines. There are almost four million pet cats in Australia, and perhaps twice that many wild (or feral) cats living mainly in the bush but also in cities and towns.

They are all the same *Felis catus* species and eat only meat. Every day, they kill millions of native animals; over the years, they've wiped out more than 30 mammal species. They also gobble up millions of frogs, lizards, birds and butterflies. Even pet cats that are given plenty of food by their owners still like to hunt.



PETER FLYNN is a writer based in Perth, Western Australia.



domesticated

[də'mestrikeɪtɪd]
- domestiziert

feral

- verwildert

gobble up [ˌɡɒbəl 'ʌp]

ifml.
- verschlingen

litter

- Wurf

lizard ['lɪzəd]

- Eidechse

mammal

- Säugetier

steam

- hier: feuchtwarm

wipe out

- auslöschen

The conflict for people like me is how to control cats, particularly the pets that are much loved by millions of families. Keeping cats indoors day and night is the most responsible option, environment scientists say. As a bonus, they'll have longer, safer lives.

The wild cat problem is more difficult. Suggestions include shooting and poisoning them or introducing a biological disease to kill them. Another solution would be to make safe areas for threatened native animals by building fences to stop cats from getting to them.

The ideas will be expensive and take a long time. But at least we are having the conversation. If we solve the cat problem, our attention could turn to many other dangerous non-native animals, such as the wild dogs that kill sheep and cattle. Oh, did I forget to say that I'm not a dog lover, either?

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ZEIT SPRACHEN

Welche Themen aus der englischsprachigen Welt bewegen die Kollegen bei der ZEIT? ANDREAS LEBERT, Chefredakteur bei ZEIT Wissen, erzählt, warum das A ihm immer wieder Probleme bereitet.

MEDIUM



Die A's und Ä's des Sprachenlernens

The As and Äs of language learning

Dass mein A beim Sprachenlernen ein Problem werden könnte, erfuhr ich in meiner ersten Französischstunde. Die Lehrerin war alt, aber sie hieß Jung, und Frau Jung gefiel mein A nicht. Ich stamme aus Bayern, das ist jetzt wichtig, weil die Bayern ihr A aus dem „Aha“ entnehmen, es ist also das tiefe, endgültige A der Erkenntnis. Frau Jung wollte aber das offene, leichte A von mir hören, mit denen die Franzosen ihr „la“ in die Welt schleudern, zum Beispiel in „la vie“, das Leben. Ich scheiterte kläglich.

Im Englischen war mein A zunächst kein Problem, weil uns der Lehrer Bader beibrachte, dass die Engländer, wenn sie ein A schreiben, ein Ä sagen. Black wird bläck gesprochen, dance eben dänce. Wollen sie wirklich A sagen, erklärte Herr Bader, dann schreiben sie U, zum Beispiel bei, nein, das Wort „fuck“ war damals noch nicht erlaubt im Unterricht.

Später an der Uni begegnete ich einer Frau aus Cheltenham, England. Sie hieß Morgendämmerung, auf Englisch natürlich: Dawn. Ich verliebte mich sofort in sie und in ihr lustiges Deutsch. Doch nach dem ersten Kuss bestimmte sie: „Now that's enough German, when it comes to fucking (!) it's gotta be English.“ Wow, dachte ich. Yeah, sagte ich. Ich hatte gerade im Kino den Film *Her mit den kleinen Engländerinnen* gesehen.

Dawn und ich blieben dann auch beim English, unsere ganzen fünf Jahre lang. Sie ließ mich drauflosplappern, korrigierte selten und sanft, nur manchmal war sie unerbittlich. Schon nach zwei Wochen sagte sie: „Hör mit diesem unerträglichen Ä auf, das gibt es nicht im Englischen. Sage ab jetzt immer ein A wenn du eines siehst. Es heißt black nicht bläck.“ Ich wollte mich auf Herrn Bader berufen, aber...

„I shall leave you, if you don't kill that Ä.“ Sie sagte tatsächlich „shall“. Nicht „shäll“.

Ach übrigens: Im Englischen hatte mein bayrisches A ein grandioses Comeback wenngleich an anderer Stelle im Alphabet. Hat man eine Sache durchschaut, sagt man in England: „I see.“ Und dieses „I“ klingt genauso wie... Sehen Sie? „Aha“. A see.

It was in my very first French lesson that I learned that my A could pose a problem in language learning. The teacher was old, but her name was Jung, and Frau Jung did not like my A. I am from Bavaria, which is important here, because Bavarians get their A from “Aha”, so it's the low, final A of comprehension. What Frau Jung wanted to hear from me, however, was the open, light A with which the French fling their la into the world, such as in la vie, life. I failed miserably.

In English class, my A wasn't a problem at first, because teacher Bader taught us that the English say an Ä when they write an A. Black is pronounced bläck, and dance, well, dänce. If they really want to say A, Herr Bader explained, the English write U, as in – no, the word “fuck” was not allowed in class back then.

Later, at university, I met a woman from Cheltenham, England. Her name was *Morgendämmerung* – of course, Dawn in English. I fell head over heels in love with her and her funny German. But after our first kiss, she decided: “Now that's enough German; when it comes to fucking (!), it's gotta be English.” Wow, I thought. Yeah, I said. I had just seen the film *Let's Get Those English Girls* at the cinema.

Dawn and I then stuck to English for the entirety of our five years together. She let me babble away, correcting me infrequently and gently, but sometimes, she put her foot down hard. After just two weeks, she said: “Stop it with that unbearable Ä! There's no such thing in English. From now on, always say an A when you see one. It's black, not bläck.” I was going to invoke Herr Bader, but...

“I shall leave you, if you don't kill that Ä.” She actually said “shall”. Not “shäll”.

Oh, by the way: my Bavarian A made a grand comeback in English, just in a different place in the alphabet. When they have figured something out, the English say, “I see.” And that “I” sounds exactly like.... You see? “Aha.” A see!

Welcome to the language pages

Over the next 18 pages, we give you the opportunity to learn about grammar and expand your vocabulary in an up-to-date context. We start off by presenting essential English phrases that will help you write better and more effective e-mails, letters and text messages. Learn how to write like an English native speaker!

18 Sprachseiten

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Write better English!

Lehrbücher sind voller Standardsätze für Briefe – ein großer Teil unserer Kommunikation läuft heute aber über Mails und Textnachrichten, die ganz anderen Regeln folgen. VANESSA CLARK gestattet Ihnen einen Blick in ihre private und berufliche Korrespondenz – und liefert magische Formulierungen, die Ihr Englisch effektiver, authentischer und einfach besser machen.

MEDIUM

Dear Spotlight reader ☺ ⏪ ⏩ ↩

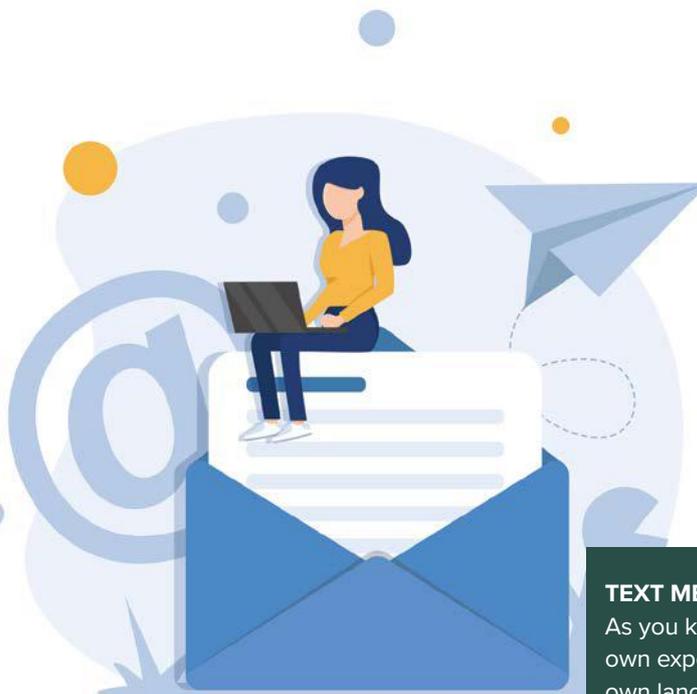
I'd like to invite you to take a look in my inbox.

You'll see some of the e-mails I receive on a typical day, from colleagues and other contacts. Luckily, we all send our more personal messages to family and friends by text these days, so there's nothing too private in there!

For each mail, I'll highlight the most useful phrases and provide a few alternatives, both more and less formal. This will give you a solid basis for writing great e-mails, letters and text messages yourself.

I hope you find it useful!

Best wishes
Vanessa



TEXT MESSAGES

As you know from your own experience in your own language, texts are shorter than e-mails and don't need to include the greetings at the start and end.

In English, the "I" or "I'm" is often dropped at the start of a line:

- Hope you're OK
- Am at work
- Have booked the tickets

Often, a quick one- or two-word reply is all you need to send:

- Will do!
- Done!
- Perfect!
- Sounds good!
- Count me in!

convenient

[kən'vi:niənt]

- praktisch, passend

How about...?

- Wie wäre es...?

inbox

- Posteingang

issue

['ɪʃu:]

- Ausgabe

text (message)

- SMS

Reminding and suggesting

1 **Hello** Vanessa ☺ ⏪ ⏩ ↩

2 **I hope you're keeping well.**

3 **This is just to let you know** that the deadline for our next issue is the 20th of this month. According to my notes, our topic is "Write better English!".

4 **Perhaps you could** put some ideas together and we'll talk next week? 5 **I'm free** on Monday or Wednesday afternoon. 6 **What works best for you?**

7 **Best wishes**

Petra

Petra Daniell
Language editor
Spotlight Verlag

1 Hi + name (less formal)
Dear + name (more formal)

2 How are things with you? (less formal)
I hope this finds you well. (more formal)

3 Just to say... (less formal)
I'm getting in touch to let you know that... (more formal)

4 How about if you...? (less formal)
Would you be able to...? (neutral)
Would it be possible for you to...? (more formal)

5 I can do... (less formal)
I'm available on... (more formal)

6 What's best for you? (less formal)
What would be most convenient for you? (more formal)

7 Best (less formal)
All the best (less formal)
Take care (less formal)
Regards (neutral)
Best wishes (neutral)
Kind regards (neutral)

Asking for help

1 Dear all



Apologies for the blanket e-mail, but I'm looking for volunteers.

We're organizing a "staff versus parents" cricket match on Saturday afternoon in aid of Ukrainian refugees. **2 Would anyone be free to help out** with refreshments from 3 p.m. for an hour or two? **3 Let me know** if you're interested and **4 I'll give you all the details**.

Please come along and support this event. All are welcome!

5 Thanks in advance for your help

Matt

1

Hi everyone! (less formal)

Fellow teachers / students / club members
(more formal)

2

Can anyone give me a hand? (less formal)
Any help would be very gratefully received.
(more formal)

3

Drop me a line. (less formal)
Please get in contact. (more formal)

4

I'll get back to you with all the info. (less formal)
I can provide you with further details. (more formal)

5

Many thanks! (less formal)
Thanking you in advance for
your help (more formal)



LETTERS

If you're writing a more formal e-mail or a letter, choose the more formal alternatives.

If you don't know the name of the person you're writing to, you can use the name of the department or organization:

• Dear Air France Customer Services

If it's a particularly formal letter, you can use the traditional formal greeting:

• Dear Sir or Madam

Then end with a traditional formal phrase like:

• Yours sincerely
• Yours faithfully
These phrases would be unusual in an e-mail.

Sending information

Dear friends and family



Hope you're all well and enjoying this lovely sunny weather.

Paul and I have finally moved into our new house. It's a big renovation project **1 (photos attached)**, but we're excited to make a start.

2 We'll let you know how it all goes!

3 Our new address is:

6, The Chestnuts, East Hendred, OX15 9PJ

If you're in the area or fancy a trip to the Oxfordshire countryside, we'd love to see you (especially if you have any building, gardening or decorating skills!).

4 Hope to see you soon

Love

Angela **5 x**

1

Here are a few pics. (less formal)
Please see the attached photos. (more formal)

2

Will keep you posted. (less formal)
We'll keep you informed with regular updates.
(more formal)

3

Here's our address. (less formal)
For your records, our new address is...
(more formal)

4

Hope we can meet up soon. (less formal)
We look forward to seeing you in the near future.
(more formal)

5

An "x" at the end of an e-mail indicates a kiss.

blanket

• hier: Massen-, Serien-

drop sb. a line ifml.

• jmdm. ein paar Zeilen schreiben

fancy sth. UK

• auf etw. Lust haben

fellow teachers

• Lehrerkollegen

gratefully

• mit Dankbarkeit

look forward to sth.

• sich auf etw. freuen

pics (pictures)

• Bilder

posted: keep sb. ~

• jmdn. auf dem Laufenden halten

refreshment

• Erfrischung, Imbiss

staff

• Mitarbeiter, Personal

volunteer [ˌvɒləntɪə]

• Freiwillige(r)

Declining an invitation

Hi Vanessa ☺ ↶ ↷ ↸

Sorry it's taken me a few days to answer your mail. I've been away.

1 **Thanks for sharing the link to** the show in Chichester. It looks really good. You're right, it's just the sort of thing I like.

2 **Sadly,** 3 **I've already made plans** for that night. I'm taking my dad to a cider festival in the Cotswolds (could be interesting!).

4 **Thanks for the suggestion,** though. 5 **It would be nice to do something together soon.**

Take care
Nicky

1 Thanks for sending the info about... (less formal)
Thank you for forwarding the information about... (more formal)

2 Sorry, but... (less formal)
I'm afraid... (more formal)

3 I'm busy. (less formal)
I already have something in the diary.
I already have another commitment. (more formal)

4 Thanks for thinking of me. (less formal)
I appreciate your kind offer. (more formal)

5 Another time! (less formal)
I hope we can find another opportunity soon. (more formal)

Checking information

Hi Vanessa ☺ ↶ ↷ ↸

Just a quick question: I seem to have lost the info you sent about the ATOM science festival. Could you resend it? Thanks! 1 **There's no rush for an answer!**

2 **Sorry to make extra work for you** when I know you're busy.

Regards
Mal

1 No rush! (less formal)
There's no urgency. (more formal)

2 Sorry to be a nuisance. (less formal)
Apologies for putting you to this extra trouble. (more formal)

Making a suggestion

Dear Vanessa ☺ ↶ ↷ ↸

1 **I wanted to ask your thoughts about something.**

As you know, 2 **I'm involved with** the local LGBT action group, and we're organizing a picnic in Jubilee Park next month. We'd love to have live music, and I know your Nigel plays with the town brass band. Do you think they'd be willing to play for us? Is that the kind of thing they do?

If so, do you know who I should contact about it? Do they have a bookings secretary? Their website doesn't seem to have any contact details. Could you ask Nigel 3 **for me?**

4 **How does that sound to you?**

Many thanks
Quinn

1 Can I run an idea past you? (less formal)
I'd appreciate your advice. (more formal)

2 It's not for me, it's for... (less formal)
I'm writing to you on behalf of... (more formal)

3 on my behalf (more formal)

4 Any thoughts? (less formal)
Would that be a feasible idea? (more formal)
I'd welcome your feedback. (more formal)

appreciate [ə'pri:fiət]
- schätzen

brass band
[ˌbrɑ:s 'bænd]
- Blaskapelle

cider ['saɪdə] UK
- Apfelwein

commitment
- Termin, Verpflichtung

diary ['daɪəri] UK
- Terminkalender

feasible ['fi:zəbəl]
- realisierbar

feature ['fi:tʃə]
- Artikel

nuisance ['nju:nsəns]
- Belästigung, Störung

on behalf of sb. [bi'hæ:f]
- im Auftrag von jmdm.

suggestion [sə'dʒestʃən]
- Hinweis, Vorschlag

urgency ['ɜ:dʒənsi]
- Dringlichkeit

Hi Vanessa ☺ ↶ ↷ ↸

Thanks for sending the feature on writing better English. I'm sure our readers will find it interesting and helpful.

Perhaps we should end the feature with this mail?!

Have a good weekend
Petra



For the language you need to work successfully in English, try Business Spotlight! Find out more here: www.business-spotlight.de

Attentive listening

Kommunikations-Experte KEN TAYLOR wirft einen Blick auf die Fähigkeiten und Sprachkenntnisse, die in der modernen Arbeitswelt unabdingbar sind.

MEDIUM AUDIO PLUS

Listening is not the same as hearing. Hearing happens automatically as sound enters your ears. Listening requires effort and concentration. It is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages.

Improving your listening skills can be of great value in today's business. If we fail to listen and understand each other, the results can be extremely costly.

Have a look at the conversation below and highlight the words and phrases you might find useful when discussing listening skills.

Pete and Iris are having a drink after work. Pete wants some advice from his old friend and more experienced colleague.

Pete: Can I pick your brains about something that's worrying me?

Iris: Sure. What's the problem?

Pete: I had my annual review last week and my boss said that I need to improve my listening skills.

Iris: Did she say why?

Pete: She said that I come across as impatient and that people sometimes think I'm not interested in what they're saying.

Iris: I can see her point. You're inclined to finish off people's sentences. And you do tend to fidget when you're listening.

Pete: Do I? I never realized!

Iris: You're not alone. I used to be a very bad listener, but my boss at the time sent me on a listening course.

Pete: It must have worked. You're a really good listener.

Iris: Attentive listening is a skill you can learn. I've still got the materials from the course. I can lend them to you.

Pete: That would be great. What were the key lessons you learned?

Iris: Firstly, don't talk! Listen!

Pete: I think I do like the sound of my own voice a bit too much.

Iris: Secondly, be patient. A pause doesn't always mean the other person has finished. Don't just jump in with a response. When listening attentively, you focus completely on what is being said – but also on how it's being said.

REMEMBER!

Listening attentively is a skill we all need. But it's especially important when working in a second language. That's when we really need to feel confident that we have heard and understood correctly.

Here are eight things that can help you to listen effectively:

Sit comfortably: Try to relax. Don't fidget or sit on the edge of your chair.

Be quiet: Don't interrupt or try to take over the conversation.

Show interest: Nod and use encouraging sounds, words or phrases to show you have understood and want the speaker to continue.

Watch for non-verbal communication: Gestures, facial expressions and eye movements all help you to understand the full meaning of what is being said.

Allow silence: A short silence lets the other person collect their thoughts.

Ask questions to check understanding: Besides ensuring that you have understood, relevant questions signal interest.

Avoid prejudgements: You can't listen properly if you've already decided that the speaker's words have no value.

Empathize: Put yourself in the other person's shoes. Try to understand their point of view, even if you disagree with them. Good listening skills can lead to greater productivity, fewer mistakes and better customer satisfaction. Sharing more information and ideas also really encourages creative and innovative work.



KEN TAYLOR

is a communication consultant. If you have any suggestions for topics, you can write to him at ktaylor868@aol.com

accurately ['ækjərətli]
→ präzise

annual review ['ænjʊəl]
→ Mitarbeiter-Jahresgespräch

attentive(ly)
→ aufmerksam

brain(s): pick sb.'s ~ ifml.
→ jmdn. ausfragen, sich von jmdm. Ideen holen

empathize
→ sich einfühlen

facial expression
['feɪʃəl ɪk,spreʃən]
→ Gesichtsausdruck

fidget ['fɪdʒɪt]
→ herumzappeln

gesture ['dʒestʃə]
→ Geste

inclined: be ~ to do sth.
→ dazu neigen, etw. zu tun



Easy English

VANESSA CLARK führt ein Gespräch mit einem Herrn, der gebrauchte Werkzeuge einem guten Zweck zuführt. Dazu gibt es passendes Hintergrundwissen auf Sprachniveau A2.

EASY PLUS



A CONVERSATION WITH LENNY OBUA

Here, we present interesting lives from around the English-speaking world. This time, we talk to Lenny Obua, who works with a charity in the UK.

What do you do?

We collect old tools and send them to Uganda.

What sort of tools?

All sorts of tools – for farming, building, woodwork and car repairs, and also lots of sewing machines.

Where do you get the tools?

We all have more tools than we need. If you're clearing out your garage, or moving house, we want your old tools!

What sort of tools do you need most?

The old ones are the best – that's what I always say! We like good, solid, old hammers, screwdrivers and garden spades. If they break, they can be repaired easily. And they don't need electricity. If we get an electric sewing machine, that's OK because we can convert it into a foot-operated machine.

Tools are heavy and expensive to send. Why don't you send money instead?

We think this offers a better long-term solution. We also organize training courses. You know: "Give a man a fish..."

I've got a rusty old garden spade. Can you take it?

Yes, please! We can clean it up. When can I come and get it?

FASCINATING FACTS

...about the history of tools:

- The oldest tools in the world are more than three million years old. They are made of stone and were found in Kenya. They are much older than *Homo sapiens*.
- The earliest tools used by humans were made of stone, animal bones and wood.
- The Romans had a lot of tools that we use today, such as hammers and nails.
- The ancient Egyptians used saws to cut wood and could even drill into stone.
- The screwdriver comes from the 1400s. Screws were very expensive in those days – a real luxury.
- The first electric drills were invented in the late 1800s. In 1917, the Black+Decker company patented an electric hand drill with a trigger switch. The design was inspired by a Colt handgun.

PHRASE TO GO

The full phrase is "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime".

Turn the page to find all the vocabulary you'll need to name the tools in your toolbox.

Colt handgun

- Pistole, Colt

convert [kən'vɜ:t]

- umbauen

drill

- bohren, Bohrer

foot-operated

- fußbetrieben

move house

- umziehen

rusty

- verrostet

saw [sɔ:]

- Säge

screwdriver

- ['skru:draɪvə]
- Schraubenzieher

sewing machine

['səʊɪŋ mə'ʃi:n]

- Nähmaschine

spade

- Spaten

trigger switch [swɪtʃ]

- Kippschalter; hier: Abzug



Illustration: Martin Haake

In the toolbox

VANESSA CLARK wirft einen Blick in ihren Werkzeugkasten und präsentiert das wichtigste Vokabular für (angehende) Heimwerker und Heimwerkerinnen.

MEDIUM PLUS

- 1 Allen keys
► Inbusschlüssel
- 2 axe [æks]
► Axt, Beil
- 3 chisel ['tʃɪzəl]
► Meisel
- 4 drill
► Bohrmaschine
- 5 hacksaw
► Bügelsäge
- 6 hammer
► Hammer
- 7 handsaw
► Handsäge
- 8 nut
► Mutter
- 9 plane
► Hobel
- 10 pliers ['plɪəz]
► Zange
- 11 screwdriver
► Schraubenzieher
- 12 spanner UK,
wrench N. Am.
► Schraubenschlüssel
- 13 spirit level
► Wasserwaage
- 14 Stanley knife UK,
box cutter N. Am.
► Teppichmesser
- 15 toolbox
► Werkzeugkasten
- 16 vice [vaɪs]
► Schraubzwinge



The right tool for the job

Are you a handyman or a handywoman? Can you fix a dripping tap or hang a new door? Do you have a workshop with a workbench and a big toolbox – and maybe even a toolbelt to wear while you're up a ladder? Do you have an axe for chopping wood? Or perhaps, like most people, you have just one hammer and one screwdriver in a kitchen drawer for those basic DIY jobs, such as putting up a picture. If you'd like to get to grips with more tools, read on, and we'll explain what each one does:

- A set of Allen keys is useful when you're putting flat-pack furniture together.
- A Stanley knife is a good addition to your toolkit, for cutting anything like cardboard or vinyl.
- A spirit level shows whether something, such as a new shelf, is level.
- A drill (with a set of drill bits in different sizes) is the right tool for making a hole in a wall.
- Pliers are for pulling things out, such as old nails.
- A spanner is what you need to tighten or loosen a nut. An adjustable one can open and close to fit any size.
- A hacksaw is handy for cutting metal or plastic pipes, and a handsaw is for cutting wood.
- Unless you're a serious woodworker, you won't need a chisel (for carving), a plane (to make the wood smooth and flat) or a vice (to hold the wood while you're working on it).
Why not sign up for a home maintenance course? You could save a lot of money on builders, plumbers and other tradespeople.

WORDS TO GO

The "toolbox", or "toolkit", is also a metaphor for a person's skill set and experience in the context of work.

cardboard
- Pappe

carve
- schnitzen

chop
- hacken

DIY (do-it-yourself)
- Heimwerken

grips: get to - with sth.
- hier: sich in etw. einarbeiten

handy
- praktisch, nützlich

handyman, handywoman
- Heimwerker(in)

maintenance ['meɪntənəns]
- Wartung, Instandhaltung

plumber ['plʌmə]
- Klempner(in)

tradespeople ['treɪdz,pi:pəl]
- Handwerker

vinyl ['vaɪnəl]
- PVC

You'll find our Vocabulary archive at:
www.spotlight-online.de/teachers/picture-it



Talking about ability

ADRIAN DOFF erklärt grundlegende Grammatikpunkte anhand eines kurzen Dialogs.

MEDIUM PLUS

Together with his partner, James runs a business growing native trees in the west of Scotland.
James is being interviewed by a newspaper.

How did you start?

Well, we wanted to do something new. I used to be a gardener, so I **was good at** ① growing things. My partner, Fiona, worked in marketing, so she **knew how to** ① run a business. We decided to combine our skills and set up a business together. We were pretty sure we **could** ① make it work because everyone wants trees these days!

Did you already have the money you needed to start the business?

No, we **couldn't** ② even afford to buy land! Fortunately, we **were able to** ③ get a grant from the government. And then we **managed to** ④ get a loan from the bank, too.

How did you grow the trees?
Did you buy seeds?

No, we collected our own seeds in the wild: pine cones, acorns, anything we **could** ⑤ find. And then we planted them out.

And how many trees have you got today?

We've got about 6,000 young trees now.

That sounds like a lot!

Well, it's a start. We hope that we'll **be able to** ⑥ start selling them next year. And then we'll **be able to** ⑥ pay off our bank loan!

GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

- 1 Different constructions can be used to talk about ability and skills in the past: **was good at + -ing**, **knew how to + infinitive** and **could + infinitive**.
- 2 The negative form of **could** is **couldn't** (= could not).
- 3 To talk about a single event in the past, we often use **was/were able to**. Here, this makes the meaning clearer than "We could get".
- 4 James says they **managed to**. This is an alternative to "were able to".
- 5 Here, James uses **could** – he's talking in general, not just about a single event.
- 6 The modal verb **can** has **no future form**, so we use **will be able to** instead. James could also say "We hope we can start..."



BEYOND THE BASICS

We often use **be able to** in other tenses where no form of **can** is possible:

Future:

I hope I'll still be able to climb mountains when I'm old.

Past perfect:

I didn't know where he was. I hadn't been able to reach him by phone.

Future in the past:

I was hoping I would be able to run in the marathon, but my foot still hurt too much.



THE RULES

In the past, we use **could** to talk about **general ability**, and also before "sense" verbs, such as **see** and **hear**:

- I could hear someone playing the violin.
- He could already swim at the age of five.

To talk about a single event in the past (= something that happened), we normally use **was able to** instead of "could":

- When he got a better job, he was able to buy a small flat.

We can use the negative **couldn't** to talk either in general or about a single event:

- I couldn't cook at all when I was young, but now I'm not too bad at it.
- I wanted to buy a flat, but I couldn't get a bank loan.



acorn [ˈeɪkɔːn]
- Eichel

grant
- Zuschuss

pay off
- abbezahlen

pine cone
- Kiefernzapfen

Answers
A. couldn't / wasn't
B. was able to
C. couldn't / weren't
D. could

NOW, TRY THIS!



Complete the sentences with "could", "couldn't" or a form of "be able to". More than one answer may be possible.

- A. I wanted to travel to Iran, but I _____ get a visa.
- B. Fortunately, she _____ contact her parents to tell them where she was.
- C. The print was so small that they _____ read it.
- D. I knew they were at home because I _____ see a light in the window.



The cost of living

DAGMAR TAYLOR präsentiert Dialoge und Sprachtipps, mit denen Sie spielend Ihr Alltagsenglisch auffrischen.

MEDIUM AUDIO PLUS

1. IT'S ALL RATHER WORRYING

Neighbours Laila and Hugh are having a chat about the cost of living.

Laila: I'm really noticing now that **groceries** are getting more expensive. I've started looking out for special offers or for reduced **items**.

Hugh: Oh, I know. I just bought a small bag of rice for £3. I'm pretty sure that's how much the big bag cost last year. It's not just rice – everything's **gone up**.

Laila: Fuel prices are **down** again, though. It was really scary when fuel prices went up to £2 a litre. I was paying over £100 to fill the tank. It makes you **think twice about** taking the car.

Hugh: I know what you mean. It's all rather worrying. I'm seriously concerned about my energy bill.

2. IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT!

Laila and Hugh are talking about rising energy costs.

Laila: Oh, yes, **tell me about it!** My energy bill **is through the roof!** My supplier increased my **direct debit** payments from £150 a month to £280 a month.

Hugh: Same here. I'm scared to put the heating on. It's terrible. Meanwhile, energy companies are reporting **billions in excess profits**. It's just not right! Where is it going to end? Surely, the government has to step in.

Laila: **You'd think so, wouldn't you?**

Hugh: We know we'll have to **tighten our belts**. The **likes** of you and me will have to **economize**, maybe stop going out for meals so often, things like that. It's the families who are really struggling that I feel so sorry for – **low-income** households trying to **make ends meet**. Soon, they'll have to rely on **food banks**.

TIPS

- If the price of something has **gone up**, it has become higher. If the price is **down**, it has become lower.
- When you **think twice about** doing something, you think very carefully before you make your decision.
- You say **Tell me about it!** (ifml.) to show that you've had the same experience.
- If prices **are** or **go through the roof** (ifml.), they rise very quickly.
- **You'd think so, wouldn't you?** is used when talking about something that you think should happen but hasn't yet.
- When you **tighten your belt**, you spend less money because you have less money available to you.
- If you have to **economize**, you reduce the amount of money you usually spend.
- A **low-income** family doesn't earn much money.
- If you **make ends meet**, you earn just enough money to be able to buy the things you need.
- A **food bank** is a place where people in need can go to get free food.

billion

→ Milliarde(n)

direct debit UK

→ Bankeinzug, Lastschrift

excess profit

→ Übergewinn

groceries ['grəʊsərɪz]

→ Lebensmittel

insulate sth. ['ɪnsjuleɪt]

→ etw. isolieren

item

→ Ding, Artikel

layer

→ Schicht; hier: Glasscheibe

likes: the ~ of you and me

→ unsereins



Dialog(e) von diesen Seiten hier kostenlos anhören!

www.spotlight-online.de/audio-gratis/01

3. TOUGH DECISIONS

Laila and Hugh discuss the consequences of rising costs.

Laila: It can't be right that so many people are having to decide whether to "heat or eat" – particularly **pensioners**.

Hugh: I know. You hear all sorts of tragic stories – such as elderly people falling down when they get up during the night because they **can't afford** to put a light on.

Laila: Exactly! Did you see that elderly lady on the news who said she rides around on

buses all day because she can't afford to heat her home?

Hugh: Awful! We've been wondering whether my parents should move in with us. It costs a **small fortune** to heat their old house on the coast. It's so poorly **insulated** and doesn't even have **double glazing**.

Laila: I suppose that would **make sense** over the winter. Anyway, I'd better go, Hugh. I think I might have left the oven on.

TIPS

- A person who receives money from the government or from a company because they have retired from work is called a **pensioner**.
- If you **can't afford** something, you don't have enough money to be able to buy or do something.
- A **small fortune** is a large amount of money.
- **Double glazing** refers to windows that have two **layers** of glass with a space between them in order to reduce heat loss from homes.
- Something that **makes sense** is clear and easy to understand.

NOW, TRY THIS!



Can you label these six things that are affected by the cost of living crisis? We have given you the first letter of the categories we're looking for.



A. e.....



B. f.....



C. f.....



D. h.....



E. h.....



F. t.....

- Answers**
 A. energy
 B. food
 C. fuel
 D. healthcare
 E. housing
 F. transport



For hours and hours

Wie spricht man im Englischen über Zeiträume und Zeitpunkte? ADRIAN DOFF erklärt es mal eben ganz kurz.

MEDIUM PLUS

Short periods of time

You can use **minute**, **moment** and **sec(ond)** to talk about very short periods of time, and they can often be used **interchangeably**. So, if you want to talk to someone who's busy, you can ask: **Have you got a minute?** or **Can I talk to you for a sec(ond)?** If you're not ready, you can say: **Just a moment** or **I won't be a sec(ond)**. The phrase **in (just) a minute/moment** means "very soon":

- Sh! The film's going to start in a minute.
 - Don't start eating yet. I'll be ready in just a moment.
- You can also say **any moment/minute now** or **at any moment**:
- The bus should arrive any minute now.
 - We'd better tidy up. Jill will be back at any moment!

If you start a sentence with **The minute/moment...**, it means "As soon as...":

- The moment I saw him, I knew he was **upset**.
- And **not for a moment/second** means "not at all":
- He said he was **conducting** a survey, but I didn't believe him for a second.

Long periods of time

You can use the words **hours**, **days**, **years** and **ages** to talk about long periods of time or things you think go on for too long. Generally, they mean "for a long time":

- It takes Alex hours to get ready in the morning.
- The neighbours will be talking about this for days.
- You've been speaking on the phone for ages.

To **emphasize** how long something goes on for, you can say **for hours and hours** or **for ages and ages**:

- The meeting went on for hours and hours, and still nothing was decided.

Or you can say **for hours on end** or **for days on end**:

- They discussed politics for hours on end.
- It rained for days on end. The sun didn't come out once.

at the last minute = the last possible time, almost too late:

- He always writes his essays at the last minute.

MINUTE

INFO TO GO

At a business meeting, one person usually "takes the minutes" (*Protokoll führen*) = makes a written record of what is said and decided at the meeting.

up-to-the-minute = most recent:

- We'll bring you up-to-the-minute news on what's happening in the region.

after all [ˌɑːftər 'ɔːl]
• am Ende doch, schließlich

conduct
• durchführen

emphasize
• betonen

inconvenient
[ˌɪnkən'viːniənt]
• ungünstig, ungelegen

interchangeably
• austauschbar

upset
• verärgert

MOMENT

on the spur of the moment = spontaneously, without thinking:

- I bought this dress on the spur of the moment. I was in the shop and it just caught my eye.

for the moment = for the next few hours or days:

- I think we've done enough planning for the moment. Let's take a break.

You could also say **for now** or **for the time being**, with the same meaning:

- I've swept the front garden and watered the flowers. That will do for the time being.

at the moment = just now:

- I'm very busy at the moment. Could we meet next week instead?

at a moment's notice = without any warning or preparation:

- Her job is very stressful. She has to solve problems at a moment's notice. (= as soon as people ask her)

HOUR

at an/some unearthly (or ungodly) hour = at an inconvenient time, either very early or very late:

- I've got to get up at some unearthly hour to catch an early-morning flight to Rome. (= probably 4 or 5 a.m.)

at the eleventh hour = at the last possible time before it's too late:

- They agreed a pay deal with the train drivers at the eleventh hour, so they won't go on strike after all.



Answers
 A. for hours on end
 B. at the very last
 C. on the spur of the moment
 D. in just a second

NOW, TRY THIS!



A preposition is missing in each sentence. Add it in the correct place.

- They talk on the phone hours on end.
- He always pays his bills the very last minute.
- They suddenly asked me to stand up and give a speech. I had to think of something to say the spur of the moment.
- I'd be happy to help. I'll be with you just a second.



When the cat's away, the mice will play

*Ist die Katze aus dem Haus,
tanzen die Mäuse auf dem Tisch*

"The boss is on holiday next week. When the cat's away...!"

MEDIUM

In the German version of this **proverb**, mice dance, whereas in the English, mice play. Both languages express the same idea – that when the boss is away, the workers can take it easy. Or more generally, when the person in **charge** is absent, the people under them will take advantage of their absence.

The idea of absent cats and happy mice is fairly universal across many languages. In Europe, it probably comes from a Latin proverb: *Dum felis dormit, mus gaudet et exsi litanthro*, or "When the cat sleeps, the mouse **rejoices** and leaves its hole."

charge: in ~

– leitend, verantwortlich

proverb [ˈprɒvɜːb]

– Sprichwort

rejoice [riˈdʒɔɪs]

– sich freuen, jubeln

by Vanessa Clark



Sehr verehrte Frau Sharp,
Zeit für ein großes Kompliment! Das Heft 12/22 „Essential Phrases in English“ ist ein Höhepunkt der Zeitschrift. Auswahl und Aufbereitung sind mustergültig, didaktische Meisterklasse. Zusammen mit Heft 4/22 „All the Words You Need!“ hat man fast die Hälfte des englischen Alltags inhaliert.

Eine Frage: Gibt es eine Idee oder Erfahrung, wie man die sich so elegant und schwerelos lesenden Sätze ins Gedächtnis rufen kann, wenn man sie braucht? Gegenseitiges Vorlesen?

Besten Gruß

Detlev Piltz, via e-mail

Dear Mr Piltz

Thank you for your lovely e-mail. We are so pleased that you are enjoying our special issue of **Spotlight** and find the contents useful.

You ask about ways to memorize the vocabulary and phrases. Your question has caused us to think about the topic – it seems we haven't written about this before – or at least not for a long time. So, we'll cover it in one of our upcoming issues. Thank you for that inspiration! Kind regards from the **Spotlight** team

Inez Sharp, editor-in-chief



IMPRESSUM

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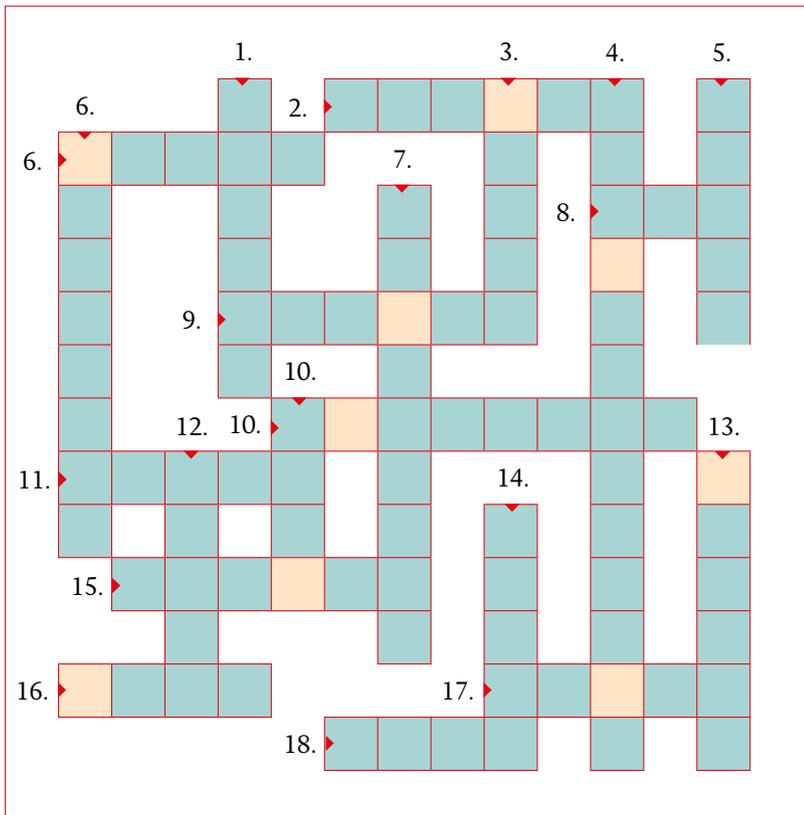
Crossword

Die Begriffe in diesem Kreuzworträtsel stammen aus „Travel“.

Sie finden alle verwendeten Wörter auf den Seiten 38–45.

Von OWEN CONNORS

ADVANCED



ACROSS

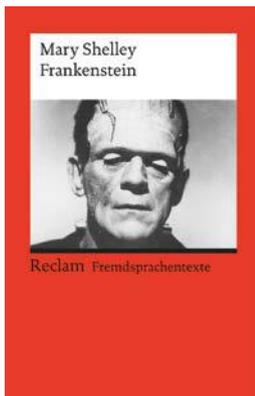
2. Invigorated, freshened
6. Hamelin's pied rat catcher
8. Admission charge
9. Start something
10. Sports person who paddles a light boat
11. Panoramic scene
15. Expose, show
16. Grind grain, pepper, etc.
17. Afternoon teacake
18. Small and attractive

DOWN

1. To be located in a position that is sheltered or protected
3. Bus for tourists
4. Removal of trees
5. Very steep
6. Keep or save
7. Long, narrow piece of land
10. Hole in the side of a cliff or hill
12. Long, unbroken wave
13. Last moments of daylight
14. Bend and change direction often

Competition

Your chance to win!



Form a single word from the letters in the orange squares. Send it on a postcard to:

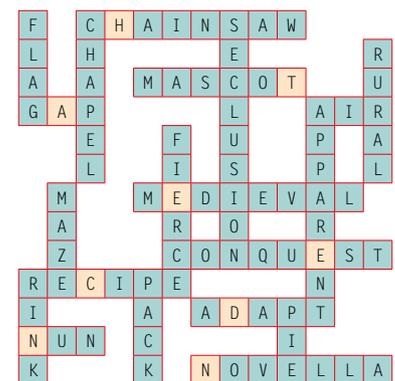
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Or take part by visiting www.spotlight-online.de/crossword, where you can also find the list of winners of our crossword competition in issue 13/22.

Ten winners will be chosen from the entries we receive by 24 January 2022. Each winner will be sent a copy of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* by courtesy of **Reclam**.

Solution to crossword 14/22:

enchanted





VANESSA CLARK betrachtet Worte und Wendungen, deren Übersetzung nicht immer ganz einfach ist.

ADVANCED



“Hell-bent on destroying the neighbourhood”

Glasgow Times, 4 August 2022
Headline about fires caused by vandals in Glasgow

USAGE

The phrase **hell-bent on doing something** means “determined to do something”. Athletes are hell-bent on winning gold. Young entrepreneurs are hell-bent on making their business a success. They will do everything in their power to make sure they reach their goals, whatever the cost.

It is a phrase that suggests great determination, extreme single-mindedness and a certain “all-or-nothing” approach. It can also imply recklessness — someone who’s hell-bent on doing something tends to ignore the risks involved in their actions.

“Hell-bent on” can be used critically or ironically, especially with the verb “seem”. Drug addicts seem hell-bent on destroying their own lives. In the news story quoted above, young vandals seem hell-bent on destroying a playground in their own neighbourhood.

In German, you could say someone is *wild entschlossen*, *etwas zu tun* or *völlig versessen* or *ganz wild auf etwas*. But, as always, the translation depends on the context. In sentence A on the right, for example, you could use two different phrases in German: *er setzt alles daran, die Firma wieder aufzubauen* – und *sinnt unerbittlich auf Rache*.



BACKGROUND

Although it is rarely used in modern English, “bent on doing something” means “determined to do it”. The addition of the word “hell” before “bent” gives the expression a sense of evil or danger. In times gone by, witches were often described as being “hell-bent” – meaning that they were “driven by the devil”. The first-recorded use of the phrase was in 1731.

NOW, TRY THIS!

A

In which of the following sentences does “hell-bent on” make sense?

- A. His former business partner took most of their clients, so he’s now hell-bent on rebuilding the firm – and on taking revenge.
- B. His former business partner took most of their clients, so he’s now hell-bent on giving up and closing the firm.

approach [ə'prəʊtʃ]
• Einstellung, Haltung

determined
[dɪ'tɜ:mɪnd]
• entschlossen

drug addict ['ædɪkt]
• Drogensüchtige(r)

entrepreneur
[,ɒnrəprə'nɜ:z]
• Unternehmer(in)

recklessness

• Leichtfertigkeit;
Bedenkenlosigkeit

single-mindedness
[ˌsɪŋɡl̩'maɪndɪdnəs]
• Zielstrebigkeit

Answer

Words in context

Spotlight

eco-anxiety

More and more young people say they're suffering from **eco-anxiety**.

Global English

Spotlight

What would a speaker of American English say?

British English speaker:

Electric **charging points** have been installed in **car parks** around the city.

(In)Formal English

Spotlight

What do these abbreviations stand for?

3 Rs
CO₂
FFF
GMO

Translation

Spotlight

Translate the sentence below. How do you make the phrases in bold sound natural in English?

Sie können die Umwelt nicht nur **beim Autofahren** schützen, sondern auch **beim Heizen** Ihrer Wohnung.

Pronunciation

Spotlight

Which of the words below include a voiced [z] sound, and which include a voiceless [s] sound?

anxiety
physical
recycle
reduce
reuse (verb)
something

Idiom magic

Spotlight



think big

Zeichnung: John and Ching Yee-Smithback

False friends

Spotlight

biologisch / organisch

Translate these sentences into English.

1. Viele Bauern verkaufen heute **biologisch** angebaute Produkte.
2. Nur sehr wenige Patienten leiden unter Krankheitssymptomen, für die Ärzte keine **organische** Ursache finden können.

Grammar

Spotlight

Complete the sentences below by adding **anything**, **everything** or **something**.

1. We have to do _____ to help save the environment.
2. I'm already doing _____ I can to save energy! I can't do _____ else!
3. But is there _____ you could do to reduce your waste?

Global English

Spotlight

American speaker:

Electric **charging stations** have been installed in **parking lots** around the city.

Words in context

Spotlight

Eco-anxiety is a state of extreme worry or fear about climate change and its negative consequences for our planet.

Translation

Spotlight

You can protect the environment not only **when you are driving**, but also **when it comes to heating** your flat.

German noun phrases (*beim Autofahren, beim Heizen*) need to be turned into verb phrases to sound natural in English. “When you are + verb + -ing” or “when it comes to + verb + -ing” are good ways of translating them.

(In)Formal English

Spotlight

3 Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle
CO₂ – carbon dioxide
FFF – Fridays for Future
GMO – genetically modified organism

Idiom magic

Spotlight

If you **think big**, you’re ambitious and believe in your ability to succeed, even if your goals seem to be out of reach: “We have to think big if we’re going to tackle the environmental challenges facing us.”

Pronunciation

Spotlight

[z]	[s]
anxiety – [ˈæNˈzai&ti]	recycle – [ˌriːˈsaɪkəl]
physical – [ˈfɪzɪk&l]	reduce – [riːˈdjuːs]
reuse – [ˌriːˈjuːz]	something – [ˈsʌmTɪn]

Be careful – spellings with “s” are not all pronounced the same!

Grammar

Spotlight

1. We have to do **something** to help save the environment.
2. I’m already doing **everything** I can to save energy! I can’t do **anything** else!
3. But is there **anything** you could do to reduce your waste?

We use **something** in affirmatives, and **anything** in negatives or questions.

False friends

Spotlight

1. A lot of farmers today sell **organically** grown products.
2. Only very few patients suffer from symptoms of illness for which doctors can find no **physical/biological** cause.

Organic means **biologisch** but **biological** often means **organisch**!

New York's top ten

So, you think you've discovered everything New York has to offer? In our Travel story in the next issue of *Spotlight*, we visit lesser-known places, or popular locations with entertaining and surprising backstories.

Did you know that Broadway is more than 50 kilometres long? Or that those clouds of steam you see on photos of Manhattan are part of a unique heating and cooling system in the city? Or that in the late 19th century, a female engineer took an active role in building the iconic Brooklyn Bridge?

More unique insights and exclusive photography will put you in a New York state of mind.

Foto: Franz Marc Friei

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How to use it when you lose it

Have you ever been really angry – in English? It's not so easy to find the right words in a foreign language to show that you are irritated, angry or absolutely furious. Our special feature on the topic provides you with the appropriate language to express your anger.



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